

Bonnie MacAloney

Her cooking tops in fair



Super cook is modest

Bonnie MacAloney said that her cooking seemed "just average", but it was good enough to take the top awards in the cooking competitions at the Markham Fair in October. She earned a total of 51 points to win the Thomas Birkett and Son Trophy. Ted Wilcox

STOUFFVILLE — Bonnie MacAloney of Lloyd Street thought her cooking "just seemed average." But "my family enjoyed my cooking," she told The Tribune, so she decided to enter in the Domestic Science Exhibit at the Markham Fair.

To her surprise, Mrs. MacAloney's cooking this year was judged to be not only above average, but she chalked up a total of 51 points to become the top contestant, and winner of the Thomas Birkett and Son Trophy.

"I never thought that I would get all these ribbons, or further that I would get all the points and win the trophy," she said.

Mrs. MacAloney won six firsts, two seconds, seven thirds, and two fourths at the fair, taking home prizes for 17 of the 25 categories she entered.

The prize she was most pleased with was for her pumpkin loaf—particularly because of the amount of work it took. With the help of her husband Brian, Mrs. MacAloney cooked pie pumpkins in the oven last fall, put it through a strainer, and froze it. Some of that pumpkin went into the winning recipe.

Besides offering a little help in the kitchen, Mr. MacAloney was a source of encouragement to his wife in her culinary endeavors. Says he: "When she's doing the baking I get lots to eat. She keeps trying and trying and I get it in my lunch for weeks."

Since Mrs. MacAloney works full-time, as a bookkeeper with Kerstone Contractors in Scarborough, it took a few late evenings of baking the week before the fair to prepare her exhibits.

Mrs. MacAloney says most of her cooking is made "just out of a recipe book", although she sometimes tries her own variations.

She really didn't begin cooking very much until she became married seven years ago, she said. In high school home economics class, she recalls, it was the sewing, not cooking, that most interested her.

Last year she entered the Markham Fair for the first time, and won one first, one second and three thirds.

An ambition for the future, she said, is "to get the champion ribbons for the cake and pie one year." She plans to be up to her elbows in batter again next year when Markham Fair time rolls around.

Also, Mrs. MacAloney may enter her sewing at next year's fair.

To other local cooks who have been considering entering the Markham Fair, Mrs. MacAloney offers her encouragement. "It's worth a chance. Give it a try. You just might have something," she said.

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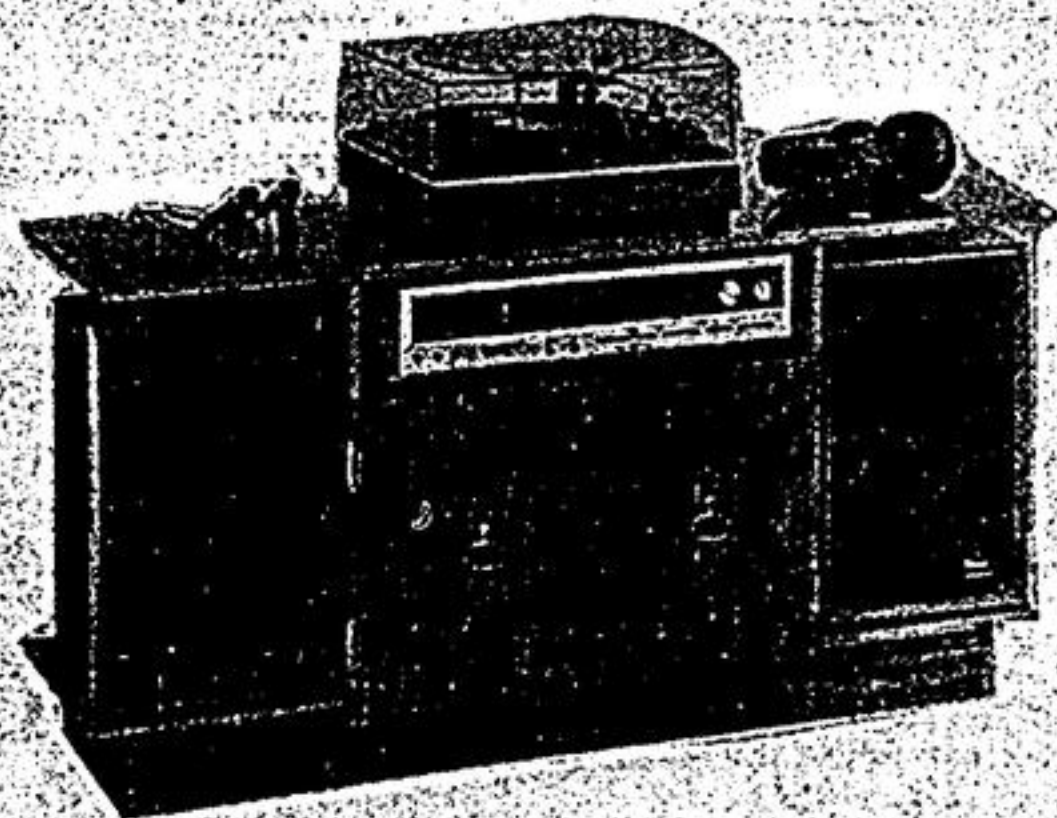
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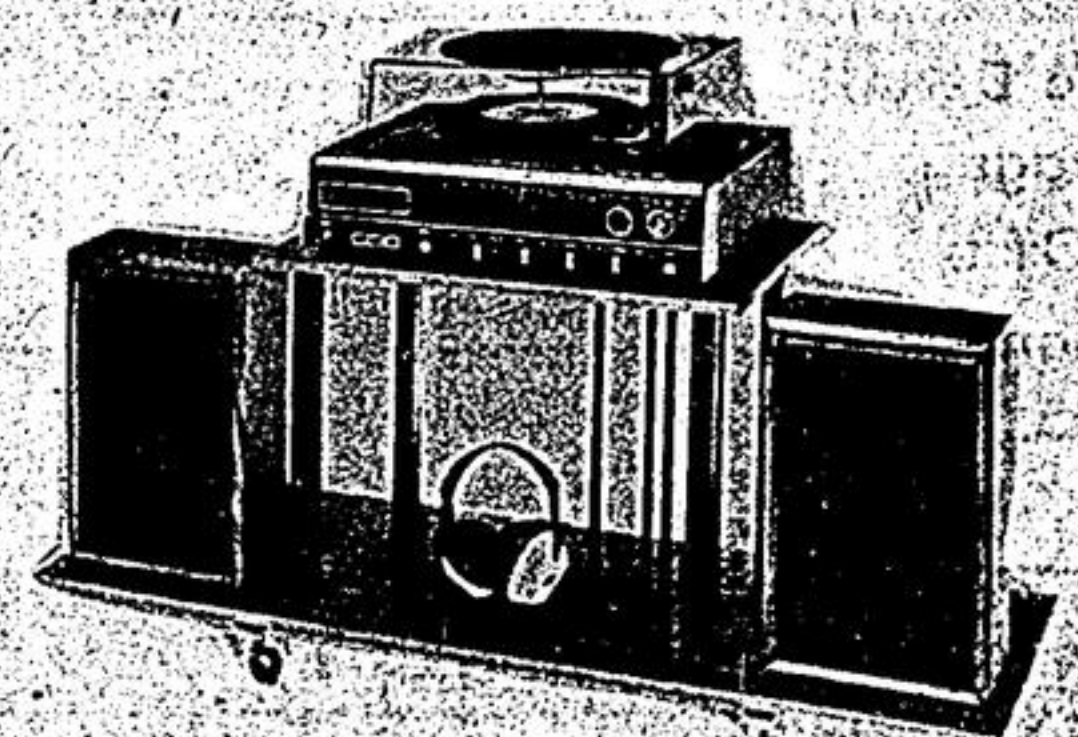
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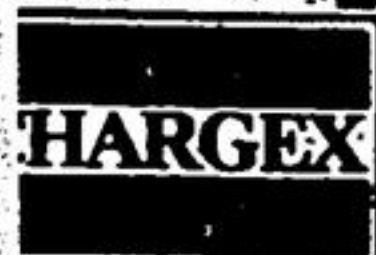
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