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NEWS

Peacock found in rural Milton backyard

STEVE LEBLANC
 sleblanc@metroland.com

With his home nestled in a heavily-wooded area of rural Milton, Richard Wruck is no stranger to animal visitors.

Just not usually of the exotic variety.

With that said, the Sixth Line resident was shocked to find a peacock waiting to greet him upon returning from work Thursday evening.

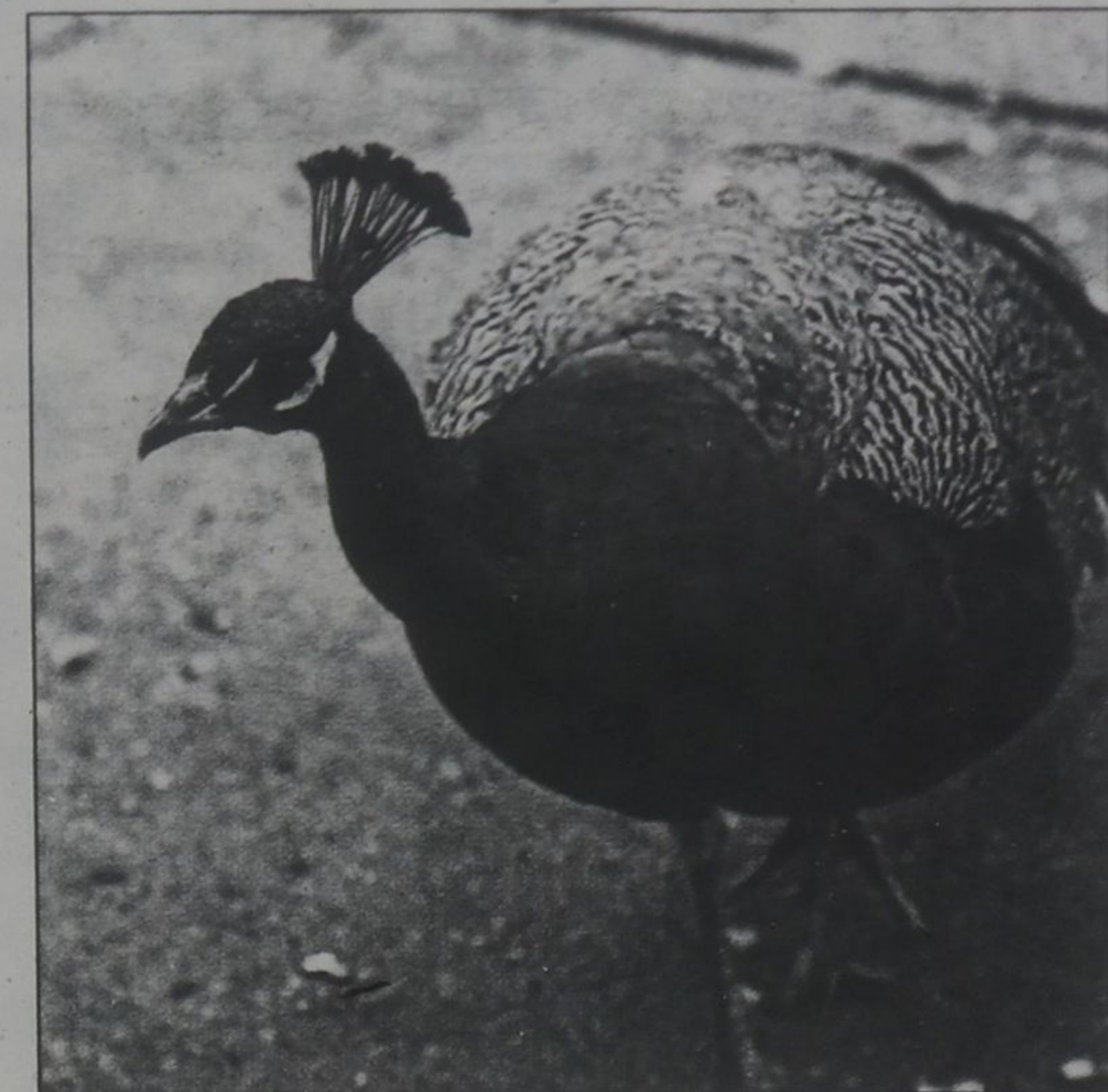
"A double take? Try a quadruple take," he quipped, when describing his surprise. "I thought 'Wow ... what's that?'"

Named Lenny by the Nassagaweya animal lover - who with his wife Lesley own three cats - the peacock appeared uninjured and not banded.

Richard quickly went to grab his camera, but returned to - initially - find his special guest gone.

Until, that is, a few peanuts normally reserved for the chipmunks were thrown out.

"He was happily pecking away," said the rural Miltonian, who has more than dozen bird feeders in his backyard and has been visited by a number of different bird species, including a turkey vulture and



Richard Wruck photo

This peacock was found in a rural Milton backyard July 5.

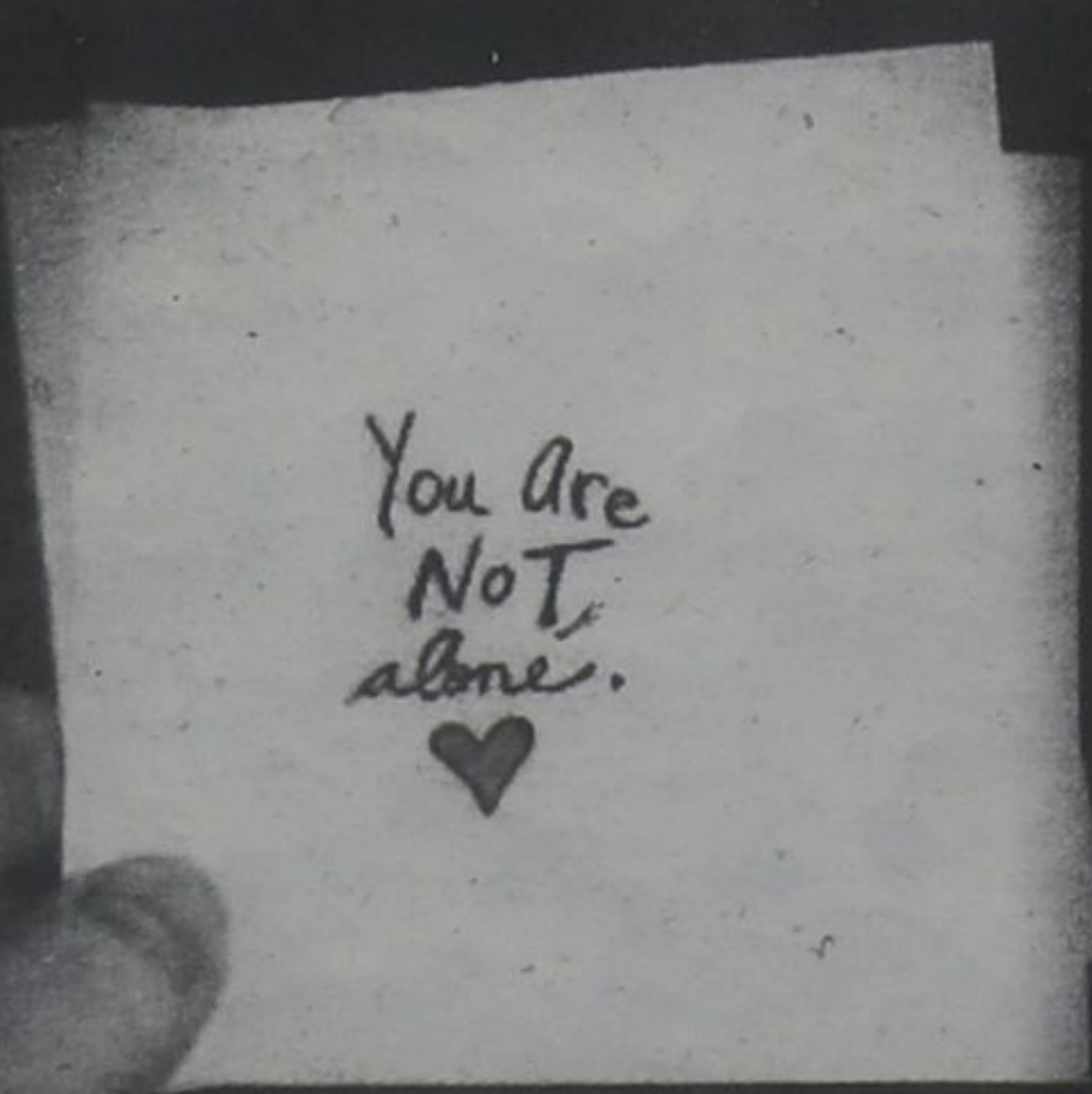
blue heron, as well as other animals like foxes. "He was here for about 15 or 20 minutes (before leaving). He was just a few feet from the sliding glass door and wasn't afraid when he saw me. I don't know if that's because it knows it's a big fat bird or because it's been around people before.

"We've had a lot of animals here, but this takes the cake."

The Town of Milton's

animal control has been notified and is pursuing avenues to locate the peacock and find its owner.

"It's quite rare, alright. I haven't heard of this (peacock in area) in all the time I've been here," said licensing and enforcement clerk Nicole Mullin. "It's got to be owned by someone around here. I don't think there's too many wild peacocks here. We'll be trying to find out who it belongs to."



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