

Summer Visitors

by Lynne Belluscio

If you are planning to have friends in from out of town and they are from the State of Wyoming, bring them over to the Jell-O Gallery. We have had visitors from every other state – all 49 of them, but I guess the folks from Wyoming don't get out too often. I suppose we could cheat and count those folks from Wyoming, New York, but that would spoil the record.

So far this year we have welcomed 7,628 people to the Jell-O Gallery and that includes visitors from 22 different countries: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada (5 provinces), Columbia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Korea, Mali (West Africa), Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Republic of Kazakhstan, Scotland, Singapore, Slovakia and Switzerland.

We just never know who is going to show up. A few weeks ago, just as we were closing up, a young couple came up to the door, and I said to Denise, let them wander around for a few minutes. So they looked around and then Denise said to me, "I think you out to come out and meet Jacob LeRoy." Well, it turns out, that the couple were on their honeymoon and had visited Niagara Falls and indeed, his name was Jacob LeRoy (Jacob Coyne LeRoy to be exact) and he was a descendent of the Jacob LeRoy who lived in LeRoy House.

He admitted that he really didn't know much about his ancestry, but his grandfather was Livingston LeRoy. I later looked up his name in the LeRoy genealogy, and he is the great, great, great grandson of Jacob LeRoy who lived in LeRoy House. His line is traced through Edward Augustus LeRoy who served as secretary to the American Ambassador to Japan with Admiral Perry. So I said to Jacob, "Why don't you follow me up to LeRoy House and you can take a look around." So Jacob had a chance to visit the family homestead and take lots of pictures. As we stood in front of the portrait of his great, great, great, great grandfather, Herman LeRoy, his wife remarked that



Folks from California who came to visit on August 23rd.

there was a family similarity in the nose. I had to agree.

Another interesting visitor was Martha Teichner, a correspondent from CBS Sunday Morning. We had received an e-mail earlier in the year, that CBS was interested in doing a piece on the Jell-O Museum. That sounded like a great idea so on July 11 – the Monday before the Oatka Festival, the producer and a cameraman arrived.

I was introduced to Martha and immediately recognized her voice. If you watch CBS Sunday Morning – it's one of my favorite shows – you know her voice. They were here most of the day, and we all went down to the D & R Depot for lunch where they filmed Martha and me eating Jell-O. (I had to clink my spoon back into the empty Jell-O dish a couple of times – wonder if that will make the cut!)

Martha has had a lot of more important

assignments. She has been a foreign correspondent and was assigned to South Africa when Nelson Mandella was released. She accompanied Hillary Clinton on several foreign trips and reported on the wedding and death of Princess Diana. And

now, at the D & R Depot, I'm being interviewed by Martha Teichner about Jell-O. Who would ever imagined. I have been told that the Jell-O story will air sometime in September. If I know far enough in advance, I'll try to let you know.

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