

Abandoned puppies need caring homes

By LESLEY ALLEN

Special to the Independent/Free Press

A Ballinacree couple could be considered a dog's best friend after rescuing two puppies found on a dirt road.

Jane McKay and her husband, Bruce were driving home from Bayfield, near Peterborough two weeks ago when they came upon the puppies. Together, the McKays coaxed the mud caked, burr and flea infested pair out of a cornfield.

"My husband Bruce spotted the dogs as we drove past and asked if I had seen two dogs, and I said no. We turned around and saw them move into a cornfield. We coaxed them out after a while."

McKay said they went around to several farms in the area, and after having no luck in finding the owners, they brought them home.

"They were in bad shape," said McKay. "It is obvious they were dumped."

After several days feeding the two, McKay said she noticed a problem with the blonde one, a Shepherd cross, they nicknamed Taffy.

"The littlest one would regurgitate his food after eating," McKay said.

After taking the puppy to Acton Veterinary Clinic, McKay said Taffy was diagnosed with a condition called megaesophagus by Dr. Stephen Hess.



JANE MCKAY with puppies

"The big problem with these dogs is they get to regurgitating the food if they are fed standing up," Hess said. The regurgitation is due to a "stricture which causes a delay in the emptying of food from the esophagus into the stomach."

To combat the problem, McKay said she has to, "mix the food into a mush or gruel type mixture."

Since the esophagus has been over stretched, McKay said, "the dog has to be fed standing up so the

food doesn't sit in the pipe. Then he has to be held with his head up for 10 minutes. He will have to be fed like this for the rest of his life."

With so many orphan animals to look after herself, including a crow and two raccoons, McKay said she can't continue to look after the puppies, and watch over Taffy.

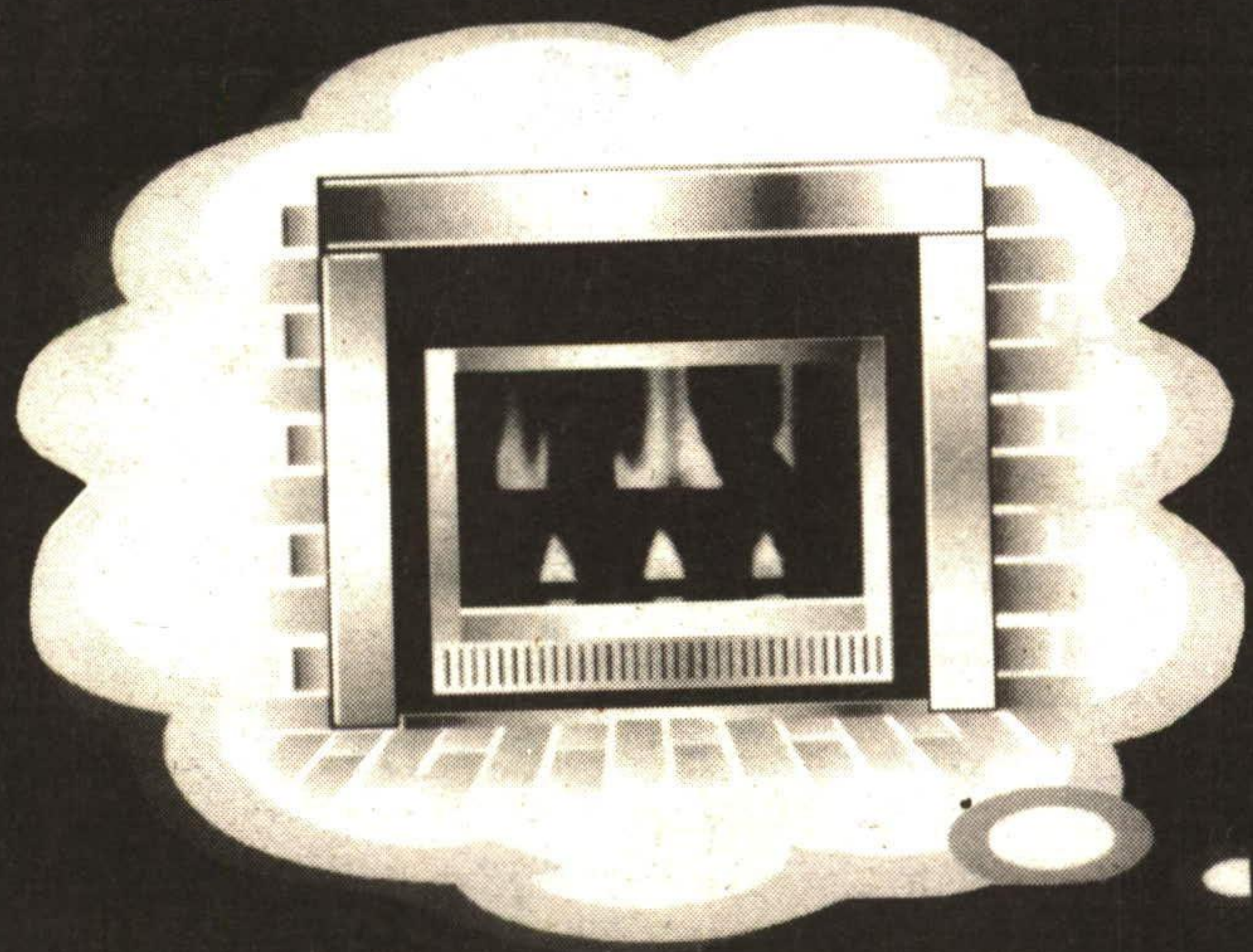
"Because of his problem, it has stunted his growth. Most people would put him to sleep. Maybe, maybe it is the best thing."

McKay said medically there is nothing a vet can do to correct the problem. Taffy's only chance is to be fed standing up, and watched to ensure he doesn't eat anything which could become stuck in his throat.

"This is his only chance. You have to be really controlled, you have to be really strict. There has to be that special someone out there willing to look after him."

McKay is giving the two male puppies aged between 12 and 14 weeks away free to good homes. The black puppy with the white legs, nicknamed Roady is a Border collie and Taffy is a German shepherd mix. McKay said both have been examined, vaccinated, dewormed and generally are in good health. For more information, contact Jane McKay at 877-1580 or at her business, Best Clips at 853-0704 anytime.

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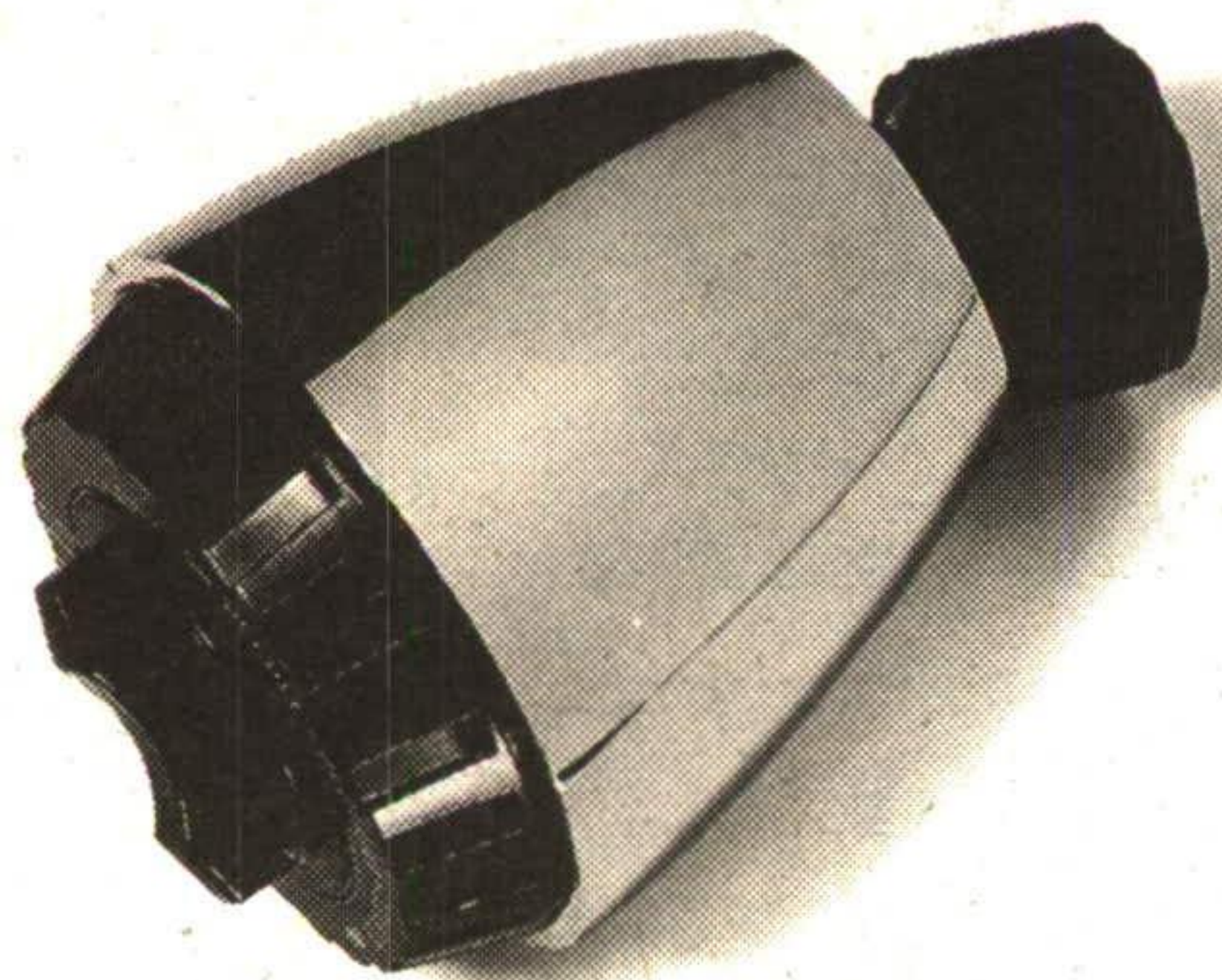
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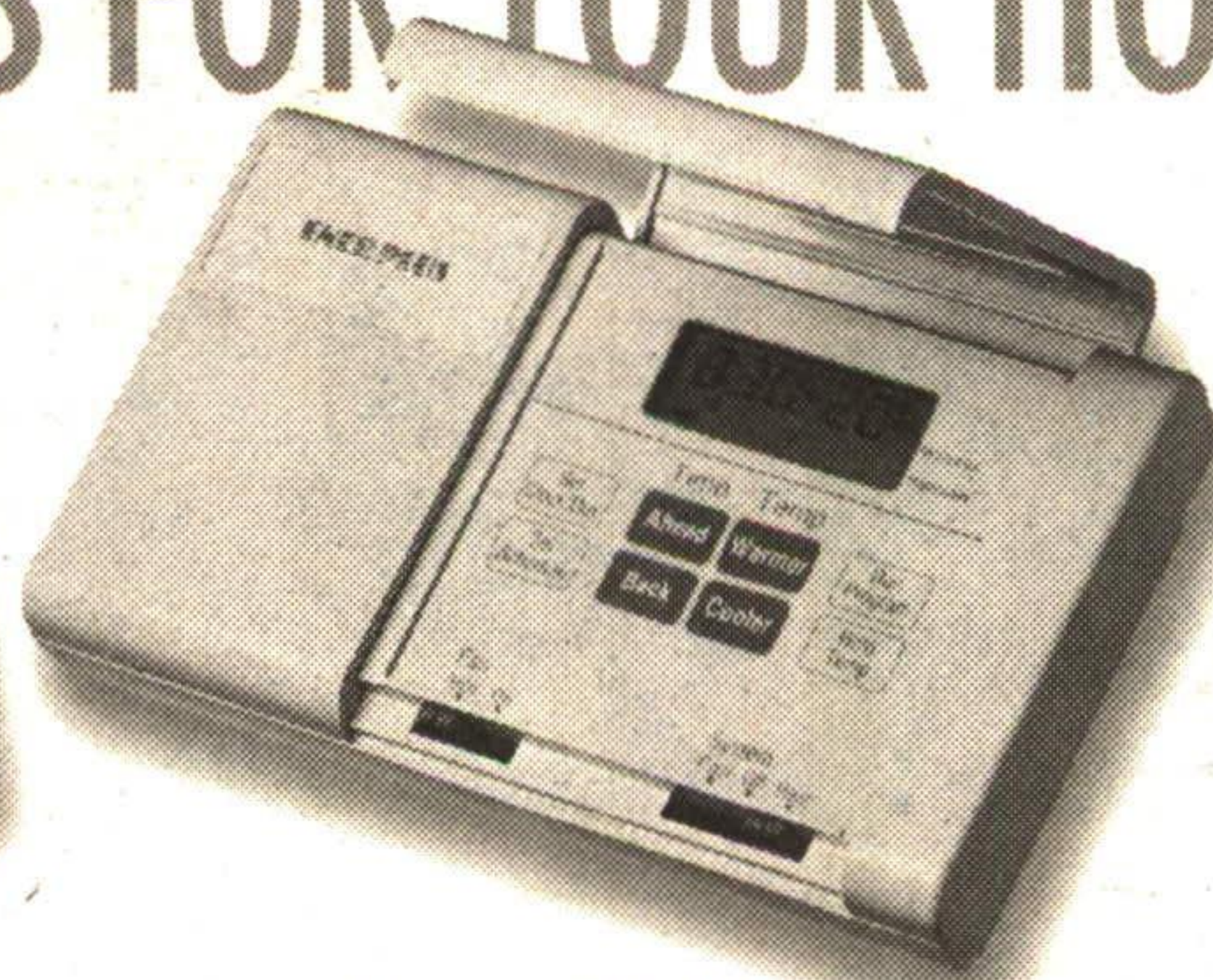
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