

# Gruber Wagon Works

(Continued from Page D12)

Preserved through the care and concern of many people, the wagons and the wagon works will

continue to serve as a reminder of the pride, hardwork, and determination founded by a simple way

of life in a country where a man like Franklin Gruber could build an empire out of a wagon shed



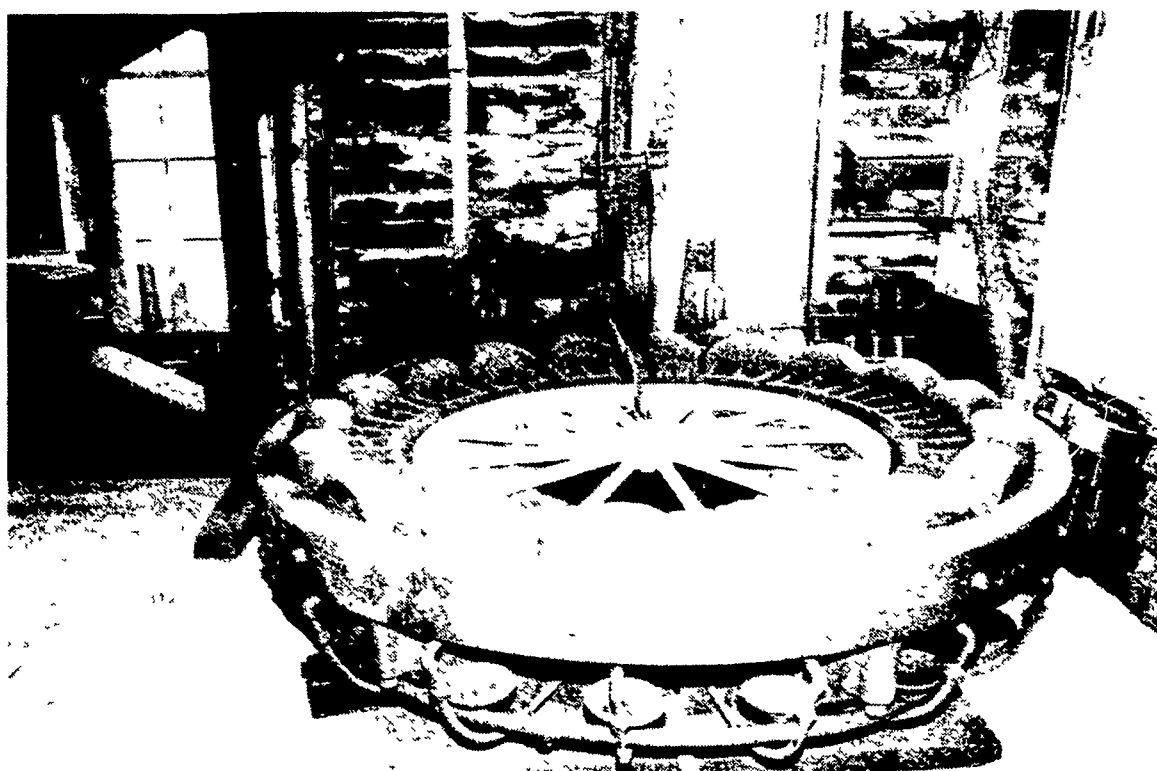
With a tug on the lever, John shows how this Gruber-designed machine called a spoke tenon would peel one side of a plain piece of wood

into a tapered spoke in just 10 seconds. Each spoke would be cut the same since the tenon used a completed spoke as a pattern.



With tools that appear to be resting on work benches until wagon makers return from lunch, the Gruber Wagon Works looks like it could easily go back into full-scale production

tomorrow. Here grandson John demonstrates how a "felloe", or outer wheel rim, would be attached to the hub and spokes.



With the addition of the West tire shrinker, the wagon works switched from hot to cold ironing of the wheel tires. Before, the iron tires

had to be heated to extreme temperatures so the metal could expand and be hammered over the wooden felloe.

## Celebrate Gruber's 100th birthday

READING — The Gruber Wagon Works is celebrating its 100th birthday this year and to help make this a special occasion the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a Centennial Celebration next Sunday, May 16.

This special day will be filled with activities that would make any wagon maker abandon his iron at the forge. Even though the wheelright's hammer no longer rings inside the Gruber Wagon Works, the factory will watch over the festivities that will go on from 12 noon until 6 p.m. at the Berks County Heritage Center, located off Rt. 183 near the Reading Airport.

Along with its doors being open for brief tours, visitors helping to celebrate the Gruber Wagon Work's birthday will find exhibits and demonstrations of horse-drawn vehicles and related crafts.

Vehicles that will be on display include a butcher wagon and a dump wagon restored by Grubers from the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles, an ice wagon, a phaeton, a Bronson wagon, a sidebar buggy, a Conestoga wagon, and more than a half dozen Gruber wagons.

Paul Waltermeyer of Windward Farms, Manheim, will demonstrate plowing, hitching and

driving using Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rule's team of Belgians. Lancaster's Robert Good will hitch his six mules to a replica Conestoga wagon, and Jacob Mays of Lebanon will drive his Paints proving that light horses aren't necessarily outweighed by the drafts in field performance.

While these demonstrations take place on a grassy field, members of the Red Rose Horse and Pony Club will hitch up their teams for a 4-mile drive along the Union Canal towpath, located on the Heritage Center grounds.

Berks County craftsmen Ron and Cindy Kunkle will be on hand to demonstrate horseshoeing and their special craft of upholstering carriages and hand-stitching patent-covered dashes and fenders. The owners of Cin-Ron Carriage Shop, Centreport, will also display their collection of carriage lamps, bells, lap robes, foot-warmers, and assorted tools and carriages.

For anyone who develops an appetite during all the festivities, local Granges will be serving up refreshments throughout the day.

Regardless of whether you're a carriage enthusiast or just a person who wants to witness history first-hand, next Sunday will definitely be a Centennial Celebration you don't want to miss. And it's all free.

## Ag Census '82 plans on schedule

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Plans for the 1982 Census of Agriculture are on schedule according to Bruce Chapman, director of the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The census, to be taken starting next January, will provide basic information measuring the trends in number of farms, commodity production, land use, and income levels in agriculture.

Chapman indicated that the rapid changes occurring in agriculture due to the declining farm income situation, along with continuing high interest rates, makes the information from the agriculture census extremely important to the nation's policymakers as well as farmers themselves. Chapman points out that complete and accurate responses by farmers will ensure a high quality picture of the agriculture industry to everyone's benefit.

Census forms will be mailed out in late December to 25 million farmers and ranchers to collect data for the 1982 calendar year. Designed to reduce the burden on respondents through greater ease in reporting, the census form will vary by region, and questions have been reworded to be more understandable.

While the basic census program is included in the proposed 1983 budget, the agriculture censuses of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, a large-scale sample survey supplemental to the basic census, and a series of later surveys were dropped. These deletions were among other

changes in bureau programs resulting from budget reductions, according to Chapman.

The report form for the 1982 Census of Agriculture which already has been tested with several thousand farmers, has been updated from that used for the 1978 census. Several items have been dropped and several added to meet current data needs. For example, a question asking for expenditures for interest has been added. Bureau officials point out that regional versions of the form for 1982 will simplify the completion of the report.

Much of the data gathered next year will be similar to that in 1978 and earlier censuses. It will include the number and characteristics of farms, acres in farms, average value of land and buildings, harvested acreages, and numbers of livestock on farms. Questions on expenditures include purchase of feed, fertilizer, pesticides, lime, gasoline, and other farm fuels, customwork, farm labor, and livestock and poultry purchases.

Information reported by farm and ranch operators is held confidential by law. Data from the reports are seen only by sworn Census Bureau employees who are subject to fine and imprisonment if revealing any individual information. Published reports contain numbers only to prevent identification of single farms.

Chapman pointed out that the confidentiality provisions of the census law just recently were reaffirmed by a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court.