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PURE IMAGINATION

Diner: "Walter, the portions seem to have got a lot smaller lately."
 Waiter: "Just an optical illusion. Now that the restaurant has been enlarged, they look smaller—that's all."

AUCTION SALE IN ACTON

Of Furniture and Real Estate

The Undersigned have received instructions from

JON RAJKA

to sell by Public Auction at 12 Vimy St., Acton on

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th Commencing at 2 o'clock, the following:

3 Double Beds with mattresses and springs, 2 Dressers, Chests, 1 old bed, 2 Extension Tables, Kitchen Chairs, Kitchen Cabinet, Electric Washing Machine and other articles.

REAL ESTATE: At the same time and place there will be offered for sale subject to a reserve but the following dwelling houses situated on Vimy St. Acton. This is a quiet street in the South part of Acton near the water tower. A good place for retired people.

PARCEL I: The rough east house and garden at 16 Vimy St. This dwelling has a full basement under the main dwelling. There are four rooms down stairs. Three bedrooms and bath room up stairs. The town water pipes are ready to be connected.

Terms on Parcel I: 10% of the purchase price on day of Sale Balance when possession is given, of 50% may be left on a mortgage bearing interest at 5% per annum to be paid in monthly installments of \$50.00 per month till the total is paid. The purchaser is to have the privilege of paying any amount above the said monthly payment or may make a total payment at any time.

PARCEL II: The neat six room rough east cottage and garden at 12 Vimy St. The kitchen stove with water front and hot water tanks are included in this offering.

The terms on Parcel II are the same as Parcel I with the exception that the monthly payments are to be \$40.00 per month.

Terms on Furniture: Cash. For further information apply to the owner, 16 Vimy St., Acton.

Hendley & Elliott, Auctioneers, Ph. 1943 Rockwood of 1753 Milton St. 20-3.

Chronicles of .. Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press
GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

At this season of the year one's thoughts have a way of turning back to the days of childhood, back to the Christmases one used to know. I remember, about this time it used to be a special treat to take a long walk into the country and bring back holly and mistletoe for decorating. All summer we kept our eyes open so that we knew just where to go for the best holly, where the berries were the reddest and the leaves the greenest. Mistletoe was harder to find but if we went to Ivey's Lane, a walk of about eight miles, we knew that was one holly tree there that was always thickly entwined with the parasitic mistletoe. And what was eight miles to sturdy, energetic youngsters? At least it was nothing to my brothers and sister, but I was considerably younger and at the end of the walk would find me dragging wearily behind. But take mother's advice and stay at home? "Oh, no! That was a treat I wouldn't miss for anything."

I can visualize that walk even yet down to Hallingdon, through Middleton Park and on to Henny Ivey's lane a narrow, moss-covered lane about three miles long, where holly berries grew red in winter, and primroses and sweet-scented violets bloomed in the spring. The lane came out through Col. Barnardiston's estate, and thus to the main road on top of a steep hill. From there it was downhill all the way home. The names are only names to many readers, but yet quite often I get a letter saying: "I remember as well those places you mentioned in your column a few weeks ago." So you see, you never can tell. It's a small world, and the older one gets the smaller the world.

Right here, may I say "Thank You," for your nice letter. If and when I am 85 years old I hope I shall be able to write as well and as brightly as you do now.

But back to Christmas preparations in the long, long ago.

For weeks before Christmas we used to save our pennies and half-pennies, and with our combined small fund, and believe me, it was small, we bought rolls of coloured tissue paper, mostly red and green. After tea Mother let us use the dining-room table and we got busy with paper and paste. We cut strips of paper one inch wide and four inches long, pasting them together to form links, one to another, in alternate colours. In our home very few decorations were bought—we made them all ourselves, and we spent many happy hours in the process. Then a day or two before Christmas we draped the rooms with paper chains, we trimmed the pictures and mantel with holly, we hung mistletoe in the hall, and in each doorway, but we always saved a piece of each with the choicest berries to stick in the middle of the Christmas pudding. And I remember Mother always got someone to fetch her sixpenny worth of brandy—not to drink but to light up the Christmas pudding. I loved to watch the pudding being brought in. Then mother would pour the brandy over the pudding, set a match to it, and we watched, ecstatically as the dancing flames leaped up and around the spices, pudding with its topping of holly and mistletoe. The pudding was never cut until the last flame had burnt itself out. I also remember Mother had to cut my piece of pudding well from the inside because I wouldn't touch it if I got one taste of the brandy. So lighting the Christmas pudding didn't quite demoralize me! I didn't like spirits then and I don't like them now.

In all my childhood there was only one Christmas when we had a fire. They were not as common in England then as they are in Canada now mainly, I suppose, because they had to be bought. We didn't have cars then to bring

home trees purloined from somebody's woodlot.

And to us, the gay old fellow in the red coat and long white whiskers was not Santa Claus but Father Christmas. But he used to come down the chimney just the same, only he didn't find our stockings hung from the mantel. He had to visit the bedrooms and at the head of each sleeping (?) child he found a stocking hopefully pinned to the bedrail.

Came the early morn, and the first child awake would get the others together and we would congregate in one or other of the bedrooms. When Mother heard whispering and rattling of mysterious parcels she would come in too—and we never untied a parcel until she appeared. Then when the parcels were unwrapped Mother went downstairs and presently we heard her playing cards on the old table piano. We crept down, dressed or undressed, it didn't matter, and we stood around the piano and sang hymns as long as Mother would play them. And thus began our Christmas!

Children today, with their Santa Claus parades, and all kinds of presents, cannot possibly be any happier than was our little fatherless family with their home-made gifts and simple pleasures. And another thing I remember, we always had sausage-rolls for breakfast that morning! And were they good!

MILTON

Capacity crowds enjoyed the varied entertainment at the Milton High School annual two night Commencement held at the school auditorium last Thursday and Friday evenings. It was an exceptionally well arranged program presented by the pupils indicating that considerable time and effort had been expended.

A very small number of citizens assembled in the Council chamber on Friday evening. It was the occasion of the annual nominations for civic offices. From the appearance of this annual meeting of taxpayers, the citizens are satisfied with the way the various municipal representatives are carrying out their respective duties.

In spite of conflicting interests and entertainment of Friday evening last, an appreciative audience gathered in St. Paul's Schoolroom on Women's Canadian Club "Open Evening" to hear Miss Mollie McGee, woman war correspondent and widely-travelled observer. Canadian Champion

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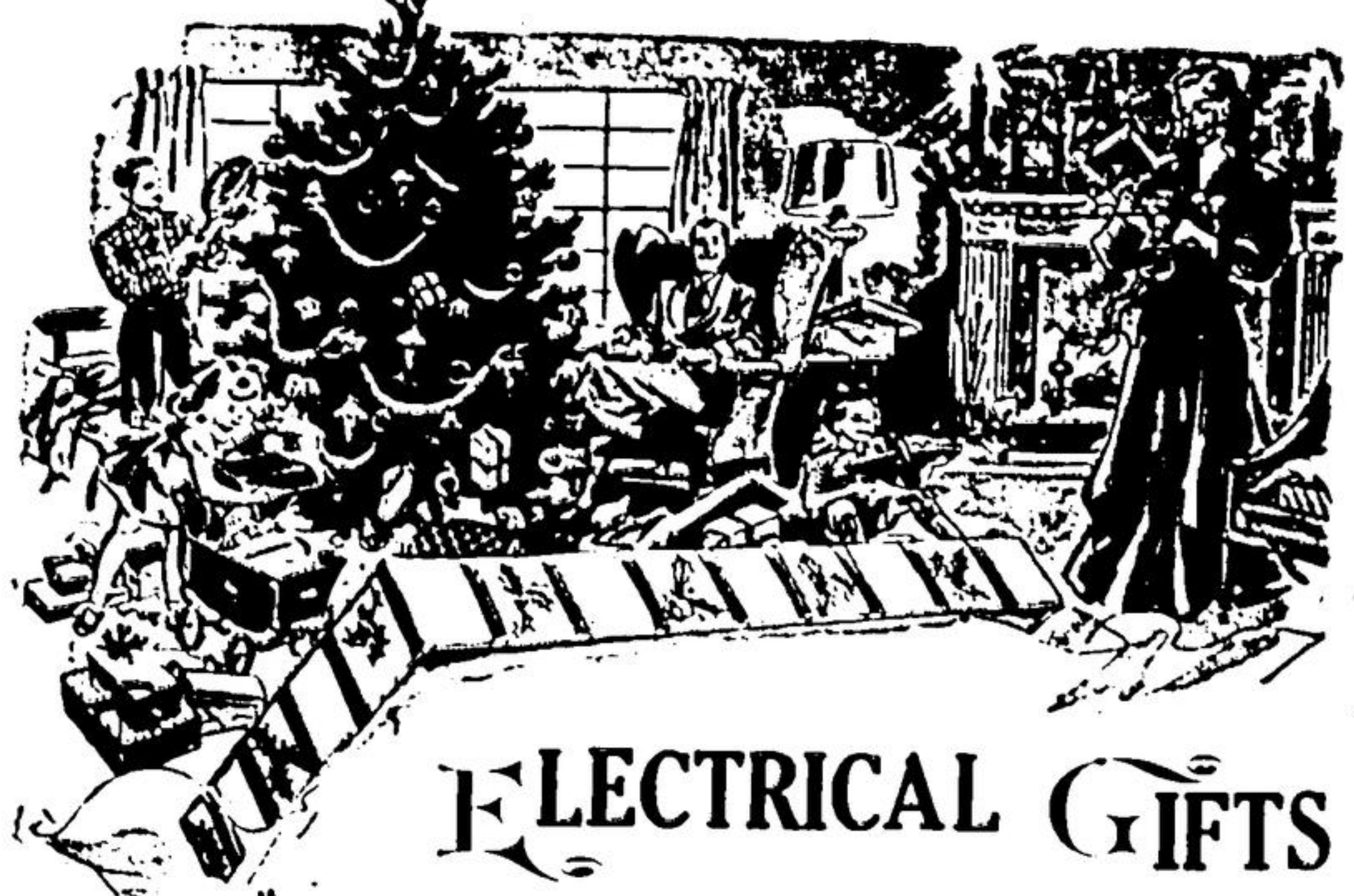
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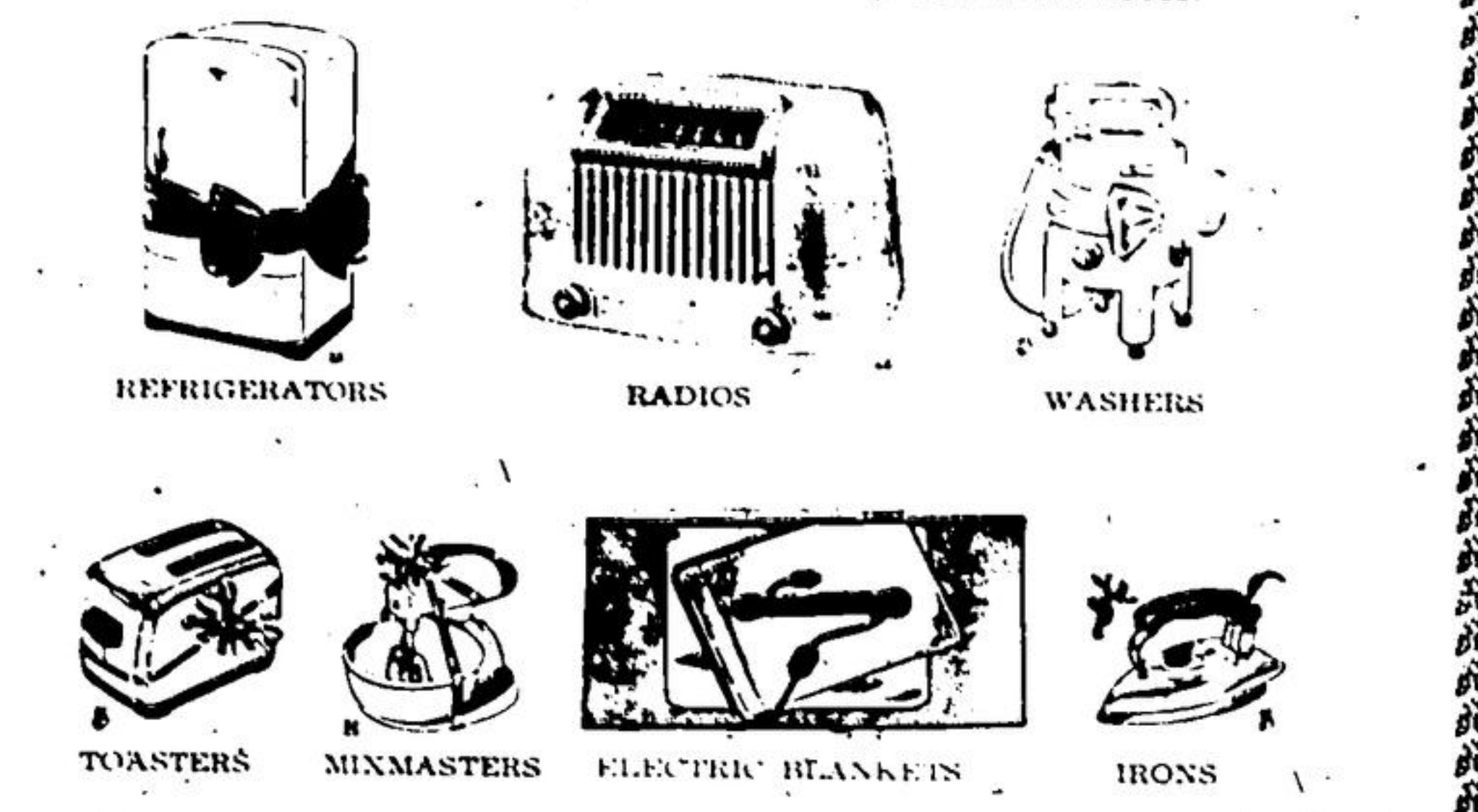
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