

Publications on Leclaire (1895-1899)

Notes:

The material transcribed here is from a variety of sources, including newspapers, periodicals and N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company publications. Additional articles are added on a regular basis and are listed in chronological order of the date originally published.

The documents contain information about Leclaire, N. O. Nelson Manufacturing and its employees, and early residents of the village.

Several newspaper articles come under the heading "Leclaire Laconics" which was the name of a regular column of Leclaire news in the early 1890s for the Edwardsville Intelligencer. Many articles have no headlines, since that was a common practice in early newspapers. In the early years of Leclaire, Edwardsville had two newspapers. Besides the Intelligencer, there was the Edwardsville Democrat which often referred to Leclaire as "South Edwardsville." Editor A. L. Brown believed strongly that Edwardsville's new suburb should not be "Leclaire."

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy in the transcriptions, but if you should identify an error, please let us know. Note that articles are typed exactly as written a century ago, so "employee" is spelled "employe" and the word street or road is not capitalized, i.e. "Main street" Also, especially in later articles, the spelling of Leclaire was sometimes mistakenly listed as "LeClaire" and the spelling of Holyoake Road is written as "Holyoke road".

LECLAIRE

Immediately on the south border of Edwardsville, just across the Clover Leaf and C.P. & St. L. railroads, are the works of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company, whose headquarters are in St. Louis. Adjacent to the works is the handsome suburban village of Leclaire.

The Nelson works consist of six brick and two frame buildings, varying in size from 50 by 60 feet to 80 by 160. They are strictly standard modern factories, electric lighted, steam heated, and roof ventilated. They are equipped in every case with the machinery that will do the most and best work.

One factory makes brass work for plumbing houses and for steam work. Moulding, finishing, polishing and plating is done and the work is shipped to New York, San Francisco and all intermediate cities.

The planning and cabinet mill turns out finished wood work for houses, mantels, bath room appliances, special doors, sash and frames, and fine cabinet pieces. In this line the company employs not only mechanics, but artisans.

One department is employed in making marble plumbers' slabs, wainscoting, tiling and the like; another makes copper bath tubs and copper work. There is an extensive iron works which manufactures special machines used by large factories. These, as well as many other goods, produced in other departments, are shipped to every part of the United States, and occasionally abroad.

One side track delivers coal to the boiler house; another one the raw material to the various departments, and still another receives the finished goods directly from the factories without hauling.

During the panic and the two depressed years following, no department of the works was ever closed down, nor run short time, except three or four weeks in mid-winter; on the contrary, new factories have been erected, more than doubling the force employed before the panic.

About 200 yards from the works begin the residence portion of Leclaire. The situation is a beautiful one, level but not flat; flanked on either side by heavy oak woods. The village is laid out with winding streets which are paved with cinders, and have broad sidewalks and trees on either side. The building sites are laid out in lots of about one-third of an acre in size. On these the company builds houses for employees who wish to buy, and a few to rent. The houses are all good cottage designs, not at all uniform, and are surrounded by yards set in grass, flowers and shrubbery. Every house is supplied with water under pressure, and with electric light, and the streets are electric lighted. The houses are sold on installment payments, averaging about \$15 a month. They are sold in fee simple, subject to no other restriction than a building line, and to be used for residence purposes. There are in the village a kindergarten, a school, a library, a billiard room, and a bowling alley; all of which are free, not only to the residents of Leclaire, but to everyone. A new school house and lecture hall has been erected the present year. There is a cooperative store, which is owned and managed by its members, which are not confined to the residents of Leclaire, not to employees of the company.

The company has for ten years conducted its business on a profit sharing plan; during that time having distributed over \$75,000 as dividends on men's wages. A large portion of the

employees are stockholders in the corporation. Wages paid out during the present year to their workmen living in Edwardsville and Leclaire will amount to \$100,000. The investment of the company at this place in buildings improvements, machinery and material is about \$300,000.

The company also owns works at Mound City and St. Louis and has its main office at the latter place. The officers of the company are: N. O. Nelson, president; G. A. Wells, vice-president; L. D. Lawnin, secretary. The plant at Leclaire is managed by department superintendents, or foremen, each of whom has a specific duty to perform and is responsible for his department. C.F. Wieland is superintendent, and William Shaw, foreman of the machinery department; Charles Harkins, superintendent of the brass shop; Fred Merkel, of copper shop; William Held, of marble shop; M.M. Flannigan, of cabinet shop and W. B. Thomas, of varnish room. J. F. Stillwell has charge of the office.

The entertainment and social features of Leclaire are in the broadest sense educational, as well as recreative. The school, or educational building, recently erected, is open to all residents of Leclaire and Edwardsville alike. A manual training department and night school affords boys and young men who are employed during the day-time an opportunity to extend their knowledge. The lectures, concerts and entertainments are free. Professors, preachers, lawyers, musicians and readers from Edwardsville, St. Louis, and as far off as Boston, have given their time and talent, the list of contributors containing such names as Dr. Edward Everett Hale, Prof. John Fiske, Rev. D.P. Bliss, Rev. Frank Tyrell, Dr. John Snyder, Rabbi Sale and others.

The school is in charge of E. N. Plank, who is assisted by Miss Olive Thomas, in the intermediate and Miss Callie Coit, in the primary departments. N. O. Nelson instructs a class in book keeping, and Geo. W. Wilder, one in mechanical drawing. The school and library are under supervision of a board of directors, composed of W. B. Thomas, president; Chas. Wilson, secretary; Fred Merkel, treasurer; Chas. Vollintine and Joseph Rizzoli.

The Pastime Club looks after physical exercise recreation. It has comfortable quarters, equipped with gymnastic appliances, and also provided with a bowling alley and billiard and pool tables. Edward M. Hendricks is president and A. M. Latham, secretary.

The Leclaire Band has become a popular organization. It was organized in January, 1892, with six members, viz: W. B. Thomas, Edwards Weber, George Ryan, Fred Pfeiffer, Rolland Van Hyning and Wm. McNeilly, all employees of the company. The membership has been increased, and at present is 23, and the officers are: W. B. Thomas, president and leader: Thos. Walton, vice president; Albert Mays, treasurer; Rolland Van Hyning, secretary. The band has entered several contests, and during the past summer won prizes at Staunton and Marine.

The Co-operative Association which conducts a provision and meat market, on the co-operative plan, is officered by W. B. Thomas, president; F. W. Casper, vice president; Ira Healy, secretary; Roy Denny, treasurer; and a board of trustees composed of Ross Roedecker, John Nix, R. E. Thomas, F. W. Casper, W. B. Thomas, G.W. Perry and Samuel Schneider. Joseph H. Miller has charge of the business.

Two unions are maintained by the employees: The International Woodworkers Union was organized April 17, 1895, with 30 charter members, and meets twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays. The officers are: Joseph Stieren, president; Wm McNeilly, vice president; Julius Horstmann, recording secretary; Otto Langwisch, financial secretary, John Hess, treasurer; Edwin Suppiger, Thom. Foster, August Fromm, trustees.

Local No. 37, United Brotherhood of Brass and Composition Metal Workers, Polishers and Buffers, is a branch of the national union and was organized November 17, 1894, with 23 charter members. The present officers are: Louis H. Seifert, president; Thos. R. Walton,

recording secretary and statistician; Wm Peiper, financial secretary; Chas Ohms, treasurer; James O'Conner, inside guard; Edward McLean, doorkeeper; Wm Steiner, Robt Haley and Edward M. Hendricks, trustees.

Mr. Nelson is a believer in cooperation of labor, and capital. He is an ardent advocate of workmen's associations and of equitable association between labor and capital. The enterprise is closely linked with the present marked prosperity of Edwardsville and its future.

February 15, 1895, Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Ciro Erspamer of Leclaire

PARAGRAPHIC PICKUPS

Ciro Erspamer, who has been working at Leclaire, will leave tomorrow evening to visit his aged mother at Bozn, Tyrol, Switzerland. He bought his ticket from Joseph Hotz, agent of the North German Lloyd Steamship Co.

The Brass Shops at Leclaire started up with a full force Wednesday morning, repairs to the engine having been completed earlier than was expected.

April 2, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

PROFIT SHARING

THE PLAN AS OPERATED AT LECLAIRE

A Success as a Business Method and Employes Are Satisfied With It

The Forum for March discusses "Two Examples of Successful Profit Sharing," the article being from the pen of Prof. Frank W. Blackmar. The first example is of the plan of Proctor & Gamble, soap and candle makers, at Ivorydale, Ohio. The business was established in 1837 and changed to a stock company, with four million dollars capital. Profit-sharing was adopted in 1887. The other is the business of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of

plumbing and steam goods and machinery. The references concerning this firm are of interest for their general information.

The plan of profit-sharing, as adopted in 1886, sets aside one-tenth of the profits for a reserve fund, one-tenth for a provident fund, and one-twentieth for an educational fund, and the balance is divided equally between the employer and the employes. The reserve fund was created to meet the losses of bad years and to equalize dividends when profits were small. The provident fund was created to take care of the sick, the disabled and the families of deceased laborers. The management of the provident fund was placed in the hands of a committee of five of the employes, elected by the employes themselves. Every employe who has served the company for six months or more is entitled to the benefits of this fund, and medical assistance is provided by the committee. The allowance on account of disability is \$5 a week for an adult, \$3 for a minor, \$2 for an employe's wife or dependent mother and \$1 a week for each child. This is subject to change according to the judgment of the committee. The families and dependents of deceased employes are suitably provided for to keep them from want.

There are no conditions attached to employment and profit-sharing except a man's capacity for work, and there is no agreement respecting unions, the time of service or the manner of quitting. The manner of division was finally modified so as to yield 2 per cent, dividends on wages to every 1 per cent, on capital, and the early practice of setting aside 10 percent, as a provident fund and 5 per cent, as an educational fund was displaced by the practice of paying out whatever was necessary for these funds, charging the same against gross profits. The provident fund is managed entirely by a committee elected by the employes without any interference on the part of the corporation.

The whole aim of the company has been to make a simple plan, free from entanglements and intricate conditions. The result of the first year's business after profit sharing was adopted gave a dividend of 5 per cent, on wages, the second year 10 per cent., the third year the same, the fourth year 8 per cent, the fifth year 10 per cent, the sixth year 8 per cent, the seventh year 4 per cent and the 8th year, which was 1893, no dividend was declared. The total amount of dividends paid to wage earners as their share of divided profits is about \$65,000 or an average of 9 per cent, on the wages paid.

In the beginning dividends were payable in cash or in stock of the company, at the option of the employe. Since about three-fourths of the dividends were invested in stock, the company in 1890, after having paid four cash dividends, changed the rule so as to make them all payable in stock of the company. This was done to enable the employe to save their dividends rather than to consume them. Whenever an employe, for any reason whatever, quits the service of the company, his stock is redeemed at par. A rule was adopted in 1894 that only those should share in the dividends who, working full time and getting full pay, saved 10 per cent of their wages and invested the savings in the stock of the company. This threw each individual upon his own responsibility to save and to support, by his own exertions, the system which gave him a return.

The village of Leclair is not considered a model town, and has never been so designed by its promoters. There are no models for houses or people. It is intended that in every aspect life shall be as free from restraint as on a farm. It was built in 1890, upon a tract of 125 acres of gently rolling land. About one-half of the area has been laid out in winding streets. The dry roads are paved with cinders, which are sprinkled in dry weather. Plank sidewalks are laid as far as houses are built, and elms and maples have been planted on all the streets. Water and street lights are carried as far as the town is built. The company has made it possible for employes to own their own homes when they so desire. The price charged for land, including all improvements, is

\$2 per front foot for interior, and \$2.50 per front foot for corner lots, and 6 per cent interest from 1892.

The company will build houses on plans mutually agreed upon between them and the employes and sell them to the employes at a price fixed to cover the price of raw material and the labor, plus the average profit made by the manufacturing business. As the company has its own lumber yard, planing mills and wood-working force, the net cost of the houses is no more than the cost of labor and raw material under ordinary circumstances. The houses may be paid for by the month in payments of from \$10 to \$20. When a man desires to move or to dispose of his property, the company takes it back at the payment price, refunds the money paid on it and charges rent for the time occupied.

Since the employes of the company are entirely free to live where they desire, many of them are residents of the adjoining city of Edwardsville, where they own homes. Wherever freedom of choice is freely granted, a body of laborers will never settle in the same spot, if they can find change and diversity.

As to the result of the entire system, it is the opinion of the managers that waste of time and material has been greatly reduced and that there has been a better attention to business, although there are no statistics to show whether the saving amounts to more or less than the dividends declared. For four years the working time has been fixed at nine hours a day, during which time no change has been made in pay. The system underwent a severe test in 1893, when, owing to the general depression in trade, the management felt it necessary to retrench and proposed to pay only three-fourths of the usual rate of wages until times should be better, when the other fourth should be paid out of the excess of the interest on capital. The proposition was fully discussed in open meeting and assented to by all departments. At the end of three months full pay was resumed, and at the end of the year it was found that the earnings would pay the other one-fourth of wages, as well as the interest on capital. There was no trouble of any kind on account of the failure of the dividend in 1893--a proof of the solidarity and permanence of the system adopted. In 1894 it was mutually decided to run ten hours a day instead of nine, in order to make up for the low prices prevailing and to keep up with the brisk demand for goods. The company believes that the hourly return for nine hours a day is greater than the hourly return for ten, but in the aggregate more work will be done in ten hours than in nine.

Upon the whole the system, as established by the company, has proved eminently successful and is an excellent example of the success of profit sharing in uniting employer and employe on the basis of a common interest. It is put upon a business basis and not intended as a philanthropic movement. The laborers appear to be contented and show a marked disposition to remain permanently with the company. That the plan furnishes means for improvement and gives an inspiration for a more elevated life is shown by the improvement in the manner of living which, after all, is the true test of well-being.

June 11, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Over 300 St. Louisans Visit Leclaire

CITY COUSINS CALL

Visit Leclaire and Fill Their Lungs With Fresh Country Air

This city of beautiful shade trees and balmy breezes was sought by two parties of excursionists from St. Louis since Friday. Like others in large cities they had been cooped up and forced to endure the excessive heat, dirt and smoke, and a visit here presented a new phase in life that was fully appreciated and enthusiastically enjoyed.

A Clover Leaf special train of four coaches arrived Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, bring 306 people, the number including employes of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Co., and a party of plumbers of St. Louis. They were met at the depot by the Leclaire band, and to the strains of popular airs, marched to the commons and took refuge under the shade trees surrounding the Club House.

A half hour later the works at Leclaire closed down and the employes, after going home and donning holiday clothes, returned with their wives and families, sweethearts and friends to join the visitors. The band rendered a program of selections, and all enjoyed themselves at will.

Later a big luncheon was spread on the lawn near the Club House. A number of the visitors took occasion to view the sights in the city. N. O. Nelson was a conspicuous figure in the party and seemed to amuse himself as much as anyone. The train left for St. Louis at eight o'clock, and the visitors departed apparently having thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

The St. Louis Self Culture Club, to the number of 167 members, under guidance of Prof. E. N. Plank, came out Sunday morning at nine o'clock on the Clover Leaf. They, too, were guests of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co., at Leclaire. The day was spent in quiet, social manner, with no set program. The Leclaire band added to the entertainment of the party. The clubs are composed of young ladies and gentlemen of culture and refinement. They returned to St. Louis, leaving at five o'clock.

June 25, 1895, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Club House Moved - Library Books Recalled

PARAGRAPHIC PICKUPS

The Club House at Leclaire will be moved south of the residence formerly occupied by J. H. Neustadt. A building to be used as a school house will be erected on the site vacated.

Members of the Leclaire Library having books out over the time allowed, will please return and oblige.

Board of Managers

July 2, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

CLOSED THEIR CHARGE

FINAL REPORT OF THE N. O. NELSON TRUSTEES

Interest to be Distributed Pro Rata Among the Subscribers to the Fund

W.F.L. Hadley and E.B. Glass who were appointed trustees for the citizens in the proceeding with N. O. Nelson, have discharged the final duties devolving on them by transferring the remainder of the land held by them as such trustees, and the contract as far as Mr. Nelson and the committee are concerned may be considered closed. The trustees have made the following report:

To the subscribers to the Nelson fund:

The undersigned, to whom the land purchased by your committee was conveyed, to be held until such time as N. O. Nelson should be entitled to the same, under the contract entered into between him and the committee, herewith present a statement showing their acts in the premises.

Under the provisions of said contract about 130 acres of land were conveyed to us as trustees. Mr. Nelson paid toward the purchase of this land the sum of \$3,384.50, and by the terms of the contract we were to convey to him so much of said land as would, at the cost price, equal the above sum, and under this clause of the contract we conveyed to him about 27 acres on April 29, 1890.

The remainder of the land conveyed to us was to be held until a conveyance thereof would be authorized under the following provision of said contract, viz: "Whenever twenty-five persons have been regularly and continuously employed by the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co., or its assigns, in its factories on said grounds, for a period of one month, the said trustees shall convey to N. O. Nelson twenty-five acres of said land to be selected by him, and for every five persons additional to the first twenty-five that are regularly and continuously employed in said manufactories for a period of four months, as aforesaid, the trustees shall convey to said N. O. Nelson five acres of said ground."

Under the last mentioned provision we have made the following conveyances, to-wit: on August 14, 1890, we conveyed about twenty-five acres in consideration of twenty-five persons having been continuously employed by the company on said premises for more than a month prior therein.

On January 14, 1891, we made a further conveyance of about 53 acres, it then appearing that more than eighty persons had been employed continuously for more than four months prior thereto.

On June 21, 1895, we conveyed the remainder of the land held by us, as such trustees, being about 43 acres, having first ascertained that for more than four months prior to January 1, 1895, upwards of 125 persons had been continuously employed by the company in its factories here.

We have ascertained that on June 1st, 1894 there were 124 employes on the pay rolls of the company at this place; that on January 1st, 1895 there were 140, and on June 1st, 1895 there were 192.

At the time of the delivery of the last mentioned conveyance to Mr. Nelson he paid to us the sum of \$1,439.10 being the amount of interest due from him under said contract. The amount was ascertained by computing interest at six per cent per annum on the cost price of the land conveyed to us, from the time that Mr. Nelson was tendered possession of it to the time he was entitled to a deed for it under the terms of his contract with the committee.

The whole amount of the above interest we have paid to Mr. John A. Prickett, the treasurer of said fund, who now holds said amount subject to the order of those entitled to it, said sum being all the money received by us as such trustees.

All the land held by us, as trustees, has now been conveyed under the terms of the contract and the above sum of \$1,439.10 is all the interest collectable under said contract.

For further details as to the terms of the contract made by the committee with Mr. Nelson we refer to the report of the committee dated April 9th, 1894, heretofore published.

W.F.L. HADLEY,

E.B. GLASS,

Trustees

Edwardsville, IL., July 2, 1895

Especial attention is directed to that part of the report wherein the trustees show that Mr. Nelson has paid interest amounting to \$1,439.10 which sum has been paid to J. A. Prickett the treasurer. Subscribers may draw their pro rata share of this interest by calling at J. A. Prickett & Son's bank.

Tuesday, July 9, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

LIBRARY LADIES.

Reply to the Nelson Fund Claimants.

Money Belongs to the Library, but Subscribers May Have It if They Insist.

As there appears to be some uncertainty as to the wording of the subscription list which the ladies of the Public Library circulated, it and the names appended thereto are published and read as follows:

Whereas, in the year 1890 subscriptions of moneys was had and paid towards purchase of real estate near Edwardsville as an inducement for the location of the manufacturing plant of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co., at or near Edwardsville, which moneys were paid into the hands of John A. Prickett, as trustee, and

Whereas, also upon conveyance to said Nelson of 43 acres, more or less, still held by the trustees certain interest on moneys is by the contract between the said trustees and the said Nelson, to be paid by Nelson to the trustees for the use of said subscribers.

Now we, the undersigned subscribers to the said fund, who have paid our subscription, do hereby in consideration of the benefits accruing to us and the community in general, from the Edwardsville Public Library, and for other valuable consideration, do hereby give, grant and assign unto said Edwardsville Public Library all our claim and right as such subscribers in said balance so in hands of said treasurer, and in said interest on moneys paid or to be paid as aforesaid and all right or claim which we have, or can hereafter have or demand by reason of said subscription, to any money or profits arising or payable to us or any of us by virtue thereof.

And we hereby authorize the said John A. Prickett, treasurer, or other person who may hereafter act as treasurer to pay the same to the said Edwardsville Public Library, whose receipt shall be sufficient acquittance and discharge thereof. We hereby assigning to said Library our entire interest respectively in said subscription.

J. A. Prickett & Sons
W. R. Prickett & Co.
W. F. L. Hadley
B. R. Burroughs
Dale & Bradshaw
Happy & Travous
F. W. Wolf,
G. B. Crane
W. E. Wheeler
Tunnell Bros.
J. S. Trares
Anheuser-Busch
H. Kirkpatrick
Jos. Pogue
A. Keller
Anthony & Kuhn
F. Begemann
W. D. Harnist
S. Kellermann
Wm Berry
J. T. Crocker
E. B. Glass
W. M. Warnock
B. H. Richards
T. J. Newsham
Roa & Dale
E. L. Schwarz
Hack & Heisel
Crossman Bros.
E. C. & W. F. Springer
J. G. Irwin
G. W. Meyer
C. H. Lynch
C. W. Terry
E. D. Gillespie
E. P. Greenwood
Uhl Bros.
Kirkpatrick Bros.
Geo. Bernius
J. Weber, Jr.
Frank Stillwell
Geo. F. Brendle
Geo. Soehlke
B. H. Spilman
H. Berleman
C. E. Tindall
O. L. Brown
Chas. Brendle
R. B. Evans
Dippold & Dale
G. H. Coventry
E. A. Burke
Geo. Kalbfleisch
S. O. Bonner
G. L. Hall
H. B. Little

M. Desmond
Springer & Tunnell
E. J. Jeffress
Long & Flynn
J. T. Tartt
J. Whitbread
Jos. Steis
C. Boeschenstein
S. S. McCorkle
E. W. Fiegenbaum
C. C. Corbett
Jacob Hoehn
J. A. Yates
Stubbs Bros.
Geo. J. Webb
Electric L & P Co.
C. E. Gillespie
T. C. Clark
C. H. Bartels
Wm Holle
G. H. Mahler
W. Steehlinger
F. G. Bernius
A. L. Brown
Wm Bayer
Wm Storig
P. W. Parker
Mary Littleton
M. K. West
L. C. Keown
F. M. Lane
C. W. Fangenroth
C. C. Buckley
T. E. Gonterman
A. Morefield
Thos. O. Conner
W. J. Schwartz
O. G. Girnt
J. Dornacher
A. Klingel
F. C. Nowotne & Son
Jacob Uhl
Tuxhorn Bros.
J. P. Rorig & Co.
E. F. Koch
Aug Herder
P. Webster
Wm Emeshausen
Chas. Schroeder
J. P. Sehnert
John Wentz
O. D. Finch
G. E. Wendel
J. J. Mumme
F. G. Mahler
H. O. Isensee

J. B. Judd
C. H. Crocker
T. J. Judy
Z. J. Montgomery
R. N. Montgomery
A. H. Kienlen
R. C. Wayne
E. Ballweg
S. T. Robinson
Wm Harles
Harrison Barco
H. C. Barnsback
Elizabeth Burgess
Louis Hartung
John Brinkmann
C. A. R. Benedict
J. G. Knebel
W. R. Brink
J. H. Glass
C. F. Cook
J. I. Lanterman
Mrs. Morefield
Terry & Cole
Ed Naehr
Jos. Edmonds

Henry Vogel
F. Gusewelle
J. F. Varnum
C. F. Ballweg
T. H. Stokes
F. Heisterbaum
F. Stenzel
C. A. Bartlett
F. A. Wolf
Geo Leverett
Lou Gusewelle
M Scheiber
A. Schlegel
T. V. Whitesides
Lizzie White
E. Barnett
L. Eberhardt
W. H. Cotter
R. Friday
W. C. Schwarz
John Sanner
C. H. Nash
Geo. Kellermann
F. Schultz

After the report by W. F. L. Hadley and E. B. Glass, the trustees, the following notice was filed with John A. Prickett, the treasurer:

July 6, 1895.

Mr. John A. Prickett, Treasurer of the Nelson Fund.

We the ladies of the Edwardsville Public Library claim under agreement dated May 10, 1894, whereby the subscribers to said fund, donated to said Library the excess of such funds subscribed by them and not used.

They hereby give notice to you as custodian of such fund they have the legal and equitable right to such excess, and demand that you shall pay over to the said Library, all such moneys, and protest against any such fund being diverted to any other use.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The directors of the Library met yesterday and prepared and ask to have published the following:

The Board of Direction of the Edwardsville Public Library understand there is some dissatisfaction in regard to the interest that has just been paid in on the Nelson fund, which according to the foregoing agreement reverts to the library. Those who wish to withdraw from the contract, are at liberty to claim their share by application at the bank, previous to the first of August. All that remains after that date, the ladies will claim as belonging to the Library and will subsequently publish the names of those who abide by their agreement.

Mr. S. S. McCorkle is the only signer who reserved the right to claim his interest in any amount that might come after the per cent of the original sum.

Tuesday, July 9, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Millwork Contract

PARAGRAPHIC PICKUPS.

The Week's Events of Interest Reflected.

The N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Co. has been awarded the contract for the millwork for a new school building at Ava, Jackson county. The contractor for the building is G. W. Fisher, of Pinckneyville.

July 19, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

LECLAIRE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

The First Term Will Open in September

Early in September the Leclaire Industrial school will be opened for boys from 11 to 15 years of age. In addition to the usual course of studies, one hour a day will be given to factory work with the purpose of imparting skilled manual aptness, industrious habits and a self supporting trade. Each succeeding year the working time will be increased, so that the pupil may graduate from school and work shop at the same time. A

permanent situation in the works awaits him at graduation if he so desires. The work will be paid for at its net value after allowing for shop expenses incurred.

The schooling, including books, will be free without regard to place of residence, but the factory will be separately regarded as a business matter and pay need scarcely be expected for the first year or two. Consideration will be given as far as possible to the adaptation and choice of each boy.

The school will be in charge of E. N. Plank, formerly a teacher and for several years in charge of the Self Culture clubs in St. Louis. A suitable school house with four rooms is now being built and will be used also for library and lectures. The kindergarten will be continued as heretofore, and there will be an intermediate class from 9 to 11 years.

Girls will be admitted to the industrial classes as soon as suitable work can be provided.

Applications for enrollment may be made by letter or in person to the directors of the Leclaire School Association.

Tuesday, August 6, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Minor Mention in Leclaire

--Contractor Ben H. Richards has erected a handsome brick chimney in the Club House at Leclaire. It is seven feet across the front, three feet deep and ten feet high, and built of buff stock brick.

--M. Desmond's machine shop force is working on a trip hammer for the St. Louis Stamping Co. at Granite City. It is built after the one he erected in his shop for his one use. It is a powerful machine and easily does the work of four men. Mr. Desmond's shop turns out most any kind of a machine.

Friday, August 9, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Bicycles may be Manufactured at N.O. Nelson Mfg. Co.

--The N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co. will probably add bicycles to their articles of manufacture. The demand for wheels has been so great that manufacturers have been taxed to meet it and nearly every factory the produces a machine or any part of it has been running over time. Their popularity is still growing and the requirement next season it is predicted will be greater than ever. Mr. C. F. Wieland has been preparing the mechanical drawings and promises a wheel that will rank with the best. The department will employ and additional force of mechanics.

Friday, August 9, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Teacher's Institute

COMPLIMENTING EDWARDSVILLE.

Through the kindness of Mr. H. C. Lanterman the institute instructors have been able during this institute week, to see much of the business, thrift and beauty of Edwardsville. It has not been in the range of our experience to see in a city of this size, or even much larger, such business houses as one finds here. The stores are of the very neatest, the stocks of goods are extensive and the managers and clerks invariably gentlemanly.

Wednesday evening we were invited to take a drive over the city and also LeClaire. We were shown through the factories by the courteous superintendent, M. M. Flannigan. The inspection of the work in the various buildings is a source of much information. To one who is studying the problems of sociology and economics, this entire prosperous and happy enterprise is a revelation. What better plan could be conceived for keeping a community of this kind moving along the true lines of development than is here used, that of educating the people. Not only is a provision made for educating the children by furnishing buildings and teachers, but proper reading matter is supplied to the older people. The dwellings are commodious and cheerful and the children are neat and refined in appearance.

THE INSTRUCTORS.

August 30, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Left to the Library

Part of the last of the Nelson Fund

Those Who Drew Their Share, and Those Who Did Not.

The following report of a committee at the Public Library, regarding the Nelson Fund, explains itself: To the President and Directors of the Edwardsville Public Library:

Your committee appointed for the purpose of obtaining legal advice and taking such steps as seemed proper and advisable in the "Nelson Fund" matter, respectfully submit this report of their acts and doings:

We first advised with Mr. C. N. Travous whose opinion was that the rights of the Library to this money were superior to the rights of those who had assigned to the Library and were then repudiating their action: but in view of the fact that the Library had caused a statement to be published July 9th, 1895, giving all parties signing the papers transferring this fund to the Library, the privilege of applying to the custodian, Mr. J. A. Prickett, at any time before August 1st, instant, and receiving their share of said fund, without regard to their assignment, the same good faith and consistency which should have deterred them from repudiating a contract honestly and voluntarily entered into, would require the Library to abide by its published offer of July 9th, and it was accordingly determined to do this.

The following written statement was therefore given the custodian of said moneys:

To J. A. Prickett, Esq., Custodian of the Nelson Fund:

In accordance with our proposition published in the Edwardsville INTELLIGENCER of July 9th, 1895, giving to those who transferred their interest in said moneys to the Edwardsville Public Library, the privilege of rescinding and drawing their shares upon application to you previous to August 1st, 1895, we do hereby authorize you to pay to each person who signed said transfer the share he would be entitled to if he had not signed the same, upon written demand being made therefore by said person previous to said August 1st. Provided, no person demanding his share shall be paid by you under his authority until after said August 1st.

Your committee further reports that some 52 persons made written demand for their shares, namely:

W. F. Holle,	Tunnell Bros,
Alonzo Keller,	J T Crocker,
E B. Glass,	C. C. Corbett,
G B Crane,	Anheuser Busch,
C B Bartels,	W P Bradshaw,
Stubbs Bros,	J P Schnert,
Chas Hack,	F. C. Nowotne,
G. H. Lynch,	F G Berntus,
F G Oberlin,	J A Yates,
G E Wendel,	Wm Berry,
Chas Brendle,	Leonard Eberhardt,
Jacob Weber, Jr,	J W Terry,
G M Cole,	E L Schwarz,
F C Nowotne & son,	Michael Grainey,
Alein Morefield,	J H Glass,
B H Richards,	G W Mahler,
Crossman Bros,	Wm Bayer,
Jacob Uht,	W A. Harles,
E F Koch,	Ed Naehar,
Ron & Dale,	S Kellermann,
Mrs H Kirkpatrick,	C A Bartlett,
M Desmond	Henry Vogel,
J P Rorig & Co,	T C Clarke,
W R Wheeler,	H C Barnsback,
Z J Montgomery,	Jos Stets,
Frank Gusewelle,	Mrs Louise Gusewelle.

The amount of such shares aggregated \$407.40 and made with the shares of those who did not assign to the Library the sum of \$829.80, leaving to be paid over to the Library (less \$2 paid accountant for preparing statement &c.) \$607.30, the total found in the custodian's hands being \$1,429.10.

Your committee respectfully asks that their acts in the premises be approved, and that the treasurer be directed to receive from the custodian said sum of \$607.30 and receipt him in full.

August 3, 1895.

Respectfully submitted,
ABBIE L. GREENWOOD,
CLARE P. JONES,
FANNY M. MUDGE.

The following is a list of those who adhered to their agreement, and whose portions in said fund have been accordingly turned over to the Library:

J A Prickett & Son,	W B Prickett & Co,
WFL Hadley,	B R Burroughs,
M G Dale,	Happy & Travous,
F W Wolf,	J S Trares,
Jos Pogue,	Anthony & Kuhn,
F Begemann,	W D Harnist,
W M Warnock,	T J Newsham,
C W Terry,	E C & W F Springer,
J G Irwin,	Uhl Bros,
Springer & Tunnell,	E J Jeffress,
Long & Flynn,	T T Tartt,
J Whitbread,	P Webster,
C Boeschenstein,	Geo Bernfus,
E W Fiegenbaum,	Jacob Hoehn,
Geo J Webb,	Mudge & Cook,
C E Gillespie,	Wm Stechlinger,
A L Brown,	Wm Storig,
P W Parker,	Mary Littleton,
M E West	L C Keown,
F M Lane	R C Wayne,
E Ballweg,	S T Robinson,
Harrison Barco,	Elizabeth Burgess,
Louis Hartung,	John Brinkmann,
CAR Benedict,	J G Knebel,
C F Cook,	J I. Lanterman,
Mrs Morefield,	Jos Edmonds,
Frank Stenzel,	F A Wolf,
M Scheiber,	A Schlegel,
T V Whitesides,	Lizzie White,
W H Cotter,	R Friday,
W C Schwarz,	John Sanner,
C H Nash,	Geo Kellermann,
F A Schultze,	G W Meyer,
E D Gillespie,	E P Greenwood,
Kirkpatrick Bros,	Frank Stillwell,
Geo F. Brendle,	GeoSoehlke,
C H Spillman,	Herman Berlemann,
C E Tyndall,	O L Brown,
E B Evans,	Diepold & Dale,
G H Coventry,	E A Burke,
Geo Kalbhetsch,	S O Bonner,
G L Hall,	H B Little,
J B Judd,	C H Crocker,
T J Judy,	R N Montgomery,
A H Kienlen,	C W Fangenroth,
C C Buckley,	T E Gonterman,
Thos O'Connor,	W J Schwartz,
O G Girnt,	J Dornacher,
A Klingel,	Tuxhorn Bros,
August Herder,	Wm Emerhausen,
Chas Schroeer,	John Wentz,
O D Finch	J J Mumme,
F G Mahler,	H O. Isensee,
J F Varnum,	C F Ballweg,
T H Stokes,	F Hetsterbaum,
W R Brink,	Geo Leverett,
E. Barnett	

To the subscribers who contributed their share in the Nelson Fund to the Public Library, we heartily extend our earnest thanks.

DIRECTORS OF THE LIBRARY

September 10, 1895, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Accident at Leclaire

PARAGRAPHIC PICKUPS

THE WEEK'S EVENTS OF INTEREST REFLECTED

James Glass, a young man employed in the cabinet shops at Leclaire, met with an accident Saturday which resulted in the loss of the free use of his left hand. He had a board he wanted planed and started it through a machine known as a joiner. It passed through all right and he started it through again but from the opposite side. The machine is operated only from one side and when the board struck the knives it was thrown some distance away. The young man's left arm was caught by the swiftly revolving knives and in a moment three fingers and part of the thumb were cut off and the flesh of the palm of the hand removed. His injuries were attended by Dr. E. W. Fiegenbaum, who amputated the three fingers and dressed the thumb.

J. H. Neustadt has become associated with Mosler, Bahmann & Co., the large safe manufacturers of Cincinnati, and will have charge of the western branch at 311 Locust, St. Louis.

October 8, 1895, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Fire at Leclaire

PARAGRAPHIC PICKUPS

THE WEEK'S EVENTS OF INTEREST REFLECTED

The first fire of consequence at Leclaire occurred Saturday morning. At 5:30 o'clock the pretty residence occupied by Fred Magoula, was discovered to be ablaze. It is thought the fire had its origin from sparks falling on the roof. Flames were seen issuing from there by neighbors, and soon after the alarm was sounded by the Madison Coal Co. and N. O. Nelson whistles. The Leclaire hose reel was run out and coupling was made to a fire plug, but there was no force to the water and it was impossible to get a stream to the seat of the fire. Most all the furniture on the first floor was saved, including a sideboard valued at \$800, a piece made by Mr.

Magoula to be exhibited at the World's Fair. He had been offered \$600 for it and carried \$600 insurance on it. Several other articles of furniture were also valuable. The loss on the building is about \$1,500, and the insurance is \$1,000. The personal property was insured and will be covered. With any kind of fire apparatus almost the fire could have been put out.

October 11, 1895, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire School Opens

PARAGRAPHIC PICKUPS

THE WEEK'S EVENTS OF INTEREST REFLECTED

The formal opening of the Leclaire school and library building will take place next Tuesday evening with a musical and literary entertainment. Among those who will take part are Miss Constance Lynn, of St. Louis, a popular reciter, and Mrs. C. F. Weiland and Miss Edith Metcalfe, of Edwardsville, vocalists. The Leclaire Band will play. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Library is now open to the public. Persons taking out books must not keep them longer than two weeks. Books will be issued daily between the hours of 4 and 4:30 P.M., and on Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings between the hours of 7 and 7:30. It will also be accessible before and after the lecture on Tuesday nights.

October 18, 1895, Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

LECLAIRE REJOICES

NEW EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FORMALLY DEDICATED

With Music, Recitations and Speeches and Par__y a Dance

The educational building at Leclaire was taxed far beyond its capacity at Tuesday night's concert. The movable partitions were thrown back, the entire room 40 by 60 filled with seats, standing room was all taken, the vestibule and portico jammed, and then some scores turned away, unable to get within hearing distance. Evidently by another year the Leclaire people will have to set their carpenters to work on an addition, or on another new building.

The concert was one of the regular winter series of lectures and entertainments. The band rendered several pieces, and did it well. Solos were sung by Miss Edith Metcalfe and Mrs. C. F. Weiland. Their excellent soprano voices brought out prolonged applause. These two ladies are not only excellent singers, but they possess that enviable kindness of disposition which makes them ready to volunteer their services wherever they can give pleasure to an audience.

It is a peculiarity of the Leclaire entertainments that the public is charged nothing for the lectures and concerts, and the managers have never been even asked by anyone to be paid for services. Prof. Fiske, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, and Rev. W. D. P. Bliss, all of them famous as authors and lecturers, and each hailing all the way from Boston, have lectured at Leclaire without money and without price. Professors, preachers and lawyers, musicians and readers, from Edwardsville, St. Louis, and elsewhere, have cheerfully contributed their time and talent for nothing. The Edwardsville Mandolin band and also Guitar club, rendered some excellent pieces. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the evening was the reading of Miss Lynn, of St. Louis. Her "Woman's Rights" and "The One-Legged Goods" were inimitable to substance as well as in delivery. Her entirely quiet manner, perfectly modulated voice and easy presence added much to the merit of her pieces.

After the audience had been dismissed, many remained and danced for an hour or two. Mr. and Mrs. W. F. L. Hadley, Mr. N. O. Nelson and others not entirely young, joined in the opening quadrille. At the opening Mr. Nelson explained that the building had been erected by the united work of all the employees. It was out of their joint production that the means for erecting and maintaining the house and its educational features were defrayed. All of its facilities were free to everybody, wherever they came from. Lectures and entertainments would be given weekly and all were invited. The library, industrial school, night school and kindergarten were also free to everyone. The building would be dedicated to education, recreation and religion. At any time, not previously engaged, it could be had for religious and social purposes within the broadest limits. Education in the wide sense of developing every faculty that was desired in human life would be cultivated. At the bottom of it all there would be the universal principles of equality, and the brotherhood of man. Rational recreation, he thought, was a part of religion, as well as of education.

E. N. Plank announced that the library would be open for the issue of books every afternoon from 4 to 5:30; Tuesday and Friday evenings 7 to 7:30, and Monday evenings before and after the lectures. The reading room is open every evening and all day Sunday. Hereafter the lectures and entertainments will be on Monday nights.

The school has already reached an enrollment of 68.

October 25, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Leclaire Locals.

The lecture and entertainment night at Leclaire has been changed to Monday, and there will be some program every week. Monday night E. N. Plank commenced a series of illustrated lectures, which will extend through several months. His next subject will be, "Yosemite Valley and the Big Tree Groves of California."

The night school will hereafter meet on Tuesday and Friday evenings. Classes in book keeping and mechanical drawing will be organized Wednesday evening, October 30th.

November 15, 1895, Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Nelson Lecture on Shakespearian England

PARAGRAPHIC PICKUPS

THE WEEK'S EVENTS OF INTEREST REFLECTED

The main halls of the LeClaire school building were filled to overflowing, Monday night, to hear N. O. Nelson in an illustrated lecture on the "Shakespearean Region of England." The views were well selected and they accurately and beautifully portrayed the English Midlands. The places represented were Coventry, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick and Kenilworth Castle. The portraits of several noted personages contemporaneous with Shakespeare were also shown. Mr. Nelson explained each picture in a clear and concise manner which was both instructive and entertaining. The audience listened attentively for an hour or more and at the close expressed their appreciation of the lecture by prolonged and enthusiastic applause. Next Monday evening Mr. Plank will give an illustrated lecture on "Nature's Wonderland; Yellow Stone Park." A Shakespeare reading class will probably be organized next Wednesday evening.

December 2, 1895
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

STRIKE OFF AT LE CLAIRE

N. O. Nelson's Profit-Sharing Employes Forced Their Point

REFUSED TO BUY A FACTORY

The Men Grow Tired of Profit Sharing When There Are No Profits To Divide

President Nelson, of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company, returned to his office at Ninth and St. Charles streets at 11 o'clock Monday morning from a hurried trip to LeClaire, his profit-sharing town in Illinois. He went over there Sunday evening to settle a threatened strike among his employes, the cause of which he thus explains:

"We offered to sell the cabinet plant to the men, payments to be made in 25 per cent of their weekly earnings, and all the accumulated profits of their labor.

"We thought the plan was entirely agreeable to them and that it would take effect to-day. Yesterday I learned that the men were dissatisfied. I went over last night to see them and cancelled the bargain by taking the plant back.

"This settled the trouble and the men went to work this morning as usual. The plan was for them to run the cabinet plant on the co-operative plan. But since they don't want to undertake it they are at liberty to continue work as before, on the profit-sharing plan. That's all there is to it, and there is no sign of the failure of the profit-sharing scheme which our company has undertaken with marked success to date."

The refusal of the men to accept Mr. Nelson's proposition is explained by W. L. Starbird, chief engineer of the plant, who states that he understands the situation to be about as follows:

"Mr. Nelson came over on Wednesday evening and called a meeting of the men at work in the cabinet mill, varnish shop and engineering department. He announced that henceforth the men would leave with the company 25 per cent of their wages for purchase of stock. Also that it would be a year before they would get any dividend, probably not then. He stated that all those agreeing to the proposition were to report for work Monday morning. He added that there would be no ill-feeling against any who did not return to work.

One of the men asked whether, if he paid in \$999 of the total \$1,000 required, and was then discharged he would get anything out. Mr. Nelson replied, "not a cent." Another asked whether his son, who earns \$3 a week, would be required to leave 75 cents a week. The answer was "yes."

"When the town was built six years ago the men were required to leave 10 per cent of their wages for the purchase of stock. The first year a 10 per cent dividend was declared. This was retained by the company toward paying for the stock. The second year the dividend was 7 per cent, the third year 6 per cent, the fourth 4 per cent, and the last two years there has been no dividend.

"Shortly after the incorporation a cooperative store was started. All the men took stock in amounts up to \$200. They were not allowed credit, but the prices charged were reasonable and there was no extortion. But it was announced two months ago that the store was \$1,700 in debt and the men refusing to pay in any more, it failed. They got nothing out of it. Mr. Nelson stated afterward that he had paid off the liabilities and he now owns the store.

"Things have been running along this way until last Wednesday, when Mr. Nelson submitted his proposition. All the men except four in the cabinet shop rejected it then and there. They worked until Saturday night, but decided to keep away Monday if Mr. Nelson insisted on his proposition.

"The average wages earned are \$1.50 a day or \$9 a week, and deducting 25 per cent leaves but \$6.75 to live on."

December 3, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Declined the Offer

Some of the workmen of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co. at Leclaire were on a strike Monday morning. Matters were adjusted early in the forenoon and all departments started up again this morning. Mr. Nelson some time ago made the employes of the cabinet, copper and finishing shops a proposition whereby the men in these departments were to allow 25 per cent of their wages to stand to their credit and as fast as the amount accumulated to receive it in stock of the company, his plan being to make the employes in course of some years the virtual owners of the plant. A meeting was held at the Club House Wednesday, at which Mr. Nelson explained the proposition, and stated that all men who showed up Monday, December 2nd, were to be considered as having agreed to the plan. The men met Sunday and decided to refuse the offer and agreed that none of the departments affected were to go to work Monday. When Mr. Nelson was informed of the action he came out and agreed not to insist on his proposition but let the men go back under the old system. This was satisfactory and work was resumed.

December 6, 1895, Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire Entertainment

Paragraphic Pickups

The entertainment at Leclaire next Monday night will take place rain or shine. Miss Viola Eliot Black, a graduate of Emerson school of oratory, in Boston, will be present and give several readings. The lady is a popular recite and a first class elocutionist. All interested are invited to attend.

December 10, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Social and Personal

ABOUT PEOPLE FROM HOME AND ABROAD

Occurrences Duly Noted and Elaborated Visitors In and Out of Town

J. Fogarty, an employe of the Machine Shops at Leclaire, entertained a large number of friends last night at a dancing party given at the hall in the John Stolze block, on Vandalia street. Dancing was continued until long after midnight.

The monthly tea of the W. C. T. U. will be given in St. John's M.E. church Saturday commencing at 2:30. A cordial invitation is extended to all interested in the work. The committee in charge consists of Mesdames M. J. Springer, J. W. Terry, A. St. Clair, M. Bailey.

The Edwardsville Dramatic Club, comprising members of the Caroni class and others will present an opera, the last act of Il Trovatore and the second act of Martha, at Tuxhorn Opera House next Tuesday evening. They have been rehearsing for some time and the entertainment was postponed once.

A very enjoyable entertainment was given at Leclaire last evening, in the school building which was filled to its fullest capacity. Miss Viola Eliot Black, an elocutionist from St. Louis, and a graduate of the Emerson School of Oratory, in Boston, gave a recital. Her selections were well chosen, and she rendered the in a pleasing and effective manner. James Smith, a vocalist from St. Louis, who studied in New York and possesses a rich and thoroughly cultivated voice, sang several selections with great expression. The Leclaire Band and Edwardsville Guitar and Mandolin Club interspersed the recitals with excellent music. Instrumental duets were given by Meessrs. Dickinson and Wheeler, and Tunnell and Dickinson. The audience expressed their appreciation by frequent and enthusiastic applause. At the close E. N. Plank announced that the entertainments and lectures would be discontinued until after the holidays, but that the library would be open Saturday afternoons from 4 to 5 o'clock.

December 13, 1895
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Leclaire Notes.

The Shakespearian reading club will commence reading the "Comedy of Errors" Wednesday night.

After the holidays a debating society will be organized and have a meeting every other Monday evening. The Leclaire school will be closed for a week during the holidays. The enrollment is now seventy-four. The class in mechanical drawing now meets twice a week—Wednesday and Friday evenings. It is in charge of G. W. Wilder.

Miss Edith Choate has been appointed assistant librarian of the Leclaire Free Library and will open it every Saturday afternoon between the hours of 4 and 5.

Miss Viola Eliot Black, who recited at the entertainment in Leclaire Monday night, expects to organize a class in elocution, which will meet in the Leclaire school building on Saturday afternoons.

Miss Ollie Thomas, who teaches the intermediate grade in Leclaire school, has been ill several days, but she has again resumed her school work. During her illness Miss Minnie Schwarz taught.

December 26, 1895

The Massillon Independent, Massillon, Ohio

For Those Who Toil

The Experiment of a Philanthropic Employer

Relations of Labor and Capital at Leclaire Village--An Enterprise That is Being Closely Watched by Many Students of the Social Problem.

(Special Correspondence.)

ST. LOUIS, DEC. 17. -- Eighteen miles from the city of St. Louis on the line of the Wabash and the "Clover Leaf" railroads is the town of Edwardsville, the busy center of prosperous agricultural country. Just outside the town limits of Edwardsville in what is known as Leclaire village, an experiment is being tried--one of the many experiments continually being made with a view to improving the relations of the working-man. The experimenter at Leclaire is N. O. Nelson, a prosperous St. Louis manufacturer.

Mr. Nelson is an enthusiastic student of labor problems. Nine years ago he attempted to solve one of them by establishing a system of profit sharing in his factories. Most of the employees of the corporation of which Mr. Nelson is the moving spirit are shareholders, and they divide with their employer the profits of each year's work. Four years after the adopting of profit sharing in his establishment Mr. Nelson began the execution of this idea for the establishment of a community in which his employees could live more comfortably than in the crowded city, and in which they could be encouraged to become the owners of their homes.

A Model Town.

Mr. Nelson's first step was to buy a farm of 125 acres. It was located just outside the town of Edwardsville, so there should be no compulsion about living there. The workmen in the shops may, and, in fact, most of them do, live in the town. It was located beside the railroad track for convenience in shipping goods. It was situated between groves of thick green woods, and two well filled ponds guarantee a supply of water for the boilers. On this tract of land Mr. Nelson began the erection of workshops, moving his business gradually from St. Louis to Leclaire. Almost one-half of his men are employed now at Leclaire.

The place is called Leclaire village, yet it has no government except the laws of Illinois. It has not been incorporated under any municipal scheme. There is no policeman to be found anywhere within its limits, and Mr. Nelson believes that neither police nor sheriff will ever be needed. It is, in fact, a community, but since it is styled a village, for the better understanding of those who hear it spoken of, a village I will call it in this brief description.

Between the shops and the community's tract of land is a high hedge fence which Mr. Nelson regards with peculiar fondness. It is the dividing line between authority and independence, for the authority of the shops does

not exist in any form in the community, and the people of Leclaire, whether they own or rent their houses, are entirely free from restraint at the hands of the company.

Through a break in the hedge a cinder drive leads past the village store and the headquarters of the Pastime club to a public parking, which is decorated with well kept beds of flowering and foliage plants. At this parking the road divides. To the right it passes the new school house, a small building of the Grecian type, brilliant in its new coat of yellow paint.

To the left the road leads past the clubhouse, which once stood where the school now is, but which now turns its back to the school building. Opposite the clubhouse and beyond it are the dwellings of some of the people of Leclaire. There are others opposite and beyond the schoolhouse. On a crossroad which connects these parallel divisions at the main street are other dwellings. All are of a modest type, built of frame, two stories high, differing from one another in style of architecture. The lots on which the houses stand are all 100 feet by 120 to 180 feet deep. The price charged for this land is \$2 per front foot for interior and \$2.50 per front for corner lots, with interest at 6 per cent from 1892.

The company, of which Mr. Nelson is the head, builds the houses after plans mutually agreed on and sells houses and lots to employees on monthly installments of \$10 to \$20 per month. The charge for the houses is the cost of raw material and labor plus the average profit made by the manufacturing business.

Rules for Payment.

The rules as to payments for houses are not ironbound; nothing about Mr. Nelson's plans is. Mr. Nelson takes a personal interest in each case and adjust the conditions to suit it. For example, there is a neatly kept house in Leclaire occupied by a man who has been out of work for nearly a year. He was disabled shortly after he bought it. He has paid nothing on the house since he met with the accident, and the living expenses of himself and his family have been paid out of the provident fund of the company.

The provident fund and the educational fund are two features of Leclaire which are worth noticing. The provident fund is an indefinite sum, appropriated to relieve the necessities of those who are disabled while in the employ of the company or those dependent on them, and to provide for the widows and the orphans of those who die while in the company's employ. The allowance on account of disability is approximately \$5 a week for a grown employee \$3 for a minor, \$2 for an employee's wife or dependent mother, and \$1 for each child. The allowance to the families of deceased employees is \$4 to a widow, \$2 to each child under 14, and \$2 each to aged and disabled parents. In addition to this, medical attendance is provided in some cases and reasonable funeral expenses are paid.

Educational Work.

The educational fund was also a fixed sum at one time, but now there is an endorsement of \$10,000 of the stock of the company. This educational fund is even more liberally bestowed than the provident fund. To be a beneficiary under the provident fund a man must have been in the employ of the company for six months. To benefit through his children by the educational fund he need not have been in the employ of the company at all.

Few Restrictions.

The streets of Leclaire have been laid out by the company, and not only the public but the private lawns are kept in flowers by the public gardener and supplied from the public greenhouse. Cinders cover the roads, and there are plank walks 4 feet wide as far as the houses extend. Water mains have been laid to all the houses, and running water, the distillation of the steam from the company's shops, is furnished free to all. Electric lights are in all the houses and the charge for them is 25 cents a month each. There are no sewers yet.

The House Owners.

The company does rent houses temporarily, although it prefers in all cases to sell. In fact, if it was willing to rent all that were wanted, a great number of the workmen would be living in Leclaire. But one of the chief objects of the town is the encouragement of thrift, and house renting is a luxury when house owning is possible - to the poor man at last. Rents in Leclaire range from \$6 to \$12 a month.

In spite of these inducements less than 15 men have bought homes in Leclaire, though there are 200 men now working in the shops of the village. A dozen men live at the clubhouse, not on the co-operative plan, but as patrons of a caterer. Mr. Nelson says that he is satisfied with what has been accomplished. He does not expect to make a revolution in one year or many. He believes that his scheme has made some men happier and more prosperous and that it will help others.

The success of his experiment is being watched by many who have made a study of social problems. Among these are Dr. E. E. Hale and Professor John Fiske, who have visited Leclair and delivered lectures in the course which is held in the schoolhouse every winter.

GEORGE GRANTHAM BAIN

January 7, 1896
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Cabinet Shop Makes Bar Fixtures

The cabinet shops of Leclair are turning out a set of elaborate bar fixtures for the new saloon of Louis May, to be opened next month, west of the court square. The bar is to be 16 feet long, of oak and mahogany, and is made from designs of M. M. Flannagan, superintendent of the shops.

February 4, 1896
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Cabinet Shop to Make Bank Counters

The Bank of Edwardsville has let a contract to the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Co. to furnish new counters and fixtures for the bank. The new outfit will be of poplar, and of substantial and handsome design.

Tuesday, May 5, 1896
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Bicycles in Leclair

Paragraphic Pickups

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS OF INTEREST REFLECTED

A. W. Lawnin, superintendent of the bicycle department at Leclair, royally entertained a party of young lady and gentlemen friends from St. Louis Saturday. The guests, to the number of twenty-five, arrived at noon over the Wabash, and after dinner at the St. James visited Leclair. A tour of the shops and grounds was made and the afternoon concluded with a dance in the school building, music furnished by the Leclair band. Several artistic photographs of the visitors were taken. They returned to St. Louis on the 4:50 Clover Leaf. N. O. Nelson was a member of the party.

May 15, 1896
Edwardsville Intelligencer

WORLD OF WHEELMEN

What is Doing Among Cyclers and in Cycling Circles

Caleb Bartlett has purchased a Moon wheel.

Arthur Rump and Frank Kinder were over from Troy on their bikes, Wednesday.

The Nelson Co. has entered a new field in their bicycle work, and are now renting out wheels from the works at Leclaire.

A new distance has been established between Alton and Bunker Hill. The members of the Alton cycling club made the trip the other day and according to one of the riders it was 20 miles over and 47 miles back.

Chicago bicycle manufacturers are shipping so many wheels to the west that they have petitioned the railroads for lower freight rates. When the bicycle craze was a small child nearly all of the machines were sent by express, but the business has now got beyond baggage cars, and is filling freight trains.

The race between a sextet bicycle and the Empire State express is scheduled to take place near Albany, N.Y., today. A track six miles long has been prepared parallel to the New York Central's tracks. The wheel weighs 137 1/2 pounds, and is geared to 196 inches. If the men to ride it can turn their pedals three times to a second, as is hoped, the train record of thirty-seven and one-fifth seconds for a mile will be beaten two and two-fifths seconds.

Theater managers of large cities complain that the "bike" has ruined their business. Since the pleasant weather set in none of the play houses is doing more than pay expenses. All plans for the summer season have been abandoned and engagements canceled. The proper thing nowadays is a short, early dinner in riding costume and a "push" as they call it, afterward. The streets are alive with groups of lights like glow-worms floating swiftly over the smooth pavements.

August 4, 1896
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Bicycle Department Closes

Paragraphic Pickups

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS OF INTEREST REFLECTED

The bicycle department at Leclaire shut down, Saturday.

Justice John Hobson, Saturday, placed Edward Choate under \$500 bond to keep the peace for six months, on the complaint made by E. N. Plank, who averred that Mr. Choate had threatened to do him bodily harm.

September 18, 1896
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Social and Personal

ABOUT PEOPLE FROM HOME AND ABROAD

Occurrences Duly Noted and Elaborated Visitors In and Out of Town

At Leclaire Hall, tonight, Dr. Beber Robarts, of St. Louis, will give an exhibition of the X rays and lecture upon this mysterious form of energy. Admission is 25 cents.

The entertainment at Leclaire, Wednesday evening, by the Christian Endeavor Society of the Christian church, was attended by a fair sized crowd. Songs, readings and recitations, combined with stereopticon views, comprised the program. The Leclaire band assisted.

December 11, 1896
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Religious Meetings at Leclaire School House

Dr. J. W. Caldwell is making arrangements for Sunday afternoon religious meetings to be held in the Academy at Leclaire. The meetings will be non-sectarian and will be conducted by the different pastors of the city.

1897

Encyclopedia of Social Reform
By William Dwight Porter Bliss
Published by Funk and Wagnells
Pages 808-809

LECLAIRE, ILL., is the home of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Co.'s works, where Mr. N. O. Nelson (the founder of the firm) is developing a cooperative manufactory and village. The company, which is engaged in manufacturing plumbers' supplies, and has its office in St. Louis, Mo., commenced in 1886 a profit-sharing system, and still continues it.

After paying the regular wages and 6 per cent interest on capital, it sets aside 10 per cent of the profits for a reserve fund to meet losses, 5 per cent of the profits for a provident fund to care for the sick and the families of deceased employees, and then divides the remainder at the rate of 2 per cent on wages to 1 per cent on capital. The dividends on wages have in seven years amounted to 54 per cent. The provident fund is managed by a committee of employees elected by themselves. The working day has been reduced to nine hours a day at regular 10 hours' pay, without any apparent diminution in product.

Later, the company acquired its present tract of 125 acres of land 18 miles from St. Louis, with the purpose of erecting factories and building homes for its men. The village was called Leclaire in honor of the founder of profit sharing. It now contains a half dozen brick factory buildings, heated by steam and lighted by electricity, water-works, a cooperative store owned and conducted by the men, a bowling-alley and billiard-room, a lecture hall and library. A kindergarten and school, a band, and a literary society have been organized. The streets are not run at right angles, but, in the manner of park roads, are paved with cinders, and skirted by four-foot sidewalks and lines of trees.

Cottages of good architectural design are built for employees on plans adopted by themselves, and are paid for in monthly installments slightly in excess of the city rents. These houses are built on lots of about one third of an acres, with a building-line of not less than 40 feet, are supplied with water and electric light, water being free and the lights 25 cents a month. The streets are sprinkled and lighted by electricity free of charge. By common consent no vegetable gardens are made about the premises, the grounds being devoted to grass, shrubbery, fruit trees and small fruits. A neighboring coal mine supplies coal slack for the factories at \$1 a carload and lump coal at 70 cents a ton, which the cooperative store buys and retails to its members at the local retail rate.

Once in two weeks a lecture is given by university professors from St. Louis, by professional men, and by other capable lecturers. The lectures are always given to large and attentive audiences. Every other week the literary society has an essay or a discussion, singing and reading. The kindergarten has more than anything else enlisted the enthusiasm of the residents of Leclaire, and has drawn a number of children from the adjoining town of Edwardsville. The educational plan contemplates successive steps through the kindergarten, manual training in connection with the shops for boys and domestic training for girls, so that at the age of 18 or 20 a good school education shall be accompanied by skill and experience in work, and with a regular occupation awaiting each graduate. It is hoped to develop the cooperative features till the factory and the whole village can be made completely cooperative.

Note: Paragraphs, not present in the original article, were added for ease of reading.

1897

Kansas City Star
excerpt from an interview with N. O. Nelson

“Do you receive applications from people who wish to become citizens of Leclaire?”

“Yes, we get a great number. Any one is welcome, but of course only a certain number can be employed and preference is given to the people of St. Louis and Edwardsville. When Nellie Bly’s article about Leclaire was published we received over 600 letters from persons who wished to join the community.”

July 6, 1897
Edwardsville Intelligencer

FRESH AIR MISSION

Nineteen little girls in age from 9 to 13 arrived in Leclaire this morning, the first detachment of children who are to come here by aid of the Fresh Air Mission, for a country outing. They are from the factory districts and were in charge of Mrs. S. E. Fifield, of the St. Louis Social Settlement. The program of their daily life here is interesting. After toilet and breakfast in the morning they assemble in the school room to listen to music and are afterward given a short lesson in some phase of practical science. They are then at liberty to divert themselves as they please the rest of the day, swinging, see-sawing, playing tennis, etc. Every day each child writes a postal card to its parents informing them of its welfare. The children dine in the club house, and the south room of the school building has been converted into a cool, airy dormitory, filled with cots, where in company with some grown person they sleep.

To keep up this work more funds are necessary than are at present at the disposal of the committee and it is earnestly requested that those of the public able to do so will contribute something to the work.

July 6, 1897, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Fourth at Leclaire

Edwardsville’s pretty suburb, Leclaire, put on festive attire Saturday evening, in honor of her first celebration of Independence Day. The residents turned out en masse for an evening of pleasure and they were joined by hundreds from this place. The Academy campus, which was made the scene of the assemblage, was lighted with a multitude of Chinese lanterns and electric lights. An elaborate pyrotechnic display on the ball field, concluding with the release of a large balloon, was among the entertainments provided. Refreshments were dispensed and the proceeds, which amounted to about \$40, will be devoted to the Fresh Air Missions. The evening was enlivened by musical selections by the Leclaire band. Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Nelson, of St. Louis, came out on the holiday. Considered in detail, or as a whole, the evening was delightful to all.

July 27, 1897, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
N. O. Nelson Home is Built

Paragraphic Pickups

Work on the residence of N. O. Nelson and family at Leclaire will be commenced this week. It will have eight rooms and be handsomely finished. Chas. D. Hill will superintend construction.

Friday, August 27, 1897

Edwardsville Intelligencer

Fire Near Leclaire Factories; Reuben Glass Suffers Accident

Local Happenings

The Week's Events of Interest Reflected.

Fire was discovered on a vacant lot east of the paint shop at Leclaire, Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The ground was covered in weeds and had been used as a dumping place for scraps, oily waste, etc. The flames threatened to communicate to some of the buildings and the fire apparatus was called out and promptly extinguished them. This latter action used up all the water in the tanks on the water tower, cutting short the boiler supply, and the works closed down for the rest of the day.

Reuben Glass, eldest son of Superintendent W. H. Glass, of Madison Mine No. 3, was the victim of an accident yesterday. He was hauling boxes of coal in the mine and on the last trip before dinner one of the cars jumped the track. The lad was sitting on top of it with his hands on the corner. The car plunged against a post at the side of the track catching his right hand. The sharp corner cut off the third finger of his right hand and smashed the others badly. Dr. H. T. Wharff assisted by Dr. J. E. Bahrenburg, dressed his injury. Reuben has been unfortunate in the way of accidents; about half a year ago he nearly had a foot cut off by a chain at the mine.

Tuesday, September 28, 1897

Edwardsville Intelligencer

Elopement

Local Happenings

The Week's Events of Interest Reflected

An elopement, with all the attributes which fact and fiction associate with these occurrences, took place yesterday. The parties are Walter Morton, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Morton, and Miss Edith, daughter of E. C. Choate, of Leclaire. The young man informed his parents the week before of their intentions, and wanted the girl to tell her family but she did not want to do so and her family were entirely ignorant of the affair. She left the house yesterday morning, telling Mrs. Choate that she was going out to spend the day, joined

Walter and they went to St. Louis to be married. To-day's St. Louis Globe-Democrat contained this item from Clayton – "Marriage License Clerk Peter Wetzel refused a license yesterday to Geo. W. Morton and Edith B. Choate, of Edwardsville." It is said the lady is but 16 years old. Romance is further given to the affair by the fact that the young couple had never kept company and the marriage was apparently arranged within two weeks. They are expected home tonight.

Friday, October 1, 1897
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Local Happenings

The Week's Events of Interest Reflected

M. M. Flannigan, who for nearly four years has been superintendant of the Cabinet Shop at Leclaire will leave the fore part of next week for St. Louis. He will again take up the duties of the position he had before coming here, in the Crescent Planing Mills. Mr. Flannigan has the friendship of all the men who worked under his supervision, and also of citizens generally.

The Leclaire Academy football team organized Wednesday night and will commence practice at once. The players are: Chas. Metcalfe, Ray Crossman, Ralph Metcalfe, F. Zimmerschied, Cyrus Geers, Phillip Leuckel, John Epping, Raymond Stubbs, Tom Crossman, Will Bayer and Lester Geers. Will Eaton, who was a crack player on the McKendree college eleven, will coach the team, and Tom Crossman will be captain.

Friday, October 1, 1897
Edwardsville Intelligencer

STILL ELOPING.

Several chapters have been turned in the elopement case since the flight mentioned in Tuesday's issue and the plot of the narrative grows in interest. As stated then the couple were refused a license in Clayton. They fared equally unsuccessful at St. Louis. Still hoping they went to Belleville and for a third time experienced the marble heart. They then returned to St. Louis. In the meantime E. C. Choate, the father of the girl, started in pursuit. He went to St. Louis and moved heaven and earth, that is, he enlisted the aid of the detective force and the police department in the search for the girl. Chief Desmond detailed Detectives Lally and Kelley, who located the runaway couple at the home of Officer Thompson, who lives at 3535 Grand Ave. The lovers escaped the sleuths and left the city. Last night Mr. Choate telephoned from here to the city marshal of Lebanon to arrest the pair. They got into town last night, still unmarried. The girl was a little afraid to go home and did not return to the house until this morning, just four days from her departure.

According to the pencil pushers of the city dailies Mr. Choate has strong intentions of sending the loving young man to the penitentiary for abduction if such a thing is possible, and then there is another side. T. W. Morton, the young man's father, is wroth over the statements quoted as Mr. Choate's and may contribute a few more pages to the tale. The young couple's experience is certainly a lively one. The case is somewhat of a dampner on the idea of romantic elopements if any such exist around here.

October 26, 1897
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Leclaire Academy News

The Academy proper now has 25 students.

Dr. J. W. Caldwell will lecture at the Academy Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock on the "Beginnings of History."

The shorthand class is progressing nicely. It is expected that several stenographers will be turned out next spring.

The literary society elected the following officers, Friday: Miss Emma Durer, president; Miss Florence Hall, vice president; Miss Olive G. Thomas, secretary.

Dr. John Snyder, of the Church of the Messiah, St. Louis, will lecture at the Academy Thursday night on the "Forgotten Patriot." Music by the Leclaire orchestra.

The members of the football team thank Mr. N. O. Nelson for the assistance he rendered them. They would like to hear from all teams in their class. Address Albert Stolze, captain.

The Leclaire Tigers will play the McCray-Dewey eleven, Saturday afternoon on the Leclaire campus. A good game is looked for, although the Troy team is much heavier than the Tigers. The game will be called at 2:30.

October 29, 1897
Edwardsville Intelligencer

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

THE WEEK'S EVENTS OF INTEREST REFLECTED

Word has been received that there will be no football game at Leclaire tomorrow. Troy crawfished.

Finally Married.

The curtain dropped on the final act of the Morton-Choate elopement, Wednesday afternoon, when George W. Morton and Miss Edith B. Choate, were united in marriage by Magistrate George Barraclough. A month ago, it will be remembered the couple eloped, and for several days were engaged in an endeavor to secure a marriage license at St. Louis, Clayton and Belleville, which was refused at each place on account of the age of the girl who is only 15 years old. E. E. Choate, the girl's father was very much opposed to the match at that time and followed them and finally his efforts induced them to return home. A month has passed, and the stern parent relented, and gave consent. The license was issued at four o'clock Wednesday, and a few moments later the Magistrate in his most suave manner performed the ceremony.

October 29, 1897
Edwardsville Intelligencer

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

ABOUT PEOPLE FROM HOME AND ABROAD.

Tuesday evening, November 16, Rabbi Leon Harrison, of St. Louis, will lecture at Leclaire Academy on "Man and His Mission."

The University Club met Tuesday evening at the Leland. It will be entertained at the Academy at Leclaire next Tuesday evening.

Mr. Frank Foster and Miss Alza Hempstead were married at half past six o'clock last night at the Club house, Leclaire, by Dr. J. W. Caldwell. The bride is a grand-daughter of W. B. Johnson, with whom she has been making her home. The groom is the young man who last week had a settlement with the Madison Coal Co., receiving \$650 for injuries sustained by a fall of coal.

Dr. John Snyder, of St. Louis, lectured to a fine audience in Leclaire Academy last night. His theme was somewhat unusual, being an eloquent character study of Thomas Paine. He showed that he had been universally misunderstood and that the great help he unselfishly gave to the cause of liberty, when it was young and struggling against immense odds, was in a great measure unappreciated. For over an hour he held the closest attention of his audience, and all felt the truth of his reasoning in that we owe a debt of gratitude to this neglected patriot. This was the first of a series of semi-monthly lectures and musicales that are to be given in the Academy during the winter.

December 7, 1897, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

SPELLING MATCH IN LECLAIRE

The spelling match last night in Leclaire was a most novel entertainment and afforded much enjoyment to the audience which packed the hall. It was the old people against the young people and N. O. Nelson and Miss Olive Thomas chose the participants on the sides. On the older people's side were noticed: N. O. Nelson, M. W. Clark, A. W. Metcalfe, Mrs. C. H. Burton, Mrs. M. W. Clark, Mrs. F. W. Wolf, Mrs. Wm. H. Hall, F. W. Wolf, Mrs. H. C. Barnsback and others, including in the rank the best spellers of the school room of days gone by. The opposing side was entirely of young people, most of them students of the Academy. M. D. Cox and Miss Edith Metcalfe alternated in giving out the words. The first word missed was "medley," by Neil Schafer on the young people's side, and then F. W. Wolf, of the opponents, stumbled on "summit." The spelling was irresistibly funny and the ranks gradually thinned. Mr. Nelson who started spelling with care and precision and looked to be a winner was caught in an unguarded moment by "gayety," but had the satisfaction of knowing that five others failed on the same word. The spelling narrowed to two on the old people's side and two on the opposing side and the latter two went out in order, leaving the old people victors. The victors on that side were J. Troutman, of the Racket Store, and Mrs. M. W. Clark, who contested for the prize. Each spelled with care for several minutes all the hard words that were propounded and then Mr. Troutman missed the comparatively easy one, "miraculous," leaving Mrs. Clark the winner. A witty speech in presentation of the prize, a spelling book, by Dr. J. W. Caldwell closed the entertainment. Another match is being arranged. The judges were C. H. Burton, G. A. Lytle and T. M. Crossman.

***From* SOCIAL AND PERSONAL**

F. M. Crunden, librarian of the St. Louis Public Library will give a free lecture in Leclaire Academy, Friday evening Dec 17, at 8 o'clock, on "Benjamin Franklin." Prof. Crunden is a fine lecturer and everyone should hear him.

***From* LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

The Leclaire Academy faculty have undertaken to secure good homes for 50 orphan children, aged from one month to 10 years. All persons desiring children should call at or address Leclaire Academy.

December 15, 1897
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Student Reading Contest

***From* LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Leclaire Academy offers an honor diploma to the best student reader in Madison county. The applicants for admission to the contest must be between the years of 15 and 20, a student in the public schools and must bring a recommendation for good reading from the teacher. The time for reading will not exceed 8 minutes. The contest is to take place at Leclaire Academy, Friday, January 28. Applications should be made by January 10, to Leclaire Academy.

September 13, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer

A telephone system is being put in at Leclaire this week, connecting all of the factories with the main office. The advantage of the system is apparent as it allows the heads of departments quick and easy communication with the superintendent.

Friday, September 16, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire worker Dies of Typhoid

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Louis Luenstroth, a young man who has been for two years employed in the brass shop at Leclaire, died Monday at the home of his parents in St. Louis. The cause was typhoid fever. He became sick on Labor Day

and his death followed a week later. Louis was one of the best workmen in the factory and was highly thought of by his employers and associates as well. The funeral occurred Wednesday afternoon. The brass shop closed down and nearly all the employes went to St. Louis to attend the services. They sent a beautiful floral offering and another was sent by Mr. Nelson.

Tuesday, September 20, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire Night School

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The Leclaire night school will begin Monday, October 10, and the sessions are to enroll. A desire to learn is the only qualification necessary. No charges of any kind will be made for tuition, books and other materials necessary for work are the only expense.

October 18, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Nelson Mfg Participates in Street Fair (excerpt only)

EDWARDSVILLE'S FREE STREET FAIR

ITS FOUR DAYS' TERM CLOSED SATURDAY NIGHT – GOO GOO PARADE A GREAT DRAWING CARD

Edwardsville's first free street fair closed Saturday a wonderful term of four days.

Exhibits and displays of all kinds were infinite in number and extent. The entries recorded in the secretary's books foot up a total which establishes a record for fairs in southern Illinois. As the displays were so numerous only the most prominent can be accorded a more than passing notice.

The N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co. took a half section to exhibit products of their plants at Leclaire and Moline. Their display was made in departments. The first, bath and toilet room fittings, shone with polished onyx, fine marble and nickel plate. The second and third rooms contained six mantels, output of the cabinet mill at Leclaire. Each was set complete with fancy tiles and beveled mirrors. Lastly came machinery, lathes, thread cutters, and the like. A feature outside the booth was an 8-foot galvanized iron windmill on a tall steel tower. Much time and expense had been put upon the booth and it well deserved the premiums received.

Note: This is an excerpt from an article covering half of the front page of the newspaper.

Friday, November 11, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Pomeroy to Lecture at Leclaire

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

About People From Home and Abroad

Eltweed Pomeroy, of New York, will lecture at Leclair Hall next Monday evening at 8 o'clock. As lecturer, author and poet Mr. Pomeroy is familiar to the people throughout the United States. On the present tour he has appeared in Toledo, Chicago, Milwaukee and other western cities. Admission free.

Friday, November 18, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Lawnins Host Dancing Party

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

About People From Home and Abroad

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Lawnin and Miss Charlotte Nelson will give a dancing party at Leclair hall tonight.

Friday, November 18, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Nunn Home on Furlough

Home on Furlough

James Nunn, of this city, who enlisted in this country's cause at the commencement of the Cuban war, arrived Monday on a 20 days' furlough. It will be remembered that he was employed at Leclair, and that when the thought of enlisting struck him, he did not even take time to draw his pay, but made straight for the enlistment office in St. Louis. He passed the examination, and was assigned to the same company with Frank Childs and Charles Metcalfe, also of this city. The former, he says, is the company's barber, while the latter has been assisting in drilling recruits. His company is stationed at Ft. McPherson, near Atlanta, Ga.

Friday, November 25, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Fritchie Former Employee Visits - Oberlin-Kenner Wedding

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

About People From Home and Abroad

Gus Fritchie, a former employe of the machine shop at Leclaire, was out from St. Louis Sunday to see his old friends.

Mrs. Martha J. Oberlin and Mr. Edward Kenner, both of Glen Carbon, were married in St. Louis Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Justice Richard B. Haughton. They have decided to make their home in Edwardsville, having rented a house in Leclaire. Mr. Kenner is now employed at Madison Mine No. 3.

Tuesday, November 29, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Snyder to Speak at Leclaire

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

About People From Home and Abroad

Rev. John Snyder will entertain an audience at Leclaire Hall tonight with selected readings. The hall should be crowded, as a rare treat is in store for all who attend.

Friday, December 2, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Entertainment at Leclaire Hall

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

About People From Home and Abroad

The date for the entertainment at Leclaire hall next week has been changed from Tuesday to Monday evening. Dr. John Snyder, of St. Louis, will entertain the audience with select, humorous and dramatic readings. It will not be a dry lecture, such as many regard with horror, but will be an entertainment designed solely to amuse and interest the audience and no one can do so with more ease than Dr. Snyder. Admission is free.

Tuesday, December 13, 1898

Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire Residents Visit St. Louis

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

About People From Home and Abroad

Mr. and Mrs. H. Kershaw, of Leclaire, went to St. Louis Saturday evening and were guests over Sunday of his parents.

Tuesday, December 20, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Langwisch Injured at Leclaire

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Otto Langwisch, an employe of the cabinet shop at Leclaire, received a dislocated finger yesterday while at work, his first mishap in eight years spent in the cabinet mill.

Friday, December 23, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer

CHRISTMAS AT THE SCHOOLS

The scholars of the Leclaire school will have a Christmas tree and entertainment at the school building tonight.

Tuesday, December 27, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Reid Lost Finger in Accident

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Wm. Reid, employed in the shops at Leclaire, lost the little finger of one hand in a machine Saturday. It was the last finger on that hand, the others having preceded it in the same manner last year.

Friday, December 30, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Lorch Falls Through Ice

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

On a back fence on Second street a red sweater and a pair of trousers, both coated with ice, are hanging this afternoon. Their owner and generally occupant is in bed; resolving not to skate any more this winter. Fred Lorch was down at Dunstedtler's pond this noon, showing some girls how to skate. He went through in the middle and it took the electric light company employes, a ladder and rope and a good deal of trouble to get him back on shore.

Friday, December 30, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Jane Addams to Visit Leclaire

LECLAIRE NOTES.

It is expected that Miss Jane Adams, of Chicago, will speak in Leclaire hall soon. Miss Adams has gained national and international reputation as the head worker in Hull House Social Settlement, Chicago, and her coming should be an event.

Work in the night school has gone on quietly during the past two and a half months and with increasing interest in the bookkeeping classes. Monday night, January 9, the second term of the year will open. New classes in bookkeeping, arithmetic, reading, writing, grammar and other branches will be organized. It is to be hoped that not less interest will be taken in the bookkeeping but more in the other branches. Applications may be made at the school house on any regular session night, or at the factory office during the day.

Tuesday, January 3, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Addams & Crunden Lectures in Leclaire

Social & Personal

Miss Addams will speak next Saturday evening in the Methodist church and again Sunday afternoon in Leclaire Hall at 3:30 o'clock. Admission to each of these gatherings is free.

Prof. F. M. Crunden, of the St. Louis Public Library, who was to lecture at Leclaire Hall tonight telegraphs this afternoon that he ill not be able to fill his engagement on account of sickness.

Tuesday, January 3, 1899

Two Noteworthy Lectures.

An event of unusual interest will be the coming to Edwardsville and Leclaire of Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago. Miss Addams' name is known always in connection with the institution of which she is the life and inspiration. Hull House Social Settlement stands in one of the poorest districts of Chicago, a quiet, yet effective protest against the unnatural separation of the rich and the poor, the cultured and the ignorant. It is now over ten years old, but today as a social, religious and political force aiming for the good, Hull House is directly and strongly felt not only in the ward in which it is located, but throughout the great city of Chicago.

The beginnings of the settlement were unassuming. Miss Addams and one or two friends rented rooms in the midst of the poverty of a crowded ward and began a quiet work of ministrations. Others became interested in what they were doing and gave moral and financial support. A large house was secured rent free, and educational classes, kindergarten, lectures and social gatherings were started. Soon Hull House became the center of numerous activities all with the aim of uplifting and purifying the life of the city's submerged poor. Through all was felt the sweet and strong influence of Miss Addams, and Hull House may rightly be said to be the creation of her loving heart and genius for organization. She is much in demand as a speaker and committees that secure her are peculiarly favored. She always interests because she speaks from wide and deep experience.

Tuesday, January 10, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Addams Guest of Nelson

Miss Jane Addams, of Chicago, arrived Saturday evening and was a guest during her stay in the city of N. O. Nelson and family. Miss Addams spoke in public twice, each time to a large audience. Saturday night at St. John's she delivered an address on the social settlement work in general and in particular that of Hull House, Chicago, of which she is the inspiration. Sunday afternoon at the Leclaire school her theme was a discussion of the life, character and work of Count Tolstoi. Both the talks, coming as they did from one of the brightest authorities on the subjects, were intensely interesting and will long be remembered by the many who heard them.

Friday, January 13, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Charlotte Perkins Stetson (later (Gilman) to visit Leclaire

Mrs. Charlotte Stetson, poet, author and lecturer will spend Saturday, Sunday and Monday in Leclaire and will lecture at Leclaire Hall Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. No woman in America wields quite so keen a pen as she, none holds a warmer place in the hearts of the two classes whose cause she defends, women and workingmen. Mrs. Stetson is a grand niece of Henry Ward Beecher, a niece of Edward Everett Hale and lives by writing and lecturing. Her collected poems entitled "In this, our world," contains many brilliant satires on conventional follies, and many beautiful sonnets on nature's wonders. Her book "Women and Economics" is a masterpiece of social analysis. One able reviewer of this book says "Mrs. Stetson is a power that must be reckoned with." The Tolstoi club will meet immediately after the lecture Sunday afternoon.

Tuesday, January 17, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Charlotte Perkins Stetson (later (Gilman) visits Leclaire

The Sunday afternoon lectures at Leclaire are becoming very popular in and out of society, for there are few who do not enjoy listening to talks from persons of national prominence. Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson was here Sunday, a guest of N. O. Nelson and family. She spoke to a crowded house at Leclaire Academy in the afternoon. Her topic, "Heaven," is said to be one of the best among several score of lectures which this versatile woman commands. Mrs. Stetson went from here to St. Louis and will remain there two weeks, delivering lectures before the Pedagogical Society, the Wednesday Club and other organizations. Mrs. Stetson was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and is a grand-daughter of Lyman Beecher and a grand-niece of H. W. Beecher and H. Beecher Stowe. Besides her diversified literary activities and her public speaking, Mrs. Stetson has lived in social settlements in Chicago and has worked continuously in the interest of the women's clubs for years.

Tuesday, January 24, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Addition to Machine Shop

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

An addition is being built on the west side of the machine shop at Leclaire. It is twenty by forty feet and will be used as a packing department.

Tuesday, January 24, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Mrs. Nelson Attends St. Louis Luncheon

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

About People From Home and Abroad

Mrs. N. O. Nelson attended a luncheon Thursday afternoon in St. Louis, given by Mrs. Adam Boesch, of No. 3706 Delmar Avenue, in honor of Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson, who lectured at Leclaire the Sunday before. Mrs. Stetson made a talk at the luncheon on "Women and Economics."

Friday, February 10, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Social News and Fisk Lecture

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mrs. J. D. Lawnin came out from St. Louis yesterday noon, for a short visit with the family of her son, L. D. Lawnin, at Leclaire, and returned this morning.

Miss Jennie Pogue charmingly entertained the Young Folks' Whist Club last night. Mrs. A. G. Tuxhorn and Miss Charlotte Nelson tied for the ladies first prize and the latter won. There were three to contest a tie for second, Mrs. W. M. Warnock, Miss Minnie Jones and Miss Katherine Pogue, Miss Pogue being successful. The gentlemen's prizes went to W. W. Warnock and E. I. Prickett. The last meeting of the club will be with Mrs. L. D. Lawnin.

Dozens of people went out to Leclaire Tuesday evening and returned to their homes without having been in the Academy, much less heard the lecture. Long before the hour for the lecture to begin the house was packed so completely that entrance to the building became absolutely impossible. The lecture was splendid, according to the auditors, and the accompanying stereopticon pictures were good. Dr. Fisk's subject was the "Spanish-American War," and his talk embraced every point of interest from the DeLome incident and the Maine explosion to the close of the struggle. The doctor was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Nelson.

Tuesday, February 14, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
William Reid Injured Again

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

William Reid, who is employed in the cabinet mill at Leclaire, is pursued by a vindictive hoodoo. Last spring his hand was caught by a joiner and two fingers were cut off. A few months ago the accident was repeated and he lost two more fingers. Saturday morning at 9 o'clock his hand was again caught by the machine and the stub of his last finger being torn off and his thumb severed, leaving only the palm of his hand on his right arm.

Tuesday, February 21, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Obituary: Joseph Lawnin

Joseph Lawnin.

Sorrow reigns in a home at Leclaire today. Joseph, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Lawnin, died this morning at 10 o'clock. Some time ago he contracted the grip, which developed into lung fever. On

Saturday, during a violent spell of coughing, he ruptured one of his lungs, and gradually became worse until the end came this morning. The child was a bright little fellow and the idol of his parents and grandparents and his death is a terrible blow to them. The funeral will occur tomorrow at 2 o'clock and the interment will be in Woodlawn.

Tuesday, February 21, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Plumbing Supplies Trust.

The latest thing in the line of trusts is one to include all the leading plumbers supply concerns in the country. New York, Chicago, Boston, Pittsburg, and St. Louis are said to be well represented in the combine. It is given out that N. O. Nelson of this city is to be a high official in the trust, although he refuses to confirm the report. Mr. Nelson said last night that the project was well under way, but made the distinction that it is to be a consolidation, not a combine. The Nelson Company is one of the largest plumbing supply houses in the west and will cut considerable figure in the new organization.

Tuesday, February 21, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire entertainment

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

The Leclaire entertainment will be varied by one made up entirely of home Leclaire Hall. There will be a debate on some phase of the expansion question. The debaters will be well known Edwardsville citizens.

Tuesday, March 14, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Plumber's Trust and Harkin to Move to Leclaire

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The proposed pooling of interests by plumbing goods manufacturers, of which there has been so much talk of late, is of more than passing interest to people of this place. According to press dispatches, N. O. Nelson of this city, is slated for one of the important places at the head of the mammoth combine. Mr. Nelson is president of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Company, whose large plant at Leclaire would be a part of the new company, in case plans for the latter are realized. A gentleman who is in a position to speak with certainty on the subject said yesterday that if the company was formed it would be a fine thing for Edwardsville. The works at Leclaire would in all probability not only work full time, but perhaps be enlarged, and there would be employment for all who desired it. If such a roseate dream should be realized business here would pick up amazingly and the town would enjoy a mild boom. Indeed matters at Leclaire seem even now to have some

anticipation of good things in store. Mr. Nelson has given orders to fill the brass shop with men, which means an opening for much skilled labor. The other departments as well have an advance rush of orders that presages much steady work for the employes.

Will Come Here

J. H. Harkins, superintendent of the brass-working department at Leclaire, is thinking of moving his family to Edwardsville to reside. Up to a week ago they had a pretty home at Tuxedo Park near Webster, a suburb of St. Louis, but now all that is left of it is a heap of blackened brick and charred wood. The fire, while unfortunate in some respects, was extremely fortunate in others. It occurred about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the last day of the recent cold spell. The floor at one side of the children's room was found to be on fire and scarcely had the discovery been made than the blaze shot up, enveloping the whole room, and in a quarter of an hour the house was in ashes. The piano and some kitchen articles were all that was saved, everything else, even clothing of the family, was consumed. They are making their home temporarily at the place of a neighbor nearby, but will be moved here as soon as Mr. Harkins can secure a suitable house.

Friday, March 24, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Minor Mention and Lawsuit Against Nelson Mfg.

MINOR MENTION

N. O. Nelson, of this city, delivered an address at the People's church, 816 N. Eleventh street, St. Louis, Tuesday evening. He spoke at some length on "The New Republic," his line of argument being in favor of expansion.

COURTHOUSE NOTES

A petition has been filed for the removal of the case of Wm Reid against the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co. to the United States court in Springfield.

Friday, March 31, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Nelson Lectures and Leclaire Spelling Bee

Minor Mention.

N. O. Nelson is delivering a series of lectures in St. Louis. The second one was Tuesday night at the North Broadway Social Settlement, under the auspices of the Central Bellamy Club, the subject being "Public Ownership."

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

The spelling bee, postponed from last Tuesday, will take place at Leclaire hall next Tuesday evening. On the following Tuesday, April 11, a piano recital by Miss Frances Wyman, of Burlington, will be given at Leclaire Hall.

April 6, 1899
St. Louis Post
Bellamy Club

Central Bellamy Club

List of Lectures Arranged for the Ensuing Two Months

The Central Bellamy Club, a newly formed organization, meeting each Monday night at the North Broadway Social Settlement, 1223 and 1225 North Broadway, will be addressed next Monday by Mrs. F. H. Ingalls, who will have as her topic of discussion, "The Temperance Movement and its Relation to the Reform Movement."

Monday, April 17, Rev. Dr. Boyd will speak on "Bellamy and His Ideas." At the ensuing meeting, April 24, Frederick N. Crunden will deliver an address on "The Single Tax." Monday, May 1, "The Prevailing Industrial Conditions" will be the subject of Rev. Dr. Samuel Sale's lecture.

The object of the club as set forth in its literature, is to inquire into the practicability of the plans advocated by Edward Bellamy in "Looking Backward" and "Equality." The club invites the membership of all interested in its aims.

Note: N. O. Nelson was an active participant in the Bellamy Clubs of St. Louis, sometimes lecturing and reading from his personal correspondence with Edward Bellamy.

Tuesday, April 18, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
"Over the Garden Wall" at Leclaire

"Over the Garden Wall" at Leclaire

Leclaire is to lose some of its park like appearance. That is the edict and it is to be executed in the near future. A couple car loads of posts arrived and have been unloaded and the fencing will come later. One of the principle charms of this suburb has been the fact that it had no enclosures. The eye could wander from one well kept yard to another throughout the place with never an unsightly paling to mar the view, while the firm hard cinder roads harmoniously completed the perspective. The only drawback to this Elysean state was that there were no gates for lovers to hang upon. A few old hens were responsible for the change. Some of the residents decided that they would raise chickens. Fences were put up and now it has been decided that all Leclaire shall be belted with wire netting. Supt. Ohmart says the style is to be uniform. All fences will be of wire netting, partition and rear fences of wire and lath. As soon as some of the rush in the factory ceases somewhat some of the men will be put to work on the fence problem.

April 18, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer

In Society's Realm

Dr. J. W. Caldwell, for a long time a resident of this city and Leclaire, who is preaching now at Russellville, Ark., is planning a visit to friends here.

William H. Nix left this week for Vandegrift, Penn., where he has secured a position with the Carnegie steel works.

Col. John Sobieski, of Neosho, Mo., was entertained Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Nelson. The colonel will spend several days in Edwardsville, where he has many warm friends.

Friday, April 18, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Factory Expansion

Erection of Marble Factory Begun.

The N. O. Nelson Mfg. Company is enlarging its facilities at Leclaire by the erection of another factory building. The foundation was laid out yesterday. The new building will be 45x50 feet and on the orchard switch northwest of the bowling alley. It will be largely of brick and will be devoted to the handling of marble, slate, and like materials. At present these are purchased in slabs, but when the new mill is complete the rough material will be shipped in in blocks and sawed up to suit.

Friday, April 21, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Jeffersonian Dinner and Minor Mention

N. O. Nelson in New York

The much discussed \$1 Jeffersonian dinner took place last night at the Grand Central Palace in New York. William Jennings Bryan, Mayor S. M. Jones, of Toledo, Charlotte Perkins Stetson and other notables including N. O. Nelson, of this city, made speeches. Mr. Nelson's address was upon "Practical Adjustments of Labor Problems."

Minor Mention.

One of the two dynamos which supply light to Leclair burned out the other night and will be replaced with a new one.

Friday, April 28, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Social News

In Society's Realm

Manuel Ruis Laven will leave in a few days for his home in Mexico. Manuel is in this country to acquire a trade and pick up Americanisms, and to accomplish the former purpose is working at Leclair. A few days ago he learned that his father had left for Spain, to be gone several months, so Manuel is going down to Mexico to look after his hacienda during his absence.

Mrs. J. D. Lawnin, of St. Louis, and Mrs. Hager, wife of a newspaperman, of St. Thomas, North Dakota, came out on the noon train yesterday and spent the afternoon as guests of Mrs. N. O. Nelson. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are expecting Mr. and Mrs. Eltweed Pomeroy for their guests on Sunday. Mr. Pomeroy is president of the direct legislation league.

A bowling party took place last night in the bowling alley at Leclair, the hostesses being Misses Sophie and Kate Schneider and Lena Eilers. Refreshments were served and the evening was greatly enjoyed by the guests who numbered about twenty.

May 5, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Beautifying Leclair Shops

Beautifying Leclair Shops

It is the intention of N. O. Nelson that the factories at Leclair shall present a more attractive appearance than is generally presented by a busy workshop. Yesterday the Leclair gardeners planted English ivy at intervals of five feet around every one of the factory buildings, and it is thought in a year or two the bare walls will be covered with a clinging mass of beautiful green.

May 23, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Clair Moorman Home from Service

Military News.

Another Edwardsville boy has returned from the military service. Clair Moorman arrived home Saturday from Cuba, where he was stationed during the war in that island, some interesting accounts of which, written by him, were published in the INTELLIGENCER.

May 30, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Minor Mention – Sports

Minor Mention – Sports

The Big B's and the High School Nine played at Leclaire Sunday afternoon, the latter winning by a score of 20 to 12.

June 9, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Sehnert Military Enlistment

Sehnert Military Enlistment

Fritz Sehnert enlisted in Co. E, 19 U.S. Infantry under the name of Frank Morman, and served throughout the Spanish War.

June 20, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
An Unintentional Journey

An Unintentional Journey

The Children's Gardening Club, of Leclaire, to the number of thirty, picnicked at Forest Park, Saturday afternoon. The club went to St. Louis on the 1 o'clock train, where they were joined by Mr. Nelson, and all

agree that the outing was a delightful one. Besides the active members of the club there were present, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Raymond, Misses Charlotte Nelson, Olive Thomas and Winifred Hadley. The return was on the 8:09 Clover Leaf, and was attended by an incident which caused much worry to the good people of Leclaire. One member of the club failed to show up at the depot here when the roll was called, and there was much excitement. Peter Rotter, the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Pius Rotter was the missing member. Telegrams up and down the road elicited no information as to his whereabouts and it was concluded that he had fallen from the train. L. D. Lawnin, W. R. Raymond, Jos. Rizzoli, C. Nugent and P. Rotter manned a hand car and went all the way to East St. Louis, scanning each side of the track for the body of the boy. They found nothing and returned on the 3 o'clock Wabash. Mr. P. Rotter, Jr. alighted from the south-bound Clover Leaf train next morning in good shape and proceeded to tell his part of the story. He went to sleep and was blissfully unconscious of the station stop in Edwardsville. He awoke at New Douglas and alighted from the train to find himself in a strange place. The agent here had already gone home, so the boy's folks could not be reached by wire. Mr. and Mrs. David Leuscher, who also alighted from the train at New Douglas, took compassion on the lad and kept him in their home over night.

June 27, 1899, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
In Society's Realm – Raymond Family

In Society's Realm

Mrs. W. R. Raymond and children, of Leclaire, left Saturday for Burlington, Iowa, where they will spend the summer months with relatives.

Mrs. Mary Koch and the young ladies of her sewing class were royally entertained at the country home of F. W. Spitze, Sunday.

August 19, 1899
Pratt City Herald
Orders Doubled at Bessemer Plant

Orders to Double Capacity

The N. O. Nelson Manufacturing company, which is preparing to erect large soil pipe works at Bessemer, has sent word for work to be rushed forward on the plant. The company has determined to double the capacity of the works from its original size. The plant will be in operation within the next three months.

August 22, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Typhoid in Leclaire

Health and the Weather.

Hot weather and rains, hot weather and rains, repeated in alternate layers like short cake, is causing considerable sickness. The doctors report innumerable cases of malaria and some typhoid. In the shops at Leclaire a number of men are sick. The doctors say there are several cases of typhoid among them. The employes of the brass shop, by the way, and for that matter, of the other departments as well, are very kind to those of their number who are afflicted by sickness. There is a sort of good comradeship existing between them, so that when one is overtaken by disease a purse is made up and the best of medical attention and nursing secured for him.

Speaking of the advance of typhoid, there is one family which is suffering greatly from the disease, that of Mrs. E. M. Moorman. A son, Frank Moorman, was the first taken, and is not yet recovered. Last week the other two boys and Mrs. Moorman were taken sick and they have been cared for by the neighbors. A fourth son is in Cuba with his father, in the military service, and he, too, is sick.

August 29, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Lorch Enlistment

Lorsch Enlistment

Fred Lorch enlisted in the Navy Service in the Phillipines.

September 5, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Labor Day Celebration (Leclaire excerpt)

Great Day for Honest Labor

Leclaire had a very pretty float in the procession, and one that was entirely appropriate, as it was in every sense typical of industry. The float carried a miniature workshop, in which were a half a dozen of the young ladies of the core room of the brass shop. They were seated at a work bench and engaged in their every day occupation of making cores for castings. Along one side of the wagon was the sentence in gilt letters – “How would you like to be a core girl?”

September 15, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire to Have City Water

Leclaire to Have City Water

The Edwardsville Water Company started yesterday on a piece of work which involves more interests than any that has so far been evolved. The suburb, Leclaire, is to be connected with the water system of Edwardsville, and the change will be effected within a week. Workmen have started at the corner of Fillmore and Wolf streets digging the ditch in which will be laid the six-inch connecting pipe. Leclaire has at the present a system of waterworks supplied from a well and pond. Each house has water from it and there are a goodly number of street hydrants. The factories draw their supply from the same source. Pressure is maintained by several tanks elevated upon a tower. The change will be easily made. The system will be tapped by another supply pipe and pure filtered river water will flow through the pipes instead of pond water as heretofore. The present water tower at Leclaire will be allowed to stand, as a reserve in case anything should happen to the other supply.

October 6, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Bert Moorman on Furlough

Military News

Bert Moorman arrived last night on a 20 days' furlough, which he will spend with the family of his mother, Mrs. E. W. Moorman. Bert and Clair Moorman were in Cuba together during the war, and when they were mustered out Clair came home and Bert enlisted in the marines. He was sent to Washington. The members left of the Moorman family, every one of whom has been sick with typhoid since July, are now able to be about again.
