



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



July, 2021

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

**Gift Shop**  
Diana Slininger

## Center Opens Again!

The CBC will again be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. beginning July 7th. Stop by the second Saturday of each month to see the Lacemakers. Stop by any Wednesday or Saturday to visit the Winkel gift shop or browse our collection.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 3rd	NO Waffle Breakfast / Center Closed	
July 10th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
July 12th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
August 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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

## News of the Membership

*Thank You* to **Pami Triebel** and **Don Lewis** for sponsoring June's waffle breakfast.

*Thank You* to **Diana, Steve, and Tom Slininger, Scott Raes, Kim Kochuyt, Michael DeBisschop, Bill Cornelis, and Patrick Van Nevel** for your help with June's waffle breakfast.

*Thank You* to **Linda Polich**, the Center's long-time genealogist and acting-secretary, who retired from the board this past April, for her help in assisting people with genealogy questions and keeping track of the board actions.



**OPEN Wednesday and Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Waffle Breakfast 1st Saturday of August**

## Hollywood in Olde Towne

I think everyone who has been reading the CBC newsletter knows, your editor is very interested in local history. A number of years ago, I gave a program on the Olde Towne area and discovered it once had a movie theater. Having had my interest piqued, I did some further digging.



On November 11, 1915, Adolph Bufo opened a new picture house at 1723 - 7th Street (that location is where today's VFW Hall is located). The entrance was on 7th Street, but the theatre proper ran north and south. Once inside, a patron would have been surprised at the size, as it had a seating capacity of 500.

The lobby and interior were beautifully decorated by Lundahl and Son. The floor had a good drop and the stage and screen area were high enough that every seat had a good sightline. There were completely modern lighting and projection systems. Price of admission was a nickel. The theater enjoyed success playing classic and then-current films, many from the Paramount Studios.

After ten years of ownership, Bufo and his wife decided to relocate to California. The theatre was sold to M. Brotman and Sons on October 3rd, 1925. Brotman would later sell the Plaza to Roy Hill of Rock Island and Julius Bruckman of Chicago.

The Plaza's projection booth caught fire in August, 1931. The cause was reported to be defective film that clogged one of the theater's projectors and caught fire. Major damage was contained to the booth and equipment, although there was smoke damage throughout the theater caused by the ventilation system. Patrons escaped unharmed. Damages amounted to \$1,500. The theater was closed for about one month.

Business had been good ever since the Plaza had opened. But the time of the smaller, independent theater was nearing. Larger and more elaborate "chain" theaters were taking over from the smaller independents, and the Plaza closed in 1933. It was sold to Julius Blomme, who moved his bakery operation from across the street. The size of the former theater building allowed Blomme to greatly enlarge his wholesale operations.

After almost 18 years, Hollywood left Olde Towne for good.

## Our New Genealogist

Mary Gardner-Karcher is the CBC's new genealogist. She has had extensive experience in working with genealogy and will be very helpful with any questions you may have. If you need help, she can be contacted at:

[gardnerkarcher@gmail.com](mailto:gardnerkarcher@gmail.com).

## Belgium Tour is Back On

Covid cancelled the CBC Belgian Tour originally scheduled for later this year. But that tour is now rescheduled for August 26 to September 6, 2022.

New hotel dates are being finalized and the tour still includes Brussels, Antwerp, the Bastogne area, Ypres, Bruges, Ghent, and the Tielt/Deinze/Nevele/Aalter area. There will be plenty to see and do, both scheduled and on your own.

We hope those who originally signed up and those who might be interested will join in the great way to see Belgium. For more information, contact Bonnie Newman at (309) 737-0059 or by email at [bonnie@bluehorizon.net](mailto:bonnie@bluehorizon.net).

## Belgium Likes Bicycles

If you are into bikes the way Belgians are, you are probably familiar with the name Shimano. Their parts make up about 80% of the global bicycle component market and there are probably a few of them holding your own bike together.

Shimano tells us that E-bikes are a big trend right now, but electrification and digitization is going to be the future trend for the bicycle. E-bikes are becoming increasingly popular, but they're only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to digitization.

Bicycles will be smarter than ever. That may mean more digital operation of the gears, or more electrification options. Designers are looking at ways to add power sources to bikes that would allow rider to do things like charge their phones while biking.

With the ability to stow a fully-charged (and charging) smart device between the handlebars, the range of possibilities with electronics on bicycles will open a very interesting world.

## They're Brewing Beer Again

After 223 years, the monks living in Grimbergen Abbey near Brussels are again brewing beer. They will also create three new types of their abbey beer. "It's an historic occasion for the abbey, the community, and for the town of Grimbergen," stated abbey provisor Karel Stautemans.

New brewing infrastructure has been installed and three new Grimbergen Abbey beer will be launched. Behind the investment are beer giants Carlsberg and Aiken-Maes. Aiken Maes will continue to brew the existing Grimbergen beers, including the renowned Grimbergen Blond.

The monks will use the extra cash to maintain their buildings.



## Some Great Football

In the U.S., we call it soccer. Most everywhere else, especially Europe, it's football. Right now, the Euros (officially the UEFA European Football Championship) are being contested. The games are carried on ESPN and are actually fun to watch. Each game is played in two 45-minute halves. There are no stoppages, rain delays, or commercials.

The Belgian "Red Devils" national team is in first place in their stage division. Well over two million viewers in Belgium watched them defeat the Russians in their first game. In their second game, despite an early kick-off time, over 1.8 million viewers watched the team defeat Denmark.

Follow the Belgian national team. Check ESPN listings for the games and times. You'll find them exciting to watch.

## Brewers Short Bottles

Belgium's brewers are currently confronted with a serious shortage of bottles. The Covid crisis has seen demand for glass bottles rise significantly. With bars and restaurants having been closed for more than half of the past year, the brewers have been bottling far more of their beer for sale in supermarkets or shops, with much less beer being put into barrels.

Bars in the whole of Europe closed and the focus switched from hospitality outlets to supermarkets. Naturally, supermarkets sell in bottles, not in draught barrels. But even before the pandemic, bottlers already had issues with the supply of bottles: the number of bottle manufacturers has decreased; many bottle factories closed after takeovers/mergers; the European beer sector has grown, thanks to export; wine production is growing; and more milk is again being sold in glass bottles.

Glass manufacturers are trying to increase production, but progress is slow. A new glass oven costs tens of millions of euros.

Not all brewers are impacted, though. Large brewers like InBev and Heineken (that produces Maes Pils) are being given priority by the three big glass producers over other customers.



## It's Time to Renew

It's time to renew your CBC membership. **But please note: if you joined the Center after January 1, 2021, your membership is good until July 2022.** You'll find a membership application/renewal form with this newsletter. We hope you'll fill it out or make copies and give to your relatives or friends.

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**of Western Illinois, Inc.**  
1608 Seventh Street, Moline, IL 61265

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*July, 2021*

**Membership Renewal** (Please detach and return)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2021

Would you like to volunteer? If yes, please let us know how below:

**If you joined the Center after  
January 1, 2021, your membership  
is good until July 2022.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Annual Fees Enclosed (check appropriately):

Single/Family (one per household)                      \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior (70+) Single/Family (one per household)      \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that complimentary memberships are automatically renewed.*

