

The home of the Franklin Cider Mill was constructed as a grist mill in 1832 and was operated until about 1890 when the land in the area

became depleted for grain growing. Orchards were planted and later a cider mill was opened.

It's apple time

Sept. 1 is opening day at Franklin Cider Mill

Story: ALICE COLLINS
Photos: STEPHEN CANTRELL

The Franklin Cider Mill is beginning to stir on its quiet corner at 14 Mile and Franklin roads.

But motorists driving by barely give it a glance. Today it's simply a hibernating entity on the summer landscape at the corner of Franklin Village and Bloomfield Township.

On Sept. 1 when its doors are reopened to the public, everyone in or near the vicinity will know that the cider

mill is fully awake and back in business.

Back will be the Sunday afternoon traffic jams through the heart of Franklin as motorists come in search of the tangy cider, candied apples, apple butter and doughnuts right out of the oven.

Cider mill owner Jack Peltz, busy getting things back into shape for opening day, said, "This may be the biggest season we've ever had. Because of the gasoline costs pressing pocketbooks, more people will be spending their

weekends on outings closer to home."

ON A BUSY weekend, especially when the leaves are in full color, as many as 5,000 persons will pass through the cider mill. He estimates as many as 40,000 visitors during the three-month season.

On July 5 every year, Peltz, with help from his family, begins the countdown to opening day. The refurbishing job begins. Worn out gears on the machinery that grinds and presses the apples must be replaced, rotted wood must be replaced and cracks in the cement must be filled.

Peltz begins interviewing for help about the middle of July. He hires about 30, mostly young people, to work through the season. He's open for business from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, except on Sundays in September and October when he stays open until 8 p.m.

"THE FIRST DAY is usually a rough one," said Peltz. My wife Eleanor helps and my son Barry and daughter Laura come over from Columbus, Ohio, where they live to get the season going.

"They do it every year," he continued.

"We don't start pressing the first apples until 8 o'clock that first morning. So an hour later we should have one

pressing completed and 150 gallons of cider ready for sale.

"That first day always seems to be a nip and tuck," Peltz continued. "We'll have something in the press or conveyor will go haywire. Or something may go wrong with the doughnuts. Seems it's inevitable."

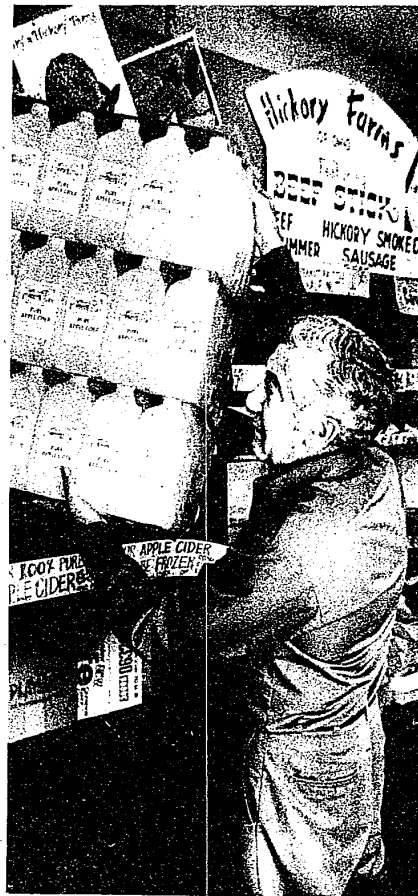
But things are looking OK for now, he added.

PRICES THIS year are going to be up probably three or four percent, making a gallon of cider \$2.70 or \$2.75," he said. "The farmers appear to be having a good summer for apples, but we haven't had any price indication from them yet. But we know transportation costs are up."

The apples come from Benton Harbor, Romeo, Grand Rapids and other parts of Michigan. The doughnut flour comes from North Dakota.

This season will be the 14th one for Peltz at the cider mill. He purchased the mill from Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKee of Birmingham who ran it for about 35 "When the season really gets going and the crowds come," said Peltz, "I'm grateful I'm on this side of the counter."

"Right now I have a few butterflies, just like I do every year."



Owner Jack Peltz is getting ready for his 14th season. He began the job of getting the machinery and building in shape on July 5. The season opens on Sept. 1.



A sign from the past still hangs in the cider mill. Jack Peltz bought the mill from Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKee of Birmingham, who had operated it for about 35 years.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

FARMINGTON SCHOOL BOARD

President Michael Spiece has a new job in Lansing. He's a member of the Joint Committee on Aging, a 12-person group that studies the problems of the aged. The chairman is Rep. Dave Hollister, D-Lansing. Spiece, who was hired July 30, said the committee is currently looking at alternatives to institutionalization for the elderly. Several public hearings have been held across the state and more are planned this fall. Spiece, who commutes daily between Farmington Hills and Lansing, said the job won't conflict with his duties with the board of education. "I worked in Lansing in 1976 and I was still able to maintain my perfect attendance record on the board," he said.

and an MBA degree in finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

A USED BOOK SALE, sponsored by the Greater Detroit Chapter of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee, will be held from Aug. 30 through Sept. 5 at the Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield. The 18th annual book sale will have more than 100,000 volumes including art, business, religion, classics, sports and foreign language publications. The Tel-Twelve Mall is located at Telegraph and 12 Mile roads.

THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE will operate on a holiday schedule on Labor Day, Sept. 3. Farmington Postmaster Kenneth B. Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery on that date. Special delivery and express mail service will be provided on a reduced holiday schedule. Normal service resumes on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY Health Division will offer expectant parent classes beginning Sept. 4. Classes are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings for eight weeks from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Health Division offices, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield. There is no charge for the classes, but pre-registration is required. Enrollment is limited. To register call 4247-7058 to register.

TWO FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL students, Ila Nichols and Doris Gurke, were among 83 Michigan high school students who participated in the Trendsetter Workshop sponsored by Central Michigan University's Department of Journalism. The workshop, which ran from July 30 to Aug. 3, covered photography, and newspaper and yearbook techniques.

THE KENNETH JEWELL Chorus, a 52-voice professional chorus in West Bloomfield includes two local members. Robert Hund of Farmington Hills was named the group's new president. Helen Anderson of Farmington Hills was re-elected the group's secretary. The chorus's activities are supported in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts.

DEADLINE

Material for the Inside Angle (23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024) should be typewritten and include the name and telephone number of the sender. Items must be received at least one week before publication. Please do not send photographs.



Kids' Back to School Sale

From Billy the Kid, brushed denim riveter jeans, in sizes 8 to 14, regular and 8 to 16 slim. 1822 units,* reg. \$13, sale 10.49. Matching vest, in sizes 8 to 16. 888 units,* reg. 9.50, sale 7.49. Billy the Kid checked shirt, in a variety of shades, sizes 8 to 18. 1800 units,* reg. 13.50, sale 8.99. All of cotton/polyester. In Hudson's Young Guy.

Girls' corduroy wrap skirt with oversized pockets. Of cotton/polyester, in sizes 4 to 6X. 400 units,* reg. \$12, sale 8.99. Cow neck sweater, of acrylic, in lots of solids. Sizes S-M-L. 600 units,* reg. 6.50, sale 4.59. Both styles also in sizes 7 to 14, skirt, 700 units,* reg. \$14, sale 9.99; cow, 2500 units,* reg. 7.50, sale 5.59. In Hudson's Girls 4 to 14.

*Total units available at Metropolitan Detroit Hudson's stores while quantities last.

hudson's

NATIONAL BANK OF DETROIT has announced the appointment of John P. Crowley of Farmington Hills as assistant loan officer in its regional banking division. Crowley arranges commercial loans to NBD corporate clients in the bank's metro west region. Crowley holds a BA degree in English from St. Lawrence University