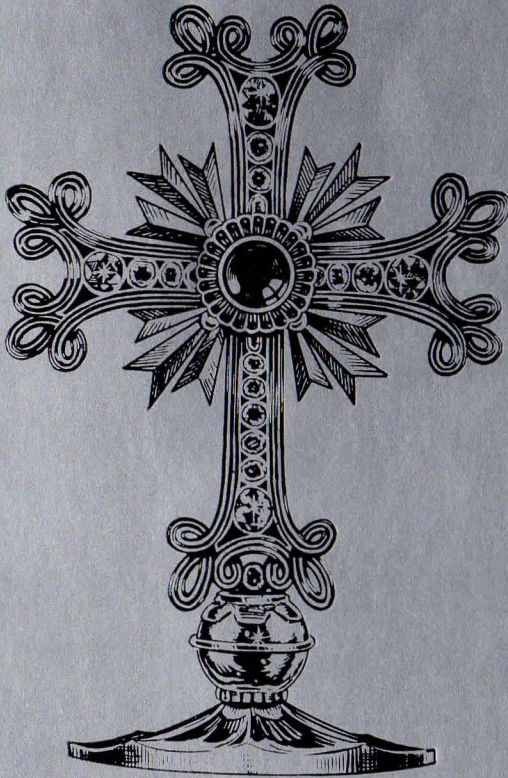


St. James Armenian Church

25th

Anniversary



Richmond, Va.  
September 1981

**We dedicate this booklet to those members who gave of themselves so that our church would flourish and who are not with us today to share in the joy of this anniversary.**

**PARISH COUNCIL**



**TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY**  
**ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**1956-1981**



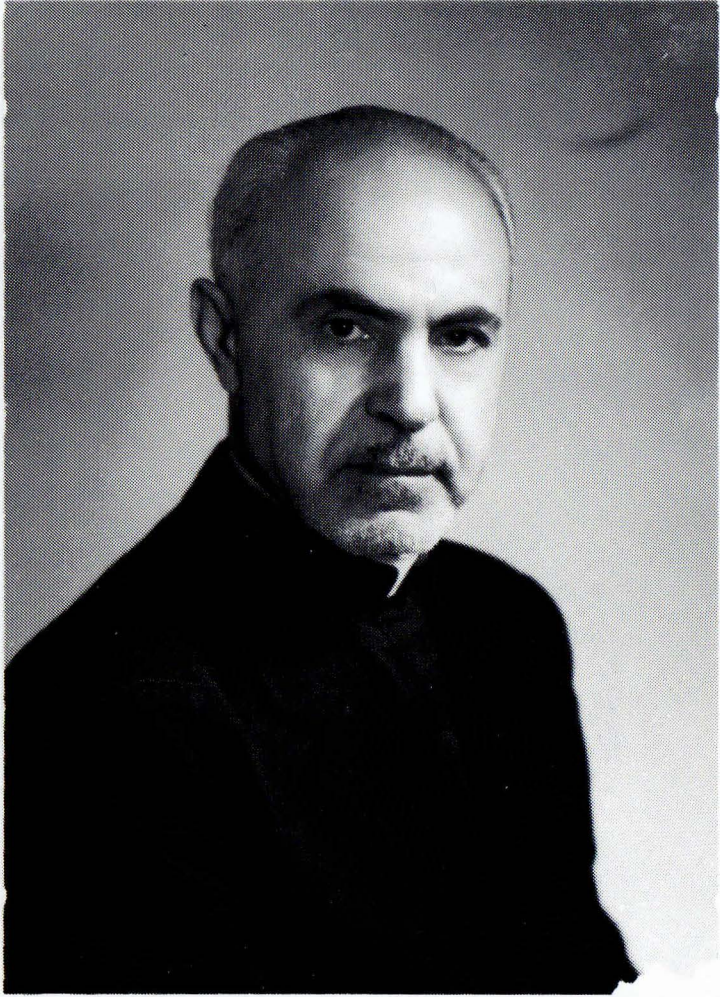
**HIS HOLINESS VASKEN I**

**Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians**



ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN

Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America



**REV. FR. BOGHOS MANOUKIAN**

**Pastor, St. James Armenian Church 1957-1967**



**REV. FR. ARSEN BARSAMIAN**

**Pastor, St. James Armenian Church  
Richmond, Virginia**



ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH  
Richmond, Va.





## ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

When did Armenians first settle in Virginia? Nobody really knows, but if historic records speak truthfully, there were Armenians, or an Armenian, at least, among the first settlers who settled in Jamestown, Va. in 1618. He is referred to as, "Martin, the Armenian." If he was not the first Armenian to migrate to the New World, he did have the distinction of being the first naturalized citizen on the American continent.

The next two settlers came in 1653 as silk worm growers but no settlement of any significance took hold until the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

It is known that there was a parish group in Richmond about the year 1912, and it is recorded that eight members of the Armenian community attended Divine Liturgy services at the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church on May 16, 1915.

Religious life in the Richmond Armenian community has progressed continuously since then, until what was only a dream in the minds of many, became a reality in a little over 40 years. The community throughout the years has always been a stable one, its spirit never broken by wars nor depression. Having a church structure of its own has always been foremost in the minds of its people and this desire became more prevalent each time visiting priests or the Diocesan Primate journeyed to Richmond to celebrate the Divine Sacrament.

Because the community was small in number, financing a church structure and maintaining a full time priest was an impossibility during the early years of existence. However, because of intense desire and stress placed upon the need of an edifice, constructive measures were taken. The Ladies Auxiliary was the first organized group to make the initial move. In 1940 this organization purchased a lot in the city with funds raised and accumulated over the years through worthwhile community projects and activities.

Within the next few years the Parish Council was in a position to purchase the adjoining lot. Later with the consent of the community, the two lots were sold and with the funds, and additional contributions, a larger corner lot was purchased near the suburbs. Still a church edifice could not be realized because of lack of funds. Realizing the immediate need for a structure, necessary funds were obtained to purchase a two story brick building located near the center of the city. This structure at first appeared to be suitable for the local needs--the basement level being used as a social hall, with the thought in mind of eventually renovating the upper level to serve as a place of worship. After a period of one year, though, it was felt that this building was not suitable to serve the needs of expansion. The building was sold, and consequently, the Richmond community was again without a building of its own. With the funds realized from the sale of the building and additional money obtained from a fund raising drive, another lot, much larger than any of the previous ones, was purchased under the guidance of the Primate, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan. This lot proved to be the foundation of the present church edifice.

On Sunday, November 6, 1955, Father Levon Arakelian, the pastor of the West Philadelphia Armenian Church community, officiated over the ground breaking ceremonies. The following year the completed church was consecrated by the Primate, Archbishop Calfayan, assisted by Father Levon Arakelian and also Father Boghos Manoukian. This historic event, for the Armenian community in Richmond, took place on Saturday and Sunday, September 8 & 9, 1956.

Thereafter, Father Boghos Manoukian, who heretofore, had served as a visiting priest, was designated as the permanent pastor. This took place in September of 1957.

Later, property adjacent to the church lot was also purchased, doubling the area of the church grounds, and a two story house situated thereon had been remodeled and renovated to serve as the parish house with Church School and Armenian School.

In March of 1967, upon the retirement of Father Manoukian, Father Arsen Barsamian was designated as pastor of the church community by the Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 20, 1971, the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Armenian Educational Building were held following the morning church service with the pastor, Rev. Arsen Barsamian officiating.

Sunday, November 21, 1971, the Dedication ceremonies were held with His Eminence, the Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presiding, assisted by the Rev. Arsen Barsamian.



**THE FIRST PARISH COUNCIL OF RICHMOND ARMENIAN  
APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
1956**

*Seated, Left to Right: Dr. Jack Garian, Vice-Chairman; Dr. George Vranian, Chairman; John Baronian, Recording Secretary*

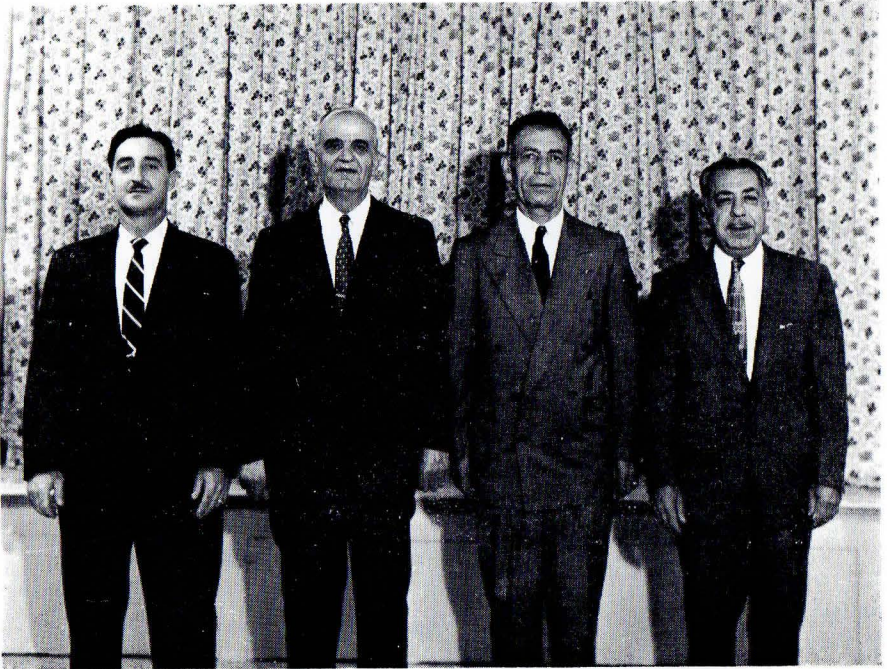
*Standing, Left to Right: Harry Darhanian, Assistant Treasurer; Joe Vranian, Advisor; Peter Greene, Treasurer; George Euksuzian, Corresponding Secretary*

# Ground Breaking

1955



## COMMITTEES



### BUILDING COMMITTEE

*Left to Right:* Peter Greene, *Chairman*; Aleck Dedeian, Nick Baronian, Krikor Krikorian

### GODFATHERS

Alexan Aprahamian  
Avedis Aprahamian  
Jack Aprahamian  
Charles Ashjian  
David Atamian  
Nick Baronian  
Aleck Dedeian

Nazar Egelanian  
Aram Karabedian  
Henry Magarian  
Robert Magarian  
Simon Moughamian  
Gerry Sharigian  
Zadoor Soghoian

# Early Construction Stages



Women's Guild - 1956 - St. James Armenian Church



*Front row:* Nazeny Euksuzian, Azniv Euksuzian, Ethel Vranian, Nectar Kantarjian, Shnorig Soghoian, Yeghsapet Baronian, Virginia Dedeian, Margaret Ashjian, Satenig Karabedian, Jouhar Garoian.

*Middle row:* Araxi Hayvagian, Arshalous Darhanian, Armenouhi Shahinian, Satenig Darhanian, Varteni Vranian, Isabelle Vranian, Veron Lachowski, Arax Johnson, Virginia Greene, Margie Baronian, Anna Johnson.

*Top row:* Sophie Vranian, Armenouhi Anusbikian, Elisa Mirakian, Dirouhi Sarkissian, Maraneeg Papazian, Marguerite Koustigian, Rose Mason, Margaret Dedeian, Narengul Bektemirian, Liz Baronian, Takouhi Vartanian.



## CHOIR OF RICHMOND ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

1956

*Front row, seated:* Paris Dedeian, Azniv Euksuzian, Alice Darhanian, Marguerite Koustigian, Roxie Kricorian, Dora Diradour, Virginia Greene

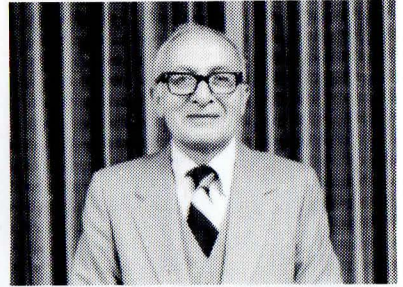
*Middle row:* Charles Tatlian, Margaret Owen, Zepour Tatian, Arax Johnson, Roxie Shahnian, Krikor Krikorian

*Top row:* Margie Ashjian, Beatrice Soudjian, Harry Tatian, Shakia Dedeian, Margaret Boyajian

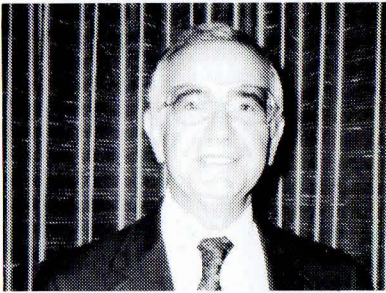
# Our Parish Council Chairmans



John Baronian  
1964-1965-1968



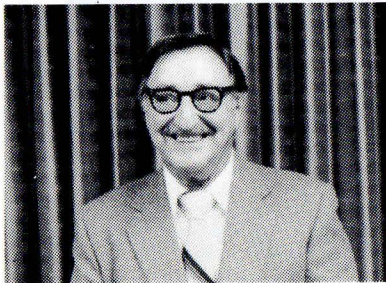
Nebe Boyajian  
1970



Charles Dedeian  
1974-1979



Dr. Jack Garian  
1958-1959-1962-1967



Peter Greene  
1963-1969-1975-1977-1978-1981



Gerry Sharigian  
1972-1973-1976-1980



Dr. George Vranian  
1956-1957-1960-1961-1966-1971





### PARISH COUNCIL OF 1981

Seated 1 to r: Dr. Michael Vranian, vice-chairman; Peter Greene, chairman;

Standing: 1 to r Harry Tatian, advisor; Robert Thomas, secretary; Barkev Baronian, treasurer; Haike Giragosian, advisor;

Missing from picture Nerses Berberian, advisor

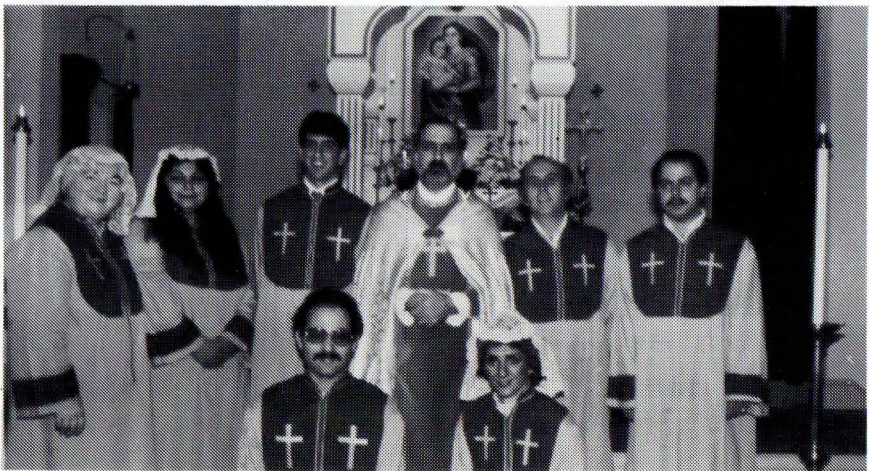


### Women's Guild 1981

*Seated:* Khanum Shahrashian, Zabel Bandoian, Shnorig Soghoian, Der Arsen, Margaret Dedeian, Mannig Tootelian,

*Center Row:* Isabelle Vranian, Dianna DerHovhannessian, Dianne Velegris, Virginia Greene, Anahit Berberian, Roxie Shahinian, Azniv Euksuzian

*Top Row:* Elizabeth Tootelian, Yeretsgin Varteni Barsamian, Margaret Boyajian, Liz Baronian, Lillian Eramian



### Choir and Sargavarks

*Front:* Bedros Okhanes, Alice Darhanian

*Standing:* Yeretsgin Araxi Manoukian, Peruz Manoukian, Raffi Barsamian, Der Arsen, Antranig Akseraylian, Yeghia Bouroujian

*Missing from picture:* Charles Tatlian and Krikor Garabedian, Steven Barsamian

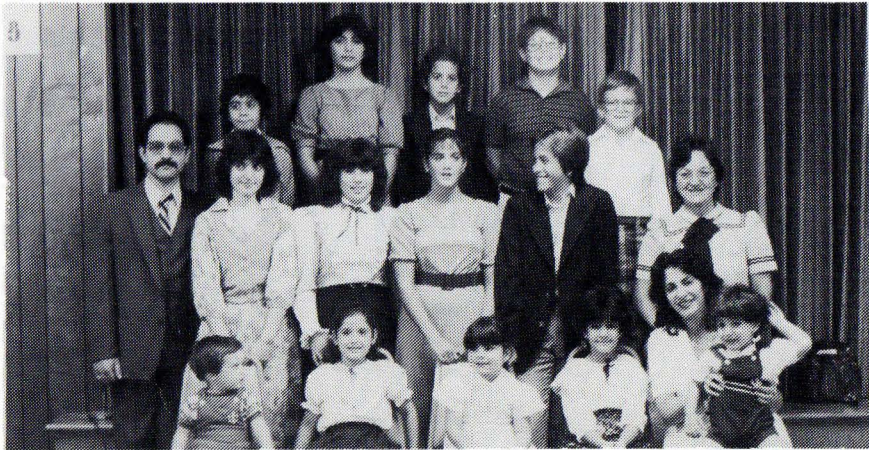


### ACYOA

*Front row, seated left to right:* Margaret Boyajian, Lucy Ann Barsamian, Judy Boyajian, Shocky Boyajian, Carol Ashjian.

*Second row:* Der Arsen Barsamian, John Kelejian, Raffi Barsamian, Donna Soghoian, Steven Barsamian, Rose Soghoian.

*Third row:* Krikor Boyajian, Ted Baronian, Jennifer Miceli, Yessia Boyajian.

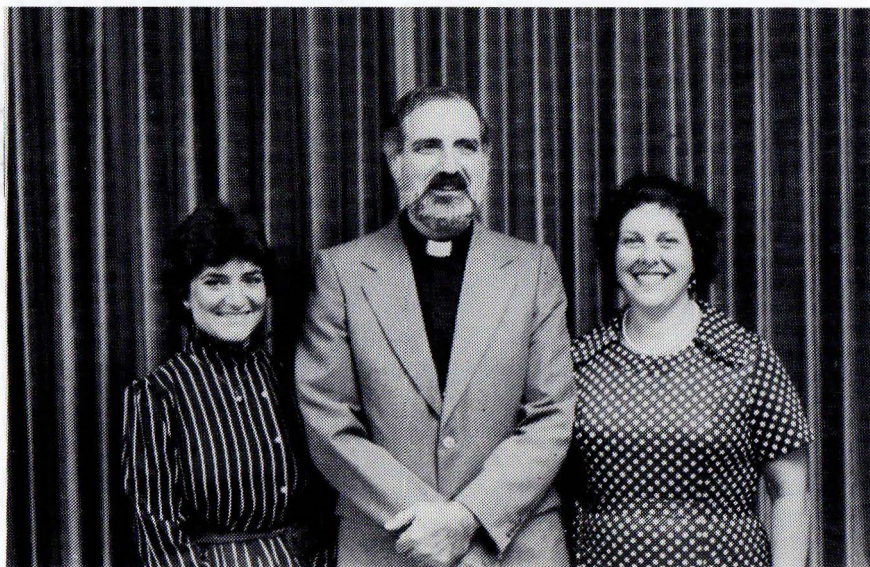


### Sunday School and Armenian School

*Front row: left to right;* Nicholas Velegris, Maria Velegris, Christina Vranian, Raquel Okhanes, Mary Okhanes & Ara Okhanes.

*Second row:* Bedros Okhanes, Carol Ashjian, Judy Boyajian, Seran Kerneklian, Khoren Bandazian, Roxie Kricorian.

*Third row:* Diran Bandazian, Maria Miceli, Raffi Bandazian, Arthur DerHovhannessian, Alex DerHovhannessian.



*Cultural and Educational committee*

Linda Sharigian, Der Arsen, Dianna DerHovhannessian



*School Board*

Rev. Arsen Barsamian, Bedros Bandazian, Melanie Kerneklarian, Bedros Okhanes



**Softball Team**

Harry Tatian Jr., Krikor Boyajian, Steven Barsamian, Dr. Murad Kerneklian-Manager, Chuck Ashjian, Bob Goodwyn, Albert Diradour, Nick Miceli Jr., Sam Baronian Jr., Nick Miceli-Coach, Harry Tatian, Marshall Knox, Ronnie Greene, Armen Sharigian, Al Miceli, Yessia Boyajian.



**Dance Group**

Judy Boyajian, Shocky Boyajian, Carol Ashjian, Mary Okhanes, Lucy Ann Barsamian, Jennifer Miceli  
 Top row; Richard Mardigian, Margaret Boyajian, Bedros Okhanes, Rose Soghoian, Paul Mardigian

## 1981 MEMBERSHIP

Abernathy, Hugh  
Abernathy, Virginia  
Akseraylian, Garabed  
Amirkhanian, Tigran  
Amirkhanian, Azniv  
Ashjian, John  
Ashjian, Judy  
Ashjian, Charles  
Bandazian, Bedros  
Bandazian, Stella  
Bandazian, Virginia  
Baronian, Elizabeth  
Baronian, Barkev  
Baronian, Dale  
Baronian, John  
Baronian, Margie  
Baronian, Sam  
Baronian, Liz  
Barsamian, Varteni  
Barsamian, Steven  
Barsamian, Lucy Ann  
Berberian, Nerses  
Berberian, Anahid  
Berberian, John  
Bickers, Annie  
Bouroujian, Levon  
Bouroujian, Yeghia  
Boyajian, Nebe  
Boyajian, Margaret  
Chavdarian, Charles  
Darhanian, Harry B.  
Darhanian, Harry N.  
Darhanian, Alice  
Darhanian, William  
Dedeian, Margaret  
Dedeian, Charles  
Dedeian, Paris  
DerHovhannessian, Dianna  
Diradour, George  
Diradour, Dora  
Eretzian, Gilbert  
Essayian, George  
Euksuzian, George  
Euksuzian, Azniv  
Garabedian, Vihay  
Garabedian, Mickey  
Garabedian, Andy  
Ghazarian, Alex  
Ghazarian, Vahan  
Ghazarian, Aghavni  
Ghazarian, Sarkis  
Giragosian, Haike  
Giragosian, John  
Greene, Pete  
Greene, Virginia  
Greene, Ronnie  
Greene, Becky  
Guzelian, Phil  
Guzelian, Marilyn  
Jamgochian, Victoria  
Johnson, Roy  
Johnson, Arax  
Johnson, Paul  
Kantarjian, Nectar  
Karabedian, Satenig  
Kelejian, John  
Kelejian, Maline  
Kerneklarian, Melanie  
Kevorkian, George  
Kricorian, Mary  
Kricorian, Roxie  
Lachowski, Joe  
Magarian, Henry  
Magarian, Robert  
Okhanes, Peter  
Okhanes, Dickran  
Papazian, Mariam  
Parseghian, George  
Parseghian, Mary  
Sharigian, Gerry  
Sharigian, Linda  
Soghoian, Shnorig  
Soghoian, Rose  
Soghoian, Joyce  
Tashjian, Movses  
Tashjian, Alice  
Tatian, Harry  
Tatlian, Charles  
Thomas, Robert  
Tootelian, Mannig  
Tootelian, Jack  
Tootelian, Elizabeth  
Velegris, Dianne  
Vranian, Isabelle  
Vranian, Michael  
Vranian, Barbara



Virginia & Hugh Abernathy  
Dawn Ellen & Rick Morris  
Christopher & Nicholas



Azniv & Tigran Amirkhanian  
Michael, Michelle & Verjin



Judy and John Ashjian  
Mark, Carol, Charles & Billy



Stella & Bedros Bandazian  
Raffi, Diran and Khoren



Elizabeth Baronian  
Dale & Barkev Baronian  
Alex and Nick



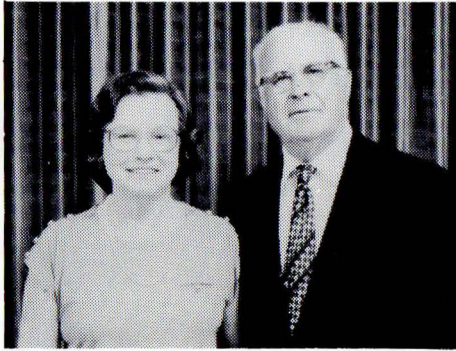
Margie and John Baronian  
and Steven



Liz and Sam Baronian  
and Ted



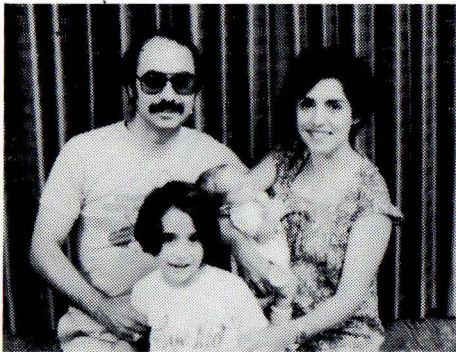
Der Arsen & Varteni Barsamian  
Steven, LucyAnn and Raffi



Annie and Dr. William Bickers



Nebe and Margaret Boyajian  
Shocky, Judy, Yessia & Krikor



Drs. Charles & Seda Chavdarian  
Lenna and Greg



Harry B. and Alice Darhanian





Dora & George Diradour  
and Dorian



Gilbert Eretzian



Azniv & George Euksuzian



Mickey & Vihay Garabedian



Anahid & Sarkis Ghazarian  
Ghazar & Eva Chazarian



Haik Giragosian



Ruby and John Giragosian



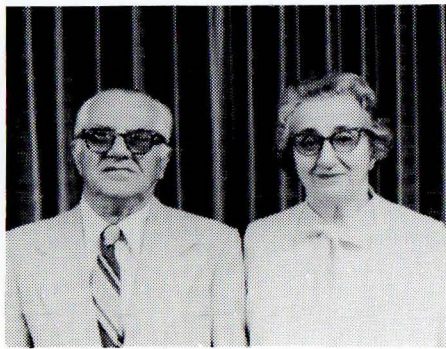
Virginia & Peter Greene



Becky & Ronnie Greene



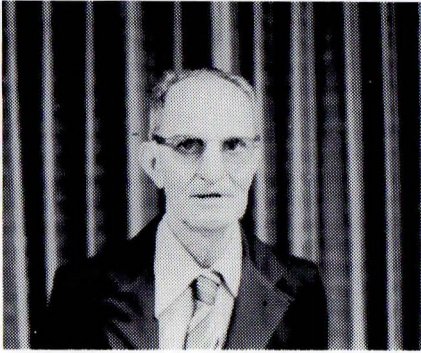
Victoria Jamgochian



Arax & Roy Johnson



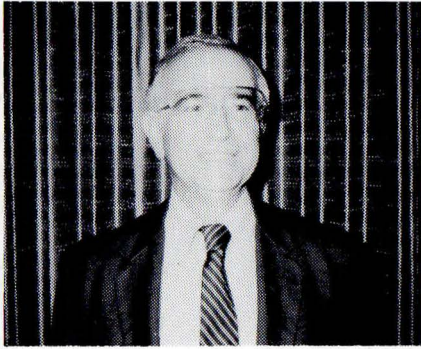
Nectar Kantarjian



Harry N. Darhanian



William Darhanian



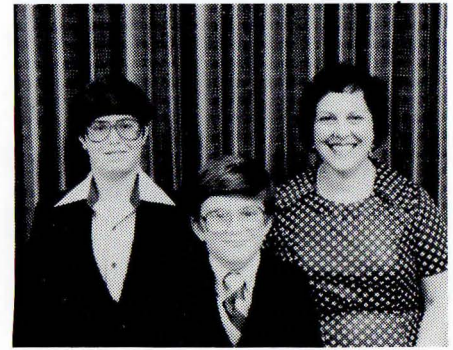
Katchi Dedeian



Margaret Dedeian



Paris Dedeian



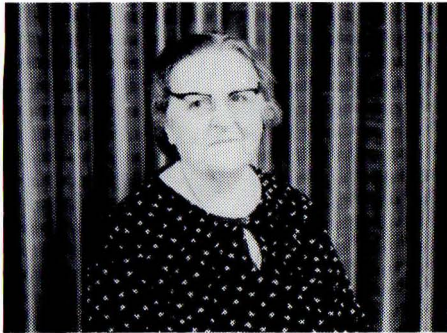
Dianna DerHovhannessian  
Arthur & Alex



Satenig Karabedian



Melanie & Dr. Murad Kerneklian  
Sona, Seran and Seta



Mary Kricorian



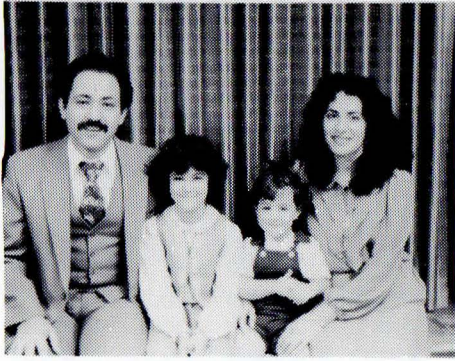
Roxie Kricorian



Charlotte & Joe Lachowski  
and Veronica



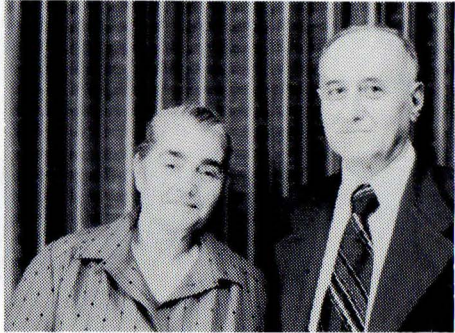
Robert Magarian, Nerses  
Berberian, Charles Tatlian  
Henry Magarian



Bedros and Mary Okhanes  
Raquel & Ara



Mary & George Parseghian



Khanum & Dickran  
Shahrashian



Gerry Sharigian  
Linda and Armen



Donna and Joyce Soghoian



Rose and Shnorig Soghoian



Movses and Alice Tashjian



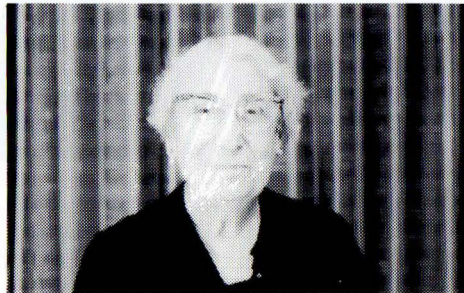
Caroline and Harry Tatian & Harry Jr.



Lilly and Robert Thomas



Elizabeth & Jack Tootelian



Mannig Tootelian



Dianne & Tony Velegris  
Nicholas and Maria



Dr. Michael & Barbara Vranian  
Isabelle Vranian and Christina

## 25th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL DONATIONS

### **\$200.00**

*In memory of Dr. George Vranian from Mrs. Isabelle Vranian and children, George Jr., Carolyn and Dr. & Mrs. N. Michael Vranian*

### **\$100.00**

*In memory of parents, Manuel and Rosa Vranian; brothers, Dr. George and Joseph Vranian; sister, Ethel Vranian and all the deceased members of the Vranian families from Mrs. Virginia Vranian Missirlian.*

*In memory of parents, Vartanoush and Mgrdich Barbarian from Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Barbarian*

*In memory of parents, John and Azniv Jamgochian from Ms. Victoria Jamgochian*

*In memory of Nazar & Satenig Egelanian from the Egelanian and Chookazian families*

*In memory of parents, Hampartzoum and Zarouhi Stepanian from Mr. & Mrs. Leon Stepanian*

*In memory of Martin H. Diradour*

### **\$75.00**

*In memory of Mgrdich and Vartanoush Barbarian and Mary A. Smith from John and Ada Barbarian*

### **\$50.00**

*In memory of husband and father, Mr. Apel Vartanian from Mrs. Haiganoush Vartanian and family*

*In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Manoog Giragosian and grandparents from Mr. & Mrs. Haike Giragosian*

### **\$40.00**

Paul and Pamela Mazmanian

### **\$25.00**

*In memory of Kevork, Guluzar, Karnig and Orjen Yazejian and David M. & Brian E. Bandoian from Mrs. Zabel Bandoian and Violet*

*In memory of all Armenians from Mr. & Mrs. Jack Tootelian*

*In memory of parents, Arousiak and Armenag Tatian from Zepour Tatian (Ca.)*

*In memory of grandparents Arousiak and Armenag Tatian* from Mrs. Karen Anahid Yrulegue

Mrs. Dianna DerHovhannessian

*In memory of parents, Manoog and Takouhi Giragosian* from Mr. & Mrs. James D. Jackson

Rev. Fr. and Mrs. Constantine Dombalis

Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Ghazarian

Mrs. Aghavni Zuelke

*In memory of husband and father, Antranik Bouroujian* from Mrs. Arshalous Bouroujian and family

*In memory of mother and father, Hampartzoum and Araxie Hayvagian* from Mr. & Mrs. N. P. Peebles

*In memory of parents, Charles and Satenig Darhanian* from Mr. & Mrs. R. Milton Owen

*In memory of parents of Avedikians and Darhanians* from Mr. & Mrs. K. Avedikian

*In memory of parents, Simon and Nazeny Euksuzian* from Mr. & Mrs. Roy A. Johnson

*In memory of Mrs. Ruth Sharigian* from Mr. & Mrs. John Mirakian

*In memory of husband, Mr. George Mangigian* from Mrs. Dollie S. Mangigian

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey L. Butler

*In memory of parents, Vartan and Verkin Mardigian* from Moosh and Mike Mardigian

*In memory of Arshag and Azniv Hovsepian* from Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Hovsepian Sr. (Ga.

*In memory of Mrs. Arshalous Darhanian* from Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Abernathy

*In memory of father, Mr. Levon Chobanian* from Mr. & Mrs. Hachig Chobanian

*In memory of parents, Manoog & Takouhi Giragosian* from Mr. & Mrs. John Giragosian



*In memory of parents, Hagop and Mary Dervishian* from Mrs. Floyd D. Smith

*In memory of grandmother, Sultana Arabian (New York) and uncle, Sarkis Vasgarian (Ca.)* from Mrs. David Benson (Newport News)

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Boghosian (N.C.)

**\$20.00**

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Moogalian

*In memory of Boghos and Haigouhi Aprahamian* from Mr. & Mrs. Paul Crismond, (Charlottesville, Va.)

John and Maline Kelejian

*In memory of parents, Marderos and Mary Darhanian* from Mr. and Mrs. Krikor Bendian. (N.J.)

**\$15.00**

*In memory of husband, Hovhannes Papazian and those of the Papazian generation and mother, Zaganoush* from Mrs. Mariam Papazian

*In memory of brother, Michael Sarafian* from Mr. & Mrs. Dan Keith

*In memory of Nishan and Esther Darhanian and Avedikian families* from Harry N. Darhanian

Mr. & Mrs. Vartkes Egsegian (N.C.)

*In memory of Manoog and Takouhi Giragosian* from Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Studer

**\$10.00**

*In memory of Etvard Vartanian* from Dr. Vartan and Nadine Vartanian (N.C.)

*In memory of parents, Boghos and Turvanda Parseghian; sisters, Makrouhi Parseghian and Mrs. Tenso Goshgarian* from Nevarde Parseghian

*In memory of Kasper B. Bedrosian and Mrs. Lillian H. Saady* from Mrs. June L. Andrews

Mr. Alex Ghazarian

Angela and Andre Basmajian

**\$2.50**

*In memory of father, Apraham Kricorian* from Queenie Kapamacian

# 25th Anniversary Banquet

REGENCY MOTEL

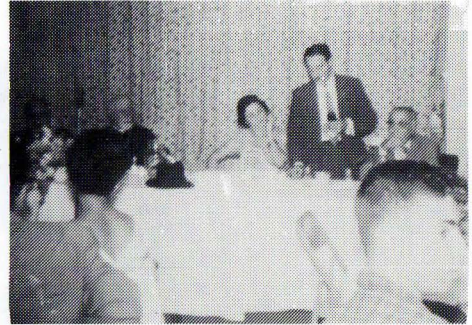
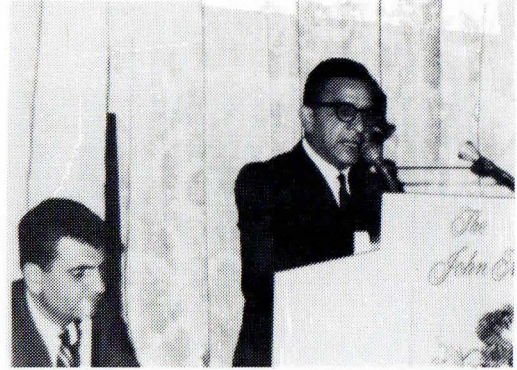


# 25th Anniversary Banquet

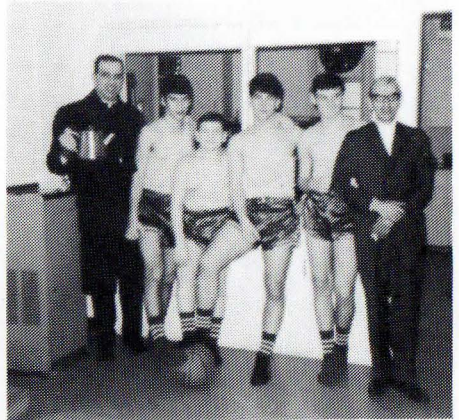
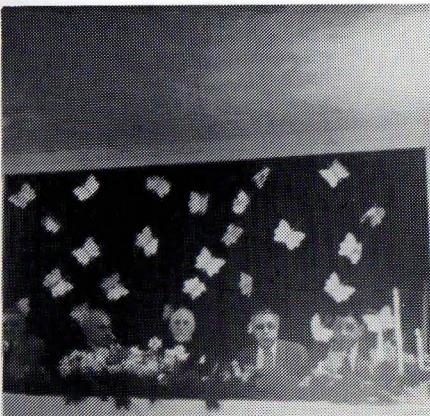
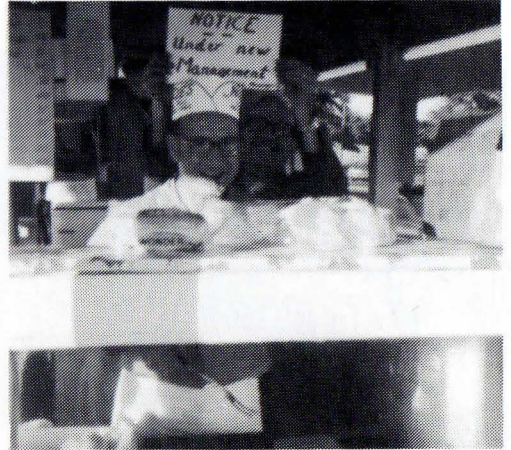
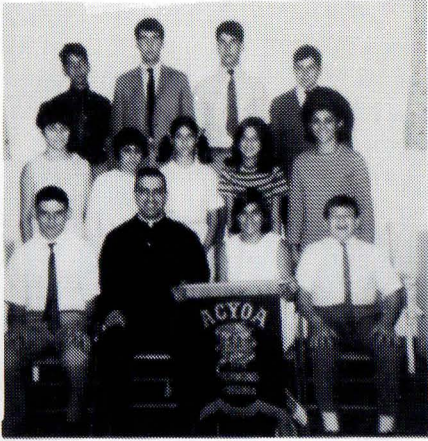
SEPT. 1981



# NOSTALGIA



# NOSTALGIA



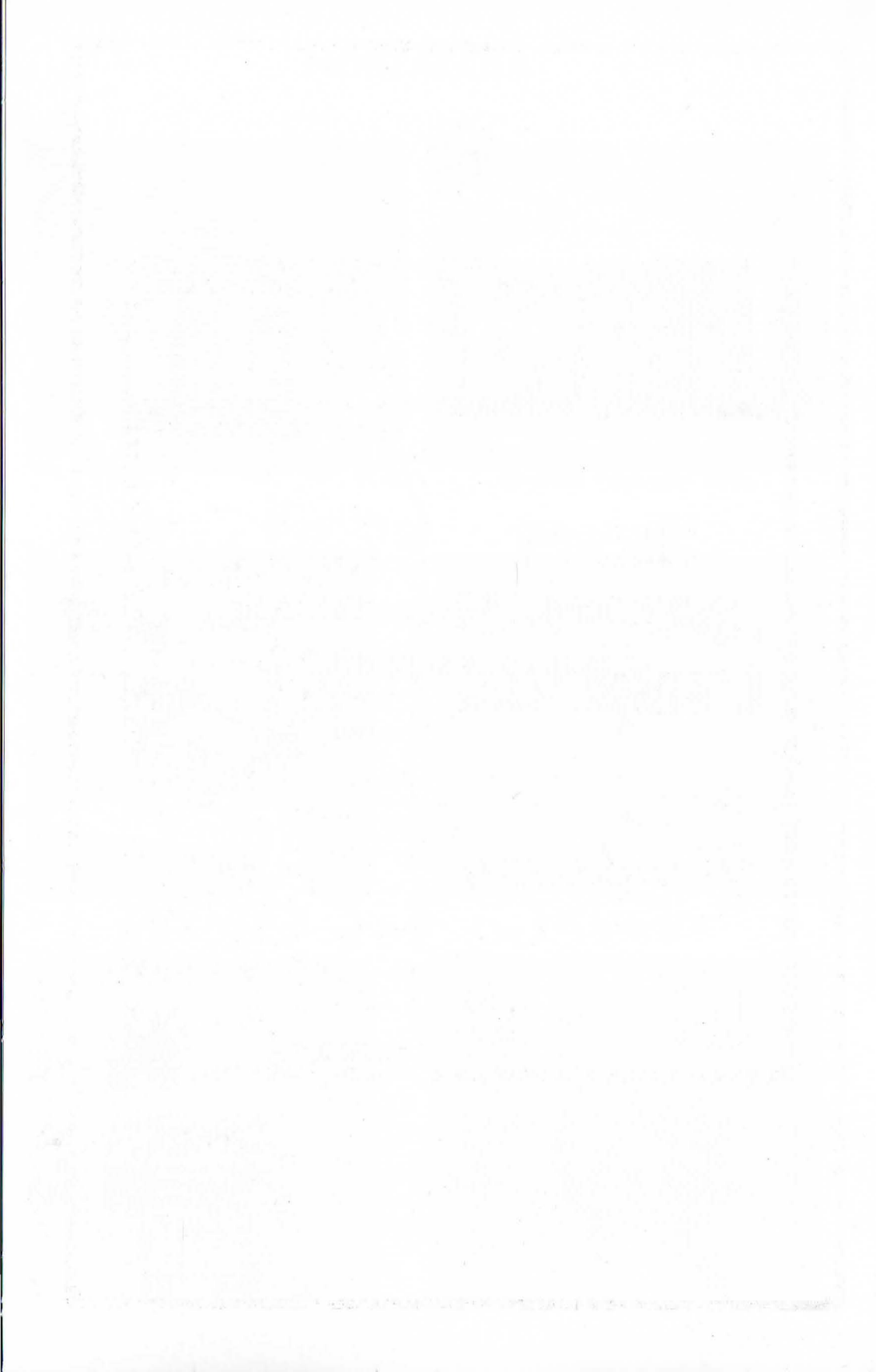
# NOSTALGIA



STATE FAIR - 1972



We thank everyone for their  
generous support.





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In loving memory of my  
beloved husband

NICK BARONIAN

\*\*\*\*

Elizabeth Baronian

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FROM . . . .

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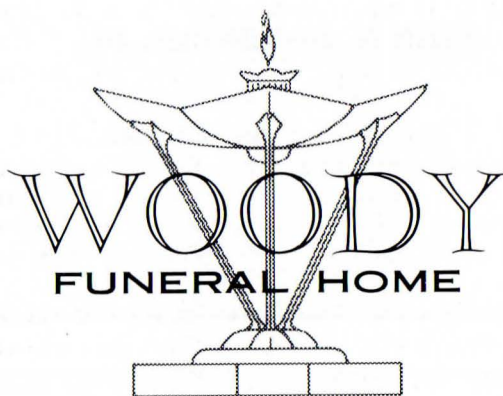
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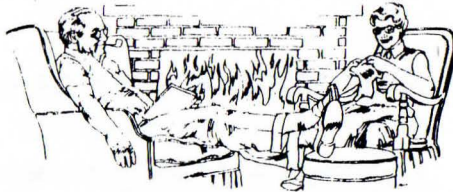
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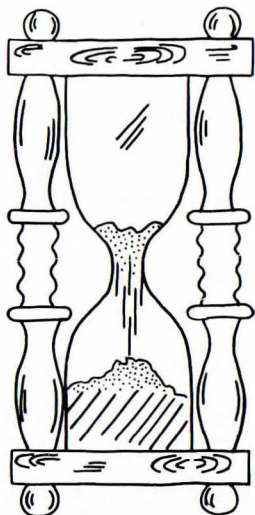
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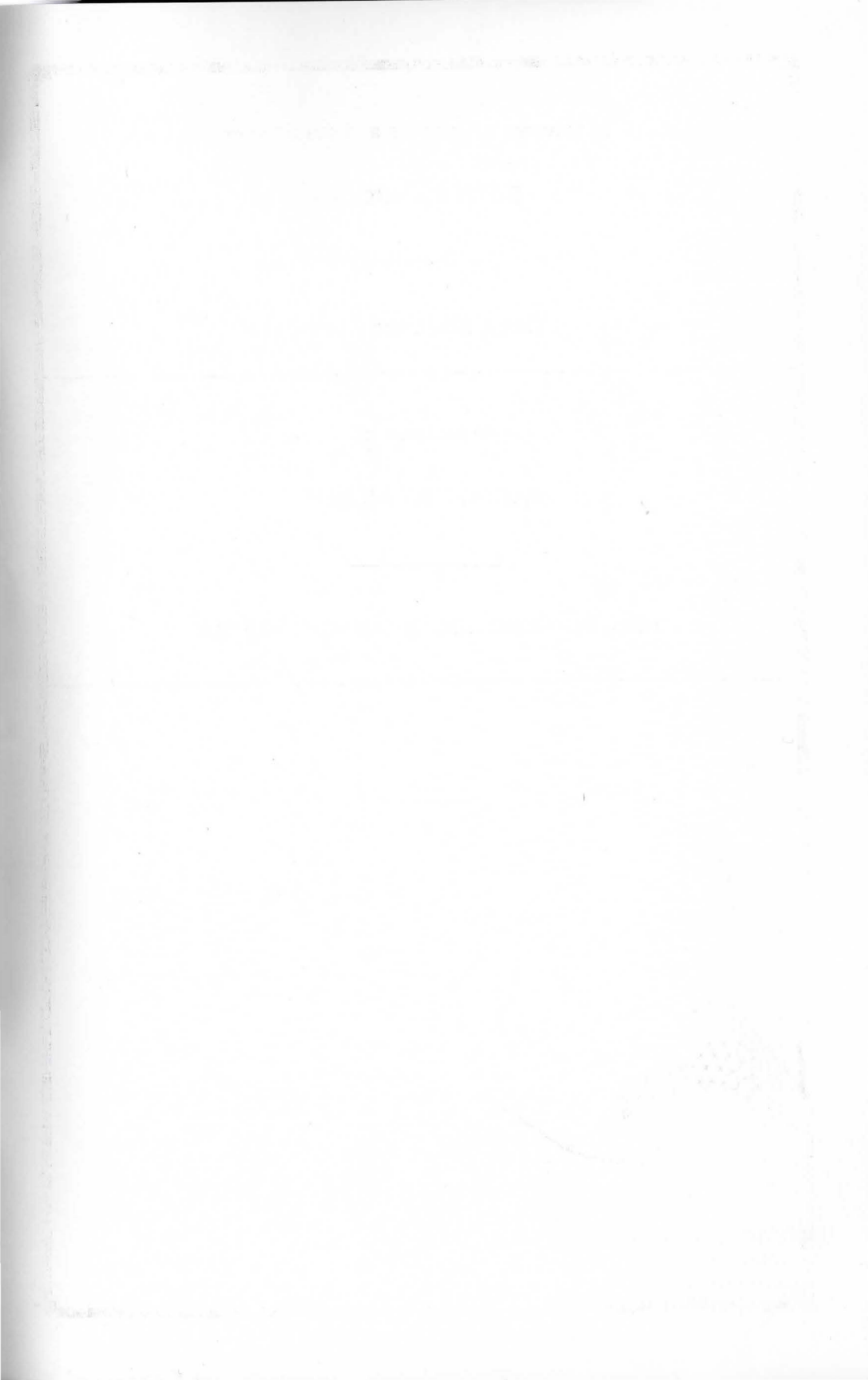
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