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Every year about this time, a battle of unequalled fury is fought between garden lovers and dog owners. It is brief but bitter. By the middle of July it's all over for another year, and harassed town Councilors can slump back into their normal state of summer stultification.

But while it rages, it makes the Alamo, the Plains of Abraham, and the Battle of Waterloo look like a series of Sunday School picnics. Each year, the campaign adopts a predictable pattern. First victory is always fired by the garden flowerbed crowd.

They get up petitions. They corner councilors. They demand protection. They make furious phone calls to the Mayor. They drag all their neighbours in to look at their ravaged flowerbeds. They talk darkly of shotguns, poison and vigilante committees.

For a while, the dog owners lie low. They are truly sorry that Rover chose to roll in the tulip bed. They put their backs to the wind and hope the storm will blow over. But when the neighbours start pelting old Prince with boulders, and exaggerating damage to their sickly gardens beyond all reason, their hackles start to rise.

There is still hope of avoiding uncivil war. Cooler heads talk of compromise, such as tying dogs up for a month, or building fences around flowerbeds. This is all that is needed, of course, to fan the flames. Dog owners mutter rebellion. Garden lovers demand action.

Finally, wishing they were all on a month's leave of absence members of the town council are driven by the pressure to enforce the by-law that says dogs must be tied up all summer. Garden-lovers rejoice openly. Dog-lovers, as one, rally to the cause, and advance to the fray with a fury that passeth understanding.

"Not my dog they ain't gonna tie up!" says Joe McAiredale with a ferocity that bodes ill for the first one of "they" who comes along with a piece of rope. "Undemocratic! Inhuman! Man's Best Friend!" volleys his cohorts. "Should be shot, every last mongrel of them" growls Paul Petunia. "Wanton Destruction! Rights of Property! Menace to Civilization!" thunder his fellow-members of the Gardeners' Guard.

I used to be an amused and scornful spectator of this annual asininity. But not any more. No more fence-sitting for me. I'm just as rabid as the next one. This year, I decided to fix my lawn. This consisted of filling the coulees left by the coal truck, and planting fresh grass seed. A minor job, by all accounts.

First, I got the fill. Earl Jones asked me how many yards of topsoil I wanted. I didn't have a clue how much a yard was, so I said five or six. One day a vast truck arrived and dumped on my lawn a pile of dirt about the size of the Taj Mahal.

It took me, between trout fishing trips, five weeks and four days to get rid of that mountain. Finally I started going around to the neighbors and wheeling them into carrying boxes and bags of it away. All spread at last, I raked it, rolled it, levelled it, raked again, scattered seed, rolled again, scratched it and watered it, according to the instructions of various people.

That last night, I went to bed with a wonderful sense of achievement. First thing in the morning, I hustled out to look with pride at the green fuzz of the first tender blades. What do you think I saw? Twenty-eight bloody robins sauntering around, eating my grass seed, with all the disdain of a fat dowager picking over the canapes at a cocktail party.

No self-respecting dog would be caught digging in the barren wastes of my lawn. But if anybody wants to start a petition demanding that the town fathers tie up all robins from May to September, they can figure on my name at the top of the list.

FARM NEWS Halton Juniors Compete In Field Day Events

J. E. W.
Saturday of last week saw Halton Juniors off to the annual field day of Western Ontario Junior Farmers, which was held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Halton Juniors, according to Earl Wilson, president of Halton Juniors, made entries in the following events — Boys Softball, Girls Softball, Boys Tug of War, Girls basketball, rifle shooting, and square dancing.

While no results were available when this article was being written, it goes without saying that, win or lose, this year's contingent will give a good account of themselves. Early June is the time to get after the weeds which grow in the fence corners. A knapsack sprayer is a handy appliance for these odd corners or around the buildings. In this day and age of herbicides, there can be little excuse for some of the patches of burdock, which we frequently see.

Speaking of burdocks, while they are a biennial, they are very susceptible to 2, 4-D. Ten to sixteen ounces of 2, 4-D acid to the acre will knock them out completely. Apply with low pressure and sufficient solution to thoroughly wet all foliage. If you are using 2, 4D herbicide around the lawn or buildings where there is a possibility of injuring shrubs or flowers then use the amine form of 2, 4-D.

Poison Ivy
We hear a lot of complaints about Poison Ivy. Frankly we sometimes wonder why some of the folk who make the complaints do not do something about it themselves. While weeds such as Poison Ivy which have underground running root stalks are not as easy to kill, there are a number of products on the market which will do the job. If they are in a location where a soil sterilant is not too objectionable then a herbicide such as Am

mate or D. B. Granular should do the job. One pound of Ammate to the gallon of water and apply around a gallon and a half of the solution to the 100 sq. ft. should eradicate such plants. D.B. Granular is normally applied in the dry form and our information would indicate that one pound spread over 100 sq. ft. should eradicate the most persistent weeds.

Leafy Spurge
Leafy Spurge is a pernicious, perennial weed which came to the continent from Europe. Odd patches have been found on roadsides in Halton. While 2, 4-D and Brush-Kill will keep it under control, our experience would indicate that neither one will eradicate it.

Work in Peel county over the past several years would indicate that for odd patches, D. B. Granular is the most effective herbicide tried to date. A number of demonstrations with the material have been laid down in Halton this year — so a year from now we hope to know more about it. We would urge our readers to be on guard against this deep rooted perennial — the stack of which contains a milky juice. The flowers are greenish yellow, in umbel-like clusters with a ring of leaf-like bracts at the base of each cluster.

MERCURY HITS 94
Monday's official Georgetown temperature was 94, according to weatherman Ern Batkin, who compiles the weekly weather record.

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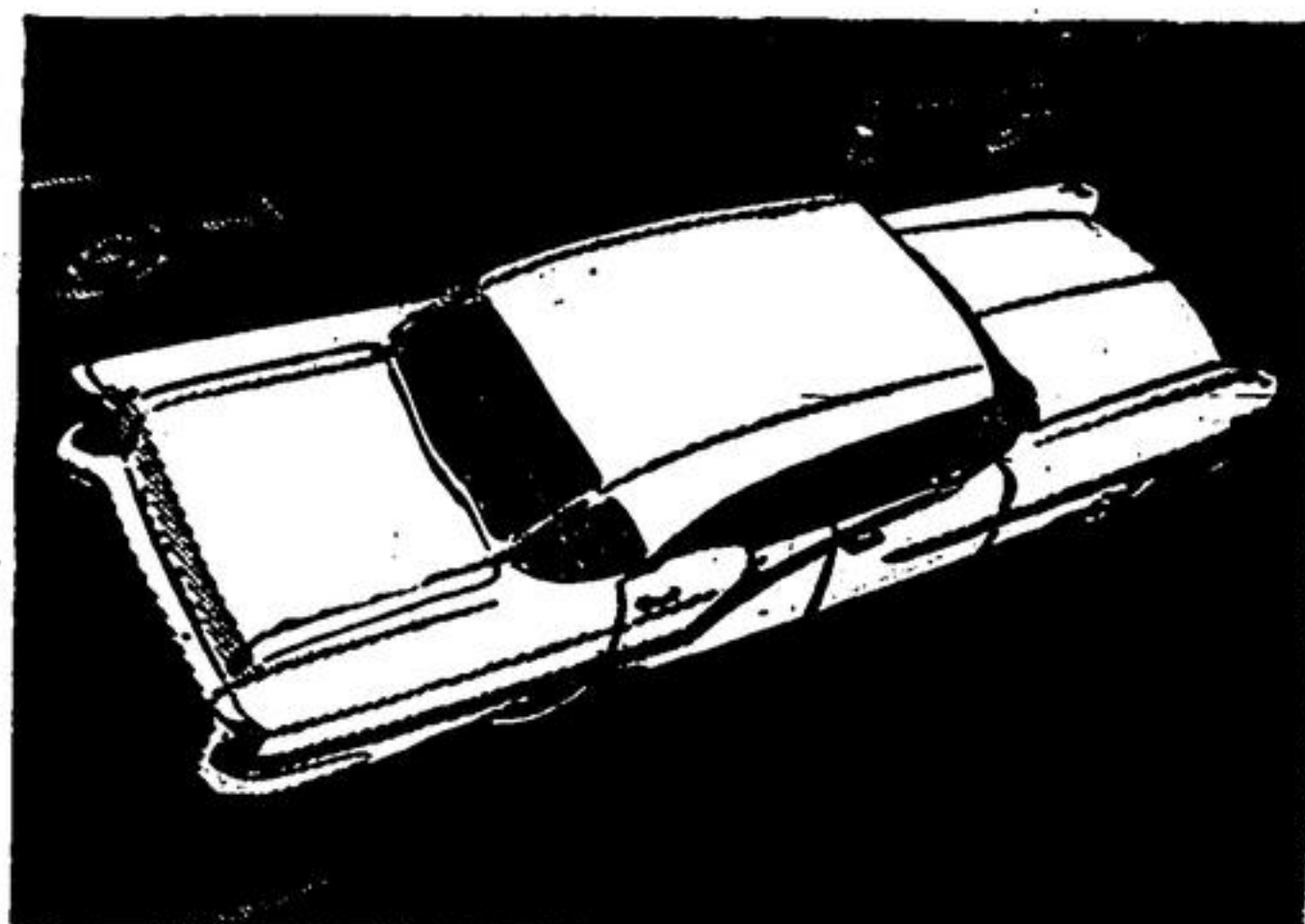
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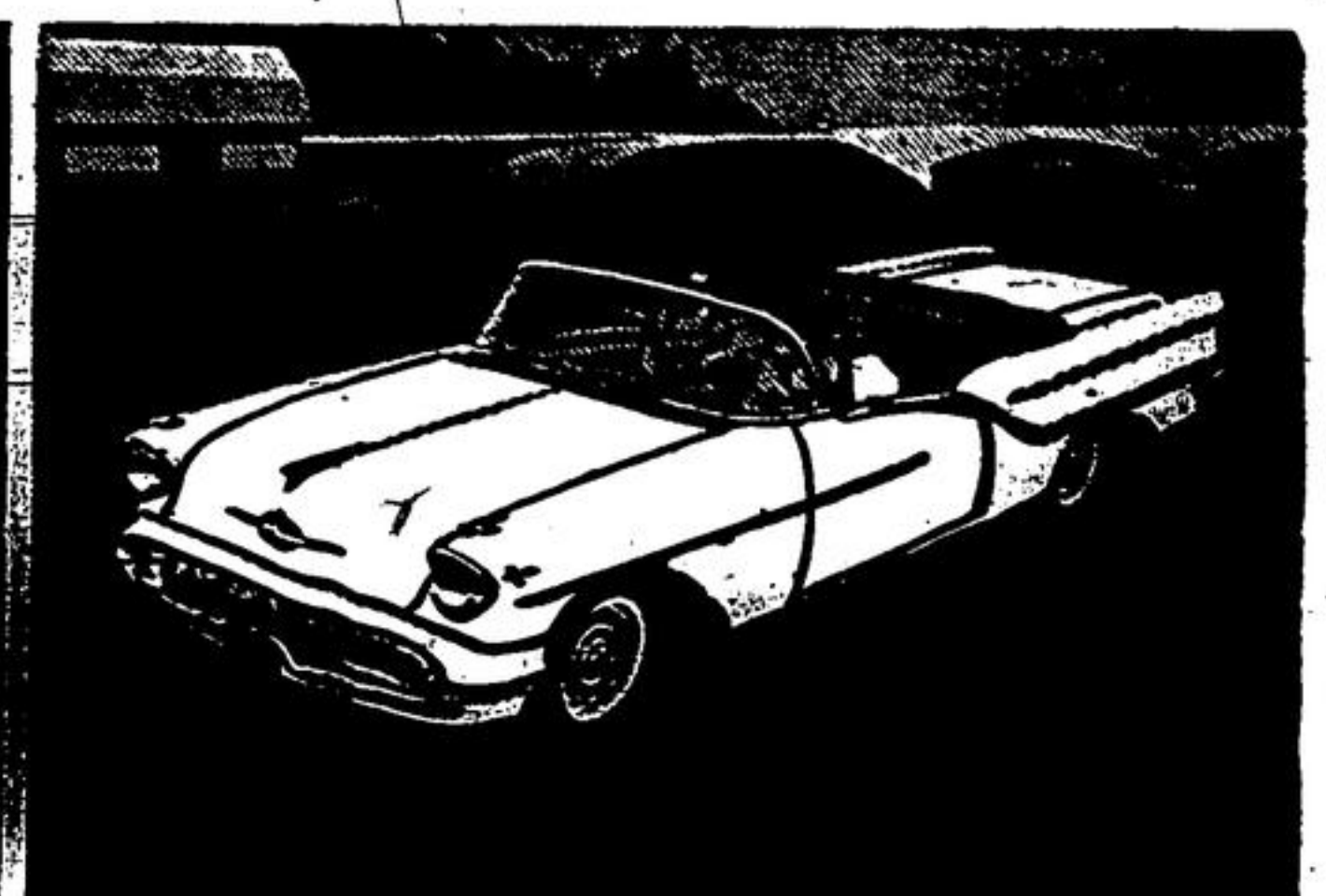
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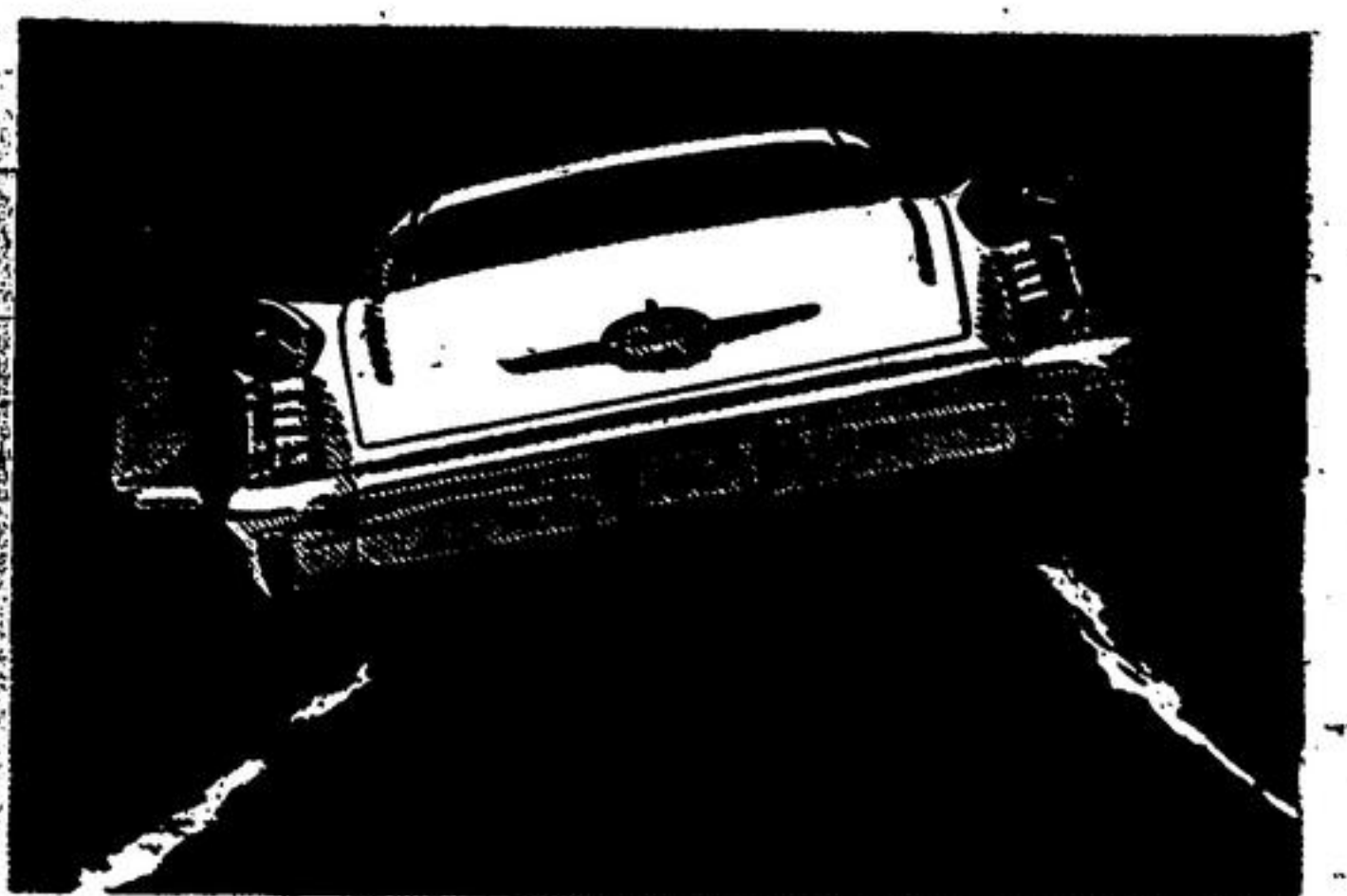


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