

Phil's Basement



Last night Em and I came home to find the message light on our answering machine flashing furiously. We were either one heck of a popular family, or, more likely, Great Aunt Hilda was trying to get hold of us. She always hangs up when she hears our recorded message.

When I called her back, Aunt Hilda said someone had told her that she shouldn't leave her room air conditioner on so much because it uses a lot of electricity. "Hate the darned thing anyway," said Hilda. "Can't be bothered fussing my head with all those darned knobs. Wish I'd never bought the darned thing." I told her a ceiling fan might be an alternative.

While a ceiling fan won't replace a room air conditioner, it is a good way to increase air circulation during warm weather. There are a few more things you can do around the house to minimize your use of air conditioners, if you have them, or simply to increase your comfort level in general in the summer.

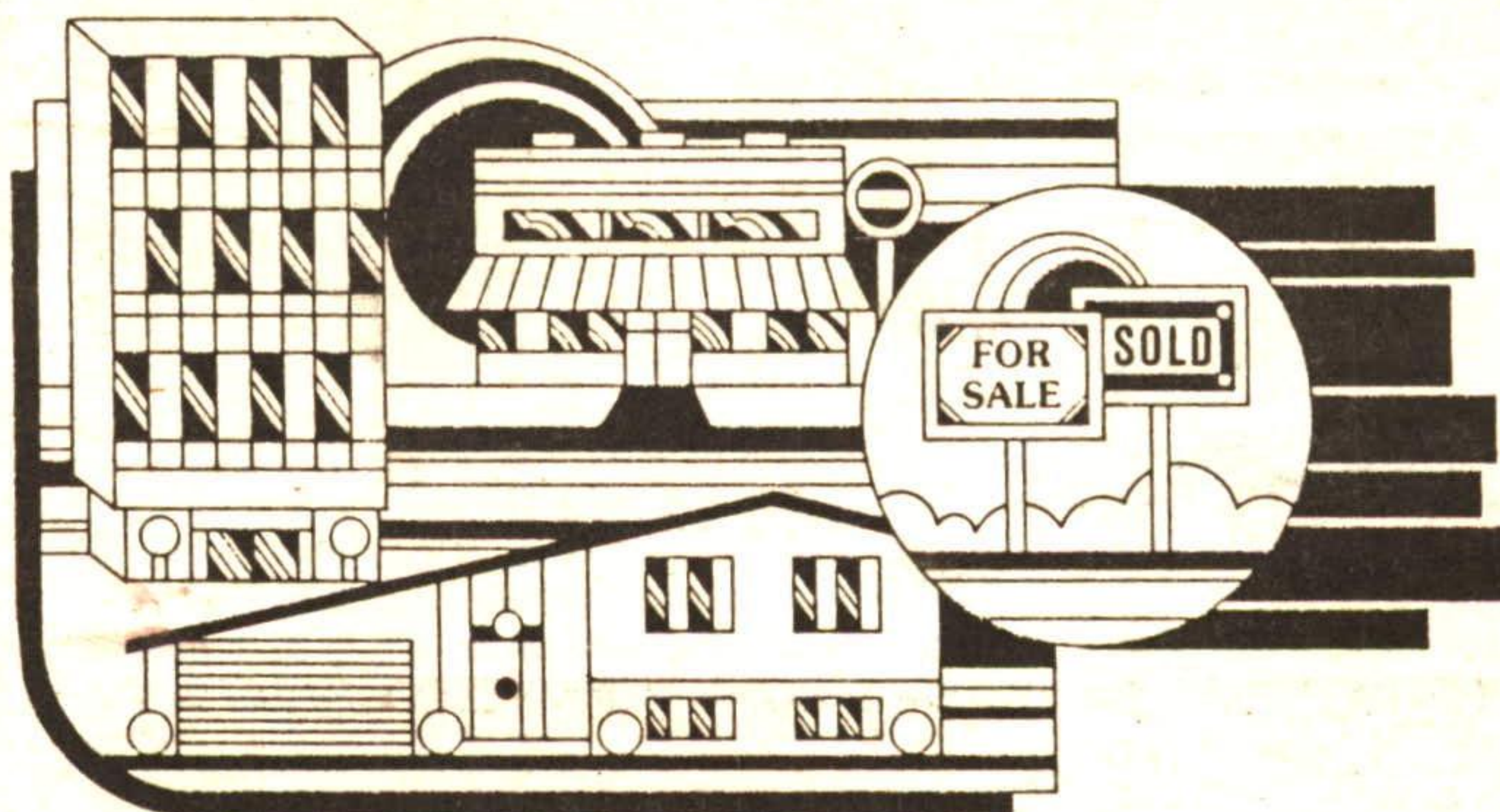
Since windows are a major source of heat gain in the house, it makes a lot of sense to shade them. Close your drapes, curtains and blinds during the day, espe-

cially if you're not home. You could also consider installing awnings or wooden louvers.

Appliances and lighting are two more heat gain "biggies". Avoid using your oven too much, and schedule things like washing, drying and ironing for early morning or evening when it's cooler. Better yet, hang your laundry outside to dry. Turn off unnecessary lights, too - every little bit helps.

The sun that beats down on your roof during a hot summer day can heat your attic to 54C (130F). If it isn't properly insulated, the heat will radiate from your attic down to the living areas of your house. As a do-it-yourself project when cooler weather returns in the fall, insulating your attic is definitely worth "fussing your head about", as Aunt Hilda would say.

This newspaper, in conjunction with Ontario Hydro, is bringing you Phil's Basement to help "bring home" ideas on how to save energy. To receive a copy of the brochure "Tips on Energy Efficient Summer Cooling", call Ontario Hydro at 1-800-263-9000 and tell them Phil sent you.



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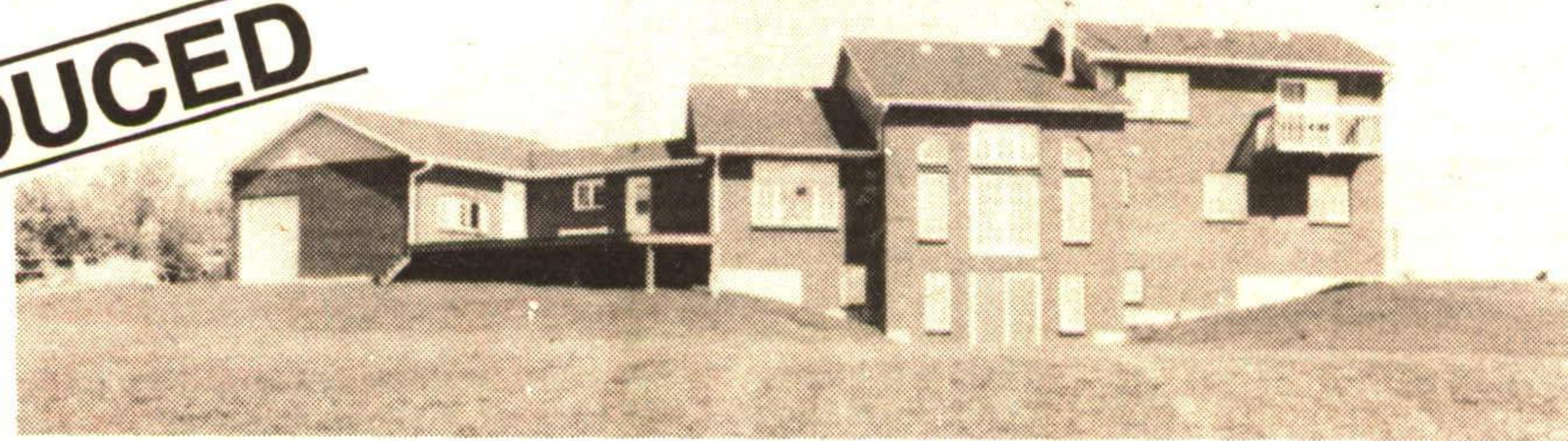
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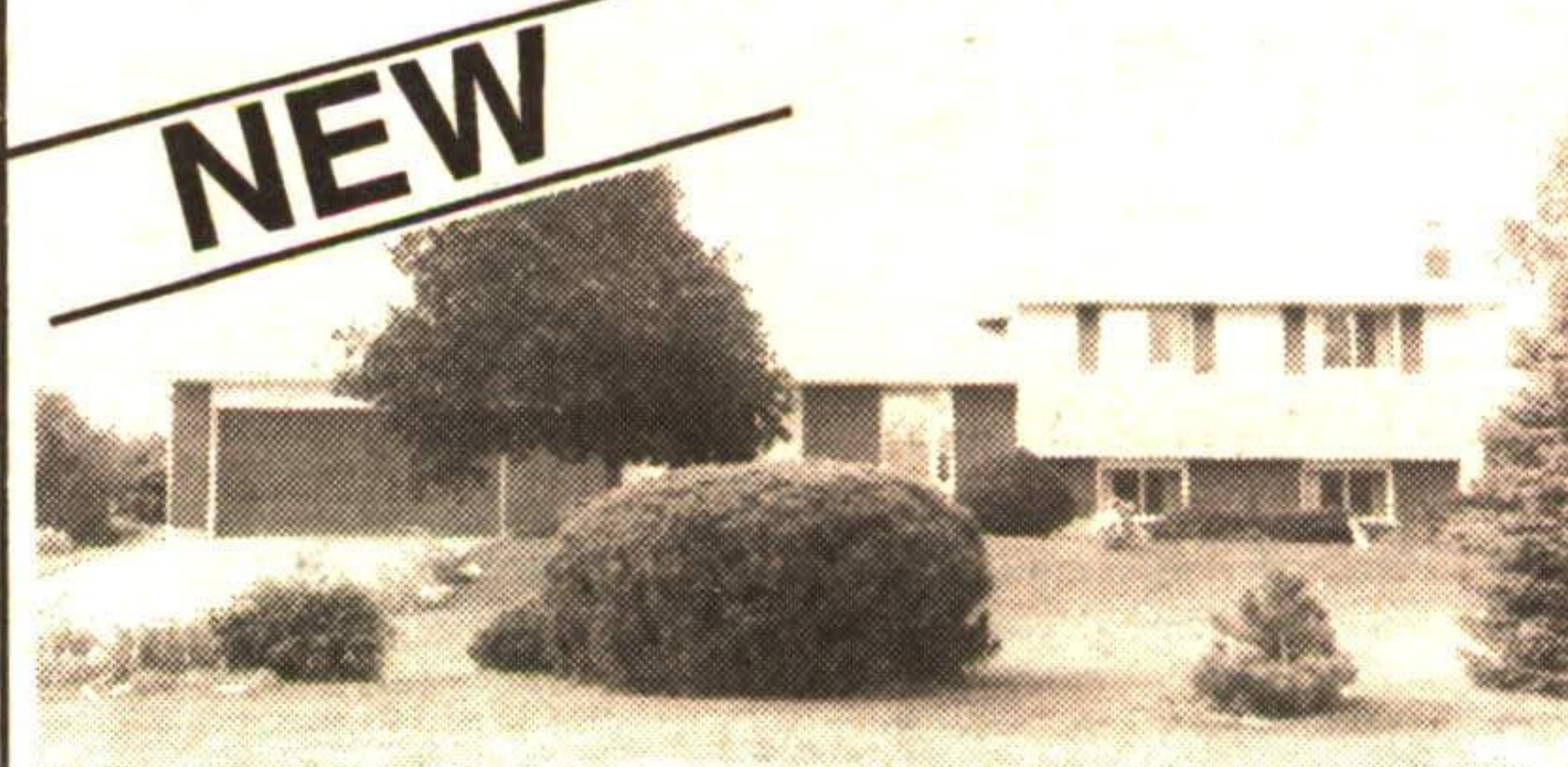
NEW



MOVE RIGHT IN

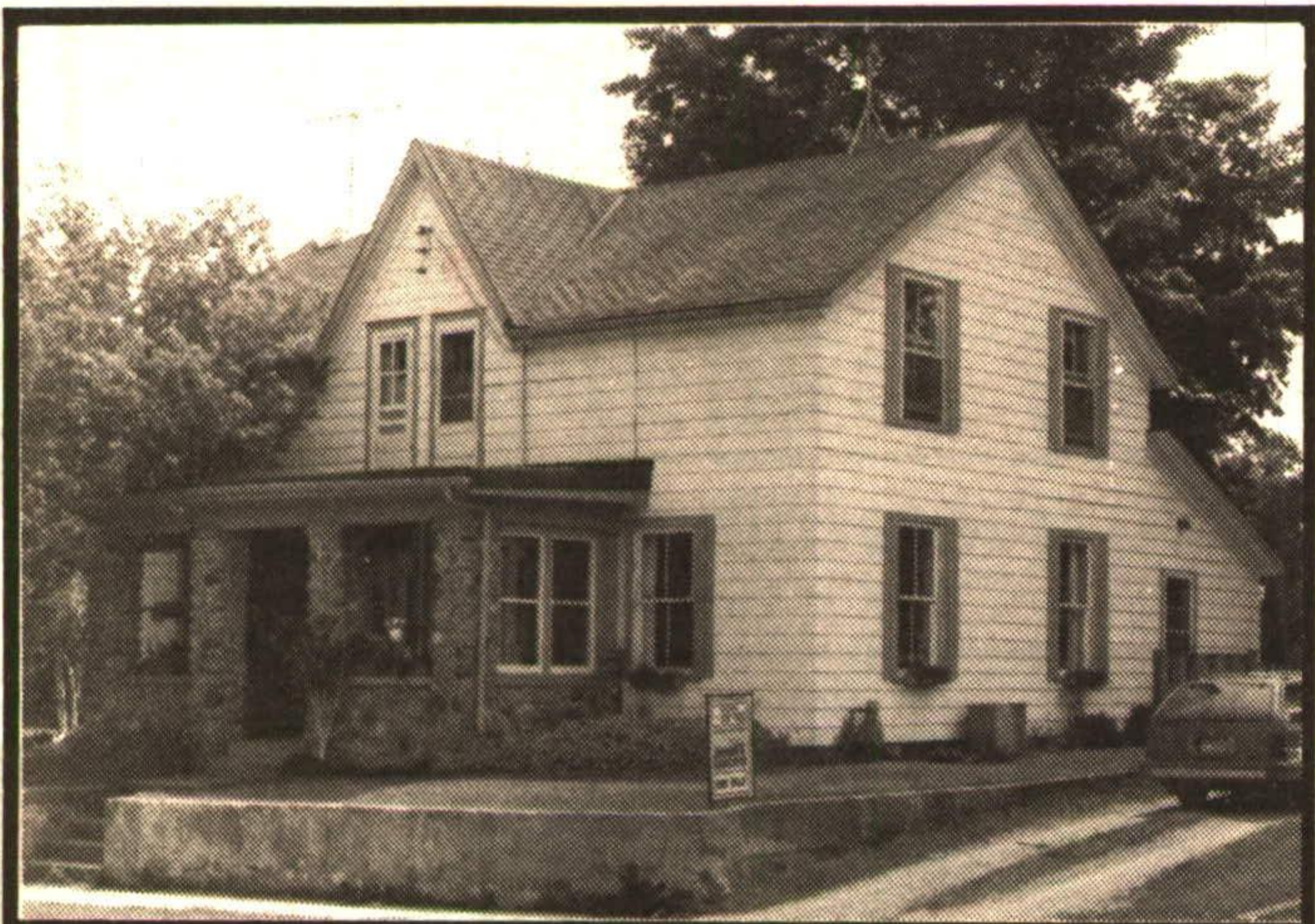
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