

DISTRICT NEWS

Veteran Turns Sod

Start New Acton Fire Hall

ACTON—A brief service and Acton's new Fire Hall was officially under construction. On hand were firemen and civic officials. Veteran Fireman William Chisholm turned the first sod on the new \$28,000 public building, in the planning stages for more than a year. The brick veneer front will face Bower Ave. and adjoin the town hall incorporating the present fire hall.

As well as accommodating three trucks, the building will also provide meeting room, bunk room, toilet facilities and adequate space for cleaning and drying equipment.

40 Years in Brigade
Connected with the Acton Fire Brigade for almost 40 years, William Chisholm recalled the earlier days when the old steam engine, drawn by George Ritchie's team of horses, responded to fire calls. The steam engine was usually billowing smoke, its bell clanging as it rushed to the scene of trouble with a hook and ladder truck being pulled by the town's men, following close behind.

In those days, the veteran fireman recalled, water was pumped from various reservoirs posted around town with the mainstay for water being Henderson's pond. "Bill" also remembered the time the steam engine was retired in favor of a shiny red model T Ford truck. By this time, hydrants had been installed and the pressure from the water line was used.

Recalls Fires
Actons had big fires, too. Bill recalled the time Tommy Morton's Best Dressed Pets Join Easter Parade Win Their Own Meal

OAKVILLE—First prize for the best-dressed pet in Oakville's Easter Parade pet show, held at the A. and P. shopping centre, was awarded to Susan Hutton, 9, for her cat, Timmy, dressed in festive raiment and crowned with a conical magician's cap. More than 100 district children turned out for the event, sponsored by Dr. Ballard's Animal Foods, and pets galore, both dogs and cats, gave the latest fashions in animal finery a good workout.

House on Barge Off to Bronte
BRONTE — Residents were all agaze recently when a five room house was floated into the harbor on a barge. The first house ever to be transported by water in this area turned out to be the new home of Tony Atkinson, who purchased it in Toronto. Mr. Atkinson said he originally intended to transfer the structure by road but was unable to secure a permit to move it along No. 122 highway from Clarkson to Oakville. So he put it on a truck in Toronto and took it to the Shell Oil Co. docks on Commissioner St., put it on a barge and towed it to Bronte. In Bronte, the building was taken to its new location on Chisholm St., where it was placed on a newly built foundation. J. D. Hunter of Toronto did the moving and water transportation was provided by the Toronto Dry Dock Co.

barber shop and the adjoining restaurant was burned to the ground to be replaced years later by the present Roxy theatre. The fire at the Smith home, now the stone Public school, was the coldest Bill recalled attending. After the fire, the buttons on Bill's coat had to be thawed before the coat could be removed. The most tragic Acton fire Bill recalled was the loss of four lives in a house bordering the C.N.R. tracks.

School Board Asks No Stores In New High School Vicinity

BURLINGTON—“A commercial area in the immediate vicinity of schools is a source of trouble and with the new High School well on the way to being finished, it will be a good thing to plan on the forehand,” said Mr. M. M. Robinson who addressed the Burlington and Suburban Planning Board at their meeting last week. On behalf of the High School Board, Mr. Robinson asked the board not to zone the sections east and west of New St. in the neighborhood of the new high school commercial.

“Shopping centres offer undesirable features to students and besides that, the teen-agers often make a nuisance of themselves,” he said.

Referring to the situation on Bant St., he said the noon hour was creating a problem. Nearly 570 students are supposed to have their lunch at school but it is amazing how many students prefer to eat in the streets and hang around in the stores.

At the moment, students are not welcome at the Plaza shopping centre at noon hour. The storekeepers are having trouble with them, but there is no means of stopping the students from going there now. “Considering this situation, we should plan now to avoid a similar problem which may arise in the future when the new high school is finished,” Mr. Robinson said.

In the early days of the department, there were 15 members with three of that group remaining — Frank McIntosh, George Ritchie and Bill. The days of work under fire chiefs Murray McDonald and Ed Gamble were recalled with the highest words of praise for their activity. A past chief of the brigade himself, Bill is a life member of the Acton Volunteer Department and a life member of the Ontario Firemen's Association.

The high school board considers shopping centres on Walker's Line and Appleby Line too close to the school area and as there already have been rumors about a shopping centre on that location, Mr. Robinson suggested the Planning Board study the problem and give consideration to the objections of the school board.

Mr. John Bisser, representing the separate school, which is in construction in the same area, said he agreed with Mr. Robinson, and he was particularly afraid of a possible shopping centre on the corner of Walker's Line because that is only 200 feet away from their property.

Barbers, Beauty Shops Will Close on Monday

GEORGETOWN—Ten more local businesses will follow the lead of grocers and meat stores in closing Mondays and opening all day Thursdays. Council ordered by-laws prepared which will govern barber shops and beauty parlors. Six of seven barbers and three beauty shops petitioned for the change. The beauty shops will be allowed to stay open Tuesday nights until 9 p.m. in addition to regular store hours.

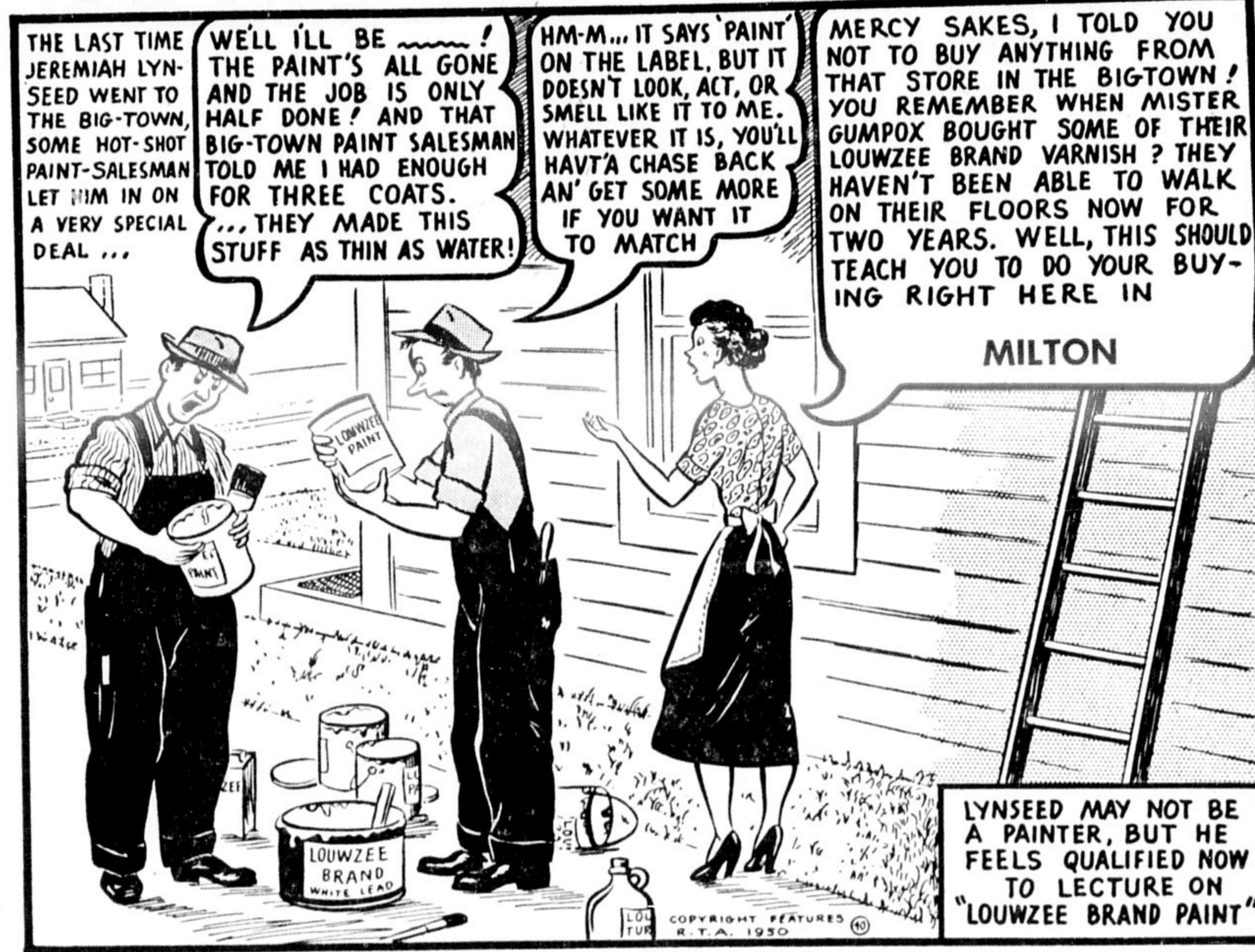
Gangs Hanging Around Streets, "Hot-Rodders" Arouse Council

GEORGETOWN—Asking if the town has a by-law by which police can break up gangs hanging around the streets, police chairman Fred Harrison was told by the mayor that provincial law has sections covering creating disturbances and the police have plenty of scope to take action if there is trouble.

Cr. Harrison expressed concern with incidents which had occurred downtown, and Reeve Allen also mentioned the problem of "hot-rodgers" keeping people awake in the downtown district with late hour noisy cars.

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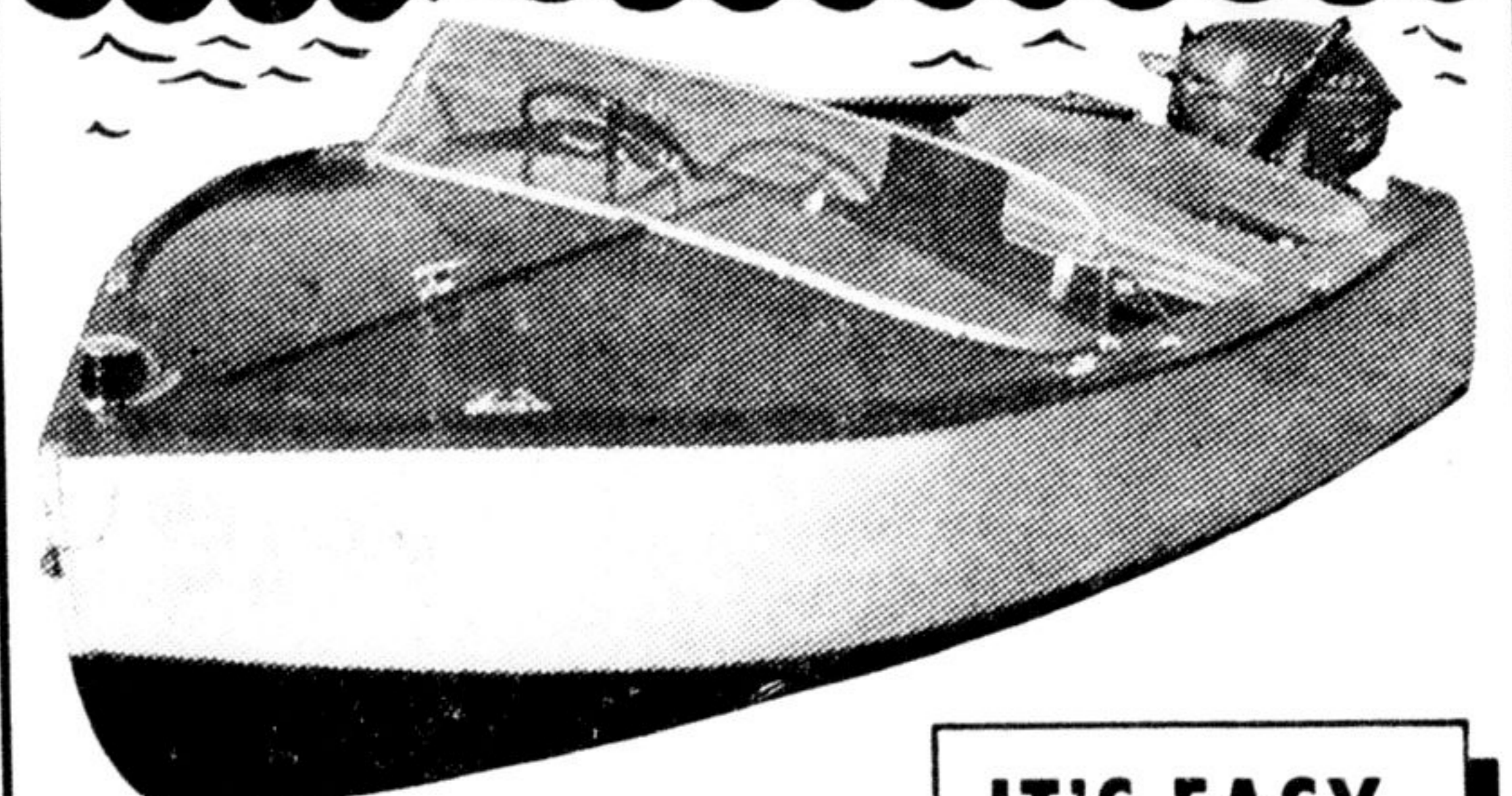
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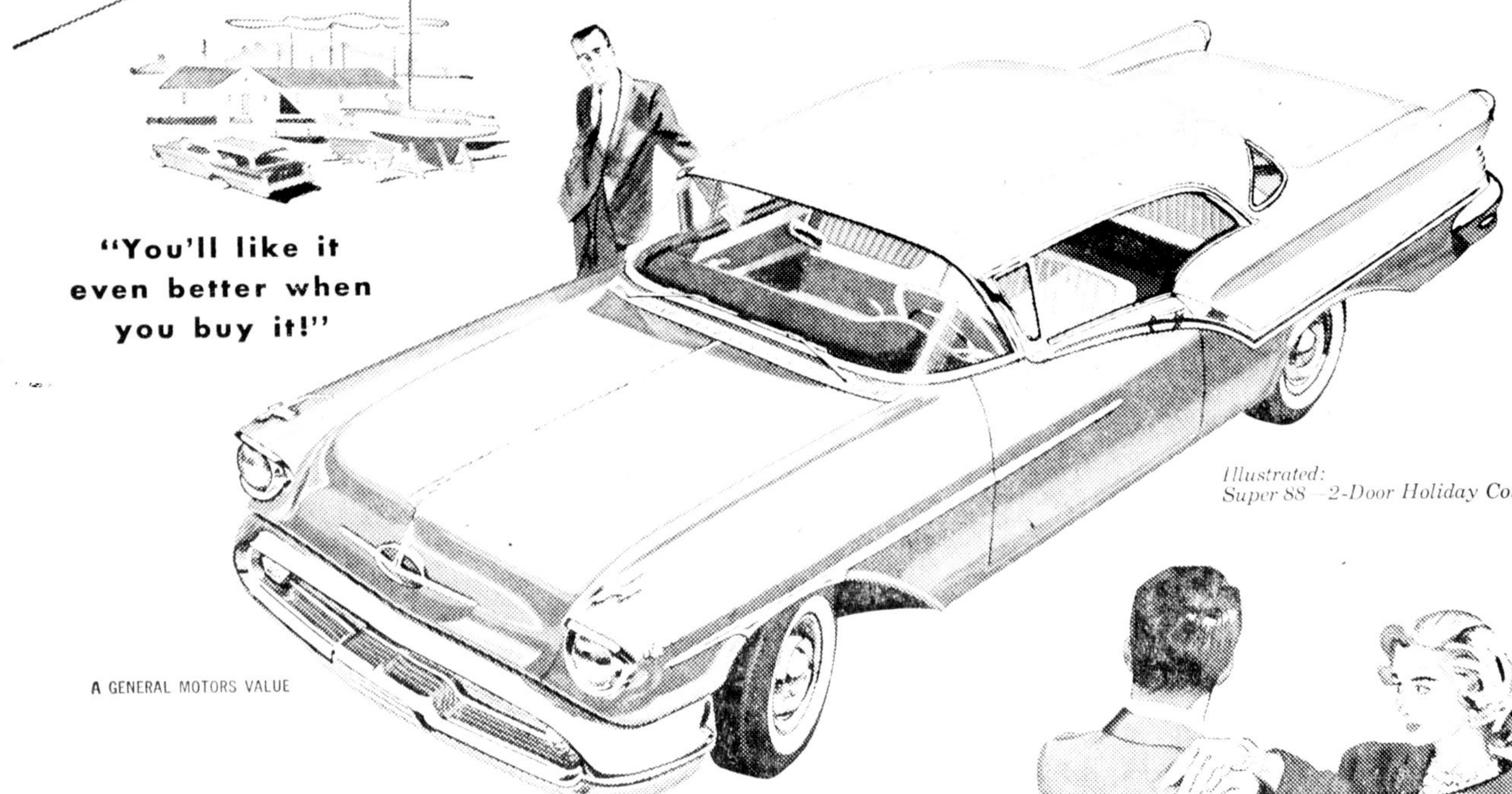
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