

Roosevelt Home Sale Said 'Hilarious Joke'

NEW YORK (CP)—The house at Campobello, N.B., where the late president Franklin D. Roosevelt spent many summers, was offered for sale in a Montreal newspaper Saturday, but one of the owners later described it as an "hilarious mistake."

The co-owner, Victor Hammer, head of the Hammer Galleries of New York, made the comment when told that an advertisement was placed in the Montreal Gazette, asking \$60,000 for the property, including all the furnishings that were there when the president used the home plus several paintings by him and furniture brought to Campobello from the Roosevelt estate at Hyde Park, N.Y.

Victor Hammer and his two brothers, Dr. Armand Hammer of Los Angeles and Harry J. Hammer of Scarsdale, N.Y., bought the home in 1951 from the president's widow and her son Elliott Roosevelt.

WANTS SHRINE
"We feel it should be kept as a shrine," Victor Hammer said. "We would be very partial to what purpose it would be used if we sold it."

He gave this explanation for the mixup: Some time ago he and his brothers had asked a New York real estate concern, Previews Incorporated, to find a buyer for the estate. But their contract with the concern expired "in May or June and we dropped the whole thing."

Apparently the firm forgot to notify its correspondent in Montreal and the advertisement was placed by the Van Horne Corporation Limited.

(J. C. Van Horne, Progressive Conservative member for Restigouche - Madawaska and president of the Van Horne Corporation, said in a telephone interview from Campbellton, N.B., that his firm had not been notified of any decision to withdraw the sale offer.

CONSIDER OFFER
(Van Horne admitted he would prefer seeing the Maine and New Brunswick governments purchase the home as an "international shrine" but emphasized that "no legitimate offer will be turned down."

("There is a possibility the listing (from previews) has expired

but we have not been told of it," he added.
Van Horne is correspondent in

Canada for Previews Incorporated.

The FDR summer home is located on Campobello Island, a quiet summer retreat in Charlotte County, N.B. The island is near the entrance of Passamoquoddy Bay in the Bay of Fundy, only one mile from the coast of Maine. The late president was stricken with poliomyelitis on the island in 1921, the year after he was an unsuccessful candidate for vice-president. The incident is depicted in Dore Schary's Broadway play Sunrise at Campobello.

Besides the 18 acres of landscaped lawns, the property includes a Dutch colonial residence and other buildings for the staff. "When we purchased the house in 1951 it had been run down," Victor Hammer said. "It was weather-beaten and neglected and its foundation was rotting. We paired it at a cost of about \$60,000 and that's where that figure (in the advertisement) comes from."

Several months ago Premier Hugh Fleming of New Brunswick proposed that the home be turned

into an "international shrine." This is Hammer's goal for the house and site. The governor of Maine, Clinton

A. Clouston, endorsed Premier Fleming's proposal, but nothing has come of it yet. However, there are plans for

the construction of a bridge between Campobello Island and Lubec, Me., the cost of which will

be shared by Canada and Maine, Victor Hammer said. "We will sell the site and house either to the government or to

some benefactor who will preserve it as a shrine, but not to just anybody," he added.

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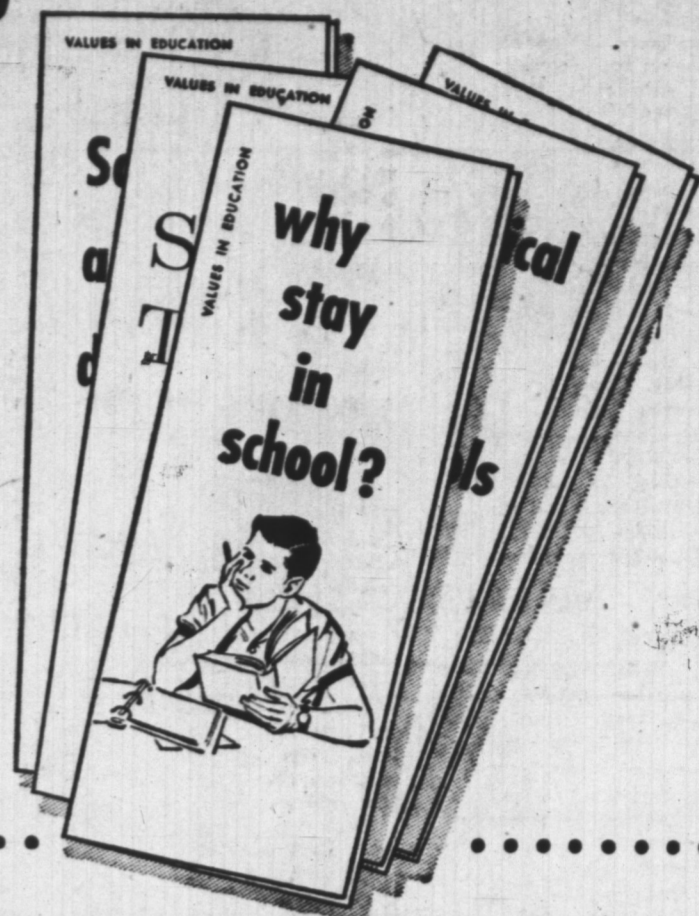
The Guardian - The Evening Patriot

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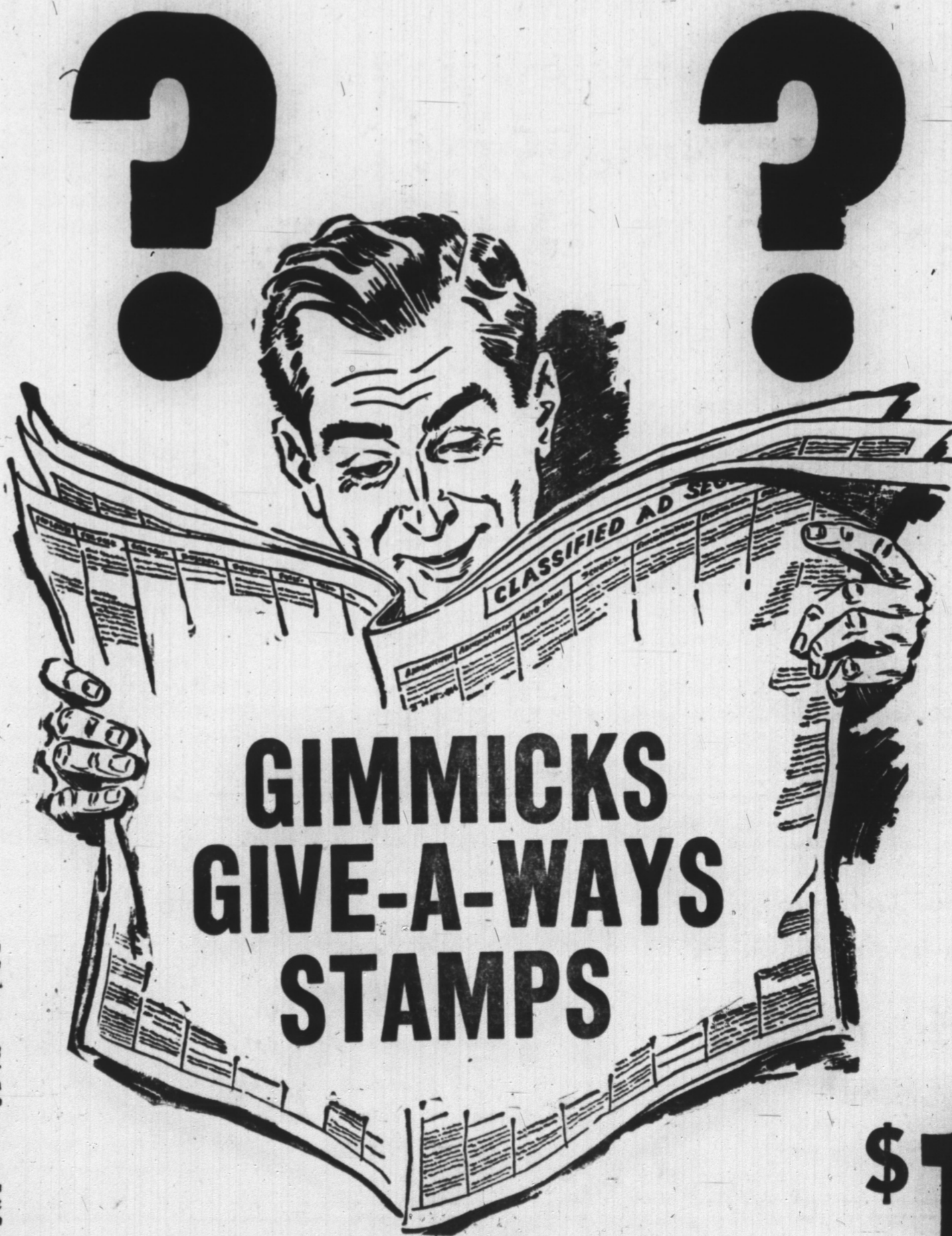
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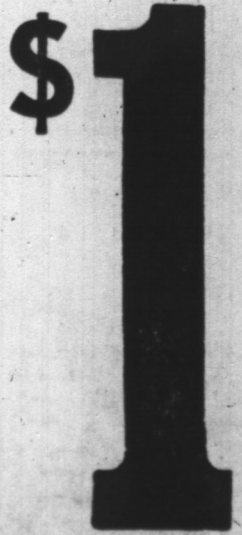
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