



Sept. 2, 2020

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

Recently a homeowner in Laporte brought in a Republican News Item newspaper from July 28, 1915 that was discovered underneath a floor they'd been renovating. For being 105 years old it did show its age but was for the most part intact.

News then was reported locally, nationally and internationally. But one item on the front page caught our fancy. This poem could be about any spot in Sullivan County but was written by Lycurgus L. Ford of Mokoma place on July 22, 1915.

“Laporte, that crowns the mountain top,
Is just the place for you to stop
To spend you summer days and weeks;
For here is what the weary seeks,
 The mountain air,
 Free everywhere.

The wildwood gives its fernny grace,
The wild birds sing in many a place,
The wild flowers blossom by the way,
And the rainbow tints oft close the day;
 Here beauties tell
 That all is well.

Within the valley here is seen
Mokoma Lake with shores of green,
That gives delights to those that swim,
And where the sail we also trim;
 The fish will bite
 If the bait is right.

And here the birds still come to mate
From early morn till twilight late;
And here their songs ring out with cheer
That tells of joy without a fear.

‘Tis here you’ll find
 All nature kind.

And here there is for your good health
The mountain air’s abounding wealth.
Just come and breathe with fragrant fern
The restful life we all may learn.

 We have it here
 With nature near.

Laporte, that crowns the mountain top,
Invites you to her trysting spot

To see and know that it is true
That here fair nature helps to do
What most you need
Now take good heed."

This piece promotes something we all take for granted, the beautiful peace within our mountains and the valleys among them.

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