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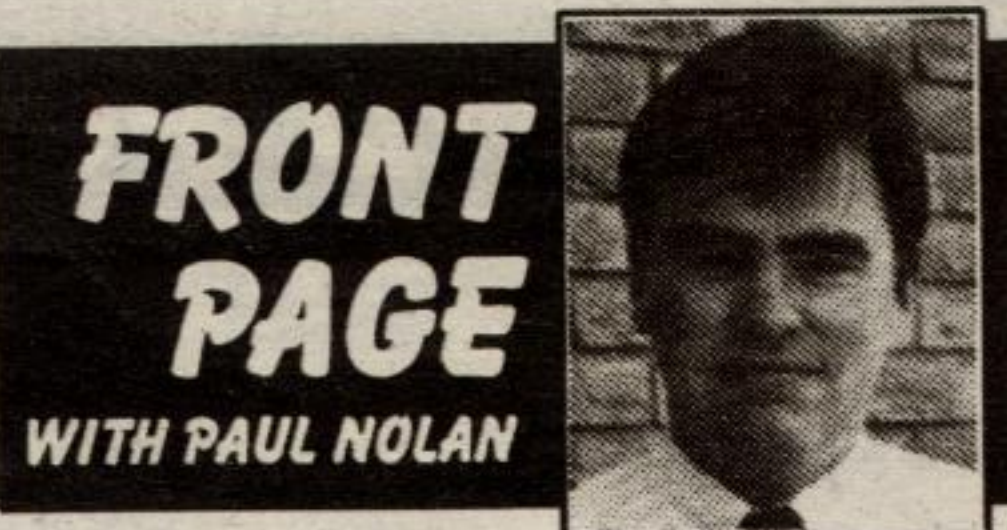
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Think you live in a small town? Take this test ...

Welcome to the July edition of **PLUS!**, the monthly consumer newspaper that gives the residents of Acton, Rockwood and area all the best in dynamite deals.

I was thinking the other day about what it means to live in a small town, like Acton or Rockwood. (Even though both communities look forward to some growth over the next few years, they will remain small towns when the dust settles.)

Now, there is no question that



**FRONT
PAGE**
WITH PAUL NOLAN

it's better to live in a small town than a big city (remember that John Cougar song?), and I'll be writing all about this argument in a future column.

But first things first. How can you be sure that you really live in

a small town. What is a "small town" anyway, and just how is it different from any old place that might be termed "fair-size?"

I recently came across a list of "ways you know you live in a small community." So without delay, from our home office in downtown Crewson's Corners, here is our small-town checklist:

- The bank cashes your personal cheque without asking you a single question.
- You hit the ditch five miles

from home and word gets back to town before you do.

- You dial a wrong number and end up talking for 10 minutes.

- People ask "How're you doing," and then wait for your reply.

- You can't go for a long walk as every car that passes offers you a ride home.

- You don't have to use your signal lights because everyone knows where you are going.

- You have a baby on June 14 and you get a load of gifts from

local merchants because it's the town's New Year's Baby.

I must make one point clear, though: You can live in a small town without being what some social scientists call a "redneck."

What's a redneck, you ask?

Do you consider a six-pack and a bug-zapper to be quality entertainment? Are the only curtains you own in your truck? Have you ever worn a tank top to a wedding?

Well then, you have absolutely nothing to worry about!

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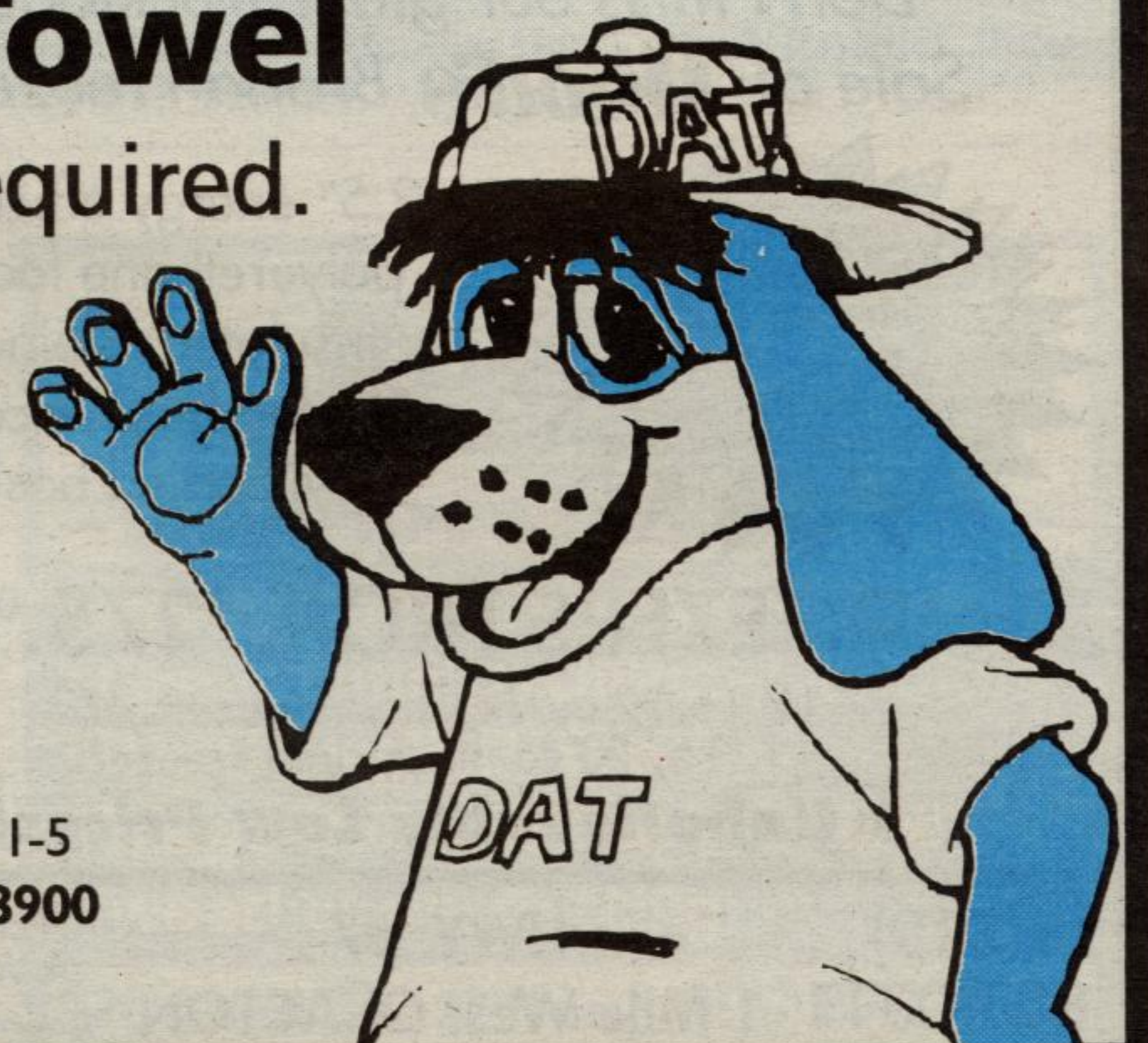
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