

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

July 2017, Issue 261

Den Mower—North America Trip

A classic summer day – low 80s, dry, mostly sunny, interesting clouds – had entertained us before the evening’s program. Attendees included: Richard McAneny, Doris & Don Patterson, Den Mower, Judy & Dave Rundell,



Denali

Sue & Bill Von Atzingen, Ron Golden, Bob Shaw, Al Hulick, Maureen Sullivan, Diane Dunn, Kathy Smith, Mary Heisinger, Barbara D’Elia, Carol Spohler, Edna Huffman, Rachel Ceasar, Richard Ceasar, Audrey Matott, Bette Welter, Terez & Will Limer, Jack VerPlanck, Susan Cunningham, Hope Konecny, Debra Teator, Christine Mickelsen, Bob Uzilia, Don Teator, and the usual few who did not sign in and/or my memory cells are not recalling.

**Den Mower** of Jefferson Heights (Catskill) was our guest this evening. I had the pleasure last fall of listening to him recount his adven-

tures on an epic trip. With a little encouragement, Den agreed to share his experience sometime during our program season, and July was the chance. Although Den’s topic is not exactly Greenville local history, I find myself interested in journeys that people take, and if these trip-takers are friends, or neighbors, or locals, so much the better. Programs in our past have included Jackie and Jonas Havens (1996: nature, wildlife, scuba diving photography) and Walter Ingalls (2011: his



Canola field

1946 drive across America with parents, Uncle Merritt and Aunt Ruth), and Deb and I (2012: trip to France; 2015: trip to Italy). Feel free to connect me with other such trips.

The germination of this trip, Den says, came both from an earlier trip of his to Newfoundland in 2015 and also from a friend’s recounting of a trip to Alaska. He planned his trip in

detail to Calgary and then he would improvise.

Den returned home **101 days** after departing on July 17 last year, traveled over **18,000 miles**, and snapped over **13,000 photos**, garnering a multitude of memories that are imprinted in his brain and in his photo. Den shared his memories using 100 of those photos.



Waco longhorn

An early stage of his trip was to Herkimer, NY, a favorite place of his to mine Herkimer diamonds. From there, he headed to Bancroft, Ontario (Canada) and then westward along the southern sections of the provinces to the Canadian-Alaskan border of the Alcan Highway on August 1, several days at **Denali** (Mt. McKinley, for us old-timers), ten days in Homer, and leaving Alaska on September 5 (35 days in Alaska)

Some of the sights along the way included:

- Terry Fox statue in Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Canola fields in Manitoba
- Riding Mountain National Park, near Clear Lake, Manitoba
- Cypress Hill Interprovincial Park, between Saskatchewan and Alberta
- Banff, Alberta (lots of Banff)
- Lake Louise, Banff
- Two Jack Lake, Alberta



Grizzly

- Jasper, Alberta
- Bow Lake, Banff
- Dawson Creek, British Columbia
- Whitehorse, Yukon
- Valdez, Alaska
- Wrangell St. Elias National Park
- lots of wildlife, so far: bison, moose, lynx, grizzly bear, mountain goats, seal lions, black bears, caribous, pika, ground squirrels, magpies, ptarmigan (chicken), bald eagles, gulls, sea otters, coyotes, Waco longhorns, roadrunners
- pink salmon runs near Valdez
- Seward, Alaska
- Primrose, Alaska
- Portage, Alaska
- Denali, Alaska
- Northern Lights
- Wiseman Post Office, Alaska
- Fairbanks, Alaska
- North Pole, Alaska
- Seldovia, Alaska
- Lake Clark National Park, Alaska and Redoubt Lodge
- **Chicken, Alaska**
- Watson Lake, Alaska
- Thompson River, British Columbia
- Abbotsford, Washington, US
- Rialto Beach, Washington
- Olympic National Park, Washington
- Mt. Rainer National Park, Washington
- Montana

- Yellowstone
- Grand Tetons
- Nebraska and Colorado and Oklahoma and Texas (sister)
- and back home.

Of course, there are more junctions, sights, and memorable moments. Den did a worthy job paring down a list of almost endless talking points into our 75 minute time slot, and I have whittled that even further for this newsletter.



Chicken, Alaska

When asked, when thinking back on his trip, what insights or lessons stay with him, Den mentioned the one ingredient we have not mentioned yet – **people**. Every day were the casual encounters that filled each day while taking care of the usual chores of the day. Advice, recommendations, commiseration, wow moments, iffy moments (a caribou closer than the sweep of its antlers!), chit-chat were the social lubricants. But, being a modest photographer, Den did not photograph people.

Food took a couple forms. Den had brought along the non-perishable snacks but that got old fast, no matter how useful. So, some market shopping for fresh food complemented sit-down meals at some recommended stop, and a chance to talk about local details.

And did I mention lodging? Den's covered pick-up truck was his Hilton, a deed that many of us might not want to do.

As the program closed, Den showed a couple of his photos blown up to poster size, as well as a panoramic shot of one of the ranges. Of special note, he brought a copy of a **panoramic of the Catskill Escarpment** that he crafted as a fundraiser for the Cairo Historical Society, and are for sale. (check out Facebook – Cairo Historical Society) And he gave notice that the calendars he has produced from his collections of photos will be available for sale. Contact him at his email or phone or on Facebook. (email: denmena-gu@gmail.com or phone: 518 821-9410)

**Thank you, Den Mower**, for sharing a journey that shows the beauty of our continent. May there be at least another adventure like this awaiting you.



Banff reflection

### Notes:

A **thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine** for providing the light refreshments.

The Civil War Round Table for July has already passed but those attending heard Sylvia Hasenkopf discuss her findings about the black troops from Greene County who fought in the Civil War. Lots of details on a national



level, and personal insights on several from Greenville. I have a feeling this program is a start to more research.

**Our August 14 meeting is Moseying Down South Street.** I took time in June to photograph all the main structures from the four corners to the house under Carelas' hill, even though some consider South Street to end at the junction with Hill Street. Although I have some information about most of the houses, I hope to add to my store of knowledge at this meeting. Please share a story or memory about some place on South Street during the meeting, if you wish.

(Last year this time, Anita Stevens Sanctuary presented a personal account of South Street, with many of you attending witnessing local history at its best.)

The **September meeting**, unless something changes, is listed as canceled. (I will be sailing toward Copenhagen by what would have



Classic America—bison and steam vents

been our usual meeting time.) That “something” could anyone of you wanting to host the September meeting with a topic of your own. You have my blessings, and then some. Contact me if you are contemplating.



Canadian railroad

Last minute news: I read of Richard Ferriolo's passing. Richard leaves behind a local history legacy of printed work that few others have – GCS History, Greenville's Vets, recognizing Potter Hollow Schoolhouse. Thank you, Richard, for the memories and efforts and friendship.

I have included some of the photos Den showed in his slide show. Those of you getting the email version are seeing them in color.

Stay well,

