

People say service is handy

Riding the town bus

By Dan O'Reilly
 "The bus maintains such an accurate time schedule I can look out my back kitchen window and tell what time it is," states Mrs. J. J. McCarron of 384 Mountainview Dr., Milton.
 The lady's statement is somewhat of a tribute to Milton's only town bus service. The bus line, inaugurated in February, is operated by the Lewis family of 95 Heslop Rd.
 Town transportation is provided with a 10 passenger Ford van of 1969 vintage. Bus service is provided to Miltonians from Wednesday to Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
 "Several merchants told us that Monday and Tuesdays were

slack days for business so we decided not to operate the van on those days," explains Mrs. Irene Lewis, who with her husband David Lewis and part time driver Jun Seeds, operates the bus. Seeds drives the bus from Wednesday to Friday, except during noon hour when Mrs. Lewis relieves him. On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Lewis split the day's driving duties between themselves.
Main stop
 The "Grand Central Station" of the bus line is the Milton Post Office. Seeds picks up the first passengers of the day there.
 From the post office, the bus turns left at Mill St. and follows a winding route through the

western portion of town in the area of John, Barton, Heslop and Meadowbrook Sts. During the afternoon hours, the van makes three trips to Milton District Hospital, at a little after 2, 3 and 4 p.m.
 After servicing the western half of the community, the van makes a trip back to the area of the post office. From here it travels north up to Martin St., cutting through several side streets to Steeles Ave. and then down Ontario St.
South End
 At the junction of Main and Ontario St., the bus takes a right jaunt, down through the commercial section of town. It then proceeds south by way of

Charles St. and picks up passengers in the southern area of town.
 An almost complete sweep of Milton, east and west, north and south is cut by the van. Time of one continuous round trip is one hour.
 On a typical afternoon about three or four passengers at one time may be riding the vehicle for purposes of shopping expeditions, social outings and a method of journeying to work.
 A popular destination for some of the travellers is Milton District Hospital. Utilizing the bus last Wednesday afternoon, May 17, were two part time nurses, Mrs. Anne Twiss and Mrs. Lorna Kerns. They were working af-

ternoon shifts at the institution. A full time nurse, Mrs. Elfrieda Brynkus, whose shift ended at 3 p.m. caught an afternoon bus home.
Uses her bike
 All three women have to devise other methods of transportation when the Lewis bus doesn't operate. "I sometimes ride a bicycle to work in the morning," notes Mrs. Brynkus, who begins work at 6:30 a.m.
 Prices for a one way trip on the bus are 25 cents for adults, 15 cents for students and elderly citizens, and 10 cents for children.
 A unique situation of passengers wanting to pay more than required has developed since the service was born, reports Mrs. Lewis. Residents of the Senior Citizens Building (Harmony Court) on Ontario St. are entitled to the 15 cent fare rather than the regular 25 cent charge.



MRS. IRENE LEWIS

He says most of the women like to smoke and to listen to the radio and very rarely even in warm weather, will they open the windows. "It may have something to do with hairdressing appointments," he quips.
 The Lewis van, colored white and blue, may have become somewhat of a familiar Milton sight. One of the wayfarers on last Wednesday's bus was a New Canadian. The lady, perhaps Italian, couldn't speak English, but she was still able to make use of the bus.
 Another Wednesday passenger was partially crippled man, who might have had tremendous difficulty without the services of the bus.
 Operating a town bus line hasn't exactly been a paying venture for the Lewis family. Besides the town bus, the Lewises drive a bus between Milton and Bramalea for the benefit of factory workers.

Pays for both
 The Bramalea run, although it hasn't put the Lewises on easy street, brings in enough dividends to pay for the expenses of both bus services. "The town bus to a large extent hinges on the success of the Bramalea run," notes Mrs. Lewis.
 Mrs. Lewis wheels the Bramalea bus out of Milton at 6:10 every morning from Monday to Friday. The vehicle is a dark green, 28-seat affair and looks somewhat like a combination school bus and a charter vehicle.
 The lady driver takes the Bramalea bus and leaves Milton again about 2:40 pm. in order to deliver afternoon shift workers at their jobs and to pick up people who have finished the day shift.



CATCHING A RIDE at the "Grand Central Station" of the bus route — the Milton Post Office — is Mrs. Alice Cleeton. Mrs. Cleeton, who has only lived in Milton since last summer, says the bus service helps her to get acquainted with Miltonians.



THREE LIVE WIRES from the Senior Citizens Apartment on Ontario St. frequently use the Lewis bus. Harmony Court residents Mrs. Edith Patterson, Mrs. Daisy McLean and Mrs. Nellie McKinnon say they weren't able to get away from their apartment home until the bus service began.
 (Photos by D. O'Reilly)

The bus service is mainly geared for industrial workers whose day lasts from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., she explains.
 Afternoon workers, if they don't have to work overtime, can catch the bus out of Bramalea around trip is \$1. The Lewises alternate night driving trips. On the average about 35 people a day use the Bramalea bus. The bulk of them work at the Northern Electric company, reports Mrs. Lewis.

business full time.
 When the Lewises began the town bus service in February, they told themselves they would operate for a six month period to gauge interest of Miltonians and to obtain an experienced viewpoint of the financial realities of the program. More than half of the six month trial period is past, but Mrs. Lewis refuses to make any comment on the future. "We'd hate to let our present patrons down," she says sincerely.

Hope for Subsidy
 Meanwhile, the future of the town bus service is uncertain as expenditures are more than returns, says Mrs. Lewis. The owners are hoping the town may come through with some form of subsidy. Lewis is in the process of applying for a charter bus licence from the province and if he wins it, he plans to go into the bus

All of the bus riders, if last Wednesday's passenger list was an indication, would be greatly disappointed if the bus service ceased operations. For most, it is their only method of transportation. Besides which, as most of Wednesday's travellers said in unison. "It's a great way to view areas of Milton we've never seen before."

Notice to Property Owners

DESTROY WEEDS

Notice is hereby given to all persons in possession of land in accordance with the Ontario Weed Control Act, 1965, Sec. 3, 13 and 19, that unless noxious weeds growing on their lands within the Municipality of Burlington are destroyed by date of June 12th 1972, and throughout the season, the Municipality may enter upon said lands, and have the weeds destroyed, charging the costs against the land in taxes, as set out in the act.

The co-operation of all citizens is earnestly solicited.

Wm. J. Wuchterl
 Weed Inspector,
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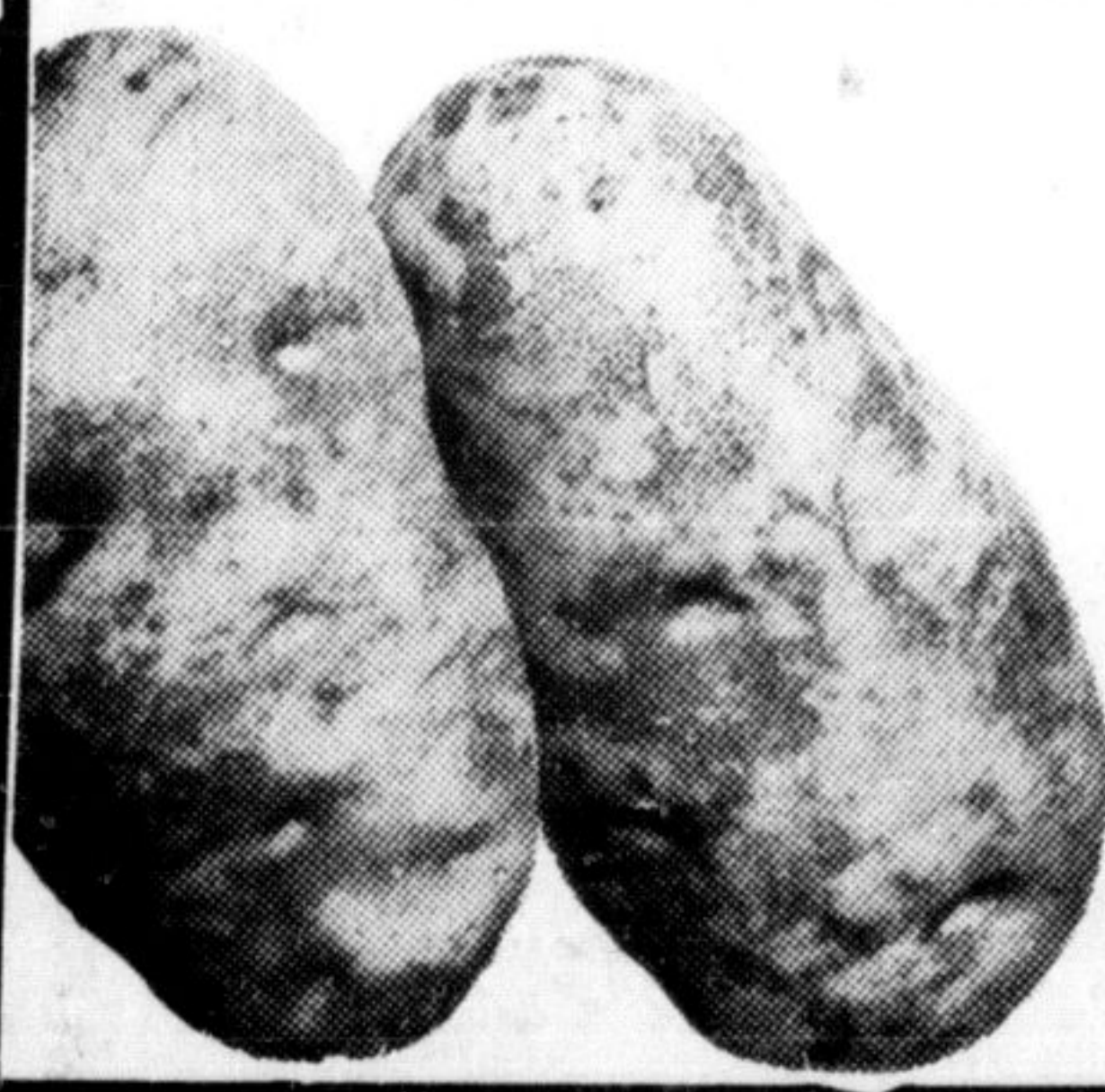
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