

Traps and frees birds to escape jet engines

Ulrich Watermann is a lover of nature who puts his spare time and energy where his concern for ecology is. He traps birds at the International Airport and saves them from certain destruction, either from the jet engines of the airplanes or the bullets of officials' guns.

He and like-minded friends trap the birds (mostly birds of prey such as the Snowy Owl and the Bald Eagle) in a net mesh trap. A pigeon is used as bait and when the larger birds enter the basket the pig-

eon escapes. The birds are then banded and if healthy, Watermann takes them to an area apart from the airport and sets them free.

Watermann was speaking to a fascinated audience of 10 to 14-year-olds at Brookville School Wednesday morning. As he held a magnificent white Snowy Owl for all to see he told how this bird is the main problem at the airport. "This Arctic-bred bird has no fear of man," he explained. "They don't even know man is their enemy and that's why

so many are shot. They winter in the Toronto area and are attracted by the wide open spaces at the airport."

If a bird has been injured Watermann takes it home with him to his bird hospital in Georgetown. Many have been "shot by uneducated hunters," he says. "Hunters should be fair," he contends, "If you go hunting (and he admits he does) you should shoot what you go out for, not rare animals or birds."

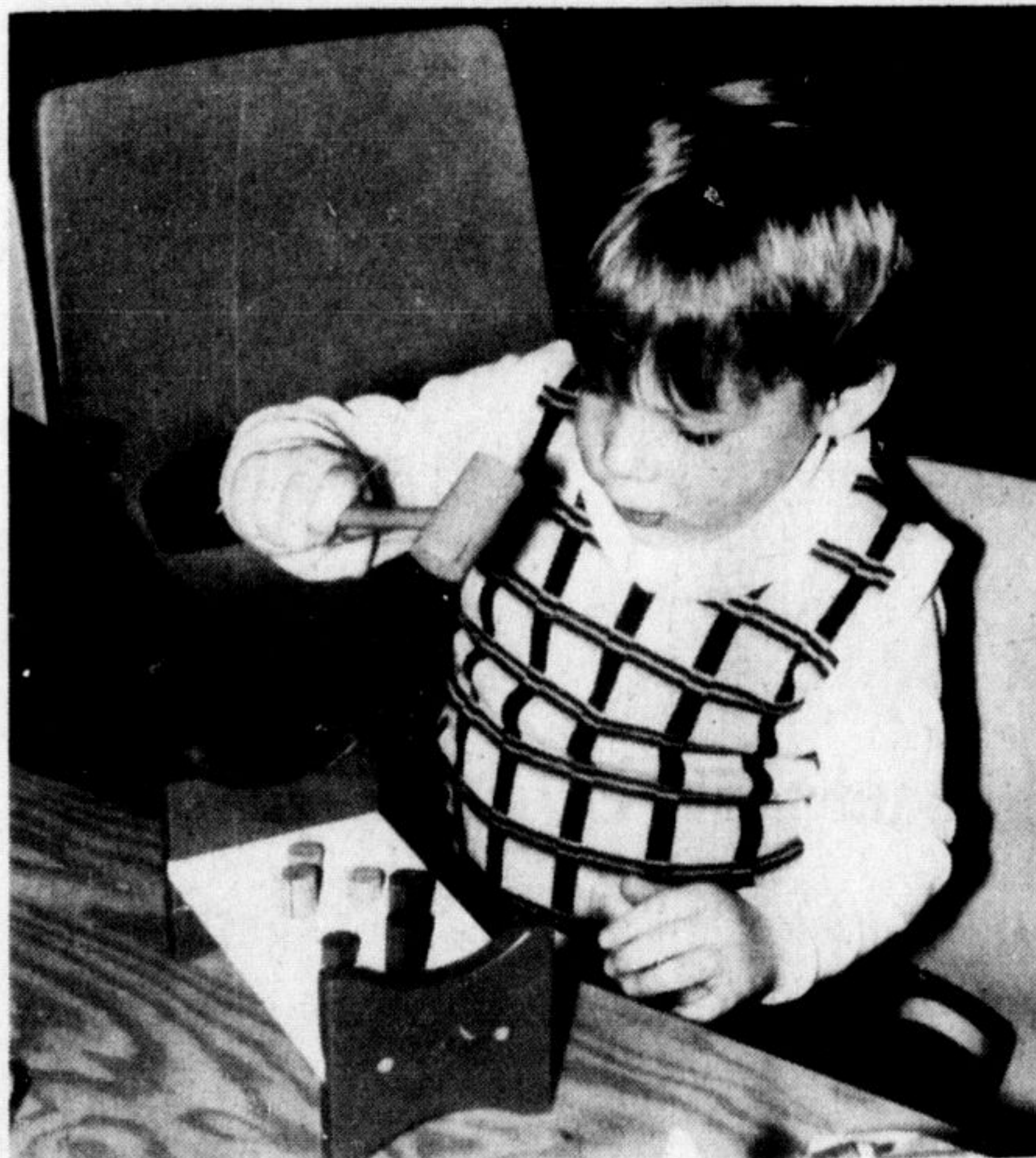
Bald Eagles

In Ontario there are only five pair of Bald Eagles left, Watermann claims, "I had one brought in by a hunter hunting groundhogs," he said. "That's quite a mistake to make!"

Watermann illustrated his lecture with slides of owls and hawks at the airport. Appearing unawares of the danger they were in, the birds were

seen perched on installation equipment and sitting on the take-off strip. In an attempt to protect the safety of the planes, airport officials tried shooting the birds. This apparently only added to the problem as injured birds were hindered from making a quick escape.

As a grand finale to his visit to Brookville Watermann banded a Great Horned Owl for the benefit of the students and set it free as they watched from the school window.



A LITTLE PUZZLED when he first opened it, Stuart Schouten soon caught on when the box was finally open and a banging block set was unveiled. Stuart was one of over 100 youngsters who had fun and got a gift from Sinterklaas at the Dutch-Canadian Club's Christmas party Sunday.

Public speaking winners chosen

The grade public speaking winners were held at Martin St. Senior School this past week with winners chosen from grades six, seven and eight.

Speaking on a variety of topics of their own choice the winners were: Grade six, first Mark Saunders, second Anne Aikenhead, third Hilary Willoughby; Grade seven,

first Connie Roberts, second Robin Hayden, third Shelley Eakins; Grade eight, first Karen Blacklock, second Lori Van Fleet, third Lynda Hand.

These students will go on to the school finals early in January and several of them will be taking part in the Optimist speaking contest in the spring.

Hockey Mustangs are 50 - 50

Playing in an expanded league this year, the high school's Milton Mustangs are winning about 50 per cent of the time, according to Coach Don Leonard.

Despite an excellent back and forth game Thursday the team returned to Milton from Burlington with a 1-0 loss to Aldershot in the high school league.

Milton players were strong throughout the game, outshooting the opposition 22-14. A few good scoring plays were disrupted by opposing goalies as they got within range of scoring.

Coaches blamed the loss on Milton players tiring in the

third period. The only goal was scored by Aldershot's Rob Kemp with under two minutes left in the game. Paul Nole's injured wrist at the end of the first period was also a factor in the Mustang loss since Nole has been a strong player throughout the season.

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Invest 10 Scouts

Ten Milton boys were invested into the worldwide brotherhood of Scouting on Thursday, Dec. 5.

In Scouting ceremonies are a traditional part of the programming and the Investiture is probably the most important ceremony in a boy's Scouting experience for it is in this ceremony that he makes the Scout Promise.

First Milton Scout Troop has added the 10 recruits to its roll. They are Anthony Eige, Mark Cannon, Paul Brown, Mark Wallis, Scott Richardson, Joseph Tieleman, Jeff Willows, Bob Percy, Neil Brown and Emmanuel Anassis.

Presiding at the ceremony were Troop Scouter Rocco Losole, Assistant Troop Scouter Ron Neath and District Commissioner Paul Lingen.

The ladies auxiliary served coffee and hot chocolate to parents and friends of the new Scouts.



GREAT HORNED OWL is banded by Ulrich Watermann with the help of Tony Vadeika at Brookville School on Wednesday. Mr. Watermann bands the birds he catches at the airport, then frees them in another part of the country.



SNOWY OWL fascinates the children at Brookville school as Ulrich Watermann shows the bird he caught at Toronto International Airport.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Continued from Page B2
to the Halton Region Conservation Authority's proposed budget for 1975. The Authority has asked for four million dollars for the acquisition of lakefront properties.

I feel that a few questions should be asked about the present purpose and policy of the H.R.C.A.

For example, if recreation is to be the name of the game, wouldn't taxpayers' money be more equitably spent if the H.R.C.A. assisted each town in the county to develop a recreational complex on lands it already owns within or near the boundaries of these towns? It is difficult to understand why the authority would even suggest an amount of four million dollars the acquisition of small acreages which can only accommodate a launching dock or

parking facilities for the few who can afford a boat.

With reference to present Authority policy, has there been a change from the one of a few years ago when farmers' lands were expropriated for the lowest possible price? If the lands are to be used for the same purposes (i.e., recreational) why aren't lakefront properties to be expropriated also?

It seems to me that if the lakefront acquisitions go through as proposed, the pockets of a few will be cosily lined with taxpayers' money for the benefit of the privileged few who will be able to enjoy the additional facilities it will provide.

Sincerely,
Peg Fraser,
Tower St. S., Fergus.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND IN A SERIES A Mark of Progress in Milton



Construction began recently on 70 townhouse units in the Valleyview Subdivision on Ontario St. The homes are being built by Westbury Development Ltd. The townhouse development is one of several to be built in Milton in the past year. The town house development adjoins a single family area in the same section.

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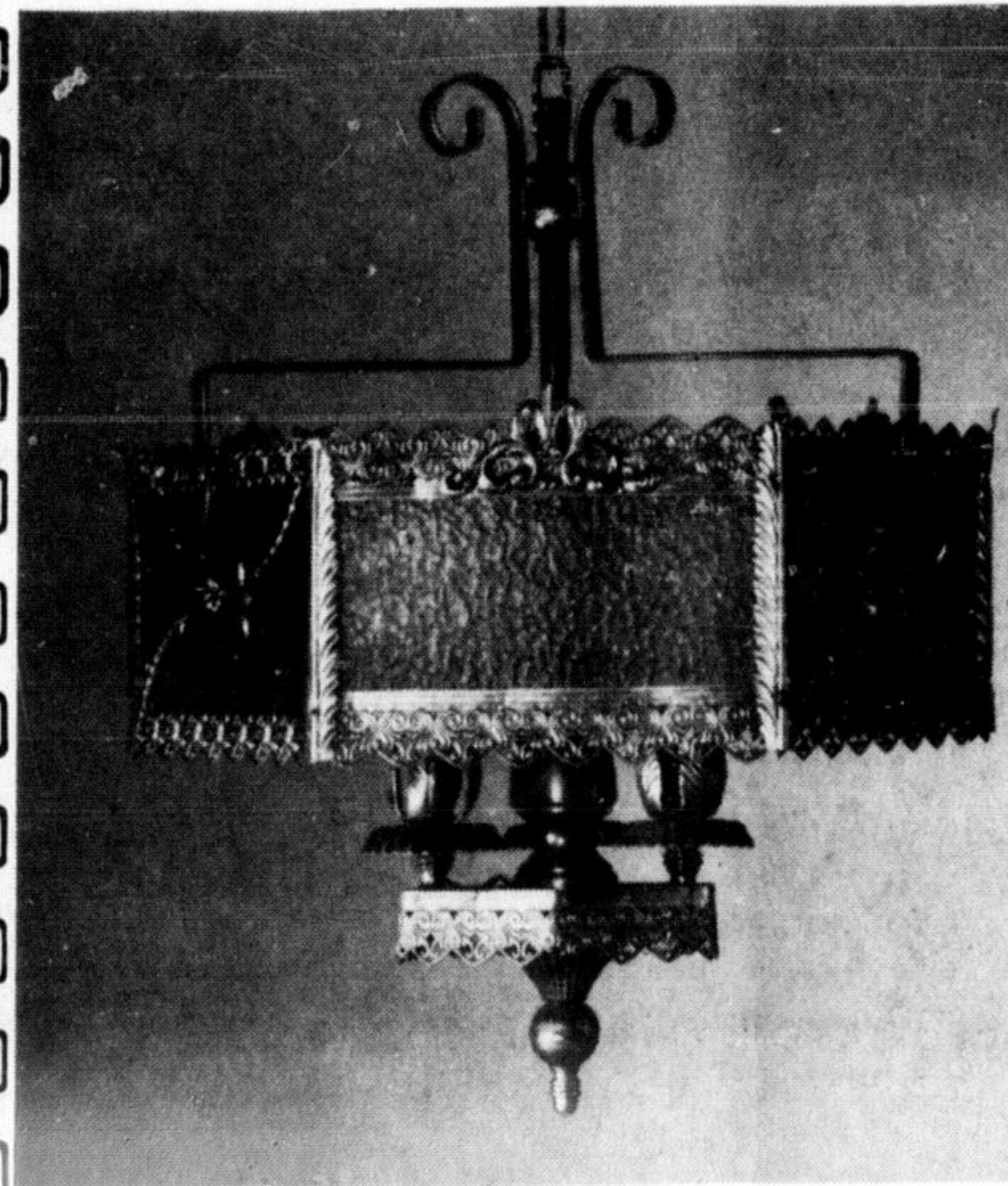
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