



Knight Templar


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EASTER—"HE IS RISEN"



Knight Templar



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PAUL M. MOORE, Grand Master

JOHN TEMPLE RICE, Grand Recorder

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EASTER'S CHALLENGE

By Sir Knight BURT D. PEARSON, Chairman Religious Observance Committee

Once more, the world pauses before the dawn of Easter—for those who profess the Christian faith, a meaningful and climactic phenomenon, and for all of mankind a symbol of hope. It is the fulfillment of the promise that man dies but to rise in glory and majesty, forever to live in hallowed precincts, in God's Kingdom, if good works have purchased for him the eternal reward. Christ's resurrection is divine assurance that mortals shall put on immortality.

Needless to say, the world has undergone significant change since that First Easter Morn when Emmanuel rose from the dead, as He said He would. No matter that the gadgetries, the ease and the material things of modern living have markedly altered the pattern of our civilization—for good and for ill—the fears, the aspirations and the longings of human hearts are not essentially changed. The yearning for peace and freedom persists. Now, as in the First Century, evil leers at home and abroad.

Material progress is on every hand, a fruit of science and the skills, yet there is a cardinal something lacking, the possession of which would give man surcease from woe and confidence for the tomorrows. This something, a faith in

the things of the spirit, in the gospel guideposts, is for all to have and to hold, but at a price, the price of obedience to His will and His way. Millions who so believe are devoting their lives to the welfare of their fellow beings, drawing their inspiration from Him who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Easter is—as is every religious holiday—a call to the human race to put first things first. Easter and the Risen Master are a reminder that rebirth is necessary for all of us. Once again, the call is to rededicate ourselves to those precepts which enabled diverse peoples to live together, and to work together, in an accord which prospers His Kingdom, on earth. Only as worship on Easter Sunday is accompanied by a repledge of faith manifested in a concern for all of mankind, even for those behind the Red Curtain, will it bear fruit. Easter must stand as a bold Cross of Hope for leaders, for families—indeed, for all.

"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
On the third morning He arose,
Bright with victory o'er His foes.
Sing we lauding,
And applauding,
Hallelujah!"

Arlington Easter Sunrise Memorial Service

7:30 A. M.—Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery on Easter Sunday Morning, April 22, 1962.

Service will be broadcast and/or televised on a nation-wide network.

"RIGHT DRESS"

By C. BYRON LEAR, Past Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment,
Knights Templar of U. S. A.

There are times when Templary moves outside of the four walls of its Asylum; for funeral processions, to act as escort to the Grand Lodge and for street parades-out on the street where the analytical eyes of the general public views the Templars on parade.

Those viewing the procession on the street will quite possibly be of three distinct categories.

Along the line of march will be those who will make a casual observation and dismiss the procession from their minds without a second thought.

A certain percentage of the male public that go to make up the male audience would disqualify themselves as potential members by reason of their religious affiliations.

However, scattered along the route, there is bound to be a fairly high percentage of men who have embraced Masonry or who are one day hopeful of becoming members of a Symbolic Lodge. We will recall that of every ten Master Masons in this country, there are nine who are not identified with the Commandery—they represent the field to which Templary must have its appeal—of necessity we look to them for our potential members. To them we must present our best profile. They will prove to be both interested in the public presentation and critical of what passes before them. It is especially for their benefit, as well as a pride in the undertaking itself, that those charged with public display should see to it that the Commandery appears in the "Right Dress."

These are the men we want to favorably impress; it is to them that the uniform must appeal for from their numbers the replacements in our ranks will be made.

Thirty years ago, as Grand Commander of my State, I took the position that unless a Commandery could make a public appearance in sufficient numbers, it should recruit Sir Knights from neighboring Commanderies in order that they make a creditable display and failing that, it was far better that they make no public appearance. My views in that regard have not changed in the thirty years that have intervened and I urge all concerned that when a Commandery is invited to participate publically that they demonstrate strength through numbers. It cannot be argued that a mere "corporal's guard" of uniformed men will do more than invite unnecessary criticism. It is far better for a Commandery to turn out a few times a year in strength than make a number of public appearances in something less.

And there is a "RIGHT DRESS" when a Templar does present himself in public; dress coats completely buttoned, baldrics, in proper position, belts adjusted, matching trousers and black shoes to mention but a few of the details that must have the Commandery Officers attention before the column leaves the asylum.

Grand Captains General when planning and presenting a parade of Templars at their Annual Conclaves have a great responsibility to the Order. No parade of the Sir Knights of any jurisdiction, be it large or small, can afford

to be moved over the streets of a town or city unless careful advance planning has gone into the undertaking. The Grand Captain General on whom the responsibility rests for the orderly presentation of Templary to the public, must lay his plans well in advance and carefully check and re-check each of the many details that make for a well organized presentation. He must surround himself with the best qualified men, seasoned in service in Templary to serve on the staffs of the Divisions and see that they understand his plan and means of execution. Automobiles should be kept to a minimum, bands carefully spaced throughout the column, First Aid Stations set up, ambulances bringing up the rear of each Division, the line of march carefully selected, assembly and disbanding areas given full consideration, maintenance of contact throughout the column to avoid gaps or breaks in the column and bring the audience to the Parade and not impose upon our Sir Knights by a long and tiring line of march in an attempt to take the parade to the audience; above all else, let nothing prevent the Parade moving off at the announced hour.

Careful consideration should be given to the component parts of each Division to insure as far as possible, a reasonable balance numerically.

We have come more and more to depend on the valuable services of High School Bands to furnish music for our Templar Parades and we must agree that we could not do without them. Their cadence is normally entirely too fast for our Sir Knights and to the extent that it is possible, the Director of the band should be requested to keep the cadence to as near 120 steps per minute as possible.

The grouping of the beauseants and United States colors at the column in a

small parade or at the head of each division in those of greater size, makes for a better showing and reduces the number of times those viewing the parade are called upon to pay their respects to the Colors.

There are those active in Templary to-day who are prone to "play down" our public appearances and would take the easy way out by eliminating parades as such. With them I heartily disagree! They have forgotten that tradition looms large in the fabric that is Templary and that to a large extent, traditionally, by Templars appearing in public in uniform, in the "right dress," the appeal of Templary has directed the thinking and the petitions of many of our candidates for membership.

We create our Sir Knights within the tiled walls of our Asylums but it remains for them on proper occasions, to serve as the marching "showcase" of our uniformed Christian Order, when appearing in public. We are the only uniformed body in the entire Masonic system and over the years our public appearances have given added dignity to many Masonic processions. Those who would "play down" the uniform and the public appearance of Templars in uniform must remember that to continue to urge the Commandery to go "underground," could live to see our Order become something less than an effective segment of the Masonic system.

Our greatest progress down through the years, was made as a uniform body—it remains for this Templar generation, to encourage not only the possession of a Templar Uniform, but the proud wearing of it.

That, Sir Knights for us, is the "RIGHT DRESS."

Why a Master Mason Should Become a Knight Templar

When a man is initiated into the first three degrees of Free Masonry, he is given the basic foundation of Masonry. This is the basis, or foundation, on which to build his Masonic education, and can be likened to the basic education of our public schools.

The explanatory degrees of Free Masonry, sometimes called the higher degrees, give a broadening of the three basic, or symbollic degrees. Without these explanatory degrees his education is only partially complete.

As he progresses through the Chapter he is taught: In the Mark Masters Degree he is taught what the workmans wages are and how to receive them; in the Past Masters degree, how to rule and govern a lodge with moderation and decorum; in the Most Excellent Masters Degree, the completion and dedication of the Temple is explained; and in the Royal Arch Degree, he is rewarded by receiving the Long Lost Masters Word.

In the Council Degrees he is taught: The Royal Masters Degree is further explanatory to the Master Masons Degree. In the Select Masters Degree he is taught how and where the secret treasures and secret word was buried and is further explanatory to the Royal Arch Degree. The Super Excellent Masters Degree is further explanatory to the Royal Arch Degree.

The Commandery Orders are the crowning achievement of the candidates progress. The Order of the Red Cross teacher THE ALMIGHTY FORCE AND IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH. In the Orders of Malta and Mediterranean Pass he represents a Soldier of The Cross. In The Order of The Temple he represents a Knight of the period succeeding the Crusades and is taught to be charitable and to live according to the Sublime precepts taught in the Holy Bible, the guide to all Free Masonry, and our best weapon in combating the encroach-

ment of Communism in our country.

A. C. WILSON,

R. E. Grand Commander of Alabama.

Every Master Mason, christian in faith, should strengthen his belief in the principles of clean living by becoming a Knights Templar. Or—shouldn't we say, in these days when the unity of Masonry is so sorely needed, to become a York Rite Mason?

In the Symbolic Lodge—Master Masons will have received the great lessons, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. They were so deeply impressed with "the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and the immortality of the soul."

Their Masonic knowledge and experience would be enriched still further—were they to receive the lessons of Charity, Moderation, Industry and Humility; as are so elequently portrayed in the degrees which are conferred in the Chapter. Here—in Capitular Masonry it would be a continued experience from the drama of the Blue Lodge, and where they would receive something of value which had been lost.

The most meaningful of all Masonic Light available to the christian brother in Masonry, can be found only in the three Orders as are conferred in a Commandery of Knights Templar. Here is where one experiences, witnesses and worships a supperb drama and ritual taken from the life of Christ and the New Testament. Only a christian can truthfully vow to support and maintain these truths in the importance of "Truth," the "Triumph of Immortality" and the reward awaiting the "Faithful Followers of the Cross."

It is the christian obligation of every Templar to invite and recommend York Rite Masonry to the Blue Lodge brethren.

GALELMA J. BUTCHER,

R. E. Grand Commander of Virginia.

When a Master Mason becomes a Knights Templar he embraces and subscribes to, the very highest ideals known to mankind. These are the ideals upon which our civilization and nation were founded and the ideals upon which they have been sustained, developed and advanced; and these are the ideals which must surely be maintained and perpetuated if our children, our homes, our civilization and our free nation are to survive.

Before becoming Knights Templar, we learn the beautiful lessons that are taught to us in the Blue Lodge and the preceding York Rite degrees, but our Masonic education is far from complete until we have become Knights Templar, for it is here, and only here, that we are pledged to uphold and defend the Christian Religion, and in a positive manner. It is here that we are taught to uphold and practice the Christian Virtues, have compassion toward our fellow man, love for our country and honor and reverence for our flag. It is here that we reaffirm our faith in the immortality of the soul and eternal life through the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, whom we as Knights Templar, acknowledge and worship as the Son of God, who died that we might live. Here the teachings and beliefs of the Christian Religion, Patriotism and Masonry are united in this one great order when we are created Knights Templar. In no other Masonic degree, nor in any other organization can so many virtuous, commendable and desirable attributes be found as are combined in this Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple.

RAY HARTWELL,
Mobile Commandery No. 2,
Mobile, Alabama.

The principles of Templary are a rallying point for masons to demonstrate their sincerity, devotion and love for all mankind by their actions and words.

The Order of the Temple has been termed the most beautiful and inspiring of all orders and degrees of Freemasonry.

Knights Templars, defenders of the Faith are enlisted under the Banner of the Blessed Emanuel, The Prince of Peace, The Great Captain of our Salvation.

Templary is spiritual wealth that is comforting and satisfying that places its teaching deeply in the hearts and minds of Masons who are seeking the supreme value of life.

Knights Templars are known as Soldier of the Cross, Masons who by their loyalty and devotion have dedicated themselves to the service of this great Christian Order which has the respect and admiration of the public at large and Masons everywhere.

The ritual places its beautiful teachings deeply in the hearts and minds of men of the Christian faith.

Knights Templars are committed to the defense of Innocent Maidens, Destitute Widows, Helpless Orphans and the Christian Religion.

No Master Mason should be satisfied until he has discovered the True Light that will let your Light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

The Commandery of Knights Templar extends a most cordial invitation to all Master Masons the opportunity to improve their knowledge through the progressive study of the Light of Christian Masonry.

GEORGE G. REES,
P. G. C. of Alabama

Give Flag in Observance



Ascalon Commandery, Brainerd, Minnesota, showed initiative in the field of Patriotic Activity by Templars when on December 7, 1961, it observed the 20th anniversary of Pearl Harbor by presenting Aurora Lodge No. 100, A.F. & A.M., with the flag shown above which formerly flew over the nation's Capitol at Washington, D. C.

The photo shows the actual presentation made under dispensation with (left to right), Ray Gould, P.G.C., Lyle Cain, P.C., Ed. Stang, E.C., Art Tumms, Prelate, Art Cace, P.C., and Vic Ferguson, P.C. Accepting the flag was John Nelson, Master of Aurora Lodge. This flag was made available to Ascalon Commandery by U. S. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey.

Editorial Note

The Knight Templar will from time to time publish a "Prayer for Today." Sir Knights wishing to contribute such prayers should limit them to approximately 100 words and send them to the Editor.

A Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, we pause in the hurry and demands of the day for a quiet moment of communion with Thee.

Touch us with Thy healing power and hear us as we ask Thy blessing on all who are in need of help or comfort.

May the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be ever acceptable in Thy sight. Amen.

Grand Master of Minnesota Masons Plans State-wide Rededication

Duluth, Minnesota, Feb. 3, 1962. (Special) State Auditor Stafford King, Grand Master of Minnesota Masons, announced in Duluth that a statewide program and ceremony for rededication to the principles of Masonry will be held in the Twin Cities in June.

This is the first time that such a rededication program will have been held in Minnesota. The ceremony will be sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

King said, "The main purpose of these meetings is for all Masons to rededicate

themselves to God, country and citizenship. In past years, these meetings were held locally by smaller Masonic groups. Now we plan to broaden the program."

He said that no definite plans have been made as yet as to date, place or program, but he did indicate that a nationally known religious leader would be the main speaker.

"We hope to enlist the support of all 296 Blue Lodges in Minnesota plus the active support and participation of both the York and the Scottish Rite Bodies as well as all three Minnesota Shrine Temples."

Caribbean Cruise Planned in October, Sponsored By Mass. and R. I. Grand Commandery

The Grand Commandery, of Knights Templar of Massachusetts and Rhode Island is pleased to announce that arrangements have been completed for sponsorship of a special Knights Templar cruise from Boston on October 16, 1962.

This special sailing is available for the membership of all Commanders of Knights Templar their masonic friends and guests. The nine day program on the M. S. Gripsholm will feature many special events for Knights Templar. This sailing will offer relaxation and pleasure which can come only from nine days of pleasant association on a Caribbean Cruise with other Knights, their ladies and friends. The ports of call will be Bermuda, St. Thomas and San Juan. Return to Boston will be on October 25th.

There will be planned entertainment, both day and night, dancing to two different orchestras; Grand Commander's Ball; special sightseeing excursions ashore; and many more exciting events planned especially for Knights Templar.

You will enjoy Continental cuisine from dawn to dusk. These will be nine days to treasure forever.

The M. S. Gripsholm is the pride of the Swedish American Line . . . the finest cruise ship to sail from Boston. She is a 23,000 ton luxury liner, completely air-conditioned, with all cabins equipped with private bath or shower and toilet.

Ample time in each enchanting port of call will allow for swimming, fishing, shopping . . . and other independent activities.

Descriptive brochures are available at Grand Commandery Office, 405 Masonic Temple, Boston 16, Massachusetts. Call or write: George A. Weeks, Grand Recorder, and full information will be sent immediately.

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News from Grand and Constituent Commanderies
Order of the Temple Dramatically
Portrayed by St. Omer Commandery
No. 59, K. T., of Toledo, Ohio



Some 450 Sir Knights with their ladies representing 39 Commanderies from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and even as distant as Pennsylvania and New Jersey, converged upon St. Omer Commandery No. 59, whose Asylum is located in Toledo, Ohio, on Saturday, February 24th, to witness its Annual Inspection and the official visitation by Sir Knight Cecil J. Pierce, the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Ohio.

However, the feature attraction of these annual inspections which brings

such record-breaking attendance to this Commandery, is the vivid manner in which the Order of the Temple is presented, with its lasting impression upon the candidate as well as those others witnessing it. The Crucifixion scene portrayed by a cast of fifteen characters, dramatizing the Last Words from the Cross, the jeers and mockery of the populace and finally the death of the principal, our Lord, leaves the spectator with a feeling of pathos as the drama draws to a close. But this is soon dispelled when the glorious Ascension scene is presented with the Christ bless-

ing His disciples and all mankind and is lifted to Heaven to reign beside His Father. Thus the bitterness of Good Friday is transcended by the radiance of the Ascension in the final epoch of our Lord.

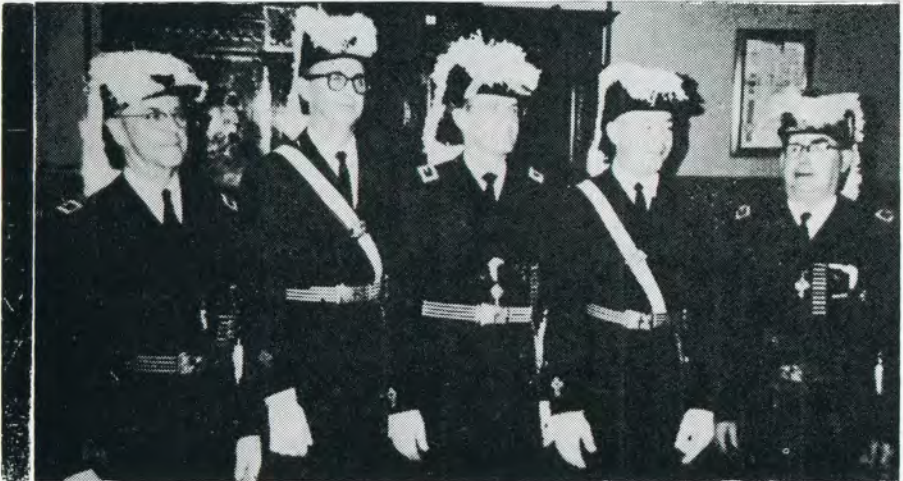
Produced in 1955 by Sir Knight Gustave Kelting, whose theatrical background was responsible for the beautiful manner in which these two scenes are so vividly presented, St. Omer has earned for itself a reputation which has created wide publicity throughout Ohio and its neighboring areas.

Despite adverse weather conditions and hazardous driving by a heavy snow-storm the night before, which produced some last minute cancellations, large contingents of Sir Knights and their ladies braved these obstacles and were present on this important occasion.

In addition to the Inspecting Officer, the Ohio Commandery was represented by Sir Knights John W. Rutschow, Em. G. C. G., Ned E. Dull, Em. G. Sw. B., Vernon C. Maxwell, P. G. C., Clayton G. Cousino, P. G. C., and Virgil F. Kent, P. G. C.; Michigan Grand Commandery by Alex. A. MacDonald, E. G. C. G., Edgar Clark, Em. G. J. W., and Stanley H. Raidle, Em. G. Sw. B., while Indiana Commandery was represented by Harold Hoolihan, Em. G. J. W.

Besides these high-ranking Officers, 14 Distinguished Guests from other Masonic Bodies, including the Scottish Rite Consistory, R. A. M., R. & S. M., and Divan of A. A. O. N. M. S. were greeted. Nine Past Commanders of St. Omer formed the escort, with 97 Sir Knights recognized in the staff which accompanied the Inspecting Officer into the Asylum.

A Family Affair



New Castle, Ind., Commandery No. 44, Knights Templar, had a very unique and unusual occasion when Sir Knight Charles W. Acker, Past Commander, knighted his son Paul and Sir Knight Archie W. Franklin, Past Commander and present Captain General, knighted his son Harold. The candidates were brothers and brother-in-law of the Eminent Commander, Sir Knight James A. Acker, son of Past Commander Sir Knight Charles W. Acker. Shown above from left to right are: Charles W. Acker, Paul R. Acker, James A. Acker, Harold B. Franklin and Archie W. Franklin.

GRAND OFFICERS FROM FOUR STATES ATTEND ANNUAL INSPECTION AT NEWBURYPORT COMMANDERY NO. 3, K. T., NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS



More than 200 Sir Knights were present at the recent Inspection at Newburyport Commandery at which time the Commandery received "Top Standards" for its fine exemplification. This Commandery was organized in 1795 and was one of the two original Commanderies that gave the Orders in Royal Arch Lodge in Massachusetts prior to 1800.

Omnipresence

Why search for God in far-off distant heights
 When near at hand the budding blossoms swell,
 And sleeping earth awakes at dawn of Spring
 By pulsing life within the pregnant soil?
 The earth swings ever on its ceaseless span
 In diamond fire of night or sunshine blaze.

The Hand that scatters stars across the sky
 And sets the sunbeams glimmering by day
 Is nearer than the air we breathe—a sign
 To kneel before this timeless mystery
 For He has left His name on all the earth,
 So near at hand is this Eternal God.

—Lucille Crandall

Televisions to Hospitalized Sir Knights and Their Wives Furnished by Gary Commandery No. 57, Gary, Ind.



During 1960-1961 the above television was in use 291 days. To install the television, it required at least three calls: first, placing it in the room; second, adjusting television on account of hospital machines; and third, the removal of the television. Several times the Commandery had two televisions in use at no cost to the Sir Knight or wife. Sir Knight Kallaus has a television in the hospital room within one hour after receiving the phone call. The television is controlled from the patients bed. It is inscribed property of Gary Commandery No. 57 Knights Templar.

The Commandery was the first organization to furnish televisions to hos-

pitals in Gary. The entire cost of television service and other Hospitaler Committee work is financed by an annual donation from the Sir Knights of Gary Commandery.

EVERETT E. DAVIS,
Recorder.

I do the best I know, the very best I can, and I mean to keep right on doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.—Abraham Lincoln.

Wedding Bells and Golden Anniversary



Sir Knight and Mrs. Frederick H. Staal

Recently a most unusual wedding took place in the "PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERN CHURCH" in Cambria Heights, New York, when Sir Knight Frederick H. Staal, Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York and Miss Edith Muriel Ellsworth were joined in marriage.

The groom was attired in full Templar uniform, as was his best man, Sir Knight Robert D. Carlson, Eminent Past Commander of Bethlehem Commandery No. 53 of Mt. Vernon, New York and the two ushers, Sir Knight Arthur Jansen and Sir Knight Sidney Friar, both past commanders of Rondout Commandery No. 52 of Kingston, New York. The Drill Team of Bethlehem Commandery served as the twenty-one man honor guard when the bride and groom passed through the lines with the honor guard at present swords.



Sir Knight and Mrs. F. C. Barnhill

We are most happy to join the many friends of Sir Knight and Mrs. F. C. Barnhill of Marshall, Missouri, in congratulating them on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which was observed at the Methodist Church in Marshall, on Sunday, February 11th. May of 1963 will complete 50 years for Sir Knight Barnhill as Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Missouri; he has also served for 36 years as Treasurer of the Knight Templar Educational Foundation of Missouri. He served as Grand Master A. F. & A. M., of Missouri in 1933.

A reception followed in the Goldenwood Restaurant in Elmont, which was attended by over 100 guests. This is believed to have been the first complete Knight Templar wedding ever held in the State of New York. The happy couple left the following day for a tour of the State of New York, where Em. Sir Knight Staal made several inspections, thereby combining Templar business with his honeymoon. They are residing at 58-10 Van Cleef Street, Corona 68, New York.

San Antonio Commandery on the March



The attached photograph was taken at the end of the conferring of orders. The front row are the Grand Officers, who are from left to right: Arch Dullnig, P. G. C. of Texas, Chairman of the Grand Encampment Membership Committee; Jake Beard, P. G. C. of Texas and Chairman of the Educational Committee for Texas; Jack Hefner, Eminent District Deputy; Harry Tour, Grand Recorder; Gus Meyer, Junior P. G. C. of Texas. The balance of the men in the photograph are officers of San Antonio Commandery No. 7.

San Antonio Commandery known throughout the state as being the traveling Commandery, whose slogan is "Have Uniform will Travel," on February 17 went to Laredo, Texas and conferred all of the orders of Templary on a class of 15 candidates.

Two bus loads of Sir Knights and their ladies made the pilgrimage. While the Sir Knights were busy conferring the orders, the ladies enjoyed shopping and seeing the sites in the border town of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico under the guidance of the Laredo Sir Knight's wives. The conferring of the orders started at 11:00 a. m. and was com-

pleted at 7:00 p. m. at which time everyone retired to the Hamilton Hotel where a steak supper was served to 130 people. Talks were given by the Texas Grand Officers and the party was adjourned at 10:30 p. m., following which the Sir Knights and ladies from San Antonio boarded the busses and headed for San Antonio 170 miles distant.

As an additional point of interest, some three weeks earlier a team of Sir Knights went to Laredo and conferred all four degrees of the Chapter on these same candidates.

PHIL GREELEY

San Antonio Commandery No. 7

"I AM FREEMASONRY"

By M. W. Bro. STAFFORD KING, Grand Master, Minnesota, a member of
Damascus Commandery No. 1, St. Paul

My Brethren, look to the East—

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages, and found true. The cross-roads of the World bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry. In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my altars is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God. My sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber. By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death, and the relationship of man with God and of man with man. My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereby, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain. I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphans cry, the widows' tears, the pain of the old and destitute. I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbor and themselves. They are free men, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger. At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal Universe. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life. I am Freemasonry.

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