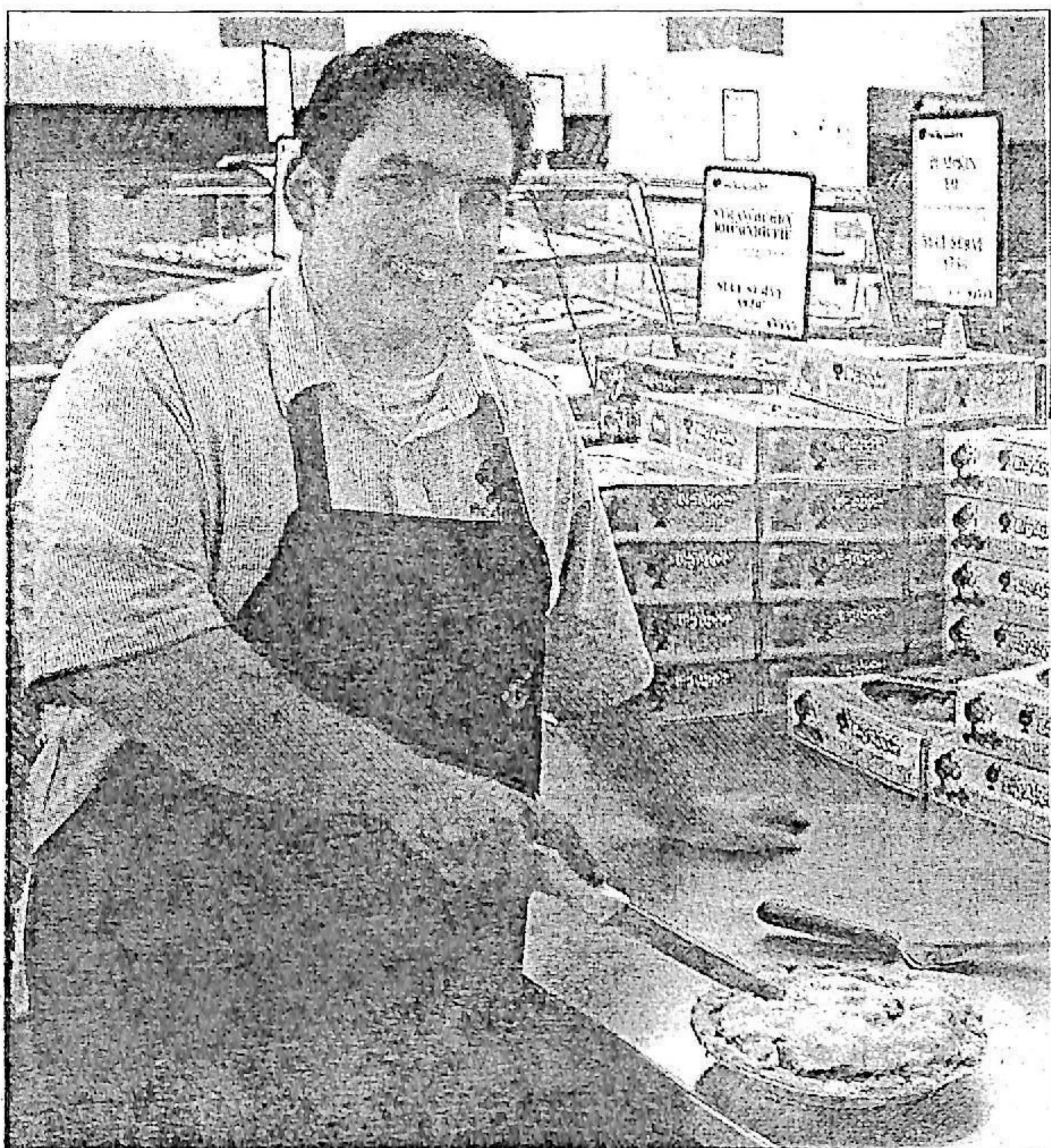


## LOCAL NEWS

# The Big Apple hits the 2,000,000 pie mark



Working on the next million, Big Apple Assistant Manager Shaun Mounstevan slices an apple pie for visitors arriving at the famous Colborne eatery and theme park.

### PHOTOS AND STORY By BOB OWEN

It took 17 years, but the Big Apple has sold its two-millionth pie.

Assistant Manager, Shaun Mounstevan changed the signs about a week ago to reflect that the company had passed the milestone. The actual pie was sold on the Labour Day weekend.

The dream of a Big Apple actually started long before that in Queensland, Australia. A young entrepreneur named George Boycott had seen the Big Pineapple and liked the concept. After selling the chain of pizza parlours that he owned, George, his wife Suzie and their three children headed off to Canada, armed with a dream.

George had inquired before he arrived here about the apple growing districts in the country. Together, the family toured them all, before settling in the house where they now live in Colborne.

The Big Pineapple sat along the major highway between Brisbane and Cairns. The distance to Brisbane, a city of one million, was about the same



Travellers eastbound on Highway 401 at Colborne saw the famous Big Apple sign flip to the two million pies sold - and still counting - mark in September.

distance as Colborne is from Toronto. Colborne seemed like a good fit.

The move from dream to a plan was somewhat more serendipitous.

Not long in Colborne, George decided to run for Council. He knocked on every door, something not done at the time, and he got himself elected.

In the 1980's, Colborne and Cramahe Township Councils met periodically, and it was during one of those meetings that George ran into Henry Mensen, a Cramahe Councillor.

Henry had recently bought the land where the Big Apple now sits, and was thinking of establishing a trailer park.

George said he thought he had a better idea and suggested they talk. The dream became a plan.

After a lot of planning and a lot of knocking on doors looking for loans, they built the Apple.

George admits that, like a lot of new business owners, they were under capitalized.

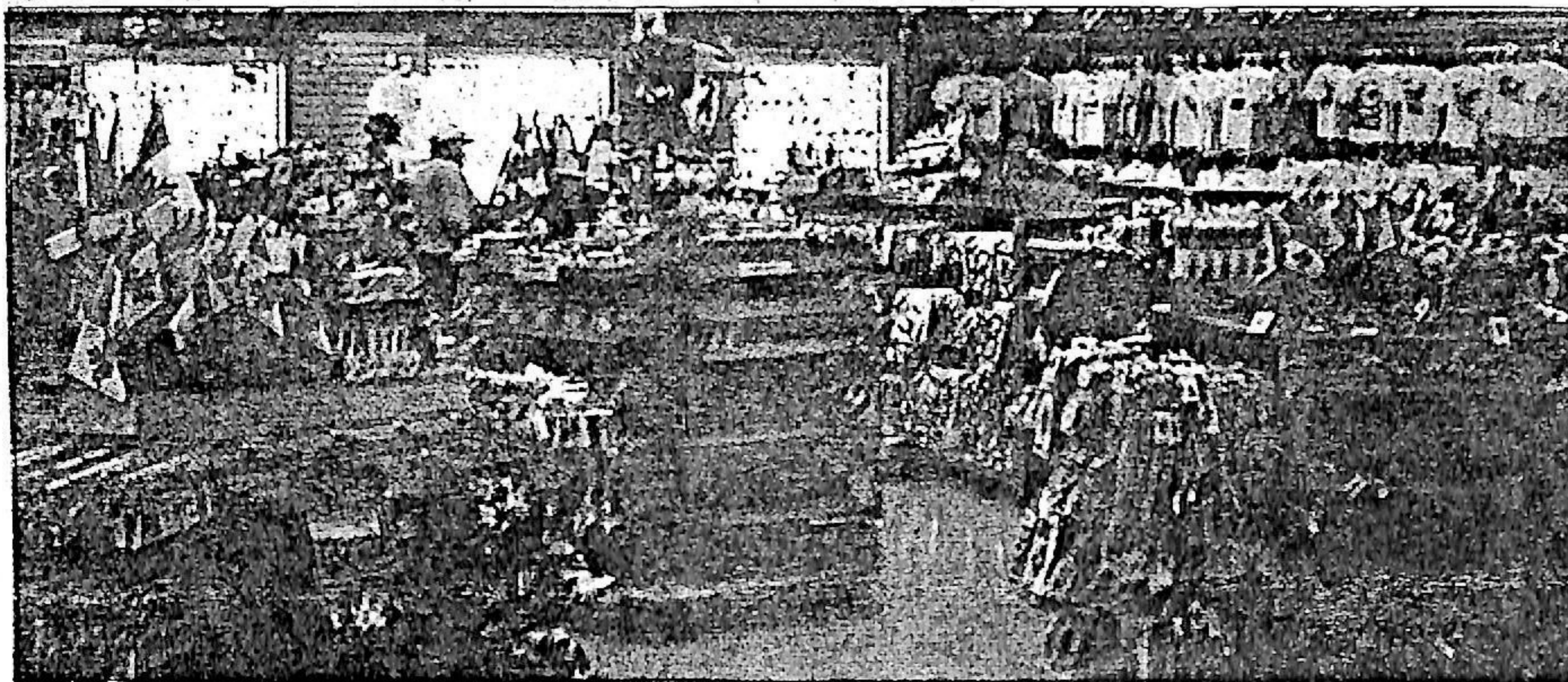
That problem was solved when Scott Sayers and Doug Rutherford approached the pair and offered to become silent partners.

### An instant success

It was 1987 - the Apple was open.

It has grown ever since.

George says that, right from the beginning, people were coming in the doors faster than



The Big Apple gift shop has doubled in size, and turned into a major attraction.