

Uxbridge housewife

She's a demolition derby queen

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

When Lelah Horton gets behind the wheel of a car, look out!

The Uxbridge-based demolition derby driver is in the habit of making short work of her opposition in the so-called powder puff class.

The hard-driving mother of two teenagers was five-for-five last season and kept her 1986 undefeated record intact until she was disqualified Wednesday night in a controversial Sunderland smash-up.

Her secret for success?

"Aggression is part of it... a lot of luck and a lot of trust in the safety of your car," Mrs. Horton explained. "And you have to be logical. You're not out there to wipe everyone off the face of the earth."

The local demo derby circuit is very much a family affair for Mrs. Horton, her husband Jay and their children Jayann, 16, and 13-year-old Jason.

They team up with two other families, including that of her sponsor Casey Elson of Casey's Auto Wreckers, for regular outings to country fairs. Recently, the Horton entry posted its fifth consecutive powder puff victory at Uxbridge Fair's demolition derby.

She even fared well driving bumper-to-bumper with the men one year in Markham.

But Mrs. Horton was just another "ordinary domestic engineer" in 1980 when she entered the sport on the urging of her kids.

"They saw I could probably smash up a car better than any-

one," she joked.

The driver, who listed her age as "over the 30 mark," finds it a challenging pastime but feels having fun is really the name of the game.

"You have to think of safety all the time," stressed Mrs. Horton, who has so far avoided injury except for a cut hand. "You have to go by the rules. All it takes is one accident to blow the fun for everyone."

Special Sunday

Agincourt and Armadale Free Methodist Church plans a Rally Sunday featuring an open session for all ages at 10 a.m. Sunday September 28. The event begins at 10 a.m. at Anson Taylor Public school, Placentia Blvd. in Scarborough (north of Middlefield, east of McCowan).

At 11 a.m. special guest speaker, Bishop Donald Bastian, Bishop of the Free Methodist Church in Canada and special music will be featured, the Tidball Family from Greenville, Ill.

To celebrate the 106th anniversary of Armadale Free Methodist Church on Passmore Ave. there will be an afternoon service at 2:45 p.m. featuring these special guests at the church. Bring a friend and a lawn chair. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information call 297-1088 or 698-2952.



Lelah Horton and son Jason, 13, were all smiles after one of her frequent wins in a powder puff demolition derby. The Uxbridge Township driver dreams of one day competing in a big event at the CNE.

— Chris Shanahan

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

That 76.2% of adults in Markham/Stouffville received at least one of the last four issues of the Economist or Tribune, compared to 40.3% who read yesterday's Star. (Source: Kubas & Associates study, Spring 1985. Details on request.)

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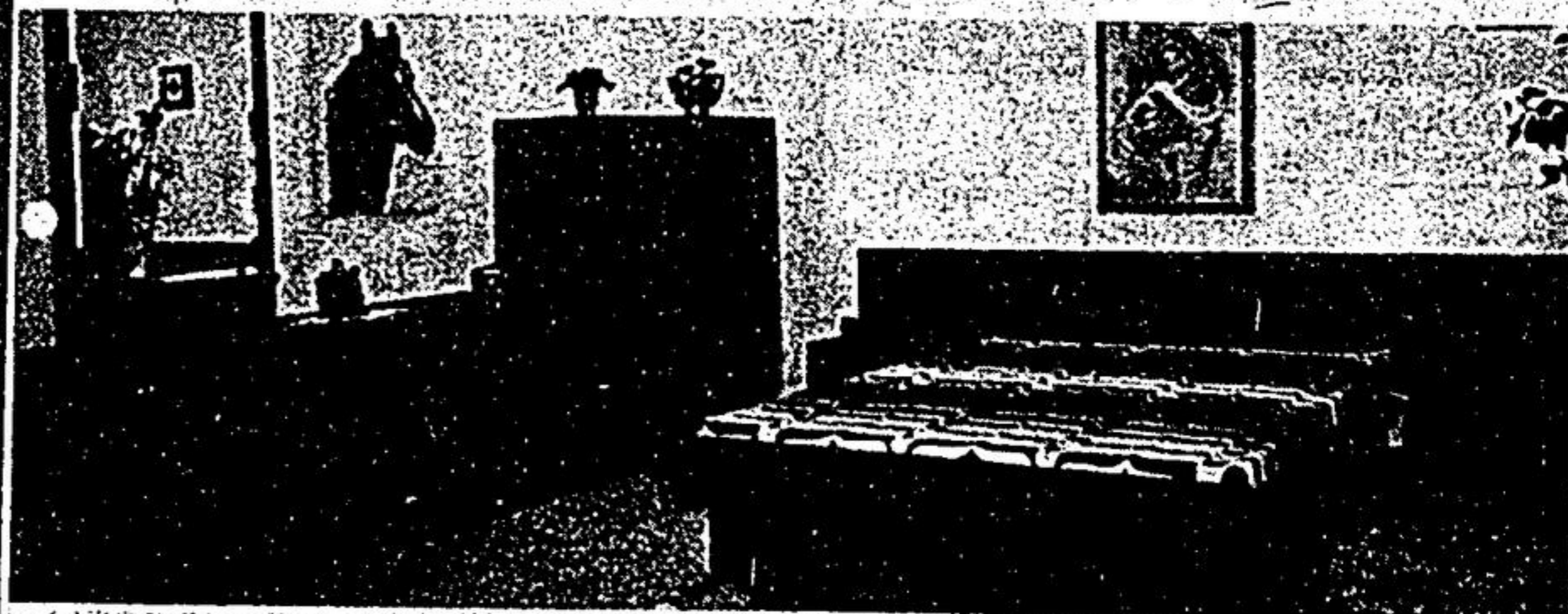
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