

Conestoga Celebrates

(Continued from Page B4) nearby Safe Harbor village. The rolling mill and foundry moved out. After the ferry was wiped out, no river crossing existed and the

area remained a remote, isolated town.

Although a rail was built to run between Columbia and Atglen, it failed to revive the area. The popu-

lar resort area was replaced by thriving resorts in other areas.

Technology brought a revival of the town's growth in 1930 when the power plant was erected at Safe



Always fascinated with the history of the Conestoga area, Tom Grassel recalled many stories he had heard and contacted sources who were able to help compile a factual history.

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 7, 1998-B5

Harbor. The village of Conestoga served as a place where transients seeking to earn a few extra pennies by working on the railroad could find boarding.

Scotch and Irish immigrants were employed in the area and they helped establish St. Mary's Catholic Church in the mainly Pennsylvania German settlement. Although the church is long gone, many of the artifacts were put into storage and uncovered when Grassel, recalling stories told to him, remembered that artifacts were stored in a barn in the area and convinced the present-day owners to donate them to the Historical Society.

"The family who lived on the farm didn't even know the things were stored there. We found some pew doors, benches, and windows under six feet of dirt," Grassel said.

A small indoor section of the church was erected in the museum.

Several businesses such as Safe Harbor Dam and Turkey Hill Dairies contributed display items. Artwork and a model of the locks and canals are an example of how some of the history of the era is portrayed.

A section of the museum includes an agriculture display with farm tools, butchering items, and a typical farmhouse parlor.

"We aren't purists," Hoak said. "We show not only the past but also the present that will become part of the past."

The displays cover several generations and a farmhouse parlor is typical of several generations living in the same home and each having some of their own items in use.

The Historical Society isn't finished yet. Plans are being finalized to move a blacksmith shop, located about two miles away, to the grounds.



The 18th century log house is not as sparsely furnished as a log cabin would have been in that era, but the furnishings are reproductions of that century.

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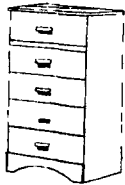


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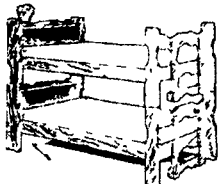


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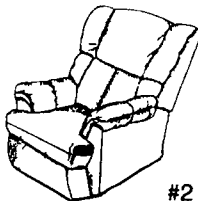


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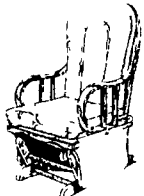


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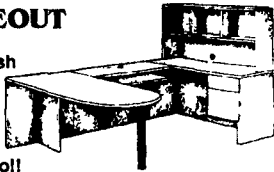


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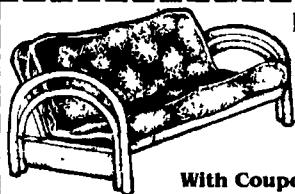
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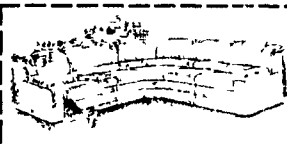


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