

Best disciplined over 2000 appraisal

A local councillor who is an independent appraiser in his other job was recently disciplined by the Appraisal Institute of Canada (AIC), which says he withheld real estate listing information on a property he appraised several years ago.

The institute's decision, published in the Winter 2007 issue of the Canadian Appraiser magazine, says Ward 2 and 4 Councillor Colin Best stated in a July 2000 appraisal report of a Hagersville property he had no knowledge or recent information of a sale or listing of the subject site.

But according to the AIC — which gave Best a censure (formal written expression of criticism and disapproval) and ordered him to take an education course — he had the information in his working file.

"Withholding of this information is

misleading the reader," the notice says. "The listing price was substantially lower than the final estimate of value in the appraisal report."

Best told the *Champion*, which recently received a copy of the appraiser magazine anonymously, the listing information he's accused of withholding only came to his attention after the appraisal had already been done. He said it was at that point he tucked the document into the working file, meaning he didn't have it in his possession when he prepared the appraisal.

"We do make mistakes, just like



Colin Best

politicians," he said, noting that he's not overly concerned — or surprised — about the matter being brought to the *Champion's* attention anonymously.

Best added he is surprised the whole process with the AIC took this long.

According to the institute's Professional Practice Counsellor, Robert Patchett, the delay was a result of Best not being co-operative in the investigation.

However, Best contends that's not true, explaining he inadvertently sent the wrong information to the AIC when the investigation began.

When asked for further details on the incident and subsequent investigation, Patchett told the *Champion* the information is confidential.

Best has been an appraiser for more than two decades, averaging about 800 appraisals a year.

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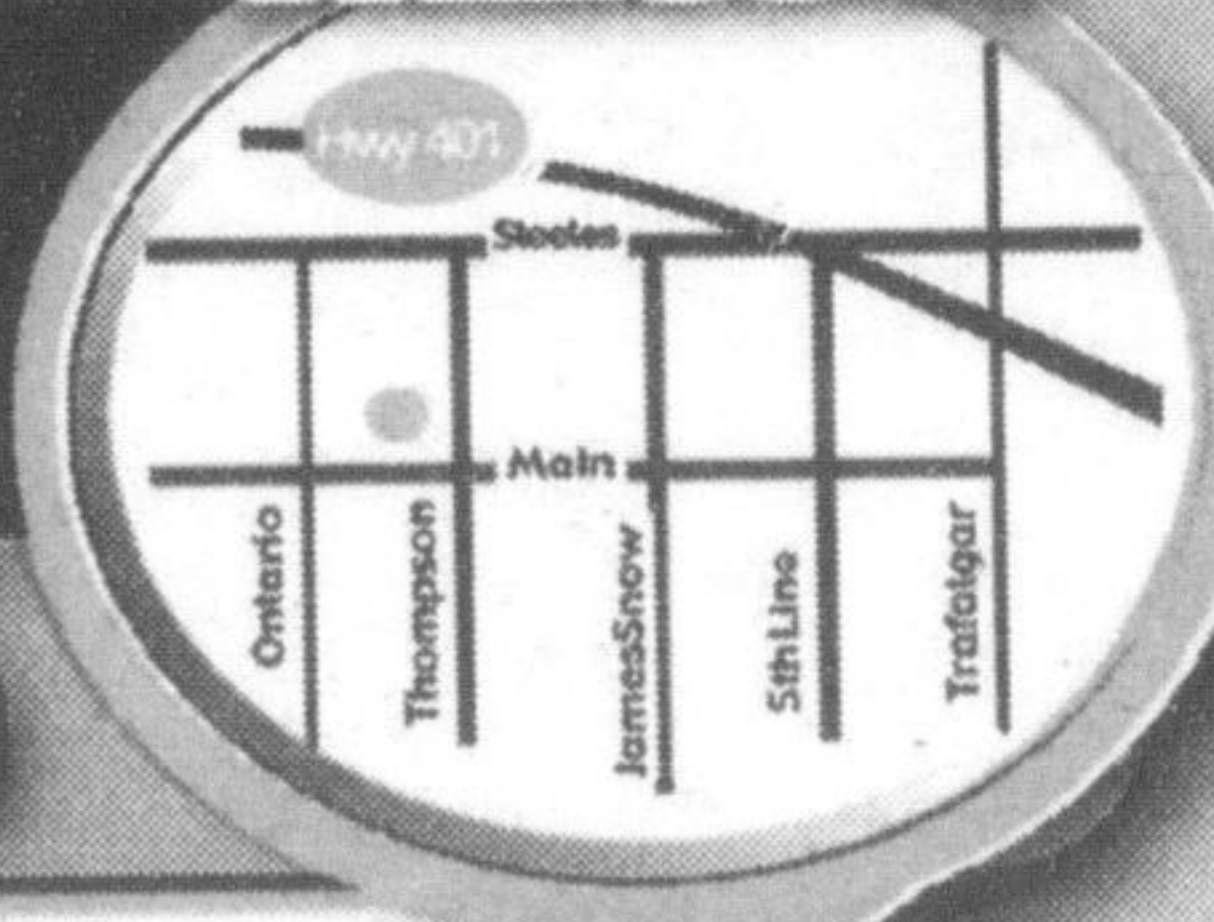
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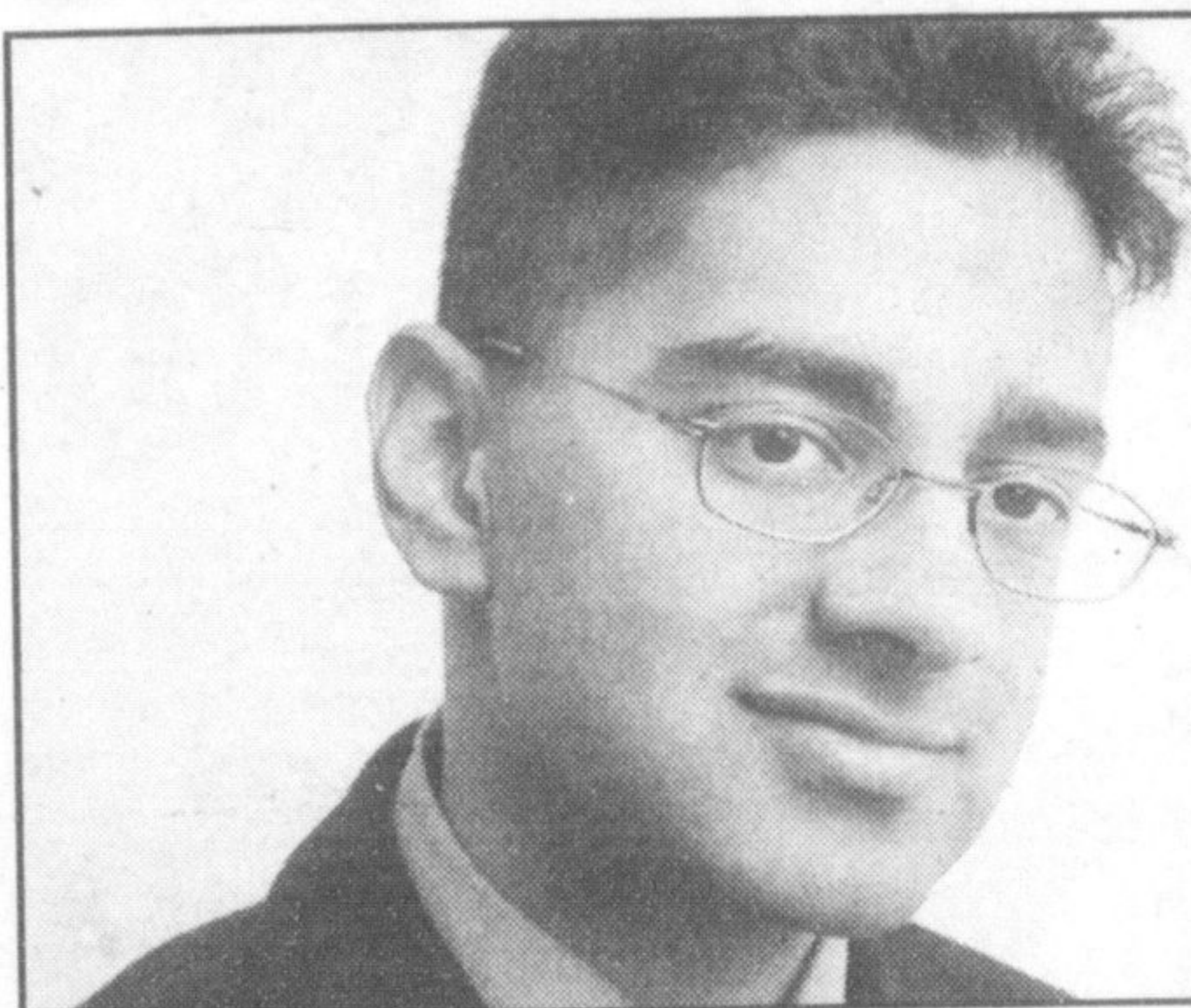
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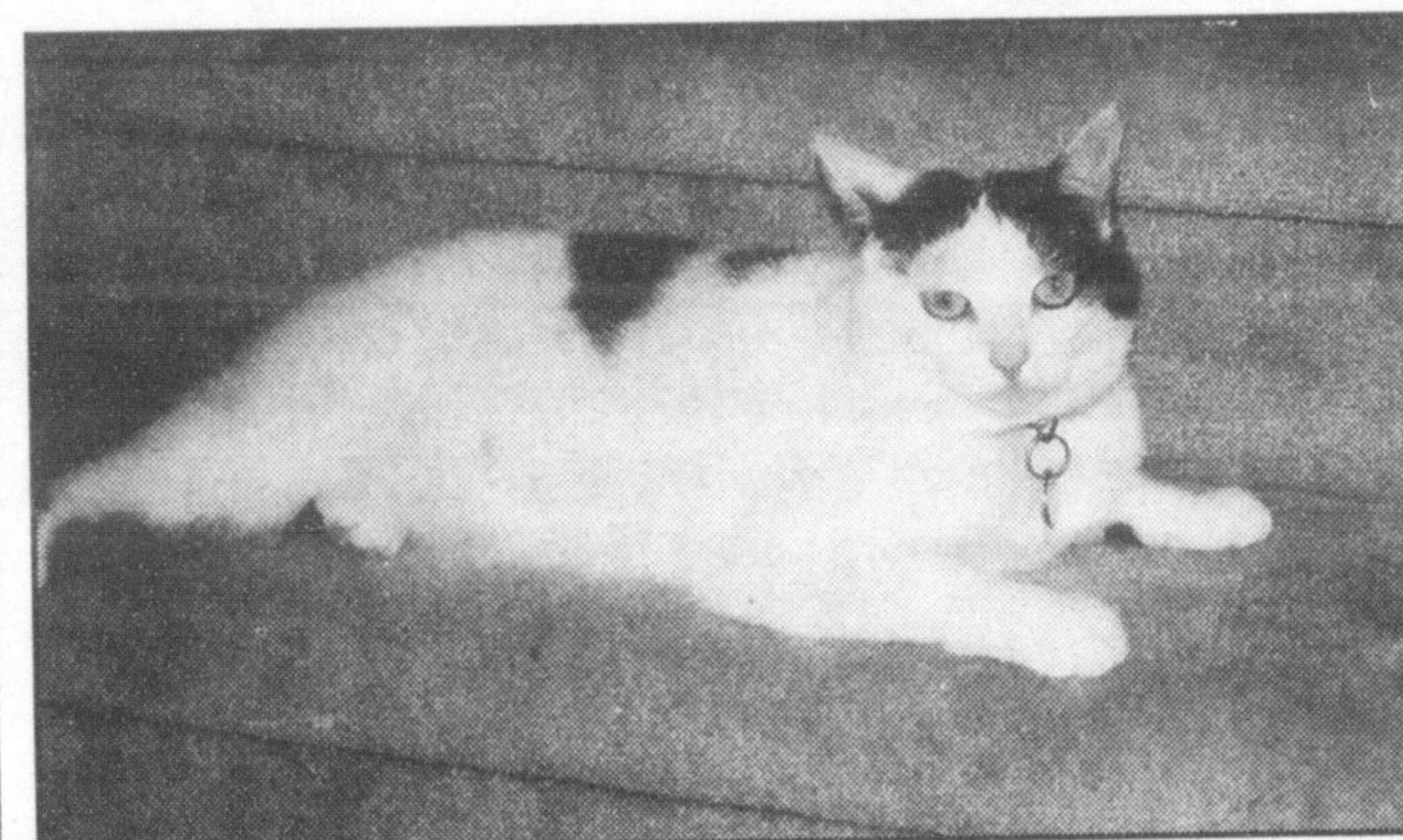
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