



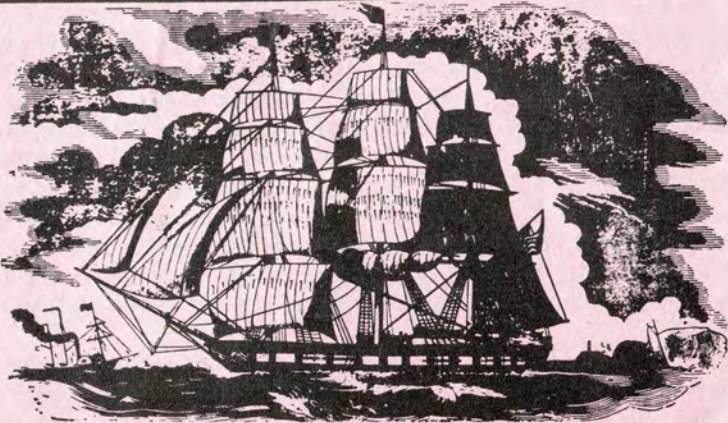
# Knight Templar

VOLUME XXVI

OCTOBER 1980

NUMBER 10

FOR  
**CALIFORNIA**  
AND THE  
**GOLD REGION DIRECT!**



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## **CONFERENCES AND FESTIVALS**

Every Templar should be aware that there are seven Regional York Rite Conferences held annually — on corresponding dates each year, if possible, to enable the Department or Region to plan attendance in advance. The presiding officers of the Conference are the Regional Deputy General Grand Master of the Cryptic Rite, the Deputy General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, and Right Eminent Department Commander for the Grand Encampment.

These three make the plans and necessary arrangements for motel or hotel reservations, meeting rooms, dining facilities, the agenda and similar details. The Grand Encampment notifies — by letter — each Grand Commandery officer, elected and appointed, and every Past Grand Commander within the individual Department. The General York Rite Bodies follow related methods. Two, the South Central Conference at Bossier City, Louisiana, and the Northeastern at Concord, New Hampshire, have already taken place. One is scheduled for the Northwestern Region at Boise, Idaho, October 25-26, and two in November — Southwestern at Tucson, Arizona, on the 14th and 15th, and the North Central at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, November 22-23. One has been scheduled next January at Panama City, Florida, and another in May 1981.

Your Grand Master attends ALL Conferences. Also, I make a special point of calling the Templar roll. It tells me very graphically not only who are present but, more revealingly, those who may not be sufficiently interested in the Grand Encampment and in Templary to attend. It is expected and it's essential to be present to be fully informed on Templar membership plans, progress and programs as well as the overall status of the Grand Encampment and the York Rite generally.

On a related subject — the Grand Recorder of Grand Encampment, and also the office headquarters of the two General Grand Bodies, have material outlining the "One-Day York Rite Festival," which could be a membership aid in any jurisdiction. Endorsed and supported by all three bodies, these are available at no cost to encourage and assist in promoting the York Rite. They are distributed at each Conference; they can be used wholly or adapted to individual requirements, but, either way, the leaflets do offer a positive membership approach. The "One-Day York Rite Festival" is a subject well worth investigating. I recommend it highly.



*Kenneth Johnson*

# Knight Templar

The Magazine for York Rite Masons

**OCTOBER:** Almost 133 years ago, gold was discovered near the site of Sutter's Mill in California. It brought a great migration by land and sea of "forty-niners," an event described in the Joan Behrens article on page 7. As a matter of historical recollection, less than a month later, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago was signed with Mexico, bringing New Mexico and California into the United States — at a cost of \$15,000,000. Also noteworthy in that year: Wisconsin, the 30th state, was admitted to the Union; the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid; Oregon was admitted as a territory; and the sixteenth presidential election resulted in the election of Taylor and Fillmore.

P.C.R.

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### KENNETH C. JOHNSON

Grand Master  
19 Pine Manor Drive  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

### PAUL C. RODENHAUSER

Grand Recorder  
14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Editor  
Paul C. Rodenhauser  
Assistant — Joan E. Behrens

Mail magazine materials and correspondence to the Editor, 14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Telephone 312-427-5670.

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# EDITOR'S JOURNAL

**Orlando:** Scene of the 1981 Conference of Grand Masters of North America will be the Sheraton Twin Towers Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The dates are February 15-18. Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the Conference will again be William B. Stansbury, Jr., Past Grand Master of Maryland. Officers of the Grand Encampment will be in attendance for the Conference activities, headed by Grand Master Kenneth C. Johnson.

**Christmas Toast:** The Committee on Religious Activities, chaired by Past Grand Master Gordon J. Brenner, New Jersey, has prepared the Christmas Toast to the Grand Master for Templary's annual Observance of Christmas. Copies of the Toast and Response are available to Grand Recorders from the office of the Grand Recorder of Grand Encampment, Chicago.

**Texas Tour:** Very Eminent Sir Knight George Draffen of Newington, K.C.T., The Grand Seneschal of the Great Priory of Scotland, is in Texas on a Masonic lecture tour from October 4 to October 11. The Grand Seneschal's feature on the uniform of the Knights of the Order in Scotland was published in the July issue of the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

**Tale of Two Worlds:** An account told down through the years says two miners in a rough mining town of the old west attended an opera for the first and, perhaps, only time. One wanted to leave early. "Let's sit it out," said the other — in a response that remains in circulation. "Remember — the opera ain't over until the fat lady sings."

**Pennsylvania Uniform:** Back in 1856, Grand Commander — then Grand Master of Pennsylvania Templars — Charles E. Blumenthal disapproved the wearing of aprons and collars and suggested a buff-colored coat with a red cross on the left breast, buff pants, a white cloak bordered with black, a helmet with a black plume, a cross-hilted sword suspended by a sling belt, a girdle holding the dagger and *a brace of pistols* "because no soldier at present can be considered properly equipped without fire-arms." The addition of a lance was also suggested! (The uniform was *not* adopted.)

**Voorhis:** Harold V. B. Voorhis, known to Masons throughout the country and beyond, writes to add a few points to our review of Robert Macoy in September. He tells us that Macoy's wife, Elizabeth Ann, was Grand Matron of the Eastern Star, New York, 1876. Robert Macoy was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter in 1870 and two years later was elected Grand Patron. Sir Knight Voorhis has an understandable interest in the Macoy article; he has served as Vice-President of Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company since 1946.

**Membership:** "Just tell 'em the facts," says Ed Bloomquist, Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Membership. "If a Mason knows who we are, what we stand for and what we do, the prospect is ours without further explanation or effort." Ed is Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas, largest Grand Commandery in the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.



## **OUR COMMON HERITAGE**

by

**Sir Knight Gilbert H. Hill, P.C.**

**Coronal-Ascalon Commandery No. 31, Denver, Colorado**

To that age which you belong by birth, you are an honest heir. No man can say that he is without heritage. Neither can he say that all that has come to him by birthright is his, to the exclusion of others.

Measure upon measure of inheritance — tangible and intangible — has come to all of us from all the ages. The undistributed inheritance is great, and is being added to all of the time. "Whither man goeth after his allotted time; he taketh little with him." Thus, left for all the ages to come, is the great or small bequest which each person leaves to his survivors.

You and I are multimillionaires in the undistributed inheritance of this age of history. Kings and potentates of the past had no slaves at their command that could equal the power, or perform the tasks of modern electronics. Mighty emperors and royal lords could not make their angry voices carry beyond the confines of their army encampments. We can exchange voice communication around the world. Mighty commanders of the past would wait weeks and months for replies to military messages sent only a few hundred miles.

Thousands upon thousands of people in history's yesterdays have gone from mortal state to dust not knowing the nature of their disability; feeling the scorn of nature, the whim of evil spirits, the wrath of unknown gods. That anxious hour has passed. Mortality is reaching out toward immortality. What once was a brief span — as the immortal Shakespeare puts it: "Out, out, brief candle. . . ." (*Macbeth* V.v) — is now stretching

toward the century mark. Years, and even decades, are now added to the noble Roman life span.

The expansion of the living interval, the extended reach of expression, the harnessing of energy, the relief of suffering and pain of mortal flesh: all add up to human potentials never before dreamed of by even the most audacious seers, past and present.

Throughout the course of history, the donors to successive generations have provided the magnetic compass, the dynamo, steam and Diesel power, the horseless carriage, air travel, sound and sight transmission, radar eyes, and nuclear and atomic energy. These practical devices are here to stay, dedicated to sensible use and sober control.

But more than all the practical conveniences, and the ease of accomplishment of menial work and detail, there is that greater legacy, preserved through all the vicissitudes of time and the elements: Within the boundaries of continental America, between shore and shore, are reminders of the deep love of each parent generation in the will and testament for what they had to give, tendered generously and hopefully.

In Congress Hall in Philadelphia is the old cracked Liberty Bell, majestic in silence. One can hear it still ringing and appealing to mankind to preserve and conserve its precious gift to humanity everywhere.

Behind the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco is the dazzling beauty of a summer sunset. A star is saying goodbye to a planet with the promise → → →



## Masonic Trowel Finds Its Way Home

"There's much more to a Lodge Secretary's lot than taking the minutes of a meeting and corresponding with the Grand Lodge," writes Richard L. Gandt, Secretary of Belmont Shore Lodge No. 716, F. & A.M., Long Beach, and a member of Long Beach Commandery No. 40, California. Take as an example the case of the Masonic Trowel found by a Lodge Brother this past summer.

While cleaning out a vacated apartment in Long Beach, Brother Ernie Charter of Belmont Shore Lodge found a discarded 3<sup>o</sup> Candidate's Trowel. Engraved on the piece was the legend "El Sereno Lodge No. 588, F. & A.M., Los Angeles, California," and the name "Dan D. Kinchen." The Trowel was relayed to Secretary Gandt who immediately wrote to Charles A. Reuter, P.M. and Secretary of El Sereno Lodge. Gandt indicated that he would like to return the Trowel to Brother Kinchen if he was still alive and active in his Lodge. A few days later Brother Reuter replied as follows:

"Research of our records has shown Dan D. Kinchen as a member of El Sereno Lodge No. 499 [*sic*] who affiliated 9/7/48 (not shown where from). There is a notation in the Secretary's book by his signature, 'Deceased,' but no date. Interestingly, within the past several months I received a request from Northern California for verification of membership so that Brother Kinchen's granddaughter could affiliate with Job's Daughters. I am sure she would treasure her grandfather's Masonic Trowel. If you will please forward it to me, I will see that she gets it."

Sir Knight Gandt relayed the Trowel and, as a result, after more than 30 years, a small Masonic treasure has found its way "home" — thanks to the interest of several Masonic Brothers.

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### . . . OUR COMMON HERITAGE

to return on the morrow, with radiance and warmth to bless a new day.

The mighty Niagara, hurling its power in endless energy over the great falls in New York and giving a like picture of awesome strength on the Canada side, defies man to match such might.

The marvel of the centuries-old Redwoods, giants of nature, standing steadfast, throughout all the time and tides of change in 4,000 years, wait patiently for new generations to appreciate.

Tickling into eternity is nature's time clock, Old Faithful Geyser, at Yellowstone Park. Thousands of gallons of scalding hot water shoot skyward every 66 minutes, and drain off into the Firehole River nearby.

The rocky shore at Cypress Point on the coast of California affords a view out

over the broad Pacific Ocean where one can feel the slow strong pulse of the restless sea, beating like a heartthrob at one's feet.

As you stand in the surf on the stormy Atlantic and realize that in Old Testament time a mighty continent slid into the depths of that turbulent brine, carrying with it a whole civilization, you then realize the force of the tide that sent Noah's Ark near the top of Mt. Ararat.

Some bright day man may awake into a new Garden of Eden where no want, no need, no desire, will be without fulfillment. In that day, however, he will know that such was brought about because he preserved his precious heritage and was willing to add to, and share his lot with, those who came after him.

Sir Knight Hill lives at 180 Lakeview Drive, P.O. Box 94, Camdenton, Missouri 65020.



## THE GOLDEN QUEST

by

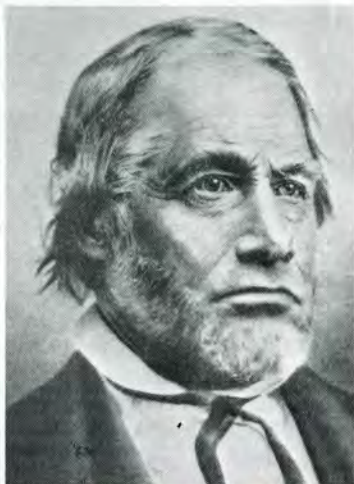
J. E. Behrens, Assistant Editor

The date was January 24, 1848; the scene, a partially-constructed sawmill on the American River in the Coloma Valley, California Territory; the principal character, a New Jersey-born carpenter named James Wilson Marshall. Though the average person may not be familiar with his name, Marshall's discovery of gold the morning of the 24th precipitated the largest mass migration in United States history. Not only Americans,

but men and women from Europe, Asia, and as far away as Australia abandoned careers and families and sought the shortest route to California, which only two years earlier had been a Mexican province.

Marshall's story is partly an American romance and partly an American tragedy. His discovery made many people rich, but he died a poor man. He is described by some as honest, generous and peace loving, and by others as a cantankerous eccentric who envisioned himself a victim of other men's greed and his country's ingratitude.

James was the first of five children of Philip and Sarah Marshall. He was born in Hopewell County, New Jersey, October 8, 1810, with a prophetic "veil" over his face. By age six his family had moved to Lambertville where William received an informal education. He grew up learning



James W. Marshall

the skills of a coach and wagon maker under his father and later worked with his father as carpenter and wheelwright. Philip was a strict Baptist and brought his son up in the faith, but he was not a successful businessman and died penniless in 1834. Soon after, James took off on his own. For the next ten years he traveled westward stopping periodically to try his hand at farming.

In 1844, Marshall joined a group of pioneers who left Missouri — then the western boundary of the United States — and drove off toward the Oregon Trail with its stories of rich farm land and descriptions of an "earthly paradise" known as California. Most of the immigrants settled in Oregon, but in 1845 Marshall and 42 others headed into the Sacramento Valley. In July the party split up and Marshall arrived at Sutter's Fort.



John A. Sutter

Marshall later took, arriving in California in 1839. Sutter courted the Mexican officials and was given a grant for land eventually covering some → → →



50,000 acres. He even became a Mexican citizen and received a commission as Captain in the Mexican Army. Sutter named his small agrarian empire New Helvetia and it was not uncommon for western immigrants to settle there. The landlord was hospitable, he was willing to hire people to work his land, and Sutter's Fort provided security against hostile Indians. Marshall easily accepted Sutter's invitation to hire him as a coachmaker and carpenter.

It is sheer speculation, but interesting nonetheless, to suggest that Marshall and Sutter were attracted by Masonic ties in the mid 1840's. Both Gould, the Masonic historian, and biographer Denslow state that in September 1853 Sutter was elected to receive the Degrees in Corinthian Lodge No. 9 in Marysville (settled in 1842 and located just a few miles from Sutter's Fort); but proof of his initiation has not been found. Marshall's Lodge membership is lost, but it is reported that he was a member of Sonora Chapter No. 2, R.A.M., and he was acquainted with many brethren with ample opportunity for Masonic companionship.

As carpenter, 34-year-old Marshall built everything from furniture to coaches. He was described by contemporary diarists as "ingenious," and a "natural born mechanic." He was paid in cattle and horses, and, by 1845, Marshall obtained a small piece of land where he built a cabin and grazed his livestock. Life went smoothly until June 1846 when Marshall left with a group of New Helvetians and followed John Fremont to fight for California's liberation as a "Bear Flag" revolutionist.

The "Bear Flag" contingent or "Battalion of California Volunteers" was, for a brief time, a branch of the U.S. Navy. As such, Marshall was briefly employed in the service of his country. The Volunteers were under direct jurisdiction of Brother John D. Sloat, Pacific Squadron Commander, who, on July 7, 1846, captured

Monterey and claimed California for the U.S. On July 11, the U.S. flag was waving over Sutter's Fort and by January, California was a U.S. possession.

Marshall received an honorable discharge in 1847 and realized \$200 for his military service. When he returned home he found his cabin looted and his stock gone. Marshall's bitterness was taking root. He returned to Sutter, but this time he became a partner instead of employee. Sutter wanted a sawmill to provide lumber for an improved flourmill and to build a new town, Sutterville. Marshall would provide his expertise and oversee the work; Sutter would provide money, material and labor. The partners would share equally in the profits. Marshall chose a site about 40 miles from the Fort on the South Fork of the American River, outside the limits of Sutter's land grant.



**Sutter's Mill**

By January 1, 1848, the foundation was laid, and the millrace was being dug. As night fell on the 23rd, Marshall went out to inspect the day's work. He noticed some bright pebbles and told his workmen that "he believed he had found a gold mine." The men showed no enthusiasm, but the next day Marshall went to the millrace at sun-up. The gold pebbles were lying in about six inches of water. In an effort to determine whether they were gold or iron pyrite, Marshall picked one up and hammered it with a rock. He could pound it into any shape without



breaking it. When he showed it to his men, most of them shrugged it off, not believing Marshall's claim. But one workman, Henry W. Bigler, wrote in his diary, "I must make note of this, for it may be of some importance at some time. Monday the 24th this day some kind of mettle was found in the tail race that looks like gold, first discovered by James Martial, the Boss of the Mill."

It would not be an exaggeration to say that James Marshall was the first victim of "gold fever." He rode to Sutter's Fort and burst into his partner's office, demanding everyone be dismissed. Behind locked doors they tested the samples. Sutter, too, was convinced. They decided to swear the mill workmen to secrecy, at least for the six months it would take to complete the mill. In return for keeping the gold a secret, the workmen were permitted to prospect when they were not working. But it did not remain a secret for long.

The first newspaper account of gold appeared in *The Californian* dated March 15, 1848. It read: "**GOLD MINE FOUND.** — In a newly made raceway of the Saw Mill recently erected by Captain Sutter . . . gold has been found in considerable quantities. One person brought thirty dollars worth [just under 2 oz.] to New Helvetia, gathered in a short time. . . ." Surprisingly, this and similar backpage blurbs did not excite much interest. But slowly the news spread and the tales grew. By the end of June the fields around Sutter's Mill were filled with miners, and San Francisco's population had dropped from 800 to 200. Even the mayor put a sign on his door: "Gone to the mines."

Back East the first reports of gold came in August. Again, the initial reaction was restrained, but by the end of the year the fever had struck. One of the greatest causes of excitement came when a messenger sent by Governor Mason arrived in Washington, D.C. The messenger carried pieces of gold (weighing 216 oz. and later

assayed to be 894½ fine) and the governor's recommendation: "I have no hesitation now in saying that there is more gold in the country, drained by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, that will pay the cost of the present war with Mexico a hundred times over." The "forty-niners" were on their way.

In the meantime, Sutter and Marshall entered into a mining partnership with Isaac Humphrey, but the venture lost money and Sutter sold his share. Sutter also sold his half of the mill in December 1848 to John Winters and Alden Bayley. Then Marshall sold them a third of his half making them equal partners. They continued to operate the mill which on and off for the next few years supplied lumber at greatly inflated prices. Lumber was in great demand, but the cost of labor was also inflated, and the owners apparently made small profit in the long run. The mill stopped production completely in 1853.

When it was operating, Marshall worked at the mill on a part-time basis. In addition, he made an agreement with some miners whereby they would work the land he considered his own (by virtue of the mill partnership), and he would receive half of their diggings. It was all accepted as legal until the "share-miners" disputed Marshall's claim. Almost before he knew it, Marshall's generous area of land around the mill was claimed by new prospectors. It was the beginning of the end.

Marshall's name appears as disputant in numerous cases of ownership and unpaid debts. For the next 20 years and more, despite his carpentry skills, Marshall became a victim of his own lack of business sense. With all the opportunities to make a fortune, he emerged a poor man. Occasionally he earned money hiring himself out to prospectors. Many people believed since Marshall had found the first gold he could "divine" the site of other lodes. Marshall himself → → →



began to believe that he could communicate with the spirit world, for he did locate some minor placers. At least, he recalled the story that he was born with a "veil," and records of his later life show that he was a strong believer in spiritualism.

Between 1853 and 1857 he wandered around the mining fields. To date, he had received little recognition for being the man who discovered California's gold. In 1857 he changed occupations, becoming a respected wine grower in the Coloma Valley. But in 1862, Marshall's cabin caught fire. This and the concurrent drop in wine prices made him return to mining.

In 1866, Marshall went into partnership with William Burke to mine gold-bearing quartz, but the venture took a detour about 1870 when Burke helped publish a book about his partner's life. If *The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, the Discoverer of Gold in California* (by G. F. Parsons) was not a completely factual account of the subject, it did at least lead to a new profession — that of lecturer. Marshall and Burke started back East. Brother Leland Stanford, one of the owners of the Central Pacific, permitted Marshall a free pass on his railroad, but Burke and Marshall still had trouble making ends meet. While in Reno, Nevada, Marshall was employed to help with the construction of the second brick building in the city. His biographer, Theresa Gay writes, "While the foundation of the building was being excavated, a layer of gravel was unearthed. Marshall got a pan and . . . washed it out. He was rewarded by finding 'thirty color.'" The gold pieces and a copy of *Life and Adventures* were placed "in the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple when the building was erected at the corner of Commercial Row and Sierra Street, Reno."

The lecture tour, though generally unsuccessful, did allow Marshall to return

to Lambertville to visit his family which he had left almost half a century earlier. When he arrived back in California, he was still a poor man.

For years, Marshall's "followers" (most notably The Society of California Pioneers) had felt that some recognition should be given to the man who discovered gold and whose discovery caused the great western migration. After numerous legislators vainly attempted to pass bills granting Marshall a state pension, the governor finally signed one on February 2, 1872, providing Marshall \$200 a month for two years. In 1874, the pension was renewed but reduced to \$100 a month. It continued until 1878.

Marshall lived from 1878 until his death in 1885 in Kelsey where he had some small mining interests and operated a blacksmith shop. When he died at age 75, he was buried on a hill in Coloma overlooking the gold discovery site.

California became the 31st state in 1850, just two years after Marshall's discovery. In his *History of Freemasonry*, Gould describes how the Craft accompanied the immigrants to the mining fields: "Masonic Lodges throughout the Eastern States were besieged with applications for Degrees . . . Masons were ground out, so to speak, to meet the demands for human brotherhood, aid, and assistance on the journey . . . Grand Lodges and Grand Masters in the eastern states issued Charters and Dispensations for Travelling Lodges so that Masons might be made en route." Before 1848, one Charter and one Dispensation for Lodges in California had been approved; following the announcement of gold, Masons applied for Charters for some 15 Lodges. The Grand Lodge of California was also formed in 1850, and the Grand Commandery in 1858.

(The full and definitive story of James Wilson Marshall is found in the 1967 biography by Theresa Gay, JAMES W. MARSHALL, THE DISCOVERER OF GOLD IN CALIFORNIA. Photos courtesy State of California, Sacramento Area State Parks.)



## General Grand Council Centennial

The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International celebrated its 100th Anniversary on August 25, and across the country Grand Councils have observed the occasion with special events. In Washington State, for example, some 250 Masons gathered at the Masonic Home in Zenith. After Grand Council was declared open, Grand Commandery Officers and other Sir Knights in uniform, led by Grand Commander Guy B. Sligar as official representative for the Grand Master of Grand Encampment, formed an Honor Guard and Escort for the procession to the base of the flagpole on the grounds of the Home. There a crypt was opened by M.I. Elgan W. Cox, Grand Master, R. & S.M. in Washington. The time capsule located in the crypt was turned over to M.E. Vernon R. Parks, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Washington, who presented it to the Grand Master of Masons in Washington and Alaska, Most Worshipful Wayne A. Sparker.

Brother Cox then displayed a new time capsule which was redeposited in the crypt to be opened again August 25, 2030. The new capsule included items contributed by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Western Canada; Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Washington; the Grand Commandery of Washington and Grand Encampment of Knights Templar (including a copy of the August 1980 *Knight Templar Magazine*); the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International; Grand Council of Washington; and the Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. in Washington and Alaska. The most unusual item enclosed was volcanic ash from the May 18, 1980, eruption of Mt. St. Helens.

After the new capsule was deposited and the crypt sealed, Most Puissant General Grand Master John H. Watts gave a dedicatory speech.

## McKeesport Honors Grand Junior Warden

Sir Knight Lawrence R. Breletic, newly-elected Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, was honored at a testimonial banquet sponsored by his home Commandery, McKeesport No. 86, at the Sheraton Motor Inn in that city, on August 23. John A. Habel, Jr., Eminent Commander of McKeesport Commandery, welcomed the distinguished guests from Pennsylvania's Grand Commandery, including Walter B. Pearce, Grand Commander; Burnell C. Stambaugh, Deputy Grand Commander; Charles S. Canning, Grand Captain General; Leon E. Anderson, Grand Junior Warden; and Past Grand Commanders Francis R. Blake, William C. Graham and Howard T. Hardi, Jr. Numerous other members of the Grand Commandery and representatives from other York Rite and appendant Masonic Bodies were also in attendance, writes Sir Knight Donald C. Wobb, P.C. and Recorder and Chairman of the committee in charge of dinner arrangements.



Sir Knights Breletic, G.J.W.; Habel, E.C.; and Pearce, R.E.G.C.

Has your Commandery made plans for fund raising during the Knights Templar Eye Foundation's 13th Annual Voluntary Campaign?

December 1, 1980 – April 30, 1980



Elmer H. Palmer, P.G.C., Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and Historian of St. John's Commandery No. 1, Providence, comments on articles in the October 1979 and February 1980 *Knight Templar Magazine* on the "longevity" of Commanderies within the United States.

His issue: Last October, Philadelphia St. John's Corinthian Commandery No. 4 celebrated 160 years of continuous existence "as the oldest Commandery." In February of this year, the late Harold A. Budreau, Recorder Emeritus, Boston Commandery No. 2, wrote that "the records of Boston Commandery No. 2 are complete from 1802," meeting continuously.

P.G.C. Palmer says, in part: "The proof is in the 'proverbial pudding' . . . as a Templar organization we are ready to compare our records. There are many Encampments of Knights Templar that could probably compete but unfortunately have no records to prove same. . . . We are aware that they (Boston No. 2) were organized a few months prior to St. John's No. 1, Knights Templar, but as an Encampment of *Knights of the Red Cross* and did not belong to the Templar Order.

"Precedence of rank in the Grand Encampment accords the premier place to Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, formed by our first Commander, Thomas Smith Webb. The

Grand Commandery acknowledges St. John's as the No. 1 Commandery and our charter specifically states this as being the first issued. . . .

"It is of note that its original title was 'Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and the Jurisdiction thereunto belonging.' A few years later the name of 'Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island' was adopted. This might explain to some of our fratres in other states why we are a two-state jurisdiction. If forced to split into separate jurisdictions, Rhode Island would be the oldest and Massachusetts would have most of the funds."

Historian Palmer includes copies of the original records of August 23, 1802, and stresses that the Commandery met as *Knights Templar*, rather than Knights of the Red Cross. He closes with this statement: "For Grand Encampment — to verify oldest Commandery with continuous service. Elmer H. Palmer, P.G.C., Historian."

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**Editor's Note:** About the same time we received Sir Knight Palmer's correspondence, a letter arrived from V. Donald DuBose, Jr., P.C., South Carolina Commandery No. 1, Charleston, announcing that the Commandery "is celebrating its 200th Anniversary this year. According to the records, we are the oldest Commandery in the United States of America."

### 4th Holy Land Pilgrimage Near

In a Bulletin to the officers and members of Indiana's Constituent Commanderies, Grand Commander Harold F. Thieman announced plans for the 1981 Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers — the 4th annual Pilgrimage sponsored by the Grand Commandery of Indiana. In conjunction with the newly-formed Grand Encampment Committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage, Indiana Commanderies will choose those Pilgrim-Ministers who will travel to the Holy Land as guests of the Grand Commandery of Indiana. Grand Commander Thieman indicates that participation is expected from all Grand Commanderies of the East Central Department as well as other Grand Commanderies. Dates for the 1981 Pilgrimage are February 10-20.



## **LIFE'S CENTRAL FACTS**

by

Sir Knight Dr. Daniel H. Stahmer

Palestine Commandery No. 20, Green Bay, Wisconsin

The first of life's central facts is that *God reigns*. He is the "Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth." "In Him we live and move and have our being." Apart from God, life has no meaning. The goal of the good life is to know God and to do His will. It is surprising, though, how many people put God out of their lives – or try to.

My appeal is that we take God seriously because God is the central fact of existence. All creation is a gift from God and it has been lavished on us in generous measure. We should all appreciate that. Our valleys are like gigantic flower-bowls, our forests are nature's own cathedrals. These are all evidences of the Providence of God – gifts freely given!

And there are more! Every so-called scientific "breakthrough" is nothing more than opening a gift package from God. The universe is His, and He has put surprise packages around every corner. We do not always use His gifts the way He would like, and we may wind up using some of them to destroy ourselves. But God goes on giving them to us just the same.

The truth is that with most of us, most of the time, we are not positive we are doing God's will. We only hope it is so. Yet, looking back over our lives, many of us can see the tracings of a Master Hand and can say with George Herbert Palmer that "some greater power than I was using me as Its glad instrument."

But God not only gives and guides. He also goads. When one little girl came home from her first day at school, her father asked, "Well, Bonnie, what did you

learn today?" "Nothing," she replied, "I've got to go back tomorrow." God also keeps sending us back to school. We never know enough. We never graduate. We learn some things, but each new thing we learn only uncovers additional problems to be solved. God goads us on to learn more and more.

Perhaps the creation of nuclear weapons with their threat of total destruction is the goading of God to force us to discover and love our brothers of all nations.

Perhaps disease is the goading of God to drive us further into the depths of scientific discovery to learn more and more about this amazing world.

Even suffering may be the goading of God to teach us how to overcome evil, how to develop patience and build a faith that reaches beyond this transient world.

So we settle on this firm truth, that whatever else you may say about this universe, the central fact is that God reigns. Even if, through man's blundering and brutality, the much dreaded nuclear war comes and human life is snuffed out, that does not defeat God. God was not outwitted by a cross, and He will not be done in by a mushroom cloud. That's what we sing about each Easter: "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth – And He shall reign forever and ever – King of Kings and Lord of Lords – Forever and ever – Hallelujah, Hallelujah!"

The second central fact of life is that *love works*. If God is the end of our striving, love is the method by which we arrive at our destination.

Education without love is → → →



sterile. You can get "A's" in all subjects and graduate with the highest honors; but if you don't know the meaning of love, you are nothing more than a mechanical brain. A "noisy gong" or a "clanging cymbal," Paul would call you. He said, "If you understand all mysteries and all knowledge and have not love, you are nothing."

Scientific objectivity is good, and I would defend it to the end, but scientific accuracy is no substitute for warmth of feeling. Intellectual capacity is of little value without humaneness of spirit. That's why the psychopathic personality is so dangerous to society. He may be brilliant, but he has no heart. He is capable of extreme cruelty because he knows how to think, but he doesn't know how to love.

I read a book some time back, entitled *Love is Something You Do*. The author, Frederick Speakman, points out that "even in marriage, love is not primarily something you feel! Love is something you do!" He goes on to say, "It would make the marriage vow a farce to imagine it means any two mortals can stand before God and solemnly promise he and she will feel tender and loving toward each other every moment till death does them part!"

For emotions come and go, and tenderness has its highs and lows, but the heart of the Christian marriage is that one is able to vow thus before God: "I will act toward this person in a way that I will act toward no one else from now on, no matter what the climate or the season of my feelings. This love will find its measure in me in the things I do." Pointing out further how Christian love is not just a matter of a feeling one has, he refers to the picture Jesus gives of the judgment, and says, "The King does not say to those on His right hand, 'I was hungry and you felt sorry for Me - I was naked and you felt the shame of it along with Me - I was imprisoned and the manacles on My wrists hurt you too - I was sick and you were

so sympathetic with Me.' All that would have been wonderful, but it wasn't what added up. What added up was the hungry that were *fed*, the naked that were *clothed*, the sick and the imprisoned that were *helped*."

Our day must learn anew that love is a method that works. We have been tempted to under-rate it by comparison with the power of hate and brutality, but this is wrong and it is not Christian. The world is ultimately won, if it is to be won at all, through the power of sacrificial love.

This brings us to the third central fact of life: *life lasts*. Death is not the end. There is something in us that survives the grave.

Not everyone believes this. George Bernard Shaw called the hope of immortality the ultimate in selfishness, and a lesser literary figure asked for these words on his tombstone:

*"Don't bother me now  
Don't bother me never.  
I want to be dead  
Forever and ever."*

But, strangely enough, even those who have rationally rejected immortality have not been able to shake the conviction entirely. Mark Twain once said to his friends, "I can't understand it; I've successfully exploded every possible argument for an afterlife, and in spite of that I fully expect there to be one!" In that same manner, a young woman who had never taken Christianity very seriously and for whom immortality was not too important, said to the minister who called on her when her husband died, "All his life he kept getting ready for something, kept looking forward to something. If there's any sense in it, if there's anything right about all of it, he has found what he was after."

It often takes a direct brush with death to imprint a faith in immortality across the heart. Some time ago a popular



English writer named Robert Blatchford wrote a book in which he attacked the basic Christian tenets and claimed to have done the job so fully that no Christian, no matter how intelligent, would ever be able to answer his arguments.

Then his wife died. He went into the room where her body lay, and looked at the face he loved so well. Coming out, he said to a friend, "It is she, and yet it is not she. Everything is changed. Something that was there before is taken away. She is not the same. What can be gone if it be not the soul?"

Some years later, a wiser and kinder man, he wrote a new book. And in it he said, "Death is not what some people imagine. It is only like going into another room. In that other room we shall find the dear women and men and the sweet children we have loved and lost."

In exploring our convictions about life's central facts, let these truths be remembered: God reigns. Love works. Life lasts.

The Reverend Stahmer lives at 830 West 4th Street, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.

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### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION



## Summer Light at Center Lodge

Unlike many Lodges, Center Lodge No. 465, F. & A.M., Fresno, California, did not close this past summer. Worshipful Master John-John Spolsdoff scheduled a joint Conferral/York Rite Visitation Night on July 16 which saw the attendance of some 100 brethren including Most Worshipful Vernon L. Gordon, Grand Master of Masons in California.

An event that made the summer gathering special was the Raising of one candidate to the Degree of Master Mason — the Worshipful Master's father, John Alex Spolsdoff.



John-John Spolsdoff at 31 is the youngest Master of Center Lodge and one of the youngest Grand Lodge Committeemen. He also serves as Illustrious Master of Fresno Council No. 18, and King of Fresno Chapter No. 69, and is junior Past Commander and Ritual Instructor of Fresno Commandery No. 29.

Brethren in attendance were members of the York Rite, representing the Grand York Rite Bodies of California and 22 Central Valley York Rite Bodies.

Assisting in the conferral were Most Illustrious George C. Holstein, P.G.M., who acted as Senior Warden; Most Illustrious Arthur B. Ledbetter, P.G.M., who delivered the charge; and Right Illustrious Roy R. Crawford, Past Grand Director of Ritual, who acted as Junior Warden.



# HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

## Fowler Attends Job's Daughters Meeting

Marvin E. Fowler, Grand Captain General, represented the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar at the annual meeting of the International Order of Job's Daughters in Philadelphia, August 13-17. Sir Knight Fowler reported that delegates were present from all over the United States and Canada and as far away as Hawaii. Counted among the distinguished guests at Philadelphia's Marriott Hotel were the Grand Master of DeMolay, the General Grand Secretary of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Head of the Order of Amaranth in Pennsylvania, the Supreme Tall Cedar, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and the Grand Master of Delaware.

## York Rite Sponsors DeMolay Tourney

The 21st Annual International DeMolay Tournament Banquet was held at the Speedway 500 Championship Golf Course at Speedway, Indiana, August 12. It marked the conclusion of the International DeMolay Golf Tournament, which is sponsored by the three York Rite Bodies — General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Past Grand Master Willard M. Avery represented the Grand Encampment; Dr. Owen L. Shanteau, Past General Grand Master of General Grand Council, represented the latter body.

"Most of the organizational work was done by the Indiana DeMolay Foundation and Murat Temple of the Shrine," reports Past Grand Master Avery. Of 34 individuals originally scheduled to participate, 32 were present. DeMolay members are planning for next year's tournament again at Indianapolis.

## South Texas Charter



Principals at the August Charter presentation, Red Cross of Constantine, to South Texas Conclave, included: Intendant General James W. Willson, Jr.; Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauer, K.G.C.; Past Grand Sovereign Hoyt McClendon, K.G.C.; M.I. Grand Sovereign G. Wilbur Bell, K.G.C.; Intendant General Ed Bloomquist; Intendant General James D. Tomme, Jr.

## 1981 York Rite Pocket Calendar

For the second year, the York Rite Bodies of the Santa Monica Bay area in California announce the availability of a "York Rite" Pocket Calendar. The 1981 Calendar is the fund-raising project of Santa Monica Bay Chapter No. 97, Santa Monica; Alpha Council No. 39, Playa Del Rey; and Santa Monica Bay Commandery No. 61, and the cost is \$2.00 each, including postage. The new Calendar will have a light blue cover, and the Knight Templar emblem will be changed to the Cross and Crown.

Sir Knight Richard S. Hassell, Warder, Santa Monica Bay Commandery No. 61, indicates that checks or money orders for the items may be made payable to Old 97 Club, P.O. Box 49, Santa Monica, California 90406.



## Bonne Terre York Rite Festival

Milton D. Perkins, Secretary-Recorder of the Bonne Terre York Rite Bodies, Bonne Terre, Missouri, announces that October 25 is the date for the York Rite Fall Festival. He says: "We have a tremendous opportunity to display York Rite Masonry in our area, district and region. Be proud of your Masonic Heritage, and *show* it!"

## South Carolina Bicentennial Coin

South Carolina Commandery No. 1, Charleston, has struck a 200th Anniversary coin scheduled to go on sale October 6. The Bicentennial coins will be offered at a cost of \$4.00 each, which includes mailing charges. Checks may be made payable to the Charleston York Rite Bodies and sent to Ronald G. Jacoby, Secretary-Recorder, Post Office Box 10551, Charleston, South Carolina 29411.

## Rising Star?

Thomas S. Nutwell, Jr., Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria, Virginia, is interested in returning a "Commandery jewel to a proper repository." The jewel is thought to belong to a body in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Identification: "Sir S. N. Greswell, Rising Star Comdy No. 260."

Anyone with information may write to Sir Knight Nutwell at 7817 Hayfield Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22310.



## Mother-Advisor of the Year

On Saturday, June 28, during the Indiana Grand Assembly, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, in Evansville, Mrs. Karen Fleming was named Indiana's Mother-Advisor of the Year. Mrs. Fleming, who has been Mother-Advisor of Greenfield Assembly No. 76 since January 1978, is the wife of Sir Knight Rodney L. Fleming, Greenfield Commandery No. 39, senior member of Mitchell Fleming Press. Greenfield Assembly also received an Honorable Mention in the "Assembly of the Year" competition, won for service and travelling points.

## Pilgrim No. 11 Celebrates 125th Year

Pilgrim Commandery No. 11, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, will celebrate its 125th Anniversary on Saturday, October 11, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Harrisburg. Reservations at \$10.00 per person may be made by sending checks no later than October 4 to Sir Knight Irvin S. Bennett, General Chairman, 1807 Eastfield Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112.

Guest speaker will be Pennsylvania Grand Commander Walter B. Pearce, and "a surprise gift representative of the period — around the year 1855 — will be given each couple attending." All Sir Knights, their ladies and Masonic friends are invited.

## National Sojourners, Inc.

Registration has been announced by National Sojourners, Inc., for the Mid-Winter meeting of the Masonic-Military organization at San Antonio, Texas. The dates are January 22-24, 1981.



## Canadian Sovereign Great Priory and Grand Imperial Council Convened

The 97th Annual Assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada of the United Orders of the Temple and Malta was held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, August 9-12. Sessions were opened Monday, August 11, with Most Eminent Knight Gerald O. Smith, Supreme Grand Master, presiding. Grand Master Kenneth C. Johnson and Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, representing the Knights Templar under jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, U.S.A., were welcomed as distinguished guests.

Past Supreme Grand Master Carl Ackert reports that the Grand Master's Banquet held Monday evening was well-attended by Canadian Templars and representatives from other Canadian Masonic Bodies. Business sessions were closed Tuesday following installation of Officers. Re-elected to office were: M.E. Knight Gerald O. Smith (Barrie, Ontario), Supreme Grand Master; R.E. Knight P. J. Kendal (Edmonton, Alberta), Deputy Grand Master; M.E. Knight F. C. Ackert, G.C.T. (Cambridge-Galt, Ontario), Grand Treasurer; and M.E. Knight C. E. Wells,

G.C.T. (Toronto, Ontario), Grand Chancellor.

A letter from Colonel J. H. Coleman reports that the Annual Assembly of the Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada, Red Cross of Constantine, was held August 13 with all 20 Canadian Conclaves represented by 126 members. Most Illustrious Knight Companion Philip J. Kendal, G.C.C., presided and introduced G. Wilbur Bell, K.G.C., Grand Sovereign, and Kenneth C. Johnson, K.G.C., Past Grand Sovereign. Bell, elected to the highest office of the Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders for the U.S.A., Mexico and the Philippines in June 1980, was voted an Honorary Past Grand Sovereign of Canada.

Grand Officers for Canada's Grand Imperial Conclave in 1980-81 include: Albert A. Mortlock, G.C.C., Grand Sovereign; Robert G. Loftus, G.C.C., Grand Viceroy; and Gerald O. Smith, G.C.C., Grand Recorder. Grand Sovereign Bell was speaker at the traditional banquet held Wednesday evening.

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### Oklahoma Grand Recorder Retires

Effective September 30, 1980, Sir Knight Fridtjof M. Lumbard of Muskogee, Oklahoma, retired as Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma, a position he has held since 1963. Grand Commander Herbert A. Skillings has appointed Sir Knight Robert E. Fielden to replace Lumbard effective October 1.

Sir Knight Fielden is Past Commander and Recorder of Norman Commandery No. 38 and a member of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee, Division of Oklahoma. His address is 1719 Rowena Lane, Norman, Oklahoma 73069.

### Fidelity Chapter's 60th Anniversary

This year Fidelity Chapter No. 49 is celebrating 60 years of Royal Arch Masonry in Ridgewood, New Jersey. A limited edition of 100 commemorative cachets has been announced for sale to interested Masons. Covers are printed in "traditional scarlet," embodying the Royal Arch Mason emblem and post-marked in red at Ridgewood, New Jersey, on May 27, 1980, the anniversary date.

Cachets may be ordered, while the supply lasts, by sending \$2.00 plus self-addressed stamped envelope to: Royal Arch Covers, P.O. Box 261, Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410.



## THE CLOSE OF THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL

by  
Sir Knight John R. Allen  
Ivanhoe Commandery No. 19, New Orleans, Louisiana

Yorktown, Virginia, is the site where the last major event of the American Revolution took place. On October 19, 1781, Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. This event will be reenacted in the Fall of 1981 to mark the culmination of U.S. Bicentennial activities, and it is expected to attract more people than any previous Bicentennial event. A record attendance will be a bitter irony since the American Revolution Bicentennial Association, a national organization devoted to the funding and national coordination of Bicentennial celebrations, was disbanded several years ago when interest declined after 1976.

For the Centennial celebration of Yorktown Day in 1881, 10,000 troops paraded before 20,000 visitors. There was a reenactment of the surrender of Cornwallis to French and American troops, and the cornerstone of the Yorktown victory monument was laid. The monument was completed four years later.

The 150th anniversary of the victory at Yorktown was marked by a four day celebration in 1931. It was, according to one source, "staged against staggering handicaps."

"The town at that time had but 300 residents and lacked good highway and railway transportation; facilities and public utilities to accommodate large crowds were non-existent. Federal, state, and private agencies tackled an almost overwhelming task but, with the aid of



military services, were able to feed, seat and police the attendance that increased daily from 60,000 on October 16 to 150,000 on the anniversary of the 19th, when President Hoover made the principal address."

Special programs were arranged for the 1931 celebration, including "military displays and drills, pageants, band concerts, dedication of memorial tablets, a Colonial Fair and Harvest Festival . . . and public tours of a large portion of the U.S. Naval Fleet. . . . Principal addresses were given by President Herbert Hoover, General [and Sir Knight] John Pershing, Marshall Henri Petain of France, and several Cabinet members and Congressmen." The celebration was ranked "among the major festivals in the world's history," and caused renewed interest in the preservation and restoration of the area.

One U.S. postage stamp (Figure 1 – Scott No. 703) was issued for the 1931 Yorktown



Figure 1

Victory Celebration. The stamp depicted Commander-in-Chief General George Washington, with Rochambeau to his left and de Grasse to his right.

Lt. General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, was the General-in-Chief of the French forces. Admiral Francois Joseph Paul, comte de Grasse-Tilly, was the French naval admiral who "brought with him 3,300 regular French troops . . . → → →



and, of almost equal importance, 1,200,000 livres in cash supplied by the Spanish bankers of Havana." The arrival of de Grasse provided long-needed funds for the quartermaster, and a naval fleet that just five days later partially engaged the British fleet. The British fleet subsequently decided that "because of the position of the enemy, the present condition of the British fleet, the season of the year, and the impracticality of giving any effectual succor to General Earl Cornwallis in the Chesapeake, the British fleet should proceed with all dispatch to New York." It did just that, "leaving Cornwallis to his fate." At that very time Washington's troops were already near Yorktown on their secret forced march from New York.

Admiral de Grasse was not himself a Mason, but his son was a founder of the Mother Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R. (S.J.). The membership of Rochambeau has not been firmly established — though some believe him to have been a Mason. It is known that Rochambeau, Lafayette and nearly 100 others were listed as visiting Brothers at the Institution of the Lodge of St. John de Candeur at Paris on October 25, 1775.

The Bicentennial of the victory at Yorktown will be celebrated in 1981 by another four day celebration beginning Friday, October 16, with a principal address by Virginia Governor John N. Dalton. Military units from each of the original 13 states, from France, and elsewhere, are expected to participate. Battlefield activities will include various parades, culminating with the reenactment of the surrender of Cornwallis on Monday, October 19, 1981. The day has already been declared a Virginia State Holiday, and international attention will be directed to Yorktown because of the large number of French and other participants.

Waterfront activities will include tours of Frigates, Character ships, and military

vessels including, hopefully, the Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle*. There will be air-sea rescue demonstrations, and surface effects vehicles in operation. Renewed attention to the waterfront has resulted because of the positive identification in July 1980 of the remains of the *Charon*, the flagship of Cornwallis. The remains are located across the York River near Gloucester Point where the *Charon* was burned as a result of cannon fire from the French batteries. It was sunk in about 13 feet of water.

Local county and Park Service groups are already working to coordinate events such as victory balls, oyster roasts, fireworks displays, and fairs. A hillside area near the park entrance, to be used for concerts and other major activities, has already been arranged to seat 30,000 people. Unfortunately, because of the disbanding of the American Revolution Bicentennial Association (ARBA) several years ago, the exact nature of federal government participation is unclear at this writing. Some seed money was earmarked for the Yorktown Bicentennial Celebration by the ARBA, and additional support has been obtained by various means. However, it is hoped that there will be a principal address by the President, and a significant commitment of military participation as at the 1931 celebration.

One or more Yorktown Bicentennial postage stamps are expected in 1981, with the USPS First Day of Issue Ceremony being held as part of the celebration. John Trumbull's famous portrait, *The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown*, was used by the U.S. Postal Service as the basis for one of a set of four postage-stamp Souvenir Sheets issued at the International Philatelic Exhibition (stamp show) in Philadelphia in May 1976. These sets of Souvenir Sheets were extremely popular with collectors, were only available on a limited basis, and have drastically



increased in price. The Souvenir Sheet taken from Trumbull's painting is shown in Figure 2. Interestingly, the Sheet excludes completely the French troops on hand for the surrender.

The victory at Yorktown had a great effect on the British and French homelands, too. The British saved one empire at the cost of another — America. The spark from Yorktown eventually fired the French Bastille. The French Revolution of the 1790's arose because "a French king could not fight to win liberty for an alien people and deny it to his own subjects."

Of additional philatelic interest, a U.S. stamped postcard issued on July 11, 1980, commemorated the 200th anniversary of the landing of French General Rochambeau in Newport Harbor in 1780. This was the start of his campaign that culminated in Yorktown in 1781. The French Post Office, in a ceremony enacted aboard a French ship in Newport Harbor on July 12 of this year, issued their own stamp honoring the Bicentennial of Rochambeau's arrival in Newport. This stamp is also affixed to the U.S. postcard (Figure 3). This may be the



Figure 2

Alliance of 1778, there would have been no victory at Yorktown. The French Alliance was commemorated on a 13 cent U.S. stamp issued in York, Pennsylvania, on May 4, 1978. The stamp depicts King Louis XVI and Brother Benjamin



Figure 4

Franklin and is shown in Figure 4 as part of another special Bicentennial postcard.

Likewise, Major General Marquis de Lafayette has been the subject of three U.S. stamps, most recently a 13 cent Bicentennial issue (Figure 5). Brother Lafayette tirelessly defended Virginia with the militia and infantry under his command until the forces of Washington, Rochambeau, and de Grasse were united in Yorktown and overpowered Cornwallis.



Figure 5



Figure 3

first French stamp issued on a ship outside their own country, but there might be another issued in Yorktown in 1811. Regardless, without the French

Should the reader hope to attend the 1981 Bicentennial Victory → → →



## Expanding Membership

Southern California Research Lodge, F. & A.M., California, is now accepting applications for membership from Master Masons who are members of Lodges of any Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of California. Members receive a monthly newsletter containing reviews of articles and activities from other jurisdictions "gleaned from 30 Grand Lodge publications," serialization of articles not generally available, and subscriptions to at least two other Grand Lodge publications.

To date, S.C.R.L. has published four volumes of papers (Nos. 1 and 2 combined in one book), including articles on a wide variety of subjects, short talks for Lodges and "Trestleboard Gems." Ralph A. Herbold, speaking for S.C.R.L., says the printed volumes are available as follows: \$11 for Volumes 1-2, \$11 for Volume 3, and \$8 for Volume 4 (cost includes sales tax and postage). Dues for membership are \$12 per year (no application fee). If a complete set of volumes is purchased at \$30, one year's dues are included if membership is applied for. For further information, write Ralph A. Herbold, Southern California Research Lodge, F. & A.M., Box 6587, Buena Park, California 90620.

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Celebration, he should begin planning immediately. Yorktown has few motel rooms, and they are already booked for officials, speakers, and diplomats. Nearby Williamsburg, Newport News, and Virginia Beach have adequate motel facilities and other diversions. Make your plans and reservations now, so that you will not be disappointed!

Sir Knight Allen is Cachet Chairman for Louisiana Lodge No. 102, F. & A.M., New Orleans, and Chairman of the Stamp Club Committee to Celebrate George Washington's 250th Birthday. His mailing address is Box 26135, Richmond, Virginia 23260.

## Grand Encampment Roll Call of Honored Dead IN HALLOWED MEMORY

**Jacob Harold Foil**  
Louisiana  
Grand Commander - 1978  
Born September 19, 1915  
Died August 22, 1980

**John M. States**  
Arkansas  
Grand Commander - 1955  
Born January 4, 1903  
Died August 26, 1980

### Judge States Dies at 76

P.G.C. John M. States, former Arkansas State Representative and municipal judge, died August 26.

In addition to serving as Grand Commander of Arkansas Templars, he was also a former District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas. He is survived by his widow, Hazel, and a daughter, Susan.

### William Allan Patterson

June 13 saw the death of William Allan Patterson, who died at the age of 80. A member of Evanston Commandery No. 58, Illinois, he was director emeritus and honorary chairman of United Airlines, Inc., where he had served as president for 29 years before his election as chairman of the board of United in 1963.

### Grand Secretary Emeritus, Maine

Earle D. Webster, Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Maine, died Friday, August 15, in Portland, Maine, following a long illness. A member of Portland Commandery No. 2, Sir Knight Webster served as Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Maine between 1956 and 1969.



## **REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND**

by

**Irvin S. Gress, Past Commander  
San Diego Commandery No. 25, California**

*When the Knights Templar Eye Foundation was founded almost 30 years ago, its goal was to provide funds for the correction and prevention of blindness. In meeting that goal, the Eye Foundation has helped thousands of people, young and old, and has granted almost a million dollars to eye research. Unfortunately, there are some people who cannot be helped. Some, like Sir Knight Irvin S. Gress, have had to adjust to a life of blindness. His story, to all who might be similarly afflicted – Templar or not – tells the “other side of the coin” – how one person learned to live in darkness thanks to the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center at Palo Alto, California.*

Approximately forty years ago my ophthalmologist told me that I had a problem with my eyes and that it would get worse over the years. He diagnosed it as macular degeneration and added that its cause and cure were unknown. He also said that the only hope was that science might come up with some answers before the degeneration was complete. This, however, did not happen.

As the degeneration progressed, I reacted to different approaches. I subscribed to large print magazines and journals and used various magnifying glasses. I used every method possible in reading my correspondence and journals needed in my work. All this was of little help, and when the final shock came, it came very suddenly. I was presiding at an annual banquet, and when I looked at the seating chart of the speakers' table, I could not see the paper in my hand. I realized that I was blind. The shock was terrific. It seemed that there was nothing left that I could do.

At that time I was in the hands of another ophthalmologist. He said that the left eye could not be helped, but there was a slight chance that the right eye could be helped by laser surgery. As a

drowning man would, I grasped at any straw. The result was negative and the right eye was now worse than the left. His only reaction was, “We did our best, but it did not work. I would like to see you in a year.” I felt that an ophthalmologist who had done all that could be done should not drop the case in such manner, but should counsel the patient as to the rehabilitation that was available and helpful in meeting all the frustrations and problems that he would encounter – for the frustrations were numerous and almost insurmountable.

It was only by accident that I learned the Veterans Administration had a program of rehabilitation. As a result, I made inquiries of the local Veterans Administration. I was fortunate in that I was placed in the hands of a social worker who was interested in the case and advised me as to what they had to offer in the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center at Palo Alto, California. She arranged for tests and then arranged for my admission.

When I entered the Center, I did not know what to expect. I was surprised that their quota was only 30 students at a time. Later I felt that → → →



this was very desirable as it permitted working on a personal basis with each student. I was also surprised to find such a dedicated staff; each one was eager for the development of the student to his highest potentials.

I had never worked very much with my hands and fingers and this was an obstacle when the sense of touch had to substitute for the sense of sight. In the different classes this sense of touch became very important. One frequently heard the admonition, "Braille it, Braille it." In other words, use your touch to cover what you lost in vision.

Teaching was constantly reinforced, not by goodies as one would give a rat when training or testing in a learning experience, but more by personal approval such as the words "super," "perfect," "great," and especially the show of joy at one's success. The student has the feeling that the staff is interested in him as a person. This personal interest is a great thing in the rehabilitation program.

The Rehabilitation Center is a unit in the Veterans Administration Medical Center. The school is headed by a chief and assistant chief. It was largely their philosophy which made the program a complete success. It was a philosophy of love — loving people and loving to work with them.

A medical doctor is in charge of health needs. The doctor is very efficient, professionally, and carries the work beyond that required with a personal interest that often can be as helpful to the individual as the medicine prescribed. As various physical defects are uncovered, the student is further tested in the hospital and properly attended and both physically and mentally cared for so that his self-esteem is built up and he is better able to cope with everyday problems.

I might digress here to state that one of the most common effects of blindness is the loss of self-esteem. One day the individual is important and admired,

asked for advice and assistance; and the next day he is a "nobody" ignored by friends who are often embarrassed and do not know how to adjust to his changed condition. This feeling is also due to the fact that the patient has been unable to make necessary adjustments. I found this to be true in all of the students. This need to feel important again is most pressing. The public's difficulty is largely due to a stereotyped concept of a blind man as one who can do nothing and is left to stand on a corner with a tin cup seeking alms. This view is degrading to the patient. All he needs is to feel that he is accepted as before — a normal human being able to do the things that he had done before. This is the program at Palo Alto.

The Blind Center attempts to have the student lead a normal life. Their program provides for placing the student in positions that will involve him in various activities. The student may be taken to San Francisco to see a baseball game, go on a picnic, go to rodeos or deep sea fishing. He may even be taught to play golf with a staff member as his caddy. If the student makes a good drive in golf or if his putting is good, then his self-esteem is enhanced. The program does not attempt to make the student an efficient player but to involve him with others. Naturally, he does not see much in baseball but he becomes a part of the crowd, senses the atmosphere and listens to the announcer's play-by-play comments.

I feel strongly that there is a great need for educating the public. For example, the public is frequently informed of the need to fight cancer, heart and lung disease, with drives for assistance. But one rarely hears about the needs of the blind and vision-impaired.

Another need is to remove all stigma from blindness in the eyes of the public. Perhaps the words vision-impaired or sightless would be better than "blind."

Veterans and non-veterans who have low vision or no vision should consult



with their ophthalmologist and Veterans Administration social workers about services available — what rehabilitation schools are like and what they can do for each individual.

At the Palo Alto Rehabilitation Center, as at other schools, Braille is the basic system taught. It is especially helpful for the younger students. The older veterans who have retired from their normal work are less interested but are helped by learning enough to identify clothing, etc.

In communication, touch typing is especially helpful. Closed circuit TV's are used for reading and writing. Here your materials are magnified and projected on a screen. Typing may also be projected and errors corrected.

Another helpful program is in shop or craft work. This emphasizes working with the hands and fingers, so necessary for the sightless. Almost any type of craft work is available.

The problem of mobility and safety is most important. The student is taught to cross busy streets, locate shops and business offices. This permits him to travel with safety by foot, bus or airplane.

All instruction is on an individual basis and the student is never placed in competition with others.

Another program under the supervision of the social worker was to bring a family member (usually the wife) to the center for a week. The family member meets with the members of the staff who have been working with the student and learns the nature of the work he has been doing. She is told how she can help, what to do and what not to do. In this way the program at the Center may be continued in the home.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation cares for needy children and adults. The Foundation spends millions for surgery and treatment and millions for research. The Veterans Administration spends millions for the rehabilitation of veterans who have low vision or no vision. Thus

## Corpus Christi Beauceant Shines

Corpus Christi Assembly No. 140, Social Order of the Beauceant in Texas, has raised \$2,155 for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation over the last year, from special projects, gifts and memorials. The funds were raised between October 1979 and July 1980 and include ten Patrons and three Associate Patrons. In 1978 they contributed \$2,000 to the Templar charity.

The Assembly is 30 years old and has 148 members of which 40 are active participants in the projects. Mrs. W. Joe Richardson is President, and Mrs. William R. Harris, the Assembly's Knights Templar Eye Foundation Chairman, is also Area 9 K.T.E.F. Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant during 1980.

## Ask and Get Results

George E. Shutz, Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, has signed a considerable number of candidates for the York Rite this year. He says there was not much work involved and that all he had to do was to ask. "They were all glad to be able to receive further Light in Masonry."

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these two organizations complement each other and both need public support.

I am sure there are other institutions in these fields that should be made known to the public. It is my hope that more centers of this sort will be established and that more support for scientific research will become available. It merits the support of legislatures and the public at large.

Sir Knight Gress lives at 5995 Del Cerro Boulevard, San Diego, California 92120.



## October Eye Club Benefactors

"Who are the people who hold membership in the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Grand Commander's and Grand Master's Clubs? They are," says Assistant Executive Director Howard T. Joslyn, "people like you and me — the man or woman who lives down the block, or the Brother who reads of the good work of our Templar charity. For Club membership is not for Knights Templar only. Any individual may join."

In October, four new names are added to the Grand Commander's Club:

**Kansas No. 4 — Dr. James W. Rider**  
**Massachusetts No. 6 — Mrs. J. C. Ritter**  
**Michigan No. 8 — LeRoy A. Giglio**  
**Texas No. 18 — Henry A. Horton, III**

Grand Commander's Club membership begins with a minimum initial contribution of \$100 and the pledge to repeat the contribution annually or until \$1,000 is reached.

The Grand Master's Club invites contributions of \$1,000 — either as a single donation, or via graduation from the Grand Commander's Club. New Grand Master's Club members include:

**No. 224 — Etrebil A. Schaub (MD)**  
**No. 225 — Mrs. Florence Schaub (MD)**  
**No. 226 — Albert L. Provence (AZ)**  
**No. 227 — Ben W. Surrent (TN)**  
**No. 228 — Mr. & Mrs. Francis A. White (TX)**

Of course, each contribution is answered with a personal thank you from Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell. Additionally, each new Grand Commander's Club member receives a wallet card listing state and contribution number, and each new Grand Master's Club member receives a metal wallet card and an engraved bronze desk plaque.

Gifts are tax-deductible and provide no Commandery credit. Information may be obtained by writing or calling: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705 (217-523-3838).

## Guatemala York Rite Temple

A report from Sir Knight Jo van Beusekom, Commander of Guatemala Commandery No. 1, Guatemala City, indicates that the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new York Rite Temple in Guatemala City took place on May 11 and builders are currently completing work on the first floor. According to van Beusekom, "The day after the groundbreaking we started with the work. A lot of effort and teamwork has gone into this building."



The "Groundbreaking Team" was led by M.W. Grand Master Carlos Sandoval (center) and included Arne Osth, W.M., Union Lodge No. 1; Jo van Beusekom; Pedro Escobar, H.P., Luz Altense Chapter No. 2; Hans Mann, Dep. W.M., Archimedes Lodge No. 1; Col. Victor Izaguirre, E.G., Guatemala Commandery; Humberto Moratalla, H.P., Guatemala Chapter No. 1; and Hans Dorst, Dep. T.I.M., Guatemala Council No. 1.

Commander van Beusekom also announces the sale of 200 Guatemala Chapter No. 1 pennies to help pay for the "increasing costs of labor and materials" during the remainder of the construction. The pennies, at a cost of \$2.50 each, may be ordered through Brother William Boden, R.R. 2, Manchester, Ohio 45144.



**THE BEST WAY TO MAKE YOUR  
DREAMS COME TRUE IS TO  
WAKE UP.**



## Information Sought on Washington, Lafayette Prints

Sir Knight Vernon D. Martin, Concordia, Kansas, is searching for background information on two Masonic prints found inside the wall of an old house in Ortonville, Minnesota. The house, says Martin, was being remodeled, and in the original wall between the kitchen and dining room the two prints (below) were located. The black and white prints "in perfect condition" each measures 13 inches by 18 inches. One depicts Lafayette opening the Masonic Lodge, and one depicts George Washington closing the Lodge. The house in question is said to be 105 years old, and, presumably, the prints were placed in the wall when the house was built. In the lower left-hand corner of each picture are the words, "Compliments of *Masonic Voice Review*, Chicago."



Anyone with information on the prints or the *Masonic Voice Review* is requested to contact Sir Knight Martin at 311 West 8th Street, Concordia, Kansas 66901.



### Second Oklahoma Annual Assembly

Joseph S. Lewis, K.C.C., Grand Chancellor, United Grand Imperial Council, presided for the Oklahoma Assembly, Red Cross of Constantine, at Shawnee, Saturday, August 23, with Grand Sovereign G. Wilbur Bell, K.G.C., and Mrs. Bell in attendance. Other notable members of this invitational Order present included Past Grand Sovereign George M. Saunders, K.G.C., and Mrs. Saunders; T. Olin Gore, Jr., K.C.C. and Mrs. Gore; John G. Eshleman, K.C.C., and Mrs. Eshleman; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Tullos; and Intendant General Ernest L. Rowan and his lady.



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## WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO HALLOWEEN?

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by

Sir Knight Tom Starkweather

Mt. Calvary Commandery No. 1, Omaha, Nebraska

The question "What ever happened to Halloween?" looms larger in my mind as the evening hours slip away and I continue to dispense treats to the children. Each time the doorbell rings I know I will be confronted by a chorus of "Trick or treat?" from an array of characters who appear to have stepped right out of the comic strips or off the video screen. I can recognize immediately such representations as Dick Tracy and Superman because they go back to my own childhood. And I can now identify those made up to look like KISS or who wear the plastic costumed imitations of the Bionic Man, Wonder Woman and the Fonz after the proper tutoring.

Every child who graces my welcome mat on All Hallows Eve will have a paper bag or maybe a pillow case repository for the evening's loot, and this booty sack will be thrust forward in anticipation of my sugar coated tribute.

I also know few of these little invaders will understand their message of "Trick or treat?" If you want to perform an interesting experiment, tell a group of these callers that you have no treats and you will just have to settle for their tricks. Dozens of beady eyes will focus on your facial features as if seeing them for the first time. Their look of bewilderment will change to one of disdain as they realize they are unprepared to deliver the alternative and more importantly they are wasting valuable time in achieving their main objective of filling their bag. There are times when I really believe that Halloween has been subverted by the confectioners into a plan to redistribute the

wealth — from the older people to the younger people using the medium of sweets for the exchange.

What happened to jack-o-lanterns, witches, ghosts, black cats, goblins, ghouls and all the other pagan terrors that gave the observance an eerie meaning? I doubt if children today have ever heard of Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Ichabod Crane and the headless horseman or James Whitcomb Riley's "When The Frost is on the Pumpkin," but we could almost recite them by heart when I was a kid. And not only was the frost on the pumpkin when Halloween came around but it would have taken a major disaster to keep us in. We carried our own "hand warmers" and after an hour or so we acquired the smell of scorched jack-o-lantern. We respected the evening for its metaphysical significance. It was one night when you really avoided haunted houses and even vacant ones. We gave cemeteries a wide berth. Even the smallest amongst us was aware that the spirit world was especially active on this event. Our souls demanded we know fear during our adolescence and Halloween responded and filled that need.

Our tricks at this stage consisted primarily of jack-o-lanterns and noise makers. The noise makers were usually home-made: tin cans on a cord that could be rattled or boards that were clapped together. We were also selective in the homes we visited — generally close friends and relatives. Our "victims" were always properly frightened and sometimes we would have to enter the house to allow the other occupants to appreciate our



garb. Then we would remove our masks much to the relief of the visited — or so it appeared to us.

Sometimes we were offered hot chocolate or a slice of cake or pie. But usually the treats were home-made popcorn, plain and candied local apples, home-made cookies and candy. In that faraway time no one ever went bankrupt purchasing an adequate stock of Halloween treats. Indeed few could have afforded the prepared candies and gum that today are commonplace. And it was unheard of to check the fruit for pieces of razor blades or to throw away treats that were unsealed and might be accidentally contaminated or deliberately poisoned.

I don't think there was a specified age, but there came a time when we were no longer chaperoned because this was a sign of weakness. Chaperons were for "little kids" who couldn't cross the street by themselves. We were older with newly discovered bravado, but we were never obscene or profane.

And still later we stopped trick-or-treating altogether. We went out as the "trick or treaters" turned in. We now concentrated on the mischief that would cause practically everyone in town to rise a little earlier the next morning: to raise their outhouse to an upright position if that was appropriate; to help neighbors and other businessmen clear the street blockades of garbage barrels, poultry cases, and farming implements if that was appropriate; to inspect the school and park flagpoles to see what may have been run up or if someone had successfully avoided the town police and painted the water tower.

Many grown-ups stayed up on this night to "protect" their property and the trick then was to approach the building without being heard and to tip it over on its door with the crescent moon opening so the occupant was only left with one (or two or possibly even three) avenues of

escape — none of them desirable. Some would fire shotguns in the air on hearing our coming and this added to the excitement of the occasion. Every once in a while a sneaky property owner had even been known to relocate his outdoor toilet a few feet closer to the house which usually resulted in the first couple of marauders falling into the now-uncovered hole in the ground which usually broke their silence and ended their efficiency for the evening. So it wasn't all good, clean fun, but it was fun. Occasionally there would be some real damage but it was never malicious or premeditated. In retrospect Halloween was one of the social events of the year, a topic of conversation where each observance added to the legend of All Hallows Eve.

The roots of Halloween probably extend to the old Druid observance which was a tribute to autumn. And those old messengers of gloom and doom — the black cats and witches on their brooms, the goblins and skeletons — have been replaced to a great extent by the plastic impersonations of popular entertainers and cartoon characters. With their passing, the deeper meaning and true significance of Halloween has also disappeared.

As spring is nature's annual reminder of the renewal of life, fall is the season that recalls the briefness of life. It is a time for reflection — of the summer that was and the winter that would be — of sunshine and growth and dormancy and snow — of temporal and spiritual — of living and dying. Though some still don't comprehend this message, autumn and Halloween emphasize how little we understand of our transient sojourn on earth.

What ever happened to Halloween? I wish I knew.

Sir Knight Starkweather's address is 8010 Tonto Drive, El Paso, Texas 79904.







## KNIGHT VOICES

COMMENTS FROM READERS



□ I am a collector of First Day Covers (FDC's) and would like to have singles of any anniversary, centennial, or commemorative event concerning Masonic Order, Scottish Rite or York Rite activities. Anyone with covers, please write and advise of event and cost. *Don E. Naber, 6562 High Bury Road, Dayton, Ohio 45424*

□ Removed from the home of my sister in Angola, Indiana, was a sword bearing the L.B.P. on the hilt and the full name of Lewis Butler Parsell on the blade. Information leading to its return will be appreciated, and reimbursement made, by *Lewis B. Parsell, 20146 Picadilly Road, Detroit, Michigan 48221*

□ I am interested in purchasing a Masonic fob with all the Masonic bodies. I am also interested in obtaining ceramic molds of York Rite insignias if they are available. *James S. Garofalo, 1338 Northhampton Street, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042 (215-258-3300) Res. (215-588-6888)*

□ I was going through some old keepsakes and came across a bottle opener in the shape of a sword. I remember carrying it for years on my key chain but that was 30 years ago and I do not remember where it came from or who gave it to me.

On one side it says "Shrine Victory Convention, July 1846 [sic], San Francisco." I can't make out what is printed on the other side, but it looks like "Burgerm . . ." and that's all I can read.

I would appreciate any information on it. Thank you. *Arlena Kramer, 417 West Morton Street, Denison, Texas 75020*

□ I have in my possession a Shriner's ring, 14K, with .96 diamonds — \$700. Also a hat, like new. *Mrs. June Simpson, Route 1, Box 550, Valdosta, Georgia 31601 (912-244-4428)*

□ I was especially pleased to receive the June 1980 issue of *Knight Templar* with Dan Beard pictured on the cover illustration and featured in an article by Assistant Editor Joan Behrens. I would like to purchase five extra copies of the June issue, one suitable for framing, one for our Scouting Historical Society, and the others to give to Masonic friends in Scouting.

I collect and frame for display purposes, magazine covers picturing Scouting, and also sheet music featuring Scouting. I am interested in purchasing scout cameras and articles of historical interest as well.

Scouting and Masonry are indeed complementary. I became a Mason and Scoutmaster at age 21, the minimum for both. I was Raised by my former Scoutmaster, from whom I learned to believe in service to others, 38 years ago. *Richard J. Ulrich, 9 Apollo Drive, Rochester, New York 14626*

□ I would like to know if anyone has a professional type E-flat alto saxophone. We would prefer a Selmar Signet or Conn. *Mrs. Melvin Wrage, RR No. 1, Toddville, Iowa 52341 (319-393-1161)*

□ Would like to purchase (if not too expensive) a Past Commander's gold plate sword, also possibly a belt. *Ralph H. Lockwood, 2603 North Van Buren, Hutchinson, Kansas 67501 (316-662-4118)*



□ I would like to buy a copy of *History of Free Masonry in Tennessee* by C. A. Snodgrass; also a copy of *Masonry Defined* by E. R. Johnson. Please write giving condition and price of the books. *J. H. McKelvey, 245 Debus Street, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee 38464*

□ If the Sir Knight who requested expired Shrine Motor vehicle license plates some time ago will contact me, I will be glad to send him two sets of reserved Boumi Temple authorized, State of Maryland tags which expired March 31, 1980. *Daniel Eidman, III, 217 Sandee Road, Timonium, Maryland 21093*

□ I have for sale a gold Masonic Past Master's ring in excellent condition (like new). The value at today's price is \$300, but I will consider any reasonable offer. *Mary Lou Murray, R.D. No. 3, Brandon, Vermont 05733 (802-247-3487)*

□ I am interested in acquiring for my own use a uniform coat, size 48 or 50 chest, and a chapeau, size 7 5/8 or 7 3/4. I am willing to trade small size coats and chapeaux for these or pay a reasonable sum. *Thomas E. Csengery, 35 Summitt Ave., Norwalk, Connecticut 06854*

□ For sale — a Knight Templar Sword, in excellent condition, scabbard, bone handle, and leather carrying case with inscription "Walter Fawcett." Sword has an unusual blade with equestrian figures, skull and crossbones and historical symbols. Available for purchase for \$100. If interested, please write. *Howard R. Eulenstein, 365 McCully Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216*

□ Wanted: Old South Bend pocket watch size No. 12 with all movements. Would consider another make watch as long as it is a No. 12 with all movements. *C. P. Simmons, Route No. 4, Pickens, South Carolina 29671*

## More on "A Vanished Knight"

Edgar G. E. Moss, Lebanon, New Jersey, wrote a letter to the *Knight Templar Magazine* which was printed on page 26 of the August issue. It commended on the fact that, after moving, "nobody gave a thought that maybe if an invitation were to be sent" this "Vanished Knight" might be interested.

Several letters were sent to the magazine in response. One from Past Commander Herbert W. Sumner, Jr., New Jersey, pointed out that "if more members exhibited your courage, the need for demits would be virtually eliminated." He continued with his own personal experience: "For the past several years, our job required that we become involved with considerable United States travel. Prior to departure, 'we did our homework' and learned the name and address of the Recorder and the Commandery in the city being visited."

Sir Knight Otto Neustadt, K.Y.G.G.H., Past Commander of Raleigh Commandery No. 4, North Carolina, wrote, in part: "It is perhaps presumptuous of me to suggest to you that 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves.'"

Sir Knight Moss also received a number of letters at his home in New Jersey. Typical quotes: "Your letter in August 1980 was very interesting. I have no doubt 70% of the membership feel the same way." — "Your full page is completely correct." — "You are so right. As long as you're there, O.K., but when you leave, you're forgotten."

A letter from Sir Knight A. H. Kautz, M.S.G., Ret., U.S.A., Aurora, Colorado, strikes a different note. In part, he writes: "I was reading a letter from 'A Vanished Knight' and when I got to the bottom and saw your name I couldn't believe my eyes. . . . We always referred to you as Ed Moss, Scoutmaster of Troop 123. I am writing to let you know what an influence you had on one of your scouts. . . ."



## THE WAY WEST

There were three ways west in 1849. First, there was the journey by sea around Cape Horn (as depicted by the cover poster). People would seek passage on cargo ships or form a joint stock company by pooling their money, purchasing ship and supplies and sailing themselves to California. The "Cape Horn Companies" would lure sailors with the promise of free passage to the gold fields. Once in California, the stockholders would sell their ship and proceed to the mines. The biggest drawback of the Cape Horn voyage was the time involved – six to eight months.



Once in California, the stockholders would sell their ship and proceed to the mines. The biggest drawback of the Cape Horn voyage was the time involved – six to eight months.

The land-sea route – by boat to Panama, Nicaragua or Mexico, then overland to the Pacific, then by water to San Francisco – was faster (about three months), but the cost and the prospect of death from disease discouraged many.

The overland route, via Independence or St. Joseph, Missouri, was popular because it was the cheapest and, barring Indians on the warpath, travelers could live off the land as they went. In April 1849, a local St. Joseph newspaper described the scene:

*"The gold hunters, daily arriving, . . . have increased the number [of emigrants] at this point to between two and three thousand. . . . A more intelligent and respectable body of men cannot be found, composed of every trade and profession, the preacher and peddler, . . . our crowded churches, and well filled Odd Fellow and Masonic Lodge Rooms give evidence of the high moral character of these adventurers; such men are a loss to the community they leave, and are a guaranty that the citizens of California will be a law abiding and moral people."*