

Greece travel program draws a crowd

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LAPEER — Al Eicher was joined by a crowd of 50 people at the Marguerite deAngeli Branch Library Monday night for a special presentation on travel in Greece and the Mediterranean that included photos and video and the beautiful and historic region.

Eicher, a world traveler and historian, gave the presentation based on a 17-day trip he took in March and April of 2006. "This is as close as you can get to actually taking the trip," Eicher said of the presentation. Hundreds of photos and hours of high-definition video were edited down to an hour and a half presentation covering the Greek mainland, the island and an ancient city in Turkey.

The presentation started with a brief description of Greece for everyone in attendance, giving background information on both ancient and modern Greece, its culture and traditions.

Eicher's trip started in the country's capitol, Athens

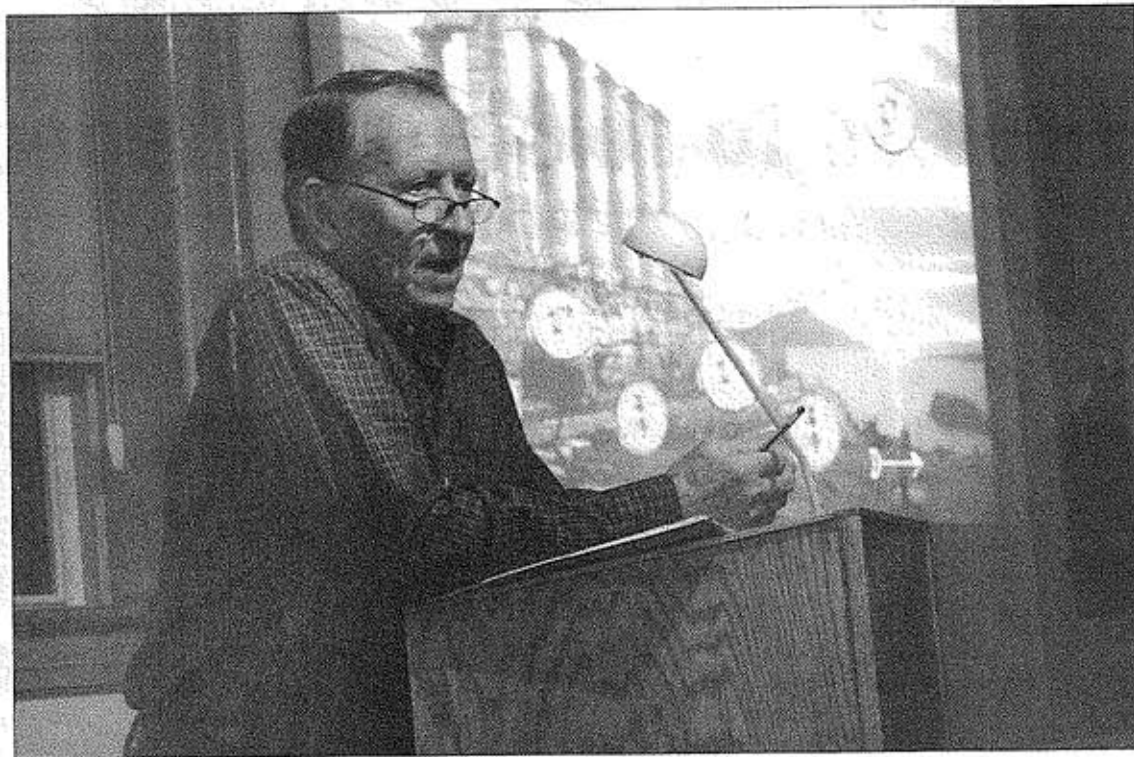


Photo by Jacob Hunsanger

Al Eicher talks to guests at the library about travel in Greece.

where Eicher filmed portions of the city, museums and archeological landmarks like the Parthenon. From there, the presentation showed the tem-

ple of Poseidon at Sounion, located an hour away from Athens.

Guests at the library program Monday night also saw

video and photos from a handful of Greece's many islands, including Crete, with the palace of Minos and the Labyrinth, and the volcanic

island of Santorini.

There were also a number of biblical references in the program, as Greece is rich in early church history. Those included the ancient city of Ephesus in modern-day Turkey where the apostle Paul visited and to whom he wrote the New Testament epistle Ephesians, along with the island of Patmos where the apostle John was exiled.

Eicher also showed video of and talked about the beautiful monasteries at Meteora, built atop tall egg-shaped spires of rock and the large ancient amphitheater at Epidauros.

For those interested in sports, Eicher showed video of the modern Olympic stadium in Athens. He also visited three of the four locations of the ancient Panhellenic games at Olympia, Corinth and Delphi, missing only Nemea.

Following the presentation, Eicher answered questions both about the trip and about travel in general. The library staff said they were excited to host the program on Greece and were pleased with the large turnout.