

Editorial

Big Entertainment Month in Town

The month of April has shaped up as one of the biggest entertainment months of the year in Stouffville, and all with local talent. In addition to having hockey still with us this week, the local Skating Club entertained on Saturday night with their annual Ice Revue. The spotlight was turned on some seventy-five local skaters ranging in size and ability from toddlers up.

This week will see the Stouffville District High School students present their first operetta, HMS Pinafore, again an all-local company. Along with the students, the members of the high school staff have done a wonderful job in organizing the show which is expected to draw capacity houses on Friday and Saturday nights.

The following week, April 20th will be Good Friday and the choir of the Stouffville United Church will

present the sacred cantata, "The Crucifixion". This is a musical presentation offered by the local church choir now for many years.

To wind up the month, April 26, 27 and 28, the Couples Club will be packing them in at the High School Auditorium with their third annual Minstrel Show. This great show which has been a most popular hit now for two years is also put on by an all home-brew crowd.

Country cousins who think life in a small town is dull and uneventful, would we believe, find themselves out of breath trying to keep pace with the many events offered this April.

All those who have and are contributing to these many events are to be commended, and Stouffville people should feel a real sense of public pride in having so many talented performers who call this home. They can show some of their appreciation by their patronage.

An Embarrassing Position

This is the time of year when municipal employees' salary schedules come under close scrutiny by town and township councils. The subject can become a pretty ticklish matter since it involves "taxpayers' money". The office-holder, like any common, ordinary individual, is anxious to receive a reasonable increase while the council, on the other hand must endeavor to pinch the pennies wherever possible. Since such issues are rather personal, but wholly public, any controversy that might develop, can be extremely embarrassing to persons sitting on both sides of the fence. For this reason, we feel that no employee should be either required or permitted to sit in while his or her salary schedule is being debated back and forth across the table.

This very scene presented itself

Calling All Girls

The cry is going out this week for possible recruits to bolster Stouffville's entry in the Barrie and District girls' softball league. It would seem rather strange that an area that boasts more than 10,000 individuals cannot produce 12 or 15 good girl softball performers. At the time of writing, the picture does not look too bright.

A girl's active softball life expectancy appears to be rather short since, according to reliable information, a number of Stouffville's most

enthusiastic players have decided to hang 'em up. This, however, leaves room for new blood in the lineup if that new blood can be found.

A deadline date has been set for the Stouffville team to file their entry. In an effort to ascertain both the quantity and quality of softball personnel in the district, a pre-season practise session has been arranged for the Stouffville Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. The type of turnout at this time will settle the question.

Time To Choose Wisely

The time is with us again when candidates are being chosen to run the biggest business in the land, the business of government. A leading authority once said that those municipalities or countries which are best able to survive their troubles, are ones in which all who take part in public affairs are at the same time, almost without exception, active men of business.

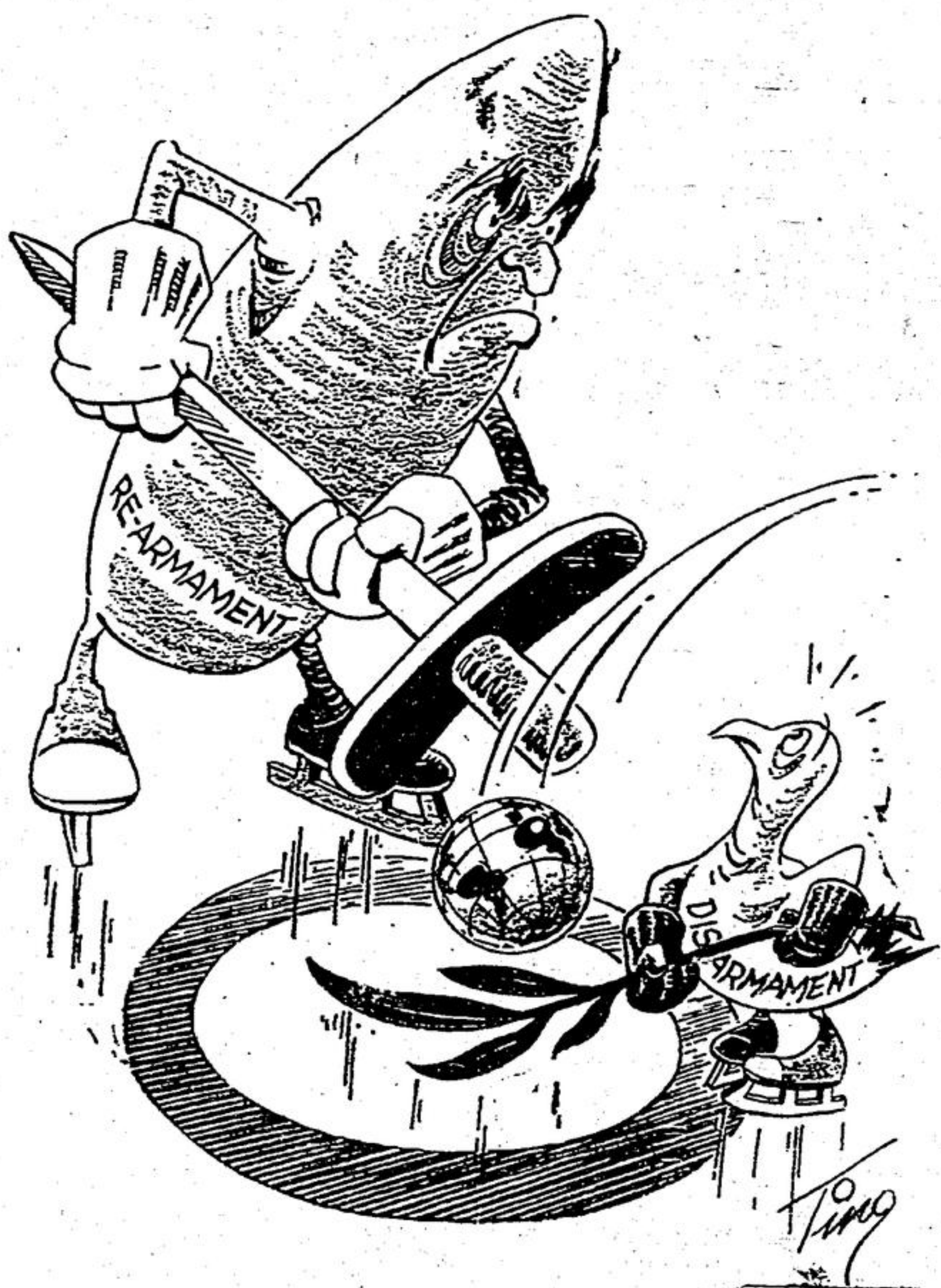
In Canada it is now unusual for active men of business to run for Parliament and there are reasons. One of the most vital is that business today exacts the most demanding toll from its heads. The large geography of Canada and the length of Parliamentary sessions make it hard for a business man to take part in government. It must be remembered that at the same time as he is trying to make headway in Ottawa he has to return from time to time to his

own plant to keep things going so that his business may be able to pay the taxes to keep up his sessional indemnity.

The scarcity of such men taking part in government can be serious. Economic mistakes show up most clearly in the running of a business. Business men take the brunt for many other groups. Labor blames business men and takes no blame for things not going well. The church blames business men for sin. Those in the arts don't think business men take enough interest in them, with enough money.

Here in this country where, whether we like it or not, government is taking a wider and deeper entry into more and more business, it is unfortunate that this greatest of all businesses is being conducted to a greater and greater degree by people whose first-hand business experience is far removed from reality.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS



FOR PARENTS ONLY

by Nancy Cleaver

DISCOVER WHAT LIBRARY OFFERS

"I just had no idea how much the public library had to offer the whole family until my wife insisted that I take a turn once a month bringing our boy and girl to the Saturday morning Story Hour. The children certainly enjoy it, and I've started to borrow records and mystery stories. My wife prefers biography and handcraft books. She is thrilled with the library's wide selection." A father gave this spontaneous testimonial to the value of the library for his household.

Libraries belong to the citizens and the people, young and old, who visit the public library regularly find their lives greatly enriched.

Fortunate is the little child whose mother takes him to the library to borrow a picture book before he starts to school. There are so many attractive stories

for tiny tots — stories about animals and experiences a small boy or girl can understand, folk tales which have stood the test of time in many different lands, fairy tales which stimulate a child's imagination. Some adults are critical of fantasy but it has an important place in a child's intellectual growth, and most children love the old familiar fairy tales.

Splendid Job
Teachers do a splendid job in strengthening an interest in books. Some classes visit the public library at regular times and the scholars return the books they have read and choose new ones. In the project method of teaching, pupils frequently go to the library on their own to discover more information about an historical character, other lands and peoples, natural resources, industries.

Once a bright youngster gets interested in scientific discoveries, rockets, or some other topic, he is determined to find out all he can about that subject. Dinosaurs seem to captivate small boys. When they finish reading the books available on these giants of an earlier age, they turn to an encyclopedia for more details.

The enthusiasm of either an adult or a child is catching. If parents enjoy books, their children are likely to be readers.

A junior girl exclaimed the other day, "Mum and Dad and everyone in our family reads — except the baby. She's just a month old. One of my friends called me a 'bookworm'. I don't think that is a very nice name, but I don't care."

Libraries are fascinating places for children to visit, and the librarian in the Boys and Girls Division knows how to make children feel at home as well as the books on her shelves. It is little wonder that the circulation in the Children's Division often equals, and in some cases surpasses, the total number of books borrowed by adults.

They Can Help
A trained children's librarian can help a child or a parent in selecting books which will attract that particular boy or girl. Perhaps he wants a wild animal story or help with raising tropical fish or building a bird house. Horse stories have a special appeal to many girls, sports for boys. The older child who is wondering about a vocation may need help in locating the biography of someone who has been outstanding in a certain career.

Library books are not a substitute for a child's own bookshelf. Enduring hard-cover books are often given as birthday and Christmas presents. Frequently a title is chosen which has given a child much pleasure when borrowed from the library. There are many useful book lists available at most public libraries. Ask for them because they give excellent guidance in book selection.

Sunday School Lesson

LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF THE CROSS
Luke 19:29-38; Titus (Lesson for April 15)

GOLDEN TEXT — I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. — Gal. 2:20

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

In some respects the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ was the lowest and the darkest spot in all the human record. It was history's greatest tragedy, and history's blackest crime. No where else was man's depraved heart fully exhibited, for there was murdered incarnate goodness in the person of Jesus. There, too, God fully expressed His holy intolerance of sin. The rending rocks, the quaking earth and the darkened sun were but the physical convulsions that reflected God's displeasure when His holy Son was "made a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13).

There are other aspects to the Cross, however. Inscribed on one side are the words, "The wages of sin is death"; on the other, "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Deep darkness is balanced by bright light.

By that Cross we have life, and in that light we must live day by day.

The Heart of the Lesson
The cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the two great pillars on which the superstructure of Christianity rests. Here the grace of God was fully manifested. "Grace and truth," declares John, "came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). It is signifi-

cant that Scripture says that grace brings salvation (see Titus 2:11). Christ did not send it; He brought it.

We are not at liberty to follow the inclinations of our own wills and lusts, for the same grace that brings salvation also brings education. It teaches us that there must be self-denial, and a conforming to the will of our Lord. To certain practices we must say a resolute No. Self-judgment by the power of the Holy Spirit, must be habitual. This, however, will not leave us joyless ascetics. Living in the light of the Cross will produce self-control as well as righteous and godly conduct. The true grace of God settles the past, marks the present, and secures the future. It brings salvation, education, and expectation as well.

The motive and power for godly behavior today is the blessed hope of the appearing of the glory tomorrow.

What made school discipline more effective in the old days was the application of hard-and-fast rulers.

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SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

It may be still snowing in Whitehorse, though I hope for their sakes that it ain't. But this unpredictable hussy would elicit bad words from a saint. You don't know to whom I'm referring? I'm sure you're acquainted, old thing. The lady whose name I am slurring is greeted with rapture as "Spring!"

And that's pretty horrible doggerel. But it represents my long-held and carefully considered opinion of the character of that particular season which is supposed to follow on the heels of winter, but is usually so far behind that she's out of sight.

It has been my custom to write an annual and extremely ill-tempered column about spring. For years, my opinion of this greatly over-rated season has been similar to that of a dying man who calls for water and is given a healthy slug of vinegar.

For years, I have longed to get hold of one of those poets who burble about the tiny crocuses poking their heads up to the sun, and show him some of the stuff that pokes its head through the snow around our place, in the spring.

This year, we've had such a delightful spring here, so far, that I find myself in a very mellow mood. This year, I cannot bring myself to vilify spring. Even though I know perfectly well that behind that disguise of chaste and gentle maiden with the warm sweet breath, lies a cold-hearted old harridan. Even though I know that she will probably produce a wind that would freeze the brains out of a brass monkey, along about Opening Day of the trout season.

It must have been that wonderful month of March that softened me. Almost every day, the yellow sun nibbled daintily at the huge cruel banks of ice and snow until they were suddenly gone. All except the big one behind the garage, on top of the picnic table. It will be there until July.

I hate to destroy a tradition, and I'm doing it with my fingers crossed, which makes typing rather awkward, but this year, I'm going to write a salute to spring. I'm going to say nice things about her. She'll probably be so surprised that she'll blush and weep all over the place. So get your sump pumps ready.

Let's face it. Were it not for the belief that life will return to our frozen land annually, everybody north of the 49th parallel would be running around drooling and gibbering by the middle of March.

Spring is like Santa Claus. She has something good for everybody. She brings pure delight for the kids. Skipping ropes and marbles and mud. And mud and mud and mud. And off with the rubbers and into it, the minute your back is turned.

For the elderly, perhaps more than anyone, the lengthening days, the warming sun, are a blessing and a joy. Cold and darkness and the eternal enemy who lurks in the shadows are beaten again. Life, however tremulous, blossoms, and fear and pain retreat.

For mother, she brings gifts. To offset the tracking in of dirt and the constant battle over wearing enough clothes, with the kids, there are the touches of reprieve from madness: a goofy spring hat; a flower peering up from the earth; a wild, new shade of paint for the kitchen.

Dad gets his presents, too. Car body rusted in spots; a fuel bill like the national debt;

April 30 and the Receiver General lying in wait. But he can stand it. The ice on the lakes is gone. The golf course is drying up. And a Sunday jaunt on the muddy sideroads has discovered a new trout stream of superlative potential.

Teen-agers turn peculiar in spring, as she pours poisons into their blood and bones. Eyes gaze vacantly at teachers. Bodies are one moment utterly listless, the next supercharged with energy. There is a great increase in bunting and pushing and hand-holding and standing about on corners, and long looks.

But the trollop has only begun to distribute her largesse, when we list these. There's the lovely smell of rotting earth coming alive as it crawls from the tomb. There's the chitter of birds and the chuckle of running water. There's the grand, springy feel of yielding ground underfoot again.

Gone is the sombre charcoal sketch that was winter. Here's a touch of green, there a flick of yellow, yonder a smudge of brown. How warming are they to eyes that have grown cold and pale with looking at ice.

There, how's that for an ode to spring. And if it's snowing when I step out tomorrow morning, serves me right.

FARM MANAGEMENT GROUPS TOUR COUNTY FARMS

On Thursday, April 5th, 70 members of the various Farm Business Management groups in Ontario County visited the following four farms — Mr. N. D. Hogg, Uxbridge RR 4; Charolais Enterprise Limited, Brooklin RR 1; Mr. Cecil Disney & Son, Brooklin RR 1; and Mr. Harold Werry & Son, Oshawa RR 2.

The group was interested in the Farm Management practices that are carried out on these farms. They were particularly interested in observing the loose housing arrangements on these farms and how they were working out. All four farms had some differences in the construction of their feed bunks, and yet all of them were giving satisfactory service. The 24' x 60' silo with a lazy-susan for feeding at Charolais Enterprise Limited stimulated considerable discussion. This silo has a capacity of 700 tons of silage.

On a tour of this kind, many useful ideas can be observed and put to use on the home farm. A thank-you from this group is extended to the owners of these farms for their co-operation in acting as hosts for this most enjoyable and educational tour.

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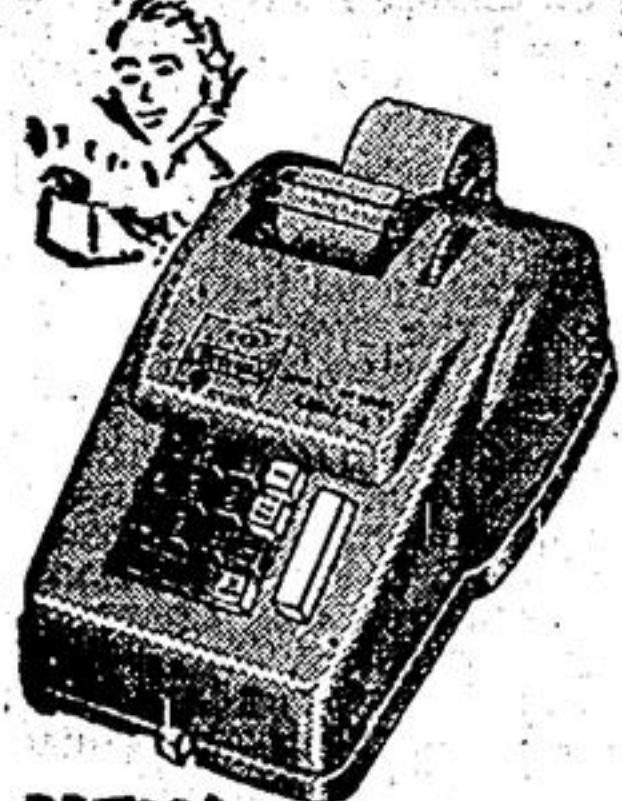
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