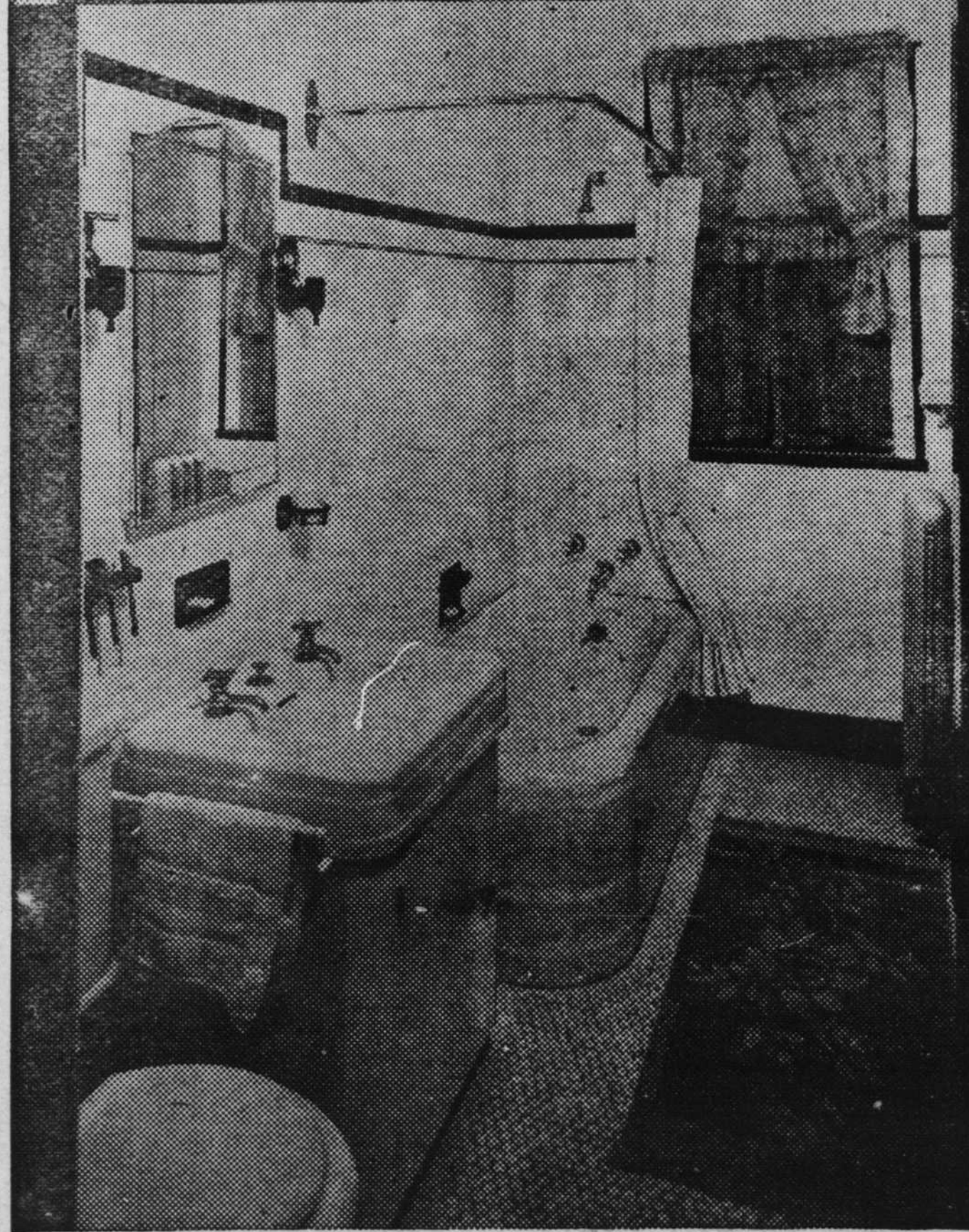
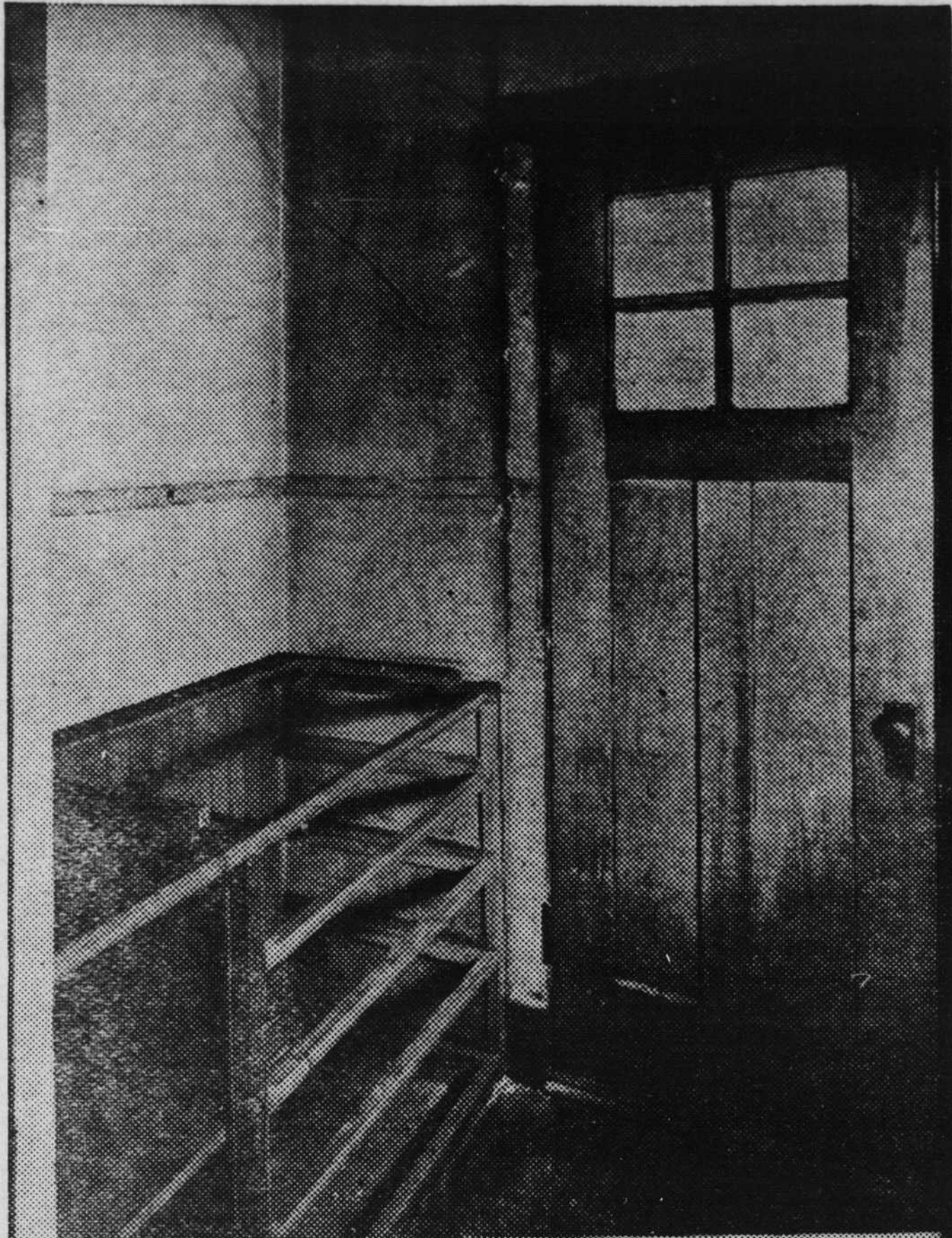


A Modernization "Miracle"



The pictures above furnish a convincing illustration of the possibilities of modernization. In the "Before" view a neglected, dingy rear hallway is shown. This space served no functional purposes and was neither adequately lighted nor heated.

PERSONALITIES IN MUSIC
 JOHN TASKER HOWARD, A.S.C.A.P.

A Musical Nationalist



By Daniel I. McNamara

JOHN TASKER HOWARD, A.S.C.A.P., interpreter of current trends in American musical culture, occupies an outstanding position among contemporary men of music. Author, composer, pianist, lecturer, radio speaker, he constantly reveals a spirited nationalism born of pride in the achievements of native American musicians.

His zeal for historical accuracy has made him a storm-center of numerous controversies. It was his personal effort that finally settled the dispute over the birthplace of Stephen Foster, and indicated the restored musical shrine at Pittsburgh as the building that really cradled the great American composer. Similarly he dispelled the myth of Foster's having written "My Old Kentucky Home" in Bardstons, Kentucky.

His encyclopedic work, "Our American Music," and his biographies of Stephen Foster and of Ethelbert Nevin are permanent contributions to the library of American standard literature. His musical compositions include orchestral and choral music, organ and piano pieces, songs, the music for Percy MacKaye's folk-masque, "Wakefield," and many arrangements of early American songs used in his radio broadcasts and lectures.

Born November 30, 1890, in Brooklyn, New York, grand nephew of a namesake who founded Plymouth Church of Henry Ward Beecher fame, Howard first studied music with his mother. He left Williams College after three and one-half years, before he completed work for his Bachelor's degree. In 1937 the College conferred on him an honorary degree of Master of Arts.

Brief experience in commerce convinced Howard that music was his life work. He occupied editorial posts with musical publications, then began lecturing and radio

work, and the writing of books and biographical pamphlets.

His "Our American Music" is a standard reference work in schools and colleges. His library in his Glen Ridge, New Jersey, home is rich with rare historical documents bearing on the development of music in America.

Howard's enthusiasm for modern music is stimulated by his associations in the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, of which he has been a member for many years. More than one thousand creators of music are included in this organization, founded in 1914 by Victor Herbert to protect the performing rights of its members' musical works.

Howard's writing and radio broadcasts are prepared with meticulous care. "Hard writing makes easy reading" is his motto. He has found that for each minute on the air, he spends an hour in preparation.

Howard has five enthusiasms—he lists his family first (he personally teaches his daughter piano); then come contract bridge, golf, crossword puzzles and his cocker spaniel, "Tucky," an abbreviation of "My Old Kentucky Home." But the driving force of his life is his nationalism, his work for recognition of American composers.

Music Features & Photo Syndicate

Try Las Vegas Age Job Department