



# FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

## NEWSLETTER

June 2013

Volume 23 No. 2

### LECLAIRE LAKE FISHING DERBY

The annual Fishing Derby will be held on June 29th from 10 am - 12 pm at Leclaire Lake. The event is free and open to all kids under the age of 15.

Registration begins at 9:30 and prizes are awarded for the biggest fish and the largest amount of fish caught.

The Fishing Derby is an activity of the Edwardsville Parks and Recreation Department. Details are on their web site.

### LECLAIRE HOUSE FEATURED

The restoration of the house at 302 Jefferson Road was featured in the May 25-26 edition of the Edwardsville Intelligencer as part of a Historic Preservation Month series.

The Bartlett House article includes an early history of the home. It can be located on the Intelligencer web site or on the facebook page of Edwardsville Historic Preservation Commission.

### FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE ABOUT TOWN ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

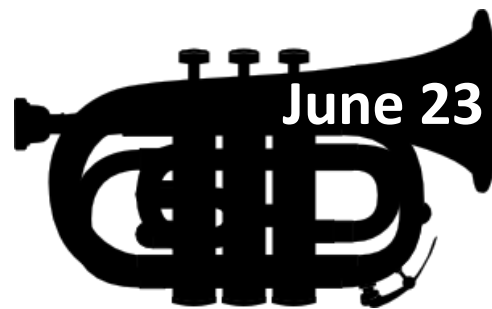
Friends of Leclaire will participate in the Edwardsville Route 66 Festival again this year with a table in the History Tent. The event is always a great way to educate people about our historic neighborhood, just four blocks off old Route 66. For complete information about festival events and hours, go to:

<http://www.edwardsvillerroute66.com/>

### GOSHEN MARKET

May 18th was our first day at the Goshen Market for 2013. Look for us every 3rd Saturday of the month where we will give out information about Leclaire as well as other historic and tourist information about Edwardsville.

New this year are half hour walking tours of Edwardsville's historic Main Street. The free tours are sponsored by Edwardsville's Historic Preservation Commission and leave from the Friends of Leclaire booth.



### ANNUAL LECLAIRE PARK BAND CONCERT

The Municipal Band Concert at Leclaire Park will be held Sunday, June 23rd at 4 P.M. Join us for a wonderful afternoon at the park for this annual tradition.

Friends of Leclaire will host the concession stand for the concert. Please stop by to say "hello!"

### SAVE THE DATES!

Leclaire Parkfest will be on Sun., Oct. 20th. New this year is a Parkfest 5k Run to benefit the Children's Museum on Sat., Oct. 19th.

### BUSY MONTH OF MAY

Friends of Leclaire had an active month of May with the 2nd Annual Leclaire Neighborhood Yard Sale and our first monthly appearance at the Goshen Market for the season, both on May 18th. On May 25 FOL hosted a water station for the 5K Bonifest Run with the help of volunteers and some enthusiastic members of the EHS Student Council. The water station was near the 2-mile mark of the race which this year had over 600 participants. Thank you to all our volunteers who made these projects a success!

At right: The 2013 Bonifest 5K Water Station volunteers at Leclaire Park.



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

[www.historic-leclaire.org](http://www.historic-leclaire.org) ♦ [friends@historic-leclaire.org](mailto:friends@historic-leclaire.org) ♦ 618-656-1294

## Friends of Leclaire Newsletter Published Quarterly

Writing and Editing  
Cindy Reinhardt

Proofing  
Bob Blain and Mike Reinhardt

Distribution  
Jennifer Rutherford

Delivery to Leclaire homes  
Bob & Mary Blain  
James Grandone  
Syvella Gregory  
Edna Grench  
Nicole Grimm  
Will & Liz Krause  
Kathy Krishnan  
Carol Krumeich  
Ashley Mattingly  
Jim & Mary Ellen Milgrim  
Diane Murbarger  
Al & Kim Pauli  
Mike & Cindy Reinhardt  
Jen Rutherford

Call 618-656-1294 or send an e-mail to [friends@historic-leclaire.org](mailto:friends@historic-leclaire.org) with story ideas or comments on the newsletter. Your opinion counts

### JOIN FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE!

Show your support of FOL by joining the organization for just \$15 per year. Members need not live in Leclaire. Send a check payable to Friends of Leclaire to the address on page 1 along with your name, address, phone and e-mail address. Additional information is available on our web site.

## LECLAIRE GARDENERS WORK TO BEAUTIFY LECLAIRE

Friends of Leclaire volunteers have been hard at work this spring in the flower beds at Leclaire Park.

Will Krause, Jim Milgrim, Mike Reinhardt and Barbara Krause hauled in two truckloads of mulch for the larger beds. The mulch was donated by Barbara Krause.

Jim Milgrim purchased and distributed additional mulch that was used for some of the trees and in other areas.

Scott and Laura Reed have adopted the lily bed. They spruced up the bed, added mulch and planted petunias for color after the lilies finish blooming. The Reeds also planted hostas along the side of the restroom. In addition to their labors, they donated the plants and mulch.

Mike Reinhardt planted snapdragons, petunias and other annuals in the garden at the NE corner of the lake on Madison. He also planted three new rose bushes and some annuals in the rose garden, pruned and weeded the Ketchum garden and planted forsythia and lilacs behind the restrooms where they can be viewed from across the lake.

In addition to the work done by our member volunteers, the Edwardsville Garden Club continues to maintain the bed around the bandstand, and a Girl Scout troop has recently spent several hours cleaning the beds around the waterfall and planting flowers.

## HOUSE HISTORY CONTEST

Congratulations to Nicole Grimm, winner of the House History Contest for this issue. Her home had several family connections in Leclaire so a single house history turned into four! Read all about it on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

We have had a number of contest entries from people who are not members of Friends of Leclaire. As a reminder, this on-going contest is open only to members who live in Leclaire. To enter the contest members should send an e-mail with their address to [friends@historic-leclaire.org](mailto:friends@historic-leclaire.org). Good luck!

### LECLAIRE PHOTOS

The house history articles you see in Leclaire newsletters or in the articles published in the Intelligencer for National Historic Preservation Month would not be nearly as interesting if it weren't for the vintage photos depicting former residents and their homes.

We are grateful this month for the generosity of Lois Beckmann who allowed us to copy photos of her family for our story and related memories of them in Leclaire. Without her input we would have completely missed the Rapp family connection. Lois also had photos taken around her childhood home at 1219 Lindenwood Avenue that show neighboring houses, back yards, and garages, including photos of the 1200 block of Troy Road taken from her back yard.

Please call 656-1294 if you have vintage Leclaire photos you are willing to share. Copies will also be archived at the Madison County Historical Museum.

## 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 ~

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>3rd Sat</b> | <b>FOL at Goshen Market</b>  |
| <b>Jun 7-8</b> | <b>FOL at Route 66 Festival</b><br><a href="http://www.edwardsvilleroute66.com/">http://www.edwardsvilleroute66.com/</a> |
| <b>Jun 23</b>  | <b>Leclaire Band Concert 4 pm</b>  |
| <b>Jun 29</b>  | <b>Leclaire Fishing Derby</b>  |
| <b>Oct 19</b>  | <b>Leclaire 5K Run</b><br>5K Run is a Children's Museum Event!   |
| <b>Oct 20</b>  | <b>Leclaire Parkfest</b>   |

# The Borchwaldt Families in Leclaire

Henry Borchwardt and his brother-in-law, John W. Rapp, Jr., both came to work for N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company in Leclaire sometime before 1901 when their names first appear in a city directory. Henry was married to John's sister, Margaret Rapp Borchwardt.

The following year, in 1902, John married Henry's sister, Wilhelmina, or Minnie as she was known by everyone. Both couples were then living just outside Leclaire.

In 1903, Henry and Margaret purchased two lots on Troy Road from Fred Merkel for \$350. They sold one lot for \$200, and took out a \$1,000 mortgage in November 1903 to build the house at 923 Troy Road.

Five years later, in 1908, a co-worker of John's decided to move back to St. Louis. Charles Sommerhauser and his wife Anna Belle had built the house at 803 Troy Road in 1902. John and Minnie purchased the Sommerhausers' 6-year-old Victorian cottage which gave them a new home less than two blocks away from their siblings and only three blocks from John's job at the Nelson plant.

Both couples would live the rest of their lives in Leclaire. John and Minnie didn't have children, but Henry and Margaret had two, a son, William, and a daughter, Mildred. The family must have enjoyed life in Leclaire, because when William and Mildred became adults and married, they too built homes in Leclaire.



*The former home of Henry and Margaret Borchwardt at 923 Troy Road is shown above. The home of John and Minnie Rapp at 803 Troy Road is below.*



## John and Minnie Rapp

Little is known about John and Minnie Rapp. There are few references to them in the newspapers and their obituaries give few clues. We do know that they liked to entertain family and friends at their home and that John was a long-time employee of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company. John died of a stroke in 1930 at the age of 58. Eighteen months later, his widow married George Schomberg, a bachelor farmer whose family had been friends of Minnie and her husband for many years. Minnie passed away in 1947 and George remained at the house at 803 Troy Road until his death in 1952.

## Henry and Margaret (Maggie) Borchwardt

Henry and Maggie were married in 1896, and moved to Edwardsville soon after. Their son William was born in 1897 followed by his sister Mildred in 1902. The children were active in school activities and were often mentioned on honor roll lists.

Henry worked in the Brass Department of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company for 15 years. In later years he worked for the Madison Coal Corporation as a storekeeper.

Henry was active in both the Masonic Lodge and the Knights of Pythias. For more than forty years, nearly every election of officers for Knight of Pythias included Henry, his son, William, or both. The Knights of Pythias is a fraternal organization that promotes the ideals of friendship, charity and benevolence. Although very popular in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there is no longer a lodge in Edwardsville. Henry and Maggie were both members of St. John's Evangelical Church.

In the early 1930s when Leclaire was considering annexation to Edwardsville, Henry became involved in local politics. He helped with distribution of the petitions for annexation and was later elected as one of the first aldermen of the new Ward Five aldermanic district in 1934. When he lost his bid for re-election he "requested permission to pin the badge on his successor, wishing him success in his official duties."



*The former home of William and Kathryn Borchwardt at 1219 Lindenwood Avenue is shown above. Below is the former home of Chris and Mildred Schagunn at 208 Hale Avenue*



Their granddaughter, Lois Beckmann, has few memories of the couple. Her grandfather died in 1937 when she was only eight. At the time of his death he was living at his son's home on Lindenwood Avenue where Lois's mother took care of him during his final illness. When Margaret, Lois's grandmother, was too ill to take care of herself, she took turns living with her children. Lois remembers as a child her grandmother always gave her lemon drops for a treat.

## The Next Generation

In the 1920s, both of Henry and Maggie's children married:

Mildred Borchwardt married Edwardsville native Christ Schagunn in 1925 and William Borchwardt married a Glen Carbon girl, Kathryn Weiler, in 1928. Both couples chose to build bungalows in Leclaire.

Due to some earlier financial difficulties for Chris Schagunn, Henry Borchwardt purchased the property at 208 Hale Avenue for the Schagunns shortly after their marriage. The 1927 city directory listed them as living in the house. The charming frame bungalow was probably built by Hotz Lumber Company. In 1932 Henry sold the property to Mildred.

William and Kathryn were married in 1927 and moved into their brick bungalow at 1219 Monroe Avenue a year later, just in time for the birth of their daughter, Lois, in March, 1929. The address would later change to 1219 Lindenwood after Leclaire

was annexed to Edwardsville in 1934 to eliminate duplication of street names. There was already a Monroe Street in Edwardsville.

Lois remembers being told that her Uncle Chris, who later became a draftsman, designed the layout of the first floor of both houses. Looking at the houses today, the exterior looks very different until you take a closer look and see that the windows and doors on the first floor are alike even from the outside.

### Chris and Mildred Schagunn

Chris was born on Phillpena Street in Edwardsville, the son of a coal miner, Charles Schagunn, and his wife Christina.

He was a World War I veteran who had a varied career. Early on he was a medical student. In 1918 he gave "steam engineer" as his occupation on his WW I draft registration card. He worked for N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company for a while. He had a landscaping business that he ran from his house on Hale Avenue in the 1930s while also working as an accountant. He later found a position as a draftsman for the Illinois Corps of Engineers in Granite City where he was employed for many years.



From left, Margaret Borchwardt, Mildred Borchwardt Schagunn and Chris Schagunn at a family gathering.

Like his father-in-law and brother-in-law, Chris was active in the Knights of Pythias. He was also proud of his service in WW I and a member of WW I Barracks 977 of Edwardsville, whose members participated in his funeral.

Mildred Schagunn was a homemaker, which was the usual occupation for women in those times before modern conveniences made cleaning, laundry and cooking less time consuming than today. Most social activities for the couple revolved around her family who all lived nearby. Mildred suffered from crippling arthritis, and died at the age of 61. The couple never had children. Although Chris was ten years older than Mildred, he outlived her by four years. She died in 1964 and Chris in 1968.

### William and Kathryn Borchwardt

William was an outgoing young man, a good student and active in sports as well as the drama club while in high school. He played basketball as well as football, but his physique appears better suited to the latter. He was on the high school yearbook staff, along with his good friend, Jim Allen, who grew up just across the street from William on Holyoake Road.

By his early twenties he was also deeply involved in the Knights of Pythias, attending not only the local Wednesday night meetings, but also state conventions in Chicago. His daughter, Lois, remembers as a child looking forward to Wednesday nights, because her father always brought ice cream home after meetings.

William worked as a supervisor for an asphalt paving company for 30 years, after which he went to work for Wagner Electric in St. Louis.

William's wife, Kathryn Borchwardt Weiler, was one of ten children born to Ben Weiler, a Glen Carbon coal miner, and his wife, Barbara Isabelle "Belle" Weiler. Not unlike many women of that time from Glen Carbon, Kathryn did not graduate from

high school. The nearest high school was in Edwardsville, and parents had to pay extra to transport their children to school. Funds would have been limited for a family with ten children.

Like many of her sisters, she instead went to work as a seamstress at a shirt factory. When she married at age 22, she became a housewife and caregiver, raising her daughter Lois, caring for both her mother-in-law and father-in-law in their later years, and providing childcare for the three young children of Izzy Schreiber, a local beautician. She also cared for her husband when he became ill due to heart problems.



William John Borchwardt

Kathryn enjoyed visiting and shopping with her daughter, and like many women of her era, was skilled with embroidery and crochet work. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church and Circle 3 of the Ladies Auxiliary. Coming from such a large family, there were many occasions for family gatherings and celebrations.

The Borchwardts' daughter, Lois, was married in 1952 to Glenn

Beckmann in a small ceremony at St. John's Evangelical Church of Granite City followed by a reception for immediate family at her home at 1219 Lindenwood Avenue. The Beckmanns settled on a farm west of Granite City near the Chain of Rocks Canal where they have farmed for over 50 years.

In 1960, William and Kathryn sold their bungalow in Leclaire to Harold Lange. They bought a new home on Cornell Avenue in Edwardsville's new subdivision of Montclaire. William passed away in 1975 at the age of 77. His widow, who was younger than William, passed away in 1995 at the age of 89.



Kathryn Weiler Borchwardt

### The Borchwardt Legacy in Leclaire

The Borchwardt family has an important place in the record of Leclaire's history. They built three beautiful Leclaire homes, were employed at the Leclaire factories, and were instrumental in the annexation process when Leclaire became a part of Edwardsville.