

Aug; 20, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

Continuing with last week's article concerning the World's Exposition Fair held in Chicago in 1893. Advancements displayed at this Fair were amazements to the average fair goer, many of which we can perhaps laugh about today – but put yourself back in time to realize the inception of many of these things. As a commissioner representing PA, Col. Bruce Ricketts was sworn into the position in Mar. of 1892 for a salary of \$150/month, plus traveling expenses on specific exhibits being formulated for the 1893 Expo. Fair.

This fair was to see the very first Ferris wheel. And, the first demonstration of a zipper! Motion pictures were introduced. A lady named Little Egypt doing her hootchy-lootch on display for all to see for the first time was rather not warmly received by all. Other firsts were Cracker-Jack popcorn, the hamburger, saccharine (sugar substitute) and concrete. Electricity on a large-scale usage first demonstrated but due to a few fires in electrical devices, the Underwriters Laboratories was founded for future safety of its use for and by the public.

Col. Ricketts was most involved in the committee for machinery. The building this was housed in for the Fair was the largest on the grounds, 846 feet long by 492 feet wide; larger than the Capitol building in Washington, at that time (1893). Totaling almost 18 acres, you would have needed the guide catalogue provided to find your way around this particular exhibit. The Westinghouse Electrical Manufacturing Company had one of the largest exhibits on the grounds at the Fair. A power plant which was two to three times larger than that of the one actually supplying Chicago itself, at the time, took fifteen engines to run sixteen generators supplying all the electricity for to light and maintain the entire Fair grounds. Machinery Hall had one piece which particularly interested the Col., and that was the mechanisms for the transmission of electrical power. This advance, he later took back to Ganoga Lake to utilize the modernization of facilities there. The Col.'s same action was taken

by many people across our fledgling nation which eventually led to our present day cooperatives and power companies.

It's sometimes difficult for us to comprehend what it was like in times past. I mean, think about it: a hamburger?! A zipper?! Cement?! And even though today we take these things for granted – can you imagine life without them? And, here we're only talking about new things for the year 1893! I'm afraid that as much as I'd like to step back in time, it would only be for the experience – I wouldn't necessarily want to stay there – would you?

PREMIUM LIST
— OF THE —
SULLIVAN COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.
— — — — —
ANNUAL EXHIBITION
ON THE SOCIETY'S GROUNDS KNOWN AS
HUCKEL'S GROVE,
— AT —
FORKSVILLE, PA.
OCTOBER 6th, 7th & 8th, 1886.
— — — — —
OFFICERS.
PRESIDENT—John W. Rogers.
SECRETARIES—J. K. Bird, Recording Secretary; E. A. Strong, Corresponding Secretary.
TREASURER—M. A. Rogers.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—Lyman Baker, Geo. C. Jackson, M. H. Sayman, John J. Low, John J. Webster.
— — — — —
Class A—Horses.

	PREMIUMS.	
	1st	2nd
Clydesdales.		
Best thoroughbred stallion.....	\$5 00	2 50
Norman Percheron.		
Best thoroughbred stallion.....	5 00	2 50
Native and Graded.		
Stallion four years old and over.....	5 00	2 50
Stallion under four years.....	2 00	1 00
Single horse or mare.....	2 00	1 00
Matched span of horses or mares raised in county.....	3 00	1 50
Mare and colt.....	2 00	1 00
Three-year-old colt.....	2 00	1 00
Two-year-old colt.....	1 00	50
One-year-old colt.....	1 00	50
Span of farm horses raised in co.....	3 00	1 50

Sup't—CHAS. NYE.

Class B—Cattle.
Short-Horn Thoroughbreds.
Bull two years old and over.....5 00 2 00
Bull one year old and under two.....2 00 1 00
Bull calf.....1 00 50
Cow.....3 00 1 00
Devons, Ayrshire, Alderneys, Holsteins, Polled, each same prize as Short Horns.
Sup't—WM. COLLINS.
Class B—Cattle. [Continued.]
Grade and Native.
Cross same as native or graded.