

Rough & Tumble Museum To Restore Lancaster Barn

KINZERS (Lancaster) — Rough and Tumble Museum, located along Route 30 at Kinzers, PA, has long been noted as the place where folks restore old steam and gas machinery and demonstrate it on show days. Recently Rough and Tumble committed itself to the largest restoration project in its 40-year history; the dismantling, moving and rebuilding of a Lancaster County barn built the same year the Union Pacific Railroad was completed, 1869.

Some important details already have been addressed. Blueprints for the reconstruction have been submitted to the Department of Labor and Industry and have been accepted by them. Barn placement, grading and the excavation work needed at the museum's 33-acre site are still on paper, and the barn is still standing where it

was built 120 years ago along the Fruitville Pike north of Lancaster. It can't remain there long, however, for instead of overlooking fertile fields the barn now stands majestically at the edge of a development of attractive single-family homes. The broad street, lined with new houses, stops suddenly a few hundred feet from the front of the barn; the street has been planned for completion later this year. The barn must go.

When the barn was built back in 1869, right after the Civil War, it was on the 180-acre farm of Benjamin B. Groff, on the east side of what was then the Fruitville Toll Road and directly across from the old log house which served as a toll gate. The 63x100-foot barn was located in the middle of the farm, and was built of western timbers hauled in by rail and then transported to the building site by

horse power. No other form of power had reached Lancaster County at that time.

About 20 years after the Groff barn was built the farm was divided into two farms and the portion with the new barn along the road was bought by Pete Graybill, a horse trader who wanted to be located along the main highway. Graybill built a two-story brick house next to the barn. The house still stands at that site.

Because of the barn's large size, now on a smaller farm, there was never a need for additions or renovations. The barn was well maintained and, therefore, stands tall and stately among new 1980s houses.

The barn, a gift to Rough and Tumble museum from Robert and Esther Lefever, will not have the same date as those that have been cut down with a chain saw and

sliced into 1-inch boards used to produce reproduction antique furniture. Instead, relocated on Rough and Tumble grounds, the barn will become a display area for genuine antiques such as the farm equipment and other barn-related items that Rough and Tumble has been acquiring during its 40-year history.

Instead of hanging from the rafters, or being buried behind other items packed in too tightly to be seen, these items can be placed in their proper environment for this and future generations to see, enjoy, and learn from.

The projected time-table calls for the barn to be dismantled by July and transported to Rough and Tumble's grounds. It is planned to have the new concrete foundation and stone facing work done by this fall, with the barn itself to be erected in the spring of 1990. Turning the completed barn into a museum of agricultural heritage is expected to be a two-year project, with completion in 1991.

As has been true of Rough and Tumble's other projects, much of

the work involved with this historic preservation project will be unteered. A member has already offered to do the necessary grading and excavation as his contribution to the project, and other kind donations have already been offered. A new roof, electric work, a cistern, heat in one portion, year-round use, and other necessities mean a "barn fund" is needed however.

Rough and Tumble museum is developing a community awareness program in conjunction with this barn's move, in the hopes others may want to be a part of this project of preservation of agricultural heritage. Contributions may be made to: Rough and Tumble's Barn Committee, Box 9, Kinzers, PA 17535. Those wishing more information about the project may write to the address or call the Barn Committee chairman Daniel Ebersol at 717/768-3200, or Hope Ebersol at 717/533-9032. Persons or businesses who might want to make an in-kind donation should contact Ebersol.

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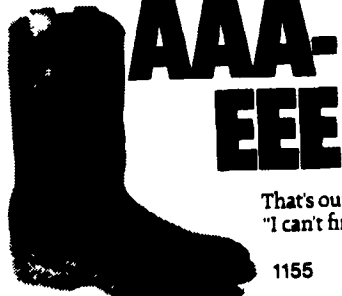
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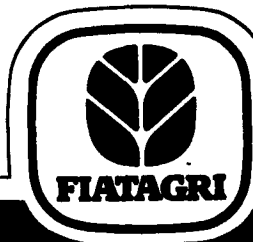
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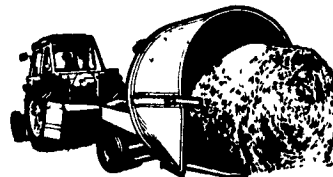
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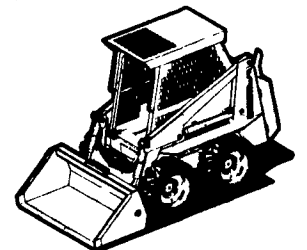
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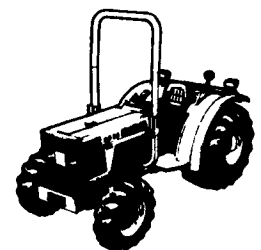
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