

# Herr Has Good Memories Of The Business He Leaves

BY PAT PURCELL  
MILLERSVILLE, PA — "During that wonderful period in the life of a young farm boy when one is big enough to watch the goings on, but, is too little to help very much with the activities, there were three annual events of particular interest to me. Those events were Soil Sterilizing in the spring, Grain Threshing in summer and Fodder Shredding in late fall. Those events meant that Dad's custom thresherman would bring his steam traction engine and related equipment to the farm to perform those three operations for us." — Roy H. Herr

How many people can take a child hood desire and turn it into a lifelong vocation? Not many. But Roy H. Herr has managed to do just that for the past 41 years. A dream which began as a fascination for the steam powered equipment brought to his father's farm was made reality in 1946 when Herr started in operation in the seed cleaning business with Flory Newcomer, Mt. Joy.

He worked for the now deceased Newcomer in the spring and fall of 1947 and 1948. But in 1949 he built his own mobile seed cleaning unit out of wood. It was the type which could be bolted to the barn floor, but his unit became mounted on a truck bed. He used it through the the fifties and the early sixties.

As a young boy, Herr admired the family thresherman, J.H. Brubaker from Rohrerstown, Pennsylvania.

"The Brubakers and my parents were friends and when they visited together it was great for me to hear Mr. Brubaker relate some of his experiences in the field. But most

of all, it was quite a thrill, whenever I had the chance to do so, to watch his perfectly maintained, immaculately kept, steam powered equipment in action," said Herr.

In 1960 Herr ordered a larger one from the factory in Saginaw, Michigan. He purchased just the bare insides of the machine and spent many, many hours fabricating the metal framework and the accessories which incorporated the factory bought piece into a creation which was truly of his own invention.

According to Ken Porter, of Centre Hall, who has taken over for Herr, the seed cleaning and conditioning machine is truly one of a kind.

"This is the only thing I've ever owned that no one else has one like it. There's only one in the world like it. This machine was designed by Roy so it could be fixed. That is not the way things are designed nowadays, so that the machine can't be fixed and you have to buy a new one. Not with this," said Porter. "Everything with Roy is first class."

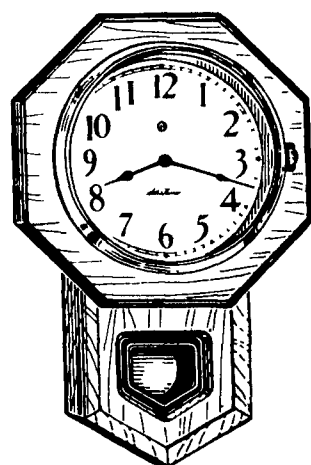
For nearly 40 years Herr has been on his own and on the road covering an area which reaches into southern York and Lancaster counties, while the bulk of his customers farm in Mifflin, Huntingdon and Centre counties. And now, at age 77, Herr is retiring. Porter, is in the process of taking over for Herr.

"I think it's time I hang it up, so to speak, while I can still coach a successor," said Herr. "It has been a fascination to me to work with something that is one of a kind with such a combination of mechanisms, perform as well as it

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Roy Herr ties a bag of grain seed at the David Frey farm on Letort Rd., near Washington Boro. Life on the road as a seed cleaners has given him many good memories.



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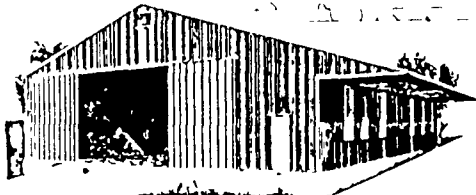
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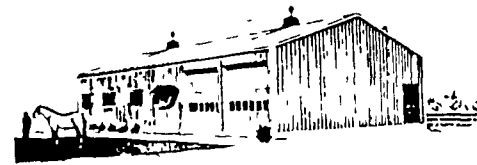
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