

1764 NEWSHAM-RAGG ROTARY PUMP HAND ENGINE



On or about 1828-1829, Henry W. Snyder, son of Governor Simon Snyder, went to Philadelphia and returned with the first piece of fire-fighting apparatus in what was then known as Union County.

A detailed description of the "Arrow" is interesting. It is a small box on wheels. It is 75" in length, 28" in width, 20" high, standing 31" in height on it's wheels, the latter 50" apart, center to center. The front wheels are 12" in diameter, the rear ones 22", the body of the tin-lined box, or tank, being cut higher in front to allow the smaller wheels to turn. There is a tongue 73" in length to pull and steer it. The rotary pump is placed across the top of the body about midship. Two trapdoors, or lids, on each side of the pump give the means of supplying the water to the sucker of the pump inside. The arms of the cranks are long enough to allow two men to operate it at the same time. On the side of the body, there is today traces of a coat-of-arms, or shield, painted in the center panels.

The "Arrow" was housed in the Water St. Fire Station until it was donated to the State Historical Commission and placed in the William Penn Museum in January of 1964. It was returned to Selinsgrove in July of 1978 and was again kept in the station until the early 1990's when it was donated to the Philadelphia Fireman's Museum. The museum spent \$9000 to refurbish it to its original condition as shown.

The Arrow was noted in the local paper as being promptly on hand and rendering good service at a fire as late as December 19, 1874.