



DESPITE THE CHANCE OF RAIN, thousands of people filled the downtown core for Sunday's Leathertown Festival.

Fun at the Festival!

Photos by Angela and Ted Tyler

Throngs enjoy Leathertown Festival

"Fantastic, we had the best attendance ever," said organizer Janis Fread of Sunday's seventh annual Leathertown Festival.

Crowds were compressed into the Mill Street mall from the opening at 11 a.m. until vendors pulled up stakes as the first rain the festival has ever encountered hit just after 3:30 p.m.

"If it was going to rain, it was a good time," Fread said.

The heavy shower lasted about 15 minutes and sent vendors scurrying for home but it also gave some relief from Sunday's intense heat and humidity. The rain did cut into the program at the main stage, the swing band was cut short and Acton Citizens' Band was not able to

play. "We had as many vendors as last year and we were pleased so many were interactive," Fread said. "Thanks to Acton's banks and the Credit Union who donated dollars, we were able to have the fish tank and dunk tank."

Festival sponsors donated to the entertainment and groups going up and down the street added to the day.

"We get a little better each year," Fread said, paying tribute to the committee which organized the festival. "They're all workers, every single one of the nine, including Elly Tuitman, Beverly Duval, Jason Ash, Tom Cooper, Jamie Qua, Jake Kuiken, Brenda Watson and Helen Lomax.

Families were involved too, helping with all the mundane tasks such as setting up and cleaning up. Terry Foster brought his trunk and four strapping men to assist in all the tasks.

The reputation of the festival is spreading well beyond Acton's borders.

"We've broadened our advertising and it helped bring out the huge turnout," Fread said.

We try to make the festival "break-even" each year, any money made goes back into it, she said. The BIA funds it with a \$4,500 budget, and it has been "a bit" profitable the last two years. This year's figures are not available yet.

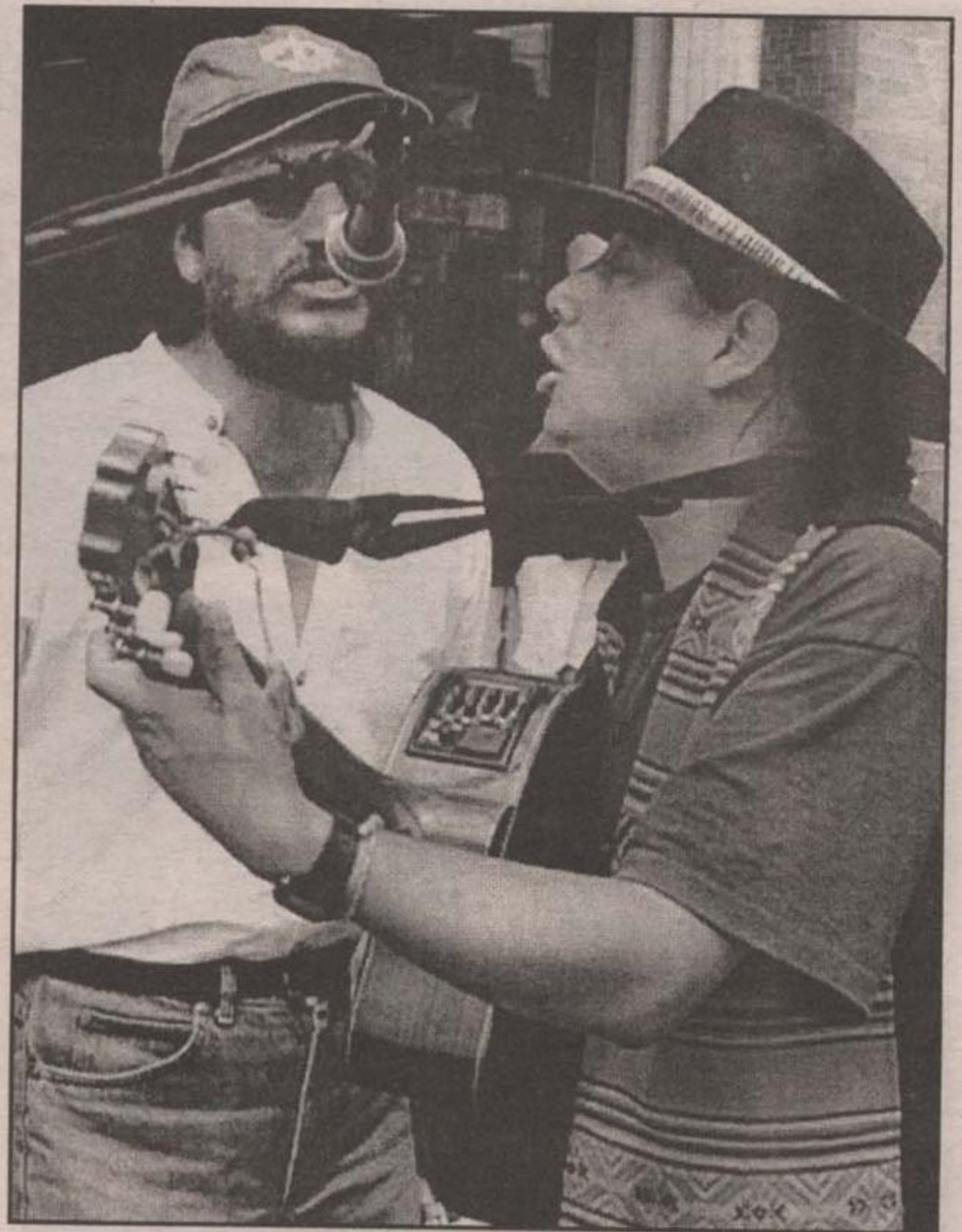
Fread noted that

Kellogg's Karavan and T.G.I.Friday's both asked to come this year, and the band from Ecuador in South America was another pleasant surprise. The band sold CDs of their music and attracted a lot of interest.

At the main stage the Cheri Lindsay dancers were a real attraction with their upbeat style and lively music. The crowds caught the enthusiasm of the dancers including the Flamingo dancers from Georgetown.

The festival committed wraps up the 1998 festival with a barbecue where they discuss this year's event and share comments and talk about plans for next year.

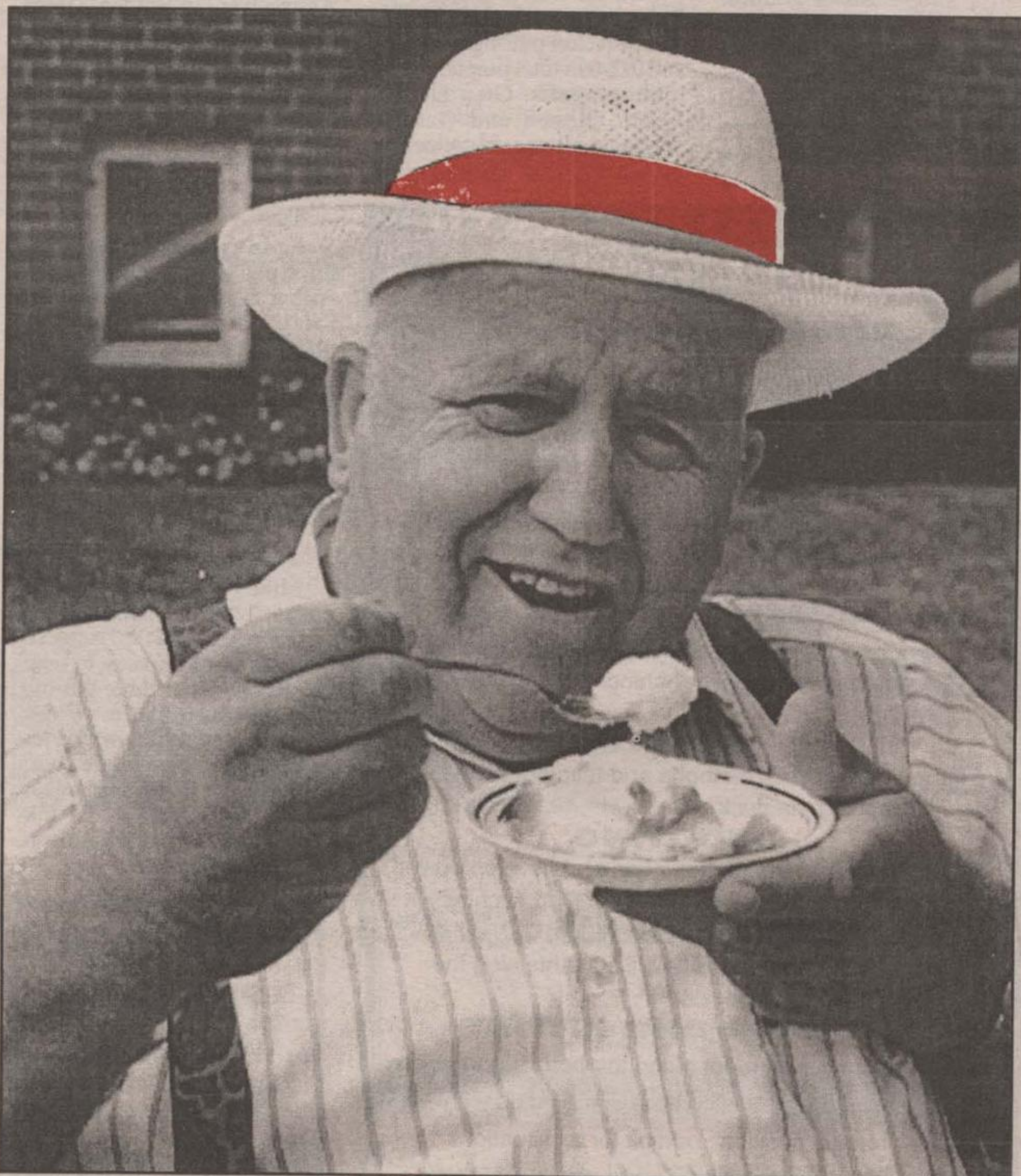
"We continually try for perfection," Fread says.



ENTERTAINERS CAME FROM ECUADOR to attend this year's festivities. Members of Surco-Kabogana delighted the crowds with a different type of music.



KINSMEN GRANDPRIX PARTICIPANT Richard Campbell, 3, of Acton.



YES SIR THIS PIE IS GOOD: Keith Black enjoys a pie break at the Trinity United Church at the Leathertown Festival on Sunday.



FUTURE CHEFS OF ACTON: Scott Williams, Jesse Sparks and Braedon Attem try to create new Rice Krispie squares at the Kellogg's Karavan.



JAMIE MITCHELL, 7, tries her hand at the Kellogg's Karavan Karaoke.



THE OAKVILLE ALL-STARS entertained the crowds with lots of favourite songs.