

That's My Line

One of Santa's many helpers



marks 25-year tradition

Santa Claus was the guest of honour during last Saturday afternoon's fifth annual Midland Civitan Club's Santa Claus Parade.

The parade itself was termed an unqualified success by both organizers of the annual extravaganza and by those who lined often five and six deep to watch the giant parade march past.

Our Santa himself is marking a rather special event this year as well.

It's his diamond jubilee. For the past 25 years our Santa, like so many others, has been assisting the "real" Santa at this time of the year.

The tradition, according to our Santa, "Started back 25 years ago when I worked for a radio station in Woodstock.

"Later it became habit forming. It was fun and I enjoyed every moment."

Our Santa says he has gone "through my share of beards and wigs.

"My first suit cost me \$25. Now they range from \$500 to \$750 depending on the material. As for wigs and beards they have increased in price too."

According to our Santa, "I don't golf and I don't boat so that extra bit of pin money I have usually goes to this hobby. As a matter of fact my wife gets into the act right up to Christmas buying up candy canes for me to hand out."

Our Santa will be a very busy fellow again this month. "I've had to cut back a bit because of my job but I'll be attending several more special functions between now and Christmas eve.

"That night I usually visit about 60 homes in the Midland-Penetanguishene area. There are youngsters I first visited who are now married and have children of their own. It's all very moving."

Midland's own St. Nick says, "I often miss being home with my own family Christmas eve but they understand."

As for marking 25 years helping "the real" Santa, our Santa says, "It gets into your system. I know there will come a day I'll have to slow down. I can only hope someone will take over this tradition with the same loving care and respect I have held for the spirit of Christmas.

"If I may I'd like to wish a Merry Christmas to your many readers."

Desroches pitches Tiny for funds

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

Roland Desroches, president of the Centre d'Activites Francaises, appeared before Tiny Township Council on Wednesday to request a donation of \$3,000 from the municipality towards the renovation of the old post office building.

Total cost of the planned renovations will be \$130,000. Of this \$40,000 has already been raised, mostly locally, although appeals have been made to charitable foundations province-wide.

Desroches explained to Tiny council that the money raised "will be used strictly for renovations, and not for the operation of the center."

In answer to a request for exact figures on Tiny usage of the building, Desroches said "I have no figures, but there is a greater number of users from Tiny than from Penetanguishene."

The Centre is "open to all, but activities are in French" says Desroches. "We welcome other groups' use of our equipment and facilities to further

their French education."

One-third of the money raised will be spent on equipment, and the renovations will not alter the face of the building although yellow canopies will be added to ground-floor windows and doors. Most of the work to be done involves painting, new flooring and "cleaning up", explained Desroches.

Tiny council agreed to consider the request for \$3,000.

Similar requests are being made to Penetanguishene and Midland councils.

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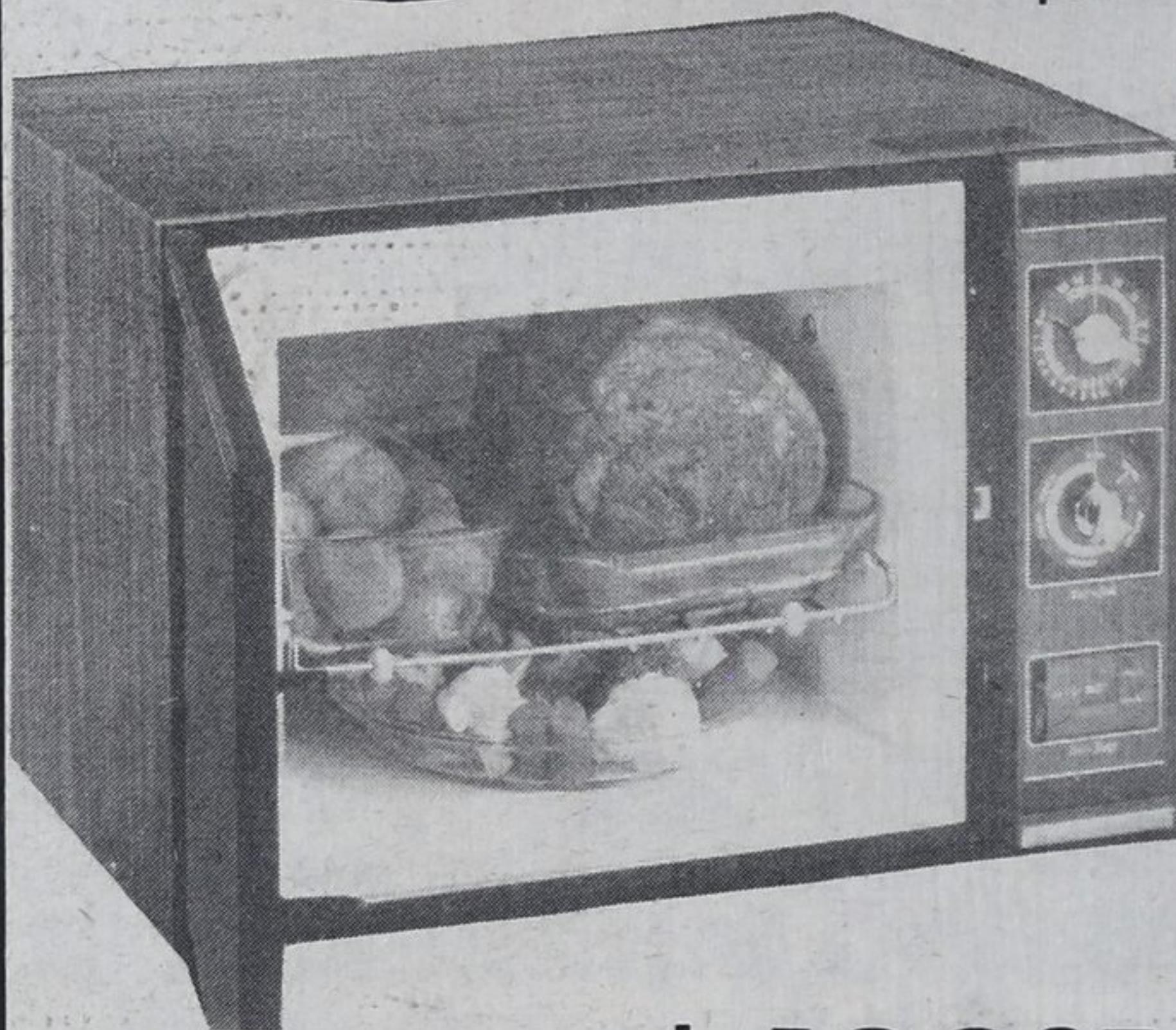
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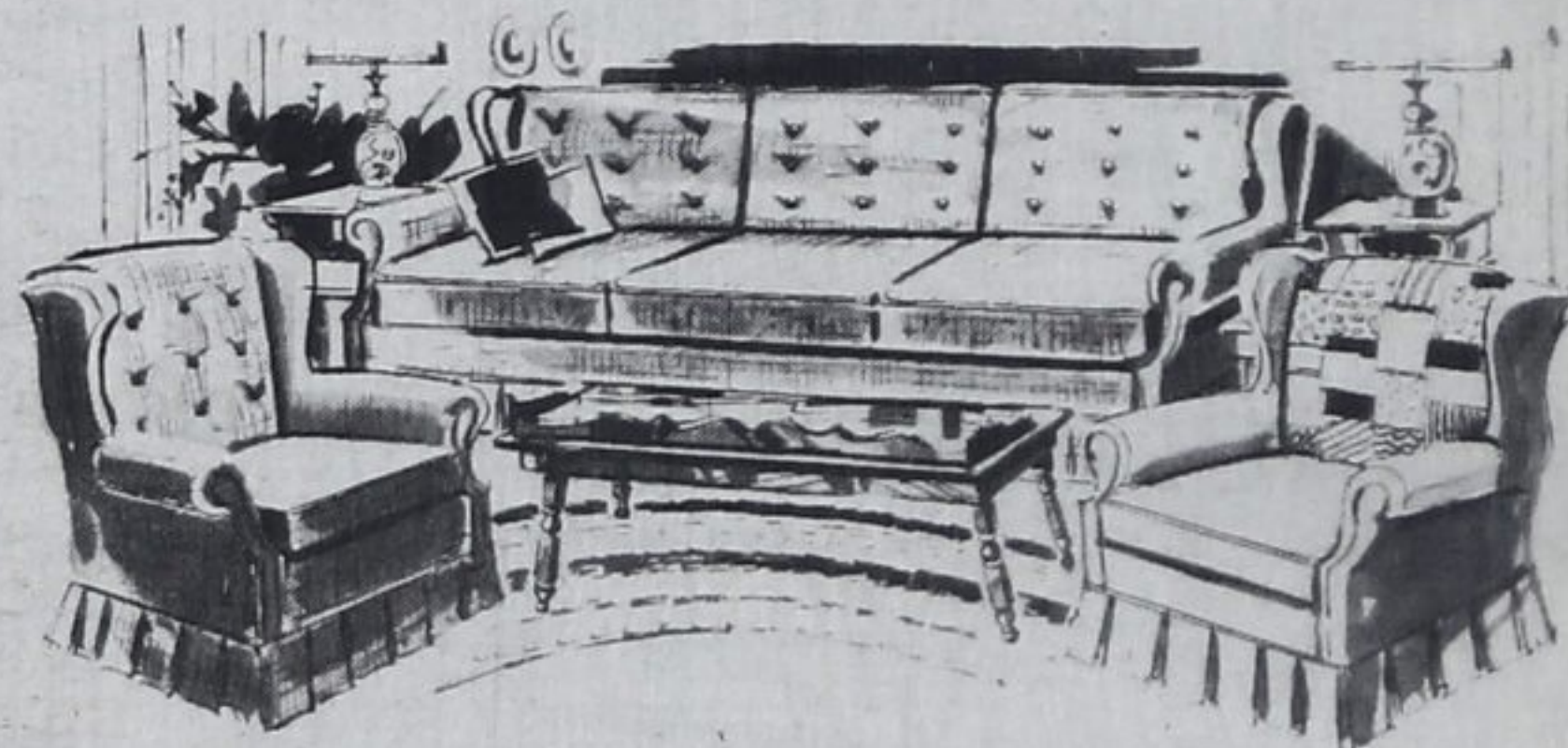
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