



July 23, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

One of the most frequently made comments from visitors to this museum is "I didn't know you had so much!" They tend to roam around the rooms within the buildings on the complex and are anxious to see each one as they move through. At some point, they are told that this organization is 100% volunteer and that becomes even more of a marvel. That and the fact that well over 90 some percent of the all contents is gifted – another marvel. And perhaps to someone

coming from a far more populated area it would seem out of the ordinary. In cities where events and memberships and even the money to create their displays are on a much larger scale, we must appear a little different. But, that doesn't mean that we can't pack a wallop with the amount of Sullivan County history held here for visitors to enjoy.

Okay, so having said all that, gifting to this, the Sullivan County Historical Society's museum, isn't always tangible nor need it be an artifact per say. In fact the chairs given by Ed Cranmer were simply a hobby that he wished to donate to share his love of wood. They are unusual in that unlike an Adirondack, you don't sink down into and have trouble getting yourself up out of: they are quite comfortable. Then above them, because they sit at the entrance from the Memorial Brick sidewalk, is the two pieces of old courthouse wrought iron fencing and between them is two petunias donated by Bob Mann of Gold Forest Nursery to simply spruce up our main entrance on Meylert St.

Then you have folks like Charles (and Gloria) Wittig and his friend Clark Proctor who worked on the engine in the barn. It was in need of some TLC by folks who know about such things and these two definitely knew how to treat it with the respect and care it needed. They'd overhauled it last year and this summer it got a glitch in it and lo and behold, Charles returned the day after we called to get it back up and running!

We have so many volunteers who do so much. It's like those behind the scenes features on a movie film but in this case few are documented, nor will you ever know the person whose responsible – just that the end result. So if you've the time and inclination, come see YOUR museum, as it belongs to all of us.