

# der Wetterhahn

Volume 1 Number 1

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Spring - Summer 1988

## *Renfrew Begins Restoration of Royer Farmstead*

As Renfrew enters into its 1988 season, historic preservation will play an ever increasing role in the museum's activities. Last year, our community based development campaign raised over \$200,000 for the restoration of the original Royer farmstead.

With these funds Renfrew has begun the work of saving the buildings and the landscape

(built environment) associated with Royer's Pennsylvania German settlement.

On a visit to Renfrew over the next 6 months, you will have the opportunity to see first hand how an early Pennsylvania German bank barn is restored, how beams are hewed and joined by hand, how the framework is raised in place, how a stone foundation wall is rebuilt, and

how a tin roof is replaced with wood shakes.

In conjunction with its work on the Fahnestock barn, Renfrew recently received a \$1,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council to underwrite the production of a videotape documentary. The purpose of the documentary project is to record all the various steps and techniques used during the actual restoration of the barn. Linda Henderson of Henderson Video (Greencastle, PA) will provide the technical support - filming, editing, and script development - from behind the camera.



*Renfrew's restoration craftsman, Terry Pelton, is shown hewing out a pine timber. Pelton uses a traditional timber framing broad axe to give the faces of the beam a smooth, flat surface. This is 1 of nearly 100 hand-hewed beams that will be incorporated as part of the restoration of the Fahnestock barn.*

***"Why," I asked myself, "do we do it? ... We are un-American. Preservationists oppose the conventional American idea of consuming ever more. We are actually the new wave of pioneers. We are struggling to reverse the 'use it up and move on' mentality ... We are taking individual buildings and whole (landscapes) that have been discarded and trying to make them live again ... Preservationists are citizens of the future, not the past."***

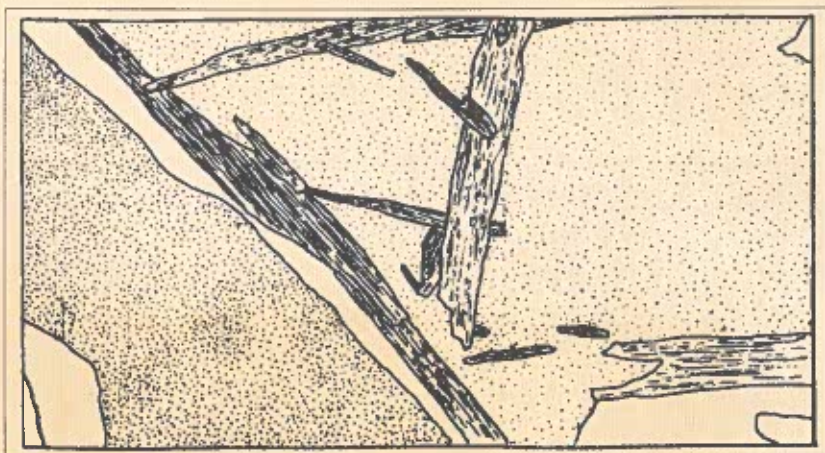
Clem Labine, "Preservationists are un-American!"  
*Historic Preservation*, March - April, 1979.

Historic preservation at Renfrew is not a recent development. Its modern day beginnings can be traced back to the 1940's when Emma and Edgar Nicodemus bought the Renfrew property. Under their guidance, a derelict farmhouse, outbuildings, and land were turned into an attractive home within a livable environment. They saved much of what is now Renfrew. The Pennsylvania German roots were kept alive and well; the feel of time and place remained intact.

Through the efforts and foresight of the Nicodemuses, the community of Waynesboro can now claim ownership to a unique cultural and natural resource.

Saving Renfrew's heritage is a first priority. But it goes hand-in-hand with preserving the heritage of this region and with helping others to understand the cultural and economic benefits that historic preservation can bring to a community.

With the museum's 1988 season at hand, our task at Renfrew is to insure the continued survival of this resource, to enhance its educational value for many years to come, and to promote the importance of preservation throughout this area.

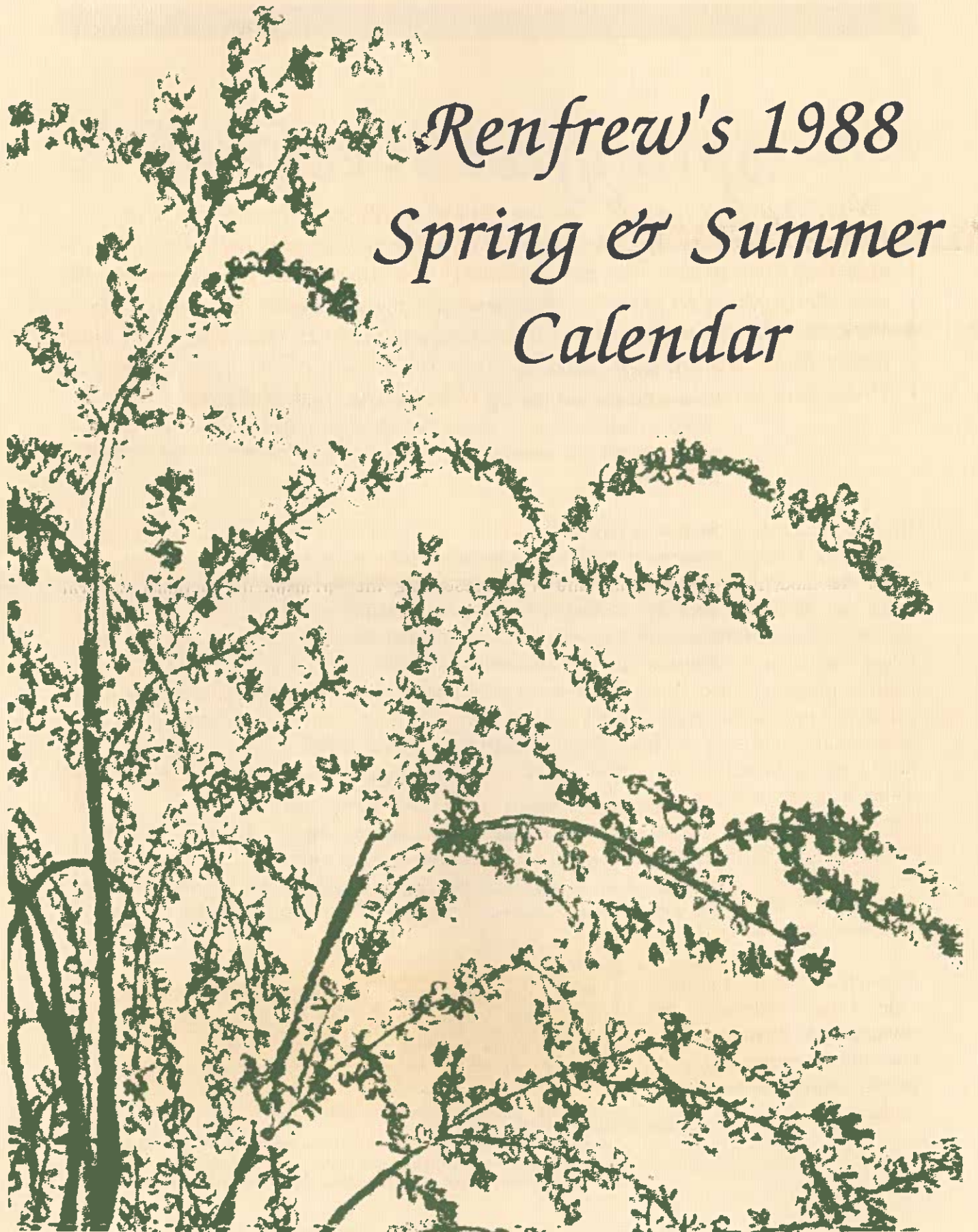


■ Tan bark residue  
 ■ Limestone rubble

Scale: 1" = 2'

*Collapsed section of a wood tanning vat uncovered by William Sheppard during last year's excavation of the Royer tannery. Sheppard will be conducting a second season of field work at the tannery site this summer.*

*Renfrew's 1988  
Spring & Summer  
Calendar*



# Springfest Weekend

*Saturday, April 23rd*

12:00 - 4:30

**CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS :**

*Timber hewing and framing Tin working Wood folk art Folk dolls  
Windsor chair making Sheep shearing (1:30 - 2:30) Tole painting  
Wool spinning and weaving Wool art Rug braiding Rug hooking  
Quilt making*

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:**

*Walking tour of the Royer farmstead Fahnestock barn restoration  
Bird walk (7:00 a.m.) Horse drawn hay rides (1:00 - 4:00)  
Earth Walk (2:00-3:00) Children's sing-along concert (12:30 - 1:30)  
Face painting Herb stand - Alloway Gardens  
Museum Open House (1:00 - 4:00)*

*Sunday, April 24th*

1:00-5:00

**CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS:**

*Timber hewing and framing Open hearth cooking Weaving Pottery  
Traditional basketry Instrument maker ( dulcimer) Tole painting  
Windsor chair making Tin working Wood folk art Blacksmithing  
Toy maker Sheep shearing ( "showing of the blades", shearing by hand)*

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:**

*Walking tour of the Royer farmstead Fahnestock barn restoration  
Earth Walk (1:00 - 2:00) Horse drawn hay rides (1:00 - 4:00)  
Face Painting Hammered dulcimer recital (3:00 - 4:00)  
Herb stand - Alloway Gardens Museum open house (1:00 - 4:00)*

**Food and drink available both days**

# Spring & Summer programs

Saturday, May 21st

1:30

## HISTORY OF THE SESQUEHANNOCKS

*An illustrated lecture by Dr. Barry Kent on the Sesquehannock Indians from 1450 to the time of direct European contact. Dr. Kent's appearance is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council in conjunction with Renfrew Museum.*

Fee: no charge

Saturday, June 11th

1:30 - 4:00

## GENEALOGIES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS

*A workshop on conducting genealogical research on the German immigrants who initially settled in the mid-Atlantic region between 1680 and 1800. The workshop is led by Mr. John Heisey, one of the foremost scholars in the field of Pennsylvania German studies.*

Fee: \$1.00 for members \$2.50 for nonmembers

Sunday, June 12th

4:30 - 6:00

## "FRIENDS FOR 10 YEARS "

*A reception, hosted by Renfrew's Board of Directors, to recognize 10-year members of the museum who have been Friends of Renfrew since the membership program began in 1978.*

Saturday, June 18th

1:30 - 3:00

## MATERIAL LIFE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS

*Jean Woods, Director of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, will present a slide lecture on the material culture, such as Fractures, made and used by Pennsylvania Germans of this region during the 1700's and 1800's.*

Fee: free to members \$1.00 for nonmembers

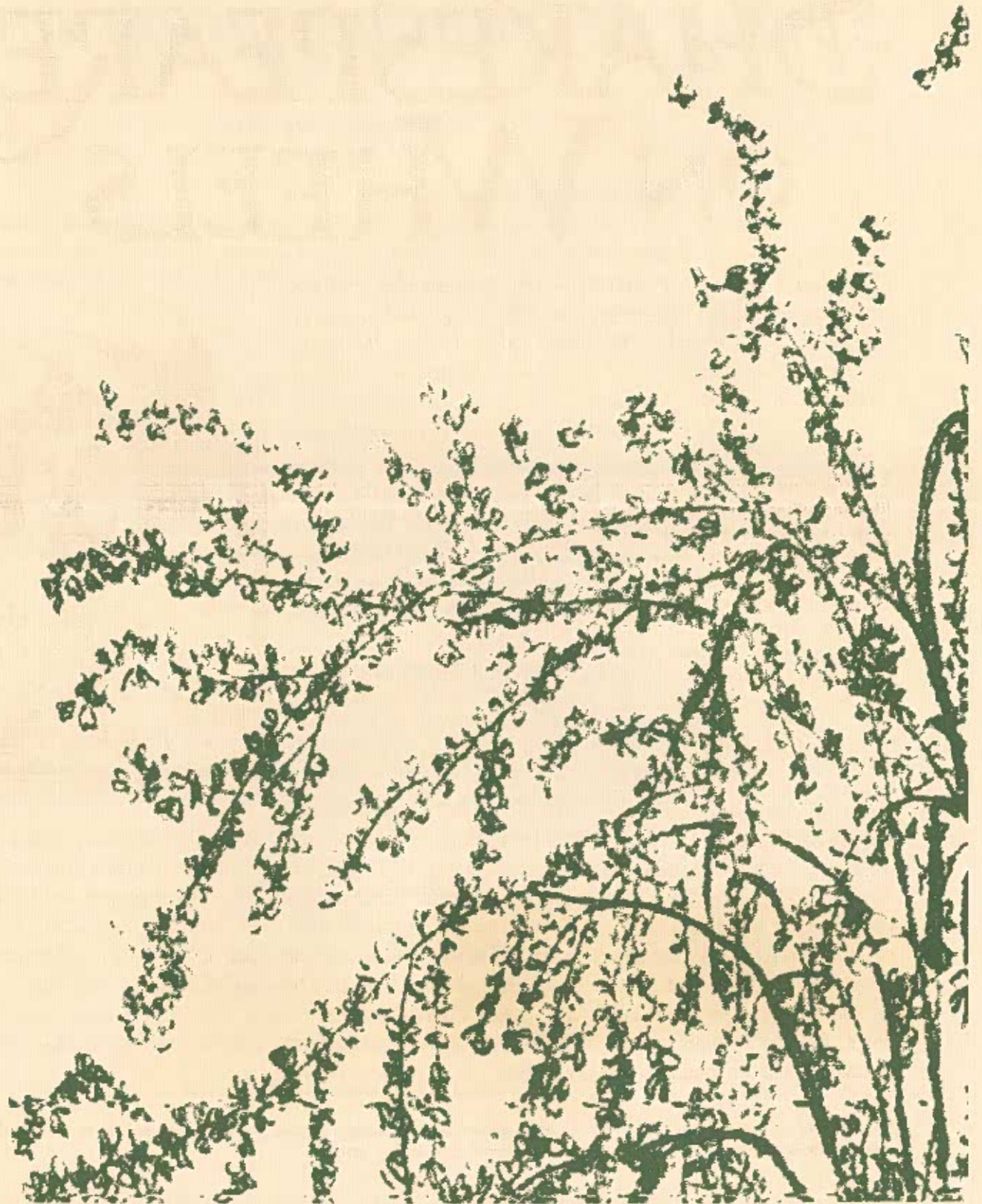
Saturday and Sunday, July 23rd and 24th

7:30 p.m.

SHAKESPEARE ON WHEELS - see Newsletter for details

*forsythia*

D. L. Smith / Smith & Mac



# SHAKESPEARE ON WHEELS

*Every once in a while a production comes along that reminds even the most jaded theatre goer what the magic and beauty of the stage is all about. ... the sheer inventiveness, the overwhelming theatricality ... of the Globe Theatre on a flatbed trailer ... is just shy of brilliance.*

Chris Dickerson , *Catonsville Times*: 8/14/85

The truck will roll into town just like any other truck; 2 days later with its cargo packed up, it will move down the road to another town. But for those 2 days, this town will be alive with magic, the magic of theatre - for that truck carries on its back the Age of Elizabeth and the voice of Its playwright.

At 7:30 on the evenings of July 23rd and 24th Renfrew Museum will host *Shakespeare on Wheels* and its 1988 production of *The Comedy of Errors*. The Saturday night performance is scheduled as a special evening for those people who contributed to the Renfrew Development Campaign. On Sunday night the performance will be open to the public.

*Performances for both evenings are offered without charge .*

This summer marks the 4th season of the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) touring theatre, *Shakespeare on Wheels*.

Based on a project created and produced by Theatre Dept. Chairman William T. Brown during his tenure at the Univ. of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1964, *Shakespeare on Wheels* brings the plays of Shakespeare and an exacting replica of the Globe Theatre to communities throughout the mid-Atlantic region. The stage is set on a 20 by 40 foot flatbed trailer. The players are drawn from UMBC's graduate program in Theatre.



If you or anyone you know would be interested in hosting 1 or 2 student players for the night of Saturday, July 23rd, please contact Renfrew Museum at 762-4723.

To M. D. Keller, who discovered this path to Shakespeare and placed the feet of Renfrew firmly upon it, our thanks.

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# der Wetterhahn

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Translated from the German, *der Wetterhahn* means the weathervane or, more literally, the weathercock. The icon of a rooster was often used by Pennsylvania Germans as an adornment above a house or a shop to insure and promote the good health and good fortune of those who lived and worked beneath its roost.



The logo of Renfrew Museum is a direct adaptation of the

weathercock that once stood watch over the potting shed of John Bell, Waynesboro's potter of the last century. Given the current value of a John Bell pot, the weathercock is still bringing good fortune to the works of his old master. Given Renfrew's current state, the old bird hasn't lost much of his charm.

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Renfrew Museum 1010 East Main St. Waynesboro, PA 17268

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