

Schuylkill County Opens Ag Museum

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN
(Schuylkill Co.) — Hundreds of visitors to this week's Schuylkill County Fair had a chance to see actual, old-time working farm machinery here as part of the dedication of the Schuylkill County Ag Museum.

Dedication ceremonies for the new museum were Monday evening. As part of the day's dedication activities, museum committee members and friends turned the crank of an old one-hole corn

sheller at the fairgrounds. Tractor pull events were also staged for the week-long celebration coinciding with the fair, which runs through Saturday evening. In an interview with *Lancaster Farming*, co-director of the museum, Curt Luckenbill, said that the museum was built as a showcase to have people "see the ways things were done years ago," prior to the 1950s. The museum, which has a lot of room for additional antique and antiques equipment, measures 44 feet by

120 feet, for a total of 5,280 square feet. Inside, some of the equipment featured includes a 1915 Osborne grain binder from Lebanon County, a 1922 Ellis-Keystone threshing machine, and an early 1920s Buch roughage cutter, according to Luckenbill. Along with co-director Harold Berkheiser, Luckenbill manages the equipment, and there is still "plenty of room for more" to showcase farming technology before 1950, said Luckenbill.



Rodney Zechman is at the wheel of a garden tractor in the 1,100-pound modified stock class at the fairgrounds.



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Eventually, Luckenbill said the plans are to feature tillage, planting, and harvesting equipment, in addition to blacksmithing tools, butcher shop equipment, kitchen, and other items. The museum will showcase food production from start to finish, he indicated.

The museum is open free to the public until the end of the fair on Saturday evening, Aug. 12.

Luckenbill said that as of press-time, several hundred people had toured the building. The building

will be open by appointment the rest of the year.

Also, the museum will be open during the county Fall Festival, scheduled Oct. 14-15 at the fairgrounds. In addition, antique tractors, including an antique tractor pull, will be featured.

For more information about the museum, contact Curt Luckenbill at 324 Schuylkill Mountain Rd., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, (717) 739-4554 (home) or (717) 754-FAIR (at the fairgrounds).

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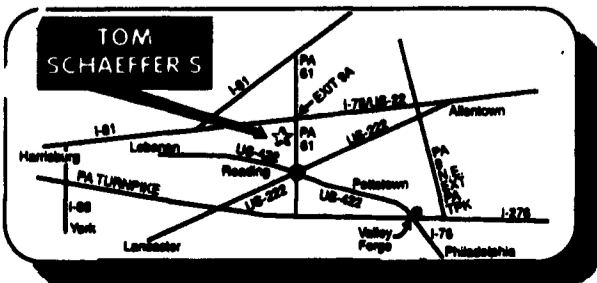
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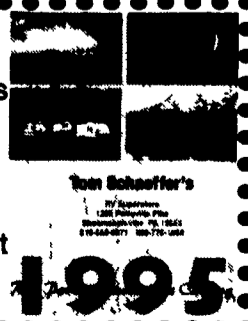
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