



Knight Templar

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GEORGE WASHINGTON
A Distinguished Master Mason



Knight Templar



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JOHN TEMPLE RICE, Grand Recorder

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DAROLD T. FLEMING, Editor

P. O. Box 477, GREENFIELD, INDIANA

GRAND MASTER HAS WORDS OF PRAISE FOR SIR KNIGHT JOHN LAWTON CROFTS, SR., AND TEMPLAR PARK

In 1951, our Most Eminent Grand Master, Sir Knight Robert B. Gaylord, named me in his General Order No. 2 to act as his Personal Representative to visit the Grand Commandery of Iowa at their Annual Conclave to be held at Templar Park, Iowa. At that time Sir Knight John L. Crofts, Sr. was Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

A short time after General Order No. 2 was published, I received a nice letter from Sir Knight Crofts extending to me a personal invitation to visit the Grand Commandery of Iowa and he gave me directions on the best way to travel to reach Templar Park. I was to leave Chicago by train in the evening and go to Spencer, Iowa, where we arrived quite early the next morning. When the train arrived at Spencer, I found John on the platform of the depot waiting for me with his car, and he welcomed me to the State of Iowa. The first act of kindness to me was seeing that I was served with a delicious breakfast featuring foods that Iowa is noted for.

After breakfast, we left Spencer in John's car for Templar Park which was several miles away. It was a fine summer morning and the ride was just one round of pleasure. It was my first visit to Iowa. I had heard a great deal of the fine farms they had in Iowa and the great crops which they produced. When we came to a large corn field, I ask John to stop the car so I could get a better

(Continued on page 10)

Sir Knight John Lawton Crofts, Sr., Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo

By Sir Knight Burt DuVall Pearson, P.G.C., Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Religious Observance, and Editor and Manager of the Mesabi Daily News, Virginia, Minnesota.



JOHN LAWTON CROFTS, SR.

Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

"The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa proudly presents . . . Sir Knight John Lawton Crofts, Sr."

Thus sponsored, and in these auspices joined by the Grand Jurisdictions of South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota, Florida and Indiana, Sir Knight Crofts

was elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America at the 48th Triennial Conclave of the Order held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Richly endowed in all of the attributes so needful in those given inflexible chal-

(Continued on next page)

lunge to meet and discharge duty nobly in great causes, Sir Knight Crofts joins the Grand Encampment Line at a climatic juncture in the annals of this body of Christian Masons whose fealty to Cross and Country is absolute.

This honor and weighty responsibility, thus conferred, became his as a recognition of clear talents unstintingly and unceasingly evidenced through fruitful years devoted to strengthening the Order in all of its constituent and subordinate parts, even to the echelons of Grand Jurisdictions and the Grand Encampment. His service has been a dedicated one.

Manifestly, much is expected of Sir Knight Crofts in his new and expanded role. The exigencies of the times—these are fateful days—are an unequivocal invitation to Templary that it be stirred to its roots, and its members charged to go into the highways and byways for recruits and candidates who are willing to be enrolled in the task and crusade of saving the nation for its appointed rendezvous with destiny.

Sir Knight Crofts has not been content merely to be a member of the Order. Immediately after being knighted in Bruce Commandery No. 34, Knights Templar, in Red Oak, Iowa, he put on the buckler and took up the sword, moving into militant action. His year as Eminent Commander of this Commandery was eventful and rewarding. Iowa Sir Knights began to take notice.

In 1951-52, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa saluted him as its Right Eminent Grand Commander. His stature was conceded, and his availability for continued service for Templary was noted in other Grand Jurisdictions. Sir Knight Crofts was coming into his own.

Of him, a close friend and compatriot in Templary, Sir Knight Ross J. Camblin, authored the following comment which appeared in the proceedings of

the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa (1951-1952):

"The long and illustrious list of those who have presided over the destinies of the Grand Commandery of Iowa contains the name of none more genuinely imbued with the spirit of Knighthood than John Lawton Crofts.

"Scrupulously honest in his dealings with his fellowmen; firm in his convictions, yet considerate of those who hold other opinions; ever ready to oppose wrong and oppression, but swift to relieve want and distress; sound of judgment, but not inclined to force his conclusions upon others; kind and gentle by nature, but stern and firm when occasion requires; retiring and modest—he is an exemplification of Christian Knighthood. . . . He is a man for whom his church need make no apology; a man to whom his community may point as an honorable and upright citizen; a workman, of whom we, as Masons and Knights Templar, need not be ashamed."

In the Triennium period of 1952-1955, Sir Knight Crofts was the Right Eminent Department Commander of the North Central Department of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, an appointment on merit made by the late Sir Knight William Catron Gordon, then the Most Eminent Grand Master.

During the sessions of the 47th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 16 to 22, 1958, inclusive, Sir Knight Crofts filled the office of Right Eminent Grand Junior Warden by appointment of Sir Knight Walter Allen DeLamater, Most Eminent Grand Master in the period of 1955-1958.

In addition, Sir Knight Crofts has served and continues to serve on important committees of the Grand Encampment as well as on committees of the

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa. Although presently residing in Nokomis, Florida, in which area he has business interests, Sir Knight Crofts maintains a summer retreat at Templar Park, Spirit Lake, Iowa. He holds fast to his Blue Lodge and York Rite Masonic memberships in Red Oak, Iowa. In all of these he has filled office and place, including assignments in the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M., and the Grand Council, R. & S. M.

Sir Knight Crofts was born in Neenah, Wisconsin, June 23, 1909, the son of the late Stuart William and Frances Lawton Crofts, pioneer and rugged forebears. Soon after Sir Knight Crofts' birth, the family moved to the State of Washington, taking up a homestead near Metaline, in the extreme northeastern section, later moving to Los Angeles, where the subject of this writing finished high school before he was 16 years old.

Working in the building trades for three years, Sir Knight Crofts saved up the needed monies to finance a college education. In due time, he was graduated from the University of California (in 1933) with a B. A. degree. He went from college into public accounting, moving to Red Oak, Iowa, to form an association with The Thos. D. Murphy Company, nationally-known publisher of calendars and art advertising, serving the firm in several capacities in the climb to secretary and treasurer. He sold his interest in the business and resigned in 1952 in order to devote his time to personal pursuits and investments.

Sir Knight Crofts was united in marriage to Miss Frances Marian Cochrane, daughter of the late State Senator William and Myrtle Cochrane, Red Oak, Iowa, one of the old-line families of the community.

Sir Knight and Mrs. Crofts have a son, John Lawton Crofts, Jr., a graduate of Kentucky Military Institute (Louisville, Kentucky, and Venice, Florida), and presently a pre-medical student at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. All are ardent and active members of the Methodist Church and all share a common love for Templary and all its works and ideals.

Sir Knight Crofts is now a member of the Valley of Tampa, Florida, A. A. S. R., having demitted from the Valley of Des Moines, Iowa. Formerly a member of Za-Ga-Zig Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., Des Moines, he is now affiliated with Egypt Temple, Tampa. He is a Past Preceptor of Last Supper Tabernacle, K. T. P., and a Past Sovereign of St. Ignatius Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He holds dual membership in Miami Conclave, Miami, Florida.

Other fraternal organizations with Masonic ties hold Sir Knight Crofts' membership and his keen interest. He is an Advisor and District Deputy of DeMolay. To his church, he and his family give so marked a devotion that it is the delight of the pastor and the congregation. He is presently Chairman of the Commission of Stewardship and Finance of the Venice-Nokomis Methodist Church.

Sir Knight Crofts will travel any distance and go anywhere to advance the cause of Templary. His affection for the Order and his concept of duty to it are the hall mark of a Sir Knight who is on fire in its cause and that of the Christian Church and who gives to his country a full measure of fidelity. Of this fibre is Sir Knight John Lawton Crofts, Sr. He would build, serve and achieve through Templary and the Christian Church.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

By Sir Knight John L. Crofts, Sr., Grand Generalissimo

In this first message to the host of Templars, since assuming the duties of elective office, one thought demands expression: that we try to describe our personal feeling for you Templars and our thankfulness for our association with you. Surely, there must be something of our association with you. Surely, there must be something of the same spirit which inspired the apostle **Paul** to write to the Christians of Philippi, "I thank God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Or, in the newer expression of Bob Hope, "Thanks for the memories!"

So far as we know, we humans are the only kind of God's creatures permitted to live now in the world of the past,—the World of Memory. What a great gift! Thus, we may recall and enjoy again the wonderful personal contacts within the Templar Order, which have been such a rich reward and inspiration. We may remember the pleasures of small gifts to others and their great kindness to us in return, in our work at home and in visits to almost half of the Divisions of Grand Encampment.

Also, so far as we know, we humans are the only kind permitted to live in the world of the future,—the World of Hope. **Paul continued**, "And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all par-

takers with me of grace. . . ." The World of Hope is an enchanting land. There is not only the hope of eventual joy; there is also the hope of future accomplishment, so that we may convert our dreams into pleasant memories, but we are called to do more than daydream. Our contemplation of the future should involve both purpose and planning.

We appreciate the heritage of useful purpose, as well as the legacy of faith, unity, and zeal, which has come to us from the ancient Orders. We appreciate the sound platform of the Masonic landmarks and Christian principles. We appreciate the role of the Templar Order, which, alone of all Masonic bodies with an "open door," perpetuates the Christian character of the early Freemasons. Why? Because we realize that these endowments have placed us, as an organization, in a position of great opportunity.

Yes, I could be greatly **interested** in the Templar Order simply because of its great historical record. But, I am **devoted** to our Order because I am convinced that we are in a fortunate position of great opportunity for service to others, both within and without our Order. The greatest deeds and greatest days of the Templars may well be in the future. If we can be stimulated sufficiently as we think of our Order in its future potential, then our deeds in the present will be worthy of the thanksgiving of those who follow us.

We come, then, to the world of the present, the World of Action,—the World of Opportunity. Opportunity to

activate the World of Hope. Opportunity to create the World of Memory.

Sir Knights, it is a satisfaction beyond expression to be a part of the dynamic program of the Most Eminent Grand Master, Sir Knight Paul Miller Moore. Most of us have not been informed previously of this, but for a period of months our Grand Master invited the opinions of Templar leaders, and all of these were made available to the elected officers. A conference was called, which involved as many Templar leaders as available funds would allow. A program was formulated, which has been given some publicity, and of which you will hear more. Through his leadership, we have a real team operation. Our objectives are defined: (1) to bring the "image" of our Order into sharp focus, as a defender of the Christian religion, and as an Order which is concerned for the needs of others, and (2) to serve this purpose with effective action. To effect this action, we see as **primary needs**:

To close ranks. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder, the baldric knight with those wearing the green and the red and the super-red and the purple and the super-purple shoulder straps. Only our assignments are different. Our purpose and objectives are identical.

To increase communication. The Order is full of men of high ideals, imagination, ability, and devotion. Their ideas must be shared at an accelerated rate. Essential tools: (1) the Knight Templar magazine, (2) committees, (3) conferences, and (4) public relations.

To plan programs. We must be diligent in the indoctrination of new recruits, both by ritual and otherwise. We must plan to satisfy the social and

intellectual needs of our members. We must satisfy our Christian calling by an outgoing community interest, especially in the fields of religion, education, charity, and good government. The expression of these interests will be various, and limited only by Masonic and Christian principles.

To increase membership. We must grow in numbers as well as in activity. We can overcome the factors of attrition and provide the essential of growth, in the average situation, most effectively by the work and leadership of a committee on membership.

To take the positive approach. In all of our problems and programs, it is best to "accentuate the positive." Thus, problems become opportunities.

To understand the importance of the constituent commandery. It must be realized that gains in membership, activity, program—growth and advancement—come only within and by the efforts of a commandery. The individual commandery thus assumes paramount importance, and likewise a demanding responsibility to the whole of our Templar Order.

With these Templar objectives and primary needs in mind, let us carry out our various Templar duties in the World of Action. Let us remember that we are not only giving effect to the World of Hope, but also from day to day creating the World of Memory. Join me in praying that in time to come all of us may say, "Thanks for the Memories."

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Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service, 1962

Arrangements are in progress for the Thirty-second Annual Arlington Easter Sunrise Memorial Service sponsored by the Grand Encampment, K. T., of the United States of America. The Service will be held in the Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery on April 22, 1962, at 7:30 a. m.

For the thirty-second consecutive year Sir Knights from all sections of the country will march from the west gate of the Cemetery to the Amphitheater, led by the martial music of the famous United States Marine Band. The speaker on this occasion will be The Reverend G. Mason Cochran, D. D., Right Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, K. T., and the United States Army Chorus will participate.

All Grand Commanderies have been invited by invitation extended through the Grand Commanders and Grand Records to have delegations make a pilgrimage to Washington for this inspiring event. The weather should be ideal and the Committee is expecting many delegations of Sir Knights and their ladies.

Requests have already been made for rooms to accommodate the Sir Knights from those who have annually made this pilgrimage, and it is hoped that many jurisdictions will again be represented this year.

The Service will conclude with the placing of the traditional "Cross of Lilies" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers by the Most Eminent Grand Master. In all Templary there is no more soul-inspiring sight than this occasion, accompanied by the sweet strains of music by the United States Marine Band.

The Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia will sponsor the usual breakfast at 9:00 a. m. at the Willard Hotel, which offers a fitting climax to the Easter Sunrise Service, for which tickets may be obtained through the Easter Sunrise Committee.

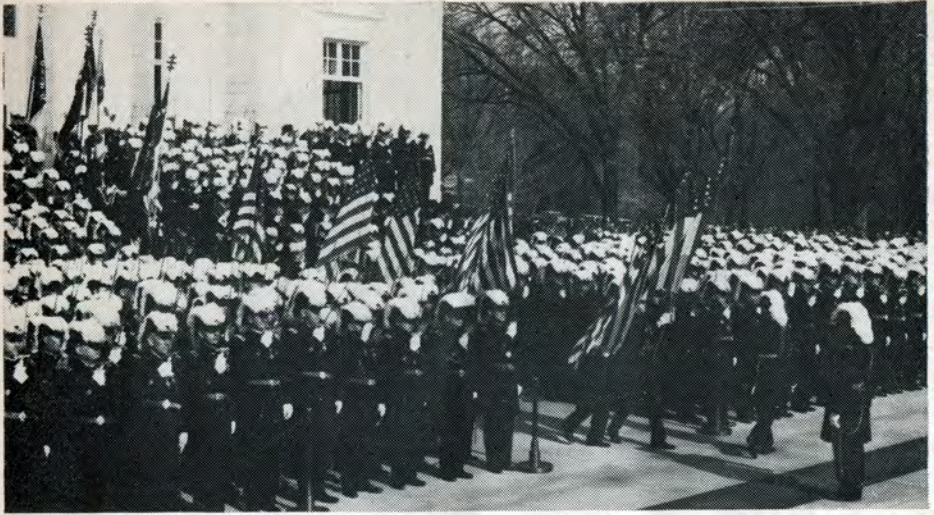
Further information may be obtained from the Chairman—

RAYMOND N. BABCOCK,

Masonic Temple, 801 13th St., N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.



View of the Amphitheater in Arlington Cemetery.



Sir Knights Preparing for the Ceremony of Placing of Cross of Lilies at Tomb of Unknown Soldiers by the Most Eminent Grand Master of Templars.

Templary's Purpose

By Sir Knight Burt D. Pearson, P.G.C. (Virginia, Minnesota)
Committee on Religious Observance, Chairman

Templary's declared purpose that the United States shall have a rebirth of patriotism, religion, morality and fiscal integrity will remain only a pious objective unless it is translated into affirmative action by Sir Knights and their households wherever in this nation dispersed.

The challenge is presented to all of us to stand up and be counted on the right side of every question.

We have an America to protect and defend. It is an America which in the dream-vision of the founders was to give special privilege to none and equal opportunity to all. It is an axiom of life and law that every privilege gained by an individual or group carries with it grave responsibility, duty.

Knights Templar must give more than lip service to the task of stemming the stampede away from responsibility currently prevailing in our country.

Let us apply ourselves diligently to our common obligations to the end that we shall effectively promote those principles which, raised high by the Founding Fathers, have reared us a great and commanding power for good.

May we so accept our covenants to Templary and to the United States that this country of ours, this land of exceeding beauty which was divinely born for glory, shall continue to be a brilliant beacon of encouragement and faith to tried and troubled souls everywhere.

Let us work and pray to keep this nation, our America, strong and free. It is God's mandate.

JOHN LAWTON CROFTS, SR.

(Continued from Page 2)

look at the Iowa corn and I would hardly believe my eyes as I looked at the tall stocks and large heavy ears on them.

After a very pleasant drive, we reached Templar Park. I had heard a great deal about Templar Park which the Grand Commandery of Iowa had built and of its beauty and I found that what I had heard had not been exaggerated. When we arrived I saw the large pavilion in which they hold their annual Conclaves and the large hotel where they entertain their guests, I found I had been told only a little of the story of Templar Park. Some of the Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Iowa and other Sir Knights had built summer homes at Templar Park located on the bank of Spirit Lake.

In the afternoon the guests began to arrive from the surrounding Grand Jurisdictions and I was surprised and pleased at the number of guests attending their Annual Conclave.

As soon as the Grand Commandery of Iowa was convened, I learned and saw the planning that Grand Commander Crofts had carried out to entertain his visitors and I heard many words of respect and kind remarks the Sir Knights from the other Grand Jurisdictions had to say about the Grand Commander of Iowa, especially about the ability of Sir Knight Crofts. I appreciate more today, the fine remarks the Sir Knights present at Templar Park on the occasion of their Annual Conclave in 1951, had to make about our present Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo, than I had at the time the remarks were made.

The building of Templar Park and what has been accomplished for the Order of Templary in Iowa is something that all members of the Knight Templar Order should see. They have located Templar Park in a delightful community and they have received great returns from their labor. I have mentioned the summer homes which the Past Grand Commanders and other Sir Knights had built at Templar Park. They were very good to me and entertained me along with the gracious entertainment of the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

The Grand Commandery of Iowa takes more days for their Annual Conclaves than most any of our Grand Commanderies do, and I left Templar Park after five days of interesting sessions and wonderful entertainment with regrets, and hoping for another visit to Templar Park.

Since then I have become much better acquainted with Sir Knight John Crofts and his ability as he has served Grand Encampment in many appointments, one of which was Department Commander for the North Central Department, and since the beginning of the 49th Triennium it has been my good fortune for John to carry a large part of the load of work of your Grand Master. We will appreciate what John has done and we know with his experience and ability, Grand Encampment is going to benefit over the next nine years.

PAUL M. MOORE,
Grand Master.

Darkest Hour in the History of Our Nation Just 100 Years Ago

(By Sir Knight ROY D. STEARNS, Chairman of the Committee on Templar History)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is the first of several articles to be prepared by members of The Committee on Templar History. Sir Knight Roy Dewey Stearns, Saginaw, Michigan, is chairman of the committee and other members include Sir Knights D. Peter Laguens, New Orleans, La., and Henry F. Collins, Columbia, South Carolina.*)

Today, we long for greater tranquility in our international relationships—for peace from the cold war. However, just 100 years ago, the hearts of Knights Templar were sickened over the sad sight of brother arrayed against brother in the bloody and deadly conflict of civil war. Probably the darkest hour in the history of our nation.

It was a trying period for the people of this nation, and especially for those interested in preserving our Illustrious Order.

When Civil War seemed imminent, Sir Knight Benjamin Brown French, the Grand Master at that time, appealed to the Sir Knights of both the North and the South in an attempt to ward off the approaching separation of the states, but to no avail. However, after the cessation of hostilities, the kindly and conciliatory attitude of Grand Master French assisted materially in re-uniting all the Grand Encampments throughout the United States.

The Civil War made it impossible to hold the Fifteenth Triennial Conclave in Memphis, as had been decided during the preceding Conclave in Chicago. Accordingly, a special Conclave was assembled in New York on September 1, 1862, by order of the Grand Master, Sir Knight B. B. French, and at this special conclave the meeting of the regular Conclave was changed to New York City.

The Fifteenth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States assembled in Odd Fellows Hall in the City of New York on September 2, 1862.

Representatives of twelve Grand Commanderies were present—Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Maine, Ver-

mont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Kentucky and Illinois, and five subordinate Commanderies, one of which was Indivisible Friends Commandery No. 1 of New Orleans.

As was to be expected, the representatives were from the Northern States, as those from the Southern States could not be there. However, only a few of the Grand Commanderies of the Southern States renounced their fealty to the Grand Encampment.

The Grand Master, in his address, referred briefly to the national struggle and to his official circular of April 18, 1861, in which he asked that each one "cast aside every political feeling, every political aspiration, and every Templar do the same as one man, uniting in one grand effort to prevent the shedding of fraternal blood, and inaugurate here that blessed result which our Lord and Master initiated: Peace on earth and good will to men." He added, "But if war must come—which dread calamity may God, in His infinite mercy avert, then I call upon every Knight Templar to perform that sacred duty, which so well becomes our Order, of binding up the wounds of the afflicted and comforting those who mourn."

Sir Knight John Clark, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Michigan, was in attendance at this Conclave, and in his annual address to the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, on June 3, 1863, referred to the Fifteenth Triennial Conclave in New York as follows:

"It affords me much pleasure to be able to say that a large number of the

states were represented; that the meeting was one of interest, pleasure and harmony. The recollection of fraternal love there expressed will be cherished by all the Sir Knights who attended the meetings of the Grand Body."

And so, when today's circumstances give course for concern let us recall the history of a century ago, and attempt to emulate the spirit of those whose great faith and determination have reunited our nation and carried it on to heights beyond even the wildest imagination of that time.

Sir Knight Zenas C. Priest, the then Grand Commander of the Grand Com-

mandery, Knight Templar of New York, admonished all Sir Knights to conduct themselves in accordance with the finest traditions when he stated:

"True patriotism is an essential and peculiar characteristic of a worthy Sir Knight, and embraces a true nobility of purpose and aim in all his actions in the cause of his God, his country, or his fellowmen."

The same spirit of 100 years ago is very much needed to carry us through the difficult situations we face today, and on to far greater triumphs in the future.

Pennsylvania 16th Division Observance

The 10th annual Breakfast and Christmas Observance of Division No. 16 was held at Gethsemane Hall, York, Penna. The nine preceding breakfast-observance gatherings were held at the Masonic Temple in Columbia. However, remodeling of the fire-damaged building was not completed in time to hold this year's observance.

Despite bad weather all five Commanderies of the Division and Commanderies from other sections were represented.

Charles R. Frasch, P. C. of Cyrene No. 34, served as General Chairman, assisted by Francis R. Black, P. C. of Gethsemane No. 75. Harry E. Gohn, E. C. of No. 34 and William R. Swisher, Division Commander of Division No. 16, presided over the breakfast and handled the introductions; Dallas F. Bullock, R. E. Past Grand Commander, was the presiding officer for the observance which followed the breakfast.

Among the special guests present were the Eminent Commander and Recorder of Lancaster Commandery No. 13, Charles R. McCarney and Leroy C. May; Richard S. Cole, P. C.; John S. Royer, P. C.; and John P. Wildasin, P. C., representing, respectively, the Red Cross of Constantine, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Pennsylvania and the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

Script for the Templar Christmas Telecast was prepared by Sir Knight Paul C. Rodenhauser, E. G. G. The telecast featured an account of the devout Christians in the 11th century journeying to the Holy City, the origin of the Knights of the Temple, the Sunrise Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery at Eastertide, the Annual Ascension Service in the Gettysburg National Cemetery, the annual Conclave of Grand Commandery, the Order of DeMolay, and the music furnished by the two participating bands.

News from Grand and Constituent Commanderies

Los Angeles Times Gets Award For Fight on Communism

**"Courageous and Uncompromising
Stand for Truth" Cited in
Knights Templar Scroll**

The Times received an award for its "continuous fight against communism" from Los Angeles Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar, Thursday night, November 2, 1961.

A scroll symbolizing the award was presented by Robert E. Anderson, Commander, to Nick B. Williams, editor of

the Times, at a ceremony in the Masonic Temple at 706 West Pico Blvd.

The scroll stated in part that "this newspaper through its many editorials, articles and consistent reporting and its courageous and uncompromising stand for truth and against the sinister forces of communism, has long been a fountain head from which our community and state has derived nourishment and vigor in its fight for liberty and justice."

Similar awards were presented by the commandery to the three other metropolitan newspapers. An award to the Los Angeles Mirror was accepted by managing editor William Holzhauser; to the Herald-Express by editor Herbert Krauch, and to the Examiner by editor Warden Woolard.



ACCEPTS SCROLL

Award to The Los Angeles Times from Los Angeles Commandery 9, Knights Templar, for newspaper's fight against communism is received by editor Nick B. Williams, center, from Robert E. Anderson, commander, left; John Lanier, past commander and grand commandery projects committee chairman.

New Jersey Grand Commandery Sponsors Knight Templar Festival

The eighteenth annual Templar Festival, under the auspices of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of the State of New Jersey, was held in the Masonic Temple, Trenton, N. J., on Saturday, November 25, 1961. The Festival honored Sir Knight Frederick H. Stigale, Jr., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and also Past Grand High Priest and Past Grand Master of the Council. Sir Knight Stigale is equally prominent in other Masonic and related Bodies, being an Active member of the Supreme Council, 33°, A.A.S.R., an Active Member of the Order of De Molay and also the present Illustrious Potentate of Crescent Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.

The Eighteenth Annual Festival marked a radical departure from Templar Festivals in previous years. In the afternoon the Order of the Temple was conferred in a most impressive manner on a class of 65 candidates by a care-

fully selected All-State Team. In conferring this Order meticulous care was exercised to comply explicitly with the requirements of the Grand Encampment.

An excellent dinner was served by the Ladies' Auxiliary to Cyrene Commandery of Camden, augmented by other devoted ladies from various parts of the jurisdiction. At the reception, following the dinner, all branches of Masonry were represented. Sir Knight Charles B. Wolfertz, Right Eminent Department Commander of the North Atlantic Department, represented the Grand Encampment.

Following the Reception was held the Annual Inspection of Cyrene Commandery, No. 7, of Camden, the home Commandery of both Sir Knight Stigale and Sir Knight George W. Grant, Right Eminent Grand Commander.



VERMONT GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICERS

Front Row: (left to right)—J. Wesley Murdock, Sr., P.G.C., Grand Treasurer; Rudolph D. Smith, Grand Generalissimo; Harry L. Vondell, Deputy Grand Commander; Ralph Ellsworth Berry, Grand Commander; H. Herman Hertzberg, Grand Captain General; Aaron H. Grout, P.G.C., Grand Recorder; Harley M. Watkins, P.G.C., Assistant Grand Recorder.

Back Row: (left to right)—Olof Johnson, Grand Prelate; Parker B. Blake, Grand Senior Warden; Edward S. Pike, Grand Junior Warden; Franklin H. Churchill, Grand Standard Bearer; Welland S. Horn, Grand Captain of the Guard; F. G. Grasset, Grand Sentinel.

ACCOUNTS OF VARIOUS COMMANDERY ACTIVITIES

Numerous accounts of Commandery meetings have come to this office. An account of several of these follow:

Saline County, Mo.

Officers of Saline Chapter No. 74, Royal Arch Masons, and Missouri Commandery No. 36, Knights Templar, were installed jointly at Saline, Mo., January 11. The officers of the Royal Arch Masons were installed by William R. Denslow, Trenton, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri. Officers of the Missouri Commandery No. 36, Knights Templar, were also installed by Mr. Demlow.

Preceding the installation a turkey dinner was served.

F. C. Barnhill, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Missouri, gave a report on the Knights Templar Education Foundation. Sir Knight Barnhill recalled that the Missouri division of the foundation was organized in 1924. The division has a net worth of \$241,126.00.

Norwalk, Conn.

Right eminent grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Connecticut, Carl Taylor of New Haven, made an official visit to Clinton Commandery recently, at the Masonic Temple in Berkeley street.

Following a short business session, the grand commander, spoke of his attendance, in August, to the triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment in Cleveland, Ohio.

The grand commander also spoke of the York Rite Festivals being held in Hartford and New Haven, where the degrees of the chapter, and council and the orders of knighthood are being conferred upon classes of candidates.

The report of the hundreds of cases taken care of by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, organized to assist any

person, man, woman or child, creed or color, during the past three years, who were unable, financially, to pay for necessary operation to prevent blindness, if there is a possibility of the patient being helped.

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation also made its report of the number and amount of loans made to junior and senior students in the colleges throughout the United States, including the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, of which committee Past Commander Edwin S. Austin of Clinton Commandery is a member.

Cottage Grove, Oregon

A joint Christmas Observance, was held in Cottage Grove, Oregon, on Sunday, December 17th at 3 P. M., in the Masonic Temple, with Cerro Gordo Commandery No. 24, of Cottage Grove, Oregon as host, for the observance.

This was their first attempt in a three Commandery Joint Program, and considerable planning was made by the Eminent Commanders of Cerro Gordo Commandery No. 24, Ivanhoe Commandery No. 2, of Eugene, Oregon and Ascalon Commandery No. 14, of Roseburg, Oregon. Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Oregon, Sir Knight Stewart H. Norton, of Coquille, Oregon attended. Also present was Sir Knight Lyman C. Palmer, Department Commander, North Pacific Department.

An interesting program was planned by Eminent Commander Alfred E. McKenzie, of Cerro Gordo, Commandery No. 24, and his officers. The program closed with an impressive service for departed Sir Knights. Four DeMolay boys, clothed in their robes, extinguished a candle as each Sir Knight's name was called, turned over the vase and laid a rose on the table.

We are Masons, My Brother and I

By George W. Grant, Grand Commander of Knights Templar
State of New Jersey, Woodstown, N. J.

In the Symbolic Lodge we are taught an unexcelled system of morality through symbol and allegory. The Degrees of the Lodge are basic and fundamental and serve as the firm foundation for the entire structure of Freemasonry. Nothing can excel the Symbolic Lodge in importance. By honestly applying its principles the life of every Mason can be enriched beyond measure. However, every serious Mason is soon confronted with the fact that many of his questions are left unanswered, that there is a void which should be filled. He must study the Truths of the Symbolic Lodge from a vantage point which will permit a clearer vision. He must go beyond the confines of his Lodge to satisfy his demands.

As we climb to the vantage points, represented by the Chapter and by the Council, we behold the lessons of the Symbolic Lodge spread before us clear and complete.

At the peak of the Mountain, the Commandery of Knights Templar, the eyes of the Christian Mason are opened to behold as never before the wonders of our great Masonic Order and he absorbs in detail the most sublime principles of Freemasonry in the light of the teachings of the greatest Teacher of all mankind, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are happy and proud to be Masons, my Brother and I, and we must never lose sight of the fact that the Symbolic Lodge is all-important in our Masonic life. However, we are deeply grateful for the additional Light which we have been permitted to gain from the York Rite, especially from its peak—the Commandery of Knights Templar.

Courteously and fraternally,

GEORGE W. GRANT,

Grand Commander.

64 SEPT.

PAUL C. POPENHAUSER

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