

The original documents are located in Box 39, folder “House Beautiful Article "Dinner at the White House"” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Betty Ford donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

TITLE

The most coveted of invitations is the one that bids you to
'DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE'

MRS. FORD'S QUOTES FOR SPREADS 1 THROUGH 6

Spread 1

"We want our guests to feel at home."

Spread 2

"At home we always served our guests informally, buffet style."

Spread 3

"President Scheel was dazzled by the centerpieces."

Spread 4

"At times it's good to put aside your cares and dance."

Spread 5

"Mine's a roast beef plain on whole wheat."

Spread 6

"I imagine, I was afraid this job wouldn't be any fun."

WHITE HOUSE COPY (interview only, additional text to come)

Spread 1 (dinner)

Over 150 guests are coming for dinner this evening. A dinner in the honor of Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mrs. Scheel. Only the hosts, President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford, could anticipate the evening with such sang-froid. But wait, sang-froid is hardly the word to describe a First Lady who says, "People think that you have to go to Europe for something good. I want to show what can be done with the beautiful things we have to offer in America." Knowing all is in readiness in the State Dining Room as well as in the Blue Room (here and opposite, lower left), Betty Ford has an hour for relaxing with her husband, secure in the privacy of their home upstairs. The evening is hers, not from this moment alone, but from the earliest planning with the President and her own staff. The decorations, the menu, the entertainment--all have been arranged with the guests of honor in mind. Precisely at the hour of eight, the President and his Lady

(Cont'd)



House Beautiful

Spread 1 (cont'd)

begin to descend the great stairway as the Marine Band strikes up Hail to the Chief. The Ford's pleasure in hosting permeates the atmosphere. So much so that even in the midst of White House precedent and protocol, they are relaxed as ever. Betty Ford means it when she says, "We want our guests to feel at home."

Spread 2

Betty Ford forthrightly admits it. "I'm no good with table decorations myself, but I love them and think I recognize what is truly beautiful and innovative." To illustrate, she cites Robert Miglio's decorations created for the dinner for President Scheel: Americana bottles sprouting nearly-wild flowers. Asparagus spear-wrapped vases of tall azure delphiniums. Baskets filled with fresh fruit and vegetables. "President Scheel was dazzled. At times he seemed totally, happily distracted by the natural beauty all around." This observation is from, she notes, "a gardener at heart. Well, really a peasant." And with that remark, we have to summon up our, uh, sang-froid not to fall instantly in love with Betty Ford. All the world loves a gardener who confesses, "In the garden I always pull off my gloves and dig right into the earth. I get a true sense of relaxation from this, really therapeutic." So it comes as no surprise that this woman drapes the dinner tables with trellis-patterned cloths, centered by home garden beauty and set here with flower-circled china. It is the First Lady who is surprised--and elated--to hear us say that where we had expected pomp, we had encountered instead the charm of a truly gracious private home. "You don't know how pleased that makes me feel. That is what I am trying to accomplish with our official White House entertaining."

Spread 3

Having good ideas for party table decorations has always been a Betty Ford habit. "Now each time we entertain, I go through my files and search for what I feel is appropriate to the occasion and for the person being honored." Mrs. Ford is obviously stimulated by her present opportunity to make such ideas come to life. Then the First Lady, herself a bed of flowers, a very slim one, dressed as she is in a flowered robe for our visit, confides, "I really prefer to see roses and other beautiful flowers remain in the garden for as long as possible. At home I cut only one or two flowers at a time and used them in my bud vases." Most assuredly, Betty Ford's White House will be filled with growing things. "In fact," she adds, "one of these days I'm going to go and help the gardeners."



House Beautiful

Spread 4

Night music by the Marine Dance Combo signals the beginning of the dancing in the Grand Foyer. President Ford smiles a "May I have this dance, honey?" and the First Lady joins him. The after-dinner party is on. "We both love to dance. It's relaxing and stimulating at the same time." The secret of the Fords' success at these affairs is that they do stay and participate. "If we left after one dance, everyone would feel that they were expected to call it a night." So the band plays on. Guests who happen also to be performers are invited to sing or play impromptu. Depending on the country and the head of state, "We determine the guest list and the evening's entertainment. If someone preferred chamber music, we would be glad to provide it." Hours later, having bid farewells to all, the President and his Lady retreat upstairs, arm in arm, to "collapse and share anecdotes the way we always have."

TITLE SPREAD 5 (PICNIC)

Betty Ford entertains Congressional wives on the White House lawn

'BRING YOUR "BROWN BAG" LUNCH'

TEXT SPREAD 5 & 6 (additional text to come)

Spread 5

At the January meeting of the Republican Congressional Wives Club, Betty Ford invited members to a summer picnic at the White House. "I might have to ask you to 'brown bag' it," she told them. "With all this inflation my husband is after me to cut down." When it came time to send out the invitations, "brown-bagging" seemed sensible regardless of the economy. "What else could anyone want for a summer picnic than their own favorite fare?" On picnic day, the hostess didn't want her guests to be peanut-butter thirsty or sunburned or to have to worry about any grass stains made by sitting on the Oval Drive's lawn.

Happily, the day was sunny, even hot. But there was a nice cooling breeze beneath the parasol of an old linden tree, and enough tables and benches for 110 brown-baggers to rough it in comfort, with perfectly steeped Southern iced tea--"minted but not julepped" for refreshment. And just to make things perfect, there is the First Lady. As she appears on the balcony, then starts down the stairs, Mrs. Ford is hidden by photographers until she finally breaks free on to the sunlit lawn. For an instant the slender figure appears surprisingly vulnerable. Then she spots an old friend. They greet, embrace and Betty Ford is all smiles. It is clearly a happy occasion. Joking, she says, "At least you got what you wanted since you had to bring your own." And what fare has the hostess bagged? "Mine's a roast beef



House Beautiful

Spread 5 (cont'd)

plain on whole wheat."

Spread 6

Exactly one hour later in the family sitting room in the White House, Mrs. Ford confesses, "I was afraid this job wouldn't be any fun, but I thoroughly enjoy it. For the time we are here, this will be the kind of home I've always kept. We often have casual buffet with our old friends, and when the children are home, we dine with them." What about the children?" "Well, they weren't too thrilled at the thought of living here either, but they know it's the same as before. On a moments notice they can still bring home their friends for dinner. My role has changed from cooking more to that of checking with the kitchen. So far we always seem to have enough." An hour of talk passes and thoughts of overstay have begun to set in when a figure bounds across the other end of the room, his jacket trailing and his tie loosened. The President waves a hello to all, smiles and "I love you" to his wife and tells her, "I'm going to play tennis for an hour." As we leave, though, the First Lady is anticipating his immediate return. "My husband has no idea how hot it is."





curately fit your
ose-leaf binder,
in an out-of-the-
is specimen boo
the Towne libra
curately fit your
se-leaf binder, h
n an out-of-the-
s specimen boo
the Towne libra
curately fit your



1010 SPARTAN MED. ITALIC
FLUSH LEFT, RAS RT. V/C
4 LINES X 7 1/2 PICA MAX.

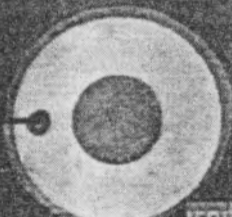
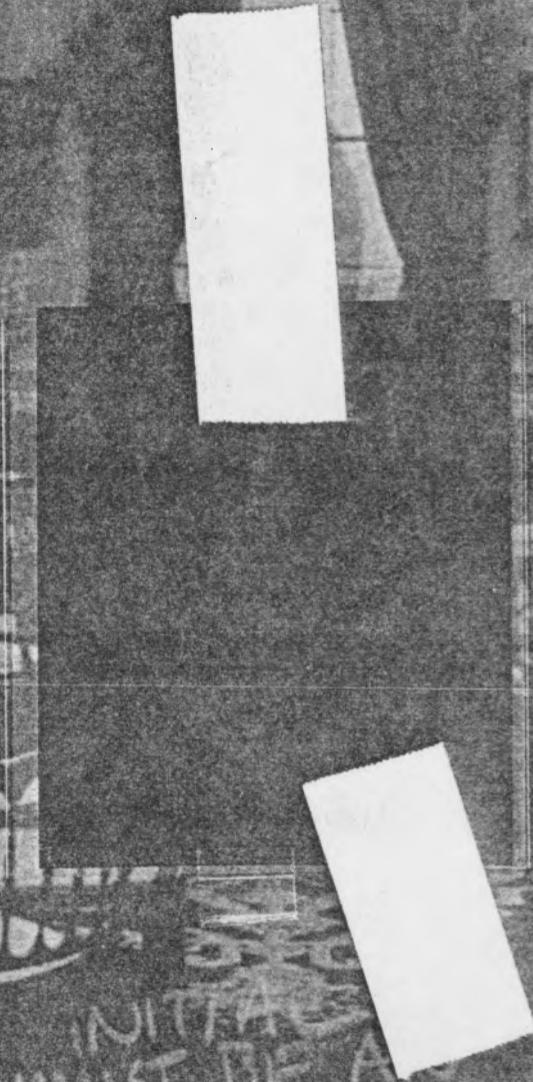
Curately fit your
in an out-of-the-
is specimen boo
the Towne libra
curately fit your
se-leaf binder, h
in an out-of-the-
is specimen boo
the Towne libra
curately fit your
se-leaf binder, h
in an out-of-the-
view of the



deefghijklmnopqrstu
klmnopqrstuvwxyza
abcdeefghijklmnopq

DEFGHI

ABCDEFKLMNOPQ
STUYZUVWXY
CDEFG.MNOPQ

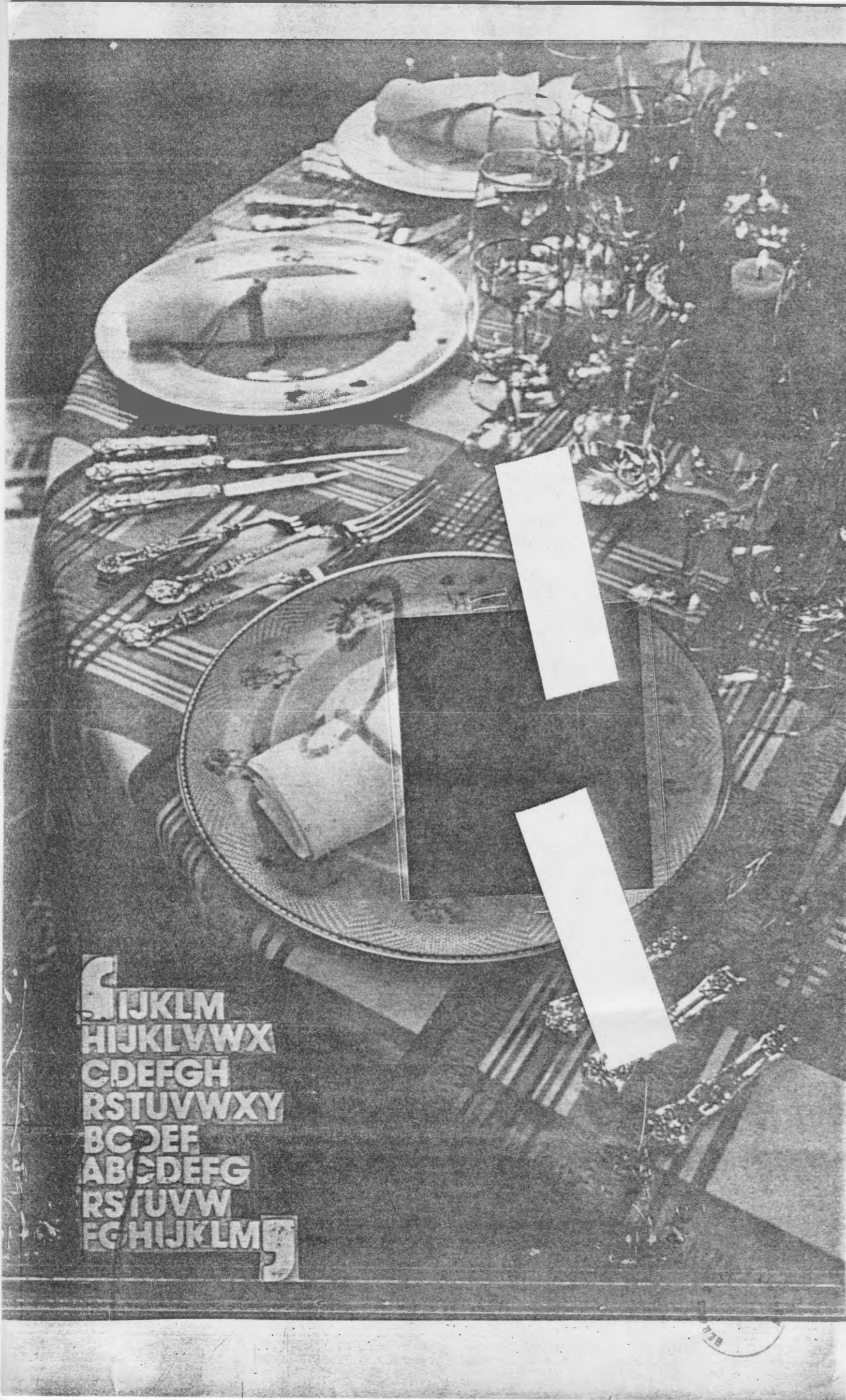


INITIALS
MUST BE A
← 10'

10% SPARTAN BLACK
FL. RT, RAG. LEFT 1/4 C
1 LINE X 14 PICAS
12 LINES X 2 1/2 PICAS
DROPS OUT OF PIC.
AND PRINTS WHITE

10% SPARTAN BLACK
FL. LEFT, RAG. RT. 1/4 C
13 LINES X 2 1/2 PICAS
DROPS OUT OF
PIC. AND PRINTS
WHITE

KLMNOPQRSTJK



HIJKLM
HIJLKVWX
CDEFGH
RSTUVWXY
BCDEF
ABCDEFG
RSTUVW
FGHIJKLM

Aug 1

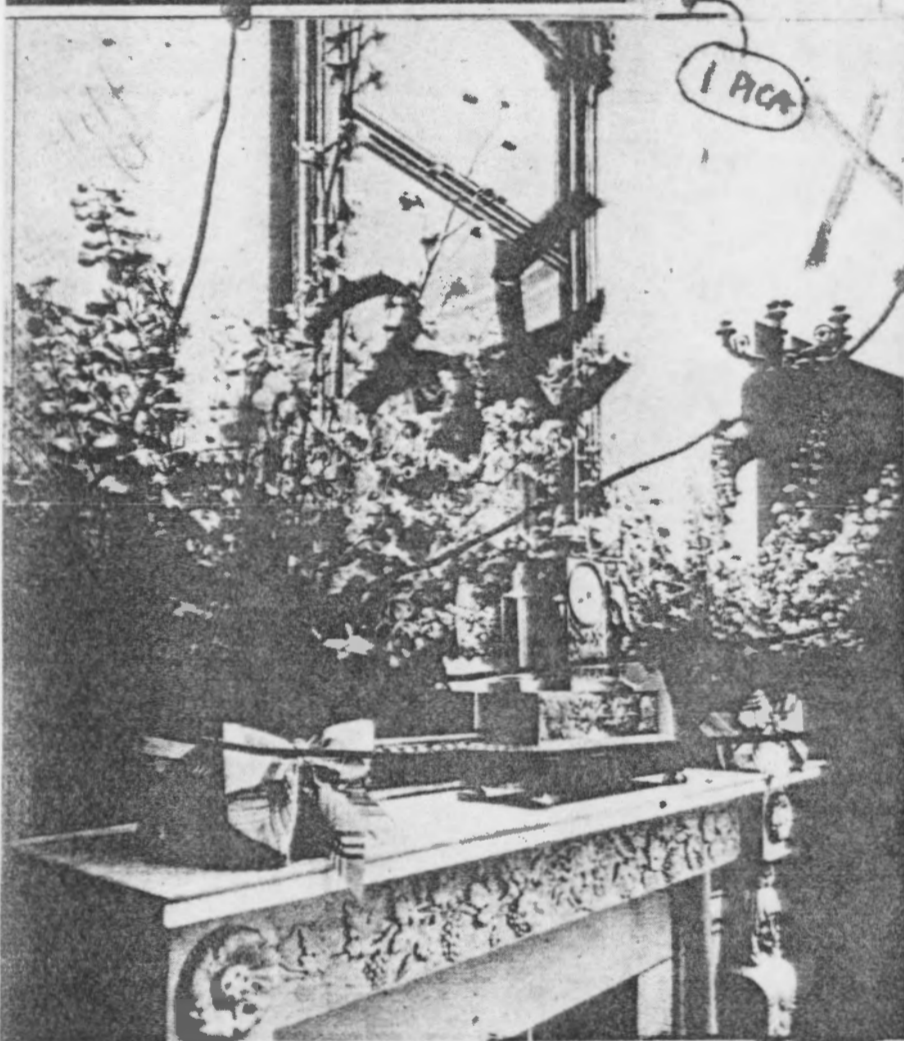
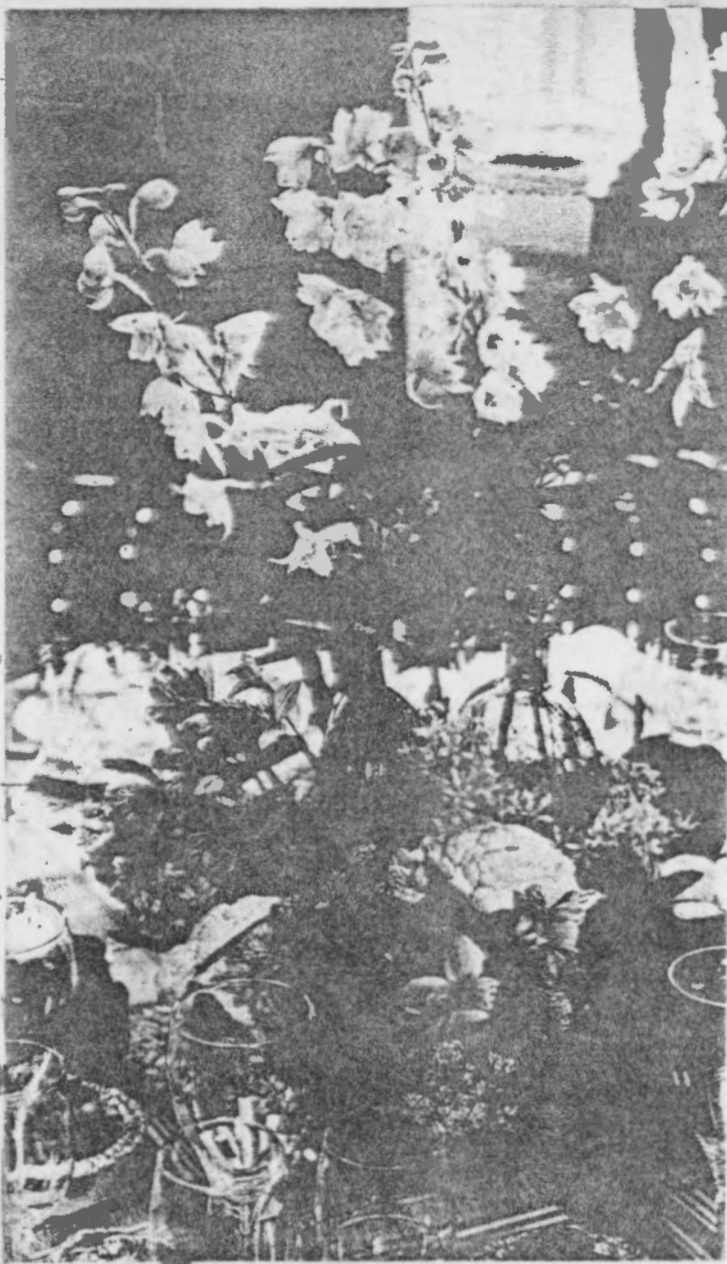
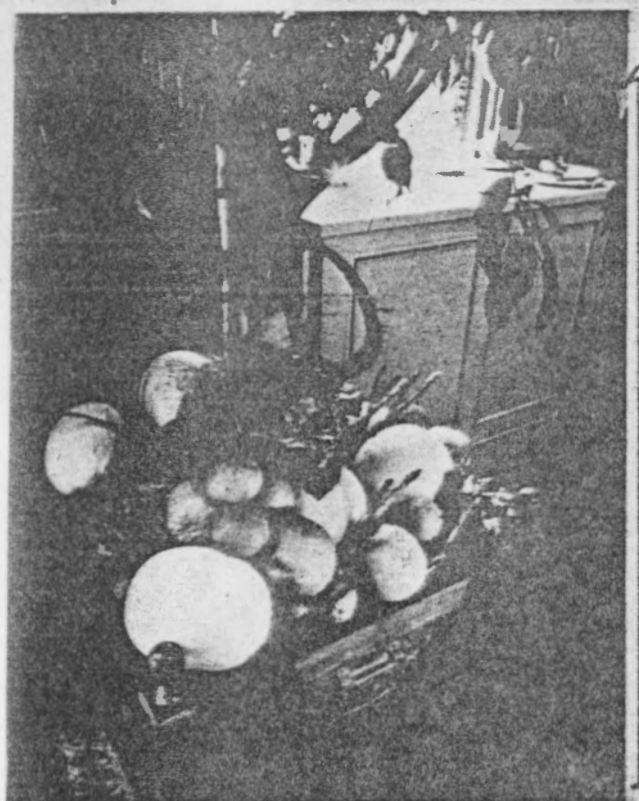
must be
78th

ound for the fairies and they lo
Near the top of it is a pasture where on
herdsman watched over his cows. Now th
- playground for the fairies and they lo
ere on
low th
they lo
es on v
ere on
ow th
they lo
es on v
op of it
ety gras bushes on which man watched
p. Near the too of it is a playground for
herdsman watched over herdsman wat

222

n a playground for the fairies and they love
 Near the top of it is a pasture where once upon
 erdsman watched over his cows. Now this h
 a a they loved it
 bet 10/10 SPARTAN BLACK playground
 elw FL LEFT, RAG RT. 1/2C erdsman wat
 par 16 LINES X 19 PICAS a playg
 his ly grass and
 fair ure wher
 eav ows. Now th
 Net is and th
 rds bushes on
 a pia and they lovenightcap. Near e wher
 y gras bushes on whicime a herdsmeus. Now th
 Near the top of it is long been a pia and th
 rdsman watched ove the velvety gras bushes on

A circular stamp with the text "READER FORD LIBRARY" arranged in a circle. The stamp is slightly faded and located in the upper right corner of the page.

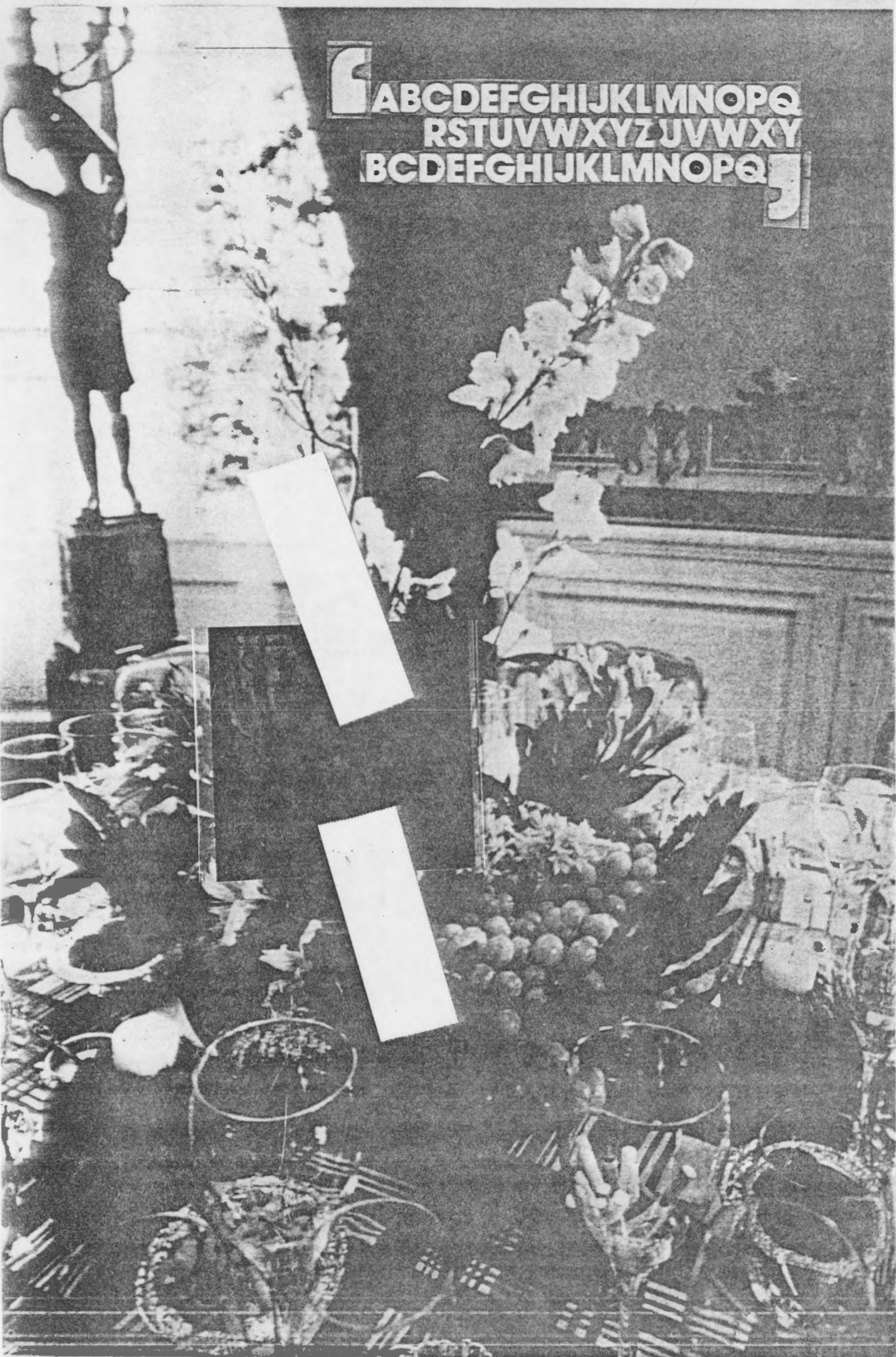


S INITIAL
MUST BE AN
S

10% SPARTAN BLACK
FL. RT., RAG. LEFT 1/2 C
1 LINE X 21 PICAS
12 LINES X 26 PICAS MAX



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
BCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ





his specimen book red

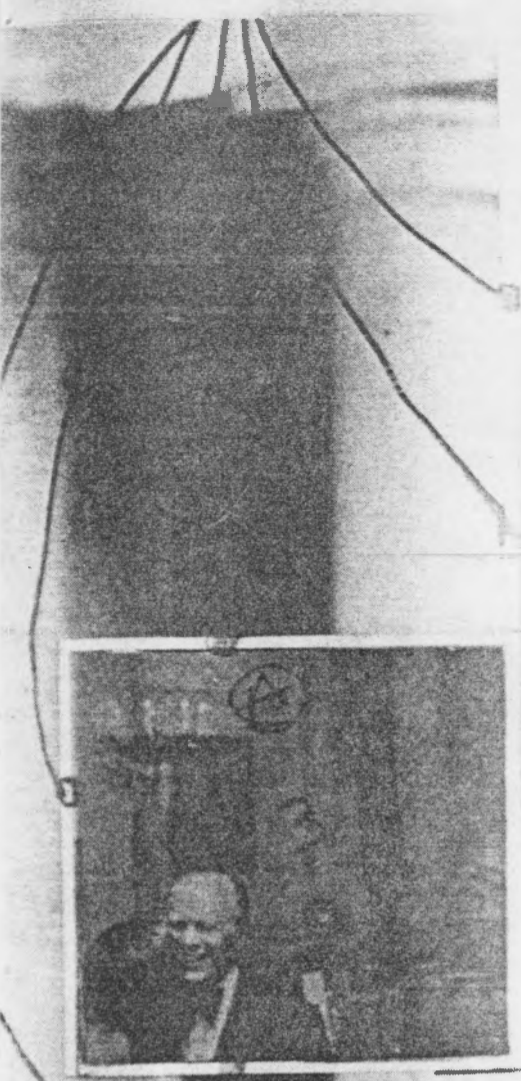
10% SPARTAN MED. ITAL
FL. RT. RAG. LEFT V/C
21 lines X 7 1/2 PICAS MAX

only as a listing of ty

10% SPARTAN MED. ITAL
FL. LEFT, RAG. RT. V/C
21 lines X 7 1/2 PICAS MAX

A DEM
DING E
OR DESIG
AND I
ES A BOI
TCHEN

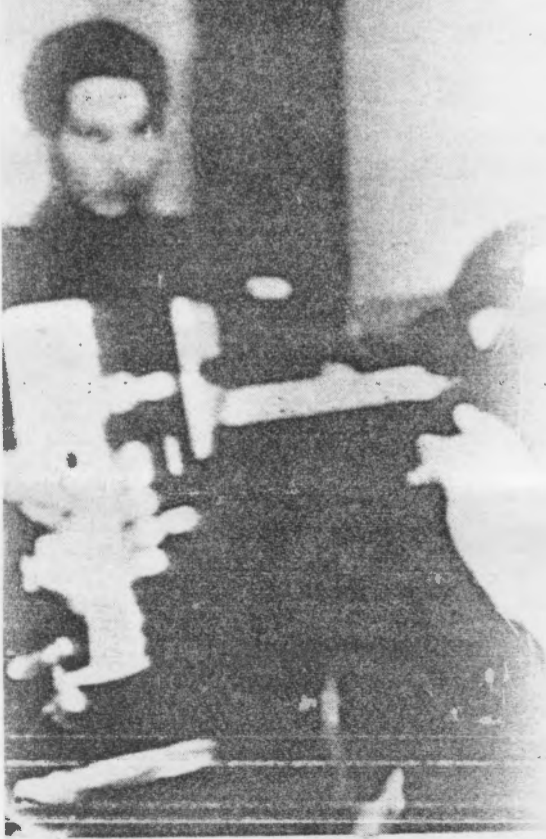




MUST BE AN
IN

where once upon a tip. Near re where once up
Now this hill had herds mews. Now this hill
and they loved it for en a pla and they loved it
shes on which a
top of it is a p
watched over h
ound for the fe
man watched a
ground for
s and the bro
ere once up
ow this hill
they loved it
ushes on which they lo-ve-d bushes on which
where once upon a tip. Near re where once up

19/6 SPARTAN BLACK
FL. RT., RAG LEFT
1 LINE X 19 1/2 PICS 1/2
14 LINES X 26 PICAS
TYPE DROPS OUT OF PIC.
AND PRINTS WHITE



GEORGE FORD LIBRARY

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



id for the fairies and the
velvety grass and the broad-leaved bushes
tcap. N
ime a her
been
he velvety
tcap.
ime a he
been
he velvety
tcap.
ime a herasms
been a playground for the tall
he velvety grass and the broad-leaved b



UVWXG

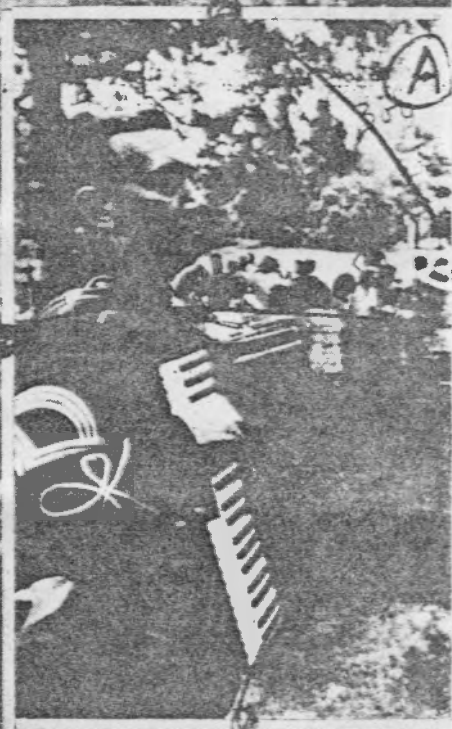
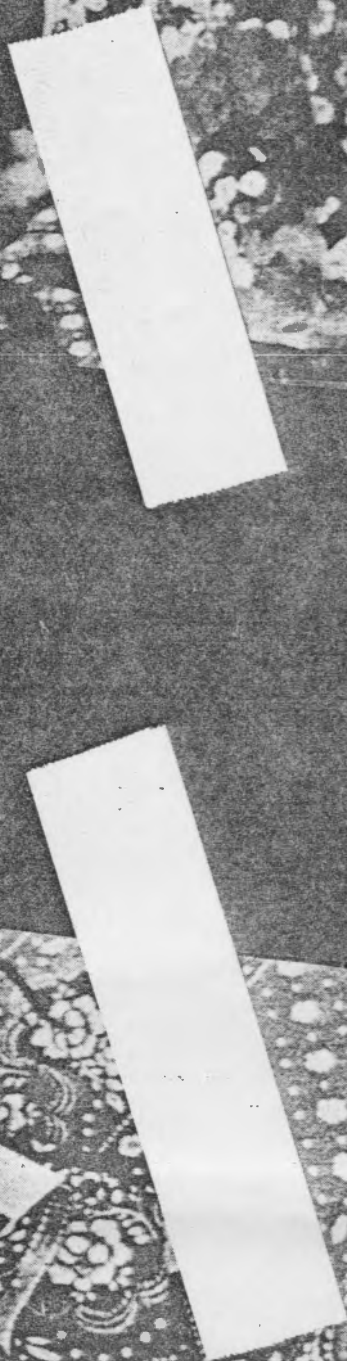
ABCDEF
GHIJKL
MNOP
QRSTU
VWXYZ
ABCDEF
GHIJKL
MNOP
QRSTU
VWXYZ



een a pla and they lovela and the
lvely gras bushes on whras bushes on wh
ap. Near the top of it isir the top
herdsman watched ovrnan watched o
een a playground for thlayground

10 SPARTAN BLACK
FL. LEFT, RAG. RT.
21 LINE 18 PICS
DROPS OUT OF PIC
PRINTS WHITE
U/LC

een a pla and they loy pla and the
lvely gras bushes on wgras bushes on w
ap. Near the top of it ear the top
herdsman watched dsman watched o
een a playground for playground
lvely grass and the brgrass and the bro





herdsman watched over him
 been a playground for the fairie
 very grass and the broad-lea

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V
W X Y Z
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N**

