



Pictured above is an artist rendering of what the new Freedom Tower will look like when it is completed in early 2013. The new buildings will surround the “footprints” of the original World Trade Center and the home of the new 9-11 Memorial which includes the largest man made waterfall in the world.

Courtesy of the World Trade Center Memorial.

Opp native's view on 9-11 tragedy

SEAN SELLERS

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Ten years ago in a matter of minutes, the site became known around the world as Ground Zero, a term given in the intense hours following the attacks as the center of an emergency became something new to talk about. Today, it is more than just a bustling construction area. The actual footprints of the Twin Towers, now cleansing pools of moving water and trees, are a most welcomed sight providing a new sense of pride and slowly changing the subject into a more positive conversation. There is progress in lower Manhattan.

The One World Trade Center Tower is finally surpassing surrounding buildings and in the sunshine, it begins to cast its shadow, taking its place on the New York skyline. Even with the gruesome history of the location, watching the buildings reach new heights gives some sense of relief. Pride and excitement can now become feelings that we ex-



press because we watched in solemn faith for the 10 years that have passed.

I have long wondered what it must have been like for New Yorkers in 1930 during the Great Depression witnessing the race to the sky as first, the 40 Wall Street and then the Chrysler Buildings surpassed the height of the Eiffel Tower. In a matter of months, the Empire State Building became the tallest building in the world opening May 1, 1931. The mixture of emotions, the bleakness of the stagnant economy, and the motion of daily life combined with the excitement of the progress on the buildings and changed the way people looked at the city, maybe becoming a preoccupying distraction, giving evidence

of a recovery.

The correlation eerily similar as we see the new tower filling the void even as we remember the devastation and destruction and still toppled buildings, the ones I referred to on that day in 2001 when I wrote “the two sentries keeping watch over the harbor are gone.”

On this 2011 September anniversary, the 9/11 Memorial will open and with it ushers in a new era on the grounds of the World Trade Center. There is a lot of work yet to be done; however, now finally there is something new in the conversation.

The museum at the base of the soon to be tallest building in New York will open to the public September 12, people can visit and pay their respects bringing new life along with some semblance of peace to the place where we can honor the lost, console the living, and never forget.

Sellers is an Opp native, but lives and operates a business in New York City.