

HOME IMPRESSIONS

Reducing air conditioner noise

When temperatures push upwards of 30 degrees C and stay there, air conditioning is often the only relief. But while you cool off, your neighbours may be hot under the collar about the noise your air conditioner is generating.

There are no soundless air conditioning systems, but there are ways to minimize the noise. The key to controlling noise from a window unit or a central system is specifying that you want the quietest unit in the shop, and making sure it is properly installed and tested for noise.

But what of a noisy system a tenant might find already in place?

In central air conditioning, the source of bothersome

noise is the condensing unit itself, which is always outside. The noise comes as air passes through the fan and compressor, and an air conditioner that is not sitting perfectly balanced is a very likely noisemaker. Location is another factor. Units are often placed in an inconspicuous spot - in a narrow space between two houses. Another noise-magnifier is a roof overhang.

The best place, of course, would be as far away from the house as possible. Experts suggest proper maintenance, since the older the unit, the more likely the noise. Other options might be man-made outdoor barriers or buffers.

Whatever solution, consult the manufacturer or installer to ensure the operation of the unit will not be affected.

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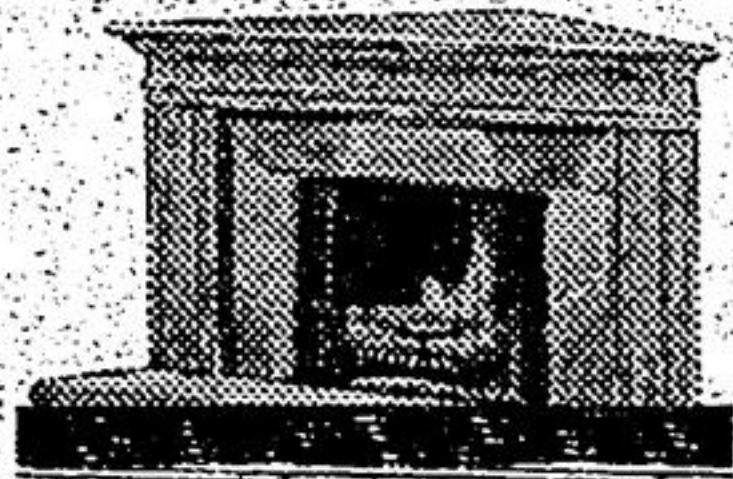
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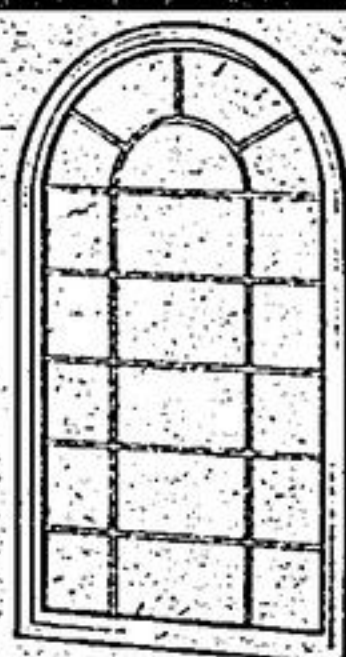
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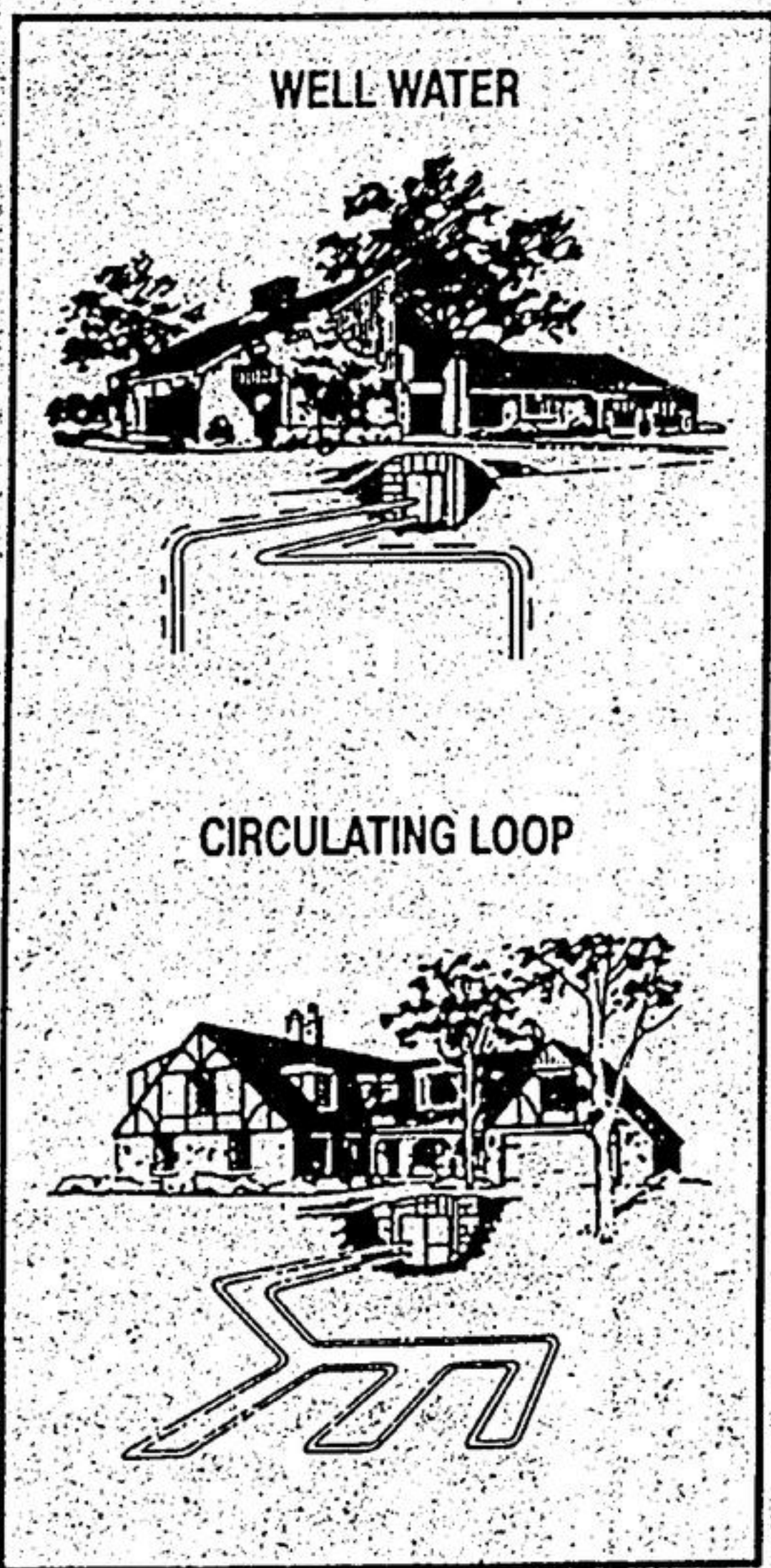
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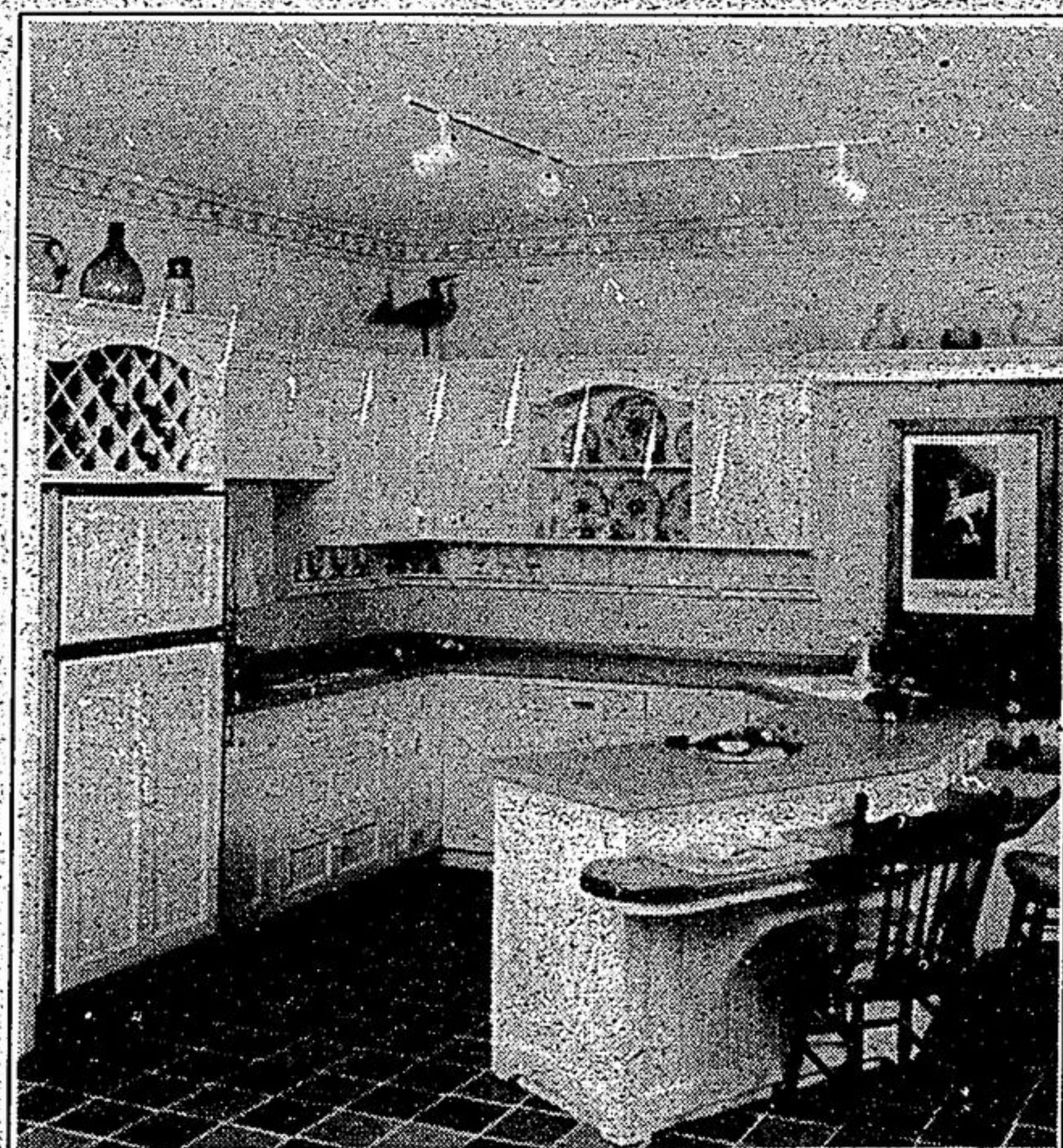
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