

Thirteen Traditional Toast

by Lynne Belluscio

I met with Steve Barbeau, the Town Supervisor, to go over the upcoming Bicentennial event for June 8. He is to be commended for his enthusiasm and involvement with this momentous occasion. He has even arranged to be appropriately attired for the evening. We discussed the presentation of the thirteen toasts at the end of the Town Meeting ... who should give which toast. I offered him the first and the last toast, which he agreed to.

1. To All here assembled – May you be reminded tonight of the strength and determination of our forefathers and mothers who faced with the vicissitudes of the frontier, were able to hold tight to their belief in the promise of a prosperous future. May you be imbued with both their fortitude and enthusiasm to preserve for future generations the quality of life that we have come to enjoy in this town we call LeRoy.

13. To the Stars and Stripes with fifteen stars, representing the first 13 states and Vermont and Kentucky. The blue field which represents vigilance and perseverance. The red which stands for hardiness, valor and courage; and the white symbolic of the purity and innocence of a new and unspoiled land. May the flag forever fly o'er the land of the free and the brave.

We both agreed that Congresswoman Hochul should offer the toast to the President of the United States, James Madison *the father and defender of the Constitution, he has no peer. We pray for his firm hand in the days ahead to guide this country in deliberations with Great Britain.* Steve and I went down the list and assigned the remaining toasts to other dignitaries attending. If you want to hear who's giving which toast, you'll just have to plan to attend the Town Meeting at 7:30 on June 8 on Trigon Park.

If you haven't bought your ticket for the Ox Roast, you had better call 768-7433 and have us set aside a ticket, or just stop by the Jell-O Gallery between 10 and 4. They are \$10 each. As you read last week, the music is all arranged. (Although I have to

apologize to Pat Fussell who has graciously agreed to sing "God Bless America". I erroneously listed her as Loretta Fussell, but be assured, I listed her correctly in the program!) This week the programs have been printed. Many thanks to the LeRoy Rotary Club, the LeRoy Business Council, the LeRoy Historical Society and LP Graphics who picked up the tab for printing these souvenirs. We still would like to find a few more folks to be included in the 200 for \$20 to help pay for the fireworks. Each of you will receive a wooden coin that can be used on June 8 for discounts and special offers at participating businesses, which include McDonald's, D&R Depot, the Hobby Horse, the Jell-O Gallery and Café LeRoy. Just look for the special posters in the window and present your wooden dollar for a special discount item. The coins can be purchased at the Jell-O Gallery or the Town Hall. The fireworks will take place about 9:30 on the creek bank. Notice: Wolcott Street will be closed at 6 pm.

If you haven't seen the large historic marker that will be dedicated on Trigon Park, it is in the front window of the Town Hall. It will be moved to the Park on June 8. We were extremely fortunate to be awarded a \$1,300 grant from the William

G. Pomeroy Foundation that completely funded the marker. I wrote the application last year, and we were notified in March that the application had been chosen. This is the first year that such a grant had been available in Genesee County. William Pomeroy was concerned that New York State had discontinued the historic marker program in 1939, believing that markers educate the public and support historic tourism. Thus, they provide economic benefits to the towns and villages where markers are located. In 2006, the Foundation initiated their first marker program in Central New York. This year the competitive program was offered to a few western counties. We hope that representatives from the Foundation are able to join us for the dedication of the new marker.

The Time Capsule will be on display on Friday night. It won't be sealed until December 31. Objects and archival material will be collected all year, including photographs taken at the Bicentennial. We are asking all of you to submit suggestions for the time capsule. One of the first items is a copy of the letter written by the 2nd grades of Wolcott Street School about why they like living in LeRoy.

Other activities scheduled for Friday night are some 19th century



games and the painting of the Town Barn Quilt. There are 200 diamonds that will be painted. Just come up and sign the register and you'll be assigned a diamond to paint. You'll receive a certificate verifying that you helped paint the LeRoy Bicentennial barn quilt. If it isn't completed on June 8, it will be finished during the Oatka Festival.

If you are planning to attend the Bicentennial, you may want to bring a lawn chair. Then you can stay around for the concert by the LeRoy Town Band and the fireworks at 9:30. In case of rain, the event will be held in the auditorium. Hope to see you there.

2. To the Town of LeRoy, the newest star in the crown of the State of New York. May we grow and prosper and be mindful of our responsibilities to our citizens now and in the future. May we never forget those who preceded us.

10. To the Committee of Arrangements who have made possible a glorious celebration unlike any other and unexcelled in patriotic fervor that will remain in the memory of all, young and old, who are in attendance this evening.

