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PROGRAMME

1963

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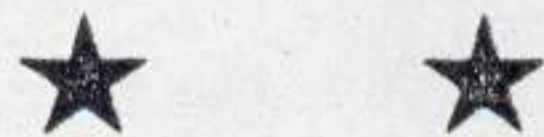


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SADLER'S WELLS OPERA



" THE MIKADO "



" THE MIKADO "

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY : 4th FEBRUARY : 1963

Evenings at 7.15 p.m.

Matinees (Saturday) at 2.30 p.m.

SADLER'S WELLS TRUST LTD.

Director NORMAN TUCKER

Administrative Director ... STEPHEN ARLEN

Musical Director COLIN DAVIS

Director of Productions ... GLEN BYAM SHAW

present

SADLER'S WELLS OPERA

Sadler's Wells Trust works in full association with
The Arts Council of Great Britain

Wednesday, 6th February, 1963

THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST

(La Fanciulla Del West)

An Opera in three acts by PUCCINI

Libretto by G. Sangarini and C. Civinni

foundado n the drama by David Belasco

English translation by R. H. Elkin

Revised by Tom Hammond

(Property of Messrs. G. Ricordi & Co.)

Conductor : WARWICK BRAITHWAITE

Producer : JOHN BLATCHLEY

Designer : TIMOTHY O'BRIEN

Lighting by CHARLES BRISTOW

The Girl of the Golden West was first performed in New York on 10th December, 1910 ;
Covent Garden 29th May, 1911; First performed at Sadler's Wells Theatre 5th Decembeer, 1962

Minnie	ELIZABETH FRETWELL
Jack Rance, the Sheriff	JOHN HARGREAVES
Dick Johnson (Ramerrez)	DONALD SMITH
Nick, Bar Tender at the "Polka"	STANLEY BEVAN
Ashby, Agent with the Wells Fargo Transport Co.	ERIC SHILLING
Sonora	NEIL EASTON
Trin	JOHN DELANEY
Handsome	HOWARD DYSON
Harry	PAUL CROOK
Joe	NEVILLE GRIFFITHS
Happy	CHARLES DRAPER
Sid	KENNETH FAWCETT
Larkens	DAVID BOWMAN
Billy Jackrabbit, an Indian	LEIGH MAURICE
Wowkle, his Squaw	DILYS DAVIES
Jack Wallace, Camp Minstrel	JOHN HAUXVELL
Castro, a Bandit from Ramerrez' Gang	DAVID BOWMAN
A Post Boy	KENNETH BYLES

Men of the Mining Camp

The action takes place in a mining camp at the foot of the Cloudy Mountains in California inthe days of the gold fever. 1849-50.

The Girl of the Golden West is set in the Californian gold rush of 1849. David Belasco, the author of the original play, writes—"In those strange days, people coming from God knows where, joined forces in that far Western land . . . Here they struggled, gambled, laughed, cursed, killed, loved and worked out their strange destinies in a manner incredible to us today." But the opera is not a mere 'Western.' In the words of the producer: "Its real theme is the one of moral redemption, of salvation, of forgiveness. It is the story of a man whose soul is saved by love, of a girl whose conventional morality is suddenly swept aside by the force of love and yet again of another man Rance, who remains outside the circle of redemption because he cannot love . . . Minnie is more than a person, she is for the miners a symbol and a legend."

ACT I

The "Polka" Bar

The 'Polka' bar is the rendezvous of the miners of the camp. Here they drink and gamble, talk and fight. Over it all presides Minnie, who mothers the men, writes their letters, settles their disputes, reads the Bible to them but who has remained untouched by the roughness and passion of their lives. They all love her but only the Sheriff Rance dares to entertain real hopes of winning her. Into the bar comes Ashby, the Wells Fargo agent, who is on the track of Ramerrez, the leader of a formidable bandit gang. Hard on his heels arrives a stranger, 'Johnson of Sacramento,' who is regarded with suspicion by the miners until vouched for by Minnie, who recollects a chance meeting with him in the past. A further group of miners, bring in captive a member of Ramerrez' gang who, after a quick word with Johnson, takes all the miners on a false trail, Minnie is left to guard the gold, alone with Johnson, and at his words 'the face of an angel' senses the awakening of a new feeling in her heart.

ACT II

Minnie's Cabin. Later that night

Minnie in her hut on the hillside, where she lives with an Indian squaw as companion, is visited by Johnson. Outside a blizzard is blowing, Minnie and Johnson declare their love. They are interrupted by cries outside and Minnie hides Johnson. Headed by Rance, the miners burst in and reveal that Johnson is Ramerrez. Minnie sends them away, brings Johnson out and reproaches him. He departs into the storm. Soon shots are heard and Johnson staggers in wounded. Minnie hides him in the loft. Rance returns and blood dripping from the loft reveals Johnson's presence. Minnie makes a deal with the sheriff, to play a game of poker; Rance's prize to be her and hers the life of her lover. At the climax of the game Minnie cheats and wins.

ACT III

An open-air camp near the mountains. A week later

For a week the miners have been chasing Ramerrez. At last he is captured and brought in to be lynched. He begs for one last wish—that Minnie should not be told of his fate. Meanwhile Nick has secretly sent for Minnie. She arrives just in time and, recalling all her past services, preaches once more the gospel of forgiveness to the miners, pleading for Johnson's life. Gradually, led by Sonora, they relent. Minnie and Johnson together bid farewell to California, to start a new life elsewhere.

Scenery built by E. Babbage & Co. Ltd. and painted in Sadler's Wells Theatre by Diana Jarvis and Wendy Terrell. Properties made in Sadler's Wells Theatre by Betty Gow and Fay Conway, and by Peter Evans. Playing cards by John Waddington Ltd. Lighting by Strand Electric & Engineering Co. Ltd. Costumes made in Sadler's Wells workrooms by Joan Chase and Colette Arnell; and by W. G. Rossdale and Joan de la Haye. Hats by Eric Gates. Shoes by Anello & Davide. Wigs by Bert.

SADLER'S WELLS OPERA

Conductors : WARWICK BRAITHWAITE, DAVID TOD BOYD, MEREDITH DAVIES, MICHAEL MOORES

Chorus : Chorus Master—DAVID TOD BOYD **Orchestra :** Leader—BARRY COLLINS

Opera Ballet : Ballet Master—PHILIPPE PERROTTET

Company Manager	JOHN HARGREAVES	Orchestral Manager	CHARLES COVERMAN
Staff Producers	KEITH BEATTIE, JOHN DONALDSON	Master Carpenter	JOHN HART
Repetiteurs	GORDON MACKIE RICHARD NUNN, ROBERT STEWART	Chief Electrician	NEVILLE CURRIER
Stage Manager	GEOFFREY LLOYD	Property Master	BRUCE BERNARD
Deputy Stage Manager	MICHAEL JAMES	Wardrobe Mistress	TRUDA DAVIES
		Wardrobe Master	DAVID WILBY
		Wig Mistress	JANET NEWMAN

Opera Manager

JOHN WRIGHT	Wardrobe Manager	ANTHONY BOYES	
Production Manager ...	ANTHONY EASTERBROOK	Press Representative	JOHN CARLSEN

SADLER'S WELLS OPERA



"THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST"



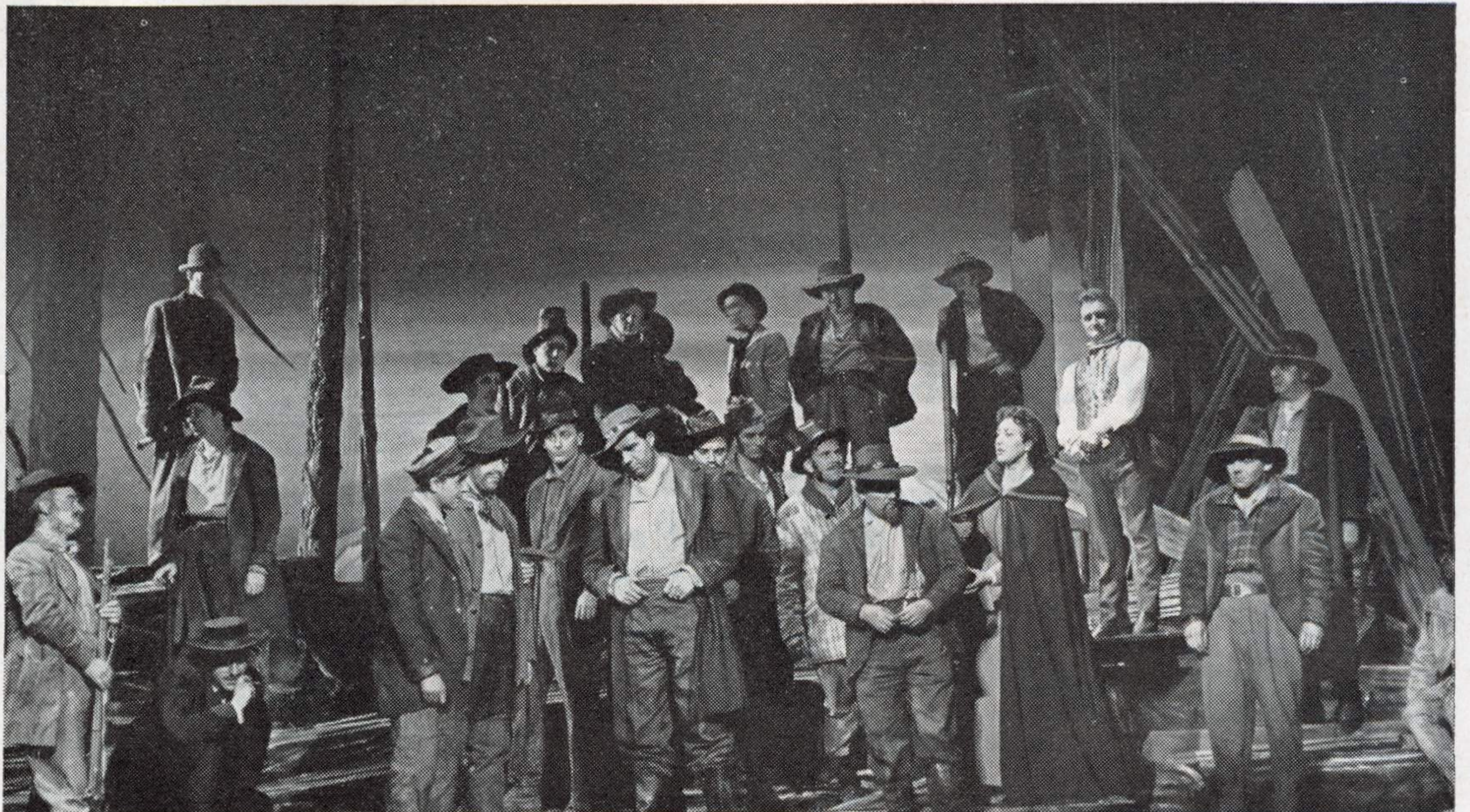
"THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST"

SADLER'S WELLS OPERA



AVA, JUNE &

"LA TRAVIATA" JOHN WAKEFIELD



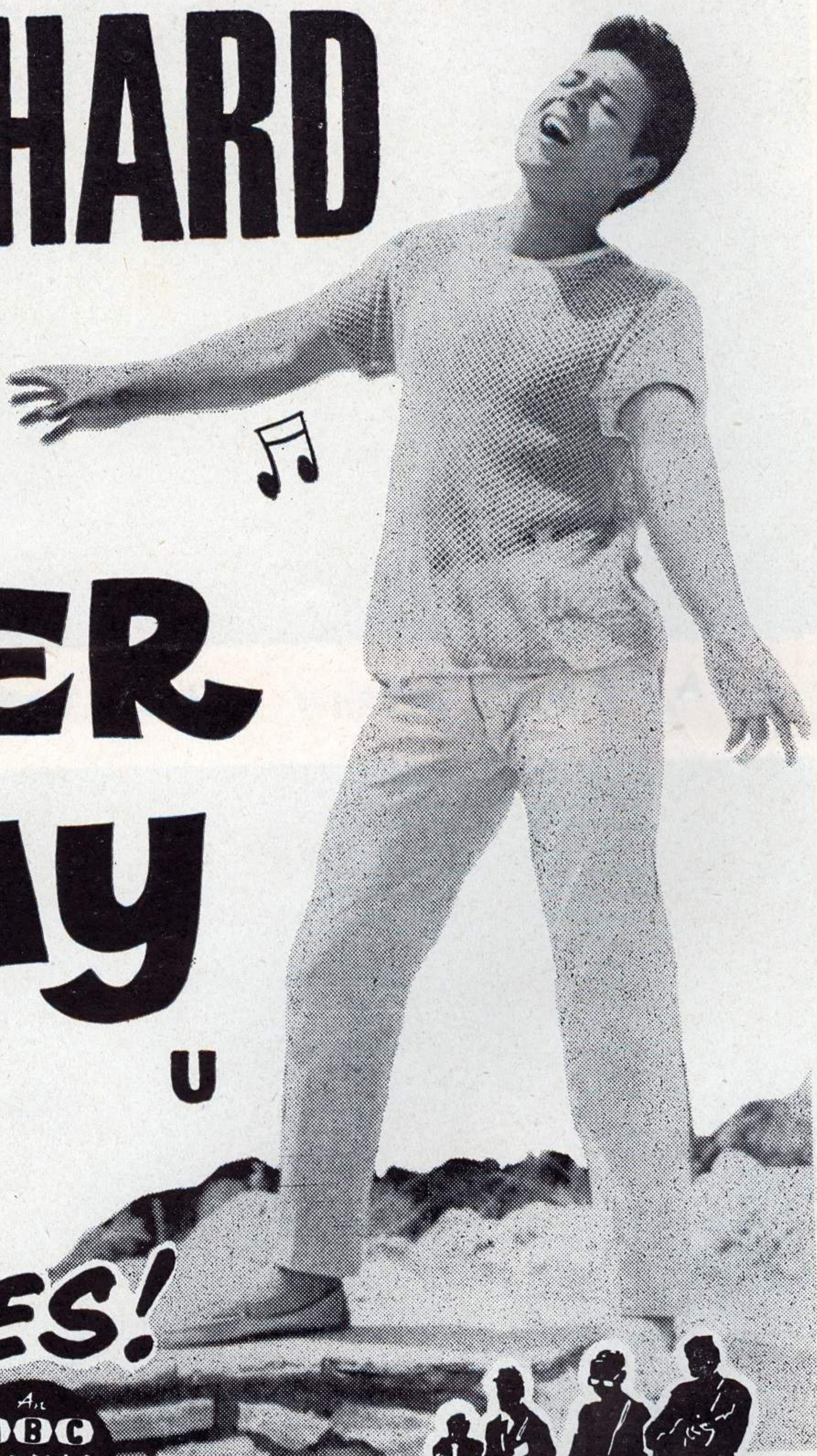
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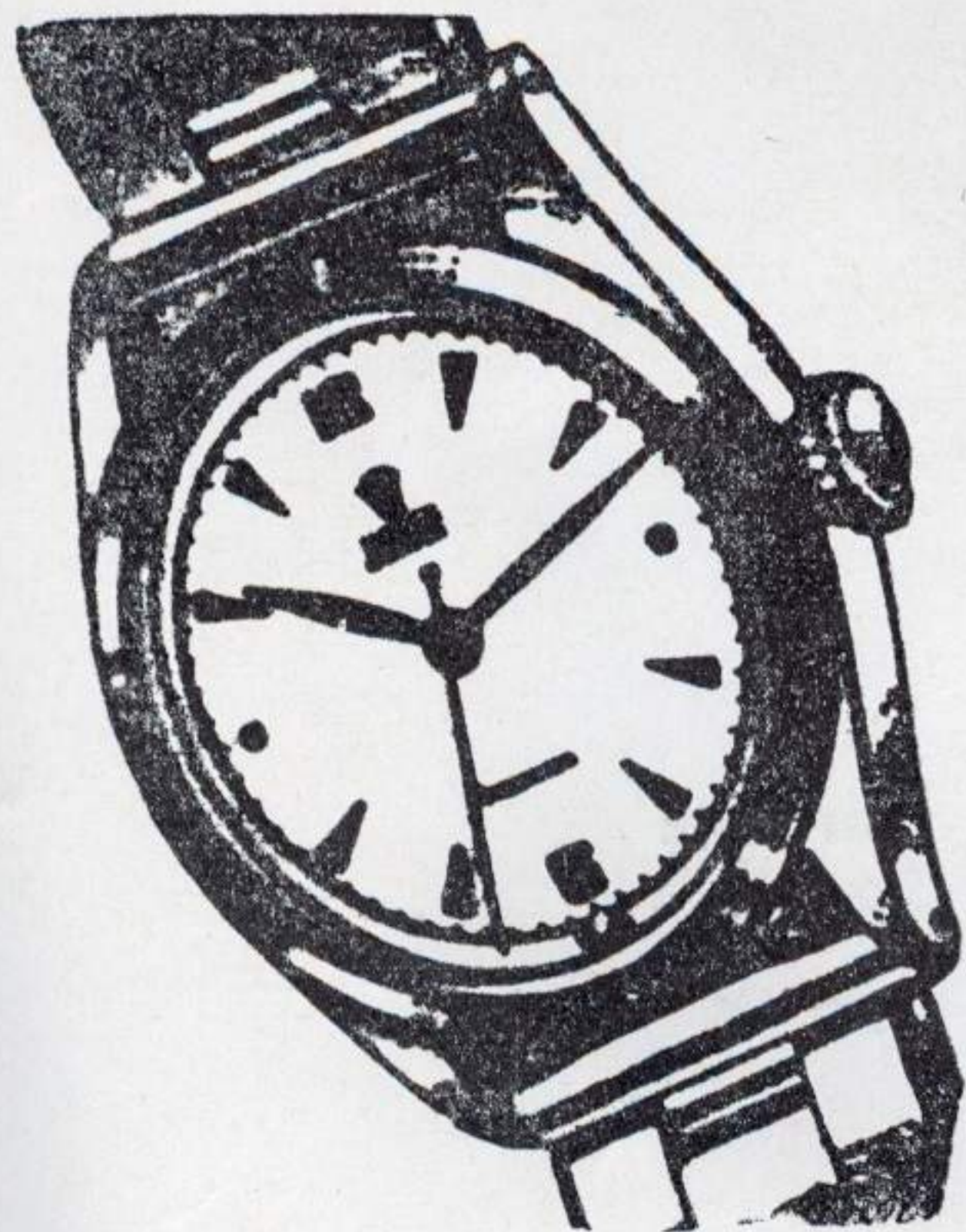
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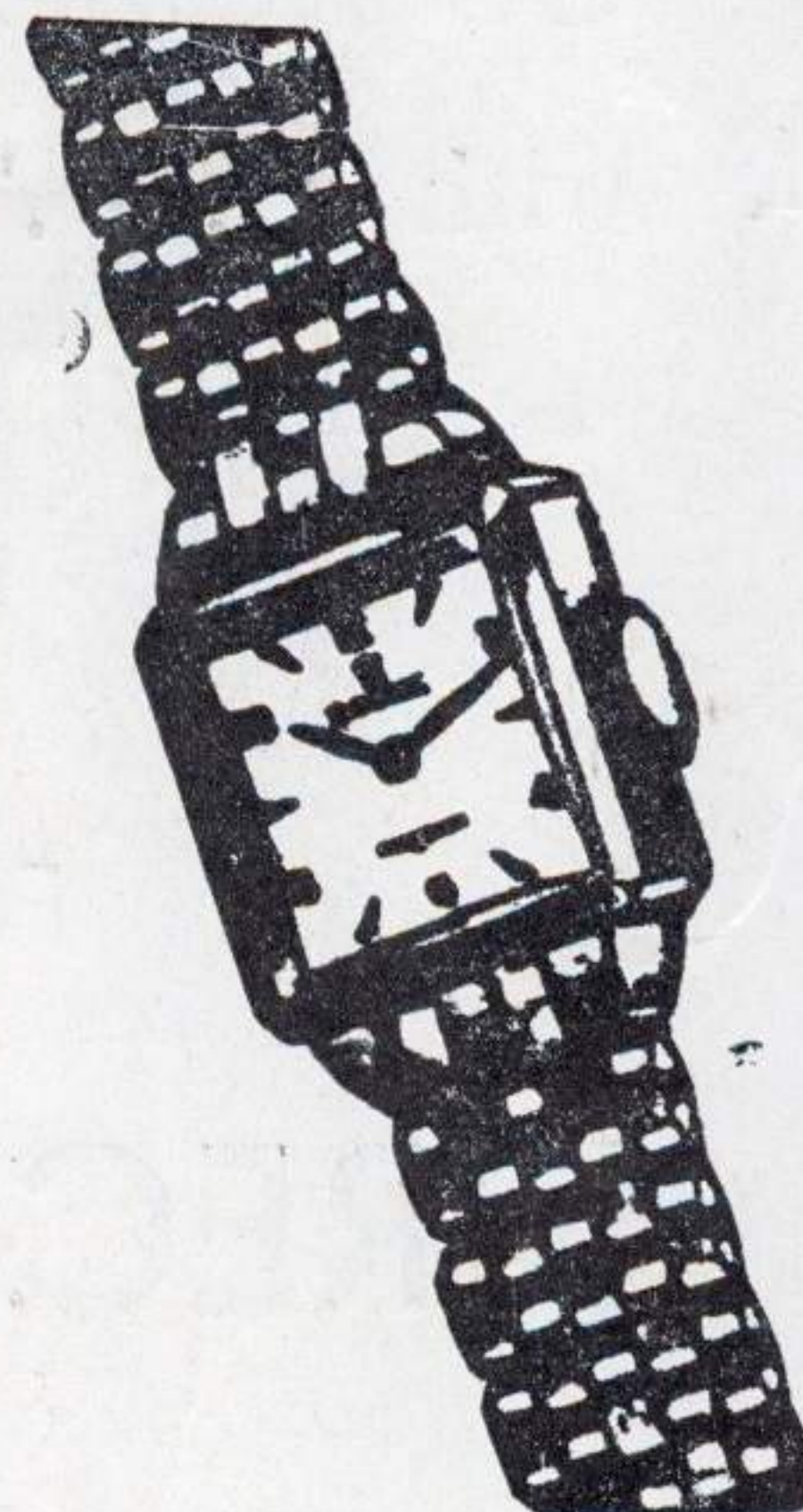
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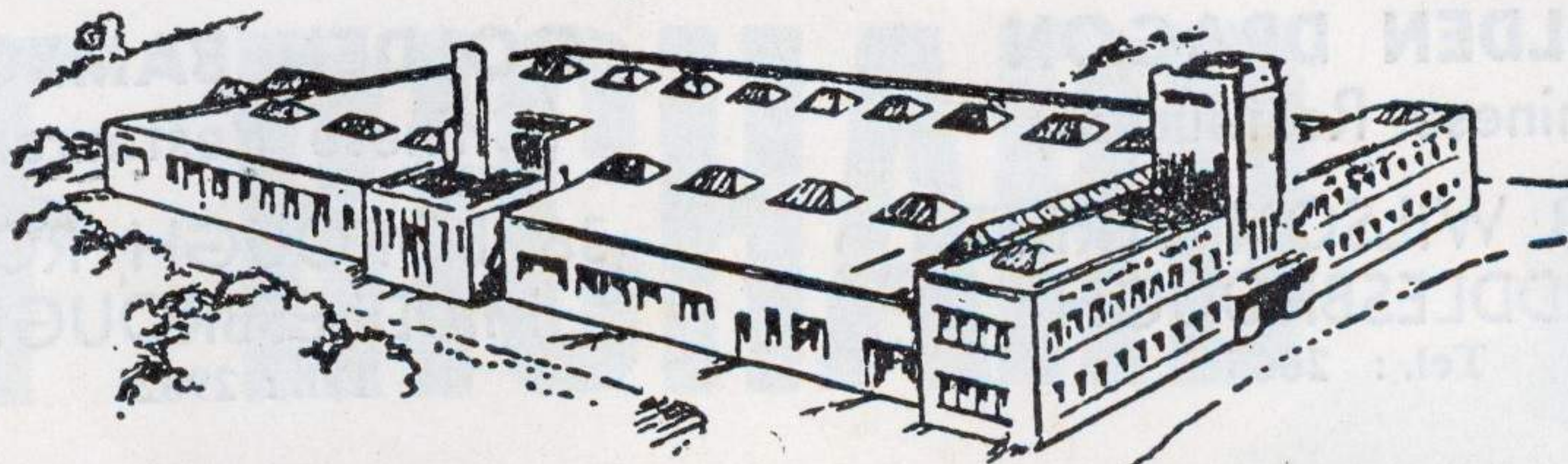
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