

Publications on Leclaire (1900-1909)

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".

June 15, 1900
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Irving Bentley, a youth employed in the brass shop at Leclaire, had his right hand caught in some machinery he was operating Monday morning. A portion of the thumb was cut off.

Raymond Stubbs was hurt at Leclaire yesterday afternoon, while working in the machine shop. While grinding a tool on an emery wheel the steel slipped and Stubbs fell forward, the wheel taking most of the flesh off the back of his hand.

March 7, 1901 Thursday
Public Opinion (Periodical)

One Manufacturer's Experiment

Mr. N. O. Nelson, a Norwegian, who has built up a large manufacturing business in St. Louis, contributes to the New York *Independent*, the following account of his social experiment, the factory community at Leclaire:

The motive for the creation of the village Leclaire was to get out of the city and yet carry into the country the desirable conveniences of a compact community. There were no elaborate plans. We were guided solely by the common sense of making work and homes and decent living under favorable conditions. We got 125 acres, moved our factories by degrees, and built homes as fast as they were wanted and the money could be spared to build them. The roads were laid out by the natural contours and our refuse cinders made them hard and dry. There is no material so good for moderately used streets as cinders, and they cost nothing. Our roads are the envy of all the towns and country; they are the equal of a New England road.

Believing that the world is a thing of beauty and joy, we helped nature along by planting elms and maples, making a baseball and football grounds, a club-house, a bowling alley and billiard room, and a year or two later a greenhouse and a public hall and kindergarten room. We meant it for a village of homes, and tenements are not homes. It may be very convenient to pull up once a year and move into another rented house, or to another city, but it doesn't make homes or home habits. Without a home of its own a family is a stranger in a strange land. Even when the single tax gets into vogue the permanent tenure will be not less but more secure. We built the houses to suit the taste and needs of the employees and sold them outright on such installment payments as about equaled city rents. In ten years we have had only two defaults, and neither of these got fairly started; a number of them are entirely paid for.

Between our abhorrence for sky scrapers and stairs and our love for the land itself, we have built our factories and most of our dwellings one story high. We like to have our feet on the ground, and it keeps us closer to our neighbors. Our particular pride is that third of an acre to each house, though we have some with only a sixth (50 x 150 feet). On a third of an acre with only a small house taken out, you can have a lawn, flowers, fruit and vegetable garden of important proportions, and you can have agreeable outdoors pastime for the whole family. Try it

and you will thank me for the advice. The twentieth century renaissance is to be joy in work, and no kind of work offers health, wealth, and pleasure in so generous proportions as a suburban garden. John Burroughs and E. P. Powell are preaching the true gospel of partnership with nature. The solid city is a human hothouse, hospital, and graveyard, and the bonanza farm is a desert.

There are 175 workers in the Leclaire factories, there are 150 residents in Leclaire, the remainder living in Edwardsville, which for all social purposes is a part of us. We have no "Keep off the grass" signs, no rules, no policemen, in fact don't feel the yoke of the law. Before we planted Leclaire in 1890 we had been working on the so-called profit-sharing system for five years. Up to 1895 our dividends on wages had ranged from five to ten per cent; since that date the profits have been used for extending Leclaire without, however, abandoning the plan. What is now being called social betterment is one form of sharing the profits, and is attracting the adherence of many employers.

To provide halls, special schools, dining facilities, rest rooms, lectures, beautiful grounds is quite as good a way of diverting a part of the profits as paying them in cash or in stock. Let any manufacturer or merchant who chances to become my reader undertake any or all of these neighborly offices, and he will find it a better investment than increasing his plant or his private living.

August 27, 1901, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire Tigers Football

Minor Mention

Sundry Happenings Given in Brief Paragraph Form

The Leclaire Tigers will open the football season by practicing on the Leclaire gridiron Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Games have been arranged with all the neighboring towns, among them Jerseyville, Alton, Glen Carbon, Collinsville, Troy, East St. Louis and Lebanon, and it is proposed to form a football association and arrange a schedule. All old members of the Tigers and any new man who may be in town are earnestly requested to be on hand to try for the team.

August 27, 1901, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Electric Street Car Line Coming

Electric Line About Complete

The track of the Mississippi Valley Electric Railway from Edwardsville to Collinsville is complete. The first car was run from Collinsville to Maryville yesterday, and the first trip from Collinsville to Edwardsville will probably be either on Thursday or Friday

August 27, 1901, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leclaire Worker Injured

Mishap

George J. Dippold, an employee of the N. O. Nelson Company at Leclaire, had his hand torn while operating a machine in the machine shop Friday afternoon.

August 27, 1901, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Runaway Horse in Leclaire

Exciting Runaway

Mrs. Wm Simon of Leclaire and her little daughter figured in an exciting runaway Sunday evening which might have resulted in the serious injury or death of either. Mrs. Simon had just taken her sister, Miss Genevieve Brinkman, home, and was returning to Leclaire. The horse she drove was a young one of good blood. Near the city park a boy came along on a pony and both horses instinctively began to race. The upshot was that the one attached to the runabout ran away. It dashed out Fillmore street at a fast gait, the lady trying to control its actions and hold the baby in at the same time. In the sharp turn at the corner of Wolf Street the two outer wheels crumbled under the strain and the rig went down, whirling over and over its occupants, who were entangled in the heap of leather and splintered wood which constituted the wreckage. A dozen men were sitting about the corner but seemed paralyzed at the incident and gazed at the wreck in stupefaction. Jake Heinrich and Henry Ruffian, driver for the Leland, who were on the Clover Leaf platform, ran over and assisted Mrs. Simon from the remains of the rig. Both she and the child miraculously escaped almost unscratched, and it was remembered afterward that after the exciting plunge and roll across the ground, the baby sat gravely upon the cinders and neither cried nor uttered a word, taking the matter with the utmost sangfroid.

August 30, 1901, Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Dancing Party at Leclair Assembly Hall

Pleasure reigned supreme at Leclair hall Wednesday evening at the dancing party. It is doubtful if the assembly hall and its surroundings ever appeared to better advantage. The interior was decorated in green and pink, not only the lights, but the wainscoting was draped in those hues, forming a striking effect.

On the outside the well kept grounds, flower beds and shrubbery under the light of the full moon completed an exquisite picture. The party was given by Miss Irma Springer and Miss Rebecca Springer. About a hundred young folks were present and enjoyed the dancing. Elegant refreshments were served at 11.

A feature of the party was the music. This was provided by a colored musician from Alton, Miss Cordelia Jones. Miss Jones' specialty is piano playing for dancing parties, and she is an expert at it. Her time-marking is unexcelled and she is all the rage at the fashionable hops in Alton.

Among guests at the function from out of town were: Miss Maude Kraft and Attorney William G. Burroughs of Collinsville, Miss Maude White of St. Louis, Miss Helen Burton of Salt Lake, Miss Romans of Charleston, Miss Nellie Lane of Alton and Miss Dell Poindexter of Greenville.

August 30, 1901
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Cars will soon run

Electric cars will be running to Edwardsville tomorrow according to one of the contractors who has been engaged on the line. The track work is complete, as was announced in Tuesday's paper, and the contractor said last night that the power cable had advanced within two and one-half miles of this city, and if all went well he would reach town with it tonight. Trial trips have been made over the road as far as it is completed and it is in fair working shape

September 3, 1901
Edwardsville Intelligencer

In Society's Realm.

News About People from Home and Abroad

Social Doings Noted and Elaborated – Visitors In and Out of Town

One hundred and thirty employees of the Schwab Clothing Company of St. Louis picnicked at Leclaire Sunday, coming out from the city in a special attached to the morning train on the Clover Leaf.

The Misses Pogue will give a dancing party at Leclaire assembly hall Friday night.

Mrs. N. O. Nelson and Miss Charlotte Nelson arrived home Sunday afternoon from their summering in the Adirondacks.

When the electric car made its last trial trip from Edwardsville Sunday night a number of small boys boarded it and rode in great glee to Collinsville. There the train turned in and the juveniles found themselves twelve miles from home without any way of getting back. They returned home by various ways, some being compelled to raise car fare from an obliging public. They will know better next time.

September 3, 1901, Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

First Street Car

A din of whistles from the south of town signaled the arrival of the first electric car Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The factories at Leclaire and the Madison mine whistles joined in the salute as the car sped along Troy road to the present end of the line at the railroad tracks. The contractors made the first trip, but in the afternoon the officials of the road and prominent citizens of Collinsville came over. Sunday numerous trips were run and many citizens including the city officials were taken to Collinsville and returned over the line.

The completion of the line was in truth a feat of engineering. On Wednesday, July 24, the old directorate of the Mississippi Valley Transit Company ended its troubled existence and turned over the franchise to the new comers. Not a piece of track was laid nor an inch of cable strung. In five weeks the line from Collinsville to Edwardsville, approximately twelve miles, was completed and cars running. The management was slightly delayed by a strike at one period, and met with other obstacles incident to carrying forward a project of this kind.

November 23, 1902
Chicago Tribune

A Town Where Everybody is Happy

Properly fitting a young man or woman to cope with the world these days is to educate not only their mind but their hands as well, according to the teachings of N. O. Nelson, a St. Louis millionaire. To carry out his ideas Mr. Nelson has recently equipped at Le Claire, a suburb of St. Louis, a modern training and industrial school. This school is fashioned much after the one at Tuskegee, Ala., under the direction of Booker T. Washington. Mr. Nelson's training school is for children of poor folk only. He recently turned over a number of buildings at Le Claire to the nonsectarian church workers of St. Louis who will have charge of the institution.

At Le Claire, a happy and contented class of people are found. Two hundred families live there, finding dependence upon Millionaire Nelson, who owns four huge plumbing factories, the sole source of employment to every resident of Le Claire. He employs his men upon a profit sharing basis, and has done everything to surround his shops with an industrial haven of rest.

Where Crime is Unknown

There are no city officials, no jail, no lawmakers for the town direct. Le Claire is located in Illinois and comes under the state laws, otherwise its residents are hampered by no rules and regulations other than their own conscience, which is especially delicate when it comes to wrongdoing. No crimes are ever committed in Le Claire. No young woman or any of the young men have turned into evildoers. In short, the town is a modern Arcadia, where everyone seems happy and content.

In founding the town Mr. Nelson bought 125 acres and chose the best land he could find in the Mississippi River bottoms. He built his four factories of brick and covered them with a coat of white paint. Then he planted flowers, grass and shrubbery, so as to hide the v=barrenness of the walls and make the place more presentable. The interior of his factories was airy and commodious and from the start he provided for the men who were to work for him by the establishment of a free dining room, a light luncheon free, and shower baths for every worker. One of the wishes of Mr. Nelson was that every man should take advantage especially of the baths.

Sixteen Years of Profit Sharing

He commenced in 1886 to allow his men to share in the profits, realizing that his business would always keep him rich, despite the thousands of dollars that he was giving away to his helpers. His first dividends were paid in cash, but a few years ago he decided that he was going to retire from the business before long, and he commenced paying the profits of his employed in stock of the concern, thus relieving himself of his holdings at a slow rate, and placing only the faithful in charge. He has already distributed \$70,000 worth of stock to his helpers.

The true purpose of profit sharing, according to Mr. Nelson, is to make the employees fellow owners as well as fellow workers. Each man's share of the profit is in accordance to his wages. Only men of clean and unblemished character are hired in the Nelson factories, so that new comers will not tarnish the good reputation of the town. There are no rented houses, although 200 or more neat cottages adorn the clean and picturesque wide streets. Mr. Nelson always builds a new home for every new man added to the community, and the man pays for it out of his wages.

Town Paints Private Houses

By common consent of the profit sharers, a great portion of the earnings of the factory are now being used to beautify the town. The houses are all being repainted out of this common fund. It sounds odd to the outsider, but it is actual industrial conditions as found in this prosperous village.

While Mr. Nelson is an eccentric millionaire, his cup of human kindness is always overflowing. He sits in his office in St. Louis, surrounded by a dozen helpers, but he is never too busy to drop his work and talk with some poor and deserving person about his troubles. But his steel gray eyes are piercing, and he can detect a fraud in a moment. By those who are worthy a vain appeal is never made. He lives among the working people at Le Claire, and his family associates with the workmen and their families. He quits the city early every day to return to happy and peaceful existence at his spacious but plain home in the town that surrounds his works. He is the leader in everything, but he wields no power, for he claims that all are equal.

Mr. Nelson has original ideas upon the industrial problems that are bobbing up every day. He has employed hundreds of men for years and has never had a strike. He says, "The public utilities upon which every convenience, and, we may say life, depends, should be owned and controlled by the public. Under present industrial conditions any private capitalist can recognize the rights of labor by sharing profits with them. This has been done by myself for sixteen years. Union wages are paid, then interest on capital, and the remainder is divided in a fixed proportion between wage earner and employer. A majority of employees in my shop are shareholders, and the intention is to gradually work the property in to their control. The employees manage my place even now.

"Strikes are bound to continue just so long as there are wage earners on one side and employers on the other. To settle this there should be a division of the profits all around. This is one of the most successful and the only feasible plan to settle forever all labor troubles."

December, 1902
N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company
Christmas Souvenir Introduction

A Christmas Souvenir 1902

N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company printed a souvenir booklet for their employees and friends in December 1902 that contained articles about the company from various newspapers around the country and plumbing cartoons. Below is the N. O. Nelson Mfg's "Introductory" for the Christmas Souvenir.

In sending out this Christmas Souvenir as the Season's Greeting to our friends and customers, we not only wish them one and all a merry enjoyment of the holidays, and many happy returns, but at the same time want to let them know what we have accomplished during the thirty years we have been in business. The liberal patronage which has made this possible, we here wish to acknowledge with sincerest gratitude.

From a capital of \$2,500.00 and a business of \$50,000.00 in 1872, we have plodded along until now we manage to dispose of "lead traps and things" to the extent of about two and a half million a year, using a present paid-up capital and surplus of more than three-quarters of a million dollars. Our factories, which are all modern and first class, now consist of Brass Works,

Marble Works, Lead Pipe and Trap Works, Tank and Seat Works, Bath Tub Works, Pipe Machine Works and Soil Pipe Works. About 550 employees co-operate in absorbing a thousand dollars a day in wages, exclusive of officers' salaries, and when we don't spend the profits for new factories and houses or more business they absorb another slice at the end of the year in dividends on wages and stock.

We shall not enter into a discussion of the goods we manufacture, that being covered in our literary works, known as Catalogues "N" and "D," but will confine ourselves to some bits of history and a heart to heart talk with our flock.

Nominally, our territory is the inhabited globe, practically it is only Mexico, Cuba, Canada and the United States. Our store and general offices are housed in a five story iron building and basement, occupying a quarter of a city block in the business center of St. Louis. At LeClaire, Illinois, eighteen miles from St. Louis, we have six large brick factory buildings placed on ten acres of ground, intersected by three railroad tracks; and at our soil pipe plant, in Bessemer, Alabama, the pig iron, coke and coal are all produced within a radius of two miles.

The thirty years in which we have dispensed plumbing goods to the American citizens through the American plumber are said to be the most important period in the World's history. That this is due largely to the fact that you and we have been in it, no one will question who compares the bathroom of that day and this – before and after taking. Taking us together as a class – Cub, Journeyman, Master and Manufacturer – we have not only driven cholera and yellow jack out of the United States and are now driving them out of Cuba, but we have given inspiration to the fine arts – poetry, wit and pictures. Could Alfred Austin, the poet laureate of Great Britain, evolve any higher tribute to the gallantry of King Edward or the financial skill of J. Pierpont Morgan, than the following delicate effusion of the plumber's poet laureate?

“The plumber came down like a wolf on the fold,
His pockets were loaded with solder and gold;
Nine hours and a half he made love to the cook,
And sixty-five dollars he charged in his book.”

The dictionary folk tell us that a language is created and enriched by idioms and slang, the slang of to-day becoming the expressive classic of to-morrow, coined in the daily life of the people, often making a word more expressive than a sentence or a phrase. President Cleveland tried his hand with “innocuous desuetude,” but it fell flat; it was “hifalutin;” it required college education and all the dictionaries to define it.

A talented master plumber has worked nights getting together the scattered jewels of “trade terms;” and a journeyman. Whose time hung heavy on his hands between wiping the regulation number of j'ints or setting the one fixture for a day's work, has drawn some cartoons to explain these trade terms to the apprentice and consumer. These, by courtesy of the Plumber's Trade Journal of New York City, which published the originals, we reproduce on the following pages.

Yours very truly,
N. O. NELSON MFG. CO.

January 21, 1903
Edwardsville Intelligencer

MARBLE MILLS AT LECLAIRE WORKS VISITED BY FIRE EARLY TODAY

A loss of several thousand dollars was sustained in a fire at Leclaire this morning and the manufacturing plants there were threatened for a time. Leclaire is the industrial suburb established by N. O. Nelson and directly adjoins Edwardsville on the southeast. The alarm was given a few minutes before 1 o'clock, and was taken up at once by the Edwardsville headquarters, from which two hose teams were hurried out to assist the Leclaire workers. The blaze for a time seemed of great proportions and occasioned the report that the cabinet mill was burning.

The fire started in the marble mills south of the power house. In a few minutes the buildings were covered with fire and although a number of powerful streams were turned on them and surrounding buildings saved, little was left of the mills but the traveling cranes. Until the wreckage can be cleared away and the machinery examined the extent of the loss cannot be determined. Louis D. Lawnin telephones the Intelligencer from St. Louis that it will at the least amount to several thousand dollars.

The marble mills were among the busiest industries at Leclaire. The first was erected three years ago and the second one last year. They were rushed with orders and ran almost continually day and night. Last night was one of the first in months in which the saws were silent. The company will rebuild the mills at once, rushing them to completion, as the loss, even temporarily of their work, will prove a great inconvenience.

January 26, 1903
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Block of Marble Falls

In the fall of a gigantic block of marble at Leclaire, Saturday afternoon, a railroad car was cut squarely in two and three workmen escaped injury by prompt recognition of the disaster when it was impending. The accident was at the marble mills. The travelling crane had grappled a huge block weighing about 20,000 pounds and swung it out over a car. The block was some ten or twelve feet in the air when it was noticed that the heavy timbering supporting the tackle block was giving way. John Feldworth, who was managing the machine above, and Ray Crossman and Sam Nix, who were working with it below, jumped out of the way just as it came down. The block alighted on the car and cut it in two as if it had been cardboard.

April 4, 1903
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Industrial School Taking Applications

The Leclaire Industrial School wishes to enroll a number of boys from Edwardsville and Leclaire, the students to pay their tuition either in cash or by working after school hours under the direction of the principal, Ross. M. House. The boys are taking contracts from local patrons for gardening, lawn mowing and other work of that nature.

April 26, 1903
St. Louis Post-Dispatchⁱ

St. Louisan Finds a Consumptives' Colony

N. O. Nelson Now Building Homes at Indio, Cal., Below the Level of the Sea, Where Patients May Live With Their Families and Cultivate the Ground--Dry and Pure Air.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., April 22.

In the little town of Indio, in the southern part of California, a co-operative colony for consumptives, where the rich and the poor may have equal opportunity for recovery, has been founded by N. O. Nelson of St. Louis, well known as a millionaire manufacturer and philanthropist. This is the only colony of its kind in the Great Desert, where there is pure and dry air in abundance. The ground is 22 feet below sea level. It is about a hundred miles from Los Angeles, on the Southern Pacific railroad. Mr. Nelson is now in California developing his colony along lines laid down by himself. His wife and daughter, both of whom are enthusiastic, are assisting the founder of this humane enterprise. A large force of men is now erecting buildings, beautifying the grounds and providing proper sanitation. Already forty families are living in the colony.

This is not Mr. Nelson's first experiment with the co-operative plan. Following the example of Leclaire, the Frenchman who established the first profit-sharing factory in the world, in Paris, Mr. Nelson founded near Edwardsville, Ill., some years ago, a co-operative village named Leclaire, now a thriving factory town, and recently a co-operative industrial school has been established at the same place through Mr. Nelson's co-operation.

“My plans,” says Mr. Nelson, “are to establish a health camp, and for a year I have been in consultation with the best medial advisers in the country regarding the most favorable place to locate such a camp or colony. After visiting many places, from Denver to San Diego, I came to the conclusion that Indio would be as near the ideal a spot as could be found anywhere in the world.

“Dry and pure air and outdoor living are the best remedies for consumption, and indeed, for most diseases, including the blues. I chose Indio for being entirely dry, never foggy or chilly, warm enough to allow winter tenting. It is 22 feet below sea level, which gives abundant oxygen, is surrounded by mountains, has pure artesian water, is productive when irrigated, and affords work and a living to convalescents.

“The colony will be available to the poor as well as to the rich. I have 125 acres fronting on the station large enough [*torn piece, missing words*] I will have no assistants and shall expect the residents of the colony to run the place for themselves and upon plans which will be laid out later. I am to give each family five acres of land, on which to make their homes in the manner which seems to be the most attractive to their individual tastes. If the colonists increase so in numbers that I must enlarge the place more land will be bought. I will landscape the ranch with the most beautiful flowers and shrubbery and will plant many kinds of trees which are best adapted to this climate.

“There will be assembly and dancing pavilions, a library, sanitarium and artesian baths, which are now well under construction, with frame and adobe houses; but most of the residents will live in floored and wall tents, with small stoves to keep off the cold when there is any. There is scarcely any rain in this part of California, and everything has to be done by irrigation.

“The Indio temperature in the winter is 25 to 35 degrees during the night and 50 to 85 degrees during the day. In the summer the temperature ranges from 75 to 120 degrees. The 25 degree nights are not as chilling as when it is 45 degrees in New Orleans, Birmingham, St. Louis or Boston; and when it is 115 degrees here in the shade, it is not as torrid as when it is only about 90 degrees in the other cities mentioned. We have a large oxygen supply and sandy soil, in fact a desert which is being transformed into a garden of Eden. We get winds from the ocean across the mountains.”

August 28, 1903, Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

More Children Visit Leclaire

Another excursion of children from the crowded districts of St. Louis was brought here yesterday for a day's outing at Leclaire, guests of N. O. Nelson. Aside from the bungling handling of the excursion train of twelve cars and a shower late in the afternoon the trip was an entirely pleasant one. The excursion should have been run to No. 3 mine tracks, only a couple hundred yards from the campus and loaded at leisure, instead of which the children were taken down town and massed at the station and in the streets adjoining, where they dodged trains for half an hour or more, and wound up by waiting another half hour at the junction. There were no mishaps, however.

This excursion was of children from the Civic Improvement League's playgrounds, about 1,000 in all. They were in charge of: Dwight F. Davis, Thos. C. Rutledge, Luther Ely Smith, Gerard Swope, Charles P. Pettus, Rev. W. H. Mizner, Leland Wind, Max Dellfant, Dr. Edward Skinner, George Millbauer, Philo Stevenson, C. T. Darby, Dr. Lewis O'Brock, E. B. Randall, Max Ermscher, Miss Ida Pavey, Miss Lucie Rozier, Miss Ida Martin, Mrs. Agnes Ketchum, Miss Nelly Harper, Miss Eliza Morrow, Miss Betty Page, Miss Alice Thomas, Miss Von Sickler and Miss Maude Westerfield.

At Leclaire the children overran everything. They bombarded the orchards, explored gardens and yards and tackled boldly everything that looked strange. With a whoop every one of the boys discarded raiment and plunged into the lake for a swim, its placid surface being converted into a mass of waving arms and legs. The girls played games on the lawns, and everybody had as much to eat as they desired. Before returning in the evening the boys divested themselves of their undershirts and stockings and by tying up the various openings in these were enabled to transport home large quantities of apples.

The handling of the children is quite a system and the fact that they have never been involved in an accident tells of the watchfulness taken. Last night a small tad mounted a freight car at the upper depot and stood proudly surveying the assemblage. "Look at Chimmie," ejaculated one of his friends on the ground, "don't he think he's swell; I'll trim him." He took aim with an apple and let drive with all his might. The apple caught the victim squarely in the left eye, seemingly with enough force to drive it into the back of his head. The incident was observed by one of the superintendents, who clawed up the side of the car, removed the mashed mass of pulp and bandaged the eye.

September 2, 1903 Wednesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Nelson Donates Bath Houses in St. Louis

It is said that N. O. Nelson has offered to donate to the Civic Improvement League Playground Association in St. Louis a bath house at the corner of Tenth and Biddle Streets, and to equip it for the use of children and grown people.

September 7, 1903
Edwardsville Intelligencer

WINTER SCHOOL AT LECLAIRE.

A night school will be conducted in Leclaire this winter. The opening session will be tonight, September 7, at 7:30 o'clock sharp. All will be welcome regardless of age, sex or residence. There will be no expense, pupils providing their own books and stationery. The only requirements will be a desire to learn and punctual attendance. Dr. J. W. Caldwell will teach and others will be added as needed. Everyone is invited for Monday night. The industrial school will open tomorrow. The conditions and terms are similar to the night school, except that it will be half study and half work. Those interested are invited to call at any time on Dr. Caldwell, W. R. Raymond or N. O. Nelson.

May 2, 1904
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Great World's Fair Is Open

With all the ceremony properly attached to an undertaking of world-wide scope, surrounded by buildings which involved the expenditure of millions of dollars and exercised the thought and energies of the most skillful in all lines, and dignified by the attendance of representatives of powers of the earth, the great St. Louis World's Fair was formally opened Saturday noon.Many Edwardsvillians were present and greatly enjoyed the novelty. The shops at Leclaire closed for the day.

July 15, 1904
Edwardsville Intelligencer

The Nelsons Entertain Dignitaries

Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Nelson are entertaining a distinguished foreigner in the person of Frau Melanie Glaser, an art connoisseur, of Prague. Frau Glaser is the accredited representative of the Imperial Austrian Government to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and has the distinction of being the first woman to hold a commission of that character. Her duties are to observe the art exhibits and gather data and material for practical use. She arrived in Leclaire yesterday morning and will remain over today. Since the fair opened the Nelson home has entertained many foreign notables, including people of rank and nobility from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary and France.

July 22, 1904, Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

LECLAIRE'S SATURDAY HOLIDAYS

The N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company and other companies operating plants in Leclaire have notified their employees that work will be suspended for Saturdays of the remainder of the summer. The order is indefinite as to time and was made in that manner in order to give employees an opportunity to visit the fair. It is frequently the custom in the dull season to lop off a certain amount of each day, but in this instance it was thought that the men would enjoy a solid day rather than short hours of all, during the off season.

September 21, 1904
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Nelson's Entertain World's Fair Committee

N. O. Nelson entertained a distinguished party of visitors Sunday afternoon. It included Mrs. Condi Hamlin of St. Paul; Mrs. Ruth Ashley Hirschfield of New York City; Leopold Mabileau, Paris, president of the Leclaire Society; A. Manoury, of Paris, secretary of the chamber of consultation; G. Lautz, of Paris, member of the French jury; J. N. Taylor, of Jacksonville, Florida; J. P. McKerhan, Carlisle, Pa. All the visitors were jurors of the committee of awards at the World's Fair, and Mr. Nelson, the host, is himself a juror in the education department.

December 30, 1904
Edwardsville Intelligencer
1904 Christmas Party

A Christmas party took place at the Leclaire hall Monday night. The little folks had theirs on Friday night, but Monday night the older pupils, the students at the industrial college, had a tree and distribution of presents. The latter were unique. Everyone was remembered, but it was stipulated that the presents must cost between a nickel and a dime. N. O. Nelson received a loaf of bread, W. H. Tanner, the superintendent, was handed a pair of fake spectacles, and the rest of the gifts were in a similar vein.

September 23, 1905
The Public, Volume 8
By Louis Freeland Post

Excerpt

In the August number of *Sanitary Progress* (St. Louis) Mr. N. O. Nelson gives in a brief article the best estimate of Golden Rule Jones that has appeared. Naturally so, for perhaps no one knew him so well as Mr. Nelson. "The love of comrades," writes Mr. Nelson, "was his religious creed and this love knew no distinction of class or condition or race. Impatient of delay and formalities, he had nothing in common with the conventions and machinery of institutions and factions. The joys and sorrows of the common people were more to him than the victories of field or forum. Literally he wept over the mass of injustice and sin, wept because his hand could not stay them."

May 3, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer

LECLAIRE LAKE DRAGGED IN A VAIN SEACH TODAY

The mysterious visit of a couple of men to Leclaire at 3:30 this morning has thrown the neighborhood into a ferment. The home of Max Votier, superintendent of the cabinet mill, is on the east drive, overlooking the lake, and at 3:30 this morning his son Arthur was awakened by the sound of wheels crunching the cinder roadway. Numerous attempts have been made to seine the Leclaire lake, whose fishing is restricted and young Votier thought that this was another.

He called to his father and brother and they started hurriedly to dress. Looking from the second story Arthur saw a cart with two men in it turn down the lake drive and speed across the dam. (___) the spring board they stopped and alighted. There was a momentary flash of light as the men got their bearings, then a splash as some heavy object was thrown into the lake, the water being splashed four or five feet in the air.

The men jumped back into the rig and wheeled around so hurriedly that one wheel slipped down the bank nearly into the water. As they came by the Votier house Mr. Votier rapped on the

window, whereupon they whipped up and headed towards Edwardsville. There were two men on the cart and they had a lantern with intermittent light, either an electric flash bulb or an ordinary shutter dark lantern.

The curious occurrence was reported and the Nelson Company has had men in boats dragging the pond all day.

Operations at the lake were discontinued this afternoon with no net results. The only opportunity presented was when a grappling iron operated by John Schuler caught a heavy object, but it later gave way and renewed efforts failed to locate it again. The case therefore remains a mystery. It may be entirely trivial and may be serious. The only thing known is that some heavy object was hurled into the lake by two men at the unusual hour of 3:30 in the morning, and residents of Leclaire would like to know what it was.

Monday, May 7, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Death of Former Leclaire Resident

FORMERLY LIVED HERE

Gustav E. Fritsche, aged 56, well known among Leclaire residents, committed suicide Friday at 1810 Olive street, St. Louis, by shooting himself in the head with a revolver. The shooting was thought to have been timed with an explosion of dynamite on Olive street and the report went unnoticed. The body was not found until late Friday evening. The cause of the suicide is said to have been a belief in the Osler theory and ill health. Fritsche is said to have remarked: "There is no use in a man living after he passes the 50 year mark. He can't get work at that age and what is there to live for?"

Labour Co-partnership
By Labour Co-Partnership Association of Great Britain
June, 1906
London, GB

The Transformation of Capitalism

Some years ago the Labour Co-partnership Association got into trouble with certain co-operators for too readily believing in a private shopkeeper who started, and soon abandoned, a scheme of sharing profits with his employees and customers. We do not know that the experiment has been repeated in this country; but in America it has been carried out with the utmost success; not indeed by a shopkeeping business, but by a manufacturing business, the well-known and important N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Co., of St. Louis. For twenty years this company has shared profits with its employees in such a way as to make them shareholders in the business. In the last two or three years it has also adopted the system of sharing profits with its customers. Indeed, the profits of the business now all go to the employees and customers, except a small portion that goes to the public and a very few outside shareholders. Mr. Nelson, the original owner, takes no profit himself, but only a salary for his work, and that a smaller one than is paid to some employees of the business. The dividends on wages and purchases are paid in shares, while the dividends on shares are paid in cash half yearly. It is anticipated that within a few years the business will belong entirely to the customers and employees.

The N. O. Nelson Co. publishes monthly a magazine called Sanitary Progress, which gives a great deal of information as to its co-operative work, and also as to its productions, which are plumbers' work of all sorts. From a notice in this magazine we first learnt of the profit sharing scheme of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co. Ltd., of Vancouver, and Mr. Nelson has now been good enough to get us further information of this important development. It appears that this company has a capital of 200,000 pounds, and works the electric street-car service in the towns of Victoria, Vancouver, and New Westminster. In Victoria and Vancouver it also owns the entire lighting both gas and electric. The company's accounts are made up annually and after paying all expenses, including interest on loan capital and preference shares, a 4 per cent on ordinary shares, one-third of the remaining profit is divided among all employees of the company who have been in service over a year. This system was introduced about four years ago, and in 1903 each employee received bonus of 5 pounds, in 1904 7 pounds, and in 1905 8 pounds for each of the 425 men employed. Every employee receives the same amount, whether he be general manager or a "track-greaser." The system gives great satisfaction and the results show how the prosperity of the company is increasing under it. The total dividend to the shareholders last year was 6 per cent.

June 13, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Employees Enjoy Outing at Leclaire

The 34th anniversary of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Company, the twentieth of profit sharing and the sixteenth anniversary of the founding of Leclaire was appropriately observed on Saturday evening when 460 employes of the St. Louis factories and offices came out on a special train and joined Leclaire's 500 residents in the celebration. The occasion was one of great pleasure for all concerned, the amusement privileges of the pretty little suburb being enjoyed to the utmost.

The most important part of the proceedings was an address by N. O. Nelson, who announced a dividend of 15 per cent on wages and salaries and 25 per cent on the gross profits of customers' purchases. The regular half-yearly dividends on the common and preferred stock of the company were also declared. It was stated that the business of the St. Louis plant had increased 28 per cent in the past year and the output of the Leclaire plant 50 per cent.

The amusements consisted of a ball game, in which the employes of the local plant bested their St. Louis opponents by a score of 9 to 8, bowling, rowing, sightseeing and dancing. Music for the dancing, both at the lake pavilion and at the school house, was furnished by the Thomas band, the members of which, after the regular scheduled program, divided themselves into two orchestras. The merrymaking continued until 10 o'clock, at which time the special train of six cars started for the return trip to St. Louis.

Friday, December 7, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Trees and Shrubbery Diseased

FIGHTING THE SCALE

The N. O. Nelson Company this week made a strenuous effort to get rid of the San Jose scale which was discovered in the trees and shrubbery at Leclaire last summer. Leclaire owes a deal of its beauty to the trees and the company recognized at once the importance of combating the evil when it became manifest last summer. At that time they summoned an expert from the state entomological bureau, who made an examination and recommended treatment.

The trees, however, could not be treated until winter, as the process would kill them in the summer when they are in leaf. This week the work was taken up by the company, who had Prof. L. M. Smith of the state bureau at Urbana here for several days directing it. Almost every tree and shrub in Leclaire was sprayed with a mixture of chemicals which has proven effective in killing the parasite, and it is hoped the latter will not be in evidence when spring comes. A good many trees which had become badly infected were cut down and burned.

The San Jose scale is an insect which affects fruit and shade trees; and is one of the most destructive pests known. It is thought that it was introduced in Leclaire by the medium of some foreign shrubs which were set out for ornamental purposes.

Monday, December 10, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Nelson Founds Club for the Poor

PHILANTHROPIST FOUNDS CLUB

A free club for poor men, where the doors will be without lock or key, and the walls bare of "Don't" signs, will be established in New Orleans by N. O. Nelson. Mr. Nelson is in the city superintending the inauguration of the scheme. Rules and regulations will not be known in the club. Everybody who enters will feel that he is in a "neighborhood" home. "Decent living and decent thinking," said Mr. Nelson, "will be the only two requirements. The club will be open every hour of the day and night. There will be no locks on any of the doors. The place will be open all the time and a cordial welcome will always be found within."

Friday, December 14, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Thomas – Weitz Wedding

WHAT SOCIETY IS DOING

A charavari was arranged by Leclaire people Wednesday evening for Mr. and Mrs. Ernest B. Thomas, who reside on the Troy road. Mr. Thomas and Miss Emma L. Weitz of St. Louis were married Thanksgiving Eve in St. Louis and their friends decided to give a rousing welcome to them. It was rousing all right, as not only the bride and groom but the rest of the neighborhood were aroused as well.

Wednesday, December 19, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Leonard-Schaefer Wedding

WHAT SOCIETY IS DOING

Harry W. Leonard and Miss Bertha Schaefer, both of Leclaire went to Alton yesterday afternoon and were married at the Congregational church, Sixth and Henry streets, by Rev. A. A. Tanner. They secured the license here Monday evening and went to Alton because Rev. Tanner

was a mutual friend whom they wished to perform the ceremony. He was formerly stationed at Leclaire as superintendant of the school there.

Mr. Leonard is originally from Upper Alton. His parents have their summer home there and live in St. Louis during the winter. The young man is a college graduate and an attorney by profession. He came here a couple of years ago to take charge of the Leclaire farm, and in this way became acquainted with his bride, who was living in the suburb. Their marriage has been rumored for several weeks and is no surprise to their friends. Present at the ceremony were Mrs. Schaefer, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Leonard, Miss Lucy Leonard and F. W. Leonard. The couple went to St. Louis last night and will go to Mt. Vernon to live, Mr. Leonard having purchased a farm there. While he has a profession and was reared in the city he has decided that country life is superior and will make farming his calling.

Wednesday, December 28, 1906
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Business Conditions

Business conditions have been excellent this year. The general trade was well sustained, numbers of the business houses have made improvements and others are under way. There has been steady work in all lines with the exception of three labor tie-ups and these did not militate against general results. At Leclaire 1906 was the biggest year in the history of the Nelson company; the books which are being closed today it is said will show a business twenty-five per cent greater than last year. Leclaire can provide business for another big factory, and it is not unreasonable to expect one in the not too distant future.

Friday, May 31, 1907
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Closing Exercises Leclaire School

The closing exercises of the Leclaire school, of which Miss Mae McCune is teacher, will be held this evening at the assembly hall. A little play has been prepared by the young people, and an invitation is extended to the public to attend.

Thursday, June 20, 1907
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Master Plumbers Assn Picnic

N. O. Nelson of this city took a day off yesterday and captained the married men in athletic events at Montesano Springs, during the annual outing of the Master Plumbers Association. The married men won. Mr. Nelson also umpired the baseball game.

July 1907
Sanitary Progress

Note: The Sanitary Progress was a quarterly newsletter, published by the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company, that was distributed to Nelson operations in several states. The company had its origins in St. Louis, Missouri. All the Nelson sites participated in profit-sharing, but Leclaire was unique in that its manufacturing plant included a co-operative village. Below is an excerpt from the July 1907 edition of the newsletter:

We are now building houses in Leclaire at the rate of one per week. They are all wanted. Most of them are sold in advance. The new owner will pay for it at from \$3.00 to \$5.00 a week. It is his from the time he moves in and pays his first weekly installment, just as much as if he had paid for the whole of it. Should he ever want to leave it, he can sell or rent it much better than he could elsewhere, because there are people of his own sort waiting to get it. The population is increasing rapidly, but it is all assimilated around the well established Leclaire nucleus and spirit. Every family which moves into Leclaire begins immediately to imitate the neighbors and the neighborhood.

The public grounds and roads and parking along the roads are all kept in condition by the company. The private yards and homes are well kept by the owners and occupants. The newcomers want to keep in line. Leclaire has proven that it is natural for people to like out-door beauty and comeliness. It is exceedingly rare to find a badly kept yard in Leclaire. No one is ever asked to do anything about his place. It is left entirely to the family taste in such things. It does not require a college education or art classes to instill the love of natural beauty.

The inhabitants can incorporate as a town whenever they like, but I have never heard the idea suggested, and as long as the company which is made up of these inhabitants and others attend to the business right and don't interfere with people's individual affairs, it can probably keep its job. Think of what we miss – no saloons, no town taxes, no mayor, no political boss, no boodlers. The water is the best in the world and all you want for \$5.00 a year. The town is full of trees and the trees are full of birds which are never shot at and birds' nests that are never robbed. The public grounds are full of flowers which are never touched and there are no signs on the grass or anywhere else.

Thursday, July 11, 1907
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Moorman moves to Kansas

Rev. Clair Moorman of this city has gone to Hollis, Kansas to accept a charge at that point. Rev. Moorman was in charge of the Edgemont Methodist Church in Belleville for some time and has preached at Shiloh and Glen Carbon. His new charge is larger than these.

Tuesday, July 12, 1907
Edwardsville Intelligencer

First Break in Strike

It is rumored this afternoon that two of the striking machinists had returned to work at the N. O. Nelson plant at Leclaire. The union men refused to discuss the matter.

Wednesday, September 18, 1907
Edwardsville Intelligencer

DEATH'S HEAVY HARVEST

Fred Merkel, Old Resident of Leclaire, Is Dead

Fred Merkel, one of Leclaire's first residents passed away last evening at 5:15. Mr. Merkel had been ailing for the past two years with dropsy, and for the past five weeks had been confined to his bed. The end was anticipated for some days.

Arrangements for the funeral had not been made this afternoon. A telegram was sent to his brother in New York City yesterday, but nothing has been heard from it. This morning he was called over the long distance telephone and just as the connection was established and he spoke a word of greeting something got the matter with the wires and the family could not tell him that his brother was dead. Another effort will be made to reach him this afternoon. The family hope to communicate with him before they finally settle the funeral plans.

Frederick Merkel was 45 years old. He was born in New York, January 16, 1862. Seventeen years ago he was one of the first group of three to come west to Edwardsville and settle in the co-operative village of Leclaire. He was also one of the first people to purchase a home there. Mr. Merkel married Miss Elizabeth Bott, who survives him. They had five children, one son Frederick being dead. Children living are Bertha, George, Charles and Lillian. He has a brother, Charles Merkel, in New York City, and two half-sisters.

For sixteen years Mr. Merkel was foreman of the bathtub department at Leclaire, giving up his place last year to go into business on his own account. He was a good workman and was highly regarded by his employers and his associates. Socially he belonged to the Modern Woodmen and the Knights and Ladies of Honor.

September 21, 1907
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Charles Merkel Arrives Late

Arriving Too Late

After hurrying eleven hundred miles to attend the funeral of his only brother, Charles Merkel, of New York City, arrived in Edwardsville yesterday afternoon just too late for the service. He reached the late residence of Fred Merkel in Leclaire fifteen minutes before the family returned from the cemetery. The funeral of Fred Merkel was yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The service at the residence and also at the grave in Woodlawn was conducted by Rev. Geo. P. Bentley, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal church. Employees of all departments of the N. O. Nelson Company attended the funeral and the Modern Woodmen turned out in a body. The pall bearers were Jos. Rizzoli, J. S. Allen, Wm Shaw, Henry Borchwardt, P. Rotter and P. Dillon.

Saturday, February 22, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Newlyweds Harassed

IS ANNOYED BY LETTERS

Newlyweds' Bliss Disturbed by Ominous Missives

Federal Authorities Will Be Asked to Investigate Threats Made.

Dire punishment, perhaps death, is threatened a youthful bridegroom in Leclaire by means of anonymous letters which have been coming to him. Arthur Wotier, an employe of N. O. Nelson Mfg. Company, and a son of Max Wotier, superintendent of the cabinet mill at Leclaire, is the object of the threats. Mr. Wotier was married on January 11, less than six weeks ago, to Miss Emma Kalal, and they are living with his parents at 811 Troy road.

Like most young men, Mr. Wotier has been attentive to the young ladies, and while his bride was his first and only sweetheart he had a close friendship previous to their courtship with other girls. These he considered merely good chums, but he is inclined to think that directly or indirectly his present annoyance emanate from a lady friend who seemed much disappointed when he transferred his attentions to another girl.

Since the early part of last summer these anonymous letters have been coming to Mr. Wotier. Being a young man whose character and good habits are well known they did not worry him at first, and he laughed them aside, although they have been accumulating at an alarming rate. He now has a stack of them that would fill a peck basket. By insinuation, directed at both himself and his sweetheart, the unknown writer attempted to prevent the marriage of Mr. Wotier and Miss Kalal. When that failed a persistent effort has been made to turn each against the other. As they are entirely happy in each other's affections, the effort has failed, but this week the letters took a new turn.

The first of the week the letters commenced to threaten his life and stated in (hostile?) terms that he would be shot on sight. A fair example is the one which he received yesterday morning and which is reproduced herewith:

"Say, Boy, don't you know the net is tightening around you every day? They now have a lawyer in St. Louis getting your exact age. This March if you are 21 suit is to be instituted against you by the family for slandering the family name. You will have to prove the charges you made in your letter against the name of _____. No one with the _____ blood has ever disgraced the name. One that bears the name may have, but she is Dutch.

"If you are not 21 you will never live to see it, for you came near your end about ten days ago. The party came over 300 miles to the N. O. Nelson plant to take a good look at you. He gave them until March to do something with you; if not he will be back and told them he knew you now, and they would know nothing till he had been here and gone.

"He took an oath that he would avenge the girl, and he will for he is hot headed and has more money than he knows what to do with. And the best thing for you to do is apologize or get out of here, for it will come as sure as fate.

"To let you know that this is no die talk I am going to tell you why. (Here follows some unprintable matter). That is why I done as I did. For Art I do love the girl but never expect to get her, for she refused me years ago. The man she marries will be for love and not for money: that I know for I have plenty of that. So do not blame the girl or her family, her father and mother I mean, as they do not know this, but will have to be told."

The writer then goes on to discuss Arthur's bride in an unpleasant manner and continues:

"Remember none of the relatives know I am doing this, for I am considered shut out after I kept her from you. So be a man, Art, and do the right thing before it is too late. If you want me to help you in any way wear a soft hat to work Friday or Saturday. I will be out through Leclair on those days. If you wear the hat I will know you want to straighten it out and are sorry for what you did; otherwise you will have to stand the consequences. I am a lawyer and have some influence with them – anything to keep the girl from more trouble.

(Signed)

"One Who is Sorry For Both."

Mr. Wotier went to work this morning wearing the same cap that he has worn all winter, and failed to answer the "soft hat" demand. He is, however, heartily tired of the persecution and now proposes to make the writer pay dearly for it. He has engaged a lawyer, who has taken the matter up with United States Attorney W. A. Northcott at Springfield. The federal authorities are

very strict in communications mailed second class, and Mr. Wotier has in his possession signed letters written by a resident of Edwardsville whose writing corresponds in every particular with the chirography of the anonymous letters. Furthermore he has had the mailing of the missives traced, and there is a possibility of a well known family being surprised by a prospective trip of one of their numbers either to the penitentiary or an insane asylum.

Mr. Wotier said this morning: "Matters have reached such a stage that my wife fears to venture out of the house at night. Last night we visited friends down town and she hesitated at passing every street corner on the way home late in the evening. I have never paid much attention to these letters, but their present character shows a possible origin in a disordered brain, so I think it will be just as well to take summary action."

The 21st birthday of the young man, referred to in such a tragic way in the last letter, is March 17, this year, some three weeks away.

Note: Blanks in the article above are copied from the original article.

March 12, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Party at 821 Holyoake Road

What Society is Doing

News of People from Home and Abroad

Frank H. Scott, superintendent of the Clover Leaf icing station, gave a stag party last evening. Mrs. Scott, who has been visiting her relatives in Georgia, is expected home and her husband anticipated her coming with a "stag" for the "boys." It took place last night at the Scott home, 821 Holyoake road, Leclaire. Sam Lindbeck assisted in the enjoyment of the evening by contributing a number of musical selections on the piano. Charles Meyers also added in no small degree to the merriment by tripping while crossing the kitchen floor with a toureen of chicken gravy and falling headlong. The subsequent spectacle would have made Mrs. Scott hold up her hands in horror. But she was far away in Georgia, and the guests set to with a will and hurriedly made the place presentable once more, so that she will never know it unless someone is mean enough to tell. There were a number of toasts and the entertainment was voted splendid by the guests, who included: Lester Jones, John May, S. Schnert, F. Rigos, G. Dietrich, Ed Morgan, G. Retlaff, Chas. Retzlaff, O. E. Hunter, Bert Hamor, Sam Lindbeck, Earl Bentley, Charles Meyers and Henry Schmidt.

Wednesday, May 18, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Accident at Home of Leclair Employee

Accident at Home

Edward McLain was repairing the fence at his home in the southeast part of town last evening and his little daughter was standing nearby watching him. The steel head of the hatchet Mr. McLain was wielding flew off from the handle and struck the baby on the head. Mr. and Mrs. McLean were wild with grief at first, as it looked as if the baby were fatally injured, but a physician found that the wound, although not a trifling one, would heal readily.

Note: Name spelled "McLain" in some places and "McLean" in others in this article.

Friday, April 17, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Funeral of J. D. Lawnin

The funeral of Joseph D. Lawnin, father of L. D. Lawnin, of this city, was held yesterday from the residence, 3400 Morgan street, St. Louis, to the Church of the Holy Communion, 28th and Washington avenue, where services were conducted by Bishop Tuttle. Interment was in Belfontaine cemetery. The funeral was largely attended by steam boat men with whom Mr. Lawnin enjoyed a wide acquaintance and the floral offerings were many and very beautiful. Among those who attended the funeral from here were Max Wotier, Wm. West, Gus Dieterich, Joseph Miller, Thomas Walton, George Pierson, John Staab, William Kennedy, Jule Bentley, J. S. Allen, John Schuler, J. G. Lewis, J. W. Duncan, Wm. Held, R. W. Van Hying, Ira Healy, Miss Josephine Smith and Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Lawnin and family.

Friday, April 17, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Nelson philanthropy

Late Locals

N. O. Nelson went a step farther in philanthropy this week by offering an acre of ground in Leclair, tools to make garden with and a tent to live in to all those who apply to him and

show that they are really in sestitute circumstances. The offer is made in connection with an entertainment which is to be given at the Odeon Tuesday evening in St. Louis for the benefit of the poor.

Tuesday, June 30, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Moorman-McCune Party

What Society is Doing

A bevy of young ladies who are here to attend the marriage this evening of George Loren Moorman and Miss May Georgia McCune, are being entertained at the McCune home on Hillsboro avenue. In the party are the Misses Esther Niedemeyer and Maud McCune, of Decatur; Lucy Sikking, of Springfield; Bess Reed, of Jacksonville; Nannie Morefield, Lovejoy; Cordelia Enos, Minnie Lightner, Nell and Emma Bradish, of Alton.

Wednesday, July 1, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer

A Quiet Home Wedding

George Loren Moorman and Miss May G. McCune

Ceremony Took Place Last Night at the Home of the Bride

The last day of the month of brides and roses was chosen for the wedding of Mr. George Loren Moorman and Miss May Georgia McCune, which took place last evening at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Mary McCune, 518 Hillsboro avenue. The residence was tastefully arranged with pink and green. The lights were shaded in a delicate pink tissue and the bridal corner, which was set off with a bower of green, was touched with pink sweet peas, arranged against the darker background. Nasturtiums and carnations also assisted in the effective decorations.

The ceremony was at 8 o'clock. Miss Clara McCune, sister of the bride, and Miss Bess Reed, of Jacksonville, a particular friend, with piano and violin rendered the Loehengrin march, which had been preceded by the "Berceuse." Rev. S. P. Groves awaited the bridal party at the foot of the stairs and preceded them into the library, which had been arranged for the ceremony.

The bridesmaid, Miss Lucy Sikking, of Springfield, entered with the best man, C. H. Spilman, and they were followed by the bride and groom. The ring ceremony was employed.

The bride was lovely in a princess gown of Paris muslin, trimmed with baby Irish and Valenciennes lace. She wore no veil. As ornaments the bride wore merely a brooch and a long string of pearls, and she carried a large bouquet of Bride roses. Miss Sikking, the bridesmaid, also wore Paris muslin, trimmed with lace and medallions, with girdle of pink. She carried pale pink carnations.

The ceremony was witnessed by about sixty relatives and particular friends who warmly congratulated the young people. There was a pleasant air of informality about the gathering, which speedily resolved itself into a merry evening party. Miss Clara McCune and Miss Reed contributed several appreciated piano and violin numbers. Dainty refreshments were served under direction of Mrs. McCune and her daughter, Miss Isora.

At 10 the bride and groom departed on their wedding trip, and at their express request there was an entire absence of rice throwing or other demonstration of a violent nature. The feature of the departure was the contest for the bride's bouquet, the girls gathering upon the lawn in an animated group, into which, from the porch, the bride tossed the spray of roses. Her sister, Miss Clara, was the fortunate one in the rivalry for it.

Then Mr. and Mrs. Moorman drove away, as everyone supposed on their wedding trip, but downtown their carriage turned back and they went to their home in Leclaire. They found the front porch elaborately draped with old shoes, etc., mute witness of the visit of friends, and went in, leaving the decorations as they were to convey the impression they were not there. They will take a wedding trip later in the summer. Many beautiful presents were received by the couple.

Mr. Moorman has been a resident of Edwardsville for many years. He is an expert machinist and has a good position with Bignall & Keeler Company at Leclaire. His bride in addition to her personal charms has an enviable disposition. She studies in universities at Decatur and Chicago and for the past two years had been in charge of the Leclaire school. The young people are both earnest church workers and are well matched in temperament, and their friends foresee for them a happy future.

July 31, 1908

Edwardsville Intelligencer

Musicale at Home of Mrs. Max Wotier

What Society is Doing

News of People from Home and Abroad

Mrs. Max Wotier of 827 Hale avenue, Leclaire, was the hostess last evening at a musicale. It was in compliment to her guest, Miss Lillian Bauers, of St. Louis, and there were

about thirty young people present. A fine program of music and handsome refreshments contributed to the pleasure of the evening.

September 10, 1908
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Pocket Knives, Jelly and Bread, Booty of Burglars

Any Boy Seen Whittling in Edwardsville Will Be Subject to Suspicion

Any boy who is seen whittling on the streets of Edwardsville for the next day or two will be under suspicion. If his face is stained with jelly, he will probably be locked up.

Jelly, bread and pocket knives formed the booty of the robbers who entered five homes in Leclaire, a manufacturing suburb of Edwardsville, Wednesday.

The houses entered were those of Arthur Votier, John Kalal, Henry Borchwardt, Tony Gerhardt and Charles Glass.

At each place the pantry was the scene of the chief loss. Glasses of grape, currant and crab apple jelly were taken and enough bread stolen to ballast a balloon. Half a dozen pocket knives were also stolen. The thieves had opportunities to take more valuable articles, but contented themselves with the knives and the pantry contents.

Thursday, October 29, 1908
Edwardsville Intelligencer

CHOSE A QUIET WEDDING

MISS EDITH SHAW AND WARREN W. McKEE ARE MARRIED.

Ceremony Took Place at Home of the Bride, Last Evening.

Miss Edith Shaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw, of Leclaire, and W. Warren McKee of St. Louis, a former Edwardsvillian, were united in marriage last evening at the home of the bride's parents, 409 Jefferson road, Leclaire. The details of the wedding and its appointments were all personally supervised by the bride and bespoke her quiet tastes and desire to avoid ostentation in any way. The little features that make a home wedding so eminently attractive were not missing, but the ceremony and its setting were simple in nature.

A number of young ladies, numbered among particular friends of the bride, descended upon the Shaw home the previous evening and took possession of the decorating. They arranged a bower of autumn leaves and fern in the parlor. This room was toned in yellow and liberally ornamented with chrysanthemums. The reception hall was in pink and white, and the dining room the same, the electric lights being shaded in pink tissue and with flowers of those colors. The staircase was covered with branches of brightly tinted leaves, and all contributed to the idea of October nuptials.

The bride and groom descended the stairs to the music of the Loehengrin march. They were unattended, the ribbon bearers, Misses Irene and Laura Shaw, preceding them from the foot of the stairs, one with a strand of white, the other of pink, defining the aisle through which the couple proceeded to the bower, where the minister awaited them. Rev. Elisha Safford, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Edwardsville, performed the service, which was a brief one without the ring clause.

Hardly had the service been concluded and the guests stepped forward to congratulate the happy bride and groom when a tremendous din arose outside, so pronounced a racket that it nearly checked conversation inside. Investigation showed that it was the little people of Leclaire, who had counted Miss Edith one of their firmest friends. Armed with wash boilers, oil tanks, pans and other metal utensils they were tendering her a serenade after their own fashion.

The bride never appeared more lovely than in her wedding gown. It was a simple Princess costume, of exquisite design, but without train or veil. It was composed entirely of embroidery and lace. The bride wore a single rose in her hair and carried a bouquet of bride roses. Her going away gown was a tailored one of tope, the new grey, with hat to match. Mr. and Mrs. McKee departed at 9:50 for St. Louis. Their carriage had a hard race down Main street to make the McKinley car, and drew up at the back platform just as the car was starting. Before leaving the house the couple were plentifully showered with rice.

Last evening's wedding was of much interest locally. The bride has been through her merry nature and pleasant ways one of the most highly regarded of the younger set. Her presence was sought at many gatherings and she will be greatly missed.

Mr. McKee while still in Edwardsville left mercantile lines for the study of electricity, advanced rapidly in it and has been for some time known as an advanced expert. He is superintendent of a department for the Bell Telephone Company in St. Louis and is regarded as one of their most valued men. He and his bride went at once to the home they have fitted up at 5061 Garfield avenue St. Louis and will be at home to their friends after December 1.

They received many handsome presents, among which several were potable. One from four members of the board of supervisors and was a great surprise. It was a handsome double chest of silver. Another unique gift was from the girls of a club to which the bride belonged. It was a home-made cookbook, each girl contributing a leaf with an original recipe in her own handwriting.

1909

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by William Dwight Porter Bliss

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LECLAIRE, ILL.: A cooperative village at Edwardsville, Ill., near St. Louis, Mo., founded in 1890 by Mr. N. O. Nelson (*q.v.*), the millionaire cooperator of St. Louis, for the employees in his factory (for making plumbers' supplies).

Leclaire differs from almost all "model villages" in the extent to which Mr. Nelson has induced his employees to develop their own homes, rather than to depend on him to create a village for them. As a true Tolstoyan, Mr. Nelson would have no compulsion, and not much leading. He has simply himself lived among his employees, conducted his own business firmly, built his own attractive and practical house, developed his own garden; and has shown his employees how they could go and do the same, out of their wages.

Leclaire differs, too, from most model villages in that it sells its lots outright, on the installment plan, to the employees, and then allows the employee landowner, subject to a very few restrictions, to do what he will with his own. Tho the houses are not all, and the place is not all, quite so artistic as it might be otherwise, it is free, and has the grace of freedom and variety, and lack of artificiality and stiffness.

There are some 100 houses in all (only 12 rented, the rest belonging to employees). The houses average 26 by 33 feet, on about one third of an acre. They are mainly wood, and usually one story. The rented houses rent for \$10 to \$13 per month, and the land is sold from \$2 to \$2.50 per front foot. It shows that well-treated American workmen will do for themselves with homes and gardens, when given the opportunity.

Cooperation has developed a club-house, bowling-alleys, billiard-rooms, tennis courts, school, kindergarten, industrial school, library and public hall.

Note: Paragraphs, not included in the original articles, were added for ease of reading.

April 23, 1909
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WOMEN OF EDWARDSVILLE OFFER REWARD FOR CAPTURE OF FLOWER BED DESPOILER

The women of the Civic Improvement League in Edwardsville want to know who is working against their efforts to beautify and adorn the city. They want to know so badly that they are willing to pay good money for a clew to his identity.

All spring the league has been at work improving the condition of things in the city. Every resident was visited and urged to clean up his premises, business or residence. Eight rubbish wagons have been operated constantly and a wonderful change has been made.

In addition to cleaning up, they have encouraged the planting of flowers, shrubs, lawns and trees. It is in this particular that the blow has fallen.

Thursday morning cries of anguish went up from the residence of N. O. Nelson, the founder of Leclaire; Circuit Judge B. R. Burroughs, Charles F. Tuxhorn and others. At each of these places magnificent tulip beds in full bloom had been stripped. At the home of Judge Burroughs but two of the flowers were left. At the Nelson home some of the shrubbery was torn and trampled as if wantonly.

Even the spacious grounds of the president of the league, Mr. W. F. L. Hadley, suffered, her bed of narcissus being culled as if by a goat.

Forthwith the league went into action and Mrs. Hadley as its executive posted a notice that the league would pay a substantial cash reward for information as to the identity of the despoiler.

June 19, 1909
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Toad deluge at Leclaire fills town with hoppers which make women scream

When it doesn't rain in Leclaire it rains toads. N. O. Nelson's famous co-operative city near Edwardsville just now is considering physiological, rather than sociological, problems. The chief one is this:

Can a toad that comes down in a rainfall at 10 a.m. so small as to be invisible to the naked eye grow to an inch in length by sundown, and hop about as lively as if it had taken hopping lesson at the gym?

Thursday evening citizens of Leclaire suddenly became aware that the town was alive with toads. There were thousands and thousands of them, hopping around everywhere. One could not walk on the lawn or the street or sidewalk without almost stepping on toads, which, however, hopped out of the way with surprising agility.

The little hoppers hopped against the shins of men and under the skirts of women, causing many of the latter to scream.

There was a heavy thundershower in the morning, but nobody observed that any toads were rained down at that time. Leclaire still had more toads Saturday morning than were necessary to a model industrial town, but they were disappearing rapidly.

The problem now agitating Leclaire philosophers is: What became of the toads? Were they drawn up into the heavens again or did they jump into the river?

July 21, 1909
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

FEMININE FOIBLE AND TRUE VIRTUE SEEN IN HENNERY

Fowl With Affinity Abandons Chicks; Another Mothers Neglected Kittens

When a certain giddy and flippant hen, belonging to the wife of the R. J. W. Caldwell of Holy Oak road, in N. O. Nelson's co-operative town of Leclaire, Ill. eloped with a neighbor's rooster and abandoned her eight little chicks, her deserted mate did not mope in the fence corner, nor did he retaliate by acquiring another hen. The rooster, knowing his paternal duty, determined to look after the chicks.

"Never mind," he said; "I'll be a mother to you. Just come under my wing."

The little chickens cuddled under the rooster and slept snugly all night, enjoying the bed as much as the one mother used to make. The rooster found the position not so comfortable as a roost, but family duty was strong in his makeup.

Every night he mothers the chickens thus, and every day he busies himself in picking up tender little worms for the tiny mouths of his babies and in leading them to the prepared feed which Mrs. Caldwell provides.

The perfidy of the hen, which should be a co-operative fowl, living in the village named after the father of co-operation, is in contrast to the conduct of a hen whose home in south of Edwardsville, near by. Farmer J. N. Brown owns the good hen. Mr. Brown also owns a bad cat, which neglects her three small kittens.

Hen Cares for Kittens

The kittens were born in the same manger where the hen was setting on a nest of eggs. When Mrs. Hen observed that Mrs. Cat had begun prowling around and staying out late at night and sometimes nearly all day as well, leaving her kittens to shiver in the chill night air, she became a co-operative fowl.

"There's nothing very lively in these eggs," she said to herself, "but those kittens are already hatched and they need a mother's care."

So Mrs. Hen moved over and covered the kittens. They squirmed a little too much for comfort at first, but the hen grew accustomed to them. Mr. Brown discovered her change of base and placed her on the eggs again, but she returned to the kittens and continued to shelter them.

Mrs. Cat, not entirely lost to all sense of duty, visits the kittens when they need nourishment. Then she resumes her gallivanting.

