

THE BILLY SUNDAY HOME
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The Billy Sunday home, now a museum, is a familiar landmark in Winona Lake, Indiana. It was deeded by "Ma" Sunday in 1954 to the Winona Lake Christian Assembly to be used as a museum to perpetuate the memory of her husband. The home is of special interest to Christian people around the world because it was the home of one of God's greatest preachers of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The home reflects the image of Billy Sunday the evangelist. It tells the story of his life, and speaks eloquently of both Billy and Ma Sunday's total life interest, their activities, and commitments. It reminds us that although God rewarded the Sundays with both worldly wealth and fame for their labors for Him it was all laid on the altar of dedication to God.

The Sundays first came to Winona in 1896 with Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman of Chicago. The Winona Bible Conference had just been founded and Dr. Chapman was enthusiastic about it. He invited Billy Sunday to come and to see it. Sunday was curious and accepted the invitation. He liked very much what he saw and returned to Winona every summer. Four years later, in 1900 when he returned Sol Dickey said to him, "Billy you come here every summer, you should buy a home and come here to live." Sunday replied by asking if there was any property for sale that would be suitable. There was--a 12 room summer cottage on the terrace about 500 feet from the auditorium and the price was right, \$875 including all of the furnishings.

The cottage on the terrace was purchased and soon the Sundays moved to Winona to live for the rest of their lives. They lived in their cottage until 1911 when it was moved from the lot to make way for the building of the present Sunday home.

It was a humble but comfortable home that was built in 1911 at a cost of \$3,750. The electrical fixtures and a few other appointments were purchased later bringing to total cost to nearly \$5,000. Some very beautiful antique pieces of furniture were brought to the home from Mrs. Sunday's mother's home in Chicago. These pieces of furniture, well over 100 years old, can be seen in the home on the terrace today in a very good state of preservation. Most of the rest of the furnishings are gifts of love from friends who appreciated the Sundays devoted ministry for Christ.

The main hallway and the study in the home is a veritable "hall of fame". The walls are covered with autographed pictures of famous Americans who were friends of the evangelist. Six presidents of the United States are among them--Wm Howard Taft, Teddy Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Other notable people of the day are there also--John Wamaker, John D. Rockefeller, Gen. John J. Pershing, the Mayo brothers, and many many others including notable preachers and pastors.

A visitor to the home on the terrace should take notice of the fact that Ma Sunday was an artist in her own right. She made some 85 exquisite pieces of needlepoint work, many of which grace the home. There are several important wall hangings, a needlepoint fireplace sheild, plus numerous stools, chairs, settees etc. all lavishly decorated with these works of art. There are at least a dozen oil paintings all of professional quality work on display in this area of the home. The home is literally filled with gifts, trophies, memorabilia of every sort. There is the ornately beautiful Ansonian clock mounted on a marble base and guarded by two bronze soldiers on either side. This is on the fireplace mantel and was a gift from Billy's baseball team. There is the very interesting grandfather clock in the corner of the living room. It was a gift to the Sundays in 1915 during their Philadelphia campaign. It is a moon-clock which shows the different phases of the moon as well as the time. This clock has three sets of chimes that can be used as one chooses, to announce the time on the hour and on the half hour, the Westminster, the Trinity and the Cathedral chimes.

The Sunday home is truly a museum, and it is one that is well worth the time and money that may be spent to visit it and to absorb a bit of the glory of a great era in American life, and the glory of a great man and his wife who, under God, helped greatly to shape that era -- Mr. & Mrs. Willian A. Sunday.