

University Women's Club lecture

Freelance writing a dicy way to live: Long

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Sending out manuscripts is like being pregnant for London freelancer Helen Long.

"If it comes back it's like having a miscarriage, and if they decide to publish it, it's like giving birth," she said.

Mrs. Long is the mother of Rosemary Oliver of Pennington Crescent in Georgetown. She gave a talk to members of the University Women's Club Thursday night about the pleasures and pains of freelancing. The members were meeting for the first time as a new book club.

Mrs. Long is the author of *Change Into Uniform*, an autobiography 1933-1949, published by Terence Dalton of Lavenham Suffolk in 1978. She freelances for London

magazines like *The Lady*, *Nursery World*, *She*, and *Pulse*, a medical publication.

"I came into writing late in life when my children were grown up. I was looking for something to do," she says candidly. Writing took the place of her four children.

"I've always loved the English language and I used to get good grades in English at school," she said. "I used to write and put things in a drawer, then I realized nobody's going to read them there."

Mrs. Long, 61, is an enthusiastic chatly woman who welcomed warmly each of the ten women who had come to hear her talk in her daughter's basement. She was in Canada primarily to visit her daughter and her daughter's family, recent immigrants to Canada.

She said freelancing is a dicy way to live; it's a gamble and the story idea is the nub of the matter. It can get you the assignment or lose it for you.

"One can never get fat freelancing," she said. "It'll never keep you; you'll starve to death." She said she's a "kept woman" and writing merely keeps her from getting old before her time. Her husband is a family doctor in Kent.

A member of the Society of Authors in London, she says it's important to know your market "or you'll never place anything anywhere."

"Editors don't want to waste time telling you what's wrong with your article. It's up to you to find out why they rejected it," she said.

It also pays to know who's on the move, and when they're gone, she said, recounting how she had had an article turned down by an editor, yet, when resubmitting it to a new editor with the same magazine a few weeks later, had found the new editor keen to publish it.

Mrs. Long said it's important to write in the style of the magazine the article is intended for. "You have to stick with their image," she said.

She belongs to a writer's group which meets the last Wednesday of each month and follows each other member's work. They each must bring writing to the meeting and together they constructively criticize, she said.

"We know what markets there are and we encourage each other," she said of the group.

Lately she's been working on two booklets, one on the children in statue form in London, and another on the insects and animals in statue form.

"What awful things these cherubs get up to, unspeakable things," she said, shaking her head. She has chased 40

cherubs around central London and written a text on each of them. Together with photographs done by a friend, she says it would be a lovely guidebook.

Last Christmas she had a centrespread article in the magazine *Lady* about the cherubs. The booklet is an extension of her fascination for the statues.

"I know exactly where there's a cat playing a fiddle and two mice fighting over a sandwich on top of a building," she said. She explained that workmen constructing a particular London building used to find their sandwiches eaten by the mice come lunch-time and so when they finished the building they left the statue of the two mice behind as an affectionate reminder.

Mrs. Long said she is having trouble getting her booklets done up now.

"Nobody has money to put into anything in London now. It's very difficult," she said. She told the women that problems in London are very much like problems women have in Canada, and advised them to write for London magazines.

"The world's gotten much smaller," she said. "The magazine business is booming and becoming more international. We're interested in what's going on in other parts of the world. Besides, the exchange rate is in your favor."

Mrs. Long started writing her first book when her son, also a journalist, said "For God's sake, stop writing all that rubbish for women's magazines."

The autobiography was written from scrap books she kept during the second world war. A nurse with the navy, she wasn't allowed to keep a diary for it was found it could give away secrets to the

Germans, she said. She kept odds and ends like menus from the ship she was on, in her scrap books. She also had the letters she exchanged for four years with her boyfriend, now husband.

Mrs. Long said she didn't have much research to do for her autobiography except to confirm some facts at the British Imperial War Museum.

"To my amusement, this book is now selling as a social history and is recommended reading at colleges," she said. She gave a copy of the book to the Georgetown public library "because I've been very happy in Canada." Her daughter Rosemary said the warm welcome she'd had at the library had influenced her to stay in Georgetown when she originally came to Canada.

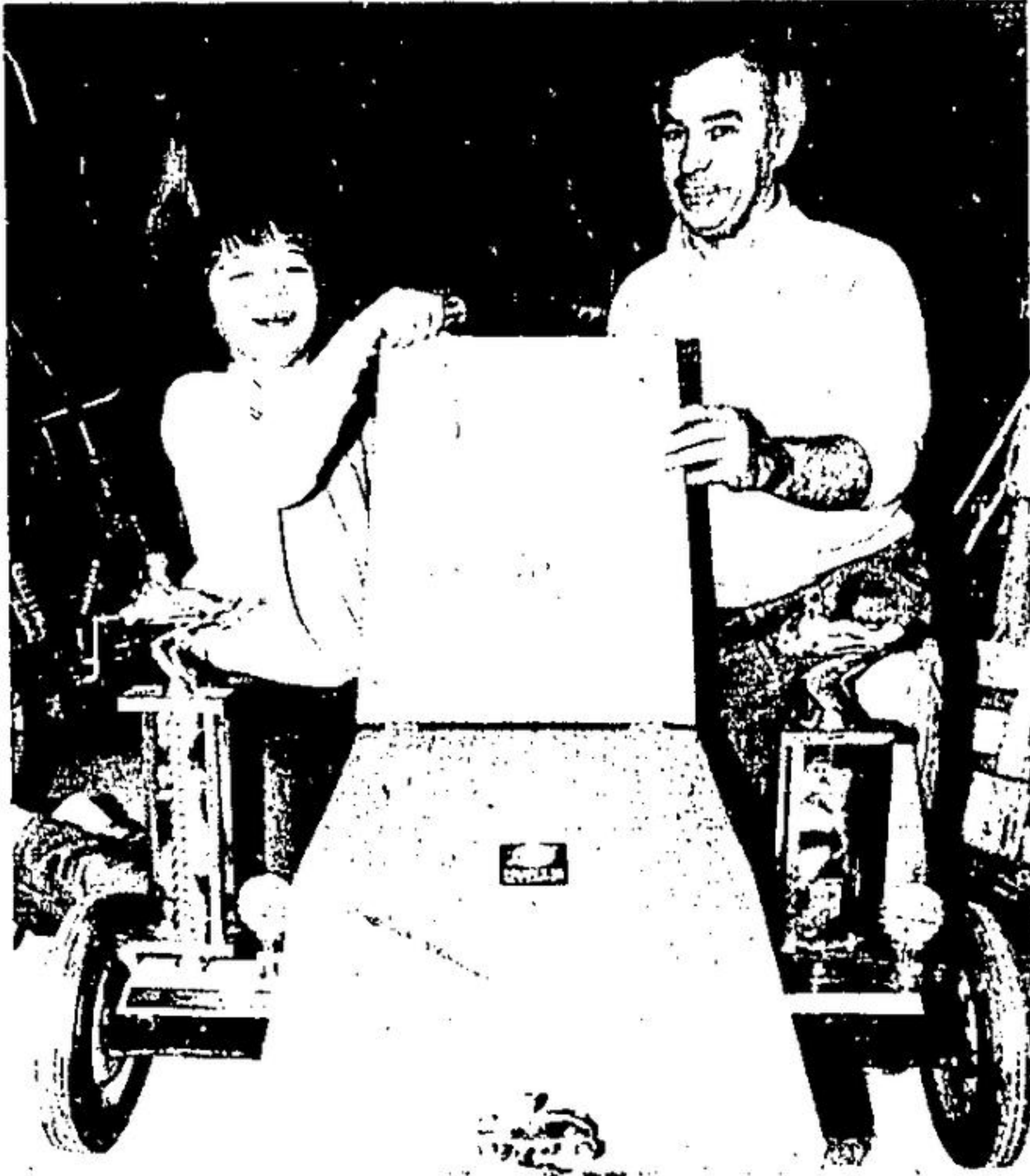
Mrs. Long said she has received many letters from people who have read her book

and written to say they had led the same sheltered childhood before the war and had had many of the same war experiences.

She is currently working on a book about the French resistance movement in the south of France. Her uncle and aunt kept a safe house in Marseilles, helping over 200 people move on to the Spanish front for repatriation, she said.

"Through my research I discovered that over 30,000 civilians gave their lives in order that 3,000 British should get home," she said.

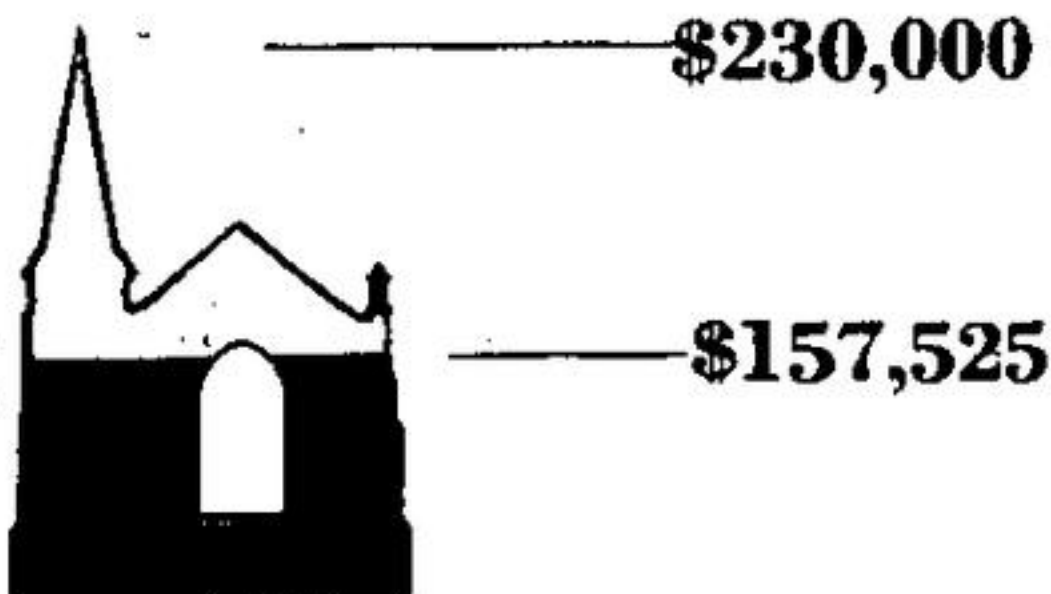
Mrs. Long has been to the south of France with her husband to see the rooms where her uncle lived. She said she's been interviewing several people and finds that although 40 years have passed since WW II, a lot of people can hardly bear to talk about those times.



IT TAKES TEAMWORK

Nine-year old John Sullivan and his dad, Ron, have been a successful father-and-son soap box derby combo for the past two years and when this year's event rumbles down Georgetown's Maple Avenue again Sunday, they hope that team work will pay off in another trophy for John's bookshelf. Registration for this year's derby (organized by the Kinsmen with lots of help from McDonald's Restaurant) will begin at noon Sunday at the Holy Cross school parking lot. Presentations will take place at 5 p.m. that afternoon. Meanwhile, John and Ron will be putting the finishing touches to the vehicle which has won John the Acton Optimists' Derby first prize in 1979, the Georgetown Derby's 1979 top prize for the Junior A class and the Jr. B title last year. Duty credited with his work in the pit crew is family friend, Charles Nowles (not photoed). (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Fund grows steadily



ARTS COMPLEX FUND

Acton's image receives boost

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the arena that Sunday.

Meanwhile, Acton's Leathertown image is already receiving recognition beyond its rural boundaries. A number of leathertown prizes have apparently cropped up in Toronto game shows.

"Anything we do is a bonus," Mr. Petrillo said. "So we need involvement now," especially financially.

Already a group of Acton High School students have impressed federal government Summer works program administrators with a history of the community prepared this summer.

"What we have is a most unique area in Ontario," he added. "If we start pulling together with it instead of always complaining about it."

Under the association, which will hold its inaugural meeting Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the M.Z. Bennett School, every Acton resident is a member.

Although cautious about committing town funds to Leathertown's list of promotional projects, Mayor Pomeroy praised the association's eagerness to put Acton on the map as an important point of popular interest.

"It's because of groups like yours that Acton will become a centre of the tourist industry," he told Mr. Petrillo, noting that Acton's sudden enthusiastic interest in what it has to offer to other people is getting considerable attention in other parts of town as well.

"Tourism is the third largest industry in the province," Mr. Reed said. "Surely every area of the province has a story to tell."

The amount collected to date does not include, however, the proceeds from the name-spaces on the two wall hangings which the Arts Council is sponsoring in collaboration with the Georgetown Rug Hookers. If all 100 available spaces are purchased the Arts Council will easily make good on its pledge.

Interest is steadily growing in this unique form of donation whereby donors can have their names or those of others they wish to remember hooked into two works of art which will hang in perpetuity in the new theatre. Maximum name-space available is 36 inches.

Most recent purchasers are: The George Johnston Family Helen R. Friskney Gene, Liddy and Chad Ingils The Davies Family.

For full details, contact John Roe at 877-2824 or Elizabeth Shore at 877-8160.

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Arts Council treasurer, presented Mayor Pomeroy with a cheque for \$3,332 - the balance from the proceeds of its gigantic historical mural and the much-acclaimed Old Tyme Music Hall night.

Arts Council president Elizabeth Shore says this brings HIAAC-member group contributions to \$12,691 - only \$7,309 short of the Council's \$20,000 pledge.

When Ronnie isn't busy performing before screaming, rompin' stompin' fans, he's dabbling in the movie and TV

Hawkins visits centre Oct. 20

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"I like it when everybody can just holler out," he said. For trivia lovers who want to plug The Hawk into a mental peg for historical reference, it was a "newly-electrified" Bob Dylan who encouraged Ronnie's band, The Hawks, to travel to England for a special "ground-breaking" tour. Eventually, The Hawks became legendary themselves, under the name of The Band.

In fact, Ronnie was at The Band's yet unparalleled goodbye performance about four Thanksgiving ago, joining singers like Van Morrison, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Neil Young. Hawkins' segment in the film, "The Last Waltz", which documents The Band's final performance, stands out as one of the best of the entire feature.

When Ronnie isn't busy performing before screaming, rompin' stompin' fans, he's dabbling in the movie and TV

business. He was featured in the ill-fated Michael Cimino duster "Heaven's Gate", now "The Johnson Country Wars", but there is also a documentary on him entitled "The Hawk" which premiered at Toronto's Festival of Festivals earlier this month.

Meanwhile, he's beaming into living rooms via CTV's "Honky Tonk" show Friday nights at 7:30.

A shade over middle age, Ronnie shows little sign of fading into the sunset, especially now that he's enjoying such a popular revival.

"I've been trying to find me a body somewhere," he told his fans at last week's press conference. "This one's just about worn out."

Worn out, hell! The "Geritol Gypsy" has a truckful of musical explosives ready to bring Halton Hills fans to their feet.

And when he shouts "Who Do You Love" there'll be no question about it here.

Ronnie Hawkins tickets are available at the town's recreation department. Call 877-5185 (Extension 60 for Georgetown callers and 19 for calls from Acton) to get additional information. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12.50 at the door.

Halton Police Constable Peter Hodgson has successfully completed the Advanced Training course at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario.

Policeman completes course

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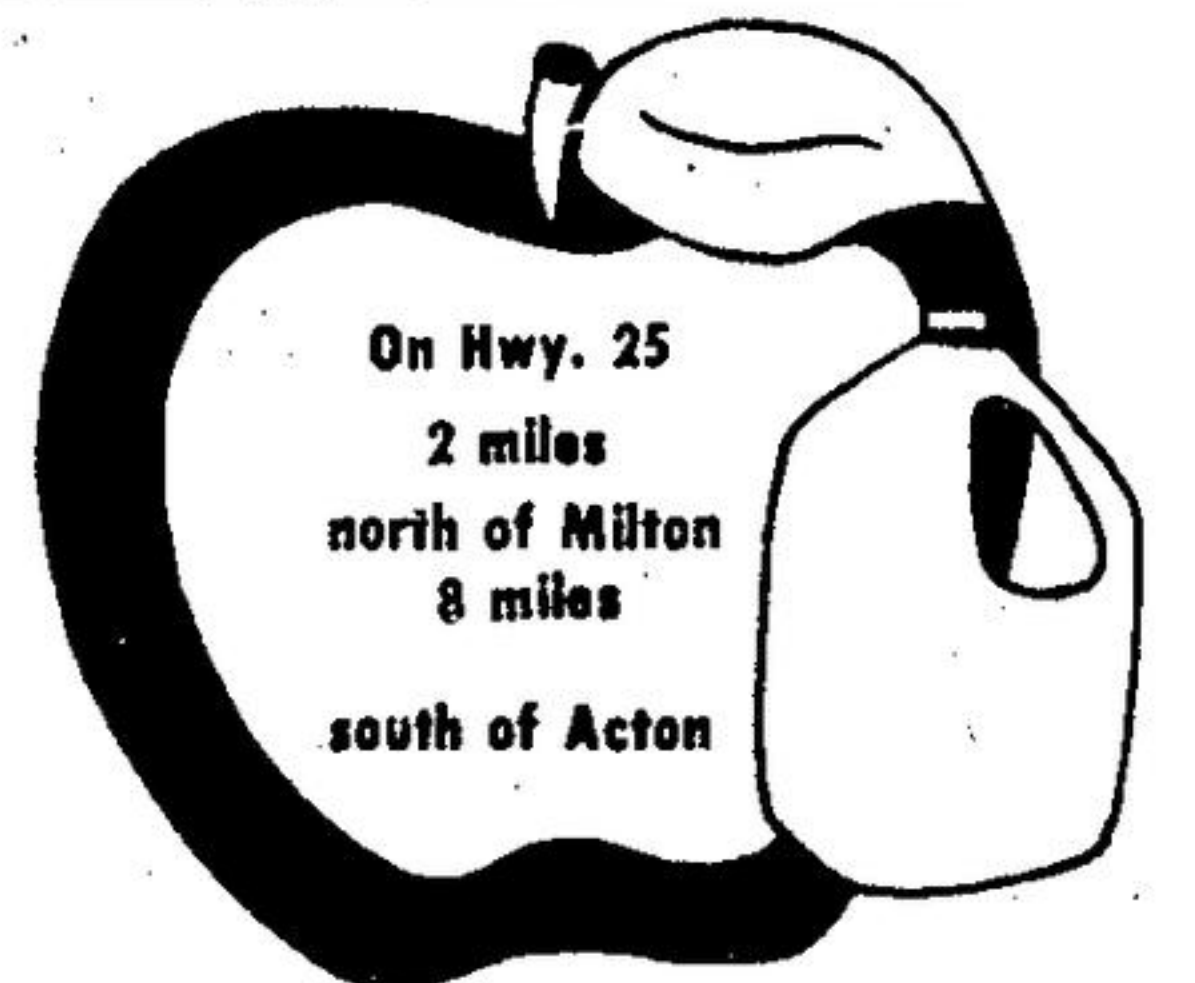
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