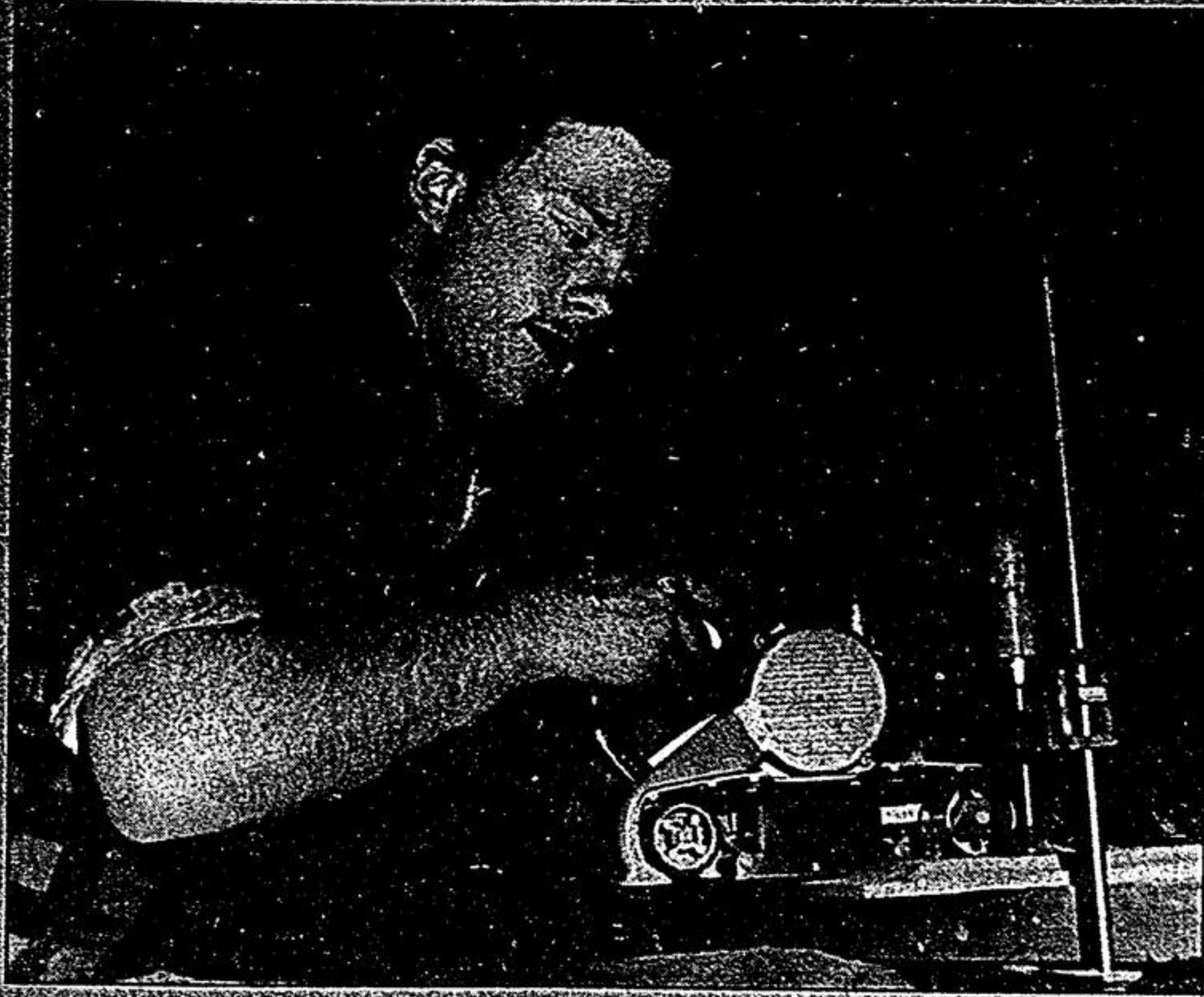


# Tech students display their skills



The Tech Department of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School was unveiled for all (students) to see Thursday. The gymnasium was transformed into a hands-on Tech classroom. Here, Ken Richards operates a sander.

Jeni Montgomery, 15, (right), of Grade 10 shows Gabrielle Nesbitt, also 15, the proper operation of a router. Tech skills are popular with girls as well as boys.

## High school Trade Fair is a hands-on success

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
STOUFFVILLE — On Thursday, students of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School were given an opportunity to see what makes the Tech Department tick.

The SDSS gymnasium was transformed into a demonstration area for equipment used by technical classes.

The event, now in its second year, is called a Trade Fair.

"It's a hands-on event with students given a chance to use the machines," explained Wal-

ly Currie, the school's wood-working specialist. "They're able to make small things and see displays of what's been made this year and in past years by various students."

Projects are the end result of woodworking, electrical, auto shop, machine shop and drafting. Teachers were on hand to assist with demonstrations.

Students from Grades 9 to 11 arrived at the gym in groups of 25 to view and to participate. Draws for pizza added a per-

sonal touch to the occasion.

"We're not just trying to encourage students to take up these interests for future careers," said Mr. Currie. "It's good to know something of these trades as a hobby. A boy or girl can save a lot of money if he or she can fix his/her car, do electrical work or build furniture."

Mr. Currie points out that tech courses enhance eye-hand co-ordination, as well as encourage co-operation among students. "There are

life skills to be gained from it."

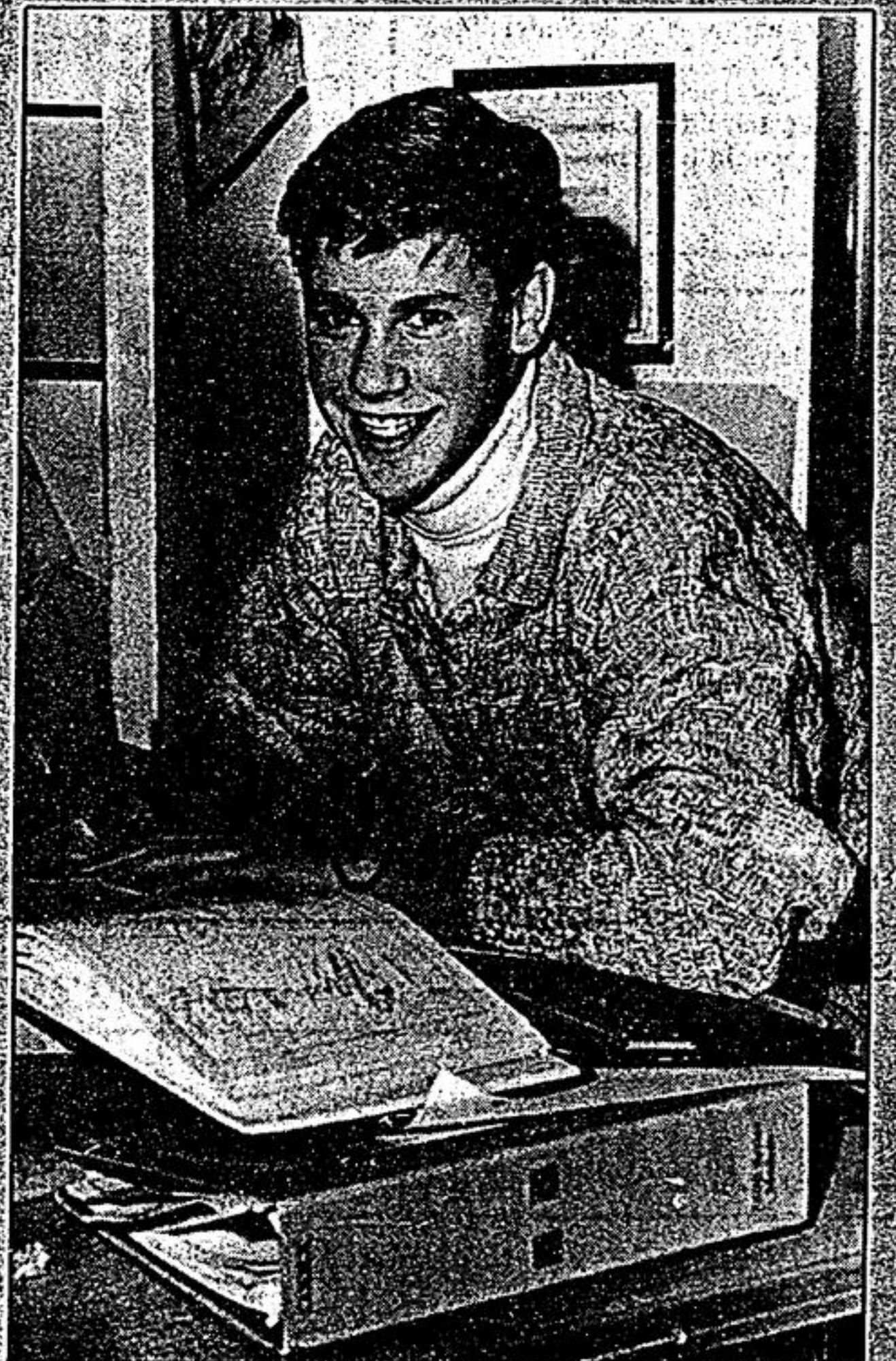
Mr. Currie is justifiably proud of the fact at least 30 former woodworking students are now employed in this profession.

"Our Canadian trades are in desperate need of employees right now," he says. "Many people don't realize how complicated and important the trades can be. A car manual today would boggle the mind of most doctors."

He feels it's important to remove the stigma so often attached to the study of tech courses.

"In Europe, trades people are treated like royalty. Here, they're too often treated like dirt."

Photos  
by  
Jim Thomas



Fifteen-year-old Scott Ferris of Grade 10 enjoys drafting.



Lee Scaife, 16, of Grade 11 operates a transit to magnify a distant object. Surveyors use this equipment constantly.



Bill Gentry, 16, a student in Grade 12, works on the Ford car engine, prized by students in auto shop.



Lisa Buchanan, 17, is a Grade 12 student enrolled in drafting. Stouffville Dist. Secondary School has one of the finest Tech Departments in York Region.

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