

# Drama has argument, wit, sarcasm

NORNIC STUDIO'S  
**'Dear Liar'**  
Apr. 30, May 2, 3, 4,  
May 7, 9, 10  
KNOX CHURCH HALL

Brampton based Glen Tarlin and Florence O'Connor star in Nornic Studios production of "Dear Liar". The play is based on George Bernard Shaw's relationship with English actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell. (Herald photo)



## Lung disease campaign

# Donations top \$100,000

The 1979 Christmas Seal campaign against lung disease, which ended March 31, grossed \$103,096, representing a 6.5 per cent increase over the previous year, the Halton Lung Association has reported.

Campaign chairman Cec McFadden told the Association's board of directors April 10 that the highly successful drive this year is a result of efforts by many volunteers, and particularly senior citizens at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton who stuffed, sealed and counted most of the household mail, as well as those who donated to the fund. It is the first time in the Association's history that receipts have exceeded \$100,000.

Donations to Christmas Seals support Family Asthma Programs, Smoking Withdrawal Clinics, Day Camps for Asthmatic Children, Better Breathing Clubs, Pulmonary

Function Testing in Industry and Social Service Assistance. These programs are all run from the Association's office in the E.A. Orr School on Sherin Drive in Oakville.

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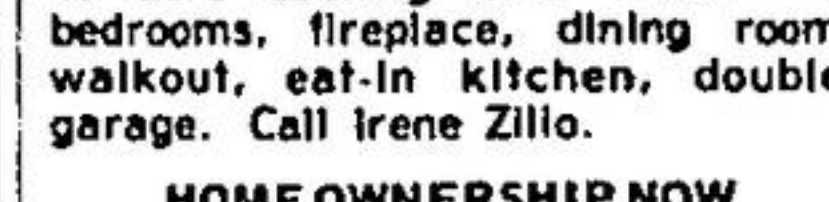
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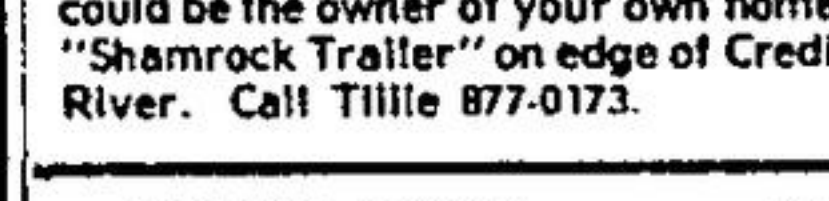
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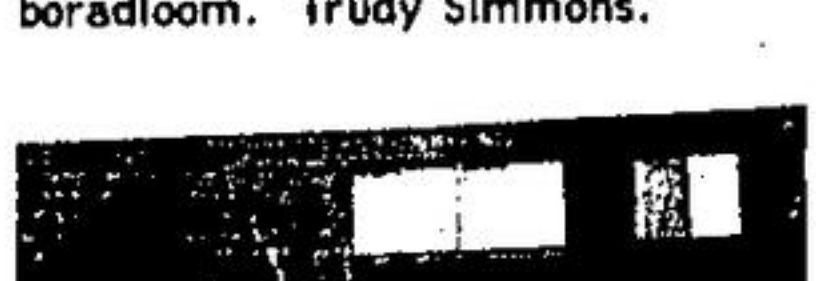
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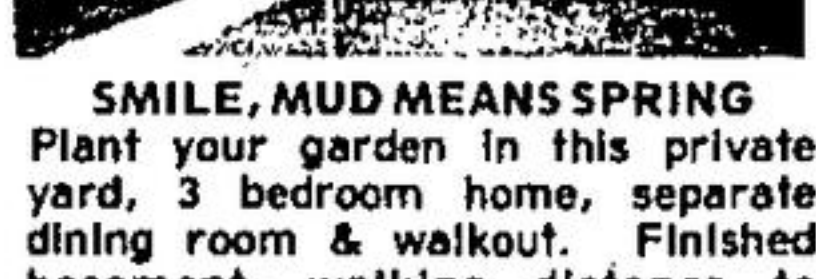
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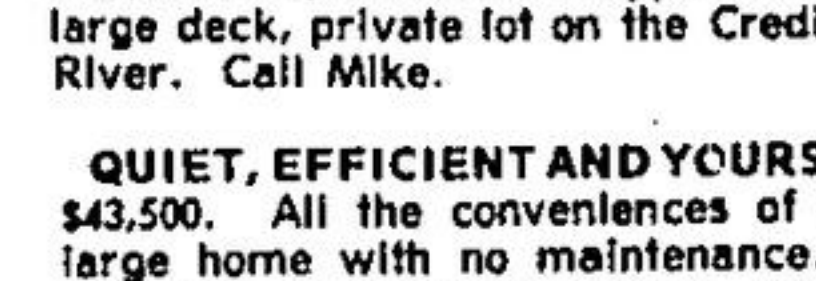
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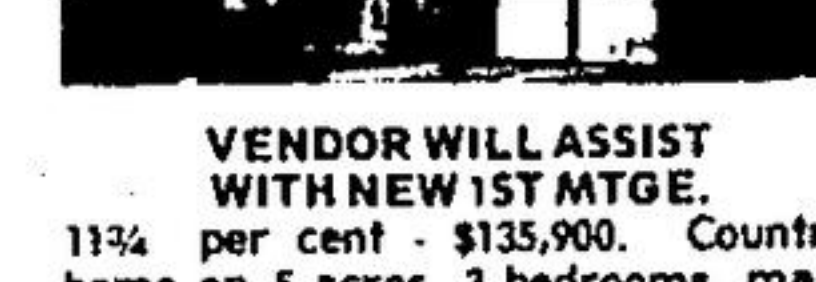
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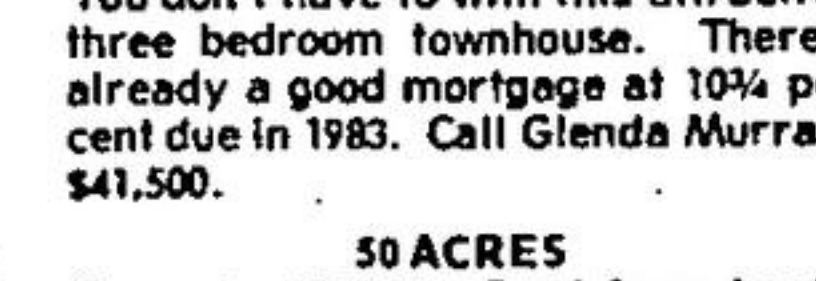
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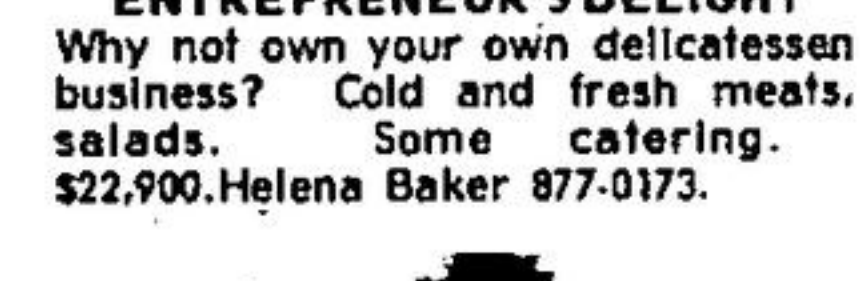
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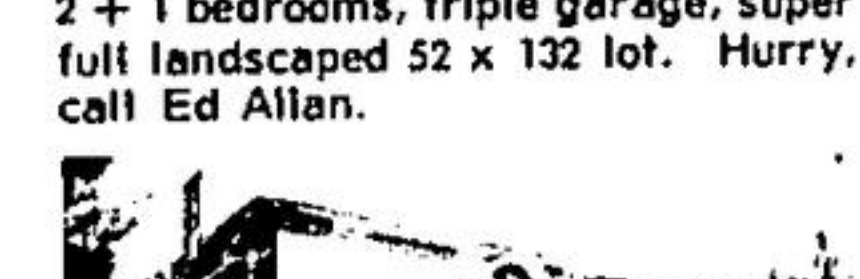
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Asking \$48,500. Big 50 x 150 yard. Call Barbara Jennings.



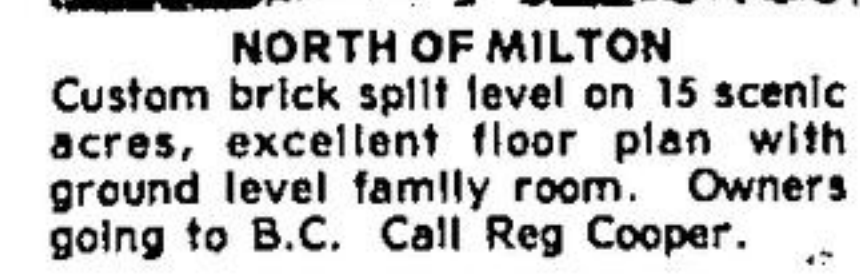
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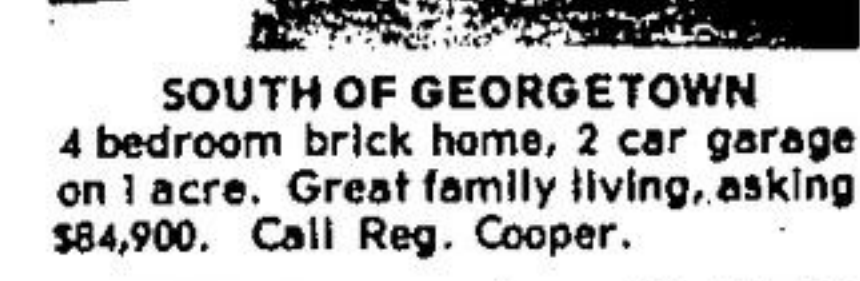
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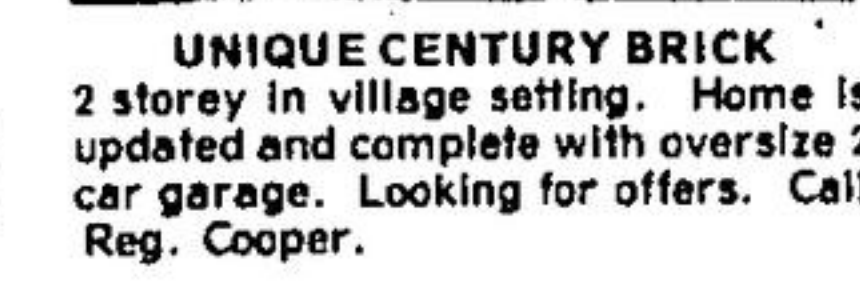
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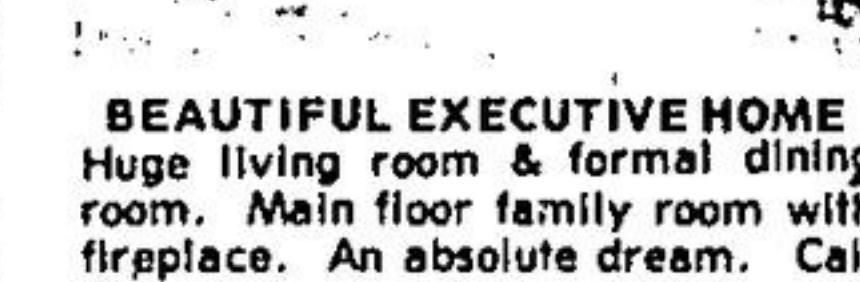
**SOUTH OF GEORGETOWN**  
4 bedroom brick home, 2 car garage on 1 acre. Great family living, asking \$84,900. Call Reg. Cooper.



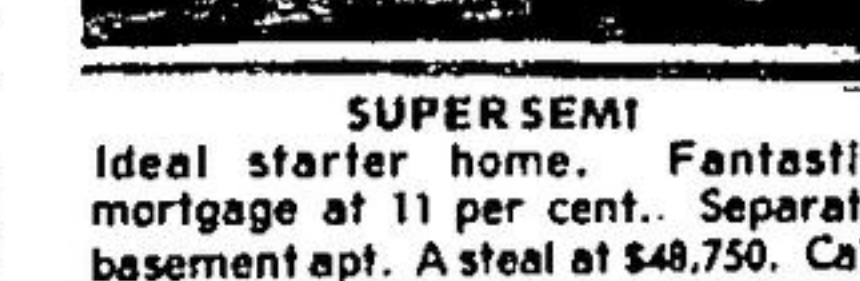
**UNIQUE CENTURY BRICK**  
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Huge living room & formal dining room. Main floor family room with fireplace. An absolute dream. Call Tillie.



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**QUIET CRESCENT LOCATION**  
4 bedroom backsplit, main floor family room with fireplace, walkout to patio, gourmet kitchen, air conditioned. Call Tillie.

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald Editor  
Forty years of passion, wit and intensely personal debate between the famous Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw and English actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell have been distilled for presentation in a most singular form beginning next Wednesday evening at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown.  
Author Jerome Kilty's 1960 play "Dear Liar" promises to be a landmark production for Nornic Studio's Enid Williams, who is producing the seven-night engagement, and Bev Nicholas, who is directing.



BEV NICHOLAS

The two-character drama revolving around Shaw's 40-year relationship of letters with the renowned actress he cast in "Pygmalion" will lay the foundation for upcoming Nornic presentations, including T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" next November, a one-woman performance in "Solitaire" the following January and "Hollow Crown" a year from now.

For "Dear Liar", 75 seats will be open for each evening's engagement April 30, May 2, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 in the Knox downstairs hall.

Director Nicholas sees the production as a union of the dynamic Kilty drama he saw last summer at Niagara-on-the-Lake and two Brampton-based, "quite superb actors", Glen Tarlin and Florence O'Connor.

**PEN IN HAND**

Upon entering, the two actors, in effect still portraying themselves, address the audience concerning the nature of the play they are about to see. Mr. Tarlin then takes pen in hand, assumes a slight Irish brogue, hands Ms. O'Connor his first "letter" and, as she reads it in the character of Mrs. Patrick Campbell, she hears Shaw's voice as he writes to her.

Thus, 40 years of tempestuous romance in writing begins, with the highlights of Shaw's and Campbell's lives coming and going, intertwining with their correspondence, and their relationship strengthening, if anything, as the years pass.

Noting that Mr. Tarlin and Ms. O'Connor have done a great deal of research on the historical characters they portray, Mr. Nicholas describes the relationship between the two great names of the British theatre as an entirely Platonic one.

"Shaw had many of these Platonic 'lovers'," he explains, "but Mrs. Campbell was always his favorite. He used to say that his wife laughed about these affairs of his."

Professionally, the two became acquainted while

Shaw was a drama critic taling note of Mrs. Campbell's fine performance in "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray". Much later, he would write "Pygmalion" with her in mind (confounding her with its Cockney heroine, Eliza Doolittle) and cast her in the lead role. It turned out to be her most famous and successful performance, far outshading her later character portrayals in early Hollywood talkies prior to her death in 1939.

Mrs. Campbell's passing left Shaw - the former journalist, legal assistant, Marxist, contemporary to Chekhov and Ibsen - depleted in talent and spirit. In the 11 years remaining to him, he never fully recovered his former glory.

**WIT AND SARCASTIC**

The letters comprising the basis for "Dear Liar" are full of the argumentative wit and sarcasm that made Shaw's famous plays classics in their own time. Fueling the fire with her own cleverness and passion, Mrs. Campbell provides the play's title, scornfully but endearingly reproaching Shaw for his frequent use of Irish banter.

The play's final moments hold much poignancy for Mr. Nicholas, who plans to use a format similar to that of the Shaw Festival entry he viewed last year. There, he recalled, Shaw had just related the content of Mrs. Campbell's final letter to him of June 28, 1939, and pauses to reflect on his own final years.

"I'm too old, too old, too old, too old," the playwright says solemnly, as the music of his friend Sir Edward Elgar, which Shaw himself incorporated into his plays, rises, and the spotlight fades.

Mrs. Campbell saved her letters from Shaw in a hatbox which was still in her possession on her death. The collection was smuggled out of Paris about the same time, saving it from almost certain destruction during the Nazi occupation.

**ALWAYS FORGIVING**

Mr. Nicholas believes there is something to be learned from "Dear Liar", with all its ebullient moments and tragic references. In the correspondence at the centre of the play, he points out, there is always the tempestuousness common to Shaw's and Campbell's romance, but at the same time, there is always the forgiveness.

"Perhaps we can learn that, no matter how bad the circumstances get, we can still talk things through and resolve our differences," Mr. Nicholas said. "There were so many times they needed each other so much."

Joining the director to breathe life into the play, Mr. Tarlin and Ms. O'Connor are two still-active members of the Bramalea Little Theatre. Ms. O'Connor is a Hamilton native, raised in Winnipeg, who has moved from teaching school to personnel work to her current position as a "domestic executive". She creates wall-hangings and fabric collages and loves music and reading.

Glen Tarlin was born in Port Dalhousie and raised in Palmerston. He's always been an avid "people-watcher", enjoys reading biographies and prefaces his involvement with the Bramalea company with appearances in "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Brigadoon". Mr. Nicholas directed him in "The Hand that Cradles the Rock" for Bramalea.

Tickets for "Dear Liar" are available from The Hot Bed on Mill Street and the Delrex Smoke Shop in the Market Place. Box office is at 877-0702.

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