

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

PLANNING A VEGETABLE GARDEN

At about this time each year, vegetable garden enthusiasts start to plan their garden for the upcoming season. Even though every garden is different and individual, there is a few guidelines that can be beneficial to all of them.

*If garden is located on a slope or slight grade, try to plant the rows of vegetables across the slope and not up and down it. If you run the rows across the slope it will reduce erosion and encourage water to seep in around the plants roots.

*The garden plot should also be located in the yard where it will receive at least six hours of direct sunlight, daily.

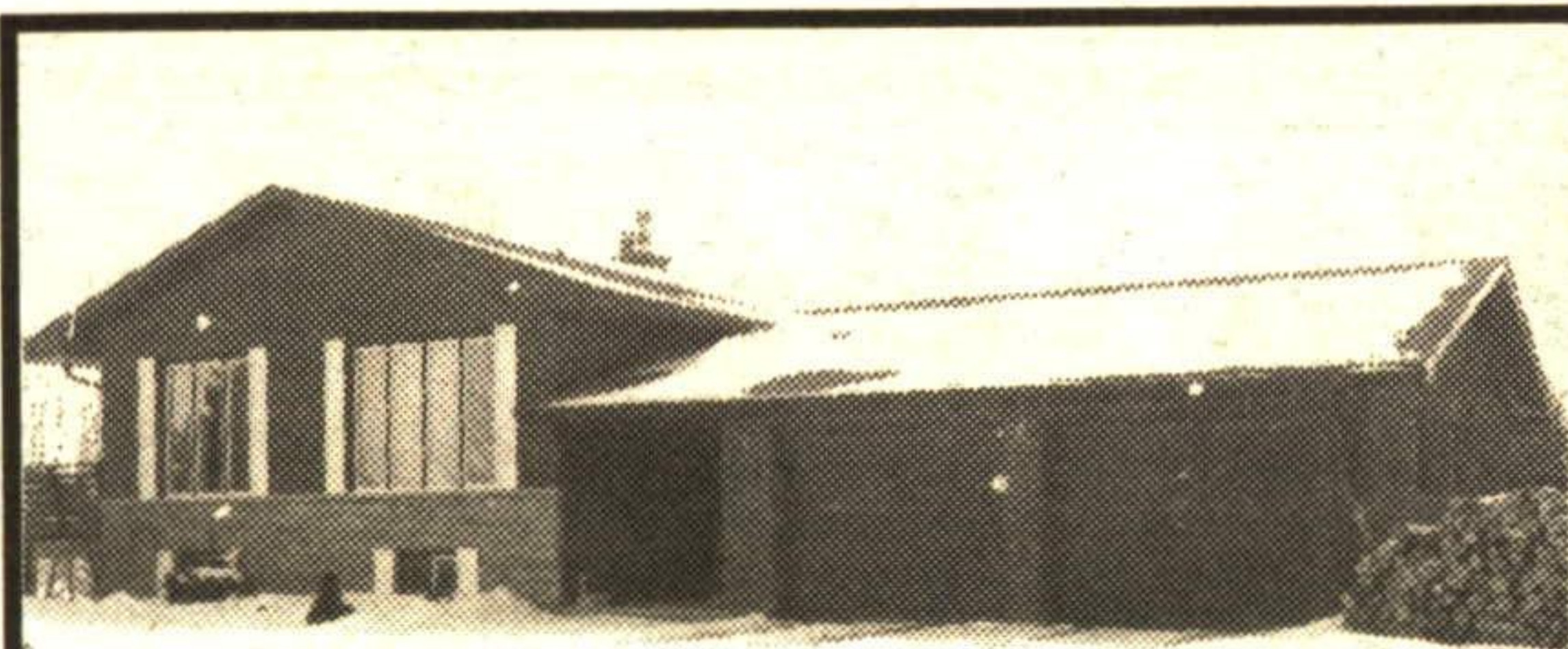
*Rows of plants running in a north-south direction receive maximum light from both sides as sun moves from east to west. However, rows can be planted in east-west direction successfully if the taller crops (corn, tomatoes, etc.) are planted at the north end of the garden. This way they will not shade out the shorter vegetables.

*Perennial fruit and vegetable bushes that stay in the garden from one year to the next (asparagus, blueberries, currants, rhubarb, etc.) are best planted at one end of the garden. This way they will not interfere with rototilling and hoeing.

*Certain insects and diseases can be discouraged or controlled by changing in location of vegetables they attack. For example, if you had thrips on onions, plant the onions in another location of the garden this year. It is the same with squash bugs on squash and tomato wilt on tomato plants.

Every other 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 showplace!

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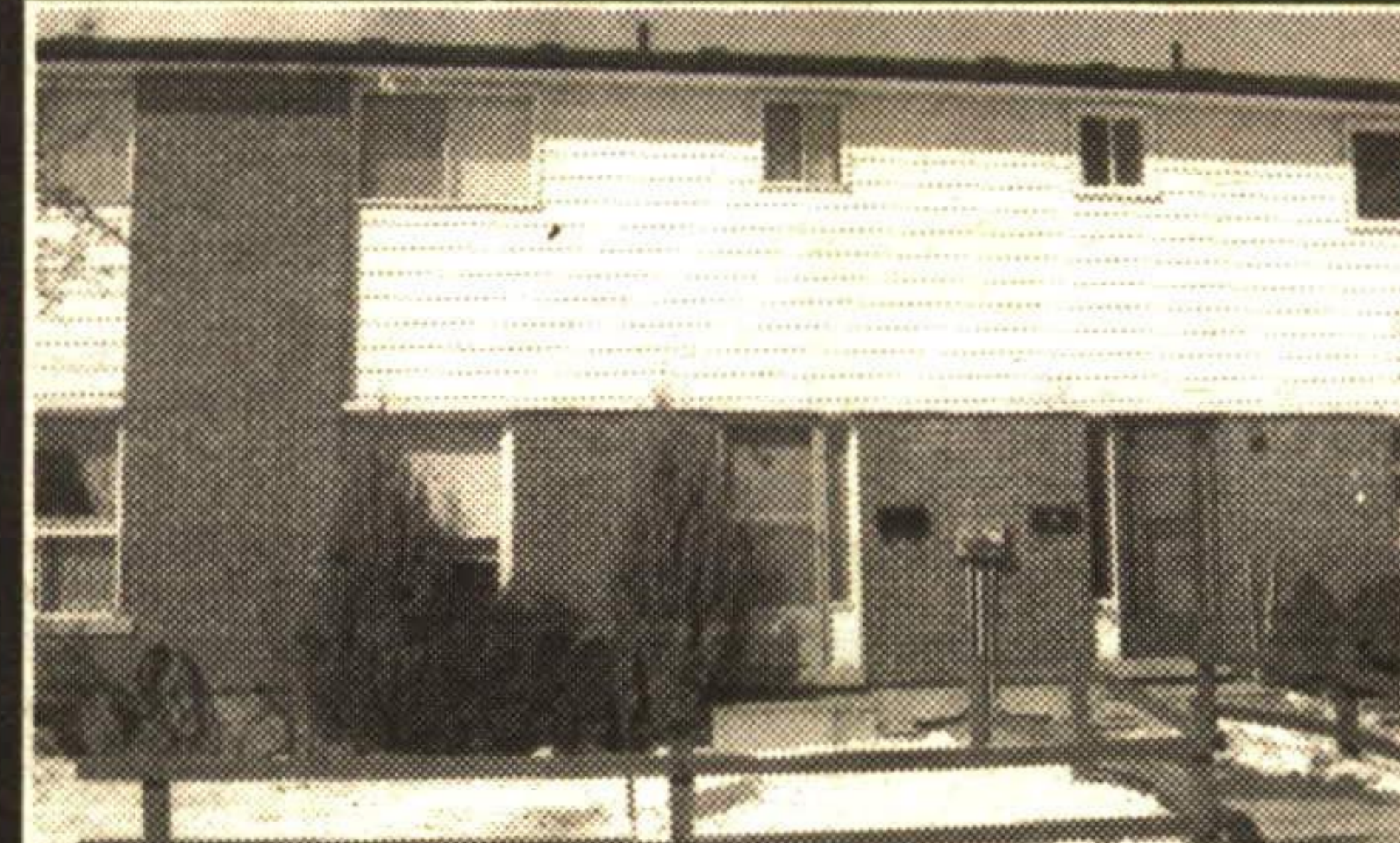
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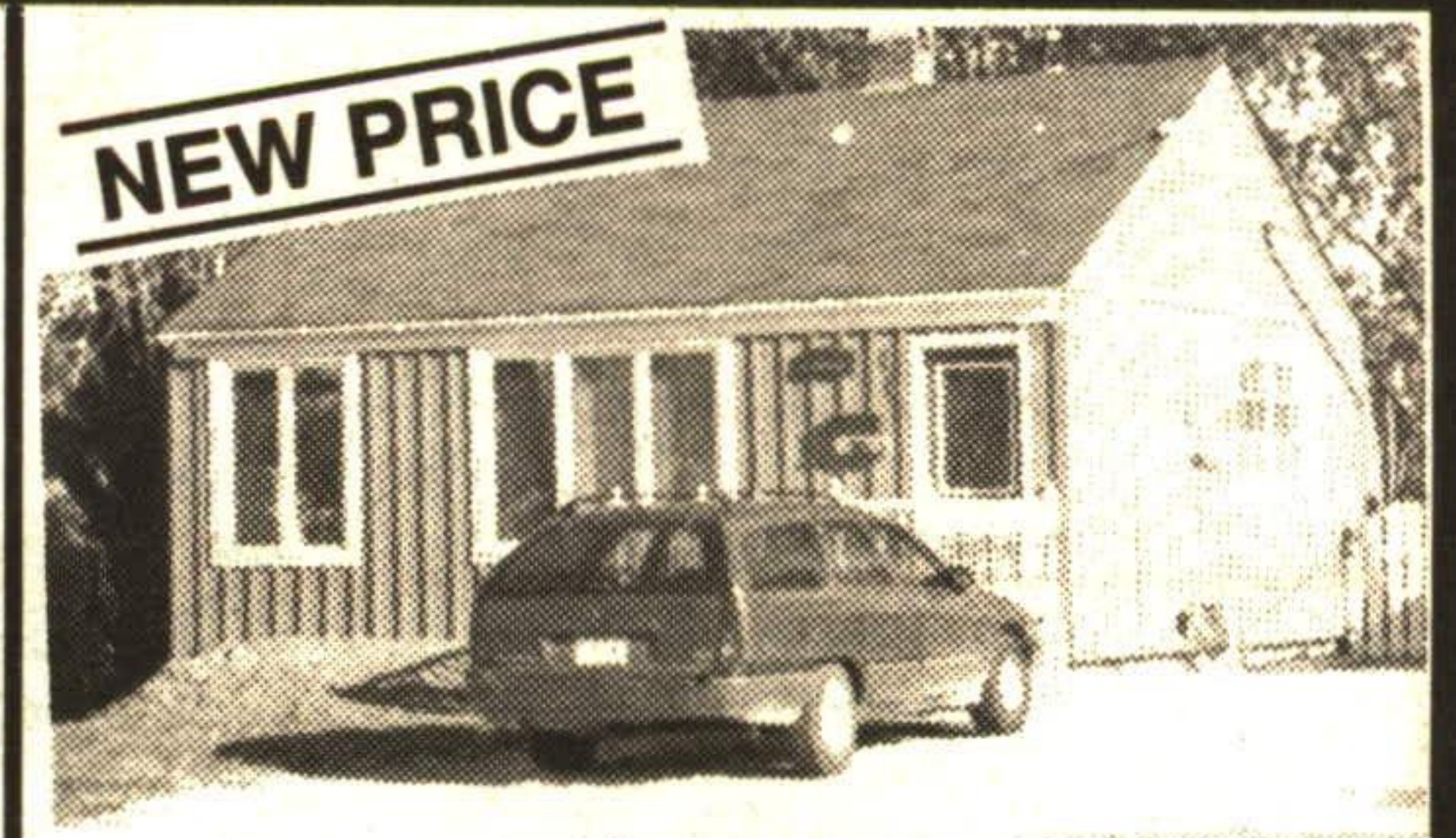
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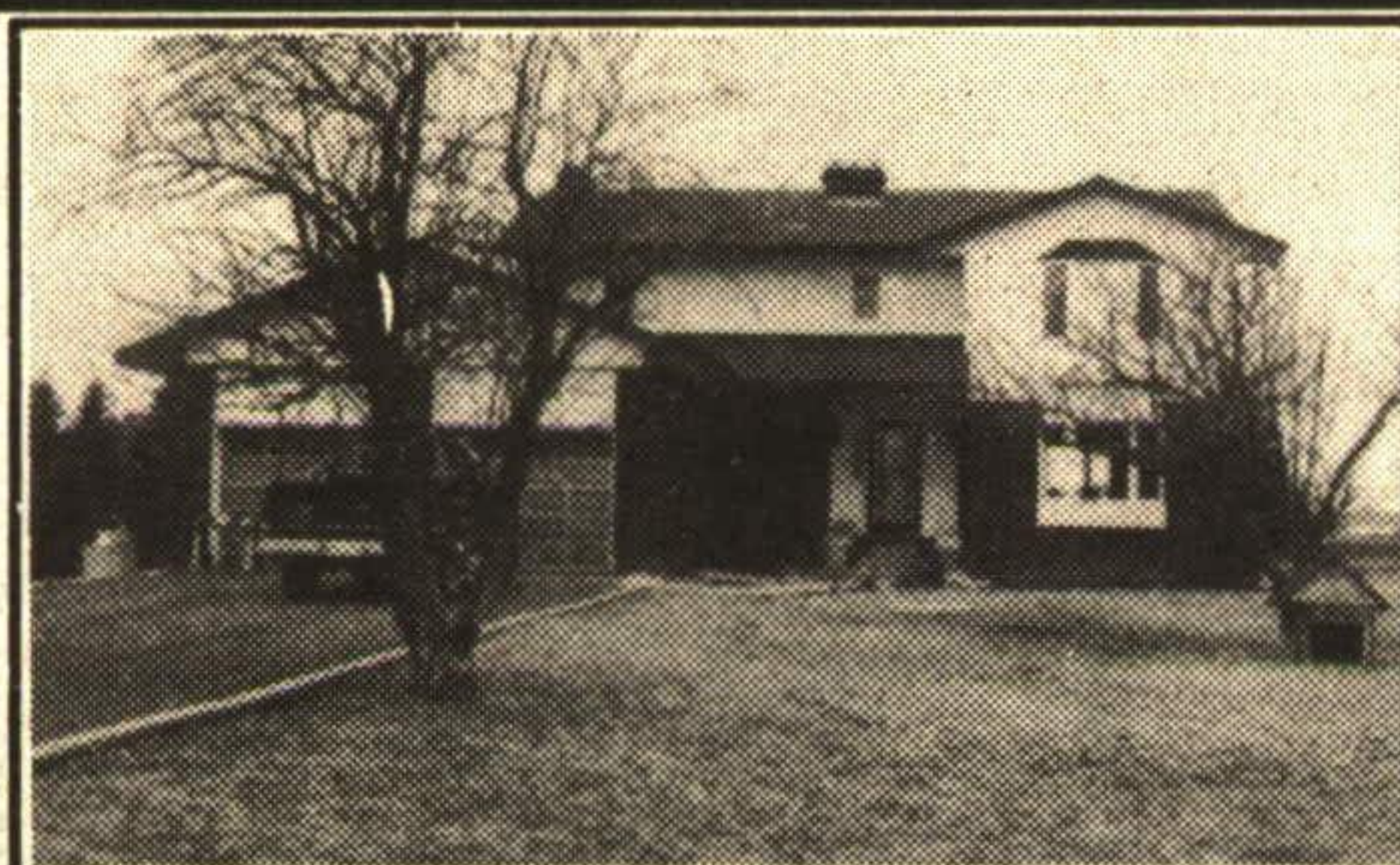


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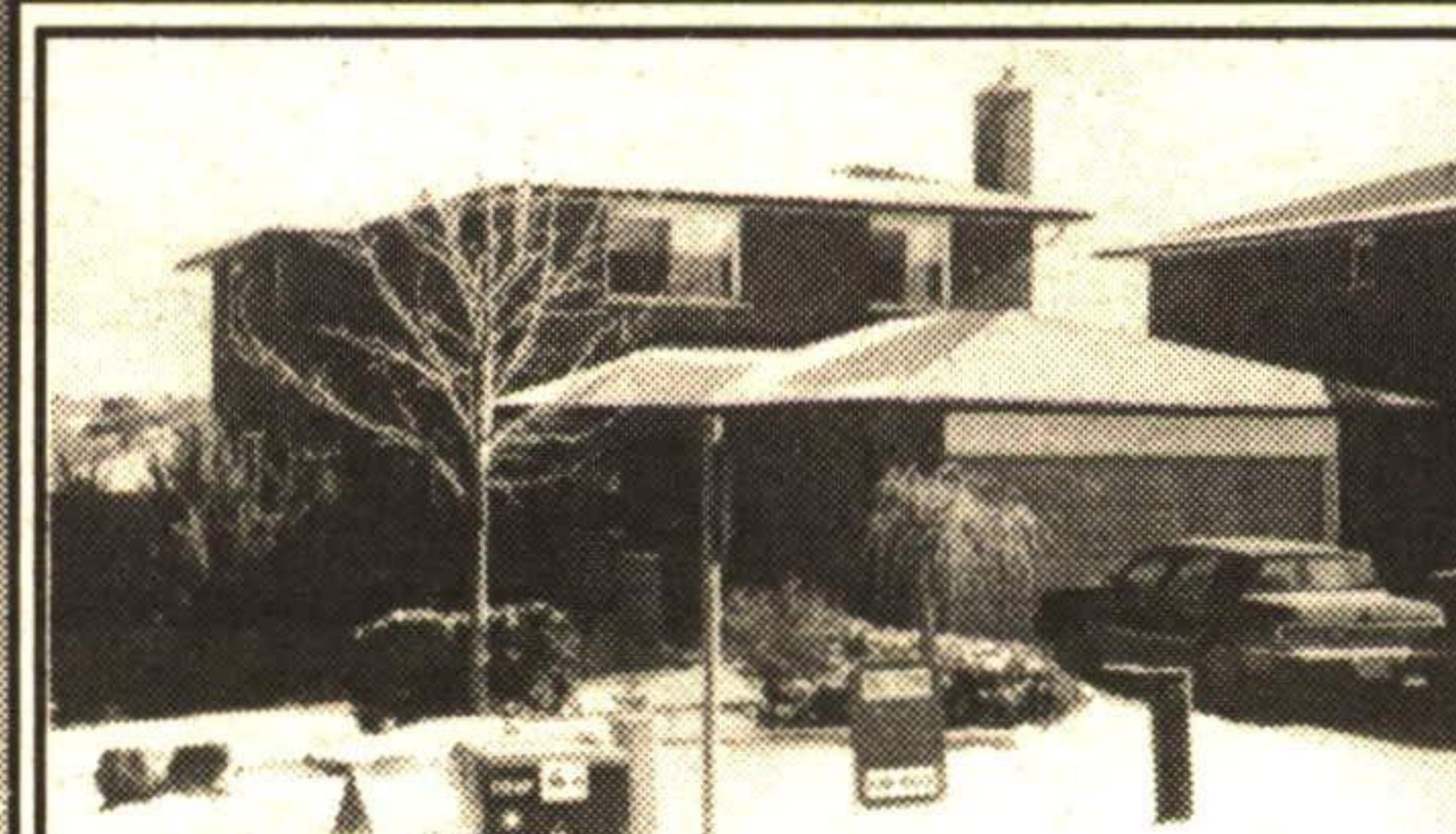
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