

pounds and by 1900 they were down to about 5 pounds.

The drop-frame bicycle was invented in the late 1890s, so that women would not have to struggle with their skirts over the cross-bars. Divided skirts became the next fashion.

From the 1870s bicycles were used by soldiers who were messengers, then again in WW1 and WW2.

Cycle racing was a popular sport and clubs grew rapidly in most countries, whether it was on the open road or on a velodrome.

Now we have the following types of bikes; road, mountain, hybrid, touring, cyclocross, fixed gear, city, folding, electronic, racing, triathlon, fitness, BMX, recumbent and tandem bikes. RH

Excerpts from: 'Cycling' by Jan Michael, 1980. R H

Tin Mill

As you drive along the entrance to the museum you will notice a piece of large, agricultural machinery, which is a vintage Tin Mill, previously used for threshing grain; wheat, oats and barley.

In the early years it was belt driven by a traction engine, and later by a powerful tractor, such as a WD40. Sheaves were packed in to a stack or matured in the paddock in shucks of 8 to 12 sheaves.

The grain sheaves were carted to the mill, then forked into it through the feeder carrier opening. Once the drum was spinning fast enough, knives cut the string on the sheaves and then the straw and grain were fed down into the drum.

The drum teeth gave a combing action and evenly spread the grain and straw. The fingers on the drum threshed the grain kernels out. A fan underneath the mill, blew air up to blow away the straw stalks and husks. An auger conveyed the grain to the elevator

to feed the bagging screen, or to the straight spout for bulk grain. Simple, ask Brian Schnell!

During the season of about four months, the men worked long hours. Most of them were temporary employees, but the permanent staff were the blacksmith and the engineer.

There were usually eleven men in a crew; two forking sheaves off the dray, one feeding the mill, three on the bag hole, the engine driver, the cook, the 'tankye' and one straw walloper. The engine driver was the boss.

So, what did the 'tankye do? He had to find water for the engine and drinking water for the men and horses. I guess the straw walloper kept the straw stack in shape.

After 1957 there were no Tin Mills operating. The harvesting was done with Combine Harvesters.

Excerpts from: New Zealand Vintage News, and thanks to Brian Schnell. R H



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A collection of interesting items for friends and supporters of 'The Coach House'

Doing Laundry through the Years

People of ancient times cleaned their clothes by pounding them on rocks or rubbing them with abrasive sands and washing the dirt away in local streams. Evidence of ancient washing soap was found in Rome, where ashes containing fat of sacrificial animals was used as soap. If there wasn't a stream nearby many women fetched the water in a container from a well, pump or spring. The entire process often occupied an entire day of hard work, plus the drying and ironing.

The earliest washing instrument was the scrubbing board, invented in 1797. An American James King patented the first washing machine to use a drum in 1851, which was hand-powered (see the one in the museum). In 1858 a rotary washing machine was invented. Some used enclosed containers that had grooves, fingers, or paddles to help with the scrubbing, rubbing and agitating the clothes. In 1862 a rotary washing machine, with rollers for wringing was developed.

The first electric-powered washing machine introduced in 1908 was a drum type machine with a galvanized tub and an electric motor. Developing into the 1920s, washing machines became more advanced and the first domestic, automatic washing machine was introduced by Bendix. This machine had to be anchored to the floor to prevent it from 'walking' about.

Early automatic washing machines were usually connected to a water supply via a temporary connector to the sink taps. Later, permanent connections to both hot and cold water supplies became the norm.

Around 2015 some manufacturers offered washers and dryers with front loading, so that they could be stacked with the dryer on top of the washer.

Now we just sort the clothing, throw it in the machine, add the detergent and wait until the chimes sound to tell us the washing is done. Easy! R H



Milking Goat Herds

While on a recent bus trip in the Opiki, lower Manawatu area, we were told about the introduction of milking goats as an evolving farm industry. It was noticeable that there were no longer large areas producing potatoes. Recently the milking goat has emerged on a commercial scale in the Manawatu, with two local farmers being the Moleta's of Opiki and Henson's of Sanson.

The dairy goat herds comprise mostly of Saanen goats, a specialist dairy breed. The herds are housed, and the sheds have a central feeding lane with the does contained in bays either side. They are fed fresh cut grass, or silage, and their diet is carefully balanced with meal to maximise milk production.

The amount of milk produced by a goat ranges from four to five litres per day. The does kid once a year and milk for about 290 days, like a cow.

Suppliers are paid on total milk solids, including protein and fat, with each goat producing around 75 to 120 kgs per year, depending on the level of feed input.

Fresco Nutrition is a New Zealand processing company collecting goat milk from farms in the Manawatu and Hawke's Bay. Once processed it is then sold overseas as infant formula. Excerpts from: NZ Goat Industry Report to Federated Farmers. March 2017 R H



Saanen Goats, a specialised dairy breed

Obscure, Old English, Census Occupations:

ANKLE BEATER: A young person who helped to drive the cattle to the market.

BANDSTER: One who bound the wheat sheaves after harvest.

BOOT CATCHER: A servant at an inn that pulled off the traveller's boots.

CANER or CHAIR BOTTOMER: Made the seats for chairs out of woven cane.

CANVAS CLIMBER: A sailor.

CATTLE JOBBER: Buys and sells cattle.

CHAIR BODGER: A travelling chair repairman.

COSTER WIFE: A lady fruit seller.

COSTERMONGER: Fruit seller.

EGGLER: A person who gathers, or deals in eggs.

An EYER or HOLER: Maker of eyes in sewing needles.

FETTLER: Someone who keeps things in good order: is neat and tidy.

GABELER: Tax collector.

GRIMBRIDDER: Lawyer.

HANKYMAN: A travelling magician in Victorian England.

The History of Cycling

In the days of the Penny Farthing, the first bicycle manufactured in numbers, bicycling had been a risky, dangerous sport. Penny Farthing was the Cockney nickname for a bicycle with a large front wheel and a small rear wheel. This bike did not have brakes, was difficult to mount and even more difficult to ride, with the seat some six feet above the ground.

The next type of bicycle was the 'Safety' chain-driven, rear-driving bicycle; the real forerunner of the bicycle we see on our streets today. It was advertised as being quite fast, easily learned, and very light; but considered so messy with the chain and it splashed mud on the rider. Both wheels were the same size and it had brakes.

Up until the 1870s, cycling was virtually a man's sport or hobby, but by 1885 women had started to ride. By this time cy-

cling had become a symbol of freedom. For a while cycling was *the* fashionable craze. Some people painted their cycles in family colours. There was attention to 'what one wore'. Men were often outfitted in tweeds.

The correct costume for a cycling lady was a woollen garment worn next to the skin, dark grey woollen stockings, loose knickerbockers fastened under the knee, underneath a plain skirt, a fitted bodice or jacket and a small hat.

Bicycles were good for young and old of both sexes. Guards were now fitted over the spokes of the back wheel to prevent women's skirts getting caught and the chain usually had a guard too. Folk could cycle with ease in the towns, but with country roads the rider had to dodge pot-holes, large sharp stones and water-logged patches. Punctures were frequent.

In 1897 a bicycle might have cost 7 to 20



Racing Penny Farthing bicycles at Knutsford, Cheshire, UK