



Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00
or by appointment**

KLINKNER PARK

By Debbie Barany

The other day sitting in my car at the Walgreen's parking lot as I wait for my son to pick up his prescriptions, I gazed across the intersection of Hwy 151 and Hwy 57 at Klinkner Park, and wondered how long it has been a park. I was born in Chilton a little over a half a century ago, and have spent time playing at the park in my younger years, attended graduation parties and most recently attended dedications to the amazing veteran's memorial. So here is a little background on Klinkner Park.

Math Klinkner was the mayor for the City of Chilton from 1932 to 1936. As mayor during the Great Depression, he still managed to lead the city in planning and building of the new high school which opened in 1935. Prior to mayor he also served as alderman.

As a cement contractor he was known for his excellent and honest work. He built the concrete bleachers at the football field, the steps to St. Augustine's church and many of the sidewalks in Chilton.



He would give kids a ride in his truck as he drove around town. Their love of children may have been the motive for donating land for a park.



The park is named after a very kind and civic minded citizen named Math Klink-

If you happen to be out for a walk around town, look down and if you see this stamp in the sidewalk, you will know that the sidewalk was most likely poured before 1950. That makes that sidewalk over 67 years old

Math and his wife Jennie(Forkin) did not have any children of their own. Mr. Klinkner was a friend to all children of the commu-

Mr. Klinkner died August of 1952, and 1953 the estate of Math Klinkner stated that the land was given to the City of Chilton (hence the name of Klinkner Park) along with \$500.00 given to the Chilton Women's Club to initiate the park improvement and beautification program. A clause in the estate sets \$6,100.00 to the City to continue and implement the park beautification program.



August 2, 2014, The City dedicated the new Veteran's Memorial at Klinkner Park. The Memorial was designed by Chilton native, Chilton High School graduate, and licensed architect, James P. Suttner. The memorial is at the highly visible location in the park and has drawn many passerby's to stop and take a look at the beautiful tribute to our veterans.

