

Benton elected W.I. president

By RUTH KRANENDONK
Halton Women's Institute

Living in the country is not always as quiet as you might imagine. It can be a noisy place especially if you live on a farm. Did you know that the sound system of the ear is more sensitive than the sound system of your stereo?

Rural noise pollution was just one of the issues covered by guest speaker Shirlee Smith at the 91st annual meeting of Halton District Women's Institute on May 23. Smith is Seniors Outreach Services counsellor with Canadian Hearing Society. The theme for the meeting was "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

She stressed the importance of wearing ear protection when operating tractors, combines, grain dryers and chain saws. Would you have thought that even the sound of pigs squealing at feeding time can reach 108 decibels, compared to a chain saw at 105 decibels? The sound of gunfire many experts view as the most serious leisure noise threat to our hearing.

Over time, repeated exposure to sounds that cause temporary hearing loss may gradually cause permanent noise-induced hearing loss. Once you've lost your hearing, it

doesn't come back. Initial or further loss can be prevented by wearing commercially available ear protection such as ear plugs or muffs in all noisy environments. More information about hearing loss and the programs offered, contact the Canadian Hearing Society, 3034 Palstan Road, Suite 201, Mississauga, L4Y 2Z6 or call (416) 896-7667. This office serves the Regions of Halton, Peel and Dufferin County.

With the Campbellville Branch hosting the meeting at St. David's Church in Campbellville, the new executive for 1992-93 are as follows: past president, Eve Martin; president, Glenda Benton; 1st vice-president, Jean McLean; 2nd vice-president, Jane Baynton; 3rd vice-president, Marion McPhail; secretary-treasurer, Verna Bird; assistant secretary, Wendy Purvis; public relations, Norma Alexander; program coordinator, Maisie Lasby.

A presentation was also made by Murray Russell, project coordinator for Feedback Canada. This new venture was formed to address the problems of the hungry by growing more food and also to tap into surplus agricultural products. Affiliated with Canadian Feed The Children Inc., headquarters are

located at 69 Main Street North, Georgetown. Great progress has been made to make use of donated land and donated materials. With the help of volunteers, which also include many present and former food bank recipients, the crops are then grown and harvested to be delivered directly to the food banks.

With the motto "Working With Canadian Farmers To Fight Hunger," many local farmers, nurseries, commercial and volunteer organizations have already supported this project. For more information, call (416) 873-4607.

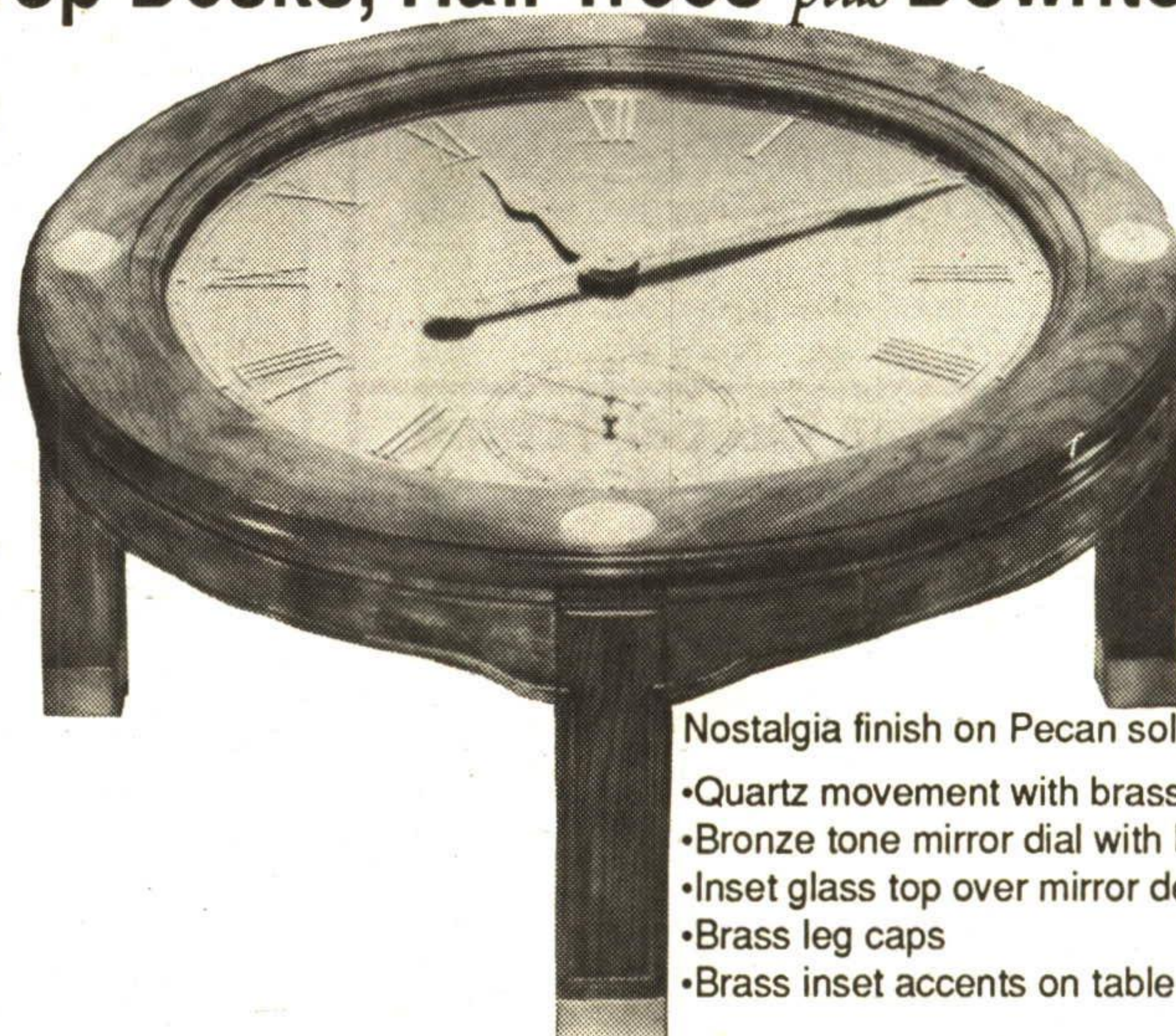
Increase in fire incidents concerns local councillor

Councillor Rick Bonnette again raised concerns Monday night that the number of fire calls are continuing to increase.

Calling it a trend, he charged that there "appears to be a lot of carelessness going on, and the message (of fire safety) is just not getting out."

According to the latest fire report, there have been 232 calls this year by the end of May, compared to only 162 last year. Also, the damage has been tagged at \$759,000, compared to only \$273,500 over the same period a year ago. "If this keeps up it's literally going to be a hot summer," Bonnette quipped. Fire chief Bill Cunningham promised to return to council with a report on the matter.

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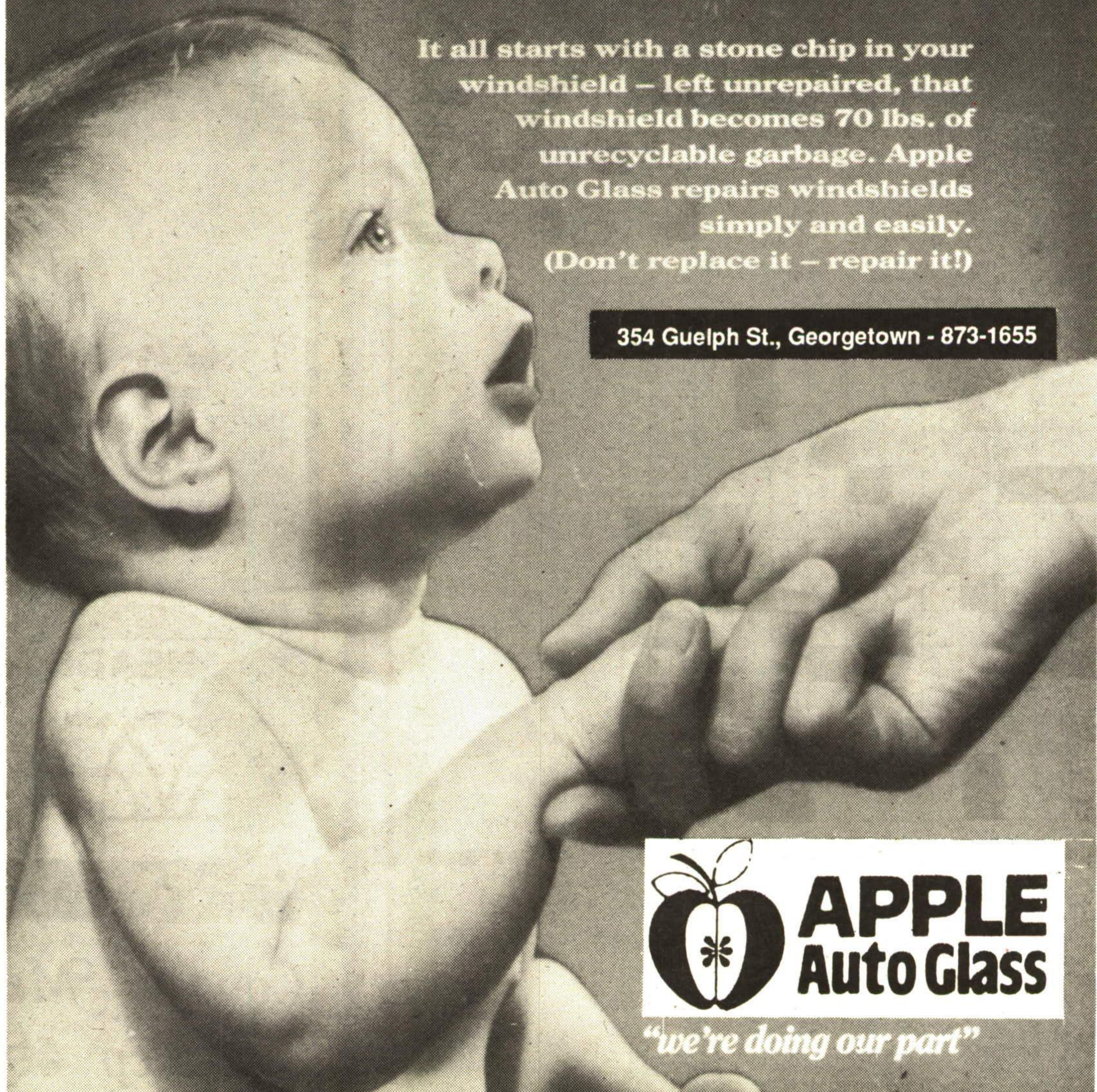
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