

30 Trained Volunteer Firemen Ready To Face Danger, Fight Fires in Area

In spite of continuous public urging citizens to practice fire prevention methods at all times, every community must maintain a fire department. "Why?" is a question that might well be asked. The answer is that someone is always careless and only a well trained and properly equipped fire department can cope successfully with the scourge of fire once it starts.

The true story behind the Acton Fire Department is not one of a new fire hall, shiny bright machines, hundreds of feet of hose and various other pieces of equipment. It is the story of 30 men, all volunteers, who man the trucks and equipment and spend many hours training to be firefighters.

Tough Job

Fire fighting is a tough job—not just dangerous, but dirty, hard and laboring—a race against time. Even practice sessions can be strenuous and all

this is done by men who have already put in a hard day's work for their own livelihood.

It takes a dedicated group of men to offer hard work on a volunteer basis. Men who often leave their warm beds in the early hours of the morning or bypass a hot meal or rush from little household chores to answer the call of the siren.

Consideration must be given also to those who leave their jobs in industry and other places of business and to their employers who, with consideration for the community and safety of lives, allow the men to depart from work without severance of pay.

Equipment, Hall

Fire fighting equipment must be serviced and ready for use at all times and after the trucks have returned to the fire hall, it means the men have to remove all the wet hose and replace it with dry, check and clean all

equipment in readiness for the next alarm.

Constant checking, weekly inspections and the running of the apparatus are only a few of the chores undertaken by the 30 volunteers of the Acton Fire Department.

The fire hall is kept spick and span by the firemen, who are the caretakers of this important building in town. Through funds derived from the sale of tickets and with manual labor provided by the firemen, the quarters at the rear of truck storage space have been equipped with dart boards, a ping pong table and a television set.

To the average person, this sounds like the back room in the fire hall is nothing but a place

of recreation. On the contrary, the back room is a meeting place, a training room and a place for firemen to sit quietly and pursue their studies on fire fighting techniques.

Many a fire call has been answered promptly by firemen enjoying the recreational facilities in the fire hall when the alarm was sounded.

Fire fighting today is a profession and Acton rates among the top in having a well trained group of volunteer firemen, ready and willing, at the sound of the siren to drop whatever they are doing and race to the fire hall to don coats, boots and fire hats and speed away on a modern piece of equipment to fight a fire.

Only 20 per cent of a fire-fighters time is spent fighting fires. The remaining 80 per cent is spent in training, mutual aid activities and studying to raise general proficiency.

Crew Fully Capable

The development of the community over the past few years, the increase in size of the fire area protected, the advance in toxic and high volatile chemicals and plastics, add to the headaches of a modern firefighter, but the 30-man crew whose responsibility it is to protect this area, are fully capable in their chore of fire fighting.

The days of the "bucket brigade" and the "smoke eater" are over. The list of things to learn is endless and as each is learned, science brings along something new to be mastered.

Pre-planning is necessary to combat that unexpected event that may place Acton in a dangerous situation. Acton firefighters are endeavoring to prevent any catastrophe by steady practice sessions each week.

Intensive Training

Training, training and still more training is required. This is the secret behind the success of the men who guard life, property and jobs against the first of man's natural fears—fire.

Protecting life, limb and property must not be left entirely to the firefighters. It is the duty of each and every citizen to help prevent fires—not just one week each year but every week.

Voluntary Home Check Wise for Safety

Your home is your castle! This tradition is sacred to the program of voluntary home inspection by the fire service. That is why the inspection of any home is subject to the friendly wish of the owner or tenant.

If a fire fighter knocks at your door, let him in. His only aim is to help you uncover potential fire hazards. If you're wise, you will accept his suggestions, as have hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

What he has to say concerns the safety of your home, perhaps your own life. There's no expense to you and it doesn't add to your taxes. He wears a fire fighter's uniform and bears credentials. He is at your door either under a planned municipal program—or at your own invitation.

Home Fires Off Tragic

While public and commercial buildings in Canada must submit to a rigid fire inspection, the home and the owner's privacy are respected. Nevertheless, it is in the home that three-quarters of all fires occur, so often with tragic loss of family life.

More and more across the nation, voluntary or courtesy home inspection has been established as a public service.

Besides trash, inspectors are alert to storage of flammable liquids and stove ashes, smoke pipes and chimneys, and faulty or frayed wiring. Don't be ashamed if they point out danger spots. No home is perfectly free from hazards.

No Gossip, No "Selling"

They will give you a private and personal written report of their findings, without use of your name and without gossip about the neighbors. And—they will not advise on repairment or equipment suppliers.

It's been a completely friendly call and the rest is up to you. As the fire services say, "The best fires we fight are the home fires that never happen."

Name Firemen In Department

Ready and capable of dealing with all types of fires and emergencies in the Acton area are 30 volunteer firemen who spend many hours training and studying modern techniques of fighting fires.

The Acton Fire Department, for efficiency and training purposes, is divided into three companies with Chief J. Newton or Deputy Chief M. Holmes relaying messages to captains of each division.

Following is a list of the members: Chief Jack Newton, Deputy Chief, Mick Holmes, "A" company, captain Bern Van Fleet, members, Doug Mason, Doug McEachern, Henry Bittorf, Leo Symott, Herb Dodds, John Finkosz, Grant Withers and Ed McCalloway.

"B" company, captain, Will McEachern, members, Don Van Fleet, Alf Dubs, Norm Price, John Krapek, William Knight, Harry Otterben, Jack Pinka, Ken Hodgson and Bill Patterson.

"C" company, captain, Sam Tennant, members, Wayne Kelly, Bill Spielvogel, Bill Williams, Harold Townsley, Phil McCristall, H. Price, Will Duval and Dorcin Frizzell.

PROPRIETY
Chaperone that cigarette. Don't expect it to go out alone!



—Staff Photo

LITERATURE for Fire Prevention Week is being stamped with Acton Fire Department insignia prior to distribution at schools in the area. Pictured above front to rear are firemen Norman Price, Bill Williams and John Turkosz. Fire Prevention is a must with firemen 365 days a year but next week they stress the need to citizens across Canada.

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There's a wider choice of power, a wider choice of torque, across the board. For heavies, there's the new High-Torque 409 V8*, with 16½ per cent more torque than ever before available from Chevrolet. Big news in the middleweight class is the new, imported Chevy-GM 4-53 Diesel. In the light-duty lineup, the High-Torque 261 Six* adds new sock, new savings in extra-tough applications. All told, you can pick from nine rarities-to-work, ready-to-save '62 Chevrolet truck engines.

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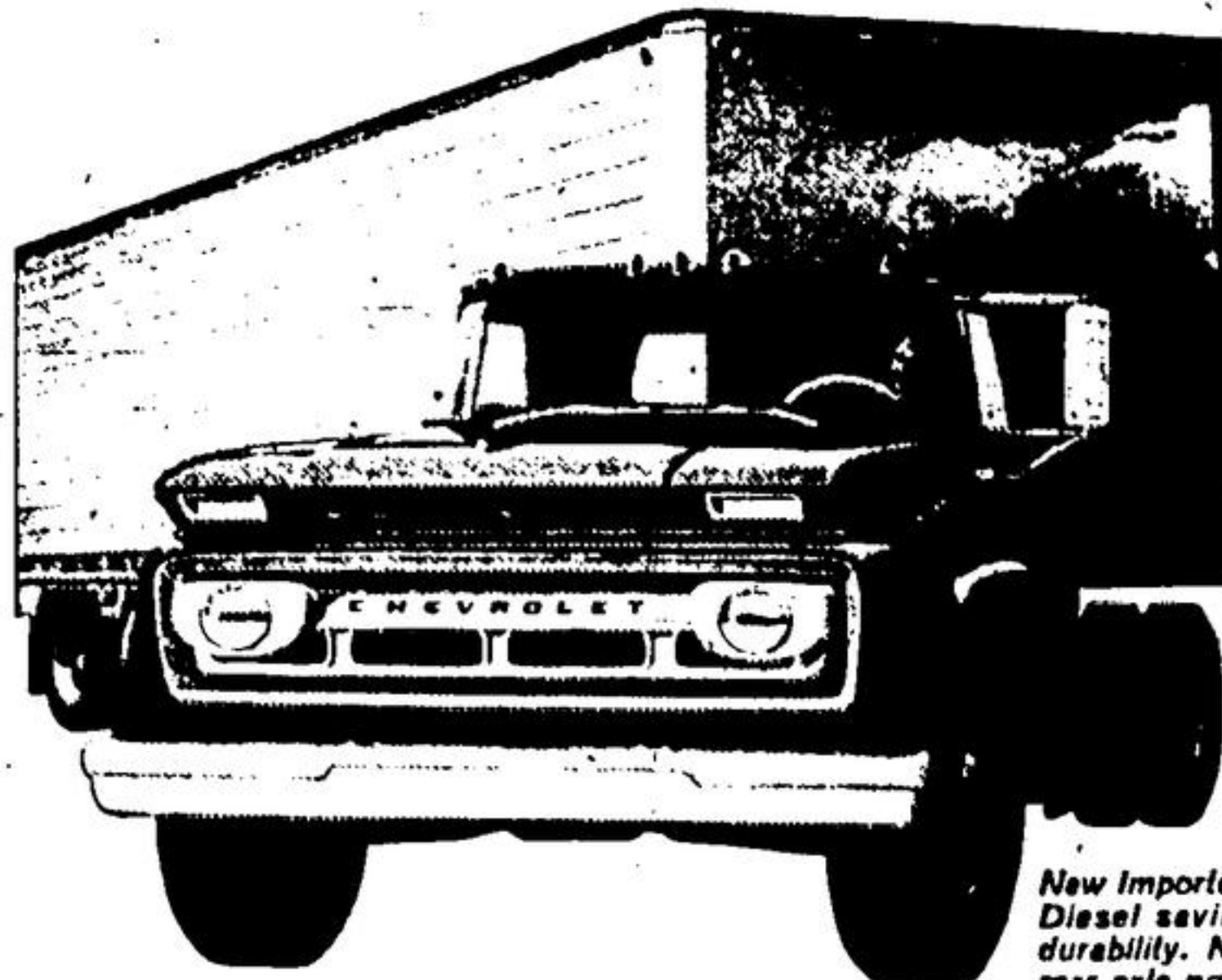
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*Optional at extra cost

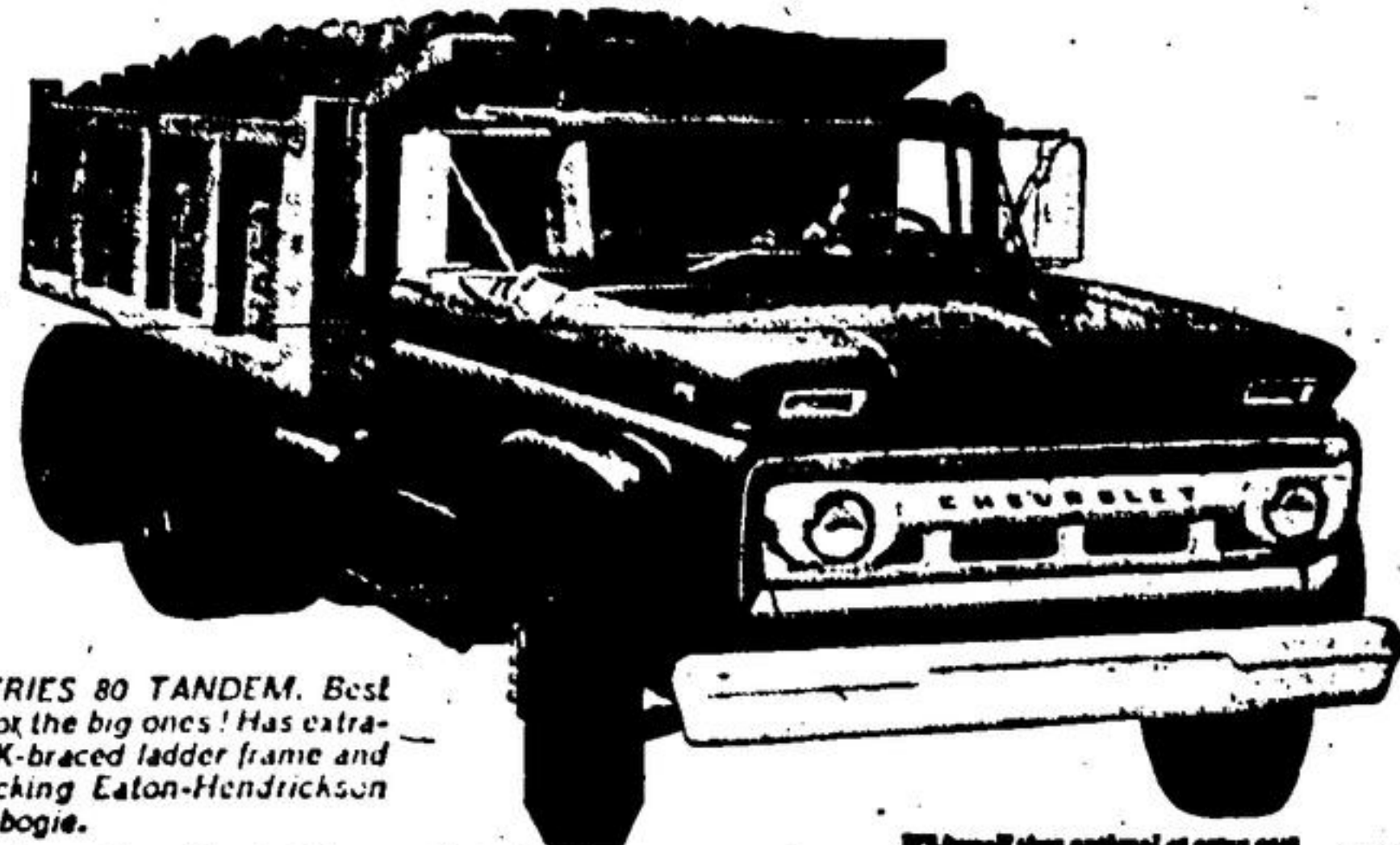
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