

FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

Decorate more than just your home this holiday season

(NC)—When you think about how much decorating we do for those days between Thanksgiving and New Years, how come we don't decorate with those festive touches the other 300+ days of the year? You have heard psychologists talk about the "January blahs". For us Northerners it may be caused by the lack of sunshine, or it could be attributed to when the clock strikes midnight and the holiday parties, school programs, concerts and social gatherings, etc. stop. But I think the real reason we experience the "January blahs" is because we are missing the beautiful, colourful decorations from the holidays.

We are just plain bored with our interiors. Yes, bored with the house back to its old, normal self. Well, this year let's avoid those "January blahs" by thinking about decorating not only for the holidays, but also for the other 11 months. So here are some decorating ideas that can make your home festive year 'round.

One thing is for sure, the holidays add colour. For some, it's red and greens that are added to the current colour scheme of the home. For me, it's metallics. If you have played it safe by using neutrals when decorating your home, those holiday decorations can be the most eye-catching colours you have used. So why not add more colour year 'round? Colour is emotion. If you love that green, why not paint a room green?

While I was doing a Hunter Douglas Window Fashions promotion out East, I met a young lady that wanted to decorate her dining room. She showed me a beautiful floral fabric that had a cream background with some wine and rose coloured flowers, with various greens in the leaves and stems. There were also some shades of blue and gold in the print.

We started with the window covering. The first layer we agreed upon was a Silhouette window shading. Silhouette window shadings combine the best features of sheers, blinds and curtains in a single, soft window treatment. Floating coloured vanes in a 2-inch size are held in place by sheer-fabric front and back facings, free of support or lift cords. Once the window shading is completely lowered, the vanes can be opened, tilted and shut by a single continuous cord. When fully raised, Silhouette is concealed within a colour-coordinated headrail.

In addition to rectangular windows, Silhouette shadings can cover angled — or arched-top windows. A wider three-inch vane size is also offered, as well as the room-darkening Silhouette Bon Soir™. Two textured vane fabrics — Silhouette Toujours™ and Silhouette Naturelle™ — are also available. Easy, affordable battery powered motorization — Silhouette with PowerRise® — is another option.

The next layer was going to be a layer of swags and jabots in a beautiful stripe in cream, wine, and green with just a touch of gold. The swags and jabots will be trimmed with a wine, green and gold fringe and then they will be mounted under a cornice. I could tell she was getting excited. Her look turned to surprise when I suggested she paint her walls sage green. She said, why not cream? I asked her what type of room she wanted to create; one that said "nice" or one that said "WOW!" It took her a few minutes and she said, "I never thought about that." I said, "that's why you 'Asked Sally' — you wanted a designer look."

Colour is emotion — live a little. Colour can change the room for the least amount of money. What's the worst-case scenario? You paint an exciting colour and you then decide it just isn't you. Paint over it! It's not that expensive and you won't go on wondering for the next few years, "what if...?" Go for it!

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Jody, aged 10

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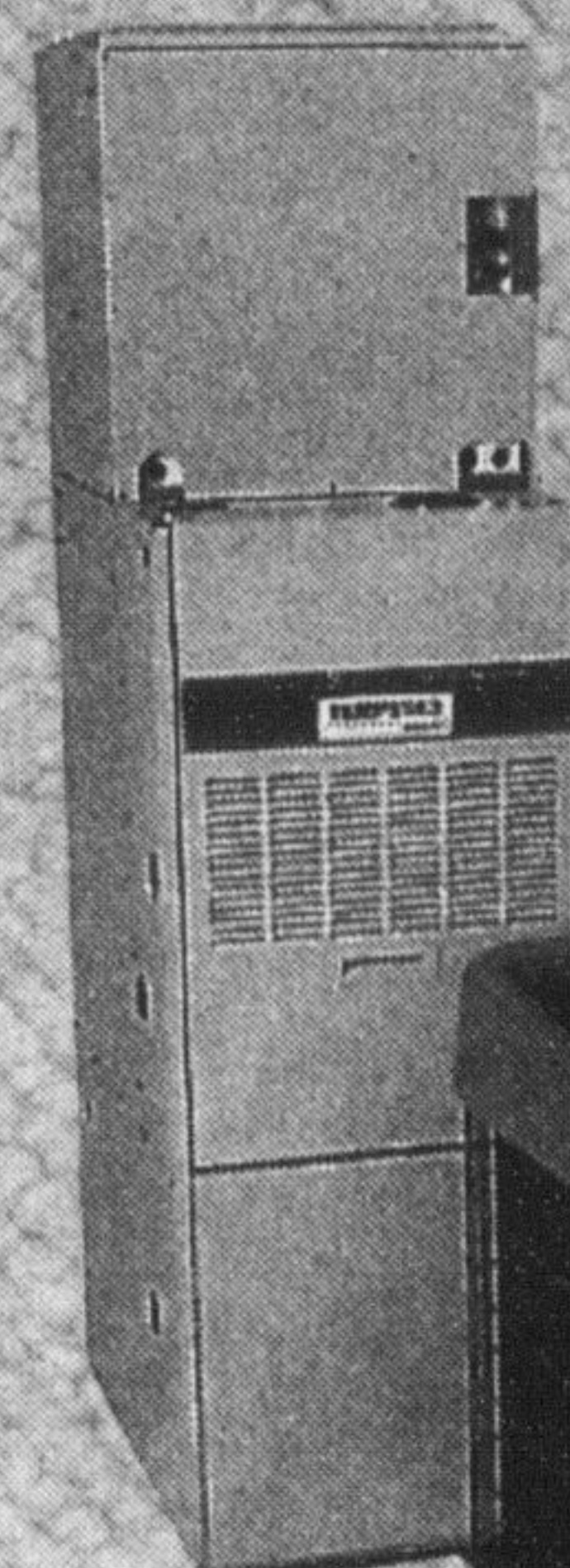
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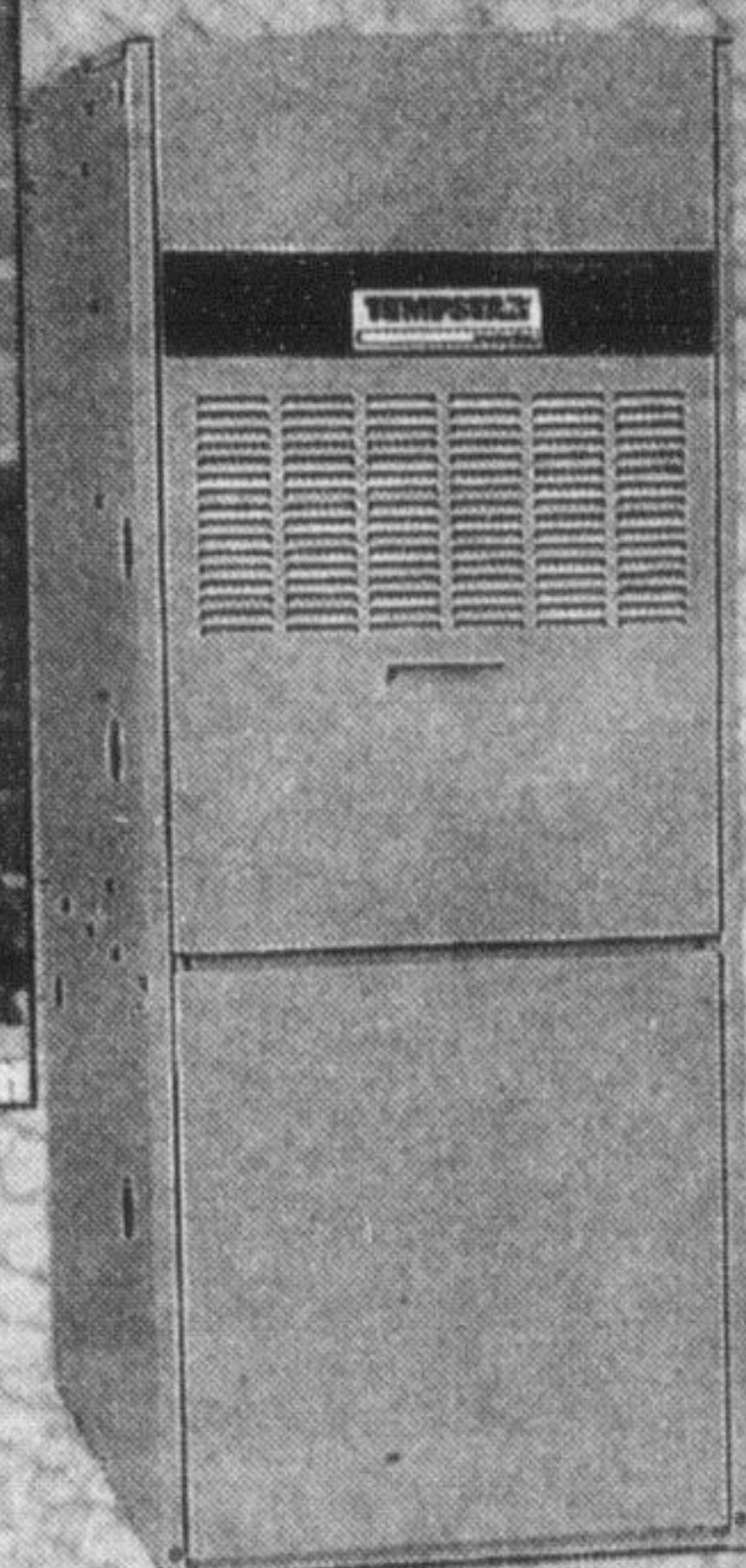
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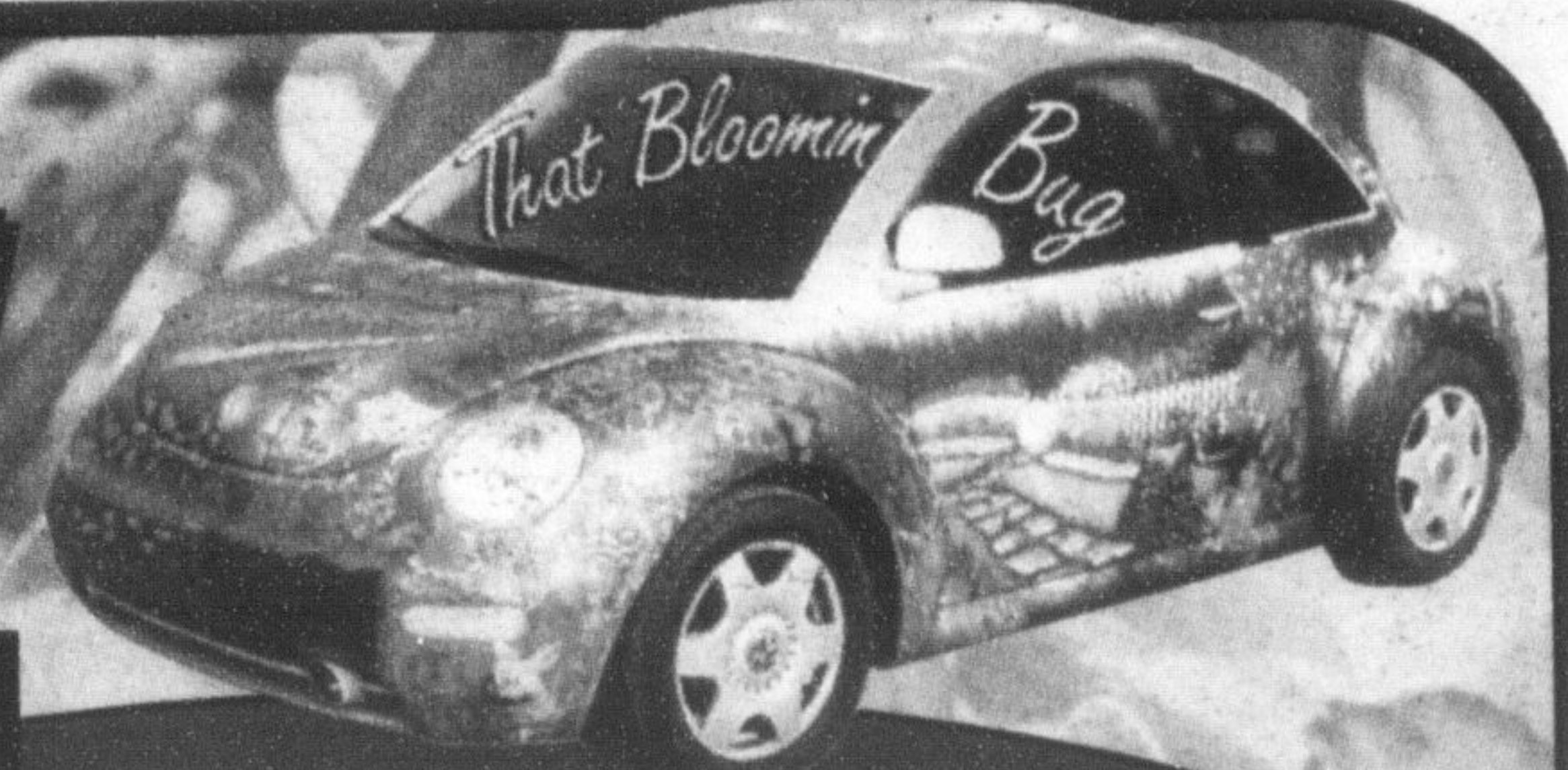
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