

Driver testers handle 800 in year

By Janet Briada

Young and old alike continue to make the scene at Grace Anglican Church Hall every Tuesday throughout the year. Whether 16 years old or over the "hill" the action is in full swing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. once a week. Curves, steering, stop signals and parking abilities are all put to the test and are just small portions of the fun. The real joy is finding all the necessary qualifications have been completed and the result is a tremendous success.

The Ontario Department of Transport holds this weekly clinic open to all residents of the area 16 years of age or older. Each Tuesday this past year and a half, Grace Church Hall has been open to all persons eligible, to qualify for an instruction or permanent driver's licence.

On schedule
Alec Angus and Ziggy Jakovics of the DOT Burlington Detachment have conducted and supervised these tests. Anyone of

minimum age is free to write a beginner's test, if parental consent has been given; however, anyone ready to attempt an "in the car" test for a permanent driver's or chauffeur's licence is required to notify the DOT through Milton Licence Bureau and arrange an appointment for a road test. Appointment times are then forwarded to the two DOT men at Grace Hall and tests are given according to schedule.

"Anyone who is unable to keep an appointment should notify the same office at least three hours in advance," urged Mr. Jakovics. "Failing to keep an appointment can result in postponement of the test for a period of several weeks."

Read book first

The first foot forward toward a final licence is learning all the traffic laws and rules of the road, all of which are outlined in "The Driver's Handbook" published by the DOT and available free of charge at the licence bureau. Those feeling they have

"mastered" the book, know the laws and how to handle any "slippery" situations, are free to qualify for the instruction licence.

An instruction licence involves a fee of \$2, a vision, sign recognition and hand written test. "Most important... don't be nervous," stressed Mr. Jakovics, "Nervousness may result in forgetting answers or misinterpreting questions."

A total of 800 people in Milton and area tried for, and many successfully completed either of the two tests last year.

It's renewable

After an instruction permit has been issued the applicant is entitled to drive a motor vehicle for a period of 120 days, provided he is accompanied by a licensed driver. All 120-day beginner permits can be renewed within a six month period.

The final test comes after months of studying and practising on country roads and town streets.

After an appointment has been made for the road test, a \$5 test fee is payable to the DOT. When asked if he thought the \$5 fee was a little steep, especially if the applicant did not pass the test, Mr. Jakovics stated, "The \$5 fee may seem steep to some, but that fee is only a fraction of what the cost would be if the driver was given a licence, could not drive properly and was involved in an accident. The mishap could cost anywhere from \$5 to \$5,000," he noted.

Applicants taking their final road test in Milton are asked to drive one of three test routes here

in town. The final test would include safety precautions, starting the car, parking (parallel and on a hill), backing, stop, park, start on grade, general driving and handling of the car, intersections and turns. All applicants must also supply their own cars for the road test.

Each applicant is marked by either Mr. Angus or Mr. Jakovics on the above tactics and if acceptable to the DOT standards, is given a permanent driver's licence. Fees for licences depend on the birthdays of its licencees and range anywhere from 80 cents to \$6.60. All birthdays and licence fees are computerized and each year licence fees per applicant change.

Older drivers

"Many applicants who apply for a licence are over 70 years of age," added Mr. Angus. "Most can still drive considerably well, but by DOT standards are requested to repeat their driver's test every year."

He also pointed out that tests for operator and chauffeur licencees do not differ. "The tests are basically the same, consisting of an oral eye test, 20 questions on the rules of the road and 20 on road signs and signals. Even handicapped persons being tested for a licence are given the same type of examination."

Bus driver tests

Both men noted the special tests bus drivers are given. Anyone qualifying for a licence to drive a bus is tested by a supervisor of the DOT. All DOT officials are also tested periodically by supervisors. There is no set limit on how

many times an applicant can apply for either a beginner's or permanent driver's licence. "If a person was tested here and failed the test we would urge him to study the book and improve on his mistakes for at least another week before attempting the test again," said Mr. Jakovics.

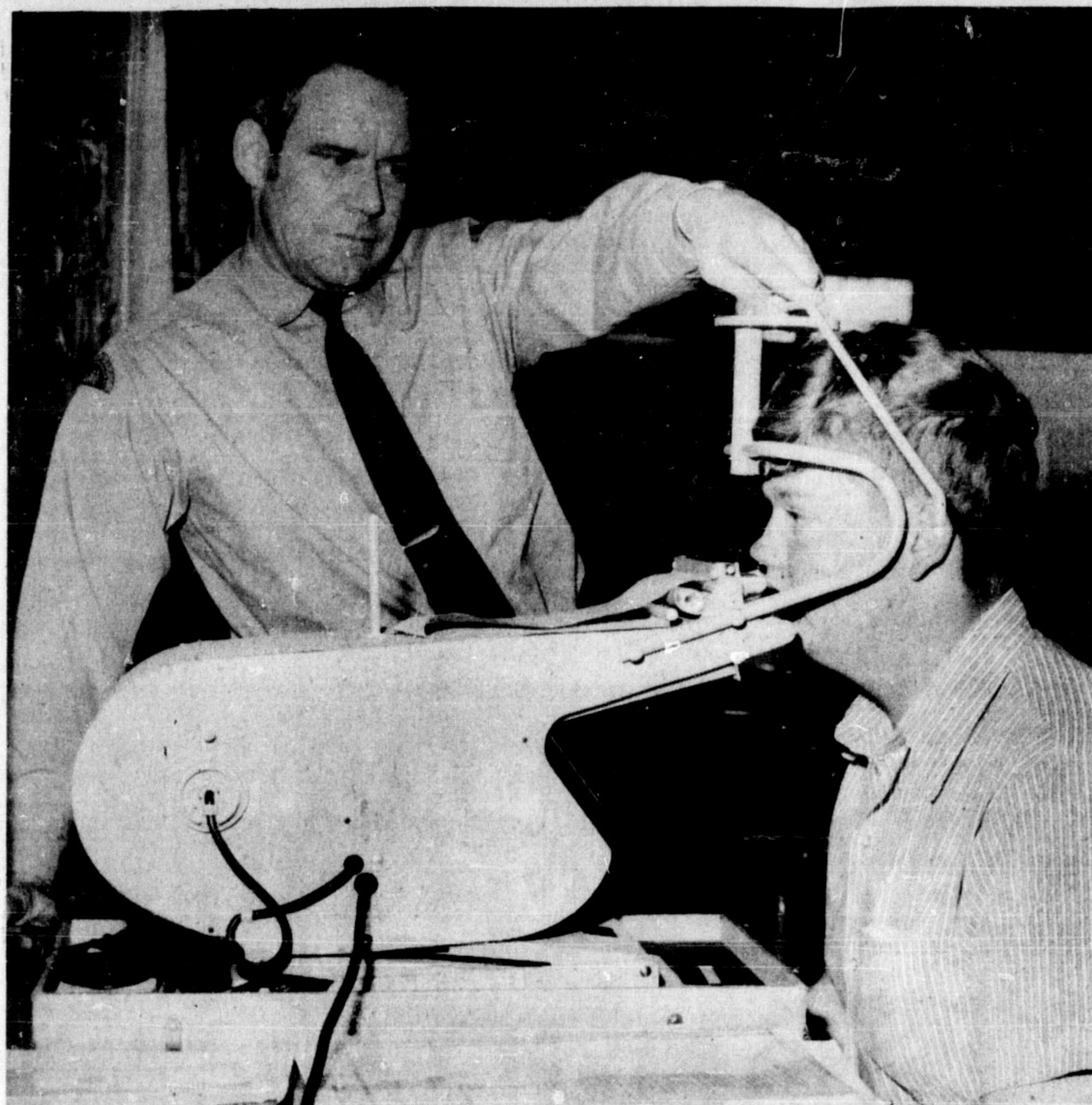
Some accidents

Proceeding through a stop sign is an automatic failure, when being tested for a permanent licence. Both DOT testers said they had been involved in accidents while applicants were attempting a permanent licence.

When asked if any of the collisions resulted in the applicant failing his or her test, Mr. Angus replied that in some instances it had not been the applicant's fault, and if he wished to continue the test it was perfectly permissible; if not a week's rest was urged to steady the nerves.

No-one other than the applicant and the DOT tester is allowed in the car during a test. "All applicants are nervous enough just trying for the licence without having other people in the auto to hinder their thinking. The more the applicant relaxes, the better his thinking and reflexes," concluded the men.

A provincial grant of \$93,359 has been granted Halton Region Conservation Authority, to cover additional costs for completing the Morrison-Wedgewood diversion channel project in Oakville.



VISUAL TEST on road signs and other signs is the first step toward a beginner's driving licence. Stephen Moffat of Moffat recites the signs to Ontario Department of Transport tester Alec Angus. Instruction and permanent driver's licence tests are held every Tuesday at Grace Anglican Church Hall.—(Staff Photo)



WRITTEN TEST for a 120 day or beginner's licence is written by Stephen Moffat of Moffat. Stephen completed a visual and written test for his beginner's licence and just last week completed the road test to procure his driver's licence. Tests can be taken each Tuesday at Grace Anglican Church Hall with two Ontario Department of Transport officials conducting the program.—(Staff Photo)

—Students were back to school on Monday after 12 days of holidays.

—Use Champion classifieds, they'll make your phone ring.

FRUSTRATED TEACHER
"Now, my boy," said the teacher "you mustn't say, 'I ain't goin'; you should say, 'I am not going; he is not going; we are not going; they are not going.'"
Boy: "Wow! Ain't nobody goin' then?"

Miller questions grant to HFA

A by-law on Esqueping township's books authorizing council to make a yearly grant to Halton Federation of Agriculture may come under close scrutiny from councillors, at budget time this year. Council has given the federation an annual grant of \$800 in the past.

A letter from the federation requesting a grant for 1971 led Deputy-reeve Russell Miller to question his colleagues about the annual grant.

The deputy-reeve said he would like to know the story behind it and perhaps have a member of the federation appear before council to explain the history of the organization.

Clerk-treasurer Delmar French informed council there is a by-law authorizing the grant on

the township books, prompting reeve Tom Hill to remark "If you wish to refuse the grant you'll have to rescind the by-law at budget time."

Mr. French was instructed to make a note of the matter and bring it forward at budget time.

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded

would like to thank all the North Halton Merchants and Businesses who donated goods for the auction sale.

The help you have extended for a new workshop is much appreciated.

A special thanks to the auctioneer Mr. C. Schouten and staff.

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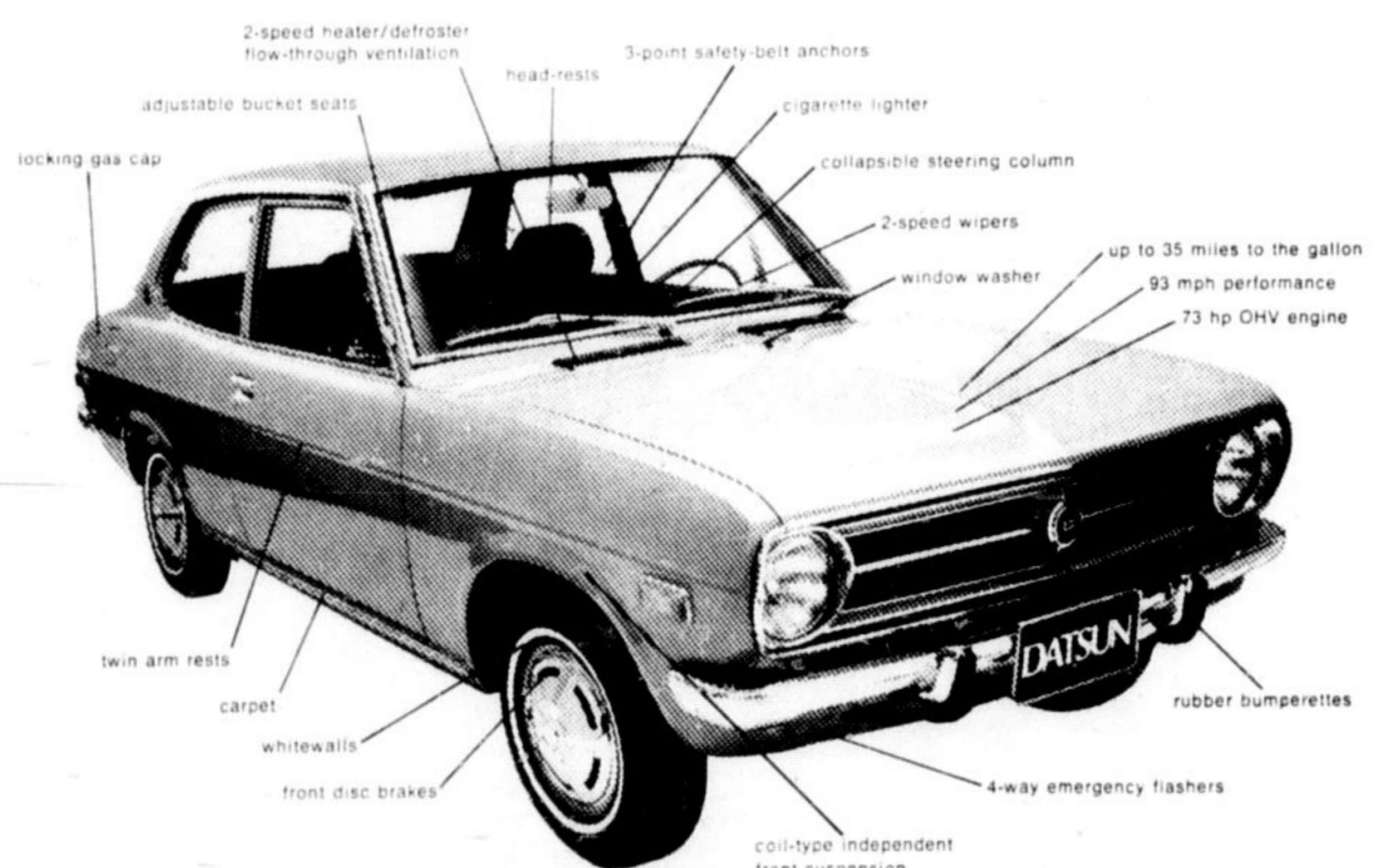
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<p>AYLMER MIX 'N MATCH</p> <p>CUT GREEN BEANS CREAM STYLE CORN CUT WAX BEANS GREEN PEAS 19 oz. Tins Reg. 2 for 53 5 99¢</p>	<p>Delmonte - Reg. 41¢ 19oz. Tin Sliced Chunks Tidbits Crushed Pineapple 3 19 oz. Tins 79¢</p> <p>26" x 36" - Reg. 79¢ - Green Garbage Bags Pkg. of 10 29¢</p>	<p>DRANO DRAIN OPENER 36 oz. Reg. 99¢ 69¢</p>	<p>DAISY DETERGENT 5 lb. Poly Bag Reg. \$1.09 75¢</p>	<p>BLEACH Loma Liquid Reg. 77¢ 128 oz. Gal. 59¢</p>	<p>DOWNY FABRIC SOFTENER 66 oz. Reg. 1.69 99¢</p>
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