

Slate Assembly Line Homes for Georgetown — Alcan

A new approach to house building, houses built on assembly lines like the automotive industry — was shown to the mayor and five of the council last Wednesday at the Woodstock plant of Alcan Universal Homes.

When the plant reaches full production, ten completely finished and furnished houses a day are expected to roll off the assembly line.

Council viewed and questioned every stage of the construction of the three and four bedroom homes, from the present wood stage such as floors, walls and roof construction, to installation of plumbing and electrical wiring to the final hanging of pictures on the walls and shower curtains in the bathroom.

Perhaps the most surprising item is the small amount of aluminum used in the Alcan Universal Homes, only 1200 pounds in a house weighing twenty tons. Siding and window frames are the biggest items but more unusual uses are the all-aluminum electric wiring and aluminum foil vapour barrier on the gypsum wallboard.

"It is not low cost housing in appearance, or price,"

said sales manager Bob Docksteader. He claimed the quality of construction, and the inclusion of furniture made the houses a better buy than offered anywhere else, but could not be classed as low cost housing.

"Assuming a lot in Georgetown costs six thousand dollars," said Mr. Docksteader, "and I may be way out, this would bring the cost of the smallest house, 1,056 square feet, with bedrooms, stove, fridge, washer and dryer, to somewhere around the \$18,500 level." This model is not completely furnished.

The largest model presently available a four bedroom, two bathroom house with 1386 sq. ft. completely furnished, should be in the \$22,500 bracket, he predicted.

The larger models come with living room sofa, chair, end tables, coffee table, and lamp; extension dining table and four chairs, separate or built-in buffet, beds, mattresses, night table, lamps and built-in dressers, drapes, bedspreads, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer, and dryer.

In all the homes broadloom covers the living room and unusual light fixtures are featured everywhere.

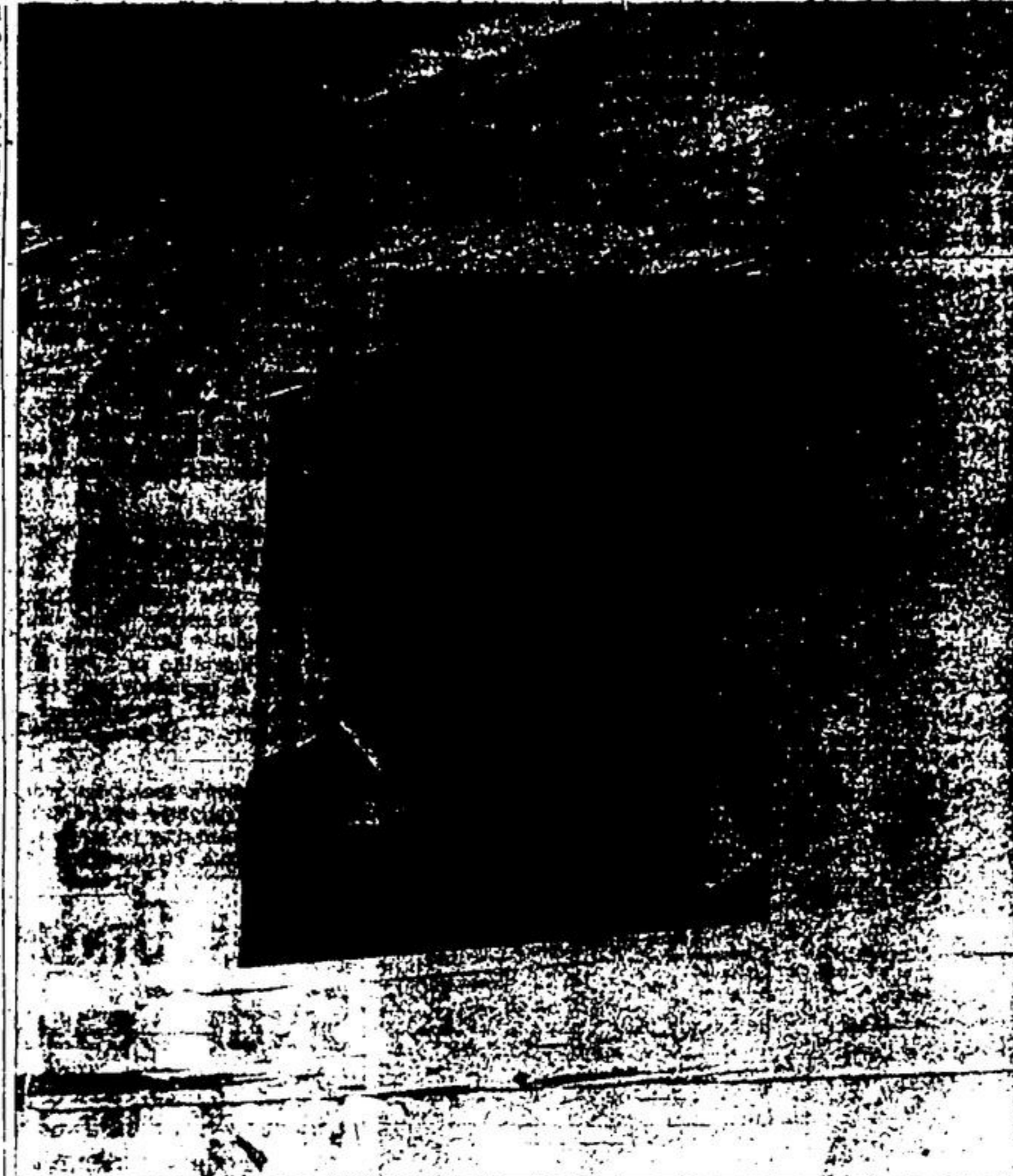
In the words of Cr. Bill Smith, "You can move in here and have nothing to buy but dishes and linen."

Plans call for a mixture of conventionally built homes mixed with the Alcan Universal Homes to keep any area varied. The five different models, each with three different colour combinations; different site elevations, different placing on the site, left or right floor plans, add to as wide a variety of styles as found in any subdivision.

"Sometimes they arrive at the foundation not quite finished, depending on the type of siding," said General Manager Frank Partick, "then they look a bit ugly, but no worse than any house under construction."

"Give us time to finish before judging," he urged.

The houses are built in halves which are joined at the site. Because each half of the house can be no more than twelve feet wide, highway load width restrictions, the houses are all long and narrow. The largest is 57 feet long, the smallest forty six feet long. And because the houses are built in two sections the floor plans must be similarly divided down the middle,



In window of insulated wall are part of the inspecting party, Crs. Smith, Wheldon Emerson and Roy Ballentine.

the maximum room width is 11 feet three inches.

All models can be placed on either a crawlspace foundation or a full basement. Even with a basement, however, the laundry furnace, hot water tank, etc. are on the main floor. That leaves the entire basement area free for additional living or recreational use.

Everything is built to CMHC and National Building Code standards, but there are two important differences. Construction quality at every point is well beyond minimum requirements, and all the work is done under carefully controlled factory conditions.

Floors, walls and roof trusses are laid out on jacks, held

together for protection, and the finished half house rolls off the assembly line on to a special trailer unit that carries it to its site, where it is placed in position on a prepared foundation. Here the two half houses are bolted together, and the joint concealed with interior trim and overlapping exterior siding. Even the eaves are hinged so they are all one piece when finished.

Insulation, sheathing and dry wall paneling are then installed and the completed sections carried by overhead crane to the assembly line where the houses take shape.

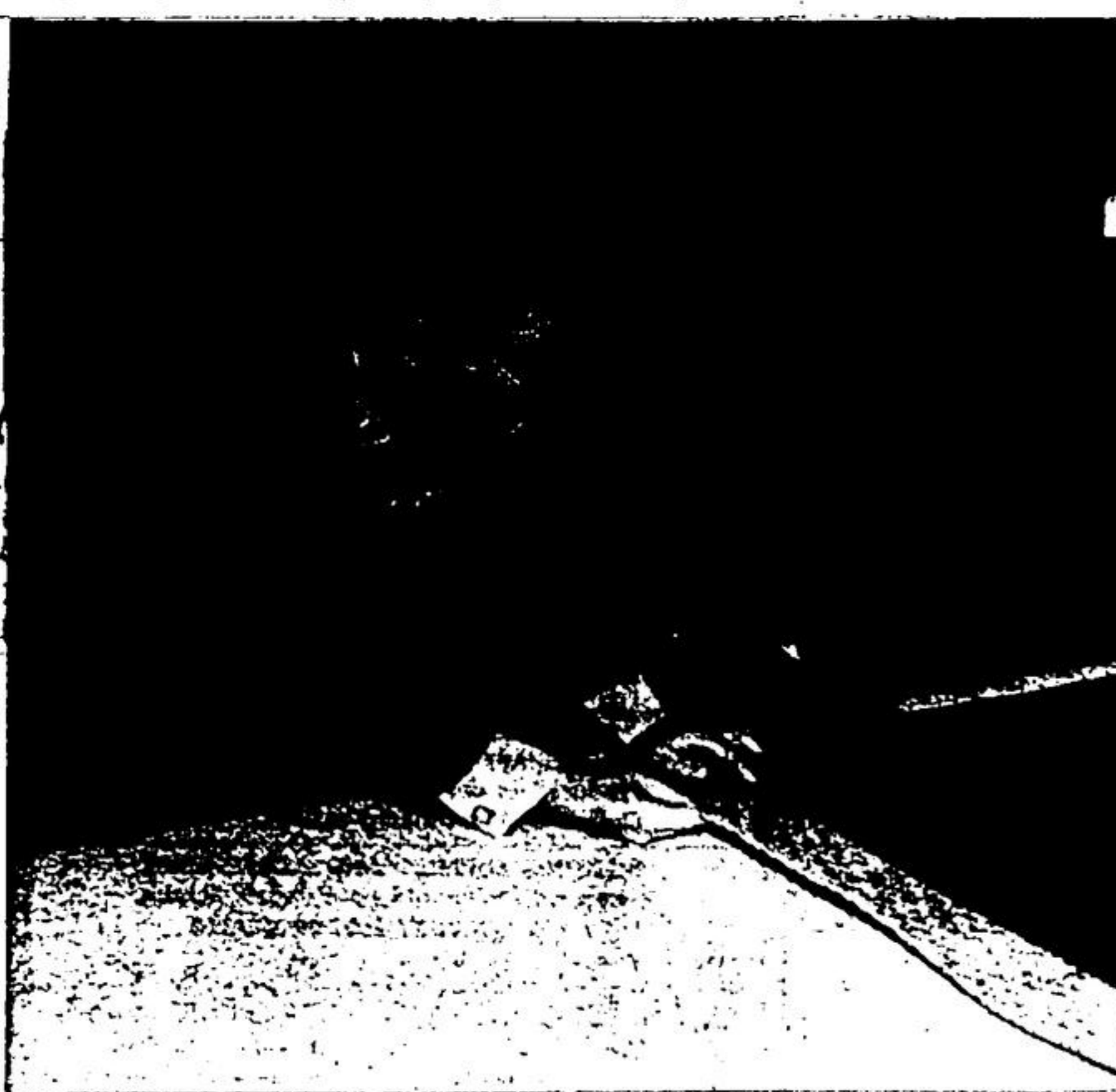
As the half houses move along the assembly line, aluminum siding and roofing are applied, interior partition walls installed, doors and windows hung, kitchen cabinets installed, and all the other things that go into a house added. Finally the furniture specified for each house is placed inside, still in cartons,

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Alcan Universal Homes hopes to erect some of these homes among their regular homes in the Sherman Court-Delrex Blvd. area.



Mayor Joseph Gibbons in partially completed half of pre-fab house on the assembly line.



Councillor Bill Smith pauses to inspect temporary protection on broadloom.



Georgetown councillors exit from an Alcan pre-fab as workmen landscape the site in a Woodstock subdivision

SILVERWOOD

Mrs. George Henderson Heads Silverwood W.I.

Silverwood Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Campbell for their annual meeting and election of officers, and members heard that all 1967 business had been completed successfully.

A birthday party at Halton Manor this month is a project and plans were made for the event on April 24th. Silverwood is to be host this year to the district annual and it will be held in St. George's Anglican Church in town on May 22nd. May 4th is achievement day at Ballinacraigh for the 4-H girls club.

The new officers are Mrs. George Henderson, president; Mrs. I. Carmichael, 1st vice pres.; Mrs. R. Miller, 2nd vice pres.; Mrs. Fred Duffield, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. R. Corbett, assistant; Mrs. George Burt, district director; Mrs. K.C. Lindsay, Mrs. Harry Marchington, branch directors; Mrs. Donald Lindsay, pianist; Mrs. D. Will-

iamson, Miss I. Moore, auditors. Conveners were also named and these include Mrs. Campbell, agriculture; Miss Moore, Canadian industries; Mrs. Leslie Giffen, education; Mrs. Carmichael, citizenship; Mrs. Lindauer, historical research; Mrs. Cossar, current events; Mrs. Norton, home economics; Mrs. George Ironside, health; Mrs. Harry Scott, public relations; Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Burt, courtesy; Mrs. Marchington, curator; Mrs. Carmichael, fruit and flowers. A sales committee is composed of Mrs. D. Lindsay, Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Burt and Mrs. Williamson, and a social committee has as members Mrs. Muriel Miller, Mrs. Gerry Miller, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Beoney.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ironside are home again after a holiday spent in the southern states.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Duffield entertained their family over the Easter weekend at their home, RR 1.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Duffield and Mrs. W. R. Norton attended the annual meeting of the 6th Division, Ontario Horticultural Society held at the Bramford museum and report an excellent meeting.

— Alicia F.C. Scott

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