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VOL. 101 NO. 4

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, January 27, 1988

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Wrong 'hit man' Murder for hire uncovered

STOUFFVILLE — Altona's David Houston (alias Shakespeare The Magician), has encountered many unusual situations in his day.

None, however, will match the occasion when he was propositioned by a man who asked him to kill his wife.

Service

Fred Crossen, Church Street South, Stouffville, will receive his Sixty-Year Jewel at a ceremony hosted by Richardson Masonic Lodge, Wednesday.

The presentation will be made by Lodge Master Jack Watson, Tenth Line South.

Fred will be accompanied by his nephew Ken Prentice of Markham.

Mr. Crossen was initiated into the Masonic Order, Jan. 29, 1926. He was installed as Master June 24, 1942.

Immediately preceding him as Master was Morley Symes, 1941 and the late Harold Sanders, 1940.

Raise \$3,500

STOUFFVILLE — Twenty-two Stouffville residents raised a total of \$3,500 in the annual Easter Seal Snowarama near Haliburton, Saturday.

The distance travelled was 100 kilometers.

Total proceeds through pledges amounted to \$15,000.

Participants were — Harry Schell and Steve Schell, Dan Brown, Hart Smith, Graeme Fretz, Nick Bangay, Pete Waterman, Steve Spang, Robert Lewis and Jane Lewis, Paul Shrake, Ron Assinck, Joe Hulshof, Pete Turner, Bob Hughes, Phil Redshaw, Dave White, Andy Patterson, Bill, Bruce, Jim and Mike Grove.

New cluster homes welcome residents

STOUFFVILLE — The first unit containing four apartments in Parkview Village's new cluster home development will be available for occupancy Friday.

J.M. Nighswander, Parkview's executive administrator, confirmed the date, Monday. He also said units four and five containing eight apartments should be ready by Feb. 15 and units two and three, also containing eight apartments, should be finished by March 1.

The bizarre story had its beginning back in December, 1985, and concluded with a conviction in a Toronto court on Friday.

Sentence will be handed down Feb. 10.

Mr. Houston was first approached by the accused at the conclusion of a Metro-Christmas party. The stranger requested a business card and when Houston replied he was 'fresh out', the man asked for a name and phone number.

That's when the calls started. At first, the man was vague, Houston said. He talked only about "a bit of a dirty job." Then he spoke of "causing his wife to have an accident."

A figure of \$5,000 was mentioned.

Mr. Houston admits he was frightened. "I feared for my own life and for the safety of my family," he said. He confided in his wife.

"We talked about it and prayed about it," he said.

When yet another call came through, he went to police.

Undercover officers, one posing as "Billy the Magician", arranged a meeting with the suspect. The detective was 'wired for sound' and everything that was said was recorded.

When confronted, the man at first denied it. However, when the tape was produced, he confessed.

Mr. Houston was called to testify and identified the accused in the court.

"There was a lot of soul-searching on my part," the local magic-man said, "but I'm not the least bit sorry I did what I did."

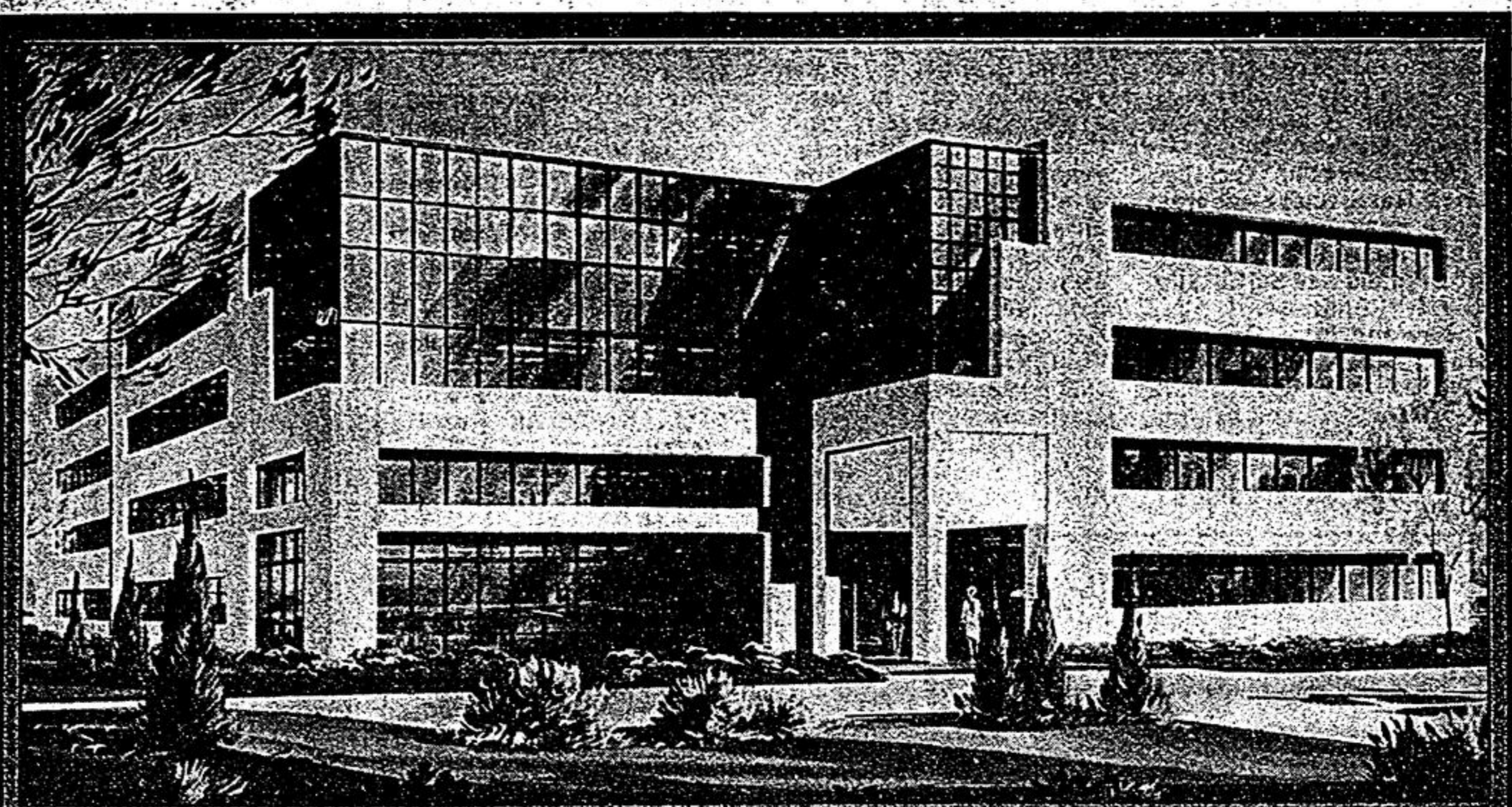
Mr. Houston said the accused's wife was totally unaware her life was in any danger until told by police.

He now feels certain that had he not acted in the manner he did, the woman could have been seriously injured or killed.

"We have every confidence these dates will be met," Mr. Nighswander said.

Moving in on Friday are — Pauline Grove, Beatrice Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Len Hutchinson and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Reesor.

Although set apart from Parkview Village, the cluster homes are located on the same site allowing residents access to the many amenities the apartment complex has to offer.



Modern office complex proposed for town center

A construction company of Stouffville, all ready to build a modern office building, is seeking approval of a satellite school to be administered by the principal at Summerview.

Hockey hero joins Oilers

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville's Keith Acton has a new lease on life, at least a new lease on life in the N.H.L.

The 29-year-old centre star has been traded from Minnesota to Edmonton. He played his first game in an Oilers uniform Saturday. On Monday, he picked up two assists in Edmonton's 6-4 victory over Pittsburgh.

Stouffville's favorite hockey son was drafted in 1988. He spent two seasons in Nova Scotia, then joined the Montreal Canadiens where he played three years. He was 4 1/2 years with the North Stars.

"One has to look on the positive side," Gerry Acton, his father, told The Tribune Monday, "Keith's going from a 19th place club to one that's close to the top."

Gerry says unless a player's a super star, he's never certain how long he'll stay with any one team. He points to Moe Mantha, the other half of the Minnesota-Edmonton trade, who remained with the Oilers only two months.

"At least Keith's chances of being on a Stanley Cup winner are better now than they were before," Gerry said.

Gerry said the move came as no surprise. Coach Lou Nanne had told Keith a trade was pending, he said, and that six teams were interested.

While Gerry and Betty have travelled to Minneapolis on several occasions, trips to Edmonton may be less frequent due to the distance factor. It's almost twice as far, Gerry said.

Despite his 29 years, Keith is still considered one of the fastest skaters in the N.H.L. and one of the hardest workers.

So far this season, he's scored eight goals and picked up thirteen assists for 21 points.



KEITH ACTON

Torch ceremony

DURHAM REGION — The Olympic Spirit is alive and well in Durham Region. Elementary students are holding their own Celebration Ceremony with Goodwood and Claremont children carrying the torch Monday.

Goodwood runners will arrive in Claremont at 11 a.m. Claremont runners will arrive at Valley View (Greenwood) at 12:30 p.m.

Two Claremont students have been selected from each class. The pupils are: Grade 1 — Eric Johnson and Stephanie Gallant; Grade 1-2 — Billy Barnes and Brett Stephenson; Grade 2-3 — Cheryl Norton and Jason Lynch; Grade 4 — Lisa Jones and Shawn Wannop; Grade 5-6 — Philip Garbutt and Kevin Limkilde; Grade 6 — Danny Saxton and Kathy Todd; Grade 7 — Jan Mehlenbacher and Tammy Bannooh; Grade 8 — Darrell Vanderligt and Jason Baun.

The organizing committee includes staff teachers Mary McMullen, David Field and principal Gail Elliott.

Goodwood School won't name its participating students until later this week.

School plans

STOUFFVILLE — The trustees of Stouffville Christian School have called a meeting of parents for this Thursday, Jan. 28.

Purpose of the gathering is to present plans for 1988-89 and discuss the possible extension of secondary education through Grade 12.

At present, classes go only to Grade 10.

While the meeting is of interest primarily to parents of students in Grades 7 to 10, all are welcome, a school newsletter reads.

"The board wants to keep parents informed," Principal Wally Robinson, told The Tribune. Future plans, he explained, are dependent to a great extent on when a start can be made on the building of a new school.

Satellite school Trustee's plan

STOUFFVILLE — With no additional student accommodation planned for the next five years, trustee Harry Bowes is seeking approval of a satellite school to be administered by the principal at Summerview.

The site's available, Mr. Bowes points out. The property location is the northerly extension of Baker Avenue.

At present, a number of students from Stouffville's north-east quadrant are enrolled at Orchard Park. Several kindergarten-aged pupils are attending at Dickson's Hill.

While most parents are pleased with the low pupil/teacher ratio at Dickson's Hill, others have complained, Bowes said.

"We need half a school," he stated.

Mr. Bowes says a six pack (five classrooms and an office) would serve as a stop-gap between what we have now and a new school in the future.

He estimates the cost at \$250,000.

Satellite schools are not uncommon in York Region, Mr. Bowes told The Tribune. He said both Richmond Hill and Newmarket had gone this route with considerable success.

Town protects its borders

STOUFFVILLE — Concern is mounting in Whitchurch-Stouffville with respect to open-storage industrial sites on the west side of Hwy. 404 in the Town of Richmond Hill.

Planners here claim this type of development will reflect badly on this municipality and adjacent properties to the east.

The location is placed at Lots 1 to 5, Conc. 3, north of the Stouffville Road.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is anxious to see 'prestige' industrial development locate on lands east of Hwy. 404.

At a Planning Advisory Committee meeting, Jan. 19, members agreed to indicate their opposition to outside storage that's visible from either the Stouffville Road or Hwy. 404. They also asked that stringent environmental controls be enacted to protect against water, air and soil contamination. In addition, they requested all storage be densely screened by berms, fences and/or high quality landscaping.

When asked why this type of development had not been proposed for the west side of the CNR right-of-way, east of Leslie Street, planners were told residents had voiced objections.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said it appears Richmond Hill is planning to move its Yonge Street problem to the boundary of

Whitchurch-Stouffville, "with the hope that if it can't be seen, it will somehow go away."

Concluded Councillor Wilf Morley: "It's obvious, they (Richmond Hill), are not concerned about the welfare of their neighbors."

A public meeting to discuss the Richmond Hill proposal will be held in their council chambers, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Some party!

STOUFFVILLE — It was a party to end all parties.

For the parents of the 15-year-old 'hostess' it was a party that will undoubtedly end all parties; at least for awhile.

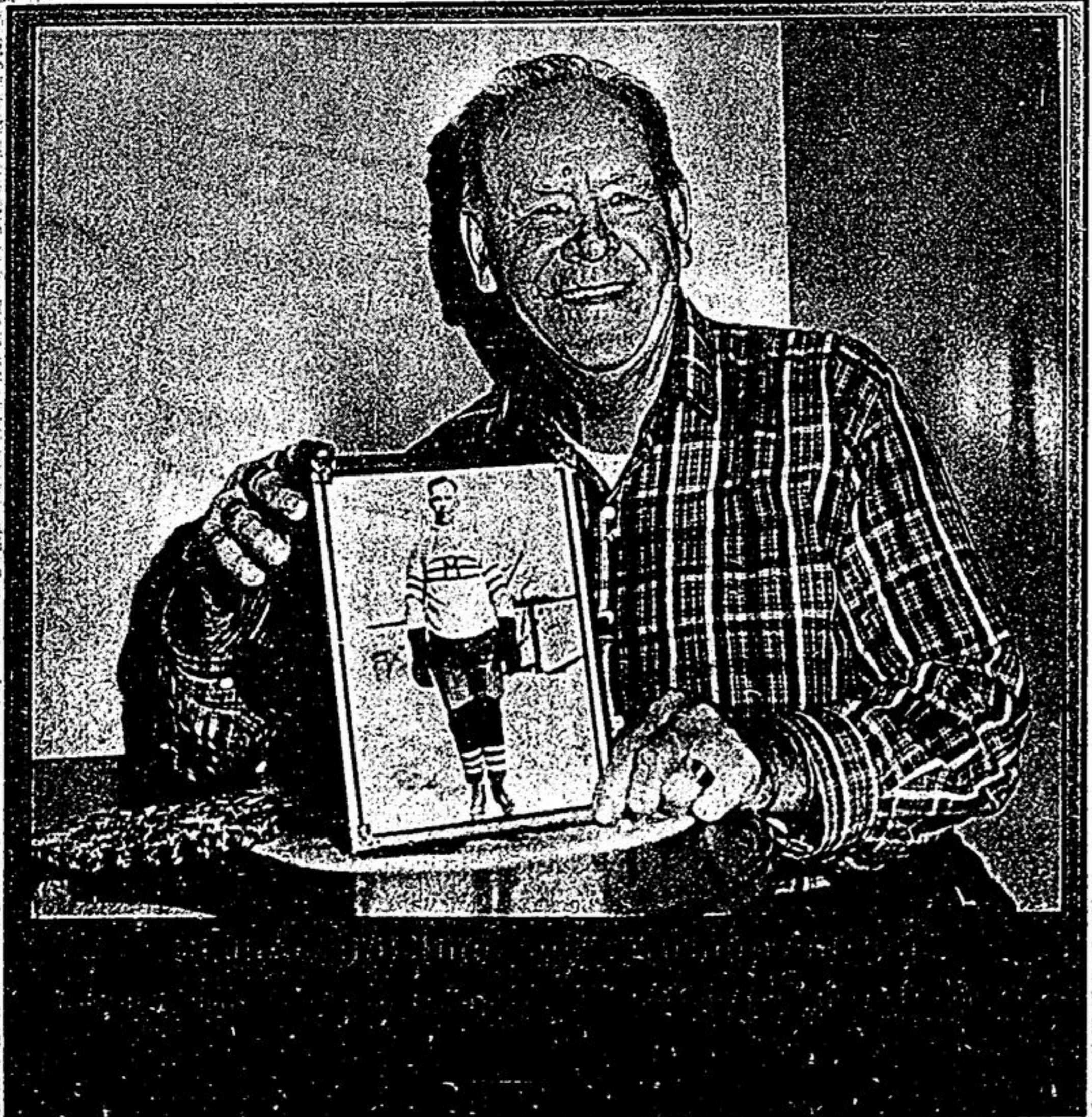
It occurred Jan. 15 at a home on Geoffrey Crescent.

According to the mother, only a few close friends were invited. However, the word quickly spread and 'crashers' by the hundreds arrived.

The crowd spilled over onto neighbors' properties and police were called.

No charges were laid, the mother said. The parents were away on holidays at the time. They arrived home Jan. 22.

Considerable damage was done to the interior of the house. The Tribune was told, including broadloom and walls.



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