

Region seeks sponsor for video

A Burlington waste reduction group's request that Halton Region donate \$10,000 for a video on proper environmental living was quickly deferred by councillors Wednesday.

While most regional councillors saw the video as a way of showing off Halton's programs like the Blue Box, they backed away from approving it for another two weeks to give any companies involved in waste programs a chance to put their two cents' worth in first.

"I think we should pursue the private sector first— I'd like to spend taxpayers' money as carefully as my own," Burlington councillor Bob Brechin said.

"I think lots of good corporate citizens who are engaged in waste management would be prepared to fund the endeavor and have their corporate logo shown or something... I have no problem with the group, only perhaps with funding it. I know how long it takes me to

save \$10,000, never mind the taxpayers' money."

The Burlington chapter of the Hamilton Conservator Society needs the money to produce a professional, 20-minute profile of a family which has been "practising the 3Rs with ease, grace and choice," according to project coordinator Aline Tso.

The video will not only feature the family and how they live in harmony with the environment, but also "embrace the waste reduction programs of Halton Region," she told councillors.

"We want to show their lifestyle but also bring in the programs (Halton Region) already has in place," she added.

Its goal is to promote solid waste reduction through lifestyle changes, such as composting, recycling and reusing more.

"I don't think we all live that way, yet," Tso added. "But, we have a real family in Burlington

that's been doing that for several years."

Halton had socked away \$50,000 this year for waste reduction initiatives such as the video. To date, just over \$24,000 has been given out to various groups throughout the region.

Oakville's Bill Logan questioned why Halton is getting into the video business, agreeing that private waste companies should be solicited for funds before the region hands over any money.

But, Burlington Mayor Walt Mulkeiwich argued that if Halton were to produce the video, the cost would be "three to five times more for the same film."

"With this non-profit group, they are bringing all of their volunteer expertise and energy to the film — their only costs are for the professional video company producing it," he said. "In terms of getting a bigger bang for our buck, my guess is we'll get a bigger one this way."

Gypsy moth invasion stopped

The invasion of the Gypsy moth into Halton has been stopped indefinitely.

These "eating machines," as they have been described, have been stripping woodlots bare in parts of Oakville and Burlington, and were beginning to migrate north into Milton and Halton Hills.

Halton officials considered spraying the infested areas last fall in an attempt to kill the insects off after the ministry of natural resources offered to help pay for the program. However, the province recently renege on the deal, and Halton had to call it off.

But, forestry supervisor Bill Gaines admitted to regional councillors last week that the Gypsy moth population has "crashed in Halton."

"It looks like the population had reached its peak last year, and now it seems to have dropped off," he said. "It will probably stay low for the next four or five years."

Although he couldn't pin down the cause of the moth's decline, Gaines speculated that the cool weather this summer "probably contributed."

"Yeah, they probably drowned," Burlington councillor Joyce

Savoline quipped, referring to the high amount of rain this season.

A more detailed report from Halton staff is forthcoming, planning commissioner Rash Mohammed noted.

Gypsy moths can strip red and white oak, white birch and the leaves of 500 plants, including agricultural crops and grasses.

An aerial survey over 16 Mile Creek, Falcon and Grindstone Valleys last year revealed that approximately 2,000 acres of woodlots were moderately to severely stripped by the Gypsy moth caterpillars.

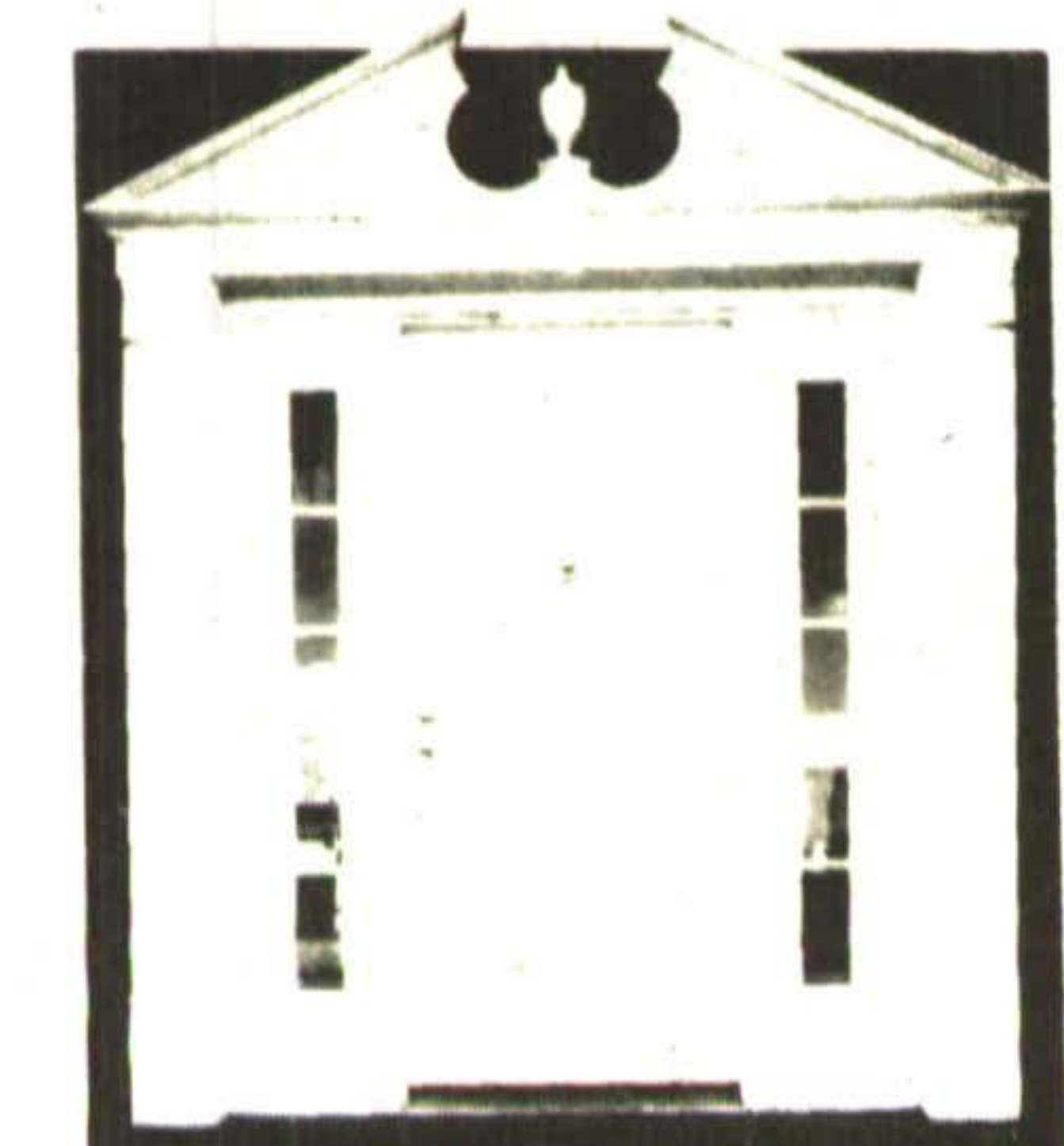
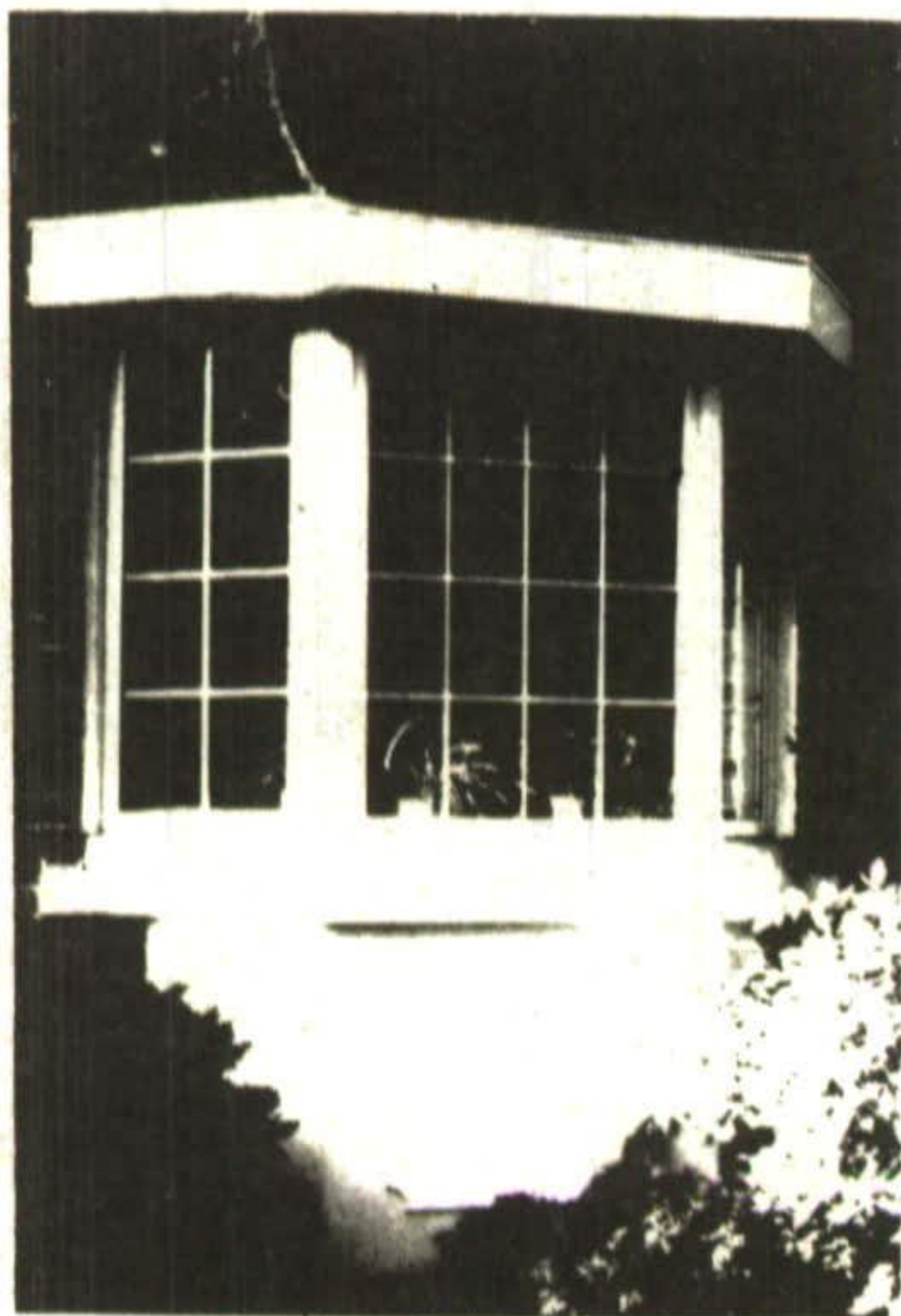


TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Giant onion

Dena DeZotti shows off a gigantic onion her husband Victor grew in his RR#2 Acton garden. Victor has been experimenting with various varieties of onions, and was given seed to these "football onions" by a friend. Victor has hopes of growing even bigger onions next year, simply by spacing the seeds a little further apart.

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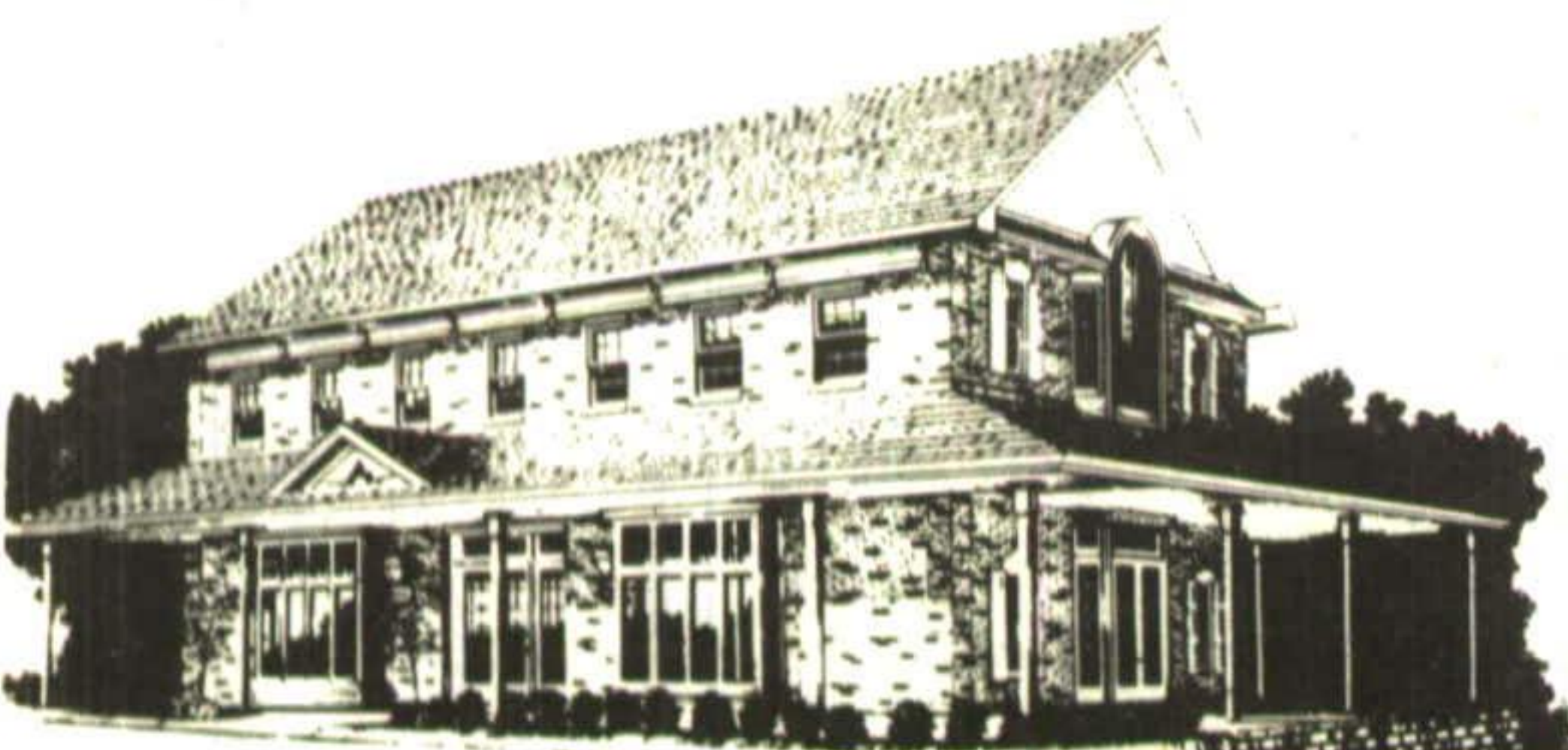
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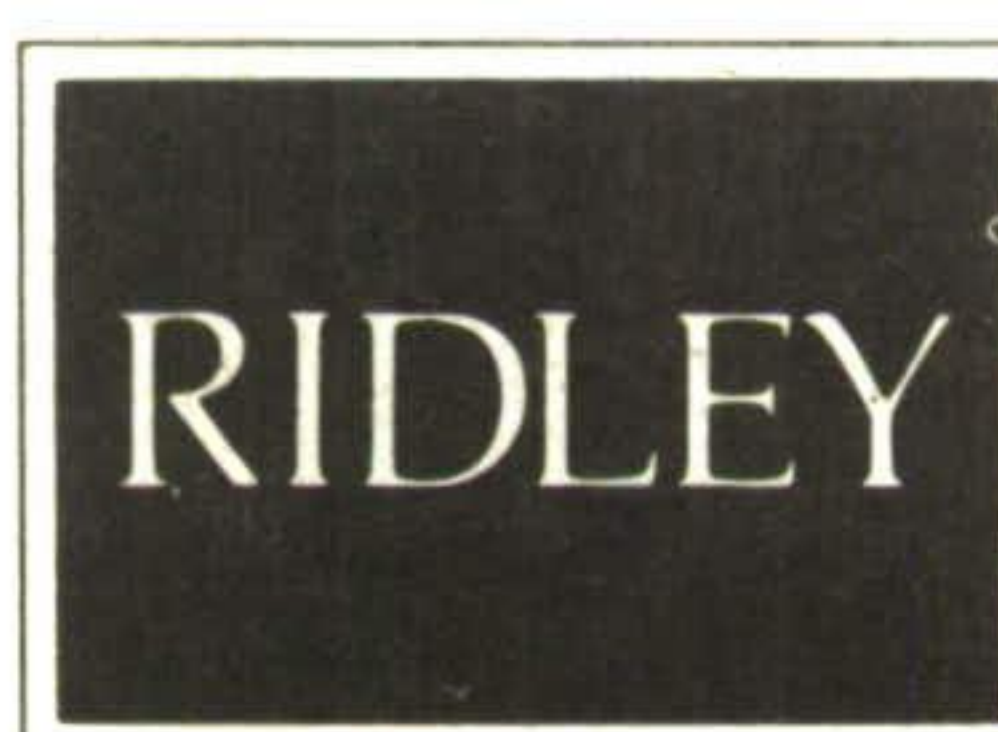
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