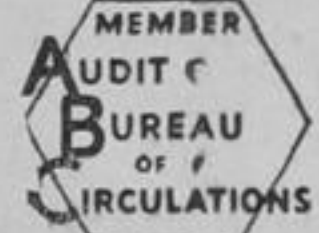




The Liberal



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Call A Halt To Vandalism

Richmond Hill Police should co-operate to the fullest with the board of trustees of the town public schools in apprehending the party or parties responsible for the most recent outbreak of vandalism at the Beverley Acres Public School. A portable was entered and the walls mutilated with crayons, the teacher's desk used as a lavatory, the floor littered with rocks thrown through six windows, and couplings broken off a space heater. In addition to the damage to the portable, basketball hoops have been wrecked, and the lights under the canopy at the main entrance destroyed.

The trustees have expressed deep concern over this wanton destruction of public property. The cost of repairing the damage must be borne by the taxpayers as such malicious damage is not covered by the existing insurance when no theft is involved.

Vandalism is becoming an increasing problem in Richmond Hill. Recently vandals removed road barricades erected for the safety of the motoring public. Lanterns marking the warning signs were drained of oil and in some cases the wicks removed. Vandals also

destroyed a log cabin under construction at the MacKillop Memorial School by children attending the local day camp. In the town parks slides are tipped over and swings wrecked. Picnic tables are scarred not only by knives, but even have their legs wrenched and chopped off. Recently eight winter sand boxes of the town roads department stored on Pugsley Avenue were set on fire.

The trustees have asked the police begin an immediate patrol of all school grounds. Energetic measures should be taken by the police to end this destruction of public property and vandalism in general. Systematic night patrolling of all school and public property should begin in earnest. Citizens can co-operate by reporting any suspicious behaviour around the grounds to the police.

Richmond Hill is a lovely suburban community and an excellent place in which to live. No one wants the fine reputation of the town marred by the irresponsible attitude of some misguided individuals. It is the duty of the police to see that those responsible are brought to justice.

Safety Afloat

"Safety Afloat," a 24-page booklet published by the Federal Department of Transport, ought to be required reading for everyone who owns or rents a motorboat — or a rowboat or canoe, for that matter. The department has printed and is now distributing 200,000 copies among all the boat owners it can reach. Whether they will study the booklet is something over which the department obviously has no control. However, it seems bound to have some impact, and one encouraging fact is that this valuable little work is falling into the hands of youngsters at various supervised summer camps and boat clubs.

The rules of safety are dictated by simple common sense, and many if not most of them should not need to be put on paper at all. Unfortunately, experience shows that large numbers of people just don't give any thought to what they are doing when they venture on the water. They are prone to stand

up in a rowboat, or fail to show a light when out after dark, or omit carrying lifejackets or lifesaving cushions on a lake, or in numerous other ways court disaster.

Some of the rules of water safety are recommendations only, but others are regulations the violation of which carries a fine upon conviction. It is however even more difficult to enforce these aquatic regulations than to catch up with highway traffic offences. The transport department probably hopes that it can accomplish something by education. That depends on the response of the general public. Efforts by organizations devoted to safety on the roads have met with considerably less than complete success. Yet the carnage would be far worse if there were no educational campaigns at all, and the same applies to the problem of making Canada's lakes and rivers safer for the increasing number of people, old and young, who use them.

Your Garden And Mine

by R. H. Horticultural Society

The ardent gardeners calendar has something urgent for every-day of every month of the spring and early summer but with August just comes some success of labour—the heavy weeding is over, pests pretty well under control and the annuals are making a colourful display. The gardener can, with a tranquil conscience lie back in his garden lounge chair, admiring and enjoying the results of his labour.

Of course there is that lacquer red oriental poppy that is shifted from its juxtaposition with the salmon pink one and the penny that should be moved forward ever so gently so that it won't know what has happened. The delphinium clumps are getting too large—must divide them. But it doesn't have to be done to-day or even to-morrow. Ho, hum!

Yes August affords time for reflection so let us "consider the lilies". Not the lilies of the field, glorious as they are, but the new hybrids which are enjoying such popularity with our district garden enthusiasts.

To all of us the recent Exhibition of the North American Lily Society held in Hart House, University of Toronto, "was an eye-opening indeed, with an almost unbelievable range of species and varieties from tiny fairy-like clusters to great trumpets on stems 6 feet in height.

The growing of lilies and their hybridization seems to appeal particularly to the Canadian gardener and perhaps dates back to 40 years ago when Miss Isabella Preston, working first at the O.A.C. and then at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa developed her striking steno-grapher lily hybrids—so called because each was named after a stenographer in her department. She went on to develop many other varieties, red hurricane, golden corsair and lemon-yellow addington, to name only a few.

Now, lily specialists are a legion and many of to-day's most distinguished varieties are of Canadian origin.

Lilies are not difficult to grow but they do have their special requirements. One is good drainage and an airy situation. They need sunlight at least part of the day. Heavy feeders, they root deeply, so should be planted in a porous, well aerated soil, rich in humus and balanced plant food.

Plant your bulbs in October or early November, depending on when you can get delivery. Plant immediately or arrival while they are still moist. Lily bulbs are never completely dormant and will not tolerate drying out. Plant with 4 or 5 inches of soil over them.

The Lillium Candidum or Madonna is an exception. Plant it in August or September with only an inch of soil over the bulb. Mulch heavily for winter protection. Make an application of balanced fertilizer two or three times during the growing season.

Although the top of lilies need the sun, the soil around the roots must be quite cool. Mulch during the hot weather with leaf-mold or buckwheat hulls. (Peat moss packs too closely.) Or grow them among companion plants which will shade the roots. Choose plants with a light root system which will not compete for moisture. Aquilegia is good, petunia, pansy or sweet alyssum.

Talking with the exhibitors at the Lily Show we asked what varieties a beginner might grow successfully. Here are a few suggestions:

Enchantment—a glowing apricot orange.

Rose Queen—very tall, hardy.

Lemon Queen—similar to Rose Queen.

Galahad—another lemon yellow.

Lillian Cummings—red flowers on a strong stalk.

Other beauties at the exhibition were Yellow Fiesta, Red Knight, Rosaline, Valiant, Destiny and Skylark.

The new catalogues will soon be out and will be very useful in helping you to make a choice.

We would like to mention here that the librarian at our Public Library has kindly procured a number of up-to-date and authoritative books on horticulture. One of these is, "The Complete Bulb Book" by Rockwell and Grayson. The authors have devoted a chapter to lilies which should prove helpful to the beginner and the experienced gardener alike.

Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

It is a fact that we all have to face in our private longings and our civic "they shoulds" that one dollar simply won't provide for long term projects and at the same time give us urgently needed immediate facilities.

It is this perplexing business of public lands, or parks, if that's what we should call them, that I'm referring to. This year and last have seen tremendous development of sports areas, thanks be to Ed Butlin and Bill Babcock particularly, and plans are continuing for next year. The baseball diamond was the first achievement with an energetic committee raising money for lighting equipment. This year a cinder track at the Pugsley Ave. end of the park is being planned and a second diamond graded. Council has approved as well the hiring of an architect for alterations and improvements to the Arena which had certainly reached the urgent stage. The whole appearance of the park has had the Arden look given it . . . plans for a tennis club are budding.

All this is excellent. This is all that can be done with the present budget. Somehow though, facilities are going to have to be decentralized as well . . . not major facilities, but a vacant space with grass and maybe a tree or two where the eight and nine year olds can swing a bat or kick a ball or play hockey on an outdoor rink without having to sign up with a team four months ahead and attend practise at six in the morning and where winning tends to become just a little too important.

There doesn't seem to be very much spare space where kids can just PLAY. That nice little green belt running up beside the railroad track is only 100 feet wide I see by last week's report of the town council meeting.

I watched one little game broken up about 7:30 one evening last year. Nine or ten of the kids from round the block had gathered on the empty lot on the corner with ball and bat and a couple of gloves and were having a whale of a time. Over the next fence came a face reminiscent of David Balfour's Uncle Ebenezer to wave an arm and command them to beat it, they were making too much noise . . . and the players drifted home. In the same category of one who had forgotten he was ever young and had once had lots of energy to burn off was the neighbour who called in the police one evening recently to stop a teenage weiner roast in the back yard!

Pleasantville and Allencourt Subdivisions are both feeling the need for somewhere to use as local playgrounds, and Pleasantville at least would like to see some kind of supervised playgrounds for the smaller fry, and in this case the school is too far for playground purposes. (When, I won't say IF, these projects get under way for our tots someone should go see Mrs. Ruth Rabinowitch, an expert in the field of spending imagination not dollars for equipment). Although the subdividers left a certain percentage of land for use as park in the western subdivision, while attractive most of it is narrow and sloping, in fact borders on the stream, which at once rules it out as a children's playground.

Deputy-reeve Don Plaxton has said that council would definitely consider finances for bulldozing and equipping a playground if the land were provided.

For Allencourt the council is considering asking the public school board for the use of the Walter Scott school grounds, and in view of the whole financial and development setup in Richmond Hill which is so far from the old pattern of town development it would be wonderful if the school board saw their way to making even more public use of the school and the grounds.

In the older towns of Ontario growth came in a more leisurely, less artificial way, and a public spirited citizen would deed or will half a dozen acres of an estate (created in the 19th Century industrial-lord-of-the-mill manner) to the town to be used for the recreation of its citizens. The days are past that created those oases of light and shade, greenery and color dotted through the older towns, and we have to find a modern way to use the land that is available. And that is where our school grounds can play a very important part. Of course they won't look like a well tended park, they can't possibly have the serenity and dignity of a true park, but they can substitute, at least as full time recreation areas and make the most of one dollar that is there to spend until we find the other dollar for the town's long term look.

Swamp Magic

The air is drowsy with summer heat, The call from the swamp sounds deep and clear, And I succumb to the jungle beat Of the bull frog's drum with a twinge of fear. The wild cherry trees lean by the rim And nod while the blue flags shake and shiver, The cattails stand aloof and prim, And the water winds like a slow brown river. Mutely I listen at the swampland's side Straining for sounds that are suddenly still, The silence seems more than I can abide, For I'm deep in the throes of a strange new chill. There's an eerie closeness abroad in the air, And I remain motionless, completely enthralled, Oblivious even to the warm sun's glare Till a frog leaped up and a mud hen called.

— Elizabeth Dale Kelson

Reeve Opposed To Supplying Town Services Beyond Boundaries

Dear Mr. Editor:— I was interested to read in a recent issue of your paper that plans are progressing for the establishment of a shopping centre in Markham Township on Yonge Street just south of Richmond Hill.

I was particularly interested to read that the promoters of this shopping centre have applied to Richmond Hill for water and sewer service.

As you know I have been ill and under doctor's orders will not be able to return to council meetings for some time. However I wish through your newspaper to make it known that I am opposed to the policy of providing services outside the borders of our municipality.

The proposed shopping centre will not add any commercial assessment to Richmond Hill, and in fact it will discourage commercial development within our borders. The stores in the proposed shopping centre will be drawing business away from taxpaying business people in Richmond Hill.

Our own ratepayers this year have suffered from a shortage of water supply, and with the development within our borders to which we are now committed I think it is very dangerous policy to make agreements to supply outside commercial undertakings. I know this view is shared by many of the people of Richmond Hill and I hope my colleagues on council will give very careful consideration to requests for town services outside our municipal boundaries.

Thanking you, I am, Yours truly, W. J. Taylor, Reeve.

C.M.H.C. Head Criticizes

Blame Municipalities High Cost Of Housing

Stating that 37 per cent of the funds provided by the Federal Government for the construction of small homes has gone into the Toronto area, Stewart Bates, president of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation told the Senate last week, "To absorb the new housing required over the next 20 years, three new cities of 1,000,000 population each would be required—the alternative was additions to the peripheries of present metropolitan areas".

The one thorn in this great expansion program for the future as foreseen by Mr. Bates is, there is no reserve of serviced land for housing, except in one or two small areas. This means a costly investment in sewers, water mains and other services.

The significant fact here is that the installation of the above mentioned necessities, plus the payment various municipalities are now being paid by landowners, before land may be sold, are stepping up costs alarmingly for the prospective home-owner—who is the ultimate one to suffer from rising costs.

In a brief recently submitted by the Toronto Metropolitan Home Builders Association to the Senate Finance Committee, it was stated that in the case of a house selling for \$15,000, the land cost represented about one-third of the price.

The brief detailed the land costs of a Scarborough subdivision which was said to be typical. In this case the raw land cost \$209,075, or \$5,252 an acre. Legal fees, interest taxes and a park dedication pushed the cost to \$248,466, or \$1,120 for each of 222 lots of an average frontage of 44.7 feet. When the sewers and various other services were added, as well as various fees, including one for town planning consultants, the cost per lot rose to \$3,621.

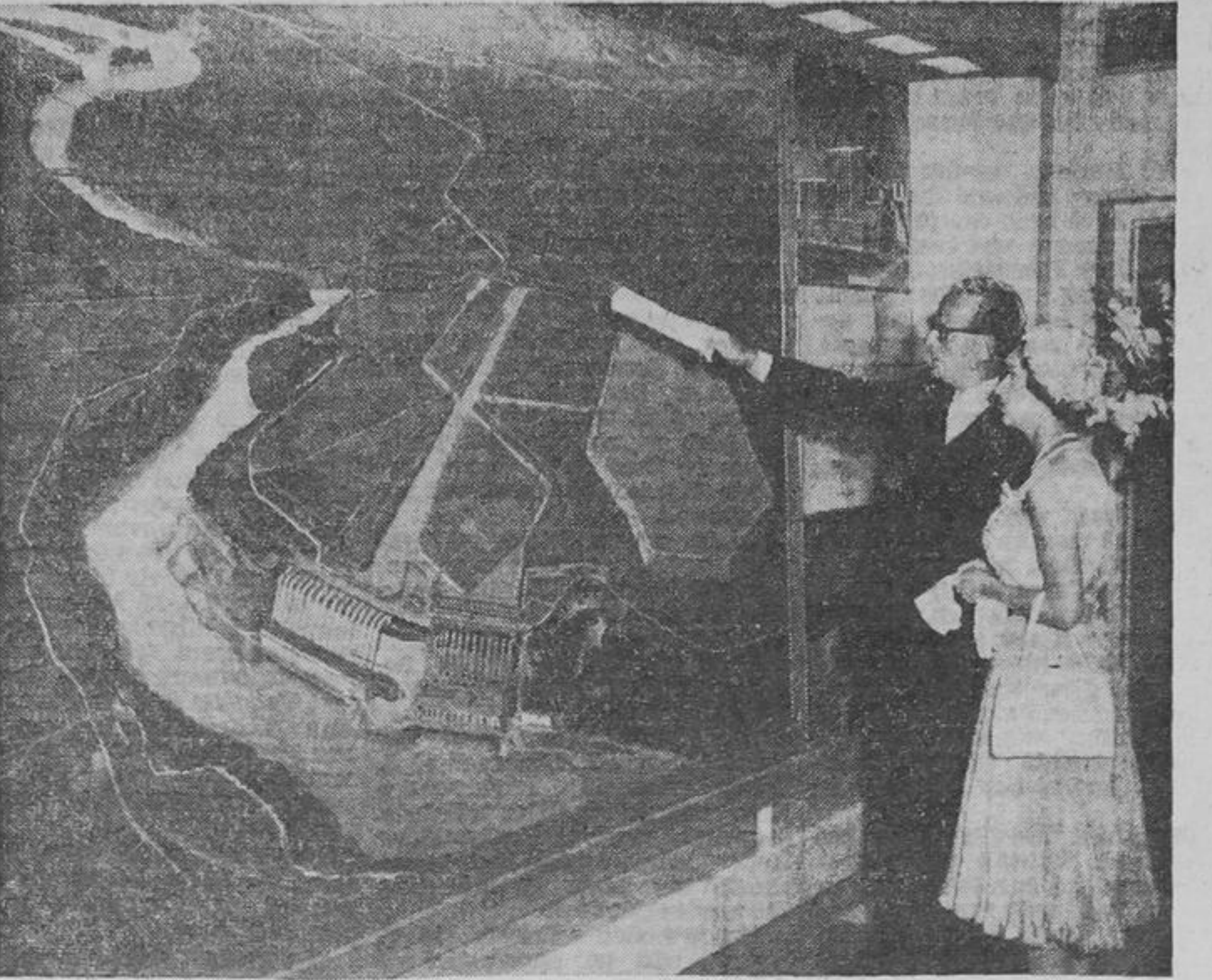
Instead of financing sewers and other services on a local improvement basis, as was formerly done, Metropolitan Toronto municipalities were now loading these costs on the subdividers who had to include them in the land price to be financed on the buyer's down payment and mortgage Mr. L. A. Rice, president of the Toronto Metropolitan Home Builders Association stated.

Reading the association's brief secretary-manager W. G. Clements read, that in the case of a house selling for \$15,000 the land cost represented about one-third of the price.

He blamed the municipalities for their excessive demands with which the subdividers must comply before approval is granted to develop a subdivision. A payment on all building lots is levied by rural municipalities, before land may be sold.

Another cost factor was the demand of municipalities that the subdividers and builder provide industrial assessment on a percent basis, the brief said. The subdivider found himself fighting for industries and paying their assessments so that in the end, the house buyer subsidized these industries. A fairer tax distribution would result in all industrial and commercial assessments going directly to the province and from there being equitably distributed among the municipalities. Mr. Rice stated.

To date the Government has set aside \$350,000,000 for mortgage loans on small homes. Up to July 4, the latest date for which figures are available, loans from this fund totalled \$305,331,000. Less than 50 million dollars is left in this fund—and at the rate municipal charges for building sites is rising, about a third of this "mortgage" money will also be swallowed up in "hidden" charges to the home-owner.



Ontario Hydro Chairman James S. Duncan, C.M.G., L.L.D., shows Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret the mural in the Information Centre at the Commission's Sir Adam Beck-Niagara Generating Station No. 2. Her Royal Highness was received at the power plant by Mr. and Mrs. Duncan.

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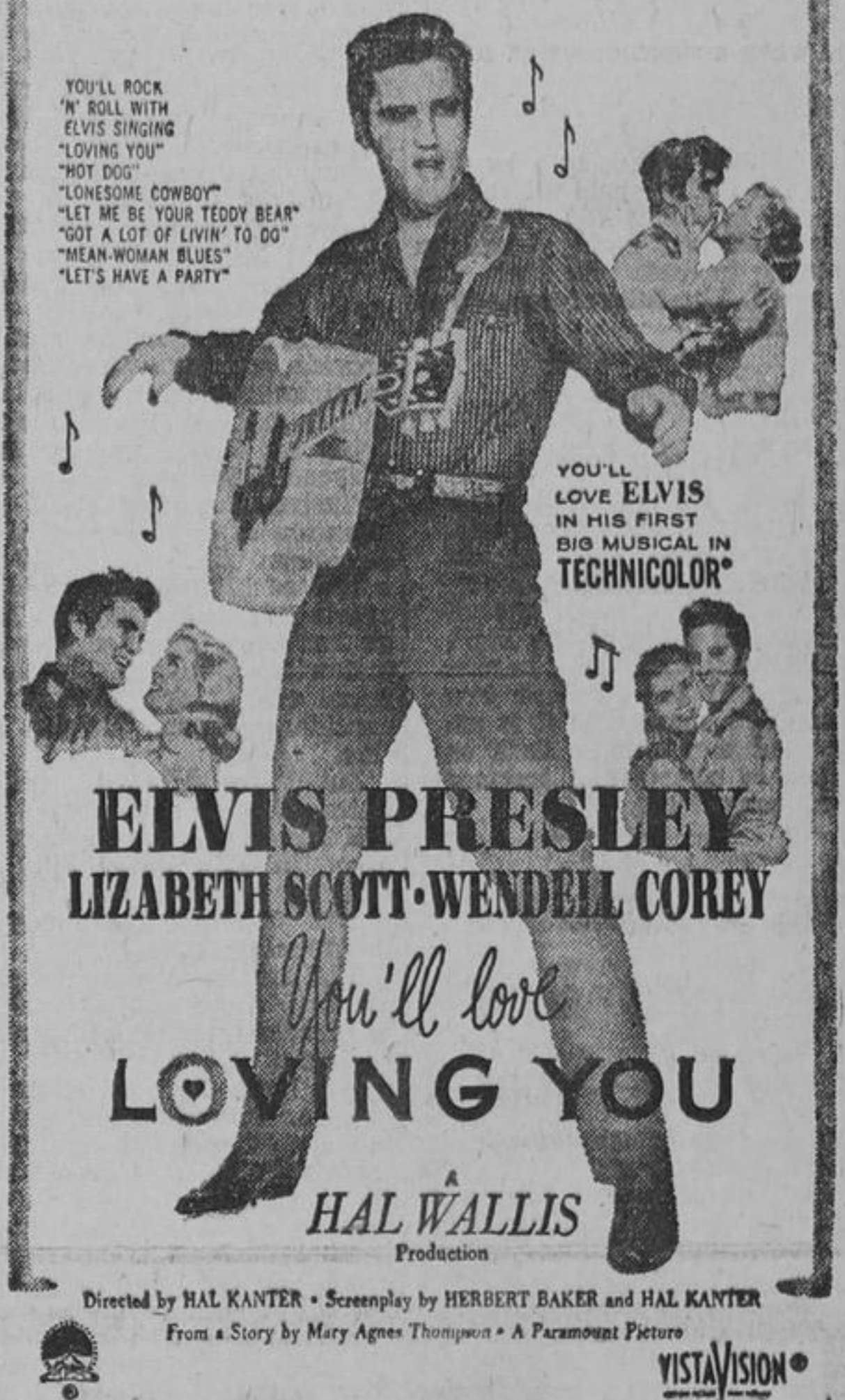
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