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**Country charm  
attracts shoppers**

By KATE GILDERDALE  
Last weekend's Country Collectibles Show at Markham Fairgrounds, attracted an excellent turnout of visitors and an impressive selection of exhibitors, showing everything from crafts to antiques.

It was the third show at the fairgrounds in the last two years and provided an excellent place to start on Christmas shopping.

There were beautifully crafted wreaths, country kits for sweaters, all neatly packed in sacks or bags; china dolls and rag dolls, all in delightful outfits; decorated hat boxes, hand-crafted pottery and painted switchplates for a special bedroom.

Old-fashioned Christmas ornaments and tree decorations were everywhere, as were wall hangings of every description. One booth featured hand-carved rocking horses, made by Gerard Boileau of Mississauga, which looked as if they came straight out of a Victorian nursery.

Also in evidence were clocks of all kinds, many decorated with intricate stencilling, and beautiful stained glass windows.

Throughout the show, a number of workshops were offered, including folk art, tole painting, stencilling and rug hooking.

Over at the Freckles booth,

Sandy and Dave Stronach, ably helped by Sue Chewins, were having a hectic morning.

"They haven't stopped coming in," said Sandy. "It's been so busy, we can't fit any more people in." The booth was small, but they'd made the most of every inch of space, featuring a delightful selection of goodies from the Stouffville store.

Pat Beaton, manning the desk at the Gooseberry Patch, was equally enthusiastic.

"Things are great; it's a really good show. I'm very pleased with it," she said.

It took Pat and husband Graham most of a day to set up their display, and the result was impressive. Graham was taking care of things at the Sandford store, while Pat worked at the show.

"It's been going very well so far," said a delighted John Hurdart of the Country Mercantile in Uxbridge. "We've been in the show since it started and we'll definitely be back in the next one. It gives the store good exposure and sales."

The show is run by Country Decorating and Collectibles, and this year 86 exhibitors took part, said management representative Penny Hosken.

"We put 1,000 people through in the first hour," she said. "We're very pleased with the response. The booths for this show are the best ever."

There were quite a few new exhibitors this year, she noted.

"We don't have to promote it; it gets sold out long before the deadline," she added.

This year, exhibitors came from as far away as P.E.I. and Quebec. "I have at least a dozen applications for the next show already," Hosken stated.

**New look  
for old  
mansion**

It's been almost a year, but the old Mansion House on Main Street West is finally in the process of being gutted and rebuilt.

Things had been held up while the owners waited for the last tenants to leave the building, explained spokesman Ian Batt, of Remax Realty.

Magnetic Realty, which owns the facility, "are trying to maintain as much of the original flavor as possible," Mr. Batt stated.

Planned renovations include stucco on the outside and larger windows to accommodate the requirements of new tenants, he explained.

"They're spending in excess of \$600,000 on the project," he said.

The main floor will feature a Pizza Pizza outlet, a fish and chip restaurant, Mr. Submarine and "probably a muffin, coffee and donut shop."

The remainder of the building will be divided into apartments, but final decisions on the number and size have not yet been finalized, and should be available within a couple of weeks, estimated Mr. Batt.

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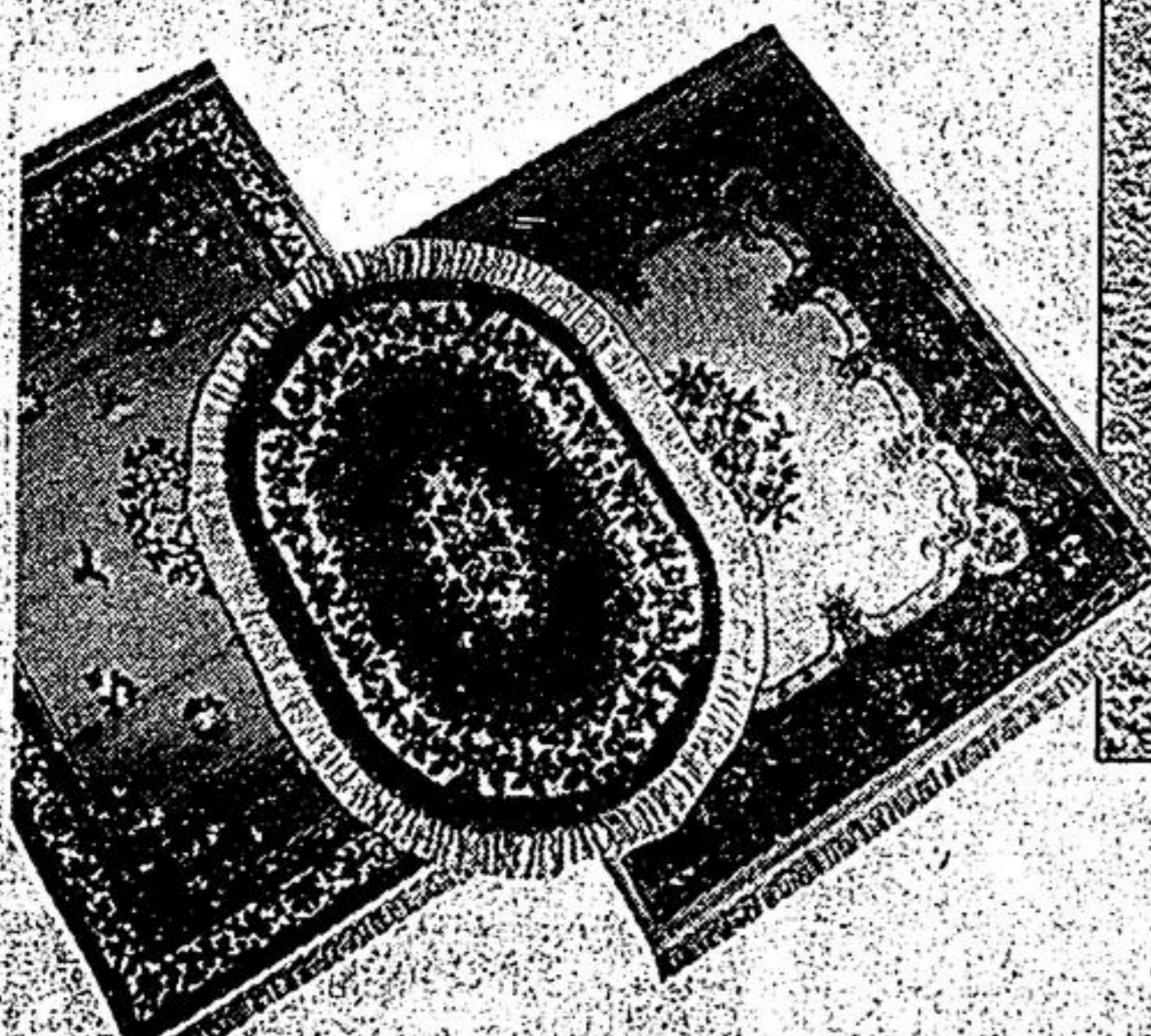
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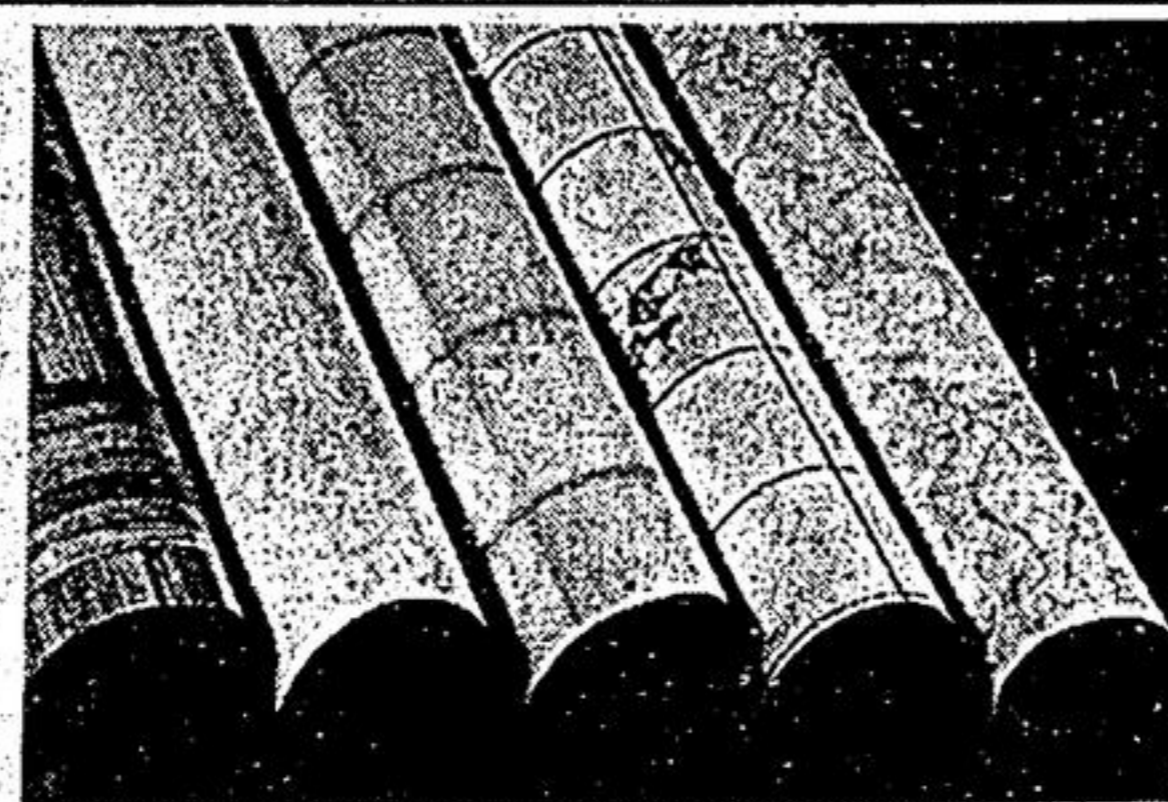
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**CROTHERS BIG V DRUG STORE**

**CORRECTION**

Please note the following correction regarding the Big V insert in today's newspaper, Page 2: Wadsworth Christmas music cassette tapes, 3 pack correct sale price should have read \$6.99, not \$2.99 as stated. Big V regrets any inconvenience this error may have caused their customers.

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