



# FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE NEWSLETTER

October 2014

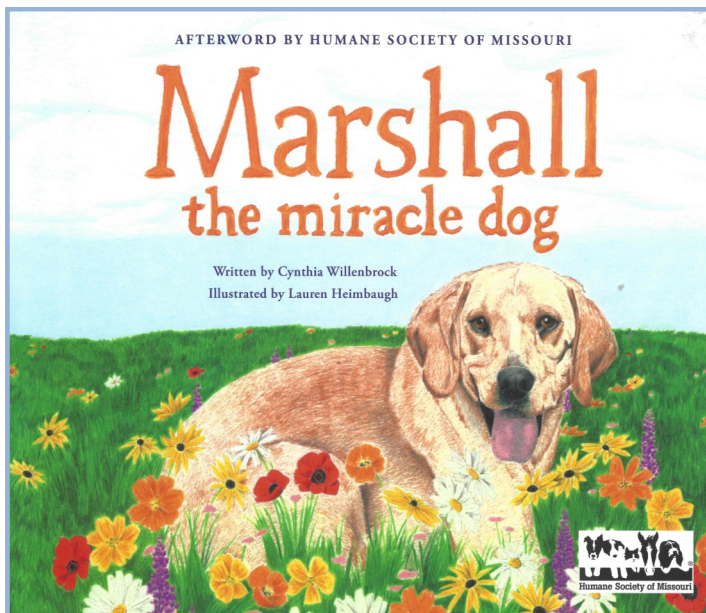
Volume 24 No. 3

## The Movies Came to Leclaire

It wasn't the first time a movie was made in Leclaire, but the filming of *Marshall the Miracle Dog* in June 2014 created quite a buzz in the neighborhood as well as in other areas of Edwardsville. Producer Cyndi Willenbrock who is also Marshall's owner, said Leclaire was chosen because it was "just charming and had the family feel that we had envisioned for the film; the trees, park and charming homes I think were the main draw."

There was extensive filming at four locations in the neighborhood: Leclaire Park, Leclaire Field, and at two homes bordering Leclaire Park, 935 Hale Avenue and 1101 Lake Avenue. One of the home owners, Kim Pauli, said it started for them with a call from Cheryl Watson of the mayor's office asking if they were interested in allowing their home to be used as a film location. Later that day they were contacted by Ron Durham, Location Manager for the film. After a discussion of terms, a contract was agreed on allowing the film company to use the porch and yard at their home on Lake Avenue for filming on specific days. The Rutherford family on Hale Avenue had a similar experience but for them it was more involved. The company would use the exterior of the

home, the upstairs bedrooms and their garage. The family was put up in a hotel for two days during filming. Inside the house, set designers used all of the family's furniture but replaced personal items on the dressers and wall décor. Needless to say, both families are anxious to see the movie.



This special issue of the Friends of Leclaire Newsletter will give the history behind all four major Leclaire locations used in the filming of *Marshall, the Miracle Dog*.

### Based on a True Story

The movie is based on the true story of a dog found at the home of an animal hoarder in Marshall, Missouri. Named for the town where he was found, Marshall was in critical condition when found. He had been attacked so badly by the other animals that his leg had to be amputated. Today Marshall is a certified therapy

dog, bringing messages against bullying and animal cruelty to organizations and schools in the St. Louis area. The message of the Marshall movement is to "Show Courage. Be Kind."

Marshall's story was published in a book, *Marshall the Miracle Dog*, written by Cyndi Willenbrock and illustrated by Lauren Heimbaugh. A portion of the proceeds from the book benefit the Humane Society of Missouri. It is available locally at Afterwords Books.

## Sunday, October 19th Noon - 5 p.m.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Leclaire celebration, Leclaire Parkfest, will be held on Sunday, October 19 from Noon – 5 p.m. at Leclaire Park. A flier for the festival is on the back page of this newsletter with details of the event, but we would like to say "thank you" in advance to some of the folks that make the festival possible.

This is the first time in many years that we have had no funding from the City of Edwardsville. We are very grateful for our sponsors: William Krause of Krause Properties, the Law Office of Keith Short, TheBank of Edwardsville and Creative Options Graphic Design. Without sponsors, the festival would not be possible. Thank you!



## Thank You Parkfest Volunteers!

As coordinator of Leclaire Parkfest I would be remiss if I didn't include a special thank you to the group of people who make themselves available each year for the festival: Site Supervisors Mike Reinhardt and Al & Kim Pauli; Contracts and Insurance, Janet Foehrkolb; FOL Booth and Trolley Tours, William Krause; Bandstand Décor, Bob and Mary Blain; Treasurer, Jim Milgrim; and Graphic Design, Sherrie Hickman of Creative Options Graphic Design. Most of these volunteers have been doing the job for many years.

We are grateful for their continued support. We also thank all of the volunteers who work the day of the event, preparing tables, working the FOL booth or with other tasks. "Many hands make light work" my mother used to say, and when it's time for Leclaire Parkfest, I can truly realize the value of those words. Thank you to all who participate!

Cindy Reinhardt, Coordinator

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### Please Note

Photos in this issue attributed to MCHS are Courtesy of the Madison County Historical Society.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### Time to Renew

Many of our members join Friends of Leclaire at Leclaire Parkfest making it easy to remember when to pay your dues. Please stop by the Friends of Leclaire booth at Parkfest to pay your dues. Reminder cards will be sent out in late October, but a Parkfest renewal saves us a stamp. Can't make it to the festival this year? Send your \$15 annual dues with your contact information to: Friends of Leclaire, P. O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Many thanks!

### Half Price Trees

A reminder that the Edwardsville Beautification and Tree Commission has a program that offers half price rebates on trees costing up to \$150. There are twenty varieties to choose from and Fall is the ideal time for planting. For more information, go to <http://www.cityofedwardsville.com/> and click on Tree Planting Program or pick up a form at City Hall, the Public Library or at the Public Works Department.

### State Association Comes to Leclaire

In August the Illinois State Historical Society held their Centennial Awards Reception here in Leclaire, the first time the event has been held in Madison County. Cindy Reinhardt provided a program on the history of Leclaire and several attendees later took self-guided walks through the neighborhood using HPC's Leclaire Walking Tour brochure.

### International Interest in Leclaire

Friends of Leclaire was recently approached by a Korean professor for information about Leclaire's history. Dr. Jae Won Sun, an economist and professor of Japanese Studies is comparing a company town in Japan with N. O. Nelson's business model. He visited Leclaire and the Madison County Historical Society this summer while in the U. S. as a visiting professor at Harvard. At the end of his visit, Dr. Sun asked to be a member of Friends of Leclaire. We were happy to comply, but will send him his newsletter electronically. Does this qualify FOL as an international organization?



### Leclaire Gardening

Thank you to Mike Reinhardt and Will Krause (pictured above) who again this year spread 2 truckloads of mulch on the flower beds at the south end of Leclaire Lake. The cost of the mulch was donated by Barbara Krause, who also provided the truck. Thank you Barb!

### About Friends of Leclaire

Friends of Leclaire (FOL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the history and heritage of the Leclaire National Historic District. The organization promotes Leclaire's heritage through advocacy, education, and community involvement.

FOL conducts business meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month except in December when the regular meeting is replaced with a holiday social and January when it's just too cold!

All members are welcome to attend meetings which are held in room 201 of Building N4 at the Historic N. O. Nelson Campus of Lewis & Clark Community College in Edwardsville.

### Coming Soon

- |        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Oct 14 | 7 p.m. FOL Meeting                |
| Oct 18 | FOL at Goshen Market              |
| Oct 18 | Clean-Up Day Leclaire Park        |
| Oct 19 | Leclaire Parkfest (Noon - 5 p.m.) |
| Nov 11 | 7 p.m. FOL Meeting                |
| Dec 9  | 7 p.m. Holiday Party              |

# THE MOVIES CAME TO LECLAIRE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

## Film Synopsis

For the movie, the story was expanded. A brief synopsis of the movie from the film's media packet is below.

“Inspired by a true story, *Marshall, the Miracle Dog* shares the adventure of Finn, a 13-year-old boy who has become the target of bullies at his new school. Finn is feeling hopeless – that is, until he finds Marshall being held by a dog-hoarder in deplorable conditions with 60 other dogs. The bond is immediate. Finn rescues Marshall, but he has been horribly abused by the other dogs and needs immediate surgery. With the help of his cousin Grace, Finn and Marshall find their way to Doc Henry, who agrees to treat Marshall's injuries.

“But Marshall becomes spooked by the other dogs and bolts out of Doc Henry's office. The race against time is on – Marshall is terribly sick. Finn is chasing Marshall, but so is the dog hoarder. And, Finn is still being pursued by the bullies. In the end, it is Marshall who leads everyone to a place of change, forgiveness, and friendship. “

## Working as an Extra

Watching the Today in St. Louis program early on the morning of June 18, I heard an announcement calling for extras for the filming of *Marshall, the Miracle Dog*. I was already planning this issue of the newsletter, so thought it would be a great way to obtain photographs and insider information on the movie. I sent in an e-mail and text as instructed, then sat back to wait. Nothing happened.

By 7:30 a.m. I assumed they would be getting ready to film, so I walked over to Historic LeClaire Field and asked the first person I ran across (who looked like they were part of the production) if I could be an extra. And he said, “Sure.” Easy as that and I was in a movie! He asked another worker to walk me over to a classroom on the Nelson Campus where, like other extras for the day, I signed a waiver and was told I would be paid the grand sum of \$1.

When it was time to begin, we were led over to the stadium where we became a crowd of family members and friends watching baseball tryouts. They put us in groups, and since I



*Nick Pauli (left), Cyndi Willenbrock, producer and author of Marshall the Miracle Dog, and Al Pauli in LeClaire, June 2014 (Pauli)*



*This drone with a mounted camera followed cars through the street of LeClaire and zoomed in on the action at LeClaire Field. (Reinhardt)*



*(L-R) Cindy Reinhardt, Peyton Flowers and Steve Flowers at LeClaire Field during filming of Marshall the Miracle Dog (Reinhardt)*

was alone, I was asked to sit with Steve Flowers and his daughter, Peyton, of Edwardsville. I represented a “grandma” character. Steve's son, J.J. was also there, but was out on the field portraying one of the boys playing ball. Some of the group in the stadium were given instructions to get up and leave for coffee, etc. so there was some movement, but we were just fans, told to cheer at various times and to follow the ball with our eyes...and most importantly, not to look at the camera which was attached to a drone. The scene took a number of takes, because for it to work, the pitcher had to get the ball over the plate, the batter had to hit it, and the outfielder had to field it. Then there were close-ups of the fans to film and numerous scenes on the field. It was a hot day, so there were several breaks in the shade behind the stadium where they provided refreshments. It took four hours to create maybe 10 minutes of the movie, but it was a great experience. Everyone connected with the production was helpful and unfailingly positive and encouraging.

A bonus of the experience was my conversation with Peyton Flowers who, as it turns out, has a connection to LeClaire. Her great-grandmother, Carol Staaf Buchta, was born and raised on Holyoake Road.

# LECLAIRE LAKE PARK



*LeClaire Park buildings circa 1912*

*(Courtesy MCHS)*

LeClaire Park is one of Edwardsville's oldest and most beautiful parks. Consisting of only a little over five acres, the exact date when the lake and park were developed is still to be discovered. It does not appear on a plat map until 1910, but from newspaper accounts it can be determined that the lake was in existence by at least 1906.

When first created, the lake served a dual purpose by providing a water source for the Nelson factories in addition to a recreational lake for LeClaire residents and visitors. The pump house at the northwest corner of the park is still there today. The water was pumped from the lake to the factory where it was turned to steam to run the equipment, then as the steam evaporated, the water was returned to the lake. The LeClaire factories and the village began using water from the Edwardsville Water Company in 1899, but this would have provided a cost savings.



*LeClaire Lake after the work done by the WPA (Buchta Collection)*

The grounds around the lake quickly developed with a pavilion for band concerts and boat houses to hold skiffs built in the LeClaire factories. Bath houses for changing clothes were built and there was a diving plank out across the water. The grounds were well groomed with trees for shade and numerous flower beds maintained by the company.

Tom Trigg was in charge of the boat concession for the company. In addition, he and his wife began selling soda and renting bathing suits. On weekends people came from St. Louis and other area towns for a day in the country. It was convenient to rent swimwear that could be left at the lake rather than dealing with a large wet "bathing costume." Mrs. Trigg laundered them during the week so they were ready for the following weekend.

The lake was regularly stocked and many fished from its shores or rented a skiff to go out farther in the lake. Mr. Trigg rigged Japanese lanterns on a wire above the boats so couples could row out into the lake for a romantic evening under the glow of the lanterns with the LeClaire Band providing background music from the pavilion.

The lake offered swimming in summer and ice skating in winter. There were times in the early years when the newspa-



*LeClaire Park pavilion used before 1924*

*(Neal Strebel Collection)*

per reported as many as 150 people participating in these activities at one time. "Crack the whip" was a popular skating game where the skaters would form a line then try to skate fast enough and with turns "whip" the end of the tail off the line of skaters.

There were a few drowning victims over the years, and many reports of rescued swimmers or children pulled from the lake when they broke through ice too thin to hold them. There were no life guards at the park so everyone swam or skated at their own risk. In the 1950s a system was established where a light would alert skaters to the condition of the ice. The light is still used today. Located in the north window of the bandstand, the light is green when the ice is safe for skating and red when it is unsafe. Many area skaters remember how a bonfire was built on the beach in the 1960s and 1970s to warm skaters when they came in off the ice.

The lake has undergone at least two full renovations, the first, during the Great Depression, was done by WPA workers. At that time the lake was drained and dredged to make it deeper. A sand "beach" was created and a wall built around the entire lake to help prevent erosion. The second complete

# LECLAIRE LAKE PARK



*Swimmers at Leclaire Lake beach circa 1940 (Kane Collection)*

dredging took place in 2006. Other changes have included gradually building up the grounds at the south end of the lake which at one time threatened the collapse of Lake Avenue. By filling in that area it also solved the problem of the low water levels on that end.

When Leclaire Lake Park was donated to the City of Edwardsville in 1934 (after Leclaire's annexation) the city had a policy of not maintaining bodies of water. However, Leclaire Lake was a favorite place, not just for Leclaire residents, but for all of Edwardsville. Popular demand saved the lake from being filled in. But in the late 1940s it was determined that the water was not clean enough for swimming and with a sigh of relief, city officials banned swimming, although occasionally adventurous boys would take a midnight swim.

The original band pavilion was of wood and at ground level. The current pavilion, built in 1924, was made with new restrooms/bathhouses under the platform. A major remodeling of the bandstand in 1957 replaced the wooden floor with concrete and created offices below the bandstand that were used for Civil Defense. The band stand was a Civil Defense shelter for many years and for about ten years in the

mid-1970s-mid1980s it also housed the offices of Edwardsville Parks and Recreation.

Boat concessions were discontinued when the city of Edwardsville took ownership. All of the old buildings along the shore, with one exception, are gone, which gives the lake a more natural appearance.

Today the park is more than just playgrounds and picnics. Yoga classes, fishing derbies, weddings, band concerts and an annual festival, Leclaire Parkfest, are all held at the park. And many visitors come in their best finery to take prom or wedding photographs with Leclaire Lake and fountain as a backdrop.



*Above, Leclaire Parkfest began after the 1990 Leclaire Centennial celebration. The festival has become a fall tradition in Edwardsville. (Reinhardt)*

The beautiful appearance of Leclaire Park today is thanks to the Edwardsville Parks and Recreation Department, but also to many individuals, businesses and civic minded groups that have stepped forward over the years to raise money and donate labor for the construction of gazebos, picnic shelters, sidewalks, a fountain, playground equipment and flower gardens. What visitors see at Leclaire Park today is the result of an inspiring collaborative effort made possible because area residents love Leclaire Park.



*At left, Leclaire Park today. The fountain was the result of a fundraising campaign by Friends of Leclaire in 1996*

*At right, area residents enjoy fishing at Leclaire Lake during the June 2014 band concert. (Reinhardt)*



# HISTORIC LECLAIRE FIELD



They called it the Campus a century ago. It was the ground lying between the LeClaire School House and the line of Osage orange trees planted by the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company to separate its factories from the residential portion of the village. It was the centerpiece of Nelson's belief that recreation was an important component to enjoying life. Since then, baseball has been played continuously at LeClaire Field. And families still take refuge in the shade of those Osage orange trees that now separate the field from the Historic N. O. Nelson Campus of Lewis and Clark Community College.

The Campus began with a ball diamond in the early 1890's but would over the years also provide space for a football field, tennis courts, a bowling and billiards hall, a basketball court and playground equipment. The key feature though has always been the ball diamond that was enjoyed by men and boys, and later by girls too.

Baseball at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was not just entertainment for the players. Games were major social events attended by fans from many surrounding communities. In a time before television, radio, and the comfort of air conditioning, attending a baseball game on grounds surrounded by trees for shade was an ideal afternoon entertainment.

In LeClaire the first organized teams were established in 1892 as a baseball club. The Intelligencer reported in May, 1892, "Saturday afternoon a game of ball was played between the cabinet shop boys and nine from the copper and tub shops.

The latter were defeated by a score of 13 to 17, in four innings."

In addition to Nelson's LeClaire employees playing inter-department games, the company's St. Louis employees were also challenged to matches, arriving by train for an afternoon in the country. The "trolley league," with games against players in neighboring towns, also became very popular. The trolley ran right down the center of Troy Road from 1901 to 1928.

Special competitions were also scheduled at the diamond. For example, in 1919 the LeClaire Athletics invited soldiers of the First World War to a competition as part of a fall festival. A popular fundraiser was a competition between the "fats"



*LeClaire Athletics Ball Team, 1912 ; Left to right, Back row: Henry Burtch, Harry Senn, Frank Rotter, Louis Miller, Wally Sommerlad, Pete Berger; Front row: Skeet Hentz, George Malotkie, Frank E. Wood, Ralph Halquist, Leo Rizzoli. (Winkle Collection)*

and "leans" and in 1922 a game was scheduled against the St. Louis Cardinals. Unfortunately that Cardinal game was cancelled due to the funeral of N. O. Nelson, LeClaire's founder. Nelson Manufacturing regularly held picnics where St. Louis employees were invited to join LeClaire residents on the Campus grounds that included the ball diamond.

Edwardsville High School played both football and baseball at

LeClaire Field until the "new" high school on West Street was built in 1924. Prior to that, the high school was in what is now Columbus School on Kansas Street, which had limited outdoor space. The school's team was called the "LeClaire Tigers" for several years because they played at LeClaire Field.

LeClaire Field was the primary ball diamond for players in

## NOTICE TO BASE-BALL FANS

The Leclaire Athletics Base Ball Club, one of the strongest amateur clubs in Southern Illinois, winning 48 out of 58 games the last two seasons, and on account of not having an enclosed park are again soliciting the support of the business houses and those interested in the advancement of the team in this city, the money to be used to get new uniforms and other equipment needed to start the season.

Any amount contributed will be greatly appreciated by the club. All donations may be sent to Secretary Louis Miller, 222 Monroe Street

*Edwardsville Intelligencer, March 1924*

both Leclaire and Edwardsville until the American Legion built its ball diamond in 1924. Officials at the Nelson plant expressed relief that the big Sunday games would move to Legion Field but emphasized that they encourage physical exercise and the field would be available to boys and girls for games and other sports activities. Attendance at Leclaire games had increased to as many as 800 spectators at a time. The noise of the crowds and the congestion on Leclaire streets as automobiles became popular had become a nuisance for residents.

But by the early 1930s athletes were again playing Inter-City League as well as Church League ball at Leclaire Field. In 1934, when Leclaire was annexed to the City of Edwardsville, the Nelson Company divested all their public facilities including the School House and the Campus which were sold to the Edwardsville School District for a nominal price of \$1,000. The ball diamonds continued to be used for softball and baseball leagues, as well as by the schools.

Little League Baseball came to Edwardsville in 1956 and Leclaire became the primary field for the organization. According to Terry Lynn, Little League was different in many ways then. "In its inaugural season every boy did not get to be on a team. Tryouts were offered and cuts were made. Sixty boys might try out for 15 positions on a roster. There were two leagues of four teams each. The American League was made up of 8-9 year olds and the National League 10-12 year olds."



*Leo Dustman of the Bank of Edwardsville and Clarence Hoppe, Little League Commissioner, burn the bank note after paying off the debt to renovate Leclaire Field in 1963. Hoppe served as commissioner for 16 years. (Caulk)*

The first Little League games at Leclaire Field were four games on Saturday, June 9, 1956. According to Lynn, the first game was between the Cubs and the Braves of the National League. The Cubs won 4-2 with Lynn playing shortstop.

The School District used the fields during the school year, then leased them to Little League in the summer. The next major change in organization came in 1997 when the School

House and Campus were sold to the City of Edwardsville. Leclaire Field, under management of the Edwardsville Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Little League Association, completed the latest renovation adding a modern brick stadium and concession stand in 2000.

The ball diamond has been in roughly the same location since the beginning, although the dimensions have changed over the years. For several decades there was a small second diamond for younger children near the School House. The diamond has been modified over the years to accommodate baseball and softball for different age groups.



*The Edwardsville Little League Fish Fries at Leclaire Field paid for new lighting and renovations to the field in the 1960s. Pictured here are Mrs. Owen (Vi) Meier on left and Mrs. Ray (Ruth) Lynn.*

*(Photo courtesy of Debbie Caulk and Terry Lynn)*

The first benches for spectators were installed in 1916. Until that time spectators had to either stand or sit on the ground to watch games. The benches and a new score board were built by the men in Nelson's cabinet shop for the beginning of the 1916 season. Sometime in the mid-1930s a second, smaller diamond was added on the grounds and the newspapers began referring to the Leclaire "diamonds." Another major change came in 1946 when lights were first installed at Leclaire Field. New lights were purchased for the high school athletic fields that year, and the old lights moved to Leclaire.

When part of the former factory complex was sold in 1962, the ball diamonds (2 at the time) were moved slightly south and east. To keep both diamonds, additional space was obtained by closing the north end of Holyoake Road which originally continued in a northeasterly direction around the school house (now the Children's Museum) where it joined Hale Avenue. The junction of Hale and Holyoake previously looked like a wishbone on a map. The left field fence then came to the corner of the School House and the windows were covered with cages to prevent breakage from a foul ball.

The improvements begun at that time under the leadership of Little League Baseball Commissioner Clarence Hoppe were impressive. Although the field had lights, there was a reason

# HISTORIC LECLAIRE FIELD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)



The above photo shows how close the small diamond was to the LeClaire School House. Below is LeClaire field in 1967, note the basketball court behind the field. Both photos were taken for the Edwardsville Intelligencer. (Above photo from MCHS; below from Debbie Caulk)



the high school decided to replace them. Catching a fly ball under those lights was very difficult. In 1961, Hoppe laid out a program that would realign the diamond, install new lights, fencing, bleachers and a concession stand at a cost of

\$15,000. Ten Edwardsville men, including Hoppe, agreed to sign for the bank loan which was paid back in just three years with proceeds from the concession stand which included regular fish fries.

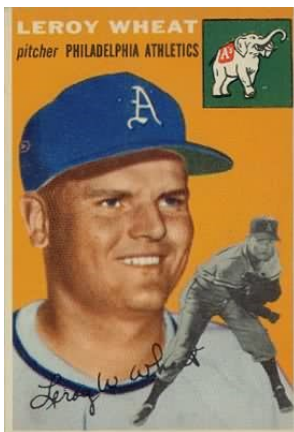
The smaller diamond was sodded in the 1970s although the area remained within the fence. Players remember the second diamond being a problem if two games were in progress because the ball would stray onto the opposing diamond.

With the most recent renovation of the field, the left field fence was pulled back from the School House. Another change was the addition of a parking lot along Troy Road which moved the right field fence eastward. The fence had previously been located along the Troy Road sidewalk and many in Edwardsville remember a time when that fence was used to post birthday greetings and other messages on banners or bed sheets.

The 2000 renovation of LeClaire Field provided shaded stadium seating, a concession stand and new restrooms. The grounds were beautifully landscaped with a center field wall (shown below) announcing "Historic LeClaire Field. The beautiful brick facility and new ball diamond will be enjoyed by players and fans for many years to come.



## LOCAL PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS



Edwardsville has been a baseball town for more than a century and has produced a number of players who went on to sign with a professional club in either their major or minor leagues.

Two LeClaire boys who joined those ranks were Rick Lynn who grew up on Troy Road, and Leroy Wheat who lived just across the street from the ball park on Hale Avenue. Wheat's career was interrupted with service in the Korean War.

Other players from the Edwardsville area who likely played at LeClaire Field when they were young include James Brunsworth, Pat Peterson, John Charles Lucas, Mark Little, Jason Boyd, Justin Hampson, Dave Crouthers, brothers Ben and Dave Slemmer, Jerome Schwear, Nathan Culp, Evan Frey and Bob Kubicek, Sr. Please let us know if you know of other local boys and girls who played at LeClaire Field before going on to play professional baseball.



# 1101 LAKE AVENUE - THE BANNISTER HOUSE

The beautiful brick Craftsman bungalow at the corner of Hale and Lake in LeClaire was built in 1925-26 for Henry T. Bannister and his wife, Mabel. The couple moved to LeClaire a few years earlier from Sparta, Illinois when he found a job with the Madison Coal Corporation as a mine safety inspector. They lived at 919 Hale Avenue before having the house on Lake Avenue built.

By all accounts Henry was good at his job, working with safety teams to improve response times in case of an emergency in the mines. In 1930 the Glen Carbon team he supervised won a record number of trophies at a mine rescue and first aid competition in Louisville, Kentucky. The *Intelligencer* in 1930 noted a decrease in mine accidents since Bannister began making the men more aware of safety. The Captain of the Glen Carbon safety team was Peter Anesi who would later build a house just three doors down from the Bannister home at 1111 Lake Avenue.

Henry was active in Republican politics, something that he brought with him to Madison County. He was elected Chairman of the Madison County Republican Committee in 1936, but his party had little success at the polls. Trying to argue against Roosevelt and the New Deal at that time in Democratic Madison County was a hard fight to win, but the newspapers gave him credit for being well organized and articulate. Mabel worked as a polling judge and election clerk for a number of years.

In 1946 the Bannisters purchased a lot off Schwarz Road near Circle Drive. The lots around Dunlap Lake were just beginning to sell as building materials, scarce during World War

II, were being replenished. They sold the bungalow in LeClaire to Nora Wood Wetzel, a widow from Alhambra, Illinois who was a former school teacher. In 1914 she was appointed principal of the Highland, Illinois grade schools. Nora's husband had been an Alhambra mail carrier who also served as assistant postmaster and substitute mail carrier in Edwardsville. He passed away the same year the house was purchased in Edwardsville.



*A recent photograph of 1101 Lake Avenue.*

*(Reinhardt)*

In moving to Edwardsville in retirement, Nora was moving closer to her daughter, Inez Wetzel Schumacher, as well as nearer to her sisters. Nora lived in the house for twenty years, collecting books and tending the grape arbor in the back yard between trips around the country. Her grandson, Gary Schumacher, also remembers she had one of those vintage cat clocks on

the wall whose eyes and tail moved back and forth with the beat of time. A dozen years after her death, Gary purchased his grandmother's house where he lived with his family for 14 years.

After Nora passed away in 1966, the house was inherited by her son Frank. No one lived in the house until it was sold after her estate sale in 1971. The Meloni family lived at the house for a few years before Gary purchased the house. The current owners, Al and Kim Pauli, have owned the house for 19 years and have been meticulous in preservation, making any additions blend with the original architecture of the house. The garage behind the house, built just a few years ago, is a perfect match to the house. One of the many original features of the house is an N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company bath tub. Members of Friends of LeClaire will be able to tour the house in December at the Friends of LeClaire Holiday Social.



## Movie Making at 1101 Lake Avenue

At left the actors and crew film a scene in front of the house. At right are two of the stars of the film, Matthew Settle and Shannon Elizabeth, posing with Sunny, who also lives at 1101 Lake Avenue. (Pauli)



# 935 HALE AVENUE - THE SCHLINGMANN HOUSE

St. Louisans Theodore and Bertha Schlingmann purchased a lot on Hale Avenue for \$850 in August of 1910, just a few years after LeClaire Park was created. In December of the same year they took out a \$2,500 mortgage and a few months later moved into the beautiful two-story house at 935 Hale Avenue.

Theodore was a marble cutter and came to work in the Marble Works of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company. Although the couple had no children, Bertha's mother, Mrs. Emilie Guenther, had been part of their household since their marriage.

Three years after moving into the house, Mrs. Guenther fell headlong down the stairs. She had fallen several years earlier, fracturing her hip, but was walking again when she had the second accident. She died five days later from the injuries.

Perhaps it was memories of the accident, or the Schlingmanns may have simply had a desire to return to St. Louis where they could be closer to friends and relatives. In any case, Theo obtained a job in St. Louis at another marble works and the couple sold the Hale Avenue house in 1918 after only seven years in LeClaire.

The house was then owned for one year by Fred Faust and his wife, Christina. Fred, a miner for the Edwardsville Coal Company, moved his family to 840 Holyoake Road after briefly living on Hale Avenue.

The Faust family sold the house to retired farmers, Christ and Mary Rathert. The Ratherts, along with their son, Louis, would occupy the house until 1934. Christ Rathert came to the United States from Germany in 1874 at the age of 19. He married Mary Brockmeier in 1882 and the two had five children at their home place on Bluff Road west of Edwardsville. Mrs. Rathert was born in Fort Russell Township. After Christ died in 1929, she remained in the Hale Avenue house with her son Louis, until 1934 when, due to ill health, she moved to St. Louis to live with her daughter. Mary died in 1937 without a will.

After probate in 1939, the family sold the home to Ivan and Ethel Kidd Sr. They had a large family that came with them to Hale Avenue. Besides Ivan and Ethel, there were their five children, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter in the three bedroom house. Ivan and his son, Charles, both worked for Illinois Lumber Company. One of the daughters was a beautician and another did housekeeping in private homes. During the Kidd family's tenure at this home, two of their sons, Ivan, Jr. and Charles, served in the U. S. Navy during World War II.

In 1948 James Watson and Corrine Justice took out a mortgage for \$7,000 to purchase the house. In 1961 they sold it to Robert and Grace Wade. The Wades lived there for only five years. Both of these couples came to Edwardsville for jobs and transferred out of the area afterwards.

In 1965 James and Jane Fralinger moved into the house with their family and would stay almost as long as all of the previous families added together. They had five children, so it was a houseful in a three-bedroom house. Jim worked as a salesman for Young Metal Products and Jane taught school at St. Boniface School. They have a deep interest in the history of LeClaire and its founder N. O. Nelson. They were active members of the 1990 Centennial Committee and founding members of Friends of LeClaire. It was Jim who suggested the name of the organization so it would be inclusive of all people who had an interest in LeClaire, regardless of whether they lived in LeClaire. Jim was also a key reason that the LeClaire Water Tower was saved from destruction in 1993.

The current owners of 935 Hale Avenue, the Matt and Jen Rutherford, bought and moved into the house on Dec. 30, 2009. Like the Fralingers, they have a keen interest in LeClaire history and are active in Friends of LeClaire. This is the second house in LeClaire they have restored with their careful attention to detail and respect for history.



*This 1927 photo of Matt Fagan and his mother at LeClaire Park captures the earliest known image of 935 Hale Avenue. (MCHS)*



*In this December 2013 photograph of the home at 935 Hale Avenue it looks worthy of a Christmas card. No wonder it was chosen for the movie. (Reinhardt)*

# 1915 MOVIE SCENE FILMED IN LECLAIRE

**Edwardsville Intelligencer**  
**Tuesday, August 24, 1915**

## WEDDING TOMORROW

**DOROTHY BROWN**  
**AND**  
**HAROLD BOESCHENSTEIN**

**It is a "Reel" Affair too, In Every Respect.**

Miss Dorothy Brown will be married at her home on Hillsboro avenue tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The groom will be Harold Boeschenstein. Just one hour after the ceremony has been performed, Miss Brown will almost drown in Leclaire lake when the boat in which she is to be riding will overturn. She will be rescued by Mr. Boeschenstein.

The funny thing about it is that the thrilling rescue, planned for an hour after the wedding, will mark the inception of the romance which is to culminate in the wedding. Yes, that's right. The romance will start after the wedding has taken place.

But it's a mock wedding and a mock near-drowning, staged for the movies and everything will appear in regular order in the two reels which are to be shown at the Gem theatre two days next week.

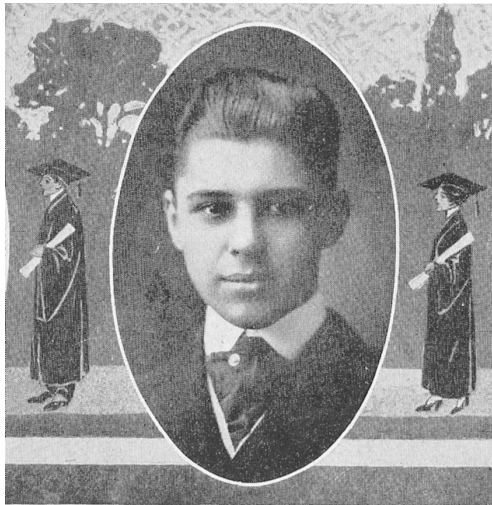
The reels are to be made under the auspices of the Bon Feature Company of Springfield. D. M. Prim will be in charge of the camera and the pictures are to be made at the direction of W. M. Doake.

The personnel of the bridal party was announced this afternoon. The bridesmaid will be Miss Christine Bickelhaupt. Elmer E. Jones, the court reporter, is the groomsman. The flower girls will be Misses Josephine McAlister and Josephine Burroughs. The ring-bearer is Joseph Blackmore. J. A. Seipker, manager of the Gem theatre, is to officiate at the wedding as minister.

The ceremony will be performed on the lawn at the Brown residence and the general public will be allowed to stand to

the rear and at the sides of the camera to witness the event.

The accident at Leclaire lake will likewise be one in which the public may participate as spectators. Miss Brown will be seen on the lake with a gentleman friend. The boat overturns. The man in the boat will not attempt to rescue his fair companion. Then Mr. Boeschenstein comes to her assistance.



*The movie hero was played by Harold Boeschenstein, pictured above in the 1914 EHS yearbook.*

It's going to be a real rescue and the participants will get wet. No camera faking will go. The boat does turn over and the occupants do fall into the water. Leclaire lake is twenty feet deep in places.

The reels to be taken tomorrow will also show the couple's honeymoon trip on the Illinois Traction System and will show them touring the Edwardsville business houses.

The scenes to be taken tomorrow morning will also include many other points of interest in the city. The fire department will make a special run for the pictures tomorrow morning. The bridal party's shopping scenes are to be taken in the morning.

This practice of viewing the home town at home in the movies is being quite general. Staunton did it and many of the other cities north of here have

watched themselves on the screen. The date for the Edwardsville production is to be announced.

♦ ♦ ♦

**Edwardsville Intelligencer**  
**August 26, 1915**

## Beneath the Wave.

**Local Young Lady Plunges into Leclaire Lake.**

The "reel" marriage of Miss Dorothy Brown and Harold Boeschenstein took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock on the lawn of the bride's home at 637 Hillsboro avenue. The marriage was a scene in moving pictures which was being made by the Bon Feature Film Company of Springfield.

At 5 o'clock the bride almost "drowned" in Leclaire lake. Almost 800 persons lined the lake shores on both sides to see the catastrophe.

Miss Brown was boat riding with Andrew Foehrkalb, motion picture operator at the Gem theatre. When the boat was in about eight feet of water, she insisted that he let her row. When they were changing seats, the boat capsized and threw them both into the water.

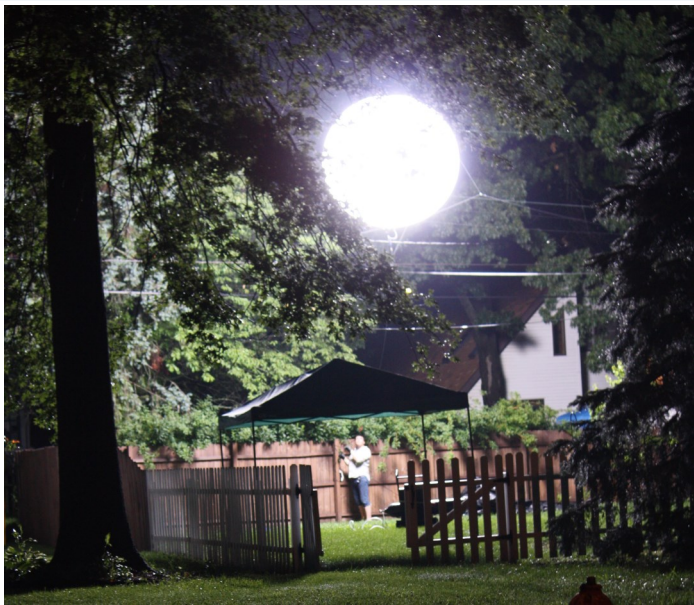
Foehrkalb, according to the play, thought only of saving himself and started to swim for shore, leaving the unfortunate lady struggling in the water. On the shore stood Mr. Boeschenstein, watching the procedure.

When he saw Mr. Foehrkalb abandon the young lady, he quickly threw off his coat and made a graceful dive into the cold waters of the lake, and after a short struggle, brought the young lady to shore.

He picked her up in his arms and carried her up on the shore, where she pretended she had fainted. After a few minutes she was revived and the scene ended.

*Note: These articles were abridged due to space considerations.*

# LECLAIRE SCENES



Above: Moonlight was created for the movie in the back yard at 935 Hale Avenue. Filled with helium, the “moon” was held in place under the canopy (below) until needed, then controlled with tethered ropes. The moon followed the actors around the house and into LeClaire Park. (Reinhardt)



Below left are Audrey and Anna Rutherford with stars of the movie Lucas Carroll and Haley Busch; at right is the inspiration for the movie, Marshall. Hale Avenue was changed to “Marshall” for the film. (Rutherford; Reinhardt)



Sunday • Noon - 5 PM  
LeClaire Park  
Edwardsville, Illinois

OCTOBER 19

2014

[www.historic-leclaire.org](http://www.historic-leclaire.org)

PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES  
AND COMMUNITY GROUPS



## Music

**Old St. Louis Levee Band Trio**  
Dixieland Jazz • NOON - 2:30 pm

**The Lodge Brothers**  
Old Time Folk Music • 2:30 - 5 pm

## Food & Drink

A wide selection of delicious festival fare including a beer and wine garden hosted by Bin 51

## Arts & Crafts

Browse a variety of craft booths featuring local artisans.

## Trolley Tours

Narrated trolley rides through the LeClaire National Historic District.

## Exhibits

Historic photos and memorabilia, vintage cars and tractors!

## Children's Activities

### DAR Book Sale

Thousands of used books. Something for everyone. Lots of bargains!

### Pet Adoption

Cuddly pets ready for adoption.

#### Parking available

at LeClaire School, the Nelson Campus of LCCC or on streets within the LeClaire neighborhood. (no shuttle service).  
**Handicap parking available** next to park.

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