

Out of a garbage can

Era of elegance back on road

By Barbara McIntosh
When people ask Ray Death of Rockwood where he got his unique 1934 Lincoln, his immediate reply is "out of the garbage can".

Early in October of 1959 he happened to glance into some trash at work one night and spotted a picture and story on the car in a crumpled Toronto paper.

"Worth \$15,000 in 1934, neglected in warehouse here". An antique-car addict from way back, Mr. Death wasted no time in getting to a phone. For \$750 he topped 48 other bidders to become the proud owner of the remains of the six-wheeled, 24-foot luxury limousine, custom-built for the late Hollywood movie star Ned Sparks.

At the time, the canvas roof was rotting, the upholstery faded, and the chances of it ever hitting the road again many dollars away. The car had been known to slurp up gasoline at the rate of one gallon every seven miles. Mr. Death admits "My wife and the bank manager were both very angry with me."

Over the past few years, he has invested a considerable sum into recapturing its streamlined elegance and padded comfort. Many parts had to be custom-built and imported from as far away as California. In 1967 it was road worthy enough to make the trip to Expo.

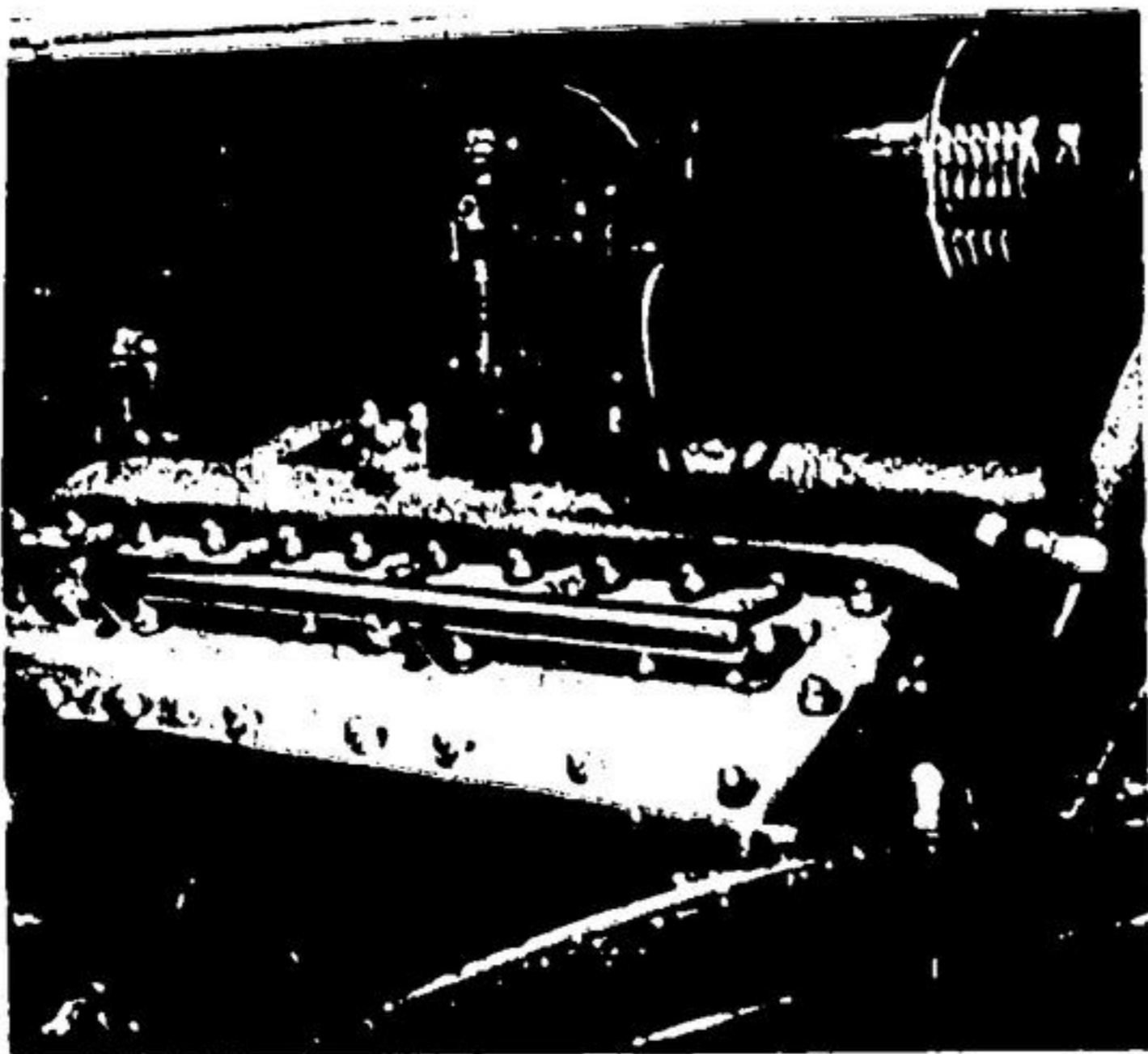
Recently through a paint and body job at Fred Allan's Shop in Crewson's Corners, the Lincoln looks fresh off the line... if they still made cars with running boards and spoked whitewalls. The original owner was Hollywood comedian Ned Sparks, legally named Edward A. Sparkman of St. Thomas, Ontario. He died in California in 1957.

Early movie fans remember him for his rasping voice and perpetual scowl in such screen successes as Lady For a Day and Imitation of Life. He rode some 38,000 miles in the spacious seven-passenger cab, separated from his chauffeur by a heavy plate glass window. With the smoker's tray and sheepskin rug, all that was lacking was a fireplace.

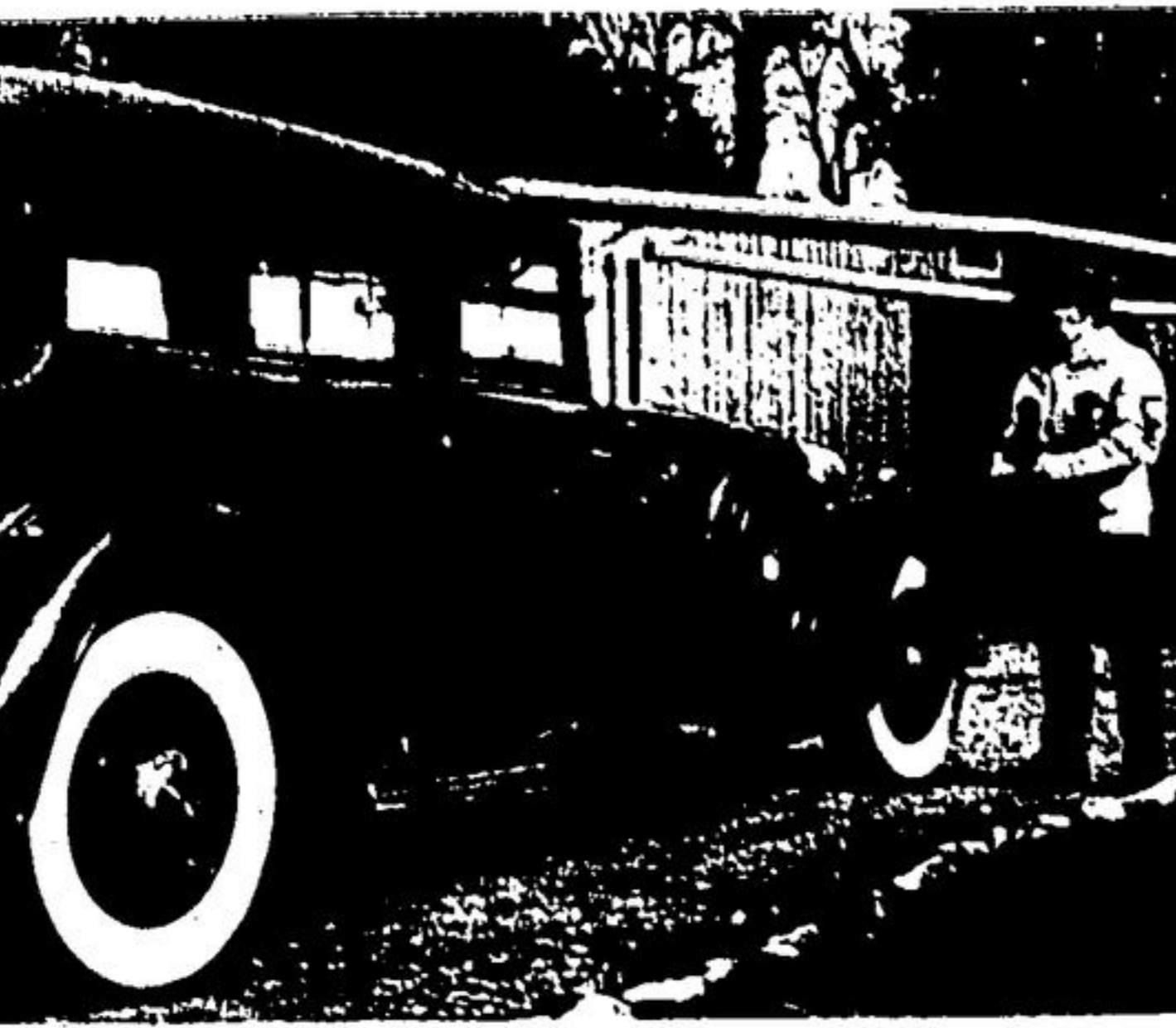
In the summer of 1940, Sparks was in Toronto doing a radio show for the Ontario government and left the car in storage when he returned to California. He never came back for it. Ill health and waning success resulted in a \$300 outstanding debt to a Bay Street garage.

In 1950, the car was sold under the auction hammer for \$700 to a car salesman for display in his showroom. It changed hands several times after that until Mr. Death bought it in 1959 and took it home to Rockwood.

The only one of its kind in Ontario, the Lincoln has a V-12 motor, a 414 cubic inch bore, oil capacity two gallons, and gas capacity 28 U.S. gallons. It comes with a cooling system, vacuum booster brakes, thermostatically controlled radiator, shutters and hood ventilation and 60 inch treads. The aluminum body was custom built by Bruhn of Buffalo and the car weighs around 6,000 pounds.



THE 12 CYLINDER ENGINE was said to take the car up to 100 miles an hour in its prime.



TWENTY-FOUR FEET of re-conditioned limousine, complete with white-walled spoke wheels and running boards.

RAY DEATH'S 1934 LINCOLN was custom-built for movie star Ned Sparks at an estimated cost of \$10,000.

"Town cars" of this type were the symbol of elegance and affluence in the roaring twenties. Passengers rode in comfort inside, but for the sake of style, the driver had to sit under the open sky. On Mr. Death's Lincoln, the side rails could be locked in place and the glass raised to allow the chauffeur privacy and protection in bad weather.

Now that the car is restored to good condition, Mr. Death has no intentions of selling it, although he estimates it could bring as much as \$10,000 on the market. He admits it's still hard on gas but with seven children, he finds it ideal for family outings.

Like hundreds of other Canadians, old cars are a passion with Mr. Death. In addition to the 1934 Lincoln, he owns a 1922 Reo touring car, a 1925 Packard sedan, a 1930 Plymouth, a 1937 Ford and a 1940 Buick limousine that used to belong to the last British Governor General to Canada.

He is currently membership chairman and treasurer for the

central region of the Historical Automobile Society of Canada. Over the past weekend the Deaths took off in their Lincoln to join 218 old cars in a blossom tour through the Niagara district recreating the romance and intrigue of an era gone by.

100 attend open house at A.R.C. Industries

Over 100 people crowded the Adult Rehabilitation Centre at Hornby Wednesday, May 7, as A.R.C. Industries held its open house.

The afternoon and evening included displays of the mentally retarded trainees' work and a bake sale.

The baking was done and sold by members of the Youth Committee—a group of Georgetown, Acton and Milton high school girls who have been volunteering their services to provide recreation for the trainees.

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded is

currently seeking a location upon which to begin building a residence for retarded workers. Assistant director Mrs. W. Idam noted the association has bid on several pieces of land, only to be outbid by private enterprise.

While the Department of Social and Family Services will assist in the project financially, the local group must start.

Funds raised through the annual "Flowers of Hope" campaign during Canadian Mental Retardation Week (this week) will go towards the residence.

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TAX NOTICE — 1969

MUNICIPALITY OF ACTON
FIRST INSTALMENT NOW DUE
Attention is drawn to the payment of 1969 taxes, which are now payable in four instalments. Taxes are payable to the Municipal Treasurer at the

Town of Acton Municipal Office
(V.M.C.A. Building)

INSTALMENTS ARE DUE AS FOLLOWS
FIRST INSTALMENT - MAY 15
SECOND INSTALMENT - JULY 15
THIRD INSTALMENT - SEPTEMBER 15
FOURTH INSTALMENT - NOVEMBER 15

According to the Tax Collection By-law a penalty of 1 per cent per month or fraction of a month, will be added on the amount remaining unpaid after the 15th day of May. This penalty applies to each instalment in a similar manner.

The attention of Ratepayers is directed to the Penalties and other clauses as printed and explained to detail on every Tax Bill.

MAKE PAYMENT NOW AND TAKE YOUR TAX NOTICE WITH YOU WHEN MAKING PAYMENT

J. Y. HURST, Collector.

*** WED. - THURS. - FRI. - SAT. MAY 14 - 15 - 16 - 17 ***

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Has BATMAN with Brains? JAMES BOND in a Cape?
3 **A STUDY IN TERROR**

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