

Editor's Mail

Never satisfied

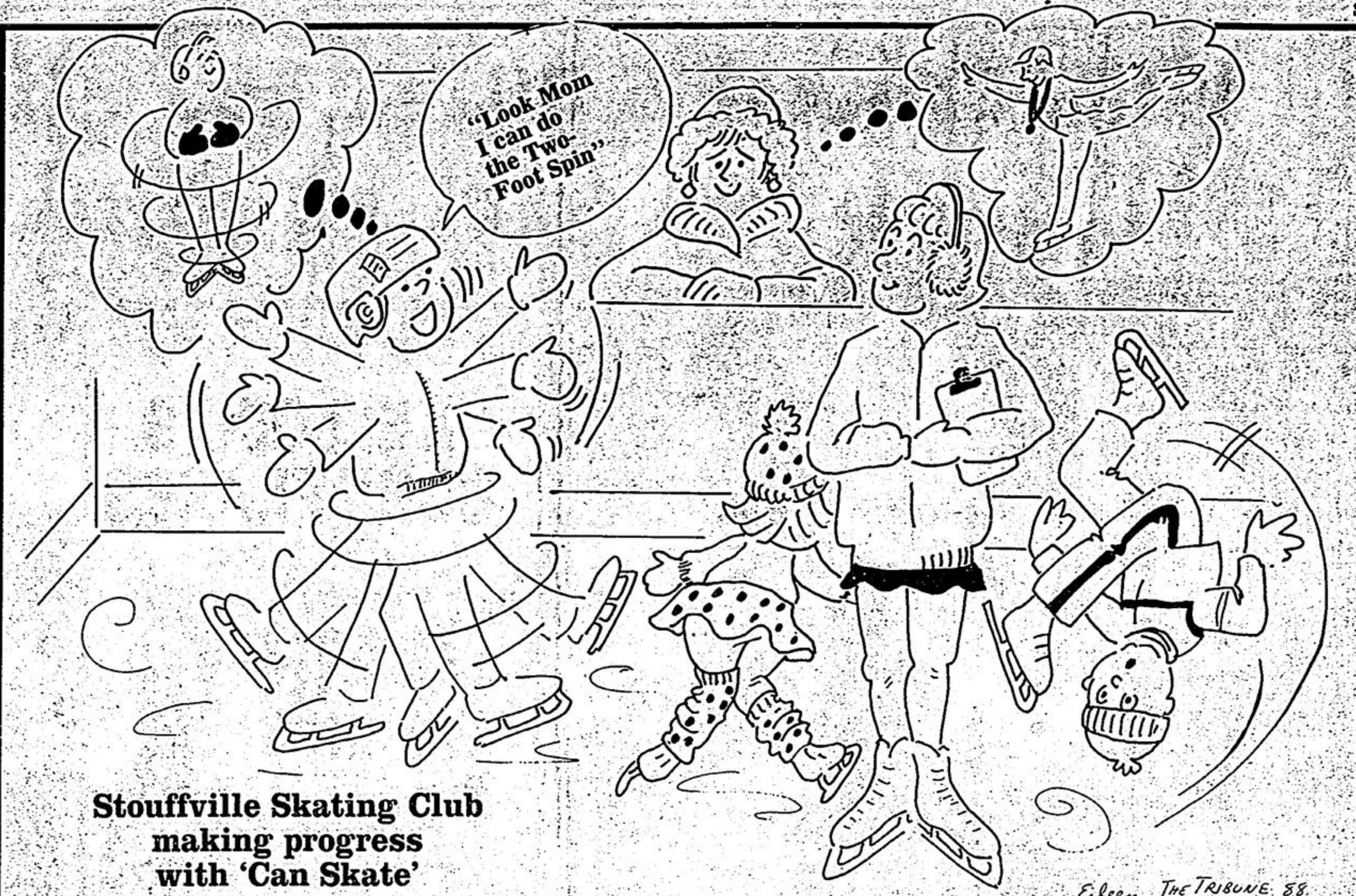
Re the 'Mail Mess' story on Page 1 of the Jan. 13 Tribune, it would seem such problems aren't confined only to Stouffville. Mail delivery would seem to be in a 'mess' all over.

But is it? I've made a personal study of mail deliveries in many communities. The complaint is pretty much the same — too slow! In my opinion, the problem is the public. They expect too much for the price of a 37 cent stamp.

Every once in awhile, you read about someone receiving a Christmas card or some such trivial thing two years late. The media makes a big deal of this, forgetting the thousands, even millions of cards and letters processed through the postal system every day.

The truth as I see it is the public will never be satisfied — not totally. The few that are wronged are the ones who do all the complaining.

My advice to Mr. Fisher is "sit tight, do the best you can and don't try to please everyone. That's an impossible task." Sincerely, Isabelle Cox, Gormley, R.R. 1



Stouffville Skating Club making progress with 'Can Skate'

Eileen THE TRIBUNE 58

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Editorials

Provincial grants

The federal Ministry of Agriculture is reviewing its distribution of funding with respect to 214 Fairs across Canada. The final decision is expected by 1990.

The announcement, it seems, comes as no surprise to those closest to local agricultural societies. Most feel the Government will simply establish new priorities and shift funds from one area of Fair interest to another. We see nothing wrong with this as long as the total figure remains the same.

While the news release from the Office of Agriculture Minister John Wise gives no details concerning how funds will be divided, we fear the total, (\$2.4 million), will be drastically reduced.

Fair Boards, some already struggling to stay solvent, can ill-afford cutbacks in financial assistance. For many, it could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Markham Fair, for example, declared a profit of just over \$39,000 in 1987. With government aid, (\$21,683), earnings soared to \$60,812. A good

year. However, unfavorable weekend weather conditions can change the financial picture from a handsome profit to a disappointing loss. Government funding is the 'crutch' all Fairs need.

We feel the source of government Fair subsidies is wrongfully positioned. It should be shifted entirely from federal jurisdiction to the provinces. Queen's Park, for example, is much closer to Fair programs than Ottawa. The same can likely be said elsewhere across Canada.

Federal authority, so far removed from the grass roots, often has trouble understanding people's problems. Fair fairs can be similarly categorized. Priorities become confused.

We say leave the funding the same but change the funder. It may be a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul but Paul has a much closer insight into how much is required and for what.

ROAMING AROUND

Telephone 'hang-up'

BY JIM THOMAS



The telephone — does it please you or provoke you?

Both, you reply.

Me too. This personal love-hate relationship's been going on for years. Unfortunately, the situation's getting worse instead of better.

I place the telephone in much the same classification as some husbands place their wives; they can't get along with 'em, and they can't get along without 'em.

The situation's so confusing that if Alexander Graham Bell should (somehow) walk into my Office this minute, I wouldn't know whether to grab him by the hand or by the throat.

In all honesty, poor old Alex shouldn't take the blame for the phone any more than Henry Ford for problems related to the motor car. It's the way folks abuse the product that's irritating, not the product itself.

I know I'm not alone when it comes to criticizing Pa Bell's invention. At one time or another we've all berated the system with threats like: "If that phone rings once more, I'll scream." or "I'd like to ring its neck". Some people actually do become violent, throwing the receiver half way across the room or slamming it down with desk-jarring force.

I wonder how many repair calls are due to temper tantrums? I'm sure the percentage is high.

The practice causing the greatest stir in our household are calls at meal times; not one or two but sometimes three and four during a one-hour period. When this occurs, we all kind of sit there looking at one another hoping someone will rise to the occasion without being told. Mary-Lynn, our youngest, usually responds. It goes (almost) without saying, it's for her.

Is it any wonder some families install phones for teenagers only? It's crossed my mind.

In recent years, the answering machine's become increasingly popu-

lar. At first, I found it intimidating. Talking to a tape seemed cold and impersonal. I've since overcome this hang-up, (no pun intended), agreeing it's better speaking to something, (even myself), than nothing.

The cellular phone, of course, is the 'in thing' today. To me, they make good business sense, although I often wonder if that's their sole purpose. I suspect, for some firms, it gives them a sense of higher profile in the business community. Again, it may only be an ego trip for the company prez.

I'm not sure what lies ahead in the telephone industry. It's a certainty the back-room boys won't rest on their laurels. Despite tremendous improvements, they're only scratching the surface.

I predict the television phone is just around the corner. Maybe it's already here but hasn't yet arrived in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Through this innovative device, one will be able to see to whom he/she is talking.

It will have its advantages of course, virtually destroying the anonymity of crank and obscene callers. But visualize the scene where someone jumps quickly out of bed or springs unthinkingly from the shower. What a shock!

Personally, I'd appreciate putting a face to a name. By the year 2000, there'll be one in every home, standard equipment like the TV and stereo.

Every office too; maybe every car. When it comes to using the phone unfairly, I'm the world's worst offender.

I see dozens of subscribers nodding their collective heads in agreement.

Calls at meal-times? I do it all the time.

Late at night? I'm continually hauling people from under the covers.

Sundays? No days of rest.

Yes, Jean berates me for my brashness.

"How would you like to be wakened out of a deep sleep?" she asks impatiently.

"Just remember, everyone doesn't

work Sundays," she states emphatically.

"Couldn't your call have waited?" she enquires ashamedly.

She's right, of course. But strange as it may seem, in 36 years of telephone misuse, I've never had one person hang up in my ear. All could have, and some should have. It might have taught me a lesson.

Trouble is, in the weird and wonderful world of journalism, one loses all track of time. It can be three o'clock in the afternoon or three o'clock in the morning, who cares? When there's work to be done, you do it; even if it means disturbing someone else's sleep.

So the telephone serves my purpose. More convenient than knocking on doors; and much safer.

Admittedly, with the advent of the television phone, I'll need to be more careful. Looks at the other end could kill.

However, with this major innovation not anticipated for another twelve years, I don't need to worry.

Editor's Mail

Volunteers

Dear Editor:

We need your readers help!

The Stouffville Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society requires volunteers for the April campaign.

As Campaign Chairman, I've heard a variety of reasons why people choose not to assist as a volunteer. The most obvious is: "A lack of personal time to participate" or "the job entails more than I can handle."

In most cases, people are reluctant because of misconceived ideas about the commitment.

To clarify any misunderstandings, I'd like to explain the commitment that's involved:

As a Cancer Society volunteer, you will be asked to call on 15 to 20 homes in your own area, asking for donations. Since April is recognized as Cancer Month across Canada, donors are generally expecting you. Usually, two to four hours during the entire month is all that's required. The most effective times are during the evenings or on a Saturday. And that's it.

The benefits derived from your efforts will by far outlast the two to four hours of your time.

On the personal side, it's an excellent opportunity to meet your neighbors; enjoy some exercise and have a change in atmosphere from daily routines.

But more importantly, the funds raised will be used to educate the public, assist patients and their families stricken by cancer and provide researchers the opportunity to find cures for the many types of cancer.

Since the formation of the Stouffville Branch in 1956, we have relied on the generosity of our community to support our dream that "Cancer Can Be Beaten". To continue the support, we need your help to make our dream become a reality.

If you feel our commitment as a volunteer fits your schedule and you live either inside Stouffville or in the rural area, we sure would appreciate your assistance.

We're winning the battle against cancer because you really do make a difference!

Sincerely,
 William J. Giles,
 Campaign Chairman,
 Stouffville Branch,
 Canadian Cancer Society,
 Phone 640-2015.

Unselfish decision

Spademan Disposal has been sold. The firm, established 51 years ago, has provided an excellent service to business and residential property-owners in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Since entering into a contract, Town Council has experienced few, if any problems. On the contrary, Mr. Spademan has been extremely co-operative with regard to special pick-ups, also supportive of the local re-cycling.

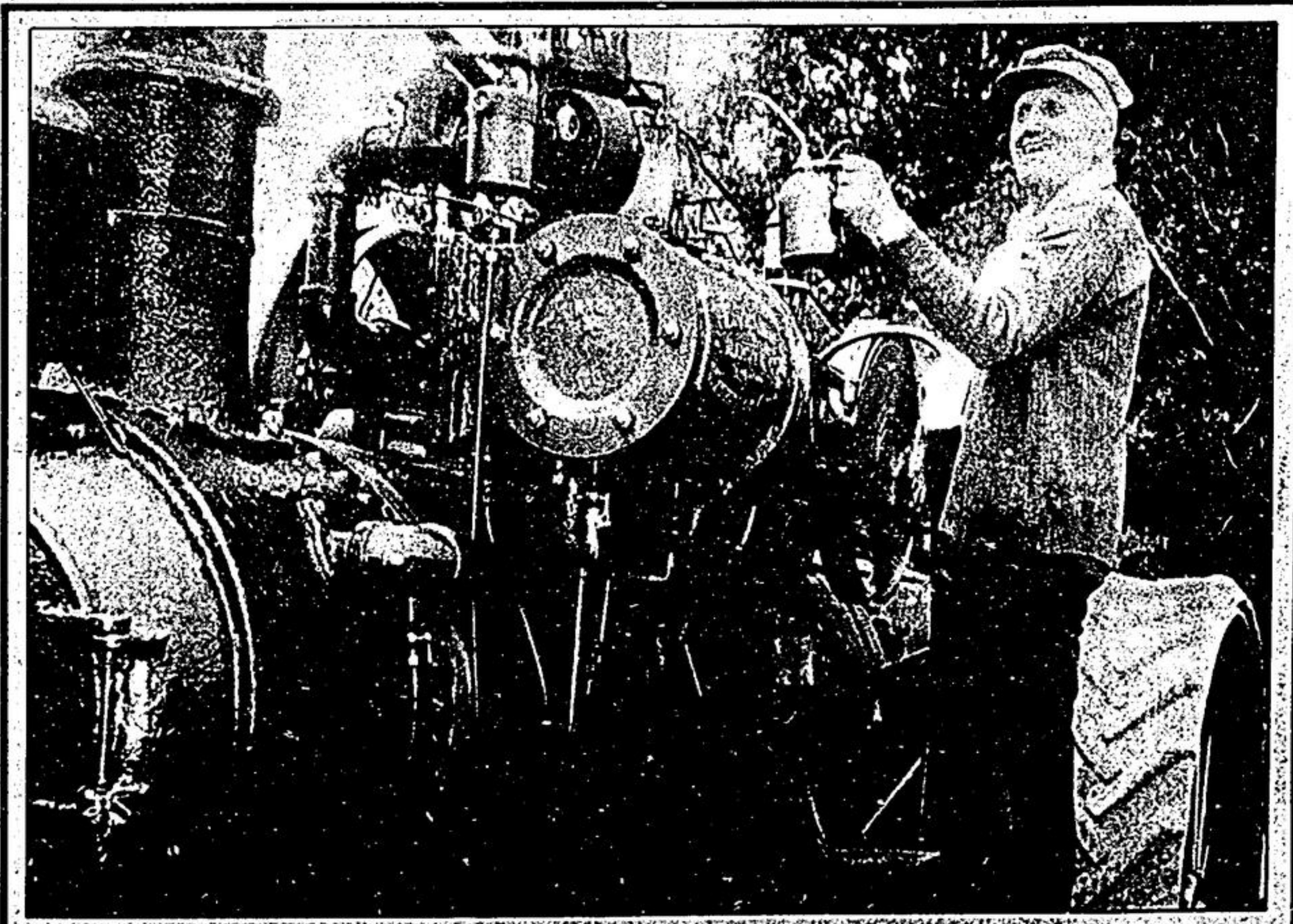
As a municipality, we could expect nothing more.

We're pleased Ralph Spademan has seen fit to keep his operation 'Canadian'. Miller Paving is a reputable firm, highly respected within the business community. As a Town, we can anticipate the same level of service as the Spademan Company provided.

At considerable self-sacrifice, Mr. Spademan elected to remain Canadian. At least one American firm had bid higher than Miller. He turned the offer down.

More importantly, Mr. Spademan showed concern for his staff, making sure their interests were protected.

He was not committed in this regard. He only wished to return a share of the loyalty they had shown to him.



Mac Middleton and his 'steamer' close companions

Over the years, Claremont's Mac Middleton and his Waterloo steam engine have been familiar sights at area shows and fairs. This picture was taken several years ago at 'History In Action' Days on the former site of the Pickering Museum in Brougham. Mr. Middleton, 86, is presently a patient in Uxbridge Cottage Hospital after suffering a fall in his home over three months ago.

—Jim Thomas