



Janesville Kiwanis Club

HOME CLUB – DIVISION 3 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, TOM WALLER July 26, 2007, Vol. XXV, No.43

Janesville in REEL Life

PRESIDENT

David Wimann
758-2655

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756-0770

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752-8322

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752-5835

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David O'Leary '07
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Michele Zimmerman '08
Don Chapin '08
Eric Garvin '08
Andy Frelich '09
Ryan VanRoo '09
Ben Coopman '09

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

DAVID O'LEARY

Bloodmobile
Christina Isackson
Christmas Tour of Lights
Bob Elliott
Meals on Wheels
Dave Calverly
Mother's Day
Breakfast
Zach Goswick
Park Projects
Ben Coopman

YOUNG CHILDREN-

PRIORITY ONE AND

YOUTH SERVICES

DR. KEVIN O'LEARY

Breakfast with Santa
Dave Calverly
Scholarships
Bob Elliot
Terrific Kids
Nancy Verhoeven
First Year Parenting Newsletter
Dr. Jack Damrow

SPONSORED YOUTH

DAVE WIMANN

Craig Key Club
Dave Wimann
Parker Key Club
Tom Waller
Madison K-Kids
Dr. Kevin O'Leary
Roosevelt K-Kids
Dave Wimann
Van Buren K-Kids
Dave O'Leary
Wilson K-Kids
Jim McMullen/
Robbie Seals
Interclubs
Brian Connors
Dr. Jack Damrow

FUND RAISING/ FINANCE

DR. JIM DAMROW/

ERIC SCHERDELL

Fest-of-Ale
Tom Waller
Dave O'Leary
Pancake Day
Dr. Jim Damrow/ Jim Stoa
AirFest
Ben Coopman

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

TOM WALLER

Membership
Dr. Ryan VanRoo
Laura Feit
Newsletter Editor
Dave Fleig
Public Relations
Laura Feit
Social Events
Irene Stewart
House
Don Chapin

HUMAN & SPIRITUAL

VALUES

DALE HALVERSON

Guests:

From the Milton Kiwanis Club we had Hank Dikkeboom, Nate Bruce and Bruce Curler.

Jim Leeser also joined us.

Ace of Hearts Drawing:

George Mark drew a non-Ace card, therefore the pot continues to grow. The total now is \$494.00.

Happy Dollars:

Both Merlin Kanter & David O'Leary gave happy dollars in memory of the life of Dr. Jack Damrow, who passed last week. He will be missed by many.

Program:

We had the very enjoyable opportunity to see a film with footage of Janesville in 1940. It is unfortunate if you missed this because it was a treat.

From the economy to the entertainment, Janesville was a very different place 67 years ago. GM and Parker Pen were the 2 largest employers and they accounted for 75% of the manufacturing.

The textile industry had a solid presence in Janesville, too; in fact, the Rock River Woolen Mills were the first business to make use of Janesville's natural water power.

The Monterey Hotel was a hot spot, serving drinks for 35 cents & the YMCA hosted dances after the high school games. Come Christmas, the town was decorated in grand fashion.

Words can not due justice to the beautiful film we saw, reminding us of a day gone by.

The above is what Tom Waller, our newsletter scribe this week had to say about our program. To fill the remaining space, we attempted to capture a couple of still photos from the movie, but technical problems prevented us from doing that.

So we turned to our friend Google, in hopes the Rock County Historical Society would have some stills. And that search lead us to a blog by Jim Lyke, who wrote and voiced the narration.

Here's an edited version of Jim's article. You can read the longer version here:
jimlyke.blogspot.com/2007_05_01_archive.html

“Janesville In Reelife” was shot by a traveling movie-making company, Reelife Films, toward the end of 1940. They went from town to town offering to shoot footage documenting everyday life in the community. Once a financial sponsor was found - in this case, it was The Janesville Daily Gazette - the crew got to work shooting everything from teen dances to Lions Club luncheons. The big attraction was that they shot with full color film, still a novelty in 1940. The crew shot their footage over the course of a week, took a day to edit it, and then premiered the finished product the following evening at the Jeffris Theatre downtown, which stood next to the Monterey Hotel. What happened to the film after that remains a mystery. It disappeared until several years ago an old reel turned up on a shelf somewhere and found its way into the hands of the Historical Society.

There are some things we still don't know. For example, the film had no titles or credits of any kind, and several of the scenes listed in the newspaper as being filmed are missing. It seems obvious that this footage was not the finished product. The speculation is that this is a reel of outtakes or perhaps specific scenes that were edited onto a different reel for unknown reasons

Where is the actual finished movie that was shown at the Jeffris in December 1940? We may never know. But at least we have this, and it was an honor to be asked to put the finishing touches on what I believe to be a pretty important piece of Janesville history.

Thanks to Tom Waller for taking the notes. Members having information for future newsletters can email editor@janesvillekiwanis.org.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

Janesville Kiwanis

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