



Touching The Past

Serving Residents of the Butternut Valley Since 1938

The ROTARY CLUB of MORRIS, NY

Chartered February, 1938 Charter #4887
Gary Johnson, President Selean "Sam" Koury, Governor
District 7170



2009-2010 Rotary Theme

Volume 71

November 30, 2009

Number 21

Meetings every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Town House, Morris, NY

Last Meeting – November 23, 2009

The regular weekly meeting at the Morris Town House was called to order by President **Gary Johnson**. The meal for 30 Rotarians and guests was prepared by **Juanita Brown** and Vicky Pegg. Again, there was no winner in the Jack of Hearts contest.

Guests — Visitors included **Dick Breuninger**, prospective member Matt Sheldon for this third visit, Cub Scout leaders Jim Tuttle and Beth Child, Cubs Robert Child and James Tuttle, and speaker Tom Gray and his wife Wilma.

Make-Ups — None this week.

Announcements — Donations to the Rotary Foundation must be turned in to PDG Fred before Christmas in order to qualify for matching funds. Fred just needs your payment; he will complete all paperwork. --- **Royce Webster** successfully recited the Four-Way Test. --- Several members responded when asked who had visited the club's new website. President Gary stated it is very easy to use. He even said he was able to download materials without seeking additional help. --- Spouses will be invited to Christmas dinner on December 21.



Future Morris Boy Scouts - Cub Scouts Robert Child and James Tuttle attended Monday's Rotary dinner to meet a community component toward their rank of Webelos. The Cubs had to attend a public meeting. In addition to giving a brief report on their activities, the pair led Rotarians in reciting the pledge to the flag.

Birthdays & Anniversaries — Norm Tiffany

Happiness — **Dick Breuninger** asked exchange student Jaro to tell of his nation's big event of last week. It was the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the time when students stared down the riot police causing the fall of Communism in the former Czechoslovakia. --- **Mary Breuninger** reports that the district has 52 candidate for outbound YEP slots this year. The district-level interviews have been completed and countries will be assigned in December. --- **Jeff Conroe** has started his new job as Area Sales Manager for Pennsylvania agribusiness firm Pennfield Corporation. He has also joined a local grange organization. --- **Mike D'Amico** and Raina spent a relaxing vacation in Palm Springs, CA. --- **Harry Graves** got an interesting phone call this afternoon. The Oneonta *Daily Star* requested use of the club's file picture of Edmeston Rotarian Christine Lindberg. The paper is running an article on the many interviews Lindberg has given on the 2009 Word of the Year. --- **Fred Johnson** says the Butternut Valley Food Pantry has sent a check for \$200 toward our food basket project. --- **Gary Johnson** paid for Rotarian Royce's recitation of the Four-Way Test. --- **John Matteson** is glad to have his niece Beth Child in attendance. --- **Joan Miller** recently held an Open House for her 90-year-old mother. All sibs were present. --- **Roger Miller** and Joan are off to Florida right after Thanksgiving. Tonight will be their final Rotary meeting this fall. --- **Lois Miller-Ballard** cooked a turkey last week just so her clan can enjoy leftovers. Her family has the reputation of consuming everything on Thanksgiving Day. --- **Jim Pasternak** has all of the family's Christmas decorations up already. --- **Carrie Lynn Phillips** says one year of retirement was enough. She has taken a job at Royal Chrysler in Oneonta. --- **Mike Virgil** is glad to see that Matt Sheldon has expressed interest in becoming a member. Mike also noted that tonight is a bit a reunion for him (Tom Gray was a co-worker and Jim Tuttle was a student). --- **Royce Webster** has been finding many tasks to do during this late-season stretch of unusually warm weather.

Active Members

Bosco, Sharon *
Bourgeois, Gerard *
Breuninger, Mary *
Brown, Juanita *
Burdick, William
Conroe, Jeffrey +
D'Amico, Michael +
DeLaurentiis, Teresa
Frankel, George +
Fusco, Nancy *
Graves, Harry *
Harris, Carl
Hay, Ronald *
Johnson, Fred *
Johnson, Gary *
Keene, Richard *
Kranbuhl, Maureen
Long, Joanne
Marlier, Felice *
Matteson, John *
Meyers, Matthew
Miller, Joan
Miller, Roger *
Miller-Ballard, Lois *
Pasternak, James *
Pegg, Patrick
Phillips, CarrieLynn +
Pickens, William *
Rehmann, Henry *
Schwarzans, Fred
Schwarzans, Marg
Tiffany, Norman *
Townsend, Neil *
Virgil, Michael *
Webster, Royce *

YEP Students

Dlouhy, Jaroslav "Jaro"
From Slovakia to G-MU
No Outbound Students
During 2009-2010

Honoraries

Danielson, Walter *
Halbert, Ronald *
Norton, Bruce *
Sorensen, Herbert
Stowell, William *
Walicka, Terry *

* Paul Harris Fellows
+ Sustaining Members

Send Newsletter Items To
Harry Graves, Editor
skierharry@yahoo.com

Next In Rotary Service: During This Holiday Season, Thank Those Who Do Good Deeds.

Program — Most of us have eaten at the Old Mill restaurant in Rockwell Mills. But today's home of fine dining is just a memory of some much larger mills that once graced that stretch of the Unadilla River. Town of Guilford Historian Tom Gray shared a Powerpoint presentation on the history of Rockwell Mills. His remarks ranged from the arrival of the earliest permanent European settlers to today's effort to get a historic landmark designation.



The site first boasted a grist mill built by Sullivan Reynolds in 1791, back in the days when the Unadilla River formed the border between the eastern whites and the Indians to the west. A cotton mill also developed. Both the business and the hamlet grew and prospered until 1849 when Chester Rockwell moved in from South Hartwick where he had operated a woolen mill with his father. C. W. purchased the grist mill and converted it to a woolen

factory. He continued to enlarge it until about 100 workers were employed. The adjacent railroad allowed the importation of raw materials and the shipping of finished products. Eventually, the mill became very reputable. It was to supply uniforms to Union soldiers in the Civil War, to those heading into the Caribbean for the Spanish-American War, and to inmates in New York's prisons.

Fire destroyed wooden mills three times before the stone structure was erected. Advances in technology dictated the evolution from water-power to steam-power. At times, the mill stood three stories tall. It was abandoned in 1907 and fell into disrepair. All additions except the original stone structure were eventually torn down. The main section was transformed into a noted restaurant in 1946 by Rockwell MacPherson, grandson of C.W.

Gray also traced the growth of C. W. Rockwell's mansion across the highway (NYS Route 8) from the factory. The 17-room building is still in use as a private residence, complete with its spiral staircase in the foyer and its commanding view of the hamlet that bears its founder's name. Work continues on getting the mill and mansion listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Follow-Up

Linn Tractor Story Hits NewsChannel 34

Morris Rotary's Linn Tractor project will be publicized in the Binghamton area on NewsChannel 34. WIVT is the Southern Tier's ABC affiliate. The station is carried on the Time Warner cable network in Chenango County. It is not among TW's offerings in the Oneonta area. However, the report will be posted on the station's website by Tuesday, December 1. You can get it on www.newschannel34.com.

Jim Ehmke, the channel's News Director, was in town to celebrate Thanksgiving with his in-laws Pete and Marilyn Gould. By prior arrangement, Ehmke brought along video recording equipment and an interview was scheduled for Friday morning. Many folks took time out of their holiday to contributed to the effort. Rotarian Roger opened and secured the building. Jerry Fuchs came over from NE Equipment to drive the tractor across Guy Rathbun Park for some great visuals. Rene Elliott shared his research on the Linn operations in the TV commentary.

In other Linn Tractor news, work continues both inside and outside the renovated building. In the near future, Rotarians Matt and Hank will be mounting solar panels on the roof to provide power to illuminate the tractor. The solar panels are not expected to be obvious from the highway; they will be mostly hidden by a sign atop the building. The building crew also will be installing vents and additional trim before in the weeks ahead.

To complete the inside, Rotarians Joan and Carrie Lynn have reviewed dozens of old photographs in various collections. Eight pictures were selected and have been

enlarged to 11" X 17". Then they were put into frames for mounting on the walls with posters and other memorabilia. In addition, a portrait of company founder H. H. Linn will be placed on an easel nearby.

