

Chester Co. farmers prepare agricultural documentary for Bicentennial observance

By Dieter Krieg
THORNDALE - A group of Chester County farmers has been working diligently since last Spring to harvest a commodity which can't be eaten and which they hope will be around for a long time.

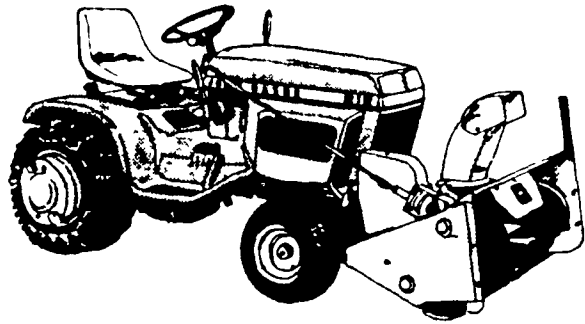
The farmers, many of them retired, have formed a Rural Heritage Committee, a branch of the Chester County Bicentennial Commission, and their objective

is to record what American agriculture has been all about. Ever since spring field work began last March, the group has photographed present-day methods of tilling and planting, and arranged for antique machinery to pull away from the dust and cobwebs and into the limelight.

While most of their machines do not date back 200 years - or even 100 - the Committee's objective is to



Ted Dunn, a retired farmer from Downingtown, sits on an old corn binder he and several other Chester County antique farm machinery buffs used in making a photo-documentary of agriculture. Marshall Jones of Westtown is pulling a team of mules and a wagon around the corner. The project is being undertaken by the Rural Heritage Committee, as a part of the Bicentennial Celebration.



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prepare a documentary which will depict farming methods in their past and present forms. Taking care of the photography work is Roland Woodward, who also conceived the project and has the largest collection of antique farm machinery in the County. The script for the documentary will be written later by a commercial firm.

When Lancaster Farming visited William Johnson's farm, near here, where the group was meeting to photograph antique corn binders at work, the operation was best with a few of the same kind of problems which confronted farmers of yesteryear. Among their difficulties was a broken tongue on one of the corn binders - not planned for, of course, but it became a part of the show; for what is farming without breakdowns?

Several men walked along the rows of corn, tearing the ears from the stalks, husking them, and then tossing the crop into a wagon dating

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