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ASK ABOUT OUR DUCT CLEANING SPECIALS

It's time already to consider Autumn bulbs

As with the seed catalogues, which used to arrive in mid to late January, and now arrive in our mailboxes in mid to late December, the Canadian Garden Council reports the Autumn bulb catalogues are arriving earlier. This year the first bulb (and other Autumn plant) catalogues arrived in mid June, and all will likely have been issued by the first week of July.

While most of the Autumn-planted (and Spring-flowering) bulbs, as well as herbaceous perennials, are not shipped until September, by ordering early, gardeners may assure themselves they will receive all the items they order before supplies run out. For example, 'Lady Jane' was a new item introduced last year - a double Amaryllis. Demand quickly exhausted supply and many gardeners had to accept credit notes and/or wait a year before seeing this exciting new development. In addition to its double flowers, its color too is unique - a white streaked tangerine!

In addition to 'Lady Jane' newer bulb items you may wish to order from the Autumn bulb catalogues this year include: still another new Amaryllis - 'Germa' which has smaller flowers but with unique pointed petals of a creamy to nearly yellow color; a new triumph tulip named 'Recreado'; a butterfly type narcis-

CANADA GARDEN COUNCIL

sus called 'Orangery'; grape hyacinths (Muscari) that have a distinct white rim; and Iris regelia/regelio, with new colors.

Triumph tulips generally flower in mid-April and until now there has not been a cultivar of the dark plum color exhibited by 'Recreado'. Previous dark-colored tulips were in other types such as the single late 'Queen of Night'. Single late varieties bloom in May, and along with their double counterparts, are considered the end of the tulip season. 'Recreado' gives a dark contrasting tulip color to the early triumph types in April.

Butterfly narcissi are also called split or orchid flowering narcissi. They are the result of the most recent in daffodil breeding. 'Orangery', while it has an orange color inside the petals, is a pale cream color on the outside. It joins several other butterfly cultivars including 'Mistral', 'Printal' and 'Marie Jose'. The latter has creamy-white background petals with a big orange-yellow star central in a white butterfly-shaped collar of smaller petals.

Muscari armeniacum saphir, a

newer grape hyacinth, has a deep blue flower color, which is not unusual. What is interesting about this introduction is a distinct white rim on each flower. In addition to its use in gardens, this grape hyacinth will be found to be very useful as a cut flower.

The Iris regelia/regelio mixture will be of interest to many gardeners. These have been offered previously as individual varieties, but this new mixture features flower colors from white to dark purple, and all will multiply well in most gardens. They flower at the end of May.

The Autumn bulb catalogues do not only feature Spring-flowering bulbs, according to the Canadian Garden Council. Virtually all also offer Autumn-planted lilies, and many also offer a selection of herbaceous perennials for Autumn planting in most areas of the country.

A new introduction in lilies appearing in some catalogues this year is 'Olivia'. It grows to a height of at least a metre, or three and a half feet, and blooms in August, with outward facing flowers. The flowers are a pure white on the inside of the petals with the outside tinted a pinkish red.

The Autumn bulb catalogues, while they are not all solely devoted to bulbs, likewise don't concentrate only on newer varieties. Some catalogues this year, for example, list the tulip variety 'Zomerschoon' which is thought to be one of the oldest varieties still in cultivation. It was registered over 450 years ago - in 1620 in Holland. It has a feathered form, and the petals are creamy, streaked with a deep salmon/pink tone.

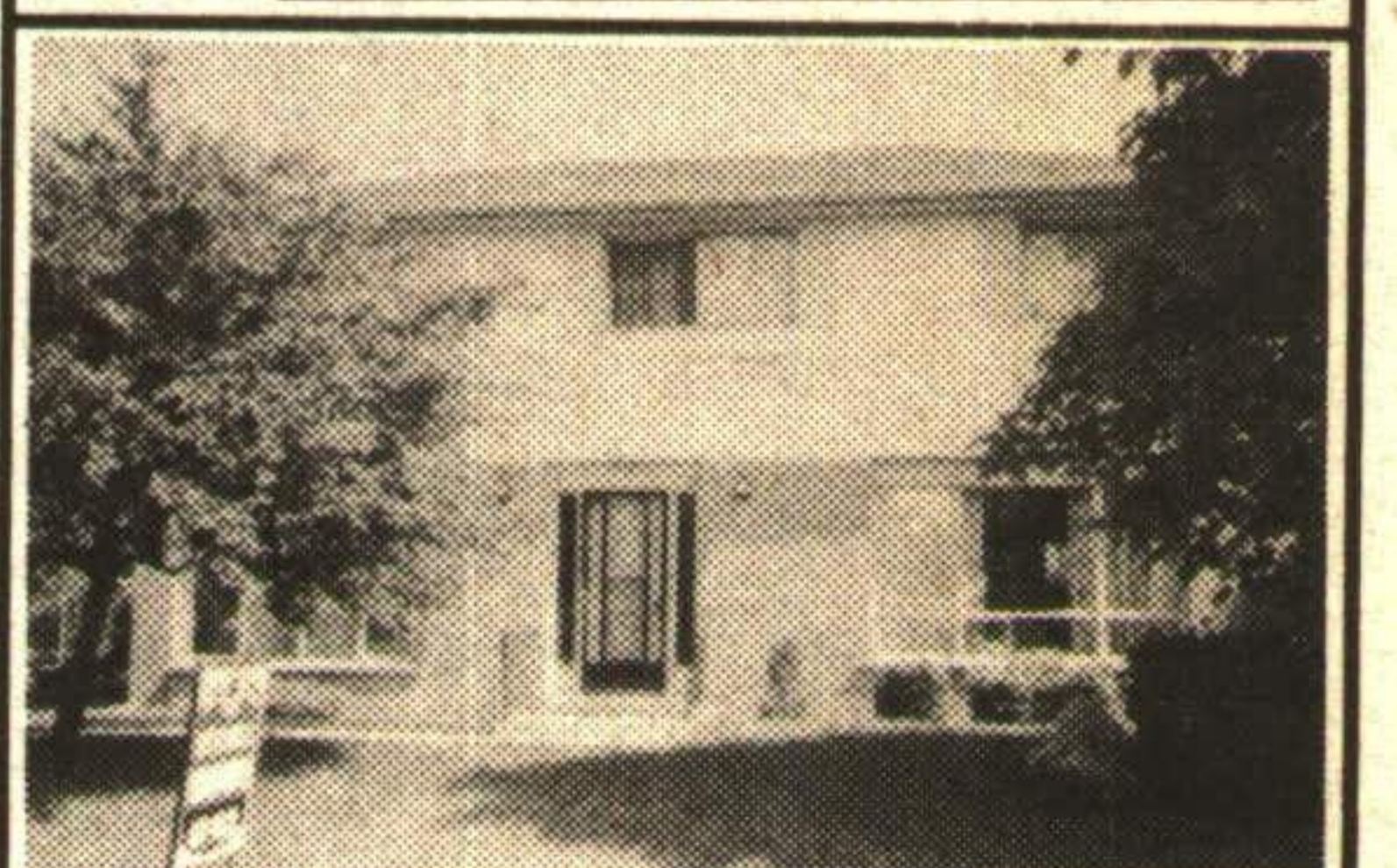
The Madonna lily (Lilium candidum) is another bulb that can be traced back many centuries - in fact back to 1750. It has fragrant white blooms with bright yellow stamens for about a month beginning in June. It grows to a height exceeding a metre. It prefers a non-acid soil, and needs full sun. The best time for planting this lily is October in zone four to nine.

Autumn bulb catalogues, like the Spring seed catalogues, are free for the asking. If you would like your name and address added to the mailing list of several Autumn bulb catalogue issuers, just drop a note to the Canadian Garden Council, c/o 6 Nesbitt Drive, Toronto M4W 2G3.

Tony Meers exhibit

Tony Meers, The Making of a Working Artist, 1966-1991 in the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, Georgetown, until August 10.

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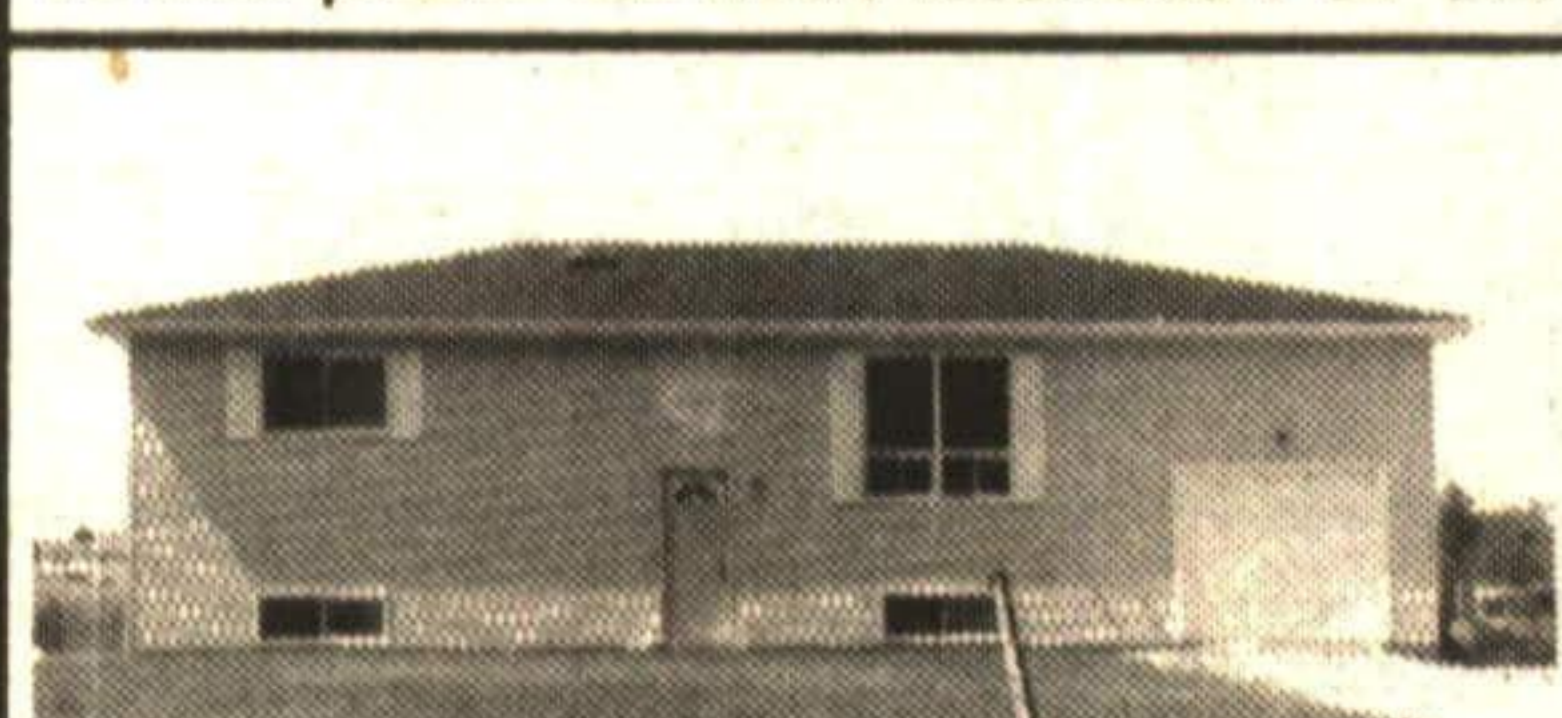
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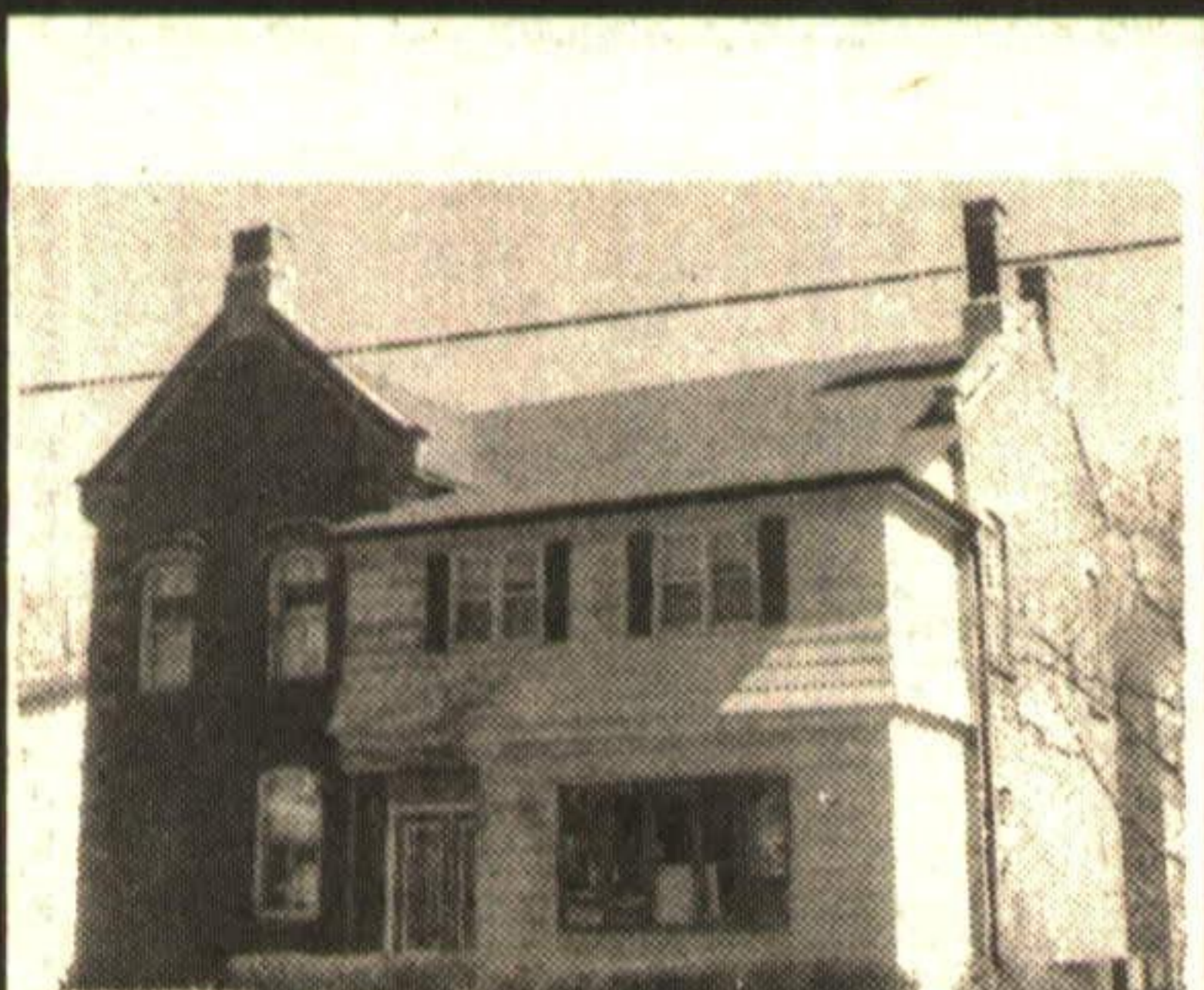
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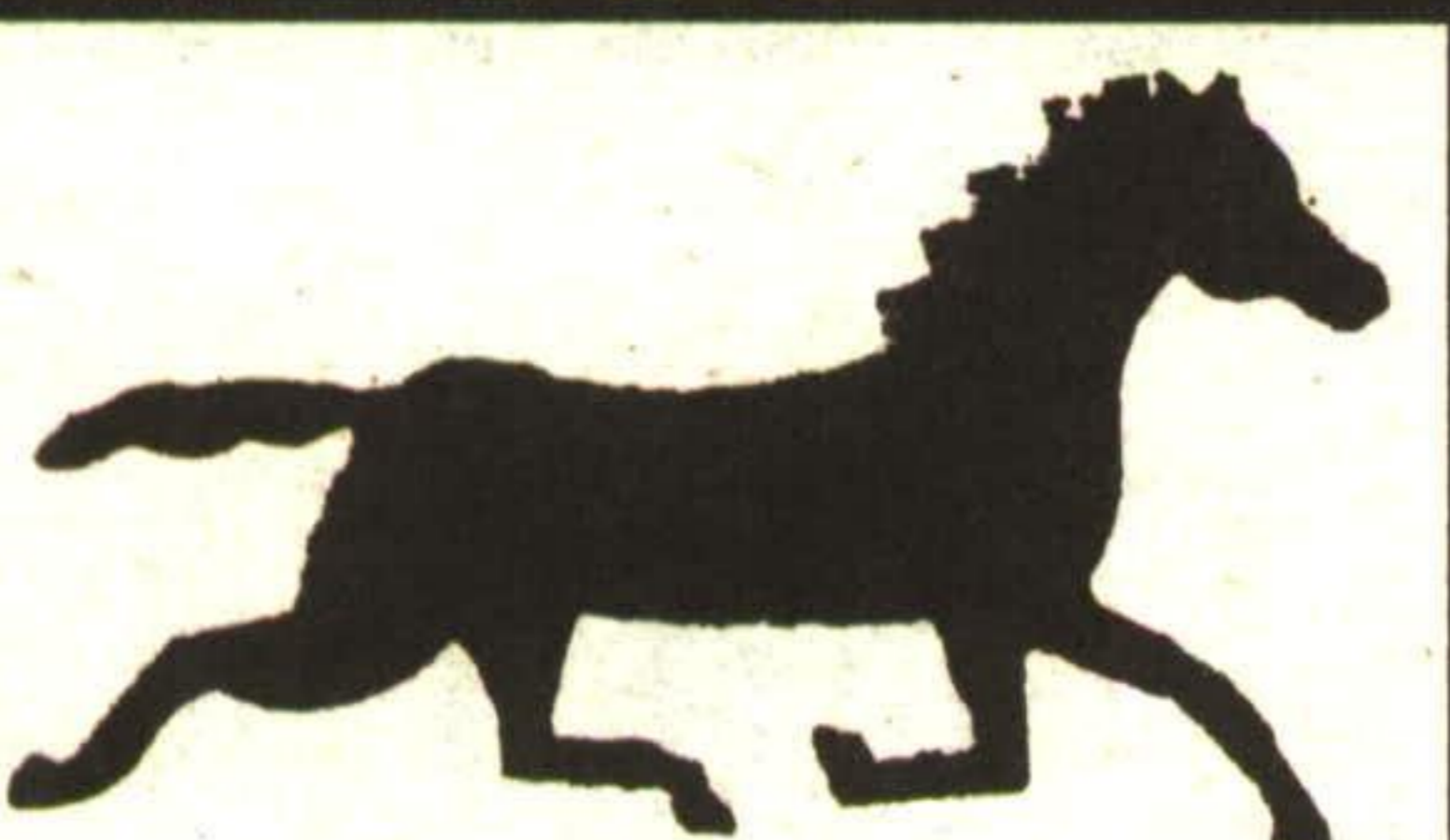
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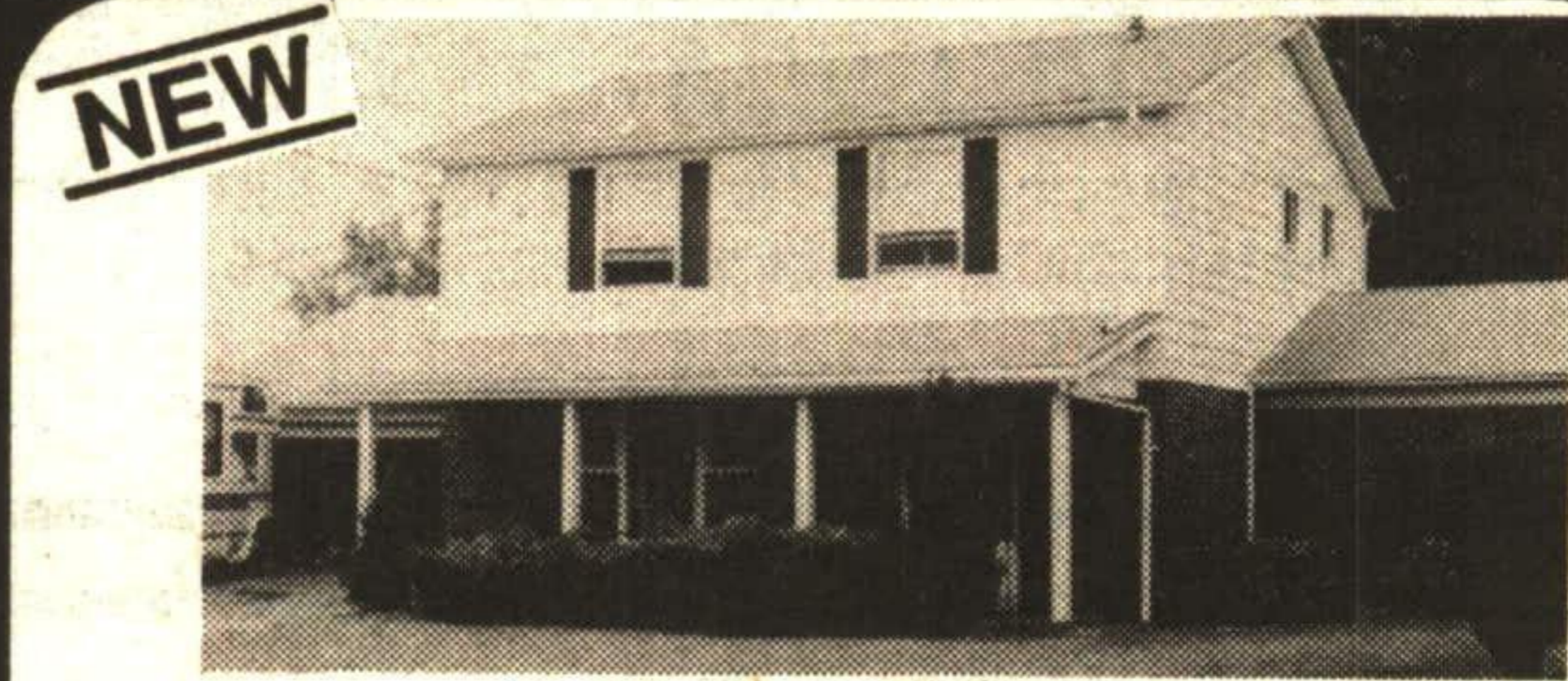
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