

York Countians

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Gene Brenneman checks the ground corn meal pulverized between two millstones in his vintage Hellam-made grinder, the oldest of its type that he's ever found in his years of collecting.

manning exhibits throughout the display, "one engine was just a beginning. Later, he acquired a two-horse New Holland engine, operating a cob crusher, an item used by farmers to turn waste cobs into livestock bedding.

Retired as an electrician from Yorktowne Kitchens, 75-year-old Dellinger spends a good deal of time tinkering with the engines at his Red Lion home. He says he remembers using this type of equipment when he was a boy, growing up on the family farm near Mt. Pisgah, today the Sam Lewis State Park.

Others with similar memories, and a younger generation seeking ties with their past, are helping to create a scarcity of the prized collector machines.

"They're getting hard to find," Dellinger laments. "People are

hanging on to them."

Still another effect of the hobby resurgence in old farmstead hardware is escalating prices.

According to Dellinger, it's not uncommon for a "good working machine" to bring well over a thousand dollars for a small gas engine, while some extremely scarce items may bring two or three times that figure.

Dellinger, the Brennemans, and some 125 other members of the Steam Engine Society keep the past alive with their annual Steam-O-Rama convention, held just north of Stewartstown.

While seeking new and younger converts to steam and gas engine hobbyism, the collectors are planning, full steam ahead, for their silver anniversary, July 15 through 18, 1982, at the Steam-O-Rama exhibit grounds.

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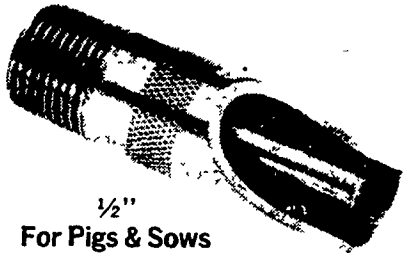
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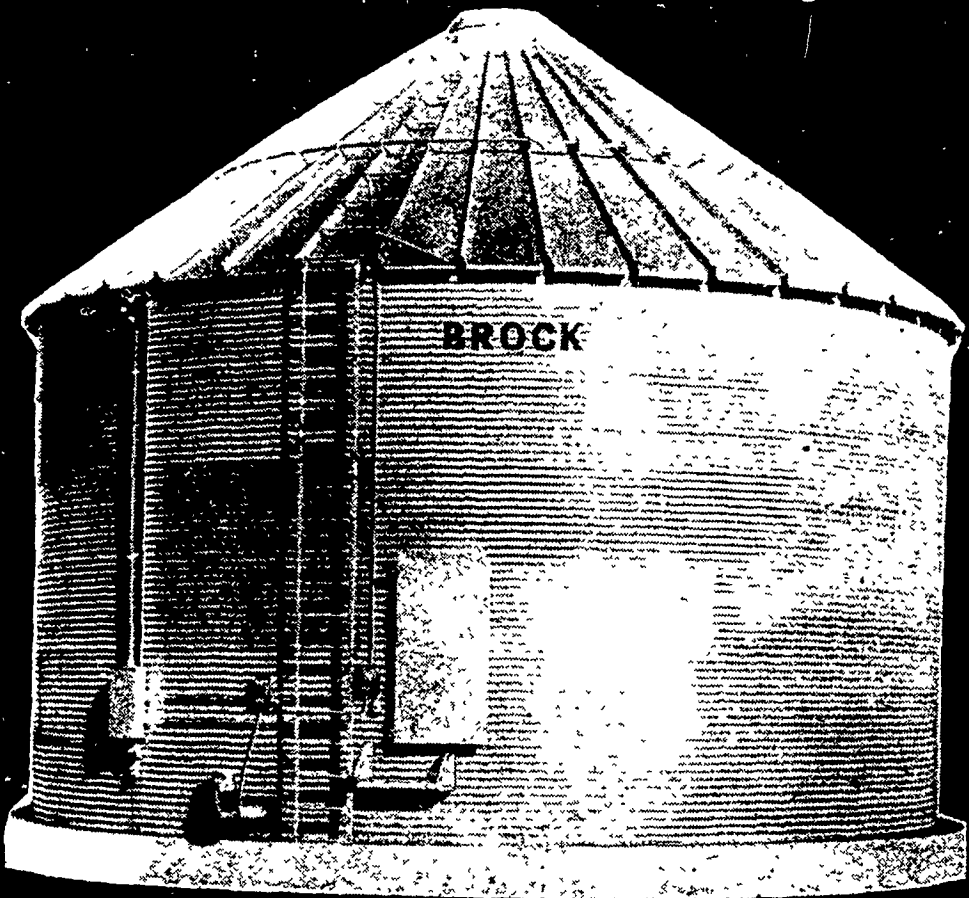
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