

# Rugs add color, accent and life

By NANCY HOSKIN

Rugs lift your decorative scheme out of the ordinary, adding color, accent and life.

Rugs are easy to move and are available in a wide price range to suit every pocket. They are the ultimate in flexibility.

Aside from the traditional types, there is a wide variety of contemporary rugs produced by both the carpet industry and by individual craft makers around the world. Manufactured versions come in all price range brackets and designs.

The quality of a handmade knotted rug has a lot to do with density—the more knots the better. Check by examining the back to see how fine the knots are and how many there are per square inch.

Some rugs with fewer knots may be made of a superior grade of wool. Patterns should be clear, balanced, even luminous. Printed reproduction rugs will look blurred and muddy.

Another alternative is a rug commissioned from a designer/craftsman, which can usually hang on the wall or become the centerpiece of your living room.

For a cheerful, cozy look, rag, braided and hooked rugs still have their own thriving traditions.

There are many varieties of rugs that can be used in all areas of the house, whether on top of a hardwood floor, as an accent next to a bed or chair or as the center attraction of a room. Rugs can add color, texture and pattern.

A Chinese rug, for example, is an elegant addition to a living room. "A Chinese rug is quite traditional and are usually made of silk and wool," explained Ken Carpenter, manager of Eaton's carpet department in Markville Shopping Centre. "Black, soft yellow, pink, peach, apricots and blues are favorite colors. These rugs have a slight sculptured look and are usually have a motif; like dragons and lotus blossoms. Some of the patterns have meanings as well."

A rug that has recently become popular, so much so that the Queen's Pantry in Unionville has just allocated a room for them, are Dhurries. These rugs are made in India. They are hand loomed and made of 100 per cent wool.

"Dhurries are available in a variety of colors, mostly pastels, and are usually with a geometric or floral pattern," said Susan Strike.

Cotton rugs, made in northern Quebec, are also a big favorite at Queen's Pantry. They are handmade and come either plain or with a stenciled design.



SUSAN STRIKE  
Dhurries popular

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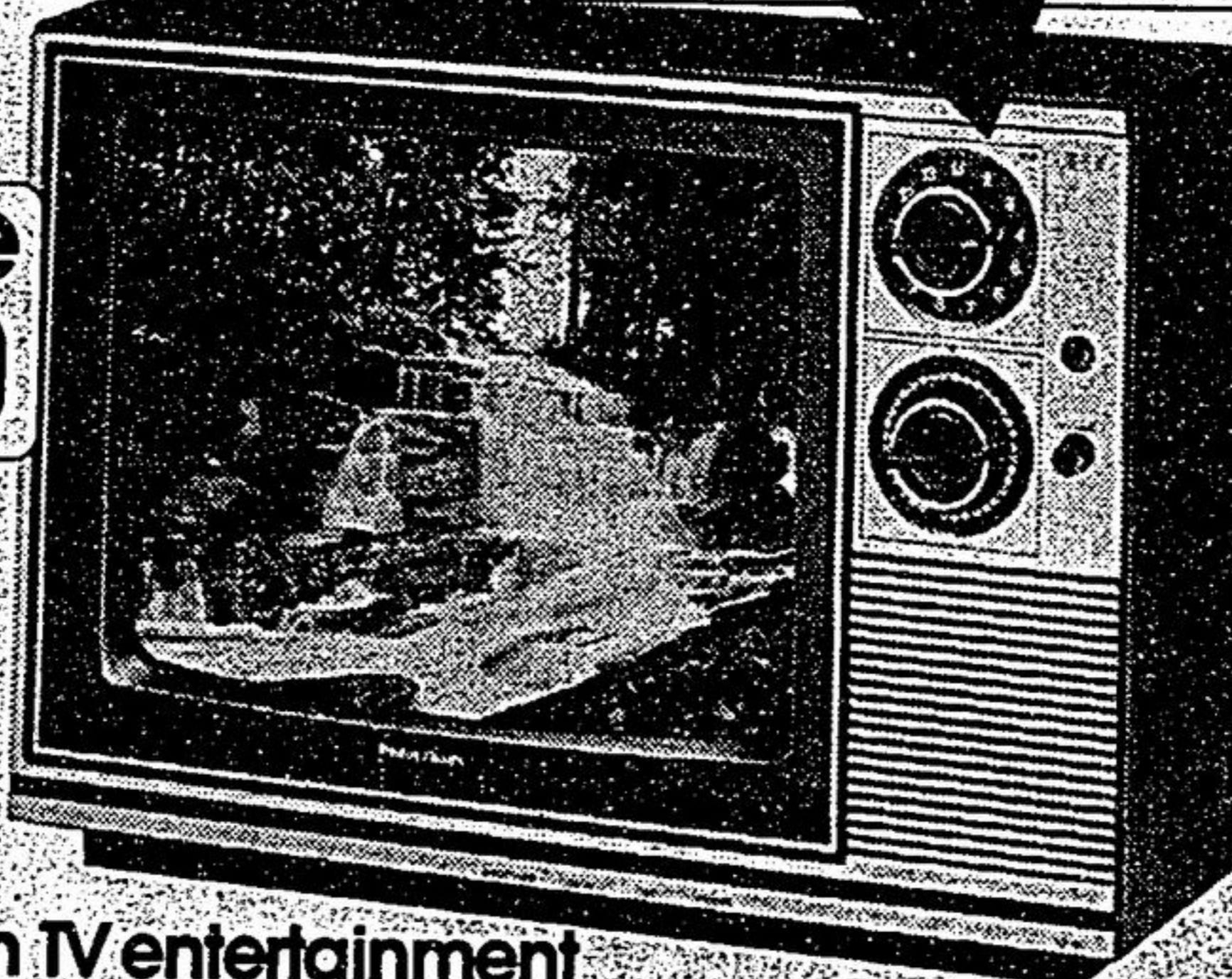
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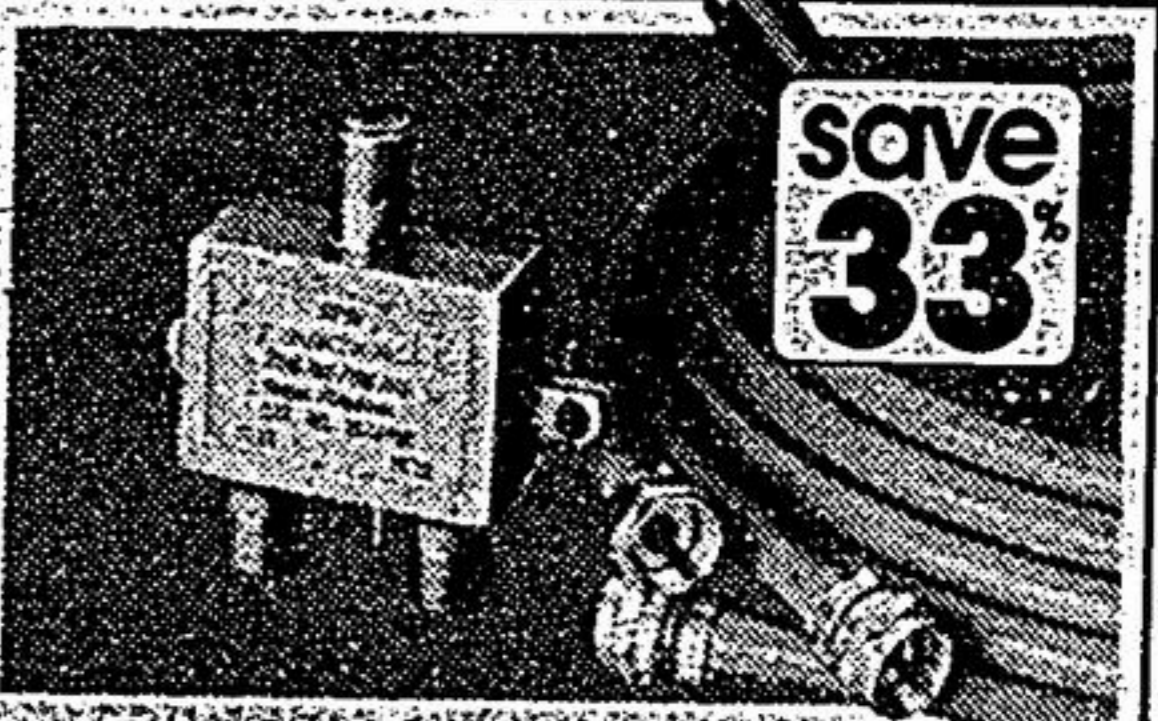
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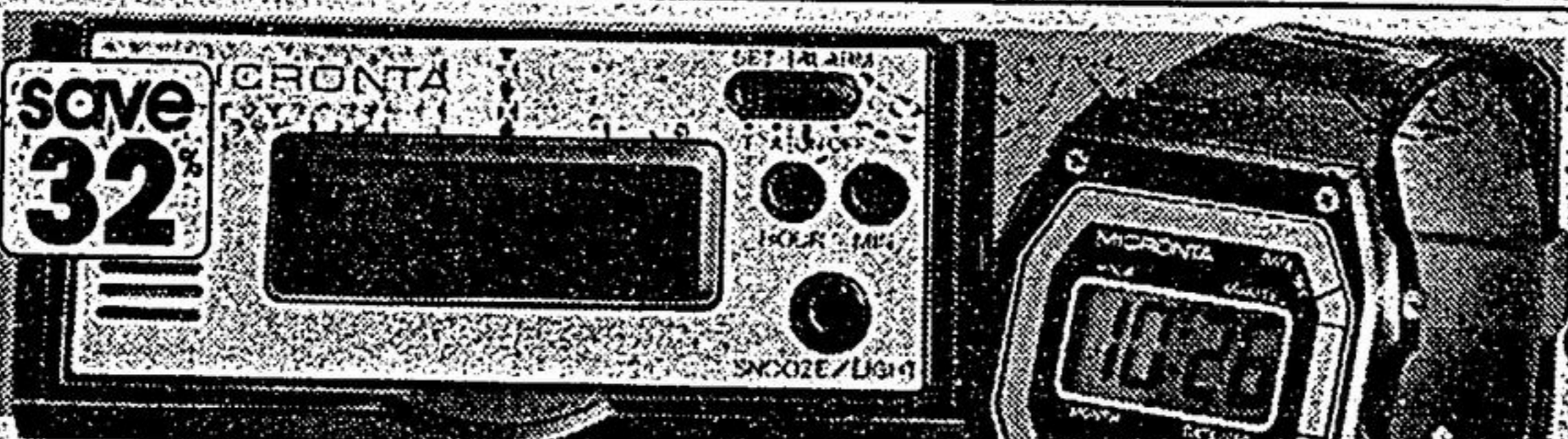
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