



Weekly News

Did you know...?

The Unwelcome Visitor - Part I

In 1918, Frank Norman was stricken with influenza at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and died just days later. The 21-year-old son of Tremont residents A.V. and Estella Norman and brother of famous sculptor Viola Norman, died at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, where he had been a recruit for about two months. His death came as a shock to the entire Tremont community, who had watched him grow up, and his mother never really recovered.

Frank's death is especially significant because at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station 40 miles north of Chicago, influenza, or Spanish flu, killed twice the number of Navy personnel in two months than combat did in WWI. The training station's newspaper referred to the disease as the "Unwelcome Visitor."

While the nation waged the Great War (WWI), the lethal "visitor" spread to Chicago, then across Illinois, making the Great Lakes Naval Training Base the main source for Spanish flu in Illinois. In one two-month period, Chicago had 38,000 cases of influenza and 13,000 cases of pneumonia, a major complication of the flu. According to Peoria Public Radio, the final count of the dead in Peoria was 590, which included pneumonia deaths. There were approximately 7,260 cases. A treatment or cure was unknown, though scientists at pharmaceutical companies worked tirelessly and fruitlessly to find one.



At 21, Frank Norman was typical of those affected with flu or “grip” as it was also called. Unlike other viruses, this one affected young and healthy adults. It began with a high fever. During the first wave of the disease, other symptoms were typical of normal flu, such as sore throat and headache, But, there were actually four waves, continuing into 1921. Later waves brought bacterial pneumonia and a whole spectrum of symptoms from dizziness and hallucinations to heliotrope cyanosis, where, within days, the patient’s entire face would turn blue and the rest of the body turned black due to lack of oxygen.

To limit the alarming spread of Spanish flu, the U.S. Army suspended the wartime draft. An Illinois statewide order banned all theatres, night schools, lodge meetings, gatherings and “all other places of public amusement,” as well as all athletic matches and even ice-skating. Churches were asked to keep their buildings ventilated and services brief. Strangely, saloons, pool halls and bowling alleys could remain open. These restrictions were placed on top of the restrictions already in place for WWI.

In addition to the War orders and statewide flu orders, in Tremont churches also were closed. In a November 20, 1918 letter to her sons stationed at Bradley University undergoing training, a Tremont mother wrote:

“The last report we heard there were about 40 sick at Tremont. But keep this to yourself or else you might not get a pass again next Sunday...”

These were extremely dark times, with WWI raging, people isolated and fearful of the flu, businesses in jeopardy and loved ones ill or dying of the “Unwanted Visitor.”

~ Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, 2023

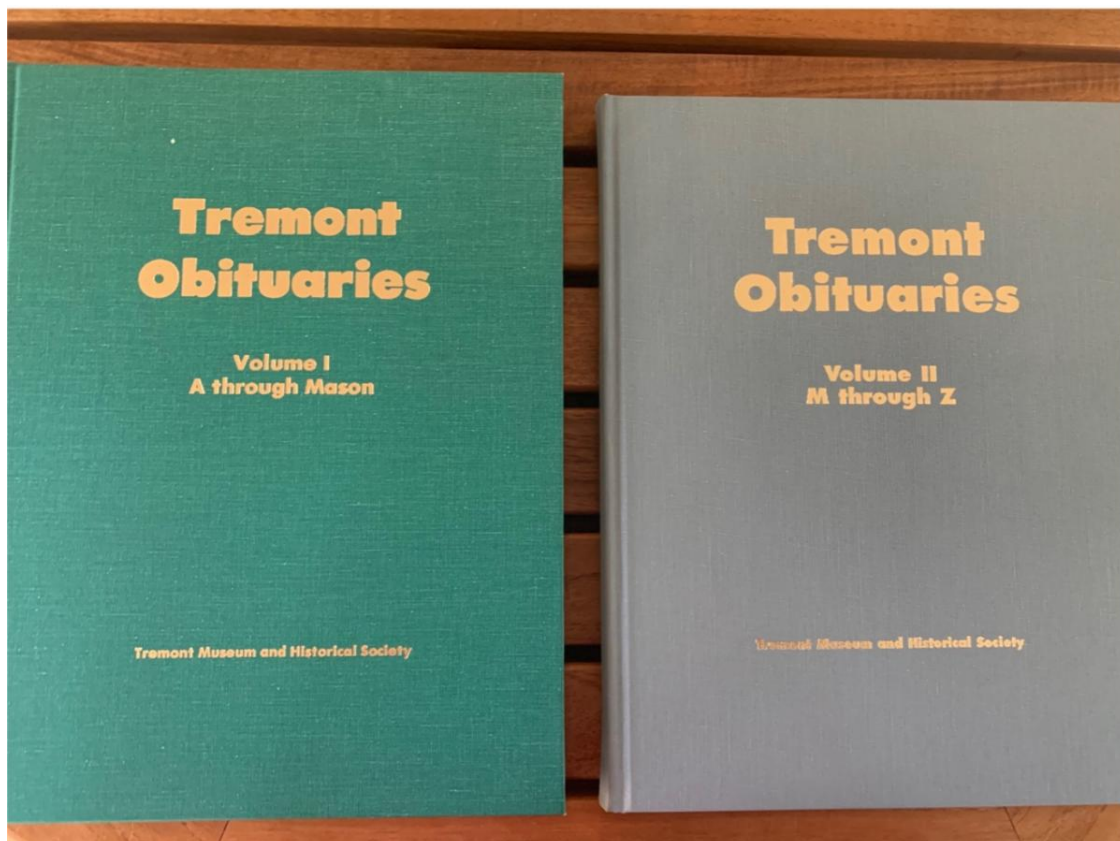
Tremont Museum

HURRY! JUST 3 MORE DAYS!

The Tremont Museum will be open on Sunday, June 25, 2-4 PM with the FAB 50s exhibit. It can also be seen on July 9 and 23 from 2-4 PM. A new "We Will Not Forget" memorial display can also be seen. A special exhibit admission will be charged - CASH or CHECK only!

*The Tremont Museum has obituary books for sale. Volume I is "A through Mason" and Volume II is "M through Z." The obituaries that are included range from some of the earliest settlers in Tremont to those who died in 1988.

The price for each volume is \$10.00. Please contact Lorie at 309-840-0094 or Kay at 419-296-2323 if you wish to buy a book.



Tremont District Library News

Booksale Changes 2024

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the Turkey Festival, especially those who worked the Book Sale! Perhaps you heard that in 2024, the Book Sale will be held indoors at the Library, on Merchant's Day only (Thursday). There will also be a sale during Fall garage sales starting in 2024.

The main reason for this change is to prevent the books from being damaged. I've set up and torn down the booksale for 9 years and have observed that the books that go into the festival are nice, and the leftover books are... no longer quite so nice! Books are like sponges, and after four days of being outdoors, even under a tent, they tend to absorb humidity and pages warp. Rainy years are especially bad on books and can result in

severe damage. Changing to an indoor book sale will prevent our used books from damage.

As a bonus, this change will also help redirect volunteers to other areas of the Turkey Festival where help is needed.

Thank you so much for supporting and volunteering at the Book Sale! We'll see you in 2024!

Maria Ford
Tremont Library Director

Crafternoons (ages 6+)

Mondays: June 19, June 26, July 10 July 17, July 24, & July 31, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

This week we're making Suncatchers! Perfect for ages 6+! Please plan on staying in the room if your child needs help with materials. No registration required.

Hogwarts' Half-Bloods (YA Book Club, ages 12-19)

Tuesday June 20 & July 18, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Read and discuss a good book and enjoy a drink from Eli's.
No registration.

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30 -11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

Story Hour (ages 3-6)

Thursdays, June 22nd, 10:30 -11:15 am

Stories, rhymes, activities, and a craft. Prepare your child for lifelong learning! No registration.

Minecraft Days (ages 7+)

Thursdays, June 22 - Aug. 3, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Play Minecraft with friends! No registration, participants must provide their own device. Learn more on our website.

Lifesize Candyland Day (all ages)

Friday, June 23, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Another year of Lifesize Candyland is here! All ages are invited to play through a library sized game of Candyland.

We recommend playing through the library in small groups of up to 4-5 people, so families with more kiddos may want another adult on hand. Parents with littles are welcome to just walk the path and collect candy without actually playing the game. And adults are more than welcome to play on their own or without children all together!

This event is one of our biggest each year, so wait times will vary. We're so excited to see everyone in this delicious lifesize game again!

Tremont Community Senior Meals

Tremont Community Senior Meals

Lunch is served at 11:00 am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

You must reserve your seat by calling (309) 674-1131 ext. 231.

Located at the Tremont Community Center (216 S. Sampson St).

Meals are free to all seniors, donations are accepted.

Brought to you by Neighborhood House Peoria
and Tremont Community Share Closet



We are thankful to everyone who has been involved in making senior meals a success so far! We are now looking for volunteers to help make these gatherings even more special in two ways.

First, we would like people to create and host activities with the seniors (think bingo, puzzles and cards), and second, we would like to have people sign up to donate dessert-goodies to add to each meal. If either of those interests you, please email scsoulmanager@gmail.com or call the Share Closet at (309) 929-7095 to sign up!

Community Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Saturday

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.

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

Tremont Winning Communities | P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568

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