



Debbie, daughter Emily and Dave Boycott share a moment together at home.

Positive outlook stressed

Down Syndrome children should be seen as persons first

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

For Acton's Debbie and Dave Boycott, the toughest part of being a parent to a child with Down Syndrome is getting people to see their daughter Emily first as a person, and second as a person with Down Syndrome.

"When she was younger, children were wonderful, but as she's getting older it's more difficult," said Debbie Boycott on Thursday.

"Pre-teen kids are beginning to sort out who they are and the toughest part for me is what she has to face with other people and that's why I think if the public was aware

of how capable these children are and how much they have to offer, it would make her movement through the different ages more smooth."

To mark National Down Syndrome Awareness Week, which runs until tomorrow (Thursday), Boycott, a member of the Halton Down Syndrome Association, spoke to *The Tanner* about her family and the theme of the week which is "Being Our Best".

"People with Down Syndrome ... can do everything that everyone else can do, just maybe at a lesser level," Boycott said, noting that Emily is in Grade 7 and like most kids her age swims, skis, skates and water skis.

Down Syndrome is a genetic disorder which occurs at conception - its cause and prevention are unknown. The error, resulting in an extra 21st chromosome, usually causes delays and limitations in physical and intellectual development.

Boycott said one of the

delayed areas is speech and one of the main functions of the Halton Association is to try to get adequate speech therapy for their children.

"Because our children couldn't get speech therapy at the local institutions, like the hospitals, we've had to raise funds to hire private therapists," Boycott said, explaining while all children with Down Syndrome have trouble with speech, they are capable of it and with early intervention can do very well.

"As well as advocating for our children we attempt to keep them in an integrated system because like normal children who provide healthy role models for our children, we still feel that children with Down Syndrome have a lot to offer and teach."

Asked if she has any advice for parents of children with Down Syndrome, Boycott said, "just be very positive about the future. You really don't have any choice, but that's really important."

Draw helps sports

LEGION NEWS

The Provincial Service Officer, Scott Young, will be visiting this area on Wed. Nov. 20. Anyone wishing an interview with regard to any of the following are requested to complete the form posted on the Club Room bulletin board, or contact Ab Irwin at 853-0696: war disability pensions, treatment for entitled veterans, applications for benevolent funds, appeals against adverse original ap-

plication for war veterans, widows' allowance. Deadline is this Friday, Nov. 8.

Nov. 10 is our Remembrance parade. If any veteran needs a ride to the parade, cenotaph or dinner, call Frank Speilvogel, 853-1024, Gus Jeffrey, 853-1145 or the Legion, 853-0910.

On Nov. 16 the Legion is holding the Acton Minor Sports beef draw from 2 to 5 pm, with over 50 prizes. Tickets are \$1 each and are available at the bar.

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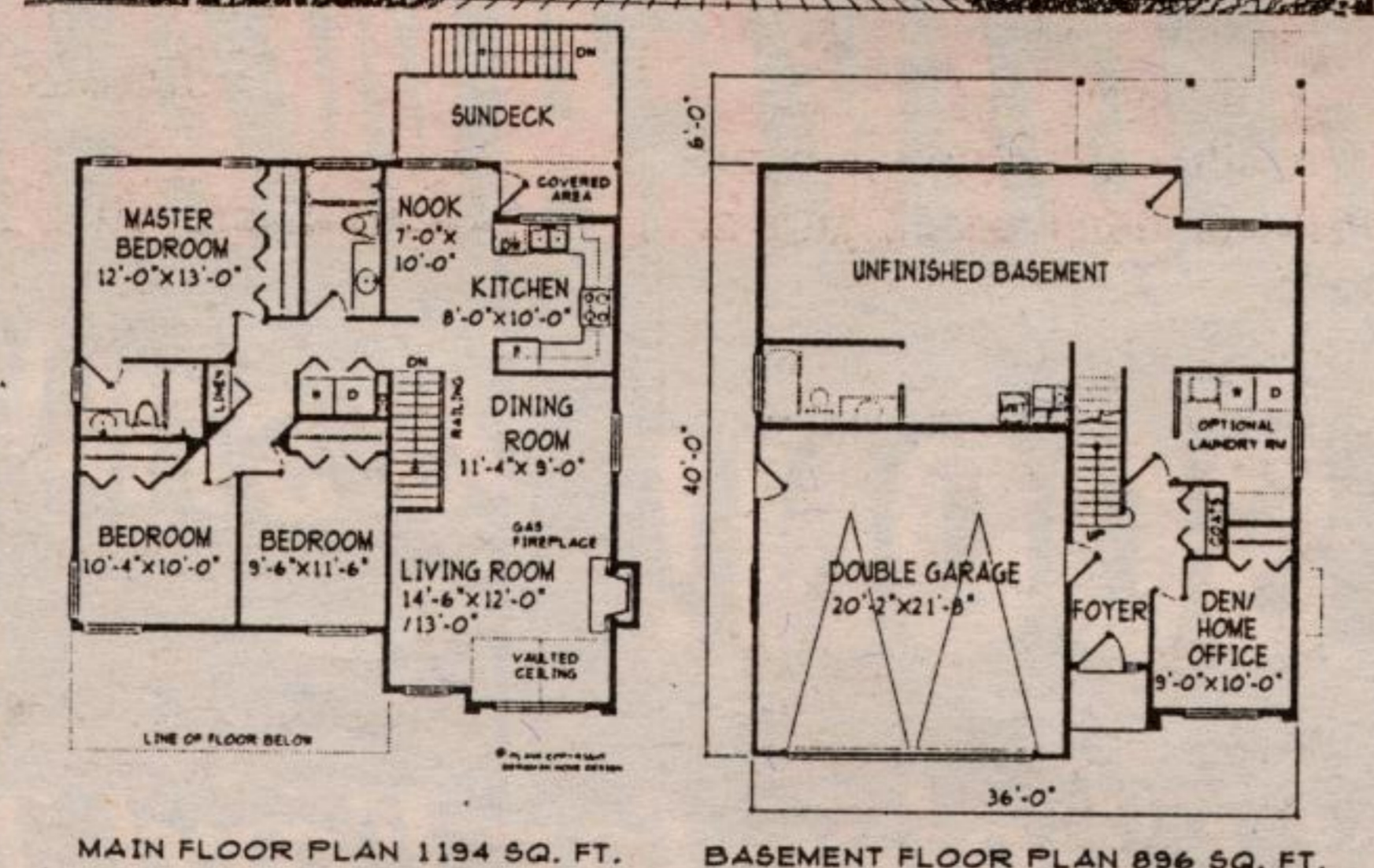
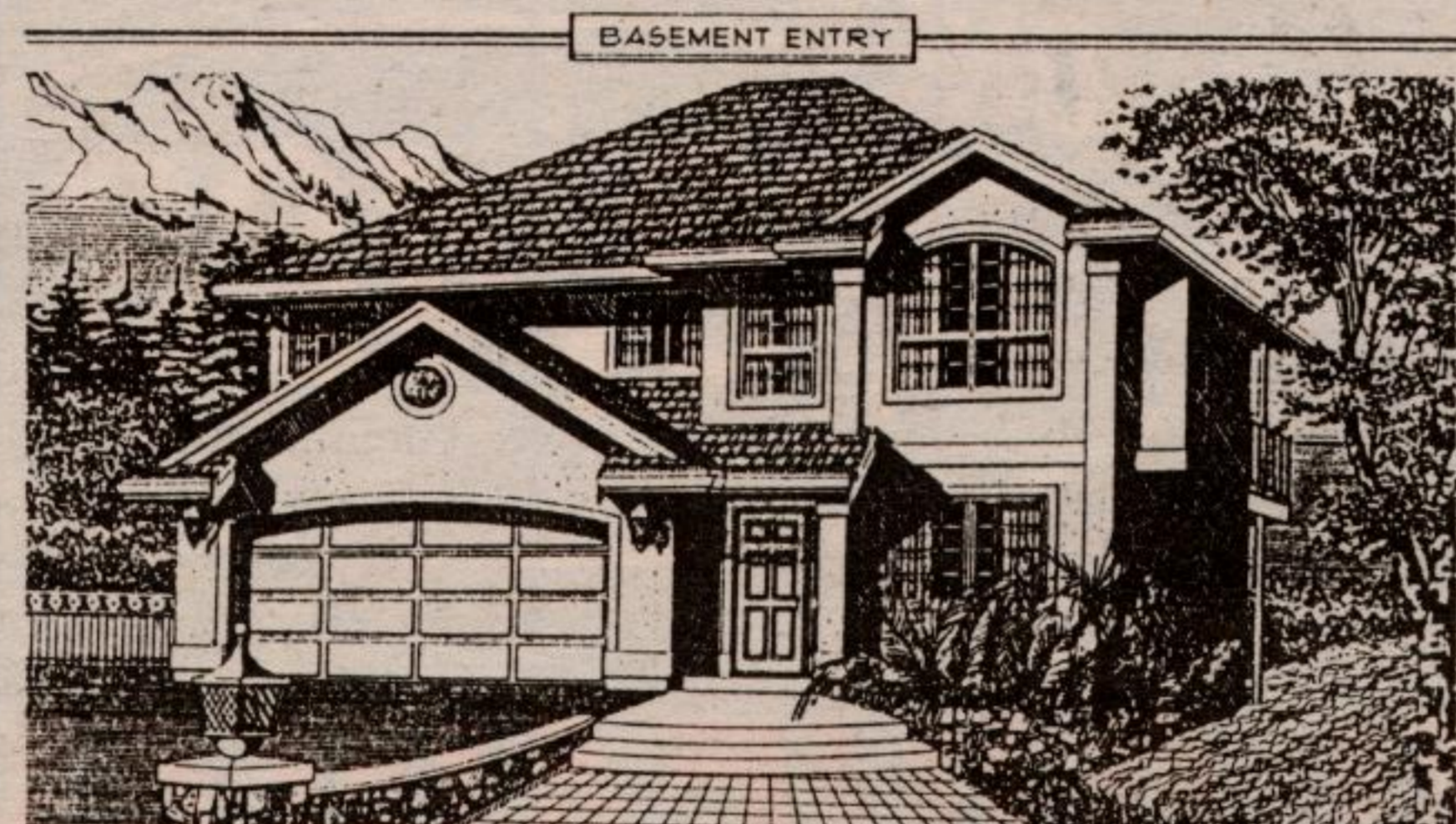
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An open plan for the living and dining room creates a spacious atmosphere and features a vaulted ceiling and a cosy gas fireplace. The kitchen features an efficient "U" shaped working area. The nook provides access to the sundeck which is partially covered. The master bedroom boasts his and hers closets and a three piece ensuite.

Downstairs, a potential home office is conveniently located just inside the front door. The rest of the basement can be finished once time and finances allow.

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