

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

October 1999



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Two Are Knighted

On Friday, August 28, 1999, at a private reception hosted by the Consul General of Belgium, **Robert Vandemeulebroucke**, **Celie Donohue** and **Bill Fisher** were presented with the Knight in the Order of Leopold II, a four-inch silver-plated medal.

Belgium's King Leopold II created the award in 1909. It is presented to Belgians and foreigners who have dedicated themselves to the advancement of Belgian culture or interests.

Celie Donohue has served as President of the Center for Belgian Culture, and as curator and archivist. She organized the gift counter and created memorial programs that raised thousands of dollars for the CBC. She also designs and maintains the center's window and interior displays.

The Bloemen van Vlaanderen was Celie's idea and was conceived in memory of her parents. For a donation of \$100 or more, a bronze plate in honor of a relative or friend will be placed on the Bloemen plaque.

Bill Fisher is an active member of the Friends Circle club and has worked tirelessly to increase membership and interest in Belgian history and traditions. Chief among his interests is the traditional Belgian game of rolle bolle. He has been a member of and held office in the Hand-in-Hand Bolders Club and the East End Bolders Club.

He was also instrumental in getting the rolle bolle courts built in Empire Park and also helped plan the diamond anniversary celebration of the United Bolders Clubs of Western Illinois.

Gift Counter News

We once again have rolle bolles for sale at a cost of \$85.00. There are only a few so get yours now. The Gift Counter will also be featuring the plush stuffed animals again the month of October. There is a coupon in this newsletter, use it and get the Spink for \$10.00 (regular price \$12.95) or the stuffed lion for \$12.00 (regularly \$16.95).

Thank You!

John Vrombaut has donated two old wooden rolle bolles to the Center. These were used by his grandfather, **John Vrombaut**, President of Note's band. **John and Gen Vrombaut** also donated two books to the CBC.

CENTER ACTIVITIES

September Waffle Report

Gene Fowler was in charge of the September waffle breakfast. Willing helpers were Maurine Schweitzer, Gene Donohue, John Vrombaut, Georgia Slininger, Louis Slininger, Glenn Collier, Dorene Mummert, Marian Knock, Dave Loete, Darcy Loete, Stephanie Loete, and Lucy DeWalsche. It was a beautiful sunny day and receipts were \$517.00. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Western League Championship Rolle Bolle Tournament

The Center's rolle bolle team, consisting of Gerry Verstraete, Art Borgonjon, and Clyde Minnaert, finished in 7th place at the Western League championships. First place went to Geneseo Moose, 2nd to the Friends Circle, 3rd-Hand-in-Hand, 4th-Atkinson, 5th-Kewanee, 6th-Belgium Village Inn, 7th - Center For Belgian Culture, 8th-East End, 9th-Annawan, 10th-Mineral and 11th place to Manlius. Mark Beirman, John Acke, and Bob VanDeVoorde also balled for the Center throughout the year.

CARD PARTY



YOU'LL HAVE A GHOSTLY GOOD TIME AT THIS YEAR'S CARD PARTY. IT WILL BE HELD SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 24. RESERVATION FORMS WERE IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CENTER. THE COST IS JUST \$3.00 PER PERSON. RAFFLE TICKETS ARE 50 CENTS EACH OR THREE FOR A DOLLAR AND CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE CENTER. RAFFLE PRIZES THIS YEAR ARE AN ISABEL BLOOM, A \$25.00 MONEY TREE, AND A GINGERBREAD PLAQUE. THERE WILL ALSO BE TABLE PRIZES, TABLE FAVORS, AND DOOR PRIZES! CALL LYNNE COLLIER, 797-8164 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE DOOR PRIZES OR DESSERT. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY CARDS, BRING A TABLE GAME AND JOIN IN ON THE FUN!

Center Visitors

Recent visitors to the Center included Don and Katy Goethals, Bloomington, Minnesota. Don's father owned the store where the CBC is located. It was fun reminiscing with him about the store where many of us bought our school shoes when we were little. We also received a nice Thank You card from The Kansas City Belgian-American Club who visited our center last month.

The city of Moline is meeting with Olde Towne merchants to plan for the future. Bill Hannan is designing a new logo for the area. The board of the CBC has voted to donate \$100 to the cost of this design.



KLEINE WINKEL COUPON

Good For:

Spink - \$10.00

Lion - \$12.00

Expires 10/31/99



Margaret (Schelstreate) Horton and **Eugene Horton** will celebrate 64 years of marriage on October 19, 1999. They will have a small family celebration with daughters Patricia of St. Cloud, Minn, and Kathryn, of Sunrise Beach, Missouri. Their daughters have blessed Peg and Gene with 12 grandchildren and 26 (soon to be 28) great grandchildren. The Lord has been most kind with everyone; healthy, they all have their own homes, and go to church. Peg and Gene have passed the 85 year mark, and are still active.



Deaths of Members and Family Members

Jerry Cox, 50, Moline, died Wednesday, August 25, 1999 at home. He was born November 13, 1948, in Moline, the son of J.W. and Clara Hicks Cox. Survivors include his mother, Clara VanDeVeire, Moline; sister, Linda VanDeVeire, Seattle, Wash.; and a stepdaughter, Sarah Efflandt, Minneapolis Minn.

Deaths in the Belgian Community

Jennie White, 79, East Moline, died Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1999 in Rock Island. She was born November 6, 1919 in East Moline, the daughter of Adiel and Irma (Wyckhuys) Brackeveld. She married Harry White in 1940, in East Moline. He died in 1995. Survivors (and spouses) include daughters, Carole Schneider, Tucson, Ariz., Judith Ann (Gary) Watts, Los Angeles, Calif.; sons, Paul (Jennifer Taylor) White, San Francisco, Calif., and Larry White, Dallas, Texas; grandchildren, Adam White, Amanda White, Diana Cullinan, Laura Meyer, and Matthew Schneider; a great-grandson, Riley Cullinan; and a sister, Alice (Maurice) Kerckhove, Moline.

Bertha Mortier, 84, Geneseo, died September 7, 1999 in Moline. She was born Oct. 27, 1914, in Rock Island, the daughter of Alfons and Jeanette VanDerHyden Noens. She married Benjamin Mortier in 1939. He died in 1977. Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and John Betcher, Bettendorf; a son, James Mortier, Geneseo; grandchildren, Jeff and Cheryl Betcher, and Carrie Newlund; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Ceserine DePaepe, Rock Island.

Clem 'Clay' Van Acker, 87, Moline, died Thursday, September 9, 1999, at his home. Mr. Van Acker was born Oct. 22, 1911, in Victor, Iowa, the son of Joseph and Emma Van Erstvelde Van Acker. He married Marie Friedrich in 1935, in Rock Island. Survivors (and spouses) include his wife, Marie; daughters, Barbara Doerr (Jerry), Green Valley, Ariz., Susan Van Acker, San Diego, Calif., and Connie Langston (Terry), Rock Island; a brother, Frank Van Acker (Rose Marie), Moline; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Estelle VanderBeke DeJaegher, 87, Silvis, died Tuesday, August 31, 1999 in Silvis. Estelle VanderBeke was born June 14, 1912, in East Moline, to Adolph and Phrildia (VanDeVelde) VanderBeke. She married Joseph DeJaegher in 1941. He died in 1977. Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law, Silvia and Dale Gillan and Donna and Jerry Clark, all of East Moline; sons and daughters-in-law, Jack and Barbara Stacey, Rapids City, Edward Stacey, Silvis, and Joseph and Debbie DeJaegher, East Moline; 19 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and three great great grandchildren.

Belgian Born Deaths

Irma Desseyn, 99, East Moline died Sunday Sept. 12, 1999 in Silvis. She was born October 9, 1899 in Tielt, Belgium, the daughter of Theophilus and Marie Verheist DeFauw. She married Remi Desseyn in 1923 in Tielt. He died in 1967. Survivors include a daughter, Lizette Desseyn, East Moline; a son and his fiancée, Lawrence Desseyn and Patty Kloster, Davenport; a son and daughter-in-law, Maurice and Dolores Desseyn, Wirtz, Va.; 12 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; a few great-great-grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Maria and Albert Gordier, Tielt; and special nieces Liliane and Marleen, both in Belgium.

Louise Claeys, 97, East Moline died Wednesday, August 30, 1999 in Silvis. Louise Marie Baecke was born May 26, 1902, in Ronse, Belgium, to Octaaf R. and Marie (Norga) Baecke. The family came to the United States in 1909, to Hazel Green, Wis., then to East Moline in 1919. She married Louis Claeys in 1928 in East Moline. He died in 1953. Survivors include daughters, Donna Marie Meyer, Pewaukee, Wis., and Mary Louise Bennett, East Moline; grandchildren Christina Schwarz, Santa Monica, Calif., Eliza Audley, Laguna Beach Calif., Dr. Nicholas Meyer, Cincinnati, Darren Bennett, Blue Springs, Mo., Anisa Bennett, East Moline, and Keir Bennett, Moline; and six great-grandchildren.



Center News

Bulk Mail Volunteer Needed

One or two people are needed to learn the process of mailing our newsletters. These are sent by bulk mail and there is a certain process to be learned. Changes have been made in the last few years so if you have done this before and are willing to help again, we will instruct you on the proper procedure. Call Al Loete, 762-9146 if you can help.

Lace Makers

The lace makers will be at the center Saturday afternoon, November 6. Come watch them work their magic. The lace makers have been busy these past few months demonstrating their craft at local events.

“A Time We Remember”

The Center now has a limited supply of the new Bill Wundrum book “A Time We Remember”. These books are on sale at the gift counter for \$34.95 and showcase the wonderful history of the Quad Cities, including our Belgian heritage on 7th Street.

Books Being Donated

As a service project, The Center for Belgian Culture is donating several “Dog of Flanders” books to Seton School.

News from the Past – Gazette von Detroit

28 February 1975 -

Many Belgians on Moline Fire Department



It is interesting to note the number of Belgians serving their city as Moline firemen. The Fire chief is A.J. Claerhout and the two assistant chiefs are John Acke and Lyle Vroman recently appointed. Robert Irwin, Leo Hugger, Maurice VanZuyt, James VanEarwege, Robert Coopman and Richard Mahieu are Engineers; Eugene Hugaert is Platoon Captain; Roger De Backer and Richard Lesage are firefighters; John VanOteghem is Lieutenant; Vernon Ryckeghem is Captain.



The Belgian Waffle Story (Fable)

An ancient legend tells of a great Belgian King whose love for fine food was exceeded only by his adoration of his beautiful daughter. All the kings of Europe and all the Eastern potentates pleaded for her hand, bringing gifts of dazzling jewels and worldly treasures to help press their courtship. But the King of Belgium could not bring himself to give the lovely princess to any man.

Then one day, a Belgian chef appeared at court and presented the king with a fantastic new delicacy, which he called a Belgian Waffle! Crispy golden outside, fluffy, buttery and delicate inside... it was quite the most delectable pastry his Royal Highness had ever tasted.

The King offered the stranger dazzling jewels and worldly treasures in return for the secret recipe of his incredible Belgian Waffle. But to no avail. The chef would reveal nothing until the king finally offered him the princess' hand in marriage.

And that is how Belgian Waffle turned a chef into a prince and gave the whole world a dish fit for a king!

Did You Know???

From space astronauts can make out just two landmarks on earth, The Great Wall of China, and Belgium. The illuminated network of Belgium's motorways – a tangle of luminous threads – has been known for years at Nasa as "The Belgian Window".

According to research conducted in 20 European capitals and 9 North American cities, Brussels had the lowest homicide rate. Between 1995 and 1997, the Belgian capital had only four murders per million inhabitants, compared with 77 for Amsterdam, 181 for Moscow and 693 for Washington, DC.

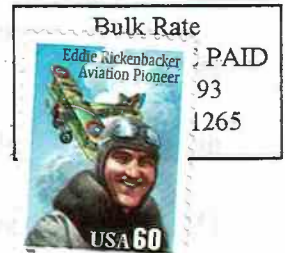
One player's mother was trying to cheer up the Little League coach after his team's disastrous season. "At least you've taught the boys sportsmanship," she comforted. "They're certainly good losers." "Good?" howled the miserable coach. "Lady, they're perfect!"

Dates to Remember

The Center for Belgian Culture is open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 1 - 4. It is staffed by volunteers. We thank the following, who are serving in October:

- Saturday, October 2 **WAFFLE BREAKFAST** Hosted by **Maxine Lambrecht & Family**
Celie Donohue, Morning Gift Counter
Evelyn & Al VanPuyvelde, Host Couple and Gift Counter
- Wednesday, October 6 **Dorene Mummert**, Hostess; **Gen Vrombaut**, Gift Counter
- Saturday, October 9 **Mary Rose DeCoster**, Hostess; **Marion Knock**, Gift Counter
- Tuesday, October 12 **Board Meeting 7pm at the Center**
- Wednesday, October 13 **Joann Loete**, Hostess and Gift Counter
- Saturday, October 16 **Maurine Schweitzer**, Hostess; **Lynne Collier**, Gift Counter
- Wednesday, October 20 **Georgia & Louis Slininger**, Host Couple and Gift Counter
- Thursday, October 21 **Belgian Roots Workshop 7pm at the Center**
- Saturday, October 23 **Georgann Benson**, Hostess; **Mary Rose DeCoster**, Gift Counter
- Wednesday, October 27 **Bob Hendrickx & Lucy DeWalsche**, Host and Hostess & Gift Counter
- Saturday, October 30 **Celie and Gene Donohue**, Host Couple & Gift Counter

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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**AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

