



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2022

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 4th	Board Meeting	6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
	<i>(Note - new day and time)</i>	
May 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
May 14th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 11th	Zoom session on the <i>Gazette</i>	10:00 a.m. (cdt)

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

Learn How to Search the *Gazette*

Genealogist Mary Gardner-Karcher has announced that on Saturday, June 11th, at 10:00 a.m. (Central Daylight Time), the CBC, in conjunction with the Family History Center, will be presenting a Zoom session on the *Gazette Van Moline* online access, and search tips for finding friends, family, and events affecting the Flemish-American community between 1915-1940. Mary will also be doing a brief update about our website and Center holdings.

Our local friends will be attending in person, and as we are setting up a Zoom for this, we would like to ensure our Belgian friends, family, and research colleagues can attend as well. Please let Mary know which email addresses you would like us to include in the invitation that we'll be sending in late May/early June. Mary's email is gardnerkarcher@gmail.com or her phone is (563) 447-0160.

If you would like to check out the *Gazette* in advance, here is the website URL for you: <https://belgianmuseumquadcities.org/translations>.

News of the Membership

Condolences are sent to: the family of longtime CBC volunteer **Margaret Wadsworth**, 95, of Rock Island, who died at home on March 27th; and to the family of former Honorary Consul **Dr. Dolores Bultinck, PhD**, 91, of Moline, who died at Overlook Village in Moline, on March 31st.

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

Bet You Didn't Know

When asked about famous area musicians, you think of Bix Biederbeck and Louie Bellson. No doubt, they were famous. But I recently learned of another name that French-speaking jazz enthusiasts throughout Belgium know as the first Belgian jazz musician in the United States. They consider him a jazz pioneer. In Flanders, he is little or not known.



His name is Omer Van Speybroeck. If the name is familiar, he ran the family clothing store in East Moline and was on the board of the former East Moline Metrobank. But before that, and for nearly 15 years, "Spey" played in many of this country's popular nightclubs and ballrooms with some of the great bands of the day.

He was born in Nevele in 1901 and came to the U.S. at 1-1/2 years of age. He began his musical career in 1922 on the river steamer Capitol and on Mississippi River excursion boats. That's where he played with Bix Biederbeck.

"Spey's" persona will also be present in this year's version of the Chanticleers procession in Dienze, with members of the Van Speybroeck family in attendance.

Het Land van Nevele is publishing the life story of Omer, and this newsletter will print more information on both the life story and the procession when we receive it.

Memorial Day

May 30th

**We pay homage to those
who have given
us our freedom.**



What's In A Name

Want a reason to stop by the Center? Maybe you'd like find out the meaning of your family name. *What's Behind My Flemish Family Name* by Fr. Karel Denys is an interesting booklet about the origin of Flemish names. It was published by the Genealogical Society of Flemish Americans.

Family names in Flanders came into use in the 13th and 14th centuries. The earliest method used was to give family names from first names. Examples: Pauwels (son of Paul); Lievens (son of Livinius); Rijckaerts (Richard).

Other methods of giving names included naming persons by occupations, such as De Sutter (a shoemaker, from the Latin word sutor, a person who sews or stitches), Coopman (merchant), De Smet (blacksmith), or De Jaegher (hunter with bow and arrow).

Locations or directions were used, such as De Waele or De Waelsche (Walloon or Frenchman in general). Other family names were derived from characteristics of a person, such as DeDoncker (dark), DeRoo (red), or DeWitte (white-haired).

Stop by and look the booklet over. You may find the meaning of your name. Even if you don't, it's fun to read.

A New Scam

Some people go to great lengths to scam others out of their money or to avoid being caught in some crime. Sometimes no matter how small the crime might be.

Eddy Hautekeete from East Flanders has been scratching his head a lot lately. So far, he's received four fines by police in the Walloon city of Namur. Except that Eddy has never been in Namur. He fears someone is using a replica of his license plate.

Again, Eddy has received another fine for speeding and is obliged to contest the fine and prove he wasn't in the city at the hour specified. Luckily, Eddy's car is a different make, model, and color, and that is how he proves it wasn't him. Namur police say they can't do anything about it until the culprit is caught red-handed.

Sounds like something that often hits our bigger cities here in the U.S.

Celebration of Culture

On April 9th, Mary Gardner-Karcher and Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel represented the CBC at the local area Girl Scouts' celebration of world cultures event "Journey the World." Over 900 girls (some boys) and adults attended the event, held at Bettendorf's convention center.

Our duo prepared displays and showed short videos on rolle bolle, lace making, Belgian chocolate, and frits. It was an excellent opportunity to introduce both children and their parents to Belgium, some of its customs, and the Center itself. Thanks to both Mary and Patrick for these photos.



Happy Mother's Day

MAY 8TH

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Some Olde Towne History

In the early 1900s, many household items and clothes that today we just buy at the store or order on the internet were made by hand at home. The material for those items, or the items themselves, came from a dry goods store.

Phil Hendrickx opened his first such store in 1913 at 709 - 18th Avenue. Four years later, he moved the store to 1731 - 7th Street. In November of 1935, Hendrickx Dry Goods moved once again, to a brand new building at 551 - 18th Avenue. Many of us certainly know the building.

Back in the day, the *Dispatch* used to feature articles about new construction in the area. The photo that accompanies this was from such an article. The story gave information on the building's size and composition, the contractors involved, and some detail about the usage and ownership.

The dry goods store would take up the first floor, and the Hendrickx family would live in the roomy second floor. The entire building would have all the modern conveniences of the day throughout.

The store operated until Mr. Hendrickx retired in 1946. The building then housed dental offices for many years.

