

Fiftieth  
Anniversary

Holy Ghost  
Society, Inc.



Saturday and Sunday  
August 11 and 12, 1973

Holy Ghost Park  
Village St., Lowell, Mass.

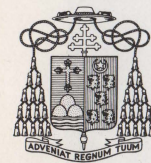
ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH  
893 Central Street  
LOWELL, MA 01852

### *The Holy Ghost Crown*

On the cover of this book is the crown of Queen Isabel of Portugal (1271-1336), canonized on Trinity Sunday, May 25, 1625 by Pope Urbano VIII, who, during his 21-year reign as pope, canonized only one saint—Saint Isabel.

There is a legend that Queen Isabel, taking part in a procession, came upon a person who was seriously ill. She placed her crown on his head and he was cured and, since that time, in memory of her devotion to the Holy Spirit and the miracle which she performed, we still have the crownings for the seven weeks between Easter and Pentecost.

In the village of Alenquer, Portugal, Queen Isabel had a dream—that she should have a church built in that village for devotion to the Holy Spirit. In the morning she called a chaplain and told him of her dream. Carpenters and workmen found the foundation already opened and the plan of the building in outline. This unexplainable and prodigious event was witnessed by her husband, King Diniz, and the entire village of Alenquer. Many miracles happened during the time of construction. The first mass was celebrated on Pentecost Sunday and on that day the sovereigns established the Confraternity of the Holy Ghost. In an excerpt in the "Life of Saint Isabel" we find that she founded this confraternity and from it came the societies of the Holy Ghost. In some of the islands the name *imperio* designates devotion to the Holy Spirit to celebrate the solemnity of Pentecost as it is still practiced in the islands of the Azores and Madeira, and Portuguese colonies in the United States of America.



CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE  
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

July 8, 1973.

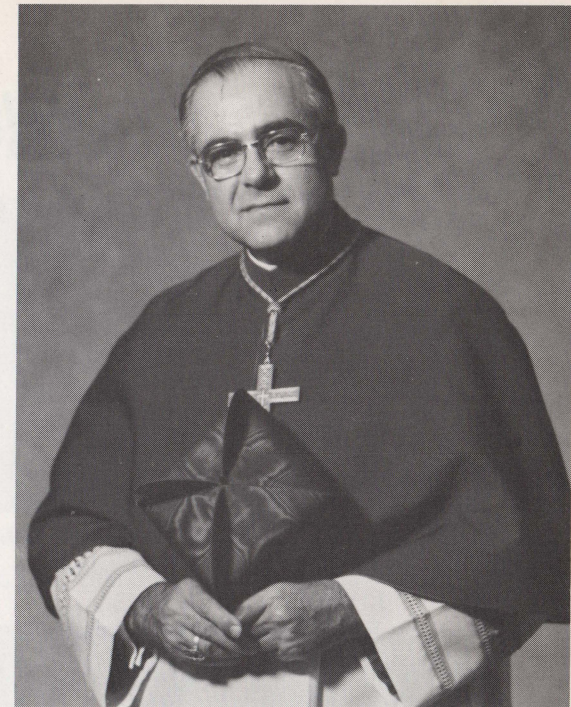
Dear Father Silva and Parishioners of St. Anthony's:

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you and to the Holy Ghost Society my prayerful best wishes on the occasion of the Society's Golden Jubilee.

The ancient Portuguese Tradition of devotion to the Holy Ghost must be kept alive and must be fostered especially in our times. It impresses upon us the fact that each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit, a child of the King of the Universe and son heir of heaven. This devotion nourishes in us the faith that we are a royal race, having the dignity of the children of God.

I join with all of you in celebrating this jubilee and humbly pray the Holy Spirit of Our Lord Jesus Christ to fill you with His love.

+ Humberto Cardinal Medeiros  
Archbishop of Boston



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**Officers and Directors 1972-1973**

• • •

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*Vice-President* ..... MANUEL RAMALHO  
*Treasurer* ..... JOSEPH FREITAS  
*Secretary* ..... DIMAS ESPINOLA

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*Attorney* ..... HERBERT PITTA, JR.

*Queen* ..... MAUREEN GULBICKI  
*Attendant, DONNA GULBICKI* • *Attendant, EDWARDA BETTENCOURT*

**Past Presidents**



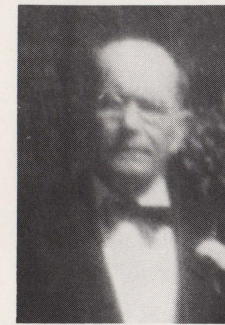
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SILVA



JOHN SOUSA  
MENDONSA



MANUEL CUNHA  
PACHECO



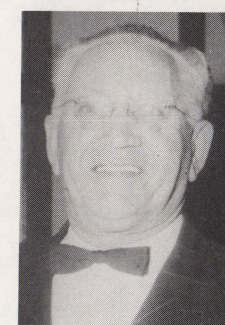
JOHN F.  
PITTA



JOAO SOUSA  
SILVA



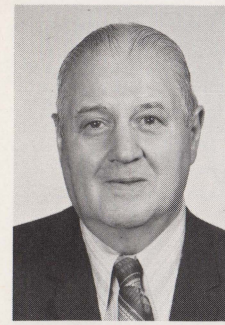
JOAQUIM  
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JOHN  
AVILA



ANTHONY  
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CLARA  
CORREIA



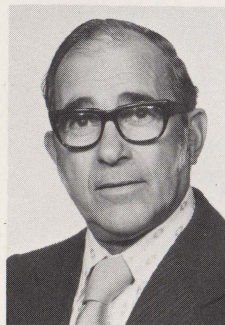
MARY  
MEDEIROS



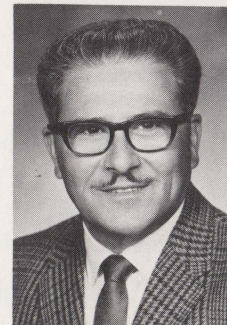
FRANK  
LEANDRO



JOHN  
PERRY



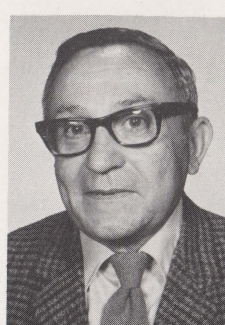
MANUEL  
GOUVEIA



MANUEL C.  
SILVA



LINO  
PICANSO



MANUEL  
RAMALHO



MANUEL  
CORREA

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ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH  
893 Central Street  
LOWELL, MA 01852

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IN CHARGE OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OBSERVANCE OF HOLY GHOST SOCIETY, INC.

• • •

Honorary Chairman ..... REV. JOHN F. SILVA  
General Chairman ..... JOSEPH A. CAMARA  
Co-Chairman ..... DIMAS M. ESPINOLA

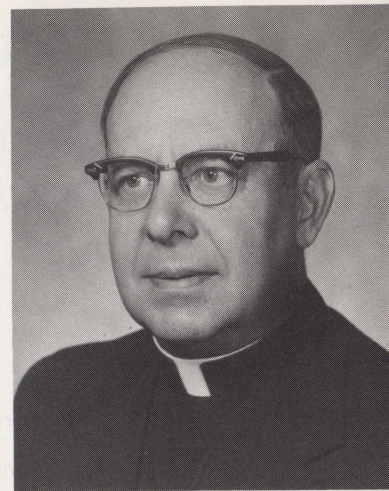
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JOSEPH FREITAS, *Treasurer*  
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MRS. MANUEL CORREA, *Chairman, Program; Decorations*  
MRS. ANTONIO DACOSTA, *Co-Chairman, Program*  
MRS. GABRIEL GOUVEIA, *Chairman, Banquet Tickets*  
MRS. JOSEPH FREITAS, *Chairman, Ball Tickets*  
JOSEPH A. CAMARA, JR., *Chairman, Entertainment*  
MARY LOU SILVA, *Usherette*  
MARIA D. ESPINOLA, *Usherette*  
REV. EUSEBIO SILVA, *Choir Director*

• • •

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Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Ramalho	Mr. and Mrs. Lino Picanso
Mrs. Eliftherios Kokinos	Francisco Silva
Mrs. John Varoski	Edward Santos
Mrs. George Mello	Mrs. Annibale Caselle
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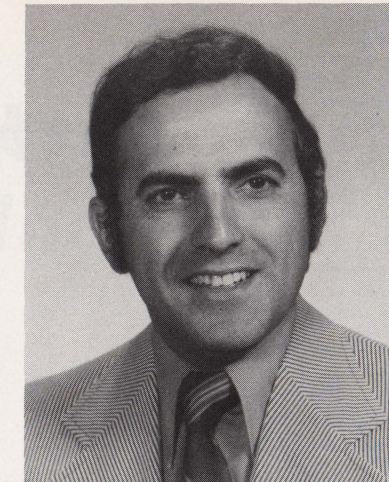
# **Fiftieth** **Anniversary** **Committee**



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*Honorary Chairman*



MRS. MANUEL CORREA  
*Chairman, Program Book  
Decorations*



ANTHONY D. SILVA  
*Chairman, Publicity  
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*Co-Chairman*



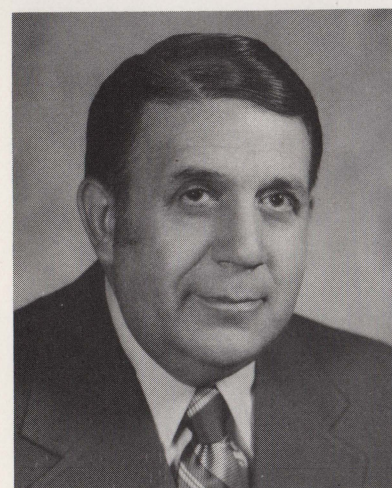
MRS. GABRIEL GOUVEIA  
*Chairman,  
Jubilee Banquet Tickets*



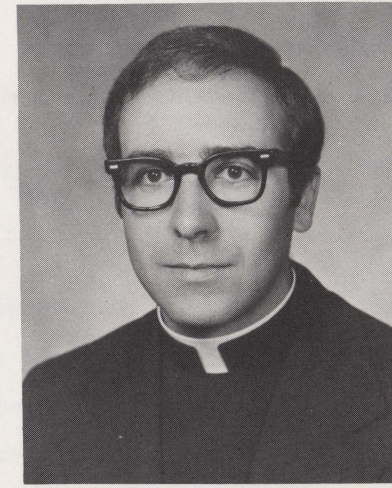
MRS. ANTONIO DA COSTA  
*Co-Chairman, Program Book*



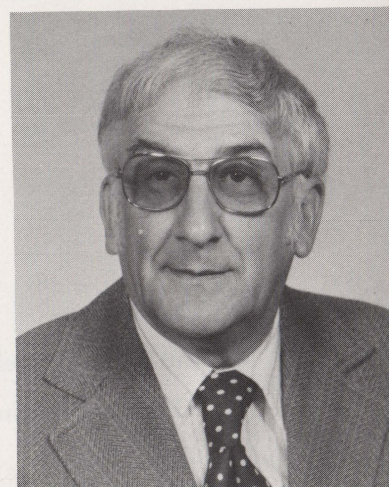
MRS. JOSEPH FREITAS  
*Chairman,  
Jubilee Ball Tickets*



ANNIBALE F. CASELLE  
*Banquet Chairman*



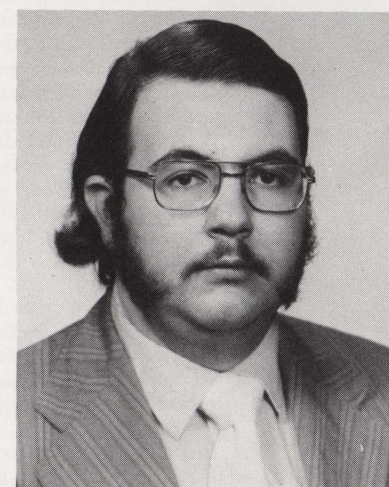
REV. EUSEBIO SILVA  
*Choir Director*



JOSEPH FREITAS  
*Treasurer*



MARY LOU SILVA  
*Jubilee Usherette*



JOSEPH A. CAMARA, JR.  
*Chairman, Entertainment*



MARIA D. ESPINOLA  
*Jubilee Usherette*

The following history was compiled from information gathered and available records.

Although the Holy Ghost Society was founded 50 years ago, feasts have been held in Lowell since the Portuguese people came to this country from the Azores, approximately 75 years ago, when they brought the tradition with them. Every year on Pentecost and Trinity Sundays the traditional dinner was *sopa do Divino Espirito Santo e carne assada*. Originally there were two presidents, one for the Pentecost Sunday dinner and procession and another for Trinity Sunday. By 1923 the practice of two presidents was discontinued and one person handled both.

#### Preparing for the Feast

Looking back fifty years, around 1922, we find that on the Thursday before Pentecost the people gathered on Charles Street to decorate a cow (or cows, depending on how many members they had) with paper flowers, crepe paper ribbons and tree branches. This created a very colorful sight, especially when the cow got excited and the colors would go flying. This was a festive day; people gathered, following the decorated cow along Lawrence and Charles Streets accompanied by violas and guitars. If they knew, they would go to the house of the person who had the crown.

On the following day (Friday), the men slaughtered the cow on Charles Street. Joseph Silva and his brother Joaquim would then go on horse and buggy, delivering a piece of beef, blood for the soup and spearmint to the members of the feast. This was the same horse and buggy used during the week to sell wood from their business location on Charles Street. They would wash and scrub down the wagon in preparation for this event.

On Friday and Saturday the cooking was done in people's homes. On Sunday it was brought to the Odd Fellows Hall, located at 100 Middlesex Street, which was rented for the Feast. This hall was divided into two rooms. While the children ate first in one room, the parents waited in another. Dinner



consisted of soup, roast beef, an orange (which they took to work the next morning) or banana, wine or tonic and Portuguese bread. The donated wine was homemade. Homemade beer was also served. One of the by-laws of the Confraternity established by Queen Isabel was that seven bulls should be slaughtered and the meat given to the poor of the area.

The person who had the crown received a free dinner. All children who marched in the procession were fed free of charge.

The Union Portuguese Colonial Band, usually played for the Feast.

Processions with the band left from Middlesex Street and went to the house of the person who had the crown and proceeded to St. Anthony's Church for mass. After mass, they continued up Central Street down Gorham and back to Middlesex for the dinner and celebration of auction and band concert. It was customary for the President to carry a bouquet of flowers and the committee usually wore a medallion ribbon and sash. Around 4:00 P.M. sandwiches and wine or tonic were given to everyone. After moving to Holy Ghost Park the custom was that children were served the sandwiches first and any left would go to the adults present. It has always been the custom that members' children, no matter how many in the family, would have a free dinner—and the custom continues today.

#### The Origin of Holy Ghost Park

Around 1922 President Frank Ramos and a committee ran a Masquerade Dance (the only one to be held) with admission set at 25¢. It was held at the Odd Fellows Hall, which was rented for \$5. The purpose of the dance was to make money to buy land so they could have their own property to celebrate the Holy Ghost Feast. Meetings were held at the Old Colonial Band Hall, located at 2 Chapel Street, now known as the Portuguese American Center Club. People went from house to house collecting nickels and dimes from their friends to aid this land fund. The person collecting the most money won a

## History of the

## Holy Ghost Society, Inc.



barrel of flour which was donated by A. N. Bettencourt Grocery. Frederick Avila collected \$49.50 and was the winner.

Up to 1922 a president was elected each year and any monies left over would be handed to the next president. That year Mr. Ramos decided that they should have their own land and said the surplus money would go toward the purchase.

The idea for locating at Village Street came from John Dias who lived in the vicinity. The charter of the Holy Ghost Society, Inc. was signed by six Holy Ghost members on August 24, 1923 (see Charter Members page). The purpose of the Holy Ghost Society, Inc. was to "furnish a place and means for the education and recreation of its members and for social, religious and civic purposes among its members". The two and a half acres of land were purchased from Herbert C. and Margaret W. Merrill on September 4, 1923. They underwrote a loan to the Society for \$1200.00 which was repaid in two years.

#### The Story of the Rusty Nail

During the feast in 1923, someone found a rusty nail and it was auctioned off for \$25, which at that time was considered a lot of money, to start the original land fund. The nail symbolized fencing in the land. A wooden fence was built by the Holy Ghost Committee. At that time, the land was very wooded and members chopped down the trees and brush. A horse would pull the logs which were then loaded onto Bettencourt's truck to be hauled away.

On January 13, 1927, a building loan was taken out for \$1,000. It was paid for at the rate of \$15.00 every three months with final payment on August 2, 1940.

Vincent Silva used his homes as collateral for construction of the original building, built from second hand lumber. A tent was used at first. Long tree branches were used to cover it. Tables were constructed of saw horses and platforms. In 1927 Mr. Silva

and committee also built the first bandstand. A *capela* was built to house the *coroa do Divino Espirito Santo* and the *coroa da Trindade*. Someone would sit outside and keep watch on the candles.

#### Recent Improvements

In 1950 improved outside lavatories were built.

The Trinity Sunday celebration was discontinued in 1958.

Dances became more frequent after the floor was put in the old building.

The annual election of the Holy Ghost Queen was established in 1959 and the first Portuguese girl to be chosen was Mary Caires. This year's Queen and attendants were awarded a trip to Portugal as part of the Golden Jubilee celebration.

Fire destroyed the old building in June 1964. Immediate plans were made for rebuilding. On June 15, 1964 the Building Committee (see Building Committee page) was organized. The new construction began in October 1965 and continued through 1966. In the interim, the feast and dinner were held under a large white tent, and one year was held on the grounds of St. Anthony's Church. In 1965 there was only a shell to the new building and meals were cooked in the old kitchen.

Improvements on the new building continued through the years and included hot-topping of the parking lot in 1967, with completion in 1971; playground equipment was installed for the children; overhangs were gradually added and, in 1972, one side was enclosed; air-conditioners were installed in 1972; and many more improvements, too numerous to mention were made.

Today, as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Holy Ghost Society, Inc., the building and grounds are considered complete and, at the last general meeting held on July 15, 1973, the Building Committee was dissolved.

As the name of this society implies, may the Holy Spirit guide all its members and their families; may everyone continue to enjoy the pleasures of the Holy Ghost Park. ■



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1923 - 1973



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ANNIBALE CASELLE  
MANUEL CORREA  
JOSEPH CAMARA  
JOSEPH FREITAS  
ANTONIO DaCOSTA

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DR. and MRS. JOHN JANAS and family

ATTY. HERBERT PITTA, JR.

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## **Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank the following for their assistance  
in making this celebration a success.

THE PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN CENTER, INC.  
THE LOWELL SUN  
BARRY'S PASTRY SHOP  
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from his children

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*Em memoria dos meus pais*

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eu ofereço êtas coroas a  
Igreja de Santo Antonio  
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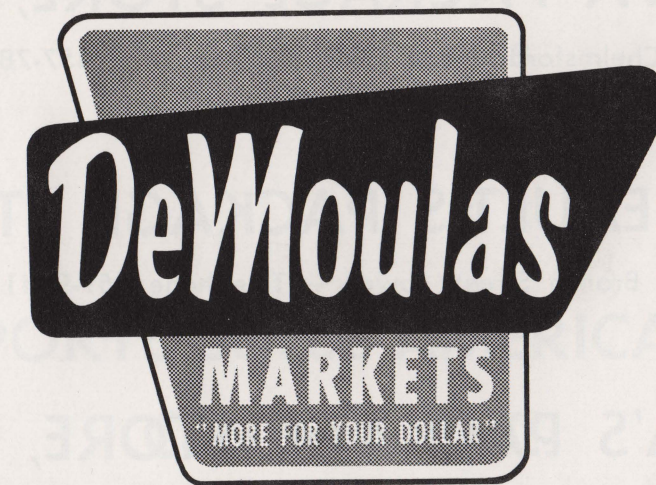
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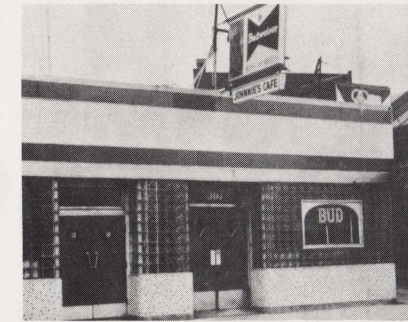
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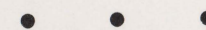


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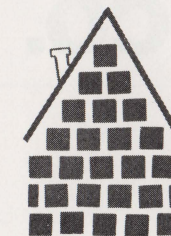
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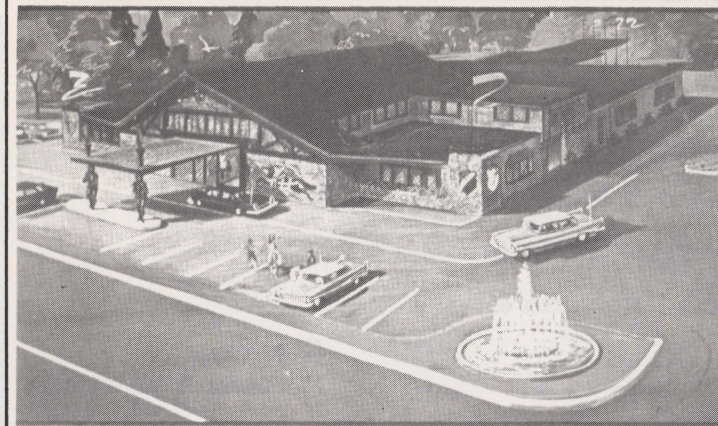
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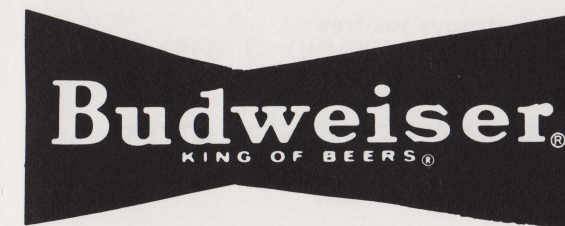
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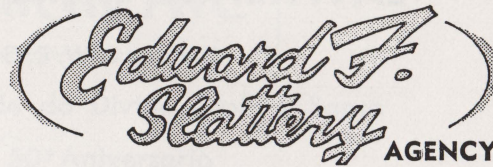
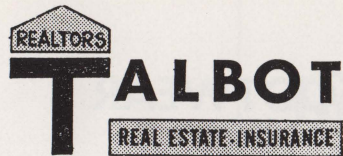
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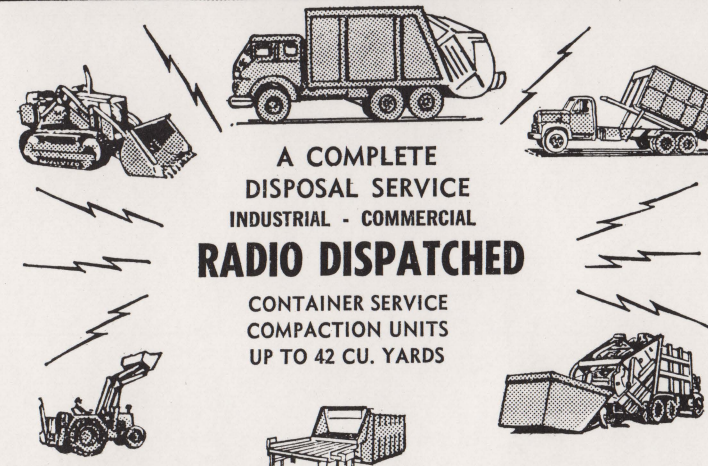
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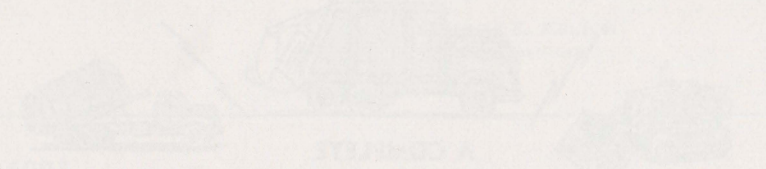
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