



Laurie and Jeremy

(Photo by Samita)

Listening while her "Partner" Jeremy does the talking, 16-year-old Laurie Knight is shown in a practice session for her ventriloquist act that

has already launched her on an entertainment career. Laurie is a student at Richmond Hill's Don Head Secondary School.

Laurie aims for TV career

By Peter Logue

RICHMOND HILL — As soon as Laurie Knight saw her first ventriloquist, she decided right away that she would become one, too.

That was at the Kleinburg Binder Twine Festival in 1974, and Laurie, then 14, got her first dummy later that year. She's now a third-year student at Don Head Secondary School and with a couple of years' work behind her is already on her way to a career in the entertainment business.

"I was told I was good from the start," Laurie says, "but at first I was just like any other ventriloquist. I decided I needed a gimmick more than anything else."

So one of her dummies (partners, they're called) she dressed in a pair of overalls and "patched up a little hat for him. I thought 'country' would be best; it's so cute.

"I named him Jeremy Knight, and in the act he's my little brother. For myself I bought a beautiful red, country-style dress and set my hair in ringlets around my face, in pigtales."

Laurie's first public performance was in 1975 at a Don Head School open house and fashion show. For this occasion she had a partner named Hiemy, who did the announcing while she walked down the aisle modelling clothes.

Later she entertained at the Richmond Hill spring fair and went on to make television appearances on CITY-TV and several cable stations.

She is being promoted by Talent Search Productions, which has already put her through a series of modelling courses and acting sessions.

This month, she is auditioning for television commercials and variety shows on the CBC network.

"Altogether I have nine partners," Laurie says, "but Jeremy is my favorite." She orders the dummies from a New York dealer and dresses them to suit her own ideas.

She hopes to find a career in television, but for the meantime at least she is available to perform at

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M.L. Perkins
Maintenance Manager

Parent-teen course offered

Helen Adams
correspondent
881-1621

unionville

UNIONVILLE — A new course that could help parents communicate with their teenage children begins Thursday evening at Franklin Street School.

Sponsored by the Markham Family Life Centre, the course will stress practical methods of coping with problems and creating a good home atmosphere between parents and teens.

Among the points to be discussed are "constructive rebellion" and "bridging the generation gap."

Fees are \$25 for singles, \$40 for couples and the organizers are asking for registration by phone. Call 294-2371.

The course is also being offered in Stouffville Tuesday evenings.

Donor Clinic 14 pt

The third and final Markham blood donor clinic of the year takes place today (Wednesday) from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Grace Anglican Church. Babysitting service is

available. UCW bazaar 14 pt

Donations are now being lined up for the annual Christmas bazaar sponsored by United Church Women at St. Andrews in Markham.

Anyone requiring information or wishing to make a contribution to the white elephant table may call Nancy Rowe at 294-1719.

The bazaar takes place Nov. 5, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Do you have a will?

What should your will say? That's for you to decide, together with whoever draws it up.

To help you give thought in advance to some of the questions that your lawyer (or alternatively in Quebec, your notary) will ask, Sun Life of Canada has prepared a booklet that can assist you in your thinking. It's called "Planning Your Will" and it's yours for the asking.

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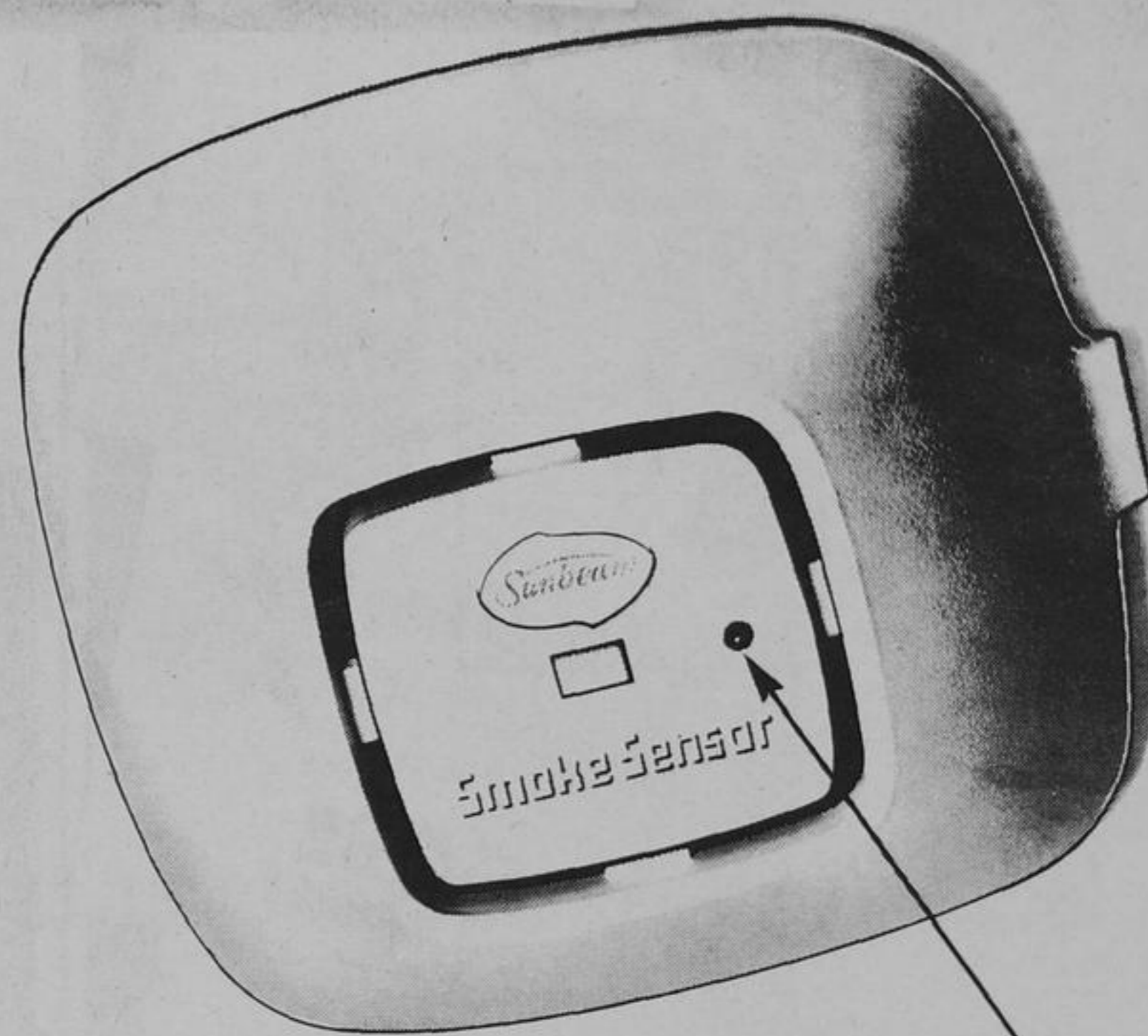
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With so many smoke detectors available, how do you choose? These facts might help you.

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