



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



February, 2013

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
February 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
February 11th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
March 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
March 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
March 11th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The February schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., Feb. 2nd	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Maurine Schweitzer (p.m.)
Wed., Feb. 6th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., Feb. 9th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., Feb. 13th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Sat., Feb. 16th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Feb. 20th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Feb. 23rd	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Feb. 27th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin

Contact Mary Gardner-Karcher at (563) 508-0886 or
mcgkarcher@mchsi.com as soon as possible
if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.

Please Check Ahead

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

Get Well wishes are offered to **Paul Holevoet, Fr. Jim DeBisschop,** and **Msgr. Dale Wellman,** and hope they have a speedy recovery.

Christmas Party Recap

The Center's Christmas party was held at O'Melia's Restaurant in Rock Island on December 5th. In addition to the social hour and dinner, the Black Hawk College Chamber Singers provided some seasonal entertainment.

Winners of the party raffle were: Maurine Schweitzer, Kevin DeRoo, Barb Michalek, Dale Andrae, and Mary Chappelle.

By all accounts, the party was enjoyed by everyone and was a great way to start the holiday party season.



Karen VandeKerckhove was ready to serve cake



Jim Wells and Marilyn Oliver enjoying the social hour

February Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for the February waffle breakfast will be Millie Kale, Gary Francque, Bill and Margaret Wadsworth, Angie and Sage Jennings, Kris VanHecke, and Gene Donohue. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Theresa Bailey will make sure everything runs smoothly.

CBC Scholarships

By the time you read this, applications for a CBC Scholarship have been sent to all area high schools and are available at the Center. Applications for the Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship, which is awarded to a student who has completed two years of college and is continuing his/her education, are also available at the Center. Deadline for returning the applications is April 14th.

Oh-Oh

Antwerp prosecutors are looking into the sale of nearly 600 fake diamonds that were sold as genuine. The synthetic stones were said to be of such high quality that even experienced traders could not spot the difference, even under a microscope. The International Gemological Institute warned labs worldwide that the fake stones could undermine confidence in the entire diamond industry.

From *Flanders Today*

One of the Best

Belgium placed 15th out of 80 in a list of the best countries in which to live. The findings were compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit, and scored the countries on criteria of health, work, welfare, and safety. Switzerland was determined to be the top country.

Brussels is the 22nd best city in the world to live, according to the annual survey of 221 cities by outsourcing consultants Mercer. The survey, which helps international companies in posting executives, gives points for international schools, living space, and recreational amenities. The best city on the list was Vienna, and the worst was Baghdad.

Thanks to *Flanders Today*

Two Belgians and an Airport

The Quad City International Airport at Moline owes much of its history to two Belgians: Gustaf DeSchepper and Fr. J.B. Culemans.

Gustaf DeSchepper was born in Belgium in 1876 and came to Moline with his parents when he was five years old. In 1901, he and Richard Streed started Streed and Scheppers, a commercial tire and bicycle business in downtown Moline.

When DeSchepper took an airplane ride in 1919, he caught the aviation bug. He took flying lessons at Wallace Field in Bettendorf, Iowa, and became the first Moline citizen to be awarded a private pilot's license.

Together with two other Moline pilots and his flying instructor, DeSchepper leased farmland in early 1922 to establish an airport at Moline's 53rd Street and 23rd Avenue. But the men would soon discover that the developing city would eventually crowd out the airfield and make flying unsafe at this location. Later that year, the group headed south of Moline to a spot that had served as a waypoint for cross-country flights by the Army Air Corps. There they leased 30 acres of the Franing farm for their airport and it became known as Franing Field.

At about this same time, one of the original group of aviators left for a job in Washington, D.C. and was replaced by veteran pilot Earl Campbell. Campbell would manage the airport, and together with DeSchepper, formed the Campbell-DeSchepper Airplane Company to sell and service airplanes and give flying lessons.

Fr. John Culemans, born near Hever, Belgium, arrived in Moline in 1906 to establish a new parish to serve the Belgian emigrant community. It was at Sacred Heart Church, that Fr. Culemans became acquainted with Gus DeSchepper. After taking an airplane ride with DeSchepper, Fr. Culemans also caught the aviation bug. Culemans would travel with local pilots to meetings and airplanes shows and then write enthusiastic accounts of those trips for the Moline *Daily Dispatch*. He would later take flying lessons and earn his private pilot's license.



Gustaf DeSchepper

During 1926, Fr. Culemans was appointed chairman of the Moline Association of Commerce aviation committee to lobby the U.S. Post Office for a stop on the new Chicago-to-Dallas airmail route. Gus DeSchepper and Earl Campbell were members of that committee. The Post Office awarded the stop to Moline in May 1926.

Fr. Culemans would continue to write about the merits of aviation and the benefits of having an airport at Moline. He became the prime mover for the city's purchase of Franing Field, which finally occurred in 1935.

Gus DeSchepper retired from both the airport and Streed and Scheppers in 1931 and moved to California. He died in Long Beach in 1963, but his remains were brought back to Moline for burial at Riverside Cemetery.

Fr. Culemans continued flying until his health forced him to give up his hobby around 1940. Culemans died in 1943.

Since those earlier times, the airport continued to grow and develop and is today ranked as the third largest airport for passenger traffic in the state of Illinois.

Whether it was known as Franing Field, Moline Airport, Quad City Airport, or as it is now, the Quad City International Airport, its existence and development was in great part due to two Belgians who adopted Moline as their home, and aviation as their hobby.

Further history of Moline's airport can be found in Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America: Quad City International Airport*, available through local or on-line booksellers.



Rev. J.B. Culemans

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What to Do With Your Christmas Money

Did Santa leave something “green” in your Christmas stocking? Would you like an idea of how to spend it? To be truthful, it will take a LOT of Christmas stocking money for this bauble.

After 15 years of ownership, Flemish textile heiress, art historian, and licensed passenger-ship captain, Ineke Bruynooghe wants to sell her yacht, the **S.S. Delphine**. It's the last operational steam-powered yacht afloat, and is the



boat that Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin supposedly met on to prepare the Yalta Conference at the close of WW II. The asking price is \$53.4 million.

The boat was ordered by carmaker Horace Dodge for his daughter Delphine, and was launched in 1921. At 258 feet, it is the largest yacht built in the U.S. that is still working today, although technically, the ship is too heavy to be legally registered as a yacht. Officially it is a “passenger vessel.”

Bruynooghe purchased the Delphine as scrap in 1997. Over the following six years, she spent \$46.6 million in returning Delphine to its former glory. She scoured museums and archives for the ship's blueprints to make sure all engineering and architectural re-fits matched Dodge's original design.

What will you get should you buy the Delphine? Staterooms, six-person Turkish bath, hairdressing salon, music and smoking rooms, and a dining area that can seat 77 people. But don't plan on using her only occasionally – she requires a minimum onboard maintenance crew of ten whenever she sits idle, and it takes seven days to build up the boiler pressure required to begin a voyage from a dead start.

Thanks to The Travel Channel and the *Sydney Morning Herald*