

## Police searching for van involved in fatal accident

By KAREN SMITH

Halton Regional Police are still trying to track down a late-model blue van believed to be the cause of an accident which killed a Milton man and seriously injured his wife.

The van failed to remain at the scene of the July 6 crash on Trafalgar Road at Highway 401 which killed Danilo Gazzola, 58, and critically injured his wife Imelda, 58.

Sergeant Ken Bonham, head of regional traffic, said police are optimistic a lead in the investigation will locate the van and the driver.

Police believe the van is either a Plymouth Grand Voyager SE or a Dodge Grand Caravan SE and was driven by a female with a male passenger.

Mrs. Gazzola, who remains at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre in Toronto, suffered a crushed shoulder, two broken ribs, cuts to her head and knees and other serious internal injuries. Her condition is improving.

"She is progressing well," said the Tremaine Road couple's daughter-in-law Monika Gazzola. "The hospital is ecstatic with the way she is coming along."

Mrs. Gazzola underwent hours of surgery while doctors worked to rebuild her injured shoulder. Her family is hopeful she will eventually regain full use of the affected arm.

"She has a positive attitude and we thank God for that," Monika added.

The Gazzolas were travelling to Oakville on a shopping trip when the crash occurred. Just before 10 a.m., their southbound car was hit head-on by a northbound tractor-trailer driven by a 21-year-old Mississauga man who was not injured.

The tractor-trailer had swerved to miss a northbound van which came onto the road from the shoulder, said Sgt. Bonham.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

### Three wishes

Lisa Norton, 9, didn't see a magic genie but perhaps the lantern's owner Lynne Hawthorne had already been granted the three wishes. Miss Hawthorne is back in Milton after spending time as an exchange student in Turkey. She shared her adventures with participants in the Kidsnews programs at Milton Public Library last week.

## Psychics looking ahead to fair at Memorial Arena July 27-29

A double murder will take place this fall in Milton. The killer will be apprehended.

A woman will take political centre stage and become a powerful force, "a tireless worker" for the town.

A major fire will occur in the autumn and will be arson.

These are some of the predictions gleaned by Paul Fulcher, the organizer of a psychic fair to take place at Memorial Arena on Thompson Road July 27-29.

"The response to the first psychic fair last year was incredible," he said in a press release.

"We have top psychics in the show, many of whom have had years of experience and training to develop their abilities."

In the past such events have drawn the ire of some area residents, mostly those who object to the activity on religious grounds.

Last year protestors staged a quiet

demonstration of their unease, simply handing out pamphlets objecting to the fair near the entrance.

Among other predictions forwarded by Mr. Fulcher are a warning that a bridge in the rural area is unstable and will apparently collapse. "No injuries will occur" but it will cause "inconvenience."

According to those peering into the mists of our future, a college or existing university will locate a campus in Milton, with the announcement coming in the spring of 1991.

There will be lectures and demonstrations, such as *Developing your ESP* (extrasensory perception).

The event gets underway Friday at noon. It continues to 10 p.m. Friday, July 27 re-opens at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 28 until 10 p.m. and concludes Sunday, July 29 with an 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. run.

## Rare disease occurrences coincidental, says Region

By NORMAN NELSON

Nothing regional health officials have learned so far about the high incidence of a rare disease in Halton points to anything but a coincidence.

Although deadly Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease only kills, on average, one person in a million each year, four deaths were attributed to the disease in Halton over a one year period ending last April — all reported by Burlington's Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital.

However, Halton medical officer of health Dr. Graham Pollett, in a report to regional council today, cautions that "when examining any country over a period of time, it's normal to see clusters or groups of cases in certain geographic areas."

"Investigations into these clusters have usually failed to show any links and they were felt to be a chance occurrence."

The four Burlington cases occurred in unrelated individuals 61 to 81 years of age, and they were brought to the attention of the regional health department by the hospital's infection control committee.

The preliminary investigation has "so far failed to reveal any common factors that link the cases."

The disease, thought to be caused by a slow virus, attacks the central nervous system with the main symptom being dementia. A loss of coordination and muscle twitching or spasms are also present.

The incubation period (the time between infection and the first symptoms) is long, up to 30 years, and most people are more than 50 years of age when they first become ill.

Once stricken, however, "the disease progresses rapidly and death ensues in six months to one year."

The disease is thought to be spread by direct inoculation — through corneal transplants, use of contaminated instruments or injections of human growth hormone.

"The disease is not spread by casual contact."

Although very similar in symptoms and autopsy findings to scrapie in sheep and mad cow disease in cows, there is no evidence of transmission from infected animals to humans, he said.

Experts believe, he added, that cows in England were infected after raw sheep brains and offal from infected sheep were mixed into cow feed. In Ontario, however, offal is cooked sufficiently to destroy the agent before being mixed into cow feed.

"Importation of cows and beef products from England is banned in Canada as a result of the recent outbreak of mad cow disease in that country."

### Witnesses wanted to fatal crash

Halton Regional Police are asking anyone who witnessed the fatal car accident on Britannia Road July 9 to contact the regional traffic bureau.

Michael Clayburn, 19, of Childs Drive in Milton and Wilfred Wier, 19, of Cambridge died in the single vehicle accident.

Constable Kim Duncan said a few witnesses have come forward, but police would like to speak with any others.

The accident occurred at about 2:45 p.m. A westbound 1987 Ford pickup truck struck the north shoulder of the road east of Fourth Line, skidded and rolled over at least three times off the south side.

If you witnessed the accident, call 878-5511, ext. 435.

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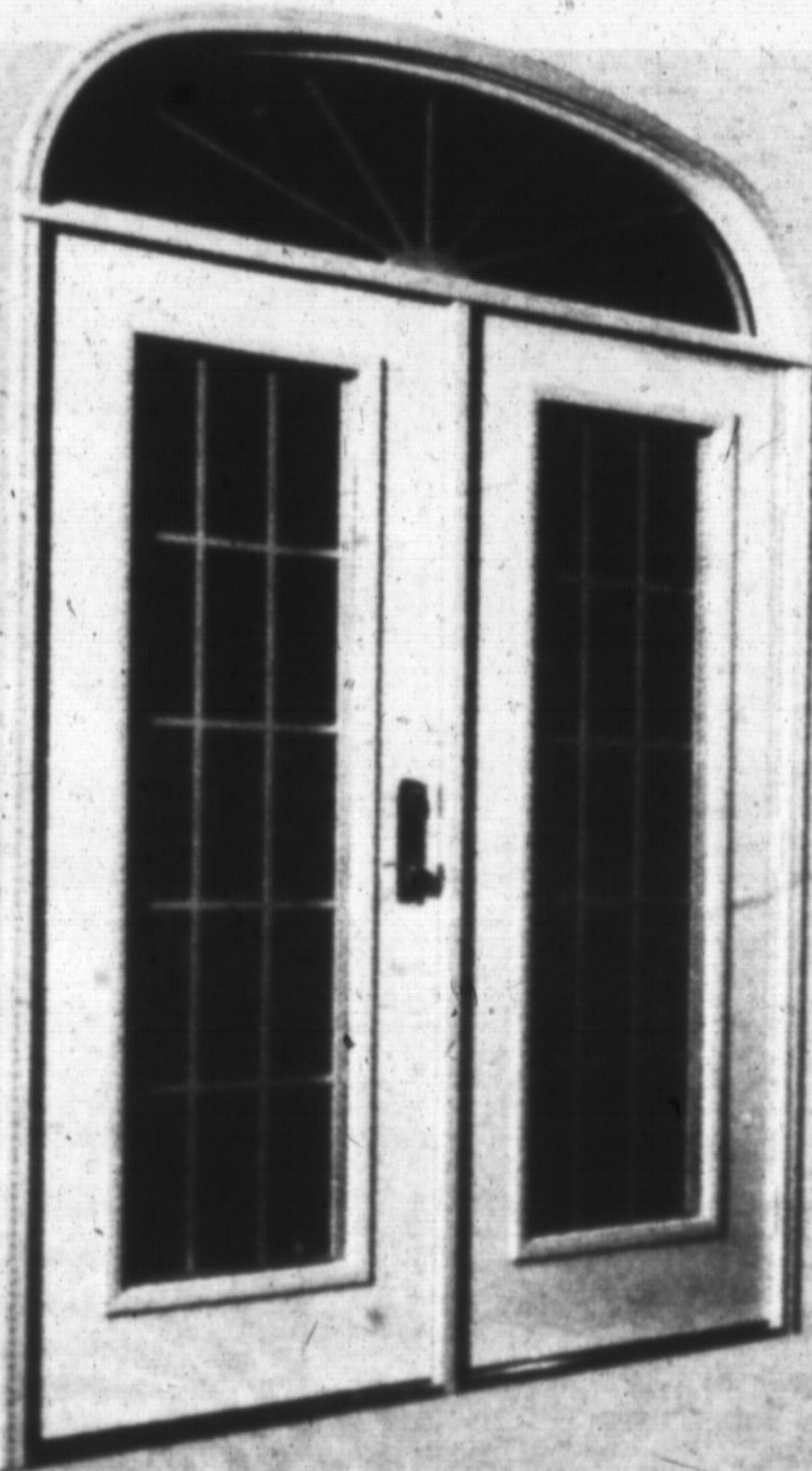
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