The Unionville Standard Times
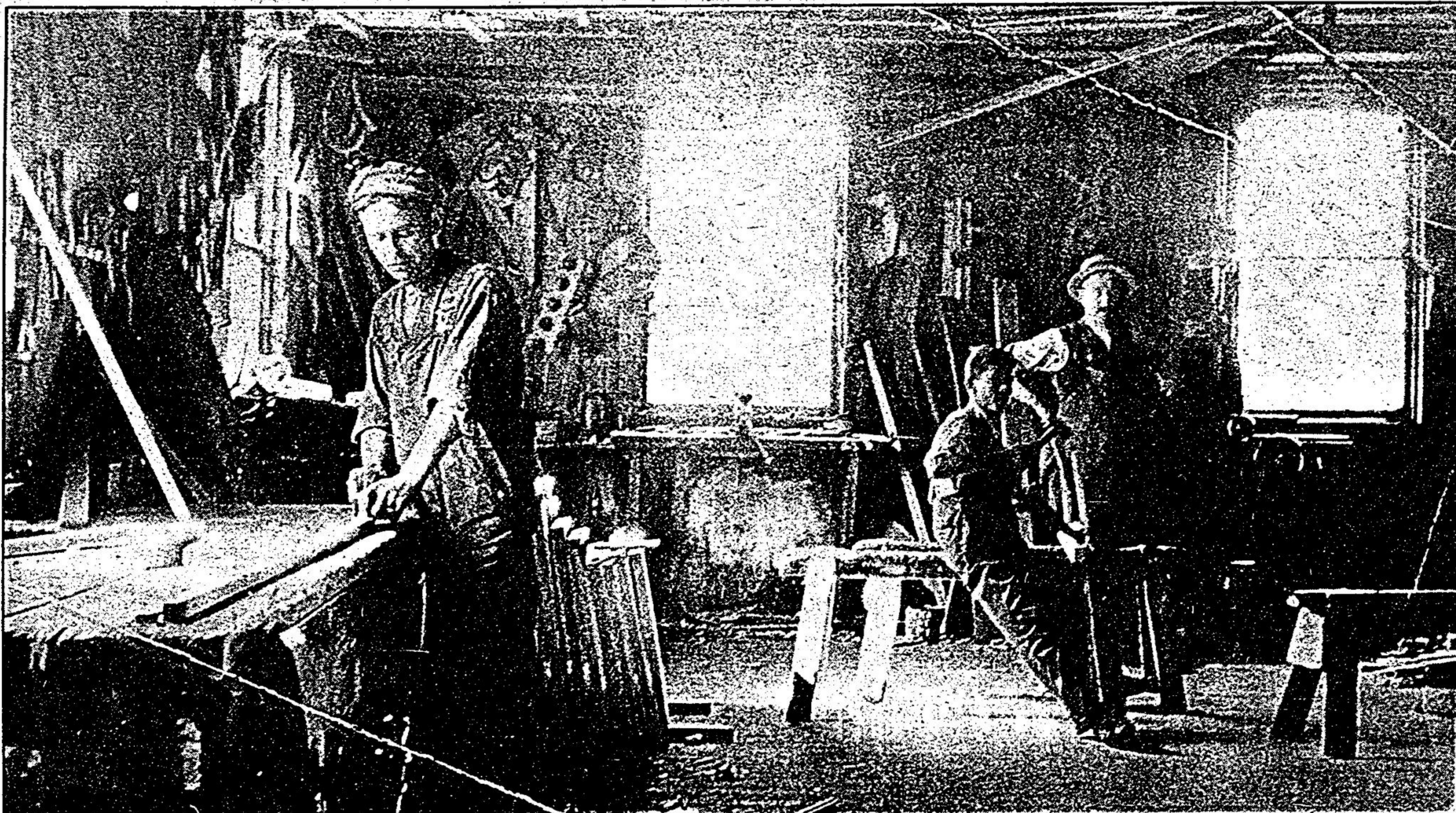
VOL.4,NO.1.-A supplement to Markham/Thornhill Economist and Sun, Richmond Hill Liberal, Stouffville Tribune, Inside Woodbridge and Inside Thornhill, Wed. June 1, 1983.

Rare photo of the upstairs workshop interior of the Unionville Planing Mill recently lost to fire. On far right is De Harrington, proprietor. See feature story Page 9.

Inside

1983 starts new era for Festival

A proposed plan to widen Kennedy Road, thus destroying the character of Main Street, was challenged by a group of concerned citizens 14 years ago. Recognition of the historical character and community spirit was brought about by holding a Village Festival on the first Saturday in June of that year.

From that first event, a tradition unfolded which has been maintained over the years.

Dedicated volunteer residents every year since, start in December to prepare for each subsequent festival. Profits generated from the festival are directed into projects that benefit the community i.e., Main Street beautification, building restoration, etc.

This year, the 14th annual Village Festival celebrates the beginning of a new chapter in the Unionville story. Last year witnessed the achieving of its original goal, the opening of the Kennedy Road bypass.

With the realization of a major goal last year the Festival Committee is now focusing on specific projects as a focus of achievement into the next decade. The Festival Committee welcomes input and suggestions from the community as a new era begins.

Historical committee formed

A group of Unionville residents, dedicated to acquiring and recording historical data about Unionville, have formed the Unionville Historical Society. The initial committee consisting of Harry Maynard, Keith Kennedy, Fred Cox, Tony Murphy and Conrad Beaubien, has established the organization's mandate, to gather facts and original stories about 'our town' and present them as entertaining and informative presentations.

It will add support to the work of the Markham Township Museum and Markham Historical Society, focusing specifically on Unionville initially.

Although young in its formation, the Society has successfully completed a short film focusing on Unionville, circa 1900. Through interviews with Wilbur 'Slat' Latimer, former proprietor of the Latimer Garage and Ford Tractor dealership (now Old Firehall Sports), and Grace Harrington, daughter of De Harrington, former proprietor of the Unionville Planing Mill, a vivid picture of life in Unionville centred around the activity of the mill is portrayed.

It is intended that this film will be the first part in a series of historical sketches of Unionville and Markham Township to be made available to schools and various community organizations.

On festival day, the film will be screened regularly commencing at 12 noon in the Unionville Railway Station, a befitting location for the savoring of history. Further information on the Unionville Historical Society will also be available at the Station Saturday or contact: Unionville Historical Society, Box 277, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 2V3.

Wilbur "Slat" Latimer (shown above) and Grace Harrington are featured in Unionville Historical Society film.