



Knight Templar

VOLUME XXIV

APRIL 1978

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HARRY HOUDINI

The Escape King



Photo Circa 1893: From the Dunninger Collection

SEASON OF SPRING

A newspaper columnist last month featured some variations on Murphy's Law which might bear abbreviated repeating and perhaps possible adaption: If anything can go wrong, it will; whatever good deed you have in mind will be interpreted differently by somebody; when a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it will make it worse; if you explain something so clearly nobody could misunderstand, somebody will.

There are more, but those give us the idea. Fortunately, that pessimistic outlook is not the general rule. At this mid-season point, let's look at the membership example of South Carolina for one highlight of southeastern progress. There was a net gain for 1977 but, more significant is the news already reported for 1978.

In February the Grand Commandery of South Carolina "initiated more than 200, including Senator Strom Thurmond," writes Past Grand Commander Andrew C. Gramling, Jr., in an informal note. I congratulate the Templars of South Carolina and all the York Rite Bodies in our Southeastern Department for the unity and cooperation which make their efforts so productive and cohesive.

On another subject I am pleased to repeat the announcement of the appointment of R.E. Department Commander William P. Wilson, California, to the office of R.E. Grand Captain General for the remainder of the triennium. At present he will serve in both official capacities.

We cannot forget also that April marks the Annual Session of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, at Milwaukee. The Congress of young men extends from April 13 to 15; the Supreme Council itself, on which members of the Grand Encampment are so well represented, will meet April 16-18. Let this event remind us that as Templars we are strongly supportive of DeMolay and its Order of Knighthood - just as we should extend equal effort to promote Job's Daughters and the Rainbow for Girls along with other worthy youth activities.

April is no time for Spring Fever! It's a month for further progress in the York Rite of Freemasonry.



Willard M. Query

Knight Templar

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APRIL: The legendary Harry Houdini, whose life spanned the half-century from 1874 to the mid-twenties, is our feature cover for April. The amazing, sometimes controversial Masonic showman will be readily remembered by those of us known as "senior" Templars, also if they try really hard, by the "younger" membership — especially because of the several film presentations on the subject. Read Joan Behrens' descriptive study of Harry Houdini in the April issue. Pertinent features are included by George M. Saunders, Marvin E. Fowler, William B. Stansbury, Robert P. Beach, Morrison L. Cooke, and a full variety of other features, news, views, and reviews. Happy Springtime!

PCR

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EDITOR'S JOURNAL

Indianapolis in '79: Members of the 54th Triennial Conclave Committee met on Saturday, March 18, 1978, for a planning meeting at the Murat Temple in Indianapolis, Indiana. According to Sir Knight Robert E. Price, Chairman, "duties of respective committees were reviewed as we approach the halfway mark between Triennials." Pictures of the Indiana Convention Exposition Center and maps of Indianapolis will be presented in the *Knight Templar Magazine* at a future date.

Grand Masters, Secretaries: A change in the traditional site of the annual Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries Conferences is noted for 1979 and 1981. Next year the Conferences are planned for Colorado Springs, Colorado; in 1980 they will return to the Washington, D.C., location; and in 1981 they will move to Orlando, Florida. Also noted is a change in the 1979 Allied Masonic Degree Meetings dates, due to the above change, to February 23-25, in Washington, D.C.

Dunninger: The *Knight Templar Magazine* wishes to thank Mrs. Joseph Dunninger, widow of Houdini's contemporary, for permission to reproduce the cover photo, showing the magician in traditional garb. The picture, dated around 1893, is possibly the first professional photograph of the Great Houdini, taken when he was about 19 years of age. Suggested reading in connection with the article appearing on page 9 is *The Monument to Magic*, prepared by Mrs. Dunninger from her husband's memorabilia; the book deals not only with Houdini and Dunninger, but with other great names in the field.

Mrs. Dunninger also mentioned that "Masonry has always been close to my heart as all my male ancestors have been Masons and Shriners."

Reminder: The 106th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, June 1-4, 1978. Grand Sovereign Stanley F. Maxwell, K.G.C., also Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite, notes that plans are being finalized for the Assembly which will be hosted by Bay State Conclave in Boston and St. Matthews Conclave in Springfield.

DeMolay Supreme Council: The Annual meeting of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, will take place April 15-18 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when William J. McCulley, elected Grand Master last year at Dearborn, Michigan, ends his term of office. In attendance from the Grand Encampment will be DeMolay Active members, Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauer, and John Crofts, Sr., Past Grand Master of both DeMolay and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. Also attending will be Grand Master Willard M. Avery, Honorary member.

Energy Savers: With local heads of government requesting that citizens do their individual best to conserve energy during those days of blizzards and coal strikes, the Masonic Temple at Madison, Indiana, has the right idea. In his *March Trestleboard* to Lodge members, W.M. James L. Rogers of Union Lodge No. 2, F. & A.M. offered some suggestions, including the possibility of changing meeting hours or dates. Immediate compliance could be achieved by "1) using only necessary lights; 2) keeping the thermostat at 65 degrees; and 3) wearing more or heavier clothing."

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

by
Marvin E. Fowler, P.G.C., 33°
Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge, District of Columbia
Secretary-Treasurer, George Washington Masonic National Memorial

With the exception of George Washington, every president of the United States has resided in the executive mansion or White House as we have come to call it.

In 1791 a contest was held to discover the best design in which to build the executive mansion to house the Presidents of the United States; the prize was to be a gold medal or \$500 in cash. Three district commissioners judged the contest and announced 30 year old James Hoban the winner. Hoban, an architect who emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, from Ireland, was a devout Roman Catholic, but he was active in the formation of Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, D.C., and served as its Charter Master and later on as its Treasurer for several years.

Hoban chose the medal instead of the cash as his prize. Hoban's design was a three story box-shaped mansion, 168 feet long, 85½ feet wide and 60 feet high. Porticoes and porches highlighted the north and south entrances, with four marble columns at each end, and six chimneys jutted from the roof.

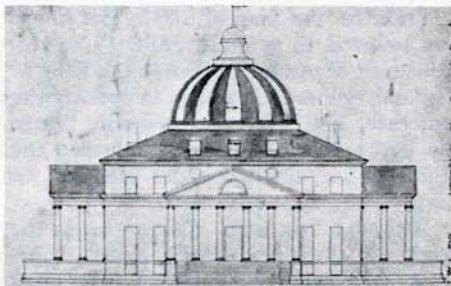


James Hoban's winning design.

George Washington approved the site and the plan and in October 1792 the cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies.

Congressmen were upset shortly after the building was started; some said it gave signs of a monarch's palace, and debated

that a rented house for the President was good enough, just as had been done in New York and Philadelphia. Some even went so far as to recommend that it be used as a government building to house the Judiciary or War Department.



Design submitted by the anonymous "A.Z.":
Thomas Jefferson.

According to Hoban's plan, the main entrance and grand staircase leading down from the family rooms were on the north side which at that time was considered the back of the house, but time has turned the proposed back into the accepted front of the house, although the south side is pictured on the \$20 bill. When addressing mail to the White House, the address "1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.," is used. The north door is reserved for ceremonial occasions. Everyone else, including the President and his family, uses the south side, while visitors and sightseers enter on the east side of the building.

As an interesting sidelight, the cornerstone was laid in October, 1792, which was the 300th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus.

It was planned that Congress would move to the Federal City as soon as the mansion was completed which would be eight years later. → → →

The manual labor in the building was performed by slaves rented from nearby plantations. In the summer of 1792 the foundations were completed and brick kilns were constructed. Clay which had been dug from the ground when the foundation was being set was used to make brick for the house. Timber cut from the forest, which at that time was about where H street N.W. is today, was used in its construction. As there were very few skilled craftsmen in this wilderness, Hoban hired expert stonecutters, carpenters and bricklayers from Europe. Many of them were operative Freemasons.

Prior to the war of 1812, the house was referred to as the President's Palace, House, or Mansion. But when the King of England ordered his troops to destroy the structure, his order was specific, "Burn the White House." Today it is called the White House, the Executive Mansion, or simply 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Although historians disagree as to the origin of the name White House, most accept the following account to be most logical. When Hoban finished the house he had it painted white. It was all white with no color trim. Washington, viewing it for the first time at a distance and counting seven chimneys protruding from an all white house, may have said "Why that is Martha's White House!" referring to the Custis House on the Pomunkey River, which was called the White House and was where the two lovers became engaged. Washington is said to have referred to it by the name "White House" when among friends, but as the "Executive Mansion" in public. However, the name White House continued to be used, not only locally but also by the King of England in 1812 when he gave the direct order to "Burn the White House." He did this because he wished retaliation for the burning of the buildings in Canada by American troops. However, Theodore Roosevelt was the first President to make the name official. Theodore Roosevelt had the name "The White House" placed on all the presidential stationery.

November 1, 1800, President Adams and his wife Abigail moved into the

partially finished house. Only six rooms were ready for occupancy at that time. The space which the East Room now occupies and is now used for receptions, press conferences, television cameras, performances, and many other formal functions, was used by Abigail as a laundry room. The house was like a barn - cold and damp. The floors were spongy from the swampy ground below, and the fireplaces had to be kept burning to dry out the walls. The wood for those fires had to be cut daily from the nearby forest. The nearest water was five blocks away. Thirty-three years passed before the house had water, and fifty-three before a furnace was installed to relieve the fireplaces.

There was no indoor bathroom or plumbing of any kind for 78 years. Oddly enough the telephone was installed in the White House before the first bathroom. Whether true or fiction, it has been published that it was at that time illegal to take a bath between November and February in Philadelphia, and Boston outlawed them altogether, except on a doctor's orders. President and Mrs. Adams never left the house at night as it was not safe. Lumber and piles of brick could be stumbled over. Also the yard was filled with mud puddles.

They did not complain, except Mrs. Adams did remark on several occasions that she missed having bells to summon servants. Twenty-three rooms had been finished by 1812, and two years later on the evening of August 24, 1814, President Madison was with troops defending the Federal City. The British flanked the American troops and set fire to the White House and by morning there was only the charred and blackened walls standing.

Madison contracted Hoban to rebuild the mansion, and for the next three years the Madisons lived at the Octagon House which was nearby.

Just after completing the north and south porticoes, Hoban died on December 30, 1830, thinking he had completed the White House once and for all. In a sense he had, but the Presidents to come would make radical changes, such as adding rooms, moving walls, attaching

one greenhouse, and then another, till it began to look like an agricultural center. The outside of the White House, in spite of many changes, remains almost exactly as Hoban built it. The inside changes reflected the varying tastes of the First Families, controlled by the purse-strings of Congress.

President James K. Polk added gas lights in 1848 to replace candles. However, during the next official reception the White House was plunged into darkness due to some unknown accident.

President Franklin Pierce installed a hot water heating system five years later in 1853.

When Mary Todd Lincoln overspent the budget for remodeling, President Lincoln said, "I'll pay for it out of my own pocket. It would stink in the nostrils of the American people to have it said that the President of the United States had approved a bill overrunning an appropriation of \$20,000 for flub-dubs for this damned old house, when the soldiers cannot have blankets."

On Christmas Eve, 1929, President Hoover was at a dinner when the West wing attic was ignited by faulty electric wiring due to shavings which had never been removed. A three alarm called out 21 fire companies. President Hoover watched from the roof as firemen dragged their hoses and ladders across the snow to fight the fire and prevent destruction of the White House.

By 1936, President Roosevelt declared that the White House should be totally rebuilt as it was so badly in need of major repairs. War threats and finally World War II put aside the rebuilding. But Franklin Roosevelt ordered additional office space built on and also a bomb shelter. The exact location of the shelter is still a guarded secret.

On a summer night after the war, while standing on the south slope of the White House lawn, President Truman, peering at the south portico, calculated that the fresh breeze off the Potomac River was being deflected upward to the second floor of the house. Thus Truman deduced to build a balcony so the family could enjoy the evening breeze. Historians,

Congressmen, members of the Federal Fine Arts Commission and others were appalled; it was an outrage.

Truman, who was aware of the fuss and feathers, and the many accounts of congressmen and governors as indicated in the Daily Papers, did not go to Congress for the money but dipped into his discretionary fund and built it himself.

The Treasury Department recalled all \$20 bills and issued new ones showing the Truman Balcony.

The White House, nearly 150 years old when the Trumans moved in, was a hodgepodge of changes and remodeling, which left the place in a sorry condition.

The architectural board made a careful survey and declared the building unsafe and recommended that the house be torn down and rebuilt from the ground up. The suggestion shocked most citizens. It was finally decided to tear out the interior and replace it with sturdy modern construction, leaving the outside walls as they were. However the outside wall, although sound, had to be supported by additional foundations dug 25 feet deeper in the ground. The renovation cost nearly six million dollars (about 15 times the cost of the original White House). On many of the stones removed were found Masonic marks used by the operative Masons. President and Brother Harry Truman sent one of these stones to each of the 49 Grand Lodges in the country. Of special interest to the Royal Arch Masons was a Keystone with Masonic emblems carved in the base.

It was considered an engineering challenge unparalleled in modern times. Six hundred and sixty tons of steel beams and other structural members were passed through Hoban's narrow doors and windows, raised, welded and riveted, until they formed a skeleton which independently supported the new floors and walls. The iron work was joined to the walls of sandstone by heavy iron anchor bars.

Work was completed and the Trumans moved back into the new White House in April 1952, with the assurance of the architects that at least a century would pass before any additional major repairs would be necessary. → → →

The White House has 235 furnished rooms, including 100 offices in the east and west wings, 25 bedrooms, three dining rooms, 20 baths (a far cry from the old wooden tub in the kitchen in which President Taylor took his weekly bath), 29 fireplaces, bowling alley, gymnasium, a library, movie theatre, a TV and radio broadcasting room and a kitchen large enough to satisfy the largest restaurant in Washington. There are 147 windows, and eight skylights, eight television antennae on the roof (one for each of the local stations), over 2,000 electrical outlets, 450 light fixtures and a monthly electric bill exceeding \$15,000 and going up.

About 40,000 visitors pass through the house per week, not counting the official guests.

The grounds consist of 18 acres surrounded by a seven foot iron fence and 13 gates. On the grounds are courts for playing tennis, a putting green and a pad for landing helicopters, flower gardens, fountains, trees and shrubs from many states and nations, an herb garden for the table, and even an electric squawker to scare away the birds.

To keep the White House in operation a staff of more than 300 are required full time — including electricians, carpenters, painters, plumbers, window washers, an upholsterer, and four men who do nothing except wax and buff 600,000 square feet of floors. Housekeepers vacuum and dust the priceless antiques and 15,000 square feet of carpeting. A telephone switchboard is operated by a battery of operators 24 hours a day, who answer your call to 202-456-1414.

To live in White House style, you would need an annual income of around \$50,000,000.00 before taxes. To cut the grass and keep the grounds in order costs a quarter of a million dollars each year — over half what it cost Hoban to build the White House.

Pleasant living? Not so. Few if any of the presidential families have enjoyed the White House. "It is not home" said President Lyndon Johnson, "It's a place to go when you finish work." Theodore Roosevelt said, "You don't live there, you are

only exhibit A to the country." President Coolidge called it. "A temple of inconveniences," and Harry Truman said, "A great white prison."



Modern drawing showing east wing and south portico.

What future presidents will do in an attempt to make it more of a home, we do not know, but it is something inevitable.

One thing that will probably never be changed is the prayer written by President John Adams shortly after he moved into the White House and which President Franklin Roosevelt had carved on the State Dining Room mantel.

"I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is open to the public year round and all Masons and Templars are invited to visit this Masonic landmark. In addition to his duties as Secretary-Treasurer of the Memorial Association, Sir Knight Fowler is Chairman of the Easter Sunrise Memorial Service held each year at Arlington National Cemetery.

New Jersey Grand Recorder Retires

Past Grand Commander Gordon J. Brenner has retired as Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey. With Sir Knight Brenner's recommendation, the new Grand Recorder for New Jersey will be Past Grand Commander Thurman C. Pace, Jr.

Sir Knight Brenner, of Carlstadt, is currently Chairman of the Committee on Religious Activities for the Grand Encampment.

THE GREAT HOUDINI

by
J. E. Behrens, Assistant Editor

"The secret of showmanship consists not of what you really do, but what the mystery-loving public thinks you do."

Harry Houdini

Even before medieval alchemists astounded monarchs with the promise of changing lead into gold, magic was an accepted enigma. The word itself goes back to pre-Christian days when a priestly cast of Persians called Magi were celebrated for their power over demons. The three wise men from the East who came to honor the Christ Child were Magi, thus it came as no surprise that they should know to follow a star and seek out God become man. Interestingly, however, in 1484, Pope Innocent VIII issued a bull against all professed "magicians" and many were either tortured or burned at the stake.

Magic can be of the black variety, where costumed spirit-gatherers will, for a consideration, dart pins into a doll replica of an enemy. More acceptable is white magic, used in earliest days as a means of protection or a method of intervention with the gods.

Today the word is synonymous with the supernatural, and, indeed, the best magicians have performed before the uninitiated and unsuspecting as though they held control over the unseen forces or spirits which many believe surround the universe.

There are many types of magic. Legerdemain or sleight-of-hand is best known; things appear and disappear before one's very eyes. Or there is the magic of the "spirit medium" who communicates with the dead and, by appealing to spirits of the deceased, is capable of seemingly supernatural feats. There is the mind-reader who can tell unhesitatingly what object his assistant holds in his hand. And, of course, there is the stage



magician who performs wondrous feats before a large audience, defying the laws of gravity, physics and physical endurance. This latter category reached its prime during the days of Vaudeville which spanned, roughly, from the mid-19th century, when the Industrial Revolution had succeeded in creating a new "middle class" hungry for the same entertainment as the wealthy nobility, to the first quarter of the 20th century when the motion picture screen slowly replaced the stage.

The greatest American magician (though he preferred to be called an "escape artist") was Harry Houdini, born Ehrich Weiss in Budapest, Hungary, in 1874. Houdini, a rabbi's son, is best remembered for his escape magic — imprisoned in anything from simple handcuffs to milk cans or coffins, he delighted and mystified the world by overcoming his bonds. In his life he performed before presidents and crowned heads. In the lean days he worked in dime "museums" and circuses, not only as magician, but in whatever capacity was needed. Once, at the Welsh Brothers Circus in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he appeared as the Wild Man of Borneo. In more ways than one he was a "man of mystery," sentimental yet temperamental, at times eccentrically generous, always confident, certain of his destiny as the greatest → → →

magician of all time. He was, simply, The Great Houdini.

The beginnings were not quite so spectacular. Samuel and Cecilia Weiss arrived in Appleton, Wisconsin, soon after Ehrich's birth (his date of birth is usually given as April 6, 1874, and this is the day that the Weisses celebrated his birthday; but more current evidence shows he was born March 24.) For many years Cecilia told her children that they were born in Appleton, the Weisses were proud of America and wanted their children to think of it as their native land.

There was little demand for an old-fashioned Talmudic scholar in Appleton, and following a short period as the town's only rabbi, Samuel packed up the family. Finally, in 1888, they arrived in New York City. If possible, conditions were worse. But Ehrich was a good son and did his best to help ends meet. When his father did not approve of Ehrich's job as a newsboy (saying it was not appropriate for the son of a rabbi), the youth learned a trade as a necktie-lining cutter. It was in this position that he began to take a serious interest in magic, thanks to the influence of Jacob Hyman, a fellow-worker. (Of course, even as a child Ehrich was fascinated with magic. Often his mother became concerned when brothers Ehrich and Theodore would tie each other up and then spend hours trying to get loose.) It was through Jacob that Ehrich learned of Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin, the "Father of Modern Magic," who was Ehrich's first hero, and after whom he eventually named himself. The first name, Harry, was a modification of his own name — his family called him Ehrich for short and Harry was the logical Americanization.

As a youth Houdini was also interested in athletics. He was a member of the Pastime Athletic Club and won a number of track competitions. He was a skilled swimmer, and in later years his early training was helpful in producing his underwater illusions. Among other abilities (not magic), he was able to hold his breath underwater for over three minutes.

He began as "Eric the Great," appearing in beer halls and cheap vaudeville houses

as a prestidigitator. Occasionally he was paid. He quit his necktie-cutting job in April of 1891 at age 17 to enter show business as a full-time professional and "apprentice wonder-worker." His first appearance as such was at Huber's Museum as a card manipulator. Here he met George Dexter, master of rope escapes, from whom he learned the art of "escapery," including rope ties and handcuffs. Soon "Eric the Great" grew into the Houdini Brothers (first consisting of Ehrich and Jacob Hyman; later Ehrich and his brother Theodore). The Houdini Brothers drew slightly more attention, working at neighborhood socials and lodge meetings.

In 1892, Samuel Weiss died, leaving his wife and seven children. Before his death he took Ehrich aside and made his son promise that he would always take care of his mother, but the request was unnecessary because a deep bond had developed between mother and son.

The Brothers Houdini set out for Chicago in 1893 where the World's Columbian Exposition beckoned to many young talents. While competing for attention along the world's grandest "midway," they were seen by the owners of Kohl and Middleton's Dime Museum. Ehrich was booked as a single for \$12 a week, giving twenty shows a day.

Houdini was 5 feet 5 inches tall and clean-shaven — not a very imposing figure, especially for a "man of mystery." But he was handsome, had a good smile and a commanding voice. Perhaps he would go far.

The Houdini Brothers resumed their act, but for only a short time. Eventually the two-man act changed to "The Houdinis" — Harry and his bride Wilhelmina Beatrice Rahner. Harry and Bess were married three times: once in a civil service, once by a rabbi for his mother; once by a priest for her's. Nevertheless, it took many years for Mrs. Rahner to forgive her Catholic daughter for marrying a rabbi's son. The marriage lasted 32 years, until Houdini's death.

For the next several years The Houdinis moved from one minor booking to another. As an act with the Welsh

Brothers Circus, they earned \$25 a week, sending home \$12 to Mrs. Weiss. But Harry was always learning and perfecting his act. He became fascinated with different modes of escape. The "Metamorphosis" act involved handcuffing Houdini, tying him up in a cloth bag, and stuffing him in a wooden crate which was then chained and locked. In three seconds Harry and Bess would change places, his wife now bound in the crate and handcuffs. Houdini's escapes from "insane restraints" such as the straitjacket or "wet pack" also astounded audiences. But just as the pendulum would swing in their favor, Houdini's luck would change. At one point funds were so low that Ehrich became Professor Houdini; he even printed a 16-page booklet, *Magic Made Easy*, in which he offered his tricks for sale. But no one was interested.

Finally, while performing in St. Paul, Minnesota, Houdini was seen by Martin Beck, manager of the Orpheum Circuit. He suggested that Houdini concentrate his act around handcuff escapes and the "Metamorphosis," and offered him \$60 a week to perform.

In May, 1900, at age 26, Houdini took his first tour abroad. He was concerned because he had not exactly dazzled American audiences up to that time. But Europe was ripe for the young magician. First in London at the Alhambra, then in Germany at the Crystal Palace and the Wintergarten, he was a huge success. By 1905 he was being paid \$1,200 a week for the same act he had been paid \$12 a week to perform in Chicago. However, there was always someone to dampen his successes.

Part of Houdini's act consisted of entering police headquarters wherever he was booked, challenging the police, and offering to escape from any pair of regulation handcuffs. He was searched and cuffed, often being placed in a locked cell as well. He always appeared several minutes later, turning over the restraints, much to the embarrassment of the local police.

In Germany one disgruntled police official went so far as to say in public that Houdini was "misrepresenting his

talents . . . and nobody could escape from *everything*." Houdini sued the man and the case was brought to court. Harry won by presenting the same challenge before the judge and escaping from a regulation German police wrist chain and padlock. The defendant took it to a higher court and this time had a locksmith create a new lock which, when closed, could not be opened even with a key. Houdini, allowed privacy in an empty room, opened the lock in four minutes and won a second decision. His opponent took the case to the highest German court, the Oberlandesgericht, and Houdini won again. The official was ordered to apologize in print and pay the cost of all three trials.



TRIAL BY MILK CAN — Houdini was immersed in a large can filled with water (or milk). The can was then secured with a dozen padlocks. The magician would escape in a minute, leaving locks intact and can filled to the brim.

In his life Houdini had two passions. One was his dislike for "mediums," all of whom he believed to be frauds. He was to spend a good part of his life exposing mediums who professed to use supernatural means to communicate with "spirits" or read minds. Strangely enough, though Houdini always said that his "magic" was done by natural means, people often came to him for help in the area of "spiritualism" which, at the time, had grown into a religion of sorts. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a spiritualist and one-time friend, refused to believe that Houdini did *not* possess supernatural powers, and said so in print. → → →

Houdini did his best to expose frauds in this and other areas. His first book (1906) was *The Right Way To Do Wrong*, a 94-page pamphlet on "the tricks of counterfeiters, coiners, smugglers, swindlers and con-men, sneak thieves and pick-pockets."

His second passion was for magic memorabilia. He collected one of the most extensive magic libraries in the world, and at his death willed its contents to the Library of Congress.

What is generally not known about Houdini is that he was involved in a number of enterprises besides magic. He was fascinated by the motion picture, and produced and starred in several "silents." *The Master Mystery* was a 13-part serial, each episode ending with Houdini tied-up or on the verge of death. The Houdini Picture Company lasted only a few years. He also loved flying and attempted several plane-to-plane acrobatic stunts for his movies.

Another fact about Houdini's life is that he was at times peculiarly generous. Once in Edinburgh, Scotland, he was moved by the sight of so many barefoot children that he invited all those without shoes to come to the theatre where he was performing and bought them all shoes — over 300 pairs. Again, in 1916, Sarah Bernhardt, one of Houdini's idols, was honored with a bronze statuette of herself at the New York Metropolitan Opera House; the statuette was presented "to The Divine Sarah by the actors and actresses of America." Unfortunately, when the time came to pay the bill for the award, \$350, no one was available. The company who made the award sent Miss Bernhardt the bill. She abruptly returned the statue. The story was made public and Houdini was so angered that he wrote a personal check for the \$350 and contacted the actress, asking her to accept the award, this time in the name of America's vaudeville artists.

In 1906, Houdini was back in America playing to packed houses; but he always sought new adventures and escapes. In December of this year, in Detroit, Michigan, he was manacled and thrown off a bridge into a hole cut in the

ice-covered Detroit River. When he didn't come up after several minutes, spectators were certain he had drowned. But eight minutes after being thrown in he appeared — he had not allowed for the current to pull him away and most probably survived by breathing air from pockets between the ice and water.

Houdini was 43 when the U.S. entered WWI. He immediately went to enlist, but was told he was too old, "even though he could get out of strait jackets while hanging from his ankles." He was momentarily angered, but proceeded to help the cause by starring in bond rallies and camp shows. By the Armistice he had sold \$1,000,000 worth of Liberty Bonds single-handed.

In 1923, Houdini received his degrees in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City — on July 17 and 31 and August 21, respectively. Of course, he had been familiar with members of the Fraternity for many years. On October 30, 1923, he became a life member. He was also a member of Mecca Shrine Temple in New York City. By the time of his death, Houdini had become a world celebrity and his mail had increased proportionally. It is said that his fraternal activities — as an Elk and a Mason — in addition to being president of the Society of American Magicians, accounted for a good portion of his mail.

Ehrich Weiss was bold and innovative and never quite content with his act. He wanted his "magic" to be unique and exciting. He wanted to be recognized as a kind of superman. At various times in his career he was known to walk through walls, make elephants disappear, and escape after being rope-tied to a bare girder 20 stories above Broadway.

One of Houdini's last (and unrealized) dreams was a collaboration with other magicians on a University of Magic, with curriculum including courses on the History of Magic, Philosophy of Magic, Psychology of Magic, Ethics of Magic, Advertising, etc.

Houdini died at age 52 on Halloween, October 31, 1926. Though he searched for and was unable to find a medium who was not a fraud, he nevertheless wanted

Monroe Commandery No. 12 Sesquicentennial

On June 8, 1827, Monroe Encampment No. 12 (as it was then known), located in the village of Rochester, New York, received its charter from the Grand Encampment of the State of New York. The charter bears the signature of DeWitt Clinton, Governor of New York and Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the State of New York.

Monroe Commandery celebrates its 150th anniversary in 1977-78, and a highlight of the celebration was an anniversary class in the Rochester Masonic Temple, and an Anniversary Banquet held June 11, 1977. Attendees included the late Sir Knight Richard W. Hillman, Grand Commander of New York; Sir Knight Martin E. Edwards, Grand Commander of Pennsylvania; and, representing the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, Grand Generalissimo. Sir Knight Raymond R. Beardsley, Eminent Commander of Monroe, acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Sir Knight Dull, as speaker for the evening, presented a brief history of Templary in the United States and particularly the growth of Monroe Commandery. Anniversary events concluded with a Commandery Worship Service at the United Church of Pittsford, conducted by Reverend and Sir Knight Paul R. Gleason.

A sesquicentennial history of Monroe Commandery was prepared for the occasion, as well as a commemorative tile exhibiting the official insignia of the Commandery in color with the inscription "1827-1977, Monroe Commandery No. 12, Rochester, New York."

Commander Beardsley, speaking of the many distinguished Templars who were members of the Commandery said, "Monroe No. 12 has a long and proud history of the Masonic life of the community and state and now looks forward to a bright future in continuing to serve Masonry and the Community as chivalrous Knights of the Cross."



Ned E. Dull, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Encampment; E.C. Raymond R. Beardsley; and Richard W. Hillman, Grand Commander, New York.



Current Commander of Monroe No. 12 Beardsley (left), and Sir Knight Leigh M. Fitch, Dean of Monroe Past Commanders. Fitch held office in 1937.

to believe that somehow man could communicate with dead souls. In fact, it is a true story that prior to his death he gave Bess a code whereby she would know that he was trying to communicate with her from the beyond.

Houdini died of a gangrenous appendix brought on as the result of one of his challenges. The funeral service was held in

the Elk's Clubhouse on 43rd Street, Manhattan. Masonic services followed, "with a white lambskin laid across the coffin and the assembled Masons filing by, each dropping a bit of evergreen, symbol of everlasting life." (*Houdini*, William Gresham) He was buried in the great bronze coffin used in his underwater burial act. □

Texas York Rite Festival

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Texas were scheduled to sponsor an All State York Rite Festival on Saturday, April 1, 1978, to honor Sir Knight R. Furman Vinson, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Texas. The Festival, to take place in the Grand Lodge Temple, Waco, Texas, will begin at 7:30 a.m., and will include conferral of all Chapter and Council Degrees and Commandery Orders, in robes and in full form.

Sir Knight Ed Bloomquist, Grand Secretary-Recorder of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council in Texas, invites all Companions and Sir Knights to "take just a little valuable time" and interest a Master Mason in completing the York Rite.

Indiana Rainbow Installation

Mrs. Karen Fleming, Greenfield, Indiana, officially assumed duties as Mother Advisor of the Greenfield Assembly No. 76, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, at a public installation February 4. Mrs. Fleming is the wife of Sir Knight Rodney Fleming, Greenfield Commandery No. 39, of the Mitchell Fleming Printing Company, Inc., printers of the *Knight Templar Magazine*. She will hold office for one year.

Rainbow Assemblies are organized under the sponsorship of either an Eastern Star Chapter or a Masonic Lodge, or by a group of Eastern Stars or Masons. Membership is open to teen-aged girls recommended by another Rainbow girl and by one Eastern Star or Mason. The International Order was established in 1922.

Daylight Savings Time

When clock changing is necessary, remember the old expression that tells you when to turn back and when to move an hour faster:

Spring ahead; Fall back.

"Sounds for Sight"

A "Sounds for Sight" Grand Military Ball was held by Allen Commandery No. 20 Drill Corps in Allentown, Pennsylvania, this past February. Some \$1,200 was realized from this formal benefit for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation which was open to the public.

Over 350 persons attended including Sir Knights and ladies from eastern Pennsylvania, Grand Officers, civic leaders and Master Masons. A Grand March of 40 Templar couples led by Martin E. Edwards, Pennsylvania Grand Commander, highlighted the program. Included in the Grand March were John Baldwin, G.Jr.W.; Walter Heintzelman, Grand Trustee; Harry Schaeffer, Marshal of Grand Commandery; George Metz, G.W.; and Division Commanders Carryl Brewster, John Keenan and Russell Kistler. Companion Robert Swoyer, Grand King; Donald Frankenfield, D.D.G.H.P.; and Sir Knight and Judge Kenneth Koch, 33^o also participated.



The march was directed by the Grand Marshal, Jack McQuilken, assisted by Sir Knights Samuel Wilson and Ralston Coleman. Past Grand Commander Warren R. Williams, Jr., spoke on the services of the Eye Foundation.

The Allen Drill Corps has initiated a program of activity this year to demonstrate Templary and make it visible to the public. The "Sounds for Sight" Ball accomplished this objective. Another ball is planned for March 1979. Sir Knight Charles S. Canning, Pennsylvania Supplement Editor, served as General Chairman of the event.

THE NATIONAL SOJOURNERS

by

Sir Knight H. C. Arbuckle, III



A member of the National Sojourners organization must be a Master Mason and either a commissioned officer or a warrant officer in one branch of the United States armed services. As is evident, not every Master Mason can belong to this organization. Accordingly, all too often little attention is paid to this body of brethren.

In 1970 *Fifty Years of National Sojourners* by LaVon Linn came rolling off the presses. The book's subtitle is *A History of National Sojourners, Inc., From the Beginning Through 15 May 1970, with Appropriate References to Other Distinguished Masons*, and goes far towards telling what the book is about. It starts out with the inception of the idea of forming the National Sojourners when the North Dakota Regiment of Volunteer Infantry arrived in the Philippines in 1898. Since that time over 500 chapters of National Sojourners, Inc., have been founded. This book is good for use in the schoolroom, for it tells of the Spirit of Patriotism as not many other books can or do. The appendix is full of good tidbits of history, the one that is entitled "Why Did Sam Houston Let Santa Anna Go?" really catching my attention. The history book, *Fifty Years of National Sojourners*, costs \$4.00.

Another good book the Sojourners put out is *Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism, An Anthology of Definitions of Patriotism*, compiled and edited by Steward M. L. Pollard, which costs \$2.00. This little paperback, which came out in 1973, is well worth having, for such great Americans as Omar N. Bradley, Mark W. Clark, Bruce C. Clarke, Henry C. Clausen,

Conrad Hahn, and Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., each contributed his idea of a definition of patriotism. In all, there were 68 contributors to this anthology, all of whom had slightly different yet surprisingly similar definitions of patriotism. While this would be a good book for any Brother to read, it should be a must for the civics teacher in our public schools.

The most recent book the Sojourners have authorized is *National Sojourners, Inc., Military Masonic Hall of Fame, 1975, First One Hundred*, and was compiled and edited by Brother R. E. Bassler, a retired Navy captain. This book was the Sojourners' tribute to the United States Bicentennial in that it is a collection of biographical sketches of the first one hundred men elected to the National Sojourners Military Masonic Hall of Fame. The biographies run from George Washington and Benjamin Franklin to Will Rogers, FDR, and Douglas MacArthur. Of course, the Texas Masons interested me no little and I was gratified to see men like Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston included. Brother Bassler has done a fine job in getting Masons to write the short biographical sketches to go in this book and is planning a second volume to come out soon. The book is well done, indeed. It sells for \$3.50 a copy, or if bought in lots of ten, \$3.00 each. No school should be without one.

All three of these are good, sound, well-written books that are joys to read and pleasures to own. You might just decide to buy copies and donate them to your local high school.

Copies of all three books can be ordered from the National Headquarters, National Sojourners, 4600 Duke St., Alexandria, Virginia, 22303.

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

HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

Boston's "Mounted" Commandery

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the 18th of April in '75,
And hardly a man is still alive
Who remembers that famous day
and year . . .*

It may be true that "hardly a man is still alive who remembers," but Sir Knights of St. Bernard Commandery No. 12 in Boston, Massachusetts, are doing their best to honor that "day and year" as a seven-member contingent of Templars takes to the saddle in memory of that day 200 years ago when "the shot heard round the world" echoed the beginning of the American Revolution.

St. Bernard Commandery has been classified as a Mounted Commandery in its records since it was constituted in 1859. Its last previous ride as a unit, however, was in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1920.



During the winter of 1976-77 several Sir Knights decided to form a mounted patrol unit for the Concord, Massachusetts, parade which takes place on the anniversary of the Battle of Concord. This year plans are to repeat the ride over the "Old North Bridge."

The intrepid riders of St. Bernard Commandery include: Sir Knights Gage Bailey, Robert P. Clark, H. Dunster Howe, Chester W. Mack, Thomas C. Mayne, Winslow A. Robbins and Ralph L. Sewall.

Masonic Belt Buckles

The Grand Commandery of Kansas is making available to Sir Knights and Brothers belt buckles in pewter or brass-plated pewter with the emblem of either Knights Templar, Scottish Rite, Blue Lodge or Shrine. The buckle, according to Sir Knight Don E. Robinett, Grand Commander, is a "high-quality" item, designed by Sir Knight J. Ahlbrandt, II, member of Washington Commandery No. 2, Atchison.



Actual size of the piece (Templar model reduced above) is 2¼ inches square, and cost is \$8.00 each, plus mail order charge of \$1.25 on the first buckle or an individual order of one, and \$.25 added for each additional piece ordered. A donation of \$2.00 from the cost of each buckle will be retained by the Grand Commandery of Kansas for contribution to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and/or the Educational Scholarship Fund.

Orders may be addressed to Ahlbrandt, Fike and Co., Inc., P.O. Box 19617, Kansas, Missouri 64141. Type of finish and emblem should be specified.

Kansas Sir Knights will celebrate their 109th Grand Conclave May 12 and 13 in Salina, and all Grand Commanders and Grand Encampment officers attending will be presented with a gold-leaf edition of the buckle especially prepared by Sir Knight Ahlbrandt.

Goldwater-Rhodes Festival

The Most Eminent Grand Master Willard M. Avery has advised that Sir Knights Ned E. Dull, Grand Generalissimo, and William P. Wilson, Grand Captain General, will represent the Grand Encampment at the special Goldwater-Rhodes One Day Festival in Phoenix.

New S.O.O.B. President Begins Year

Mrs. A. B. Harrison, Stillwater, Oklahoma, was elected and installed Supreme Worthy President of the Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant, at the Supreme Assembly held in Wichita, Kansas, September 26-30, 1977. Since that time she has embarked on her visitations to the 249 Assemblies in the United States, beginning October 3, 1977, and extending through September 8, 1978.



Abilene Assembly No. 192, Texas, hosted Mrs. Harrison during her official visit there on January 18. Mrs. Milton Nunnallee, President of Abilene Assembly, reported on Mrs. Harrison's visit adding that, as it has been for the last 20 years, the Social Order of the Beauceant has adopted the Knights Templar Eye Foundation as their project. She also noted that total contributions to the K.T.E.F. last year exceeded \$42,000.00.

Washington Landmark



Pictured is the Hotel Washington, in Washington, D.C., headquarters hotel for the Annual Knights Templar Pilgrimage to the nation's Capitol during Easter Weekend; also site of the 1978 Allied Masonic Degree Meetings.

51 Candidates at Bethlehem

On Saturday, February 25, 1978, 51 candidates were conferred the Orders of Knighthood in Pennsylvania's District 9, at a class honoring Right Eminent Grand Commander Martin E. Edwards. Bethlehem Commandery No. 90 sponsored 18 of the candidates, with Packer No. 23 supplying the next largest group of nine.

The Order of Red Cross was conferred by DeMolay and Reading Commanderies, Order of Malta by Allen and Beauceant Commanderies, and Order of the Temple by Bethlehem No. 90, Sir Knight Edward's home Commandery.

Following conferral a banquet was held for sponsors and members of the class. According to Grand Commander Edwards "the candidates were full of questions about Templar activities and details. The Division won't forget this for a long time, I'm sure."

Masonic Authors



James R. Case (left) and Ronald E. Heaton, in attendance at the February Washington meetings, wait for transportation to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. Sir Knight Case, Knights Templar Cross of Honor, is Historiographer for the Grand Commandery of Connecticut and a frequent contributor to the *Knights Templar Magazine*. Heaton, also a contributor, is author of a number of Masonic books; he is a member of the Society of Blue Friars and the Philalethes Society, among others.

Great Priory of America, C.B.C.S.

The Great Priory of America, Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cite Sainte, with 54 members in the continental United States, completed its annual meeting February 19 at the Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C. Sir Knight Kenneth Johnson, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, was Acting Great Prior, and James R. Case, Connecticut, was Acting Deputy Great Prior.

Twenty-seven members or one-half of the total current membership were in attendance to witness the election and installation of Kenneth Johnson as Great Prior.

The Holy Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City is reportedly the oldest order connected with Freemasonry which has had continuous existence, founded in 1754 in Germany. It was formed in the U.S. in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1934 by the Grand Prieure Independent d'Helvetie (Switzerland). Membership is by invitation and limited in the U.S. to 81 members divided into three Preceptories of 27 members each.

6,000 at St. Petersburg

Sponsored by St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139 Florida, more than 6,000 Masons and ladies were attracted to "Masonic All States Night" at Bayfront Center Arena Wednesday, March 1.

The St. Petersburg event was a "boost for Masonry" that featured an address by Florida's Most Worshipful Grand Master William C. Mitchell, also remarks by Most Eminent Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell of the Grand Encampment's Eye Foundation.

Sixty Templars appeared in full uniform to serve as an escort for Grand Master Mitchell. Egypt Temple was present with a full complement of Shrine units.

The unique entertainment was provided by Florida's large Northeast High School. The school provided drill exhibitions, a march band, instrumental concert and a choral recital.

Miami Templar Color Guard



Miami Commandery No. 13 for the second year in a row provided the Color Guard for the parade at the Annual Homestead, Florida, Rodeo Festival on February 11, 1978. The Color Guard led the way for other Masonic and civic organization units, including marchers from Mahi Shrine Temple and the Homestead Shrine Club.

Sir Knight Charles H. Green, Past Grand Commander of Florida Templars and member of Miami No. 13, reported, "At the urgent request of the Homestead Rodeo, officials have pledged the Commandery's participation in this great event which the proud people of Homestead have so successfully presented."

Above, left to right, are Sir Knights Charles Green; William C. Hills, Past Commander of Miami No. 13; George Chipouris, Ill. Master of Council; Earl Shiver, Eminent Commander; Larry O'Brien, Sword Bearer; Eric Feige, Standard Bearer; and William Collard, Generalissimo.

National Sojourners Convention

The Annual Convention of National Sojourners, Inc., will take place June 21-24, 1978, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn Central, 1926 West Wisconsin Avenue. For registration, hotel, meals, banquet costs and information, inquiries may be sent to National Sojourners Convention Corp., CPT Charles E. Losey, P.O. Box 7474, Jacksonville, Florida 32210.

1978 WASHINGTON HIGHLIGHTS

Conference of Grand Masters

by
William B. Stansbury, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America opened its annual Conference on February 21, 1978, in the Shoreham Americana Hotel in Washington, D.C. The theme was "Quo Vadis (Whither Goest Thou) — Freemasonry?" The keynote address was given by Jerry Rasor, Grand Master of Ohio. The officers for 1978 were Robert C. Coley, G.M. of Alabama, and Lloyd J. Jamerson, G.M. of Colorado, and the 1978 Conference Committee, headed by James D. Penley, Jr., Chairman, G.M. of South Carolina, consisted of the following Grand Masters: Harris F. Mitchell of Arkansas, Roy C. Turner of Indiana, Ross E. Frederickson of Minnesota, Eugene S. Gates, Jr., of Nevada, Paul D. Talbert of New Hampshire, Wilson Sweaney of South Dakota, R. Furman Vinson of Texas, and William B. Stansbury, Jr., P.G.M. of Maryland, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Ex Officio. The Chaplain was Reverend Roy H. Stetler, Jr., G.M. of Maryland, the Address of Welcome was given by Morris F. Hewitt, G.M. of the District of Columbia, and the response by Richard C. Lord, G.M. of North Dakota.

Topics presented included: *Communications and Data Processing*, Roy O. Turner, G.M. of Indiana; *Conduct of Meetings (Improving techniques and procedures)*, James O. Wood, G.M. of Washington; *Dues and Fund Raising Programs for Grand Lodges or Blue Lodges within Masonic Guidelines* James M. Sellers, G.M. of Arizona; *Freemasonry and Catholicism*, Enrique J. Gomez, G.M.



York Grand Lodge of Mexico; *Tradition vs. Change*, Roy H. Stetler, Jr., G.M. of Maryland; *Sojourners*, William C. Mitchell, G.M. of Florida; *Practical Application of the Principles of Freemasonry*, Richard Wood Lottridge, G.M. of Utah; *Report of Commission on Information for Recognition*, Robert H. Danelson, Ch., Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of New Hampshire..

The Tuesday evening Grand Masters' Banquet with more than 800 in attendance featured the address of Brother George Edgar Gullen, Jr., 33°, President of Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan, who gave an inspiring talk entitled "Out of Many, One." This was sponsored by Ronald Schwartz, G.M. of Michigan. In addition a show entitled a Mexican Fiesta, featuring singing, dancing and music, was presented by courtesy of Enrique J. Gomez, G.M. York Grand Lodge of Mexico.

Preceding the Banquet on Sunday, February 19, 1978, the Conference opened with a gala reception, and on Monday attendees visited Mt. Vernon and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, and were provided with an excellent luncheon, after which the Masonic Service Association of the United States held its Annual Meeting with Stewart M. L. Pollard as its new Executive Secretary.

After the Conference had adjourned most of those in attendance were guests of Henry C. Clausen, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander Scottish Rite, at a luncheon at the House of the Temple.

A special Committee of Ten under the Chairmanship of Arthur F. Simpson, G.M. of Connecticut, → → →

presented a report on Time and Place and it was resolved that the Conference meet in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1979 and return to the Shoreham Americana Hotel in Washington, D.C., in 1980.

The 1981 Conference of Grand Masters is being planned for Orlando, Florida.

Sir Knight Stansbury is Past Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, and resides at 508 Club Lane, Towson, Maryland 21204.

Conference of Grand Secretaries

by
Robert P. Beach,
Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference

The fiftieth annual Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America, in a one and a half day session, was devoted entirely to informative discussions on a variety of "shop talk" administrative subjects.



Fifty of the sixty active members in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico answered the roll call, together with ten associate members, six members at large and two of the three honorary members.

One Grand Secretary, E. C. MacMillan of Prince Edward Island, was called by death during the year, along with four former Grand Secretaries: Paul R. Mattix, District of Columbia; Claude Shaffer, Maryland; F. A. Van Iderstine, Prince Edward Island; and Harvey C. Whildey, New Jersey. Memorials were also read for four former associate members of the Conference: Howard A. Clark, Masonic Relief Association; John D. Cunningham, Masonic Service Association; Conrad Hahn, Masonic Service Association; and Wilfrid N. Paterson, Scottish Rite (Canada).

Six newly-elected or appointed Grand Secretaries attending their first Conference were welcomed by President Wendell K. Walker of New York: Reginald A. Coombes, Nova Scotia; Maurice W. Dalton, New Brunswick; J. Edward Gwinn, Oklahoma; Verne W. Hendrix, California; Walter F. Lokey, Delaware, and Roy L. Wyckoff, Illinois. The following new associate members

were also greeted by the Conference: Donald E. Krueger, Masonic Relief Association; John V. Lawer, Scottish Rite (Canada); and Stewart M. L. Pollard, Masonic Service Association.

An informative agenda, prepared by a committee headed by Dean C. Settle, Colorado, was presented. Subjects for discussion were: Grand Lodge Publications; Relationships of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries; Inflation - How Has It Affected the Grand Secretary's Office? Where and How Can Economies Be Accomplished?; Communication Between Lodges and Sister Lodges in Other Jurisdictions. Should Requirements of This Type of Communication Be Relaxed to Allow Greater Freedom to the Subordinate Lodges?; DeMolay; Updating on Tax Information for Exempt Organizations.

The Reverend John C. Montgomery, Jr., Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Missouri, was the banquet speaker.

John A. Irvine, Canada (Ontario), was elevated to the presidency for 1978-79, with Royal D. Crowell, Nevada, first vice-president, and Dean C. Settle, Colorado, second vice-president. Robert P. Beach, Massachusetts, was re-elected secretary-treasurer and Charles T. Jackson, Iowa, was re-elected assistant secretary-treasurer.

The fifty-first annual Conference will be held at The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on February 20 and 21, 1979.

Sir Knight Beach, P.S.G.W., is Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and is Past Commander of St. Bernard Commandery No. 12, Boston. His mailing address is 186 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111.

ALLIED MASONIC DEGREE MEETINGS

by
Morrison L. Cooke, S.M., P.G.C., Kentucky



Dr. Eugene Hopp, president, opened the Philaethes Workshop on Friday, February 17, 1978, in the Hotel Washington, Washington, D.C. site of the annual meetings of the Allied Masonic Bodies. The Reverend Canon George A. Stracke gave the Invocation.

James R. Case read a memorial tribute to Conrad Hahn, second Vice-president of the Philaethes Society, who passed away in his sleep a few months ago.

This being the 50th anniversary of the Society, a brief history of the Philaethes was presented by John Black Vrooman, Stewart Pollard and Dwight Smith.

The Grand College of Rites opened the all-day Saturday sessions, with Robert L. Grubb, Grand Chancellor, presiding at the 46th Annual Convocation. Fifty-seven new members were admitted making a total of 953. Donations of \$100 were transmitted to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the K.Y.C.H. Medical Foundation, and Royal Arch Research Assistance.

Gordon Merrick, General Grand High Priest, R.A.M., was made an Honorary Past Grand Chancellor; Allen Roberts, Virginia, was elected Grand Chancellor for the ensuing year; and Jerry Marsengill, Iowa, was elected Grand Sentinel.

The 45th Communication of Grand Master's Council, A.M.D., followed, with Samuel A. Wise, Sovereign Master, presiding. Wise presented a hand-made apron to M.V. Alex Adams, P.G.C., Sovereign Grand Master, to be worn each year by the presiding Grand Master. The Council voted this year to give \$100 to the Royal Arch Research.

Fourteen members were obligated into the Grand Master's Council, plus 2 courtesy candidates. Morrison L. Cooke, Kentucky P.G.C., was elected Sovereign Master, and the Rev. George A. Stracke, New Mexico, started in line as Tyler. Cooke presented a commission as a Kentucky Colonel to Canon Stracke, who is currently M.I. Grand Master of the Grand Council R. & S.M. of New Mexico. Sam Wise was recommended to receive the Red Branch of Eri.

M.V. Alex Adams then opened the 45th Annual Communication of Grand Council, Allied Masonic Degrees of the U.S.A. The Reverend George Stracke presented a Holy Bible to the Grand Council; last year he made a similar presentation to Grand College of Rites.

The Grand Council had a net gain of 100 during the past year, and 11 new Charters were presented at this meeting. There are now 130 Councils in the country. There were 304 registered for the meetings this year.

The Reverend Dwight McAlister, R.E. Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, spoke at the banquet to an overflow crowd.

Warren Bower, Ohio, was elected Sovereign Grand Master, and Raymond A. Loose, Ohio, Grand Sentinel. Bruce H. Hunt, Missouri, General Grand Recorder of the General Grand Council, R. & S.M., was re-elected Trustee. Harold Voorhis, P.S.V.G.M., installed the new officers and presented Bower with the Knight Grand Cross.

James H. Horne, Sovereign Master, presided at the 45th Annual Communication of Installed Masters Council, A.M.D., and obligated 30 new candidates.

The Council of the Nine Muses, No. 13, A.M.D., followed, with Henry Emerson as Sovereign → → →

Master. Bruce Hunt read a paper entitled "A Solid Foundation." Brother Hunt rotated to Sovereign Master with Emmerson going to the bottom of the line.

Great Chief's Council No. 0, Knight Masons, opened its 11th annual meeting, Morrison L. Cooke, Excellent Chief, presiding. There were eight candidates obligated by Past Chief S. Flory Diehl. Since Carl Baesemann, P.D.C., was ill and unable to be present last year, E.C. Cooke asked Past Great Chief Harold Voorhis to present Brother Baesemann with his Past Excellent Chief's jewel.

M.E. James M. Alter, M.E. Great Chief, then opened the Grand Council, Knight Masons of the U.S.A. Cyril H. York, Maryland, was installed new Great Chief, together with the other officers, including Robert McMillan, Virginia, as Sentinel, and Jerry Marsengill, Iowa, who had been appointed Excellent Chief of Great Chief's Council. Walter McCracken, P.G.C., was re-appointed Scribe of this Council.

The fun groups, Masonic Order of the Bath, Henry Emmerson, Commander-General, and Ye Ancient Order of Corks, Robert C. Seel, Grand Bung for the Americas, closed out the day's activities by initiating 59 neophytes in each body.

Sunday morning began with the K.Y.C.H. Breakfast. A near record 110 were present. M.E. Grand Master General, John C. Kaufman, presided and installed the newly-elected Grand Sentinel, Donald S. Smith, Maine P.G.C., who was unable to be present for installation in Omaha.

The Society of Blue Friars was then opened by Dwight Smith, Grand Abbott, succeeding the late Conrad Hahn. After a fitting tribute to Brother Hahn, the newly-selected Blue Friar was presented. He is the Reverend Forrest D. Haggard, D.D., P.G.M. Kansas, and currently the World President of the Churches of Christ. He is also General Grand Chaplain of the General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., International. His provocative, but inspiring paper was entitled; "Religious Revival in the World and its Impact on Freemasonry." In his paper he noted an encouraging sign in a swing toward a more

conservative life-style among teen-aged high school students, and a high percentage supporting traditional families and religion, and opposed to the use of drugs.

The meeting came to a close with the Knight Templar Priests Ingatherings. Grand Preceptor's Tabernacle, presided over by C. Ray Scarborough, Preceptor, obligated six new candidates, and one courtesy candidate. Among the new candidates was Sir Knight William P. Wilson, California, newly-appointed R.E. Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, K.T., for the balance of the Grand Encampment Triennium.

Al Crump, P.D.C., M.E. Grand Preceptor, opened the Grand College Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and G. Wilbur Bell, M.E.P.G.M., Past Grand Preceptor, gave a moving tribute to the late George Moreland, Grand Registrar of Grand College, and John B. Cottrell, Jr., Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, both of whom had passed away during the year. The Grand College reported a gain of 28. Arthur W. Craft, Ohio, was elected Grand Preceptor; George M. Fulmer, Maryland, was elected Grand Registrar; and T. Olin Gore, Jr., P.G.C., Mississippi, was appointed Grand Outer Guard. The Reverend Canon George A. Stracke was appointed Grand Prelate.

It was proposed that an annual donation of \$1,000 be made to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in alternate years.

Next year's meetings of the Allied Masonic Degrees and other bodies will be one week later, due to the change of location of the Grand Masters' Conference. The date will be February 23 through 25, 1979, at the Hotel Washington, Washington, D.C.

Past Grand Commander Cooke, Reporter for the A.M.D. Meetings, resides at 2538 Saratoga Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40205.



DEMOLAY: WHAT OF TOMORROW?

by

George M. Saunders, P.G.M. and Grand Secretary
Supreme Council, International Order of DeMolay

In 1945, as World War II was ending, a nation opposed to our way of life held 160 million of its own people in slavery. Within 19 years, after the United States had spent \$600 billion to fight the adversary and its cursed ideology, the avowed enemy of our way of life has reportedly become the slavemaster of one billion human beings, and it now controls 25% of the earth's land mass. Something drastic MUST be done if we are to offset this ideology with any degree of success.

Admittedly, there is a definite decline in the moral fibre of our nation particularly among the young people on this North American continent. It is of utmost urgency that something be done to counteract this decline. We can be hopeful of success if the Masonic Fraternity offers a helping hand, but it will require a step far greater than anything we as Masons have yet attempted as an organization within the last fifty years.

Dialectical materialism (the official philosophy of the communist world), which came into being in the latter part of the nineteenth century under the influence of Karl Marx, was not presented by a *worker*, but by a *doctor of philosophy*. The basic outline of this type of teaching and its application has to be brought to the full attention of the thinking of our young people. Masons likewise need to have it brought to their notice ever so forcefully. We are all lethargic, as well as without full knowledge of the workings of this evil world force. We do not realize the danger the North American nations face for the future. Something's got to be done — and done fast!

The United States lists a population of around 215 million, Canada about 23 million. There is a Masonic population in

the United States of some four million. DeMolay membership (non-adults) in the United States and Canada is near 160,000. The Roman Catholics in the U.S.A. boast a roster of around 45 million, and claim even more. The percentage of DeMolays to Masons is very small. Isn't it reasonable to assume that there should be at least *one* DeMolay for *each* Mason in the United States? And perhaps *one* Chapter of DeMolay for *each* Masonic Blue Lodge? With the population figures these days, one versus one would be a very conservative ratio. Certainly, the male youths are available.

Great progress has been made in the last six or seven years in securing recognition of DeMolays on the part of State Masonic Grand Lodges, Jurisdictions and local Lodges. Their existence has also been considered favorably by York and Scottish Rite Bodies, subsidiary Clubs and groups. The Shrine has always been well aware of DeMolay, its function, its necessity for future growth in a Masonic atmosphere, its potential for Shrinedom, but, when the above figures are studied, it must be realized that the surface hasn't even been scratched as far as possibilities are concerned.

What have been some of the stumbling blocks?

(1) One of the Shrine's Past Imperial Potentates and founder of DeMolay, the late Frank S. Land, doubtless envisioned DeMolay as *legion* in every part of the civilized world. His fight and that of his followers has been an uphill struggle. However, with recognition given on the part of adult Masonic organizations in general in the last several years, there has been *some* growth, but the increase should have been far greater than has been shown. → → →

(2) To be a DeMolay Advisor or a Councilman carries the prerequisite of Masonry. With its limited membership throughout the world, DeMolay has been able to make but a very small impact. There is a definite lethargy on the part of Masons to ally themselves with this worthy youth organization, which in the future can mean the sustaining of, if not an increase in Masonic population. This weakness would be overcome with more and larger DeMolay Chapters throughout the field — that's the answer! (3) Everything these days costs money. DeMolay costs money. But it has for many years underwritten its own expense budget with the occasional help of the more affluent individuals or groups. During the depression DeMolay almost faded out of the picture. Today, it is in fair financial shape. It must be considered, however, that if sufficient growth is to be expected for the chief purpose of saving our country and our way of life and thus preserving our Masonic organizations, much more in the way of financial help is definitely required — millions, as against hundreds as in the past. Let's ask ourselves, IS IT WORTH IT?

(4) Where are the probable sources of needed revenue? Deep gratitude has been expressed for assistance given since, and just prior to, Judge Porter's incumbency as Shrine Imperial Potentate. Some help has likewise been rendered by the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of the A.A.S.R. Funds from the York Rite Bodies are acknowledged with thanks. It must be understood, however, that DeMolay is and has been largely self-supporting, and could continue to be self-supporting even with a membership running into millions, if it were only possible for them to "get off the ground," so to speak. This "taking off" period would require several years of the proper kind of *financial* and *fraternal* assistance.

Let's think again: What are the present possible sources of assistance of sufficient magnitude to permit a proper "take off"? Could it be from State Masonic Grand Lodges? Partially so, but to a very small degree, due primarily to the lack of

national or continental unanimity at that level.

Could it be the Scottish and York Rite Bodies? Only to a limited extent. Their help would, however, expand in proportion to assistance from a main source.

Could large scale assistance be expected from individual donors or organizations, service clubs, or from similar community services? No, practically none!

Considering all the foregoing possible channels of support as being but a very small portion of actual requirements, what is the next and only probability?

Let's think back: In the early 1920's many Shriners were faced with the sad realization that Shrinedom membership was falling off decidedly, and, of course, Masonry was in the same deplorable situation. A great figure or group, heading the Imperial Shrine, realized that something drastic had to be done. They struck on the idea of taking under their wing the needs of crippled children. It is recalled that an edict was issued by the then Imperial Potentate, assessing each Shrine member \$2.00, and in 1951 this amount was raised to \$5.00 per year. This philanthropic project was undertaken, and has been a marked national success. It has satisfied the needs and aims of the Shrine, but more particularly, it has meant more in placing the Shrine and Masonry in the proper light with the philanthropic world. For many years, the financial burden had been carried by the Shrine itself, but as time elapsed, many, many, wills, bequests and donations have been made to the organization, not alone from people of Masonic background, but from other citizens of wealth, with a desire to assist this worthy work for the physically crippled child.

What more worthy cause could there be than to assist the youth of North America to become leaders — to lend their own efforts in assisting other youths and bettering their lot generally? One effect would be a marked decrease in delinquency.

Study will disclose that the youth of our adversaries are being pushed to the limit to put across their types of

ideology. We take the "tolerant" or apathetic approach, and are being "sold down the river." Four million young men, built on the Masonic pattern, serving as leaders and later as advisors, could make a tremendous impact on our countries of North America. The membership of 160,000, as shown by the present rolls, is scarcely a dent in the national effort. There must be NUMBERS for a suitable presentation of the marvelous code of ethics of the Order of DeMolay. Perhaps these numbers could be enlarged slightly by capturing the younger mind, at 12 or 13 years of age, as "Pre-Molays," prepared for induction into DeMolay at 14. The earlier a youth's mind is cultivated for a proper initiation of principles, the better for the youth, the community, and the hopeful ultimate of our Masonic Orders.

At this point there could be a review made of Past Imperial Potentate Marshall Porter's communication to all Potentates and Divans throughout Shrinedom. Judge Porter realized clearly the utter necessity of training the young minds. Suffice it to quote two short paragraphs of his letter:

"There is, I think, a lack of guidance of our youth in these areas which DeMolay supplies admirably. After all, DeMolay teaches, as Masonry does, that there are certain truths which are eternal. It teaches through the symbolism of Jacques DeMolay that these are dearer than life itself. That is because we know that we abandon them to our peril.

"If this premise is right there is here a great weapon for bringing home to our young folks an understanding of these truths and their need to understand and practice them. What better activity could Shriners individually undertake? What more meritorious work could the Shriners as such engage in? They have devoted these 60 years collectively to curing crippled limbs. How would it be if we all went to work to *prevent crippling in young minds?*"

Within the years past, the entire structure and operation of DeMolay can be considered as functioning at peak efficiency. It is training devoted persons, adults as well as active DeMolay; it has a

complete up-to-date working staff capable of undertaking any increase in membership with the utmost dispatch and efficiency. The machinery is there to accommodate the addition of dozens, yea hundreds of additional field workers, with duties commensurate with requirements. This was not the case a few years ago. The time is now ripe for a tremendous increase in the DeMolay population, and it might be added, along with DeMolays it is likewise essential to have an increase in the girls organizations.

All of us as friends of DeMolay and its teachings and as lovers of our great country and our way of life, should lend help in seeing that funds needed to successfully promote DeMolay to desired growth and development can be assured by setting up a tax exempt endowment fund of a size to provide adequate income to cover the promotional expenses of a growing youth program for DeMolay.

It should, nevertheless, be considered without a single doubt or qualm, that once the people — Masons and non-Masons alike — grasp the fact that Masonry has undertaken an *additional* worthwhile program of guiding the minds of young people, bequests would increase by arithmetical progression! So, in the final analysis, total DeMolay funds would be far in excess of what they are today.

A top-level edict or mandate may very well be the order of the day — today — and the present executives could very well be the ones to act, with, of course, the knowledge and concurrence of top members of the Masonic Structure. Judge Porter probably was a little early to be the one to consider this important step, yet he well saw the need. Frank Land was also too early; furthermore, he probably could not have so acted, as he would have considered it a conflict of interest. There is further probable conflict to be considered by Imperial Recorder George M. Saunders, a Past Grand Master and Secretary General of DeMolay. Who, then, is the only one left to act with favor and without fear — today? The answer is Masonic Leaders.

As the Good Book says: "Train up a child in the way he should go, → → →



Preceding Easter Sunrise Services at Arlington National Cemetery last year, Mrs. Willard M. Avery, wife of the Grand Master, hosted a reception and luncheon for wives of Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery officers at the Hotel Washington. Mrs. Avery is shown above (right) with Mrs. Wilber M. Brucker, widow of the late Grand Master Brucker.

Similar affairs took place over Easter Weekend in past years.



. . . DEMOLAY?

and when he is old he will not depart from it."

And the words of the former F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover are fitting:

"By applying the ideals and principles of DeMolay to the leadership of tomorrow, you can assure for yourselves and for future generations a world purged of the threat of arrogant and intolerant despotism which shows the hearts and minds of all men of good will."

Your help is needed in the work of DeMolay.

Sir Knight Saunders, in addition to his work as DeMolay Grand Secretary, is Past Imperial Potentate and current Imperial Recorder for the Imperial Council, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. His correspondence address is 323 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

Thirty-two candidates were initiated into Queen Christina Court No. 4, Order of the Amaranth, Inc., in Peoria, Illinois, February 25. In attendance and serving as Acting Royal Matron for the event was Mrs. Doris B. Bell, Richland, Washington, Past Supreme Royal Matron of the Supreme Council, Order of the Amaranth, Inc.

Candidates included Most Eminent Past Grand Master of Grand Encampment G. Wilbur Bell; Lyle R. Melvin, Grand Secretary-Recorder of York Rite Bodies in Illinois; Frank G. Billmire, Grand Junior Warden of Illinois Knights Templar; John B. Hall, Grand Royal Arch Captain of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois; and Chalmers Carroll, K.Y.C.H. and Grand Secretary of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Peoria.

Among the initiation officers were Sir Knights J. Emerson Miller, Royal Patron of Court No. 4, who is Past Grand Commander of Illinois and Past Grand High Priest of the Illinois Grand Royal Arch Chapter; and Sir Knight Gary Hermann, Illinois Deputy Grand Commander and Treasurer of Queen Christina Court.



(l-r) G. Wilbur Bell, Doris B. Bell, J. Emerson Miller, and Frank G. Billmire.

LAST MONTH

April 30 is the last day for Voluntary Campaign contributions from Constituent Commanderies to be received by State Chairmen.

Final day for receipt of Grand Commandery Reports in Springfield is May 12.

Highest Campaign Figures Since 1974-75

Tenth Voluntary Campaign total for the week ending March 3 is a record \$213,174.77. This is over \$12,000 more than the last highest 13th week total set during the Seventh Voluntary Campaign in 1974-75. State totals to date follow:

Alabama	\$1,100.00
Arizona	1,524.05
Arkansas	1,040.00
California	12,316.13
Colorado	1,610.80
Connecticut	1,177.00
Dist. of Col.	2,549.00
Florida	5,861.50
Georgia	14,010.31
Idaho	2,469.16
Illinois	3,596.45
Indiana	3,120.75
Iowa	280.25
Kansas	1,312.00
Kentucky	1,852.86
Louisiana	2,453.65
Maine	2,342.70
Maryland	4,912.50
Mass.-R.I.	570.00
Michigan	4,585.50
Minnesota	4,628.00
Mississippi	1,583.28
Missouri	4,850.58
Montana	4,574.00
Nebraska	75.00
Nevada	2,950.71
New Hampshire	649.50
New Jersey	1,613.40
New Mexico	630.90
New York	7,018.27
North Carolina	2,986.14
North Dakota	1,235.25
Ohio	12,623.45
Oklahoma	1,257.00
Oregon	2,220.90
Pennsylvania	9,761.57
South Carolina	725.00
South Dakota	6,217.15
Tennessee	4,625.93
Texas	61,442.99
Vermont	461.90
Virginia	6,267.40
Washington	760.50
West Virginia	948.67
Wisconsin	887.55
Wyoming	1,429.77
Philippines	155.00
St. John's No. 1, Delaware	21.00
Honolulu No. 1, Hawaii	60.00
Alaska No. 1, Fairbanks	100.00

Spring Boost for K.T.E.F. Clubs

Showers of contributions, instead of snow and rain, mark April's additions to the Grand Commander's and Grand Master's Clubs. At a time when more and more individuals are seeking philanthropic areas to which to donate funds, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. — in existence since 1955 — has proven to be an efficient, practical outlet.

The Grand Commander's Club this month welcomes six new members:

Wisconsin No. 1 — David H. Minshall
 North Carolina No. 2 — Harold W. Uhrbrock
 Arkansas No. 5 — Lindsey G. Griffith
 Michigan No. 5 — Charles Erdman
 Texas No. 8 — Sam B. Jeffrey
 Texas No. 9 — Robert E. Lindsey

and the Grand Master's Club welcomes four:

No. 85 — Mrs. Viola M. Kuns
 No. 86 — Herbert M. Neuhaus
 No. 87 — Mrs. Virginia Perry
 No. 88 — Harold W. Uhrbrock

Grand Commander's Club members have made minimum initial contributions of \$100, to be repeated annually or until a \$1,000 total is reached. At that time, or upon a one-time contribution of \$1,000, the individual gains membership in the Grand Master's Club and is awarded a metal wallet card and personalized bronze desk plaque.

Contributions are tax-deductible. They are free-will offerings for individuals and provide no Commandery credit.

Information on enrollment is available by contacting G. Wilbur Bell, Executive Director, 509 S. Sixth Street, P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Anchorage No. 2, Alaska	100.00
Bavaria No. 3, Munich, Germany	260.00
Hermann von Salza No. 1 Frankfurt, Germany	180.00
Heidelberg No. 2, Germany	210.00
Al Hasa No. 1, Dhahran Saudi Arabia	200.00
Harry J. Miller, U.D., Bitburg, Germany	670.00
Miscellaneous	109.35

GEORGIA: THE LAST COLONY

The first extant record tying the colony of Georgia with Freemasonry, appears in the minutes of the Grand Lodge of England, December 13, 1733. At that time the resolution was proposed "to make a generous Collection amongst all [members of regular Lodges] to send distressed Brethren to Georgia, where they may be comfortably provided for." It is not known whether any "collection" ensued or whether passage was paid for any "distressed Brethren"; but it is known that General James Oglethorpe, founder of the Georgia colony, and many of the first 100 settlers who came with him were Masons. They arrived early in 1733, and on February 12 founded the settlement of Savannah.

Georgia was named for King George II and was the last English colony to be established in America. It was, from the beginning, recognized as a place where the oppressed and the poor could immigrate and begin life anew. In fact, when Oglethorpe petitioned for a land grant in 1732 he requested that the area be provided "as a refuge for indigent debtors and persecuted Protestant sects." At first the colony was closed to Roman Catholics and Jews, but such restrictions were quietly ignored as the settlements grew in size and wealth.

Hernando de Soto was the first person to pass through the region in about 1540. In time the Spanish established missions and garrisons on the "Sea Islands" along the coast. When the English arrived, there were constant outbreaks with the Spanish to the south, but Oglethorpe and his people were determined to hold the land for the crown — though little did they know that in less than 50 years the land would be part of the United States.

The citizens of Georgia were generally strong Loyalists, so much so that Georgia did not send delegates to the First Continental Congress. In short time, though, Georgia patriots began to organize, and in 1775 (late by northern standards) they sent their first representatives. A branch of the "sons of Liberty" was also organized in Georgia, and was led by Brothers N. W. Jones, Joseph Habersham, George Walton, and John Houstoun. One story relates how these men "entered" the British powder stronghold in Georgia, stole a large supply of powder and sent it to Boston where it was used by the Colonists at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

John Houstoun was later elected first Governor of Georgia by the Provincial Congress. In addition, three Georgia Masons signed the Declaration of Independence: George Walton, Button Gwinnett and Lyman Hall.

This last of King George's colonies ratified the Constitution and became a part of the United States on January 2, 1788 — the fourth state to do so.

The first Lodge of Masons in Georgia was organized at Savannah on February 21, 1734. Brother Oglethorpe was first Master of this lodge, known as Solomon's No. 1, and he served in that office for nine years.

The first man to be raised in Georgia was also one of the original colonists and the first doctor of medicine in the colony, Noble Jones, a patriot and friend of Oglethorpe's. Jones succeeded the founder as Master of the Lodge.

Royal Arch Masonry has existed in Georgia at least from 1806, the Grand Chapter being organized in 1822. The Grand Council of Georgia was organized on May 2, 1826. And the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia was organized April 25, 1860, only a few years after the re-organization of the Grand Encampment. In 1860 the Grand Commandery consisted of Georgia Commandery No. 1 at Augusta, St. Omar No. 2 at Macon, St. Aldemar No. 3 at Columbus, and Coeur de Lion No. 4 at Atlanta. Today, the state boasts 40 Commanderies and 12,949 members.

Grand Chapter Consecrated in Greece

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Greece was duly consecrated in an open installation at the Royal Olympic Hotel in Athens, on November 26, 1977. Some 216 distinguished guests, members and visitors were in attendance as M.E. Companion Gordon R. Merrick, General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, opened the proceedings. Sir Knight Merrick, who also served as Grand Installing Officer, acknowledged the three Greek Chapters now in existence — Olympia No. 1, Athina No. 2, and Aegeus No. 3 — which make up the Grand Chapter of Greece, the 58th Grand Chapter so consecrated.

Officers installed at the ceremony included William E. Kaloudis, Grand High Priest; Efstathios Liakopoulos, Grand King; Stefanos Paipetis, Grand Scribe. Nicolaos Higby, Grand Master of the 3rd Veil as well as Recorder of Digenis Akritis Commandery U.D. in Athens, reported on the event.

A commemorative medal (above), with the inscription "Grand Chapter of Greece 1977" in Greek on one side, and the head of Zeus on the reverse, was struck for the occasion. For interested Companions, the



medal is available in either silver (\$30 each) or bronze (\$20 each); those interested may contact Companion George Vasiliou, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Greece, 9 Eptachalkou Street, Thission, Athens 306, Greece.

Following installation, a banquet was held with over 230 present. M.E. Companion Merrick welcomed the gathering, and toasts were made "in honor of the Republic of Greece, the Grand Master of Greece, and leaders of all nations encouraging Freemasonry."

Jefferson's \$15,000,000 Buy

In 1800 the population of the United States had grown to such an extent that many people literally "spilled over" into the great territories to the west — Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio. More land was needed if the country was to grow.

Louisiana territory, which extended from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada and from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains, was owned by Napoleon. It covered a land mass equal to the United States at that time.

President Thomas Jefferson was interested in obtaining the port of New Orleans, which was not only an important shipping site, but strategic in terms of the country's defense. Jefferson sent his representatives to France to negotiate for the purchase of New Orleans, and authorized the payment of \$2,000,000 for the area. Needless to say, Jefferson and his emissaries were surprised when Napoleon offered to sell the whole of the Louisiana Territory for 100,000,000 Francs or about \$20,000,000. After some "haggling" the amount was reduced to approximately \$15,000,000. The House and Senate both approved the purchase, and on April 3, 1803, the Louisiana Territory became part of the United States.

The country now owned a tract of territory that doubled its previous land size.

The trek west was underway.

Charles Edward Cook
Indiana
Grand Commander — 1954
Born August 19, 1883
Died February 18, 1978



Indiana Masons to Tour Holy Land

Robert E. Price, Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Indiana, has announced a Pilgrimage of Indiana Templars to the Holy Land and Rome as one of the activities of the 1978-79 Templar year.

The trip, scheduled for September 20-30, 1978, is open to any Indiana Mason, his family and friends. Departure will be from Indianapolis via TWA regularly scheduled flights and thence from Kennedy International Airport, New York, to Tel Aviv. Sightseeing tours, most meals, hotels, transfers, and portage are included in the total price of \$1,199.00 per person (including tax and services; double occupancy.)

Members of the group will visit Jerusalem, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Megiddo, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Haifa, Caesarea, Tel Aviv, and will spend one night in a kibbutz. Leaving Israel, the group will stop in Rome for three nights and will tour the Vatican, including St. Peter's and the Sistine Chapel, the Roman Forum, and other points of contemporary and historical interest.

A deposit of \$100.00 per person is required to confirm space on the tour. Inquiries and requests for information can be made to Robert E. Price, Box 225, Connersville, Indiana 47331.

Wisconsin Unity

The Worshipful Grand Master of Freemasonry in Wisconsin, together with the Grand Heads of all Masonic Bodies, proclaimed February as "Blue Lodge Month" in honor of the Father of our Country. York Rite Membership Coordinator Robert Stockman of Madison announced "Blue Lodge Month" with a flyer addressed to all presiding officers, secretaries and recorders of the York Rite, plus Grand Officers of Symbolic Lodge and secretaries of Scottish Rite Valleys. In it he wrote, "If we are to survive as a true Masonic Family, it is necessary that we join hands, encourage members of both Rites to affiliate with each other"; and in preservation of the heritage left by Brother Washington, "We must display before our public true brotherly love, and practice charity and concern for the well-being of our fellow man."

Sir Knight Stockman notes that Wisconsin is beginning to make great strides in Masonic unity, "and it is beginning to show in our Commanderies."

Elrod, Brown, Larson



Noted in March — Cook County (Illinois) Sheriff Richard J. Elrod (far right), Program Chairman for Chicago's Medinah Temple, greets distinguished Shriners (from left), Sir Knight and Judge Sheldon Brown, recently appointed to the Appellate Court, and Sir Knight Charles Larson, immediate Past Potentate of Medinah Temple. Also pictured is John Pont, Athletic Director at Northwestern University who was guest speaker at Medinah's bi-monthly luncheon.



KNIGHT VOICES

COMMENTS FROM READERS



□ I am a collector of old U.S. Cavalry equipment. I would like to obtain old crossed sabre hat devices, 45-70 ammo pouches, saddle bags, possibly even a cavalry sabre and guidon as well.

Any pictures or buckles would be deeply appreciated. I am not able to pay for anything and would appreciate any donations. I am trying to start a Cavalry collection so I can give lectures at schools.

Any money made from lectures or exhibits would go toward our Eye Foundation. So if anyone has anything dealing with the U.S. Cavalry which is gathering dust, please send it to me and I will pay all postage. *Tony P. Minnick, 906 Tralan Drive, Greensburg, Indiana 47240*

P.S. I really enjoy reading your magazine!

□ I enjoy reading my *Knight Templar Magazine* each month and find it a continuing source of spiritual and intellectual stimulation.

It has been my observation that many Sir Knights are and/or have been involved in Scouting, either as a youth or as an adult leader. I am interested in hearing from any past/present Boy Scouts who have, and would be willing to dispose of, the following items: all wool "commissioner's" blouse or coat, size 40/42, circa 1920-1940; all wool breeches to match blouse, size 34/36; shirt for above uniform; 10½ oz., long sleeve, wool serge shirt, size 15-33; 12 oz. wool serge trousers, size 34/36R; old Scout memorabilia, including books, patches, medals, etc. Please send description and condition of items and terms. All replies will be answered. *David A. Nuss, Pikes Peak Commandery No. 6, Knights Templar, 6-410B I Street, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506*

□ I would appreciate assistance in locating my Knight Templar Sword — engraved "William Earl Duncan" — left in the Richmond, Indiana, Masonic Temple prior to my extended travel around this country and others. I'm now living in New York and am interested in its return. Any cost will be paid. *W. Earl Duncan, 660 East 242 Street, Apt. 5B, New York, New York 10470.*

□ I have just finished reading the February issue of the *Knight Templar Magazine* and was particularly impressed with the article on page 11. This is the "York Rite of Freemasonry" by Kenneth Culver Johnson, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A.

I am wondering if there are any reprints of this article available as this could be used as another tool in recruiting for the York Rite. Really, something of this nature should be available from the Grand Bodies to be used by the local membership. I have copies of a few promotional York Rite booklets but none deal with the history as does Sir Knight Johnson's. *J. Allan Suther, Secretary-Recorder, Lenoir Chapter No. 73, Lenoir Commandery No. 33, P.O. Box 166, Lenoir, North Carolina 28645*

Editor's Note: The supply of Knight Templar Magazines is limited. However, we may suggest that the article be photocopied if desired.

□ I am a Sir Knight of Miami Commandery No. 13, Miami, Florida. I am interested in securing for my personal collection old silver and/or gold Masonic Medals; also books relating to the same. *Sheldon Arpad, 8603 S.W. 68 Ct., Apt. 3, Miami, Florida 33143*





A SONG OF SPRING

You have to believe in happiness,
Or happiness never comes.
I know that a bird chirps none the less
When all he finds is crumbs.
You have to believe the buds will grow
Believe in the grass in the days of snow;
Oh, that's the reason a bird can sing—
On his darkest day he believes in Spring.

You have to believe in happiness —
It isn't an outward thing.
The Spring never makes the song, I guess,
As much as the song the Spring.
Aye, many a heart could find content
If it saw the joy on the road it went
The joy ahead when it had to grieve —
For the joy is there — but you have to believe.

Douglas Malloch



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