



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2020

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Center Closed for Safety

As of press time, the Center is still closed, and there will be no May waffle breakfast, meeting of the lacemakers, or board meeting. The safety and well-being of our volunteers and guests remain most important. Hopefully we'll be "back in business" sooner rather than later.

How Belgium is Dealing

Although Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès has announced that measures taken to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus are extended until May 3rd, hospital admissions in Belgium have fallen to half of what they were during the peak of the crisis.

Measures currently in place include: schools, shops, restaurants and bars are closed. Residents must stay home, but allowed to go to the supermarket, post office, newspaper shop, pharmacy, or medical facility. Exercise in the form of walking, jogging, and cycling is allowed. The six-foot distancing rule is in effect.

Nursing home residents can have one visitor, but visiting others is not allowed, nor are gatherings of more than three people except families who live under the same roof.

People must work from home unless that is impossible. Employers must ensure that workers can remain six feet apart at all times. If that cannot be ensured, the business must close. The rules, however, do not apply to those who are in essential jobs. Prime Minister Wilmès also noted that all summer festivals prior to September 1st are cancelled.

Nursing home residents and those in homes for the developmentally disabled may receive a visitor. It must be just one person designated ahead of time, and this is the only person who can make return visits. That visitor must not have had symptoms of the virus for at least 14 days.

Exit strategies will begin soon and Belgium's current plan is to start rescinding measures gradually in early May.

(Thanks to *FlandersToday*)

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

Looking Back

Olde Towne had its share of saloons. They served as a respite for men on their way home from work, or on weekends, a place to socialize and catch up on the most recent gossip. One popular spot was at the southwest corner of 10th Street and 18th Avenue.

During the summer of 1907, the Rock Island Brewing Company built a German-style hostelry at that location. While the brewery owned the building, it would lease out the operation of the saloon, as it did with many others on the Illinois side of the Tri-Cities.

In late 1907, streetcar tracks were laid along 17th and 18th Avenues and their intersection with 10th Street. This created a situation where the street was uneven with the level of the trackage in the area of the intersection. Complaints by residents caused the city to have the avenue brought to even grade with the tracks, and to then pave both the avenues and the street. This created a problem for the saloon.

An article in the Moline *Dispatch* from July 15, 1908, noted that “the building is being lowered, as part of the foundation walls are being removed. When the street was lowered to grade for paving, it left the building about four feet too high.” This explains why the back of the property was higher than the building for many years, as the photos with this article will show.

The original lessor of the business was Arthur DeLoof. Around 1916, Emil VanKerrebroeck became owner of the saloon and operated it until he retired in 1942. Emil’s son, Bill, took over ownership until 1961, when it was sold to Frank DeWispelaere. Since 1986, the building has had several tavern/restaurant owners and today it serves as a church.



The first photo shows Bill VanKerrebroeck with the Budweiser Clydesdales, in the mid-50s. Note the billboards in the background. They sit on higher ground than the street. The second photo shows one of the two rolle bolle courts and the difference in height between the court and the tavern’s back entrance.

Tough on the Bunny

Discounts on chocolate bunnies right before Easter? Impossible you say! But here and in Belgium, chocolate shops took drastic measures to get your order. Chocolatiers everywhere saw one of the biggest sales periods shrink to almost nothing. While they were allowed to stay open during the virus shutdown, many shops just closed up because they had no customers.

In Belgium, shops that chose to close could receive a government subsidy. If they stayed open, they had to follow stringent safety rules. Or, they could stay open, but only for



deliveries. Those that did stay open found they received many, many orders. And provided many deliveries.

The bunny prevailed.

(With help from *FlandersToday*)

Find Your Roots

As this newsletter issue goes to press, we are still under the stay-at-home and social distancing rules. If you want something to fill time and that will be rewarding, why not do some family genealogy. Research your family's past, interview relatives and take notes on their answers and information, and make copies for your children and even the CBC archives.

I ran across a brief tutorial on how to discover your roots, written by Deanna Bufo Novak, who founded www.myheritagebook.com, a site that creates personalized children's books based on their heritage. You can start your journey into your past with these simple steps:

- Interview relatives, explore family documents, and write down everything in detail.
- Browse census records for names, ages, relationships, and birthplaces at the National Archives (archives.gov) and the Mormon-sponsored familysearch.org.

- Examine local property records and newspaper clippings. Local libraries and genealogy groups can help.
- Stay on track and organize information with family group sheets and research logs. There are free templates at ancestry.com.
- If you get stuck, consider hiring an expert. The Association of Professional Genealogists (apgen.org) lists members by state and specialty.

Regardless of how involved you become with a project like this, the results can truly be rewarding. Who knows what famous individuals or skeletons in a closet you might find. And for further information on genealogy, you can contact Linda Polich at fredlinda1985@gmail.com.

Better at the Rules

Antwerp University has found that those aged 65 and older are following the coronavirus regulations much more stringently than other generations. Nearly 560,000 residents of Belgium filled out an online survey that is meant to determine how many people are adhering to the government's measures to control the spread of Covid-19.

The survey also asks how people are feeling in general – if they are experiencing anxiety, sleeplessness, or other emotions from being quarantined. It also asks if people had any symptoms that they may or may not have reported to their doctors.

One of the key survey questions asked when the last time the person shook hands or greeted someone with a kiss outside the home. This date gets further and further away the older the respondents get.

Those aged 65-plus stopped doing this early on, while the younger generation started only when the government implemented social distancing measures on March 13th. That meant that the vast majority of people over age 65 were distancing earlier and found it easier to adapt to those measures than the rest of the population.

With age comes wisdom!

(From *FlandersToday*)

News of the Membership

Sympathy is offered to **Pat and Walt Blondell** on the death of their daughter, Laurie Lower, 60 years old, of Milan, who died March 26th at Unity Point Health-Rock Island.

Congratulations to **Leroy and Beatrice DeBrabander** on their 65th wedding anniversary on April 23rd.

Birdies for Charity

The Center is once again asking for your support through the John Deere Classic golf tournament's Birdies for Charity program. This year's tournament will be held July 6-12.

Money raised by your pledges fund only the CBC Scholarship program. The pledge forms are in the mail, and we will also have extra forms available at the Center and through email.

We hope you will support our 20th year of providing scholarships to deserving high school seniors. It costs as little as one cent per birdie made by the golf pros during tournament week.

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Costal Desolation

Images from the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences show how abandoned Flemish beaches are nowadays. Normally extremely busy during the Easter holiday, but with the corona restrictions beachgoers are few and far between. The images were taken at midday April 14th.

(From flandersnews.be)



Happy Spring

