

Language only difference between exchange students

By Wilma Blokhuis
Learning each other's language appeared to be the only cultural barrier between Patti Gourlay, of Oakville, and her houseguest, Eric Poirier of Albenel, Quebec.

Both were part of the Halton Summer Bilingual Exchange program, which stresses overcoming a language barrier while enjoying organized tours and cultural activities.

Patti was among 44 students from Halton who went to the St. Felicien area near Lac St-Jean in northern Quebec, during the first two weeks in July. There, the students were taken on trips to see a ghost town, sawmill, zoo, apiary, farm and pioneer village, culminating with a pot luck supper and dance. In return 44 students from Quebec spent two weeks at Halton homes, from July 16 to 30. For both, it meant their first trip away from home on their own, and an airplane flight.

Here, the students went to a barbecue and crazy olympics at Kelso Park in Milton, went on a walking tour of Burlington, visited Black Creek Pioneer Village, toured Toronto Harbor, were welcomed among 1,000 other exchange students at a civic reception at Toronto city hall and ended the day with dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory; saw Marineland and Niagara Falls, and included Ontario Place among places to see.

Life in their respective hometowns did not really shock Patti and Eric. Albenel, located in the St. Felicien area, is a small village, with only three stores, a miniature golf course and public swimming pool. The most unusual thing she came across was toast

with coffee or tea at midnight—before going to bed!

Albenel is entirely French-speaking, hence Eric is struggling with his English—however, if spoken to slowly, he will answer, mixing the English he has learned with his native French.

Patti, having just graduated from Eastview School, has been exposed to three years of conversational French, enabling her to communicate with Eric. Both will be entering Grade Nine this fall—Patti at T. A. Blakelock High School, and Eric at Polyvalents of Normandin.

The 44 Halton participants aged 12 to 17 years, represent a cross section of the region, though most of them came from Oakville and Burlington. Others live in Milton, Acton and Georgetown.

The program has been running in Halton for five years, and is sponsored by the Bilingual Exchange Secretariat in Ottawa, says coordinator John Stephen of Burlington. He said the Halton Board of Education contacted the St. Felicien system last February, to arrange this year's exchange (it is with a different area of Quebec each year).

After activities and dates were arranged, applications were invited at schools in both Halton and St. Felicien. In Halton, some 60 applications were received. (Patti applied at Eastview School).

"Each student accepted for the exchange was matched, or twinned with a Quebec student," Stephen said. Working with Stephen, a French teacher in Burlington, are Heather Smith of Oakville, who also teaches French in Burlington, and two university students

majoring in French, Julie Johnston (York) and Charles Gill (McMaster).

Stephen said the two teachers were hired by the Halton Board of Education for this program, who in turn selected the two students. Similar hiring took place at St. Felicien.

The four of them, working as monitors and tour organizers, chose the students in their respective areas, and matched everybody up for the exchange.

"One arrangement was left to almost one week before the exchange visits were to begin—and was left up to Ottawa. What mode of transportation would be used, all those who were involved wondered. The bus would take 17 hours,

Movies outside

By the light of the silvery moon, every Thursday evening until the end of August outdoor film shows are being presented at Milton Public Library. This unique form of entertainment is free of charge and represents the first outdoor theatre in Milton. Show time is 8.30 p.m. and will continue in the library hall in case of rain.

Moon-lite matinee tomorrow night features the films Sky Dive and Summer of my German Soldier followed next week by Round Robin, Images of the Wild and Osprey. August 20 Paint it Wild: A Portrait of Glen Loates and The Passionate Canadians by Tom Thompson will be featured.

The outdoor film festival concludes August 27 with The Glass Orchestra and Giselle.

the train may be a little faster, and an airplane would be best.

To leave Albenel, Patti rose at 3 a.m., boarded a bus to Bagotville at 4 a.m., where the 44 Halton students had to catch their first airplane at 5 a.m., which took them to Montreal. From there, they flew to Ottawa, switched aircraft, and landed in Hamilton. Patti was home at 11 a.m. Eric followed the same schedule to arrive in Oakville. "There was a three-hour wait in Montreal," Patti said.

The trip to Quebec is much easier, she continued. Eric departed via airplane from Hamilton on Thursday at 4.30 p.m. arriving in Montreal shortly after 6 p.m., following a brief stopover at Ottawa. From Montreal, the visiting Quebec students boarded another aircraft, without waiting, arriving in Bagotville at 8 p.m. From there, they took a bus to St. Felicien, a one-hour-trip—arriving home well in time for their midnight toast!



Parlez avec moi. Learning each other's language was the incentive behind participation in the Halton Summer Bilingual Exchange. Patti Gourlay of Oakville and her guest, Eric Poirier of Albenel, Quebec, identify objects in both languages—anything from a toy bird to a fruit basket! Patti spent the first two weeks of July in Quebec, and Eric was here for two weeks ending July 30. The program involved 44 Halton students, and an equal number from Quebec. (Photo by Peter McCusker)

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Blame weather for waste plant odors

Hot weather and a "slow-moving, humid air mass" was responsible for odors coming from the Milton Waste Sewage Plant in June according to Halton Regional spokesman, Don Morrier.

Several residents living near the plant complained when a noticeable odor emanated from the plant in June during a hot spell.

Mr. Morrier said the Regional Public Works Department "is aware of certain complaints from the public concerning odors emitted" from the plant.

"Odors of the type experienced on a few occasions during the early part of June can be expected when climatic conditions are such that the atmosphere surrounding the plant is trapped in low lying

areas by a slow-moving air mass."

"Past experience indicates that this occurs a few times each year, primarily in the spring and fall," he said.

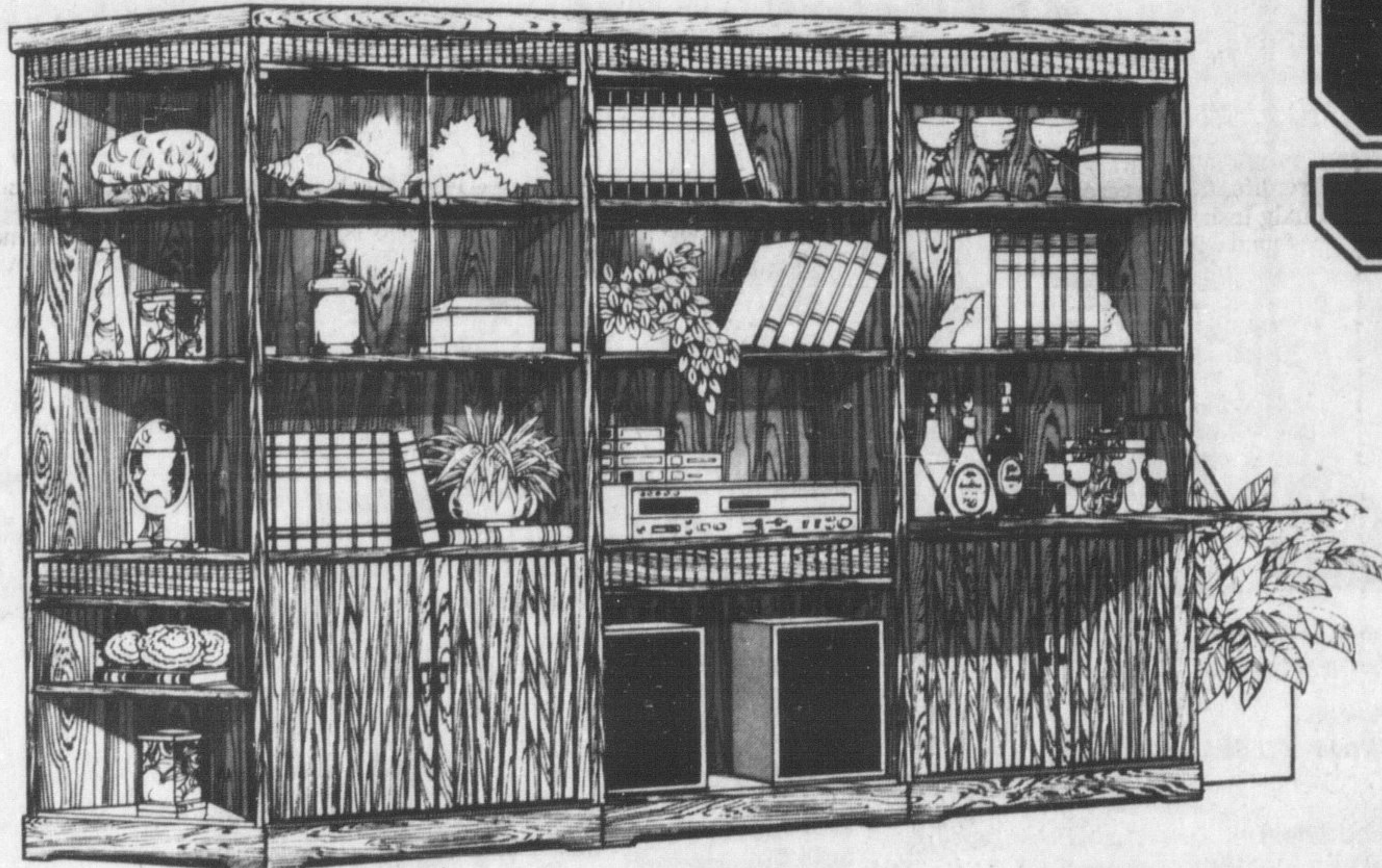
He said the situation this year was aggravated by operational problems in the primary treatment and anaerobic sludge digestion systems. In the past few months it has been necessary to direct raw sludge from the primary units to the aerobic digesters.

"As a result, the aerobic system, which is open to the atmosphere, has received an additional load to what is normally expected, to be functioning normally in the near future, unfortunately, in the meantime the emission of odors from the plant may be in excess of what is expected from a normal operation," he said.

Mr. Morrier said funds for plant modification will be sought in the 1982 works budget to correct the problem.

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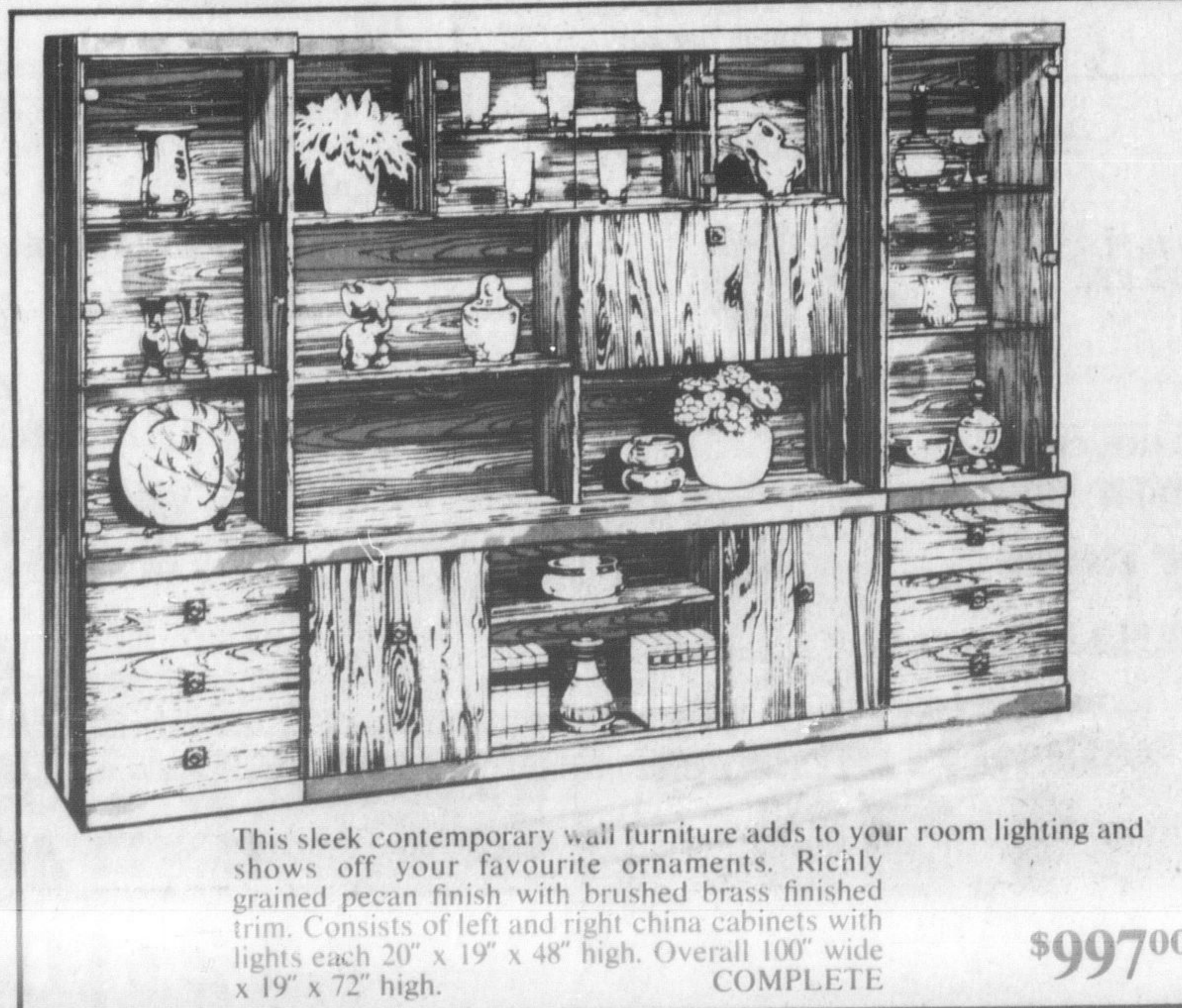
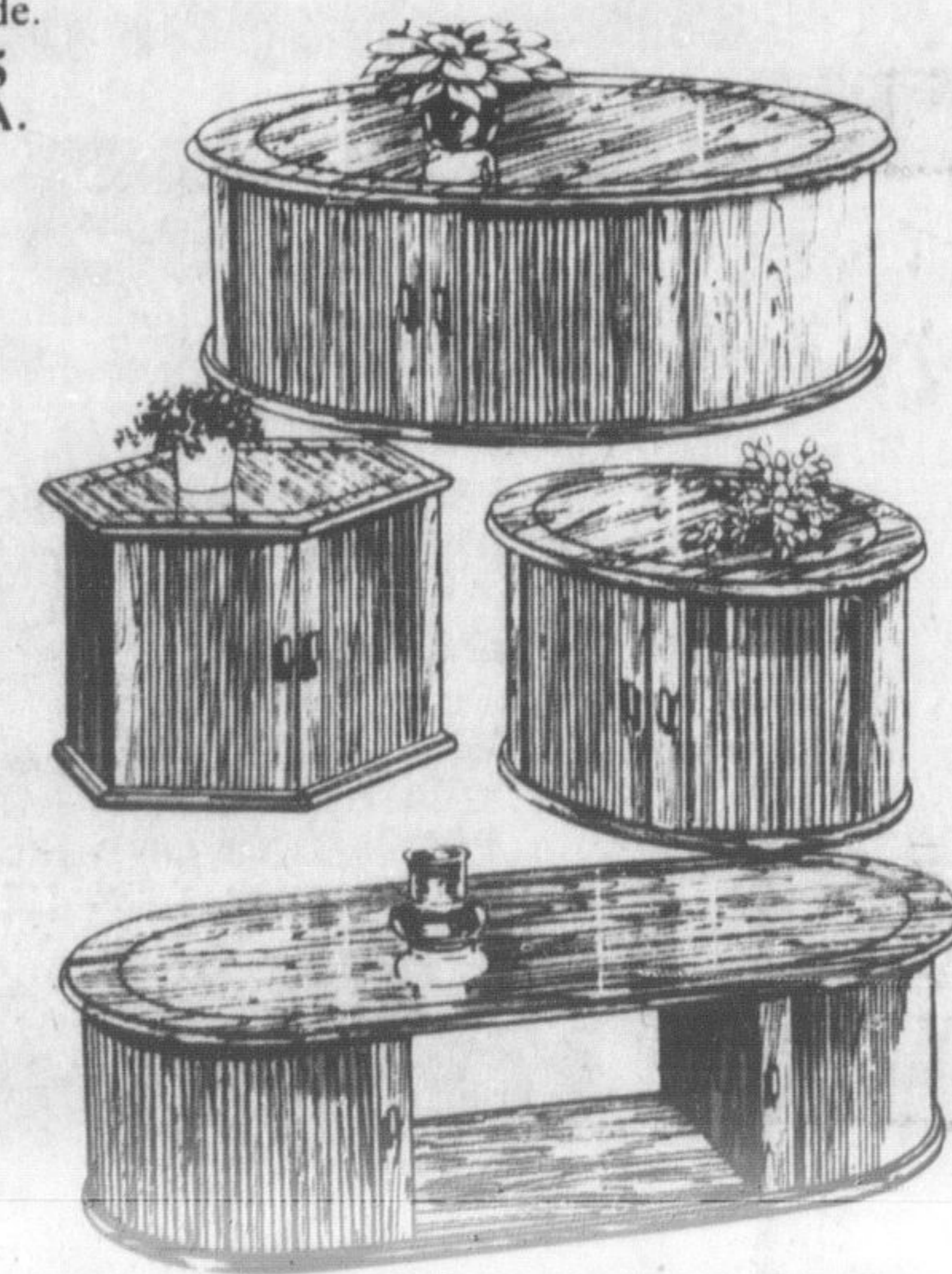
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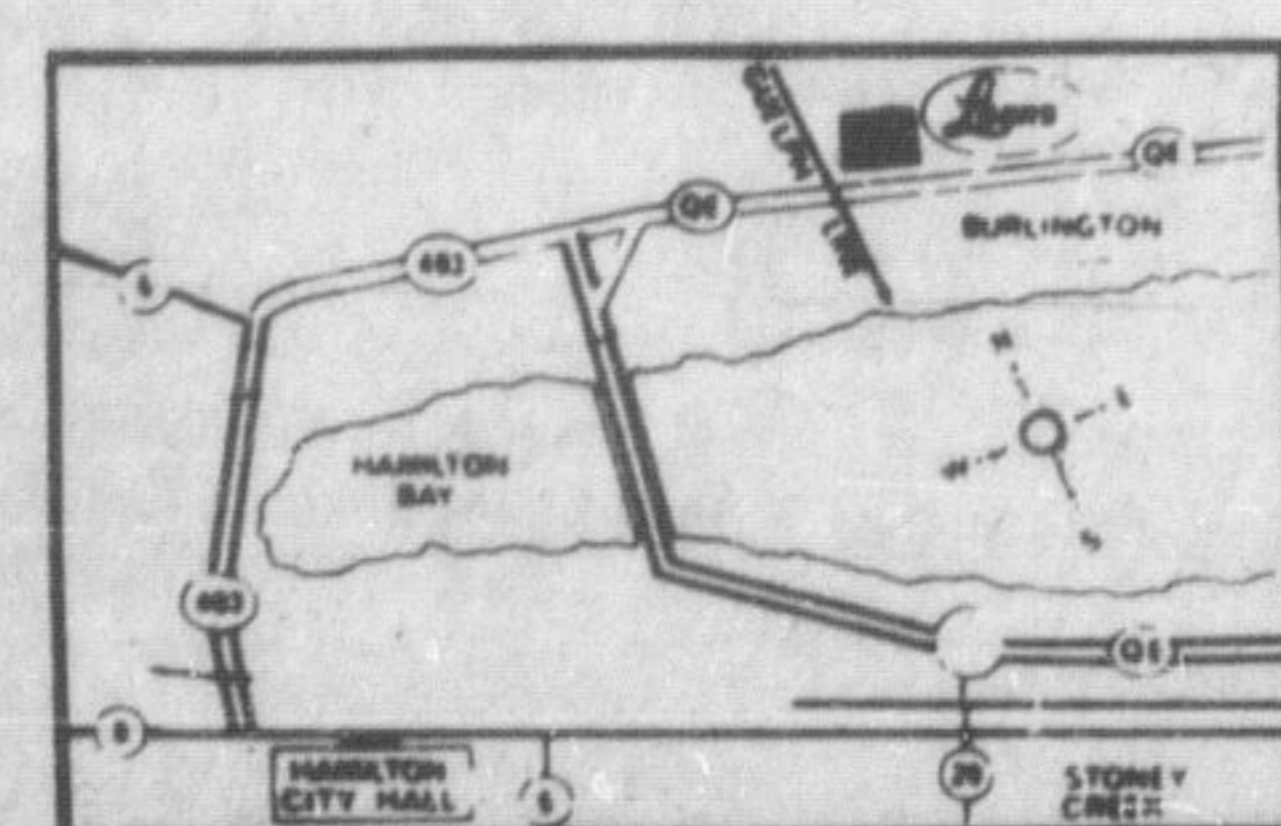
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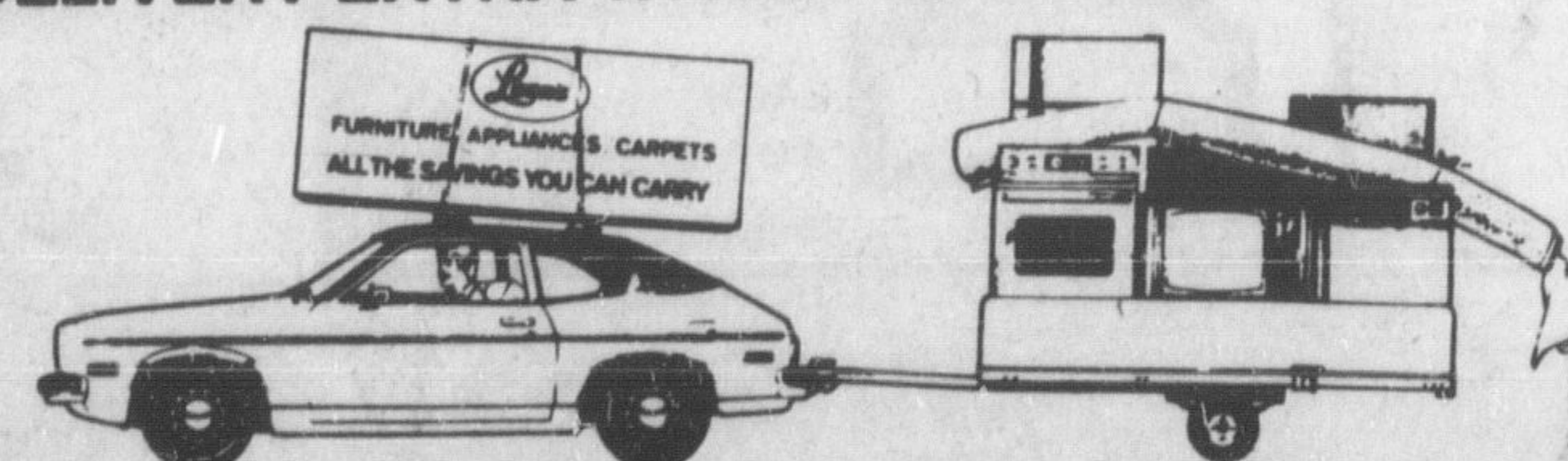


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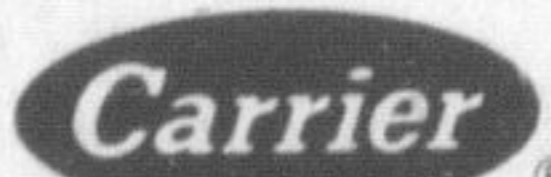
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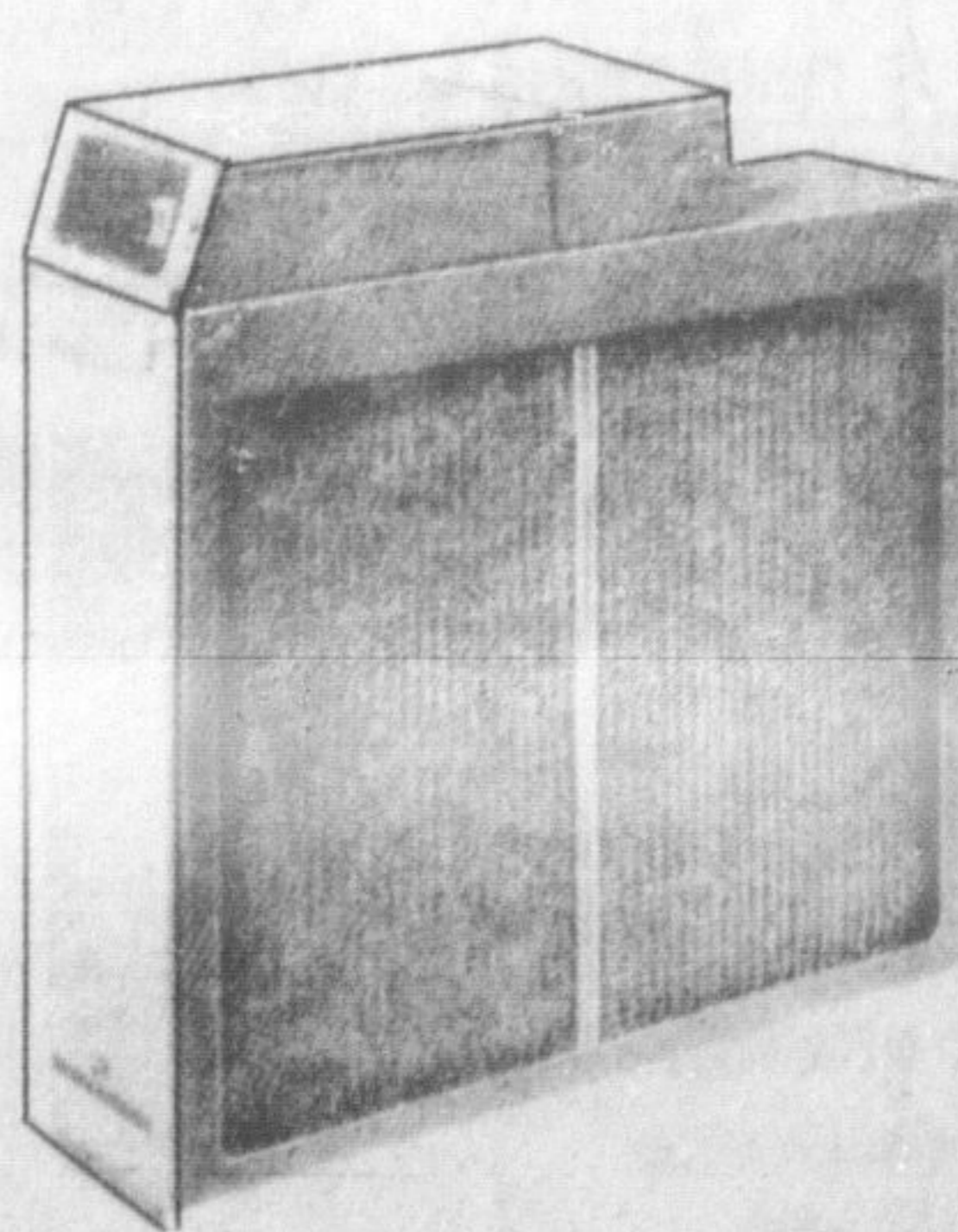
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