

Ride 'em cowboy is the cry

by Ken Regan

There was an awful lot of bull at the Commodore Hotel in Penetanguishene last Thursday.

But it wasn't the kind of bull you might be thinking of. It was instead a mechanical bull—the "Honky Tonk Buckin' Bull" to be precise.

The mechanical beast, identical to the machine seen in the movie Urban Cowboy, starring John Travolta, was unveiled to the public to inaugurate the re-opening of the "Garage", now to be called the "Corral" at the hotel. And it makes the Commodore the first bar in Canada to have a bull.

The hotel's owner, Bob Monteith said he and the staff had been trying to come up with an idea for the "Garage" for several weeks and they decided with the western phase just beginning in fashion and other areas, it would be a good idea to turn the "Garage" into a western bar.

After that it was a matter of leg work. Monteith was going to contact some people at Gillies', the bar in Texas

where the movie Urban Cowboy was based, but eventually they contacted a John Sassak of Detroit, who was involved in the manufacturing of the bulls in the U.S.

Arrangements
Following some negotiations, arrangements were made to purchase the Commodore's bull and moreover, Monteith entered a deal to manufacture the bulls in Canada. He is now in partnership with Bill Graham of Midland Tool and Die in modifying, strengthening and manufacturing the bulls for distribution in Canada.

But before you go rushing out to buy your own "Honky Tonk Buckin' Bull", you should realize there is a price tag of around \$9,000.

The original bull which you'll see at the Commodore was an investment of \$11,000 due to taxes and customs duties charged when the bull was brought to Penetanguishene from Detroit, Michigan.

To provide a demonstration of how the "beast" should be

ridden, Monteith even obtained the services of a real local cowboy. Dan Charlebois of B.T.D. Horses, of the 17th concession, Penetanguishene showed those present that night how it's done. And he should know.

Dan is a trainer for B.T.D. and part of his job is breaking horses for a living. He gained a lot of his experience riding similar machines, while he practiced for the college rodeo circuit, when he was attending Olds College in Alberta, several years ago.



Red letter day

Oscar Ross, Penetanguishene's London Life Insurance representative for over 30 years was honoured recently, by the company and presented with a gift commemorating his years of service.

Oscar Ross honored by associates

Oscar Ross, of 57 Brock St., Penetang, was honoured for over 30 years service with London Life Insurance Co., last Friday, during a gathering at the Highlander Motel in Midland.

As part of the festivities, he was also presented with a gift of a portable, miniature television and FM radio. The unit can operate just about anywhere and is ideal for camping trips.

Mr. Ross, who is retired, but still acting in a consulting role for the company and his clients, spent his entire

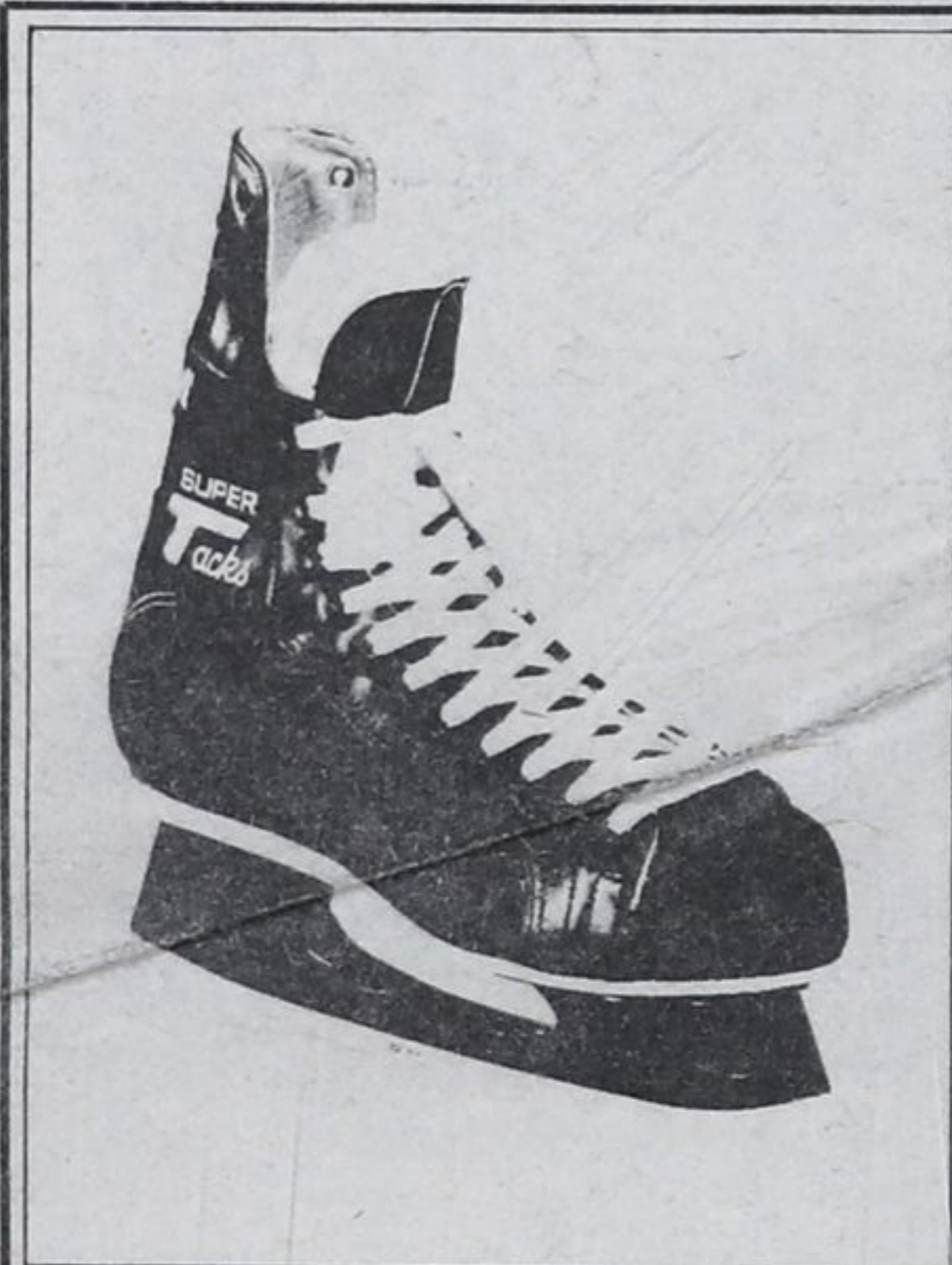
insurance career working in the Penetanguishene area and provided service to about 700 families during his 30 years.

Speaking of those years and his clients, Ross said, "I'd like to thank all of my clients in Penetanguishene who've become such good friends over the last thirty years and would like to wish them the best. (and let them know), I'll continue to help them if they have any problems."

Making the presentation of the gift was Orillia District manager, Bruce Woods.

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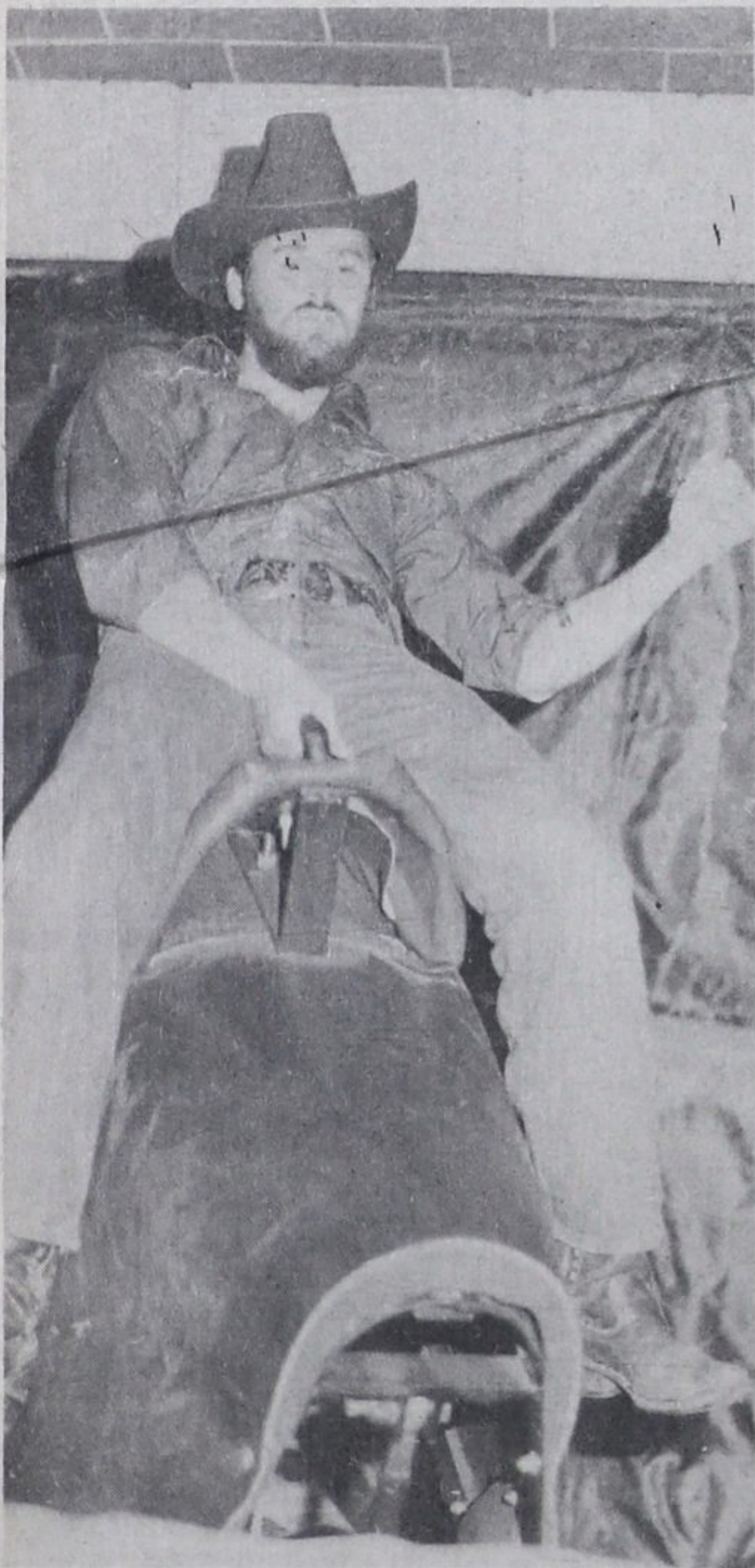
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Ride 'em cowboy!

Whoa bull whoa! Don't worry, this cowboy is for real and he knows how to ride the "Honky Tonk Buckin' Bull". Dan Charlebois, of B.T.D. Horses was at the Commodore Hotel last Thursday night to demonstrate to all of us urban cowboys, the proper technique of riding the mechanical beast. The whole thing was part of the inauguration of the Commodore's opening of the first bar in Canada, the "Corral", to have a mechanical bull.

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