Severely crippled by rheumatoid arthritis, Dr. Francis H. McMechan (right) and his wife Laurette sent a Western Union Telegram at 11:32 on the morning of October 17, 1930. Addressed to “Dr A F Erdmann, Secy New York Anesthetists Meeting,” the communication relayed the “Congratulations of a Charter Member on Silver Jubilee and hope for Golden Anniversary STOP Regret illness prevents attendance STOP Friendly remembrances to the best of friends from The McMeachams” [sic]. Founded by Dr. Adolph F. “Fred” Erdmann (left) in 1905, the Long Island Society of Anesthetists had changed its name to the New York Society of Anesthetists in 1911 and by 1930 was celebrating its 25th anniversary. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the Anesthesiology Reflections online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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