

FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE Newsletter



Dennis Brown, Charles Reiter, and Bill Hargrave brave the cold Jan. 14 to install new fence at Leclaire Lake.

Vol. 18 No. 1

P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

March 2008

LECLAIRE HISTORY PRESENTATION MARCH 4TH

“N. O. Nelson Beyond Leclaire”

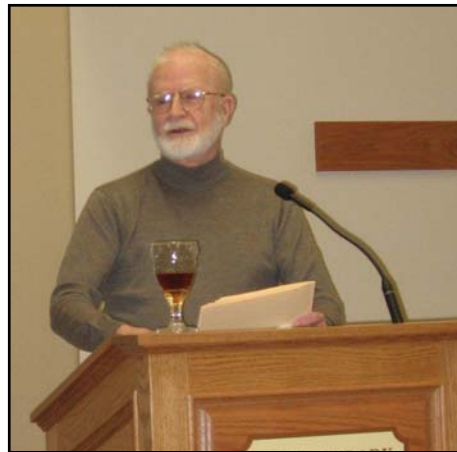
What really caused the grocery co-op Nelson founded in New Orleans to fail? What was his connection to American writer and reformer Upton Sinclair? What happened to the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company?

FOL founding member, Jim Fralinger, has been researching N. O. Nelson for many years, traveling to the places influenced by Nelson and studying the social and philosophical organizations of which Nelson was a member.

Join us at 7 PM on March 4th in the Leclaire Room of the Hoffman Center at the Nelson Campus in Leclaire to learn more about the founder of Leclaire.

CONCERTS IN LECLAIRE

Edwardsville Parks and Recreation scheduled a Winter Concert Series for the Leclaire Room at the Nelson Campus of LCCC. Fiddleback performed to a sold out audience on Friday, January 25th. A five piece ensemble from the St. Louis Symphony will play on February 29th. That concert has also sold out. The lesson learned is that if the series continues next year, purchase tickets early!



Jim Fralinger speaking on N.O.Nelson

LCCC HOSTS RECEPTION FOR HISTORIC GROUPS

The Nelson Campus of LCCC hosted a well attended reception on January 29th for local historic groups to welcome them to their newly renovated facility. After opening remarks by LCCC President Dale

Chapman and FOL President Mike Reinhardt, Jim Fralinger gave a brief talk about N. O. Nelson and the importance of education. This was followed by a presentation by horticulturalist Julie Conley unveiling plans for the Nelson Campus gardens.

FOL ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 11TH

Friends of Leclaire will hold our annual meeting and election of officers March 11th at 7 PM in room 224 building N3. Current officers are all willing to serve another year, but nominations for any of these positions will be accepted. We are in need of nominations for one trustee position which is currently vacant. The board consists of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three trustees. Please contact President Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294 with nominations or to express an interest in serving.

FOL APPROVES MATCHING FUNDS FOR GARDENS

Help Us Beautify Leclaire

At our February meeting, Friends of Leclaire approved matching funds up to \$500 for donations dedicated to the new Leclaire Garden Court. The Court at the N. O. Nelson Campus is part of the Gardens of Lewis and Clark Community College. It is a Signature Garden of the



Julie Conley, Lead Horticulturalist for LCCC

Missouri Botanical Garden. The gardens will be built and maintained with grants and donations from the community. They are all-organic gardens using no chemicals.

One of the features of the garden in Leclaire will be a commissioned sculpture by John Medwedeff funded by a state grant and matching in-kind gifts of the Olin Corporation. The sculpture will incorporate items manufactured by the N. O. Nelson Mfg Company. Other significant donations have been made by Hortica and by the Win-Nelson Company, the Ohio company that purchased what remained of the N. O. Nelson Company.

The Nelson Campus has been an incredible gift to our neighborhood, preserving our history, and increasing the aesthetic appeal as well as property values in the neighborhood. Please consider a contribution in any amount towards this matching grant appeal. To qualify for a recognition plaque in the garden with the Friends of Leclaire name, FOL would need to collect \$2500. The board has agreed to match the first \$500. We hope individuals and businesses will join us to reach that goal, but any donation for the garden will be appreciated.

If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, send a check payable to "The Lewis and Clark Foundation" with Friends of Leclaire noted on the memo line to: Friends of Leclaire, P. O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL 62025. We will present the checks to Julie Conley, lead horticulturalist for LCCC, on May 13th at our regularly scheduled Friends of Leclaire meeting.

LECLAIRE SHIRTS AVAILABLE

This time of year Leclaire merchandise is not offered at public venues, but it is available for sale. A new shirt design by Sherrie Hickman of Creative Options Graphic Design was produced this fall and proved

so popular that a second order was needed before Leclaire Parkfest. The new design features the N. O. Nelson Memorial Fountain, affectionately known as "Turkey boy". If you are interested in purchasing a Leclaire t-shirt or sweatshirt, contact Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294.



OSAGE ORANGE TREES TRIMMED

The line of osage orange trees (hedge apples) planted by the Nelson Manufacturing Company to separate the factory grounds from the residential area of Leclaire over 100 years ago were recently trimmed by horticulturalists from the Missouri Botanical Garden. Some residents expressed concern that they might be removed, but these historic plantings are a part of the master plan for the Leclaire gardens. The gardeners were merely giving the trees a much needed trim to extend their lives.



Lewis and Clark President Dale Chapman explains new technology lab to Historic group members.

HISTORIC TOURS OFFERED AT MAYFEST MAY 3-4

St. Andrews Episcopal Church will again offer building tours of their historic church during their Mayfest celebration on May 3-4. Built in 1917, the church has many original furnishings that were made in the Nelson factories of Leclaire, including the pews, altar, brass and marble candlesticks on the altar, a brass processional cross, and the original baptismal font. In addition to building tours the festival has music, craft vendors, a book sale, garden and plant sale, and an English tea. Call 656-1929 for information.

FOL LOSES GOOD FRIEND

Friends of Leclaire were saddened to learn of Marijke "Micky" Slattery's death on February 15, 2008. A member of the FOL Board of Directors since 2006, Mickey was generous with her time and talents. She often worked the FOL booth at the Goshen Market, assisted with gardening in Leclaire Park and hosted a needlework booth each year at Leclaire Parkfest.

Micky moved to Leclaire after she fell in love with a Leclaire home her sons purchased as an investment several years ago. After restoration work on the house, Micky immediately began working the earth around the house to create her garden. Neighbors had intended to nominate her for an EBTC Green Thumb award this spring.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AT EDWARDSVILLE

The Children's Museum on Holyoake Road in Leclaire has a great line-up of activities for Spring and Summer. Admission is still just \$3. For more information call 692-2094 or, visit their Web site at www.childrens-museum.net.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

Listed below are some of the volunteer opportunities for Friends of Leclaire members during the year. Please contact Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294 or friends@historic-leclaire.org if you are willing to help.

ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

June 13th 5 PM – 9 PM

June 14th Noon – 9 PM

Friends of Leclaire, along with other historic groups in Edwardsville, host an information table at the "History Tent" for the Route 66 Festival. Two people are needed to man the tables, usually in 2-3 hour "shifts".

GOSHEN MARKET

3rd Saturday of the month:

May – October 8 AM – Noon

Friends of Leclaire has a table at the Goshen Market once a month where we provide information about Leclaire and sell our Leclaire merchandise. Two people are needed to host the booth. If you are new to the organization, we can pair you with an experienced volunteer. Volunteers need to show up before the opening bell to help set up the booth and stay until the booth is down. Mike Reinhardt and Jim Milgrim will bring the tent, tables and other materials and assist with set-up and take down of the booth at the Goshen Market.

LECLAIRE PARK BAND CONCERT

The date is not yet set.

Volunteers will be needed to work the refreshment stand for the annual Leclaire Park Municipal Band Concert.

LECLAIRE GARDENERS

FOL will be planting annuals and replacing shrubs and bushes that did not survive last year's drought. Many of the flower beds in Leclaire were established by Friends of Leclaire. The Parks Department does a fantastic

job of maintaining Edwardsville Parks with a very small crew. They don't have the personnel to maintain these flowering beds...which we installed! So, please show your appreciation and volunteer to help with gardening at the park for an hour or two at a time, several times over the spring and summer. Don't have that much time? Just take a few minutes whenever you are at the park to pull a few weeds. It will ease the burden on our volunteer gardeners.

LECLAIRE PARKFEST

3rd Sunday in October; Noon – 5 PM

The call for Parkfest volunteers will go out later in the year, but it's always good to have it in the back of your mind. Assistance is needed before, during and after the festival. If you know people who have booths at local festivals or belong to a not-for-profit organization, Leclaire Parkfest may provide a good fundraising venue for them.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL

2nd Tuesday in December; 7 PM

Potluck/Open House

It's not too early to begin thinking about our holiday social in December. The party is held at a home in Leclaire. Hosts provide a place to meet, beverages and hospitality. Guests bring the food. The event is open to members of Friends of Leclaire only. Since it's during the busy holiday season, hosts can expect 20-25 guests (don't let the membership list scare you!). Please let us know if you would be willing to host the holiday social in 2008.

MEMORIAL OFFERED FOR FLOWERS

Kathy Krishnan has made a donation to Friends of Leclaire for flowers at Leclaire Park this spring in memory of her Aunt Margie.

Thank you, Kathy. We hope the colors of summer will bring back happy memories for you and your family.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL A SUCCESS

FOL offers a big "Thank you!" to Bob and Mary Blain for hosting one of the best attended holiday parties in recent years. All were anxious to see how their Leclaire home had fared following last year's devastating December fire that might have destroyed the house. All the damage has been repaired and the Blains, as expected, were excellent hosts.

*From the Edwardsville Intelligencer
September 15, 1899*

Leclaire to Have City Water

The Edwardsville Water Company started yesterday on a piece of work which involves more interests than any that has so far been evolved. The suburb, Leclaire, is to be connected with the water system of Edwardsville, and the change will be effected within a week. Workmen have started at the corner of Fillmore and Wolf streets digging the ditch in which will be laid the six-inch connecting pipe. Leclaire has at the present a system of waterworks supplied from a well and pond. Each house has water from it and there are a goodly number of street hydrants. The factories draw their supply from the same source. Pressure is maintained by several tanks elevated upon a tower. The change will be easily made. The system will be tapped by another supply pipe and pure filtered river water will flow through the pipes instead of pond water as heretofore. The present water tower at Leclaire will be allowed to stand, as a reserve in case anything should happen to the other supply.

*From the Edwardsville Intelligencer
August 15, 1931*

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

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.

2007-2008 FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE MEMBERS

Friends of Leclaire would like to thank our members for making it possible for us to promote the important history of Leclaire through publications like this newsletter. In addition to membership dollars, many also volunteer to work on behalf of the organization at Leclaire Parkfest, the Goshen Market, Route 66 Festival and other venues. Thanks also to those that spend their time and talents researching the history of the former Village of Leclaire, serve on the FOL Board, or assist with gardening in the neighborhood. No matter what your contribution, know that every dollar and every hour spent are greatly appreciated.

Interested in joining Friends of Leclaire? Renew your membership or join Friends of Leclaire for just \$10 per year by mailing a check to: Friends of Leclaire, P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Please include your name, telephone number, e-mail and street addresses. Send an e-mail to friends@historic-leclaire.org or call 656-1294 for additional information.

Arth, Eric
Beck, Brad and Krescene
Beck, Vincent and Emogene
Blain, Bob and Mary
Bottje, Elizabeth
Brockmeyer, Steve and Paula
Buford, Helen
Buford, Jill
Burden, Henry
Buscher, Eric
Carter, Jeanne and Ron
Carter, Valene and Timothy
Dean, Margaret
Densmore, Joan and Bill
Diebert, Alvin
Dezort, Edward
Evers, Joan
Foehrkolb, Jack and Janet
Fralinger, Jim
Gerdt, Betsy and Richard
Gerdt, Carol
Grandone, Jim
Grench, Edna
Hagerty, Erin and Matt
Hart, Donna
Harvey, John
Hess, William and Nancy

Hickman, Marc and Sherrie
Hopkins, Lucille
Hughes, Ken and Jean
Jacober, Diane and Tom
Jones, Delores
Jones, Pat
Joseph, Betty and H. George
Karraker, Sharon
Klenke, Reba
Kreeger, Jerry and Ann
Kriege, Donald
Krishnan, Kathy
Lambdin, Peggy
Lame, Joan and Charlie
Lane, Evelyn
Ludlow, Linda
MacDonald, Dolores
McCall, Jack and Ginger
McClinton, Rowena
Milgrim, James and Mary
Miller, Darrel
Moeckli, Martin and Paula
Moorman, G. Edward
Morrison, S. J.
Murbarger, Diane
Nealy, Larry and Katie
Nickrent, Bob and Ellen

Ostendorf, Diane and Mark
Pauli, Al and Kim
Penelton, Carl Wm and Patricia
Pierceall, Mike
Rader, Jacqueline
Reed, Laura and Scott
Reinhardt, Cindy and Mike
Rezabek, Richard and Alice
Rutherford, Matt and Jennifer
Schaefer, Lucille
Schuh, Oliver and Eleanor
Smith, Mike and Danielle
Springer, Karl and Pat Robinson
Steckling, Ronald
Stullken, Loretta
Tippit, Wesley
Towner, Robert and Mary
Trebing, Lou Ann
Twombly, John
Wagner, Judy
Weiler, Mark and Anne
Werner, Barbara J. and Eloise
White, Mark
Wolfe, Edna
Wolfford, Kim and George

Thanks, as always, to Cindy Reinhardt for copy for this newsletter. Visit our website at <http://historic-leclaire.org> Bob Blain, Editor