



July 10, 2019

Ganoga Lake with James and Dennis Lane, early 1900s

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

This last installment from articles written in 1892 for the newspaper The Wilkes-Barre Telephone, were transcribed from one man's journey into Sullivan County. From last week, he is at Seeman's Tavern heading for

Lopez.

"We go on, the next day, to Lopez, the thriving young metropolis of this region, but time and space fail this week. [This was his last sentence on last week's issue.]

"This enterprising town is in Sullivan County, twenty miles northwest of Shickshinny, twelve miles by rail to Dushore, and thirty-two miles by rail to Towanda.

"Seeman's, on the east bank of the Big Loyalsock, where we stayed all night, is two miles from Lopez, and about half way between these places, is A. Lewis & Co.'s saw mill. We stopped at the mill and found Mr. William Geuss, formerly of White Haven, in charge of the mill. The George Transue was fireman in charge of the boilers. Mr. Levi Houser was fireman and night watchman, and Mr. Harvey Newman was stable-boss. Mr. William Isaacs of Kunkle, was met here as bookkeeper, and his brother Joh, was visiting him.

"This is a large good mill and capable of doing considerable work. Going along the wagon road we cross a small stream of water, which we find as pure, and cold as we ever drank. The sand and pebbles over which it ran glistened like silver.

"Now, at last the houses of Lopez are seen through the trees, and we hear the humm of the kindling wood factory and the buzz, and roar of Jennings Bros' big saw mill. The place contains about 120 dwellings, two large general stores, two hotels, a harness-makers shop, a watch-makers shop, a church not yet completed, a butcher shop, a barber shop and a billiard room.

"The place is but a very few years old, and is situated on hilly ground. The streets are winding and rough and rocks and stumps still abound, but there are at least a few pleasant houses with smooth door-yards and gardens.

"The waters of Loyalsock and Lopez Creeks unite just below the station and near the Hotel Lopez. The Loyalsock Creek divides the place, and the fine residences and large store of C.H. and B.H. Jennings, and their saw mill and numerous tenement houses, comprise nearly half the place.

"Where the station and Hotel Lopez stand, is a little flat land.

“We, Percy and I, put up at the Lopez hotel and were well cared for. This hotel does quite a business and we were courteously treated by proprietors, Messrs. Deegan & Farrell, and by the clerk, Mr. James P. McGee. At the hotel we met Mr. Fred Newell, editor of the “Sullivan Review,” of Dushore, who pleasantly escorted us through Jennings Bros’. great saw mill and introduced us to some pleasant people.”

The hiking traveler does go on to Trexler & Turrell’s mill but turns there for a return journey to Fairmont Centre and his home territory. These articles, each entitled “Here and There” do not indicate who the author was, let alone whether Percy is a dog, a cat or a person. But, the writer does give you a glimpse into travel modes of the past that we today would not necessarily consider.

For this and more, you can visit YOUR museum on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. located in Laporte, on Courthouse Square behind the Courthouse. Contact phone us by phone at 570-946-5020 or email at museum@scpahistory.com Also, visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.