

Knights



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THE FOUR LEADERS OF THE FIRST CRUSADE—
GODFREY, RAYMOND, BOEMUND, TANCRÉD.

Drawn by A. de Neuville



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Knights Templar of the United States of America



WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH 1968?

The Grand Master says . . .



Sir Knight John L. Crofts, Sr.

The new year is more than a certain progression of days, weeks and months: it is God-given time during which we will record our accomplishments. Whether these will be such as to merit our satisfaction and the respect of others is for us to determine. We can—if we will!

To achieve outstandingly as Templars, we must reaffirm and plan to use constructively two loyalties or obligations, (1) to ourselves, and (2) to our Commanderies. Neither is sufficient. Both are essential.

Individually, may we appear from day to day as men of faith, courtesy and concern for others. Let us join precept and example as we were taught. Let us both glorify God and advance our Order by letting others see us as the men who made the Declarations and, kneeling, accepted the honors and obligations of a Sir Knight.

As member Knights Templar, whatever our stations, may we be concerned that our Commanderies discharge through planned programs and with

our loyal assistance their three basic obligations:

To present members. We are basically a social-fraternal organization. Thus, we need a planned social program that a maximum number will enjoy together. Incidental purposes will vary, as to honor deserving individuals, to give Masonic and Templar information, to discuss current events, or merely to be entertained. The essential,—to recognize and provide for the need.

To our recruits. We must have new members, and those qualified should be invited selectively in an organized and continuing process, and told why we need them and why they need us. We then owe them (1) the best ritualistic work, that they understand our character and see our purposes, (2) further information and brotherly love, that they may become interested, and (3) a definite and useful place in our activities.

To our communities. Through activities of a “project” nature, to create a beneficial effect as an organization and where we live. Support of the Christian religion, support of education, charitable works, and patriotic and civic responsibility are recognized as our primary target areas.

We can—if we will. Because *Paul* said “Let every man prove his own work, and then he shall have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.” Because each of us has said “I will wield my sword. . .” The record of 1968 remains to be written, as we wish it to be.

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It Happened In January, One Year Ago

January 1—Grand Master Wilber M. Brucker issued General Order No. 20, calling for full support of DeMolay by all Knights Templar

Past Grand Master Walter A. DeLamater announced that Life Sponsorships to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation stood at 14,939

January 2—Albert Snead Bozeman, Meridian, Mississippi, was named as the "Oldest Sir Knight in Templar Years." Sir Knight Bozeman, born January 2, 1864, was knighted 1902

January 14—North Central Department Conference opened at Minneapolis, Minnesota, chaired by Grand Generalissimo G. Wilbur Bell, with Grand Commander Peterson as host-chairman.

January 19—Porto Rico Commandery No. 1, San Juan, Puerto Rico, visited by Grand Master Brucker—followed, January 22, by visitation to Canal Zone Commandery No. 1

January 27—Sir Knight Virgil (Gus) Grissom was one of three astronauts killed in space capsule flash fire

January 28—Greever A. Witten, Chairman of Johnson Commandery No. 14, was honored with testimonial banquet in Bristol, Virginia, for outstanding Eye Foundation work

Among the January Birthdays: 8th., Edmund F. Ball; 21st., C. Wallace Jackson. Presidential Birthday Anniversaries: Millard Fillmore, 7th; William McKinley, 29th; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 30th.

Chicago No. 19 Salutes Centennial And Seay

Gini Ricci, P.C., was chairman of the committee in charge of the December 5 Centennial Anniversary Banquet of Chicago Commandery No. 19, with Sir Knight Thomas F. Seay, Imperial Potentate, Imperial Council, A.A.O.-N.M.S., as honored guest for the occasion.

More than 600 Sir Knights and ladies were present. Representing the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. and Grand Master Crofts was G. Wilbur Bell, Deputy Grand Master. Other Grand Encampment representatives were Alvin L. Crump, Department Commander for the North Central Department, of which the Grand Commandery of Illinois is a part, and Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauer.

Eminent Commander Marion A. Hoy presided and introduced the head table guests: Sir Knights Andrew E. Barton, Grand Commander, Illinois; Crump, Bell, Ralph G. Larsen, M. E. Grand High Priest, Grand R.A.M. Chapter, Illinois; Murray A. Stillwaugh, P.G.C., Illinois; G. W. Sullivan, Illustrious Potentate, Medinah Temple; Rev. Timothy B. Reeves, Imperial Chaplain, Imperial Council; A.A.O.N.M.S.; the guest of honor Sir Knight and Imperial Potentate Seay; and the Most Worshipful Grand Master of A.F. & F.M. of the State of Illinois, Brother William L. Mason.

The line officers of Illinois and Past Grand Commanders, including Past Department Commander Sigurd R. Jensen, were introduced

Sir Knight Hecht Is Subject Of TB Salute

The Annual Report of the Jefferson Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Birmingham, Alabama, prominently features a picture and a tribute to Sir Knight Theodore Hecht, Cyrene No. 10, Birmingham, as "a loyal and devoted friend of the sanatorium and all the patients treated there and all the employees who work there. He is the embodiment of all that is fine in the Hospital Volunteer worker."

The report touches upon many of his community and church activities. "We are privileged," the article concludes, "to dedicate this year's annual report to Theodore Hecht."

A. M. Weems, Cyrene Recorder, points out that Sir Knight Hecht also is Past Master, Bilbro Lodge No. 716; High Priest, Elyton Chapter No. 76, R.A.M.; member Sam Thompson Council No. 43, Zampra Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.; Past Patron Eastern Star, White Shrine and Ameranthe—and active in all of them.

by Grand Commander Barton. Sir Knight Bell proposed the official toast to the Anniversary and to the Honored Guest of the evening, and also responded for the Grand Encampment during the program. Officers and past officers of other bodies represented at the banquet also were introduced.

In addition to Chairman Ricci, the committee included Past Commander Emil F. Koopman and all Past Commanders of Chicago Commandery No. 19.

California Features York Rite Festival



Sir Knight Jimmy Raymond, California correspondent, reports that John B. Nye, E.G.G., served as General Chairman of the unique October Festival of the Southern California Masonic York Rite Bodies, with three co-chairmen—George A. Sheltren, Grand Royal Arch Captain, for the Grand Chapter; Paul A. Bigsby, Grand Principal Conductor of Work, for the Grand Council; and Frank F. Jones, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer, for the Grand Commandery.

There was one combined publicity brochure and a single form of petition. Each body was specifically and actively represented by its state head: Phillip H. Mercier, Grand High Priest; Leonard Hooper, Illustrious Grand Master; and Allan S. Mason, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of California.

This example of York Rite Unity offered numerous innovations, says Sir Knight Raymond.

Masonic Maturity Comes To Frennie Gray

Employment as a locomotive driver limited Frennie M. Gray's Masonic activities until he retired at the age of seventy years in 1951. Since then he has received his 50 year pin from Beacon Lodge No. 283 of New York, and the Pierpont Edwards Medal from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut for outstanding service to the fraternity. He has also served as High Priest of Joseph Andrews Chapter No. 46, RAM and T.I.M. of Orange Council No. 35 R&SM, both of West Haven, Conn.

His eighty-fifth birthday found him just installed as Eminent

Commander of New Haven Commandery No. 2 as successor to Carroll F. Lewis, present Recorder, on the left in the photograph. During his term in office he has knighted 26 candidates. He continues his activity in the Masonic and associated bodies of which he is a member. The picture is by Albert W. Gray.



THE BLEDSOE SAGA—A Tribute To Greatness

"The Bisbee doctor hitched his horse to the buggy and drove off into the dusty desert on a mission of mercy. His patient, 60 miles away, had been accidentally shot by his guide on a hunting trip.

"Mesquite trees and desert vegetation obscured the lone traveler's view, and the road, when it existed, was scarcely distinguishable from the other meandering tracks.

"So I sat up high—way up on the buggy top—so I could see over the brush and get my bearings. It took a while, but I finally found the patient. He lived, too," said Dr. Nelson C. Bledsoe, pioneer physician."

Those are the introductory words written by a "Tucson Citizen" staff writer after an interview with the 91 year old doctor—a truly distinguished Templar who "sits high" and stands tall, and has been doing it all of his active and productive life.

Sir Knight Nelson C. Bledsoe is more than an outstanding Mason; he is a symbol of individual greatness, truly an inspiration for every American, whether fraternally affiliated or not.

The Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Arizona in 1913, Dr. Bledsoe is now the senior Past Grand Commander on the roster of the Grand Encampment. He has served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Arizona, as Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, and as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Arizona. He is a Past Potentate of El Zaribah Temple, Tucson, was created an Honorary 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason in 1926, and became Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council, Free and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasons in 1957—the first Mason from Arizona to hold this office.

The story of Dr. Bledsoe is a story of service, impressive in



Grand Commander Bledsoe

scope and duration. Born September 1, 1876 in Ventura, California, the family moved to Los Angeles in 1888. There he attended grammar school and graduated from the Los Angeles Normal School (now U.C.L.A.) in 1896.

He taught school at San Bernardino for two years, then in Los Angeles for four years—the last two as a teacher of night school while he attended medical college. He was graduated from U. S. C. Medical College in 1903, interned in the Los Angeles County Hospital for two years under two surgeons whom Sir Knight Bledsoe, after more than sixty years, still admires as "very eminent surgeons," Dr. O. O. Witherbee and Dr. D. C. Barber.

(Continued on page 17)

Mail Box

HIGHLIGHTS and SIDELIGHTS

Robert B. McCook, North Star Commandery, Lancaster New Hampshire, offers congratulations on the Knight Templar Magazine and presents a suggestion:

"I have a suggestion which may be out of line, but I know the Blue Lodges of Cincinnati follow the practice of having a Masonic employment bureau. My own idea is that the Magazine might be a clearing house for employment of Knights Templar."

* * * *

Andrew E. Barton, Grand Commander, Illinois, has authorized an Illinois Insert in the current issue of the Knight Templar Magazine. Each magazine mailed to an Illinois subscriber contains an additional four pages in the center devoted to news and information from the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. One jurisdiction—the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania—has been using a center supplement regularly since January 1966.

* * * *

Max G. Cogill, Public Relations chairman for the Grand Commandery of Oregon, and appointed by Grand Commander John R. Brownell the Oregon correspondent for the Knight Templar Magazine, offers this question and answer:

"Do you know?—Sir John A. McDonald, regarded as the organizer of the Dominion of Canada, and its first Prime Minister in 1867, was initiated in St. John's Lodge No. 5, Kingston, Ontario, March 14, 1844. Brother McDonald was a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar."

Information from E. C. Paul N. Wells, Madison Commandery No. 22, Madison, Indiana, tells of the presentation of the Edmund F. Ball Honor Award November 27 to Mike Robbins, Madison—one of



six youths sent last summer to Camp Crosley by Madison Commandery No. 22, and one of only two youths in the state named by the Camp Crosley Alumni Association as outstanding campers and citizens. George W. Cuskaden, Eighth Battalion Commander, made the presentation assisted by P.C. Sidney E. Cofield. Commander Wells was unable to attend. The full story and picture were prominently featured in the Madison Courier.

* * * *

Sir Knight Lawrence J. Ranck, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, in his December Newsletter, announced the following tentative Grand Visitations for January and February: January 15—Portsmouth Commandery No. 5; 22—Olivet Commandery No. 18; 24—Piedmont Commandery No. 26; February 9—Luray Commandery No. 19; 26—Hampton Commandery No. 17. His advance schedule notes a tentative visitation to Cyrene Commandery No. 21, March 21.

The Newsletter to the Sir Knights of Virginia is edited by Sir Knight W. C. Vaughan.

(Continued on page 20)

Veterans Day Service In Albuquerque Temple

The only York Rite Temple in New Mexico, owned by the York Rite Bodies of Albuquerque, was the scene of a Veterans Day Memorial Service November 9, with Sir Knight Richard E. Johnson, Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of New Mexico, conducting the service in his World War II uniform, and with the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight John R. Mendius, in attendance. Accompanying the Grand Commander in his official visit to Pilgrim Commandery No. 3 were: Lawrence F. Manker, D.G.C.; Harlan Morris, G.G.; and Sam Swysgood, G.J.W.

The York Rite Temple, purchased in 1967, was dedicated November 25 with a family night dinner. Entertainment was furnished by members from Bethels No. 5 and 6 of Jobs Daughters, which are sponsored by the York Rite Bodies of Albuquerque.

K.T. and K.C. Meet Jointly At Milwaukee



Karl Schierz, P.C., Henry L. Palmer Commandery, and Rudolf Beier, P.C., Wisconsin Commandery, pose with Erwin Kwiatowski and Edward Shoemaker, of the Bishop Henni Assembly, Knights of Columbus, at the joint October banquet in Milwaukee.

Grand Commander Willard P. Matschke and G. Wilbur Bell, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Encampment, were participants in the banquet program.

Arizona Grand Commandery Officers 1967-1968



Front Row L. to R.: Loyd E. Adams, G.S.W.; Elvie B. Jolley, G.G.; Thomas E. LaCount, D.G.C.; Judd G. Minter, G.C.; John C. Walton, G.C.G.; Dwight E. Shannon, G.R.

Back Row L. to R.: Olin E. Lehman, G.P.; G. Melvin Reese, G.Sw. B.; Estel W. Brooks, G.T.; Marvin E. Anderson, G.W.; John B. Prater, G. J.W.; W. Lynn Dixon, G.Std. B.; R. Glenn White, G. C of G.

Knights Templar Chapel Dedicated

Culminating hours of labor and the efforts of hundreds of Montana Sir Knights the Knights Templar Memorial Chapel was dedicated at services in the chapel at the Masonic Home near Helena, Montana, October 29.



Montana Templars had labored for more than five years to raise money to build an appropriate chapel attached to the Masonic Home. "This project, designed to afford our Masonic Sisters and Brothers a place to worship," writes Samuel J. Chapman, P.D.C., "officially ended at the dedicatory services at which time the title was transferred to the Masonic Home Board. Over 50 Sir Knights in uniform were present. This included every Grand Commandery officer with one exception and most of the Constituent Commanderies were represented. Over 200, in addition to the uniformed Knights, were present."

The chapel represents a state effort on the part of Knights Templar to portray in a real concrete sense the principles of the



Order. In addition to the construction, the Sir Knights contributed the furnishings. "It shall be forever known as the Knights Templar Memorial Chapel and dedicated to the memory of the many hours spent by the sisters and brothers in the labor and love of Masonry."

Sir Knight Chapman was Grand Commander when the project was initiated.



H. Baird Whitaker, Denver insurance executive, is R. E. Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Colorado. Sir Knight Whitaker was Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado in 1956. In addition to a full range of Templar programs, the Grand Commander is actively at work on plans for the 51st Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment to be convened August 22, 1970 in Denver.

"IN HIS NAME"

Leontis W. V. Junken
‡

FRESH "DEFINITION" FOR CHURCH AND TEMPLARY

A year ago I heard the multiple role of a church (or asylum) in today's world defined in a way which challenged me to the very roots of my being. In London, Southwark Cathedral's Provost was quoting Albert van der Heuval of Geneva as claiming that, in a special way, a church or cathedral, is to be:

"A place of diversity
 A pentecostal laboratory
 A theatre of basic drama
 A *temple* of dialogue
 A *centre* of creativity
 An academy of informed information
 A clinic for public exorcism
 A voice for the voiceless
 A society of friends
 A tower of reconciliation
 A motel for pilgrims
 A house of vicarious feasts
 A hut of the Shepherd"

To think, when we have provided or been all these things, we are yet to acknowledge that we are unprofitable servants. Whew! What a terrific responsibility.

In turn, your Prelate found meaningful the experience of seeking definitions of "Asylum" and "church" in various dictionaries, of discerning fresh "definition": in the printed Toasts and Responses this Nativity-Tide, in the reports presented at the Golden Triennial and in the directives of the new Grand Master to his Religious Activities associates.

A centre of creativity! Are we?

One of the questions being asked inside the church today is, do we really believe in the *partnership* of laity and clergy? *The* new fact is that only with teamwork by *all* can we begin to tackle the present and future task of providing local and true centers of creativity. So much of the Report of the Committee on Religious Activity to the Fiftieth Triennial Conclave assembled in Detroit addressed itself to aspects of this fact:

"Sir Knights of total commitment to their Lord and Saviour will not wait for directives or direction from a Grand Encampment Committee. They will at all levels in the Order work hard at their religious vocation as Christians. They will not be onlookers or only "Sir Knights" in name. They will affirmatively join the tenets of the Order to those of their churches. Thus brought into union, the enduring verities will of a surety be revitalized. Then will church and Templary gain in stature, accord and influence.

"At the grass roots, then, Sir Knights of uncommon spiritual, moral

and economic integrity will develop their own devices in Christian exemplification in making their mark in and on their local communities in advancing the totality of God's Kingdom. These Sir Knights will frequent their churches regularly in worship. They will be teachers in Sunday schools. They will function on church boards and committees. They will be laymen at the beck and call of Jesus Christ, and they will not forget Templary and its mission.

"They will not hesitate to relate Templary to certain rites in their churches. Among these will be joint worship services to which Sir Knights will march in proper uniform in an open and public avowal of their allegiance to Christ of the Christian Church. They will attend such common rites often, not only on the two or three most holy days. These joint worship experiences they will arrange not specifically as Sir Knights, nor even as church affiliates, but for the edification of their own souls and their commitment to Christ and as responsible members of their communities.

"Organized religion—as it functions in the Christian Church—will gain in this kind of local cooperation with Templary, but Templary, too will profit. On the record, Templary is a handmaiden of the Christian Church, but it will hold this good repute as a matter of general knowledge only if its members emblazon it in the public mind by demonstrated works. In today's complex social, moral, spiritual and economic structure no organization can grow if its light be hid under a bushel."

A Temple of Dialogue! Are we?

We are only on the edge of the

edge in rediscovering what Christ wants to do with the devotion and commitment found in congregations and commanderies at work at worship—relating all our liturgies to life, and to working out in worship and service the new partnership of each and all. Can we say "Amen" to the prayer offered by Burt Pearson at Detroit: "Gracious, Heavenly Father, Bring an end to the nagging confusions of this day. . . . Bring amity and accord in those areas where hatred and misunderstanding are bred. Bring into being a single brotherhood among men to rule the world in Thy name. Indeed, set the whole world on fire in a great and enveloping crusade which shall bring all nations and all peoples to Thy footstool."

To say "Amen" to that we must take seriously all new efforts at dialogue around us. The Golden Conclave Report would seem to affirm this hope for fresh rapport and dialogue with other people in His Name:

"Within every area of the Grand Encampment and within the environs of Grand Commanderies and Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies—indeed, Templary's sole reason for existence—the role of the individual Sir Knight as a practicing Christian member of general society must be a prime objective.

"It is therefore essential that strong religious principles be nurtured and flowered at the grass roots in the body of Templary. Sir Knights thus girded will become leaders in the Christian activities in their communities across the face of this land and wherever else the banner of the Order is lifted.

(Continued next page)

(Continued from preceding page)
They will, in devotion to both, establish good rapport between Templary and the church of their affiliation.

“When to their church roles, in which they become good examples and lodestars, the dedicated Sir Knights join the affirmative Christian tenets of Templary, in common effort for the Kingdom, they will have given highest allegiance to a dual obligation, singly expressed. This is to say that a Christ-oriented Sir Knight is doubly dedicated when he relates the gospel truth of his church—no matter the denomination—to his character as a Knight Templar.

“Templary’s future, even as was its glorious past, rests on valiant men and their households, the whole of their sphere of influence. Only Sir Knights of exceeding good will and of complete dedication to God, country and mankind can assure a future for the Order which will comport with its radiant yesterdays. Today’s clear and transcendent challenge is to preserve inviolate—and extend—into the far, far tomorrows the priceless fraternal heritage to us bequeathed by those departed illustrious and consecrated Sir Knights

whose fame, works and worth are deathless, immortal.

“As in numbers in membership, the Order grows a Sir Knight at a time, so grows the fraternity’s contribution to the Christian affirmations of a given period in history. As one by one, Sir Knights at the grass roots determine to make the Christian religion work, so will grow the contribution to this end made by Templary, and thus will the image of the Order gain lustre and recognition.”

A laboratory and theatre of basic drama! Definitely! “But it appears that we lack adequate information as to what committees at the state and local level are doing. Reports of activities, other than the usual observances of Festival Days, are rare indeed.” Said the Grand Master in a memo to your Grand Encampment Committee on Religious Activities! “Companion Committees,” open to His Spirit, could so “broaden the program and increase the useful functions of local Commanderies” that multitudes more might know, in this world, *a society of friends and pilgrims sharing vicarious feasts and seeking reconciliation in the Name of the Shepherd.*

Indiana Honors Avery

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana will honor one of its distinguished native sons, Sir Knight Willard M. Avery, R. E. Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, with a reception and banquet Saturday evening, February 3, at the Masonic Temple, Muncie.

R.A.M. Sesquicentennial

The 150th Anniversary of Eagle Chapter R.A.M., Ithaca, New York, was observed November 11 with W. B. Wilkinson as master of ceremonies. The M.E. Grand High Priest, Russell P. Kantor, assisted by New York’s Grand Chapter Officers, rededicated Eagle Chapter No. 58 during the anniversary program. Eagle Chapter’s High Priest is John M. McCord.

Spiritual Leadership In California

The Committee of the California Knights Templar Educational Foundation "Christian Ministry," William D. Tucker, P.G.C., Chairman, has completed its interviews and the presentation of the 12th Annual Scholarship Awards of \$1,000 to each of 15 students from five California Theological Schools:—Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Pacific School of Religion, the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, San Francisco Theological Seminary, and School of Theology, Claremont.

In addition to scholarship awards, the Knights Templar Foundation annually contributes \$2,000 to the budget of faculty salaries of each school, reports Correspondent James F. Raymond, making total yearly contributions of \$25,000.

The Knights Templar Foundation of California for Christian Ministry was instituted in 1955 to help fill vacant Protestant pulpits. Funds are received from Knights Templar in California (\$1.00 per year), and from gifts and bequests.

Historic Shrine Scene Of Special Demonstration

In accordance with a long standing tradition of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania to encourage Constituent Commanderies to hold Religious Services at historical spots on Patriotic Holidays, Hutchinson Commandery No. 32 held its Annual Veterans Day Service at the Washington Memorial Chapel, the National Shrine at Valley Forge. The long line of uniformed Sir Knights with their families and guests filled the beautiful Chapel to overflowing. The lines, led by the Officers of the Host Commandery, included the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, two Past Department Commanders and the Officers and members of five nearby Commanderies in addition to the members of Hutchinson Commandery No. 32.

"It was another wonderful public demonstration of the Christian and Patriotic principles of Templary," reports John B. Cottrell, Jr., Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities.



Starting at the left: Sidney J. Goodfellow, G. J. W., Foundation Committee member; F. F. Jones, G.S.B.; Richard T. Knowles, student; Dr. Ernest C. Colwell, President, School of Theology; William D. Tucker, P.G.C., Chairman;

James D. Hulett, student; Bill R. Ritchie, student; Chester H. Newell, E.G.R., Secretary of the Foundation; Dr. F. Thomas Trotter, Dean, School of Theology. (Picture by L. A. Washburn, Los Angeles Masonic Press Club)

General Order No. 2

To all Grand Commanderies and to all Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and Holding Allegiance to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, Greetings:

In order to provide funds which will permit growth of the services of our Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. in accordance with the present general acceptance of the value of this great Templar Charity, and to define and limit a special period of activity and appeal for such funds, it is hereby ordered:

1. A special period is hereby established for the solicitation of gifts to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by individual Knights Templar through their Commanderies, and for other fund-raising activities by Commanderies, over and above the basic \$1.00 per year assessment and the associated Life Sponsor program, to begin on Ash Wednesday, February 28, 1968 and end on Ascension Day, May 24, 1968.
2. All Knights Templar are to be invited by communications from the Commanderies of which they are members to participate by such contributions as their personal means may permit. No quotas are established or to be established. Recorders are to receive and accumulate such contributions.
3. Commanderies are requested to conduct at least one social, religious, entertainment or other program for the benefit of Knights Templar Eye Foundation during the special time period, in any manner not offensive to Masonic practices. Such programs shall be adopted by the Commandery in conclave and all net proceeds shall be added to other contributions.
4. Each Commandery is to forward to the Grand Commander (Subordinate Commanderies to the Grand Master) all proceeds from contributions by individual members and from benefit activities by the Commandery, within the seven days following Ascension Day (by June 1, 1968), and report such action for the record at the next Stated Conclave.
5. Grand Commanders or their agents are to forward all contributions received from Commanderies to Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 175, Rhinebeck, New York 12572, on or before June 15, 1968. Such funds are to be accompanied by a tabulation showing (1) name, number and location of each Commandery, (2) number of members as of last annual report, and (3) amount contributed by each Commandery.

May our response reflect our Christian and Masonic commitments, and may all that is undertaken and all that is done be in true Templar spirit.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, at Nokomis, Florida, this 1st day of January, 1968, A.O. 850

Courteously and fraternally,
John L. Crofts, Sr.
Grand Master

PENNSYLVANIA SUPPLEMENT

THE CRUSADER



Serving Templary in Pennsylvania

Let's Make Many Others Happy!

The holidays are gone but not forgotten. The Fall season is officially over, placing us squarely into winter—so now to work! The final segment of the Templar Year, 1967-68, is with us. Shall we end it “tired but happy” for Pennsylvania Templary?

Four-hundred-eight petitions for the Orders of the Temple were recorded as of November! Three-hundred-fourteen Eye Foundation Life Sponsorships have been subscribed for by Pennsylvania Templars, as of November 30th. Can you understand my personal feelings of gratitude in response to this activity? As the occupant of the office of Grand Commander, I thank those responsible for these figures. With such good signs I am confident that all other “designs” will be met squarely.

Let us show our strength in backing a strong pilgrimage to the Easter Sunrise Services at Washington, D.C., the statewide Ascension Day service at Gettysburg, April 27th and 28th, and a dedicated drive to achieve a membership gain through hard work during the months ahead.

I'm glad someone asked me to become a Knight Templar.

Let's make many others happy.

Harold E. Stokely

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Deadline!

Sir Knight Nelson Sears, Cyrene Commandery No. 34, Columbia, is the official “collector and correlator” of news and information for the Pennsylvania Insert of the Knight Templar Magazine. This Pennsylvania segment, labeled “The Crusader,” consists of the center four pages of the magazine mailed to each of the more than 2,000 Pennsylvania subscribers. It is designed for items of local interest and importance.

As editor of the Pennsylvania

pages in the center of the magazine, Sir Knight Sears needs your material as early as possible—but not later than the 10th of the month preceding publication. Otherwise, the mailing by the printer is delayed for Pennsylvania subscribers who, as a consequence of late copy, may receive their copies later than subscribers in other jurisdictions.

Address your material to Nelson Sears, 1761 Hemlock Drive, Lancaster, Pa. 17603.

Grand Commander's Itinerary

(Revised December 1967)

- Jan. 13—Division No. 4. Master Masons Night
20—Grand Commandery Special Membership Meeting, Harrisburg, (Holiday West. 12 Noon)
25—Chartiers Commandery. Official Visitation
27—McKeesport Commandery, Dance and Entertainment. (Yough. C.C.)
- Feb. 2—Stated Meeting, Grand Officers and Past Grand Commanders, Philadelphia (Bellevue Stratford. 9 A.M.)
3—Division No. 1 Reception, Germantown (Masonic Temple. 6:30 P.M.)
9-10—Division No. 2 Festival. (Chapter and Council Degrees)
17—Division No. 2 Festival. (Order of the Temple)
24—Chester Chapter, Order of DeMolay. (Banquet celebrating designation of Number One DeMolay Chapter in the World!)
- Mar. 7—Syria Temple, Pittsburgh. (York Rite Cold Sands)
23—Division No. 4 Reception. (Tentative)
30—Syria Temple Banquet.
- Apr. 12—Mountain Commandery, Altoona. (Good Friday Class)
13-14—Easter Sunrise Service Weekend, Washington, D.C.
27-28—Ascension Day Service, Gettysburg

The Philadelphia York Rite Assembly climaxed a successful and effective Festival November 11, when 43 Companions were knighted in the Louis R. Enslin Memorial Class at Philadelphia's Masonic Temple. Germantown Commandery No. 82 conferred the Order of the Red Cross; the Order of Malta was conferred by Kensington Commandery No. 54, and Kadosh Commandery No. 29 conferred the Order of the Temple. Among the distinguished Temp-

lars on hand were the R. E. Grand Commander, Sir Knight Harold E. Stokely, and the V. E. Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight G. Calvin Dyson.

Chapter Degrees were conferred on the Charles E. Tull Memorial Class Saturday, November 4. On Friday evening, November 10, the Council class was named in honor of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery, Sir Knight John W. Laird.

Division No. 2 Reception To The Grand Commander

Saturday evening, October 21 . . . entire elected Grand Line present . . . all but two appointed Grand Officers and 12 of 17 Division Commanders . . . Grand Commander of West Virginia, Sir Knight Carder, and Past Grand Commander Du Vall of New York were present with their ladies . . . also Sir Knight William Coffman, Ohio's Grand Captain of the Guard, was on hand with his lady. Sir Knight Earl Herold, R. W. Past Grand Master, represented the Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania. Companion Arthur Diamond, M.E.G.H.P., and seven D.D.G.H.P.'s were present for Chapter. Sir Knight Herbert Smith, Most Puissant Past Grand Master of Council and presently M. P. Grand Treasurer, represented the Grand Council. Sir Knight Ted Rohm represented the Grand Monarch of the Grotto, and Brother Allen Amith, Monarch of Islam Grotto, was present with his lady. Sir Knight William Slippy and Charles Meet, both Past Commanders and presently District Deputies for De Molay, were received in that capacity. An exhibition drill by South Hills Chapter, Order of De Molay, and presentation of the colors by members of McMann Chapter, De Molay, (Dad Stokely's Chapter), were highlights of the evening. They "received" the Grand Commander under an arch of steel.

One highlight was the entrance of the ladies of the Division and distinguished guests. They presented a beautiful and colorful scene, led by the Division Commander's Lady, "Pat," who was escort to Nellie Stokely, wife of the Grand Commander.

Division No. 2 Commander Horace D. Standbridge, wishes to extend his sincere thanks to each Sir Knight and each lady who assisted in any way to make this "homecoming" a success.

Sir Knight Harold and Lady Nellie will always cherish this night in their memories.

Mrs. Stokely, mother of the Grand Commander, "stole the show" in the Grand March with Past Grand Master Herold as they danced the first two numbers to the beautiful music of Joe Shafer's band.



The Paul N. Geyer Class



The first "York Rite Festival" held in Chambersburg was a successful occasion. The Degrees in Chapter and Council were conferred October 28, 1967, and The Orders of Knighthood conferred on November 4, 1967.

Sir Knight Paul N. Geyer, a Past Commander of Continental Commandery No. 56, and a living example of "Templary in Action," was honored by having the class named for him.

Plans are being readied to hold a second festival in March, 1968.

Cyrene Commandery No. 34 and Corinthian Chapter No. 224 will observe the centennial of York Rite Masonry in Columbia during the spring of 1969. Sir Knights Nelson Sears and William W. Wright (the latter D. D. G. H. P.) are formulating plans and procedures.

**IN
MEMORY
OF**

James A. Gunn

**Grand Commander
Mass. & R. I.—1926
Born June 7, 1883
Died November 1, 1967**

F. Campbell Bowers

**Grand Commander
Michigan — 1947
Born March 31, 1893
Died November 17, 1967**

J. Clifford Smith

**Grand Commander
Michigan — 1945
Born October 18, 1887
Died November 14, 1967**

William L. Holland

**Grand Commander
Mississippi — 1967 — (1968)
Born February 25, 1900
Died November 29, 1967**

Edward Winslow Cram

**Grand Commander
Maine — 1935
Born June 30, 1885
Died December 2, 1967**

Jean Laurent De Camp

**Grand Commander
Arkansas — 1961
Born March 10, 1898
Died December 6, 1967**

William M. Bickel

**Grand Commander
New Mexico — 1929
Born February 12, 1880
Died December 14, 1967**

Remember thy servants, O Lord, according to the favor which Thou bearest unto Thy people, and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of Thee, they may go from strength to strength, in the life of perfect service, in Thy heavenly kingdom. Give us the strength to return to the quiet duties of our place—with chastened desires, with better aspirations, with truer diligence, with less trust in ourselves and more rest in Thee. May we dedicate ourselves anew to the service of Thy will; that, in the faith and spirit of Him who was made perfect through suffering, we in the church militant may henceforth live our lives. Amen.

York Rite Assembly in Philadelphia



Grand Officers of Pennsylvania attended the Knighting of 43 Companions on November 11, 1967. Seated in the front row are: Howard T. Scull, Division Commander, Div. No. 1; Walter H. Woodin, Trustee of Grand Commandery; Dallas F. Bullock, R.E. Past Grand Commander; G. Calvin Dyson, V. E. Deputy Grand Commander; Harold E. Stokely, R.E. Grand Commander; John F. Kull, General Chairman of the York Rite Assembly; John W. Laird, Grand Recorder; John A. Roth, Trustee of Grand Commandery; and Llewellyn W. Mills, E. Grand Sword Bearer.



Thirteen new Knights Templar were created in the Asylum of Henry L. Palmer Commandery No. 42, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, where the Order of the Temple was conferred by the Crusaders Unit of Tripoli Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., with Ralph F. Roussy, Assistant Rabban of the Temple, acting as Exemplar for the Class.

(Dr. Bledsoe—
continued from page 6)

He went to Bisbee, Arizona, in 1904 as assistant surgeon to Doctors Edmundson and Caven, who had a contract to care for the employees of the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company, purchasing Dr. Caven's interest and becoming chief surgeon in 1910, a post he retained until the Phelps Dodge Corporation bought out the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company in 1931.

Perhaps the best way to report on Dr. Bledsoe's twenty-seven years in Bisbee is to quote from a straight forward editorial tribute of thirty-seven years ago. The editorial in the Friday, October 2, 1931 issue of the local "Gazette" reads in part:

"There is nothing that has happened in Bisbee for a long time that has caused such sorrow as the departure from the district of Dr. N. C. Bledsoe and Mrs. Bledsoe. . . The loss to the community of such a man as N. C. Bledsoe seems to us almost irreparable.

"During a residence here of twenty-seven years, he has become a part of the community, has had much to do with its upbuilding, and his loss will be felt not only by those with whom he worked on the school board, on the city council, on the Chamber of Commerce and Boy Scouts, but by everyone with whom he had at least a nodding acquaintance. The Bisbee district and everyone with whom he came in contact was the better for his having lived and worked here for a quarter century.

"Dr. Bledsoe was a charter member of the Rotary Club . . . served as president and on the board. He was in this, as in every other club or lodge, a worker and one of the members who made it a worthwhile organization.



Dr. Bledsoe today

"He went into nothing that he did not put his whole heart and soul into; there never were any half way measures with him. He was for you or against you, and never let you for a moment doubt where he stood and what he stood for.

"While he worked for everything that helped the community in general, his main object in life, outside of his profession, seemed to be what he did for boys. This work he did through the Boy Scouts . . . He is a member of several lodges but his main interest was in the Masonic order. He is a 33rd degree Mason and is . . . a Past Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Arizona. . .

"He was charitable, he was just, he was a true friend. The best wishes of thousands of friends here go with the Bledsoes wherever they may go."

An accolade of that sincerity is hard to come by, and—after twenty-seven years as a constantly

(Continued next page)

(Continued from preceding page) busy surgeon, it could almost sound to a man like an invitation to sit back and take it easy.

But to Dr. Bledsoe it had no such connotation. He located in Tucson and continued his practice of medicine for another 35 years—finding time, energy and interest in his heavy schedule for Masonry, for civic service to others, and in particular for The Arizona Pioneers Historical Society. He became president of the society in 1950 and, as he says, “through the efforts of my staff we erected a \$250,000 building, financed by the state 50% and private donations 50%.”

Dr. Bledsoe, deservedly, is a beloved and admired figure in Arizona and in the fraternity—and among thousands of others, including DeMolays and Boy Scouts, who have been inspired, influenced and materially helped by his works and his example.

Reminiscing for a recent interviewer, Dr. Bledsoe recalled the smallpox epidemic of 1906 in Bisbee, when all suspects and those exposed to the dread disease were locked up in a compound and guarded around-the-clock. Sir Knight Bledsoe came through unscathed.

He recalls when he was called into a mine to attend a worker who had broken his leg. “I climbed up to where he was trapped,” said the doctor, “and administered morphine. Then, just as I moved away a river of sand poured over the man and smothered him to death. It was terrible, and there was nothing anyone could do.”

The tremendous strides in medicine in the past half century do not prevent Dr. Bledsoe’s jibing his fellow practitioners. “I can still remember when patients’ hospital charts were marked ‘G.O.K.’—

‘God Only Knows’ what’s wrong!’ But, now when a doctor doesn’t know what’s wrong with his patient, he tells him he has a ‘virus infection’.”

The Knight Templar Magazine—for his fellow Knights Templar, all Freemasons, and for his countless friends and admirers everywhere—salutes Sir Knight and Dr. Nelson Charles Bledsoe, truly a man who makes us proud of our fraternal association.

SIR KNIGHT:- .. the blind see only
See this cute baby? (THIS)



REASON ENOUGH FOR YOU TO
BECOME A LIFE SPONSOR OF THE
KNIGHT TEMPLAR
EYE FOUNDATION, INC.
See your Recorder for an application.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation posters, executed by Sir Knights Ralston James and Jerry Marsengill, have been distributed to every Constituent Commandery by the Grand Commandery of the State of Iowa. A sales technique suggested by Sir Knight Marsengill, the idea was adopted enthusiastically by Sir Knight E. Russell Graham, Grand Commander.

Sir Knight James, WHO radio and TV staff artist, handled the drawing for the Charitable Activities Committee of Iowa, Sir Knight Jack K. Miller, chairman. A letter from Grand Commander Graham accompanies each poster!

Department Commanders' Forum

Sir Knight Alvin L. Crump, R.E. Department Commander, North Central Department, is in receipt of a December letter from a fellow York Rite Mason who signs himself "Otto." (*) It reads: "Dear Al: Thank you so very much for sending the membership card of the Royal and Select Masters. I am most appreciative. I am sending my check payable to you since I did not pay it initially.

"Thank you so much for your personal interest over these many years. It has been a most rewarding experience for me, and but for your constant interest I know I would have missed so much in Masonry."

(* *His Excellency, Otto Kerner, the Governor of Illinois*)

Says Department Commander Sager:

A conference of the East Central Department has been scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 1968. It will be held at the Holiday Inn of Dayton, Ohio.

Information and details regarding reservations will be forwarded to the Officers of the Grand Commanderies of West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Indiana.

The M.E. Grand Master, Sir Knight John L. Crofts, and the R. E. Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Paul C. Rodenhauer expect to attend.

A reminder from Sir Knight William R. Robbins, R. E. Department Commander, South Central Department: A Department Conference has been arranged for Saturday, February 3, at Little Rock, Arkansas, with the Lafayette Hotel as headquarters.



Harold S. Gorman, R.E. Department Commander for the South Pacific Department, is surrounded by some of the participants in the November Department Conference at Las Vegas. Dwight E. Shannon, Arizona's Grand Recorder, snapped the picture.

"It is a pleasure to report," writes Sir Knight C. Wallace Jackson, R. E. Department Commander, Southeastern Department, "that each of eight Grand Commanders of the Department except one—who will be relaying plans soon—has mounted an intensive campaign to maintain or increase subscriptions to the Magazine until it is sent the membership generally.

"Outstanding among these is Lawrence J. Ranck, Grand Commander of Virginia, who is putting effort and imagination into his administration. . . He is backing his program with determination and letting his Sir Knights know he is after results."

Sir Knight George E. Hobbs, R.E. Grand Commander, Kentucky, has alerted his Commanderies in General Order No. 3 to the revised Educational Foundation rules, especially to the portion calling for the appointment of a satisfactory representative for the Educational Foundation from each Constituent Commandery.

(Mailbox Continued from page 7)

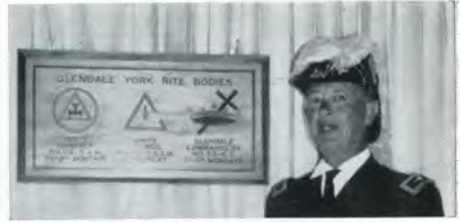
From the York Rite Masons of Fort Pierce, Florida, comes a copy of "The Tie," which carries the current St. Lucie Commandery message to St. Lucie Sir Knights. "St. Lucie Commandery has good reason to be proud," says the message. "Our little 'hick' town has put not only Commanderies, but whole states and countries on the spot by having 141 paid up Knights Templar Eye Foundation Life Sponsorships. . .

"Now Sir Knights, we have 52 new Sir Knights who were Knighted at our Gus Grissom Memorial Class in Orlando. These (too) have pledged their sponsorships. . .

"Reason also to be proud for having almost doubled our membership. . . a gain of 86 since November 1966. Reason to be proud, yes—last year our George Petrie put us No. 1 in the Eye Foundation; this year, our Eminent Commander, Hank Bengal, and our Captain-General, Jim Banketas, working as a team brought in 62 petitions—a record we believe for any Commandery!"

* * * *

The Masonic Service Association points out that the oldest living Mason celebrated his 82nd Masonic Anniversary last November 18, when the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire met in Manchester's Masonic Temple for its regular Semi-annual Communication. "Sitting in his usual place as Grand Steward was Brother Sherman D. Parsons, Morning Star Lodge No. 17, Wolfeboro." The 106th birthday anniversary of Brother Parsons falls on January 13.



Paul E. Mihal, Glendale, California, sends a picture of Sir Knight Kenneth N. Downs, K.Y. C.H., Prelate of Glendale Commandery No. 53, as he stands beside a plaque which he designed and inlaid for the ante-room of the Glendale York Rite Bodies. (The plaque bears the insigne of each body—Chapter, Council and Commandery, as well as written identification of each.) "Sir Knight Downs served twice as Master of his Lodge, Metropolitan No. 646, Los Angeles, as well as heading the York Rite Bodies," says Sir Knight Mihal. "He served for many years on the California Grand Lodge History Committee and is presently Deputy Prior of Los Angeles Priory No. 27, K.Y.C.H."

* * * *

From the Desk of Grand Recorder G. Burton Long, P.G.C. (Mass., R.I.)

The subject of membership is perhaps the number one discussion whenever Knights Templar assemble. Thousands of words have been spoken and written on it.

Two phases under this heading which receive much attention are Demits and Suspensions. As I write this, the words of Mark Twain concerning weather come to mind which in effect state, "Everyone talks about it (the weather) but nobody does anything about it." I wonder if we are not in a similar state.

A slightly revised edition of a poem which recently crossed my desk gives a graphic picture of a neophyte recently admitted to our Order. If the thought expressed is truly taken to heart, I am sure your membership will increase.

I see you at the meetings, but
you never say Hello, You are
too busy all the time, with
men you really know.

Gosh, you have asked us in,
and you talk of fellowship,
You could have stepped across
the room, but you never made
the trip.

Why can't you nod and say
Hello, or stop and shake a
hand, Then go and join your
other friends, you know I'll
understand.

I sit among the fellows, still
I'm a very lonely guy, The
new men sit there with me,
while you quietly pass us by.

I'll be at the next meeting,
on that you can depend, So
won't you introduce yourself,
I want to be your friend.

* * * *

In the Editor's mail is a nota-
tion of a signal Masonic recogni-
tion for Sir Knight Ormond B.
Shaw, Past Grand Commander
and the Grand Recorder of the
Grand Commandery of Arkansas.
Sir Knight Shaw has taken office
as Grand Master of the Grand
Lodge of Masons of Arkansas.

* * * *

The Daily Sentinel, of Grand
Junction, Colorado, carried a re-
cent story on five year old Teresa
Reed, who was born with crossed
eyes. Although Teresa got along
pretty well in kindergarten, her
parents knew the problem of deal-
ing with school-books would be
completely different.

Last September, Teresa Reed en-
tered Mesa Memorial Hospital.
Two muscles in the left and one
in the right eye were adjusted so
they would function as a unit. "For
the surgery which promises Teresa
a lifetime of good vision, the Reeds
are grateful to the Knights
Templar Eye Foudation," says
Grand Junction's Daily Sentinel.
"Little girls like Teresa, or anyone
else with vision trouble, are the
foundation's reason for being."

The newspaper points out that
the foundation's representative on
"the Western Slope" is Lorin Mc-
Carty of Grand Junction.

* * * *

Although everyone was kind
enough not to mention it, Theodore
Roosevelt, we feel honor-bound to
report, was not born on December
27 as listed in the December issue,
but on October 27, 1858. Incorrect
source material slipped by un-
questioned. If you're planning a
Theodore Roosevelt Birthday An-
niversary event this year, please
make it October 27.

* * * *

In the October issue of the
Knight Templar Magazine was a
listing of jurisdictions which had
furnished Grand Masters to the
Grand Encampment. At the time,
the state of Georgia was omitted—
but the Georgia record was in-
cluded in the next month's publica-
tion. Presently, we revive the sub-
ject to point out that Sir Knight
Wylie Wendt, whose past articles
you have enjoyed, had included
Georgia in his original source
material, but it was lost in the
printing transition to the mag-
azine. Sir Knight Wendt had the
full record and the complete facts
—which, we are sure, would be
obvious to all who know and re-
spect his thoroughness and
accuracy.

(Continued next page)

(Continued from preceding page)



James Joyce, Grand Recorder, Minnesota, points out that Damascus Commandery No. 1, St. Paul, held its annual Christmas Observance Sunday afternoon, December 3, at 2 o'clock.

"Again the Knights of Columbus were guests in full regalia. This event takes place each year at this time in conjunction with the Christmas Choral Pageant at the St. Paul Municipal Auditorium, at which the Knights Templar and Knights of Columbus from an Honor Guard for the Pageant."

* * * *

William R. Lepper, P.C., K.T. C.H., and Recorder of Tokyo Commandery No. 1, writes to tell of Tokyo Commandery's conclave at Camp Chitose, Hokkaido, last November when 11 Companions "who had previously submitted their petitions for the Orders were duly and properly conferred with the Orders of the Red Cross, Malta and Temple."

The Commander of Tokyo Commandery No. 1 is Nohea O. A. Peck, who represented his Commandery along with Generalissimo Myron G. Bettencourt, at the 50th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment in August at Detroit.

The candidates, reports Sir Knight Lepper, were not able to go to Tokyo for the Orders collectively because of military duties. "Therefore, the solution was to proceed to Camp Chitose, Kokkaido, and confer the Orders of Knighthood. Complete uniforms for 11 Sir Knights and the necessary equipment were transported."

Excerpts from letter of Sir Knight W. P. Matschke, Grand Commander, to the Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of Wisconsin:

"Because of the new legislation passed at the Triennial in Detroit, many Sir Knights are aware that as of July 1, 1969 every member will receive a copy of the Knight Templar Magazine.

"However, many Sir Knights who held subscriptions to this magazine have allowed their subscriptions to lapse at the present time with the thought in mind that renewal will again start in July of 1969.

"Because we believe that this magazine is important to all who have previously subscribed, we have taken it upon ourselves to prepare the new subscription card. This covers the renewal of this subscription until July of 1969 with the amount of your check shown on the card for direct mailing to the Knight Templar Magazine as shown."

* * * *

Southern California was the setting for the first York Rite Festival staged by the three Grand Rite Bodies of California back in October. Frank A. Amis reports there were 47 Royal Arch, 115 Royal and Select and 120 candidates for the Orders of Knight Templary.

* * * *

In answer to requests received in the mail, new booklets listing Revised Regulations and Standard Practice for the Divisions of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation will be distributed as soon as they are received from the printer—probably shortly after the mailing of this issue of the Knight Templar Magazine.

VROOMAN'S VIEWS

by John Black Vrooman, P.C., Missouri

Where Was the Cradle of Modern Templary?



We are still wandering along the shores of the Dead Sea when we attempt to get pertinent facts and authenticated documentary proofs which will show the *origins* of modern Templary.

By tradition, by custom and from a strictly historical study of Templary, it is evident that our Order was first established in modern times, in Military or Traveling lodges, chartered and given authority by the old Grand Lodges of England (both Antient and Modern), Ireland and Scotland, and from them we must trace the continuity and progress of our Order.

I am deeply indebted to the *Transactions* of Lodge CC, the very competent Research Lodge of Ireland, which has interesting, authentic and accurate information on this subject.

V.E. T.E. Johnston, writing in CC Transaction (1949), says—

“The growth of the Royal Arch degree and its associated degrees during the 18th Century inevitably gave rise to many imitations and innovations (so that) . . . a vast number of rites and degrees was being poured out, particularly from France. . . . (that) *the accepted authority of the Craft war-rant* as being sufficient for conferring of any degree beyond those

of the Craft, exposed the whole system in Ireland to the easy introduction of these degrees from the continent, and none saw more clearly than Fowler (John Fowler, one of Ireland’s outstanding Masonic leaders), the necessity of some form of control.”

The article then goes on to show that the failure to extend the administrative control of Grand Lodge (Ireland) to the Royal Arch and Knight Templar degrees and orders, precluded any question of a single body controlling all the degrees from the Craft upward. Fowler led the way in creating a central body for each order on the lines of Grand Lodge, and such bodies were then created, the Grand Encampment (of Ireland) among them.

One of the main reasons for the failure, at Philadelphia, in June 1816, to agree on means by which a national body could be formed was that some felt that their total allegiance (of Templary) was to the Symbolic Grand Lodge, and that they refused to deviate from this idea, it can be stated that the circumstances in Ireland of which Johnston writes, caused Fowler to make his move to separate the other bodies from the Symbolic lodge, and seemed to set a precedent for future action by all who wanted to put each group in its proper setting and avoid a very difficult situation.

Templary in Ireland *was* tied to and dependent upon Symbolic or Craft Freemasonry.

"Like Father, Like Son"

Eighteen "Father and Son" candidates were knighted at the October Gus Grissom Memorial York Rite Class in Orlando, Florida. Sixteen of them were present for the picture below.



Father-Son Candidates Teams:
First row—C. M. Pharr, William Pharr; O. G. Rowe, E. O. Rowe; Ruby Berghult, Bob Berghult; W.

H. Flint, W. B. Flint. Second row—S. A. Misik, Jr., S. A. Misik, III; D. E. Haughton, E. D. Haughton; B. C. Manville, B. C. Manville, Jr., J. L. Morgan, J. D. Morgan.



M.W. John T. Rouse, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Florida; R.E. Companion James W. MacDonald, Jr., M.E. Grand High Priest; Companion Edwin G. Brogdon, M.I. Grand Master; Sir Knight William H. Boye, R.E. Grand Commander, at Grissom Class.

Cross At Canton

Knights of the Eighth Division form a cross for the Tadmor Shrine Ceremonial December 2 at Canton, Ohio. Class was named in honor of Sir Knight Herbert E. Rogler, P.G.C., Ohio. A distinguished honor guest was Sir Knight G. Wilbur Bell, R. E. Deputy Grand Master. He was received through the lines with Sir

Among the political dignitaries present for the Gus Grissom Memorial York Rite Class in



Orlando, Florida, were: Joe Boyd, Vice Mayor, Dade County; Don Fugua, Member of Congress (2nd District of Florida); Chuck Hall, Mayor, Dade County; Charles Brown, Mayor, Lantana; John Lester, Chairman, St. Lucie County School Board; Bill Wise, Orange County Budget Commission.

Knight Rogler, Sir Knight Robert J. Hackett, P.G.C., Grand Recorder of Ohio; and Sir Knight George D. Stein, Ohio's Grand Warder.



"Uncle John" Ames Retires From Active Service

Sir Knight John T. Ames, Custodian of the Work and Secretary of the Board of Custodians of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., Iowa, ended an unprecedented 48 years on the Board of Custodians at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, Davenport, in September, says Correspondent Jerry Marsengill. Sir Knight John, "Uncle John" to three generations of district lecturers and "Mr. Ritual" throughout the state, has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1901. He was knighted in Vinton Commandery in 1920.

Sir Knight John's lodge attendance was in the tradition of the ancient Templars as he reminisces about the early years in Traer, Iowa, when all the members attended lodge on horseback, when the meetings were set on or before the full moon in order to have light enough to travel. He remem-

bers when central heating in a lodge was a far-off dream and they all helped carry wood and coal up the stairs to feed the stoves. Since Vinton Commandery has long since relinquished its charter, Sir Knight Ames now belongs to Appollo Commandery, Cedar Rapids, which also claims among its membership Sir Knight E. Russell Graham, Grand Commander of Iowa.

Through the cooperation and interest of Sir Knight and Dr.S.L. DeLove, Chicago, an informal interview-discussion type of Knight Templar broadcast will be on the air Saturday, January 13, over Chicago's WVFM (105.9) from 2:30 to 3:00 o'clock.

Participants: G. Wilbur Bell, R.E. Deputy Grand Master; Paul C. Rodenhauer, R.E. Grand Recorder; and Alvin L. Crump, R.E. Department Commander.

Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 of the Grand Commandery of the Commonwealth of Virginia was the host Commandery for the Fall Festival for Northern Virginia.

An atmosphere of tradition was attached to this particular class because it was in this same Masonic Temple that Brother George Washington was made a Master Mason.

Commanderies Fredericksburg No. 1, Charlottesville No. 3, Harrisonburg No. 10, Old Dominion No. 11, Winchester No. 12, Luray No. 19, Fairfax No. 25, Piedmont No. 26 and Arlington No. 29 participated.

Credit for the success of the Festival is due Sir Knights Frank



L. Roberson, P.C., Deputy Instructor General, Area No. 2, and Thomas A. O'Halloran, P.C., District Commander, District No. 3.

Sir Knight Lawrence J. Ranck, Grand Commander, shown with the class of 40, was the principal speaker at the banquet to climax what P.G.C. Joe R. Harris says "was an impressive and successful day."

Kansas Grand Council Centennial Program A December Highlight

Sir Knight Roy W. Reigle, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment and presently Grand Master of the Grand Council R&SM of Kansas, was the Presiding Officer for the December 9 Centennial of Grand Council at Leavenworth, Kansas, with Sir Knight and General Bruce C. Clarke as the Centennial Speaker.

Excerpts from the address by General Clarke follow.

"I am happy to have been in Kansas and to have had a part in your Centennial Ceremonial. I have served in Kansas at Fort Leavenworth and have had Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth under my command when I commanded the Continental Army. I have always considered Kansas as a very solid state of the United States.

"I am very happy to be able to pay your Most Illustrious Grand Master a visit. I first knew him when we were students at an Army School in 1929 and I sat next to him in class. He has been a great soldier, he is a great Mason and American. I am proud to salute him."

I am humble to have been made a member of the Council today. I consider it a great honor and I hope that I may be found worthy.

"Our Masonic Order is not generally growing. On the contrary many of its categories and jurisdictions are losing in membership. In 1927, when our country had 117,000,000 people our Knight Templar Order had 451,500 members. Today, out of 200,000,000 people, we have about 385,000 members.

"I have a close Masonic friend in Washington. He is a Knight Templar and a 33rd Scottish Rite Mason—Dr. Raymond W. Miller. He is a well known Public Relations authority. In talking to him recently about our problems, he gave me the benefit of studies he and his associates have made in the field. I will briefly summarize them:

"Speculative Masonry has been one of the best developers of leadership in the North American experiment in government which we know today as the *American Way of Life*.

"As the United States expanded to the West and South, a great part of the leadership which brought along *the principles of the Dignity of Man* were Masons.

"Masonry was carried by our military, our commercial interests, travelers and others to many places in the world and helped to present to those people a real image of what was basic in America and Americans. The Masonic Order from the earliest times was heavily endowed with men of leadership type.

"Our dwindling ranks are reducing the leadership potential in our Order. Why are our ranks dwindling? This is what Dr. Miller found from his research:

"In asking several hundred professional and business men whether they were Masons, he found that few were; a large number said, however, that their fathers and grandfathers were; they had never had it explained to them;

they were involved in many things already; and they had never been asked to join.

"1. While a member of the faculty of one of our great universities, Dr. Miller asked some 200 faculty members whether they were Masons—less than ten were.

"2. These reasons for not being Masons were offered;

a. We move too often today.

b. It takes a long time to apply, to be processed and to complete the initiation into a lodge. We may be moved before the process is completed. (This is especially true of the military).

c. Masonry is well adapted to the small town but today we live in larger cities and in suburbs and other things interfere.

d. Transportation is so much faster it opens up many other interests, and finally—

e. What does Masonry do anyway?

"3. Dr. Miller ends with this conclusion which I quote:

'Our conclusions are that without leadership the people perish, and that Masonry is a principal stabilizer of freedom. We should

make basic studies on how to win potential leaders to membership. This is a real problem for the Scottish Rite and York Rite areas because the membership of these "universities" in Masonry must come from the Blue Lodge. The present situation in the Blue Lodges of the United States is not such as to lead one to believe that in the future Masonry will exert the influence of freedom that it has in the past.'

"Now, let us look at the leadership problems we face today in a troubled and critical time in our country. It has been truthfully said that before you can solve an unfavorable situation you must be able to isolate, define and analyze the basic problem. You then turn the problem into such a project that will solve it.

"A great head of a church recently told me that we are attacking our present problems with our glands and not our intellect. Let us apply brains to the situation. Facts cannot be disregarded.

"A wise man once said: 'If you wish to make progress you must start from where you are now.'"

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A Capsule New Year's Expression from Brother Harry S. Truman—
Written by the Former President for the Knight Templar Magazine

HARRY S TRUMAN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

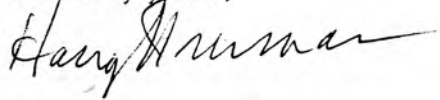
November 30, 1967

Dear Mr. Rodenhauser:

As we approach the New Year, we have reason to take a new look at the world around us and draw a fresh conclusion in the light of our experience.

We are confronted by formidable well-armed adversaries, determined to supplant freedom and democracy with a new brand of tyranny parading as the new dictatorship of the proletariat. Freedom will prevail if we are eternally vigilant.

Sincerely yours,



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