



Where, you ask? It is not a forgotten rural farmstead, but a setting, authentic in every detail, recapturing the farm life of yesteryear at the Ontario Agricultural

Museum near Kelso. The Museum opens soon with new exhibits and buildings for the visitor to view.

Special playground keeps kids occupied while adults on tour

Keeping youngsters happy and interested while touring a museum site is not always a simple matter.

But the Ontario Agricultural Museum feels it has come up with a solution.

A children's playground in the middle of the museum grounds is expected to provide parents with some peace of mind and fun for children.

In keeping with the theme of the surroundings, a small log house measuring approximately 10 feet by 12 feet has been built.

For those who love climbing aboard a

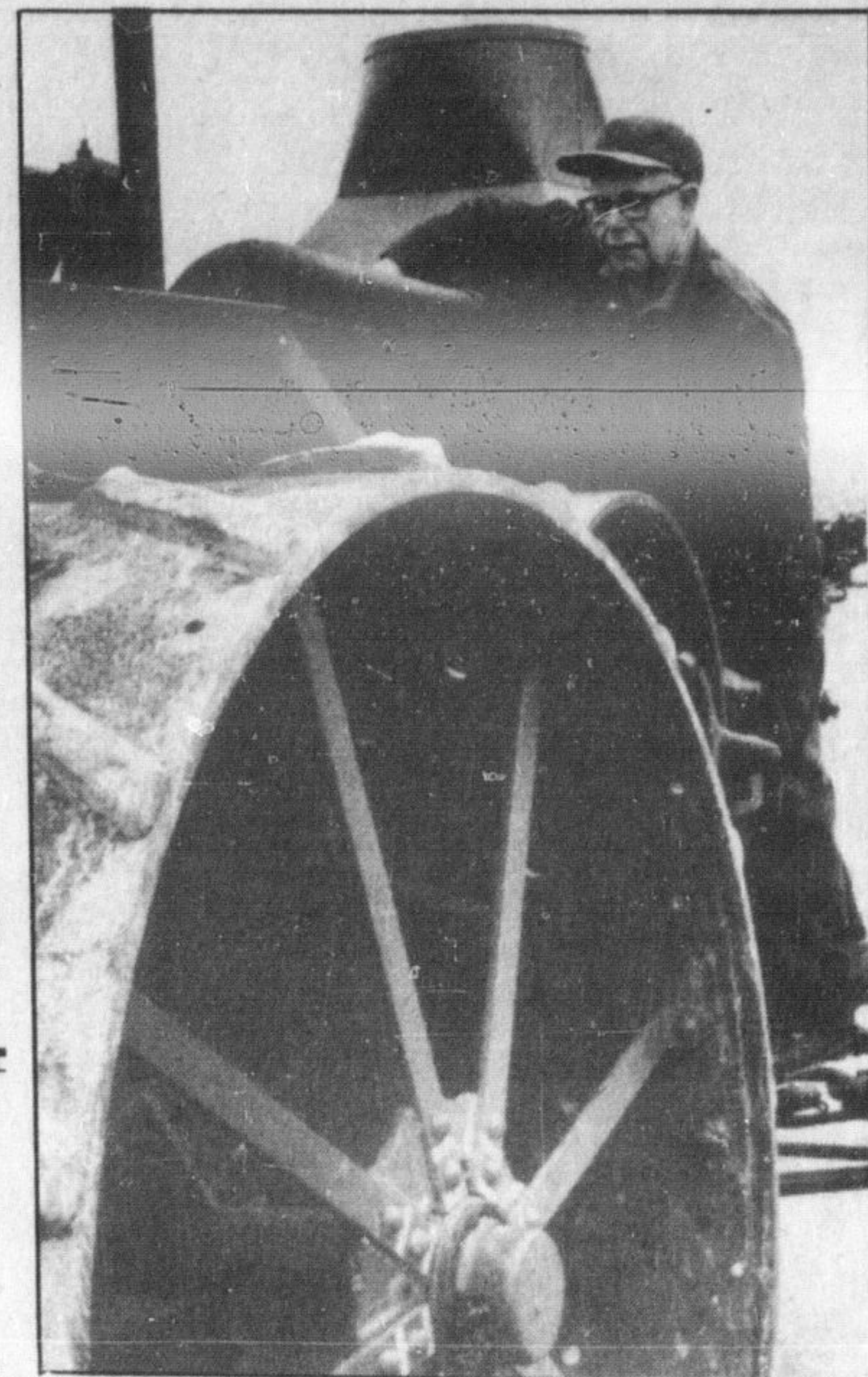
machine, there is a small early tractor. All dangerous parts have been removed.

Also included in the playground are a timber climber and wings made out of tractor tires.

"It is a unique play area," said Mary Robertson of the museum staff.

"We felt there was a real need for it, especially if families want to spend considerable time at the site," she said.

The playground is unsupervised and is located in front of the picnic shelter on the museum grounds.



Not your average oil check. Albert Fife, an expert on farm machinery and an employee with the Ontario Agricultural Museum, rolls out a 1919 Rumely Oil Pull tractor for a routine check.

Champion Perspective

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION
MILTON, ONTARIO
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1981
THIRD SECTION

Agricultural Museum re-opens Mon., May 11 for season

'Living museum' adds five more buildings; expects 20,000 visitors this season

Stories and photo by Linda Kirby

The Ontario Agricultural Museum near Kelso opens its doors to the public for the third season Monday, May 11.

Five new buildings will be opened, bringing the total facility to 23 buildings.

"This is a living museum, that's changing every year," said Bob Carbert, general manager.

"We started with about 5,000 artifacts and now the collection is close to 20,000 pieces."

Among the five new buildings is a carriage house, a

horseshoe shaped building that houses a complete display of wheeled and runnered vehicles.

The display will feature 50 vehicles including cutters, sleighs, buggies and hearses.

The Museum's octagonal barn which opened last year is now a landmark along the south side of the Highway 401 near the escarpment.

The barn will house a special display this year commemorating the 150th anniversary of Cyrus McCormick's invention of the reaper that revolutionized grain harvesting.

Included in the International Harvester exhibit are tractors, gas engines, and other equipment outlining

the history of that company.

An 1860s farmstead will also feature a collection of gasoline engines and a display of equipment from the horsepower era.

Four major displays depict the four seasons of agriculture and the chronology of work on the farm.

The Museum also hopes to finish an 1830s log house and barn farmstead by mid-summer. The typical Ontario farm includes outbuildings, gardens and livestock.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see ducks, chickens, sheep and some cattle.

Planned crops for the farm include wheat, oats, flax, pumpkins, Indian corn, peas and turnips.

In addition to growing the garden, Museum officials will demonstrate the old fashioned methods of harvesting grain crops.

For those whose interests lie with machinery, the Museum has added some new pieces to its tractor and steam engine collection.

Following the May 11 opening, the Museum plans several special events.

These will include an induction ceremony of eight nominees to the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame on Sunday, June 7; the Canada Packers Quilt collection of nine quilts both old and new, on display from June 15 to July 22; and the opening of the International

Harvester Company display located in a unique 1885 octagonal barn.

More than 20,000 people visited the 80-acre Museum site last year and similar numbers are again expected this summer.

"This Museum is for rural and urban people who want an opportunity to understand our heritage and learn about the food products this province produces and what agriculture means to Ontario," said Mr. Carbert.

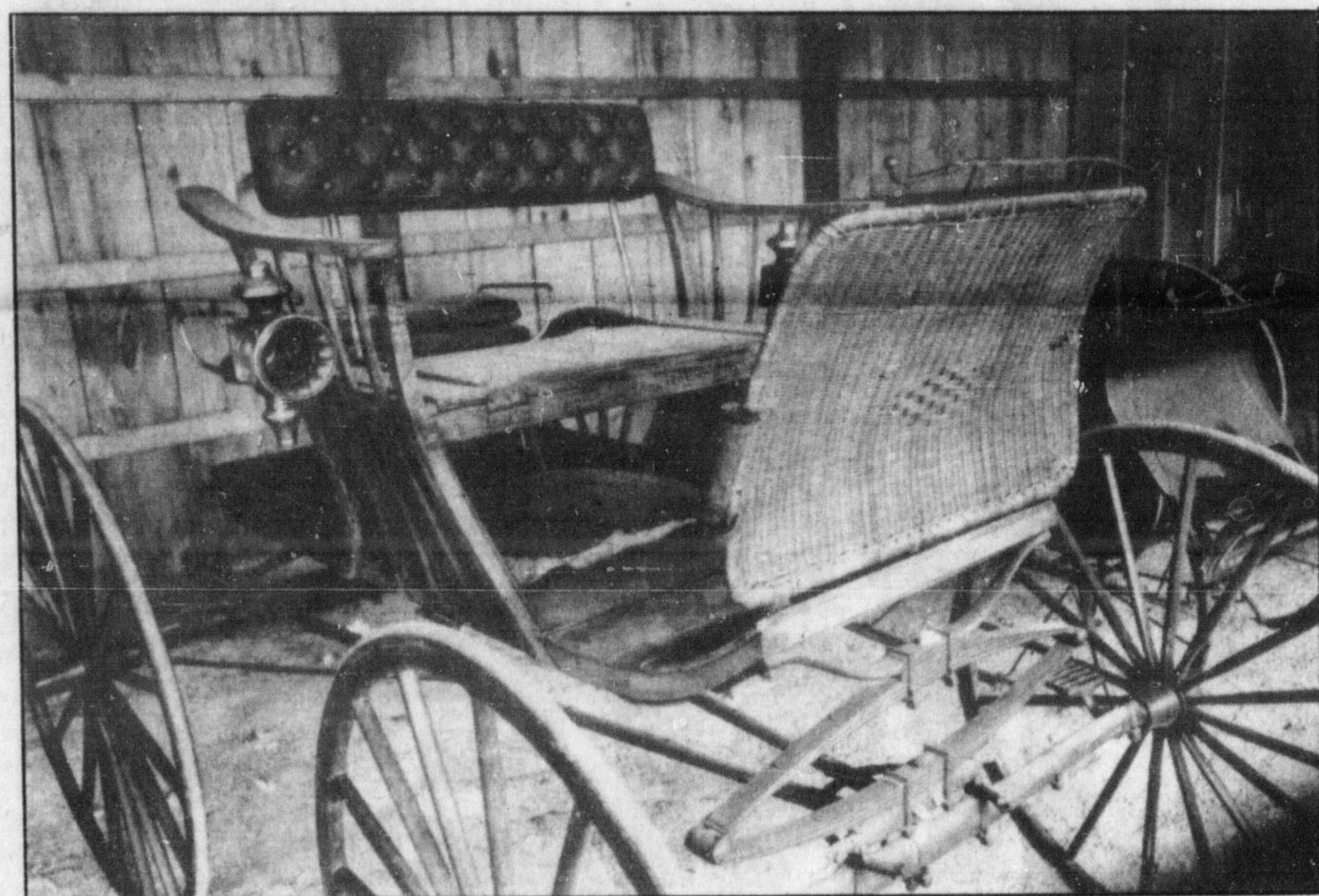
The Museum will be open seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Groups are welcome during the season and escorted tours are available upon request.

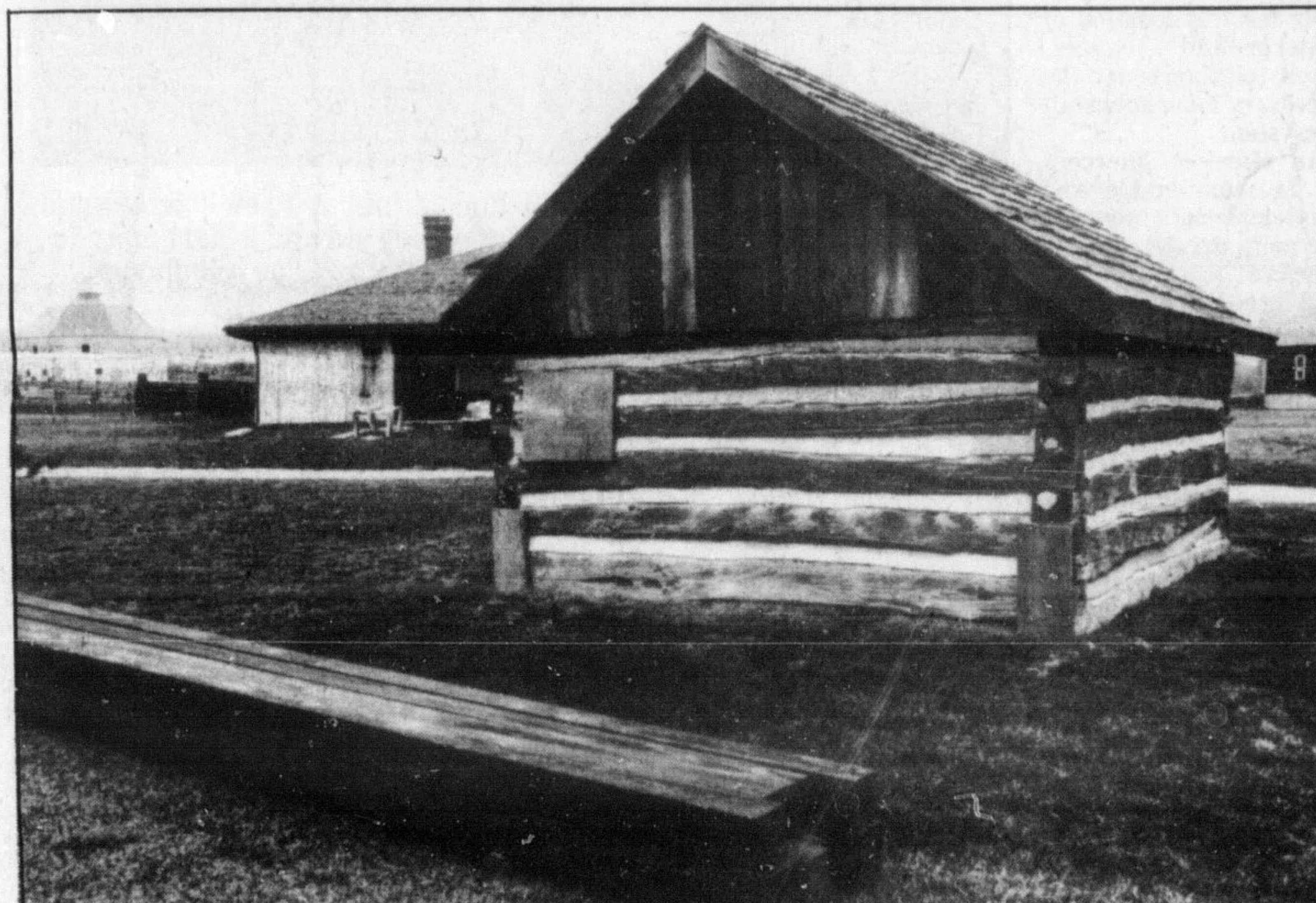
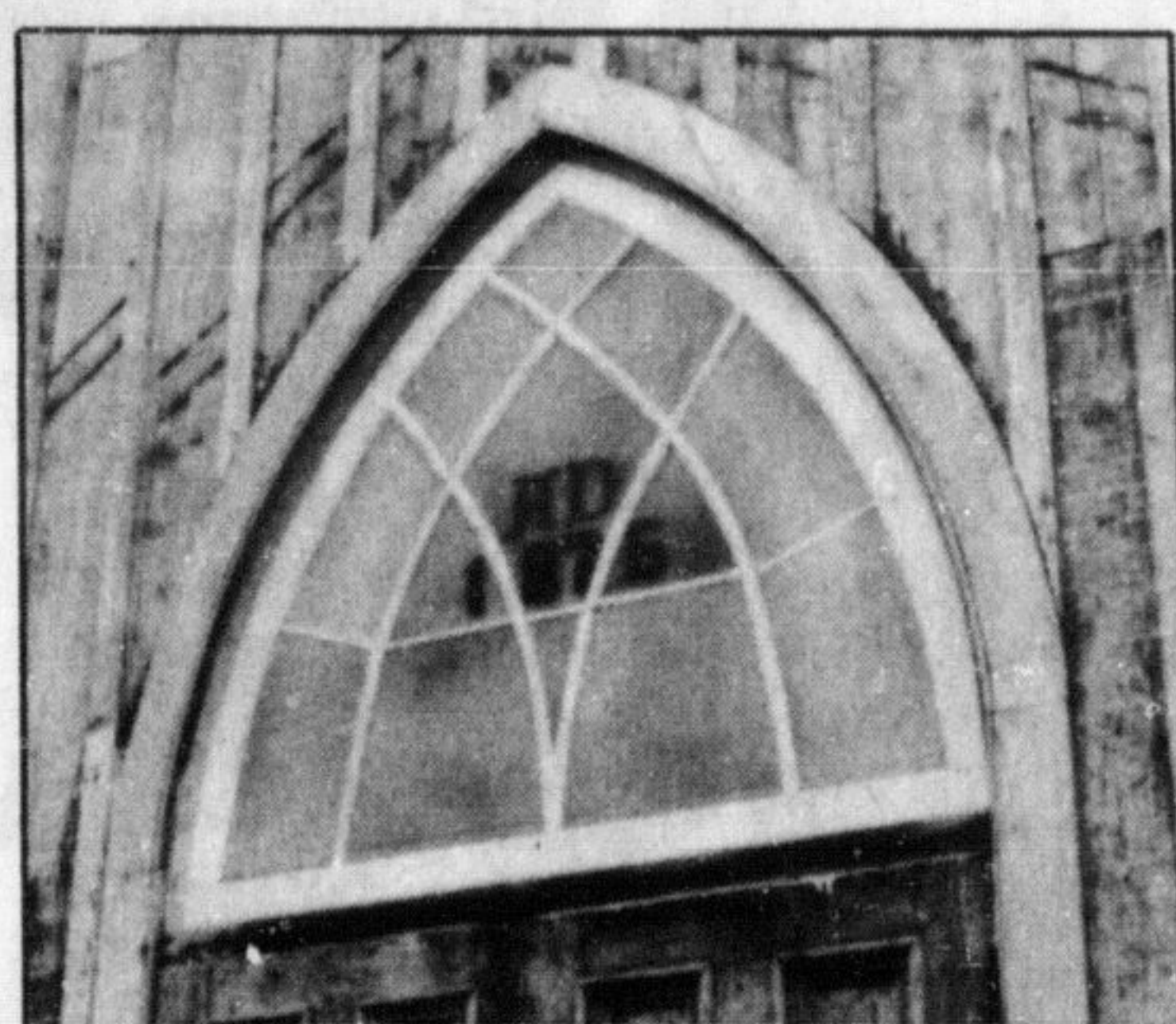
Women's Institute groups may book the Women's Institute Hall for a meeting during their visit.

And for those who may get a little footsore touring the sites, there is an inter-park transportation system.

A snack bar serving light lunches is open daily and gifts shops are located in the admission and the administration buildings.



A glimpse back in time. Fine wicker, soft leather and polished brass fittings on this once handsome carriage will take the visitor a step back in time.



Child's play. Workmen are hard at work putting together a playground for children visiting the Agricultural Museum site. Part of that will include a small 10 by 12 foot log house for the little people.



Details. It is not just the carriage, but the attractive fittings on this vehicle from another era that make a visit to the new carriage house something special and a learning experience.

Unique phones

An old fashioned ring

Independent telephone companies were very much a part of rural farm life in Ontario years ago.

In fact, at one time there were more than 1,200 independent operators, ranging from the smallest company that serviced about 10 or 12 private subscribers to major companies that catered to businesses as well as homeowners.

The number of independent phone companies

has dwindled to 32 following company mergers, amalgamations and the enormous growth of Bell.

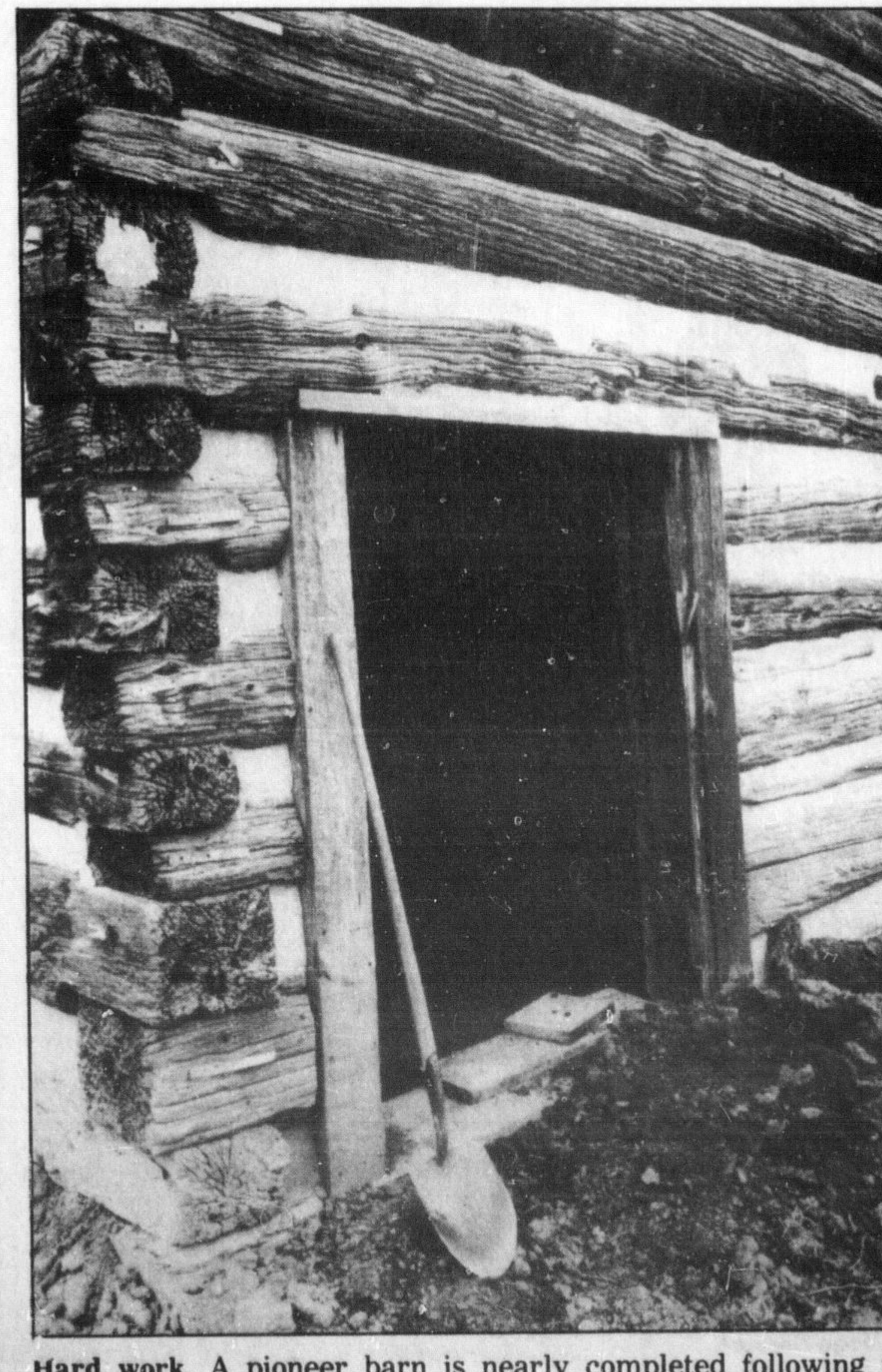
At the Ontario Agricultural Museum, visitors have an opportunity to view an authentic rural telephone system in action.

On May 20, a small celebration will be held in

(Continued on Pg. C2)



Bells, bells, bells. The Museum presents an interesting display of telephones from its earliest days.



Hard work. A pioneer barn is nearly completed following its reconstruction. The log barn was originally from Little Britain and forms an integral part of the pioneer farmstead at the Ontario Agricultural Museum.