

### Charles Best Institute Tribute to Doctor

by Ken McTavart  
in the Globe & Mail

Last week a building formally acquired the name of a Canadian who in that baptism of brick and stone will see his devotion to an ideal honoured—though he would rather see it considered as a tribute to his profession.

When Col. W. Eric Phillips tapped into place the cornerstone of the University of Toronto's new Charles E. Best Institute, it was just 30 years after the bearer of that name watched the miracle of insulin being born. In all the 30 years since then, Dr. Charles Best has spent his time adding to the world's pool of medical knowledge.

Just back from a 40,000 mile air tour during which he delivered 54 lectures in a score of countries, Dr. Best spoke a brief thanks for himself and his associates, and pledge the new centre of research to the constant furtherance of its aims. Then he placed in the cornerstone a copy of his speech, one of very few he has ever made before non-medical audiences.

Today Dr. Charles Herbert Best heads so many different projects directed to medical research that his associates don't attempt to keep track of them. Formally, he is director of the Banting and Best

Department of Medical Research which automatically carries with it numerous University of Toronto appointments, particularly in pathological medicine and research. He holds 14 honorary degrees from universities in a dozen countries. He has won seven major medical awards, in addition to many lesser honours.

Despite the many projects engaging his attention in his laboratories, he finds time for the 33 societies in 17 countries of which he is a member — and he is president or vice president of many. He can wear seven honours awarded by foreign countries. And he has found time to write several books recognized as outstanding in their fields of medicine.

Today Charlie Best will probably recall those months when he slugged away as a student with the man whom he constantly refers to as his chief, the late Sir Frederick Banting. Best and Banting worked long months in a laboratory emptied of others by summer's lures. They tested their first crude insulin on themselves. And on January 22, 1922, they saw it bring life to a dying diabetic, a man in a coma, a man who lived nearly 11 years more to die from other causes.

Ever since then the name Best has been linked with the advances in diabetic treatment and insulin research. It was after insulin's discovery — and after a stint as an

artillery driver in the First World War — that he decided to complete his education in medicine, his father's profession, rather than chemical research.

And in his profession today he is almost as widely known for many other discoveries as he is for insulin; discovery of the enzyme histaminase, discovery of the vitamin rhosis, the effect of heparin in preventing thromboelias, numerous purifications of insulin and new knowledge of its effects and uses. During the Second World War, he developed many applications of medical science for the armed services and today is a leading consultant to the Defense Research Board which is headed by his former pupil, Dr. O. M. Solandt.

The new institute, lying adjacent on College Street to the Banting Institute, but fronting on University Ave., will house the research department which bears both the pioneers' names and which is now wholly jammed into the Banting Building. The two will be linked by underground tunnels. They will be alike in appearance when finished.

There Best will be able to extend the research which has brought renown to his university, to which he came 32 years ago as a blond, soft-voiced son of a country doctor. He was born on one side of Passamaquoddy Bay, where his parents, both Canadians, lived. Most of the

father's patients were Canadians and his hospital was on Canadian soil. For years Charlie Best has been kidded by associates — called an alien, an American or a man

without a country. Actually, his forefathers were among the founders of Halifax and he's proud of being Canadian.

A Canadian department store sales dollar breakdown shows that 18 cents goes for wages. Next biggest item is 14 cents for taxes.

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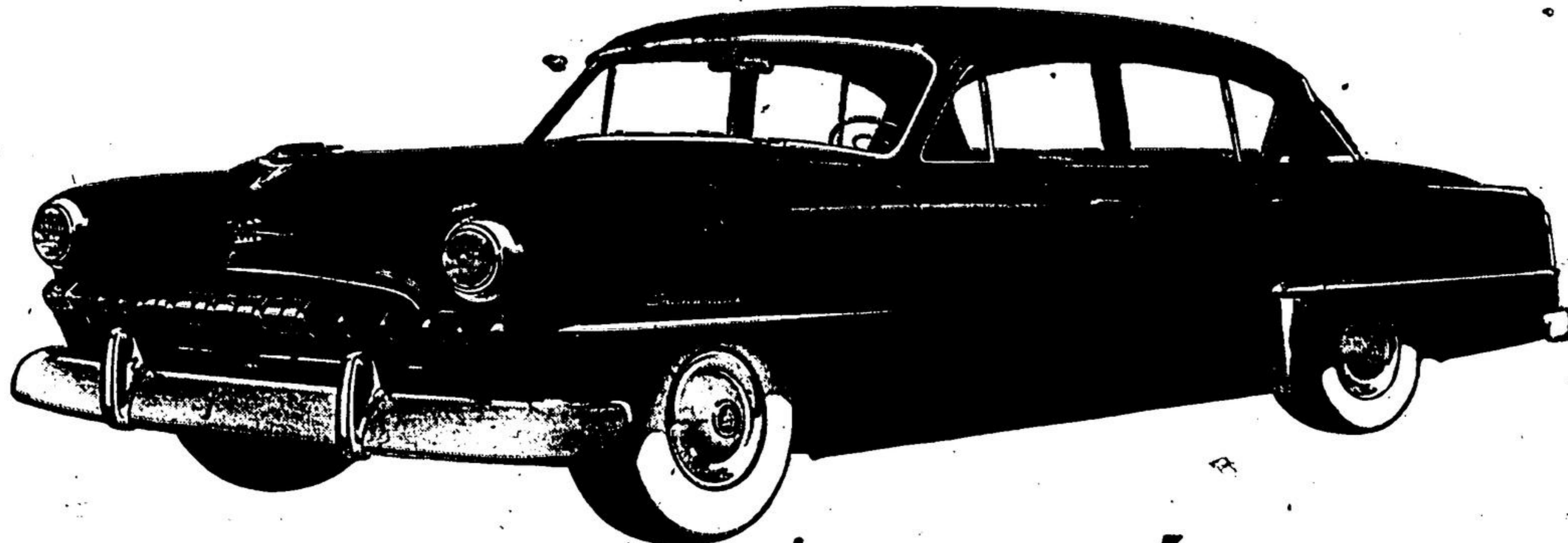
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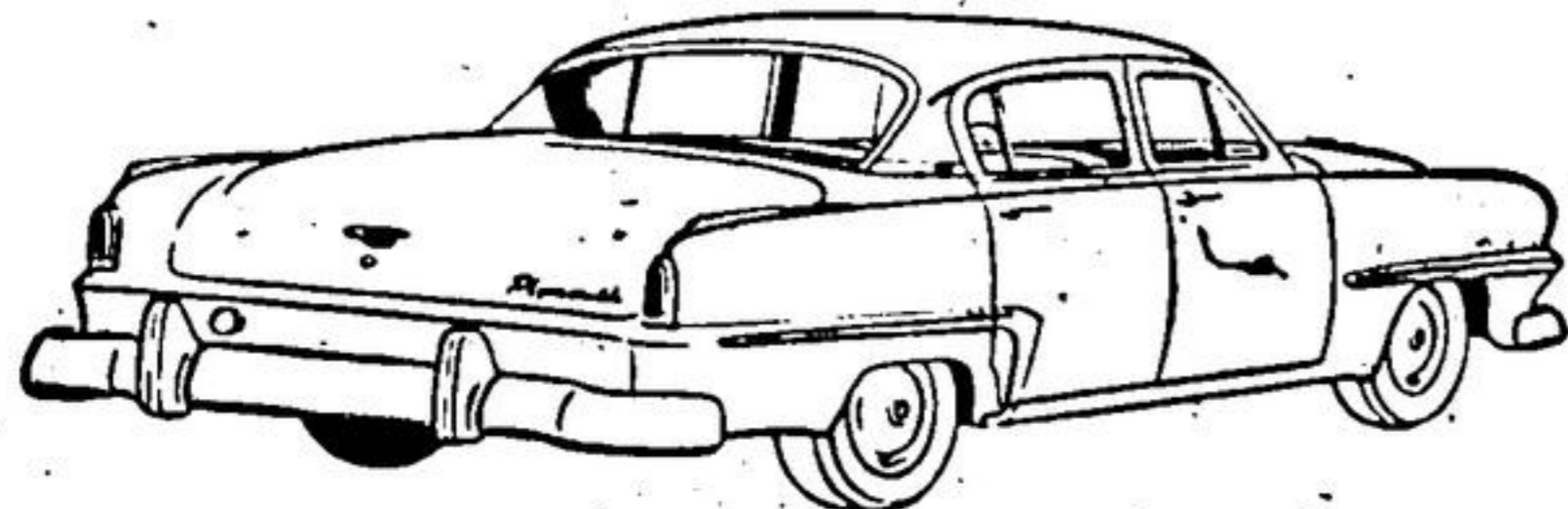
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