

Evangelist Impressed Landlords

By Ken Zimmerman

Mark Evans is a night-club entertainer; Thomas E. Beckman is, he says, a bishop of the Universal Life Churches of America.

The two names are both used by a man, recently of Omaha, who was subpoenaed Friday by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison as a witness in an investigation covering an alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy November 22, 1963.

"It was a real shock to me," said Mrs. Burd Yager when she learned of the New Orleans action.

Mrs. Yager and her husband manage a building at 1727 Leavenworth Street where Mr. Beckham conducted Sunday church services until shortly before Christmas.

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Polished

She described Mr. Beckham as a "real polished fellow who seemed to know quite a bit about everything."

She said he first came to the place last spring and

rented the corner store as a "thrift shop" where used merchandise was sold.

"He wasn't making a go of it," Mrs. Yager said, "and he asked us if he could put in a church. That seemed like a fine thing and we let him stay there and didn't charge him any rent.

"The neighborhood needed a church," she said.

She said Mr. Beckham's "congregation" was "never more than a half a dozen people. They were folks who live near by."

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New Address

A sign in the window now states that the church has been moved to 5314 North Forty-eighth Street and that transportation will be furnished "mmebers here every Sunday."

The Forty-eighth Street address is that most recently used as Mr. Beckham's home. He was interviewed there Friday by a World-Herald reporter.

In addition to his religious work and night club entertaining, Mr. Beckham

claims to be an "institutional psychologist."

He has marketed a mail-order course in "drugless therapeutics." It is published under the name of the American Academy of Professional Arts.

Mr. Yager said he was given a free copy of the "course."

He said he was also made an "honorary attorney general" in Louisiana "through Dr. Beckham's influential contacts in New Orleans."

He described the handsome Southerner as "very personable, soft-spoken and cultured."

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Pilot, Too

"He's a pilot, too," Mrs. Yager said. "In fact, I think he's done just about everything—at least he says he has."

She said he had seen his engraved diplomas and documents.

"He's real sharp," she said. "In fact, I think he's one of the smartest men I ever met."