Some surprising things turn up on your desk when you're the general manager of the Markham Fair. Here Gerald Mann is confronted by two large round stones donated to the Fairboard in order that an old contest might be revived. It is said that local blacksmiths used to hurl the rocks in a shot-put contest. —Annegret Lamure

Gerald Mann

Markham Fair manager a busy man

MARKHAM — The most sought-after man in Markham these days has got to be Gerald Mann, secretary and general manager of one of the largest rural fairs in Ontario.

His telephone seems to be ringing constantly, and people pop in and out of his office at the fairgrounds all day long.

During a lull in the onslaught, Mr. Mann outlined some of the attractions scheduled for the bigger-than-ever Markham Fair to be held from Sept. 30 until Oct. 3.

The O.P.P. 'Golden Helmets, a precision motorcycle team, Elsie, the Borden Cow, and her twins, a hula-hoop contest, greyhound racing, a pony party, and the revival of old-fashioned contests, such as spelling bees, are among the many events planned. Mr. Mann expects well over 100,000 people to attend.

"All we pray for is good weather," he said before diving back into the pile of work on his desk.

Mr. Mann has over 4000 inside entries to register and tag, as well as a mammoth livestock section to look after.

However, he says that by opening day "Somehow it all miraculously falls into place."

The real crunch, according to him, occurs on the day immediately after the fair. "There'll be about 3000 people all demanding their prize money at once," said Mr. Mann, "nobody understands what's involved."

Mr. Mann's background left him well-equipped to deal with anything that may come up during the staging of the 'bulging at the seams' fair.

He has been active as a fair director since 1957, and served on many committees before accepting the post as general manager in 1974.

Prior to that he had been a 4H leader and cattle judge, as well as manager of Ringwood Farms, a huge beef cattle operation.

In October of 1957 he was one of the victims in a tragic accident when the tractor he was driving was struck from behind by a car. His companion, Harold Painter, was killed, and Mr. Mann was unconscious for 27 days. It took him a year in hospital to recover from injuries that would have killed a lesser man, and he was pronounced unfit for heavy labour, but Mr. Mann resumed his job at Ringwood until his retirement in 1969.

He became more involved in the fair, finally ending up as the first full-time manager of the ever-growing event. "We expect even more classes next year," said the untiring Mann.

He seems to see nothing unusual in planning next year's fair while still totally snowed under in the details of organizing the current one.

"Yes, it's a lot of work," he admitted, "but when you see them lined up eight wide outside, you sort of get a good feeling and figure it was all worth it."

Volunteers sought to work as probation officers in the area

STOUFFVILLE — Volunteers are now being recruited in the Stouffville - Markham area to act as unpaid, part-time probation officers.

Ministry of Correctional Services expanded the volunteer program last winter from dealing with just juvenile offenders to handling probationers in all age groups.

Jack Osterveer, senior probation officer, told The Tribune that although volunteers of all ages and both sexes are required there is an especially pressing need for people willing to work with young male offenders.

There are now 19 volunteers and Mr. Osterveer hopes to double that number. Accordingly a three session training program, a prerequisite for all volunteers, will be scheduled for sometime near the end of the month.

Presently all the volunteers are from the Yonge St. corridor areas of Thornhill, Richmond Hill and Newmarket.

The purpose of the volunteer program, according to Mr. Osterveer, is 'a two-pronged thing.' A volunteer will have more time to spend with a probationer than a professional probation officer and can help reduce the officer's case load to 'manageable proportions.' Currently the ratio is about 80 probationers to each officer and until recently it was 100 to one. The other reason is that a volunteer can develop a more humanistic relationship to his charge. They can meet privately, away from the parole board offices.

"The volunteer can build up a relationship," Mr. Osterveer said. "Where volunteers get their reward is making contact with these people and developing a befriending role," he continued.

A one to one role is not necessary, he said, and volunteers can look after two to eight probationers "depending on the circumstances." The average is four to five per person.

Mr. Osterveer said considerable effort is made to match the volunteer with the offender and also to make sure the volunteer has no ulterior motives.

"We just want them to be human beings," Mr. Osterveer explained, "We don't want them to be necessarily social workers."

The volunteer is expected to make a one year commitment but if he or she experiences any difficulties they can turn to the professional officer for help at any time.

A brief monthly report is expected from the volunteer and beyond that they only have to make themselves available to the probationer.

Volunteers have had a great affect, according to Mr. Osterveer, because they can gain the trust and friendship of a probationer in a way that a professional probation officer rarely can.

He said that volunteers have helped their charges find jobs, helped them avoid losing jobs, located accommodation and provided "general backup."

Mr. Osterveer said many of the problems probationers have involve relatively minor things such as not knowing how to act or dress when applying for a job, how to arrange appointments or keep a schedule. Voulunteers, he said, have been invaluable in helping probationers over these seemingly minor hurdles.

The volunteer and probationer meet before being assigned to each other and both parties must agree to try working together.

The majority of offenders are in their early 20's and theft related offences are most common. Among women, shoplifting and fraud are the most popular crimes. Drug related cases are fairly common and according to Mr. Osterveer sex crimes are the least common.

Volunteers are not pressured and throughout the three session training program they can bow out at any time. Following the program the volunteer is expected to take the initiative in continuing. They are asked to call back when they are ready to accept a case.

They are expected to meet with the probationer at least once a month and more often if so stipulated by the court.

The probationer is encouraged to call the volunteer if any problems arise. "The volunteer should help him sort out his priorities," said Mr. Osterveer, "Once a person becomes a friend then he sticks by them even if they are having problems. It might be the first time somebody stuck by them or was consistent in dealing with them."

The only remuneration for volunteers is the feeling of self-satisfaction they get from the job, he said.

For further information call Cindy Tracey at 895-1900 or 887-5893. Four or five volunteers are needed in Stouffville and the same number are required in the Markham area.

Competition objected to by Ringwood restaurateur

STOUFFVILLE — Planning board was asked last week not to approve a new restaurant in Ringwood on the grounds that it would conflict with the eating establishment already there.

Michael Sarris, proprietor of the existing restaurant, Ringwood Snack Bar, told planning board that "my main concern is I don't want to get my throat cut."

He said that he had carried out $500,000 in renovations to his establishment because both his own and a previous application to build a restaurant on the facing corner had been turned down by the board in recent years.

Planning board chairman Eldred King said that the new restaurant "wouldn't be in complete conflict" with Mr. Sarris's eating place.

Mr. Sarris said he now has a 70-seat restaurant with take-out service and that, in the future he may operate it as a 24-hour service.

All objections to the proposed development, Mr. King commented, can be brought before the Ontario Municipal Board before the building would proceed.

ATTENTION

VETERANS, EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS "OPERATION SERVICE" MAY OFFER A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO AN ALLOWANCE OR PENSION

Branches of The Royal Canadian Legion will be conducting house-to-house visits within the next few weeks, to enquire if veterans, ex-service personnel or dependents are aware of their rights and privileges under the Veterans Charter. Please greet these visitors warmly. This is a coast-to-coast campaign of The Royal Canadian Legion's Golden Anniversary Year 1926-1976.

Should you be out when the "Operation Service" volunteer calls, a card will be left at your address. If relative, please fill out promptly and return to the Legion Branch indicated for your area.

If you know of any needy veteran, ex-service person or dependent in your area, also kindly contact the Legion Branch.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459

640-2408 Stouffville, Ontario 640-1714

INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH & FARM MACHINERY SHOW

SEPT. 28-OCT. 2 1976

BRUCE COUNTY

PLOWING COMPETITIONS

Exhibits & Parades

Ladies' Programme

2½ miles west of Walkerton, Ontario

SEPTEMBER SUPER SAVINGS SALE

Sale ends September 30th, 1976

DOXIDAN CAPSULES	10's	77¢
ENTROPHEN	10 gr. 100's	$3.19
DEEP STRENGTH RUB	90 gr.	$1.74
MAALOX PLUS SUSP.	oz.	$1.88
SUPER PLENAMINS VITAMINS 72's WITH BONUS BOTTLE OF 72's ONLY		$6.39
ALBERTO BALSAM CONDITIONER	8 oz.	$1.34
DIMETAPP EXTENTABS	30's	$3.79
BAYER CHILDREN'S COLD TABLETS		59¢
STAYFREE MAXI	30's	$2.09

IN STORE SPECIALS 50% to 60% OFF!

ELECTRIC HAIR GROOMING PRODUCTS, ETC.

ALL SALES FINAL

HOUSTON PHARMACY

1 Main St. West, Stouffville 640-2222

UNDERWOOD BROADLOOM ANNOUNCES

FREE INSTALLATION OF OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF BROADLOOM

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1 ALL AREAS MUST BE CLEARED OF FURNITURE AND THE QUARTER-ROUND REMOVED.
2 THIS IS A BONA FIDE OFFER, SO YOU MUST TAKE INSTALLATION BY SEPT. 30/76. NO RAINCHECKS
3 BRING US YOUR ACCURATE MEASUREMENTS.
4 LABOUR FOR HALLS & STEPS IS EXTRA.
5 DOOR METALS ARE EXTRA IF NEEDED.
6 MINIMUM PURCHASE $100.00
7 VINYL SHEETGOODS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS OFFER.
8 HOUSES ONLY.

NO DOWN PAYMENT OR NO INTEREST ON OUR 90 DAY DEFERRED PLAN.

ALL PRICES MARKED ARE OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICES NOTHING HAS BEEN CHANGED

Because Of The Expected Rush We Suggest You Book Installation As Early As Possible

ANY QUESTIONS CALL

NEWMARKET 898-1800 MARKHAM 294-4440 BARRIE 728-0899

UNDERWOOD

FOR VALUE IN CARPETING

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS US !