

Publications on Leclaire (1920-1929)

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".

December 20, 1920
Edwardsville Intelligencer

BOYS WERE SAVED

BROKE THROUGH ICE ON LECLAIRE LAKE YESTERDAY

WERE IN WATER OVER FIVE FEET IN DEPTH OPPOSITE BATH HOUSE

Two Leclaire boys were saved from drowning yesterday when Herman Schwenderman and Thomas Triggs came to their assistance. Schwenderman dived into the water breaking the ice and pulled George Moorman 8 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. George Moorman to safety. Lester Senn who had been the last to fall in was keeping above water and had not gone under the ice, as had the former. The Senn boy remained in the water about 15 minutes before he was rescued.

Both boys knew how to swim and had the presence of mi(n)d enough to use swimming methods to keep afloat. They talked to the men who were assisting them ashore.

During the afternoon they had been playing in the house and had left the Moorman home only a short time when the parents were notified of the accident to the children.

They broke through the ice about half way from shore at a point opposite the girls bathing house.

The rescuers are both employes of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing company. Schwenderman who is in the marble department is preparing for the Baptist ministry.

Today the boys are none the worse for their experience. They were taken to the Moorman home and were given every attention. The Senn boy who remained in the water for the greater length of time had a hard chill shortly after being taken from the water but today there have been no ill effects.

Monday, February 7, 1921
Edwardsville Intelligencer

BUILDING SIX HOUSES

SEVERAL PLACES ARE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION HERE

Building Operations in Five Weeks Greater Than Past Year

With six houses under construction in Edwardsville and Leclaire at the present time and a contract about to be made for a seventh there are greater activities during the first five weeks of

1921 in building operations than the entire past year. Only half a dozen new homes were erected last year.

Contractors are looking to the biggest rush in building this year that Edwardsville has ever experienced. It is known that two Edwardsville (builders) have had under consideration a plan of building twenty-five moderate priced homes which would be offered for sale.

There were two or three things which stood in (the) way of the plans during the early consideration of plans and they have not been removed. One it is said was a water supply for those (who) would occupy the places.

It is understood that the promoters had in mind the erection of four and five-room houses that could be sold at from \$3,500 to \$4,200.

John Schwager has three houses under construction at the present time. He is building a four room bungalow for Joseph Gramer on Hale avenue. Another of five rooms is being erected for Vincent Syba on Ruskin avenue. The third is a four room bungalow on McKinley avenue to be offered for sale.

Mr. Schwager expects to close a contract this week for another five-room home this week.

Anton Hlad is erecting two residences in Abner Park. It is understood that they will be offered for sale.

J. H. Stolte has under construction a five room bungalow for C. W. Terry on High street.

During the past several months, rents have been higher than ever known in Edwardsville. A few new homes built for former renters and others being erected is expected to relieve the rent problems to a great extent.

September 6, 1921
Edwardsville Intelligencer

KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN TO RECEIVE DIPLOMAS

A very extensive course of instruction will be instituted at the Leclair Kindergarten this school term. Newest methods in hand-work, gift exercises, music, calisthenics, and folk dancing has been carefully planned.

Children entering in September and remaining throughout the school term, making the required grades will be awarded diplomas. Those who completed the first years work last June will be given credit for the work done.

Credits will be given for the following: attendance, punctuality, hand-work, music, gift and number work, and creative ability. All materials used are strictly Froebelian.

Tuesday, September 6 will be the opening day. Children 4 years of age on or before November 1 may be enrolled. Visitors are welcome at any time. Children desiring to use the bus-line from the court house to the Kindergarten can make arrangements with F. W. Herzog, 834 Holyoake Road.

October 6, 1922 Friday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

N. O. Nelson, Founder of Leclaire Dies in the West

DEATH CAME LAST NIGHT AFTER AN ILLNESS WITH DROPSY

N. O. Nelson, founder of Leclaire, Edwardsville's suburb and for years head of one of the biggest plumbing companies in the United States, is dead.

The end came last night at 9 o'clock at the Sister's Hospital at Los Angeles, Calif., death being due to dropsy and followed an illness of several weeks. He had been a patient at the hospital for three weeks, the family being in daily touch with the institution and having the assurance of several physicians that his condition was not dangerous and his recovery was expected.

The death was a great shock to the several hundred men connected with the St. office, factories in Edwardsville, Besemer, Ala, Noblesville, Ind., and nine branch offices located in the west and southwest.

Only the meager news of the death has been recelyed today. The body is to be sent to St. Louis for burial. Services will be held next week but the time has not been fixed.

Six weeks ago members of the family learned of the failing health of Mr. Nelson. He had sent word he was sick but it was three weeks before the family prevailed upon him to enter the hospital. There it was found the he was sick but with air chance of recovery and there family had no cause for alarm until the last day or so when the reports were not quite so favorable.

Mr. Nelson's life has been filled with so man interesting events that a large volume might easily be written to give the important details. From a boy of only moderate circumstances he rose to one of the foremost plumbing manufacturers of the country and gained a nation-wide fame through his co-operative ideas and assistance in many ways to the noeding and causes he considered worthy.

N. O. Nelson, was born in Lillesand, Norway, Sept. 11, 1834 and was 78 years and 25 days old. He, with his father and mother and a party, of 70 neighbors, came to this country by way of New Orleans in 1846 in pursuit of that larger activity and liberty which the far-famed prairies of the west, and the Republican doctrine of this county offered to all who are fitted to use them. They settled in St. Joseph, Mo., and carried on a farming business for a number of years.

In 1872 he went to St. Louis and within a year was partner in a thriving business, but the Jay Cooke panic of 1873 disposed his partner to give up the business, but Mr. Nelson persuaded him to stick at it. This they did and weathered the storm. In 1877 he started his own business in Second street, in St. Louis. Since that time his business of manufacturing and jobbing of plumbing supplies has grown to enormous proportions.

He was a member of the St. Louis Citizens' Committee, that helped to settle the great railroad strike in 1877, when riot and destruction swept from the Alleghenies to the Mississippi. The irrepressible conflict that then was raised between capital on the one side and labor on the other, is what determined Mr. Nelson to his profit sharing plan with his employees and later

caused him to better their living as well as working conditions by establishing the Village of Leclaire, on the outskirts of Edwardsville.

Through his original ideas of profit sharing and co-operation, and his ability to have his ideas carried out on a practical and paying basis, he has achieved a world-wide reputation among circles interested in social economics.

In 1895, he was a delegate to the meeting in London, England, of the Co-operation and Profit Sharing Associations of the World. He was once a member of the St. Louis City council, but aside from this he has never been identified with politics, except upon the board and independent basis of standing for the business in men, method and ideas, regardless of party affiliations.

Mr. Nelson became acquainted in Edwardsville about 1890. About that time he was looking for a place to erect a plant and provide homes for his workmen. After looking about in the St. Louis district he selected Edwardsville. Several factory buildings were erected and a tract to the south was laid out for homes.

A score of residents was erected and in a very short time they were all occupied. Others were erected from time to time until the population increased to about 1,000. During the many years Leclaire has been without city officers, police, has escaped city taxes but at the same time the residents enjoy all the conveniences of residents of cities several times the population.

Mr. Nelson's idea of co-operation were partly obtained from the French but he enlarged the scale. His business and city was made his employees business and city and the manufacturer and his men went along, hand in hand. Their efforts helped him enlarge the business and in return they became partners in the business.

He adopted a policy of issuing stock to the men in accordance with their actual earnings and term of years with the company. They have been receiving cash dividends on this stock.

Mr. Nelson helped too many causes to become what might be called a wealthy man. He financed many causes. One not generally known in Edwardsville was the transplanting of the Douhkobars, a religious society from Canada to Mexico. Members of the sect were dying of hunger and cold when he provided the money to move them to a warmer climate where the religious activities might continue.

After leaving the manufacturing company he launched a chain of stores in New Orleans. The plan was to supply bread, meat and groceries to the poorer classes at the smallest margin of profit. Some believe that dishonesty on the part of some of the many employes wrecked the undertaking after it was in operation but a short time.

Mr. Nelson's marriage occurred in 1868, shortly after his war service. His wife, who died several years ago, was Miss Almeria Posegate, member of one of the well known families of St. Joseph, Mo. Four years later they moved to St. Louis to establish a home and where his career was really launched.

The union was blessed with five children, three having died. The two who survive are Mrs. L. D. Lawnin of St. Louis, and Mrs. E. L. Burroughs. There are several grand-children.

October 7, 1922 Saturday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Nelson O. Nelson

N. O. Nelson, founder of Leclaire, Edwardsville's industrial and residential suburb on the south, is dead. Word came yesterday that he had passed away the night before at Los Angeles, California. Mr. Nelson had been gone so long from Edwardsville that there is no doubt that many who had known him had practically forgotten him, and hundreds have attained to citizenship since his sphere of influence here and therefore knew him not.

Nevertheless he was a man worth knowing, and the fact that he had been drifting hither and yon in recent years does not dim the achievements which he made in earlier ones. As has been chronicled he was the earliest advocate of co-operation between employer and employe. Himself a poor boy from Norway he saw many vicissitudes in his earlier years and acquired a warm sympathy for the under dog, particularly when said canine was of the human species.

He got ingratitude for many of the things which he did for people, but that has been the common lot of those who did not look out alone for themselves. Being an ardent student of the life and the work of the great Frenchman, Leclaire, and a believer in the latter's labor theories, Mr. Nelson put them into effect when he established his factories at Edwardsville. He met with many vicissitudes, was misunderstood, misquoted and maligned, but he persevered and today the works bearing his name in many parts of the United States testify to the soundness of his theories.

Coupled with his attitude toward contact with his employees and theirs with him in the capacity of employer and employe, was a whole-souled desire to make everybody around him happier. This was a purely unselfish motive, for he himself was one of the unhappiest of men, for he was lonely. Not only did people in general misunderstand him, but those close to him likewise had little sympathy for his endeavors and he was compelled to walk his path without the cheering sentiments and heartening approbation which he might reasonably have expected. Small wonder therefore, if he fared far in search of the will-o-the-wisp.

It was his idea to lay out Leclaire with winding streets, set with trees, and bordered with lawns and flower beds. It was his idea to have a lake to delight the eye, to provide a school and a club house and a bowling alley and billiard rooms and a football and baseball campus, and a whole host of other things--free in every way to the people who should take up their residence in Leclaire. And for many years the progress of Leclaire was his principal pleasure. He lived in the center of the village and enjoyed each painting of a house or construction of another room, the planting of a tree or the birth of another baby.

Later on other things attracted his attention; he sought to improve the condition of the poor and was robbed by those whom he trusted. He endeavored to make living cheaper for those of little means, and his assistants hampered his efforts.

N. O. Nelson had a message, and like many another, the world in general would not listen. It is true that his ideas of co-operation have been adopted at numerous places in Ohio and New York, but comparatively few when the number that might have done so is considered. If they prevailed the labor leader and agitator would be out of jobs, so there is little chance they will be popular until strikes, lockouts and their accompanying evils become more unpopular.

N. O. Nelson loved people, particularly children. He admired good books, esteemed elevating conversation, had a delight in trees and flowers. There was one flaw in his lute. He who

wanted to co-operate found little co-operation near him. Otherwise his life might have been very different, and his happiness and success much greater.

October 7, 1922 Saturday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Body of N. O. Nelson is On Way to St. Louis Today

Under tentative plans today the funeral of N. O. Nelson, plumbing manufacturer, will be held in St. Louis next Wednesday but the hour and some of the details are uncertain until the time of arrival of the body is more definite. It is believe that the body will arrive in St. Louis next Tuesday evening.

The Leclair plant which he founded, and opened a way for co-operative work as well as other ideas, will be closed. It is expected today that the two other factories of the company besides the several big branch offices will close for the day.

The funeral will be held from the residence of his son-in-law, L. D. Lawnin, 513 S. Washington. Burial will be made at Bellefontaine cemetery.

October 10, 1922 Tuesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

SHOP WILL CLOSE

LOCAL EMPLOYEES WILL ATTEND NELSON SERVICE

Special Car is Chartered to Take Party to St. Louis

Many in Edwardsville will turn aside from their usual activities tomorrow to pay a final tribute to N. O. Nelson, founder of Leclair and former head of the Nelson Manufacturing Company whose co-operate plans and philanthropic ideas made him foremost along those lines for many years. His body arrived in St. Louis today and plans for the final rites will be completed this evening.

The body was taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Lawnin, 8138 Washington Boulevard and funeral services will be held there at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Rev. J. W. Day of the Church of the Messiah will conduct the services. Burial will be in a grave beside Mrs. Nelson, whose death occurred only a short time ago, in Bellefontaine cemetery.

The pall bearers will be six old business associates, three from the local factory and three representing the St. Louis office. The three local pallbearers will be William Held, John Staab and William Shaw. Those from St. Louis are George Thro, Fred Leonard and J. A. Senkosky.

The local Nelson plant, as well as the St. Louis office, and other factories and branches will be closed tomorrow. Quite a few employees from here and residents of Leclaire are arranging to go to St. Louis for the funeral.

To provide transportation for all a special car will be operated over the McKinley System. The car will reach Edwardsville at 12:15 o'clock leaving at 12:30 and reach St. Louis in time for the funeral. Those in the party will return on regular cars at hours they choose. It was believed today there will be room for all who wish to make the trip on the special car.

On account of the death and funeral, the Leclaire Athletics have given up the idea of the biggest ball game ever attempted in Edwardsville. The local club was scheduled to play the St. Louis Cardinals but the game has been called off.

October 10, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Meikamp Burned

Was Badly Burned.

Henry Meikamp, fireman at the N. O. Nelson Company, was burned about the face and hands this morning while firing the furnace. While putting fresh fuel on the blaze, flames shot out, burning him. He was taken to a doctor where his injuries were dressed and then removed to his home.

Thursday, October 12, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer

BOILERS BLOW UP

Two at Nelson Plant Badly Damaged Today.

Electric Lights Off Several Days and Plant Closes.

The plant of the N. O. Nelson Company was put out of commission today with the second boiler explosion within a week, causing considerable damage. No one was injured in either accident. An estimate of the damage was unobtainable this afternoon.

Both explosions are believed to be due to the low condition of water in the boilers. The accident today occurred at 10 o'clock, the men being dismissed for the remainder of the day. It will be impossible to heat the shops during the next few days and the whistles at several times during the day will not be heard until the repairs are made.

The most serious inconvenience will be the absence of electric power for several days at least. There will be no lights tonight, residents of Leclaire being without current until the repairs are finished.

The first explosion occurred last Friday and repairs are being made on it. On account of the great heat little could be accomplished on the second boiler today, the men being forced to wait until it has time to cool off.

The boilers are both practically new. One was put in about a year ago. The other was installed four months ago. After the first explosion the energy for operating the plant and producing electricity has been produced on the boiler in which the flues bursted today.

Thursday, October 12, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer

MANY AT SERVICES

Many Hear Last Rites for N. O. Nelson.

Number of Employes Make Trip on Special Car.

About one hundred residents of Edwardsville went to St. Louis yesterday where they attended the last sad rites held for N. O. Nelson. Many went on the special car which left Edwardsville at 12:30 o'clock and others motored down. The St. Louis and Edwardsville plants were closed all day and the Leclaire Cooperative store was closed during the afternoon.

Funeral services were conducted from the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Lawnin at 5138 Washington Boulevard at 2:30 o'clock, by Rev. J. W. Day of the Church of the Messiah. The funeral was largely attended and the floral offerings were varied and of beautiful design. Interment was in the Bellefontaine cemetery.

Those who went down on the special car from here were Edward Redding, E. V. Senn, K. Hartman, A. Kalitz, E. Schlechte, J. Steiner, T. Gerhardt, W. D. Nix, M. Fagan, J. McNeilly, Z. Schaefer, E. Gillig, B. Kruse, C. Lunesford, Frank Gillig, J. Schwager, M. Brimbeau, L. Lunesford, Thos. R. Watson, C. Buddha, H. Brendle, John Staab, W. H. West, E. Jones, Henry Dohle, J. Weaver, William Shaw, William Heid, P. Rotter, Reuben Glass, Joseph Rizzoli, J. H. Wohlbrinck, Ed. Sparks, P. Dillon, Edward Ferguson, J. S. Allen, Joseph McLean, Thomas Triggs, A. Jagers, R. Fagan, G. Kniser, E. McLean, C. Rotter, M. Votier, C. W. Terry, Dr. E. W. Fiegenbaum and C. H. Burton.

October 14, 1922
St. Louis, Mo.
By N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co.

In Memoriam

It is with sorrow and regret that we announce the death of N. O. Nelson, founder of the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co. and its president from its inception in 1877 until his retirement from active business in 1918.

His death occurred at Sisters' Hospital in Los Angeles, California, on Thursday night, October 5th, 1922. Dropsy had been creeping slowly upon him for several weeks, but prior to that he had shown his characteristic vigor of mind and body.

Mr. Nelson's life of seventy-eight years was so full of activity that he was known to many people in many lands. He was an eminently successful business man, a lecturer of rare ability, a forceful convincing writer, a scholar with a vast store of knowledge; a dreamer with visions carrying far into the future and yet the ability to mold altruism into every day life, - a philanthropist of international fame.

He was born in Lillesand, Norway, September 11th, 1844, and with his father, mother and a party of seventy neighbors came when he was two years old to this country, in pursuit of that larger activity and liberty which the far framed prairies of the west and the republican doctrines of this county offered to all who were fitted to use them. They settled at St. Joseph, Missouri and carried on farming for a number of years.

When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in spite of his youth. He served to the end, was given an honorable discharge and was a member of the G. A. R.

In 1872 he came to St. Louis and within a year was partner in a thriving business, which soon had to weather through the Jay Cooke panic of 1873. In 1877 he started his own business on Second Street, the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co., manufacturers and jobbers of plumbing supplies, which has now grown to enormous proportions.

He was a member of the St. Louis citizens committee that helped to settle the great railroad strike in 1877, when riot and destruction swept from the Alleghenys to the Mississippi. The irrepressible conflict that then raged between capital on the one side and labor on the other is what determined Mr. Nelson to his plan of profit-sharing. In 1885 he started a system of sharing the profits with his employees, which still is continued by his successors. In 1890 in order to better their living as well as working conditions, he established the manufacturing village of Leclaire on the outskirts of Edwardsville, Illinois. There, most of the workmen own their own homes on at least fifty feet of ground, fronting on beautiful winding roads, shaded by fine old forest trees. There is a free Kindergarten, base ball diamond, bowling alley, pool room and a lake for swimming and boating. The factories are only one store, vine-covered and flooded with fresh air and sunshine.

Through his original ideas on profit-sharing and cooperation and his ability to have his plans carried out on a practical and paying basis, he achieved a world-wide reputation among circles interested in social economics. In 1895 he was a delegate to the meeting in London, England, of the Cooperation and Profit Sharing Associations the world over. In 1887 and 1890

he was a member of the St. Louis City Council, but aside from this he was never identified with politics, except on the broad and independent basis of standing for the best in men, methods and ideas, regardless of party affiliations.

In the 90's he was active in the support of the City Art Museum, the Symphony Orchestra, Washington University and in many civic movements of St. Louis. By this time he had amassed quite a fortune which he spent generously for the amelioration of suffering. He was president of the Fresh Air Mission, which chartered a large steamer one day every week in July and August to take poor mothers and sick babies down the Mississippi; also of the "Children's Country Week" which was a plan by which poor children from the tenements were placed for two weeks in homes on farms and villages. He established a ranch at Indio, California, for poor tuberculars needing change of climate but unable to pay the price of sanitariums. He had an industrial college at his factory village Leclaire, where young men could have college teaching half of the day and work in the shops the other half. To all of these movements he gave vigorous personal attention and large sums of money.

His last big philanthropic scheme was a chain of sixty-three grocery stores in the tenement district of New Orleans. There he sold supplies so close to bed-rock cost and was so indifferent to over-head expense and so confident of the absolute honesty of all the employees, that in time his personal fortune was swallowed up.

After that he lived quietly and peacefully in California, the simple life that he had always talked about and prophesied for his old age, working vigorously at the little vegetable garden and visiting joyously among his friends. No failures of his altruistic dreams ever discouraged or embittered him. Age never diminished his interest in national and international affairs. The years never lessened his desire to help the poor. To the very last he was a mental stimulant to his friends and a material stimulant to the suffering. He was a great man, strong and true to his visions and his convictions in spite of all obstacles and unto the very end.

October 19, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer
House For Sale: 302 Jefferson

FOR SALE – My six room house at Jefferson and Troy Roads in Leclaire, adjoining Edwardsville. Lot 100 ft. frontage. Furnace and complete bath room and all conveniences of a city without city taxes. House in excellent condition with recent new roof, new floors and interior decorations. Excellent location. Miss Josephine C. Smith, office of N. O. Nelson Mgf. Co.

October 25, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Real Estate Transactions

Courts and Records

Transfers Recorded Oct. 24, 1922

Russell Kinder and Wife to Wm. Leef, pt lots 21 and 22, blk 6, Leclaire \$3150.

C. O. Vineyard, sgle to Kate Barnsback, und ½ of lot 8, blk 14, Add No. 1, Leclaire \$300.

Note: Property address for pt lots 21 and 22, block 6 is 922 Holyoake Road. Mrs. Kinder was a niece of George Yates.

November 4, 1922 Saturday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Memorial on Way

IMPOSING FOUNTAIN SEEMS MOST FAVORABLE PLAN

Very Ornamental Design Will Be Put up in Leclaire

The memorial to be erected to N. O. Nelson in Leclaire will be made worth while it was learned today through a statement of L. D. Lawnin, president of the Nelson Manufacturing Company when interviewed upon disposition of plans submitted by workmen in the local plant a few days ago. An artistic and very imposing fountain is under consideration and it will cost no less than \$5,000.

Workers in the local shops recently agreed to donate the equivalent of one day's work toward the fund. When the proposition was laid before the directors a few days ago it was unanimously and gratefully accepted. The company will add a substantial amount to the fund.

With newspaper announcement of the scheme a number of personal friends and quite a few old customers of Mr. Nelson asked to be included as subscribers. Others who will subscribe are stockholders in the corporation.

The branch plants at Noblesville, Ind., and Besemer, Ala., will not be asked to subscribe unless the workmen see fit to take voluntary action. The Noblesville plant is practically a new addition to the company.

"It is hardly possible that much can be accomplished this winter," said Mr. Lawnin, when interviewed today. "Winter will be upon us within a few days and consideration for a few weeks may permit an entirely different plan and one more pleasing. At present I am in correspondence with New York artists, upon request of the directors, and await their recommendations."

“An imposing fountain, more than a mere basin with a spray of water, is favored. The present plan is to place it on the school plot at the intersection of Hale and Holyoke avenues. Leclaire is the practical place to erect the memorial and just at present the school grounds seems to be the ideal spot.”

November 27, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer

THREE HORSES DIE

Fire Destroys Barn at Leclaire Saturday

Local Department Responds When Others are Threatened

Three horses were killed and damage of more than \$2,000 done Saturday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock in a fire which destroyed the barn and another building at the Leclaire Farm and threatened two adjoining residences. Three other horses were taken from the barn by persons who arrived before the fire spread to virtually all parts of the building and it became a mass of flames.

According to a statement at the Nelson office today the cause of the fire is unknown. It was either due to some one accidentally dropping a match or electric wires. Both theories were investigated yesterday and today but a decision was not reached.

The barn was an old one, partly filled with hay and straw and burned very rapidly. The Leclaire volunteer fire department responded to the alarm of the siren but a brisk north wind kept many in Edwardsville from hearing it.

Fifteen minutes after the volunteers responded the Edwardsville department was called to the blaze which was then under control. The building was consumed during the few minutes.

At the Nelson offices this morning it was said that the replacement loss will greatly exceed the estimated \$2,000. Three large stake wagons, harness and other equipment was consumed in the blaze.

The homes of Maynard Joseph and F. C. Bonn are just to the southeast. The Joseph place was slightly burned and a number of windows were broken by the extreme heat.

Wednesday, November 29, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer

MAN DROPPED DEAD

Pius Rotter Succumbs While at Work.

Was One of Oldest Workers at Nelson Mfg. Company.

Pius Rotter, 66 years old, one of the oldest employees of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company, dropped dead at 10 o'clock this morning while at work in the cabinet mill. He was one of the first employees of the company, coming here from St. Louis when the plant was established. The plant was closed for the rest of the day out of respect for Mr. Rotter.

Mr. Rotter was in apparently good health and his death was a shock not only to the family but to all who knew him. John N. Hess, foreman of the department had spoken to him just a few minutes before and when returning from the outside about two minutes later found him lying on the floor. Dr. Wahl was hastily summoned and pronounced him dead. The body was then removed to the Leadley Undertaking parlors and later to his home.

A son, Frank Rotter, passed away several months ago and it is thought that he had been grieving over it. Mr. Rotter was one of the best known residents of this city and had resided in Leclaire for many years, having established a home on Holyoake street shortly after coming to Edwardsville. He was the father of six sons and one daughter, all surviving except the son Frank. They are, Pius, Jr., Ernest, Clem, William and Joseph. His daughter resides in Canada. His wife, Mrs. Catherine Rotter, also survives.

Mr. Rotter was a man of good character and a pleasing personality and was well liked by his friends and fellow employees. He was an expert wood worker. He had been connected with the St. Boniface Catholic church for many years and was one of its most faithful workers. Arrangements for the funeral have not been made today.

Friday, December 1, 1922
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Funeral Pius Rotter, Sr.

FUNERAL IS MONDAY

Will Await Arrival of Mr. Rotter's Daughter

Mrs. Sutcliffe Will Arrive to Attend the Service.

Funeral services for Pius Rotter, resident of Edwardsville for many years, are being deferred until Monday morning while his daughter, Mrs. Louise Sutcliffe is hurrying home from Birtle, Canada, to attend last rites. She left Birtle Wednesday at midnight and under most

favorable conditions will not arrive here until Saturday morning. With a possibility of being late the funeral was delayed.

Under plans today services will be conducted at St. Boniface Catholic church at 9 o'clock by Rev E. J. Eckhard. Burial will be made at St. Boniface Catholic cemetery.

Six long-time associates will be pallbearers. Three are fellow workmen. They are: Patrick Dillon, Joseph Rizzoli and Wm. J. Kennedy. The other three are members of St. Boniface's Benevolent Society. They are: August Selzer, John Hess and Frank Dickman.

Mr. Rotter had a very unexpected death Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock at the Leclair cabinet mills where he was employed for thirty-three years. A coroner's investigation was made late that afternoon by Deputy J. E. Marks. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to apoplexy.

The evidence showed that Mr. Rotter had not complained of ill health. John Hess, foreman of the cabinet mill, passed Mr. Rotter at his bench only a few moments before he expired. Other workmen joked with Mr. Rotter within five minutes before the end.

Mr. Rotter was a native of Germany, the date of his birth being August 15, 1856, and he had attained the age of 66 years, 3 months and 14 days at the time of his death. He grew to manhood in his native land, taking up the trade of a cabinetmaker and became an expert. He was about 28 years old when he came to America and located in St. Louis.

There he was married on October 21, 1885, the family remaining in St. Louis for several years. Mr. Rotter was an employee of the Nelson company and one of the first to come here when the local shops were opened. For a long time he was engaged in making mantles.

The union was blessed with eight children, one son, Frank Rotter, dying several months ago. Besides the daughter, there are six sons as follows: Pius, Ernest, Siement, William, Henry and Joseph. There are also thirteen grandchildren.

1923 Estimated Date; Undated News Clipping
St. Louis Globe Democrat
Inspiration for Nelson Memorial Revealed

Holm Designs Edwardsville Memorial to N. O. Nelson

Fountain With Basin Planned - Theme is Love for Children and Nature

Victor Holm is the originator of the accepted design for the sculpture memorial to be erected at Edwardsville to the late N. O. Nelson, wealthy St. Louis manufacturer and philanthropist.

The theme expressed is his love for children and nature. The memorial will be a fountain with basin, 18 feet long and 12 feet wide. A granite coping will surmount the shallow basin.

At one side a large bird, with a child sitting upon its back, forms the principle setting. From a shell in the child's upraised arms water pours. Across the basin a group of frogs spout water. The estimated cost of the design is \$6000.

The fountain will be erected at the intersection of two avenues in the center of the residential and manufacturing community which Nelson founded adjoining Edwardsville, and on part of the school grounds. Employees of the company originated the idea and contributed the funds to carry it out.

February 20, 1924
Edwardsville Intelligencer

J. W. Gilmor Dies

Long Illness Broken in Death Last Night.

Former Bank Teller was Resident for Eighteen Years.

A lingering illness was terminated last night at 8 o'clock in the death of Joseph Walter Gilmor of 917 Holyoake avenue. The end came at his home and although his condition had been realized as critical for many years, the inevitable was not expected so early.

Until about two weeks ago, no apparent changes had been noticed in the condition of Mr. Gilmor. It was then discovered that his heart was failing to function properly but the attending physician and members of his family had hopes for his recovery. The desired improvements failed to appear and yesterday it was evident that his life would be numbered by only a few hours.

Mr. Gilmor was a native of San Francisco and was 66 years of age. He spent his younger life along the Pacific coast and received his education in the Jesuit College of Montreal, Canada. Returning to San Francisco he accepted a place with the First National Bank and worked himself up to a place as one of the paying tellers.

Later he left the financial field, became interested in some mining ventures and later a manufacturer. Failing health about the time he came to Edwardsville forced him to a more retired life. He is the last of a family of three.

His widow was formerly Mrs. Adelia Megiving and they were married twenty-six years ago on May 7. Besides the widow there are five children. They are: Harry, Theodore R. and Walter A. Gilmor, Misses Isabelle and Marcus Gilmor, all of Edwardsville.

Plans for the funeral have not been completed today. The services are to be private.

Saturday, April 12, 1924
Edwardsville Intelligencer

ERECT BAND STAND

STRUCTURE WILL BE BUILT NEAR LECLAIRE LAKE

Nelson Memorial Fountain to Be Staked Off Saturday

Construction of a new band stand and rest room at the Leclaire Lake is under way this week and steps are to be taken Saturday afternoon for the location of the N. O. Nelson Memorial which will be erected this spring on the plot of ground near the Leclaire school. Both are structures to assist in the beautification of the grounds.

No elaborate plans have been made for the band stand but it will be a substantial structure, costing about \$1000. The floor will be an octagon in form and is to have a width of twenty-four feet, amply large for a band or small gathering of people.

The foundation will be of red brick and the upper part of the structure frame. Two ideas are planned for the band stand. Naturally it is for the occasional concerts at the lake but the lower portion will be arranged as a restroom for women and men. It will be provided with toilet facilities and other accommodations.

The slope of the ground at the particular place permits the erection of the pavilion without making much of an excavation. There will be a division between the lower compartments. The plan is to have the stand ready for use in early May.

Victor S. Holm, sculptor of the memorial, and Mr. Ferrand, the architect, are to be here tomorrow. They will go over the triangular tract just north of the school building and place stakes for the foundation to provide the best possible appearance.

Completion of the memorial has been due to delays in getting necessary material.

May 14, 1924 Wednesday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

DATE DETERMINED

DR. FIEGENBAUM TO TELL ABOUT MR. NELSON

Public is Invited to Attend Exercises on May 24.

Dedication of the N. O. Nelson memorial on the grounds of the Leclaire School was definitely fixed to day for Saturday afternoon, May 24 and L. D. Lawnin said that the public is cordially invited to attend the exercises which have been set for 3 o'clock. Workmen are rushing the job to have it complete by the date for unveiling.

Dr. E. W. Fiegenbaum of Edwardsville is to make the principal address. He was one of the old acquaintances of the founder of the Nelson Company and acquainted with many of the undertakings of the man who founded co-operation with employes, to share in the profits.

“My Memories of Mr. Nelson,” will be the subject of the speaker. Dr. Fiegenbaum co-operated with Mr. Nelson when he founded the school which has since been maintained by the company. The relations between the two became very intimate and were maintained while the founder lived in Edwardsville.

Other details for the program will be worked out early next week. A program suitable for an unveiling will be arranged.

The memorial was made possible through an offer of workmen in the local plant who volunteered to contribute a day's wages toward the plan. The fountain which is being built will cost approximately \$7,000 and the workmen are paying a major part.

May 22, 1924 Thursday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

IS NEARLY FINISHED

TO DEDICATE NELSON MEMORIAL SATURDAY

Public Invited to Attend Exercise at Leclaire

Invitations are being received by residents of Edwardsville to attend exercises at the Leclaire school grounds Saturday afternoon incident to the unveiling of a memorial fountain to N. O. Nelson, erected through a plan of employees in the local shops. Hard rains of a few days ago delayed the final work but it is being rushed to completion at the present time. James E. Crawford, the second, little great-grandson of Mr. Nelson will unveil the memorial.

Mr. Nelson's death occurred in Los Angeles, Calif., on October 5, 1922, and a few weeks later the workmen at the local plant assembled for a short memorial service. During the meeting they voted that each would contribute the equivalent of one day's wages toward a fund if the company would select a suitable design and supervise the erection.

The fund was augmented by contributions from the St. Louis office and branches in several cities, a total of approximately \$7,000 being available for the memorial.

The program for Saturday is set for 3 o'clock. Mr. Nelson had many acquaintances in Edwardsville and efforts were made to send each an invitation. L. D. Lawnin, president of the company, said today that the program is public and all are welcome. In case of rain the program will be rendered in the Leclaire school.

The speaker for the afternoon will be Dr. E. W. Fiegenbaum who was brought into close relations with Mr. Nelson when the plant was located here nearly thirty-five years ago. The speaker's subject will be "My Memories of Mr. Nelson." Dr. Fiegenbaum became interested in Mr. Nelson's plans and watched them closely as the various ones were carried to success or incorporated into greater ideas.

Two other who will speak briefly are Victor S. Holm, the St. Louis sculptor who molded the forms for the several figures and Gabriel Ferrand, a St. Louis architect, who had considerable to do in designed the memorial.

The program for the afternoon follows:

Music ..Edwardsville Concert Band

March ..Leclaire Kindergarten

Invocation ..Rev. Samuel E. Arthur

Introduction ..L. D. Lawnin

Music ..Edwardsville Concert Band

Remarks ..Victor S. Holm, Sculptor

Remarks ..Gabriel Ferrand, architect

Song ..Leclaire Kindergarten

Address ..Dr. E. W. Fiegenbaum

Unveiling at Memorial Fountain .. James E. Crawford, 2nd Benediction

Music ..Edwardsville Concert Band

May 26, 1924 Monday
Edwardsville Intelligencer

MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN TO N. O. NELSON UNVEILED AT LECLAIRE SATURDAY

An audience of more than 1000 persons assembled at the Leclaire Kindergarten Saturday afternoon to witness the unveiling of the memorial fountain on the grounds at the school founded by Mr. Nelson and where he watched with interest for many years as young men, in former years, and children, in later years secured a part of the education. It was the prettiest afternoon of the week, the skies clearing for the afternoon.

Speakers at the exercises found it difficult to militate with three trains on the Clover Leaf Railroad. One passed through the yards and two others stopped to do some switching while the program was in progress. The puffing of the trains made it difficult for the audience to hear the speakers. Just as the little great grandson of Mr. Nelson, James E. Crawford, the second, pulled the cord and unveiled the memorial the trains pulled out of town and quiet was restored.

The program for the afternoon was an interesting one and carried out as previously published, with exception of remarks by Gabriel Ferrand, the architect. He was unable to speak on account of a cold.

The exercise opened with a selection by the Edwardsville Concert Band, a march by the Leclaire Kindergarten, and invocation by Rev. Samuel E. Arthur.

L. D. Lawnin, president of the company gave the introductory remarks. He said:

We are met today to do honor to the founder of Leclaire and of the company that still bears his name. Mr. N. O. Nelson died October 5th, 1922, completing a life of 78 years that was so full of activity that he was known in many lands. Perhaps it would be more fitting to speak of Mr. Nelson as a citizen of the United States, so broad his interests and sympathies as a brother to every human creature in the world, for the [spirit] that permeated his being and inspired practically his every act was that of the brotherhood of man.

N. O. Nelson had a message and like many another, the world in general would not listen. His talents and abilities were many. He had a grasp for business equaled by few men anywhere and made a great success in the business world. Few read and studied and thought as deeply as he. He had a most open mind, ready and alert to learn from anyone he met and he considered, weighed, digested and then discarded or stored as seemed most worth while. As a speaker, he was eloquent, forceful and earnest with enthusiasm and a fund of information which caused him to be sought after for rostrums from one end of the country to the other.

A pioneer in the United States in the field of co-operation in business, firmly believing that an employee should share in the profits of the concern in which he worked and have a personal interest in its success, he put this belief into practice in his own business. Most of what men

achieve during their life time does not perish with them and is not altered materially by their death.

The splendid business institution that Mr. Nelson spent an ordinary lifetime in building up is continuing in the main along the lines that he marked out.

For many days after his death, St. Louis papers and others had many articles on his life and activities. They were all good but one of them especially seems particularly apropos. The St. Louis Star of October 10th, 1922 said, "Because N. O. Nelson, the profit-sharer, lost his money before he died, a lot of people will condemn his ideas. But would so much attention have been paid to his passing away, thousands of miles from St. Louis and years after he left her, if he had not been governed by a noble desire to help his fellow beings."

Twenty days after Mr. Nelson's death, a committee of Leclair employees held a meeting and passed a resolution suggesting that a suitable memorial should be erected in his honor, and later had a larger meeting of the employees. This suggestion was that employees who had known Mr. Nelson should be privileged to contribute as much as one day's pay to this memorial. The committee consisted of Wm. H. West, chairman: Wm. Shaw, John F. Staab, Wm. J. Heid, R. W. Van Hyning, John Hess, George Moorman, Reuben Glass, George Pierson, John S. Allen, M. C. Troeckler, C. C. Shagunn, W. J. Kennedy, Thos. W. Walton, C. Buddhu, Edward McLean and Henry Dohle.

Later the committee met with management of the company and at a Director's meeting, the company accepted the suggestion for a memorial and I was delegated to proceed with the details. From members of his immediate family who knew him best, came the suggestion that the memorial should be a fountain. Constantly through all Mr. Nelson's philanthropy, he interwove the beautiful or visionary with the practical or useful, so here, following the same plan, we erect in his memory a beautiful work of art that will also be a much appreciated practical help to the thirsty passer-by.

In January, 1923 an eminent sculptor was employed to design and execute a suitable memorial fountain. Delays due to the congested condition of the stone quarries made it impossible to have this work done earlier than now. The result you now have before you. Others will tell you what it stands for, but I wish to say that a very substantial part of the cost of this memorial was borne by voluntary contributions of Leclair and St. Louis branch employees of the Nelson Company. Many offers of contributions from friends and customers were declined because it was felt that this Memorial should come only from Leclair and St. Louis branch employees who always close to him and who probably benefitted more than any others by his efforts and work.

All of us gathered here today knew N. O. Nelson personally. And no one who ever knew him or heard him speak could ever forget him, so strong were his personality and influence. But we want to do all we can to make that personality and influence carry forward to future years and to people who have not known him and so we are placing here, in this creation of bronze, not only in memory of him but as a constant reminder of him and his teachings.

In arranging this program it was desired to make it as simple as possible. At the same time, as Mr. Nelson loved people, particularly children, we feel that the children at the Leclair Kindergarten, whom he always loved, should have a good part in the exercises. We also have with us some good friends of Mr. Nelson, from whom you will hear later. We will now listen to the man who, while not a personal friend of Mr. Nelson, knew of him and his activities sufficiently to design a memorial of bronze and granite that we hope you will agree, does justice to the subject.

I take pleasure in introducing the head of the School of Sculpture of Washington University, a man who has done much notable and original work in marble and bronze, Mr. Victor S. Holm.

The band rendered another selection. It was followed by brief remarks by Victor S. Holm, St. Louis sculptor, who spoke on some of the work incident to the memorial. Children of the Kindergarten rendered a song.

The principal speaker, Dr. E. W. Fiegenbaum, followed. His subject was, "My Memories of Mr. Nelson." In commenting upon Mr. Nelson the speaker said:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thirty-four years ago there came to Edwardsville, the most remarkable man that ever lived here. As a mere infant he came to this country from Norway, with his parents and seventy of their neighbors, who settled near St. Joseph, Mo., engaged in farming, and suffered the hardships and privations of the emigrant of that day. He received his education in the School of Hard Knocks, graduated from the University of Self Help, and brought to the development of his character an enormous amount of energy and enthusiasm.

He knew what it was to burn the midnight oil; he knew what it was to carry the burden of earlier years in order to lay a foundation for future business success. With a grim determination supported by a sound constitution, inherited from his ancestors, he overcame all difficulties and entered upon a most successful business career. This in brief, is a description of the early life of N. O. Nelson, the man whose deeds are enshrined in our hearts and in whose honor we are gathered today.

At the time Mr. Nelson came to Edwardsville he was the head of a great and growing industry in the City of St. Louis, and was counted among the wealthy men of the city. He had hundreds of men working for him in factory buildings from four to eight stories high, in the usual factory environment. The outlook from factory windows was upon the soot-begrimed roofs of adjoining buildings or upon the blank brick walls. The air, coming in through the windows, was laden with soot and smoke.

When he visited the homes of his employees, he found them living in cramped quarters, many of them on the higher floors of large tenement houses, with no opportunity for complete sanitation and no play ground for the children except the city streets. With his heart full of the love for mankind, this condition was not at all to his liking and caused intense dissatisfaction.

Then he had a dream, he had a vision. His plan was to remove his factories away from the smoke, dust and grime of the large city, into some suburban spot where fresh air and glorious sunshine was plentiful, and where there was unlimited space to build upon. He would build houses for his working men, each upon a lot of ground, with ample opportunity for lawn, flower beds and gardens.

For Mr. Nelson to plan was to act, and in 1890, he came to Edwardsville and selected the spot on which we are now assembled as the place upon which to realize all the details of his vision. He built one-story factory buildings with ample window space for the admission of air and sunshine. He planted trees, vines, shrubs and flowers and soon had his factories running, in ideal environment, with songs of the birds rivaling the hum of machines.

He plotted the village of Leclaire with winding streets, lined with building lots and upon these he built cottages and gave to each employee, the opportunity of owning his own home. He also plotted a large playground that was free and open to the public for recreational purposes. He built a schoolhouse to be used as a Kindergarten and employed teachers to supervise the little

ones in their play and in their work. A bowling alley was one of the popular features of this plan and was liberally patronized. A beautiful lake in the residential section was ideal for bathing, swimming and rowing.

Mr. Nelson was a dreamer, but unlike many to whom this term is applied, he not only dreamed dreams, but he had the happy faculty of making his dreams come true. This he did by his indefatigable industry and by the use of practical knowledge that he gathered from many sources.

He was a literary man, a deep student and profound thinker. His library was filled with books by the best authors and he was thoroughly acquainted with their contents. He was the friend and companion of the best minds in this country and was visited by men of the highest literary attainment, who gladly received his visits in return. He was a forceful speaker and was in great demand, for public addresses, on a great variety of subjects. This he could do to his own satisfaction and to the satisfaction of others, because of the wonderful array of facts that he was able to produce out of his vast storehouse of knowledge, gathered from his books, his contacts with literary men, and from his travels in many lands.

Mr. Nelson was a philanthropist and from his creed of brotherly love, no one was excluded. Rich and poor alike, the wise and the otherwise, men of high and low degree, all were equal sharers of his bountiful store of humanitarian impulses. No one that came to him for advice and counsel or in need of assistance was ever turned away. He sustained the most cordial relations with his employees, called them by name, visited them in their homes in health and in sickness. He built and maintained his residence in the beautiful village he had planned for his workingmen and lived there as long as he was the active head of the great manufacturing corporation. Many times I saw him on his way to some house in the village, bringing to the bedside of the sick, an offering of flowers taken from his garden. At other times it was a book or magazine for a convalescent, that he brought. I remember making a night visit to one of his employees who was sick with typhoid fever. My time had been so taken up during the day that it was 2 o'clock in the morning before I could make my visit. It was before the day when we thought it necessary to have a trained nurse for every patient, and the friends of the sick man would take turns about in keeping the night watch. Entering the sick room, I was surprised to see Mr. Nelson seated at the bedside, ministering to the wants of the patient. Expressing my surprise at seeing him there in that capacity, he said, "Oh, I am only taking my turn with the rest of the boys, in taking care of this man, who needs us just now." This, as you will agree, was expressing his philanthropy in a most practical way. He maintained a school in the village to which he gave his personal attention and large sums of money. Here young men could get a college education for half a day and work in the shops the other half.

Mr. Nelson was a great believer in co-operation. He believed that every working man was entitled to a part of the profit of every article he produced and he introduced this principle into his business. With his original ideas on profit-sharing and co-operation and the ability to carry out his plans on a paying basis; he made a success of his plans, and today the great majority of his employees own stock in the corporation, receiving annual dividends out of the profits of the business in which they are employed. Having made a success of co-operation in his own business, he naturally drew the attention of students and investigators of profit-sharing, not only in this country but abroad as well and soon obtained a world-wide reputation in this particular line of endeavor.

Men interested in profit-sharing from all over the United States and Europe, came to visit Mr. Nelson and to study the plan inaugurated by him and carried to a successful issue. Be it said

in honor of Mr. Nelson and his plan, that during the thirty-four years that this business has been established it has not been found necessary to shut down the business for a single day. Hard times, panics, financial stringencies and lack of orders has sometimes forced the business to operate on short time, but all of those adversities have never caused a complete shut-down of the shops.

My acquaintance with Mr. Nelson began shortly after his arrival in this city and soon developed into a friendship that did not cease until I followed his remains to the spot where the last words were said over his lifeless body. Few men in Edwardsville knew the real Mr. Nelson, as I knew him, for we had numerous and intimate occasions when he would pour out his inmost thoughts and I was glad to listen. Judging from these friendly interviews, I will say that last, but not least, Mr. Nelson was a religious man. Not in the sense that he subscribed to any creed or dogma, not in the sense that he affiliated with any particular church, but at numerous times he expressed his belief in a Supreme Being, who created and controls the universe. He recognized that, in as much, as he has been blessed with great wealth, that it was his duty to share with the less fortunate and this he did in an unstinted measure. As his heart was full of the Brotherhood of Man, so also, was it full of the Fatherhood of God. Like this beautiful fountain that we are dedicating in his memory today, that is pouring forth its refreshing and life giving streams to all passers-by, so was the life of Mr. Nelson, blessing all with whom he came in contact. It can truly be said of him in the words of the Good Book: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

To the employees of this great corporation, I would say that it was a wonderful and kindly thought that prompted you to erect this beautiful monument in his memory. It will stand here, in the years to come, to honor the memory of the dreamer whose dreams came true. It will draw attention to the fact that the beautiful village, in which we are now assembled, is the creature of his brain and the child of his heart and we will tell the story of these model shops, these comfortable cottages, these winding roads, these magnificent forest trees, and beautiful flowers, to our children and grandchildren, for the next hundred years. We will tell them that all this is the result of the labor of the man who had a vision and had the courage and the capacity to bring that vision to a successful realization.

Mr. Nelson is gone. His life and words are past history, but his deeds will live forever and be a blessing to unborn generations, in the years to come.

"Greatheart is dead they say –
But the light shall burn the brighter
And the night shall be the lighter for his going;
The fire he lighted shall burn on and on,
Till all the darkness of the land be gone,
And all the kingdoms of the world be won,
And one. A soul so fiery sweet can never die
But lives and loves and works through all eternity."

The address was followed by the pulling of the cord by the great grandson of the founder of the company, the drapes falling aside. A benediction and music by the band concluded the program.

The fountain is an artistic design, the basin being rectangular in form, about five feet wide and seven feet long. The background is a large granite slab. A bronze turkey with a child

sitting astride it, and two frogs in the opposite end which spout water are the only objects to attract attention.

A bubbling fountain and basin as arranged at the opposite side of the slab. A bronze plate, with a likeness of Mr. Nelson and a brief inscription of his work, is placed above the fountain.

June 14, 1924
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Reid-Gius Marriage

Were Married Secretly

Friends in this city will be surprised to learn of the marriage yesterday of Miss Bernice Reid of this city and Frank Gius of Glen Carbon. The ceremony took place in Glen Carbon, Justice of the Peace C. F. Bollinger, officiating.

The bride is a charming young lady of this city and has a large circle of friends in this vicinity. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Reid of Leclaire and has been employed at the Nelson Company for a number of years. Mr. Gius is a young business man of Glen Carbon and has many friends there. The couple have the best wishes of their many friends.

July 2, 1924
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Accident at 1106 Troy Road

Two Slightly Injured.

Gus Suhre and William Lange, carpenters who have been employed on the residence of George Ostendorf being erected in Leclaire, were injured shortly before noon today when they fell about fifteen feet to the ground.

Both were cut and bruised.

August 2, 1924
Edwardsville Intelligencer

OPENING NEW PARK

ATHLETICS TO PLAY BALL ON LEGION GROUNDS

Grandstand for Fans is Under Construction at Present.

Edwardsville's new base ball park, the diamond laid out at the American Legion Park, will be opened Sunday afternoon with a game between the Leclaire Athletics and the Troy Firemen. Troy maintains a good team and they have not played here for about two years.

Work on the Legion diamond has been under way for the past several weeks. The infield has been skinned and the outfield is mowed. The field is so situated that it will make a desirable space.

Construction of a grandstand to seat 700 to 1000 persons is under way. The concrete pads are in place and some of the other work is done. Completion of the grandstand will be deferred until after the Legion Carnival two weeks hence, much of the lumber used in it being placed in the structure. The screen backstop is up.

Opening of the park will probably put an end to the big Sunday baseball games on Leclaire diamond. Some objections have been raised in the past by residents around the park on account of the noise of the audience as well as the large number of automobiles.

Nelson Lawnin said today that no definite action has been taken. He and his father want to give the new grounds all of the encouragement possible. They also desire to encourage athletics and the field can be used by boys and girls for ball games and other sports.

As long as the sports do not interfere with residents about the diamond they will be permitted.

September 23, 1924
Edwardsville Intelligencer

DEATH WAS SUDDEN

Gottlieb Buetttemeyer Dies While Sitting in Chair

Arrangements for Funeral Will be Made Later

Gottlieb Buetttemeyer, of this city, passed away very suddenly last evening at his home in Leclaire. He had been in excellent health during his entire life and his demise last evening proved a great shock to his relatives.

The end came at 6:15 last evening when Mr. Buetttemeyer was sitting in a rocking chair in his home talking to other members of the family. Death came so suddenly that nothing could

be done towards his recovery. Deputy Coroner J. E. Marks was called and an inquest will be conducted sometime today to determine the cause of death.

Mr. Buettemeyer was born in Westphalen, Germany, on November 10, 1839, and came to this country in 1866. He was married twice, the latter marriage being on January 11, 1878. At the time of his death he was aged 84 years, 10 months and 12 days.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Emma Buettemeyer, four daughters, Mrs. Marie Renken of Hamel; Mrs. Louisa Geisler of St. Louis; Mrs. Lena Paul of Prairietown; and Mrs. Emma Wolf, who has been making her home with the family; and four brothers, Fred, Louis and Eric Buettemeyer, all of Woodford County, Illinois, and Reinhart Buettemeyer of El Centro, California.

Plans for the funeral will not be made until the arrival of the brothers. They are expected sometime this evening.

April 6, 1925
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Obituary: Mrs. Josephine Miller

MRS. MILLER DIES

Passes Away Last Night at Home in Leclaire

Was Given Blood Transfusion Saturday to Provide Strength

Mrs. Josephine Miller, wife of Jos. Miller, of 812 Hale avenue, Leclaire, passed away at her home at 10:20 p.m. last night following a lingering illness. She was a victim of primary anemia and had been in ill health for the past year. A month ago she became bedfast and since that time grew gradually worse.

On Saturday afternoon she was given a blood transfusion of 800 c.c. of blood which was furnished by two young men, employes of the N. O. Nelson company, Walter Hess and Dale Feezel. This was done in an effort to provide additional strength during her illness.

Mrs. Miller was born in St. Louis and at the time of her death was aged 61 years, 9 months and 16 days. When a young lady she united in marriage with Joseph Miller. Two children were born to this union, both of whom died in infancy.

Since the death of her parents, a niece, Miss Pearl Wilson, had been making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Miller. She and Mr. Miller and a number of other relatives survive.

Mrs. Miller was a devoted wife and aunt and dearly loved by all who knew her. Her death comes as a great shock and the bereaved family has the sympathy of the many friends. She was a member of the Episcopal church and had many friends and acquaintances who will be grieved to learn of her demise.

The funeral arrangements have not been definitely arranged at this time.

December 9, 1926
Edwardsville, Intelligencer

Selection of letters to Santa Claus from Leclaire children (residing or attending school in Leclaire)

Dear Santa Claus:

Just a line to let you know what I want for Christmas. I want a box of tools, black board, water tower, pencils, tablet, aeroplane, telephone, crayons, Xmas tree, candy, nuts and oranges.

Your little friend,

George Junior Blume

P.S. DON'T FORGET MY TEACHERS MISS WILSON AND MISS SHAW.

Dear Santa Claus,

We are two little girls, sister is 3 yr and I am 6 yr old. I will tell you what we want for Christmas. Bring us both a bye-lo-baby and some paints and I want a tinkertoys set and cabinet. Dolores wants a piano and bring us a Christmas tree. Don't forget our sick cousins Leola and Laverne and Grandpa and aunt Velyn, Daddy and Mama.

Your little girls,

Belva and Dolores Howerton

926 Ruskin Ave., Edwardsville, Ill.

Dear Santa,

I am a little boy 4 yrs old and go to Leclaire Kindergarten. Please bring me for Christmas a tool chest, gas station, building blocks, race horse, story books, candy, nuts, and oranges and a Xmas tree. Don't forget my uncles, aunts and cousins.

Your Little Friend,

Lester M. Troeckler

Tuesday, March 22, 1927
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Man Decapitated By a Train Here

John Retzloff is the Victim of Accident at Noon Today

John Retzloff, a resident of Edwardsville for a number of years, was instantly killed here at noon today by a freight train on the Nickle Plate Railroad. The body was seen by R. F. Brimberry, a brakeman, after the train had passed. He notified Deputy Coroner William Straube.

Retzloff was walking along the track a mile south of the Clover Leaf depot, picking up coal. He was somewhat hard of hearing, and it is evident he did not see or hear the approaching train.

Mr. Retzloff was born in Germany and would have been 75 years old June 24. He was twice married. His first wife died in Germany and shortly before coming to America he was united in marriage with Miss Amelia Dumann. She preceded her husband in death three years ago.

Seven children survive. They are Gus Chrigger, Mrs. Fred Bast, Mrs. Ed Ferguson, Mrs. Thomas Crowder, Mrs. Anna Reid, Mrs. Ida Shaffer and Charles Retzloff. There is also one brother, Charles Retloff of Maryville.

Mr. Retzloff was a member of Eden Evangelical Church. For many years he was employed as a miner, but was retired. He was a kind and loving husband and father and had many friends in this vicinity.

An inquest will be conducted tonight and funeral arrangements will be completed later.

Thursday, January 19, 1928
Edwardsville Intelligencer

J. H. MILLER DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Was One of First Residents of Leclaire When N. O. Nelson Located Here.

Joseph H. Miller, who came to Edwardsville as one of the first twenty families to settle in Leclaire, passed away at the Alton State Hospital last night at 8 o'clock after an illness of nearly five years. Death was due to cerebral hemorrhage and occurred after his more critical sickness of the past three months.

Mr. Miller's health began to fade several years ago. After the death of Mrs. Miller on April 5, 1925, he grew worse and was under the care of a nurse for a year. Then he entered St. Anthony's Hospital at Alton and for nearly a year was in the state hospital.

Plans are being made to hold his funeral from the Strauber-Schneider Funeral Home Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, then to St. Andrew's Episcopal church at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. S. E. Arthur will have charge. Burial will be made at Woodlawn cemetery.

Arrangements were being made today for Odd Fellows to have charge of the final services. The pallbearers will be composed of Odd Fellows and members of the Moose.

Mr. Miller was a native of St. Louis. The date of his birth was March 26, 1863 and he had attained the age of 64 years, 9 months and 22 days. He was married to Miss Josephine Hoblar while living in St. Louis.

As one of the veterans of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company he came here with the foundation of the local plant. He had been employed in St. Louis for several years. The Miller home was one of the few scattered over the farm which was to be converted into a beautiful suburb. He was a cabinet maker and was connected with the department for years.

Two daughters preceded Mr. Miller to the grave. A half sister and two half brothers survive. They are Mrs. Kate Hanken, Kansas City, Mo., Frank Miller, St. Louis and William Brodbeck, East St. Louis.

Friday, March 2, 1928
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Obituary: Ivan Moorman

MOORMAN RITES HERE ON SUNDAY

Body of Aviator Officer Will Reach Edwardsville Tomorrow.

Lieutenant Ivan G. Moorman, a former resident of this city, whose death was briefly announced in yesterday's Intelligencer, passed away yesterday afternoon at 2:40 o'clock at the Miami Valley Hospital at Dayton, Ohio, where he was temporarily stationed at an air field. He became ill last Friday and was operated upon for an intestinal disorder.

Lieutenant Moorman was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Moorman. He was born in Greenville, Michigan, on April 15, 1891 and would have been 34 years of age next month. After the death of his father, he moved to Edwardsville with his mother in 1896. They made their home with another brother, Frank Moorman. He attended the public schools here and in 1915 graduated from the McKendree College taking a special chemist's course.

When Lieutenant Moorman entered the U. S. army, another brother George L. Moorman, came here to reside and Lieutenant Moorman spent as much time as possible in this city with his brother's family.

In 1915, the year of his graduation from McKendree, he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Berry of Pleasant Hill, who was also a member of the graduating class. His wife passed away the following year, leaving him with an infant daughter, Catherine, who survives and has since made her home with her grandparents at Pleasant Hill.

He at one time taught chemistry and mathematics in a New York school and was attending Columbia University at the beginning of the World War. He entered the aerial service receiving his commission as second lieutenant in 1918.

Since that time he has become widely known for his aviation activities. He served four years in Hawaii and two years at Kelly Field, at San Antonio, Texas, also two years at Wright Field at Dayton, Ohio. His permanent station is in Washington. While stationed at San Antonio he piloted one of the planes that made a flight from San Antonio to Haiti. In 1925 he spent several months in London and Paris and in 1926 he was sent to Cuba, San Domingo and the other islands to inspect the fields and supplies in preparation for the Good Will flights.

When Lindbergh was in Washington in June, Lieutenant Moorman piloted one of his escort planes. He completed a four year course in aeronautic engineering in New York last month and had since been stationed only temporarily at Dayton. Lieutenant Moorman was known throughout the United States as an aviator and had many personal friends in many of the large cities of the United States.

Besides his daughter Catherine, Mr. Moorman is survived by four brothers, Major Frank Moorman of Washington, E. A. Moorman of Clifton, New Jersey, Rev. C. W. Moorman of New York, and George L. Moorman of this city.

The body of Lieutenant Moorman will arrive in St. Louis tomorrow morning and will be brought to Edwardsville. The present plan is to have the services on Sunday afternoon from the St. John's Methodist church. The body will then be taken to Pleasant Hill, Ill., for interment.

September 13, 1928
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Suburban Service Discontinues

Editorial: Suburban Service Discontinues

By Gilbert S. Giese

The last car will be operated over the Edwardsville and Collinsville division of the East St. Louis and Suburban Railway System tonight. With its departure the "yellow hammer" will pass out of existence, so far as that particular service is concerned.

Some of the sentimental folks in Edwardsville will view the passing with a pang of regret. The discontinuance will recall a pleasant incident to about a dozen present or former Edwardsville residents.

When the first car ran into Leclaire-the track was not laid across the Clover Leaf-nearly thirty years ago, a dozen lads, then scarcely beyond kindergarten age, trudged along the dusty road out to Cottonwood Station and hopped that first car as she came slowly around the corner over newly laid rails. Then they rode triumphantly into Leclaire. That was one of the few thrills of a lifetime. How those dozen kids did lord it over their playmates for weeks to come.

Tomorrow morning the Edwardsville-Collinsville passenger business will be handled by large deluxe buses of the Blue Goose system. Wonder if any of those kids who rode the first car in thirty years ago, will take the last one out tonight, or will be on the first bus in the morning. Probably not.

September 15, 1928
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Editorial: Suburban Service to End

By Gilbert S. Giese

On the fifteenth of next month, according to official announcement, the first electric interurban service into Edwardsville will be discontinued and buses substituted. We refer to the East St. Louis and Suburban Railway Company service between Collinsville and Edwardsville.

While there are many poignant memories associated with that line and its original entrance into the city, the passing of the service will not be generally mourned. Residents of affected communities have long since ceased to use the line extensively, either for business or pleasure purposes. That's why it is being discontinued. It has ceased to pay.

Officials of the system have announced that beginning the day after the interurban service is ended a bus service, operating on an hourly schedule, will be established between here and Edgemont, via Collinsville and Caseyville.

This bus service, officials promise, will in every way be as satisfactory and adequate as the interurban service.

The substitution will enable the company to eliminate expense items of track and wire maintenance. There will be a reduction in payroll expense, since one man will operate the bus, while two have been on each car on that division.

Whether the company will undertake to remove its property from the streets of Edwardsville before next spring has not been announced. An agreement has been reached with the city as to the nature of that work.

The company appears sincere in its desire to continue to render such service as the traffic requires. Citizens of the affected communities will appreciate this attitude.

January 19, 1929
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Nelson Company Adds Two Young Men to Directors

Nelson Lawnin and Lawrence A. Pierce, Sons of Officials, Chosen at St. Louis Meeting Last Monday

SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND IS DECLARED

Old Officers Are Re-Elected for the Year; Reports Show Business Compares Favorably With Others

Announcement was made today that Nelson Lawnin and Lawrence A. Pierce, sons of officials of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing, were placed on the board of directors of the company when the annual meeting of the corporation was held in St. Louis last Monday. One is a son of President L. D. Lawnin, and the other a son of Vice-President A. B. Pierce.

Increasing the membership of the board of directors from five to seven was the most important business of the meeting. The four mentioned above with J. A. Senosky, W. H. Baker of St. Louis and William Shaw, of Edwardsville, now constitute the directorate.

The old officers were re-elected. They are L. D. Lawnin, president; A. B. Pierce, vice-president; W. H. Baker, secretary, and J. A. Senosky, treasurer.

The annual reports show the company's business for 1928 was a trifle better than 1927 and that both years compared very favorably with the peak of the building epoch for several years after the World War. At that time unprecedented building programs were carried out in all sections of the country.

When housing conditions and office buildings met requirements a slump in construction occurred but construction has been returning to steadiness of former years.

Announcement of the customary 3 per cent semi-annual dividend was made during the meeting. The dividend will be paid to many employes and customers who have formerly accrued stock in the corporation.

August 10, 1929
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Obituary: Lillian Merkle Boldridge

FORMER RESIDENT DIES IN ST. LOUIS

Funeral Services for Mrs. G. C. Boldridge to be Held Here Tomorrow

Mrs. G. C. Boldridge, of St. Louis, passed away at her home yesterday afternoon at 2:45 o'clock. She was, before her marriage, Miss Lillian Merkle, of this city. Death was due to heart trouble, as she was only ill a few days.

The body will be brought to Edwardsville this evening and will lie in state at the Marks-Weber Funeral Parlors. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. Carl Attig officiating. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Boldridge was born in this city on March 30, 1895, and had attained the age of 33 years, 3 months and 9 days at the time of her death. She attended the public schools here and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. About ten years ago she was married to Mr. Boldridge and they went to St. Louis to make their home. To this union was born one daughter, Helen Mae, who preceded her mother in death.

Besides her husband, there survives her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Merkle, of this city, two brothers, George and Charles Merkle and one sister, Mrs. Clarence Piper, also of this city.

September 19, 1929
Edwardsville Intelligencer
Bardelmeier-Schlechte Marriage

Married Wednesday

The marriage of Miss Alice Bardelmeier and Edwin Schlechte was solemnized yesterday morning at 10 o'clock at the First Presbyterian church, Rev. Carl L. Attig officiating at the double ring ceremony.

The attendants were Miss Irma Schlechte, sister of the groom, and Oscar Bardelmeier, brother of the bride. Lohengrin's wedding march was played by Mrs. Attig.

The bride presented a pretty appearance in a dress of white satin, trimmed with lace from her mother's wedding dress. She wore a full length veil held in place with a wreath of orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of white rosebuds.

Miss Schlechte wore pale pink chiffon trimmed with cream lace and wore accessories to match. She carried a bouquet of pink rosebuds.

The immediate relatives were entertained at a reception and dinner at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Bardelmeier.

The bride has a wide circle of friends in this community and has for the past several years been instructor at the public school here. Mr. Schlechte is employed at the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company.

The couple departed on a short honeymoon trip and will later reside at 1022 Longfellow avenue where the groom has erected and fitted up a home. They have the best wishes of a host of friends.

November 7, 1929
Edwardsville Intelligencer

THREE PERSONS ARE ATTACKED BY DOGS

State Department of Agriculture Requested to Make Investigation Here.

Three residents of Edwardsville and Leclaire are taking pastuer treatment today after being slightly bitten by a dog owned by Reuben Glass, which was killed yesterday when declared to have rabies. Six other dogs bitten by the Glass dog have also been killed.

Supervisor Jos. A. Raffaele today requested the Illinois Department of Agriculture to send a representative here to make an investigation. At the same time he urged residents of Edwardsville township, outside of corporation limits, to tie up their dogs and watch them for twenty-one days, as provided by law.

Mrs. Reuben Glass, her brother-in-law, Joseph Koogle and George Berger are under treatment or begin tomorrow. None of their cases are considered serious and treatment is a precautionary measure.

Mr. Glass said today that his dog returned home several days ago and he observed a laceration on the face. Conditions did not improve and the dog was tied up. It broke away after Mr. Glass left home for work and followed him.

Before the dog was again subdued it had bitten three persons and several other dogs. Mr. Berger has been employed by the Kribs Constuction Company on Troy Road.

November 15, 1929
Edwardsville Intelligencer

LECLAIRE WOMAN ENDS HER LIFE BY TAKING POISON

Mrs. Lydia Wuellner Dies Last Night Short Time After Swallowing Quantity of Acid Stored in Basement.

RECENTLY SENT HOME FROM ALTON HOSPITAL

Despondency Supposedly Resulting From Ill-Health Believed to Have Prompted Act; Funeral Sunday Afternoon.

Mrs. Lydia Wuellner died last night at 6:30 o'clock at the family residence, 902 Ruskin Avenue, Leclaire, from carbolic acid, self-administrated a few minutes before being found by her husband and daughter. Depression from ill health of several years is believed to have prompted the act.

She was brought home last Monday from Alton State Hospital, where she received treatment since last May. The treatments had greatly improved her condition. Yesterday morning she was able to leave home and came into Edwardsville.

The acid had been stored away in the basement for several years and was formerly used for disinfecting purposes. She took advantage of the few minutes her daughter was away from home to drink the acid. A doctor was summoned but emergency treatment failed to give results.

The funeral will be Sunday afternoon from the residence to Trinity Lutheran Church. Rev. E. W. Jahn will have charge. Burial will be at the Sunset Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Wuellner was born in Pin Oak Township on March 6, 1884, and was 45 years, 8 months and 9 days old. Her parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. William Klausing.

On August 18, 1919, she was married to George Wuellner. They lived south of Edwardsville for several years and moved to Leclaire in 1918.

Besides her husband and daughter, Miss Vera Wuellner, she is survived by three sisters and one brother. They are Mrs. Louis Niemeier and Edward Klausing of Edwardsville; Mrs. John Flath and Mrs. Adam Flath of Troy.

December 21, 1929
Edwardsville, Intelligencer

Selection of letters to Santa Claus from Leclaire children (residing or attending school in Leclaire)

Dear Santa Claus:

I am 1 years old. I will tell you what I want for Xmas a sled, a big pool table, a big tool box, candy, nuts and oranges. Don't forget my sister Mary Lee.

Your friend Jack Welch

(Note: There was evidently a typo in the newspaper as Jack Welch would certainly have been older than 1 in 1929 or had very mature taste for a 1 year old! The Welch family lived at 826 Holyoake in 1929)

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy 6 years old and go to Leclaire Kindergarten. I want a scooter, tractor, dirigible and some candy oranges and nuts and bring my little brother Duane who is two years old a Kitty Kar and some kind of toy and also a Xmas tree. Don't forget my teacher Miss Shaw.

Gerald Grosenhelder

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl five years old. I go to Kindergarten every day. My teacher is Miss Shaw. I will tell you what I would like for Xmas, a nice big doll, set of dishes, a Xmas tree and a pair of bedroom slippers, candy nuts and oranges.

Your little friend,
Edilha V. Schmidt
