Greetings of Christmas Joy
DECEMBER 1972
VOLUME XVIII NUMBER 12

Official Publication of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

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Material for the Grand Commanderies' two page Supplements is to be directed to the respective Supplement Editors. Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders.


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DECEMBER: The holiday issue of the Knight Templar Magazine offers a variety of features, including the story of a Templar President of the United States who was born December 29, 1808. It also brings you the Yuletide greetings of the Grand Officers of the Grand Encampment and an expression of appreciation from the staff of the Grand Recorder's office for the kind reception accorded our publication during the year, and for other cooperation and Templar consideration extended us. May yours be indeed a season of holiday happiness. To Templars wherever dispersed, our best wishes for Christmas Joy.

Paul C. Rodenhauser, Editor
Season of Joy . . .

A SPECIAL THOUGHT FOR SOJOURNERS

This is the time of the year when all mankind begins to reflect the spiritual radiance which comes with the approach of Christmas. Even if we tried, we could not escape the universal feeling of good will toward others.

The Christmas Toast to the Grand Master was prepared this year by the Committee on Religious Activities headed by Sir Knight Gordon J. Brenner, P.G.C., New Jersey. In my response to that Toast is the statement that good will or "love is a reflection of God in us." As we evidence that love for our fellowmen in 1972, let us as Templars especially remember the sojourning Knights in our respective jurisdictions, those Sir Knights who, whether absent for a long or short period, are not able to celebrate Christmas with the fratres in their "home" Commanderies.

There are nearly 40,000 Knights Templar who live elsewhere than in the jurisdictions where they hold their Templar membership. It behooves us to give special thought to these sojourners and extend them a warm invitation to join with us as we hold our observances in our individual Commanderies "on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December 25."

As Grand Master I express on behalf of each Constituent and Subordinate Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., an invitation to every Templar to join with the Sir Knights in the nearest Commandery in their observance of Christmas in this Year of Grace, 1972. You will be welcomed with typical Templar hospitality and friendship. I hope that no visiting or sojourning Templar will hesitate to attend.

To Templars wherever dispersed, I relay in the name of 375,000 fellow Christian Masons a personal and official wish for a Blessed Christmastide. May this season bring you an even greater appreciation of your membership in the New Testament climax of the York Rite, the Order of the Temple.
I have read with interest the James R. Case article in the October magazine on John Phillip Sousa.

I am wondering if S.K. Case ever came upon a special musical selection named The Knights Templar Grand Encampment March, written by Sir Knight John L. Gartland and dedicated to then Grand Commander Charles H. Armitage of Temple Commandery No. 2 of Albany, New York, upon the occasion of the Grand Encampment at Saratoga Springs, New York, July 1907.

I happened to come upon that sheet of music recently while thumbing through some old, old music on hand.

PHILIP J. FREDERICK
16 Manning Square
Albany, New York 12206

In the Knight Templar for October the life history of John Phillip Sousa was very interesting to me as my wife and I attended his last public appearance at 485 Madison Avenue, New York City, in 1932. Mr. Sousa, with his sister, appeared at a radio broadcast and he directed the small band. On the same program was a quartet headed by James Melton. They sang "Grandfather's Clock," with the verses ending, "And the Old Man died." We were very close to Mr. Sousa and noticed that he had a rather odd smile on his face. After the broadcast we came down on the same elevator with Mr. Sousa and his sister. They walked out on the street and headed for the Pennsylvania Railroad Station to take a train for Washington, D.C. I usually bought a newspaper to read on the subway train and, to my great surprise, the paper I bought the next morning headlined the report that Sousa died in his sleep.

CLIFFORD K. LUCAS
P. O. Box 493
Bethesda, Ohio 43719
Recently, while reading a book by the late Hervey Allen entitled *City of the Dawn*, I came upon this sentence: "The horse's name was Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz." This line was used by the author in describing a peculiar character and his equally peculiar horse. The words were of interest to me as a Knight Templar. Was Hervey Allen a Templar? The book contains numerous allusions of Masonic nature.

J. ARTHUR STRAIN, P.C., Prelate
1 1/2 Boston Avenue
Auburn, New York 13021

Editor's Note: According to the records, Hervey Allen, well-known author, was not a Freemason but was a writer of historical novels who gave credit to the part Freemasonry played during the early period of our national history.

Enclosed you will find two checks in amounts of $1,002.09 and $3.50, which complete the distribution of the estate of Alice Miller, the widow of the late Sir Knight Miller, a former member of this Commandery.

We thank you for the comments relating to this bequest at the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania Annual Conclave and in the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

WILLIAM R. SQUIRER
Recorder, Lincoln No. 91
120 Rae Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228

Editor's Note: The above letter to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation refers to the bequest from the Alice Miller estate which totalled $50,000.

In the October issue there was a mistake in the mail code number for Brother John Laing, Scotland. It should read E.H.49-6-D.L. I have known Brother Laing for some time. He is a gentleman and lives within the Square & Compass. To date he has received several letters in reply to his letter, as published in the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

ELMER B. HECKART
2618 San Fernando Way
Sacramento, California 95818

I have a ring which was turned over to me by a Mason from Santa Ana, California, on Wednesday, October 18, 1972. This Brother advised me that he had found this piece of jewelry a long time ago in the condition it is in — part of jewelry removed — and since I am a Knight Templar he wished me to have it. Attempts to locate the rightful owner were made by this Brother, however, with negative results.

I feel it my duty to approach you and humbly request assistance in locating the owner. The inscription reads: F. L. MacPherson, 9-24-52.

KLAAS WIERMMA
8409 Dinsdale Street
Downey, California 90240

We are well situated here in an old cathedral town and our stay should be very interesting. I have been to one Lodge meeting and one Royal Arch Chapter but I got no response when I inquired at the dinner table about the Council or Commandery (Preceptory). Apparently the Royal Arch is entirely separate here (you no doubt already know this) and is the completion of the work started in the Lodge; the Preceptory is something else and they do not speak of the York Rite as a Body as we do, but I will get around to this in time.

AARON HEY, P.G.C., Utah
14 Lancestran Grange
Tower Street, Chichester
Sussex, England PO19-1QL

50th Anniversary Educational Loans

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation, with a combined total of more than $5,000,000 in educational loan circulation, marks its 50th anniversary in 1972. Dr. Oliver S. Willham, Chairman, notes that the Trust Fund was created in 1922 with $100,000 transferred from the Grand Encampment Permanent Fund. This was augmented by a $1.00 assessment per member for nine years. Current loan information is available from each Grand Recorder, who serves as Division Secretary-Treasurer for his Grand Commandery Committee.
First Prayer In Congress
December 1777

by Rev. Jacob Duche

O, Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth, reignest with power supreme over all the kingdoms, empires and governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor, and thrown themselves on thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on thee, to thee they have appealed for the righteousness of their cause; do they now look up for that countenance and support which thou alone canst give; take them, therefore heavenly father, under thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their cause; and if they still persist in their sanguinary purpose, O let the voice of thine own unerring justice sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapon of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle! Be thou present, O God of wisdom! and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundations, that the scene of blood may be speedily closed, that order, harmony, and peace may be effectually restored; and truth and justice, and religion, and piety prevail and flourish among the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and the vigor of their minds; shower down on them, and the millions they represent, such temporal blessings as thou seest expedient for them in this world, and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Savior. Amen.

REMINDER TO "PROPOSERS"

Members of Grand Encampment who wish to have resolutions and proposed amendments considered at the 52nd Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, August 11-16, 1973, are reminded that they must be received in written form by the Grand Recorder, Chicago, not later than 90 days in advance of the Conclave date. The deadline for receipt is May 14. Any proposals received will be printed in the official Notice of Triennial Conclave, which will be mailed to members 60 days in advance of the Conclave.

Voting members of Grand Encampment are the dare officers of each Grand Commandery — Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Command-er, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General — all Past Grand Commanders, also the Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of the 18 Subordinate Commanderies in Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Japan, West Germany, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Guatemala, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico.

These are the "representatives" — approximately 1,200 in number — who serve their fellow Knights in conducting the business of the Grand Encampment each three years.

Voluntary Campaign Starts January 1

The Fifth Voluntary "Activities" Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation starts January 1, 1973, and continues through March 31. Final reports from Grand Commandery Chairmen must arrive at the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., Rhinebeck, New York, not later than April 14 to receive Campaign and Commandery credit.

The General Chairman, Charles S. McIntyre, P.G.C., Michigan, urges every Commandery to plan an acceptable benefit-event early in 1973. Supplies for the promotion of the campaign and for reporting have been distributed by the Grand Encampment office. Additional forms and pamphlets are available from the Grand Recorder, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1733, Chicago, Illinois 60604.
PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON

by
C. L. Rothwell

Andrew Johnson, a Democrat, was selected to be the Vice-Presidential candidate with Abraham Lincoln in 1864 in an effort to establish a National Union ticket. What happened before and after, Masonically and politically, is told in this vignette by C. L. Rothwell, Assistant to the Editor. This is the story of Sir Knight Andrew Johnson, born on the 29th day of this month 164 years ago.

There have been 13 Masonic Presidents, four of whom were also Knights Templar. Only one had his Masonic membership used against him. Sir Knight Andrew Johnson, probably the most misunderstood man ever to become President, suffered great indignities because he was a Mason. Indeed, several writers claim the Masonic memberships of President Johnson were largely responsible for his impeachment trial.

Born at Raleigh, North Carolina, December 29, 1808, of poor parents who could not afford to send him to school, the future President was left fatherless at three and apprenticed to a tailor at 14. In the tailor's shop he learned to read using the Bible and the Constitution as texts. Two years after he was apprenticed he ran away to Greeneville, Tennessee, where he opened a tailor's shop.

In 1826 Johnson married Eliza McCord. She taught him to write and do sums while encouraging him to read and study. He trained himself as a speaker by walking four miles to debate. His shop flourished. He bought land and became a slaveholder.

At the age of 21 Johnson challenged the power of the rich landowners by running for alderman and he won. Later mayor, he was elected to the Tennessee House in 1835. Condemning the waste and graft he saw there lost him his bid for re-election. When his prophecy of corruption came true the people returned him to the statehouse in 1837. Activities in the campaign of loyal Jacksonian Democrats for Martin Van Buren in 1840 spread his name across the state and he was elected to the Tennessee Senate in 1841 and to the United States Congress in 1843.

His views on slavery were not clear, perhaps even to himself. He owned eight slaves but voted for the entry of California and Oregon as free states. He backed the pro-slavery constitution for Kansas (which was defeated) but argued for the Homestead Bill throwing government lands in the west open to poor whites which would have destroyed slavery. His contemporaries found his voting pattern as a southern Congressman questionable.

Johnson was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Greeneville Lodge No. 119 (now No. 3) in 1852 and retained his membership there all his life. He was a member of the Chapter, probably Washington No. 20 at Jonesboro, Tennessee, altho there are no existing records to prove it or any of his Masonic affiliations. The Lodge records were destroyed in the Civil War.

Andrew Jackson was Johnson's political hero and he identified with the "common man." The people of Tennessee liked him and elected him Governor in
1853. He favored free public education and supported the rights of the working man and poor farmer.

In the election of 1855 Johnson was opposed by both Whigs and the Know-Nothing Party, "a secret political organization hostile to foreigners, Catholics and Masons" which was gaining power at the time. Brother Johnson opposed religious persecution of any kind. The Know-Nothings threatened him with assassination but he refused to be intimidated and won re-election.

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1857, he continued to back the Homestead Bill (which passed in 1862) to the disgust of his southern colleagues. He took the middle road on slavery.

The records of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee show an Andrew Johnson knighted July 26, 1859, in Nashville Commandery No. 1. Masonic writers do not agree as to whether this was the future President but Nashville Commandery is in possession of the only known picture of Johnson in Commandery regalia.

In 1860 the Tennessee delegation placed his name in nomination for President at the Democratic Convention but Johnson withdrew it. Remaining in the Senate, he was the only southern Senator who refused to secede. In fact, he roundly denounced the secessionists in the Senate, an action which made him unwelcome in his own state.

When the Union Armies regained part of Tennessee in 1862 President Lincoln appointed Johnson as military governor for the state. He worked hard at unifying the state and by March 1864 Tennessee was prepared to send representatives to Congress.

Lincoln chose Johnson for Vice-President in the campaign of 1864. He took office March 4, 1865, and 42 days later, on April 15, 1865, he became the first "accidental President by assassination."

The war over, Johnson found himself locked head-on in battle with a Senate who opposed Lincoln's Reconstruction plan of amnesty for the South. For years the Republicans had been blocked by the Democratic majority from the South and West. Now they found power in their hands and clung to it. The return of the South would mean a return to a Democratic majority to oppose them.

Johnson opposed military rule of the South feeling it would keep alive the hatreds bred by the war. Congress passed bills; Johnson vetoed them; Congress passed them over his veto. Military rule was established. Former rebels were denied the right to vote or hold office. The Fourteenth Amendment was passed, designed to protect both the rights of the Negro and the stronghold of big business. Johnson became the most unpopular President in history.

France had sent Maximillian to Mexico, a clear violation of the Monroe Doctrine. The United States, deep in civil war, could only protest. The war over,
Johnson ordered Federal Troops to the Mexican border. By 1867 France had withdrawn her troops and Maximilian was left to face a firing squad.

On June 20, 1867, President Johnson received the 4th-32° of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, in the executive mansion, thus becoming the first President to receive the Scottish Rite Degrees. He had already, as President, laid cornerstones at Masonic memorials and Temples. He would continue to do so.

Alaska was purchased in 1867. That was also the year of the Tenure of Office Act, designed to prevent the President from removing appointed cabinet officers who were plotting against him.

On August 2, 1867, President Johnson fired Secretary of War Edwin F. Stanton and replaced him with General Ulysses S. Grant. By January of 1868 the Republicans were successful in influencing Grant against Johnson. Grant resigned and turned the office back to Stanton. Johnson promptly replaced Stanton with General Lorenzo Thomas. Stanton locked himself in the office and refused to allow Thomas to take possession. Then, on February 25, 1868, the House passed a resolution of impeachment on eleven charges against the President of the United States. The leader of the impeachment trial was Thaddeus Stevens, an anti-Mason.

The only impeachment trial of a President in the history of the United States started in the Senate on March 5, 1868. At first interested, people soon grew impatient with the trial as the weeks passed. Johnson himself never appeared. On May 16 a vote for impeachment was taken on the eleventh charge. The vote was 35-19 with 36 votes necessary for impeachment. The trial continued.

On May 20, with the trial still in progress, Johnson laid the cornerstone for the Masonic Temple at 9th and P Streets, N.W., in Washington. The Senate voted again on May 26 with the same results as earlier and discontinued the trial.

Johnson hoped he would be nominated in 1868 to show the world his nation still believed in him. The Democrats did not nominate him. His last act as President, on December 25, 1868, was to issue a complete pardon to all concerned in succession.

From retirement Johnson made several unsuccessful bids for Congress and was finally elected to the Senate in 1874. After the first session in 1875 he returned home, suffered a paralytic stroke and died. At the request of his Lodge he was buried with Masonic ceremonies conducted by the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, G. C. Connor, and Templar services conducted by Coeur de Leon Commandery No. 9, Knoxville.

* An Invitation for You to Become a LIFE SPONSOR for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation *

Payment of $30 will eliminate $1 annual assessment from you or your Commandery

During this Christmas Season, why not adjust your giving to include $30 for this great humanitarian work sponsored by the Templars?

**All at Once... this becomes**

- A suitable way of commemorating the basic Spirit of Christmas;
- A chance to help a lot of people less fortunate than we;
- A plan which eliminates the annual assessment of $1.00;

Deduct the entire $30 on your income tax return

Make checks payable to: The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. and mail to The Recorder

Designed and printed by Fred C. Hardin, Columbia No. 2, D.C.
Templars of Distinction . . .

1972 RECIPIENTS, TEMPLARY’S HIGHEST HONOR

The letters K.T.C.H. after a Templar’s name are an identification of one who has been selected by his own Commandery, his Grand Commandery and the Grand Encampment as a Knight Templar who performs far above and beyond the call of Christian Masonic duty and who has merited the highest of recognitions from his York Rite fraters, an award known as the Knights Templar Cross of Honor.

Edgar H. Clark, P.G.C., Michigan, Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on the Knights Templar Cross of Honor, reminds members that the intent of the award is to honor those Templars of outstanding merit who are not Grand Officers. The process begins when individual Commanderies nominate one of their own. All nominations in Grand Commanderies are evaluated and final selection made by the Grand Commander. The nomination goes to the Grand Master and after his approval an individualized plaque and medal are prepared by the Grand Encampment.

Sir Knight Clark notes that a Grand Commandery of 10,000 or fewer members is allowed one nomination a year. Grand Commanderies of greater membership have the opportunity to nominate one additional Templar for every 10,000 or major fraction of membership. One award annually, as approved by the Grand Master, goes to a member of a Subordinate Commandery.

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Mass. & R.I.
Michigan
Minnesota
Bessemer No. 35
Arizona No. 1
Not Awarded
Oakland No. 11
Georgetown No. 4
Not Awarded
Columbia No. 2
Olivet No. 4
Malta No. 16
Idaho Falls No. 6
Ivanhoe No. 33
Trinity No. 80
Terre Haute No. 16
Baldwin No. 11
Hiram No. 51
Richmond No. 19
Ivanhoe No. 19
Portland No. 2
Antioch No. 6
Natick No. 33
Battle Creek No. 33
Home No. 5
Earl Pervine Woodall
Richmond C. Neff
Clarence Edwin Dunn
Clarence Ira Metcalf
Louis E. Gelbrick
Harley Verne Wheeler
James Claude Bentley, Jr.
Flynn Finch
Herbert John Hess
Charles Kingsley McCann
Roy Parker
Elmer Woodrow Larsen
Peter Nickolas Klein
James Trimble Mason
William Andrew Reeder
John Burton Gooch
Henry Moore Earle
John Matthew Tassey
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“Christmastide is Templartide,” says Chairman Beaudoin

Louis A. Beaudoin, Grand Encampment Chairman of the Committee on Membership, offers a seasonal thought for Membership Recruitment:

Christmastide is Templartide!

During the season of the world’s greatest holy day, we have an equally great opportunity to talk Christian Masonry.

Let’s make it both a Joyous and Productive Season for Templary.
The Circulation “Quirk”

Although generally understood, readers are reminded that pages 28 and 29 of each issue of the Knight Templar Magazine differ according to geographic area. Each Grand Commandery has the privilege of having its own Supplement Editor relay information for pages 28 and 29 of the issue mailed to Templars living in its specific jurisdiction.

The Grand Encampment office prepares a full monthly issue of 32 pages. When Grand Commandery Editors send specified Supplement information to the Chicago office, their material is set up (un-edited by the Grand Encampment) and used on pages 28 and 29 in place of the original articles prepared by the Grand Encampment Editor and staff.

An estimated 40,000 Templars now live in states or areas different from their membership locations. Occasionally members write to request a change in the geographic Supplement they receive. David W. Saunders, Grand Commander of Utah, explained the situation well in his November material for the Grand Commandery of Utah Supplement:

While you reside in Utah, although your membership may be at another Commandery in another state, you will be getting the Knight Templar Magazine with the Utah Supplement. This quirk of circulation is caused by the zip code. Magazines are separated according to the zip code and bundled for mailing in the post office. Who you are and where you come from makes no difference to the U.S. Postal Department. If you have a Utah zip code, you are a Utahn. The count for the printer has been based on this division and so, Sir Knight, you are one of us.

If each substitutes his own state of residence for “Utah,” the explanation by Grand Commander Saunders applies universally.

It should be noted that bulk orders

Contribution to Baseball Showcase

A member for 44 years of Evanston Commandery No. 58, Evanston, Illinois, Ralph Nordberg, now a Florida resident, has contributed a historic baseball to the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York.

It began at Comiskey Park during the All-Star game in 1933. Nordberg, who is a trustee of the Florida Sheriff’s Boys Ranch, was an advertising man for radio and newspapers for many years.

“I was sales manager for WJJD and sitting in the station’s box with Gene Autry when I caught the ball, a foul off the bat of famed Bill Dickey,” recalls Sir Knight Nordberg. Autry, who autographed the ball, had not yet reached stardom. Says Nordberg: “He was doing the early morning show on WJJD for $35.00 a week and frankly I didn’t think he had a very good voice.”

The ball has been given to Cooperstown by Nordberg at the invitation of Hall of Fame Director Ken Smith, who wrote: “It is a historic object now. Incidentally, I was in the press box that day for the New York Mirror.”

can be processed, if received a month in advance, for 50 or more copies of the magazine at the special rate of five cents each. These are sent in bulk – to one address only. The arrangement permits a number of Grand Commanderies to distribute their own “editions,” containing their own Supplements, to some of their members who live in another state or geographic area. A dozen or more currently have a standing order for 50 or more copies for this purpose – or for distribution to Templar widows, prospective candidates, reading rooms, libraries and other individuals or institutions.

P.C.R.
GRAND ENCAMPMENT AND YORK RITE WORKSHOPS

Dr. Ward L. Ekas, Department Commander, with arrangement and registration assistance from Maryland’s Grand Recorder, P.G.C. Edward J. Warwick, and from F. William Young, Deputy Grand Commander of New York, was in charge of the Northeastern Department Conference of the Grand Encampment October 13-14 at Baltimore, Maryland. Workshop participants totaled 70, attendance at the Friday dinner, augmented by ladies of the various Grand Commandery officers, was 90.

The officers of Grand Encampment were headed by Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, accompanied by Deputy Grand Master Roy W. Riegel, Grand Captain General John B. Cottrell, Jr., Past Grand Master Walter A. DeLamater and Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhausen. Grand Encampment committee chairmen who participated were: Membership, Louis A. Beaudoin, Massachusetts-Rhode Island; Ritualistic Matters, G. Calvin Dyson, Pennsylvania; Religious Activities, Gordon J. Brenner, New Jersey; Easter Sunrise Service, Marvin E. Fowler, District of Columbia; Patriotic and Civic Activities, Carl J. Baesemann, Colorado.

Phases of the Grand Encampment program were outlined and discussed, with questions and answers and a number of individual observations and recommendations featured.


A feature of the Friday dinner was the presentation by Grand Master Bell, as an Active Member of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, of a Deputy’s silver collar and jewel to Sir Knight Cottrell, who was elected at the Supreme Council session in June to receive the honor. Assisting in the presentation were Active Members of the Supreme Council: Walter A. DeLamater, Marvin E. Fowler and Paul C. Rodenhausen.

When Grand Master Bell presented his closing message Saturday morning, he asked the Grand Commanders when they returned to their jurisdictions to “call together their Grand Officers, then the Constituent Commandery officers, for workshops — to convey to them the information, the inspiration, the program that here have been expressed to you.”

South Central

Arthur G. Coots, Department Commander, was in charge of the South Central Conference at Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 27-28. Grand Master Bell, Deputy Grand Master Riegel and Grand Recorder Rodenhausen participated, along with Dr. Oliver S. Willham, Chairman, Knights Templar Educational Foundation; Texas Grand Generalissimo Aubrey C. Martin-dale, representing the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Committee on Wills, Bequests and Contributions; Aix B. Harrison, District Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., International; District Representative for the General Grand Master of General Grand Council, R & S Masters, International, Alvin P. Knight, and some 40 others from the Grand Commanderies of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

One of the program participants was Joseph S. Lewis, Ponca City, Oklahoma, who spoke to the workshop group on DeMolay. Sir Knight Lewis is a Past Grand Master of the DeMolay Supreme Council.
The 1972 South Central workshop, devoted to Templary, will become a three-way conference September 15-16, 1973, at Tulsa following the Southwestern York Rite traditional meeting.

Northwestern

Fifty York Rite officers and representatives at Boise November 4-5 for separate Commandery, Chapter and Council workshops on the 4th and a combined meeting Sunday morning at 8:30. Dr. Paul W. Sweet, Department Commander, was chairman for the combined workshop and presided for the Templar sessions. All meetings and meals were held at El Korah Mosque. In charge of arrangements was Merlin F. Purcell, Grand Commander of Idaho.

Representing General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., were General Grand King Halldor K. Halldorson, Saskatchewan; General Grand Scribe Gordon R. Merrick, Colorado, and the Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest, Brinkley B. Brown, who is also Deputy Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Colorado; Gaines S. Greene, serving for District Representative of the General Grand Council, John P. Halliwell, Jr., and General Grand Commander of General Grand Council, A. Earle Horning, Oregon.

Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Deputy Grand Master Roy W. Riegle and Grand Recorder Rodenhauer were the Grand Encampment officers in charge of workshop program information for Templary. Deputy Grand Master Riegle, in concurrence with the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council representatives, announced that the Conference workshops in 1973 would be on the corresponding weekend, November 3-4, again at Boise, Idaho.

Southwestern

Grand Master Bell, Grand Recorder Rodenhauer and Department Command-
CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SCENES

Top two – At Baltimore, October 13-14; Middle – at Boise, November 4-5; Bottom, left – Tulsa, October 27-28; right – Salt Lake City, November 11-12.

D.G.M. Riegle, with Grand Master Bell and Grand Captain General Cottrell on his right, explains Templar topic.

View of some of the Templar officers and Past Grand Commanders from 10 Northeastern jurisdictions at Baltimore.

At Boise, Grand Master Bell, Deputy Grand Master Riegle, Department Commander Sweet and Grand Recorder Rodenhauser conducted Northwestern workshop. Middle picture shows Idaho’s Grand Commander Purcell and Grand Recorder Fletcher in foreground. Right, General Grand King Halldorson congratulates Department Commander Sweet on Conference chairmanship.

During break for Tulsa dinner, Deputy Grand Master Riegle, Department Commander Coots, Grand Master Bell pause for photo.

Salt Lake City participants Merrick, Bell, Deputy Grand Master of Utah Masons Hamel, McClendon, Mendius.
Connecticut Grand Master’s Day

The special feature of the 77th Annual Grand Master’s Day at the Masonic Home and Hospital in Wallingford, Connecticut, October 7 was the dedication of the new Ramage Building named in honor of Charles J. Ramage, Past Grand Master and President of the Masonic Charity Foundation. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment G. Wilbur Bell was among the more than 3,000 in attendance despite the day long driving rain. Senator Lowell Weicker, Jr., was the principal speaker.

The Home and Hospital actually began in 1873 with a $332 refund from Connecticut Masons’ donations to victims of the Chicago fire of 1871. Connecticut Masons have always celebrated its anniversary.

Alger Award to Henry Walter

Sir Knight Henry G. Walter was one of 11 Americans who received the 1972 Horatio Alger awards October 27 in New York City. The awards, named for the author, are given annually to Americans who have overcome humble beginnings to earn acclaim in their profession.

Walter, a retired steel executive, is full-time volunteer director of the campaign to raise $50 million for the Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago.

The awards were presented by Sir Knight Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment. Previous awardees include Sir Knight W. Clement Stone.

Mrs. Wilber M. Brucker Honored

Dr. Arthur E. Turner, President of the Northwood Institute, presided over a reception-luncheon honoring “The Distinguished Women of Northwood – 1972” November 10 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, California. One of the distinguished women of the year so honored was Mrs. Wilber M. Brucker, Grosse Point, Michigan, widow of the late Grand Master, who was cited “for her many contributions to her state and community and for her support and interest in Northwood Institute.”

All of the women honored were saluted “for participation in and active leadership on the National Women’s Board of Northwood, for their advice, encouragement, and active support of Northwood’s programs, philosophy and campuses.”
Grand Officers Form Corporation

The Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery of Kansas – Neil Gerdemann, Grand Commander – have formed CAPCO (Commandery Apparel Company) for the manufacture of plastic chapeaux and uniform insignia.

Equipment currently manufactured by CAPCO is designed to comply with Kansas uniform regulations.

The details of the corporation, organized to provide lower-cost uniform equipment for Kansas Templars, were explained at the request of Department Commander Arthur G. Coots at the South Central Department Conference October 27-28 at Tulsa, Oklahoma, by the Kansas Grand Captain General Maxwell A. Scheffler. He and Grand Commander Gerdemann announced that CAPCO information could be secured from the Grand Sword Bearer of Kansas, Merlin R. Grundy, 2600 Somerset Drive, Prairie Village, Kansas 66206.

Moseley New Grand Lodge Appointee

James E. Moseley, at the Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Georgia October 25, was appointed Third Grand Steward, traditional starting point of a nine year journey to the office of Grand Master of Masons in Georgia.

Sir Knight Moseley, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia and Secretary-Recorder of the Grand York Rite Bodies, is also a Past Grand High Priest, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council, and a former appointed officer in General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., International.

York Rite Unity in Kentucky

Pictured at the annual York Rite meetings in Louisville, Kentucky, are, left to right, front row, William J. Netherton, Grand Treasurer of all Kentucky York Rite Bodies; Grand Encampment Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell; Grand Commander John R. McDowell; William M. Woolum, Grand High Priest; back row, Robert M. Willhite, Grand Master of Kentucky Masons; Jack P. Hodges, Grand Master of the Grand Council; and George R. Effinger, Deputy in Kentucky for the Supreme Council, 33°, A.A.S.R., S.J.

All of the Grand Officers in Kentucky are members of Knights of the York Cross of Honour. Sir Knight Netherton is a Past Grand Master General of the Convent General and present Grand Treasurer. Additional Grand Officers, not pictured, who are members of K.Y.C.H. are Charles K. A. McGaughey, Grand Recorder-Secretary of the York Rite Bodies and of the General Grand Chapter; and Joe C. McClanahan, P.G.M. and present Grand Lodge Secretary.

In 1976 the situation will be repeated under the normal line of succession. All those elected to the bottom of the lines of the three York Rite Bodies of Kentucky are also members of K.Y.C.H. Deputy Grand Commander Morrison L. Cooke thinks this is a first.
DAMASCUS PROCLAIMS “G. WILBUR BELL DAY”

Damascus Commandery No. 42, Havana, Illinois, Ansar and Mohammed Shriners, school bands, a variety of marching units and distinguished guests combined on October 29, to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the “home” Commandery of the Grand Master, as “G. Wilbur Bell Day.” A parade at 3:00 p.m. was followed at 5:00 p.m. by an Anniversary Banquet in the V.F.W. hall at Havana, and a Centennial program featuring an address by Sir Knight Bell.

Mohammed Shrine Club Clowns from Peoria, the Havana High School Band, the six horse team hitch from Quincy — and other features, including a group picture of guests.

The Mason County Democrat of November 4 called the parade “the most colorful seen in Havana,” noted that the Centennial Observance also was G. Wilbur Bell Day, and reported: “Sir Knight Bell, who holds the highest office in Knights Templar in the United States, is a member of Damascus No. 42, having received the Order of the Temple May 26, 1942. He advanced to Eminent Commander and continued his climb through a number of State and National offices before being elected to his present position.”

100th Birthday for Missouri Commandery

Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell was the Centennial Banquet speaker for St. John’s Commandery No. 20, Springfield, Missouri, October 18. The 1972 Commander is William E. Mathies.

Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements and presiding officer was Harlan C. Boehm, one of the six Grand Commanders in the hundred year history to have membership in St. John’s No. 20. Past Commander Leonard V. Bowers, who also compiled the history of the “First 100 Years of St. John’s,” made the introductions. The Invocation and Benediction were offered by Past Commander G. William Bush. The musical program was a presentation by students of Southwest Missouri State University.


Commander H. Maynard Harper was master of ceremonies for the program. P.G.C. Charles E. Bostick introduced the guests. Grand Master Bell was presented with a Centennial plaque and Mrs. Harper made the presentation of a bouquet of red roses to Mrs. Bell. Music featured Havana High School students Claudette Hunt, Dennis Siltman and Philip Funkenbush. The history of the 100 years was presented by Past Commander Ernest Dierker.

The newspapers of the area presented advance and follow-up coverage of the anniversary events with full page picture displays and descriptive copy.

Pictures show the presentation to the Grand Master and Mrs. Bell, many of the marching units – Decatur’s Oriental Shrine band, Ansar Shrine’s “Tin Lizzies” and parade units from Springfield,
Anniversary Medals, First Day Covers

As part of its 100th Anniversary celebration Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria, Virginia, has had commemorative medals struck. Polished pewter medals are available at $3.00 each postpaid. Serially numbered sterling silver medals are available at $9.00 and two gold medals are available for $50.00. Checks for the medals should be made payable to Leonard C. Whitsett, 696 Arlington Village, 2600 South 16th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204.

Old Dominion Commandery No. 11
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

1872 = 1972

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
100th Anniversary

Three color First Day Covers are also available. The insert is a condensed History of Old Dominion Commandery researched by Robert D. McMarlin, P.C., Grand Sword Bearer. The covers are available at 35 cents each or three for $1.00. The unaddressed covers will have the eight cent American flag over the White House stamp with an Alexandria, Virginia, December 12 cancellation. They may be ordered from the designer, Mallery O. Wooster, 3608 Ridgeway Terrace, Falls Church, Virginia 22044.

A Centennial Banquet has been scheduled Tuesday evening, December 12. Eminent Commander Whitsett promises a special anniversary program to "commemorate Old Dominion's first 100 years of Templary." Time and place information is available from the Commander.

One Hundred for Franklin


An afternoon meeting preceded the social events. Past Commander James C. Culbertson, chairman of arrangements, was banquet toastmaster. Introductions of officers and Past Commanders of Franklin Commandery were made by Eminent Commander Harold O. Mong; Mrs. Mong, President, presided for the recognition of officers and Past Presidents of the Auxiliary. The Franklin Commandery History was presented by Past Commander Harry F. Newell and Grand Commander Robison offered anniversary remarks.

Past Commander Howard H. Gilliland, at 85, is one of the oldest active members. He has served as Recorder for 27 years.

The Franklin and Oil City newspaper, The News-Herald, devoted full pictorial and background copy to the Templar Centennial in its November 1 issue.

173 Years Ago

December 14 marks the anniversary of the death of Brother George Washington. He died at Mt. Vernon at the age of 67 December 14, 1799.
St. John’s Pilgrimage Centennial

St. John’s Commandery No. 4, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, “oldest Commandery in continuous operation in the United States,” made a pilgrimage to New Haven No. 2, Connecticut, in 1872 at which time swords to be used in Knighting candidates were exchanged.

At the Stated Conclave of St. John’s (now Philadelphia, St. John’s Corinthian) October 2 Commander George D. Morton greeted a delegation of 22 Sir Knights from New Haven led by Grand Commander George Schenk and New Haven Commander Laurence O. Thibodeau. Swords were again exchanged.

Pennsylvania Grand Generalissimo Howard T. Skull presented Commander Morton with an award for the Commandery having exceeded its quota in the last Eye Foundation Campaign. Grand Encampment Grand Captain General John B. Cottrell addressed the Sir Knights following the presentation.

P.C. Wilbur R. Parker, left, St. John’s, presents sword to Commander Thibodeau, New Haven, right, while St. John’s Commander Morton, looks on at center.

No. 45 First Day Covers

100th Anniversary
September 17, 1972

Dieu Le Veut Commandery No. 45
Wilkes Barre, Pa.
Constituted September 17, 1872
LRH

First day covers arranged by Past Commander Leonard R. Heverly were one form of observance in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Dieu Le Veut Commandery No. 45, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, one of the areas severely damaged in earlier floods.

Centennial Commander of Dieu Le Veut is John R. Evans.

“Salus Not Slus”

Bible and/or Latin scholars may have detected a typographical error in the November article by Sir Knight Wylie B. Wendt. On page 25, second paragraph, the magazine copy reads: “The other interpretation is: ‘In Hoc Slus’, etc.” What Sir Knight Wendt wrote was the word “Salus,” not “Slus,” and we hasten to set the record straight for those persons who may quote or otherwise utilize the information presented in Sir Knight Wendt’s and other features of the Knight Templar Magazine.
September-October RCC Conferences

Irvin S. Gress, Intendant General, Division of California-Southern, United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine presided over a Western Regional Assembly at San Diego, California, September 22-24, with 106 members and ladies attending. Among the special participants were Robert W. Cauldwell, Grand Sovereign; Dallas F. Bullock, Grand Chancellor; and, from Canada, Walter M. Walker, Past Sovereign of Western Canada Conclave. Seven Intendants General were in attendance.

The work included basic ritual exemplifications by San Diego Conclave.

Approximately 450 members and ladies were present at Buck Hill Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, for the annual Northeastern Regional Assembly banquet Saturday, October 21. William R. Burchfield, Past Grand Sovereign, again was in charge of arrangements, assisted by Intendant General John G. Eshleman, and Past Grand Sovereign William H. Cantwell, who served as Master-of-Ceremonies for the Saturday banquet and entertainment. All Orders were conferred Saturday morning and afternoon. An informal reception and dinner were featured Friday, the 20th. A worship service, conducted by Grand High Prelate John C. Brumbach with Grand Chaplain Robert K. Hill presenting the sermon, concluded the Regional Conference Sunday morning.

Among the attendees were Grand Sovereign Cauldwell, Past Grand Sovereigns Burchfield, DeLamater, Nancarrow, Cantwell, Camalier and Hammer, also Grand Chancellor Bullock, Trustee Walter B. Wilson, Grand Treasurer Mateer and Grand Recorder Rodenhauser.

Half Century Templary

Alfred Emil Koch, P.G.C., Illinois (1963), kneels where he knelt 50 years ago when he became a Knight Templar, at the base of the Triangle in the Asylum of Trinity Commandery No. 80, La Grange, Illinois. Grand Commander J. Emerson Miller headed the Grand Officers present for the October 20 anniversary and presented Sir Knight Koch with his 50-year Templar pin.

Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Grand Herald of the United Grand Imperial Council, together with Grand Encampment Grand Captain General John B. Cottrell, Jr., were on hand for the conference.
James Luther Jordan, “Elder Statesman”

At the Triennial Sessions of the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council at Las Vegas in September, J. Luther Jordan occupied the lonely role as the only Past General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of R.A.M., International. After the sessions, he was joined in this category by Calvin A. Behle, who was General Grand High Priest during the 1969-72 triennium.

Sir Knight Jordan, described as “the elder statesman” of Capitular Masonry, presided over the reception of special guests at Las Vegas and was active in a general advisory capacity.

He has served as an educator, an agriculturist, industrial and government executive, real estate agent, banker. Masonically, in addition to other honors, he is a Past Grand Master of Masons of Louisiana, Past Grand High Priest, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of R. & S. Masters, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar. He is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°, A.A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction.

At Las Vegas, he officially received and welcomed the guest officers from other bodies of Freemasonry.

Masons Thanked for Cornerstone Rite

The following letter from Mrs. James H. Enns, President of the Board of Trustees, Newton (Kansas) Free Library, is self-explanatory. Addressed to Grover C. Owen, Secretary, Newton Lodge No. 142, A.F. & A.M., it reads:

“The Board of Trustees of the Newton Free Library wishes to convey to you and your fellow Masons their thanks for the elaborate program held on September 16, 1972, to lay the Cornerstone for the new Library building being built in Military Park. It was a most impressive ceremony.

“We are most anxious to make a concentrated effort to reach more citizens and improve our services to match our new facilities. It is support such as you displayed which will make this possible.

“Again, our thanks to the members of the Masonic Lodge, both locally and state wide.”

Eye Foundation Grant

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. has given a $15,000.00 grant to the Eye and Ear Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the development of surgical techniques in treating retinal diseases.

Dr. William G. Everett, Director of the Retina Service, left, and Executive Director Lyle W. Byers look on as Samuel H. Verner, P.C., Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1, presents a $15,000 Eye Foundation grant to Judd N. Poffinberger, Jr., President, Board of Directors, Eye and Ear Hospital, Pittsburgh.
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<td>Edward R. Saunders</td>
<td>Joseph C. Bryan III</td>
<td>Dr. Ward L. Ekas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>Walter H. Winchester 241 Scotland Street Dunedin, Fla. 33528</td>
<td>E. Leslie Webb, Jr. 709 Jones Ave. Maryville, Tenn. 37801</td>
<td>Stephen B. Dimond P.O. Box 428 Palmetto, Fla. 33561</td>
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<td>East Central</td>
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<td>Ned E. Dull P.O. Box 429 Van Wert, Ohio 45891</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Aix B. Harrison 1019 West Centwell Stillwater, Okla. 74074</td>
<td>Alvin P. Knight 219 Carter Drive West Monroe, La. 71291</td>
<td>Arthur G. Coots P.O. Box 647 Dalhart, Texas 79022</td>
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<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>Brinkley B. Brown P.O. Box 68 Glenwood Springs Colo. 81601</td>
<td>John P. Halliwell, Jr. P.O. Box 1192 Pocatello, Idaho 83201</td>
<td>Dr. Paul W. Sweet, Jr. 718 W. Washington Ave. Centralia, Wash. 98531</td>
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<td>Marvin J. Baker P.O. Box 3742 Albuquerque, N.M. 87110</td>
<td>John R. Mendius 124 Rover Blvd. Los Alamos, N.M. 87544</td>
</tr>
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Regional Department Jurisdictions

Northeastern: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts; Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont
Southeastern: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia
East Central: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
South Central: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma
North Central: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin (also Canadian regions for General Grand Chapter)
Southwestern: Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah

Deputy Grand Master Knighted

Deputy Grand Master J. Fred Williamson of Kansas was Knighted October 9 in Sterling Commandery No. 47, Sterling, Kansas. Grand Commander R. Neil Gerdemann presented the new Sir Knight with a Membership Patent. Grand Commander Gerdemann reports he has been presenting the Membership Patents — available at cost to Grand, Subordinate and Constituent Recorders from the Grand Encampment — to newly Knighted candidates throughout the state.
THE SAGA OF APOLLO EIGHT

by

Lee J. Ameen

Sir Knight Ameen wrote the following poem during the Christmas period of December 1968 while he was a Bulbar Polio victim confined to a wheel chair. He was unable to write at the time so he watched the Apollo mission on television, memorized as he created and later transcribed the poem. He is a member of Romeo No. 6, Romeo, Michigan.

Just preceding our Saviour’s birthdate;
Began the Saga of Apollo Eight.
This lunar mecca from the planet earth
Somehow was suggestive of that ancient birth.

On the launching pad all pretty and neat
Rested the modern machine with three men in the seat.
It had to be Borman, Anders and Lovell,
Just watching the world and waiting to travel.

They might have been those wise men bold
Who journeyed afar with gifts of gold.
These three brave men of the aerospace age
Were astronaut pilgrims in a gilded cage.

These three wise men rode a high speed camel;
A sky struck steed, not a plodding mammal.
She was powered with a propellant of love
Sired by her creators to send her above.

The countdown was over, they rose out of sight.
A waiting world watched history in flight.
Earth waited silently, and then it was said
They were orbiting earth, with the moon overhead.

Onward and upward through the celestial sphere
They rocketed along, not showing any fear.
Then out of the hush of that Holy Night
They let us all share their wondrous sight.

Grownups were aghast, and our hearts did tingle
To hear them conversing Mr. Kris Kringle.
But all the children were full of applause
As they acknowledged the presence of Old Santa Claus.

This ship was “Old Glory” hurtling through space;
Locked there by the love of God’s Holy Grace.
Space science just recorded His presence up there;
Letting the whole world know He is more than a prayer.
SIXTY CANDIDATES KNIGHTED IN MISSOURI FESTIVAL

A Kirksville, Missouri, York Rite Class October 14 Knighted 60 in honor of Dr. Charles J. McClain, President of Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville.

The ceremonies began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 5 in the afternoon. Candidates came from throughout Northeastern Missouri.

Olin S. McDaniel, Bonne Terre, long time friend of Dr. McClain, was on hand to confer the Royal Arch Degree in his capacity as Grand High Priest of Missouri. Logan E. Wing, Jr., Grand Master of the Grand Council, was also present. Dr. Pressley L. Crummy, Grand Generalissimo, represented the Grand Commandery.

Bruce H. Hunt, Grand Secretary-Recorder of Missouri York Rite Masonry, notes that the last time Kirksville was host to a festival that included a college president was on the same date 11 years ago when Dr. Fred Helsabeck, President of Culver-Stockton College, Canton, received the York Rite.

Their mission accomplished, farewell to His Grace;
They pointed her down and left outer space.
And joyfully we monitored their re-entry and letdown
As the ocean below awaited their splashdown.

So ends the Saga of Apollo Eight;
But science will build a superior mate.
Yet never again until a new breed flies
Shall we see the moon in Christmas Ties.

December 6 is the scheduled date for a three-man "last of the Apollo series" moon shot.
The Christmas Star?

by

Paul K. Corley
Former Grand Prelate, California

At Christmastide 1970 we enjoyed a most beautiful sight in the heavens, caused by the conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn and Venus. Immediately there was much conjecture as to whether this conjunction of the planets was not similar to that seen above Bethlehem on the eve of Christ’s birthday. As usual, commentators and columnists jumped at the chance of stating something spectacular, and as usual, ended up with a secular and profane outlook.

Probably the greatest life of Christ ever written was by Alfred Edersheim.

Dr. Edersheim points out there was a prophecy of one of the rabbis, written into the Midrash, stating there would be six years of unusual portents and signs the seventh of which would be that a STAR would shine forth from the East and this would be the Star of The Messiah. Another rabbi, Simon, indicated that this Star would appear two years before the birth of the Messiah.

Astronomically, there can be no argument that there was a remarkable conjunction of planets in December 749 (A.U.C.), 5 years before the birth of Christ — a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces. Normally this would only take place once in 800 years, but it took place three times in the year 747 A.U.C., or two years before the birth of Christ, in May, October and December. These are facts due to the findings of Kepler, a great name among astronomers.

Kepler also noted that when Jupiter, Saturn and Mars came into conjunction, “a new, extraordinary, brilliant, and peculiarly evanescent star was visible between Jupiter and Saturn. He suggested that this star, or a similar one, was probably the one the Magi saw.

What is most important is that Venus had no part in the conjunctions mentioned by Kepler, Humboldt and Pingre. The calculations of these men pin down the date of the birth of Christ between the fall of 7 B.C. and the spring of 5 B.C.

‡

"From a Proud Son"

R. R. Hudson, Alhambra Commandery No. 48, California, writes to salute his dad, W. Rowland Hudson, a 92-year old Templar who became a Mason 67 years ago this month.

Son Robert’s letter of information — which closes with the phrase, “from a proud son” — is a resume of Sir Knight W. Rowland Hudson’s Masonic background, from which the following highlights have been extracted:


“He is a member in all for over 50 years,” writes Sir Knight Bob. “His grandfather, John Rowland, had the first Masonic funeral in San Gabriel Valley in 1873.”
Al Hasa Knights Thirty-Five

The minutes of J. E. Walter, P.C., Recorder of Al Hasa Commandery No. 1, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, show that 35 Companions were Knighted at a Special Conclave October 6, with Past Commander D. C. Rines acting as Commander for the conferral.

"Following the full form ceremony and Knighting by Eminent Commander Szostek, Past Commanders Sherwinski and DeWeese exemplified the remaining attributes and the signs."

Recorder Walter addressed the newly dubbed Knights to outline the background of Al Hasa, the Life Sponsorship record and "the numerous patrons and highest winning Subordinate Commandery per capita award in the last two Grand Encampment fund-raising campaigns for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation," $1,250 in the 1971 campaign, a per capita average of $7.39.

Hoyt McClendon Class

Hoyt McClendon, General Grand Master of the General Grand Council, R & S Masters, International, was the key figure in a Zamora Area York Rite Festival, Birmingham, Alabama, scheduled November 25. Sixteen Chapters, 11 Councils and 11 Commanderies participated in planning the Hoyt McClendon Class.

The ritualistic schedule was arranged to start at 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 24, with the Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees and, on the 25th, starting at 7:30 a.m., the Royal Arch, Royal Master, Select Master, Super Excellent Degrees, followed by the Orders of Red Cross, Malta and Temple.

Co-Chairmen for 52nd Triennial Conclave in 1973

Sir Knights Clare B. Lang, right, and Phillip S. Makin, Grand Commandery of Illinois Co-Chairmen for the 52nd Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment in Chicago August 11-16, 1973, confer during a November meeting in Chicago to activate plans for next year's Conclave. Tentative program details and reservation forms will be distributed, according to present planning, early next year. In the meantime the Co-Chairmen urge all Templars to make their housing reservations without delay by writing to: Gerald G. Sanderson, K.T. Housing Chairmen, Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604.
Sir Knights of Mass. and R. I.:

At the time I sit down to write this article for our *Knight Templar Magazine* supplement, I've just returned from the Third Northeastern Knights Templar Regional Conference of this triennial which was held in Baltimore, Maryland. In attendance at this Conference were: S.K. Thomas C. Brown, V.E.D.G.C., S.K. David L. Esancy, G.G., R.E. Louis A. Beaudoin, P.G.C. and Chairman of Membership of Gr. Encampment, R.E. George C. Patton, Jr., P.G.C., and R.E. James C. Sirios, P.G.C. and Grand Recorder.

One other of our Sir Knights would have been present with us except for the fact that he was representing your Grand Commander at the 100th Anniversary celebration of Composite Chapter in North Adams, Mass., namely, S.K. Clifton J. Toothaker, Jr., G.C.G.

The Conference at Baltimore featured Templar affairs: Membership was a "big-interest" topic. Mention was made to plan for York Rite Festivals, Workshops, and to try and set goals to guide us in making up losses. A great deal of interest was shown in the programs of the K.T. Eye Foundation. It was pointed out that more money was needed for the "emergency" cases that are pending for action. This points up the importance of the Fifth Voluntary Campaign that will be starting on January first and continuing through March 1st. Our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Thomas C. Brown who is Chairman of this Campaign has scheduled a THEATER PARTY for Wednesday, January 31st at the 57 Cinema, in the 57 Complex, Park Square, Boston, for the showing of the hit film "Man of LaMancha" starring Peter O'Toole, Sophia Loren and James Coco. A percentage of the profits of each ticket will go to the K.T. Eye Foundation.

The K.T. Educational Foundation program came in for much discussion and was enthusiastically supported by those in attendance. For information on this program of our Grand Commandery get in touch with our office at 186 Tremont St., Boston 02111, or call 426-1973.

Discussion was held on the subject of K.T. Uniforms; this will be on the agenda at the Triennial in Chicago.

You can see Sir Knights that your officers are keeping current with all phases of Templary and are proud to represent you in these conferences.

Finally, it was announced that the presentation of "The Word," the drama that incorporates ALL of the Degrees and Orders of the York Rite in the one presentation, would be exemplified in Chicago at the Triennial. This will give us the opportunity to witness this for our own possible use in the future.

My Fraters, I close this column with my wishes to all of you and your families, that you enjoy a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas Season, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year of 1973.

May the Meaning of Christmas be deeper,
Its Friendships Stronger
And its Hopes Brighter
As it comes to You this Year.

Courteously yours,
Robert M. MacKenzie
Grand Commander

"Have you seen???” department:
“Billy” and “Wilhelmina” the famous
couples who reside at the Menard compound in Falmouth, Mass.???
Ask Bob to explain about them.


HELPING THE YOUNG IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Why not make 1972-1973 a year in which your Commandery can say that it has done something positive to help YOUTH?

Each of the Commanderies in this jurisdiction has some assets in its coffers which could be made available for use to provide scholarships or loans for the promising, needy high school students in your area who plan to go on to college. Be the amount $100, $500 or more you can be sure that in this period of rising costs of higher education, every cent will be well used.

It seems so little to a Commandery to put funds that are gathering dust to work, yet it might mean so much to some college age boy or girl. All it takes is a little investigative work, the drawing up of a proposal for a scholarship or loan fund, and a vote by the Sir Knights. Perhaps you have in your Commandery a lawyer who would help with the wording of the proposal.

Monies for such a Fund could be obtained by transfer of excess money in other accounts or from special “gifts or Contributions” of Sir Knights.

For those that say, “But we’re a poor Commandery,” special events could be held to raise money; add 25 cents or 50 cents to the price of a dinner; “pass the hat” after a Collation; run a special fund-raising event; and you have started the Fund on its way. Once established, such a Fund could be administered by a “Scholarship” or “Loan Committee”. The committee would interview all applicants and would also let people know about the Fund.

Eligibility requirements could be either very general or very specific. Perhaps the Sir Knights would prefer that the Fund be available only to children of Masons or members of DeMolay or Rainbow. On the other hand, more general requirements would increase the number of persons that could be eligible.

By creating such a Fund, your Commandery would actively be showing your Community that Templary is on the move. The Fund might be named after your Commandery or in honor of an outstanding Mason from your city or town. The establishment of such a memorial Fund would call attention to some of our philanthropic endeavors.

This is the year to meet the challenge! Will your Commandery be the first to be listed as establishing a Scholarship or Loan Fund???

S.K. James F. Wilman
Worcester County No. 5

You are cordially invited . .

To the Christmas observance to be held in the Masonic Temple, Worcester, Mass., on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 4:00 p.m., sponsored by Worcester County Comm. No. 5. Also to the Christmas observance in Beaumant Commandery in Malden, Mass., on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4:00 p.m. Your wife, family and friends are also included in these invitations.
Police Commissioner a Candidate

Eminent Commander John G. Coulson, Detroit Commandery No. 1, announces that John F. Nichols, Commissioner of the Detroit Police Department, will be the Inspection Candidate for the Order of the Temple Friday, December 8, in the Masonic Temple at 500 Temple Avenue, Detroit.

Candidate Nichols was appointed Police Commissioner of Detroit by Mayor Roman S. Gribbs — the second man in the Department's history to come through the ranks to be top administrator.

He joined the Department in 1942, served three and a half years in the U.S. Army, returned to the Police Department and was successively promoted to the rank of Detective, Detective Lieutenant, Commander of the Precinct Detective Bureaus, 4th and 10th Precincts; District Inspector, Deputy Superintendent and, in 1968, Superintendent.

A graduate of Wayne State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Police Administration, he has roles in state and national law administration circles. He is a member of Lodge No. 578, F. & A.M., and Peninsular Chapter No. 16, R.A.M.

Masonic Leaders Confer Degree

Grand Master of Alabama Masons Paul E. Bradford joined Grand York Rite leaders at Woodlawn Fraternal Lodge 525, September 16, to confer the Master Mason Degree on Timmothy Leon McCoy, Hoyt McClendon, now General Grand Master of General Grand Council, and other leaders were present.

Left to right, Grand Master Bradford, Grand High Priest Griffith, Grand Master of Council Roberts and Grand Commander Mann.

IN MEMORY OF

Knut I. Nilsson
District of Columbia
Grand Commander — 1948
Born October 16, 1900
Died October 9, 1972

William Forrest Prettyman
Maryland
Grand Commander — 1946
Department Commander — 1949-1952
Born July 5, 1883
Died October 12, 1972

William Chase Mudgett
North Carolina
Grand Commander — 1923
Born May 8, 1877
Died October 16, 1972

James Madison Caviness
Texas
Grand Commander — 1942
Born May 26, 1895
Died November 11, 1972

Many lands have contributed to the Christmas customs observed in the United States. Perhaps the most prolific have been England and Germany.

Oldtime celebrations in England were long and noisy. The Yule log, introduced into England by the Vikings, no longer plays a large role. In earlier time dragging in and lighting the huge Yule log was the signal for boisterous Christmas parties.

Hanging mistletoe started in England, dating back to the Druids. Christmas cards originated in England in 1846. Carolers or Waits continue to go from home to home during the days leading to Christmas.

Germany is known as the home of the Christmas tree. Legend says Martin Luther introduced the custom of the candle-lit tree. It spread to other countries after the 16th century. The Advent wreath, with its four candles — one to be lighted each Sunday of Advent, comes from Germany.

Celebrations differ — in Germany, England, in Japan, France, Italy, in Spanish speaking countries and in all others — but the essence remains the same. Christmas is the season of good will and the happiness that comes from sharing the spirit of Christian giving with others.

Among Memorable Highlights of Past Decembers

December 2, 1823: Masonic President James Monroe proclaimed the Monroe Doctrine
December 4, 1783: Masonic President George Washington retired as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army
December 5, 1782: Martin Van Buren born
December 6, 1899: Jefferson Davis died
December 8, 1907: Christmas Seals inaugurated
December 10, 1830: Poetess Emily Dickinson was born
December 13, 1642: New Zealand discovered by Dutch Navigator Abel Tasman
December 14, 1799: George Washington died at Mt. Vernon
December 15, 1791: Bill of Rights went into effect
December 16, 1773: The Boston Tea Party
December 17, 1903: Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, N.C., made first successful flight
December 19, 1950: General Eisenhower appointed NATO Commander
December 20, 1803: United States took formal possession of Louisiana
December 27, 1822: Louis Pasteur born
December 28, 1945: Pledge of Allegiance officially sanctioned by Congress
December 28, 1856: Woodrow Wilson born
December 29, 1808: Masonic President Andrew Johnson born
December 29, 1845: Texas became 28th state
December 30, 1865: Masonic man-of-letters, Rudyard Kipling, born
I am thinking of you today because it is Christmas and I wish you happiness, and tomorrow because it will be the day after Christmas, I shall still wish you happiness; and so on clear through the year. I may not be able to tell you about it every day, but that makes no difference; the thought and the wish will be here just the same. Whenever joy or success comes to you it will make me glad.

—Henry Van Dyke