



ROTARY CLUB
of DeWITT, NY Inc.



Rotary Bulletin for Monday, August 30, 2010

The meeting was brought to order by President Harold Graves. The members sang America the Beautiful and gave the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was provided by Tom Pendergast.

Steve Woiler introduced our **Visitors and Guests:** Fred Zercher, former club member now residing in Florida and guest of Fred Talbot, Bruce McKee, guest of Vanna Reisman, Vamaksa Chauvan (sp?) our Indian exchange student and her host brother Sam Carafa and host sister Jillian Carafa, and Dan Ward, our guest speaker and curator of the Erie Canal Musuem.

Mildred lead the club members in welcoming our visitors and guests by singing "Friends of Rotary".

Announcements:

1. Joe McCarthy updated the club on the progress of Jim

Robb, who is now at James Square. Jim would love to have member call him. His telephone number is 474-0623.

2. John Shepard announced the sale of raffle tickets for the professional football lottery sponsored by the Learning Disabilities Association of Central New York. Tickets are \$50 for 11 weeks of games and a chance to win prizes .
3. President Harold Graves apologized for not having acknowledged July birthdays, and announced the August birthdays: Gay Pomeroy, Fred Cholet, Spencer Wallace; Steve Woiler, Dick Robb, Vamaksa Chauvan (sp?), Paul Nozynski, and Tom Hornstein.

Program:

John Shepard introduced the guest speaker, Dan Ward, the curator of the Erie Canal

Museum. Dan has been the curator of the Erie Canal Museum for 1 -1/2 years. He told the story of how the Erie Canal came to be built in 1817 as the need grew for transportation on land; and, 8 1/2 years and \$7 million later, the Erie Canal was built. Dan created a short movie about the Erie Canal, which he showed to the club members. After the movie, the club took a trivia quiz, based on the movie. Among the questions asked: 1. Who spearheaded the Erie Canal project? Answer: Governor Dewitt Clinton. 2. From what city to what city did the Canal extend? Answer: Albany to Buffalo. 3. How long is the Erie Canal? Answer: 363 miles long. 4. In what year was the Erie Canal completed? Answer: 1825. 5. Where and when did the first shovel turn the earth to commence building the Erie Canal? Answer: Rome, NY on July 4, 1817. 6. Once the Erie Canal was built, how long did it take to cross the canal by boat? Answer: 6-11 days. Prior to canal travel, it took 6 weeks.

Dan told the club that more than 50,000 people were employed as a result of the creation of the Erie Canal, in a variety of jobs. New York was

able to attract major companies which chose to locate along the Erie Canal: GE, Syracuse China, etc. The Erie Canal still exists in several forms. Currently, the Erie Canal Museum is located in the historic Weighlock Building in downtown Syracuse. The building was nominated to the National Register as a protected building, and houses a full size replica of an Erie Canal boat, as well as interactive exhibits. Currently, the museum is about to embark on a major renovation. For more about programs and specifics about the Erie Canal Museum, visit the museum's website at www.eriecanalmuseum.org.

50/50- Our program host John Shepard won the 50/50.

President Harold Graves concluded the meeting by leading the club in reciting the 4 Way Test.

Respectfully submitted.

Holly Wallace, guest editor