

"Leo A. Kyroutac, President of the Village Board, 1937-1941 and 1945-1949

On September 15, 1899, Leo A. Kyroutac was born to Louis N, and his wife. Their ancestors had migrated to Illinois in the early 1850's from Quebec, Canada.

A lifelong resident of Bourbonnais, Kyroutac served as a village trustee from May 1931 to May 1933. He was elected village board president in May 1937 and again in May 1945, serving four years in each term. Although asked to run in 1949, Kyroutac declined for business reasons.

Village historian Adrien Richard recalls that the 1937 election was the most highly contested race in the history of the village. part of the controversy appeared to be pay raises for village officials passed just before the election. The incumbent, President George Arseneau, decided not to run for another term. His sons, Edward and Albert, opposed each other for a seat on the board of trustees. When the more than 500 votes were counted, Edward had defeated his brother and Leo Kyroutac had won over challenger Eugene Benoit.

The new board appointed the first village traffic policeman in its history, Raymond Tousignant.

In 1939 Bourbonnais officials, "in cooperation with local business establishments, contracted to show weekly outdoor movies during the summer season," writes Richard. "It was a real breakthrough for the younger generation of the community as well as for the grownups, who through necessity, brought about by the depression years, had not frequented the movie houses in Kankakee for a long time."

During Kyroutac's tenure, using some funds supplied by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), many broken sidewalks were replaced, the drainage along Bourbonnais Creek corrected, the surface of River Street improved and the town hall remodeled.

The Kankakee Roper Corporation (formerly the Florence Stove Works) employed Kyroutac in its engineering department. He also owned and operated the L & K Bottle Gas Company.

Kyroutac belonged to the Knights of Columbus, the Kankakee Moose Lodge and was a member of Maternity B.V.M. church and the Holy Name Society.

Three daughters and five sons were born to Kyroutac and his wife, the former Gladys "Pat" Chantome.

Kyroutac died at the age of 77, in 1977."