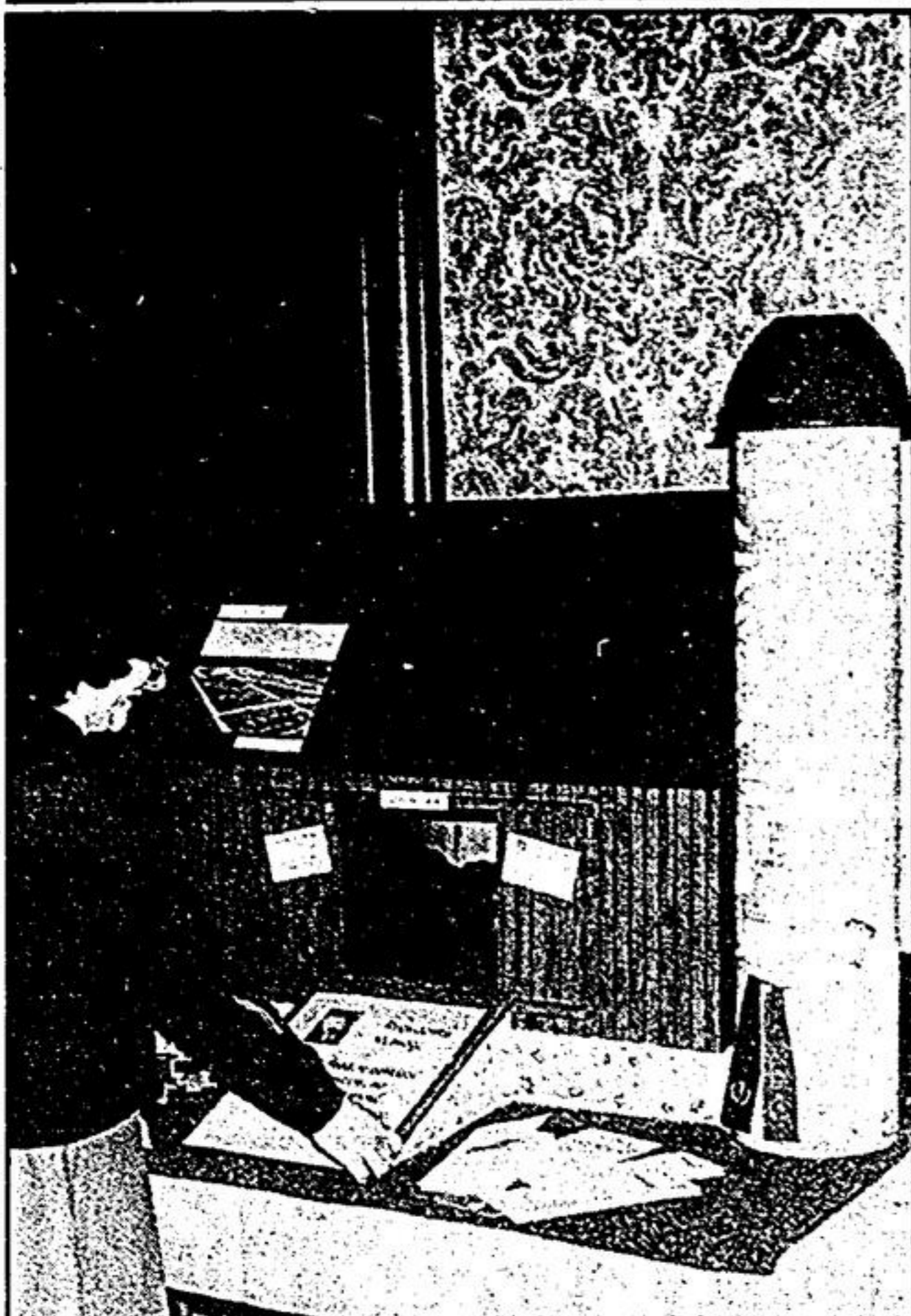


ENTERTAINMENT



Jenny Mann views slides in the Markham Fair display at the recent convention in Toronto.

— Mary Webster

Local fair named top show in 1982

By T. ROGERS GARDHAM

After awarding prizes for 127 years, Markham Fair was itself a prize winner at the 1983 Convention of Agricultural Societies held at the Royal York Hotel last week.

During the 10th annual Conklin Award Dinner on Wednesday evening, last year's Fair President Bill Walker, was presented with Conklin Shows' Fair of the Year award for 1982.

The Conklin firm operates midway at fairs in Ontario and throughout North America. The award winners are selected from Ontario fairs and the award presented to the fair "exhibiting the greatest growth and improvement over the year previous."

While presenting the award, the firm's president, James Conklin, referred to Markham Fair as rivaling the CNE and noted its distinguished history.

In accepting the award on behalf of the Fair's directors,

Mr. Walker commended the Conklin organization for its adaptability and attitude in conforming to the Fair's agricultural ideals and the community's entertainment standards.

The Fair was also recipient of the third place ribbon for its entry in the fairs' display section for Class A and B Fairs. The display, one of more than 70 exhibits by various fairs throughout Ontario, represented the theme of the 1982 Markham Fair.

Organized by Jack and Marjory Walters, directors of the Fair, the display depicted a miniature barn and silo, which when the barn's sliding doors were opened revealed a slide projector screen showing pictured highlights of the 1982 Fair.

Although this was the 83rd convention these were first time awards for Markham Fair (at least within memory of those attending from Markham) and the 1983 President Barry Little

and wife, Aileen, who attended, were visibly delighted.

The annual convention brings together directors and delegates from over 230 fairs from all parts of Ontario and such widely separated places as Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Kingston and Windsor are represented. Delegates trade information, deal with resolutions to improve fairs and agricultural activities and generally enjoy a time of friendship, fun and fellowship.

Markham Movie Scene

O'Toole steals show in My Favorite Year

By TOM NEWALL
My Favorite Year has finally reached Markham as part of a fine double bill, paired with Victor Victoria. In general release for several months it features the Oscar nominated performance of Peter O'Toole as the faded film star Alan Swann, trying to capture former glories by returning, live, to television one Saturday evening in 1954.

O'Toole swept to fame in 1962 as the hero in one of the motion pictures' greatest epics, Lawrence of Arabia. Other good roles followed. Remember Henry II in Becket (1964) or A Lion In Winter (1968)? How about Goodby Mr. Chips in 1969? Then came a decade of indifferent parts, whereupon, in 1978, he reappeared in style with The Stuntman, another award nominated role.

O'Toole is an actor who requires firm, controlled direction and for this Richard Benjamin, in Year deserves full credit. Ostensibly the story of a television studio which is trying for top ratings and the staff involved, Year can best be classified as a satisfactory effort, introducing Mark Lynn Baker as a young assistant assigned to keep guest star Swann in line until his services are no longer required.

Were it not for Peter O'Toole lurching, careering and tearing across the screen, every wrinkle on view, eyes popping in an

alcoholic haze, the film would sink without mention.

The lighting is harsh, the love interest indifferent, much of the script delivered in a rather frantic fashion. But it serves as a vehicle for an actor whose talents are harnessed to enormous effect in advancing the story.

Several familiar faces appear —

Adolph Green who collaborated with Betty Comden on such classics as Singin' In The Rain and On The Town; and Lou Jacobi, the Toronto actor. But it is O'Toole you will remember.

He specializes in introspective, am-bivalent heroes and Swann is no exception. Estranged from his family, isolated and lonely, he

fears every move, drowns life in bottles of scotch and frantic womanizing, and suggests a lack of self-confidence with every gesture.

Given the framework and control necessary, O'Toole etches a memorable portrait of the faded, jaded screen actor in desperate need of a positive direction for his entire life.

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