

Lancaster County once had 400 mills



The Brownstown Mill, on the Conestoga River, as it appeared in 1924. Paes has been calling the Conestoga a "river" for all of his life, a designation

which it didn't officially receive until just a few years ago.

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - Fifty years ago Chester Paes was told to "either leave the farm or push daisies."

The young man was having difficulties with his back, an ailment which had the potential to kill him, according to doctors. So

Paes left the former Henry B. Esbshade farm near Eden and went to work in town for the Hamilton Watch Company.

But he couldn't get the country out of himself and so his interest in agriculture remained. A hobby developed as a result of the illness and in the oncoming years Paes photographed and documented nearly all of the mills which stood in Lancaster County. His collection encompasses 375 mills, 200 of which he was able to record on film. Paes, now 83 and retired in Lancaster, did more than just take notes and pictures of the old mills which were in Lancaster County and fringe areas. He's likely one of very few men who'll be able to unhesitatingly tell his visitor that Lancaster County has 18 streams running through it which are large enough to support a water-powered grist mill.

Furthermore, Paes has other historical information, ranging from the old bridges across the Susquehanna to farm prices 100 years ago. Oats sold for 44-48 cents per bushel in Baltimore 101 years ago, for example. In September of 1875, flour sold in Philadelphia's export trade for \$5.25 to \$5.75 per

barrel. Old red wheat that Fall was listed at \$1.48 to \$1.50 per bushel; new red wheat ranged from \$1.35 to \$1.90. A bushel of corn was worth about 82 cents. Oats could be purchased for 60 cents per bushel and rye was anywhere from 90 to 93 cents.

Paes' unusual hobby emerged as a result of his once having lived next door to Umble's Mill near Eden. Owner Chris J. Umble, since deceased, assisted the young man with his research on mills, as Paes claims he didn't know anything about mills. But they fascinated him and he wanted to learn all he could.

The octogenarian noted that even in the early days it was required by law that a potential mill owner apply for a permit before he constructed his mill. But,

according to Paes, there might as well not have been any such regulation - it was merely a formality and permits were always granted.

Paes traced the development of the mills through their various power stages - first came the undershot wheel, then the overshot, and finally the side-driven turbine. The overshot wheel had more power than the undershot version, but it also required more investment on the part of the miller. He needed a dam, as well as a head and tail race. When the turbine arrived, millers had to use a more sophisticated configuration of gears and

shafts than what they had used before. But the result was greater efficiency and more power, and in an age of growing agricultural production and demands, more power and efficiency is what the "game" was all about. It's a trend which is as true today as it was then.

Another similarity between then and now is bad credit, said Paes, whose eyes sparkle with delight from behind his glasses whenever he talks about his favorite interests. "Some fellows would run their bills up to several hundred dollars and not pay," said Paes in a concerned tone of voice.

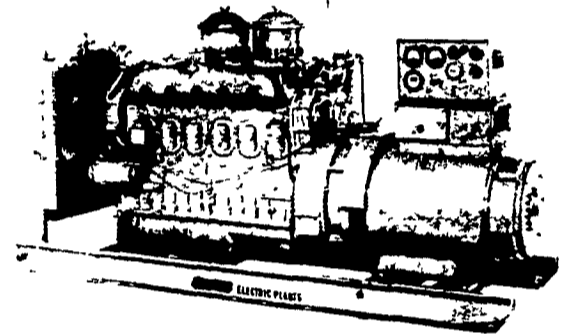
[Continued on Page 96]

Electric Generating Systems

Built to Your Specifications

Manual or Automatic

L. P. Gas - Diesel - Gasoline



— USED —

25 KW 31.2 KVA Gen. Set, P&H 2 cyl. dsl., 1200 RPM, 1 ph., skid \$2500.

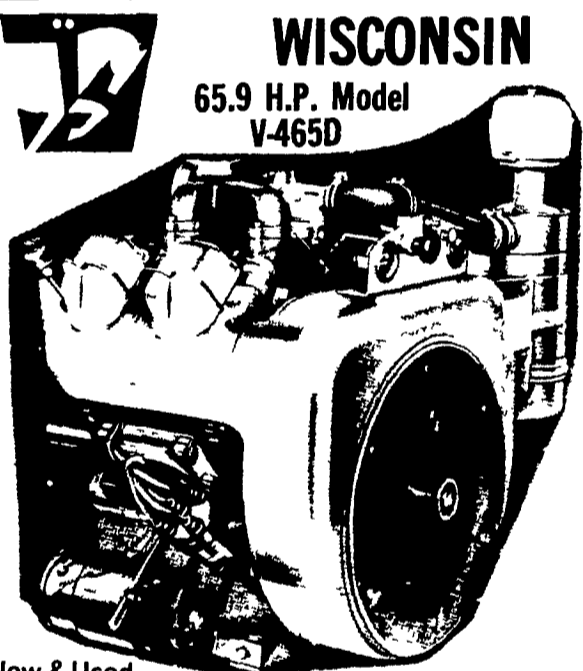
30 KW 37.5 KVA Gen Set, IH 4 cyl. Dsl., 1200 RPM, 3 ph., skid \$1500.

Sales - Service

Martin Electric Plants

Isaac W. Martin, Owner

Pleasant Valley Rd., RD2
Ephrata, PA (717) 733-7968



WISCONSIN

65.9 H.P. Model
V-465D

New & Used

Available in 3 Models:
with Clutch, with 4-1 Clutch Reduction and Standard

Authorized Service Center

FISHER ENGINE SERVICE

Amos L. Fisher
3141 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505

ELMER M. SHREINER
FARM & GARDEN
SUPPLIES

pennfield feeds

Animal Health Products

ORTHO PRODUCTS

RD2, NEW PROVIDENCE, PA

Authorized Dealer -
Mopro Liquid Supplement

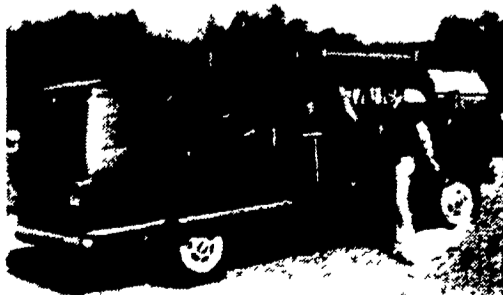
LET US HELP PLAN YOUR FEEDING PROGRAM

"20 YEARS OF
OUTSTANDING SERVICE"

CALL TODAY - (717) 786 2500
"SERVICE IS OUR GREATEST ASSET"

THE SIGN OF
QUALITY

YOUR FULL SERVICE DEALER



Route Service Available
Salesman John Breckbill

WE'RE SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS



NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR NEW IDEA MODEL 206
GROUND DRIVE SPREADERS FOR FALL DELIVERY

Hurry!! Get Your Order In Now! Supply Limited.

SALES AND SERVICE



A. L. HERR & BRO.

Quarryville, Pa. 17566
Ph. 717-786-3521

After 5 P.M.
Call Dave Trout,
717-786-2920