



THE STEVE OTTO SHOW

If you have an aquarium and have thought of keeping a clam in it, you may have had some trouble finding information on keeping clams (or as some folks call them: "fresh water muscles").

Or maybe you never considered owning a clam. If you have, you may have called nearest pet shop for advice and chances are they didn't know anymore than you. The next place to try is the bookstore or library. When you find an aquarium guide you'll probably find that they advise against it. You may decide the experts don't know any more about it than you do. In that case, here is some advice on caring for your pet clam. Many people use clam shells as house hold ornaments--and others as aquarium ornaments. What could be better than a pet and ornament all in one.

After all, some people talk to plants--why not talk to clams. They may not understand what you say, but they'll sure listen.

AN ATTRACTIVE CLAM AQUARIUM



HOW TO KEEP CLAMS:

The best place to keep your clam is in an aquarium or fishbowl. Clams have gills and should always be kept submerged in water.

If you have only one, you may want to keep him with your fish. He'll get along fine with just about anybody. But never keep more than one clam in with your fish. When clams mate, their offspring go through a parasitic stage and can kill small fish.

You can set up your own aquarium or bowl for clams and keep as many as you like. But be sure to avoid overcrowding them.

You can add other shelled mollusks such as snails. If you like shells, what could be better than a collection of shells as a pet collection?

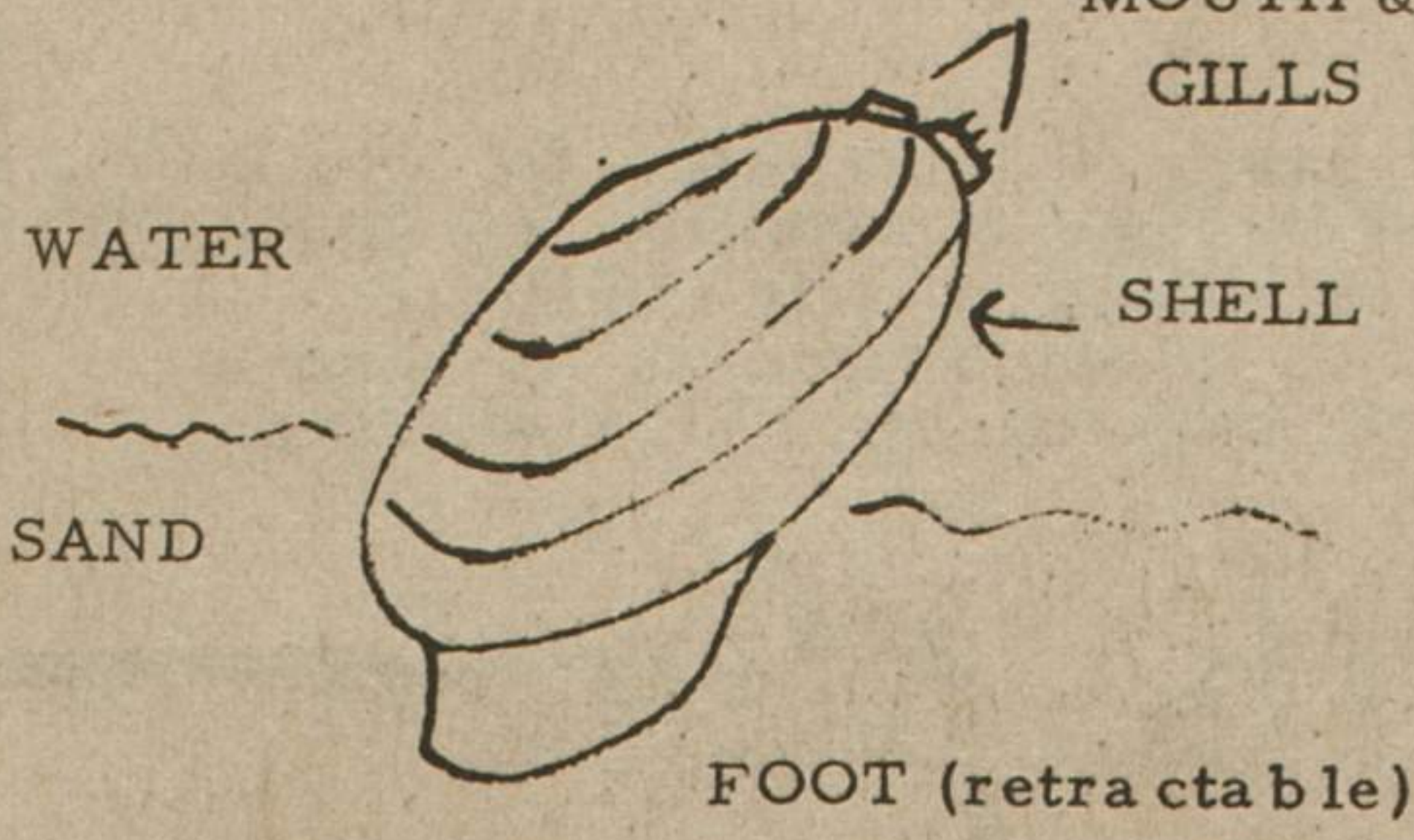
Beware of certain common pond snails. The adults multiply daily without mating and become a nuisance. There are several species in Kansas, Missouri, and other parts of the U.S. that make more practical and interesting pets.

Clams like to dig. Wherever you keep your clams make sure he has plenty of gravel or sand; at least an inch and a half. Clams have trouble moving on a slick surface.

TO FEED

Clams eat micro-organisms and organic debris in the water. There are several ways to feed a clam. If you keep fish you may feed them brine shrimp. Make sure the fine food particles fall down the clam's mouth. Buy the cheaper brine shrimp. It isn't strained as well which means it has small amounts of algae and plankton which is not only good for clams, but is better for your fish.

DIAGRAM OF A CLAM



You may want to make your own clam food. One way is to boil cabbage in water and sift off the scummy water which is the same food used to feed newly hatched tropical fish. You might want to soak grass in water to revive aquatic micro-organisms that hibernate on dry land. You simply take out the grass and pour in the water. You can also give him fresh river water every other day which is sure to have food in it, although it isn't recommended if your clam lives with tropical fish (because of diseases they're not used to).

If your aquarium or bowl doesn't have a bubbler or filter system, you will need to change one-third to one-half of the water every 4 to 5 days. If you keep it with plants, you may not need to do this often and if it lives in a large aquarium his gravel should be cleaned or changed once every six months.

Snails eat plants and algae, so keep the container near the sun but make sure they have some shade.

If you're going to only keep one clam make sure he is a big one. If you take a young one, you may take him from his peers and social circles which are so necessary to the development of a teenager. Older clams are more likely to be nearing retirement age and don't mind the company of humans.

BREEDING CLAMS

Breeding clams is a challenge. To breed, keep them with some large fish so that the offspring can parasite. When they're fully developed, they fall off and fish

are no longer needed. Make sure the fish are big enough so the parasites won't kill them.

Generally, breeding clams is a messy waste of time since they're so easy to find. Clams can be found in rivers and in large ponds. I don't recommend that you buy them. Clam keeping is a relatively new hobby and still an experimental one.

Clams are fascinating pets but not over-intelligent and even if yours is brilliant, there aren't too many tricks he can do. Clams have no arms and legs. They have one foot with no toes. They may move around the tank or stay in one place most of the time. Some are more active than others. With a little imagination you can set up a very attractive home, a conversation piece anyone would be proud to show their friends. The clam may not fetch the stick or roll over but its slightly more active than a pet rock. Maybe you can watch it breathe. Then again you can always take it with you when you go swimming at Lake Henry or your nearest reservoir or river. They

You can take your clam to your favorite disco or bar. Make him a part of your social life.



love water! Then again you can always take him to the local hang-out to meet your friends.

If your clam dies, dispose of him immediately. Clams decompose fast and can foul the water. When they die their muscles relax and they open very wide. A live clam opens only wide enough to stick out his foot and mouth. Dead clams will not shut.



the flood

Back in the year of fifty-one
We had a lot of rains,
And though it's been a long time
In our memory it remains.
The sun refused to come out,
The creeks filled up real fast
They poured into the rivers
And they went roaring past.
We debated on the outcome,
When to move and where and why,
We took advice and gave some,
Then gave a hopeless sigh.
We thought we knew how long to
wait,
Which places would fare best
And found we were mistaken,
When came the actual test.
The youngsters were all set to go
The oldtimers held their ground,
The ground turned into slippery
mud,
Before our wits we found.
The Kaw was on the rampage
As in the days of yore,

Taking houses in its path
To some far distant shore.
Then a few years for the cleanup
Not much more we could endure,
Gave us Tuttlecreek and Perry,
Making us feel more secure.
Very few gave up and sold out,
Mostly we have stood the test,
For with good soil, minus
chiggers
We have found North Lawrence the
best.

So now with things back to
normal,
In a spell of real dry weather,
We wonder if us sandrats
Had the same bad dream together.

Elizabeth House

TIN WARE

WALL HANGINGS

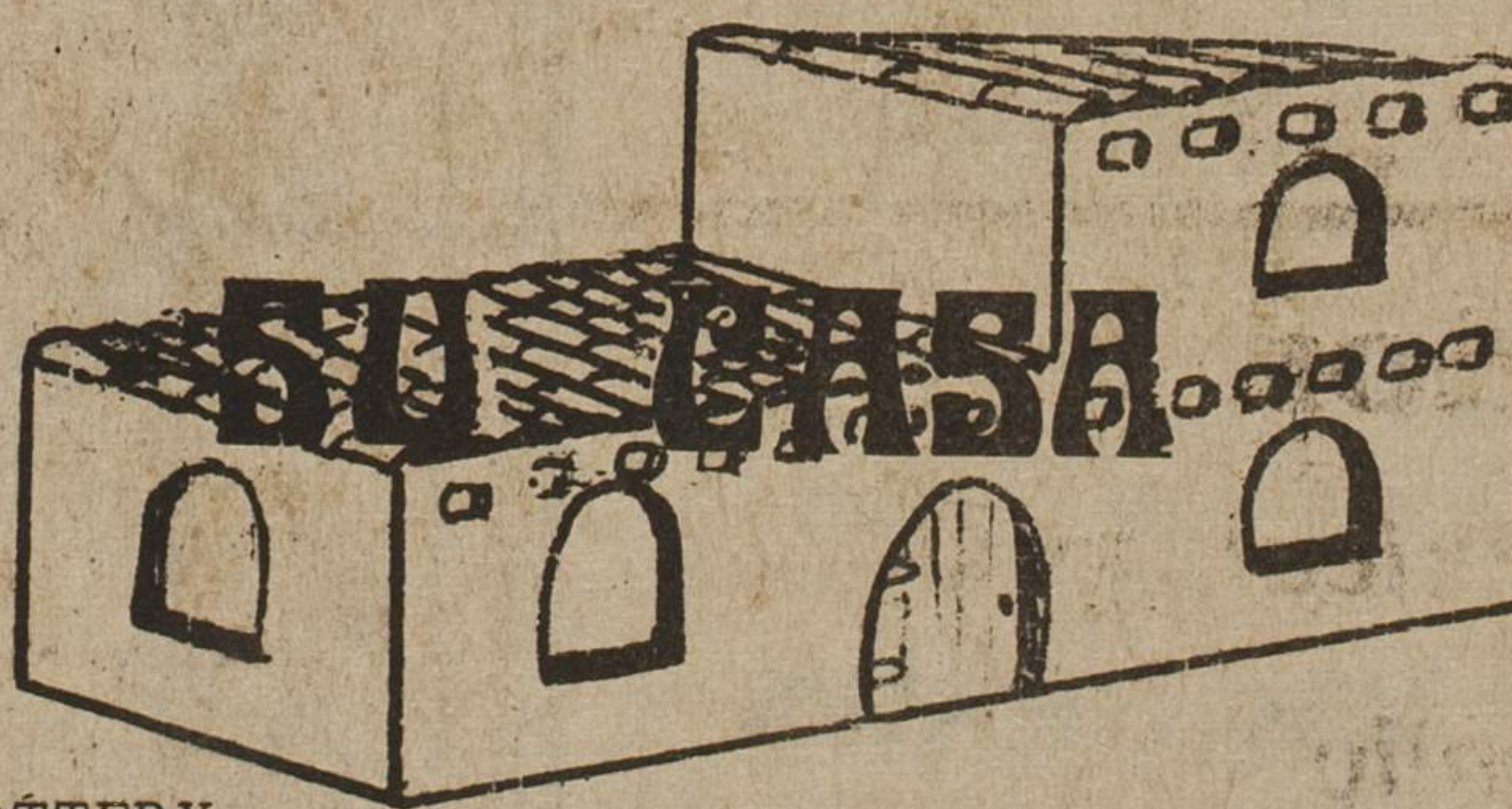
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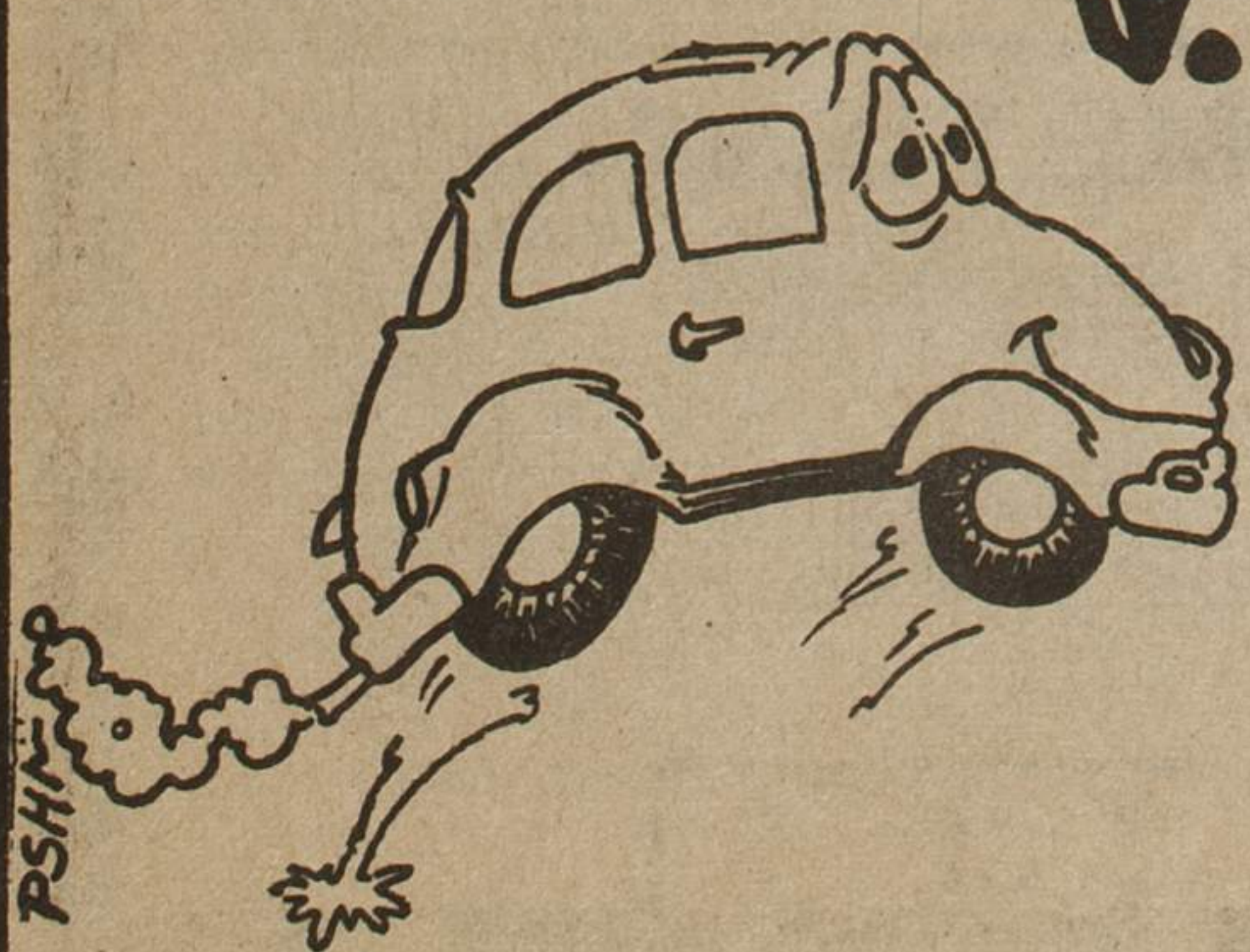
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