

# Past Times, Play Times at Black Creek Village

Just after the Christmas hustle and bustle, escape to Black Creek Pioneer Village and discover how families in the 19th century amused themselves with games and toys. Past Times, Play Times begins Dec. 26 and runs through until Jan. 6, 1991, excluding New Year's Day.

In the 1860s, families and friends enjoyed a number of indoor activities during the winter months. A rage for board and card games started in the 1840s.

Many of the games used balls and marbles. Playing cards were popular with all ages and both sexes. Several particularly popular card games of that era were whist, cribbage and piquet.

The tradition of using dolls to show the latest fashions ensured a constant supply of playthings for little girls. In the 1860s there were wax dolls, China dolls and, most recently, bisque dolls with swivel heads. The French family Jumeau made the most famous

bisque dolls. The Jumeau doll at the Village came complete with real kid gloves.

Military toys were popular playthings with little boys - toy soldiers, toy cannons and toy pistols. The first toy cannons for American July 4th celebrations actually came with miniature cannon balls and gun powder to fire.

In a more religious home, a wooden Noah's Ark was often the only toy children were allowed to

play with on Sundays. Their popularity declined in the late 19th century, and Noah's Ark was replaced by barnyard and circus sets.

Other popular playthings in pre-Confederation Canada were toy banks, the rocking horse, monkey-on-a-string and bean bags.

Traditional rhyming, chasing and singing games were gradually replaced by board games designed specifically for

children. They were generally manufactured in the United States or Europe and imported to Ontario.

Black Creek Pioneer Village is open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends. It is located in northwest Metro Toronto, at Jane Street and Steeles Avenue, and is accessible by TTC.

For more information call (416) 736-1733.

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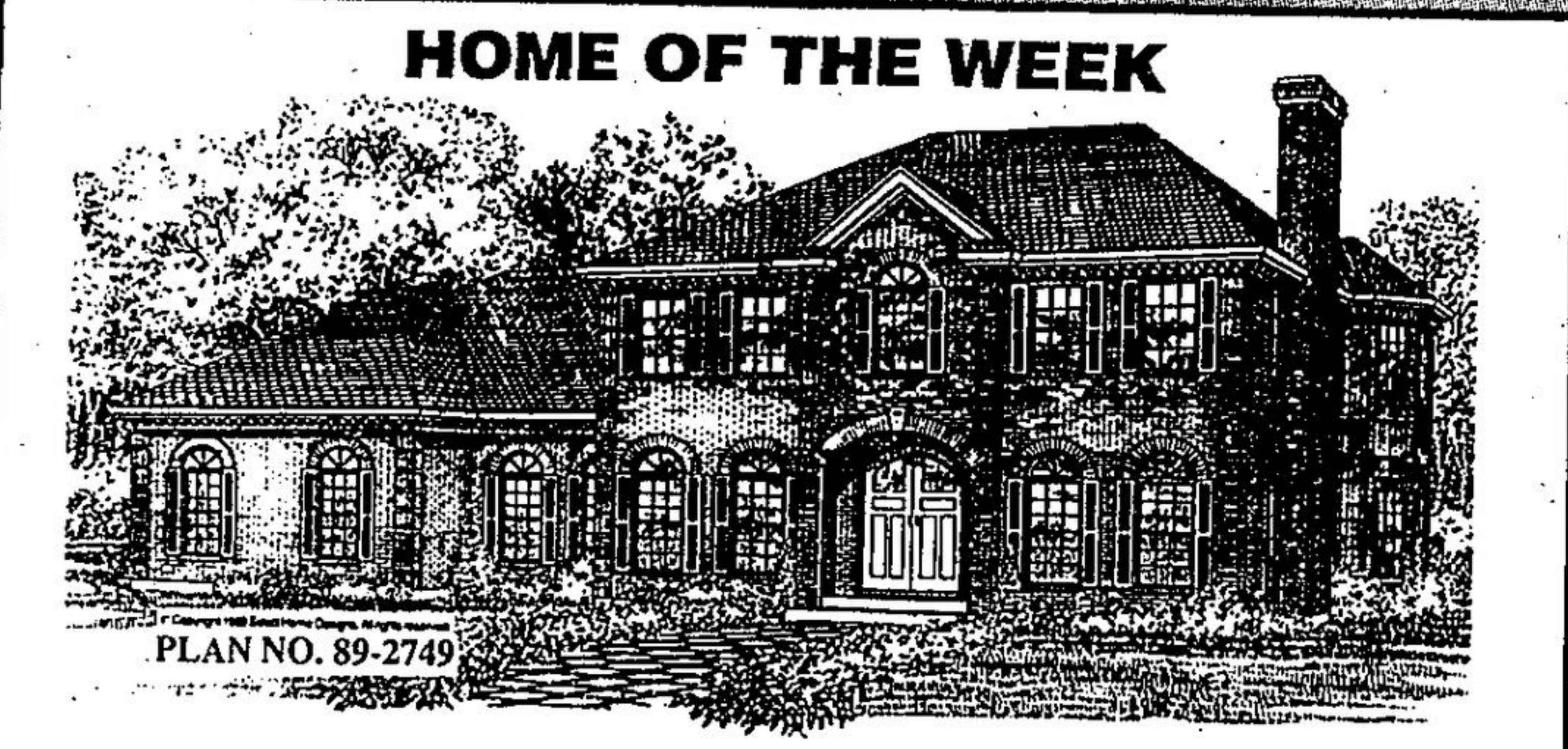
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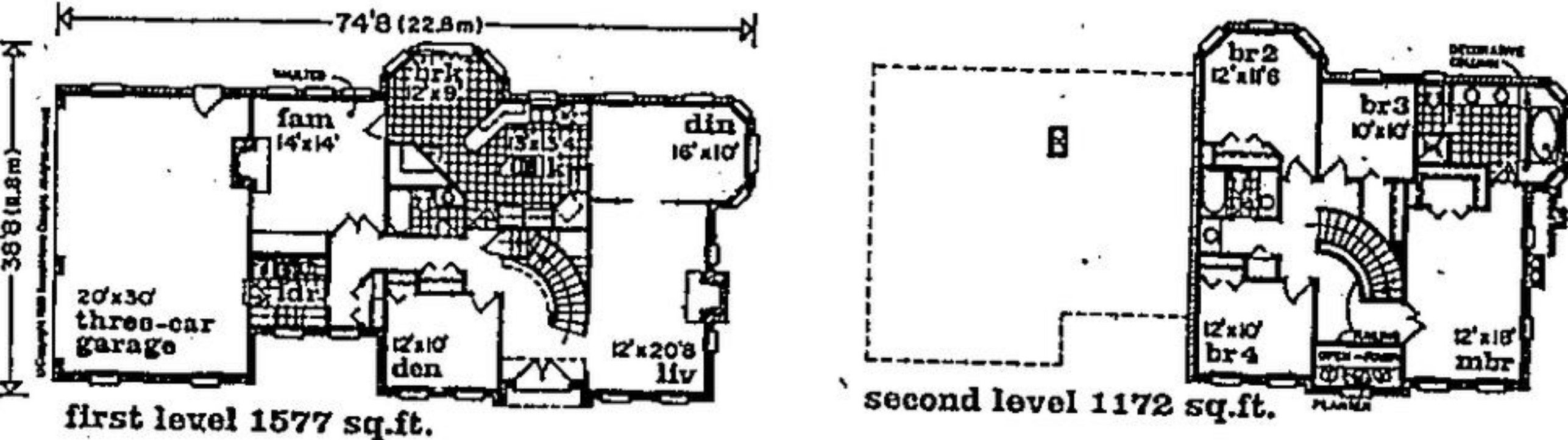
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The finished floor area of this design is 2,812 square feet.  
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