

### Happy occasion

Staff-Sgt. Ross Willett of Midland Police Department was presented with his 25-year bronze bar Monday night by Deputy-reeve Bev Day, chairman of the town's public safety

committee (not shown). Right, is Police Chief Ernest Bates who was on hand during a regular council meeting to help Staff-Sgt. Willett mark the occasion.

## Al McLean's report from Queen's Park

by Al McLean MPP

Concern for safety and issues affecting the family highlighted the work of Ontario MPP's during the summer and are high on the list of priorities for the fall sitting of the Legislature.

Discussion continues on the White Paper on the Workmen's Compensation Board, prepared by Paul Weiler last fall. Mr. Weiler has prepared 21 suggestions that could radically change the face of compensation procedures in Ontario.

Considering how important compensation for accidents in the workplace is to workers and their family, the Ontario Government is moving carefully and cautiously in examining these proposals and other suggestions concerning the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Safety for school children is also a concern of the Ontario Government. Following on the heels of legislation for child restraints in private automobiles that was passed this spring, the Province is tightening up regulations for school buses.

School bus drivers

will be facing stricter rules on the operation of their vehicles, while motorists will face substantially larger fines for not obeying the rules of the road for the passing of school buses.

The Province is also showing increased concern for firemen. Experiments are now being carried out to test protective clothing that will better ensure the safety of firemen while on the job.

Health safety is also a concern and during the summer a committee of MPP's have been looking over the Province's proposed Health Protection Act that will set minimum standards for sanitation and disease control throughout Ontario.

Looking at issues concerning the family, MPP's listened to disturbing evidence presented before a committee investigating the rise in reports of violence in the home.

A report is being prepared based on the testimony given by a variety of society and welfare groups. A decision will then be made to see what the Province can do, if anything, to prevent violence in the home.

Another Provincial initiative during the summer will help young families buy their first home. The deadline on Provincial loans for the first-time homebuyers is being extended to the end of the year.

In other areas, the Ministry of the Attorney General has launched a study on the compensation of individuals acquitted from court cases. This study will look at legislation already on the books in Great Britain that provides for the paying of all court costs to those acquitted from a case.

For municipalities, changes to the Planning Act are slated for introduction in the fall sitting of the Legislature. These changes will affect the entire system for planning and development, zoning, taxation and amalgamation of communities.

A new look at the Ontario Securities Act is being launched and should result in legislation during the fall session. This new look includes adding smaller corporations to the list of businesses that can sell shares on the stock market.

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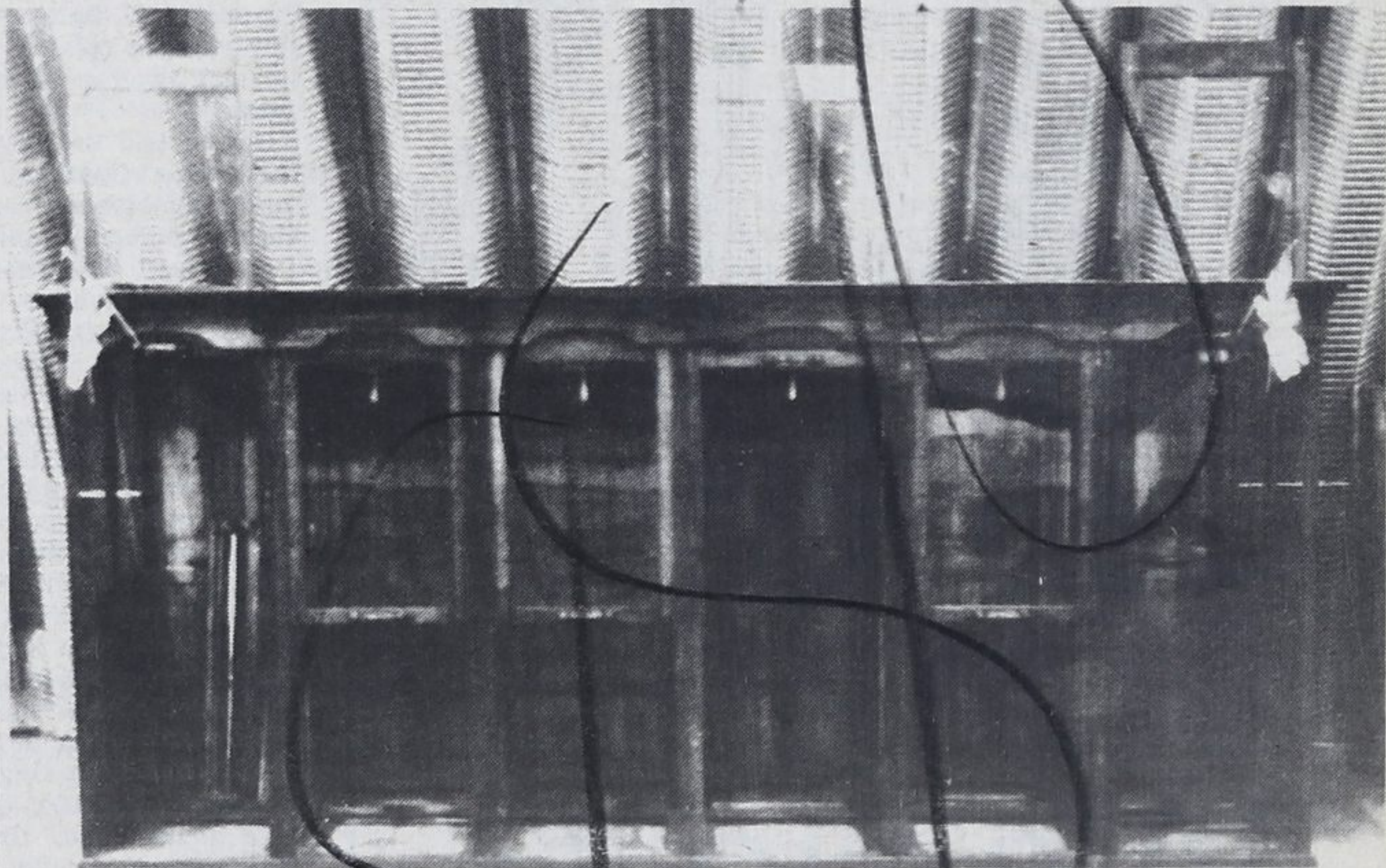
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