

New and improved music program

One of the new additions to the Markham Fair this year is what the Directors call the "Music Program Committee" and this newly formed group have undertaken no less than three new events for visitors to this year's Fair.

The first event, while basically music oriented, could more accurately be called a "Baby Grandstand Show". "It's a continuous entertainment program," says Judy Prentice, Chairwoman of the Committee. "There will be music, choral groups, a magician and a puppet show". The Grandstand Show will be located on the Fair grounds just south of the General Exhibits building and will be run continuously from about 10:30 a.m. until closing on each of the four Fair days. "The only time the show won't be in progress is if it happens to conflict with a major event elsewhere on the grounds," says Judy. "like the Queen crowning ceremony on Friday night." For the convenience of Fair visitors there will be a daily bulletin board posted at the site setting out the day's performance schedule.

"We originally planned it as a children's show to be run on Thursday and Friday" explains Judy, "but then we thought it would be nice to have someplace at the Fair where people could just stop and sit and listen to a free concert." Some of the confirmed bookings to date include the Merry Men of Markham, the Melody Makers, the "Pub Group" which is part of the Scarborough Choraliers and many local and imported bands who play a variety of music styles from Dixieland to Marching Bands. While the program is mainly geared for viewing and listening pleasure, when the Pub Group are on stage the audience will have an opportunity to sing along because "their specialty is getting people involved in sing-songs, in a fashion similar to English pub nights" says Judy enthusiastically.

The other two events planned by the Com-

mittee this year are the Saturday night dance and the Beer Garden. Both events are a "one-night special" and the dance, which will be free to Fair visitors, will be held upstairs in the Arena building while the Beer Tent will be located just east of the General Exhibits building. "We're calling it a beer garden right now" explains Judy "but we're making plans to decorate the tent in a rural fashion and give it an appropriate name". Beer, wine and light refreshments will be available in the tent as well as live entertainment provided and "While all the necessary arrangements have been made for the event" says Judy, "only final approval by the authorities is now needed" she adds with the fingers of both hands crossed.

With the Fair only days away and so many details still to be finalized, "We're just coming and going all the time" says Judy. Judy (nee Sabiston) wife, mother and supply school teacher is not the only member of the family involved in the Fair. While Judy is a member on three committees, her husband John (son of Clarke Prentice-Auctioneer) is a Director.

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