

# Water babies have nothing to fear

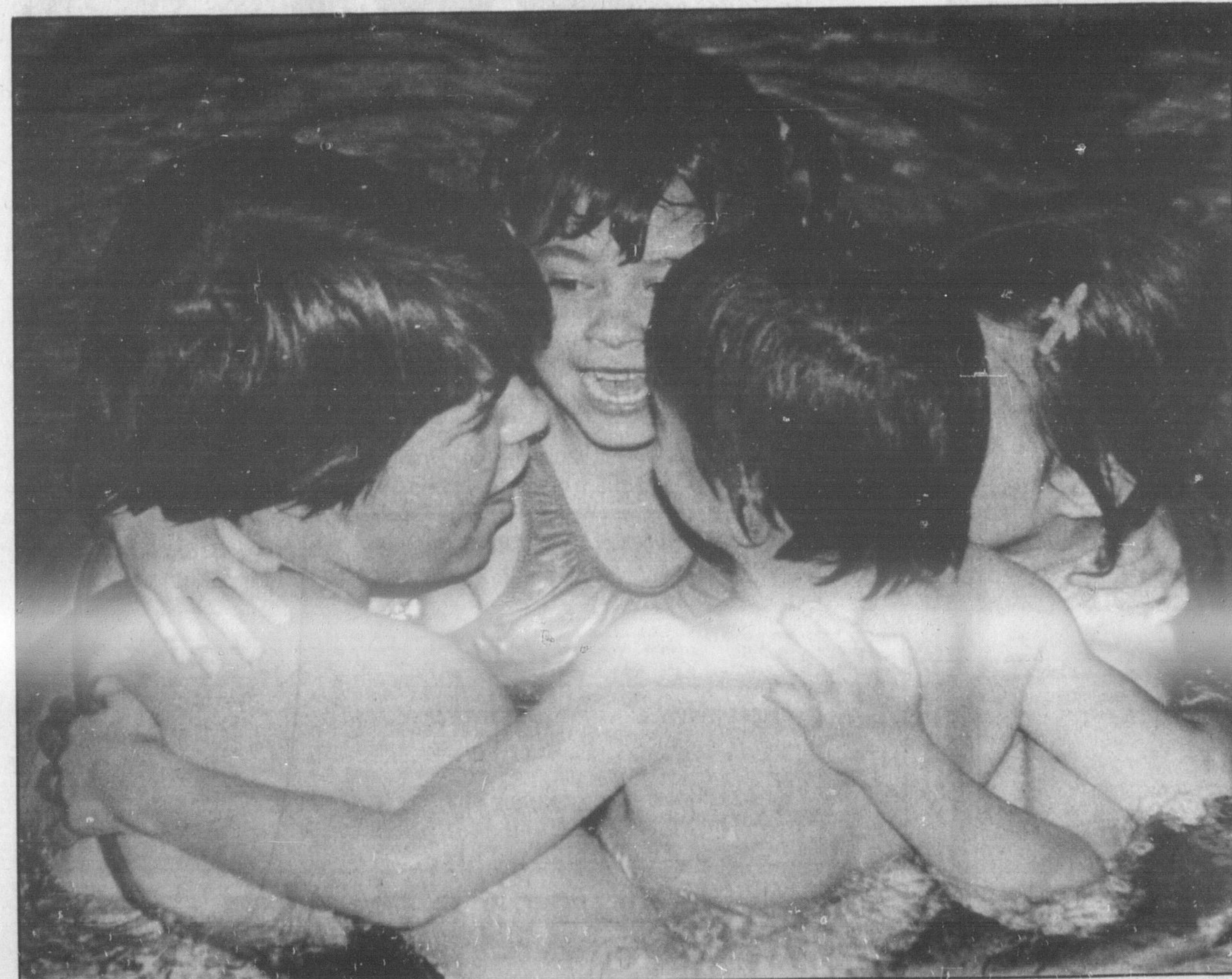
*Taking the first step to trauma-free aquatic fun*



Wide-eyed with excitement, this one-year-old shows no fear.



Getting used to the water is easy for Kelly with help from her dad Gary Watson.



These three may look like children clowning with their instructor but they are actually tadpoles.

Through the eyes of a one-year-old, accustomed to splashing in a bathtub, an Olympic-sized pool can look intimidating and that first plunge can be traumatic.

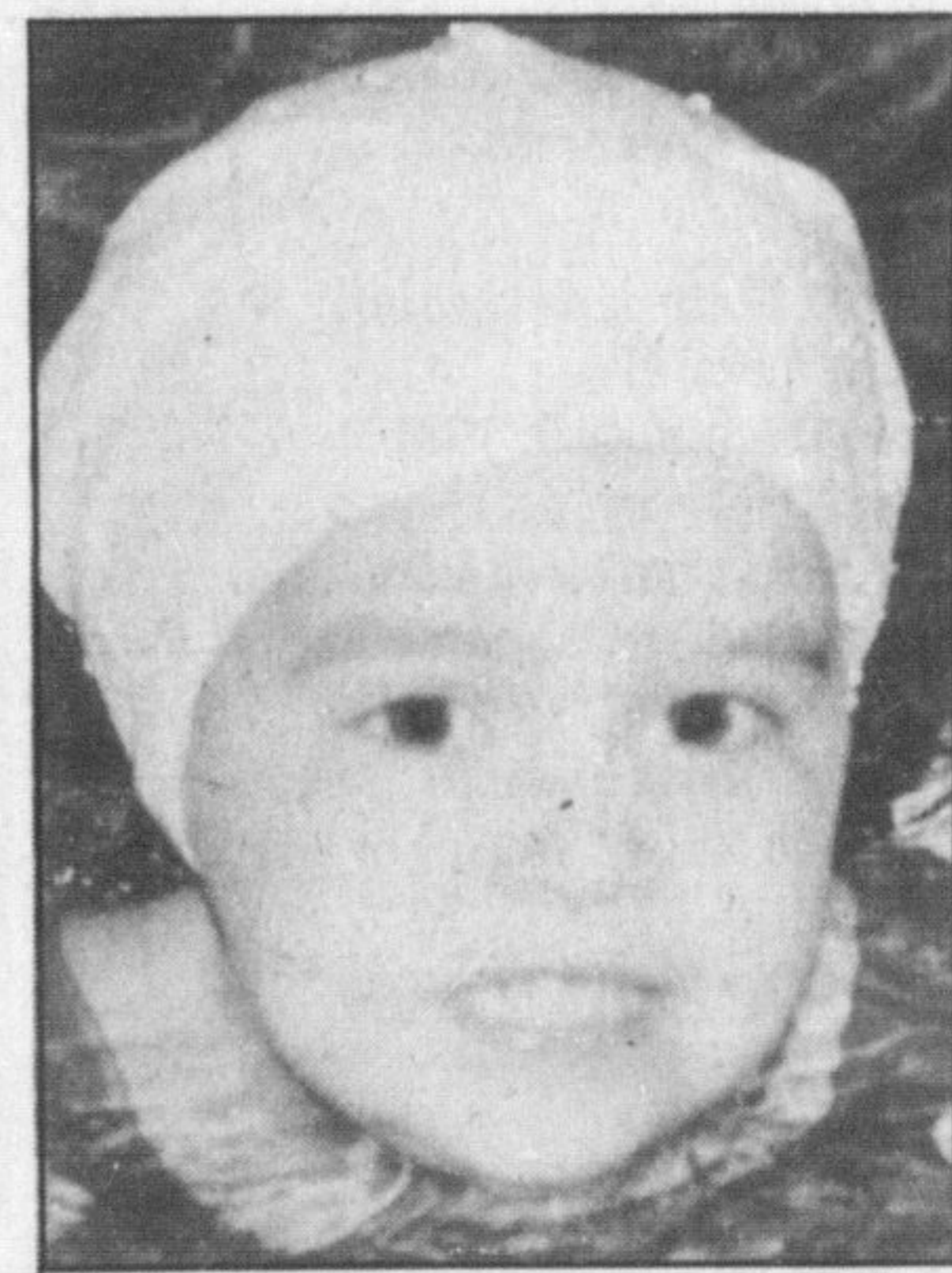
The experience can be a positive one, however, if the child can take this initial step into the aquatic world with mom or dad. This is the philosophy behind parent and tot swim programs like the one offered by Milton Parks and Recreation Dept. at E.C. Drury pool Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

"If you get a child into the water at age one or two, he can get used to the water before fears are developed and that makes lessons easier," explains Pixie Schnitz, who heads summer swim programs for the department.

"It gives them a positive outlook on the aquatic scene and it makes it easier to adjust to something new (being with mom or dad), she adds.

Her experience has shown young children, enrolled in the next level of Red Cross swim

programs called tadpole, who have participated in parents and tots adapt quite easily. But, for those new to the water, tadpole classes can be trying at first.

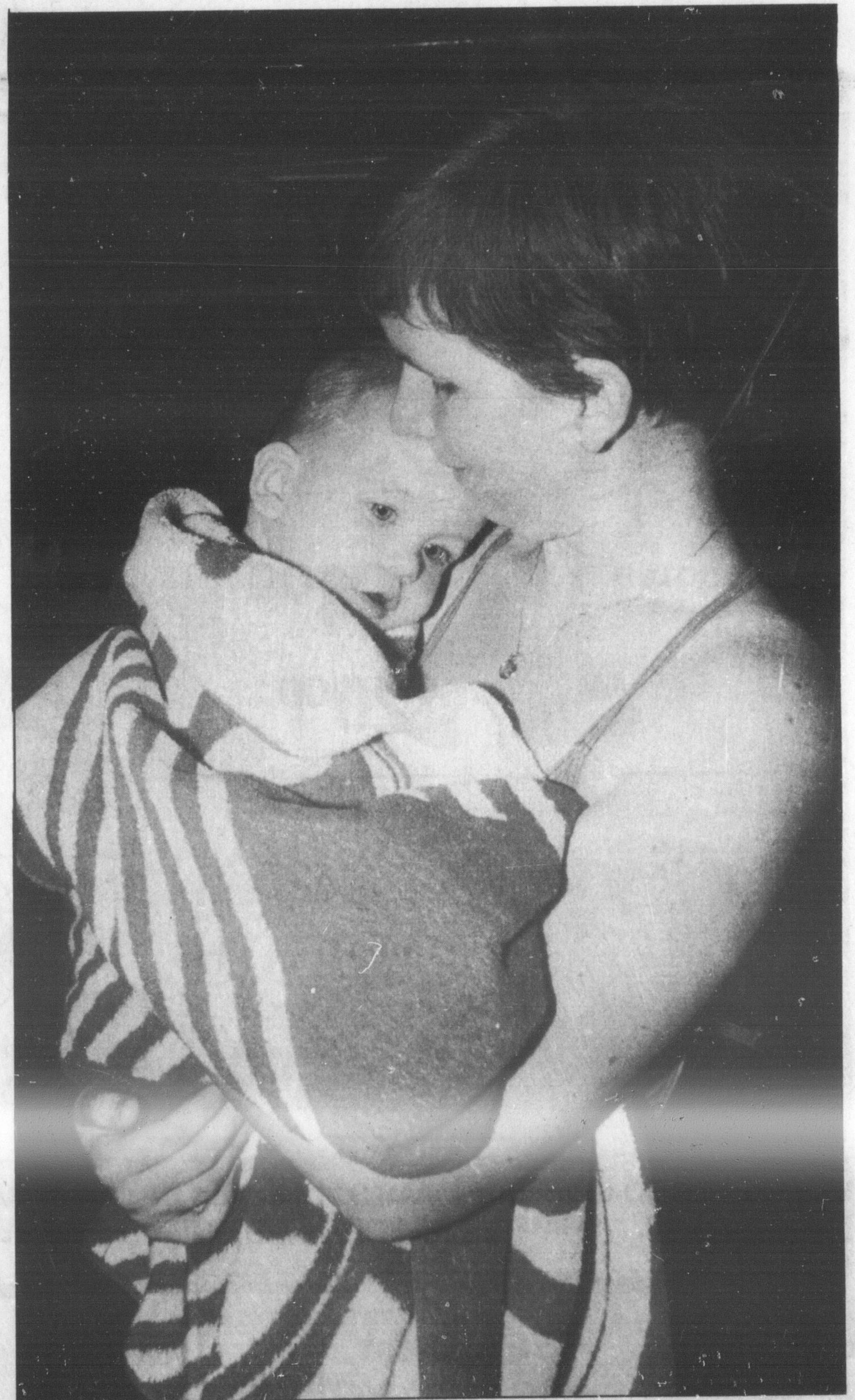


A maximum of 10 tots, with their parents, are allowed to enrol in each of the five classes offered. The segment ending Dec. 12, 1981, showed full enrolment in three time slots and nine in the remaining two. Registration for the Jan. 8 and 9, 1982 to March 12 and 13, 1982 begins Monday.

Tadpole classes are just as popular, attracting the maximum of five children to each of the 11 time slots. Tadpoles learn water adjustment and floatation and are prepared for the pre-beginner stage. These classes are also held Friday evenings and Saturday

mornings. The department recently purchased tot docks for the tadpoles. These docks are aluminum platforms, about seven feet long and three-and-a-half feet wide, joined to form a dock seven feet by 10 feet.

Photos by Tom Burley



It's nice to have mom to cuddle after taking the big plunge.