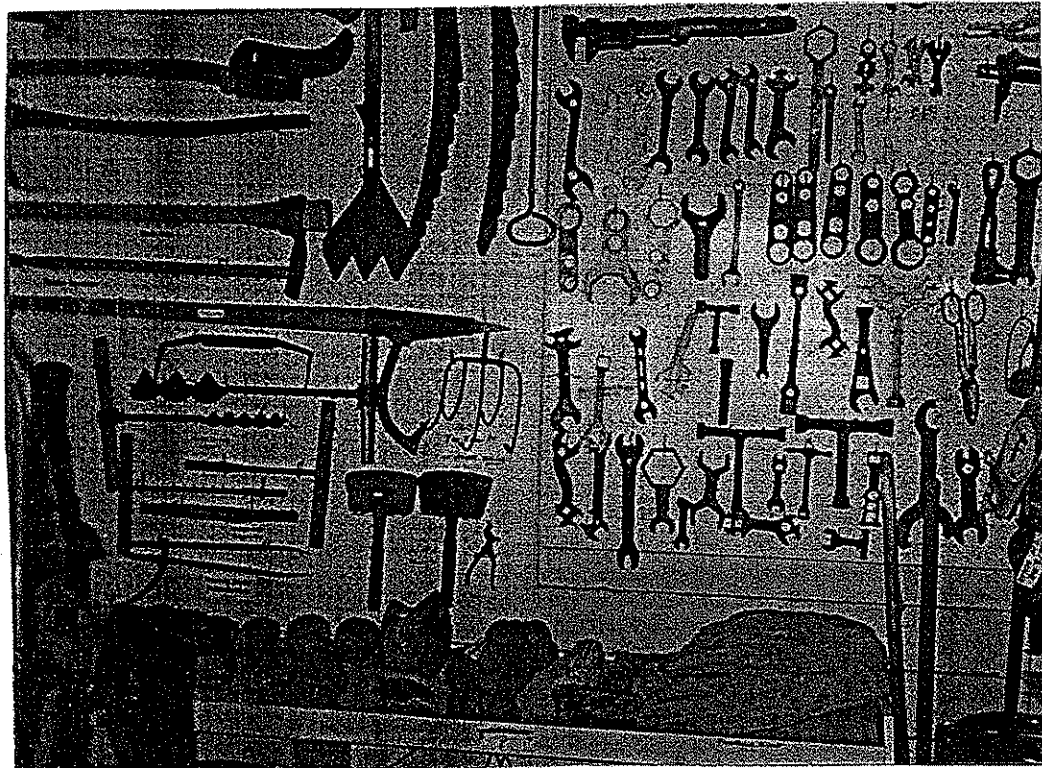


the aboriginals. They were cleverly shaped from rocks with handles fastened with leather thongs or else grown around the head.

An area of great interest to farmers and mechanics may be the wall showing the huge collection of wrenches. They are shown in all shapes, styles and sizes and for every conceivable purpose.

There are flat wrenches, spanners as our English friends may call them, combinations of open and



box end, bent and offset types to help gain access to difficult spots, and some of special design to serve a certain machine.

It appears that at the time each machine, when new, came with tools designed to service its needs. Hence, some of the odd ones. Many of these are being picked up in farm fields or discovered while cleaning up old shops and find their way to the museum. We welcome these artifacts; there are a number on hand which defy our efforts to identify.

Stories are told of the farmer who bought an extra quarter and after finding a few old wrenches and metal parts, inquired if he had the mineral rights with the title. Another speaks of after having thrown a monkey wrench at a gopher, he went to retrieve the wrench and picked up another just the same.

Then there are the odd useless tools displayed which were never found to be of any value. There is the alligator wrench, some of the monkey wrenches and the early crescent, some of which are still cursed at and referred to as "Damn Knuckle Busters".

In the same location can be seen the hay knives and hooks to help handle bales, the wooden wagon jack, a good number of cast iron kettles and containers as well as other equipment of farm and shop use.

There is the collection of steam engine tools, tube expanders and cutters, cleaning devices and gauges and a well chosen selection of steam injectors, that marvel of engineering which some have been known to say would not work, and no collection would be complete without the steam whistles of yesteryear.

Our military display is limited but does contain a W.W.1 machine gun, some artillery shells and else where in the building a uniform of First War vintage. Some may wonder, too, how a ship's Binnacle could find its way to land locked Saskatchewan.

An interesting item is the bell as well as the School District name and number belonging to the old school known as "Oak Knoll", which was located near the valley. This will be of interest to many. From the farm kitchen we find a huge coffee grinder, churns and a set of larger than usual butter making and packing equipment. There is the vacuum cleaner of early vintage. Notice it has no

power cord. The usual variety of lamps and lanterns, sad irons and a cheese cutter. Of special interest to the ladies may be the curling irons and bottle warmers designed to be heated from the kitchen lamp chimney.

You cannot miss, right at the door, the potash "Do-nut", courtesy of the mine, the manual gas pumps from the time before the electric age, and a number of outboard motors obviously from the time when such machines were in their infancy. They are huge but small in power output. In the same area is an artifact which has been known to arouse much curiosity. It is the "Balloon Bomb", a Japanese invention of Second World War vintage. More on this at a later date.

So this is just a few of the many items available to be seen at the museum. The list could go on indefinitely. Pay us a visit and enjoy a trip back in history; it is also an experience of great educational value for children. ● ● ●

Wm. Dennstedt

The Annual General Meeting and Supper

of the Rocanville and District Museum Society will be held on the evening of Wednesday, March 31st, in the Anglican Parish Hall. The supper, catered by the St. Thomas Anglican ladies, will be held at 6.00 P.M., followed by the business meeting and election of officers at 7.30.

Elections will be for president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, with one year terms, and auditor for one year. Three directors will be elected for two year terms. Those directors whose two year terms are expiring are Lewis Behrms, William Dennstedt, and John Torrance.

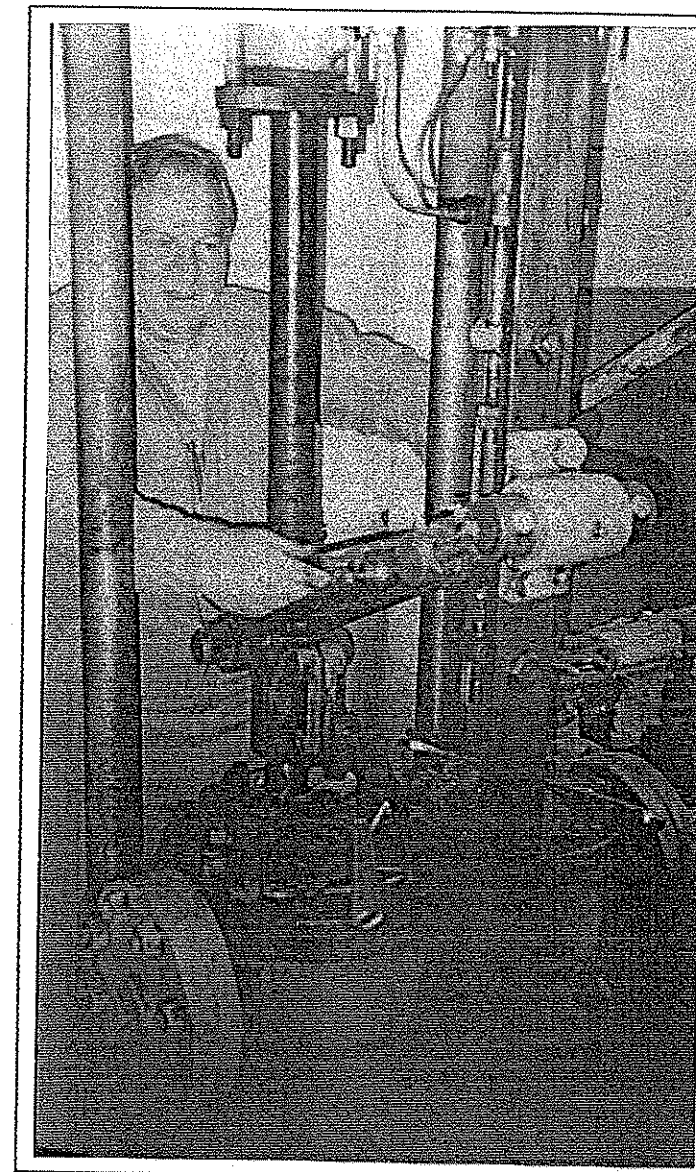
Anyone intending to take part in the supper is requested to contact in person or at 645-2605 at least a week in advance, so that the ladies will have time to properly plan their efforts. They put up a very good meal, so please give them a chance.

Windows and doors have been ordered for the administration building. That is a start, and not a small one, toward getting the building under way.

The Museum has promoted another steam engineering course by the South East Community College. The course, taught by Rick Hancock, while focusing mainly on building management, had some lessons on traction engineering, and we hope to get at least a few more steam engine operators. We have had a serious depletion in our roster of operators lately, due to age, pressure of work and other causes.

While it is the general policy of the Museum that only members may operate these steam tractors, we will give any of those new holders of traction licenses, as much supervised, practical engine training as we think is necessary for proficient operation.

An invitation has been accepted by the Museum to provide a pancake breakfast as part of the Community Days events on Saturday, June 5th. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausages, coffee or cold drink and perhaps some bacon for those discerning folks who like a little variety. Now we must come up with some follow up entertainment to augment the carousel. Any ideas, folks????



Museum V.P. Larry Mills is shown working on one of the large condensate pumps at the Pasqua Hospital, preparing to remove it for transportation to the Museum.

Two of these large, high volume, steam powered pumps were used to pump water condensed from the Hospital heating system, back into the boiler. While they have been replaced by electric pumps, one was still in use until removed by the Museum crew. Both pumps are slated to form part of a large exhibit of Hospital artifacts.