"As one grows older in years, the spiritual values of life become greater asset items on Life's Ledger. Perhaps no better time to inventory these assets comes than Christmas time, when all the world is supposed to be under the anasthesia of the axiom, "'Tis better to give than to receive."

The Birmingham Eccentric

12 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTIETH YEAR—NO. 39 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1937 $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

"Man is a piece of the Universe made alive" said Emerson. Doesn't that suggest to each of us that there are no limitations to the enjoyment of life that may be ours? And doesn't Emerson's dictum suggest, too, that man has no right to be narrow-minded—not if he "is a piece of the Universe made alive."

—

The upset condition of this world probably may be parallelled in the conditions that exist within the average city block. When your average city block is a peaceful one, when gossip and falsification cease to exist, when people learn to get along with one another, then this harmony will be reflected in the world's affairs. The sunshine of world amity never will get in through dirty windows in any human habitation.

—

The pessimist who wants to know what the world has to be thankful for may take this as an answer: the world has to be thankful that there are not more pessimists.

—

If you are not a church-goer, perhaps you can answer this question: what is wrong with me, if I have not come to the belief that religion should hold for me a kind of spiritual food that will make me happier, healthier, wiser?

—

Some where in this community there are men and women who, quietly and effectively, are going about doing much good. How sweet must be their lives; how restful their sleep! 'Tis a pity there are not more of them.

—

Advice to women: your men folks don't mind how much you paint, so long as you are recognizable. But we men do object to women who foolishly use their lovely faces as colorful billboards.

—

Something of the old-fashioned Christmas spirit was manifest last week when our household was presented with the following: two five-pound packages of buckwheat pancake flour; a half gallon of strained honey; two one-pound packages of real creamery butter; and a dozen double-yolked eggs. The whole gift, later to be transformed through the magic of kitchen chemistry into savory breakfasts for the Averill household, smacks of thoughtful, delightful, delicious, and de-lovely consideration—and right here I want to thank the givers, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward McMullen, of Linden, Michigan. "Mac," approaching the youthful age of four score years, and his wonderful wife, Dorothea, edit and publish The Linden Leader. Quietly, but mighty effectively, they live full lives, albeit it in some obscurity. And I envy them their serenity. When two of our children, John and Susan, went up to Linden the day before Christmas to present gifts to them, Mrs. McMullen insisted upon giving them more gifts—"Sweet Grapejuice from Edward's vineyard"; "Citron Preserves"; "Peaches from Edward's Orchard—the second last tree." Every one of the six jars bearing its homely, intimate label. And in that brief line: "The second last tree," we can vision a real sermon of love, and faith, and domestic companionship. Surely, surely, the Lord smileth upon the McMullens, and giveth them both power and direction to reveal to a troubled world something of His kindness and grace!

—

One day last week, while walking down Fort Street in Detroit, I came upon an elderly man who had paused at the curb, preparing to feel his way across the busy street; I knew he was without material vision because his right hand held a white cane. "May I help you across the street?" I asked, as I stopped beside him, and took hold of a rather shabby overcoat. He smiled assent, and then I walked with him toward the Fort Street entrance of the U. S. Postoffice, where he said he wanted to go. But before entering he released himself from my grasp as we came upon a Salvation Army lass, ringing her bell for pennies for the wonderful work that that organization does; reaching into his overcoat pocket he brought forth a small package, which he gave to the Army lass, saying: "Here Lassie, is some hot coffee I thought you'd like to have on this cold morning." Did I say this man was blind? Well, perhaps as the world sees things—but hardly as the wisdom of the ages views life. And, too, my own day was made brighter by this passing observation.

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GIFTS READY TO WELCOME FIRST BABY

Local Merchants Offer Fine Tribute To New Arrival Of 1938

Boy or girl, Birmingham's first new baby in 1938, will find a warm welcome awaiting when it arrives sometime after the hands of the town clock indicate that the New Year has succeeded the old.

The welcome will take the very substantial form of gifts, and gifts of considerable value too, offered as birthday presents to the first baby to arrive as the New Year dawns.

First of all, the new Mother and Dad need not worry about transportation facilities for getting their new son or daughter home from the hospital. Manley Bailey has solved the problem by offering as his special tribute, a free ride from the hospital in his ambulance.

(Continued on Page Two)

PLANS VARY FOR OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve will be observed in various ways in Birmingham, ranging from Watch Night services in local churches to dances in country clubs and the Community House, and numerous private celebrations.

The First Baptist Church of Birmingham and Christ Church Cranbrook will conduct Watch Night services beginning at 10:30. Oakland Hills and Forest Lake Country Clubs will welcome the New Year with dancing and other festivities. In Birmingham, the Community House will be the scene of parties given by two local organizations, the Hassberger Chapter of De Molay and the Alpha Omega.

At the service to be conducted in the Baptist Church, the Rev. Joseph O. Nelson will bring a New Year's message to the congregation of which he is the new pastor. There will be special music by the B. Y. P. U. An interesting feature of the service will be the big Friendship Circle to be formed by members of the congregation, who will stand and silently wait the coming of the New Year. The evening will be interspersed with hymns and recitations. After midnight, light refreshments will be provided by members of the Women's Union.

Dr. Preston E. Slosson of the University of Michigan will give an hour's address at Christ Church Cranbrook at the Watch Night Service beginning at 10:30. Dr. Slosson's subject will be 'The Significance of the Outstanding Events in the Year 1937."

Following the address will be a brief service of meditation with special music by the adult choir, including Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells." At midnight there will be a carillon recital by the bellmaster, William Hall Miner, who will ring in the New Year. Afterwards there will be light refreshments in the Guild Hall, affording members of the church an opportunity to extend New Year's greetings to one another.

Baldwin Public Library will close at 6 p. m. on New Year's Eve.

Mayor Reviews Year As Satisfactory One For City

As Mayor of Birmingham, John E. Martz, extends the following message to the people of the City. Mayor Martz points out the aims and realizations of the city government during 1937, reviewing the various steps denoting progress. His message follows:

"Important routine and considerable forward looking action of a constructive character have received constant attention throughout the year 1937 by the elected and appointed officials of the city. The refunded debt has been substantially reduced and no new obligations contracted. Wider Woodward is now definitely under construction. Current tax collections are again about seventy per cent and our share of delinquent tax collections has made it possible to take care of a number of necessary and important public matters, some of which are mentioned below. The settlement with Bloomfield city and township became an accomplished fact. Our disbursements are within the budget and the tax rate remains the same.

Mr. Martz

Definite steps toward the construction of a new and greatly needed Sewage Disposal Plant have been taken by the purchase of a site and the receipt of plans from the engineers. The purchase of some public works equipment, the moving of the water tank to our newly acquired land, the building of a practical city warehouse and garage and the drilling and equipment of our fourth deep well, have all been completed and paid for without adding to our debt.

"The legislative progress of the city includes the Zoning Ordinance, Amusement Ordinance, Trailer Ordinance, Street Trades Ordinance and several others. A Traffic Ordinance based on the model now gaining favor throughout the state and a new Sign and Billboard Ordinance have been drafted and are under consideration.

"The municipal collection of ashes and rubbish, the letting of a contract for the construction of the last part of the large sewer at the north end of wider Woodward and an effort toward a better understanding and observance of traffic conditions and regulations have been started.

"Department heads and employees have labored faithfully and instances of outstanding public service could be related. Public credit should also be given to our five supervisors and to the Board of Appeals under the Zoning Ordinance.

"Much remains to be done particularly in public works concerning streets and sewers. The people will soon hear about the plans for financing the Sewage Disposal Plant. These are the major objectives of the City Commission for the coming year and nothing of greater importance has faced the people of the city for some time.

"The City Commission and department heads appreciate the support and constructive help that has been extended to them by the people and the press throughout the year and shall earnestly endeavor to merit a continuation of the helpful attitude of the public in the year to come."

John E. Martz
Mayor

Wayne Instructor To Address PTA

Looking toward future developments in education, the Quarton School Parent Teacher Association has invited Dr. John Sullivan, professor of psychology in the College of Education at Wayne University, to speak at the meeting Monday at 8 p. m. at the school.

Dr. Sullivan will discuss "What Is a Good Modern School?" Prior to joining the faculty at Wayne, Dr. Sullivan was instructor in educational psychology at Wester State Teachers College at Kalamazoo. Later he went to Columbia University, where he was assistant instructor in the same subject. In his address, Dr. Sullivan will discuss the ideal set-up for the school of the future from the standpoint of his training and experience.

EXCHANGE CLUB INSTALLS NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

The Birmingham Exchange Club installed Howard Wendorph as president at the meeting held Tuesday noon at the Community House. Mr. Wendorph succeeds Rice E. Howell, retiring president. Other new officers installed were Guy Jensen, vice-president; Dr. A. Kenneth Stolpman, secretary, and Dr. James J. Reilly, Jr., treasurer. The two latter succeeded themselves in office.

Mr. Howell paid a tribute to the club members for their spirit of cooperation in his farewell address. In response to a call for results from the Goodfellow campaign to raise Christmas funds, James W. Taylor, captain, reported $1,200.-91 had been realized, and 55 families provided for, leaving a balance to cover needs as they arise during the year.

Through the dental clinic sponsored by the club, for which Dr. Reilly reported, 19 children received dental care. As a token of appreciation to the out-going president, a plaque was presented to Mr. Howell.

Appointed to the Board of Control were Donald C. Egbert, Ralph Moulthrop, Ernest Burtraw, Ray Palmer and Mr. Howell.

Mr. Wendorph named the following committees for the next six months: Program, William Thomas, Guy Jensen, David Anderson and David Levinson; membership, Fred Whittlesey, Dr. John Wood and Kenneth Bingham; attendance, Ernest Burtraw, Dr. Thomas Watson and Clifford Lawson; entertainment, Maurice Olson, Donald Egbert, J. B. Minton and Robert Allen; sports, Arthur Roberts, Walter Lang and J. H. Sheridan; bridge, Howard Johnson, Ralph Moulthrop, Manley Bailey and Ralph Bricker; council representative, Dr. O. O. Beck, alternate, Rice Howell; song leader, Walter Parmenter, pianist, Dr. W. L. Kemp; sheriff, Dr. John Wood; undersheriff, James Taylor; publicity committee, Ray Palmer; dental clinic, Dr. Reilly, Dr. E. E. Hammonds; relief committee, Ralph Wilson; chief justice, Harry Starr.

PASTOR URGES PERMANENCE IN MARRIAGE

"What God Hath Joined" Is Theme Of Address By Rev. Aulenbach

Taking as his text the well known Biblical admonition: "What, therefore, God hath joined together, let no man put asunder," Rev. W. Hamilton Aulenbach, assistant rector of Christ Church Cranbrook, addressed an audience of 100 Birmingham men and women, members of the Lions Club and their wives, at the Community House Wednesday noon. The nearby Episcopal clergyman made one of the most eloquent arguments for wedded happiness ever presented to the Club. He was introduced by Raymond H. Peck.

Enthusiastic Youth

"It has been the delightful privilege of mine to marry a great many people, many of them young, and I am always impressed with the enthusiastic approach they make to this important step," stated Rev. Aulenbach. "I am also impressed with the fact that too many wedded couples, after from one to 20 years of married life, seek divorces. These latter cases bring with them the problems of divided loyalties, separated families, and the stigma that always attaches to divorced people, and makes them far more self-conscious than most others.

"It always behooves a parson, when marrying couples, to impress upon them the fact that the new relation should be an 'until death do us part' affair; that marriage undeniably interweaves two personalities together so that, as Jesus intimated, the two become one; that God has so constituted man and woman that once they are joined together of their own free will something psychologically, physically, and spiritually happens to them, and they never more are the same; that the natural facts of life prove that they never can again be the same, and therefore, what God hath joined together in this manner should by man never be put asunder.

Too Many Divorces

"Marriages that are made with the notion that they can be broken at will always lack that genuine permanence which is the real basis of a spiritual union—the kind of a union God intends for all. Without any desire to express a personal opinion regarding divorce, let me say that divorce in all too many instances is absolutely unnecessary; that with a proper amount of patience, and impersonal but loving guidance where people are at all reasonably normal, divorce could be prevented. Your parson, therefore, advises every couple to make marriage permanent."

Settle Own Differences

Rev. Aulenbach told his audience that it is very important for married couples to settle their differences within their own homes. He suggested that they refuse to rush to a lawyer; that generally their respective parents can't be wisely impersonal in helping to smooth out matters; and that their preacher, or even a psychiatrist, may better help them over rough spots on the matrimonial road.

"Most domestic problems that loom large are essentially very tiny," went on the speaker. "People who marry should be prepared for misunderstandings, even serious ones. People of character prepare themselves for anything—

(Continued on Page Two)

Board Member

J. J. Jakway

James J. Jakway of Benton Harbor, Berrien county fruit grower and a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural college in 1887, returns to the college January 1, to take office as a member of the State Board of Agriculture. The board directs the administration of what is now known as the Michigan State college.

GRANT, PADGETT HEAD COMMITTEE FOR ROTARY MEET

J. Mark Hardin, president of the Birmingham Rotary Club, Monday appointed Rotarians Paul Grant and Grady Padgett to head a committee in connection with the annual mid-winter meeting of 70 Rotary Clubs in eastern Michigan and western Onterio, which will be held at Northwood Inn, Royal Oak, Thursday evening, February 3.

This affair is managed by Royal Oak Rotarians, who also stage a Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament in connection with the meeting, funds from which are used by that Club for youth service activities. Dr. R. B. Hasner, Royal Oak Rotarian, is chairman.

Malcolm W. Bingay, editorial director of The Detroit Free Press, will be toastmaster, while the feature address will be made by Professor John L. Brumm, of the Department of Journalism, University of Michigan.

Honored guests will include E. Roy Shaw, of Detroit, Governor of the 153rd District of Rotary International, and Geoffrey A. Wheable, of London, Ontario, Governor of the 152nd District. Approximately 100 Rotarians from the 70 Clubs in both Districts are expected to be present, making it one of the largest inter-city Rotary meetings in the entire Rotary world.

City Purchases Machine For Billing Water Charges

Birmingham, through its City Commission, Monday night authorized City Treasurer Harold H. Corson to purchase a mechanical billing machine for use in sending out future water service statements. The machine, manufactured by the Elliott-Fisher Co., will cost $1590.00, and will eventually eliminate the need for one of the present emlyoyes in the City's water department.

Commission Adopts Policy For Future Annexations To City

EXTENSION CLASS PLANS DINNER AND EVENING PROGRAM

The first evening meeting of the extension class in guidance and personnel adjustment directed by Prof. T. Luther Purdom of the University of Michigan, and held weekly at Baldwin High School will be an event of Tuesday evening.

The program will include dinner at the Community House at 6:15, followed by a meeting of the class at Baldwin High School in Room 101, when Mrs. Bertha Ashby Hess, assistant to Prof. Purdom, will be the speaker. Both the dinner and lecture following will be open to the public. Those desiring to attend the dinner are asked to make reservations with Mrs. C. R. Paton, Mrs. Harold H. Corson, or the Community House. For those attending the lecture only, reservations are not necessary.

Mrs. Hess, who is associated with Prof. Purdom in the Bureau of Appointments and Occupational Information at the University of Michigan, has had a wide experience in personnel work. She is responsible for the Social Hygiene program at the University of Oklahoma. She took her Master's Degree at the University of Michigan in Public Health, giving particular attention to the Social Hygiene phase of the work. Mrs. Hess was assistant director for the N. Y. A. for the State of Oklahoma before coming to Michigan as assistant on the University faculty for the summers of 1935 and 1936. She became permanently associated with the University in her present capacity during the past year.

"It is hoped that parents and others interested in problems of personnel and guidance will attend the meeting to hear Mrs. Hess," said Howard D. Crull, superintendent of schools. "This program is one of the things the schools are attempting to do in its effort to bring forward-looking persons here. The extension class, we feel, is a definite step in the right direction toward a better understanding of personnel and guidance problems."

DR. SLOSSON TO BE SPEAKER AT DINNER

"The World Between Wars" will be the subject of an address by Dr. Preston E. Slosson of the University of Michigan, Jan 13, at the M. E. church under auspices of the Birmingham Council of Church Women. Dr. Slosson's address will be preceded by dinner at the church at 6:15, sharp.

The department of international relations of the Council, of which Mrs. John K. Ormond, is chairman, is in charge of arrangements for the affair. The committee for the dinner includes Mrs. Clarence P. Davey, Mrs. E. L. Birthrong, and Mrs. George Steelman.

Mrs. Lee A White will introduce the speaker. Mrs. Fred W. Johnson is president of the Council.

Aim Of Measure To Protect Taxpayers Against Added Burden

An instrument of City policy regarding the annexation of future territory, destined to become a tremendous savings factor in the development of this community, was passed unanimously by the City Commission Monday night. This policy, based upon a review of the past growth of Birmingham, together with a look into the future, is the result of long study and thought by members of the present Commission, aided by Donald C. Egbert, City Manager, and Harold H. Corson, City Treasurer.

In brief, the statement of policy points out that Birmingham's history with regard to past annexations has been a costly one. It is predicated upon the definite knowledge that, since 1920, the City's population has increased three times, yet its bonded debt has increased ten times; while it is true that some of the debt is not altogether attributable to annexation projects, involving improvements of a City Hall, Baldwin Public Library, and certain water supply developments, yet City officials believe that a community whose area is still 70 per cent unimproved should be careful about annexing future lands until more of the present vacant areas are built upon. This, officials firmly believe, is the only method in which a strictly residential area like Birmingham can reduce its tax rate.

Within the past 17 years Birmingham's area has been increased through annexation from one square mile to four and thirty-two hundredths square miles, and its population from 3,600 to over 11,000.

While the entire City Commission supported the statement of policy, its most forceful proponents were Mayor John E. Martz, Commissioners Frank S. Packard, and Lawrence Hulbert.

Experience Valuable

In response to Commissioner Ray A. Palmer's mild objection to that portion of the statement that suggests consideration by future Commissions, Mr. Packard stated "I, don't agree with you. City Commissions that may follow us will not have gone through a depression, with its terrific tax delinquencies, that we have. I certainly think it is the duty of every Commission to announce its attitude on City affairs, attitudes that are gained from their own experience. What we say, of course, is not binding upon our successors, and this present statement of policy is not an ordinance, it is merely a conviction; by using it as a guide, I believe we can save local taxpayers untold thousands of dollars in the avoidance of conditions that have attended nearly every past annexation project—

(Continued on Page Two)

Churches To Hold Prayer Week Service

Birmingham churches will observe a universal week of prayer in union services to begin Jan. 3 and extend through Friday, Jan 7. The American observance of the Week of Prayer is part of a world wide observance under auspices of the World's Evangelical Alliance. Invitations have been extended to all of the Protestant churches in Birmingham to participate, and to all citizens interested in attending.

The services which will begin at 7:45 p. m., will be held as follows: Monday, at the United Presbyterian church; Tuesday, the First Presbyterian church; Wednesday will be open night for local church gatherings; Thursday at the Methodist church and Friday at the Baptist church.

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The Birmingham Eccentric

History of 1937 Shows Decline From Peak of Prosperity Reached in 1936

The year 1937, which came sweeping in like a ship in full sail, seemingly laden with so much promise, is going out with canvas somewhat limp, following recent reverses in the financial tide.

As far as Birmingham is concerned, however, a survey of the past year reflects but slightly, the changing trend of affairs.

The city started out promisingly by substantially completing in January the $1,288,507.94 refunding plan for general indebtedness

> The following resume of the news of 1937 has been compiled from the files of The Eccentric as it was published during the year, and may be used by those to whom it would prove a convenience, as a matter of local reference.

begun Dec. 31, 1935. In the same month the Birmingham National Bank declared a cash dividend of 50 cents a share on common capital stock. Likewise, the Federal Building and Loan Association declared a 15 percent liquidating stock dividend.

Early in the year, also, the City appropriated $40,000 to purchase a 66-acre tract of land in the southwestern section of the city for a sewage disposal plant. Birmingham's school refunding plan for $1,293,000 bonded debt was virtually completed early in February.

When the call for financial aid came from the flood area early in 1937, Birmingham responded generously, contributing more than $2,633 to the American Red Cross.

With confidence of economic recovery becoming more firmly established, teachers in Birmingham schools were given salary increases of seven and four tenths percent. Later the business manager and other employes of the board of education and school system were given salary increases.

As an indication of civic advancement, the Commission passed a zoning ordinance setting up seven classifications or restrictions for residence and business development. Shortly after its adoption, a Board of Appeals was established in connection with the Zoning Ordinance.

The Wider Woodward highway is now under construction, as a further indication of progress, and a new postoffice is virtually assured.

In educational fields, various changes took form as the year progressed. Howard D. Crull, acting superintendent of schools, was officially named superintendent by the Board of Education. A Parent-Teacher Association was organized at Baldwin High School, and later a Parent Teacher Council, composed of P. T. A. representatives of the various groups in the City, was realized, with Mrs. J. H. Rosso as chairman.

Faculty changes in the school system affected the principalship in several cases. Ray H. Bechtold of Flint succeeded Melvin C. Hart as principal of Baldwin High School. With the removal of F. Morse Codke, principal of Adams School to Lansing, the vacancy was filled by W. F. Thomas. George Wurster was named as new coach for the Baldwin High grid team.

Change in Trend

An early indication of the approaching change in economic trends, came in April, when the Board of Education proposed an additional levy of 3 mills to be spread on the December rolls in District No. 1, as it became evident that they could not operate during the 1937-38 year without additional revenue.

As June arrived, fortune seemed wavering in the balance. The report of J. B. Baynes, building inspector, revealed a total of $50,-465, an unseasonal decline, with a drop considerably below the 1936 mark. As a contradiction came the announcement of the closed First State Savings Bank of a 5 percent dividend amounting to approximately $80,000. In July, The Federal Savings and Loan Association announced a cash dividend.

The same shift in economic balance continued throughout the summer. On one hand, was the defeat of the one-fourth mill tax increase, which seemed to indicate that the school system would go further into the red if salary increases granted early in the year were to be paid. On the other, the report of City Treasurer Harold H. Corson at the end of August that 57½ percent of the original levy for the city was paid, topping the previous year's record by 15 percent.

With the allottment of $155,000 by the Federal Government for a postoffice, Birmingham achieved a longed-for objective in September.

Report Shows Decline

A steady decline in building in comparison with the previous year, culminated in November, when the report of the Building Inspector for construction of new buildings, and repairs and alterations to old, totaled $39,505, against the total for November 1936, which amounted to $52,150.

During the year, 44 deaths were reported, two less than in 1936. The 1937 total included one suicide, one accidental death by drowning and one automobile fatality. Prominent among those who died during the year were G. Dewey Kimball, Oakland County coroner and well known mortician; Frank J. Mulholland, one of the city's most generous citizens to those in need, and a prominent merchant for a number of years.

Philip M. Wygant, Charles Elton Buck, Lieut. Clyde H. Wood, Jr., who met death in an airplane crash in Chicago; Frank S. Van Black, publisher and former owner of The Eccentric. Death came suddenly to Barbara Martin, who died in her dormitory at Michigan State College, to Mrs. Paul G. Lovett, who died as the result of an automobile accident, and to Elizabeth Ann Hardy, who drowned in the branch of the River Rouge.

The police department reports 289 accidents in which 83 persons were injured, up to Dec. 28 of the year. The second major robbery in two years was reported when thieves removed $1,000 and the safe, from Mints Ice Cream store on South Woodward avenue.

News of the Hour

Headlines in the current news of the year were made by Jack Lambie, son of Dr. and Mrs. John S. Lambie, who with Dick Merrill, made the first round-trip flight across the Atlantic Ocean in the record time of five days; Ralph Guldahl who won the National Open Golf Championship, in 69, setting a new low of 281 for the annual event; and by Margaret McKee and George T. Nickerson, who captured titles in the local tennis tournament. Governor Frank Murphy opened the National Horse Show at Bloomfield Open Hunt, and 38 breeds faced the judges in Birmingham's second annual all-breed dog show.

Birmingham's third annual Hallowe'en festival was held for 2,000 children who marched in the parade. Two Birmingham churches experienced changes in their pulpits during the year. The Rev. W. Clarence Wright resigned from the First Presbyterian church to go to the Wilshire Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles after more than six years of service, and the Rev. A. F.

(Continued on Page Two)

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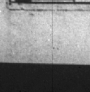
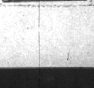
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