

Industry reps tour Beardmore tannery

Ontario Shoe Superintendents and Allied Trades Association representatives toured Beardmore Tannery, a division of Canada Packers Ltd., Saturday morning, ending with a buffet at the band hall.

Over 60 made the tour. The association embarks on an industrial tour annually to industries related to the manufacturing of shoes.

Harry Bullock, purchasing agent for Savage Shoes, said the Beardmore excursion is one of the better tours he has been on and is "beautifully organized." He said the tour guides know what they're talking about.

While walking through Beardmore, the tourists felt, pinched and rubbed leathers throughout the plant to establish a feel.

All leather has a certain tannage and different tannages have specific applications, Bullock said. He noted that chrome tanned leather wears like iron.

Eight tour guides from the supervisory and sales staff conducted members through rooms full of hides, tanks, gigantic drums and complicated machinery.

Early in the tour, the reason for the tannery location was explained. Vegetable tannic acids were obtained from hemlock tree bark and these trees were abundant around Acton.

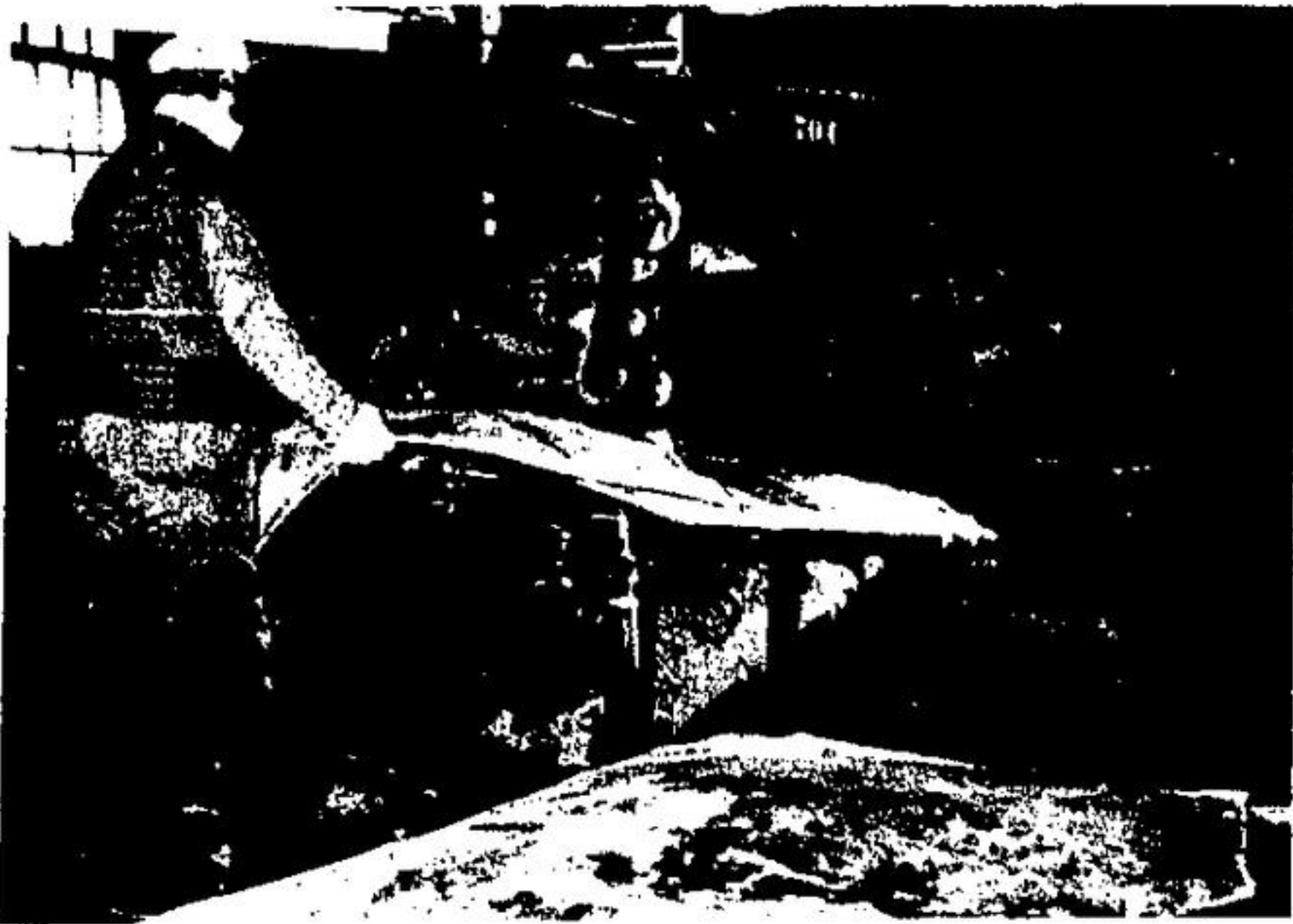
Today the plant imports concentrated chestnut, wattle and quebracho extracts.

The total daily water consumption at the plant is 50,000 gallons disposed of through 25 miles of irrigation pipe into 250 acres of land for sewage disposal. A network of 60 sprinklers and five ponds over 15 acres complete a unique system.

The hide house, where hides are cleaned and prepared for de-hairing, was one of the first stops on tour.

The de-hairing process was followed by a series of steps to establish and cut the useful portions of the hide. Hides were soaked in tanning solutions and eventually treated in huge drums.

Both tanning procedures, vegetable and chromatic, were illustrated to the leather workers. Tests were demonstrated in the laboratory including one which



SMOOTHING AND SHAVING operations clean the leather for its final treatments. Wrinkles are pressed out and in certain leathers, a pattern is pressed into the surface.

simulated the movement of the foot. This test was for the development of a new leather designed for use in trail ski boots. When perfected, the boot leather will be the first material of its kind in Canada.

Tourists were shown huge drums used in chemical treatment of leather which were pioneered by Beardmore Tanneries. After the tanning processes, the finishing and cutting were explained. The types of leather produced varied from soft glove leather found in jackets of high fashion to sole leather found in boots.

Pressure plates under 15 tons pressure and heated to 600 Celsius degrees formed patterns in leather which could imitate the skin pattern of any animal.

High speed electronic eye sprayers and dyeing machines added color to leathers before the final finishing coat was applied.

The tour took over an hour and much had yet to be seen and explained about the complex procedures, however, the visitors Saturday expressed their pleasure in the tour with excitement and interest.



Canadian flags fly with Dutch

John Kamminga and his wife Edith returned home Friday, May 9 after a two-week vacation in their homeland of Holland. They were accompanied by their two children Betty, 16 and Kenneth, 14.

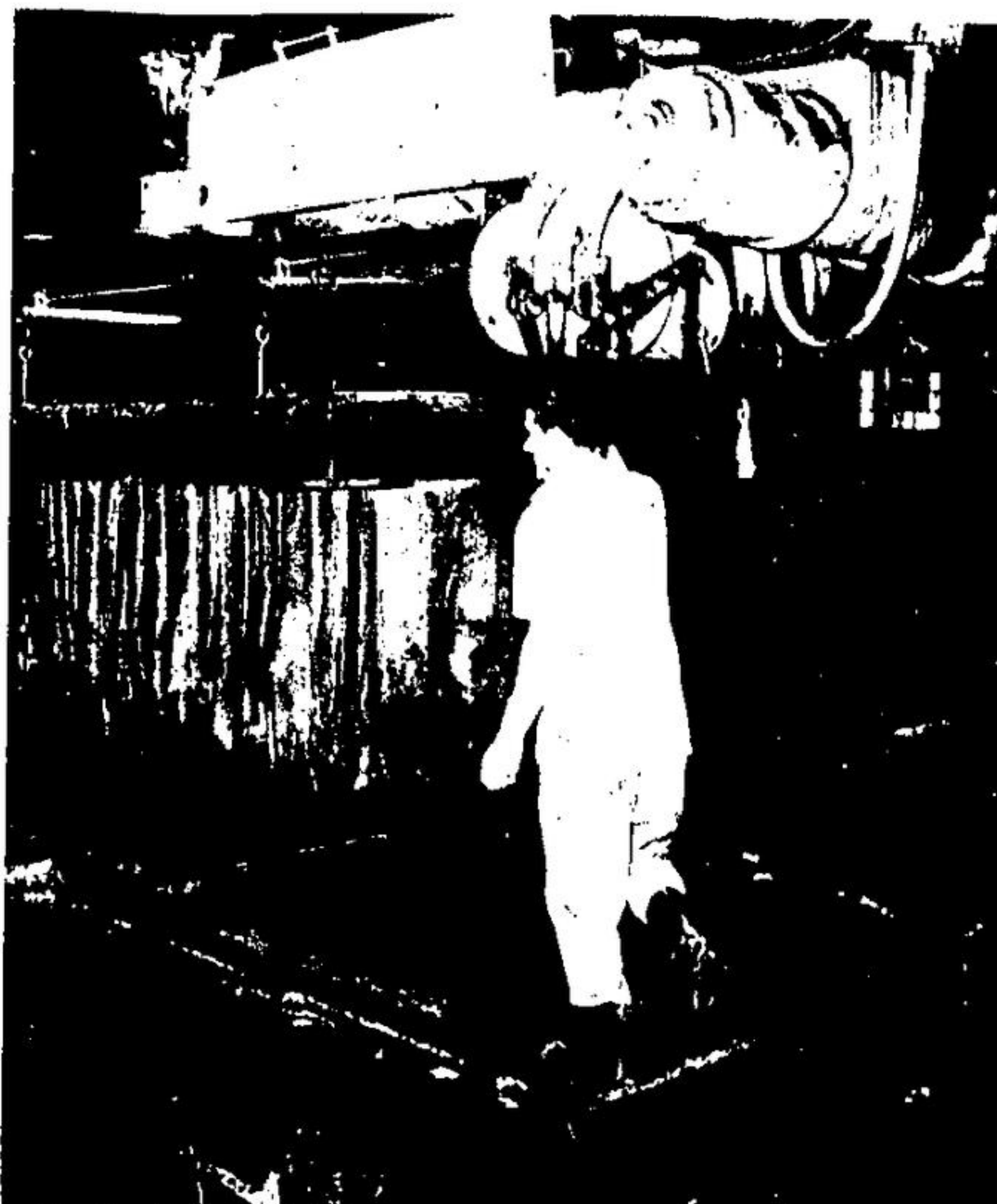
This year's trip was not a first for the Acton family, they have lived in Canada for 20 years and have been back a number of times.

Mr. Kamminga points out that a significant factor of his visit was that, in the northern part of the country, Canadian

flags were flying at Wagenborgen and Dylfzell where Canadians fought in World War Two.

He says that Holland was having its regular May 5 Remembrance Day and this year's celebration was an important one, marking 30 years of liberation. The Canadians felt proud to see their own maple leaf flag flying high along with the Dutch flag.

Mr. Kamminga wants veterans to know their efforts are not forgotten.



HIDES BEING TANNED in vats of tannic acid are lifted out by overhead crane to allow tourists to see part of the process. Over 60 members of the association toured Beardmore Saturday morning.

Trinity United will celebrate

The 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada will be celebrated at the morning service of Trinity United on Sunday, June 8. Re-enactment of the 1925 ceremony of union, special anniversary anthem by the choir, solos by Norman Gibson, visual presentations and song by young people of the church will be part of the celebration. "In fact, something for everybody."

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