

Candlelight Tours - December 5 & 6

by Lynne Belluscio

This year, our candlelight tours will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6. There will be two tours each day – at 4 pm and 7 pm. You may purchase tickets \$5 each by calling 768-7433 or stopping by the Jell-O Gallery. (Student tickets \$3.50) If you have a group of eight or ten, make sure you call to get tickets for the entire group.

This year, everyone is getting ready for Christmas. Downstairs in the 1830 LeRoy kitchen, the cook and the governess, and Mr. McCarthy, the gardener, are making sure that everything is ready for the holidays. The cook has carefully chosen a few recipes from Charlotte LeRoy's receipt book. There will be some Dutch honey cake for the New Year, and some ginger nut cookies. The shiny new puffertjes pan has just arrived from New York City and we're sure you'll have a chance to try these little Dutch treats. And much to the surprise of the LeRoy children, grandpa LeRoy has just sent a copy of Clement Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

Upstairs, the year is 1866, and Mr. Parmelee is excitedly telling everyone about the gas lit Christmas tree he is constructing. He has to go to Rochester to buy some little gas jets. He's been working with Jim McKenzie and Gideon Forham, Superintendent of the gas works on this novel idea which will go on display at Starr Hall.

In another room, near the roaring fireplace, visitors will help string some popcorn and cranberries for the Christmas tree, and students from Ingham University will share their stories of Queen Victoria's tree that they have read about. They are also practicing their rhetoric for a special presentation at the university.

In the 1931 kitchen, Mrs. Spry is concerned about many of her neighbors who can't afford to buy presents this year, because some are out of work. But she is busily getting her Christmas cards ready and putting Christmas seals on each one, to help raise money for tuberculosis. She is reading through the Christmas



Christmas 1931.

advertisements in the *LeRoy Gazette* to get ideas for some practical gifts for her family. She has also heard that Ernest Woodward sent out his Christmas cards with a little card that gives a free plane ride from his brother's airport. She wonders who of her friends will receive one of his cards.

So come and meet the people of LeRoy House and enjoy the holiday season with them.

We hope you will plan to join us for one of these special tours. The tours are a little over an hour, and are appropriate for families. This, the third year that we have offered these candlelight tours.

Each year there is a different theme, so don't wait until the last minute to get your tickets. The refreshments are delicious. LeRoy House will be decorated for the holidays, and even if it's cold outside, it will be warm inside.

Happy Thanksgiving