

The Silk You Wore

Today many synthetic fabrics have relegated silk to the background. Although "showy material" is in almost equal demand with other wearing textiles, silk has long been replaced by synthetics, such as various forms of rayon and lately, nylon.

The beginning of silk goes back to 2600 years B.C. Even until the beginning of the twentieth century only the rich could afford to be dressed in the sheer, glamorous and glossy material. For many years silk was worn mainly by men, in king's courts, palaces and in other places of grandeur. But today the filmy and delicate textures which have replaced silk adorn women in majority, even the most unpretentious, both young and old. One needs only to stop and look at the display windows of any feminine apparel shop for assurance.

Although a finer, more durable strand than that of pure silk not yet has been put to practical use, production of silk is slow, tedious and costly. The great demand for finery by today's

woman has driven scientists to come up with substitute textures to satisfy demands and still be produced with practical economy.

First discovery of silk was made by the 14-year-old wife of a Chinese emperor. She found the secret of drawing out the filament from a silkworm cocoon, and was the first to make a fabric from this filament. She became known as the "Goddess of the Silkworm" and is still connected with religious ceremonies called for the care of silkworms and silk production.

Production and manufacture of silk, according to some authorities, remained a secret with the Chinese for 2000 years. Then, the story goes, two priests smug-

gled silkworm eggs in bamboo shafts from China, to Japan, from where the silk industry spread—more or less—throughout the world.

Oriental silks became known in southern Europe through trade in the first century, B.C. Where the natural food of the silkworm—mulberry leaves—grew in abundance, the culture of silk began. In countries such as Spain, France, Holland and Russia the industry thrived for a while, then declined, chiefly because of rising labor costs and competition of other locally manufactured textiles.

Several attempts at silk culture were made in early America, as in Georgia, Virginia and most successfully in Connecticut. But cotton became too strong a competitor, and the industry dwindled.

England also had its try at silk growing. It flourished for a

while, but then declined.

And so, today, the production and manufacture of true silk—on anything but a very simple scale—is back from where it blossomed across the globe, and even there the industry is threatened.

Where labor is cheap and abundant, silk can be produced and sold at a profit. But the rising living standards throughout the world threatens to make the culture obsolete, unless science takes a hand to develop machinery which can replace the hours of painstaking human labor.

Population of Vanderhoof is 600; area surrounding the village, 2,500. Its main industries are forestry and agriculture. Total payroll in Vanderhoof area in 1947 was \$390,098; in the village, \$54,183. In 1945, village payroll was \$3,899.

How Kaien Id. Got Its Name

Commonplace as gulls may be on any sea coast, their voracious antics and comic mannerisms never cease to draw attention of a lone wanderer, the tourist, or a Sunday crowd. To coastal inhabitants and mariners the seagull is a friend, but nevertheless his vulgar habits are indisputable.

Probably in vexation at the gulls, the island on which Prince Rupert now stands—separated by just a narrow gulch from the mainland—was called Khay-en by the Indians. Khay-en means the dirt left behind by sea gulls.

Naas River—63 miles north of Prince Rupert—means "the river of plenty" and derived its name

from the Indian tribes who found food in abundance along its shores.

Salmon were caught in summer and fall and dried for the winter. Oolichans in the spring were a delicacy, for rich in oil they provided for both, grease for food and light, for dried oolichans can be burned like a candle.

Bauxite was first discovered in 1821 by a French scientist in a clay-like substance near Les Baux, France. It contains 52 per cent alumina.

Metallic aluminum is made from bauxite by first removing the impurities, thus producing alumina. This will be the job of the smelter at Kitimat. The alumina then goes to an aluminum refining plant.

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COMMERCIAL HOTEL

Prince Rupert, B. C.

a welcome . . .

to

Management.
Employees

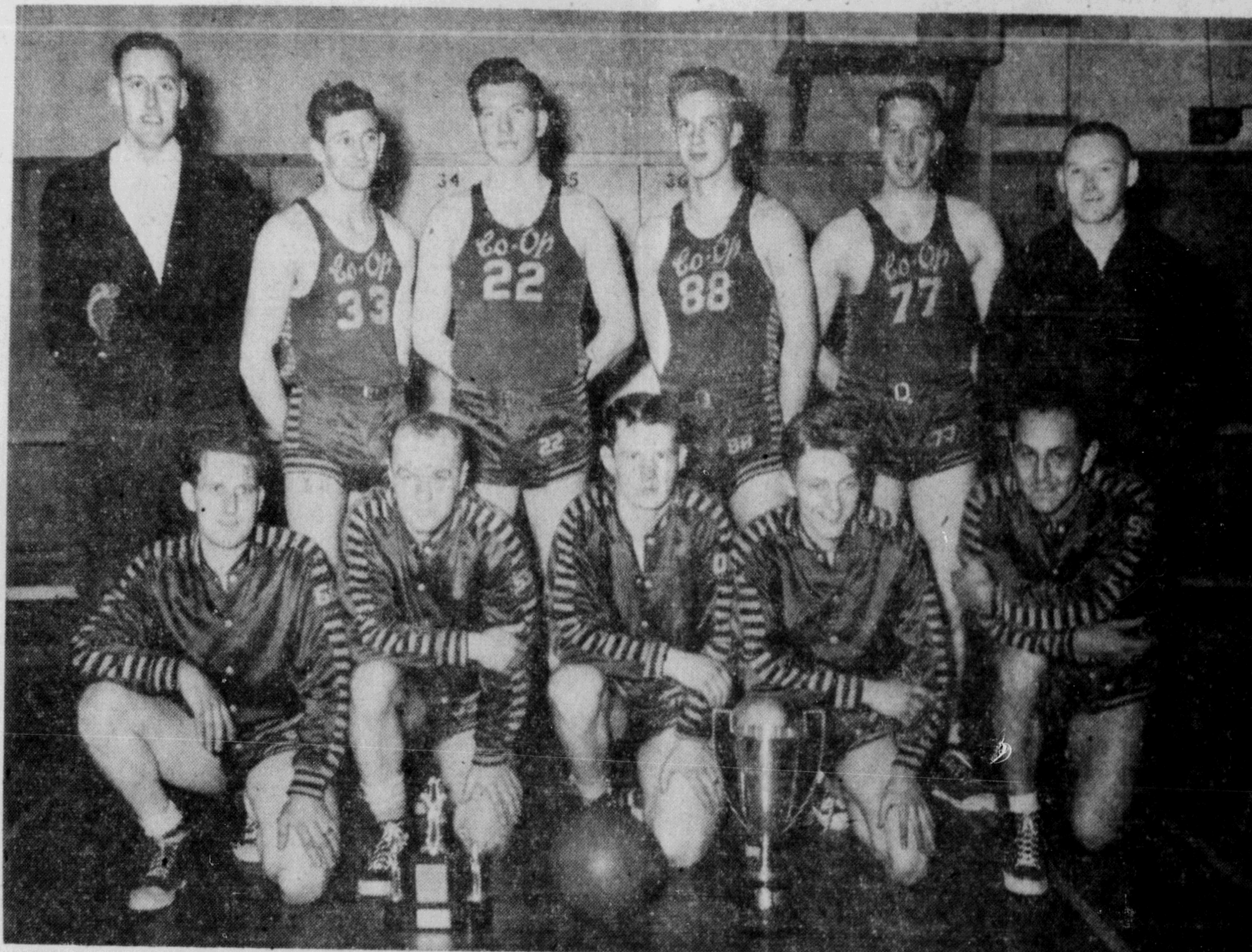
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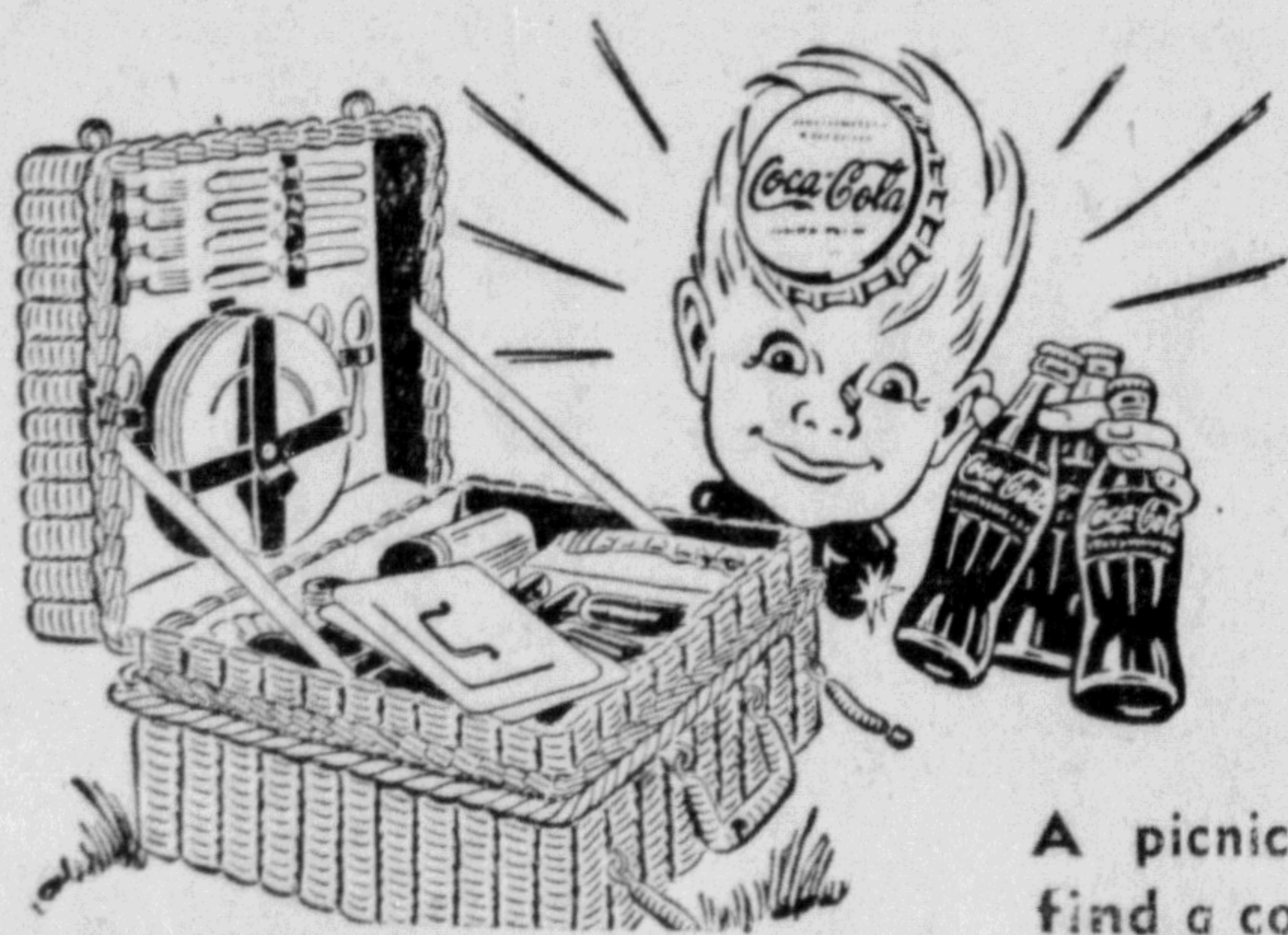


CO-OPS—Prince Rupert League and play-off champions, 1950-51. Back row, left to right, are Angus Macpherson, coach; Joe Davi, D. McDonald, Sid Scherk, Herb Morgan and A. Simundsen, manager; front row, M. Holkestad, T. Arney, M. Webster,

and Scherk and Sonny Beynon. Several of these players are also members of Prince Rupert Jets, B. C. Senior "B" champions. Trophies awarded the Co-ops were the Civic Centre trophy and the Sun Life Cup.

Refreshment

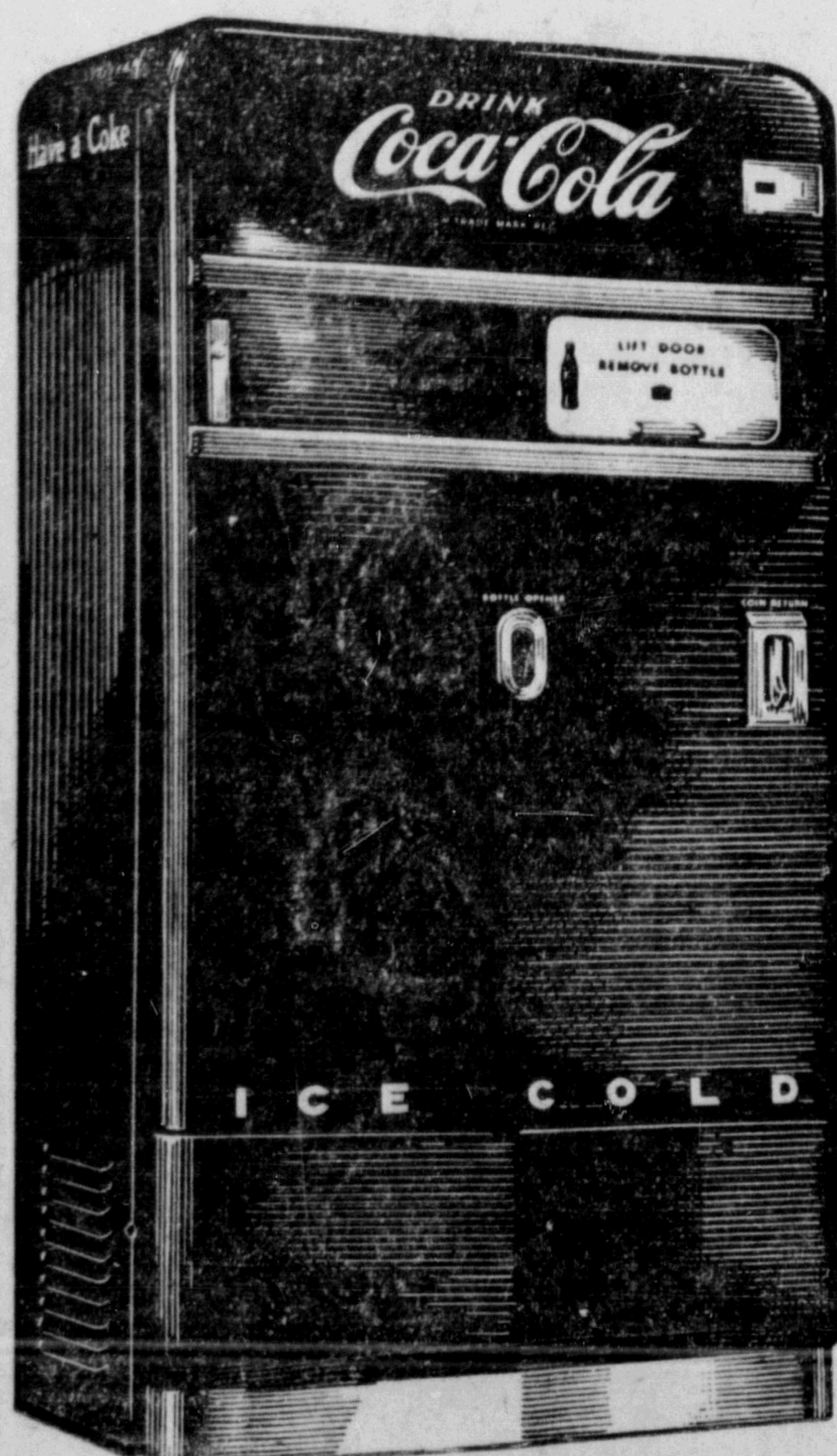
is a good idea . . .



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