

Family room 'ship shape' with plywood wall paneling

A beautifully decorated home doesn't just happen; it is the product of careful planning.

This adage was especially true for a Vancouver, Wash., couple settling into their newly purchased home with unpacked "left-overs" and the drab, lifeless walls left by the builder.

Careful planning was needed to turn the drab into the delightful, weaving a personal mosaic to fit the family's lifestyle.

Reformation begins. The first room on the agenda of reformation was the family room with its plain plaster walls and a red-brick fireplace.

Step one was a thorough search through local home improvement centers for decorating ideas and a wallcovering that would cover the textured wallboard.

There they found the choices virtually endless with an unlimited selection of wall paint colors, wallpapers, and a myriad of prefinished wall panelings, from natural woods to man-made duplications.

Paneling choice made. The final choice was Georgina-Pacific's Portsmouth paneling with the look of old planking and simulated nailheads.

A new "how to" booklet from G-P aided the do-it-yourself couple in the installation of the four by eight-foot panels.

Existing base moldings were removed, and panels first set side by side to achieve a harmonious balance of color and grain configuration.

Mrs. Homemaker assisted her handyman husband, too. She gathered the required tools for the project, measured the wall height in several places to assure accurate fitting, and probed through the wall with a long nail to find stud locations every 16 inches. (It may be 24 inches in some homes.)

This step provided a plus in the installation of the new G-P paneling with random v-grooves also located on 16-inch centers.

Tips prove helpful. Professional tips from the "how to" booklet were also helpful. They clued the do-it-yourselfer to paint strips on the wall where the plywood panel joints would come. Black spray paint speeded the process and minimized the visibility of the white gypsum board showing through gaps.

Using a straight edge and a soft-lead pencil to

provide a clear, even line, wall dimensions were marked on the reverse side of the panel. And cutting was made easier with a borrowed sabre saw and sawhorses.

By outlining the outlet box with chalk, the

handyman was able to transfer its location and image to the back of the panel without too much difficulty. He then drilled 3/4-inch holes in the corners of the transferred outline to make the cutout.

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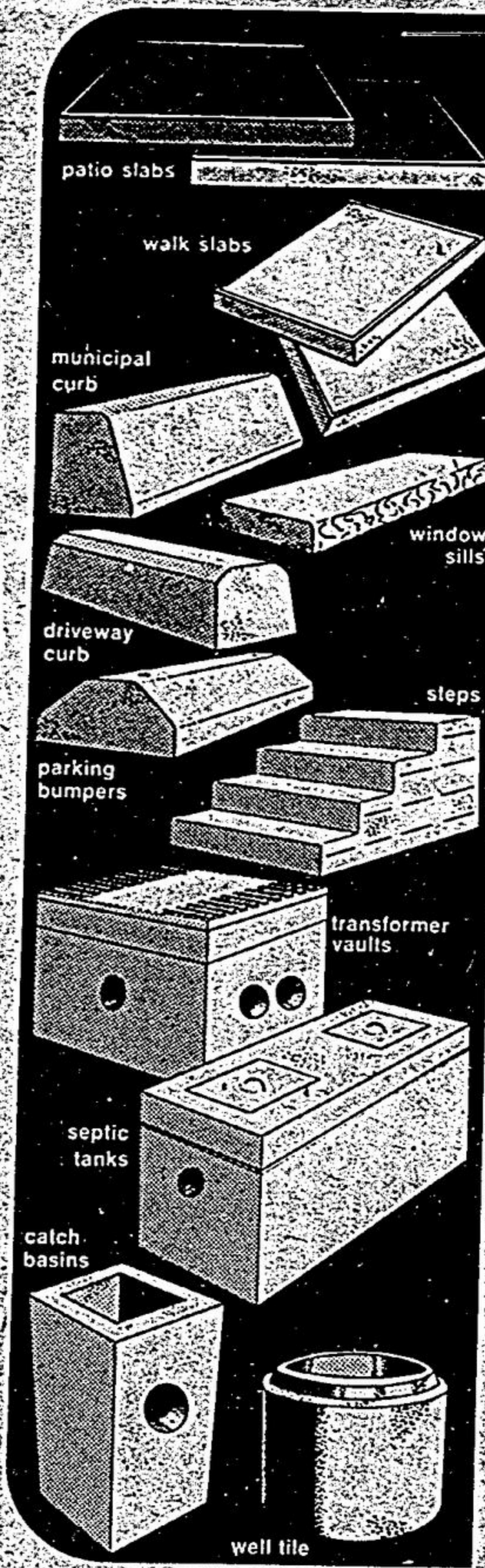
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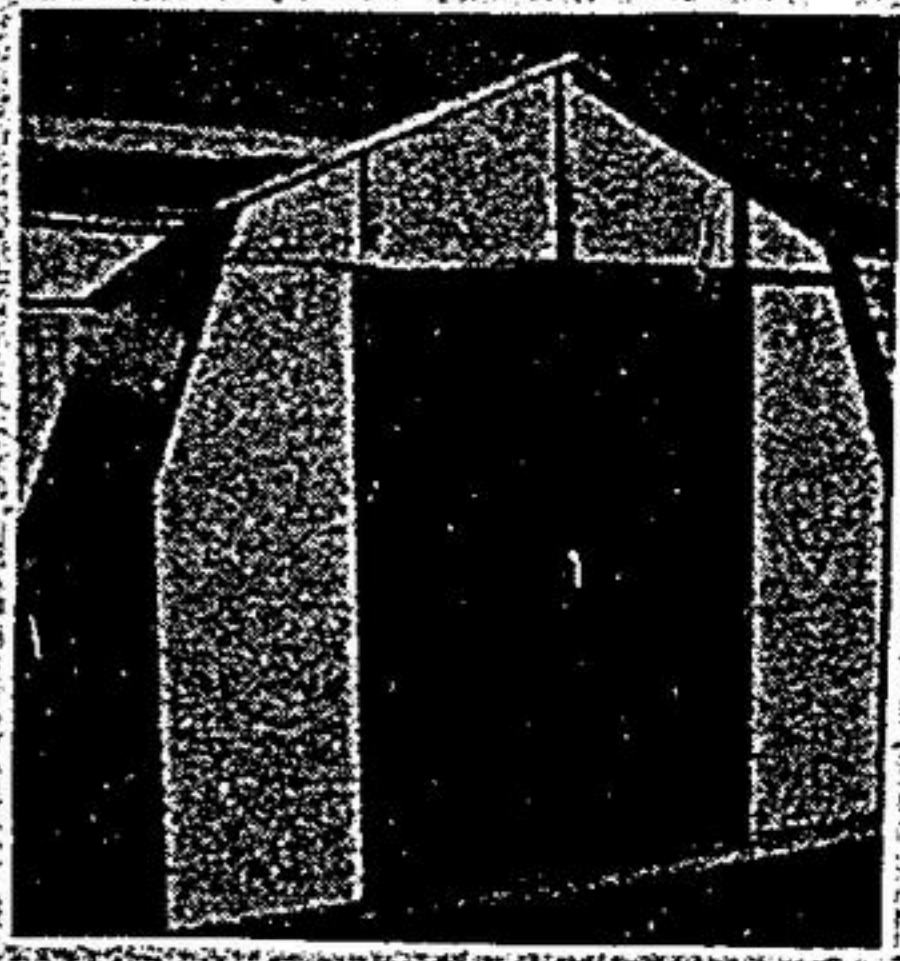
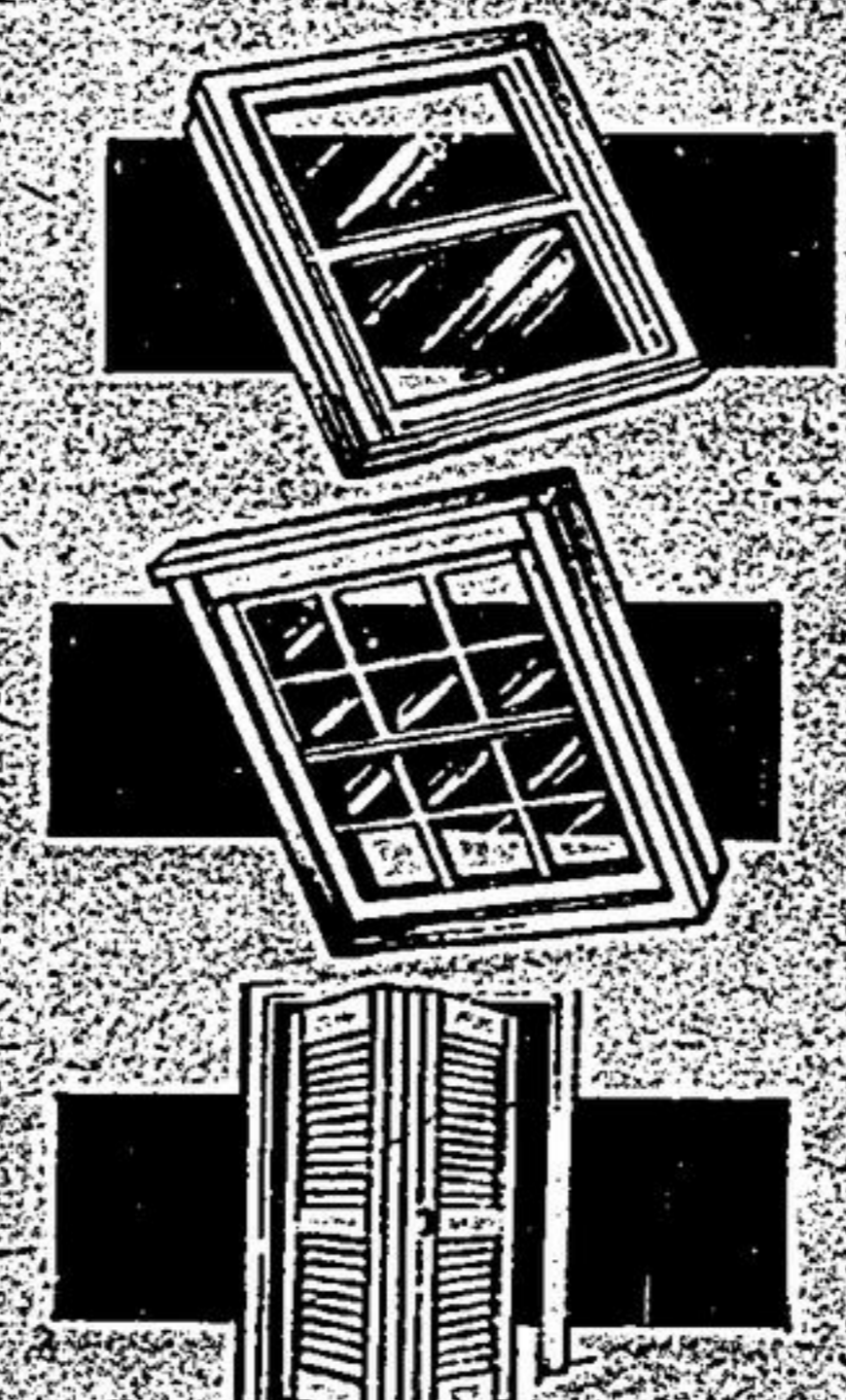
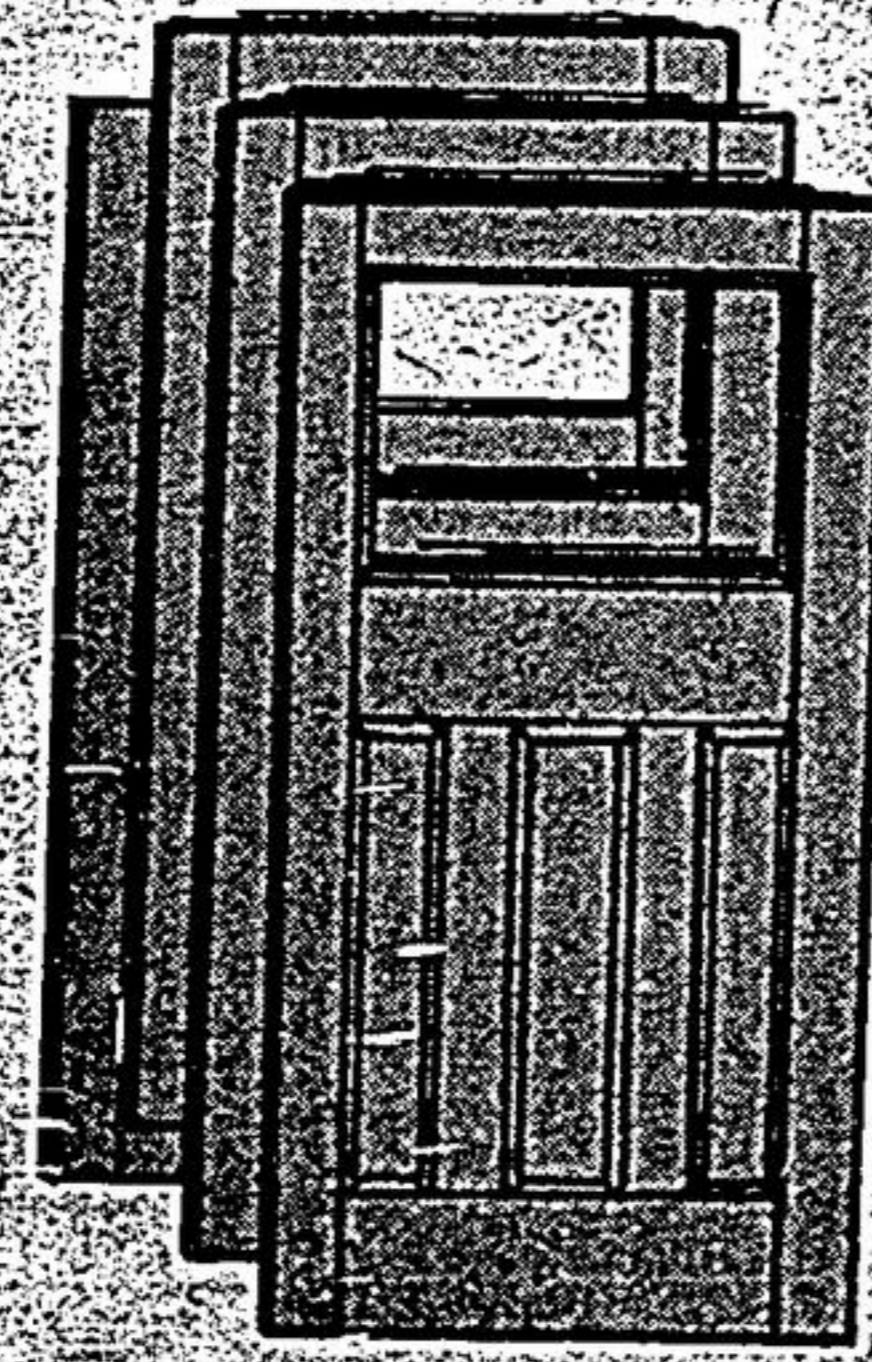
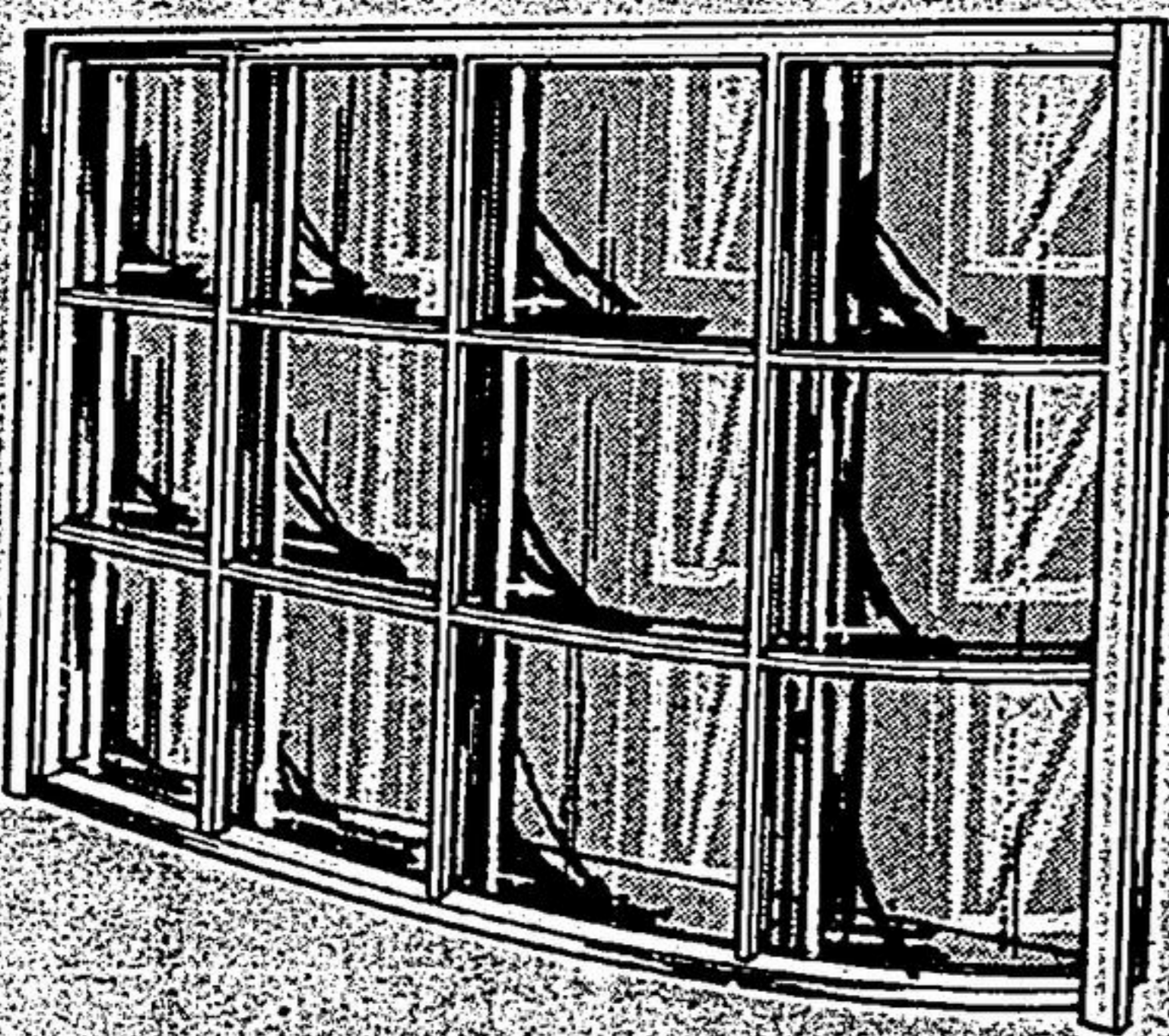
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