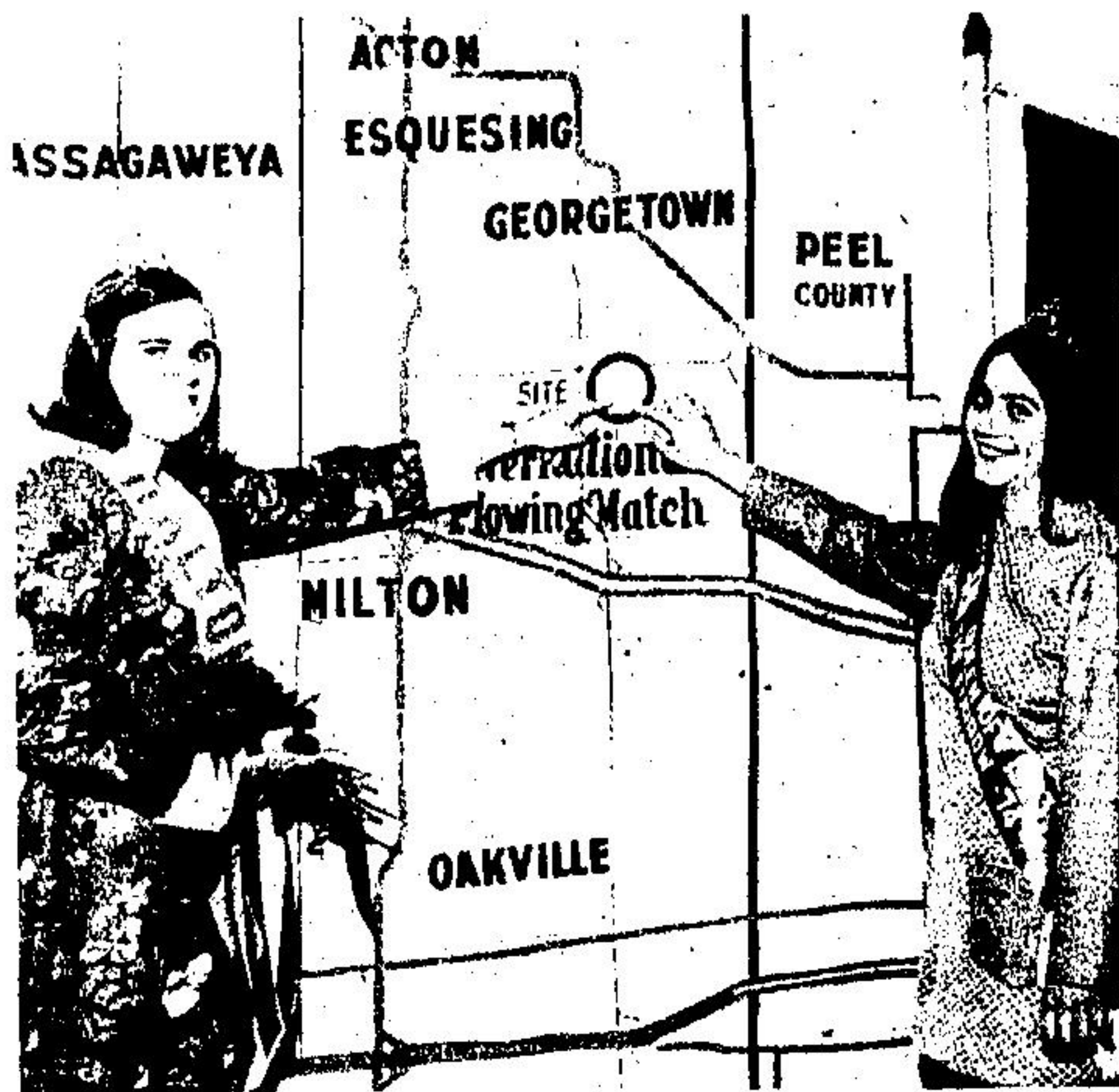


Since Kay Wilson broke new ground

Queen of Furrow popular contest



FURROW QUEENS Carol Somerville of Halton (left) and Ontario Queen of the Furrow Sheila Armstrong of Perth County point to this year's IPM site on a Halton map. Sheila will give up her title to the new queen on the Friday night of the 1974 match.

Kay Wilson of Norval brought the idea of the Queen of the Furrow Contest to the attention of the Ontario Plowmen's Association in 1958. Noticing the lack of women attending the annual plowing match, she convinced the executive of the interest such a contest would create. Since then she has been chairman of the increasingly popular IPM event.

The first contest was held in Elgin County in 1960, 47 years after the first plowing match in 1913. Since that time hundreds of girls between the ages of 16 and 25 have represented their county in the hopes of winning the Spencer Wilson Trophy, a new car and \$100.

This two day competition is not a beauty contest, although 200 of the 700 total possible points are awarded for appearance and deportment. Plowing ability counts for 100 points, an interview with questions pertaining to their lives and areas of interest in the future counts for 200 points, and a three to five minute speech for 200 points.

Speech

This year the short speech will be based on anything pertaining to agriculture and will be given at 2 p.m. Friday on the official platform across from headquarters.

The contestants take part in the grand parades Thursday and Friday. Following the parade Thursday they will show their plowing abilities in

two or three furrows to measure not less than 12 inches.

The girls will visit the ladies' building sometime during the two days to introduce themselves. Thursday evening they will be guests at an informal barbecue for dinner where they will each receive a complimentary gift from the county. They will then be bused to Mohawk Inn in Campbellville where they will stay the night.

Interviews

Friday morning they will be interviewed by the judges who will ask questions pertaining to their lives and dreams of the future. Following lunch, the parade and the speeches they will return to Mohawk to dress for a formal banquet at 7 p.m.

Five girls will be chosen as finalists and will be announced at the banquet. Each girl will be required to make an impromptu speech. The crowning of the Furrow Queen of 1974-75 is made at the conclusion of the evening.

EATHEARTY

Good food is one of the necessities of a plowing match and this year's IPM has a large variety of food catering establishments to serve the public. The noon meal is the major one, although some booths are open to serve breakfast and supper too. All the food concessions are concentrated in one area in the centre of tented city.

The winner will remain in attendance at the plowing match on Saturday, September 23. She will agree to promote the International Plowing Match as requested by the Directors of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and will retain the automobile at the end of her reign.

Carol Somerville of Acton is Halton's entry in this year's Furrow Queen Contest. Former winner Linda Shouldice and 1973-74 Queen of the Furrow Sheila Armstrong will chaperone the contestants while in Halton.



KAY WILSON of Norval introduced the idea of the Queen of the Furrow contest to the Ontario Plowmen's Association in 1958.

Ladies' program for rural women

As 90 percent of the women visiting the International Plowing Match are usually rural women, the committee in charge of their programming has decided upon appropriate entertainment. While their husbands are off in a muddy furrow or examining the latest in farm machinery, these women will be learning the intricacies of flower arranging from five local florists or enjoying fashion shows by local dress shops.

Charlotte Ironside of Georgetown is in charge of the ladies' program for the five days of the IPM and she has arranged a continuous

series of events to take place in a specially-built building near headquarters on Second Street. Against the stage setting by Georgetown Little Theatre Group, the program will begin each day at 10 a.m. with entertainment and "early bird draws" for prizes donated by local merchants.

Flower arranging
Flower arranging at 11 a.m. will be illustrated by one of five florists, Fendleys of Georgetown, Webbs of Norval, Gorters of Kilbride, Violet Flowers of Oakville and Hometown Florist of Brampton.

Further entertainment and draws at noon will be followed

by "Yummy Beef Dishes" featuring less expensive cuts of meat by two home economists Carolyn McDonald and Susan Donnan.

A fashion show at 2 p.m. will be given by "bettianne" of Georgetown and Lady Galt of Galt. Additional flower arranging demonstrations will take place each day at 3 p.m. In place of the early flower arranging the Saturday program will feature a fashion show of Simplicity Patterns at 11 a.m. by Towne Sewing Centre in Georgetown.

Throughout the day Paul Barber of Barber Piano and Organ Co. in Georgetown will play the organ. Master of ceremonies will be Vince Mountford of Brampton, well known to local audiences.

Under the leadership of Charlotte Ironside is her committee including Eleanor Coulter of Milton, Norma Alexander of Georgetown and Anna Ewen of Norval.

Brochure

A most attractive brochure telling some of the history of Halton will be distributed to the ladies as they enter the building. The cover by Dorothy Stone is of a pine tree, the symbol of Esquesing Township where the IPM is being held.

Inside the brochure is the following essay on The Rural Woman, written by Eleanor Coulter:

Ever since their great-grandmothers helped to tame the wilderness of Halton County, women have been holding the ladder while their families climbed to success. Farm women in particular (like those of other counties in Ontario) some of whom are still living on Century Family Farms, have led diversified lives, from milking cows and making butter to chairing church and other organizations that helped to improve rural living.

While tender enough to soften her children's hardest adversities, she has been tough enough to face the challenge of her own hardships.

While other women were striking for Women's Lib, the rural woman worked to liberate herself; from nature she has learned a set of human values and a philosophy of life that cause her children to "rise up and call her blessed."

She never missed an opportunity in the daily course of work or play to build character into her children's lives; her ways of wisdom has given her the title, "Heart of the Home." She is like the sun, a source of light always shining through the life of the

family; she believes that criticism should help rather than humiliate.

That's the rural woman of today, still standing shoulder to shoulder with her husband and family to keep pace with the changing pattern of rural living.

Agricultural history at 'mini steam show'

A "mini" steam show, displaying highlights of Ontario's agricultural history, will be part of the International Plowing Match and farm machinery demonstration in Halton Hills Sept. 24-28.

Members of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association, sponsors of the annual Steam-Era reunions in Milton each labor day weekend, will be in charge of the antique implementation section at the plowing match. Sherwood Hume of Milton, a director of Steam-Era, is chairman in charge of the antique com-

mittee for the IPM and he reports a large exhibit will be on display for show visitors.

Plenty of equipment

It will feature seven steam traction engines—forerunner of the early gas tractors—as well as about 10 gas tractors from the earlier part of the century. Also displayed will be eight to 10 early gasoline engines, the type used to run the equipment on farms, ranging from ½ h.p. to 5 h.p.

The club's sawmill will be set up and operating daily to show spectators how logs are trimmed into lumber. Threshing machines will also be operating and threshing

demonstrations will be held throughout each day. And the club is erecting a "Barn of Yesteryear" to display early agricultural tools and a collection of early plows.

The ladies have also been asked to participate and they will be displaying a three-room farmhouse circa the turn of the century in one large tent. They will also demonstrate spinning, rug hooking, quilting, apple peeling and corn husking and many of them will be wearing period costumes.

The antique display will be located near the Halton Region display, at the west side of the tented city.

Conveners

Several local people will be in charge of the various exhibits for the Steam-Era group. They include Gordon Booth on the sawmill, Bob Clarke on gas tractors and Fred Ruddell in charge of the barn and threshing. Coming from a distance to help out are Dennis Webb of Beamsville in charge of steam engines, Elaine Foucart of Cookstown on ladies' displays and Ross Calder of Preston who is in charge of gas engines.

If you've never seen the Steam-Era at Milton, the "mini" steam show at the IPM will give you a chance to get caught up in some of the nostalgia connected with these early agricultural implements.



CHARLOTTE IRONSIDE of Georgetown is in charge of the ladies' building at the IPM. She has arranged for a continuous series of events to take place of special interest to the rural women.



THE FLAG WENT UP of OPA headquarters building at the plowing match site, just in time for Wednesday's press and exhibitors day.