

Steam-Era overcomes

Golden Slipper music hall, where club members volunteered their services to fiddle and strum the old-time tunes on a variety of musical instruments. The trailer was packed all day, every day.

Women of the club ran a highly successful ladies' tent, featuring pioneer crafts, demonstrations and sales of handwork. A special 20th anniversary cake was decorated by Judy Szarek of Kitchener, and drew much interest.

Opening dignitaries this year were former Ontario Agricultural Minister William A. Stewart, and Miss Canada 1980, Terry MacKay of Calgary. Miss Canada's appearance was sponsored by The Champion.

Unfortunately the downtown parade was washed out, so the opening dignitaries waited out the weather at a lunch at the Grace Church restaurant beneath the grandstand while officials nervously eyed the black skies. Miss Canada had to leave and wasn't able to remain for the opening, rescheduled to 4 p.m.

Mr. Stewart drove off on a steam engine, to declare the show officially open. In his remarks he praised the people who 20 years earlier, had the foresight to launch the Steam-Era reunions and get collecting the antique farm implements while they were still available. "I pay tribute to you for the ambition and initiative in getting this show together, and wish you the best for the next 20 years," he said.

Mr. Calder referred to Mr. Stewart as "the father of this show" as he has attended 14 of the first 20 shows.

Others participating in the opening included Ontario Agricultural Museum Manager Bob Carbert, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, Mayor Don Gordon, and Steam-Era directors.

Slow races between tractors and steam engines, log sawing jousts, bag and sheaf tying contests occupied fans in front of the grandstand, where Ross Calder was emcee for the daily program. Several musical groups entertained as well.

Sherwood Hume of Milton and Stu Calhoun of Mississauga were announcers for the daily parades.

Farming implements and a collection of antique watch fobs occupied the agricultural hall, while tractor and buggy seats, antique motorcycles and historical vehicles were exhibited in No. 2 Hall.

Models occupied the Scout Hall building, and beneath the grandstand visitors enjoyed a variety of antique displays. The main souvenir booth was also located there, and chairman Muriel Rayner reports a good sale of Steam-Era souvenirs. On Monday the booth had sold out of several types of souvenirs, with T-shirts, key chains, pens and china the hottest sellers.

Out in the grounds, the trading post was busy as usual, as members bought, sold and traded antiques and some craft work.

There was a good display of antique cars and trucks again this year, with several "new" old exhibits in the display. Steam cars were the most popular exhibits.

Food booths around the grounds included several run by local churches and service clubs. All reported business was "booming" all weekend — even the rains drove customers to the concessionaires.

Grace Church served hot meals at the grandstand, and organizers report about 1,200 sold. They report about 70 parishioners assisted, not counting the large group who contributed home-baked pies. The proceeds go toward parish hall renovations.

Milton Lions, Acton Junior Farmers, St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Kildee Scouts and Cubs, and Rockwood Presbyterian Church were among the busy food and drink vendors.

A tractor pulling event, featuring antique tractors, was a new feature of the show this year. Events were held Saturday and Monday in front of the grandstand.

Although they worked and played hard all day, members saved up enough energy for some night-time activities too. About 120 families were camped in the fair grounds for the weekend, reported "mayor of tent city" Lorre Calder of Cambridge.

Friday night the Chamber of Commerce sponsored its annual old

fashioned days costume contest and a talent show in the fair grounds. Afterward, members adjourned to Sherwood Hume's Milton home for the annual social evening and corn roast featuring corn steam-cooked by a steam boiler.

Saturday's fare was a successful country and western talent contest, that drew a record 15 entries. Winner was fiddler Ray Squires, 74, of Port Rowan with guitarist-singer Bob Curran of Creemore in second place. Third prize went to singer Richard Godin of Cambridge, fourth to fiddler Don Young of London and fifth to singer Penny Langs of Burlington.

Other entrants included Jim Broughton on guitar, singer Gail Webber, singers Arlene Ruigrok and Sheila Snow, and harmonica player George Wood, all of Milton; violinist Jack Layman of Georgetown; singer Gary Pattenden of Hawkestone; singer Brenda Ferrier of Holly; singer Tom Pinkney of Orangeville, singer Karen Dundae of Myerstown Pa.; singers Glen and Lavee Pocylyuko of Willowdale.

Added entertainment came from Bob Curran and Gary Pattenden who teamed up for a comedy routine, and visitor Roger Baumgartner of Walnut Ill. who recited a poem. Night Train was the backup band.

After the show, members held another corn roast at the Golden Slipper Music Hall and the corn and the music lasted until midnight.

Sunday morning the annual church service was held in one of the halls, with former St. Stephen's minister Rev. Canon John Maxwell in charge. The collection (reportedly a record) will go to the Terry Fox cancer campaign.

Sunday night's fare was a gospel music hour featuring the Sellwood Singers.

Visitors signed the guest book from all over Canada, also six American states. A group of 25 fans came from a club in Illinois, and visitors were recorded from as far away as California. One couple came from England and another arrived from Australia, proving Steam-Era is known the world over as a quality steam and antique reunion.



Old fashioned taste

As part of Old Fashioned Days, an apple pie judging contest was held in Milton Mall Saturday. Chrissy Whetham, 5, of Milton takes a big taste of one pie with the aid of Maria Reis of Milton Chamber of Commerce. First prize winner was Darlene Stark of Milton; second was Mrs. Joan O'Connor, also of Milton.

Team work all-important during threshing contest

Two young men stand at the end of two lines of sheaves, a team of draft horses hitched to hay wagons as a backdrop behind them.

With the shot of a rifle this tranquil scene explodes into a fury of movement and the Eastern Canada Threshing Contest rounds begin at Steam-Era.

The men race down the row of sheaves, stacking them by hand in groups of six or seven with the grain-laden ends to the top to start the competition.

With the sheaves stacked, they scrambled back to the hay wagons, grab a pitch fork and load the wagon while the patient horses make their way up the row.

Competitors are not allowed to run but must make their way from the loaded wagon to the awaiting steam engines and threshers doing the Texas walk—a fast walk utilizing long steps.

The second stage of the competition now begins. The steam engines run full out to position the threshing machine, then disengage and manoeuvre to a point where the long belt can be stretched from the thresher to the flywheel on the steam engine.

Once the belt is in motion the team of horses is spurred on and comes to a halt where the sheaves can be fed into the threshing machine, top first.

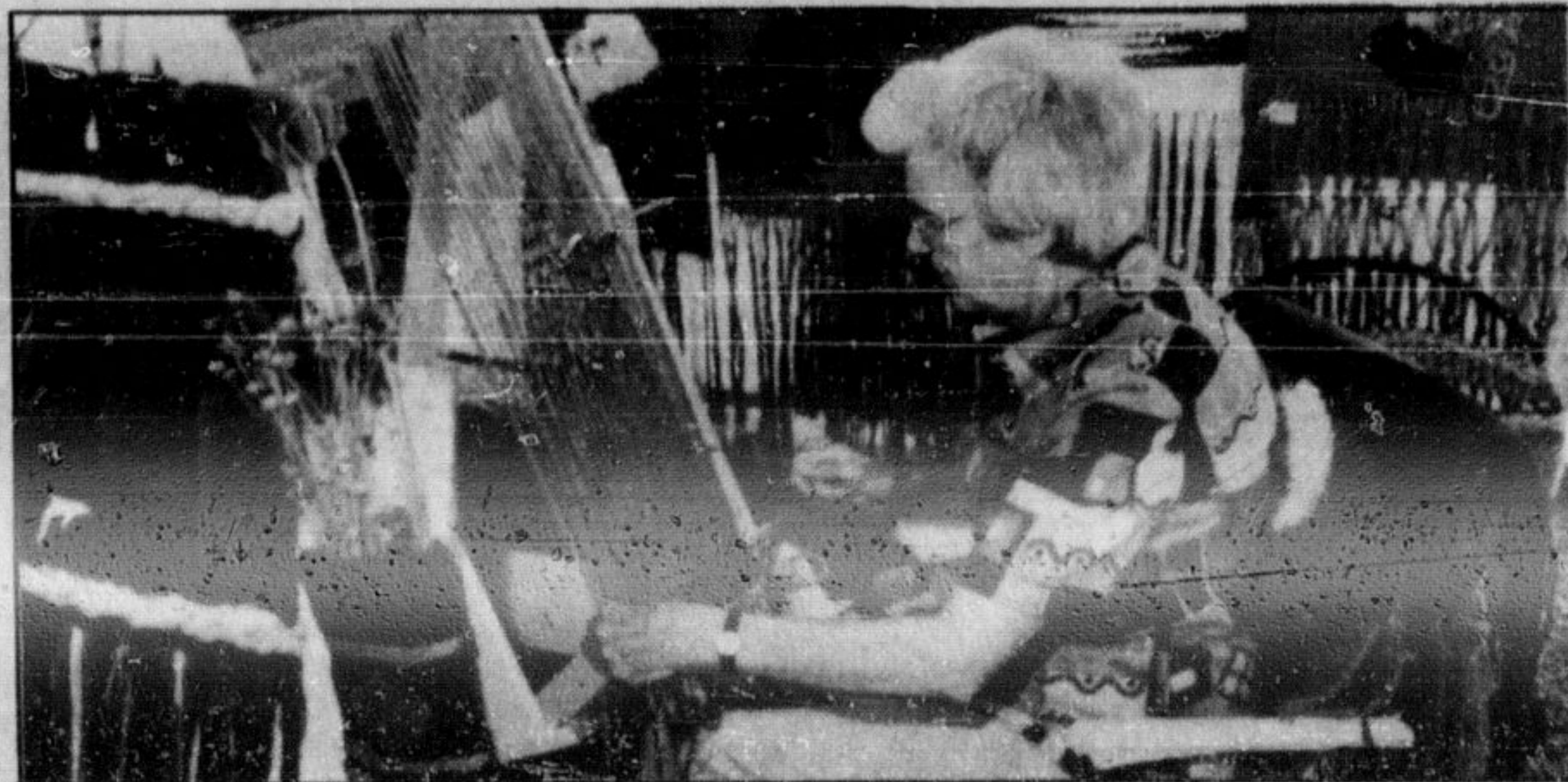
The old machines labor through the load until all the sheaves have been fed through at a break-neck pace.

Team work is essential

in this contest, each member attending to his own task which must be competed with speed and accuracy. Points are lost for dropping sheaves from the wagon and missed time.

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Weaving display. Mrs. Albert Fife of Milton showed off her weaving talents and many of the pieces she has made, in the Steam-Era ladies tent.

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Nicely restored. Steve Mauro of Milton entered this 1939 "R" Case tractor in the Steam-Era. Driver is his sister Kim.

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Prowler breaks in

Juveniles are blamed for a break-in at the home of Ted Coler at 718 Syer Cresc. in Milton Sunday.

Halton Regional Police said a prowler went through an open window in the house and broke several items, but stole nothing.

Damage is estimated at \$20.

NURSING GRADUATE Debora Ann Kearney, daughter of Don and Marion Kearney graduated from Sheridan College School of Nursing August 1, 1980. She has accepted a position at Mississauga Hospital.

Did You Know

"Big Ben" is the name of the bell in the House of Parliament Tower in London ... not the clock!

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