



YESTERDAYS

By MARY DAWSON

Steam engines revolutionized farming

Ed Cooper of Maple and his working model of a steam engine and threshing machine were the hit of a "steam" show in the London area in mid-July, being featured both in TV and newspaper coverage of the event.

His display brought back nostalgic memories not only to steam buffs but to all who had heard the sound of the whistle as the custom threshers moved about the rural communities of this province.

The advent of steam engines revolutionized farming. The earliest models were not designed to roll under their own power. They were intended as stationary units to provide power to drive farm machinery and horses were used to haul them to where they were needed.

box and boiler mounted on two large lugged wheels, which would play havoc with paved roads and two smaller wheels at the front, with a cab to shelter the driver. They performed herculean duties in driving threshing machines and saws to cut logs into planks or into stove wood.

Smaller stationary units powered pumps, turnip pulpers, grain rollers, fanning and chopping mills, and milk churns.

All in all the steam engine was a great advance over the man-powered and animal powered devices which preceded it.

About the beginning of August the sound of the steam whistle began to be heard in the land. A couple of weeks earlier the horse-powered reapers and binders had cut the grain crop.

The farmer's wife and family and hired hands

had followed the binders around the grain fields, gathering the sheaves as they were spewed out and stacking them in lots of about a dozen, topped with another couple to shed the rain.

Given good weather the sheaves would have dried out and be ready for threshing.

The steam engine and thresher would be located at a convenient spot in the field, two wagons with high racks at both ends pulled by a team of horses would start the day's work of bringing the sheaves to the machines. Neighbors would augment the labor force as two men were needed on each wagon to build the load as the sheaves were tossed by two men on the ground with pitchforks.

As the wagons were loaded the steam engine would be fired and a good head of steam built up. Fuel was either wood or coal. As the first wagon drew up to the threshing machine a lever on the steam engine would be pulled and with a rattle and bang the steam power would begin to turn a fly wheel from which a broad leather belt ran to a similar wheel on the threshing machine. The sheaves were

forked into an opening and more belts carried them through the threshing process — the grain being discharged through a chute in the opposite side where it was bagged and the straw being blown out through a long metal tube into a pile which grew larger and larger as the day wore on.

In the meantime, up well before dawn, the farmers' wife and daughters had been preparing huge quantities of hunger satisfying food — roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, carrots, green apple pie, with pickles and relishes galore, for the noon meal.

Promptly at 12 o'clock the steam engine's whistle would announce the mid-day break and all workers would troop into the large farm kitchen after having had a cooling wash at the horse trough and then would consume vast quantities of food.

If the crop was large, after the quantities of dishes had been washed and the kitchen made immaculate again, the women folk would start preparing the six o'clock meal of cold meats and salads with canned fruit, cake, and tarts for dessert.

There would not be as many men at this meal

for some of the neighbors would have had to leave to tend to their own chores. If necessary the men returned to the field to work as long as daylight lasted, when with a final whistle the engine was shut down for the night.

The steam engine provided the pulling power to transfer itself, the threshing machine and a water wagon to the next farm on the list.

Sometimes the large leather belt broke and the whole production would have to be shut down until the owner with awl and leather lacing made the repairs.

Oak Ridges gets help for flooding

Oak Ridges residents are seeing many improvements in their area this month.

Work on the Lake Willcox outlet channel began the first week of August and last week the Town of Richmond Hill began construction of a storm sewer system along Fergus Avenue, with branches reaching across Moray and Willwood Avenues.

Each spring residents experience problems with effluence in road-side ditches, wet basements and malfunctioning septic systems. This storm sewer should correct these problems.

The project is being constructed by Silvio Construction of Maple, at a total cost of \$121,600. Funds will come jointly from the municipality and the provincial government.

A property on the south side of North Lake Road, has been acquired under the Neighbourhood Improvement Program to provide an easement for the channel running to the Lake and upon completion of the storm sewer project, this property will

be landscaped and maintained as a neighbourhood parkette.

The project is expected to take about six weeks.

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Civic Corner

The following meetings of Civic interest have been scheduled during the next two weeks:

Monday October 1, — Regular Council Meeting, 7:45 p.m. Council Chambers.

Tuesday October 2, — Meeting 4 p.m. Treasurers Committee Room

Tuesday October 2, — Planning Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers.

Wednesday October 3, — Bylaws, Procedures, Fire and Personnel Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Committee Room "B".

Thursday October 4, — Engineering Committee Meeting, 8 a.m. Commissioner of Works Office

Thursday October 4, — Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers.

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No. 1 \$600⁰⁰ No. 2 \$500⁰⁰

Wed., Sept. 19th No. 1 Jackpot 52 No's. No. 2 56 No's.

Early Birds at 7:35 p.m. Reg. Games & specials at 8 p.m.
"YOUR BINGO CENTRE FOR ALL SEASONS"
NO PLAYERS UNDER 16 YEARS ADMITTED

Thursday-Friday, September 20-21

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Come see how it stacks up against your hunger, while it's half the regular price. At a participating DAIRY QUEEN* BRAZIER* store.



DOUBLE BURGER 1/2 PRICE SALE.



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† Pre-cooked weight.

ESTELLE MARKHAM

A.R.C.T.R.M.T.

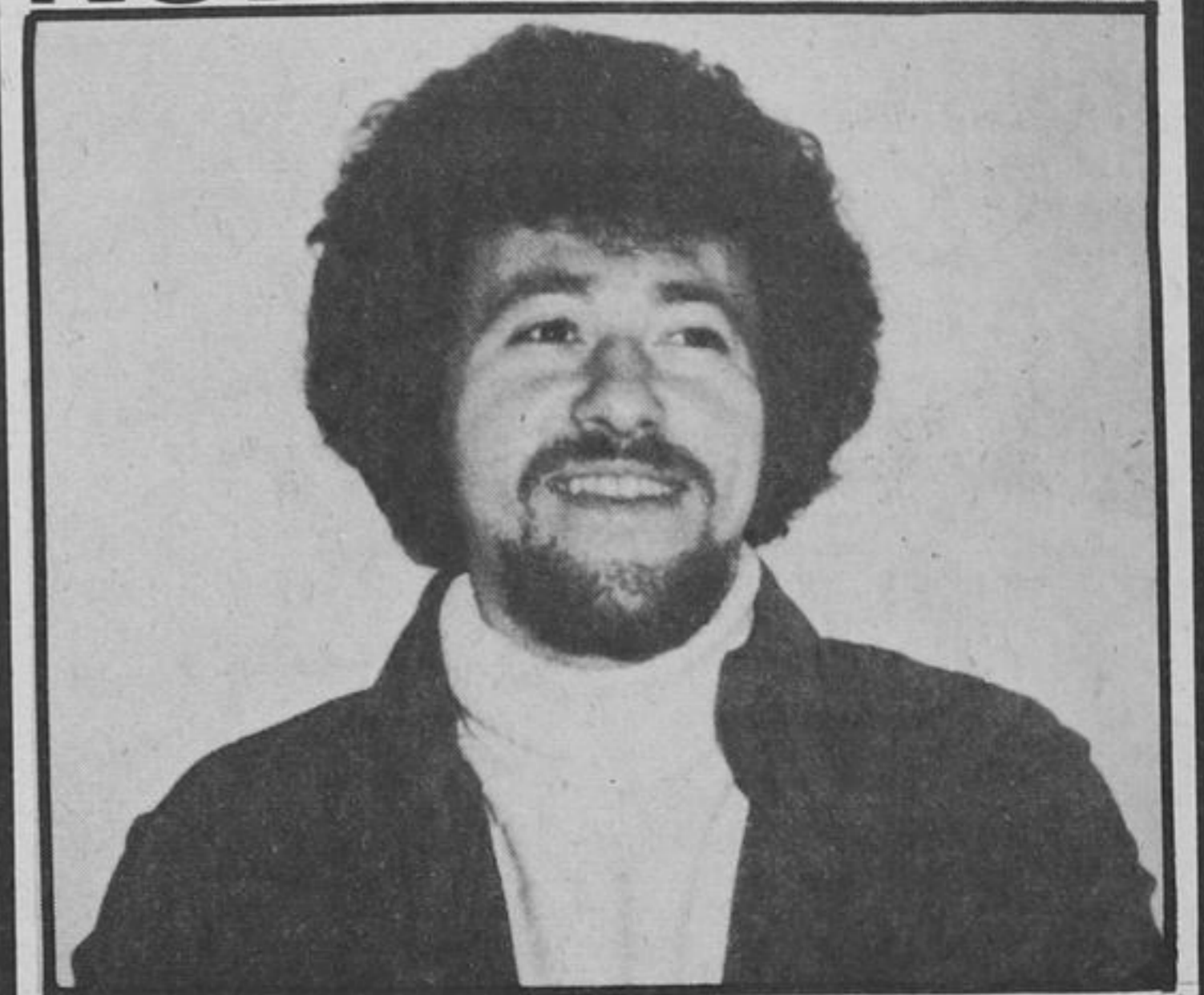
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NOW APPEARING



RICK FIELDING

HOUSE OF LORDS

STEAK HOUSE & TAVERN
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The Management of The House of Lords is presenting our finest singer-instrumentalist Rick Fielding. Rick is making his first appearance in Richmond Hill after having performed for several years across Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

Preferring a more intimate atmosphere in order to communicate fully with his audience, Rick brings a large repertoire of Ballads, Folk, Blues, Country and Bluegrass to the stage of the House of Lords.

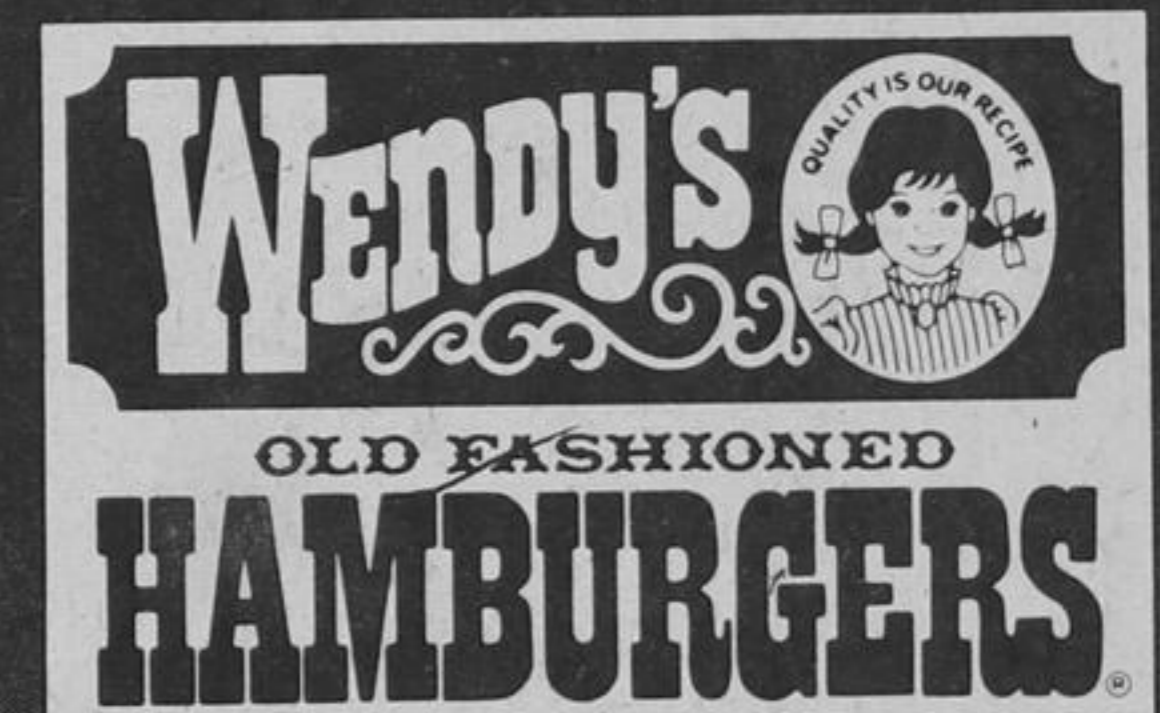
Equally at home in the Recording and Television Studio he has backed many other artists on records as well as having released several records of his own material, having had a country hit with the single, Song for Charlie two years ago.

Rick has guested on the Tommy Hunter Show twice, the George Hamilton TV Show several times as well as hosting his own show. This versatility is shown in the many instruments he plays including some unusual ones such as Dulcimer, Dobro, and Mandola. At the House of Lords Rick will be entertaining his audience with Guitar, 5 String Banjo and the seldom used Autoharp. Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

FOR RESERVATION 884-7224

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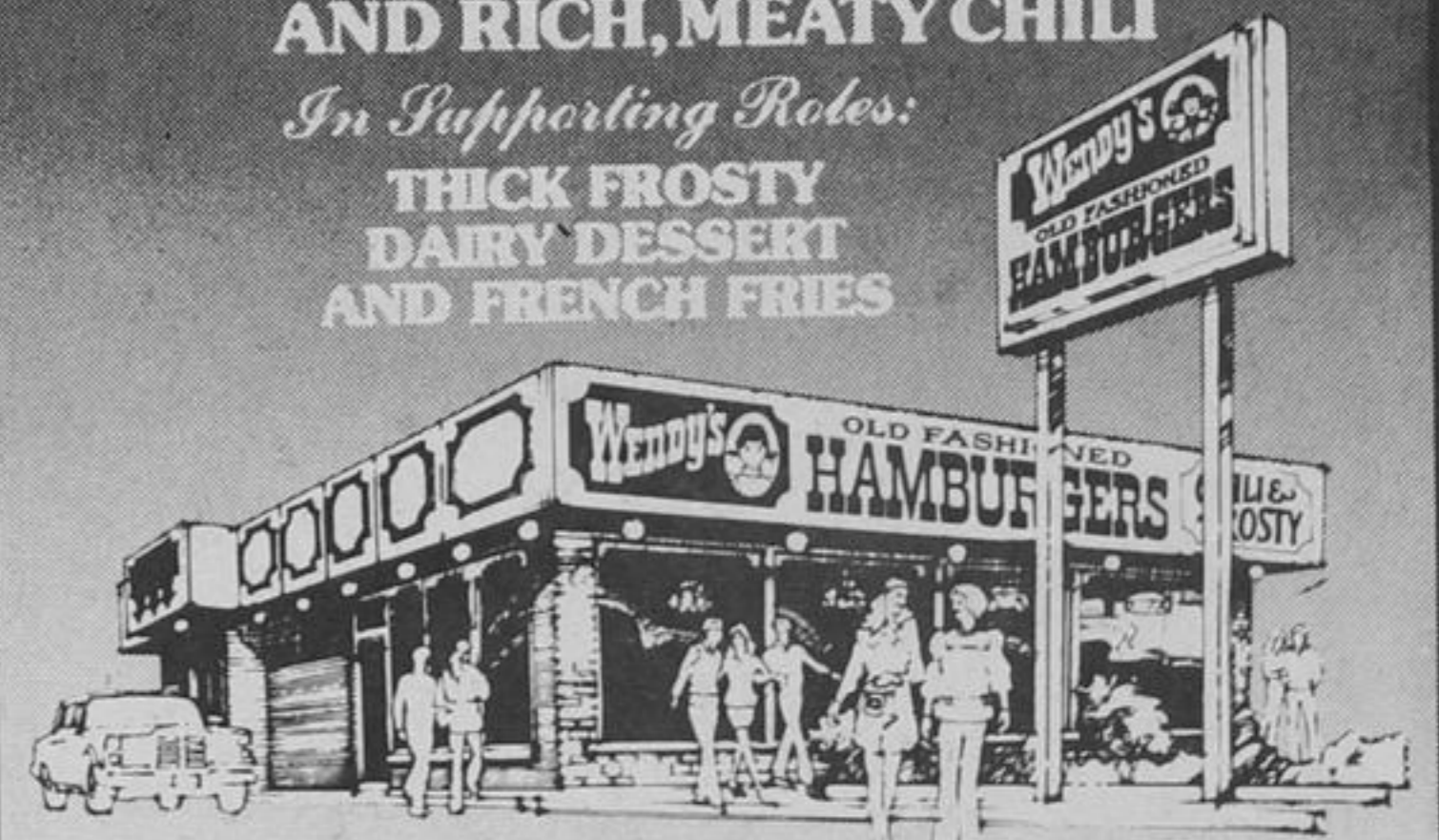


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All on a fresh bun. Your choice of lettuce, mayonnaise, catsup, mustard, onion, pickle, or relish. Cheese-15¢ extra. Tomato-10¢ extra.

Wendy's French Fries

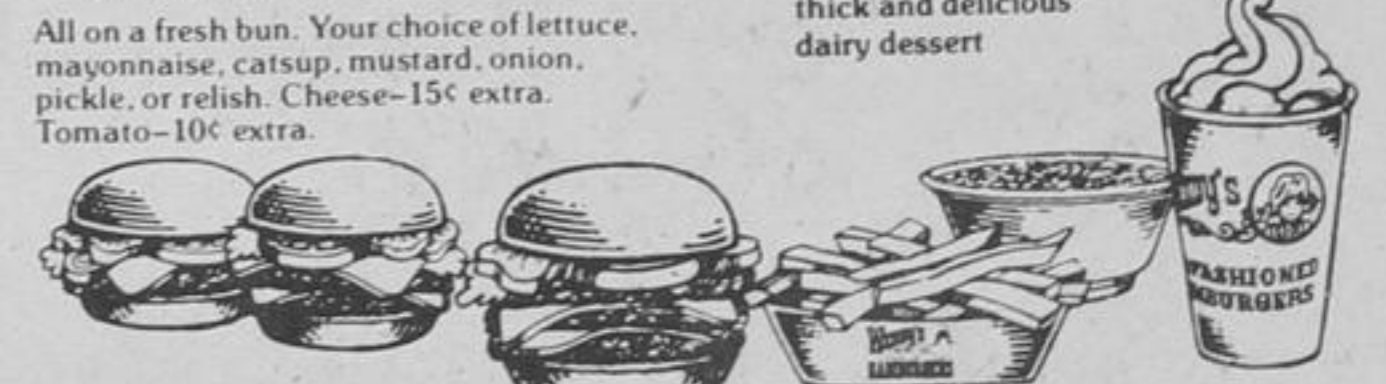
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