

'Ad'k Attic 5' brings the park and its people to life

By **ANDY BATES**
Weekender Editor

If you're like me, Andy Flynn's "Adirondack Attic" column is one of the things you look forward to reading every Friday in the Enterprise, or every Thursday if you are me.

As the person who lays out Flynn's column, I get an early crack at it, and it's not a bad perk to the features desk here. Sure, it's become a bit routine pulling his headshot on the page, but there's always a new treasure in the attic each week to keep things new.

For five years, Flynn has been combing the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake's trove of treasures and giving us the little snippets of life here in the Adirondacks and why it's such a unique place to live, work, play and read about.

Recently, Flynn self-published his fifth volume of his "Adirondack Attic" stories, so if you're holding onto faded, yellow newspaper clippings, go ahead and toss them.

It's a remarkable collection taken as a whole — both the artifacts he uncovers and the body of writings themselves — and there's a signature style to Flynn's work that helps bring these items, and the people who used them, into readers' living rooms every week.

His research is meticulous, but the prose doesn't get bogged down because of it, which can often be the case with topics such as these. Despite not being his own stories, Flynn makes them his own, in a way. A lot of times,

New York State's Mountain Heritage



Adirondack Attic 5

Adirondack Museum artifacts tell stories about life in the East's greatest wilderness, New York's Adirondack Park.



Andy Flynn

I find myself reading them in a way that recalls campfire tales.

It would be easy to assume by looking at the titles of the stories, or even the title of the book itself, that these are stories dedicated to painting a picture of the past, and, to some degree, that assumption would be just. However, Flynn rarely takes a look at the past without turning his eye and pen toward the present.

Whether it's looking at how the lumber industry has changed over the past century through a particular artifact, or even a plastic cup from the Great Escape amusement park, Flynn's stories tell us something about ourselves as well as our ancestors, whether he means to or not.

Look for Flynn's "Adirondack Attic 5" in local bookstores, or visit www.hungrybearpublishing.com for more information.