

Volunteers Are Magnificent and Marvelous: Tipping Cows and Flipping Flamingoes

by Lynne Belluscio

The LeRoy Historical Society is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year, and this week is "National Volunteer Week." Without question, the Historical Society exists and thrives because of its volunteers. I cannot even imagine how many volunteer hours have been given over the past 75 years. We try to keep track of all the hours and I don't think we even touch the real number.

volunteers where and when I can, like this last Sunday when I went out to the Little League field to ask some of the coaches if they could help "move the cow." As I told them, it's our version of "cow tipping." Cora, our painted cow spends the winter inside, in the basement. When the weather warms up, Cora has to be brought upstairs and she spends the day on the porch to have her photo-

volunteers for that kind of work? Well, one of the ways we are thanking our volunteers this year, is handing out special M&M's. The M&M company manufactures "Magnificent and Marvelous" M&M's for volunteers. And interestingly M&M's are also 75 years old. So as usual, here is a little history:

The story of M&M's begins in 1932, when Forrest Mars - son of

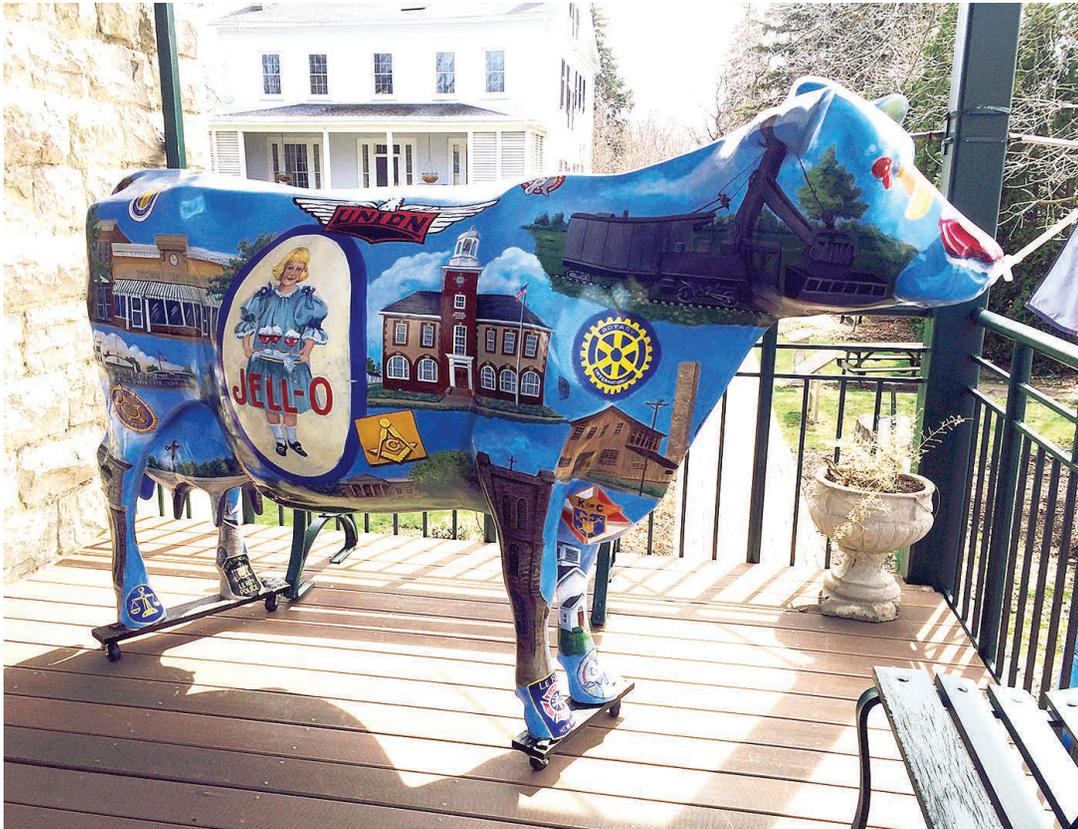
in Britain. According to their web site, he had seen soldiers during the Spanish Civil War eating small chocolate beads encased in a hard sugar shell. They were part of their rations.

When Forrest returned to the United States, he talked with Bruce Murrie, the son of Hershey executive William Murrie and the two men began producing a new candy which was named after Murrie and Mars - - thus M&M's. The patent was granted in 1941 and production began in Newark, New Jersey.

When the United States entered World War II, the candies were exclusively sold to the military. The heat-resistant candies were included in soldiers' rations. After the war, M&M's were sold to the public. At first they were sold in small cardboard tubes but the familiar brown bag was introduced in 1948.

In 1950, the candies were imprinted with a black "m," which changed to white in 1954. Peanut M&M's made their debut in 1954, along with the cartoon characters Mr. Plain and Mr. Peanut. By 1956 M&M's had become the No. 1 candy in the United States.

Today, you can order special M&M's imprinted with a unique message. We think that "Magnificent and Marvelous" is the right message for our volunteers. Thank you for your help - - for the past 75 years.



We are like many other organizations in LeRoy who depend on folks who give their time and talent. If you think of all the volunteer hours just within our community, the numbers are staggering.

This past weekend the Little League was cleaning up the field and starting their practices in preparation for opening day. Lots of volunteers and lots of dedication make that organization an important part of the community. And if you add in LCCP, the Churches, PTO, the Moose, Rotary, American Legion, the Scouts and the Fire Department, it's something LeRoy should be proud of - that this community can support these efforts with volunteers.

Sometimes I have to enlist

graph taken with all our visitors. Luckily for the coaches, I didn't get a photograph of their efforts up the stairs.

Moving Cora is only one of the rather unusual volunteer jobs needed at the Historical Society. Just tonight at our board meeting, I had a list of volunteer jobs - - rake the yard; clean up the back porch and put out the porch furniture and make a trip to the dump. But then I had to tell them, I needed to move seven sofas - - Yep, that's how many sofas there are in LeRoy House, and each one will need to be moved.

And just a few days ago, I had to call in the troops to set out flamingoes - - not just once, but twice and to pick them up again. Flamingo flipping and cow tipping - how do you thank

candy maker Frank Mars, moved to England and began manufacturing Mars Bars for the soldiers

