

DISTRICT NEWS

Guelph Escapees Cause Ruckus in Two Towns

A pair of escaped inmates of the Guelph Reformatory caused a lot of trouble for police and residents in Acton, Georgetown and district on Christmas eve. Here's what happened in the two centres, according to the weekly newspapers.

ACTON — Opening his store on Thursday, December 28, Frank Van Wyeck, proprietor of Custom Cleaners in Acton, discovered two cleaned jackets were missing from the racks in his shop.

Left hanging in their place were two prison denim jackets believed to have belonged to Edward Bernard, 24, of Dorchester, and Dennis McCullough, 17, of Toronto, who had escaped from the Guelph reformatory on Christmas Eve.

The same evening the store had been entered, Mrs. Earl Waller, Guelph St., found two men in her kitchen when she returned home from work. Opening the back door hoping the two would depart, Mrs. Waller was rewarded for her efforts when one disappeared out the door, but the smaller of the two grabbed her by the shoulder, muttering "She'll know us." Finally, however, he made his exit without harming the young mother of four children.

Mrs. Waller reports a small paring knife was the only article missing after the couple had left.

The same evening, a car belonging to Doug Dawkins, Frederick St., was stolen from a driveway on Main St. and was found later abandoned and wrecked near Georgetown.

Police believe the three incidents are tied in with the two escapees from the Guelph reformatory.

GEORGETOWN — The entering and burgling of a house at 15 Ontario St. late Christmas Eve and the theft of a '53 Ford sedan parked on the same street a little more than an hour later are believed by police to be the work of two

Guelph Reformatory inmates who escaped earlier the same day.

The escapees were traced from the reformatory to Acton where they ransacked a house and stole their first car. At McCullough's corners at the western town limits, the escapees missed the trap and rolled the car over and evidently unharmed, made their way to the top of Main St., where they were passed by O.P.P. Cst. Roy Hazlett in the police cruiser. Cst. Hazlett was hardly by the pair when he was radioed that the men were heading that way. When the O.P.P. cruiser headed back in their direction the prisoners fled down one of the side streets and were soon swallowed up in the Swanick subdivision.

The police scoured the area but found no trace of the escapees. The next information regarding the escaped men turned up when A. E. Farmery, 15 Ontario St., reported that his house had been broken into and articles of clothing and a number of other items stolen. An investigation showed entry to the house had been gained through the rear door which had been forced with the aid of a screw driver later identified as one Mr. Farmery kept in a shed in back of the house. The men's prison garb was discovered upstairs where they had changed to street clothes.

Shortly after midnight Francis Hulme, 22 Victoria St., reported the theft of his car, a 1953 maroon and tan two-tone Ford sedan, which he had parked opposite No. 2 Ontario St. while delivering some Christmas presents. Mr. Hulme told police that he had taken longer than he intended to make his delivery and on returning found his car gone. A number of valuable presents and a camera were in the car. Police believe the vehicle was taken by the escapees in making their getaway.

Population Goes Up Register 135 Births 87 Deaths in 1957

Milton's population should have increased at least 48 people during 1957, according to figures obtained this week at the town clerk's office. Figures show 135 births registered during 1957 against 87 deaths.

Oddly enough, the race between male and female babies was a very close one this year, with the females edging the males 63 to 67. March was the biggest month for births, with 13 registered, while other big months were February with 15, June 11, July 13, September 11, October 12 and November 11. Lowest was December with five.

Of the 87 deaths, 45 were female and 42 male.

Late registrations may make these figures slightly higher within the next few weeks, it was pointed out. The last birth registration was December 19.

The Canadian Junior Red Cross had a membership of 1,243,294 in 1956.

Waterdown Firemen Extend Protection

WATERDOWN—The Waterdown council has agreed to permit the town's fire department to extend protection to the annexed portion of East Flamboro township. The area covered by the decision lies north of the railroad tracks and excludes Hidden Valley.

The arrangement is a temporary one, allowing time for the Waterdown and Burlington fire departments to reach some more permanent agreement. A set fee of \$100 will be charged for calls.

EASY DOES IT

Based on the fact that once traction is lost it is difficult or impossible to recover, braking on slippery surfaces should be done by pumping the brake in sharp jabs (with the clutch engaged) rather than in one abrupt operation. The pumping method will usually slow and stop a vehicle safely whereas a single strong application of the brakes could easily bring about an uncontrollable skid.

BIG PROJECT

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP)—A shopping and apartment block centre costing \$7,000,000 is planned for this city by British and local investors.

Confused Burlington Owner May Have Genuine Stradivarius

BURLINGTON — What would you do if somebody told you that the old fiddle you were going to sell for five dollars might be worth \$180,000? Always assuming that you have an old violin around the house. This question mark faces a young Burlington man, Carl Minnett of Brant St.

Carl discovered the name "Stradivarius" on his old instrument just when he was going to sell it for five dollars to a friend who works in the same garage in Burlington.

It was almost a deal and Carl looked at his violin for the last time, when he saw the name and immediately decided not to sell.

One Hamilton lady compared the violin with duplicates of a Stradivarius she owns and she believes that Carl's instrument is not a genuine "Strad".

Another expert a Hamilton man, said on the phone, although he had not seen the violin, he knew that a genuine Stradivarius had been sold for as much as \$180,000.

Carl Minnett's grandfather, who died several years ago, presented his grandson with the violin, and all the time the instrument has been in the hands of Carl and his younger brother who used to "fiddle around" with it. They never paid any attention to an inscription on the outside of the instrument or on a smaller paper sticker inside the violin which reads: Stradivarius - Cremonensis - Ferracat Anna 1627, Germany. And there is also a signature, A.S., in a small circle with a cross, on the sticker.

Right now, the year 1627 puzzles Carl, because Antonio Stradivari was born in 1644, although there is a question mark behind that date in the encyclopedia.

Carl, who is living on Brant St. with his mother and one brother—his father died overseas during the war—does not know what to do right now. "People are calling us all day and we just don't know yet whether the instrument is a genuine Stradivarius or not," Carl said. "Probably this week he expects another expert to come down from Toronto to have a look at the old instrument."

"And I hope the uncertainty will be over soon," Carl sighed. "For if they're telling you one minute that you own a real 'Strad' worth \$180,000 and the other that it may not be worth more than five or ten dollars, it soon gets on your nerves."

OMAGH

Presbyterian S.S. Pupils Get Faithful Attendance Awards

Omagh Presbyterian church Sunday school concert was held on Saturday evening with a splendid program, and a good crowd. Superintendent J. C. Marshall and teachers Mrs. Robt. Brownridge, Mrs. Jack Jarvis, Miss Dorothy Marshall, William Raynor, and Mrs. Arthur Peacock, are to be congratulated and also warrant credit for a very successful year in Sunday school work.

At the close of the concert Santa visited and helped unload the beautiful Christmas tree. Rev. B. A. Nevin was chairman for the evening. All adjourned to the basement where a lunch was served and a social half hour enjoyed.

Following are the 47 scholars who received Sunday school awards for faithful attendance:

First Year Pin, Lydia Rose Finnie, Maurice Curtis, Billie Clark, Cynthia Clark, Robert Clark, Margaret Clark, Helen Pay, Robert Pay, Keith LeRiche, Kenneth Peacock, Donald Pell, Garry Lawrence, John Stark.

Second Year Wreath: Betty LeRiche.

Third Year Bar: Frances McKee, Stephen Lawrence, Bobby Lawrence, David Lawrence, Susan Hall, John Hall, Jim McKee, Joy McKee.

Fourth Year Bar: Violet Louise Finnie, David Peacock, Jimmie Galbraith.

Sixth Year Bar: Diane Ford.

Seventh Year Bar: Murray Curtis, Marlene Curtis, Mervin Curtis, Marie Curtis.

Eighth Year Bar: Leslie Peacock, Alexander Finnie, Hertha Brucker, Helen Brucker, Dolmar Ford, Bruce Galbraith.

Ninth Year Bar: Brian Marshall, Marguerite Peacock, Janette Finnie, Lillian Finnie.

Tenth Year Bar: Margaret Pell, Donald Peacock.

Eleventh Year Bar: Agnes Peacock, Anna Peacock, Joanne Patterson.

Thirteenth Year Bar: Marion Marshall.

In Miss Marshall's class Misses Hertha Brucker, Joanne Patterson, and Marion Marshall received prizes for catechism.

Happy birthday greetings to Miss Dorothy Marshall and Hertha Brucker this past week.

Your correspondent extends to the many readers and friends of this Omagh news column and to the editors Messrs. Dills and their efficient staff of the Champion office, a sincere wish for a Happy New Year.

WINTER PROBLEM

NANAIMO, B.C. (CP) — It was estimated that unemployment here might reach 2,300 by next February and city council began considering measures to meet the situation.

HIGHER FIGURE

SHERBROOKE, Que. (CP) — Average weekly salary for the Sherbrooke workman in August this year is listed at \$55.83 compared with \$51.48 in the same period last year.

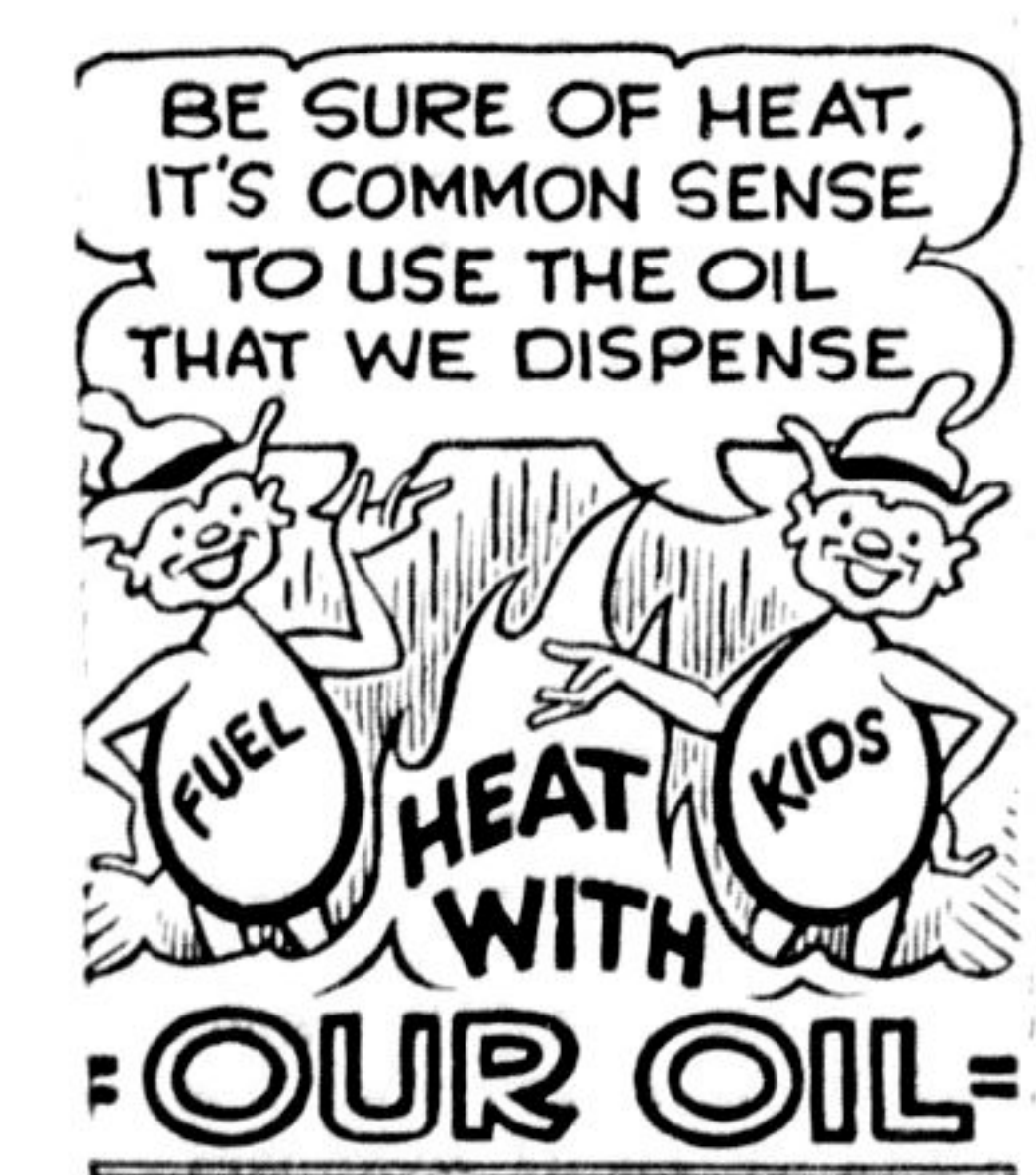
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Industry Plaza On 27-Acre Site For Township?

TRAFALGAR — A Toronto consulting firm is negotiating with Trafalgar officials for the establishment of an industrial plaza in the township. Program Development Consultants Limited began negotiations with the township for a 27-acre industrial site suited to the needs of small manufacturers. The firm says that if a suitable location is found they will be able to interest industrial developers in the project.

The firm is also negotiating for industrial plaza sites in Niagara Falls, Whitby and Cornwall. An industrial plaza is to be constructed at Schomberg Heights.

The cost of constructing an industrial plaza is estimated at \$300,000. Planning for each plaza includes central offices and show rooms, with space for five 24,000 square foot, and from nine to ten 2,065 square foot factories or warehouses.

Under the scheme proposed, manufacturing and storage space could be rented or purchased by small manufacturers, with trucking facilities provided. The front of the plaza—would be landscaped. Park-

ing facilities for employees would also be provided.

The offices would include reception desks, stenographic and bookkeeping areas, departmental offices, show rooms and conference rooms.

"Industrial plazas provide small manufacturers with a prestige location at minimum cost," said Lionel Hodes, associate and director of Program Development Consultants.

Balsam is a fast-growing tree. Bamboo is a grass, not a tree. Rags still make the finest paper.

An Important Announcement

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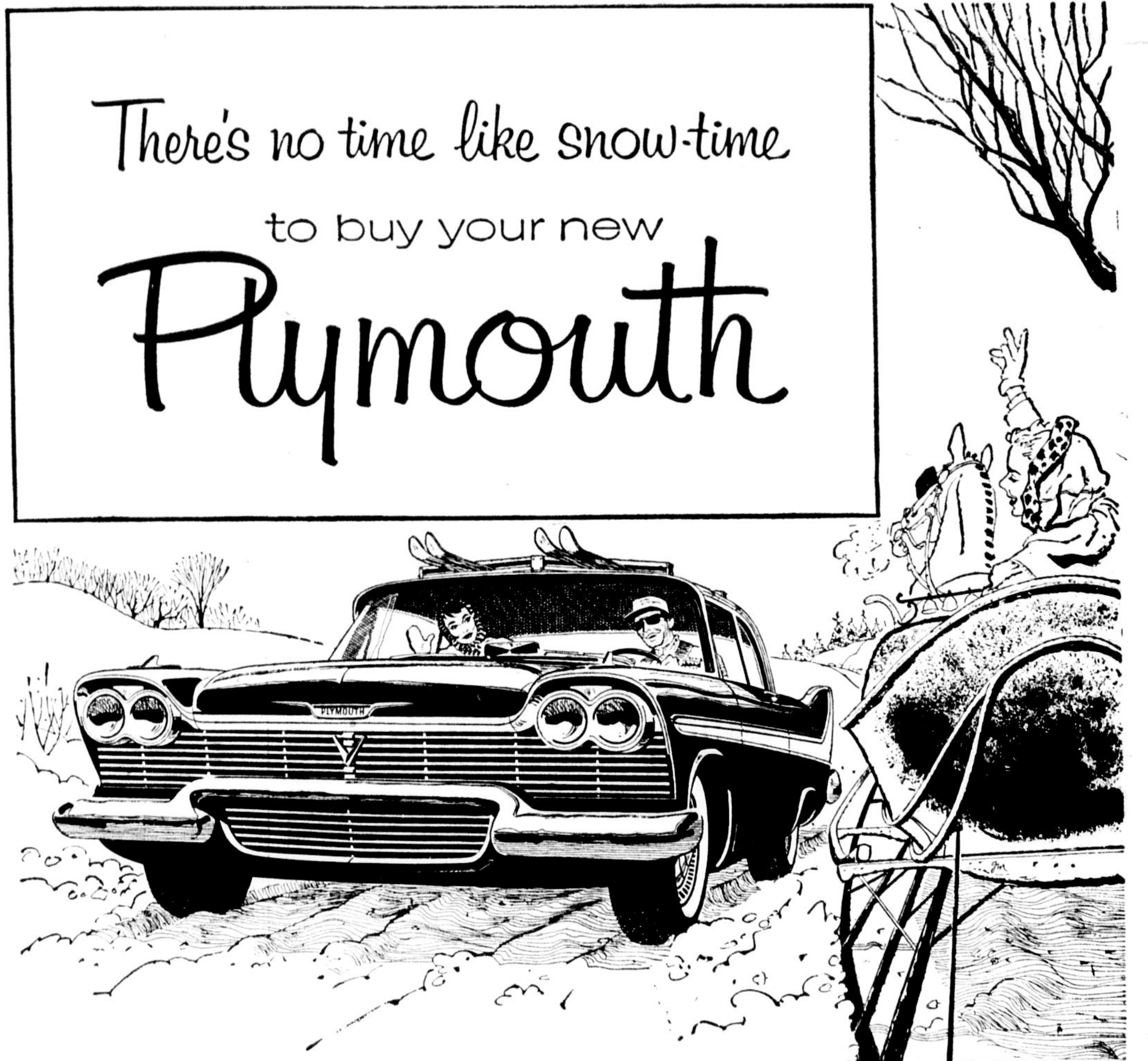
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