

VOL. 31 NO. 29

SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.
DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK

JULY 18, 2023

Passport to History Month

By Michael Ortoski

SLATE BELT - Passport to History Month is a celebration of the places, stories, and community that bring local history to life. 35+ historic sites in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding counties invited the public to step back in time with free admission, activities, and programs for visitors of all ages this past weekend.

Locally the Slate Belt Heritage Center offered a view of refreshed exhibits that feature local communities from the early Lenape to 21st-century people that worked in the slate, textile, and garment industries. Event goers enjoyed a special exhibition, Centuries of Service: A Salute to Slate Belt Service Clubs, Dutch oven cooking, and self-guided walking tours.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm held their 60th Anniversary Celebration, Music in the Valley event featuring folk instruments and traditional music of the 19th century. The event was held under tents for the rain or shine event, the day ended with a jam session.

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52nd Antique Gas Engine and Tractor Show

By Michael Ortoski

JACKTOWN - Hosted by Blue Mt. Gas & Steam Engine Assn., the Antique Gas Engine and Tractor Show celebrated their 52nd anniversary over the three day event. The second event put on by the group this year after missing both in 2019 because of COVID19.

Billed as the 'Friendly Show in the Grove' their was something for all ages. Admission, parking and entertainment are always FREE for their two annual events.

On display were many different small gas engines working to show how it was done in the past, pumping, running saw blades and other things off of a belt drive. As part of the entertainment of 5 different bands there were three different tractor pulls; antique, garden and kid's pedal.

There were demonstrations every day from american saw-mill, butcher shop and print shop in the steam shed to farm equipment display at the Farm Musuem.

For everyones enjoyment a trolly was pulled by an antique tractor that took riders around the complex. Another vintage ride was the Blue Mt. Railroad. This scaled down replica from trains of the day took riders on a quater mile loop twice, built by D. Dieter from Cherryville, Pa. he also made the train tracks with all the sinage.

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Restoring
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