

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE



Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

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June 2001

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Gene Fowler & Lady Celie Donohue

in memory of

Cecil and Rose (VandenBossche) Fowler



Julien Vercoutere, Moline, was honored May 6 at an open buffet dinner at O'Melia's Supper Club, Rock Island, in observance of his 90th birthday.

Julien was born May 1, 1911, in Wingene, West Flanders, Belgium. He married Germaine VerHelst on Aug. 19, 1939 in Moline. She is deceased. He is the father of John Vercoutere, St. Charles, MO and

Jane Vershaw, Moline. There are three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Julien was employed for 50 years by Servus Rubber Co., Rock Island, retiring in June of 1978.

Kleine Winkel

Father's Day is fast approaching, so why not visit the Kleine Winkel for some unique gift ideas, such as: picks, pickboard sets, Manneken Pis wine bottle openers, Belgian golf balls, Belgian cookout aprons, "Being Belgian is Beautiful" bumper stickers, as well as a variety of tee shirts that any Dad or Grandpa would be proud to wear!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- June 2** *Waffle Breakfast* 8:00 a.m. – noon
- June 4** *Board Retreat at the Center* 5:30 p.m.
- June 26** *Annual Dinner/meeting/auction* Drop off items for the auction at the Center any time..

In lieu of a golf outing, a possible day trip is being planned for some time this summer. Details to be announced later.

Center's Activities

-Waffle Breakfast-

1st Sat. of each month (except Jan.)

8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Open: Wed. & Sat.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Additions to Unesco World Heritage list

In December 2000, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization added sixty-one sites to its list of cultural properties "of outstanding universal value." Among the additions were the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai, the historic center of Brugge, four major town houses designed by Victor Horta in Brussels and the Neolithic flint mines at Spiennes, in Mons. The four new sites bring to eight the number of protected monuments and sites in Belgium. Already on UNESCO's list were the Flemish *beguinages*, the lifts on the Canal du Centre and the Grand Place in Brussels, all of which were added in 1998, and the belfries of Flanders and Wallonia, selected in 1999. The "world heritage site" label implies responsibilities for the administrators of the sites and for the countries in which they are located. The common goal is, of course, their preservation for future generations.

For Your Information

Q. Is Flemish a separate language or is it a dialect of French?

A. It is another language. Flemish is the historic language of Flanders, an area consisting of the northern part of Belgium as well as parts of the Netherlands and France. One of the official languages of Belgium (spoken by more than half the residents), Flemish has some words in common with French. Flemish is the common name of Dutch as spoken and written in Belgium. Think of the variations between British English and American English and you understand the relationship between Dutch as spoken in the Netherlands vs. Belgium.

A Random Choice of Facts and Figures about Belgium

10 Nobel Prizes - 1609 hours of sunlight per year - 1830: Independence - 160 Embassies and nearly 1500 diplomats in Brussels - 213 days of rain per year - Antwerp, second largest port of Europe - Waterzooi (fish or chicken cream dish) - 1920: Olympic Games in Antwerp - Herve cheese - 1958: World Exhibition - 1994: Eurostar train links Brussels to London through Channel Tunnel - 4900 liters of milk per cow per year.



Seann O'Rourke, grandson of member, Richard Dierickx, will marry Angela-Dyan Hook on June 2 at St. Malachy's Catholic Church in Geneseo. Seann is a great nephew of the late Bishop O'Rourke.

Have you checked out the web page yet? More will be added as time goes on. Just click on www.belgeanmuseumquadcities.org to see what is there so far.

Thank you to Mary Lorensen & Therese St. Legier for their donations of a silver dish of the SS Belgenland, Vlamingen 1872-1972, Vlamingen 1840-1976, Stereoptic cards of Belgium and Postcards of Belgian Royalty and of St. Anthony's, Atkinson. All donations to the Center are appreciated.

The June schedule for gift counter and host/hostess volunteers is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday, June 2	Celie & Gene Donohue (a.m.)	Barb & Pat Van Nevel (p.m.)
Wednesday, June 6	Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, June 9	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, June 13	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara VandeViere
Saturday, June 16	Marian Knock	Mary Rose DeCoster
Wednesday, June 20	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, June 23	Kay Verstraete	Gabe Verstraete
Wednesday, June 27	Lucy DeWaelche	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, June 30	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger

Volunteers: Don't forget to enter your hours into the volunteer folder by the phone. Thank you.

In Memoriam



Alice (Veys) VanDamme, 103, died May 5, 2001. Alice Peers was born 11/23/1897 in Ghent, Belgium. She married Frank Veys in 1919 in Belgium. He died July 7, 1950. She later married Frank Van Damme in East Moline. He died in 1983. Alice had worked in a lace factory in Belgium before moving to the United States. Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Anne and Robert Knobloch, East Moline and Mary Jane and Jacob "Jack" Buckley, Carbon Cliff, 16 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren. Her husbands, a daughter and a granddaughter preceded her in death. Two of her granddaughters make Belgian lace, Kathy Knobloch and Joan Antao.

Elsie Francque Bassier, 89 passed away March 24, 2001 in Geneseo, IL. She was born Feb. 22, 1912 in Geneseo and married Frank Bassier in 1941. He died in 1998. She is survived by two daughters & sons-in-law, Rose Ann and Tom Weber, Coal Valley and Rita and Tom Leslie, Orion and a son, Richard and Cindy Bassier, Geneseo, 14 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, a sister Alma Wyffels, Geneseo and a brother Albert and Margaret Francque of Geneseo. She was a very dear cousin of Stan and Bev Francque.



Pictured are: Werner Gonnissen, Patrick VanNevel, Evelyn and Al VanPuyvelde, Charley Wren, Gene Donohue, as St. Nicholas, and Mary and Marvin Brunning.

The International Festival at Black Hawk College, April 21, 2001 was well attended, by over 1,000 people and represented very well, by the Center for Belgian Culture. The Center had a room with four

tables. In back of the tables were all of the Belgian flags from the nine provinces, the Belgian and American flags. Two tables contained items for sale and brochures. The Center table displayed Art Holvevet's Belgian cookie tins and an original painting of Belgium by Adolph DeKeyrel. The fourth table held displays of lace on the cushions. Kathy Knobloch and Betty Freeman, dressed in costume, demonstrated the art of bobbin lace making. Standing at the door, dressed in the young workers costume, was Charley Wren, 11, grandson of Celie & Gene Donohue. He passed out flyers with information about the Center. Art, Celie and Gene sold merchandise and answered questions. Patrick VanNevel was also in costume and was interviewed by the college. Modeling in the fashion show were Charley Wren, Gene Donohue as St. Nicholas, Marvin and Mary Brunning as the Belgian Butcher and wife. Mary carried poppies. Evelyn and Al VanPuyvelde, were Belgian dancers. They wore wooden shoes. The music was quite peppy and everyone enjoyed our representatives. This was the 7th year for the festival. Countries represented were U.S.A. India, Benin, Peru, Togo, China, Senegal, Spain, Russia, Belgium, Laos, Sweden, Uzbekistan, Ecuador, Nepal, Philippines, Mexico, Malaysia, American Indian, Japan, Denmark, Africa, Puerto Rico, Argentina Ecuador, France, Korea, Peru, Uruguay, Vietnam and Bosnia. Many of the countries served tasty foods and all were in colorful costumes. There were a variety of ages participating. the youngest, a little girl of three from Russia. She has only been in this country for six months. A big thank you to all; Art, Evelyn, Al, Marvin, Mary, Charley, Gene, Patrick, Kathy, Betty for your time, energy, talent in making the Belgians shine at this event. Thank you for your **200%** cooperation. Thank you to Helen Foote for helping with the set up.

Submitted by Celie Donohue, Chairperson



Pictured are Bonnie Newman and Lenore Knock as they appeared in the Dispatch, advertising our Gourmet Belgian Dinner, held at the Rock Island Arsenal, May 11. Forty-two people attended the event, including special guests, the Belgian Consul General, Dirk Loncke and Luc Fabry from the Belgian Foreign Investment Office. Although the entrees were not prepared exactly as in the recipes supplied by the Center, on the whole, it was a very enjoyable evening.

Lorensen sets retirement date



After serving a long career in politics, both in and out of the classroom, Professor Lawrence Lorensen of the Quad City campus will retire after this school year. Professor Lorensen, of the Department of Social and Behavioral Studies, began his career at BHC in 1966. His own education included his B.A. in Political Science from St. Ambrose University in 1959, followed by his masters' in Government from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. in 1964. Aside from a very busy schedule at Black Hawk, Professor Lorensen has also had a very active life in the community. He has previously served as Moline alderman from 1969-1977, followed by one term as Mayor from 1977-1981. Professor Lorensen described his most rewarding experience as "having students not only understand, but apply the material covered in the courses." Lorensen plans some traveling after his June 1 retirement, but most of all he will enjoy it by "keeping my options open".

The May Waffle Breakfast at the Center took place May 5. Gene Fowler had to be out of town and is very appreciative of all who stepped in to help out. These people included Mary Mortier, Marian Knock, Kim Kochuyt, Bob Hendrickx, who thought he was just coming in for waffles, but pitched in to help, as did Marv and Mary Brunning and Grace Verpaele and Micky Kindhart. Art Holevoet, Pat and Barb VanNevel also helped when they came in. Apologies to anyone that may have been left out.

A Special Waffle Serving for Sacred Heart Church, Moline, was held April 29 in Culeman Hall from 7:00 a.m. until after the 11:00 o'clock Mass. Workers included: Gene Fowler, Mary and Marv Brunning, Micky and Ken Kindhart and Evelyn and Al Van Puyvelde. Lucy DeWaelche and Bob Hendricks made four batches of waffle mix ahead of time and two more batches were prepared at the site by Al VanPuyvelde.

Belgian diamonds and jewelry: a bright future

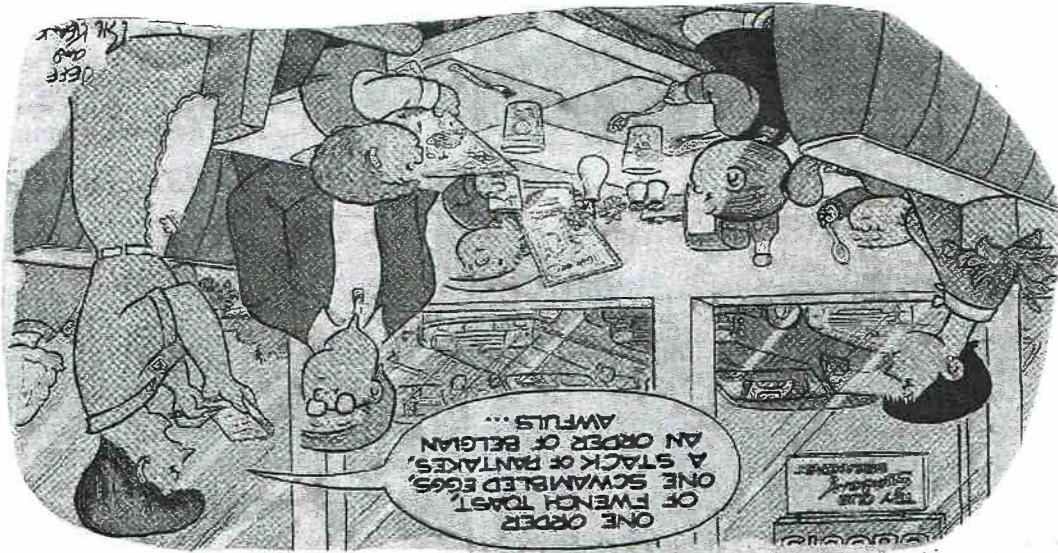
The diamond industry is highly significant for Belgium: 9 out of every 10 rough diamonds in the world are traded and distributed in Antwerp, over fifty per cent of all diamonds that are cut go through Antwerp. In 1999, the Belgian diamond industry generated a turnover of USD 23.7 billion. It represents nearly 7% of Belgium's exports and offers direct and indirect employment to approximately 30,000 people. Moreover, the marketing potential of the exclusive "Belgian diamond"- image amply contributes to the worldwide promotion of other Belgian quality products.

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