



Aug. 12, 2020

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

An interesting booklet comes in the form of the Osborne Farm Annual of 1913. The inside cover reads as follows:

“The outside cover [featured with this article] of the Osborne Farm Annual depicts a mingling of the old and the new.

“Greek and Roman mythology was so intimately

connected with the work of the greatest poets, and through the poets with the life of the people, that it formed a vital part of the life of ancient Greece and Rome.

“The central idea of the cover is Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture, coming through a gate from a harvest field. The gate represents the Osborne line of haying, harvesting, and tillage machines, thus poetically depicting the modern methods of farming with the ancient goddess. The look of contentment on her face and the sheaf of wheat in her arm indicate the satisfaction which this ancient goddess displays in modern farm machinery. This picture points out further that there is after all a great deal of poetry in the modern way of farming.”

It seems a little hard to imagine poetry in conjunction with the hard work of farming but the parent company, International Harvester, was in fact trying to sell farm equipment. On their page one they've a mission statement, of sorts that states:

“Farmers can enjoy life better than any other class of people. However, the pursuit of wealth engrosses the attention of most of us to such an extent that we forget the pleasures which we could enjoy if we would but take advantage of our surroundings.

“Each member of the household can do numberless little things to help make life more comfortable and happy for the whole family.

“The Osborne Farm Annual is a reminder that life is best lived while we are passing through it. It contains information that suggests practical improvements to the farmer – ideas for amusement for girls and boys so that long winter evenings can be happily spent, - and household hints that the good, practical housewife appreciates.”

So, for many weeks and months to come, we will be closing these articles or at least giving a nod to the International Harvester company and their Osborne Farm Annual with sayings such as: A bee doesn't say much, but he carries his point. Or, Attempt to please everybody, and you please nobody.

Contact us for an appointment by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com And visit our website at www.scpahistory.com and see us on Facebook.