

Two suspects apprehended in connection with break-ins

Additional suspects sought

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

The Champion

Two men were charged in connection with a rash of Halton Hills break-ins after police conducted a large-scale Milton-area search early Friday morning.

The search began just before 4 a.m. when a vehicle stolen in Peel was recovered on Steeles Avenue in Hornby.

Since suspects in the break-ins — which started October 26 — were known to use stolen vehicles, Halton and Peel police uniform patrol officers immediately set up a perimeter in the area and were assisted by police dogs and their handlers as well as tactical and rescue unit members.

The suspects were located, and a police pursuit began.

"Police saw (the suspects) and attempted to stop them, but they refused," said Halton police Sgt. Val Hay. "That initiated the suspect apprehension pursuit."

The suspects abandoned a second allegedly-stolen car in the area of Fifth Line, north of Steeles Avenue, and fled on foot, taking cover in a treed area, Sgt. Hay said.

Shortly after 10 a.m., two suspects were apprehended by Halton and Peel police officers in Brampton in a third vehicle stolen from Milton.

A number of break-ins in Halton Hills had been reported recently, generally happening between 2 and 4 a.m. in the south rural area, police said.

In these cases, the suspects entered the houses and stole wallets, purses, car keys, vehicles and

various other items.

In several cases, police said the thieves entered the bedrooms of the homeowners and stole items while the residents slept.

Charged were a 22-year-old and a 19-year-old, both of Brampton, with 16 counts of break and enter, 15 counts of theft and two counts of possession of stolen property.

The 22-year-old man also faces charges of dangerous driving, prohibited driving and breach of probation, while the 19-year-old also faces a mischief charge.

The pair appeared in Ontario court of justice in Milton yesterday for a bail hearing.

Sgt. Hay said the investigation is ongoing, as police search for additional suspects.

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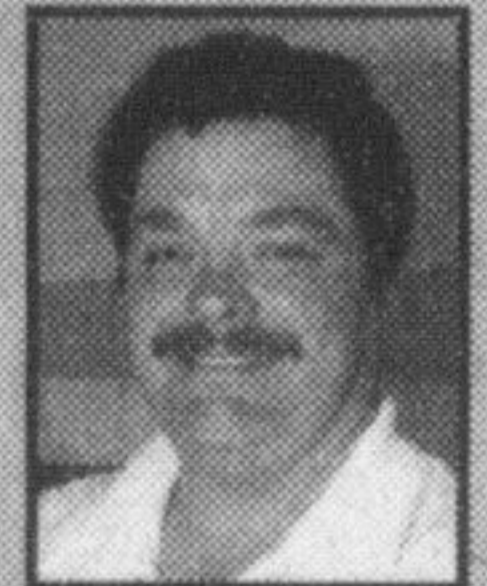
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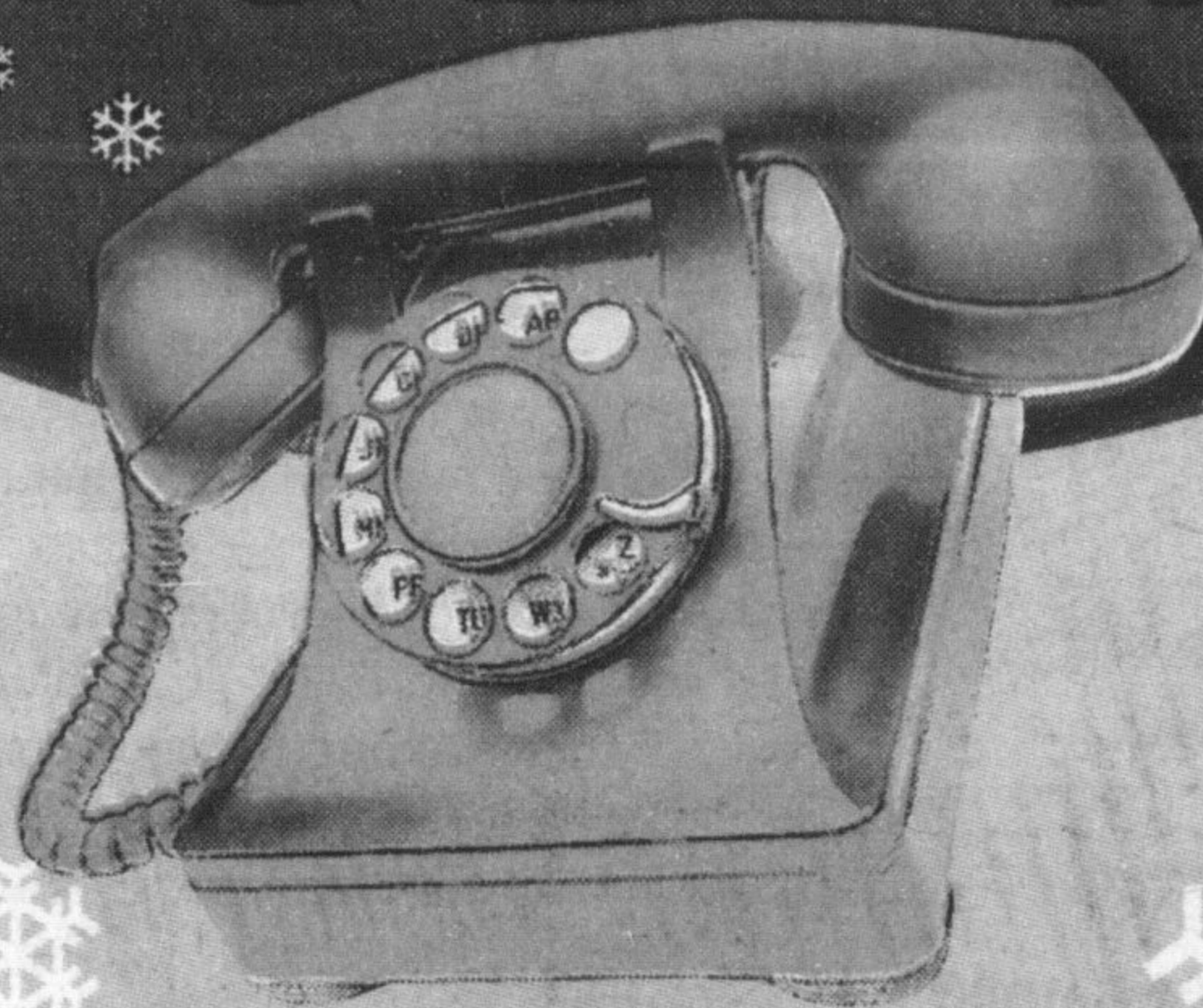
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