

Must plan for safety

The total operation of a farm must function smoothly and according to plan in order to be successful. Accidents can disrupt the best plans, deplete profits and in many instances deprive farmers of their livelihood. To guard against such costly and crippling losses, the farmer must incorporate safety into his management planning. He must "manage to

prevent accidents" by impressing on his family and employees the necessity of working safely while performing their daily tasks. Accidents take the lives of some 1,400 Canadian farm and rural residents, injure approximately 26,000 and permanently disable 1,500 annually. The accidental death rate on

the farm is estimated to be 20 per cent higher than the national average. While the percentage of Canadians engaged in farming has declined, the numbers of farm accidents have increased. Farming continues to have the third highest accident frequency, exceeded by the mining and construction industries.

Most on farm
Studies indicate that 72 per cent of accidents involving rural residents happen on the farm or in the farm home, and 28 per cent in the field and 27 per cent in and around the home. Off the farm 42 per cent of the accidents occur on main highways, 30 per cent on secondary roads, and 28 per cent elsewhere. Farm mechanization has made a positive contribution to human welfare. It has reduced the time and effort required for many farm operations and played a major role in increasing farm productivity, yet has brought

with it hazards that have obviously been overlooked or disregarded by many farmers. Four-fifths of all farm machinery accidents involve the tractor and of these, more than half were tractor upsets. Other farm machinery most commonly involved in fatal accidents are combines, balers, corn pickers, forage harvesters and spreaders. The principal types of farm machinery accidents involve the victim being caught in the machines or being crushed. Causes in many instances can be traced to guards and shielding being left off, servicing under

power and falls from moving equipment. **Many children**
The most distressing fact is that 10 per cent of farm machinery deaths occur in the under-10 age group. An additional 16 per cent involved the 10-19 age group, all of whom were killed in over-returns or crushed. Youngsters who lack the physical ability, experience and judgment should not be permitted to operate tractors and farm machinery. The practice of allowing children or even adults to ride as passengers on tractors and farm equipment should not be permitted.

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The extensive use of petroleum products in farming necessitates the proper and safe handling of these commodities. Far too often accidents occur through lack of knowledge and carelessness in the handling and storage of petroleum products and in refueling equipment. **Safer place**
In the home the major types of accidents are falls, fire poisoning and suffocation. A neat orderly farm home is a safer place to live. The responsibility of preventing accidents on the farm and in the rural community rests with all persons engaged directly and indirectly with the farming industry. July 25 to 31 is Farm Safety Week in Canada. Remember, it is up to you to "weed out" farm hazards. —A championship bike race will be held on Cedar Springs Rd., 10 Sideroad, Guelph Line and Two Sideroad in north Burlington on Sunday, July 29.

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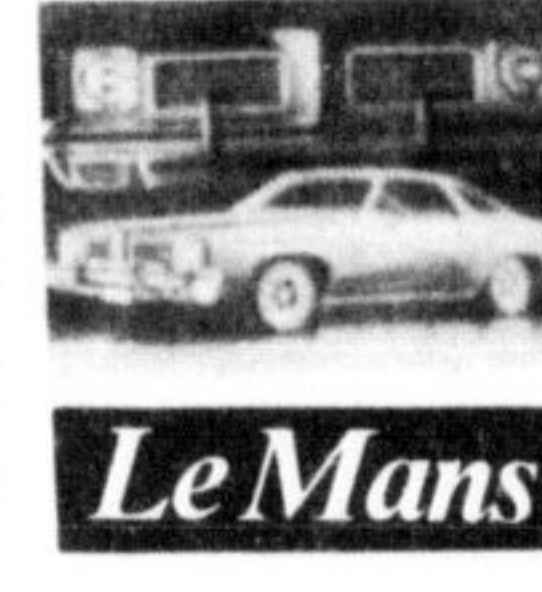


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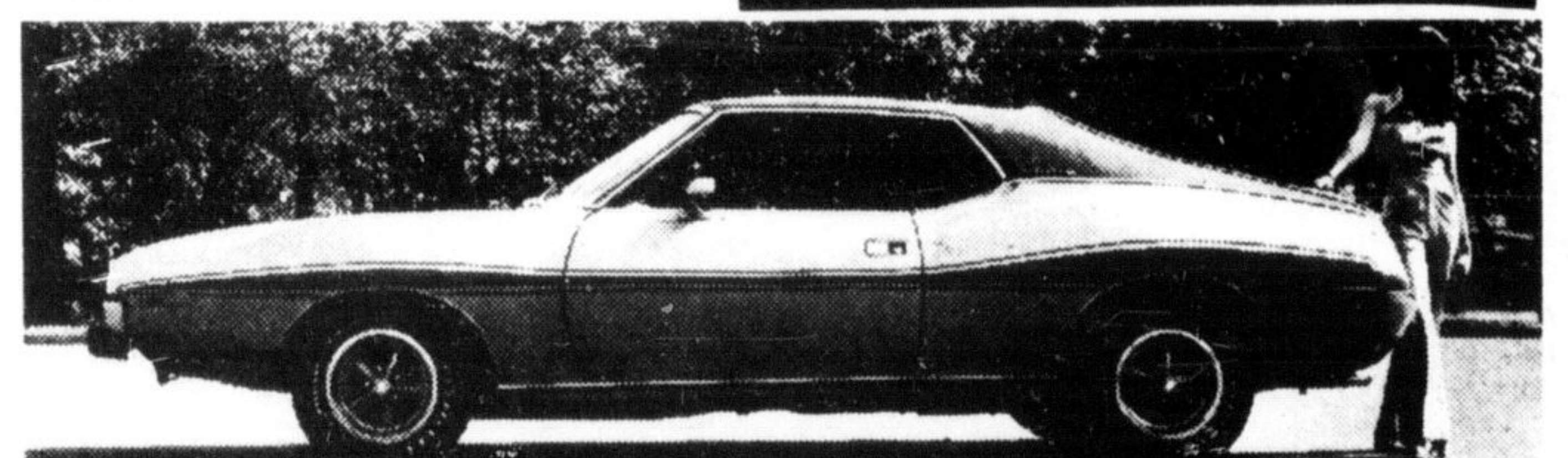
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