TRIBUTE

to

ARTHUR J. HENDRICKSON

DEDICATION

LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD—a phrase older than newsprint — is the most-appropriate expression that the citizens of Valley Stream can use in dedicating this testimonial epitome. To it, however, the Committee would add words of its own—

LOCAL BOY DOES GOOD

That Arthur Hendrickson has made good is evident in the monuments which exist in proof of his enterprise and perseverence: miles of roads, extensive parkways, innumerable bridges, countless public buildings, gigantic airports, — ad infinitum. These will outlive Arthur and all of us; they will project his skill and capacity into generations and possibly centuries yet to come.

That Arthur does good is known by his myriad associates and acquaintances. Vast numbers have been touched by the warmth of his friendship. Many have received the comfort of his advice. His understanding help has wrought hope, relief, recovery, and renewed life to afflicted ones whose faith in and devoted loyalty to him cannot be comprehended in words alone. The intangible monuments of gratitude graven in the hearts of these people give spiritual permanence to

ARTHUR J. HENDRICKSON,

Servant — Benefactor — Philanthropist — Man

Citizens Committee
HARRIET A. FREDERICK
W TOM WARD
Co-Chairmen

ARTHUR J. HENDRICKSON

ARTHUR J. HENDRICKSON was born in Valley Stream, Long Island, New York on September 14, 1892, the son of John C. Hendrickson who also was born here when the locality was known as Foster's Meadows, a wide expanse of farmland and wooded areas watered by many streams and lakes. In the old homestead located behind what is now the modern yard and plant of Hendrickson Bros., Inc., John Hendrickson and his parents lived. Arthur's mother, the former Lilian Pflug who with her family were neighbors of the Hendrickson's, was born in Brooklyn in 1875 when Brooklyn was still an independent city. Her father, a tailor, was the son of German immigrants. Arthur's paternal ancestors had immigrated to this Country from Sweden prior to the American Revolution.

Arthur's father was first a farmer, then a delivery salesman for J. F. Feiron's General Store located at Merrick Road and Central Avenue, and in 1905 founded the contracting and excavating business which eventually became the present Hendrickson Bros., Inc. His total equipment originally consisted of one horse, one set of harness, one wagon, a few shovels, and pickaxes. From its inception, the growth and expansion of the business has kept stride with that of Long Island.

John Hendrickson built the house adjacent to the present Company office, in which house Arthur and his younger brothers were born. After completing grade school education in the local District School No. 13, Arthur attended Southside High School in Rockville Centre, after which he enrolled for a general business course at Browne's Business School in Jamaica. While

still in his teens, he worked for his father and for other contractors such as Pearsall & Johnson of Inwood, Long Island, for whom he was foreman of road construction crews. At the age of twenty-one, he became associated with his father and the firm name was changed to John C. Hendrickson & Son. About 1918, Arthur took over his father's business completely, and with the senior Hendrickson's retirement, the firm became known as the Arthur J. Hendrickson Company. Aided by a small but dependable crew of workers, some of whom are still in his employ, he conducted a thriving excavating and contracting business, digging cellars, clearing land, and supplying sand and gravel. This subsequently expanded into maintenance, reconstruction, grading, and the building of roads.

In 1922, Arthur and his brothers, Frank and Freeman, joined forces and formed the present Hendrickson Bros., Inc. Frank C. Hendrickson became Treasurer, bringing to the reorganized firm the equipment and activities of the successful trucking business which he had started at the age of nineteen. G. Freeman Hendrickson, the youngest of the brothers, who had been in the insurance business and had then served in our Navy, became Secretary of the firm. From these modest beginnings, the business has become one of the largest of its kind in New York State, conducting most of its activities on Long Island.

Married early, at the age of eighteen, Arthur and his wife had one son and three daughters: Milton, who is married and lives in Valley Stream; Ella, who is the wife of George P. Lederle of Southold, Long Island; Eudora, who is Mrs. Howard Hruschka of Throgg's Neck, New York; and Margaret, who married and now lives with her three children in Westchester County, New York.

During the Summer of 1950, Arthur remarried and established residence with his bride, the former Violet Jaffee of Ozone Park, New York, in a new modern, and tastefully appointed home in the Stately Oaks section of Valley Stream. They are now the proud parents of a lovely little daughter, Carolyn Violet, born June 4, 1951.

Hendrickson Bros., Inc. is a family institution in more ways than one. A third generation of Hendricksons has for several years been taking active part in the business. Milton, son of Arthur, literally learned the business from the ground up. At the age of twelve, he worked as a rodman. Schooling completed, his first steady job with the firm was that of fueling operational equip-

ment on the Laurelton Parkway contract. His responsibilities increased to include that of master mechanic, then job superintendent, organizer, and supervisor of the plant shop for repair of equipment. To-day he is the Executive Vice President.

Frank C. Hendrickson, Jr., having completed his studies at Lehigh University, worked on many projects for the firm in various capacities, and then became his father's assistant in the Purchasing Department. He is now in the pivotal position of Purchasing Agent, the important job of procurement of all materials, equipment, and supplies for the many contract commitments of the firm.

John C. Hendrickson, son of Freeman, bears the name of his grandfather. He was educated at Lafayette and Cornell, acquiring a civil engineering degree. He has served as assistant project engineer in the field; he handles engineering costs in addition to many of the other engineering problems. He is at present Chief of Engineering Costs and General Field Superintendent. These three of the third Hendrickson generation are vital proof that the capacity for hard work, the ability to grasp and deal successfully with serious undertakings, and the vision and courage that has shaped our America, is greatly in evidence in the Hendrickson construction dynasty.

The business Arthur heads is a family institution in respect to its ever-growing personnel, for the organization has been kept intact since its inception. Careful planning plus capable and faithful performance has invariably provided a high level of employment. Many of the men now working for the firm have been an integral part of it for as many years as the management itself. Their loyal and skillful support, given whole-heartedly and enthusiastically, has warranted the faith placed in them. Under Arthur Hendrickson's leadership, sound corporate financing, and managerial foresight, there has been a continuing and acute awareness of the importance of the men whose conscientiousness and skill bring all projects to completion. Arthur, known affectionately as the "Boss", enjoys a closeness with his employees that has seldom been rivaled. He rewards their fidelity and loyalty with frequent promotions, greater responsibilities, and attendant increases in pay. Although the firm takes pride in its many old-timers, steady expansion has brought in a healthy flow of new, young blood. New and improved methods and techniques are constantly being sought, developed, and applied.

Steady employment has been a preoccupation of the Boss throughout his entire business and civic life. His cares and worries have often been heightened by the nature of the firm's somewhat seasonal type of operations, causing him to devote considerable thought toward minimizing the need of temporary lay-offs of his men. Although Arthur has a prodigious capacity for work and for getting things done, he well knows the limitations of men and machines. He doesn't expect others to do that which he hasn't done himself, or that which he feels is beyond their capacity. He devotes limitless time to matters which most executives would delegate to others, yet he does not hesitate to depute important work to his subordinates.

Arthur Hendrickson is well respected by his business competitors and is known to them as a man to be reckoned with. The impact of his dictum to the men who carry out his construction projects, to "do as well as the specifications or better", has left its impress on all thinking people. His humanity, even in a business world too often governed by expediency, has been demonstrated times without number, as in this instance of the family expecting another blessed event. Hendrickson Bros.' crews had the entire street open in front of the house in extensive grading operations. Upon hearing about the expectant mother, Arthur immediately had a bridge built enabling the family auto to transport her to the hospital when her time arrived. Or, as on another occasion immediately following Christmas of 1947, when, as many will recall, a very heavy and serious snowfall completely disabled all traffic. Valley Stream was the first to recover and therefore suffered far less than most other communities, because the entire available motorized equipment of Hendrickson Bros., Inc., was used to clear the streets. This was done depite the fact that the equipment could have been utilized far more lucratively.

The close intermeshing of Arthur Hendrickson's family and business relations has its counterpart in his steadfast absorption and participation in the life and affairs of his native community, the focal center of all his thoughts and efforts. Although losses and reverses have often and through circumstance sought to block his path, he has withstood them calmly, rationally, and valiantly. By the same token, as his oldest acquaintances voluntarily agree, his success has never altered his attitude, his understanding, his humbleness, and his philosophy of life.

Like his parents, Arthur is a Methodist. A religious man, he attends his

church, not from a sense of obligation and duty, but rather from a deep inner urge for the benign felicity of spiritual fellowship and the heartfelt desire for the favors and blessings it bestows. He worships in the Grace Methodist Church in Valley Stream and also in Saint John's Methodist Church, Elmont. Through the impressionable days of Arthur's youth, his father read regularly from the Bible; his parents instilled their own religious fervor, habits of prayer, petition and thanksgiving, observance of religious customs, and zeal for religious communal praise. The indwelling light of his religious nature permeates and shines in every facet of his life. He is a citadel of strength and benefaction among his fellow-beings.

Politically, Arthur Hendrickson, an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln, is a Republican. He actively entered politics in 1921 when he was elected Republican County Committeeman from Valley Stream, replacing his father who then retired from politics. Arthur's beloved Valley Stream was at that time seeking to become an incorporated village when, by law, a minimum of 5,000 residents was required. The old-timers vividly recall, and with great humor, the extent to which they scraped the bottom of the barrel to dig up the last few of the necessary number. Throughout these many years Arthur has remained a Committeeman, although for most of them he has been Chairman of the Valley Stream Executive Nassau County Committee. His faith in, and love for his friends and neighbors, which comprise all of Valley Stream, and his inherent quality of self-effacement, have deterred him from seeking higher political positions of wider sphere and influence.

He became Mayor of Valley Stream in 1929 and served until 1932, during a time when nation-wide distress and crisis stalked the land, marauding every village and hamlet. He also served a number of terms as President of the Valley Stream Republican Club, but these positions, although important, were incidental to the party leadership he has occupied in Valley Stream for nearly two decades. In his capacity as Leader, he has been enabled to watch over and care for the well-being, progress, and orderly growth of his Village. Here, without the aura of publicity, which he shuns and avoids; where his home and his business office can also be his political headquarters; where, withdrawn from the public gaze he can alleviate want and distress; where his doors are open to all, irrespective of politics, position, color, creed, sect, or age; where he devotes more time to the public weal than to his own business;—here, like

a mother hen watching over and scratching incessantly and everywhere for her brood; Arthur Hendrickson has maintained his stand.

In the Village of Valley Stream, perhaps none will say that Arthur Hendrickson publicly was the mainspring in the initiation of any particular improvement; yet a great many firmly hold to the opinion that his encouragement, his wise counsel, and at times his urging, were the basic forces resulting in many of the improvements and conveniences which have benefited the people of the community. His leadership has had the loyal endorsement of his townsmen, and the respect and recognition of party executives throughout the State. Down the years, there has been no dissonance, no discord; his leadership has seldom been contested. There has been no thought of replacement, because in every respect he has measured up to the job.

As becomes a born leader, he has been called upon to make decisions for many in every avenue of life. The extraordinary influence he wields is unostentatious. He acts discreetly and unobtrusively, yet he does not hesitate to come forward when the exigency demands. Time and time again, after exhaustive debate by others in exploration of a weighty problem, it has been his custom to take the floor firmly and forcefully to outline a convincing and conclusive plan of action. His has not been the narrow leadership of a bitter and rancorous partisan. Even the opposition has, within more than reasonable bounds, been satisfied with his policies. His measure in providing jobs is the need of the recipient. Political purposes have never been the paramount concern and, irrespective of need, he has never placed a person in a job unless capable and qualified. After faithful service, he has never discharged a person from a job, but rather found one in which the aging or physically declining person could serve without foisting the cost of inability or incompetence upon the taxpayers.

Arthur Hendrickson is regarded by the officials of local government as a civic-minded native son, because he has contributed so much to advance the economic, social, and cultural well-being of Valley Stream. He is known and respected by an ever-widening circle of high government officials as a builder of great projects that contribute prodigiously to the public welfare. He is cherished by key men in his political party because of his harmonious leadership in South Shore politics. To-day, he can look with pride on a village

numbering about 32,000 residents, with twenty election districts, and with a reputation for consistently producing the largest number of votes of any village in the State.

In over twenty years, Arthur Hendrickson has taken only two real vacations. Work is his essence. Giving of himself to others has been his frame of reference, his mode of self-expression, his vocation and avocation, his consuming interest, his reason for being. His one hobby finds expression in his love of horses. In the earlier days of his contracting career, his teams of draft horses were of the finest. Even when horse-drawn equipment became obsolete, Arthur continued to maintain a riding stable. His favorite riding horse, Starlight, was a familiar sight in the community. Red Mack, another favorite, was a show horse and blue ribbon winner. Years ago when Curtis Field in Valley Stream was being built in 1929, he found the excuse to indulge this hobby by combining it with his work. There are many who recall his delight in galloping his horse back and forth and around the field, using this method to supervise his crews at grading and construction. He also loves music and joins lustily, at times, in song. But for an injury to the tip of one of his fingers, he would probably still be playing the violin, at which he had become quite proficient.

Among his clubs and fraternities, Arthur lists membership in the New York Athletic Club, the Kiwanis Club of Valley Stream, Lynbrook Lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Rockville Centre Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, and Valley Stream Lodge of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. He has long held dual membership in Brooklyn Lodge and Lynbrook Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, is a Thirty Second Degree Mason by virtue of his membership in Long Island Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Rockville Centre, is a member of Kismet Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and a member of the Thirty Second Club of Valley Stream. Unlisted in his associations are the children's camps, the youth organizations, the hospitals, churches, and the underprivileged to whom he gives more of his interest, his time, his thought, and his substance.

The high regard, the deep esteem, the lasting affection, and the abiding faith of the host of Arthur Hendrickson's friends can best be expounded through the biblical definition of the modern word *charity*, but which in

ancient times bordered on our word *love*—

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels — and though I understand all mysteries and all knowledge — and though I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. Charity sufferech long and is kind; charity envieth not, charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up — seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked — hopeth all things, endureth all things." Charity, that ineffable virtue of loving all men as brothers because we are all the children of one Father, is the abiding quality and embodiment that characterizes the life of Arthur J. Hendrickson. In his humility, he is awed by the loyalty, faith, and love so generously accorded him, and which in turn creates in him an even deeper sense of obligation. The days of his years have been dedicated to the service of others. The story of his works and achievements, the narrative of his altruistic benevolences, must be recorded because they are an honorable and indwelling part of the life of his native community, and as such deserve to be treasured and preserved. Politics, religion, and social position have never made a difference in Arthur's distribution of his bounty. In the majority of instances, his help in all conceivable, numberless, and diverse ways remains undisclosed because of his wish to avoid embarrassment to the recipients. It is axiomatic of Arthur to work quietly and well. It is small wonder that some instances of his assistance eventually become known despite his precautions, although usually by accident, but seldom in their entirety. His good deeds are an integral part of the man himself, of his daily life, and are accomplished in his inimitable manner. They constitute a seamless web of good works which are unheralded by the beneficiaries because of their intimate, personal nature.

Arthur J. Hendrickson is in his prime. His best years lie ahead of him. They hold a bright promise of things to come. All of the many who call him neighbor and friend, who hold him in such high esteem because of his charity, patience, wisdom, and courage, voice these sentiments—

"Who loves his country will not rest content with vow and pledge alone,
But flies her banner in his breast and counts her destiny his own—
Not only when the bugle plays, stands forth to give his life for her,
But on the field of common days is strong to live his life for her.
He is not satisfied to claim as heritage her power and her fame,
But, striving, earns the right to wear the shining honor of her name."

Hendrickson Bros., Inc.

Presently obtainable records of the Hendrickson family indicate that the Great Grandfather of Arthur, Frank and Freeman Hendrickson, one Charles Hendrickson, with his wife Mary, started farming in the very early 1800's on the very property where Hendrickson Bros., Inc. Equipment Storage Yard and Maintenance buildings are located in Valley Stream.

Charles and Mary had twelve children, the fifth of whom was Joseph, born in 1840. Joseph married Drucilla Smith and continued to farm the property. They had seven children, the third child of whom was John Corner Hendrickson.

John Corner wed Lillian Pflug who bore him three sons - Arthur, Frank and Freeman, born in 1892, 1895 and 1900, respectively. John continued farming on the homesite until 1905 when he went into the contracting business. He hired himself and his teams to the local municipalities primarily for road repair and maintenance. He also engaged in cellar excavations as what was considered a "building boom" was in progress.

His eldest son, Arthur, worked with him and also had his own team and excavation equipment and hired out to other contractors. The next son, Frank, worked for his father for awhile but, at the age of nineteen, decided that trucking business was more lucrative and bought his first truck, a used Ford. He had contracts for hauling everything from brewer's grain to oysters. The youngest son, Freeman, decided he would see the world before settling down. He joined the Navy at an early age and served aboard a transport and the USS KANSAS in both the Atlantic and the Pacific.

In 1918, Arthur took over his father's business and in 1922, after Freeman returned from the Navy, the three brothers pooled their talents and assets and Hendrickson Bros., Inc. was born.

Arthur had married Eudora Gillen, Frank; Myrtle Keller and Freeman; Margaret O'Shea. Each of the brothers was blessed with one son. Arthur; Milton A, Frank; Frank C., Jr., and Freeman; John C. Each of the sons upon reaching the age where they could carry a pail or weild a shovel, joined their fathers in their endeavors.

As Long Island grew, so did they. Today, Hendrickson Bros., Inc. is listed among the first fifty of the largest contracting firms in the U.S.A. Their achievements in construction have become landmarks on Long Island. The members of the firm have some sense of pride in their accomplishments but none as great as that which they have in their achievements in behalf of

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