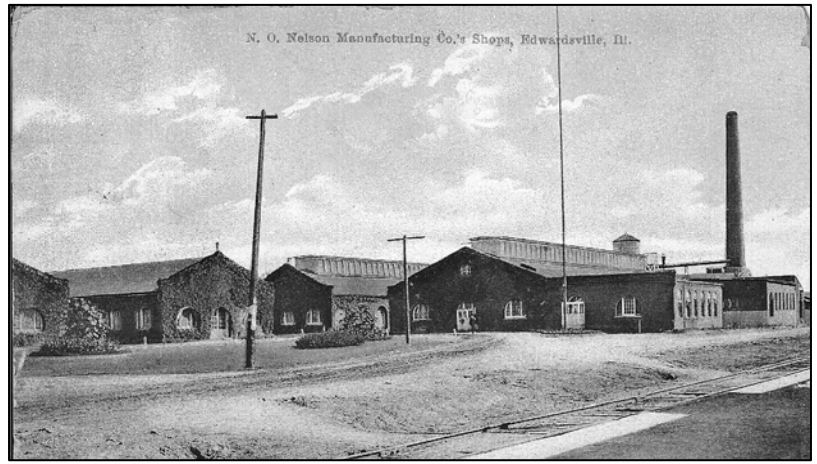


FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE Newsletter



Vol. 21 No. 1

P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

February 2011

ALDERMANIC FORUM

March 1st – 7:00 PM
LCCC Nelson Campus
Building N4, Room 110
Near Leclaire Room

Friends of Leclaire will host a forum with Ward 5 aldermanic candidates Brandyn Rust and Keith Short. Most of the Leclaire neighborhood is located within Ward 5 which has been well represented by John Twombly since 2004. Twombly will step down after his current term expires. Portions of Leclaire south of Franklin Avenue are in Ward 6. Ward 6 elections won't be held until 2013.

Guidelines for the forum will be similar to those of the League of Women Voters. Candidates will begin with opening statements, then respond to four prepared questions from Friends of Leclaire. The floor will then be opened to questions from the audience. Audience members will be given index cards as they arrive so they can submit questions to the candidates. The questions will be read by moderator William Krause.

All residents of Ward 5 are invited to attend this forum even if they do not live in Leclaire. Both candidates are new to city government and this focused event provides an opportunity to hear more about this specific race. Friends of Leclaire does not endorse any candidate, but provides an unbiased forum to educate voters on choices involving their neighborhood.

LECLAIRE HISTORY PRESENTATION

Cindy Reinhardt will give a program on Leclaire at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (corner of Buchanan and Hillsboro) at 3 PM, Sunday, March 13th. The program will cover the history of Leclaire as well as its connection to St. Andrew's church. The cornerstone and many of the church's furnishings were made locally in the N. O. Nelson factories of Leclaire. A reception with refreshments will follow the program which is free and open to the public. For more information call 656-1294.

LECLAIRE SOLDIERS INCLUDED IN MONUMENT

The Ryan Garbs Gold Star Memorial is a privately funded (city approved) plan for a monument in Edwardsville City Park commemorating area soldiers that gave their lives while in service to our country. Doug and Jill Garbs have created a website to accompany the memorial that will provide a brief biography and photo of the soldiers, including some from Leclaire. Known Leclaire soldiers to be in the memorial include Charles Rizzoli, Frank Kahtz, Harold Metzger and Ivan Moorman. Please contact Doug Garbs if you have information or photographs of these or other Edwardsville area soldiers who died while in service. The website is at www.ryangarbsgoldstarmemorial.com

DONATION TO FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

A donation of over \$300 was made to Friends of Leclaire by Cindy Reinhardt at the end of 2010, representing a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the new Leclaire pictorial history. A donation is made for any book sold through the author or Friends of Leclaire.

HOLIDAY PARTY

"Thank you" to the folks at Hale House (919 Hale Avenue) for hosting our annual holiday at the home of Bob and Mary Blain. Good food combined with great friends and neighbors resulted in an enjoyable evening for everyone. If you live in Leclaire and are interested in hosting the 2011 party, please let us know.



Charles Rizzoli

SAFE SKATING REMINDER

The Edwardsville Parks and Recreation Department monitors conditions on Leclaire Lake. When the ice is safe for skating there will be a green light shining in the north window of the band stand. When the ice is unsafe, the light is red.

LECLAIRE SHOPPING

Call Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294 if you are interested in any of the following Leclaire merchandise:

Leclaire Sweatshirts/hoodies	\$25
Memorial Fountain T-Shirts	\$12
Water Tower T-Shirts	\$ 5
Centennial Posters	\$ 8
Grocery Tote Bags	\$ 4
Leclaire Magnets	\$.50
Leclaire History DVD	\$10
Gift Membership	\$10
Leclaire Books:	
A Pictorial History	\$21.99 + tax
Cooperative Village of Leclaire	\$16
Who Was Edme Jean Leclaire?	\$6
Free study guides, walking tour brochures and past newsletters.	

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of Leclaire Annual Meeting will be held at the regular FOL April meeting on Tuesday, April 12th at 7:00 P.M. If you are interested in running for any of the seven board positions (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer or one of 3 trustees), please contact Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294.

2011 FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE CALENDAR

March 1: Tues., 7 PM

Ward 5 Aldermanic Forum
LCCC Nelson Campus
Bldg. N4, Room 110
Near Leclaire Room

Sunday, March 13, 3 PM

Leclaire History Presentation
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Third Saturday May through October

Goshen Market Booth

Fri-Sat, June 10-11

Route 66 Festival Hours TBA
Leclaire display at History Tent

June Date TBA

Band Concert at Leclaire Park

Sunday, October 16; Noon – 5 PM

Leclaire Parkfest

REGULAR FOL MEETINGS

Building N4, Room 201 at the Nelson Campus of LCCC in Leclaire:
Tuesdays at 7 PM

April 12 Annual Meeting and Election

May 10

June 14

July 12

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13 Holiday Social
Members Only, Location TBA

MEMBERSHIP

To join or renew your membership for just \$10 per year, mail a check to: Friends of Leclaire, P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Include your name, telephone number, e-mail and street addresses. Membership applications are also available on the Friends of Leclaire website: www.historic-leclaire.org.

We use dues to promote the history and preservation of the historic Leclaire neighborhood. Founded in 1890 as an experiment in cooperative living, Leclaire was designated a National Historic District in 1979. Members receive quarterly issues of the Leclaire newsletter.

ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

N. O. Nelson and Leclaire were known nationally and internationally. Particularly from 1885-1915, articles about Nelson's profit-sharing, cooperative plan and philanthropy were covered in hundreds of publications by many well-known authors. Below are a few excerpts:

The Labor Copartnership (British),
February 1896
George Jacob Holyoake

N. O. Nelson, the founder of Leclaire, has done by his workpeople exactly what Godin did. He has given them an opportunity to become owners of the Leclaire works by simply repaying him, not out of their pockets, but out of the profits made, without deducting a cent from their wages.

The World To-Day

"A Man With Enough"

December 1905

Eltweed Pomeroy

"I have improved on Carnegie's saying that it is a disgrace for a man to die rich; I say it is a disgrace for a man to be rich." So said Mr. N. O. Nelson to me recently. It was not the remark of an embittered poor man, hater of our present commercial system because he thinks it has not given him merited financial reward. N.O. Nelson Company is rated in mercantile agencies at the highest rating, and Mr. Nelson owns four-fifths of the capital stock of this company, as well as other resources which would easily run him up above the million mark if not as high as \$5,000,000.



N. O. Nelson

The Tobacco Worker, "Real Friend of Labor: Practical Work of N. O. Nelson in Behalf of Child Toilers" January 1907

While others are talking of helping the little slaves of the treadmill by the passage of child labor laws and the enforcement of such laws already enacted, there is one practical friend who is actually doing something to help these little victims of commercialism and cupidity. N. O. Nelson, the millionaire manufacturer of St. Louis, is the man.

Some time ago Mr. Nelson ... offered to pay one half the amount children under fourteen years of age would receive if they worked, if the (Women's) clubs would pay the other half.

American Magazine, "The Golden Rule in Business", March 1915
Ida Tarbell

One of the secrets of the success at Leclaire is that the officers of the company live side by side with the men in homes which, if a little larger, are in no way pretentious.

Twenty-five years ago he pledged his employees that after paying them the current wage, giving capital a six per cent dividend, and taking care of sinking fund and other obligations, he would divide among them the profits in proportion to their wages. Since then the dividend has never fallen below 10 per cent and has risen as high as 30 per cent. To-day the employes own over one fourth of the Nelson Manufacturing Company.

Edwardsville Intelligencer
Tuesday, January 2, 1917

SKATER FELL IN LAKE BOY SKATER SWIMS TO SAFE ICE WHEN HE BREAKS THROUGH

Many Persons Stood By and Watched Him Save Self From Water

What might have been the first skating tragedy of this season occurred Sunday afternoon at Leclaire lake when one of the merry skaters went through the ice, but owing to the fact that he was a good swimmer and

kept his nerve, it resulted only in a severe cold for the victim.

There were about fifty enjoying the winter sport, among this number Harvey Glass, aged 13 years, son of William H. Glass of 919 Hale Avenue, bookkeeper at the office of N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company.

Near the northwest shore the ice was very thin, because of escaping steam from a pipe where water is pumped from the lake to supply the boilers at the Nelson plant.

The skaters were warned to stay at a distance from the pump house. During the merriment Sunday afternoon, young Glass forgot about the dangerous ice and skated onto the thin ice.

Owing to the speed at which he was skating he went far out on the thin ice before it finally caved in.

It was difficult for Glass to swim with the skates strapped to his feet, but after a hard effort he got to the thick ice and skated back to shore.

Three others enjoying the sport fell in Sunday afternoon but caught themselves on the ice before going down.

Leclaire's first aldermanic election was held in the spring of 1934 after Leclaire was annexed to Edwardsville. Prior to that time, Leclaire had no government. It's interesting to note that two of the seven candidates for Ward Five Alderman were neighbors living side by side on Troy Road, Abbee and Glass. One of them was elected, but the other lost by just nine votes. Reuben Glass was the first to file in the newly created ward.

Edwardsville Intelligencer
Friday, March 9, 1934

REUBEN GLASS IS OUT FOR OFFICE

**First to File Petition in New Ward,
His Term Will be for Only One Year.**

Reuben Glass, of 1014 Troy Road, is the first citizen of the newly annexed territory composing Edwardsville's fifth ward to be a candidate for alderman. He has filed a petition with City Clerk Bruce

Fiegenbaum as a candidate on the Independent Voters Party ticket. The election will be held April 17. Fifth ward voters will cast their ballots at Leclaire Cooperative Store.

Mr. Glass has been a resident of Edwardsville and Leclaire since a boy of 11 years. He has lived in Leclaire for 27 years. For years he has been active in affairs of this community, especially in promoting improvements in Leclaire.

He has been connected with N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company for many years and for a long time has been in charge of the maintenance department. He has been in charge of the streets and had supervision of construction of sidewalks, water and sewer mains and the lighting system. He is thoroughly acquainted with all the appurtenances that make up the principal conveniences in the annexed territory.

After citizens of Leclaire and the other annexed subdivisions concluded that annexation was necessary to solve some of their problems they selected Mr. Glass to have charge. He supervised the activities of a group of workers, assisted with the petitions, discussed the plan, helping for final termination.

Two aldermen will be chosen from the fifth ward to serve one year. In 1935 when the mayoralty election is held, one alderman will be elected for a two-year term and another for one year.

Edwardsville Intelligencer
Wednesday, April 18, 1934

PICK 6 ALDERMEN FOR ONE YEAR AT ANNUAL ELECTION

**Two in Group to Represent New
Fifth Ward Established from
Territory Recently Annexed to City**

Edwardsville elected six aldermen yesterday at the annual aldermanic election, the last that will be held under existing Illinois laws. They will serve for one year. In April 1935, a mayor, ten aldermen and all other officials will be elected for a two year term. Hereafter the officials will be

elected for two year terms, saving the expense of the off-year aldermanic election.

In the fifth ward, created principally from territory recently annexed to Edwardsville, there were seven candidates. They interested 493 of the voters in the ward to go to the polls. In that ward, two aldermen were elected to give the full quota of representatives.

Henry W. Borchwardt on the Independent ticket and A. H. Abbee on the Citizen's ticket were elected in the fifth ward. Borchwardt received 159 votes and Abbee, 150. Reuben Glass, on the Independent Votes ticket, ran a close third with 141 votes. Donald Staab ran on the People's Choice ticket and received 121 votes. Arthur F. Westerholt on the Labor ticket received 113 votes and Erwin Sehnert, Jr. on the same ticket received 81. Frank Koester, another candidate on the Citizen's ticket, received 117 votes.

Looking Backward

Edward Bellamy (1850-1898) author of *Looking Backward: 2000 – 1887*, was a utopian like Nelson. The two corresponded and Nelson sent money to help Bellamy publish his journal, *The New Nation*.

Looking Backward was very popular and is still available in paperback from Dover Publications in New York. The story is about time traveler, Julian West, who goes to sleep in 1887 and is awakened in 2000 with life transformed into a utopia. Julian finds people curious to know about life in 1887, which is why he writes Looking Backward. Here is an excerpt.

“By way of attempting to give the reader some general impression of the way people lived together in those days, and especially of the relations of the rich and poor to one another, perhaps I cannot do better than to compare society as it then was to a prodigious coach which the masses of humanity were harnessed to and dragged toilsomely along a very hilly and sandy road. The driver was hunger, and permitted no lagging,

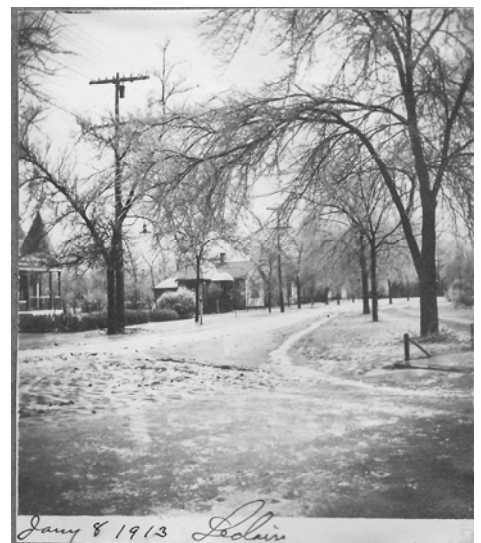
though the pace was necessarily very slow. Despite the difficulty of drawing the coach at all along so hard a road, the top was covered with passengers who never got down, even at the steepest ascents. These seats on top were very breezy and comfortable. Well up out of the dust, their occupants could enjoy the scenery at their leisure, or critically discuss the merits of the straining team. Naturally such places were in great demand and the competition for them was keen, every one seeking as the first end in life to secure a seat on the coach for himself and to leave it to his child after him. By the rule of the coach a man could leave his seat to whom he wished, but on the other hand there were many accidents by which it might at any time be wholly lost. For all that they were so easy, the seats were very insecure, and at every sudden jolt of the coach persons were slipping out of them and falling to the ground, where they were instantly compelled to take hold of the rope and help to drag the coach on which they had before ridden so pleasantly. It was naturally regarded as a terrible misfortune to lose one's seat, and the apprehension that this might happen to them or their friends was a constant cloud upon the happiness of those who rode.

“But did they think only of themselves? you ask. Was not their very luxury rendered intolerable to them by comparison with the lot of their brothers and sisters in the harness, and the knowledge that their own weight added to their toil? Had they no compassion for fellow beings from whom fortune only distinguished them? Oh, yes; commiseration was frequently expressed by those who rode for those who had to pull the coach, especially when the vehicle came to a bad place in the road, as it was constantly doing, or to a particularly steep hill. At such times, the desperate straining of the team, their agonized leaping and plunging under the pitiless lashing of hunger, the many who fainted at the rope and were trampled in the mire, made a

very distressing spectacle, which often called forth highly creditable displays of feeling on the top of the coach. At such times, the passengers would call down encouragingly to the toilers of the rope, exhorting them to patience, and holding out hopes of possible compensation in another world for the hardness of their lot, while others contributed to buy salves and liniments for the crippled and injured. It was agreed that it was a great pity that the coach should be so hard to pull, and there was a sense of general relief when the specially bad piece of road was gotten over. This relief was not, indeed, wholly on account of the team, for there was always some danger at these bad places of a general overturn in which all would lose their seats.

“It must in truth be admitted that the main effect of the spectacle of the misery of the toilers at the rope was to enhance the passengers' sense of the value of their seats upon the coach... If they could only have felt assured that neither they nor their friends would ever fall from the top, they would have troubled themselves extremely little about those who dragged the coach.”

Go to www.historic-leclair.org for newspaper and magazine articles about LeClaire, Friends of LeClaire calendar, newsletters and more!



January 8, 1913, 716 Hale is first house on left. Holyoake Rd from the right no longer connects to Hale.