

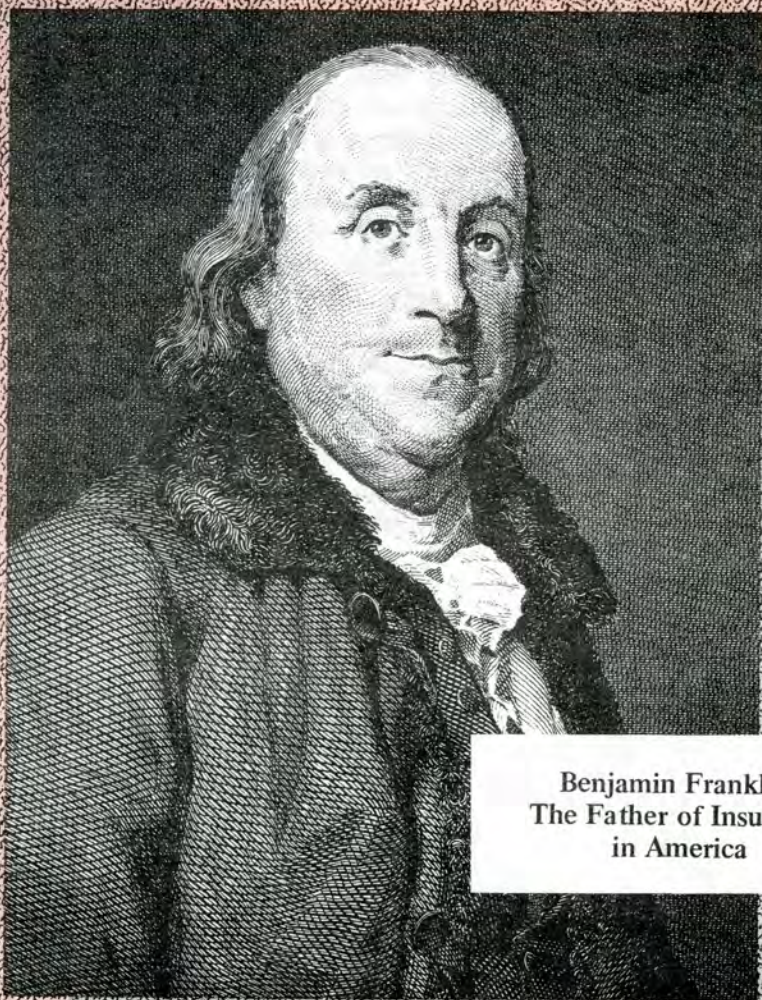


Knight Templar

VOLUME XXXIV

SEPTEMBER 1988

NUMBER 9



Benjamin Franklin,
The Father of Insurance
in America

Reactivate!

As I assume the office of Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, I do so with a keen sense of humility and pride. The office brings great honor to the holder and a tremendous amount of responsibility. As we approach the end of the twentieth century and prepare to enter the next, we face an enormous challenge. We must stimulate greater interest in our great order.

I pray for the wisdom and strength to meet the challenge of the office of Grand Master. We have a proud heritage and a brilliant prospect for the future. We must accept the challenge—we must work together to muster the energy required to create the future that this great Christian order merits. We must reactivate the support of our apathetic members and pursue a program in every Commandery that will excite the interest of our members and attract others to our ranks. Templary can again occupy the prominent place in the affairs of our nation that it once enjoyed.

It's up to the present generation to make this dream become reality. It can be done; it should be done; and it must be done if we are to succeed. The activity of every member counts. One person can make a difference. *You* can help.

Attend your Blue Lodge and your Commandery. Insist that your Commandery present a constructive program of interest. If enough of you heed these words and follow this advice, we can reactivate Templary within weeks. Please give it a try.



Marvin E. Fowler

Grand Master

Knight Templar

"The Magazine for York Rite Masons — and Others, too."

SEPTEMBER: Sir Knights, with the waning of summer comes this month of new beginnings. We have a new Grand Master and a new Templar year is starting, full of the promise of new candidates and the renewal of old friendships. Our coverage of the newly elected and appointed officers of the Grand Encampment is carried on pages five through fourteen. The concluding episode of Brother Ben Franklin's bold venture into the world of insurance appears on page fifteen, and the first part of an explanation of Project Solomon II—"the Program in Pennsylvania"—starts on page nineteen. May all your labors for Templary be fruitful.

Contents

Reactivate!	
Grand Master Marvin E. Fowler	2
Grand Encampment Officer Biographies	5
Newly Elected and Appointed Officers	12
The Father of American Insurance, Part II Sir Knight Thomas E. Rigas.	15
The Program in Pennsylvania Sir Knight David L. Marshall	19

Grand Commander's, Grand Master's Clubs	24
Crossword Puzzle	26

September Issue.	3
Editor's Journal	4
The Family of Masonry	16
In Memoriam	18
Knight Voices	30

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VOLUME XXXIV NUMBER 9

Published monthly as an official publication of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

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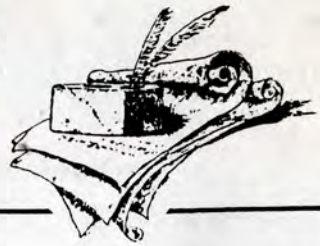
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Material for the Grand Commanderies' two-page supplements is to be directed to the respective Supplement Editors.

Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders.

Editor's Journal



• **Salute our new Grand Master:** Newly elected Grand Master Marvin E. Fowler gives us the first message of his triennium on page two; the biography of our Most Eminent Grand Master is printed on page five. His name now joins the masthead on page three. The staff of the office of the Grand Recorder and *Knight Templar* add their congratulations along with those of all Knights Templar to our new Grand Master.

• **Triennial News Coverage:** The 57th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment ended on August 10, too late for *Knight Templar* to furnish a complete news report on the Conclave. A full report on the events of the Triennial Conclave, along with photographs, will be published in the October edition. Coverage of newly elected and appointed officers begins on page five.

• **Too Much of a Good Thing?:** Many Sir Knights are receiving more than one copy of *Knight Templar Magazine* because of dual memberships. We have made a computer programming change which now enables us to discontinue the mailing of more than one copy without interfering with labels for other mailings.

If you are receiving more than one copy and wish it discontinued, simply mail the label with your instructions to the attention of the Data Processing Department, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60604-2293.

• **Drill Team Competition:** On Saturday, August 6, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., six Class A teams and eighteen Class B teams participated in the 57th Triennial Conclave Drill Competition in Heritage Hall of Lexington Center.

First place in the Class A competition was taken by Ivanhoe Commandery No. 54, Van Wert, Ohio (under drill captain and Past Grand Master Ned E. Dull); second place by Lansing Commandery No. 25, Lansing, Michigan; third place by Knightstown Commandery No. 9, Knightstown, Indiana; and fourth place by Hanselmann Commandery No. 16, Cincinnati, Ohio.

First place in the Class B competition was awarded to Raper Commandery No. 1, Indianapolis, Indiana; second place to Ruthven Commandery No. 2, Houston, Texas; third place to Hamilton Commandery No. 41, Hamilton, Ohio; and fourth place to Palestine Commandery No. 33, Springfield, Ohio.

Prior to the awards program on Saturday evening, the competing drill teams passed in review before the Most Eminent Grand Master, and returned to the drill floor to form a Cross of Salem. Approximately six hundred Sir Knights participated, and this stirring and inspirational sight of massed Templars was witnessed by an audience which filled every seat in the grandstands.

A description of the awards and recognition program will appear in next month's issue.

Marvin E. Fowler, District of Columbia Elected new Leader of Templar Masonry

Elected to office on August 9, 1988, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky, Most Eminent Grand Master Marvin E. Fowler will preside over some 292,000 Sir Knights who comprise the Knights Templar of the United States of America. Our new Grand Master was appointed to the grand line by our late Grand Master Kenneth C. Johnson to fill the unexpired term of Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment due to the death of Grand Generalissimo William P. Wilson. Sir Knight Fowler was advanced to the office of Grand Generalissimo at the 55th Triennial Conclave in Arkansas; on August 14, 1985, he was elected Deputy Grand Master for the 1985-1988 triennium in Cincinnati, Ohio. Grand Master Fowler was installed in the office of Most Eminent Grand Master on August 10, 1988.

Marvin E. Fowler, a member of the Masonic Fraternity for more than sixty years, was born in Salisbury, Missouri, and matriculated at Central College in Fayette, Missouri, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then attended George Washington University and completed studies for his M.A. in 1931.

He was head pathologist and chief of the Division of Forest Disease Research, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and is the author of seventy-five scientific publications. He retired from government service in October 1963. Following that tenure, he accepted the position of Secretary/Recorder for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, which post he retained for another fifteen years.

A member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, Grand Master Fowler is a past president of the Holindale Citizens Association and the International Arborists Association. He and his wife Roberta reside in Alexandria.

Sir Knight Fowler was raised in Hebron Lodge No. 354, Mexico, Missouri, in 1927, and today is a member of LaFayette Lodge No. 19 in the District of Columbia. He served as Worshipful Master of LaFayette Lodge in 1940; in 1950 he

was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District. He was admitted to the ranks of Royal Arch and chivalric Masonry in Mexico, Missouri, and now holds membership in the District of Columbia York Rite. He has served terms as Grand High Priest, R.A.M., District of Columbia, and General Grand Principal Sojourner and Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter, International; also Grand Master, Grand Council, R. & S.M., D.C.; and Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, District of Columbia. For many years he served as chairman of the Easter Sunrise Service Committee for the Grand Encampment. He has also served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter and Grand Recorder of the Grand Council in the District of Columbia.

He holds the 33^o, A. & A.S.R., S.J., and served as presiding officer in all four Scottish Rite bodies. He is a Past Sovereign of St. Simeon Stylites Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, and is now chairman of the United Grand Imperial Council Committee on International Relations; he is a member of the York Rite College, where he holds the Purple Cross, and a member of the KYCH. Since 1953, he has served as Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland.

William Thornley, Jr., Deputy Grand Master

Sir Knight William H. Thornley, Jr., of Colorado, Past Northwestern Department Commander, was elected to the grand line in 1982. On August 13, 1985, he was advanced to Grand Generalissimo at the 56th Triennial Conclave in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was elected to the office of Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment on August 9, 1988.

A native of Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, Sir Knight William H. Thornley, Jr., attended Carnegie Institute of Technology before serving with the 90th Infantry Division in World War II. As a soldier in Europe he was wounded and decorated four times for gallantry in action, and he holds four campaign stars and an arrowhead for the invasion of Normandy.

Following the war, he moved to Colorado and attended the Colorado School of Mines. Today he is a registered professional engineer and senior partner of Fox and Associates, Inc., consulting geotechnical engineers and engineering geologists in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. He is also a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, American Institute of Mining Engineers, and other professional engineering organizations. He belongs to Christ Church, Episcopal, in Denver, Colorado.

Raised a Master Mason in 1946 in King Solomon's Lodge No. 346, F. & A.M., Connellsville, Pennsylvania, Sir Knight Thornley completed his York Rite degrees and orders in Colorado. He is a Past High Priest and Treasurer (since 1962) of Colorado Chapter No. 29, R.A.M., and was elected Grand High Priest of Colorado in 1966. He was Thrice Illustrious Master of Denver Council No. 1, C.M., in 1977-1978, and served the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado as Most Illustrious Grand Master in 1986. He is also a Past Commander of Denver-Colorado Commandery No. 1 and served as Grand Commander of



the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Colorado in 1976.

In the Scottish Rite, Deputy Grand Master Thornley is a member of Rocky Mountain Consistory, Valley of Denver, and was coronated 33^o, Inspector General Honorary, in 1981. His appendant Masonic memberships include El Jebel Temple, AAONMS; Mount of the Holy Cross Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Crown of Thorns Tabernacle XXVIII, HRAKTP; Royal Order of Scotland; Knight Masons; Royal Order of Jesters; Pikes Peak Council No. 156, A.M.D.; and Great Priory of America, C.B.C.S. He was elected to active membership in the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, in April 1988.

He and his wife Shirley Jane are the parents of three children: Elizabeth, William III, and Robert. Both sons are active members of the Masonic Fraternity.

Blair C. Mayford, Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knight Blair C. Mayford was appointed Right Eminent South Central Department Commander by Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, Most Eminent Grand Master, on August 19, 1982, in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment on August 13, 1985, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo on August 9, 1988, and installed in that office the following day.

Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo Blair C. Mayford was born in Illinois, graduating from Wood River Community High School and later from Washington University. He is assistant manager of the insurance division of John S. Swift Company, Inc., a lithography firm, and has been associated with that company for forty years.

Sir Knight Mayford and his wife Dorella were married at Alton, Illinois, and are the parents of one daughter, Christy Ann, and have two grandchildren.

Grand Generalissimo Mayford is past presiding officer of St. Louis, Missouri, Chapter No. 1, R.A.M., and was appointed Missouri representative of the Deputy Grand High Priest of the South Central Region, General Grand Chapter, International, 1978-1981. He is Past Master of Hiram Council No. 1, C.M., of Missouri, and was elected Grand Master of the Grand Council, C.M., of that state in 1986. Sir Knight Mayford is Past Commander of St. Aldemar Commandery No. 18, St. Louis, and served as Recorder of that body for nineteen years. He is now a member of Ascalon Commandery No. 16 as the result of a merger. He served Missouri as Grand Commander in 1975 and served the Grand Encampment during the 1979-1982 triennium as chairman of the Committee on Ritualistic Matters.

Appendant memberships include St. Louis Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, in which he was Sovereign in 1984; Past Preceptor, Registrar, and Treasurer of



Lord of Lords Tabernacle LI, HRAKTP; Missouri Priory No. 17, KYCH; Past Sovereign Master of Ray Vaughn Denslow Council No. 102, A.M.D.; York Rite Sovereign College of North America; and the Royal Order of Scotland. In addition, he is a Past Master of Kadosh and holds the KCCH in the Valley of St. Louis, A. & A.S.R., S.J. He was coronated 33°, Inspector General Honorary, in 1985. He is a member of Moolah Temple, AAONMS, in St. Louis and served as president of the Guides Unit of that Temple. In the Order of DeMolay, International, he holds the Honorary Legion of Honor.

James M. Ward elected to Grand Line

Sir Knight James M. Ward was elected to the grand line of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar as Right Eminent Grand Captain General at the election of officers which was held at the 57th Triennial Conclave on August 9, 1988. He was installed into that office on the following day.

Right Eminent Grand Captain General James M. Ward was born in Dyersburg, Tennessee, and obtained his early education in the public schools there. He attended the University of Mississippi, completing his studies at the University Center in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois. He was employed in 1955 by South Central Bell Telephone Co. as a lineman in Jackson, Tennessee, and in 1961 he was transferred to the engineering department in Jackson, Mississippi. He served in various jobs in the engineering and construction divisions and is now manager of district construction operations in Jackson, Mississippi.

Sir Knight Ward and his wife Jan actively participate in the religious, business, and recreational activities of Daniel Memorial Baptist Church. They are the parents of one daughter, Kathy, who is a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Raised in Pearl Lodge No. 23, Jackson, Mississippi, Sir Knight Ward served as Master of that Lodge in 1971 and presently serves as its Secretary. In 1979, he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi. He was chairman of the board of managers of the Masonic Children's Home, 1977-1979, and presently serves on its board. He is the Secretary/Recorder of the Jackson York Rite Bodies. Sir Knight Ward served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi in 1985, as Grand Master of the Grand Council in 1986, and as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi in 1982. He served the



Grand Encampment as Right Eminent Department Commander of the Southeastern Department for the 1982-1985 triennium.

Sir Knight Ward's appendant Masonic memberships include: St. Leonard Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Wahabi Temple, AAONMS; Past Prior, Rose of Sharon Tabernacle XLIII, HRAKTP; Royal Order of Scotland; KYCH; and the Order of the Eastern Star. He is a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies of Jackson, a recipient of the KCCH, an honorary member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, and a recipient of the DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor.

Harold S. Gorman, Grand Treasurer

Sir Knight Harold Sumner Gorman of Reno, Nevada, is the tenth man to hold the office of Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment since it was established in 1816. He was first appointed in July 1974 by then-Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, and he has been reelected to the office each triennium since then. He brings to the office some fifty years of banking experience.

A native of Carlin, Nevada, Sir Knight Gorman moved to Reno as a young boy. After graduating from Reno High School, he attended the University of Nevada. In May 1922, he began his banking career, which culminated in 1968 when he retired as chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Nevada.

His professional affiliations include the Nevada Bankers Association (which he served as president in 1949); American Bankers Association; and the Sierra Nevada Chapter, American Institute of Banking. His civic offices have included president of Reno Chamber of Commerce in 1952; president of the Rotary Club of Reno, 1944-1945; president, Prospectors Club, 1966; and former director, United Fund of Washoe County. He is also a member of the Navy League; National Industrial Conference Board; and the Small Business Administration. He is a former treasurer of the Washoe Landmark Preservation, the Nevada Council on Economic Education, and Trinity Episcopal Church. A long-time supporter of Boy Scouts of America, he is a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award and currently a board member of the Nevada Area Council in Reno.

Sir Knight Gorman was a charter member and first Master Councilor of Nevada Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and holds the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He was raised in Reno Lodge No. 13, F. &



A.M., of which he is presently a trustee; and he is Past High Priest of Reno Chapter No. 1, R.A.M.; a member of Reno Council No. 4, R. & S.M.; and a fifty-two year member and Past Commander of DeWitt Clinton Commandery No. 1 in Reno. In 1967, he was appointed South Pacific Department Commander for the Grand Encampment. He served the Grand Commandery of Nevada as Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer, and as chairman of the Educational Foundation. He serves the Grand Encampment as Treasurer of the KTEF, Inc.

His Masonic memberships also include: the Scottish Rite bodies of Reno, where he was elected to receive the 33^o in October 1987 and was coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General in December 1987; Kerak Temple, AAONMS; St. Matthias Tabernacle LVII, HRAKTP; Reno Court No. 33, Royal Order of Jesters; and Royal Order of Scotland. He is also a former Intendant General for Nevada, United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine.

Sir Knight Gorman and his wife Marguerite are the parents of two sons, Richard and Robert.

Charles R. Neumann, Grand Recorder

Sir Knight Charles R. Neumann was appointed Right Eminent Assistant Grand Recorder on July 1, 1984, by Grand Master Ned E. Dull. Having served in that office for over a year, he was elected Right Eminent Grand Recorder at the 56th Triennial Conclave in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1985. Grand Recorder Neumann was unanimously reelected on August 9 at the 57th Triennial Conclave in Lexington, Kentucky, to serve the Grand Encampment during the 1988-1991 triennium.

Grand Recorder Charles Richard Neumann was born in Chicago, Illinois. His family later moved to Arlington Heights, Illinois, where he attended high school. He received the degree of doctor of naprapathy from the National College of Naprapathy in 1962.

In addition to practicing naprapathy from 1962 to 1974, he worked as a system coordinator for Waukegan Steel Company and from 1980 to 1984 was branch manager, then salesman, for Midwest Welding Supply Company.

A member of the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, he has been married to his wife Karla since 1972.

Sir Knight Neumann was raised in Arlington Heights Lodge No. 1162 in Arlington Heights, Illinois, on January 26, 1963, and served as its Worshipful Master in 1972. He received the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry in November of 1963 and is a member of Palatine Chapter No. 206 in Palatine, Illinois. He served as Excellent High Priest in 1968. He was made a Royal and Select Master in Cryptic Council No. 46 in Elgin, Illinois, in 1964 and served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1969. He was installed as Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Illinois, on July 21, 1988, receiving the second quadrant, KYGCH.

He was Knighted in 1963 in Bethel Commandery No. 36, Knights Templar, Elgin, Illinois, serving as Commander in 1967. In 1975 at the age of 34 he served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.



Sir Knight Neumann holds the 32^o, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Chicago. He was elected to receive the 33^o in September 1987 and will be coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General at the Supreme Council session in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in September 1988. He became a member of Medinah Temple, AAONMS, in 1963 at Chicago. Sir Knight Neumann has received the Purple Cross from the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

Additional Masonic affiliations include Knight Masons, U.S.A.; Illinois Priory No. 11, KYCH; Simon Peter Tabernacle XXII, HRAKTP; Order of Eastern Star; Order of the Amaranth; DeMolay Legion of Honor and honorary membership in the International Supreme Council.

At the 57th Triennial Conclave, he was reelected Secretary of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Knights Templar Educational Foundation.

The Reverend Thomas Edward Weir

Following his installation as Grand Master, Sir Knight Marvin E. Fowler announced that he had selected the Reverend Sir Knight Thomas Edward Weir of Hyattsville, Maryland, to serve as Right Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment for the triennium of 1988-1991. Sir Knight Weir succeeds the Reverend Sir Knight Walter M. McCracken of Staunton, Virginia, as Grand Prelate.

The Reverend Doctor Thomas E. Weir of Hyattsville, Maryland, was born in Washington, North Carolina, in 1925. The son of Katherine and Frank Weir, he was educated in the public schools of Roanoke and Roanoke County, North Carolina. His educational history also includes undergraduate study at Roanoke College and the University of Virginia. Sir Knight Weir earned a B.S. degree from the University of South Carolina, a B.D. at Emory University, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

A minister of the United Methodist Church, he has served as pastor of a three-point rural circuit, staff member of a large downtown church, director of a Methodist student center, and Institute Chaplain at Virginia Military Institute. His Naval service includes enlisted and commissioned service from 1943 to 1952 and chaplain duty from 1964 until his retirement in 1975. He is a combat veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Grand Prelate Weir entered into Masonry while in Scotland. He was initiated in St. Andrew Lodge No. 282 in Tarfside Angus, Scotland, on December 6, 1968; Haran Chapter No. 8, R.A.M., in Lawrence Kirk, Kincardineshire, on March 4, 1969; Noah Council No. 7, Cryptic Masonry, Brechin, Angus, on March 31, 1969; and Aithernie Preceptory No. 51, Knights Templar, in Methil, Fife, Scotland, on May 14, 1969. He has now affiliated with Skidmore Daylight Lodge No. 237 in Virginia and Keystone Chapter No. 32, R.A.M., King David Council



No. 19, and St. Elmo Commandery No. 12, all in Maryland. Sir Knight Weir has served as the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and Scotland and the Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Maryland. He is presently the Deputy Grand Commander of Maryland.

His civic activities include involvement in the Boy Scouts of America, where he has achieved the Silver Beaver, the God and Service Award, the Baden-Powell Fellowship and the Olave Baden-Powell Society; Rotary International; the Masonic Order, where he has served as Grand Chaplain for four years; American Legion, serving as Department Vice Commander; and the "Forty & Eight," where he has been past national vice commander and past national chaplain. Sir Knight Weir is currently serving as director of the American Institute of Practical Theology, Inc., a non-profit research organization concerned with church and ministry.

Elected and Appointed Officers, 1988-1991

The ceremony of installation for the new officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar took place at 11:00 a.m. on the morning of August 10, 1988, as the final activity of the 57th Triennial Conclave in Lexington, Kentucky. Four Most Eminent Past Grand Masters made up the installation team, with G. Wilbur Bell as installing officer, Ned E. Dull as installing Marshal, Willard M. Avery as installing Recorder, and Donald H. Smith as installing Prelate.

Elected by the Grand Encampment:

Most Eminent Grand Master

Marvin E. Fowler, 1904 White Oaks Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master

William H. Thornley, Jr., 3080 South Race Street, Denver, Colorado 80210

Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo

Blair C. Mayford, 14 Duffy Court, St. Peters, Missouri 63376

Right Eminent Grand Captain General

James M. Ward, 174 Chasewood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39212

Right Eminent Grand Treasurer

Harold S. Gorman, P.O. Box 11007, Reno, Nevada 89510

Right Eminent Grand Recorder

Charles R. Neumann, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Appointed by the Grand Master:

Right Eminent Grand Prelate

The Reverend Thomas E. Weir, 6409 Queens Chapel Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Right Eminent Department Commanders

Northeastern: Gordon J. Brenner (NJ)	North Central: Morton P. Steyer (NE)
Southeastern: Joseph D. Brackin (AL)	South Central: Earl R. Little (LA)
East Central: H. Courtney Jones (WV)	Northwestern: Howard R. Caldwell (CO)
Southwestern: David B. Slayton (CA)	

† † †

Most Eminent Past Grand Masters

John L. Crofts, Sr. (1967-1970)

G. Wilbur Bell (1970-1973)

Willard M. Avery (1976-1979)

Ned E. Dull (1982-1985)

Donald H. Smith (1985-1988)

Past Grand Treasurer
Edmund F. Ball, P.G.C. (Indiana)

Right Eminent Past Grand Recorder and Honorary Past Grand Master
Paul C. Rodenhauer, P.G.C. (Pennsylvania)

Planned Regional Conferences for 1988-1989

South Central (Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas): September 9-11, 1988, in Austin, Texas.

Northeastern (Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts/Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont): September 10-11, 1988, in Albany, New York.

North Central (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin): October 1-2, 1988, in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Northwestern (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming): October 15, 1988, in Boise, Idaho.

Southwestern (Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah): November 12, 1988, in Tucson, Arizona.

East Central (Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia): March 11-12, 1989.

Standing Committee Chairmen, 1988-1991

Templar Jurisprudence: Herbert D. Sledd, P.G.C. (Kentucky), 6326 Colby Road, Winchester, Kentucky 40391-9801.

Finance: Sam E. Hilburn, P.G.C. (Texas), 303 Petroleum Building, Midland, Texas 79701.

Foreign Relations: Co-chairmen G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., P.G.C. (Illinois), P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705; and Ned Eugene Dull, P.G.M., P.G.C. (Ohio), P.O. Box 429, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

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Necrology: Earl R. Little, P.G.C. (Louisiana), 2722 Hudson Place, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114.

Triennial Conclave: John C. Werner II, P.D.C., P.G.C. (Virginia), 8907 Southwick Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031.

Educational Foundation: Russell K. Amling, P.G.C. (Minnesota), 201 Heather Lane, No. 3, Mankato, Minnesota 56001.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.: Marvin E. Fowler, Grand Master, President, 1904 White Oaks Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22306; G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., Executive Director, P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Drill Regulations: Herbert A. Newman, P.G.C. (Indiana), 1201 North Hawthorne Lane, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219.

Triennial Conclave Expense: Marvin E. Fowler, Grand Master, 1904 White Oaks Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

Ritualistic Matters: Paul W. Sweet, Jr., P.D.C., P.G.C. (Washington), 718 North Washington Street, Centralia, Washington 98531.

Membership: Albert R. Masters, P.G.C. (Iowa), P.O. Box 456, Newton, Iowa 50208.

Patriotic and Civic Activities: John C. Werner II, P.D.C., P.G.C. (District of Columbia), 8907 Southwick Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031.

Public Relations: Jerry K. Thomas, P.G.C. (South Dakota), Canyon Lake Heights, 4823 Cliff Drive, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702.

Special Committee Chairmen, 1988-1991

DeMolay: George W. Davidson, P.G.C. (Ohio), 444 East Spring Avenue, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311.

Dispensations and Charters: Richard M. Strauss, P.G.C. (Michigan), 16834 Avon Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219.

Templar History: Wallace M. Gage, P.G.C. (Maine), P.O. Box 47, Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860.

Knights Templar Cross of Honor Award: Jay R. Newman, P.D.C., P.G.C. (Utah), 6887 South, 725 East, No. D, Midvale, Utah 84047.

George Washington Memorial Knights Templar Chapel: Robert D. McMarlin, P.G.C. (Virginia), 7525 McWhorter Place, No. 101, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

Easter Sunrise Memorial Service: Richard B. Baldwin, D.G.C. (Virginia), 5400 Bromyard Court, Burke, Virginia 22015.

Easter Sunrise Breakfast: Marion K. Warner, P.G.C., G.R. (District of Columbia), 1127 Tiffany Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904.

International York Rite Cooperation: William Jackson Jones, P.D.C., P.G.C. (Illinois), P.O. Box 48, Villa Grove, Illinois 61956.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: P. Fred Lesley, P.G.C., G.R. (Michigan), 396 South Hills Drive, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015.

National Awards: Fred W. Scurlock, P.D.C., P.G.C. (California), P.O. Box 97, Sunnymead, California 92388.

In last month's Knight Templar, readers were told of Brother Benjamin Franklin's early efforts to help Philadelphia protect itself from the threat of fire, which culminated in the formation of the city's first fire-fighting organization, the Union Fire Company. In this month's installment we shall hear the story of this group and subsequent advances in the creation of insurance in America.

The pioneer fire-fighting organization, the Union Fire Company, was founded by Brother Benjamin Franklin and four of his personal friends; membership was limited to only thirty men. Each member equipped himself with six leather buckets, one hook, and four stout linen bags for removing personal property from burning buildings—all of which the member was to carry to every fire. A member was fined fifty cents for not attending a fire, unless "a suitable and satisfactory reason is given to the company," and each member was also liable to a fine of twice that amount for failure to keep his fire-fighting equipment in good condition.

Members of the company met once a month and dined, then spent a social evening together discussing ideas on fire-fighting. As a purely volunteer association, the Union Fire Company lasted for eighty-four years, giving utmost assistance to fellow citizens in need.

Interest in the company spread and many additional companies were formed, until they became so numerous as to

include most of the citizens who were men of property. The names taken by some of the other companies—"the Fellowship," "the Hand-in-Hand," "the Heart-in-Hand," and "the Friendship"—were expressive of their purpose. They numbered among their members lawyers, clergymen, physicians, and other eminent Philadelphians of the day. Within a few years after Brother Franklin had shown their practical value, half a dozen volunteer fire companies were earnestly functioning in the city. As a result of their collective zeal, Philadelphia became, as far as fires were concerned, the safest city in America.

Brother Franklin, however, was not content to stop there. He never wearied of urging prevention. He continually and aggressively used the pages of the *Gazette* to promote fire prevention and control.

Four years after organizing the Union Fire Company, Franklin made another notable contribution to fire prevention. He invented a new kind of heating stove that was safer than anything then avail-

The Father of American Insurance Part II

by
Sir Knight Thomas E. Rigas

able. He named it the "Pennsylvania Fire-Place," but it was commonly called the "Franklin stove." Guided by his sense of the practical, Brother Franklin was pursuing his attack on fire with simple

Continued on page 22

Oklahoma S.O.O.B. Reception

Enid Assembly No. 5, S.O.O.B., Enid, Oklahoma, honored Mrs. O. R. Whitman



(center, above), Supreme Daughter of the Household, and Mrs. Homer P. Peck (left), Past Supreme President, with a reception on June 12, 1988, in the Civic Center in Enid. Mrs. Archie Lee (right) is the Worthy President of Enid Assembly. The program for the afternoon was given by entertainer Mary Baker.

New Red Cross Officers

Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., and Past Grand Sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine (1987-88), presided over the 116th Annual Assembly of the Red Cross of Constantine on June 9-11, 1988, in Dayton, Ohio. He was succeeded in office by Sir Knight Maurice E. Walsh, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina. Sir Knight Charles V. Brewer, Washington Commandery No. 1, Washington, D.C., entered the R.C.C. grand line as Grand Almoner.

Grand Master's Reception

A reception honoring Most Eminent Grand Master Marvin E. Fowler will be held on November 26, 1988, at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, Virginia. Fellowship hour will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by a banquet at 7:00 p.m. and the reception at 8:00 p.m. The event is under the sponsorship of Columbia Commandery No. 2, District of Columbia. The cost is \$27.50 per person, and is open to everyone, both members and friends.

Hotel rooms are available. If you require an accommodation, arrangements have been made with the Holiday Inn of Fairfax City for special rates of \$44.00 for one person or \$48.00 for two. To assure this rate you must call the sales office at (703) 591-0852 before November 11 and mention the Commandery of Knights Templar block of rooms. The Holiday Inn is located near the intersection of U.S. 50 and Va.-123, just off I-66 Exit 16, South.

Your reservation must include your name, the name of your lady, address, zip code, phone number, the number of reservations desired at \$27.50 each, and the total enclosed. Mail this information with your check made payable to Columbia Commandery No. 2—no later than November 11—to J. Milton McDonald, 1101 South Arlington Ridge Road, No. 815, Arlington, VA 22202. Table seating will be assigned in the order paid reservations are received.

Do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of.

Benjamin Franklin

Pennsylvania Commandery Breakfast

Cyrene Commandery No. 34, Columbia, Pennsylvania, announced its 37th annual Christmas Breakfast Observance would be held in the Masonic Center in Columbia on Sunday morning, December 18. The first observance of this type began in December 1952, when the Commander was Sir Knight Paul C. Rodenhauer, who later became Grand Commander of Pennsylvania, then Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A. (1967-1985). While Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, he also served as Grand Recorder of the United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine. He later was named Honorary Past Grand Master of the the Grand Encampment and Honorary Past Supreme Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada.

For thirty-five years, attendance at the breakfast was limited to Sir Knights only. In 1987, families of Templars were invited. According to the Commander of Cyrene Commandery, Walter J. Foltz, "Attendance last year was rewarding. So rewarding, in fact, that it became necessary for the chairman, Past Commander Gerald Johns, and Cyrene Commandery's Recorder, Past Commander Harry W. Bartch, Jr., to take their breakfasts with the caterers in the kitchen!" Commander Foltz anticipates an increased turnout for the 1988 breakfast, including grand officers and other distinguished guests.

He who has never hoped can never despair.

George Bernard Shaw

Templars on Parade in Virginia City

The Knights of DeWitt Clinton Commandery No. 1, Reno, Nevada, returned



to the location of their original 1869 charter, the historic mining town of Virginia City, Nevada, to escort Sir Knight Roy A. Wilson, the Grand Master of Masons of the state of Nevada, and his corps of officers during their dedication ceremony for the new Masonic Temple. The Temple was a gift from Sir Knight Francis N. Fisher, P.G.M.

As the photo above shows, some eighteen Templars under the command of Sir Knight William F. Hill, P.G.M., wore the original Virginia City mounted uniforms which were used by the Commandery in that city over one hundred years ago. The main street was blocked off to accommodate the large crowd, and Templary was indeed on parade.

Virginia Anniversary

Pittsylvania Lodge No. 24, A.F. & A.M., Chatham, Virginia, celebrated its 200th anniversary in August. A 30-page history of the Lodge dating back before the Civil War has been compiled, and can be purchased for \$5.00. All profit will benefit the Virginia Masonic Home. If interested, please mail check to Langhorne Jones, Chatham, VA 24531.

IN MEMORIAM



Lawrence M. Looker
Ohio
Grand Commander—1974
Born February 15, 1909
Died June 18, 1988

Francis R. Black
Pennsylvania
Grand Commander—1974
Born March 26, 1914
Died July 21, 1988

Joe N. Sullivan, Jr.
Mississippi
Grand Commander—1980
Born December 21, 1909
Died July 29, 1988

Norman P. Bullock
Oklahoma
Grand Commander—1977
Born May 5, 1907
Died August 2, 1988



Needlepoint Kits Available

Several years ago the Grand Encampment began offering needlepoint kits for sale. These kits (not pictured) include a printed canvas with the Knight Templar emblem in red, white, yellow, and black on a white background. Kits are still available and include the printed canvas, needle, and yarn (finished size is 10 by 10 inches). The cost of a single kit is \$11.50 postpaid, or \$10.50 each in lots of three or more. Orders may be sent to Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Washington S.O.O.B. Installation

On February 5, 1988, Everett Assembly No. 242, Social Order of the Beau-



ceant, held its sixteenth annual installation of officers at the Marysville Masonic Temple, Marysville, Washington.

The officers installed were Mrs. Garth E. Short, Worthy President; Mrs. Gordon Shirey, Most Worthy Oracle; Mrs. Alvin Hearn, First Vice President; Mrs. William Pope, Jr., Second Vice President; Mrs. George Sherry, Preceptress; Mrs. Fred Finkel, Recorder; Mrs. Jack Waterson, Treasurer; Mrs. Frank Franson, Marshal; Mrs. Chris Raiford, Assistant Marshal; Mrs. Clarence Greig, Chaplain; Mrs. Herb Hamilton, Director of Music; Mrs. J. Robert Kennedy, Standard Bearer; Mrs. Everett Fells, Color Bearer; Mrs. Charles Lloyd, Mistress of Wardrobe; Mrs. Leo N. Arthur, Daughter of Household; Mrs. David DeLameter, Inner Guard; and Mrs. Curtis Fletcher, Outer Guard.

Mrs. Charles D. Hobby, Past Supreme Worthy President, was the installing officer; other installing officers included Mrs. Ronald Dingle, Marshal; Mrs. John Kearn, Assistant Marshal; Mrs. Lloyd Ritzman, Chaplain; Mrs. Reuben Baer, Recorder; Mrs. Fred Dormack, Supreme Committee member, as Standard Bearer; Mrs. Donald Chamberlain, Supreme Chaplain, as Color Bearer; and Sir Knight Orrin W. Niles of Bethlehem Commandery No. 19, Seattle, Washington, as Musician.

Freemasons of this grand jurisdiction have instituted many changes—to strong reactions, both pro and con—in an effort to preserve the Craft.

The Program in Pennsylvania

by

Sir Knight David L. Marshall
Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Legend would have us believe that Masonry originated in the time of the Old Testament—near the end of the construction of King Solomon's temple, or around 1005 B.C. Wherever and whenever we started, what we are left with today is a social fraternity professing to be one of the few places still remaining where a man can go to improve himself.

However, in a single generation, the youth of our country have found affiliation with such an organized body of their peers to be unnecessary and even undesirable. So the changing views of society continue to chip away at things as we have always known them; like the Catholic priesthood, the two-party political system, and countless fraternal organizations, some believe our Masonic order is going the way of the dinosaur—dying along with its membership.

In truth, the system as we know it is rooted in the craft guilds of the workers who constructed the grand cathedrals of Europe during the Middle Ages, when the rules of geometry and the building trade were held as closely guarded secrets, reserved exclusively for the qualified master stonemason. Exactly where and

when the Masonic order came from, before the systems of the York and Scottish Rites were standardized, has been lost in antiquity. Yet it is known that the teachings and principles of morality that are at the heart of Freemasonry's existence come from the days of Euclid and Plato and even as far back as the great Egyptian dynasties. And so we Masons claim to have the oldest and largest Fraternity in existence in the world today.

Now, though, a nationwide constituency that peaked in 1959 with over four million people has dropped to under three million in recent years. The decline in Pennsylvania has gone from 258,000 members in 1960 to the present 190,000, comprising approximately 550 Lodges that are merging with greater and greater frequency. Today, there are roughly 50,000 members in the Pittsburgh area where I live, yet the landscape is dotted with vacant buildings having Masonic emblems above the door and "for sale" signs out front.

That Freemasonry has lasted as long as it has when other fraternities such as the Knights of Pythias and the In- → → →

dependent Order of Odd Fellows have all but fallen by the wayside is a tribute to our strength and appeal. So why then is the greatest and oldest Fraternity in the world slowly eroding? A discussion with the membership identifies many of the problems.

A sometimes self-defeating complication built into the system is an unofficial commandment that says members may never solicit others, and that Masons generally do not preach about the order to outsiders. The character of the individual member is thought to be enough to attract newcomers. It is said that a man truly interested in joining will seek out someone whom he suspects is a Mason and inquire about the order himself. In the past, that confusing technicality has caused many members to sit back and wait to be asked, while a prospective member might fear that to inquire might be grounds for rejection—truly a "Catch-22" situation.

In addition, many elderly members, in particular, maintain the veil of secrecy when questioned, clinging to the old ways and refusing to divulge *any* information about the organization. In these times, though, when people are so well educated and question everything from their doctors' diagnoses of their ailments to the sticker price of an automobile, few will sign up for something without knowing what it's all about.

Freemasonry is accused of ill deeds, corrupt activities, and political manipulation by people with little or no knowledge of the organization. Not a religion, it does stress the basic universal truths and values taught by all the world's great forms of worship. Masons are admonished to recognize the brotherhood of all mankind and to befriend and assist even those who are not members.

In order for the required two members to endorse a petition and vouch for a candidate, they must certify that they have both been acquainted with him for a

specified amount of time. This brings up an additional point that seems to be causing the rate of new incoming membership to dwindle. Anyone who has an element of transience in their career as they climb the corporate ladder, or who must move frequently to follow the industry or profession of their choice, is going to find it difficult to break into Freemasonry. In addition, many men prefer to wait until they settle down before pursuing the Craft. And, as everyone knows, the changing conditions in today's workforce have created the most mobile generation since World War II.

With the aid of a modern computer, the chief officers of the Ancient Fraternity in Pennsylvania had already calculated

"Non-solicitation has caused some members to sit back and wait to be asked, while prospects might fear that to inquire would cause rejection."

the year when Masonry would disappear in this state if the rate of decline was permitted to remain the same. In 1984, officials in the organization warned that if the average age of a Mason stayed near retirement age and the trend continued, in ten years an additional 50,000 people—or more than one-quarter of the total membership—would be lost. It was speculated that to wait just five more years would put Pennsylvania Freemasonry in the position of not having enough people to help recover from the losses.

With the point of no return rapidly approaching and the membership on the verge of being too low and too old to supply new interested candidates, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania pioneered a bold and, some say, provocative new scheme called "Project Solomon II"—a copyrighted, professionally produced public relations program. The project goal has been an attempt to identify several major causes for the Fraternity's failure to

attract new members and then to deal with the items pinpointed on that list.

At its inception in early 1985, the designers of the project had hoped to regain the 50,000 members lost since 1963 in just five years; this herculean effort would require one member in four to bring in a new petition to meet the goal of 10,000 new members per year. Keep in mind that this mark did not represent any growth for the Fraternity—it would just stop the outward flow, the deaths that outnumbered new petitioners.

What makes the endeavor so controversial among the long-established portion of the membership is that Freemasonry has always been concerned with the quality of its constituency rather than the quantity. [See "Membership Myths," by Sir Knight Robert A. Kessinger, in the August 1988 Knight Templar—Ed.] There have been peaks and valleys in our numbers before and many felt the Fraternity should wait out the storm and let the problem take care of itself.

Among several modifications taking place alongside the new program as it was instituted was a major change in the ritualistic form. Where once a candidate swore to an ancient oath of secrecy and allegiance under the symbolic penalty of death, now a more modern version exists threatening only expulsion from the Fraternity. The severity of the penalty as it formally existed was viewed as being barbaric by Freemasonry's detractors, and its symbolic aspect was seldom referred to when critics chose to denounce the organization. So, the leaders of the Fraternity in Pennsylvania have bowed to the adverse comments and thus removed some, at least, of their critics' ammunition. The move has been received with mixed feelings and is often mentioned during discussions in the social room after meetings.

Another recent change has been an alteration of the physical requirements. Previously one had to be in possession of

all of his limbs in order to be admitted. This prerequisite may have been a carry-over from the days when men needed their hands and legs to perform the physical labor associated with stonemasonry. In the case of missing digits or toes, it was sometimes necessary to secure a special dispensation. Yet while a petitioner had to meet certain physical qualifications in order to join Freemasonry, the subsequent loss of a limb was never grounds for expulsion.

These requirements, and the need for others like them, are now viewed as having outlived their useful purpose. And so, those qualities not affecting the inner man—the character—are being modified to suit the times we live in. Today in Pennsylvania, people with all sorts of physical abnormalities, whether from birth or accident—including some who were rejected years ago—are being received into the Fraternity, even in wheelchairs. The only difficulties experienced so far seem to have to do with a deaf candidate during a portion of the ritual where he might be unable to read lips and at the same time be without the use of a hearing aid. Regardless of the membership's feelings about the many changes that are coming to pass, the waiving of any physical requirement is universally accepted and welcomed.

Next month we shall read more of the progress of Project Solomon II in Pennsylvania, including a discussion of modifications of the work in the Blue Lodge, where tradition continues to be challenged. See you then!



Views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of the Grand Encampment nor of its members.

Sir Knight David L. Marshall is a 39-year-old freelance writer. He lives at 9049 Maple Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15239.

logic: he started by crusading for prevention of fires; proceeded to form a volunteer fire company to control those fires that did occur; then went on to invent a heating device that reduced one major cause of fires.

It became obvious to Brother Franklin, however, that taking precautions could not entirely prevent the occurrence of fires and, once property had been dam-

“Brother Franklin used the Union Fire Company as the nucleus of an organization to introduce fire insurance to Philadelphia.”

aged or destroyed, that there was a need for some assurance that the property owner would be indemnified for his loss. Having come to the realization that fire could not be abolished, Franklin was ready to take the next logical step: to form an insurance company that would make up the loss caused by fire.

This idea occurred to him not later than 1750, and out of it eventually developed the first successful insurance company in America. An attempt to furnish fire insurance had been made in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1735, when a “Friendly Society,” operating under a royal charter, came into existence. In 1741 Charleston suffered a disastrous fire and, as a consequence, the Friendly Society went out of business, six years after it had started.

Brother Franklin used the Union Fire Company as the nucleus of an organization to introduce fire insurance to Philadelphia. He first presented his idea of forming an insurance company to the members at their meeting of February 26, 1750. The members agreed to raise a fund out of which each member would be indemnified if his dwelling were damaged by fire. Brother Franklin and two other members—HURCH Roberts and Brother

Philip Syng—were appointed a committee to be responsible for investing the money. They subsequently loaned the funds to a merchant named James Coates. This simple transaction has the distinction of being the first known investment by an American insurance company.

After the Union Fire Company's insurance scheme had been in operation for more than a year, the members voted favorably on “a proposal from Benjamin Franklin” to extend its benefits to other citizens. A committee consisting of Brothers Franklin and Syng called a meeting to discuss the matter with representatives of the other fire companies, of which there were six, with a combined membership of 225. Committees named by the other fire companies met with Franklin and Syng at Philadelphia's Standard Tavern on September 7, 1751. There it was decided to form an insurance organization for the benefit, not only of the members of the various fire companies, but for all the citizens of Philadelphia.

When plans for the new company had been completed, it was called to the attention of the public through a small notice printed in Brother Franklin's newspaper on February 18, 1752. The “Articles of Association,” or “Deed of Settlement,” were similar to, and patterned after, the deed of settlement of the Amicable Contributorship of London.

Every Philadelphian who wished to insure in the new company was required to visit the courthouse and sign the deed of settlement, which was engrossed on a strip of parchment fifteen feet in length. The first signer was Brother James Hamilton, a member of St. Johns Lodge of Philadelphia, Grand Master in 1735, and later lieutenant governor of the province. Though Brother Hamilton had taken no part in originating the company, his signature lent support that the government approved the project. Next to sign was Brother Philip Syng, Franklin's close

associate in the Union Fire Company, a member of St. Johns Lodge of Philadelphia, and a Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1741. The quill was then passed to the hands of other subscribers. The list of charter

“On June 26, 1752, the Contributorship wrote its first policy; Policy No. 1, for the amount of \$2,500, was issued to the company’s treasurer.”

members included, besides Brother Franklin, two other men—John Morton and Robert Morris (believed by some historians to have been a Freemason)—who were destined twenty-four years later to sign the Declaration of Independence.

The first meeting of the subscribers was held, according to the company’s charter, on March 25, 1752, at the courthouse, at which time twelve directors and a treasurer were elected. Heading the list of directors was Benjamin Franklin. The other members of the original board were also men of character and of standing in Philadelphia. Before adjourning, the subscribers settled on a name for their company. They decided to call it “the Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire”—a name that was, to say the least, not ambiguous.

On May 11, 1752, the directors held their first meeting at the Royal Standard Tavern, an establishment colloquially known as “The Widow Pratt’s” after the proprietress. The final item of business at the first directors’ meeting was the selection of a design for the company’s badge or “fire-mark.” In the early years fire-marks (which were plaques, usually made of lead or wood, on which were displayed the company’s emblem) were essential to the insurance companies. Brother Syng, a silversmith, was entrusted to work up the design of the Contributor-

ship’s mark, which the directors decided was to be of four hands crossed and clasped in the form commonly referred to as a “Jacob’s chair.” The famous metal-working firm of Pass & Stow, who later recast the Liberty Bell, crafted one hundred fire-marks for the company.

In choosing a tavern as their meeting place, the directors set a precedent that was followed by their successors. Whether



The Philadelphia Contributorship’s fire-mark, a “Jacob’s Ladder”

at the Widow Pratt’s or another of Philadelphia’s famous taverns, such as Ben Davis’ Golden Fleece or the Sign of the George, the directors gathered in the late afternoon and, after transacting their business in a private room, dined well and heartily and spent a social evening together—occasions that were not lacking in warmth and good cheer.

On June 26, 1752, the Contributorship wrote its first policy; Policy No. 1 was issued to the company’s treasurer, John Smith. Written in the amount of \$2,500, it covered his three-story dwelling house “on the East side of King Street

Continued on page 27

Knights Templar Eye Foundation New Club Memberships

Grand Commander's Club:

Pennsylvania No. 29—John L. Carney
Georgia No. 23—Jon Neary
Ohio No. 30—Robert R. Neff
California No. 50—Ms. Eleanor M. Rondi

Grand Master's Club:

No. 1,251—William G. Naef (CA)
No. 1,252—Ray Maxwell Busch (WV)
No. 1,253—Blair C. Mayford (MO)
No. 1,254—In memory of Virginia Barney
(FL)
No. 1,255—Bud E. Barney (FL)
No. 1,256—Kenneth A. Balzer (IN)
No. 1,257—Dorothy M. Balzer (IN)

How to join: Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or

more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and there is now Commandery credit given for participation.

Information is available from G. Wilbur Bell, Past Grand Master, Executive Director, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, IL 62705.

Letter to the Editor

Dear *Knight Templar*:

Knights Templar, how are you actively defending the Christian religion? I would like to suggest just one way. I am deeply indebted to the Grand Encampment for their newest and sometimes least-publicized charity. I want all Templary to know that I believe that now is the time for the Holy Land Pilgrimage charity! In a world so fractured and in a Christian church that often fails to communicate among her communions, I have seen the hope and chance to build bridges and start to break down walls.

I will never forget my first view of Mount Zion from the Mount of Olives. I can now better appreciate how Jesus felt as He wept over Jerusalem. I experienced the power of joy and union as I had the privilege of leading the communion service at the Garden Tomb. Fifty-four ministers, male and female, from twenty-four states and at least twelve different communions had the privilege to share as one church, one body, and remember the agonizing sacrifice. It was with pure joy we took the body and blood of Jesus by way of communion, to have our eyes look directly down upon the empty tomb on the door of which the words "He is Risen" appear. To walk the Via Dolorosa and stop at the stations of the cross was a humbling experience.

There is so much more that can be said. Let me try using phrases: the lush green of the Galilee; the majesty of Masada; the quiet beauty of the Jordan; the rough waters of the Sea of Galilee. Other highlights were to float in the Dead Sea and to have one's conscience assaulted by the holocaust museums and Caesarea. A chance to pray at the Western Wall and to touch the summit of Mount Moriah under the Dome of the Rock

will always be cherished. Mount Zion, the Mount of Olives, Mount Tabor, and the Mount of the Beatitudes will always be appreciated.

You have revived me! You have increased my ministry. Because of you, I will never read the Bible in the same way again. You have given me new and valued tools that I will now use to increase God's eternal kingdom.

Knights Templar, I am only one, but you can multiply me by the almost three hundred that Grand Commanderies have sent in twelve years. I must tell you that we must quicken our pace, because in truth the world is slipping away and being lost to Christ! This is not just a call for a good defense, but a grand offense!

1. Find out if your Grand Commandery presently supports this charity. If it doesn't, ask the grand line officer, "Why not?"
2. Get your local Commandery to support by money and prayers, and by nominating a pilgrim minister.
3. Support this charity yourself.
4. Buy the Holy Land medallion. It costs \$30.00, of which \$15.00 returns to the Grand Commandery at the end of each year to send its pilgrims.

From the depths of my soul, I thank you for what you have given me. Please extend this gift to others now!

Past Commander Gary W. Sheets
Minister, Nevins Christian Church, Paris, Illinois
Palestine Commandery No. 27, Paris, Illinois

12th Holy Land Pilgrimage

The 12th Holy Land Pilgrimage left New York on Monday, February 15, 1988, and returned February 25. A total of fifty-two Christian ministers from twenty-three different grand jurisdictions made the pilgrimage along with Sir Knight P. Fred Lesley, P.G.C., Michigan, chairman of the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage, as their guide. This



was the largest number of Christian ministers from the largest number of grand jurisdictions to make the pilgrimage to the Holy Land to date.

Since the first Holy Land Pilgrimage in 1977, a total of 256 Christian ministers from 25 grand jurisdictions have made a trip to the Holy Land as the guests of the Sir Knights of their respective grand jurisdictions. According to Sir Knight Lesley, "When they return to their home churches, their lives have changed. They are inspired beyond our imagination; their Bible comes alive every time they read it, because 'they were there.' It is the dream of this Grand Encampment committee that, in the not-too-far-distant future, every grand jurisdiction will be sending Christian ministers on this modern day crusade."



By the Sea . . .

ACROSS

- 1 Light----
- 5 Sea-----, marine gastropods
- 10 China's continent
- 14 On the water
- 15 Basketball maneuver (hyph.)
- 16 Sea ----
- 17 Underwater flower polyp (2 wds.)
- 19 New Mexico city
- 20 Ms needs (pl.)
- 21 Man's name
- 22 ----- adventure (2 wds.)
- 24 Seabirds
- 25 Flock of geese
- 26 Lawmakers
- 29 Inducts into office (2 wds.)
- 32 Irregularly notched, as a gnarled leaf
- 33 Begin
- 34 --- polloi
- 35 Deviate
- 36 Highland groups
- 37 ---- sweeping; Persian gulf activity
- 38 Greek letter
- 39 Entrances
- 40 Subject



"The problem with the computer has been fixed."

- 41 Tommyrot!
- 43 Body pouches
- 44 Young people
- 45 Seagull
- 46 Modernize
- 48 Bagel or salami place
- 49 Sailor
- 52 Actor Douglas
- 53 "From sea to --" (2 wds.)
- 56 Am. poet (initial + last name)
- 57 Concise
- 58 Merit
- 59 Taken apart (abbr.)
- 60 Scornful expression
- 61 Seahorse's gait?

DOWN

- 1 Naval ----
- 2 Employed
- 3 Meadows
- 4 Lamb's cry
- 5 "Tristram Shandy" author
- 6 Prevents scurvy at sea (pl.)
- 7 "---- the slimy sea": Coleridge
- 8 Bathtub ---
- 9 Tennis shoes
- 10 First magnitude star
- 11 "Down to the --" (3 wds.)
- 12 Stravinsky
- 13 Gathering (abbr.)
- 18 "E! ----": film
- 23 "---- Wave": Broadway song
- 24 ---- does it
- 25 Ugly ducklings become them

- 26 ---- seas
- 27 Greek muse
- 28 "Water, water, every-where, -- to drink" (3 wds.)
- 29 Ogle
- 30 Ancient land on the Aegean
- 31 Aunt's daughter
- 33 Water sound
- 36 Competitions
- 37 Poet's dawn
- 39 Old Testament bk.
- 40 Shroud of ----
- 42 Immersed in water
- 43 Contradictor
- 45 Present ----
- 46 Short for Hawaiian instruments
- 47 ---- line
- 48 Desperate
- 49 Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
- 50 Before plane or dynamics
- 51 Rave
- 54 Mother ---
- 55 Obtain or receive

The solution to this month's puzzle is on the next page. Don't peek!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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59						60					61		

Insurance—Continued from page 23

between Mulberry and Sassafras." On July 4—a date that would before long assume lasting significance—Policies Nos. 19 and 20 were written on two houses owned by Brother Franklin. Thus, mutual fire insurance had become a reality in America.

An American institution that antedates even the Constitution, today Brother Benjamin Franklin's idea "whereby every man might help another, without any disservice to himself" has passed the most rigorous tests of time and continues to give property owners peace of mind and security. Subsequently, numerous Freemasons have contributed their God-given talents and energies to America's insurance industry.

Sir Knight Thomas E. Rigas is a member of St. Bernard Commandery No. 35 in Chicago, Illinois. He lives at 2600 West Farwell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60645.



The solution to this month's crossword puzzle on the facing page is printed below.

S	E	P	D		S	N	E	R		T	R	O	T	
E	P	O	E		T	E	R	S	E		E	A	R	N
K	I	R	K		S	H	I	N	I	N	G	S	E	A
U	P	D	A	T	E		D	E	L	I		T	A	R
N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E		B	U	R	S	A	E
E	T	A	D	O	O	R	S		T	O	P	I	C	
V	A	R	Y		C	L	A	N	S		M	I	N	E
E	R	O	S	E		S	T	A	R	T		H	O	I
S	E	N	A	T	E		S	W	E	A	R	S	I	N
E	D	S		O	R	E	N		A	H	A	I	R	Y
S	E	A	N	E	M	O	N	E		T	A	O	S	
A	S	E	A		T	I	P	I	N		L	E	G	S
B	U	L	B		S	L	U	G	S		A	S	I	A

G. Wilbur Bell G greets Shrine Leader

Sir Knight G. Wilbur Bell, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Exec-



utive Director of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and a Past Potentate of Ansar Temple, AAONMS (above, left), congratulates Edward G. McMullan, the newly elected Imperial Potentate of the International Shrine. Imperial Sir McMullan, who lives in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, was elected at the Imperial Council session in New Orleans, Louisiana, in June 1988.

Anniversary Plate from Pennsylvania

A limited edition 10½-inch pewter plate commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Masonic Temple of Reading, Pennsylvania, is now available for \$30.00 per plate, which includes the cost of shipping.

The plates are serialized, and the quantity is limited to five hundred. This Temple is the home of DeMolay Commandery No. 9 and Reading Commandery No. 42 of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. Plates may be ordered by sending a check addressed and payable to the Masonic Center Foundation, 300 South Seventh Avenue, Reading, PA 19611.

History of the Grand Encampment

CHAPTER XVI

FEATURES OF THE TRIENNIAL CONCLAVES (continued)

The parade consisted of eight divisions. Outstanding units were the mounted Commanderies of California No. 1 of San Francisco and DeWitt Clinton Commandery of Reno, Nevada. A most striking feature was the massing of over 2,000 Sir Knights into a living Cross of Salem as they approached the reviewing stand.

An interesting feature of this Conclave was a pageant entitled "Knighthood." Its wonderful color and movement, its magnificent stagery and beauty, and the appeal of its drama provided an unusual spectacle. All were generous in its praise.

The competitive drill was held in the auditorium, and the winners were: Gethsemane No. 25, Oklahoma City; Emporia No. 8, Emporia, Kansas; Worth No. 19, Fort Worth, Texas; Ivanhoe No. 24, Milwaukee; Lansing No. 25, Lansing, Michigan; Seattle No. 2, Seattle; and Wisconsin No. 5 at Milwaukee.

The outstanding social feature was the magnificent banquet tendered the Grand Encampment officers and their ladies by the Grand Commandery of California. The tables were arranged in the form of a double horseshoe on two levels, one within the other. The banquet was presided over by Sir C. Stanley Chapman, Grand Commander of California. A fine address was given by Sir Robert B. Gaylord. The Grand Commanderies of New York and Missouri gave their usual breakfasts, while the Grand Commandery of Oregon again gave a luncheon with its main course a sixty-two pound salmon.

In the newspapers of San Francisco were editorials in praise of the Order for its Americanism, its patriotism, and its Christianity. Quoting from a "Welcome to the Knights":

American boys and girls usually make their first acquaintance with Knights Templar in the thrilling pages of *Ivanhoe* when Sir Walter Scott, while giving some prominence to a distinctly bad egg in the order, arouses our admiration for the magnificent organization and discipline of these stern twelfth-century monks.

The modern Knights Templar ride not to battle against pagan hosts in the Holy Land, they scurry not on truck horses and in iron suits down the tournament field, lance in rest, and of course they do not kidnap tearful maidens like Sir Brian de Bois Guilbert. They do however make up a very high class Order, taking as their model the ancient order at its noblest height.

The welcome of California was enthusiastic and sincere. Each day provided sight-seeing tours, boat trips, band concerts, entertainment in Chinatown, competitive drills, and the spectacular pageant "Knighthood." The courtesy and hospitality of San Francisco will long be remembered.

The fortieth Triennial Conclave came to Miami, Florida, one of America's great cities. The Conclave of 1937 was a week of pleasure and enjoyment for the Sir Knights as well as one of profit in the interests of the Grand Encampment.

Flagler Street and Biscayne Boulevard were generously decorated with arches

and Templar banners. Public and private buildings displayed the colors of Templary. The welcome of Miami was sincere and wholehearted. Following the arrival of the Grand Master, a banquet was given in his honor by the Grand Commandery of Florida at the Miami Biltmore Country Club. It was an outstanding event and one long to be remembered.

On Sunday, following an organ recital in Bay Front Park Amphitheatre, religious services were held under the direction of the Grand Prelate, Sir Chester B. Emerson, who gave a splendid sermon on the "Changeless Principles in a Changing World." In conclusion he said:

Every Knight here present, who has followed the meaning of his Masonry, step by step, from the first degree to the Order of the Temple, will know that I have been emphasizing the teachings of our Order, and have been applying them to the tangled affairs of the world in which we live. From the night in which he first was taught to say that his desire was more light in Masonry, to the Order of the Red Cross, when he learned that truth is mighty above all things and will prevail, he knows that this thing that I have called creative intelligence has been the key to the world's progress and will continue to be so. Likewise, he knows that moral character is the foundation of his Masonry, which has been emphasized for his instruction and admonition in every degree that leads to Knighthood. He knows, likewise, that fraternity is the name for all the orders of Masonry and that the dearest title with which he can be addressed is the word "Fratr." He also knows, above all else, that from the first moment when he saw that one great letter in the darkness, which is the symbol

of Deity, until the last moment, when the banner on which is inscribed "In Hoc Signo Vinces," was unfurled that the heart of his Masonry is his faith in God, and the hope of his Knighthood is in discipleship to Jesus Christ our Lord. If we are truly enlisted under His banner then are we not truly good Knights Templar, but we all are likewise knights errant in the great task of establishing the kingdom of God throughout the world. In this sign we conquer, in any other sign we fail.



The Committee on Templar History has plans to prepare an updated history of the Grand Encampment, continuing where Sir Knight Scully left off. When completed, the updated history will be announced in the KNIGHT TEMPLAR MAGAZINE.



Knight Voices

To place your "Knight Voices" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to "Knight Voices," The Grand Recorder, Suite 1700, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

- ❑ Wanted to buy: Commandery uniform—size 48, short, portly jacket; chapeau, size 6 1/2 or 6 5/8; and Templar sword and belt. Please contact *Nevin G. Oswald, 210 Lehigh Ave., Palmerston, PA 18071.*
- ❑ For sale: one nickel-plated Commander's sword with thirty-inch blade, in excellent condition. *Alexander Prima, 80 Bucklin St., Pawtucket, RI 02861.*
- ❑ Need research info on St. Andrew's Lodge No. 1, Pensacola, Fla., 1771-1782 (13th Regiment of Foot), and subsequently Lodge No. 40 of the Grand Lodge of Pa., later of the Grand Lodge of S.C. in Charleston or Grant's East, Fla., Lodge, 1764-1786. Write for more details. *Myron C. Boice, 8509 Winding Ln., Pensacola, FL 32514.*
- ❑ I would like to exchange Philippine lapel pins or charter pennies or other Masonic emblems to other Masons who are also collectors. *Cris Fernandez, 317 A. Mabini, Cainta, Rizal, Philippines.*
- ❑ Wanted in good condition: the two globes that adorn the two columns for Blue Lodge work and adornment. Advise cost and condition. *George Lundrigan, 609 Terrace St., Tallahassee, FL 32308.*
- ❑ For sale: nylon jackets, caps, and golf shirts monogrammed with square and compasses and your Blue Lodge name and number. For more info, write *Fraternal Monogramming, P.O. Box 542, LaVergne, TN 37086.*
- ❑ For sale: two adjoining crypts with single face plate in Masonic mausoleum in Seattle, Wash. They are valued at \$5,200.00, but no reasonable offer will be refused. Please contact *Thomas O. Davis, 1260 Venture Out, Mesa, AZ 85205, (602) 830-1438.*
- ❑ Chapter pennies wanted by avid collector. Will buy one or a collection, as I collect all varieties. If interested in trading, contact me, as I have several duplicates. *Maurice A. Storck, Sr., P.O. Box 644, Portland, ME 04104, (207) 781-5201.*
- ❑ Have a real old, solid gold Shrine ring with a camel and rider on one side. Have four pine [sic], fifty year, sixty year, sixty-five year, and seventy year—all in 10K gold. *Joseph Vicorine, 8512 Via de la Escuela, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, (602) 991-3489.*
- ❑ Would trade two Shrine lapel pins for one Blue Lodge finger ring. *Paul Ward, 702 Edgewood, St. Louis, MO 63122, (314) 966-8571.*
- ❑ I collect tokens used for parking, transportation, admissions, and so forth. Please write or send any if you can to help my collection. *G. E. Godsoe, 4327 Brookhaven Dr., Greensboro, NC 27406.*
- ❑ Seeking info on the ancestors of Charles, Daniel, and Ellis Booth (Boothe?) who emigrated from England in the late eighteenth century. Any info appreciated. Contact *Craig A. Booth, 714 Mary St., Huntington, WV 25704, (304) 429-2035.*
- ❑ Reunion for USS Daniel T. Griffin (DE-54 APD-38) in September 1989. For further info, contact *S. Stuart Craft, Rt. 1, Box 89A, Newburg, MD 20664.*
- ❑ Since retiring I have renewed my interest in ham radio, but am in need of a good telegraph key. Should any Sir Knight have one surplus to their needs that they could donate or sell reasonably, I would be very grateful. I will reimburse for postage. *Fred Holt, Jr., 5200 Meadowbrook Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76112.*
- ❑ I need the following coins to complete my Indian head penny collection: 1864, 1864L, 1866, 1867, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1894, and 1909. Also need copper nickles from 1856 and 1859. Will buy; please state price in correspondence

or phone call. *Carl W. Jackson, 4604 W. 146th St., Cleveland, OH 44135, (216) 941-6823.*

□ I collect car tags. I am trying to get one with the number of each county in Tenn. They are numbered from 1 to 95. Will pay reasonable price. *Lee Ryan, P.O. Box 35, Church Hill, TN 37642.*

□ Seeking info about my g.g.g.grandparents John and Mary Allen, who lived in Rutherford Co., N.C., in the early 1800s. Also info on Lt. John Allen, 5th N.C. Regiment on 10/1/1776. *R. J. Allen, P.O. Box 123, Cotton Valley, LA 71018.*

□ For sale: cemetery plot (two burials), Pine-lawn Memorial Park, Farmingdale, N.Y. Choice location, Garden of Sanctuary. Contact *T. Vogel, 1707-D Sedgfield, Ocala, FL 32672.*

□ Springfield, Ill., High School 50th reunion (the class of 1939) to be held Columbus Day weekend of 1989. For details, contact *Bette Lake Rodger (Blanchard), 2420 Idlewild Dr., Springfield, IL 62704.*

□ I am seeking the book *Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* (hardcover or paperback) by someone named Fox. Willing to pay fair price. *H. Timmins, 4435 Emerald Ridge Dr., Sarasota, FL 34233.*

□ Anyone knowing the parents of Reuben Barrett, a veteran of the American Revolution from Spartanburg and Greenville, S.C., and his wife Hanna, please contact me. Reuben died 3/3/1814 and Hanna died around 1810. They are believed to be buried in the Tyger River Baptist Burial Ground. Write for more details. *Lloyd Barrett, 4655 Indian Hill, Livingston, TX 77351, (409) 967-8150, or 7510 Hornwood 702 East, Houston, TX 77036, (713) 778-1633.*

□ For sale: one plot consisting of four gravesites, and two gravesites on plot with parents, in Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, Ga. Selling price is \$550.00 per grave—same as cemetery asks. If interested, write *Mrs. Fred Blocker, Rt. 5, Box 82, Starkville, MS 39759.*

□ Building library on Cherokee and Creek Indian history. Many American Indians, including chiefs, were Brothers of the Masonic order. Any books, documents, or artifacts will be greatly appreciated. Send to *Russell Lowell Lane, 262 Deerfield Rd., Hogansville, GA 30230.*

□ Wanted in good condition: Johnny Maddox LP phonograph albums published before 1970.

Will pay reasonable price and postage. Please contact me with names and numbers of albums (catalog numbers), plus your asking price. *Robert H. Younger, 2912 Twisting Ln., Bowie, MD 20715.*

□ Seeking info on WWII graduates of Gallups Island Maritime Radio School. Please contact *Gallups Island Radio Association, c/o David D. Bulkley, 180 Brushy Hill Rd., Danbury, CT 06810, or Verne D. Hegge, 500 Clark Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.*

□ Reunion of 245th Engr. "C" Battalion, May 25-28, 1989, Jackson, Miss. Contact *Charlie Spinner, 300 Sheffield Ct., Joppa, MD 21085, (301) 679-7097.*

□ Seeking info regarding the King family (Robert, John B., Eli P., William L., Selby I., Joseph DeWolf, France B., and more) in Portage Co., Ohio, circa 1811-1880. Our son is very desirous of this info as he is working on the geneology and will answer as many as can be contacted. *Gerald B. King, 1912 Abernathy Ln., Gladstone, OR 97027.*

□ Seeking descendants of Levi or Reuben Longenecker, who were brothers of my grandfather Samuel (1824-1892). They were born near Manheim, Lancaster Co., Pa., and were sons of Samuel (1793-1856) and Barbara (1790-1874) Longenecker. I have pictures of Levi and Reuben; write for more details. *Maurice C. Longenecker, 250 E. Bristol, No. C-30, Elkhart, IN 46514.*

□ Wanted: WWI aero artifacts from actual planes, machine guns, uniforms, or parts of above—in fact, anything used by either side in the Air Service. Will pay cash or will trade duplicates. *Hume Parks, 3556 Pleasant Valley Rd., Nashville, TN 87204-3419.*

□ For sale: Knights of Pythias ring. 10K gold, size 9½. Very good condition. I would like \$100.00 or trade for Blue Lodge ring. Please contact *Dave Madison, Jr., P.O. Box 1844, Steubenville, OH 43952, (614) 264-0877.*

□ For sale: two burial lots in Lakeside Memory Gardens, Garden of Devotion, Eustis, Fla. Lot No. 2-64-D-1-2. Valued at \$545.00 each; any reasonable offer will be considered. Please contact *John A. Gabriel, Rt. 2, Box 338, Rincon, GA 31326, (912) 826-5973.*

□ Reunion notice: 30th Bomb Group (H), 7th Air Force, WWII. For details and dates, please contact *J. Allison, Box 485, Charleston, SC 29402, or J. E. Smith, P.O. Box 12971, Ft. Wayne, IN 46866, (219) 422-9956.*

THE KNIGHTS OF THE TEMPLE . . .

The Knights of the Temple, it is an ancient body:
Valiant, bold, doing battle on the field;
Protecting poor and weary pilgrims;
Wielding sword and buckler; never to yield.

The Knights Templar is now a modern order,
As active and involved as in ages past.
Today's Knights receive the same strong challenge,
To protect their Brethren; a charge which must last.

Promoting and supporting the return to health,
Of many who are limited in their sight;
A loving cause, worthy of the name,
Of those once known by their noble might.

We who bear the title of a Knight of the Temple,
Are proud of our history, and proud of our labor;
Combining the past into the present,
As we serve mankind, and honor our Savior.

W. Bruce Pruitt, Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Commandery of California