



The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

# eWheel

Your Rotary News  
Straight  
To Your Inbox

August 12, 2015

Talk about “stepping up to the plate”. That is exactly what Steve Smith, President Elect, did this Monday as Mike Kinney was not present at the meeting. Steve did a phenomenal job and showed us just what kind of a leader he will make for our club. Congratulations, Steve!

## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN’S CONNECTIONS TO THE R.M.S. TITANIC

Guest speaker Bob Myers is the curator of the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He holds an MA degree in history and has over 20 years of experience as a stage performer and director. He is also one of the most sought after speakers in southwest Michigan.

Myers’ presentation for the SJBH Rotary Club was a riveting program on the R.M.S. Titanic, and the connections the ship had to people in southwest Michigan.



The R.M.S. Titanic was designed by Thomas Andrews for the Harland & Wolff contractors in Belfast, Ireland. He was the managing director of Harland & Wolff and he was also the nephew of the principal owner.



*Drawing room of the Harland & Wolff offices.*

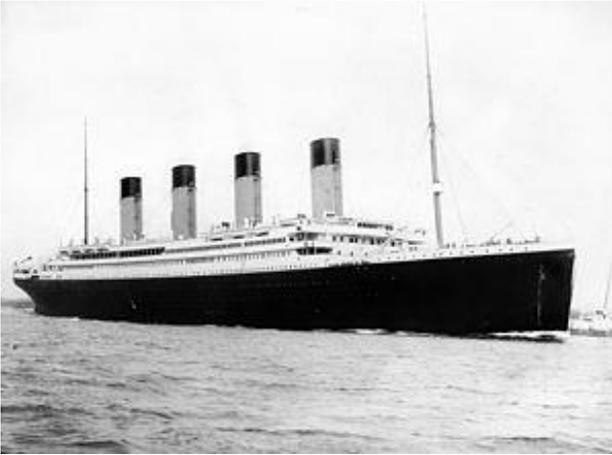
R.M.S. stood for Royal Mail Ship because it was a mail ship with a post office in a designated compartment on the G deck.

Having won the contract to build three ships for the White Star Line, they were instructed to build it like no other liner ..... extremely luxurious. Another shipping line had the fastest ships which traveled at 25-26 knots per hour. They were known for their luxury, but the Titanic was going to take luxury to a new level.

What few people knew, including the English, is that the White Star Line was actually owned by American J.P. Morgan of the J.P. Morgan International Mercantile. The British flag flew above the ship and the crew was almost entirely British. But no one knew it was American.

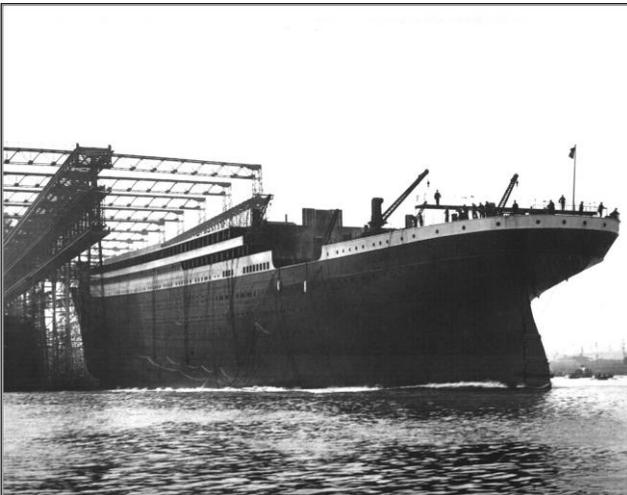
Andrews wanted the Titanic and her twin sister,

Olympia to be the “largest moving man-made object in the world.” The ship was so large that everything had to be put together with copper rivets, millions upon millions of them, keeping thousands of people in Belfast employed. Because the ships were so large they had to combine three slips into two in order to continue their work.



The Titanic was huge. It had two steam engines (port and starboard) generating 30,000 HP and it was the size of a four story house. The exhaust of engines were drawn into a turbine that added another 16,000 HP. Though the engines could be reversed, the turbine could not. This played a big role in the disaster.

On March 31, 1912 the Titanic was launched into the water. Once the ship was launched the interior work had been completed. The ship seemed to magically now have four stacks on top, instead of three because Andrews thought it looked better, aesthetically.



For first class passengers, the cost of a room for a six-day cruise was \$3000/person. And it was opulent. There were parlor suites, a French restaurant, a first class menu of roasted squab or duckling or filet mignon. There were Turkish baths, a floating hotel, gymnasiums with rowing machines and a mechanical camel.



The Grand Staircase

Second class cost to sail was \$1200/person/6 days. The real money made on a steamship was in 3<sup>rd</sup> class. In steerage, the passengers were crammed in with immigrants. But, even in 3<sup>rd</sup> class, the food was the best they probably had ever had..... roast beef and potatoes, carrots, corn and salad.



3<sup>rd</sup> class passengers settling in on the steerage deck ... usually the bottom deck of the ship.

Sea trials took place on April 2, 1912. The Titanic took on an additional 900+ passengers in Southampton, and then she went to France to pick up more immigrants, and then to Ireland to Queenstown. The ship was so large that smaller ships had to bring the travelers to the boat. Later that day they headed out into the ocean.

There had been many warnings of icebergs. The Titanic steamed directly into an ice field. Captain Smith steered further south, but still into an ice field.

The night of the disaster, there were a series of events: 1) the waters were dead calm, not even a ripple could be seen. This was unusual for the North Atlantic. Frederick Feen, stationed in the crow's-nest, sees the iceberg and calls down to the desk. Murdoch orders hard starboard. He was trying to steer the bow of the Titanic back to port and bring the sternum of the ship the opposite way (called porting).

As said before, the Titanic was not a nimble ship. She was slow on the turn. Going around the berg, it struck the berg a glancing blow to the starside. A smear of paint was seen along the side of the berg.

The impact of the ice buckled the plates and opened up an area about the size of a front door on your house. That was enough. It was designed to handle any four watertight compartments filled or any two adjacent compartments. But not five. And there were five.

The ship was designed with a worst case scenario for a ship. Because the ships designer, Andrews, was on board they got him to take a look at things. Within minutes, Andrews informed them that the ship was going to sink ..... quickly. This information paralyzed Cpt. Smith and he was unable to make any decisions. His 2<sup>nd</sup> in command immediately had the radio operator send out a distress signal at 12:15 a.m.

Thirteen miles north and a bit west was the Carpathian, a Cunder Lines ship. The marconi operator had retired early that night and so did not get the message that the Titanic was in trouble. In fact, there were fireworks appearing to go off at the Titanic, and many of the ships crew on the Carpathia were admiring the fireworks display. They had no idea this was an SOS. They literally watched as the Titanic sank. Another ship, the Californian reacted immediately, but they were so far out of the way that they could not get there in time.

While life boats were being filled, many of the first boats held less than a third of the passengers the boat was able to hold. It was discovered there were not enough lifeboats for everyone to get on, even though legally, they met the requirements of the law. The ship's orchestra came out on the deck and began to play music as the crowds grew tense. They were trying to calm them down with music. The last song passengers heard as they were going down with the ship was "Nearer My God To Thee."

Loss of life was especially heavy in 3<sup>rd</sup> class, particularly when the boat rolled hard on the surface. Many were flipped from the ship into the freezing 30 degree temperature and died within three minutes from the cold or from a heart attack. Others were still within the bough of the ship and drowned as it went down.

There was a court inquiry into the deaths by a Michigan judge from Dowagiac. What crew was left of the Titanic were subpoenaed. One of the things discovered was the state of anarchy in the warning system. The International Ice Patrol was begun immediately, and it still runs today.

Loss of life sometimes helps to prevent more loss of life. None of it is easy. And that is the story of the most opulent and largest manmade object in the water .... The R.M.S. TITANIC.

Got to Page 6 to read short stories of some of the people on the Titanic that fateful day, some of whom were from Michigan.

## JOKE OF THE WEEK

While walking down the street one day a “Berrien County Judge” is tragically hit by a truck and dies. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance. “Welcome to heaven,” says St. Peter. “Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a Judge around these parts, you see, so we are not sure what to do with you.”

“No problem, just let me in,” says the Judge. “Well, I’d like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we will do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity.” “Really, I have made up my mind. I want to be in heaven,” says the Judge. “I’m sorry, but we have our rules.”

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other attorneys and judges who had worked with him. Everyone is happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of others. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne. Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly and nice guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises.....

The elevator goes up, up and up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him. “Now it is time to visit heaven.” So, 24 hours pass with the Judge joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and before he realizes it, St. Peter returns.

“Well, then, you’ve spent the day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity.” The Judge

reflects for a minute, then he answers: “Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.” So, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down and down to hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he’s in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all of his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above. The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder.

“I don’t understand,” stammers the judge. “Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse and we ate lobster, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there is just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?”

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, “Yesterday, we were campaigning. Today, we voted.”

## ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS



Debra Trapikas brought Bruno Trapikas and Exchange Student Serra Lutzen

Barney Whittier brought his lovely wife of 55 years

Jackie Huie brought Corey and Linzey from Johnson-Rauhoff

Matt Hanley brought **Ricky Plangger**

Don’t forget to go online to dacDb and update your information. Also, make sure you fill out the forms on the tables for corrected information in our Membership Directory. If by chance you have forgotten your username or password, you can contact Debra Trapikas and she will provide you the information.

## 2015-16 Board of Directors

Mike McKinney, President  
Clay McCausland, President-Elect  
Steve Smith, President Nominee  
Bob Peirce, Secretary  
Steve Ross, Treasurer  
Maria Kibler, Past President  
Gyl Kasewurm, Director, Membership Chair  
Mary Spiegel, Director, Int'l Service Chair  
J.C. Anderson, Director  
Dwight Bowman, Director  
Gary Bruce, Director  
Wendy Edwards, Director  
Charles Jespersen, Director  
Lori Marciniak, Director  
Debra Trapikas, Director

## 2015-16 Committees

Club Service, Patti Kutz  
Sgt. At Arms, Mike Ahern  
Invocation, Dave Kirshenbaum  
Programs, Steve Smith  
50/50 Raffle, Rick Villa  
Music, Dennis Bowen/Allen Westmaas  
Community Service,  
SJBH Rotary Foundation, Jackie Huie  
Foundation Investments, Mike Cook  
Bell Ringing, Sean Ebbert  
Park Cleanup, Rick Villa  
Rural Ag Day, Art Cotter  
Law Day, Steve Smith  
Rotary Showcase, Emily Hosinski  
Vocational Service  
Track Meet, Randy Bettich  
Track Scholarship, Dennis Bowen  
Student Program, Jackie Huie  
RYLA, Lori Marciniak  
Youth Exchange,  
Essay Contest, Patti Kutz  
International Service, Mary Spiegel  
Bio-Sand Water Filter, Charles Jespersen  
RI Foundation, Tom Chapman  
Membership, Gyl Kasewurm  
Orientation, Lynn Kellogg/Christine  
Vanlandingham  
Diversity, Dwight Bowman  
New Member Mentoring

Communications: Debra Trapikas  
E-Wheel, Debra Trapikas and Emily Hosinski  
Directory, Chris Newland  
Photography, Erin Bradford  
Webmaster, Debra Trapikas

## FUTURE MEETINGS

August 17, Katie Montoya, Berrien County Land Bank  
Authority

August 24 John Proos, Legislative Update

August 31 Harlan Zick, Therapeutic Equestrian  
Center

September 7 – NO MEETING

## FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

ON the last Thursday of each month, a Board of  
Directors meeting is held at the Area Agency on  
Aging, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

## Serra Lutzen Leaves

## Friday for Poland

We will miss Serra at our meetings, but she will keep  
in touch monthly by sending us updates from Poland.  
Good luck, Serra!

## ICEBERGS

A short tutorial on Icebergs to satisfy your curiosity!  
Icebergs are pieces of ice that formed on land and float  
in an ocean or lake. Icebergs come in all shapes and  
sizes from ice-cube sized chunks to ice islands the size  
of a small country. The term “iceberg” refers to chunks  
of ice larger than 16 feet across. The North Atlantic  
and the cold waters surrounding Antarctica are home for  
most of the icebergs on Earth.

Icebergs are formed when chunks of ice calve, or break  
off from glaciers, ice shelves or a larger iceberg.  
Icebergs pose a danger to ships traversing the North  
Atlantic and the waters around Antarctica. After the  
Titanic sank, the United States and twelve other  
countries formed the International Ice Patrol (IIP) to  
warn ships of icebergs in the North American Atlantic.

The IIP uses airplanes and radars to track icebergs that float into major shipping lanes. Satellite images are also used.

## PEOPLE ABOARD THE R.M.S. TITANIC



The Unsinkable Molly Brown, was with the party of 47 year old John Jacob Aster and his 18 year old wife. Molly Brown, born Margaret Tobin. Margaret grew up in a cottage just blocks from the Mississippi River, and attended the grammar school run by her aunt, Mary O'Leary. As a teenager she worked stripping tobacco leaves at Garth's Tobacco Company in Hannibal. She married James Joseph Brown, a miner in 1886 and he devised a timber-and-hay bale method to hold back the dolomite sand that had prevented them from reaching the gold at the lower depths of the mine. This invention brought new money to the couple and they became quite rich.

Molly was a lifelong advocate of human rights and was one of the first women in the United States to run for political office. She ran for the Senate eight years before women even had the right to vote. She helped many people aboard the Titanic and the Carpathian and she won the hearts of many people because of her graciousness. We don't have the time or the space to tell you more, but perhaps you might visit the library to find out more about this truly fascinating woman.

Benjamin Guggenheim and his mistress French singer Leontine Aubart were also aboard. Guggenheim was of Jewish ethnicity from Philadelphia PA. He was married to Florette Seligman and had three daughters, but he grew distant from his wife and built a home in Paris, France, where he lived most of the time.

Ira Straus, the co-owner of Macy's Department Store and his wife, Rosalie, died on board the Titanic. Ida tried to get Rosalie on to a boat, but she refused because he would not board while there were women and children still on board. Rosalie was overheard to say to her husband, "We have lived together many years. Where you go, I go." Rosalie and Ida were last seen standing arm in arm on the deck. Ida's body was never found.



Dickinson Bishop was a wealthy young widower whose first wife had willed him a major share in the Round Oak Stove Company in Dowagiac, MI. He married Helen Walton of a well-to-do family from Sturgis, MI. They were returning from a four-month honeymoon trip to Egypt, Italy, France and Algiers, delaying their departure so they could return on the new Titanic. They were rescued in lifeboat #7. Ironically, Dickinson and Helen divorced in 1916. Helen died on March 14, 1916 and Dickinson remarried on March 14, 1916. The article announcing her death was front page news of the Dowagiac Daily News. The marriage of Dickinson to his third wife, Sydney Boyce of Chicago appeared on the very same page.

Nellie Becker and three of her children were returning from a missionary trip from India because her son Richard had fallen ill. They were headed to Benton Harbor for treatment. Her husband would join them the following year. 12 year old Ruth had become separated from her family when her mother had her go back to the cabin to get blankets. The family was able to board a lifeboat but Ruth was not allowed on. Her mother screamed at her to get on one and one of the crew threw her into lifeboat #13. The family survived, but there is a much greater story about Ruth and her family. Will you be following up?