

Murray Grove, formerly of R.R. 1, Stouffville and now living near Little Britain,

will be back in the show ring this year with his prize-winning Belgians.

## Pony party-colorful feature

By Mary Bretherton

A colorful feature of Friday's events at the Markham Fair is the Pony Party — Gymkana Events which highlight the afternoon's entertainments. It's a great Fun Day for the kids where entrants compete in two classes: Juniors — boys and girls under 13 — and Seniors, for boys and girls under seventeen.

It's really more fun than serious competition, with entrants taking part in either the Potato, Slow or Walking Races, or "having a ball" in the Egg and Spoon race, which is actually a golfball balanced on a tablespoon. Equipment is optional and both English or Western Tack may be used.

For the enthusiast, these Gala Events are supported by the more serious involvements of the afternoon — the Equitation Events. Horse

and rider Walk, Trot, Canter and exhibit their horsemanship by being shown 'on the line'.

A trophy donated by Unionville Nurseries is presented for highest points achieved for both Juniors and Seniors. Special prizes, donated by local feed mills and tack shops also go to those selected in the categories of Oldest Horse or Pony, Youngest Horse or Pony, Youngest Girl, Youngest Boy, Entry of farthest distance. Judge Betty Reeve brings knowledge and integrity to the winners' circle.

The most versatile of horses, the Arabian will be spectacularly featured. Speaking of the Park Horse division of stallions, mares and geldings, Mrs. Reeve commented, "This is an exciting horse, geared to step high."

Most colourful will be the Mounted Native Costume Class. In this, riders will wear authentic extravagant costumes — some worth as much as \$3,500. Velvets, brocades, pantaloons and tassels are a 'must' for every costume. These will contrast vividly with the Formal Blacks of the Ladies' Side Saddle and

the 17th to 19th Century costumes of the Half Breed Arabian Class.

The magnificent spectacle will be preceded by the Palomino Classes. New this year are the Western Pleasure and English Pleasure Horses — shown with Western Equipment and English Tack.

An extremely colourful class, the Parade Horse will bring silver, Mexican and associated equipment to the ring. All in all an International affair, a pageant of exciting horsemanship.

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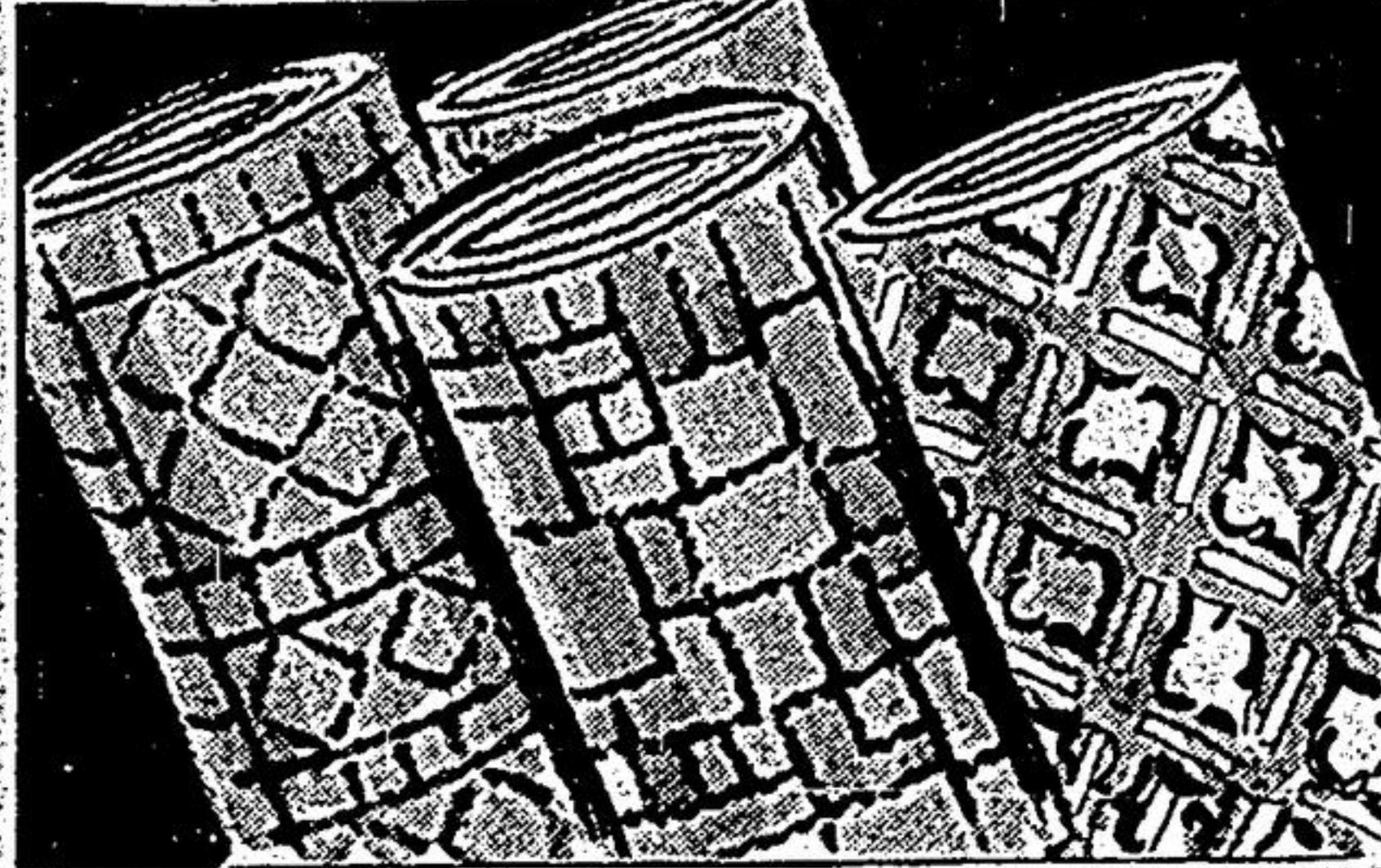
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