



Knight Templar

VOLUME XXXVII

MARCH 1991

NUMBER 3



*Sir Knight Paul 'Pops' Whiteman
The King of Jazz*

The deeds that really count with our Brethren are the

Big Little Things

A half century ago I recall hearing the then old-timers in Masonry talk about the Good Old Days," and I agree that they had something to talk about. Without a doubt, some of the common practices and customs in days gone by did serve to bring the members close together and make Masonry a vital part of their daily lives. I understand that some of our rural Lodges still practice the same or similar customs, but in our larger Lodges and in our cities, I'm quite sure these customs have been long forgotten.

In those bygone days I'm told that if a Brother became ill he was visited by his Brethren - not by a committee, but by his friends. If need be, they sat with him through the night. They would chop wood, milk the cows, feed stock, or do any chore needed to comfort him and his family. Today, in our city Lodges and in large Lodges, a Brother can become ill and the Lodge not become aware of it for weeks or months. Sometimes a member dies, and his Lodge does not know of it for months. We often fail to practice those little things that would mean so much to our Brethren.

The little, mean things - petty faults, cross words, complaints, selfish demands, grumbling, and inconsiderate deeds - keep Brethren at a distance. The little acts of kindness and love - a friendly handshake, a cheerful greeting, words of encouragement, unselfish congratulations, a smile - These little things draw Brethren closer and nearer.

To be kind, gentle, and patient to others in the midst of persona] disappointment may require more courage than to perform a heroic deed on impulse.

We may not be able to do the same kind, little deeds of our Brethren of old, but we have equal opportunity to perform those little deeds of kindness that would really count with our Brethren.

If we would each do our part, truly seeking ways to make the lives of others more pleasant, and performing those lithe deeds that seem so trivial yet mean so much, we could make Templary live in the hearts of our members and we could enjoy that close feeling of comradeship that the Old Timers" liked to boast about.



Marvin E. Fowler

Marvin E. Fowler, Grand Master

Knight Templar

"The Magazine for York Rite Masons - and Others, too"

MARCH: Paul "Pops" Whiteman ... a magic name in the history of American music. . . the great innovator who made jazz legitimate with his rendition of "Whispering" in 1920, and along with writer F. Scott Fitzgerald, got those twenties off to their roaring start.. . the most popular and talented orchestra leader of his times, who boosted George Gershwin into the top rank of American composers - and yes, a Sir Knight who brought his fellow musicians to Masonry. Read all about this fascinating contributor to our cultural heritage in this issue of *Knight Templar*.

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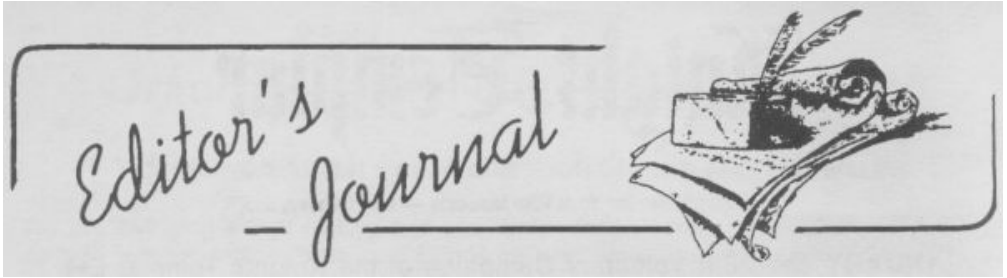
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Material for the Grand Commanderies' two-page supplements is to be directed to the respective Supplement editors.

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



To All Grand Commanderies: Roberta Fowler, the wife of our Grand Master Marvin E. Fowler, is requesting all Grand Commanderies to send 500-1,000 tokens representing their states, which will be included in the registration packet to be handed out at the Triennial Conclave.

This will be a good opportunity to promote each state at the Conclave with a keepsake souvenir for attendees.

If you are able to help her out, please contact Mrs. Roberta Fowler at 1904 White Oaks Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306; (703) 768-6404.

1991 Annual Conclaves: Please make this correction to General Order No. 7; the 1991 Connecticut Grand Conclave will be held April 13-14.

Born In Blood: The exciting book by John J. Robinson about the Lost Secrets of Freemasonry and their relationship to the Knights Templar is now available from the Grand Encampment at the price of \$16.00.

Please send your check made out to the Grand Encampment to the Grand Recorder, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago 60604-2293.

Amendment Deadline: Deadline for submission of amendments to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar is May 17, 1991. Notice of Conclave will be issued June 17.

According to Section 85 of the Constitution, "a written copy of the motion . . . to revise, amend or alter (the Constitution and Statutes) shall be filed with the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment at least three months before the day on which the Triennial Conclave is to be held at which such motion is to be considered, and copy thereof shall be inserted into the Notice of Conclave and presented by the Grand Recorder to the Grand Encampment for consideration . . ." The 58th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar will be held August 17-21, 1991.

In Search of Authors: *Knight Templar Magazine* is again on the lookout for authors who feel that their pens are mightier - or at least as mighty - as their swords.

Biographies of Masons who have distinguished themselves in their chosen careers or by their life achievements are most welcome, as are colorful episodes from history involving contributions by Masons to their country, their Fraternity, and their times.

We especially welcome stories about contemporary, living members of the Craft whose lives reflect our fraternal tenets; and those articles that enrich the Masonic knowledge of our readers, stimulate their understanding and appreciation of the gift of our fraternal heritage for the present and for the future, and lead them toward greater participation in our work.

Sir Knight Paul "Pops" Whiteman

by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, 33^o, KYCH

Not a great national hero nor even a citizen of impeccable character, Paul Samuel Whiteman of Denver, Colorado, was, nevertheless, a personage of great importance to the cultural history of the United States. More than any other person, he was responsible for applying the veneer of respectability to jazz music and establishing it as a true American art form, indigenous only to this country. His personal life was littered with broken marriages, empty booze bottles, and personal excesses magnified by psychological problems which included acrophobia, claustrophobia, seasickness, anxiety attacks, and an enormous fear of failure. Obesity from compulsive eating was a burden he endured throughout life. Still, with all these negatives detracting from his performance, this famous Freemason managed to stand head and shoulders above his peers in the popular music field.

Born on March 28, 1890, Paul was the son of a fine musician and teacher, Wilberforce Whiteman. Mandatory musical training, beginning in his earliest years, gradually transformed the young man into an accomplished violinist, equipped to fill a chair in the Denver Symphony Orchestra at

sixteen years of age. However, an early childhood disease produced a lifelong tendency to compulsively overeat, with obesity as the penalty. He also became partly bald. Early in life, Whiteman began to sample the rewards of life in the fast lane, developing a strong taste for wine, women, and song. His first marriage, in 1908, produced a lawsuit over a child, who died in infancy. The marriage and Paul's uninhibited life style alienated him from his father and prompted a move to San Francisco in 1914.

Young Whiteman readily obtained a position with the symphony orchestra in San Francisco and was soon well established. His attention was drawn shortly to the new ragtime music dominating entertainment on the Barbary Coast. Paul was soon playing it in order to supplement his income. By 1918 his symphonic days were history as he applied himself to ragtime music full time. World War I interrupted his musical activity, as many of his friends entered military service. Paul tried to enlist, but his enormous bulk prohibited it. Persistence paid off, though, for he was eventually allowed to enlist in the U.S. Navy on condition he serve as a



bandmaster at Mare Island Naval Base, near San Francisco.

When the war ended in Europe, Whiteman returned to civilian music and launched his formal career as conductor of the house orchestra at the Fairmount Hotel in his adopted city. In 1919 he formed his own band, a group that would carry him to national fame. Prominent among his pioneer band members were trumpeter Henry Busse, and banjoist Mike Pingatore. They became extremely successful on the west coast, and in 1920 were persuaded to bring the orchestra to Atlantic City. By the time the Whiteman Orchestra traveled eastward, Ferde Grofe, the brilliant composer/pianist was a member of the group and was charting most of their arrangements.

The Atlantic City engagement started slowly, as Whiteman was unknown in the East. Soon, however, their popularity skyrocketed, bringing the first recording contract. Paul's recording of "Whispering" produced his first one-million record sale,

and helped make 1920 a pivotal year. They moved into New York City with a long, lucrative engagement at the famous Palais Royal Restaurant. Exploding popularity was not without complications. The demands of long hours of hard work and strenuous rehearsals bore heavily on Whiteman. His solution was to drink even more than usual to reduce his stress. He also increased his intake of food, ballooning to three hundred pounds before long.

Paul's second marriage in 1921 to showgirl Alfrica Smith was short-lived. Within a year he made a trip to the altar another time. His third bride was dancer Vanda Hoff.

The year of 1922 marked another banner year for Whiteman when he realized his all-time high in personal income and public acclaim. He and the orchestra were featured in George White's "Scandals of 1922," along with record-breaking engagements at the Palace Theater and other top New York locations. Whiteman was the biggest name in music and his records were selling like hotcakes!

During the year, he also embraced Masonic membership in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568. He was Raised on June 2, 1922, followed soon afterward by the Royal Arch Degrees in Corinthian Chapter No. 159 in Brooklyn and the Cryptic Degrees in Columbian Council No. 1. His Masonic work was climaxed when he received the Order of the Temple in Ivanhoe Commandery No. 36, Knights Templar, on August 17, 1922.

St. Cecile is a renowned New York City Lodge, boasting a membership composed of musicians and theatrical personalities. Its history reaches back to the Civil War. Whiteman was enthusiastic over his new Masonic membership, and his fervor encouraged many of his orchestra members

to join before long. His famous pianist, Ferde Grofe, affiliated with Silver Trowel Lodge No. 414 in Los Angeles, at virtually the same time Whiteman became a Master Mason. Trumpeter Henry Busse was a devoted member of McMillan Lodge No. 141 back at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio. Even Paul's fiercest competitor in those years; orchestra leader Vincent Lopez, possibly the only Roman Catholic member they had at the time - at least, the only who had studied for the priesthood - was a member of St. Cecile.

Whiteman pioneered many innovations in the dance music field. He was the first to make use of written orchestral arrangements and syncopated rhythm, a practice unknown prior to his entry into the profession. He also introduced the four-saxophone reed section as an integral part of a dance orchestra, plus the services of a full-time vocalist who was not an instrumental musician. The long list of Whiteman alumnae includes the names of singers Bing Crosby, Morton Downey, Mildred Bailey, Jane Froman, the Modernaires, Johnny Mercer, Lee Wiley, Ramona Davies, and Helen Jepson. Distinguished instrumentalists by the score held down chairs in the band over the years, including the immortal Bix Beiderbecke, the Dorsey brothers, Jack Teagarden, Red Nichols, Bunny Berigan, Eddie Condon, Red Norvo, Adrian Rollini, Frank Trumbauer, Joe Venuti, and Murray McEachern.

Whiteman was not a jazz musician himself. As a matter of fact, though he was called the "King of Jazz," his large orchestra rarely played jazz in the true sense. By 1925, however, Paul was so smitten by the sound of jazz that he organized a small group within the orchestra to play and record that particular variety of music. Many of his sidemen were among the foremost exponents of jazz, and he had no trouble filling the chairs in the ensemble.

Many of their fine efforts survive today on records. Paul delivered the first of many concerts in 1922 at Aeolian Hall in New York City, at which time he featured George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," a composition synonymous with the Whiteman Orchestra from that time forward.

In 1924 Whiteman made the first of many national tours, bringing his music to every major city in America. He previously had completed a triumphal five-month engagement in London in 1923. One of the highlights of that adventure had been to make a new friend and fan, Edward, the Prince of Wales. On May 30, 1924, his first son Paul, Jr., was born while the orchestra was on tour.

Although at the pinnacle of his success, true happiness eluded Whiteman. He continued to drink heavily, and was plagued constantly by the consequences of compulsive eating and obesity. Notwithstanding, he wrote a book in collaboration with Mary Margaret McBride, entitled *Jazz*, and embarked on his second European tour in 1926. He hired the team of Bing Crosby and Al Rinker that year. They were a college-boy



Paul Whiteman, baton in his hand, conducts the so-called jazz orchestra, strings and all, that galvanized the dancers of the '20s.

duet fresh out of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. They were not impressive in the beginning, particularly Bing Crosby's efforts. When they added pianist/singer Harry Barns to the act, they became the Rhythm Boys, and their fortunes took an upswing. Crosby became a nationally-acclaimed singer with his vocal on Whiteman's recording of "Mississippi Mud."

Hollywood beckoned Whiteman in 1929 to film "The King of Jazz." Mildred Bailey, Al Rinker's sister, was added to the company that year, becoming the first regular female vocalist with a dance orchestra. In the following four years, Mildred became one of the most famous singers in the country, finally leaving Whiteman to marry xylophonist Red Norvo, and continue her career as a

"Crosby became a nationally acclaimed singer with his vocal on Whiteman's recording of 'Mississippi Mud.'"

single act. During the stay in Hollywood, Paul met movie actress, Margaret Livingston, and a romance followed. Divorced soon afterward, he married Margaret in August 1931, after meeting her requirement that Paul lose one hundred pounds. The couple returned to New York and a worsening economic depression, that was devastating to the music and recording business. A reduction of the size of the Whiteman Orchestra was mandatory as bookings became scarce and recording sales dropped radically.

In spite of rough economic times, Whiteman continued to hold the national spotlight with his music. Among his activities, he included the establishment of a musical scholarship fund in his mother's name, and the donation of his memorabilia and musical scores to Williams College.

Throughout the 1930's, Whiteman continued conducting jazz concerts, including three at Carnegie Hall. He concluded with the eighth and last on that famous stage on Christmas night, 1938.

Paul had been given the nickname "Pops" by Mildred Bailey, a sobriquet universally linked to him thereafter.

The business affairs of the orchestra were supervised by his fourth wife Margaret, an astute financial manager. She had succeeded in accumulating a respectable fortune from her movie earnings prior to their marriage.

Whiteman was one of the pioneer radio personalities, dating back to February 1922, over station WJZ in Newark. He was among the earliest to land a sponsored radio program, a prominent one being his "Dodge Victory Hour," followed by the 'Old Gold Cigarette Program."

Pops and Margaret adopted two children in the years before World War II, a boy and a girl. Their adopted son Dickie, ill when he came to the Whitemans, passed away early in 1941. Pops' natural son Paul, Jr., enlisted in the army at the beginning of World War II. During his early years, he resided with his mother, making annual visits to Pops' home during the summer.

The visits became more enjoyable when Whiteman purchased a large farm near Rosemont, New Jersey, in 1938, the scene of many enjoyable days for the famous family. Pops had always been an avid hunter and marksman and was enabled to devote a great deal of time to these activities on the farm.

However, his lifelong bouts with anxiety and depression never diminished. Periods of feverish work were punctuated with bouts of heavy drinking and were a source of much concern to Margaret and many of the loyal orchestra members. His health deteriorated rapidly.

Whiteman was undaunted by his frail health. As the years passed, he continued to book the band in numerous stage

extravaganzas, which included Billy Rose's "Jumbo" on Broadway. Pops took the show on the road, scoring a triumph at the Fort Worth Centennial in 1937. Tours and shows continued to fill his schedule before, during, and after WWII. The death of his dear friend, George Gershwin, was a severe shock to Pops in 1937, when the brilliant composer succumbed suddenly with a brain tumor in Hollywood at the age of thirty-eight years.

Following another bout with ill health induced by excessive drinking, Paul disbanded the orchestra briefly in 1941.

He joined the George Burns-Grade Allen radio show, and assumed a featured role. Not only did Pops direct the orchestra, he delivered some comedy lines on a regular basis, overcoming a deep-rooted fear of microphones. He seemed as sound as ever when he accepted a major role in a biographical movie of Gershwin's life, entitled "Rhapsody in Blue." Whiteman accepted a position as musical director for the old Blue Network, later to become ABC. Pops originated the "Philco Hall of Fame" shortly thereafter, which proved to be highly successful when he featured many former musical associates. He even took a fling at being a disc jockey on the Paul Whiteman Club," introducing his adopted daughter Margo to radio. Margo aborted a promising radio and television career soon thereafter when she became an alcoholic. Estrangement with the Whitemans followed, and she left the family. In later years, Margo was rehabilitated and made a successful contribution as a social worker in Princeton, New Jersey. Paul Whiteman, Jr., had a brief career as a musician, but lacked the ability of his illustrious father, and faded from the public eye. Father and son had little contact in later life.

Television was a new and exciting medium beckoning Paul in 1947. Once more he was a pioneer when he launched the Paul Whiteman Goodyear Revue," highlighting prominent orchestras of the Big Band Era.

Although his hotel engagements and national tours were behind him, Pops stayed active in the musical world. He conducted a number of concerts featuring Gershwin's music and hosted a number of television shows related to the musical field. These activities continued well into the 1950's. The release of a 50th anniversary memorial album observing Whiteman's half century in American popular music was a major tribute to his distinguished career. Pops had accumulated an awesome list of credits over the years.

"Pops opened the door for the Big Band Era, which roared onto center stage in 1935 with the swinging sounds of Benny Goodman."

Perhaps one of Whiteman's finest accomplishments was the elevation of the band musician to the status of first-class citizen. When Pops entered the musical arena, musicians normally performed behind screens or potted palms, out of sight, and dined with the domestic help in the kitchen. As the Whiteman era emerged, the orchestra member was privileged to mingle and dine with guests, and demanded a salary commensurate with his ability, an absolute social equal. The discipline of written arrangements, coupled with brass, reed, and rhythm sections performing together in a pleasing musical blend, popularized the use of dance orchestras in America's finest dining rooms and elegant ballrooms. Whiteman totally eradicated the public's conception of a musician as one playing Dixieland jazz with a small group in a smoke-filled speakeasy. He opened the door for the Big Band Era, which roared onto center stage in 1935, with the swinging sounds of Benny Goodman and his great orchestra, followed closely by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Hal

Kemp, and all the others. Whiteman's only major competitors prior to that event had been Vincent Lopez, Isham Jones, and a few others. None could match the contribution of the King of Jazz.

In 1958, Pops sold his New Jersey farm and built a new home in Pennsylvania's Adirondacks. His home in New Hope was christened Coda Cottage," for he intended to spend his last days there.

He was correct. Honored to the end of his life, and never far out of the public eye, Pops suffered a heart attack and expired in the hospital at Doylestown, Pennsylvania, on December 29, 1967, at seventy-seven years of age.

The giant of American popular music disappeared from view when Whiteman's mortal remains were laid to rest in the family mausoleum at Trenton, New Jersey, on January 3, 1968 - a sad beginning for a new year.

Indeed, Pops had been an "imperfect ashlar," but nevertheless, a devoted Mason throughout life. His excesses and transgressions are far outweighed by his musical contribution. Without his guiding genius, who knows how many famous artists would have been denied a springboard to national prominence, or what direction popular music may have taken? He gave our country an art form which is distinctly ours. He was a big man, both in bulk and heart, and is deserving of the most affectionate memories and accolades from Masons and non-Masons alike.

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Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, 33¹ and KYCH, is a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Past Executive Director of the Cleveland Masonic Library, and a member of Brenton D. Babcock-Iris Lodge No. 600, Cleveland, Ohio (Worshipful Master three times). He is recipient of the 1988 award for literature for the best article submitted to the Philaethes Magazine that year, and resides at 507 Ninth Street, Box 1928, Bandera, TX 78003



The Saga Of John McKnight

by Sir Knight William H. Brown

John McKnight was no more of a hero or patriot than any one of a hundred other forgotten young men who assisted in building a new country. You might ask, Why single out John McKnight from the hundred others of equal status?" Because John McKnight was one of the least forgotten, someone thought enough of him to write down a few words of praise and save his logbooks and letters.

John was born at Kinnikigig, Pennsylvania, near Carlisle, July 2, 1769. His father William McKnight moved to Alexandria, Virginia, in 1775 when John was six years old. At the age of ten, John stowed away on an old merchant ship which was in Alexandria at the time, being refitted as a war ship with eighteen guns. John was discovered before the ship had reached the Chesapeake. The first mate gave John a good spanking in front of the crew, and then set him to work as a cabin boy.

John was transferred to a merchant ship some time later, but there is no further record of the young man until he reached the age of nineteen. At nineteen years John McKnight became master of a merchant

ship and for many years was engaged in foreign trade as a shipmaster out of the port of Alexandria, Virginia.

During those troubled years between 1792 and 1801, when because of the proclamation of neutrality issued by George Washington as President of the United States which set aside the Treaty of Alliance with France of 1778, Capt. John McKnight was captured several times by the French; each time he escaped with his life in a hair-raising experience. In 1772 while in command of his vessel and homeward bound from London, on leaving the mouth of the English Channel, he was chased by a French privateer. McKnight had every inch of sail set, and managed to keep out of range until nightfall at which time he changed course in the dark and tried to make his escape, but the following morning he found himself between two French ships, the privateer *L'Insurgent* having joined them during the night. A short battle followed, but the merchant ship was no match for the privateers, and after being slightly wounded in the leg, Capt. McKnight with his officers and men surrendered to the captain of the *L'Insurgent*.



Capt. McKnight and his entire crew were taken to Nantes, where they were imprisoned for two years, during which they all suffered great cruelty. On two occasions, McKnight and his men were marched into the prison yard and ordered into line, where they were counted off, and every odd man was taken and executed on the guillotine.

After the second occasion, McKnight taking advantage of a favorable opportunity, with the few men he had left, escaped by means of a rope made from their blankets and thrown over the wall. Breaking into small groups, they set out for the coast. McKnight reached the appointed spot on the coast with only three of his men; the remainder had been recaptured or shot.

The four of them commandeered a French fishing boat, after knocking in a few heads and tossing the crew overboard; they set sail for England. The following day they discovered their fishing boat was not seaworthy; it sprung its planks and was taking water faster than they could pump. The four men stayed with the boat although they had lost all but one sail, and the rudder had been torn away. A small raft was made

from wood objects that would float and were hastily tied together; after the boat sank they spent several days on the raft before being picked up by a Spanish merchant, bound for the West Indies. From there they made their way home. John McKnight had lost all his property, but not his head.

In 1797, while Captain of the *Polly and Nancy* belonging to Alexandria, Virginia, on his return home from St. Ubes loaded with salt, the *Polly and Nancy* was captured off the capes of Virginia by a French privateer and ordered into a French port in the West Indies, but before they reached their destination, the ship was again taken by the English frigate and carried into Cape Nicola, where after being charged forty percent salvage on the ship and cargo it was released December 5, 1791, and arrived in Alexandria, January 26, 1798. On his arrival, McKnight reported that on the day he left, "Six American vessels, with a privateer, had been rescued from Porto Rico by two English frigates," and that the English frigates were so badly damaged by the firing from the fort they were unable to arrive in time before he sailed.

Capt. McKnight was again captured on the 16th of July, 1798 (that same year). In his letter, published by the *Alexandria Times and Advertiser*, and dated Algezirias, Spain, July 31, 1798, he said: "I have the pleasure of informing you of my health and arrival here in thirty days from Virginia. On the 16th inst., I was close in with Cadiz, where I found Lord St. Vincent with sixteen sail-of-the-line laying at anchor about four miles from the town. He forbid me entering the port, which he was then blockading and ordered a seventy-four to see me five leagues out of the fleet. I entered the straits at four p.m., and at six was taken by a French privateer, mounting two swivels and carrying twenty men, who had been firing at me nearly an hour; but falling away calm, she boarded me and

brought me in here, where I have now got a French flag flying over my head. What they mean to do with me I know not, but tomorrow I expect to hear what my fate will be. They did not in the least ill use me, nor plunder me of anything, but while I was below getting my papers for the captain of the privateer, they got hold of Mr. O'Morrow, my mate, who was walking the quarter deck, and gave him a severe beating with their swords, as they have done several other Americans. These attentions were particularly shown the captain of the ship *Hunter* out of Philadelphia, who had been here five or six months, and his vessel not cleared yet. It is almost impossible to enter the straits without being picked up by some of these pirates, for they can be nothing else, as numbers of them have nothing but blank commissions which are filled up

"Captain John McKnight was captured several times by the French; each time he escaped with his life in a hair-raising experience."

on coming into port with a prize, as was the case with the fellows who took me; nor is the least respect paid to any of the neutral flags, except the Greek and Moors, who, I see, come and go unmolested. Capt. Mark Butts of Alexandria got in here safely, and is still in port. A number of Americans are here in a situation similar to my own."

The *Polly and Nancy* was released and sailed for home, Nov. 11, 1798. When she left Cadiz, the ship was loaded with fruit, salt, wine and 20 cast-iron pots with lids. On November 21, the ship was struck by a hurricane and was badly damaged; the masts were all torn away. Making for the nearest port which was St. John, Island of Antiqua, they arrived January 10, 1799, where his ship was condemned as unseaworthy and sold.

Capt. McKnight and his crew found passage to Alexandria; the only thing he brought back was the 20 cast-iron pots with lids. Once more he had lost all of his property.

Capt. McKnight was given command of the *Commerce* out of Alexandria. McKnight swore he would never be taken again by pirates. On his first voyage out, on his way to the Mediterranean, they had only been at sea two days when Capt. McKnight brought out the 20 cast-iron pots and had them filled with gunpowder and broken pieces of scrap iron and glass. The lids were placed over a short fuse and tied down tight. Three days later they were taken by surprise in a fog bank. A French privateer broke through the fog and commanded them to drop sail. Capt. McKnight ordered all sail dropped, but his officers picked up the pots and went to the rail where they waited until the French ship drew in. As the boarding hooks caught the side of their ship, the officers lit the short fuses and tossed nine pots onto the deck of the French ship, where they exploded; the deck crew were mowed down, and the men in the rigging were shot and tossed overboard as they descended. Those below deck were let out one at a time. From those left alive they formed a prize crew to sail the French ship back to the coast where as a prize of conquest, McKnight and his crew made a sizable fortune. For the first time McKnight found himself clear of all debts and on the way to a fortune.

From that time on McKnight made a number of successful voyages to the Mediterranean and South American ports, until he retired from the sea. John McKnight was harbor master of the Port of Alexandria, until his death February 7, 1834, in his sixty-fifth year.

John was survived by his wife Catharine, the daughter of Christian Piercy of Philadelphia, and twelve children. His eldest son was William H. McKnight Esq., of Alexandria; his third

son, Capt. Charles McKnight, was in command of the *Alexandria Blues* at the battle of the White House in 1814.

William McKnight, his father, was the owner and proprietor of McKnights' Tavern, on King Street, where Alexandria Lodge 22 held its meetings in 1797.

Captain John McKnight was a member of the Lodge and also a member of Brooke Royal Arch Chapter No. 9. John McKnight was at the funeral Lodge of Washington, December 16, 1799, and also attended the interment ceremonies the following Wednesday.

How sad it is, that today, there are hundreds of other John McKnights who have been forgotten, except by their Heavenly Father.

Epilogue:

The following item is from the memoirs of Capt. McKenzie of the ship Lexington, 1797.

"In many instances merchantmen engaged in foreign trade went to sea armed, and by that means were enabled to protect themselves from the depredations of pirates, and during the maritime war with France, from capture, in some instances, by privateers."

Another item of interest: "The armed merchantmen that sailed from Alexandria would salute on passing Mount Vernon. On the report of the first gun, George Washington would leave his library, and taking a position in the portico that fronts the Potomac river, remained there uncovered till the firing ceased."

Another item of interest dated 1801: "There was no actual declaration of war, yet hostilities between the two countries commenced on the ocean. The U. S. Frigate *Constellation* captured the French Frigate *L'Insurgont* (the same Privateer who captured Capt. John McKnight in 1792,) on February 18, 1799. The frigate had already captured the American schooner *Retaliation* on Feb. 1."

"The ship *Constellation* had an action with the French frigate *La Vengeance*, but escaped capture after a loss of one hundred and sixty men, killed and wounded, February 1800."

Sir Knight William A. Brown is a member of Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 in Alexandria, Virginia, and resides at 2404 Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302

Santa Monica-Palisades, California Celebrates Centennial

The Most Worshipful Ronald A. Sherod, Grand Master of Masons in California, will preside over centennial celebration ceremonies in Santa Monica on June 15, 1991.

Grand officers and other Masonic and civic leaders will attend to salute one hundred years of Masonry by Southern California's historic Santa Monica Bay.

A golden, dollar-size souvenir Masonic coin has been designed by Thomas J. McKimson to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of the dispensation of Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge No. 307 on June 10, 1891. Their charter was issued on October 14, 1891.



The unique mementos can be carried as pocket pieces that are sure to Generate countless fraternal conversations. They also make distinctive additions to personal coin collections.

Limited quantities are available (in bright golden finish or rich antique bronze) for donations of \$5.00 each. Mail check to: Centennial Committee, 926 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401



Robert B. Horine

Kentucky

Grand Commander-1977

Born November 12, 1912

Died January 30, 1991

Karl Herbert Erickson

North Dakota

Grand Commander-1987

Born December 17, 1908

Died January 31, 1991

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation,
Inc. New Club Memberships**

Grand Commander's Club

Florida No. 44-Cornelius K. McAvoy
Georgia No. 71-Gary D. Lemmons
Georgia No.72-Eli A. Stafford
Florida No. 45-Victor M. Villazon
Maryland No. 40-Harry Miller, Jr.
Nevada No. 6-Fred A. Cutler III.
Georgia No. 73-Alfred C. Bennett, Jr.
Maine No. 4-in memory of Ross L. Wilson by
Dr. Kennedy L. Wilson
California No. 62-Alvin L. Mark
Florida No. 46-Daniel L. Bennett
Louisiana No. 12- James H. Patterson
Michigan No. 45-Stephen B. Hiott
Virginia No. 25-Mrs. Ruby W. Linn
South Carolina No. 8-Gregory Hiers
South Carolina No. 9-Norman E. Wood

Grand Master's Club

No. 1,607-D. Samuel Tennyson (SC)
No. 1,608-Thomas E. Harper (LA)
No. 1,609-Donald J. Munt (TX)
No. 1,610-Lee David Holcomb (GA)
No. 1,611-Louis L. Payne (MD)
No. 1,612-Robert R. Eckell (MD)

No. 1,613-Dr. Wallace D. Mays (GA)
No. 1,614-Hugh T. Christie (TN)
No. 1,615-Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Hannover in
celebration of their 50th Wedding
Anniversary.
No. 1,616-Daniel J. Hennessy, M.D. (GA)
No. 1,617-L. G. Immonen (NV)
No. 1,618-Walter S. Pennington, Jr. (VA)

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



Highlights

Illinois Ladies Auxiliary Project



As a goodwill Christmas project, the Ladies Auxiliary of Chicago Heights Commandery No. 78, Chicago Heights, Illinois, presented 112 needlepoint boxes to residents of the Woodside Manor Nursing Home in Chicago Heights.

Shown in picture, above, are Shirley Hem, auxiliary president; Betty Skowronski, activities director of the home; Dorothy Unwin, auxiliary treasurer, and home resident, Florence Domm.

Southern Cal. Lodge of Research Coin



To commemorate its 40th anniversary of service to the Craft and its worldwide membership, Southern California Research Lodge has struck a special coin which is being offered to the

Brethren. The Southern California Research Lodge reaches Masonic Brethren in eighteen foreign countries, and in every jurisdiction of the United States.

The bronze coin measures approximately an inch and a half in diameter, and an eighth-inch in thickness. The front side depicts the Lodge's Lamp of Learning, while the reverse has space for one's personal, important, Masonic historical dates.

The coin sells for \$5.00, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. It may be ordered directly from Southern California Research Lodge Senior Deacon Jay Rider, 2302 North Olive Lane, Santa Ana, CA 92707. If one wishes his name, Lodge, and degree dates engraved, add \$5.00.

Decennial Services In New Hampshire



Following is a speech given last year by the Commander of St. Paul Commandery No. 5, Dover, New Hampshire, at the decennial (10 year) observance of the death of Sir Knight Moses Paul, founder of the Commandery.

Also taking part in the ceremony was Moses Paul Lodge of Dover, which was named after Sir Knight Paul. The Lodge

from the Masonic Family

is celebrating its 100th birthday.

"Sir Knight Moses Paul, around whose grave we are now gathered, the first Commander of St. Paul Commandery, an honored member of Stratford Lodge, and for whom Moses Paul Lodge was named, died July 9, 1860.

"The first service commemorative of our deceased Sir Knight was held July 9, 1870; since then, after each decade of time has passed, we have assembled here to perform suitable service to the memory of our Sir Knight and founder.

"In past memorial services, the graves of departed Sir Knights have been decorated with the battle flag of the ancient Templar. This banner of ours, which we carry in memory of our ancient Templars, is half black and half white, which signifies that those ancient Templars were fair and favorable to the friends of Christ, but dark and terrible to His enemies.

"Many of our departed Sir Knights are resting here in Pine Hill, and many more are resting around the world. They all have entered the Chamber of Reflection, and taken their stand before the Supreme Architect of the Universe; who we trust was pleased to say, 'You have kept the Faith.'

Tennessee Lodge 100th Birthday

Bright Hope Lodge No. 557, F. & A.M., Knoxville, Tennessee, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. A centennial coin has been struck for the occasion. This coin is of antique bronze, one and a half inches in diameter, and is available for \$5.00, plus 50 cents for postage. Send inquiries to Bright Hope Lodge No. 557, F. & A.M., 5400 Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37918.

Fresno Commandery Club



The Fresno Ladies Commandery met late last year to plan their seasonal session at the Westlake Park, where the past presidents of the clubs were honored. This club was organized in 1924, and is the oldest Masonic ladies' organization in Fresno.

The picture above shows (front row, left to right), Isabelle Jones, charter member, (ninety five years young); Vivian Sharp; Helen Lauritzen; and Mabel McFarland. (Back row, left to right): Ruth Ricci; Carmel Lindholm; Marjorie Hopper; Millie Simms; and Bernice Dyck, current president. All pictured have served as president.

National Camping Travelers' Rally

The 5th District Rally of National Camping Travelers was held in Walkersville, Maryland. Five Sir Knights in uniform from Carroll Commandery No. 17, Westminster, Maryland, presented the colors for the opening ceremonies.

A check of \$238.00 was presented to Carroll Commandery by the participants at the rally for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
Twenty-third Voluntary Campaign

Campaign report by Grand
Commanderies for KTEF Officers
and Trustees for the week ending
February 8, 1991. The total amount
contributed to date is \$297,873.79.

Alabama	\$5,278.00
Arizona	2,263.90
Arkansas	1,244.00
California	34,400.32
Colorado	3,565.25
Connecticut	3,400.00
District of Columbia	3,054.00
Florida	10,143.18
Georgia	39,450.09
Idaho	1,568.43
Illinois	8,728.00
Indiana	8,740.05
Iowa	3,092.40
Kansas	2,331.00
Kentucky	5,294.44
Louisiana	3,850.60
Maine	5,717.08
Maryland	5,874.00
Mass./R.I.	3,756.50
Michigan	10,490.00
Minnesota	3,394.23
Mississippi	1,602.00
Missouri	5,545.30
Montana	1,970.60
Nebraska	1,778.00
Nevada	2,941.05
New Hampshire	1,400.00
New Jersey	819.75
New Mexico	3,125.50
New York	5,855.40
North Carolina	6,409.31
North Dakota	656.00
Ohio	5,286.57
Oklahoma	1,562.00
Oregon	1,775.00
Pennsylvania	19,646.80
South Carolina	6,395.70
South Dakota	3,122.61
Tennessee	11,974.88
Texas	16,942.72
Utah	2,527.00
Vermont	430.00
Virginia	9,504.00
Washington	2,074.02

West Virginia	2,528.00
Wisconsin	2,764.00
Wyoming	1,628.50
Philippines	290.00
St. John's No. 1	
Wilmington, Delaware	150.00
Porto Rico No. 1	610.00
Heidelberg No. 2	625.00
St. Andrew's No. 2	
Dover, Delaware	50.00
Italy Subordinates	140.00
Trinity, U.D.	210.00
Miscellaneous	9,898.61

Needlepoint Kits Available

Several years ago the Grand Encampment began offering needlepoint kits for sale. These kits 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 quantities of three or more. Orders may be sent to Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60604-2293.

Placemats and Napkins Available

Disposable placemats featuring the fourteen Master Masons who became Presidents of the United States and paper napkins depicting the Templar Cross and Crown are available from the Grand Encampment office. Cost for either placemats or napkins is \$7.50 per 125 in intervals of 125 only (i.e., 250, 375, etc.)—no exceptions. Orders may be sent to Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, 14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60604-2293.



*The greatest grace of a
gift, perhaps, is that it
anticipates and admits no
return.*

H. W. Longfellow

Quests, Recollections, Missed Opportunities, and The Future

by Sir Knight William L. Millwood, Jr.

Our Masonic traditions are filled with quests, all inclined toward greater knowledge and service to mankind. Lessons provided by *leaders* have guided our pathways to greater knowledge and have implanted the necessity for future leadership recognizing the mortality of man.

As to recollections, I recall the Great Depression when many little children in my neighborhood would not have enjoyed a Christmas gift had it not been for my father's little Lodge. I recall the excitement of the annual meeting when five-cent sandwiches were bought for refreshments and a few of us boys could taste them before the meeting. I recall the joy of both my father and older brother at being Raised to the high honor of Worshipful Master in succeeding years, and I looked forward to my day in the East. I recall my own Raising and in fact, reaching the East years later. I recall the financial struggle to become a Knight although all I have that fits now is my sword.

Forever these memories will persist. Fate directed me into an all-consuming profession, and time was no longer my

own. Even as Worshipful Master occasionally I was forced to close prematurely and miss the post-Lodge fellowship to pursue my vocation. Unavoidably my dedication faltered. A change of residence to another state played its part, and I must admit a rather provincial attitude among the Brethren was not conducive to a full participation. Alas, I became a dues paying nonattender.

My missed opportunities to serve could have had an impact on today's dilemma within our entire Masonic posture. I am sure there are scores, indeed thousands, who trod this same pathway.

A recent letter from the Master of my home Lodge indicating lack of attendance and financial failure almost to the point of giving up the charter, along with the several articles in our own publication, jolted me into the recognition that the need is upon us, if we expect to salvage our noble orders.

At this moment our future looks bleak. This cannot be true and should call all Fratres to arms, not alone for ourselves but for our ancient and honorable basis, the Blue Lodge.

Looking now at the whole of Masonry we must find leadership with true vision, who can and will address the following:

1. Attendance at meetings.
2. Addressing the problems associated with the scheduling of meetings.
3. Finding ways to encourage membership.
4. Recognizing the need for goals and objectives.
5. Reinstating the charity model so as to be recognized.
6. Making our good works known through the media.
7. Developing workers through meaningful leadership.
8. Developing true fellowship among Fratres and Brothers.
9. Examining the financial impact of membership and participation.
10. Involving both the family of Fratres and Brothers, as well as the community, in activities and accomplishments.
11. Finding an answer to the problem of Fratres and Brothers who change residence.
12. Developing role models conducive to encouraging others to follow.

We, just like others with similar experiences, should recognize our own responsibility in the present posture of our Fraternity and get on with the revitalization, if indeed it means anything to us. Just as we must not leave the national budget deficit to the young, we must not leave *this* problem to the young.

If it means changing old ways and old ideas, let us get on with it before it is too late. Let's leave some memories to those of the future!

Sir Knight William L. Millwood, Jr., is a member of Atlanta Commandery No. 9, Atlanta, Georgia, and resides at 3179 Summit Square Dr, Apartment E8, Oakton, VA 22124

Indiana Lodges Honor Past Master Claude Riedel



September 27, 1990, Samaritan Lodge No. 105 and McCulloch Lodge No. 737, Indiana, observed their annual Past Masters Appreciation Night.

During this affair, Worshipful Brother Claude Riedel, Past Master of Jonesboro Lodge No. 109, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Worshipful Masters of nine Grant County Lodges plus Converse Lodge No. 601, Mt. Etna Lodge No. 333, and LaFontaine Lodge No. 295. Brother Claude was also made an honorary member of several Lodges, bringing his honorary memberships to eleven. Officials believe both honors are firsts.

The Lodges were pleased that Past Grand Commanders of Knights Templar of Indiana, James S. DeMond and Walter Worland, were able to attend.

Pictured, left to right, are: Worshipful Master Kenneth Long of Samaritan Lodge; Brother Daniel J. Leonard, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master; Worshipful Brother Claude Riedel; and Worshipful Master Paul Spencer of McCulloch Lodge No. 737.

Criticism of others often is a form of self-defense. My pride is in competition with yours and vice versa, If I wish to be the big noise at a party and someone else steals the show, my pride is offended and I am inclined to be critical of the one who manages to overshadow me. My pride is offended if I am snubbed, brushed off, or patronized, and my response is likely to be a critical assault.

"Pride," wrote the late C. S. Lewis, gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better looking than others." When we discover someone else richer, cleverer, or better looking than we, our disposition is to bring the other down to at least our level by seeking flaws in his character.

We would be less likely to be critical of others if we were aware that the unkind things we say betray envy or jealousy in us far more than they reflect on those we criticize. Intellectuals are fair game for small minds; saints incur the venom of sinners, and achievers are viewed sourly by the mediocre. There may be nothing essentially wrong with intellectuals, saints, or achievers, but they often elicit the worst in small minds, sinners, and the mediocre.

It is not difficult for most of us to find flaws in others. Even the armor of the saint is vulnerable. He, no less than we, is human. In a perverse fashion we feel better about our weaknesses and sins if we can find weaknesses and sins in other people, especially in those who seem to be distinguished in one way or another. We preserve our own pride by deflating others.

When Lytton Strachey described the flaws he found in Cardinal Manning, Florence Nightingale, General Gordon, and Queen Victoria; he probably felt better about himself. He should have known, however, that the surprising thing

"Virtue by comparison is not virtue. We may feel better because others are worse than we, or because we can find flaws in those who seem to be superior, but our criticisms reveal only our own insecurity and feelings of inferiority."

On Being Critical

by Dr. and Sir Knight Harold Blake Walker

is not that a Cardinal Manning should be on occasion ambitious or even unscrupulous, but rather that an ambitious and unscrupulous man should ever have become a Cardinal Manning with all of his virtues and greatness.

Thomas Carlyle wrote to the point in his essay on Robert Burns: "Granted the ship comes into harbor with shrouds and tackle damaged. The pilot is blameworthy. He has not been wise or all-powerful; but to know how blameworthy, tell us first whether his voyage has been round the globe or only to Ramsgate and the Isle of Dogs." Burns contributed to the idea in his lines, "What's done we partly may compute, But know not what's resisted." Not that the part that's resisted can ever atone for the rest, but it should make us more compassionate in our judgment of it.

Virtue by comparison is not virtue. We may feel better because others are worse than we, or because we can find flaws in those who seem to be superior, but our criticisms reveal only our own insecurity and feelings of inferiority.

There was a striking quality of greatness in Thomas Jefferson. Students of American history are aware of the conflict between Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. Their ideas of government were at opposite poles, and they argued their positions vigorously. In the end, both contributed to the shape of things to come." it is worthy of note that Jefferson gave a place of honor inside his home at Monticello, just inside the front door, to a bust of Hamilton.

Jefferson found it unnecessary to defend his own pride by debunking Hamilton. On the contrary, he honored his opponent. That required a quality of greatness unique among men and women. It says something about the inner security and self-confidence of Jefferson. Whatever his faults, and they were many, Jefferson refused to enhance his own stature by picking at flaws in the character of Hamilton.

Jesus spoke to us all when he said, Judge not, that you be not judged Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

Dr. and Sir Knight Harold Blake Walker is a member of Evanston Commandery No. 58, Evanston, Illinois, and resides at 422 Davis Street, No. 201, Evanston, IL 60201

Rio Hondo Commandery, New Mexico Performs S.O.O.B. Flag Ceremony



January 5, 1991, Rio Hondo Commandery No. 6 performed the opening flag ceremony prior to the installation of officers of Roswell Assembly No. 116, Social Order of the Beauceant. Mrs. Dewey Davis was installed as Worthy President. Pictured (l-r): Commander Jim White (director), Dewell Dempsey, Sterling Isaacs. 2nd row: James Gilmer, P.C.; Larry Knoedler, P.C.; Standard Guard M. Byron Stilwell, Joe Hammond, and Carroll Martin.



58th Triennial Of The Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U.S.A. August 17-21, 1991

Now is the time for all good Sir Knights and their ladies to plan to come to the 58th Triennial, August 17 through August 21, 1991, in Washington D.C.

Each Sir Knight should have received his copy of the reservation and registration forms with his December and January *Knight Templar Magazines*. If a group of Sir Knights would like to be housed in the same area of the hotel, their reservation forms should be mailed in as a group.

The April magazine will list at least four or five tours during the day, and also one or two at night. These tours will be open to anyone who would like to go (not just for the ladies). There will be a form to sign up for the tours, and a brief description of each.

The following tours will be included: Tour No. 1 will be an overview of Washington; Tour No. 2, of Mount Vernon and Alexandria, Virginia; Tour No. 3, of Washington monuments by night; Tour No. 4, a morning tour of the interior of public buildings; and Tour No. 5, an afternoon tour of the same. Tour No. 6 will be for shopping in Washington, with three very special stops. Prices and days of the tours will be announced in the April magazine. We might have a special tour if there is enough interest; and that would be a day trip to Atlantic City, the gambling mecca of the East Coast. All tours must enroll 35 individuals to become operational.

I hope that each Sir Knight and Grand Commandery officer who reads this might try and help the 58th Triennial Committee by asking his Commandery or Grand Commandery about taking an ad in the 58th Triennial Program Book. The rates for the ads were given in the February magazine.

If any Grand Commandery is having trouble in planning luncheons, dinners, or even breakfasts, please contact Ms. Sandra Brent, assistant director of catering for the Washington Sheraton Hotel, (202) 328-2918.

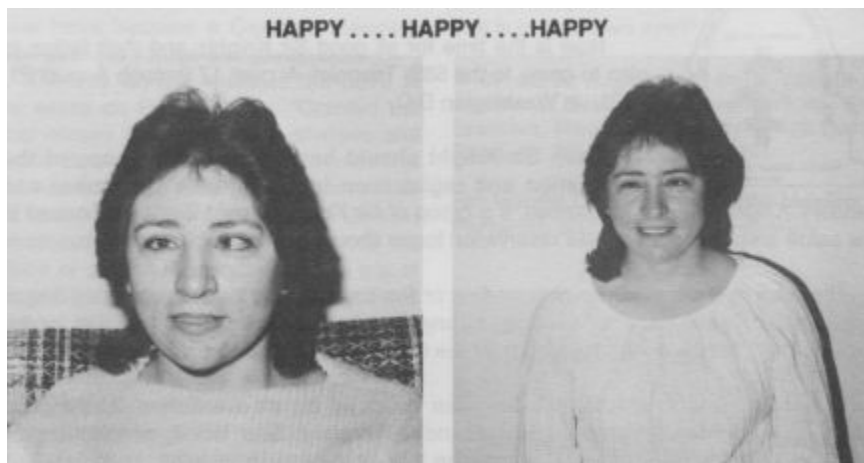
If any Grand Commandery or individual is having any problems concerning space, please contact Mr. Geoffrey Dirksen, our coordinator for the 58th Triennial. Call (202) 328-2907.

All Sir Knights are reminded that all reservation forms must be sent to Sir Knight Robert V. Hines, 115 East Street N.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

All Sir Knights are reminded that all registration forms must be sent to Sir Knight Walter H. Kitts, 1105 Merwood Drive, Tokoma Park, MD 20912.

Each Sir Knight should read this monthly magazine very closely, as this is the only means we are using to communicate the Triennial information each month. There will be something in each magazine until the Triennial takes place this August.

Newsfront...



A very happy girl and a very pretty girl has been made so through the help of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Marie Antillon is seen here in before and after pictures. The eye operation (strabismus) was made possible through the sponsoring efforts of Sir Knight Louis W. Gonzalez, Past Commander of Pilgrim Commandery No. 3, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the financial assistance of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

"A Man Is at his Tallest when he stoops to help another..."

Dear Sir:

The time for closing the book on 1990 is here. As I look back upon the year, my thoughts have been numerous. Because of people like you (Knights Templar) and a God who loves me, I have been helped over some of the mountains that looked impossible.

For three years I have struggled with vision problems. Each time I asked for your help you were more than gracious. My vision from cataract problems has been corrected. Because of your help I was able to tell my friends and children that the Christmas lights and everything looks brand new, clear and clean.

At this time my words of thanks just don't seem sufficient. However, please know that my simple "thank you" comes from a heart of gratitude and eyes" that truly appreciate your kindness for my restored vision!

In closing, my thoughts turn to the quote "A man is at his tallest when he stoops to help another." My prayer is that God will continue to bless the Knights Templar organization as you continue to help others.

Thank You!
Susan Hay

Thoughts on Brotherly Love

Washington Dec. 14, 1990

Dear *Knight Templar*:

Every Masonic publication lately speaks of the loss of membership and attendance. What happened to old Brotherly Love, and how many others are like me?

I've had four operations on my eyes and for four years could not drive a car. Not once in those years did those who passed our house on the way to Lodge stop and offer to take me.

Now things have changed. I can drive in daylight and we've moved to be closer to our children who settled in another state. I'm 80 years old now. I used to be on a large company's degree team traveling all over the company area to give degrees to employees. I've received my Golden Veterans Award; I'm a Past High Priest and Knight Templar.

There is a Masonic hall three miles from where I live on one of the busiest four-lane streets in the city, and on a steep hill and S curve where in a 35 mph zone the slowest car is doing 50 mph or better. I don't drive at night, and can see no way of going in or out and staying alive.

We've been here two and a half years and I've let every Mason I've met know I'd like to attend. They show no interest or pass me off to contact someone else. I've also listed my name with the large Senior Citizens Club, with no results.

How many others like myself would like to go if we just had a chance?

I'm not signing my name because I'm not looking for aid or sympathy which would result from this letter.

Thank You

A Templar Memorial in Connecticut

Dear *Knight Templar*

William A. Gaillard is buried in New London, Connecticut, at Cedar Grove Cemetery. No doubt, he was a Knight Templar. Gaillard was born on June 14, 1847, and died on August 27, 1895. His wife Charlotte H. Gaillard has what one would call a regular type stone. She was born in 1852 and died in 1942.

"In Hoc Signo Vincens" is clearly visible on the monument for Gaillard, as well as the crown with the cross. At the base of the monument is his name, and birth and death dates.

Gaillard is buried near the late Connecticut governor Thomas M. Wailer, who was a Mason, but I'm not able immediately to determine if he was a Knight Templar

Sir Knight Scott Bill Hirst
Narragansett Commandery No. 27, Westerly, Rhode Island



L'isle Adam - Grand Master

by Sir Knight W. Duane Kessler

One of the brightest names in the history of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, or Knights Hospitaller, was Philippe Valuers de L'isle Adam, Grand Master. He ascended to the throne on the Island of Rhodes early in 1522.

L'isle Adam followed the brilliant defense minister, Fabrizio del Carretto. Grand Master Carretto shored up the defenses of the island, preparing for the inevitable conflict between the Cross and the Crescent, then occurring from generation to generation.

The Order of St. John was established on the Island of Rhodes in 1310 by right of conquest from the Saracens. In 1312 the order was strengthened and enriched by the sequestered property of the Knights Templar. The Knights were suppressed in that year by the avarice and cruelty of Pope Clement V, and Philip the Fair, King of France.

Rhodes was one of the most beautiful islands in the Aegean Sea. It was ideal for receiving sugar, silks, spices, all from the East; and grain and timber from the Black Sea. The island was also near the Muslim world for continued harassment.

Invasion was by sea only, so the Rhodians were known for their military and naval skills. The skills of the Knights of St. John complemented these traits, making them superior to the Muslims. Quality always proved superior to quantity.

L'isle Adam was able to procure the services of one of the most brilliant engineers, and one of the most intense fighting men of his time in the person of Gabriele Tadini. Through Tadini's efforts,

retrenchments were made within the walls, and he supervised the tunneling and countermining, particularly against the Turkish miners. These sappers would try to sink their shafts and charges beneath the walls and towers.

The skill and ingenuity of Tadini again was in evidence when he made a listening device with a taut parchment diaphragm. It had the effect of making a number of miniature bells chime immediately upon the slightest sound of movement beneath the ground.

In 1520 the Ottoman Sultan, Salim the Grim, after conquering the Egyptian Empire, prepared to wipe out this Christian nest of vipers, when he suddenly died.

The son of the Ottoman Sultan, Emperor Solyman II, fell heir to the Turkish throne. Through his deeds, Solyman established himself as one of the foremost rulers in Turkish history. He became known as "The Lawgiver" for his reformation and recoding of Turkish law.

The Sultan brought an immense array of cannon and a complement of even more formidable Turkish miners. Gathered in Constantinople were seven hundred ships of war and 200,000 fighting men, so if Rhodes would not fall to the guns of the Sultan, they would be the object of the "steam roller" tactics of their mighty fighting forces. The Knights could only assemble fifteen hundred men and the Rhodians only five hundred more.

The Rhodians and Knights waited for word of the sword. Ditches were dug, and the Bastion of Auvergne was completed. The harbor was full of ships, coming and going with supplies of stores and

armaments. The Tower of St. Nicholas, burnt at an earlier siege, was so well constructed as to be practically impregnable.

In July of 1522 the battle began with the Sultan himself landing on the island, near the city of Rhodes, with a band of hand-picked Janissaries. The Turks formed a corridor, spanning the city like a crescent.

Throughout August a constant bombardment of the island ensued with thousands of cannon balls expended by the Turks. It was their determination to crush this order of the holy religion. Towards the end of the month, breaks began to appear in a number of places in the walls.

This constant bombardment continued through September with minings and counterminings and cannon. On September 24 the first general assault was launched against the posts of Aragon, England, Italy, and Provence. Proceeded by the heaviest continuous bombardments of the siege, the greater part of the Turkish forces were hurled at this semicircle of Rhodian defenses.

The first to bear the brunt of their attack was the Bastion of Auvergne, selected as one of the targets at which the Turkish forces were hurled. But for all their fanatical bravery, the guns of Auvergne mowed them down. The Turks were taken from the rear by a handpicked group of Knights, led by Knight Jacques do Bourton.

L'isle Adam himself was prominent where the flood of battle was inching up against the defenders. Behind them was the Standard Bearer, displaying the Flag of Crucifixion.

This latter act only served to turn the Turks' attention to the object of their battle, L'isle Adam. The attack, however, wavered with the advanced forces beginning to fall back towards the trenches. It seemed like special protection was afforded the Grand Master.

October, however, saw the disablement of Gabriele Tadini. While not being mortally wounded, he was confined to the hospital for six weeks. Tadini's injury was a tragic blow, happening as it did with the Turks redoubling mining efforts beneath the defenses.

The weather was wet and slimy, and shattered ramparts were heavy with mud. Ruin and desolation stalked the streets of this once jeweled city. The Knights could hold out just so much longer.

In December, Emperor Solyman II made an offer, giving the Knights and Rhodians full and honorable terms. The Rhodians were exhausted with this eternal siege, and even some of the Knights were in favor of accepting the terms.

L'isle Adam was adamant, always being a crusader, but if the Rhodians accepted their terms, it would be the final blow—even if the Knights would not accept them.

The peace party was settled in December with the finalization held for Christmas Day. The Sultan said, "It saddens me to compel this brave old man to surrender." In those days a spirit of chivalry and courtesy could still veneer the harsh canvas of war.

"Nothing in the world was ever so well lost as Rhodes," said Charles V, when told of the downfall. Tribute must go to the military engineers who designed those walls and ramparts, the remains of which are the architectural wonders of the Mediterranean.

In the end, it must surely be said that L'isle Adam's courage preserved Rhodes.

Continued with *L'isle Adam - Grand Diplomat* in the April issue of *Knight Templar Magazine*.

Sir Knight W. Duane Kessler is a member of Reed Commandery No. 6, Dayton, Ohio, and resides at 4159 Williamson Drive, Dayton, OH 45416

History of the Grand Encampment

Chapter XXI The Rituals And The Work Of The Orders Of Knighthood (Continued)

It was presumed that the representatives of the various Commanderies would carry back to their respective organizations the true work they had seen exemplified. With no written ritual it is hard to believe that uniform work could result from this method. However, the Grand Encampment thought well of it and at this same Conclave the following regulation was adopted:

"It shall be the duty of the General Grand Officers, at each Triennial Meeting, to cause an exemplification of the work appertaining to the Order of Knighthood to be exemplified before this General Grand Body and also to correct officially all irregularities and discrepancies they may observe for the government of the Subordinate Encampment under this jurisdiction."

At the next Triennial Conclave held in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1853, this regulation was carried out:

The work in the Orders of Red Cross Knight, Knight Templar and Knight of Malta was exemplified before the General Grand Encampment by the conferring of the Orders of Knighthood on Companion Abner V. Rowe of Mississippi, by Webb Encampment No. 1, under a Dispensation from Sir W. S. Chiply, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Kentucky, the work being conducted by officers and members of the General Grand Encampment detailed for that purpose."

There is no record in the proceedings from this time until 1877 that the regulation for exemplification of the work was carried out.

In his address before the Conclave in 1853, Grand Master Hubbard referred to the uniformity of the work stating:

"During the late recess I adopted measures by comparisons to test the work of Knight Templar and the appendant Orders at several points or localities within our jurisdiction. Knowing that the most, if not all, of the work as taught in the West and Southwest was derived from the same source and teachings, and embracing the favorable opportunity presented in the person of an experienced Sir Knight of Vernon Encampment, Columbus, Ohio, Sir Isaac Davis, whom from experience I knew to be qualified, and who was desirous to go to California, I directed him to call upon Sir Knights whom I had named at Wheeling, Virginia, Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, and Washington, District of Columbia, and compare with them the work, and requesting the Sir Knights at the several localities to inform me of the results. As he was going to take up his abode in California, I was desirous that he should take with him the undoubted and true work, under the authority of your Chief Officer, to that country. He faithfully executed my orders; and responses were received by me that the work was entirely the same in all essential particulars. Looking to our vast and extended jurisdiction, we may safely affirm that the work in all essential particulars is uniform."

In 1859 the Constitution was amended further, changing the supervisory control

from the first four Grand Officers, and placing the whole duty upon the Grand Master requiring that he "see that the dress, work, and discipline of Templar Masonry everywhere was uniform." It appears that from Grand Master Hubbard's address that in addition to all his other duties, he was still, as late as 1859, actually engaged in giving instruction in the work. At his visit to the Commandery at Wheeling, West Virginia, he gave instructions "in military drill and work of the Order." At the Triennial Conclave of 1859, the idea of standardizing the floor work in the conferring of the Order first received official recognition. A committee was appointed "to prepare and present for the consideration of this Grand Encampment, at its next Triennial Meeting, a system of tactics to correspond in all respects to Knightly usages, with appropriate words of command, for each and every evolution which may be necessary to be used, either in public processions or in the secret ceremonies appertaining to the work of the asylum."

Although the Committee carried out their instructions and, at the next Conclave communicated the work to the M.E. Grand Master for his approval there is no record of any action in regard to it.

At the Triennial Conclave held in New York in 1862, the Grand Encampment emphatically declared it had never authorized the publication of any part of the work by adopting the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Encampment of the U.S.A. has never, directly or indirectly, authorized the publication of any part of the work, drill, or ritual of Templar Masonry, and any such publication is hereby unequivocally condemned."

However, it appears that at least the ritual of the Knights of Malta had been reduced to writing and a copy was in the

possession of the Grand Master (B. B. French), as is evidenced by the following report of the Committee on Work of Knights of Malta, which was adopted:

"That it be enjoined upon all State Grand Bodies and Subordinate Commanderies, under the jurisdiction of this Grand body to use the Ritual, a *copy of which is in possession of the M.E. Grand Master*, being the same which is in use in the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, and that the conferring of the Order (of Knight of Malta) should be made as much a separate ceremonial as is observed in conferring the other Orders of Knighthood."

The above resolution was the result of the remarks of Grand Master French in his address in which he called attention to the difference presented in the manner of conferring the Order of Knight of Malta in different localities. The use of the ritual in his possession was therefore required in all the subordinate bodies. This ritual manuscript was the beginning of the change from unwritten to printed Rituals, and was the basis for reference at succeeding Triennial Meetings, until the printing of the Grand Encampment Ritual in 1883.

At the Triennial Conclave held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1868, several different systems of tactics and drill for Templars "so far as relates to the opening and closing and working ceremonies of a Commandery" were exemplified before the Grand Encampment. The thanks of the Grand Encampment were extended to Sir Knight Orrin Welch of New York for the satisfactory manner in which the Templar Drill was exemplified. The approval of the Grand Body was given, but the tactics and drill were not adopted nor made obligatory for use in the Subordinate Commanderies.



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. Items submitted to Knight Templar that refer to Templar or Masonic subjects will continue to be printed free of charge. All other items should be accompanied by a \$5.00 remittance made payable to the Grand Encampment. Any submission may be subject to editing.

The largest Commandery in Virginia, Grice No. 16, stationed in Norfolk and constituted in 1866, will celebrate its 125th anniversary during 1991. Commemorative items for sale, such as a jewel, \$15; coin, \$5; and lapel pin, \$5. All prices, pp. Checks or money orders payable to Grice Commandery No. 16, and send to S.K. Rodney J. Van Houten, 1646 Mill Oak Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7920

Wanted: Iowa Commandery, Zerubbabel Commandery' No. 68, is seeking someone who can rebuild Knights Templar Chapeaux. Please contact Kenneth M. Cingle, Recorder; Zerubbabel/ Commandery No. 68, K. T.; Box 37, 301 Third St.; Bussey; IA 50044, (515)944-5869

For Sale: Past Commander's, new style uniform: coat size, 44R; trousers, 36x31; chapeau, 7-3/8, with carrying case; P.C. sword. All items in excellent condition. Mrs. Olga Neitzke, 4767 Newton Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121, (702) 451-7846

On January 2, 1986, my Past Commander's sword with scabbard and leather carrying case was stolen from my home. My name, Jay B. Stanton, was engraved on the blade. Also, my wife's uncle had the author Jack London's K. T. sword until it was stolen in 1941 in Indianapolis. It, too, had the name on the blade. If anyone runs across either sword, I would appreciate hearing of its location. Jay B. Stanton, 444 Yale Ave., Coalinga, CA 93210, (209) 935-2634.

Wanted: Old, original Knight Templar apron. Send description, condition, and price to S.K. Austin C. Gray, Jr.; 320 N. Wallace St., Indianapolis, IN 46201. All replies answered.

Ft. Myers Commandery No. 32, Grand and Linhart Sts., Ft. Myers, Florida, needs winter residents of SW Florida to assist in spring and fall York Rite festivals. Dual memberships available (if allowed by home state) for those willing to hold office while maintaining membership "up north." We desperately need someone to help as Recorder/Secretary in all three York Rite bodies. Chapter/Council meet on the 2nd Tues./Commandery on the 4th Tues. ea. month, 7:30 p.m. We have a bring-in dinner before Chapter and refreshments after Commandery with activities for ladies during ea. meeting. S.K. Eugene Burger, Jr., Jr. Warden; 1431 27th St., S. W.: Naples; FL 33964-4223, (813) 353-0966 (unlisted).

Friendship Lodge No. 53, F. & AM., Fellowship, Florida, is in search of a pair of beautiful "Brazen Pillars" (BO & JA). As a small rural Lodge, our funds are limited and we cannot afford the \$2,000+ that a pair of new pillars cost. If any of the Brothers know of a pair not being used, we would be happy to pick them up anywhere in the U.S. Contact R. W Ralph W. Shollenberger, Sec.; 19640 S. W. 57th P1.; Dunnellon FL 32630; (904) 489-0956

For some time our Masonic Blue Lodge in Anchorage has been attempting to locate a print of Worshipful Brother George Washington which would be suitable for display in a Masonic Lodge. We are willing, of course, to purchase such a print, be it framed or not. Raymond L. Beaver, WM.; Aurora Lodge No. 15; I200BW. N'thn. Lts., Anchorage; AL 99503

For sale: George Washington Masonic stamp covers from 1959 to Dec. 1990. Also, a lifetime membership can be had for a fee of \$10.00. Contact Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, PA 17560-9622, (717) 786-3803

Chapter pennies wanted by avid collector. I have been building this collection for over 20 years, a labor of love. These one day will end up in a Masonic museum. I will pay or send a donation of \$2.00 for any received, and buy one or a whole collection as I collect all varieties and more than likely need them. Maurice Storck, Sr.; 775 W. Roger Rd.; Tucson; AZ 85705, (602) 888-7585

Several years ago I requested Brethren with unwanted Masonic books or monitors to send them to me to start my Masonic library. The response was heartwarming and generous. Since my library is far from complete, I repeat that appeal - particularly interested in monitors from the several Grand Lodges; old, new, regardless of condition. Any Masonic book appreciated. Michael D. Gillard, P.M., P.C.; 17613 N. Co. Rd., 300 W; Muncie; IN 47303

Wanted: latch-hook rug kits for Masonic and Eastern Star to go in our dining room at the Lodge. Elinda Harrison, PO Drawer O, Norris, SC 29667

For sale: 10K gold, Blue Masonic nugget ring, size 10, pictured in Service Merchandise catalog, '90-91, p. 69, #35. Paid \$329; will take \$295 or B. O. Jerry L. Wolfenbarger, 1128 Forsythe St., Knoxville, TN 37917-3012, (615) 688-0802

For sale: one to four lots in Crown Hill Cemetery, Denver, Cob., in Masonic section - cheap. Lydia Vawter, 8175 Hooker, Westminster, CO 80030, (303) 429-5734

For sale: 32° 1-1/4 ct. diamond consistory ring (size 13): 14K yellow gold shank, w/2 white gold eagles; enameled on both sides. Appraised value excl. tax, \$1500; asking \$800. Frederick C. Erisman, 1188 Sheep Hill Rd., New Holland, PA 17557, (717)355-0595

Wanted: Masonic background of Arthur Francis Collins (b.2-7-1864, Gerard Ave., Philadelphia, Pa; d. 8-3-33, Tice, Fla.). Was early pioneer recording artist; during retirement sang at Masonic Lodges in Fort Myers, Fla. area. Wish to hear from Masons who knew him or his family; interested in pictures, autographs, records, etc.; and want to confirm his Lodge. I will answer all letters and appreciate any help. Mr. Peter J. Westbere, 33 Philip Ave., Guelph Ontario Canada, N1E 1R5

Seeking genealogical info on John Payne (b. ca. 1815, S.C.; d. after 1860), married Henrietta Thrower (Jan. 1842), Montgomery Co., Ala.: d. 1888, Butler Co., Ala. Also interested in Masonic info on John Payne, Mont. Co., in 1850's and 60's. Son, John Washington Payne, was a Master Mason in Butler, Co., Ala., 1890. David L. Payne, Director Library Services, J. C. Fant Memorial Library, P.O. Box W-1625, Columbus, MS 39701, (601) 329-7332

Looking for info on or from the descendants of Amariah Watson who departed Lexington, Ohio, in the late 1840's and settled in LaSalle, Ili. Have extensive data on descendants of Asahel Watson to share. Please write or phone Rolland V Watson, P G.M., PG.C.; 2206 W. Palo Verde Dr.; Phoenix; AZ 85015, (602) 242-2764

I am in the process of starting neighborhood children in collecting wooden money, wooden nickels. My supply is running low; anyone interested in helping, I will reimburse postage on request. I am just a beginner myself at age 70. Thanks in advance. Basil L. Wimmer, 7424 Graham Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46250-2654

For sale: 38 8" sterling silver presidential plates, Washington thru Carter, with heads of Presidents and their names etched into the front of plates in 24K gold. Each plate enclosed in velvet/satin presentation case and appraised at \$300. Plates will not be sold separately. Make offer. James A. Hill, 350 N. Main St., Vidor, TX 77662

Seeking genealogical info on John J. Pond, my g-grandfather (b. 1815, New Brunswick, Can.) Possibly moved to Littleton, Maine, from Marysville, N.B. Married Mary E. (b. 7-3-1828). Also, any info on their children, both in Littleton, Maine, cemetery. P Twitchell, 9 Yale Dr., Milford, MI 01757

First reunion, USS Griffin (AS-13), 1942-46: Oct. 19-20, 1991, Arcadia, Mo. Contact Hugh Loveall, (314) 546-7061, or Garland Roach, (816)564-2518

Around the Corner

Charles Hanson Towne

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end,
Yet days go by and weeks rush on,
And before I know it a year is gone.
I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine - we were younger then,
And now we are busy-tired men,
Tired with playing a foolish game,
Tired with trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow" I say, "I will call on Jim,
Just to show that I'm thinking of him,"
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner! Yet miles away;
"Here's a telegram, Sir"
"Jim died today."
And that's what we get, and deserve in the end,
Around the corner, a vanished friend.