

It's full steam ahead for a weekend of nostalgia

5—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, August 28, 1996

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

Four days of nostalgic fun will go full steam ahead at the Milton Fair Grounds Friday. The province's rich agricultural heritage will be on display over the Labour Day weekend at the 36th Annual Steam-Era Reunion.

The tradition will continue as the volunteer-run show is presented by the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association until Monday. The show will once again feature the real workhorses of agriculture — gas tractors. About 200 of them representing a span of 60 years on the farm will be up and running daily.

Also steamed up and working will be

restored and polished steam engines — the largest display in eastern Canada.

Before electricity simplified farming, farmers used gas tractors — another feature of the show. More than 150 of the engines used for chores from washing clothes to grinding grain will be on display.

But the special feature will be the display of about 45 Rumely tractors, which are being honoured at the show.

"Our show reflects the heritage and rural atmosphere of days gone by," says Ray Whaley, association president.

Since 1961, the fair grounds have come alive every Labour Day Weekend with puffing steam engines, chugging gas tractors, humming gasoline engines, the putt-

putting of old cars and trucks and thousands of miscellaneous displays.

The most spectacular events will be parades at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Other activities will include threshing competitions (Saturday and Monday afternoons) and antique tractor pulls (Saturday and Monday mornings).

A country and western talent contest will be held Saturday evening and a variety program will provide the entertainment Sunday night.

At the grandstand, log sawing, bag tying and sheaf tying will take place on a regular basis throughout the weekend.

Country crafts will be on display — a women's favourite — and youngsters will

• see **STEAM-ERA** on page 8



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Neil Ford polishes up his Rumely tractor in preparation for the 36th annual Steam-Era Reunion this weekend. Rumely equipment is the special feature at the four-day event, which opens Friday.

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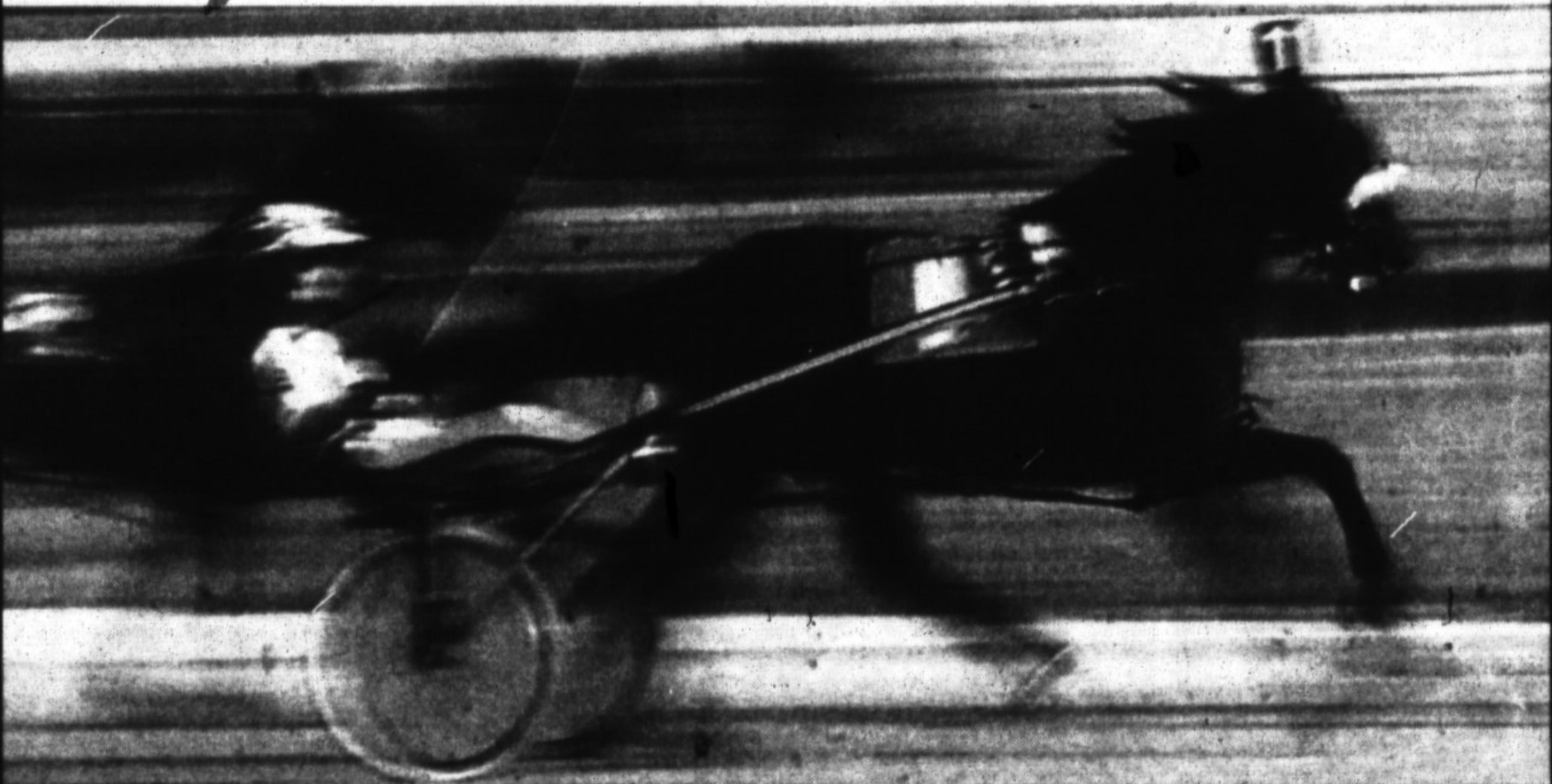
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