

## Girl Guides joined by 'common bond'

BY TIM MORGETROYD  
The Acton Tanner

Four Girl Guides representing Acton at July's Girl Guides International Conference in Guelph are as different, and the same, as all 2,500 girls who took part.

"Everybody was different but when you got everybody there they were all the same," noted Sarah Austin, 15. "They all looked different and spoke different but were all joined by that common bond."

That's why she liked the ceremonies best, but the camping, travelling and activities "makes you feel good because we know we can accomplish things and have power in the world."

Her best friend Brooke Inglis, 16, another Acton Guide, shared these feelings, said Sarah.

Brenda Kraut, 16, also liked meeting new friends from all over the world and learning about their way of life. "The day trips were really good for international guests because they could see something of Ontario and Canadian life."

Being photographed with visiting Canadian astronaut and former Guide Roberta Bondar had special meaning.

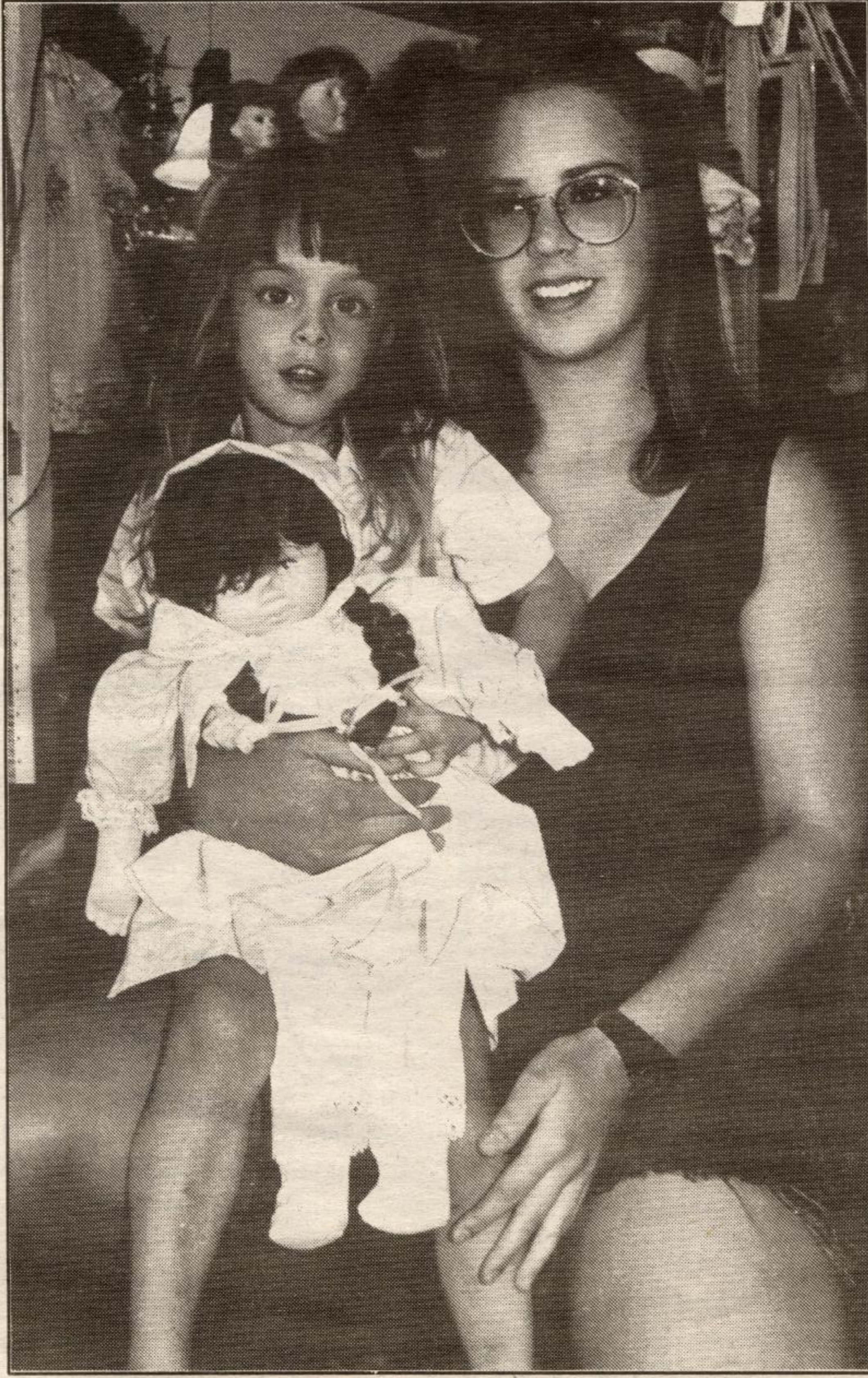
"Her dream was to become an astronaut," said Brenda, "and I look up to her because I have a dream to be in the Olympics."

Canada hosts a conference every five years so Rachelle Taylor was very lucky to be just turning 12, the youngest age for Guides.

"I made a lot of new friends there. Two girls from Thailand, one from Columbia, and a girl from Brampton. All four are my new penpals.

"And the activities were neat too. I liked the bell-ringing best," she recalls, still excited about wearing white gloves in a choir and ringing a bell to Girl Guide songs.

She also met Roberta Bondar. "A lot of girls were trying to get her autograph and I was one of the lucky ones."



WINDOW SHOPPING: Desi Black, 3, was doing some early Christmas shopping with her babysitter Alexis Mulyk last week at The Doll Emporium on Mill Street. How many shopping days left until Christmas? (Tim Morgetroyd photo)

## Spare wheels needed

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Acton's "Wheels to Meals" program needs seniors to drive two or three other seniors to monthly lunches.

"We're always looking for volunteers, but I don't have to twist arms to get them because it's always enjoyable to go out and have lunch with the seniors," ASSIC Seniors coordinator Sue Haggith said last week.

Now in its sixth year, the popular program brings local seniors together for a hot lunch outside their homes once a month during summer; during the rest of the year the second and last Monday each month.

"Some members drive themselves, but the majority don't," said Haggith. "We pick up people not comfortable driving outside Acton, but the majority of our lunches are in town." Lunch spots outside Acton include Rockwood, Milton and Glen Williams.

Lunches are at restaurants, churches and schools, where a typical lunch is meat loaf, casserole or scalloped potatoes and ham, with desert, for \$5 to \$6.

"No matter where we go or what the meals are, the most important thing is always the company, because it's made up of the people who want to be there and enjoy each other's company," explained Haggith.

"We have 30 to 40 seniors at-

tend regularly, including six to 10 volunteers, and the volunteers don't just drive, they take part in the lunch too," she said. Two volunteers play sing-a-long favourites like "You Are My Sunshine" on accordion and guitar. Occasionally a group like the Girl Guides will entertain.

"We go to a lot of local churches. They always do a great meal. The people enjoy doing them as much as we enjoy having it," said Haggith.

New members or volunteers can phone Sue Haggith at 853-3310.

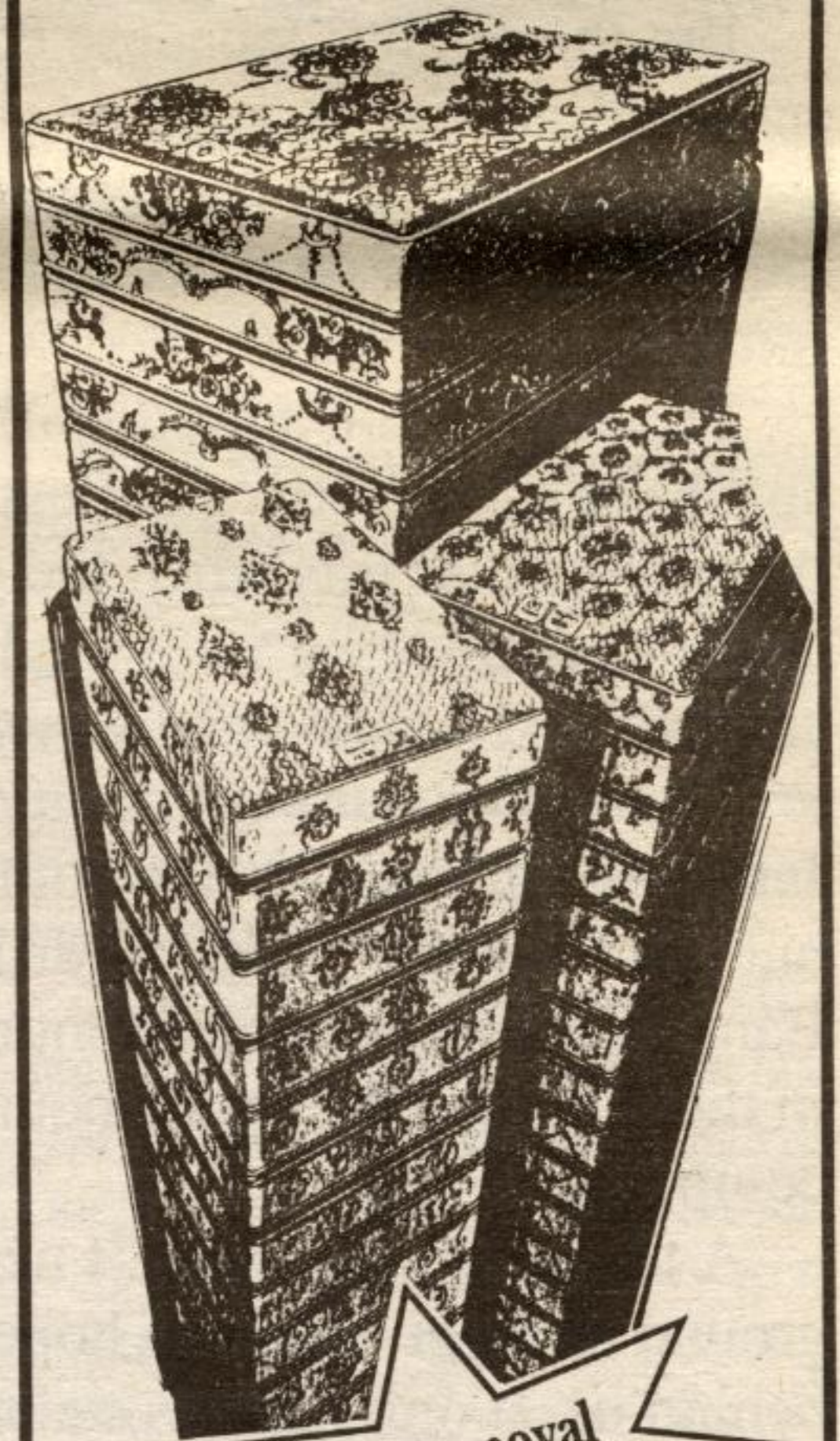
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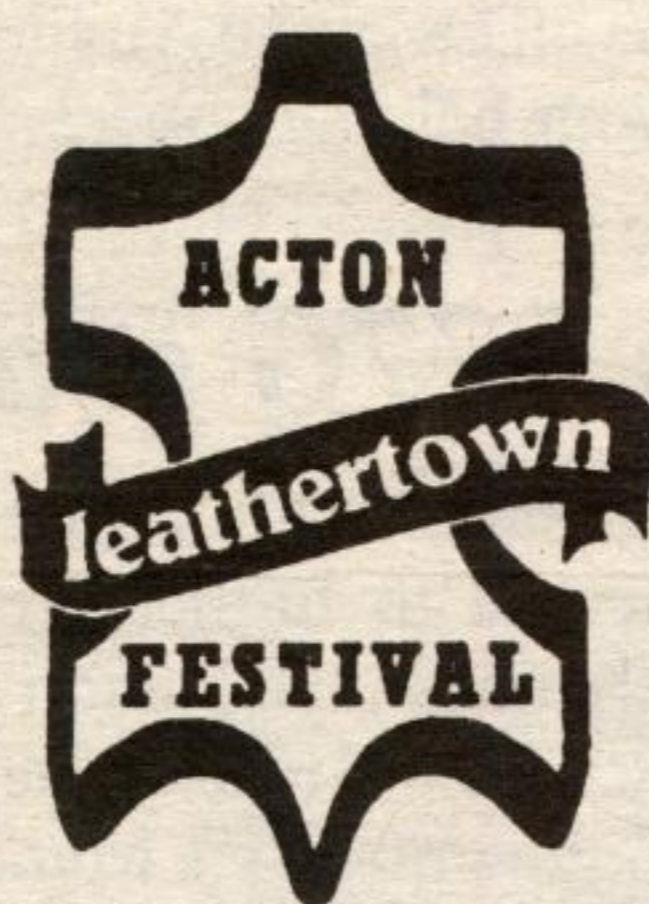
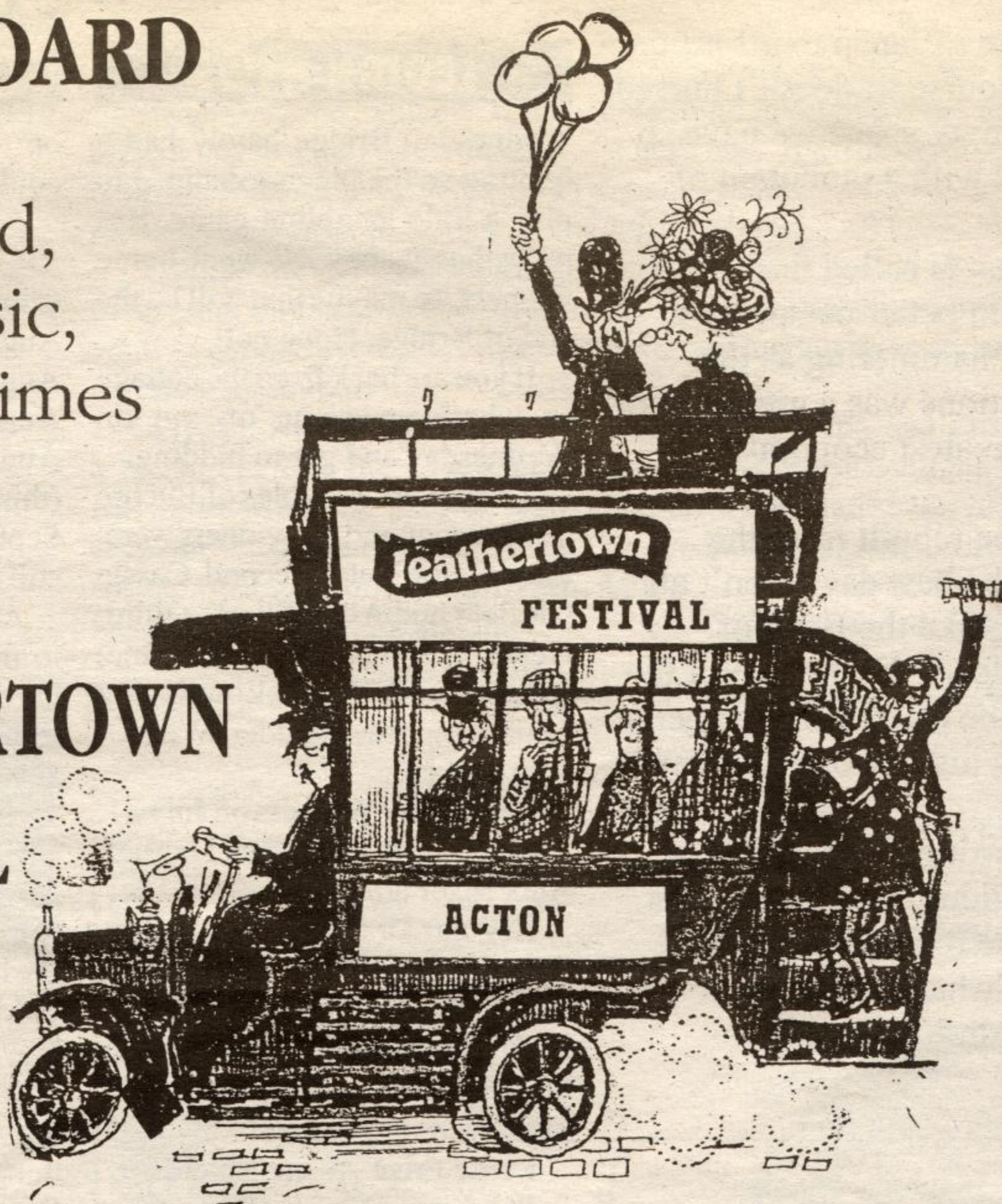
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