



Some early signs

A sure sign of spring is the birth of lambs, an event which has been witnessed recently at the Ontario Agricultural Museum. More additions to the museum's sheep herd are expected during the next month and visitors will be able to see the spring lambs when the museum opens for school tours in mid April.

Board rejects SERP paper

Halton Board of Education reacted strongly to a paper prepared by a joint administration and Secondary School Principals' reply to the Secondary Education Review Project (SERP) report because it contained no mention of retaining Grade 13. Later they allowed it to go to the Ministry of Education with an amendment.

Opposition to the paper was touched off when Burlington separate school trustee Bill Priestner suggested a motion to send the report to Education Minister Bette Stephenson as representing the views of the Halton Board should be defeated because it contained no references to retaining Grade 13. The Board last year recommended the retention of grade 13 to SERP.

Superintendent of program, R.T. Dixon told trustees there is no mention of it in the paper because the ministry's view on the subject were already well known. He felt the paper would only kindle antagonism if it made an outright pitch for retention of grade 13. He felt that indirect references to the subject would be more credible.

Priestner didn't agree. He thought a direct reference should be made suggesting it would be the only sentence in the paper that was important.

Georgetown trustee Betty Fisher also opposed the paper as it was constituted asking why high school principals were involved when it should be a Board report. She said Board report when it was really a joint report from the administration and the principals.

Mr. Dixon said the co-ordinators and he wished to make a statement and they would like the Board to endorse it.

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Past a great teacher

As Milton prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary, current residents could learn something from those who have gone before, according to Jim Dills.

Mr. Dills, one of the founding members of the Milton Historical Society, told members of Milton Chamber of Commerce recently that the study of local history has a great deal of interest to be learned.

"It's sometimes normal that in each generation we fail to read the minutes of the last meeting," he said. "That's what makes history important, rather than thinking we have to re-invent the wheel with every generation."

Milton was incorporated as a town in 1857, he said, but the recorded history of the area actually goes back much farther, to the 1820s when Jasper and Sara Martin moved into the neighborhood.

"It isn't possible for us to understand what it was they saw here," Mr. Dills said, "but, we can understand the vision they had and appreciate what they built here."

Milton grew around the mill that the Martins built to service surrounding farmers, he said, adding "it was the mill that created the cluster of community here."

The early life of the settlement was marked by many debates and disputes—perhaps the most severe being the argument over incorporation that started when Halton and Wentworth counties were separated in 1854.

At the root of the debate, Mr. Dills said, was the need for a new bridge on Main St., and the fact that Milton had only one voice on Trafalgar Township Council.

"Most of the money that was being raised in taxes

was being spent on the needs of the more populous areas in the south," he said.

Angered by the feeling that they weren't getting their fair share of public works, a faction in Milton started to work to incorporate the area as a separate town, but they found after their first census that they didn't have the required 1,000.

"They started a second census and counted everyone. I'm not sure just how many dogs made it on to the list," Mr. Dills said.

Finally, however, all of the requirements were met and the first meeting of Milton council was held at the old court house on July 3, 1857, "and the first thing they did was call for a report on the construction of that Main St. bridge."

"It is perhaps appropriate," Mr. Dills added, "that at some time in the future Milton Council will return to its roots in that historic building."

Plans are being made now by Town staff to move their operations to the old court house, as soon as a buyer can be found for the current Town offices on Main St.

Several activities are being planned for the 125th anniversary celebrations, Mayor Gord Krantz told members. Among the activities being considered are an Old Home Week, a parade, an ethnic festival and others.

A master committee to plan the celebrations has been formed.

Council awards court tender

A Guelph firm has been awarded a contract to renovate the first phase of Milton's court house restoration project.

Town councillors decided Monday night to award the contract to Blair Construction Ltd. for \$326,000. The work to be done includes cleaning the outside of the court house and jail complex, relocating some of the doors and waterproofing as well as structural work to the basement to create 4,300 square feet of additional space.

The court house, the site of the first Halton County Council meeting, is slated to be the home of Milton's local government as soon as a buyer can be found for the current town hall and renovations to the jail complex are complete.

Councillors gave their approval to motions allowing local staff to purchase the building from Halton Region for \$1 and to approve the tender award, provided the contractor agrees to a 30 day extension to allow the sale to be completed.

A special bylaw designating the complex as one of historical significance under the term of the Ontario Heritage Act will also be prepared for council approval March 29.

Town treasurer Don Loughheed said he has looked at all possible government grants for the project "and we expect further discussions, especially with the federal government. Right now, though, we have enough money to go ahead with phase one of the project."

Renovations to the first phase of the project are expected to take about five months, he added.

The work is being carried out under the supervision of Carlos Ventin, a specialist in restoration architecture.

Centre support

Certain members of this community have once again shown their support of The Centre, a facility which sees about 50 people pass through its doors each day of the week.

Milton Optimist Club discovered the afternoon youth program funded by the Children's Aid Society, was in need of a television set, something the club had available for the offering.

A set in need of repairs had been donated to the Optimists for their annual auction sale, but instead of selling the television, it was taken to B and E Sound—where it was re-conditioned free of charge.

Gerri Nyman, one of the youth program workers, said the television will help ease the program's budget demands.

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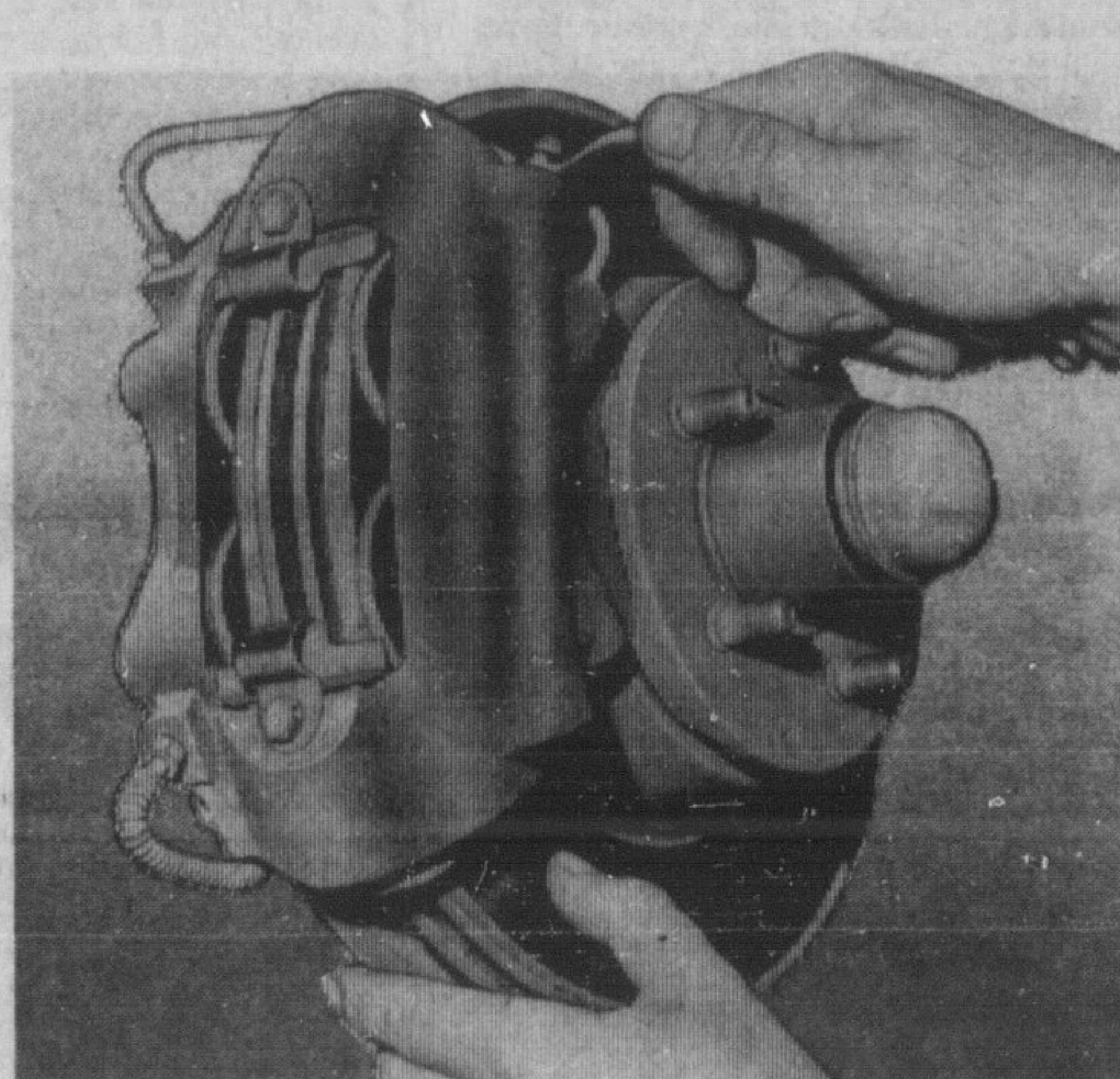
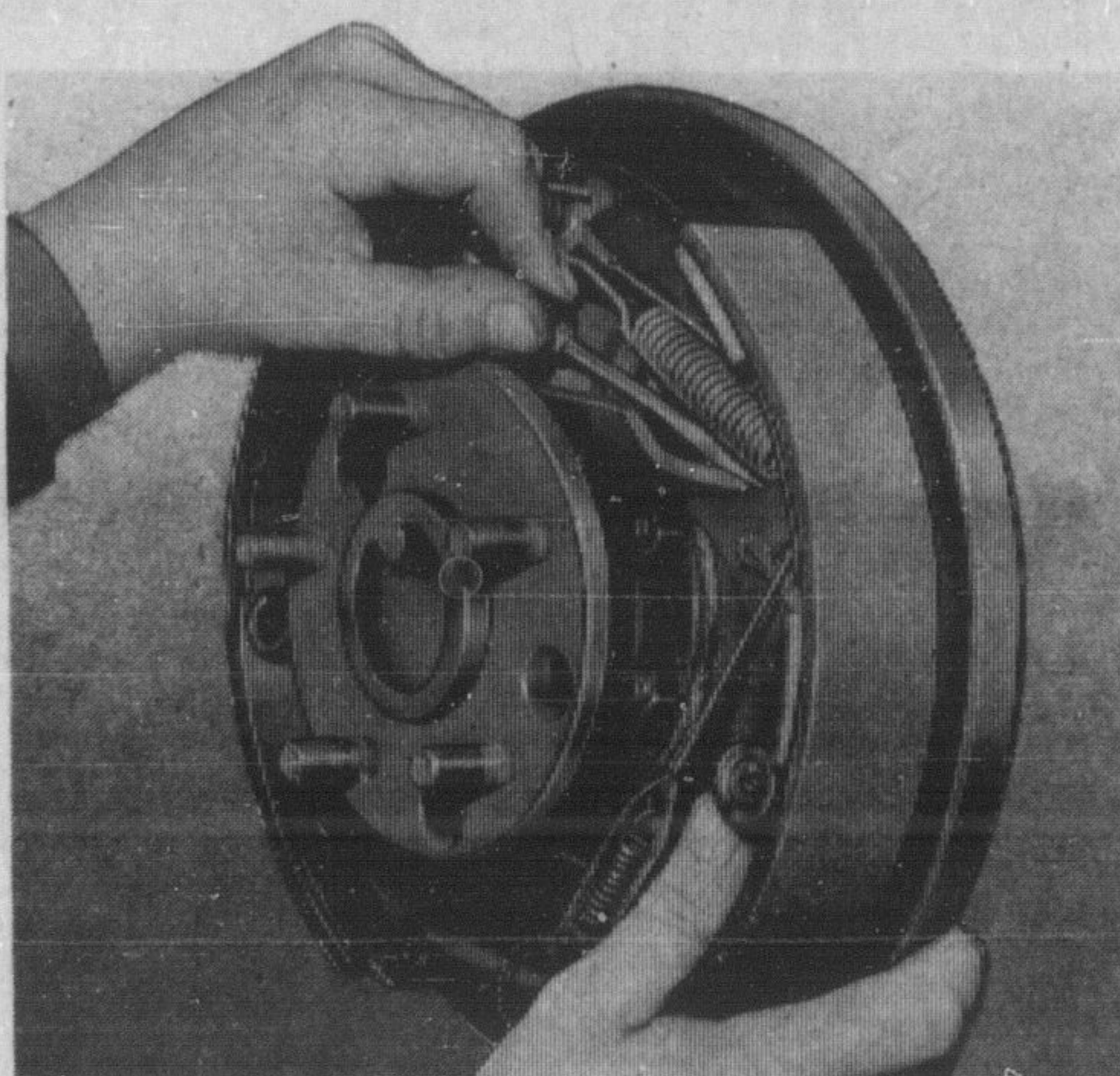
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