

Taking a Look at Old Edinboro

On six Thursday evenings Dr. John Marsh, author of Edinboro: a dirt street town, will host a continuing education experience in local history. Those interested in participating should meet with Dr. Marsh in the Historical Society room in the basement of the Boro Building from 7-9 p.m., September 20th through October 25th. (Be advised there is a \$15 charge for the sessions.)

The community's beginnings and early life will be evoked by means of a unique collection of visual materials showing the way life was in rural America. Photographs will be reinforced by walking tours of the borough and the farm community with a chance to see and handle artifacts once vital to the countryman's way of life. At issue is the story of a particular place and of an era in our national life.

During Edinboro's formative years its business community served not only townspeople but farmers and their families. Millers, wood butchers, tinsmiths, and harness makers advertised their services. And like their customers these skilled artisans were pragmatic and self sufficient; they valued physical achievements over intellectual accomplishments, and if they knew little of the wider world or of the fine arts, it was not necessarily to their discredit.

The Edinboro story as it survives in faded photographs, in the brittle pages of Old Independents, and in the memories of those born at the turn of the century is thoroughly representative of an older America. The roots seeker finds himself caught up in the passion for a picturesque and eclectic architecture; in the devotion to fine horse flesh and matched teams; in the sanctity of private property as well as in the probity of the Republican party.

picture captions:Rural Experience

1.conference organizers,John Marsh(rt) and Karl Nordberg(lf).In the background is the horse barn on the Todd Goodell farm,portions of which may date as early as the 1840's.

2.cornerstone with the date 1885 indicates when the horse barn was moved to its present location.

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3.interior evoking memories of when hay was stored loose in the mow.

4.one of the horse stalls.The harness in the background is just as Todd Goodell hung it for the final time in the early 1950's.