



Nobody bored

Steam-Era success 14 years in row

"Blow the whistle on boredom" was the theme of Steam-Era 1974 and that's just what thousands of participants and spectators did in Milton all weekend. Boredom wasn't part of the 14th annual reunion of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association—but just about everything else was there in one form or another.

Organizers judged it another successful show and attendance is estimated at 20,000 to 22,000. An accurate figure is difficult to obtain as many people visited the show on passes and even the gate receipts don't tell a true story as admission prices were changed for adults this year. The show took in more money at the gate, members said. Smaller than usual Friday and Saturday crowds combined with a "normal" Monday crowd to give a total attendance probably just below last year's 22,000 attendance.

Rain Saturday

The show, which opened at Milton Fair Grounds on Friday morning, played under good weather conditions that day but a downpour of rain around 11 a.m. Saturday hurt the attendance. The rains came just as participants lining up at Milton Plaza for a

lengthy and colorful parade through town—drivers and passengers got soaked. The parade went on, however, as the skies cleared just at parade time. The afternoon turned warm and sunny and although a good crowd attended, it was below last year's total.

Monday's weather was cool and overcast but thousands took advantage of the last holiday Monday of the summer season to attend the reunion. Toward supertime, when Steam-Era '74 drew to an official close, visitors were either shivering in light summer wear or comfortable in winter coats.

Lots to see and do

Over 30 restored steam engines, about 60 gas tractors, about 150 gas engines, 100 models, two dozen antique cars and trucks, several horse-drawn vehicles and several buildings full of antiques reminded Steam-Era visitors of their agricultural heritage. Club president Bernard Porter of Woodstock said it was the largest collection of exhibits in the club's 14 year history, and Steam-Era lays claim to the title "Canada's largest steam show" so visitors got their money's worth.

The club lays heavy emphasis on activities so there were contests, demonstrations and rides all day, every day. When the steam engines weren't puffing along in a "slow race" in front of the grandstand, the spectators were getting in the act with sheaf tying, wood splitting and log sawing contests.

Around the grounds there was plenty to see as nearly all the equipment is restored and operating and not much of it sat idle for long. There was a stone crusher, a sawmill, a fan, a dynamometer and several threshing machines in operation almost constantly and many of the portable exhibits allowed visitors a ride around the grounds. And at 4 o'clock each day everything that could move was lined up for a gala parade past the grandstand where a crowd of directors announced and described each exhibit as it passed the crowd.

Entertainment was also

provided by emcee Vince Mountford of Brampton who kept the audience informed and laughing with his announcements, music and stories. Helping to entertain were Milton Girls Pipe Band, pianists Jack Ayre and Iva Davidson, harmonica expert Bert McAlpine, blind singer and guitarist Fred McKenna from the Don Messer Show, fiddle king Archie Fuller, step dancer George Island, Johnny Givens and his band and dancer Anna Redmond.

Steam capital

Official opening ceremonies were held Saturday after the downtown parade and Halton East MPP Jim Snow, Minister of Government Services opened the show in an unusual fashion. He gave a short talk from the platform at the grandstand, then drove off in a large Fairbanks-Morse gas tractor owned by the Ontario Agricultural Museum to officially open the show.

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STEAM-ERA 1974 is over but the memory lingers on. It was a great show as thousands gathered to participate in and watch the 14th annual reunion of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association in Milton Fair Grounds on labor day weekend. Above Jim Snow, Halton East MPP who officially declared the reunion open, chats with South Simcoe MPP Gordon Smith and admires Gordon's 1908 Tudhope car. Today's issue contains full story and photo coverage of the show.



A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT and not your everyday scene on Milton's Main St., an eight horse hitch pulls the 1897 steam calliope in Saturday's Steam-Era parade. The horses and calliope came from

the Minnie Thompson Museum at Stratford. The calliope, or steam organ, has been a regular feature at Steam-Era but this was the first time it showed up with eight horses to pull it.



THE LOCOMOBILE, a portable steam engine made over to look like a railway engine, was a big attraction at the weekend Steam-Era. It offered rides for the kiddies in the train car attached to the rear. View from the grandstand shows part of the

large crowd and exhibits at the Saturday opening session. A heavy downpour that morning failed to deter many from attending.

Norval parents' bid rejected as final vote closes school

About 45 disgruntled, dejected Norval parents trundled out of the board room at the Halton Board of Education headquarters Thursday. The final die had been cast, the vote called and their school will remain closed this year.

While that move had been in the works since 1971 and came as no surprise to parents or onlookers, the disappointment and anger the people felt was evident as the final debate drew to a close and the votes were cast.

Only four trustees supported leaving the school open. Three of those four trustees were from Oakville

and Burlington, and the fourth, Doug Wood represents north Oakville area.

Alternatives

The board decision would appear to preclude any future attempt to re-open discussion on the school closure at the board level. However ratepayer spokesman Hugh McFarlane said there were a number of alternatives open to the people, some in defiance of the law.

He said a public meeting would be held to get a reading of the way the people felt. Withholding their children from the schools is one route the parents may explore, according to McFarlane.

The school had been closed by resolution last year and boarded up at the conclusion of the school year in June. A dedicated and growing number of people in the village met and were determined to keep the school open. A meeting with Education Minister Tom Wells provided little satisfaction.

Re-open matter

The Board re-opened the case last Thursday and heard some new information along with arguments they had heard before. A motion to open the school was tabled pending the outcome of a meeting Tuesday night

between trustees and parents.

The motion and the subsequent meeting in Norval provided the first real glimmer of hope in a three year battle in which the

people of Norval had been engrossed.

Trustee Doug Wood proposed an amendment to the motion. The amendment would have established a list

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Saves girl's life

Milton man nominated for trucker hero award

Milton truck driver John Ross, who saved the life of a five-year-old girl injured in a car accident near Murrison, has been nominated for the 1974 National Trucker Hero of the Year award.

Interviewed at his home on

Five Sideroad near Lowville on the weekend, Mr. Ross pointed out his was only one of several truckers' names submitted for consideration in the annual hero competition. The 1974 winner won't be announced until November but John doesn't appear to care whether he is the national winner or not—he indicated that the nomination for the award is sufficient recognition in itself.

Besides, helping accident victims is just part of his job.

One of many

A Shell Canada Limited tanker driver, he's been driving trucks all his life and has worked for Shell's Oakville Refinery for the past nine years. Over the years he has helped many accident victims and says he couldn't begin to count the number of fires he has helped to extinguish.

The accident for which he was nominated for the hero award happened Nov. 29, 1973 on Highway 6 between Murrison and Frelton. A car driven by Mrs. Cottrell of Mountsberg spun out of control, rolled over and landed right side up in a ditch. Mrs. Cottrell and her two children were trapped inside the car as the roof was flattened.

John Ross happened along about five or 10 minutes after the accident happened—before police and an ambulance were at the scene. He said he parked his truck down the road and walked back to see if he could give any assistance.

Girl badly hurt

The woman had been thrown into the back seat of the car and her daughter Mandy Cottrell, 5, was also in the back seat—bleeding from serious head injuries and breathing with great dif-

ficulty. A boy was in the front seat of the car slightly injured but conscious and suffering from shock.

John said about 15 people were standing around, gawking. One man had waded into the water-filled ditch and was comforting the boy in the front seat. But Mrs. Cottrell was calling for help and no one was paying any attention to her.

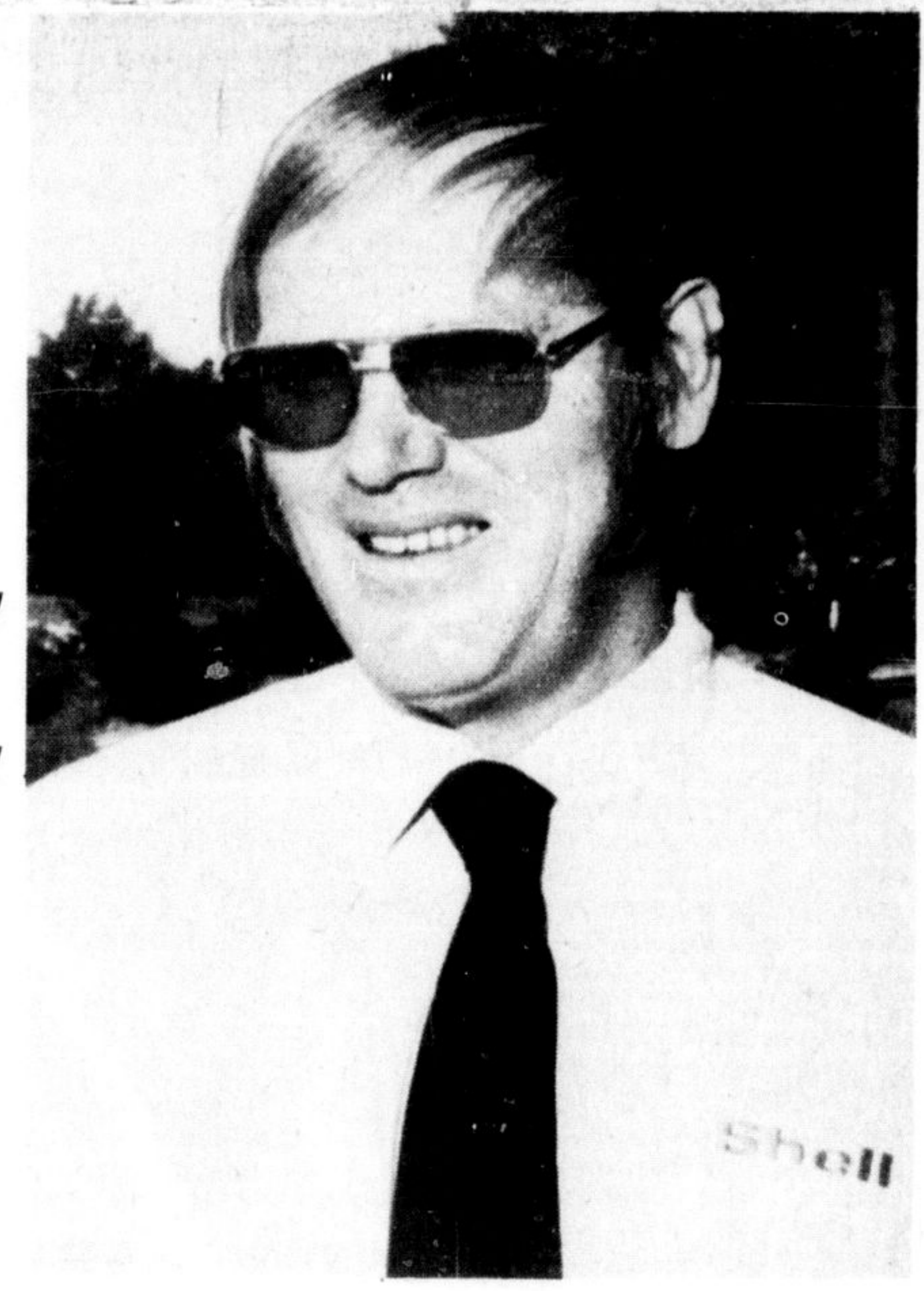
The Shell driver said he put his coat around the shivering boy, tried to call the mother, and reached through a broken window to check for a pulsebeat in the injured girl. A man at the scene told him the girl was dead, but he got a good pulse. "I broke the rear window and crawled through it to see what I could do for the girl," he said. She had swallowed her tongue and was turning blue from suffocation—"another few minutes and she would have been dead," he recalled.

John forced open her mouth and she resumed respiration. He stayed with her until the ambulance at tendants arrived, then helped

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JOHN ROSS, a Milton area fuel truck driver, has been nominated for the 1974 Dunlop National Trucker Hero award, after saving the life of a nine-year-old Mountsberg girl in a car accident on Highway 6 last November.

Catnapping case

Two cats returned and one is donated

Milton's "catnapping" case isn't completely solved, but the lady who lost five cats in three months now has three cats—including two of her originals.

Mrs. Frederick Hinton of 234 Garnet St. complained to police and The Champion last week after five family pets disappeared in the three months since they moved to Milton—two they brought with them from Mississauga and three local strays they adopted after the first two mysteriously disappeared.

Thanks to helpful people who read last week's article, the Hinton's got back two of their strays, Blackie and Ginger, and someone donated a third kitten which is now known as Pepper.

Cut it off at three

A child in the neighborhood brought Ginger home and Blackie was found on Elmwood Cresc. by Sonya Hamilton, Michelle Knowles and Marie Elliot. When they saw the Champion story they contacted Mrs. Hinton and Blackie was soon back home again. Then a man brought them a stray he had adopted, but couldn't keep. Another lady offered to give them a kitten, too, but they had to turn it down as three at a time is "enough."

There is still no sign of Princess, Papers or Patch, the first three cats to disappear from the Hinton home. But the family is happy with the present cat population and although they miss their other pets, they now have a full house and further offers are being refused.