



Knight Templar

VOLUME XXIII

SEPTEMBER 1977

NUMBER 9



THE DAILY TIMES.

MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 30, 1860.

LOCAL AND TERRITORIAL.

GREAT EXPRESS ENTERPRISE!

**From Leavenworth to Sacramento
in Ten Days!**

**Clear the Track and let the Pony Come
Through!**



In our telegraphic columns a few days ago, there was an item stating that it had been decided by the Government to start an Express from the Missouri river to California, and the time to be ten days; but we were not aware that our fellow-citizen, Wm. H. Russell, Esq., was at the head of the enterprise, until we were shown the following dispatch. Its importance can be readily perceived:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27th, 1860.

To JOHN W. RUSSELL—Have determined to establish a Pony Express to Sacramento California, commencing the 3rd of April.—Time 10 days. WM. H. RUSSELL.

(SEE PAGE 5)

ONE YEAR LATER

September 2 marks the completion of our twelve months as Grand Master of Grand Encampment. Retiring Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, after a successful three-year term, was expressing a year ago at Kansas City, Missouri, the conviction that his "successor will have a fruitful, productive term and that he will advance Templary — as well as other York Rite bodies of Freemasonry."

This, during our months in office, we have attempted to do. How "productively" will depend upon the future. We continue to strive for an ever stronger, more influential Order. We will do our best in our remaining two years to work in harmony with the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council.

We will try to extend, if possible, Past Grand Master Riegle's theme of cooperative endeavor among the York Rite bodies.

If you were present, you will recall that the day after our election we assembled for installation ceremonies in the Muehlebach Hotel. The General Grand Master of Grand Council and General Grand High Priest were present. Both joined your Grand Master on the platform in a Covenant of Cooperation, and each has exemplified full fraternal regard and consideration over the past year. We have made what I consider progress. I believe we are gradually learning that the progress of the York Rite is based on unified action, that we have a common need and goal in both Membership and Leadership.

Today, speaking to you as Grand Master of Grand Encampment, I reiterate the Statement of Policy and Purpose delineated one year ago:

1 — We are a Christian Fraternal Order. This is our basic foundation and should ever be strengthened. 2 — Membership must be maintained, hopefully increased. 3 — Close cooperation and coordination with the Symbolic Lodge and other Masonic Bodies but particularly the Chapter and Council on local, state and national levels will be fostered. 4 — The existence of the Grand Encampment organization and office is for the purpose of serving Templary in an effective and efficient manner. 5 — Four major programs as Templars are: (a) Conferral of ritualistic work, (b) Knights Templar Eye Foundation, (c) Knights Templar Educational Foundation, (d) Christian Observances, (e) Social events, (f) Support of Youth Activities, particularly DeMolay.

These programs must be strengthened and improved. All of us want to move forward. To my mind, cooperation is the key.



Willard M. Avery

Knight Templar

Knights Templar — Christian Masons

September: On our cover for the ninth month of the year is a century-old sketch that's worth a thousand words. It depicts the telegraph telescoping time and distance to "overtake" the colorful Pony Express. And the story of the Knight Templar who began it all starts on page 5.

Quoted on the back cover is an excerpt from another story of Templar achievement in 1919, when Grand Master Lee Stewart Smith could speak of the 277,386 Knights numbered in the Grand Encampment. After vicissitudes of prosperity and depression, today's Knight Templar population in the Grand Encampment numbers upward of 360,000.

There's a full range of news, views and reports in the September issue. We hope you will enjoy them.

Paul C. Rodenhauer, Editor

SEPTEMBER 1977

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EDITOR'S JOURNAL

Omissions: James K. Wilson, California Grand Commandery Chairman for the 9th Voluntary K.T.E.F. Campaign just completed, has informed Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell of an omission in the July listing of Constituent Commanderies reporting \$5.00 or more per member. The "final" figure for Ukiah Commandery No. 33 did not reflect a \$538.34 contribution acknowledged April 27. The total contribution of Ukiah has been revised to \$744.00 which, equated with a membership of 145, indicates a \$5.14 per capita. Sir Knight Wilson states, "Because of the outstanding effort of this Commandery to reach this per capita for the past several years, we are most concerned that due recognition be given them." Ukiah Commandery, Austin D. Hall, Eminent Commander, will receive a plaque in honor of their work during the 9th Campaign.

Another addition to the Voluntary Campaign productivity ranks is Plains Commandery No. 11, reported by John Wall Felps, Recorder, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and relayed by Louisiana's Grand Commander Wilburn W. Terral.

Additions, Deletion: The listing of Masons presently serving in Government (July) was as complete as possible, thanks to the efforts by the Masonic Service Association to garner accurate information. Three additions, however, are Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, Albert B. Fletcher, a member of Union Lodge No. 7, A.F. & A.M., Kansas; Sir Knight George E. Shipley, Congressman from Olney, Illinois, and member of Gorin Commandery No. 14; and Cecil L. Heftel of Hawaii, a member in Unity Lodge No. 18, Salt Lake City, Utah. To be deleted is former Delaware Lieutenant Governor Eugene D. Bookhammer who, though a Templar, was not re-elected.

King to Crump: Sir Knight James B. King, Galdstone, Oregon, announced in the March "Knight Voices" the availability of an old trunk which belonged to his grandfather. He and his two brothers were "the founders of the Quaker Oats Company."

His letter said: "I would like to sell it to the highest bidder and donate two-thirds of the proceeds to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation . . . As I am in poor health, I would like to dispose of it as soon as possible."

Past Department Commander Alvin L. Crump, Evanston, sent for the trunk and, although the contents are not yet catalogued, the accompanying photograph testifies to its age and identity.



In his letter to Sir Knight Crump, James B. King asked that the receipt of the trunk be acknowledged only with a contribution to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Springfield, Illinois. Accordingly, the purchaser has forwarded his check in the amount of \$100 to the Foundation as a contribution credited to Oregon Commandery No. 1, Portland, the home Commandery of James B. King.

When the contents of the trunk have been separated and identified, Sir Knight Crump may have a "story" for the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

Sweetest Sound: "You've lost weight!"

LET THE PONY COME THROUGH!

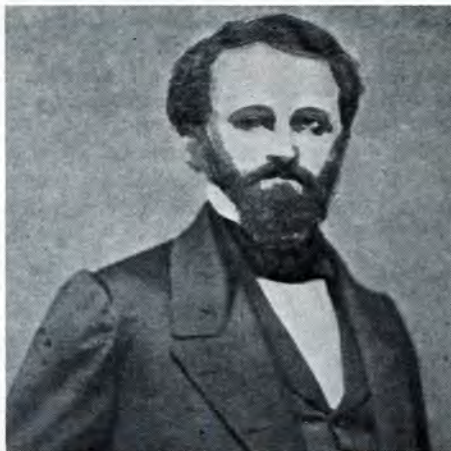
by
J. E. Behrens, Assistant Editor

Communication – transport of goods and mail – between east and west in America of the mid 1800's was limited by slow stagecoach or wagon train and the even slower water route crossing the Isthmus of Panama, and then crawling up the coast of California to ports such as San Francisco. The problem did not become acute, however, until the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill and subsequent immigration of more than 100,000 49'ers over the Rockies and into the California territory.

Overland mail routes, had, of course, been plotted by enterprising men like George Chorpenning whose route was used mainly to carry mail east, rather than west, between Sacramento and Salt Lake City (which took 30 days), and then from Salt Lake City to Independence, Missouri. Another, the Ox-bow Route, was far to the south and longer between eastern and western terminals. It was established in 1858 by John Butterfield and took only 21 to 23 days to complete the one-way journey from St. Louis to San Francisco or vice versa. It continued to operate until after the outbreak of the Civil War.

The communications gap between west and east was a pressing problem. One man – a Mason – risked (and lost) a quiet fortune in the creation of the Pony Express, a means of light overland mail transport which he believed could solve the problem.

Kind historians have called William Hepburn Russell an "irrepressible optimist." Those who looked on his attempt as foolhardy and doomed to failure from the beginning were not so kind. Russell himself avowed that he never expected to make a profit; he merely wanted to break even and show the country that the mail could be delivered more quickly and more efficiently. He



Sir Knight William Hepburn Russell

lost approximately a half million dollars in the attempt. But for a "scheme" which was such a financial failure, the Pony Express has achieved one of the most romantic positions in Western lore.

William Russell always seemed to be in the right spot at the right time – he acted on a situation's potential success and many times succeeded in turning a profit. He was an Easterner at heart, born in Burlington, Vermont, January 31, 1812. As a teenager his family moved to the wilderness of Western Missouri where William worked for various frontier merchants, learning the business from the ground up.

On June 9, 1835, he married Harriet Elliot, and his social status was on the rise. First, Russell began his own business. He was mildly successful, but even as a young man he was aware that a partnership could increase profits. His first such enterprise was begun with James S. Allen and William Early – a store called Allen, Russell & Company in Lexington, Missouri, which in the 1840's was the stopping off point of the → → →

civilized world. It was one of the main "outfitting" towns for explorers and families looking for a new life in the uncharted West. Travelers into the wilderness needed food, horses and oxen to make the grueling journey - usually by wagon train. Allen, Russell & Company could supply them all, and did, until it failed in 1845.

But it seems Russell had foreseen the decline, because in 1844 he had begun another store with a new partner, James H. Bullard.

By age 35 Russell was socially prominent and recognized as one of the better businessmen in the West. By the age of 40, a member of the Baptist Church, he boasted land, business and a 20-room mansion. He had been initiated in Lafayette Lodge No. 32, Lexington, in 1848, and in 1852 served as its Master. Several years later he transferred membership to Lexington Lodge No. 149.

Denslow states he was active in the Lexington bodies for many years - a member of Lexington Chapter, R.A.M., and of DeMolay Commandery No. 3, Knights Templar, in the same city.

In 1847 Bullard and Russell entered the transport business with E. C. McCarty. It began with a wagon train of mercantile goods from Westport to Santa Fe, and branched out in 1849 to haul military supplies under government contract until 1852. Thus began an interest in overland transport which was to lead to one of the most successful organizations in the West: Russell, Majors & Waddell.

Russell, who always retained his New England breeding, was in charge of the company's concerns in the East. Brother Alexander Majors, on the other hand, was a frontiersman/Indian trader. He had independently transported goods between Santa Fe and Kansas and the U.S. Army posts scattered along the way. It was only natural that he should oversee the actual transport. Waddell handled the business at home.

Prior to 1854, contracts for supplying western posts had gone to individuals such as Majors. But as the number of forts and settlements along the gold road

increased, such a method of individual contracting was unsatisfactory. It was decided that a single contract would be given to one firm financially capable of handling the loads. Russell, Majors and Waddell, a wagon-freighting firm was instituted to haul goods, wares, merchandise, and stock, and for selling, trading and outfitting for anyone who paid, including the U.S. government.

However, there was still the problem of speedy and efficient mail transport. Express companies such as Wells Fargo and Company in 1852 carried mail received in California by sea to the mining camps and towns nearby. But the problem remained across the prairies.

Congress had discussed the necessity of an overland mail service for years. Two stage routes, Butterfield's to the south and a central trail called Egan's Route (established slightly south of Chorpenning's via Salt Lake City to Independence), were the two logical choices.

At the time J. M. Hockaday & Co. held the contract to transport U.S. mail from the Missouri River to Salt Lake City. Russell with John S. Jones, a partner in another concern, bought out the Hockaday line and formed the Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express Company. Russell was especially enthusiastic about the success of this mail route, because gold had once again been discovered - this time at Cherry Creek, near what is now Denver, Colorado. This firm too, went bankrupt, but Russell convinced his other partners that Russell, Majors and Waddell should buy the failing company. What resulted was the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company. It controlled the "central" route across the frontier, and its main purpose was to compete for the overland contract with Butterfield's southern route.

It was under the auspices of the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company that the Pony Express began. At first, Majors and Waddell would have nothing to do with Russell's plan. But he convinced them of its feasibility; he also told them he had promised Senator Gwin in Washington that he

would arrange mail delivery by horseback between Missouri and California in ten days, thus demonstrating the superiority of the Central route. Senator Gwin had replied that if Russell could do what he proposed, he would see to it that Congress gave them the overland contract. The names of all three partners were at stake. Russell knew of the potential heavy loss, but he was willing to risk everything of his own, and of his partners. They agreed.

The main difference between the Pony Express and previous overland transport was that the travel from Missouri to Salt Lake City, and likewise from Salt Lake City to California, had been accomplished by stagecoach or by one or several men traveling the entire distance slowly in one stretch, stopping when needed to rest horses and sleep. The Pony Express was to be a system of relays – men and horses – riding light, carrying only letters and newspapers, and riding day and night.

On January 27, 1860. William Russell wired his son, John (secretary of the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company): "Have determined to establish a Pony Express to Sacramento California, commencing the 3rd of April. – Time 10 days." April 3 was 65 days away. John in turn informed the newspapers which ate up the story and glorified it. The Leavenworth *Daily Times* wrote in bold headlines: "Great Express Adventure from Leavenworth to Sacramento in Ten Days. Clear the Track and let the Pony Come Through!" Actually, as it turned out, the eastern terminal was placed in St. Joseph.

Some of the more fascinating statistics of the Pony Express, which lasted only a little over a year and a half, tend to make the modern reader wonder about the efficacy of the current postal system.

The Pony Express route was one of the longest in the world – 1,966 miles between St. Joseph and Sacramento, via Fort Kearny, along the Platte River past Fort Laramie, Fort Bridger, Salt Lake City and Carson City.

In 65 days Russell, from whom five division superintendents took direct orders, equipped some 119 stations

situated anywhere from 10 to 16 or 18 miles apart. The distance between stations depended on the terrain, of course, but mainly it depended on the distance a horse could be ridden at maximum speed. There were two types of stations. Simple relay stations were usually no more than shacks and corrals where the rider switched horses and continued on his way. The home stations were larger and better equipped to handle mail and riders en route. One thing characterized every station, though, and that was the food and preparation for the horses' comfort. They were treated better than many a stagecoach rider in those days and cost up to \$200 each. Home stations were set up at a distance of 75-100 miles apart. Riders travelled the route between two home stations at each run. Horses were changed an average of six to eight times in each direction, but men rode almost 200 miles each day.

The rigid schedule was set up and adhered to. Considering the coordination involved and the number of men responsible for each station, it seems phenomenal that it worked – but it did. In its existence, the Pony Express lost only one mail, and that was due to an Indian attack.

Next to horses, men were the most important commodity. Riders had to be young, slim, accustomed to rugged outdoor life, and superb horsemen. As well, candidates had to be of good character, and not drinkers. One classic advertisement for such men read:

WANTED Young, wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to face death daily. Orphans preferred.

Each man hired was required to sign an oath which had been used earlier by Majors when he was in private business: "While I am in the employ of . . . , I agree not to use profane language, not to get drunk, not to gamble, nor to treat the animals cruelly, and not to do anything incompatible with the conduct of a gentleman. I agree if I violate any of the above conditions to accept my discharge without any pay for my services." Riders originally carried a rifle and → → →

two pistols and a bible. The firearms were soon limited to a "loaded cylinder Colt," to keep the total weight down. Because of the cost to mail one letter — \$5.00 (plus 10 cents U.S. postage) per half ounce — correspondence was usually sent on "tissue" paper, similar to that used for carbon copies today. Maximum weight of the mochila, or specially-made pouch for carrying the mail, was 20 lbs., or about 75 letters. Larger, heavier pieces were left for stage or wagon transport.

On April 3, what William Russell promised came to pass. The first pony left St. Joseph and the mail it carried arrived in Sacramento in just under ten days. The name of the first rider to cross the plains is lost, but others — such as Brother William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody who rode with the Pony Express at age 15, Billy Coates, who carried President Lincoln's first Inaugural address to the West, William Cates, Major Howard Egan (the oldest Pony Express rider), and Jack Keetley — are remembered to history. They are the ones who "risked death daily" to see that the mail came through. In all, there were some 120 riders.

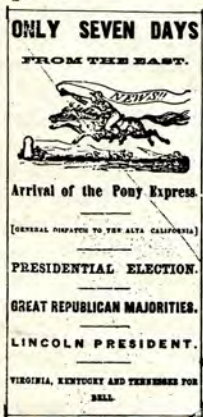
But despite its success, it was indeed doomed to failure for two reasons. Financially, its backers could never hope to regain enough profit to counter the cost of outfitting over 100 stations with stock and personnel plus hiring riders. In addition, only those who were well off could afford the \$5.10 to mail a letter. (This was reduced to \$1.00 per half ounce in July, 1861, to attract more business — but it was too late.) Secondly, plans were daily reaching a head to plant the telegraph across the frontier. Soon messages would be transmitted cheaply and as fast as the wind. Soon, also, the iron horse would come charging onto the prairie,

leaving the pony only the hero of a forgotten tale. And to add to the injury, Senator Gwin never was successful in obtaining the mail contract for Central Overland.

By the following year, 1861, the losses were being totaled — in all, liabilities came to between one half million and one million dollars. Assets were less than \$100,000. Russell, still in the east, was doing all he could to forestall bankruptcy. Unfortunately, his means of forestalling, though begun apparently as an innocent transaction, led to Russell's arrest. Government bonds had been illegally released to him for sale. At first, Russell was not aware that their sale was illegal; yet even after he did realize he was engaged in embezzlement he continued to sell the bonds, hoping to obtain enough money to save the Express. Later, speaking before a Select Committee of the House, he gave as an excuse for his actions the fact that the government had never paid his firm for transporting military goods to Utah in 1857-58 — about a half million dollars worth. (The War Department, when presented with the bill from Russell, Majors and Waddell, had said it could not pay because it had exceeded its appropriations.) Perhaps this argument had some merit. In any event, Russell was never brought to trial.

Russell, Majors and Waddell, however, was dissolved, and the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company was eventually bought out by Ben Holladay, the stagecoach king of the West.

Russell's Pony Express officially died when the telegraph joined east and west at Salt Lake City on October 24, 1861. But Russell, the "irrepressible optimist" never accepted defeat. He continued to organize "town companies, toll roads, the Colorado and Pacific Wagon, Telegraph, and Railroad Company," and became a partner in several mining adventures. He lived to see the transcontinental railroad become a reality and died three years later, September 10, 1872.



The Pony Express outranked Lincoln in this California paper.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION TRUSTEES AT SPRINGFIELD

The Trustees of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation met for the first time July 23 and 24 in the Springfield, Illinois, headquarters. The group visited the Foundation office, inspected the facilities and operational procedures before adjourning to the Holiday Inn-East Motel for two days of meetings and discussions.



Among the decisions reached at the session were: The Voluntary Campaign is now officially an Annual event, rather than an activity reviewed and rescheduled at each board meeting; the Executive Director and Grand Master Avery will request a centralization of support and effort for the Foundation by forming one committee to process and promote the Annual Campaign, handle Wills, Bequests and Contributions and organize a combined committee for the overall Eye Foundation in each jurisdiction; an approximate 20% increase "across the board" for the hospitalization and surgical fee schedule; grants totaling \$40,000 to the Columbia University Hospital at New York for further development of the artificial cornea and to the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation for retinal degeneration research.

The Voluntary Campaign, which resulted in Commandery-project income of nearly \$500,000 during the 9th year, now designated as an annual event, will start December 1 and conclude April 30. Recorders and Chairmen are reminded that the per capita productivity is based on the membership Update Reports provided by each Constituent and Subordinate Commandery as of December 1, 1977. The 1976-77 campaign was again directed by Charles S. McIntyre, P.G.C., Michigan, a member of the Board of Trustees, who will continue in the same capacity.



The annual report of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation again will be printed and distributed to each Grand Commandery dais officer and Past Grand Commander, also to each Recorder for dissemination.

Those attending the meeting of trustees were: Willard M. Avery, Grand Master, President; John B. Cottrell, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, 1st Vice-President; E. Guy Frizzell, 2nd Vice-President; Harold S. Gorman, Grand Treasurer, → → →



Treasurer; Paul C. Rodenhauser, Grand Recorder, Secretary; Ned E. Dull, Grand Captain General; John L. Crofts, Sr., Past Grand Master; Roy Wilford Riegle, Past Grand Master; and G. Wilbur Bell, Past Grand Master, Executive Director. Trustees-at-Large attending included: Edmund F. Ball, Alvin L. Crump, Howard T. Joslyn, Assistant Executive Director, Charles S. McIntyre, Jr., and George W. Sorrell. Kenneth C. Johnson, Grand Generalissimo, was excused.



York Cross of Honour Conclave

Most Eminent Louis V. Sylvester, Grand Master-General, announces the 42nd Annual Conclave of the Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, in Omaha, Nebraska, September 9 and 10. The two-day meeting, commemorating the 48th year of the Order, will have headquarters in the Holiday Inn at 72nd and Grover Streets, where registration will begin at 10:00 a.m., Friday. Sir Galahad Priory No. 7 will open and receive the officers of the Convent General on Saturday morning, with election and installation of officers that afternoon.

The registration fee for each Knight is \$25, and \$15 for each lady. Information on advance registration is available from Sir Knight Ralph R. Carleton, 401 Masonic Temple, 119 South 19th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. "All Knights are welcome to attend," says Sir Knight Sylvester.

Big Sky Country



Andrew R. Sims, Butte, Montana, receives his Knight Grand Cross of the Red Cross of Constantine at ceremonies July 16 in Billings. The presentation was made by the Grand Sovereign of the Order, Stanley F. Maxwell, Knight Grand Cross. Sterley A. Miller is Intendant General for the Division of Montana. The Chairman of arrangements at Billings was Clinton C. Cox, Recorder.

HELPING MAKE LIFE BETTER

In 1961, Sylvie Leigh received a Knights Templar Educational Foundation Loan through the initial efforts of Sir Knight Wilhelm P. Albohn, Past Commander of Trinity Commandery No. 44, Norwood, Ohio. Today she is a teacher of the deaf in Cincinnati. The following, relayed by Sir Knight Robert H. Emmons, Ohio Past Grand Commander, is Miss Leigh's thank you to Templary for making her goals possible.



Often I pause in thought and reflect upon years gone by and ask myself, "Has my life been worthwhile . . . contributed to the good of society . . . helped make life a little better for my fellowman?" Most people ask those questions of themselves and I'm sure they would like to answer *yes* to all of them.

Graduation Day, 1950, was a wonderful day for me. I had fought my way through 12 years of education in the Over The Rhine District in Cincinnati and vowed I would have no part of Institutions of Higher Learning. My family wasn't all that well-off financially and with my diploma I could get a secretarial job and buy some clothes, make-up and perfume and other nice things all young girls like to have. And that I did . . .

During my "off hours" I sat on the front steps of the apartment building, talking with the children, fixing their skates, bikes and broken dolls. One hot day at the beginning of the summer, I counted more than 60 children playing in the streets, went upstairs to our apartment and wrote the Mayor of Cincinnati.

He granted me permission to take charge and we blocked off the street for a play area, complete with wooden horses from the city, basketballs and other recreation equipment. Just before that, a little girl, two buildings down the street, was hit by a car and was killed. She was five years old . . . and Deaf.

It was a terrible, financial drain on my parents, but we finally moved from that area to a small house outside the city. I was 21 and restless with life . . . going nowhere . . . doing nothing of real consequence. Several years later, an automobile accident almost took my life and did take the little money I had saved. Thirty-two days in the hospital and more than a year on crutches gave me plenty of time to think, and I realized I had to do more with my life; but the question was where? . . . how? and what with? I had no money and was too old for scholarships to college, and what's more, I really didn't know what I wanted to do. Missionary . . . that had a good ring.

Mr. Bill Albohn, a long-time friend of the family, was instrumental in acquiring a loan for me from the Order of Knights Templar. Off I went to a Bible College in Missouri. Being out of school for so many years made studying difficult, but I plodded on and took what I thought would be a "fun course" in Sign Language, the method of communication of millions of Deaf people in the world. Sign Language turned out to be more than just fun for me. I became an Interpreter for the deaf in religious services, taught Sign Language classes to interested persons in several churches in the United States, initiated and founded a → → →

church for the deaf in Illinois and Arizona.

1963 brought me back to Cincinnati where I taught Sign Language to a group of people in a local church and began my career as a Teacher for the Deaf at St. Rita School for the Deaf in Evendale. After three years and enough money saved, I re-entered college.

It has taken 20 years, but I now have a Bachelors Degree in Psychology, a Masters in Education of the Deaf, am certified to teach in Public School Systems and am nationally certified to teach the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It has been my privilege to interpret and teach numerous adults in Religious Education, and after eleven years in the classroom I have taught more than 100 deaf children.

When you, Mr. Albohn and your Masonic friends, stop in thought and ask yourselves, "Have I contributed to the good of society?" ... Remember me. You were generous in the initial beginning of my career and I am grateful.

Khalil Gibran wrote in his book, *The Prophet*:

... And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue;

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth.

Those interested in securing the assistance of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation may make inquiry to the individual Commandery Recorder or to any Grand Recorder of a Grand Commandery. The latter also serves as Secretary-Treasurer of his Grand Commandery's Educational Division.

The Grand Encampment Chairman, Donald H. Smith, Kentucky, says that loans may be granted for vocational, professional training, advanced degree or post graduate work upon written approval of the Division Committee.

Eye and Ear Hospital of Pittsburgh

"Dedicated to the Gifts of Sight and Sound" — so reads the brochure published by the Eye and Ear Hospital of Pittsburgh, one of only six institutions in the United States with services directed solely to treating, teaching and researching problems of the eye, ear, nose and throat. It is one of the many recipients of funds from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., which over several years has presented gifts totaling \$25,000 to the specialized hospital for support of Dr. William G. Everett's research in retinal disorders at Pittsburgh.

Most recently the Charles Talbot Campbell Ophthalmic Microbiology Laboratory has been established to analyze external organisms which cause disease and infection to the eye. In addition, an Ophthalmic Research Laboratory provides testing and treatment for eye disorders. Its goal is the prevention and cure of blinding eye disease. This latter Laboratory conducts tests on the eye's reaction to injury, disease, infection and hereditary changes in genetic structures. Their quest has taken the researchers within the microscopic limits of the eye's cells, to the chromosomes and genes within them. The Ophthalmic Research Laboratory is the only laboratory in the world carrying on such large-scale cell research in this field.

Medical doctors and researchers from across the nation and the globe have gathered at the 172-bed Eye and Ear Hospital, a member of the University Health Center of Pittsburgh, to help find a way to protect and restore man's most important senses — to help people lead the fullest life possible, enriched by the many pleasures of the world of sight and sound. Future plans include the advanced training of the medical specialists of tomorrow. A new "home" for the Hospital is scheduled to be built within the next five to seven years.

At the meeting of Knights Templar Eye Foundation Trustees in July, additional research grants were made to Columbia University Hospital, New York, and to the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation.

FATHER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

by
Sir Knight Milton C. Jones

Sir Knight Jones, Ruthven Commandery No. 2, Texas, is a long-time admirer of the naval hero who was the first Commodore of the United States Navy. Through an eleven-year effort he was instrumental in the acquisition of a copy of the famous Cross of L'Ordre du Merite Militaire which in 1781 was awarded John Paul Jones and which is now on display at the U.S. Naval Academy. In the following Sir Knight Jones relates the story of the plaque and baptismal font dedicated to the memory of Commodore Jones by the modern-day U.S. Navy at Jones' birthplace in Scotland.



Brother John Paul Jones, hero of the Revolutionary War, is often called the Father of the American Navy. He began his sea career at age 12, and in less than 10 years he captained his first ship. He added the name *Jones* to his real name, John Paul, following an unsavory adventure involving the death of one man who had been flogged on his ship and of another who was killed in a mutiny.

Of his numerous encounters on the high seas in which he captured (says one source) more than 300 British vessels, his escapades as Captain of the *Bon Homme*

Richard (named by Jones to honor Brother Benjamin Franklin) are undoubtedly the most widely known: On September 23, 1779, the *Bon Homme Richard* encountered a British merchant fleet being convoyed by the frigate *Serapis*. Taking the offensive, Jones rammed the *Serapis*, a superior vessel, and in so doing caused considerable damage to the *Richard*. A three-hour twilight battle



Jones' *Bon Homme Richard*

ensued — both ships were afire and badly damaged. The British captain asked whether Jones was ready to surrender, to which he proudly replied, "Sir, I have not yet begun to fight!" Shortly thereafter the *Serapis* surrendered. Jones and his crew boarded the British ship in time to watch the *Richard* sink. → → →

Jones was an immediate hero in France, but this his most famous of battles was all but ignored by the United Colonies who were concerned with the much larger battlefield on home ground.

For a time after the Revolution Jones served in the Russian Navy as a rear admiral, returning to Paris in 1789 in the middle of the Revolution there. He died in Paris on July 18, 1792, and was buried in the Protestant cemetery. More than a hundred years passed, his grave quite forgotten by the country whose Navy he had helped create, until in 1905 Horace E. Porter, Ambassador to France, discovered it. The hero's remains were removed and ceremoniously relayed to their current resting place — Annapolis, Maryland.

It has been said that Jones' ability as a tactician was unsurpassed on the seas during the Revolution. But it has only been in the 20th century that true recognition has been accorded him by the United States and its Navy.

One memorial came in 1946 — a gift of the "Officers and men of the United States Navy, who served in Great Britain during World War II under the command of Admiral Harold R. Stark, U.S.N. This memorial took the form of a baptismal font, built and presented to the parish church of Jones' birthplace in Kirkbean, Galloway, Scotland. Its inscriptions (below) include a dedication, the Navy seal, presentation inscription, and (above) a modern battleship and heavy cruiser; the famed *Bon Homme Richard*, and an aircraft carrier and naval aircraft.

Next, in 1953, a plaque marking the birthplace of the Commodore was the gift from the Army-Navy Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Naval Historical Foundation. It was affixed to the cottage where Brother Jones was born on July 6, 1747, and the presentation was marked by the presence of the seaman's great-great-grand



nephew, Sub-Lieutenant Loudon Richardson, British Sea-Cadet Corps. In his address at the presentation, U.S. Ambassador Winthrop W. Aldrich quoted the words of the Revolutionary hero — "In time of peace it is necessary to prepare . . . for war by sea." These words were not heeded until much later in this country's history when the importance of the concept of "naval preparedness" was realized.

More recently in 1975 a Croix de l'Ordre du Merite Militaire, awarded to Jones for his courageous exploits, was indefinitely loaned to the United States for display in the museum of the United States Naval Academy.

Hopefully, the tale of John Paul Jones — who was initiated into the Craft on November 27, 1770, in St. Bernard's



The above Knights of Long Beach Commandery No. 40 (California) made up the "Kitchen Crew" at the Annual Breakfast of the Long Beach Assembly No. 39, Social Order of the Beauceant, held at the Long Beach Masonic Temple.

The Breakfast Chairman, Mrs. Raymond McDowell, 1st V.P., reported that the net proceeds of over \$450.00 was forwarded to the Supreme Worthy President of the S.O.O.B. and will be donated to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

... JOHN PAUL JONES

Lodge No. 122 (now St. Cuthbert No. 41) of Kilwinning, Kirkcudbright, Scotland, and later associated with the Lodge of the Nine Muses, Paris, during the time when Brother Benjamin Franklin was Master — will continue, as the importance of the American Commodore is more loudly praised in our history books.

Photos of baptismal font and plaques courtesy United States Navy.

Sir Knight Milton C. Jones (no relation) resides at Villa Alice, 757 East 16th Street, Houston, Texas 77008. He is a past contributor to the Knight Templar Magazine on the subject of John Paul Jones.

‡

"It is not enough that an officer of the Navy should be a capable mariner. He should be as well a gentleman of liberal education, refined manners, punctilious courtesy, and the nicest sense of personal honor."

— John Paul Jones —

One ambitious project for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is "The March of Templary," a presentation by Tancred Commandery No. 48, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As previously announced in the *Knight Templar Magazine*, the stereophonic 33 1/3 RPM recording at \$5.75, which includes postage and handling, is available from Albert R. Cunningham, 1701 Parkline Drive, Apt. 5, Pittsburgh 15227 — or from James R. Farrall, 1337 Greensburg Avenue, East McKeesport, Pennsylvania 15035.

The recording includes an adaption from the Grand Encampment's guideline, "Capsule Chronicle of Templary," prepared and narrated by Sir Knight David A. Clawson, P.C., District Deputy Grand Master; music by the Syria Temple Brass Band under the direction of Noble John G. Stephens, Jr.; Minute Biographies of Famous Templars by Sir Knight Robert H. Weinzel; an account of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by Past Commander John H. Huber and Masonic selections sung by Sir Knight LeRoy Perry, accompanied by Lola Marshall Roberts.

Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets

Gerald N. Steeves, Grand Monarch, Grottoes of North America, Supreme Council, Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm announces "the most versatile travel opportunity available," a Caribbean Cruise on the TSS Carnivale departing November 12, via United, Delta, Eastern or other commercial airline, from Boston, Washington, D.C., New York, Houston and Cleveland and returning November 19. The trip is listed "from \$550 per person, double occupancy, including all taxes and services."

Information can be secured from the office of Grottoes of North America, 111 East Wacker Drive, Room 2922, Chicago, Illinois 60601



HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

A.A.S.R., N.M.J. 165th Annual Meeting

September 22-29 will mark the 165th Annual Meeting of the Scottish Rite's 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction to be held at the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel, Pennsylvania. Highlighting the Supreme Council's Meeting will be the conferral of the 33° on 211 Scottish Rite Masons nominated and elected to receive the honor in 1976.

More than 2,500, including some 1,300 33° Masons and their ladies, are expected for the week-long sessions, beginning with the executive business conferences to be attended by Active Members of the Supreme Council on the 22nd and 23rd. Sightseeing cruises on the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, are planned, as well as a concert on Tuesday

The 1977 meeting will conclude Thursday, September 29, with a final General Session at the Pittsburgh Hotel and the announcement of the names of the those to receive the Thirty-third Degree at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1978.

Allied Masonic Degrees Ingathering

The New Jersey Fifth Annual Voorhis Ingathering of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America, was held Saturday, July 23, in the Masonic Temple, Rahway, New Jersey. It was permanently renamed to honor Sir Knight Harold V. B. Voorhis, 33°, Supreme Magus, High Council of Societas Rosicruciana, recipient of numerous honors and recognitions.

The program was interspersed with conferrals and papers on various Masonic subjects including "Our Founding Fathers" and "Masonic Penalties."

Taking part were members from J. Howard Haring Council No. 116, New Ark No. 25, Triple Tau No. 54, Adoniram No. 43, Nathan Hale No. 78 (Conn.), More Light No. 31, J. W. Gronning No. 83, and Adrien B. Hommell No. 63.

1978 DeMolay Supreme Council Meeting

The International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay will have its annual meeting and session in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during 1978, marking the 55th anniversary of the Order. To help celebrate the 55th year, Todd C. Duehring, Director of Development, has distributed an open letter in an attempt to collect DeMolay memorabilia for display at the meeting.

Sir Knight Duehring points out there are many Brothers and Knights who are either former Advisors or Senior DeMolays of DeMolay Chapters that could help in the collection of pins, buttons, pamphlets, literature and anything dealing with the Order. "After the session," says Duehring, "it is our hope to make it a permanent display at our DeMolay office in the Grand Lodge building of Wisconsin."

Those willing to part with materials for this purpose are invited to send them to Wisconsin DeMolay, to the attention of Todd C. Duehring, c/o Grand Lodge Building, 1123 North Astor Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

Topeka York Rite Festival

Erle W. Francis, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Kansas will be honored September 23 and 24, when the Topeka York Rite Bodies will hold a Festival in his honor. The Mark, Past and Most Excellent Master degrees will be conferred on Friday, September 23, with the balance of the degrees and Orders then to be conferred on Saturday, the 24th.

Chapters, Councils and Commanderies in Kansas are invited to send their candidates to the "Erle W. Francis Class." Arrangements may be made through Henry O. Bennet, Secretary-Recorder, 214 West 14th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

IMMC Benefit Concert

Impresario Leonard Slatkin will conduct the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with John Browning as guest soloist, Saturday, September 17, in a concert featuring works by Berlioz, Prokofiev and Beethoven, to raise funds for the new Warren N. Barr Pavilion of the Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

The Pavilion, named in honor of the President of the Medical Center's Board of Trustees, is a modern, skilled nursing home which functions as a health care service for the elderly who require medical attention, the chronically ill, and patients who need post-hospital convalescent or rehabilitative care.

A \$100,000 goal has been set to provide a terrace, enclosed solarium, and recreation area, including a greenhouse/hobby shop, on the top floor of the building.

Tickets, ranging in price from \$5 (gallery) to \$50 (first floor) and \$600 (box), will be mailed upon receipt of payment. In addition, the program will list contributors under the categories Archangels (\$1,000 or more), Angels (\$500), Benefactors (\$250), Patrons (\$125), and Friends (\$25 - \$100). Individuals may write to Carole Corbett, Development Coordinator, at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center, 836 West Wellington Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

Florida Honors Mitchell

The Jacksonville York Rite Masonic Bodies announced that a state-wide One Day York Rite Class July 30 at the Scottish Rite Temple, Jacksonville, Florida, honored the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Florida Masons, Brother William C. Mitchell.

The class in M.W. Mitchell's honor began at 9 a.m. and closed at approximately 7 p.m.

Grand Commander's, Grand Master's Clubs

In addition to the Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the announcement of two clubs for "special benefactors" was made in May 1976. The Grand Commander's and Grand Master's Clubs are means of recognizing contributions from individuals as opposed to Commandery donations during the Voluntary Campaign. Individuals from the United States and Canada are part of these Clubs, and the newest members introduce Georgia, Virginia and Florida to the ranks.

Colonel H. B. Hatcher, Donalsonville, Georgia, is the most recent member of the Grand Commander's Club, with the listing of No. 1 in his state. His membership began with a contribution of \$100. He writes, "I hope to complete the \$1,000 in the next few months." As soon as that tax-deductible \$1,000 total is reached - in increments of no less than \$100 annually - membership is transferred to the Grand Master's Club, and acknowledgement is made in the form of a metal wallet card and personalized desk plaque.

The Grand Master's Club also has two additions this month: No. 66 - Louis A. Schumann, Richmond, Virginia, and No. 67 - George S. Derry, Jr., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Each has made a gift of \$1,000 to the Foundation in Springfield.

For potential special benefactors, neither Club offers exemptions, credits or Commandery benefits of any kind. Membership is not open to groups, but it is open to individuals, whether Knights Templar or not.

Those seeking information on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., and specifically the Grand Master's and Grand Commander's Clubs, may contact G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., Executive Director of the Eye Foundation, at 509 South Sixth Street, Post Office Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705, or telephone 217-523-3838.

Dear Sir:

I want to express my sincere appreciation to you for the copies of the *Knight Templar Magazine* published in June, 1977, and sent to me via Sir Knight James D. Yeager.

Mr. Yeager is my Sunday School Teacher and he and my husband, Jack F. McComb, are Brothers in the Masonic Lodge and Knights Templar.

My interest was in the article on Francis Bellamy and his authorship of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Before my marriage, 41 years ago, I was Grace Bellamy, daughter of Crawford C. Bellamy of Inverness, Citrus County, Florida.

For quite a few years now I have seen bits of information concerning my Father's family, some of which predates the American Revolution. Much of my information was obtained from a Mr. C. B. Berry of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, who is writing a book on the Bellamy and Morrell families. We exchange bits of information.

My oldest daughter is a history teacher in the Hendricks Memorial Day School in Jacksonville, Florida. As she has had her pupils recite the Pledge of Allegiance each morning in her classroom, she was aware of its author and will be most happy to receive a copy of this publication.

Our son is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, saw combat duty in Vietnam, and is now assigned to an F-111 Squadron in New Mexico. He will also appreciate a copy.

I have before me a Masonic Journal, published March, 1912. The Masonic Journal was subscribed to regularly by my grandmother, Anna B. Bellamy. Neither her husband or sons were Masons, but she had great interest in the Masonic organization.

My husband and I want to say thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,
Grace Bellamy McComb
P.O. Box 608
Starke, Florida 32091

Twelve states and the District of Columbia were represented at the 39th annual session of the Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons at Waynesville, North Carolina. Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, R.E. Grand Captain General, represented the Grand Encampment and presented a paper on the theme of the meeting, "Education and Leadership."

The Grand Commandery of North Carolina hosted the meeting, and Grand Commander Frederick G. Speidel was program chairman, assisted by Russell P. Hale, M.E. Grand High Priest, and Ken W. Beck, M.I. Grand Master of North Carolina.



(l-r) Marshall Dilling, Deputy Grand Commander, N.C.; Ned Dull; William S. Gallimore, R.A.R.A. Chairman for N.C.; Fred Speidel.

Among the distinguished Masons present were J. Earl Watson, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, who gave the keynote address; Gordon R. Merrick, General Grand High Priest, R.A.M.; and Owen L. Shanteau, General Grand Master, R. & S.M. Alabama Past Grand Commander Thomas W. Mann and wife Bebe presented a program on "Masonry and Patriotism" in song and story following the Tuesday night banquet.

Afterwards, Mrs. Mann was created an "unofficial" Honorary Member of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina by Sir Knight Speidel, in recognition of her "continual interest and devotion to the precepts and programs of the York Rite."

DEPARTED RACE OF ANCESTORS

by

Sir Knight P. A. Horton, Los Angeles Commandery No. 9

On the 17th day of September 1787, fifty-five men finished a task that changed the course of human history. After four months of deliberation behind locked doors and pledged to secrecy, they signed the Constitution of the United States. They had established a new principle in the world. With confident belief in divine Providence they had instituted a government whose powers came from the consent of the governed. A government constituted to secure the Natural Rights set forth in the Declaration. Historians say that without this extraordinary provision for secrecy, the convention could not have accomplished its great work. Who were these fifty-five men who brought forth a document of government, which is proclaimed throughout the world as the "finest expression ever made"; of the determination of a free people to govern themselves, and to protect their liberty? Referring to the convention De Tocqueville said:

"It contained the choicest talent and the noblest hearts which ever appeared in the new world; the chief cause of the superiority of the Federal Constitution lay in the character of the men who composed it, and distinguished as almost all the legislators were for their intelligence, they were still more so for their patriotism."

The pages of history abound in incidents of man's centuries of struggle for freedom and independence. A Constitution is not a thing in name only, but in fact. Wherever it cannot be produced in visible form, there is none. A Constitution is a thing antecedent to a government, and a government is only a creature of a Constitution.

The Constitution of our Country is not the act of its government, but of the

people who constitute our government. It contains the principles upon which our government was established, the powers it shall have, the duties it is to perform, the principles and ideals on which it shall act and by which it shall be bound.

The American Revolution was not alone an armed conflict. It was an experiment which would determine for all time whether men may be trusted to govern themselves without a master. The real revolution was the Christian concept that men are endowed by their Creator (not the State) with the rights to life, liberty and the search for happiness.

The people of England had forced their rulers to grant individual rights and under the Magna Charta they enjoyed certain liberties and immunities. The earliest colonists protested when the rights they had known in England were denied them. For more than a century and a half matters under dispute were settled by a sacrifice of the rights of the colonists to the advantage of the British Government. Living as they were on farms, in the forests and open spaces they had a sense of freedom in spite of the restraints and unjust laws. They developed individual initiative, pride, free enterprise and raised their sons and sons' sons to be men of integrity — strong physically, morally and spiritually.

They built churches in every village and hamlet; established the world's first public school in Boston in 1635, and a public school system; they tamed rivers with dams for power to run their mills and founded great universities of high learning. All the while they were building character.

These men had sought and found a place where they could worship GOD and live according to the dictates of their own conscience. → → →

MASONIC LEADERSHIP

It is an historic fact that this has been, from the beginning, a government conceived by many Masons. Fostered, furthered, fought, bled and died for by Masons. Where else in the world can we find a patriot of the stature of General George Washington, who challenged and defeated the military power of the strongest nation on earth, who guided thirteen weak and bankrupt colonies into a strong and perfect union as chairman of the Constitutional Convention. (Who later took his oath of office as President of the United States, administered by a Grand Master of Masons on a Bible borrowed from a Masonic altar.)

Many of the delegates of the Constitutional Convention were members of the Craft. It was true then as it is today that public opinion is controlled by the press or propaganda. These wise Patriots were sworn to secrecy and met under locked doors and instructed by Washington to adopt "only what we ourselves believe in, or how else can we defend it?"

These men of 1787 drew from deep wells of experience in government. Most of them were well educated, and they were all successful men. Despite their youth (Hamilton was thirty, Madison thirty-six and Washington fifty-six) all of them had lived under and helped to write colonial charters and had studied the operation of foreign governments with great care. The oldest man and the sage of the convention, Benjamin Franklin, arose during the convention and said:

"We have gone back to ancient history for models of government and have examined the different forms of those republics which, having been formed with seeds of their own dissolution, now no longer exist. And we have viewed modern states all around Europe, but find none of their constitutions suitable to our circumstances."

When the Constitution was completed, they had brought forth a new concept of government. It was not a federal government; it was not a national government;

but it was a little of each, a more perfect union. As Brother Chief Justice John Marshall said:

"The government of the union then is emphatically and truly a government of the people. In form and in substance it emanates from them. Its powers are granted by them, and are to be exercised directly on them, and for their benefit."

Now at long last rulers had been placed under restraint of law. It was the dawn of a new era which changed the lot of tormented humanity from dependence to freedom under GOD. Masons could look with pride to that time twenty-six years before when James Otis had left his lucrative position with the Crown and came out openly for freedom.

Freedom's torch was carried by another Mason, the intrepid Samuel Adams, a member of St. Andrews Lodge in Boston. It was he and John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, whom the British were after at Lexington when warned by Paul Revere in his famous ride. All three were members of St. Andrews Lodge in Boston.

No nation under the canopy of heaven has a history of accomplishment comparable to the people of our beloved land. When we call the roll of our great Americans who pioneered the primitive America, the men who fought for and defended our freedom; the Masons lead all the rest.

There is one name, however, that Masons should never forget. He was the first man of distinction to lay down his life in the cause of American liberty. He was Dr. Joseph Warren, initiated in St. Andrews Lodge of Boston, September 30, 1761. In December 1769, he received from the Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master of Scotland, a commission appointing him Grand Master of Masons in Boston and within one hundred miles of same. Dr. Warren received another commission dated March 3, 1772, issued by the Earl of Dumfries, the Grand Master of Scotland, extending his jurisdiction over the continent of America.

Newly-appointed Major General in the Continental Army, Warren arrived at Bunker Hill just prior to the attack by the British. He refused to take command and fought as a private. When warned by Elbridge Gerry against the hazards, he exclaimed, "I know that I may fall, but where is the man who does not think it is glorious to die for his country."

The fifteen hundred colonial volunteers out of ammunition and overcome by the three thousand British Regulars were forced to retreat. Warren refused to retreat and was shot in the head, dying instantly. The importance of this battle cannot be measured by the number of men involved. The spirit and valor of the Colonials on that day gave Washington his greatest encouragement that the cause of freedom could be won.

DUAL GOVERNMENT

When the Constitution was adopted there were thirteen sovereign states. The founding fathers were aware of the evils of a centralized government. They took from the states only such powers as they deemed necessary for national purpose. Strong enough to prevent anarchy but limited enough to prevent tyranny. Some of the powers formerly held by the states were given to the exclusive use of the government. These powers are few and defined; those remaining in the hands of the states or the people are numerous and indefinite — each of us is a citizen under two governments. We must conform to two sets of laws, federal and state. There is no other government like it. Our Constitution is more than a set of laws; it is a set of morals as well. Our state laws deal with more varied and more intimate concerns of the people than the national government does.

Some of our wild-eyed liberals claim that our Constitution is outmoded. It is two centuries old. The Ten Commandments are thousand of years older but they are as virile, modern and effective as at the time of their creation. Some years ago Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney said:

"The Constitution is a written instrument. As such its meaning

does not alter. That which it meant when adopted it means now — It is not only the same in words, but the same in meaning, and delegates the same powers to the government, and reserves and secures the same rights and privileges to the citizens; and as long as it continues to exist in its present form, it speaks not only in the same words but with the same meaning and intent with which it spoke when it came from the hands of its framers, and was voted on and adopted by the people of the United States."

The increase in lawlessness in our Country in the past few years has been appalling and should alarm every citizen. For anyone to speak lightly of our Constitution or any part of it is to strike a blow at the base of ordered civic life. To obey only such laws as suit our fancy or interest our appetite, is to lead the way to anarchy.

Today, our people are more confused, more disunited than at any time since the Civil War. Because of faulty leadership, we are again confronted with the age-old issue — is man to live in dignity and freedom or be enslaved? Shall men in government be servants or masters of the people?

We hear much today of security, but our people were never so insecure. Our Constitution is by-passed; bureaus of questionable legal status by the hundreds now harass our daily lives, our fortune and even our sacred honor.

We are bedeviled by two great enemies. They are ignorance and indifference. There is nothing wrong with our Constitution; it created a government which in a short time rose from thirteen weak struggling squabbling colonies to become the richest, most powerful nation on earth. Other nations have the same or better resources, intelligence and riches. We can believe that the Framers of our Constitution were divinely taught and divinely led to create a system that grants freedom under law, freedom founded upon right and reason in which individual initiative is united with social responsibility.

→ → →

We have the pleasant responsibility of raising the Flag of our Country, but we have the greater responsibility of knocking down the hand that would desecrate that Flag. We are told that it is only necessary for good men to do nothing, for evil to triumph. Every sneer at our traditions, every debunking of our historical events, every weakening of our patriotic, moral and spiritual values is inviting national degeneracy and ruin. Time has been working against us. Modern speed has not only created mass production of material things, but modern communications systems – the radio, television and millions of printed words and pictures – have molded false ideas in the minds of our people.

We no longer find the patriotic fervor that brought love and respect and the spirit of accomplishment that was responsible for the greatness of our beloved land. We must reverse this trend. We may be called extremists for fighting for the ideals of our Founding Fathers, or we might be called rightist, as though that were evil. Or we might even be called 'squares' for not going along with the crowd.

More people each day realize that we are a sick nation, suffering from the same malady that has destroyed twenty-three nations in our time and every Republic that has preceded us. The major cause is abundance and complacency. We cannot maintain freedom on a foundation of indifference. We cannot tax the industrious and the prudent to feed the indolent with all the luxury of modern living and expect to pass on that freedom to our children.

It was no accident that most of Washington's generals were MASONS, or that so many MASONS signed the "Declaration" and labored on the Constitution. The temper and conduct of the Members of the Craft at that time is reflected in the formation of our government. They were all men of the highest character.

Our heart warms when Dr. Joseph Warren's name is mentioned. He was a Mason. A man of Character. He gave his

Michigan First to Name Chairman

Letters from the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, Chicago, have been sent to each Grand Commander, or Deputy Grand Commander if a "changing of the guards" is imminent, requesting the early naming of a Chairman for the 10th Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation starting December 1. First to respond was Grand Commander C. Baird Penzien, Michigan. He has named F. Bryan Melvin, Grosse Pointe Woods, who also serves as year-round Michigan Chairman for the Eye Foundation.

The Grand Commander says Sir Knight Melvin will serve in both capacities "at his own request." A number of Grand Commanderies are in the process of naming one major committee for all Knights Templar Eye Foundation activities.

life that we could live under a Constitution.

Our freedom dates from Bunker Hill. Joseph Warren lay dead on the field. A huge monument financed by Masons was erected over the spot where he died. At the dedication of this monument our Brother Daniel Webster said:

"We may be tossed upon an ocean where we can see no land, nor perhaps the sun or stars. But there is a chart and a compass for us to study, to consult, and to obey. That chart is the Constitution. Hold on my friends to the Constitution of the United States. Should it fall, there will be anarchy throughout the world."

Sir Knight Horton, resides at 3517 Garrison Street, San Diego, California 92106.



THE SHRINE

by
Sir Knight H. C. Arbuckle, III

In reading about a fraternal organization one is usually interested in the answers to three questions: What was its origin? What are its purposes? What are its accomplishments? A study of books concerning the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, must consider these three questions.

Too many books have "come down the pike" giving credence to the theory of Arabic origin of the Shrine of North America. One in particular, *History of the A.A.O.N.M.S.*, was written by George L. Root of Mohammed Temple in 1903 (rev. ed., 1916). While nicely printed and beautifully bound, this book with its illustrations of Nobles being initiated in horrifying fashions must be taken with that proverbial grain of salt. On the whole, Bro. Root's book is a kindly fairy tale, but interestingly done to preserve the supposed Arabic origin.

In 1919, Past Imperial Potentate Wm. B. Melish compiled and edited the first official history of the Shrine, under the direction and authority of the Imperial Council. Entitled *The History of the Imperial Council Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America 1872-1919*, this 248-page book is simply a compendium of minutes, abstracts, affidavits, and reports, all done in a rather disjointed fashion. The main purpose of this book seems to have been simply to put out an authorized history of the Shrine. While it accomplished that purpose, as everyday reading matter it does not rank with the highest.

The Masonic Service Association (8120 Fenton St., Silver Spring, Maryland 20910) has published a booklet by Geo.



M. Saunders, Imperial Recorder of the Shrine, entitled *The Mystic Shrine and its Hospitals for Crippled Children*, giving an account of how the Shrine's Crippled Children's Hospitals came into being. There is also a short history of the Shrine itself in this booklet and, although nothing later than 1956 is covered, for \$1.50 postpaid it is hard to beat.

Parade To Glory is the title of the best in-depth history of the Shrine written to date. First published in hardback in 1959, today it is available in a 350-page paperback and has been revised to include statistics through 1967. Fred Van Deventer, Imperial Historian, is the author of this book, aptly subtitled "The Story of the Shriners - and Their Caravan to Destiny," and in it he "combines a proud delight in Shrine history with a reporter's instinct for a good story." Copies are available by writing Mr. Geo. M. Saunders, Imperial Recorder, 323 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The last book about the Shrine that I want to talk about was written by Geo. M. Saunders, Imperial Recorder. I don't know when it was first written, but it is current up through President Gerald Ford. It is of course the 31-page pamphlet entitled *A Short History of the Shrine* and is replete with pictures, portraits, and illustrations of all sorts. In condensed form this booklet tells of the origin and founding of the Shrine, how it developed the concept of the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children, and how it is as "American as apple pie" and as "Modern as Today." Written in clear, easy-to-read-and-understand expository style, this booklet is good! It also may be ordered from Geo. M. Saunders.

Comments and questions appreciated.

Sir Knight Arbuckle's mailing address is P.O. Box 3026, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404.

Elwood Ira Naugle

Montana
Grand Commander — 1967
Born August 1, 1905
Died July 3, 1977

Ceil Miner Ward

Washington
Grand Commander — 1964
Born September 7, 1895
Died July 18, 1977

John C. Ballinger

New Jersey
Grand Commander — 1963
Born October 10, 1901
Died July 25, 1977

Stanton Willard Sederberg

California
Grand Captain General — 1977
Born November 19, 1912
Died July 25, 1977

Alfred C. Blake

Massachusetts and Rhode Island
Grand Commander — 1958
Born April 10, 1899
Died July 26, 1977

John Hubert Padgett

Arizona
Grand Commander — 1965
Born April 20, 1907
Died August 3, 1977

Ceil Miner Ward, P.G.C., Washington

On July 18, 1977, Washington Past Grand Commander Ceil Miner Ward died in Seattle at the age of 81. Sir Knight Ward served as Worshipful Master of King Solomon Lodge No. 60, Auburn; Grand High Priest, R.A.M., 1955-56; and Illustrious Grand Master, R. & S.M., 1969-70. In 1964 he was installed Grand Commander of the State of Washington.

He was affiliated with the York Cross of Honour, Allied Masonic Degrees, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Scottish Rite, Nile Temple of the Shrine, Eastern Star and Amaranth. Grand Commandery Services were held July 21 at the Green Lake Funeral Home, Seattle. Mrs. Ceil Miner (Helene), was herself laid to rest two weeks following her husband's death.

Michigan Adopts Pilgrimage Committee

Legislation has been unanimously adopted to make the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee an official standing committee of the Grand Commandery of Michigan. Sir Knight Harry M. Smit, Chairman, announced the measure was adopted at the Annual Conclave in June, four months after seven ministers embarked on a ten-day journey to Jerusalem under the sponsorship of the Grand Commanderies of Michigan and Kentucky. Six of the ministers were selected from the 52 Constituent Commanderies in Michigan where plans for the first trip began in 1975, following a proposal by Sir Knight Smit to send modern-day Pilgrims (leaders of the Christian movement) to the Holy Land.

Four of the ministers spoke at the Annual Conclave on their experiences in the Holy Land. The Reverend Michael Dunkelberger of the Calvin Presbyterian Church of Detroit, commented, "A whole new dimension has been added to my ministry. The scriptures have become more alive. . . . I had a lesson in history, and a lesson in my own spiritual growth."

The legislation stipulates that all funds contributed to future Holy Land Pilgrimages will be on a voluntary basis, and/or by such means and projects approved by the Grand Commandery.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee will continue to study and recommend ways and means to send ordained Christian ministers to the Holy Land gratis, for the purpose of "furthering their education, and reinspiration in their dedication to their ministry." Information on the Holy Land Pilgrimage can be obtained through Sir Knight Harry M. Smit, Chairman, 13990 Merriman Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

**Each Christian Soldier is a priest
Ordained to serve the Son of God
And with His living staff and rod
The Templar's might is much increased.**

**Milford E. Shields, P.C.
Poet Laureate, State of Colorado**

MEMBERSHIP LOSSES—

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THEM?

by

Sir Knight James D. Berry

Grand Generalissimo, Grand Commandery of Texas

The vitality of any organization rests upon a continuing change in members. As older members retire or pass on new members are needed to take their places. Every Commander wishes to see his membership grow and every Grand Commander wants an increase in members. Likewise, the Grand Master hopes to see an increase. We have been losing members due to deaths, demits and suspensions.

Now what can we do about losses? We Americans are goal-oriented. Give us a goal to work toward or establish a norm and the chances are that we will either reach or exceed it. To reach a goal or to measure up to a norm is the mark of success. Most of our charity drives have established goals. The United Fund always sets a goal for the amount of money to be acquired. Portions are assigned to various units participating. Those who exceed the goal are rewarded. Of course, any goal has to be realistic or those participating soon get discouraged.

Perhaps we should take a page from the United Fund and establish a goal in our membership program: How many of our Commanderies or Grand Commanderies establish a membership goal and then work toward reaching it? The usual admonition is to get as many new members as possible. Then if by chance there is a gain well and good.

If we are to solve our problem of losses and at the same time increase our numbers, then we should establish definite goals. A review of several of our Masonic Bodies reveals that on the average our losses through deaths, demits and suspensions can be predicted within reasonable parameters. In aggregate these losses run about four per cent of the membership each year. This is broken

down to 2.5 percent deaths, .5 percent demits and 1 percent suspensions. However, because of the increasing average age of our members the percentage due to deaths is creeping upward. Normally, a goal of 5 percent of the membership in new numbers will result in a slight gain. Thus, a Commandery of 100 members would need to Knight five new members to offset losses by death, demit and suspension. Of these three causes of loss nothing can be done about deaths and little more about demits, but we can certainly do something about suspensions. Our goal should be to cut them to less than 1 percent.

Now that we have set a goal, how are we going to get new members? Ask Chapter members and Master Masons. The first to continue into the Commandery and the latter to increase their knowledge in Masonry by becoming York Rite Masons. But if our relationship with the Chapter and Craft Lodges is not very good then we do not know anyone to ask. Commandery members should attend Chapter and Council and particularly Lodge regularly. We should get involved and get acquainted. Instruct new Masons; assist the Worshipful Masters in their programs and get to know them as well as be known by them. After all, our membership springs from the Craft Lodges.

Finally, if we establish realistic goals and apply the four D's of success — desire, dedication, demand on ourselves and determination toward fulfilling or surpassing these goals — there is no reason why we should not see an increase in membership and stop this erosion.

Grand Generalissimo Berry is a member of Colorado Commandery No. 4, Austin, and his mailing address is Box 1541, Austin, Texas 78767.

Christmas Toast and Response

To help make a Commandery Christmas observance more meaningful and attract greater attendance, the Grand Encampment Committee on Religious Activities, headed by Gordon J. Brenner, P.G.C., Grand Recorder for New Jersey, recommends these advance arrangements:



1. Send printed invitations to individual members, churches, Lodges, Chapters R.A.M., Councils R. & S.M., and Scottish Rite Bodies.
2. Prepare printed programs, listing date, location, time and the speaker.
3. Secure local media publicity in newspapers, radio, TV if possible, including mention of two Templar programs — the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and Educational Foundation.
4. Present the program preferably in an Asylum, given special attention to ushers, seating, decorations. Light refreshments if considered advantageous.

The speaker for a Christmas Observance could well be a representative of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, alluding to Christ healing the blind as a part of the Christmas message.

In the current month, the Grand Encampment office will forward copies of the 1977 Christmas Toast and Response by the Grand Master to all Grand Recorders who have placed their orders with the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment Suite 1700, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

South Carolina News Just Received

The R.E. Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, the Rev. H. Dwight McAlister, P.G.M., Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, was united in marriage July 10 to Mrs. Eva Mae Barker.

Exerciser Gift to Masonic Home

The Home for Aged Masons in Arlington, Texas, owned and operated by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter assisted by the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M., was presented with a gift of a Schwinn exercise bicycle, donated by Assembly No. 189, Social Order of the Beauceant of Arlington.

Mrs. W. L. Breeding, Worthy President, Mrs. A.M. Hughes, Chairman of the Committee in charge of acquiring the bicycle, and Mrs. H. R. Sampson, Co-Chairman, met with Administrator John C. Langford and citizens of the home on June 28 to present the gift.



Shown above are Sir Knight Langford with sisters Mrs. Ira Shelby and Mrs. S. E. Wilkin. Mrs. Breeding expressed the interest of the Beauceant Assembly to "endeavor to be helpful in making life better and sweeter for others."

"Live each day as though it were your last. Treat all you meet as though it were their last."

Annual Voluntary Campaign Fund Raising – or – Make Fund-Raising Fun-Making

Charles S. McIntyre, Jr., Chairman for the 9th Voluntary Campaign of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., announces plans are being finalized for the next Annual Campaign which marks the 10th Anniversary of voluntary, Commandery fund-raising to benefit the Foundation.

At the end of the 9th Campaign the "benefit" total was \$491,259.35 – almost \$70,000 higher than the 1975-76 Campaign. For the 10th year, Chairman McIntyre offers suggestions for fund-raising activities which Sir Knights and families can become involved in.

The first suggestion of a Rummage Sale has a two-fold benefit: Unwanted but useable items can be collected and exhibited for sale – closets and garages are cleaned out, and proceeds can be used by the Eye Foundation to fund an operation or to underwrite research so that operations may no longer be necessary. With everyone assisting (sorters, cashiers, baggers), the returns can be significant. Speaking of one annual rummage sale which Sir Knight McIntyre is involved in, he says, "Rummage is accumulated from various members and sold annually on a holiday week-end. The biggest selling items are clothing, dishes, pots and pans, and old, but good, kitchen utility pieces. Furniture is also popular. An average of 65 families raised approximately \$8,000 over an eight-year period."

Advertising for a rummage sale or for any other activity is usually available free

in local weekly papers and over "free" local radio and TV programs; posters placed in local businesses is also helpful.

Other possibilities for fund-raising and fun-making include the various A-Thons popular today. Consider a Weight-Off-A-Thon. Everyone can get involved, and everyone gains – or loses, rather. Take pledges from friends and relatives – \$.50 or \$1.00 for each pound off between December 1 and April 1, or a shorter period of time. Working toward a goal such as the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is a great incentive to keep those pounds off. Bike-A-Thons, Walk-A-Thons or Swim-A-Thons are all possibilities.

Or how about a spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast? This would then lead nicely into a Weight-Off-A-Thon.

Last year one Commandery raised a Christmas Tree at their Christmas Observance and proceeded to decorate it with donations.

Offering a prize of a copy of Mackey's Encyclopaedia, or perhaps a Masonic history book donated to the Commandery would no doubt increase interest and activity.

There are more suggestions and possibilities. The key words are Commandery-sharing, Commandery-caring and involvement. The Campaign ends April 30, 1978, and reports of contributions must be received in Springfield no later than May 12. There is no more worthwhile cause. Become involved – make yourself and others feel better that you did.

Annual York Rite Sessions Elections

The General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois met July 28-30 in Springfield, Illinois, in a three-way series of sessions with Milton D. Dirst as General Chairman.

Grand Commander Volney E. Storey was succeeded by Grand Commander Robert E. McAllister, Lincoln, Illinois.

Presiding for the General Grand Chapter was the Reverend Norman C. Miller. His successor is Robert C. Kampmeier. Grand Council sessions were conducted by Richard R. Salsbury, who was succeeded by John T. Riedas.

Representing Grand Master Willard M. Avery at the Grand Commandery Conclave was Paul C. Rodenhauser, Grand Recorder, accompanied by Hugh E. Hossle, R.E. Department Commander for the North Central Department, and Robert W. Bigley, assistant to the Grand Recorder and Eminent Commander of Bethel Commandery No. 36, Elgin, Illinois.

General Grand High Priest Gordon R. Merrick attended the Grand Chapter convocation; Dr. Owen L. Shanteau, General Grand Master, participated in the General Grand Council activities.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER—1944

Two powerful Japanese air attacks on December 7, 1941, on Pearl Harbor and on the U.S. airfields on Luzon all but crippled American striking power in the Pacific. After this initial success the Japanese moved south, east, and west. Refusing to succumb, the U.S. and its Allies continued to resist and by early summer 1942 began striking back. In two and a half years of hard fighting, island by island, Allied forces commanded by General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester A. Nimitz drove the enemy back thousands of miles, and were set for the reconquest of the Philippines.

Experiences in the South and Southwest Pacific established a pattern of island warfare that represented one of the major tactical developments of war. First, air and naval forces isolated an objective and softened its defenses. Simultaneously other forces would attack or feint toward other islands to deceive the Japanese. Whenever practicable, small units occupied neighboring islands as sites for land-based artillery. Under cover of these supporting fires, the landing forces moved from ship to shore in echelons or waves, rocket-firing landing craft in the lead and

amphibian tanks and tractors following to carry the assault troops directly onto the beaches and inland. Finally came landing craft with more infantry and with tanks, artillery, and support troops. Supplies followed rapidly as the assault forces secured and expanded the beachhead.

All of the infantrymen shown on this plate wear herringbone twill suits, webbing and belting in olive drab adopted in 1943. These two-piece suits originally adopted as fatigue clothing later became the accepted summer combat clothing. They were used primarily in the Pacific areas rather than in the European Theater of Operation, where winter combat clothing was worn the year round. With the two-piece suit they wear the flesh-out leather shoe and dismounted canvas leggings used until replaced by the combat boot. All



have on the M-1 steel helmet and helmet liner adopted in 1941 in place of the World War I "tin hat." The soldier in the right foreground is armed with a carbine, .30-cal., M-1; the soldier in the center foreground with a Thompson submachinegun, .45-cal., M-1; and both have the holstered .45-cal. pistol. Soldiers behind are armed with the .30-cal., M-1 rifle.



WHAT IF TOMORROW NEVER CAME?

You've seen the placard, usually hanging in some elementary school classroom:

T H I N K A H E A D

admonishing youngsters to consider things before it's too late to do so. We might take a lesson from this child's warning, as we continue calmly in our lives, not thinking of tomorrow: When you are laid to rest, will the assets you have gained in your life actually be used for the purposes you intended?

Estate planning — the preparation of a will — is not something just for the super rich; it is something for every individual to be aware of because your personal estate is unique. No other person has an estate exactly like it. You spent a great deal of time and intelligence building your estate. Why not spend a little time making sure it will serve the purposes you desire after your death?

Every individual moves through three steps to achieve his estate:

1. **Accumulation:** Much of your adult life is spent acquiring cash and other property.
2. **Safeguarding:** All through your life you try to safeguard your estate. You buy insurance to protect your property against fire and burglary. You put money in a bank. You buy securities of the Government or of business corporations. You want your assets to be safe and to grow and become more valuable.
3. **Disposition:** The day comes when you must plan the disposition of your estate. The law permits you to execute a will and say where and to whom your possessions are to go at the time of your death. If you die without a will, then state laws will decree to whom your property will pass after state and federal estate taxes have been deducted and your debts have been paid.

Through careful planning of your estate you can dictate exactly what portion of your property will go to what persons or what organizations, and through such methods as taking of the marital deduction (if you are married) or by giving a portion of your estate to a non-profit charitable institution — such as the **Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.** to continue the ever-challenging war to prevent and cure blindness — *you may greatly reduce the amount of estate taxes that must be paid to federal and state governments upon your death.*

Taking advantage of the tax benefits *allowed by law* is not tax-dodging. In setting up the tax laws, our legislators realized that our government could not — and cannot — support all the charitable, educational and religious institutions that are basic to our way of life. The law-makers, therefore, embodied in our tax laws a series of incentives that would encourage citizens to support these institutions with private monies rather than public taxation. If you believe in the purpose and goals of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., strongly enough to support it with your funds, our government recognizes your support by permitting you to take advantage of tax deductions allowed by law.

So, **THINK AHEAD**; not only the present, but the *future* depends on how you prepare for it. After you are laid to rest, it's too late to be sorry.

Further information on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. — its goals, purpose and work — can be obtained by writing to Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell, 509 South Sixth Street, P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

(Excerpt from a pamphlet prepared by the Gifts and Bequests Committee, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.)



KNIGHT VOICES

COMMENTS FROM READERS



□ I am a 55-year Mason and have an extra Templar belt with silver snaps and all the connections. It also has silver buckle, with Red Cross and the words "In Hoc Signo Vincens."

Will send it to an interested Knight who can send me what he thinks it is worth. *Ted Nohl, 822 3rd Avenue West, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806.*

□ I would take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you on your Knights Templar publication, which I have been receiving with a good deal of anticipation each month over the years. I enjoy in particular your Knight Voices column.

To avoid idleness and for something to busy my hands, I have lately taken up woodworking, carving and wood turning with hand tools; however, I have found the cost of such new instruments to be prohibitive and beyond my reach. In this respect I have been wondering if some of the Sir Knights or Brethren may have, and not in use, such tools as chisels, gauges, planes, bench-stones, etc., at a price I could afford. If so, I would greatly appreciate hearing from any of them.

Again I would congratulate you on producing the fine *Knight Templar Magazine*, truly a one-of-a-kind publication. This little book should be preserved in the archives as one of the most significant and historic compilations of facts and information which should be of immeasurable value to future generations of our fraternity. *James M. Carter, P.O. Box 4392, Charleston, West Virginia 25304*

□ I have a new Masonic edition of the Holy Bible, still in the box (Holman, 5½" x 7½"). I cannot remember how I came by this Bible. Please contact for price. *Ray Kumer, 8579 Elmfield Avenue, Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614*

□ While traveling through the United States as Supreme Worthy President of the Beauceant and having the opportunity to visit many cities and Masonic Temples, I decided that a most interesting hobby would be a collection of pictures of Masonic Temples. Carrying an Instamatic camera with me, I was able to get many such pictures and have an album of about 180. I would be most happy and appreciative to receive pictures of Temples from any readers. It is amazing to see the different styles of architecture and sizes of Temples throughout the United States, from the small wood box-like structure to the most modern style, all on one floor. *Mrs. Cordon H. Purdy, 1245 W. Cienega, No. 103, San Dimas, California 91773*

□ I am a collector of Masonic coins, jewels and medals and would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have such items to donate or sell. I am especially interested in coins issued by the Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters, Grand Councils and Grand Commanderies. I am also interested in jewels or medals issued by the various Degrees and Orders of Masonry. The 34 jewels or medals I now have are mostly from Germany, Ireland, Scotland, and England. *Robert E. Mutz, 720 Tradewinds Drive, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408*

□ I am to be installed next January as Worshipful Master of Mitchell Lodge No. 263, A.F. & A.M. of Mitchell, Nebraska. Yet to this date, I have been unable to locate a Master's top hat in my size (7-3/8 or 7-1/2). I would like to ask the assistance of the Sir Knights to locate a Blue Lodge Top Hat.

I certainly am interested in purchasing the same. *Steven K. Jones, 1450 17th Avenue, Mitchell, Nebraska 69357*

☐ I would like to buy commemorative coins issued by Masonic and Masonic-affiliated groups. Please send all information, including price, in first letter or card. *Joe T. Keesee, 4101 Lenore Drive, Wichita Falls, Texas 76306.*

☐ It gives me great joy and very sincere pleasure to hear from any Brother Mason. I enjoy reading all kinds of Masonic Literature and I am very grateful for any kind of postage stamps and any kind of old auto license plates. These are two "Hobbies," of mine.

So if any one has any or no longer wants their old auto license plates, I will be very grateful and most appreciative. *George P. Bradford, Jr., 1210 East Columbus Drive, Tampa, Florida 33605.*

☐ I would like to purchase a chapeau size 7 1/8 with case, both in good condition. Please contact me, as we are having much success in rebuilding our Commandery. *Kenneth L. Lanham, Past Commander of Crockett Commandery No. 91 Crockett, Texas, Route 3, Box 83-A, Crockett, Texas 75835*

☐ I have been interested in Jewish history for many years. Most of the information I have gathered is found in the early books of the Bible. At present I am working on material pertaining to Solomon's Temple. For example - the values of the vast amounts of silver, gold and other precious stones used; the method used to move those huge cedar timbers from the port of Jopa inland to the building site (remembering that in those days horses were used only by the military); how the massive stones were placed so accurately, etc.

I find that Masons generally are interested in this but have limited knowledge on the subject. I would be happy to correspond with any Sir Knight who would like to exchange knowledge and ideas on this subject and on Jewish history in general, ancient or modern. *Elbert E. Myers, Naval Commandery No. 19, 25 Corte Del Sol, Benicia, California 94510*

DeMolay Honors Three in Florida

Three Past Master Councilors of George Ulee Lord Chapter of DeMolay received the degree of Chevalier, second highest honor awarded to DeMolays, at a ceremony on June 18 at Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, F. & A.M., in Niceville, Florida. Beneath an arch of steel provided by St. Elmo Commandery No. 42, Robert Kuehnel, Robert LeCroy and Kenneth Phillips received the degree.



The Chevalier degree is a citation for outstanding DeMolay activity to a DeMolay who is at least 17 years old and who has been a member in good standing for at least two years. The degree cannot be applied for and nominations are made without the knowledge of the nominee.

St. Elmo No. 42 and Crestview Commandery No. 25, Northwest Florida, combined to confer the degree. Those taking part included Walter W. Weeks, Grand Commander of Florida; and Richard W. Goode, Willis D. Porter, Joe Sanford, Doug LeCroy, and Keith Cammizzi.

Beauceant Silver Anniversary

North Platte Assembly No. 177, Social Order of the Beauceant, is planning to host a Silver Anniversary Tea on Sunday, October 9, at the Masonic Temple, 210 East Fifth Street, North Platte, Nebraska. The Assembly was chartered on July 25, 1952, and 24 charter members will be honored.

All members of the Social Order of the Beauceant and Sir Knights and their ladies are invited to attend.

PROGRESS THROUGH THE YEARS

From the Proceedings of the 34th Triennial Conclave, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September, 1919 – the report of Grand Master Lee Stewart Smith:

“Our Order has had a prosperous triennial period, both as to net increase in membership and moral uplift. The triennial period ending July 1, 1916, showed a net increase in membership of 21,699 . . . while the triennial ending July 1, 1919, shows a net increase of 33,796, making a grand total of members as of July 1, 1919, 277,386. This gain has not been spasmodic, but shows a steady and healthy increase and growth, especially so when we consider that within that period we have had to contend with the effects of this most awful inhuman and ungodly war that has shocked the world . . .

“While we congratulate ourselves upon this material progress, let us ask what we have done, as an Order, to prove our right of existence. Looking over the field of what should be our opportunities, let us take our stand upon the battlements and call out, “Watchman, what of the night?” Does the day dawn? Has the world made spiritual progress? And has our Order been a factor in placing it where it is? Have our fraters, our families, our neighbors, as individuals, been benefited by our higher ideals of Christian manhood which we have obtained within our asylums?

“Oh, what a heavenly world this would be if all men would recognize the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God. Then wars would cease and peace would reign through the world . . .”

**POSTMASTER: Send notice to
GRAND RECORDER, Knights
Templar, U.S.A., 14 East Jackson
Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago,
Illinois 60604.**

Readers are requested to send address changes and corrections to their LOCAL RECORDERS — with the label portion of this page enclosed.