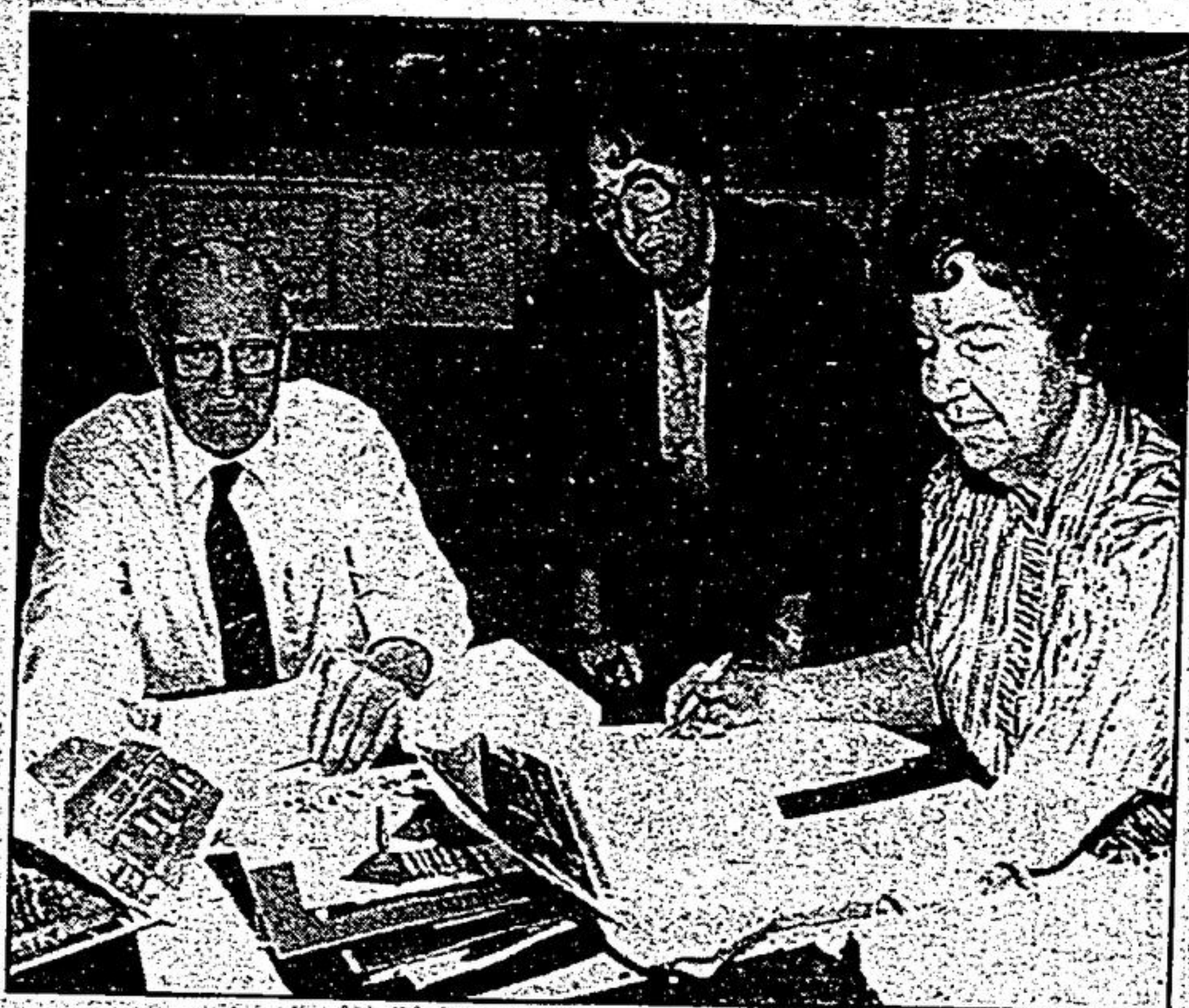


History in the making

Locals tackle the past pictorially



Local historians Frank Johnson (left), Mary Champion and Laura Weaver (right), sort through a collection of photos as part of research for their latest endeavour to preserve Markham's history. The book they're completing will detail the old Township in pictures.
— Sjoerd Witteveen

By DEB BODINE
CHAMPION

Another Markham dream could soon be realized — the manuscript of *Markham Remembered: A Photographic History of Old Markham Township* is near completion.

In 1979, the first history of the area, *Markham 1793-1900*, was published by the Markham Historical Society, with full support of the Markham Museum.

In recognition of their dedication in producing the work, Isabel Champion, principal writer and editor and Frank Johnson, principal researcher and secondary writer, will be presented with volunteer citizenship awards by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture on Monday.

The committee involved in the research and writing of the pictorial history includes Isabel Champion and Mr. Johnson as well as Mary Champion, the chairman of the previous committee and Laura Weaver.

Mrs. Weaver was raised in the German Mills area of Markham.

She and her husband have spent many years collecting the history and pictures of the area of Thornhill/German Mills and have loaned their picture collection for the purpose of the upcoming book.

Because members of the committee are volunteers and because the books are published by the Markham Historical Society, it has been possible to keep costs down. *Markham 1793-1900* was priced at \$15.

The profits from the first book, \$78,851.90, were slated for the publication of a follow-up volume spanning 1900 to the present.

"The problem with the first book was that there was so little information to work with. The problem with the second is the massive amounts of information," Mary Champion explained.

The committee decided that to get a truly objective viewpoint in sorting through the reams of material, the publication should be delayed about 10 years, at which time someone of the next generation could step in to take the challenge.

The idea for a pictorial history came three years ago and is expected by the committee to bridge the two volumes of history.

Because Markham has changed so rapidly, the approximately 500 pictures contained in *Markham Remembered* reflect life in the area from the 1880s to the 1940s. Most are scenic and group photos.

"The archives of the museum are filled with pictures generously donated by the descendants of the early settlers, to share with the present and future generations," Mrs. Champion said.

"We felt an obligation to these people who were kind enough to share their heritage to put the photos in a form which is available to the general public."

The next step, once the manuscript is complete, is to send it off to graphic designer Helmut Weyerstrass, who also designed *Markham 1793-1900*.

Once funds have been recouped from the pictorial, a second printing of *Markham 1793-1900* will be produced, followed by the publication of the successive volume.

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13 area helpers honored

Thirteen local residents will receive the 1987 Volunteer Service Award to be presented on April 27 at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg by Minister of Citizenship and Culture, Lily Munro.

Recipients will be given lapel pins and certificates in recognition of their long-time service with volunteer organizations in Ontario. Pins are distributed for five, 10 and 15 years of service, although recipients may have served more than 15 years.

Ibrahim Hayani, of Unionville, will accept a 15-year pin for his work with the Canadian Arab Friendship Society of Toronto. Margaret Campbell and Marilyn Christoffer, both of Markham, have five years' service with Information Markham.

The Markham District Historical Museum has two award winners: Isabel Champion, of Unionville, for 17 years' service and Stouffville resident Frank Johnson for 16 years.

Five members of the Markham District Historical Society — Frank and Ida Barkey of Stouffville, Paul Burkholder, Carman Lewis and Trevor Watson of Markham — will be honored with 15-year pins.

Markham's George Crompton of Optimist International is being recognized for 30 years' service. Linda Fan and Debbie Tien, Markham residents, will receive five-year pins for their work in the Overseas Chinese Women Association.

The Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum in Gormley has five volunteers nominated. Stouffville's Gladys Clarkson, Wilmet Patten and Michael Wade and Marjory Richardson of Gormley will receive five-year service pins. Jean Barkey of Stouffville will accept a 15-year pin.

Five-year pins will be awarded to Carol Brodie and Lynda Giles of Stouffville and Monica Van Maris of Gormley for their dedication to the Whitechurch-Stouffville Public Library.

And Gormley resident Ella Bremner will receive an award for 10 years of service to the Richmond Hill Public Library.

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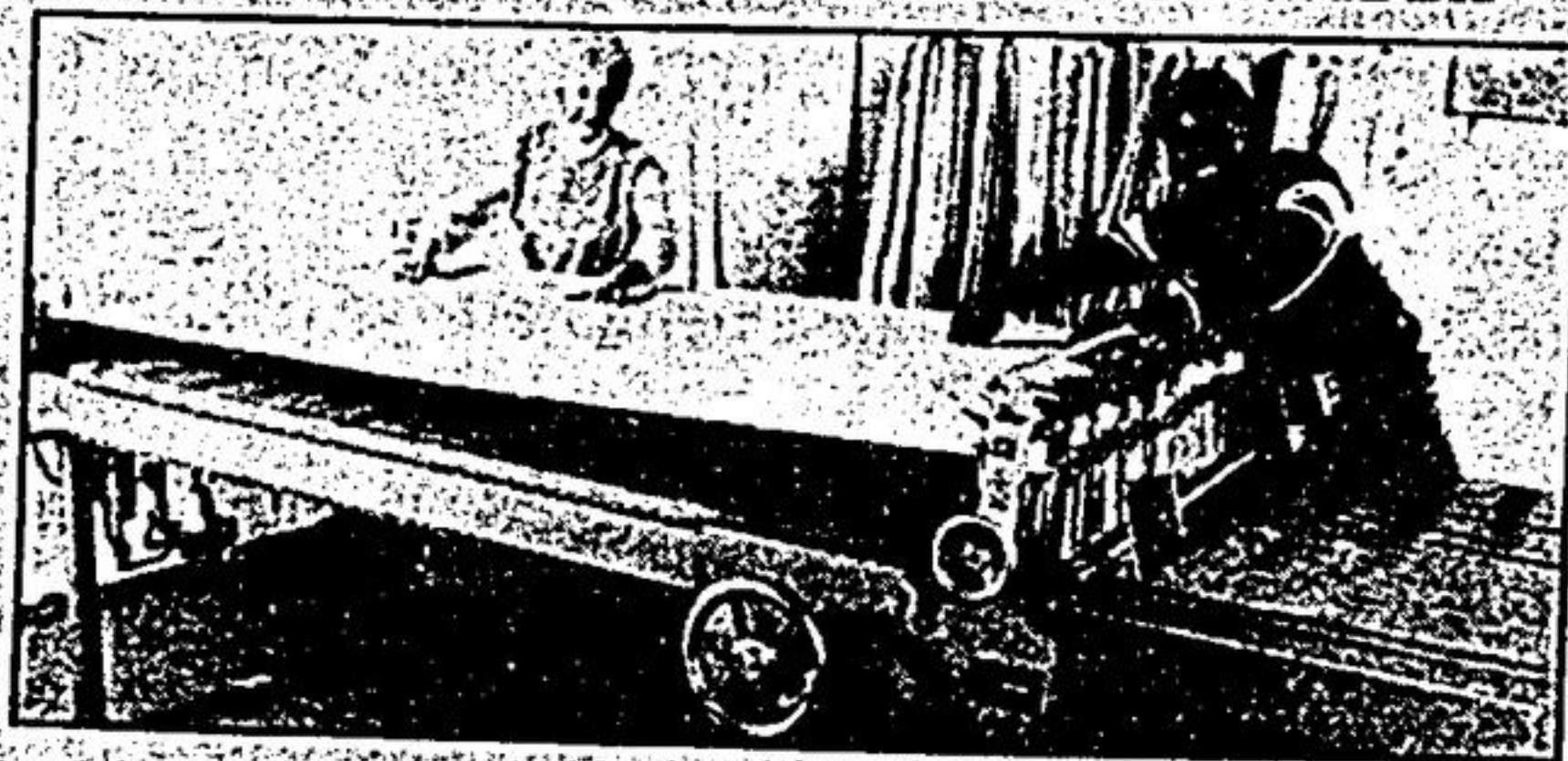
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