

IN THIS CORNER

DICK AYRES

It isn't often that we get a good laugh out of covering sports in Prince Rupert, especially basketball being played this season. But in the pursuit of a word to use in dealing with the current referee crisis threatening basketball here, we came across the word "sportsman" in connection with sportsmanship. That's when we laughed heartily, particularly in regards to the Senior B and Inter A leagues.

According to Webster, a lad usually considered something of an authority, the definition of a sportsman is "one taking part in sports who is fair and generous—one who has recourse to nothing illegitimate; a good loser and a graceful winner."

We venture to say that there aren't a dozen players or coaches in the Senior or Inter A leagues who could live up to that description. Furthermore we're not so sure that the remainder want to.

At the moment of writing, disrespect for referees and what they stand for has got to the stage where one official's decisions on the basketball floor are being reflected in his business; another arbiter's wife, who has listened to the abuse hurled at her husband at the games has begged him to quit; another was insulted as he walked down the street with his wife.

It may come as a shock to many that the phrase "disrespect" of referees is used. To a sportsman, a referee or umpire is a person in charge of a game. He's there to see that the rules of a game are observed. His decision is final and the questioning of a ruling made by an arbiter never occurs to a sportsman. He's too busy trying to play the game as it should be played. If he gets a bum call, he takes it, the same as he takes the losses along with the wins. Even if he gets two calls which he considers unjust, he doesn't make a scene, tearing his hair, casting imploring eyes heavenward or reviling the official. A sportsman doesn't do any of those things, because he knows that such action would have a detrimental effect on the weaker-willed members of his team and cause them to follow a bad example.

But they do it in Prince Rupert, just as elsewhere. And how they do it! Only Saturday night, a losing team gave such a feeble cheer for the winners after the game that the coach pulled them back into a huddle to cheer over again.

Is the fault with the coaches? the players? the referees? or the basketball commission.

Well the same coach that tried to make his team look like good losers had been setting his team a good example by shouting at a referee, "what's the matter with you, you dummy?"

The players? They're all good lads, they play hard, and they do their best and they try to win. But there's something basic lacking. This tendency to start swinging when tempers are hot, to whine at every call figured unfair, or to get back at some guy whose playing it dirty is futile. If a player is known to be pulling raw stuff, continually through the season there's one place to take an official beef. That's to the basketball commission.

Despite all the dissatisfaction with referees or players who are "getting away with murder" not one official complaint has been taken to the Prince Rupert Basketball Commission this season. They may have been taken to the desk of the Civic Centre, but that's not the commission. The commission is a body of men set up to govern basketball in this city. Members of that august group of citizens have watched the majority of games this season and yet little has been done to bring some semblance of order to what was once one of the best-drawing sports in this city.

The commission asked for referees and some were provided by the Inter A league. Fred Caledrone worked with some and Don Hartwig held classes at school. Bill Morrison and Doug Sankey are two of the most hardworking ones that came up as a result. There have been others but due to their lack of experience their calls brought wails of protest instead of forbearance while they were learning their jobs. Referees don't spring out of thin air fully-trained any more than youths become top notch basketball players overnight.

To try and solve this problem, and others, the Basketball Commission has called a general meeting of the basketball association for Friday night.

We strongly urge attendance by all players from Inter B up, all coaches and all referees, whether qualified, or unqualified.

Even if the meeting lasts all night, let everyone have their say on the questions bothering the most people. If nothing else comes out of the meeting but getting a lot of complaints off each other's chests, that at least will relieve some of the tension and may result in the return of something that must have existed here not too long ago... sportsmanship.

Canucks Down Cougars, Top League

By The Canadian Press

Only action in the Western Hockey League Monday was Vancouver Canucks' 4-2 win over Victoria Cougars, which moved them an additional two points ahead of Calgary Stampede.

Canucks played it tight to the vest by moving out to a 2-0 lead in the first period. Cougars nullified the affairs with two

swift second-period goals only to see Vancouver swoop back with two more to end the period and the scoring.

Cy Rouse scored twice for Canucks with Larry Popein and Gordie Kerr registering singles. Defenceman Sam Lavitt and Ross Lowe were Cougar marksmen.

Last Night's Fights

By The Associated Press

Brooklyn—Nate Brooks, 116½, Cleveland, stopped Billy Peacock, 117, Los Angeles, 8.

Nassau—Jimmy Carter, 137, New York, decision Billy Lauderdale, 142½, Miami, 10.

Detroit—Bob Finnerty, 150, Cleveland, stopped Chuck Price, 151½, Detroit, 8.

Holyoke, Mass.—Jerome Richardson, 158½, New York, decision Sammy Walker, 157¾, Springfield, Mass., 8.

Montreal—Claude Fortin, 144, Montreal, decision Marcel Brisebois, 145½, Montreal, 12.

Medical Okay

LONDON (CP)—Dr. J. Gordon wrote in the medical journal Family Doctor that contrary to popular belief, it is medically all right to wash oysters down with whisky.

Win May Cinch Senior Title For Manson's

Manson's Omegas, presently leading the Senior B basketball league with 18 points, or 9 wins and 3 losses, can sew up the league championship tonight when they meet last-place Columbia Cellulose 300 Club.

Second place Gordon and Anderson with only three games left to play have 14 points, 7 wins and 6 losses and must win all their remaining games, to tie the league if Manson's win tonight. Manson's still have four games left to play. CCC hopelessly out of the race with only 3 wins and 10 losses, can still make it tough for the league leaders.

In the Inter A loop, North Star is already league champion with 20 points from 10 wins and 2 losses which puts them beyond the reach of runner-up Fraser and Payne who have 7 wins and 5 losses for 14 points. Both teams have only four games left to play. Tonight North Star meets Watts & Nickerson who have lost 10 games in ten outings.

Manson's of the Inter B loop have a 7-3 record for 14 points and with only two games left to play could theoretically be caught by either General Motors or Nelson Brothers who have 3 points each, with 4 wins and 5 losses and three games left to play. Tonight Nelson Brothers meet Sunrise who have a 3 win, 5 loss record.

V's Down Trail To Cinch Title

By The Canadian Press

It's all over but the shouting in the Okanagan Senior Hockey League... at least for the Pentiction V's.

While the three other members of the league are worrying about the juggling and the pushing for the best playoff spots, V's can relax. They cinched the league championship Monday night.

By clipping the touring Trail Smoke Eaters from the Western International Hockey League 6-3 in Pentiction, V's moved 21 points ahead of Vernon Canadians and Kamloops Elks who are tied for second place. Neither second-place team can catch up to Pentiction in the remaining league games.

Pentiction went ahead 4-1 by the end of the first period and the third period was scoreless.

Jack McIntyre and Jim Fairburn led Pentiction with two goals each while Babe McAvooy and Jim McDonald got singles.

Johnny Ryplen scored two for Trail while Alex Kuzma got the other.

Fred E. Dowdie

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SPORTS ROUND-UP

By GAYLE TALBOT

NEW YORK (AP)—In no other sport is the competitor so completely at the whim of the fates as in golf. We have long felt that the rules of the game, scarcely changed since the days of the Gutta Percha ball, are downright stupid in some cases.

The latest exhibit is the story of Bob Inman, a youthful dark horse who quite probably was beaten out of first prize in the \$10,000 Phoenix Open because of a sheet of paper blew across his vision just as he was driving off on the 64th hole.

At the time Inman was leading his closest rival, Cary Middlecoff, by one stroke with nine holes to go. Startled by the paper, Inman shrank into a grove of trees. He took a seven on the hole and, thoroughly shaken, wound up with a 77 for the round and five shots behind Middlecoff and Ed Furgol, who won Monday's playoff.

In such an instance, why should the youngster not have been permitted to second-whack from the tee? It was a lot of money to ask him to surrender simply because some careless person permitted a paper to blow.

We have many times seen

two players send their shots into the same sand trap, maybe only feet apart. Yet one would find his ball sitting up nicely while his rival's would be deeply imbedded in a heel print left by a spectator.

We have seen a player penalized a stroke in such an important event as the National Open because his ball, insecurely perched, chanced to move slightly as he prepared to address it. We have always regarded that as downright silly.

We saw Lloyd Mangrum blown right out of an open playoff at Merion a few years ago because he instinctively reached down and blew a bug off his ball on the green.

Scarcely a summer passes that some prominent player is not booted out of a tournament because he is found to be carrying one club beyond the bag limit.

Sullivan Stretches Point Lead

NEW YORK (CP)—George Red Sullivan of Hershey Bears opened a three-point gap over his nearest competition this week in the American Hockey League scoring race.

Sullivan's 20 goals and 54 assists were good for 74 points, three more than Eddie Olson and Jackie Gordon of Cleveland Barons.

Harry Pidhirny of Syracuse Warriors remained the AHL's top sniper while Sullivan's 54 assists also were best in the league.

Rambunctious Larry Canan of Pittsburgh Hornets ran his league-leading penalty total to 129 minutes.

Jacques Plante of Buffalo owned the best goal-tending

average, 2.74 goals a game scored against him. Cleveland's Emile The Cat Francis had the most shutouts, four.

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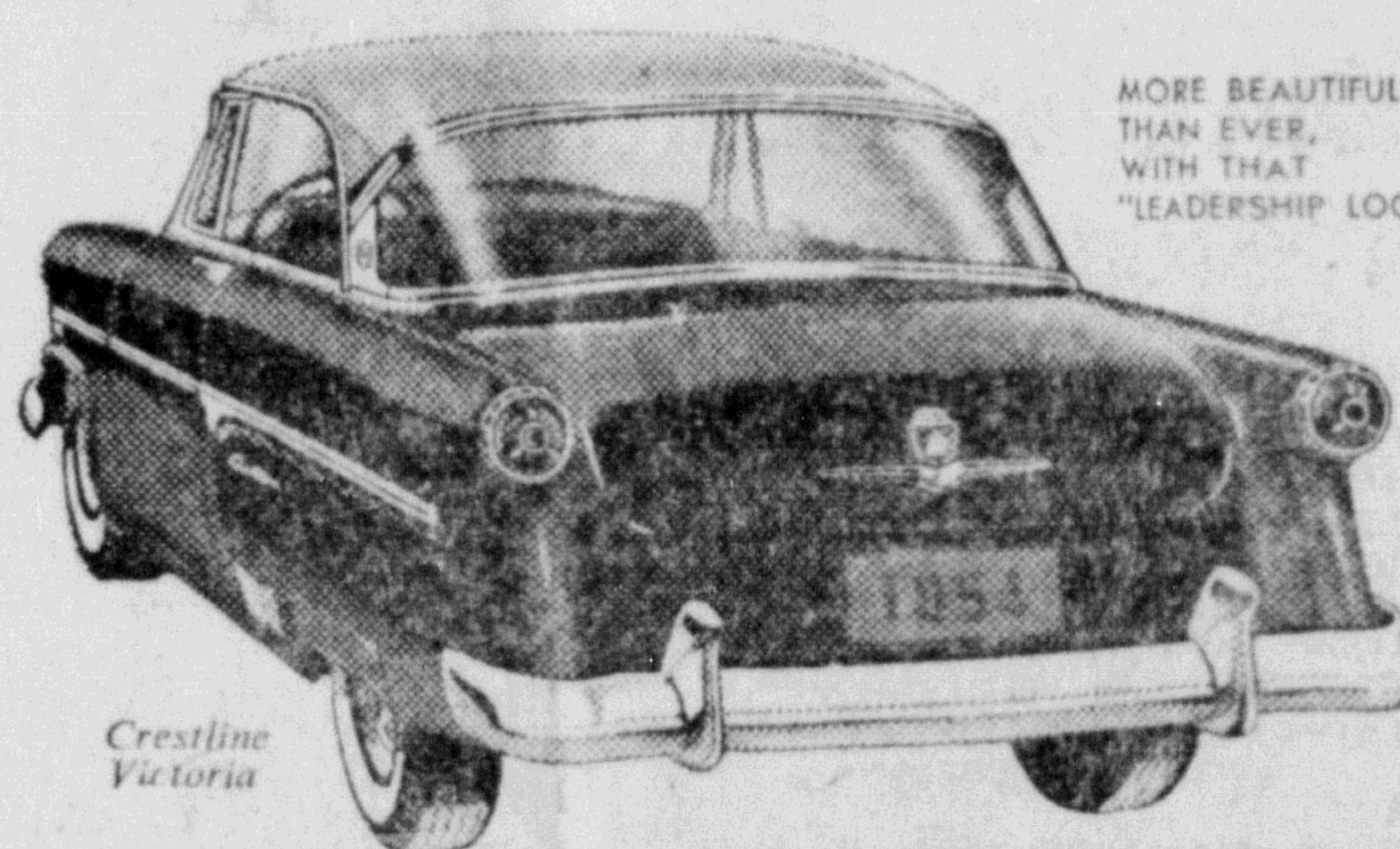
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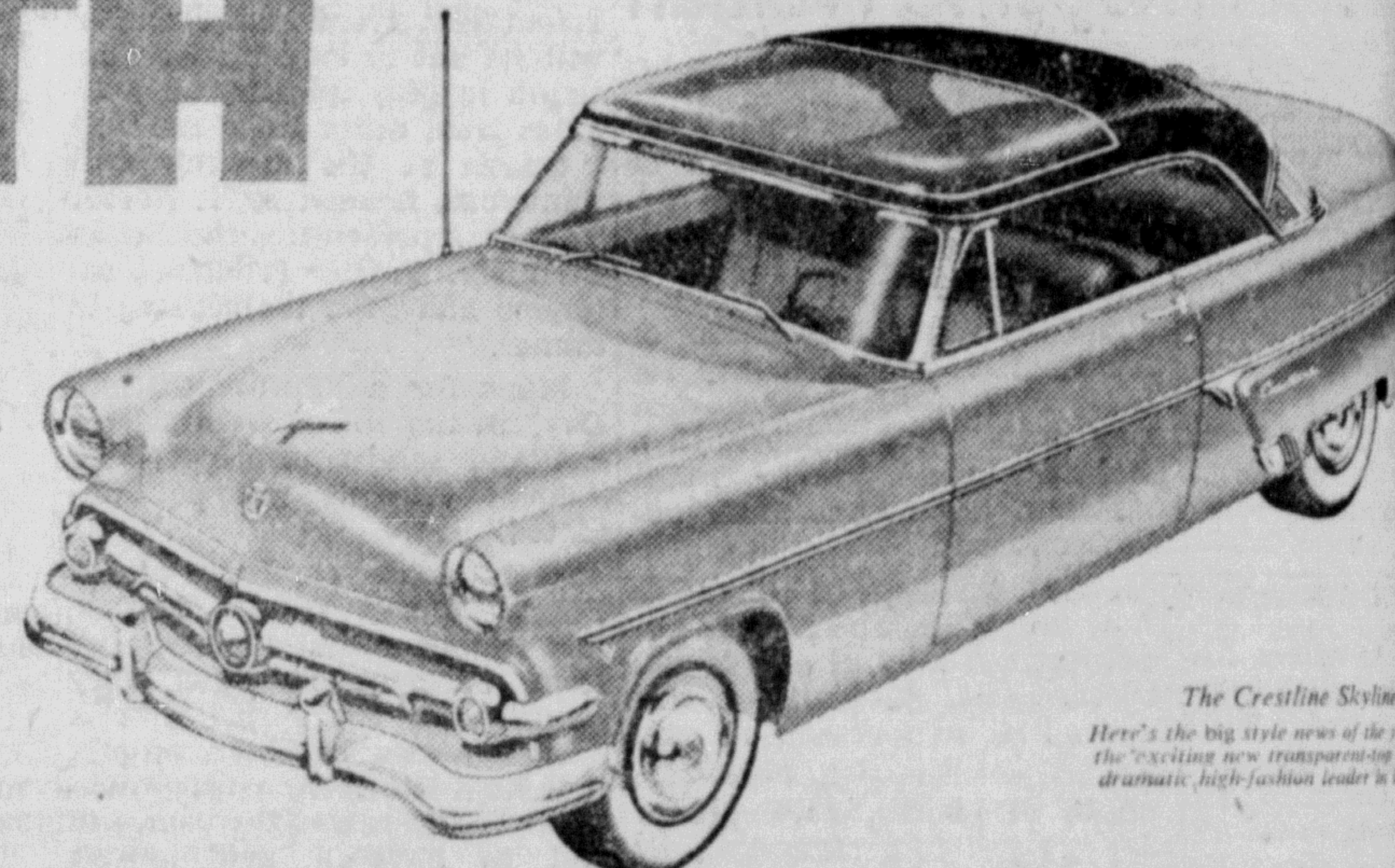
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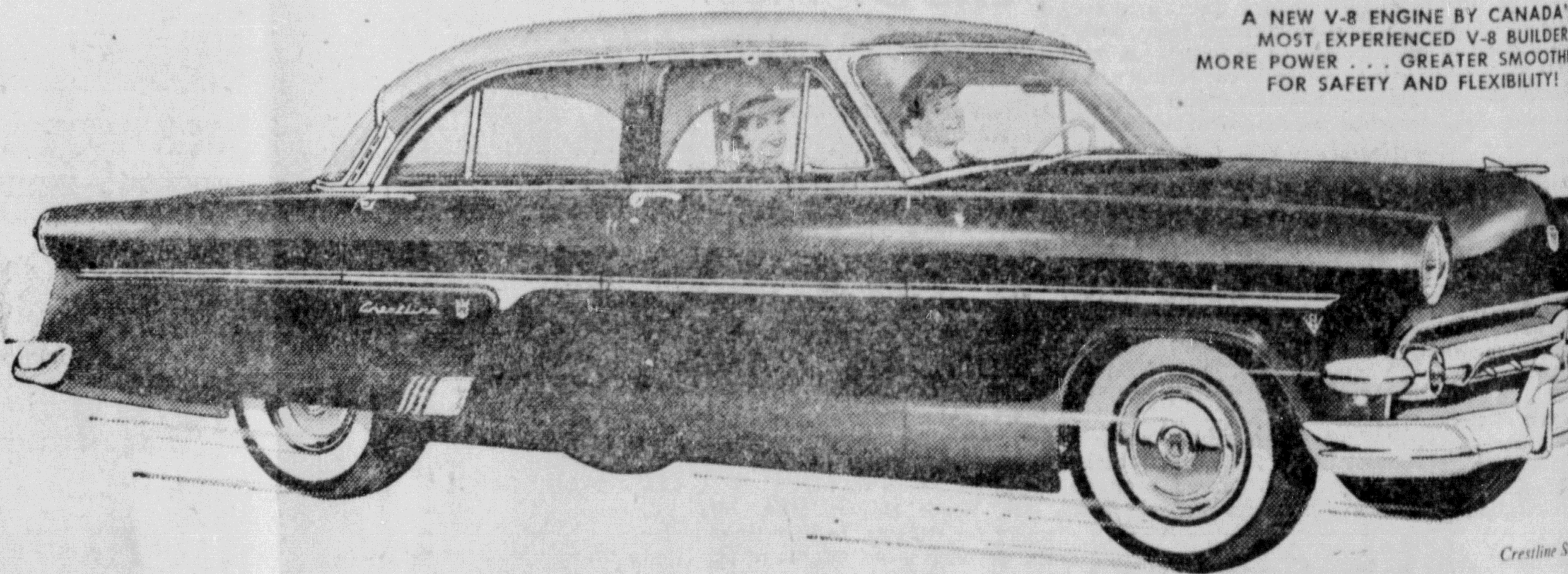
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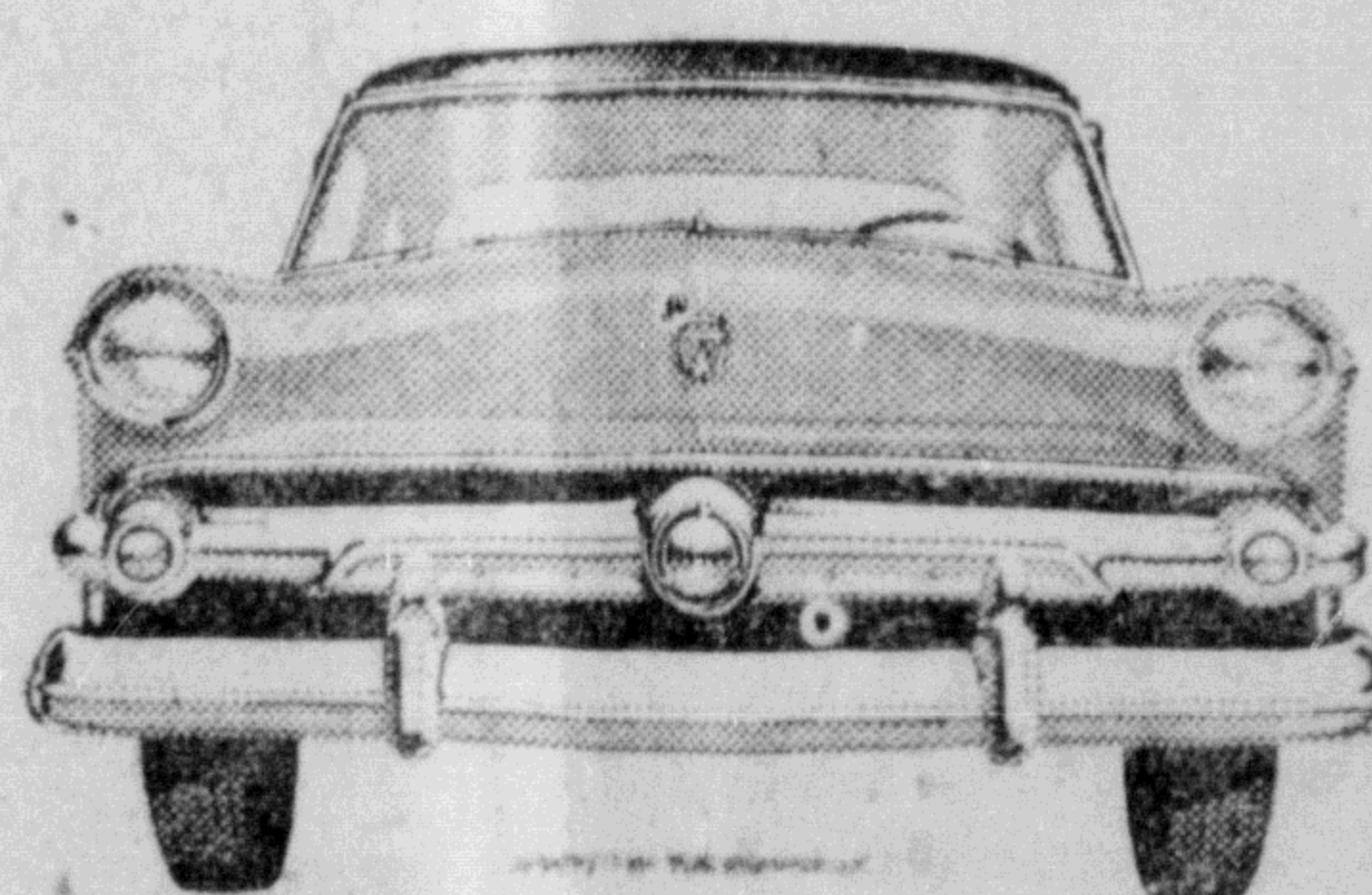
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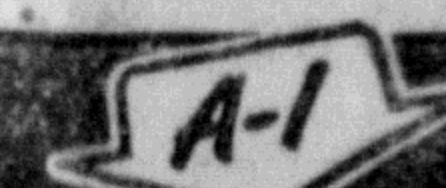
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