

## Second Comers Often Have Better Chance

First Discoverers in the Gold Camps did not Always Receive the Benefit of Their Luck.

It is a well-known axiom that "the man who tells the first story doesn't have a chance." It seems almost as true that the man who has the first chance in a new gold area hasn't the story to tell. In the case of so many successful and profitable mining ventures it is known that some one else had the "first whack at it" but for some reason or other did not carry on to receive the full advantage. The case of Hollinger is a famous one. Where Benny Hollinger and Alex Gillies staked what is now the Hollinger they found that some one had carried on work there years before and apparently had dropped the proposition. At the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the discovery of gold in the Porcupine camp reference was made to this preliminary work on the Hollinger claims. Red Lake furnishes another example. Gus McManus was the first prospector to attempt the development of the gold

industry in the Red Lake area. Yet Howey and other properties have been successfully developed in Red Lake district while Gus McManus has not found as yet the success he richly merits for his Red Lake properties. It will likely come later, thus proving the most lucky in the gold camps.

The idea is developed in interesting way in an article last week in "Grab Samples" in The Northern Miner. The "Grab Samples" column says: "It has often been said that first comers in the mining game are not always the fortunate ones. This is true of Porcupine and Kirkland Lake, of course, the early prospectors having passed up the riches of Croesus for the later, more fortunate or more persistent followers of the goddess of chance to pick up. The best pit found on the Hollinger which showed that some unfortunate had failed to recognize gold when he saw it, the channelled veins that Harry Oakes found on the Lake Shore; these are items of evidence of the fickleness of Fortune.

"The discovery of gold on Elk Island in Gods Lake by Bob Jowsey was another poignant instance of the failure of luck. Jack Hammell says that two of his men, out for N.A.M.E. years before Jowsey spotted the favorable area on Wright's geological map tried their bacon on that vein for months. Imma-

gine his embarrassment!

"Then the late Dr. J. McIntosh Bell noticed the Eldorado outcrop on Great Bear Lake twenty years before Gilbert LaBine trudged with his snowblind companion along the southeast shore of the great lake in the spring of 1930, to discover pitchblende and silver. But Bell was in a hurry, a long way from home, without guides and with the odd skiff of snow giving him a warning to travel south as fast as he could.

"Another instance of the second comers having all the luck is coming to light. If the gold discoveries on Lake Athabaska amount to anything—and there are plenty of high grade samples now coming out—somebody will feel like elating himself. The ground was staked before, about 1929. Ventures had a few men in that area at the time and still retain a large staking about two miles from the main show. A man named Paulsen has a large block of ground a mile away, where he has been persistently working for six years, driving a tunnel. He may yet be rewarded. But if the claims staked by Great Bear Lake Mines last year turn out well, the original prospectors who failed to find the gold which is abundantly in evidence, will have cause to reflect on what might have been."

## National Anthem of Wales and Its Story

National Anthem that Interests so Many Here when Sung by Welsh Choir First Played on the Harp.

At the recent concerts given by the Porcupine Welsh Miners' Choir a special feature of interest has been the Welsh National Anthem. A Timmins Welshman, a friend of The Advance, some days ago handed in a newspaper clipping giving the story of this national anthem. It is of particular interest here at this time. The story as given in a Welsh newspaper is as follows:—

"Such is a story that surrounds the birth of a national anthem that means so much to all Welsh people, and cannot be heard by the English without the experience of a thrill.

"It was on a glorious Sunday morning that Evan James was sitting meditating outside his house at Pontypridd. The gleaming river was running close at hand, within sight of the pretty bridge that spanned the stream.

"Beyond him were the mountains and behind, the great Rhondda Valley run-

ing upwards towards Porth and Tony-pandy.

"Something was stealing into the heart of Evan James—a man inspired with all the fervor of his race, and the abiding love of it.

"Strange and meaning words were throbbing across his mind as chords are swept over the strings of a harp. He knew that it was an inspiration that had come to him and, excitedly, he called to his son, James.

"Bring your harp quickly, James," he cried, "I want you to play to words that have come to me."

"James came, and, seated in the sunshine, he touched the chords of the harp to the words that his father declaimed, and noble words that son found them to be.

"They were words that demanded something other than an ordinary accompaniment, and those two were in such harmony now as they never knew before.

"It was just as though fate were compelling dual inspiration both of words and music, but perhaps they did not realize the greatness of the tune or the nobility of the words, as the sun shone down on the river and cast its radiance upon the pretty bridge.

"So, flushed with excitement at their achievement, with the music and the words written down, Mrs. James,

returning from church, found them.

"She was strict in her observance of the Sabbath, and she roundly reproved husband and son for having seen fit to play the harp on such a day.

"Evan James silenced her, by reminding her of the harp of David at the feast, and a little while later she was listening to what the Sunday morning had brought forth.

"Something that was as spiritual as the service she had attended had come to life. 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' ('Land of My Fathers') was alive in the world, and had come to give new national life to the principality.

"Land of My Fathers' swayed through Wales as a fire roars through the bracken, and it stands out as one of the first four national songs of the world, a masterpiece both in words and in music, and that will remain alive as long as the land that inspired it.

"O land of my fathers, the land of the free.

The land of the Telyn so soothing to me;

Thy noble defenders were gallant and brave.

For freedom their hearts' life they gave.

"Wales, Wales, home sweet home is Wales.

Till death be passed my love shall

last.

My longing, my yearning for Wales.

"But you have to hear those words of Evan James sung in the Welsh that he wrote them in to understand their glory as they link with the melody of this immortal song."

**URGES IMMEDIATE START ON TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY**

An editorial note in The Northern Tribune of Kapuskasing says:—"The eastern division of the trans-Canada air route could be opened within a month, a former Minister of National Defence announces. Some time in 1936, it is said, the whole route from coast to coast can be inaugurated. There should be no further delay in surveying the companion highway west from Hearst as far as Lake Nipigon at present, and getting construction started, because the national highway would be an important corollary of the national airway and national railway. Thousands of Canadians are jobless and needy; this project would absorb thousands."

Hamilton Spectator:—"It is possible to read newspapers on the Niagara highway now the new sodium vapor lamps have been installed. And we suppose some sap will try doing it while driving 60 m.p.h."

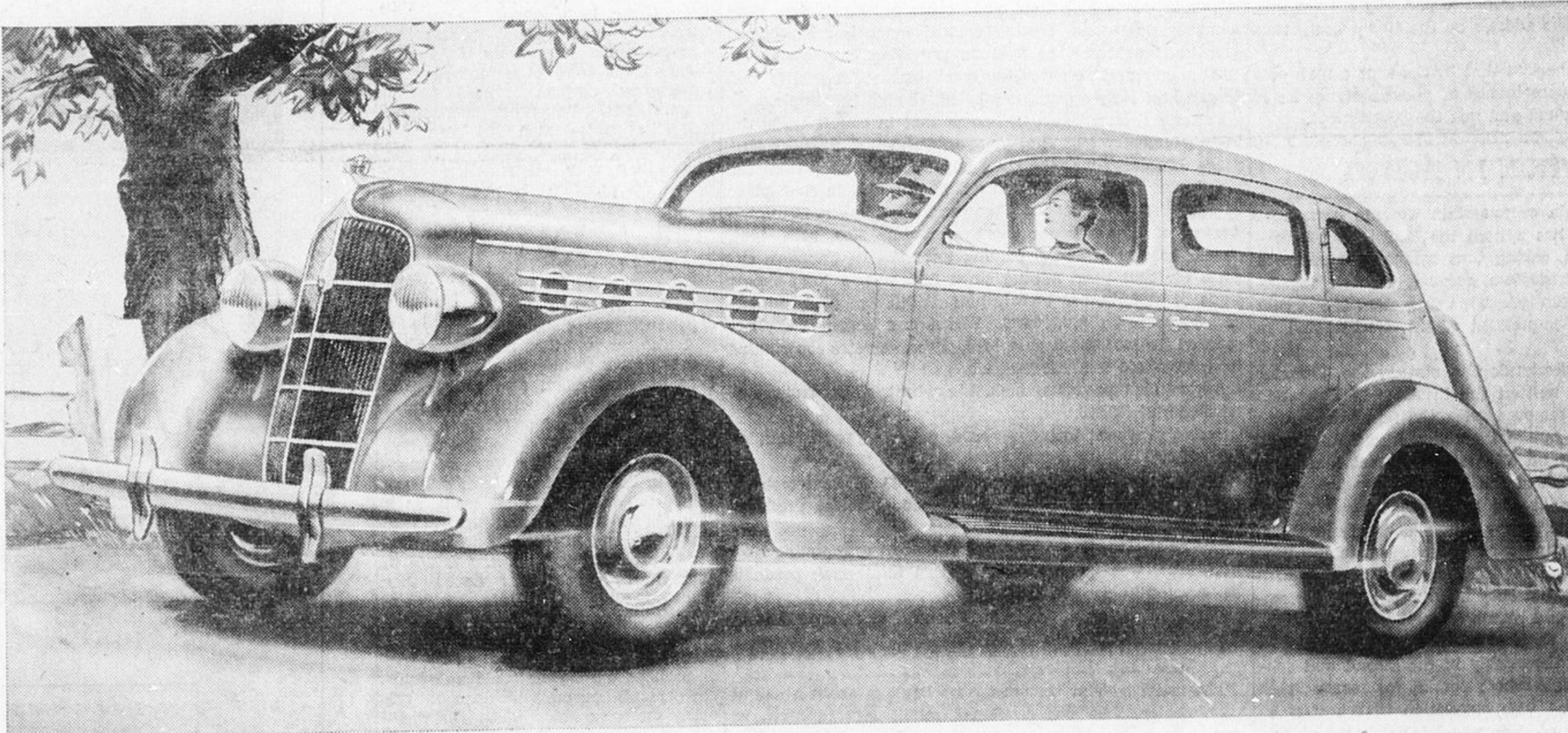
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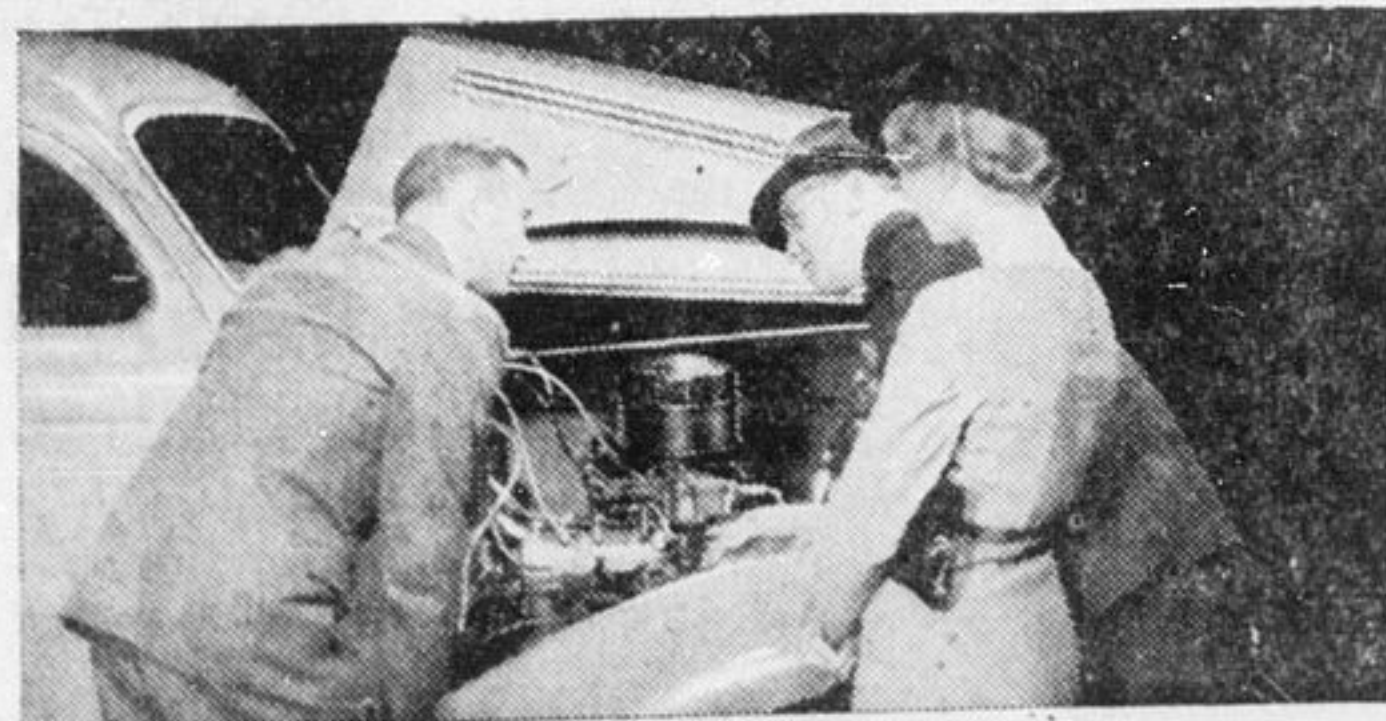
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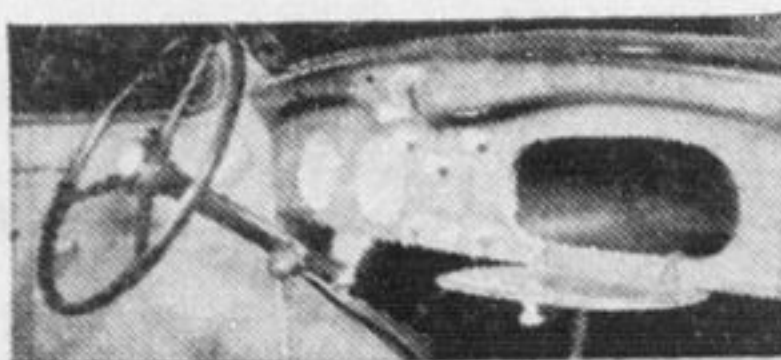
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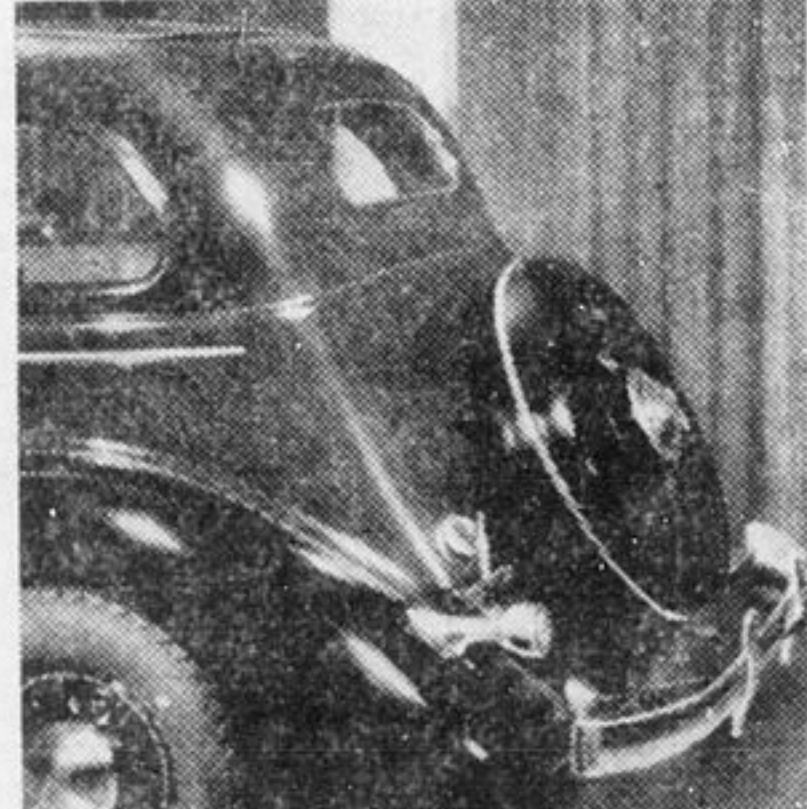
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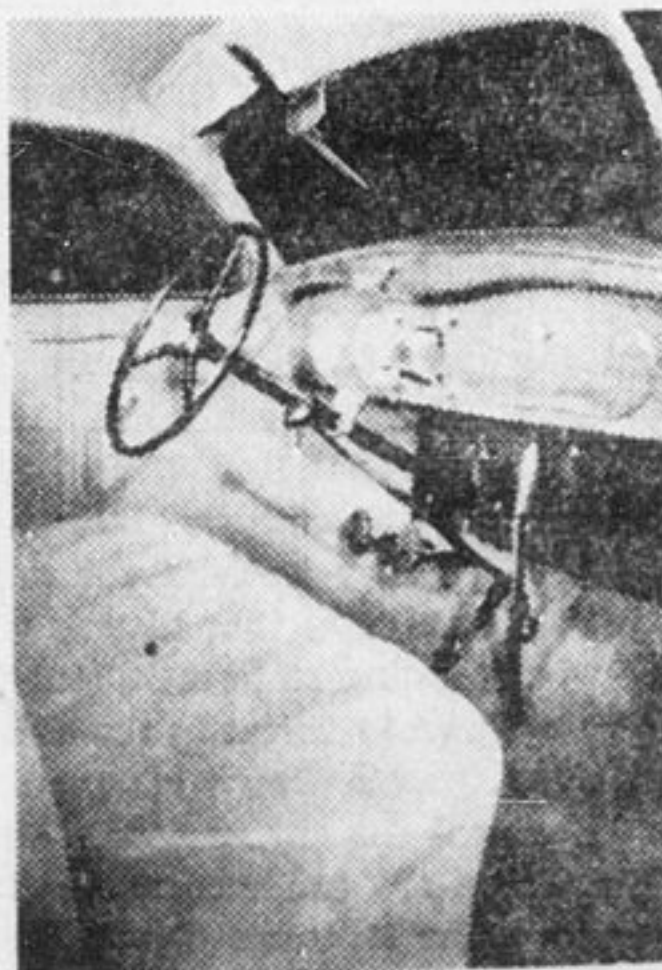
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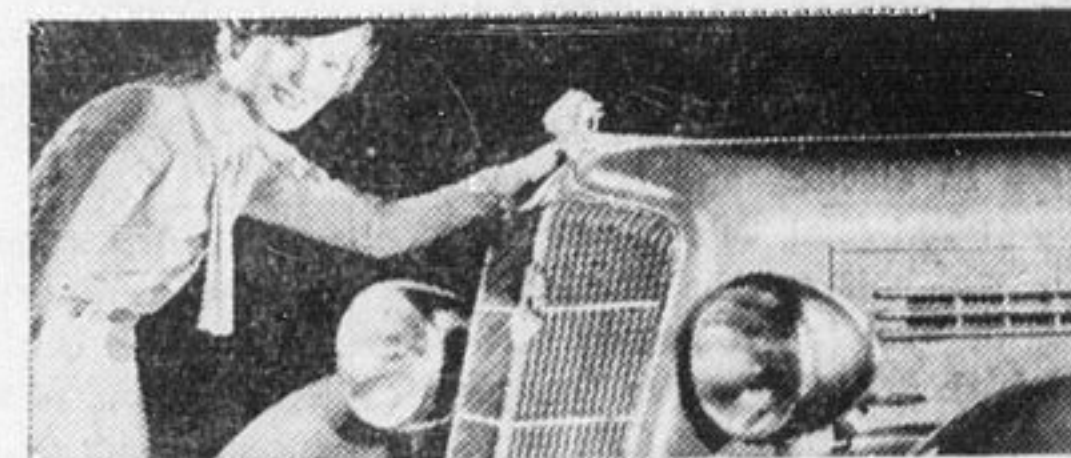
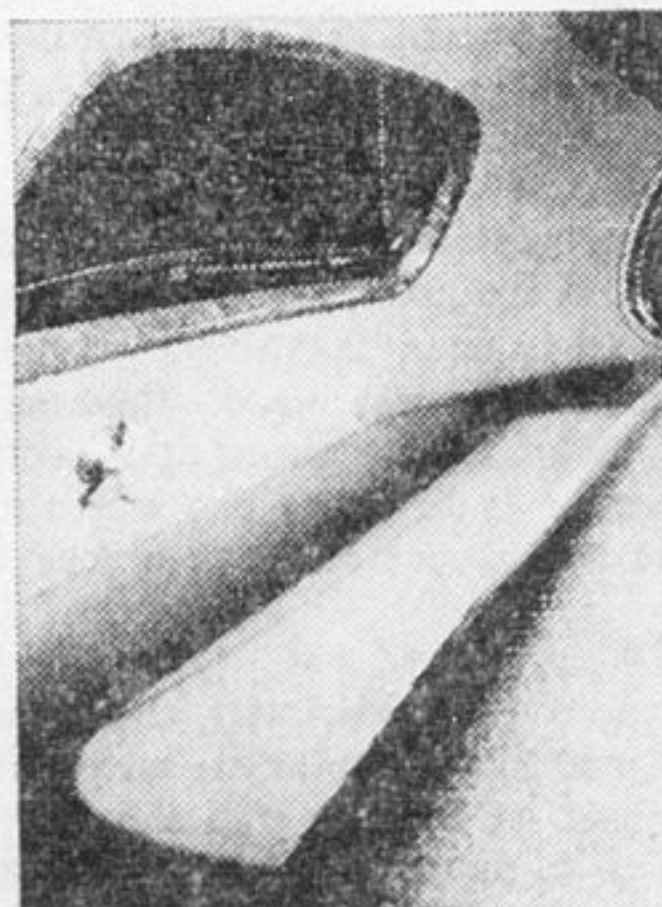
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