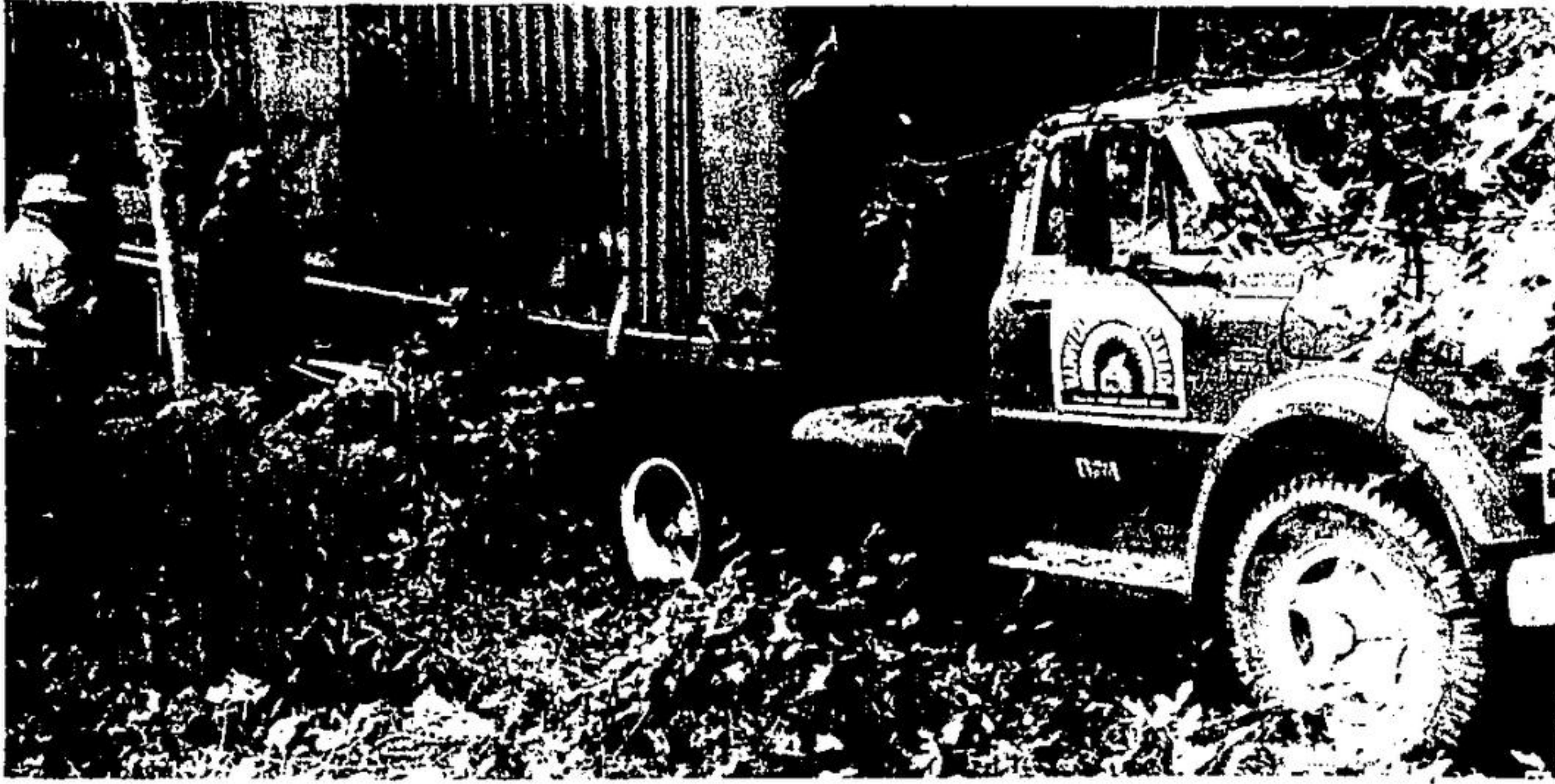


The Herald Second Front

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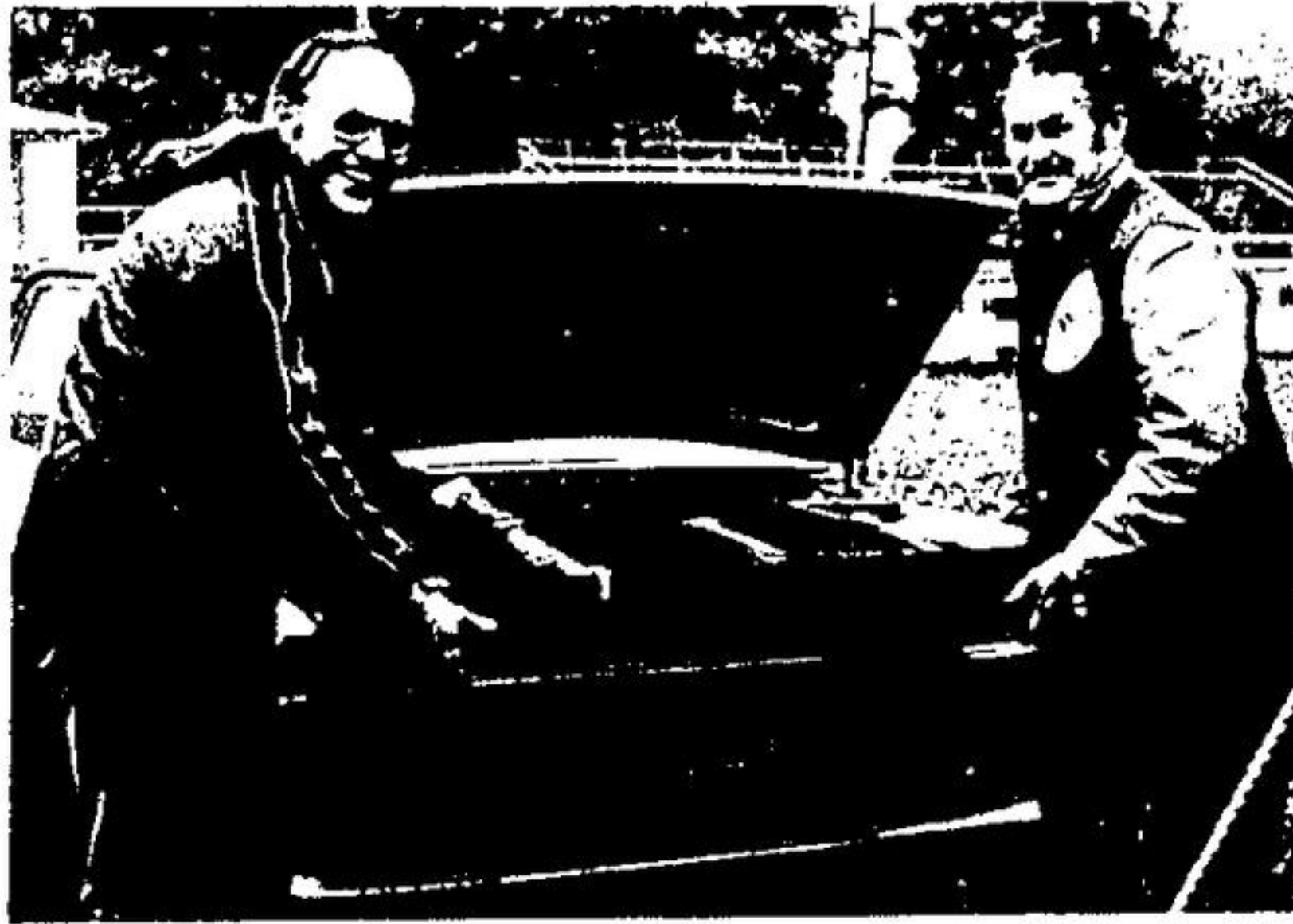
The full-size paper reaching more than 12,700 homes in Halton Hills



A midway tractor-trailer is shown bogged down in mud moments before it had to be pulled out by another truck Sunday afternoon.



Ted McIntosh decided on the winners in the vegetable display in the barn at the west side of the fairgrounds on Friday afternoon.



George Henderson and Chris Bridge help load part of the Canadian Cancer Society booth at the Georgetown Fall Fair.

Thanks, regret from board directors

To the editor of The Herald: The members of the Georgetown Agricultural Society sincerely regret that on Saturday, October 1st, 1977, the Georgetown Fair was cancelled because of the weather.

We wish to thank all the exhibitors who came out to the Fair, and our particular thanks to the Town Works Department and the Hydro people who gave so much assistance in preparation for October 1st. Also, we thank the Bell telephone company representative who gave us help when the Fair was cancelled.

We feel that our members had worked to prepare a good Fair, and the response from exhibitors indicated an excellent turnout for Saturday. Our Hall exhibits were more than last year, and preliminary registrations indicated our livestock entries

would have been increased. At this time we have not estimated our financial loss, but we sincerely hope that we will be able to provide a Georgetown Fair next year that will be worthy of the fine support both received and anticipated for this year. To our knowledge this is the first time in 131 years that Georgetown has been completely rained out.

The unanimous decision of the Directors present on Saturday morning to cancel the Fair was based on several factors. First, the weather was and had been very wet, and the forecast for the day was for continuing moderate rain and wind. Such weather was not conducive to having satisfactory livestock or entertainment performances. Secondly, because of the bad weather our Fairgrounds were going to be damaged by the vehicles necessarily parked on

grounds for all events. We had seen the extensive damage caused this year at other grounds, and we could not risk similar damage in our park. Thirdly, it was evident that ground conditions and the rain were going to create a dangerous situation for riders and animals which we couldn't risk. Finally we felt it was a day for patrons to come to a Fair, and any attempt to put on our events would be a lost cause.

Once again, our most sincere thanks to all who worked in the preparation for the Fair, and we hope everyone who was inconvenienced in any way will understand and approve our decision to cancel, and we look forward to your patronage and support next year.

Don Gosling, President,
Charlo Fogal, Secy. Mgr.

Photos and story
by
Herald staff writers



Mrs. Lamey Bird set up the display of photographs in the hall Friday afternoon anticipating a big day Saturday.



Rain may have ruined the fair on Saturday but Effe Watson of Orangeville was hard at it Friday afternoon judging quilts for the hall exhibits.

Fair closes down for first time in 131 years

Georgetown's 131st Fall Fair was cancelled Saturday — an action believed without precedent in the event's history.

Fair directors made the decision early as rain continued to fall heavily on the grounds making the baseball playing fields and midway areas nothing more than a mire.

President Don Gosling said the weather conditions, the prediction of continued rain and cloudy conditions, coupled with concern over damage to playing fields and injuries to animals forced the board to call off the fair.

It is unknown how much the cancellation will cost the fair board since an accounting is still underway.

By 10 a.m. all that remained at the fairgrounds were personnel employed with the midway, some curious on-lookers who braved the elements, a few trailers parked on the field and one lone tent where the Canadian Cancer Society was packing up to leave.

This was to be one of the best fairs in the history of the event, secretary-manager Charles Fogal said Sunday. A new direction, increased participation within the urban community, had been set as a goal and all indications pointed to the fair being a success.

Organizers worked for five months preparing for the fair. Halton Hills council and volunteers donating 300 hours labor aided in the renovation of the barn at the western end of the grounds where vegetable displays were set.

"We had more entries from Georgetown than ever before," Mr. Gosling commented.

Despite speculation earlier this year that unless the fair was a success this year it might prove to be the last year of operation, Mr. Gosling said the fair will continue next year.

The fair board believes it will be able to cover its losses but it remains unknown how much could be received from the Ontario Agricultural Societies Association which provides rain insurance.

"As far as I know," he said, "there is a sinking fund but this year with all the rain I'm not sure how much has been taken out of it."

He said Sunday the "grounds

are so wet that we can't get onto them to take the fences down."

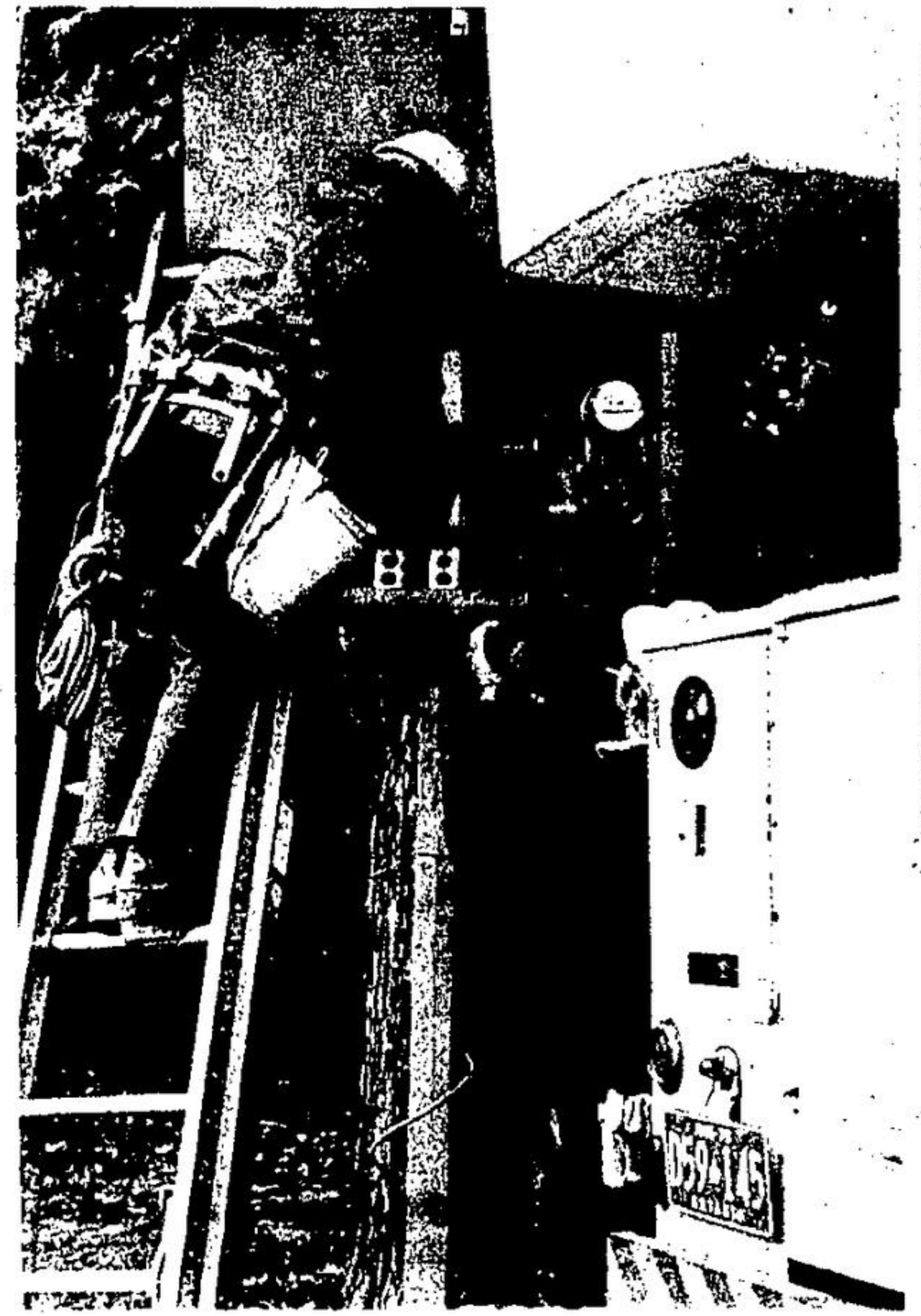
Protection of the fairgrounds was a major consideration. The lands are administered by the Halton Hills recreation department. Mr. Fogal said

horses, vehicles and trailers circled the baseball diamonds for as long as two hours before a decision was made to cancel the day's events.

He said experiences at other fairs this year showed that the playing fields would have been

damaged considerably by parking vehicles and trailers on the grounds.

The playing fields were also wet late Sunday that a final playoff game in the industrial football league was also cancelled.



Georgetown Hydro did their share to get the grounds ready for the influx of exhibits and spectators expected for the fall fair on Saturday. Steven Keir worked up the ladder Friday afternoon completing preparations while George Herrington worked at ground level.

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