

Students off 24 school days

School will start September 6 and end June 30 next year and students will be off 24 school days during the 10 months for holidays and teachers' professional development days.

Halton Board of Education approved the school calendar for 1977-78, Thursday. Students will be in school 188 days next year.

Students will have October 10 off for Thanksgiving, November 11 for Remembrance Day and Christmas holidays will run from December 23 to January 2.

Pupils in North Halton attending both elementary and high schools will also be out of class during the last quarter of 1977 on September 6, October 28 and November 28 are holidays at elementary schools only. These days are for teachers' professional activities.

In 1978, students will have holidays February 10, mid-winter break from March 20 to 27 and on May 22 for Victoria Day. The February 10

holiday has been inserted in the school year since Easter Monday will be during the winter break. Good Friday, March 24, will also occur during the winter break.

Elementary students will be off January 27, March 6, April 7, May 12 and June 29 and 30 because of teacher professional development days and high school pupils will be out of class January 27, 30 and 31 and June 26 to 30.

Waiting taxi costs more

Keeping a taxi waiting will cost more if a Halton finance administration committee recommendation is approved by council.

The waiting time charge will be increased from the present 10 cents a minute waiting time to 13.33 cents a minute.

Two weeks ago council approved an increase from 60 cents a mile to 80 cents a mile.



RECREATION CO-ORDINATOR for Wards one and two Anne Pickering tastes some homemade butter at the open house for high school's total immersion program on Thursday.

Professional activity days debate rages on

The debate over professional activity days rages on as Halton Board of Education trustees thrashed out the question both Thursday and Saturday.

Superintendent of Special Services John Graham recommended the number of professional development days remain at nine next year, the same as this year.

The board received a report from Halton Home and School, Thursday, which indicated parents in the region support the idea of professional activity days as long as union business isn't discussed but the parents want much more information about what is going on during these days. A survey of Halton parents was done by the Home and School and detailed results published in this paper a few weeks ago.

Pat Webster, Halton Home and School president, told the board there is more dissatisfaction about professional activity days in the north, partly because

parents feel the schools are closed often enough because of holidays and winter conditions.

She also said there is no clear indication from the parents if they prefer the days to be grouped at the beginning and end of year, or spread throughout the season.

Trustee Judy Alexander said principals should be reporting to parents and the board about what activities the teachers took part in on those days.

Several trustees praised the plan to hold professional development days on different days in the north and south and a reduction in region-wide professional activity days this year.

One trustee, Jim Clelland, spoke out against professional activity days noting Peel has reduced the number it allows and expressed hope other boards would start to follow Peel's lead.

Vice-chairman Noel Cooper

suggested a cost-efficiency study is needed on professional activity days since teachers receive \$1.7 million in pay for those nine days.

A number of trustees complained about too many students have days off school while other pupils are writing exams. They suggested uniformity in the number of days allowed for exams is needed in Halton schools.

Trustees weren't too concerned that Halton students get out of school later than most and are therefore at a disadvantage in getting summer jobs. They blamed this problem on other boards not following the guidelines on how long students are to be in school each year.

Fire prevention

by Larry Brassard
Fire Prevention Officer
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE NEAR ME CATCHES ON FIRE?

Immediately extinguish the flames, by rolling the individual on the ground to smother the flames. The rule is "drop and roll". A blanket is an efficient extinguisher, but do not waste time finding one if one is not right near you. Try not to put out the flames with your hands, as hands are very delicate instruments and very difficult to reconstruct. After flames are out, put cool water on smoldering clothes to extinguish completely. Wet the injured areas with cold water to reduce skin temperature, in order to prevent continuing thermal injury.

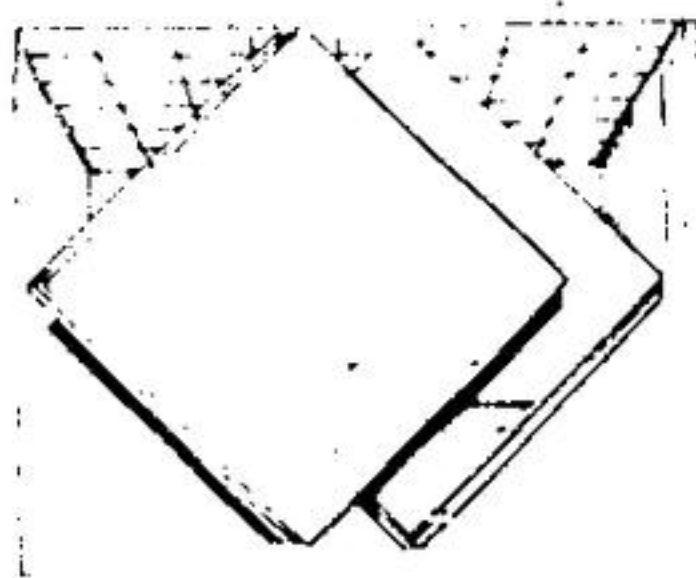
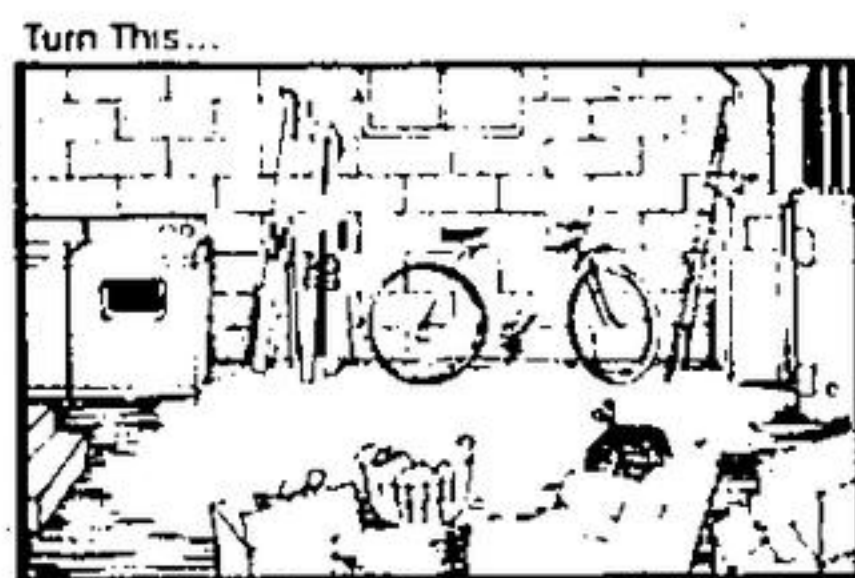
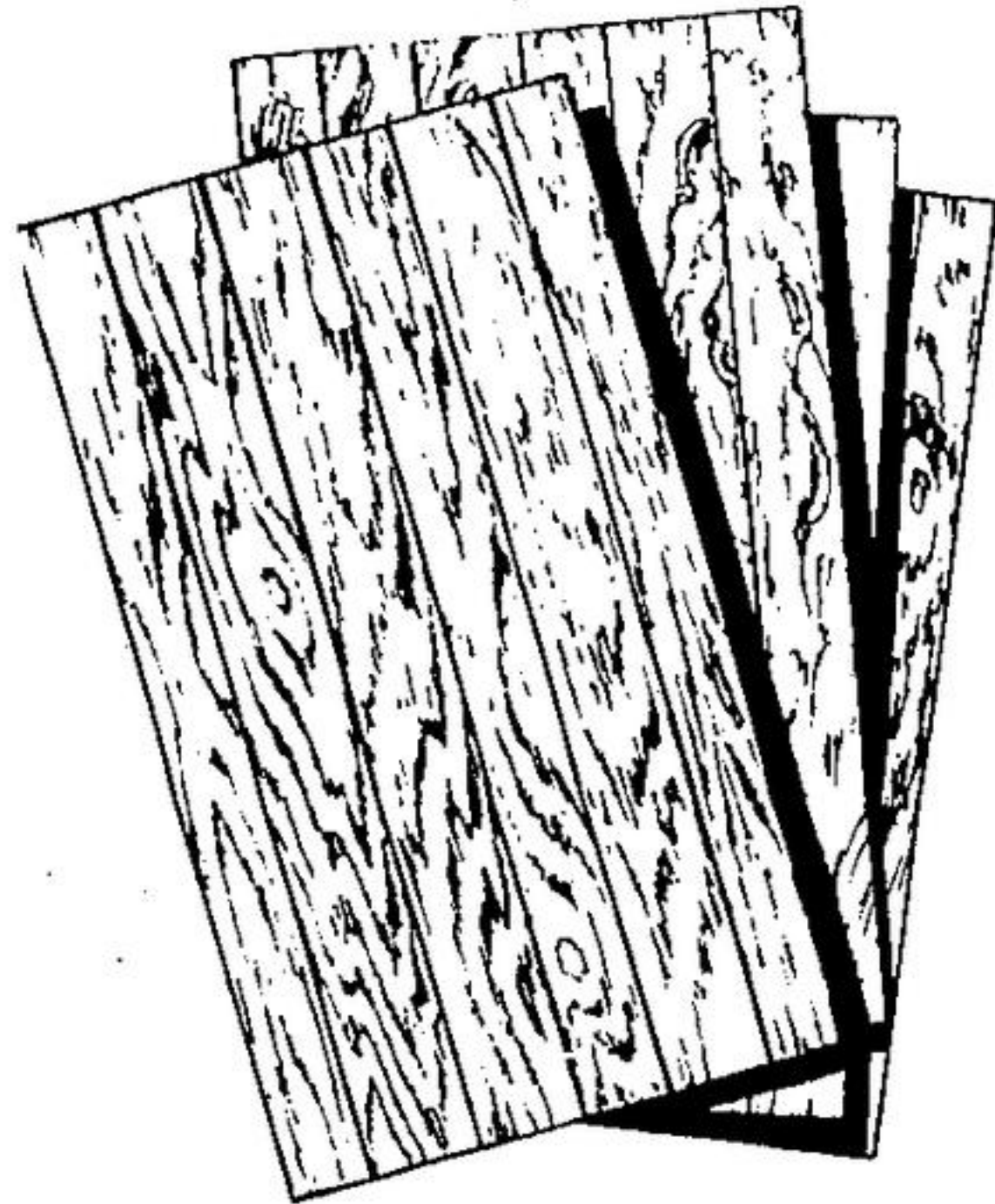


JAMES LAMBDEN has just recently returned from a three week tour of England. James was 11 when he had less than 24 hours notice of the vacation, and visited with relatives he had never met before. He celebrated his twelfth birthday Easter Sunday.

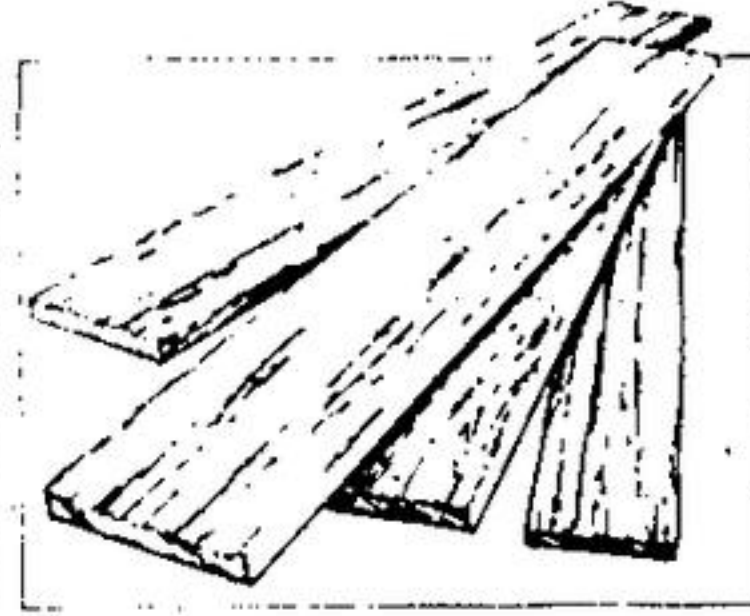


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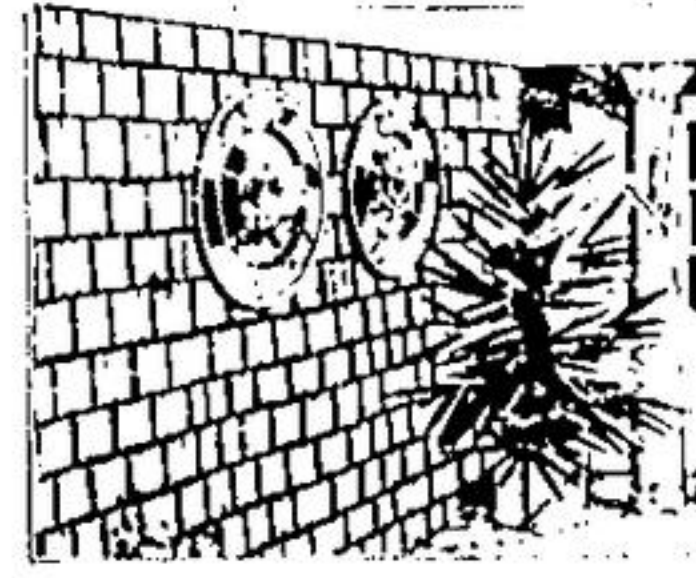
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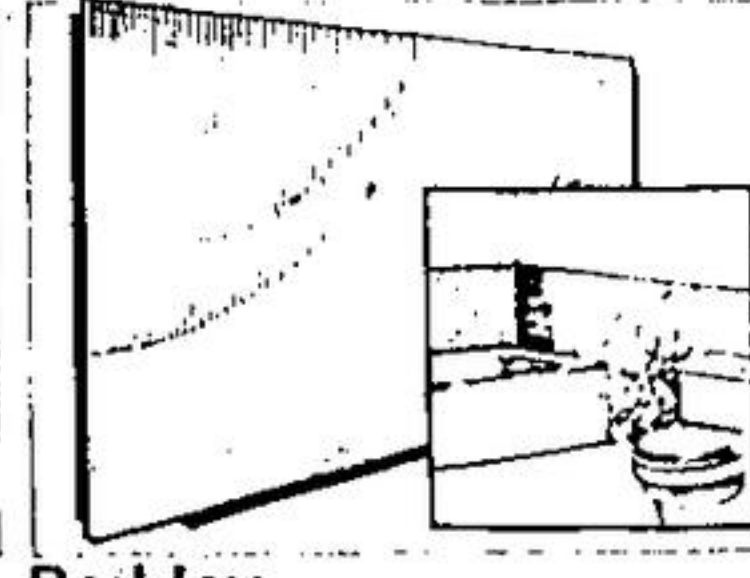
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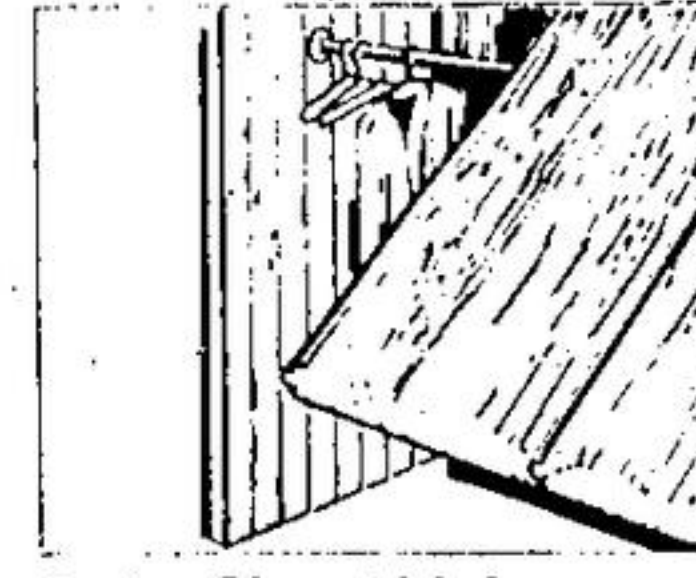
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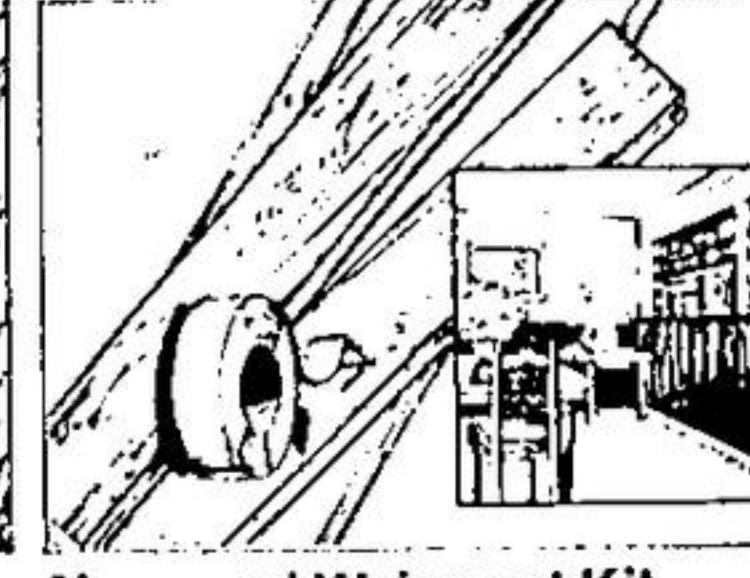
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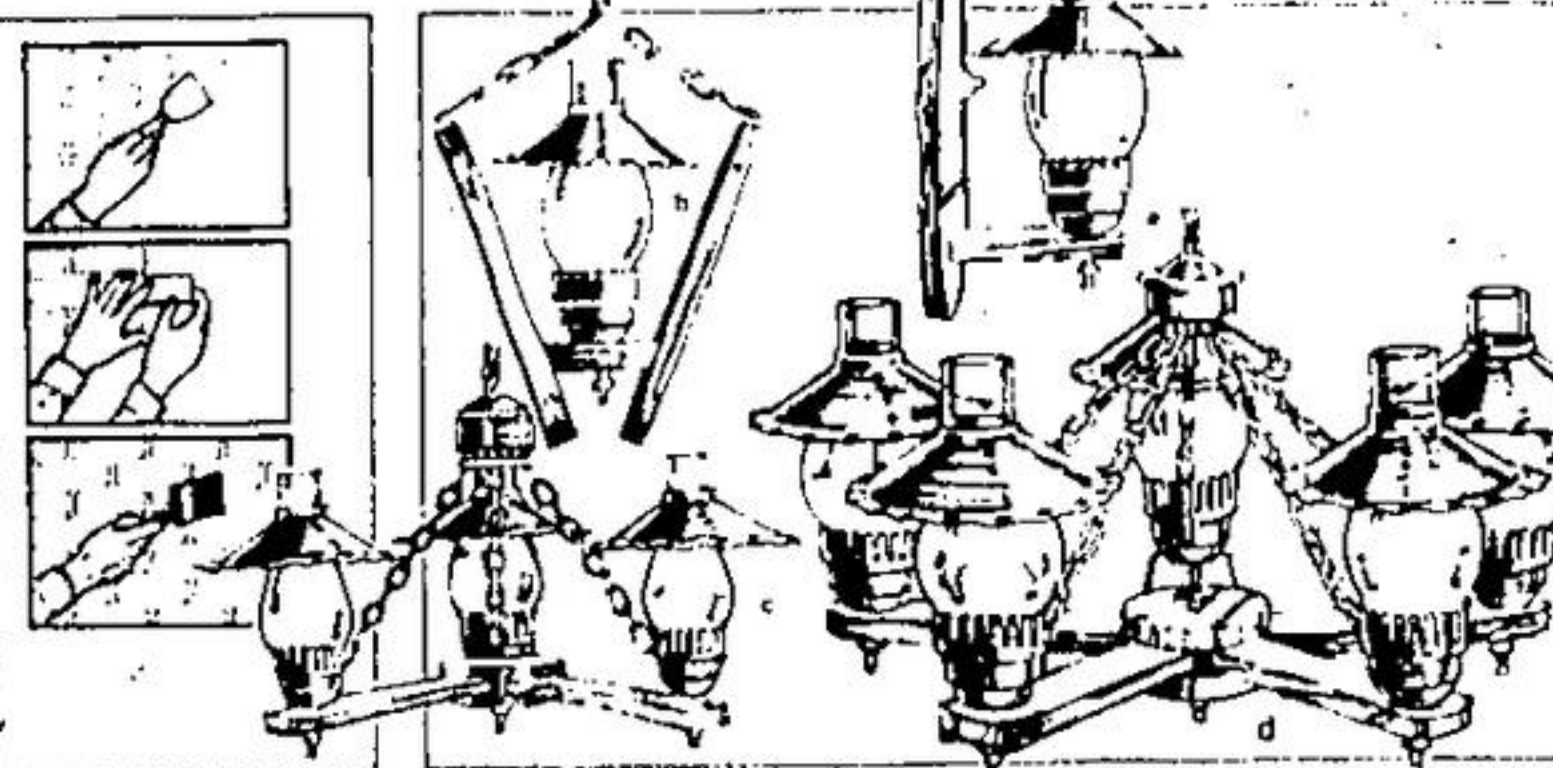
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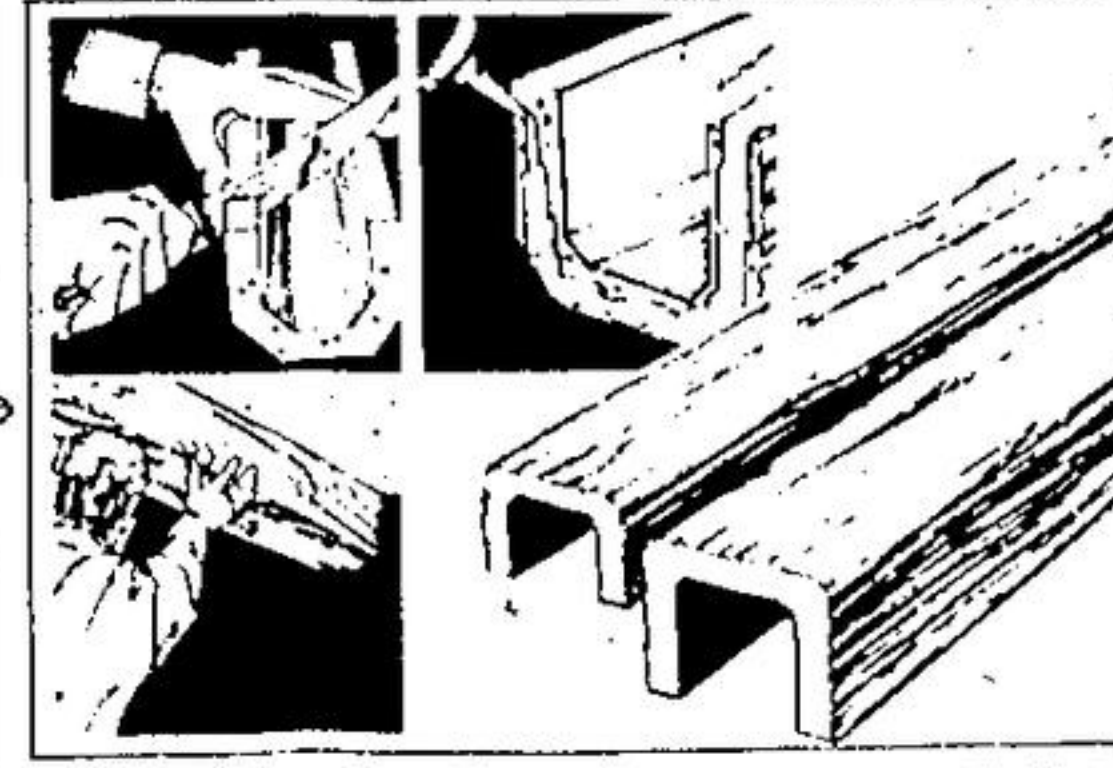


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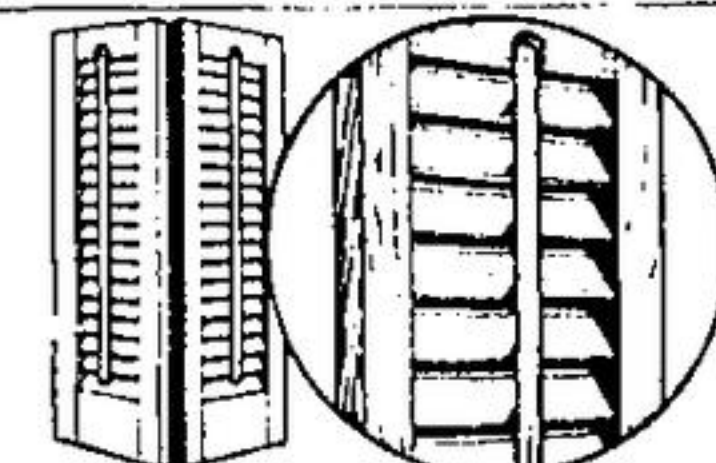


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Three week holiday for youth

A trip to England is an exciting venture for anyone, but for an 11-year-old boy, such a vacation is a whirlwind tour of his mother's native country, and visits with relatives he has never met.

James Lambden, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lambden, R.R. 4, Acton, barely had time to get excited about his first overseas trip. He had less than 24 hours from the first mention of the holiday, to the time he was sitting on the airplane!

On March 10, Jamie's godfather, Tony Stevenson, from Houston, Texas, visited the family after attending a conference in Burlington. At the same time, he brought someone he had met at the conference, Admiral David Haslam from England.

As the two men were visiting the Lambdens at the First Line home, Mr. Stevenson told the group he was leaving the next evening for three weeks in England. He asked Jamie if he wanted to fly over with him.

Older brother Rob had made the same trip last year to meet his relatives, and Mr. and Mrs. Lambden had been waiting for the opportunity to send their middle son. It was agreed Jamie would fly out of Toronto International airport the next day at nine p.m.

That Friday was a frantic day. Permission had to be received from Erin high school for the grade nine student to miss two weeks of school. The middle week of his three week stay would be during the March break from school.

A quick trip to Guelph was next for a hasty passport picture to be taken, and then a frantic ride into Toronto and Queen's Park to get a rushed passport. New clothes had to be bought whenever Jamie had time to try anything on, and mother Elizabeth found herself packing for her son right up until the last minute.

A plane ticket had to be purchased and several phone calls made to relatives in England, informing them of Jamie's arrival. Plans had to be made for a pick-up at the airport in London.

By nine o'clock, everyone involved breathed a sigh of relief as Jamie and his godfather boarded the plane at Toronto International airport, in what could very well be record time for preparing such a long holiday.

Reach destination
Early the next morning, a weary Jamie and Tony Stevenson disembarked from the plane at London. After a few hours search, the pair finally found his aunt's father-in-law, who took him to

a small town outside of London for the day and night.

Sunday morning Mrs. Lambden's sister, Claire Ellis, drove to her father-in-law's home from Basingstoke, Hampshire to meet her nephew for the first time and take him to her home.

The next two days saw Jamie seeing where his mother was born and grew up. Paintings hanging on the living room wall back in Acton came alive for Jamie as he saw actual buildings which served as models for the artist's work.

Aunt Claire then drove the young lad to Cheltenham to visit his second cousin John. Jamie stayed here for a day and night, and was driven up to Birmingham to another aunt's, Jane Elliott. A week was spent at her farm and Jamie did all the usual farming chores. He also played with his cousin Sophie, aged three years old.

While on the farm, Aunt Jane took him sightseeing in the area where he saw museums, churches and ruins of castles. His great-aunt Joyce, aged 74, picked the traveller up at Aunt Jane's and drove him to Cirencester, near Cheltenham. After a one day stay here, Jamie went to Taunton, where he got on a bus and went to Somerset to meet a cousin. After two days there, he went back to Aunt Joyce's and once more was given the grand tour of cathedrals etc.

Two days were spent at Cirencester, where he spent some time with his grandmother. Next on the agenda was a return visit to Aunt Claire's and a day and a night visit.

It has been over three years since Mrs. Lambden has been home to see her sisters and mother, but she has made the trip twice since then, through the eyes of her sons.

Plan fun and games for summer months

Several special days are planned for the Acton and Georgetown public libraries this summer.

Summer story time will be held in July and August at both libraries. This is open to youngsters three to six years of age, and registration is not necessary. Story time will be held at Acton library every Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30, and at Georgetown every Tuesday and Thursday from two to three p.m.

Another all-summer event is the Summer Reading Club open for children seven to 14, and is also offered at both libraries. Twelve books must be read and reported on during the summer months with prizes being awarded.

She then took him to London, where Jamie once again met his godfather. The rest of the day was spent sightseeing with his aunt and Mr. Stevenson.

That night was spent with Admiral Haslam, the same person Jamie had met once before at his own home. Together, they had supper at the top of the famous revolving Post Office tower and the next day took a boat ride up the Thames River and visited the Tower of London.

Jamie's last night was spent at his godfather's sister's home.

When his plane landed in Toronto on April 2, Jamie was full of stories and piled high with gifts for his family.

Unfortunately his photographs did not turn out.

In the three weeks Jamie was gone he "gained tremendous confidence and independence," says his mother.

It is very important to Mrs. Lambden that her three sons meet her family "back home", as she feels they are growing up without knowing their relatives. Jamie's trip last month, and Rob's trip last year has not only helped the boys to gain a broader knowledge of the world around them, but to meet their aunts and uncles and cousins. There is one son left who has not met these relatives. The parents hope young Andrew will be able to make the trip next year.

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A lesson in puppet making will be held in Acton on July 27 at two p.m., and in Georgetown on July 29, for children ages eight to 14. Pre-registration is also necessary for this.