



**OFFICIAL OPENING**

George Gray and Fred Zorge stand outside the new offices of Mountclair Developments on Armstrong Avenue. The company last week held an official opening reception to mark the company's change from offices on Guelph Street. Local politicians, businessmen and interested citizens attended.

**Board approves hiring teachers**

Hilton board of education has approved the hiring of 38 teachers for special education in elementary schools beginning in the next school year at a cost of \$135,000.

This will bring the number of teachers doing remedial work at elementary schools to 44 over a two-year period. John Graham, superintendent of special education told the board Thursday.

As well, a special services support staff will have six social workers added to the present one. The special services support staff would number 19. In 1978 the number would rise to 23 with a corresponding increase in cost to \$400,400.

The remedial program in secondary schools is being revised now, Mr. Graham said and a report is expected before the end of February.

John Boich, superintendent of instruction, told the board that the switch from attendance counsellors to social workers "is an attempt to get greater skills." The three present attendance counsellors would be upgraded, Em Lavender, director of education said.

Minimum qualifications for the social worker will be a bachelor of social work (BSW)

or a comparable combination of education and experience. Besides working as attendance counsellors, the social workers will have other duties including liaison with the home, school and community agencies or services.

Similar size boards have almost twice as many social workers, Mr. Graham said. He credited the board's good relations with regional health services with keeping down the number of social workers needed.

The board vetoed doing away with the position of teacher-diagnostician to be replaced with psychometricians.

Teacher-diagnosticians receive more money than starting psychometricians and get the same salary wherever they are assigned. "It would be false economy to transfer them to remedial staff and hope to make better use of them," Trustee Gary Morton told the board.

The special services support staff would also contain one orthopedic specialist, a new position, Mr. Graham said.

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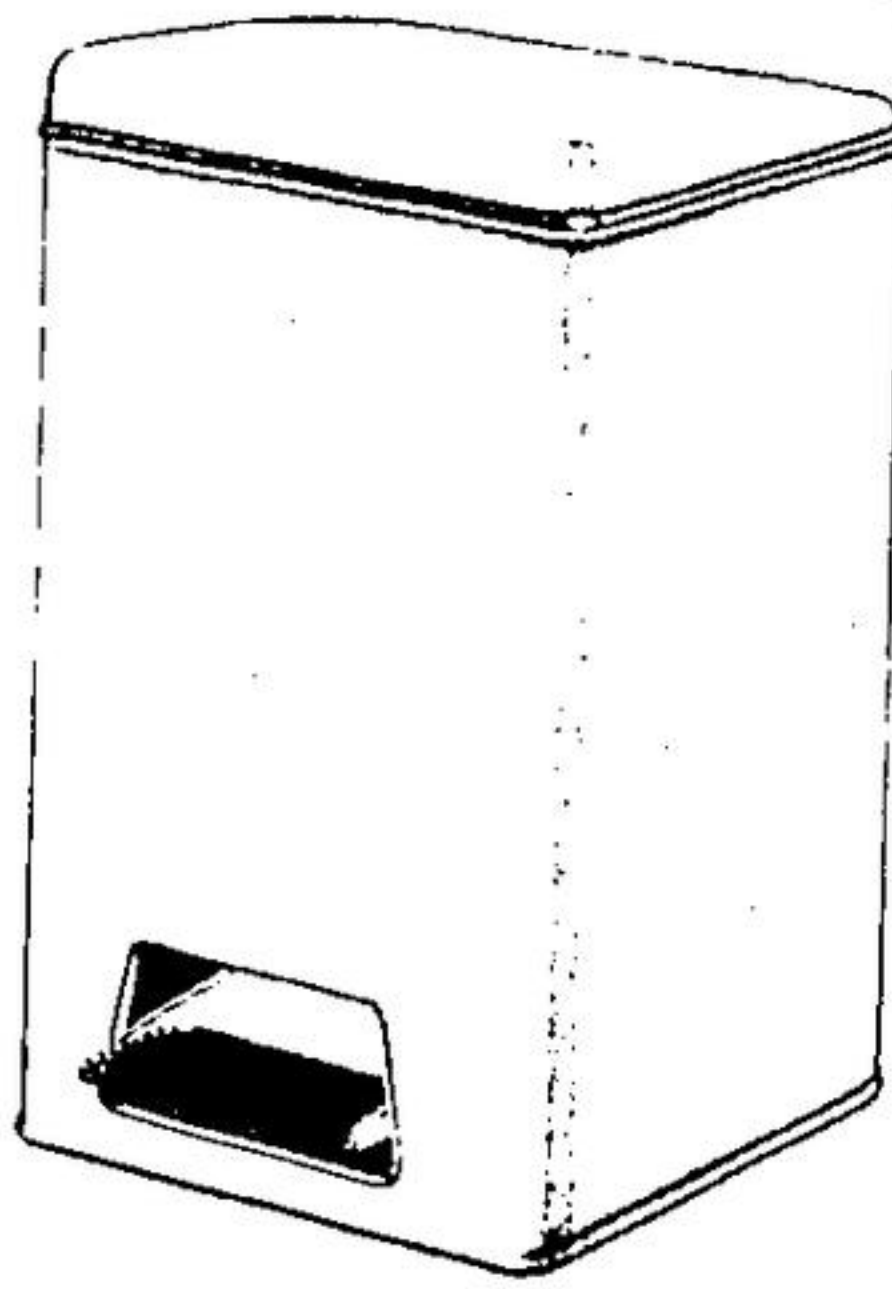
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