

"There's black gold in them thar sewers." It is not exactly bubbling crude, but it is close. It is sewage sludge, something that traditionally has been thought of as only an awkward waste to be disposed of.

A German discovery, however, has shown that sewage sludge can be converted to oil. The procedure is being refined now at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington.

Trevor Bridle, residue management specialist at the centre, said "all things that have made sludge a 'baddie' (heavy metals) now make it a 'goodie'."

Tests performed by Canada's department of

energy, mines and resources indicate that CCIW's oil may be the highest quality synthetic oil yet produced.

That department calls it a very valuable product, he said, adding "we are more and more enthused about the product every day."

A city the size of Burlington produced enough sludge to manufacture 500 to 700 gallons of fuel a day. This could be sufficient to power all the city's and maybe even the Region's vehicles, he said.

Although a pilot size reactor could be built in a short time CCIW is looking at a five year plan to prove the technology before going to a commercial size reactor.

Until March of 1984 laboratory work will be carried out to "Characterize the process" and determine all the advantages and disadvantages, said Mr. Bridle.

A demonstration facility will be built in 1984. It will likely have a capacity of about 25 tonnes of sludge per day, about the size needed to meet Burlington's needs. However no decision on where to locate it has been made.

It will run for two years to iron out the difficulties before commercial exploitation.

"We don't want to take a chance on speeding up the schedule and blow the opportunity," he said, because technology that fails rarely makes a

comeback so it is important that it work the first time, he added.

The oil produced at CCIW will not be an ideal fuel in the unrefined state, but it will run a diesel engine.

Further refining would be required to make it suitable for internal combustion engines.

One of the more likely uses would be to blend it with other synthetic oils or to supplement a product like Athabasca crude, he said.

Although producing a high quality oil, it is not believed that sludge could make up even one per cent of Canadian oil needs, but all contributions help, he said.

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Ballinafad

Hank Burnett chairman

by Winifred Smith

There was a fairly good attendance at the annual meeting of the community centre on Sunday afternoon. The meeting was called for 12.30 p.m. Lunch was served, after which there was a friendly get-together as people got to know each other. The business part of the meeting got under way around 2 p.m.

The newly elected State of Officers are, as follows:

Chairman	Hank Burnett
Secretary	Betty Andrew
Treasurer	Grant Casely
Entertainment	Jerry Bergan
Public Relations	Betty Walker
Maintenance	Jim Bailey
Members at Large	Chris Dewdney
	Martha Lewis and Reg French

At the close of the meeting, tickets were drawn for a prize, which was a season's ticket for admission to all the hall boards dances. It was won by a Mr. Campbell

of Ballinafad. Good travelling and fine weather brought many worshippers out to church on Sunday. They heard an inspiring sermon from the minister Rev. Dr. Bandy. It was announced during the service that next Sunday January 16 would be the annual congregational meeting.

The January meeting of the Women's Institute started off 1983 with all members, except one present. It was held at the home of Margaret Jamieson, Wednesday January 5. A dessert luncheon was served, which had been prepared by Helga Schwarz and Reggie Slesoraitis.

Marg. Jamieson, president, called the meeting to order and opened with a poem for the New Year, which was followed by the WI opening. Thirteen members answered the roll call.

Members responsible for packing and looking after delivering the Christmas boxes for the sick and shut-ins gave reports. The president brought up the fact that there had been two disastrous fires in the neighborhood recently. As it had, in the past been the custom for the WI to assist those in the community who had lost most of their belongings through fire, a motion was carried that each family be given a donation from the branch.

Grace McEnery, as convener of Education and Cultural Affairs took over for a period to conduct the program. Frances Buckrell was asked to give some known facts about the province of Manitoba. Betty Koperdraad was asked to give current events, which was followed by the motto which had been prepared and given by Winnie Smith. The program ended with an interesting talk by Grace McEnery on Education.

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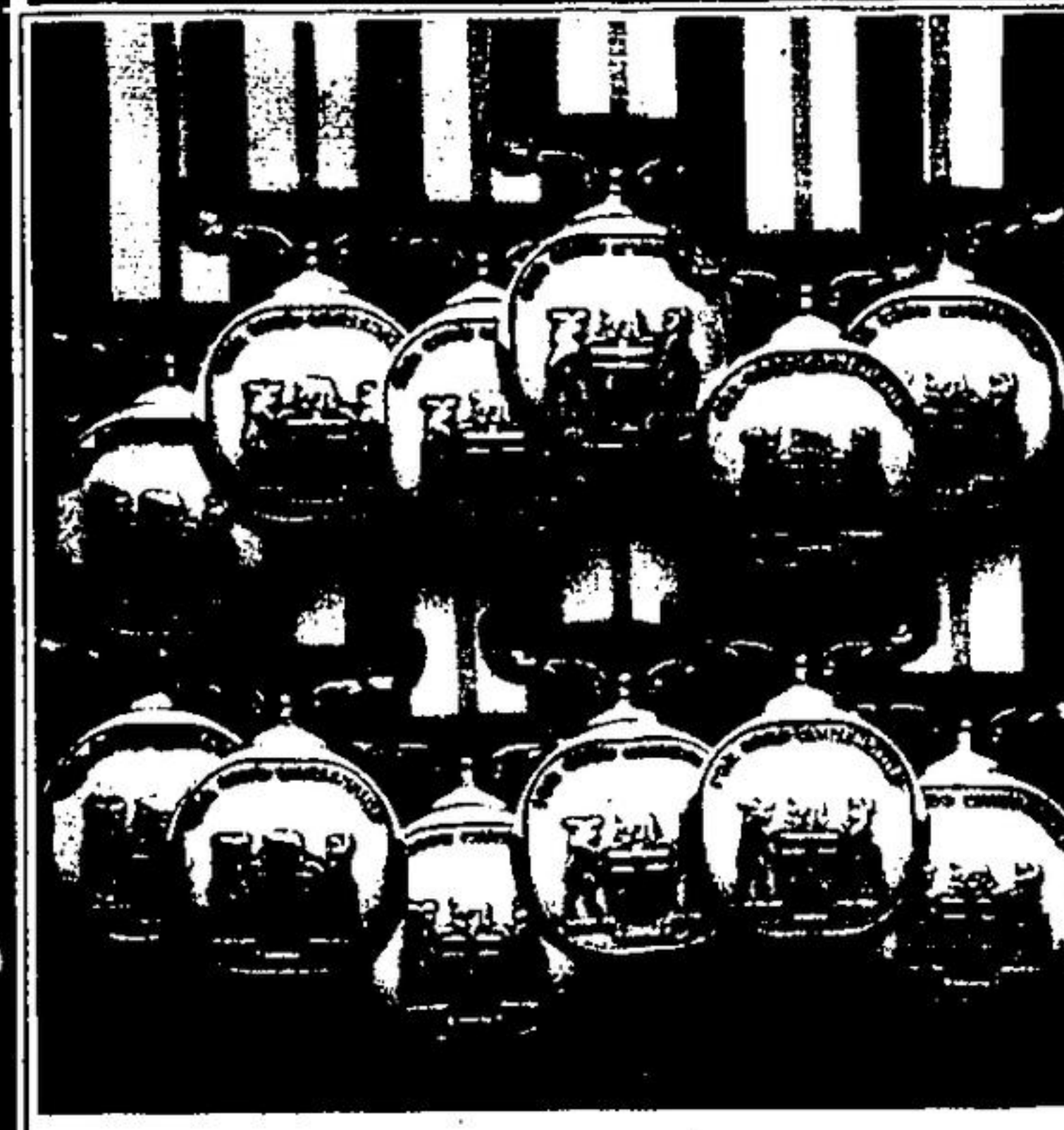
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