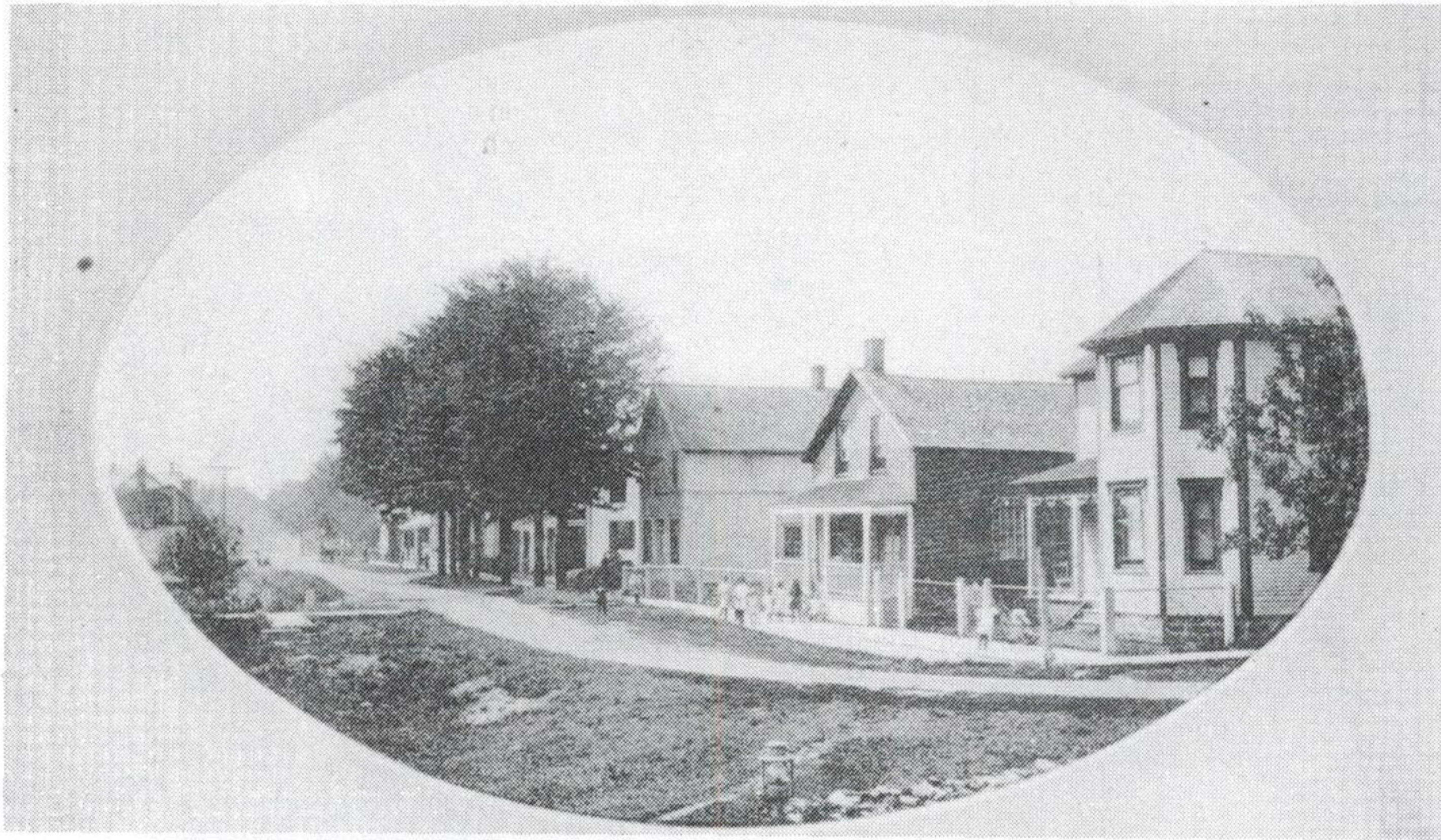


# Backtrack



Mill Street, Russell, looking west (from an old postcard).



Lola Wood and George Young right present final payment cheque of \$1000 of the Agricultural Society pledge to the arena fund. Accepting the cheque is

Marylin Sullivan, R.A. President and Keith Boothe, Treasurer.

## Pigs'n Poodles

By Dr. Geoff Cochrane

### ABOUT RABIES

Rabies is a virus disease of all warm-blooded animals. It is characterized by severe disturbance of the central nervous system and can be fatal.

Rabies exists on all continents except Australia and Antarctica. Approximately 24 countries, mainly islands, are free of rabies.

As many as 6,000 people die from rabies each year around the world. Approximately 500,000 cattle a year die in Central America. Rabies has been present in Canada since at least 1947 when it was confirmed in Arctic sled dogs. The disease has spread mainly in foxes and coyotes.

In Canada, the disease is spread largely by foxes, skunks and racoons.

In cattle and humans, the infection is often fatal and not generally transmitted to other individuals.

A dog, in the paralytic stage, becomes placid, seldom bites and shows extreme depression. Its mouth may gape open, tongue protrudes, and it may be unable to drink or bark. An ascending paralysis of the limbs starts to occur.

### CONTROL OF RABIES

If rabies is suspected, the local office of the health of animals branch of the Department of Agriculture. The animal should be confined (rabies will usually be evident within 10 days of contraction). Special tests are usually carried out at federal laboratories to confirm the presence of the disease.

### SIGNS OF THE DISEASE

Rabies has three phases: prodromal, excitative, paralytic. The prodromal phase is characterized by a change in the animals disposition. A quiet animal becomes active, an active animal becomes nervous and shy. There may be salivation, snapping at the air, barking and facial twitching.

In the excitative stage, the animal may show a stronger appetite even to the point of swallowing sticks and stones. They may run many miles with attempts to go through rather than around obstacles. They may be vicious and violent.

Vaccination is very important in the control of rabies. Dogs and cats can usually be vaccinated after they are three months old. Animals are fully protected within three weeks of vaccination. A booster vaccination is recommended annually.

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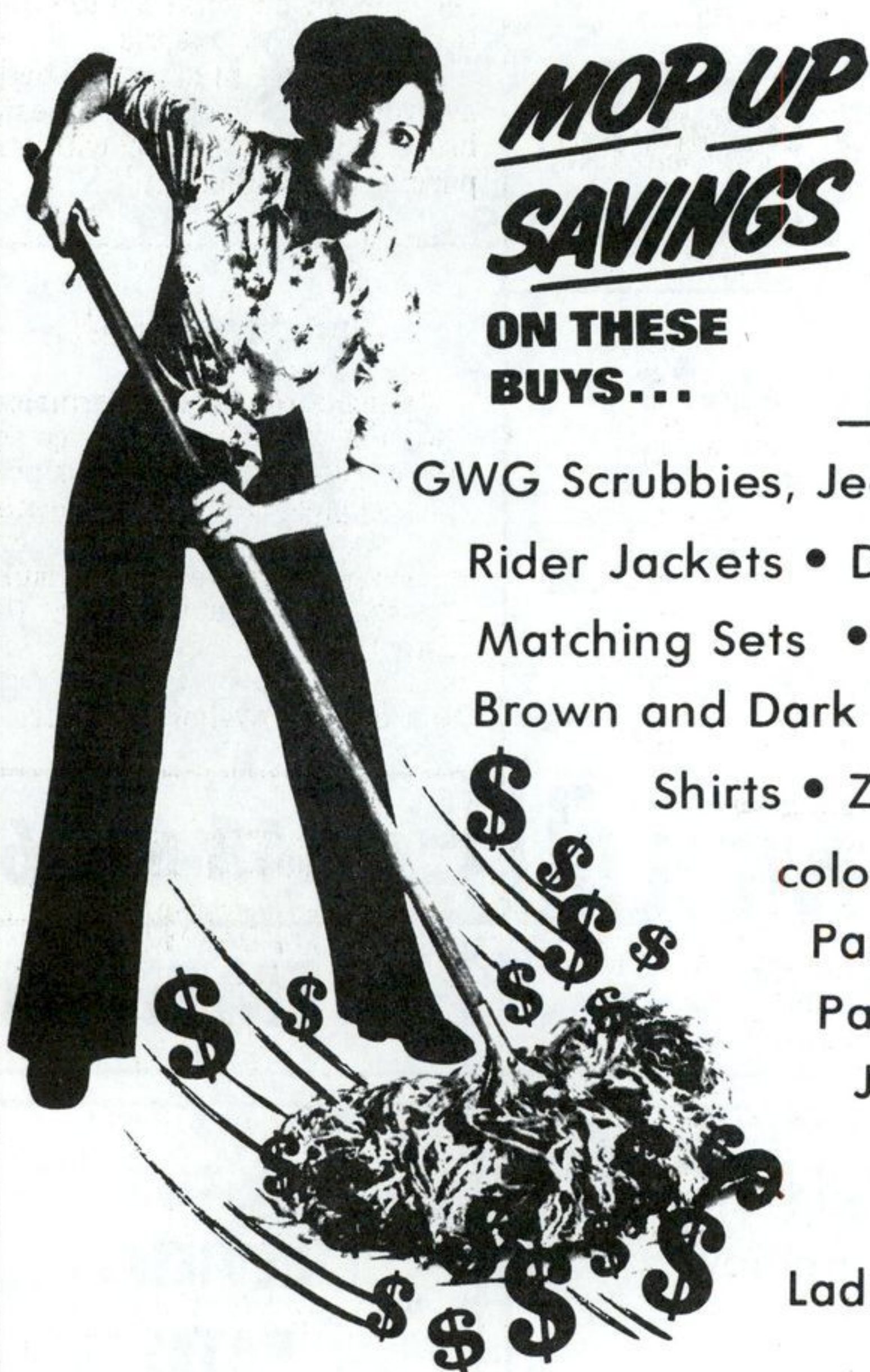
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