

### Tiffany Family



Frank Tiffany using 2-way police radio, 1930s

The Tiffany family has always been associated with service to their local community. After serving as Police Chief of North Chicago, Frank Tiffany succeeded his brother Lester as Police Chief of Lake Forest in 1930. His inspiration to enter the profession was his father, who worked as a policeman during the time of the Haymarket Riots in Chicago. Frank was a force for innovation in Lake Forest – he was responsible for persuading the city to come up with the funding for the installation of two-way radios in his squad cars. Lake Forest was the first city in the Midwest to have the state-of-the-art devices.

The radios were helpful almost from day one, as they were used by the police to catch two Milwaukee auto thieves as they attempted to flee near Waukegan and Westleigh. The radios also brought their share of levity, such as when reports reached the police that their signals were being picked up as far away as South Africa, and when a call was placed to the Chief as he was leaving town to celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, urgently calling him to St. Mary's School to apprehend robbers who were holding up a private party. Chief Tiffany arrived at a darkened hall, turned on the lights, and found 40 of his friends on hand for a surprise anniversary party.

The woman to whom Frank Tiffany was married for over 50 years was Fern Harper Tiffany. She is perhaps best known to the residents of Lake Forest as the face of Marshall Field's. She worked at the store for over 30 years, starting as a switchboard operator in the basement and moving on to gift wrap and other departments. A fashionable lady, Fern wore 6-inch spike heels almost her entire life. She refused to wear slacks until about 3 years before her death, and then it was only at the insistence of her son, Richard, who worried that she would get too cold walking between her apartment on Westminster and the Post Office in Market Square.

Frank and Fern had six children, Bernice, Thomas, Helen, George, Donald and Richard. George served as a policeman in Lake Forest, then as a Lake County Deputy. Donald and Richard both served as firemen, Donald in Lake Forest and Richard at Great Lakes.

Donald's son, Donald C. Tiffany Jr., was born in 1942 at Alice Home Hospital. He was a lifelong resident of Lake Forest, with a great love for his hometown. He joined the Boy Scouts as a child and rose to the rank of Eagle Scout, and continued to support the Scouts

throughout his adult life. He served as a Troop Leader and on the Scout Camp Committee.

In the early 1960s, Don began his career in the Deerfield Police force. In 1965, he married Irene Martin. After twelve years in the force, Don felt that he had achieved all he had wanted to as a police officer, and decided to follow a passion that he had developed throughout his teens: restaurant management. The young man who had worked as a cook at the Lake Forest Bowling Alley and Kay's Confectionary wanted to run his own establishment in 1975, and hence bought the Lantern. For many years he was the sole bartender and his wife Irene was the sole waitress. They made wise expansion moves over the years that allowed for more customers and for a greater variety of food to be served. With the expansions, there was even room for a model train running on tracks hung from the ceiling. By allowing local businesses to purchase a car on the train, Don raised money in support of the Scout Camps.

The Lantern has served many celebrities over the years, including Robert Redford, Many players on the Chicago Bears, and Donald Sutherland. Ever friendly and personable, Don Tiffany asked Mr. Sutherland why he came to the Lantern, when he was being put up in a beautiful home in town with a personal chef. Mr. Sutherland replied, "I like your hamburgers." The Tiffanys extended the same friendliness to all their customers, saying there were no strangers at the Lantern, only friends you haven't met yet.

Lake Forest lost an important part of its community when Donald Tiffany passed away last December. The Lantern carries on the traditions he started under the leadership of his daughter, Beth Tiffany. His son Donald "Tiff" Tiffany is a successful actor and acting teacher – he has recently appeared in "Alvin and the Chipmunks" and "Oceans 12."

Tiffany supplemental information supplied by Joyce Johnson, not in 5/4/08 presentation:

Donald Tiffany Sr.'s son John owned the Texaco/Knollwood Station on 176 and Waukegan between 1973-1979. He also worked as a mechanic there. He is currently employed as a mechanic for Peter Baker Co. His wife Diane (Dee) is Manager of Volunteer Services at Lake Forest Hospital.

Frank Tiffany's son George owned Tiffany's Tap on Wisconsin during the mid-1950s. George's son Tom worked for the Lake Forest Post Office from October 1958 to October 1992. During various years he also did summer work as Facilities Manager of Lake Forest Beach.

Lester Tiffany served as Lake Forest Police Chief from 1926 to 1930. He then became a Lake County Sheriff.