

Antique wagons and buggies to pull Centerport into 2nd century

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

CENTERPORT — There is a tiny town in the heart of Berks County that boasts it's 100th anniversary this year.

Located between Leesport and Hamburg, about 20 minutes north of Reading, is Centerport. With one of the smallest populations in the state, (just over 200), Centerport is rallying all of the local craftsmen, firemen, horsemen, and just plain nostalgia lovers into organizing a Centennial celebration that will be many times larger than its size.

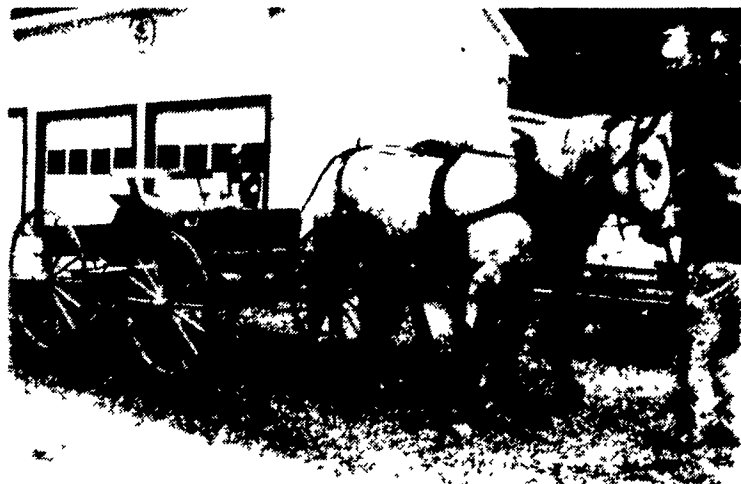
Next Saturday, May 19, is when the grand celebration is scheduled

to take place. With events scheduled throughout the year and a centennial ball already held, next Saturday will be the climax of the celebration.

A parade featuring over 20 teams of horses and ponies, plus fire-engines and antique vehicles is scheduled for 1 p.m. However, the town will be filled throughout the day with local craftsmen demonstrating their century-old crafts. The crafts will be assembled in the center of town starting at 9 a.m.

Crafts that will be featured include: Bradley Rahn, Shoemakersville, building muzzle

loading guns; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Henne, Mohrsville, recaneing chairs; Bonnie Carin, Bernville, demonstrating her spinning wheel; John Kreider, Centerport, fancy Pennsylvania Dutch painting of wagons and chairs; Sherry Phillips, Centerport, demonstrating wood-burning designs on guns; Charles DeBoeser, Centerport, making grandfather clock cases; Morgan Reinbold, Oley, silversmith; Edward Leshner, Leesport, wood carving; Rita Spatz, Centerport, will be shoeing horses; Roderick Sutliff, Mohrsville, will be shearing sheep; and there will be a large display of



Spring wagon is another of the antique horse-drawn vehicles in collection of Mervin Moyer, Leesport.



Mervin Moyer, Leesport, is shown with rebuilt Schwab delivery wagon he'll be displaying in Centerport Centennial parade in Berks County next Saturday. Wagon dates back to the later 1890's and comes out of Lebanon County.

antique cars, motorcycles, horse drawn vehicles, and Reber, Gruber, and Schwab wagons for everyone to browse around.

The parade will include over 40 units with many of them appearing in antique costume. They will march through the town and conclude at the Central Berks Fire Company where refreshments will be available.

Now mostly a residential town, Centerport saw much industry in its early years. A book about the history of the town is being compiled by Mr. and Mrs. Milt Blatt, Mohrsville, and will be available by special order from them.

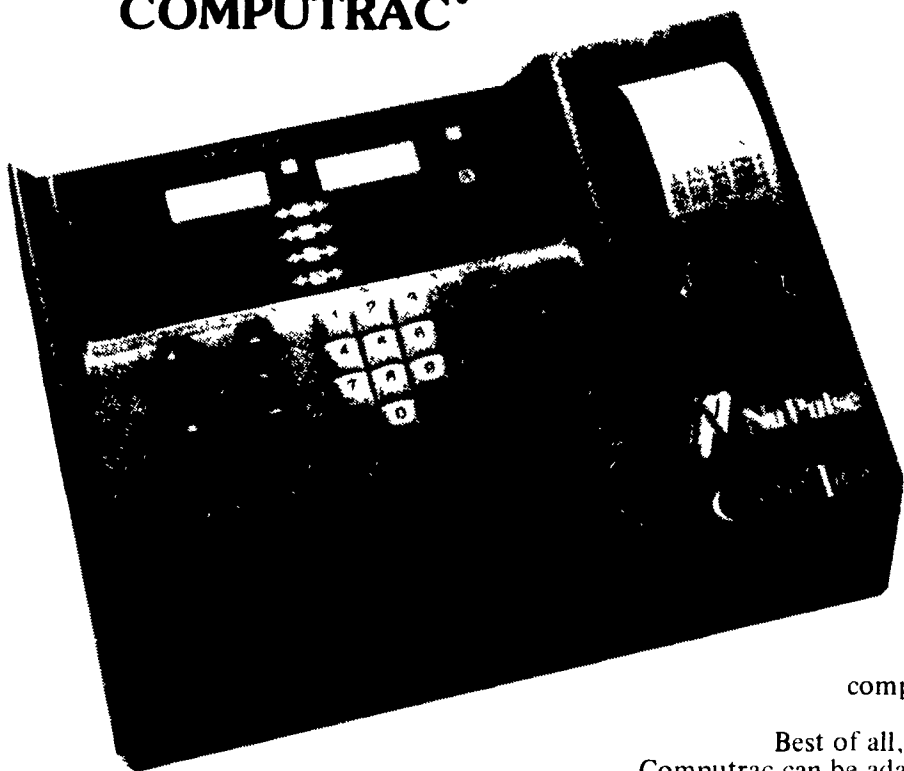
Centerport has resisted several attempts by individuals and organizations in the past to combine the borough with Centre Township for added advantages to both citizenships. But, because

they wanted to keep the identity of the borough intact, the older residents of the town have stopped as many changes in the town as they were able. Now, the pace of the town is even slower than the hub-bub experienced a century ago when the town was host to several blacksmith businesses, several factories and feed mills, and several restaurants and tavern.

Today, the town, without public sewage and water, experiences problems with some residential overcrowding in its small areas. However, it still boasts some of the buildings and businesses that were there a century ago.

For a modern view of the past, the Centerport Centennial Committee invites everyone next Saturday to an old-fashioned celebration of 100 years of existence.

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