

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff

Careful study for town dump

STOUFFVILLE — "It is the feeling of council that the town should have its own landfill operation," said Mayor Gordon Ratcliff. "It has to be looked into whether we would buy our own property or whether we would lease land."

"This operation should not require too many municipal employees. We should have our own pickup and disposal system. The pickup would not be done by municipal employees but would be contracted out. The site would have to be carefully studied to ensure there would be no danger of pollution and would have to conform to the standards of the Ministry of the Environment."

Question: Has any action been taken by council following the resolution to close Stouffville Trailer Sales on Hwy. 48?

"No legal action has been instituted as of yet. We have not received a

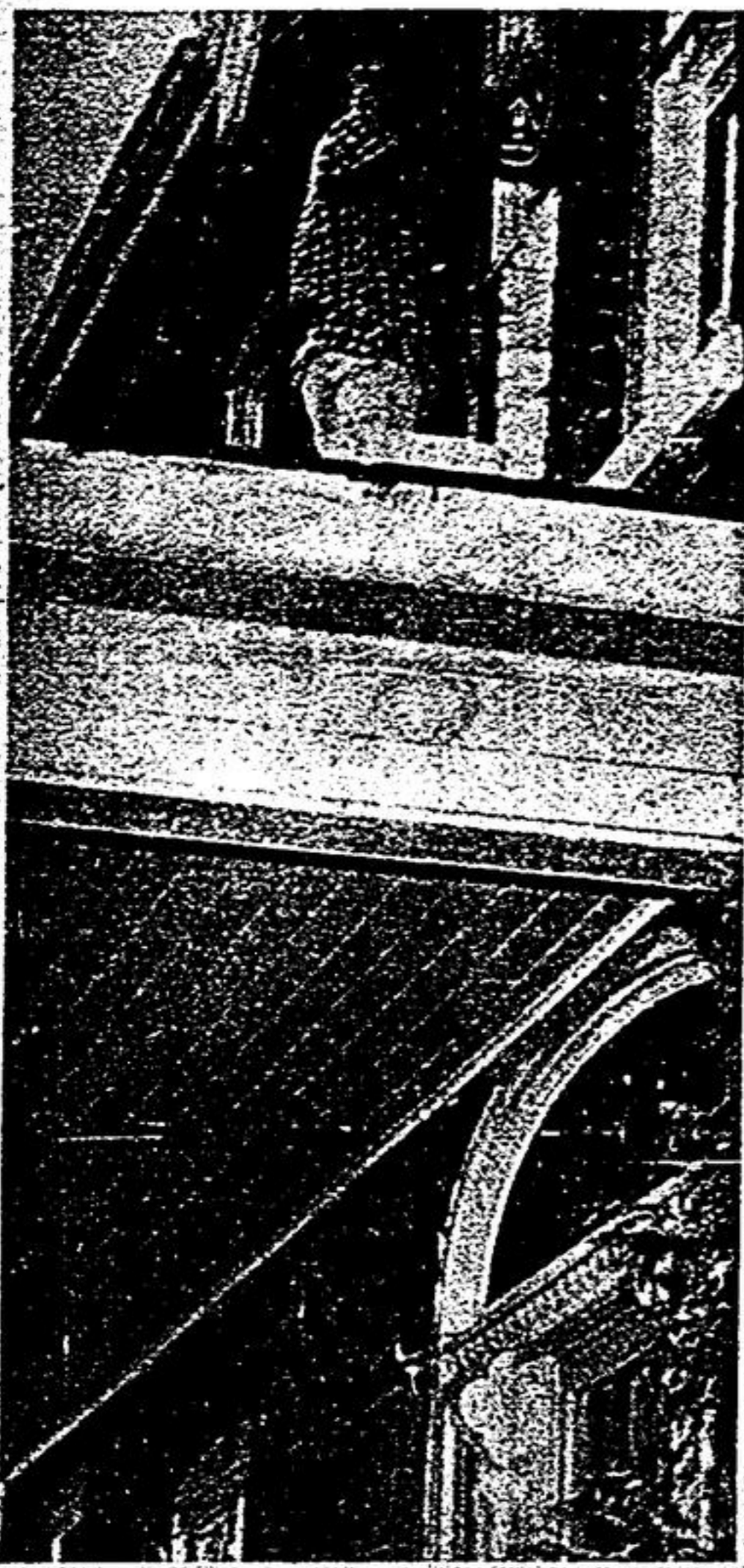
report from the town solicitor in this matter and cannot proceed until we have legal advice."

Question: Will council take any stand, either for or against, in the appeal to the Cabinet by the developers of the proposed Cedar Valley industrial park?

"We have asked the solicitor to look into the formation of a brief for the Cedar Valley area which will be submitted. He will have to come back and discuss it with council. He has been given no direction as to whether the brief should be for or against. He has just been asked to look into the matter."

Question: Do you think the public meeting held on the dump site last week accomplished anything?

"The feelings of the community about the land fill operation were expressed. The operators of the site, and the Ministry of the Environment are now aware that there is a great deal of public concern."



Joan Hall of O'Brien Ave., Stouffville does some last minute touchup work on her house before winter sets in. The cool nip in the air and snow for short time last week show all too clearly that winter is just around the corner.

— John Montgomery

Collin Barrett to challenge trustee position

STOUFFVILLE — A local trust company manager will challenge incumbent school board trustee, John McMurray, in the Dec. 2 elections. The Tribune learned last week.

Collin Barrett, of Guaranty Trust, will contest the position, held by Mr. McMurray since 1972.

He said in an interview that there is a need for a trustee with strong financial experience to help run, "one of the largest corporations in the county." The 1974 school budget was \$48 million.

In a statement of his platform Mr. Barrett states: There is lack of communication between board members; staff members teachers, students and parents. Morale is low.

Other items in his platform include — formulation of long range plans and priorities; and poor performance of the 1973-74 board.

He stated further that he lives and works in Whitchurch-Stouffville and intends to set up a liaison committee to maintain communication with the community.

"It is my feeling, that our present trustee has done little to deserve reelection and we challenge his performance," the platform statement concludes.



Collin Barrett, manager of the Stouffville branch of Guaranty Trust, has announced that he will take on incumbent trustee John McMurray in the upcoming municipal and school board elections.

— Don Bernard

Scarborough Rod & Gun

Not going to give up without a fight

UXBRIDGE — The Scarborough Rod & Gun Club is not going to give up without a fight.

This was evident when a delegation of club members, along with some local residents, packed the council chambers at the last meeting of Uxbridge Council. A brief was submitted to council members and Leonard Wells, past president of the club, explained the group's position.

"I feel responsible, since I was the one who was largely responsible for the club locating in your township," he said.

Mayor Carl Putebaugh warned Mr. Wells that the rules limited each speaker to five minutes, but council agreed to waive this at the suggestion of Regional Councillor Bill Ballinger.

Mr. Wells explained that the brief was drawn up before the club received a formal complaint, forwarded by a law firm.

The ten-page brief began by citing the club's dedication to a "good neighbour policy" and outlined the history of the group. Forced out of its original site in Scarborough by railway development, the club found its new home in lot

24 conc. 3 in 1965. Council was consulted, a demonstration was held, and letters were sent to all residents within a mile and a quarter of the property.

"Literally no objections were aired that the directors of the club are aware of," said the brief.

The sports of skeet and trap shooting were also described, and it was noted that "one club member won a gold medal in the recent Summer Games in Sudbury, sponsored by the Ontario government. The current skeet-shooting world champion is a Canadian said the brief. The club hires local boys to perform various duties on the grounds."

Two pages of the brief dealt with noise, which has been the basis of complaints from residents.

Noting that all competitive sports produce some kind of noise, the brief cited that caused by snowmobiles, light aircraft, hunting, and other recreations. The noise of the club activities, it claimed, is "somewhat controlled."

Only shotguns are used, the club said, and these are quieter than high-powered rifles. Also, the type and power of ammunition is strictly regulated, so that skeet and trap shooting are quieter than duck-hunting and other shotgun activities.

It is not possible to use silencers, the brief said, since effective ones do not exist and would be illegal in any case. The brief admitted that clay-bird shooting is not silent activity, and claimed that hours for the sport had been established "out of respect for the neighbours."

Summer hours were given as: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Wednesday, 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Winter hours are: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The club said that exceptions to these hours occur during practice sessions before competitions and during competitions on the club land. The brief maintains that no night shooting is permitted, and that shooting on most days is not continuous.

There has never been an accident causing personal injury or property damage during the 25-year history of the club, according to the brief. The club grounds are carefully tended to preserve "a natural woodland setting", and more than 5,000 new trees have been planted by club members.

The brief put considerable stress on the club's "good-neighbour" activities, including a "visitors welcome" policy and a gun-safety program conducted last year for 30 students of Stouffville District Secondary School. Similar courses have been offered to other schools, including Uxbridge High School.

The brief also revealed that club members had declined to bring criminal charges against a number of local boys following several break-ins at the club. Much of the material stolen "was never recovered," it said.

Further, the club's sign has been torn down on several occasions and had to be replaced by club members.

"It is rumored," said the brief, "that this was done by real estate people in order to conceal the fact that a skeet and trap club operates in the area."

The statement concludes by asking council to consider: (1) if the complaints are fair and justified; (2) if the complainants are trying to be good neighbours, as the club has tried; and (3) whether the complainants might go on to cause trouble for other property owners, industries, businesses, etc.

Club president Alfred Hodgins, replying to a question from councillor Ballinger, denied reports that the noise from the club has increased because of heavier shotshell loads.

"The load hasn't changed in 100 years," he said.

Mr. Wells admitted that the membership has grown since the club moved to Uxbridge, but said that the executive is considering closing off membership at its present figure of 124 people.

"Even with our current membership, less than 40 per cent are active," he said. "Others only come out once or twice a year."

"You've gradually increased your hours... are you going to go for extra days and so on?" asked councillor Maustyn McKnight.

Wells replied that the hours in the brief would be "strictly adhered to," the only exceptions being five or six times per year because of competitions.

Ballinger summed up many of the problems as being caused by growth.

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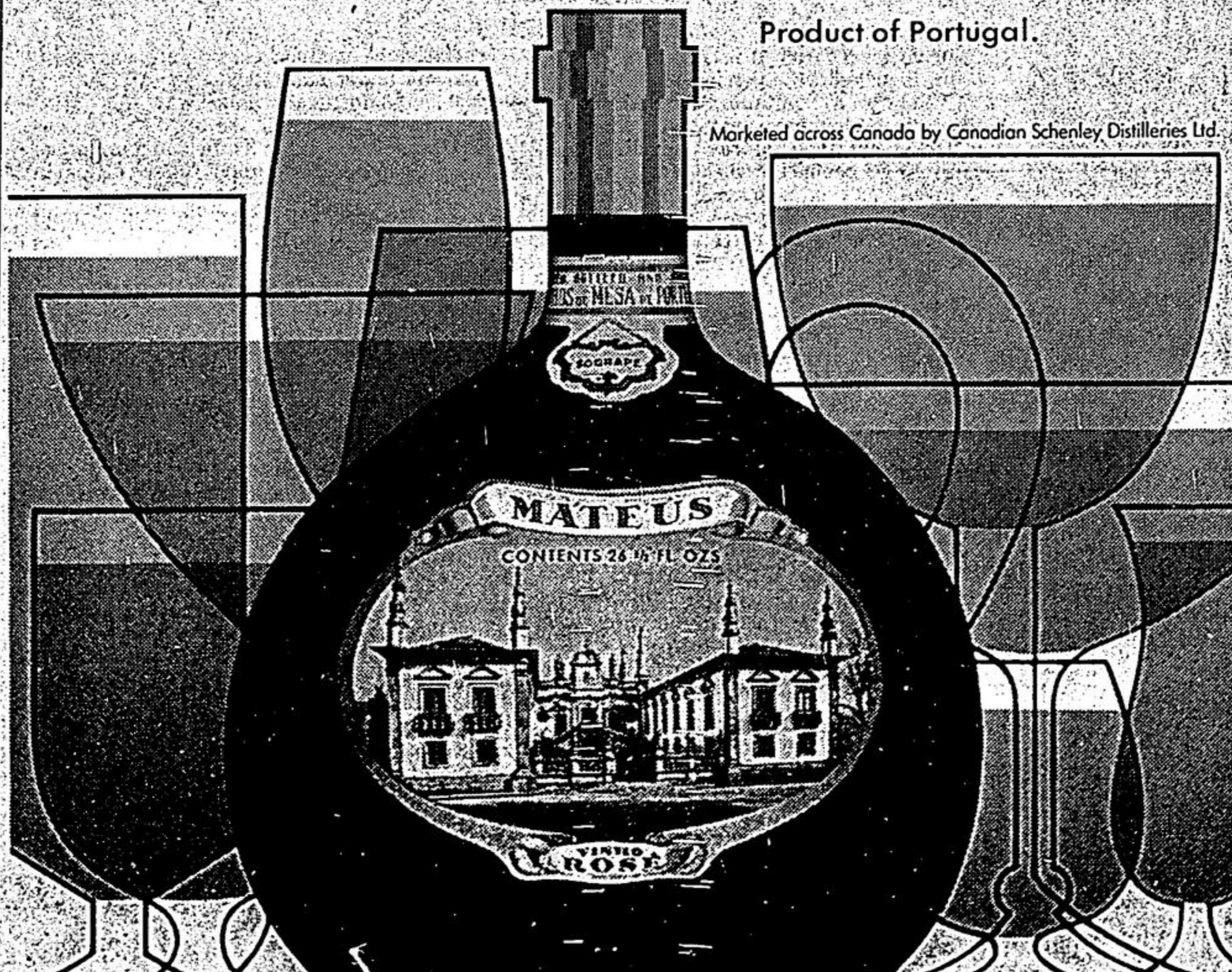
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