

Temple Dedication Is Attended By Many High Masonic Officials

A presentation to the Grand Master of the Masonic Order in Canada was one of the highlights of the Centennial celebrations of the Georgetown Credit Lodge. A superb dinner served by the Ladies of Holy Cross Church, in the church auditorium, marked the early part of the evening.

The evening was a colorful one, with Grand Lodge Officers, some fifty of them present, in the traditional white, tie and tails, and a large part of the almost 400 guests in dinner jackets.

The evening opened with the toastmaster, Wor. Bro. Leslie Clark, saying a brief word of welcome and asking Bro. Andrew McKenzie, of Acton, District Chaplain, to say grace, followed by a toast to the 'Queen and the Craft' proposed by Rt. Wor. Bro. James Cunningham, former DDGM Hamilton, District and a member of St. Clair Lodge, Milton.

After the dishes had been cleared, the Wor. Master, Douglas V. Latimer, Halton's crown attorney and ruler of the local lodge in this centennial year, introduced each of the visiting grand lodge officers and head

table guests who were received with much applause.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Edwin Wilson, DDGM for Wellington, and Credit Lodge's Grand Lodge appointment, was then called on to introduce District W.M.'s, as well as past masters of Georgetown. This included eighteen of the twenty two surviving masters, Wor. Bros. Sam Mackenzie (1938); Wilfrid Leslie (1941); His Honor Judge K. M. Langdon (1942); Frank Wilson (1944); Ross Thompson (1945); Denney Charles (1946); W. J. Cleave (1950); Jack Lucas (1952); Les Clark (1954); James Evans (1956); J. E. McCaig (1958); Jim Linton (1959); Graham Farnell (1960); Jack Addy (1961); Irwin Noble (1963); Ed Wilson (1964); Bob Lawson (1966); Sam Penrice (1967); W. B. Hamilton (1968); and of course, the ruling master Doug Latimer.

Bob Lawson, former W.M. as well as present district secretary then highlighted the evening with a most eloquent introduction of the Most Wor. the Grand Master Bruce B. Foster, who recently retired after a brilliant career. Educated at Ontario Agricultural College, (now Guelph University) is a

married man with a family (including a son recently graduated from Guelph), and grandson. Bruce Foster has headed a great number of Masonic groups of both York and Scottish Rites, culminated recently in his being coroneted to the Supreme (and rare degree) of 33rd degree.

Most Wor. Bro. Foster thanked the speaker for his most kind introduction, and said he had found in chatting with the chairman that they had both had the same math teacher at high school and of curiosity, he wondered just how many present had been taught by Miss Marjorie Inham, who had taught him at Cayuga before her long career in the 30s and 40s in Georgetown High.

In serious note, he said that the serious part of the evening, which lay ahead, in the dedication of the temple, was a great and solemn occasion. He had toured the inside of the Temple and found it inspiring and beautiful. His greatest hope would be that all Masons who took part in the ceremony, would find themselves inspired by the ceremony to reaffirm their sacred vows to the Order, to be better citizens

of their community and of their great country. He closed with a stirring plea as to the great part Masonry could play in the building of a better, a greater, and more united Canada.

Bro. Paul Armstrong, Senior Deacon and chairman of the Centennial Committee, then made a presentation to the Grand Master of a beautiful meerschaum to which the G.M. replied fittingly. Wor. Bro. Clark thanked him for an inspiring address, saying that Credit Lodge had been visited by many Grand Masters, but he felt that the ruling head of the order ranked with those great speakers such as Judge John Harding, John S. Martin, and the great John Ross Robertson, all of whom had visited us during our first century.

Wor. Bro. Jim Evans, local school administrator and lodge secretary then gave a very fine toast to 'Our Guests' which was replied to by Rt. Wor. Bro. Tom Jackson, of Speed Lodge a former DDGM.

Wor. Bro. Clark then thanked the group for their attendance, and hoped that they had enjoyed a most pleasant and profitable evening. He apologized to some who had not gained seats, but said that with such a crowd, many who had arrived without obtaining tickets ahead, he hoped everyone would understand. He then called for the ladies who had catered and thanked them for the superb meal especially being served under circumstances where they had originally had a figure of 300, and had managed to cope with at least 361 seated when the evening got under way. His remarks were greeted by a standing ovation by the brethren.

Wor. Bro. Clark also said that as symbolism plays its part in Masonry, so it had that evening as the brother who said the Grace had represented Walker Lodge, Acton, who had Masons from there in Credit Lodge on its formation on that historic occasion, on Oct. 15th, 1869, as had St. Clair Lodge, Milton, who had been largely responsible for the formation and had attended its birth in large numbers, by train. Speed Lodge, Guelph, had played its part, providing the first ruling master, who in fact had in 1866, three years before

been Master at Speed's formation, James M. Dunn.

Some 14 attended from Acton, 10 from Milton and 6 from Speed in Guelph.

The traditional toast of the Junior Warden 'Happy To Meet, Sorry To Part, Happy To Meet Again', by Junior Warden John T. Armstrong, ended the dinner part of the evening.

During the evening organ music was supplied by well-known local musician, Bro. Ralph Ursel.

The group proceeded to the Masonic Temple at the west end of town, where Grand Lodge Officers, including Rt. Wor. Bro. Ed Wilson, assisted by P.M.s of Credit Lodge, conducted the solemn ceremony dedicating the new hall. After the ceremony of consecration coffee was available and a special hour was spent as Masons from all over Ontario, renewed old acquaintances and made new ones. Mrs. Milree Armstrong and Mrs. Pat Godden had prepared the coffee for the group in the Temple kitchen.

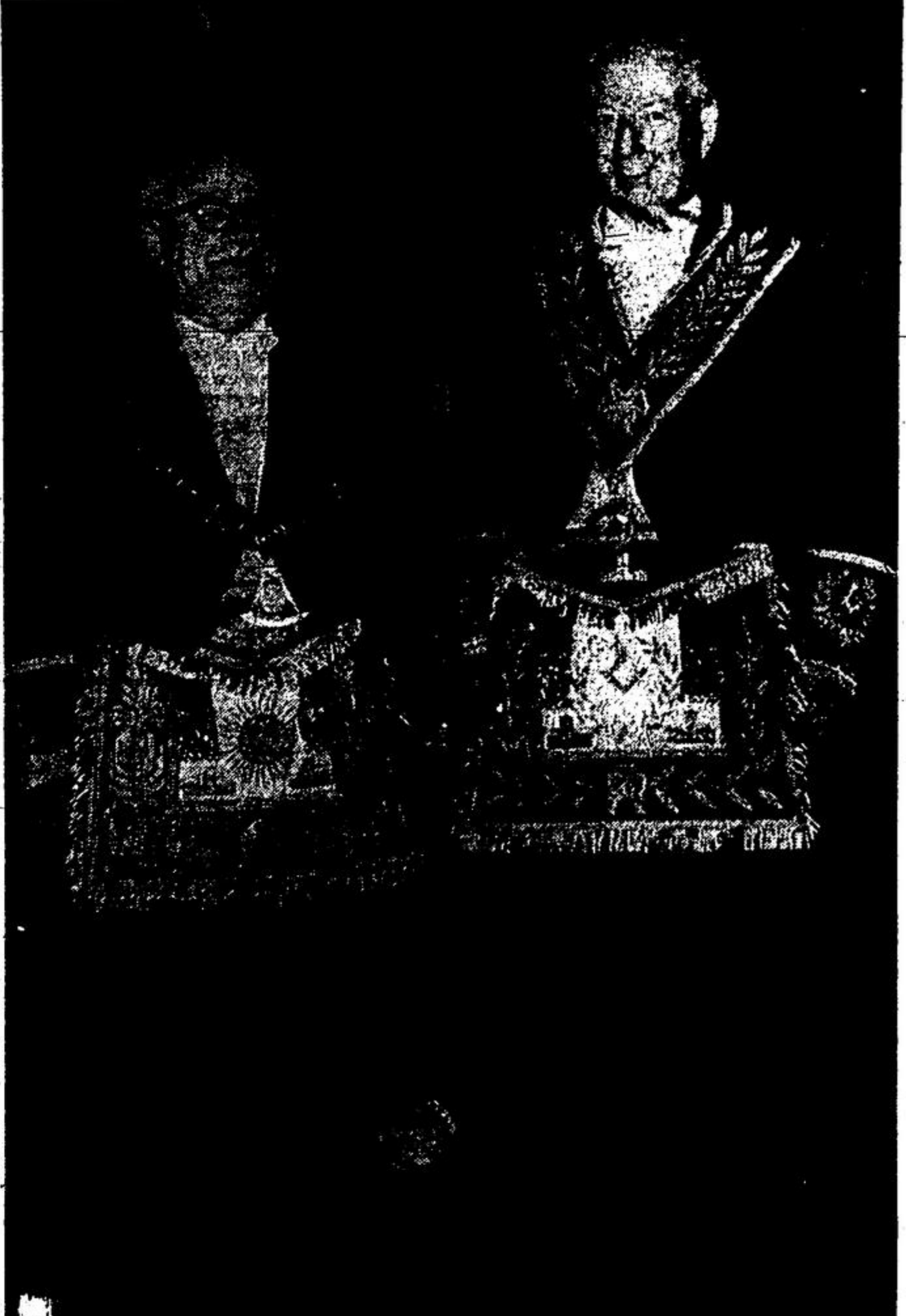
With the huge crowd at the dinner, plus the large number who had foregone the dinner, and gone directly to the Temple, could have provided quite a problem. It was solved however by using our parking lot as reserved parking for the grand lodge cars and visitors, while Rockwood Sales Arena had very kindly loaned their parking lot for members and visitors. Buses, courtesy Bro. Bob McMaster, ran a continual shuttle service to and from the Rockwood lot to the Temple.

The story of "Beauty and the Beast" has been traced to the year 1550.

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Centennial Committee Chairman for Credit Lodge 100 year celebrations and Credit Lodge officer Paul Armstrong present Grand Master Bruce B. Foster with a gift at the dinner Saturday night. In the foreground left, are Toastmaster, Wor. Bro. Leslie Clark, and Grand Secretary E. G. Dixon. All four men are active in other branches of Masonry. Bro. Armstrong in Royal Arch Masonry in town and the other three holding 32nd degrees, Scottish Rite, with M.W. Bros. Foster and Dixon both having been honored for their services to Masonry with the rare and final 33rd Degree.



Pictured at the new Masonic Hall after its dedication, are Rt. Wor. Bro. Edwin Wilson (right), and the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Bruce B. Foster. Rt. Wor. Bro. Wilson became District Deputy of Wellington District recently. This is the first time a Georgetown man has held the Honor in over twenty years.



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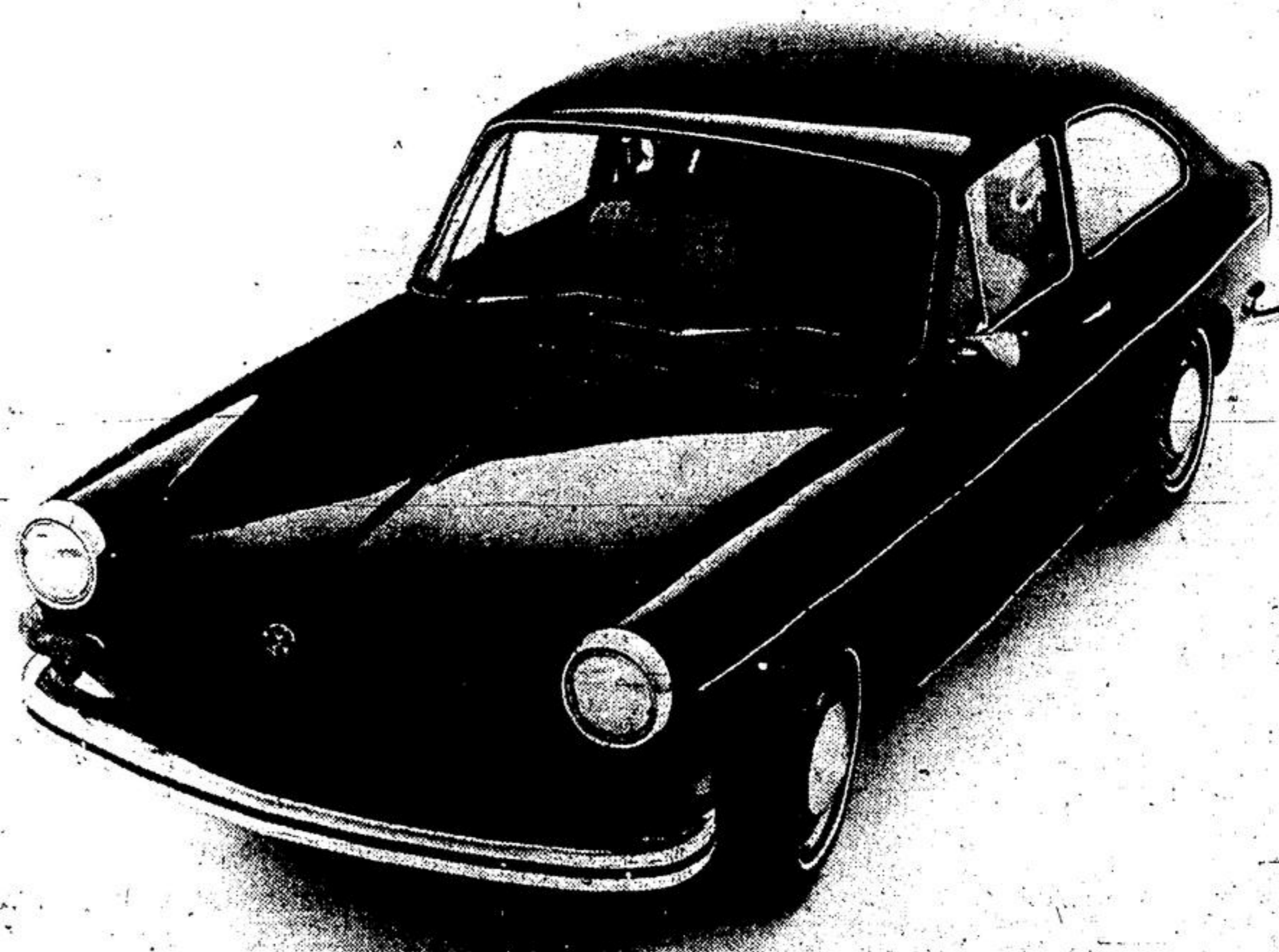
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