

# Steam-Era attendance up despite rainy weather



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Jane Graham holds an apple pie hot out of the 1925 Sawyer Massey steam engine she baked it in during Steam-Era at the Milton Fair Grounds over the Labour Day weekend.

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

There may not have been a parade to rain on this year, but the wet stuff did put a bit of a damper on the Labour Day weekend Steam-Era event.

"It didn't help," said Steam-Era chair Brad Clements.

Persistent rain Saturday made it impossible for threshing competitions to take place in the centre field.

And wet grounds sunk the same demonstrations Sunday. They resumed Monday when the skies cleared.

Despite that, and though final numbers aren't yet in, attendance appeared to be on the upswing compared to the previous year.

"I think we're up from last year in terms of attendance and that's about all I can say," said Mr. Clements. "To what extent,

I don't know."

Part of the boost came from new features such as Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance Show performed by the Barn Dance Historical Society Friday night.

The production took place at Steam-Era for the first time, and it's too early to know if it'll return next year.

"I think we have to bring it back in a different format," he said.

The 40-year Steam-Era tradition ran from Friday through Monday, and featured antique cars, tractors, farm equipment and steam engines.

The event also highlighted the Trading Post and craft building, along with various vendors displaying everything from street signs to toys and miniatures.

Steam-Era is run as a non-profit endeavor by volunteer members of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association.

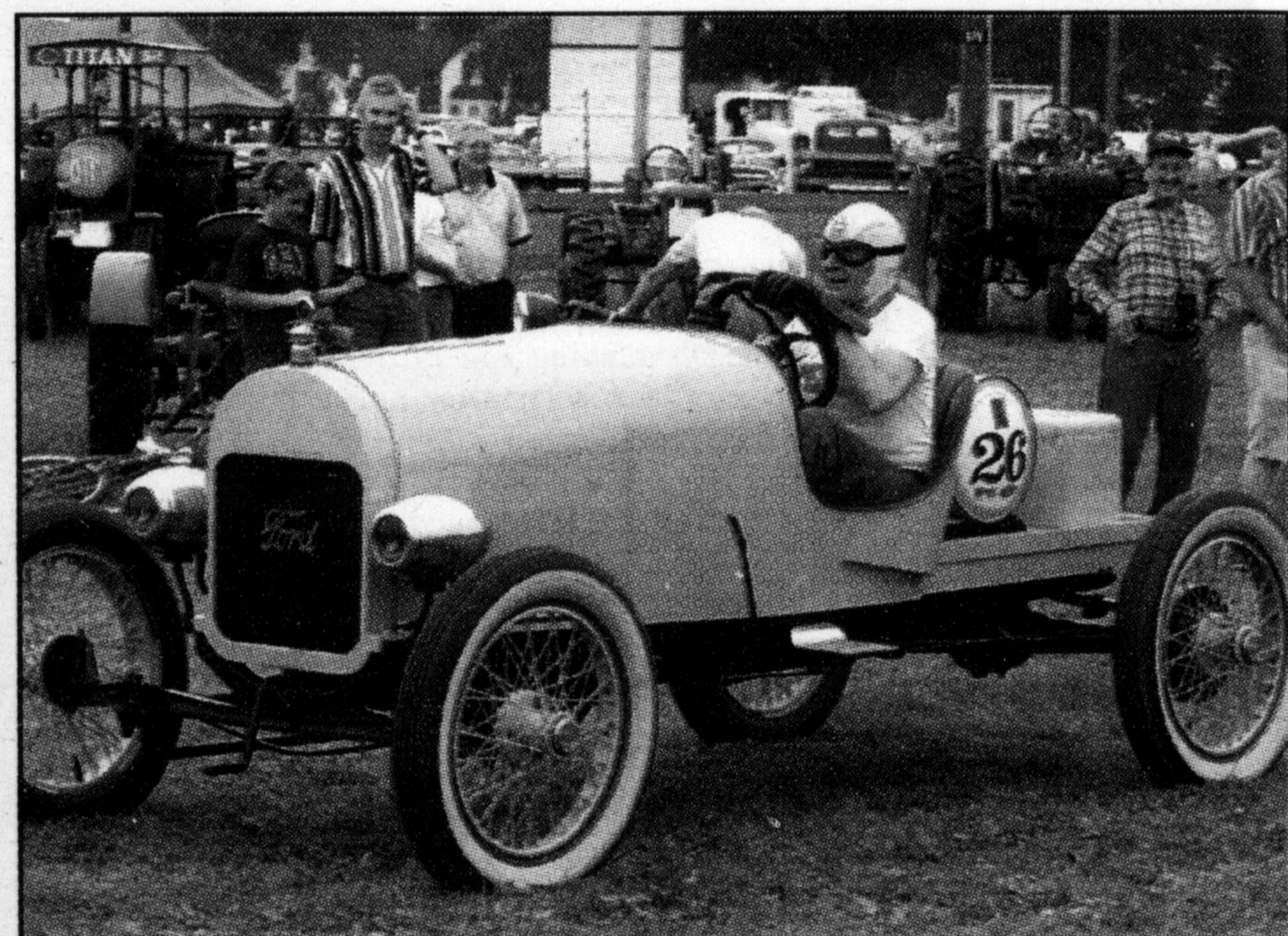


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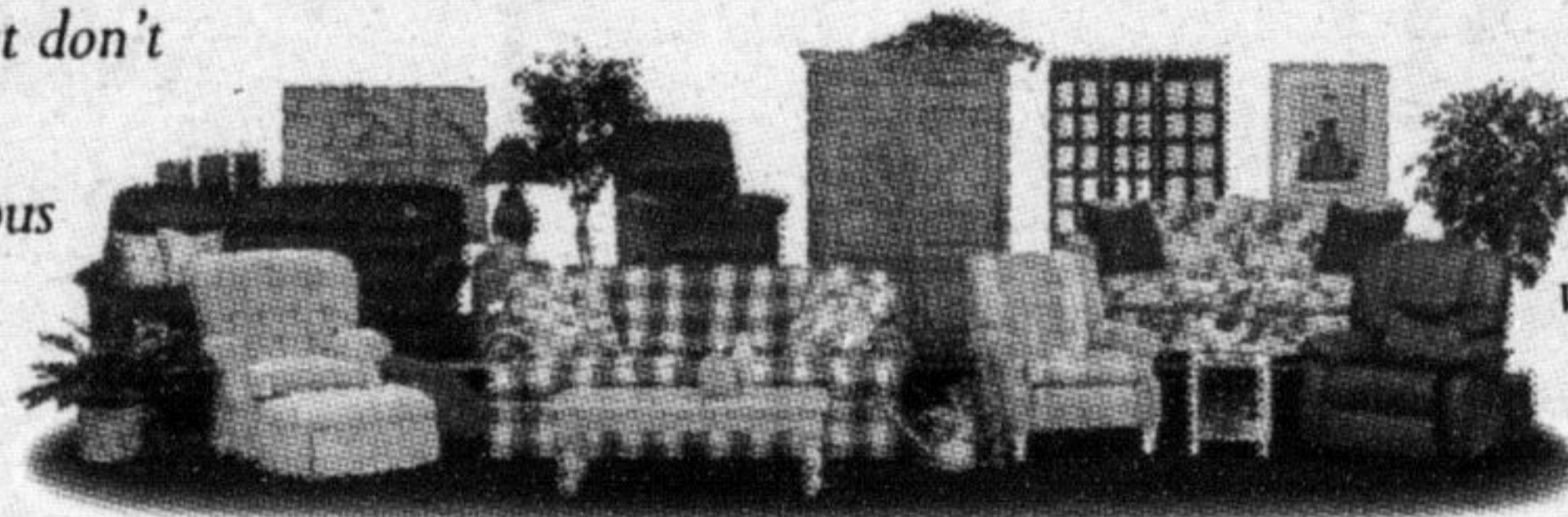
This vintage Ford roadster was a big hit with Steam-Era crowds during the annual extravaganza at the Milton Fair Grounds on the weekend.

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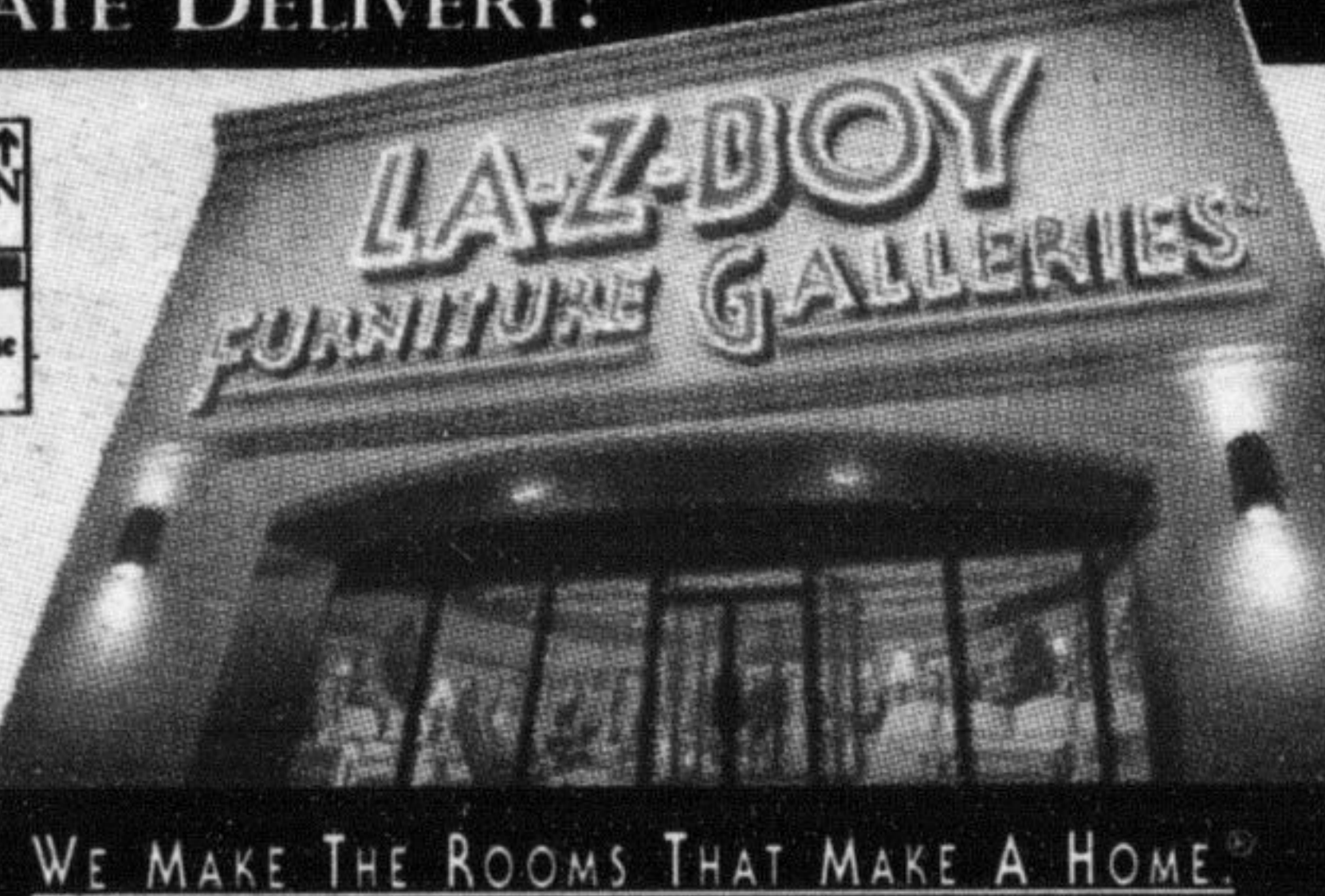


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