

Woman suing teacher, government

from DEAF WOMAN on page 1 school residence.

The woman has testified Mr. Hackett fondled her repeatedly over a 10-month period.

The jury heard Wednesday the civil suit was filed May 22, 1992, shortly after Mr. Hackett's preliminary hearing in the case. The plaintiffs include the woman, her parents, and her five siblings.

Mr. Hackett's lawyer Brian Strutt asked her why the statement outlining the lawsuit indicated her former counsellor began abusing her in 1968 when she had previously testified he first had sexual contact with her in 1971.

"I've said over and over again I can't remember exactly (when he abused me)," she replied. "I just don't remember and I've tried."

The woman testified she didn't get a good education at the Ontario Street deaf school, and her life starting going downhill after she moved in with Mr. Hackett.

"Nobody taught me anything. All we did was play in school."

Mr. Strutt told her she had problems getting along with her

parents, siblings and classmates long before he became her counsellor.

"I would suggest you didn't do well in school because of your own behaviour," he said.

In 1970, the woman's father sent her to a psychologist, the jury heard. Mr. Strutt said she didn't make a friend in the school during the five years she attended.

"I had friends, but nobody I was really tight with," she said. "I just

wanted to be friends and get along. I don't believe in fighting. I know I got into mischief. I admit that."

The woman told the jury she wants to become a teacher and work in a deaf school.

The trial, which was to continue yesterday, has been put over until Monday, when the woman is scheduled to complete her testimony. She was ill Thursday, and unable to attend court.

Buckle up for police blitz

Now is the time to buckle up if you're not already doing so, according to police.

Sunday marks the beginning of the police's April seat belt campaign.

From April 18-30, officers across the province are joining together to enforce the use of seat belts.

Unbelted drivers are 15 times more likely to be killed and five times more likely to be hospitalized than those who buckle up, according to statistics in the 1991 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report.

In October, regional police stopped 17,000 vehicles resulting in 1,554

seat belt tickets and 924 warnings.

Milton's compliance rate has been deemed the highest in the province at 95 per cent. Police hope that number rises by 1 per cent by the end of the month.

"The most successful strategy to deal with the dual challenge of misuse and non-use is an aggressive combination of public awareness and education that compliments the enforcement efforts," said Halton police spokesman Joe Martin.

The April campaign is the first phase of two province-wide campaigns targeting seat belts.

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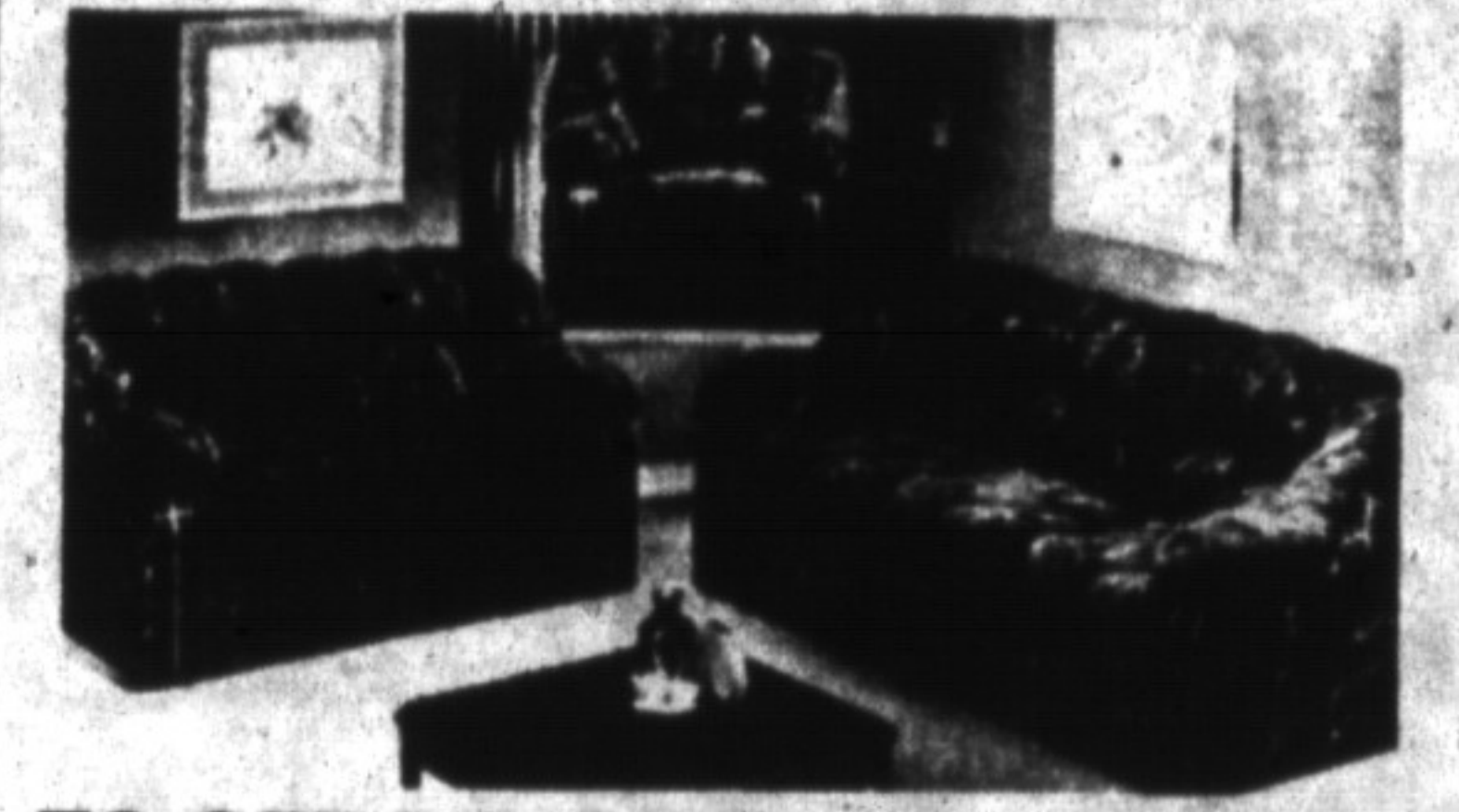
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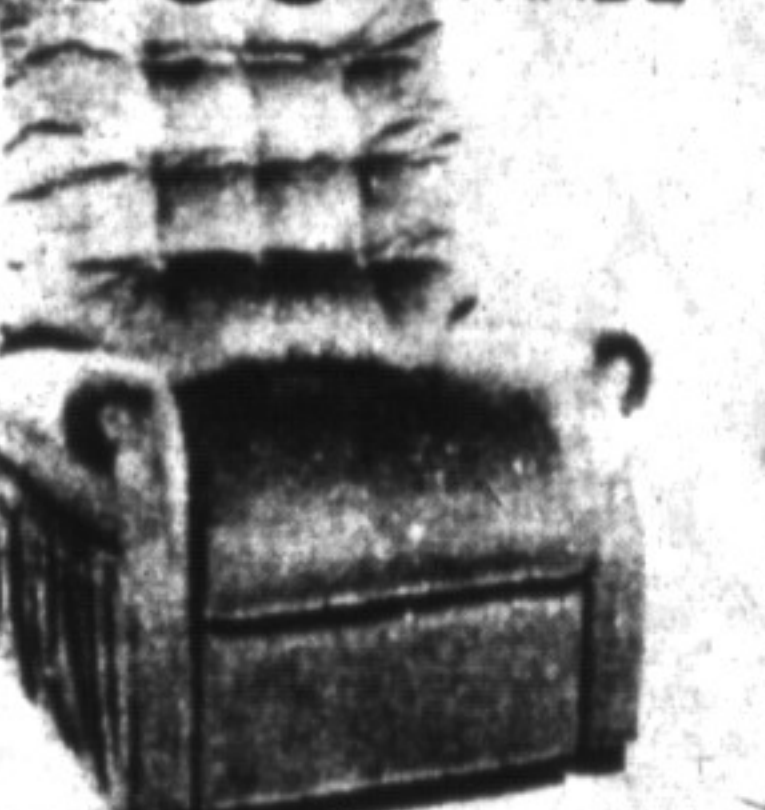


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