Day Tripping - July 2023

This month, we are traveling to two small towns north of here. One is Tunkhannock and the the other is Nicholson. They both have interesting histories and have had many changes in their past.

First Tunkhannock, which is a borough in Wyoming County about 31 miles northwest of Wilkes-Barre. It is in the Endless Mountains of NEPA along the Northern Branch of the Susquehanna River. Bald Eagles are commonly seen along the river and nests have been spotted. Tunkannock once was supported totally by the lumbering industry, today most residents are employed by Procter & Gamble. The business street (East Tioga) of the town has shrunk as many small towns have, however the architecture is still interesting to see. At one time Tunkhannock was known for its airing of the quits. The owner of a quilt shop in the town started the tradition to give back to her community a warm welcome that they had given her. The free outdoor quilt show was held for many years in October, but unfortunately ended in 2014.

One of my favorite places to visit in Tunkhannock is Creekside Gardens. The owners met as horticulture students and have grown their business over the years. They have a Cabin gift shop with a unique selection of earthy treasures, featuring small businesses in PA. The garden center has perennials, annuals, miniature gardens , water garden and a kid's garden. For more info see: https://creeksidegardens.com/

A great place to eat while in Tunkhannock is Twigs Restaurant & cafe. It is located right on the main street of town. Also on East Tioga Street is the Art Deco architecture, Dietrich Theater. It was built in 1937 complete with deluxe sound system and air conditioning. In the 80's, a group of volunteers decided to bring the theater back to life and it now offers movies, educational programs, arts classes and community events. There are many other activities and businesses to visit in and around Tunkhannock. For more info see https://www.tunkhannockbusiness.com/

The other town to visit is Nicholson in Wyoming County, started in 1875. It is best know for its local landmark, the Tunkhannock Viaduct or Nicholson Bridge, the largest reinforced concrete bridge in the world. it was completed in 1915 and built by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. The Nicholson Tourism Center will have a grand opening on July 8 of this year in the Historic DL&W Railroad Station. The station was purchased by the historic association in 2012 and has been going through a complete renovation with donations. The landmark is much as it was 170 years ago, except renovated. For more information about this see: https://www.nicholsonheritage.org/station/

For a nice drive you could take the Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway. This is State Route 92 and travels from Tuckhannock northward for 37.3 miles to Lanesboro in Susquehanna County. It provides access to 2 railroad viaducts, the Starrucca Viaduct and the Tunkhannock Viaduct. . The byway highlights the Endless Mountains, both natural and man-made beauty. It features historic villages, farmlands, and quarries. This would be a great trip any time of the year, however the fall foliage may be one of the best times to visit. For more information see: https://www.nicholsonheritage.org/byway/ (Nicholson, PA flyer taken from this website.)