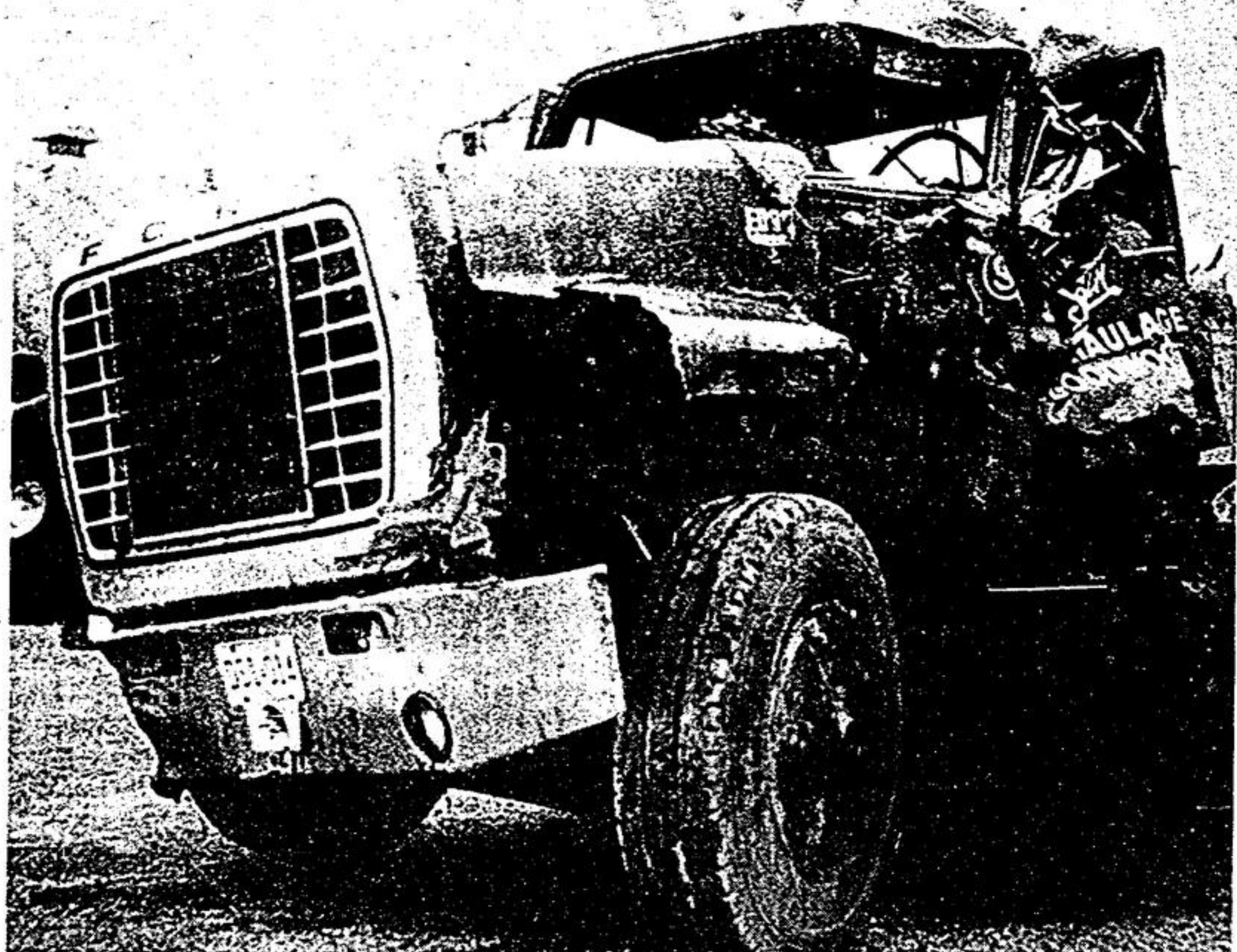


TRUCK DRIVER RISKED HIS LIFE



Richard (Dick) Puckrin of R.R. 1, Goodwood was pinned for a time in the crumpled cab of his diesel-powered gravel truck, following collision with a car on Hwy. 47 near Lincolnville, last week. Damage to his vehicle has been estimated at \$40,000. —Jim Thomas



Margaret Swiden of Agincourt, driver of the car in the foreground, suffered only minor injuries despite the seriousness of the crash. Witnesses say she owes her life to the quick-thinking of

trucker Dick Puckrin whose overturned tractor-trailer is seen in the rear. In attempting to avoid the auto, Puckrin turned his heavy vehicle on its side, spilling most of the 38-ton load on the road. —Ed Schroeter

Swerved vehicle to avert tragedy

GOODWOOD — Fifty year old Dick Puckrin of RR 1, Goodwood, is lucky to be alive. So is Margaret Swiden, 71, of Agincourt. Mr. Puckrin risked his life to avoid collision between his westbound gravel truck and the Swiden car on Hwy. 47 near Lincolnville, last week, and in doing so, overturned the tractor-trailer in a nearby ditch.

Total property damage has been estimated at \$46,000 including \$40,000 to the Puckrin truck, a 1977 Ford diesel.

Dick Puckrin, an experienced driver, was carrying about 38 tons of gravel and travelling between 40 and 50 miles per hour, when he saw the car, a 1979 Oldsmobile, move out from a private lane.

"Suddenly, she was right there, only 30 feet away at the most. My only thought was to swing to the left, to get away from her, it was either that or go right over top," Mr. Puckrin said later.

He swerved across the centre line then cut back as another truck approached from the west. "I knew I was going to hit her, but at least it wouldn't be where she was seated". The right front wheel caught the front of her car, spinning it around like a top,

witnesses said. With no steering, the truck flipped over on its side. Puckrin was pinned in the mangled cab. Fortunately, he said, one of Ted McLennan's tow trucks happened by. The operator hooked a cable onto the steering wheel and pried it loose. This enabled the driver to escape through the shattered windshield.

Both victims were rushed to York County Hospital in the same ambulance. "She kept asking me if I was alright but other than that, we didn't say too much," Dick said with a wry smile. Sixteen stitches were required to close a gash on his forehead and he suffered injury to one leg. "I'm alive and so is she," he said, "you can always get another truck but not another life".

Dick Puckrin purchased the tractor in 1977 for \$37,000. Two years later, he bought a new trailer. It cost \$28,000. He thinks the trailer can be repaired but he's not so sure about the truck. One of similar size today would cost close to \$50,000, he said. "She was all paid for and good for at least another year," he noted, adding that 190,000 miles isn't that much for a diesel.

The Goodwood resident said his last 'scrape' was seven years ago when the driver of a north-

bound pick-up, pulled in front of him at the corner of the 5th Concession of Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Bloomington Road. "Since then, I haven't had as much as a nick," he stated, "that is, until now".

While not claiming to be any hero, Dick admits if he hadn't braked and swerved as he did, "she'd have been dead". "If it had been the other way around, I would hope that driver would have done the same for me," he concluded.

Beerfest

PICKERING — Do beer festivals and pioneer festivals go hand-in-hand?

Pickering's pioneers might have said no but the Town fathers said yes at a special meeting of Council, July 22.

A request from the Greenwood Ratepayers' Association for permission to hold a Beerfest in connection with History-in-Action festivities for the weekend of Sept. 13 was approved.

Since a special occasion permit is required, the 'green light' must also come from the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario.

Hydro power cut 430 pigs killed

UXBRIDGE TWP. — Four hundred and thirty pigs, the property of Morley Davis, RR 1, Claremont, suffocated in their pens, last week, when a severe electrical storm knocked out hydro and shut down air conditioning units at the barn.

The livestock, to be marketed the very next day, were being kept in premises near Utica, west of Manchester.

The loss has been estimated at over \$30,000.

It is believed that lightning

hit a transformer on the road, cutting off hydro power to the barn and rendering the air-conditioning system useless.

The storm passed through the district during the late afternoon, but discovery of the animals' deaths wasn't made until the next morning when Mr. Davis made his rounds. Ordinarily, his wife said, he would have gone to the property sooner but on this occasion, he decided to stop off first and have a lawnmower repaired.

When he arrived, he found the barn filled with liquid fertilizer fumes. Despite the intensity of the gas, he was able to throw open the doors.

Strangely enough, it was the older pigs that died. About 200 younger ones survived.

To prevent a recurrence of such a loss, Mrs. Davis said they are looking into the possibility of installing an alarm system, either to their telephone at home or to the phone in a neighbor's house.

Higher pay

DURHAM REGION — Until some other system is devised, politicians will always find themselves "on the spot" when it comes to salary increases.

So it is in the Region of Durham where a seven per cent increase has been recommended, effective in 1981, if ratified by next year's council.

If approved, the average \$12,980 stipend of a councillor would go up by \$900 while the chairman's wages of \$35,528 would increase by \$2,487.

The affirmative vote on the

recommendation was 17 to 11. There were several critics, one being Ed Kolodzie of Oshawa who called the decision "ludicrous". He reminded his audience that in 1979, they were the highest paid in the entire province.

Jack Anderson, mayor of Pickering was also opposed.

Some of those in favor were Doug Dickerson of Pickering; Gerry Fisher, Pickering; Gary Herrema, Uxbridge; Ken Matheson, Pickering and Maustyn McKnight, Uxbridge.

To assist jobless

DURHAM REGION — Growing numbers of unemployed, particularly in the Oshawa area, are the concern of Durham Regional Council.

In an effort to find some solution to the problem, the region's chairman, Walter Beath has recommended all municipal mayors meet with representatives of Durham College and Canada Manpower to determine what type

of assistance can be provided.

Chairman Beath feels a committee should be set up to look into various retraining courses available at the College.

Mayor Jim Potticary of Oshawa has been loudly critical of the region, claiming its development department hasn't kept in touch with area plant closings.



Roller rink queen

Sixteen-year-old Ronda Hathaway, Church St. Uxbridge, is working this summer at the snack bar at the Pleasure Valley roller skateway near Coppins' Corners. Ronda likes to spend her "breaks" rolling down the asphalt surface. —Ed Schroeter

Pick new plant site

UXBRIDGE — A property adjacent to the C.N.R. line near Lincolnville, has been chosen as the site of a new \$2,000,000 plant for St. Lawrence Starch Company.

Mayor Gary Herrema said a special meeting of Uxbridge Council last week, had passed a recommendation calling for the Ministry of Housing to amend a "freeze" on Lot 11, where the plant is to be built. The amend-

ment would allow facilities for corn drying, storage and processing, as well as fertilizer stations.

He said township by-laws already carry this provision, but the company wanted provincial approval as well.

Work on the new plant, accommodate between 500,000 to 1,000,000 bushels of corn a year, is expected to begin in September.

Passenger pulls knife on cabbie

PICKERING — A 23 year old woman cab driver had an unnerving experience, last week, when a male passenger suddenly pulled a knife.

Catherine Anne Douglas told police she picked up the man at the Pickering GO Station and drove him as far as Bowmanville. It was at this

location that he drew the knife. After driving around the area more than two hours, she finally convinced the man to get out of her vehicle at the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital.

Charged with attempted robbery and possession of a dangerous weapon is Ross Stinson, 30, of Gladstone Avenue, Oshawa.

Objections not welcome

COPPINS CORNERS — "A township of objectors — that day is gone," Uxbridge Mayor Gary Herrema told The Tribune.

He was referring to opposition that might result from a decision by Council to allow light industry and outside storage on fifty acres at Coppins Corners, Hwy. 1A and the Brock Road.

"Development has stayed away from Uxbridge because it was frightened away," said Mayor Herrema, "not everyone will be happy, sometimes you have to step on a few toes, but Council has decided to take the bull by the horns. We need jobs here instead of depending on Oshawa and Toronto".

The mayor admitted several homes in the area would overlook proposed industrial sites. "I'm sorry about that," he said.

Re-zoning will allow such industries as a warehouse, a truck terminal, feed mill, a heating, air conditioning or plumbing shop, an auto body shop, a repair garage or light equipment business.

Outside storage will be permitted only to the north where it will be hidden from view.

As for repercussions, Mayor Herrema replied that "fortunately we have a few on Council who don't play politics," adding, "I can go back to farming any day".

Hay lift

DURHAM REGION — A "hay lift" is underway from areas of Durham Region to parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, hardest hit by summer drought.

A co-ordinating office has been established at Elmvale, north of Barrie.

"The situation's quite serious, especially for beef herds," Brian Hall, Asst. Agricultural Representative for Durham Region stated. Both rail and truck transportation is being used.

The price ranges from \$50 to \$60 a ton.