

TOTAL HOME

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More floor buying tips

From page 22

floors balance well with neutral, light walls.

- If you love a house full of colour, select floors that are light or natural. This balance helps the room's design elements sing and prevents walls and floors from competing for visual attention.

- Gap-resistant cork, linoleum, hardwood or laminate floors come in a range of finishes and colours for any décor. They're beautiful, prefinished floors that click together, are easy to care for, and will last for years.

However, before buying your floor, it's important to do some basic research. Brenda Jones, owner of Creative Carpet One at 190 Bullock Drive, Unit #5 in Markham, has these important suggestions when selecting a hardwood or laminate floor.

- Be sure to check the reputation of the store. This is important because all products come with warranties, however, they're only as good as the company's willingness to serve its customers. It's important for customers to compare warranties and learn the facts on

each product.

- It's also important to hire professional installers. A floor only looks great if it's installed properly. It's important to find out how long the installers have been working for the company and whether they work for one company or multiple companies.


- Don't forget to compare "apples to apples" when selecting a new floor. When comparing prices only compare similar products. For example, instead of wondering why hardwood flooring is more expensive than laminate flooring, simply compare hardwood to hardwood. This will save a lot of time and confusion.

- Finally, become educated about the product you wish to purchase. According to Brenda, marketing campaigns may provide the wrong information, for example, that certain types of laminate floors are "indestructible." To prevent wear and tear to your new floor, be sure to let the professionals know what your new flooring will be used for. Contrary to popular belief, laminate flooring can be scratched.

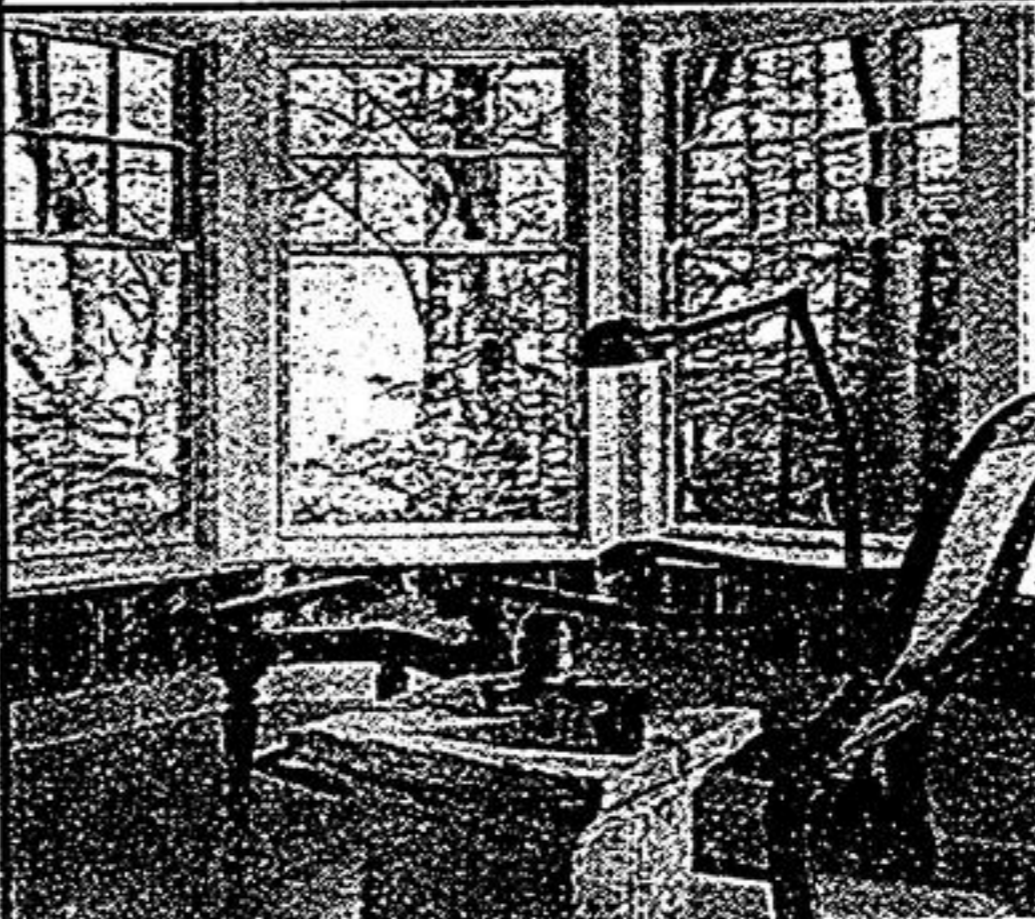

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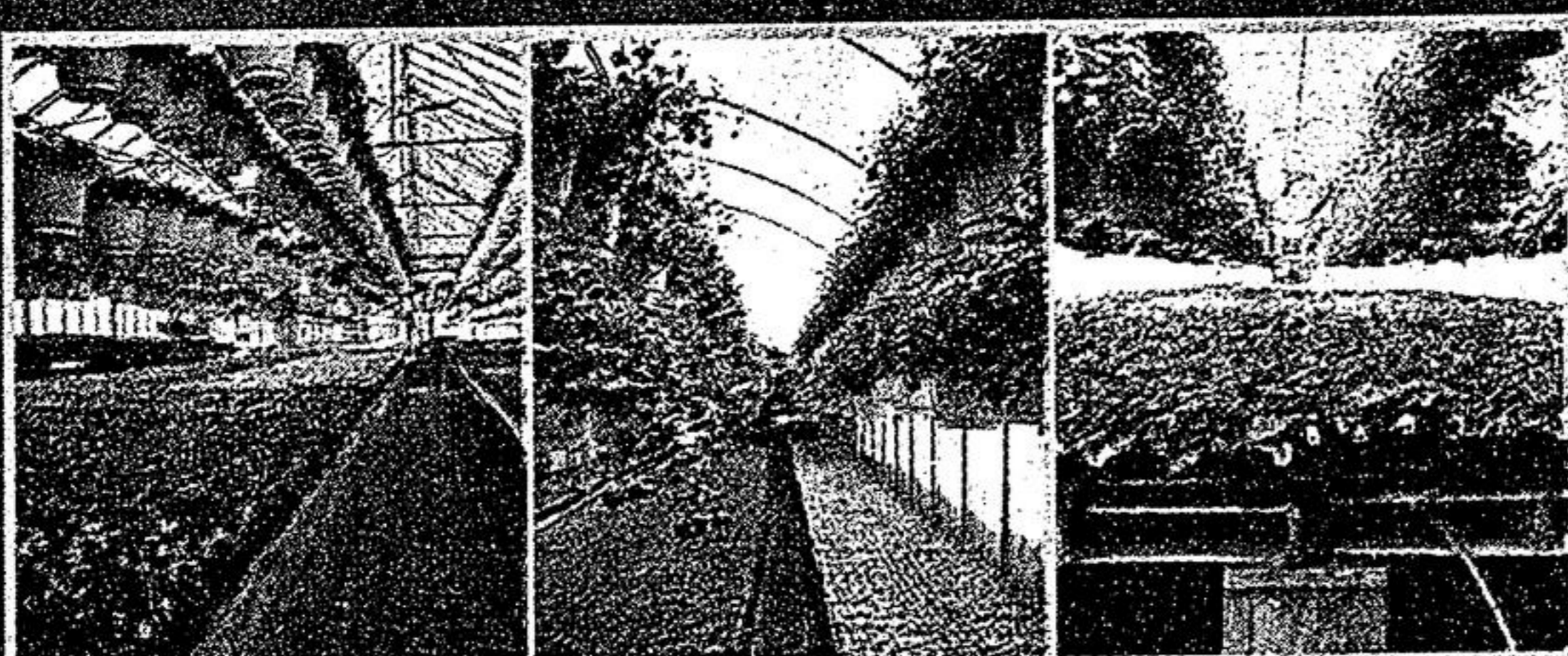


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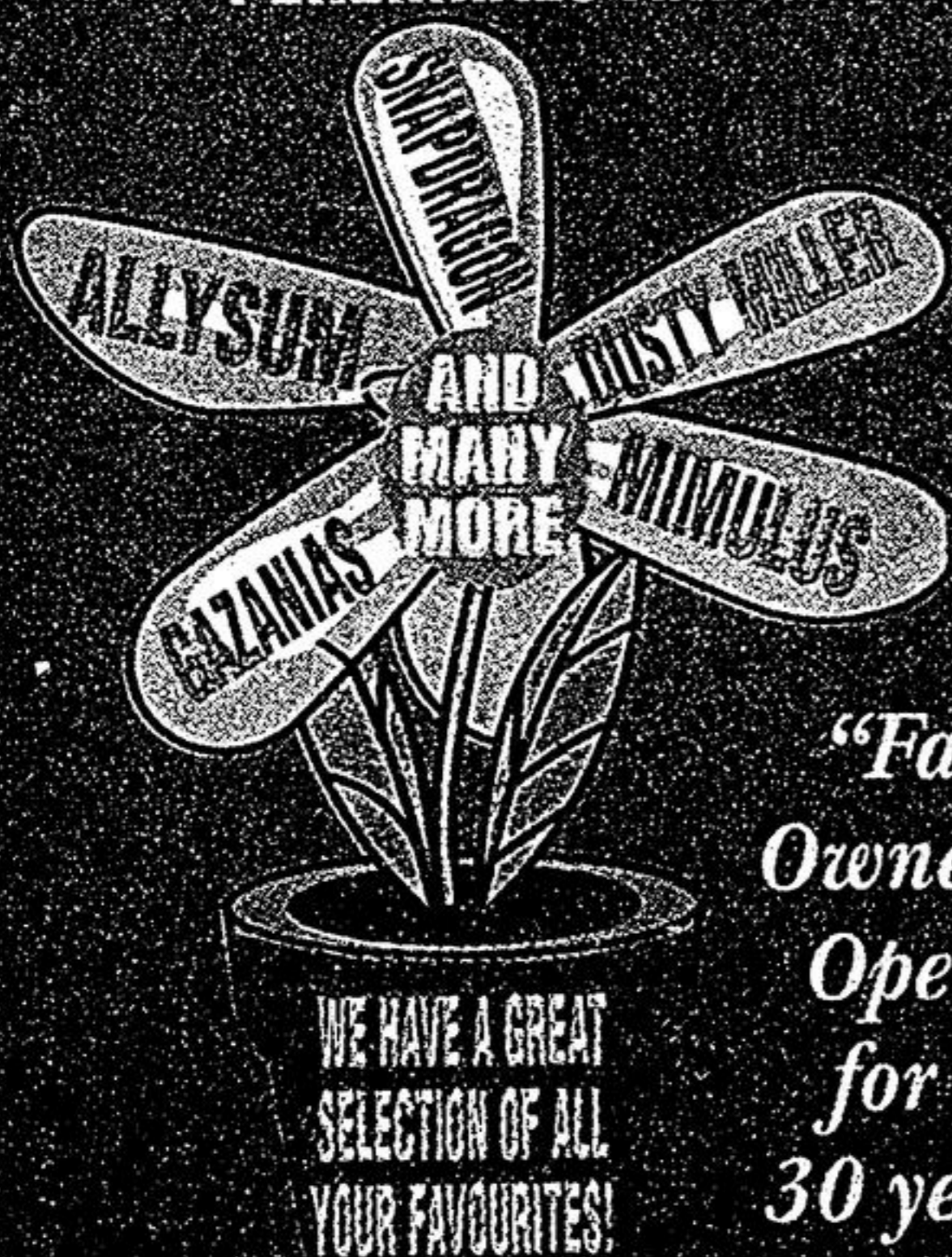
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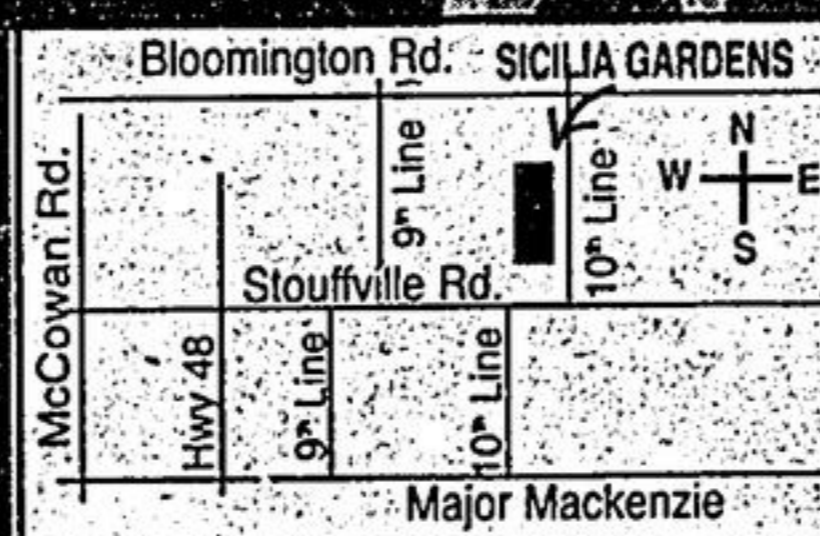
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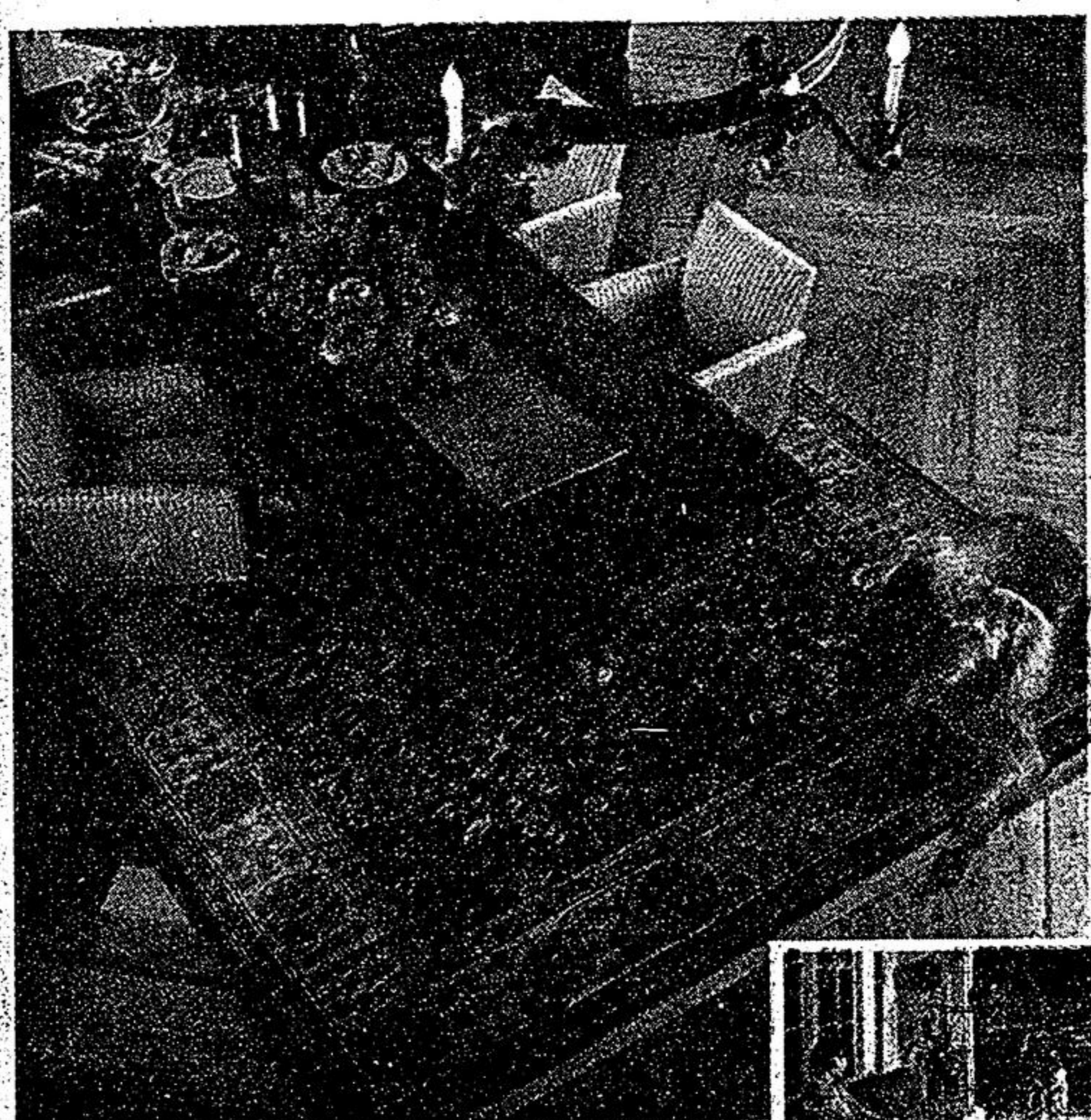
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