

Markham show displays nearly 1000 dogs



Jamie Oleske, three years old, is cuddling up to Morgan, an enormous Irish Wolfhound. Far from being intimidated by the 170 pound beast, his mother said that Jamie cut his teeth on him.

—Annegret Lamure

MARKHAM — The Markham arena went to the dogs last weekend when almost 1,000 canines from all over Ontario and New York showed up for the annual Markham Kennel Club dog show.

Every breed from tiny toy Yorkies weighing a few ounces, to Irish wolfhounds weighing in at

170 pounds came to be judged.

However, even more interesting than the dogs parading around the ring were the pooches getting ready for the judging. Owners primped and combed and curled their pets to perfection on special grooming tables, to the vast delight of

every little girl in the audience.

The best in show award for both days went to Mrs. Joey Purdy of Cheltenham near London, for her six-year-old Doberman Pinscher, Michelle Ouellette was named as best junior handler — she put her small West Highland

Terrier through his paces.

The best puppy in show on Saturday was a

golden retriever named Robbie, owned by Joy Campbell of London.

The Sunday best in

show award went to a Golden Boxer called Nugget, owned by Horst Winter of Thorald.

Chris Alden of Unionville also won a number of firsts with her young beagle pup.



The kid in the cage is eighteen-month-old Matthew Reid of Orillia who is camping at the Markham arena with his parents while the dog show is on. He doesn't really mind being penned up in the large dog cage, although he prefers one of the family Newfoundlands to share it with him.



Helen Hamilton of Pomroth Kennels is putting the finishing touches on Veronica, a standard bred black poodle about to be shown at the Markham Kennel Club dog show.

Nostalgic machinery tried out — enjoyed by retired farmers

—By John Montgomery

QUAKER HILL — It was back to the age of steam this past weekend at the old Quaker Hill school just outside of Uxbridge.

The Uxbridge Scott Historical Society's threshing and antique show, was held there Saturday and Sunday.

The stars of the show had to be the old wood bodied thresher, powered by a 1923 George White steam engine, both owned by Bill Wood of Uxbridge. Mr. Wood also owns an immaculate 1933 Pierce-Arrow.

The engine and thresher were manned by a team of cool professionals. Fred Clark, a 70-year-old retired farmer, displayed considerable prowess

with a hay fork. Mr. Clark fed the thresher and he worked at a consistent, never varying pace that would have left many a younger man panting.

When he paused for a break he wasn't even breathing hard and wasn't noticeably perspiring, although it was a very muggy afternoon.

His father, he said, was a custom thresher who had moved to Mount Albert to get away from the cold prairie winters. Mr. Clark explained that custom threshing became obsolete in the '40's when farmers started buying their own tractors.

The thresher, according to Mr. Clark, is very old as it is made with wooden sides, while the more modern, or less ancient, threshers were all metal.

He was asked if the thresher was older than the type he had been used to working with. Not really, but he allowed he hadn't worked on one since he was a boy.

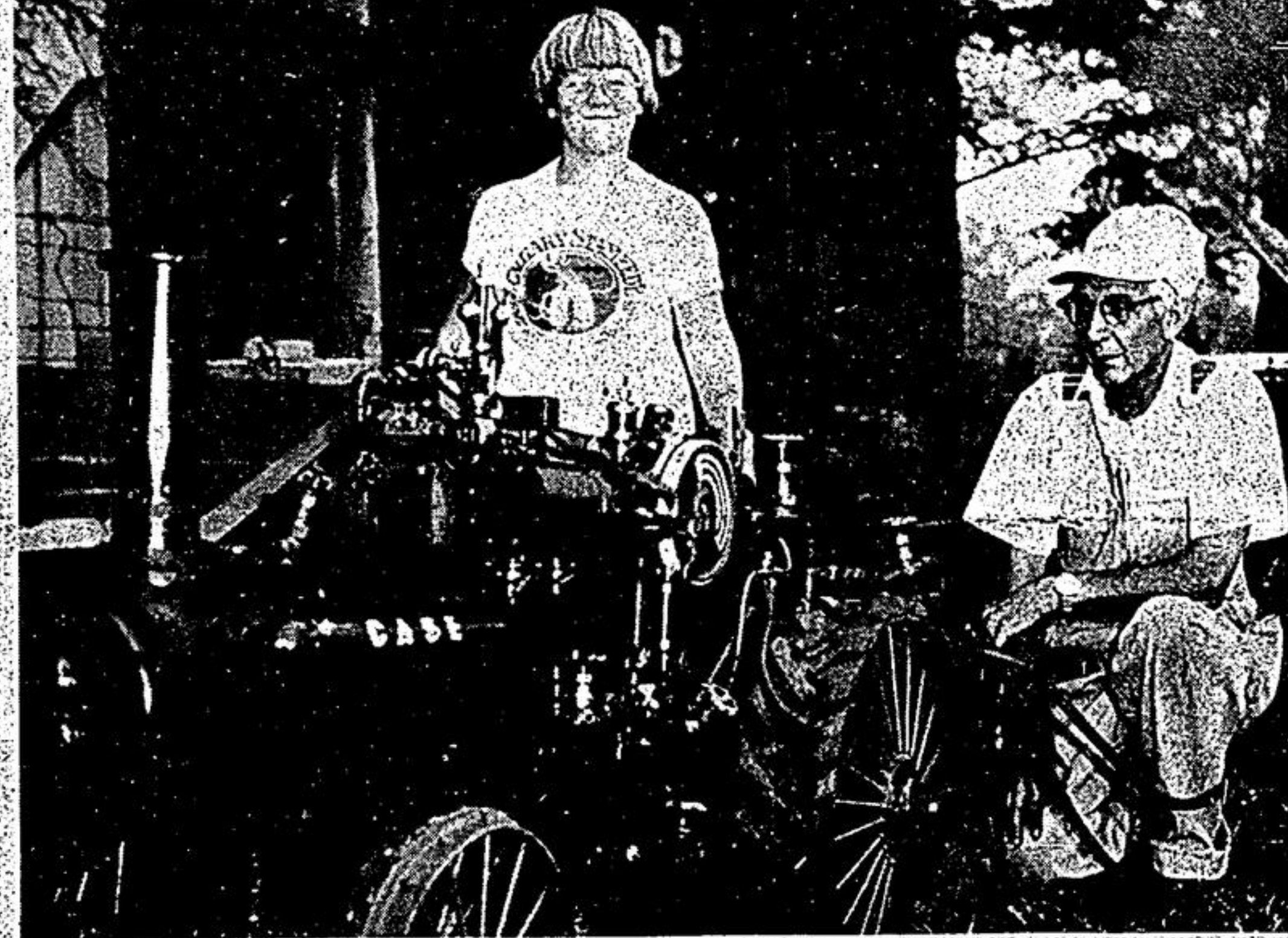
Mr. Clark, it seems, didn't really go to the show with the intention of being part of the entertainment. He said he brought his wife out because she had volunteered to work in a booth.

But it turned out he couldn't refuse an invitation from Mr. Wood, and so ended up on the working end of a pitchfork.

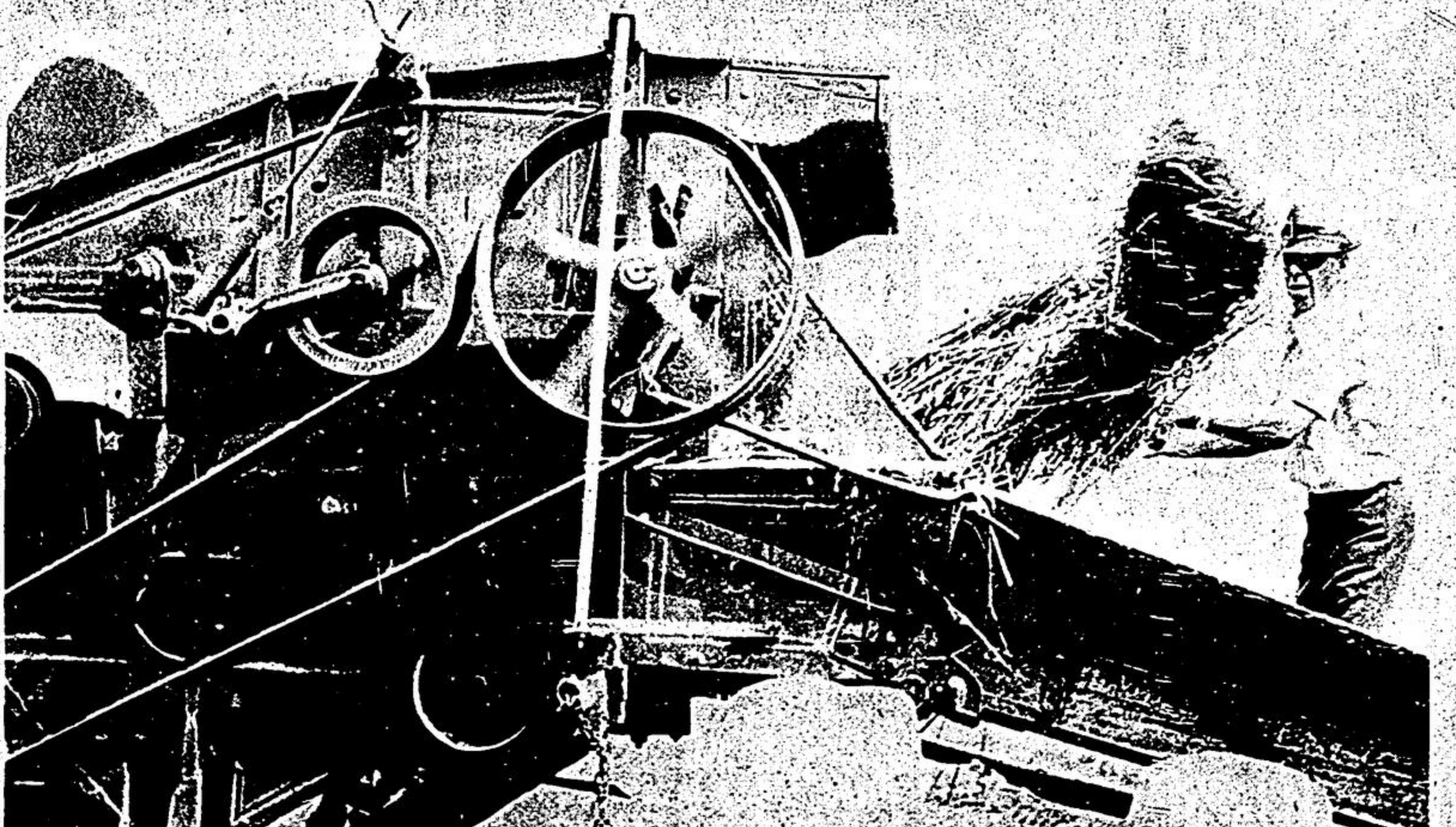
It proved an interesting event, with a host of antique cars, model steam engines on an amazing variety of scales, an axe handle maker and various old-time contests.



It's pretty safe to assume young Donald Noble of Uxbridge isn't on the lookout for Indians, but in a pioneer wagon like this it would be natural enough to let one's thoughts go back to the days of the settlers. The wagon is on display at the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society.



Earl Dunn (right) of Cameron fires up this one quarter scale model Case engine with the help of his grandson Gregory Wright of Oshawa. Mr. Dunn and his brother, who was also at the steam show, built identical engines. Their father had been a thresher and they both had worked with the full-size engines. When loaded with water the engines weighed half a ton each. They took about two and a half years to construct.



Fred Clark, Uxbridge, fed this thresher belonging to Bill Wood, also of Uxbridge. "I never worried enough, I guess," is how Mr. Clark explained his continuing vigor at the age of 70. A considerable number of the

items on display, antique vehicles, steam engine and old farm machinery were there, courtesy of Mr. Wood. Various friends and family had helped him bring them over and acted as engineers, drivers or operators.



Jack Fraser, of Marmora (east of Peterborough) demonstrated how to rough out axe handles. Mr. Fraser specializes in this all but forgotten skill. He said if he really goes at it he can turn out two handles an hour, but he stresses that that is without any coffee breaks. Surprisingly there is a big market for Mr. Fraser's handles, as they are carried by stores in small lumbering communities all over Ontario and northern Quebec. He says each area has its own style handle that is preferred and he tailors his accordingly.