



Autumn, 2009

NEWSLETTER

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Summer is a fading memory. We are no longer being treated to inviting scenes like this.

October looked as if the winter season was closing in, especially so when we had an inch or two of snow on the 16th.

But here it is, almost Thanksgiving and this has been a glorious month for local weather.



The challenging project that the Madison County Highway Department has undertaken in the hamlet of Erieville appears complete except for the finish coat of blacktop and that is being put off until spring.

The Erieville-Nelson Heritage Society held their annual Archives Day at the Town Office Building on October 17. This is a day when history buffs and those looking specifically for information about their own forbearers and how the area looked in earlier times, are invited to look at the collection of scrapbooks, old photos and mementoes that have been collected over the years.

Pictured is Fay Lyon, Town Historian. Fay is a descendent of one of the original settlers in the town of Nelson. The signature quilt in the background was made by a group of women who lived on Hardscrabble Road.





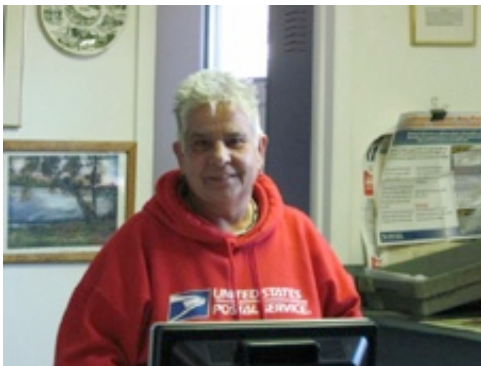
The thirteenth annual Town of Nelson Citizen of the Year celebration took place at the Erieville Firehouse on November 1st. Felicia Ramsey, of Sanderson Road, was the recipient of a congratulatory plaque honoring her life and work in the community. Felicia is an enthusiastic worker who helps to keep the church in Erieville viable. On her own, she provides meals for needy families in the area. She also regularly visits inmates at two prisons in an attempt to show them a more constructive

view of life. A woman of deep faith, she quietly attempts to spread it around. Felicia is not widely known outside her circle of friends in the church and those at the Burton St. School, where she works as a teacher's aide, and in presenting the award, Town Supervisor Dick Williams referred to her as a "hidden treasure." That she is. It is interesting that this ceremony was held on All Saint's Day.

The second 220 Club party of 2009 was held on October 17th at the firehouse. About 200 people



enjoyed a dinner that included both roast beef and turkey each with its own gravy. Real comfort food. Pictured are some of the diners and Fire Chief Dick Marris with his daughter, Emily.



Our postmistress Donna Marshall celebrated a milestone in her life recently. Donna has recently received a pin denoting 25 years of service in the US Postal System. For 18 of those years, she has been in charge of the office in Erieville in the Town of Nelson. Prior to joining the post office, Donna spent four years in the Navy as a Medic and is a college graduate.

She is an avid sportswoman; fishing, camping, and golfing in the summer and bowling and skiing in the winter. She also is a great fan of Syracuse University football and basketball and roots for the Buffalo Bills and the NY Yankees.

Raised in Clay, Donna has lived in Chittenango for the past 25 years. A favorite theme is framed in a picture in the post office, "A small town is like a big family."

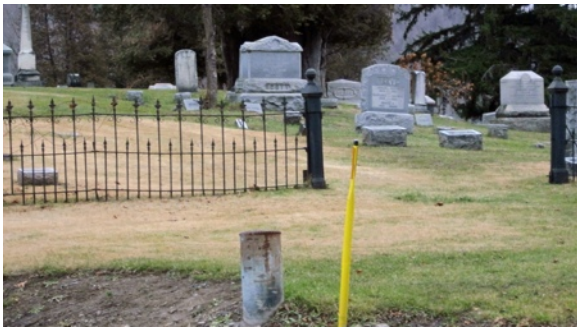


Jim Georges, a resident of Erieville and an avid researcher on the history of the railroad as it used to be here, shared his knowledge with the community group who meet once a month at the Erieville Firehouse, for



lunch. Jim, along with noted train researcher, John Taibe, author of many books on the subject, have co-authored a book called, A Ride Through the Countryside on the Syracuse and Chenango Valley Railroad. This is the branch that connected Syracuse and Earlville and passed through Erieville. It was disbanded in 1937.

At the third annual turkey and trimmings luncheon of the afore-mentioned group, Don Wnorowski, of Tuscarora Road in Erieville, shared his findings on the history of Erieville on November 18th. Don has lived in the area a brief 12 years and sharing his knowledge with a lot of people who have spent their entire lives here and have families that go back generations was a refreshing turnabout. Everybody learned something



And now a quiz... Does anyone know what the original intention of this structure that is on the southeast corner of Erieville and Tuscarora Road is? It appears to be made of concrete and is sheathed in metal.



A special occasion was celebrated on Saturday, November 21st at the firehouse. It was the eve of the 90th birthday of Celia Markowski. Yes, really! Celia would enter her 10th decade on the 22nd. The event was hosted by Celia's son, Peter Markowski and his wife, Nancy. The room, filled with well wishers, looked terrific dressed in an array of fall color. The food was superb. Celia commented, "I didn't know that I was going to live this long, but I'm glad I did." Your large community of family and friends are glad that you did too.

Celia has had the distinction of being the Town of Nelson, Citizen of the Year in 1999 and Madison County, Citizen of the Year in 2006. She continues with her very active role in both the local church and in this community.



Celia and Peter Markowski