

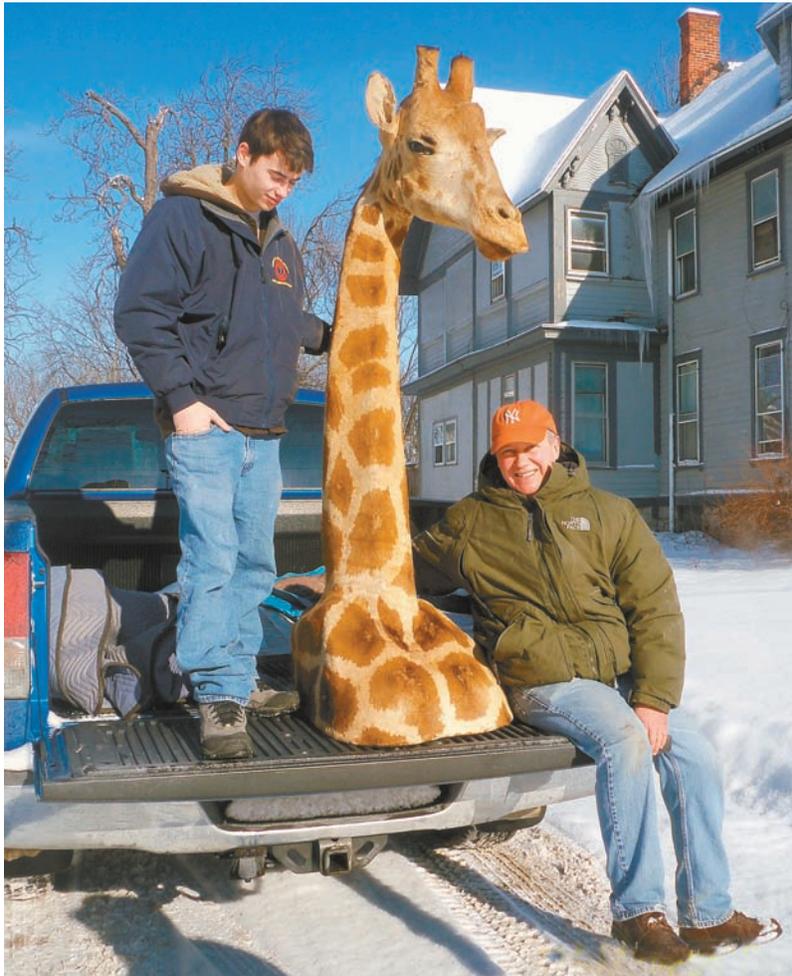
LeRoy Historical Society Membership Drive

by Lynne Belluscio

Our newest "member" doesn't have much to say. We're not too sure what committee he might be suited for. I do know he will be one of our house docents this next summer because he's part of our new exhibit "A Museums of Curiosities."

Last Wednesday I was in the McDonald's drive through and noticed Sam Pontillo shoveling snow. "Hey Sam, sorry about Pontillo's closing. Where am I going to get chicken wings for lunch? And what's going to happen with the giraffe?" "Everyone is asking about the giraffe!" "Would you consider giving him to the LeRoy House? I want to feature him in our summer exhibit." "I was thinking that he might go to the Historical Society. My wife doesn't want him on the wall at home. If he comes to the Historical Society my grand kids can come and visit and I can tell them about Pontillo's and the giraffe." "Great!! We can come down on Friday and move him."

Loren Wetzel and Bill Jones arrived at Pontillo's on Friday and Christopher was unbolted from his custom-made base. And so, Christopher had his own little parade in the back of my truck to LeRoy House and he will greet folks to the new exhibit. And then next year, he'll become part of the Jell-O exhibit, for after all, we all



know that giraffes love Jell-O.

The story about Pontillo's giraffe goes back a few years, when a circus came to town. The tent was set up where Rite Aide is now. Tragically the giraffe collapsed and died. Weegie Pratt told me that she went over and cradled his head as he died and she heard that some kids had fed it rhubarb leaves, not knowing that rhubarb leaves are poisonous. She also said that contrary to some stories, no one shot the

dying animal to put it out of its misery. But someone wanted to dig a hole and bury it on the spot, but that idea was nixed and Bill Scheg, who operates the taxi-dermy shop in Caledonia offered to take the body.

Christopher's trip down Main Street that night wasn't so glorious, with his legs sticking straight up and his neck and head draped over the cab. As Bill said, if someone was coming out of the Wiss that night, they might have

sworn off alcohol right then and there! So Bill mounted the head and neck and it was in his shop until Christopher came back to LeRoy and became a fixture in Pontillo's. Now he will call LeRoy House his home and we're glad to have him.

Not all of our new members get a ride to LeRoy House in the back of my truck, but if you are so inclined to become a member, we certainly will welcome you with enthusiasm and a couple of passes to the Jell-O Gallery for your friends and family and a discount coupon for the Museum shop. All our members also receive four newsletters each year with historical articles and members can visit the Museum any time for free.

Our membership committee just sent out 200 letters with membership information and if you didn't receive one, please use the membership form at the bottom of the page. As you can see, for \$20 you can receive all the benefits of a membership. You don't have to live in LeRoy, or your family didn't have to arrive by ox cart. But maybe your kids or grand kids have participated in our school programs. Maybe you enjoy reading all the *Pennysaver* articles and would like to show your support by using this membership form. Whatever the reason we could use your help.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make checks payable to the
"LeRoy Historical Society"

MAIL TO:
LeRoy Historical Society
23 East Main Street, PO Box 176
Le Roy, NY 14482-0176

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Jan. 1, 20 ____ - Dec. 31, 20 ____

- Family 30.00
- Individual or Sen. Cit..... 20.00
- Sustaining 50.00
- Supporting..... 100.00
- Life (Individual)..... 350.00
- Enclosed is an additional contribution of: _____

