

Frank Vickers — Penetanguishene's fascinating, interesting magician

by Tom Grand
Frank Vickers — a thoroughly fascinating magician, a warm and terribly interesting person who has the ability to keep people spellbound for hours whether it be with magic or simple conversation.

Add to the above description that he is also a frustrated hypnotist who firmly believes that he has the power to use his hypnotic talents to cure people of nearly any disease, mental or physical — anything ranging from mild psychological hangups to a vicious cancer.

With the addition of Vicker's hypnotic claims, the image of the former president of the Ottawa Society of Magicians who now makes his home in Penetanguishene, suddenly changes. Instead of the kindly 71-year-old gentleman who does those funny tricks, like pulling rabbits out of hats and making coins disappear before your very eyes, he becomes at best a tired old fool, at worst, a man who insults the intelligence of the members of the medical profession.

Everyone likes to see a good magician perform, and Frank is not only a good magician, he's probably one of the very best. He should be. He's been working on his tricks for the past 49 years and even today the hands are still remarkably swift and sure for a man six years past what's commonly considered the time for retirement. He still does the odd magic show, for the Catholic Women's League, senior citizens and the patients at Penetanguishene's Mental Health Centre. You'd think an old magician would be satisfied with that but not Frank Vickers. Hypnotism is where his real interest lies. Magic, he says, is a form of entertainment while hypnotism is a legitimate tool which can be used for curing people of practically any kind of disease.

What Vickers wants is a chance to practice what he preaches, to prove his brand of hypnotism really works. Above all he wants to help people with it.

That's where the problem arises. For while hypnotism is recognized as a legitimate tool for curing people, the extent of its effectiveness to date is relegated to diseases with a psychic origin, that is disorders which have a physical manifestation but which are caused by a troubled mind. Furthermore a law passed within the past

decade prevents anyone but doctors from practising hypnosis in Ontario according to Vickers.

It's a law which Vickers, who is not a doctor, holds nothing but scorn for. But it's a law nonetheless which effectively disbars him from practising a talent he claims to have successfully used before its introduction.

Strangely enough, Vickers knows Frederick A. Evis, Q.C., M.D., who was the author of the law and who like Frank Vickers is a member of the Canadian Society of Magicians. But while Evis will and has written to Vickers asking for a magical trick, at the same time suggesting they get together to talk over the medical

potential of hypnotism — the law remains the same and a man who believes he could help sick people is prevented from doing so.

"I'm in a position where I could help many people if I could get a doctor to work with me," Vickers says of his hypnotic abilities, "but they're all scared, every one of them. They're scared to go against the general attitudes of the medical profession."

But while the law of the land prevents Vickers from using hypnotism on others, there's nothing, he says, which prevents him from hypnotising himself. That's what he's done and what he will continue to do. "This coming winter I'll be in the midst of a vast hypnotic experiment on myself," Vickers says.

While he didn't really mention specifically what the experiment would be

for, Vickers claims to have already cured himself of a 20-year-old ulcer problem by using self-hypnosis. He also says that he and a doctor in Ottawa worked together to cure three other people prior to the passing of the law restricting the practice of hypnotism to doctors.

The secret of hypnotism he says, is to put together the right induction for a specific mental or physical disorder. "During the past year I've put together an induction of the right type" for an ulcer which used to bother me. "I've cured myself. I never felt better then now," Vickers says of what he claims was a successful self-hypnotic treatment of his ulcer problem.

"Now I'm working on a tape (he records his hypnotic inductions) which will take anybody out of trouble if the person has good logical

reasoning," Vickers claims.

Walking a plank under two different conditions provides a perfect example of how hypnotism works. If a plank, 32 feet long and 12 inches wide, was placed on the ground most people could walk along it from one end to the other without falling off Vickers says. But when you put that plank 500 feet up in the air so that it bridges two buildings you have a different story. Vickers bets that most people would acquire a sudden uncontrollable case of the shakes and be unable to even approach the plank. The same kind of self-induced fear, he believes, causes older people to convince themselves that they can not learn how to drive a car.

Vickers believes that this detrimental type of hypnotism is used quite often in everyday life. What he wants to do is to

have the right to practice his positive form of hypnotism.

Most of the time Vickers says he would use the fascination method to hypnotise his subjects. What that means is that he would simply use the power of his persuasive eyes and voice along with some good old fashioned magic to convince a person that he has the power to hypnotize them.

This is what Vickers did when he hypnotized a person into believing a perfectly ordinary rubber tipped pencil was a rod with a tip as hot as a soldering iron. When the subject, under Vickers' direction, lightly touched his arm with the pencil, he immediately jerked back the arm with a cry of pain just as if he had been burned. Within ten minutes a water blister had formed at the point where the subject had touched his arm with a perfectly ordinary pencil.

How did this happen? For Frank Vickers the explanation is simple. The subject accepted the hypnotic induction and believed the object he was holding had a burning tip. When he touched his arm with the pencil (red hot rod) he acted as if he really had been burned. The water blister formed because that's the body's natural reaction to fight a burn. The same sort of natural defenses can be summoned to deal with other physical and mental disorders such as cancer, Vickers says.

An eccentric or a genius? Frank Vickers readily admits that most people will take the former attitude, but "I could back up my statements if I was given a chance," he insists. What he wants to do is to be allowed to work on a person who doctors say is going to die and who therefore has nothing to lose by trying hypnotism.

Under the present law that's impossible. Instead Vickers will be left to practice hypnotism on himself; to reading the occasional articles in papers like the Toronto Star which claim the use of hypnotism by doctors is increasing and to glancing through the Toronto telephone directory at the growing list of practicing hypnotist-physicians.

Whether or not Vickers is ever able to legally practise hypnotism on others again, he vows, "I'm going to keep myself in good health" through self-hypnotism. "The doctors are going to starve if they're waiting for me."

If the "If only's" were ever to come true what Vickers would like is, "a chance to talk to (and possibly work with) a doctor interested in hypnotism. I'd like to be able to pass along what I have to help some people."



Frank Vickers

Photography popular

Photographic equipment is expensive; too expensive not to be used properly. A good picture is worth 1,000 words. Bad pictures are costly in terms of disappointment and money.

Georgian College Summer School of the Arts will offer residents and visiting area shutter bugs an opportunity to improve their technique through a variety of short-term courses in photography.

Instruction is available for beginners and accomplished photographers and will range from basic black and white photography to in-depth pictorial colour photography workshops

with well-known Canadian photographer W.E. Budd Watson.

The morning, afternoon, and evening courses, ranging in length from four days to several weeks and varying considerably in cost, began in May and will continue through August in various locations including Midland, Barrie, Blue Mountain near Collingwood, Huntsville, Owen Sound and Parry Sound. A advance registration is required and since enrolment is limited, early registration is recommended.

For complete details on all courses, start dates, locations and fees, con-

tact the Summer School Co-ordinator in your area or Georgian College Summer School of the Arts, 401 Duckworth Street, Barrie, Ontario (705) 728-1951, Ext. 200-201.

Summer School photography courses are already underway in Barrie with George Drought, who is well known in the Georgian Bay Area and has taught photography at Georgian for several years. Mr. Drought's first course, Basic Photography, which concludes June 19, will be followed by Advanced Photography, June 24-July 31.

The compulsive collector



by Ray Baker

The collector

Being a compulsive reader I note with interest that somebody, somewhere, is making a fortune out of accumulated junk practically every week.

On that basis I should be a millionaire. \$50,000 worth of old baseball cards belongs to one man. Another one I read about simply puts in a bid by mail from a nearly non-existent description in an auction catalogue.

If he wins the bid the letters or whatever join his collection of historic documents, and increase in value.

Old comic books of the 40's and 50's are becoming collectors items. Should any of you gentle readers collect old bills, paid or unpaid (state second choice) please call, write, or phone 549-2167. You can have my collection.

An odd place

The Odd Copy Book Store in Penetanguishene is a classic example of the collectors art. The owners, Paul and Christine Rollinson work wonders. As an example Paul acquired for me a book that was not only out of print for fifteen years, but not even obtainable in England, where it was originally published.

The impossible takes two days longer. For nostalgia at its best browse around for a couple of hours, yes this is a plug. It does point out the increasing yearning for yesteryear which is rapidly covering the whole spectrum of possessions.

Ah yesteryear

1928 cars are selling at prices that Henry Ford never thought possible in his wildest dreams. Antique furniture is on the up and up (financially that is) early Canadian type red brick houses seldom hit the Real Estate market.

Hundreds of people are producing clothes from the turn of the century (or duplicates) for the up coming 'old home week' celebrating Penetanguishene's centennial.

I've even tried saving money to see if it

gets more valuable with passage of time, but haven't saved enough yet to find out. But there is hope, my wife says her entire wardrobe is so far out of date that it should be worth a fortune any day now.

My junk collection

And then there is my junk collection. This is not randomly acquired but painstakingly assembled with loving care over the years.

Here is the secret.

Each year the town has its 'Special pick up'. A super spring clean for all the residents. Except me and the boys.

The newspaper announces the great day and triggers off scenes of feverish activity. Everyone rushes around looking for junk to throw out. Me and the boys rush around hiding all our junk so Mom won't find it and throw it out.

Anyone saving junk could make an overnight fortune.

You could corner the market in mattresses with springs sticking out. Connoisseurs of broken bed frames (with or without headboards) would go into ecstasies at the selection suddenly appearing.

Christmas trees stored for five months re-appear for a brief moment of glory.

Sandwiched between a rusty barbecue, and a metal picnic table with only two legs are what's described in the best auction catalogues as 'Misc'.

'Misc' are the cream of the crap. Old books (Are you reading Paul Rollinson?) garden hoses with one hole too many. Pictures without frames, and pictureless frames. Running shoes that won't, lawn sprinklers that don't.

A 1936 singer

For the avid collector - a 1936 singer sewing machine with foot pedal. For the esoteric - a 1952 lawn boy minus engine. And the ultimate, for the person who has everything, ideal for the front garden - a plastic swan with the left eyeball missing.

My boys and I are old hands at this 'annual clean up'. A week before the event we leap into action. Comics are hidden under the bed (the boys hide their own) the basement workshop is given a cursory clean, giving the impression of more space. New hiding places are found for a million sea shells and an old fishing net from the Maritimes.

Carefully concealed are the busted patio lantern, the one legged chair and the toaster that can't pride of place is given to a bent skidoo ski until the clean up is over.

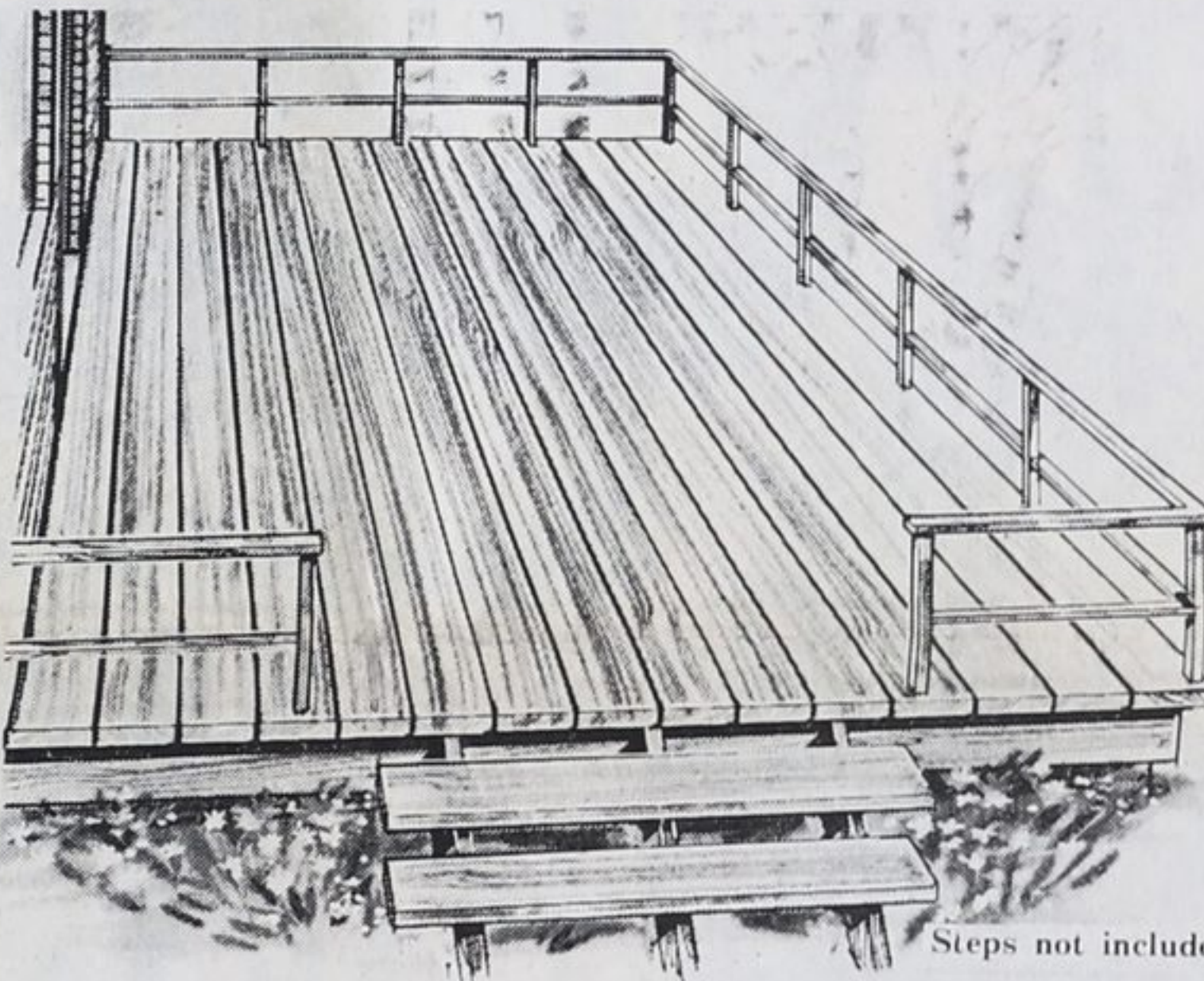
"How come," says mom "we are the only house in the street with nothing put out." A pile of rocks and some old lumber kept for the occasion are carefully produced. Saved for another year.

When all this junk and old bills become valuable I can retire. In the meantime...any offers??

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Cedar Lumber For Fencing

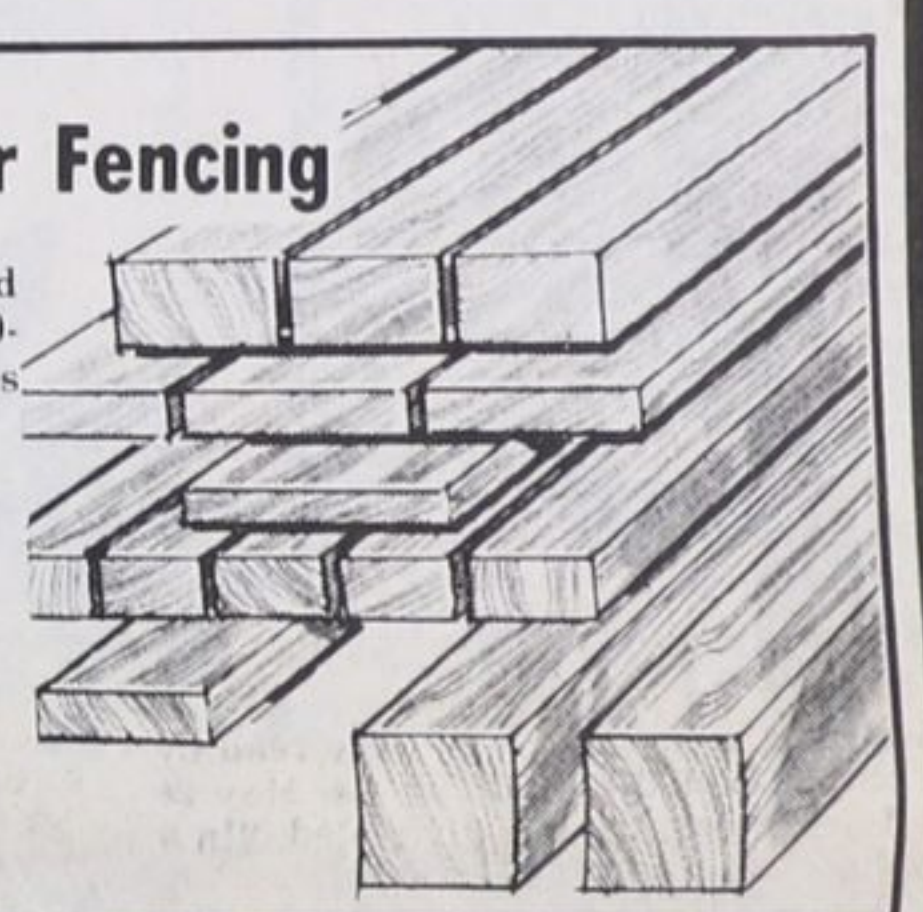
All tight knotted kiln dried cedar. Construction grade (20-25% Standard grade.) Prices are per linear foot.

2 x 4" 17 1/2¢

2 x 6" 34¢

1 x 6" 18¢

4 x 4" 45¢



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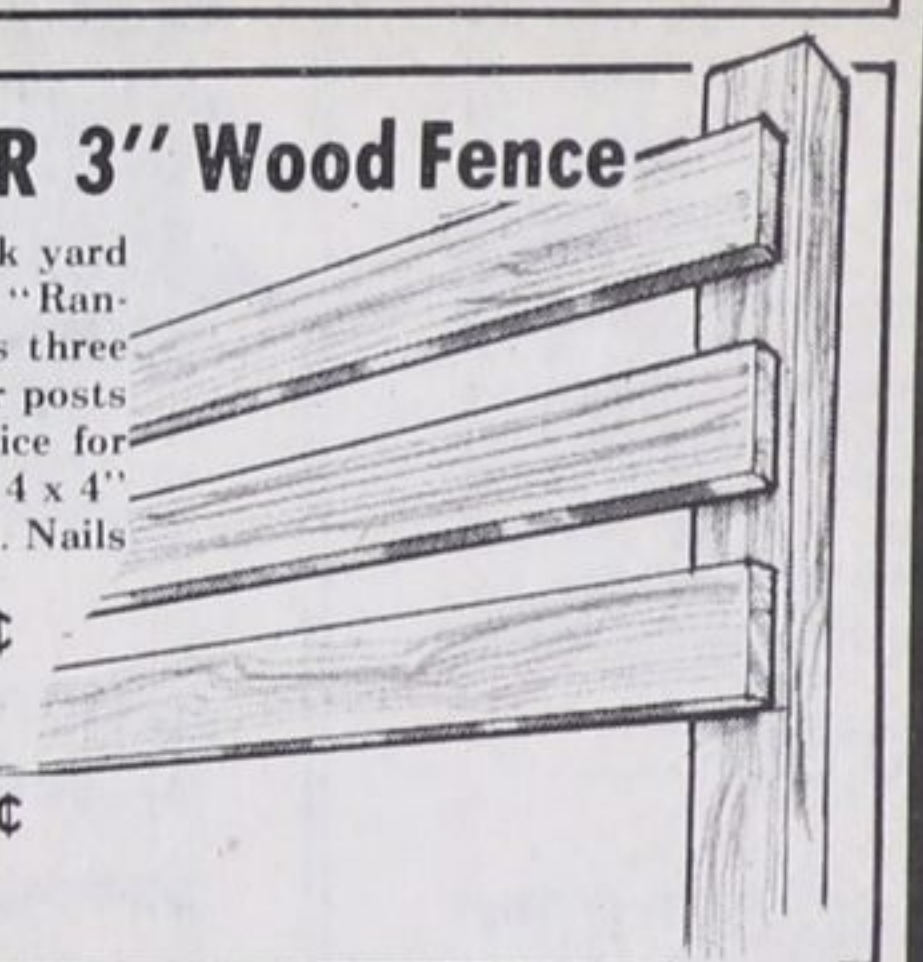
Improve the look of your back yard or lot with this economical "Rancher" style fence. The fence is three feet high and consists of cedar posts with cedar or spruce rails. Price for the "Rancher" is based on one 4 x 4" post and three 1 x 6" - 8" rails. Nails extra.

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CEDAR POST & RAILS

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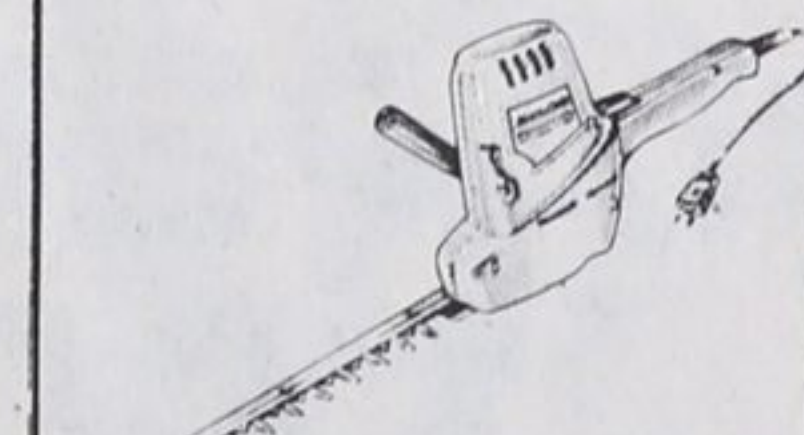
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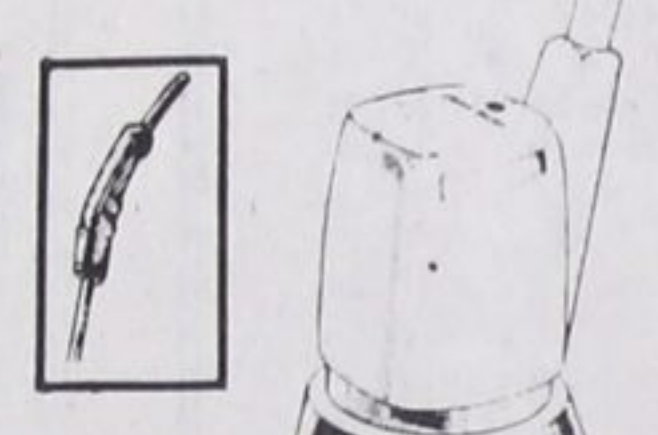
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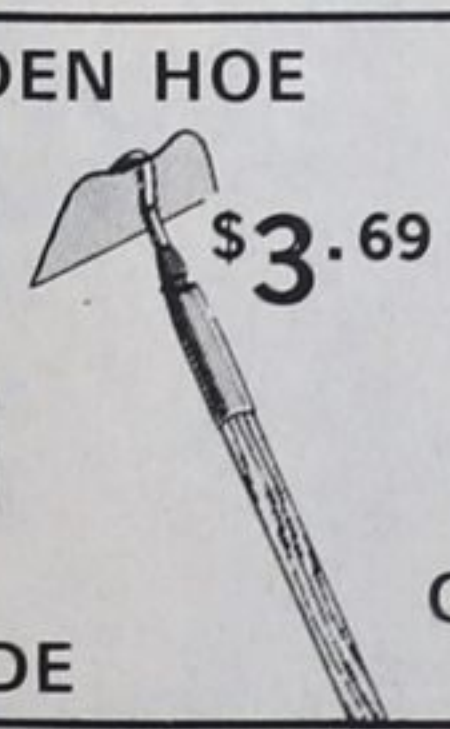
B&D Grass Trimmer

Trim around fences, patios, etc., with this trimmer that weighs only 2 lbs.! Complete with snap-on blade, full circle blade guard, instant release trigger switch and built in cord connector. Model no. 8200.

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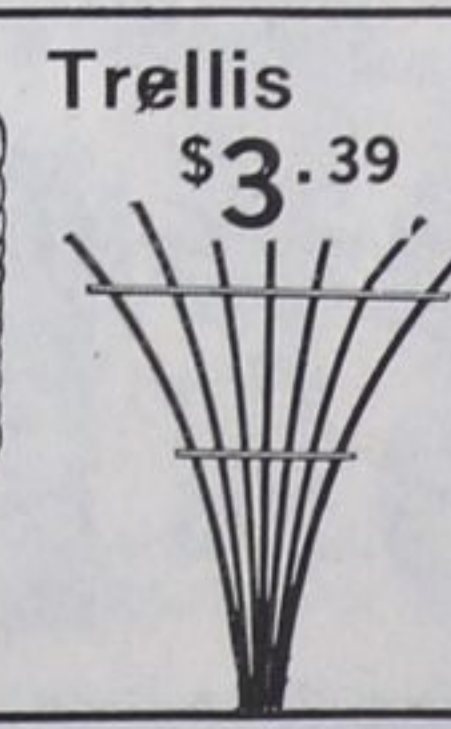
\$9.95 GARDEN SPADE



GARDEN HOE \$3.69



\$3.49 GARDEN HOSE



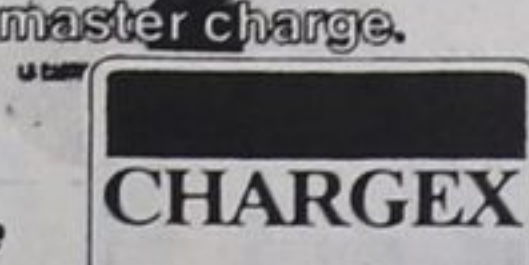
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