



Weekly News

Did you know...?

Tremont's Centennial 1835-1935

A variety of articles in local newspapers described Tremont's planned centennial celebration. One newspaper, dated July 20, 1935, ran an article about the upcoming event saying, "Plans for an elaborate celebration of the town of Tremont...are nearing completion and village officials are predicting that it will be the most colorful celebration ever staged in this vicinity."

The celebration, chaired by R.A. Cullinan, was planned for one day, Thursday, August 1. In what has become a Tremont tradition, everyone in town took part in the preparations. Committees planned and stores contributed by decorating their windows, showcasing items from the early settlers, and by giving "wooden nickels" as change.

An area newspaper from that day reported, "Tremont is a happy place today. The 100th birthday party of the city is being celebrated and old friends from far and near are here to make a great day of it." And another reflected, "It was a great day in Tremont, and if anybody lives to see the second Centennial in 2035, we'll guarantee that he will not yet have forgotten the great time Tremont had on its first 100th birthday."

The Tremont Museum has a detailed program from the event, entitled, "One Hundredth Anniversary of Tremont," in which are listed all of the events for the one-day celebration of "one hundred years of progress." Among the events were a hot air balloon ascension with a "thrilling triple parachute drop," WLS radio artists, a luncheon, a baseball game - Tremont vs. Delavan, a clown, games and races for the children, music by the Pekin Municipal Band, and the Flying LaVan's trapeze act "in another death-defying exhibition." (However, in the end, the Flying LaVans didn't show up, although, the papers said, "...they positively agreed to show up.")

There was a "grand centennial parade", and this being an agricultural community, "The people were greatly interested in Mike Beyer's float display of a reaper that was used 100 years ago as compared with today's modern reaper." The first float held a reaper, "...the type that cut grain while men stood on it and raked the grain off to be bound by hand. Beyer had hand-bound sheaves...beside the ancient reaper." This float was followed by a modern 1935 model reaper, which had rubber tires. Beyer's display won first place, followed by Cullinan's huge and beautiful birthday cake float with 100 candles.

There was an elaborate pageant depicting the history of Tremont, with 14 separate, titled scenes, including: The Spirit of the Wind, The Passing of the Indians and Traders, Original Settlement, Political Rally 1840, Female Seminary, Civil War Veterans, and World War Group.

The Pageant ended with the planting of a centennial tree in the park by the oldest living resident of Tremont, and by a fourth-generation resident of one of the early settlers. The program was directed by Mrs. Eva Cullinan, Mrs. Genevieve Shepherdson and Mr. Harold Blue.

The last event of the evening was a free pavement dance with music by Al Winkel's nine-piece orchestra, held on Main Street (North Sampson Street) in front of the Cullinan home. The same news article stated that the orchestra provided music "...for the light feet - and some that weren't so light after a long day's fun."

During and after the event, headlines around the area included, "Centennial Birthday Party Becomes Outstanding Success; Crowd Almost Too Great to Show Historical Pageant," and "Great Crowd Is at Tremont for Birthday Party; Huge jam Expected Tonite."

The Peoria Journal Transcript of August 2, 1935 predicted, "Perhaps the grandchildren of the next century will be just as impressed by the history of today as we are with the tales of the pioneers."

The quote of the day was, "Time goes! Ah, no, time stays - we go!"

-Tremont Museum and Historical Society



Tremont Museum

WE ARE OPEN!

The Tremont Museum will be open on Sunday, August 8 from 2-4 PM .
So much to see! Low admission (cash only) covers both museum buildings.

Corner of S. Sampson and Madison Streets.

Tremont Library

100 Books this Summer (Ages 1-5)

Read 100 books w/ your child, June 1-August 7

Stories and Songs with Mr. Wilkey

Friday, August 6th at 6:30pm

Location: City Park

We are SO excited to welcome back the beloved grade school music teacher, Mr. Wilkey! Join us at City Park for musical stories, songs, and instrumental play. This event is great for the whole family! No registration required.

Saturday

Farmers Market - 9:00AM-12:00PM

City Park

Sunday

Tremont Museum - 2:00PM-4:00PM

Corner of S. Sampson and Madison Streets

Around Town



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Thank you,

Haas IT Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Tremont Winning Communities

Tremont Winning Communities | info@tremontil.com | <http://tremontil.com>