

Imaginations will run wild for adult and child alike during Magic Festival '87

By BRUCE STAPLEY
It's "Perfectly Bananas" and it's all geared up to entertain Stouffville October 30 and 31.

That's the name of the touring magic show that will highlight this year's Magic Festival and for the sixth year in a row, Stouffville will be the site of the only festival of its kind in all of Canada.

"We're really excited about this year's festival," said George Schlukbier, a member of the Stouffville Magic Club that is responsible for organizing this year's proceedings. "We've got

the local merchants more involved than ever and a list of features that will excite and entertain people of all ages."

Close-up magic

The festival will run from October 29 through 31st. Starting Wednesday, there will be close up magic demonstrations at The Greens Restaurant, with the big show, Perfectly Bananas, scheduled to play at the high school on Friday night and then again on Saturday afternoon. A special

performance has also been arranged for students on Friday afternoon.

Featuring dancers, ventriloquists and magicians, the first annual Arts Award will also be presented during the Friday night performance.

There will be a trophy awarded to the merchant with the best window display. While on Saturday afternoon, McNeil Laboratories will sponsor a children's magic show at Latcham Hall.

offer a haunted house and there will be a pumpkin decorating contest.

The Saturday afternoon magic show at the high school will offer awards to children wearing the best costumes. There will also be a "magic" pamphlet available throughout the festival, explaining how to do several magic tricks.

The principal organizers of this year's festival are Dan Laffey, Dave Houston, Sig. Kuzatz and Reg Holden.

Mr. Schlukbier, who has organized the festival for the past five years, feels the best part of the program is it stimulates the imaginations of children and adults alike.

"Anything that stimulates the imagination has to be good," he continued. "This type of thing brings a lot of joy to a lot of children and tests the rational faculties of adults."

However, he is more than aware of the disapproval of certain churches towards the concept of magic, but says he's not afraid to discuss theology with anyone who feels the festival is "evil" or promotes witchcraft.

"Magic is a performing art," he explained. "All you have to do is look at the history of magic to understand it's the antithesis of demonology. The first book ever written on magic, The History of Witchcraft, was a debunking of witches' powers. It tried to inform the masses of how they were being duped into accepting witchcraft as a religion."

Not competing

"We're not trying to compete with the churches," he added. "But you don't see magicians proselytizing on national television for funds for their causes."

Mr. Schlukbier claims magicians donate so much time to hospitals. "They love their art," he said. "They don't make a lot of money."

He does realize, however, there will always be someone who will be offended by the idea of magic.

"Ours is a non denominational magic festival," he concluded. "But I'm sure we'll offend everyone, regardless of religion, race or creed."

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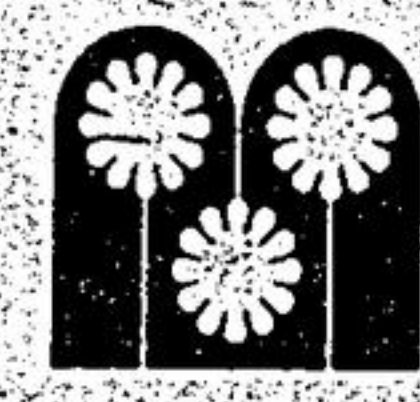
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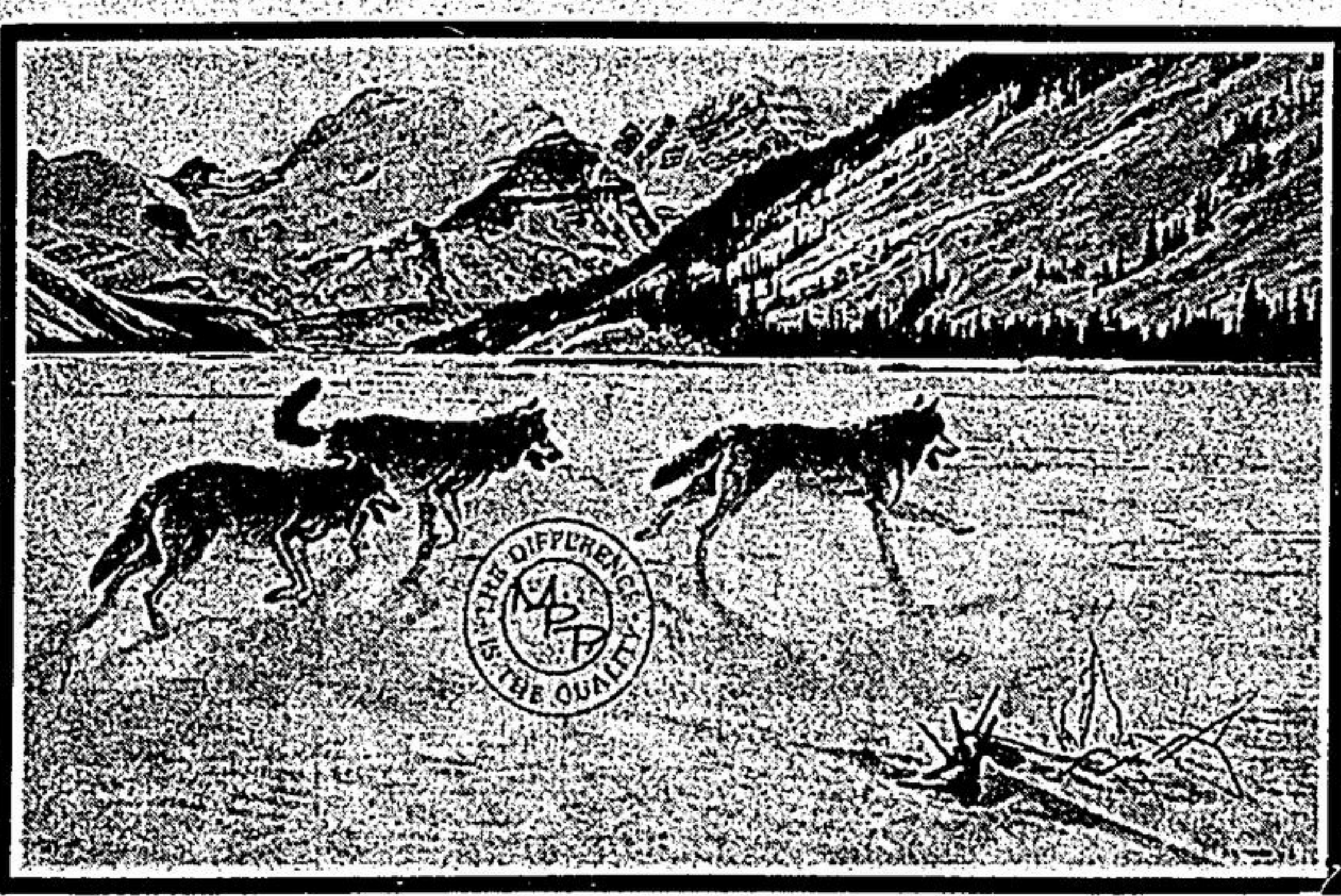
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