

6.6 % pay raise for the police

Halton regional police ratified their 1991 contract just in time to get back to the bargaining table for their 1992 contract.

The newly-ratified one year agreement covers police and civilian staff until December 31, 1991. It was finalized last week, Laurie Vechter, administrator of the Halton Regional Police Association said.

"It was a difficult economic climate," she said, explaining why negotiations went on until nine months after the last contract expired.

Uniformed police are receiving a 6.6 per cent increase in wages in 1991, including 4.4 per cent effective Jan. 1, 1991 and an additional 2.2 per cent July 1, 1991, she said.

A cadet just starting out on the force earns \$23,700 while a first class constable (with a few years experience who meets certain qualifications) makes \$50,040.

Civilian staff are more difficult to categorize, because there are 12 levels and four grids on each, Vechter said. But they received approximately 5 per cent more under the new agreement.

In addition, a new category of police senior constable was created for those with 10 years or more service. They will have a higher salary and a special insignia on their uniforms, Vechter said.

A major issue for civilians was job sharing, and the new agreement makes this possible, she said.

"We were pleased with the overwhelming vote in favor of the agreement," Vechter said, adding she couldn't say what percentage of association members agreed to the contract.

"We'll be back at the bargaining table with a new committee within a couple months," she said.

Police do not have the right to strike because they are considered an essential service.

Nurses await conciliation

The nurses of Local 001, Ontario Nurses Association, who work for the Region of Halton Health Department, are waiting for conciliation on October 3, 1991. They have 75 members.

Negotiations started in early summer following the expiration of the collective agreement March 31, 1991. The decision to apply for conciliation came when the parties failed to come to an agreement on wages. The nurses want parity with hospital nurses.

Services provided by the Health Department include clinics for birth control and sexually transmitted diseases, prenatal classes and student health promotion. Home Care case managers organize required services for community clients including the new 'Hospital in the Home' program. Nurses at the North Halton Mental Health Clinic co-ordinate service for 245 mental health clients.

Mary McLean, President of Local 001, states she is hopeful that conciliation will lead to wage parity and completion of the talks. ONA is the certified bargaining agent for 55,000 Registered Nurses across Ontario.

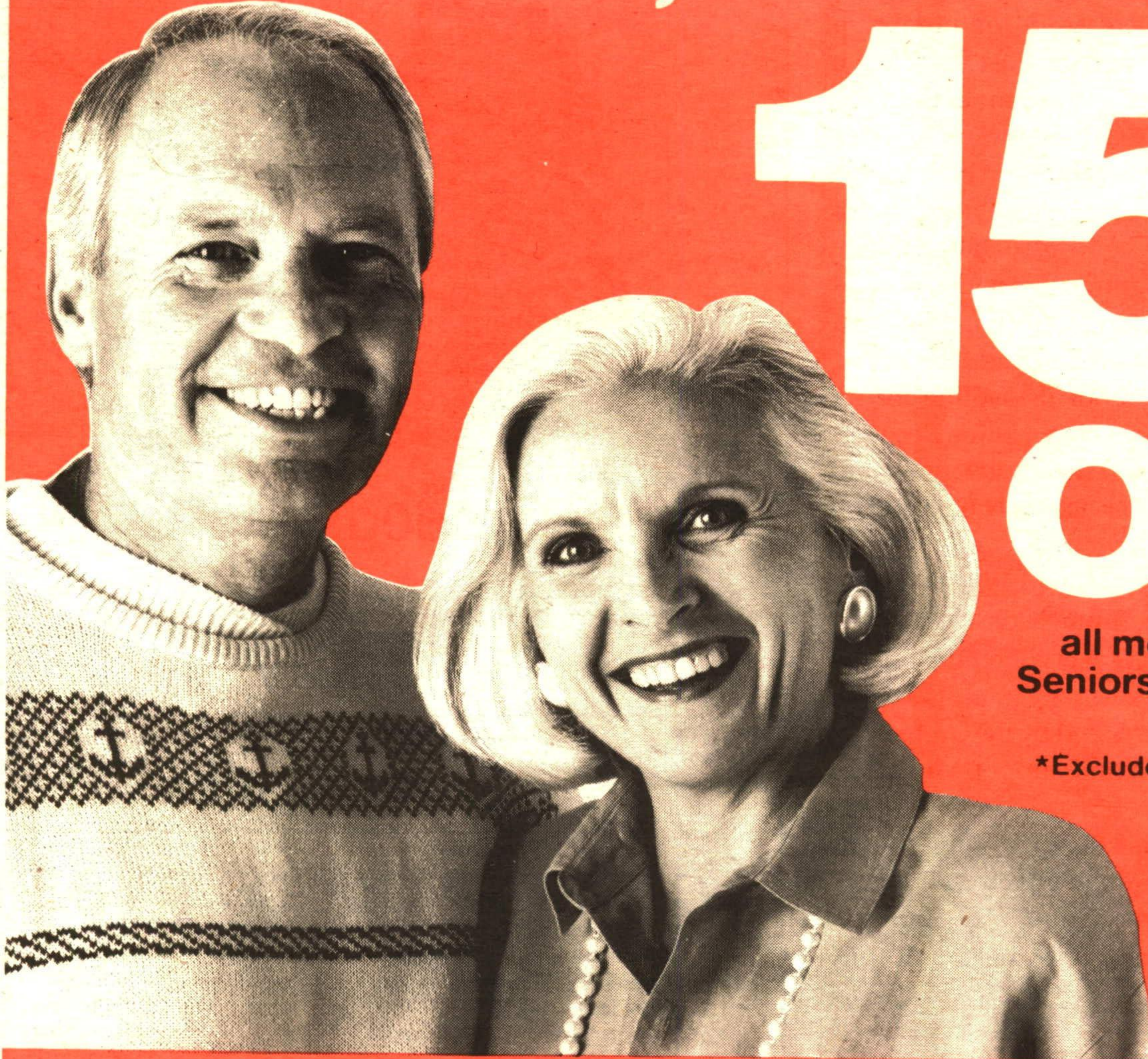
Dinner theatre

A Dinner Theatre starring Joe Abbey Colburne in The Treasure Chest will be held at Georgetown District Christian School on November 2, 7 p.m. For tickets call Irene Menken, 878-2142 or Janet Singraven, 853-1203. There is limited seating.

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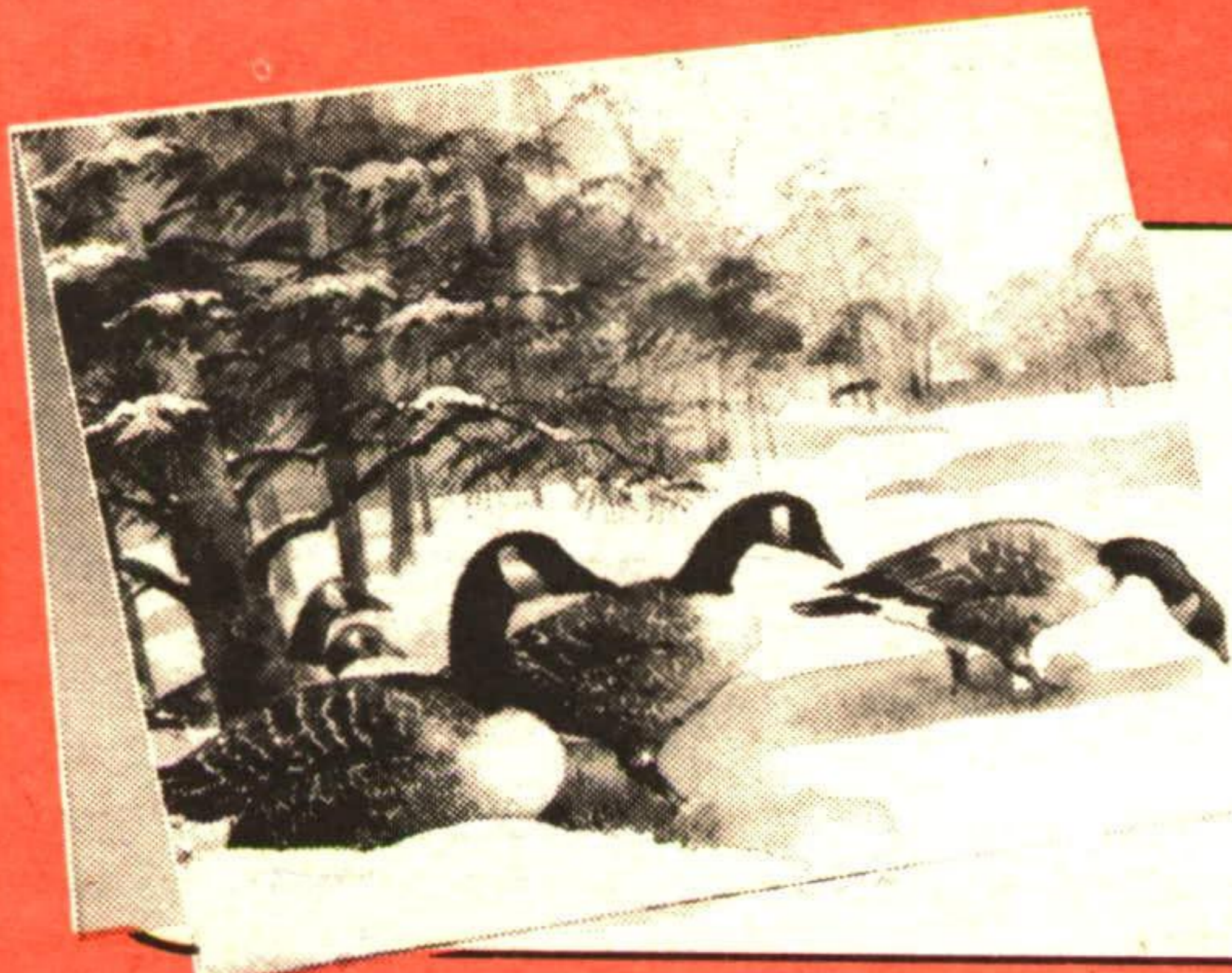
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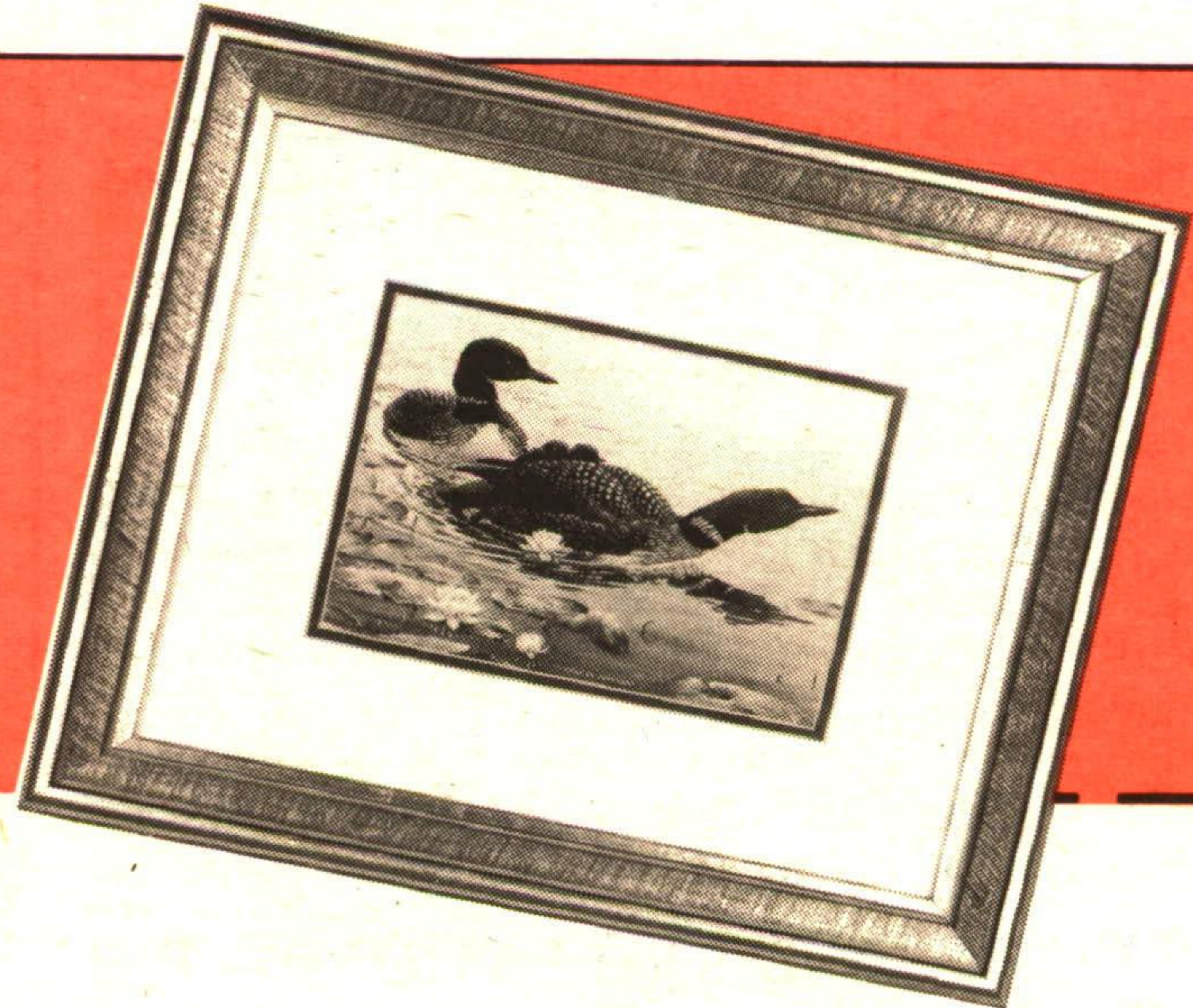
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