

Let's Play Bridge

by bill coats

Last week, we discussed the original ace finding slam convention. The "Blackwood" convention is so well known and so universally used that it is not necessary to tell your opponents that you use it. All other conventions must be announced.

There is a variation of the Blackwood convention that I would like to try some day if I could get my partners to agree. Perhaps you and your favorite partner would like to try it. It's part of the Roman Club System played by some Italian pairs. The Italians have been quite successful in the World Championship bridge games lately.

The same as king bid is used — that is, four no trump asks partner about his aces, but the responses are different.

5 clubs shows—no aces or 3 aces.

5 diamonds shows—1 ace or 4 aces.

5 hearts shows — 2 aces the same.

5 spades shows — 2 aces not matched.

Two aces the same or matched means both minor, both major, both red or both black. Hence two aces not matched can mean only the aces of clubs and hearts or the aces of diamonds and spades.

Usually the person who bid

four no trump will have an ace or two, so the response will pin point exactly which aces the partnership has.

If your side has all four aces, you can check for kings by bidding five no trump. The responses are the same as for aces but one level higher.

Another ace asking convention which is fairly popular in North America is the "Gerber" convention. The "Gerber" convention is a variation of Blackwood designed to permit ace-showing below the game level. A bid of four clubs requires partner to show the number of his aces as follows:

4 diamonds—no ace or 4 aces.

5 hearts — 1 ace.

5 spades — 2 aces.

5 no trump — 3 aces.

The difficulty with this convention is in deciding when the four club bid is natural and when it is conventional. It is best to use the four clubs as a convention only when it is a jump bid.

If the partnership has all four aces, then the four club bidder can find the number of kings by bidding five clubs. The number of kings is shown just as the aces are, but one round higher.

There is a variation of Gerber in which you can ask for kings by bidding the next highest suit after the ace showing response. This requires good partnership understanding since it is easy to become confused.

Here is an example of Roman Blackwood in which opener finds his partner with just the right aces.

North
S—A K X
H—Q J X X
D—X X
C—A X X X

West East
S—X X X X X S—Q J X X
H—X X H—X X
D—A X X D—10 X X X
C—K X X C—X X X

South
S—X
H—A K X X X
D—K Q J X
C—Q J 10

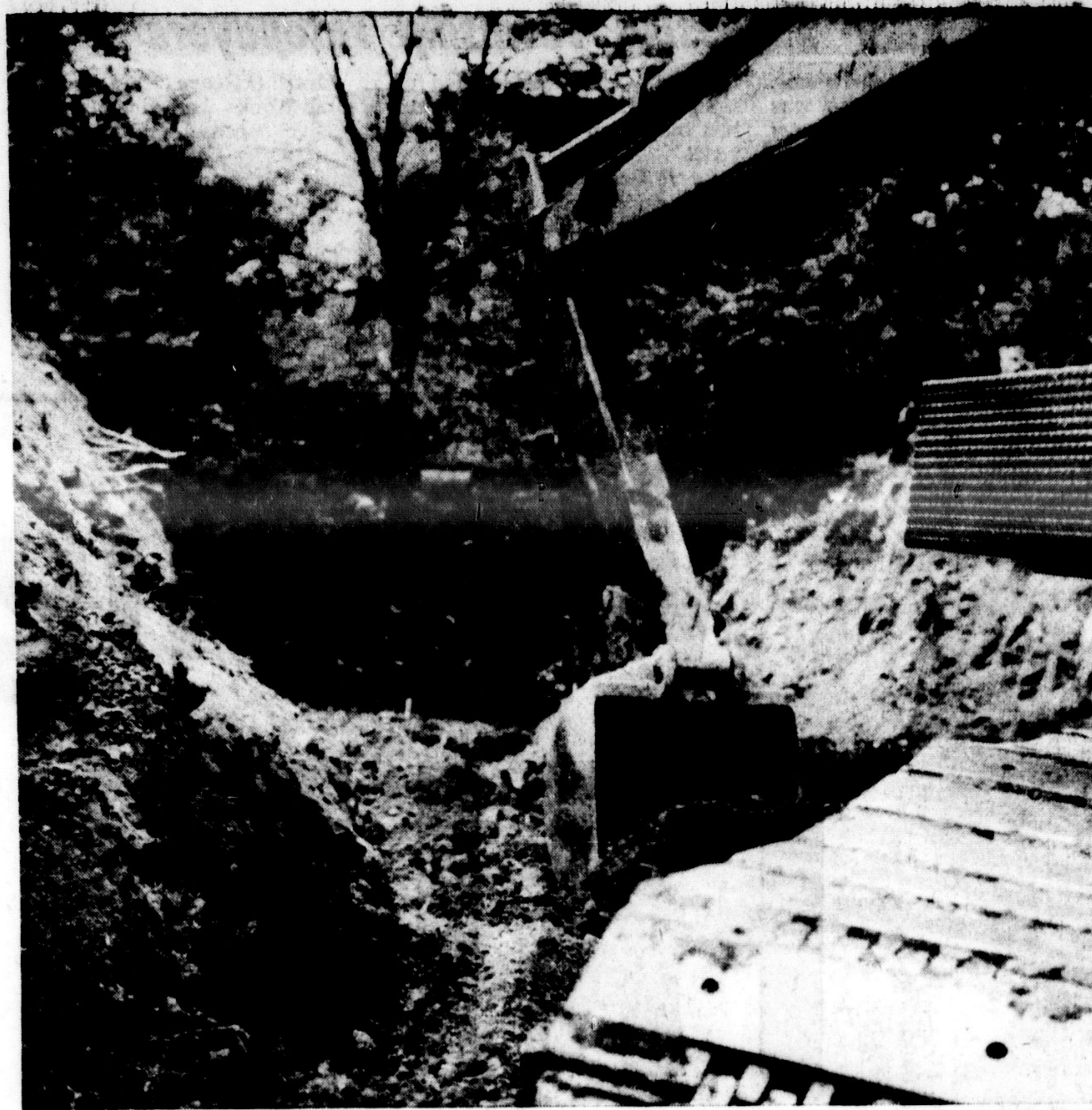
South West North East
1H Pass 3H Pass
4NT Pass 5H Pass
6H All Pass

Using Roman Blackwood, North's five heart bid shows two aces that are matched. Since South holds the heart ace, North must have the club ace and one other.

This is important information for South since the club ace is essential to the slam. South knows that at the worst, he will have a finesse and slams should be bid on an even chance. If North did not have the club ace, there could be two quick club losses.

If you would like to learn about contract bridge, take lessons this fall. First lesson Wednesday, October 12. Call Bill Coats at 853-2225, Acton, for more information.

Last week's winners were: tied for first, Kay Harmer and George Soltz, with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Coats; third, Cam Sinclair and Bill Barbour.



WORKMEN BEGAN LAST WEEK to install the \$10,377 spillway that will drain the mill pond, Milton's centennial project. A shovel is shown cutting a hole in the south pondbank near the

Martin St. end of the 10-acre lake, where an overflow spillway will be constructed. The spillway will also have a buried 18 inch pipe through which the pond can be drained.

Peacock, Patterson Shorthorn winners

Herds of Clarence Peacock, R.R. 4 Milton and Allan Patterson, R.R. 1 Milton dominated the dual purpose shorthorn classes at Milton Fair on Saturday.

Peacock animals won the senior and grand champion male titles while Patterson entries claimed the junior, senior and grand champion female titles as well as a first in the graded herd competition, and the reserve titles in the senior and grand champion male classes.

The reserve junior, reserve senior and reserve grand females were from the Peacock herd as well as a second in the graded herd competition. Patterson animals rolled up

seven firsts, three seconds, two thirds and a fourth in the regular competition. Peacock animals took three firsts, six seconds and three thirds.

An entry by L. A. Ferrier, R.R. 1 Milton claimed a third in the heifer calf class.

Conservation makes good conversation — but talk alone is not enough. Act to protect and preserve Ontario's forests and wild life. Conservation of renewable natural resources is everybody's responsibility. A burned-over forest is a monument to disaster. A carelessly discarded match or cigarette could cause it. Be careful.

V. Sowerby, Farron lead goat classes

Toggenburg goats exhibited by V. E. Sowerby, R.R. 3 Ingersoll held a slight edge in the classes at Milton Fair Saturday, while the herd of Mrs. Jeannie Farron, R.R. 1 Paris dominated the Saanen and Nubian classes.

In the Toggenburg classes the Sowerby entries claimed six firsts, four seconds and two thirds. Entries by Mrs. G. M. Scott, R.R. 1 Millgrove wrapped up first in four classes, second in three, third in two and fourth in three.

Farron entries in Saanen and Nubian classes claimed 12 firsts, seven seconds, three thirds and two fourths. Mrs. Clara Briand, Dundas, claimed seven firsts, three seconds, a third and two fourths in the same classes. Mrs. R. Ormerod, R.R. 4 Dundas took a first, a second, two thirds and a fourth.

A special for the best uddered doe was won by Mrs. Clara Briand.

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Ayrshire champions to Sutherland, Clarke

In Ayrshire classes at Milton Fair on Saturday, the grand champion bull was shown by Alex Sutherland, R.R. 2 Paris and the grand champion female by Clarke Bros., Norval.

The Sutherland entries also took the reserve champion female while a Clarke animal took the reserve champion bull. Winners in the breeder's herd were Clarke Bros.; Wm. Reid; Alex Sutherland; and W. J. Norrington, R.R. 6 Milton.

In the class competitions Sutherland animals won three firsts, two seconds, a third, a fourth and two fifths. William Reid entries took three firsts, a second, three thirds, a fourth and a fifth. Animals from the herd of Clarke Bros. took a first, three seconds, two thirds, two fourths and a sixth. W. J. Norrington animals took a second, a third, a fourth, three fifths a sixth and a seventh.

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Ford, Thompson grain winners

Alfred Ford of R.R. 4, Milton and Gordon Thompson of R.R. 2 Milton, dominated the grain classes at the 114th annual Milton Fall Fair. Here are the results:

One bushel Russell Oats, A. Ford; Gordon Thompson. One bushel early or medium oats, Gordon Thompson; A. Ford. One bushel winter wheat, Gordon Thompson; A. Ford. One bushel barley, six rowed Gordon Thompson. One bushel late Rodney Oats, J. C. Marshall; A. Ford; Gordon Thompson. One bushel smooth awn barley, Gordon Thompson.

One bushel Red Clover, A. Ford; Gordon Thompson. Six stalks ensilage corn, W. J. Norrington, R.R. 6 Milton; Gordon Thompson; Mrs. Robert Moffat, R.R. 3, Georgetown.

Willmott cattle top Angus class

Cattle owned by J. H. Willmott and Sons of R.R. 1 Milton picked up six firsts, a second and a third in the Angus competitions at Milton Fair.

Included in the prizes were awards for the Grand Champion Angus Bull; Reserve Grand Champion Female and best breeders' herd.

Gladmere Angus Farm of R.R. 1 Fergus owned the Reserve Grand Champion Bull; a third in the female born in 1965 class; the Grand Champion Female and second prize in the breeders' herd class.

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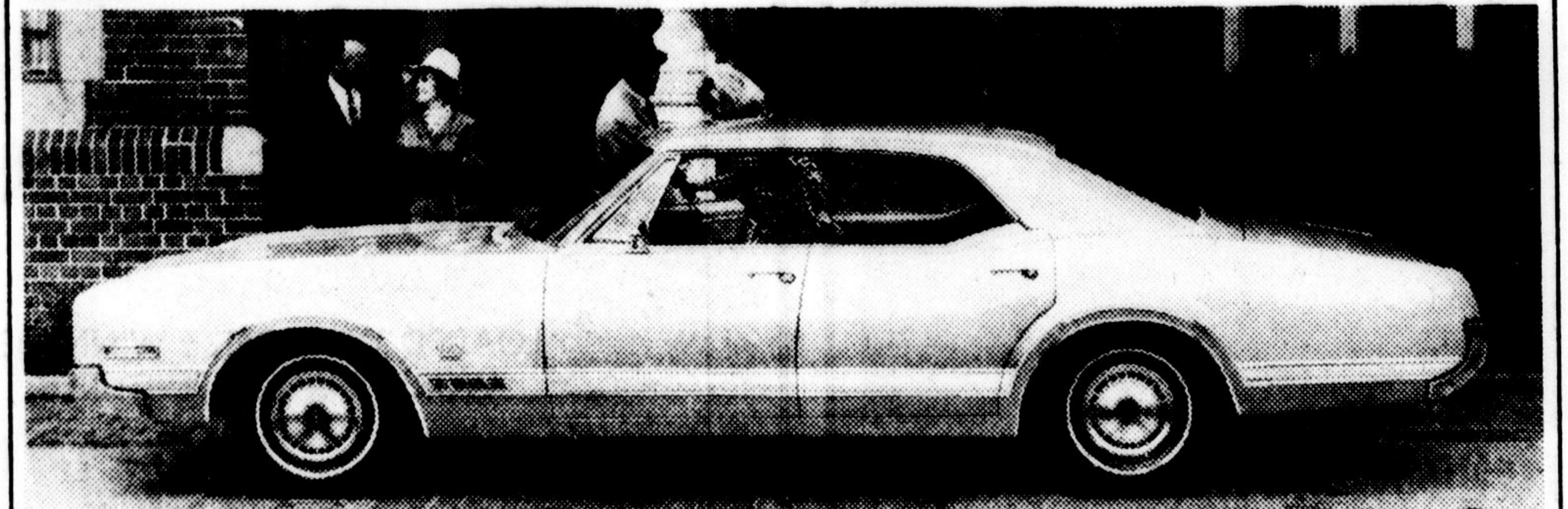
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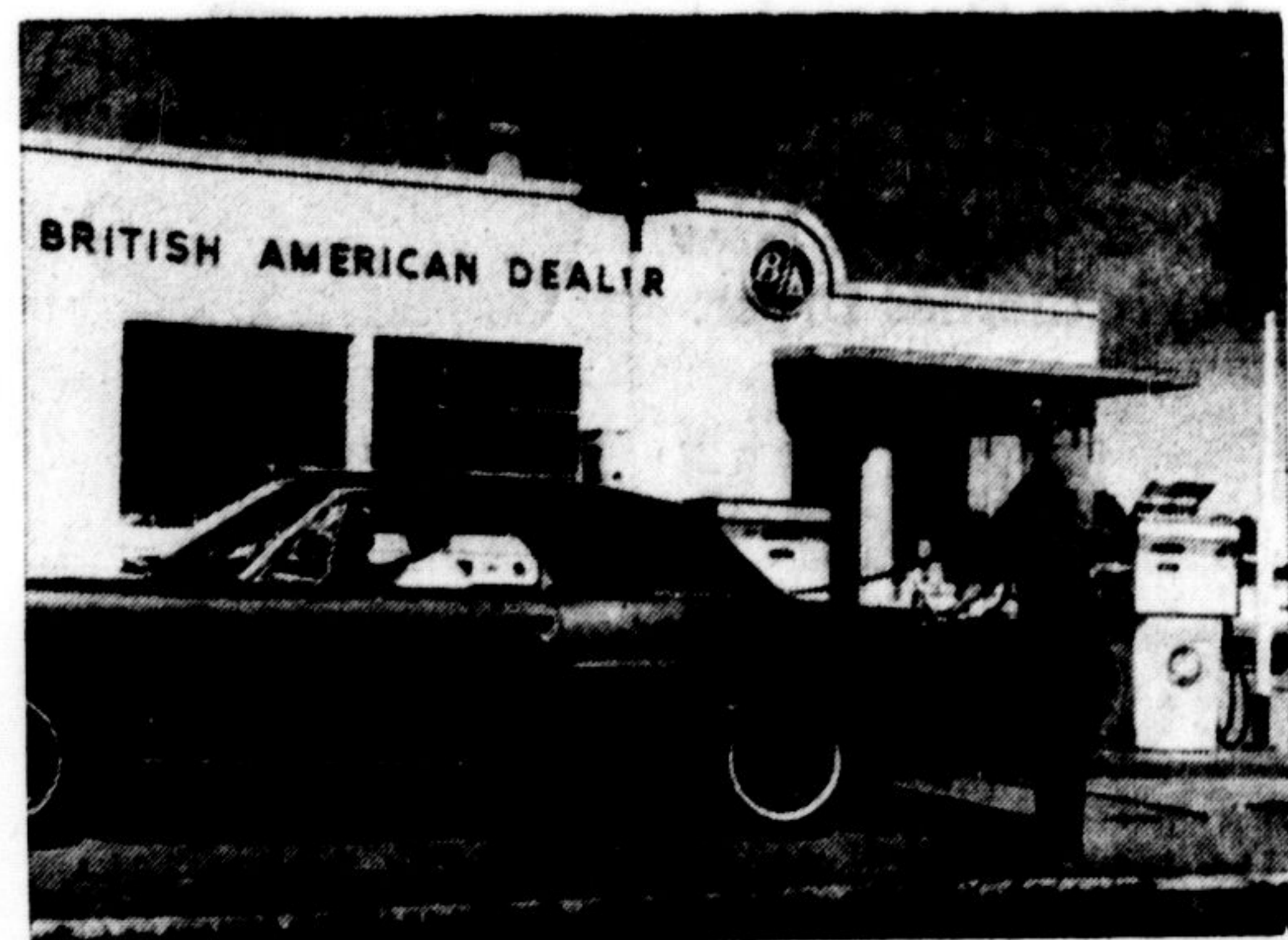
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