



THE MULE

WINTER 2018

www.eriecanalcamillus.com



Camillus Erie Canal Park - Founded 1972



The Holiday Party ~ December 3, 2017

Our tree went up. Shannon Logan and her best friend Natalie Schell trimmed the branches. It was one of the nicest trees we've ever had! Pat Cooper decorated the museum. During the winter months, wreaths and garlands bedeck the outside.

Spirits were running high as everyone brought their specialty snacks or delicious goodies. Tables were filled with tempting treats. Friends greeted friends. New volunteers were welcomed. Barbara Brady and Nadine Watson made our secret recipe. Prinella McNeil and Carol Cossick were Santa's helpers.

As the afternoon progressed we were delighted that Sondra and John Bromka (Bells and Motley), stopped in. John happened to have his mandolin in the car, and we suggested that they could lead us in our sing-a-long. We sounded like a celestial choir!

2017 DINNER CRUISES

Thank you to the small Army that it took to pull off another successful 2017 Dinner Cruise season that provided delicious warmth, musical delight, and food just right.

Thank You to the musicians, **Kay Miracle Burke, Jim McVicker, Jim Putvin, Chuck Schiele, Mike Sims, Shirley Stevens, and Marcia Bower.** Thank you for the beautiful sounds on the Camillus Erie Canal!

Thank You to the pilots, who added the charm of history upon our float. They were: **Captain Dan Willis, Captain Richard Seubert, and Captain Paul Bertan.**

Thank You to the servers, our hostesses, who deliver a timely fine dining experience. They were: **Marcia Bower, Sue Paddock, Barbara Spencer, Carol Cossick, Jennifer Curtis, Kathy Rogers, Claudia Miceli, Peggy Francher, Kelly Burl, Lori Snyder Phillips, Linda Burch and Liz Beebe.**

Thank You to our reservation keeper, **Vicky Quigley.**

Thank You to our drivers, **Gary Tyler and Dick Grobsmith** who picked up and delivered at crunch time, as all last minute instructions are fine-tuned!

Thank You to our drink makers, **Fred and Carol Cossick.**

Thank You to **Irene Jemetz** for making our wonderful Canal Dump Cake.

Thank You for our behind the scene kitchen sparklers, who keep us on track and welcome us back. They were: **Marge Tyler, Fran Logan, Martha Williams, Sandy Cutler, Ginny Blasier, and apprentice Sweet Shannon!**

Thank You to **Ernie Tuff.** Ernie, what a year you had, when the roof caved, you didn't. With your skill and dedication to the profession of fine food, we consistently please! Thank you for the greatest dinners!

Thank you to all who show up on a Wednesday, and who help in any way to make this a delight!

Thank You lastly - to "**The Beebe's**" who encompass every task Captain, Hostess, Host, History leader, Driver, What ever it takes, you are always there.

Sherry Barnes, Dinner Cruise Chair

SNIPPETS AND TALES WINTER SERIES

The Camillus Canal Society launches **SNIPPETS AND TALES WINTER SERIES 2018**. All Programs are scheduled from 2-4 p.m. at the Camillus Town Hall, 4600 W. Genesee St., Male Avenue entrance, Lower Level. Free Admission. Refreshments and good conversation always follow each talk. Information 391-7020.

Sunday, January 21, 2-4 p.m. ~ The History of the State Fair By Sue Millet

Owner of Pope's Grove Golf Course whose land was part of Camp Syracuse in World War 1 and adjacent to the State Fair Grounds, Sue brings us first hand information about The NYS Fair. Sue is the President of the Solvay Geddes Historical Society and the Town of Geddes Historian. She has extensive collections of pictures and has given many presentations to local historical societies.

Sunday, February, 11, 2-4 p.m. ~ THE CAMILLUS CUTLERY By Greg Cobb

Greg became interested in knives as a youngster when he saw a display in his local hardware store. When the Camillus Cutlery closed down, he became an avid collector and most likely has the largest assembly of Camillus Cutlery in the United States, He will unfold the story of the Cutlery from its beginnings, thorough its role in World War I and II, until it closed. Enjoy early pictures and some of his collection!

Sunday, March 18, 2-4 p.m. ~ SPLIT ROCK EXPLOSION By Rich Miller & John Hrynyk

For over 30 years Rich Miller and John Hrynyk have researched the history and mystery of the 1918 Split Rock explosion that rattled windows in the "Valley" and Syracuse. Join us for a most informative and complete story about the factories which played a major role in the victory of World War I. Copies of Miller's books about the Split Rock history will be available.

Annual Membership Drive



Tom Barba is our new MEMBERSHIP CHAIR. By this writing members and volunteers will have received a formal request. With your support, we look forward to launching the **Ontario**, working toward an addition to the steam exhibit, interpreting Dill's Landing and making new connections of the Canalway Trail to Syracuse. A much-needed new Toro vehicle and a John Deere commercial zero turn mower were purchased though the Town of Camillus.

We continually write grant requests, and the organizations issuing the grants need to see that the community supports us. We encourage our volunteers to become members. Help our organization to continually grow by renewing your membership and encouraging friends to become new members. A membership form is included on the back of "THE MULE".

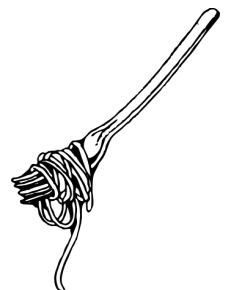
SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER/MEMBER DINNER ~ SATURDAY, MARCH 10

SERVING BEGINS 4:30 p.m. Dinner ~ \$6.00. Kids free

Dinner Takes Place at the Camillus Senior Center, First Street, Village of Camillus

THEME: THE STEAM ENGINE EXHIBIT



Join in the fun! Along with our traditional Maude and Emory spaghetti dinner, we will have great music, our usual awards, annual meeting and zany slides. Look for your mailing in early February. Information 315-391-7020.

Rome Sentinel

September 14, 1885

The First Packet on the Erie Canal

Hon. Henry A. Foster writes the following letter to the Rome Sentinel:

In your issue of the 10th I notice an article concerning "The Oldest Erie Canal Packets." The *Chief Engineer* was not only the first packet boat on the middle division of the Erie Canal between Utica and Rome but it was the first boat that passed and re-passed over the whole division between Utica and Montezuma; and it did so in April, 1820 and the late Jesse Matteson of Lee was its first captain, and was the first packet boat captain on the Erie Canal.

The *Chief Engineer* was built at Rome, and in November 1819, a party on board of it went to Oriskany to celebrate the completion of the middle division and returned to Rome the same day, and there was no other navigation of the canal that season.

About the middle of April 1820, the boat was taken to Utica, and from there one Thursday morning started for Montezuma; Mr. Mattesen being the captain with a small crew and John C. Brodhead and Major Bues of Utica and John Tallman Clark as passengers. At Whitsboro it took on board Sheriff Pease and one of his sons and reached Rome a little after noon, where, as it was an excursion as well as a business trip, it was joined by Colonel John Westcott and his son Horace, Simon Mattes, Clark Matteson, Daniel Matteson and myself. The business object was to establish the line of packets between Utica and Montezuma, and from 16 to 20 horses were led on the tow path to be stationed at various points along the route.

The canal was only partly filled with water and when we reached a stream in Verona then called Brandy Brook, we found that a break had occurred, and Luke Hitchcock of Verona, who had been appointed superintendent, was engaged with his party of hands in repairing it. We stayed there until about 1 a. m. on Friday, when the repairs being finished and obstructions being removed, we proceeded on, but there was so little water in the canal that our progress was very slow. Culverts were a little above the bottom; and on two occasions we had to procure farmers with two yoke of oxen, and to put rollers at the bow of the boat and place the cattle in the canal in front of it, with log chains fastened to it, to enable them to draw it over. We made but little progress that day and laid up at a farm house where Canastota now is.

On Saturday, we were able to reach Manlius and put up over night at the house of a German named Reals, who had a very fine farm of 640 acre and on Sunday we arrived at Syracuse, then a very small place, at about 2 p.m., where we found a great crowd waiting us, which had assembled from various parts of Onondaga County. I there left the party and went to Onondaga Hill, to visit my parents, and the boat proceeded onto Montezuma. I again met the party at Syracuse on their return and came with them to Rome. There was then a sufficient supply of water and we had no delays.

It will be recollected that previous to 1823 our annual elections were always held in April and in 1820 DeWitt Clinton and Daniel D. Tompkins were the opposing candidates for governor. The election was a very exciting one, and all were anxious to vote, and all the voters of our party were home in good time to do so.

The *Chief Engineer* was a very primitive boat, and very rough, and only continued in service until a new boat could be finished to take its place. It was a sow boat, entirely flat on the bottom, sharp at both ends, with perpendicular sidings extending up about three feet. It had a cabin at each end and the whole space between them was open. On each side of the boat it was covered with a plank from eight to ten inches, wide, extending from cabin to cabin, and only way to get into the boat was to walk a plank from the bank to the side of it (for there were no docking then) and jump down, as there were no steps; and to get out a chair was used. I speak of its condition at the time of the excursion, for tho I afterward went in it to Utica and back two or three times, I did not notice, nor do nor remember how it was in that respect, but I well recollect that at those times Jesse Matteson was captain.

At the time of the excursion it was almost an unbroken forest on the line of the canal from Rome to Syracuse, there being but very few farms or clearings on its line. The partridges and rabbits were very abundant, and with our slow movement when going west, we had no difficulty in supplying our larder with all we needed of both.

Dick Palmer



Town of Camillus Erie Canal Park
109 East Way
Camillus, NY 13031

Camillus Canal Society, Inc.	
New Membership or Renewal Application	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I Want to Be a Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Renew My Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Adult - \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen (Age 60 and Over) - \$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting - \$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining - \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$100.00
Make check payable to Camillus Canal Society, Inc.	
Name:	
Address:	
City, State Zip:	
Phone:	Cell Phone:
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Contact Me About Volunteering	E-mail Address:
Mail To: Tom Barba, 146 Terrace Way, Camillus, NY 13031	
New Memberships Received after June 1 Will Pay Half Price for That Year. The Half Price Feature Does Not Apply to Renewals.	