

Georgetown's bonnie lassies tops in North America

By HERB GARBUTT
Special

If you're looking for a slice of Scottish or Irish traditions, look no further than Georgetown.

Two local girls have captured North American championships, Kathy Irvine in Irish dancing and Judith Irwin in piping.

The North American championships were nothing new for Kathy Irvine. At 15, she's a veteran, having competed at that level since she was eight and having placed sixth at the world competition last year. Still, the North American Nationals of Irish Dancing championship had eluded her until this year's event in Boston. She had been runner-up the previous two years.

Irvine had hoped for a top-five finish in the under-15 division, which featured 165 dancers from around the world. When the top five dancers were called, she was among them.

"The thought crossed my mind," Irvine said. "Then they announced the other girl's number (for second) and it was just like, 'Wow'. I knew they were all really good but I just did what I had to do."

With the exception of Irvine, all the other top-five finishers were from England, Ireland and Scotland.

Irvine isn't the only dancer in the family, though. Her sister Sinead took part in the under-13 competition, finishing ninth. The next challenges for the elder Irvine are the Canadian nationals in Vancouver and then another trip to the worlds, to be held in Galway, Ireland in April, 1997.

Irwin has shown rapid improvement since taking up the bagpipes three years ago. She has honed her skills by competing in Highland Games almost every weekend throughout the summer. The 15-year-old had not won a solo competition until this year and that gave her incentive to keep working on her piping.

Leading up to the North Americans, she picked up a first at a Highland Games competition in Barrie and then finished second at the Canadian nationals in Cambridge. At the North Americans in Maxville, Ont., she came through with an outstanding performance to top 30 other pipers in the Grade 3 march division.

"Really, I hadn't thought about getting first," Irwin said. "But I thought I could do well."

There are no solo competitions at the worlds but Irwin will be there anyway as part of a family vacation to Scotland. She has competed at worlds in the past with the Milton Optimist Pipe Band, finishing second last year.

Residents object to Law project

Continued from Page 1

Foley, however, suggested to councillors that the entire parcel of land, designated as Phase III, should be purchased from Law, and that a combination of public and private funding should be raised to pay for it. The land is currently designated for medium residential density in the Halton Hills official plan, but Foley wants the town to use it parkland for the whole community.

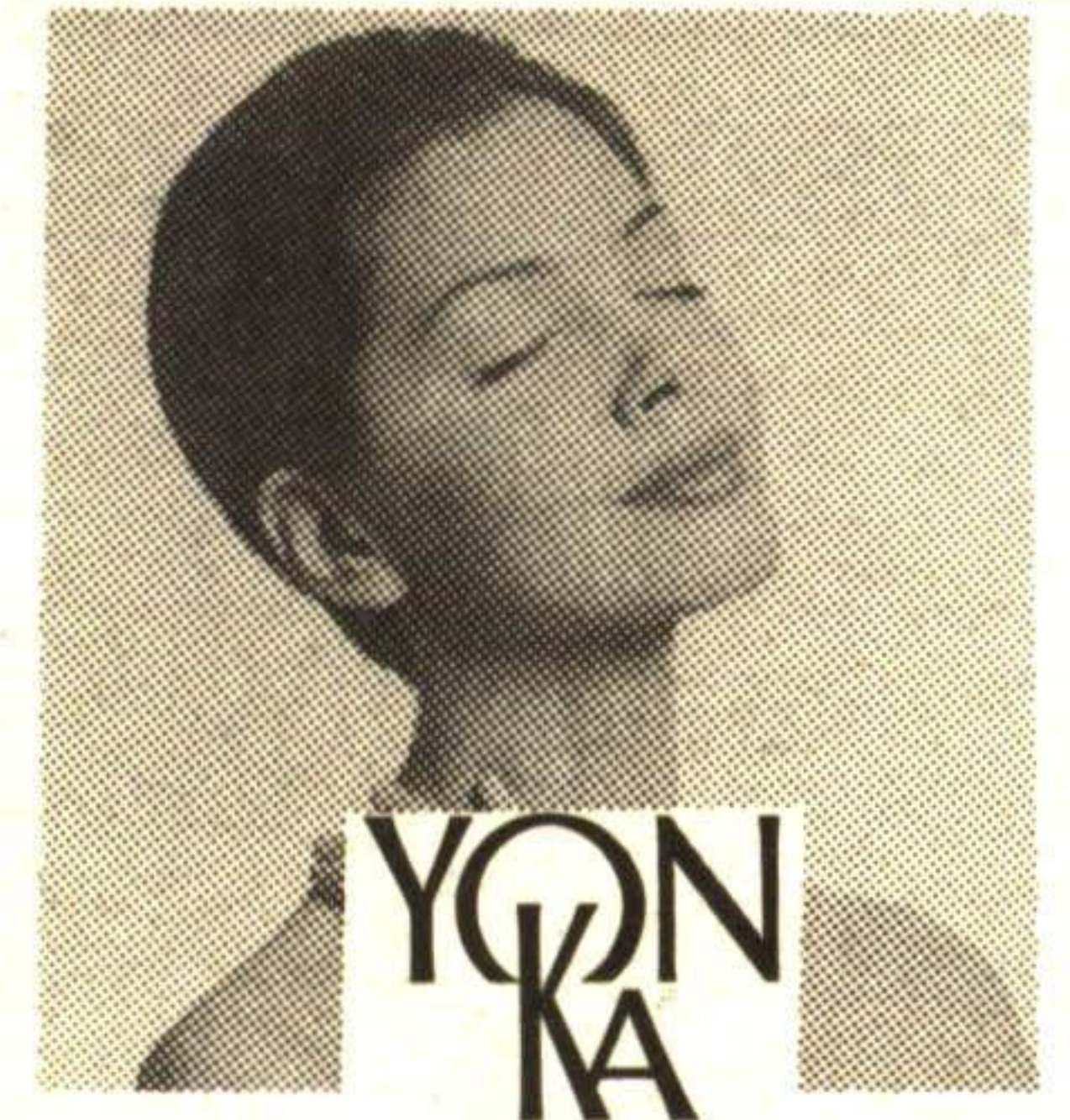
Resident John Spencer asked

that council stop all approvals for the development, saying that councillors are ignoring the concerns of the residents in their fight against Law.

"I don't think the council should rely on the OMB to quash this or to pass the buck on to the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) or the Region of Halton. Then turn around and say the region said it was okay, the OMB said it was okay... It's not okay with me or with any the residents of my neighborhood."

skin

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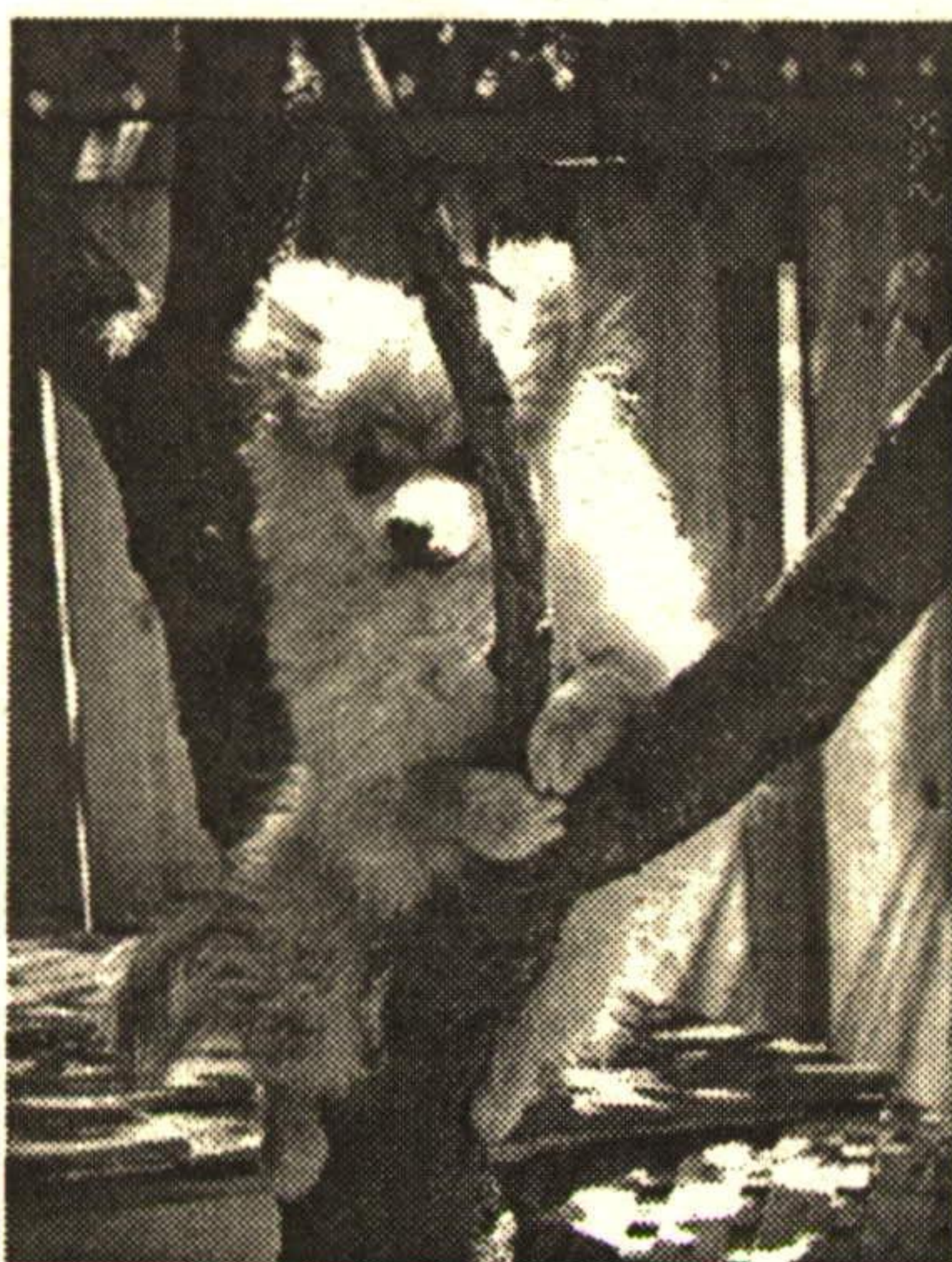
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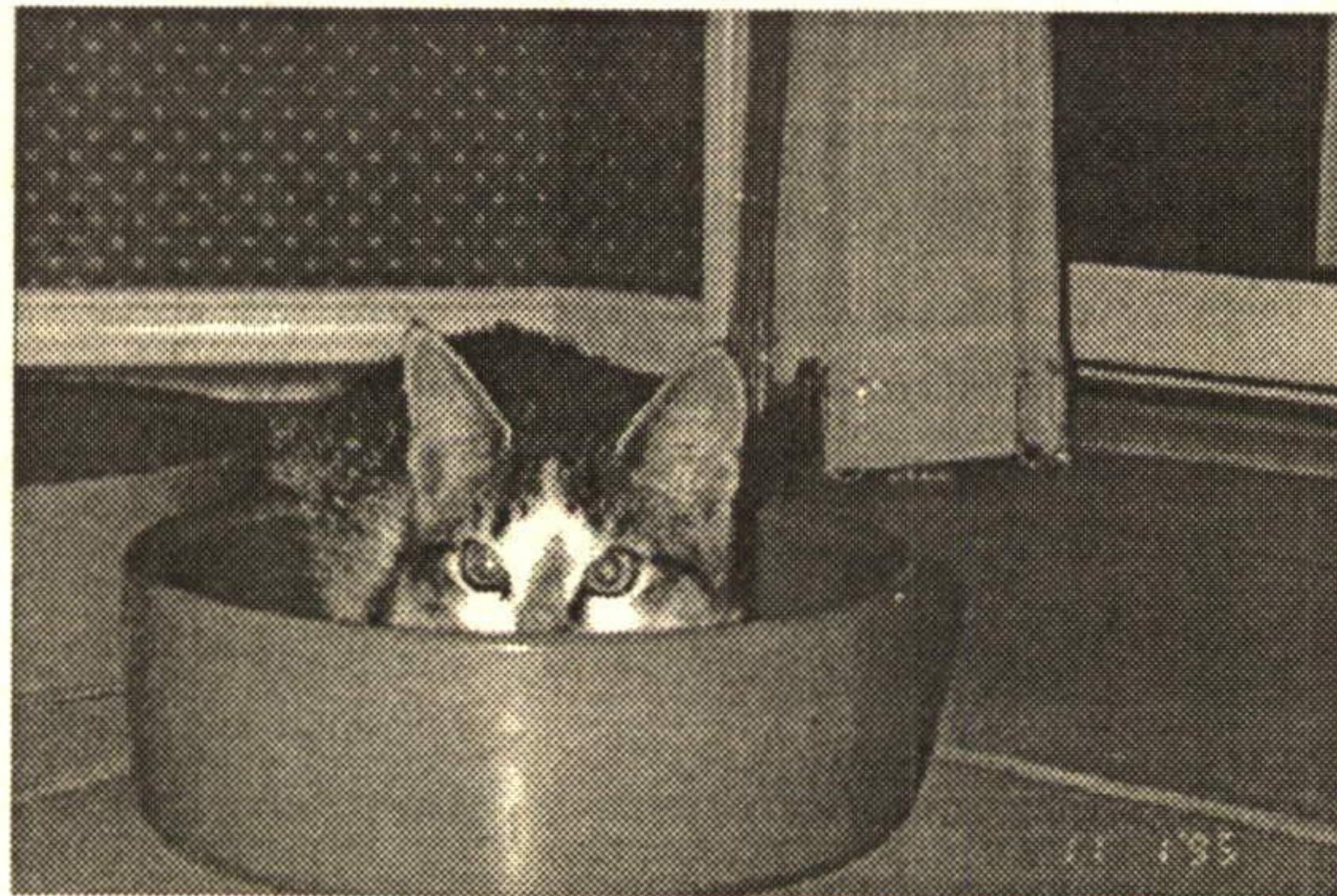
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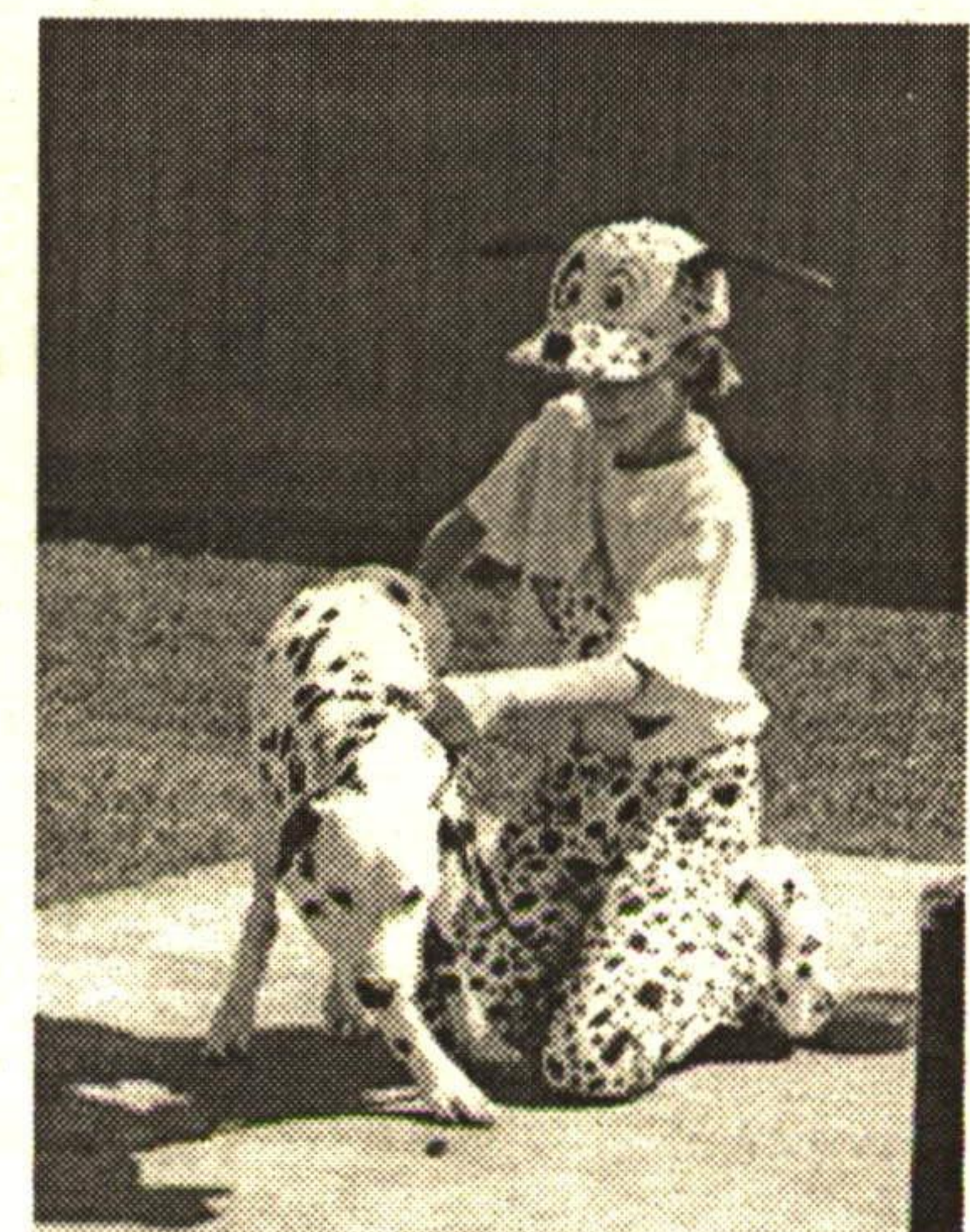
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