

ARTIST'S RENDERING OF RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

## Ronald McDonald House Local man organizes home with heart

By JANE MULLER  
Champion Reporter

Cancer—a word which goes hand in hand with grief and pain, especially when its victim is a child.

Special treatments, like those offered at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, can save some but, in order to treat this dreaded disease, children and their families travel many miles to this facility with a world-wide reputation.

But where do they stay while children go through radiation and chemotherapy?

Those who can afford Toronto hotel prices have that alternative, but until Ronald McDonald House was completed in April 1981, many families lived in hospital lobbies and waiting rooms while children received treatment.

For \$5 a night (a fee charged only if the family can afford it) Ronald McDonald House provides a home-away-from-home where families in a similar situation provide support for one another.

The red brick Victorian-style home has 24 bedrooms and was inspired by several facilities of the same kind and name in the United States. The person responsible for bringing the idea to Canada is Richmond Chandler, owner of McDonald's restaurants in Milton and Georgetown.

A tour of the second such facility in the United States (in Chicago) sparked the idea for a Canadian counterpart and the Hospital for Sick Children seemed an obvious place to start, Mr. Chandler reasoned.

"I came back here and approached the Hospital for Sick Children to see if there was a need and they decided there was," Mr. Chandler says.

A survey showed 80 per cent of the children at that hospital were from out of town. Since Ronald McDonald House opened almost a year ago, literally hundreds of young cancer patients and their families have passed through its doors.

Mr. Chandler describes McDonald's as a catalyst in the project, as the restaurant chain provided initial start-up funds and continues to support the facility. The name of the house offers the clown connotation for children as well as recognizes the initial contributing corporation.

"There have been fund-raisers in other areas. Tens of thousands of others have made donations from children's pop bottle drives to large corporations," explains Mr. Chandler.

The house is actually administered by a non-profit organization called Children Oncology Care of Ontario (COCO), with a 10-member board of

directors. Mr. Chandler no longer serves on the volunteer board but is still active in fundraising. He admits the children's suffering has left a "big hole in him."

Mr. Chandler suggests the McDonald's restaurant chain is simply acting as a good corporate citizen in its involvement with Ronald McDonald House.

"We would be delighted if any other large corporation would do the same sort of thing. First, it helps everybody and second, it's a service not being offered," says Mr. Chandler.

He contends if corporations don't provide some of these special needs services, then they would eventually have to be taken from the public purse. The COCO organization would have to turn to government, which has a history of being more expensive and less effective than volunteer boards of directors.

The house is currently directed by doctors, parents who have lost children through cancer and two McDonald's restaurant representatives.

Anywhere from 11 to 20 families use the house on a regular basis, according to Mr. Chandler. The status of cases and the family involved is reviewed on a monthly basis by a special committee. As treatment periods at the hospital vary, so do stays at Ronald McDonald House.

"Although there is no definitive cure for cancer the remission rate is incredible. About 50 to 60 per cent of the children are in remission and tremendous strides are being made by using a combination of treatments," says Mr. Chandler.

He describes Ronald McDonald House not like a hotel but like a home run by a manager who is "just a concerned human being."

"There are others at the house going through the same agony to lean on. Seeing some of the kids on the mend gives hope and conciliation," he adds.

The 31 rooms of Ronald McDonald House were furnished and decorated by a different interior designer. These professionals donated their expertise, furnishings and trimmings in return for a chance to promote themselves through a fund raising open house prior to the opening of Ronald McDonald House.

The kitchen reinforces the idea of the different families sharing their experiences with each other to aid them through the trauma of having a child with cancer. If families plan a long stay, they bring their own food, otherwise emergency food stocks donated by food manufacturing companies are available.

## Calendars sold to help house

By JANE MULLER  
Champion Reporter

If houses had hearts then Ronald McDonald House in Toronto would have the biggest, but good-will does not pay the bills.

The 31-room Victorian-style house located within walking distance of the Hospital for Sick Children offers shelter to young cancer patients and their parents during treatment periods. Funds which keep the house operating come from thousands of sources, one of which is its founding organization, McDonald's restaurants.

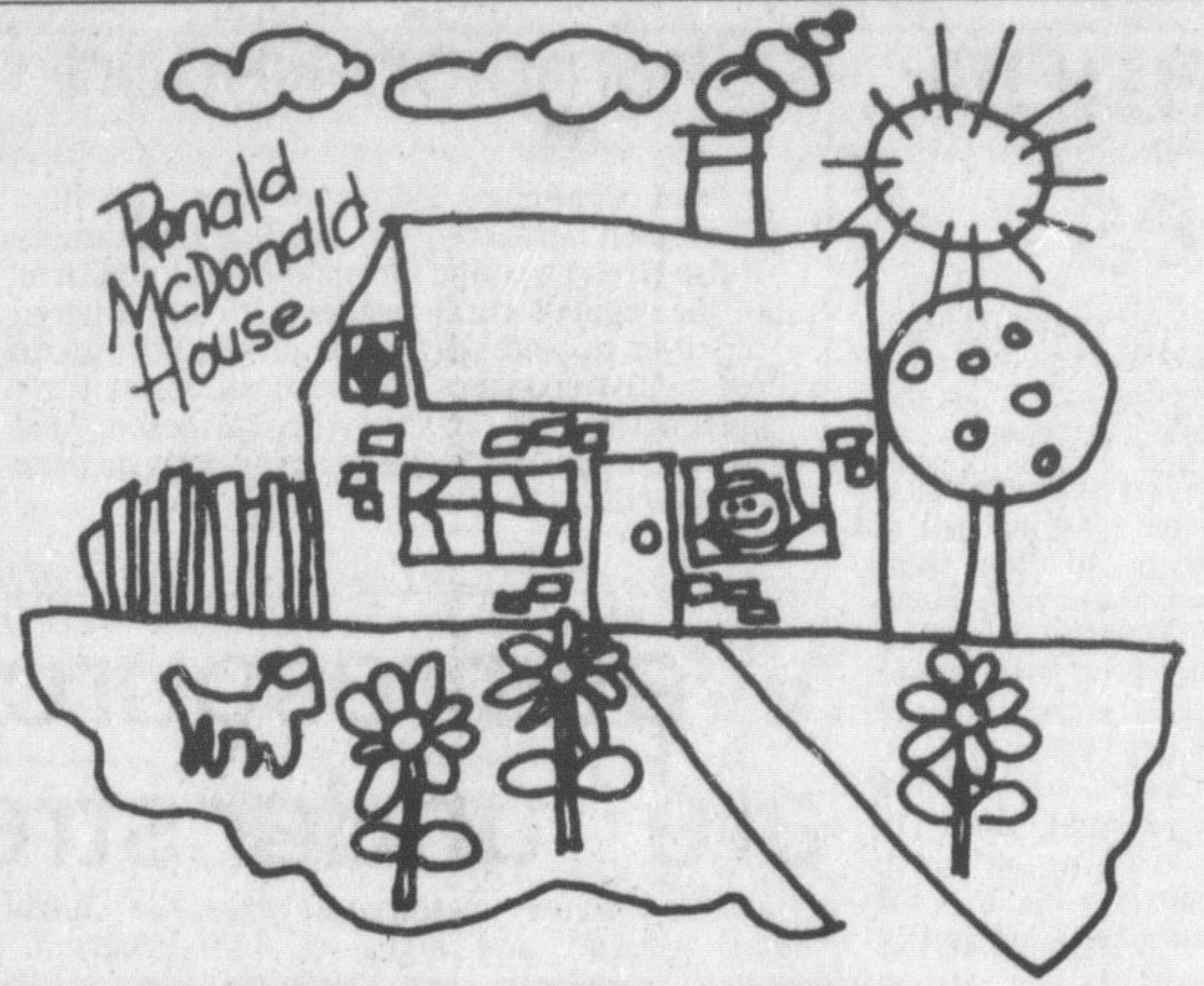
The restaurants are selling Ronald McDonald calendars for 75 cents (their value is \$6) throughout the Christmas season to help support the facility. For those who do not visit McDonald's during this time, Bob Stanley, a Milton resident, will be selling the calendars door-to-door in town with the help of friends and relatives.

"A lot of people are touched by what we do," says Richmond Chandler, owner of the local restaurant and the Georgetown location. "Mr. Stanley has taken an interest," he adds.

Mr. Stanley has already sold 100 calendars and expects to sell many more. Contacts in local businesses will be distributing the fundraising calendars to fellow employees in a further effort to increase sales.



BOB STANLEY



CHILD'S DRAWING OF RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

## RHOSP

Deadline for contributions: December 31, 1981

**16%**  
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per year  
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## The Milton Downtown Merchants 1981 Christmas Shopping Hours

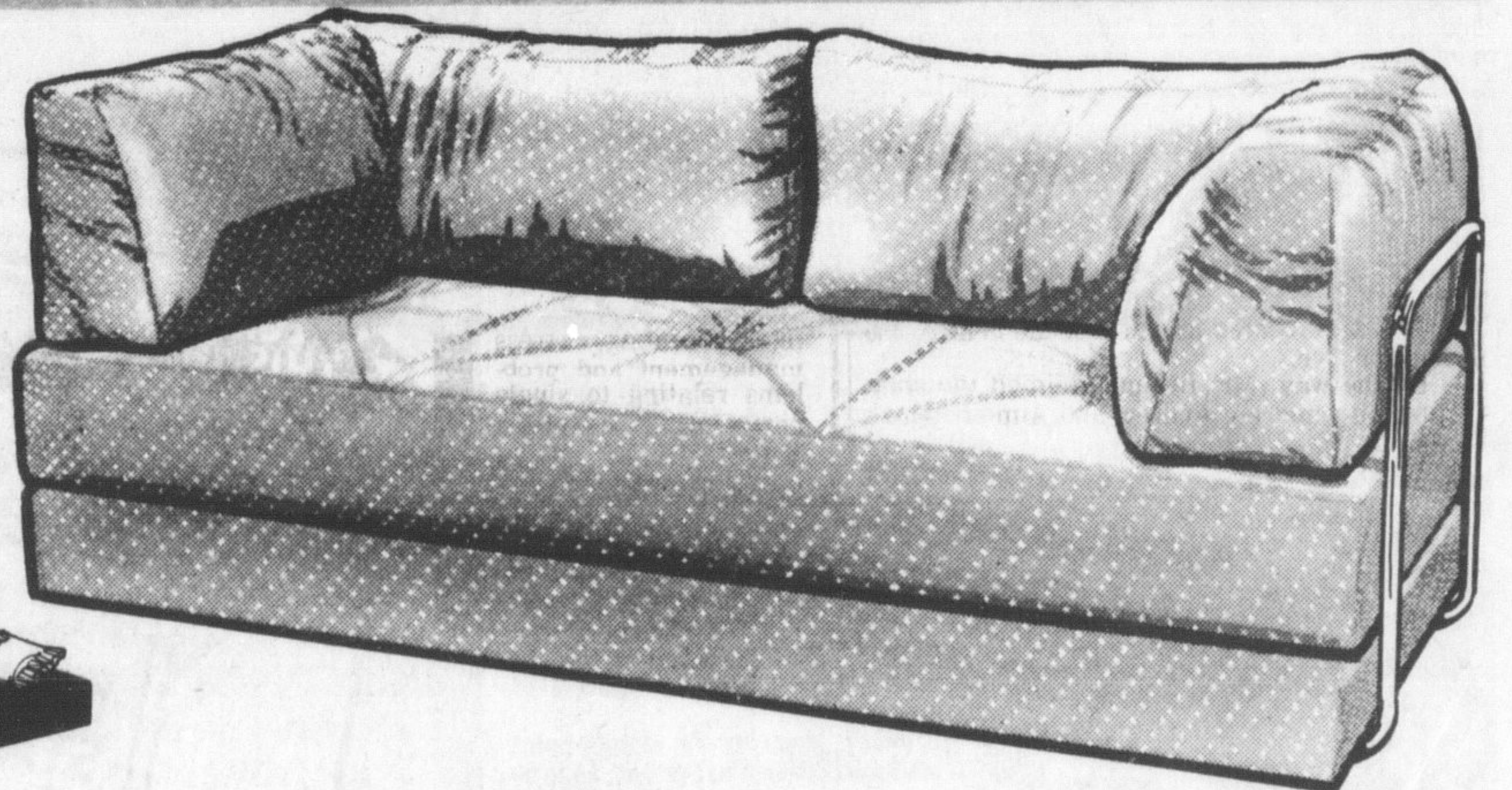
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>7</b> 9 p.m.	<b>8</b> 9 p.m.	<b>9</b> 9 p.m.	<b>10</b> 9 p.m.	<b>11</b> 9 p.m.	<b>12</b> 6 p.m.
<b>14</b> 9 p.m.	<b>15</b> 9 p.m.	<b>16</b> 9 p.m.	<b>17</b> 9 p.m.	<b>18</b> 9 p.m.	<b>19</b> 6 p.m.
<b>21</b> 9 p.m.	<b>22</b> 9 p.m.	<b>23</b> 9 p.m.	<b>24</b> 6 p.m.	<b>25</b> CLOSED	<b>26</b> CLOSED

The Above Schedule Will Continue Through Till Christmas

\*Only a few merchants have elected not to stay open these extra Christmas shopping hours. You will find most of us open and happy to serve you and help you with convenient lay-aways, gift wrapping (if requested), all the things to make Christmas shopping a pleasure.



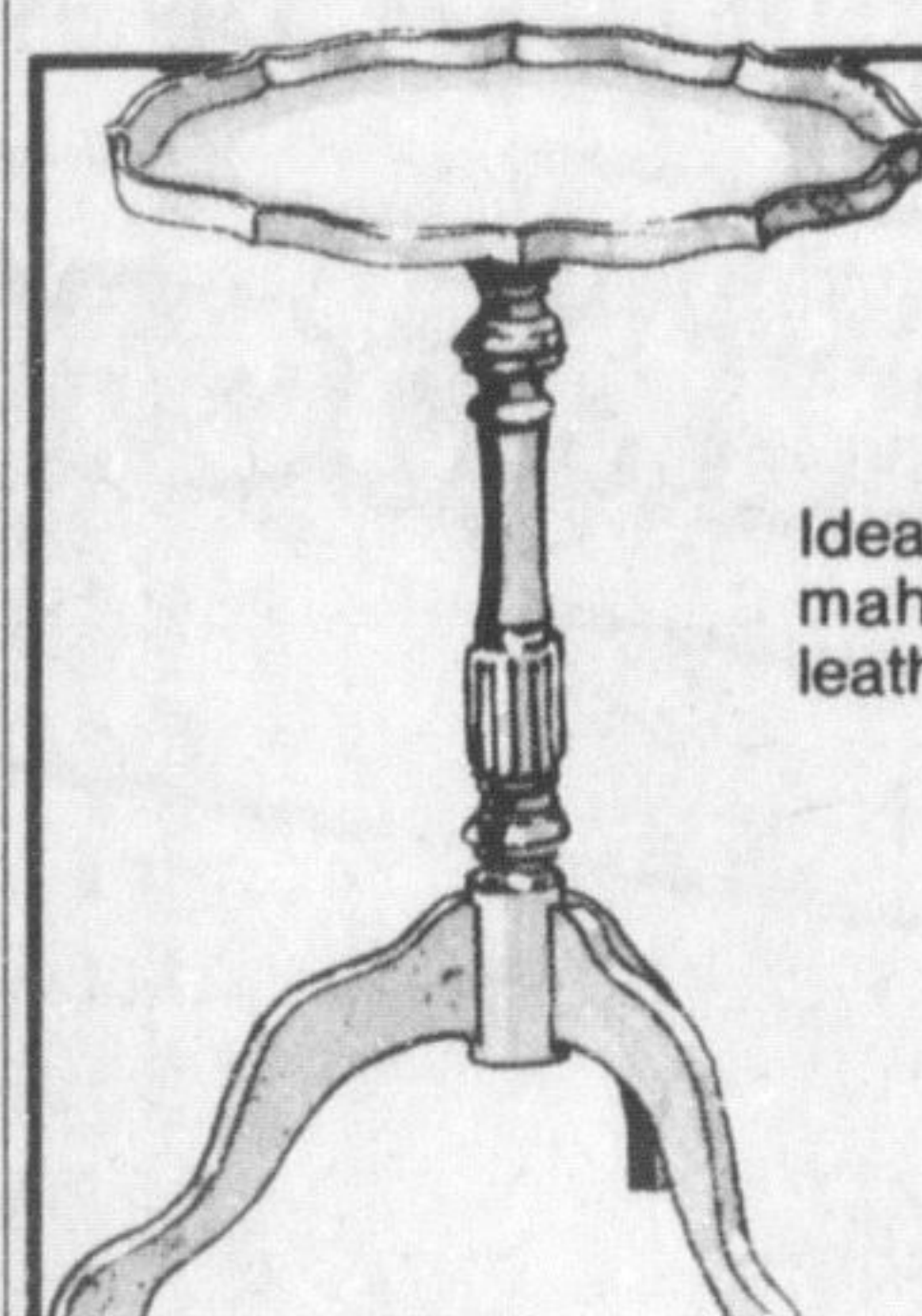
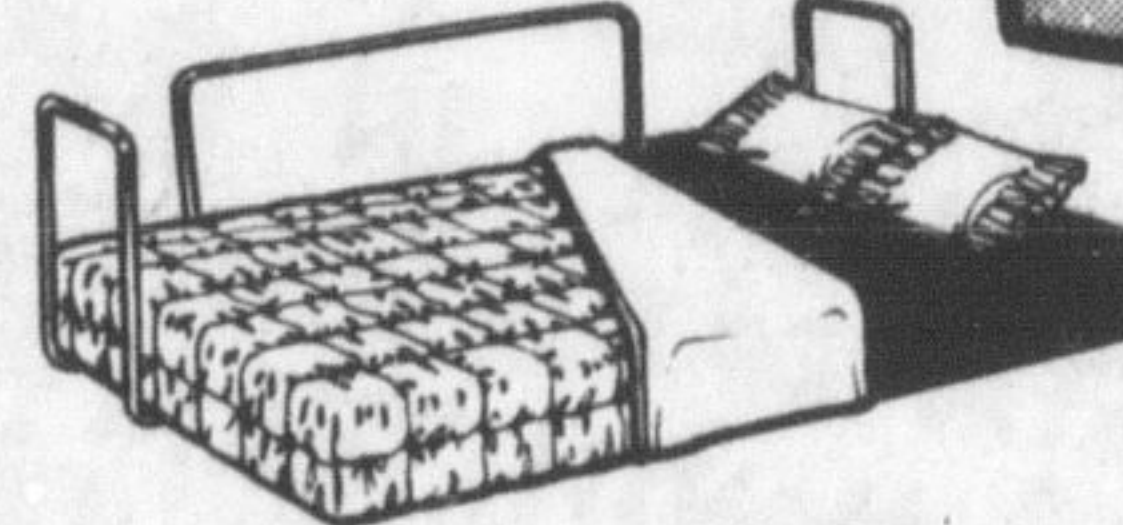
## best of the Season



### CONTEMPORARY LUXURY LOUNGER

Cleverly designed lounge sofa makes into a comfortable double bed, with massive 64" x 73" sleeping surface. Smart polka dot cover in blue or brown, top stitched to fibre fill wrap and centre buttoned. Double slab foam rests on wood base.

**\$228**



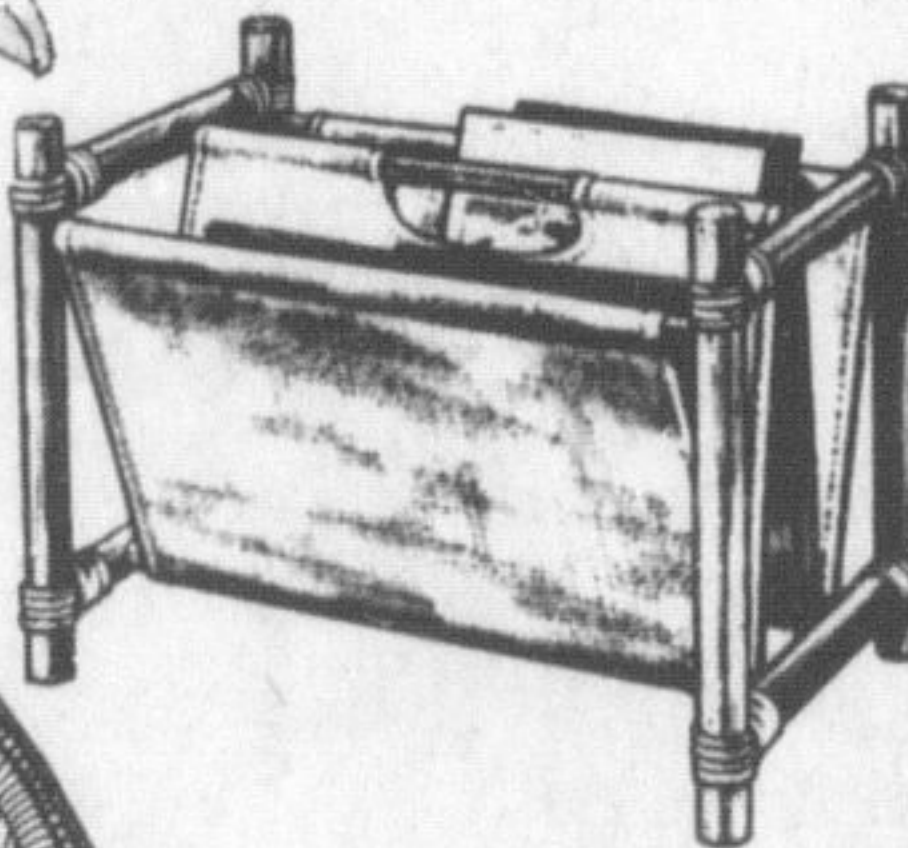
### ENGLISH WINE TABLES

Ideal for any setting. Rich mahogany finish. Inlaid leather-look top.

**\$1380**

Wicker and rattan Magazine Racks  
19 1/2" x 11 1/2" x 15"

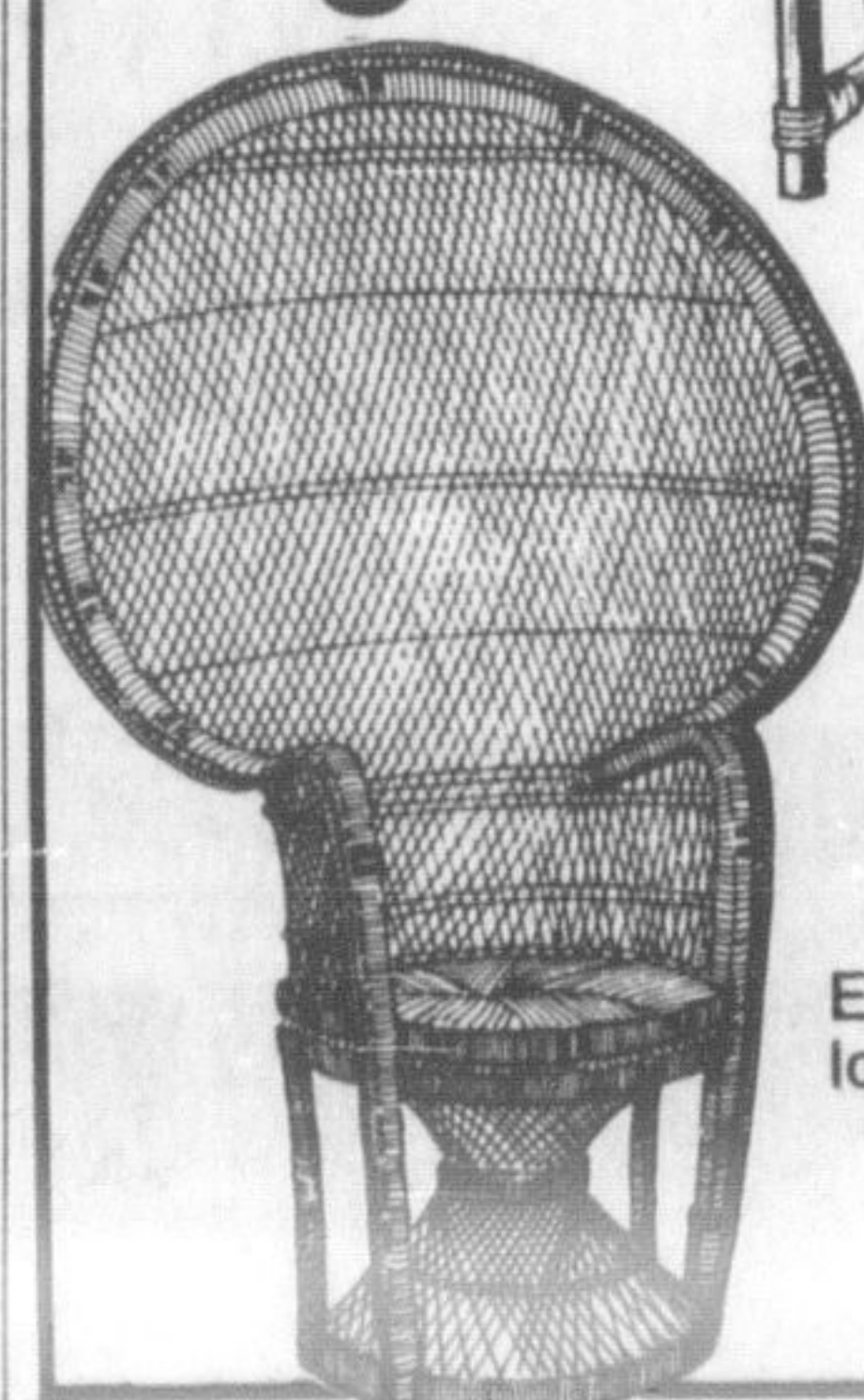
**\$980**



Natural wicker Peacock chair

Extra large 54 inches high. Ideal for any room setting.

**\$4997**

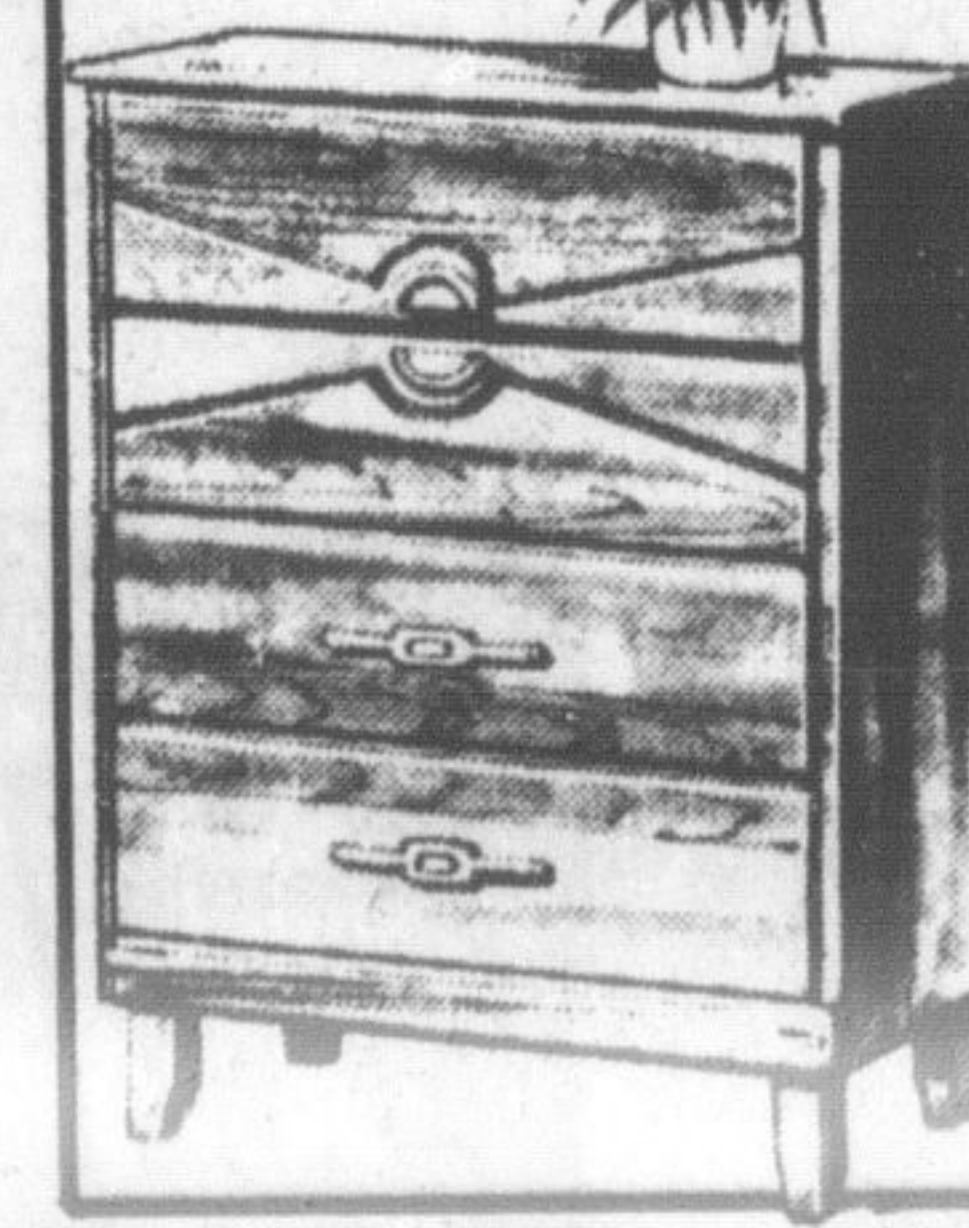


### Swivel top Coat rack

A full 72" high with a rich walnut wood on lamin hardwood.

**\$1988**

Hanging Planters  
**\$588**



### Bedroom chest

Walnut finish. Four drawers. Brass finished handles.

**\$5888**

### Folding Tea Carts

Chrome frames. Ball casters. 27" x 16" x 27" high. Mar resistant Walnut finished tops. Tray size 24" x 16"

**\$2500**

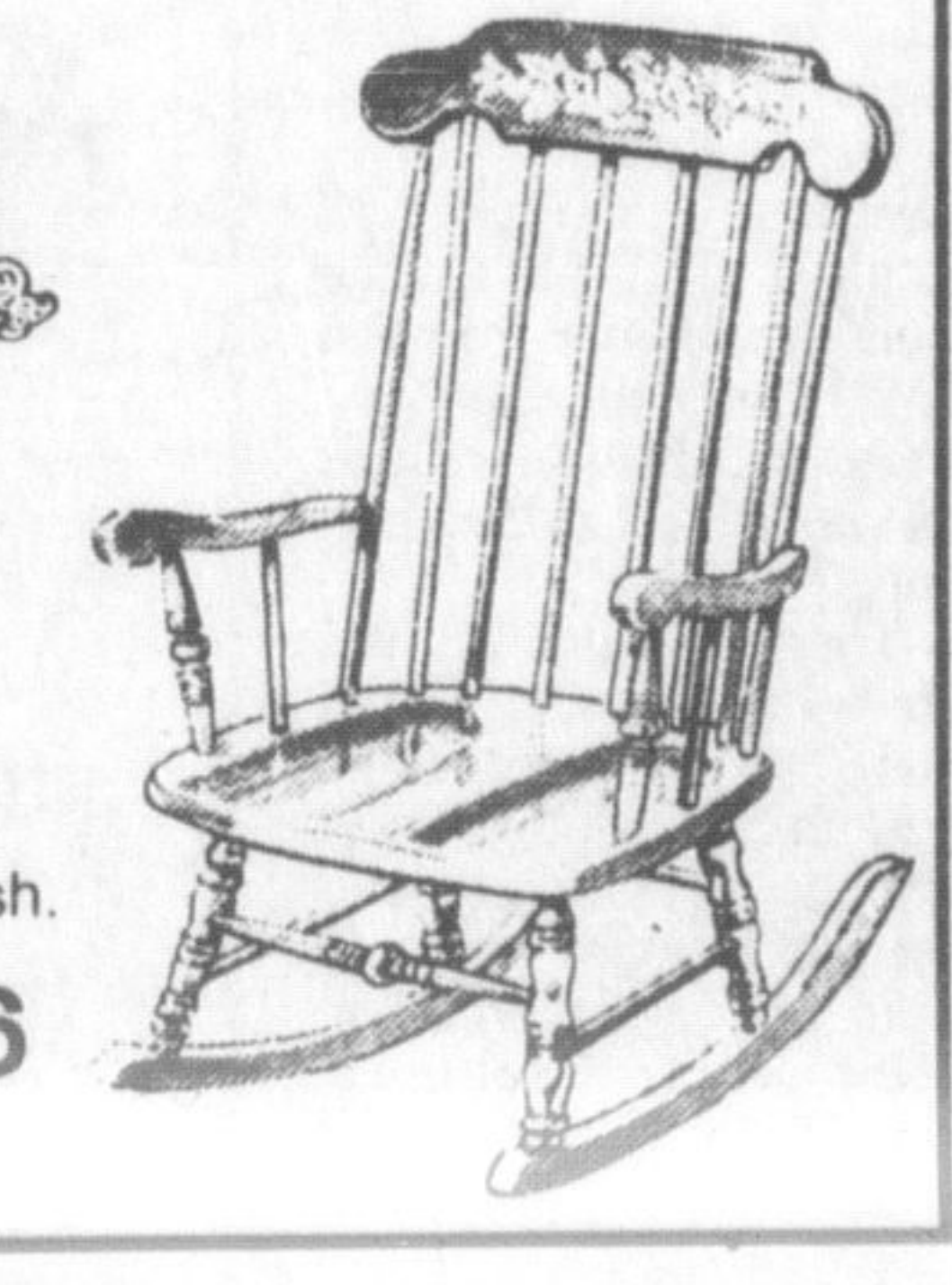


Marble top tables  
Brass finished base. 15" wide 21" high.

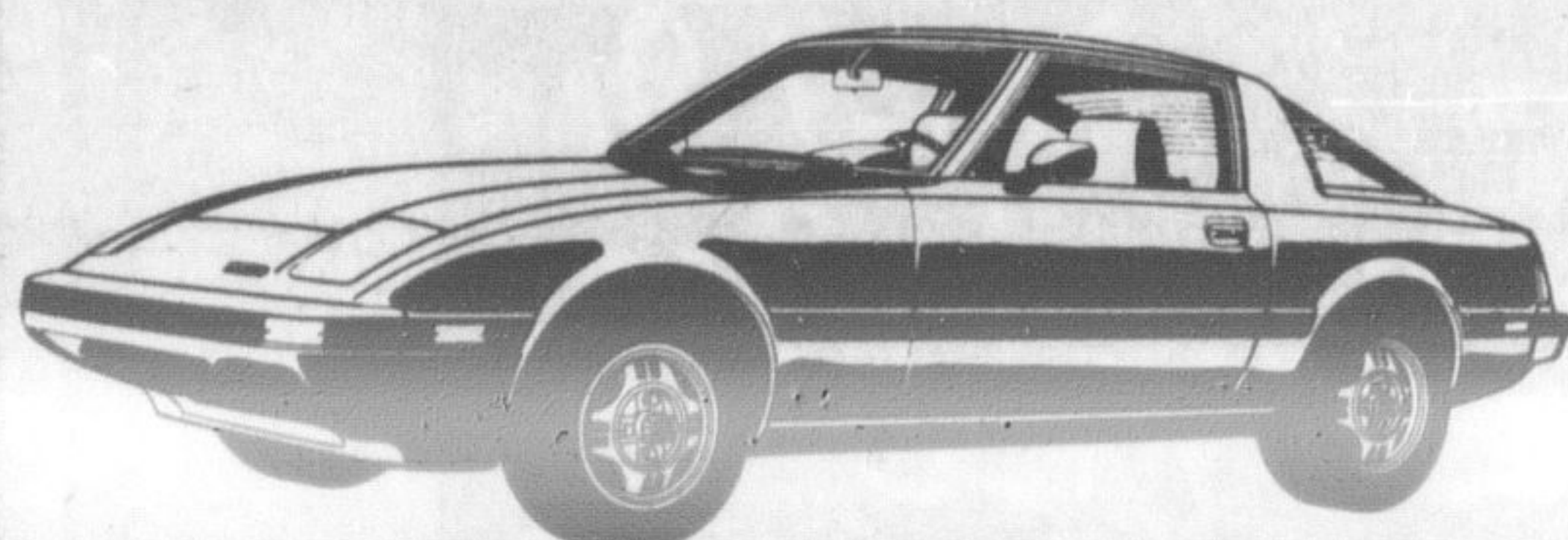
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Boston rocker  
Solid wood construction. Antique maple finish.

**\$4886**



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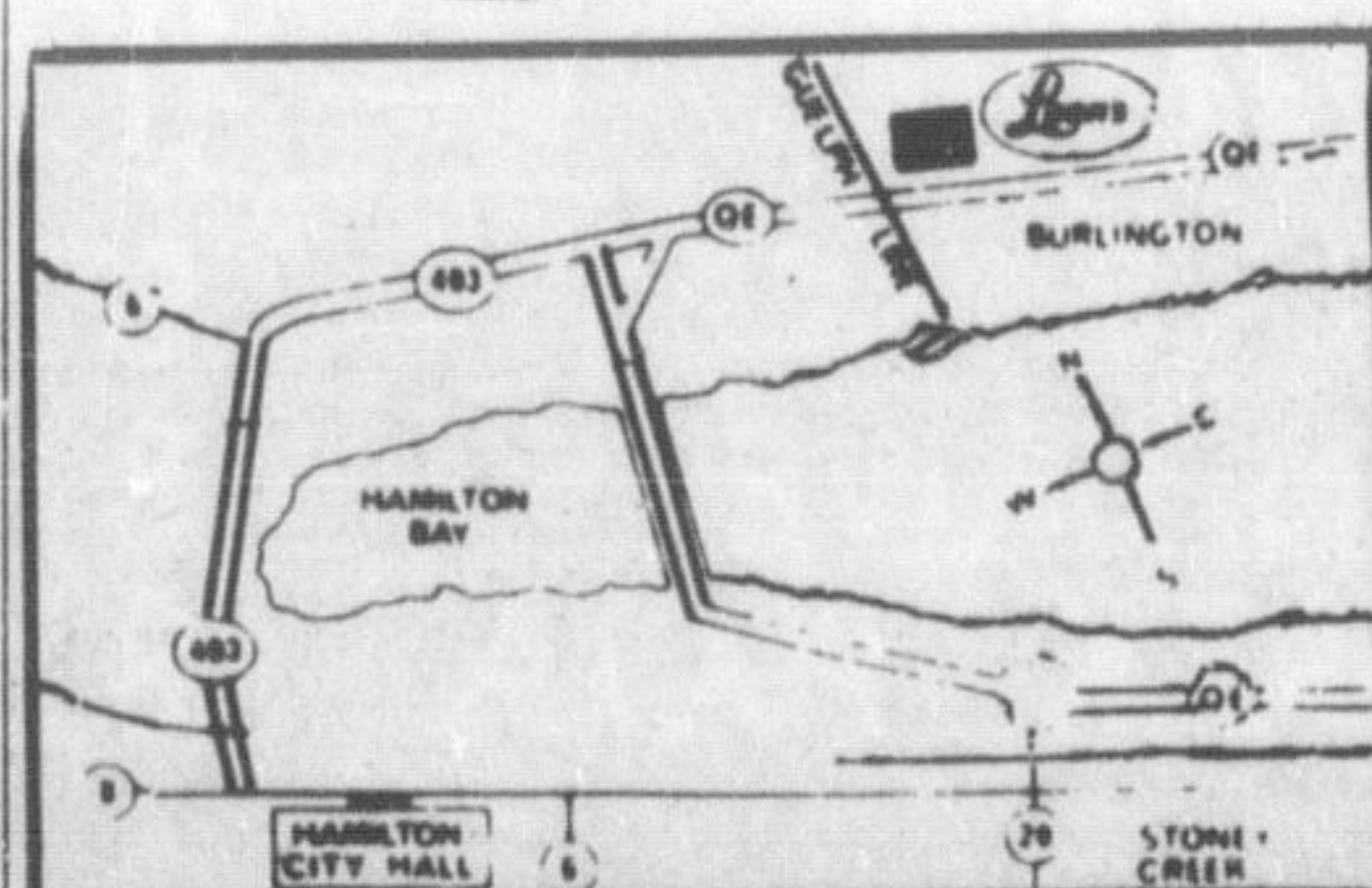


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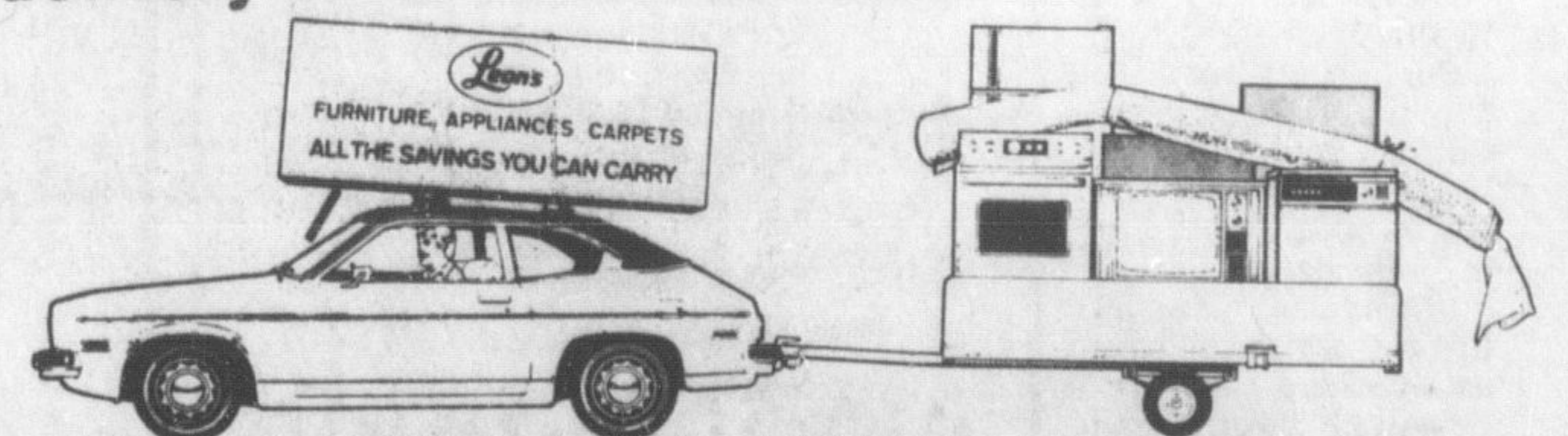
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