

Museum
MS

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From Acorns

It is now five years since the Jamland Museum came into being. This started in the Summer of 1969: the garden at the back of the house was being cultivated for the first time in several years: under the pig-field sward were hiding small pieces of blue & white pottery - a plate or cup large size in use. The garden originally had a "made up" path on its southern boundary - in the days before weekly refuse collections the ashes, broken household china, old bottles etc, were dumped there. Now that the whole area was under the plough, this debris was spread.

Small boys love collecting things and Craig made up his mind he would collect up all the broken pieces of pottery he could find. It was good hunting ground & the occupation amused him for hours. Other 'finds' included pigs teeth (from the former inhabitants of the garden) and horse shoes. These items were duly arranged in shoe boxes and he announced that he would allow anyone to see his collection in his bedroom - but there was to be an admission charge. Thinking that an old ring was anxious to make a bit of extra cash we enquired what was to happen

to the mercy — only to be promptly told that he would collect "for boys and girls who can't see and can't walk".

Having not yet started school, Craig did not know such large words as "crippled" or "blind" and so the gift boxes were labelled "can't see" and "can't walk" and visitors were asked into which box they would like their pennies to be put. Aunt, Cousins, & friends (and relations) were all invited to look at Craig's museum — to sign his visitors book (a 1954 diary belonging to a deceased neighbour!) and to be given a "free gift" (obviously a TV-advert influence — in this case it was a coloured picture from a bulb catalogue).

Within days visitors were returning with their small treasures for "the museum!" Great Aunt Mabel presented a butter maker which had belonged to her mother who used to keep the dairy at Stone Cross Farm; a school friend brought along some pieces of pottery he had found; an OAP presented a pottery baking dish (whole!) which had belonged to her grandmother; someone else gave a little pin cushion which had been a SS prize in 1910! The space in his small bedroom was

soon filled and with more & more visitors clanking up the open-tread stairs (highly dangerous for young & old alike) Grog & the family realised something must be done.

One night in late August Grog's father hit on an idea (little did they realise then that this was only the acorn - the oak tree it was only the beginning) - the garden shed must be emptied of the mowers, tools, boxes and general "clutter" and Grog's "bits and pieces" could be displayed there. This would free the house of all the visitors - which by now had numbered nearly 50 - and give space for display. A disused kitchen table was the only display area - & a few items (such as fire bellows) ~~and~~ were hung on the wall.

How grand this all seemed to a little lad of 4 - and his big brother Kevin. Imagine the excitement when a piece of wood, bought at the Sandringham gift shop, was displayed on the garden shed door, with the word MUSEUM carefully painted on it in Old English style. From then on, Grog's collection became known as The Museum.

At the end of the Summer, visitors generosity to the two collecting boxes resulted in £10 being sent to the Inst of Obj Society for the Blind and a similar amount to the Palace School at Obj for Cripples. Like all childish ventures we, as parents, wondered if that was the

ed of Guy's venture — but by then
word had spread round and it was
not only friends and relations who
had shown interest and given exhibits —
lots of people in the village, ^{and further afield} had become
involved. Little did we realise, in the
Autumn of 1969, just how far & how
fast this project would go.

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Publicity.

News of the "Little Delaneys" collection was spread by enthusiastic relatives and interested villagers. By the end of September Mrs. Boster, whose husband had all ready passed on several items of interest, the correspondent for the local weekly paper, wrote an article (see scrap book) and organised a photo to be taken.

Three faces to clean, hair to be brushed & "smile please" were duties to be carried out at what seem like regular intervals, since their first "press coverage".

A Daily Mirror reporter obviously spotted the article and the following Friday a snippet about how small boys were helping their less fortunate, appeared in the daily edition.

It was two months later, in November, that an old friend, Mr. Meachintosh from Chatteris, sent the boys a parcel of "finds", addressing it to "the Museum Curators" — and to this day the title has stuck. It was he who suggested that a scrap book be kept, assuring us that he felt there would be more & more items to be saved both from local & national papers. How right he was! and how useful that scrap book is for reminiscing or checking "who gave us what" as a list of benefactors is also included there.

In August 1970 the CEN photographer arrived & as a result of the article one of the Newmarket readers wrote to us suggesting that we make contact with a museum which

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he had visited in the U.S.A. — the Farm Museum of Pennsylvania. How sorry we were that Mr. Rodrigo was never able to visit us before his sudden death — but the link across the Atlantic was made & we continue to exchange news & comment.

A further CFN article in January '71 resulted in an interview for BBC Regional News (radio). Quite unashamed by Mike & interviewer, young Gair rambled on about special shoes required for horses that have foot problems and Kevin added his usual "Big Brother" comments.

During the Spring of '71 a committee was formed in the village to raise money for the Ankerstall Village Centre. As a break away from coffee mornings & jumble sales it was decided to hold a "Blossoms & Bygones" weekend. For the princely sum of 10p visitors could look round the ^{museum} sheds & garden at 50, High Street, followed by tractor rides in the apple orchards at Albeth Road. This was the first time that a "gate" charge had been made — & having been "open to the public" from 10 am — 8 pm both days, we were thrilled to have raised £40 and entertained 350 visitors. This was to be the beginning of Open Weekends, advertised for specific charities, at which a charge at the gate was to be made.

Further publicity followed in August 1971 when a fairly long article, together with photograph, appeared in the Methodist Recorder. Quite by chance, whilst the photographer was

taking shots in the garden, a minister & his family arrived from Wesley House, Cambridge, & so they too were included.

By the time of our "second" birthday funds were steadily increasing and so a donation of £3 could be made to the Palace School. This was a 300% increase of the first! It was in September '71, too that I was invited to give my first talk on "Bygones". This was the first of many, too many to list individually, and in many ways one of my best audiences - a group meeting of Our Sixties Clubs at Cottenham V.C. Talking to people of that generation is really two-way communication - I think I learned more about my exhibits from members of the audience that I was able to tell them! So it is that much of an information is gained: true, over the years, we have bought & studied many books covering rural bygones & way of life but it is from the older generation that we have found out the little extras & the amusing anecdotes.

It was at this time that Mr. Robert Noman, the orchard owner, introduced us to Charlie Ashton, a gipsy who was camping over at the Hare & Hounds for the winter months. When arable work was impracticable his time was spent in scrap metal collecting & it is thanks to Charlie's & his son Bill's sharp eyes that our collection of hand tools or simple farming gadgets grew so rapidly at this time. A straight forward "barter" of scrap "alloy" from Michael's

During the Christmas Holidays, '71, it was decided to print some stationery with our address to save time & effort for the boys with their "thank you" letters. (Each person giving exhibits receives a little letter from one of the boys) The print was so muddled that FARMLAND MUSEUM seemed the only possibility. A visitor with the Huntlyden Men's Group offered to do a sign so that visitors could spot the museum more easily in the High Street & so the words F — M were again chosen. ↗

workshop for any rusty old implements in
Charlie's leads.

The Farnes Weekly organised a series
of articles about Farm Museums in its
"Famlife" section and in March '72 Roger
Tuff & Alfred Howood arrived to "do" an
article on what was to become known
as the *Famland Museum. The garden shed
was filled to overflowing with bygones &
bric à brac, the garden served as a
display area for larger agricultural equipment
and a specially constructed "cart ledge"
at the end of the garden was gradually
being filled with farmers "cast offs".
Having had cups of tea & cookies, Roger
& Alf said good bye to the family &
gave Craig a whole crisp pound note
for his charity box. I shall never forget
the expression on the boys faces - this
was the biggest donation they had ever
received for the Children's Charity Box.

School Visits

One of the most gratifying aspects of the museum is the enthusiasm it sparks off in Junior children.

A story which I often quote concerns a little Haddenham lad who came with his class one Friday afternoon to look round "the" museum. In "dug the rounds" I mentioned that some of the big leg bones in the glass cases had been dredged up from the river bed by Mr. Day, whom they all knew, & that he had no use for them and had kindly passed them on to us. —

The tour continued and the class returned to school for afternoon break. By 4 o'clock however, Alan & a friend were rushing up to my door saying "Look, look what we have found for your museum". On emptying their anorak pockets the entire carcass of a decaying lamb was heaped on my doorstep! What could I say, but words of encouragement? After all, they were bones of an animal & the little lads had taken the trouble to rescue it from the hedgerow in Bury Lane (where they assured me they had hidden their find secretly a few days before) and bring it to me — hoping, no doubt, that their names be included in the list of donors!

Another story concerns a Secondary School which shall be nameless. I received a phone call requesting that a group of non-examination 4th year Rural Science students should visit the museum and could I give them a conducted tour. (This frequently used to

happen - I think that teachers assume that I personally have nothing to do all day, and my husband likewise, as from their phone conversations they assume that I am the resident guide (& in several cases, disciplinarian too!)

The mini-bus arrived nearly an hour after the pre-arranged time and the teenagers duly spilled out. I gave a brief outline about the origins of the museum & the layout of the garden. By then it was past 11 and I had lunch to cook for my family & so I said to the master in charge that I was afraid I could not spend further time with his party but that they could wander around and look for themselves.

After they had left - several having come up early & spent money at the F&C shop opposite - we discovered that the battery in the wheelwright's shop was broken, 30p was missing from the donations box and a gold ring had disappeared. Where do we go from here?

Another visit from a Village College concerned a double decker load of 44+. Having "dine" Fly Cathedral & Wicker Fen in the morning, they arrived hot & tired to spend the afternoon here. It was obvious to me, at the start, that the staff were far more interested in what I was saying than their pupils were. The best part for them seemed to be the garden top - & kitchen tops in both my house & that of my neighbour where they could refill their drinking flasks!

The "thank you" letters we receive from Junior children are particularly gratifying. (It might be significant to mention the fact that never have I received a letter from anyone of Secondary age range!) Several have said "it was the best museum we have visited". Perhaps one might assume that this was also their first!

A little gypsy boy who was attending the village school for the first time at the age of 9+ had great difficulty in communicating with those in his class: however, on visiting the museum words flowed as they never had before - he had so much to tell the others about the line-up of horse implements. You see, his family were in the scrap metal business when there was no work fruit picking and he obviously had something in common with the museum. On leaving he promised he would bring something for the museum and sure enough the following week he arrived at school with a painted tea pot - old & chipped but nevertheless one of the "treasures" of our Bygone collection.

Perhaps the comment by a child, most quoted by me, is worth recalling. At the top of our garden is a "dome" structure - a miniature observatory used from time to time by my husband & friends. Our boys have grown up with the object & therefore it has become part of the landscape - however, this particular child said in his letter "and best of all I liked the wigwam". It took me quite a few minutes to realise that the one building in the garden I had not talked to them about, was to her the most interesting!

One of the local charities to which we have sent donations is the CRI, Cambridge. It was agreed that a group of children who attended the Youth Club organised by CRI might like to spend an afternoon here. Their excitement at a car ride out from Cambridge, the feeling of space when they arrived, not to mention biscuits and squash thrown in! meant that it was a super afternoon for letting off surplus energy & playing football - I felt that conducting tours of the museum collections were entirely out of the question.

A school from the Fenland area combined a football & netball match with the local school, and a visit here. It was certainly the most interested and attentive school group we have ever had. Many of the children's parents worked on the Fen farms and many of the implements were everyday sights of the village to them. It was a joy to see the expression of their faces when they spotted a rake or fire bellows, water filter or mangle "just like we saw on TV, Miss". That particular class had been following Anglia's "How we used to live" series and a visit here brought the screened picture alive.

One or two children have been keen collectors themselves - bottles, duplicates of course, have been passed on, Roman pottery sherds and also pigs teeth. You name it, someone, somewhere collects it!

However, having shown over 500 children around the museum at various times and with the collection becoming so big that it is impossible in an hour to cover everything, I thought the

time had come to call upon the Museum Dept.
 within the Education Service. Yes, the director
 of Humanities liked the set-up very much &
 suggested that questionnaires could be prepared
 and sold (!) to the children, teachers might
 hold courses here - but no, no help for
 us, the owners, and until that time, -
 willing depts bodies for the education authority.
 After communications ^{had passed} between the chief education
 officer and myself (a qualified teacher), I
 wrote to him stating that unless we could
 come to some professional arrangement as far
 as use of the museum by the LEA was
 concerned, then there could be no further
 sched visits. Since June we have had
 many requests from schools both in this
 county & others (one HM claiming that of all
 places he had visited with children, a visit
 here had been the most worthwhile) but with
 the economic climate as it is, the answer,
 unfortunately has had to be "no".

4
 Stories & anecdotes worthy of mention
 a Alberto Cart.

Albert is a real fer farmer—a quiet, shy person who finds talking with strangers difficult.

It was in early 1970 that on one of our many fer rides we noticed handles of horse implements poking up from a rattle patch in Long Drive. Upon closer investigation it was realised that these were all-iron museum pieces—would Alb. part with them, we wondered. One evening my husband visited Albert in his bungalow at the Causeway—no, he would never need them—just help yourself. A few weeks later Michael fetched Albert up to look at the horse-gear collection so far. "Pity you haven't a shed, bar, or I'd give you d' Dad's cart—it's been in a Nisser hut since it was dragged back after the '47 floods". On his next visit to Alberto the cart was inspected—made at Hemingford for £10 and still in excellent condition. After much thought & many plans on paper, a cart ledge was built at the far end of the garden—my brother was able to get "cheap" sheets of corrugated iron at Cambridge Mkt., Mr. Alwyn and Elliott managed to find a cheap source of 2nd hand timber and a car load of men from Huntingdon arrived one Saturday morning to complete the biggest building project ever at the museum in readiness for the first B & B event in May 1971.

Now that Alb. knows us well & chats indefinitely, we find it most pleasurable that on Open Days, when crowds are here he comes up to look at & advise "My d' Dad's Cart"

Rayner, of Stretton, was building this particular cart for Tom Markwell (S's granddad) in 1939, when he was taken ill & died. Mr. Johnson, then a young apprentice, was asked to complete the task. This would explain why, according to some local farmers (eg Reg Palmer) the Rayner cart "did not quite ring true" (ie 2 craftsmen had worked on it). Johnson was very quick to point out that the shafts were not the ones he had fixed over 30 years previously. A good memory, eh?

Johnson's Cart

b) Cart wheels have always fascinated me and after the boxes of Gray's collection were put in the garden shed I thought a wheel or two standing outside would be most appropriate. A walk in the fens revealed that a YFC friend of mine had a cart stowed away in some delapidated farm buildings. On contacting him, Graham said of course you can have it — but the shafts are missing. My brother — Pickjards Competitor — duly hitched it to the draw-bar of his N-Mild and trundled the cart up the hill and into our garden. Far too interesting to merely break up for the wheels — we would restore the whole thing. Surely shafts would be easy to come by — farmers, being such economical folk had taken them off and fixed a single tow bar so the horsecarts became tip-up trailers for tractors. Asking around our friends, advertising our wants in both P.O. deer (usually most forthcoming) and Compass, brought no success. A chance Sunday morning chat with Alb. Underwood & my brother revealed that the farmer had a pair standing near his shed within 100 yds. of our garden. No Pickjards were required to transport them — Albert, a hefty 18 stone, merely hauled them over the hedge. Alas, to this day, he has never seen them fitted on the Rayner cart.

On seeing a photo of this cart in the local paper, Mr. Johnson arrived one Sunday to "see the cart". It was only when he reached it & touched it that he told the full story — Mr.

c) Wheelwright's letter

My aunt was driven home from her holiday with cousins in the Lake District by a cook, whose father lived near Haswell. Route information, you may say, but after hearing so much about her nephew's museum on the journey, he went for a "conducted" tour by the boys. Over a cup of tea he said what a pity it was that his neighbours old tools could not be preserved here - Daisy's attic & sheds are bulging with old equipment he assured us. Addresses were exchanged, he went off & the following week we "looked up" Daisy. She was a chatty widow who was only too pleased to pass on any items we cared to take - it would leave more space for her, she assured us!

Mr. Alwyn, Mr. Keith & Michael spent several hours sorting & leading and it's good to know that the pulley-^{foot treadle} driven wheelwright's letter is now working and on Open Days Chris Hakeman turns various items on it. Good tea, that Daisy has been driven over by her son on 2 occasions to look round the museum and see her husband's tools being used.

d) Professor's Atomic Sand.

In conversation one day at the Cavendish Lab, Professor Frisch mentioned that somewhere in his garage he had a sample of the sand which was turned to a glass-like substance as a result of the first atomic bomb explosion. When it came to light, he would pass it on to "the boys". In the course of the next few months, he came across a crystal of calcite which he had brought back from Mexico — this found its way to Haddenham but alas, no sand. It was not until Feb '74, whilst looking for something entirely different that the sand was found and duly sent. An article about it appeared in the CEN on election day, Feb. 28th. The telegraph reporter phoned me up & asked why should a sample of atomic sand be given to the Famland Museum — good question, but far too involved to answer over the phone. Reference was made to it in Saturday's edition and the reporter said he would like to come & see the Famland Museum for himself the following week — I am still waiting for him to arrive!

Basketry from St. Ives: the beginning of the Crafts Section.

Realising that basketry was a local craft here in Haddenham until well after the '39-'45 war, we tried to trace a surviving craftsman. We were informed that a Mr. Harrison was still in business at St. Ives & a ride out there one wet Saturday morning resulted in us not only finding the ^{converted} ~~works~~ ^{workshop} but also the owner himself - John Harrison.

Although supposedly in retirement - at one time he employed 20 workers - John assured us he was "busier than ever". Sitting himself on the wood stand so characteristic of basketry shops, he ~~showed~~ showed the boys how to weave the strips of willow out & in.

On leaving he presented us with several finished items of his workmanship which had been specially prepared for a recent TV programme & for which he had no further use. This basketry collection was to be the beginning of the CRAFTS SECTION in the left hand shed of the cart ledge.

It was exciting for us to see, only a few weeks after visiting him, a super colour photo of Mr. Harrison at work, on a "Craftsmen" calendar. This now hangs above the display of Mr. Harrison's own work.

f "My cherris best"
Fladderham, a farming village, had, until
recently, many small farmers whose wives
used the surplus milk from the "house"
cow to make butter. My granny was one
such person & it is interesting to note that
one of the first Bygones Coop was given
was the butter wheel used by her for
years at Stone Cross Farm. On giving it
to Coop, my Aunt made him promise
that he would never part with it — a
real family "heirloom".

When collecting the first wood & metal
playh from Mr. Percy Youngs, Aldeth, we
spotted an old wood butter churn lying
in the yard. He "threw" the letter in
with the playh for the grand sum of £3.
True, it was rather shabby, but it was
the only one we had & so it held
pride of place in the Dairying section.
However, when Dick Burkitt saw it he
quickly offered us his which had been
carefully stored in a shed for decades.
How grand it looked side-by-side with
one that had seen decades out of doors —
but we can never "throw away" anything
we have been given just because we are
given a better model. — Mrs. Lawrence, from
the Mill, was soon to visit the museum &
she advised us that her churn made "the
best butter in the village" and we must have
it on display. Hence, when visitors comment
on the fact that we have 3 churns on
display, we have to briefly explain the whole
story!

9 One of our best spotters, Charlie the gypsy. Robert Norman, with whom we arranged the very first B + B event in 1971, said that he thought that we ought to meet the gypsy family who were camping at the back of his odd fruit store. When work on the land was short, Charlie became a scrap metal dealer & at that moment had just brought a load home ready to sort. Michael went over with Robert & chatted with Charlie & his son Billy, explaining the sort of things ^{we} were interested in. Over the years Charlie & Billy have salvaged many interesting by-gones - the portable forge dated 1891 and the redithic axe head from a potato ^{field} name but two. In exchange Michael saves all the scrap "alli" and brass from jobs in his workshop.

The keen ^{eye} of Billy's young sisters is worth mentioning - they come to look round ^{occasionally} and are quick to point out which pieces their Dad found for us - their visual memory is very accurate & their behaviour & manners are an example to other children. They even datched in their hands a denotation for "the boys & girls who are not as lucky as we are." Charlie's is a family of which he & his wife can be justly proud.

h. Mr. Barton's crystal set.

It was on a snowy, icy, morning, the first for three years, that Mr. Barton came trotting down the High Street with "something for these little boys". When the "something" was unwrapped - & the snow brushed away - ~~a~~ a crystal set was revealed.

Now Mr. Barton had looked after that set for over 30 years - moving with it from Locksprit Hall, on the bank of the Old West River, down to the Council Houses in Stearn Road. More recently it was moved into his new flat in Campis Close and now on a wintery morning it was transported by hand to the museum.

It is treasures such as this that make us feel very responsible - we must look after them and see that no one harms them as over the years Mr's crystal set, Albert's cart, Burkitt's chum, have become treasures of countless price and the Lamland Museum ~~has been~~ is fulfilling the needs of a parish museum. It is so important to receive with gratitude all that is lovingly given (even though it may be difficult to store - or of little interest to anyone except the donor!)

In a recent copy of the E. A. Magazine,
a writer from Yorks. was asking for details
of patterns, methods of making and any present
-day makers, of pegged rugs. She hopes
eventually to produce a book describing the
history of this dying craft - & the local words in use.

i Stan Webster & his pegged rug.

Mr. Webster spends a lot of time in the garden next door & we have frequent chats "over the hedge". Over the years he and his wife have contributed many interesting items to the museum. — Beautifully fine shawl crochet antimackas, real leather leggings, and ration beds, to name but a few.

Long winter evenings years ago were occupied with making "pegged" rugs. Strips of hard-wearing material were cut into strips & knotted into sacking (strong "bags" from the farm were cut open & washed thoroughly) — sometimes a sharpened "peg" was used, sometimes a gadget specially made for the job. Stan supplied both a "rug" which had been in use for 20 years (!) and a small sampler complete with sharpened dolly peg, illustrating to the younger generation just how these were made.

Visitors from Over Sixties Clubs are particularly pleased to see these exhibits — a reminder to them that in the "good old days" nothing was wasted, not even an old ragged coat from the jumble sale.

I remarked to Stan how much interest his rug was arousing — imagine my surprise when, on the following Friday afternoon he arrived pulling & pushing with a wheelbarrow piled high with pegged rugs which he still has in use. These, he said, were for display at the Open Craft Day that weekend. It was quite amazing to see how much attention they attracted — and even had special mention in the local paper.

j The search for quoits - setting-up of beds.
In the course of conversation with 2 enthusiasts at the Milderhall Museum, we said that, to date, we had been given no quoits. An employee on the Elveden Estate told us he would certainly drop us some over & at the same time have a look round our collection.

Unlike so many other people who have made so many promises, this enthusiast kept his & duly arrived, in Minor 1000, one Sunday afternoon complete with quoits. On seeing them, some men from the Huntlyden group challenged CFB, MED & Co. for a quoits match. This necessitated a quoit "bed" being set out. Various reference books were consulted, many visitors asked and Michael did a "grand tour" of Swaffham Bulbeck because we were told by several people that behind one of the pubs there, men used to play the game of quoits regularly with the 1920s. The tour was entirely time wasted: visitors seemed to have differing ideas and even reference books did not agree on the distance between the 2 clay "beds". However, in the Summer of '74 members of Ely Rotary Club visited the museum (one of them was the foreman of GORB) and the topic again came under discussion. Within 48 hours several bags of fresh clay were delivered and so that evening the beds were set out, each one to be covered with a circle of sacking (held down by meat skewers!) which could be kept wet and hence prevent the clay from cracking,

k Bahamas Shell Story - beginnings of N.H. Section
On seeing Craig's shells from Hinstanton, Louis commented that those in Abaco were much more attractive and that when she returned home she would send him some. — Weeks, and even months passed by and no shells arrived. Craig became disgruntled about the broken promise and suggested that we write and request the shells. However, in Feb '70 a big chocolate box arrived. Inside was a complete set of beautiful shells each carefully labelled: and also a sample of real Bahamian sand. How thrilled we all were — our very first parcel from across the sea!

It was decided that they deserved a good display presentation and Michael hit on the idea that a picture frame would make a good "top" if Alwyn would make a box to fit. This was the very beginning of Mr. Alwyn's display-case making — from now on strong picture frames were in demand & Mr. Alwyn kindly gave of his time free so that we had only to buy wood necessary for base & sides.

Often people comment on the shell collections — Mrs. Tomalin passed on those she collected as a child in Africa, Ms. Marshall sent one from Tenerife and Val Newnes felt that her collection from the Solomon Islands would be much better housed in the museum where people would see & admire them, rather than continuing to keep them in shoe boxes under the spare room bed!

1 Mr. Miller's Craftsmanship - the broadshare.

When we were collecting the tumbrel cart from Mr. Markwell's farm in the fer, we spotted a metal horse implement in the rubbish patch. On closer investigation we saw a 'cast' nameplate with the words "W. J. Miller, Maker, Hadderham" inscribed on the side. With the name of our own village on it, we considered this implement well-worth preservation - after all, it is not often that 'Hadderham' appears, and Mr. Markwell agreed we could take it. As a token of appreciation, the two small Markwell children were given a Ladybird Book each and the Delaney children were given the task of wire-brushing the broadshare to remove loose rust & then painting it in true agricultural colors - blue & red.

It was some years before W.J.'s widow was brought up to the museum & her husband's name painted out to her on the machine. She is very deaf & it was difficult to explain to her the whole story - but a wonderful look of recognition spread over her aging face when ~~she~~ the name plate was shown to her.

On relating this story to Henry Hawes, one of the red old village characters, he told the boys the dramatic story of how W.J.'s father met his untimely death. - He was eating the typical fer 'dicky' of bread & cheese & onion (raw!) when a piece of cheese became lodged in his throat & he choked. This is the sort of dramatic story which small boys enjoy telling visitors!

m) The Pate Family Wardrobe.

Mrs. Tom Ward, on her visit to the museum, commented that she saw no reason why a 'mangel' should be in a museum - it was not until Michael asked her how long ago it was since she last used one, that she realised it was too long ago for her to care to remember. For people of the pre-war generation, there are many such items in the Bygones Section - some people even today use mangels & flat irons etc

Four years later, when she and her father, Mr. E. Roffe, decided to leave The Limes and settle on the south coast, she rang me up to enquire whether the museum would be interested in some clothes which had belonged to her great Aunts (on the Pate side) and which she had taken care of over the years.

The clothes are now carefully stored in well-moth-balled drawers and are displayed on open days, complete with a photo of Pater Pate. It is interesting for her to know that when the Queen visited Ely in November '73 one of the dainty lady shawls was worn by one of the teaching staff and Sarah Hunt, one of the children helpers, was dressed from 'top to toe' in a "morning outfit" at one of the B & B events. A colour slide of her, complete with basket full of fruit, makes a delightful picture of "Children from a former age".

mill for chicken food preparation) on his
fork lift & did the entire journey back to
the Mill - a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles - with
the "lead" swinging merrily ahead of him.

Perhaps the largest journey with the most
awkward shape was the transportation of a
horse-drawn binder from Bunt Fern via
Little Damman to a Bank Holiday
afternoon. Imagine the traffic chaos on the
A10 bridge at Littleport - not to mention
the calamity of a broken pole in route.
It is interesting to note that the very piece
of wood necessary to complete the implement
was found hanging in 'Ones' barn - James
are renowned for "hanging on" to anything
that might be useful & fortunately for us, after
being there for some 40 years it is now back in situ.

n) Pickpicks the Removers: hayrake, engine, binder.
We at the museum are entirely dependant on other people when it comes to moving large agricultural equipment. There is a very definite limit to a car boot & trailer - although on one occasion we did manage to squeeze 4 horse ploughs into the latter.

Alwyn had spotted a hayrake in Arthur Harwood's yard at the bottom of Station Hill. Upon enquiry he agreed to let us have it for the museum at its scrap-value - the sum of 30/- was agreed on & arrangements made to collect it on Christmas Eve - a Saturday. Alwyn's car was attached to the implement, the boys all excited and the journey home commenced. However, Station Hill is very steep & on a Saturday afternoon, very busy so that by the time the cross-roads were approached a queue of traffic stretched as far as the eye could see & the car + rake completely blocked the cross roads. The village worthies, who stand for hours at that junction had appropriate rustic comments to make as the contraption gattered speed down the High Street.

Another expedition near Christmas (Sunday evenings - Bank Holidays are the best time when help with transport is most readily available) was to Aldbeth on Boxing Day morning. There had been a slight fall of snow - enough to make tractor tyres skid - when "Uncle" picked up the Hister Engine (sold to us by Miss Lily Todd - it had been used by her father, Ben, to power a grindip

o) Things of scientific appeal - Geissler tubes, space
mementoes, chronometer,

A headmaster friend of ours was given a set of
Geissler tubes by an Uncle, who years ago was
a physics teacher. Neither he, nor we, quite
know how they functioned & upon enquiry at
the Cavendish Lab. we were told how very dearly
they would like a set for the museum of
scientific things which is being set up in
Lee School here. No use expecting help
in restoring them from that direction! Uncle
Dan & a friend spent time renovating them
but the water part is so weak after years of
storage that it is now impossible to pass
an electrical current through - sad, but
just one of these things.

Whilst having tea with an American family
a few doors up the road, we were introduced
to the couple who had recently bought "our"
bungalow. They showed great interest in the
museum and when looking around the following
day Mr. Leventh promised the boys some
mementoes of the Space Race in USA as he
had been employed doing research into the types
of fuel used. A copy of the plane which
was taken to the moon by _____
is now duly installed.

Back in 1969 when Uncle Walter was searching
through his "treasures" in order to find items
for the boys' museum he found a chronometer,
quite ancient but still in good working
order. Now that we have a "safe" display
area for such items (thanks to the Sedgewick)
it now is on display for all to see in the
glass case.

p) Boundary signs - if only Maud could see them!

On an expedition one Saturday morning Michael discovered an Isle of Ely boundary sign thrown in an Ely scrap yard. Upon enquiry we were told that it would cost £2 due to the value of aluminium involved. Sad to think of a piece of local history thrown on the scrap heap. However, it was soon cleaned, painted & mounted in a shrub bed at the top of the garden.

When we realised that with the implementation of the Maud recommendations, other nearby Cants ones would be lost in 1974 we enquired through local government Misses whether these boundary signs would be available. After various letters & phone calls the Murto. Misses agreed to sell us one for £5 - Some of Peterborough were less enthusiastic due to the fact that only 4 of them were in existence. However, eventually we were able to collect one from the depot at Barnack & so we have these 2 administrative areas which were amalgamated in ^{to form HUNTS} 1965 when the Old Isle & Cants. were amalgamated. We have since contacted the New Cants.

Misses explaining that we have the 3 smaller Cants signs & would be willing to buy a Cants one to complete the set but to date no help in the direction is forthcoming.

One amusing remark made by a visitor, "I said that remarkable!" "What?" asked his friend. "That 3 centres should meet in this garden," replied the first observer!

This is the maternal Grandfather of the Founder
the Fomland Museum.

This child is Mrs. Denaine who is now
Chairman of the local Over 60 club and
Bobby George is James G. W. Freeman who
owns Stone Cross Farm.

sentimental reasons it was not disposed of with
the scrap metal merchant. Today it stands
as a reminder of Mettercare Furniture at the
turn of the century - albeit somewhat
chipped and uncarved for.

Children like this story, I think, because the
museum object has personal qualities connected
with adults & children in the village whom they
all readily know.

9) The family cot - a story much enjoyed by a local class
A few years ago villagers got rid of their
"iron" bedsteads to the local scrap metal dealers.
Now they are keenly sought after by people in
the antique furniture trade.

The story concerning the baby's cot in the
museum intrigued many of the local children
when visiting with their class -

Long long ago, when Victoria had just
died & her son Edward VII had been
crowned King of England, a little boy was
born in Haddenham and was called Arthur.
His parents bought for him a super new
cot - made in fancy ironwork & painted
jet black. How new & shiny it looked
compared with the lumpy white nighties which
babies of that era used to wear.

Later on Arthur had a baby sister and
she too used "the" cot - her name was
Mabel. A few years later Baby George
(named after the new King George V) was
born and he too was nursed therein.

For several years the cot was in store at
Stone Cross Farm until the next generation
of the Freeman family were 'bedded' in it
- Harold, Joyce, Lorna, Robert - all used the
cot in turn.

After a half century of spasmodic use the
cot was looking shabby and in readiness
for the Delaney Children, the rusting ironwork
was given a coating of non-peeling, non-
toxic paint. Alas, for some chemical
reason^{or}, either it chipped & peeled and was
unsafe to use. Again it was stored - but for

1) George's wood plough.

Imagine George Amory's surprise when, on Saturday morning, his buddy Albert Newman arrives with a puzzled look on his face — 'What's up, bar?' asked George. 'I'm aleaking for a wood plough, Wodler, and I just can't seem to lay my hands on one' (knowing full well that at the bottom of Wodler's yard in Hill Row, was a pile of wood with a plough thrown in for good measure). 'You needn't not look further', replied George 'there's the very thing in that heap over there'. The two plodded their way towards the heap and George's curiosity got the better of him, 'What an earth do you want a wood plough for, Alb?' Albert was longing for him to ask that question so that he could give a long detailed account of the museum, what there was there all ready & the sort of exhibits we had asked him to look out for in his visits to farmyards and sales rooms too numerous to mention.

The wood plough, ^{an Oliver Chell one from USA —} was brought back to the museum and in order to prevent the wood from rotting further, it was treated thoroughly with a plastic chemical produced by Ciba, Dwyford, to harden the fibrous texture and perpetuate its life as a museum exhibit. It is especially housed in a shed because if left out of doors with the line-up of metal ploughs, its life ^{would} only be a season or two. Many visitors have admired it — including the assistant curator from N.E.R.L. and a student who was doing a special study on ploughs.

s) The Coopers' Lot was not a happy one. The idea of a club or society outing is often fulfilled by a visit to the museum - Quite early on the Methodist Meis Group from Ely came out to Haddenham for a browse around - followed by coffee & homemade biscuits (the latter, I feel, were more enjoyed by some members than the conducted tour itself!) One member commented, on seeing some of the craft tools, that his own collection of Coopers' tools, complete, were just rotting away in his garden shed (since the closure of the Ely Brewery in '65 he had taken an office job at Pye's - at his age the move to Bury, house-hunting etc. would have been too much.) It is good to know that these tools are now well-oiled & displayed - they carry a family history in them because Mr. Martin's father and three uncles all served the traditional 7-year apprenticeship.

The display is 'roped' off for fear of children touching the sharp blades & having an accident - however, one local kiddy (Mackie Turner) on seeing the Coopers' plane standing at about 30° commented, "Wow, that would make a super slide!" Imagine, sliced seat!

There used to be 28 pubs in the village and somewhere there must be many pub signs - CFB retrieved one for us in Spring 74 from the late Miss Fitch's house - how appropriate that the name of this particular P.H. was the Coopers Arms!

D) The Visit of Jill Freund, wife of local MP, & Frank Butcher (assistant editor of F. Weekly) together with photographer Keith Huggett — all in the same afternoon.

A side page article had appeared in the FW in March 72 and now that the agric. side of it had expanded so much, coupled with the fact that we were in dire need of more buildings (especially of the farm type) Elliott persuaded his school friend Frank Butcher to make a visit there himself.

The date — a Thursday afternoon — was fixed and by strange coincidence that was the very date Jill Freund chose to make her first visit here. Elliott and another school friend, district councillor Bert Wright, arrived in good time so that after the Old Boys had greeted themselves, Keith Huggett was able to get on with his job of the afternoon — taking photographs. Several weeks were taken of Mrs. Freund — but none of these appeared in the FW (perhaps the party image would have been wrong for a Conservative — journal!) Conversation, cups and cookies mixed well and by 6pm even K. H. had left — with a firm promise that he would make sure we had some photographs (so after we have been promised photographs — but had never received any). Week by week we watched for the article to appear & in May not only did we receive several copies of it from FB but also a very good selection of photographs from KH

Cotterham Over 60
Langstater
Schan
Prickwillow

Stetham WI
Willingham WI
Fendrayton WI
Swavesey WI

Cotterham Society - Me

Ely Society
Foxter Forum

Haddenham YFC

Ely } Mer's
Huntingdon } Group

Chatteris Museum Society
Schan Festival Lecture
College lectures (paid)

Ely } British
Stetham } League

Impington
Ely
Burwell

4) Inundated with requests for talks by LED & MED.

My very first "audience" was a group meeting of Over 60s Clubs at Catterham V.C.

2) Talks usually follow a set pattern - how it all began, what we have (take samples which are small enough to carry) and plans for the future. Followed by colour slides of our own museum & others which we have visited in this country if electricity supplies & time permit.

It is much more enjoyable if members of the audience contribute their reminiscences and anecdotes about peg rug making, or playing with horses etc. & once the ice is broken WI and Over 60s meetings can be a great source of information from my point of view

Cambs. Industrial Archaeology Society

Mitcher Regional Survey Assoc.

Prickwillow Over 60

YFC — too numerous to mention

Hunts }
Ely } Mer's Society.

March Museum Society

Schools — too numerous to mention

Friends of Haddenham, Bucks.

How things began —

It was during the Summer of 1969 that the garden of 50, High Street, Haddenham, was ploughed up for the first time in many years. Until the early nineteen-twenties this area was a well-cared for garden belonging to the farm next door. Ashes from coal fires, broken pieces of china and other kitchen rubbish had been used to make a raised path way on the south side. This was before the refuse cart paid its weekly visit!

Before the last war the garden had become neglected and overgrown: the ~~Wag~~ "War Ag" reclaimed it, levelling the paths, demolishing the box hedges, nut trees and the superb mulberry tree which grew there. For several years it was used for market gardening and then in the fifties it was put down to pasture and pigs were "put out to grass."

When this grassland was ploughed up, "buried treasure" came to the surface — bits of pottery, clay pipe fragments and pigs' teeth — showing varying signs of decay! These were collected up by a small boy, washed thoroughly and arranged neatly in cardboard boxes. He then announced to his family that, on payment of a small fee, anyone could look at his "museum collection". The money raised was to help children who "couldn't see and couldn't walk".

All visitors were asked to write their names in a book — and it really was quite exciting when the address was not Haddenham, especially when one lady who was holidaying in this country, wrote her address

"Abaco, Bahamas". On seeing sea shells with the label "found at Hurstons", she announced that Bahamian ones were much more attractive and that on arriving home she would send us some. So many, many, people do not keep their promises, but early in 1970 a big parcel arrived containing dozens of shells, each group clearly labelled, which she had picked up on the sunny beaches of her homeland.

The first visitors were, of course, family and friends. Within days they were returning with varied items ~~to~~ to add to the display - a commemorative clay pipe (unbroken!), real Roman pottery sherds and various bric à brac. One enthusiastic Senior Citizen brought along a prize-possession which had belonged to her grandmother - a double baking dish whose design and shape was almost identical with some of the modern Swedish pottery!

Soon the collection was too big for a child's bedroom, so a shed in the garden was cleared of its lawn mowers and tools: the "bits and pieces" were arranged there on an old kitchen table. From then on the collection became known as THE MUSEUM. The appropriate wording was painted on a sign on the door. Friends, neighbors & acquaintances brought along all sorts of things for which they had no further use. It is due to peoples' kindness and thoughtfulness that a child's enterprise has grown into the venture described in the following pages.

The entire garden is now the setting for the exhibits and the collection has been given a name - the Farmland Museum. Another sign has been painted - this time by one of the visitors who happened to be a professional sign-writer! This is displayed at the front of the house so that intending-visitors can find the museum easily.

Where is Haddenham and the Farmland Museum?

Haddenham is a farming village on an "island" in the fens, over 120 feet above sea-level. Until 1965 it was in the administrative district of the Isle of Ely. In that year the Isle was combined with the old county of Cambridge to form an amalgamated county: likewise Peterborough and Huntingdon were joined together. In 1974, as a result of the Maude Report, these two recently-formed ~~old~~ local government areas combined forming the new, large Cambridgeshire.

The Isle sign was rescued from a metal scrap-yard and both the Soken of Peterborough and Huntingdonshire were caught from their respective surveyor's departments. Unfortunately it has not been possible to acquire a Cambridgeshire sign. When this has been achieved, it is hoped to shape the shrub bed in which the signs are situated, into an approximate shape of the new county.

Two elderly visitors were walking slowly up the hill one Summer's evening and on pausing to look at the signs one commented: "Now ain't that remarkable!" "What do you mean?" asked her companion. "Why, that three counties should meet in this garden, of course!"

It is interesting to note that the old county of the Isle of Ely still retains its own Member of Parliament. That is about the only way in which the old district

retains its identity - hence the sign is
+ real museum-piece.

Museum Details.

Visitors to the village may notice the sign in the photograph opposite: it stands in one of the gardens along the High Street. On the chaff-cutter stands the founder of the museum - Craig Delaney.

The collector of Ruwll Antiquities is accommodated in the garden beyond the house - hence from the roadway very little is visible. It is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month from 2pm to dusk.

During the Summer months various activities are arranged on these afternoons - am-dolly making, weaving, pottery and, of course blacksmithing, to name but a few. A specific charge is made at the gate for a different children's charity each month. Visitors at other times may make their own voluntary contribution to the charity box.

The Home

1. Washing was hard work!
A wood wash-tub, washing dollies, mangle and an early washing machine can be seen.
2. "Dashing away with the smoothing iron".
There is a choice in size, shape and weight on this shelf.
3. Much of the cooking was done over an open hearth - calling for heavy iron boilers, adjustable pot-hooks etc.
4. The large copper kettle could provide enough cups of tea for a W.I. meeting!
5. Bottle collecting is a popular craze today: old and rare bottles are very valuable.
- 6 7 8 see NB for close-ups.

The Dairy

Until the end of the Second World-War many farmhouses in Haddenham had their own dairying equipment: milk was sold "at the door" and butter churned twice a week.

The three butter churns in the photograph all came from local people and it is interesting to note that the three separators on the left were made in different countries—Belgium, England & Sweden.

Small quantities of milk did not require mechanical separators— it was left in shallow pans, allowing the cream to rise naturally to the surface due to its lower density. This was then "scooped" off with a scimmer— a saucer-like structure with holes in it through which the "skim milk" could drain. The cream was then made into butter in a hand churn such as can be seen on the shelf.

Wooden butter "hands" were then used to "knock it up"— getting rid of any surplus butter-milk. It could then be shaped into blocks. In larger dairies this action was carried out by the "butter-worker"— the large wooden structure on the right of the photograph.

Farmers' and smallholders' wives would take their surplus butter to Fily on a Thursday morning, travelling either with their own pony and trap or in the carrier's cart. The Buttermarket is still known by that name but the stalls there ^{now} on market days sell such things as shoes, clothes and toys.

The three-legged milking stool in the photograph looks just like an illustration from a nursery rhyme book! Haddenham farmers invariably used a T-shaped one-difficult to balance on for a novice: very easily made from two sturdy pieces of wood.

Cows were milked regularly by hand twice a day and a milking pail, which was held between the cowman's knees, is standing beneath the third churn. A brass rule up the inside indicated the amount of milk given by a particular cow. Milk was then strained - to remove grit, hair etc. - and cooled.

Until quite recently farmers sold their milk in churns which were collected early every morning. Nowadays milk is collected in bulk by large tankers and the days of a small farmer keeping two or three cows, and milking them by hand, are over.

Milk deliveries to the householder used to be made by a milk cart on which stood a churn. The requirements of each housewife were poured from the measure into a jug or can which used to be left on the doorstep in readiness for the milkman's call. One such churn is in the corner of the display, complete with top and brass plate.

Water bottles in $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2-pint sizes were used. These were sealed with a cardboard disc. The machine for "topping" these wide-necked bottles came

from a dairy in Ely. It was very difficult to find any of these old-type milk bottles — eventually some were sent to the museum from Coventry. Recently, however, several have come to light — including some from the two local dairies.

The Blacksmith's and Wheelwright's Shop.

Many different people were involved in the construction of this building - a local farmer had been told that pan-tiles were to be broken up to fill in the holes along a fence drive. These would make a fine roof, he said. A bank manager needed an old house to be demolished on his building site - the wood could be made use of for walling, said one of the museum helpers.

A building firm, on being told about the project, allowed any suitable wood to be taken from the site of the old threshing tackle sheds at Stretton.

A bricklayer travelled from Buckden on a cold Winter's morning to build the forge chimney and one from Chetsham did "the footings". The rest of the work was carried out by friends of the museum purely voluntarily. It is thanks to such enthusiastic workers that the entire building was constructed for a little more than £70.

From the photograph opposite it can be seen that the pitched roof is of traditional pan-tiles, the walls are of feather-edged boards and the weather-vane, depicting a smith & his apprentice at work, was specially ^{designed and} made for the shop by the local blacksmith who gives his demonstrations here very regularly.

The forge is brick-built equipped with pear-shaped bellows which gave years of service at the threshing tackle works in Haddenham, and also cylindrical bellows which were donated to the museum by an officer in the Navy who owned property at Orwell.

from Kedington

The lathe, at the wheelwright's end of the shop, was repaired by a wood-turner from Willingham and made to work both by treadle (as for Edwardian sewing-machines) and by a pulley system using a beautifully-made wooden wheel which had been part of a mechanism at the old brewery in Ely. Small boys love to be asked to "turn the wheel" in 1975 much as they did years ago when the wheelwright really needed such power in order to carry out his everyday work.

On the benches ^{OMIT!} can be seen unfinished items - such as wheelbarrow wheels - which were discovered in a Haddenham workshop long after the owner had died: it makes one feel very humble when one sees the intricate woodwork which these old tradesmen did with such simple tools. The lathe and many of the tools came from a disused wheelwright's premises at Kedington.

The work of the village blacksmith and that of the wheelwright was often interrelated. The tying of a wooden cart wheel by a band of metal is an example of work involving both trades. It therefore seemed appropriate to make this building dual-purpose so that tools for both trades can be displayed and used there.

Rural Crafts

- 1 Basket work made with willow at St. Ives: corn scoop ~~and~~ from Haddenham Mill with mill-bill and thrift.
- 2 Traps for various animals - eel glaives, plover nets, mole traps, rabbit snares and gin traps in several sizes.
- 3 Bottles from breweries - in March, Beccles, Wisbech etc. The collection of beer-mats illustrates 6 different rural crafts.
- 4 This horse collar came from Sutter-in-the-Isle, and was repaired by a 90-year old Cambridge saddler.
- 5 Drainage hand-tools made mostly in wood: pipes of varying designs to carry water to dykes.
- 6 See NB.

Hand Tools.

The changes that have taken place in the farming world this century are too numerous to mention. Until the nineteen-thirties the amount of work on each farm could be measured in "man" power and "horse" power - i.e. the number of men & horses required to farm the acres satisfactorily.

Hoeing and weeding have been replaced by spraying: the reaper and binder replaced sickle and scythe. Today all the harvesting operations are carried out by the combine - a machine whose action is well-described in its name. Threshing by hand with flails (commonly called a "stick and a half" was replaced by a threshing tackle - powered by a traction engine (local farmers always referred to this operation as "steaming" - special coal was purchased until the late forties to provide power on Steaming Days)

The photograph shows shears used for clipping the sheep's fleece in March or April. After they were put to secondary use as edge-snippers around the lawn! The small two-tined fork was used to dig out the daisy roots from the Manor lawn: leaning on this is a "hedging hook" or chopper. The larger items are a scoop for lifting potatoes from the clamp into the "riddle" for grading: a turnip chopper which prepared root crops for animal feed: a bucket used for cutting out the blocks of peat for fuel (as at Wicken Fen) and a curved cultivator for raking and aerating the soil.

The tool which is locally known as a "cut-knife" was used for cutting hay or straw into sizeable blocks for carrying to the livestock in the pre-baling days. Two of these were left on the doorstep of 50, High Street, and to this day it is not known who gave them to the museum. — Such is the thoughtfulness of local people when they are tidying out sheds and farm buildings — items for which they have no further use are brought to the museum for safe keeping: one such museum helper called in recently to "borrow" the beetle (a cylindrical-headed hammer made in wood) which he had donated to the museum some few years previously, as he had a fencing job to do which required the mallet-like tool!

Older visitors stand and "yarn" about using scythes, how to sharpen them, how to clear ditches "by hand" and how to train and "lay" a hedge. The tools used by these people vary in name and shape according to the district — for example the gadget known locally as a band-twister in other rural areas is called a scud-wider. The range in size and shape of "hedging hooks" has to be seen to be believed.

The Farland Collection of hand tools, with very few exceptions, has been built up by local farm workers and also by the helpful gypsy who retrieves all manner of museum exhibits from his loads of "scrap" iron.

The Age of Horse Power

The ^{very} first large exhibit to be given to the museum was a timber cart, made in 1939 by a Stretton. On seeing this a farmer from Hill Row promised a special Hemmiford-made cart on condition that "it was kept undercover". This necessitated the building of the large shed at the very bottom of the garden, where wooden implements could be on show without weathering. This was the first purpose-built structure and had to be economically-priced. Second-hand sheets of zinc were bought at Cambridge Market: these formed the roof & back. The two ends were blocked in with boarding to form separate lockable units for displaying smaller items. Voluntary helpers from as far away as Huntingdon completed the project in a matter of weeks: the whole building was coated with creosote by the boys to preserve the wood.

Soon this area began to fill with drills, dressing machines, reaper, binder, stationary engines and other barn machinery. The two end units formed a natural setting for Rural Crafts and tools at one end and other small farming items - including a mass of veterinary tools - at the other.

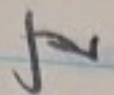
A prize-possession, the one and only wood plough, was treated with preservative and kept there too. All the other ploughs, cultivators, ridgers, rakes, potato harvesters etc., numbering over sixty, are wire-brushed on arrival, repaired if necessary and then treated with a special preserving oil so that they can stand out of doors in all weather without undue deterioration.

It is very interesting to listen to the old playmen talking to each other - comparing the finer aspects in design and balance of individual playmen. One such visitor, well over 90 years old, insisted on grabbing hold of each pair of handles in turn to "get the feel" of each of the playmen. His working life had been spent as horsekeeper on various Cambridgeshire farms.

The horse-drawn reaper which appears on the cover photograph, was ^{last} used on a farm near Littleport in 1947 when the corn was badly damaged by thunderstorm and the binder could not cope with it.

Sugar-beet was a crop which was introduced into this country in the early twenties and necessitated a whole range of new implements. At that time the tractor was beginning to make its presence felt on the farm. Some of the sugar-beet equipment is for use with horses and some for tractor.

The Smythe drill, thought to be supreme in its class, was originally supplied to a farm near Ipswich in 1919. It was bought at a farm sale later on and used until 1970 by the farmer next door. Like so many horse-drawn implements, the shafts were removed during that time and a tow-bar fitted. Knowing that farmers are renowned for not throwing things away - "it might come in useful someday" - it came as no surprise that the original Smythe drill shafts, which had been removed in 1944, were safely stored ⁱⁿ the ^{roof} of the farm barn which can be seen from the museum garden.

Individual photographs show a single-furrow plough, a hay-rake, an early potato-spinner and a gapper  sugar beet. All are horse-drawn.

The Carts and their anecdotes.

Pages could be written about the anecdotes concerning various exhibits - owners are only too willing to tell stories concerning their gifts to the museum. [Space permits details to be given about the larger and more agriculturally items.] [Space permits details to be given about the larger and more agriculturally items.]

The cart on the right of the photograph, referred to earlier on in this booklet, had been converted for use with tractor. Enquiries among farming friends, an advertisement in the Post Office and Parish News Magazine brought no offers of cart shafts. However, it was eventually discovered that a pair were leaning up near a shed just over the boundary ditch. Their owner, a strongly-built man agreed to let the museum have them - and delivered them personally by throwing them over the hedge!

The shafts were bolted on: red oxide paint was bought and much fun was had by all in painting the entire cart, restoring it to its former glory. Some time afterwards a photo of it appeared in the local weekly newspaper - this inspired a carpenter from Stretton to call in and ask to see "the cart". On seeing it he exclaimed "These shafts are wrong!" How did he know? Such is the detailed memory of a true craftsman that, not having seen the cart since he finished work on it in 1939, he knew these shafts were not planed & fashioned by him. Other people, too, have commented that certain things about the cart "don't quite

rig time" detail! Such is the countryman's eye for

The second cart was bought new for £10 by a farmer. It served him well and then with the change over to tractors it was put at the back of one of the farm buildings. When Hill Row Fen was flooded in 1947 it was dragged to higher land for safety and returned to its shed when the floods subsided. There it lay: its owner died and his son continued to keep it - admiring from time to time its workmanship and over the years it became something of great sentimental value to him.

Now that it is at the museum, many people can see it, admire the craftsmanship and even take photographs of it. It is good to know that the owner feels "Old Dad's Cart" is being well looked after.

The photograph on the page opposite also shows Gary, the founder and creator ~~of~~ ⁱⁿ the ~~left~~ ^{centre}. His younger brother James, who enjoys showing visitors around, is in the ~~centre~~ ^{left} and Kevin, the eldest, who for several years did much of the letter-writing concerning the museum exhibits, is on the right. Since the project has "snowballed" it is their father who has to do the administration and planning but the boys continue with their jobs of clearing, painting, letter-writing - and talking! Several of their school friends have become involved too: one is a regular helper with lawn mowing during the Summer months: others help with activities on Open Afternoons and quite a

little gang became involved when friends of the museum offer buildings to be demolished so that wood and bricks can be used for new projects. Two older lads spend hours & hours renovating old stationary engines which can be seen working on the first Sunday afternoon of each month. So much, then, for the younger generation looking after its heritage from the past.

Rocks, fossils and Early Man.
Rocks from various parts of the British Isles, —
and from foreign parts — have been brought
back by holiday-makers and collecting enthusiasts.
A mining firm presented a complete display
of rocks and minerals to be found in
Cornwall — geologically one of the most
interesting areas in these islands.

In the fens it is essential to keep the
waterways clear — much of the arable land is
lower than the rivers which drain it —
hence the need for 'pumping' engines (such
as the Old Engine at Stetham) to get the
water from the drainage channels up into
the river and hence into the Wash at
King's Lynn.

Many of the fossils on display have
been dredged up from the depths by
mechanical diggers working on the ditches,
dykes, drains and rivers. Sand and gravel
workings have provided fossilised parts of
mammoth and bones of bison, an early
type of cattle.

The variety and beauty in sea-shells
is displayed in a case containing collections
from the Bahamas, the Solomon Islands and
the Island of Java.

A special case containing beautiful coral
was brought back to Haddenham by a
young sailor boy before the First World
War. It was looked after first by his
parents, then his wife and latterly his
daughter. Now it is in the Natural History Section of the
Museum —
a memento of travel over half a century
ago, for children of today to admire.

Haddenham, with its underlying levels of greensand, is ideal for fruit growing. Many fruit growers used to keep bees to help pollinate the flowers - one case has been filled by a local bee-keeper cum orchard owner with comb, beeswax and other bee impedimenta.

Early man's attempts at tool-making can be seen in deer antler picks, flint axes and scrapers. - A little lad was picking up potatoes at Waterbeach and came across an excellent example of a Stone Age axe-head: a flint scraper was picked up by a potato harvester in Haddenham for: a deer antler pick was found ~~near~~ at the Grimes Graves flint workings near Brandon.

Deep ploughing on the farm land at Denny Abbey, just off the main A10 road near Chittering, produced a fine example of a Roman quern - the rotating of stone-on-stone produced coarse flour from corn.

Nearer here, at Bedlam Farm, a dog, trying to scarp out a rabbit from its burrow, brought out pottery fragments instead which have been identified as early Roman.

Excavations at the Vineyards in Ely produced a Mediaeval mortar which could well have been used by the monks at the monastery. All these exhibits prove the value of the cliché "History is all around us": such items have been kindly identified and dated by staff at the University Museums in Cambridge.

The Collection Continues

From the small beginnings in 1969 the Farmland Museum has developed into the display described in these pages. It has involved a lot of work for many people — help has been generously given with building materials, labour, transporting of larger items, upkeep of existing displays ^{all requiring} ~~and~~ TIME, that very valuable commodity.

Background work is done in as professional a way as possible — all agricultural items are catalogued in detail as this museum's collection of Farm Implements is the only one of its kind which portrays the very special Fen requirements eg specialist equipment for celery growing. Both the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading and the East Anglian Museum at Stowmarket keep records of all these agricultural exhibits here at Haddenham, for reference by students. Staff at both establishments help willingly with any query or request which is made.

Conservation work is very important — wood worn has to be cured in teels etc: ~~f~~ growth of mould has to be got rid of on leather items in the saddlery department and meat has to be kept under control on large and small exhibits. Inside the sheds it is perhaps dusting and cobwebbing which require more frequent attention than anything else!

It is hoped during 1975 to start work on a fourth building in the garden and then the original garden shed can be

devoted entirely to Natural History Displays
and the Domestic Bygones specially arranged
in the new area.
It is hoped to reserve one side of
the new building entirely for Haddenham
and its industry - the opening of the
railway in 1872, photographs and products
of the old brick works, details of the
Bane Grease and Manure Works which
once existed in this village - to name
but a few.

Children from the local school find the
museums very handy for topic projects -
one class did an interesting survey on
Harvesting, another followed the work of a
Village Blacksmith. A display of children's
work on such varied themes would
be of significant interest and therefore it
is hoped to reserve a small area
for such follow-up work. There could
also be an area for temporary
exhibitions of things happening in the
locality which would be of interest and
value to visitors - a map of the
public footpaths in the parish is an
idea which comes to mind.

All these ideas are for the future
- in the meantime new exhibits arrive
on the doorstep almost daily. Until the
new building is completed, these are being
stored by friends who have shed space
spare, as the existing buildings are
completely full. Over 300 people have
given items of interest for others to see.
Maps in show depict places in this

and other countries from which visitors came.
 Craftsmen and women ~~man~~ give
 their time to display their talents: brass
 bands, including the village's own Silver Band,
 and a hand-bell group add a ^{delightful} musical
 touch to ~~an~~ Open Afternoons. Other
 enthusiasts bring along their own displays
 to show visitors - model makers, photographers
 and local historians.

Children's Charities, particularly local ones,
 have benefitted by hundreds of pounds
 from the donations given by visitors and
 many hours have been spent in
 reminiscing about "the good old days".

Famland Museum History & Guide

How Things Began.

A small boy, in 1969, collected together some broken pottery, sea shells etc. & called it his museum. He charged people to look at his collection & gave the proceeds to children "who can't see & can't walk". Enthusiasm spread & friends became involved: sheds were needed to house the exhibits & these were built with voluntary labour culminating in a brick built building opened in 1976 by the Isle of Ely M.P., Clement Freud.

By 1979 the work involved at the F.M. was too much to cope with merely at weekends & the demand for use of the facilities during the week had increased. Sponsorship was gained from a local firm, Ideson Motors, together with financial backing from Lade Cars. This has enabled the museum to be opened during the week for group visits, research & development work. Open Days, the first Sunday of each month from 2pm, continue to be held, raising money for various local & national charities.

Regularly over the years Keith Patterson has come to demonstrate the art of blacksmith. Children & old people alike stand & watch him shape a black piece of iron into a wrought iron bracket or domestic tool.

Top Building

This shed is wrapped in 2 sections - left of the entrance are the N. H. Displays Sea shells from various parts of the world: tools & equipment to do with bee-keeping, collections of birds eggs (some of which were collected in the 1890s - it is now illegal to take them) On the right is the geology & archaeology section: rock samples have been obtained from the bore hole made in the village in 197 - together with a wide range of minerals quarried in Cornwall & elsewhere. Fossils include those of DINOSAURS found in local brick pits together with ammonites belemnites & other early organisms.

Archaeological specimens include "tools" made of flint from ages together with ^{Roman} medieval pottery. A good selection of querns (very little damage) shows how well items can be preserved in the soil for centuries. Each year the County Archaeologist organizes a workshop here which enables local people to bring along their "finds" to be identified & the maps marked up with the position where each item was found.

New Building

Domestic Bygones have been grouped into "wast house", kitchen, living room & bedroom.

Science case shows development from Edison computers to mini-circuits illustrating the terrific advance in technology over the last 20 years. "Space Travel" is illustrated with a copy of the plaque taken up on

early radios and scientific instruments are shown in this area of the building.

Cases of interest to the "fairer" sex show hand-made lace, doll & new macramé, tatting & bead work together with the implements used by craftpeople who made them. In contrast the cases

opposite them illustrate "WAR" - exhibits range from an 1868 wooden water bottle to 1945 a sample of melted sand formed

when the first experimental nuclear bomb was exploded in 1945 together with an "eye-witness" account of this event.

All "bombs" land mines, hand grenades etc. have been tested by the Army Disposal Unit from Colchester to make

sure everything is safe.

Aspects of the village history occupy the end wall of the building - doll photographs and back many memories to residents and other villagers are in attendance

or open days to answer any queries.

A collection of children's toys - spinning tops, china tea sets, pre-war toys, doll greetings cards etc. are displayed in

cases near the window so that young visitors can easily see into them.

Rural Crafts.

Villages were often "self-contained" years ago - they had to be due to lack of transport & communication: every village had several craftsmen and some of their work or tools are displayed here.

Basket maker

Thatcher

Ditcher

Trooper

Cobbler

Cooper

Saddler

Hedger

suggest labelled items
of tools / products

The bottle display illustrates the large number of breweries in the area - nowadays beer is "mass-produced": the number of pubs in Madderley has dropped from nearly 30 to 2.

Villagers had to make their own entertainment - there was no radio or TV - quaits, both made in rope & metal, have survived here & a day "bed" has been constructed outside the rural crafts building for this "pub" game.

Farm Shed

Much of the work on farms was done "by hand" & this shed contains all the hand tools for many jobs: Corn was cut by a scythe, animal feed was chopped by a fl each farm kept "a cow for the house" & so the dairying side contains milk pails, churns, separators, sievers etc.

Seed was sown by hand - dibbers were used to make a hole in the soil into which seeds were put: "one for the rook, one for the crow, one to rot, one to grow." The 'fiddle' was a device for distributing smaller seed such as grass - & this model has been 'borrowed' from the museum to sow an acre of grass seed.

Horses did the heavy work on the farm & medicines & gadgets for treating them when they were ill can be seen in the veterinary display to the left of the door.

Draw other hand tools eg sheep shears pig prodder, collars etc. & label them.

Working Display

The problem of moving heavy machines out of buildings & back after Open Days proved heavy tedious work & so a trolley was designed and built to accommodate them. The blue winnower (or dressing machine) which cleaned the corn from the chaff dust & grit: the green root chopper which cuts mangolds up for animal feed: the chaff-cutter which cut up straw into easily-managed bits for feed: the maize which

and the oat crusher which can still be used to make coarse porridge.

A retired farmer is often in attendance & willingly demonstrates how these machines work: this is done behind a white fence as cutting blades can be dangerous to visitors!

Make a plan of the outdoor agricultural implements & label sections. Agricultural records are held here (using the system) & duplicates are held at the Museum of English Rural Life at the Reading University. Old West River to the south of the parish comes which was ploughed up near the bottom of a Bronze Age spearhead in the left bottom and thirdly, took made from flint with lived on these islands - mammoth & bison - the largest animals which have been seen and named: the remains of show signs of Early life such as The three photographs on the opposite page also (caption) Page 31 also

are willing to help with any query which arises re the exhibits at Haddenham.

Cart Lodge.

Built originally to accommodate the timber carts, this shed now contains the reaper (which cut the corn & left it on the ground) the binder (which cut the corn & bound it into sheaves) stationary engine () which used power a mill for grinding corn first at Witchford & then at Aldbeth. During the Summer months the "open" area is used by craft demonstrators & in the Winter this area is filled with "wood" implements to prevent rotting.

The outdoor display consists of over 70
hose-drawn implements which are treated
with Shell Enox Fluid to prevent further
rusting, and are arranged as in the diag.

001

Visiting Demonstrators & Bands

Open Days are made much more
interesting for visitors by various people who
come along and demonstrate a craft or skill.
Shirley, from Soham, has been very dedicated
with her candle work & often involves
young visitors to 'have a go' for themselves: artists
Ann Byggs & Peter Teevan regularly exhibit
her. Ladies Day, a popular annual
event is when such feminine crafts as
knitting, spinning & weaving are demonstrated.
Brass Bands, Hand Bell Teams, Drone
Groups & the Ballet School add to
visitors pleasure at various times.
Steamy engine enthusiasts make an
annual pilgrimage to the museum as
does Adrian Hult with his foreground
organ.

Engine Shed.

This is not nearly large enough to accommodate the number of engines: size of these varies from perhaps the most interesting one mechanically is

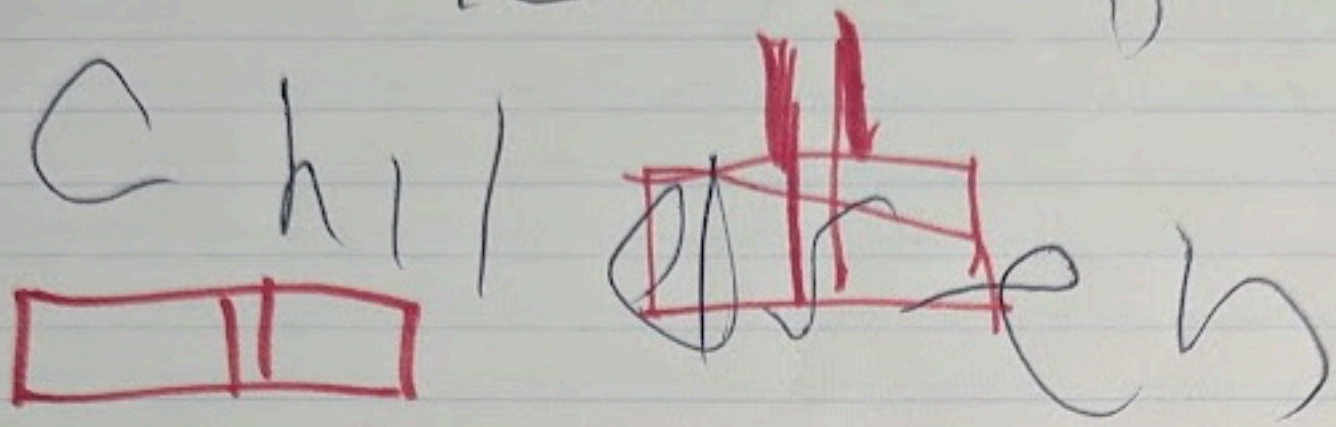
Thanks to the enthusiasm of the engine team led by Bill & Tony, all are in working order but there remains much work to be done to bring them up to "rally" standards no paint work & restoration

Summary

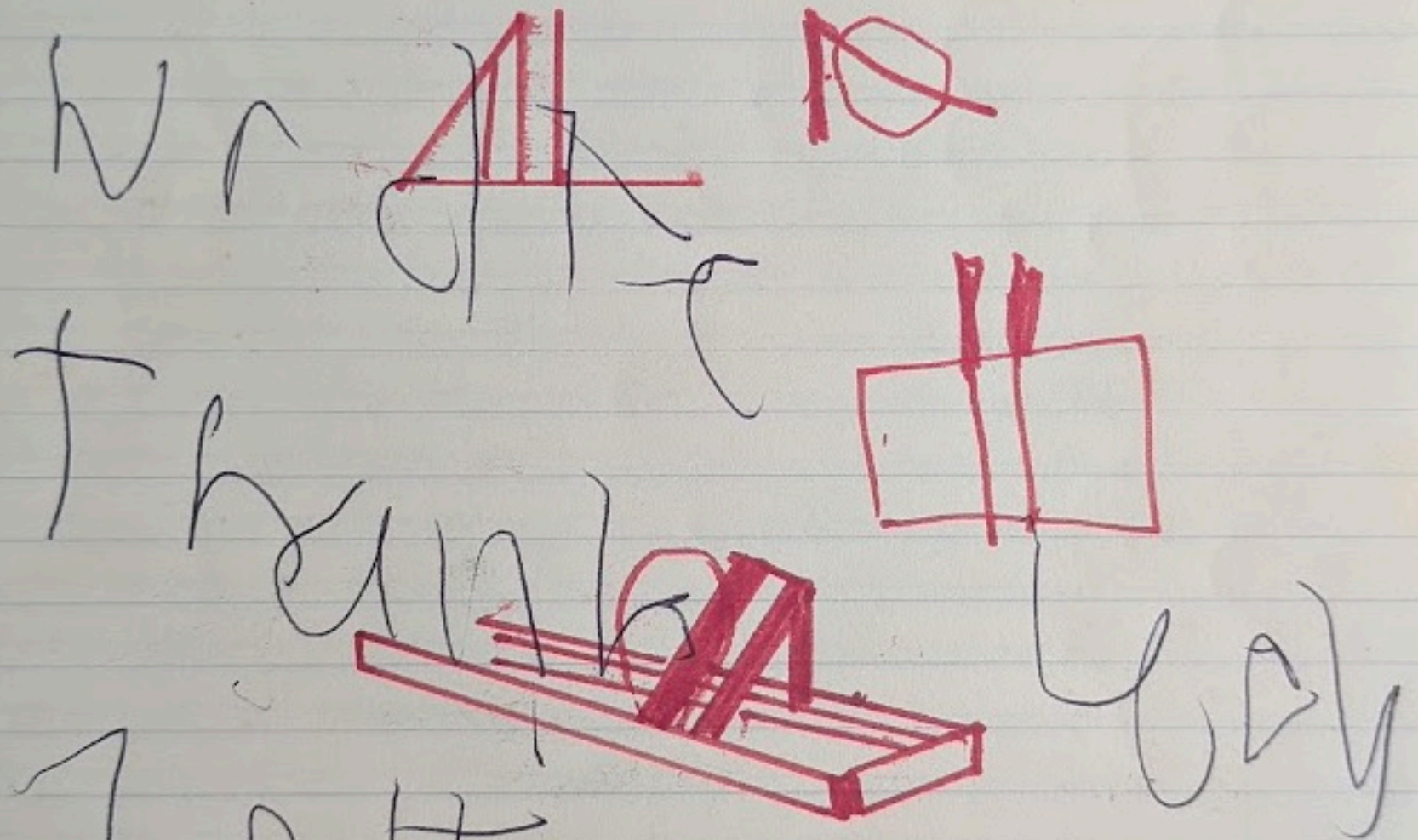
Money amounting to over £4000 since the eleven years since the Small beginnings, has been raised by donations, admission charges & profits from tea sales on Open Days. Visitors, number ~~over~~ ^{nearly} 40,000 during that time have come from such places as remote as the Falkland Islands & Moscow.

Thanks to Lady Spenscroft it is hoped that the Falkland Museum will continue — & may I therefore dedicate this F. M. Booklet II to all helpers past, present & future whatever their age talent or skill.

Lots of
chickens



Wn
The
ready



7
miss
SPT

Introduction

Through the years, the museum has grown from a collection of bits of broken china when crano del anoy at the age of 4 put them in a box and said, people who want to see these bits of china will have to pay 2½p. His dad said you can't do this, but he said I am going to give the money I get, to the Blind, deaf, and crippled, and he done this, and every time he got one pound he sent it of to one of these charities. He had two brothers one older and one younger the one older was called Kevin and the one younger was called James. Soon people were giving old bones, farming stuff, stuff from caveman time and lots of other stuff, so they had to clean there Garden Shed out and put cases and shelves up to put the stuff in. soon they had to make there garden still bigger so the were given a rug field by there uncle and built another two buildings. and in the the middle of the ^{next} year and they had built another building which is a blacks milk shop and a man called Keith patterson comes and does pokers and stuff. the museum also has poulghs in there garden.

The Farmland Museum

Chapter one

The Ploughs

When all the three children were older, they were given a lot of rusty ploughs in which the ^{two} youngest done the wirebrushing and the oldest done the painting in creosote, and very few in colour paint. There were the ridging ploughs and ordinary ploughs. The ploughs you mostly find are metal but you can get wood ones as well. There's lots of single furrows and double furrows found in Britain. Sometimes if people make a plough, they cast their names on the ploughs we have now days are pulled by tractors, but the old ones were pushed by man with help of horse. If you keep ploughs in your garden you should paint them every four years or so. So far in the museum they have got over about 32 to ploughs.

Chapter two

The Rural crafts

In the rural crafts building. They have the shoe-makers branch, with the shoe horn, boot Nails, hammers and so on. on one shelf a number of bottles are to be seen, the beer bottle, coals bottle with a marble in, The oval shaped bottle which is very rare called the ham and over very rear bottles