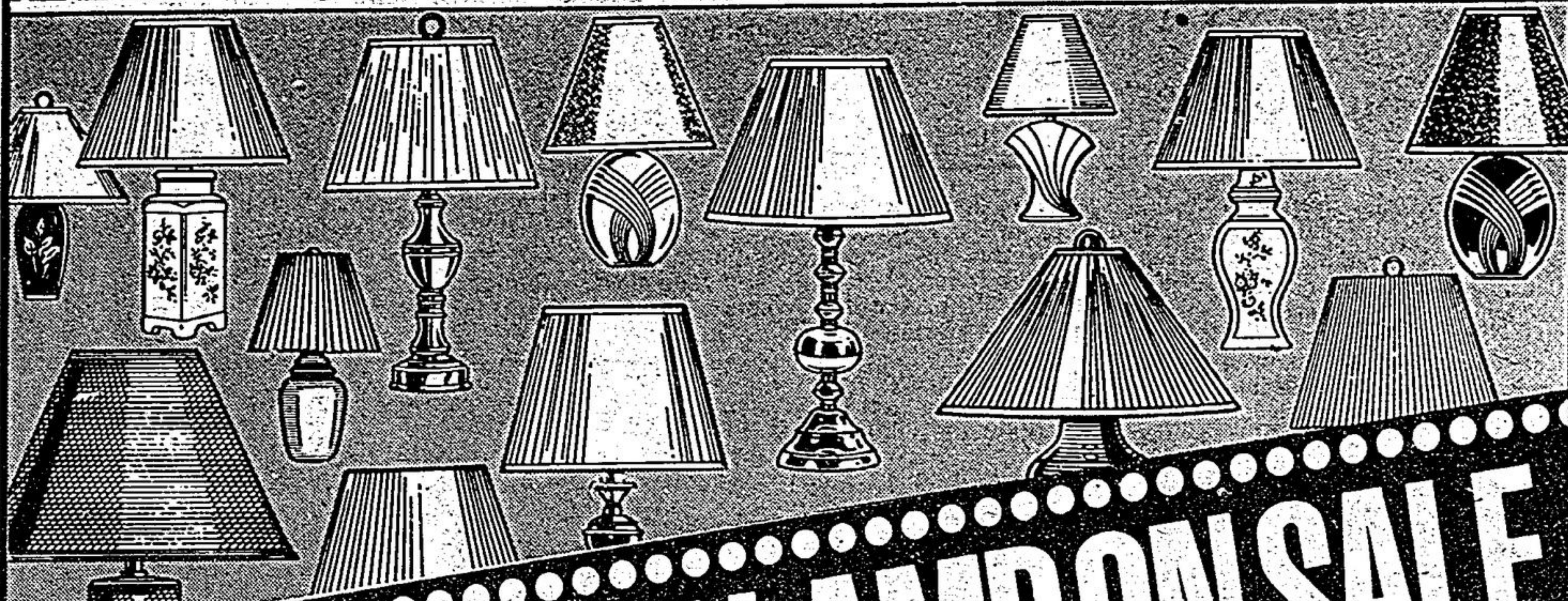


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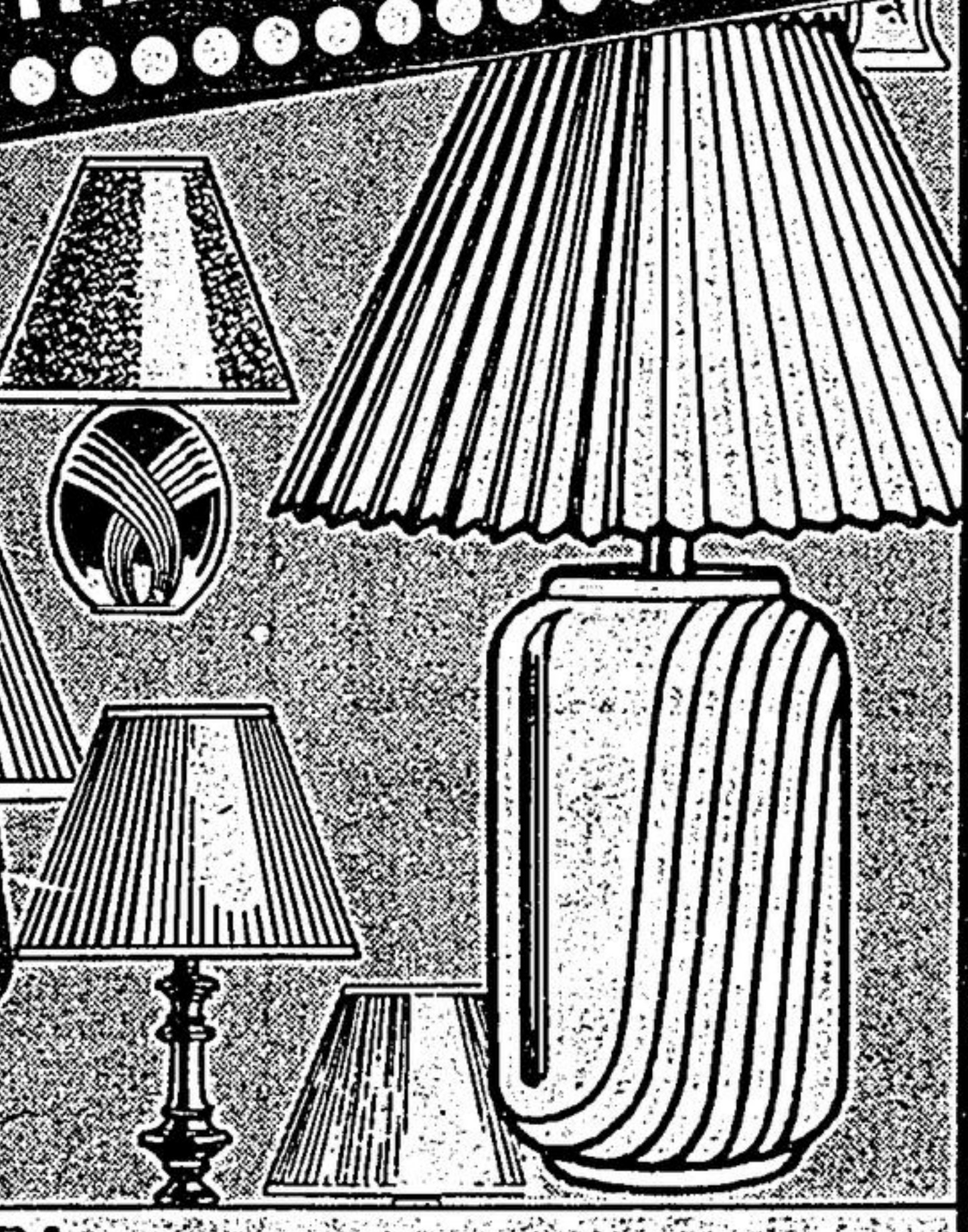
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Born to Shop

Deb Bodine Champion

Leather can be good buy

A lot of people are into leather these days. Even Mr. C wants a trendy leather jacket. (I think it's time for a transfer — he's been spending too much time in affluent Unionville. He also wants a tweed cap, brogue shoes, a red convertible MG and a dangerous femme fatale to complete the image.)

Well, he's in luck. Next month is his birthday and I have just enough money to get him started on his dream. I figure I'll buy him the leather driving gloves, just \$25 at Leatherama, and he can go cruisin' in his Chevy Cavalier sporting his wool toque and rubber ducky boots. Eat your heart out, Robert Redford!

Leatherama, located at 7400 Victoria Park Ave., not only offers good buys on gloves, but also leather clothing for both men and women.

The outlet specializes in Italian, Moroccan, Turkish and English lambskin, although current stock includes some clear-outs of lesser quality cowhide.

Because of its location in the industrial area, and its warehouse atmosphere and no frills decor, price mark-ups are usually only 30 to 50 per cent — considerably lower than most retail outlets.

From now until March 31, Leatherama prices are even lower than usual. Unmarked items are 20 per cent off, while sale items are slashed up to 70 per cent.

Skirts come in many styles, colors and lengths, from mini to mid-calf. Lambskin skirts in the 18-in. or 32-in. lengths are now just \$149, and come in a rainbow of colors.

Buttery soft mid-calf straight skirts are reduced from \$389 to \$240 and come in four shades: black, burgundy, teal and aubergine. (That sounds so elegant in French compared with plain, old eggplant.)

Ladies' pants in all of the above shades plus bone have been reduced to "almost cost", from \$270 to \$199.

Jackets, jackets and more jackets fill the Leatherama warehouse — for men and women, in a variety of colors and styles — from the ultra-trendy to the ultra conservative.

Reduced from \$499 to \$199 is a lambskin pilot jacket with pile collar. Also at that price is a men's car coat in printed "croc" lambskin as well as a huge selection of lambskin bomber jackets for spring.

Just arrived for spring is the "savage look" jacket, reduced from \$650 to \$499. (This is a tough one to describe, but I'll take a stab at it. To me, it looks as if it has been run over repeatedly by a bus, then spatter-painted — but, hey! I like it.)

World War II jackets in full sheepskin are marked down from \$750 to \$550. A ¾ length unisex jacket with removable sheepskin shawl collar is \$449, regularly \$599. For women, a double-breasted, ¾ length jacket with full gathered sleeves and antique leather finish, is marked down to \$360 from \$599.

Incidentally, Mr. C, you may get the gloves, but the only dangerous femme fatale you're going to get is the one pictured above — me, with a baseball bat.