

Out of this "Rat Race" - - Into the Sun

Trio to Build and Sail 38-Foot Schooner To Bahamas on Photographic "Adventure"

By Roy Downs

How many times have you told yourself you'd like to get out of the "rat race", dreamed of chucking off your whole existence and heading for some sleepy little island in a warm and balmy southern clime?

You know, the ideal place . . . where phobias don't exist and clocks don't regiment your every move, and you never have to worry about the next meal because it's right there on a tree beside you.

Three young people, well known locally, plan to do just that two weeks from now. Bryan and Nancy Hamilton and Roger Pyke will leave Milton soon on the first leg of a dream trip that will take them sailing on a 38-foot, tri-sail schooner to Andros Island in the Bahamas — "for two years at least, and maybe forever."

Perhaps New Zealand

The trio, equal partners in the adventure, hope they can eventually set sail to the West Indies, Tahiti, Hawaii and on across the Pacific to New Zealand.

Sorry, their expedition's filled up. There won't be room on the schooner for any more passengers with wanderlust or itchy feet — for they're carrying four cameras and a movie camera, a horde of scuba diving equipment, an air compressor to fill aqualungs, and enough photographic equipment to maintain a modest darkroom on board.

It's a photographic adventure and all have hopes of shooting enough still pictures and movie film during their first year there, to finance a second year from sales to magazines, school text and other publishers.

Divers and Photographers

All three are Photo-Arts graduates of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, and besides being skilled photographers they've taken up scuba diving seriously and worked in some underwater photography. They all work for Medallion Film Laboratories in Toronto, a private lab doing a variety of television and commercial work, where Nancy is a printer, husband Bryan is a timer and Roger is in quality control.

Bryan and Roger have local connections, for Bryan was born and educated in Milton and Hamilton before taking his course at Ryerson. After their marriage Bryan and Nancy lived in Toronto, but for the past nine weeks, while preparing for their south sea islands adventure, they've been staying at the home of Bryan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Smith, on Heslop Rd.

Roger Pyke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reg Pyke, lived in Milton's Kingsleigh Court for eight years and received his high schooling here. He's been living in Toronto since enrolling at Ryerson.

Group Dwindled

They were fellow students three years ago, when someone came up with the idea of a photographic journey to the Bahamas. We started out with a larger group, but the rest of them soon dropped out," said Roger.

"Some of them didn't bother saving their money," chimed in Nancy. "All they had was a dream but to us it was a reality."

So they began saving and read-

ing, and developing their diving and picture techniques. The three hit it off pretty well together, and it was decided a three-way financial split would be the best arrangement. They pooled all their cameras and supplies and diving gear, purchased a panel truck to transport the equipment, and have even gone third-shares on over 300 pounds of books they plan to take along on the cruise.

Books for Leisure

Why books? They all love to read and figure they'll need something to while away the time on the long trip down. "I've got two steamer trunks full of books, they weigh about 250 lbs, and Roger has more," laughed Bryan.

Their sailboat, a 38-foot schooner, is large enough to sleep six. The hull of the boat is being specially built to their specifications by a local boat-builder near Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. It will be outfitted with a small inboard engine, in case they run into a calm where there's not enough wind for sailpower.

They leave in two weeks for the east coast and plan to rig out the rest of the boat to their own liking. It should be ready by the end of June and following a six-week "shakedown cruise" around Canada's Eastern seaboard, they'll take off in mid-August for the land of their dreams.

"Man-Tay-O"

The boat's being named "Man-Tay-O" which is Cree Indian for "The Strange One", and the name comes from the title of a book by a noted Canadian author. The figurehead will be a Canada goose — more because they like it, than if their voyage were a government sponsored trade crusade.

On departure from Nova Scotia, they're sailing for the New England states and working slowly and sightseeing down the coast to Florida before heading out to Grand Bahamas. The crew of "Man-Tay-O" expects to work from Andros Island where they have friends who own a diving lodge.

Book Expedition

Next summer they have a hunting expedition tentatively booked with their schooner to be hired by a Canadian group and the adventurous trio acting as crew and guides. They're hoping to see the West Indies too, and looking forward to meeting up with a former Ryerson schoolmate who comes from Jamaica.

(There's also a standing joke among the trio, about a date to meet a boy from Denmark in Rio in 1966.)

They laugh a lot about their trip, and kid each other about steady diets of fish and tales of typhoons and seasickness — but they're absolutely serious about their future. All three are sold on the idea and it will take more than jokes to sway them.

Learning to Sail

Training for their voyage, they have gone scuba diving in the icy waters around Tobermory and in Nova Scotia. Last year they went to the coast for a dry run on the sister ship to the one being built for them (see photo) and while they don't boast about being accomplished sailors, they're read-

every book on the subject and last winter completed a navigation course.

Nancy comes from a boating family in Nova Scotia, and her family has quite a name in sloop racing at the coast, so the boys are leaning heavily on Nancy and her father, Charles Bristler, for advice.

And camera-wise, they've gone all out to assemble the best in equipment plus black-and-white and color film to last them a couple of years among the sunny

isles. They not only own two 35 millimetre cameras, a 16 mm. movie camera and two Rollei reflexes, they purchased an underwater housing for the movie camera and are having one built for the 35.

Gave up "Everything"

Asked if they had any qualms about just tossing aside a good life here and taking their chances on whatever future lies ahead, Bryan replied "We've had a few reservations, it means giving up everything — home, work, friends

and family." But he pointed out this was not just a holiday cruise, but a working adventure and perhaps a new life in a new country.

"We've got to do it while we're young," added his wife.

"It's better than working 9 to 5 . . . and we want to get out of this rat race," explains Bryan.

And Nancy made it plain their Adventure might be a permanent one when she offered, "we've always had itchy feet. We're looking for a place to settle down, IF we have to settle down."



OFF TO THE BAHAMAS in a home-built 38-foot schooner this summer are Roger Pyke, Bryan Hamilton (with the beard) and Bryan's wife Nancy. They've been planning the trip since three years ago when they were all in the Photo-Arts course at Ryerson, and their dream is to finally come true in August when they set sail for Andros Island in the Bahamas. They plan a photographic expedition, combining their scuba diving and underwater photography training to make a holiday that should pay for itself and perhaps develop into a lifetime occupation.

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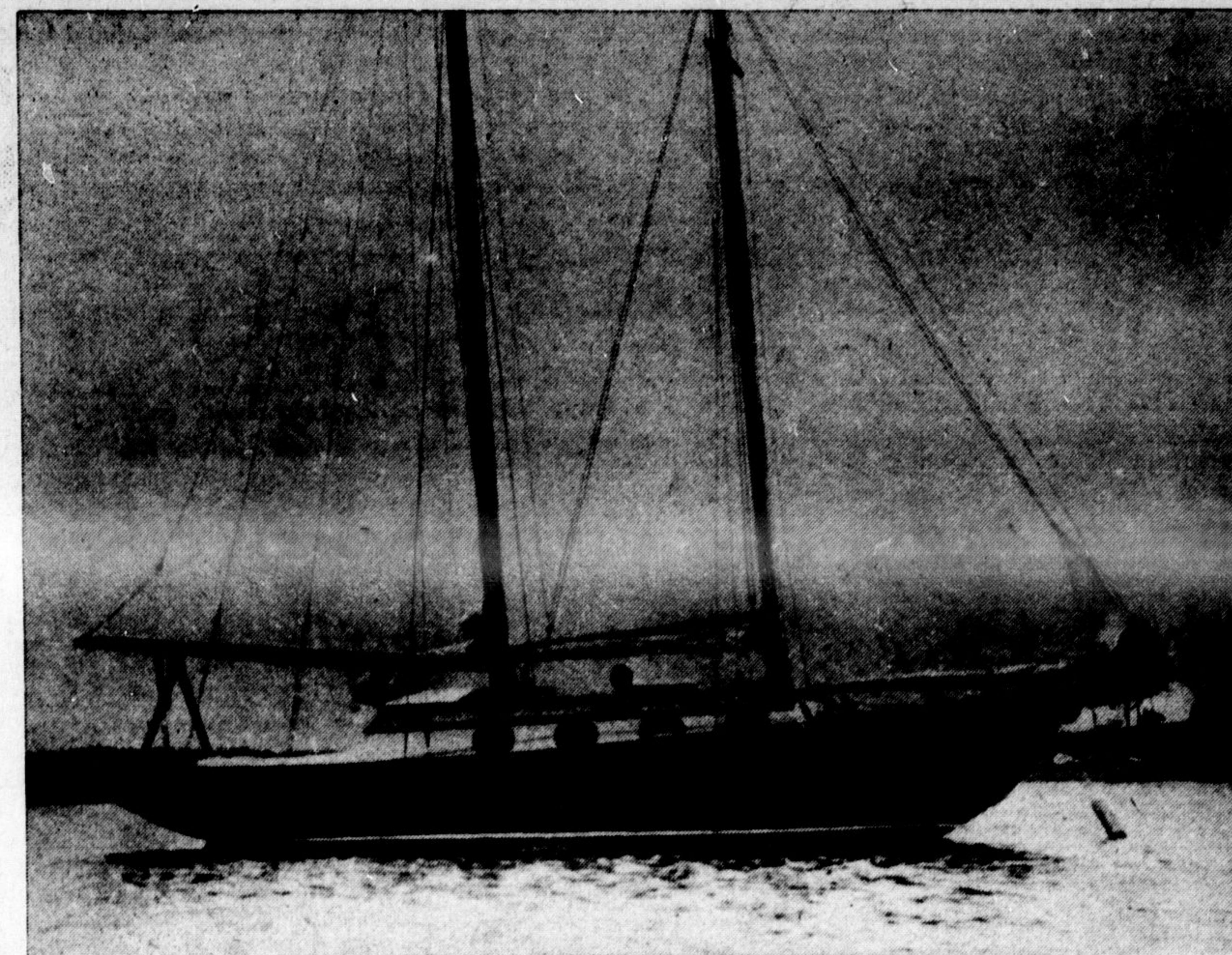
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The "Man-Tay-O" Sister Ship

THIS 38-FOOT SCHOONER, operating with three sails and a small inboard engine, is a sister ship to the one being built by Roger Pyke, Bryan and Nancy Hamilton, in preparation for their cruise to the Bahamas this summer. Bryan took this photo of it last year when the trio went to Nova Scotia to lay plans for their photographic expedition scheduled to begin this August.

B8

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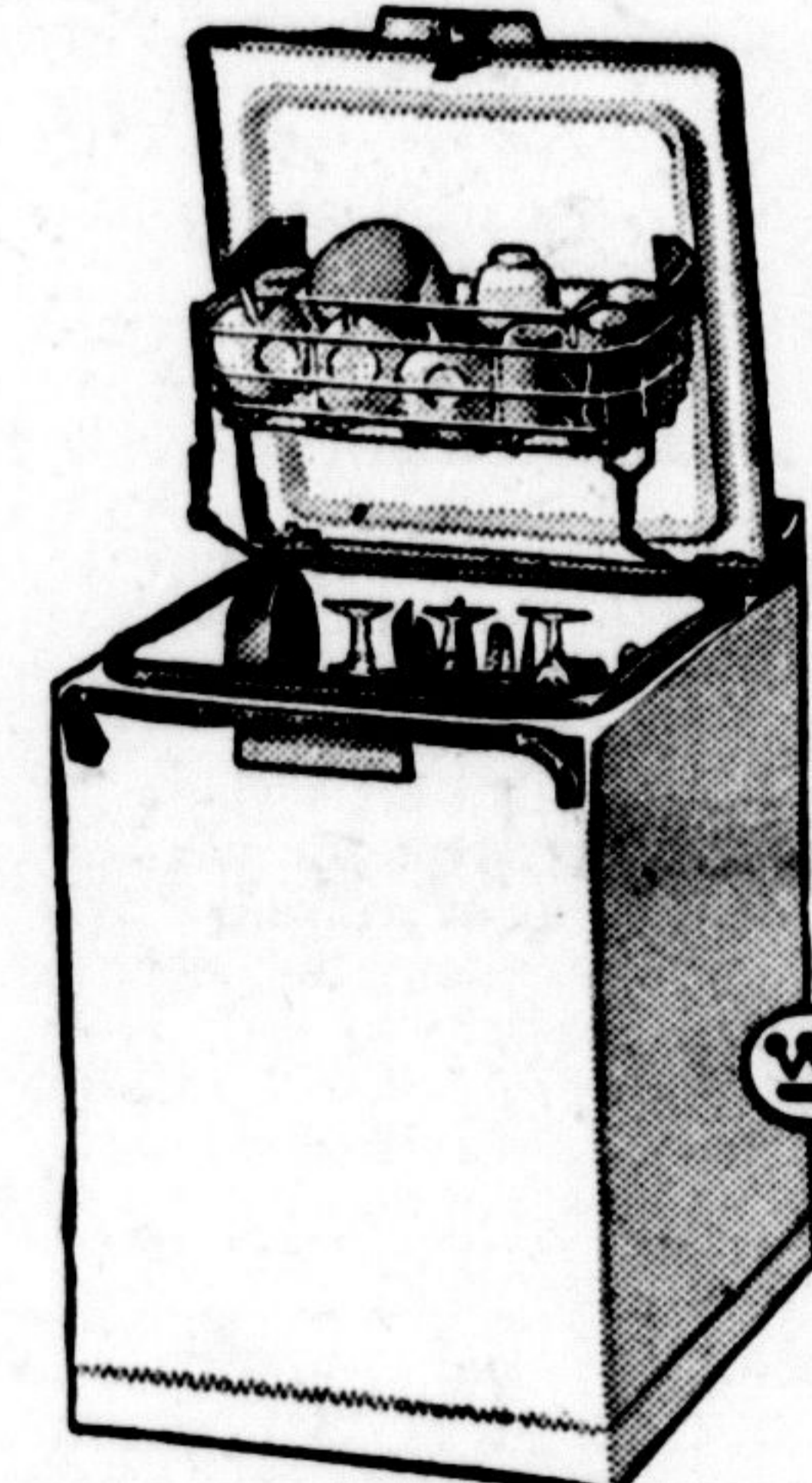
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Kinsmen Club

Hold Nominations, "Ad Night"

Preparing for their annual elections in May, members of the Kinsmen Club of Milton held a nomination night at the Milton Inn Monday, combining it with the annual "advertising night" during which all members broke the long-standing club rule of "no advertising" to display their products or trades.

A nomination slate prepared by the nominating committee, and presented by Mel Phelps, was accepted. To date, Dan Pegg is unopposed in his bid for the 1964-65 presidency of the club, and 13 others are in the running for the other eight positions on the club executive. More nominations are being accepted prior to the election at the first meeting in May, and a hotly-contested race is ensured.

During the meeting, members were busy handing out their advertising samples that included pencils, household oil, books of matches, scratch pads, needles and thread, road maps, towels, "matches" that stop nylon runs, and race track schedules. Some members provided larger prizes, which were raffled to members and John Chestnut won a wallet, Laurie Durnan a lighter, Dan Pegg a tie, and Fred Bennett a measuring cup.

Kerry Keilty of Atlantic Finance and John Chestnut of Richardson's TV were welcomed as new members. Mr. Keilty is a newcomer to Kinsmen, while Mr. Chestnut is transferring from the Collingwood Kinsmen Club.

Flowers of Hope
Vice-president Dan Pegg reported the Kinette Club members are proceeding with the packaging and mailing of the retarded children's "flower of

hope" campaign envelopes.

Plans were made to the Kinsmen Pee Wee hockey team to a night out in recognition of carrying the club's and the town's name so far, in pee wee hockey play this season, for a club visit to Mohawk Raceway in May, and for a golf tournament in June.

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