

Help is on the way for frustrated parkers

If you're one of the frustrated motorists who have rented or reserved parking spaces but find that someone else is always parked there, help may be on the way.

Ottawa real estate broker turned inventor David Stoller has designed an electronic barrier - the Stopark - that will block your parking space when you're not using it and open only for you.

Two metal poles joined at right

angles into an 'L' are attached at one end to a swivel motor set at the head of the parking space. At rest, one pole lies along the head of the space and the other the side.

When activated by a device similar to a garage-door opener, the motor pivots the poles so that they block the parking space. At another command, it retracts them to clear it.

The device is designed to stop if

it hits anything while opening or closing, and is spring-loaded to withstand collision. It's built close enough to the ground not to damage a car hitting it.

In Ottawa, the average cost to construct a parking space is \$10,000 to \$12,000, says Ottawa development consultant Jim Hillel. So buyers of parking spaces in, for example, condominiums, must pay a lot for the space - but then may find it illicit-

ly occupied by someone else.

The same problem often confronts government agencies. The federal government owns about 32,000 parking spots in and around Ottawa, which are for its employees or are leased out.

Stoller has had a prototype Stopark built, and has had it patented in several countries. A spokesman for Hovey Industries Ltd., which plans to manufacture the device, says it will probably cost \$500 to \$600 a unit.

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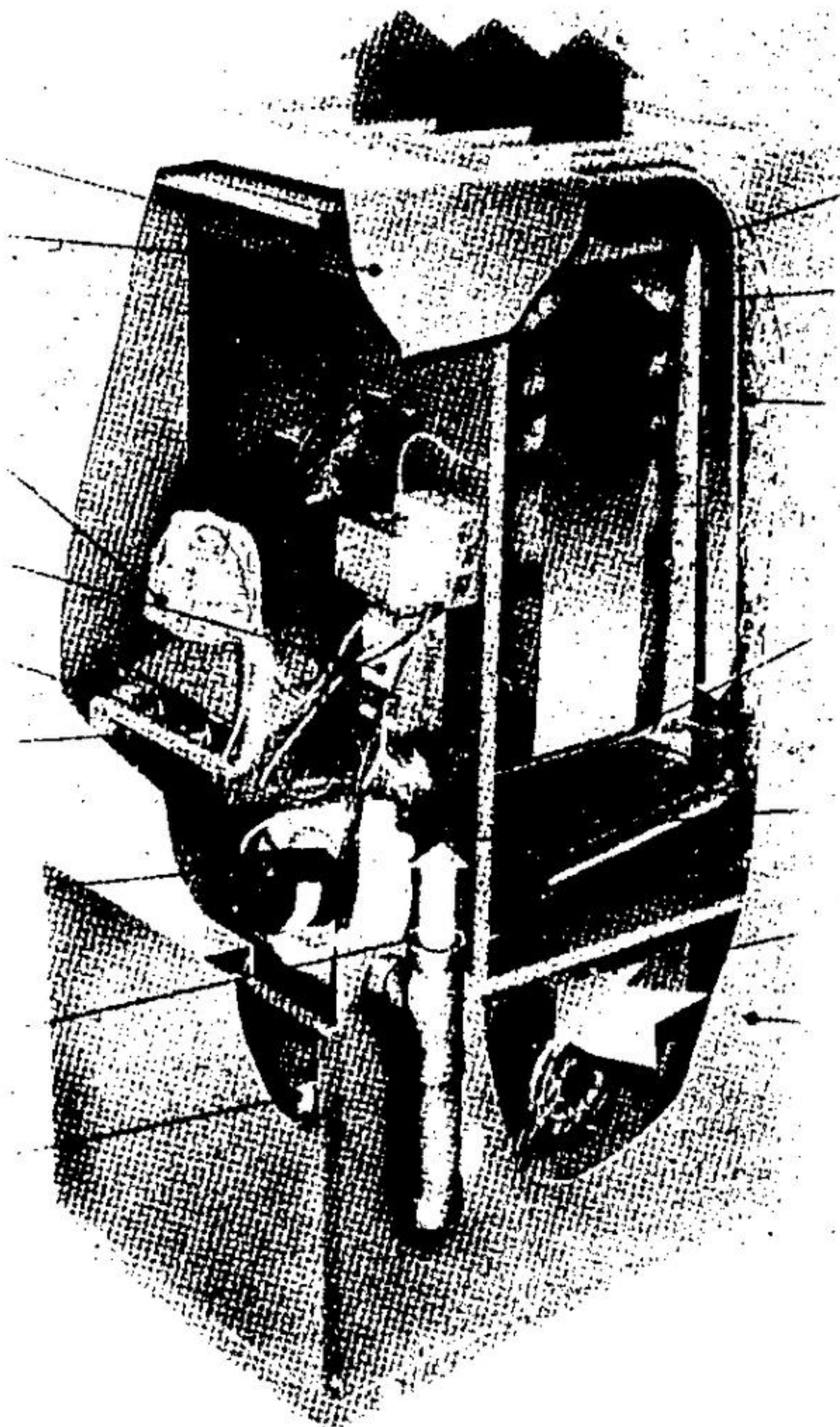
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