



The New Southern Tier Welcome Center Features The History Center's Artifact in Its Exhibit Space

Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced the opening of a new state-of-the-art rest area facility on Interstate 81 North just two miles north of the Pennsylvania state line. The new Southern Tier Welcome Center "will provide a service to travelers from as far south as Tennessee, heading north to destinations as far as Canada, and we want to make sure those travelers stop here and check out all that New York has to offer," said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul," during the recent ribbon-cutting.

According to a press release, "The Welcome Center, last renovated in 1995, is now a larger, more modern facility, complete with a new seating area for up to 60 people, electric car charging stations, a "canoe regatta"-themed play area for children, a motorcycle shelter, a Southern Tier Walk of Fame, video and selfie walls, a gallery of regional artifacts, a pet comfort area, and a life-sized I LOVE NEW YORK sculpture. The designs and exhibits, ranging from a race car in the entrance, provided by Watkins Glen International, a hanging glass sculpture on loan from the Corning Museum of Glass to the carousel-themed seating area, highlight the beauty and variety of Southern Tier attractions."

The History Center is proud to be one of the museums contributing to the gallery of regional artifacts. Our L.C. Smith typewriter, pictured here, dates from the early 20th century. The L.C. Smith Brothers Typewriter Company of Syracuse was founded in 1903 and merged with Corona Typewriter Company of Groton, forming the Smith Corona Typewriter Company. As many as 1600 workers were employed at the Groton plant in the 1920s, and the company prospered for many years. Unfortunately the Depression badly decreased sales and later the company re-located to Cortland.

We're delighted that this interesting piece of Tompkins County's industrial history is featured in the new Southern Tier Welcome Center.

Photo Caption: L.C. Smith & Bros. Typewriter