

Ontario Hydro issues warning

Ontario Hydro is warning people, living in homes using the Flex-Heat brand of ceiling-mounted heating system to arrange for its disconnection as soon as possible.

An advisory to residents earlier this year warned that a manufacturing defect in the product had created a potential fire hazard. Since then, Hydro has inspected about 400 homes using Flex-Heat.

"The evidence is that the product will eventually fail without

warning and become a fire hazard," Marcucci said. "Consequently, in the interest of public safety, all Flex-Heat systems must be disconnected before next heating season."

Ontario Hydro electrical safety inspectors will be visiting all identified Flex-Heat residences to advise people about the hazard and to make arrangements for the product's safe disconnection.

There are other radiant and ceiling-cable heating systems on

the market and in use which are not affected by this warning. Only the Flex-Heat system must be disconnected.

The problem with Flex-Heat was identified after investigations into two fires in 1990 concluded that they, and three others in the past 12 years, had been caused by the failure of Flex-Heat panels. Fortunately, there were no injuries in any of the fires.

Flex-Heat systems were in-

stalled in homes during the late '70s and early 1980s. None have been installed since 1981. The manufacturer - Canada Thermofilm Ltd. - is no longer in business.

For further information and to arrange a visit by an Ontario Hydro electrical inspector, people should call either the local Ontario Hydro Inspection Office (listed in the telephone book) or 1-800-263-9000 extension 10.

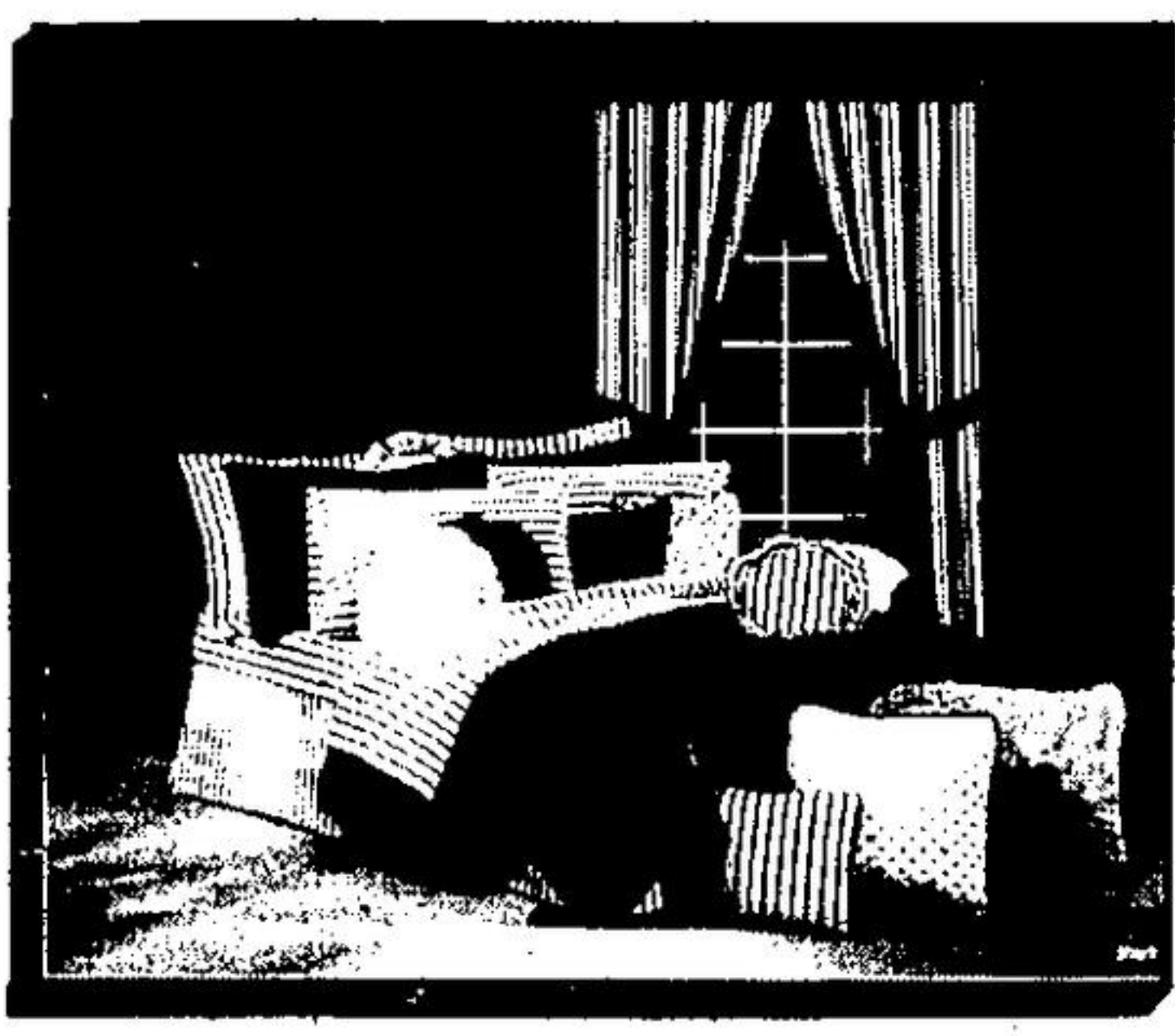
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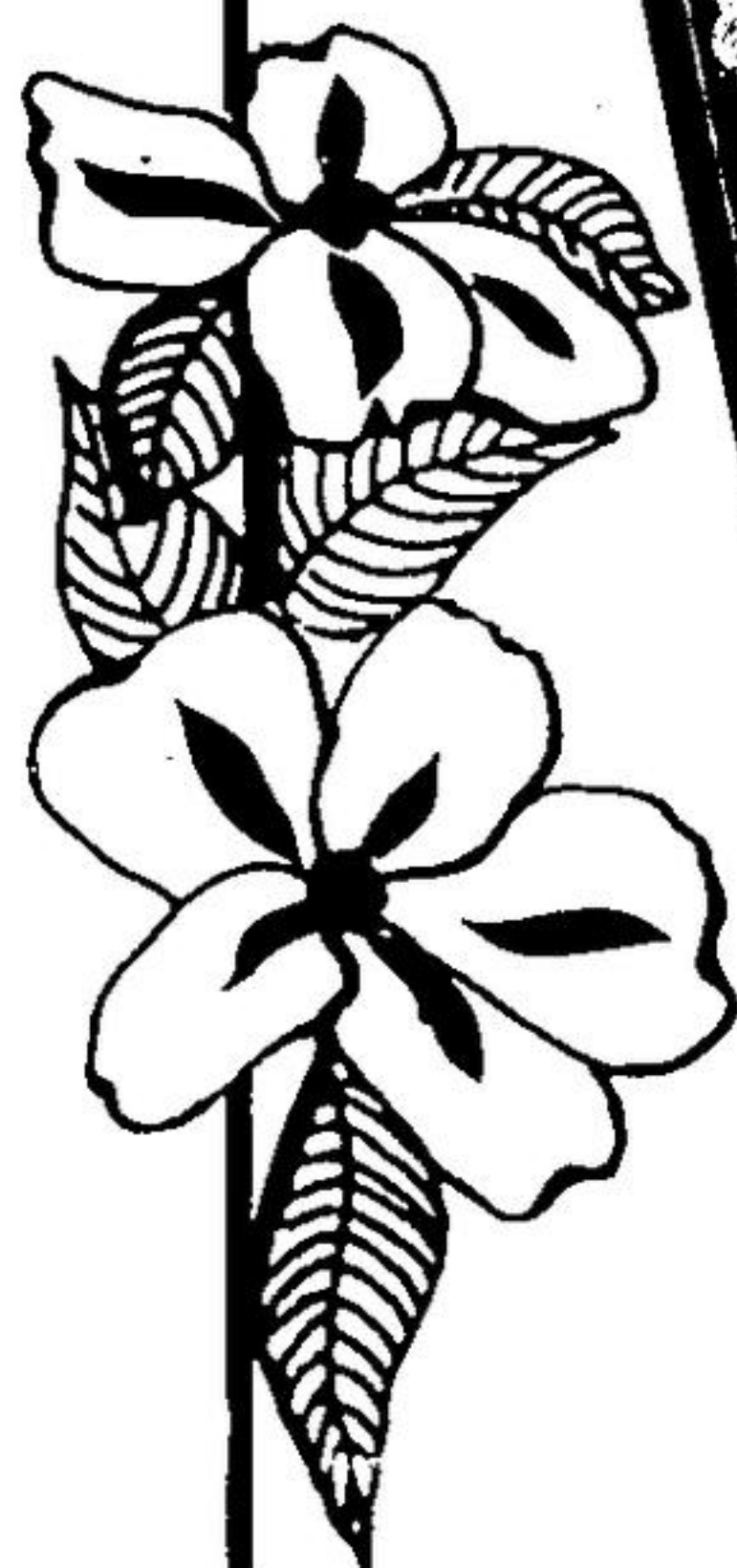
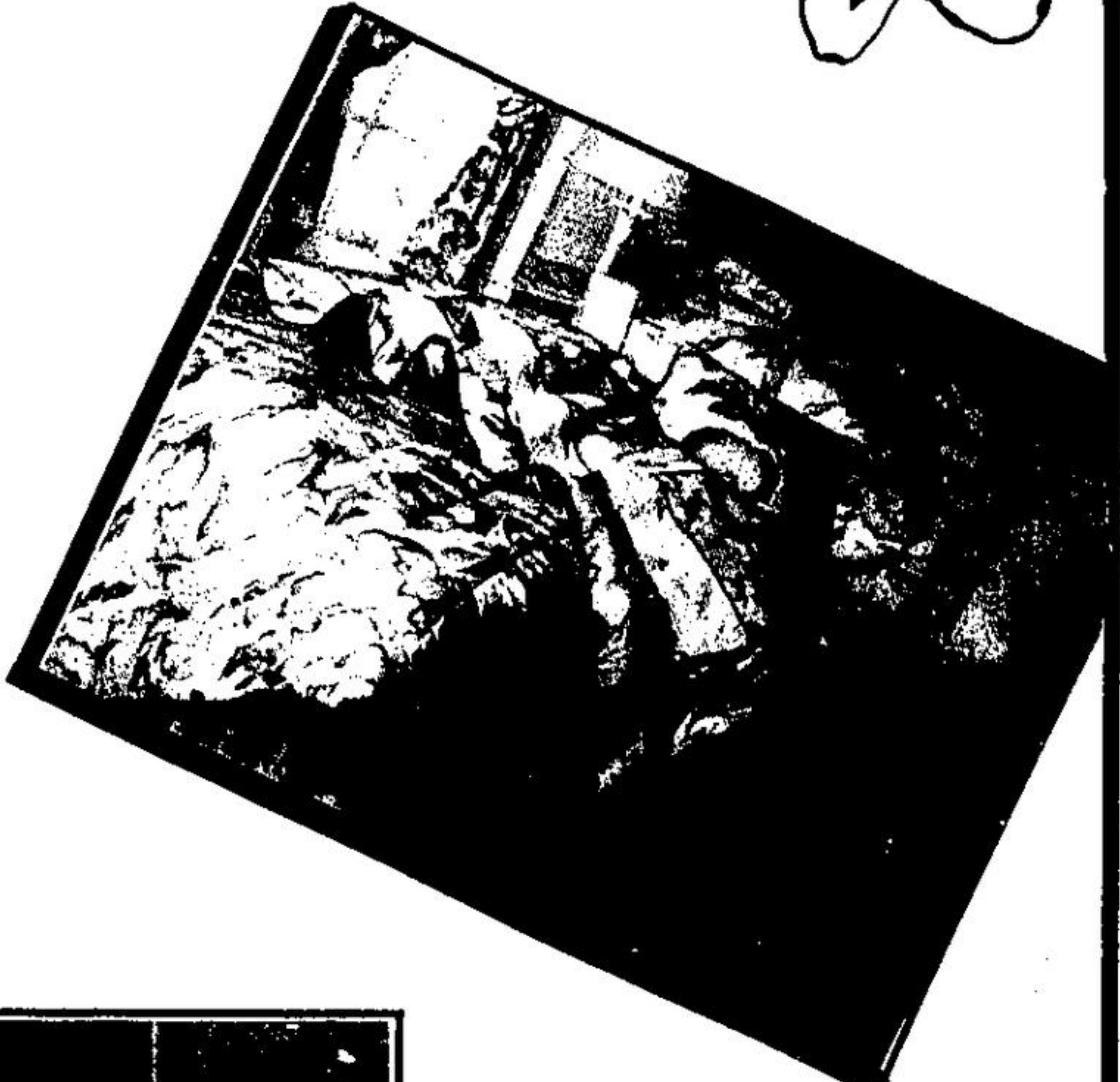
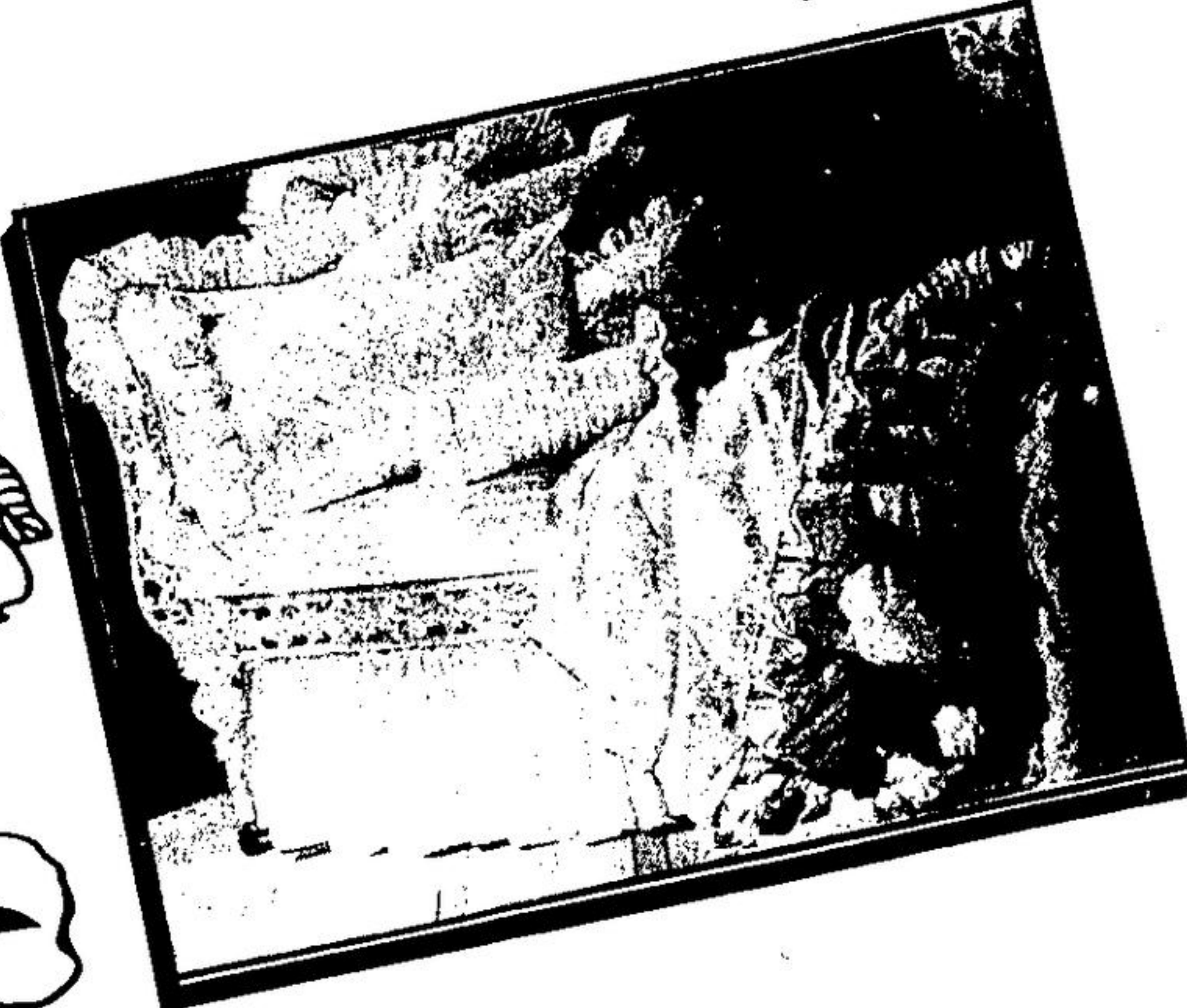
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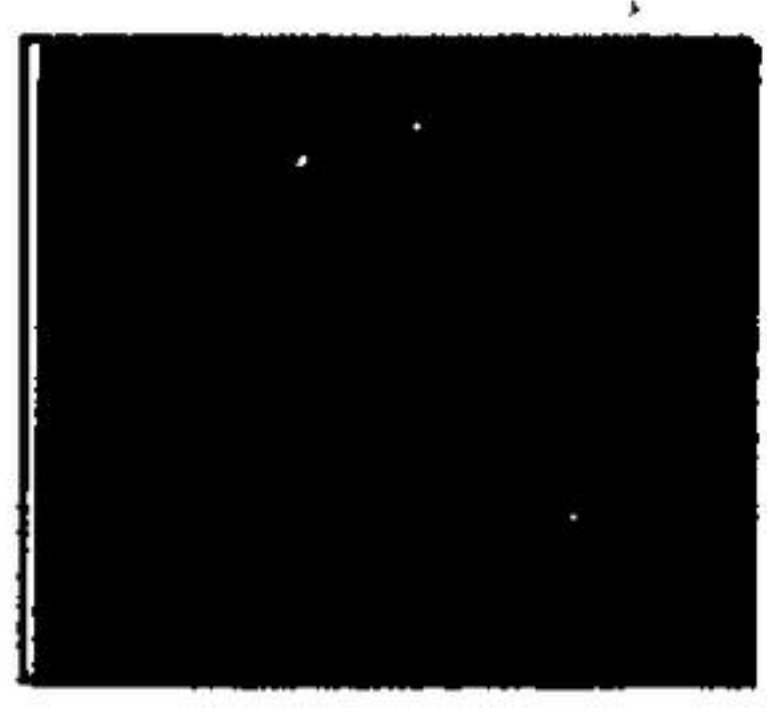
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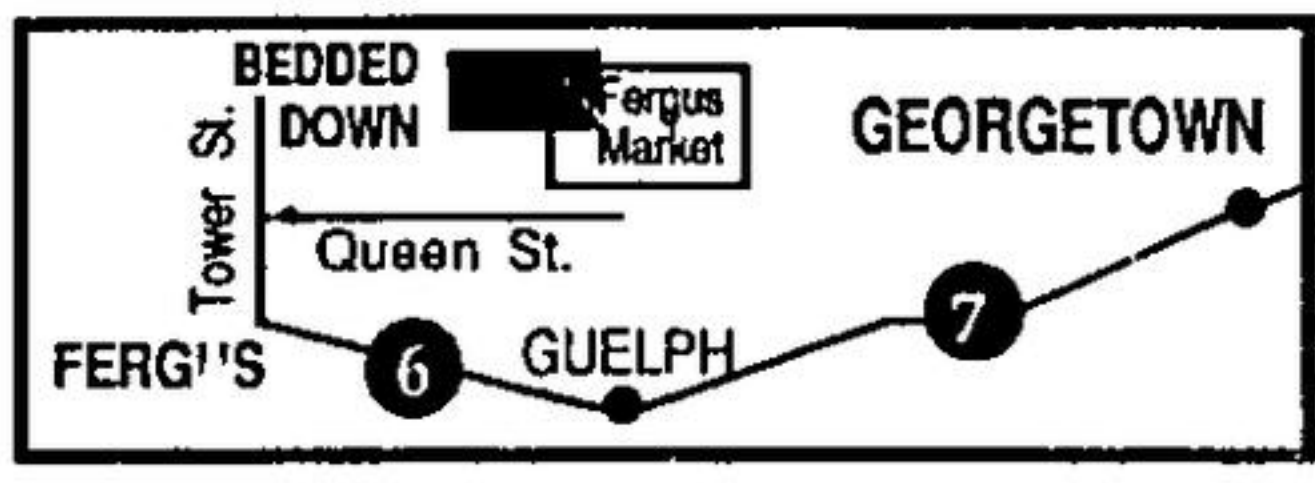
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