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JANUARY... STARTS THURSDAY

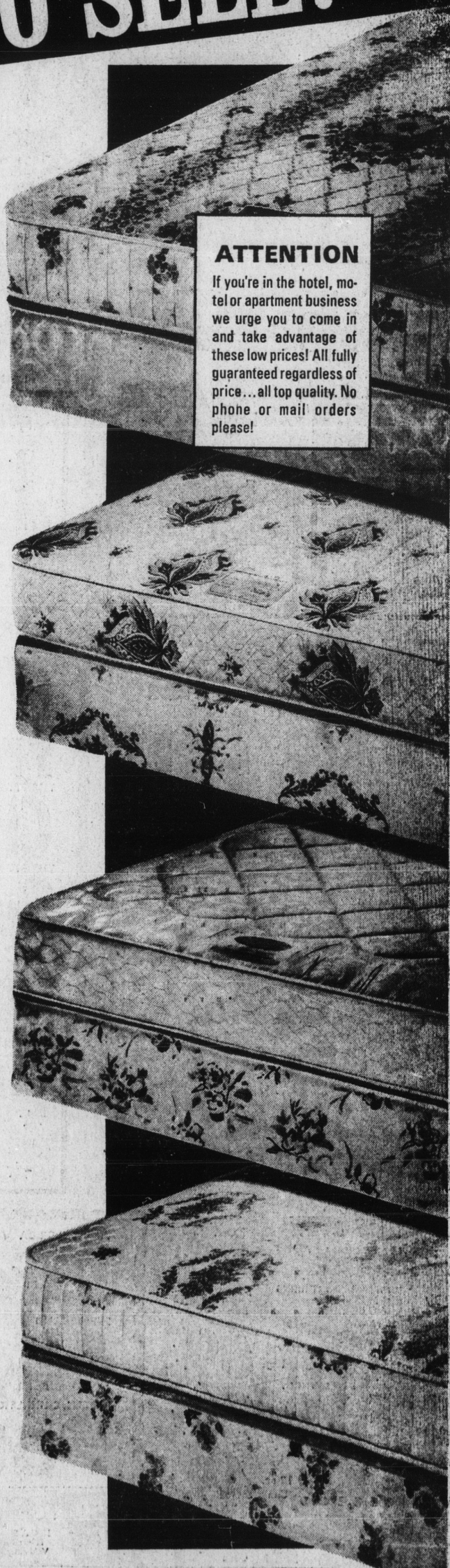
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GARDEN TIME

The use of salt to melt ice and snow on highways, walks and drives seems to be more widely used now than ever before. This winter many cities and towns are making every effort to protect trees and shrubs from injury caused by the melting ice, which carries the salt solution to the root system. Salt injury is causing widespread concern, according to Dr. Philip L. Ruscden of the Bartlett Tree Laboratories.

In the New England states, damage has been especially severe on roadside sugar maples. In that area, mechanical barriers are being employed to carry the salt water away from the trees, thus preventing seepage to the roots of the plants.

In many areas of the country, intensified use of salt is causing injury to nearby trees and shrubs. Both common salt (sodium chloride) and calcium chloride are both toxic to plants, in heavy concentrations, and may kill them in a very short time. In lesser salt concentration solutions the roots die more slowly. The leaves may exhibit a scorched appearance, usually along the margins, and the terminals may die back causing a rather scorched appearance throughout the tree. When these symptoms are noted, it is usually too late to do anything to save the trees.

Perhaps the most noticeable injury to street and roadside trees and shrubs occurs near school and commercial bus stops and along low-lying areas of the highways. Shallow rooted trees such as dogwood and maples are harmed first.

Homeowners often do extensive damage to trees, shrubs and grass along walks and drives by over-use of salt in any form. Signs of browned leaves and retarded growth, that are characteristic of salt injury, are frequently mistaken for some other type of injury, so don't compound your problems.

The use of coarse sand or ashes on sidewalks and drives is far safer than the use of salt and not much more trouble, if you make preparations ahead of the coming of rough weather.

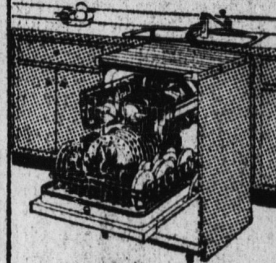
You might try mixing sawdust with enough water to form a wet mash. Broadcast this over the surface and let it freeze. When tracked in the house, it would be easier to vacuum than either sand or ashes.

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