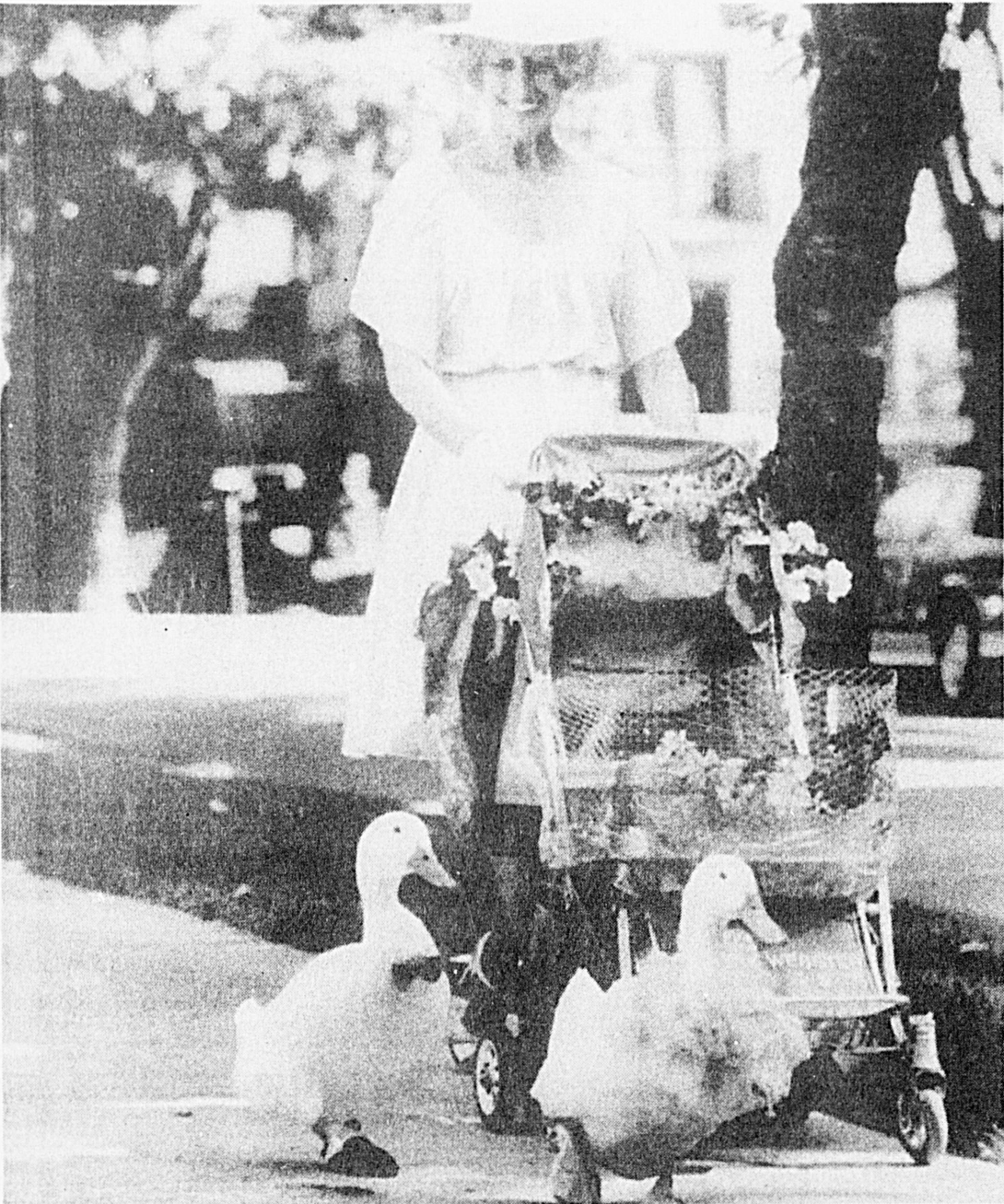




Laura-Kay Prophet takes a walk with Webster and Holly, her two Peking ducks.

She's kind to her web-footed friends

VANCOUVER (CP) — Laura-Kay Prophet knows others think she's a bit of a quackpot, but she has a sense of humor about the curious looks she gets as she takes her ducks for strolls in a baby carriage.

Passers-by take one look at her own sartorial style and label her Mother Goose. Then they do a double-take when they see the way she dresses her pair of Peking ducks.

"People have come to know me as the Duck Lady, and that's okay because ducks are my passion," says Prophet, whose former white-feathered friend named Harvey hit the news four years ago.

Prophet gets misty when asked about Harvey, who was her companion for six years before he died. Harvey was known as the "official opener" of the 1983 Courthouse World Belly Flop and Cannonball Diving Championships in North Vancouver.

Now Prophet, 49, has Webster and Holly, a male and female pair who live in the bathtub of the West End studio apartment Prophet shares with 35 uncaged birds and a tank of tropical fish.

Although she admits constantly running around with a rag to clean up the mess the birds and ducks leave, there are no foul odors in her suite.

Webster and Holly, who are five months old, eat corn, spinach, broccoli, grapes and potatoes. They have recently discovered a special fondness for popcorn.

And when Prophet takes them to downtown office towers that have reflecting pools, they splash around looking for worms, especially after a rainfall.

Prophet, who is trying to make a living as a fortune teller, takes her ducks along with her to work.

While she's making predictions about people's love relationships, the ducks waddle around on the sidewalk. They love grassy boulevards.

Prophet says the ducks adore being dressed up and always look in the mirror.

Expo site plans revamped

VANCOUVER (CP) — A vastly altered plan for the Expo site described by Concord Pacific Developments as "very close" to what will ultimately be built is ready for a public hearing, says spokesman Stanley Kwok.

Gone are the lagoons that would have turned the development into a series of islands along False Creek's north shore. Also eliminated are highrise towers over 40 storeys and 1,600 condominium units to reduce the density of the sites.

"If it is approved by city hall, this will be very close to what is built," Kwok said of a model now on public display. "This plan is far more open (than what was originally proposed when Concord Pacific first made its plan public in April 1988).

PROBLEMS FOR SOUTHPAWS

A right-handed world

VANCOUVER (CP) — Molly-dooker, southpaw and spuddy-handed are just some of society's terms for left-handed people.

"There is a pervasive cultural bias against left-handed people," said Stanley Coren, a right-handed psychology professor at the University of British Columbia.

Coren set out to answer the mysteries surrounding left-handers three years ago, after preliminary research showed right-handed people live longer than southpaws.

The professor surveyed 1,896 University of British Columbia left-handed students over two years. It revealed 13 per cent of the 20-year-old population is left-handed.

He also found that five per cent of 50-year-olds and only one per cent of 80-year-olds are left-handed.

However, Coren's study, published this month in the American Journal of Public Health, ruled out the possibility that left-handers switched over to right-handedness as they aged.

But his study showed males have a higher chance of being left-handed. According to Coren, 10 per cent of all females are left-handed, compared with 14 per cent of males.

Coren said science can't explain why people are left-handed and what the genetic, medical and psychological implications are.

"We do know there are two flavors of left-handed people — genetic and pathologic," Coren said.

Genetically, there is evidence that if both parents are left-handed, the child stands a greater chance of left-handedness. But the genetics don't fit simple patterns, he said.

Pathological left-handedness might result if the mother has had pregnancy or birth difficulties, he added.

"There are 23 different pathways or central nervous system centres that can be affected by a difficult birth. If you muck up any one of them, you could deviate from right-handedness."

Coren said a constant problem facing left-handers is that the material world is designed with right-handed people in mind.

"We're talking about huge differences. There's certainly lots of evidence that the world has been systematically biased in safety and convenience in the area of tools and traffic patterns."

In emergency situations, Coren said the left hand goes up to face level and the right hand down to chest level in right-handers. If those hands are on a steering wheel, the response would steer the car on to a curb.

But left-handers respond to danger by moving the left hand down and the right hand up, which would steer you into oncoming traffic.

He said his study is a turning point in recognizing that there are severe effects to being left-handed.

"We've gotten to the point where people are beginning to recognize that left-handedness may go further than mild and benign difficulties. It may have implications for longevity and other clinical conditions."

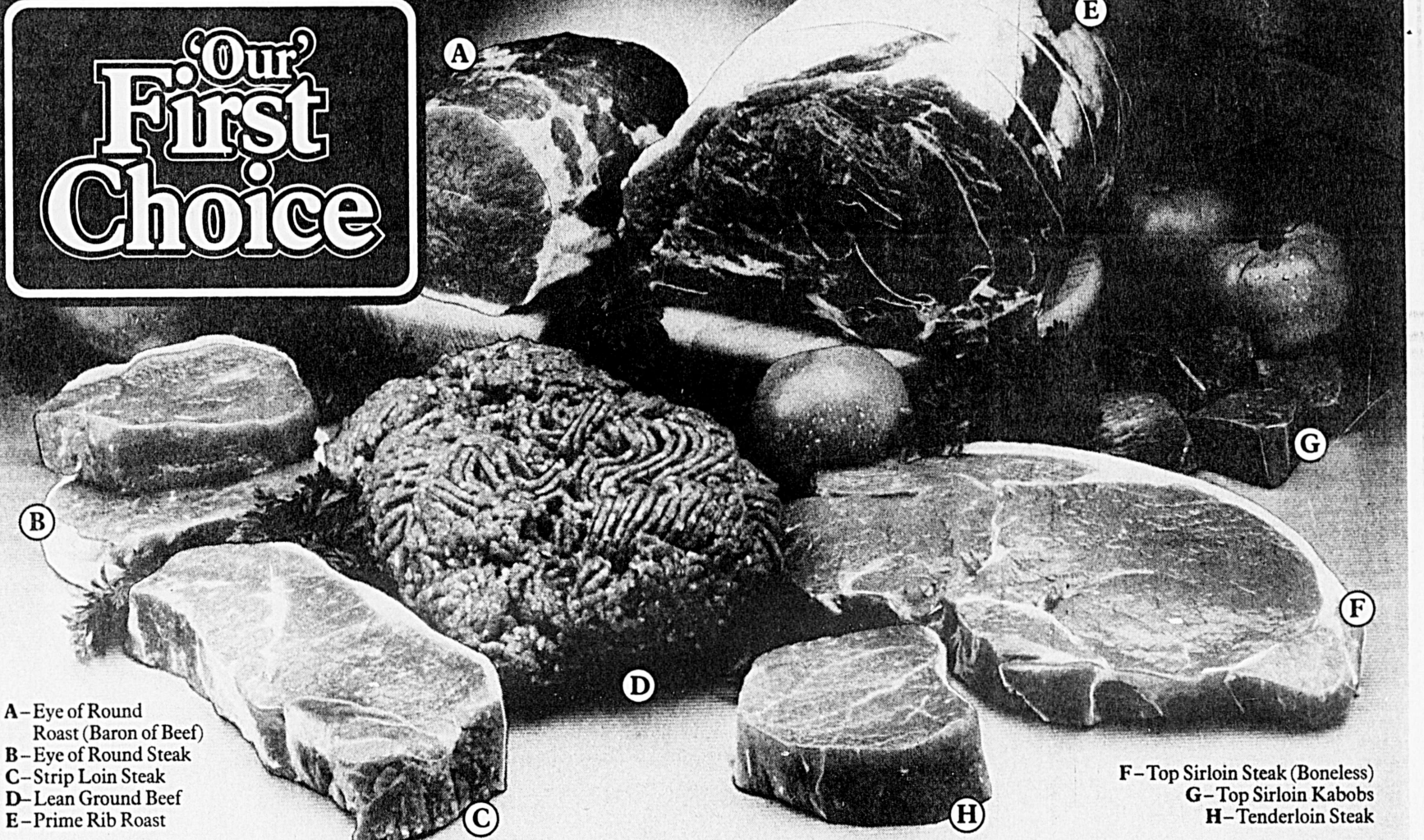
Coren also said there is "an over-representation of left-handed people among delinquents, criminals and alcoholics."

Research is being conducted to find out whether the reasons behind this are genetic or a result of invisible social biases against left-handers.

"But on the other hand, the last four presidents of the United States have been left-handed," Coren said. "Carter, Ford, Reagan and Bush are all left-handed."

"I don't know what that says about politics because they're all on the right."

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- B - Eye of Round Steak
- C - Strip Loin Steak
- D - Lean Ground Beef
- E - Prime Rib Roast

- F - Top Sirloin Steak (Boneless)
- G - Top Sirloin Kabobs
- H - Tenderloin Steak

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alpha-BHC	pp-DDE	Heptachlor Epoxide	Sulfa-Methazine
beta-BHC	pp-DDT	HCB	Sulfa-Quinoxaline
alpha-Chlordane	alpha-Endosulfan	Lindane	Sulfa-Dimethoxine
gamma-Chlordane	beta-Endosulfan	Methoxychlor	
Chlorpyrifos	Ethion	Oxychloridare	

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