

Kaleidoscope

By CATHY WILSON

Hi! This week we are going to visit (of all places) two elementary schools.

Are you ready? Let's go! Here we are at the first school. Go on, walk inside. What do you see? Teachers, children, blackboards, exercise books, children, desks, pencils, chairs, tables, children, crayons, glue, paper. Children — talking, smiling, drawing, coloring. Great!

All right, on to the second school. Here we are. Go on, walk inside. What do you see? Teachers, children, blackboards, exercise books, children, desks, pencils, chairs, tables, children, crayons, glue, paper. Children — talking, smiling, drawing, coloring. Great!

"But this school is the same as the last one," you protest. "So what's the difference?"

Good question. And here's the answer. The children you saw in the first school are your brothers, sisters, neighbors and friends — and the children you see in this second school are your brothers, sisters, neighbors and friends.

But! This morning when you saw your brothers, sisters, neighbors and friends coming to this second school you looked and said "Hey, there goes the idiot bus!" or maybe "Look at the retardards going to school."

Not very nice, to say the least. You would hate to think that your son, daughter, brother, sister or friend would say something like that, wouldn't you? Well, don't worry. That's not your son, daughter, brother, sister or friend talking. That's just plain Ignorance.

But you have to be very careful because Ignorance is a sly, cunning beast which penetrates the minds of many people, particularly younger people and MAKES them say things that they would never ever dream of saying if they only knew.

Knew what? Why that children who are born with a brain deformity or who become retarded through a disease or accident which damages their brain are just like you and me. They are warm-hearted, loving, eager to play like any other child and to do things that any other child would do. And, just like everyone else, they need love and understanding and consideration, and friends and an opportunity to make the best of their mental and physical abilities. This is only what any person expects and has a right to expect.

Now back to the second school. This is Thornhaven School in Richmond Hill, a government supported day school where retarded children can develop skills which will enable them to adjust to their environment and to get as much as they can out of living. The school has been situated in the Hill for 7 of its 13 years of existence. The principal, Mrs. Isabella Webb (who has worked with retarded children for ten years) told me "The school was formed by a group of parents who decided that they did not want to send their children away to a special institution. They wanted them to go to school, but they loved them so much that they wanted them at home. Thus the idea of a day-school arose. The children could go off each morning just like their brothers and sisters, only to a different school."

The children enter this school when they are five years old, and leave when they are 18. Here they are taught to do many things which you and I would take for granted. For instance the children are taught co-ordination of muscles, large and small — how to do up the buttons on a coat, how to take the coat off and hang it up, "self-control in work and play situations;" how "to communicate purposefully, to be a part of a group, and to respect the rights and property of others."

They are taught language to use in everyday situations, "protective reading — stop, go, hot, cold, etc." They learn the different pieces of money, their birthday, address, and telephone number, and how to tell time and print their name.

Music plays a most important part in the curriculum. Mrs. Webb, the principal says: "Music helps a child to come out of his shell and promotes a happy climate, thus enabling the child to adjust socially."

Now look at these children. They come up and shake your hand and ask you how you are. They poke their ghost puppets around the door and shout "boo!" They show you their pictures and printing, and they laugh and hug you and sing for you. They get the same delight as you do out of watching ducks swim and feeding them bread. They feel the same wonder and joy when they see or hear something beautiful. They need as much love and consideration as you and even more. They are the same human beings as you and I. Yes, they are retarded, they have sub-normal intelligence, but don't shed tears, or feel sorry for them. Do something! Start a crusade to stamp out Ignorance which makes people say things they really don't mean. Give these kids the same breaks you give your brothers, sisters, neighbors and friends in any other school, anywhere.

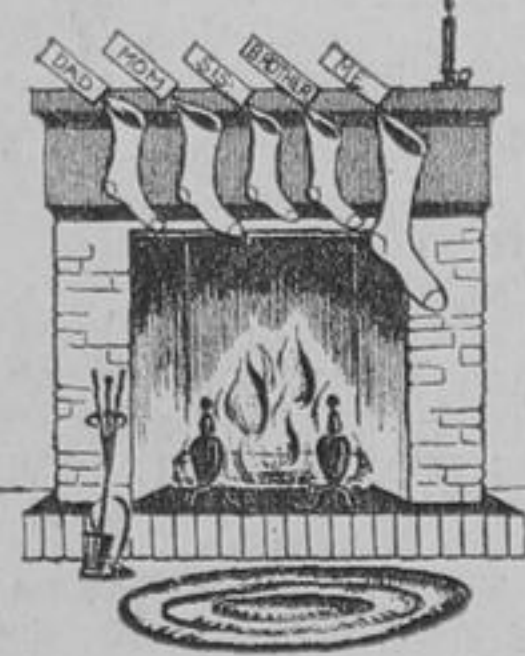
Finally, a very special thank-you to Mrs. Isabella Webb and the teachers and children at Thornhaven School where I spent a most enjoyable afternoon.

(Cathy Wilson is a secondary school student residing in Richmond Hill)

Students Christmas Card Blitz Aids Local Sheltered Workshop

Last night (Wednesday) and tonight (Thursday) secondary school students have been calling on homes in this area with packages of Christmas cards for sale, in support of the York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded. Some of the cards have been designed by retarded children. All proceeds will go to assist the work training centre for the adult retarded.

ARC Industries (Work Training Centre) was started in 1963 and serves the retarded in Richmond Hill, Agincourt, Markham, Stouffville, Thornhill, Oak Ridges, King and Woodbridge. All costs of the operation must be raised by parents and by fund raising drives. At present no funds are available from any other source.



True, it was 1963 when the association rented premises for a work training centre in Richmond Hill, but the sheltered workshop really began long before that date. Its roots go back to 1953 when parents of four mentally retarded children met with friends and executive members of the newly formed Ontario Association for Retarded Children at a public school in Thornhill.

The parents realized the time had come for them to seek a place in society for their children. They objected to the stigma and the heartbreak of watching a member of their family grow up lonely and friendless in a community that offered so many opportunities to all other children and adults. The Thornhill and District Association for Retarded Children was formed, a class established, and the four children went to school at last and found their first friends.

Since that time, after several years spent in rented quarters, the association has built its own school, has opened a pre-school program at Our Lady Queen of the World Church and has undertaken a full schedule of social programs for the Ontario Hospital at Aurora through the residential care committee.

In 1963 the operation of schools for retarded children was taken over by the Department of Education and all pupils 18 years of age and over had to be graduated.

The four original pupils were 15, 17, 22 and 24. Under the new regulations two of them and four others who had reached the age of 18 had to leave the school. However, this was not an end for them, it was the beginning of a second step in the original plan — adult training and work. It was a time for them to become useful and contributing members of the community.

ARC Industries (Work Training Centre) is a reality. The program operates in a bright, cheerful, industrial type building at the corner of Industrial and Enford Roads in Richmond Hill. Twenty-six young adults are enrolled; some are graduates of Thornhaven School, others have a background of public school opportunity class training and a few have special vocational high school experience.

ARC's purpose is also to attempt to place in community employment all young trainees who have the potential and to seek work from local industries for those who need a sheltered work situation. The centre provides not only work but a social life. Without it most trainees would lose all contact with life outside their home, become reclusive, unhappy and lonely individuals. It would be morally wrong for society to close its mind to the needs of these

Notice TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN EACHERN SMITH, late of the Town of Richmond Hill, in the County of York, Publisher, Deceased.

All persons having claims against the Estate of John Eachern Smith, late of the said Town of Richmond Hill, in the County of York, Publisher, who died on or about the 27th day of April 1967, are hereby required to send full particulars of such claims to the undersigned Executors on or before the 9th day of November 1967, after which date the Estate's assets will be distributed having regard only to claims that have been received.

DATED at Toronto this 11th day of October, A.D. 1967.

DORIS BLANCHE SMITH (nee Allely) and WILLIAM GRANVILLE CHAPIN, Executors, by their Solicitors, Mulock, Milliken, Clark & Redman, 71 Dominion Bank Building, 68 Yonge Street, Toronto 1, Ontario.

New Heating Units At Crosby Sr. School

Local Electrical Contractor S. W. Paxton is to be instructed to provide electric heating in four rooms at Crosby Senior School at a cost of \$397.56. Decision was made by the Richmond Hill Public School Board October 26.

Two small rooms designed for the use of physical education teachers were not originally provided with direct heating because it was assumed that heat from the gym would keep these inside rooms warm. This has not proved successful. Cost of providing electric baseboard units for the two rooms will be \$197.56.

Board Chairman Mrs. Deena Simpson told members that two other areas in the school also require similar heating. They were originally designed as store rooms.

"Because of the type of program in the senior school, various work areas are necessary for the teachers to prepare their lessons, and the temporary use of these two store rooms appears to be the most economical way of providing the facilities immediately." Members were told that Paxton Electric has submitted a price of \$200 to provide the necessary installations. Board agreed to the work being done for the total cost quoted.

MARKHAM VILLAGE: In spite of inclement weather this year's 3-day fall showed a profit of \$6,500. Increase in revenue of the midway was \$1,100. President in 1968 will be Joe Tran of Claremont RR2.

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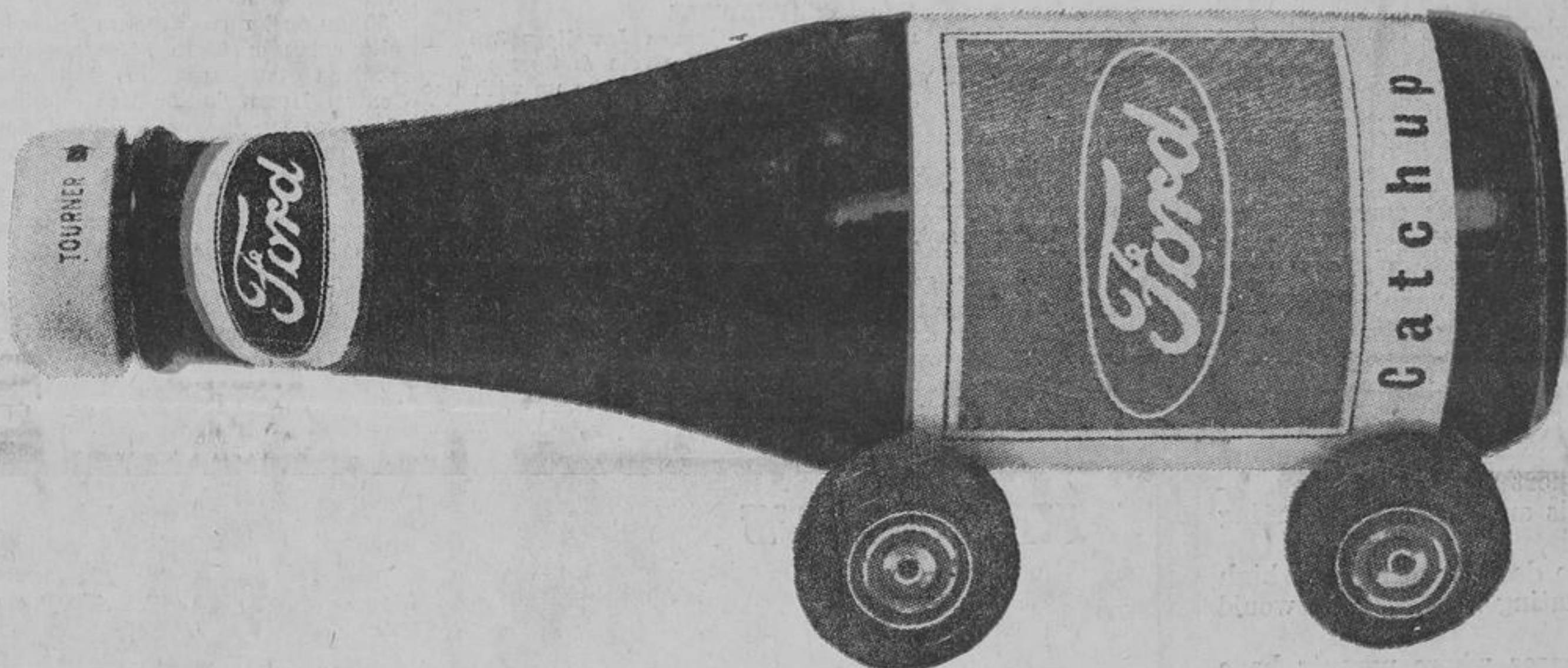
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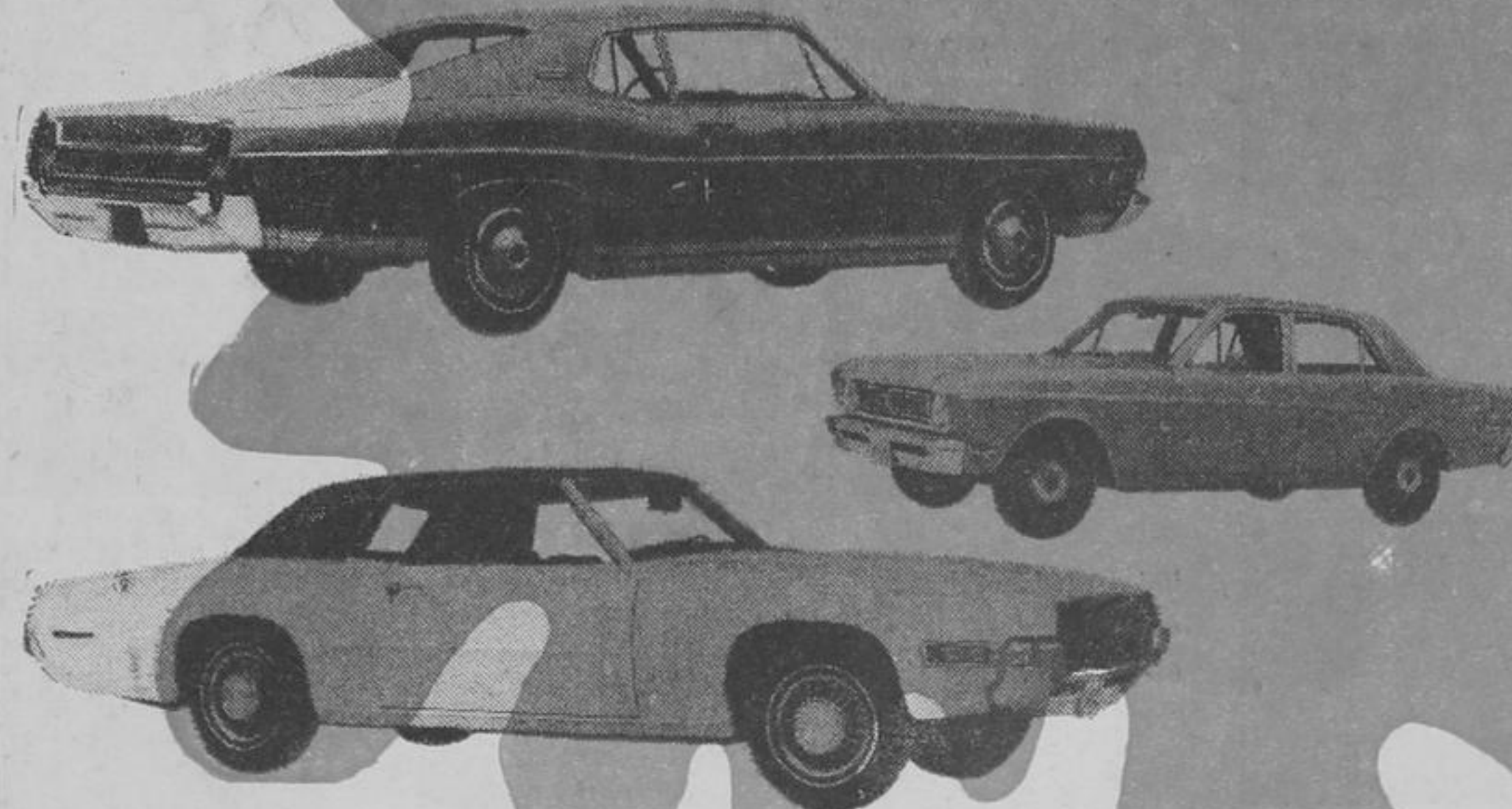
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