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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (ATC)
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI 38534



NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY

30 MARCH 1978

ABOUT 20 RELATIVES OF LT. SAMUEL R. KEESLER, JR., THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICER FOR WHOM THIS BASE IS NAMED, WILL ATTEND DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF THE "SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER" HERE SATURDAY, APRIL 8, AT 2 P.M.

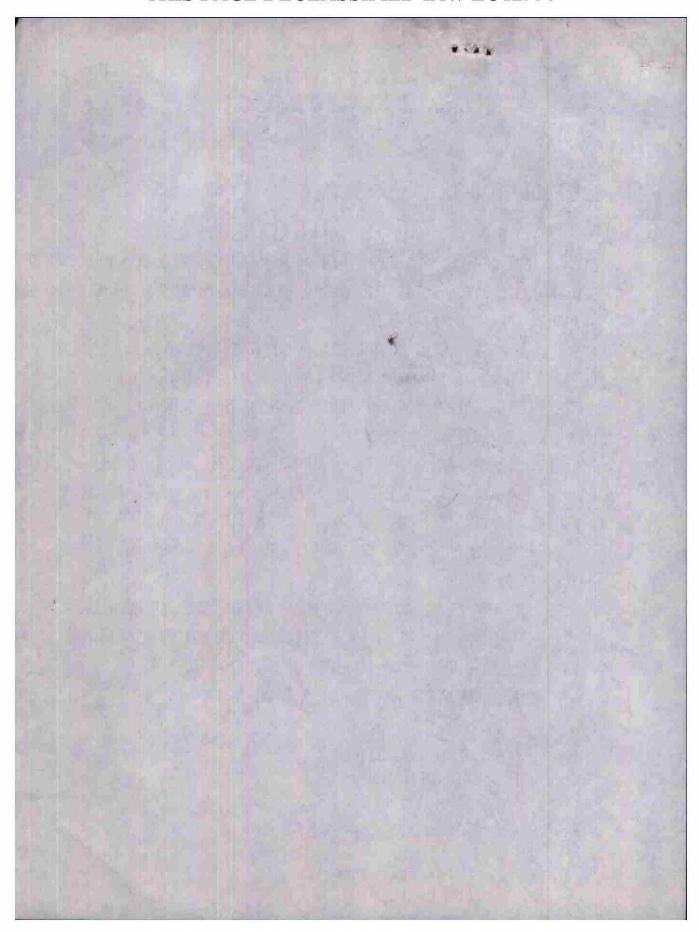
KEESLER'S BROTHER AND TWO OF HIS SISTERS PLUS OTHER RELATIVES WILL TRAVEL FROM NORTH CAROLINA, LOUISIANA, AND NORTHERN MISSISSIPPI FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE STUDY AND LEARNING CENTER.

LT. KEESLER WAS AN AERIAL OBSERVER WHO LOST HIS LIFE IN FRANCE IN 1918. HE WAS THE SON OF MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL R. KEESLER, WHO WAS COMMANDER OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD FOR EIGHT YEARS PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I AND LATER SERVED AS MAYOR OF GREENWOOD.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW ANY OF THE KEESLER RELATIVES ANYTIME SATURDAY OR ATTEND THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES AT 2 P.M., PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT 377-3604 OR 377-3921 SO THAT WE CAN MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS. THANK YOU.

DORAN L. HOPKINS, MAJOR, USAF CHIEF, INFORMATION DIVISION

AIR FORCE-A GREAT WAY OF LIFE



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AIR FORCE-A GREAT WAY OF LIFE



OFFICE OF INFORMATION, KTTC/OIC, KEESLER AFB, MS 39534, AC 601-377-2254

NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 78-3-64

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KEESLER ANTICIPATES SPECIAL DEDICATION

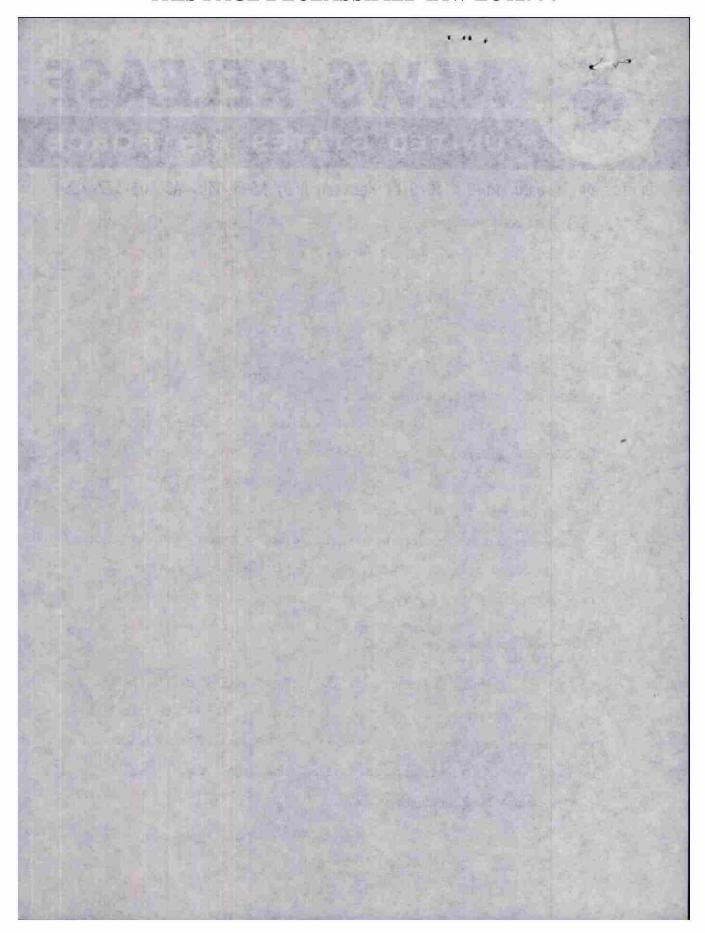
KEESLER AFB, Miss. -- There will be a special dedication ceremony here for the "Spirit of Keesler Center" at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 8.

Major General John S. Pustay, commander of the Keesler Technical

Training Center, will officiate.

The new facility honors the bases' namesake -- Second Lieutenant
Samuel Reeves Keesler Jr., a World War I aerial observer who was shot
down over France. Keesler was a native Mississippian; and his brother,
William Keesler of Cleveland, Miss., along with other relatives, will
attend the dedication.

Located in the student Triangle Area, the "Spirit of Keesler Center" is a bright, cheerful study and learning center for students training here. Photographs depicting the base in the 1940's and 1950's line the walls and special historic displays and photo cubes depict Keeslers' mission change throughout the years.

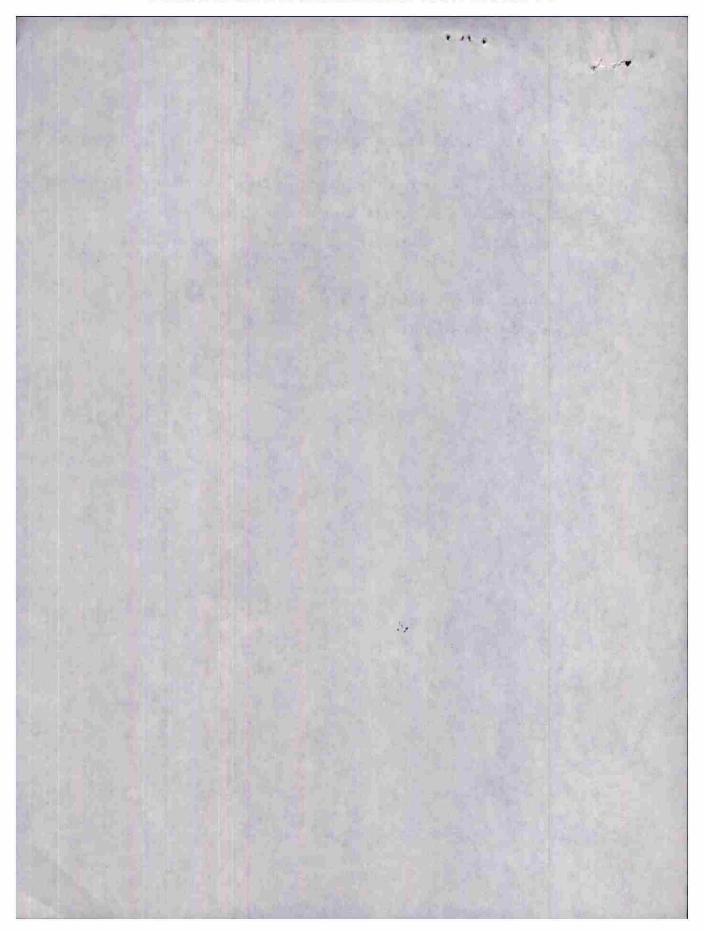


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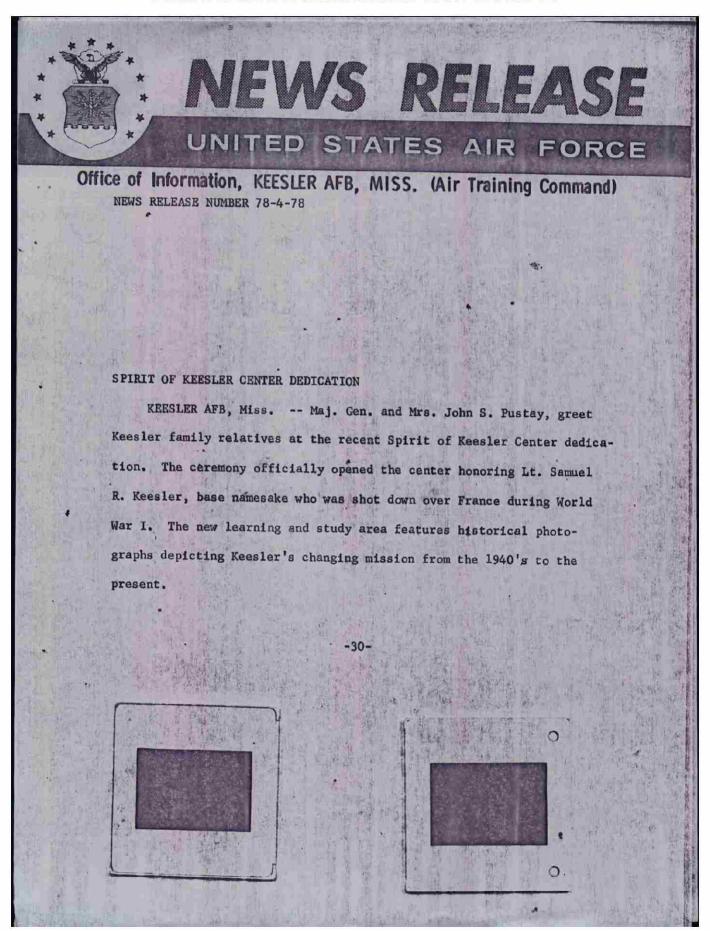
FIRST ADD REL - KEESLER ANTICIPATES SPECIAL DEDICATION

In addition to the esthetic surroundings, there is videotaped information available to students on careers, assignments and bases. In another section, maps, road atlasses, and informational brochures are available.

Keeslers' drum and bugle corps will perform at the dedication ce ceremony and a reception will follow.



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NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 78-4-78

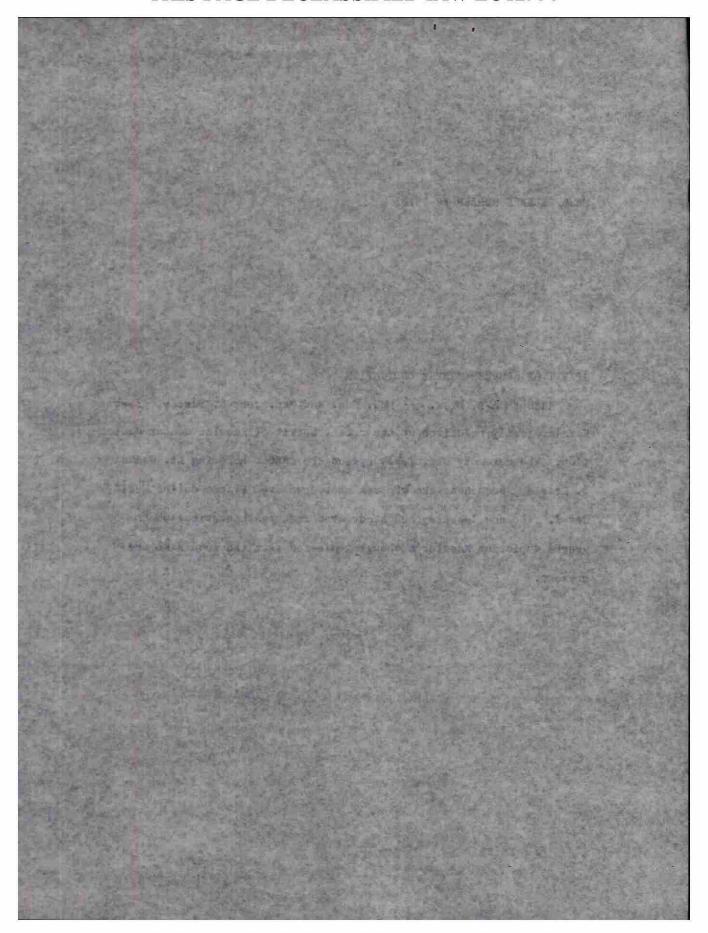
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KRESLER AFB, Miss. -- Maj. Gen. and Mrs. John S. Pustay, greet

Keesler family relatives at the recent Spirit of Keesler Center dedication. The ceremony officially opened the center honoring Lt. Samuel

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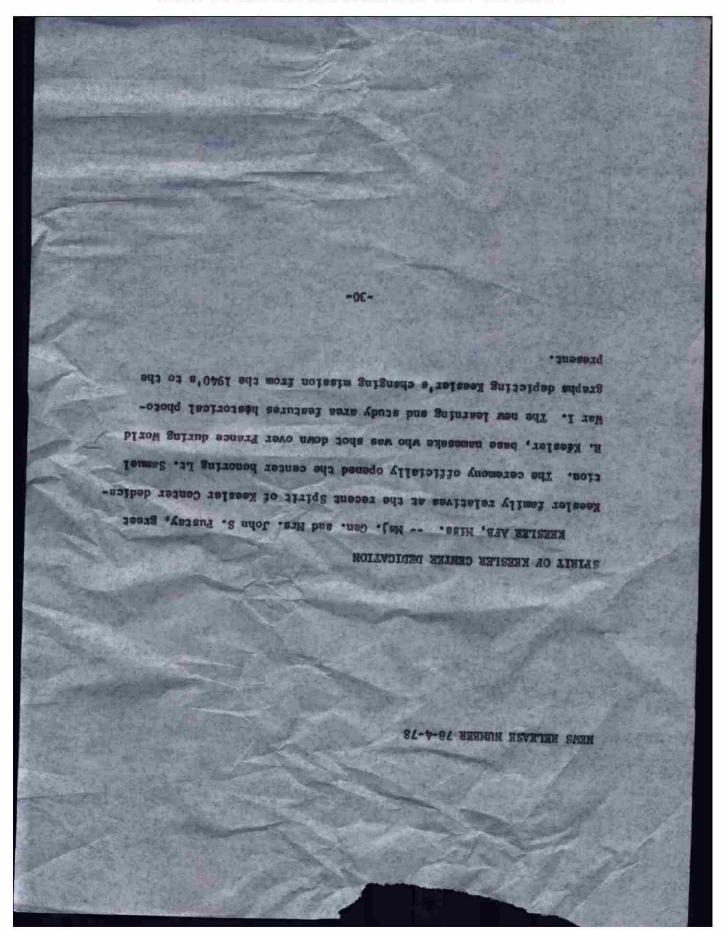
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Office of Information, KEESLER AFB, MISS. (Air Training Command)
News Release 78-4-78

SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER DEDICATION

KEESLER AFB, Miss. -- At the recent dedication ceremony of the Spirit of Keesler Center this painting of Lieutenant Samuel R. Keesler and his aircraft was unveiled. Eighteen relatives of Lieutenant Keesler, the Mississippi aerial observer killed in World War I for whom this base is named, were in attendence. (U. S. Air Force Photo)



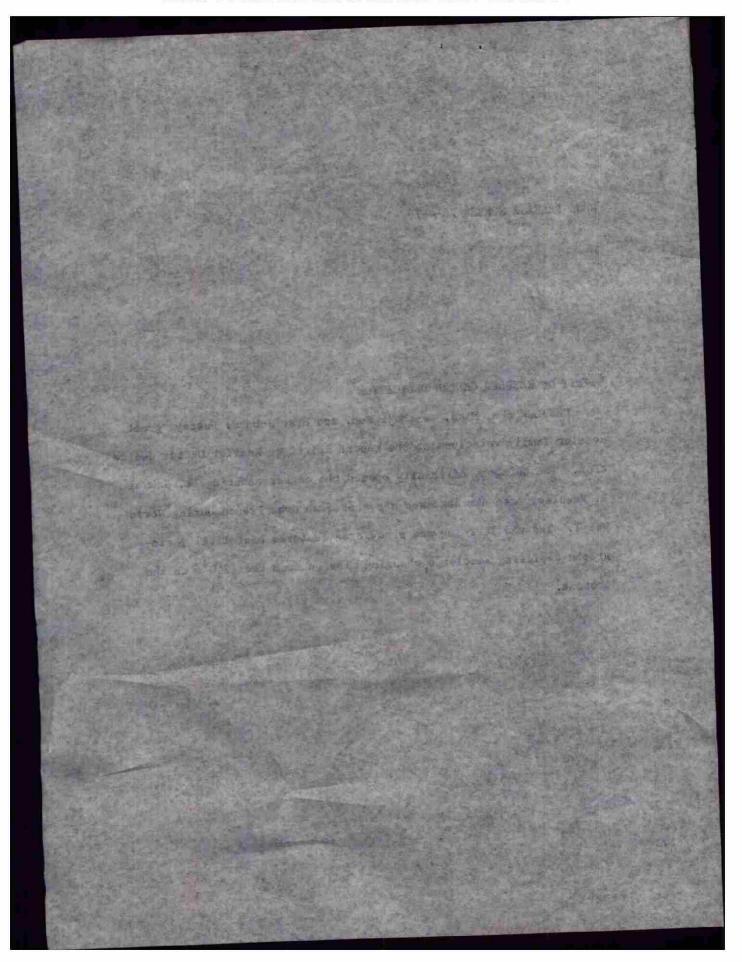
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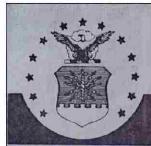
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NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Office of Information, KEESLER AFB, MISS. (Air Training Command)

News Release 78-4-78

SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER DEDICATED

KEESLER AFB, Miss. -- Family members of the World War I flying officer for whom this base in named admire a portrait of Lieutenant Samuel R. Keesler which was unveiled at the dedication ceremonies for a new student learning center here. Major General John S. Pustay, commander of the Keesler Technical Training Center who presided at the dedication ceremonies, stands at the left with Mr. John Pitts, Keesler's brother-in-law, and Mrs. Ella Pratt. Mrs. Pratt was only three years old when her brother Sam left for the war in Europe. Mrs. Mary Gilmour (right), Sam's sister, and Sam's brother, William and his wife, Elizabeth, look on. Eighteen Keesler relatives from throughout the country attended the ceremonies. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 78-4-78

SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER DEDICATION

KERSLER AFB, Miss. -- At the recent dedication ceremony of the Spirit of Keesler Center, 18 relatives of Lt. Samuel R. Keesler, the Mississippi serial observer killed in World War I for whom this base is named, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Then this painting of Lieutenant Keesler and his Sopwith Camel was unvailed as William Keesler, Samuel's 83-year-old brother, and his wife looked on.

NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 78-4-78

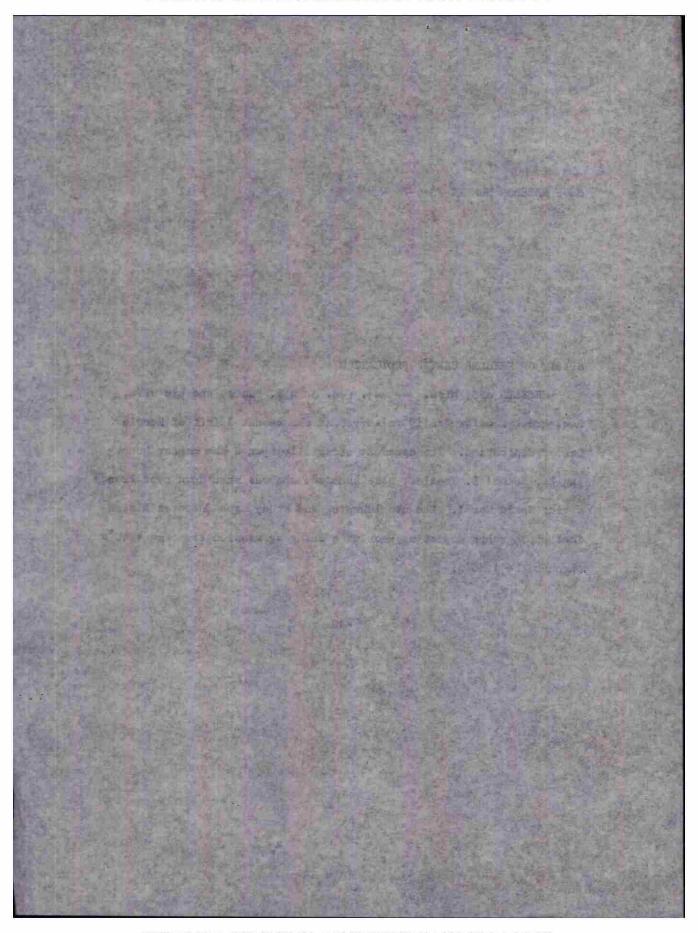
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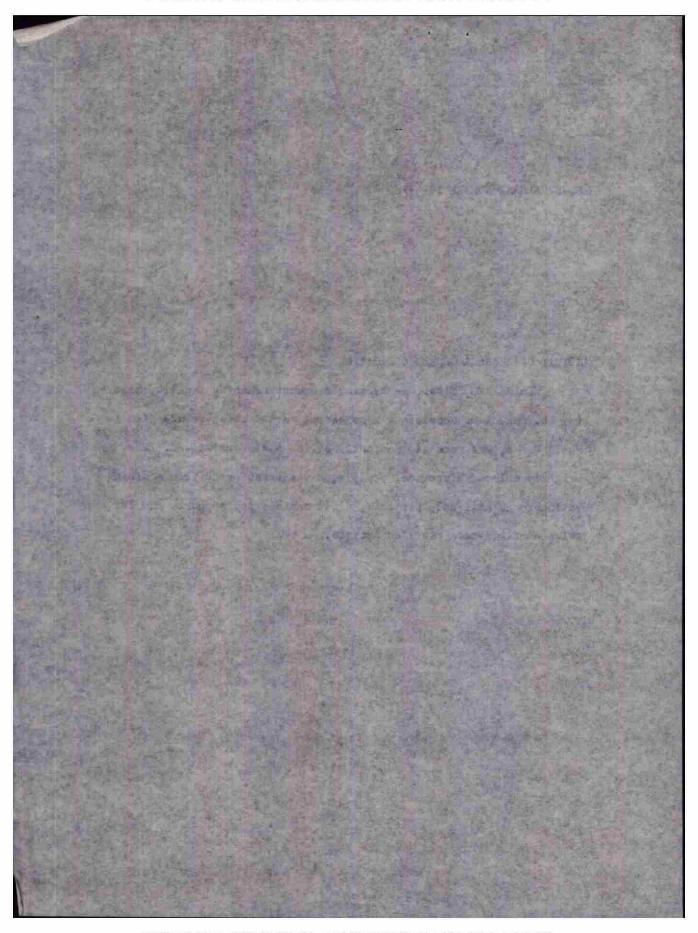
SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER DEDICATION

KEESLER AFE, Miss. -- Keesler's newest training facility honoring Lt. Samuel R. Keesler, a Mississippi serial observer who died in World War I, was recently dedicated by 18 Keesler relatives. The brightly colored historical study area was transformed from a dining hall through self-help projects, civil engineering support, and the talents of two base civilian artists.

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OFFICE OF INFORMATION, KTTC/OIC, KEESLER AFB, MS 39534, AC 601-377-2254

NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 78-3-43

31 MAR 1978

"SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER"

KEESLER AFB, Miss. -- Relatives of the man for whom this base is named have been invited to attend special dedication ceremonies

April 8 of the "Spirit of Keesler Center."

The base name and the new facility honor the memory of Samuel Reeves Keesler Jr., an aerial observer from Greenwood, Miss. Keesler, a second lieutenant, was shotdown over France in October 1918. He died a day later in a German field hospital where he was a prisoner of war.

His brother, William Keesler of Cleveland, Miss., will attend the dedication along with other relatives of the World War I officer.

Major General John S. Pustay, commander of the Keesler Technical
Training Center, will head the ceremonies beginning at 2 p.m., Saturday,
April 8.

"The 'Spirit of Keesler Center' has been designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical

FIRST ADD REL - "SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER"

training here," said General Pustay. "The study area will contain memorabilia and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life."

Many photographs of activities at the base during the 1940s and 1950s will be displayed in the new center. In addition to the study area, there will be videotape facilities where students can learn about their career fields, assignments, and new bases.

Another section of the center will contain maps, road atlases, and informational brochures about each state's attractions. Students may plan weekend trips or vacations with this recreational information.

The base's drum and bugle corps will also perform at the dedication ceremonies. A reception will follow in the new center.

KEESLER FAMILY ATTENDING DEDICATION

Relationship to Lt Keesler

Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler

507 Sixth Avenue

Brother

Cleveland, MS 38732 Mr. John Pitts, Jr.

2300 Horseshoe Drive Alexandria, LA 71301 Brother-in-Law

Mrs. Monroe Gilmour (Mary)

934 Granville Rd. Charlotte, NC 28207 Sister

Mrs. Lanier Pratt (Ella)

1109 Woodburn Road Dunrham, NC 27705

Sister

Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Morrison (Charlot)

and daughter Isabel 36 Brown's Bend Road Alexandria, LA 71301 Niece

Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Miller (Isabel)

and son Tony

5812 Hiawatha Court Alexandria, LA 71301 Niece

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolf (Clara)

5825 Navaho Trail Alexandria, LA 71301 Niece

The Rev. and Mrs. Hal Hyde (Elizabeth) 126 Longleaf Road

Southern Pines, NC 28367

Niece

Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunter Steele (Charlotte)

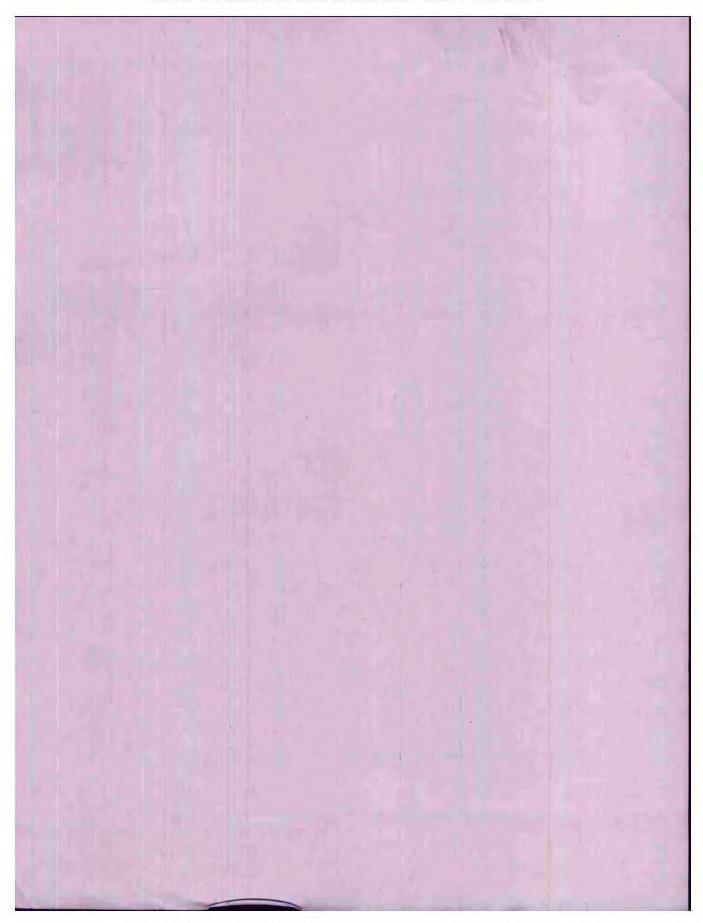
and sons Jimmy and Hunter 1440 Grand Blvd.

Greenwood, MS 38930

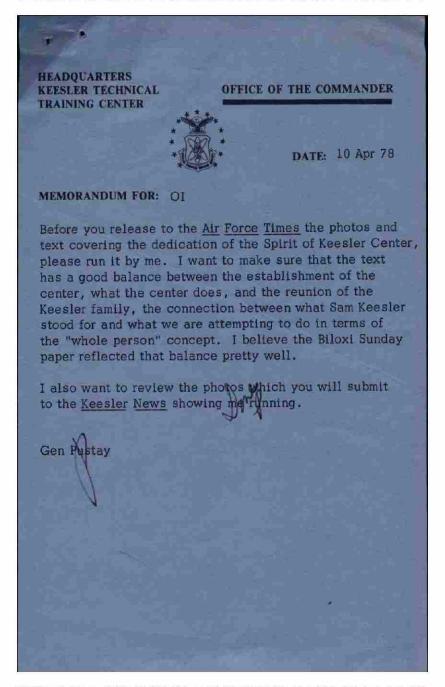
Niece

Major Lawton K. Owens (ROA Escort Officer) and Wife USAR, Ret.

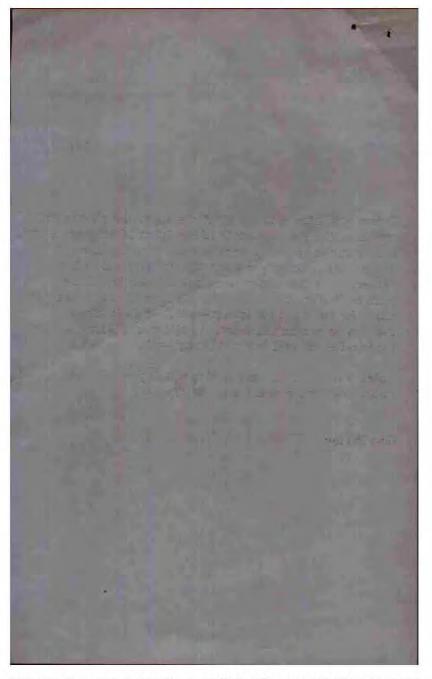
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CCE Info

CV Coord

CC Appr

Maj Hopkins

KTTC/01 3901 el

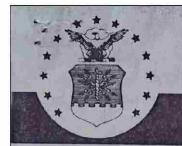
Spirit of Keesler Center Dedication Press Release

12 April 1978

- 1. Attached for your review is our proposed press release to the Air Force Times. We will run essentially the same article (localized) in Friday's Keesler News.
- 2. Reference your question as to why we chose to release a Spirit of Keesler photo in March to the <u>Air Force Times</u>. My decision was based on the following factor. We have no guarantee that any release, no matter how well written, will make the <u>Air Force Times</u>. In fact, from our viewpoint, the selection of stories seems at times to be haphazard. Therefore, I have made it a practice of releasing pre and post-publicity stories to overcome this factor out of two releases, we just might get one published in the <u>Times</u>. At all times, we write a polished story with good photos in the proper format and hope it catches the eye of the editor.
- 3. Based on experience, I have not found that a pre-publicity story will necessarily stop a post-publicity story from being printed. Indeed, a good pre-publicity release may serve as a teaser to an editor and a reader who may want to know more about a story. For example, in the past couple of weeks, the <u>Herald</u> ran both pre and post-publicity stories on the dedication.
- 4. In the case of the attached Spirit of Keesler story, we have contacted SAF/OI informally and asked that they alert the <u>Times</u> that a good story from Keesler is on its way. We are informally sending a copy of the story to SAF/OI at the action officer level to aid our cause.

SIGNED

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF Chief, Information Division 1 Atch Release



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Office of Information, Keesler AFB, Ms. (Air Training Command) - Ph. (601) 377-3901

By Chet JUSTICE.

KEESLER AFB, Miss. -- "Today is a great day for Keesler and for the Keeslers."

These words, spoken at a recent dedication ceremony by Mrs. Ella Pratt, expressed the feelings of the 18 relatives of Mississippian Samuel Reeves Keesler Jr., who gathered here to observe the meaningful dedication ceremony of the "Spirit of Keesler Center" -- a new learning center for Keesler AFB students.

"We are impressed," said Mrs. Pratt, one of the sisters of the man for whom this base is named, "not only with the growth and size of this installation, but in the quality of training and the creative learning provided for our nation's youth in this wonderful place.

"We, collectively and individually, extend our thanks to you for this latest memorial to our brother. We feel truly blessed to have our names associated with this fine base and the remarkable men and women under your leadership," said Mrs. Pratt. "Ladies and gentlemen, we, the Keeslers, salute you."

First add -- Keesler Cen Dedication

The Keesler relatives present represented only a small portion of the present-day clan of 62, but they were visibly proud and happy to be included in this dedication ceremony.

Mrs. Pratt, of Durham, N.C., was joined at the ceremonies by her brother, 83-year-old William Keesler of Cleveland, Miss., and her sister, Mrs. Mary Nash Gilmour of Charlotte, N.C. Keesler relatives were also present from Maryland and Louisiana.

The dedication reunited the Keesler family, many of whom had not seen each other in years.

This "family reunion" was a joyous, emotional occasion for those Keeslers who attended. The dedication ceremonies, the hospitality of base people, and the family reunion were all "unexpected pleasures and made us very happy and proud," said one of the Keeslers.

The idea behind creating the Spirit of Keesler Center came from Maj. Gen. John S. Pustay, commander of the Keesler Technical Training Center here. The facility, which at one time was a dining hall, was renovated with the assistance of the 3380th Civil Engineering Squadron, Training Services Division and the Student Affairs Division.

The general, in delving into the history of the base, was impressed with young Sam Keesler's courage and fortitude during battle in World War I.

The general read an extract of a letter written by a lieutenant who knew Keesler in France:

"I never saw a fellow who was more anxious to do his work well," said Lt. Stuart Gilchrist in a letter written shortly after Keesler's death

Second add -- Keesler Cen Dedication

in 1918. "He wanted results, and he wasn't content with excuses.....

Perhaps Sam might have come back from the last mission if he had not wanted to do his best."

General Pustay, in his dedication speech, said that Sam Keesler's "spirit and competitive nature truly reflect the values we want this learning center to represent. His notion of excellence, professionalism, dedication, and his commitment to serve -- these are the qualities we are trying to imbue in the young men and women who train here."

In the last several years, about 30,000 students have been trained annually at this base, which is well known throughout the Air Force for its electronics training. The center also provides training in personnel, administration, and other specialties.

The new Spirit of Keesler learning center is not only a video cassette library with thousands of tapes, but is also an area containing photographs and other artifacts depicting the rich tradition and history of Keesler AFB.

"It is a combination facility; it is a library, a historical exhibit area, and in a sense a student union," the general said. It is believed to be the only facility of its kind in the Air Force.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which opened the historical exhibit area, Sam Keesler's family helped to unveil a portrait of the young aerial observer in all his flight gear with his aircraft in the background. Also, the general presented the Keesler family an American flag which flew over Keesler the morning of the dedication.

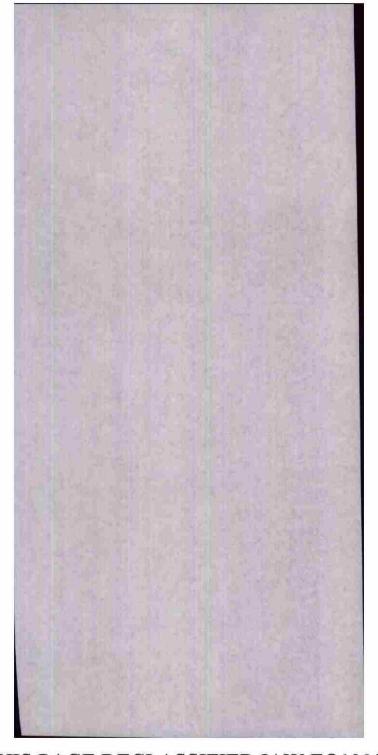
According to General Pustay, the new Spirit of Keesler Center will help to achieve the "whole concept in which we attempt to develop students

Third add -- Keesler Cen Dedication

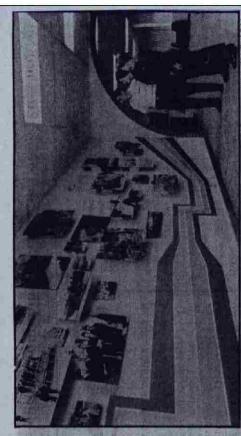
in the academic, military, moral, and physical areas. "While the students are furthering themselves in this academic center they will be surrounded literally by the richness of this fine installation," he said.

"We produce exceptional airmen," said the general, "and we will train and produce fine citizens for this country, and we will do it because the spirit of Keesler -- excellence, pride, involvement, innovation -- moves everything that we do."



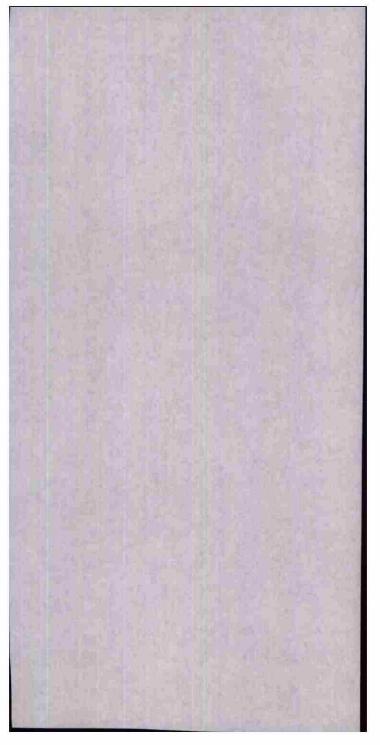


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Past in pictures

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Almost 60 years have passed since Samuel Keesler Jr. was shot down over France

ng center dedicated to young lieutena

By LLOYD GRAY

T HAS BEEN ALMOST 80 YEARS SINCE LT.

Samuel R. Keesier Jr.'s Sopwith Camel went spinning to the earth in France, it and his body riddled by the bullets of German fighters.

Keesier, a 21-year-old Greenwood, Miss. boy, lived

about 24 hours after his plane hit the ground, dying in a German hospital only weeks before the end of the First

world War. His name, however, has lived to this day, and one more round of homage was paid to it Saturday at the Air Force base that has been his living memorial. Some 18 relatives of the young lieutenant from as far away as Maryland gathered in Blood for dedication of the new "Spirit of Keesler Center," an old mess hall be enovated into a comfortable, brightly colored "learning senter," a combination library, museum and student union.

Dozens of old photographs depicting the 37-year instroy of the base cover the walls of the building, which contains over 1,000 casette tapes and other research materials to assist airmen in their studies. It will be a slace. Maj. Gen. John Pustay said, where students can come "to be literally surrounded by the rich history of his institution."

Members of the Keesler family—including his brother, "Illiam Keesler of Cleveland, Miss., and two sisters, by Sella Pratt of Durham, N.C., and Mrs. Mary Nash filmour of Charlotte, N.C.—were welcomed to the termon ceremony by a 13-member drill team Honor ward and music from the Keesler Drum and Bugle orps.

"It's a great day for Keesler and the Keeslers," Mrs. att said moments later, following Pustay's reflections her brother's life and exploits.

"(Samuel Keesler's) notion of excellence, prolessionalism, dedication and a commitment to servehese are the things we are attempting to imbue in every student who comes to Keesler Technical Training Tenter," center Commander Pustay said. Thus, the lessignation "Spirit of Keesler Center."



BILL SLMORE/STAFF

Mr. and Mrs.
William Keesler
and portrait of
the late Samuel
Keesler Jr.

Byewitnesses to Keesler's final moments in the air say he eliminated the lead aircraft in the group of fighters who attacked him and his companion pilot, a Lt. Harold W. Riley, and that even as their plane went reeling to the earth, completely out of control, he continued to fire away at the enemy. His courage in the air and in the following hours, when he impressed the Germans with

his fortitude while dying, "are a super achievement in terms of contemporary times," Pustay said.

A portrait of Keesler in full flight regalia, with his "Camet" as a backdrop, was unveiled at the ceremony following an official ribbon cutting. It was painted by Marty Brazil and Doug Blon, civilian employees at Keesler. A encased American flag, the one that flew over the base Saturday morning as the Keesler family toured it, was presented to Sam Keesler's brother William.

The day marked only the third time that a large portion of the Keosler clan had gathered at the base, the last time being the celebration of the facility's 37th anniversary seven years ago. That occasion was the first family get-together at Keesler since its dedication in 1941.

William Keesler, now 83 and his brother "did everything together," one relative remembered, And the
surviving Keesler himself spoke fondly of their days
together at Davidson College in North Carolina, where
Sam was student body president before both enlisted in
the armed forces in May, 1917 to fight for the Aliled cause.
"He determined to the content of the cont

"His determination." Keesier responded when some one asked what he remembered most about his brother "He was determined to to do the right thing all the time."

Mrs. Pratt, now director of the Office of Cultural Affairs at Duke University, was only three years old when Sam went off to war, but she does have memories of him "because he was so good with children, so kind to them."

What has impressed her more, though, is "the love and the esteem that not only his family, but all his friends, have for him still. Years later they have vivid memories of Sam. It's obvious that he was a special person."

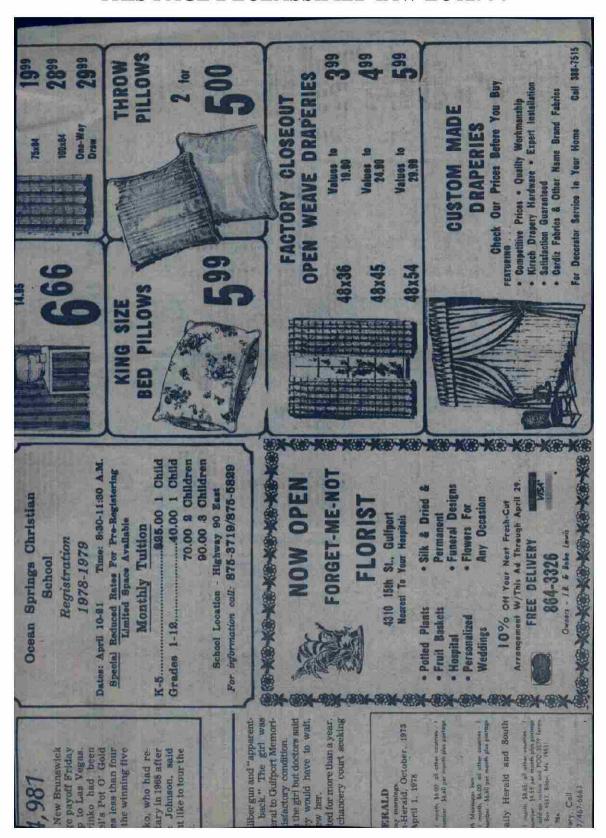
The new learning center is also something special

secording to Keesler officials. It will be the only such actility in the entire Air Training Command.

It will help achieve Keesler's "whole person concept which we pursue in the academic, military, moral and physical areas," Pustay said.

"We will produce exceptional ahrmen," the general added, "and we will produce exceptional citizens for this rountry, and we will do it because the spirit of Keesler moves everything that we do..."

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"T HAS BEEN ALMOST 80 YEARS SINCE LT. Samuel R. Keesler Jr.'s Sopwith Carnel went spin-"ning to the earth in France, it and his body riddled Keesler, a 21-year-old Greenwood, Miss. boy, lived

center," a combination library, museum and studen he new "Spirit of Keesler Center," an old mess hat enovated into a comfortable, brightly colored "learning Some 18 relatives of the young lieutenant from as far way as Maryland gathered in Blioxi for dedication of and one migre round of homage was paid to it Saturda; at the Air Force base that has been his living memorial about 24 hours after his plane hit the ground, dying in a German hospital only weeks before the end of the First World War. His name, however, has lived to this day,

come "to be literally surrounded by the rich history of place, Maj. Gen. John Pustay said, where stud contains over 1,000 casette tapes and other res

aterials to assist airmen in th

Dozens of old photographs depicting the 37-year ustory of the base cover the walls of the building, which

Keesler Jr. PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Keesler family—including his brother William Keesler of Cleveland, Miss., and two sisters, Mrs. Ella Pratt of Durham, N.C., and Mrs. Mary Nesh Guard and music from the Keesler Drum and Bugis Glimour of Charlotte, N.C.-were welcomed to the fternoon ceremony by a 13-member drill team Honor

on her brother's life and exploits. Pratt said moments later, following Pustay's reflections "It's a great day for Keesler and the Keeslers," Mrs

Center," center Commander Pustay said. Thus, these are the things we are attempting to imbue in every student who comes to Keesler Technical Training Center." center Commander Pustay said. Thus, the esignation "Spirit of Keesler Center. ssionalism, dedication and a commitment to servenotion of excellence, orio

> and portrait of the late Samuel William Keesler Mr. and Mrs.

say he eliminated the lead aircraft in the group of fighters who attacked him and his companion pilot, a Lt. Harold W. Riley, and that even as their plane went reeling to away at the enemy. His courage in the air and in the the earth, completely out of control, he continued to fire following hours, when he impressed the Germans with Eyewitnesses to Kee ller's final moments in the ab

his fortitude while dying, "are a super achievement in terms of contemporary times," Pustay said.

"Camel" as a backdrop, was unveiled at the ceremony following an official ribbon cutting. It was painted by Marty Brazil and Doug Bion, civilian employees at Keesler. A encased American flag, the one that flew over t, was presented to Sam Keesler's brother William. he base Saturday morning as the Kees A portrait of Keesler in full flight regalla, with his

portion of the Keesler clan had gathered at the base, universary seven years ago. That occasion was the first amily get-together at Keesler since its dedication in 1941. William Keesler, now 83, and his brother "did every. he last time being the celebration of the facility's 30th The day marked only the third time that a large

together at Davidson College in North Carolina, where Sam was student body president before both enlisted in the armed forces in May, 1917 to fight for the Allied cause. "His determination," Keesler responded when someone asked what he remembered most about his brother. surviving Keesler himself spoke fondly of their days hing together," one relative remembered. And the

of him "because he was so good with children, so kind when Sam went off to war, but she does have memories Affairs at Duke University, was only three years old 'He was determined to to do the right thing all the time." Mrs. Pratt, now director of the Office of Cultural

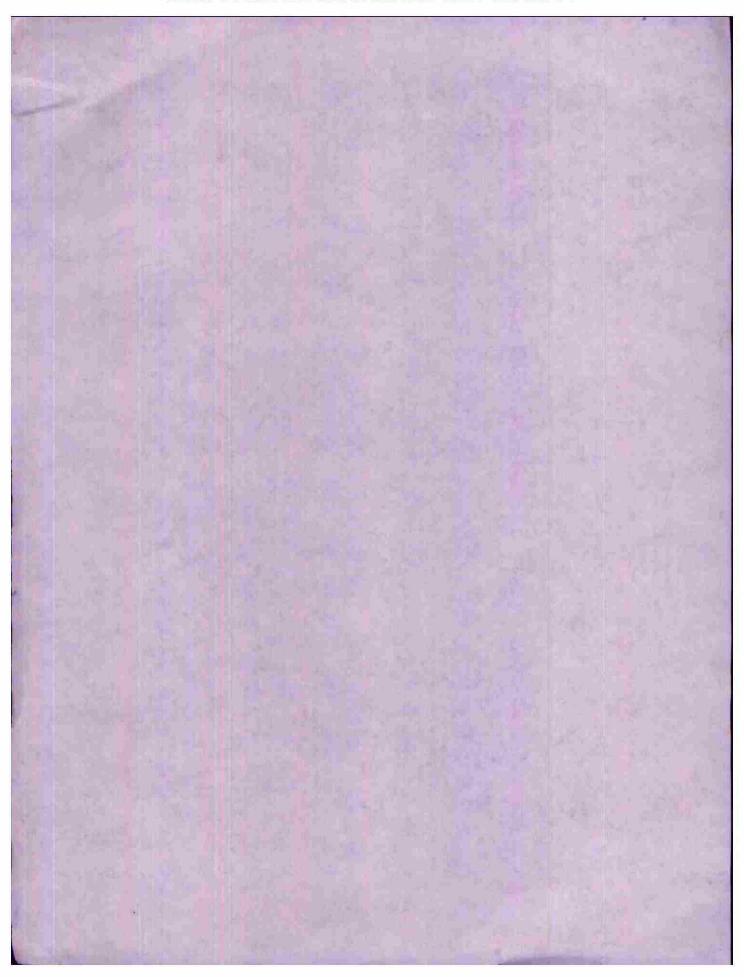
BILL ELMORE/STAFF

have for him still. Years later they have vivid memories of Sam. It's obvious that he was a special person." and the esteem that not only his family, but all his triends The new learning center is also something special, What has impressed her more, though, is "the love

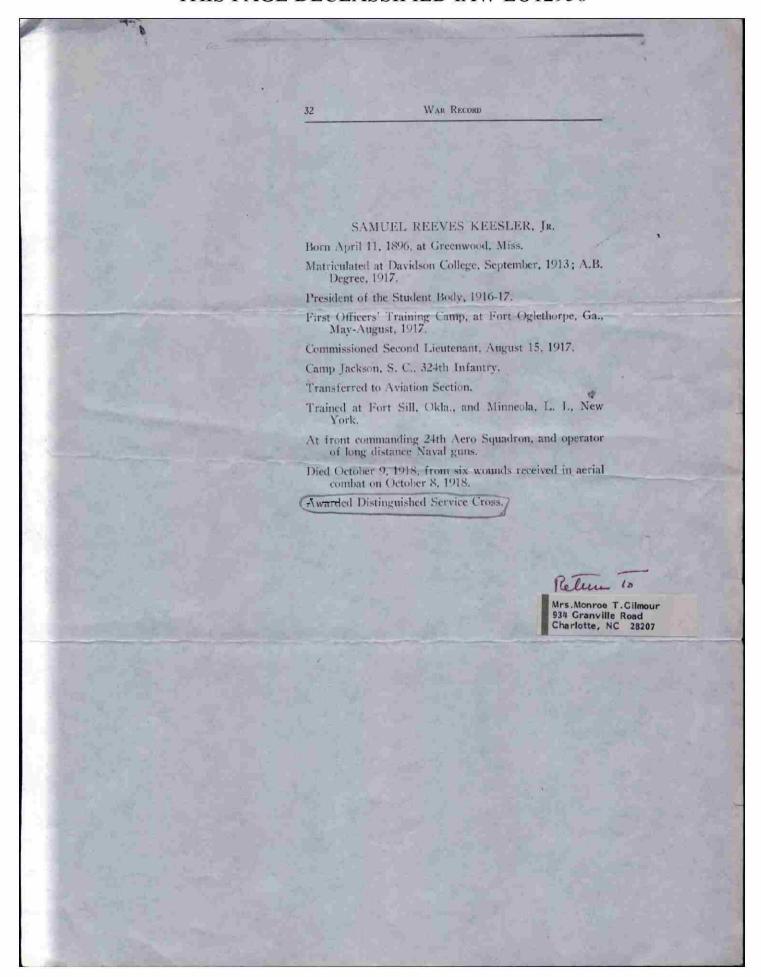
which we pursue in the academic, military, moral and according to Keesler officials. It will be the only such facility in the entire Air Training Command.

It will help achieve Keesler's "whole person concept.

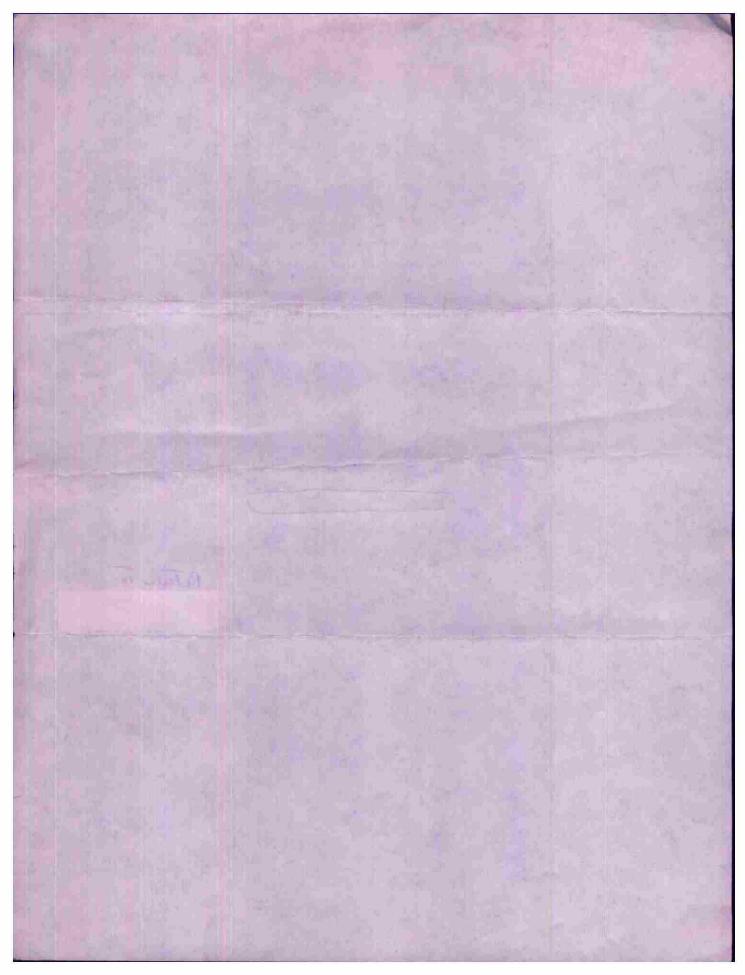
moves everything that we do ... " country, and we will do it because the spirit of Keesler physical areas," Pustay said.
"We will produce exceptional airmen," the general added, "and we will produce exceptional citizens for this



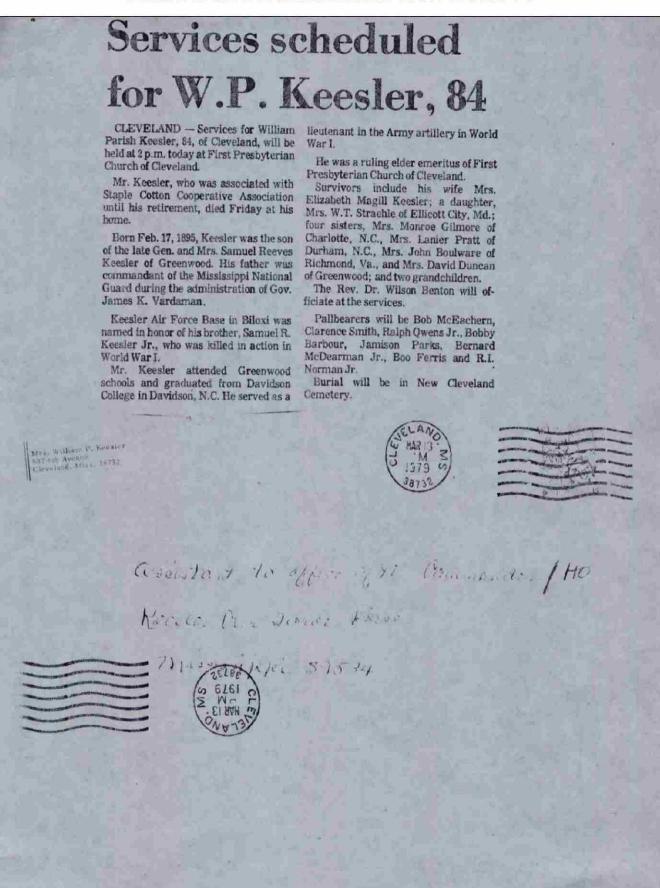
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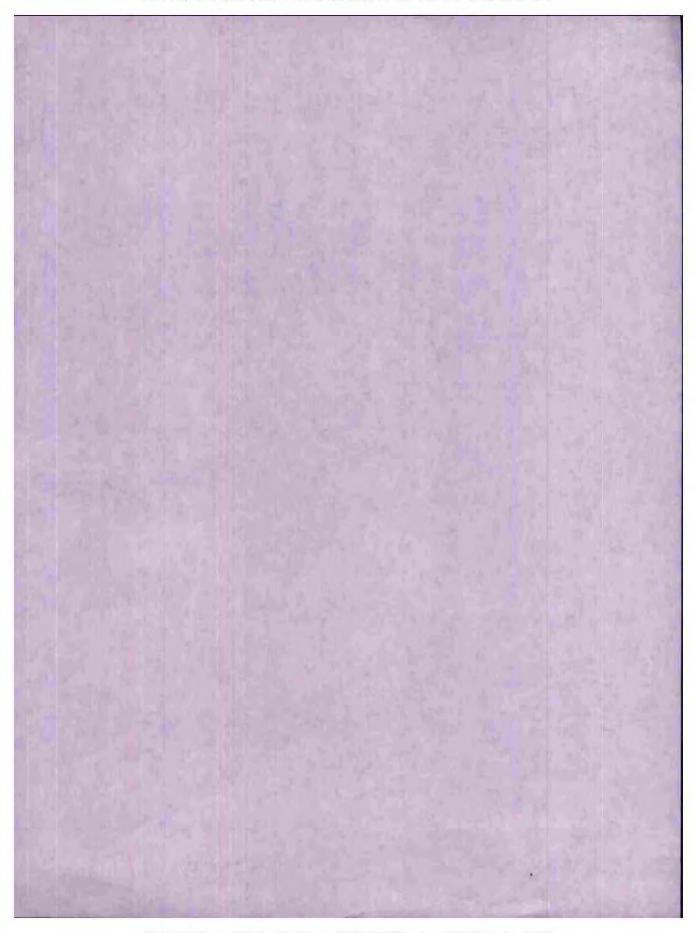


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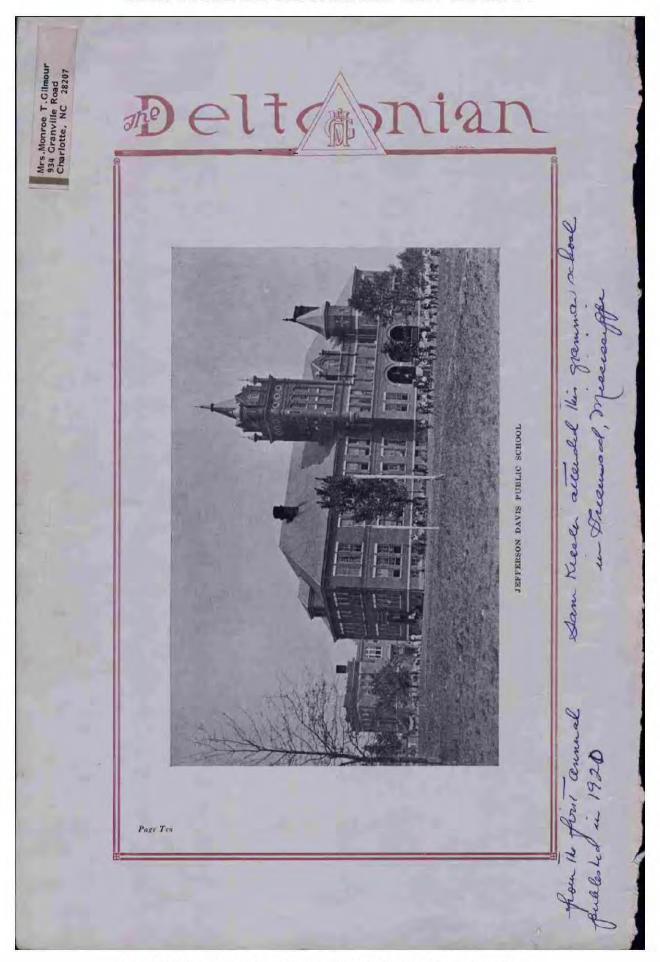


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places and positions he has held. It is sufficient to say, however, that for more than twenty years, he has been one of our most active and able educators, in Institute and Normal work, and other educational work; and it is a matter of personal pride to his many friends, to know that wherever he has been, and whatever he has done, has always been done with efficiency and modesty, and with an eye single to the upbuilding and promotion of the best interests of the children of this State.

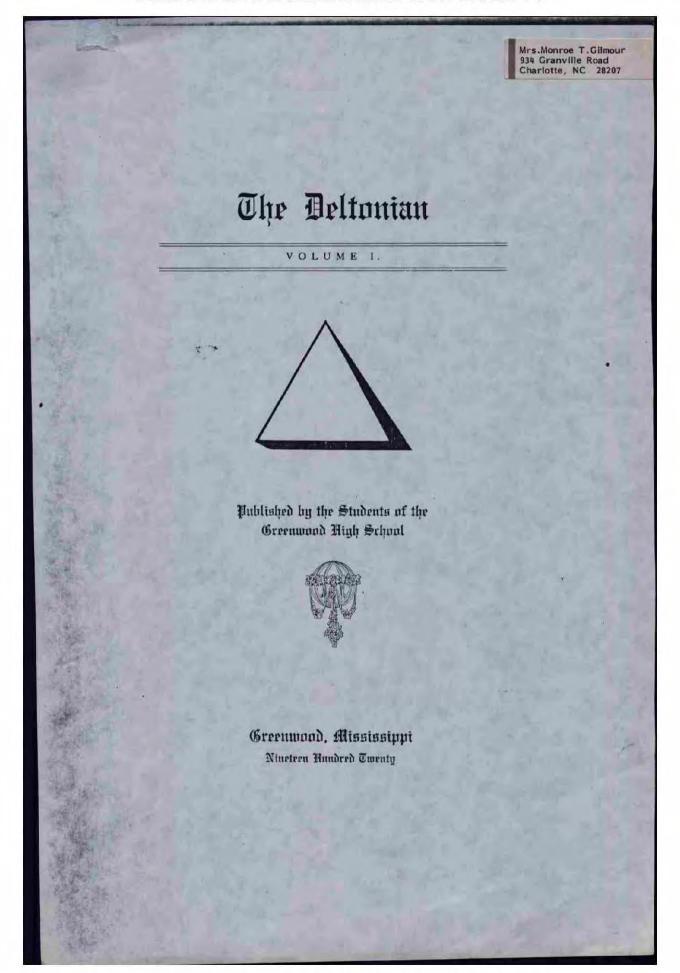
It can be said of him that he has given to the cause of education of this State, and to the service of his people, the best years of his life; that during that time he has maintained a record for honesty, integrity, fair dealing and efficiency, that cannot properly be described within the limits of this short sketch.

He came here when Greenwood was comparatively a village, and when its Public School had no system, and in that condition, he took charge and has brought forth one of the most successful and popular institutions in this State.

He is surrounded by an able corps of Instructors, who have rendered him valuable assistance, and with whom he has worked without any friction; and the loyalty of these assistants to him, is one of the best evidences of his success as an educator and his worth as a man.

During the time he has been connected with the cause of education, not only in Greenwood, but elsewhere, never has there been one word of scandal, reproach or criticism of any kind that could possibly taint or tarnish his good name, as an educator and as a Christian gentleman. He is a man in every sense of the word, and his standing in this community, where he has spent the best years of his life, and where he is well known, is the surest index to the character, intelligence and standing of the man. Few men in any position of life have sustained themselves as well as he has under so many strains, as the principal of the public school of this place. He has had his misfortunes, and his successes; he has had his critics, and he has his admirers, but, the modesty of the man and his irreproachable character have made for him one of the most enviable records that could be enjoyed by any man in any department of public life. When the time shall come for him to lay down his work, it can be well said of him, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Page Nine



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Return

Mrs.Monroe T.Gilmour 934 Granville Road Charlotte, NC 28207



2nd Lieut. 24th Aerial Squadron First Army Observation
Group.
Graduated, Greenwood High
School 1913.
Davidson College, 1917, A. B.
Camp Gordon, May 1917.
Shot down by enemy plane
while on reconnoissance Oct.
9th, 1918, Verdun Sector.

Age 22 Years.



James Gordon Gillespie

1st Lieut. Co. Commander, Machine Gun Co., 30th Div.

Graduated, Greenwood High School, 1905.

University of Miss. 1910.

BS. LLB.
Enlisted, Memphis, Tenn., June

Enlisted, Memphis, Tenn., June 1917. Killed in Action near Vallenciennes Oct. 18, 1918. Age 29 Years.

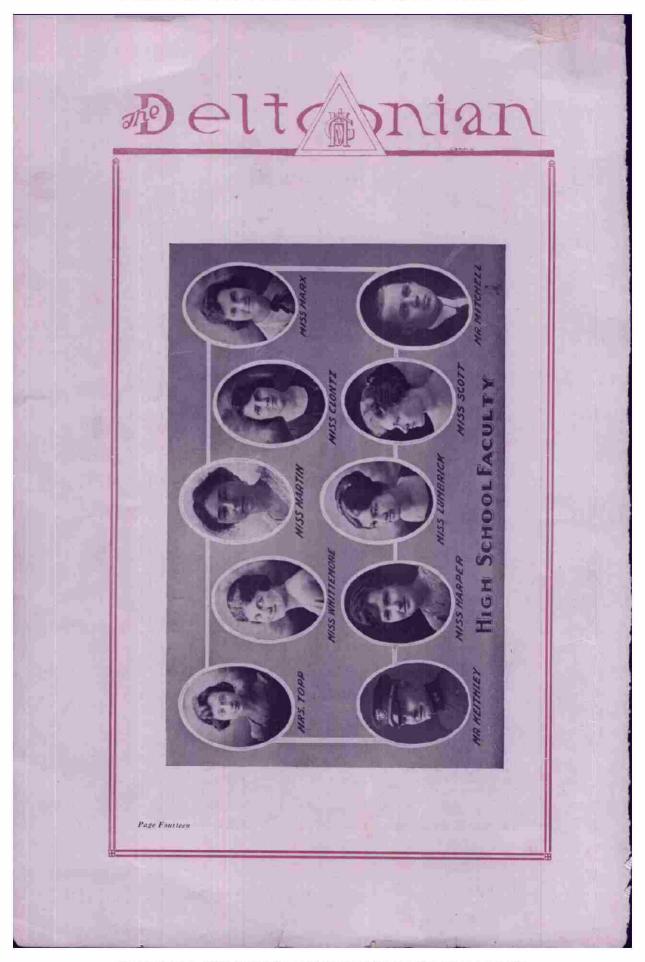
TO THE FORMER STUDENTS OF THE GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE WORLD WAR, THIS MEMORIAL IS INSCRIBED IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY.

CHARLES ROBERT FRANKLIN, Hospital Unit, Atlanta, Ga. Died, Oct. 4th, 1918.

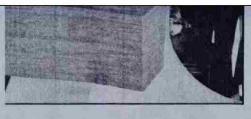
FRANK GIARDINA, Orderly, 119th Inf., 30th Div. Killed in Action, Oct. 24th, 1918.

JOHN RICHARD HODGES, First Class Phar. Mate, U. S. N. Died, Havana, Cuba, Oct. 21st, 1918.

HERBERT SCOTT, S. A. T. C. Died, Clinton, Miss. Oct. 20th, 1918.



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"Today is a great day for Keesler and for the Keeslers."

These words, spoken at a recent dedication ceremony by Mrs. Elia Prett, expressed the feelings of the 18 relatives of Mississippian Samuel Reeves Keesler Jr., who gathered here to observe the meaningful dedication ceremony of the "Spirit of Keesler Center"—a new learning center for Keesler students.

"We are impressed," said Mrs. "We are impressed," said Mrs.
Pratt, one of the sisters of 2nd Lt.
Samual R. Kee er for whom this base is named, "not only with the growth and size of this installation, but in the

quality of training and the creative learning provided for our nation's youth in this wonderful place.

"We, collectively and individually, extend our thanks to you for this latest memorial to our brother. We feel truly blessed to have our "mes associated with this fine base and e remarkable



is a great day for Keesler and Keeslers

each other in years.

This "family reunion" was a Joyous, emotional occasion for those Réesiers who attended. The dedication ceremonies, the hospitality of base people, and the family reunion were all "wexpected pleasures and made us very happy and proud." said one of the Keesiers of the Keesier family were welcomed and entertained at the dedication by a 13-member drill team honer guard, music from the Drum and Bugle Corps, and songs by the Keesier Male Chorus.

The idea behind creating the Spirit of Keesier Center came from Maj.
Gen John S. Pustay, commander of the Keesier Technical Training Center here. The facility, which at one time was a dining hall, was renovated with the assistance of the 3360h Civil Einglneering Squadron. Training Services Division and the Student Affairs Division.

The general, in delving into the history of the base, was impressed with young Sam Keesier's courage and fortifude during battle in World War I. The general read an extract of a

Four Fakkers came I French side of the line tacked us. Lieutenan lired all the way down c

serve — these are the qualities we are trying to inbue in the young men and women who train here."

In the last several years, about 30,000 students have been trained annually at this base, which is well known throughout the Air Force for its electronics training. The center also provides training in personnel, administration, and other specialties. The new Spirit of Keesler learning center is not only a video cassette library with thousands of tapes, but is also an area containing photographs and other artifacts depicting the rich tradition and history of Keesler.

"It is a combination facility; it is a library, a historical exhibit area, and in a sense a student union," the general said. It is believed to be the only facility of its kind in the Air Force.

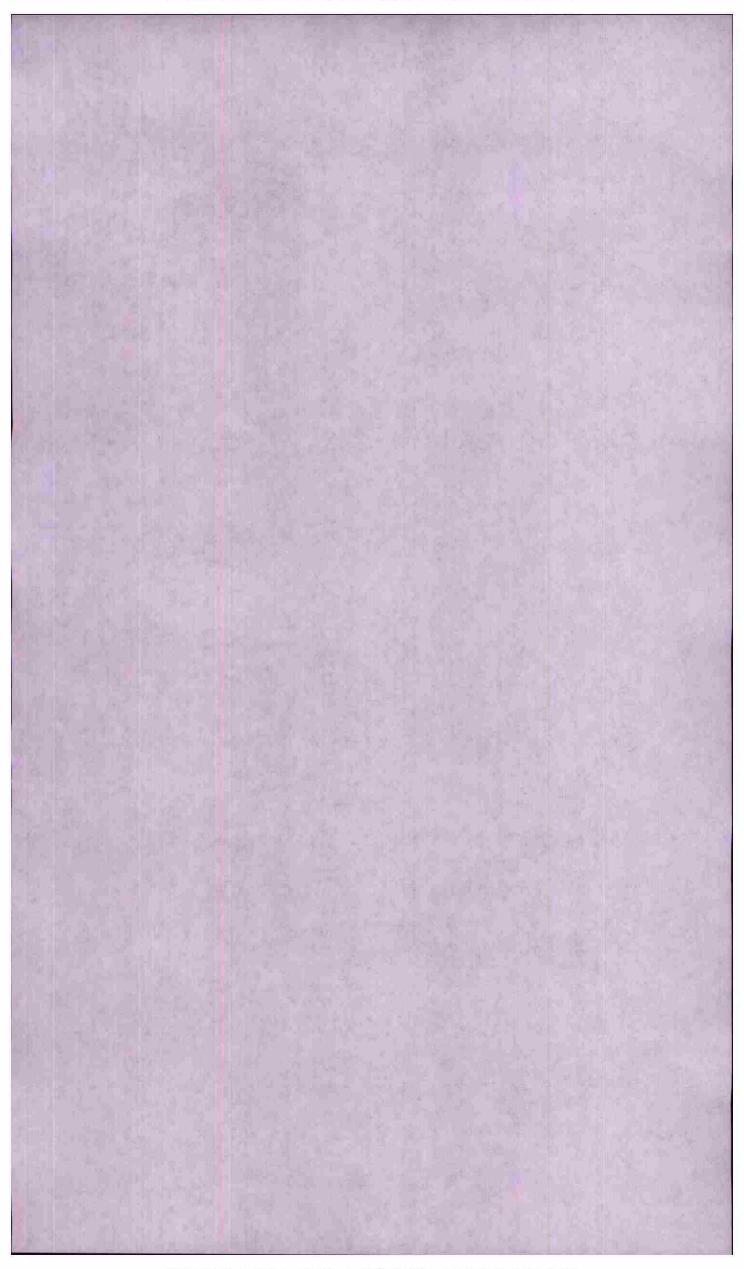
After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which opened the historical exhibit area. Sam Keesler's family helped to unveil a portrait of the young aerial observer in all his flight gear with his significant.



said the general, "and we will to and produce fine citizens for this country, and we will do it becaus spirit of Keester — excellence, I involvement, innovation everything that we do."



Maj. Gen. John
Putry presents
encared Americ
flag, which flow
the base the mc
of the Spirit of
Center dedicat
Lieutenant Kee
brother, Williau



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The general, in delving into the history of the base, was impressed with young Sam Keesler's courage and fortitude during battle in World War I. The general read an extract of a letter written by a lieutenant who knew Keesler's frame:

"I never saw a fellow who was more anxious to do his work well," said Li. Stuart Glichrist in a letter written shortly after Keesler's death in 1918. "He wanted results, and he wasn't content with excuses... Perhaps Sam might have come back from the last might have come back from the last

We are impressed," said Mrs. Frait, one of the sisters of 2nd Lt. Samual R. Keesler for whom this base is named, "not only with the growth and size of this installation, but in the quality of training and the creative learning provided for our nation's youth in this wonderful place.

We, collectively and individually, extend our thanks to you for this latest memorial to our brother. We feel truly blessed to have our names associated with this fine base and the remarkable men and women under your leadership," said Mrs. Frait. "Ladies and gentlemen, we, the Keeslers, salute you."

The Keesler relatives present and were visibly proud and happy to be included in this dedication

Mrs. Pratt of Durham, N.C., was joined at the ceremonies by her brother, \$3.year-old William Keesler of Cleveland, Miss., and her sister, Mrs. Mary Nash Glimour of Charlotte, N.C. Keesler relatives were also present from Maryland and Louisiana. The dedication reunited the Keesler

notion of excellence, professionalism, dedication, and his commitment to serve — these are the qualities we are trying to inbue in the young men and women who train here.

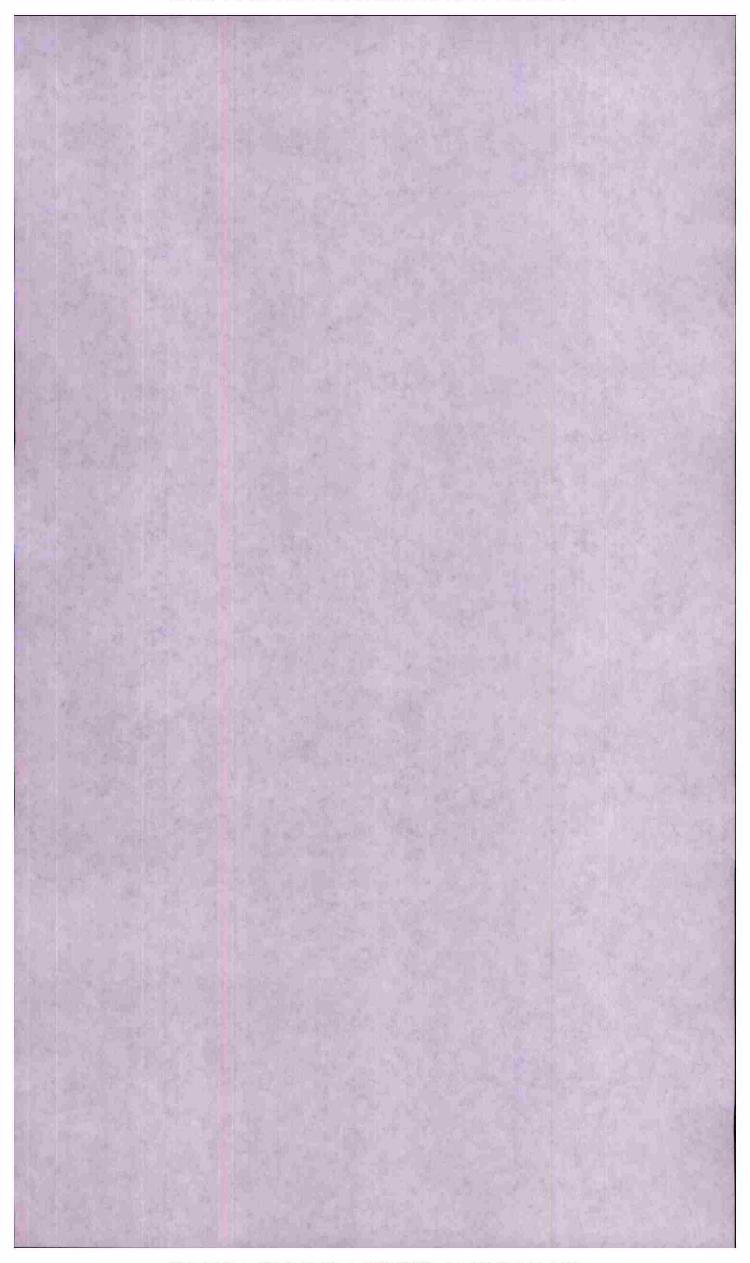
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After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which opened the historical exhibit area, Sam Keesler's family helped to unveil a portrait of the young aerial observer in all his flight gear with his aircraft in the background. Also, the general presented the Keesler family an American flag which flew over Keesler the morning of the dedication. According to General Pustay, the new Spirit of Keesler Center will help to achieve the "whole concept in which we attempt to develop students in the academic center they will be surrounded literally by the richness of this fine installation," he said.

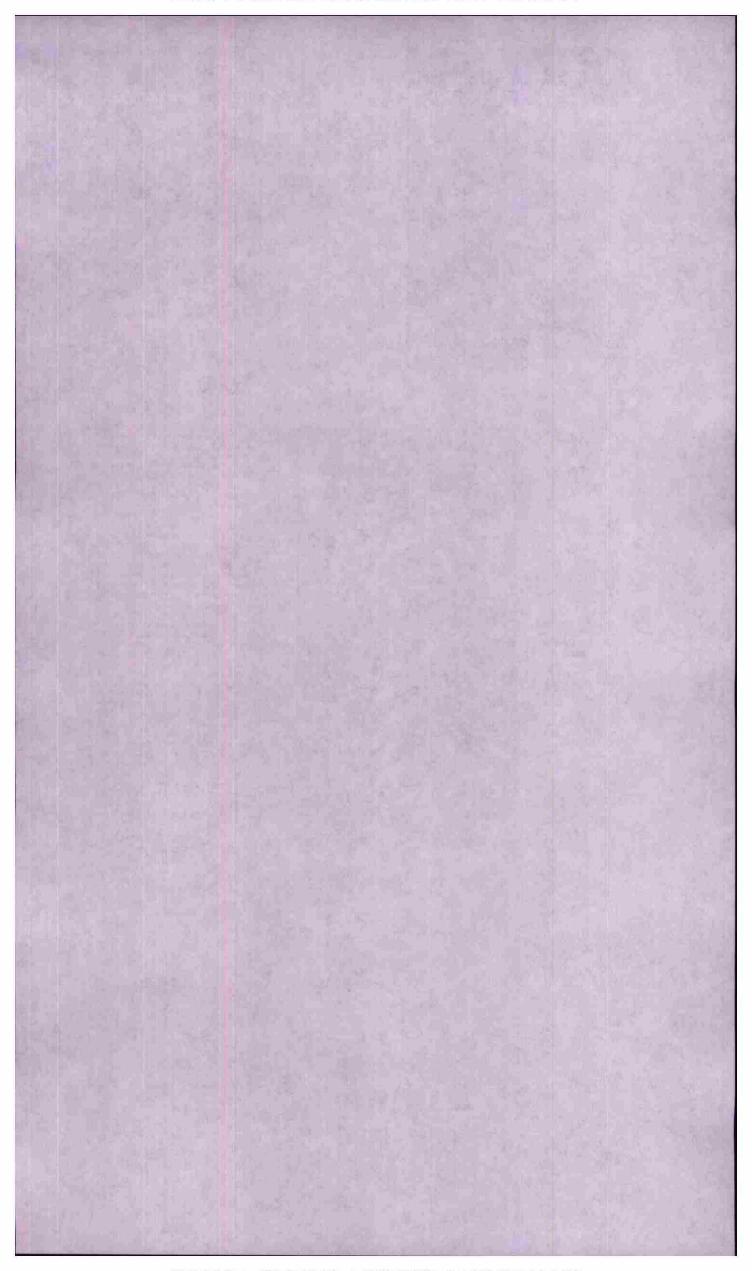
said the general, "and we will train and produce fine citizens for this country, and we will do it because the spirit of Keesler—excelence, pride, involvement, innovation—moves everything that we do."

the line



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nance specialist course
more than two engines
FB, Tex., after the last
at Chanute AFB March
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its and included subjects

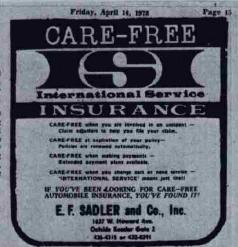
The first mock-ups for training of its kind in the
built in the 1940s, with "hands-on"
becoming the rule in 15 separate
maintenance courses. The aircraft in
branch was established in 1955 with

In 1926 the Air Corps Technical School, the forecumer of today's technical training center, was formed at Chanute AFB. In addition to aircraft maintenance, the school offered photography and communications courses. The aircraft maintenance branch was the largest.

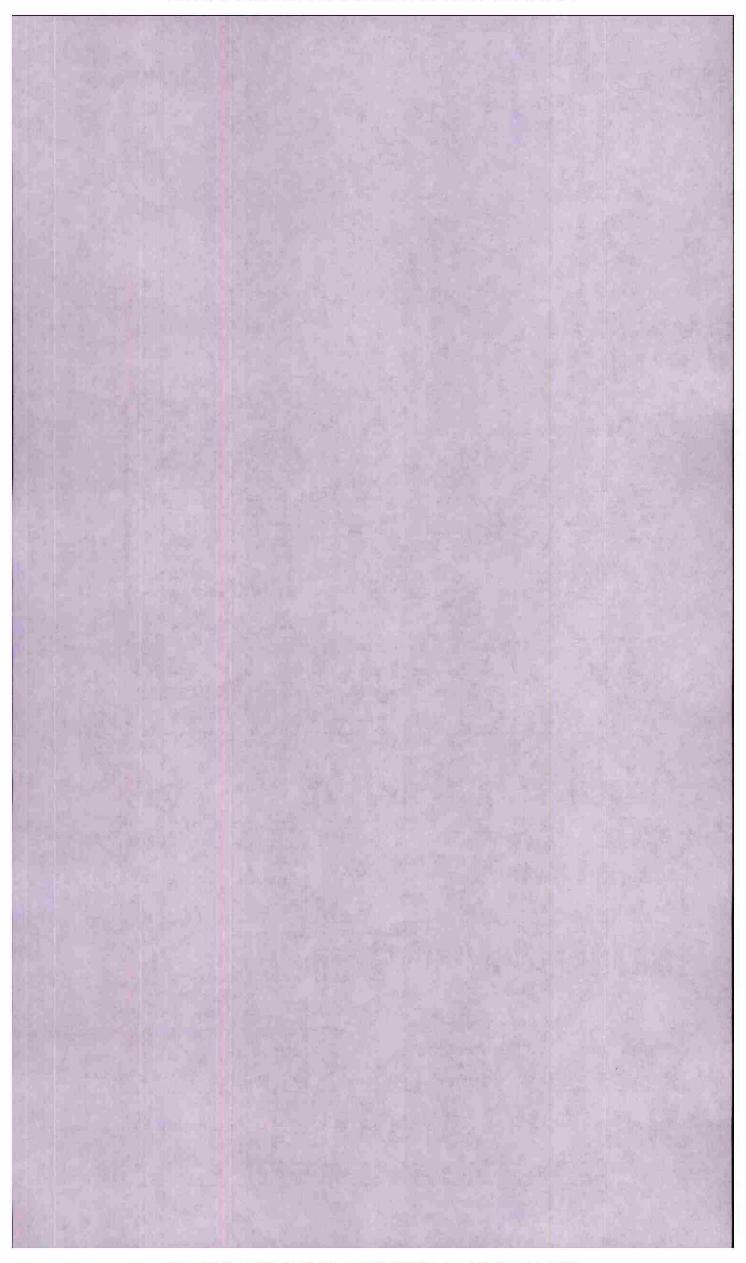
Course specialization began in 1936 at

built in the 1940s, with "hands-on" training becoming the rule in 15 separate aircraft maintenance courses. The aircraft mechanics branch was established in 1936 with the new B-52 bomber as the mainstay of the training program. The training has, for the most part remained intact in the 23 years since the

Since the current training format was adopted in 1955, the course has graduated an average of about 1,500 students per year. That is more than 35,000 graduates since 1955. There were 21 graduates in that first class back in 1921 (ATCMS)







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activities

Professor addresses FEW

YMAC holds 2nd worknight

Pre-marriage

hints given



NCOWC luncheon

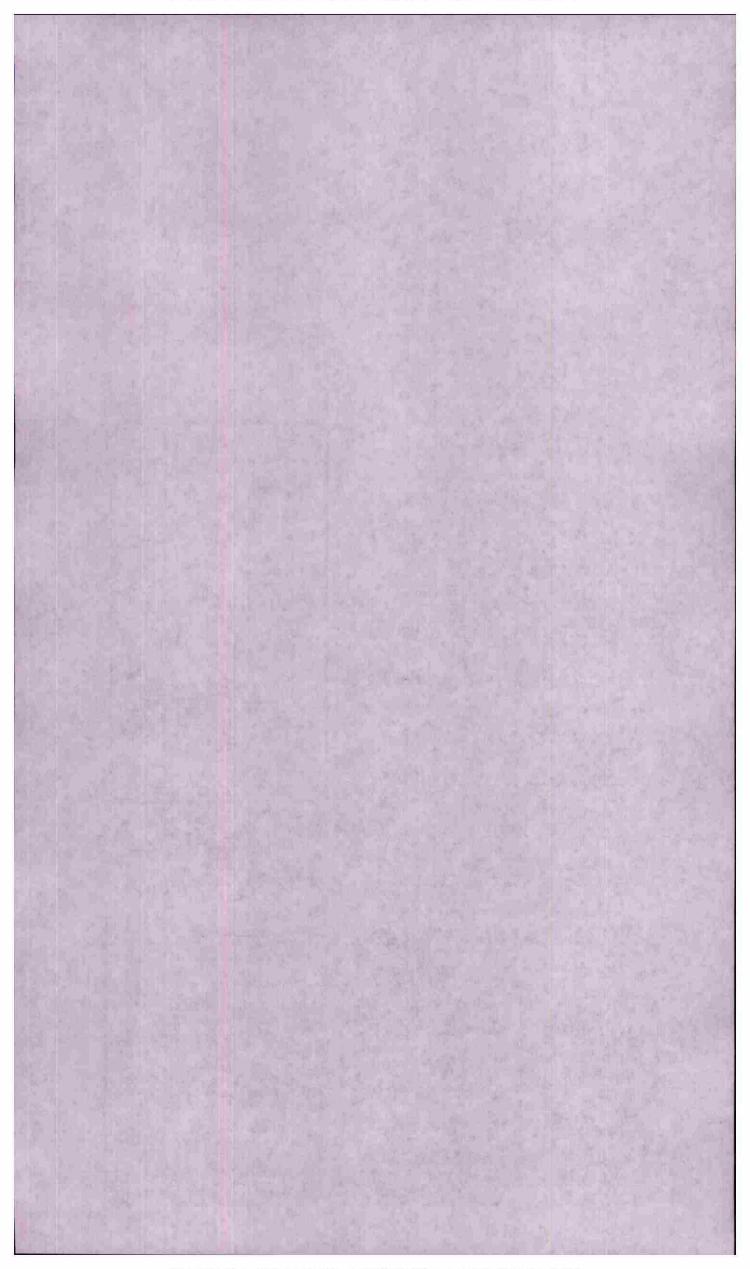
Wives give welcome







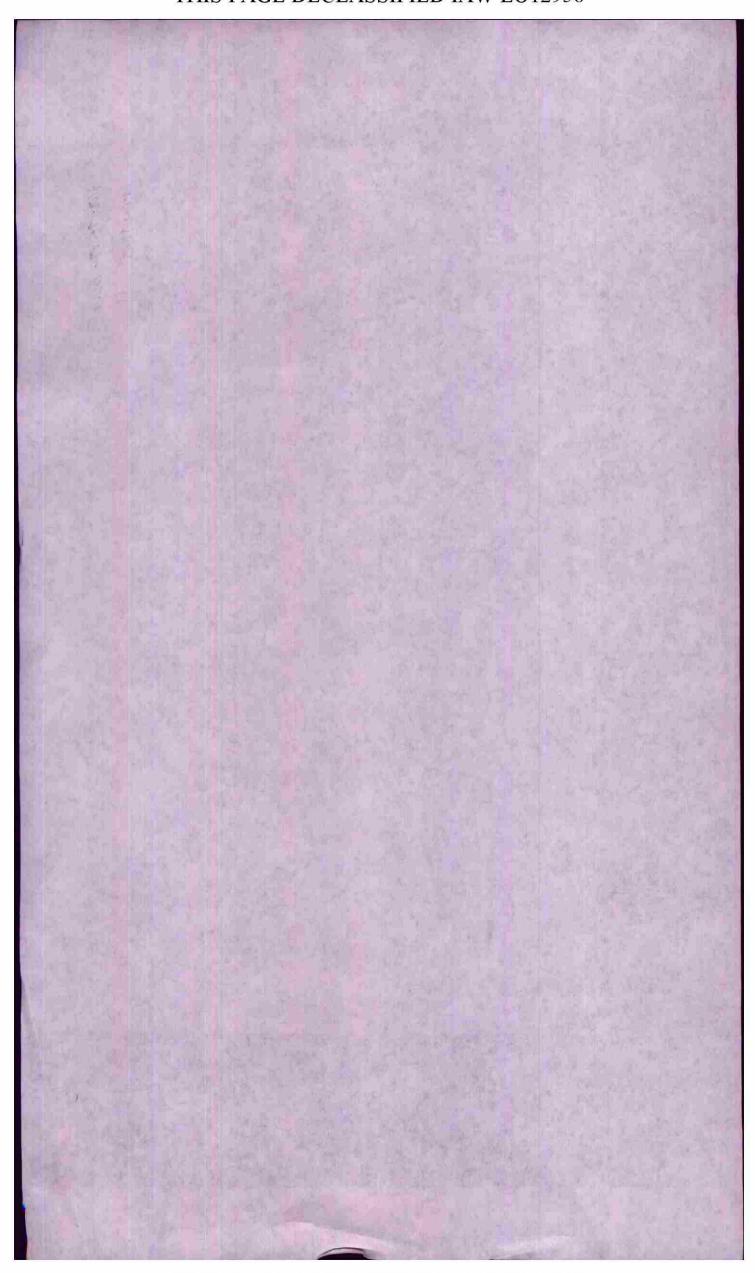
1976 Buick Century 4-01, London	\$3390
1975 VW Rabbit Automatic, Air	\$2790
1975 Pinto Wagon Aeromette, Air	\$2690
1974 LTD +Dr. Localed	\$2190
1974 Chevy Impala station Wagon.	\$1990
1973 Monte Carlo Looded	\$1990
1973 Hornet Sportabout Wagon	\$1890
1973 Maverick Grabber rower, Alr	\$2190
1973 LTD 2-Dr. Louded	\$1990
1973 Ford Torino 2-br	\$1490
1972 Cougar rower, Ar.	\$1890
1972 Pontiac Grand Prix	\$1790
1972 Chrysler New Yorker	\$1490
1972 Cutlass Supreme 1-0-	\$1890
1972 Pontiac LeMans 2-br	\$1790
1972 Vega Hatchback	5790
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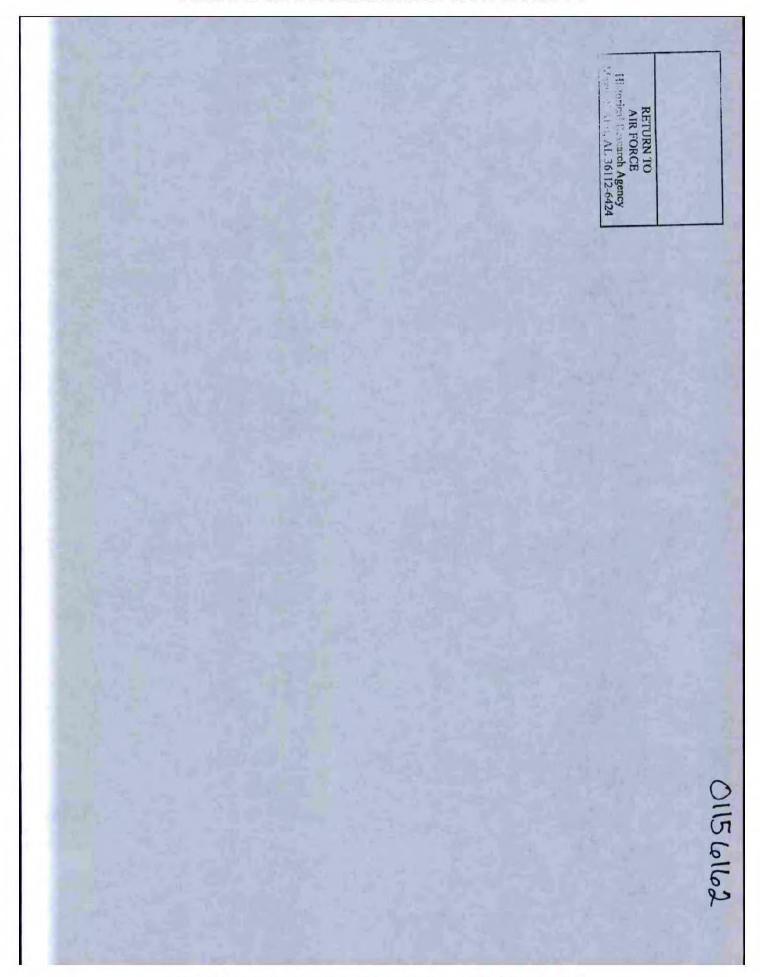
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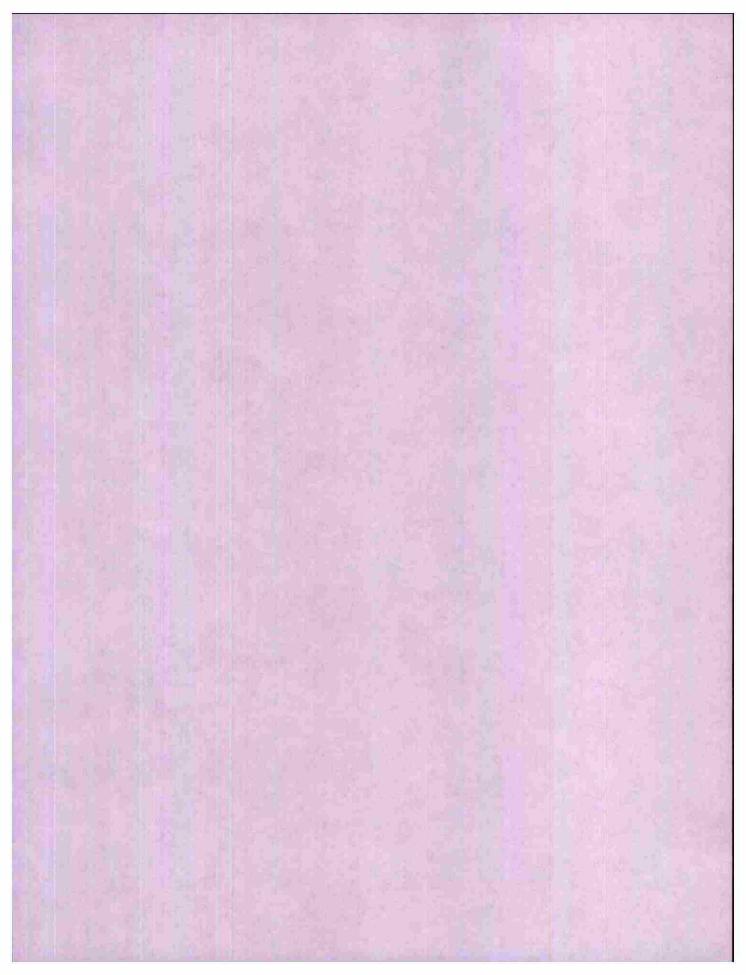
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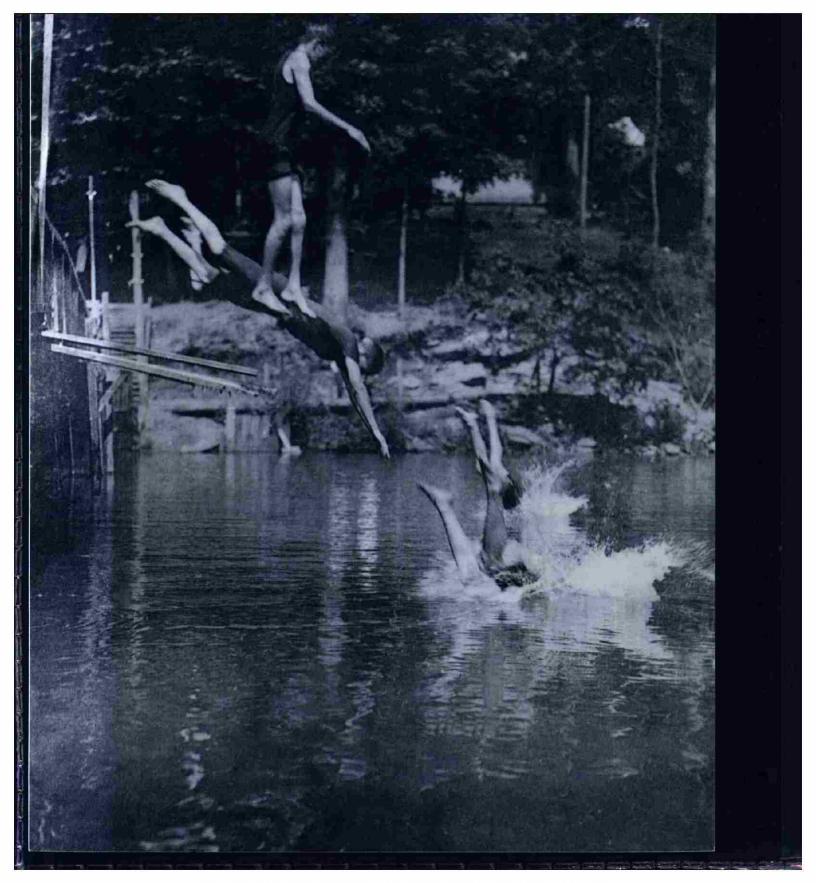
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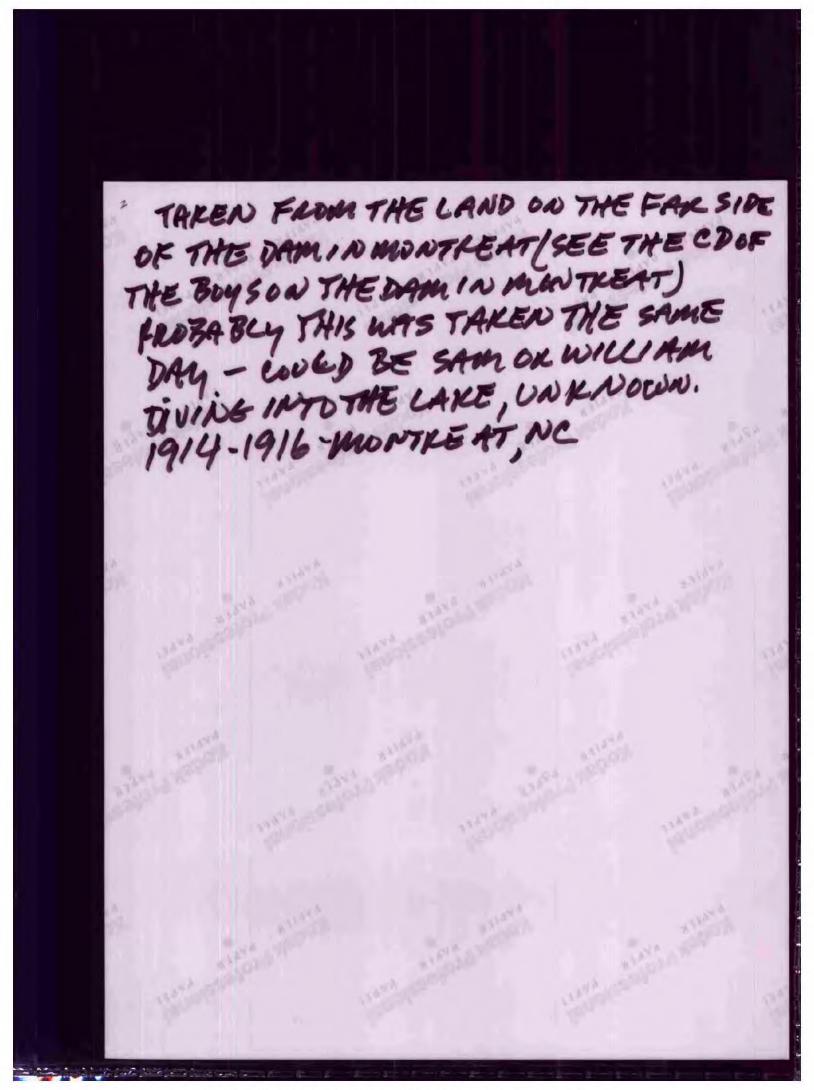
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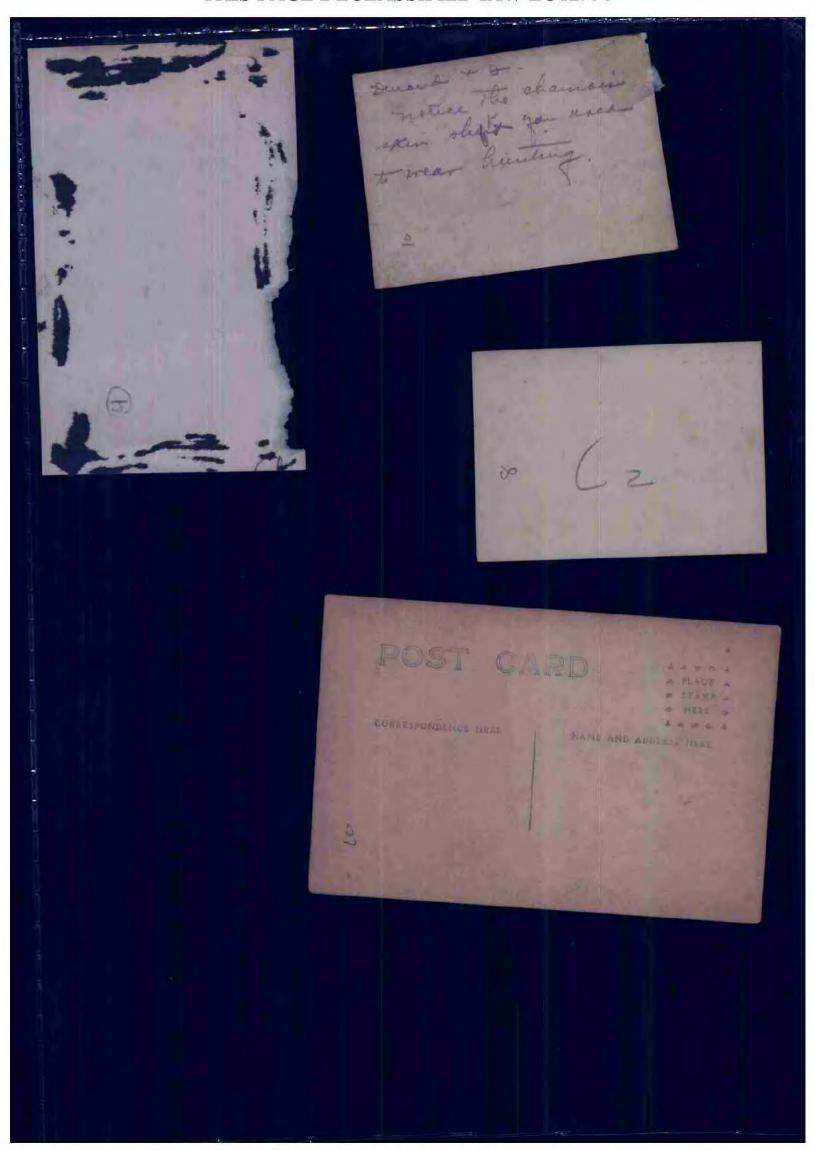


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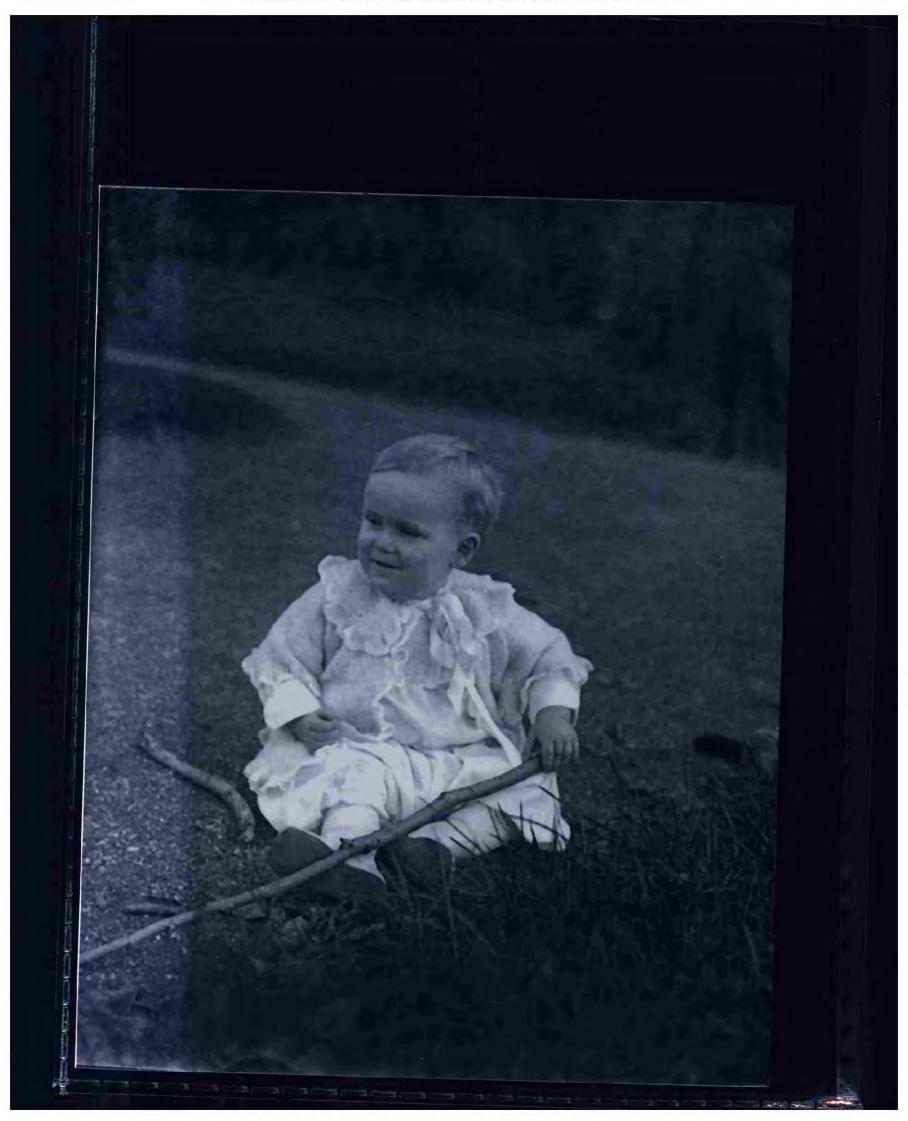


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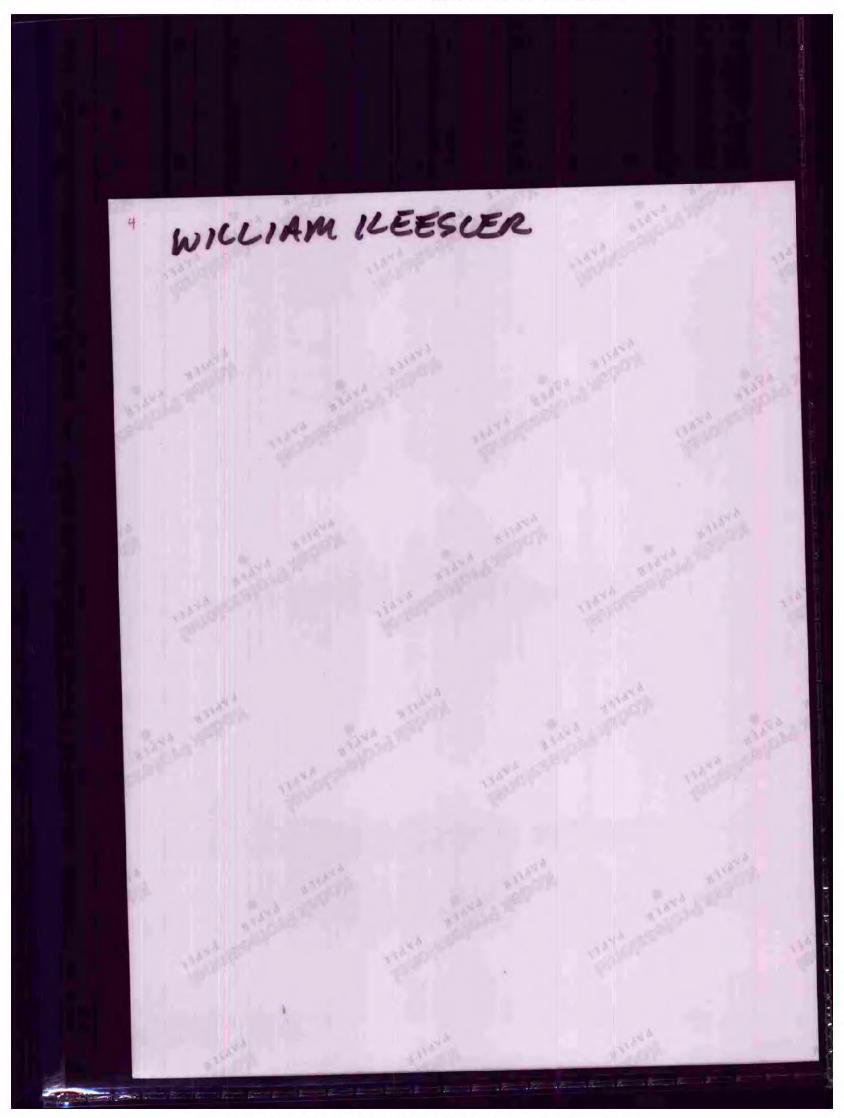
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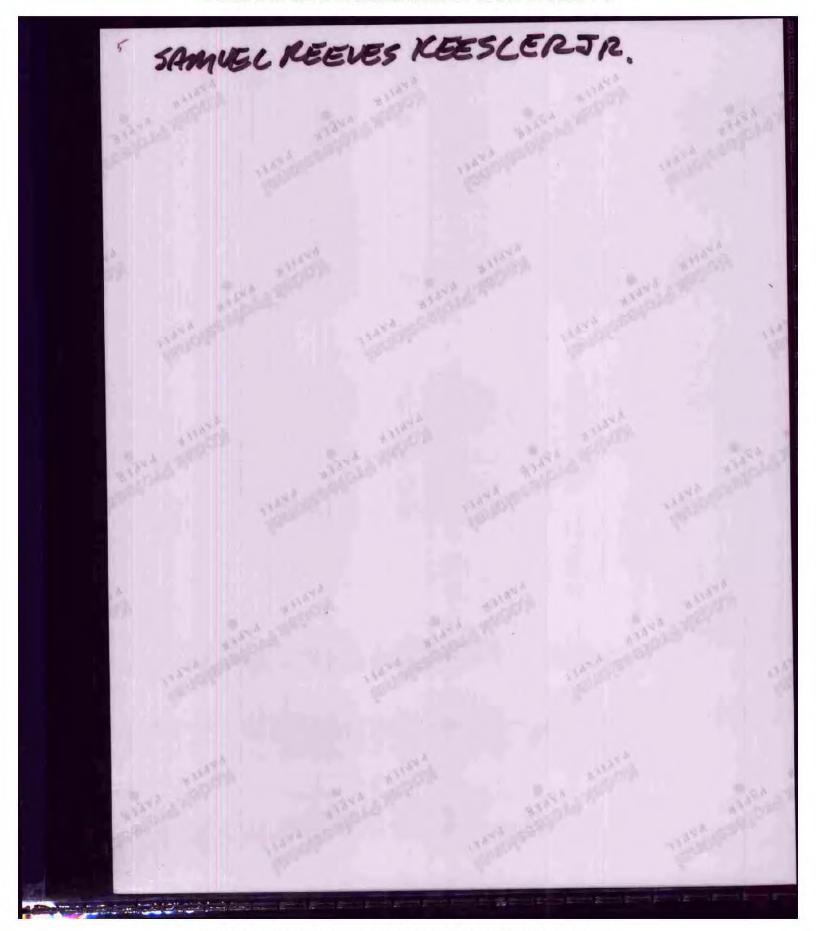


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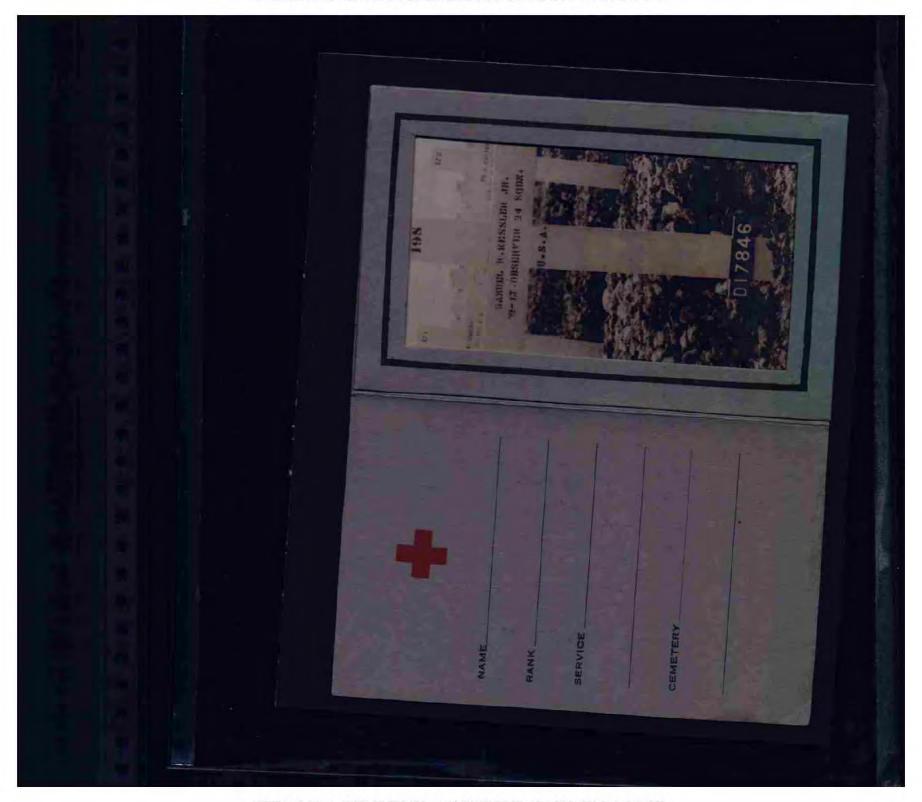
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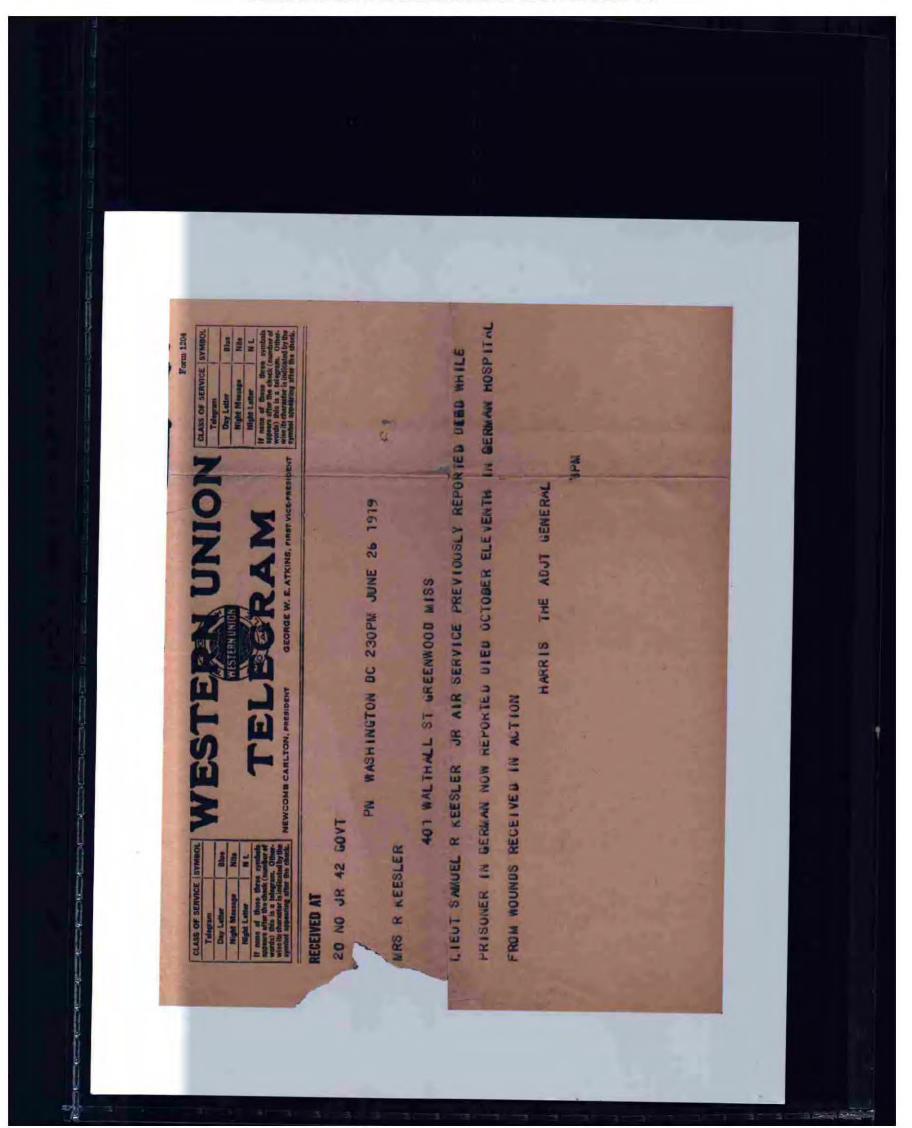


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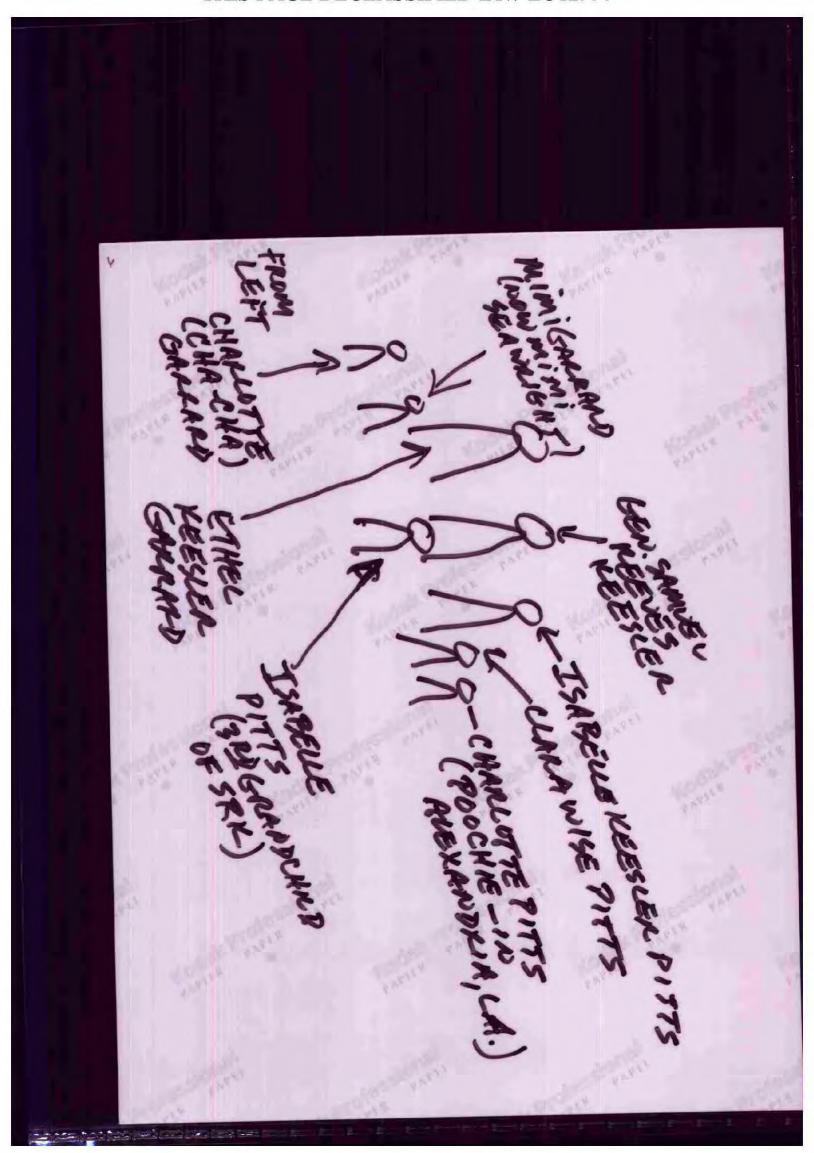
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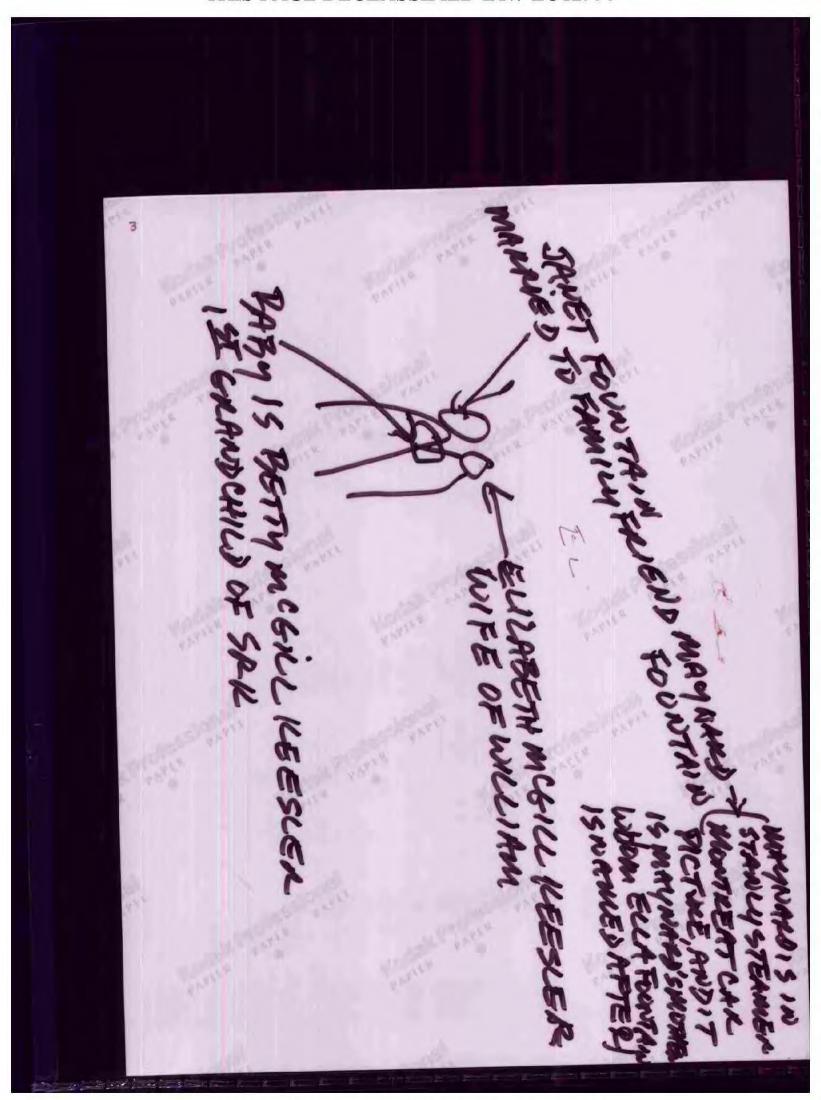
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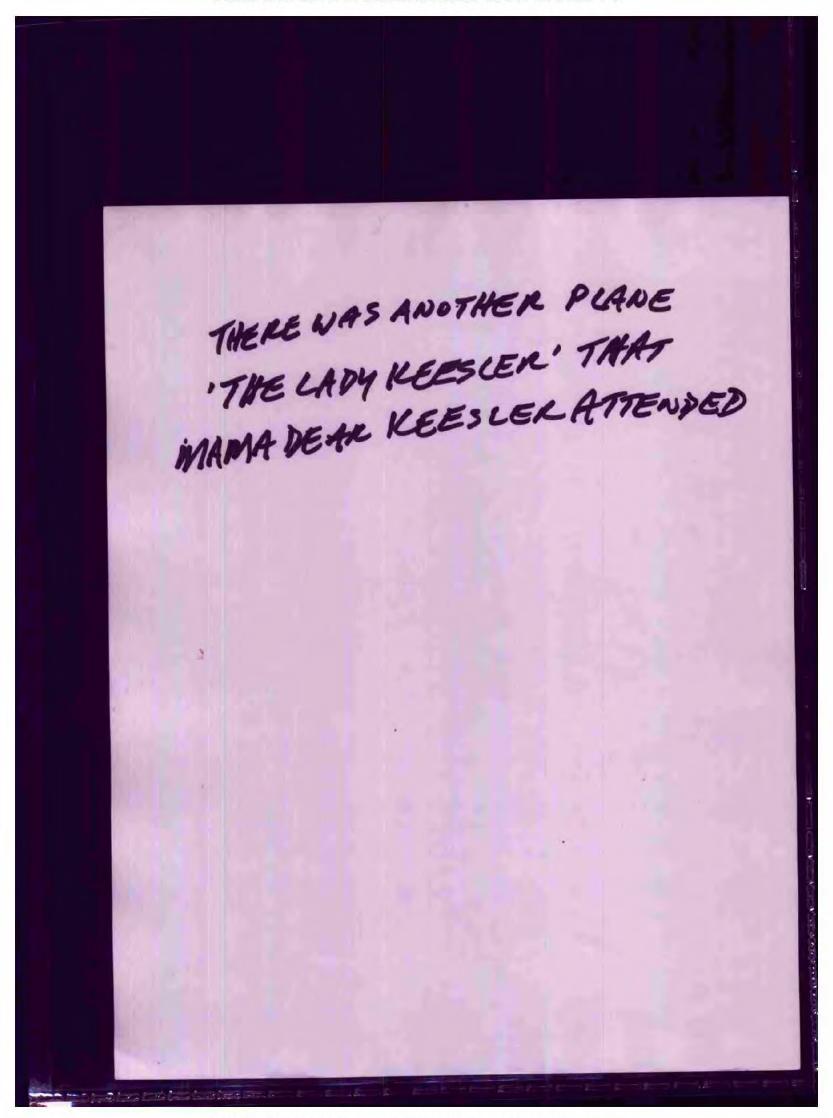


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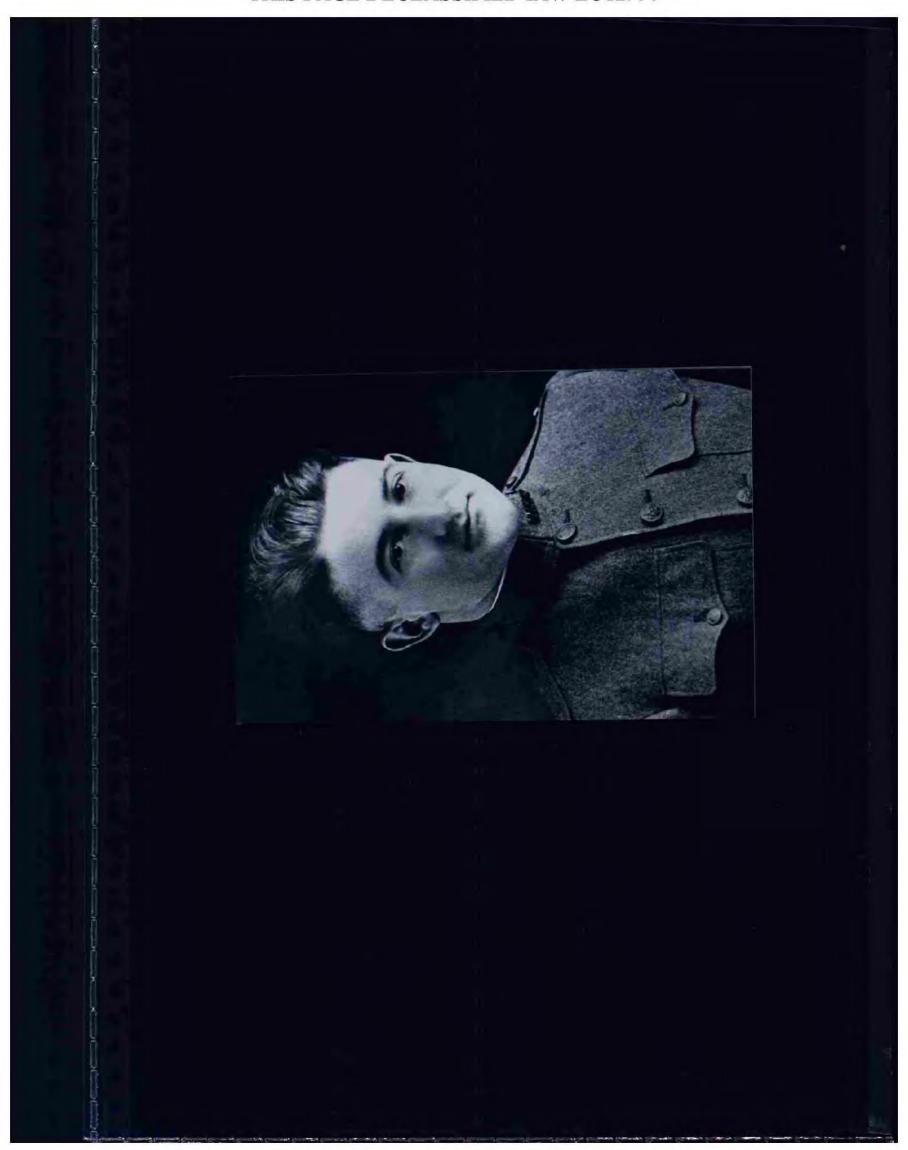


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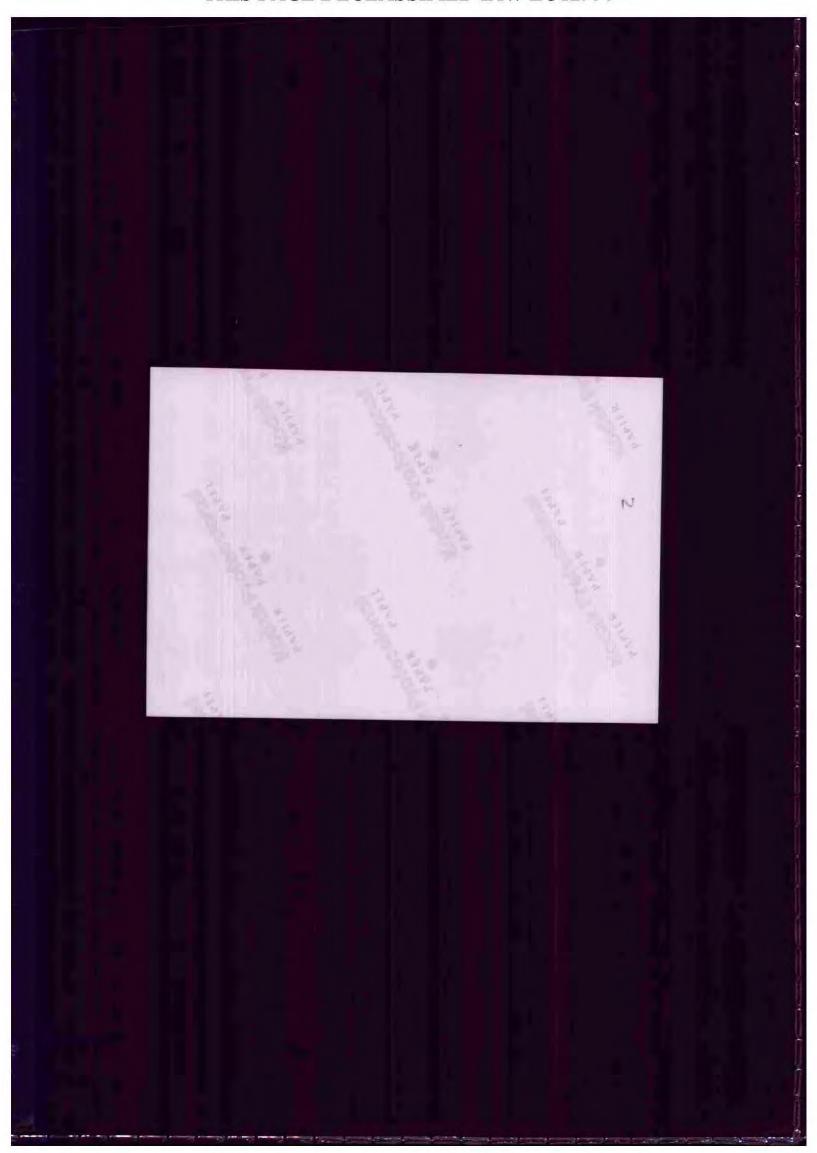
HEADQUARTERS TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND BASIC TRAINING CENTER NO. 2 ARMY AIR FORCES TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMAND KEESLER FIELD, MISSISSIPPI PROGRAM CHRISTENING AND DEDICATION OF KEESLER FIELD'S B-24 (LIBERATOR) BOMBER Purchased with cash invested by military and civilian personnel of Keesler Field during the Fourth War Loan Drive - I January - 29 February 1944. Saturday, 4 March 1944 1330 - 1335 "Over There" - "The Sky-Liner" - Keesler Field Army Band. 1335 - 1337 Invocation - Chaplain Jerome A. Major, Major, Ch. C. 1337 - 1340 Introduction of Districtished Guests - Wallace H. Lackey, Captain, Air Corps 1340 - 1341 Greetings from M Curry, Commanding action of Keysler Field's Division Chairmen in Fourth 1344 - 1346 Presentation of War Bonds to Pvt. Earl V. Sauls and Mr. John D. Wiles who submitted winning name - Colonel Robert E. M. Goolrick. 1346 - 1351 Dedication of Bomber to Free Nations of the World -Colonel Goolrick. 1351 - 1354 Introduction of Mrs. Samuel Reeves Keesler, mother of Lt. Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr. - Harry D. Kurtz, Major, Air Corps. 1354 - 1355 Christening of Bomber by Mrs. Keesler. 1355 - 1405 Presentation of Bomber to Personnel. 1405 - 1410 * "Army Air Corps Song." - Band and Voices.



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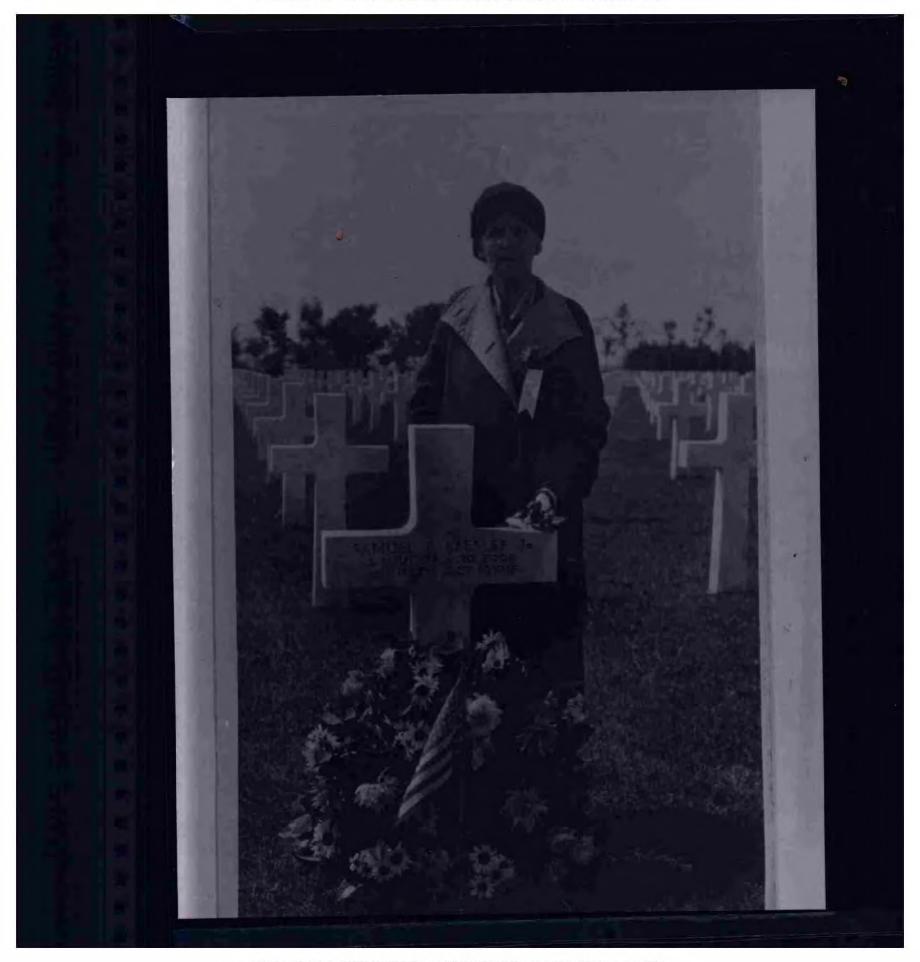


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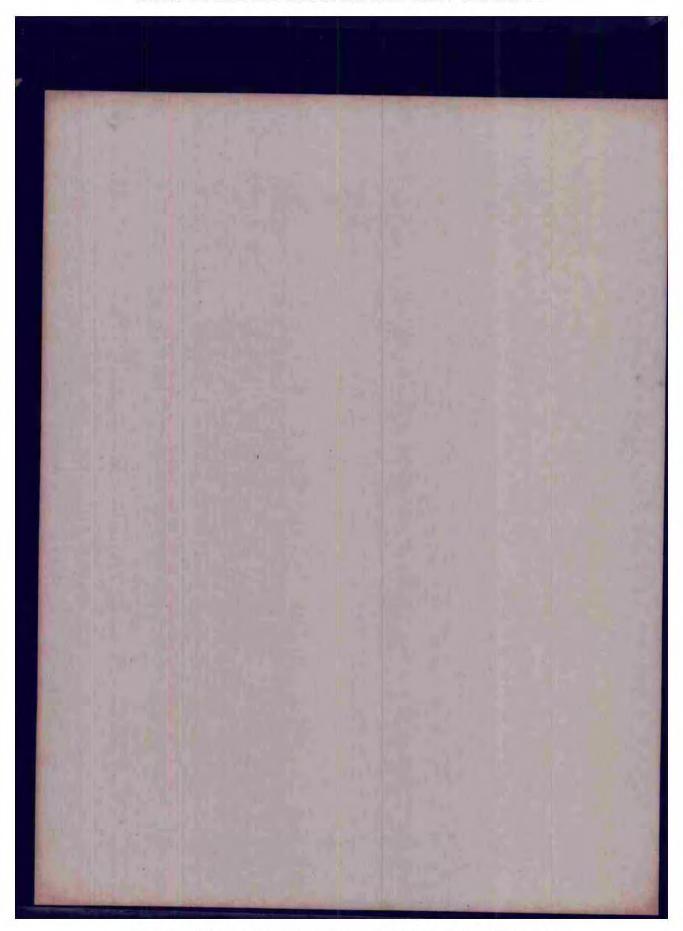
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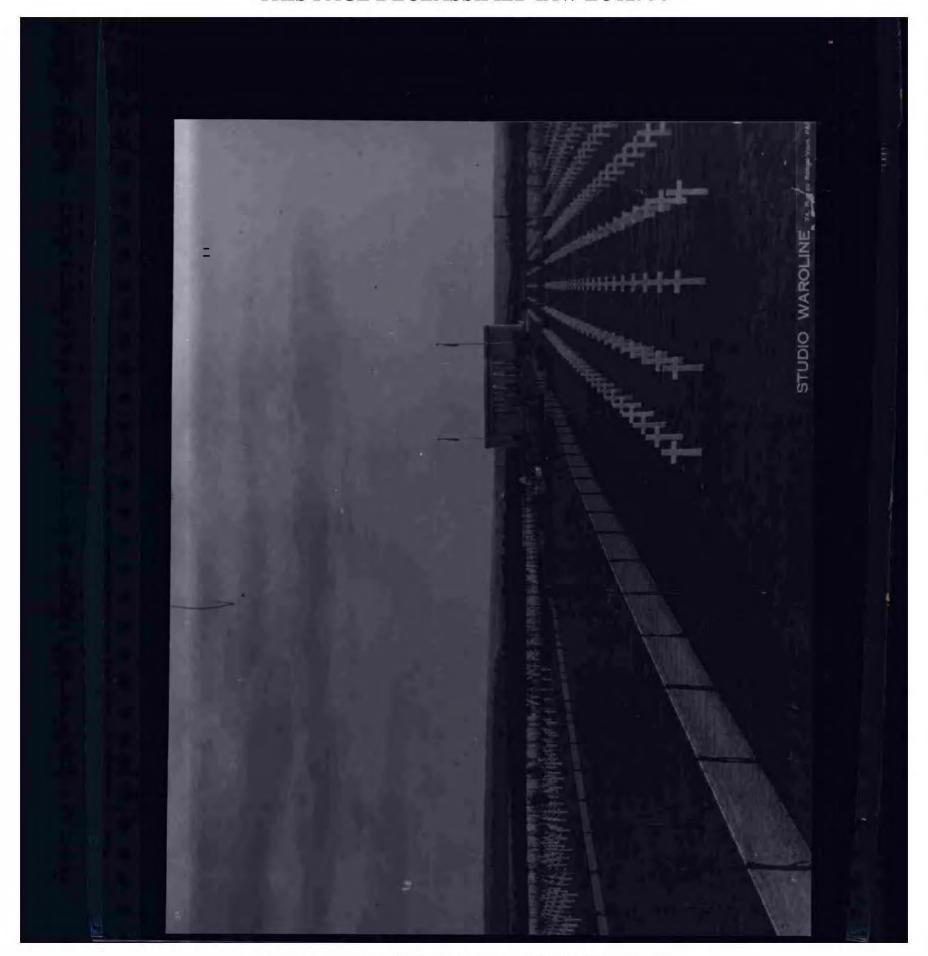


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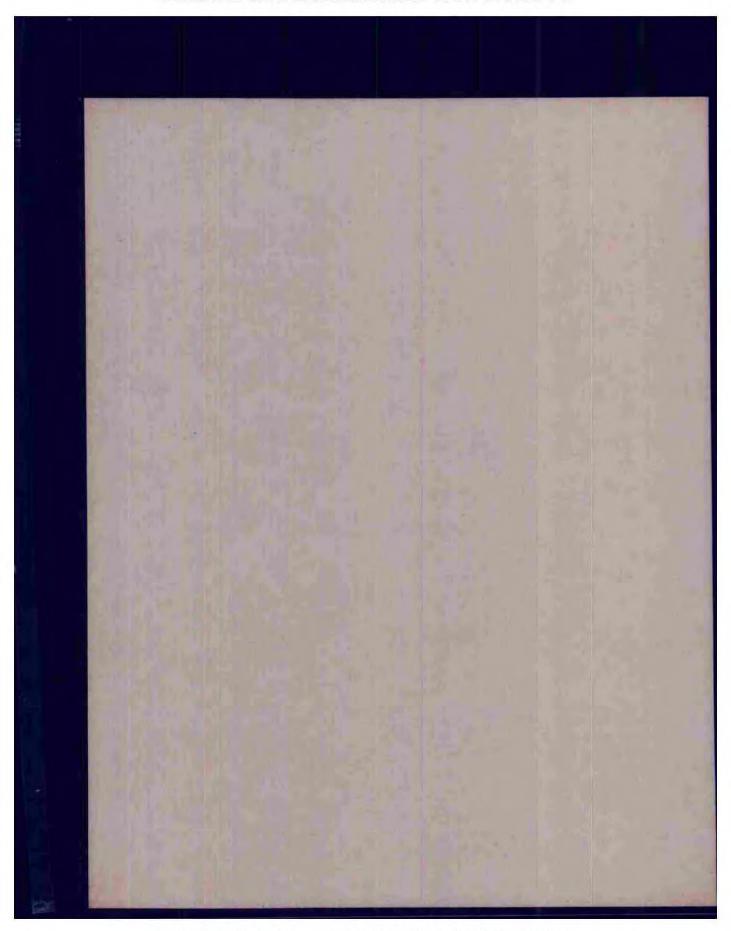


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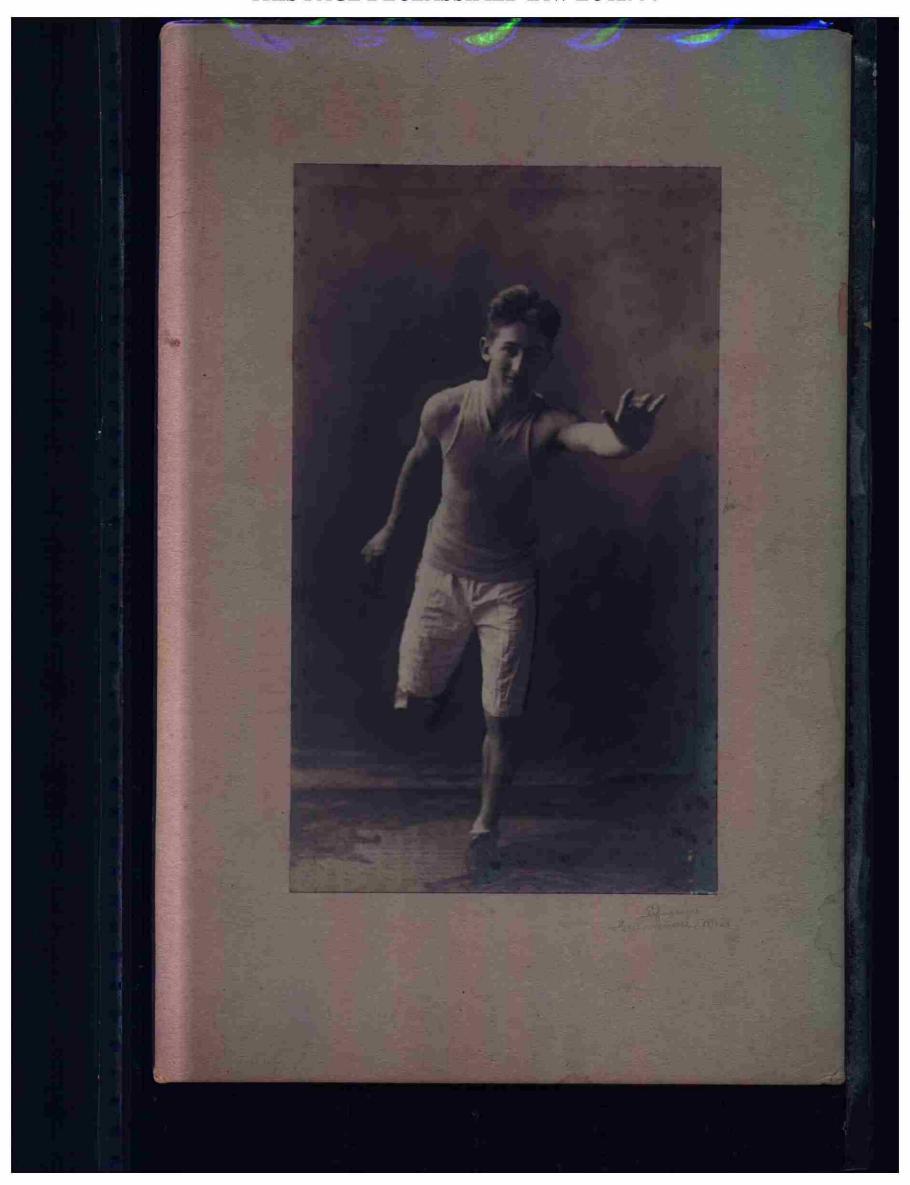
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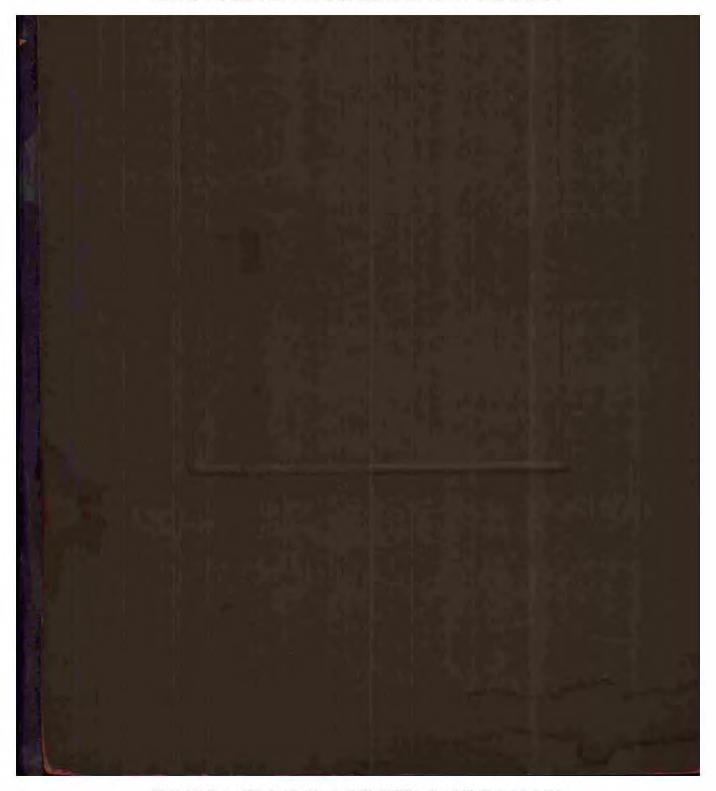
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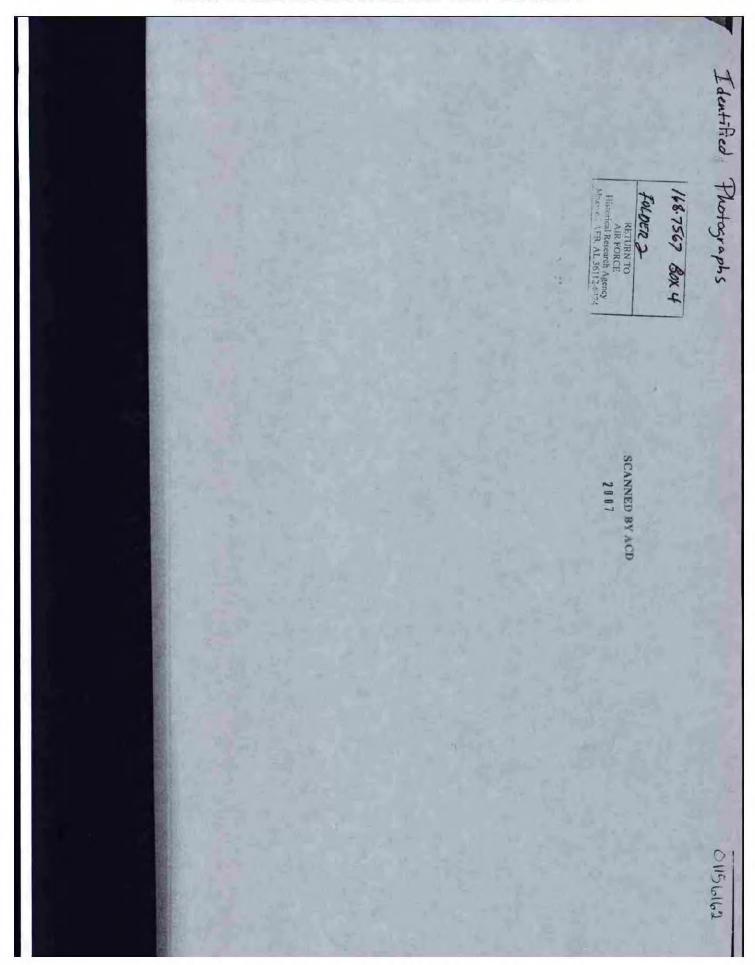


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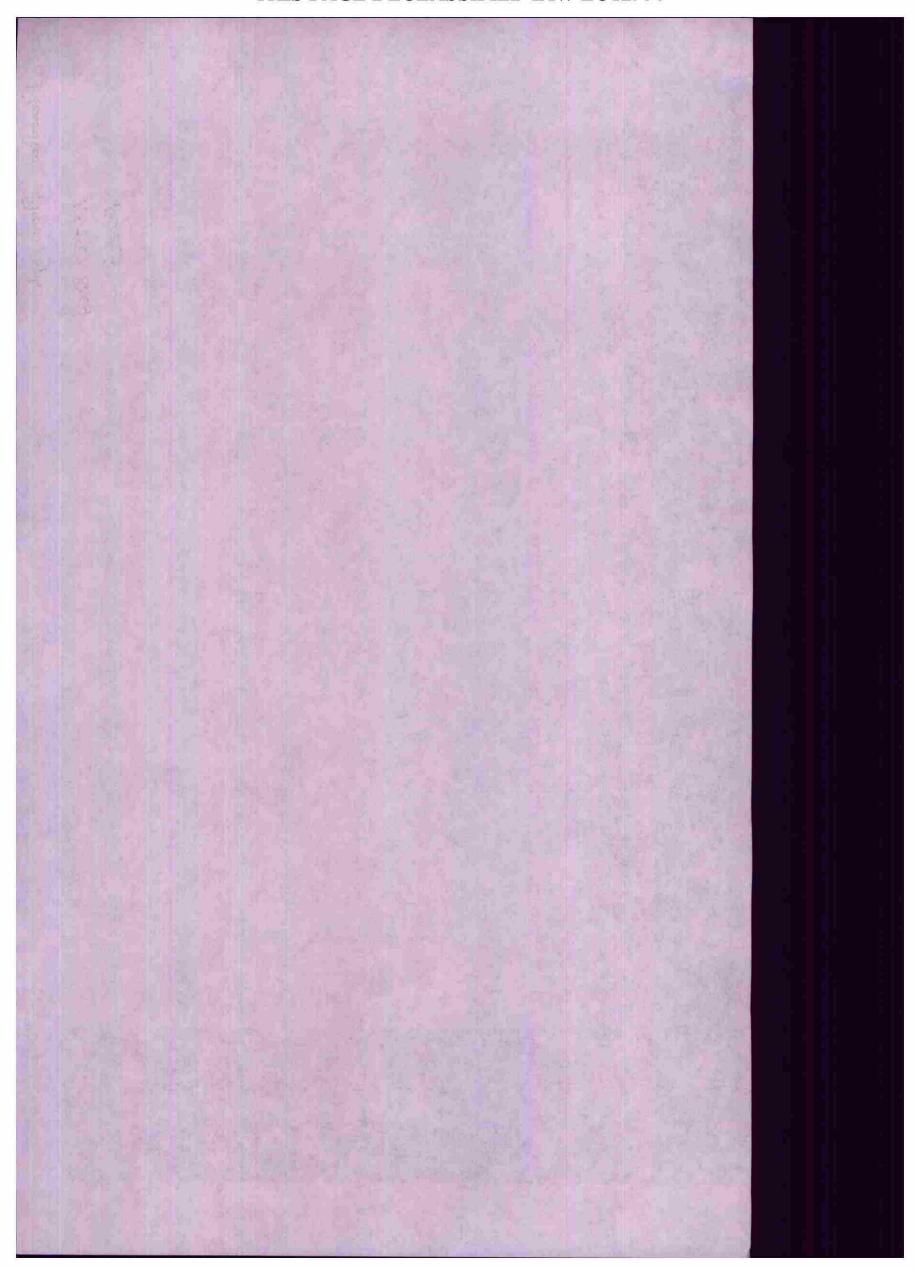


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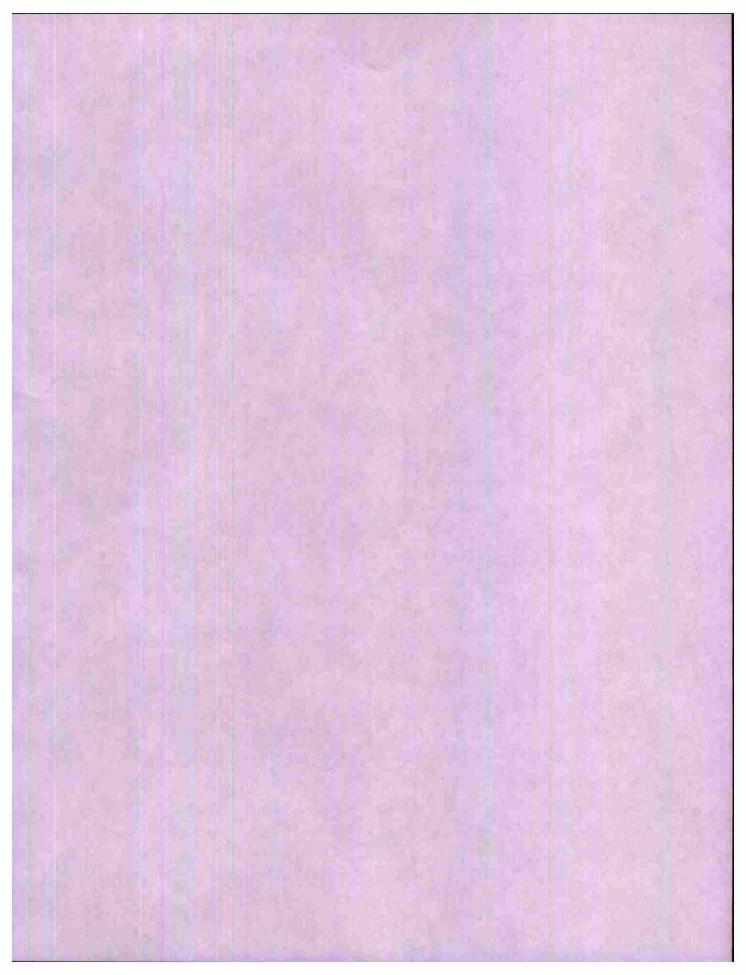
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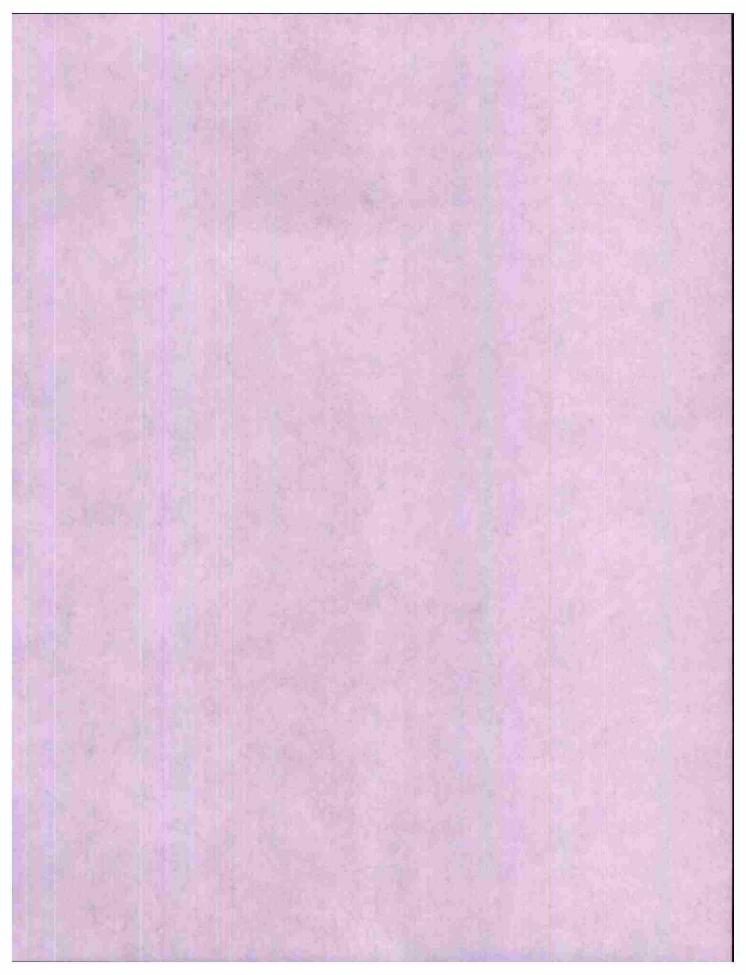
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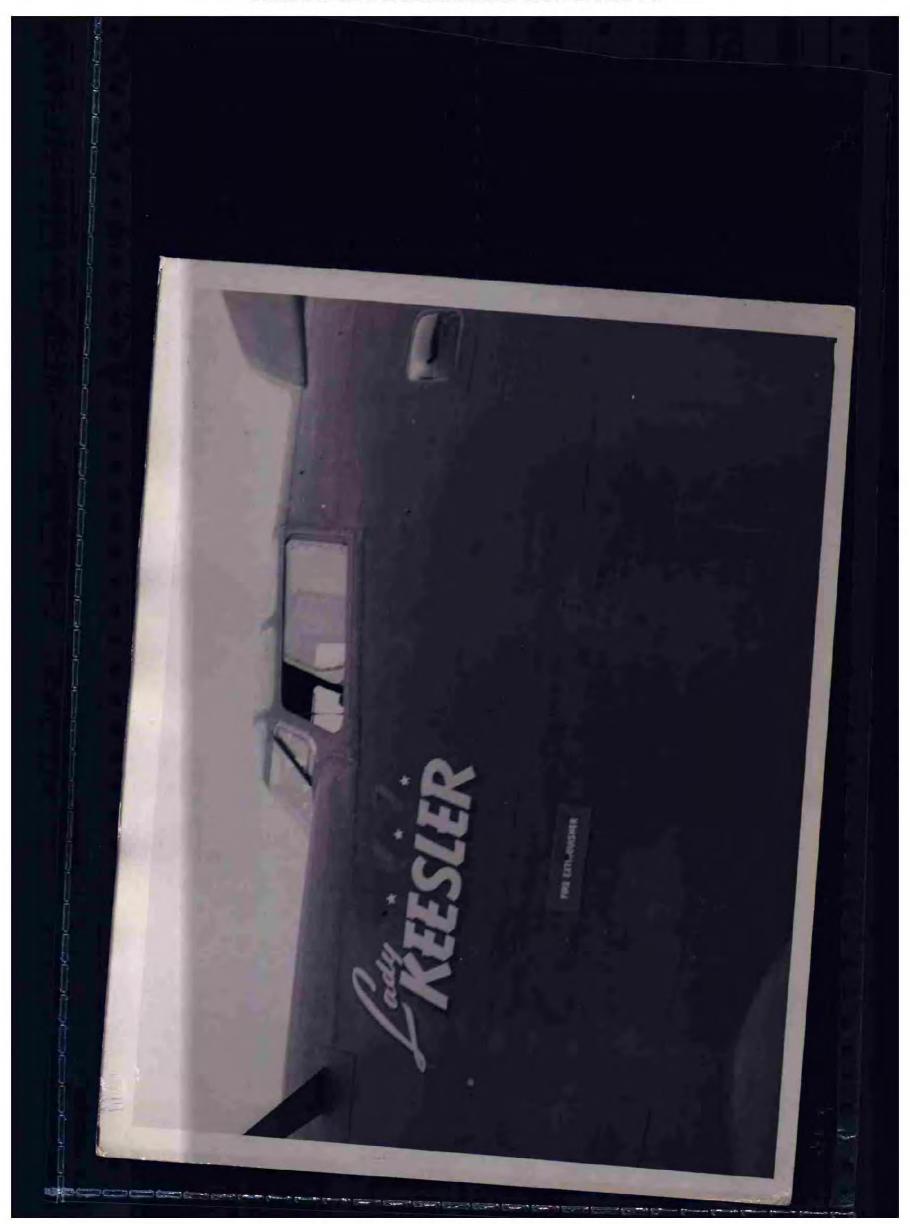


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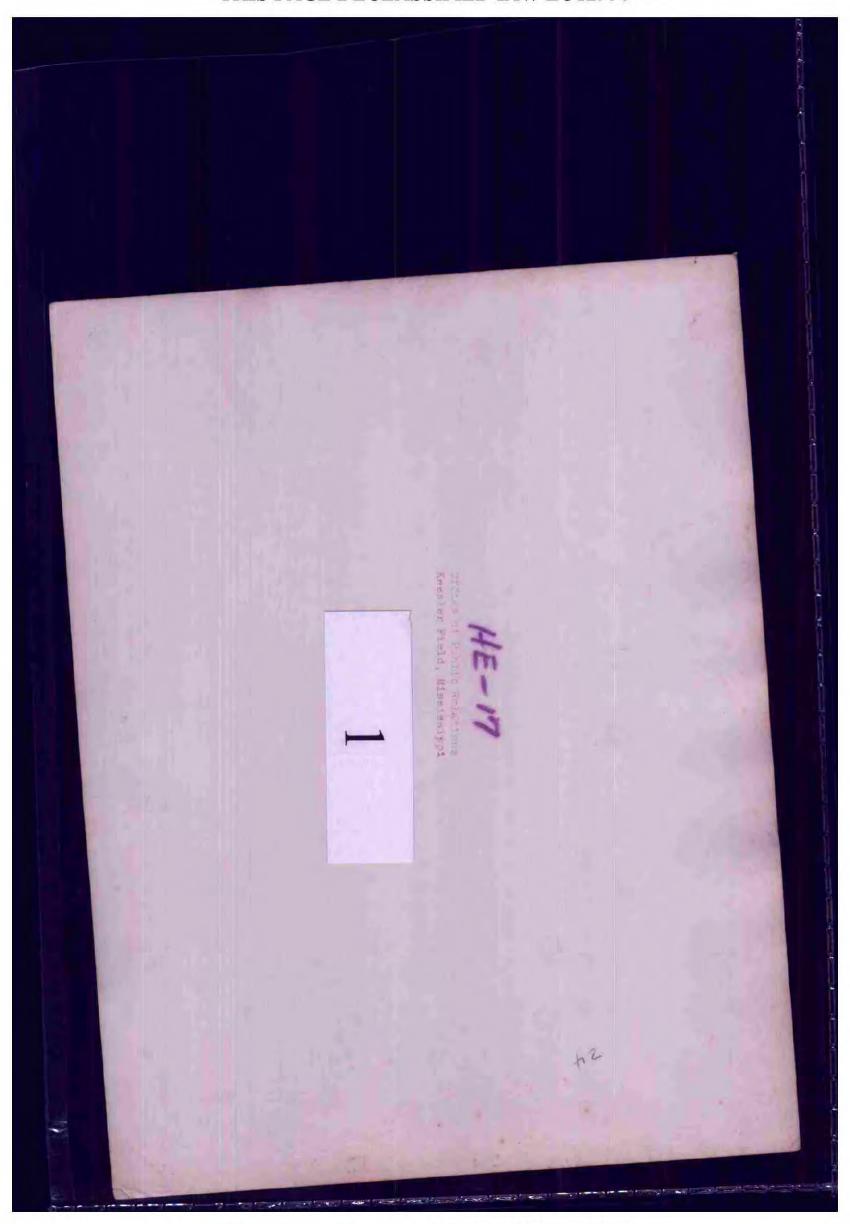


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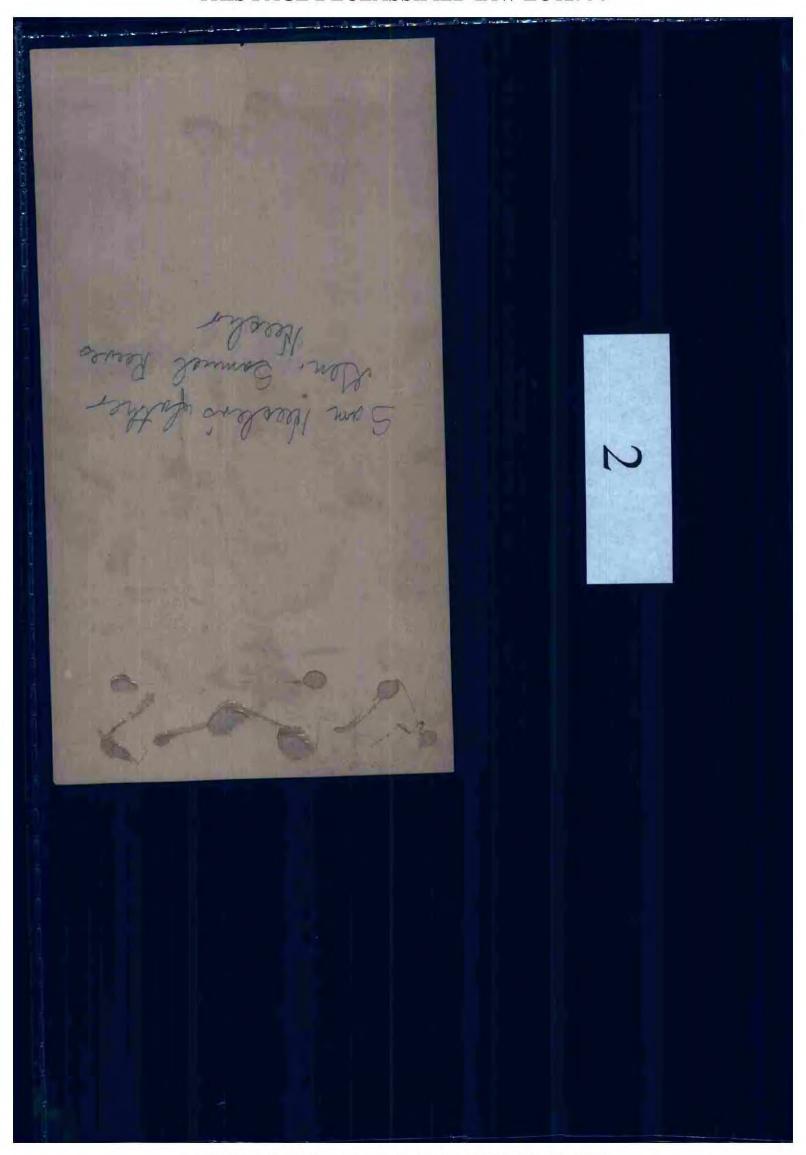
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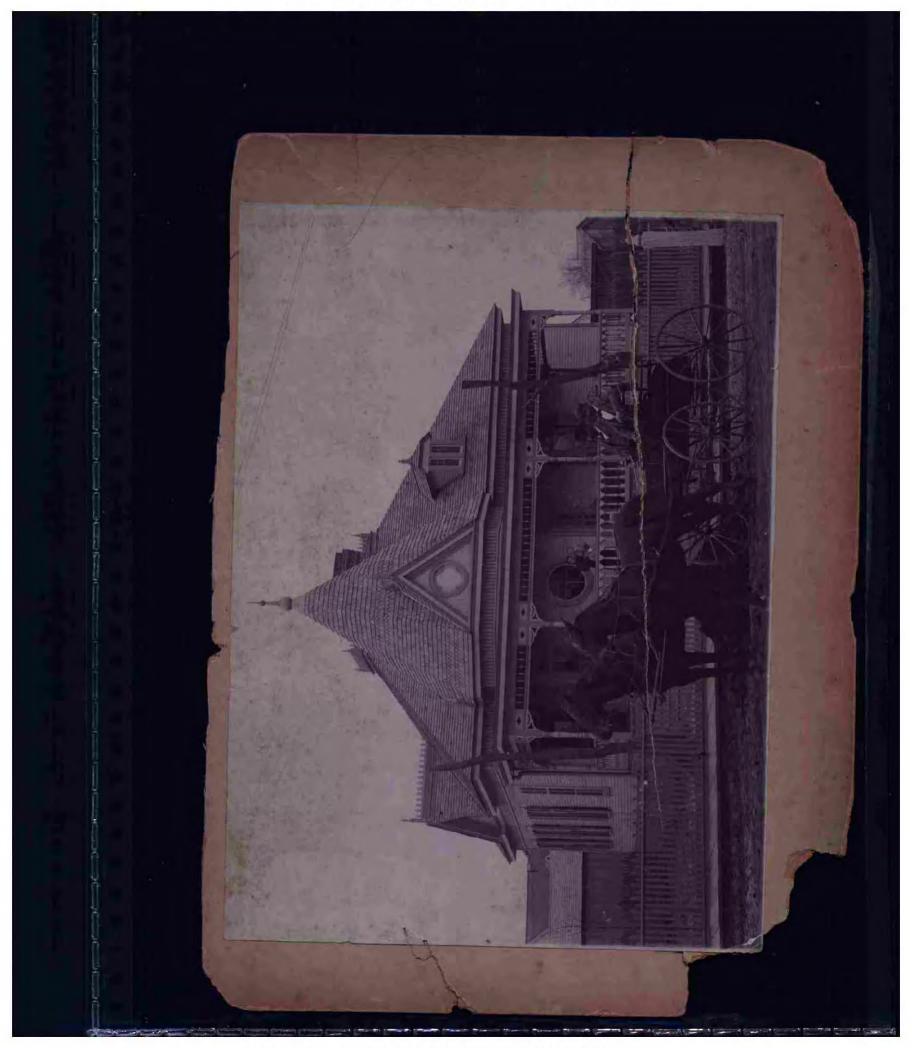


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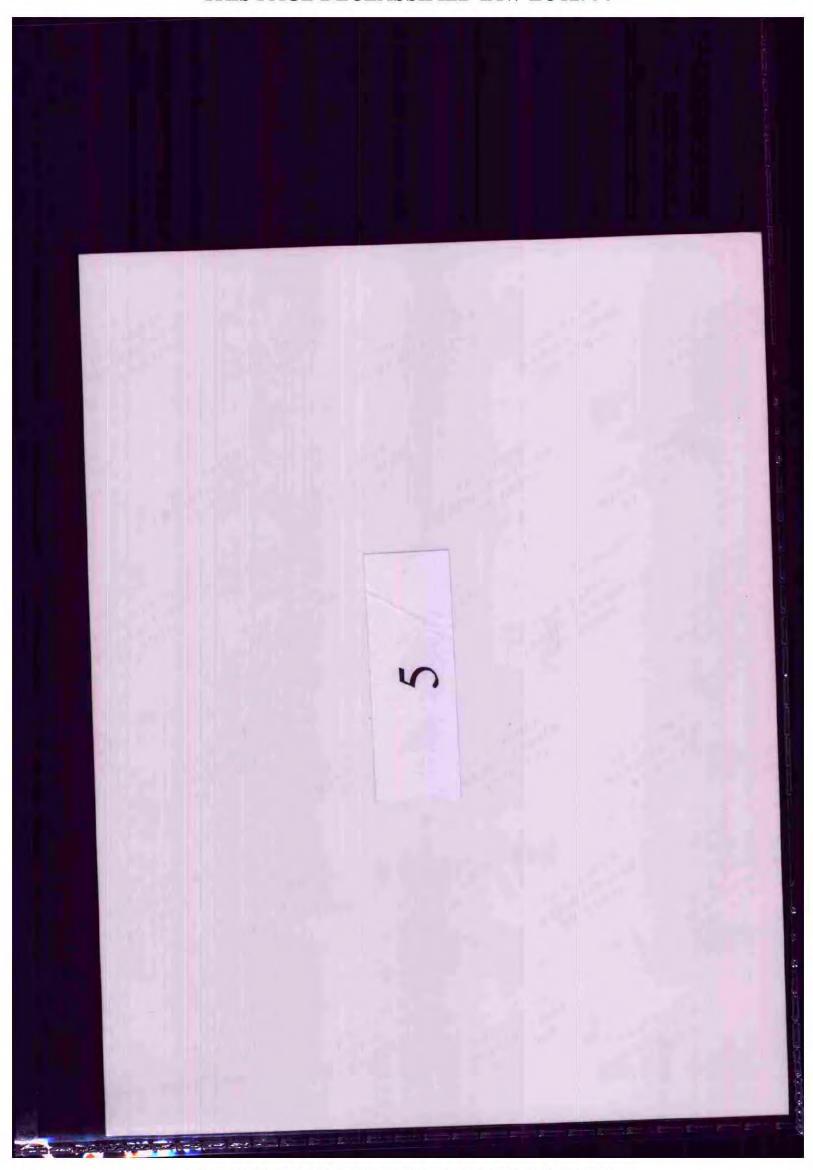
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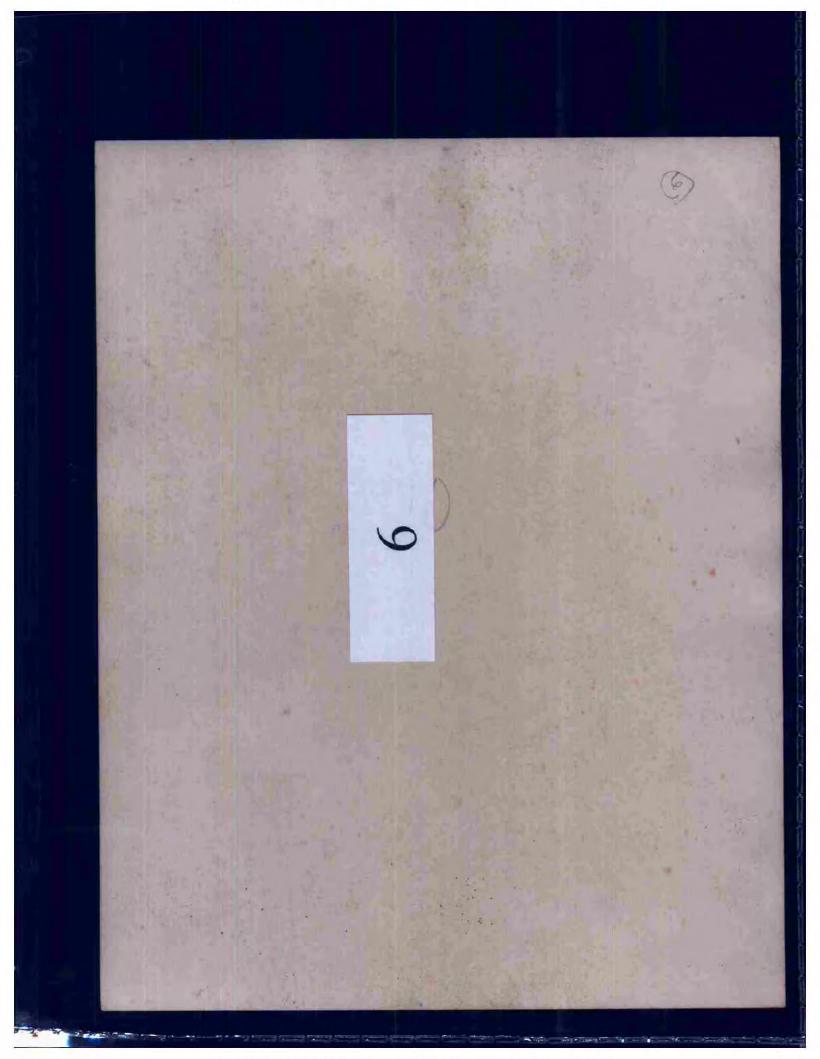
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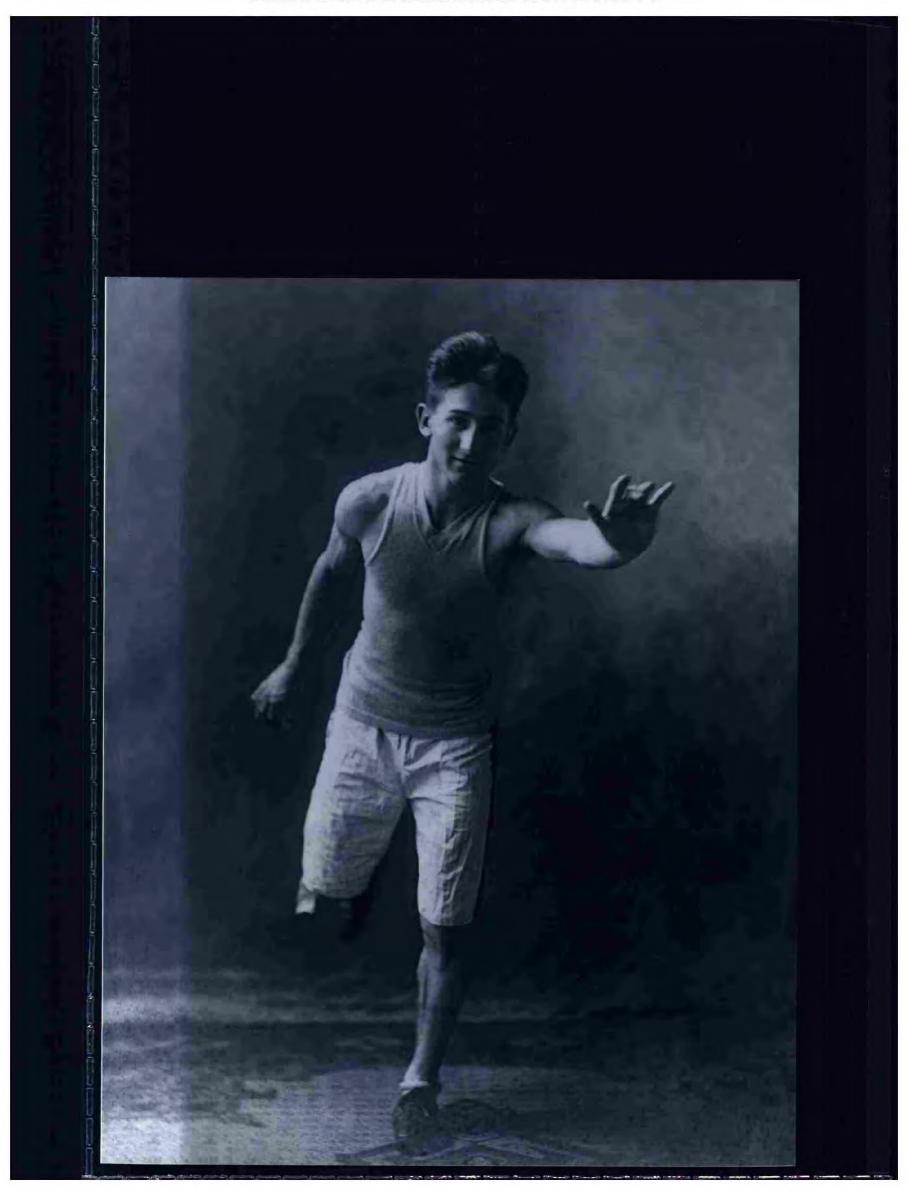


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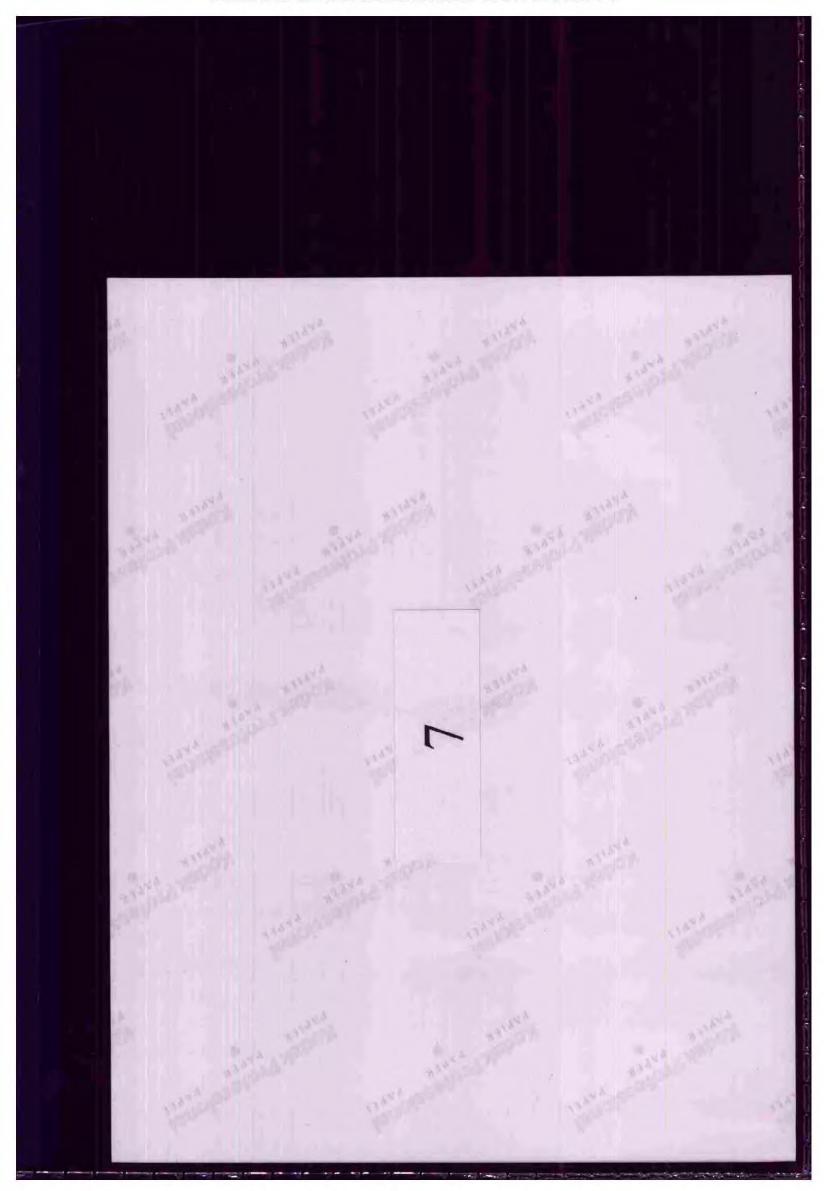
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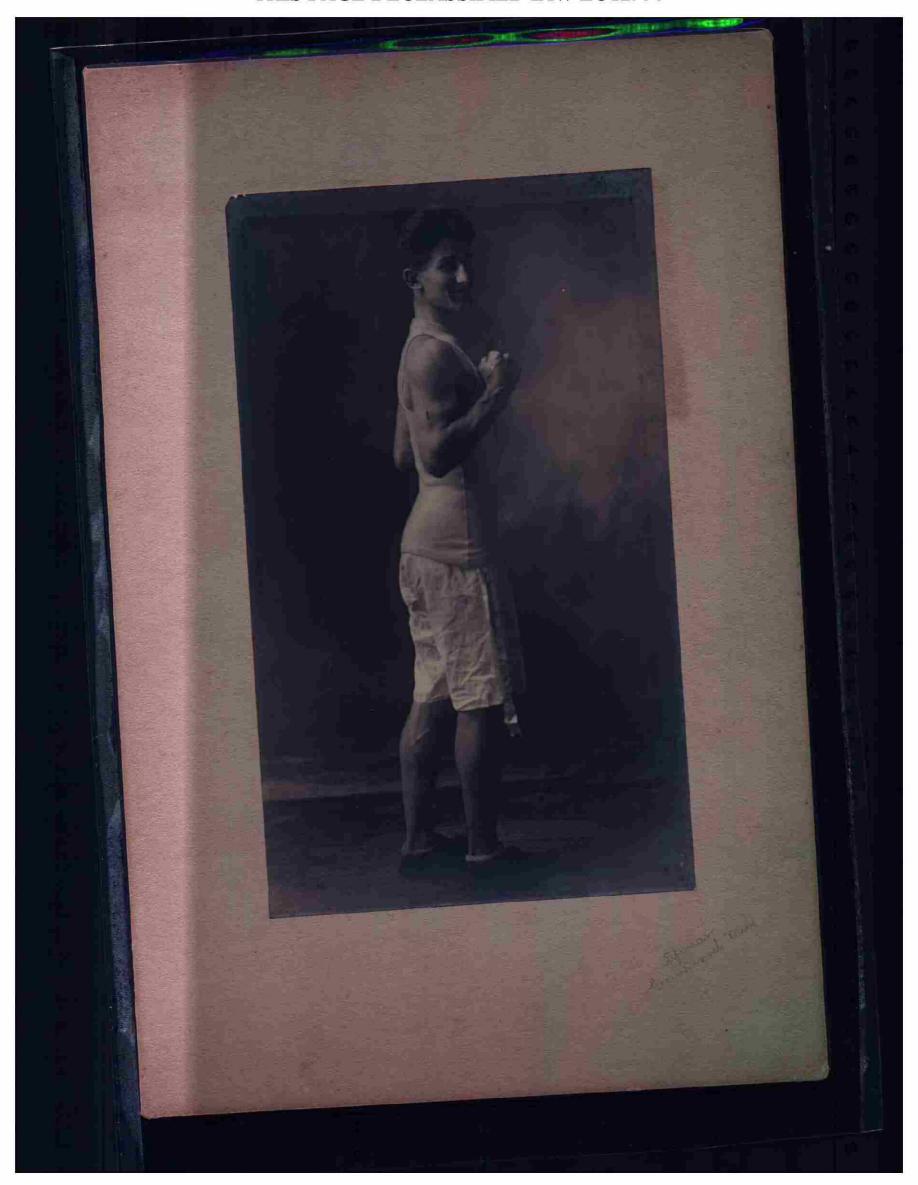


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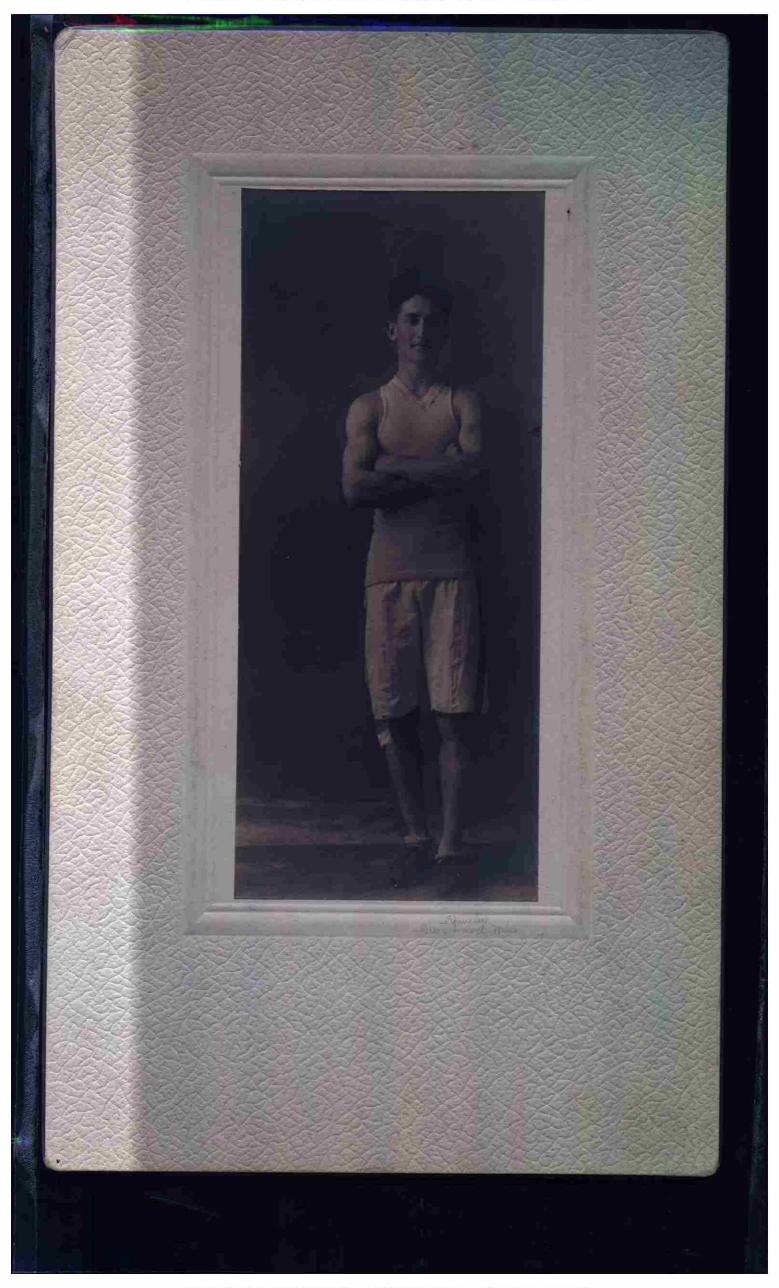
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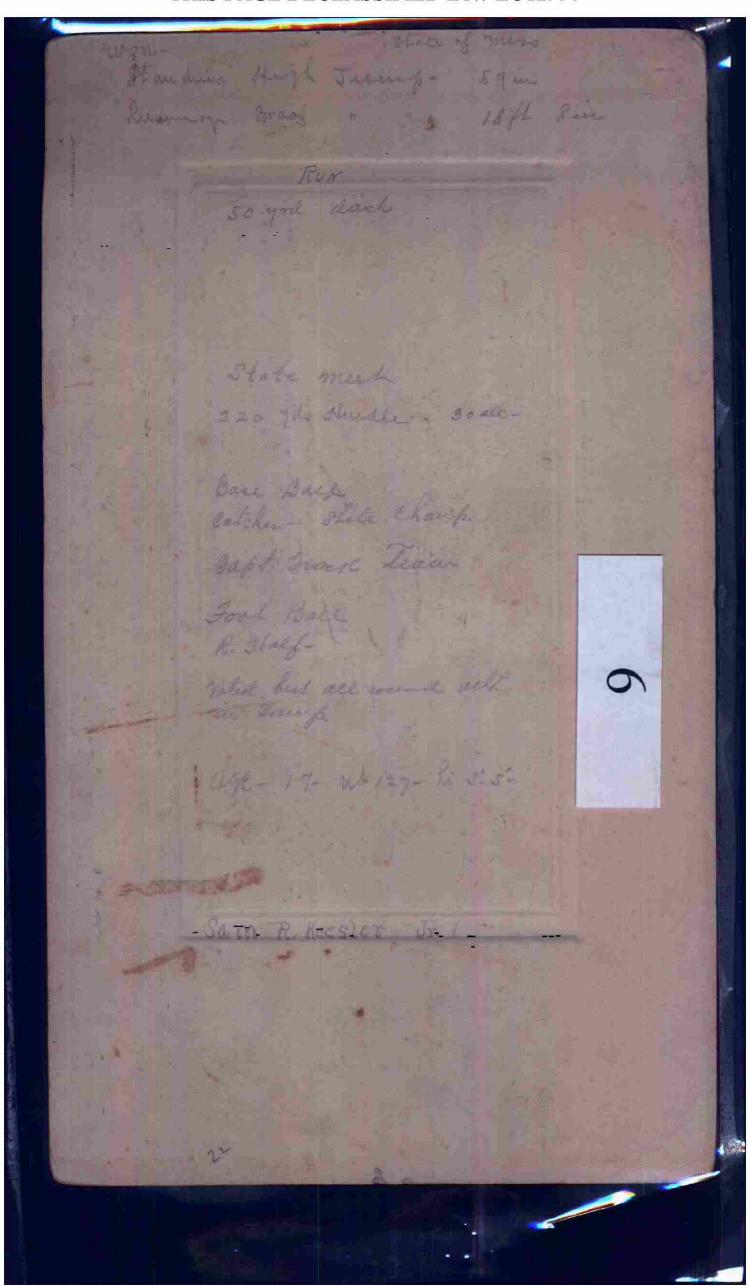


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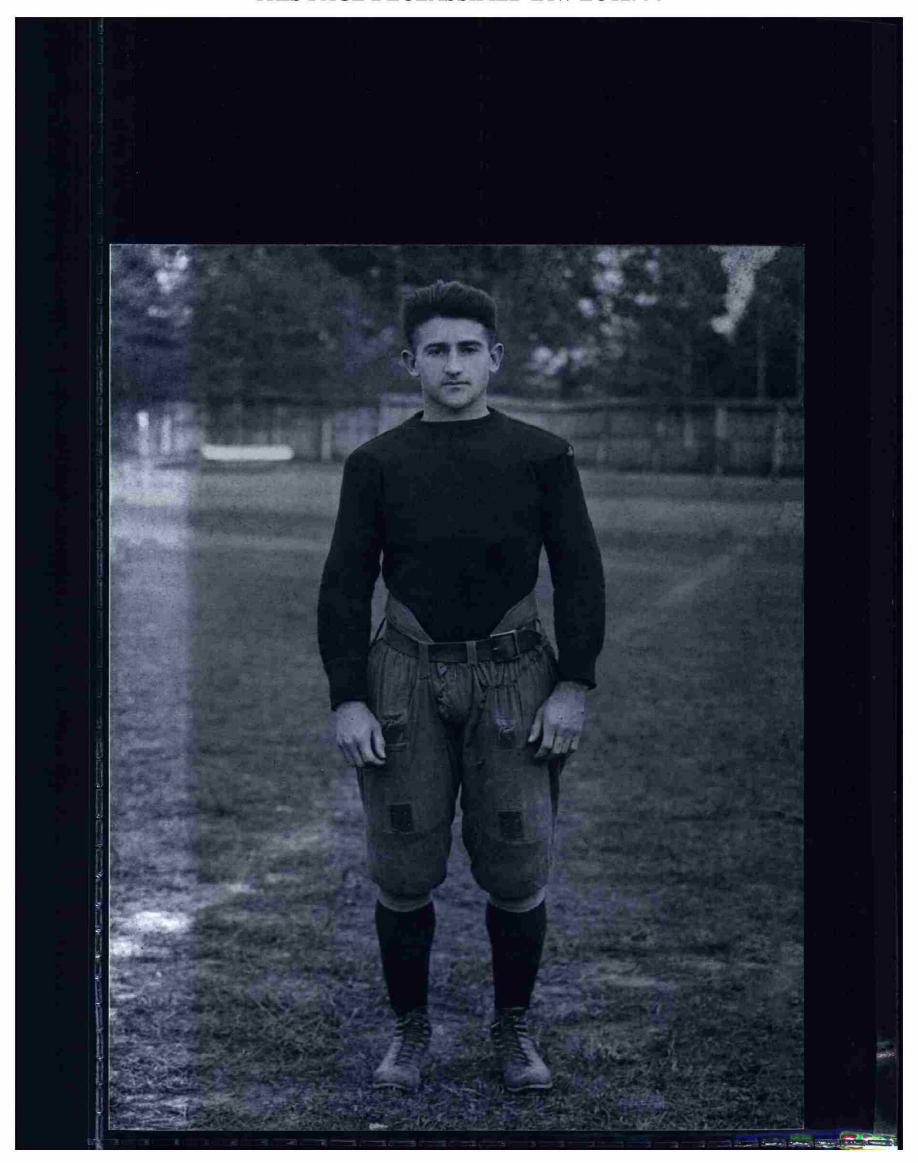
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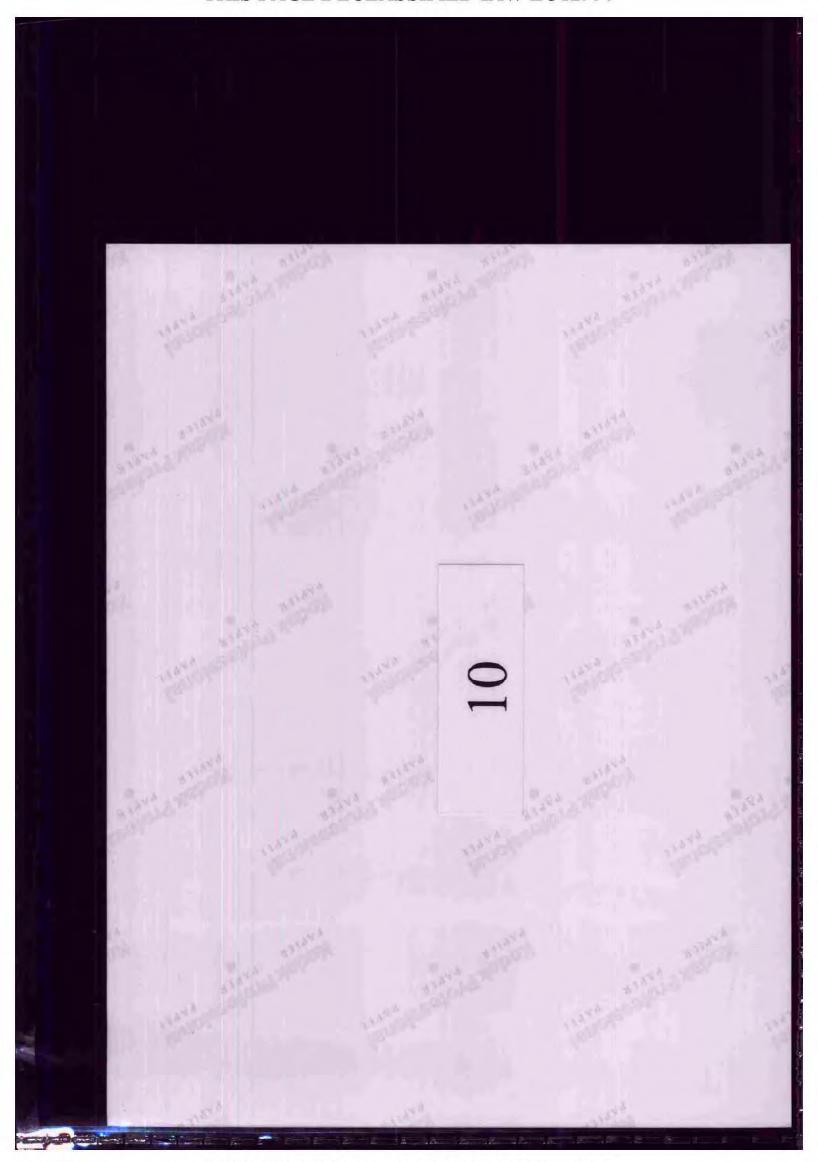
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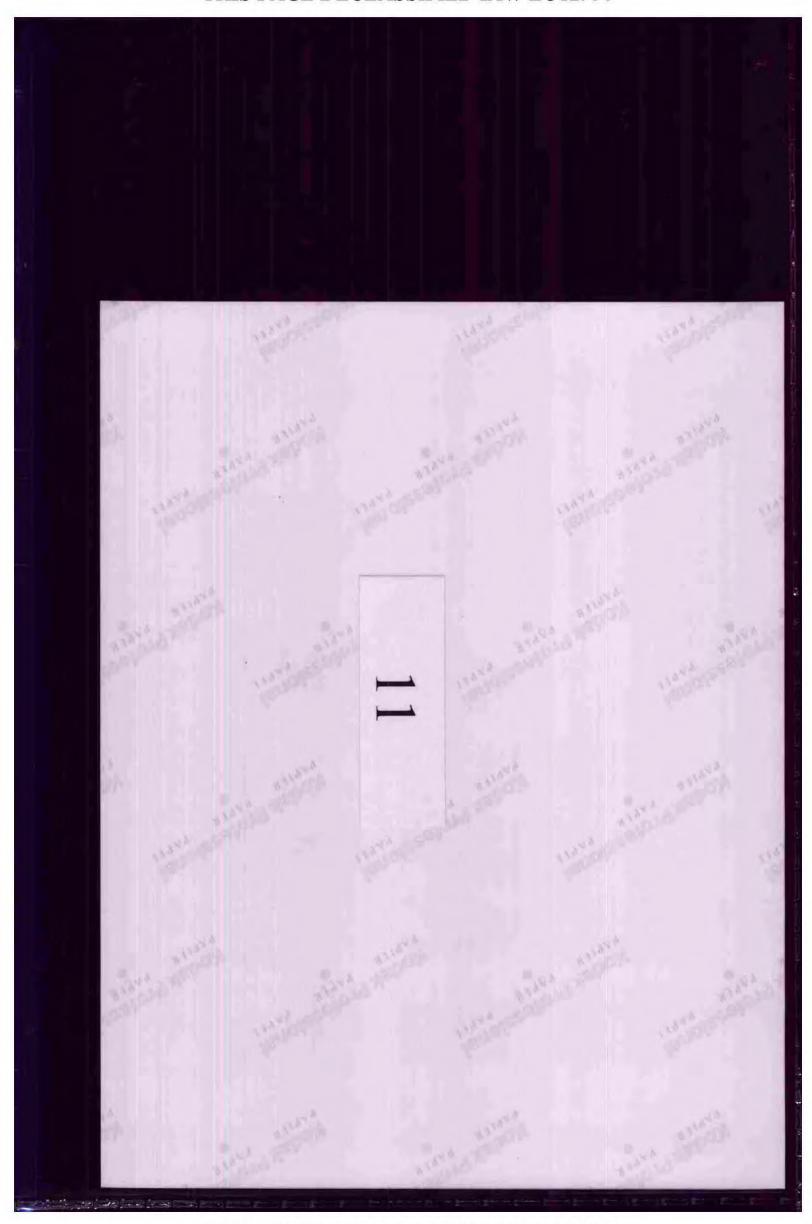
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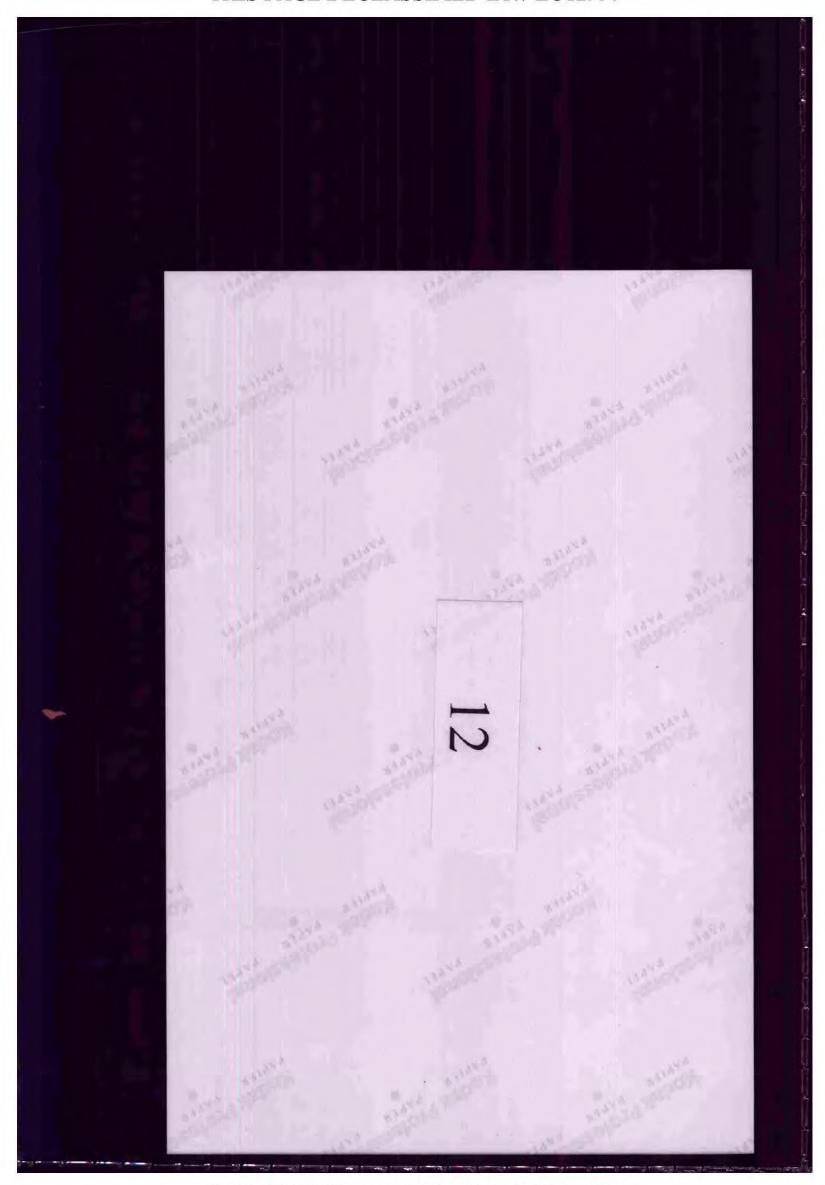
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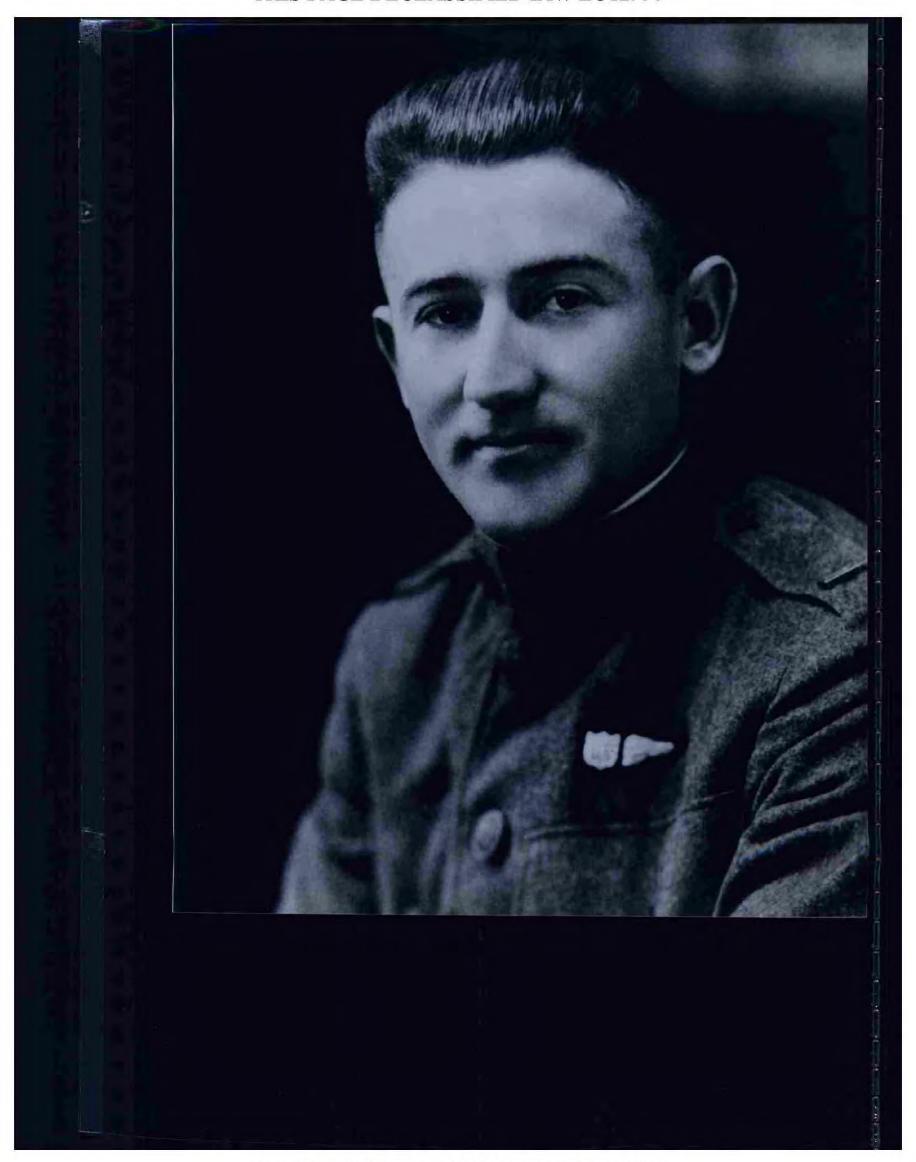
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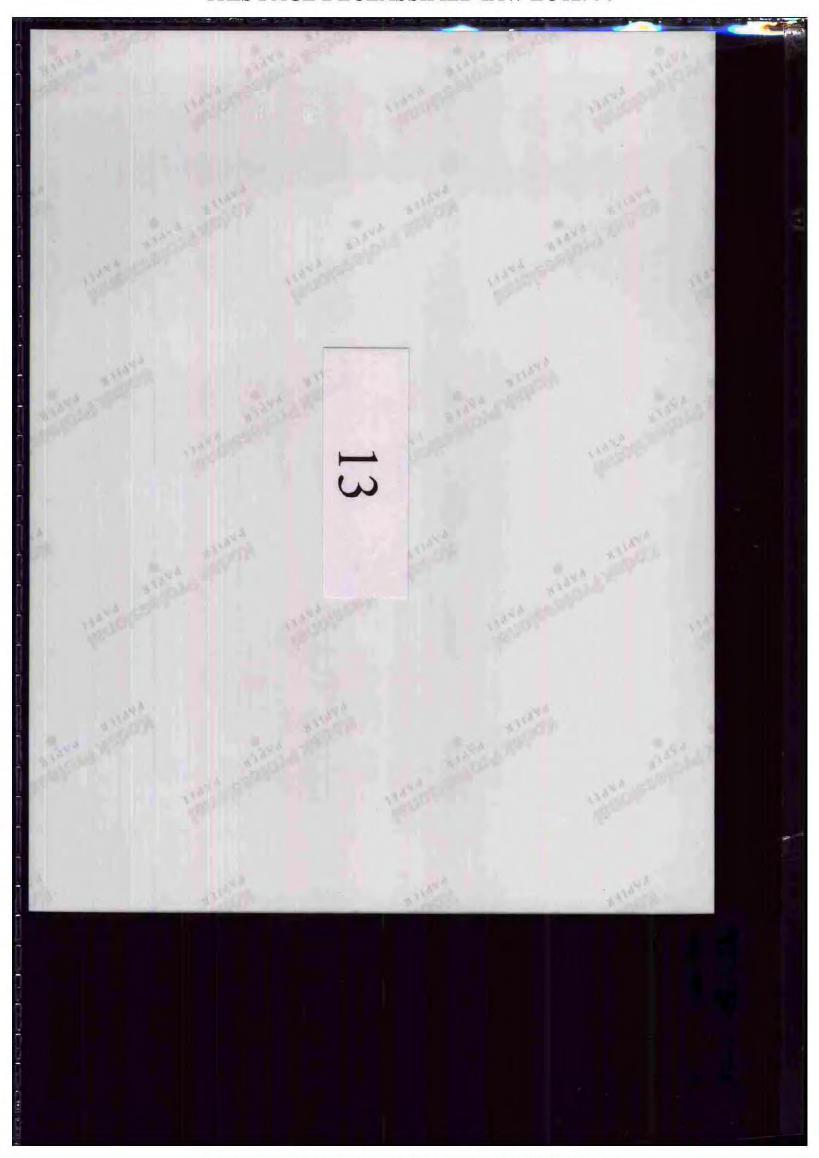


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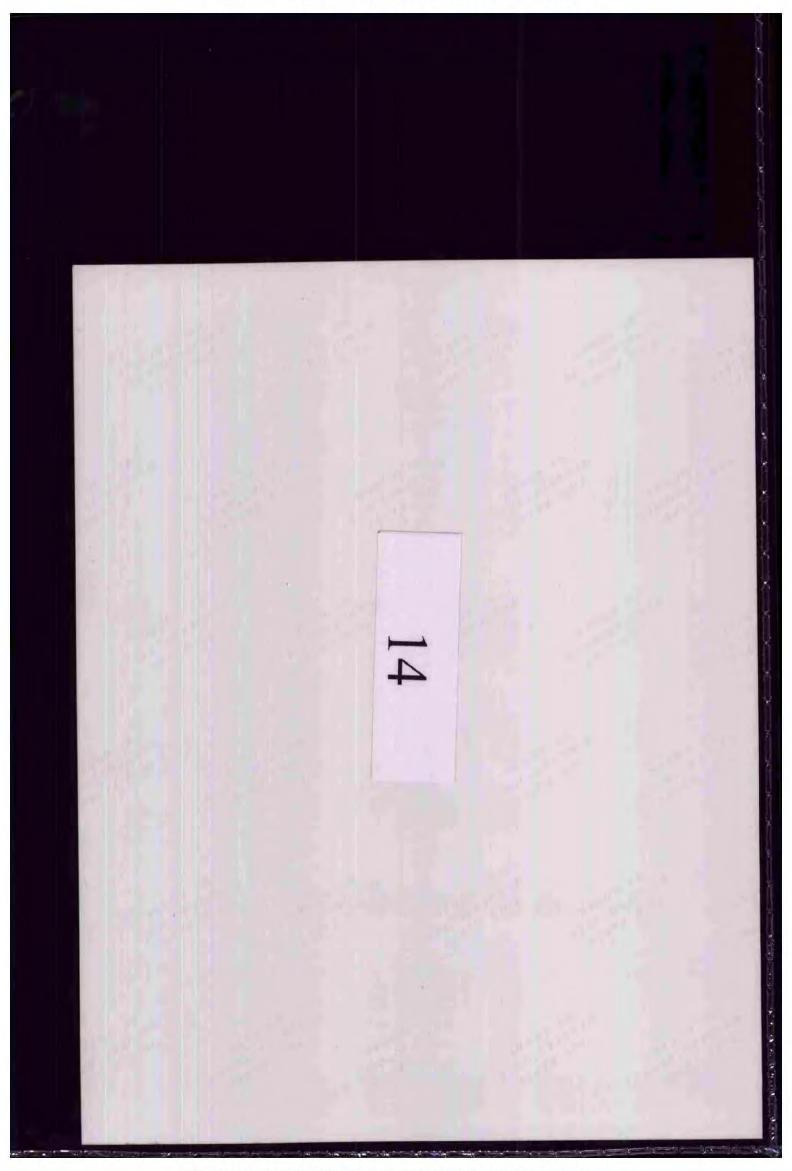


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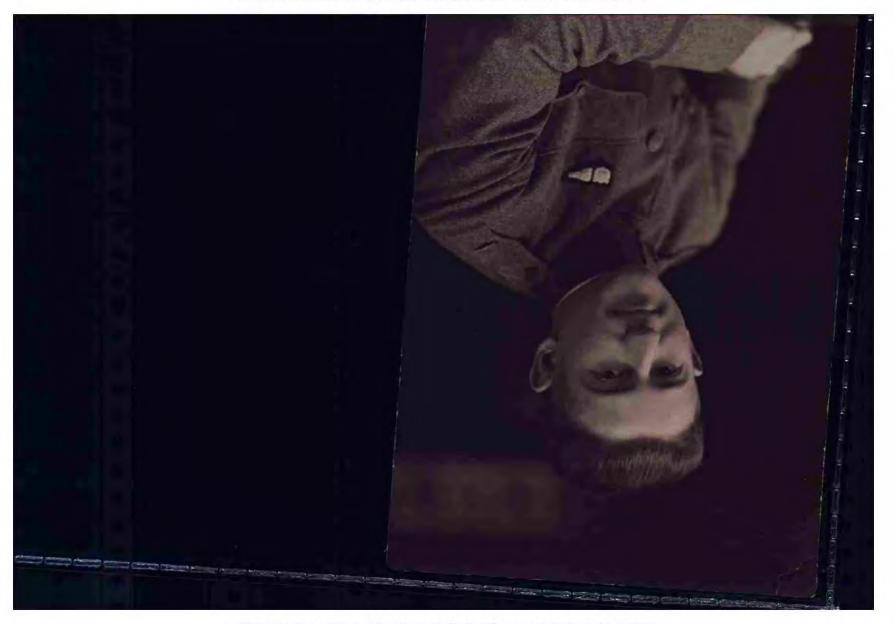


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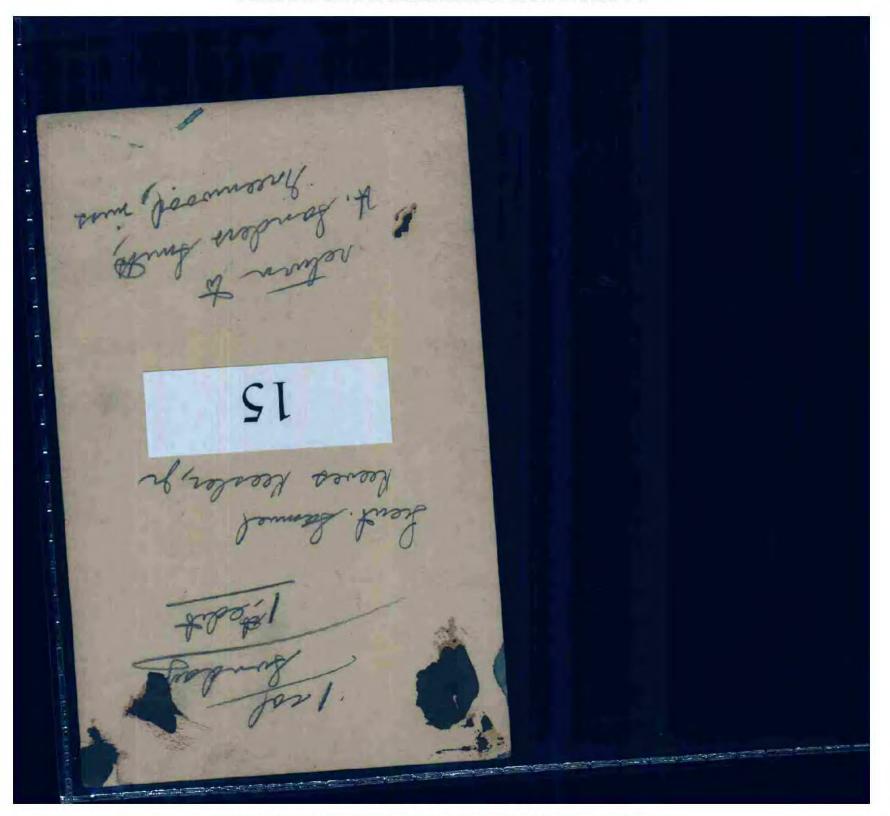


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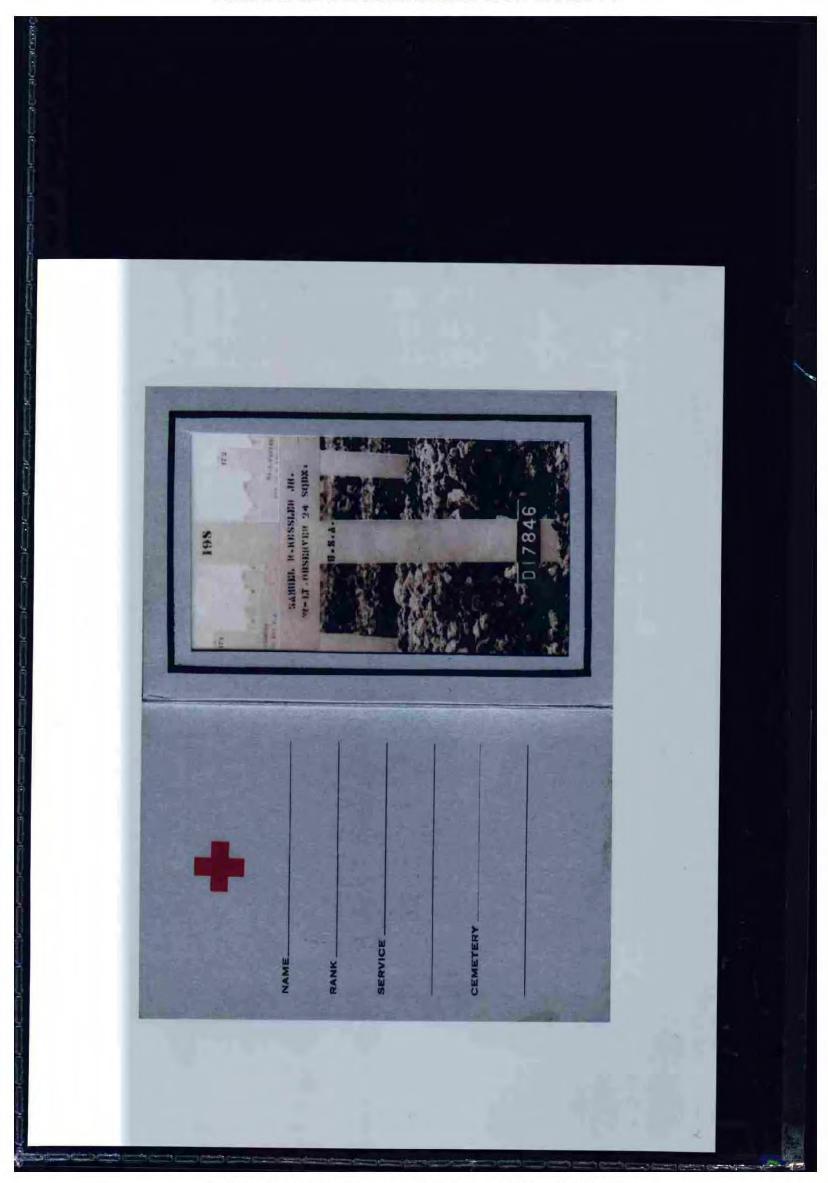
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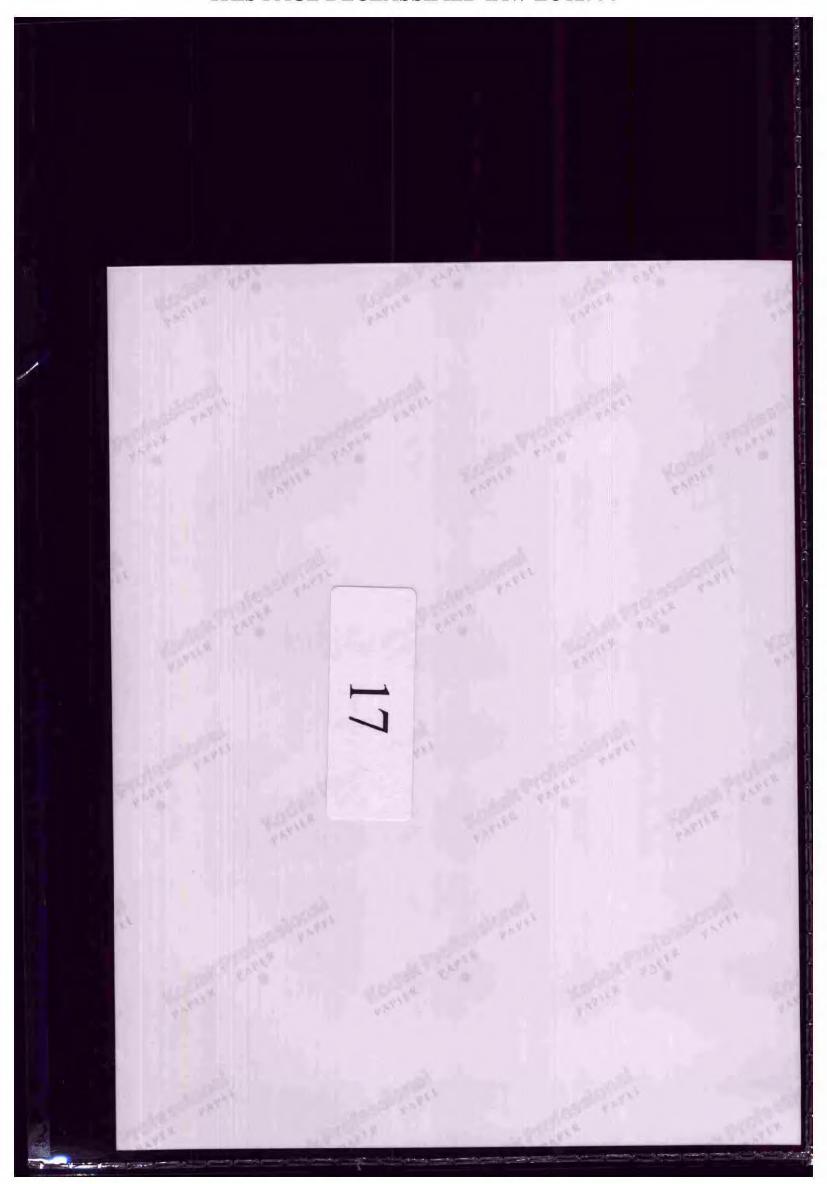
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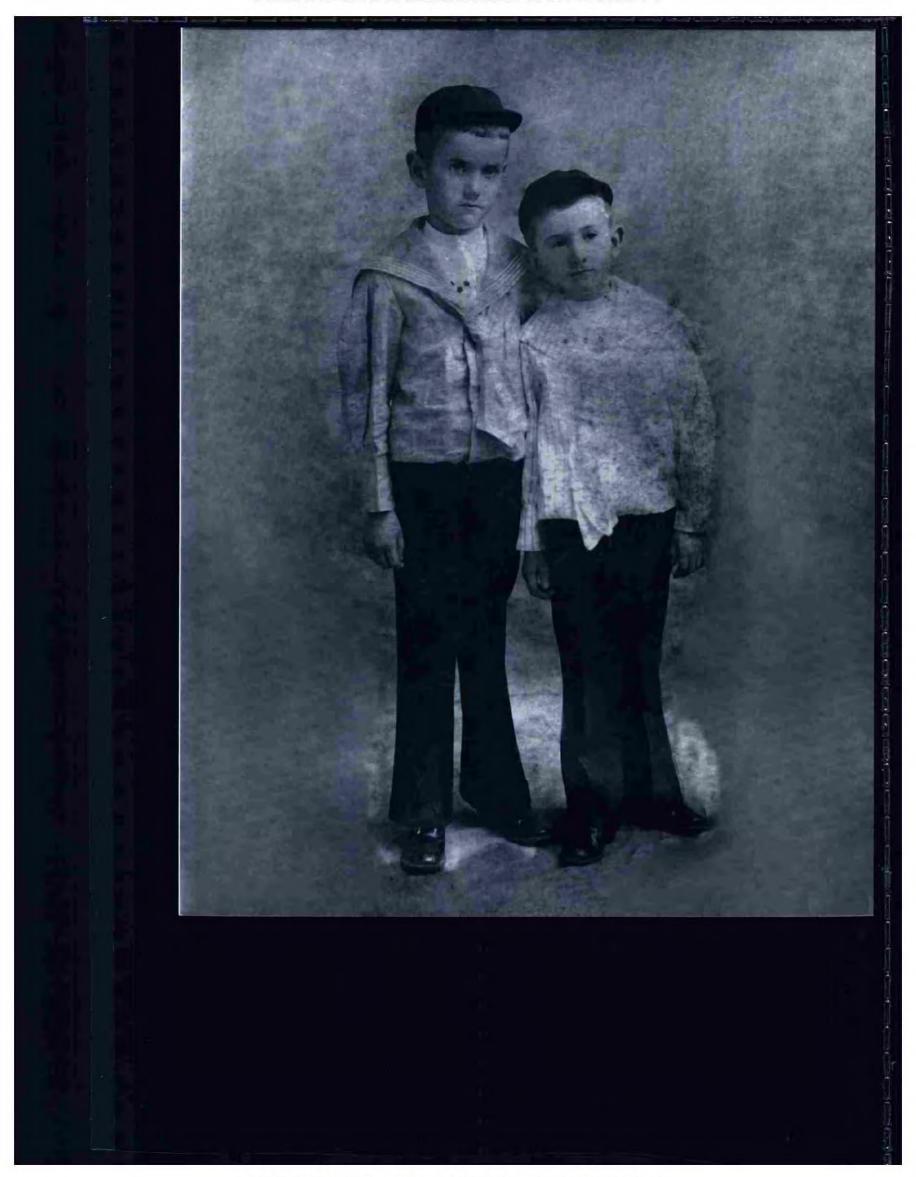
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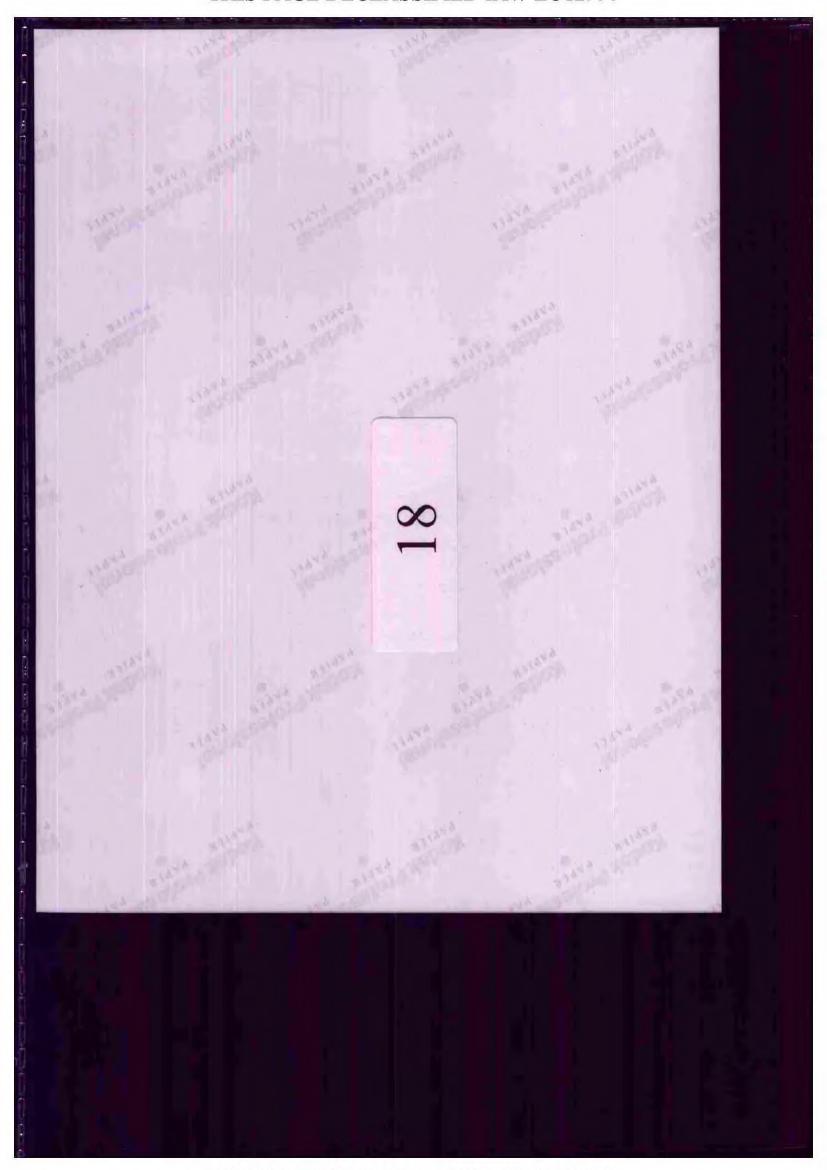
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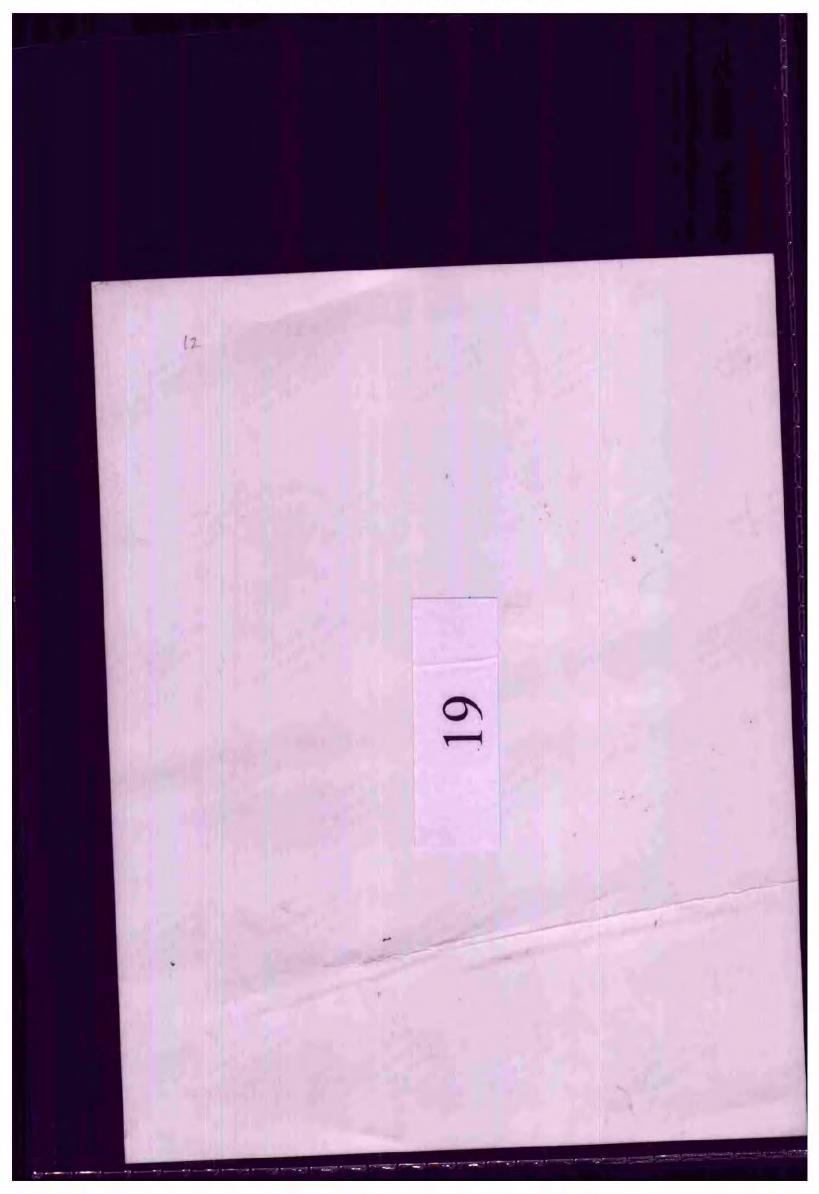


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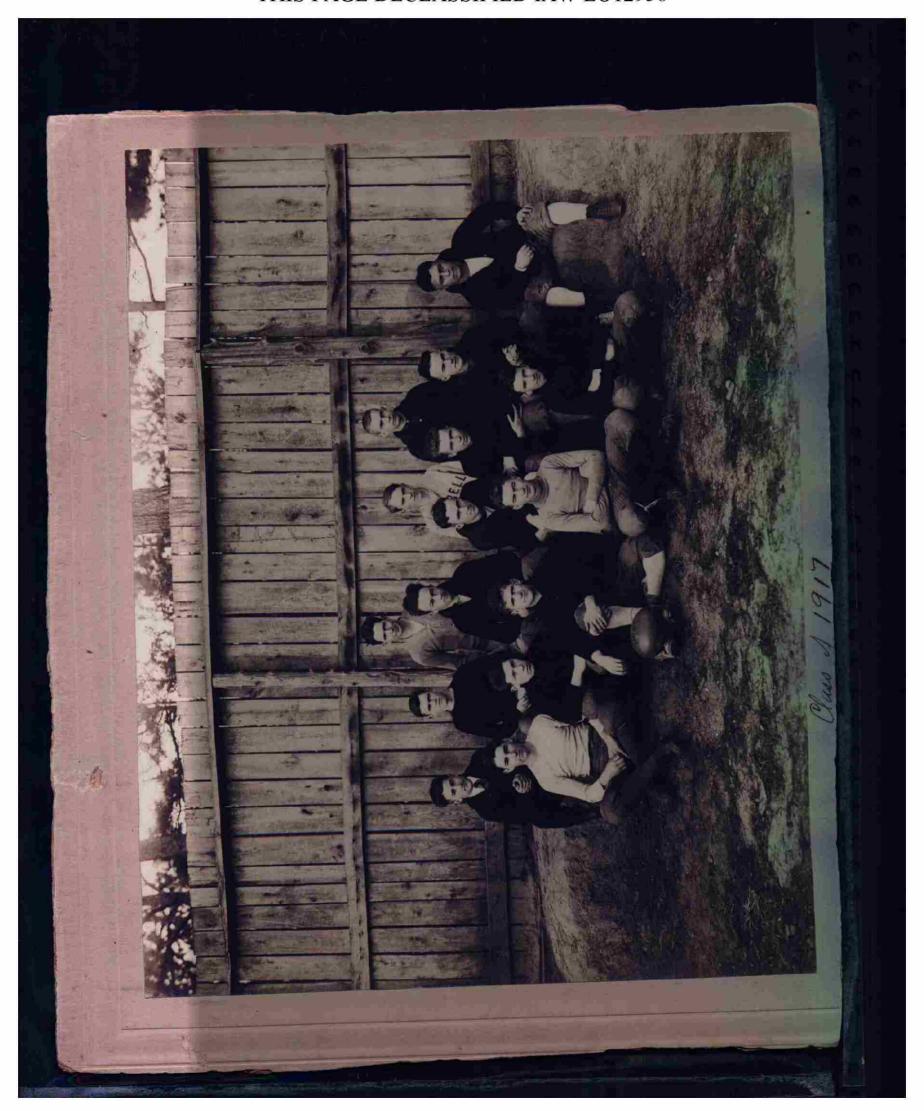


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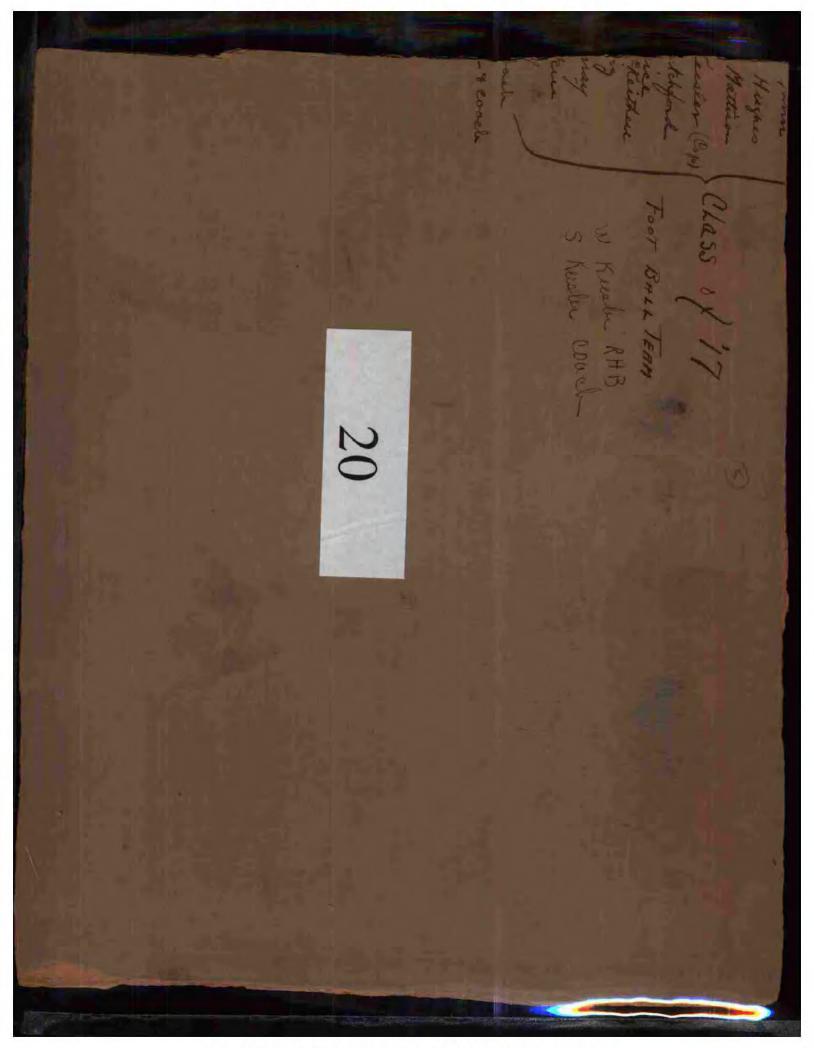


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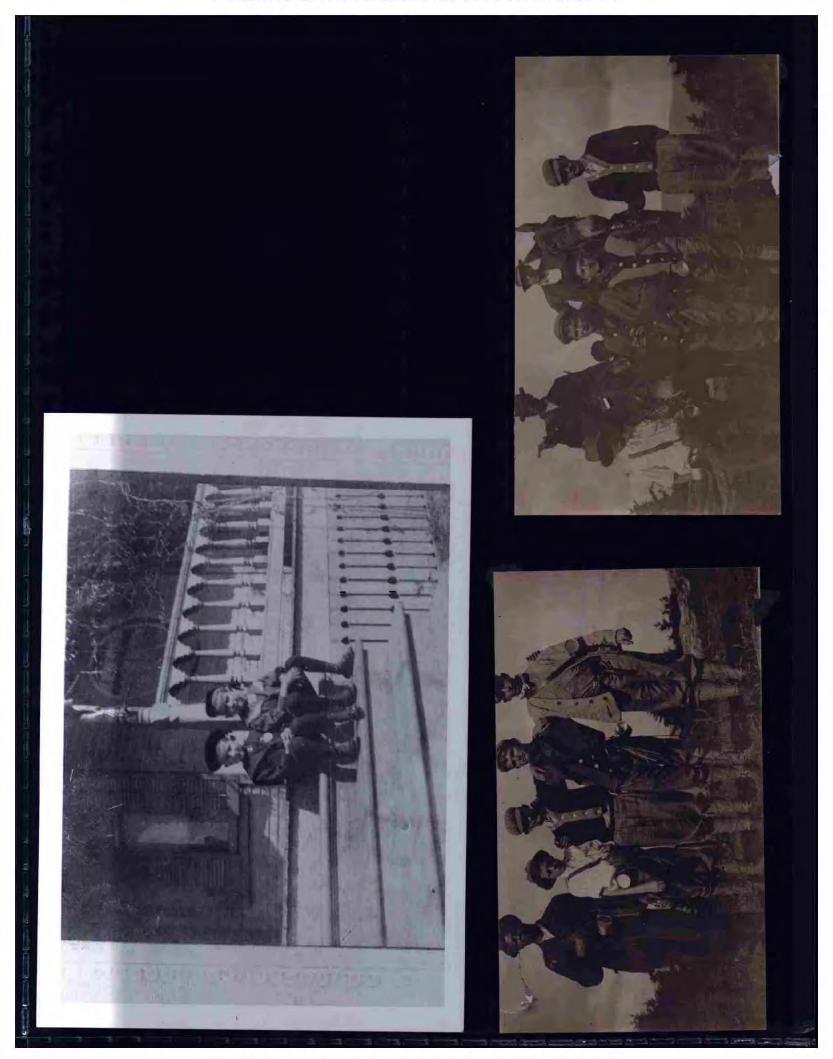


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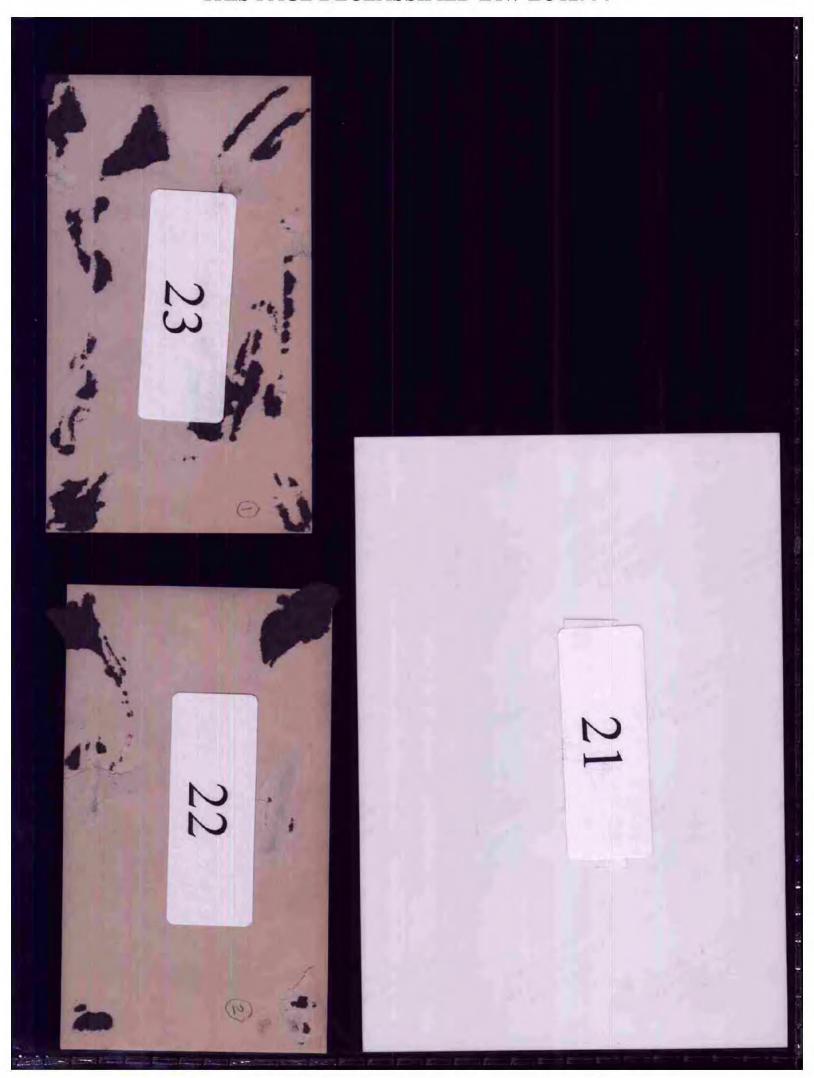
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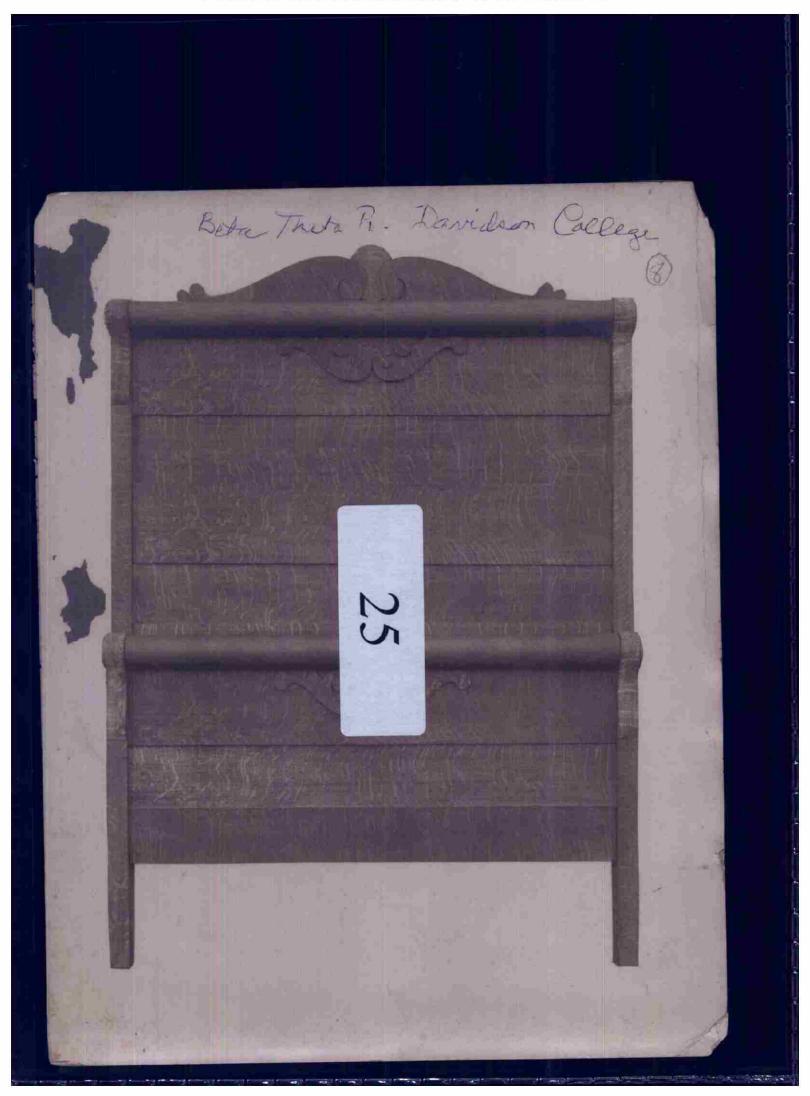


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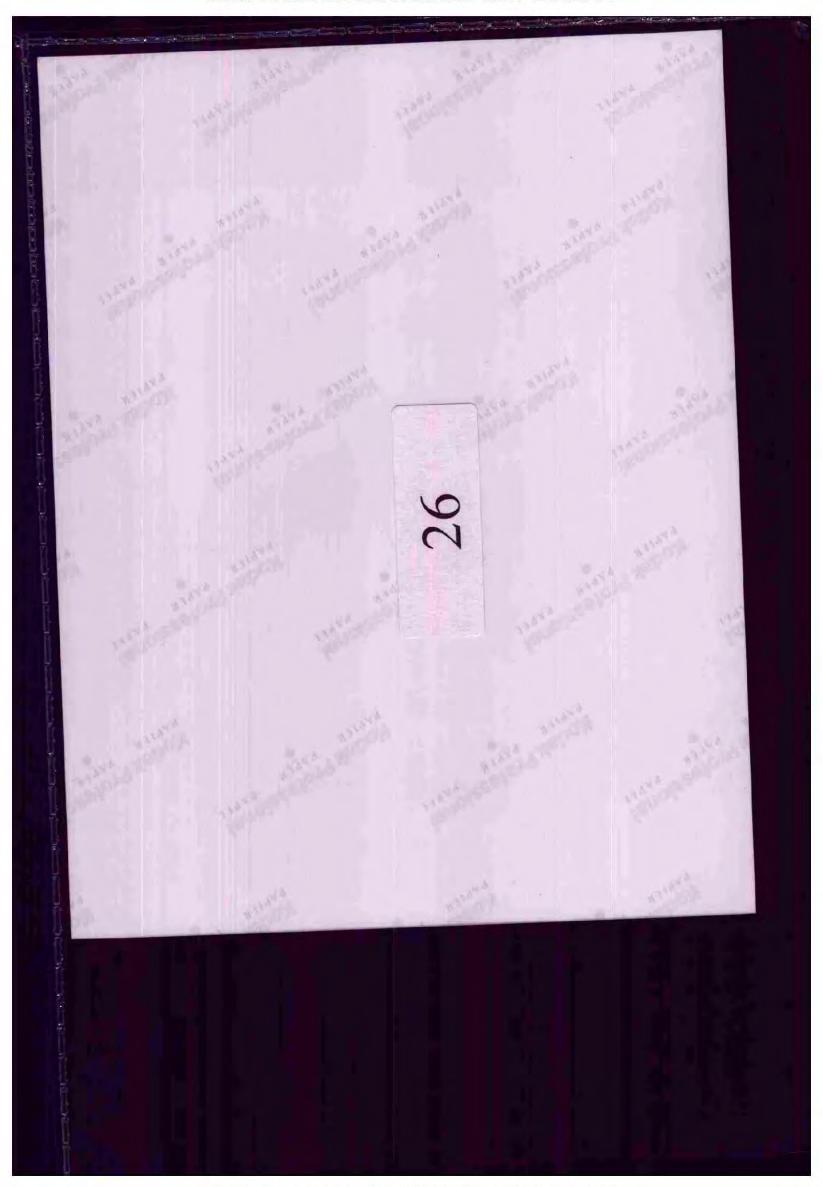
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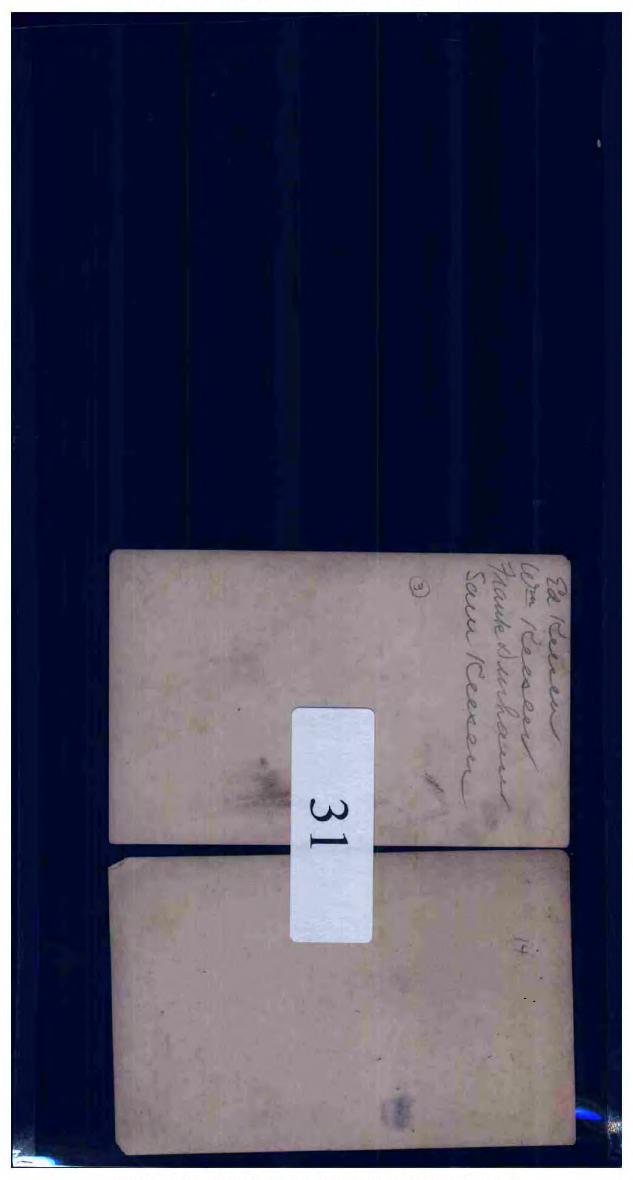


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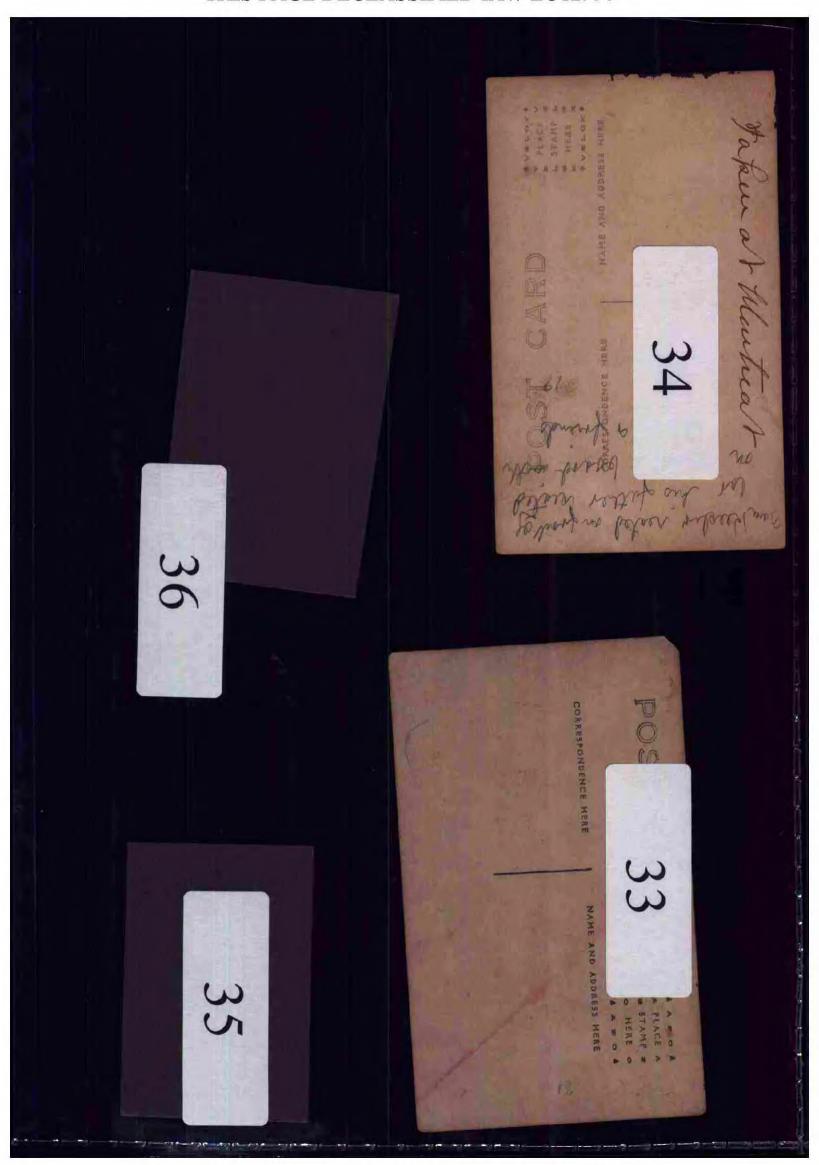
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