

Frost Centre teaches greater awareness

By Bob Hurt
Surrounded by dense hardwood forests, lakes and rugged terrain the Frost Centre promises to become one of the province's foremost facilities for research in and demonstration of resource management, recreation and public education.

In the intervening years between 1968 and 1974 when the centre opened, the facility was used for in-service training and increasingly by boards of education for a variety of outdoor education exercises.

According to Mr. Hamilton, the staff encourages teachers or group leaders to visit the centre, see the facilities in advance of the trip and then prepare a program using centre staff as resource people only.

cher-student interaction outside the classroom is reported by teachers to be of considerable benefit.

The centre, situated on Highway 35 at Dorset, is used primarily by school groups from across the province. While the facility there makes available an endless list of things to do and see, the inevitable effect is a greater awareness of nature.

All specialists in the centre is under the direction of George Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton has collected a team of staffers that include specialists in forestry, recreation, fish and wildlife and land management.

The centre operates all year with the busiest season being winter. During the winter season a lighted rink, cross country skiing trails, snowshoe trails and snowmobile trails feature the winter recreation program. A gym, auditorium, games room, labs, library and a museum are available all year.

Get more there. "In my opinion it is one of the most significant things I've been involved in. I feel students get more out of that than many things that are done in the school. Each time up, it's been something different."

Structured programs in deer yard management, fur management, forest management, timber felling and chainsaw use are available.

Canoeing, water polo, soccer, horseshoes and baseball are among the activities available in the summer.

In the past Mr. Skerrett has looked at the trips as a means of increasing the students' consideration of each other. "We hope they'll learn to take care of each other. It gives them a chance to be close."

Other programs tie in with forest measurement, tree identification, fish and wildlife, a sawmill demonstration as well as interpretive trail walks.

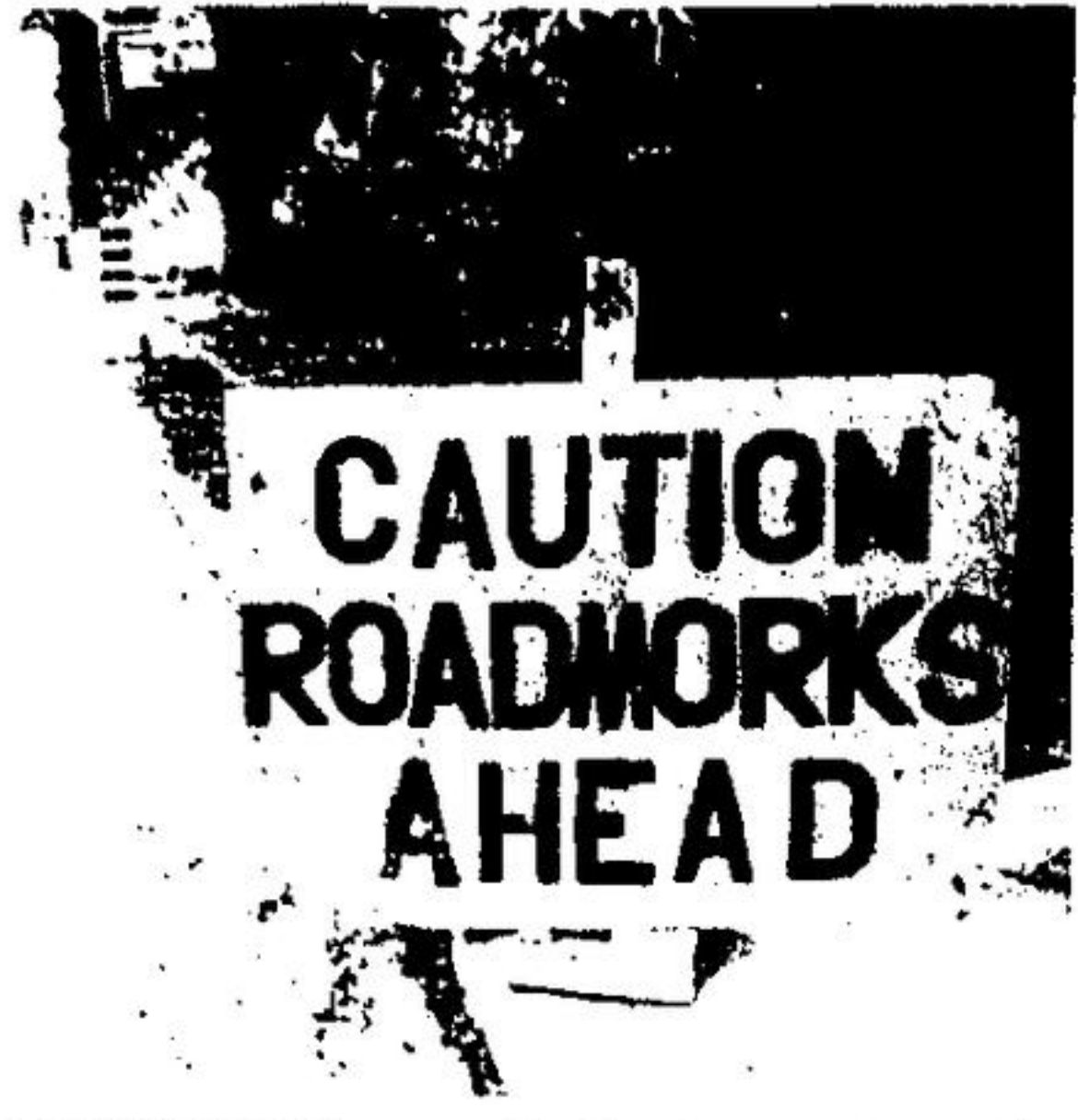
The site takes in some 55,000 acres. Visitors to the centre sleep in dormitories, eat in the large mess hall and have access to the variety of indoor and outdoor recreation and learning experiences. In all there are 83 rooms with two beds to a room.

Student Lorella Dyer thought the trip was "really good" but she noted not everyone was interested in what was happening. "It helps people learn to cooperate, to get along and to reason out problems. It's a chance to get close to people. We go to the same school but really don't know them."

Recently this writer joined a group of newspapermen from the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association on a visit to the centre to learn of the facilities available and experiences being offered.

With a properly arranged program, visitors young and old have an excellent opportunity to be exposed to plant and animal life in a way that is easy to learn.

The following morning the culprits offered apologies and went about cleaning up all of the litter they had left behind. "They did that on their own," he noted.



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Dump truck industry suggestions received

The report of the provincial dump truck inquiry which held a public meeting in Milton two months ago was tabled in the Legislature recently by John Rhodes, the minister of transportation and communications.

Others to be heard at the meeting were representatives of the dump truck industry.

volume of traffic on the one hand, and on the other hand, the trucker who owns and drives a single dump truck.

The 218-page report was prepared by M. L. Rapoport, a leading Toronto transportation lawyer who travelled about Ontario holding meetings with interested parties.

The minister said further study is necessary before he decides to act on other recommendations in the massive report.

For instance, he said the section dealing with reorganizing the rate structure demands a "very thorough analysis".

The minister said two of the recommendations are outdated because of recent MTC changes, and the ministry is already making it mandatory for loose loads on dump trucks to be covered by tarpaulins.

Another aspect of our deliberations was the area of rate regulation," said the report. "We are aware of the difficulties, at all levels, in introducing this feature."

Other financial recommendations included: all accounts for transportation services rendered should be paid within 30 days.

Off the road the second change is that dump trucks judged unsafe by MTC inspectors are now ordered off the highway.

There are undoubtedly many reasons which will be advanced against the concept of bringing order out of the present disorderly situation.

MTC minimum rates should be extended to all government contracts involving dump trucks, but municipal dump trucks should be exempt from provincial rate filing.

Mr. Rhodes said he would act in the "very near future" to implement three other recommendations:

the registration and plating of dump trucks in relationship to their gross and axle weights.

minimum rates should be refined by geographic areas, preferably by regions.

the necessity of a working trip record or bill of lading for

the threat of prosecution under the federal Combines Investigation Act has been examined. Yet we feel that justice requires a fair balance of power between pit or quarry with its huge

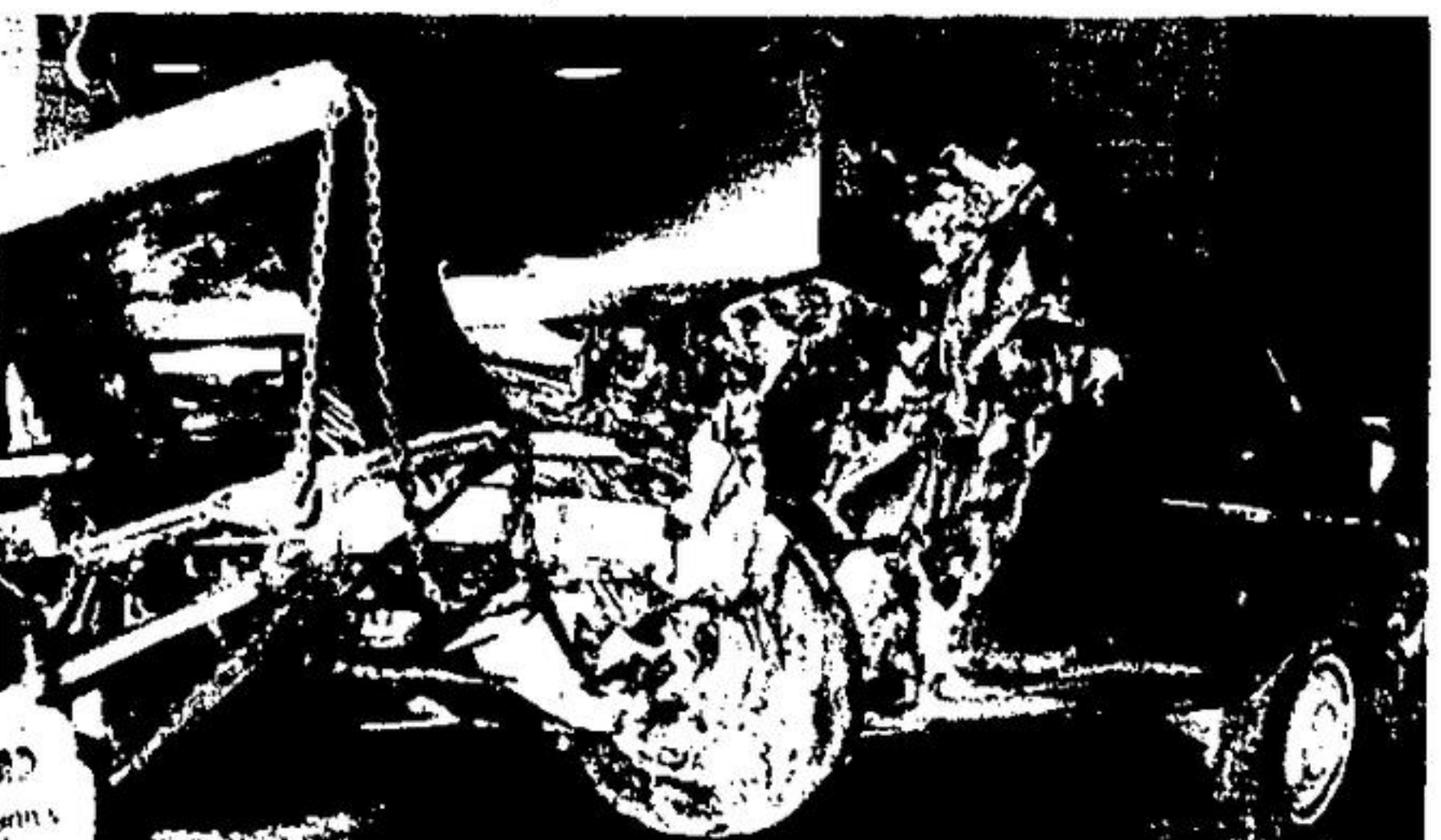
The Toronto lawyer also wrote that associations of dump truck owners advocating a work stoppage should disclose whether the decision was reached by secret ballot or a show of hands.

No injuries

A two-car accident occurred on July 10 at 6 p.m. on Main St., Erin resulting in \$1,400 damage to the vehicles involved.

Mr. Skerrett said students were warned that their actions could scuttle the whole program. "The message seemed to get through. It was a real situation, not a gamey one. It was a case of kids away from home and pushing a panic button."

Mr. Skerrett said the school's Dorset program would be linked with the Outers program at the school so that the human relations and outdoor skills experiences could be coupled in one trip.



THE REMAINS of a '69 Plymouth were towed away from Hwy. 25, north of Speyside Saturday night following a one car accident. Driver Frederick Newell of Acton and Garry Arpa of Milton were both taken to hospital. Newell's brother Kenneth and mother Ann were also injured in a car accident later that night on Hwy. 25 near 10 side road.



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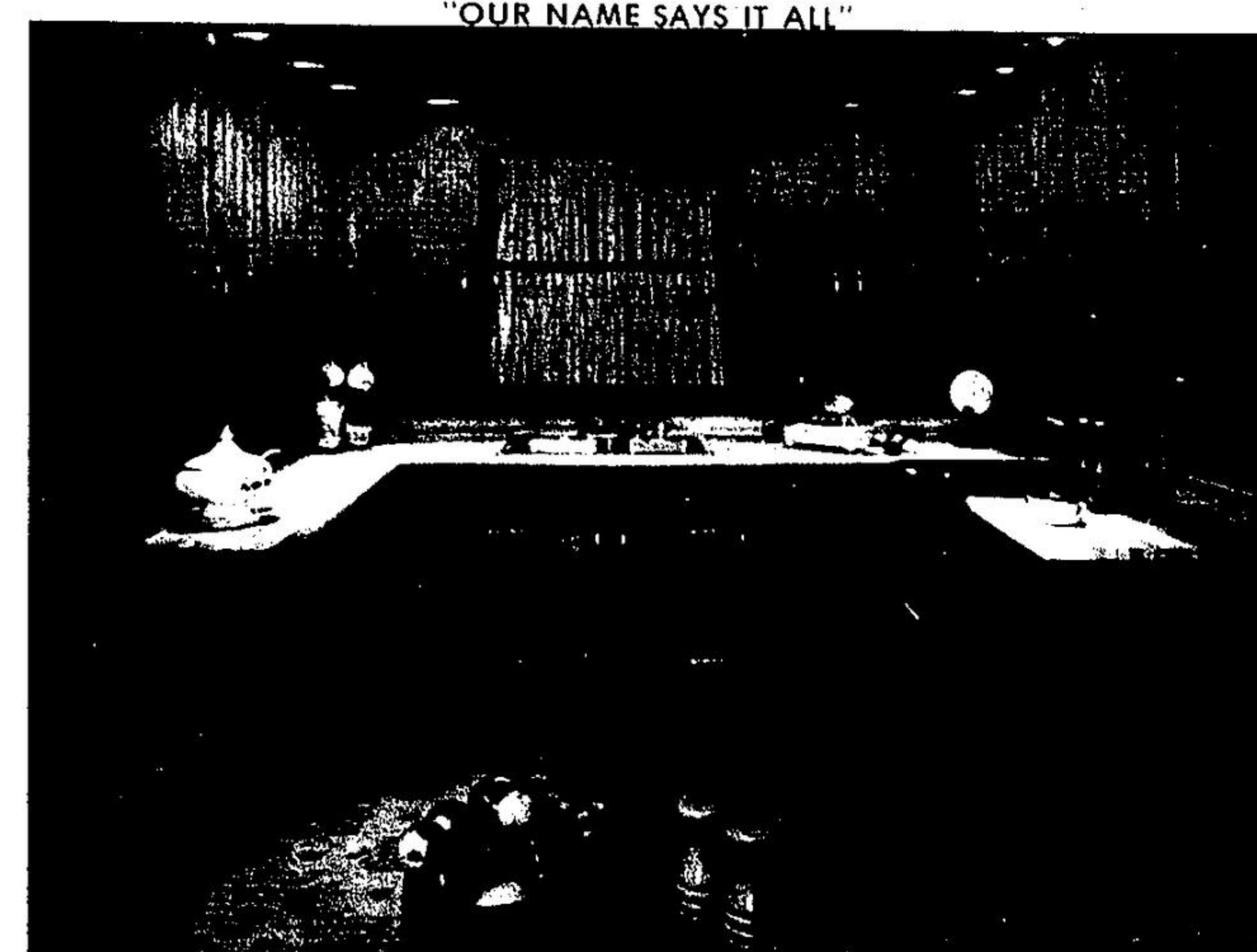
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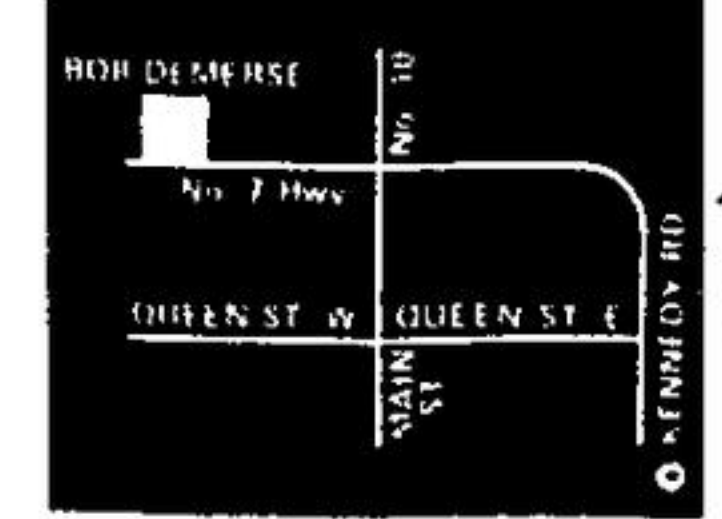
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