

Election races in King for Ward 2, Ward 5 and mayoralty

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By Fred Simpson
It won't be anywhere near a donnybrook but the December 2 elections in King Township should produce a ripple of sorts as Ward 2 Councillor Murray Sheardown takes on Mayor Margaret Britnell for the top job in the municipality.



MURRAY SHEARDOWN
Mayorality candidate

Councillor Sheardown is testing the staying powers of a woman for two main reasons:
"I've been a councillor for the past four years and that's long enough. It's time to move up or out. The second reason is that I'm tired of having someone in the higher office who is always looking for the vote 24 hours a day."



MARGARET BRITNELL
Runs again in King

Mayor Britnell is simply running on a platform of continuing "thrift and stability".

Ward 2 race
The void left in Ward 2 with Sheardown's move will be filled by one of two aspiring new members to the election wars: Risdon Atkinson, 43, of RR 1, Schomberg, a retired farmer; and Dr. David Harper, 41. Both men live on the outskirts of Nobleton.

Ward 5 race
One other council incumbent is in for a race for his position. Ward 5 Councillor Ben Rough will be challenged by Doug Brookes of Kettleby who is a retired electrician turned operator of the Kettleby Milk Store.



WILLIAM LONG
Unopposed in Ward 1

Unopposed are Ward 1 Councillor Bill Long (King City area); Stan Kumiski, Ward 3 (west part of the township); William Forhan, Ward 4 (Schomberg - Pottageville); and Councillor Jack Van Luyk commonly referred to as the "Mayor of Holland Marsh" in tribute to his popularity there.

Stable administration
Mayor Britnell told "The Liberal" that "in the past two years I've tried to run a very stable administration concentrating on thrifty financial housekeeping in a time when inflation is making it difficult for most of us and impossible for others".

She said, "We in King council have tried to set the example by doing our part to fight inflation. We've accomplished this by reducing the taxes we are responsible for by \$26 per \$20,000 home assessment last year and still managed to top off \$2 this year."

She stressed the municipality "is only responsible for a half million dollars or 22 percent of our whole budget which, of course, severely limits us. We have no control over monies required by the schools or regional government".

Mayor Britnell said "the reduction in taxes this year was made possible by good planning and managing and paring costs where necessary, but not at the expense of our services to the ratepayers which have increased".

She said that while "there has been a slight increase in assessment because of new homes, this has been offset by the reduction of grants to the municipality by the province."

No debentures
"We've tried to counter this by a policy of restricting capital expenditures to what can be paid out of the general levy. We haven't debentured for anything."

Mayor Britnell considers one of her major accomplishments over the past two years of office was seeing that "senior citizens here got a fair shake from the province".

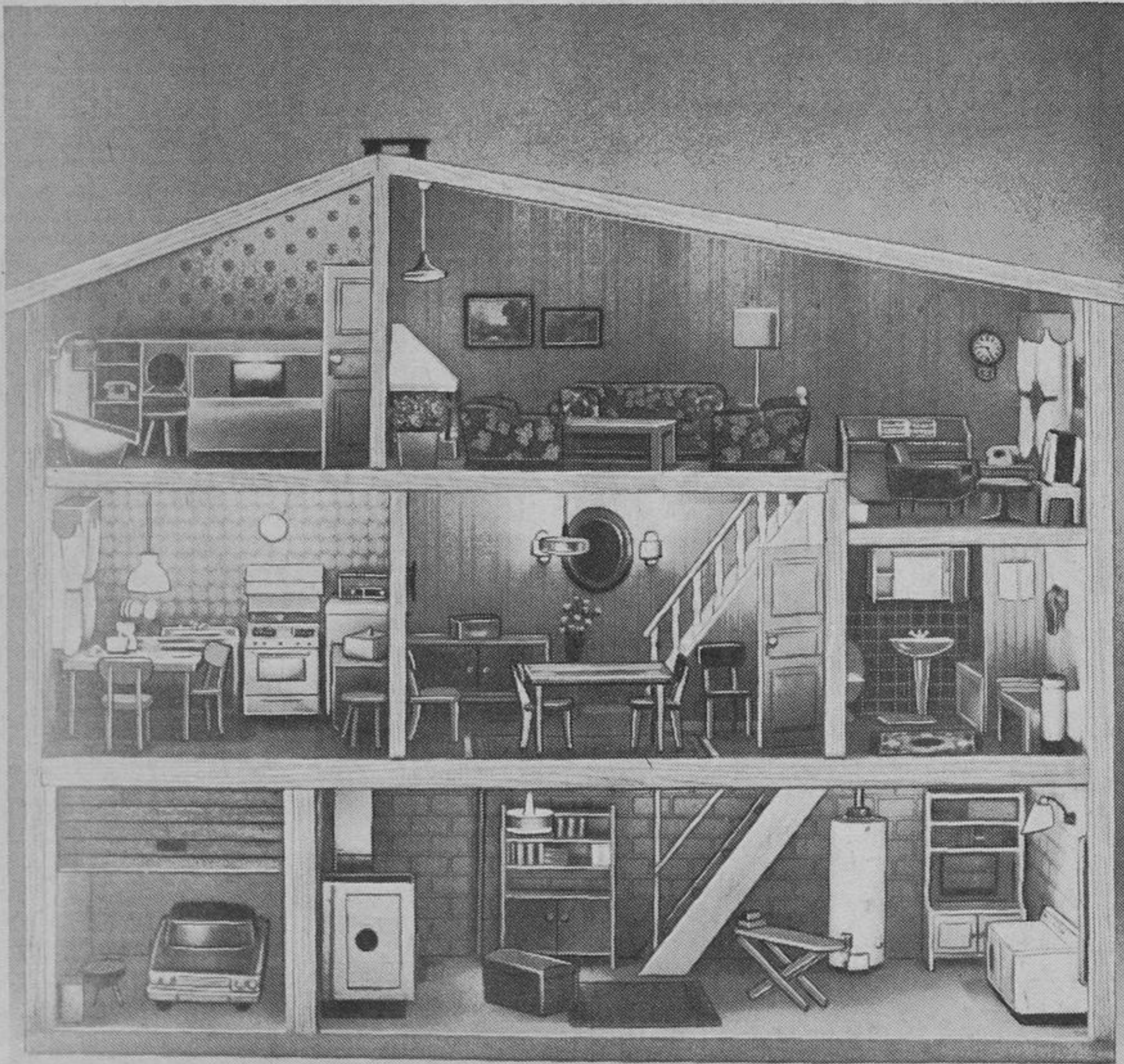
She recalled her talks with "Ontario Housing on behalf of senior citizens to persuade the powers-that-be to permit senior citizen units to be built on septic tank beds. They were dead against this at first."

"Now we're in the process of having 22 units approved for King City and another 26 for Nobleton, so we're headed in the right direction."

Mayor Britnell made only one "promise in my last campaign and this was to see our new comprehensive zoning bylaw through. This was accomplished by a 6-1 vote in council."

"We now have an amicable working relationship with our municipal staff which bodes well for the future."

Finally: "The road situation has been corrected and I've had very few complaints about their conditions which is a pleasant change from other years."



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identity and seeing that we're not overwhelmed by urban development. I like our present life style and I want to keep it that way".

Councillor Sheardown is also for maintaining such things as "volunteer fire departments".

He's also against the "growing power of regional government which every year keeps chipping away at our municipality and getting more remote from the people. This is a trend all over and I'm opposed to it".

Councillor Sheardown isn't very elated over his municipality's official plan and comprehensive zoning bylaw.

I think there's too much emphasis being placed on zoning. I've heard nothing but this on council for the past two years and all this planning hasn't really changed anything."

Ward 1 Councillor Long thinks the passing of the comprehensive zoning bylaw was a major victory and "that was the reason I decided to run for office in the first place".

He acknowledged that "it is anything but a perfect document at the present time. Things have been left out, are redundant, or need revising."

"But we are compelled by the planning act to undertake complete review of the bylaw next year and any major failings can be looked into at that time."

Councillor Long doesn't want the township to be over-run by urban development for "ecological as well as economic reasons. Mr. Long is chairman of the township's planning committee."

Orderly development
"But it is unrealistic to be against development entirely. Instead, we should work toward slow and orderly development."

Inflation is a continuing problem and "it's really hurting us in many ways, including supplies of road materials, maintenance, etc."

Councillor Long would like to see a close study made of King's administration procedures as another means of fighting inflation.

"I don't have any facts but I have the suspicions that we are wasting too much time and money in possibly outdated methods at our administrative level."

"It's difficult to ask ratepayers to fight inflation when we're wasting money

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business in Kettleby for the past six years. He is married with three children. Ward 2 aspirant Atkinson is also married with four children. He is a member of the King Historical Society,

Nobleton Curling Club and "being retired can devote my full time to the job". His opponent, Dr. Harper, has been a King resident for 13 years, has served three terms on the separate school

board, and feels a "strong man is needed to represent Ward 2". Advance polls in King will be open November 23 at the township offices on King Sideroad near Highway 400.

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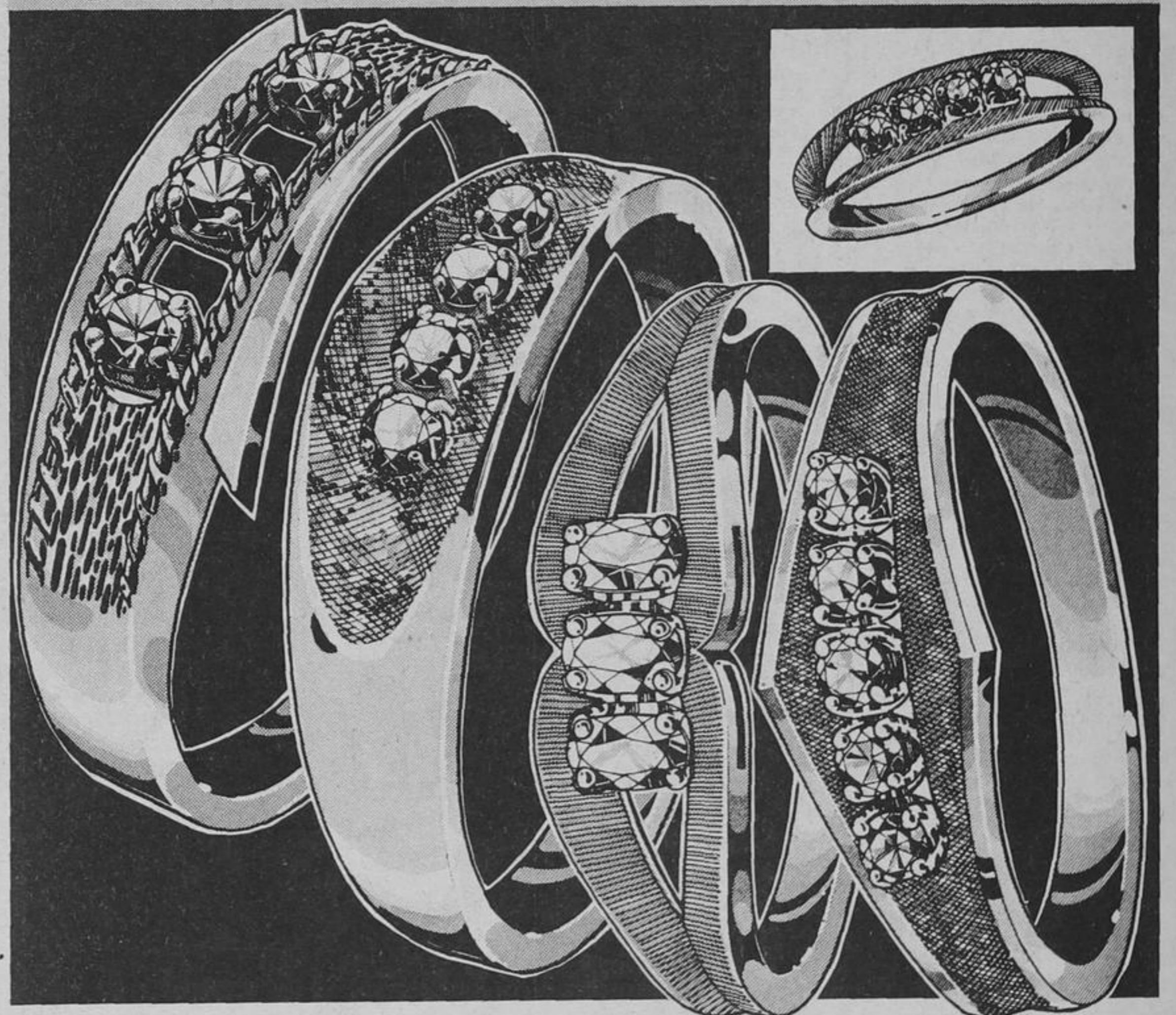
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