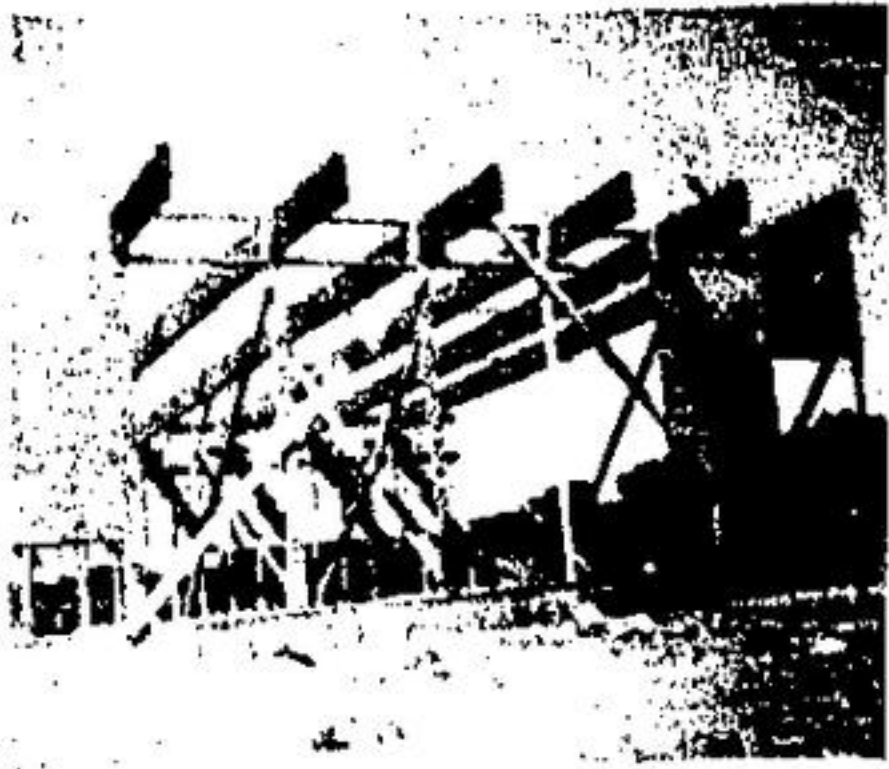


# A house that became a home



July 1959



October 1962



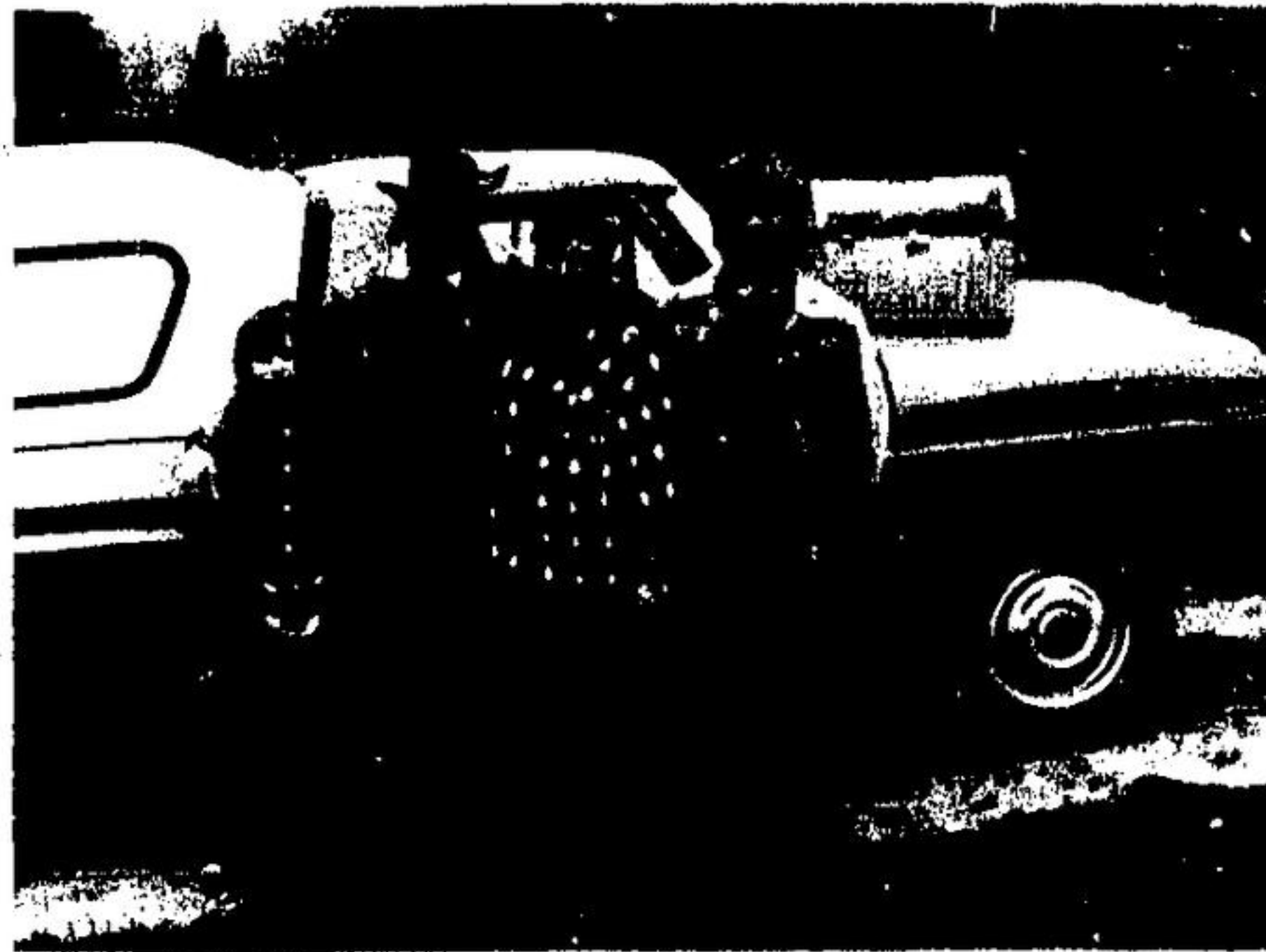
December 1958



May 1962



October 1975



OFF TO ALBERTA are Free Press darkroom technician, photographer and columnist Wendy Thomson with (left to right) son David, husband Gord and son Jim. One of the family cats is ready to go on the hood of the truck; three hounds and a ferret are already loaded. The two truck convoy left Friday and expected a four-day journey would take them to the Breton district of Alberta.



View from hill 1959



View from hill 1975



This week "The Painted Box" is missing from its corner in the Free Press. Gord and Wendy Thomson, sons Jim and David, three dogs, a ferret and (surprise!) one of their cats left Friday for Breton, Alberta, in two pickup trucks. They expect to buy a farm there. Wendy left behind some pictures of the growth of her house, and a staff photographer shared a teary moment to record their departure.

The Thomson home at R.R. 1 began as a windowless box with no hydro. It expanded over the years, and all the usual warm comforts of a home were introduced. Children and pets joined Wendy and Gord Thomson in this delightful setting. Wendy Thomson asked one day why there was no column for women in The Free Press, and editor Hartley Coles just suggested she start one. She promptly did, and it has been published for seven years. Although she started out by sharing recipes from her "Painted Box", she soon included homey tales of life in the country. Her number of fans grew and grew. It was at the Thomson auction sale two weeks ago that she realized how many people had been reading her column. Many people bid for items to keep as souvenirs, and then lingered to ask her the story behind them. She found it astonishing—and heartwarming—to discover how widely she was known. Her column had by no means been limited to women, either, she was pleased to ascertain. Some people loved her trail riding stories and pictures; others her recent series in Scotland, others favored pet tales. Always Wendy Thomson had a lubbing sense of delight in the simplest things of life. Happiness she found right in her own home and her own meadows. She has been a good friend. She showed an artist's talent in the darkroom, as well as behind her lens. Her touch was left. Her mood was cheerful. Her friends in this district and at the Free Press office know she'll capture contentment again in Alberta. She has promised to write back and tell us about it.



Pond 1959



Pond 1975

## Trade goods

Acton Oxfam group held a booth at Erin fair, selling trade goods. They had a very successful day at Acton fair selling many of these fascinating smaller items.

## Win trophies

Two women from this area won trophies in the Michigan Small Air race in Owosso Michigan last weekend. Barbara Brotherton and husband Tom, flying their Comanche won first place for best fuel score, and Helen Barter, Highway 25 near Speyside, with co-pilot Simone Breukel won fifth place and best performance by non-professional pilots.

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# Writer, family move to west

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