

Lancaster Farming

Antiques Center

Rough And Tumble Engineers

Power Up For Harvest Days

KINZERS (Lancaster Co.) — Members of the Rough and Tumble (R&T) Engineers Historical Association are busy finalizing plans for their 2003 Fall Harvest Days, October 10 and 11, at their grounds and museum along the Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 30, 12 miles east of Lancaster.

The gates will open early, 7 a.m., for visitors to stroll the grounds and look over the many old tractors, equipment and steam engines. Saturday morning at 7, there will be an apple butter making demonstration. About 9 a.m. each day, quite a sight to see will be the members firing up their steam engines.

Popular to visitors on the grounds are the large and small railroads. The Shay Rail Road provides rides around the extensive Rough and Tumble grounds and "Little Toot Rail Road" with a miniature steam engine provides rides for the children.

Throughout the two days, there will be corn husking, shredding and sheller demonstrations, using different types of equipment.

The schedule and the activities are subject to the weather and also the availability of volunteers to help with demonstrations. Last year's Time of Harvest was marred by damp weather which affected the attendance.

Widely known for their "Thresherman's Reunion," the R&T association started a harvest time event years ago for a last chance "to fire up their boilers and have some fun before draining them and putting them away for the winter months." They also have found that the public likes to watch their "fun."

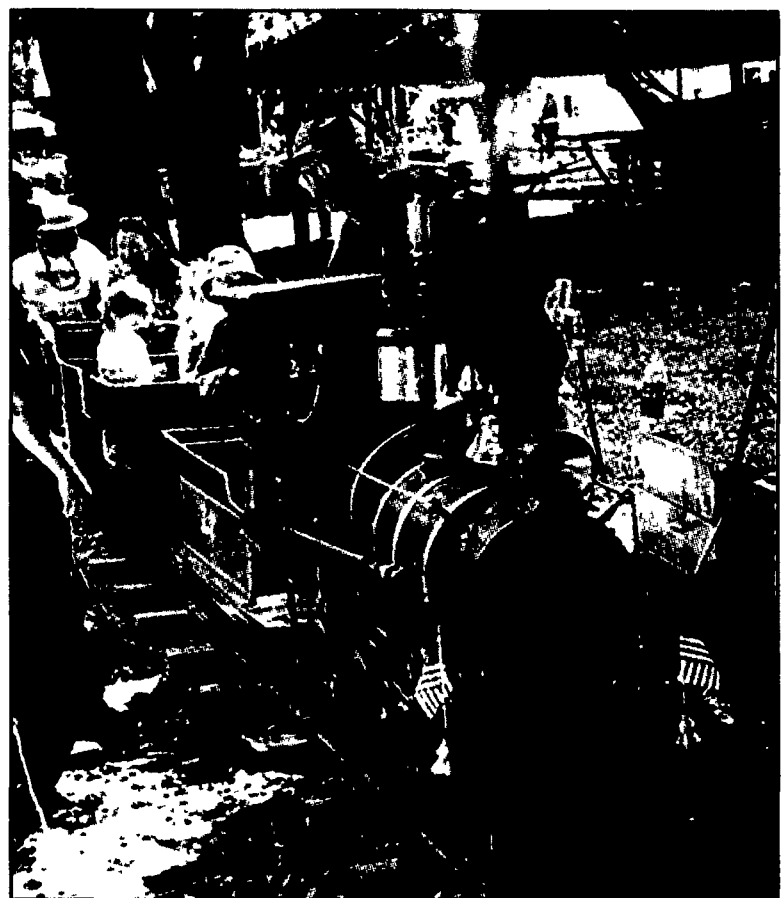
Louis Frantz, association presi-



Visitors line up to watch a hand cranked sheller demonstration during a past harvest day event at the Rough and Tumble Engineers on the Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 30, in Kinzers, 12 miles East of Lancaster.

dent, said that this year's event will have more opportunities for children. They have planned children's corn husking, shelling and grinding events, plus a small pumpkin decorating contest using magic markers.

The R&T's web site at www.roughandtumble.org is a source for extensive information and many photos of the group's antique farm equipment and steam engines. For more information on the R&T's 2003 Time of Harvest, call (717) 755-4797.



For the little folks, the R&T has the "Little Toot RR," which is a miniature steam engine pulling open top cars. Big folks can ride too.



Dave Adams is shown taking some visitors a ride on his 1895 Frick tractor at the October 2002 Time of Harvest.

Photos courtesy of Rough and Tumble



At the Rough and Tumble Engineers Association's harvest days a few years ago, a youngster is pictured in R&T's 1929 Lynn Halftrack Model 25D.



A self-described baseball buff all his life, Leonard Noll buys and sells sports cards.

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

MORGANTOWN (Berks Co.) — "It's fun to look. It's fun to buy. But it's not fun to sell," said Leonard Noll as he shuffled through hundreds of baseball cards.

But he *does* sell. Noll said, "I must. My wife said my hobby is taking over the house. I have thousands of cards in my own collection. Cards are under the bed and everywhere."

A self-described baseball buff, Noll buys and sells cards at a booth inside The Mill Property Antiques, 2910 Main St., Rt. 23, Morgantown.

"The better items are older items," Noll said of determining value of cards. "A card of an outstanding player, a Hall of Famer, especially a rookie card of a player who goes on to become successful are most valuable."

Value is also determined by the age and condition of the card. Square corners, no creases or smudges mean everything when it comes to assigning value.

"I have a card that would be worth \$400, but it drops to \$50 because someone pinned the card to a bulletin board and the pinholes remain," Noll said.

A 1952 Topp's Company card of Mickey Mantle lists for thousands of dollars, Noll said. He knows of one card in mint condition that sold for \$15,000.

Noll is proud of a Phillies' player Richie Ashburn card he has that is worth \$225. It isn't the price that causes Noll to treasure the card — it's the sentimental value attached to it.

He said, "I was a serious fan of his. I remember seeing him play. When he died about four years ago, the value of his card increased even more."

Noll also has a collection of "tobacco cards," which were sports cards placed in packs of tobacco during the early 1900s.

New cards are only valuable if you wait and the player becomes famous. Sometimes collectors will hold onto cards they expect will increase in value, but it doesn't always work that way. Noll said he was certain Ken Griffey Jr. would make it to Baseball's Hall of Fame, which would result in a dramatic rise in the demand of his card. Instead, Griffey was in-

jured. The chances of him making it to the Hall of Fame are dismal, and price values for Griffey's card have dropped.

Serious collectors often seek to recreate sets of cards from a particular year and of whole teams.

Be careful not to reprint cards, Noll warns.

Finding good cards is often a matter of luck for Noll. He frequents flea markets, auctions, and other shops. Sometimes he buys whole collections from other collectors.

Noll places each of his cards in plastic cases. He said children who collect cards often mishandle them, which hinder their monetary value.

"But that's what cards are for — for kids to trade and admire. What fun would it be if they couldn't do that?" Noll asks.

Because he maintains a soft spot in his heart for kids, Noll sells 100 cards to kids for \$1. He guarantees there are no duplicates, and while the kids might not find any of great value at this point, who knows? A player might go on to become famous and increase the card's value.

Also of interest to collectors are baseball bats, balls, gloves, and other items with the name of a famous baseball player. A Mickey Mantle autographed ball is worth \$300. If marked with the name of an average player, the item has no value.

Collectors are always sports buffs like himself, Noll said. "You need to be, so you know which players are most collectible. I read the sports lineups and hits everyday."

Noll considers baseball selling more of a hobby than a business. He said, "My card prices are the lowest you're going to find."

The Mill Property Antiques is located on a tract of land along the Conestoga Creek in Morgantown. Stephen Mast had erected a mill on the land in 1882. More than 100 years later, stone ruins of the mill, its barn, and the dam still exist. The property and antique co-op are owned and operated by the Kurtz family, direct descendants of the Masts.

Mill Property Antiques is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (610) 286-8854 or (610) 286-7711.