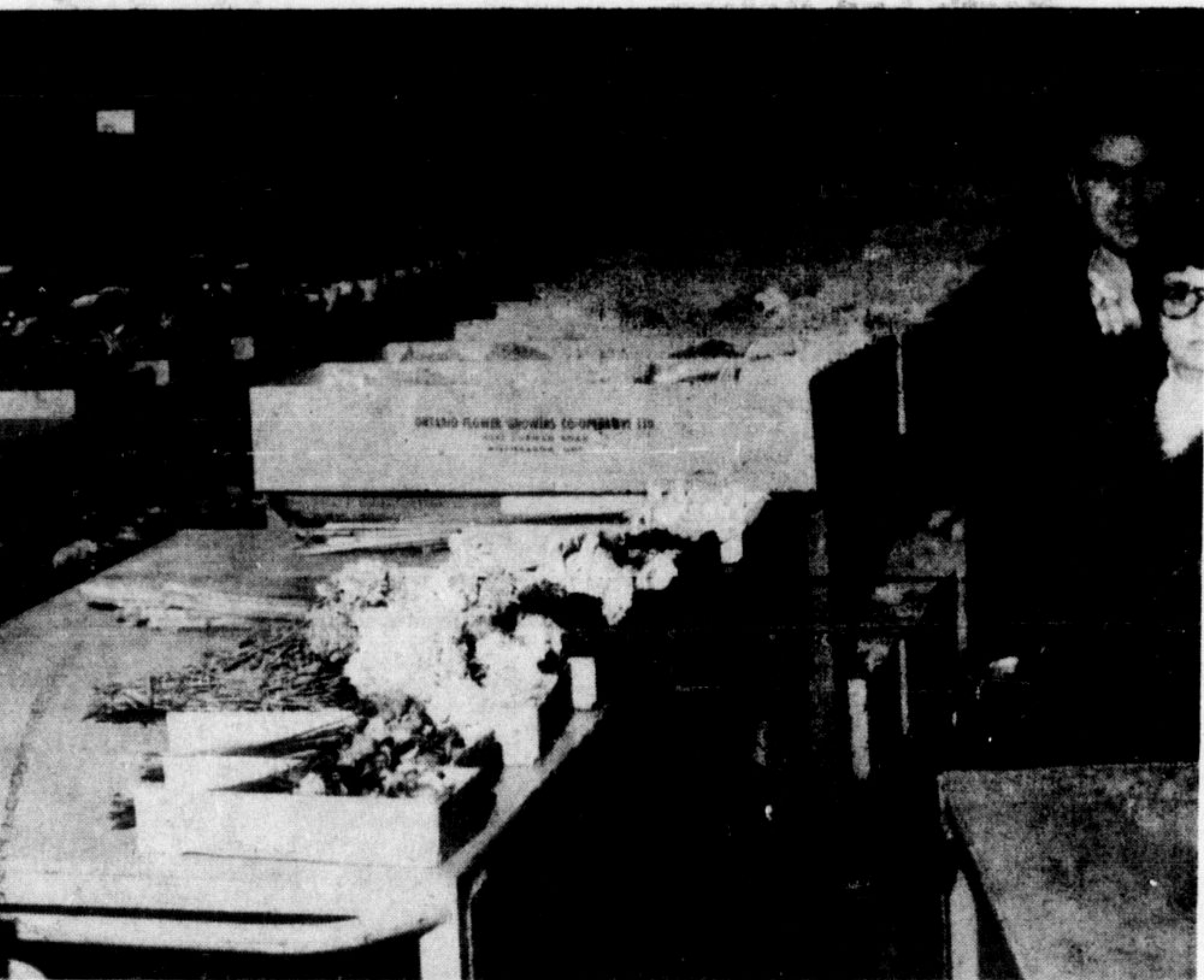


THE CLOCK is the cynosure of all eyes, and the target around which the whole flower auction revolves.



FLOWERS from Plansky Gardens, Campbellville are loaded on carts in preparation for the 7 a.m. auction.



WALL TO WALL FLOWERS included carnations, roses, mums, wall trees, philadendrons, grapefruit trees, tulips, begonias, herbs and ferns.

4-H project makes meal

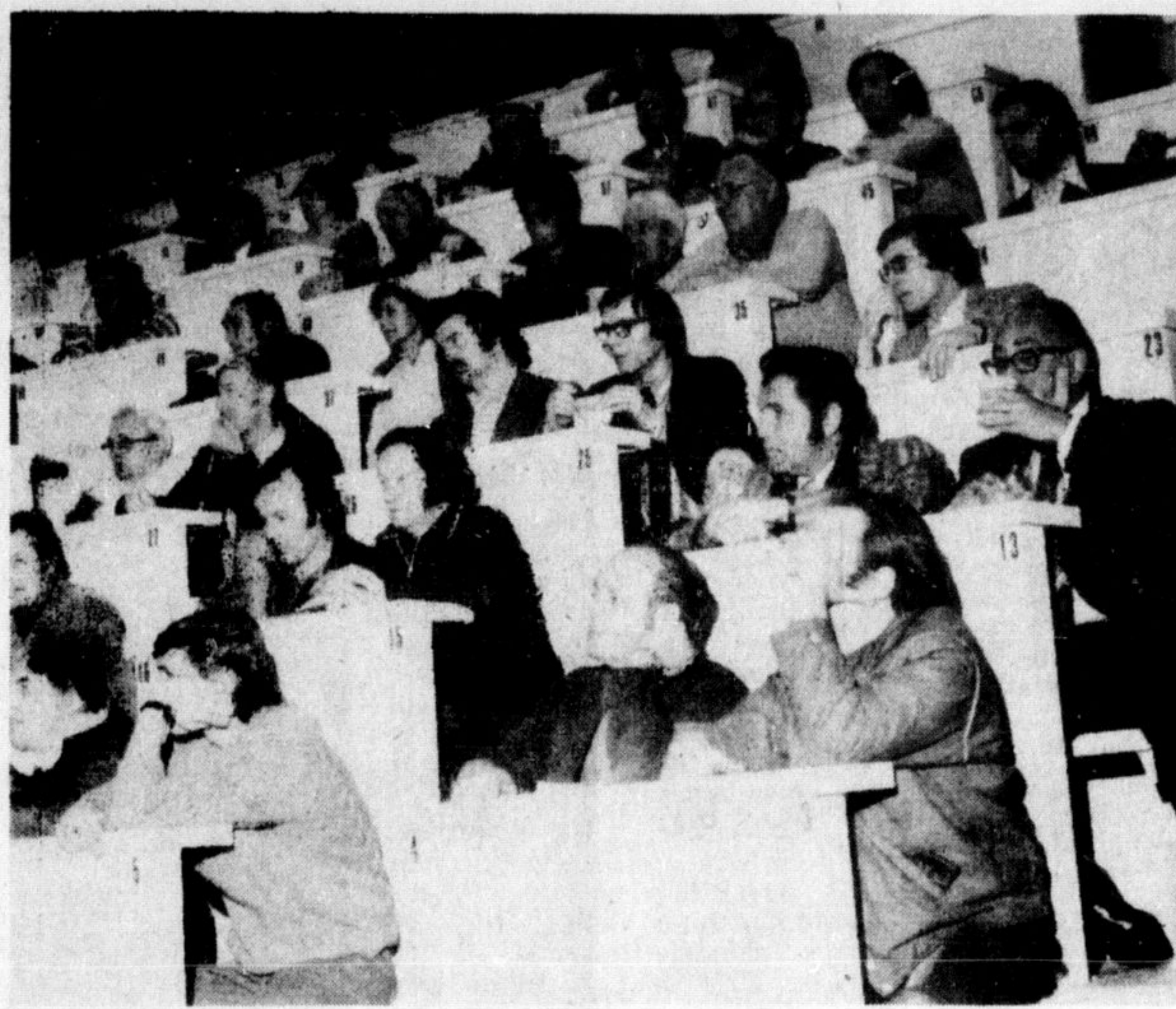
Members of the 4-H Hostesses enjoyed a supper of lasagna and peanut crispies at their fifth meeting, and following supper a meeting was held. Snacks, banquets and popular pastas were discussed and members made plans for achievement day, and a dance.

For their sixth meeting they made gingerbread from scratch and from a mix, and found good and bad points about each method. Convenience foods and their costs were discussed.

Mexican chili rolls with sauce were made for the seventh meeting. Members each planned a menu. Final plans were made for the April 19 dance.

"Fossil fuel and atomic fuel savings accounts" are being squandered, and we are not investing in the harnessing of our natural energies, such as the tides. The "bankers" should take into account what will happen when the resources are spent.

—R. Buckminster Fuller



BIDDERS sit in the grandstand with eyes glued on the clock. The seats are purchased on a yearly basis.

Story and pictures by Mairi DeSylva

"Clock" sells flowers at grower's auction

In the wee hours before sunrise, the aroma of thousands of flowers permeate the air as they await their turn to be auctioned off at "the clock".

"The clock", headquarters of the Ontario Flower Growers Co-op, is the scene of a daily auction of more than 100 flower growers throughout Ontario.

Perched on a platform, in front of 91 ascending seats and beneath a huge clock, an auctioneer chants away: "two lots of sweetheart rose, . . . 12 dimes. . . four dimes (Buzz) Sold, one lot of . . ."

Number 48 has just pressed a buzzer at his seat when the hand of the fast moving clock touched on number 4, indicating the buyer has bought one "lot" of roses at 40¢ each. The sheet of paper accompanying the roses is then given to key-punch girls in the office directly behind the auctioneer, who punch the data through the computer.

When all purchases have been concluded, each buyer pays for his merchandise before leaving the premises.

This procedure insures payment to the growers within a week. Prior to "the clock" the growers might wait weeks before getting payment.

Originating in Holland, the auction began in Oct. 72 with 63 members and located just off Airport Road near the Cara Inn, at Milton.

"There are about 150 serious flower growers in Ontario" commented Peter Hughes, of Braeside Farms, Norval, president of the Ontario Flower Growers Co-op. "Due to rising costs the growers were forced to find a central market place in Ontario."

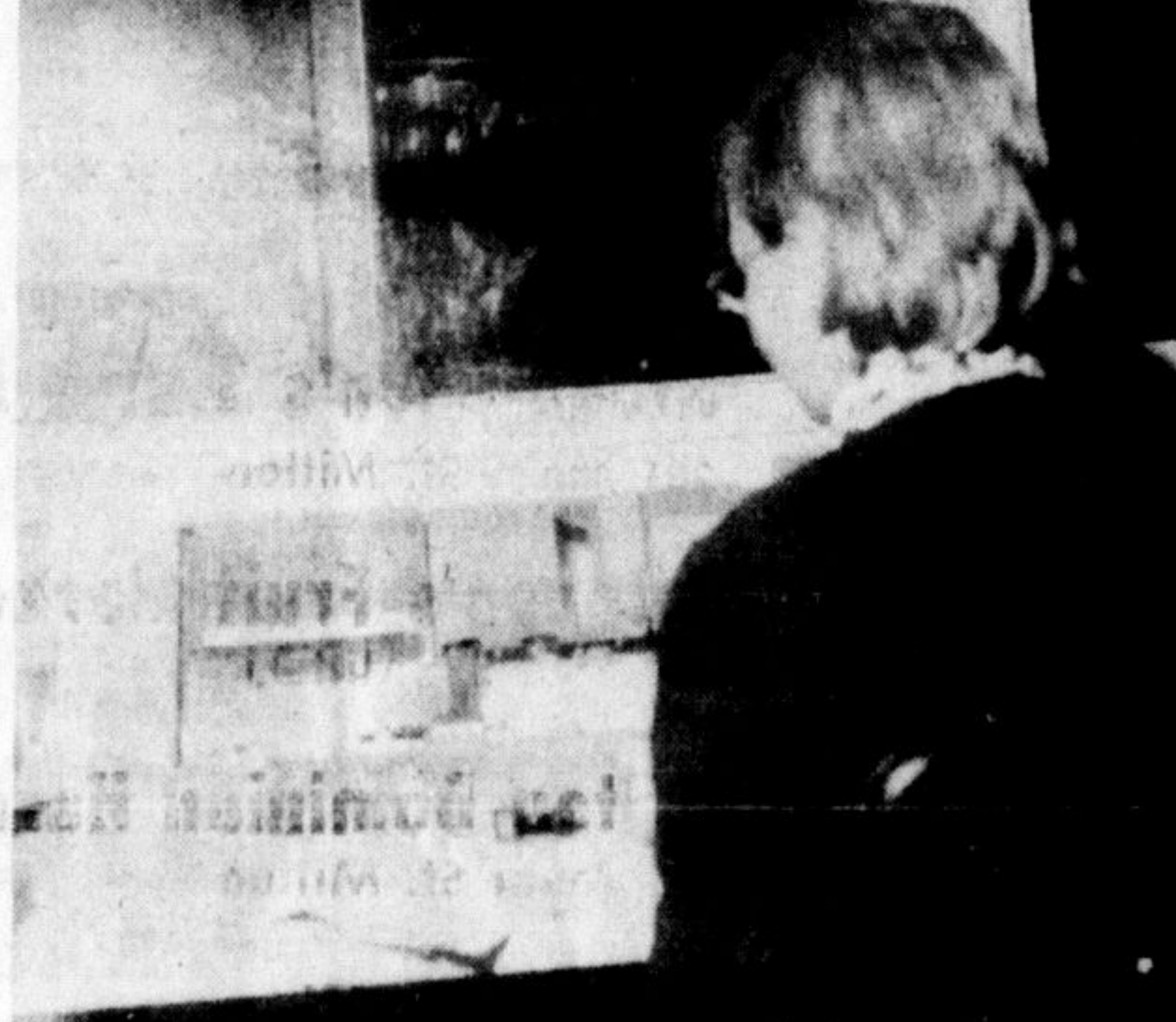
During the first year of operation the clock not only broke even but had a profit of \$11,000 which they returned to the growers in the form of "patronage refunds".

Selling privately, the growers would often lose up to 25 percent of potential profit. Growers now are able to lower or raise their prices according to the supply and demand of flowers. This arrangement is equally satisfactory to the buyers. Before

the auction, they would have to visit several growers in obtaining a variety of flowers and plants for their shops.

"The clock" did close to \$3 million worth of retail business last year and expects to almost double that this year," remarked Mr. Hughes.

There are only two other flower auctions like this in North America; one in Vancouver and the other in Montreal.



KEYPUNCH GIRLS compute the pertinent information on the purchase of flowers and plants.

—It is a season of contrasts—hockey continues and baseball registrations are being held, and youngsters are playing hockey with hockey sticks and rubber balls on the roadways.

—The grass is starting to green up.

—GO Transit service to Georgetown starts April 29. There will be three trains a day to and from Toronto.

Six nights in woods 56-year-old woman "thankful to be alive"

By Joyce Beaton
It's been over a week since Ann Gilbert, a 56-year-old Hamilton woman, was found in a gully on Cedar Springs Rd. and taken to Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington. Her feet are still badly swollen from exposure during her six nights in the woods, but she is rapidly recovering from her ordeal.

"It was terrifying," she relates, "but I'm over some of the discomforts. I started eating right away and, fattening or not, I'll eat whatever they put in front of me."

Mrs. Gilbert was evicted from her apartment in Hamilton on March 1 and lived in a Burlington motel for the next two weeks. On March 25 she began to walk, looking for a place to live. She got a ride to North Burlington and slipped and fell in the woods near Five Sideroad off Britannia Rd.

Thankful
Two unidentified boys hiking through the woods found her Sunday, March 31, six days later. Stu Cotton, of Cedar Springs Road, was horseback riding at the time and went to the woman's rescue. He pulled her to the road where Betty and John Nicholson of Five Sideroad, Burlington took her into their car while awaiting an ambulance.

"I want to thank all those wonderful people who were so good to me," Mrs. Gilbert said. "The man on the horse loaned me his jacket and gave me a couple of cigarettes. Someone else brought me some coffee, and the boys who found me brought me a drink of water from the stream."

Mrs. Gilbert ate snow and rationed her supply of cigarettes during the time she was in the woods. "I couldn't even crawl to the stream only a couple of feet away for a drink of water," she says.

She considers herself lucky to have been rescued at all, as the lying is night past the spot where she was found. "The nights were cold and silent," she remembers, "the only

sounds I heard were dogs barking, away off."

Plastic
Mrs. Gilbert was wearing slacks, a winter coat and snow boots. She wrapped herself in plastic and piled snow around her body to keep warm. The coat was left in the woods and replaced by Mr. Cotton's jacket.

Upon admission to the hospital Mrs. Gilbert remembers being stripped and thoroughly washed. "I still can smell that dreadful odor from myself," she says, "it was awful. It took me four or five days just to get over feeling nauseated."

Heated
Her hospital roommate Muriel Savard considers Anne to be a very brave person. "She screamed in pain for the first couple of days," she said. "I give her credit, I wouldn't believe a person could go through what she did and live. She must have great faith to keep her going."

It was Thursday morning before Mrs. Gilbert felt well enough to lean across and say good morning to Mrs. Savard.

Mrs. Gilbert has four children, all married and with families. None could be reached for comment.

No plans
She said she would like to rent a small cabin or room in the country. Her only income is her \$149 per month welfare cheque. She explains how she left what little she had by the side of the road when she was evicted. "I shouldn't have left my little black cat behind," she says. "I kept it for companionship and became accustomed to having it, now I'm worried about where it is."

As she went through a white purse with all her earthly belongings, she came across a book of instructions on how to play the guitar. "It was an old guitar so I left it behind as well," she said. "Maybe I shouldn't have, I was enjoying it."

Mrs. Gilbert has no immediate plans. She's just thankful to be alive.

New phone

Region to new office

Halton Region headquarters moved from Milton last weekend to a new location at 3027 Harvester Rd. in Burlington. The new headquarters building is situated at the corner of Guelph Line and the Queen Elizabeth Highway.

Regional meetings for this week were cancelled to allow staff to get organized in their new quarters.

New number
Because of the move, changes in the telephone system have been made. The new line for the main switchboard is 878-5571.

The public works garage numbers are changed to 878-7249 and 878-7240. Callers will no longer be able to contact the Health Unit Head Office, Halton Centennial Manor or the Halton County Museum through the switchboard.

Health Unit numbers are 878-7245, 878-7246 and 878-7247. The museum can be contacted directly by calling 878-3233 and the Halton Centennial Manor will have to be called direct at 878-4141.

Georgetown residents can contact the region at 877-3547 and residents in the region using a Guelph exchange

should call 821-4267. In addition to those numbers the region has a Zenith number 94040 for the convenience of those residents outside direct dialing areas.

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