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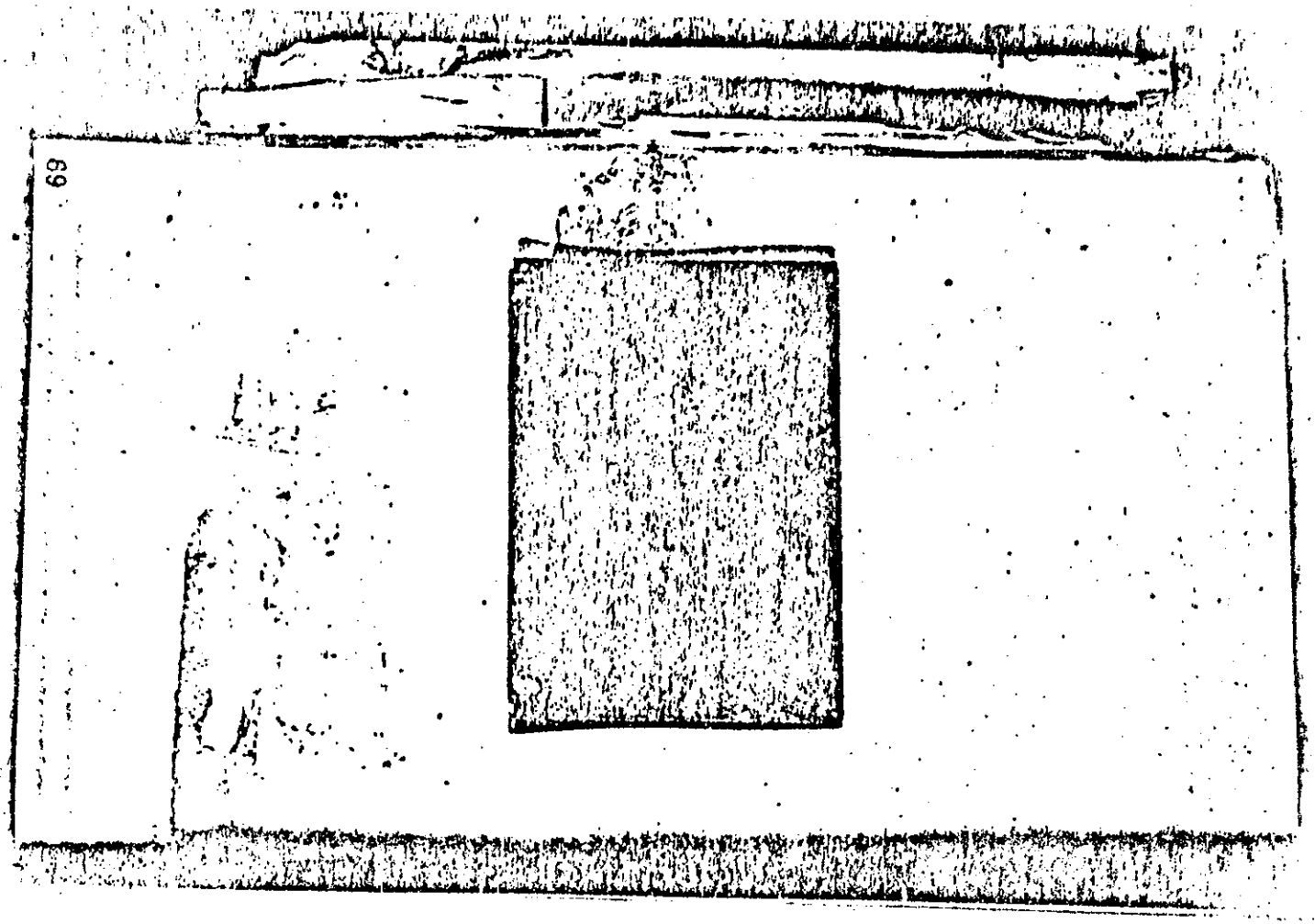

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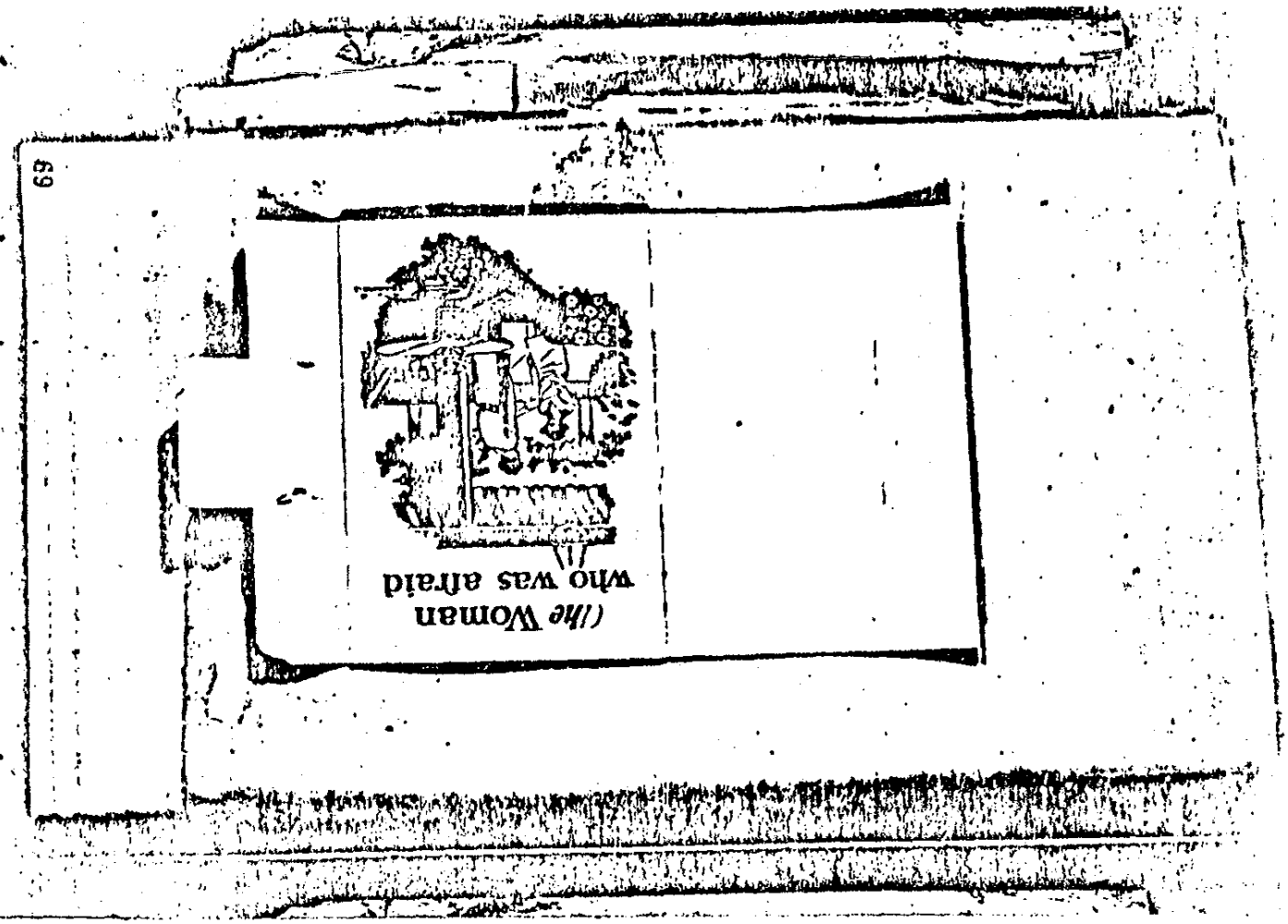

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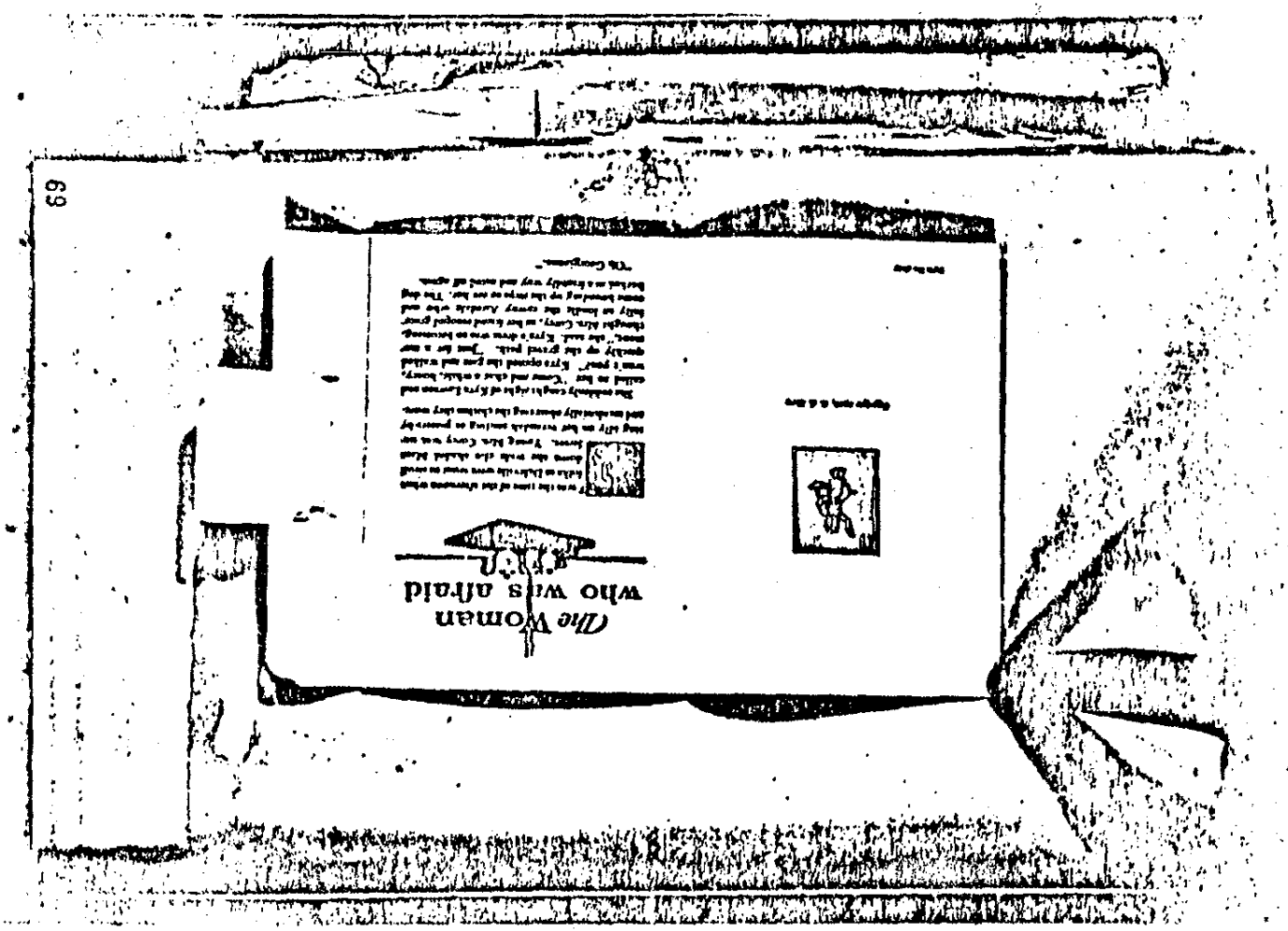
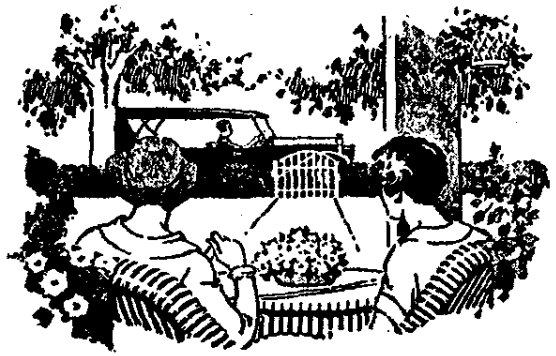


"Yas'm, Miz Corey." A kinky head looked inquiringly out of the door. "You might prepare some tea for Miss Kyra and me." "Yas'm, Miz Corey."

The two women gossiped amiably. Their talk was mostly of the women they knew—their husbands, their homes, their habits—always fruitful topics.

The conversation suddenly was interrupted by the honk of an automobile horn. A large black car rolled slowly past the house. In the driver's seat sat a plainly dressed woman. Kyra smiled with amusement.



"Isn't that typical of Mrs. Barnes?"



"How—typical, my dear?"

"Oh, she is always so exceedingly careful, so conservative. Her hats, her dresses—they cost a great deal but they're so colorless. Even her automobile is black as Georgianna."

"Whut's that Miss Kyra?" The maid had come with the tea.

"Miss Kyra just remarked how bright you were," smiled her mistress. "Yas'm, Miz Corey."

"And in decorating her home," continued Kyra, "she believes in playing just as safe."

"But her furnishings are quite beautiful. Most everything comes straight from the city," explained Mrs.Corey. A somewhat puzzled look stole over her features. "Honey," she asked, "just what do you mean by—by playing safe? I don't quite see——"

"Well, I just mean this business of being so

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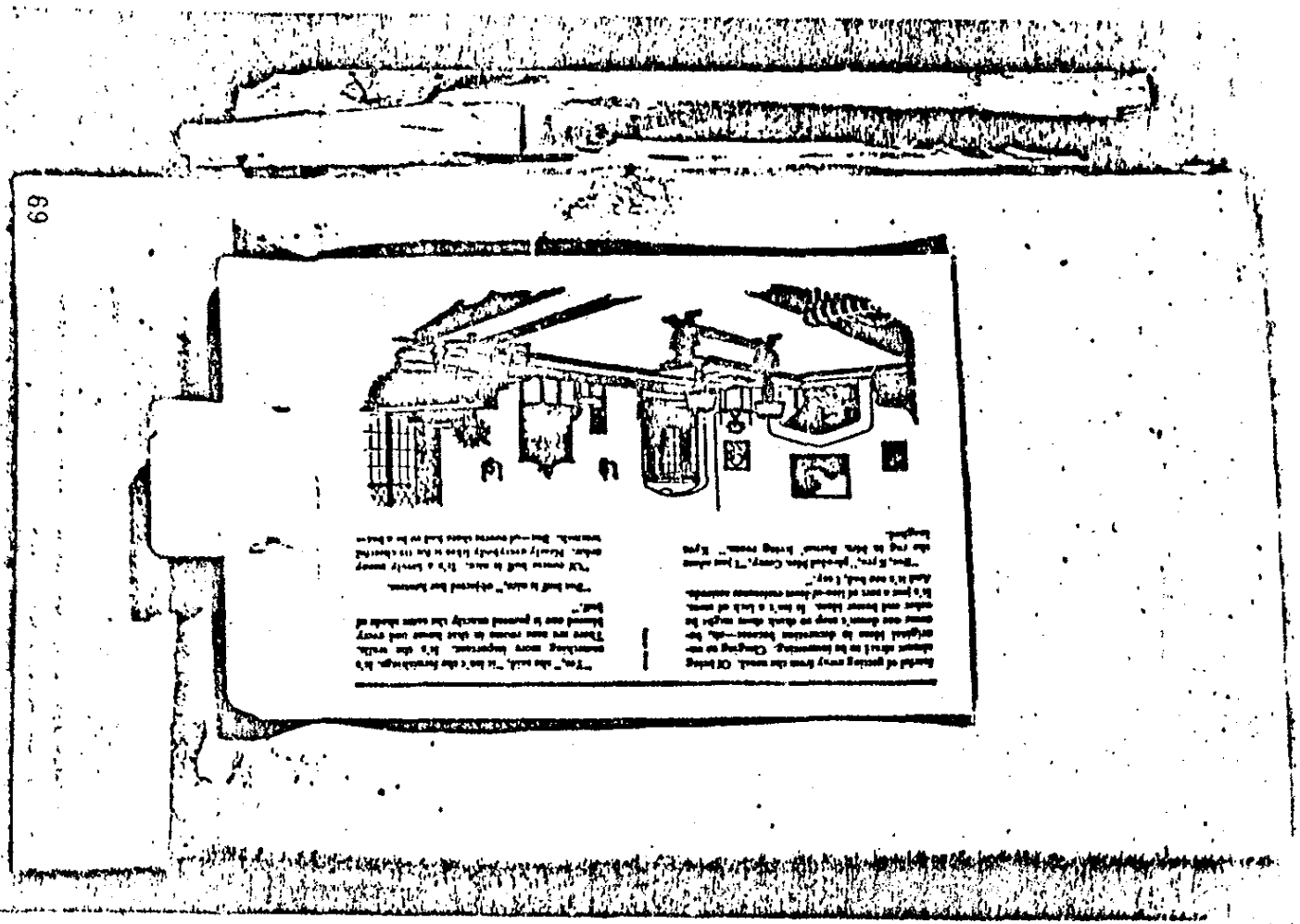

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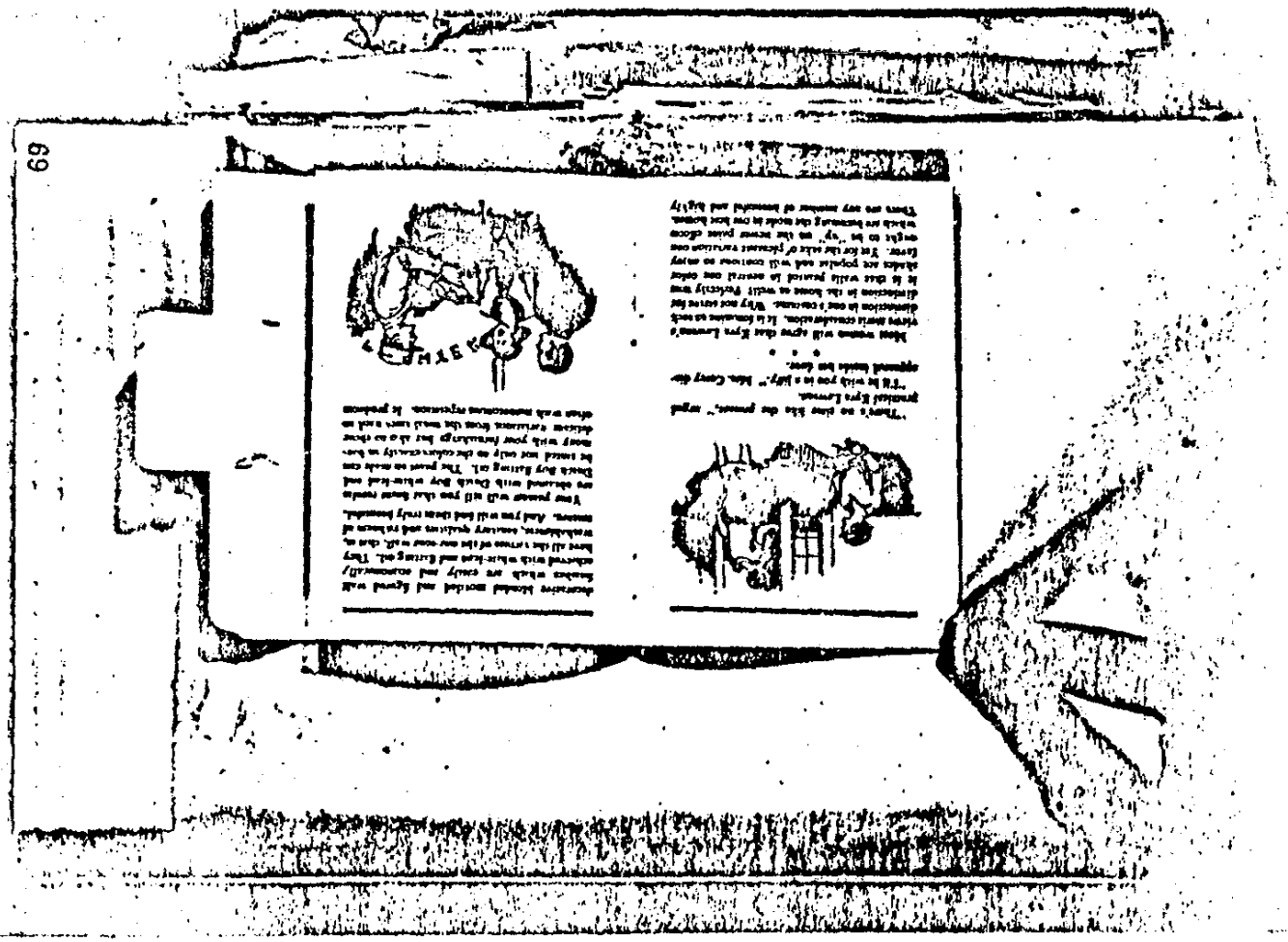

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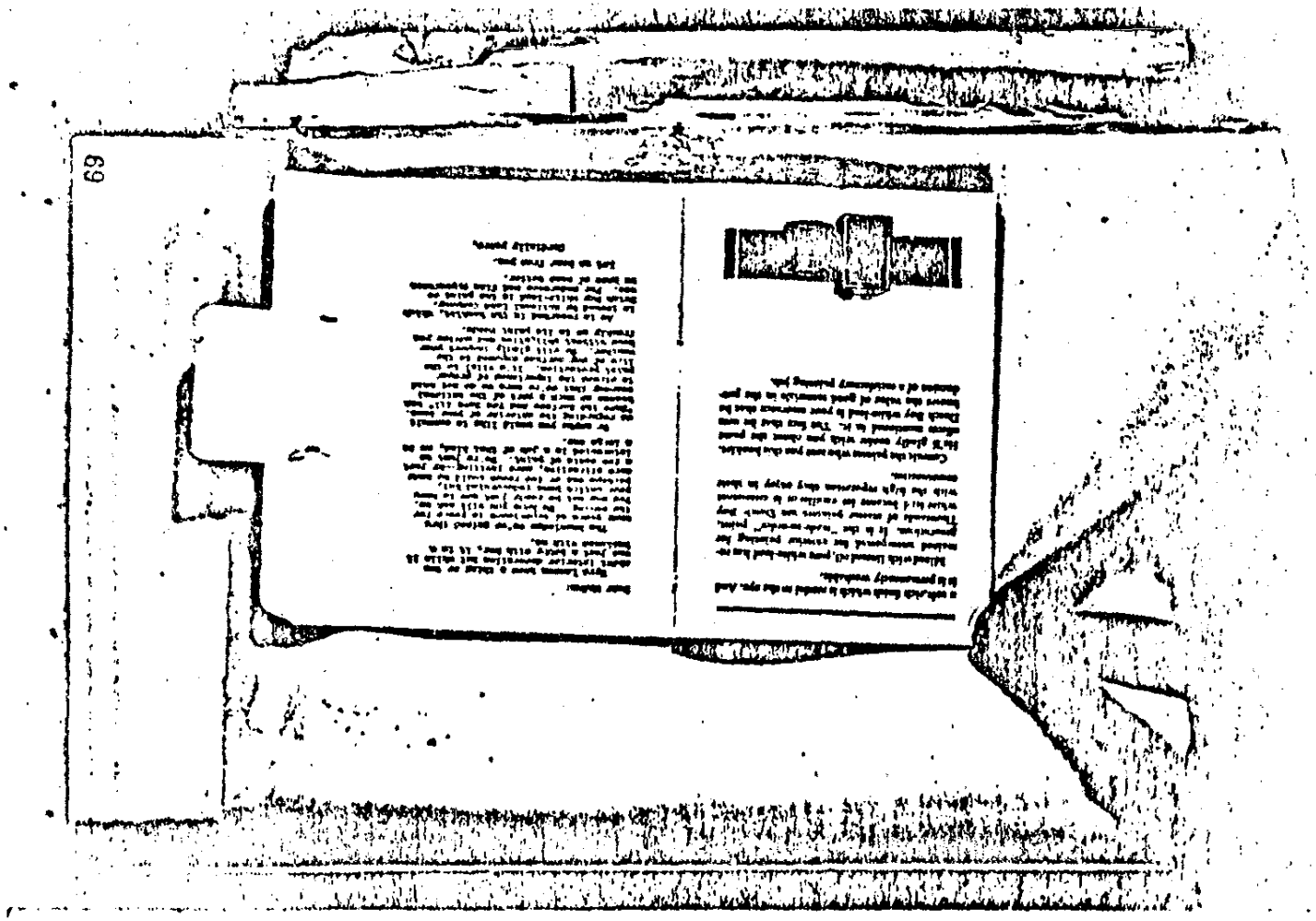

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