



Under new management

The new manager of Midland's Odeon Theatre, Tom Wright, and one of the two new owners, Dave Babcock, were pictured on top of the Odeon Theatre marquee yesterday. One of the terms of sale was that the Odeon Theatre is to be renamed. A contest will likely be held to choose a new name, Babcock said.

Babcock brothers buy theatre, drive-in

by Murray Moore

Dave Babcock and Paul Babcock have bought the Midland Odeon Theatre and the Midland Drive-In for an undisclosed sum of money. The brothers bought the Pen Theatre in Penetanguishene 11 years ago, and opened a second theatre, Pen II, in a former Dominion grocery store next door to the Pen Theatre in the summer of 1979.

Yesterday Dave Babcock explained that it was a choice between selling the theatres in Penetanguishene or buying the two Midland theatres.

The Odeon Theatre will be renamed, probably following a contest to choose a name. Ticket prices will remain as they are for the time being. Plans for the future call for the division of the Odeon Theatre into two auditoriums, an upper screening room that will sit 200 people, and a lower screening room that will sit 450. The Odeon Theatre now accommodates 763 moviegoers. The splitting of the theatre is at least two years away.

In the meantime, the sound system in the King Street theatre will be improved, a brighter light will be put in the projector, and the seats will be refurbished.

Double bills, which are run frequently in Penetanguishene, will be offered at the Odeon this year on a trial basis.

Ownership of the three movie outlets in Midland and Penetanguishene will mean that the Babcocks will have a wider range of distributors to choose among for films. A greater number of films will not necessarily be offered. Ninety per cent of the films available last year were seen at one of the three theatres or at the drive-in, Dave Babcock said.

Tom Wright is the manager of the three theatres and the drive-in. Ross Cioe continues as a projectionist at the Odeon. Theresa Cioe, the former manager has retired.

By the way, Raiders of the Lost Ark was the second most popular movie in Penetanguishene last year. Tarzan was the most popular movie.

Another feather in Percy's cap

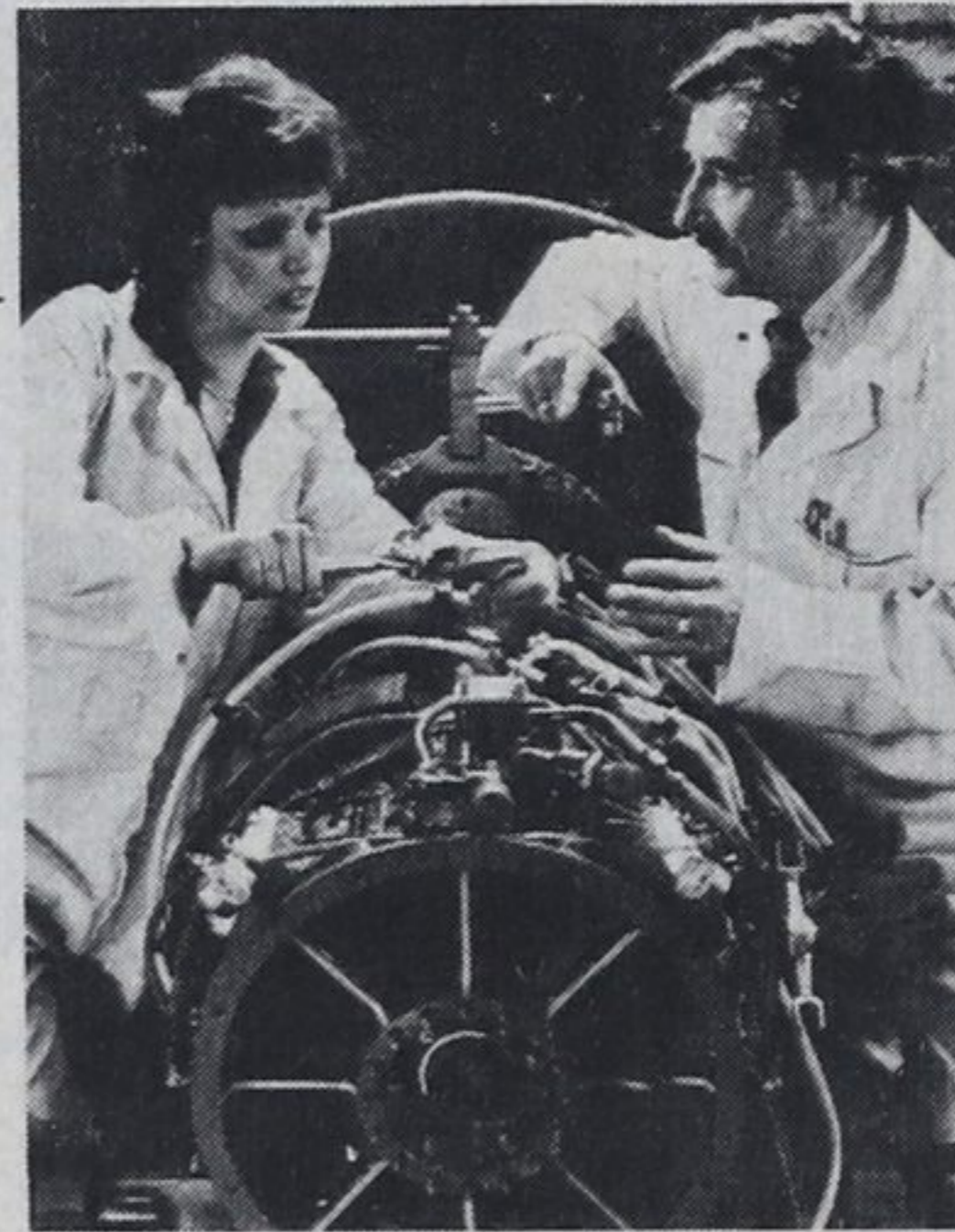
Although he wasn't on hand Monday night to hear it, Midland's Commissioner of Works

Percy Ehler was praised for being reappointed to serve on the municipal engineers

advisory committee to the Minister of Transportation and Communications for the forthcoming year.

Council was advised in a letter from the Municipal Engineers Association that the

committee serves "an important liaison between the MTC and municipalities to interchange information relating to policy and technological advances affecting our every day life."



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