

WHAT'S UP DOC? Persons interested in what is in store for their future as residents around the Niagara Escarpment can view the preliminary proposals by the Niagara Escarpment Commission at both Milton Public Library and the Kilbride Branch of the Burlington Public Library.

Commission proposals on Escarpment development

Milton Public Library and the Kilbride branch of the Burlington Public Library have copies of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's land-use plan for Halton. The plan is labelled "A Preliminary Proposal" and is set out for viewing each evening at the Kilbride library, located at the Kilbride Public School.

Town budget up 7-8 per cent

Milton Council, sitting as budget committee, reduced the 1978 operating budget for the town by approximately \$220,000 at a meeting last week.

Council earlier reduced estimates by \$300,000 and the most recent cuts bring the budget down to approximately \$4,300,000.

Most recent cuts see the construction of storm sewers on Main St. East deferred until next year at a saving of \$200,000. Council asked the Parks and Recreation Department to reduce departmental estimates by a further \$5,000 and asked the Library Board to reduce the library budget by a total of \$20,000.

Treasurer Don Lougheed said the town budget will be up by seven or eight per cent over last year.

The setting of a mill rate won't be done until after the Halton Board of Education and Halton Regional Council have finalized those budgets

and indicated what amount will be levied on the town.

Lougheed noted the town got off to a late start on road projects this year and because of it, will have to carry about \$150,000 in work over to 1978.

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Overflow crowds at Hilton Falls upset neighbor

Lack of parking space at Hilton Falls Conservation Area, coupled with the growing popularity of cross country skiing, are causing a growing concern with the park's neighbor John McTrash and his family whose lifestyle is being eroded, according to Councillor Jim Watson.

Mr. McTrash's concerns were expressed in a letter to council Monday from the holidaying councillor, who said the family is at "their wit's end" as growing activity at the park is interfering with their life.

Main problem is that the park's parking area is too small and the overflow cars are being parked on Five Sideroad, on both sides of the nearby McTrash home. On top of this, skiers are entering the park via an Ontario Hydro laneway adjacent to the McTrash home, and skiers have also been trespassing over the man's land.

William Warwick, Director of Conservation Services at HRCA, was at Monday's council meeting on another subject. He admitted the parking lot (120 cars) is too small as the park is "very popular" — especially with skiers. There is no admission charge, as at other HRCA parks, adding to the popularity.

One day, HRCA staffers counted 105 cars parked on the sideroad, Warwick said.

He indicated HRCA has money in its budget this year to study the park's future potential, which may result in some changes — but not before 1979. One element at HRCA says go slow, no more development or the property will be ruined; while the other faction says HRCA must serve the people and add more parking spaces, he said.

But the budget gives no hope of improvements this year.

Councillor Russ Powadiuk said HRCA should make skiers park at Mohawk

Raceway or Kelso, and buses should be provided to take them to Hilton Falls. That would mean an admission charge, and more staff, warned Councillor Gordon Krantz, one of the town's appointees on the HRCA board. He admitted HRCA is "in a dilemma" over the problem.

One answer might be to ban cross country skiing, or quit clearing the parking lot, said Krantz.

Councillors finally agreed to ask HRCA to make sure money is budgeted in 1979 to resolve the problem.

Councillor Watson's letter suggested parking be banned on Five Sideroad, but council felt it would be too difficult to enforce. He also said all development at Hilton Falls should be halted and the area returned to "passive" activities, which is what it was intended for in the first place. "If conservation authorities are going to move from the preservation philosophy to one of development, we must be prepared to supply such safeguards as would be expected from any developer," he said.

Barely a quorum

Milton Council's meeting Monday was delayed in starting for about five minutes, while Mayor Don Gordon waited for a sixth member in order to make up a quorum. It takes six of the 11 members to make a meeting legal, and just six showed up for the Monday session.

Councillors Rick Day, Emmerson McCready, Jim Watson, Jim Kerr, and Brad Clements were not present.

After the meeting Mayor Gordon said he understood Councillor McCready was in New York on business, Councillor Clements was sick, and the other three were on holidays.

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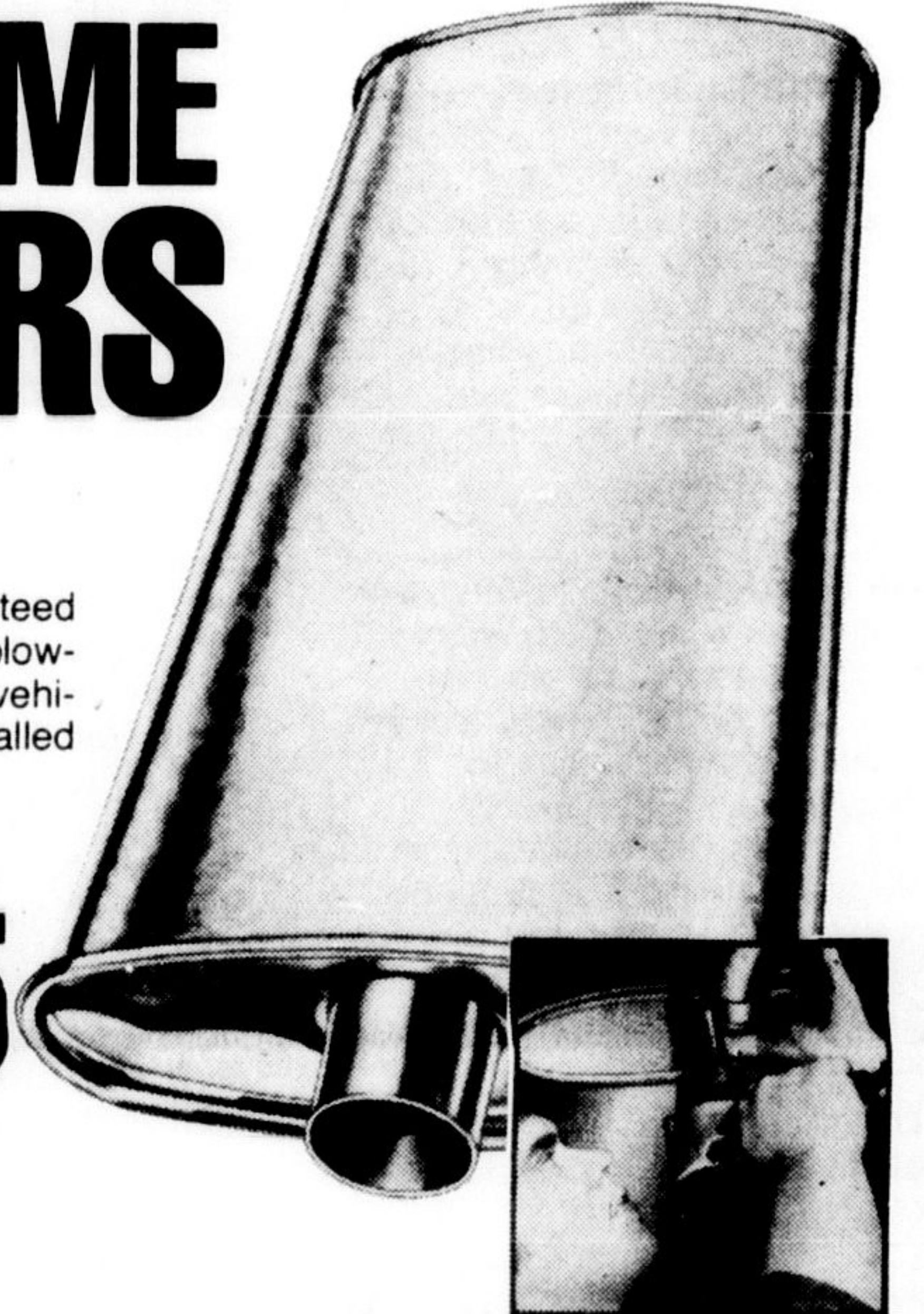
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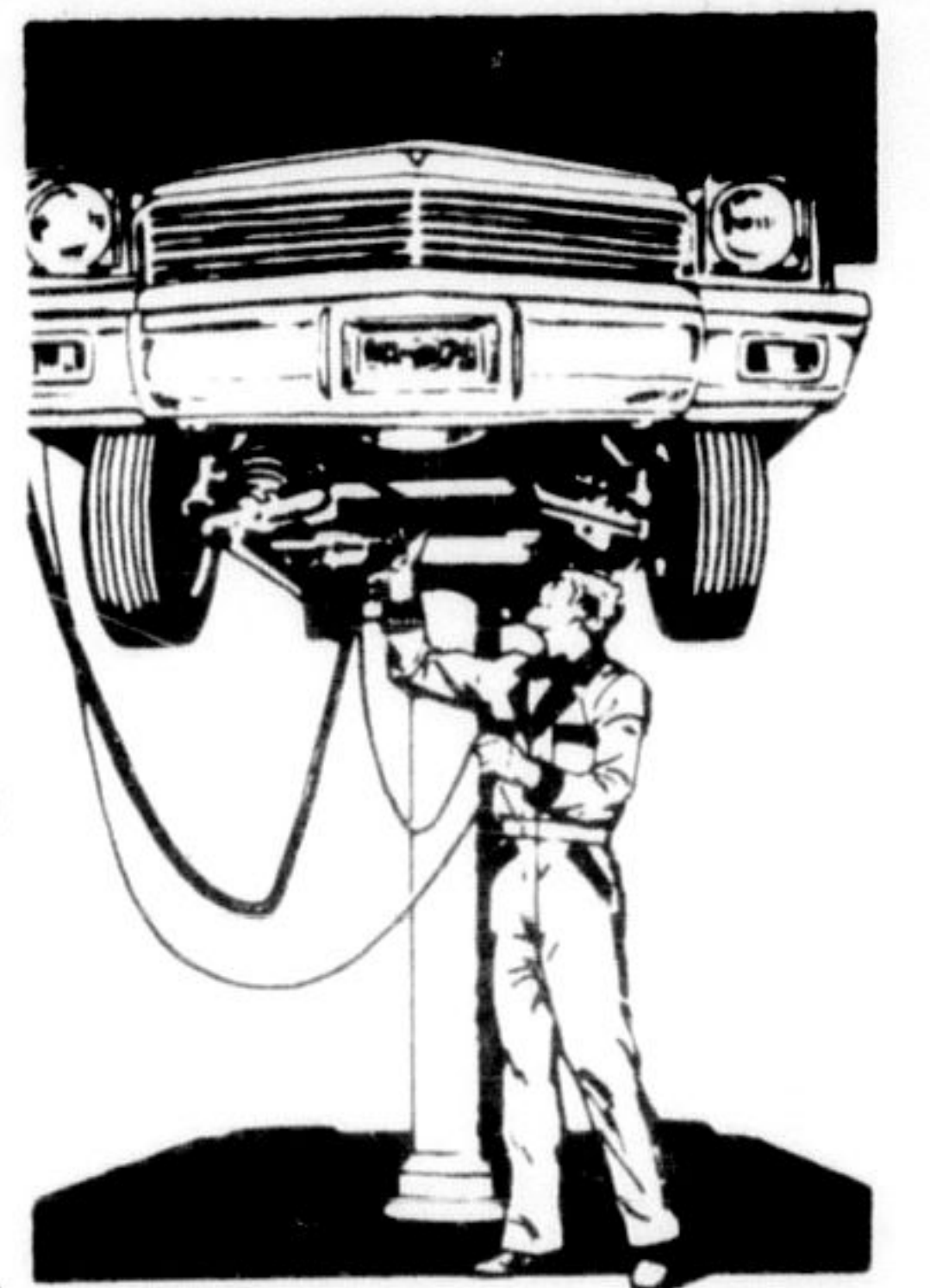
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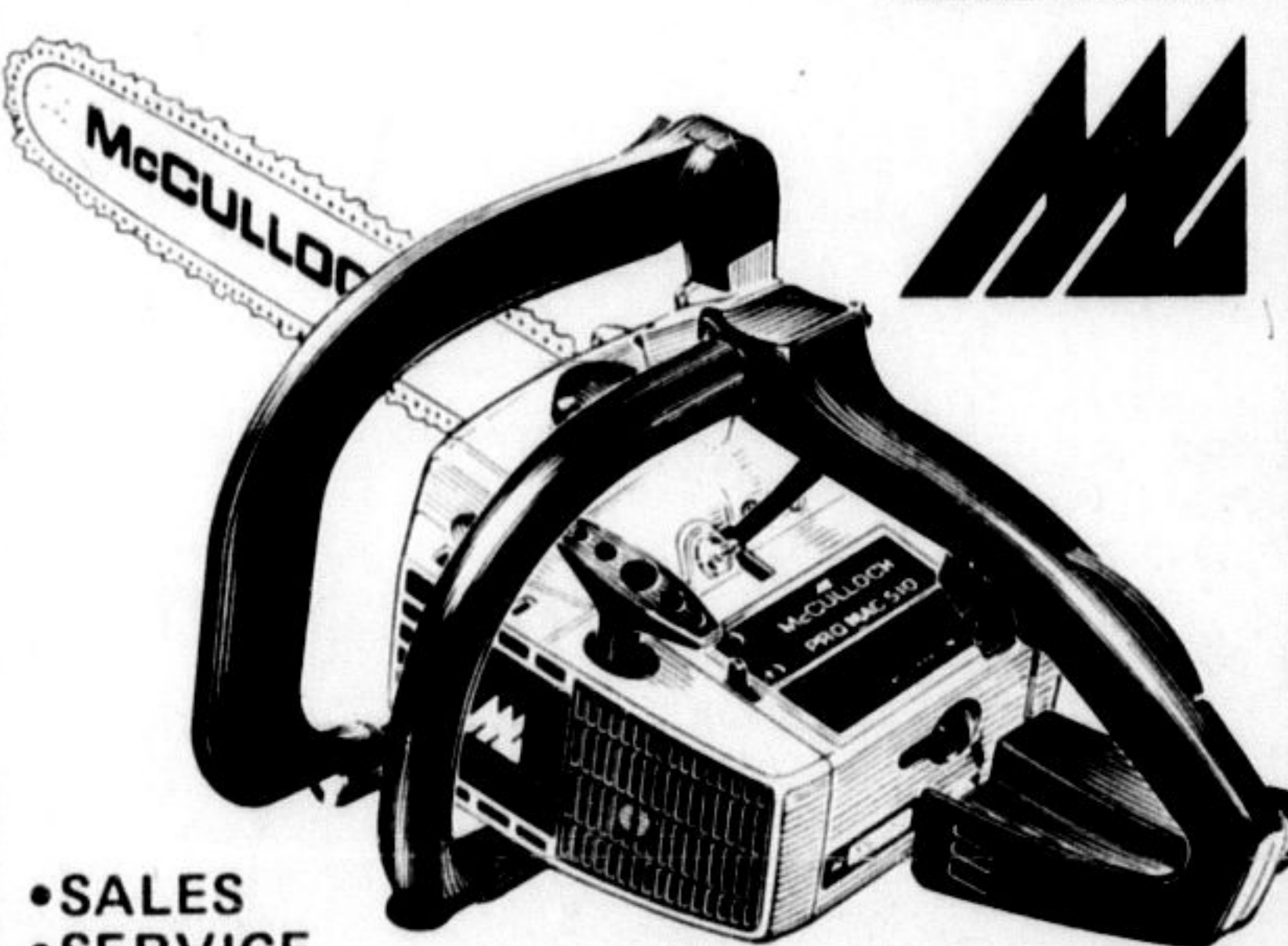
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