

Exercise program overcomes lethargy

By Jane Muller
It is hard to imagine a lethargic child, but they do exist and their attitudes make learning extremely difficult.

At Robert Baldwin School approximately 50 students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 have, through a special morning exercise program, overcome their hand-eye co-ordination problems, their fear of apparatus and their lazy ways.

Marilyn Nobel, who instructs an 11-member class of children with learning disabilities aged 7 to 11, heads up the special program.

She is a specialist in special education training, schooled at McGill University. The program which began at the end of September is the first of its kind in Milton.

Physical education consultant with the Halton Board of Education, Terry Parry said other local schools have expressed interest in starting a similar program this fall. He added there are many such programs in existence throughout Halton Region.

With the help of another special education teacher at Baldwin, Linda Bobar

and five parent volunteers, the program has been run successfully.

Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 to 9:30 a.m. the children are taught to overcome their fears and lack of self confidence reflected in their co-ordination.

Until January the program involved children from Kindergarten to Grade 3 and then took on the junior portion of the school population. Following the March break, individual attention was given to those who still

require further motivation. "We try to define the problem," Mrs. Nobel said. "The teacher is told the child's area of difficulty and reinforcement is given by the teacher."

Sometimes the main aim of the program is to give the child a better self image and confidence, according to the program's originator.

Mrs. Nobel has carried out similar programs in a clinical setting but this is her first experience with

it in a school. Lack of confidence in a child can result in lethargy in the classroom. Mrs. Nobel said that once these children experience a feeling of success through the exercise program, their confidence begins to build and they "will respond better in class settings."

She explains the children may realize they have a problem but they don't know how to deal with it or correct it on their own.

"They're only children, after all."

"In some cases it is nothing more than fear of equipment," she said.

Others have problems with hand-eye co-ordination while some have difficulties in participating in sports and athletic endeavors due to a minimal attention span.

"We're dealing with six specific cases now," Mrs. Nobel said.

Five parent volunteers—who she describes as dedicated and genuinely interested—along with herself or Linda Bobar give individual attention to those remaining in the program.

Vice Principal at Robert Baldwin, John Felce called the program a big success and said it will probably continue next year.



Exercise in success. Marilyn Nobel, a special education teacher at Robert Baldwin heads an exercise program designed to get problem children motivated. It is the only such program in Milton and its success means it will be back next year.

Census will ask distance to job

The amount of miles you travel to work will again be part of the 1981 census which will be taken June 3.

The decision to drop the "journey to work" portion of the census was taken in 1979 by the federal government.

But Hornby resident and Ontario Transport Minister Jim Snow said the exclusion of this portion of the census would cause troubles for the

Ontario Government.

"Information on the link between place of work and residence is essential for transportation planning," Mr. Snow said to Halton Regional Chairman Jack Raftis in a letter.

Mr. Snow said the federal government has since changed its mind and the journey-to-work portion will be placed back on the 1981 census.

Songs, dance featured at Drury

Singing, dancing, comedy and mime will be combined for an evening of entertainment as E.C. Drury High School students present their first endeavor of this kind.

The 18 acts combine the talent of high school students from grades 9 to 11 and the mime portion of the show is being performed by students from E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Handicapped. The Ernie Awards, a satire on the Oscar Awards, will be presented at the end of

the show of the same name.

It is a first attempt by the students of the new school who are spending much of their spare time rehearsing in the gymnasium where the show will be presented one night only, Wednesday, May 6.

Scott Wilson and Tracey Swejda, Grade 11 students, host the show which begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets selling for \$2 to adults and \$1.50 for students are available at the door.



Song and dance. Ladies and gentlemen, presenting the pointer sisters, live from E.C. Drury High School gymnasium. It's all an act, of course, one of 18 to be included in the Ernie Awards—the first public entertainment produced by the students there. This act features (from right) Paula Gardener, Debbie Dyck of Milton District High School and Chris Groom.



Ernie Awards. Ernie, friend of Oscar on Sesame St., is featured as the Ernie Awards logo. A take-off on the Oscar Awards, the Ernies will be presented at the end of an evening's entertainment at E.C. Drury High School, May 6.

Baby plants, animals Mountsberg feature

A program fit for the spring season begins at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre Saturday, April 25 featuring babies from the farm and woods.

Mountsberg is welcoming spring with a baby plants and animals program Saturdays and Sundays including May 18, Victoria Day until Sunday May 24.

See baby farm animals with their parents, including a sow and piglets, horse and colt and baby sheep and goats.

From the woods come baby wild animals and birds. Get a close up look at young rabbits and raccoons as well as incubated goslings, duck-

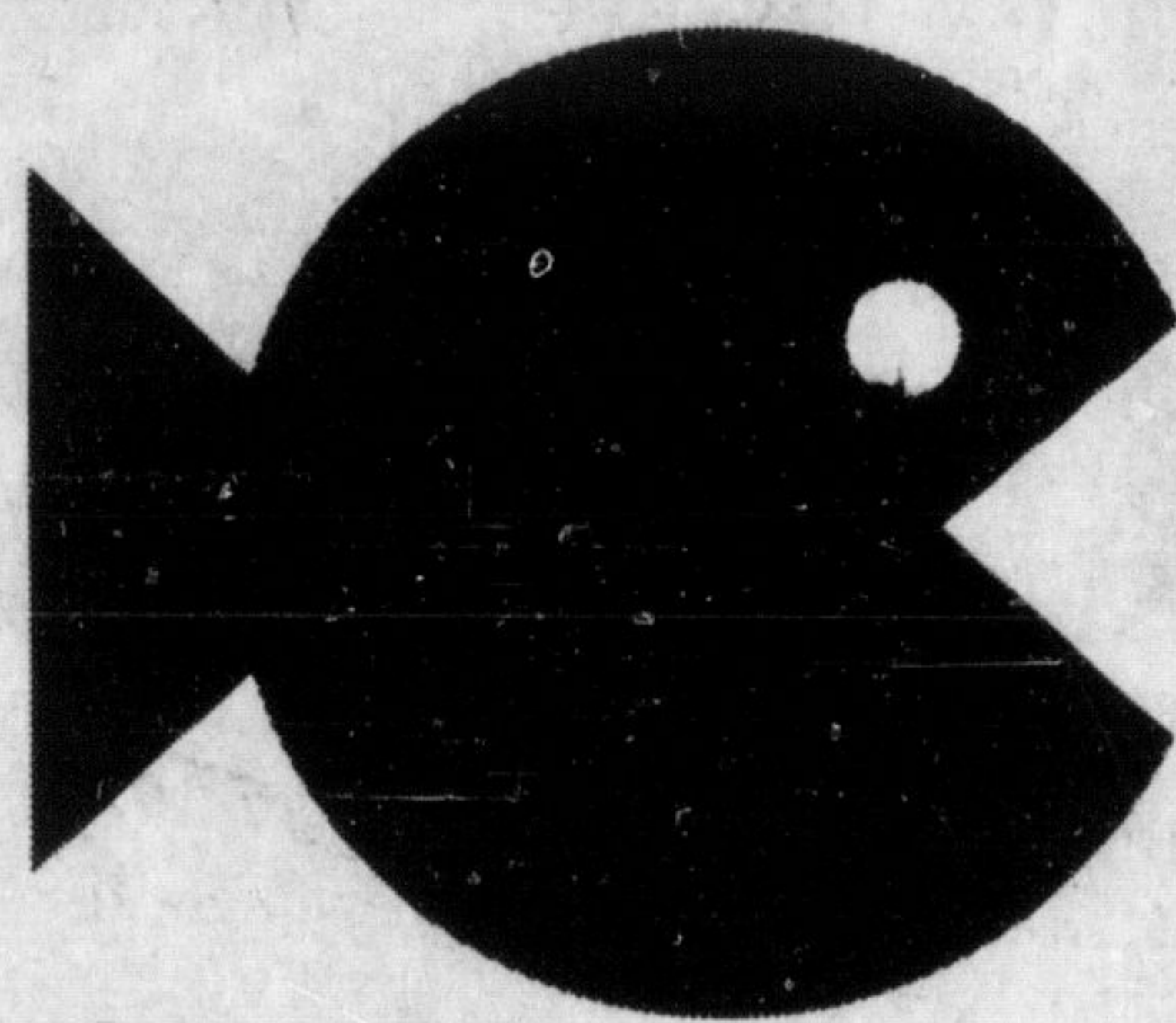
ings, pheasants and quail chicks.

Goat milking will be among the special animal demonstrations which will highlight a family outing to Mountsberg. These demonstrations are featured Sundays only.

Take a hike and find nature's signs of spring in the form of blossoming wildflowers. If you prefer riding to walking, take a trip along the wildlife walkway on a horse drawn wagon and see the hawks, owls, young elk and buffalo along the way.

A day at Mountsberg during the spring program will cost \$3 per carload and \$17 per bus.

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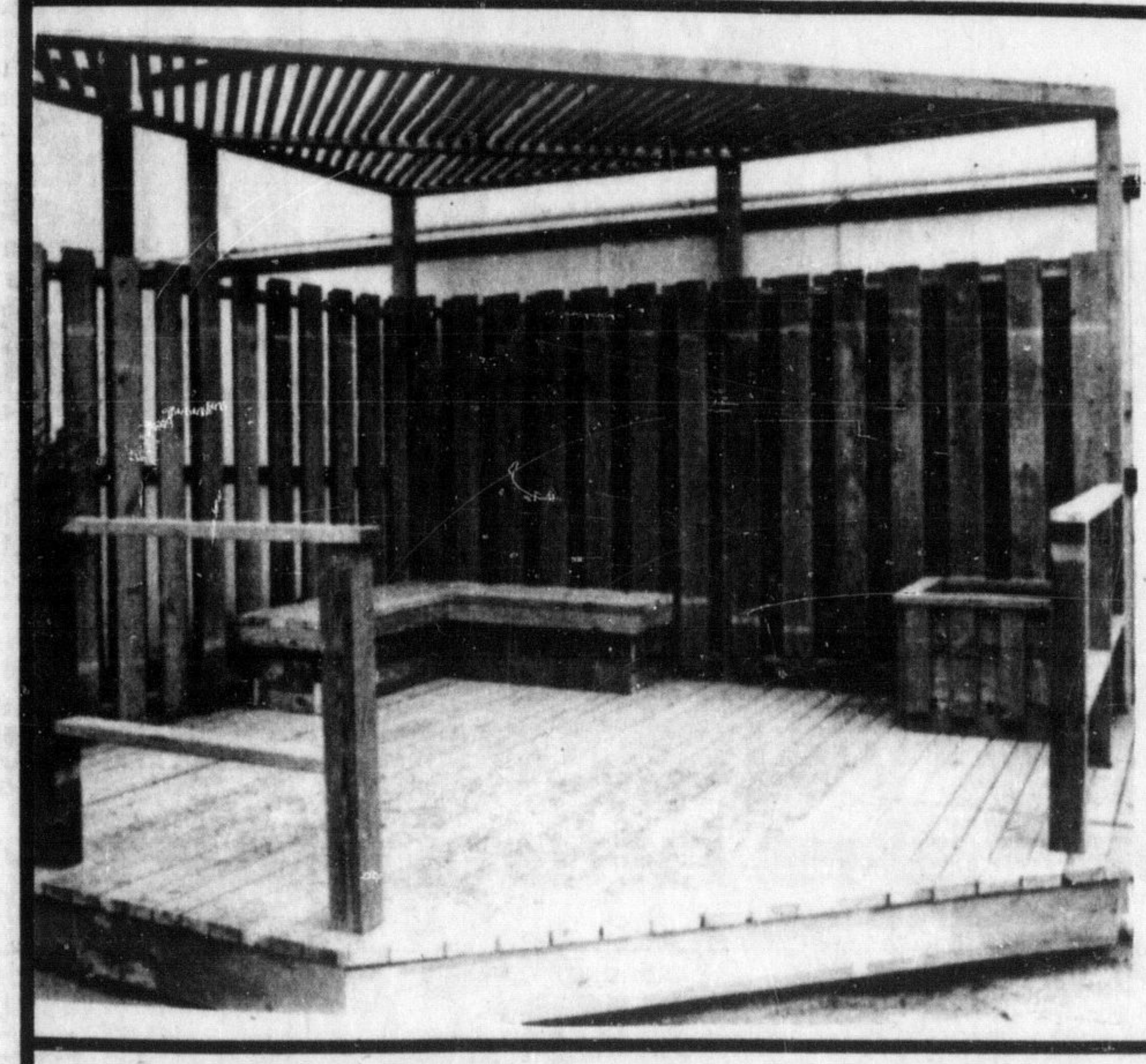
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