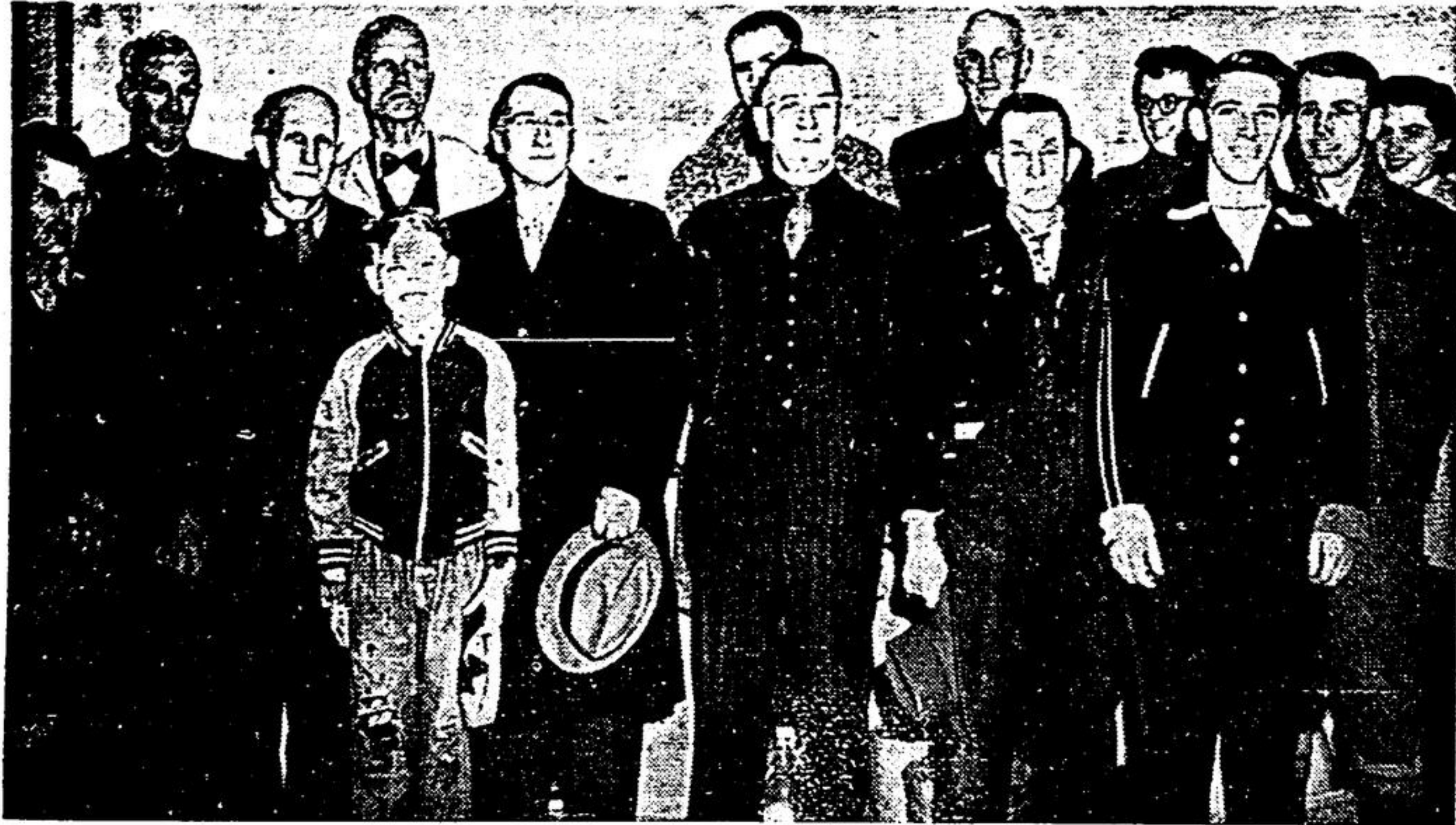


Build Retiring Whitevale Pastor A Home, on 10th of Markham



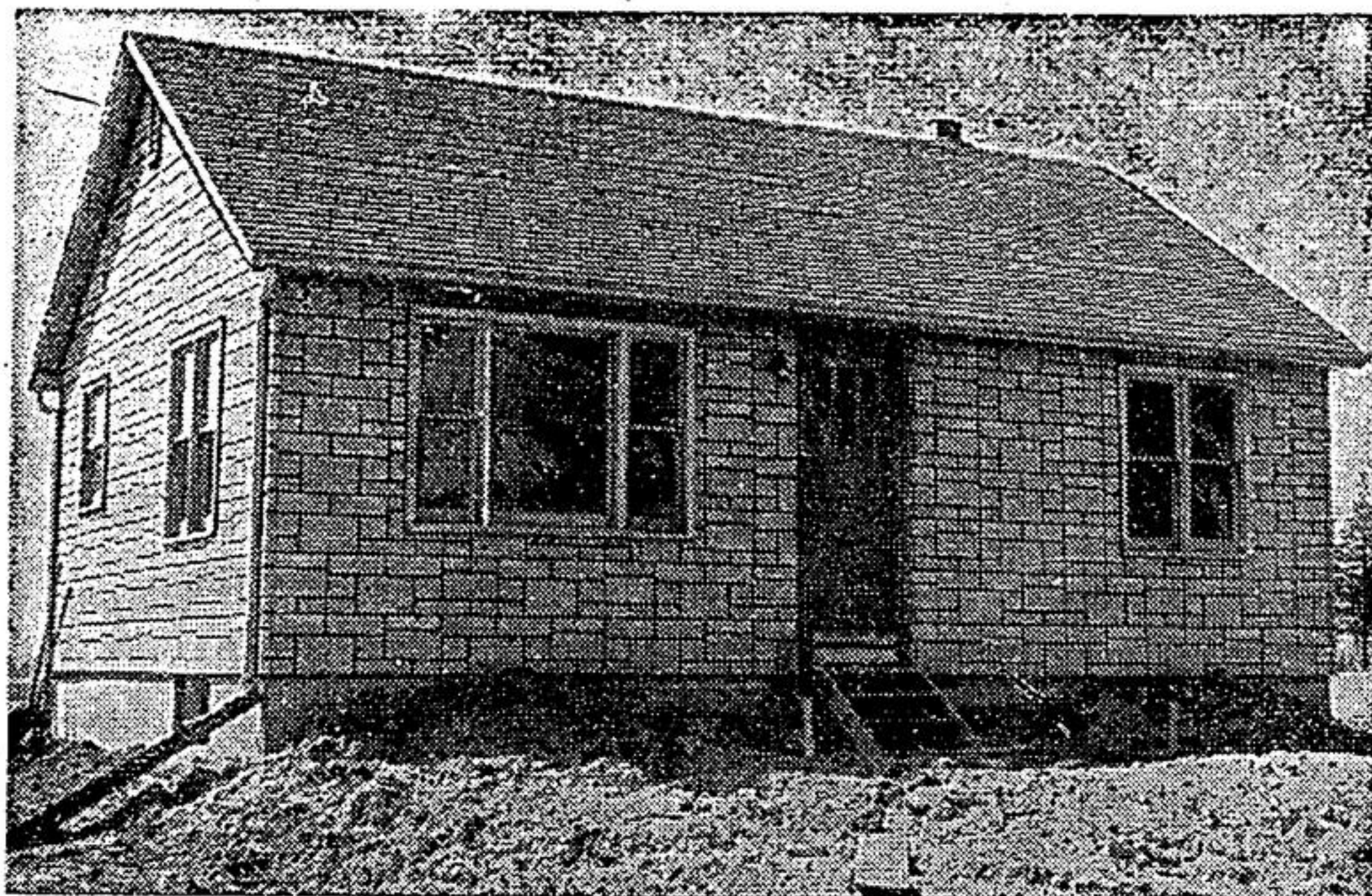
These are some of the volunteer builders who, grateful for the untiring labors of Mr. and Mrs. McLachlan during their eight years in the district, erected the five-room, insul-brick bungalow on a quarter-acre donated by Lloyd Reesor, a farmer.



Mr. and Mrs. McLachlan see the whole project as a "Gift from God."



Farmer-turned-carpenter Ken Reesor busily saws board while making cupboards for the "Gift of God" home near Locust Hill.



This is the "Gift of God" home which Rev. John McLachlan's combined congregations at Locust Hill, Whitevale and Cherrywood are building for the United Church minister and his wife. It will be ready for occupancy when Mr. McLachlan retires this June.

Five-Room House is Grateful Parishioners' "Thank You"

When Rev. John McLashlan retires after 42 years in the United Church ministry this June his "gift of God" home, built entirely by the volunteer labour of his grateful congregation, will be all ready for him.

The five-room, insul-brick house, underway all through the chill winter, is his flock's "thank you" for the eight years he has spent serving at Locust Hill, Whitevale and Cherrywood United Churches.

The co-operative effort began last November when Mr. McLashlan handed in his resignation. After serving for many years in Western Canada and in Newtonville, he went to Locust Hill eight years ago. Now he wishes to settle permanently in the community he and his wife have come to know and love.

Members of each of his three congregations formed an official Board of Charge and a building committee was formed to provide a home.

Lloyd Reesor, a farmer on the 10th concession, donated one-quarter acre lot of land from the corner of his farm and the work was started. Throughout the fall and winter the members continued to dig the foundation, pour cement and set up forms until the house slowly began to take shape.

Ken Reesor, another farmer on the 11th concession near Locust Hill, drew up the blueprints while Wilbur Reesor, Oscar Hagerman and Roy Carter supervised the carpenter work.

Other congregation members who hammered-and-nailed lustily were, Leonard Gates, Wilbur Johnson, Bob Bruce, Arthur Taylor and Neil Petty. Lloyd Baker fitted the house with the plumbing fixtures. Every one of the workers were farmers in the district but since the project was started they have all become skilled tradesmen.

Mr. McLashlan and his wife see the whole project as a "gift from God." "Such co-operation and generosity is beyond even my fondest imagination," he said.

The congregation is proud of its work. "Some days during the winter it was really cold," said Len Gates, a member of Cherrywood congregation, "but the chilly winds made us work all the harder."

"Our minister has served us for eight years, it is only fair that we should show our appreciation and return some of that service," was the view of Oscar Hagerman of Locust Hill.

"We fitted the doors in a few hours," said Mr. Reesor as he turned the cut-glass knob. "Some carpenters would probably have taken a whole day."

With the exception of a few interior additions the house is now almost completed. A well has been drilled and fresh water is already on the tap.

In June, when the McLachlans move in, the congregation knows their faith and ingenuity will live in the couple's hearts forever.

PINE ORCHARD

(Thursday, April 16)
Mr. Geo. Mason is in York County Hospital following a major operation.
Myrna McClure spent a few days in Toronto.
Miss Patsy Boake was in Stouffville the past week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. McMullen.
Miss Jean Johnston of Toronto spent the weekend with her brother Edson and family also calling on Mrs. J. Foote of Queensville.
Miss Marlene Birdsell was in Toronto last week visiting

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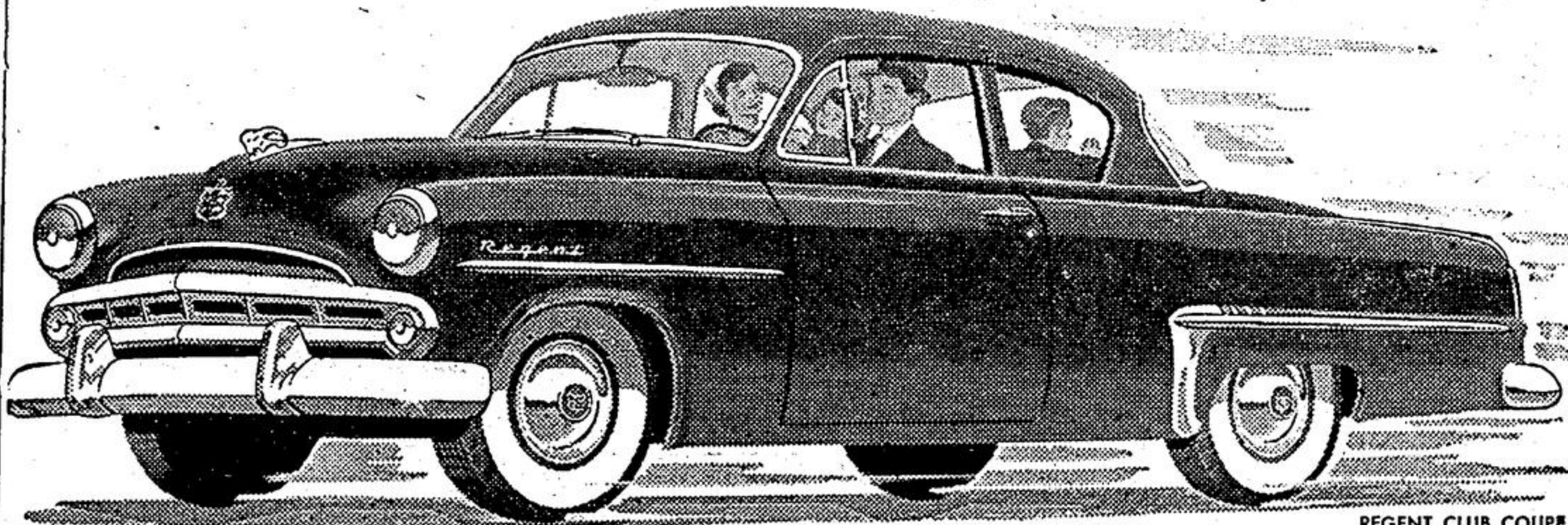
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