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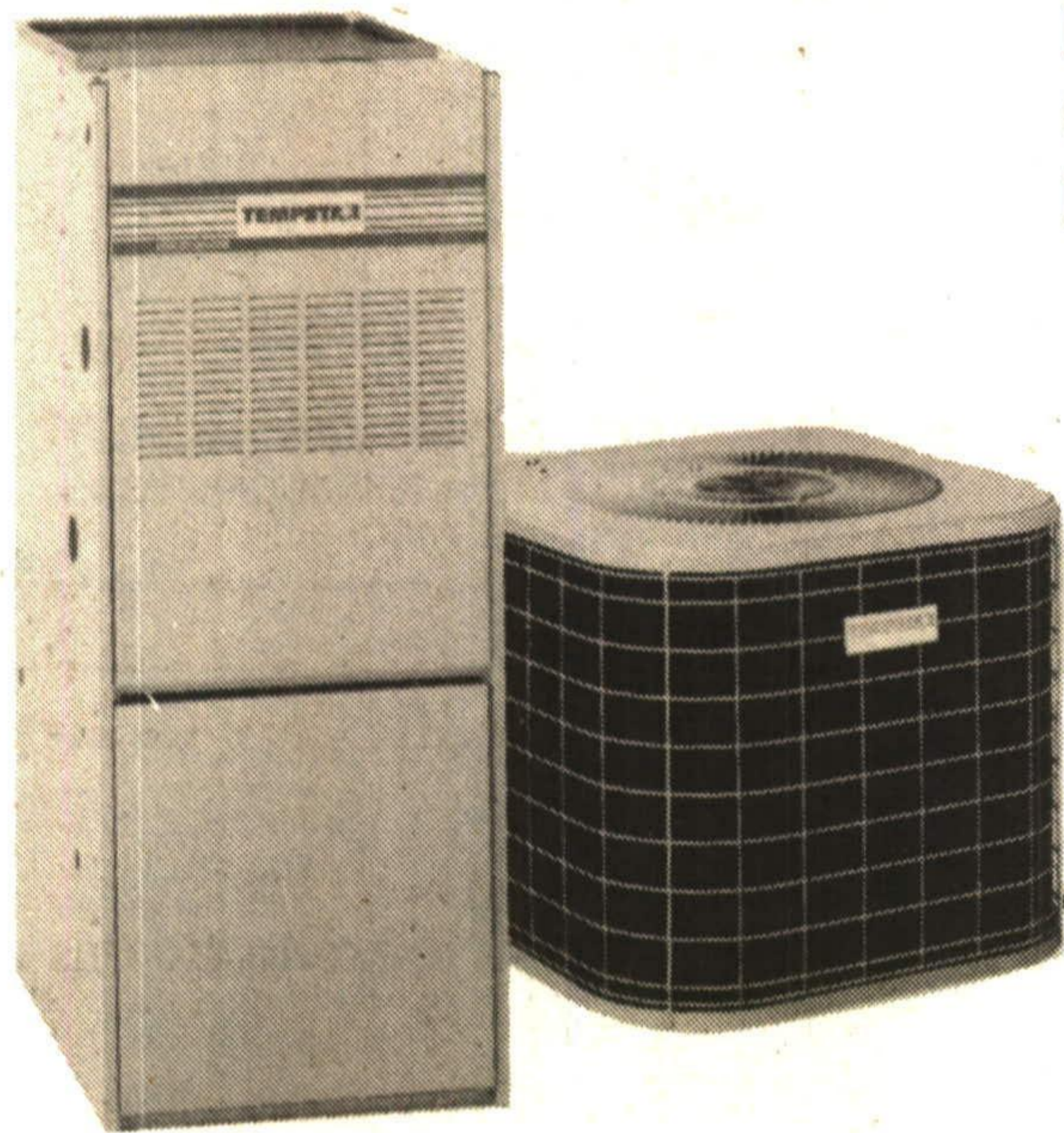
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Local man meets the Queen

J. Byron Thomas, a resident of Ballinafad, recently returned from London, England where he was presented to Queen Elizabeth II.

Thomas, a Toronto lawyer and a member of the Royal Commonwealth Society (Toronto Branch), was invited to the Commonwealth Observance service in Westminster Abbey in the presence of Her Majesty and Prince Philip.

This is a service is held to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations with its various representatives from around the world. The service was broadcast live on the BBC and is a service of thanksgiving.

That same evening Thomas attended a reception at Marlborough

House on Pall Mall which was hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat, His Excellency Emeka Anyaoku. The reception was attended by prime ministers and presidents from the Commonwealth as well as invited member of the diplomatic corps, military, cabinet and House of Lords.

During the course of the evening Thomas was formally presented to the Queen wherein he was afforded the great honor of speaking to her for a period of time about his work, the Commonwealth and Canada.

Thomas specifically flew to London for this event and said it was well worth the trip and his audience with the Queen was an event which he shall most certainly never forget.

Ride for a poker hand

The 10th anniversary of the 101 Poker Run, a motorcycle rally, will be held Saturday July 8, starting from Prospect Park, Acton.

Proceeds of this charity event goes to Guelph General Hospital.

Sign-up starts 10 a.m. to noon, at the park. Then riders drive to the Sunset Shack in Erin, then over to the Loretto Inn (Hwy 50), on to the Queen's Tavern in Arthur then to the last stop at Rockwood Hotel.

At each of these stops, each person draws a card and by the end of the ride, have acquired a poker hand. Following the ride, there is party later where there are game, prizes, trophies, lots of food, a couple of bands and lots of fun.

Entrance fee is \$10 per person which includes a free burger at the party. Walk-in admission to the party is also \$10 with a burger. Those interested in more information about the ride, or the dance only, can stop by the starting point, at Prospect Park on July 8. There are no children or pets allowed at the party. There is free camping for the whole weekend for anyone who wishes it.

To date, the Poker Run has raised more than \$16,000 for the Guelph General Hospital, which serves the Acton area.

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and

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