

# 2 centuries to be turned back at Hay Creek Valley

SEPTEMBER 7, 8 and 9

## HAY CREEK VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL

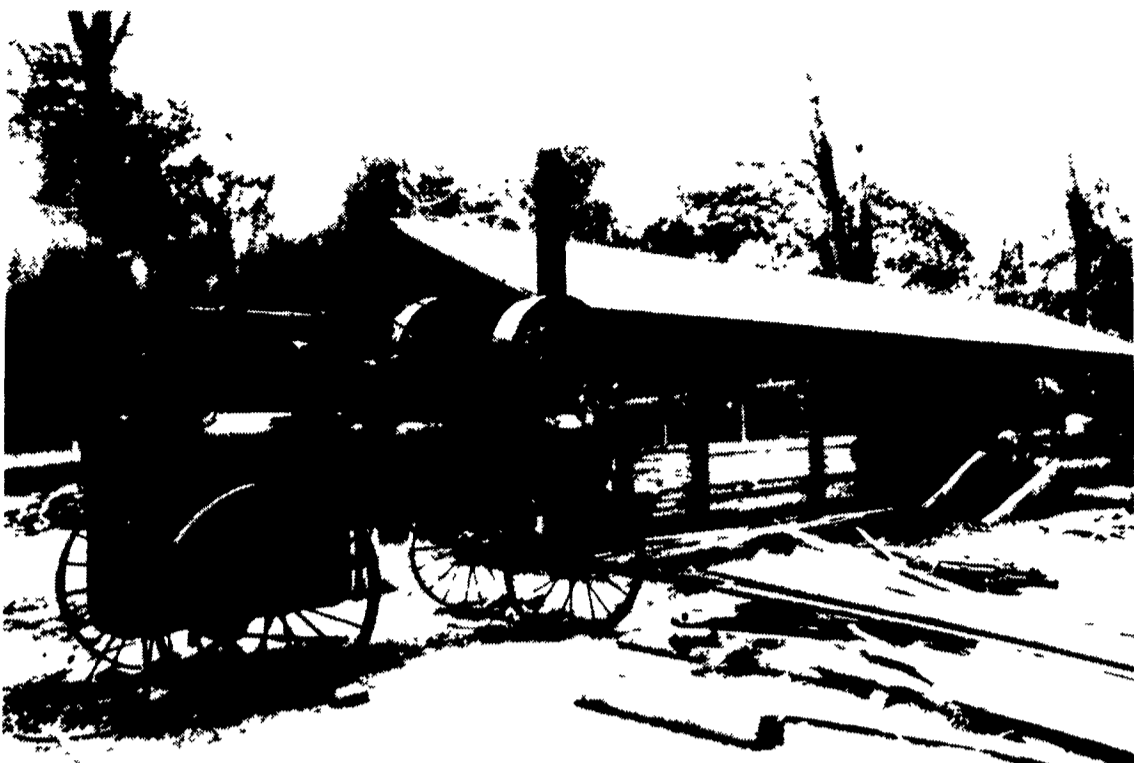
Main festival events all 3 days, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Admission \$2.00, under 12 free, free parking



*Our 200 years  
of memories  
are worth sharing*



Weavers and spinners will be among the craftsmen demonstrating oldtime endeavors of the Early-American family at the Hay Creek Valley Fall Festival on Sept. 7-9 at Joanna Furnace near Morgantown.



This 1905 "portable" steam engine will run the saw mill at the Hay Creek Valley Festival. A number of steam engines and more than 200 turn-of-the-century gas engines will be on display.

MORGANTOWN — The lifestyle of the Joanna Furnace Iron Plantation throughout the past 200 years will be recreated at the annual Hay Creek Valley Fall Festival Sept. 7, 8 and 9. Each day of the festival, the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association will display a glimpse of the good life as it was in an early American iron plantation.

The festival is held at Historic Joanna Furnace near Reading. The furnace is located 3½ miles north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Morgantown interchange on PA Rt. 10. The main festival activities and demonstrations run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. all three days.

Joanna Furnace consists of the remnants of a major iron-making community in southern Berks County. The furnace operated for 104 years, from 1793 to 1897. At its peak, Joanna employed 168 workmen in addition to providing for over 1350 dependent farmers, butchers, grist mill operators and others nearby. At the height of its operation, Historic Joanna Furnace used 5000 cords of hardwood from its 6000 acres of woodland and produced 2200 tons of castings per year.

The furnace complex is owned by the Hay Creek Valley group. It was formerly part of the Grace Mine property until Bethlehem Mines Corporation donated the 25 acre tract to the association.

In 1983 about 50,000 visitors came to the Fall Festival. Visitors to this year's festival can examine the remains of the complex—the furnace stack, the blower engine house, the office/store and the ruins of the casting house, the wheelwright shop and the charcoal storage house. By the opening day of the festival, the first reconstruction project will have been completed. The blacksmith shop will be finished complete with a working blacksmith and artifacts on display inside. Visitors will be able to see archaeological research in progress at the casting house and examine the plans for future restoration of the furnace. Historic Joanna Furnace is listed in both the Pennsylvania and National Registers of Historic sites.

The Fall Festival is not a nostalgic look back, rather it is a reaffirmation of the good life in the Hay Creek Valley and its calm, quiet life style. The festival recreates the life on an early American iron plantation from the 1790's to just after the turn of the 20th century. Visitors will be able to experience the way Joanna Furnace families lived and worked.

The goal of the festival is to be a



There will be plenty to eat at the Hay Creek Valley Fall Festival Sept. 7-9, including tasty shoofly pies.

family learning experience with something for everyone from children to grandparents. The directors have designed the event to be a two-way communication medium. As one director put it, "We want the visitors to talk to the craftsmen; become involved with them and learn from them. And better yet, the visitors can relate to the craftsmen knowledge from their own background—perhaps something the craftsmen don't even know. We want to learn as much from the people as they learn from us."

Years ago craftsmen and farmers didn't write 'how-to-manuals' they showed their sons and daughters how to do things. The crafts people at the festival learned in that way and are now teaching others how to practice their crafts. This oral tradition is what the Fall Festival is all about. In twenty or thirty years if these traditions and techniques are not passed on. They will be gone forever."

Skilled housewrights will form lumber and structural beams from

logs. They will use a pit saw for some operations. Some men will be boring logs to make wooden pipes. Other craftsmen will split fence posts. Some will hand split shakes to be used as shingles. Blacksmiths will make wrought iron farm implements and kitchen utensils.

The lost art of making wagon wheels will be revived by a wheelwright. Old fashioned brooms will be made. Coopers, cabinet makers, basket makers and tinsmiths will demonstrate their crafts.

Association members will be dressed in colonial clothing while going about their tasks. The ladies will show off domestic specialties by demonstrating spinning, natural dyeing and weaving of wool and flax, chair caning, herbal medicines, making sauerkraut, quilting and other domestic crafts.

They will also bake homemade bread, make shoofly pies, apple cider and apple butter. These items will all be available for sale.

The Fall Festival has one of the largest concentrations of working

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