



The old Richmond School has a new home at the Ontario Agricultural Museum. Formerly located on Appleby Line, the stone schoolhouse will be part of the crossroads community at the local museum, representing education just after the turn of the century.

Richmond School is rising again

By JANE MULLER
Champion Reporter

The memories of former students and teachers of the old Richmond School have contributed to its restoration at the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

Museum researcher Lynn Campbell said she interviewed close to 20 people whose recollections about the school will aid in the authenticity of the restoration. Edna Black of Milton, now in her 90s, is one of those whose memories will come to life with the rebirth of the old school.

An open house last summer attracted many past teachers and students of the school, known officially as Christie School, school section (SS) No. 6. According to the researcher, locals named the school after the battle of Richmond which took place in the United States at the time the school was built. The name Christie comes from the former village in which it was located. "They were all very glad that the school was going to be preserved," said Ms Campbell of its alumni.

The rebuilt school is part of the

crossroads community at the museum and to be in line with that area's theme, it will duplicate a 1910 classroom.

The stone building was dismantled in August and taken from the site on Third Line where it was built in 1886. Corner stones were marked, as were key stones from the front of the structure which were laid in even horizontal rows. The other three walls were made of "rubble" or stones of varying size and shape.

Stone masons have nearly completed one side and a back wall. It is expected that most of the stone work will be finished in about a month. The sandstone building will then be cleaned with a high-pressure wash of water and sand. Windows, including their frames were saved along with door frames and doors which will require refurbishing.

Wainscoting and the ceiling will be made of tongue and groove pine boards and the floor boards will be 10-inch-wide rough-cut pine. A woodshed and outdoor washrooms will be constructed behind the school in

keeping with the amenities of the times. Although indoor plumbing was not installed until 1951, modern public washrooms are being added to the rear of the building.

Peter Ledwith, curator of the museum's collection has been scouting for period furnishings and recently found a suitable teacher's desk. The others will be double desks in two sizes - large and small. Some of the 20,000 students who visit the museum each year will be sitting in those desks.

Blair Construction of Guelph is the general contractor for the project with Degray Construction looking after the stone work. Degray was responsible for refurbishing the stone of the new town hall, a project for which Blair was again the general contractor.

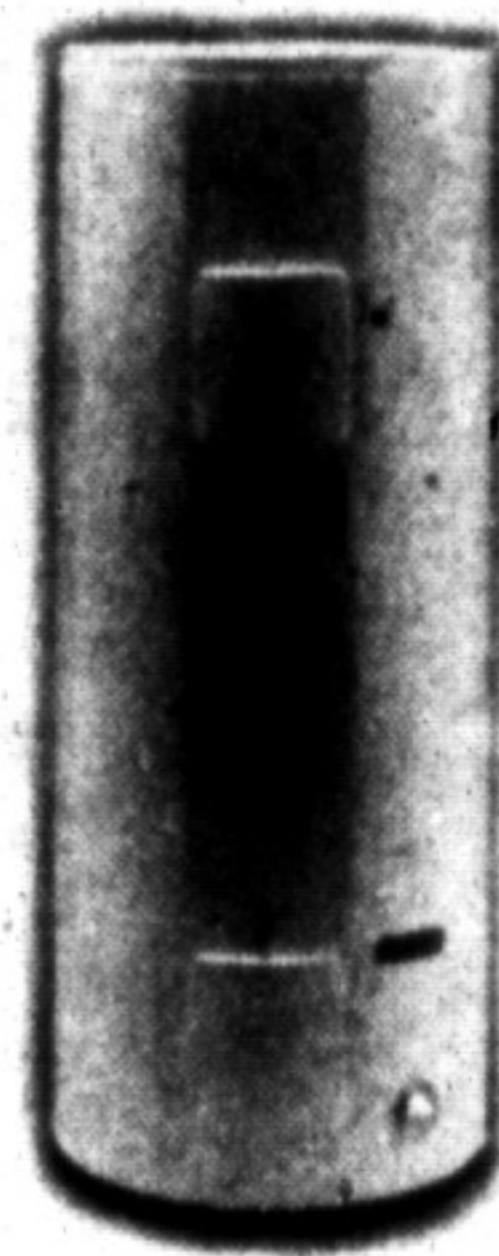
There will be an official opening sometime during this year's season. The museum is open from mid-May to mid-October. As the school is a "Halton-related" building, Doreen Collins of the museum predicts there will be a lot of local interest.

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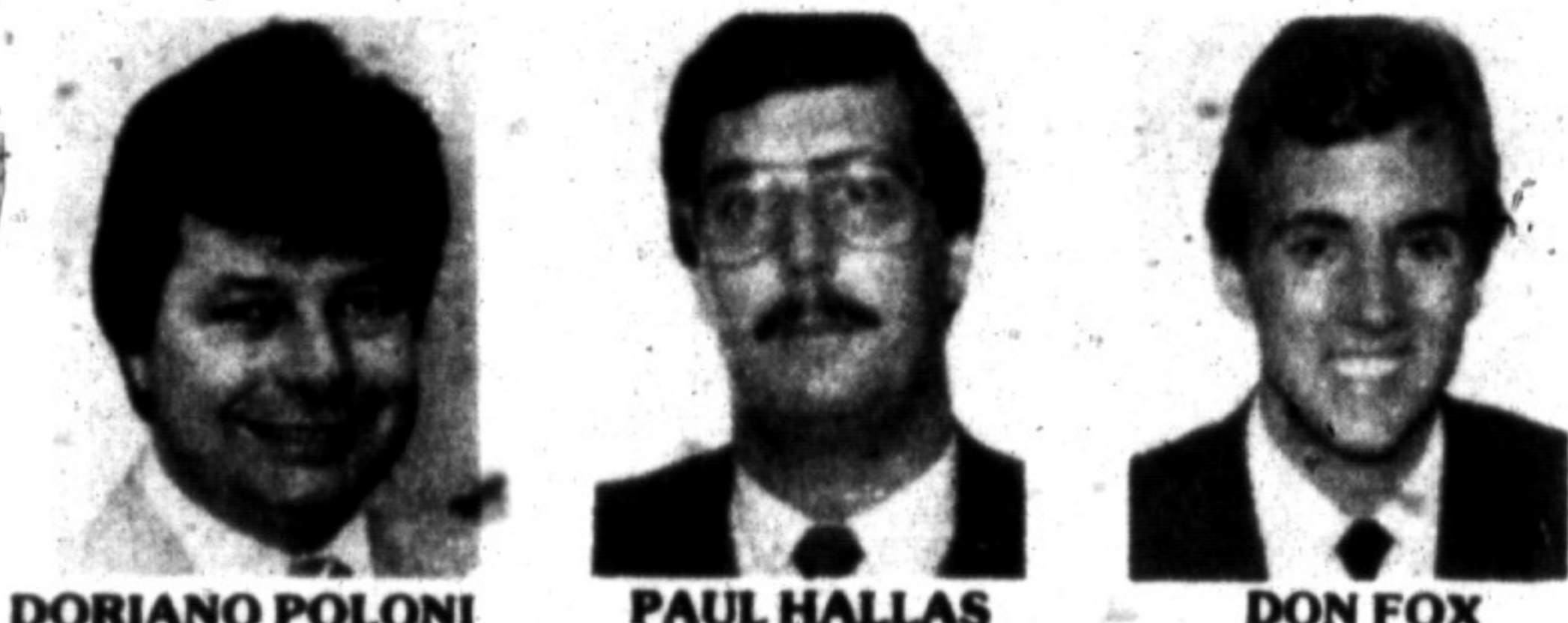
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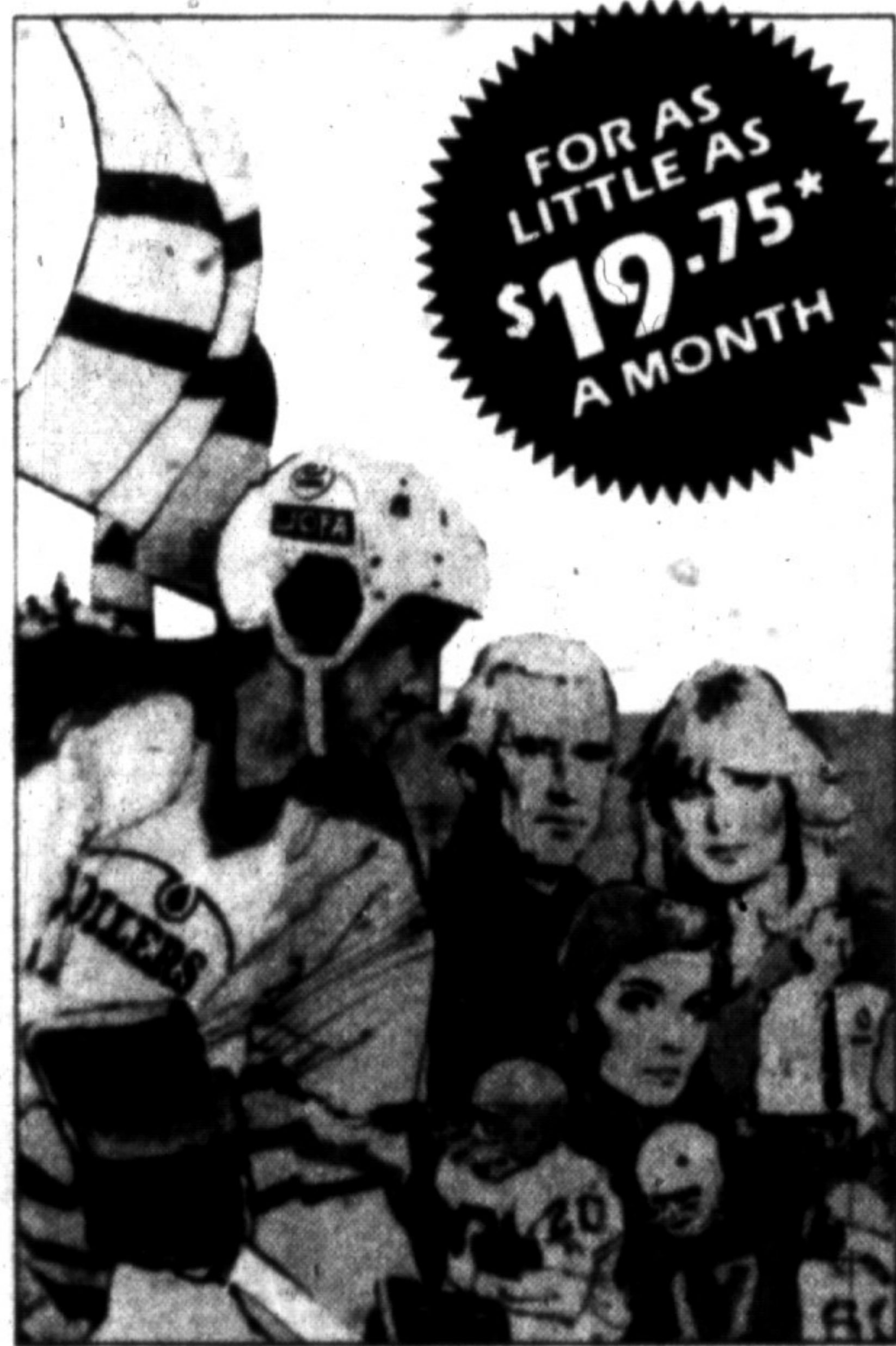
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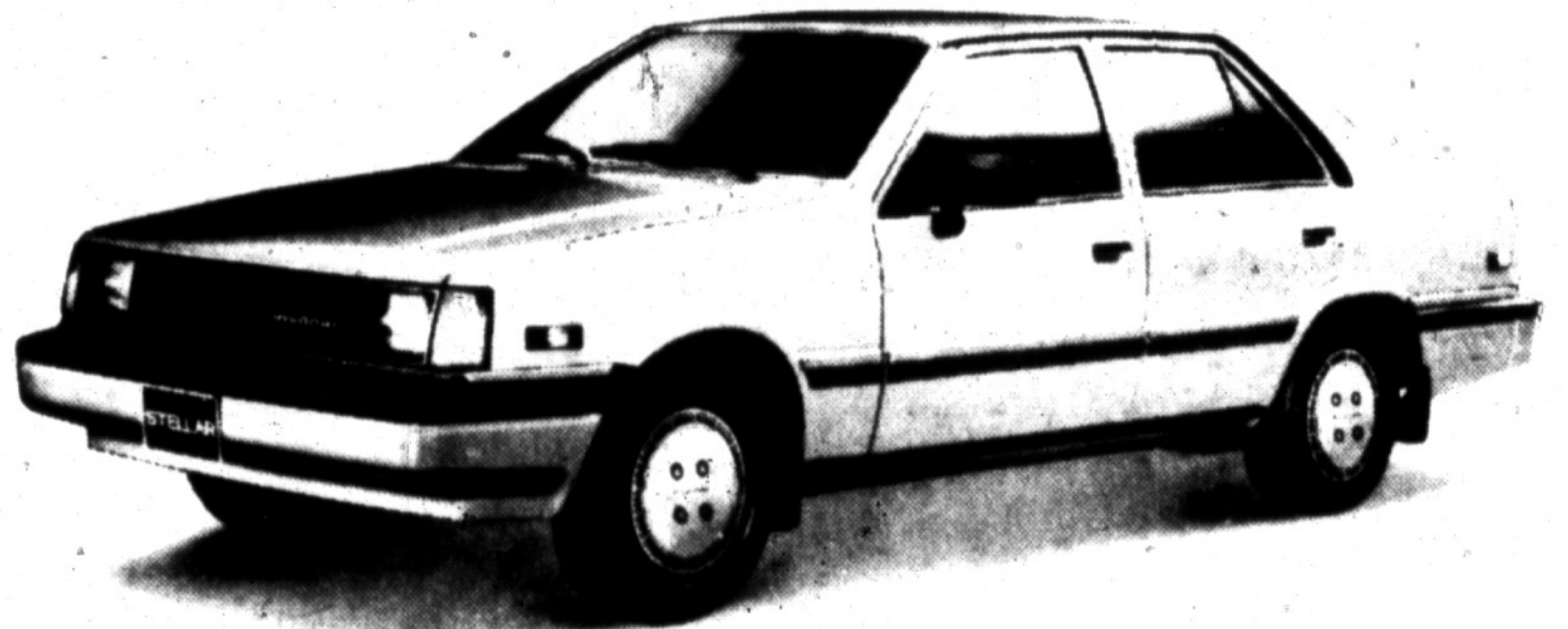


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