

PEERING BETWEEN the hydro poles that are in the middle of the sidewalk on Mill St. near Cameron St. are Stephanie Carr, 6, and her brother Jeff, 3, in the picture below. Their grandfather William Coker whom they are visiting from Huntsville, said the sidewalk was just installed last fall and "they tore it all up last Tuesday." He said he can't understand why the poles were not installed another six inches or so (to the left of the

photograph) where there is approximately eight inches of town land. The pole on the right is being replaced. BOOM, CRASH, CRUNCH! Stephanie and Jeff, cover their ears as a gravel truck rides over the bump on Mill St. near Cameron St. The children's grandmother, Mrs. William Coker, said each time a truck goes over the bump, her house and the dishes in it shake.

Local mystery story writer seeks book publisher

By GEORGE EVASHUK
Herald staff writer

Jim Thompson, 16, has put his lively imagination to use writing murder mystery and adventure stories set in the streets of Acton. And although none have yet been published, he says, "I'm trying to find publishers."

Some of his stories involve officers of the Ontario Provincial Police solving crimes that would have old time radio detectives like Boston Blackie and Philo Vance bright green with envy.

Others are stories of doctors, ambulance drivers lifeguards or forest rangers and chronicle the action in an emergency-packed hour or day in their lives, whether on a plane to Alaska, in the Colorado mountains or on Main Street or Acton Boulevard.

Thompson says he started writing stories in Grade 7. "I put my imagination to work," he says. "I just let it run and away it goes."

He has won writing contests at the Acton Fall Fair and a collection of his school stories

all contain encouraging remarks, plus high grades, from his teachers. This week he entered Grade 10 at Acton high school, but he takes his English classes with Grade 11 students.

"English is one of my better subjects," he says. He adds that science is also one of his better subjects as well.

ACTON MASSACRE
Some of his story titles include: A Telepathic Murder, Acton Massacre, How to Subdue a Master Criminal—Maybe, Supernatural Cemetery, Survival and The Murder on Manly Lane, originally called Babysitting.

At 16, Thompson has yet decided on his ambition although his strong interest in science and medicine seems to favor becoming a doctor, he says.

"My parents encourage me to try journalism or stuff like that," he says, "but it (writing) is just a pastime."

"I write only when the mood strikes me," he says.

Thompson is searching for a publisher for his stories. Of people in town who have read his stories, "everyone's trying to encourage me to write and get published," he says.

Other than naming Alfred Hitchcock, Thompson says he has no favorite writer and although he admits he hasn't yet read many mystery writers, by trying on his own, "maybe I'll have a story to match theirs."



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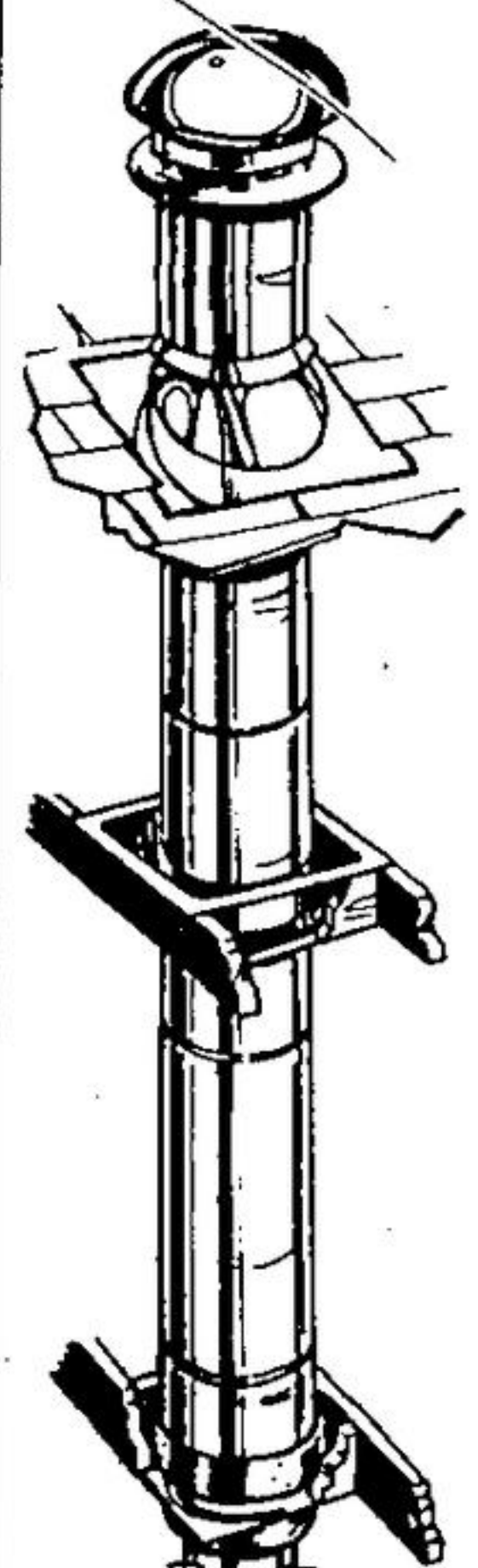
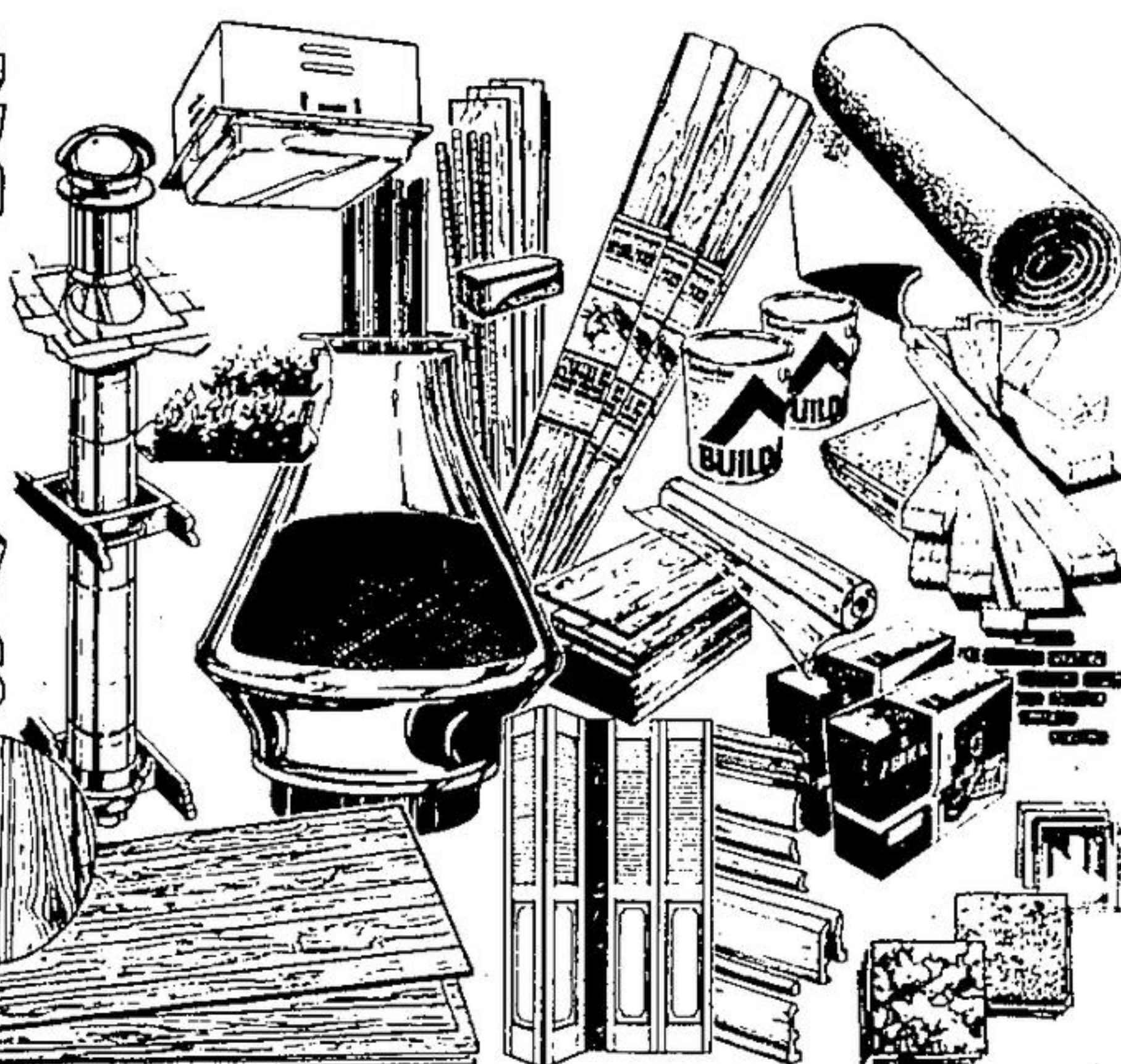
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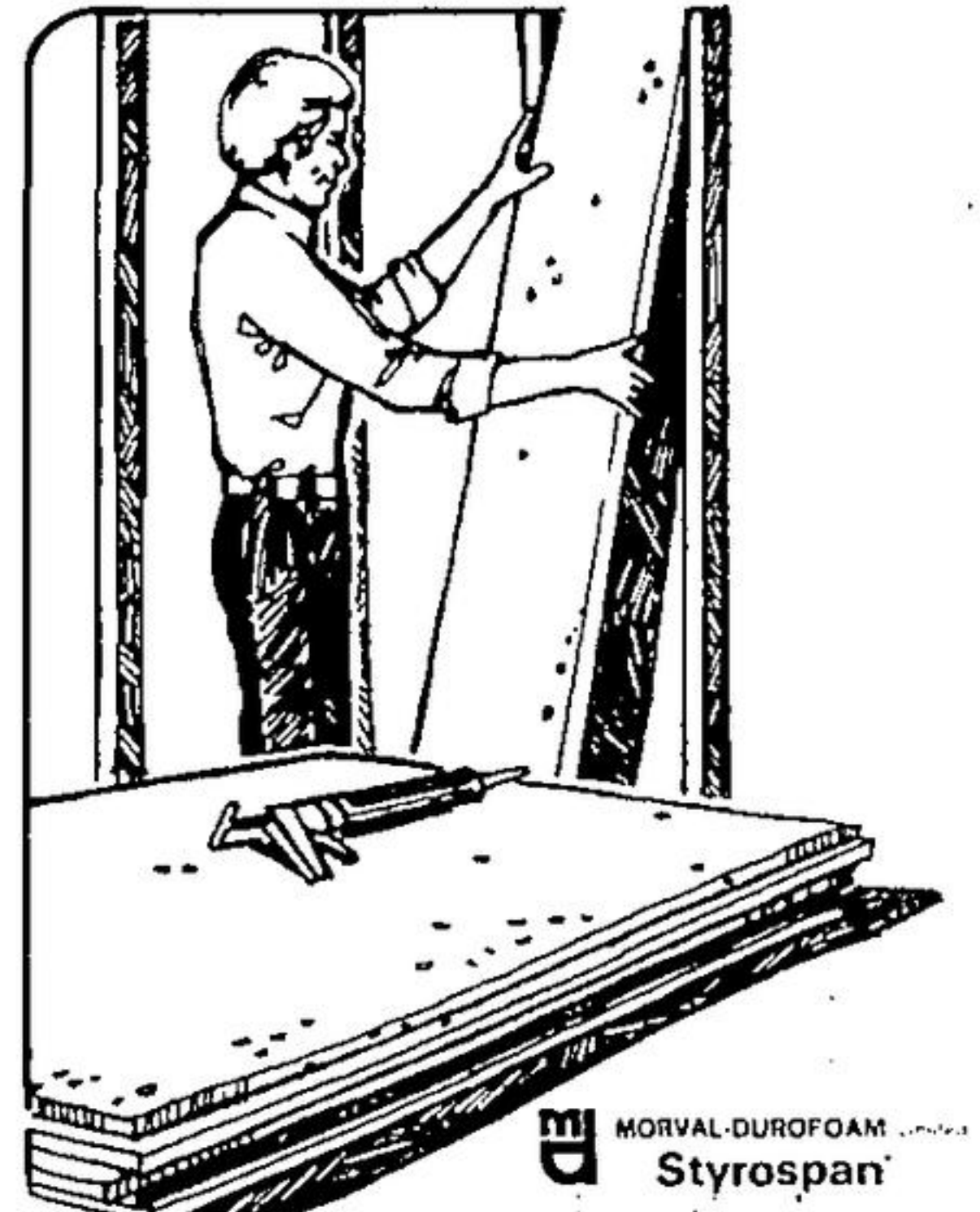
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