



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Has he gone batty?

Bat expert Charles Francis proved that the little creatures he studies, while not exactly cuddly, are not really the mini-monsters of folklore either. Mr. Francis gave a presentation Sunday at Mountsberg on the animals, and, believe it or not, how to attract them to your home. Apparently they keep the insect population down.

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Region gets more day care funds

By NORMAN NELSON

Another 75 subsidized child care spaces will soon come onstream in Halton with the Province, earlier this week, approving funding.

The more than \$350,000 promised annually from Queen's Park will also allow an improvement in rates paid to child care centres.

Halton Region social services commissioner Bonnie Ewart said it will help tackle a waiting list of more than 400 families seeking financial help in getting their kids into subsidized day care.

There are about 3,000 licenced day care spots in Halton Region provided by both private and non-profit operators, and about a third of these spaces are subsidized.

The subsidy is split 80-20 between Queen's Park and Halton Region.

Ms Ewart said eligibility for a subsidy is determined through a needs test on the family. Those stuck on the waiting list, she added, have few options. Some parents have to wait idly by while a space becomes available, while others simply have to make other more expensive arrangements.

The waiting list problem is not likely to be soon solved. A study undertaken by the regional social services department 18 months ago determined that 150 new subsidized

spaces would be needed each year over the next five years to address the demand.

When it came time to implement the program this year, however, regional council decided it could only afford half — or 75 — of the recommended spaces.

Preparation for next year's regional budget swings into full gear next week, and Ms Ewart confirmed she doesn't expect 150 additional spaces to be approved this year either, in view of what looks to be a tough budget.

Indeed, in a story in Wednesday's *Champion*, Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy indicated the theme he wants applied during the upcoming

budget deliberations is "review, restrain, rationalize and reduce."

In light of a preliminary report from the regional finance department already predicting more than a 12 per cent increase to taxpayers unless measures are taken, Mr. Pomeroy advocated "severely constraining" program growth for one year in most areas including day care.

The 3,000 licenced day care spaces represent only the tip of the iceberg. In fact, about 85 per cent of "babysitting", said Ms Ewart, is done informally in the home by babysitters. She added that a licence is not needed for babysitting up to five children.

1—The Canadian Champion, Friday, August 31, 1990

Tory leader is coming

Provincial Tory leader Mike Harris plans to visit Steam Era this Saturday.

Mr. Harris is scheduled to arrive at the Milton fairgrounds at about 11:45 a.m. and will participate in the festivities for about one hour, accompanied by Halton North Progressive Conservative candidate Dave Whiting.

The visit to Milton is just one of many stops on the Tory leader's Saturday itinerary.

His calendar begins with breakfast in the Central Ontario community of Midland and ends with a late dinner in Windsor.

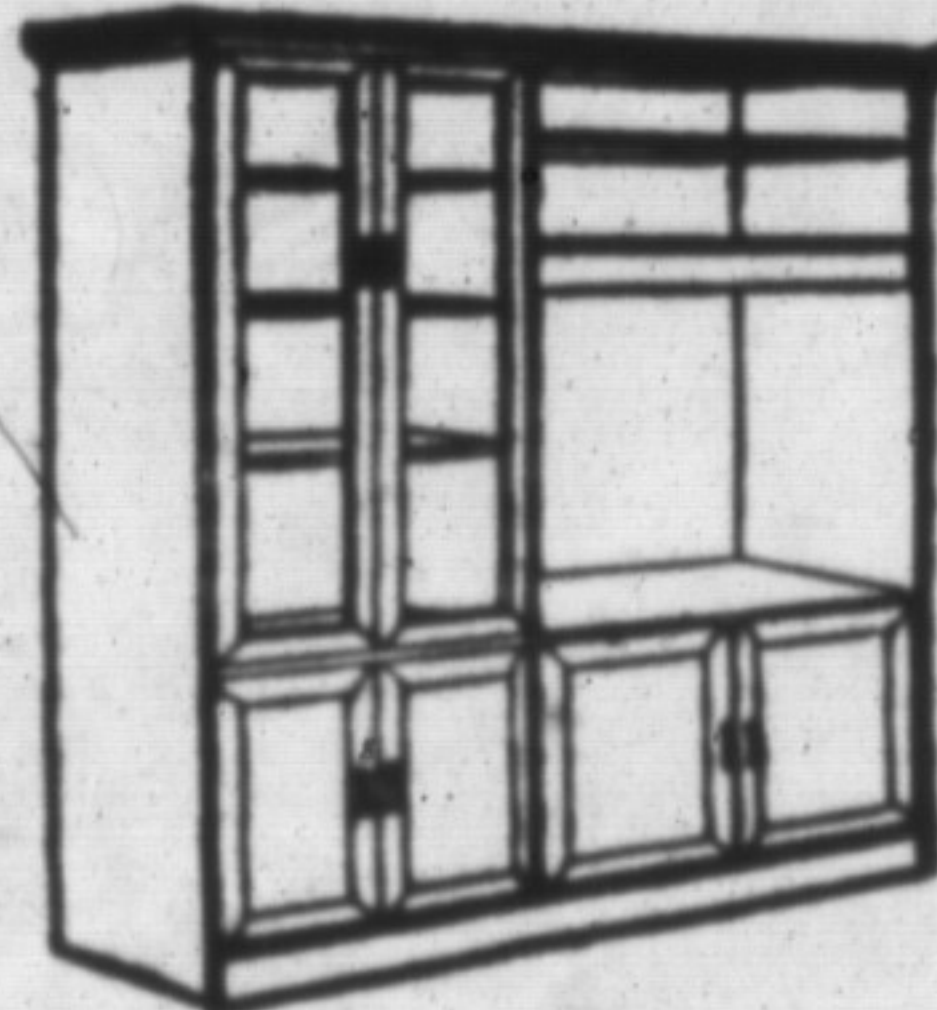
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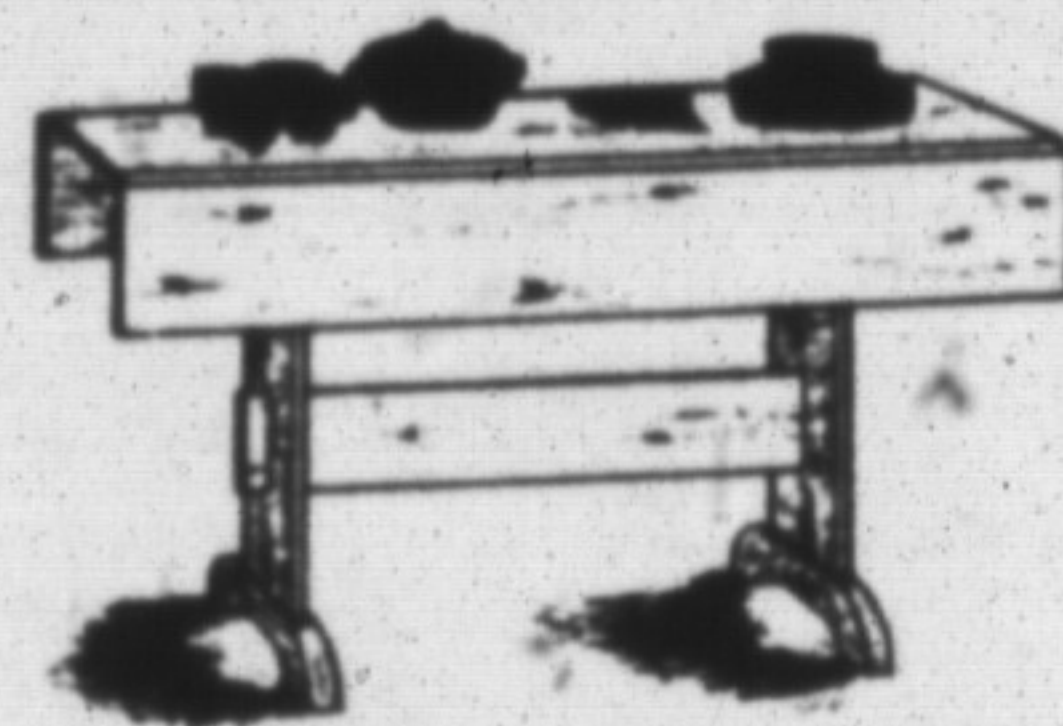


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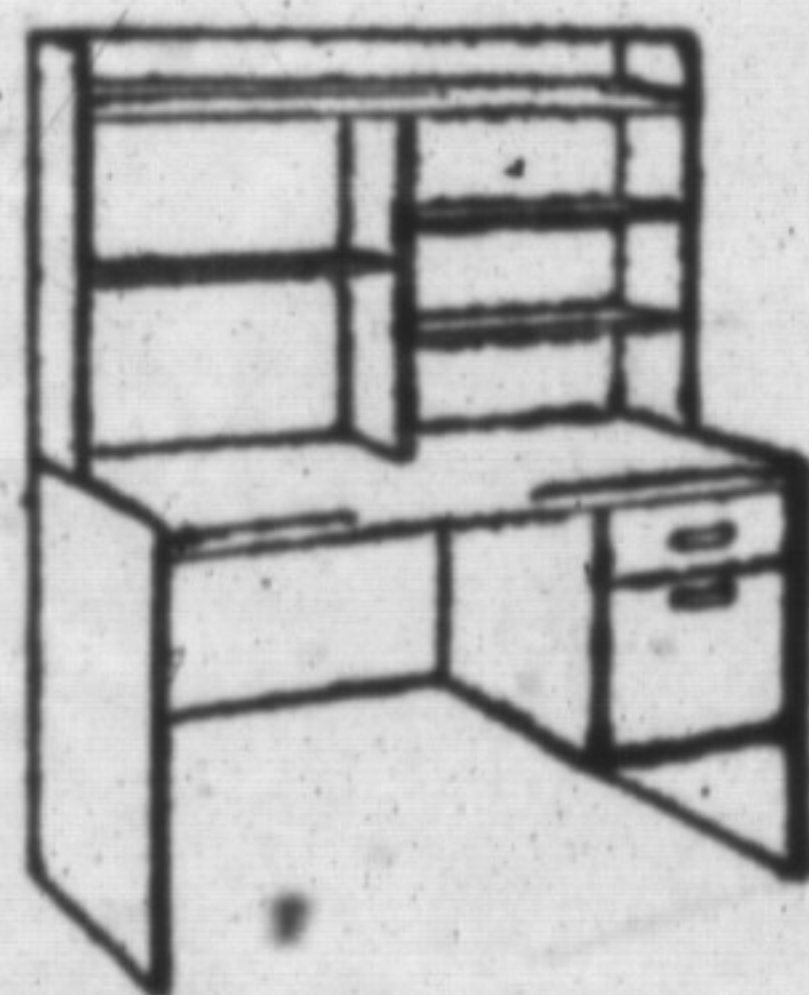
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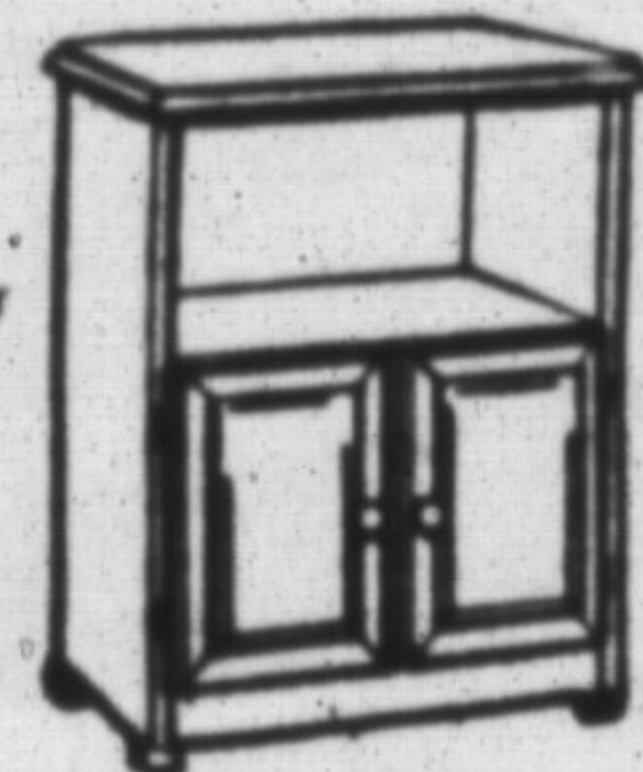


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