

## **Publications on Leclaire (1930-1934)**

### *Notes:*

*This section contains articles from the final years of Leclaire before and in the months following annexation to the city of Edwardsville in 1934.*

*The material transcribed here is from a variety of sources, including newspapers, periodicals and N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company publications. Additional articles are added on a regular basis and are listed in chronological order of the date originally published.*

*The documents contain information about Leclaire, N. O. Nelson Manufacturing and its employees, and early residents of the village.*

*Several newspaper articles come under the heading "Leclaire Laconics" which was the name of a regular column of Leclaire news in the early 1890s for the Edwardsville Intelligencer. Many articles have no headlines, since that was a common practice in early newspapers. In the early years of Leclaire, Edwardsville had two newspapers. Besides the Intelligencer, there was the Edwardsville Democrat which often referred to Leclaire as "South Edwardsville." Editor A. L. Brown believed strongly that Edwardsville's new suburb should not be "Leclaire."*

*Every effort is made to ensure accuracy in the transcriptions, but if you should identify an error, please let us know. Note that articles are typed exactly as written a century ago, so "employee" is spelled "employe" and the word street or road is not capitalized, i.e. "Main street" Also, especially in later articles, the spelling of Leclaire was sometimes mistakenly listed as "LeClaire" and the spelling of Holyoake Road is written as "Holyoke road".*

Friday, July 18, 1930  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **MRS. A. SCHLECHTE DIES AT HER HOME**

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### **Funeral of Leclaire Resident Will be Conducted on Sunday Afternoon.**

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Mrs. August Schlechte, of 1021 Ruskin Ave., Leclaire, died yesterday afternoon at 4:10 o'clock, after a period of illness of about a year.

She was born in Germany Feb 27, 1872, being 58 years, four months and 20 days at the time of her death. She came to this country when she was 12 years with her brother and sisters.

Mrs. Schlechte was united in marriage to August Schlechte in 1895, at Brighton, Ill., by Rev. P. Hansen. To this union seven children were born, a son, Fred, preceded his mother in death in 1902.

She is survived by her husband, two sons, Arno W. Schlechte and Edward H. Schlechte; four daughters, Mrs. Herman Dustmann, Mrs. John Yesnoski, Miss Irene and Irma Schlechte all of this city; two grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs. Louisa Huelsmeier of Quincy and Mrs. Fred Denkendoiff of Highland.

Funeral services will be Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the family residence thence to the Lutheran Church at 2:30 o'clock, with Rev. E. W. Johns officiating. Interment will be in the Valley View Cemetery.

The pall bearers will be six nephews, Theodore and Walter Huelfmeier, William and Walter Deckemeyer and Edwin and Henry Kessmann, Jr.

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Monday, July 30, 1930  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Leclaire Resident Murdered in Edwardsville

## **Miss Viola Miller Slain by Former Admirer Who Ends Own Life**

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### **Jealousy is Cause of Killing of Pretty Telephone Operator**

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Miss Viola Miller, 17-year-old telephone operator at the local exchange of the Bell Telephone Company, was shot four times and almost instantly killed Saturday night at 10 o'clock by Edward (Pete) Jedliska, world war veteran, 27 years old, in front of the home of E. L. Bryant, 115 North Kansas street and who ended his life in an alley near South Kansas and Park streets, two blocks from the scene of the first tragedy, a few minutes later. Jealousy is the only known cause for the double killing. The pair had kept company for several months but there were differences between them on the Fourth of July. A revolver borrowed shortly before was used.

Miss Miller, her cousin Florence Geers of Alhambra and Orville Ostendorf were standing on the sidewalk at the Bryant home while the fourth in their party, Clinton Bryant, drove the automobile from the garage. The four intended driving to the home of Mrs. Val Miller, 856 Hale avenue, Leclair, to spend the evening.

A dialogue of less than a dozen words passed between the principals just before the shooting. According to Miss Geers and Ostendorf, Jedliska was about three feet away when they saw him at the curbing.

Addressing Miss Miller, he asked, "Where are you going?"

She answered with one word, "Home."

"You'll never get there." exclaimed Jedliska.

At almost the same instant, he brought a 38-caliber revolver using high-powered shells into play, and began firing. Miss Miller screamed but none knew the exact words she used.

The first bullet entered her left breast, striking her heart. The bullet was probably fired as she was turning to run away. The second is believed to have entered the right shoulder. Another entered the right side above the hip and the fourth passed through the right leg above the knee. One of the bullets which passed through her body struck the door of the front porch a glancing blow, passing through the front door of the Bryant home and lodged in the hall.

In fear of their own lives, Miss Geers and Ostendorf ran a short distance. Jedliska took another course, crossing over Vandalia street, entering the alley and was near the rear of the Bernhardt garage when he ended his life with the remaining shell in the revolver. The bullet entered the right side of his head near the temple. He was dead when found a few minutes later by Night Watchman Henry Harles.

Miss Miller and Miss Geers had come down town during the evening with Miss Miller's parents on a shopping expedition. The young ladies had an engagement with the two boys who were detained until about 10 o'clock on account of their work.

Miss Geers related a detailed story yesterday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Miller had left them not more than fifteen minutes before the shooting.

"Mr. Ostendorf, my cousin and I were standing near the Imperial Bakery waiting for Clinton Bryant who had been detained," said Miss Geers, "when Mr. Jedliska came along. He called Viola aside and talked to her for a few moments. I do not know what they said.

"We walked down Main street to Vandalia when Mr. Bryant arrived, then east on Vandalia to Kansas and stopped at the Bryant home to wait until Mr. Bryant secured the automobile. We three were standing on the sidewalk. Mr. Jedliska was not over three feet away when I saw him. He came across the street.

"When he came up he asked Viola where she was going and was told. He remarked, 'you'll never get there' and began firing. I ran a short distance but returned when I saw Mr. Jedliska running in the opposite direction. Viola was gasping for breath when I reached her."

The story told by young Ostendorf is practically the same as that related by Miss Greers. Bryant was not in a position to see all of what happened.

Many in Edwardsville were attracted by the four shots. Drs. E. C. Ferguson and A. H. Oliver, who live nearby, were the first to arrive and pronounced Miss Miller dead. Scores of persons joined in the search in the search which was given up as soon as the dead body was found.

Movements of Jedliska after the shooting indicated that his first impulse was to go home. He started in that direction and was more than half way home when he ended his life. Members of the family heard the report of the shot but little suspected the cause.

Mrs. Miller, mother of the girl, said the pair had been keeping company at times for several months. She said they had differences on the Fourth of July. She believed the quarrel and jealousy were the cause.

Members of the Jedliska family said Edward had been moody for several days. He had been under the care of a doctor for stomach trouble recently.

It will be necessary to conduct separate inquests. Deputy Coroner J. E. Marks who took charge of the bodies is summoning witnesses and the hearings will probably be held tonight. The deputy gave permission to remove the body of Mr. Jedliska to the Leadley funeral home and the body of Miss Miller was taken to the establishment of Marks, Weber & Company.

Miss Miller was the older of two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Miller. She was born at Highland on September 12, 1905 and would have been 18 years old six weeks hence. She was about 5 years old when the family moved to Edwardsville and her education was received in local schools.

About two years ago she accepted a place as telephone operator at the local Kinloch exchange and was its manager when the company was merged with the Bell Telephone Company several months ago. With the consolidation she accepted a place as an operator at the Bell exchange.

Miss Miller was a member of the Sunday school of the First Presbyterian. She was interested in the work and a regular attendant. She was very handy with the needle and made a great many beautiful pieces of fancywork.

Miss Miller was of a retiring disposition, quiet and unassuming and had a great many friends.

Besides her parents she is survived by one sister, Oneita Miller, who lives at home.

Her funeral will be held Tuesday at 2 o'clock from the family residence. Rev. James R. Sagor of Hillsboro, former pastor of the First Presbyterian church will conduct the services. Burial is to be made at Woodlawn Cemetery. The pallbearers will be Clinton Bryant, Orville Ostendorf, Norman Fields, Edward Flynn, Arthur Westerholt and Thomas Trigg(s).

Mr. Jedliska was born on a farm south of Edwardsville. His father was the late Joseph Jedliska and he had made his home with his widowed mother, Mrs. Mary Jedliska, who lives on South Kansas street. The date of his birth was December 17, 1896 and he was in his 27<sup>th</sup> year.

To his many friends he was known as "Pete." He was about five years old when the family moved to Edwardsville. He attended school here and took up coal mining several years ago.

He was among the first of Edwardsville boys to go into service and spent more than two years as a soldier. He left here with a contingent on September 19, 1917, shortly afterward landing in Europe. He was a private in Company I, 132 Infantry and his discharge papers show a character and record of excellence.

As a soldier he took part in the Argonne and Meuse fighting, was in the Verdun sector, was at Troyon offensive and in the Amieus sector. Some of the fighting was over periods of two or three weeks.

On October 10, 1918, just a month before the armistice, he was gassed, but overcame the effects. He was in the Army of Occupation after the fighting ceased.

Mr. Jedliska was not a member of the Edwardsville Post 199, American Legion, but was active in work of the organization. He was color bearer on numerous occasions, was frequently on duty at the death of veterans and took part in many of the affairs. For personal reasons he had deferred joining until later.

Besides his mother he is survived by three brothers, Joseph, Fred and William Jedliska of Edwardsville and a sister, Mrs. Julia Catron of Barbersville, Ky.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock from the Leadley funeral home at 1:30 o'clock. The religious services will be conducted by Rev. H. Rahn of the Eden Evangelical church. War veterans will have a part. Burial will be at the Buck road cemetery.

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Friday, August 8, 1930  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **Wm J. Kennedy Dies at Residence**

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### **Funeral Services Saturday Morning at St. Mary's Catholic Church.**

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William J. Kennedy, a widely known resident of this city, 65 years, one month and 27 days old, died of complications yesterday evening at 8:45 o'clock at his home at 1203 Emerson Street. He had been ill for about eleven days.

Mr. Kennedy was born in New York City, June 11, 1865 and moved to St. Louis with his parents when still a small boy. He was married to Miss Rose M. O'Healy of St. Louis in 1891 where they resided until about 36 years ago. They moved to Edwardsville when he became an employee of N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co.

Mr. Kennedy was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Holy Name Society, a Modern Woodman and a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

He is survived by his widow, four children, Mrs. Marie R. Steele, of St. Louis; Frank B. Kennedy, Minneapolis; Lester W. Kennedy, Highland, Ind. and Mrs. Edith Olive of this city.

Funeral Services will be at the St. Mary Catholic Church tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock with Father C. A. O'Reilly conducting the rites. Burial will be in the Calvary Cemetery.

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September 22, 1930  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
1905 Carroll-Pierson Wedding 25 Years Ago

## **25 YEARS AGO**

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The marriage of George H. Pierson of this city and Miss Anna Gertrude Carroll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Carroll was celebrated Monday afternoon at 12:30 at the country place of the Carroll family. Following the ceremony an elegant banquet was spread. The guests included only relatives but they numbered almost half a hundred.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierson left on the afternoon train for St. Louis where it is believed they took a boat for a river trip north. They will be at home to their friends the latter part of the week at their home on Fillmore Street.

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October 28, 1930  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Leclair's George Moorman Plays Football for McKendree

## **EDWARDSVILLE BOY ON McKENDREE GRID TEAM**

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### **(Special to the Intelligencer)**

Lebanon, Ill., Oct 28 – Only a single freshman is holding down a regular position on the McKendree Bearcat football eleven line this year.

He is George Moorman, of Edwardsville, former crack player for the Edwardsville High School, where he starred for four years.

Moorman, who is the left tackle for the big McKendree team, is one of the best of Coach Arthur Doolen's score of tackles. Weighing 180 pounds, and reaching six feet, one inch upwards, the boy from Edwardsville also possesses a world of speed. He is fast when it comes to charging, and fast in tackling.

McKendree College will celebrate Homecoming on Saturday, and on Saturday night at eight o'clock the Bearcat football eleven will face one of the toughest foes in the Little 19 in the form of Shurtleff College. The Pioneers are always hard to beat. Last year they nipped the McKendreens 7 to 6 at Alton, chiefly through off-tackle plays. If tackle Moorman of the Bearcats plays as he has been all year then the chances of a McKendree victory are better than ever.

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Tuesday, November 25, 1930  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **MRS. H. DUSTMAN CALLED BY DEATH**

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### **Entire Family Ill During the Past Several Weeks; Funeral Not Set.**

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Mrs. Herman Dustman, of this city, passed away at the Missouri Baptist Sanitarium, this morning at 1:30 o'clock. Her death was due to blood poisoning and complications.

Mrs. Dustman was born in Strassburg, Ill, in 1897. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Schlechte. Her maiden name was Regina Schlechte. She had lived in this city practically all her life. She was educated in the Lutheran school here.

The Dustman family has been ill for several months. Mr. Dustman, only this morning was released from a St. Louis Hospital, Florence, their step-child, was taken ill with scarlet fever last Saturday and is being cared for by relatives. Mrs. Dustman was married to Herman Dustman several years ago.

She leaves to survive her father, August Schlechte, her mother, having preceded her in death three months ago; two brothers, Arno and Edwin Schlechte of this city; three sisters, Irene and Erma Schlechte and Mrs. John Yesnosky, of this city.

Funeral arrangements have not been made.

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May 27, 1931  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Leclaire Kindergarten Graduation

## **CLUBS AND LODGES**

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### **Graduating Exercises Held**

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The graduating exercises of the Leclaire Kindergarten and May day exercises for the entire school were held last evening on the lawn. The little girls were attired in yellow and the boys in white. Thirteen received diplomas. They were Jack Take, Edward Gerling, Isabel Metzger, Jeanne Godfrey, John Reid, Melba Traub, Betsy Lindbeck, Fay F...nstein(?), Ruth Suhre, Leonard Robertson, Robert Kleuter, Wilton Blicher, Alyne Poos.

A program of songs, recitations and folk dances was given. At the close of the program the children were served with ice cream and cake. The tables were decorated in yellow and white.

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July 22, 1931  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
New Water Tower on Troy Road

## **NEW WATER TANK IS BEING ERECTED**

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### **Work is Resumed After Order of Commerce Commission at Springfield**

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Employes of the Ben Hur Erection Company of St. Louis yesterday began erection of steel columns that will support the new reserve tank of the Edwardsville Water along Troy Road just south of Edwardsville. Work was suspended two months ago awaiting orders of the Illinois Commerce Commission to do the work. Five or six weeks will be required to complete the tank.

The new tank will have a capacity of 250,000 gallons and be operated in connection with the tank at Main and High Streets in providing reserve supplies of water and increasing pressure. The principle pressure benefits will be secured by residents in the southern portions of Edwardsville and Leclaire.

Construction of the concrete foundation was completed during May. Work was then suspended to permit necessary seasoning of the concrete and to await orders of the commerce commission after city officials raised questions over construction of the tank. City authorities demanded information on the nature of the structure and on the affect changes would have on service within the city.

A.P. Harris, superintendent of the company, said today that additional water mains will be laid along Buchanan Street to secure a water supply and eventually another connection will be made at Main and Vandalia Streets. Under plans of the engineers the water will be carried to the tank in pipes larger than those from which the supply is received to reduce the friction.

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July 22, 1931  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **NEW WATER TANK REQUIRED ORDER OF I.C.C. HOLDS**

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**Unsatisfactory Conditions in Water Pressure and Quantity to be Corrected, Order Points Out.**

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## **CHARGES TO BENEFIT NUMBER OF PATRONS.**

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**Commission Holds There is Nothing to Show Company Lacks Power to Serve Others Out of City.**

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**(Special to the Intelligencer)**

Springfield, Ill., July 22 – The Edwardsville Water Company was authorized by the Illinois Commerce Commission yesterday to construct and operate a 250,000 gallon elevated water tank in the village of Leclaire and certain 12-inch water mains partly in Edwardsville and partly in Leclaire.



Construction of the new equipment, the order points out, is to correct certain unsatisfactory conditions in respect to water pressure and quantity available.

“The evidence shows in general,” the order states, “that improvements to the petitioner’s facilities are required in order that proper service be rendered to its customers, and that the proposed elevated tank and water mains will constitute a material improvement in the said service.”

The City of Edwardsville objected to the proposed improvement on the ground that the construction of the improvement in the vicinity of Leclaire will divert water that otherwise would be supplied to Edwardsville and will result in less satisfactory pressure in Edwardsville. Further, Edwardsville maintained the elevated tank should be built within the city limits of Edwardsville instead of in Leclaire and has served notice of its intention to exercise an option to purchase the properties of the water company as set forth in the franchise ordinance under which the water company operates. Construction of the new facilities will embarrass the city in the purchase of these properties, the city asserted.

The evidence in the case, the commission held, does not support the proposition that construction of the new facilities in Leclaire and in certain parts of Edwardsville will be generally detrimental to water service in Edwardsville or that there is any shortage of water such that it is necessary to countenance poor service in one location so that another location may be better served.. “So far as the record in this case appears,” the order states, “there is an adequate supply of water available and the commission has powers to require adequate service to be rendered in the entire territory served by the petitioner. If, after the construction of the facilities proposed in this application, any portion of the city of Edwardsville receives unsatisfactory service, the commission will entertain a petition seeking to rectify that situation.

“It does not appear necessary in this proceeding that the commission fix and determine the exact location of the 250,000-gallon water tank proposed to be constructed by the petitioner. The evidence generally shows that such a tank is desirable and necessary and it may be that there should be some latitude allowed the managing officials of the company in fixing the proper location for this facility. So far as appears in this record, there has been no abuse of managerial discretion in deciding upon the location now proposed.”

As to the City of Edwardsville’s proposal to purchase the water plant, it appears the order points out, customers in a considerable area are without adequate water service.

“It does not appear reasonable,” the order states, “that the establishment of adequate service to these customers should be delayed or denied by reason of pending procedures in respect to the purchase and sale of the properties of this utility. The Edwardsville Water Company is a public utility and is under obligation at all times to furnish adequate service to all its customers, and this commission is also charged with the duty of requiring such service to be furnished. Such facilities, therefore, as are reasonably necessary to insure adequate service should be provided regardless of any possible future purchase of the water utility properties by the municipality or others.”

The commission further held that there is nothing to show that the Edwardsville Water Company has no powers to render water service except those contained in the franchise ordinance passed by the Edwardsville council, which limits the company to the City of Edwardsville. This franchise, the commission held, does not constitute a contract.

“On the contrary,” the order states, “it is shown that the Edwardsville Water Company operates in the community of Leclaire under proper authorization, that it is a public utility and that it may be required as a public utility to render service without discrimination to all persons

or prospective customers who may be reasonably entitled thereto. In a number of cases before this commission it has been held that the position of the municipal territorial boundaries is not determinative of whether or not a customer is or is not reasonably entitled to service from a public utility which has facilities in the vicinity of his premises.”

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August 15, 1931  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **Nelson Company Announce Change Leclaire Kindergarten Will Operate Next Season on Nominal Fee Basis.**

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An announcement has been made by Nelson Lawnin of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Company, that on account of eliminating all non-essential activities, the Leclaire Kindergarten will be operated this coming season in a limited way on a nominal fee basis. Miss Mildred Shaw, who has been an instructor in the kindergarten for a number of years, has been placed in charge. She will ask a reasonable tuition from all, except children of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Company.

The Leclaire Kindergarten was established about 35 years ago by N. O. Nelson, founder of the Nelson Mfg. Company, a philanthropist of international fame and a great lover of children. The kindergarten is being kept up as a memorial to him.

Under the old plan Leclaire residents and employees of the Nelson Company have received free tuition and a very small charge was made to non-residents. This season, according to the announcement, only employees' children will be admitted free.

The kindergarten is ideally located in a residential district with a well kept playground. The building is large, admitting fresh air and sunshine, so essential to a child's health. It has been accommodating on an average of 55 children a year.

The kindergarten has always had the recommendation and co-operation of the public school authorities and primary teachers and also the services of a community nurse.

Kindergarten diplomas are given and any child who has been working for one will have an opportunity to finish the work and receive a diploma, while others may start.

Miss Shaw has been a teacher in the school for 12 years and for the past three years has been in charge. She is the daughter of William Shaw, one of the directors in the Nelson Company and a resident of Leclaire for many years.

Kindergarten will open September 1 at 9 A. M. Children four years of age by November 1 are eligible to enter.

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August 17, 1931  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Kickman Boiler Company to Finish Water Tank

## **Third Company Is Employed to Complete Water Tank**

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Boiler makers today began the construction of the big 250,000 reserve tank for the Edwardsville Water Company on Troy Road south of Edwardsville, the third attempt to complete the structure. Men employed at present have been furnished by the Kickman Boiler Company of St. Louis.

The Pittsburgh-Des Moines Tank Company was unable to erect the tank at the beginning on account of labor differences. The contract was then awarded to Ben Hur Erection Company of St. Louis. The structural steel was completed but new troubles arose when the job was ready for the rings of the tank. Each class of workmen demanded a foreman.

It is said today that at least four or five weeks will be required to complete the tank. Little progress was being made today.

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October 27, 1931  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
New Water Mains to Leclaire

## **Contractor Plans to Lay Pipes for Tank Connection**

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Fred Luth, St. Louis contractor, was in Edwardsville yesterday making plans for construction of water mains necessary to connect up the system of the Edwardsville Water Company with the new tank on Troy Road south of the city.

Approximately 3500 feet of pipe will be laid. The new water tank was finished recently.

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Wednesday, January 6, 1932  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **FIRE PROTECTION DISCUSSED DURING COUNCIL MEETING**

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**New Tank of Troy Road Expected to Provide Pressure for Ordinary Blazes in Leclaire**

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## **TESTS WILL BE MADE WITHIN NEAR FUTURE**

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**Persons Causing Fires Through Negligence May be Arrested Under Newest Plans by City Officials**

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Fire protection for residents of Leclaire and several automobile fires here during the fall and winter were discussed at the December meeting of the city council last night. Completion of the new water tank on Troy Road is expected to provide sufficient pressure through which the Edwardsville hose wagon may be used at fires in Leclaire and other parts of the city without use of the pumper. Shortly after the new water service is in use tests will be made, Mayor Charles Gueltig said today.

The pumper will be held in reserve for use in the city when the hose wagon is called out. The latter is equipped with chemicals and ladders. Under the plan now being discussed the hose wagon would be loaned to Leclaire upon a call from an officer of the Leclaire Volunteer Fire Department.

Mayor Gueltig said today, "Edwardsville is under no obligation to provide protection to Leclaire or other outlying districts but the department will stand ready to provide help in case of emergency. We will answer a call to another municipality in case it comes from a recognized and established organization. The department is maintained by residents of Edwardsville and the pumper must be reserved for use here. It costs \$50 everytime the pumper makes a run.

"Most of the city's recent fires have been caused through negligence in the operation of automobiles our investigations show. Carelessness of owners have caused some of them. Wrecks in which one car is set on fire may be due to careless driving. The blazes will be investigated. Officials are considering plans of arresting persons who are careless and cause fires. Permitting leaves to remain in water spouts is a carelessness that may cause a roof fire."

At the city hall Mayor Gueltig has posted a bulletin urging firemen to exercise care in making runs, reminding them of the importance of reaching a blaze without an accident after an alarm is turned in.

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May 17, 1933  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Leclaire Bowling Alley to be Razed

## **Old Club House in Leclaire Doomed**

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### **Bids are Being Taken to Wreck Social Center Built by N. O. Nelson**

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The Leclaire club house community center for residents of Leclaire and former employees of N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company for many years is to be wrecked, according to a statement made today by Nelson Lawnin, manager of the industry and grandson of the man who caused its erection about 40 years ago. Bids are now being taken and award of a contract is expected shortly.

Mr. Lawnin said that the building has become an eye-sore and the grounds will be otherwise beautified after the structure is torn down. The club house was one of several plans of

Mr. Nelson to provide recreation for Leclaire residents and company employes. A free school, lake and campus were other things he provided.

Mr. Nelson began erection of his industry here about 1890. Twenty residences for employes and the club house were the first buildings.

The club house contained two bowling alleys, reading rooms, and space for billiards, pool and cards. Until about 15 years ago the building was extensively used. In recent years there has been some bowling and other gatherings at the club house. Ball teams used it as dressing quarters during the past few years.

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August 29, 1933  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **MRS. REUBEN GLASS WINS FIRST PRIZE IN YARD CONTEST**

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**Winners in Other Classifications Promoted by Chamber of Commerce Are Announced Today.**

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## **BELLEVILLE WOMAN PICKS NINE WINNERS**

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**Three Receive Cash Awards and Others Get Same Amounts in Plants for Further Beautification.**

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Winners in Edwardsville's first yard and garden contest, conducted under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, were announced today. Nine winners in the four classifications were selected yesterday afternoon by Miss Bernice Buesch of the Buesch Landscape and Floral Company of Belleville.

Miss Buesch said the results in Edwardsville were exceptionally good considering the dry summer.

A committee of five residents of Edwardsville had charge of plans for judging the gardens and lawns but took no part in classifying the winners. The committee was composed of C. W. Corbett, Mrs. Frank Tunnell, Miss Grace Cunningham, Harris Blixen and Ernest Tosovsky.

In the general garden contest the winners will receive cash prizes. In the three other classifications those graded first or second will receive \$2 in plants for further beautification of their places.

Mrs. Reuben Glass won first place in the general garden contest and received \$8 in cash. Miss Alois Hotz was awarded second and receives \$4. Third place went to Mrs. Nelson Voss who receives \$2.

Prizes in the other departments were awarded as follows:

Rock Gardens – Mrs. Wm. Ahrens, first; Martin Dippold, second.  
Best Collection of Annuals – Mrs. Otto Rothe, first; A. F. Sievers, second.  
Best Vegetable Gardens – Mrs. Elizabeth Mann, first; Chas. P. Werner, second.

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September 13, 1933  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **400 Hear Annexation Talks, Sewer Project Discussions at Leclaire Lake Meeting**

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### **Petitions Ready for Circulation Among Residents**

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### **Volunteers Must Get Majorities of Legal Voters and Property Owners for Filing with City Council**

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### **Sanitary Conditions Outstanding Feature**

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### **City Officials Pass Resolutions Giving Citizens of Additions Certain Pledges If They Come In**

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Volunteers will begin the circulation of petitions Thursday in Leclaire and other outlying communities adjacent to Edwardsville to secure signatures to petition asking for annexation, as recently suggested by Nelson Lawnin to the Edwardsville city council as the most economical and satisfactory means of solving the sewer problems. Two forms of petition are necessary. One is for legal voters who do not own property and the other for voters who are property owners. Majorities are necessary on each form.

Circulation of the petitions will follow a mass meeting held at the Leclaire Band stand last night when an audience of 400 heard several speakers discuss the general plans. Owing to the limited time many of the details could not be discussed last night.

Mayor Wm. C. Straube assured the citizens of outlying districts that they will receive fair representation and will not be forced to pave streets unless a majority of property owners ask the improvements.

Nelson Lawnin presided. He explained the purpose of the meeting and plans for annexation to Edwardsville. Primarily the plans grow out of a program for Edwardsville to improve sewer facilities and the proposed organization of a sanitary district for territory surrounding the city.

W. H. Wisely, a sanitation engineer for the Illinois Department of Health, was the first speaker. He said he believed that annexation is the only workable plan to improve conditions and that it should be carried out while it is possible to obtain federal funds to help with the cost. He said he had been here on previous occasions to confer with city officials and Mr. Lawnin about sanitary conditions and told of plans for cesspools to bridge the gap until better arrangements were possible.

L. D. Lawnin, president of N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company and son-in-law of N. O. Nelson, founder of the plumbing business and of Leclaire was the next speaker. His address in full, follows:

“Forty three years ago in June Leclaire was founded by Mr. N. O. Nelson, who laid out streets, planted trees and shrubs and otherwise beautified the residential section.

“He then built factory buildings, a club house on the present site of the school house and several residences which were for the NONCO employees.

“For many years there was no plumbing in the houses except kitchen sinks. Sewage was disposed of in individual cesspools. Later a comprehensive sewer system was laid out and installed under the plans and superintendence of Shepherd & Morgan. This covers most of Leclaire and might be sufficient for some time to come if surrounding territory was not being filled up making it difficult to dispose of sewage waste.

“During the early days of development of Leclaire, Mr. Nelson felt that it was not advisable to be a part of the City of Edwardsville because he wished to be free to develop the territory according to his own ideas and unrestricted by outside interference. I think that you would agree that he made a good job of it. Leclaire stands out as a very attractive residential community. One of my sincere regrets has been that my business arrangements made it necessary for me to live elsewhere. Leclaire has always been close to my heart and I shall always be interested in its development and now in appearing before you to suggest that the time has come when its best interests will be served by joining to the City of Edwardsville, I do it as one thoroughly familiar with your problems because I lived here for over twenty years, raised my own family in this community and had a great deal to do with its development.

“I still own property in Leclaire and have the same interest in its future that I have always had. I have come to the realization that all of the subdivisions surrounding the City of Edwardsville will be better off by being a part of the municipality. For several years past I have felt that something of this sort was coming and would have to be faced but during the past few months the matter has been brought more forcibly to my attention by the sleeping sickness epidemic started in St. Louis County, which make it absolutely necessary (for) sewage problems to be hand-led in a large and comprehensive way with a minimum of expense and superintendence.

“The Leclaire sewer system is a good one but as we are now almost surrounded by other settlements it is becoming harder and harder to dispose of the sewage in a satisfactory manner. This is one thing to be gained by having all outside communities join with the City and have a complete sewer system for the entire community.

“There are other things that would favor consolidation. The first is fire protection which is second only to health. Many outlying communities throughout the country, experienced great difficulty in getting fire protection. They are not large enough to maintain a fire department of their own and adjoining communities which have fire departments are loathe to let their apparatus leave the limits of their own community. I might say that the Edwardsville fire

department has been most generous in lending their services but this cannot be expected in an unlimited way.

“Another thing is the matter of police protection, which I am glad to say Leclaire has not up to the present time found very much necessity for. Nevertheless, the time may come when such protection is necessary but we can’t expect to impose upon their good nature forever.

“The question may arise particularly here in Leclaire as to the matter of restrictions which apply to the property. I want to say that the restrictions prevailing here governing the use of the land to residence and educational purposes are a part of the deed and as such cannot be changed by any City ordinance or action other than by almost unanimous petition of the property owners through the courts. I want to say that, in my opinion, restrictions of any kind should not be unlimited in their life but, unfortunately our courts have full authority to change restrictions if, and when, the real necessity arises for a change.

“I might also say that at present it is the company’s intension to continue the Leclaire Lake – likewise the school house and campus – and it may be that some time in the future these will be actually dedicated to the public use as parks, etc. I cannot make this promise now but I have every feeling it can be done.

“Some of you may be reluctant to consider this entire proposition of annexation on account of increased taxation but I want to assure you the increase in taxation due to the corporate tax rate will not be sufficiently great to cause you any worry when you consider that you will receive quite a material reduction in insurance rates on your property and likewise some reduction in fire hydrant rentals. The latter, I think, are at the present time handled by the Water Company direct with the individuals.

“Another thing to be considered is what will become of Leclaire itself when it is incorporated in the limits of the larger municipality. I think you are safe in feeling that Leclaire is large enough, both in territory and population, to be made a ward in itself and it will not, in any way lose its identity.

“The other speakers will tell you more about the method of procedure in building a sewer district. I understand that the City of Edwardsville is now postponing action on a sewer district of its own pending some action on this annexation proposition. From my standpoint it would be inadvisable for the City of Edwardsville to have its own individual and independent sewer district that would not take in all of the populated surrounding territory. If such a thing should happen it would be almost a disaster for the outside territory. Other speakers are better qualified to tell you of the plans in this respect.

“I might say in passing that St. Louis County, which now has a population of almost one-fifth that of the City of St. Louis, is faced with a very serious proposition as to the disposal of its sewage and there was considerable attached to it owing to political chicanery. The City of St. Louis, itself is provided with a wonderful sewer system which is plenty large to take care of the county provided the county communities were incorporated with the City. At the present time there are twenty separate and distinct municipalities in the St. Louis County, each of which is trying to solve its own sewer system and other municipal problems. Sooner or later all of these communities will be a part of the greater City of St. Louis.

“I want you to fully understand that I am not speaking entirely for Leclaire in urging the extension of the Edwardsville city limits. My feeling is that the time has now come when all of the subdivisions and inhabited spots surrounding Edwardsville should be joined to the city. They should partake of the responsibilities of Government as well as receive the benefits of safety in the matter of health, fire and police protection and many other things



“All things considered now is the proper time to favorably pass on the proposition to request the City of Edwardsville to extend its city limits to take in not only Leclaire but Mahler Heights, Metcalf Addition, Gueltig Addition, Paul Jones Addition and all others. Such communities practically surround the city.”

Mayor Straube, the next speaker presented, called attention to a special session of the city council last Saturday afternoon at which resolutions favoring annexation were adopted. He read the resolution adopted to refer the plans for the sewer project to a referendum vote by all interested. Mayor Straube then discussed the question of permanent improvements and suggested possible organization of six city wards to provide proper representation. The question of wards will be acted upon later if annexation goes through.

G. L. Lyman, resident and property owner of Leclaire with business interests in other cities spoke briefly. He said he favors the annexation plan, declaring it the best move at present.

Attorney Thomas Williamson discussed some of the legal phases. He said that Edwardsville had long court(ed) Leclaire but was not in position to propose. He said that with the proposal coming from elsewhere Edwardsville is ready to accept and he believes the union will be a success after marriage without grounds for divorce.

He spoke of the merits of the sewer plan and made comparisons with the sanitary district. As a lawyer he said he believed that the federal authorities will not approve the plan of providing money to help build the surrounding communities (\_\_\_\_). He said that he believed that if the surrounding communities are placed in the sanitary district the improvements would be made at prohibitive cost with a duplication in forms of improvement and controlled by two forms of government. He said he thought that consolidation of the sewer problems would have the best results.

Mr. Williamson paid high tribute to Mr. Nelson in establishment of the business and residential section here and progress made in over two score of years. He spoke of how the community had been able to get along without police protection and a very small amount of fire protection. He said that Leclaire has stood as a model and pattern for similar projects in the United States and would not lose its identity through annexation.

In closing the meeting Nelson Lawnin outlines the proposed boundaries, said the petitions will be immediately prepared for circulation and explained the two forms that will be needed. They will be circulated by persons living in the communities asking annexation.

He said that some farm lands are included in the proposed boundaries but that they are needed to control the water shed and streams that lead into Cahokia Creek, the principal drainage outlet.

Tax records must be checked to obtain a complete list of property owners in the area and determine whether a majority of names has been obtained when work is finished.

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September 15, 1933  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **EIGHT ARE CHOSEN TO SECURE NAMES**

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## **Preliminary Work is Being Done to Get Signatures for Annexation**

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Eight volunteers have been selected by Reuben Glass of Leclaire, to circulate petitions asking that Leclaire, East Leclaire, Mahler Heights and Metcalf Place be annexed to Edwardsville. Some of the preliminary canvassing has been done by Mr. Glass and Artie Westerholt, one of the workers. They said today that the early response has been satisfactory.

In most instances the property owners and voters are either signing immediately or are requesting but a brief period for final consideration. Efforts are being made to have the petitions prepared for filing for the mid-month meeting of the council next Tuesday night.

The four districts where petitions are to be circulated and the volunteers in each are, Leclaire, Artie Westerholt and John Reid, Sr.; East Leclaire, George Fischer and Walter Westbrook; Mahler Heights, Clarence Herder and Ferdinand Hotuiz; Metcalf Place, Lee Geers and John Hofmeier.

Petitions also are to be circulated in other outlying territories.

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October 26, 1933  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Leclaire Cooperative Store Sold

## **OWNERS OF STORE WILL MAKE PROFIT**

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### **Stock They Purchased at Organization of Leclaire Store Up 200 Per Cent**

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Within another week or ten days nearly 100 stockholders of the Leclaire Cooperative Association will receive checks of approximately \$75 each in payment for their interest, following the recent sale of the business to Charles Mulach, Worden and his brother, Limer Mulach, Edwardsville. The two brothers have been in charge of the business during the past week.

The stockholders originally invested \$25 each in promotion of the business. Each holder was entitled to only one share. During the past 40 years the value has increased 200 per cent. The business was begun on a small scale and the increase in stock as expansions occurred resulted in the greater value.

The store was one of the cooperative ideas of N. O. Nelson, founder of N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company. At one time his cooperative plans were carried on along a large scale.

Persons who acquired stock in the store were permitted to make a complete payment or after payment of installment used their dividends to pay the amount due. The stockholders were allowed six per cent on their investment and they received dividends ranging from two to ten per cent on their purchases.

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Friday, March 9, 1934  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **REUBEN GLASS IS OUT FOR OFFICE**

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

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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 Fiengenbaum 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.

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Friday, April 13, 1934  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Leclaire School Referendum

## **EDITORIAL: School Election Tomorrow.**

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The Intelligencer invites the attention of every qualified voter in the Edwardsville school district to the school election tomorrow.

The president and two members of the Board of Education are to be elected. The retiring president, Jesse L. Simpson, and the retiring board members, Mrs. Geo. A. Hundlon and Frank Godfrey, are candidates for re-election. They have no opposition.

A substantial turn-out of voters, in spite of the fact that there is no opposition ticket in the field, would constitute a vote of confidence certain to be appreciated. It would say to the school officials that the voters take an interest in school affairs. It would inform them that their own rather extensive efforts on behalf of the schools, is appreciated and approved. It would be an encouragement in the future.

There is an added reason why voters should participate in the election this year. On the ballot will appear the proposal of taking over as school district property the Leclaire School, the grounds surrounding it and the campus across the street.

In connection with the annexation project approved early this year the N. O. Nelson Co. has generously offered to turn over the property for school purposes. The Nelson Company has agreed to turn over the property, conservatively valued at from \$12,000 to \$15,000 at present deflated prices, for the nominal sum of \$1,000, which will do little more than compensate the company for all the expense it has been put to incident to the transfer.

At the same time the Nelson company has offered to turn over to the city, without expense, the Leclaire Lake and park surrounding it. That matter is now before city officials, for study of the details, and is expected to be acted upon favorably by the city within the next few weeks.

Under existing school laws, it is necessary that the Board of Education obtain the approval of the voters before it can acquire the school property and campus. The question is to be submitted tomorrow.

There should be an unanimous vote in favor of the acquisition of the property. The Board of Education will never again, in all probability, be able to acquire such a valuable property at virtually no expense.

The suggestion has been made that the present Leclaire school building will be altered to form four rooms for the use of younger pupils living in that section of the city. They are now required to walk the long distance to the Columbus building, a real hardship in bad weather. The Columbus building is crowded. The time is not far distant when provisions for expansion must be made. Here is the opportunity to do it at nominal expense.

Two affirmative votes are needed to approve the proposal. A detailed explanation of how to vote and a specimen ballot appears elsewhere in this edition. It should be carefully studied.

It is to be hoped that a representative number of voters will turn out for the school election tomorrow; that they will give the retiring school officials a vote of confidence, and that they will authorize this valuable addition to the school property.

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Saturday, May 1, 1934  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
Fire at 1103 Troy Road

**HOME IS DAMAGED**

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## **W. L. DUCKLES RESIDENCE ON FIRE FRIDAY**

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### **Flames Cause Loss of at Least \$1500 on Troy Road**

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The home of W. L. Duckles, cashier of the Citizens State & Trust Bank, at 1103 Troy Road was threatened with complete loss by fire yesterday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock which caused a serious flame for a short time. The loss today had not been accurately computed but it may be as great as \$1500 or even higher. The electric wiring may have been the cause.

The Leclaire Volunteer fire department responded to a call but the fire had gained such headway that the fighters were unable to get it under control with the equipment. Another call was sent to the Edwardsville department and upon assurance that the customary fee would be paid the firemen responded.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Duckles after she was attracted by a number of unusual noises. She was in one of the second floor rooms, sewing at the time. Attracted by the noise from the attic she thought "Grandma" Duckles had gone there for something.

About the same time the telephone rang. She answered the call and had a short conversation with a friend. By that time the noise had increased and Mrs. Duckles started on an investigating tour. Opening a doorway into the attic she was confronted with flames and a cloud of smoke. Mrs. Duckles rushed to the telephone and began calling help.

The delay in making the discovery caused the flames to gain considerable headway. Water pressure was below normal. When the fire was extinguished nearly all of the roof had been burned away. Besides the loss from the blaze considerable damage was done by water. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

Members of the family will be at home with Attorney and Mrs. B. G. Waggoner for a few days.

Women took part in saving furniture. Several entered the residence and helped carry out articles.

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Friday, June 8, 1934

Edwardsville Intelligencer

Obituary: Virgil Henry Meikamp

### **Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meikamp Dies**

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Virgil Henry Edward Meikamp, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meikamp of this city, died at the home of his parents at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, following a nine years illness due to diabetes. Funeral services will be held from the parents home at 310 Jefferson Road at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon to the Trinity Lutheran Church at 2:30, Rev. E. W. Jahn, pastor, officiating. Interment will be made at Woodlawn.

The boy was born here November 6, 1923. He was baptized in the Trinity Lutheran Church and attended the Lutheran parochial school. Besides his parents, he leaves one sister,

Miss Irene Meikamp, one brother, Harold Meikamp and his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Meikamp, Sr. all of this city.

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July 16, 1934  
Edwardsville Intelligencer

## **CONTRACT AWARDED FOR SCHOOL WORK**

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### **Alton L. Logan to Have Building in Leclaire Ready by August 24**

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Bond of Alton L. Logan, Edwardsville contractor, was approved this afternoon by members of the board of education as the final step for him to begin work tomorrow morning on alterations at Leclaire School which will be reconditioned for use as a school for lower grade children. He has been awarded the general contract for work that will cost \$5,602.88. The contract does not include plumbing, heating and lighting which will cost approximately \$3000 more.

Under terms of the contract the work is to be finished on August 27 and the maximum number of men will be employed daily to speed up the changes. He has approximately 33 full days to complete the work.

An excavation will be made under the entire building to provide basement space and a new brick foundation will be constructed. The contract provides for a great deal of general work over the entire structure. When finished, the building will be suitable for school purposes for many years to come. Plastering and painting are provided in the contract.

Within a few days the building committee of the board will be ready to receive proposals for the three subcontracts that are to be awarded.

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