

Caesar first-rate novel

By R. L. GORDON

W.G. Hardy did not live far from us when I was growing up. I regarded him with a kind of awe, though I knew "no Latin and less Greek."

He wrote real, live novels that were published—and above and beyond that he was president of the Canadian Hockey League.

Now, more years later than I care to reckon it is my job to review the latest of his "real novels," *The Scarlet Mantle* (Macmillan of Canada; 482 pages; \$12.50).

It would take a classical scholar equal or superior to Hardy to judge whether or not the narrative is true to the events, and perhaps equally important, true to the spirit of those events. I can only judge the book as fiction that has some basis in fact.

It gets off to a rousing start with Anthony's confrontation with Cleopatra. As the dust-jacket blurb assures us, we are to see the sands of Syria, the saloons of Rome, the brothels of Marseilles and many other places. Caesar or his spirit are ever present.

NEVER BORING
Whatever else may be said about the book it is never boring.

Yet somehow, as in previous novels, one cannot escape the suspicion that Hardy is at times being lascivious to her for his own private pleasure because he thinks it will sell the book.

Often, this device has little to do with events. This paragraph is an example and by no means the most lurid:

"At that same moment in a room of the stone house he had commanded in Durocorutum, Caesar was lying relaxed beside Fiammar, the green-eyed princess of the Senones.

"They had made sensuous, participatory love.

"Now part of him was appreciating the full, pink-nipple breasts, the breathless insink to the waist and flare out to the rounded hips, and the long, tapering legs, and thinking that the enjoyment of a woman like this was the ultimate reward for one's efforts.

"Another part of his mind was considering his journey and, at the end of it, Servilia."

GALLIC WARS
The climactic latter part of the novel has to do with the Gallic wars. This is first-rate narrative, and in it Caesar the conqueror becomes more real:

"For the eighth-time that morning, Caesar had climbed his watchtower. Still nothing, but intuitively he felt that somewhere, somehow, a pot was bubbling, ready to boil over.

"Under the watchful eyes of his aides and his trumpeter he paced back and forth, surveying the Gallic encampment, his own lines, and Alesia.

"Everything was quiet. He glanced up at the sun. It was at its zenith.

"He decided to descend for a cup of wine, a couple of cold, hard-boiled eggs and a chunk of bread.

"As he started toward the steps something made him check and look at the north-western hill. Two eagles were circling above its summit.

4-H calf club meets

By Donna Stewart

The July meeting for the Halton 4-H Senior Dairy Calf Club was held at Rock Ella Farm on the July 10.

The meeting opened at 8 p.m. with the 4-H pledge led by Bill Robinson, president.

The roll call was made by Kim Wingrove, secretary. Each member was required to state the birth of their 4-H calf.

We discussed upcoming events we could take part in. There will be a fun day for us to get to know all other members. There will be a ball game and a barbecue. On July 12 there was a judging competition for anyone in the county who is not a prominent judge.

The meeting was handed over to Jim Livock who gave a type demonstration on an excellent scored Jersey cow owned by Lorne Ella.

A class of four-year-old Jersey cows were judged by all the members with each giving reasons to follow.

The official was given by Jim Livock followed by many questions on the judging. Isn't it true we learn through our mistakes?

Mark Leahy gave a lesson followed by a short quiz. Kim Wingrove called for the marks which were recorded.

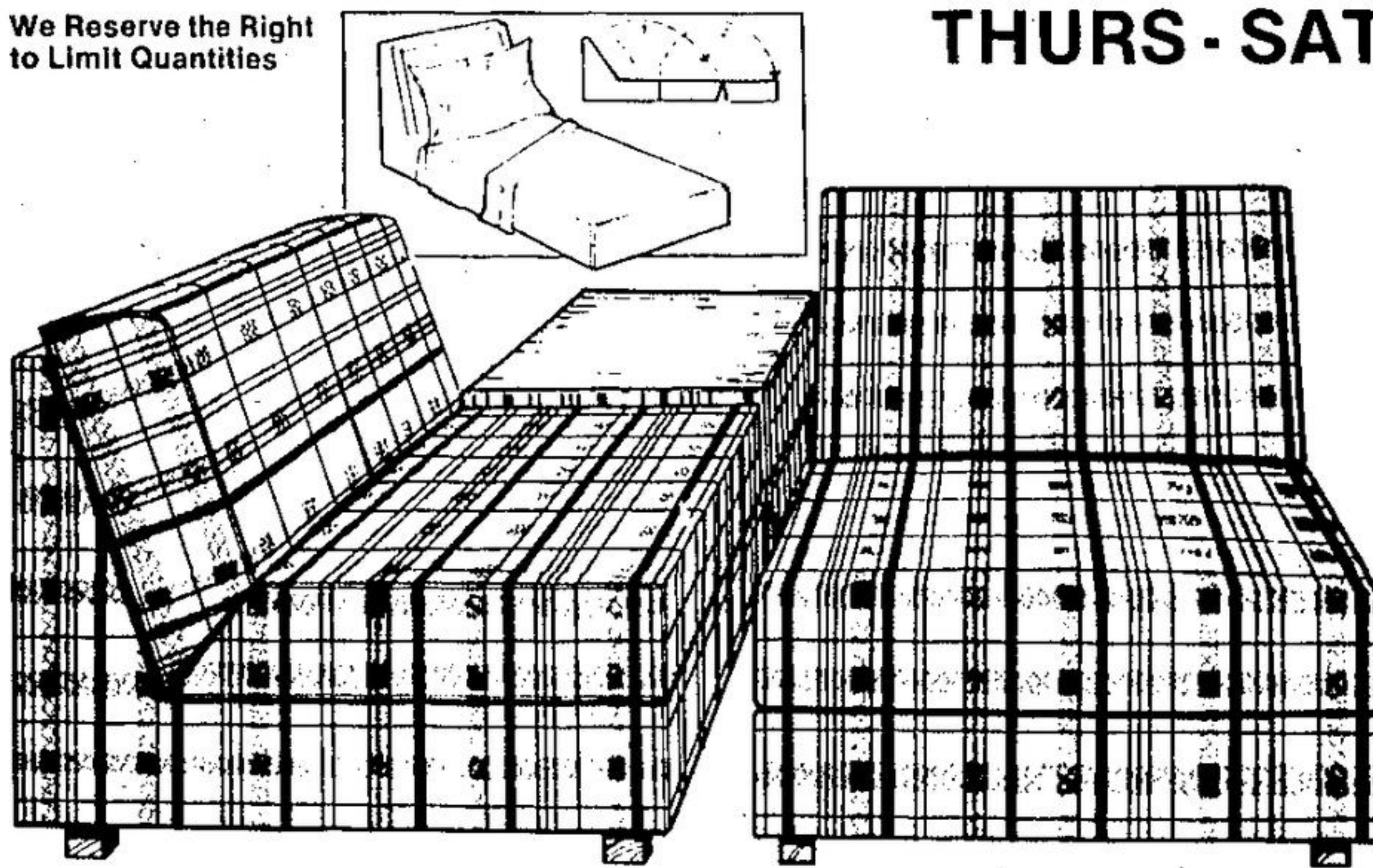
The next meeting as discussed by Jim Livock. We may each bring a calf to the fairgrounds where we will practise showing and clipping. There will be a lesson on how to make a rope halter.

The meeting was closed by Marilyn McNabb and seconded by Ellen Hurren. Donna Stewart thanked Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Ella for having us to their farm.

Zellers Value Packed Home Sale

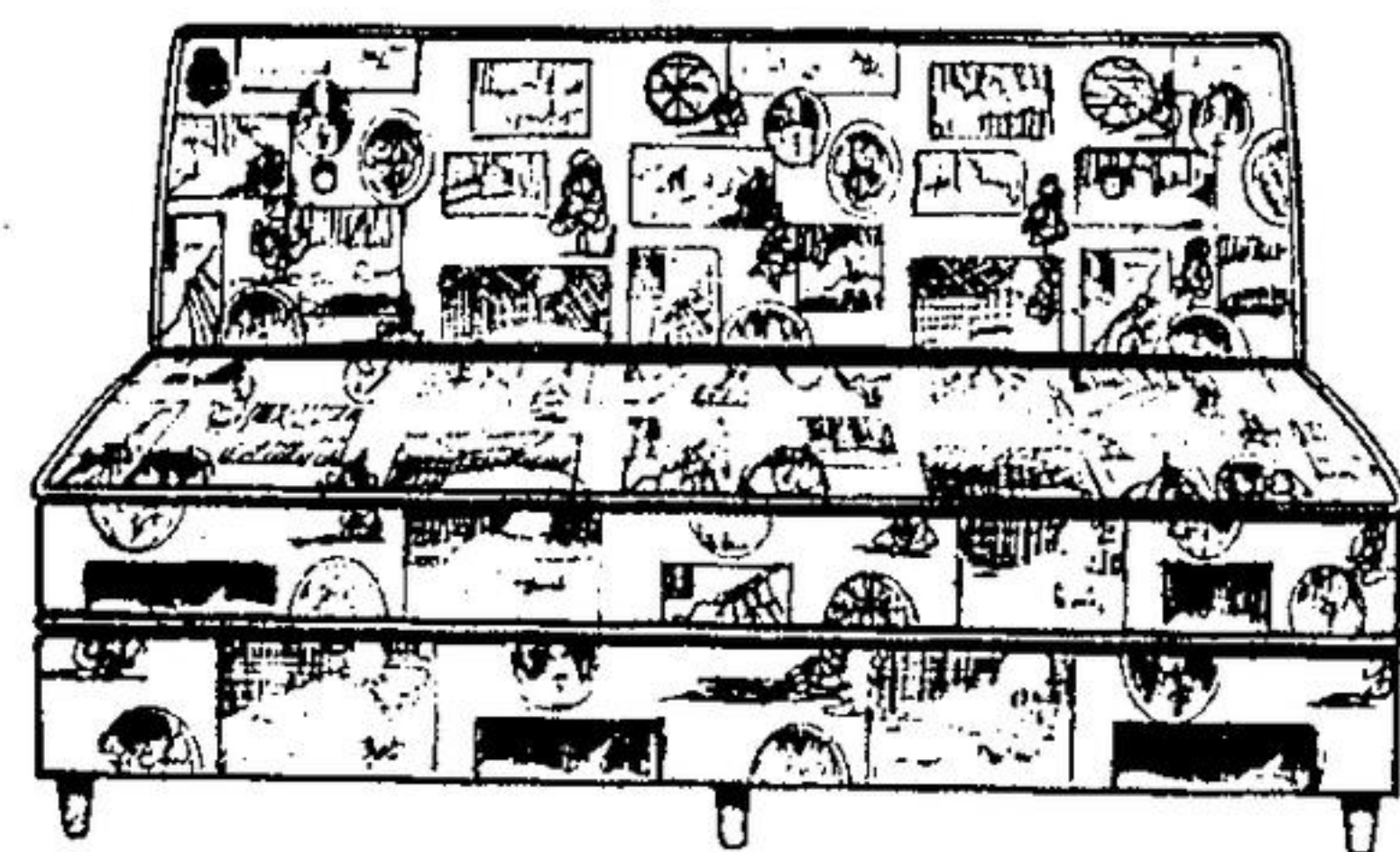
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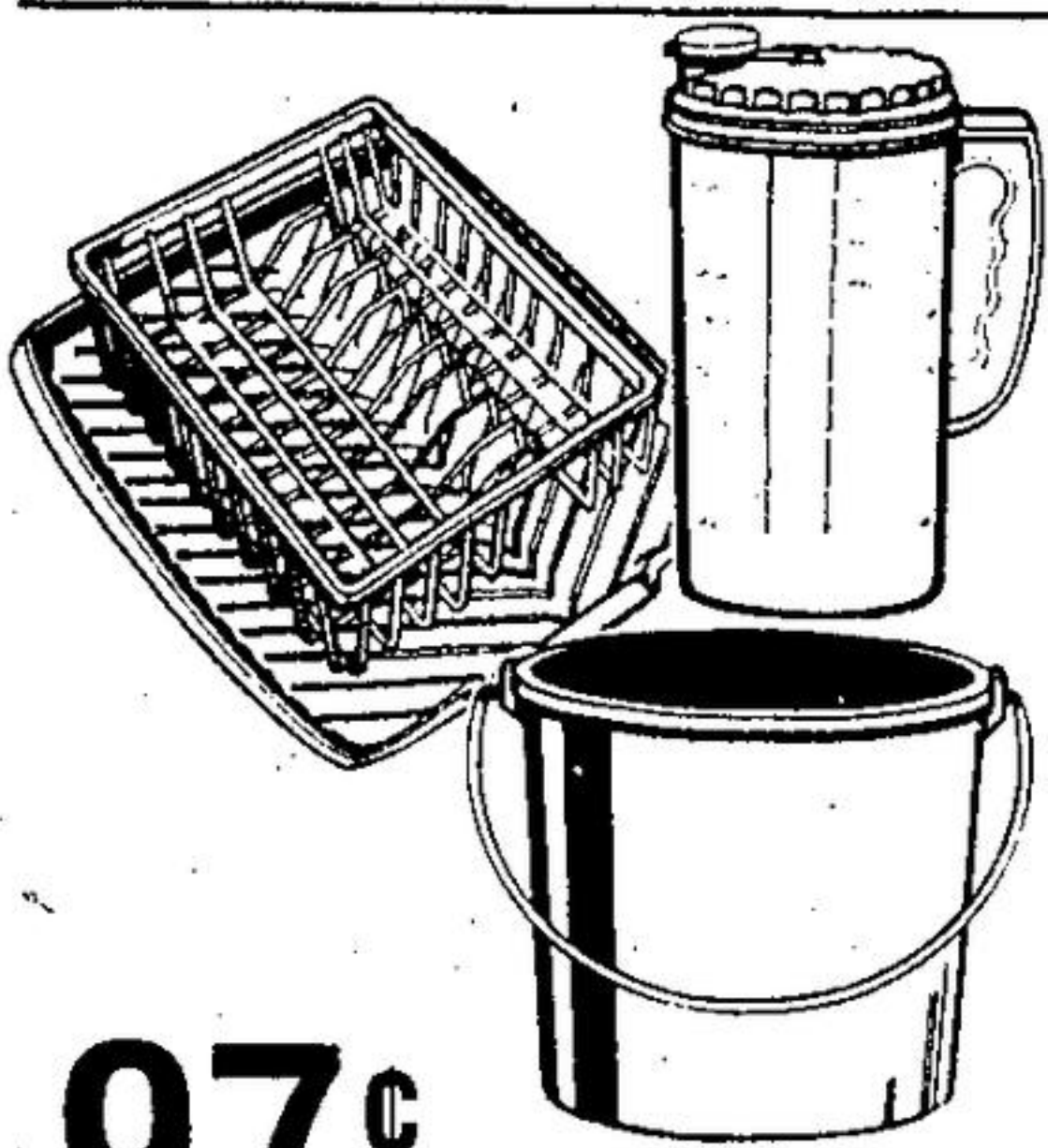
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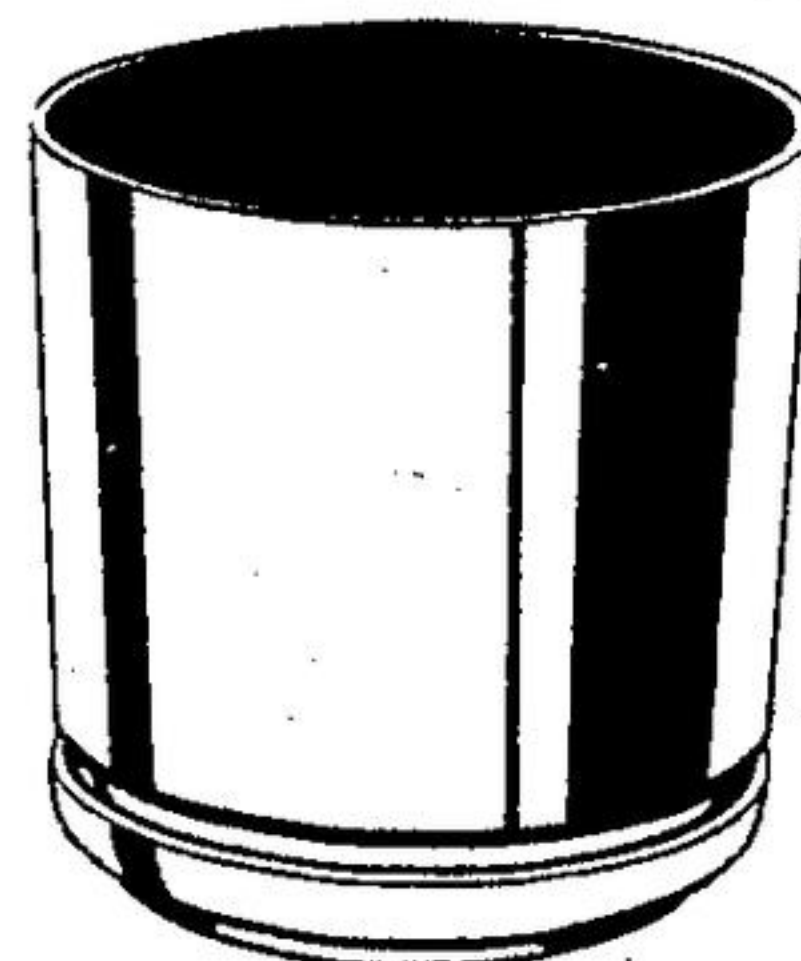
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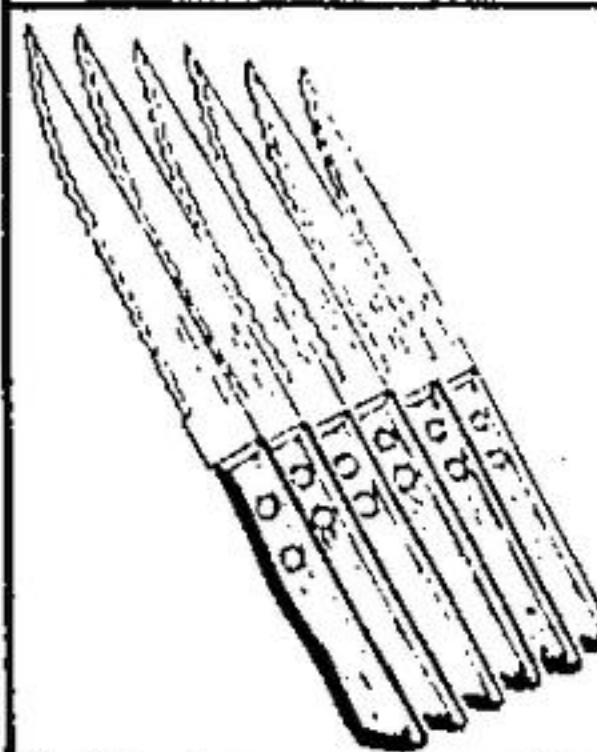
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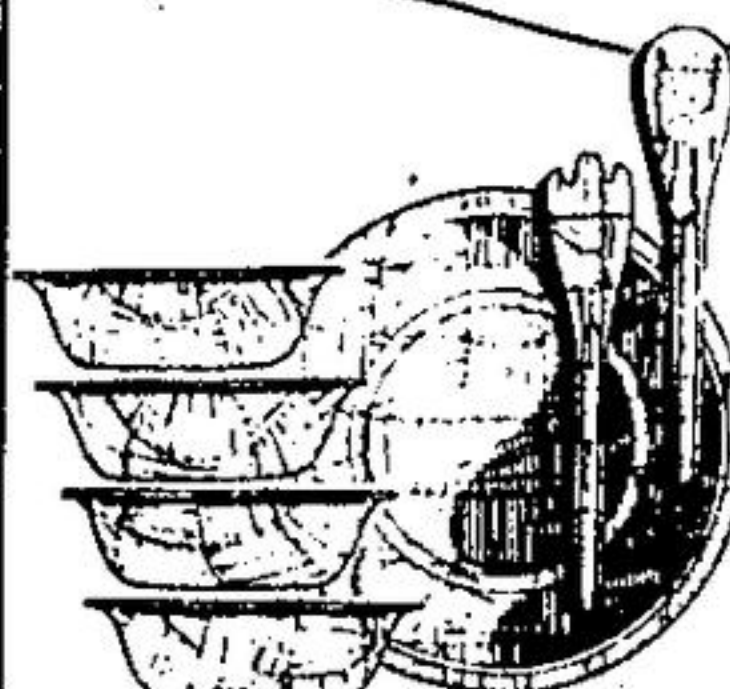
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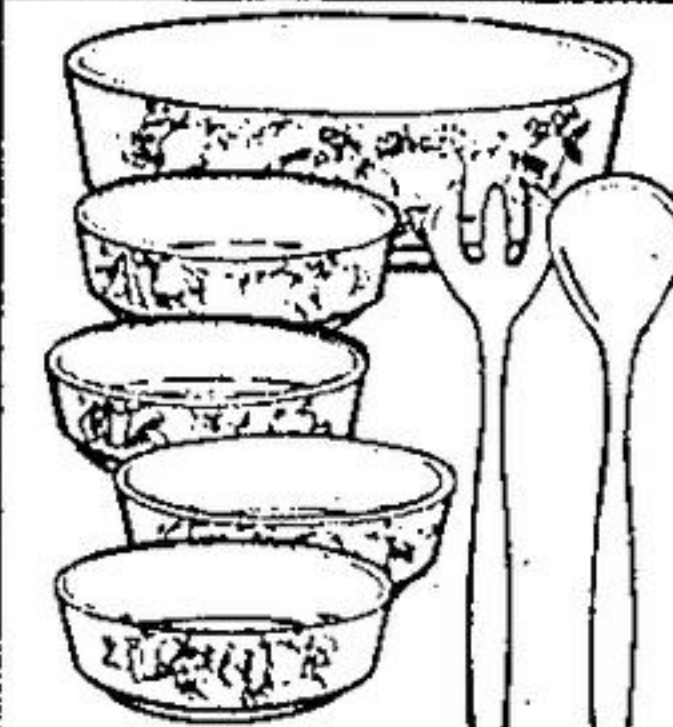
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