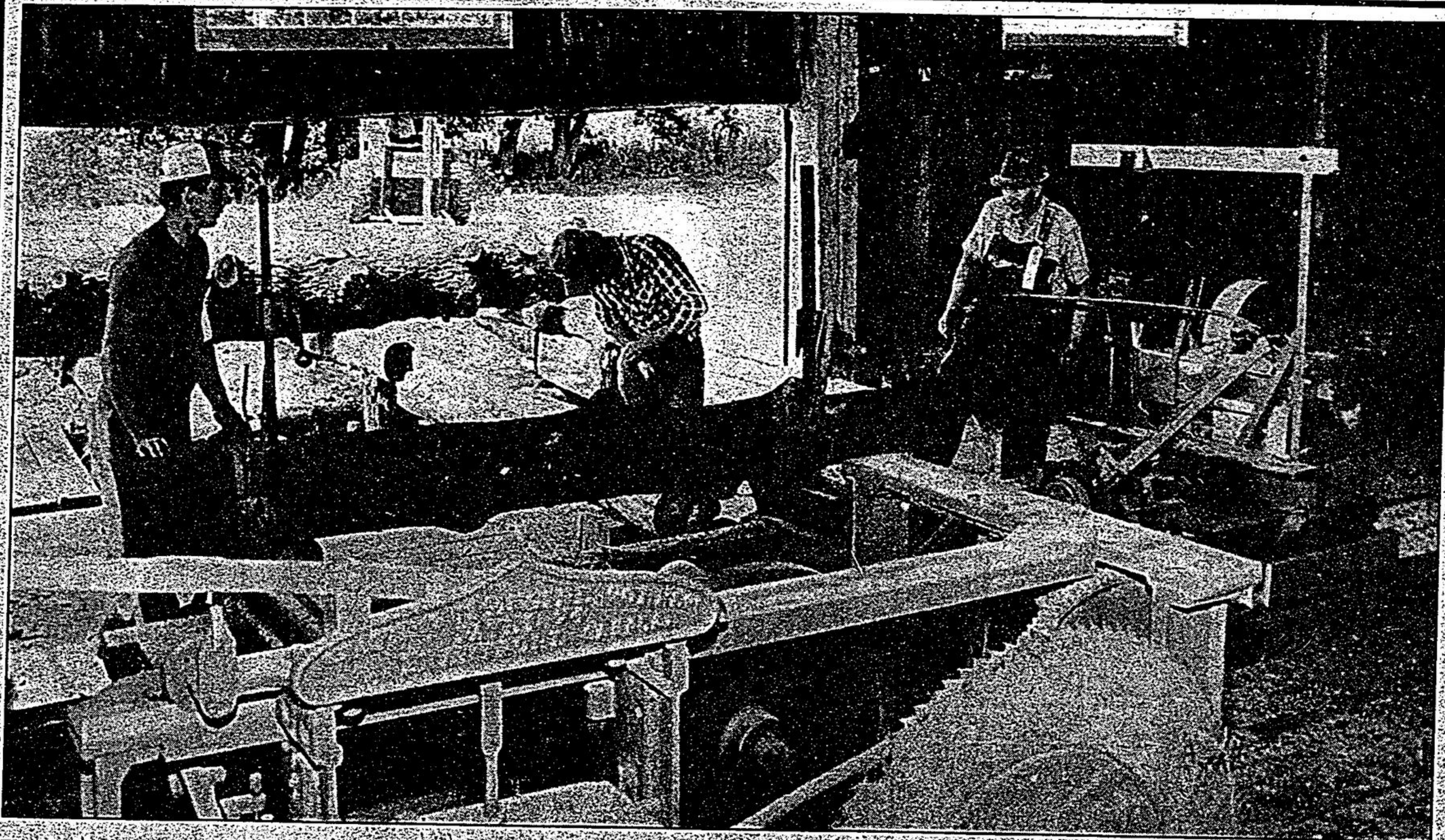


Weekender Entertainment

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The Markham Museum's sawmill will be a busy place during the 1987 Heritage Festival on Saturday, Sept. 12. It operates all day showing visitors how rough logs

were cut in bygone days. The museum complex includes railroad exhibits, a collection of antique carriages and wagons — all on display during the festival.

At Markham Museum

History brought to life again

By ALEX NEWMAN

In the crisp air of Indian summer, the sound of a hammer striking an iron anvil gives a hollow ring. Traces of summer are still evident in the fields: not yet harvested or threshed, a noonday sun still strong, children with sunburnt

noses. A man in rough homespun dungarees bends over a small pile of chopped wood, leaning on his axe handle. A woman in a full-skirted cotton baize dress, a lace collar her only adornment, steadily churns butter.

Another man ambles by, a

horse's heavy ploughing collar and harness hangs over his shoulder.

This is a typical scenario, not from the distant past of our pioneering forebears, but of the volunteers whose combined efforts make the Markham Museum's Heritage Festival an annual success.

On Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the 14th Annual Heritage Festival will be held at the Markham Museum complex.

Featured this year at the festival, says organizer Susan Dunlop, is the newly restored Acadia, a railway car that once carried such notables as former prime ministers Diefenbaker and Trudeau (not at the same time mind you). As well, a restored caboose will be on display.

Although the two railroad specimens will be open to the public for the first time, this festival will not be the scene of their official opening; neither car has been completely refurbished yet.

Activities at the festival are many and varied: log-sawing, working steam and gas engines, spinning and quilting, toy-making, a cider mill will be producing fresh cider for sale; a harness and blacksmith shop will be demonstrating pioneer smithy techniques.

Home baked goods and crafts prepared the traditional way will be on sale; sausages, potatoes, and other lunch items will also be available.

Antique cars

A collection of antique cars will be on hand under the watchful eye of their individual owners. Perhaps these gents or ladies will be willing to answer questions about their vintage machines.

Musical groups will be performing at different times throughout the day at the bandshell.

The festival site is the Markham District Historical Museum, a collection of over 20 historical buildings situated around a three floor school house.

Historical buildings on the museum site are collected from all corners of Markham, "inside the old boundaries" according to Ms. Dunlop. "These include the old railway station from Locust Hill, churches, Mennonite homes."

Pioneer garb

Most of the festival's volunteer workers are from the Markham Guild of Village Crafts and will dress in pioneering garb to help set the mood for the day.

Ms. Dunlop was enthusiastic about the response to the festival in past years. "We usually get about 3,000 people out for the day. Even though the festival doesn't start until 11 a.m., people show up at the entrance as early as 8:30 and there were some still driving up to the gates at 5 p.m., an hour after closing."

When asked why the Historical Society didn't consider extending the hours, Ms. Dunlop replied, "the day is long enough as it is. In order to prepare, the volunteers must be here at 8 a.m. and there's a terrific amount of cleaning up to do afterward."

Admission is \$2 for adults, and 50 cents for youths.

The Museum is located on Hwy 48 north of 16th Ave. Entrance for cars is off 16th Ave. just west of Hwy 48.



Wagon rides for the youngsters are a highlight of the Heritage Festival which also includes pioneer demonstrations, food and drink and entertainment at the Markham Museum on Hwy 48 north of 16th Ave.