

FULTON COUNTY HONORS POET THOMAS FLANAGAN

By PRENTIS ROGERS

Acclaimed poet and artist, the Rev. Thomas Jefferson Flanagan, was given a resolution of commendation by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on June 13.

"I was never more delightfully surprised," said Dr. Flanagan, who has been writing a poetry column for the Atlanta Daily World for nearly as long as the 50-year-old existence of the publication itself.

The citation was but another in the long list of awards and accolades the minister, poet and artist has received since his first attention grabbed a rural painting called "Fishing on Course" at the Atlanta Art Show in 1957.

Flanagan, currently pastor of St. John A.M.E. church in West Atlanta, was the builder of Antioch A.M.E. Church in Decatur, a district he presided over for 14 years, and was attending the Atlanta North-Georgia A.M.E. Conference when the Fulton Co. resolution was given to him.

"I was given a rousing ovation," the presiding elder in the A.M.E. Church said modestly.

The resolution read:

"Whereas, THOMAS JEFFERSON FLANAGAN, is recognized throughout Atlanta, Georgia and the nation for his poetry; and

"Whereas Thomas Jefferson Flanagan, has received many awards and citations for his art and poetry, "Who is Who in Georgia Letters" and the John Hope Landscape Award in 1957 from Atlanta University; and

"Whereas, Thomas Jefferson Flanagan, has served his fellow citizens

through his service as a Minister and Presiding Elder of the A.M.E. Church in Georgia, and

"Whereas, Thomas Jefferson Flanagan, has inspired the young and elderly alike through his continuing column in the Atlanta Daily World.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County that we commend and congratulate Thomas Jefferson Flanagan for his many achievements on behalf of mankind, this 13th day of June, 1978."