

March 7th

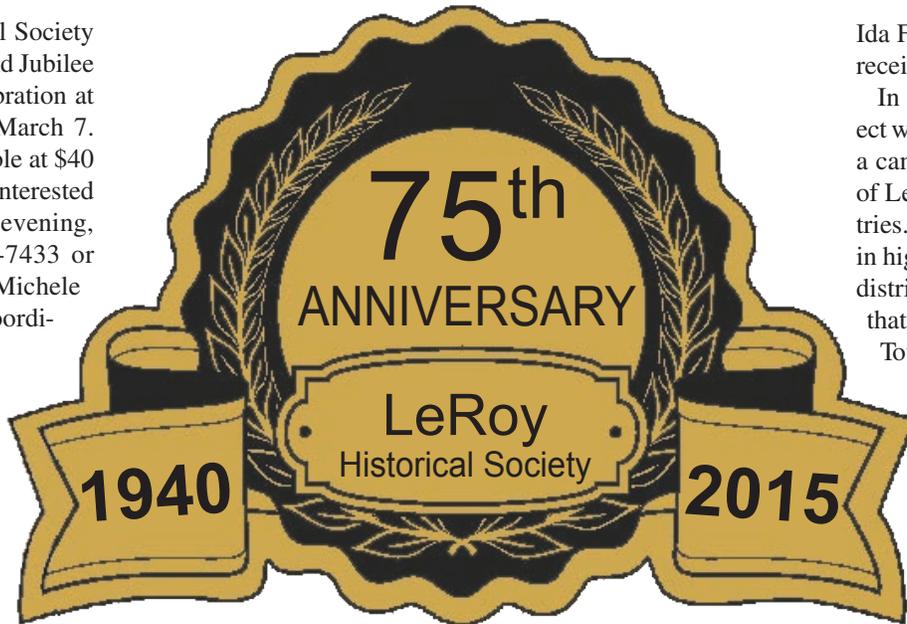
by Lynne Belluscio

The LeRoy Historical Society will kick off its Diamond Jubilee year with a grand celebration at the LeRoy House on March 7. Tickets are now available at \$40 per person. If you are interested in attending this gala evening, call the office at 768-7433 or contact Anne Fox or Michele Penepento, who are coordinating the event.

A cash bar and appetizers will be served between 5 and 6, followed by dinner. The D&R Depot has graciously agreed to cater the evening and Kent Auctioneers will be providing their services for the live auction. Everyone is encouraged to wear a 1940s tie and to bring a handful of dollar bills that will be used to gather votes. The winner with the most votes, gets to keep their money.

Not only was 1940 the year that the Historical Society ventured out to help preserve the community's heritage, it was also a year that the LeRoy Rotary Club began serving the community. The world was at war. Germany was invading Denmark, Belgium and France. Italy entered the war. Winston Churchill was elected Prime Minister of England and yet there was a sense of normalcy that still prevailed.

It was the year that M&Ms were introduced, as well as York Peppermint Patties. Tiffany's in New York City became the first fully air-conditioned store. The first commercial flight with pressurized cabins was made. Jeep was introduced and plasma became known as a substitute for whole blood. The first Dairy Queen opened in Joliet, Illinois and the first McDonald's opened in Pasadena, California. Not to be outdone, the original recipe for Kentucky Fried Chicken, developed by Harland Sanders, was introduced. A long list of well-known people were born



Andretti, Willie Stargell, Chuck Norris, James Caan, Cale Yarborough, Herbie Hancock, Al Pacino, Ricky Nelson, Bernard Shaw, Tom Jones, Nancy Sinatra, Bruce Lee, Chuck Mangione, Dionne Warwick, Frank Zappa, Ringo Starr, James Brolin, Martin Sheen, Raquel Welch, John Lennon, and Pele.

Some great music was introduced in the same year: In the Mood; A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square; Fools Rush In; Imagination; Tuxedo Junction; It's The Same Old Shillelagh; I'm Nobody's Baby; Maybe; Trade Winds; Only Forever; The Breeze and I; Indian Summer; I'll Never Smile Again; Because of You; Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered; Blueberry Hill; Falling Leaves; Hi Diddle Dee Dee; High On a Windy Hill; How High the Moon; The Last Time I Saw Paris; Let There Be Love; and lest you forget - - Polka Dots and Moonbeams.

Families would gather around the radio in the evening to hear the latest news and "Superman" and "Truth or Consequences" made their debut. And there were some great movies - - Walt Disney's "Pinocchio" and "Fantasia." Gary Cooper starred in "North West Mounted Police" and Charlie Chaplin starred in

Stewart. The classic film about the Great Depression "Grapes of Wrath" starred Henry Fonda. Spencer Tracy and Robert Young starred in "North West Passage." Bette Davis and Charles Boyer starred in "All This and Heaven Too." Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney were in the musical "Strike up the Band." Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamore starred in "Road to Singapore." And the Western "Santa Fe Trail" starred Errol Flynn and Ronald Regan.

It cost 3 cents to send a first class letter and unemployment was at 14.6%. On January 31,

Ida Fuller was the first person to receive a Social Security check.

In LeRoy, a magnificent project was undertaken to record with a camera, the people and places of LeRoy. LeRoy had 26 industries. There were 1,192 students in high school and 8 rural school districts with three school buses that transported 50 students into Town.

Politically there were 1,607 registered Republicans and 500 Democrats. There were 114 people on relief, 9 receiving funds from the government sewing project and 15 were on the WPA project.

The Village was served by 5 local grocery and meat stores as well as five neighborhood stores and four chain stores. Fruits and vegetables were sold house to house and three dairies provided pasteurized cream and milk. Town and Village workers received 40 cents an hour. Twenty five people commuted daily to Rochester. There were seven doctors, five lawyers, five dentists, five chiropractors and one osteopath.

Come join us for a nostalgic evening with good food, good company and good memories.

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