

13 not unlucky to everyone

• from HEY on page B3

problem wearing that number on their jersey. Mats Sundin, for example, although maybe he hasn't had the best luck, playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs all these years.

Ask most people and they'll tell you whether they think they're lucky or not. Then if something unlucky happens to a person who believes they're lucky, they just chalk it up to a day with less luck. If the same thing happens to a person who believes they're unlucky, they're likely to say it's just more of their same bad luck.

Maybe it's a matter of attitude. People who think they're lucky keep reinforcing that belief when something good happens. Maybe they're even more likely to try to win a prize because they think they're lucky.

They say that's something multiple lottery winners have in common — a positive attitude. That doesn't stop the rest of us from buying lottery tickets. And of course the more we buy the better our odds of being lucky. But, how many times have you heard lottery winners say they never won anything before? So, are these people lucky or unlucky?

And if they've always previously been unlucky, maybe we're better off being unlucky now and lucky later, when the jackpot is \$30 million.

I wouldn't say I'm lucky in the sense

of winning things, but I would say I'm fortunate. When I think about it I can't count the number of times something has happened and I felt lucky, or fortunate, that something far worse didn't happen.

Still, I'm not about to take any chances with luck. Most of us are superstitious to some degree. If I spill salt, I throw some over my shoulder. If I say I'm glad that something bad hasn't happened, I always say "touch wood," and then find some. I don't walk under ladders if I can help it and don't smash mirrors for fun. No use taking any chances.

I'm not worried about black cats crossing my path because I had a black cat. Turns out she was more unlucky than me.

I'm not against accepting good luck omens. If I find a penny on the ground I'll pick it up, and maybe put it in my shoe. I wouldn't say it has brought me good luck, but for a little while I feel like I'm going to be lucky.

We all know people we consider lucky. I wouldn't say many of us consider ourselves that lucky, but I would say that almost all of us are fortunate, and that's probably better anyway.

So, happy Friday the 13th, but be careful if you're on a sidewalk not to step on a crack or you'll break your Momma's back.

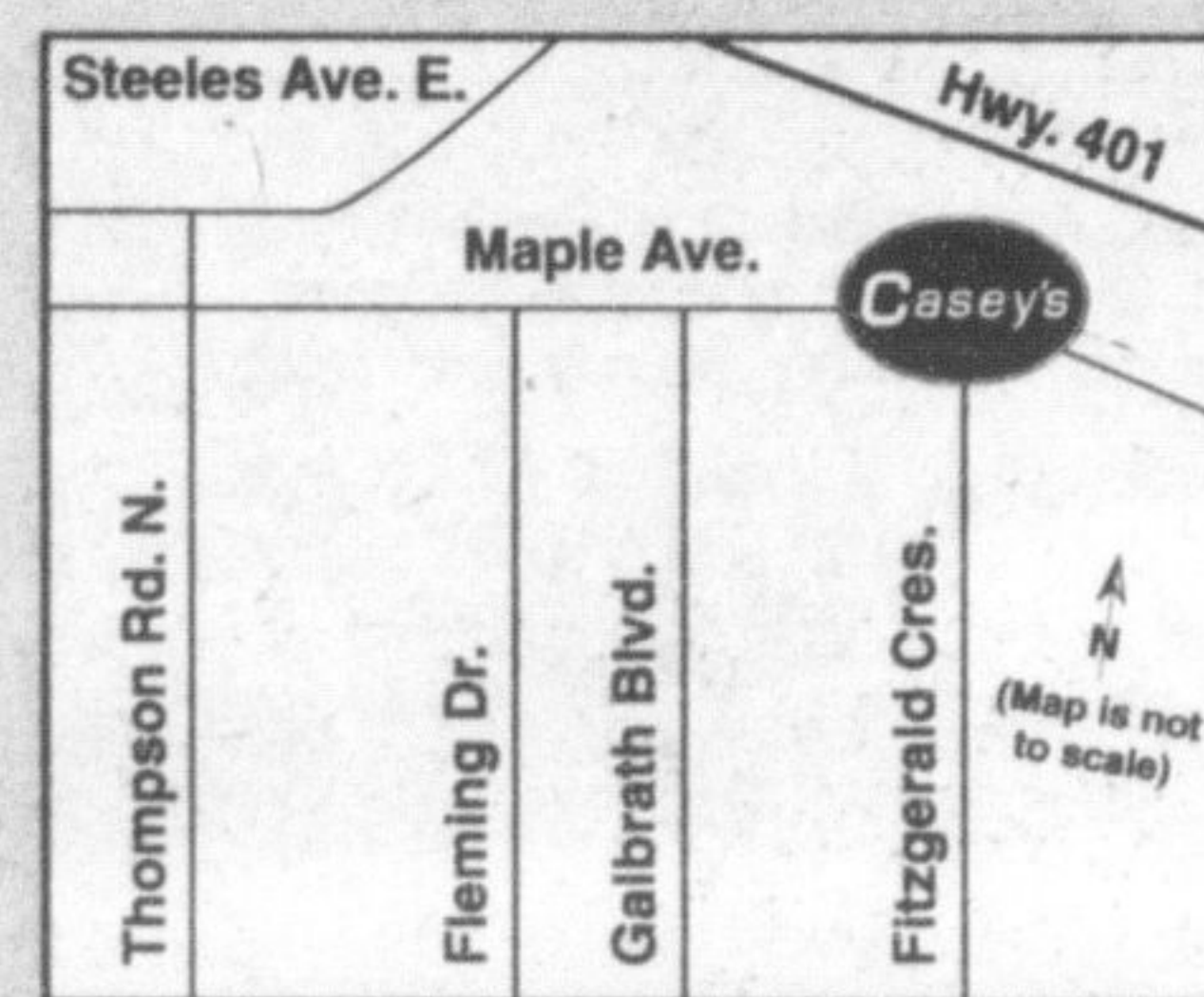


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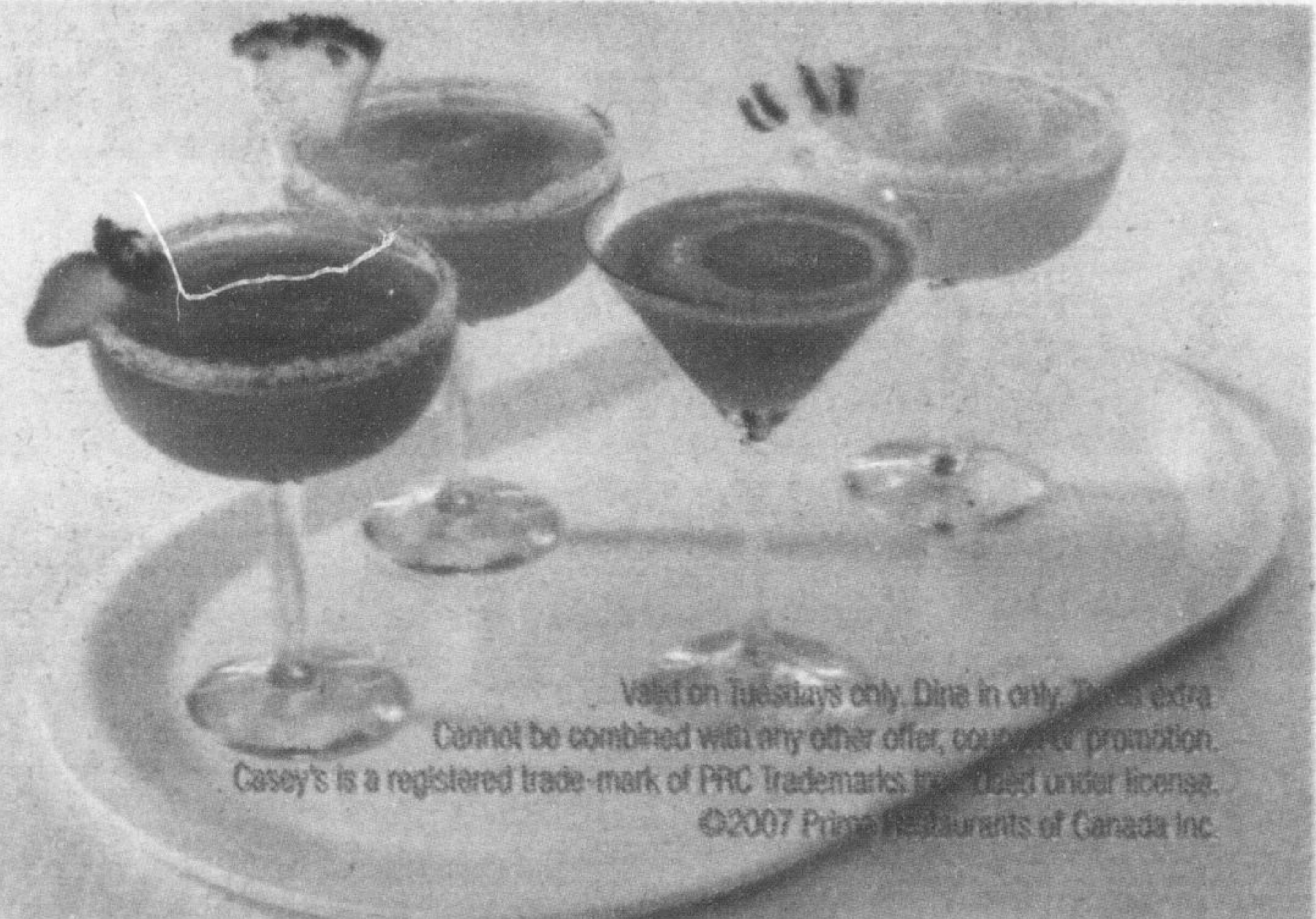
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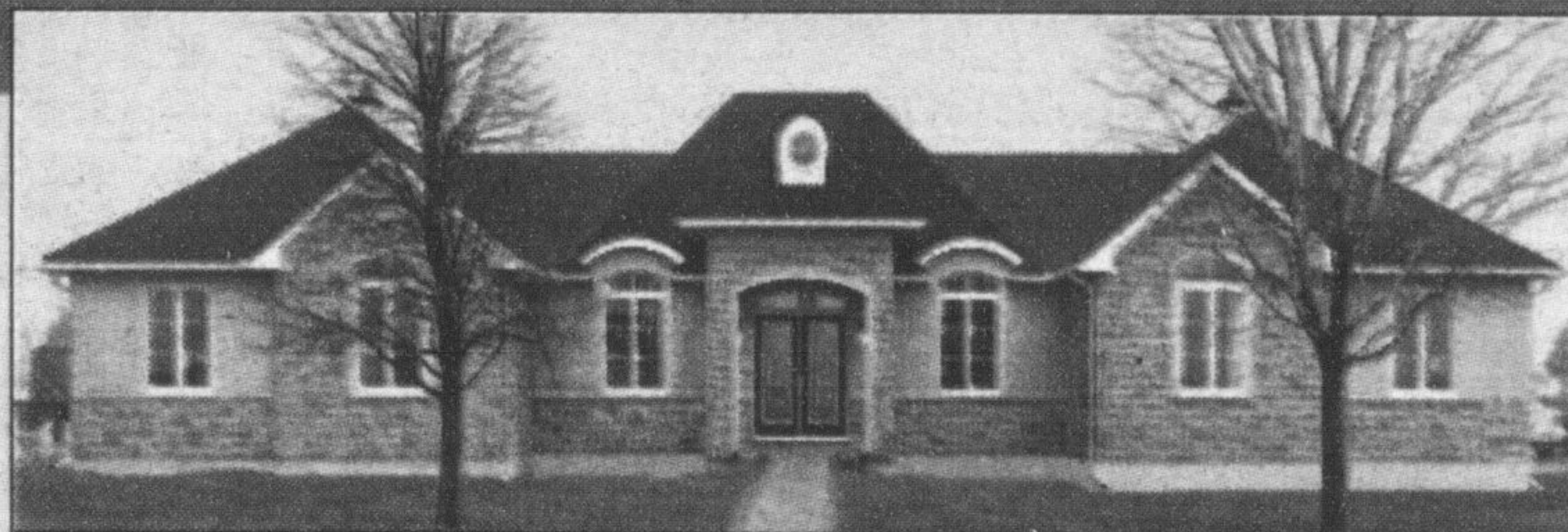


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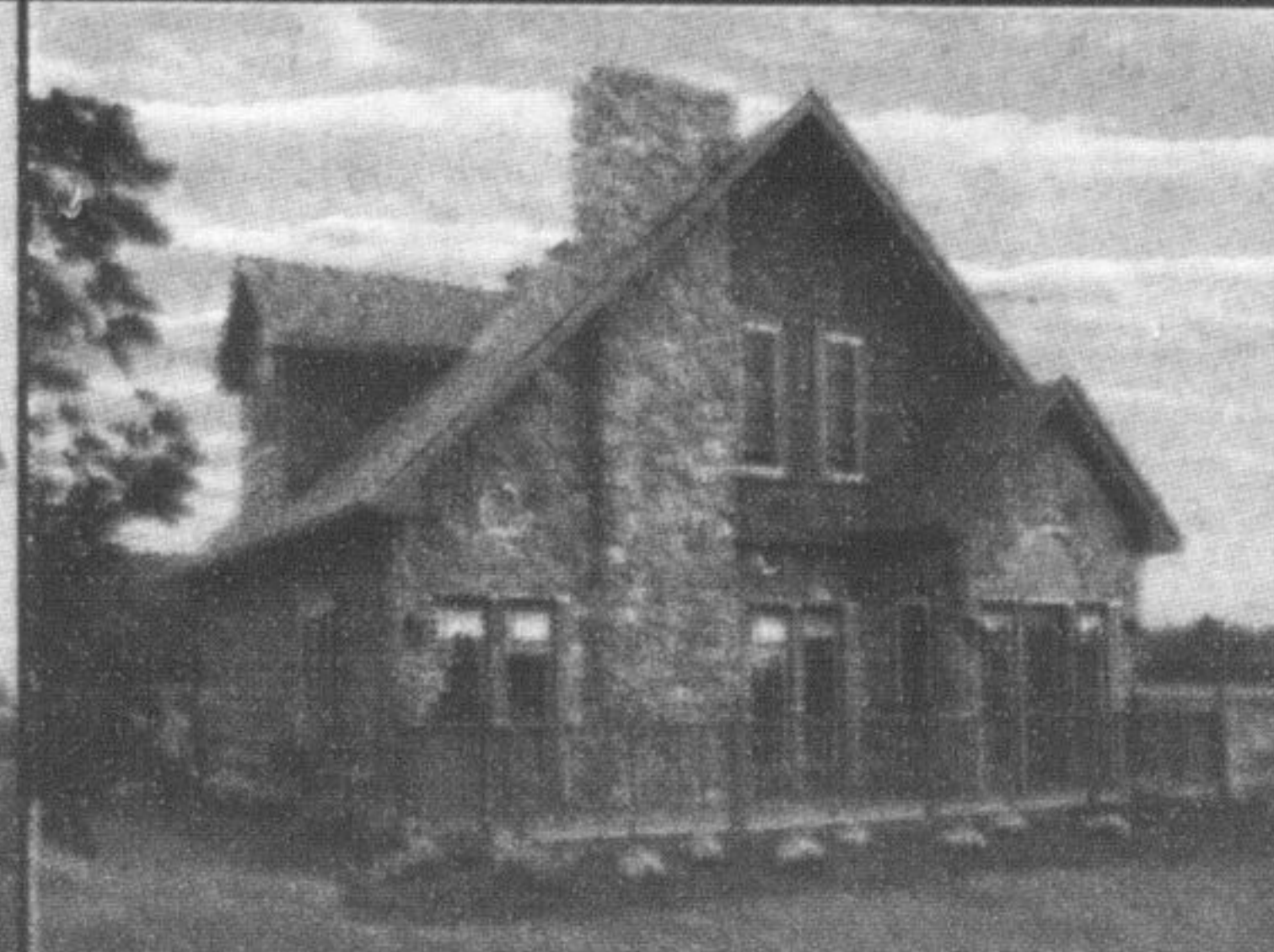
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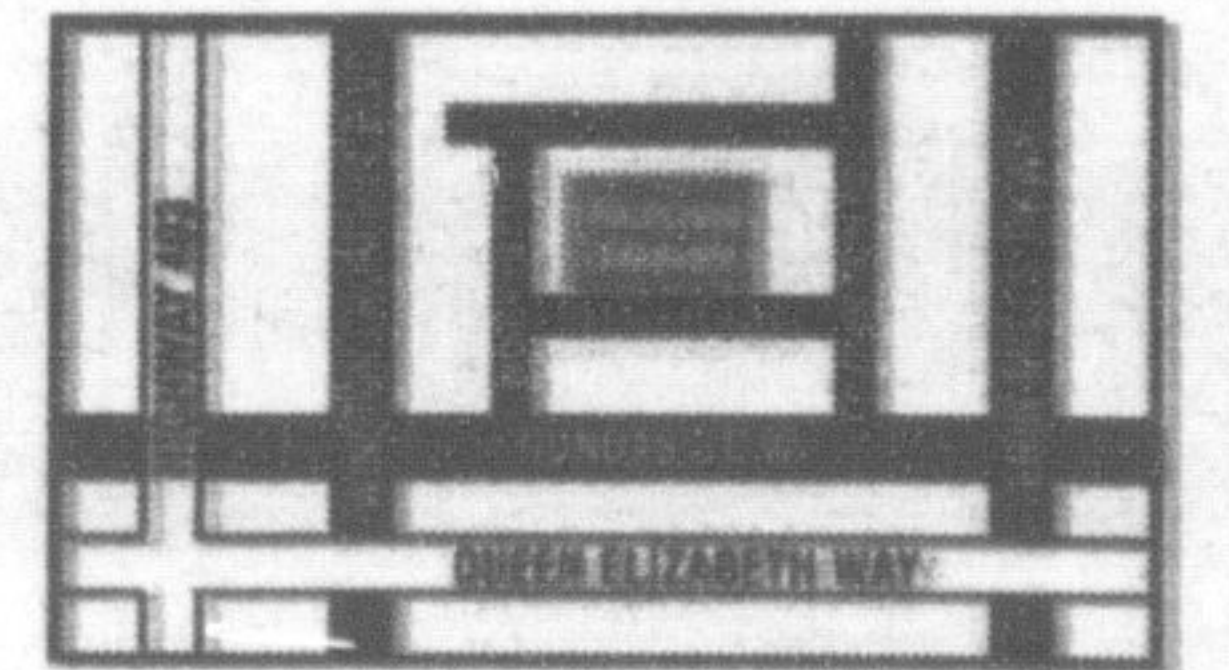
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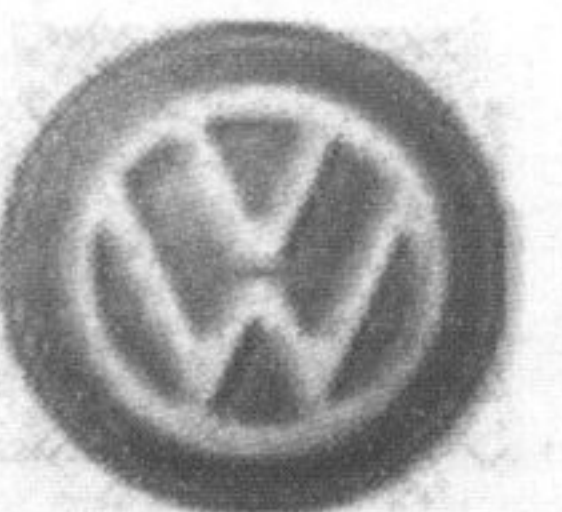
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