

Oatka Festival News

by Lynne Belluscio

A few new things under the Historical Society tent this year at the Oatka Festival. First we're making room for some lawn chairs. I'll bet folks will enjoy having a comfortable place to sit down and watch people go by and sit and chat with friends. It brought to mind my grandfather's camp chairs. They were like the butterfly chairs of today, only they were made of wood, not metal. I remember them when we camped for the summer in the old huge army tent at Honeoye Lake in the early 50s. There were a couple of the wooden recliners, with the stripped canvas. There were usually three or four indentations on the back part, so you could recline at different angles. As the canvas got old, you risked having the chair give way. I'm not sure when we bought our first aluminum web chairs. We'd have to make room for them when we went camping. Sometimes we strapped them to the roof. I even rewadded a couple. And then there was the macramé craze when folks wove their own designs on the frames. Suspect there are a few of them around.

The old fashioned games will be under the tent and we hope to have a skittles champion at the end of the weekend. And of course Crinkinole - - If you haven't had a chance to play this game, stop by and we'll be glad to give you some instructions.

And if you haven't tried some of the "other" checkers games, we'll have those rules posted. I personally like Shut the Box and the solitaire game. There are plenty of puzzles and at least three marble racers. (Have your third graders tell you about inclined planes and fulcrums and levers.)

Stop by and take a look at the plans for the World War I monument that will be dedicated on November 11 this fall. You can make a veterans poppy



Original Jell-O illustrations by Rose O'Neill donated to the Historical Society

and make a donation toward the project. We also have the enamel "Lest we Forget" pins for those who make a \$20 donation.

We have made room for a table for the new "Friends of Machpelah Cemetery" that will have information about how to clean gravestones, and other "Grave Matters" as well as membership information. Speaking of membership information, the Historical Society will have a membership table, with back copies of the newsletter and a few "Historysavers." All new members who sign up at the Festival will receive a discount in the Gallery Shop. We also have a few Women's Suffrage T-Shirts and some children's Statue of Liberty shirts.

The LeRoy House will be open both days and if you haven't stopped by lately, you'll have a chance to see the World War I exhibit. And if you need a little time away from the hustle and bustle, the back porch of LeRoy House has comfortable chairs in the shade.

And of course the Jell-O Gallery is free both days, and the museum shop will be open. Because of the crowd, there will be no tours of the Gallery Saturday and Sunday, but the Historical Society has just received four original Rose O'Neill illustrations which will be on exhibit. Rose drew over 100 different illustrations for Jell-O in the early 1900s. She is known for the "Kewpies" - little pixie-like

elves, with little blue wings. They are truly a wonderful addition to the collection. They were donated by David O'Neill, the great nephew of Rose O'Neill, who maintained the O'Neill Museum. He closed his museum last year and has decided to disperse the collection to museums. We were taken by surprise of this wonderful addition to the collection.

Just an update on the old Tillou House next door. We have been told that it was sold to a real estate agent in Rochester who will rehab the house and hopes to have apartments for rent this fall.

If you bought a brick in the Jell-O Brick Road this last year, you can check it out. Scott Ripley will be putting all of them in before the Festival. You'll want to check at LeRoy House, not the Jell-O Gallery, to find your brick. You can also put in an order for more bricks. They are \$55 each.

We'd also like to recognize our business members this year to date. They make a difference not only to the Historical Society, but also to this community. Contact the Historical Society if you'd like to join and help bring history home.

Cameron Funeral Home
Falcone Family Funeral Home
Lakestreet Florist
Derrick Monument
Bill Fox & Son Construction
Gottogo Electric

LeRoy Federal Credit Union
Place Optical
Mike Lauterborn Enterprise
Terry Starowitz - CPA
Bob Johnson Automotive
Creekside Restaurant
Dr. Gugino
Yngoddess
No Better Bed & Breakfast
Red Osier
Sococool & Schutt
Boylan Law Office
McDonalds of LeRoy
Bubba's Landscaping
Stafford Painters
Capish Restaurant
Humphrey Electric
Joe's Place Barbershop
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Iroquois Design
Weldeon Service & Repair
Pizzaland
McQuillen Ent.
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