

It's OMHA's blunder

# Visitors a disappointment; lose 16-1



A Milton shooter pokes one at the corner in one of Sargent Farms' many shots on Sweden's net. The game had all the tension of an afternoon nap.

## Comets conquerors

McCuaig Insurance Comets rocketed to the top of the Hespeler Little Olympics hockey tournament with a perfect record of five wins and no losses and they went on to capture a 'superstar' playoff medal by defeating tournament runner-up Burlington.

The tournament ran in phases over the holidays and Milton proved consistent throughout, giving up only four goals and scoring 24 on their way to the gold.

Milton's major midget AA reps own a 9-0 record in tournament play this year, including three wins in regional Silver Stick playdowns at Owen Sound.

Comets shut out Saltfleet 3-0 to win the championship. En route they edged Peterboro 3-2, trounced Waterloo 7-0, beat Burlington 2-1 and blanked Hespeler 5-0. In the post-tournament contest, Milton counted four goals to Burlington's one for the All-Star honours.

Comets handed the host team a loss to start the tournament. Tom Hill earned the shutout. Milton's scoring was well-spread. Team captain Steve Scannell got the ball rolling. Other goals came from Mike Del Papa, Kevin Gervais, Geoff Pollen and Ed Morgan.

Milton pulled their second game out of the fire with a dramatic comeback. Burlington enjoyed a 1-0 lead with less than two minutes to go but Comets kicked in the afterburners. Del Papa scored Milton's first on a set-up from Scannell and Chris Turner. With 50 seconds remaining Pollen banged in the winner, assisted by Bruce Cameron and Turner. Comet netminder Hill was in top form to hold Burlington to one goal.

In game three Milton pummeled Waterloo as the Comet offence moved into high gear.

Alex Giannuzzi collect the shutout for Milton while his forwards put on a show in front of him. Rick Davies and Pollen netted two each while Turner, Tim Blackadar, and Morgan added singles.

Peterboro struck quickly to put Milton behind the eight-ball. They went up 1-0 after only 20 seconds and made it 2-0 on a power play at the one-minute mark. But Hill shut the door and Comets bore down. Davies and Mike Doiron tallied to tie it at the end of the first. The second period was scoreless but Comets had the last word in the final frame when Davies gave Milton the winning goal on a pass from Turner.

Giannuzzi recorded his second shutout in the tournament championship against Saltfleet. Comets scored twice in the first period and once in the second to cinch the championship. Gervais and Bruce Cameron got the early markers and Del Papa added the other goal. Turner picked up three assists and that brought him a trophy for most points in the tournament.

The silver-medalist Burlington squad faced Milton for the team all-star game. Burlington knocked off bronze-medalists Peterboro. Following a scoreless first period Milton struck for the middle act's only goal. Pollen scored with assists from Blackadar and Lee Johnson.

Burlington tied it with five minutes remaining in the game but the stalemate was short-lived. Pollen got the second of his hat-trick effort a minute later with a set-up from Davies and Scannell. Comets added two more before the buzzer. Gervais scored on a passout from Turner and Pollen got number three assisted by Scannell.

By ROB KELLY  
Champion Reporter

The anticipation outshone the event. For weeks it had been touted around town, with posters plastered prominently announcing the imminent arrival of Ska Idrottsklubb, a Swedish midget hockey team set to take on Milton's Sargent Farms AA reps.

Milton's minor midgets were coming off a big win the previous evening, having taken top honours in front of a hometown crowd at the Beaver tournament. They faced the Swedish squad in front of approximately 1,000 fans at Memorial Arena, each of whom ostensibly paid three dollars for the privilege of watching the countries compete. The Swedes had been an unknown commodity until a few days before the event. But then reports started to trickle in about one-sided defeats at smaller centres. Woodbridge defeated them 11-1. Flamboro manhandled the visitors 14-4.

It was no better, in fact worse, at Milton. Farmers slammed the Swedes 16-1 and did not run the score up further in deference to their guests' feelings.

"Geez, what an embarrassment," admitted Milton manager Gary Ellwood. And not even a profitable embarrassment, according to Ellwood's early figures. "We only collected \$988 at the gate. Why, I don't know." Ellwood was counting on advertising receipts from the full-colour program in order to break even. He needed approximately \$1,400 to recoup expenditures.

Milton had volunteered to play host to the Swedes because Farmer coach Harry Wiczaryk and other team staff members felt it would be a good vehicle for raising

money. Profits were to be plowed back into Milton minor hockey. At present the profit picture is unclear, but one thing is abundantly clear. The game was a total mismatch, like pitting a house-league team against one of the better rep squads. Had the crowd known what to expect in advance, it is highly unlikely that so many sports fans would have foregone football playoffs in order to watch the contest.

Ontario Minor Hockey Association executive member Ken Russell was present for the debacle, and he was clearly uncomfortable with the implications of patrons paying for such entertainment.

"Is it fair to ask people to pay for this?" he said. "Well, what can I say? Regardless of what I say I'm wrong. All I can say is that when the teams come over in the future we'll have to know them a lot better. How we'll do that I don't know."

Vern McCallum, the secretary-general of the OMHA, arranged various visits by Swedish clubs during his trip to Europe last summer, Russell said. But Russell indicated that because it was summer McCallum could not judge the calibre of the potential visitors by watching them play.

Wiczaryk, who had been told by Russell to ease off early in the game so as not to needlessly humiliate the visitors, was evasive on the subject of taking money for the contest. "We don't arrange the games," he said. "The OMHA arranges the games. They know what we're like and hopefully they know what they (the Swedes) are like and that's where I'm going to leave it."

Swedish coach Bonny Sjoberg, speaking through an interpreter, took the whalloping in stride. He had no intention of putting part of Sweden's hockey pride on the line with this or any other game his team played in Canada.

"For us it's more of a fun holiday," he admitted. "It's really the trip. We knew they (the Canadians) play quite well. This team is from a little place (population 8,000) 35 kilometers from Stockholm and there are only 200 boys in the entire minor hockey system. And these are only 14 and 15-year-olds. I'm not too upset about it."

The spectators did not appear to be too upset about it either. While the quality of the competition was disappointing, the fans stayed gracious throughout, appearing remarkably sensitive for a hockey crowd to the foibles of the foreign visitors. They applauded the Swedes when they reasonably could. Most of the time this was for the efforts of goalie Peter Bjorkegren, who put on a game effort under constant pressure. Following the contest he was named Sweden's most sportsmanlike player. Fans



Ken Russell

even resorted to good-natured cajoling in order to motivate the visitors. "Come on Sweden, work out there," one lady coaxed.

Milton scored three times in the opening period, six times in the second and seven times in the last frame. The onslaught was broken by Thomas Ryding's unassisted goal for Sweden to open the third period. That goal was a provocation. Milton had been coasting but they came back to completely dominate after Ryding scored his well-earned goal.

Wayne Rivers, judged Milton's most valuable player for the contest, had seven points on the evening with a hat trick and four assists. Rob Wilson, given the most sportsmanlike award for Milton, had two goals and four assists for a six-point night. Scott Hilton had four goals. Terry Ellwood added a pair and four assists and Jason Pascoe earned a hat trick. Phil Collier and Grant Thompson had one goal each.

## Sargent shutout

Sargent Farms minor midgets continued to dominate the opposition with a 5-0 shutout against Oakville in last week's Tri-County action. Eric Karp and Scott Hilson logged two goals each. Wayne Rivers added the other marker. Pat Butler was the premiere playmaker with two assists, followed by Phil Collier, Travis Cole, Scott Ellwood and Rob Wilson with one each.

Milton took on Chinguacousy Monday evening. Results were not available at press time.



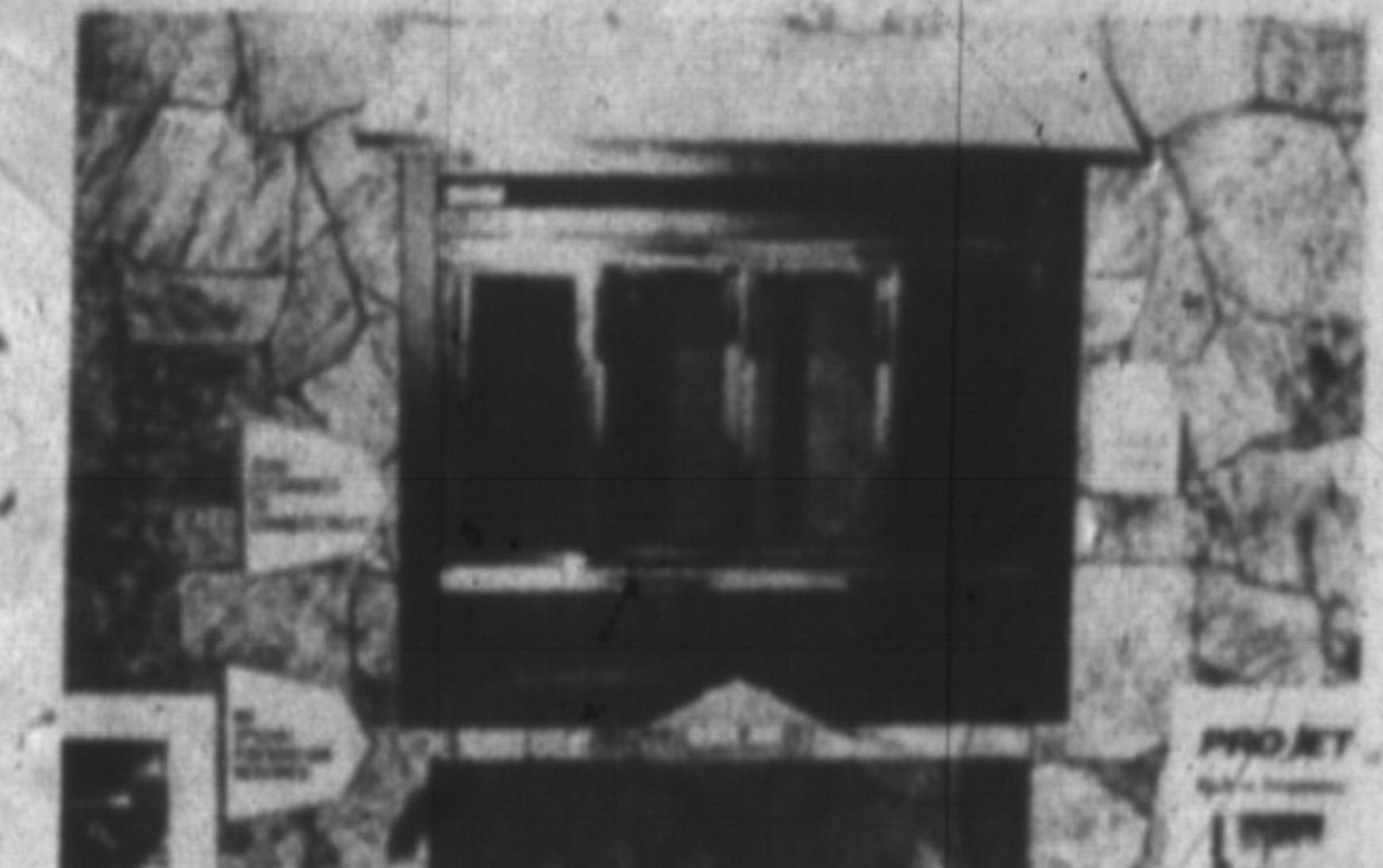
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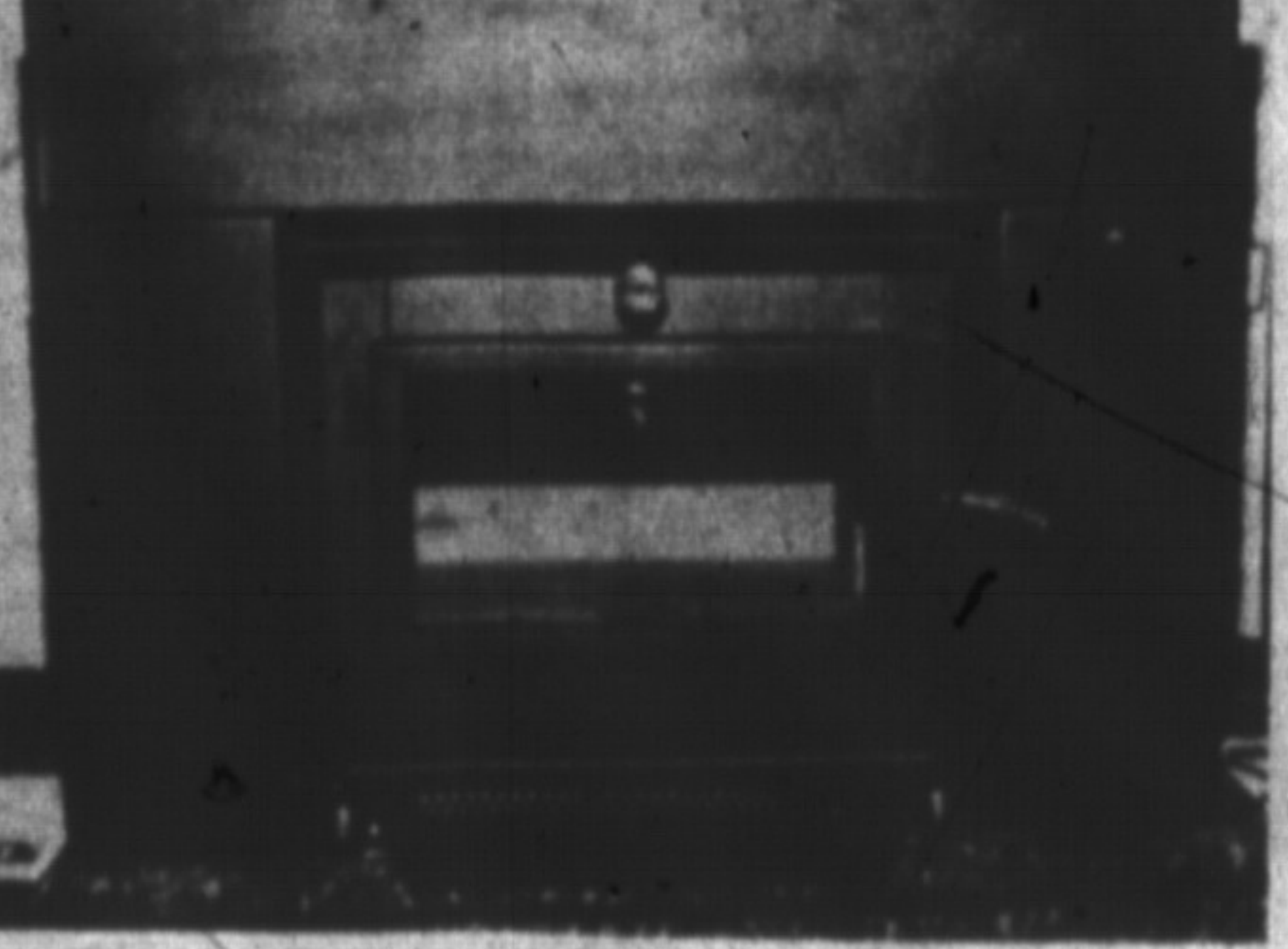


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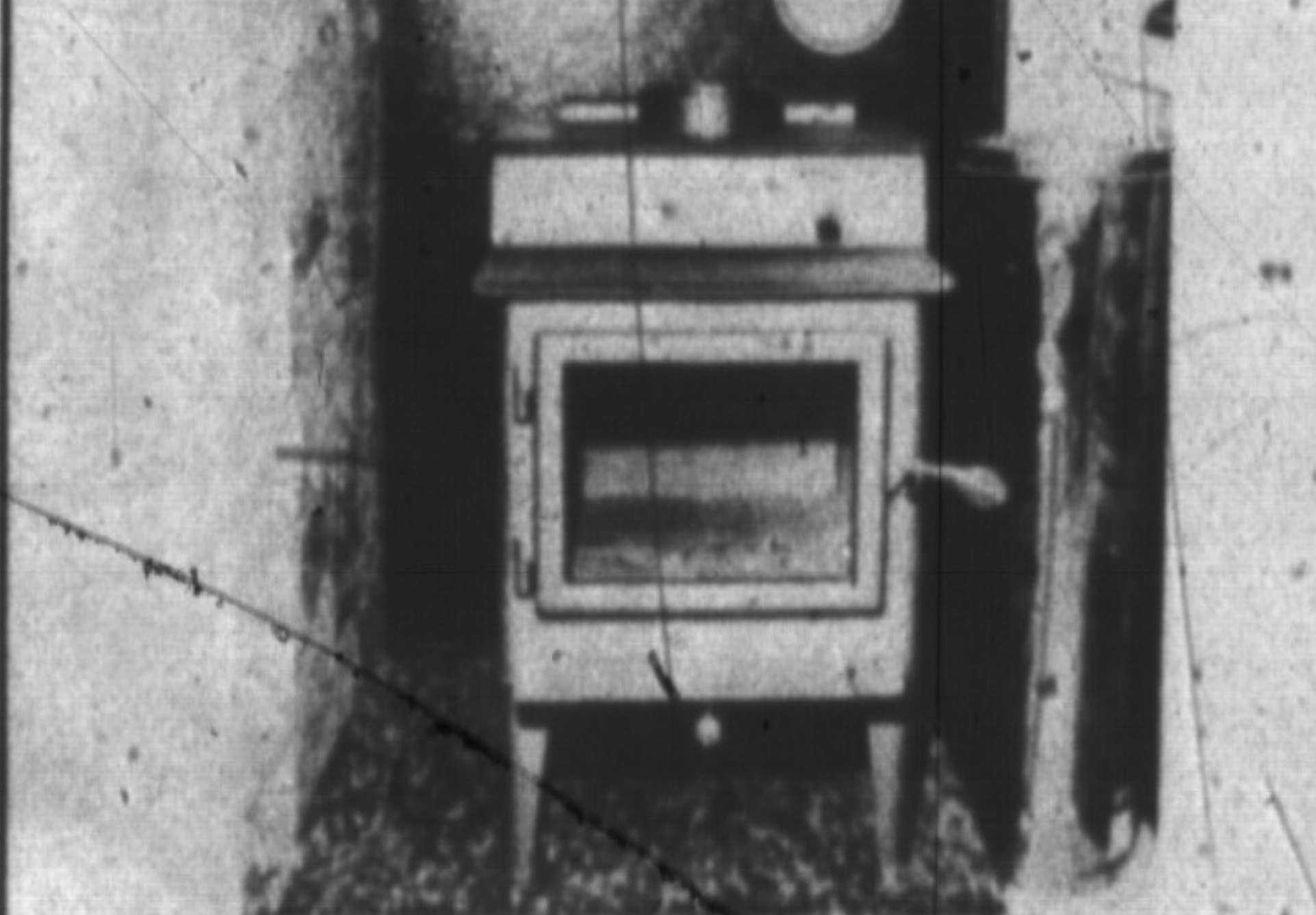
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