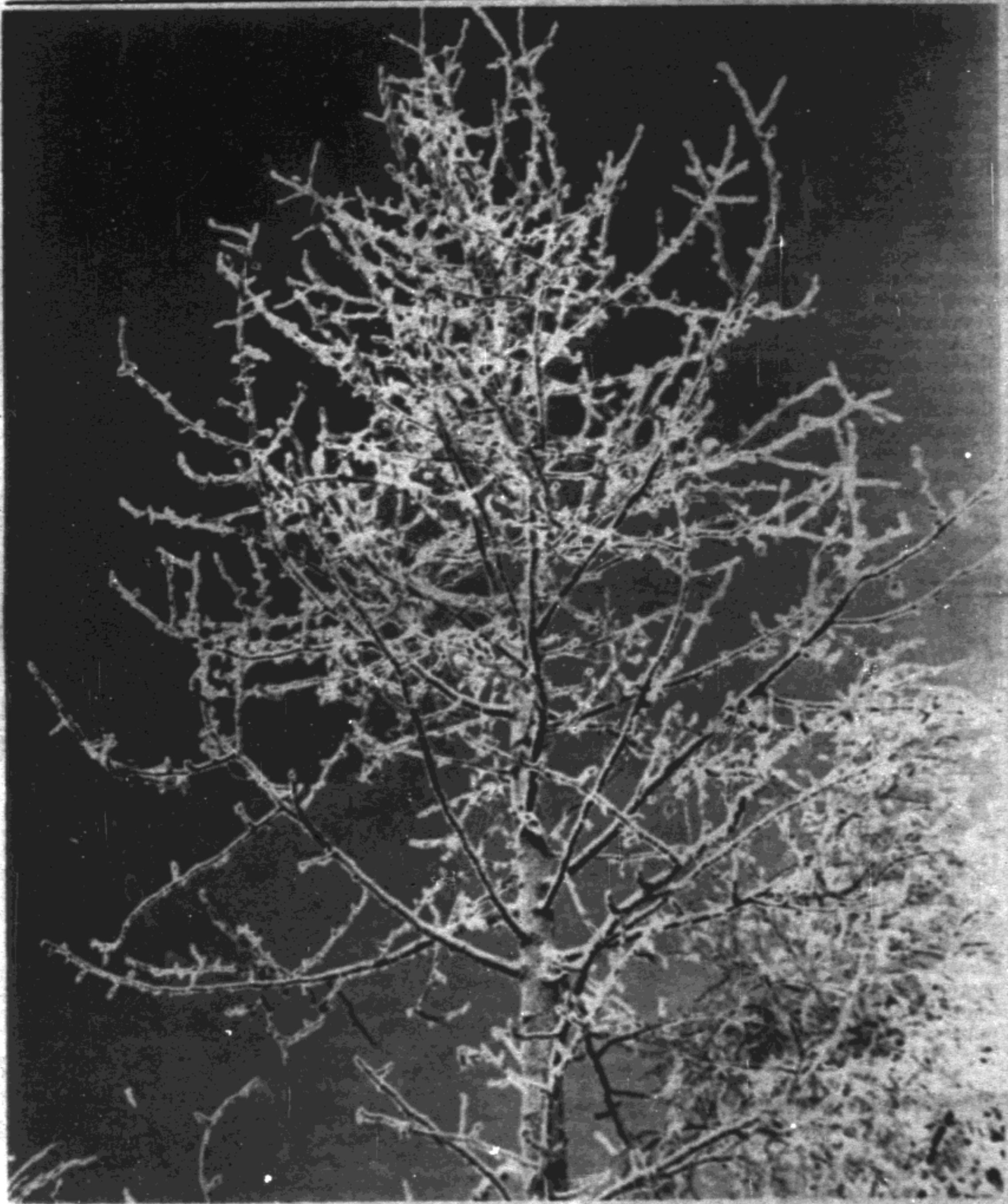




WINTER'S DELICATE TOUCH—As the new year approaches, nature's winter artistry is delicately festooning the leafless boughs of birch trees of interior Alaska with glints of frost drawn from below zero temperatures. —DIGNA JOHNSON Photograph