



FRED GURNEY, aged 76, of R.R. 3 Paris has been showing sheep for 65 years. He was the oldest exhibitor in the sheep show at Milton Fair.—(Staff Photo)

Boy shows sheep with "Fabulous Fred" Gurney

"The fabulous Fred Gurney" made his annual appearance at Milton Fair this year, exhibiting his Shropshire sheep in the fair's sheep classes. And right beside him was a 14-year-old exhibitor named Mark Comfort who looks like he's going to be following in Fabulous Fred's footsteps.

Fred, a 76-year-old sheep man from R. R. 3 Paris, never fails to take home a fair share of the awards when he does the fall fair circuit with his sheep. He should—he's been showing sheep for 65 years, having started at the age of 11.

He acquired the title "fabulous" many years ago after spending a lot of time helping Western Ontario farmers breed better sheep stock. They honored him by presenting a walking stock, inscribed "to the fabulous Fred Gurney".

Ask Fred how many awards he has won for showing his sheep, and he'll tell you he's long forgotten. But he keeps on winning them, year after year. His entries took six firsts, a second and a third at Milton's 1969 fair.

Mark Comfort, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Comfort of R. R. 1 St. Ann's, was the youngest sheep showman at the fair this year. Mark got started showing sheep when he was three years old at the CNE and he's been at it ever since. The Comfort family has been in the business for 30 years.

While Fred Gurney won't admit it, he must be thinking of retiring in the near future. Not long ago he presented young Mark with what must be one of his most prized possessions—his first pair of sheep shears, a set he's been using since 1909.



YOUNGEST COMPETITOR in the fall fair sheep division was Mark Comfort, 14, of R.R. 1 St. Ann's. Mark showed his first sheep at the CNE when he was just three. He's shown at left with his younger brother Neil, eight.—(Staff Photo)

Farm front briefs

Gleanings from "Halton Farm News" issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food:

* Erin Fair is this weekend, Oct. 10 to 13, and many Halton farmers will be exhibiting and competing. The West-Central Ontario Holstein championship show is one of the highlights, and it's slated for Friday at 9 a.m. Halton won the herd trophy last year for the first time.

* This year's International Plowing Match is at Paris Oct. 15 to 18 and many from Halton will be attending. Two weeks later, on Nov. 1, Earl McDowell of Hornby will host the Halton Plowing Match which includes a queen of the furrow contest and horseshoe pitching match. Any young ladies aged 16 to 25 are invited to compete for the furrow queen title, and each contestant will win a prize.

* Speaking of dates, keep Nov. 14 to 22 in mind—that's the week set aside for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

* Mac Alexander, Brock Harris and Gordon Sinclair have been chosen the regional election committee from Halton to elect a director to the Ontario Milk Marketing Board later this fall.

* George Jackson has been appointed dairy specialist for this area, by the Ontario Live Stock Branch. Bob Slumskie is the new beef specialist and Donald Stevenson is the sheep specialist. All three men are located at the Newmarket office.

* The insurance committee of Halton Federation of Agriculture is planning a special meeting with a speaker on estate planning. The date will be announced later.

* Congratulations to Halton Junior Farmers for taking first prize on their safety exhibit at Milton Fair. Hornby South 4-H club was second and Campbellville 4-H clubs third.

* Halton Farm Safety Council has many new safety films available. If any organization wants a film for a meeting they should contact president Gerald Carton or secretary Mrs. W. Webb.

* Three young men from Halton will be eligible for a livestock management tour in conjunction with the inter-county livestock judging competition at the Royal Winter Fair. On visits to bona fide farms in Ontario they will observe and discuss economic factors related to feeding, breeding and housing of livestock and gain experience in judging and evaluation. Interested applicants should contact the Agricultural Office.

* Halton Junior Farmers are continuing to sell tickets on the snowmobile draw, to be held in December.

* A crafts project on quilts is offered all Halton women's organizations this fall by Mrs. D. G. Bannister, home economist for Halton and Peel Counties. The training school is Oct. 23

and 24 and both beginners and experienced quilters are welcome.

* This year's 4-H awards is slated for Oct. 24. The weighing of the Queen's Guineas calf entries from Halton will take place on Oct. 10.

* Achievement day for Halton 4-H field crop club was held at Georgetown Fair on Friday, and the 4-H sheep club held theirs at the fair Saturday.

Dual Purpose Shorthorns

Entries from the herd of Allan Patterson and Son, R. R. 1, Milton took the most prizes in the Dual Purpose Shorthorn classes at Milton Fair. William Smith, Guelph showed the champion bull while the champion female was shown by C. Peacock, Milton. Patterson had reserve in both champion bull and female classes.

In the breeder's herd Peacock was first, Smith second, Patterson third. Patterson animals took three firsts, three seconds and three thirds; Smith three firsts, a second and a third; Peacock two firsts, three seconds and a third.

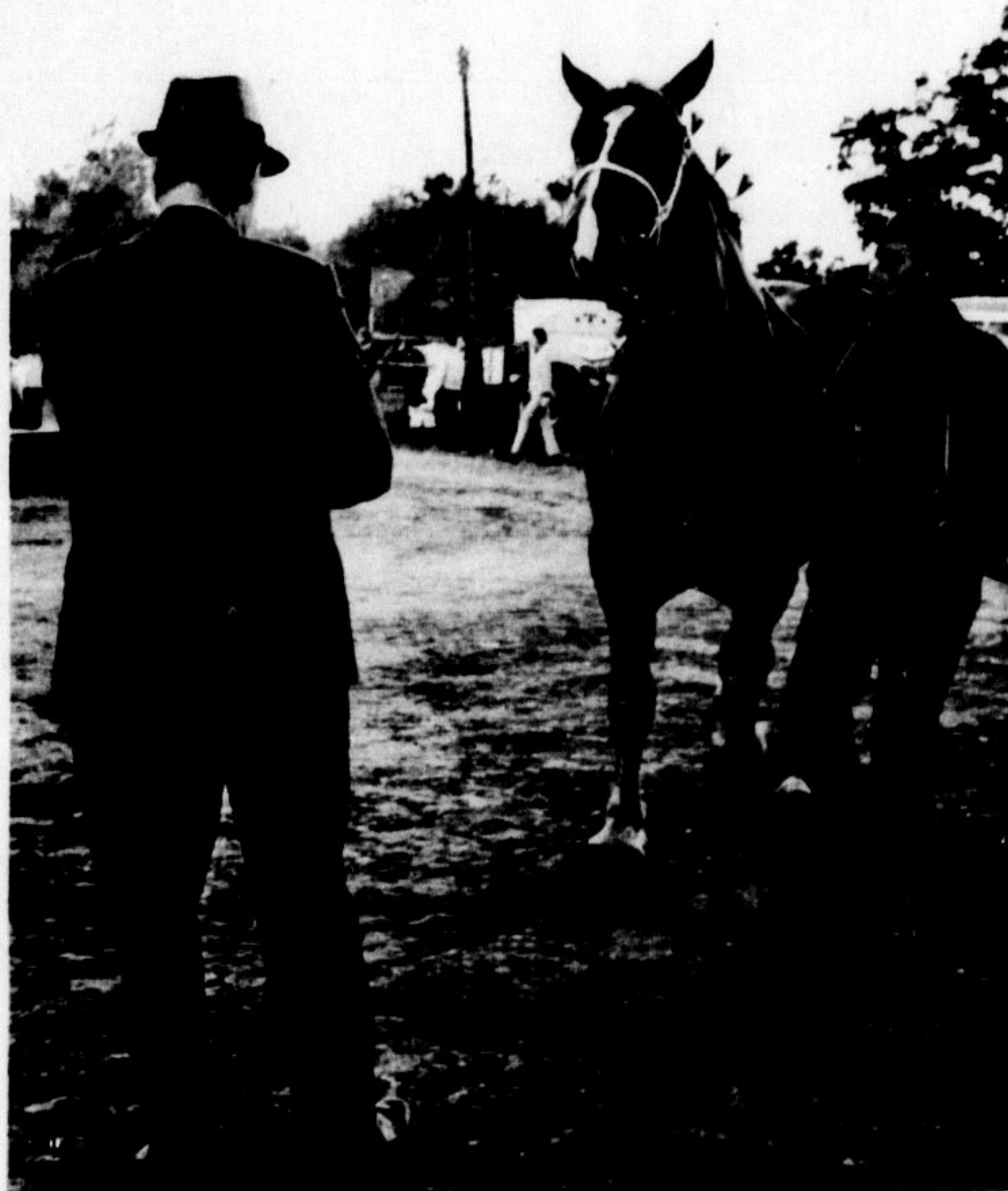
The judge was Marvin C. Green.



THREE RINGS IN ACTION—Judge Cyril Cook looks over the Angus entries, while in the background judging continues in the Guernsey and Jersey rings at the fall fair. Good weather was

welcomed by cattle men for Saturday's event. It rained briefly at mid-afternoon and the wind was cool through the day, but sunny skies blessed the 117th annual fair.—(Staff Photo)

Champion Farm Page



HEAVY HORSE JUDGE Douglas Palmer eyes a draught horse as its owner parades it across the ball diamond, during competitions at Milton Fair.—(Staff Photo)



FIRST PRIZE RIBBON is awarded to Mrs. Ray Ellis in the English saddle horse class at the fall fair. Directors J. R. McPhail and Roy Currie are shown presenting the ribbon while judge L. L. Thibaudeau looks on.—(Staff Photo)

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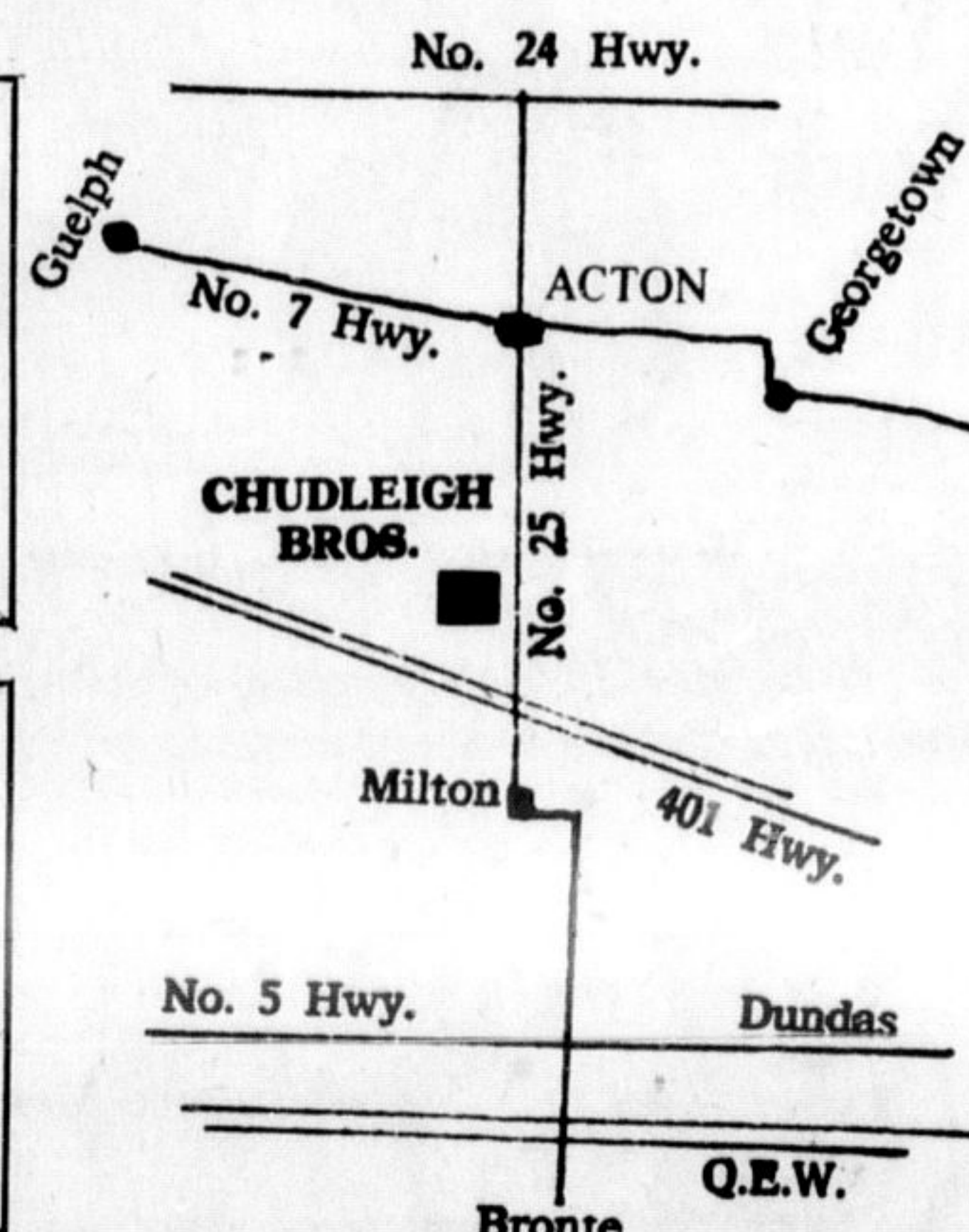
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