



FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

NEWSLETTER

October 2012

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Leclaire Parkfest—October 21st

The 21st annual Leclaire Parkfest will be held on Sunday, October 21st from Noon—5 pm at Leclaire Park on Hale Avenue. This fall classic has grown into a festival enjoyed by thousands of residents and visitors alike.

We hope you'll stop by for a fun, relaxing afternoon in the Edwardsville's Leclaire neighborhood. Bring your lawn chair or picnic blanket, then sit back and enjoy the music, while sipping a beer or a glass of wine along the banks of Leclaire Lake. Choose from a variety of delicious festival foods. Take a ride on the trolley to learn why Leclaire is on the National Register of Historic Places. Browse the book sale, shop for gifts, admire the vintage vehicles over on Madison Avenue and if you have youngsters there's plenty for them to do too with games, pony rides and art activities.

Details about the festival are included on the enclosed flyer or on our web site: www.historic-leclaire.org. The festival is gaining a reputation as a time for homecomings. Does your

family hold a reunion during Parkfest? If so, please stop by the FOL booth at the festival to let us know.

The festival is made possible through the hard work and cooperation of many Leclaire residents and Friends of Leclaire. The Parkfest planning team includes: Cindy Reinhardt, Coordinator, Al and Kim Pauli, Site Supervisors, Will Krause, FOL booth and Trolley Tour Guide, Janet Foehrkolb, Contracts, Bob & Mary Blain, Historic Displays and Decorations, Elaine Shashack, Publicity, and Sherrie Hickman of Creative Options Design, Graphics.

FOL president Mike Reinhardt completes the team by covering all the loose ends and there are many. He helps with site preparation in advance of the event and will spend all day at the festival assisting site supervisors, vendors and guests.

The Edwardsville Parks Department provides extra tables and someone to maintain the park during the festival, emptying trash containers as needed, checking restrooms, etc. The Police bring extra manpower to make sure traffic flows freely and are there in case of an emergency. The city of Edwardsville provides a tourism grant to help fund the festival.



Fall Membership Drive

Leclaire Parkfest is often used by members as a reminder to renew their dues in Friends of Leclaire. Please stop by our booth to renew or send in your renewal to the address below. Membership applications are available on our web site or at our Leclaire Parkfest booth. Your support for our newsletter, educational materials, research and work in Leclaire Park is greatly appreciated. Anyone interested in the history of Leclaire is encouraged to join us!

CONTACT US

Friends of Leclaire ♦ P. O. Box 644 ♦ Edwardsville, IL ♦ 62025

Web: www.historic-leclaire.org ♦ E-mail: friends@historic-leclaire.org ♦ Phone: (618) 656-1294

Win a House History!

With the addition of new house histories on the FOL website, LeClaire residents might wonder, "When will they do my house?"

There are over 400 homes in LeClaire so it could be a while. But, FOL is offering FOL members a chance to win a place at the front of the line.

Simply send an e-mail to friends@historic-leclaire.org, or if you don't use computers, send a note to Friends of LeClaire, P. O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL, 62025. Include your name, address and phone number with a note or subject line saying "House History Contest." A winner will be drawn at random in advance of each newsletter, and an article written about the history of the home.

Homeowners will be given research results, including a list of previous owners, and when possible, early photographs of the house.

Authors in LeClaire

It has come to our attention that there are a number of authors living in LeClaire. If you live in LeClaire and are a published author of a book, magazine /journal article or poem, please contact us for a story being prepared for the December newsletter: E-mail friends@historic-leclaire.org or call 618-656-1294

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Syvella Gregory and Kathy Krishnan at the Friends of LeClaire Table at the Route 66 Festival in June.

It's been a busy summer for Friends of LeClaire volunteers and their efforts are greatly appreciated. In June members worked shifts at the Route 66 Festival, manned a refreshment table at the Edwardsville Municipal Band Concert at LeClaire Park and hosted a table at the Goshen Market.

Friends of LeClaire were also at the Goshen Market on the third Saturday of July, August and September, distributing information about LeClaire.

Throughout the summer, Mike Reinhardt and Jim Milgrim hauled water to LeClaire Park to keep the plantings on the south end of the park from succumbing to the drought. Great job! It isn't hard to imagine what the gardens would look like if they hadn't volunteered.

In addition to the work of Friends of LeClaire at LeClaire Park, the Edwardsville Gardening Club maintained the bed around the bandstand.

Throughout the summer, volunteers have been busy organizing and promoting LeClaire Parkfest. If you would like to volunteer for a shift at LeClaire Parkfest, please call us. Even if you've never done it before, we love to see new faces and some of our veterans will be with you to show you the ropes. Two-three people are needed from 11 am—5 pm in the booth, working in 2-hour shifts. Call 656-1294 to volunteer for Parkfest.

At right, former webmaster Steve Brockmeyer is still helping FOL by straightening the sign at the Route 66 History Tent. Also pictured is his wife, Paula.



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 PM 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

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|--------|---------------------------|
| Oct 9 | 7 pm Regular Meeting |
| Oct 20 | 8-12 FOL at Goshen Market |
| Oct 21 | Noon-5 LeClaire Parkfest |
| Nov 13 | 7 pm Regular Meeting |
| Dec 11 | 7 pm Holiday Party |

Articles from the Past — Edwardsville Intelligencer

SECRET IS OUT NOW

POPULAR YOUNG COUPLE
WERE MARRIED LAST YEAR

They Kept the Secret Well But Not as
Long as They Wished

February 15, 1910—Miss Hattie Herder, or rather Mrs. Nathan Foreshaw, of Leclaire, is chuckling today over a neat piece of strategy which she and Mr. Foreshaw accomplished some time ago. Mrs. Foreshaw was clerk in the office of County Clerk Edward Feutz until Saturday, when she left the place to assume the duties of her home in Leclaire, which has lately been completed. It was suspected that Miss Herder and Mr. Foreshaw would be married in the near future, but very few, if any, were prepared to learn that the wedding was solemnized on May 11, last year, which is eight months ago. Rev. Father C. A. O'Reilly was then officiating minister and the ceremony was performed in the parsonage of the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Just how the license was obtained has not been ascertained, but Miss Herder had access to the documents and it would have been an easy matter to secure one for her own use. It is perhaps true, though, that County Clerk Edward Feutz entered into the spirit of the affair and issued the license and then suppressed the document, as has been done in other cases. Following the wedding the couple returned to their respective places and gave no intimation that they were married.

Last week, while the father of the bride, August Herder, was looking over some papers at his home at Center Grove station, he discovered a suspicious looking document, which he examined with great interest. It proved to be a marriage certificate, and upon broaching the matter to his daughter and son-in-law, they confessed, and asked to be forgiven. Their reason for secrecy was that the mother of the bride had died only a short time before the wedding.



Mr. Herder was rather put out over the matter and stated this morning that he had not entirely forgiven them for keeping the wedding from him. "I told them, however," said Mr. Herder, "that it was their wedding and that their life would be whatever they made it, regardless of what I thought of it. Mr. Foreshaw is an Englishman, but he has, I am glad to say, applied for his naturalization papers. When he gets them I guess he will be all right as a son-in-law."

Mr. and Mrs. Foreshaw have purchased all of their furniture and most of it is expected to arrive tomorrow. Their plan was to fix up their home in Leclaire as though they were going to get married, and then on Friday of this week, intended to leave on a delayed honeymoon trip, thus escaping the efforts of numerous friends. With the secret out, however, the employes of the machine shop in Leclaire, where the groom works, have vowed that they will make nightly visits to the cottage built for two, until the groom comes across with something for refreshments.

Mrs. Foreshaw is one of the well liked young ladies of Edwardsville, and her friends will readily forgive her for stealing a march on them. She formerly resided in Leclaire with her parents, where she is well known, but of late has been living with her father at Center Grove. During her stay in

the office of County Clerk Edward Feutz, that official found her a most efficient and obliging assistant. She is 23 years old. Her husband is an Englishman and has been in this country five or six years. He is employed in the Bignall and Keeler department at the Nelson plant and is an expert machinist. He is 30 years old.

At left, 1909 wedding portrait of Nathan and Hattie Forshaw whose first home was at 201 Franklin Avenue. Photo courtesy of Gary Forshaw. (Note misspelling of Forshaw in article.)

ASSIGN YOUR BUILDING TROUBLES TO US

WE BUILD FOR YOU

June 4, 1913—If you want a BETTER BUILT HOME in the very choicest location, with all modern improvements, you will save TIME, TROUBLES, ANNOYANCES AND MONEY by conferring with us.

We will furnish you sketches or show you hundreds of designs that you may select the very best to be had in an up-to-date home. We also finance the building of your house if you do not have sufficient funds to pay for house and lot, and if you desire, will build your house completely ready for you to occupy.

LECLAIRE—Yes, that is the place. Some twenty people have chosen us to build for them in Leclaire this year and we have just placed the largest order for building material ever given by one concern for residence building in Edwardsville at one time. We can save you money, save you time and give you a BETTER BUILT HOME. There will be 100 new people in Leclaire by fall, join the number and PROFIT as they will.

Homes from \$1,500 up. The easiest terms on earth. See us at once, say you want a home, select your plans—that's all, we do the rest.

The Leclaire Home & Realty Co.
Leclaire. (Edwardsville, P. O.) ILL.

Wolf's Pond and the Slag Pile

Wolf Pond

On the outskirts of Leclaire, on the site where Market Basket now sells materials for home landscaping, a coal mine founded by the Wolf brothers in 1880, forever changed the terrain in that part of Edwardsville. The Wolf brothers, who grew up in the house we now know as the Stephenson House, needed water for their operation so built a dam across Dellaplane Branch to create a pond. The pond, aptly named Wolf Pond, became a popular place for swimming and fishing. Early residents of Edwardsville often walked out to the country for picnics near the pond and there are early reports of baptisms that drew



crowds of as many as 800 people to witness the “dunking.”

By 1912, the pond was owned by the National Roofing Materials Company who, much to the dismay of local swimmers, decided to ban swimming. The news was reported in the May 6 issue of the Edwardsville Intelligencer:

“Swimming in Wolf’s pond, as it is generally known, will not be tolerated this year. The pond, which has been the Mecca of boys of all ages, size and color in Edwardsville for generations will be shut up as it were and the cool waters and shady trees bordering the pond will no longer furnish a place to spend hot summer afternoons.

“This order, which has been contemplated for some time, was issued this morning after some fifty boys lured into the water by the heat of the day and the apparent coolness of the water, divested themselves of all clothes except those given them by nature and were sporting in the water..”

As can be imagined, especially in those times, there were complaints from residents who lived within view of the pond. After this, the banks were allowed to grow over and in 1934 the dam holding in the waters of Wolf Pond was dynamited. The pond was reported to be about 14 feet deep when drained.

The Slag Pile

Near Wolf’s Pond, the old Wolf Brother’s Mine was sold to Madison Coal Company and became known as Mine No. 3. In 1912 they began a coal washing operation which resulted in the construction of a “mountain” of smoldering coal residue consisting of slate, sulfur, saltpeter and other residue. The coal washing operation ended in the early 1920s, but the slag pile remained a part of the landscape long after mining ceased. The slag pile, on the west side of the tracks, was visible from the yards of many Leclaire residents living on Ruskin and Longfellow.

By 1965 the property was owned by Kienstra Concrete Company who decided to level the pile. A bulldozer was brought in for what was a difficult job given that the friction of moving the material, caused additional fires. Much of the material from the pile ended up in the ravine that had once been Wolf Pond.

The Wolf Brother’s Mine which was sold to Madison Mining and later Edwardsville Coal Company, under-mines all of Leclaire as well as surrounding neighborhoods. If interested in viewing a map of property included, go to <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/maps-data-pub/coal-maps/topo-mines/edwardsville.pdf>.



Dorothy Hanser is shown here in the 1940s in her back yard at 829 Ruskin Avenue with the slag pile clearly visible behind her.

