

Their early religious services were held in the barn of H. G. Triezenberg. Some of the early family names are: Huisenga, Manni, Holwerda, Rosier, Leo, Feilstra, De Maa, Haan, Ozinga, Bultema, Meyer, Torrenge, Weringa.

1913 also saw the first purchase of land by Mrs. Anna Ahern in the area later to become Evergreen Country Club. She opened a restaurant called Beverly Gardens and raised her own menu: home-grown pigs, chickens, and vegetables, plus milk from her own cows. At one time there were 600 porkers on the premises.

The assassination on June 28, 1914, of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, threw the world into turmoil. On May 7, 1915, the British liner *Lusitania* was sunk and more than a hundred Americans lost their lives. On Good Friday, April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany, stating that the world must be made safe for democracy. Evergreen Park sent ten doughboys to "The Great War" and the rest of the population farmed diligently and provided needed supplies on the home front.

The general memory has it that the first car in Evergreen Park was owned by a milkman named Fred Haas. But Emil Petschinsky still sold meat door to door from a horse-drawn "butcher" wagon which had a chopping block, saw, and cleaver for individual service.

And farmers were still making the day-long trip to the South Water Street Market or the nearer market at 71st and State by horse and wagon. The biggest obstacle was the steep hill at 86th and Western which since has been sliced down to lessen the grade. Farmers chained the wheels to "skid the wagon" down the hill to keep from running over the horse. The old South Water Street market was demolished in 1925, and the produce houses shifted elsewhere to make room for the double-decked Wacker Drive.

In 1917 the government offered the first Liberty Loans and there were few people who did not invest most of their savings in this excellent opportunity to show their patriotism. The winter of 1917-1918 brought heavy snow and bitter cold spells. Coal was a precious commodity since most of it was being used in the war effort. Railroad ties often were burned instead, with one end of the tie in the fire, the other end placed on a chair.

Fire was a constant hazard to our Village with its limited equipment and water supply. When the Village Hall caught fire from the sparks of a passing train in July of 1918, men and the bigger boys pulled the hand-powered pumper to the blaze. Women and children formed a bucket brigade in a frantic but futile effort to save the building. The Village safe

fell through the top floor and split open. Its contents were consumed in the flames, with the single exception of the Ordinance Book dated 1896 to 1911.

The signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, brought an end to World War I. This was about the time that Charles Teitzel bought the brick building at 93rd and Spaulding for a "regalia" factory, where he produced backdrops for shows and elaborate floats for parades in Chicago. A big crowd would turn out to watch the finished floats leave the factory. Until the Auto Show moved to the Amphitheatre in the thirties, Teitzel provided the scenery for this annual event at the Coliseum. Local ladies were proud of their jobs sewing the draperies.

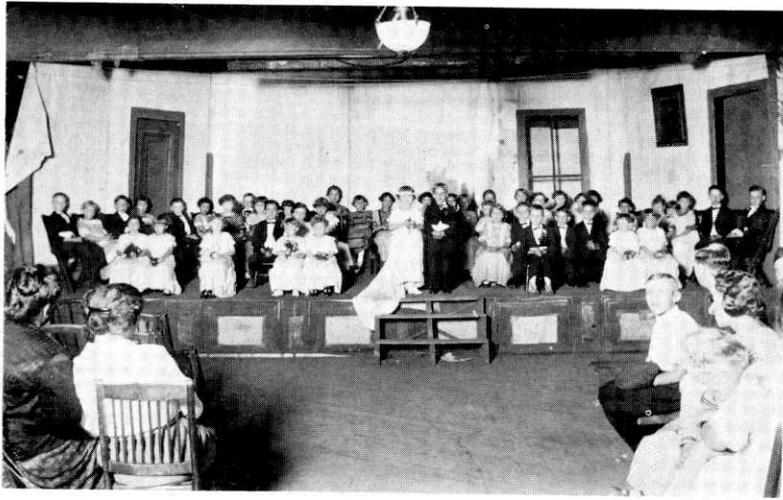
The census of 1920 showed our population as 800. That summer, the Republicans held their national convention in Chicago, and many from the Park went to the city to see



A pause in planting cabbage on the farm at 89th and Albany. Pictured below are Mr. and Mrs. Dan Schwer with their children, Rosie, Katie, and William, in the year 1912.

Watching life hustling by on Kedzie Avenue just north of 95th in 1912, are Viola Burns, Bill Cousins, depot agent, and Bill Burns, prop. of the combination grocery and post office. (*bottom*).



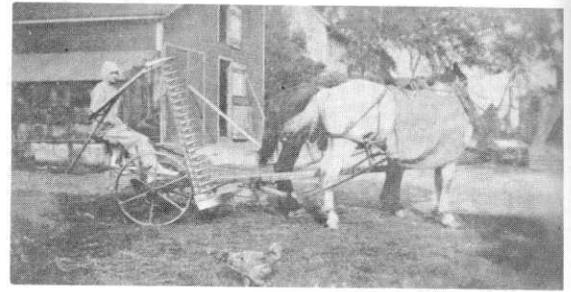
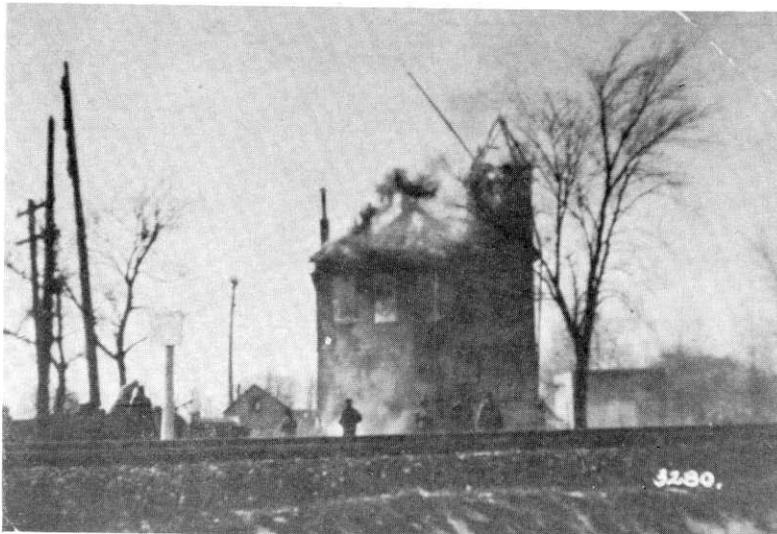


Popular event was the Tom Thumb Wedding at Wolf's Grove. Participating were: Bride, Florence Welnek; Groom, George Wolf; Flower Girls, Genevieve Root, Lucy Wolf, Anna Grace Ozinga, LaVerne Abs, unidentified, Evelyn and Lorraine Custer. Others: Ruth, Estelle, Anna, Mildred, Violet, and John Fritz, Gerald Root, Tessie, Bess, and Carl Wolf, Louise and Alvina Petschinsky, Elizabeth Roche, Evelyn Moore, Vincent and Darrell Hart, Frank Ozinga, Lucille Sampson, Ira Stratiff, Fred Leppin, Francis Draper, Christine and Nellie Torrenga, Ruth and Kathryn Rohsnagel. In foreground, Mrs. Roche, left, and Richard Rohsnagel, Rose Petschinsky, Mrs. Petschinsky holding her two smaller children.

That's a bread box Rose Petschinsky is sitting on, back of her father's store in the mid-twenties. Bakers delivered the bread to the retailer about 4 a.m. while the Village slept.



Village Hall burns. Sparks from a passing train started this big blaze in 1918 and the once-proud edifice was consumed.



Truck farms were the backbone of our Village's economy years ago. The ladies took over at the Albright Farm (*top*) during the first World War. John Leo (*second*) gets ready to take off with a load of vegetables for the Randolph Street Produce Market from his parents' truck garden at 90th and Kedzie. Ed Solle (*third*) by his truck with children, Jessie, Gladys, Albert, and Gert, in 1925 with a load for the city. And Dan Schwer (*bottom*) of 87th and Utica departs with a load of peppers in bags in 1920, destined for the Claussen Canning Factory in Chicago.



Warren G. Harding, who was the party's choice for President. The war had made everyone more conscious of the rights of others, and Congress proclaimed the Nineteenth Amendment as law in August, 1920, in time to give women of the country their first opportunity to vote for a president.

One of the most memorable social events of the early twenties was the Tom Thumb Wedding held in Wolf's Dance Hall. Almost every child in town took part in this miniature ceremony. Every May the children worked on paper flowers and decorations at Teitzel's factory for the big Cook County District Parade and Picnic held at Palos Swallow Cliff in June. The whole town participated and Evergreen Park usually took first prize for its float.

Life still had the leisurely pace of a rural community. Old-timers will remember being called to school by the rope-pulled bell rung by "Grandpa" Hill, the school janitor. The last class to graduate from the "little red schoolhouse" was the Class of 1927 with 12 pupils.

The Evergreen Park Country Club was opened by the Ahern family in 1921, at 91st and Western Avenue. The 135 acre golf course still is operated by them. And PGA pro, Anna May "Babe" Ahern, who participated in city, county, and state golf tournaments from 1925 to 1955, is still there.

Bill Wolf had the first bus service in the Village. He put a bench on each side of a truck and charged a nickel to take people to 95th and Vincennes. Early in the twenties, the Village itself ran buses—to 71st and Western and to 95th and Vincennes. Then a priest named Geraghty in Oak Lawn, wanting to encourage more people to settle there and to give better service to his parishioners, convinced two Oak Lawn cab drivers to start a bus line. They went to Springfield, got a charter, and in 1922 ran two or three buses daily. Called the Southwest Towns Bus Company, it went from Orland Park through Oak Lawn and Evergreen Park on 95th Street and on to 63rd and Halsted. In 1936 James Betinis took it over, changed the name to Suburban Transit System and has been operating it ever since. St. Mary's Cemetery also ran a bus from 71st and Western, only recently discontinued. Suburban Safeway started running buses in 1926 from Blue Island up Western to 63rd, then to Halsted.

On April 12, 1926, one thousand men, women, and children turned out to help fight a fire that destroyed the Edward Jaeger home at 93rd and Spaulding and spread to three other

homes. A Chicago fire truck got mired in mud a block from the fire. Perhaps this incident led to the purchase later in the year of an American LaFrance pumper, the first modern-type fire engine known to be owned by the Village.

At that time the Chief of Police, Martin Ozinga, Sr., was also the Fire Chief. Other officers and members of the Volunteer Fire Department listed on the earliest records available, December 6, 1926, were: John DeRoos, Secretary; Edward A. Priebe, Captain; Fred Conrad, 1st Lieutenant; Fred Knipper, 2nd Lieutenant; and Ralph DeGroot, George Priebe, August Priebe, H. Bronkhurst, Ray DeGroot, Earl Gottshalk, Richard Sluis, Sr., Edward Conradi, P. Riddering, H. Workman, H. Boersma, M. Dettloff, Louis Bruinins, Claus Boersma, R. Wiersma, and Charles Siegle, firemen.

Prohibition had been a law since the 18th Amendment went into effect on January 16, 1920, but rigid enforcement did not follow until the mid-twenties. The hoodlum element that was terrorizing Chicago with illicit activities, felt the pressure of the law in the city, and sought recreation farther out. They invaded the night spots of Cicero, Mount Greenwood, and Evergreen Park. Roadhouses provided ginger ale and ice and pleaded innocence to knowledge of what the patrons were putting in it.

Headlines in the year 1927 featured only the seamy picture of the Village. On July 3, federal prohibition agents raided six roadhouses in Evergreen as the holiday celebrants hastily smashed liquor bottles. On September 6, a gang complete with six sawed-off shotguns took \$1,300 in money and jewels from the guests at Jim Malone's Roadhouse at 89th and Central Park. Later in the month, more than a score of couples of jewel-bedecked women and nattily dressed men were dancing at the Forest Gardens Roadhouse, 95th and California, when shortly after midnight five sawed-off shotgun bandits suddenly appeared, firing one shot into the ceiling. The band members dropped their instruments but the robbers ordered them to keep playing. \$30,000 was estimated to be stolen in cash and jewels. One story has it that, when some unsavory characters were gathered at a local inn, the police chief demonstrated his marksmanship by shooting tiny root beer extract bottles off a fence outside the roadhouse. Reflecting the views of most of the community, he then suggested that the gangsters return to Chicago. It was to be some years, however, before the roadhouse days of Ever-





green Park would come to a close.

Central School was built in 1927, replacing the original 1875 structure. The dedication program was held on Saturday, June 30th, 1928. It was a nostalgic day for many.

A member of Thomas Edison's staff produced the first motion picture to embody a plot in 1903. It was called *The Great Train Robbery*, and Evergreen Park saw it in "real life drama" in 1928, when a daring holdup was enacted on the Grand Trunk at 94th.

The late twenties found the general prosperity of the country passing all records. A ten acre parcel of land at 95th and California was purchased by Little Company of Mary Sisters and the cornerstone was laid for a hospital there in 1929. Bishop Bernard J. Sheil officiated at the ceremonies. In spite of the worldwide depression that erupted that year, the building was completed on schedule and the one hundred and fifty bed hospital opened on January 19, 1930. 232 babies were born in Little Company that year. The School of Nursing was begun in 1931 and its first class graduated six nurses in 1933.

Evergreen Park was slowly expanding. The official census figure in 1930 was 1600. Truck farming was still the main industry of the town. The Solle family established their farm stand on West 95th in 1931. Until a few years ago, the vegetables were raised on their own

ten acre farm.

The first issue of the *Evergreen Park Courier*, the oldest village publication still in operation today, is dated September 18, 1931. Published by the Messenger Press, with S. B. Andrews as Manager; Bill Lakin as Contributing Editor, and Garret Kerkstra, Editor, its purpose was stated: "to reflect the community life in ink, paper and word". Edna Ferber's popular novel, *Cimmaron*, was serialized in the paper that year.

The Village Board made these important decisions in September of 1931: "To mow the grass in the park at 97th and Homan in preparation for the coming winter season," and, "The health committee should investigate a complaint that hogs were running loose in the vicinity of 88th and Troy."

Baseball was one of the most popular sports of the Village and Evergreen was a member of the Southwest Suburban Baseball League, which also included: Lemont, Midlothian, Orland Park, Oak Lawn, Worth, Palos Park, and Tinley Park.

Public transportation was made more convenient when the Western Avenue streetcar line was extended, on November 7, 1931, from 79th to 111th Street, making it the world's longest straight streetcar line. A big parade marked the occasion, and many notables attended, including Mayor Cermak of Chicago, who was later killed when an assassin's bullet missed President Franklin Roosevelt.

On October 12, 1932, the Parent Teachers Association of Evergreen Park Public School was organized. The first meeting was held in the Village Hall and elected Sherman Chase as president, Mrs. Edward Abs as vice-president, and Mrs. Fred Schwer as secretary. Through the years, this first PTA group became the support, booster, and sponsor for countless projects that have helped and guided the youth of the community.

Featured at the Lyric in Blue Island, the nearest movie house in 1932, was the double bill of *Rebecca of Sunny Brook Farm*, with Marian Nixon and Ralph Bellamy, and *The Jewel Robbery*, starring William Powell and Kay Francis. Shirley Temple was yet to come.

In Washington, prohibition was repealed by the 21st Amendment in Feb., 1933. And in Evergreen Park, the Fire Department asked all concerned to quit following their vehicles when answering calls, thus causing public hazard. Roy W. Scott, Postmaster of the Village, announced that a letter mailed *in the Park to the Park* was still one cent mail, but the same letter mailed in *Chicago* needed a two cent stamp. The Public School graduated 24 students. The Village purchased the first car for the Police Department. And the ladies

Police Chief Martin Ozinga, Sr. (far left), officers and onlookers, viewing one of the bodies dumped in Village by big city hoodlums. 1928.

View Body of Gang Feud Victim



found shot to death at
Forges and

roadway at Ni-
Martin

had it good that year, with census figures showing 958 men to 923 women in the "over 21" bracket, and 421 boys and 401 girls under 21.

This was birthday year for neighboring Chicago. *The Century of Progress* Exposition was staged at the lake front that summer and the following one. Almost everyone in town traveled by streetcar or automobile to view the assortment of wonders at the fairgrounds. Many ascended the Skyride tower by elevators to be carried across the expanse of the glittering fair in "rocket cars". Others were more interested in Sally Rand, who did her famous fan dance in the Streets of Paris show.

Recovering from the depression was a slow process in the mid-thirties, but the New Deal brought many relief programs. The Works Progress Administration, commonly called the WPA, provided work for the many who needed it. In 1935 men dug at the Worth Quarry for gravel to improve the streets of Evergreen Park. Two tank cars of oil were ordered by the Board of Trustees to oil the streets, primarily California Avenue.

The library room of the Public School was opened for public use on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and was manned by School Board volunteers. A fireworks stand at 94th and Western exploded in June of 1935, and the annual Evergreen Park School Picnic was well attended on Saturday, June 15, 1935 in the Village Park.

Sponsored by the WPA, work began on a pipe system to bring Chicago water to Evergreen Park on December 5, 1936. An additional project was approved in 1938 to further sewer and water extension in the Village. Of the \$435,000 cost, only \$95,000 had to come from Village funds for this work to extend modern sanitary conveniences.

Located in a rented store at 95th and Kedzie, the Post Office rented boxes for 25 or 35 cents a month and there was a pigeon-hole stand for the mail of those who didn't rent a box. Any special delivery letters were delivered by the Postmaster himself. Mail came in from the Chicago Post Office on the Rock Island and was picked up every morning at 103rd and Vincennes. Outgoing mail was delivered there at the close of each day. 400 families were then served by the Post Office.

On Memorial Day in 1937, a plaque was dedicated in the park at 97th and Homan, in memory of Gale and Roy Woodman, who had died in World War I, and in honor of all who had served our country from Evergreen Park. The Graduating Class of 1937 planned and carried out the service with the cooperation of



John Dillinger, notorious escaped convict, was identified by robbery victim as leader of gang who shot it out with Highway and Evergreen Park Police, wounding two. Arrows indicate where policemen fell. *Courtesy of Chicago's American, January, 1934.*



A quarter went a long way in those days. Remember the Firestone ash trays, Barney Oldfield, and the world's largest thermometer?

the Village officials and the American Legion.

In the late thirties a building boom hit our town and it became the fastest growing town in Illinois. Builders discovered that taxes were low since many new homes were being built and the tax levy was not increasing. The Federal aid with the WPA projects had kept Village funds pretty much intact. The semi-rural community was rapidly becoming a mushrooming residential suburb.

War clouds were hovering over Europe and finally erupted in September of 1939. Although we were not at war yet, many young men were drafted in preparation for the inevitable. Shortly after that fateful tragedy at Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan, Germany, and Italy. More than 400 of the Village's young people served in World War II, many of them leaving home at great sacrifice.

Many Catholic families had settled in the Park by this time, and their first church was Most Holy Redeemer. Those present on the day of dedication will never forget it . . . December 7, 1941.



During the war, those at home were faced with depleted supplies of gas, paper products, sugar, coffee, meat, and leather products. There were gas coupons and A stickers for windshields (if you already had a car—you couldn't buy one), ration books for food and clothing, long lines for cigarettes (on the rare occasions any were available), and there were War Bond rallies. The closest brush with the hard facts of war came with the crash of a B-26 Bomber when one of its engines fell off and it had to make an emergency landing near 103rd and Lawndale.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of incorporation came in the middle of those grayish days and festivities were of necessity limited. A torchlight parade started things off on December 20, 1943, followed by a ceremony at the Service Plaque at the main intersection of town. The evening continued with activities at the school auditorium where the program stated: "Approximately 1500 families live within the Village limits. There are no factories in the town, making it necessary for most of the people to go to Chicago for em-

ployment. A Citizens Committee keeps a record of the men and women from Evergreen Park who are in the Service of Our Country. Gifts are sent and the local paper is mailed weekly. About ninety men from the Village are on duty on foreign soil."

The Post Office, which had moved to 95th and Spaulding in 1940, was made a branch of the Chicago Post Office in 1943, and was able to offer delivery service to the community. A group of interested citizens established a library behind the Village Hall in 1944, starting with 500 donated books. The end of the thirties and the early forties seemed to bring out community spirit, exhibited by the formation of local improvement, service, and social groups.

1945 saw the death of President Roosevelt, V-E and V-J days, and World War II finally over. The whole country adjusted to post-war conditions. Travel restrictions were lifted and occasionally someone was lucky enough to buy a pair of nylons. And most of our veterans came home . . .

The Beverly Vista Fire Station at 98th and Washtenaw, which had been active many years in that area, became an official part of the Evergreen Park Fire Department as Company #2 in 1946. Central School underwent some remodeling in the mid-forties and Northeast School was built in 1949. A local high school was still a dream, and students went either to Calumet in Chicago or Blue Island High School. A high spot of teen-age social life was to feast on the famous "mile-high" malts at the White Mill, which is now the Golden West Pancake House. And who remembers trying

Memories . . . We have a fine new post office built in 1961 at 94th and Kedzie, but these 1937 pictures bring back memories of the one on 95th near Sawyer. That's Postmaster Delos Solterman and Anna Ozinga Lich outside, and then Mrs. Lich working beside the mail pigeonholes.



Canoeing in the Gym (left below). April of 1947 found a bad storm flooding the gym at Central School, and Superintendent Ricketts surveying the situation as Robert A. Morrow (*front*) and Barney Huske paddle around.

Driving on the Francisco "River" (right below) in April, 1948, with St. Bernadette Church (then a quonset hut) looking like an island.





Martin Ozinga, Sr. opens the Village's first savings institution to customers in 1949.



Landmark leaves as workmen "slice off" the hill in front of 2650 W. 95th in 1947, enabling laying of an unbroken sidewalk to Western Avenue.

to finish an "Idiot's Delight" at the Frozen Custard stand near the B&O tracks on 95th? Every fall "Evergreen Park Day" was celebrated with a big parade on 95th and sale items featured by the local merchants.

Population was pushing ten thousand and the need for a substantial bank was felt by the area businessmen. A bank organization committee secured a charter and selected Martin Ozinga, Sr. as president. The First National Bank of Evergreen Park was opened with six employees at 3211 W. 95th St. in 1949.

Headlines and history were made on June 17, 1950, when the world's first vital human organ transplant was performed at Little Company of Mary Hospital, Dr. Richard M. Lawler, still an active member of the Hospital Medical Staff, removed a diseased kidney from a 44-year-old Chicago housewife, and substituted a healthy kidney from another woman who had just died of a liver ailment. The transplanted kidney, which functioned for between five and ten weeks, allowed the woman's remaining natural kidney a chance to rest and recuperate. She survived for five years after the operation, succumbing in 1955 after a coronary attack.

Broadway came to Evergreen Park when Drury Lane opened its tent flap to the public in 1951. Conditions were not ideal, with Western Avenue traffic whizzing past the tent theatre at 98th Street and wind and rain tearing at the canvas roof, but it certainly was thrilling to view celebrities of stage and screen within walking distance of home.

Arthur Rubloff opened the sprawling Evergreen Park Shopping Plaza in August of 1952, having spent several years assembling 120 parcels of land from 95th to 97th, between Western and Maplewood. At that time it was the Middle West's largest shopping center and was still growing. From large de-

Another landmark that said "You're in Evergreen Park"—the rooster that stood in the front of the food mart on 95th near Sacramento, is moved to a place next to the store to make room for street widening.



partment stores to small specialty shops, just about everything was there to be looked at and bought. And an added attraction for the Village was that ½% of the sales tax stayed in the Village, thereby enabling the real estate tax to remain low.

Evergreen Park was first-hand witness to the population explosion. From a suburb of less than 5,000 at the end of World War II, it had more than doubled to 10,015 in 1950. A special census in March, 1953 showed a rise to 15,746. From 1946 through 1953 a total of 2,023 new homes were built. The Park hustled to keep up with the increased population. Lack of water and sanitation facilities seemed to be the biggest problems. There were times in the summer when only a trickle of water came from the faucets. Two new mains were installed in 1954 to allow for greater intake. In the northwest area of the Village, residents were concerned because 25 per cent of homes in the area still had to use septic tanks in 1954. The southeast area needed adequate drainage of surface waters from the street. In all areas there were complaints of bumpy streets, sagging sidewalks, and inadequate street lighting. Evergreen Park was feeling the effects of acute growing pains.

In the early fifties the Park Playground Planners were formed, first organized effort to improve our behind-the-times thinking on





Even as recent as 1951 (top) there were truck gardens along 95th. John Luth and his faithful horse, Bill, do the spring plowing.

Engine Company No. 2 was led by Captain Harry Onderwater (in white hat) in 1947. Beside the do-it-yourself fire rig constructed by their group are, l. to r.: Herman Schwartz, Bob Church, Bill Martinsen, Louis Stamos, Capt. Perry Worthan, Lt. Jim Couillard and Capt. Onderwater.

parcs. The push for better parks still goes on today, hampered by lack of land for this purpose. The Lions Club donated the twin tennis courts at 97th and Homan. A dedication day program was held on Saturday, August 15, 1953, featuring that year's Davis Cup Tennis Champions, Charles Hare and Mary Hardwick. After awards were presented to the winners of the Lions Tennis Tournament, the champs performed in some exhibition matches.

The dream of high school education within our Village boundaries finally became a reality. Planning by the newly elected Board of Education started in 1952, the first bond issue was submitted and passed in 1953, and the school was built during 1954 and 1955. The pioneer students had the unique opportunity of establishing traditions. The first graduating class in 1957 had 132 students.

A second banking institution was made available in the Village when Evergreen Savings and Loan opened in 1956, in a leased store within a block of its present location at 9950 S. Kedzie. The staff consisted of two employees, John P. Hyland and John W. Nolan.

Years ago it was tradition to hold parties, contests, and graduation exercises at Wolf's Grove. Today we have the attractive, modern American Legion Hall at 97th and Kedzie. Built in 1956, with much of the labor

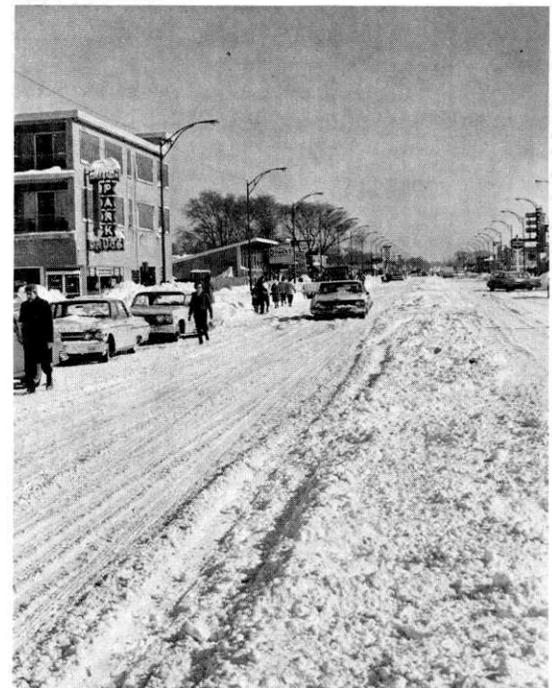
being provided by the members themselves, it spelled home to the group which had started out meeting at Guy Castlebury's Barber Shop, then moved to the Village Hall, the local funeral parlor and various stores. The memorial honoring our servicemen has been moved from 95th and Sawyer to the Legion grounds.

The constantly expanding Plaza offered banking facilities in 1957 when the Evergreen Plaza Bank opened for business that year. Fourteen employees greeted the new customers and safe deposit boxes were given to anyone opening a \$2,000 savings account.

The dedication in February, 1958, of our Municipal Building gave an example of how the Village had grown. The needs of the previous semi-rural community had been handled by the rather tumble-down, one-room red brick Village Hall for some thirty years. But the census figure had passed 20,000 and the Park rose to meet the responsibility. Villagers can be proud of the attractive and practical structure that houses our Village services.

Later the same year another public building opened for business. In September the Library moved to its beautiful and spacious new quarters at 94th and Troy. The library combines the efficiency of well equipped "big city" facilities with the helpful, graciousness of our "hometown" librarians.

The day after the record snowstorm of January, 1967, 95th was plowed but most cars were left in their garages or waist-high in the drifts where owners had left them.



Many of the Village groups were concerned by the park situation, and felt there was a need to arouse interest and raise money for improvements. In 1959 and 1960, The Evergreen Park Junior Woman's Club sponsored a Country Fair, with the cooperation of all the community groups. Their slogan was: "Better Parks for Evergreen Park". There were parades, complete with floats, marching bands, baton twirlers, decorated bicycles, and doll buggies; contests for longest braids, most freckles, pie eating, and even a puppy raffle.

Everyone agreed that there was a need for more lighting on 95th Street, and so it was an exciting event when, in the early sixties, the "light-up" parade took place. Complete with music, floats, and pretty girls, a mercury vapor light system was inaugurated, some fifty years after the first arc lights had appeared.

A bad storm in 1957 had blown the big top of Drury Lane down, at its new location on 94th Place, as Marie Wilson was emoting. Owner Tony DeSantis then moved the theatre inside to the terrace level of his Martinique Restaurant. The newest Drury Lane opened in 1965 and adjoins the restaurant.

In 1966, Evergreen Park was hailed as the village with the lowest property tax in the area. The tax rate had been lowered for three consecutive years while still maintaining a healthy public improvements program. This had been possible because of the tax revenue from the Plaza and "running the Village like a business".

January 26, 1967, will have a lasting place in the memories of those who didn't make it home before the "Big Snow". The "partly cloudy, with a chance of snow" prediction turned out to be more than 29 hours of flake after flake, accumulating to over 23 inches officially, with drifts well over 6 feet in spots. In spite of being part of the atomic age, we were shown by nature that people with their neighborliness and old-fashioned generosity have not gone out of style. Countless stories of unselfish acts of helping hands and heroism bolstered the belief in fellowman. Our street department crew performed an exhausting feat, assisted in many instances by volunteers.

Nature continued to plague us. On Friday, April 21, 1967, a tornado gouged a path through Hickory Hills, Oak Lawn, and the northern tip of Evergreen Park, leaving in its trail death, disaster, and damage beyond description. The U.S. Weather Bureau said it was the worst in the history of northeastern Illinois. Little Company of Mary, which now had grown to five times its original size, cared for 201 persons in the emergency. Again people from all places and every walk of life



This lucky homeowner was out when the '67 twister came swooping down to wreck his California Avenue home.

demonstrated a tireless response to the need for help. There were many in the Village who suffered extensive property damage, both residential and business. One resident lost his life returning from work, and two of our young people were severely injured in the Oak Lawn Roller Rink, which was demolished.

The Village has grown to a 1967 total of 26,280, close to its saturation point. A modern post office is located at 94th and Kedzie. Most of the water problems seem to be solved with the building of a new reservoir, and new streets are promised in the near future. Besides the bustling Plaza, the 95th Street Village merchants offer a complete variety of goods and services. There is a "hometown" atmosphere about walking into one of the local shops and being called by name. There are six parks and playgrounds, including that good old original at 97th and Homan.

Early in 1968 a committee was formed to plan the celebration of the 75th year of our incorporation. Various contests have been held, an emblem designed, and a hospitality center set up. Plans have been made for a nine-day program starting with a Coronation Ball and ending with a Historical Pageant. All Village organizations are participating with pride in the biggest celebration ever put on by the Village of Churches . . . Evergreen Park.

Now the old-fashioned walk

that we promised you

Has ended and fondly we say,

The address, Sixty-eight on History Lane,

Brings yesterday up to today!





The Village of Churches...

Back in the early 1950's when there seemed to be more churches than people, the "Village of Churches" phrase was born. Since then our population has exploded, our churches have increased in number, and the congregation in each has swelled. There are now 11 churches in Evergreen Park, with many active men's, women's and young people's groups giving them added strength. In Evergreen Park, church is still an important part of the lives of most people.

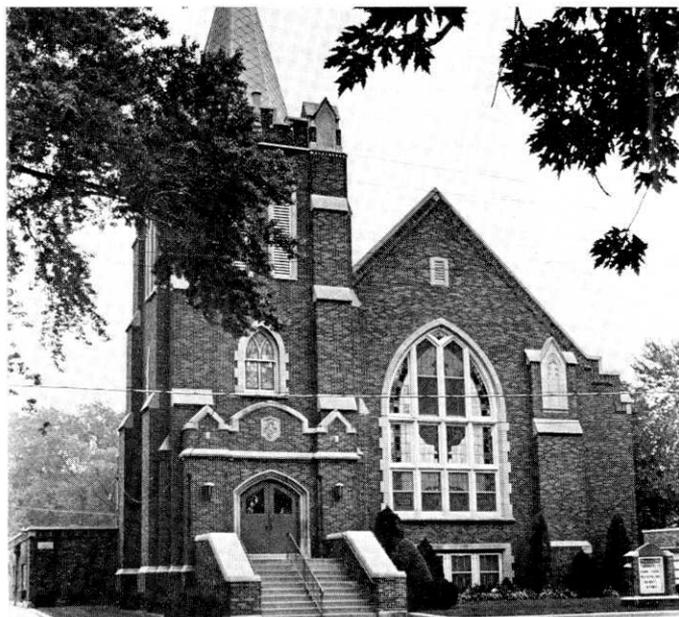


FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF EVERGREEN PARK

—In 1892 the First Methodist Church began as an individually organized Sunday School in a frame building on property provided by Benjamin F. Jacobs at 94th and Homan. A student from Garrett Biblical Institute, Rev. John W. Funston, conducted services that first year. In 1893 the property was deeded to Dr. A. D. Traveller, a Methodist leader, and the work took on the aspects of a Methodist mission. This is considered the founding year of the church.

In 1898 the property was deeded to the Chicago Home Missionary and Church Extension Society under whose direction it remained until 1926 when the church became self-supporting. It was on a circuit of churches and was served by part-time and student pastors until 1941.

The present church building was erected in 1947. The church built an educational wing to accommodate a rapidly expanding congregation in 1955. At this time it acquired an additional building and parking lot from the Bethel Lutheran Church at 94th and Trumbull Avenue. For a number of years the educational facilities of the church were used by the Park Lawn School for Mentally Retarded Children until they moved into their own building in Oak Lawn recently. Reverend Timothy Reeves has been pastor since 1967.



EVERGREEN PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

—On February 18, 1915, this Christian Reformed Church began its existence at a meeting held in the barn of H. G. Triezenberg. 38 members in full communion and 53 members by baptism comprised the charter membership of the new congregation. Three of these members are still living: Mrs. Peter Huisenga, who resides at 3448 W. 99th Street, and Mr. and Mrs. John Holwerda of 9435 S. Albany Avenue.

The first church building was located on Kedzie Avenue near 97th Street and was built at a cost of \$2,100. Reverend Z. J. Sherda was the first pastor of the church. The present church edifice, located at 9547 S. Homan Avenue, was dedicated in September 1931 and was built at the approximate cost of \$40,000.

Christian Reformed has had six pastors in these 53 years. The present pastor, Reverend Harvey J. Baas, came in 1963. The church supports two ordained missionaries: Reverend Van Essen in Nigeria, Africa, and Reverend Han in the Hyde Park area in Chicago. Partial support is also given to a mission in the Englewood area of Chicago.

The congregation has grown to 180 families today. In 1915 all the men of the church were engaged in farming. Today only a few have gardens. Through the years leadership in our community has been given by various members of the congregation, including our present Mayor, Henry Klein.