

History Detectives

by Lynne Belluscio

I am often stopped and asked questions about LeRoy's history. I have to admit that although it appears that sometimes I know a lot about LeRoy, the fact of the matter is that my success is usually because I know where to look for the answer.

Last week, Chuck LePort said that he had been talking with Rev. David Pepper and the question was asked, "Why is Pavilion named Pavilion. There isn't a pavilion in Pavilion." The quick answer was found in the History of Genesee County, page 256: "Pavilion was given its name in 1825 by Harmon J. Betts who came from Saratoga, New York, where he had been connected with the famous Pavilion Hotel."

When I stopped in Five Star Bank last week, Marcia MacKenzie asked if I could help identify some photographs that her mother had. She dropped off quite a collection and the one that fascinated all of us was the wedding picture above. Marcia had told us that many of the pictures were from the Schuyler Wells family. Schuyler Wells owned and operated the Shiloh Medicine Company (now the *LeRoy Pennysaver*) and his house is one of the elegant homes on East Main Street (the Konkol home).

We looked at the photograph of the Wells family in the 1940 book and we decided that the bride was Noelle Hurst who married Schuyler C. Wells, Jr. From that identification, we went to the clipping file and found the wedding notice. The wedding took place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on East Avenue in Roch-



ester in June 1932. Noelle was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Victor Hurst of Sandingham Road. The bride wore a gown of "ivory satin with a V neck, tight fitting sleeves and train commencing at the hip line." The veil was Brussels lace with a Rose pint cap caught with lace butterflies and orange blossoms. She carried a small white prayer book and a bouquet of lilies of the valley with a small white orchid in the center. The maid and matron of honor wore gowns in Lotus pink and carried bouquets of sweet peas in all pastel shades, surmounted by blue delphinium.

The bridesmaids wore gowns of chalky blue with matching hats. The reception was held at the Genesee Valley Club in Rochester. An undated newspaper article in the Well's envelope,

shows the wedding photograph of Noelle's daughter-in-law, Alice Leonard Hawkins. When she married Schuyler Wells III, she wore her mother-in-laws bridal veil of Brussels lace.

Another clipping in the file mentions a Christmas party which helped us identify another photograph. "Four Generations of Wells Family Here Christmas." Since neither the photograph nor the clipping is dated, I cannot tell exactly when the Christmas event took place. The photo, taken by Phil Tompkins, clearly shows the Christmas tree in the background and all seventeen members of the Wells family, including Noelle and her husband.

The Christmas cake must have been a sight to see: "beautifully fashioned in the old world chefs picturesque portrayal of detail.

Topping the cake and resting on a platter of almond paste was a latticed crèche which housed miniature replicas of Joseph, Mary and the Christ child in a crib. Gathered about were a donkey, lamb and squirrel at the doorway were the angel choir with harps. On the roof were two very colored birds, one with its beak open as if in song. The frosted circular base was decorated with tiny green Christmas trees. Surmounting the base was a column of glazed fruit, reaching up to the platter upon which rested the crèche. The cake was a creation of Mr. & Mrs. Bunko who operated the restaurant at the Wiss Hotel." Soon we will have the photographs organized and sorted into files.

PETER PANEPENTO Plumbing • Heating

Installation & Repair Service
For All Residential & Commercial Work

768-8788

eow

The Clean Sweep Cleaning Service

- Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
- Spot Cleaning & Odor Removal
- Tile & Wood Floor Cleaning & Waxing
- Braided & Area Rug Cleaning
- Complete Janitorial Services

9300 Warsaw Road, Le Roy, NY

John M. Joy • Call 768-8497



eow