



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



March, 2012

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
March 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
March 12th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 7th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
April 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 9th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 24th	Volunteer Dinner	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

Schedule for Volunteers

The March schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Sat., March 3rd	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Maurine Schweitzer Al Hoyt
Wed., March 7th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., March 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., March 14th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., March 17th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., March 21st	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., March 24th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., March 28th	Lois DeCoster	Fred DeCoster

*Contact Margaret Wadsworth (786-5791) as soon as possible
if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.*

Please Check Ahead

Winter weather has finally arrived. During these winter months, please check ahead before visiting the CBC. We want everyone – visitors and volunteers – to be safe.



Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

News of the Membership

Thank You to the **Joe DeMeyer** family for donating three pigeon trophies won in 1958 by E. Janssens; all who have donated memorial cards (a big help for our genealogist and others looking for family information) and to **Dolores Bultinck** for keeping all the cards in order.

Sympathy is offered to the families of: **Wilbur Bender**, 90, of Port Byron, who died January 22nd (he was a past president of the CBC and had been knighted by the Belgian government); and **Agnès Molinelli**, 90, of Rock Island, who died February 8th.

See Food in Belgium

As part of its website www.visitbelgium.com, the Belgian Tourist Office has posted two episodes of the PBS program *Mike Colameco's Real Foods* on the Belgian Bites corner of the website. Just visit the "videos" section of Belgian Bites to view the two 30-minute episodes (they are in English).

If you would like the new Belgian gastronomy brochure, send a request with your mailing address to katie@visitbelgium.com.

First World War Commemoration

Plans were recently unveiled for the new Memorial Park in West Flanders to commemorate the centenary of World War One.

The Memorial Park will join 40 battlefield sites – currently isolated from each other – together in a network telling the story of the war through the landscape of the area in West Flanders, where most of the fighting took place. Five sites are already the subject of detailed design plans: the area around the mouth of the Ijzer in Nieuwpoort; the network of sites between the Ijzerdijk and the Frontzate footpath in Diksmuide; the site of the Third Battle of Ypres; the road to Passchendaele in Zonnebeke; and the Ypres Salient around Ypres and the Wijtschate Salient in the Heuvelland region.

"Few European landscapes are so intimately connected to their history as the area of the battlefield in 1914 to 1918," stated Flemish heritage minister Geert Bourgeois. "There are relics of the war, like bunkers and craters, and places created especially to commemorate the war and war dead such as cemeteries, monuments, museums and tourist routes. The former war front is a landscape of remembrance." The minister stressed that the intention is not to turn the area into a First World War theme park.

(From Flanders Today)



March Waffle Volunteers

Volunteer cooks and servers for the March waffle breakfast will be Millie Kale, Jane Vershaw, Kevin DeRoo, Jeff DeRoo, Angie Jenner, and Sage Robinson. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter and brew the coffee, Joan DeCap and Marion Knock will take your money, and Theresa Bailey will fill in for the Catherine VanHecke to make sure everyone has a good time.

Mystery Solved . . . *maybe*

Last month, I asked if anyone had information on the letters R.I.B. that appeared above the door of the former tavern at 18th Avenue and 10th Street in Moline. I didn't get any responses, but this is what was discovered and surmised earlier.



One of the first recorded businesses at that address had been a "fancy goods and notions" store in the late 1890s. From the early 1900s on, the address had been the site of a tavern. During Prohibition, city directories noted it a soft drink parlor. But what about those letters?

The answer may go back as far as the Huber Brewing Co. of Rock Island. Huber was a giant name in local and regional brewing. Beginning in 1854, Huber crafted a fine lager beer. In 1893, Huber changed its name to the Rock Island Brewing Co. While its brewery was at 30th Street and 7th Avenue in Rock Island, it had a "company" saloon in the west end of that city. A company outlet was common practice among many breweries of the day. Marketing is NOT a new idea.

A nephew of Bill VanKerrebroeck, Tom VanDeVelde, told me that the VanKerrebroeck family had been associated with that tavern on Moline's 10th Street from the early 1920s to 1965. Tom also stated that his mother thought the initials stood for Rock Island Brewing. And this makes perfect sense. The brewery may have wanted a dedicated Moline outlet to serve only its beers, and when that building was built, the brewery put up a large chunk of the money. It is known that no person with those initials ever owned the building, so the brewery angle seems logical.

Why there? This was where the trolley line entered the Belgian neighborhood from the east. Workers riding the trolley from the downtown factories could stop there for a beer before venturing home for the evening.

No matter the origin of the building, it served as a gathering place for many Olde Towne Belgians for many, many years. It even had rolle bolle courts in the back. So while not a definitive answer, it's probably the closest to being correct.



Owner Bill VanKerrebroeck is shown with the visiting Budweiser Clydesdales in the mid-1950s. The tavern's rolle bolle courts are behind those billboards.



The rolle bolle courts behind the billboards at Bill's Corner Tap.

Conviction Overturned

The "muffin man" of Ghent, who received a suspended sentence of six months for taking two bags of muffins from a garbage bin outside a supermarket, has had his conviction overturned. The court ruled that Steven DeGeynst had a long-standing agreement with the shop allowing him to take food from the bin, and that there was no question of theft. Three cheers for justice.

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What's in a Name

Emma was the most popular name for girls in Flanders last year, for the fourth year in a row. For boys, the favorite was Lucas. Rounding out the top five for girls were the names Julie, Lotte, Marie, and Elise. For boys, Lucas was followed by Liam, Lars, Leon, and Daan.

(Thanks to Flanders Today)

Belgian Bluff

The nomination of the Belgian Bluff as a National Register Historic District will be filed at the end of March. Historic preservation specialist Rebecca Gall has been diligently working on this process. We urge anyone who has older photographs of homes of typical Belgian architecture, or business district buildings (especially pigeon coops), to please contact Rebecca at (309) 524-2053 or email rgall@moline.il.us as soon as possible. These can only enhance the nomination.

Flying to Belgium Made Easier

Brussels Airlines has announced that it will begin direct flights between New York and Brussels in June of this year. One flight per day will be made each way, leaving Brussels at 10:20 a.m. and departing New York at 5:15 p.m.

Updated cabins are featured on the airline's Airbus A330 planes. In business class, new 3-position seating (upright, lounging, and lay flat for sleeping) and an upgraded entertainment system is featured. Economy class also features revised seating, more legroom, and an upgraded entertainment system.

Brussels Airlines is owned by Lufthansa and is a member of the Star Alliance. For prices, reservations, and more information, go to www.brusselsairlines.com.

