

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Newman overcomes challenges to make better life for family

In 1916, a baby girl was born in a sharecropper's shack in south Georgia. Her African-American race and poverty challenged her life. From those humble beginnings emerged a visionary full of hope and aspirations of a better life. Not only a life to be improved for herself, but for her family, community, and ultimately, for her country.

This young woman never stopped believing that through her faith and perseverance there would be a reward that would come in future generations. Due to obligations to family and the lack of financial support, she had to forego her own educational desires. Harvesting crops in the fields of south Georgia until adulthood precluded any extended educational opportunity. She completed the eighth grade but never had the opportunity to graduate from high school. She remained a firm believer that through work and by accepting opportunities, success could ultimately be attained. She remained a visionary in a simplistic

fashion by learning through self-instruction. She was able to survive the Great Depression and remained self-supporting.

In the late 1940s, she married a local minister and started her family at the age of 36. Their first child was a daughter, their second a son. Shortly after the birth of their second child, her husband died and left her as a single parent to care for two children under the age of 3. Despite 40 years of age, the burden of family without support and few resources, she remained steadfast in her courage and dreams. She continued to have a strong desire for the opportunities that she felt strongly would be made available to African-Americans. There were ever-present reminders that things were changing.

She supported the family by working as a domestic while performing odd jobs in the home after hours. She supplemented this on weekends by working as a farm laborer. This did not afford her much leisure time, comfort or extra income. She would, however,

provide for her children what she felt was the tool for success in our society — an opportunity for education.

The sharecropper, wife, mother, widow, philosopher and ultimately, a disabled worker, never lost the spirit to teach or inspire her children. She perhaps could not live by example but believed that if you were to be a winner, you were not allowed the opportunity to quit. You were never allowed to employ any excuse for failing to pursue a better life.

What many referred to as burdens and hardships, she called blessings. She would explain to us why we were a fortunate group and should feel elated to have so much. At the time I could not comprehend such feelings. I had not shared her past life, nor had I endured many of the hardships. It was extraordinarily surprising that she could remain so upbeat and always eternally hopeful with regard to the future. My understanding of the sacrifices made was limited when compared to what she and many others in our

neighborhoods and society had endured. It was only recently that I had the opportunity to gain a bit of insight into what had happened over the course of her life.

In the first 50 years of this lady's life, she had gone from a time in which respect, decent facilities, freedom of speech, equal protection and opportunities were mere dreams. She was on the brink of attaining equitable civil rights and acquiring all this during her lifetime. With the coming opportunities, it was her perception that education was the preparatory course that allowed for the fulfillment of this proposed "dream." The one thing that "no one can take away is what you have learned." The words "get them books!" echo in my mind and heart each morning and evening to this very day. Translated very simply, "don't waste time! Take every opportunity to learn. This philosophy has remained her legacy.

Over the past thirty years the two lives she has molded have touched the lives

of many others. Beginning with the African-American legacy of courage, inspiration, tolerance, spirit, insight and perseverance. If we are to make meaningful the hopes and dreams of our forefathers, then we must live as examples for every American and demonstrate that the potential exists for high achievement if opportunities are received and supported. Though she is stricken with health problems, Alzheimer's has ravaged her mind, her persistence has culminated in higher education and a positive impact on her society.

This is only a small piece of the African-American legacy of courage, inspiration, tolerance, spirit, insight and perseverance. If we are to make meaningful the hopes and dreams of our forefathers, then we must live as examples for every American and demonstrate that the potential exists for high achievement if opportunities are received and supported. Though she is stricken with health problems, Alzheimer's has ravaged her mind, her persistence has culminated in higher education and a positive impact on her society.



Ethel Mae Newman

Black History Month

Test your Civil Rights knowledge

- Which former slave and noted abolitionist edited and published *The North Star*, an abolitionist newspaper?
 - Phillis Wheatley
 - Benjamin Banneker
 - Frederick Douglass
- The 15th Amendment, which granted African-Americans the right to vote, was passed on which date?
 - February 3, 1870
 - July 14, 1869
 - November 19, 1910
- Which civil rights activist gained notoriety in the late 19th century for her scathing editorials denouncing racial injustice?
 - Sojourner Truth
 - Zora Neale Hurston
 - Ida B. Wells
- Noted African-American intellectual and civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois was a founding member of which organization in 1910?
 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 - The National Negro Business League
 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Which landmark Supreme Court case represented an important victory for the civil rights movement in 1954?
 - Plessy vs. Ferguson
 - Dred Scott vs. Sandford
 - Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka
- Who is generally considered the mother of the civil rights movement?
 - Harriet Tubman
 - Susan B. Anthony
 - Rosa Parks
- Which of the following propelled Martin Luther King, Jr. to national prominence as a leader of the civil rights movement?
 - He led the boycott (1955-56) by African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama, against the segregated city bus lines.
 - He organized the massive March on Washington (1963), at which he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.
 - He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1964) for his philosophy of nonviolent resistance.
- On June 11, 1963, President Kennedy ordered the National Guard to ensure the enrollment of two African American students, Vivian Malone and James Hood, at which university?
 - University of Mississippi
 - University of Chicago
 - University of Alabama
- What key event in the civil rights movement happened in 1964?
 - Thurgood Marshall became the first African American to be appointed to the US Supreme Court.
 - Congress passed the Civil Rights Act.
- The Black Panther Party was formed.
 - The National Rainbow Coalition, a political organization uniting various minority groups, was formed in 1986 by which African-American political leader?
 - General Colin Powell
 - Louis Farrakhan
 - Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.
- Correct Answer: Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that legal segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, thus overturning...
 - Correct Answer: Rosa Parks. Her refusal to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger triggered the 1955-1956 Montgomery bus boycott.
 - Correct Answer: He led the boycott (1955-56) by African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama, against the segregated city bus lines.
 - Correct Answer: University of Alabama. Governor George Wallace had physically blocked the students' entrance to the registration building, prompting Kennedy to take action the same day. President Kennedy dispatched federal troops to the campus in the fall of 1962 following race riots in which two people died. The riots had been sparked by the University's admission of an African-American student, James Meredith.
 - Correct Answer: Congress passed the Civil Rights Act. Considered the most important piece of civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1875, the bill was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.
 - Correct Answer: Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.

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Kind words for unhappy child came when they were needed

DEAR ABBY: As I climbed the stairs to the front door one day, I got a funny feeling. When I opened the door, I knew that something had happened. I ran to the bedroom door and jerked the door open. All of my father's shoes were gone, and so was he! No one had said anything to me about his leaving.

At school I was a dreamer, irritated with the boring trivia people demanded I learn. At home one parent ignored me, except when I made a mistake — cor-

rected at the loudest volume — while the other spent every spare moment teaching and quizzing difficult subjects. No one listened or spoke to me. During the previous four years, I had lived in my own world: nightmares, sleepwalking — once all the way down to the street — planning my death and funeral, and wishing I was dead. I lived in profound depression. No one noticed. Discovering that my father was gone felt like falling off a cliff after thinking I was on

solid ground.

As I walked slowly to the kitchen I decided that I'd had enough of everything. After my usual milk and cookies and the San Francisco Chronicle — a new column had appeared a few days earlier (1996) — I would decide how and when to do it. My parents were very busy people, and I knew they wouldn't want to bother with my pain. I decided to write to the author of the new column. I haven't the first clue why I chose that person, but at

least the columnist would know why I was dead.

A few days later, I got another shock. Being the first one home every day, I brought the mail in. I was stunned to see a letter addressed to me. ME! Someone thought I mattered enough to write to me even though I was only 10 years old. It was a long, thoughtful, caring response that advised me to find someone to whom I could talk or write.

child and for saving her life. That new columnist was you! Over the years I've thought of you often, always with amazement that you wrote to me. It was a very special thing that you did. Thank you. With appreciation and thanks.

D.L.G. IN BEVERLY HILLS

DEAR D.L.G.: I'm deeply touched by your letter and pleased that I was there for you when you needed someone.

woman and he is a married man. I know his wife thinks this was an inappropriate present. I am torn. What should I do?

WORKING WOMAN IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WORKING WOMAN: Return the earrings, and tell your boss you are not comfortable accepting them knowing that his wife feels they were an inappropriate gift. The last thing you need is a boss whose wife resents you.



Dear Abby


An aunt living in Arizona seemed a good choice. I didn't know her too well, but I liked her and began writing. She wrote back. When I became an adult, I told her how I came to write to her all my life.

I survived my childhood with a large unpaid debt. It is important to me that you publish this letter, Abby, so that it can be partially repaid by saying a public "thank you" for kindness to a

The most profound way to repay your "debt" is to pass that good deed along to others who need to know that they are important and that somebody who has nothing to gain cares.

DEAR ABBY: My boss gave me diamond earrings for Christmas. I am a married


Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 per booklet (\$4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Booklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



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Getting ready for the 60th



Headed photo by Terri Vincent

Finalizing plans for the Seminole High School 60th class reunion are seated, from left, Jane Bale, Kent Rossetter and Kathryn White. Standing are Clayda Jones, Art Beckwith, Ruth Jones, Mary Douglass and Ashby Jones.

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Trips

Continued from Page 1A
 tory of the Keys," Schmoock said. "Actually seeing a place is the best way to learn. It's better than just reading a book."

Schmoock said that school funds were available for any parent or student who asked for assistance to participate in the field trip.

"We would assist anyone who said they were running low on money," said Schmoock. "Whether they were in the state's free or reduced lunch program, or if they had several children and just needed help this time. They would only pay what they were able to pay."

However, Board members questioned whether those who could not afford to take the trip would be hesitant to seek assistance.

"Anytime you charge a significant fee for a field trip, people who can't afford it don't even mention it because they can't afford it," said School Superintendent Paul Hagerty.

The canceled Spring Lake Elementary field trip is the latest volley in increasingly volatile debate regarding the School Board's field trip policy.

The field trip policy is being revised following protests by members of the Lake Mary

High School Color Guard earlier this school-year regarding the denial of an out-of-state field trip request.

During the 1996-1997 school-year, then Principal Raymond Gaines approved a field trip request by the Color Guard, on the condition that they not make an out-of-state field trip this school-year.

Traditionally, the Color Guard has made annual out-of-state field trips for competitions. Gaines said he was concerned about the amount of class time the students were missing.

New Lake Mary High School Principal Boyd Karnes this year upheld the decision following the appointment of Gaines as Director of Secondary Education for high schools. Under the ruling, the Color Guard will make out-of-state field trips once

every two years.

Meanwhile, under a proposal submitted to the Board, school-district administration would have the final call on the approval of all field trips. Currently, out-of-state field trip requests are approved the School Board.

A committee that is reviewing the policy submitted the proposal. The committee consists of teachers, parents, a school counselor, a Seminole Education Association representative, and administrators.

Instead of accepting the committee's recommendation, the School Board requested the committee to continue studying the policy. School Board members expressed concern about making the approval of out-of-state field trip requests an administrative decision.

Zoo

Continued from Page 1A

Before and after hour activities will also be a part of the March 11 festivities. An Early Bird Trek Tour will take place from 7 to 9 a.m. at the zoo. Participants may discover native species throughout the park on a guided tour. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children.

An Owl Prowl Tour will be held at 7 p.m. for those interested in creatures of the night, including owls and flying squirrels. The cost for this event is the same, and includes a noctur-

nal presentation and guided tour. Reservations for both of these special tours are required and may be obtained by phoning 407-323-4450, ext. 122.

For additional information on International Migratory Bird Day, phone the zoo, ext. 149 or visit the zoo's web site at www.centralfloridazoo.org.

The zoo is located at 3755 N.W. Highway 17-92 in Sanford. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 3 to 12, \$4 for seniors 60 and older, and free for zoo members.

Critical

Continued from Page 1A

pursuit to begin with. The officer turned on his lights, and the driver refused to stop.

Green continued to travel at a high rate of speed and ran the traffic light at French and 3rd Street, striking Flannagin's vehicle, police said.

Flannagin's uncle, Lewis Johnson of Winter Park, said he is not upset with the police.

"It raises the question of do you pursue or do you stop," Johnson said. "I can understand that it was only a traffic infraction, and they didn't want to risk lives in a chase. This is where so much confusion comes in about

high speed chases." Johnson said Flannagin has been in-and-out of a coma with severe brain swelling. She is single with no children.

"It knocked her 100 feet down the road," Johnson said. "She's in pretty bad shape. Everyone in our family has been on death's edge at least once, and the Lord's always blessed us that we've recovered. She's blessed with some tough genes."

Green's criminal history dating to 1997 and 1998 includes charges for kidnapping, sale of cocaine, and two charges for possession of cocaine.

Gangs

Continued from Page 1A

not really scary, but it's upsetting. I can't understand who would play this kind of game."

Shif has lived in Lake Mary for four years, and in America for 19 years after emigrating from Israel. She said she has never before encountered similar acts of prejudice.

"I get along with people, and people like me," Shif said. "I've never had to call police for a problem. But, I know the police will catch the kids who did this. I hope they send a very strong message."

Investigators believe the case is possibly a hate crime.

"If the people who did this are caught, they will be charged with criminal mischief and with committing a hate crime," Diaz said. "With the anti-Semitic signs, it is indicative of showing hate for the person and the religion."

Under Florida statutes, the sentencing for a conviction is increased if the act was committed as a hate crime. For example, a second degree misdemeanor is reclassified as a first degree misdemeanor. A second degree felony would be reclassified as a first degree felony.

Investigators say the amount of overall gang activity in Seminole County is increasing. However, skinhead groups appear to be in the minority. Most gang activity in the area is related to crimes for profit, such as auto theft.

"We are being bombarded right now," Diaz said. "We haven't determined the cause of the increase yet. It very well could be that gang members are moving here from other areas. Or, maybe the ones who were already here are becoming more active."

Most gang activity in the area takes place in Winter Springs, Longwood, Oviedo, and parts of Altamonte Springs, Diaz said.

Investigators believe that the same vandals responsible for the possible ethnic-driven graffiti at the Lake Emma Road location also struck a dry cleaning business with Hispanic management located in the Goodings Plaza at 110 International Parkway, where

vandalism was also discovered Monday.

Vulgar phrases, racial slurs, and satanic symbols were found on the front of businesses in the shopping plaza, especially a dry cleaning business, spray painted in red and black.

"They appear to be targeting dry cleaning businesses with minority management," Diaz said.

As with the graffiti at the Lake Emma site, the graffiti in the Goodings Plaza also indicated anti-government and skinhead activity, Diaz said.

In addition, investigators are looking into a third case of vandalism that was also discovered Monday.

A Sanford police officer's assigned vehicle was vandalized while parked overnight in an apartment complex lot. As in the other cases, red and black spray paint was used. Authorities believe the vehicle was targeted because it represented law enforcement.

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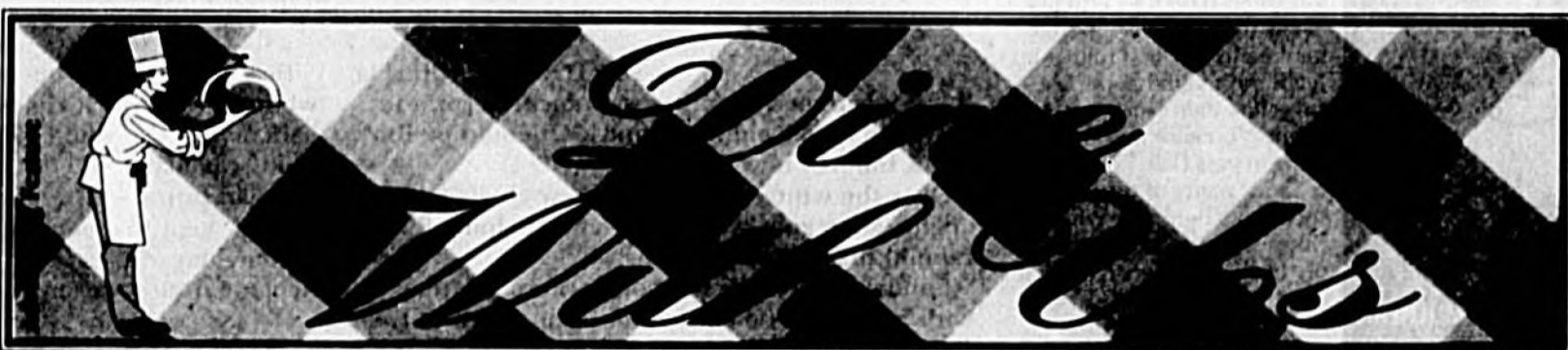
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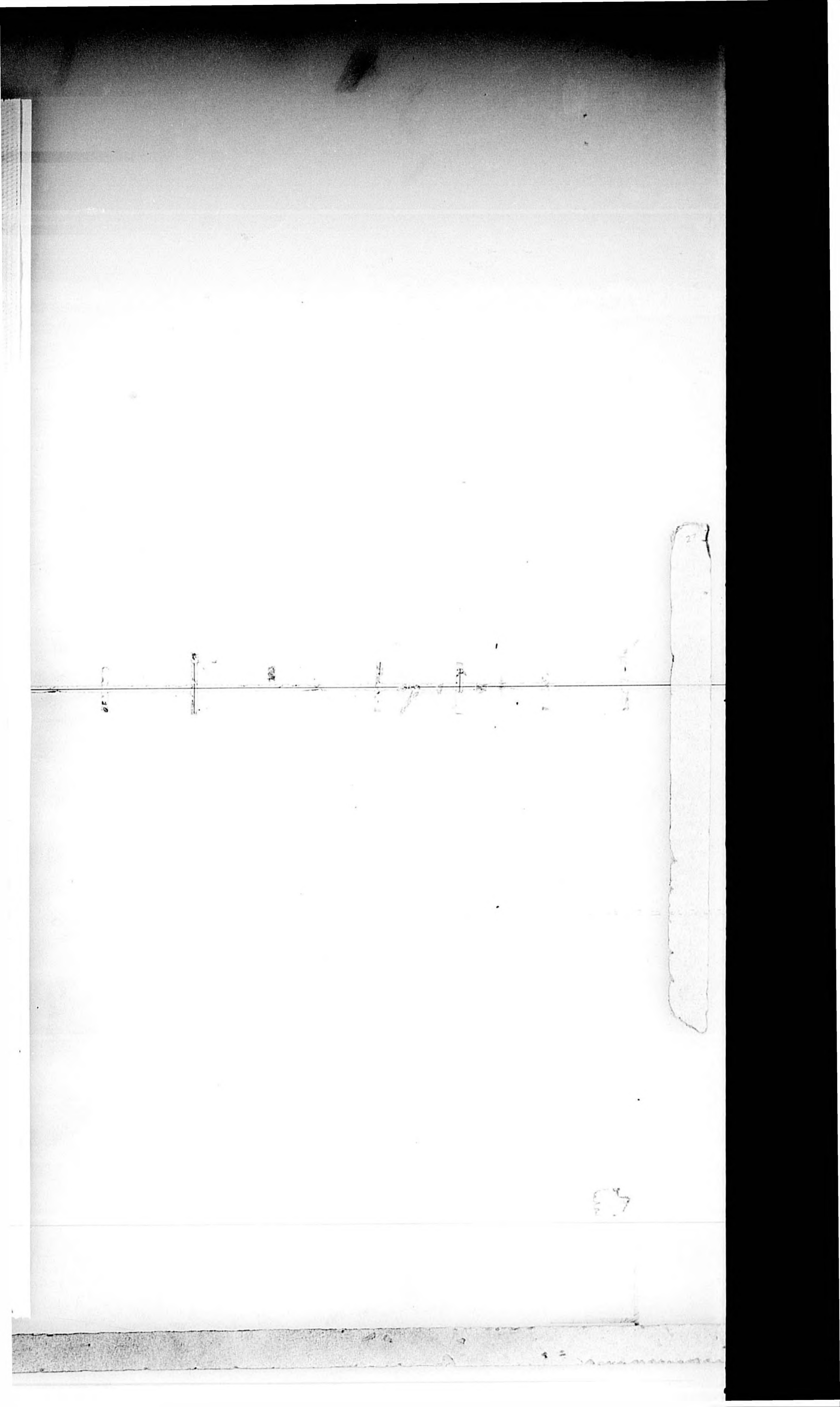
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