

# Baby robin makes home in basket

Thinking her experience may help others, Mrs. E. Ludtke of R.R. 4, Rockwood, tells what it's like to raise a baby robin.

**Sweetie**  
The robins were restless that morning in June, but I didn't pay much mind. They were making a fuss lots of times and at times, when I couldn't but follow their scolding voices outside, ready to shoo a cat or a black bird, there was nothing there.

Later that morning, Yuri and Nina, our two dogs and I, went for a stroll outside the house. Nina kept going back to one particular spot and sniffing it. There, under the tall firs, lay two baby robins, one dead and one still giving signs of life. I buried one and took the other in my hand and quickly walked to our drive shed, where there was an empty robin's nest. I took it down, put some dried grass in it and gently put in the bird.

In the meanwhile our dogs had gone back to the firs and Yuri and Nina made every motion, to want to climb them. I knew there must have been a squirrel up there. While I was standing there trying to quiet the dogs, I looked at the spot where the baby robins had been and to

my great surprise—there lay another baby robin! He was the smallest of them all and he lay on his back flapping his wings. Gently I picked him up, went in the house and hunted for a little Easter basket I had, all the time robin in hand, who showed no fear. His sibling was still in the nest I put him in and was oh so very quiet. I found the little basket, lined it with dry grass and put Sweetie in it. That was my name for him.

I put the basket on the round picnic table under the apple tree and took my crocheting and sat beside it for a while. Sweetie stayed in that basket for three days and let himself be fed. At night he slept in the bay window of our dining room, and for a couple of days on the backrest of one of the chairs, Sukie our cat, being well aware of what slept in the dining room. Sukie may not go outside the entire summer, as long as there are babybirds, so she was pretty non-chalant about the whole affair; and while I'm writing this, sitting under the apple tree, there's Sukie sunning herself in the window.

I fed Sweetie flies, earthworms, moths, mashed blueberries, pieces of cherries, ground raw dogmeat, mixed with earth and he grew more each day. His sibling had died



MRS. E. LUDTKE OF R.R. 4, ROCKWOOD, THINKS HER EXPERIENCES RAISING A BABY ROBIN MAY HELP OTHERS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN THE SAME SITUATION.

the first night. He had refused food, so I knew it would only be a matter of time.

Sweetie was getting real chipper, and he stood up in the basket and aired and stretched his wings. Nina would always want to lick him the times he sat on my finger. Sweetie had found a way to tip the basket and hop out. I knew then, he would need other quarters, that he would no longer stay in the nest. For several days he stayed in a rabbit cage which we had fixed up for him.

One morning, there was a great commotion and as I went to see, there were four adults robins milling about the cage and Sweetie was gone. I was glad that Sweetie was free and maybe had found his own parents. I saw him sitting in the trees and when I called him, he would come to me. I fed him twice the day after he had left, with

much scolding from the older birds. Each time he came to me, they were in dismay and were making a fuss. Even though I was glad that Sweetie had found his own, I felt a little twinge of sadness in parting with him. The robins are still around, but no longer do I hear an answer when I call—Sweetie is free.

## Fewer folk on phone line

Erin phone subscribers will have fewer people on the line after a transmission cable is dug in the Hillsburgh-Cedar Valley-Urton area.

Installation of the cable means users may switch from ten-party to four-party lines.

Additional private lines are also in the works.

The cable is going into the ground starting at Hillsburgh, along the Fifth Line, north from Sideroad 22.

## Ballinafad

# Visitors in area, plan corn roast

by Mrs. Winifred Smith  
A recent visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Larson was Sister Mary Margaret of Cleveland. Sister Mary Margaret was godmother for their daughter Jenny.

Mrs. Leo Jamieson has returned home from Scotland, after spending a month with her mother and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Burt and Mrs. Frank Smith attended the funeral of a relative Cliff Rossetta at St. Catharines, on Saturday.

The Ballinafad Girls softball team are planning to hold

a banquet and dance early in October. It will be the wind up to the season's activities.

The first of the community activities for the fall season will be in the form of a corn roast and dance on Friday evening sponsored by the community centre board.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Stan Curtis on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary which they celebrated on Saturday.

Lloyd Marshall and his sister Mrs. Lil Jackson attended the funeral of a relative in Rockwell, near London on Monday.

## Free Press District Page

# 25¢ pool fee — more flak

Terra Cotta pool problems were once more the subject of discussion at the Credit Valley Conservation Authority parks and recreation advisory board.

Board vice-chairman Acton member Gail Maltby brought up the subject saying she'd heard a lot of complaints from people who feel they should not have to pay the additional 25 cent pool entrance fee when they've already bought a \$25 season's pass.

"I realize you're getting a lot of flak, but look at the revenue," commented Parks chairman Frank Leavers. He went on to add the CVCA had a maintenance problem with the pool and were losing a great deal of money. "Unless we get it paying for itself, we might as well fill it in," he said.

Gail Maltby agreed saying she felt the pool was an added attraction and should be paid

## Limehouse

# W.I. meeting, trip

We regret that Mrs. Kirkpatrick is in hospital again, but hope for her better health soon.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Patterson have returned from a few weeks holidays at her cousin's home at Orillia and her brother's at Georgetown.

The W.I. met at the home of Mrs. Ellerby in Erin last Thursday afternoon. Further plans for fair displays and meetings were discussed and the holiday business caught up. Mrs. Anderson convener of Citizenship and World Affairs, was in charge of the program. Roll call was "a country I would like to visit," New Zealand seeming to be the favorite. Mrs. Anderson told of her trips to the west coast of Canada and showed pictures taken then. O Canada was sung in closing and the hostess served a tasty lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roughley left for Edmonton this week after visiting their parents here. Rob will be continuing studies towards his doctorate in Entomology, and Marsha will be teaching in the university again. Rob spent much of the summer travelling in the Yukon on an Entomology project.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Starkey to the village who purchased the home formerly owned by the Glen Lumbers.

Intended for last week we extend sympathy to Mrs. Douglas Scott whose father, Mr. Wm. Coleman formerly of Acton passed away in Toronto a couple of weeks ago.

Greetings to Mrs. Wm.

Osburn whose birthday of last week was celebrated by relatives at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lawson on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Nell Anderson have returned from a lengthy motor holiday to Victoria, B.C.

## Acton Fall Fair PET SHOW

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Michael, the pseudo-Persian, has just caught a mouse. He does it quite often and is pretty good at it. He has sauntered out to the corner of the front paddock carefully picking his way through the long dewy grass. Without a break he is back travelling the same path with a mouse in his mouth. Usually this is an unremarkable happening but today Jimmy and Penny have seen him.

Puppy Jim and Michael are friends, although Michael suffers his maulings with the patience of a kindergarten teacher. Jim is intrigued with the treasure Mike has and bounces over for closer inspection. Michael loses his cool and lets go of the mouse. Mad scramble to retrieve it without the kid finding out.

Now that he's got to negotiate legs and licks as well as wet weeds, the cat tries another tack—he hops up onto a pile of cedar rails.

Bad move. Now Penny Lamb is far too interested. The cedar rails are her special territory when she's feeling in a mountain goat mood. With incredible sure-footedness, Penny leaps, pirouettes, and twirls over the rails while poor puss is making himself very small and insinuating himself over the other side.

Jim lollaps his way around the pile and grabs Mike by the scruff of the neck. Mike coughs, spits and drops his mouse. I can't see what becomes of it but by now the imbeciles have forgotten the original point of interest and are thoroughly enjoying themselves cavorting over the pile nosing Mike along.

Resigned to his fate, the cat has a perfunctory look around for his mouse, shrugs and goes limp. Rolling himself in a hedgehog ball allows him to roll to the ground with some semblance of dignity. Flattening his body he races full tilt to the fence with pup and sheep hot on his heels. Penny is having so much fun she bounds on springs, all four feet together.

Will he make it? Yes, he does. Up on the fence top, just out of reach. And he sits down to wash his face the picture of the totally dignified cat just for a stroll.

Not the least bit abashed, Penny and Jim race off for more mischief. Jim bounces off to the cedar pile hoping to find that mouse—he remembers it now. Penny pogo-sticks after him. Jim stops suddenly thinking he's found the goodie and Penny throws a cheerful bunt his way as she springs past, catching him square on his tail bone and tossing him base over apex. Whee.

The same thing will happen again tomorrow.

## No money for land

We can't afford it! say the Credit Valley Conservation Authority when offered a parcel of land just north of the Limehouse Conservation Area.

Discussion at a recent Authority executive meeting centred around buying funds and lack of Authority money for buying land not directly connected with Credit River and branch sources.

General Manager Harry Watson described the property as, "Nice property but not real source land." "We can't afford to purchase it," he added.

"We can't afford it," agreed Chairman Grant Clarkson. "We can only look at real source land. I have a feeling we're going to be involved in flood control (in the future)," he said.

The property in question consists of nearly 97 acres, four lots north of Limehouse Conservation Area on Concession 6. Described as having mostly mixed and cedar bush, a branch of the Black Creek running through it, and some summer buildings, the asking price is \$135,000.

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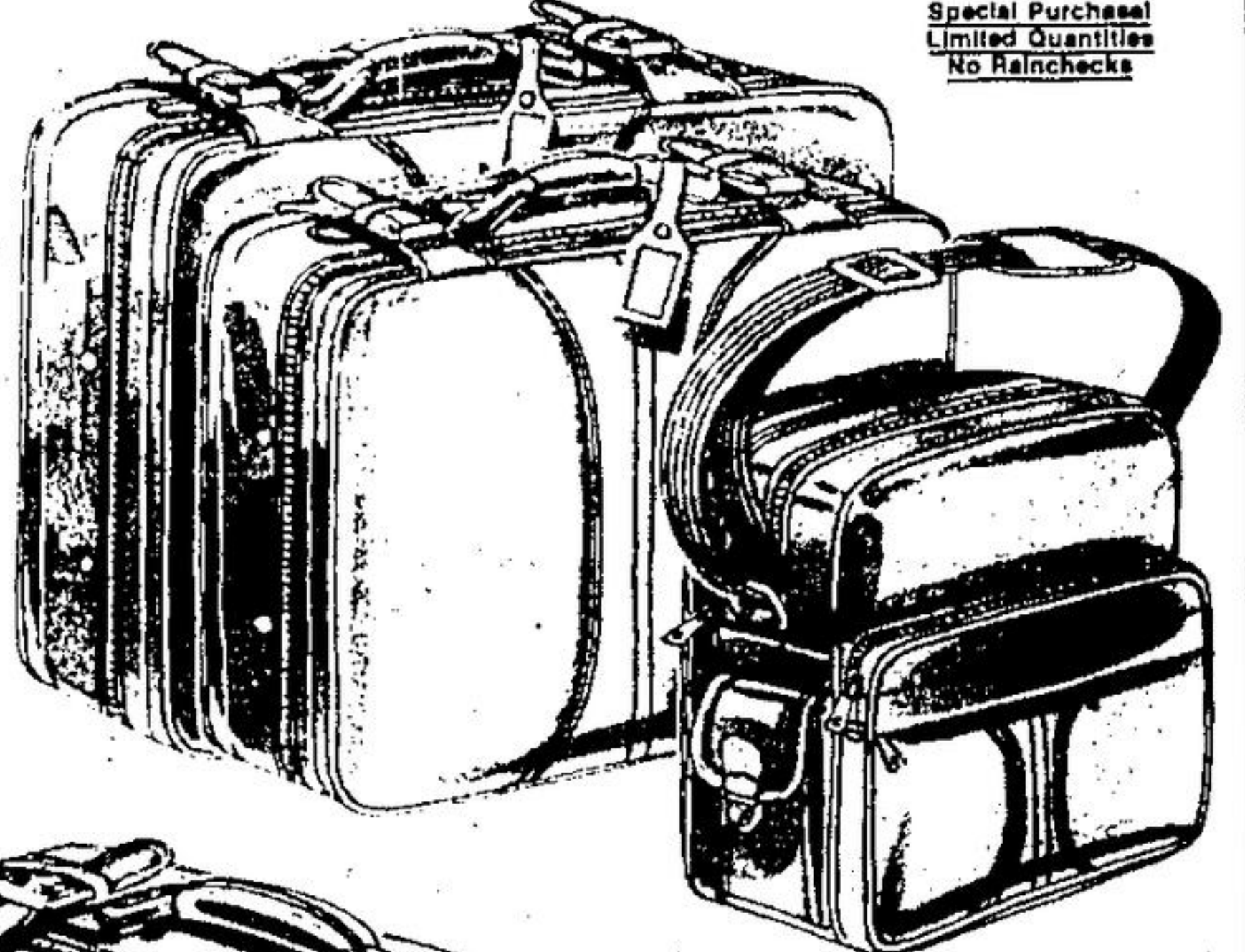
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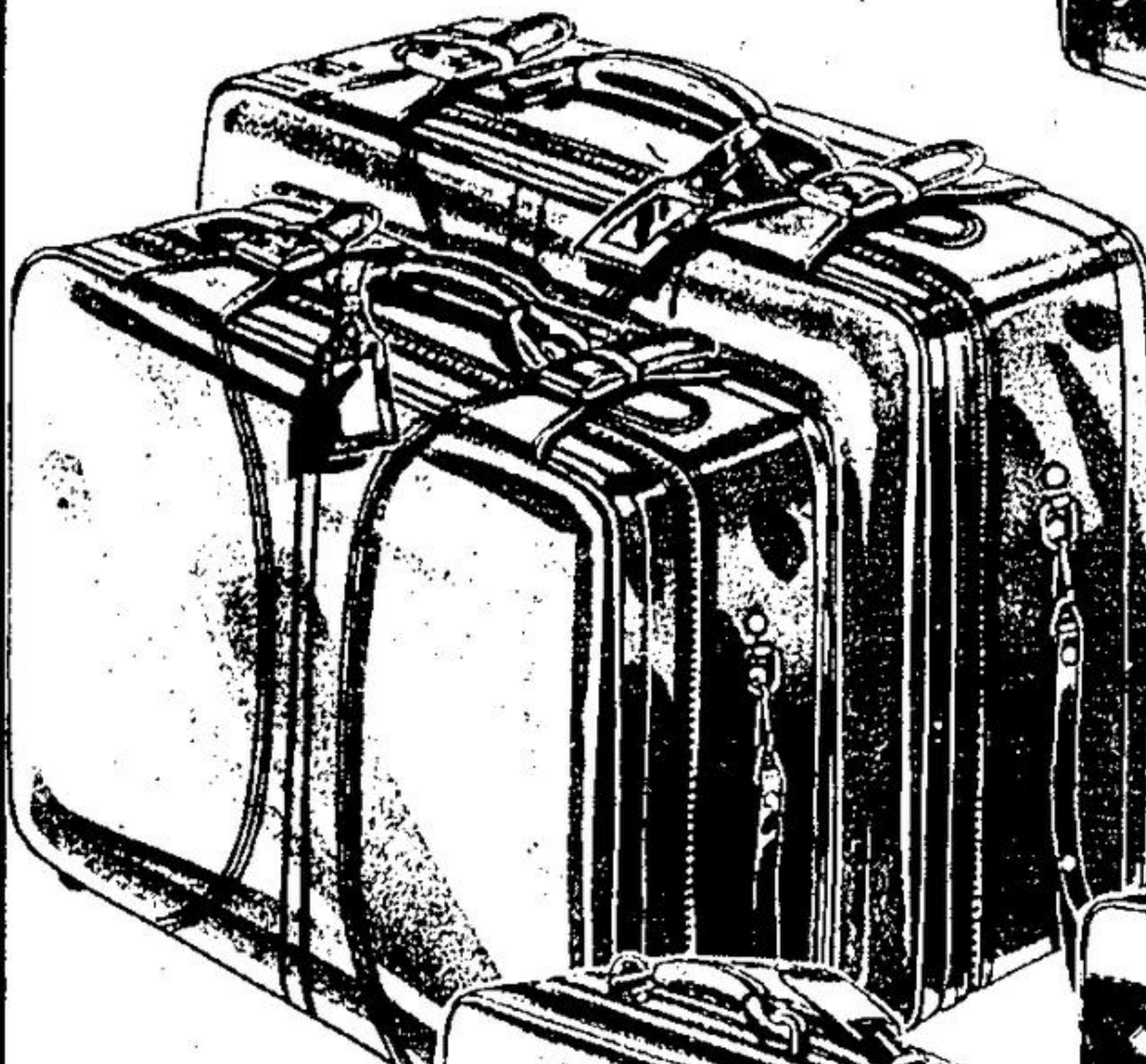
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