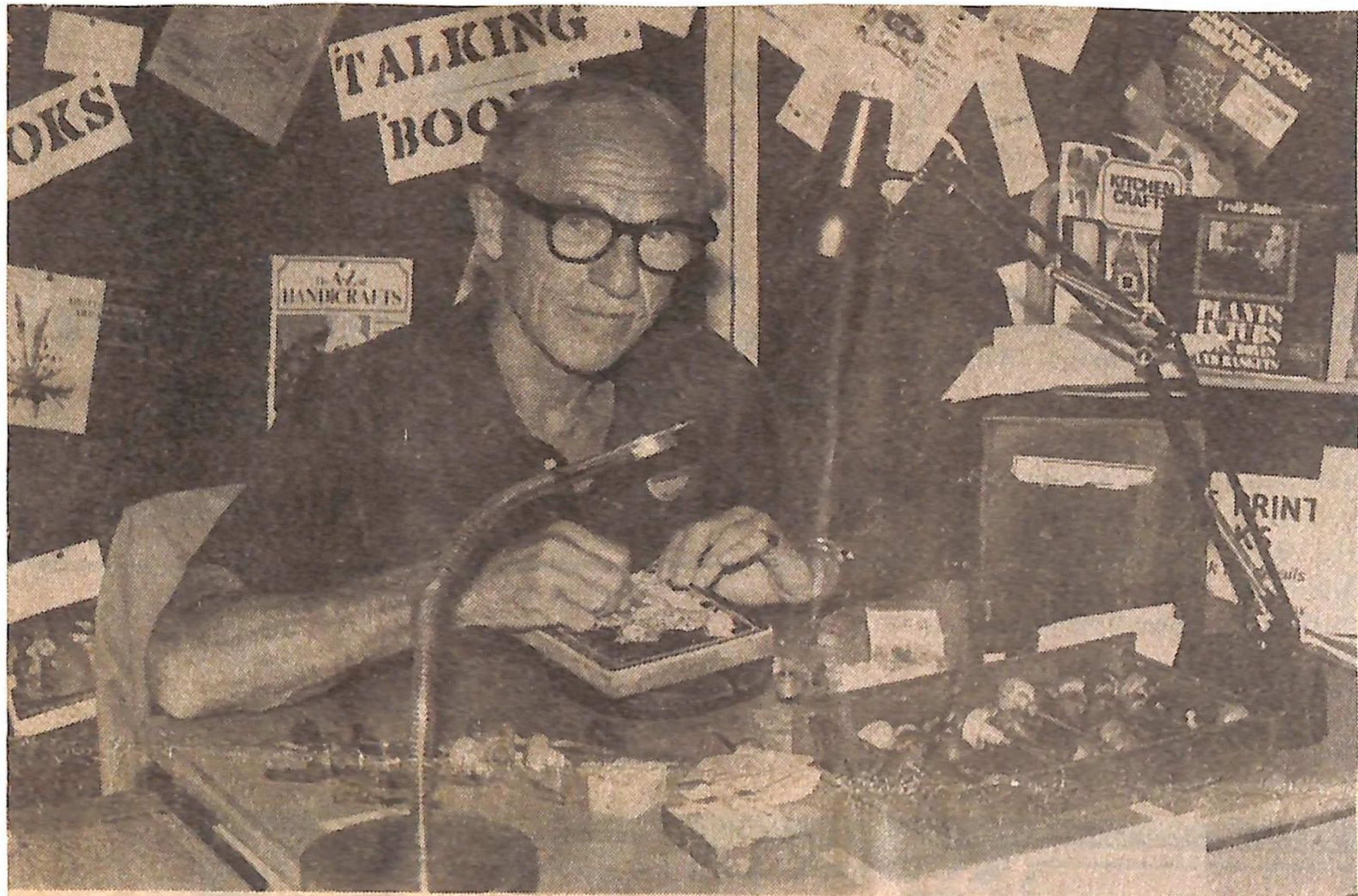


# Scenes At the Fair



Gordon Cross is one of the last wood block engravers in Canada. He said only about a dozen others like him are still working. The wood blocks were engraved for printing before modern photographic processes for books and newspapers made such illustrations obsolete. Mr. Cross said he began work in Toronto 50 years ago. His first job was to help prepare the blocks to illustrate the 1927 Eaton's catalogue. He said he remembers going to the Eaton's store every day and returning with armloads of linens and musical instruments to be copied in painstaking detail for the catalogue. The pay was \$5 per week. An apprentice had to work for five years before beginning to become proficient in the work. Mr. Cross says he is still learning and although he now wears glasses, his 50 year old tools are as sharp now as they were in his youth and his hands are still rock-steady.

