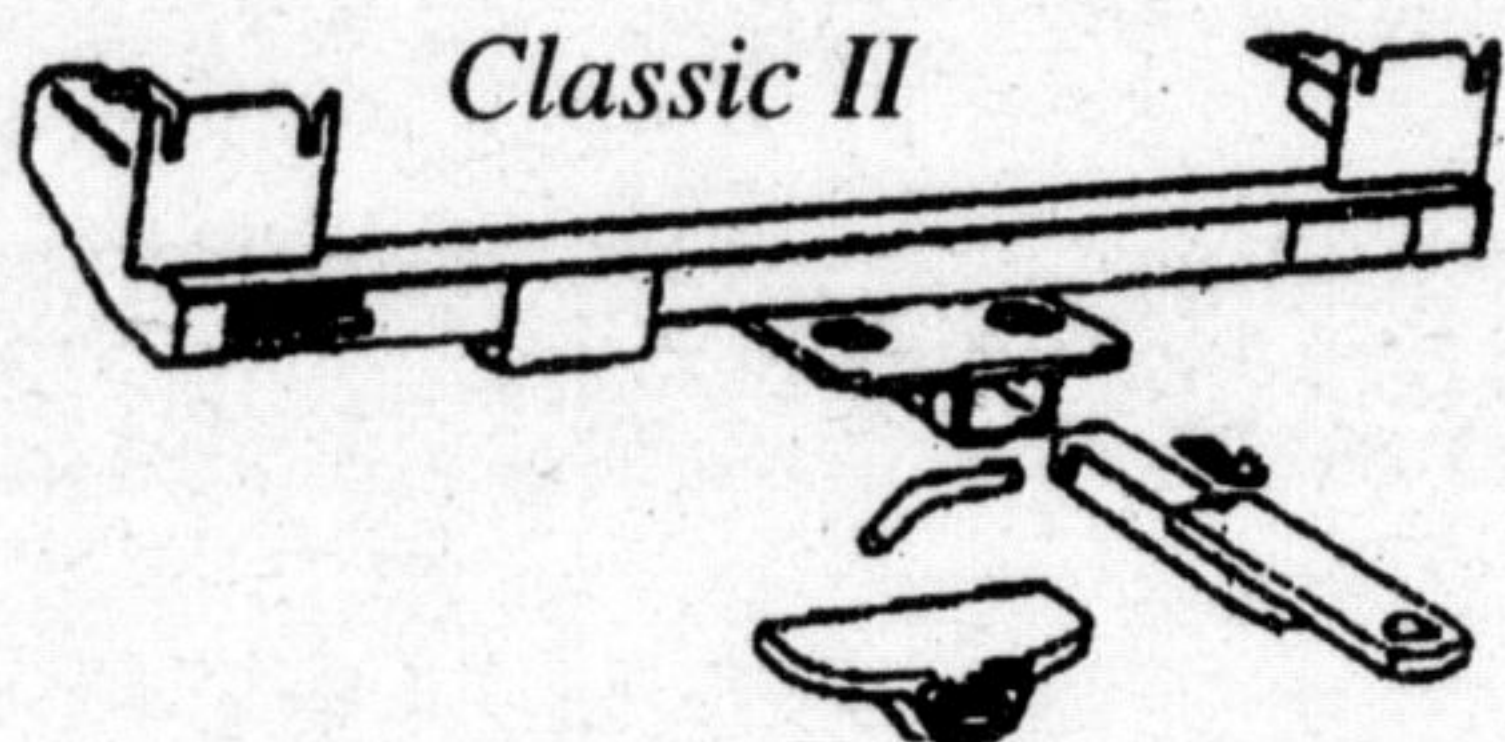
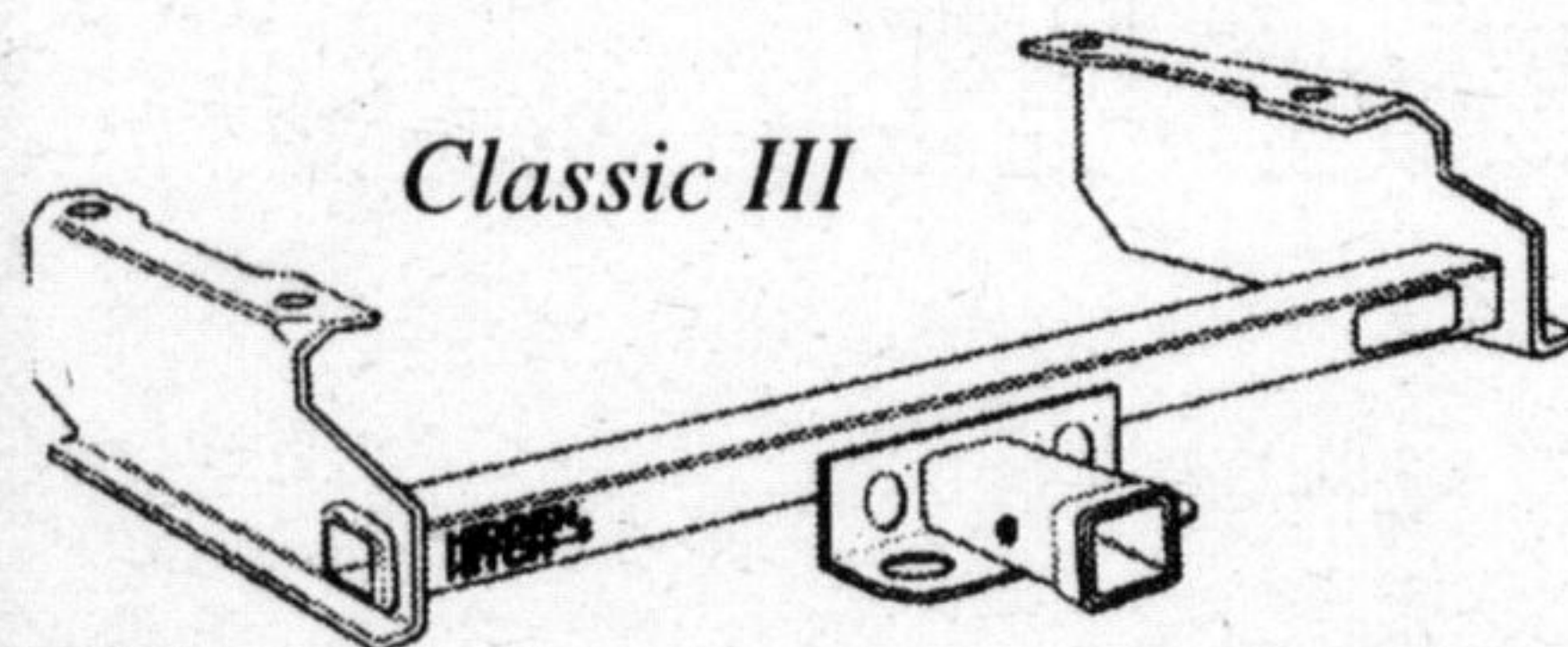




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Murder suspect bragged to undercover cop: trial

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

Accused murderer David Fiorino bragged to undercover police officer Ken Watson that he killed Stephen Andreopoulos, then removed all possible points of identification from the body, a jury heard earlier this week.

"He said that he'd used a gun, cleaned up the area, that he'd taken him to a bush, knocked out his teeth and cut off his fingers," OPP Det. Stephen Boyd testified during an on-going trial at Superior Court in Milton Monday and Tuesday.

Det. Boyd was involved in the investigation of the July 2, 1996 disappearance of Mr. Andreopoulos, 36.

Wire taps, personal notes and conversations between Det. Const. Boyd and others on the investigative team were the basis of his testimony.

Mr. Fiorino, 27, a former Milton resident, was charged with first-degree murder February 14, 1998.

The charges followed the discovery of the Barrie resident's body buried in a Derry Road field by Bell School Line in Milton.

Mr. Fiorino became the focus of the police investigation when he seemed to come into a large sum of money the day after Mr. Andreopoulos disappeared.

He was also considered the last person to see the victim alive after the pair met up, ostensibly to carry out an illegal liquor deal.

Const. Watson's initial role in the investigation was to befriend Mr. Fiorino, Det. Const. Boyd told the court. But the pair soon began planning the (fictitious) execution of another person at the behest of a second undercover agent, Bill Campbell.

Mr. Fiorino intended to use plastic wrap to dispose of the second body, said Det. Boyd.

"Fiorino was laughing, saying Watson would be shooting a dead man because David would get the jump on him," he told the jury.

But in October 1997, Mr. Fiorino backed out of the plan on the grounds that he thought both he and Const. Watson were being followed. He proposed committing an armed robbery of weddings as a money-making alternative, said Det. Boyd.

In conversations with Const. Watson, Mr. Fiorino made references to the murder of Mr. Andreopoulos, court heard.

He mentioned he kept a momen-

to of the killing in the form of a flyer released by the OPP about Mr. Andreopoulos' disappearance.

And he demonstrated how to destroy a body by dropping acid he kept in a white jug on a penny.

The white jug and its contents were later found in the garage of Mr. Fiorino's home during a January 9, 1998 police search. The flyer was found in his wife Kim Fiorino's jewelry box.

But at that time Mr. Fiorino denied any involvement with the murder. "I didn't murder Steve. I swear to God, I didn't do it," Det. Boyd testified he told him.

He said Mr. Fiorino acted oddly as police searched his home, steering the conversation toward the discovery of Paul Bernardo victim Kristen French years ago.

Then Mr. Fiorino appeared to panic slightly after police found the white jug and the flyer, the officer testified.

But he insisted he had nothing to do with the murder. "The truth will come out," he quoted Mr. Fiorino as saying. "I know you guys are pointing the finger at me. I have too much to lose and I won't let any harm come to my family."

But when asked if he felt his family were in any danger, Mr. Fiorino said no.

The trial continued yesterday.

Citizens can still have their say

• from SMALL on page 3
until 4 a.m.," he said. "The quality of life where we are has declined. I'd just like to see a police presence on the roads."

A youth centre aimed at keeping kids on the straight and narrow was also favoured by Mr. Van Alstyne.

And Anne Eadie, who appeared before council both as a representative of the Milton United Way and a taxpayer, seemed unconvinced of

the value in setting up a community foundation for the half million dollars.

Run by an independent citizens board, a foundation would decide how to spend the interest of the allocated money, allowing the principal to build.

Though in favour of spending only the interest — which would continue to grow along with the principal — she had doubts that

slot revenue would be enough to keep the fund rolling.

"Community foundations have to go to the community to raise funds in perpetuity," she said.

"I don't know how the Town is hoping to do that. The only money I've heard going into this is the slots."

Any resident still interested in having their say can write, fax or e-mail the Town with suggestions.

DR. BRUN DEL RE is announcing the closing of his Milton medical office.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, ongoing negotiations with a replacement doctor have failed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Transfer of files may be effected via our old office address at: 3006 Derry Rd., Ste. 102, L9T 5B5. **Only written requests will be processed.** In accordance with O.M.A. guidelines for uninsured service, all transfers will have a minimum \$35.00 fee apply.

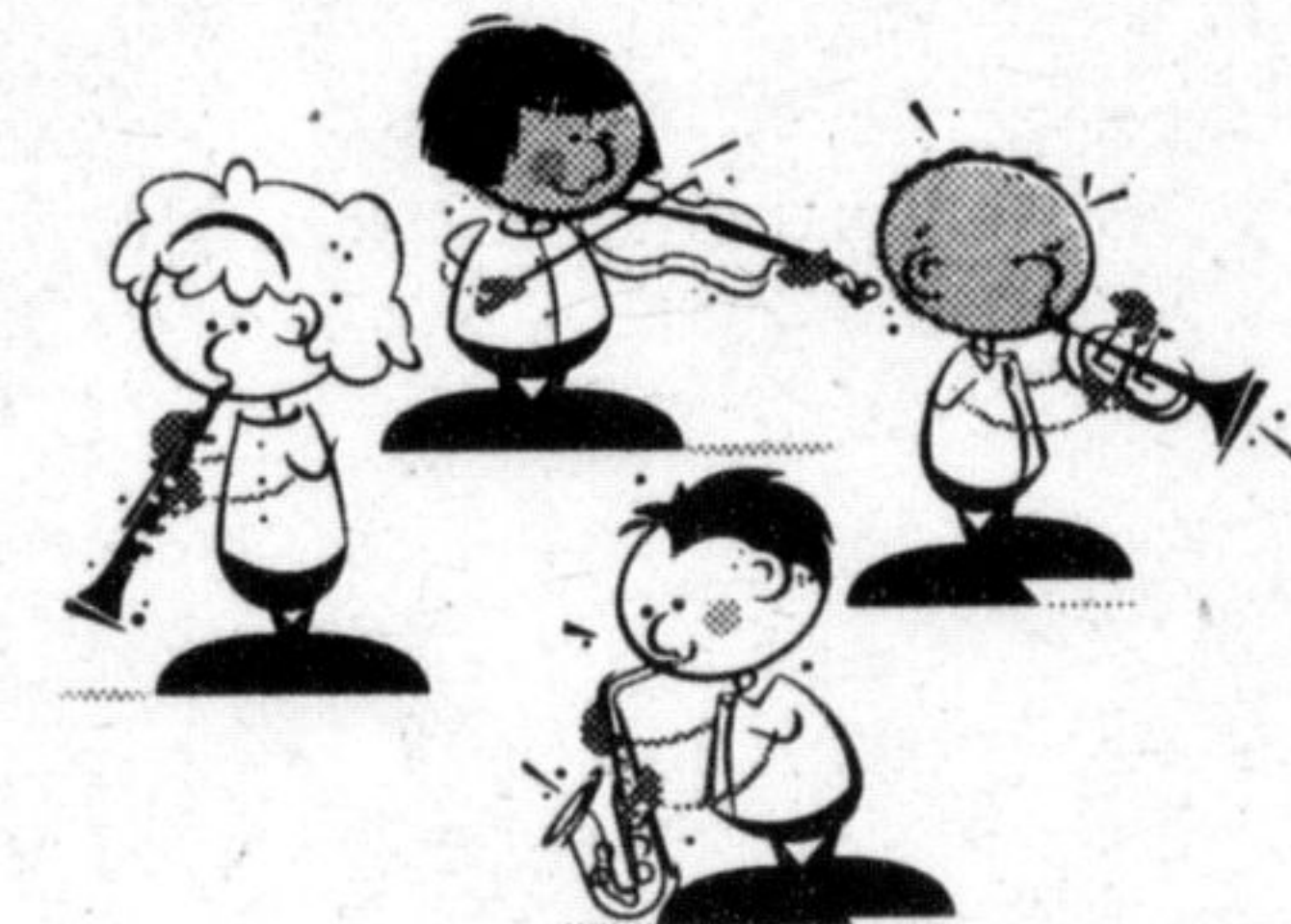
Many thanks for your understanding in this transition time and warmest regards to all.

R. Brun del Re
Dr. BdR

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