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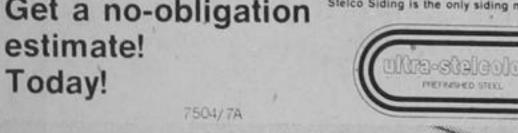
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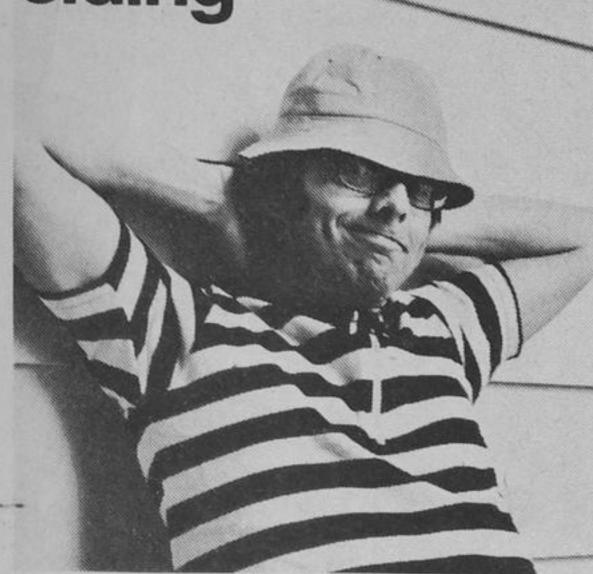
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Robert Little, 89, venerable businessman-citizen

By Denise Romberg The town of Richmond Hill school in Guelph, and with has been honored with a fantastically creative man. Robert D. Little is that man.

created a Ford dealership that served not only Richmond Hill, but a surrounding 50 miles radius. In 1946, he created a book

Almost 50 years ago he

of poetry and from an intensive hobby, he has created his own registered iris hybrids. He's done a lot in his

lifetime. He's seen Richmond Hill grow from a point was disturbed by the village of 1200 residents to war. In 1917, Little joined the the thriving and virtual United States Air Force. As suburban city it is today.

R.D., as he's known to Texas. many, was born in Campbellville, Ontario.

Back in 1916, when he left his certificate in business, he began his induction into the automotive industry.

He took time, almost 20 years, to learn the ins and outs of the world's leading business.

He worked for Ford Motor Company for six years. He spent a few years with General Motors too — just to sort of round out his education.

Joined air force But his education, at this a pilot, he was stationed in

When he was discharged, two years later, he returned

to Ford. This time he was secretary to the chief engineer at the Ford plant, Park in Detroit.

Things started going badly for Ford. Their competitor, General Motors was growing, and Henry Ford's finances were suffering.

"He ran out of money and had to close down the plant for six weeks", Little explained.

Believed in Ford Nevertheless, Little believed in Ford.

to Richmond Hill and opened his Ford dealership, he saw then located at Highland the potential. The car was an

spotlight on people

unusual product then. His first big seller was the

"We sold 100 Model "A" Fords in 1930," he says. "There were no salesmen then either. My brother and I sold all the cars''.

Businessman still removed from the car ago." business today. Sure he

breezes into the office each

In 1927, when Little moved day to sort through the mail and check out a new car. He dresses in a dapper suit and tie and looks much younger

than his 89 years. His afternoons command Model 'A', which came out in other interests. Since his air force days, Little has been writing humorous verse, or limericks.

"I enjoy writing", he says. "I particularly enjoyed writing the poem that was read at the hospital fund Little is somewhat raising dinner about a week

> One of his first attempts at writing limericks was this, a

contest entry:

A private from Kalamazoo One day found a mouse in the stew.

Said the sergeant, "Don't

And wave it about Or the others will want one

More of his poems have been published in a book called "Rhyme and Reason".

Vollers

Loves gardening

greenhouse to our home". Little specializes in hybridizing irises and lilies.

1956, I decided to attach a In fact, he has registered and named four different

irises he developed. Little is a member of the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society and a past president of the Ontario Horticultural

Association. Local politician

He was a politician too. During the four years he served on town council, he spent a good deal of his time on both the public and high school boards.

Little is a past district governor of the Southern Little has been an "avid Ontario Lions Clubs and his gardener" for many years, membership in the Richhe says. "When we built the mond Hill Lions dates back house on Arnold Streeet in to its inception.





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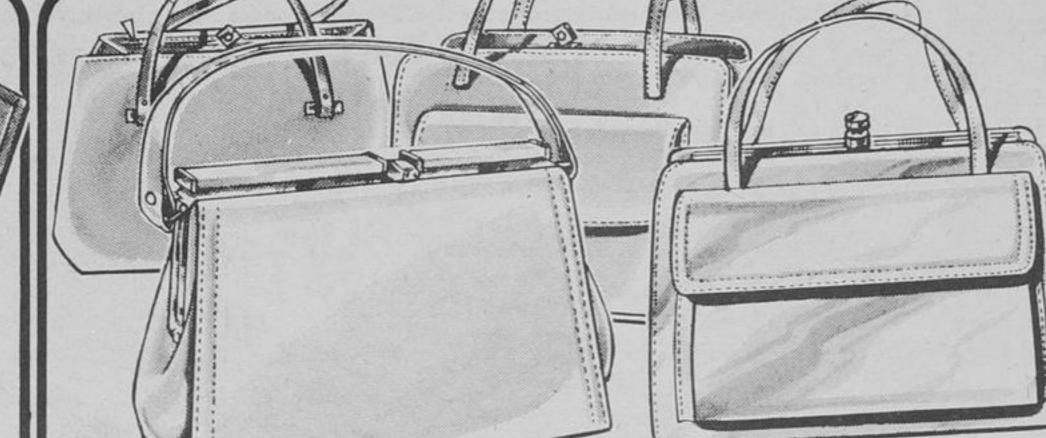
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