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Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Warton Echo

I don't know how it is around your town but around here, this is a bad time of the year. An epidemic is loose, and everybody suffers—wives, children, old people and all non-deer hunters.

You'll see the hunters, before the season opens, standing around in little clusters, mustering mysteriously, when they should be at work. Novices, going for their first shoot, are out scouring the farms around, trying to borrow a rifle. Women read aloud at meal times all the hunting casualties from the papers.

What is this strange fascination that deer hunting holds for other-wise normal men? Reliable plumbers will go off and leave an old widow with her bathroom half installed, when the season opens. Solicitous husbands who normally won't let their wives lift anything heavier than a cup of tea, will run gaily off to the woods and let them wrestle for two weeks with the furnace, the kids, the snow shovelling and the bill collectors.

Shrewd businessmen who would stay open all day Sunday if they thought they could make a sale, suddenly get philosophical at deer hunting time, say: "you only live once," lock the doors and take off, regardless of cost. Misers, who sweat when they have to buy a new pair of shoelaces will go out and blow a hundred dollars on a new rifle, because they missed a deer last year with the perfectly good old one.

Lazy devils who wouldn't walk down to the corner to watch Marilyn Monroe do a strip tease will trudge a hundred miles through the bush, under the worst conditions, if they so much as see one set of deer tracks.

Expectant fathers who are deer hunters have been known to have their wives jumping off the kitchen table, in an effort to speed the process, so they can get away hunting with a clear conscience.

Elderly gaffers whose place is nodding by the fire, with pipe and slippers, can be found staggering along a snow-covered trail in the bush, under the weight of a 15 pound rifle, determined to get in "just one more hunt."

Is deer hunting really as thrilling as all that, or is it simply a male conspiracy to shake the old ball and chain for a couple of weeks and exchange the babble of little voices for the belling of a hound giving tongue?

I asked a couple of deer hunters about this one night, and half an hour later, to my horror, I discovered that I was going deer hunting with them. Now, don't worry lady, I promise you I won't shoot a deer. I've been shooting at things all my life, from crows with a catapult to German tanks with 60 pound rockets, and I've never hit a thing. Any deer with in rifle shot of me is as safe as he would be in a zoo.

Beauty of a deer hunting excursion, these birds inform me, is that it's so cheap. No tipping, no night clubs, no taxis. All it costs you is your grub. So the rookie starts getting his things together. It seems that none of the things you have, like your golf outfit or your fishing equipment is much use on a deer hunt.

You make a list of the things you need, and you haven't any of them. It's cheap, all right. Even if you've been fortunate enough to borrow a rifle, you have to round up such items as a hunting knife, compass, long woolies, sleeping bag, hunting jacket, cap and pants and a whistle. When you ante up for these odds and sods, then add in your hunting license, transportation, grub, and snakebite remedy, it comes to about the same as a month in Bermuda.

However, I'm going to have a whack at it this year. If there's no column this week, you'll know I'm devoted, shot, or sitting up in a tree waiting for that great brute of a deer to go away and let me get back to the bosom of my family.

Shoppers' Vote Will Choose Best Decorating by Merchant

To encourage merchants to decorate their stores for the Christmas season, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring voting by shoppers this year.

For the next three weeks, an advertisement in the Herald will include a coupon. Shoppers are asked to vote on this ballot, signifying the merchant whom they feel has most effectively decorated his store for the season. There is space on the coupon, also, for the shopper's name and address. The reason for this is that, to encourage people to vote, there will be a lucky draw when the ballot boxes are closed off on December 24th, and the winning coupon drawn will receive a prize.

Ballot boxes are located in both Georgetown banks, and shoppers may drop their ballots in these boxes at any time.

The merchant receiving the most votes will receive an Award of Merit from the Chamber in recognition of his contribution to the Christmas shopping scene.

There will be no Ballots other than those appearing in the Herald advertisement this week and again on December 11th and December 18th. Readers are reminded to clip the coupon out of this week's edition.



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Frozen wood, hardwood—your Pioneer RA chain saw tackles every type of timber, every time of year! Exclusive "zero-weather" chain, easy winter starting, greater logging power—all add up to bigger winter cutting profits for you! See us for a free demonstration!



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Insure your holiday fun plans—by making your CNR reservation now! Check too, the money-saving features of our Family Fare Plan. Ask about CNR Gift Certificates, ideal for holiday giving!

For tickets and information contact your local Canadian National representative.

Every year, more and more people who are going visiting over the Christmas Season go



CNR

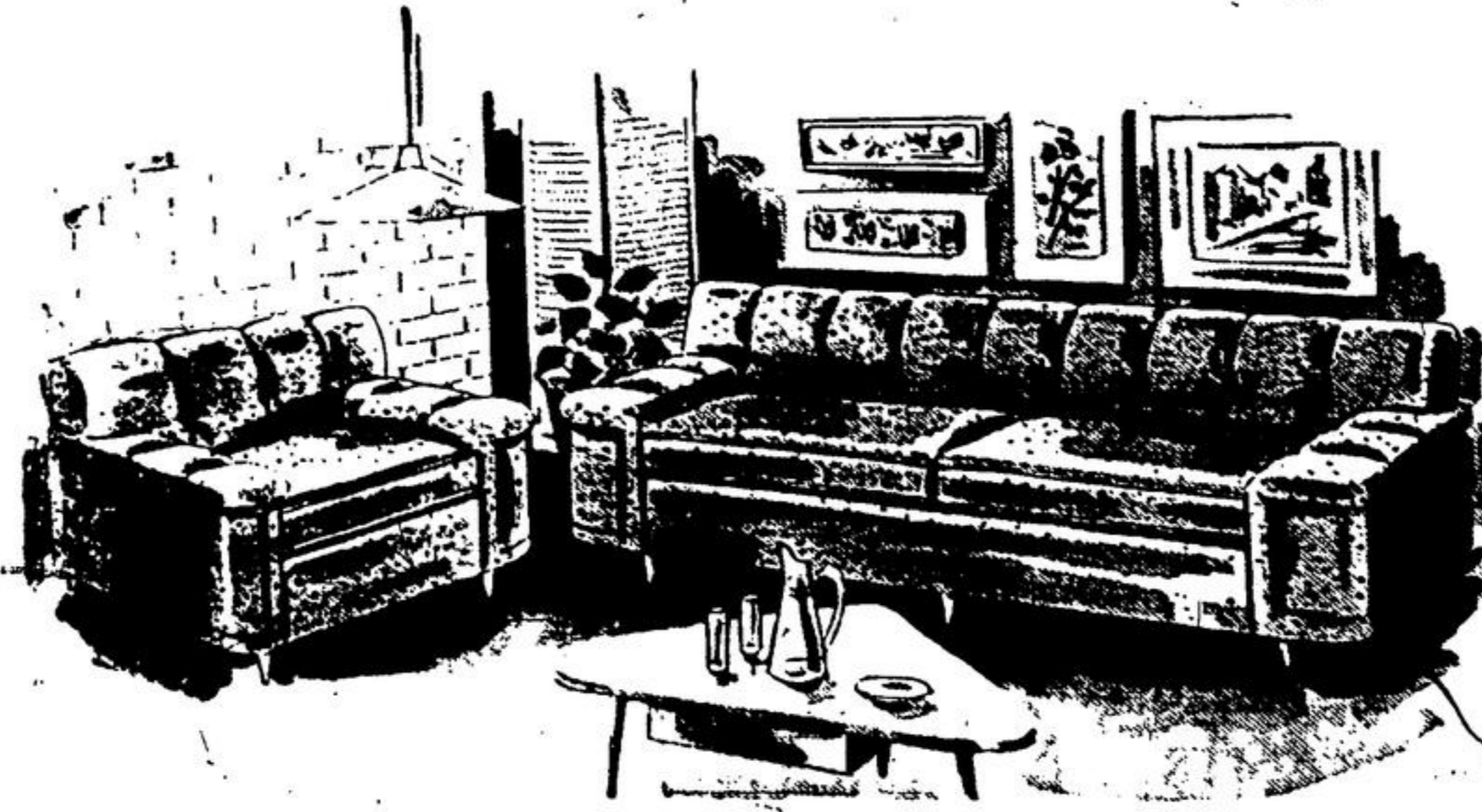
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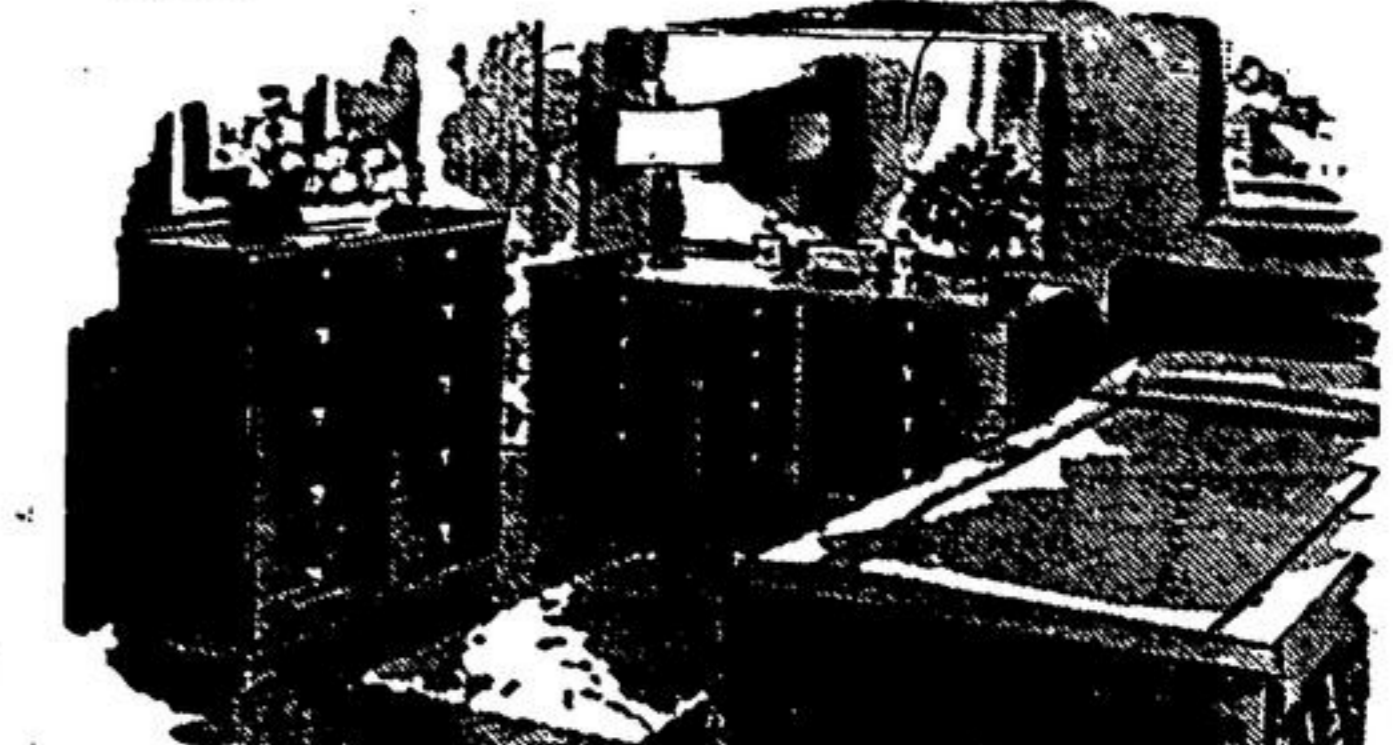
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