A Distinguished Christian Crusader
Recipient of the
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

Official Publication for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America
THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF TEMPLARY

This simplified explanation is the second
of a series of general information articles by the Grand Master.

Templary is unique among the basic Masonic bodies of the United States–Lodge, York and Scottish rites—in that it has a national sovereignty. Supreme legislative, judicial and executive power and jurisdiction over the Templar Orders lies with the Grand Encampment. Members should know how this came to be, what it really means, and that it is fortuitous.

Coming to America in late colonial days through immigration and the military lodges, Templar bodies were soon formed to the point of organizational need. In the republican spirit of the day, the Templar units of New York, Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island formed in 1816 the (General) Grand Encampment “—in order to secure unity and better government and to increase the prosperity and influence of Templary—” Then, through recognition of existing bodies, expansion and settlement of jurisdictional disputes, Templary arrived at a real national entity which has not been challenged seriously for more than 100 years. Today, we have nearly 1600 Commanderies, governed first by national laws, then by state rules, as well as by their own by-laws.

It is important in my opinion that we understand the advantages, effect and limitations of the representative national, state and local government of Templar activities.

The Grand Encampment does have supreme authority and strong disciplinary powers. However, it is a representative body of men elected by grand and subordinate Commanderies. It remembers that its purpose is to secure unity and serve the prosperity of the Commanderies. It provides a national approach to Templar matters, a forum for discussion and place for decisions on a national basis, and constantly reviews the balance between national, state and local authority. It provides national leadership, and no less importantly a national office where services may be performed efficiently for all elements of Templary as desired and specified.

The Grand Commanderies, formed by Commanderies or for them by Grand Encampment, also unite and serve the local Commanderies. They are closer to local situations and coincide with Grand Lodge jurisdictions. Their areas of authority are specified by Grand Encampment and are uniform, and their laws and control apply to all Commanderies within their jurisdictions. They provide offices for things best done at the state level and a forum for representatives chosen by election in their own Commanderies.

In this apparent mass of organization, it is sometimes difficult but always necessary to remember the essentially important role of the local Commanderies. Only they can create Knights Templar, elect members and representatives to the superior body. Only they elect their officers. Only they can plan their programs and satisfy the fraternal needs and high purposes of their members. Only they can create the constructive group influence of Templary within their own communities which is a basic purpose of the Templar Order. Only they can remember that they are not limited to things they must do, but may innovate and experiment within the boundaries of Masonic and Christian propriety.

Grand Master
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**The Cover:**

Sir Knight Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., whose visit to the moon signalled a new era in history, is a member of Ruthven Commandery No. 2, Houston, Texas. He joins the roll of Knights Templar Cross of Honor recipients, identified on page 12.
Pearland, Texas

Just want to thank everyone who had a hand in making Knight Templar Magazine available.

Wish we could all afford uniforms but unfortunately we can't. If the Commandery could own and keep them at the Asylum, then that would be an inducement for Sir Knights to attend more often and perhaps take part more willingly...I think they are very impressive to wear.

WM. C. SIMMS
Park Place Commandery No. 106
Houston

Cranford, New Jersey

I have been a member of the Commandery since 8 Feb. 1916 and have always been proud of my membership and to wear the uniform of a Knight Templar. The uniform is now and always has been an institution and to my mind a thing of beauty. I certainly would hate to see any change in it no matter how trivial.

In most Commanderies I have visited I have found that it is not obligatory for a Sir Knight to be in uniform in the Asylum but for Inspection that is another matter.

I want to thank the Grand Encampment for sending me the magazine which I enjoy very much.

R. C. THORNBURGH

Rockford, Illinois

The Knight Templar Magazine is now a must. I read and enjoyed the 25th Triennial story immensely.

JOSEPH L. BEAN, Recorder
Holy Trinity Conclave
Red Cross of Constantine

Fitzgerald, Georgia

Congratulations on the new magazine, Knight Templar. A beautiful job well done.

I know the Templars here are very proud to get this magazine and I wish to thank each of you for the great effort put forth.

I have just finished Volume XVI Number 8 and I must say I am gaining information that is well worth my time in reading this magazine.

Again, thanks to all who have made this magazine possible.

W. C. SANDERS
Gethsemane Commandery No. 20

North Canton, Ohio

This note to acknowledge the receipt of this wonderful petite Knight Templar Booklet from the giver beginning July 1969. A Life member in Athol Commandery No. 37, knighted April 7, 1920. Became associated with Canton Commandery No. 38 about 1922 and a worker to some extent on the side lines, a drill team participant many years. The challenge of the Knight Templar Life
always has been to live it and if possible more particularly in the Army. Think the life of the soldier and the Spirit of the Knight Templar go hand in hand.

My education is not complete and may I say thanks many times to my benefactor for the up-to-date knowledge to be found in the Knight Templar. As we grow older in service one hopes and strives to be found worthy in the Great Kingdom of the Knight Templar.

W. H. MELLEN
Emeritus Member, Committee of 33 National Sojourners

Hollywood, California

Greetings and Salutations!

Your Knight Templar Magazine is truly commendable and certainly worthy of much praise. We of the Craft cannot gain too much knowledge of the information pertaining to the performance, doings, and actions exemplified in one’s own Commandery as well as nationally and worldly.

Reached 89 in April 1969; 67 years as a Mason, 62 years of Knighthood, 50 years as a Past Commander; now the oldest living Past Commander of Robert Macoy Commandery No. 3 K.T. of Madison, Wisconsin. Also over 50 years in the Chapter and Consistory in Madison, Wisconsin; and in the (Shrine) Tripoli Temple in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, also an Honorary Member of Zor Temple of Madison, Wisconsin.

Since moving to Hollywood, California in 1929 I have endeavored to make myself useful assisting in the exemplification of the degrees in Hollywood, Commandery No. 56 K.T. One evening I had the privilege of conferring the Temple Degrees upon three brothers, their father a friend of mine, formerly, as I, from Wisconsin and a Knight.

In Robert Macoy Commandery, my year as Commander (1918) (war year, flu epidemic, coal and food shortage), due to last minute unavoidable absence of the Captain General and the General-

issimo it became my duty to confer all degrees from Red Cross through the knighting of a candidate. This was necessary, he being drafted, had to report for over sea duties the following morning. Started at 7:30 p.m. and completed the degrees at mid-night.

The next morning, early, he came to my office, saying, “You cannot realize how obtaining these degrees and having to leave at once for over sea duties the great impression each word of each step made upon me, each having its full meaning.”

It is a privilege to be able to exemplify the degrees and know they were fully accepted, feeling as time rolls on in Life one has Faith to lean upon and assist them on and upward as each year comes and to see the full meaning of — Faith, Hope and Charity.

And now one of our members beside taking his first steps in Masonry, has also taken the first step on the Moon. Will it in time find Masonry Universal?

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS.

WILLIAM A. VAN DEUSEN, P.C.

Towanda, Pennsylvania

On page 26 current issue of the Knight Templar Magazine there is an item of interest to me—200 years a Mason for Sir Knight Louis F. Heger. Below my record—

1967 – 50 years Blue Lodge
1968 – 50 years Consistory
1968 – 50 years Khedive Shrine
1970 – 50 years Chapter
1970 – 50 Council
1973 – 50 Knight Templar

York Rite College No. 11 will have 2 years in come March.

This stacks up for a lad still under 75. There should be a lot more of us who joined Masonry during the W.W. I

ALFRED T. PRINCE

(Continued—page 26)
86th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA

London, Ontario, was the setting for the 86th Annual Assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, Knights Templar, August 9-12, with M.E. Knight Clinton A. Bell, Supreme Grand Master, presiding. Templar guests present from the United States included the Grand Master of Knights Templar, U.S.A., John L. Crofts, Sr., and Mrs. Crofts, and the Deputy Grand Master, G. Wilbur Bell.

At the Assembly election, M.E. Knight Harry Killam, New Westminster, British Columbia, was elected Supreme Grand master. Other elected officers are: R.E. Knight Stanley Wright, Toronto, Deputy Grand Master; M.E. Knight C. E. Wells, Toronto, Grand Chancellor; R.E. Knight L. H. Bearne, Peterborough, Ontario, Grand Treasurer; V.E. Knight F. C. Bean, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Grand Constable; V.E. Knight C. Corbin, Montreal, Grand Marshall; V.E. Knight T. W. Gibson, London, Ontario, Grand Registrar.

R.E. Knight F. Carl Ackert, Past Supreme Grand Master, reports that the sessions began with the meeting of the Grand Council Saturday, August 9, with the Annual Assembly convening Monday the 11th. "Our church service was held at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral Sunday afternoon with close to 650 Knights, their families and friends in attendance. Following the service a reception was held in the Church Hall."

The Grand Master's banquet Monday evening was attended by approximately 500 persons. M.E. Knight J. W. Carson, G.C.T., Past Supreme Grand Master, was Toastmaster and General Chairman. Grand Chancellor Wells introduced the head table guests. M.E. Knight E. Gordon Shafer proposed the toast to the distinguished guests, and Grand Master Crofts responded. M.E. Knight Ackert offered the toast to the ladies, with Mrs. Clinton A. Bell responding, and Dr. Bell responded to the toast to the Supreme Grand Master proposed by Sir Knight Carson.

Sir Knight Ackert notes that 70 of the 77 Preceptories on the roll of the Great Priory were represented for a total of 250 Knights who, with proxies, had 401 votes.

Sir Knight Bell, Supreme Grand Master Killam, Dr. Bell and Grand Master Crofts.

Other visitors from the United States included Past Department Commander Edward Holloway and Mrs. Holloway, New York; Past Grand Commander Paul Sweet and Mrs. Sweet, Washington; Past Grand Commander D. E. Wennerstrand, Illinois; Eminent Commander E. H. Fowler, Alleghany Commandery No. 35, Pittsburgh, and Mrs. Fowler; Past Commander R. E. Daume, Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The 87th Annual Assembly will meet in St. John's, New Brunswick, September 5-8, 1970.
“Thou shalt prepare a table before me...”

OPEN DOOR TO UPPER ROOM EXPERIENCES FOR PEOPLE OF GOD

Continuing Education and Global Perspective Illuminate our Task

By the Rev. Curtis W. V. Junker, D.D.
R.E. Grand Prelate, Grand Encampment

An “Around the World” course had been charted for the middle phase of the sabbatical granted to your Prelate in his tenth year as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Parish in the City of Tulsa, State of Oklahoma. Personnel on various international aircraft would feed and speed me on this Global Odyssey. The journey would find us in ancient and changing cities, significant religious academies, gardens and temples and vital mission, relief and hospital centers, as well as military installations and cemeteries of the Pacific, Far East, South East, Near East and “Old Sod.” Everywhere stimulating dialogue and interesting contacts and friendships — new and old — might well have held us longer, yet this peripatetic Parson purposed, God willing, to reach the Holy Land in time for Thanksgiving, so that we then could go on to ancient Istanbul to start the new Church Year with the Ecumenical Patriarch. Hopefully, rendezvous might still be made with the sizable delegation from Kansas and Mid-America on their pilgrimage to holy places dear to Knights Templar — then and now.

We had been expected “on location” by churchmen and friends in such exciting places as Kamakura and Kyoto, Buckner Bay and Taipai, Kawloon and Kuala Lumpur, Calcutta and Katmandu high in the Nepalese Himalayas. Some of these leaders had shared with us, early July, in the Assembly of the World Council at Uppsala (that great act of worship had sent my mind racing to Denver’s new center and our Triennial Divine Service) and/or, later July, in the Lambeth Conference session in Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral; and, now in November, together we broke bread in commemoration of faithful departed in chapels and cathedrals of Japan, Okinawa, Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Calcutta. Almost every Bishop visited was an active Mason, a sub-Prelate or Prelate in the Knights of St. John Hospitaler, or in our own Order. Proudly we discussed the role of the priories, Commanderies and congregations who gather around a Table, display the open Bible and celebrate the Mighty Acts of God — present and future, as well as past. With appreciation they received, almost as a “nudging of the Holy Spirit,” humble suggestions for making functional and dynamic, rather than sentimental and static, the places where God’s people gather. Delighted were those who could keep one of the banners made and sent by my people back home: “The Love of Christ has gathered us together” or “To love someone is to bid him to live.” People want present tense, living sense about their worship and life. As man puts aside that which obscures and frustrates, he can anticipate all sorts of joyful and graceful, unexpected fulfillment to emerge. “Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son!”

So much generous hospitality had held me that finally I had to bypass islands and places I had hoped to visit as a Templar, and my rescheduled itinerary sped me directly from Teheran to a “wee small hour” arrival at bomb-damaged Lud Airport. Here in this troubled Holy Land, in place of expected rendezvous and cathedral united
worship, a door would be opened to a never-to-be-forgotten "Upper Room Experience."

It was Wednesday when I awoke and looked out from the upper floor of the King David Hotel; that vista could only hint at the rapid changes recent events were effecting between the Old City and that Israeli portion of Jerusalem. I focused my recently purchased Japanese camera on a familiar spot and a beloved Christian shrine next to the old wall — the Cenacle, or Upper Room, associated with our Lord's Maundy (mandate or commandment to "love one another") Thursday — that event where a small band anticipated an obligatory Passover Seder Meal, only to find later that they happened to have been Guests at a Messianic Banquet.

Last through the breakfast buffet line, I went out to take a picture of the International Y.M.C.A. Memorial Building. There, across the street, I found I could make up my Rotary attendance. In the competition for time, attendance and loyalty, would that churchmen and Templars were as faithfully and regularly motivated as members of luncheon clubs!

The cable from Teheran had not gotten through to my Christian hosts in the Old City. Since the Friday explosion the week before, I found they could not have come to the airport anyway. They rejoiced that I had arrived and they would "fetch" me by car right after Rotary. "They" proved to be the Arab driver and the principle officers of the Orthodox Charitable Four Homes of Mercy in Beit Jalla, Bethlehem, and now Bethany. The aging Foundress, Madame Katherine George Siksek, her daughter, Henrietta, authoress of children’s books, and the lady secretary-treasurer have been since World War One developing this multi-faceted ministry to invalids and aged, expectant mothers and children, including waifs and strays.

As we came to a military checkpoint, we recalled the day in 1961 when to the early makeshift homes had come word from King Hussein of Jordan that he was deeding the acreage we would soon approach on the hillside of Bethany. We talked of several Tulsa churchmen who had personally visited here and continued to add their sacrificial gifts and contributions through the annual teas that helped bring the building off its foundation. I learned of the money and personnel that came from the churches in Germany. I was soon to meet six Peace Corps men and women. I was impressed with the spirit and functional planning behind this Home of Mercy. One large room was set aside to be the "Chapel of Mary, Mother of Light". The free standing Holy Table was beautifully covered with Jerusalem, or Crusader Cross, damask, and I was informed that sacred vessels and vestments, as yet unused, had been provided by an Anglican Deaconess now back in England. Yes, they could boast that they had a Chapel, but it wasn’t serving as a place of worship. At tea it became apparent that they would welcome the Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper in celebration of the American Thanksgiving the next day. From ecclesiastic authorities I got permission to use an "Upper Room" for the New Liturgy. Everyone galvanized into action! Seats were lined up on both sides — much as in a Commandery Room — leaving space for wheel chairs. The way this "Upper Room" was rearranged will always reflect the corporate planning of those who helped place the Holy Table
opposite the double doors, bringing in oriental carpets, stationing three chairs behind the Holy Table, laying a cushion and Bible between the candles and preparing an offertory table from which chalice, bread, wine and water would be brought as an action of offering all of life and need to the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of Mankind. A German Peace Corps worker read the Old Testament — a wheel chair patient offered to read the Epistle in our Lord’s native tongue, in Aramaic — and a Lutheran Deacon read the Gospel in faltering English. Our Lord’s own greeting: “Peace be unto you” was passed from the Holy Table after the Creed to one and all, including the Muslim woman in her wheel chair. The Prayer of Intercession was electrifying there in that anxious land as special intentions were offered by each. As Anglicans, Orthodox, Romans and Free Churchmen were communicated, there came to mind Hymn No. 206 (the 1940 Hymnal):

“This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heavy table spread for me;
Here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong
The brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.

“Too soon we rise; we go our several ways;
The feast, tho’ not the love, is past and gone,
The bread and wine consumed; yet all our days
Thou still art here with us—our shield and sun.

“Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
Giving us foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lord’s eternal feast of bliss and love.”

The head nurse, and all, on that Thanksgiving Day realized that this was no longer a formal chapel for professionals to lead prayer and worship, but an “Upper Room” where viable, living, yet respectful and grave acts of worship and intention allowed for regular creative experiences in the 20th century at a most tense time in the Middle East.

That day we were grateful for the past, but also faithful to the present. No religious building, no matter how many Prelates have prayed therein, is truly blessed before wholesome laughter and joyous relationships have hallowed the same.

That Bethany experience pointed to God’s Incarnate Love and Beauty — that masculine figure who raised Lazarus from the dead, broke bread with his loved ones and walked among men — then and now.

Will we recognize that Presence when we respond to our stated obligation this Christmas-tide? Will we use imagination in setting the scene for a genuine Toast and Response and a true intercession for all mankind? Of those whom we will have brought, how many will hear?

To newer Sir Knights sharing for the first time our Christmas Observance and Toast, may we express additional word of cheer and encouragement. Templary has always been — and still is — a progressive Order. To keep it so, our ranks must ever be implemented by fresh blood, new men, men of strong minds, true faith and great hearts.

To all a word of JOY as we give thanks to the Great Captain of our Salvation for this annual opportunity for acquiring new and agreeable friendships, renewing old and lasting associations and cementing the ties that bind us one to another, in Him, by Him and through Him.

Our land is filled with houses of worship. In His Name let us do what we can to make each a place of worship.

That God meets us “on location” is a major rediscovery in our day. The early Christians didn’t have religious buildings — they met in their homes — on the
KNIGHTS AT RAINBOW ASSEMBLY

From the local newspaper in Arroyo Grande, California, comes the following story, relayed by Sir Knight Clinton S. Martin, San Luis Obispo Commandery No. 27:

Knights Templar in full regalia caused "quite a stir" among the more than 200 Rainbow girls present last Saturday in Santa Maria as with drawn swords, the Knights formed an escort for Miss Anita Anderson, Grand Worthy Advisor of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls in California.

It was Miss Anderson's official visit to District No. 48, composed of the assemblies of Arroyo Grande, Santa Maria and Lompoc, her home assembly.

The Knights stood at "present swords" while Miss Anderson was escorted to the East and introduced. This is the first time a Grand Worthy Advisor has been accorded such an honor in California, according to Tom Nelson.

Sir Knight Bobbie Huffman, Commander, and 16 Knights of San Luis Obispo Commandery No. 27, under the direction of Sir Knight Robert Veach, and with Sir Knight Donald Dockendorf, Commander of Santa Barbara Commandery, made the surprise visit to the Santa Maria Rainbow assembly.

Thirty Arroyo Grande Rainbow girls were present with their advisors, Mrs. Ava Kyser and Mrs. Barbara Vasquez, and several members of the Rainbow advisory board.

The local girls with Miss Debra Weidner as Worthy Advisor made a contribution to Miss Anderson's service project through a skit written and directed by Miss Joan Natho.

The Grand Worthy Advisor has set a goal of $7500 to buy equipment for Achievement House in San Luis Obispo, a sheltered workshop for handicapped.

...Upper Room

streets and at places of work. Have you ever thought about the meals that Jesus shared with people — the meal with notorious Levi and his friends at his house; those hungry crowds of people by the lakeside; the friends of Jesus in the upper room in a private home; and, after the Resurrection, breakfast on a beach, and supper in an Emmaus restaurant? Did you note that not one of those meals took place in a religious building, synagogue or temple — not one of them? You see what this means? It means that our God is an "on location" God, that he meets us every day "on location" in our homes — in our offices — in schools and restaurants — battlegrounds and playgrounds — ready to give us His SHALOM there, where we need it so badly.

Our God gets around. He's like the ark, the symbol of His Presence; He's mobile, He's not stationary or boxed up in a building anywhere. He's the hidden host at all our meals, shares all our human comings and goings, and whenever we do such a simple thing as to say grace at a meal, we remind ourselves who is the host at our table.

"If you were brought to trial for being a Knight Templar, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" This question, paraphrased from The Sojourner (July-August 1969), is pertinent for every one of us who carries a commandery dues card.
Sixty Years of Friendship for
Sir Knights Scott and Douglas

Celebrating an 80th birthday is not a rarity; it becomes more of an event when two persons jointly celebrate their 80th birthdays, and definitely newsworthy when the two celebrants are Knights Templar with a unique record of sixty years of close personal and Masonic friendship.

Sir Knights Howard M. Scott, Temple City, and Harry V. Douglas, San Pedro, California, marked their 80th birthdays with a joint celebration in June. With them were Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Douglas, and Sir Knight Scott’s brother, Howard, and his wife.

The story behind the birthday celebration began more than sixty years ago, when both men were employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They both moved to California in 1909, purchased real estate in Bakersfield, and opened joint checking and savings accounts — with nothing more than a gentlemen’s agreement for the accounting.

The local newspaper of Temple City picks up the story: “In 1907 the pair became affiliated with the Masonic fraternity at Carnegie. They petitioned membership in La Fayette Lodge No. 652 and were accepted. In 1908 they became members of Cyrus Royal Arch Chapter No. 280. In 1909 Scott received the orders of Knighthood in Chartiers Commandery No. 78, Knights Templar also located at Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

Douglas demitted to Kern Valley Chapter No. 75 located in Bakersfield, California and is now a life member. He received the orders of Knighthood in Bakersfield Commandery Knights Templar No. 39 on October 10, 1924.

On June 8, 1957 both men were presented with 50 year service buttons by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania F.

& A.M. during the 50th anniversary of their lodge. The presentation was made by Charles H. Nitsch, Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons, who was accompanied by 13 Deputy Grand Masters, a very unusual occurrence.

Five men were to receive this presentation. However only three were present, one was James H. Duff, former U.S. Senator and Governor of Pennsylvania and Fred Zug who was the first candidate initiated subsequent to the Constitution of the Lodge (another unusual occurrence).

Douglas retired from the Santa Fe Railway in 1954 as passenger conductor on the Super Chief, running between Los Angeles and Needles, California. He now lives in San Pedro.

Scott retired from the General Motors Corporation on October 31, 1951, having served in the Security Section as Safety Engineer and Fire Chief at the South Gate Assembly Division. He now lives in Temple City, at 6008 Camellia.

RC of C at Buck Hill Falls

Pennsylvania’s Fall Meeting, Social and Initiatory of the Red Cross of Constantine is scheduled at the Inn, Buck Hill Falls, October 24, 25, and 26. Opening event Friday 26th, is a 6 to 7 p.m. reception for the Grand Sovereign, Lee Lockwood, followed by dinner-entertainment. Saturday’s schedule includes: College of Viceroyos, 10 a.m.; Senate of Sovereigns, 11 a.m.; Meeting of all Knights Companions, 11:30; Luncheon, 12:30; Conferral of Order of the Red Cross and Appendant Orders, 2 p.m.; Annual Banquet, 7 p.m.; The Church Service Sunday at 11:15 a.m. will conclude the gathering.
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR AWARDS IN 1969

These are the Knights who received Knights Templar Cross of Honor Awards in 1969 — the highest honor Templary can present in recognition of service "far beyond the call of duty." Only one award can be made from each jurisdiction for each 10,000 of its membership or major fraction thereof. A recipient first must be selected by the members of his Commandery, then approved at the Grand Commandery level and, finally, by the Grand Master of Knights Templar, U.S.A.

The listings are in the chronological order in which the honors were conferred during the past year.

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BALL CORPORATION'S OSO-6 IN ORBIT

Another chapter of Knight Templar association with the space program was unfolded in the pre-dawn darkness of August 9 at Cape Kennedy when the Ball Corporation's sixth Orbiting Solar Observatory was launched by NASA into a 350-mile-high earth orbit for further closeup studies of the sun.

Sir Knight Edmund F. Ball, P.G.C., Indiana, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment, is Chairman of the Board of the diversified Ball Corporation and was on hand for the launching. The hour was 3:52 Saturday morning — exactly 24 hours later than the scheduled launch. The countdown had been halted to make a replacement on the Delta rocket which was to lift the satellite of the Ball Brothers Research Corporation into orbit.

Sir Knight Ball has been associated with Ball Brothers Company, Inc., since his graduation from Yale in 1928, becoming President in 1948 and Chairman of the Board in 1962. His military record includes 45 months of active duty with the U.S. Army from June, 1941, to April, 1945. He held the rating of Service Pilot and served 22 months overseas in European, North African and Mediterranean theatres in World War II.

He was on the staff of General Eisenhower for planning the invasion of North Africa and, in North Africa, served on the staff of General M. W. Clark in Headquarters Fifth Army. His record shows that he was Grand Air Support Officer with the 45th Division for the invasion of Italy at Salerno and at Anzio Beachhead.

The Ball Corporation’s sixth satellite was pronounced successfully in orbit August 9 by Dr. Robert H. Gray, launch director, ninety minutes after liftoff. “All aspects” of the OSO-6 mission “look good,” was the follow-up report of a launch control center spokesman. The satellite “could lead to the best understanding yet of solar radiation storms that disrupt radio communications on earth and which are a potential hazard to moon-bound astronauts.”
ONE TEMPLAR’S VIEW ON THE UNIFORM OF A KNIGHT TEMPLAR

The following is the viewpoint of a Past Commander and an active Mason — the Rev. William R. Deutsch, Lockport, Illinois. An occasional contributor to the Knight Templar Magazine, Sir Knight Deutsch recently concluded his term as Commander of DuPage Commandery No. 88. He is Vicar of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Lockport.

Several letters recently printed in this magazine testify to what many of us have known for a long time: That there is considerable dissatisfaction (in the ranks, if not in the leadership) with our present uniform.

This uniform, the product of the immediate pre-Civil War period, was, for many years, one of Templar’s greatest assets. It captured men’s imaginations, and inspired both those who wore it and those who saw it worn. But times change, and men change with them. What was once a stirring display of military smartness is now too often an occasion for ridicule. What was once felt to be the pinnacle of manly virtue merely seems slightly funny and pathetic today. We may regret this; we may attack the values of our times; but we must be realistic. In the eyes of the general public; in the eyes of Masonry; yes, in the eyes of a great many Sir Knights, our uniform is a liability.

The time for change is here — it is long over-due. In fact, I would suggest a return to the “white uniform” which our present garb displaced. This featured a white mantle or cloak, charged with a red cross on the left shoulder.

We claim to be the inheritors of the ancient Templars. We employ, in our ceremonies, symbolism derived from Freemasonry and Christianity. With the exception of a few details, what has our present uniform to do with the historic or symbolic roots of our order? Nothing. It is merely an imitation of the military dress of the day. Let us assert our character as an order of Christian Knighthood by dressing as Christian Knights, instead of musical-comedy play soldiers.

The old uniform is costly, and few buy one until ready to assume the Commander’s station. The result is that Grand Officers, past and present Commanders are usually well dressed, and the rank and file wear what is available in the armory. Is it really edifying for our Sir Knights to appear, in public and private ceremonies in ill-fitting hand-me-downs in the advanced stages of decay? Yet, in my experience, this is the common situation. Any tailored uniform, of any design, whether a modification of our present uniform or an adaptation of modern military dress, will cause the same thing to happen. They may look better when new, but in a few years they will look just as bad. But, with modern materials, such as nylon, white mantles can be produced at a reasonable cost. They can be laundered at home, and can be replaced when worn-out at little cost. Each Sir Knight could be required, as part of his fee, to buy one.

The white mantle would also link us more closely with our fraters abroad. In Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, all over the world, Knights Templar wear the ancient habit of the Order. It is only we who insist on an eccentric 19th century uniform.

I realize that such a change requires a great deal of planning and research. There are many details which would have to be worked out. Badges of rank, questions of design, etc. would all have to be reviewed. The expertise
From the City of Brotherly Love
To the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Gentlemen:

I cannot begin to describe the wonderful gift of sight. I am all choked up in writing this to you, for without you it couldn’t have been possible. I cannot thank you enough. I can see better now than when I was 42 years of age. Everyone has been just wonderful to me. Mr. Dyson is a peach, he explained everything as I had to pick my own hospital and Doctor.

I would like to become a Mason, but more a Knight Templar. That is an order that really helps their fellow man, but Mr. Dyson said I have to be a Mason and in a Chapter before I can become a Knight Templar so I’ll have to save my pennies. I have enough for the first two lodges so I’ll save for the initiation for the Chapter.

I am enclosing a picture of me so don’t get scared, I am harmless to Masons. You may use any part of this letter and my picture for advertising purposes with my most heartfelt thanks. If there is anything I can do to help you in any way, just let me know. Again I want to thank you for your help and understanding of a man who will be eternally grateful.

Most respectfully yours,
Mervin P. George

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One Templar’s View

of fraternal supply companies should be drawn on. The change-over process would have to be carefully studied — we could not expect every Sir Knight to change his uniform immediately. There is much to be done — but for our beloved Order’s sake, let us begin!

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Special to Constituent and Subordinate Commandery Officers

Requests for supplies in connection with the Voluntary Eye Foundation Campaign should be directed to the Voluntary Campaign Committee in care of the Grand Recorder, 14 East Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604.

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KNIGHT OF NOTE

Salute of the month goes to Sir Knight Tibor Yusti, artist-in-residence at Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, Chickasha, Oklahoma. Sir Knight Yusti is the recently nominated academician at the Academia Tiberina of Rome, Italy, probably the most important distinction that any European country can bestow upon an artist who has labored to achieve the “highest degree of perfection.”

Tibor Yusti’s Masonic memberships are in Detroit, Michigan, where he lived previously. They include: Vedic Lodge No. 496; A.A.S.R., Valley of Detroit; Palestine Chapter, No. 159, Monroe Council No. 1, Detroit Commandery No. 1. He is also an Honorary Member, A.A.S.R., Washita Valley, Oklahoma.

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Great Smokies Assembly

Sir Knight Alva L. Williams, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in North Carolina, delivered what Department Commander C. Wallace Jackson described as the most scholarly address he had heard at the Masonic Marker at Black Camp Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Ceremonies at the Marker concluded the 1969 Great Smokies Assembly of Cryptic Masonry, held the second week of July each year at Waynesville, N.C.

Freeman, Grand High Priest of N.C.; Alva L. Williams, who presided over the Assembly; Grand Commander J. Ray Rex of N.C.; C. Wallace Jackson, Department Commander of the Southeastern Department; and Most Puissant General Grand Master of the General Grand Council International, C. Ellwood Smyrk.

Those interested in attending this Assembly next year are advised to obtain further information from Charles C. Ricker, Grand Recorder, Masonic Temple, 80 Broadway, Asheville, N.C. 28801.

Shenandoah Knights Templar
School of Instruction

“It was a profitable and enjoyable experience to be a guest of one of the recent Schools of Instruction conducted by the Grand Commandery of Virginia.” So reports C. Wallace Jackson, Department Commander, Southeastern Department of the Grand Encampment.

He had attended the School at Longwood College, Farmville, July 20-24. The Schools, in 20 years, have become known far beyond the boundaries of Virginia, expanding from one School annually to a system that now provides three Schools at different times in widely separated sections of the state.

Writes Sir Knight Jackson: “The Schools convene during the Summer Sessions of various State Colleges. The Sir Knights bring their families, wives and children, for a sort of family outing, and are housed and fed by the College for the unbelievable total of $5.75 a day.”

The Manual of the Sword, Virginia Tactics and Opening Ceremonies, and conferring of the Orders are taught by instructors under the supervision of Ernest M. Moore, Jr., P.G.C., Grand Instructor General. Classes adjourn in early afternoon to allow time for some
type of entertainment each evening in which the whole family takes part. "This feature," says Department Commander Jackson, "has contributed to the success of the Schools." His conclusion: "I am sure I learned as much at the School as any Sir Knight in attendance!"

Committee, Knights Templar Cross of Honor

The Committee on the Knights Templar Cross of Honor Award appointed by Grand Master Crofts for the 1969-70 Triennium includes: J. Howard Haring, P.G.C., New Jersey, Chairman; Kenneth C. Johnson, P.G.C., Arkansas; John W. Givens, P.G.C., Oregon. The committee was formed to "recommend implementation" of the legislation which established the awards.

Originally, only one nomination could be made by any Grand Commandery. At the 50th Triennial Conclave in 1967, the following amendment was adopted on recommendation of the committee: "Only one nomination may be made from a Grand Commandery membership of 10,000 or less, plus one additional nomination for each additional 10,000 of its members, or major fraction thereof, during any one year."

Four Brothers Now 50 Year Members

Walter D. Steinbeck, Weston, West Virginia, a 50 year member of Lodge, Chapter, Commandery and Eastern Star, member of K.Y.C.H., an official of the Methodist Church for 56 years, had the distinction of presenting a 50 year pin to the fourth of four brothers so honored in Weston Lodge No. 10, A.F. & A.M.

Cecil Rex Rohr, Charleston, a retired druggist, had the company of his three brothers for the occasion, all of whom had previously received 50 year pins — Dr. Charles B. Rohr Alum Bridge; Dr. Joseph Upton Rohr, Roanoke — both physicians; and Harley D. Rohr, Weston, former high school principal and biology teacher. Cecil, the youngest, is 76; Doctors Charles and Joseph are 88 and 85, and Harley is 82.

Another brother, Fred, now deceased, was a dentist, and was also a member of Weston Lodge. Sir Knight Steinbeck notes that the Masonic Temple is an outstanding edifice in a town of just 9,000.

To the Voluntary Eye Foundation Committee:

This is not much, but all I can do. Hoping this check will help someone to be blessed by their Maker as I am — with the ability to see. Countless times each day I thank my Saviour for this great gift, eyes that see all the glory of the Heavens, the Earth, our Fellowmen, and all our Master has created.

Be sure my Commandery No. 22 gets credit for this small gift.

As ever,
Sir Knight Walter E. West
Muskegon, Michigan
REDSKINS 24, FALCONS 7 – THE WINNER, MASONIC CHARITIES

The newspaper wire services reported that Sonny Jurgensen’s precision passing swept the Washington Redskins to a 24 to 7 exhibition football victory over the Atlanta Falcons August 23rd at Atlanta.

But the real victory is summarized in this quote from the printed program for the evening: “At the halftime of last season’s pre-season game between the Saints and Falcons, Atlanta President Rankin Smith presented a $46,000 check to the Scottish Rite Crippled Children’s Hospital and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Once again this year a portion of the monies from the Falcon pre-season encounter will go to these fine (Yaarab Shrine) charities.”

President Smith’s 1968 action was duplicated in 1969. With Grand Master John L. Crofts, Sr. and Executive Director Walter A. DeLamater, P.G.M., on hand for the occasion, a token check for $25,000 was turned over for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation — with the possibility of more to come after a final accounting of the ticket sales.

Executive Director DeLamater points out that the $25,000 check presented by Rankin Smith symbolizes the fine cooperation and the recognition accorded the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by Yaarab Temple, headed by Judge Charles A. Wofford, Potentate.

Grand Master Crofts, who made a relay of quick Saturday afternoon flights from the North Atlantic Conference at Boston to attend the benefit exhibition game, was impressed and appreciative of Yaarab Shrine and President Rankin’s continued dedication and assistance to the Eye Foundation. “The financial contribution is of tremendous value to those who need the aid of our Knights Templar Eye Foundation,” he said, “but no one can overlook the gratifying and rewarding exemplification of fraternal concern and brotherhood embodied in this unified York Rite-Scottish Rite-Shrine project. For the nearly 400,000 Templars of Knights Templar, U.S.A., I express sincere personal and official appreciation.”

In the words of Executive Director DeLamater, “it was a great inspiration to see that stadium packed — and the great public relations media there — not just for the Shrine, Knights Templar or Scottish Rite, but for Masonry in general.”

Placing words and symbols on paper is an occupational hazard, as was evidenced on some of the supplies distributed in connection with the Voluntary Eye Foundation Campaign. A number of the Commanders have received report forms which show interchanged columns for “cents” and “dollars.” The Committee points out that it had no desire to invent a new form for monetary reporting and asks those who forward reports to Rhinebeck to “re-transpose” the columns to read “dollars” first and “cents” second. Seems more logical!

Genealogists frequently quote names from the ranks of the Knights Templar of the era of the Crusades in tracing family names. One such name recently observed in a newspaper clipping was the name, Barker. According to the records, a Barker was mentioned in Knight Templar rosters in England about 1185. The clipping notes that the templars were one of the “most important and powerful military Orders during the Middle Ages” — composed of the Knights, the Clergy and the Fighting Men. The ancestors of the Barker family in general are thought to have been shepherds.
1969 VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN CHAIRMEN
FOR KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

General Chairman —
Charles S. McIntyre, P.G.C., Michigan

Grand Commandery Chairmen:

ALABAMA — John F. Welch, Sr., Box 2175, Florence 35630.
ARKANSAS — Franklin B. Trusdell, P.O. Box 417, Fort Smith 72901.
COLORADO — Gordon R. Merrick, 601 East Elizabeth Street, Fort Collins 80521.
CONNECTICUT — John W. Colody, 36 Mountain Road, Windsor 06095.
DIST. OF COL. — J. Rowe Mehlfelt, 9705 Parkwood Drive, Bethesda 20014.
FLORIDA — Joseph H. Johnson, 1110 E. 13th Street, Jacksonville 32206.
GEORGIA — Ira R. Huffaker, 4121 Cascade Road S.W., Atlanta 30331.
IDAHO — John T. Parish, 189 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls 83301.
ILLINOIS — Andrew E. Barton, 311 East 4th Street, Metropolis 62960.
INDIANA — George W. Cuskaden, P.O. Box 146, Waldron 46182.
IOWA — E. Russell Graham, 2550 Meadowbrook Drive S.E., Cedar Rapids 52403.
KANSAS — Lester E. McConnal, 712 N. 11th Street, Independence 67301.
KENTUCKY — Clifford T. Stiger, Jr., 7601 Wesleyan Place, Louisville 40222.
LOUISIANA — Walthall Ziegler, 1221 Delachaise Street, New Orleans 70115.
MAINE — Willard A. Vincent, R.F.D. 2, Stockton Springs 04981.
MARYLAND — Charles H. Cover, 102 Bonnie Hill Road, Baltimore 21204.
MICHIGAN — Whit E. Gannaway, Sr., Route 1, Mason 48854.
MINNESOTA — William H. Spry, 3215 Bryant Avenue North, Minneapolis 55412.
MISSISSIPPI — Grady H. Barnhill, 427 Spring Avenue, Louisville 39339.
MISSOURI — Wayne E. Wilson, Jr., 7836 Dartmoor Drive, St. Louis 63121.
MONTANA — Elwood I. Naugle, 2724 Augusta Drive, Billings 59102.
NEBRASKA — Kenneth R. Cain, 1539 South 25th Street, Omaha 68105.
NEVADA — John P. Burns, P.O. Box 363, Carson City 89701.
NEW HAMPSHIRE — William T. Seymour, 47 Thornton Street, Portsmouth 03801.
NEW JERSEY — Christopher A. Smith, 43 Glen Ridge Parkway, Glen Ridge 07028.
NEW MEXICO — Fred C. Piper, P.O. Box 2159, Farmington 87401.
NEW YORK — Neil R. Baker, Sr., 204 Margaret Avenue, Syracuse 13207.
NORTH CAROLINA — B. Ralph Cato, 2023 Greenway Avenue, Charlotte 28204.
NORTH DAKOTA — Robert J. Page, Bottineau 58318.
OHIO — Cecil J. Pierce, 1044 Clinton Avenue, Hamilton 45015.
OKLAHOMA — August S. Johnson, 2900 Sheridan Road, Bartlesville 74003.
OREGON — Douglas R. McWorkman, 1525 Fifth Street, Astoria 97103.
PENNSYLVANIA — Russell R. Robison, 105 West State Street, Albion 16401.
SOUTH CAROLINA — Andrew C. Gramling, Jr., Route 2, Box B 200, Orangeburg 29115.
SOUTH DAKOTA — C. L. Deming, 1804 South Holly, Sioux Falls 57105.
TENNESSEE — William W. Florida, 4313 Larigo Drive N.E., Knoxville 37914.
TEXAS — William D. Snipes, 4816 Avenue S, Galveston 77550.
UTAH — Frank B. Harris, 1158 First Avenue, Salt Lake City 84103.
VERMONT — Trafton M. Hoisington, Star Route 2, Windsor 05089.
VIRGINIA — Joe R. Harris, 2027 N. Utah Street, Arlington 22207.
WASHINGTON — Ernest W. Hamer, 7050 Lincoln Parkway S.W., Seattle 98116.
WEST VIRGINIA — Samuel G. Williamson, Box 218, Athens 24712.
WISCONSIN — George E. Petrie, Route 1, Box 75, Burlington 53105.
WYOMING — Edward N. Shellinger, 351 East Works, Sheridan 82801.
Ramsay’s Oration

WYLIE B. WENDT
P.C., K.T.C.H., Kentucky

The Grand Lodge of England (the Mother Grand Lodge of the World) was formed in London in 1717, and there was only one degree in the early years of this grand lodge, two degrees at the most. Within the short space of twenty years, Freemasonry had a firm foothold on the continent of Europe, being especially strong in France and Germany.

While English Masonry confined itself to three degrees, including the Holy Royal Arch, degrees on the continent multiplied rapidly, and this was especially true of the Masonic bodies in and around Paris. Around the year 1737, the Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay delivered his famous Masonic discourse, now known as Ramsay’s Oration. The impression created by the address had a great influence on the development of Continental Freemasonry, its Rites and High Degrees.

Andrew Michael Ramsay was born in Ayr, in the neighborhood of the celebrated Lodge of Kilwinning. The dates ascribed to his birth vary considerably. Rees’ Cyclopedia gives the date as 1686. Chambers’ Biographical Dictionary gives 1688. Findel also gives the date 1688, which date has been accepted by D. Murray Lyon. But according to his own account, he must have been born in 1681, because in 1741, he stated that he was then 60 years of age. This would make him 62 at the time of his death in 1743. He was educated at Ayr and the University of Edinburgh.

Around the year 1715, Ramsay went to Paris and became the tutor of the Count Chateau-Thierry and the Prince de Turenne. He won the friendship of the Regent, Phillipe d’Orleans, who was the Grand Master of the Order of St. Lazarus, to which he admitted Ramsay. Hence he was called Chevalier and sometimes Sir Andrew M. Ramsay.

The Order of St. Lazarus goes back to the mid-twelfth century and originated in Palestine, being dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This Order is not to be confused with a Priestly Congregation of the same name founded in 1617 by St. Vincent de Paul.

Ramsay’s Oration was the first attempt to establish a connection between Freemasonry, as it then existed, and the Christian Chivalries of the past. Ramsay affirmed that Freemasonry had originated in Palestine among crusading knights, and was founded for the purpose of rebuilding Christian churches in Palestine which had been destroyed by the Saracens. It adopted modes of recognition amidst the infidels, by whom it was surrounded. The fraternity thus established drew men of all nations together under a pledge of secrecy. After an undetermined period of independent existence, it was united with the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

Such is Ramsay’s thesis concerning the origin of Symbolic Freemasonry, twenty years after the foundation of the Grand Lodge of England. It is intimated by some Masonic writers that the Knightly grades of Masonry came into being as a result of this oration or discourse by Ramsay.
Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and Knights of Malta were instituted ultimately under Masonic protection, though both were in the keeping of the papal crown, where one branch of each Order remains to the present day. At an early stage of the movement of the High Grades in France, therein a masterstroke of some anonymous genius affirmed that the great Order of Knights Templar, suppressed by Pope and King, had been perpetrated in secret from the fourteenth century under the guise or within the asylums of Operative Masonry.

The first Templar claim was put forward by the Chapter of Clermont, prior to 1754, and the second around 1760, when Baron von Hund promulgated the great Masonic Rite of Strict Observance.

The third claimant appeared around 1768 under the denomination of Clerical Knights Templar, understood loosely as a spiritual branch of the Order, meaning its Priesthood, and may be functioning under the name of Knight Templar Priests, which purports to be a continuation of the old Priestly Order.

The fourth claimant is the Military and Religious Order of the Temple and Holy Sepulchre, which is the title used in England up to fairly recent years.

- The fifth claimant is the Grade of Kadosh, now classified as the 30th degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

The sixth claimant depends upon a parchment or scroll called the Charter of Transmission, otherwise that of Lamenius. This was a Warrant of a French Order of the Temple, which began its activities about the year 1804.

The eighth and last claimant is the Order of Christ which is supposed to be the Order of Knights Templar in Portugal.

The above eight classifications do not include certain Templar elements in Danish and German Masonry.

While the main theme of the Ramsay Oration is generally considered to be false by present day Masonic writers, this article is written to show the profound effect the Address had upon the development of all Chivalric Grades or Orders of Knighthood within the Masonic structure. In fact it is generally considered that Ramsay’s Oration furnished the impetus that gave birth to many Masonic degrees and Rites which came into existence about this time.

IN MEMORY OF . . .

P. W. Matthews
Mississippi
Grand Commander -- 1963
Born February 14, 1896
Died August 22, 1969

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Born January 4, 1896
Died September 7, 1969
A Brother Mason has crossed the threshold to that Eternal House not built with hands.

Arthur A. Chidsey, P.G.C., Grand Recorder, Louisiana, reports that Sir Knight Douglas Jones, formerly Assistant Grand Recorder, was a victim of Hurricane Camille at Long Beach, Mississippi, Sunday, August 17. No details were available except that it was assumed his body had been discovered in the wreckage caused by the hurricane.

NO "DARK MONTHS" FOR GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONFERENCES

July and August, usually considered vacation months for Commandery Conclaves, were busy months for Grand Encampment Conferences. Among the major meetings of the period were the Trustees' Meeting of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation July 18 and 19 in Chicago, the Grand Master's Advisory Committee Conference August 8 and 9, also in Chicago, and the North Atlantic (Northeastern) Department Conference at Boston, August 27 and 28.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The meeting of the Eye Foundation Trustees, noted in the September issue of the Knight Templar Magazine, planned among other pertinent items a Public Relations Program, the transfer of statistical information to data processing form for more effective distribution of information, and the 1969 Voluntary Campaign under the chairmanship of Charles S. McIntyre, P.G.C., Michigan.

Grand Master's Advisory Committee Conference

John L. Crofts, Sr., Grand Master, convened the 1969 Grand Master's Advisory Committee Conference at the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, Friday, August 8, at 9 a.m. When the meeting adjourned at 11 p.m., Saturday, August 9, plans had been discussed for the full range of Grand Encampment programs and operations, ranging from finances to uniforms, from membership to rituals, from civic involvement to religious activities — and, the concluding event of the Triennial period, the 51st Triennial Conclave at Denver, August 22-27, 1970.

Nineteen Grand Encampment officers and committee chairmen were present: Grand Master Crofts, Deputy Grand Master Bell, Grand Generalissimo Riegle, Grand Captain General Avery, Past Grand Master DeLamater, Grand Recorder Rodenhauser, the Grand Prelate, Dr. Junker; Committee Chairmen Pearson, Cottrell, Brenner, Loree, Kent, Dulling; Department Commanders Bourke, Jackson, Crump, Robbins, Gorman and Baeseeman.

Discussions at the Conference will provide agenda subjects at the various Department Conferences to be held in 1969-70 before the Triennial Conclave. These give the Grand Encampment officers the opportunity to present proposals for the future, to secure expressions of opinion, and to provide Grand Commandery officers and Past Grand Commanders with current policy and operational information for communication to the Constituent Commanderies in their jurisdictions.

Guidelines from a number of the committees represented at the Conference are in the completion stages and will be distributed within a few months. These include guidelines for Membership (Brenner), Educational Foundation (Willam) and Patriotic and Civic Activities (Cottrell).

North Atlantic Conference Applauded

The Grand officers and Past Grand Commanders attending the North Atlantic Conference at Boston August 27-28 to confer with Department Commander Frank L. Bourke, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Recorder of Grand Encampment, apparently were unanimous in declaring it "one of the most informative and instructive Templar conferences" in which they had participated.

In addition to Sir Knights Crofts, Bell, Rodenhauser and Bourke, the more than 60 in attendance included a
number of Grand Encampment Committee Chairmen — Gordon J. Brenner, Membership; J. Howard Haring, Knights Templar Cross of Honor; and John B. Cottrell, Jr., Patriotic and Civic Activities. In addition, other Grand Encampment Committees were represented by committee members with reports, notably: Easter Sunrise Memorial Service — Maurice S. Kierstead, D.G.C., New Jersey, and Dr. J. George Lang, P.G.C., New York; Committee on Educational Foundation — Raymond D. Douglass, P.G.C., Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Committee on Drill Regulations — Theodore F. Voelter, P.D.C., New Jersey; Public Relations — Warren H. Deck, P.G.C., New York.

Sir Knight Lang, Chairman, also represented the Committee on the Spanish Ritual Language. Robert Gardner Wilson, Jr., P.G.C., Massachusetts and Rhode Island, also a member of the Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities was the keynote luncheon speaker August 22. Judge Wilson advocated York Rite Festivals and the organization required, and stressed the urgent need for cooperation among the York Rite bodies if membership is to grow.

The pre-and-post Triennial Conclave tour of the “45’ers,” an organization of Past Grand Commanders from the Department, was announced by Louis A. Beaudoin, P.G.C., Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Descriptive literature was distributed to those present. The tour is planned for 1970 to promote attendance at the Triennial Conclave in Denver.

Introduced as subject matter for discussion was York Rite Unity, with Grand Master Crofts reviewing the background from the original Commission of the three Grand bodies to the present, when a frequent question is “To what degree do the present Templar prerequisites promote York Rite Unity?” The discussion brought out expressions of feeling that this phase of the problem is a matter that needs study and possible proposals at Denver.

Judge Wilson moved that the York Rite Unity Committee at the Denver Triennial Conclave be ready with a plan that might make the prerequisites optional with the Grand Commanderies. In the expression of opinion that followed, two-thirds favored full study and consideration.

In a discussion about possible changes in Templar uniforms, the Grand Master announced that William R. Robbins, Department Commander, South Central (Southwestern) Department, had accepted chairmanship of a committee composed of all seven Department Commanders to receive suggestions and offer recommendations at Denver. The central office operations were described by Grand Recorder Rodenhauer, including the publishing of the Knight Templar Magazine, public relations and other services.

Deputy Grand Master Bell presided for a discussion of budget proposals for consideration at the 51st Triennial Conclave. In the question, answer and discussion session sentiment favored bringing to the membership the need for additional Grand Encampment services, and the need to cover rental and other general cost increases over the three-year period. The factual presentation resulted in statements that it would be “good business” for the Templar Order to do what is necessary to provide continuing and extended services.

Department Commander Bourke presented scenic slides provided by the Triennial Conclave Committee to publicize the attractions to be enjoyed by those attending the Triennial Conclave in Denver next August 22-27.

As the Conference neared its conclusion, Saturday morning, the Grand Master congratulated and thanked Sir Knight Bourke for the successful conference; the all-out effort during the remaining year of the Triennium is to “consolidate what we have undertaken
in the previous two-year period.” He paid tribute to Deputy Grand Master Bell and stated that he was looking ahead to the progress to be made under Sir Knight Bell’s direction in the next Triennium.

Deputy Grand Master Bell’s closing remarks stressed team effort. “All the planning in the world — rules, ideas and incentives — are worth nothing until they are carried to the Constituent level. It’s a team. The Officers are not the Grand Encampment; you are. . . . At Denver, the eyes of the Masonic world will be upon what you do there.”

Department Conferences are planned during the final year of the Triennial period in the other six Department areas of the Grand Encampment. The next is the South Pacific Conference at Las Vegas November 8, with Department Commander Gorman presiding.

Grand Master’s Conference participants August 8-9 at Chicago.

The 1969 Conference of the Southeastern Department of the Grand Encampment, originally planned for October 25-26 as a three-way meeting with regional General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council officers and representatives at Macon, Georgia, has been postponed.

C. Wallace Jackson, Department Commander, announced that conflicting commitments for some of the participants made the postponement advisable. A new date will be selected.
“TO A SKELETON” — A MANUSCRIPT FROM THE PAST

Harry S. Yungkurth, Past Commander of Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 17, now merged and named Melita-Coeur de Lion No. 17, Scranton, Pennsylvania, relays a poem which, it is said, was found some 160 years ago in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, near a perfect human skeleton. Although some effort was made to trace the author, his identity remains anonymous.

Sir Knight Yungkurth writes: “Quite some time ago while delving for an obscure comparison of poetry in a collection of over 1,500 poetic works from the year 540 to 1870, compiled by William Cullen Bryant, I discovered this five verse poem of which the three we use (in the Ritual) sound similar, but actually differ in approximately 30 places — including punctuation and capitalization.” He forwarded the verses for “those Sir Knights interested in both the history and the future of Templary.”

TO A SKELETON

Behold this ruin! 'Twas a skull
Once of ethereal spirit full.
This narrow cell was Life's retreat,
This space was Thought's mysterious seat.
What beauteous visions filled this spot,
What dreams of pleasure long forgot?
Nor hope, nor joy, nor love, nor fear,
Have left one trace of record here.

Beneath this mouldering canopy
Once shone the bright and busy eye,
But start not at the dismal void, —
If social love that eye employed,
If with no lawless fire it gleamed,
But through the dews of kindness beamed,
That eye shall be forever bright
When stars and sun are sunk in night.

Within this hollow cavern hung
The ready, swift, and tuneful tongue;
If falsehood's honey it disdained,
And when it could not praise was chained;
If bold in Virtue's cause it spoke,
Yet gentle concord never broke, —
This silent tongue shall plead for thee
When Time unveils Eternity!

Say, did these fingers delve the mine?
Or with the envied rubies shine?
To hew the rock or wear a gem
Can little now avail to them.
But if the page of Truth they sought,
Or comfort to the mourner brought,
These hands a richer meed shall claim,
Than all that wait on Wealth and Fame.

Avails it whether bare or shod
These feet the paths of duty trod?
If from the bowers of Ease they fled,
To seek Affliction's humble shed;
If Grandeur's guilty bribe they spurned,
And home to Virtue's cot returned, —
These feet with angel wings shall vie,
And tread the palace of the sky!
(Mailbin—from Page 5)

Manhattan Beach, California

I just became a Mason and I am deeply interested in Masonry.

I have found a friend who is a Knight Templar, and gives me his magazine he receives. I have found so much information in your well prepared magazine.

In one magazine I read an article about the astronauts and their part in Masonry. I told my Master in my Blue Lodge about it, and he wants to see the articles so he can write about it in our monthly publication.

E. P. COCA

Saint Louis, Missouri

Much credit is due you and all others involved for the hard work which has gone into making the Knight Templar, in its new format, such an excellent production. I am hoping that the news will flow in to such an extent that it will have to be increased in size.

This opportunity is taken to particularly applaud the article, Freemasons in the Space Age, in the July 1969 issue since I, and no doubt hundreds of others, was unaware of their affiliation. In this connection, it seems to me that now is the time to make public mention of the fact that not only are there Freemasons all over the world but that they have been on the moon! Additionally, it is wondered if there is a movement under way to form a Moon No. 11 or Apollo No. 11 Lodge and if so, I stand to be counted in favor of making our qualified Brethren charter members!!!

DUANE M. SMITH, Organist
Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8

Albuquerque, New Mexico

If you please, I am trying to locate or find out the state Wilson Strickland belonged to Grand Commandery Knights Templar or had membership. He went to Texas from Georgia in 1829. He lived in Texas and died there about 1864.

I shall be so grateful for this information and all the search you have to make.

MRS. MAE BELLE WILSON
4902 Constitution N.E.
Albuquerque 87110

Cumberland, Maryland

Since receiving our first copy of your Knight Templar, I’ve been meaning to write you to find out if there is a central place listing all your members.

I’m trying to find a record on Edward Layton Knight who was my grandfather. He was a Knight Templar in Cleveland, Ohio around 1938 or 39.

I am researching family history, and is reason for my inquiry. Most likely he has passed away as he was born in 1879. If I knew where he died I would be able to get a copy of his death certificate which might give me a lead as to (who) his parents were. It might, in other words, list their names.

My grandparents were divorced and is reason I have little information of him.

If there are any national records available I would be most appreciative for any information you could provide me.

MARY A. DYE
611 Washington Street
Cumberland 21502

P.S.: My father says that my grandfather lived in Cleveland before 1938 and 1939, perhaps around 1933 to 1939.

Carlsbad, New Mexico

May I express my thanks for the magazine you are mailing to the knights, it is something that we have needed for
a long time.

I have been a Templar for many years, my membership was formerly in K.T. No. 2 in Las Vegas, New Mexico, but at this time I am affiliated with Hondo Commandery No. 6 K.T. at Roswell, New Mexico.

Several years ago while I was living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and while I was out of town for a few days, my land lady saw fit to remove my sword from my room and give it to a friend of hers to pawn for cash that he needed at the moment. Later it was seen in a pawn shop on Central Avenue in Albuquerque, but I was not notified in time to redeem it, that is the last time I have heard of it. This sword has my name engraved on the blade, and at that time was in a leather shield which also had my name on it. If any Templar in New Mexico or anywhere in the Grand Encampment knows anything of this sword, I would certainly appreciate him contacting me.

I would appreciate your giving this publicity in your magazine with the hope that some Templar will see it and respond to my plea.

A. A. HALBERT
703 North Hickory
Carlsbad 88220

Staten Island, New York

I am wondering what other community in the United States boasts three Masonic bodies with the same number?

Staten Island, N.Y. has three, viz: Richmond Lodge No. 66, F. & A.M. Empire Commandery No. 66, K.T. Richmond Forest No. 66, T.C.L.†

†Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

D. H. SANDERS, JR.
Recorder

Decatur, Georgia

We have no desire to extend the period of unpleasantness which existed between the North and the South a hundred years ago, and there are undoubtedly some fine Knights Templar in Decatur, Illinois.

However, with regard to the item on page 25 of the August issue, Sir Knight John Fulton’s Commandery is De Kalb No. 38, Decatur, Georgia. We are very fond of this Knight, and cannot release him to our Fraters in Decatur, Illinois!! Incidentally, he is now recovering satisfactorily from an extremely serious brain operation, and we hope to have him back in uniform before too long.

DICK SAGAR
San Francisco, California

In the September, current issue, of the Knight Templar Magazine, I read with renewed interest the article about the Dudley Masonic Watch.

George W. Adams of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, mentioned in the article, was the husband of a cousin of mine (now deceased) and whom I met there in 1920, on a visit, and I learned about the watch first hand.

ROBERT E. PFAEFFLE
San Francisco Commandery No. 41
(member for 49 years and 52 years a Mason)

Columbia, Pennsylvania

We are pleased to have W.W. Dudley's 'story' appear in Knight Templar Magazine. Thank you for the complimentary copies.

VICTOR STOLTZ
E.H. PARKHURST, JR.
EARL T. STRICKLER

Decatur, Georgia

We have no desire to extend the
GRAND COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

We all recognize that apathy and indifference have made inroads into our American way of life. When we speak of the “good old days” we refer to the time when there was personal responsibility on the part of every citizen, and a concern to see the forces of crime, corruption, violence and disorder conquered before they could gain a foothold. It is appalling when we survey the present scene and contrast the days of law and order with what is rampant today.

Thousands of people say “they can’t care less” about what goes on in civic affairs. Murders, hold-ups, rape, fire bombings, and sniping continue without too much fear of apprehension because people do not care to become involved. Men and women turn away from the scene of a crime and do nothing to help the helpless victim or the police. They do not have sufficient interest to care about their fellow-men.

We must act now to combat this terrible moral scourge. America cannot go on in this nonchalant way or we will degenerate as previous civilizations have done. Every force for good, including Templary, must join in a stout counterattack. As your Grand Commander, I urge all Sir Knights to support full-heartedly our law enforcement agencies, including the police and any other body which may be enforcing the law. I also support the program of the Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee in “getting out the vote.” Let’s elect those dedicated and trustworthy men and women to office who will support “Justice, Law and Order” and return this “Land of ours” to the heritage which our forefathers so hopefully planned. It is only by electing men and women of integrity that we can support the blessings of liberty and restore our country to the rightful place which it so justly deserves.

Charles R. Eurich
R. E. Grand Commander
Allegheny Commandery No. 35, on April 22, 1969, installed the officers pictured above to serve during its 100th Anniversary Year. The Commandery was instituted on October 25 and constituted November 12, 1869.

Among many events in its history, in 1871 Allegheny Commandery conducted the first European Crusade attempted by a Commandery of Knights Templar, visiting the British Isles and several countries on the Continent.

Allegheny Commandery is honored to have had the following Sir Knights as Grand Commander of Pennsylvania: Sir Lee S. Smith, 1888; Sir Andrew G. Williams, 1917; Sir Channing M. Galbreath, 1955. We are also proud to have had Sir Lee S. Smith serve as Grand Master of The Grand Encampment, 1916-1919.

At the Stated Conclave on Friday, October 24, 1969, Allegheny Commandery will officially celebrate its 100th Anniversary, and on the following evening will hold an Anniversary Banquet at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh. Both affairs will feature distinguished speakers and guests.

**TEMPLAR ACTIVITIES**

Div. No. 8 held its 2nd Annual Fellowship Night, Sept. 27, with a dinner followed by dancing and entertainment, for the Commandery, Scottish Rite, Tall Cedars, Grotto and Shrine. . . Divs. No. 2 and 4 Line Officers and Past Commander's Associations record on tape their Induction Rituals, a novel idea originated by the late S.K. Stephen H. Leyshon, P.C., Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1. . . Div. No. 1 will participate in the York Rite Assembly, Nov. 8, the S. K. George A. Williams, P.G.C., Class, honoring the late distinguished Templar and Mason; Commanderies conferring orders: Phila., St. John's, Corinthian No. 4, Red Cross; Kensington No. 54, Malta; Mary No. 36, Temple; Host Commandery, Kadish No. 29. . . Div. No. 9 Line Officers and Past Commander's Association was the guest of DeMolay Commandery No. 9 and Reading Commandery No. 42 at a dinner meeting in Reading, Aug. 27, at which S.K. Martin E. Edwards, Div. Com., presented his fall and winter program; S.K. Frank W. Bobb spoke on the Pennsylvania Supplement.
In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Go often to the house of thy friend, for weeds choke the unused path." Same sentiment is effective if you substitute "Asylum" for "house" and "Commandery" for "friend".

Sir Knight Russell E. Bilow, Flint, Michigan, makes a constructive comment on Communications, especially within the individual Commanderies. When Templar or other events are announced, he observes that many on the sidelines are confused about the time, the place, the procedure, and the what, where and why—unless the Recorder, in reading the information, takes special pains to stress all necessary details. He suggests that when invitations and notices are sent—from one Commandery to another, for example—that they be sent in triplicate and clearly identified as one for the Commander, one for the Recorder and one for the bulletin board.

Sir Knight Bilow feels this would be at least "one small step in better Communications."

Homer D. Simpson, past presiding officer of Chapter, Council and Commandery in Melbourne, Florida, has a definite viewpoint about competition "between the Rites." Instead "let's have competition within the York Rite," he suggests, "between degree teams, membership, attendance, activity participation, competition among Chapters, Councils and Commanderies within a district... In other words, let's compete in being Good York Rite Masons!"

Kenneth N. Johnson, as Grand Commander of Kentucky, said it well in his Special Bulletin No. 7 of August: "The Grand Commandery of Kentucky joins with the Executive Director of the Eye Foundation and the Committee to request your full and official support of the Voluntary Campaign of your Commandery, a campaign worthy of our finest Templar effort. Please be reminded that the Voluntary Campaign is "over and above" the normal assessments, Life Sponsorships and other established sources of participation. The Voluntary Campaign is completely separated from these methods of support."

Attention all Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee Members: Newspaper wire services recently carried information to the effect that "thousands of college students have had trouble getting school loans. The government-guaranteed loans, usually made at 7 per cent, are considered loss-leaders for banks." It appears that most of the banks will handle only renewals or loans for children of big customers.

A.L. Crump tells the story of the talkative Senator who started his after-dinner speech with: "I am a Senator. I am going to talk about 'S' for Sincerity, 'E' for Effort, 'N' for Nobility, 'A' for Application, 'T' for Temperance, 'O' for Order and 'R' for Reliability." Then he proceeded to speak for two hours. When it was finally at an end, one Templar turned to another and sighed with relief. "Let's be thankful," he said, "that our speaker wasn't a Right Eminent Department Commander."

Kit Carson Price, Recorder, Hermann Von Salza Commandery No. 1, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, reports that a fellow member, Sir Knight William B. Dodine, has retired. He and Mrs Dodine are enjoying cruising between ports in the Mediterranean at the present time.

The *Knight Templar* salutes these distinguished Templars who will observe birthday anniversaries during November:

Fred W. Hartwig  
Grand Commander of Minnesota ........................................ November 2
Albert G. Tverberg  
Grand Recorder of North Dakota ........................................ November 3
Robert M. Abernathy  
Grand Captain General of Idaho ....................................... November 7
Paul S. Thomas, Jr.  
Grand Commander of Mississippi ....................................... November 11
E. Bloomquist  
Deputy Grand Commander of Texas ................................... November 12
J. Ray Rex  
Grand Commander of North Carolina .................................. November 12
N. Donald Bell  
Grand Generalissimo of North Carolina ............................... November 15
Abner C. Sager  
East Central Department Commander ................................ November 17
James E. Ruckman  
Deputy Grand Commander of Idaho .................................... November 18
Floyd A. Perks  
Grand Commander of Idaho ............................................. November 19
Frank L. Bourke  
North Atlantic Department Commander ............................... November 20
Maurice E. Webb  
Grand Generalissimo of South Dakota ................................. November 20
C. Byron Lear  
Past Grand Generalissimo of Grand Encampment ....................... November 24
Lawrence E. Tryon  
Deputy Grand Commander of Oklahoma ................................ November 25
Climent E. Smith  
Deputy Grand Commander of New Hampshire ........................... November 26
C. R. Buller  
Grand Commander of Wisconsin ....................................... November 30

**VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN — KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION**

The 1969 Voluntary Campaign, with Charles S. McIntyre, P.G.C., Michigan as chairman, extends until Christmas — but the time to give is NOW. The Voluntary Campaign provides an “extra” opportunity — over and beyond the assessment and Life Sponsorship program — for each Templar to assist his Commandery in a fund-raising project, or to make his personal contribution toward the expanded work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

(Detach this page and mail with your check to your local Recorder — or to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, P.O. Box 191, Rhinebeck, New York 12572. Make all checks payable to the KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION.)

**1969 VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION**

Enclosed is my check to the amount of $ __________ as a Voluntary Campaign contribution to our Order’s Eye Foundation.

Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

Credit my contribution to ________ Commandery No. ________

Location: __________________________  (city)  (state)

(Grand Commandery of _________________________)
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

At the 49th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. in 1964, a new section was added to the Statutes which authorized the Grand Master to award the Knights Templar Cross of Honor to deserving Templars for "exceptional and meritorious services... far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an Officer or Member."

The 1969 recipients include Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., of Ruthven Commandery No. 2, Houston, Texas. The Knight Templar Magazine joins all Templars in saluting Sir Knight Aldrin, "Christian Crusader in the Sands of Time and Space," and his fellow recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor, recognized as the most meritorious of York Rite awards.

In the words of the Grand Master, "The banner of Templary has been raised to new heights of service by these, our dedicated members. The fraternal bonds which unite us in Christian fellowship are strengthened and enlarged through their unselfish contributions."