

# S'More Treats

by Lynne Belluscio

On Halloween we treated some of our volunteers to lunch. They are the folks who help us out at the Historical Society. Volunteers make a lot of things happen in LeRoy. We also gave each of them a little bag of treats, which included graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate, with a note, "We need S'More docents like you." (A historical note. S'Mores were introduced by another volunteer organization, the Girl Scouts, in 1927. There aren't too many people who haven't stuck a marshmallow on a stick and cooked it to their perfection - - burned or lightly toasted - -and stuck it between two graham crackers and a square of Hersey's chocolate. Now you can buy little table top cookers, or you can do them in the microwave - - no need for a campfire. Guess that's a sign of the times. I prefer mine lightly toasted in a campfire.)

All of our organizations could use S'More volunteers. Someday, it would be interesting to add up all the volunteer hours that are given in LeRoy. This year it is estimated that a volunteer hour is worth \$23.07 which is a lot more than minimum wage. The value of a dedicated volunteer is almost immeasurable.

The Historical Society relies on a dedicated group of volunteers. Our volunteer docents have had to pull a lot of tricks out of their hats this year to keep LeRoy House running smoothly and open to the public.

They have given up mornings working in their gardens to work in our gardens and the gardens have been spectacular this year! They have cheerfully greeted folks at the door and shared the intriguing story of the LeRoy family and Ingham University. They have dealt with tour buses that arrived early - others that arrived late. Even a couple of buses that "just decided to stop by." We even offered our first tour for a group of blind folks from the alumni of the School for the Blind in Batavia. A most rewarding experience!

Our docents have stayed late when a group of folks really



wanted to go through the house. They have patiently answered many, many questions and diverted little fingers from touching things they shouldn't touch to things they can touch. Sometimes, on slow days, they help catch up on our house keeping.

We couldn't keep LeRoy House open without them. So Saturday, on Halloween, we've invited them for a little treat and lunch. It's was a small token of our appreciation for all they do. Shelia Furr has been our Volunteer Coordinator for the past two years, and she has put in many, many hours, training and coaching our new docents, and making sure the schedule is filled each week. She is always looking for new people who might be interested in volunteering a day, a week during the summer.

We also try to keep LeRoy House open on weekends in the spring and fall when folks are out and about looking for some-

thing to do. We have been very fortunate to have such a group of dedicated and reliable volunteers and a very dedicated coordinator.

Doing a little calculating, I figure that in June, July, and August, LeRoy house is open on an average of 30 hours a week, and many times, there are two people working together. LeRoy House is open about 20 hours a week in May and September and maybe 10 hours a week in April and October. Then there are the tour buses, when we open the house with additional docents. Well, you get the idea and I figure that our volunteers have given their time in excess to \$15,000 - probably closer to \$20,000.

We have also enlisted folks who take care of the garden and the lawn, and come in to bleed the boiler, and shovel the snow (I think they must earn more than \$23.00 an hour!!!) We also have a group of very dedicated volunteers who help with our

education programs. Then there are the volunteers who help with the chicken BBQ and the antique show, and the tent at the Oatka Festival. I also have a very talented group of "actors" who help with our candlelight tours. (I kiddingly tell everyone that I will put them in for a raise.)

So this year, we had all our docents stand on the front steps holding the America's Best Community banner, because we know that LeRoy has the best group of volunteers, whether they volunteer for the Historical Society, or for the Rotary Club, or one of the churches or one of the many organizations that depends on the generosity of their members.

Thank you to all the volunteers - - no matter which organization that you are involved with. LeRoy is so much richer for all the time that you invest in making this a great place to live.