

Halton's 112th annual

Crown Queen, honor plowing match winners

Story and photos
by Rod Lamb

The crowning of Halton's 1978-79 Queen of the Furrow was a highlight of the annual banquet which followed the Halton Plowing Match Saturday.

Once again Nancy McKinnon of R. R. 1, Milton received the tiara.

The 20-year-old queen delivered the speech she gave at the International Plowing Match in Huron County this year.

Miss McKinnon is a former Milton Snow Queen and the 1977 Shorthorn Ontario Lassie.

She has been a member of a number of 4-H clubs in the past several years.

Miss McKinnon was presented with the traditional crown, sash and flowers as well as a trophy, charm and cheque.

She in turn presented presents to people who had helped her.

She will represent Halton at the 1979 International Plowing Match.

The traditional presentations for the best plowing from the day's competition

were also made.

Larry Hoard of R. R. 4, Milton walked away with the lion's share of honors.

He received the Stan May Memorial Trophy as the contestant with the highest combined score at both Halton plowing matches and the Lloyd May Memorial Trophy for the best plowed land by a Halton competitor under the age of 18.

Hoard also placed first in The Class 4 event: Open mounted plows, two or more furrows.

This category was open to boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 16. First prize was \$40.

Hoard was one of a number of young plowmen who distinguished themselves in the day's plowing.

Glenn Wilkinson of Norval received the Judge George Elliott Memorial trophy as the youngest plowman in competition.

In Class 2 competition which was open to Halton Junior Farmers and 4-H Club members under 30 years of age, John Reid of R. R. 2, Georgetown came first.

Besides the \$40 cheque he also received the J. E. Whitelock Trophy.

Second in the class was Tom Wilson of R. R. 3, Georgetown and Brian Wingfield, also of R. R. 3, Georgetown, was third.

While Hoard captured first place honors in Class 4, the



WENDI, the dachshund, appears almost dwarfed by the furrows at the Halton Plowing Match Saturday. She is owned by Monica Booth of Burlington.

event open to young plowmen and women between the ages of 12 and 16, Tom Robinson of Cookstown came second and Glen Wilkinson of Georgetown placed third.

There was only one team of horses which actually plowed this year. While a second team put in an appearance, they were unable to pull a plow.

Plowing officials said the second team was entered for show.

Andy and Gilbert McRobbie of Mount Forest placed first and second respectively in Class 1, the horse-drawn section.

In Class 3, open plows, two furrows or more, even split: John Hagar of Fonthill placed first followed by Keith Robinson of Cookstown and Lloyd Reese of Wellandport.

Tom Perin of St. Marys was judged to be the best in Class 5, which was open to those between the ages of 16 and 20. The category description is tractor in sod, open.

Mrs. Theresa Sisler of Caistor Centre came second and Gary Johnson of R. R. 2 Norval, third.

Herb Jarvis of Agincourt received the silver tray for coming first in Class 6 which was described as Tractors in sod, open, three or more furrows, 14-inch plows.

Class 7 was four or more 14-inch plows. First was Howard Dunk of Guelph and second Harley Pickering of Oakville.

Pickering, who also captured second place in Class 8 which was utility class, two or more furrows: was presented the International Harvester Company Special Award.

This is presented for the best plowed land in the utility class by a Halton competitor using a mounted plow with three or more furrows.

First in Class 8 was Murray Breckon of Burlington.

Keith Robinson of R. R. 4, Cookstown was judged to be the best in Class 9 followed by Lloyd Reese of Wellandport and John Hagar of Fonthill.

Class 9 is a tractor utility class, open split. Furrows can not be touched by hand, foot or stake. No coaching is permitted. The time limit is one hour.

No steam engines attended Saturday's match, although an award for an antique tractor was presented to Keith McKenzie of Acton.

Florence McCann and Betty Wilkinson of Milton upset the men to capture the horseshoe tournament which was held on the grounds during the plowing match.

They beat out Mark Leahy of Milton and Bert Davidson of Acton for first place honors.

When Davidson came forward to receive the second place prize money, he turned it over to the Furrow Queen.

He said he was getting "too old" for this "kind of nonsense" and wanted to see the money given to someone younger.

Lack of enough land for the

plowing was a criticism plowing judges levelled at the site which was situated on the farm of A. E. Cook (Spring Loam Farm) near the intersection of Bell School Line and Number Two Sideroad in northern Burlington.

Judge Ray Montague said the shortage prevented sufficient land for all of the plowing.

However he and fellow judge Lorne James said the quality of plowing was high.

Montague said the plowing began on time and finished earlier than expected. He said the "soil lent itself

to good plowing."

Plowing officials said they were pleased with the turnout of spectators and the number of entrants in the 4-H competition. The match was the occasion for the Halton 4-H Tractor Club achievement day.

Among the speakers at the banquet were Mary Pickett who read a selection of poetry dealing with farm life, and Halton MPP Julian Reed.

Councillor Don McMillan brought greetings from Milton. He represented Mayor Don Gordon who was unable to attend.

The plowmen presented four scholarships.

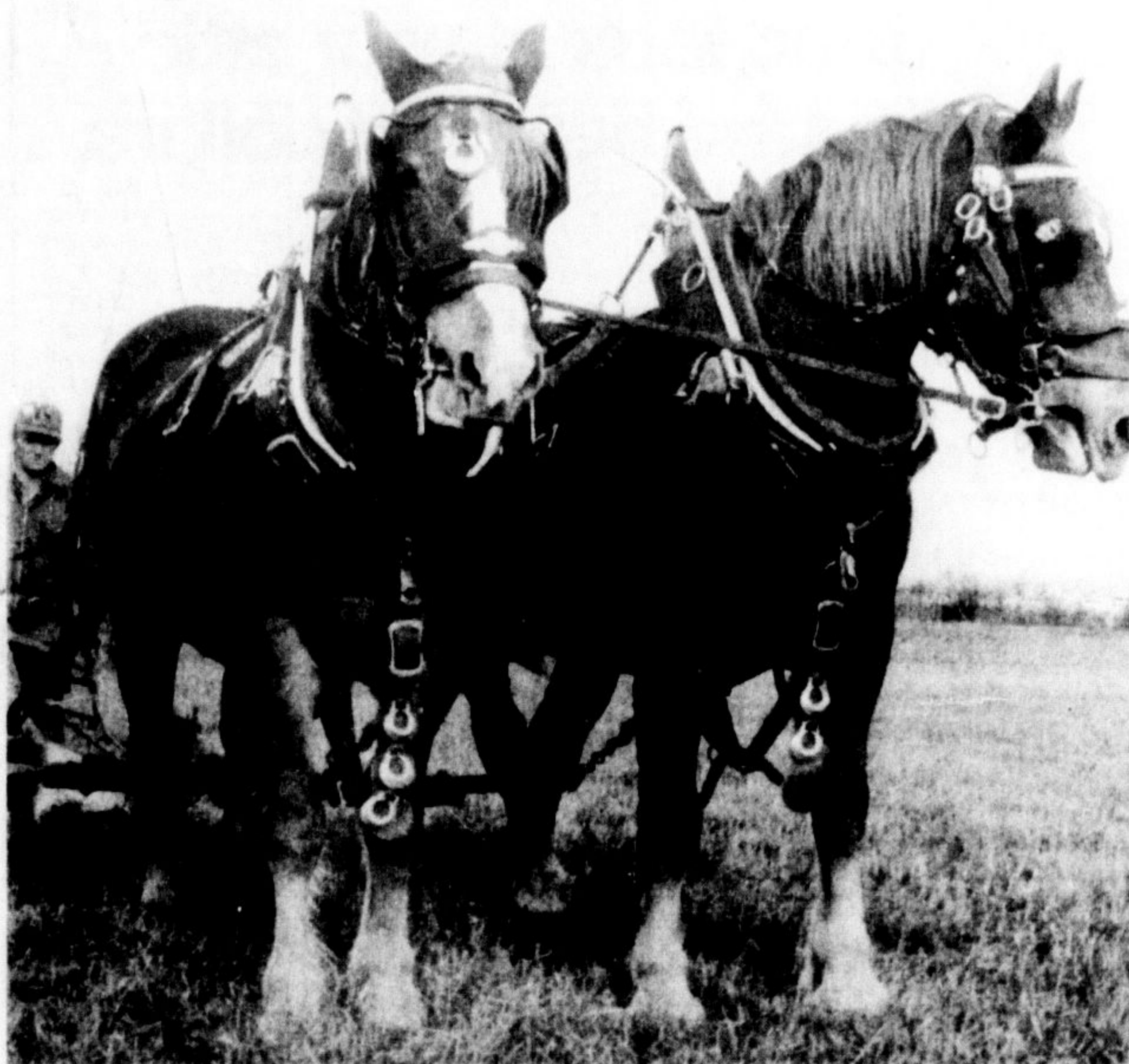
Furrow Queen Nancy McKinnon was one of the recipients as were Roy Fish of Oakville, Jamie Fisher of Burlington and Wendy Lywood of Oakville.

Saturday's plowing match occurred under sunny skies. It marked the 112th time it had been held in Halton.

The first one took place in Nelson Township, Dec. 6, 1866, and according to the plowmen's secretary-treasurer Jack Taylor, is the oldest continuous plowing match in Canada.



PRECISION in adjusting equipment was much in evidence at the Halton Plowing Match Saturday as competitors took pains to make sure everything was working perfectly before plowing. The attention to detail paid off for Murray Breckon of Burlington who was judged the best in one class.



THE TWO BIG HORSES of Andrew McRobbie's plowing team drew considerable attention at the Halton Plowing Match Saturday. They were the only team judged, winning first place in the category.

Musician, 80 steals show

Playing the "bones" as well as the spoons, Thomas Bradley proved to be one of the stars at the Halton Plowmen's Association banquet at the Masonic Hall Saturday.

A member of the Milton Senior Citizens Orchestra, the 80-year-old fiddler showed his repertoire was more than just the violin.

He and the orchestra played twice during the banquet.

Reels, jigs and waltzes were played by the 11-member group.

A scrub board player and a bass tub musician completed the orchestra, which draws its main strength from fiddlers, guitarists and banjo pickers.

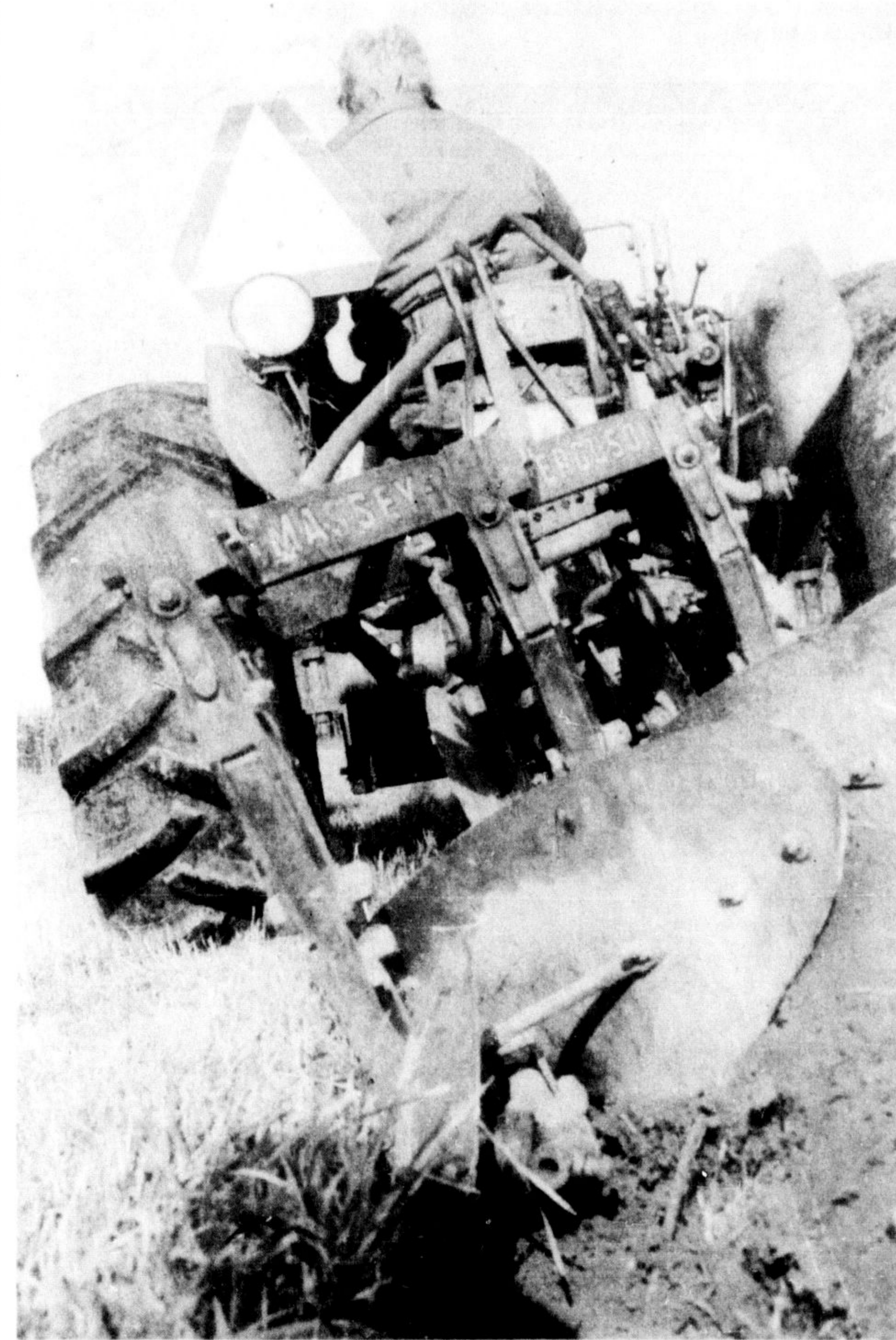
Each performance drew applause from the capacity audience.



LAUNCHING into his pitch, Bert Davidson prepares to follow-through in the horseshoe pitching tournament at the Halton Plowing Match. Despite his fine form, he and his partner were upstaged by a pair of women.

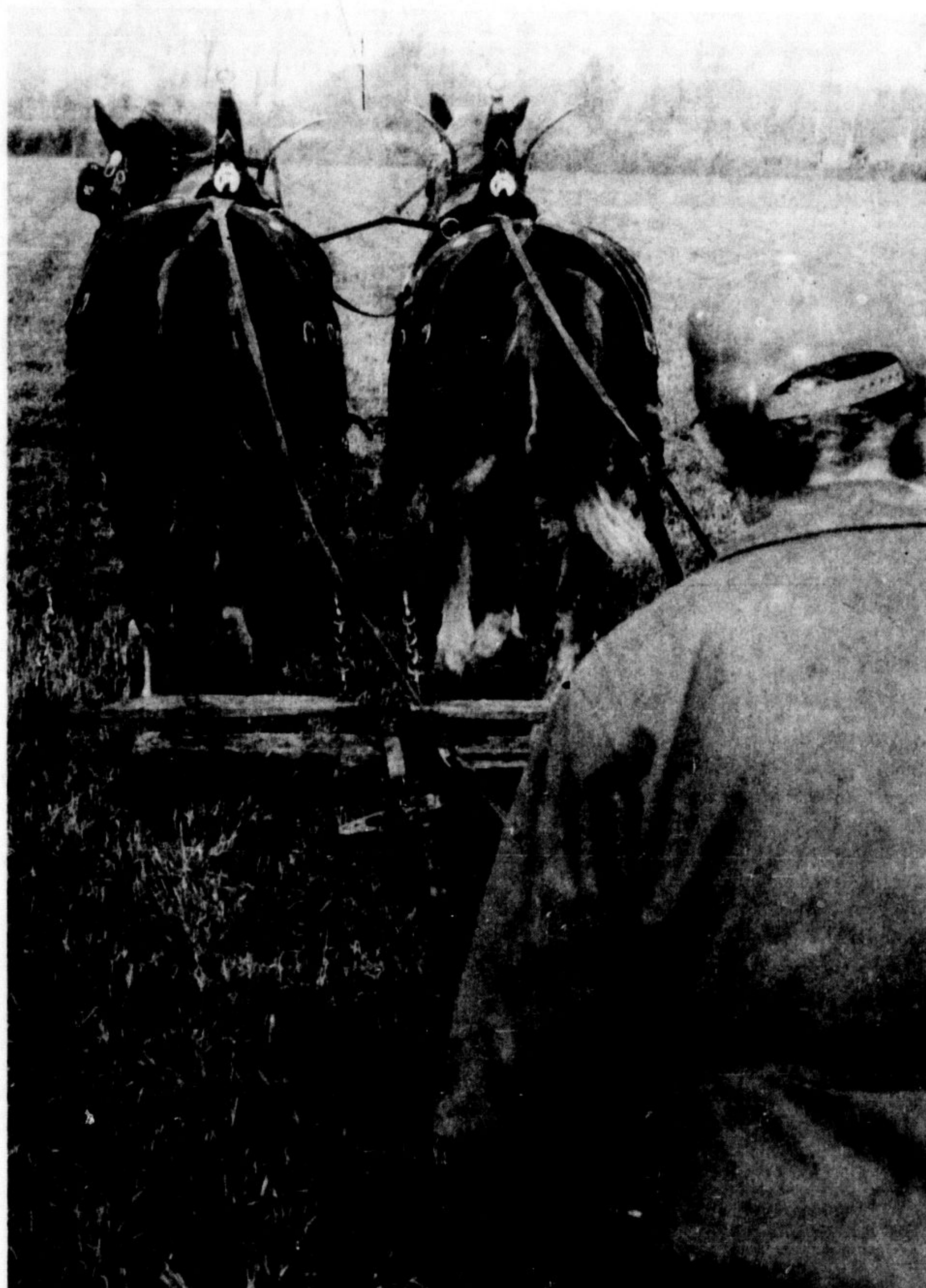


SPENCER WILSON of Norval makes an adjustment to the plow of John Reid of Georgetown at the Halton Plowing Match Saturday. Reid was one of the many young plowmen who entered the annual event, and was tops in the 4-H tractor club.



THE PLOW of Jay Kitching of R.R.1 Moffat cuts deep in Class 4 competition at the Halton Plowing Match Saturday. The nature of the soil lent itself to good plowing.

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THE BUSINESS END of a horse-drawn plow is not as glamorous as the front end, but it is where the work gets done. Working his team is Andrew McRobbie from Mount Forest. He won first prize in the horse-drawn plowing class.