

Sully – A Model Community for Iowa!

Exactly one year ago I shared the story about a trip to Northeast Iowa and the travel experience through Delaware County. The drive took us through the rolling hills of a strikingly beautiful countryside – not unlike portions of Bavaria in Europe. Almost every farm, farm site and community was clean, well maintained and “picture postcard” attractive.

At the time it seemed that the phrase “Neat and Tidy” surely must have originated in Delaware County. The lawns, roadways and buildings showed a high degree of respect and pride by the owners. The communities were well manicured and each with an attractive new entry sign. It soon became a challenge for us to find the “unattractive or ugly side of the equation”. We never found it.

Recently – on another trip to plan the route for a vintage vehicle tour called “MotorIoway” our travels took us to Sully, Iowa. Sully was a breakfast pit stop on the MotorIoway 500 vintage car tour (May 31 – June 1 – 3). The phrase “Neat and Tidy” could also have originated in Sully. As a community it is in effective competition with Delaware County.

Sully is a community of about 900 people. The entryways to the town are clean and attractive, the homes well painted and cared for and everything well maintained. Once in town the small town square becomes the center of your attention. It is beautiful and active containing a park like square, the community center, post office, restaurant and several other occupied buildings. On the corner of the square sits a restored “Deep Rock” gas station complete with pumps. It is attractively landscaped by a very active garden club.



Restored “Deep Rock” Station – Sully, Iowa

The people we met take great pride in the town and the “quality of life” that they enjoy. We talked at some length about how it is that the community is so clean and attractive. One of those local people said it well “Everybody puts in a nickel’s worth of effort and pretty soon it becomes a dollar”.

That phrase reflects what makes a small community vibrant and healthy. It is not simply one person or one organization – it is everyone acting as a responsible community member with great pride and respect for their home town. What a simple and wonderful lesson for communities around the State.

See you in the next column (or maybe Sully).

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See you in the next column.

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