

Lady Baden-Powell a great loss

by Robin Nutbrown
Lady Baden-Powell, Chief Guide of the world and widow of the founder passed away peacefully in her sleep at 11.45 p.m., Saturday, June 25, 1977 at the nursing home near Guildford, England, where she has lived for the past three years.

In 1930, when she accepted the title of Chief Guide, she said, "I will do my best to help everybody everywhere".

In her more than 60 years of leadership in the two movements founded by her husband, she kept that promise.

When she was asked to help, she did, whether it meant a trip of thousands of miles by air or a few miles by car; sometimes to the detriment of her health and in most cases, at her own expense.

She served the youth of the world as she knew her husband would have wanted her to and was never happier than when she was surrounded by scouting and guiding people.

Many people ask, "who was she?" She was born Olave St. Clair Soames (her father expected a boy, who was to have been called Olaf, thus the first name, on February 22, 1889, the youngest of the three children of Harold and Kathleen Soames.

From her earliest days, she was a lover of the outdoors and many of her childhood hours were spent riding, rowing and walking, and in her later years, when the family moved to London, she became an accomplished skater.

She had no formal education and was taught at home by a series of governesses and tutors.

It was Harold Soames love of travel that eventually brought Olave and Robert Baden-Powell together.

Whether you believe in fate or not, it is hard to disregard the circumstances leading to the union of these two remarkable people, who could not have been better matched, despite the 32 years difference in their years.

They were married on October 30, 1912 in St. Peter's Church, Parkstone, Poole, England and were to share 28 happy and worthwhile years together.

Lady Baden-Powell was once asked by a reporter what her job in

guiding actually was and she replied: "my job is to bring the movement extra zeal and oomph. Really I should be called the Chief Oompher!"

In 1974, a combination of age and diabetes forced her to leave her apartment in Hampton Court and go into a nursing home.

Even here she kept up

with her correspondence on her typewriter and had to be watched to ensure that she did not stay up well after midnight, answering the large quality of mail

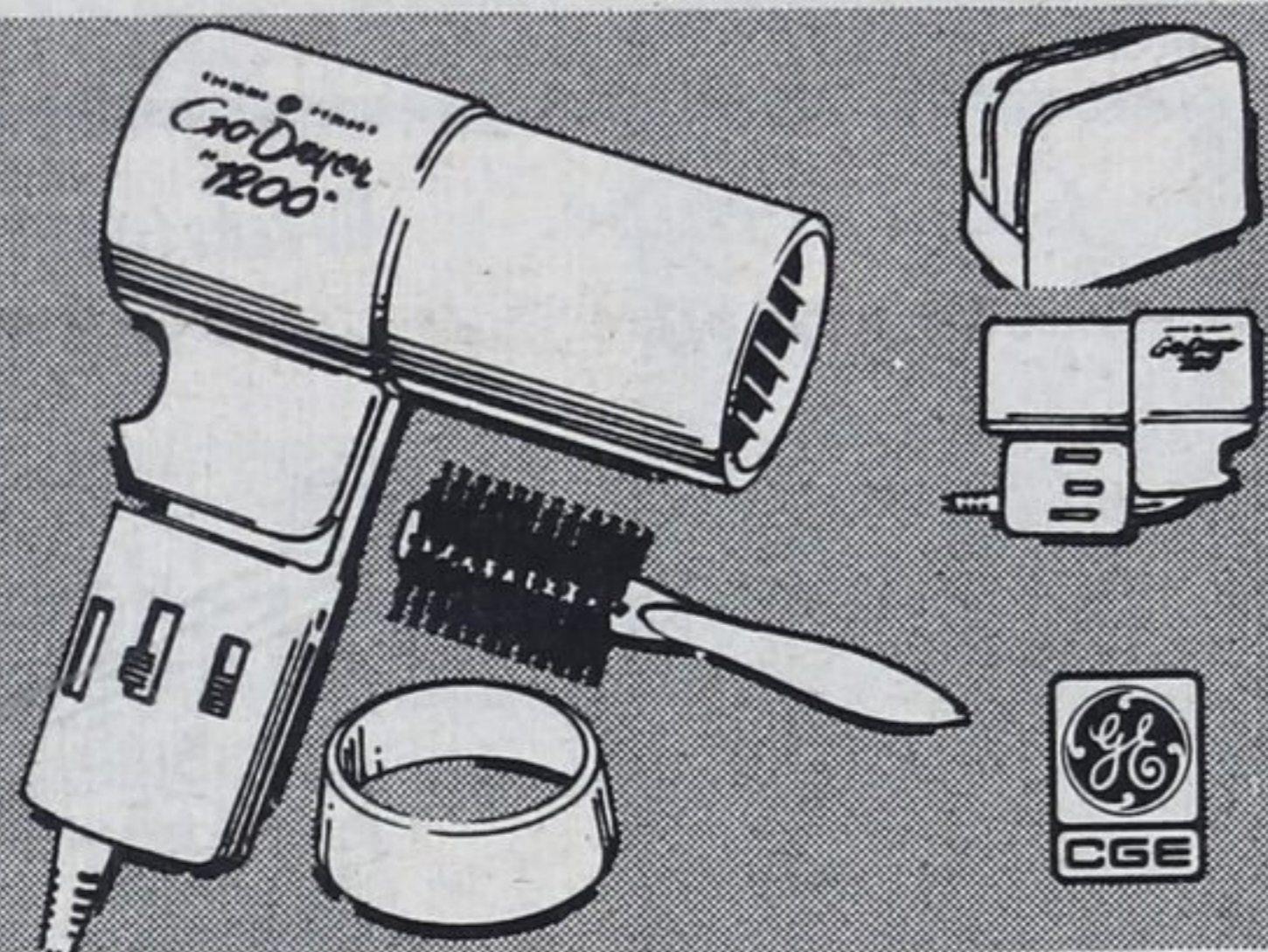
that she received daily. The world lost a great woman but her influence will live on, as will her husband's through scouting and guiding. Those who

were privileged to know her, are richer for it. A private family service was held in England following her death and her ashes were flown to Kenya to

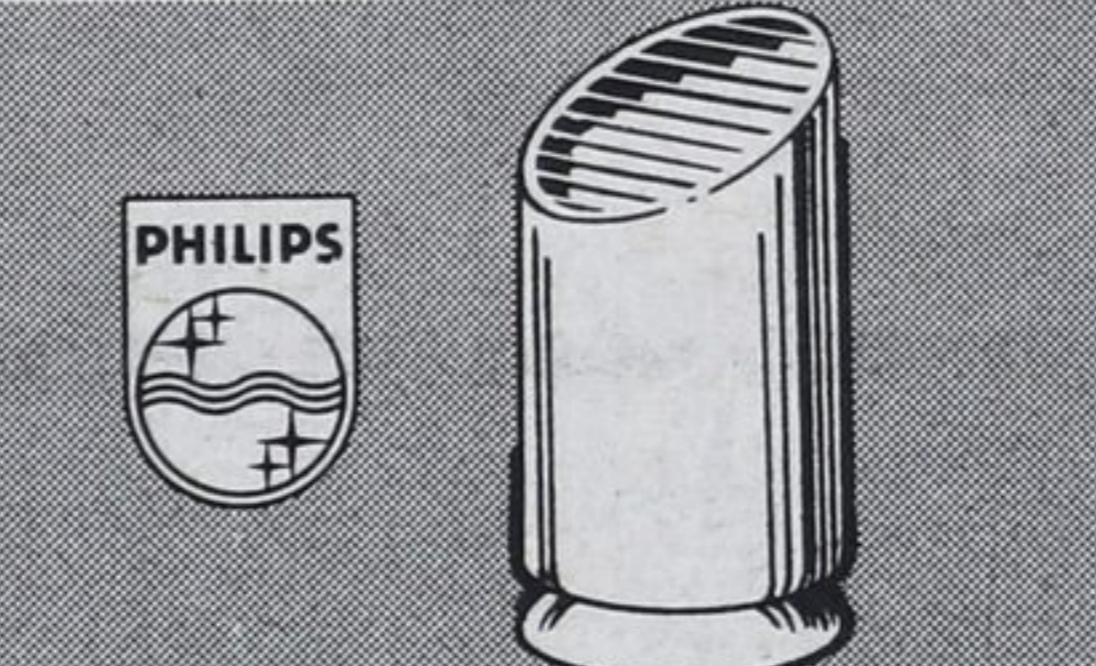
be buried with her beloved husband in the little cemetery at Nyeri, at the foot of Mount Kenya, in the Africa they both loved so much.

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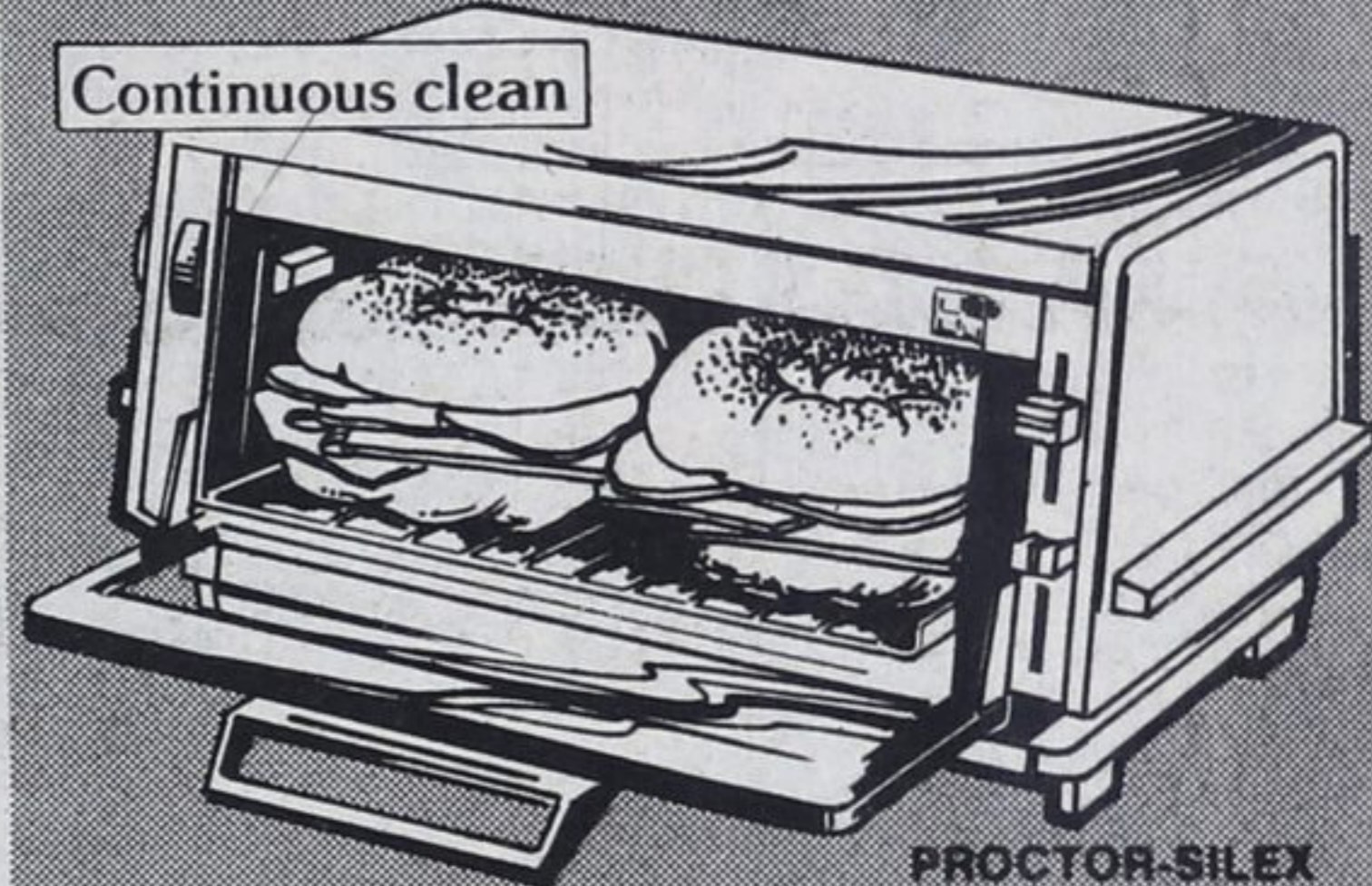
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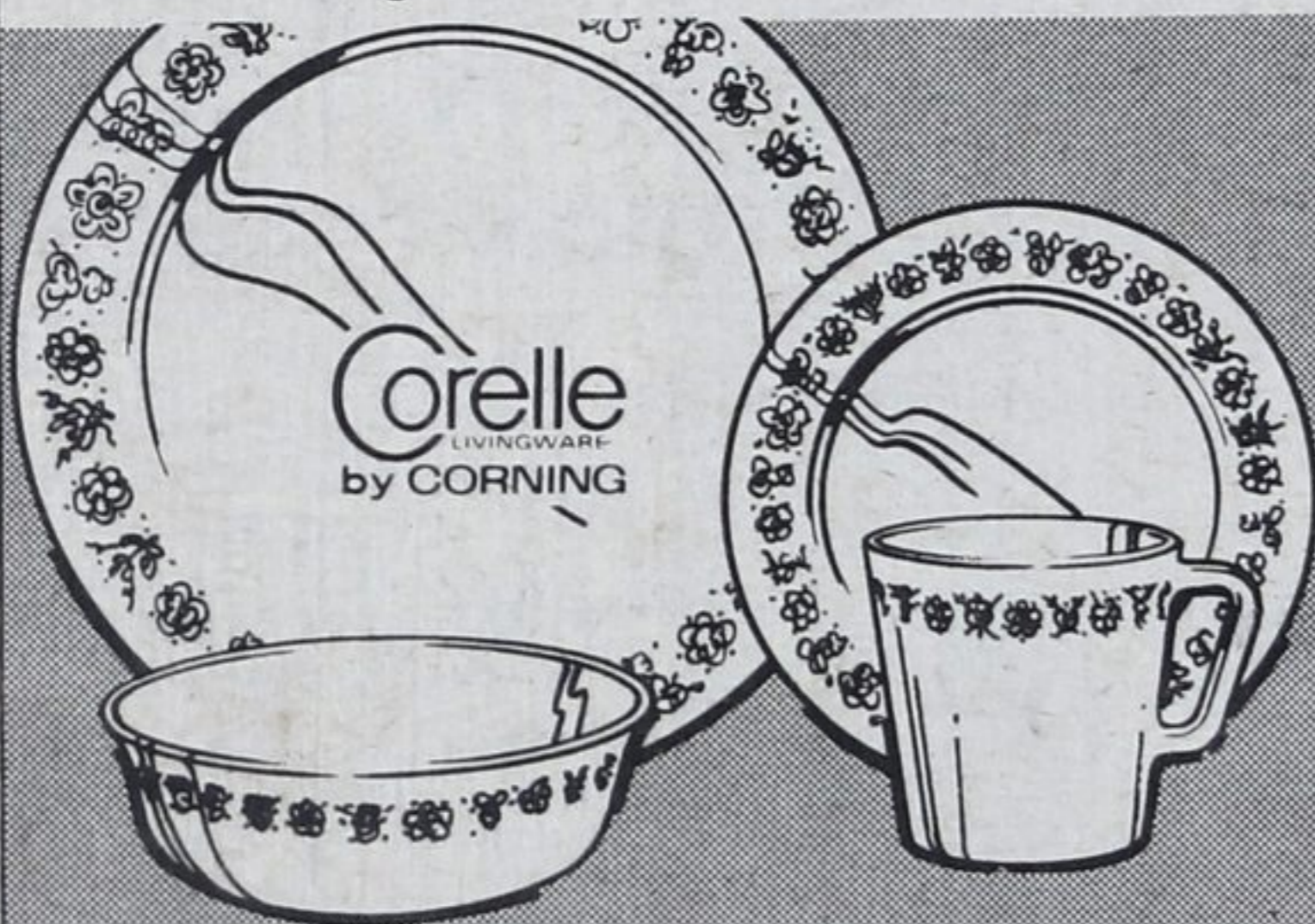
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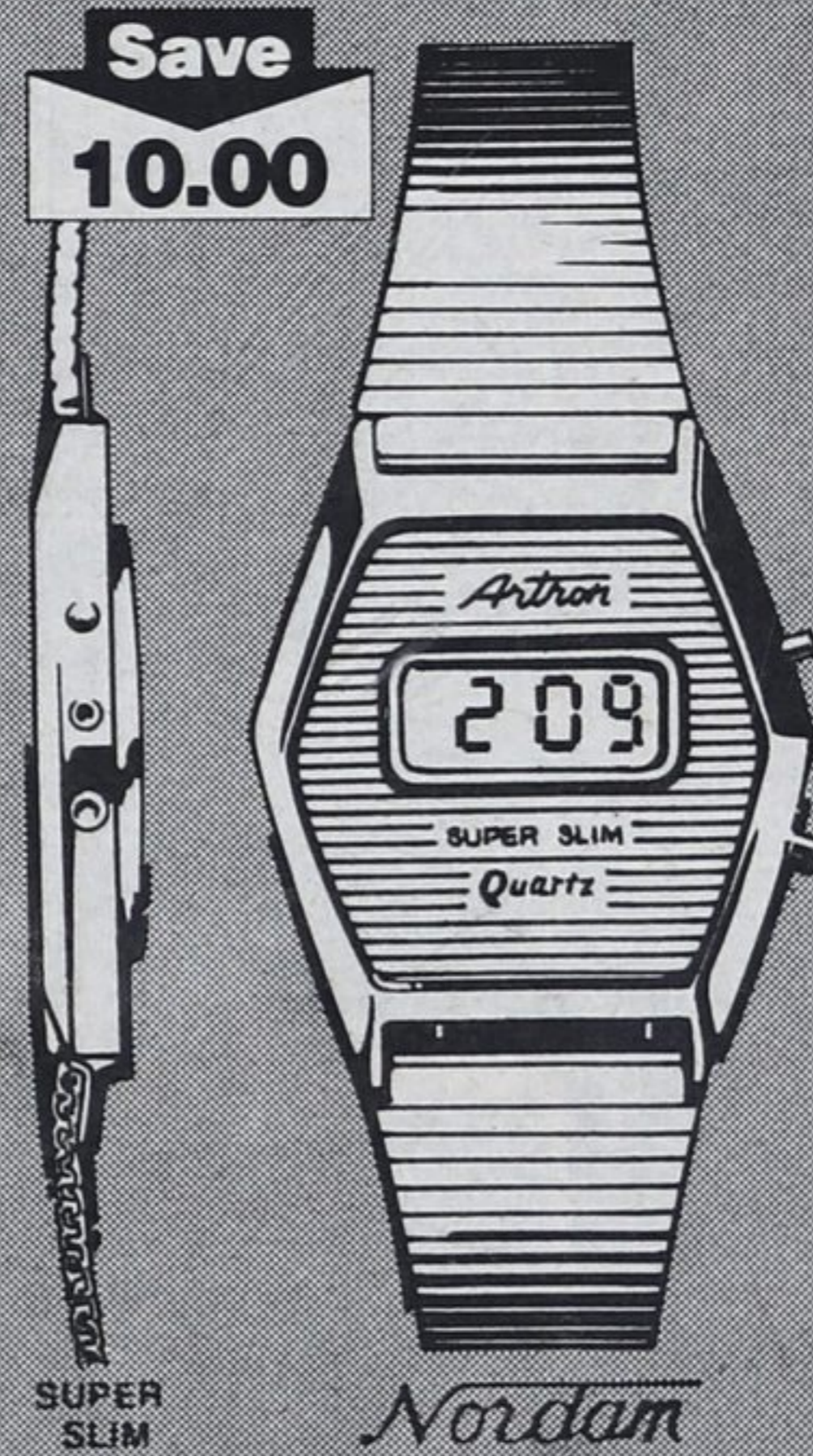
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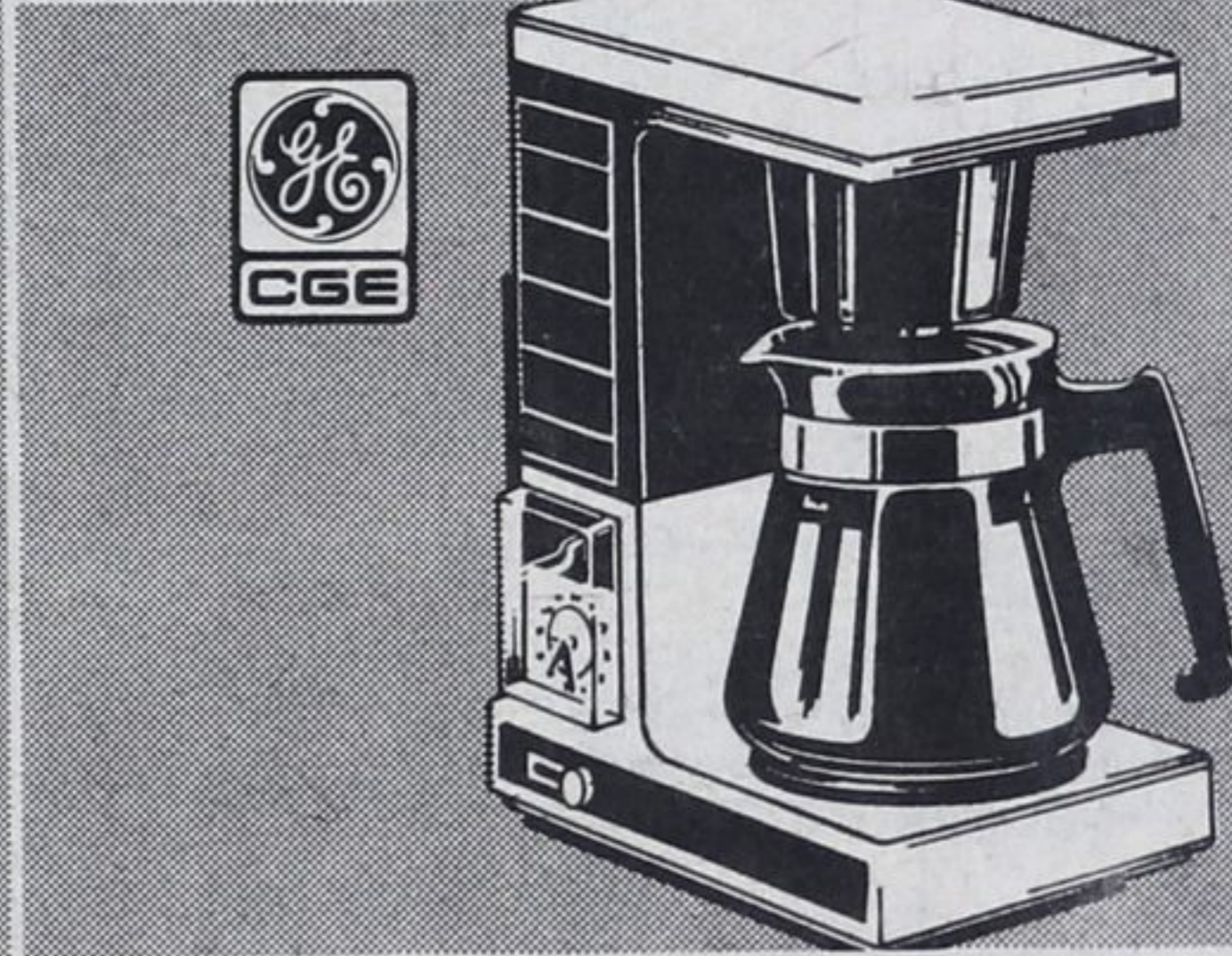
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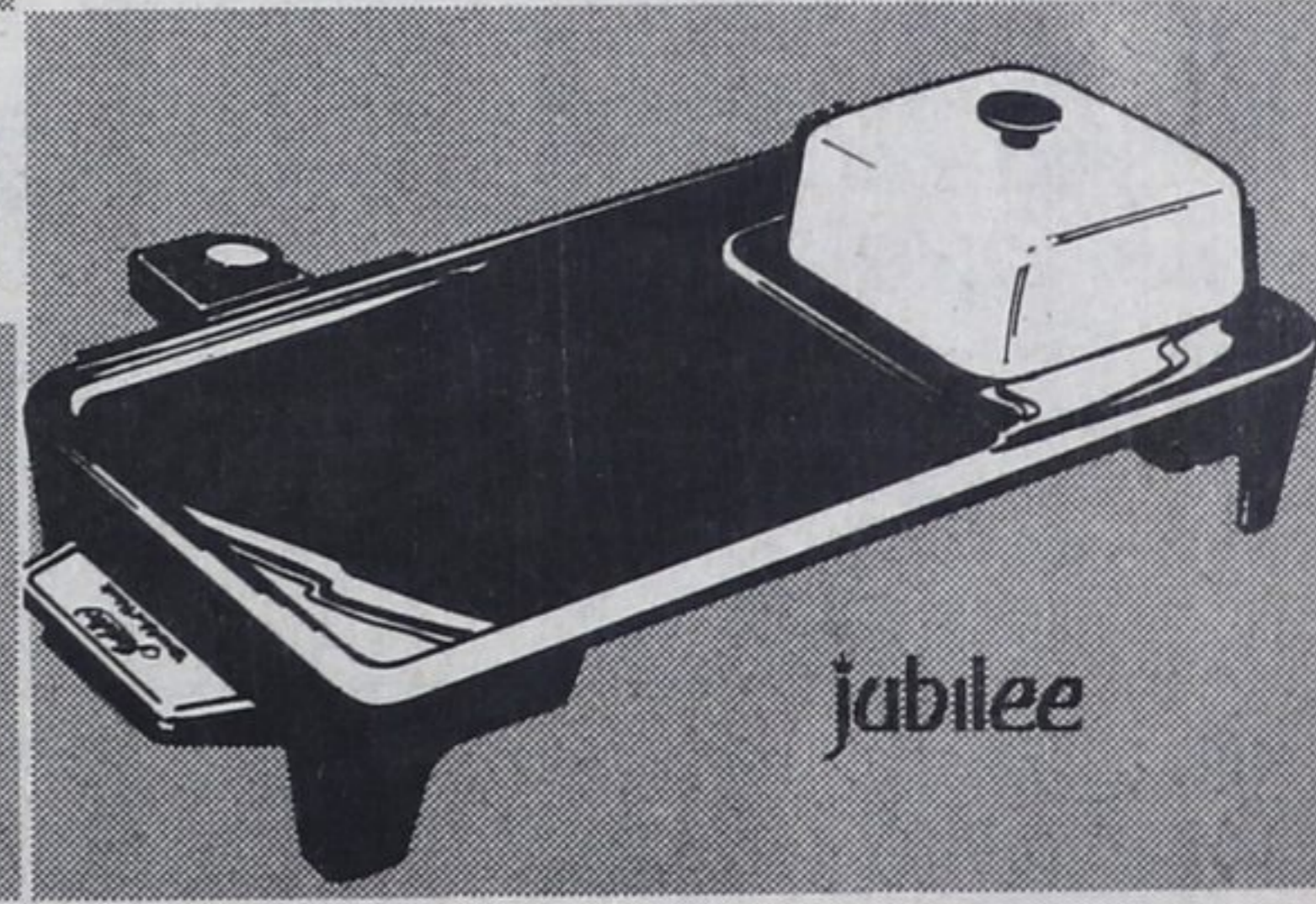
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A girl weighing nine pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Maurice of RR 3, Penetanguishene, on April 30, 1981.

On April 30, 1981, a girl weighing six pounds nine ounces was born to Shirley Dorion of RR 3, Penetanguishene.



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