

Popular Nude Sculpture Gives Unionville Old Folks Home "Swinging" Image

BY HAROLD BLAINE
Did the Jolly Green Giant turn brown for fall, lose his leaves, and move to the lawn of Union Villa?

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Whatever the giant statue is, he's undoubtedly the conversation piece of Unionville Markham Town and Township.

The sculpture leaves nothing to the imagination about the male anatomy.

grandchild over his head in complete abandon.

It is on the lawn in front of Union Villa's glass-fronted dining room, facing southwest and the afternoon sun.

It is encountered by everyone approaching the entrance of the senior citizen residence, and dominates the scene.

There is no doubt the floodlit statue gives the place a pleasant human character and

the beach. Alas, reason has gently, knows that such an ac-

me so much of the cathedral builders of the Gothic age that my contribution became what it is," said sculptor Unter-

For Cal Pepler, administrator of Union Villa, the sculpture is a thing of beauty.

"I never come to work and pass by it without seeing a new sweep, or another graceful line," he says. "When I look

tion encompasses many of life's and best emotions. The sculpture is simply my way of saying "Gloria in excelsis deo."

"And standing there in Unionville, it is also a compliment to all whose strength of an urge of gladness, tossed a goodwill made the dream of child into the air and stood Unionville Home come true. It was that spirit which reminded

at I see it in its entirety, not just a particular section."

Whether the talk praises the statue or not doesn't really matter, says the administrator.

"The important thing is that the people here are talking about our home and coming out to see it. This is what we want."

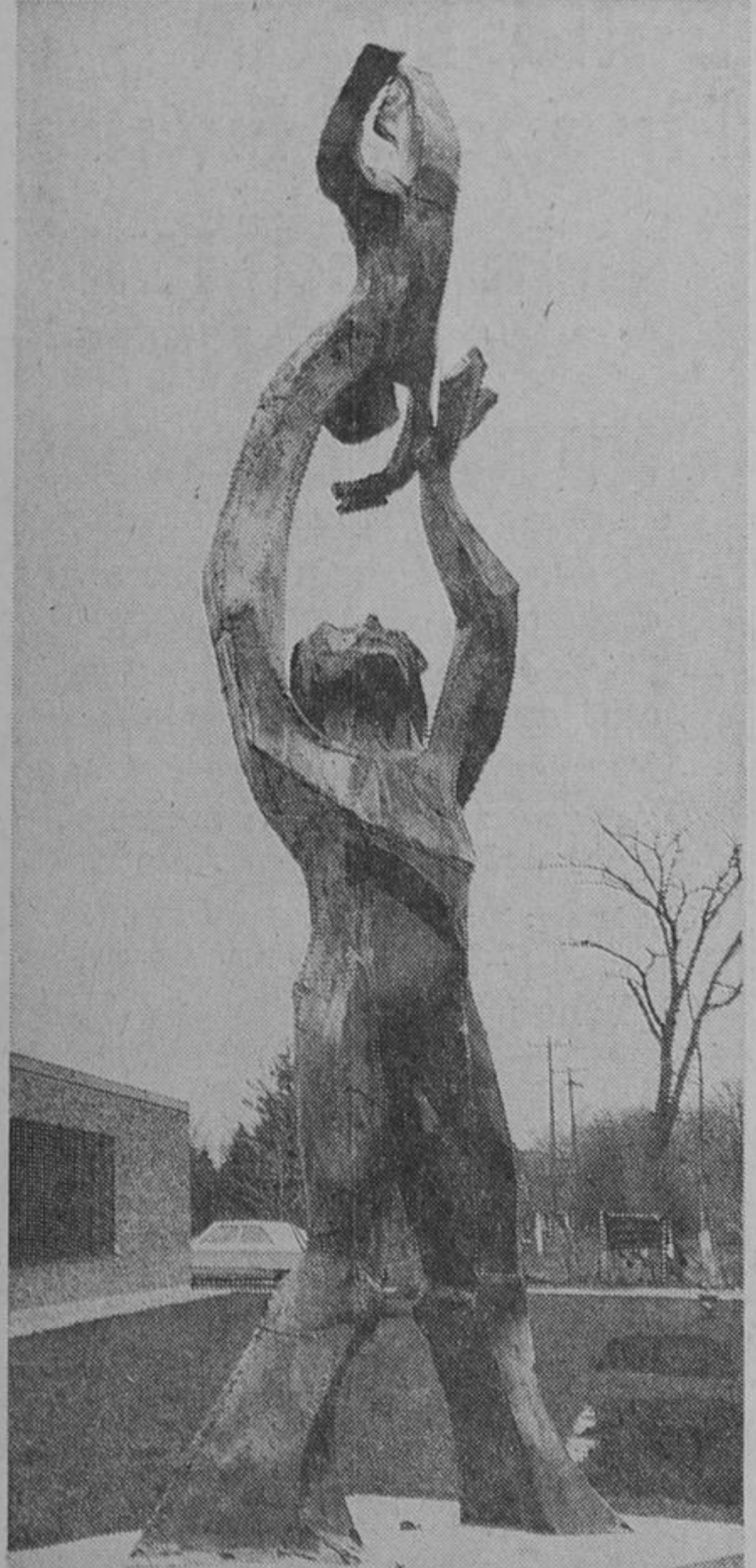
Union Villa is planned as

home for 163 elderly York County people. There are to be 80 single rooms, 25 double rooms, 16 double bed care rooms, and an infirmary. There are also craft rooms, a greenhouse, gift shop, a library, small dining areas where residents can entertain their families, a restaurant, television and interdenominational chapel.

and interdenominational chapel.

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

"Exuberance", the giant nude sculpture in front of Union Villa, has become quite a conversation piece and local attraction since the recent opening of the new senior citizens' residence at Unionville. The sculpture is intended to symbolize the exuberant and "swinging" life sought in the operation of this new community project.

Local residents in large numbers are having a look for themselves and are undoubtedly making up their minds about what they think.

Every day there is a steady stream of cars pulling off Highway 7 into the senior citizen home parking area.

The vehicles pause before the nude statue and move out again. Ladies pretend to be talking and peek.

Men just look.

"Everybody is getting their picture taken with it. I guess the old ladies like it," said one workman passing by.

"Look at that," he remarked to another visitor.

"You're a dirty old man," came the reply out of a wide grin.

"I think the thing is downright obscene," said one elderly woman.

"They should get the newspaper up and get a picture of it. They had one before, but it was covered up," said the workman.

The sculpture is of a nude man, twice life size, tossing his

makes it something other than just another building.

Habitues don't seem to even notice it. Female employees walk by, doing things like dig in their purses for car keys. They drive away without giving it a glance.

Youngsters ride by on bicycles and don't even notice.

Titled "Exuberance", the sculpture has engendered quite a bit of public comment, especially after Robert Andras, Federal Minister responsible for housing, officially opened Union Villa last month.

It is done in welded metal and is painted a lustrous brown.

According to its creator, Gerd Unterermann, a Berlin native now in Toronto, "Exuberance" is intended to symbolize the continuation of a virile and useful life. He sees his work in direct relationship to what is happening inside the residence.

"The people who look at 'Exuberance' and call it obscene are the same who hasten to cover a naked three-year-old on

Town Council Backs Tire Studs In North

The Ontario Government has taken steps to ban the use of studded tires in the province after April 30, 1971, Richmond Hill Town Council is on record as approving this legislation a few weeks ago, because of damage to the road surfaces and the highway markings.

Monday November 23, the same council approved a resolution from the Town of Timmins asking that the use of studded tires in Northern Ontario during the winter months be permitted. The northern gold mining town council believes the additional safety afforded by the use of studded tires "far outweighs alleged damage studs are supposed to cause to roadways."

Councillor Lois Hancey felt the government will understand that Richmond Hill favors the banning of studded tires in Southern Ontario but believes their use should be permitted in the northern part of the province.

Vaughan Township Council has officially backed the province's ban on the tires, but King Township Council on October 19 shelved the matter, as councillors expressed the belief that studded tires were not all bad.

Massachusetts motorists can use studded snow tires for three more years, it is reported, until results of two studies being conducted have been assessed. Even then, the proposed banning legislation will only limit their use to winter months, November to May.

Studded tires are already banned in three American states and allowed only seasonally in 21 others.

Holiday Season Hours Beer, Liquor Stores

Beer and liquor stores in Richmond Hill and other Ontario locations will be closed Christmas, Boxing and New Year's Days and will close at 6 pm Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Spokesmen for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and Brewer's Warehousing Company Limited said outlets that normally close at 6 or 8 pm will remain open until 9 pm December 21, 22, 23 and 30 in most areas.

Hours in stores that normally stay open until 10 pm most of which are in Metropolitan areas will remain the same.

Beer stores that normally open at noon will open two hours earlier December 24 and 31.

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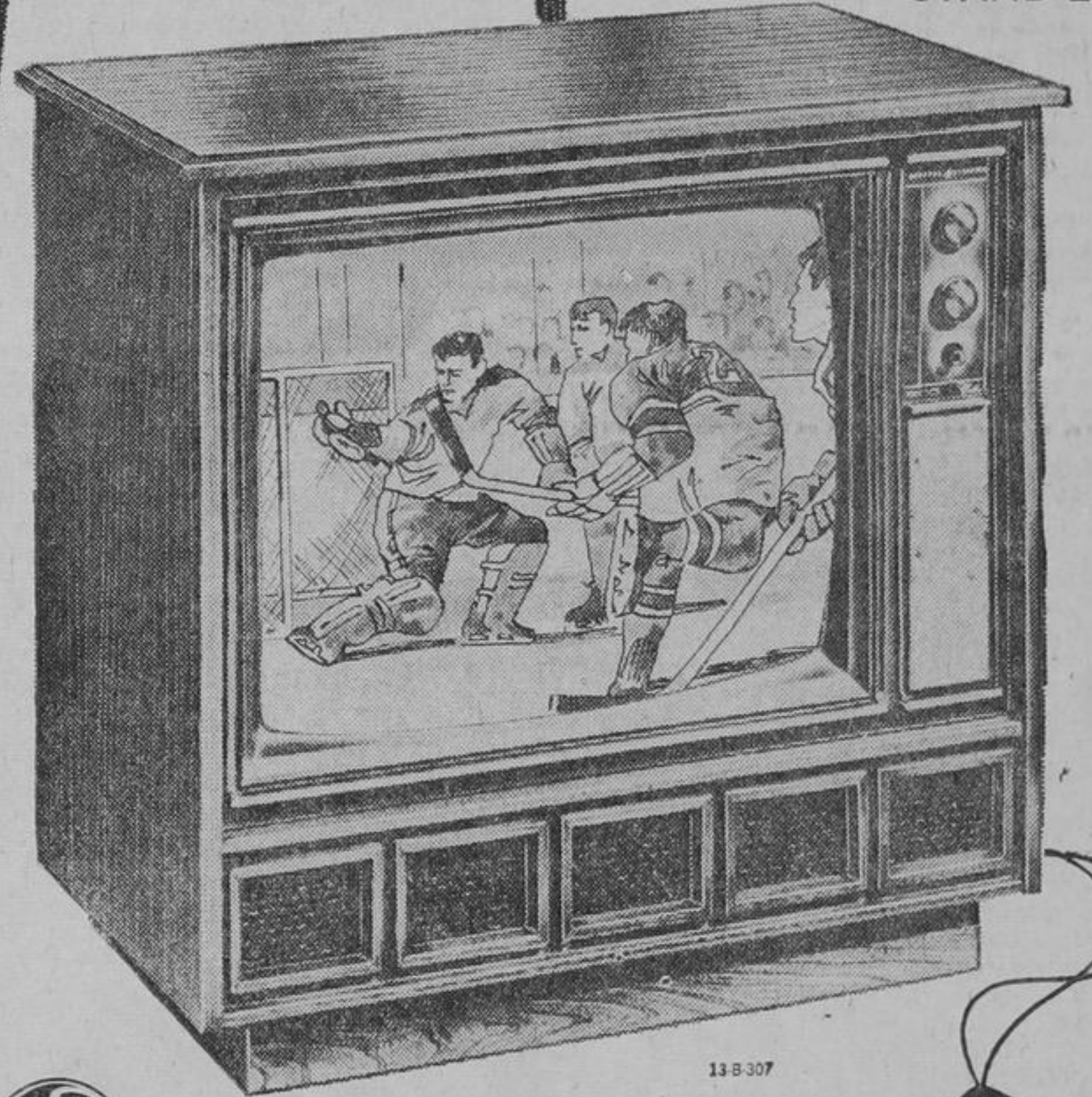


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