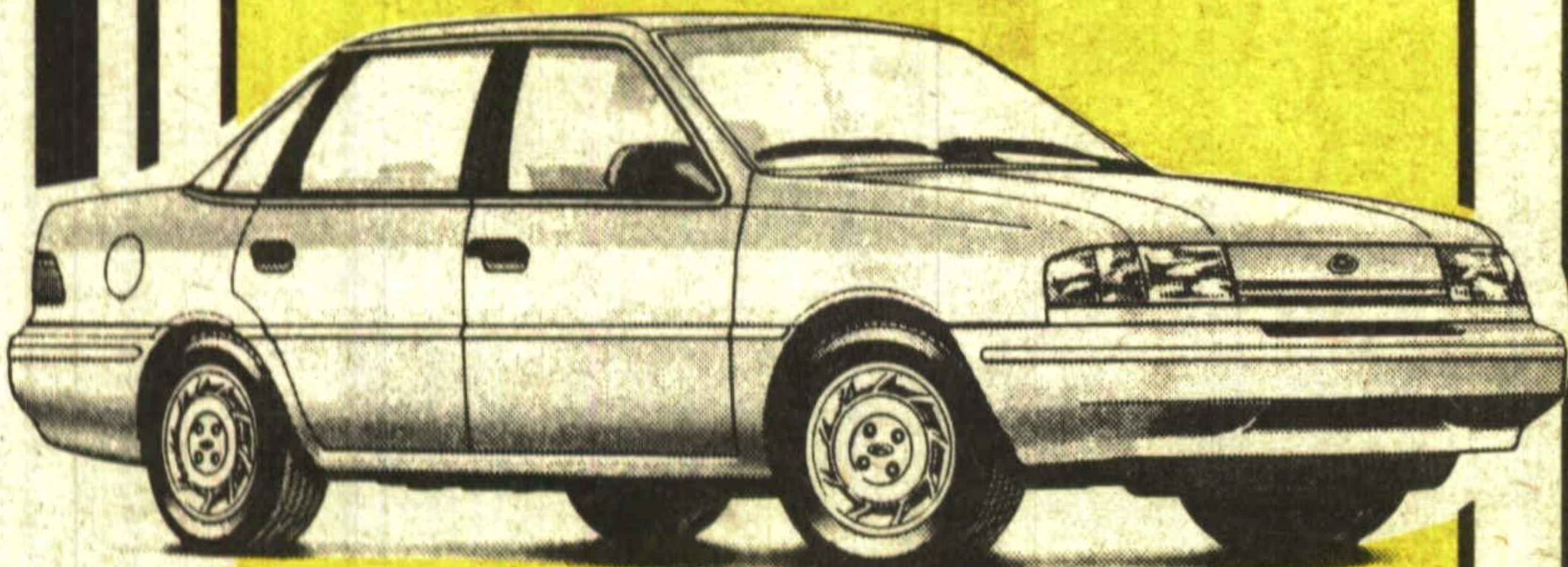


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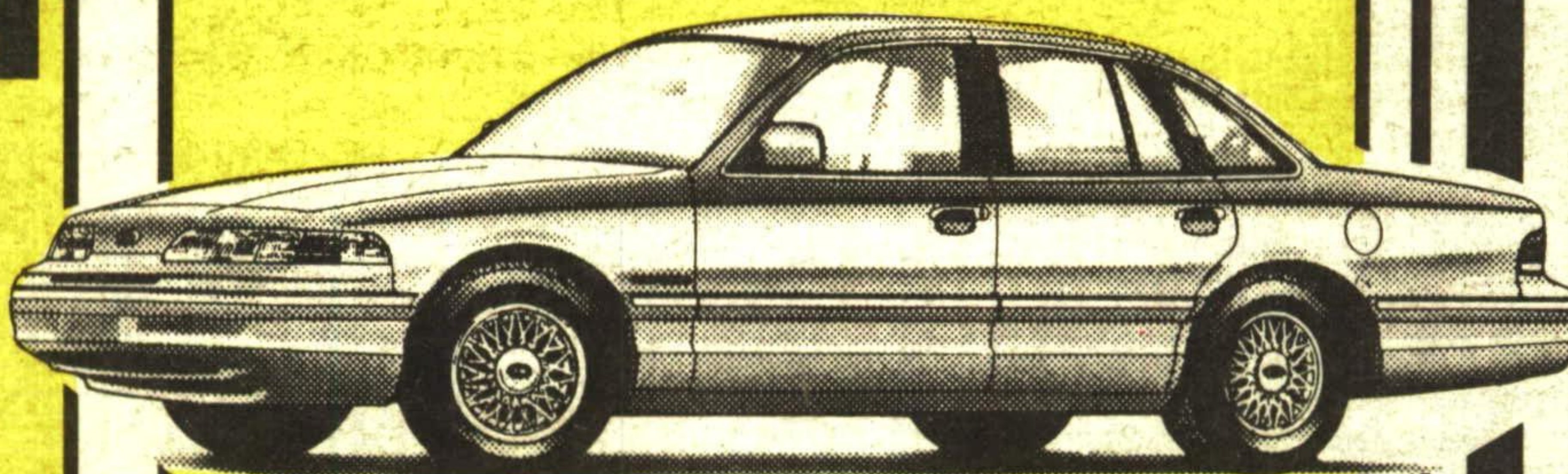
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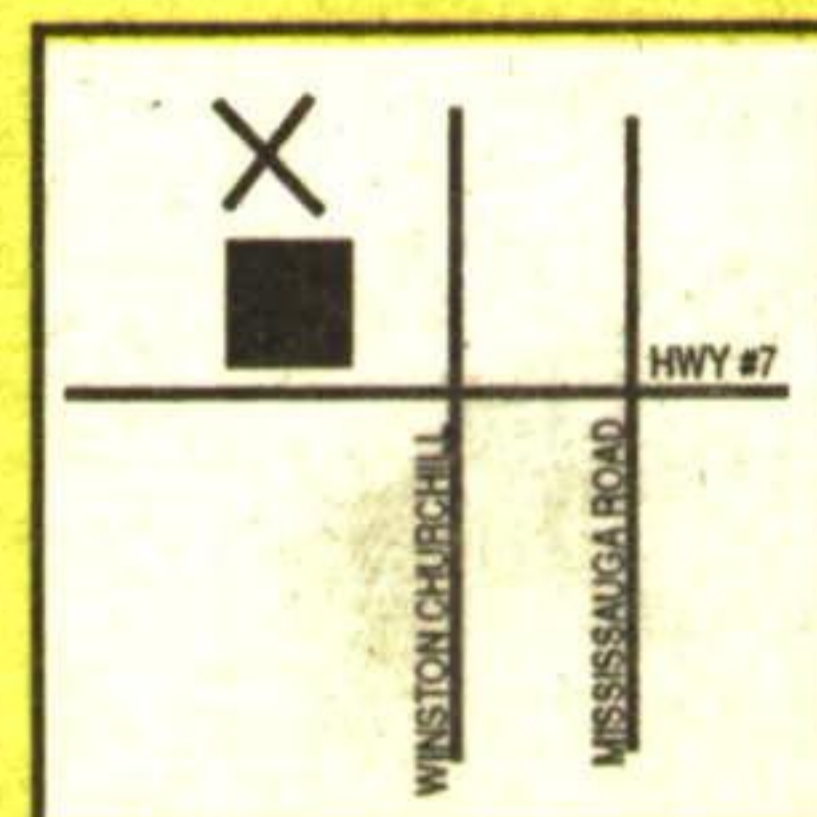
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**GREEN THUMB
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By **CHRISTINE COLE**
FALL CLEAN UP

October is the month when colorful autumn scenes dominate the landscape. But, it is also the month that we should begin to clean up the yard and garden. Work done this fall will bring many rewards next spring.

Tender bulbs such as dahlia, gladiolas, and tuberous begonias should be lifted from the ground once the foliage is killed by frost. Dahlia stems should be cut to 6 inches long, while gladiolas and begonia leaves cut to one or two inches. Place the bulbs on their side for two weeks to allow the moisture to escape. During this period shake or gently rub the soil off the bulbs. When the bulbs are dry (2 weeks) dust them with a fungicide to prevent dry rot and scab then store in a cool dry, frost-free area for the winter.

Perennials that normally die down to the ground each winter can have their foliage pruned down. Also this is a good time to divide and replant overgrown clumps of achillea, astilbes, hosta and lily of the valley. To insulate perennials from severe cold weather, apply a light porous mulch (it has more insulative value) during late fall. Pine branches and needles, dry leaves and straw are all excellent mulches. Remove the mulch next spring. Once the foliage has dropped off of the rose bushes and fruit trees it should be collected and destroyed. If the leaves were diseased they could be a source for reinfection during the next season if not removed. However, do not prune rose bushes in the fall, this is best left until the spring.

Leaves from maples, oaks, lindens, chestnuts and other large leaved trees accumulate quickly and can smother the turf grass. These leaves should be raked and removed regularly.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

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