

Welcome To The Jell-O Museum

by Lynne Belluscio

On August 8, the door to the Jell-O Gallery was wide open and the Jell-O Brick Road was filled with folks anxious to see the museum. They had come from all over the United States on the "Mini Takes The States" Road Rally. Many of them had started their trip in San Francisco on July 26. Others had just joined the group in Buffalo and were planning to drive the last two legs of the rally to Bethlehem, PA and on to Boston.

One team was from Germany, and they had shipped their car to San Francisco and had driven cross-Russia and cross-Australia. There were a lot of folks from Canada. A quick look at the list only excludes, teams from Alaska, Maryland, Alabama, Arkansas, Oregon, Idaho and North Dakota.



It's hard to know exactly how many people visited on Friday, but it certainly was more than 600 - - all in two hours. None of it would have been possible without a lot of help.

First and foremost, the Gallery Staff - Terry Blackburn (and her husband), Ruth Koch (and her husband), Ruth Harvie, Elizabeth Bolton and Ryan Mangefrida. And the volunteer members of the Historical Society - - Joanne Graham and her husband Gary, Dan Cote, Scott Ripley, Shelia Furr, Cheryl Fernaays, Sue Privitera and her husband, Barb Elliott, June Dusen and her husband Chuck, Michelle Penepento, Bob Collette, Eileen Partise, Laura Williams and her family - - and the list goes on.

A special thank-you to LeRoy Central School - Kim Cox who made it possible to use the field behind the school for parking and who told me last Wednesday at Rotary ... "We've made arrangements for several Porta-Johns." (What a wonderful "gift")!

The LeRoy Police Department, came to the rescue directing traffic and interceding with the DOT. The resurfacing project had gotten bogged down and it looked as if the road crew was going to be either on Main Street or on West Main. We learned a few days earlier that there would be no paving on Main Street on Friday but West Main Street was still on schedule. I called the Genesee County Sheriff's office and asked if they could help with a detour from Batavia to LeRoy but within hours, we learned that the West Main repaving would be postponed and the second coat of paving would be applied on East Main Road. Eureka - - the Minis would have clear sailing into LeRoy. And we could send them



down South Street Road to Route 20 to avoid the stop and go traffic on East Main Street.

The folks enjoyed having their pictures taken under the Jell-O arch and in the Jell-O truck and on the Jell-O wagon and with the LeRoy cow. They voted for their favorite flavor - Cherry with 84 votes; Strawberry with 76 votes followed closely by Lime with 71. (The team from Germany had no idea which flavor to vote for. They had never had Jell-O.)

Since the Minis left LeRoy we have been picking up Facebook

messages and emails. "The stop in LeRoy at the Jell-O Museum was the best stop on the whole trip!" "We couldn't believe the reception in LeRoy! Everyone was so friendly. It was as if we were part of the family!" "People were sitting in chairs waving to us, even before we got into town." "What a wonderful place."

And so the Minis have come and gone, but the memories for us and the folks that came here to visit are wonderful. Thank you to the folks in LeRoy who made the day so great for all of us.

