



NO MATTER HOW old they are, we clean 'em! High school students found out just how shiny this 1930 Chev can be during their car wash Saturday. Scrubbing the dust off are Bill Taylor, polishing the license plate, Susan Mellor, Heather Reed, Rick Van Fleet and Laurie Pierce.



STEVE SAXON, son of Peeter and Celia Saxon, Knox Ave., Acton, made it to the Optimist club public speaking finals in Niagara Falls last weekend. He was representing the Georgetown Optimists. Steve's speech, entitled Kids' Lib, placed high in the finals. He has four more years to be eligible for the contest and hopes to do better next year. President of Georgetown club, Larry Ciglen and Secretary-treasurer John Horning stuck with Steve all the way to the end.

Adult carelessness Christmas, late winter poisonings blame peak overdose months

If the number of calls received at the Halton Poison Control Centre are any indication of the precautions taken to keep dangerous pills and chemicals out of the reach of area children—then the picture is black indeed. During the first three months of this year 952 poisonings were reported to the Centre, which is located at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington. The majority of the calls concerned children under 12 years.

"Mostly it's children under five years of age," said Ruth Bayne, director of the Centre. Mrs. Bayne said two- and three-year-olds are the most frequent victims of poisonings.

Same reason And the reason for the poisonings is almost always the same—carelessness on the part of the parent or other adult supervisor. "That's why I push prevention," said Mrs. Bayne, who recently lectured at Tinker-Bell Nursery School in Milton on "Poison Prevention in the Home."

While most child poisonings are a result of children eating tablets such as baby aspirin or vitamins, many also get into such things as turpentine and furniture polish. "My advice to mothers is to keep all waxes, detergents and polishes with them when cleaning around the house," she said.

Take danger away "If you're waxing the floor or polishing the furniture and the doorbell rings, take the bottles with you," she advises. "And if you're using a cloth, bring it with you, too. Young children will suck on anything. They don't care how bad it tastes."

The real danger in a child consuming furniture polish is not in the drinking," she explained. "The danger lies in the fact that most furniture polishes contain petroleum distillate, and if a child gets upset, he may inhale the fumes back into his chest."

"This can be harmful or even fatal," she said. For this reason Mrs. Bayne does not recommend rushing the poisoned child to the hospital every time. "Each case is different,"

she said. "And it's best to avoid bringing small children to the hospital whenever possible, as it can be a very traumatic experience for them."

Gives advice Instead, she urges parents to phone the Poison Control Centre, which she said acts as a service to guide people on what to do following the poisoning.

"We can tell them if the pills or chemicals in the cleaning solution are poisonous or non-poisonous. If there's a remedy that can be administered at home, we'll tell them what it is and how to administer it effectively," she said. "And, if the child is in need of hospital treatment, we can find out which hospital is closest to the family. In that way, we can phone ahead to the hospital in Milton or wherever and tell them, for example, that a two-year-old boy who has just drunk four

ounces of after-shave is on the way. The hospital will then be ready for the child when he arrives and no time will be lost in the emergency room."

Call taxi, police If the adult is without transportation, Mrs. Bayne advises phoning a taxi or the police department rather than sending for an ambulance.

"Ambulances involve a lot of red tape," she said. "They'll want to know who is going to pay for it and so on."

On the other hand, she said, the Halton Police are "very co-operative" in such matters—although parents should arrange for their own transportation home from the hospital.

The number to call at the Poison Control Centre is 632-3730, however, there is a direct line to the centre for emergency cases. That number is ZENITH 46250.

Menonite sale is soon Christmas shoppers, get ready! The annual Menonite Relief Sale will again be held in New Hamburg, with many interesting and unusual items for sale.

The sale to be held May 29 is slated to be bigger and better than ever this year. Among other things there will be a grandfather's clock, a large leather carving of the Lord's Supper, and a number of surprise antique items available.

The day starts at 7 a.m. with a pancake and sausage breakfast. There has also been a call issued to Menonite women for 6,000 pies, 1,000 more than were sold last year by 10.30 a.m.

Overdoses of pills and poisonings are not confined to young children, according to Ruth Bayne of the Poison Control Centre.

Mrs. Bayne said the centre receives a number of calls each month from Halton Centennial Manor in Milton concerning old people who have either confused their bedside hand lotion for milk or who accidentally take the wrong tablets—or too many of the right ones.

"They simply forget that they've already taken their pill for that hour or can't remember which ones to take," Mrs. Bayne said.

Suicides And then, there are the people who decide to use pills as the way to end it all.

Man remains in hospital after building collapsed Halton Hills works department employee Charlie Shepherd, age 61, remains in intensive care at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, two weeks after he was hurt when a change room collapsed at Cedarvale Community Centre.

In an interview this week Mrs. Shepherd said her husband is suffering from a broken back, broken ribs and breathing problems but his doctors say he is coming along fine. She added Mr. Shepherd isn't able to talk yet either because of the method of treatment being used to mend his injuries.

"We call the period during which adults knowingly take overdoses of pills and harmful drugs the Potential Suicide Months. This usually occurs in March and April, but this year they beat us to the draw," Mrs. Bayne said.

February and March were the peak months this year with more than the usual number of attempted suicides reported at the Poison Control Centre.

November is another month when a lot of adults attempt suicide. "The victims during this time period are often people who are out of work, recently divorced, or alone for some reason or another just before the Christmas holidays," Mrs. Bayne said. "It is a very depressing time for them."

Mr. Shepherd and three other men were working inside the soccer changeroom when it collapsed around 11:30 a.m. on April 26. Mr. Shepherd, Kent Robinson, Virginia Desousa and Sam Tennent were all trapped under the rubble when the building fell apart. All were able to get out after about five minutes except Mr. Shepherd who couldn't move because of his injuries. Mr. Tennant and Mr. Desousa were also taken to hospital, treated and released.

HELP THE MENTALLY RETARDED
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Grad day draws former students

Seventeen Acton High School grads returned to the classes for Grad Day Friday. They talked to students, who are curious about what is in store for them in work, in education and any other future.

Questions focussed on work load, the job market and whether high school students are well enough prepared by teachers for the future. The question of unemployment and what it means

to recent grads was asked. AHS grads who took time to help students who will be leaving the classes this year, were Wynnie Kroes, Vernon Hitchcock, Patti Gibson, Suzanne Kamei, Debbie Bousfield, Charlene Hubbell, Brenda Kingsmill, Mark Rowe, Carol Patterson, Mary Watson, Emily Hodgson, Marylou Pendleton, Barb Reed, Tineke Vryenhoek, Rick Roehner, Carol Somerville and Lene Larsen.

show the involvement of students in learning, labor and leisure as taught in the vocational education field. The draw, displays, exhibits and entertainment during the evening will help show this involvement in each of General Wolfe's 21 trade shops and academic areas. Admission to General Wolfe's May 19 open house is free

Convocations

A total of 1,400 students from 60 programs are eligible to graduate from Sheridan College during five separate formal convocation ceremonies this month.

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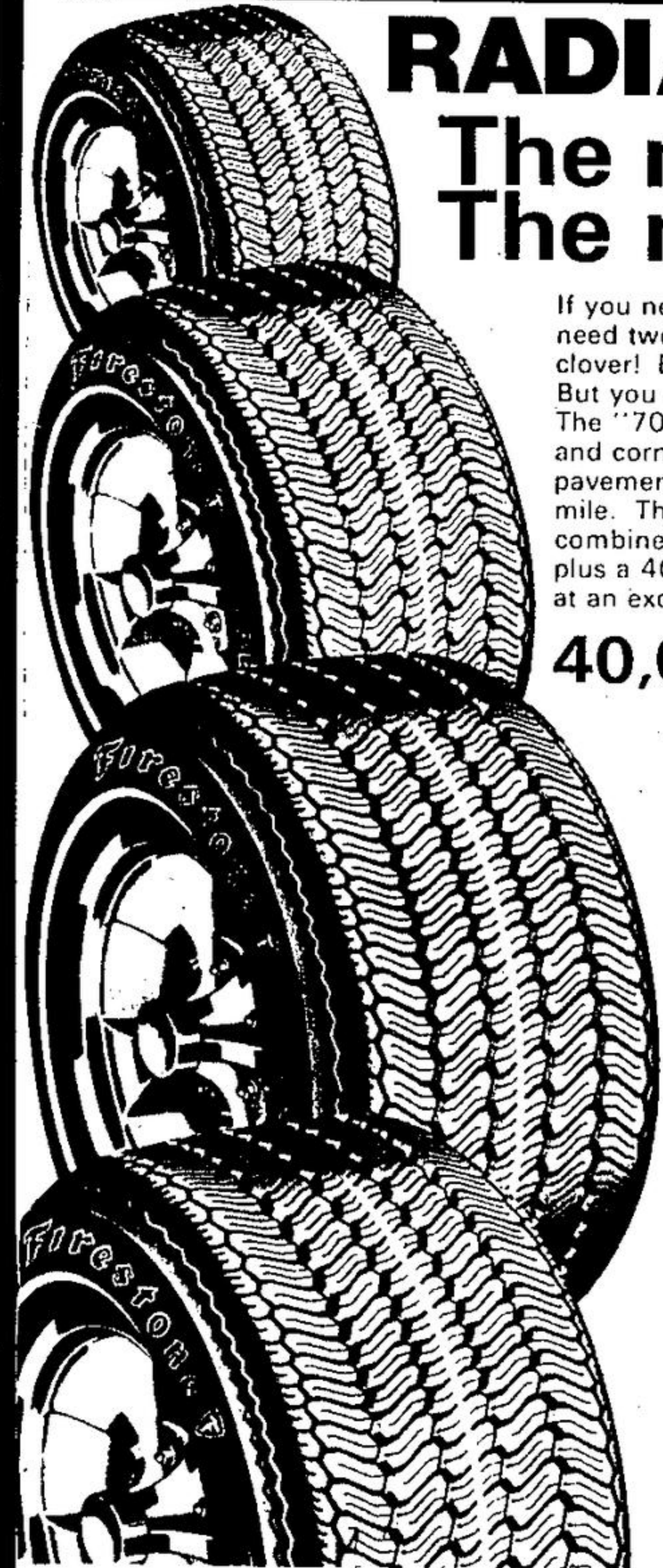
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