



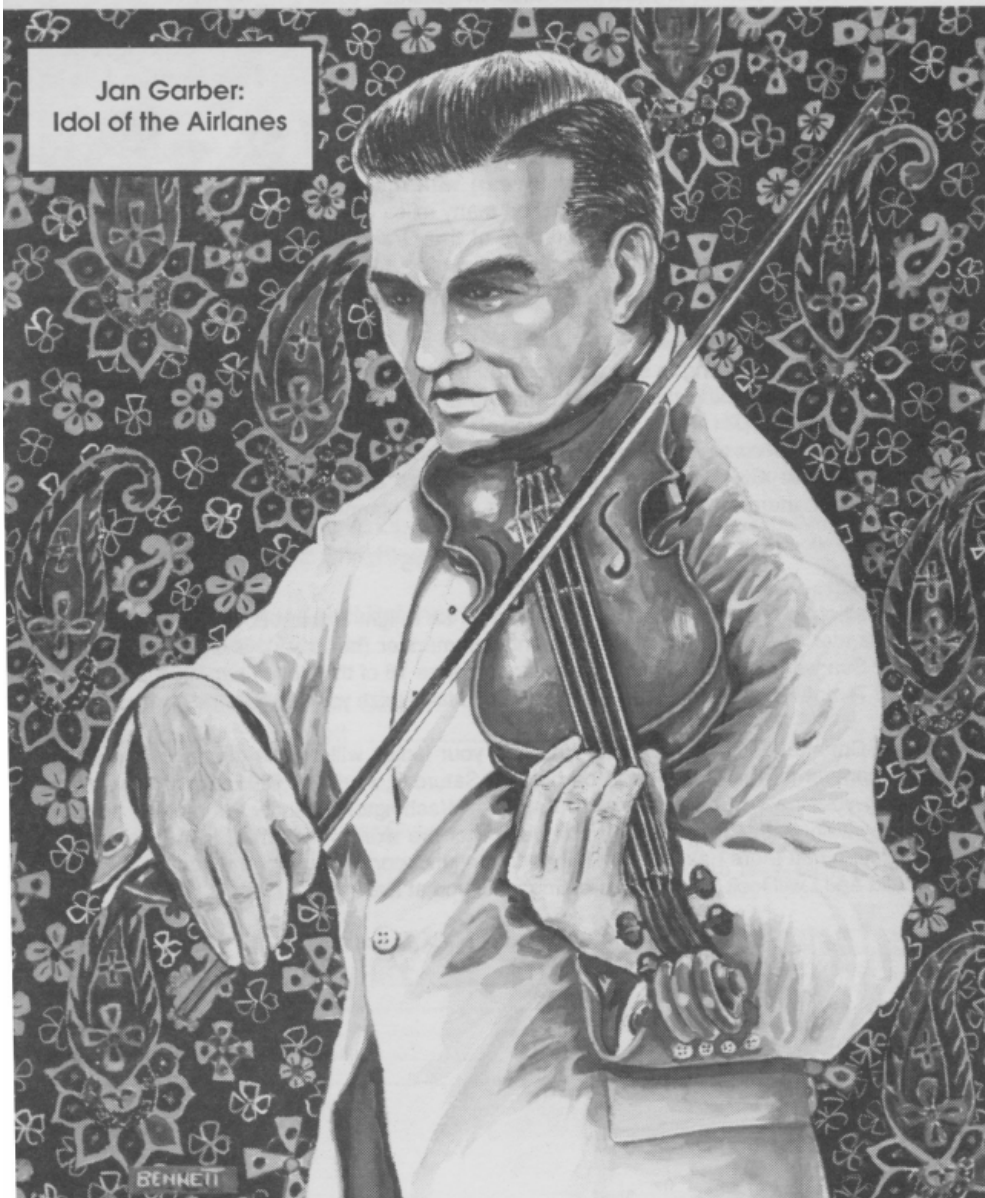
# Knight Templar

VOLUME XLI

MARCH 1995

NUMBER 3

Jan Garber:  
Idol of the Airlines



## Upcoming Events

### Visitations of the Grand Master and His Representatives

According to the *Farmers Almanac* and the Weather Bureau, in many parts of our country the month of March is supposed to come roaring in like a lion and go out like a lamb. By this time, many of us are ready for spring and are really getting tired of long, dreary days, cold nights, snowstorms, ice storms, and just plain winter in general.

Your Grand Encampment officers are no different than the majority of the Sir Knights that we serve. We, too, are looking forward to the visitations that will be made during the coming months of 1995.

Visitations begin the last days of February with the Grand Commandery of Alabama and end in November (this year) with the Conclave of New Hampshire. There will be many miles traveled by a devoted group of Sir Knights, who serve all of you as officers of the Grand Encampment. In some Grand Commanderies they are called Inspecting Officers, but their main duties, and mine, are to be of service when needed and to offer their suggestions as to how you can better serve the Sir Knights in your jurisdiction.

It will be most interesting to see and hear the report that is forthcoming from every Grand Commander concerning the progress that he is making on the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine/festivals, reunions, ceremonies, which are the basis of our **membership - membership - membership** program. From reports we have received to date from our Chief of Staff, Sir Knight James S. DeMond, Past Department Commander, there are many of these events already planned and more in the making.

### Easter-1995

I hope all of you have read the article written by Sir Knight Richard B. Baldwin, Past Grand Commander of Virginia, Past Department Commander (honorary), and Chairman of the Easter Sunrise Memorial Service. It appears on page 18 of the November 1994 issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine. Please read it again to familiarize yourself with the new schedule.

Grand Commanders, please note: You and your ladies will be the guests of the Grand Encampment for the luncheon to be held on Saturday, April 15, 1995, at 1:00 P.M. When making your hotel reservation with the Hotel Washington, identify yourselves as such when writing or telephoning the hotel. Also, get the word out to the Sir Knights in your jurisdiction that there has been a change to the luncheon in lieu of the reception. My Lady Dorella and I will look forward to greeting all of you at Easter.

Blair Christy Mayford  
Grand Master



# Knight Templar

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

**MARCH:** On page 2, Grand Master Mayford anticipates his own and his representatives' visitations to the Annual Conclaves of the Grand Commanderies and reflects on his membership program and the upcoming Easter Sunrise Service in Alexandria, Virginia. On page 5, Sir Knight Dorward reports interesting information that may shed light on Templar history. Again, we present in its entirety a story by Sir Knight Joseph Bennett - this time about Jan Garber and his splendid music from the Big Band Era.

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### March 1995

Volume XLI

Number 3

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

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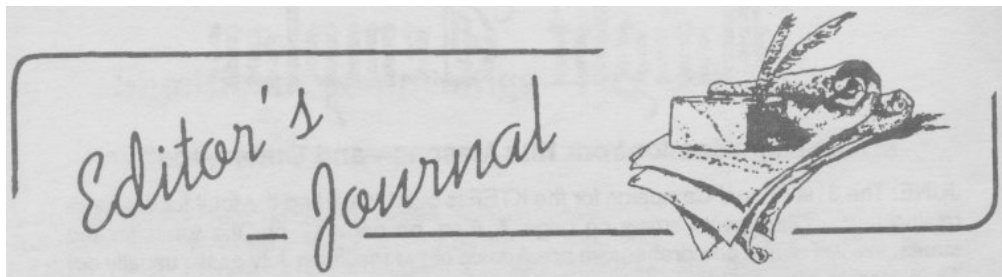
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Mail magazine materials and correspondence to **Editor**, 57 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chico, IL-60630-2460.

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

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



**Thanks:** *Knight Templar* has been asked to convey 'the gratitude of the Ernest I. Teter family to the Sir Knights and their ladies for their expression of love for our Wife, Mother, and Grandmother.

**Corrections:** The Annual Conclave for Georgia will take place in Toccoa, instead of Albany. The Annual Conclave for New Hampshire will take place November 11-12, 1995, and will be held in Portsmouth. The information in the January issue was incorrect on these two Annual Conclaves

**Supreme Forest, Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America:** The Supreme Tall Cedar for 1995 is Michael J. Hlatke III. The annual session will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on June 1-4, 1995.

**Announcement:** The Grand Encampment continues a program of Honors, which has two levels: Knight Grand Cross of the Temple and Knight Commander of the Temple This program gives the Grand Encampment a way of honoring Sir Knights who have distinguished themselves in their fields of endeavor. It does not limit itself to Masonry alone, but to qualify, a person must be a Knight Templar. The recipients receive a beautifully engraved patent and a jewel. The jewel may be worn on the uniform or on a tuxedo. The recipients may also use the letters KGC or KCT after their names; they should be introduced along with the Knights Templar Cross of Honor holder.

**Announcing:** The Widow's Pin - to commemorate those who were active Templars: The Grand Encampment continues a program to honor widows of Knights Templar. A Green pin is for widows of those below the rank of Commander, and a Red Templar Cross pin is for widows of Sir Knights who held office below the rank of Past Grand Commander (this includes **Commanders, Past Commanders, and grand officers.**) Honor your widows at

regular or special programs of your Commandery. Order in lots of 10 at \$5.00 apiece, payable to the Grand Encampment, and send to the Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460.

**Sir Knights, Attention!:** An important and invaluable booklet entitled *The York Rite of Freemasonry - a History and Handbook*, is available from the Grand Encampment. Authored by Sir Knight Frederick G. Speidel, this comprehensive, illustrated 78-page booklet explains the degrees, history, symbolism, and benevolent programs of the Blue Lodge, the Chapter, the Council and the Commandery, with illustrations of the jewels of the officers of each body and the Red Cross, Malta, and Templar banners. There is no limit on orders: \$1.50 each under 100 copies; \$1.00 each over 100 copies, **plus shipping and handling**. Write your checks to and mail to the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460.

**A Pilgrim's Path: Freemasonry and the Religious Right:** This is John J. Robinson's last book, and it is now available as a hardbound copy. Every Mason should want this intriguing and educational book in his library. The book is available for \$15.00 each, plus \$2.50 shipping and **handling**. • **Born In Blood:** The exciting book by John J. Robinson is available at the price of \$16.00, including S & H. • **Dungeon, Fire and Sword: The Knights Templar in the Crusades.** This history of the Knights Templar by the late John J Robinson is now available for \$20.00 each, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling Please make checks payable to the Grand Encampment, and send them to the Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460.

# A New Light on Templar History?

by Sir Knight Donald L. Dorward, KYCH

The standard teaching of Templary with regard to its origin emphasizes that the Order of Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon (the Knights Templar of the Crusades) were simply used as a role model in establishing the principles and purposes of the Masonic Knights Templar organization. After all, the crusading Knights Templar were abolished and their leaders martyred almost five hundred years before the organization and formation of the Masonic Knights Templar organization.

Recently, however, a very interesting article has been published which indicates that there may have been a very direct connection between the Knights Templar organization from the Crusades and both operative and speculative Freemasonry. The key was June 24, 1314, at the Battle of Bannockburn.

(The principal reference for the remainder of this article on the Battle of Bannockburn and the references to the Knights Templar organization at the time of its dissolution is an article "Who Won at Bannockburn?" by Archie McKerracher, a regular writer on matters of Scottish history for *The Highlander* published for Scottish Heritage U.S.A., Inc., by Angus J. Ray, Jr., 202 S. Cook Street, Suite 214, P.O. Box 397, Barrington, IL 60011; August 1994 issue.)

At 4:00 A.M., June 24, 1314, an army of approximately six thousand Scottish Highlanders under the command of King Robert I (Robert the Bruce) advanced against an army of twenty thousand, principally English and Welch encamped on the banks of the Bannock Burn

(stream) under the command of Edward II of England. There are almost as many stories about what happened next as there are writing sources telling the story. The facts which are generally agreed upon indicate that hand-to-hand combat raged furiously until approximately noon. As might be expected from the difference in the size of the two armies, the Scots were gradually being forced back. This was typical of the pattern of conflict between the two countries for over two centuries; however, this time it was different. Suddenly there appeared, behind the Scottish lines, what seemed to have been a reserve force of approximately a thousand individuals with some cavalry. The appearance of this new, and unexpected, fighting force appeared to break the spirits of the English army, which ultimately broke and fled the field.

The victory won by the Scots that day is still celebrated in Scotland today. It, more or less, kept Scotland free from England for almost three hundred years; when James VI of Scotland ascended the throne of England as James the First in 1603, following the death of Queen Elizabeth.

The real question, which has never been answered satisfactorily, is what was there about this "reserve" force that so affected the English army? Year after year, battle after battle, the English almost always were victorious. Their leadership, generally, was superior; their training was superior; and most of all, they had better arms and equipment. Scotland was, and even today still is, an impoverished nation compared to

England. The arms of warfare have always been extremely expensive. It is suggested that the answer to all three problems; leadership, training, and financial support; may have been the Knights Templar.

Let us briefly review the history of the Order of Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon (Knights Templar). The order was founded in Jerusalem in

"By 1291, the Templars were unbelievably wealthy and served as bankers to many royal governments. The crown jewels of England were held by the Templars as security for loans made to the English crown."

1118 by nine Crusaders. The purpose of the order was to protect Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land from outside harassment. The French King of Jerusalem gave them a wing of the royal palace as a start. The nature of the organization, and its purpose, became particularly attractive to younger sons of European nobility. The Knights were sworn to poverty, celibacy, and obedience. "(The Knights) were highly trained in all aspects of warfare. They were forbidden to shave and wore white surcotes with the distinctive (Templar) cross. They were obliged to fight to the death and never retreat. They combined religious mysticism with a reputation as ferocious fighters and became famed as the warrior monks, or Knights Templar." In 1139, Pope Innocent II issued a bull stating the Templars were responsible directly to the pope and not subject to any secular or church authority in any Christian country. The knights were given substantial gifts of land and money and rapidly developed into an extra-national empire headed by a grand master. They established their own banking system which permitted transfer of funds across international boundaries. They also had a growing fleet of their own ships and maintained

their own armorers, architects, stonemasons, hospitals, surveyors, and broad training programs. Their land holdings probably exceeded that of any organized body with the probable exception of the Church. In Scotland alone, by the start of the fourteenth century, the Templars held more than five hundred properties. By 1291, the Templars were unbelievably wealthy and served as bankers to many royal governments. The crown jewels of England were held by the Templars as security for loans made to the English crown. All that wealth and power inevitably attracted the attention of powerful individuals. By this time the headquarters of the grand master was in France and there were indications they were planning to establish a separate nation in the southern part of France. Philippe the Fourth (Philip the Fair) of France brought charges of heresy and blasphemy before Pope Clement the Fifth. Jacques DeMolay was, at the time, grand master. He and a number of associates were taken into custody and ultimately martyred. Between 1307 and 1314 the order was, effectively, destroyed in most Christian nations. Pope Clement the Fifth ordered the excommunication of all members of the order and authorized the confiscation of any and all property. Obviously, the land could not be moved; but with their own fleet the portable wealth could be, and to a very significant degree it was removed from visibility. Because of the almost continual warfare between the English and the Scottish armies, the papal order of excommunication was never read in Scotland. The Deputy Inquisitor for England, who was supposed to take control of all Templar property in Scotland, was, actually, loyal to the Scottish position and King Robert.

It is possible that a deal was worked out between the Inquisitor and the Templar preceptors in Scotland that if they would provide arms, finances, horses, and manpower the Scots would, in turn, provide sanctuary to the Templars. There is evidence to indicate that there was a substantial flow of material from the Templar preceptories in France through France

preceptories in northern and western Ireland and on into northwestern Scotland.

One other fact serves to strengthen the inference that the Templars played a major role at Bannockburn. It seems that, prior to this period of time, the Scots under Robert the Bruce could best be described as "ill-equipped guerrilla fighters which is very much like the temperament of Highlanders. However, beginning with the early fourteenth

"Some of the tactics used by Bruce in his conflicts with the English were very similar to Saracen tactics in the Holy Land. It is significant that no other western country had seen fit to adopt such tactics, but it would be very reasonable for Templars to be aware of them."

century, their tactics improved. Some of the tactics used by Bruce in his conflicts with the English were very similar to Saracen tactics in the Holy Land. It is significant that no other western country had seen fit to adopt such tactics, but it would be very reasonable for Templars to be aware of them.

To make a point for tying the Templars into the development of Freemasonry, the durability of structures erected by the Templars throughout the Mediterranean area and beyond attest to the fact that they had extremely well trained and tested engineers and stonemasons. In certain areas of Scotland, where Templars could have settled, there are tombstones in the cemeteries which even today reflect that the body buried there was probably a Templar, because of the symbolism carved into the stone. Furthermore, some of the oldest records of Masonic lodges in the British Isles are in Scotland, some of the minutes dating back into the fourteenth century. The development of Freemasonry as speculative, as well as operative, also appeared in Scotland. The first person firmly identified as a speculative Mason was John Boswell (the first Baron Auchinleck) who was taken in by a lodge in Edinburgh in 1600. Virtually every Scottish regiment had, associated with it, a "military" lodge. Thus, as the Scottish regiments traveled, they practiced speculative Freemasonry. Finally, in working

out the differences in ritualistic matters to bring about the ultimate organization of the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons if there was a difference between the English ritual and the Scottish ritual, it was generally settled in favor of the Scottish ritual.

Mr. McKerracher has a point to make there. As might be expected, under the circumstances of the premise that Knights Templar had much to do with the preservation of the independence of Scotland, Freemasonry in Scotland could very well have developed as a means of maintaining the Jacobite purpose of restoring a Stuart to the combined thrones of Scotland and England. Mr. McKerracher suggests that the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 was done as a Hanoverian move to counter the Jacobite sympathies of Scottish Freemasons. After all, the final blow in the constant warfare between the two countries was not struck until the Battle of Culloden in 1746. Furthermore, it was the Scots exiles in France that first organized the "Eccossais (Scottish)" degrees which formed the basis of our own Scottish Rite. Who is to say that the establishment of the York Rite didn't come at the quiet insistence of Scots who fled to the New World instead of France after 1745. This would then be topped with a salute to the Knights Templar who may have preserved Scottish independence for three hundred years.

Sir Knight Donald L. Dorward, KYCH, is a member of Peoria Commandery No. 3, Peoria, Illinois, and resides at 1602 Woodbine Drive, Washington, IL 61571

## Rose Bowl Parade Masonic Float

On Monday, January 2, 1995, one of the greatest events in the history of Freemasonry took place in Pasadena, California. It was a great show of unanimity that exists between our Grand Lodges, their appendant bodies and their youth organizations.

The Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the state of California, again sponsored a float in the Annual Tournament of Roses Parade. Only this year, in the 106th annual parade, it was even bigger and better than before. This year the theme of the float was service through sports and the depiction of Masonry in action.



Participating on the float with the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California, Most Worshipful Brother William F. Stovall, were Illustrious Brother C. Fred Kleinknecht, <sup>330</sup>, Sovereign Grand Commander representing the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, of the United States; Illustrious Noble, Burton E. Ravellette, Jr., Imperial Potentate, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America; Sir Knight Blair C. Mayford, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, representing the York Rite bodes of the United States; three Job's Daughters (Job's Daughters is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its order); two young people from the Shrine Hospital who are Poster Children for the Shrine East-West Football Game; and two football players from the Shrine East-West Football Game.

In the picture, left to right are: Sir Knight Blair C. Mayford, Grand Master; Ill. Brother C. Fred Kleinknecht, Sovereign Grand Commander; M.W. Brother William F. Stovall, Grand Master, California; Ill. Noble Burton E. Ravellette, Jr., Imperial Potentate.

From all of us who were accorded the privilege of participating on the float and on behalf of all of Masonry, we say thank you to the Grand Lodge of California.

Blair C. Mayford, Grand Master  
Grand Encampment, Knights Templar



## New York's Livingston Masonic Library - Still Dedicated to Masonic Enlightenment!

### Livingston Masonic Library Director to Speak on Shrine Mosques

William D. Moore, the Director of the Livingston Masonic Library, has been asked to present his research on the history and architecture of buildings erected by the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine to the Society of Architectural Historians at their annual meeting in Seattle in April 1995. Besides serving as the director of one of the nation's premier repositories of Masonic materials, Mr. Moore is also a doctoral candidate in the American and New England Studies Program at Boston University, where he is currently working on a study of Masonic architecture and material culture in New York State between 1870 and 1930.

During a brief period of activity between 1904 and 1930, the Temples of the Mystic Shrine built more than seventy mosques in major American cities from Lewiston, Maine, to Jacksonville, Florida, and from Richmond, Virginia, to Los Angeles, California. In New York State, mosques were built in Brooklyn, Binghamton, and Manhattan. These magnificent fraternal palaces were the primary expression of the Moorish revival and neo-Islamic Architecture in twentieth-

century America. Although these buildings cost millions of dollars to erect and were designed by noted architects, they have never been adequately recognized as a significant aspect of the history of American architecture. Mr. Moore's presentation will break new ground in bringing Masonic architecture to the attention of scholars and preservationists.

The Society of Architectural Historians is America's foremost organization for the study of architecture. Scholars travel from around the world to attend the annual meeting.

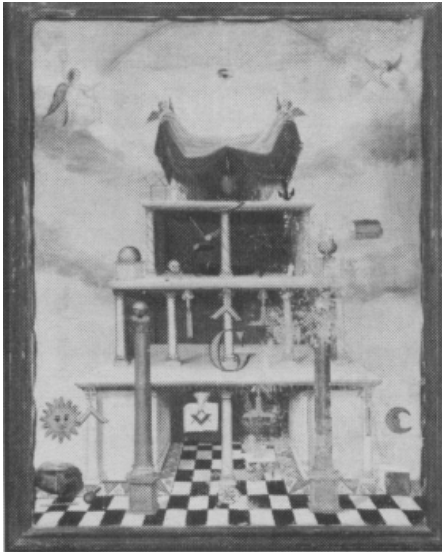
Mr. Moore's presentation is part of the Livingston Masonic Library's program to educate the Masonic Fraternity and the general public about Freemasonry's impact upon American history and culture. The Livingston Masonic Library is a nonprofit, state-chartered center for the collection, study, and preservation of the Masonic heritage. For more information, write the Livingston Masonic Library, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010-4171, or call (212) 741-4505.



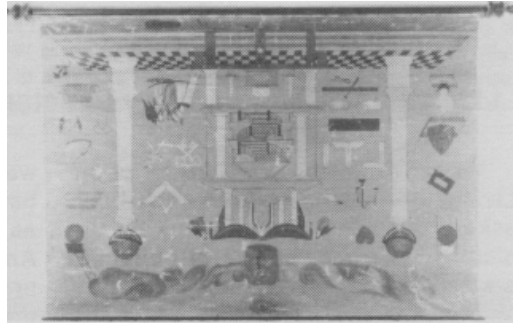
## Livingston Masonic Library Receives Historic Paintings

Western Star Lodge No. 15, F. & A.M., of Bridgewater, New York, recently donated two historic tracing boards to the Livingston Masonic Library. These two emblematic paintings were probably produced for the Lodge during the first half of the nineteenth century and provide valuable insights into the history of Freemasonry in New York State. The older of the two paintings (fig. 1) dates from about 1800 when the Lodge was first chartered, while the other (fig. 2) is probably from around 1850 when the Lodge once again began to Raise members after the anti-Masonic period.

Western Star Lodge No. 15, which was warranted in 1797, is the oldest Masonic Lodge in Oneida County, and is



*Figure 1: Tracing Board, ca. 1800, Sangerfiled, New York. Gift of Western Star Lodge No. 15.*



*Figure 2: Tracing Board, ca. 1850, Sangerfiled, New York. Gift of Western Star Lodge No. 15.*

also one of the few upstate Lodges to retain its charter throughout the anti-Masonic period. During this time of persecution, Lodge membership dropped to twelve and no new members were Raised between March 8, 1827 and May 23, 1850, but the charter was never surrendered.

By donating these important works of art to the Livingston Masonic Library, Western Star Lodge No. 15 has taken an important step. The paintings will now be protected and made available to Masonic researchers both now and in the future. The Livingston Masonic Library is a state-chartered, nonprofit center for the collection, study, and preservation of the Masonic heritage.

These paintings, although in remarkable condition for their age, are badly in need of restoration work to ensure their preservation. They have suffered from being stored in direct light and in an environment of shifting temperatures and varying humidity. If you would like to help make the conservation of these wonderful antiques possible, please contact William D. Moore, Director of the Livingston Masonic Library at 71 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010-4171 or call (212) 741-4505.

## Reverend Lillian Daniel, Connecticut, Receives Holy Land Pilgrimage

January 15, 1995, Reverend Lillian Daniel, Associate Minister of the First Congregational Church of Cheshire, U.C.C., Cheshire, Connecticut, received a trip to the Holy Land at a presentation by the Connecticut Sir Knights of New Haven Commandery No. 2, Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Clinton Commandery No. 3, and St. Elmo Commandery No. 9. Reverend Daniel's trip was from February 21 to March 3, 1995.

Eminent Commander Leonard Bucher, New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, entered her application, which was approved at all levels, and the Right Eminent Grand Commander Edmund Rowe, Grand Commandery of Connecticut, made the presentation.



*Assembled Sir Knights of New Haven, Hamilton, Clinton and St. Elmo Commanderies. Sir Knight Rowe, R.E.G.C., behind and left of Rev. Daniel.*



*Left to right: Edmund Rowe, R.E.G.C.; Rev. Lillian Daniel; Leonard Bucher, Commander, New Haven No. 2 and Wesley Alexander, Generalissimo, New Haven No. 2.*

## MSA - Appeal For Japan

The Masonic Service Association of the United States has been requested by the Grand Lodge of Japan to put out an appeal on their behalf to help in their recovery from the catastrophic earthquake that occurred in January of 1995.

It is interesting to note that the very first appeal put out by the Masonic Service Association in 1923 was also to help the Japanese in their recovery from an earthquake. In a letter to the MSA, Dr. Allen L. Robinson, then Grand Master, the Grand Lodge of Japan, said To date we have been unable to locate one of our Brothers in Kobe and are praying he is safe. Our Tokyo Masonic Association is making a donation to the Red Cross to help in this crisis and we in the Grand Lodge of Japan have mounted a campaign to furnish funds, blankets, rice, and other necessities directly to our Masonic Brethren and their friends in the area."

Those wishing to help friends and Brethren in Japan to recover from this tragedy may send funds to the Masonic Service Association, payable to the MSA Disaster Relief Fund. Please send to 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785, marked Japan Relief.

Richard E. Fletcher, P.G.M.  
Executive Secretary, MSA

## - Highlights -----

### CHRISTMAS-1994

Melrose Commandery No. 109 Houston, Texas



Melrose Commandery No. 109 of Houston, Texas, participated in the Tomball Christmas Parade and plans to participate in the Conroe Go Texan" Parade. Participants in the Christmas parade are shown in the picture above.

Newark Assembly No. 75, New Jersey  
Social Order of the Beauceant



Newark Assembly No. 75 of New Jersey honored Phyllis Maddox, Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant, on her official visit, December 9, 1994, by filling stockings with donations to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to trim their tree, created by Dorothy Pangborne. These donations were made in lieu of a gift exchange. Pictured are Dorothy Pangborne, wife of Sir Knight Warren L. Pangborne, Grand Commander of New Jersey, and Phyllis Maddox, S.W.P., S.O.O.B.

Wichita Assembly No. 8, Kansas  
Social Order of the Beauceant



Wichita Assembly in Wichita, Kansas, participated in that city's Christmas parade on December 3, 1994. Pictured left to right are the Assembly's representatives: Mrs. Joe N. Randall, P.S.W.P.; Mrs. Carol Roberts, new member; Mrs. Ray Swenson; Mrs. Eldon Leitzel; and Mrs. E. E. Mulkey.

### Georgia Awards Research Grants

On January 11, 1995, Sir Knight William M. Hutcheson, chairman of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Georgia, Inc., presented foundation grants totaling \$33,000 to two Georgia schools of ophthalmology.

In the picture (page 13, top), Sir Knight Hutcheson presents a check for \$3,000 to Dr. Thomas Aaberg, chairman, Department of Ophthalmology of Emory University, for lectureships. At Sir Knight Hutcheson's left is Dr. Arlene Drack, also of Emory University, who was presented a grant in the amount of \$20,000 for research in the detection, prevention and treatment of early onset cataracts in children. To her left is Dr. Fleetwood Maddox of the Central Georgia Eye Center and longtime ophthalmologist advisor to the KTEF. At right is Sir Knight James E. Moseley, R.E.P.D.C. and Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

----- from the Masonic Family -



In the picture below, Sir Knight Hutcheson presents a check in the amount of \$10,000 to Dr. Malcolm Luxenburg, chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, at the Medical College of Georgia. To his left are Dr. Maddox and Sir Knight Mosely.



The Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Georgia, Inc., is a Georgia corporation funded and operated by the Grand Commandery of Georgia. It is not a part of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation Division of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. These grants bring to \$168,706.16 the total awarded by this foundation for ophthalmological research over the last six years.

Rare Masonic Mural Is Restored March Unveiling In North Carolina

Wilmington, North Carolina, has played a historic role in North Carolina Masonry. In 1804 St. John's Lodge No. 1, the oldest Lodge in the state, erected a Temple there and shared it with Concord Chapter No. 1, the oldest Royal Arch Chapter.

This Georgian-style structure became the St. John's Museum of Art in 1962. A mural by J. J. Ballanger, done circa 1808, was filled with Masonic symbols: an all-seeing eye in an arch, a smiling sun rising over the landscape, and two shields, one with the official coat of arms of the company of Masons of London and the other bearing the emblems of the writers of the four gospels. This rare, scenic mural had been covered with wallpaper around 1825.

Now, the building is under ownership of the Wilmington Arts Council, and the mural has been painstakingly restored (shown below) by David Goist of Raleigh, the former chief conservator of the North Carolina Museum of Art and now an independent conservator. The unveiling ceremony, which will have extensive media coverage, will take place on Friday, March 24, 1995 at 3:30 p.M. The York Rite Grand Bodies of North Carolina will participate in the unveiling, and all Masons and the public are welcome.



## In Memoriam



### **Franklyn Edwin Brown**

**Arizona**

**Grand Commander-1956**

**Born November 22, 1913**

**Died January 14, 1995**

### **Clarence Klotz Jones**

**Nevada**

**Grand Commander-1972**

**Born September 24, 1909**

**Died January 17, 1995**

### **Marion L. Miller**

**Iowa**

**Grand Commander-1961**

**Born July 14, 1907**

**Died January 26, 1995**

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.  
New Club Memberships

### **Grand Commander's Club**

- No. 100,221-James E. Stratton (NC)
- No. 100,222-Theodore D. Keller (PA)
- No. 100,223-John A. Waag (FL)
- No. 100,224-Bradford F. Burnett (VA)
- No. 100,225-Louis D. Hudgings (TN)
- No. 100,226-Richard E. Neighborger (PA)
- No. 100,227-Mark E. Goebel (PA)
- No. 100,229-Paul W. Taggart (PA)
- No. 100,230-William Earley Eubank (FL)
- No. 100,231-James M McKee (PA)
- No. 100,232-Ricky Dale Jones (NC)
- No. 100,233-Kenneth J. Faub (PA)
- No. 100,234-Harry Minges, Sr. (PA)
- No. 100,235-Rudolph V. Fulgirriti (PA)
- No. 100,236-Wilmer E. Dick (PA)
- No. 100,237-James E. Black (PA)
- No. 100,238-James L. Fleck (PA)
- No. 100,239-Leonard A. Shorts (PA)
- No. 100,240-Gordon E. Sorenson (MT)
- No. 100,241-Florence Davis (SD)
- No. 100,242-John J. Hunt (PA)

No. 100,243-Ortis H. Key (KY)

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in honor of Anne E. Gerdemann
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Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and there is now Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, IL 62705. (217) 523-3838.

#### Grand Master's Club and Commander's Club Pins

Grand Master Mayford is pleased to announce that, for all who became members of the Grand Master's and Grand Commander's Club after July 1, 1992, new pins will be issued at no charge to the recipients. If you became a member of either club prior to that date and would like a pin for yourself, send a \$10.00 donation to the Eye Foundation in Springfield and you will receive one.

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#### Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Twenty-Seventh Voluntary Campaign

Campaign report by Grand Commanderies for KTEF Officers and Trustees for the week ending February 10, 1995. The total amount contributed to date is \$280,767.61.

Alabama .....	\$6,326.00
Arizona .....	4,096.63
Arkansas .....	1,373.00
California .....	17,591.38
Colorado .....	6,310.00
Connecticut .....	8,438.00
Delaware .....	640.00
District of Columbia .....	655.00
Florida .....	9,131.00
Georgia .....	24,468.48
Idaho .....	1,916.00
Illinois .....	8,152.06
Indiana .....	3,998.25
Iowa .....	2,173.13
Kansas .....	7,114.77

Kentucky .....	5,737.00
Louisiana .....	1,725.00
Maine .....	2,746.95
Maryland .....	3,590.00
Mass/R.I. ....	7,293.00
Michigan .....	9,729.18
Minnesota .....	2,602.00
Mississippi .....	627.00
Missouri .....	3,174.52
Montana .....	949.00
Nebraska .....	776.75
Nevada .....	1,225.00
New Hampshire .....	1,385.00
New Jersey .....	4,648.75
New Mexico .....	6,442.76
New York .....	2,823.20
North Carolina .....	7,484.00
North Dakota .....	279.00
Ohio .....	5,814.10
Oklahoma .....	722.00
Oregon .....	3,797.00
Pennsylvania .....	27,374.65
South Carolina .....	4,914.66
South Dakota .....	1,252.00
Tennessee .....	7,451.38
Texas .....	9,777.00
Utah .....	7,446.66
Vermont .....	40.00
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Washington .....	2,705.64
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Wyoming .....	3,108.55
Alaska No. 1, Fairbanks .....	1,100.00
Ivanhoe No. 2, Mexico .....	190.00
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Miscellaneous .....	13,964.16

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## History of the Grand Encampment

### Chapter XXIII Biographies Of The Grand Masters (continued)

Perry Winslow Weidner  
Twenty-ninth Grand Master  
1931-1932

Perry W. Weidner was born in Dayton, Ohio, on October 8, 1871. He received his education in the public schools of Dayton and at Ohio State and Miami universities. He was clerk to the Mayor of Dayton for a time, later becoming Superintendent of the Money Order Division of the Dayton Post Office, and afterwards connected with the Quartermasters' Department of the Central Branch of the National Military Home. He resigned from the National Military Home in 1899 and moved to Los Angeles, California, where he entered the banking business. He was a member of the Ohio National Guard from 1888 to 1891 and attained the rank of captain.

His interest in military affairs led him to organize the Southern District of California in the War Savings Bonds Campaign during World War I. Later he entered the United States Army as quartermaster and was assigned to an important post in the Finance Department. After the war he held the commission of colonel in the Organized Reserves.

He was an honorary member of the Spanish War Veterans and active in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the American Legion. He was a member of the leading social and service clubs of Los Angeles, and of the Sigma Alpha Fraternity.

Sir Knight Weidner was made a Master Mason in Mystic Lodge No. 405 at Dayton on December 27, 1895, and later became its Worshipful Master. He was exalted in Unity



PERRY WINSLOW WEIDNER  
Twenty-ninth Grand Master, 1931-1932

Chapter No. 16 of Dayton on March 6, 1896, and was greeted in Reese Council of Dayton on January 4, 1897.

In February, 1897, he received the Scottish Rite degrees, from the 4th to the 18th in Dayton and from the 19th to the 32<sup>nd</sup> in the Ohio Consistory in Cincinnati. On moving to California he affiliated with the Los Angeles Bodies. In 1903 he was elected a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and on June 2, 1906, was coroneted a 33<sup>rd</sup> Honorary Inspector General. He presided over all the Scottish Rite bodies in Los Angeles and became Deputy for the Supreme Council in the Orient of Southern California. He was



crowned an active member of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction on October 2, 1911.

He was also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and a Past Sovereign of the St. Gabriel Conclave No. 14 of the Red Cross of Constantine.

He was Knighted in Reed Commandery No. 6 at Dayton on June 24, 1898. On moving to Los Angeles he affiliated with Los Angeles Commandery No. 9. In 1908 he was a charter member and the first Eminent Commander of Golden West Commandery No. 43 of Los Angeles. He was elected Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of California in 1915.

At the Triennial Conclave held in Los Angeles in 1916 Sir Knight Weidner was appointed Grand Warder of the Grand Encampment and in 1931 was elected Grand Master. He was not permitted to complete his term in the office of Grand Master, but passed away suddenly on August 16, 1932.

Following the express wishes of Sir Knight Weidner, the funeral services were simple and private. He had requested that there be no Lodge ceremony, no representatives of the Grand Encampment present, and no obituary record except a simple notice of his death. Only a few close friends were present at the services conducted at the Chapel of the Los Angeles Crematory.

The following tribute to his memory reveals his great sincerity and the basis of his leadership:

Masonry in Southern California will **ever** bear the impress that he made upon it. For over a quarter of a century Perry Weidner has been the unchallenged leader of the craft. His ideals, his enthusiasm, his inspirations, have been the guiding stars of the Fraternity. He possessed the noblest qualities of leadership and he was followed with unswerving loyalty and unflagging devotion.

In truth, service was the keynote of his life. He was never too busy to help an ambitious boy seeking an education, to hunt up a job for a Brother in need, or to listen to the story of a widow trying to make her way. He carried this altruistic spirit into all he did and as his fame grew until it spread throughout the nation, and then crossed the seas, he used this widening influence to instill the spirit of love and relief into the hearts of men everywhere. To him Masonry was brotherhood in practice."

Harry Clay Walker  
Thirtieth Grand Master  
1932

Harry C. Walker was born in Binghamton, New York, on March 18, 1873. It was there that he received his education and professional training and spent his entire life. He was admitted to the bar in 1894 and attained eminence in his chosen profession. He never married.

In 1917 he was chosen mayor of Binghamton by the largest plurality ever given a candidate for that office. In 1918 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of New York taking office on January 1, 1919. He was called upon to serve as acting governor many times as the governor was obliged to spend considerable time away from the state on account of illness. For many years he was Chairman of the Central New York State Park Commission.

He died suddenly on November 2, 1932. The funeral services were held in the auditorium of the Masonic Temple on November 5, 1932. A short Episcopal service was conducted by the rector of Christ Church of which he was a member, followed by the Templar funeral ritual. Prominent Masons and Knights Templar of that community attended the funeral services, as well as his many friends from all walks of life. Burial was in Spring Forest Cemetery, where the Blue Lodge services were performed.

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# The Idol of the Airlanes - Jan Garber

by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, 33<sup>0</sup>. KYC91

Until recently, I never realized the dimensions of the yawning cavern between devotees of the Big Band Era and today's music fans. Television coverage of the second Woodstock ingathering at Saugerties, New York, made it abundantly clear. The spectacle of a quarter million human beings listening to a motley collection of bedraggled musicians, while wallowing in a sea of mud, was a moving sight. The amplified roar of the music exceeded the volume of any thunder which may have occurred. The merits of the entire event eluded me.

Conversely, it is sad to recall those great band leaders who provided musical memories of the Big Band Era, and realize how far they have faded into obscurity. Virtually no history survives to extol their fine musical heritage. In fact, only a collection of aging fans remain to keep the memory alive for a while longer.

Consider the case of Jan Garber, one of the brightest lights of that select group of musicians from those golden days before World War II. He was a true pioneer of the Big Band Era, and one who managed to maintain his popularity over half a century. Jan's familiar radio theme, "My Dear," creates instant déjà vu for music fans, even today. It conjures up a memory of a radio announcer pronouncing the familiar introduction, "and now, ladies and gentlemen, the Idol of the Airlanes, Jan Garber and his Orchestra." Virtually every one of the old-timers has been there before.

It is an intimidating task to compress fifty years of achievement into a few pages; however, there are important landmarks along the way to highlight the most essential

details. We rely on those to help us recite the Jan Garber saga with a degree of accuracy. Thanks to a number of dedicated friends and Garber family members, the pitfalls of myth and inaccurate publicity are culled out of the story.

The most reliable information reveals that Jan Garber's birthplace was in Indianapolis, Indiana. That's what he stated on his Masonic petition. The nature of the family business was such that the Garbers were required to move often during Jan's earliest years. The frequent changes in residence have led to conflicting reports of the location of his hometown.

Jan was born on November 5, 1894, a younger member of a large family. The lad attended elementary school in Louisville, Kentucky, after the Garbers moved to Floyds Knobs, a small town on the western outskirts of the city. Eventually, the family business dictated a move to Norristown, Pennsylvania, where young Garber attended high school. Limited financial resources demanded that the boy concentrate on future goals with more intensity than most youngsters, and helped develop a personality which bristled with determination. Jan was determined to embark on the road to success in his chosen field. That profession was classical music, and the instrument was the violin. With his goal firmly established, he financed his own way through the Combs Conservatory of Music in Philadelphia. A surviving photo from 1909 reveals the handsome youngster as a student of the prestigious musical conservatory. The determination of the jaw line testifies to his ambitious agenda.

By the time Garber reached his twenty-first birthday, he was well on his way toward realizing his ambition. He was a violinist in the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, and probably would have become a luminary of classical music had not World War I intervened. His career was altered drastically and permanently during the years of that conflict.

Along with millions of other young men, Jan was drafted into the U.S. Army and was assigned to a training camp at Auburn, Alabama. The army soon discovered his

"Garber was never satisfied with the quality of his music, nor the success he enjoyed in the entertainment field. He was constantly driven to improve everything about his performances."

impressive music credentials and assigned him the task of forming a post marching band. Garber complied with the order by assembling a 56-piece band, an accomplishment which more than exceeded his commander's expectations. The war ended before Jan could be shipped overseas.

Upon leaving military service, he obtained a job with Meyer Davis, a prominent orchestra leader with several groups playing under his banner. It wasn't long before the young violinist's musical ability and impressive personality traits earned him a job leading one of Davis' satellite bands. Jan's ability as a leader soon endeared him to the patrons, and he became more popular than Meyer Davis; in fact, he was too successful to suit Davis, and the maestro fired young Garber.

Almost immediately, Jan organized a small group of musicians and landed a job playing at the New Ebbitt Hotel in Washington, D.C. The instrumentation included Jan's violin, a bass, piano, and

drums. He gradually added additional musicians to the ensemble and began to travel to his various engagements. Garber became the pioneer touring band leader, playing in ballrooms, cafes, and vaudeville theaters. It was during this period in his career that he met and joined Milton Davis in a venture that became known as the Garber-Davis Orchestra. The new band continued touring, and was enjoying modest success when Davis created a personal problem for himself. He began romancing a married woman in a town where the band was playing. The irate husband, a prominent citizen, gave Milton just twenty-four hours to get out of town. Davis believed him, and pleaded desperately with Jan to buy out his interest for \$100. Garber chuckled later when he recalled that he didn't know how he was able to raise the money. Happily for Jan, he did, and it was the best deal he ever made. The surviving group became the Jan Garber Orchestra.

By the mid-1920s, the real estate market in Florida was beginning to explode, and Coral Gables became one of the first of the plush vacation meccas catering to sun worshippers, and Jan was among those who viewed it as a lucrative market for entertainment. His band was one of the first to play Coral Gables, and he became a fixture for several years. The orchestra grew to a whopping fifteen sidemen, which made the aggregation one of the larger units of the day. Jan had a reputation for playing good jazz during a period in which the style did not have the precise musical guidelines it boasted during the swing era. He never lost his love for jazz, even though his reputation and affluence were founded on sweet, stylized hotel music.

Garber was never satisfied with the quality of his music, nor the success he enjoyed in the entertainment field. He was constantly driven to improve everything about his performances. With

a view toward improving his book, Jan hired trumpeter Paul Weirick to chart arrangements and handle the "hot" solos. The association lasted for several years, and was resumed in the late 1940s when Weirick was contracted to pen a number of concert arrangements for the band.

The year of 1926 was a memorable personal one for Jan. In June while playing a fraternity ball at Washington and Lee University, he met his beloved Dorothy. She was a lovely eighteen-year-old at the time, attending the university at the invitation of her brother, a student

"Jan became a Freemason in 1931. He petitioned Uptown Lodge No. 1127, in Chicago, and was Raised on May 11. In later years, Garber held membership in Ascension Commandery No. 6, Shreveport Chapter No. 10, R.A.M., and in El Karubah Temple of the Shrine; all in Shreveport, Louisiana."

there. Dorothy Comegy was the daughter of an affluent Shreveport, Louisiana, family steeped in tradition and wealth. The members of the Comegy family had been prominent in Shreveport history and society for years. One wonders how Dorothy's parents viewed her friendship with a young, aspiring dance band leader in the role of a prospective suitor. Notwithstanding, the lady lost her heart to the dashing violinist, and they were married on December 28, 1926. It turned out to be a gloriously happy union, one that endured for over fifty years, and which eventually was blessed with a beautiful daughter they named Janis.

Dorothy traveled with the band from the beginning. She was an enthusiastic fan and staunch supporter of the Jan Garber Orchestra. He relied on her

"photographic" memory during interviews to refresh him concerning details and circumstances related to past appearances. A talented and resourceful lady, Dorothy filled her long hours on the road with a number of hobbies. She became an excellent artist, eventually exhibiting in gallery shows where her work received fine reviews. At the urging of her brother, Dorothy finally learned to play the drums as an outlet for her musical ability. She became so proficient that when drummer Bruce Morrow asked for a leave of absence in the early 1960s, Jan urged Dorothy to fill in until he returned. She did an excellent job, and Garber felt she should become a permanent member of the band. Dorothy declined, with thanks.

Jan employed a variety of features to enhance his musical offerings throughout the 1920s. He became one of the first practitioners of "hokum," using members of the band to engage in zany skits, often wearing comic costumes. It was intended to create a little visual entertainment with the music. Old fans remember the indefatigable maestro tap dancing on top of a grand piano as his own contribution to "hokum." Henry Busse executed cartwheels, both in Whiteman's Orchestra and later with his own band. A few ancient film shorts survive with samples of hokum. In later years, Gather modified and modernized the practice to include special skits, concert arrangements, and features which highlighted various members of the band.

Jan became a Freemason in 1931. He petitioned Uptown Lodge No. 1127, in Chicago, and was Raised on May 11. The lodge later went through a number of consolidations, and the band leader eventually emerged as a member of Decalogue Lodge No. 160, in the same city. In later years, Garber held membership in Ascension Commandery No. 6, Shreveport Chapter No. 10, RAM., and in El Karubah Temple of the

Shrine; all in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he and Dorothy eventually established their permanent residence.

The energetic little band leader received a radio tag line in the late 1920s, which was to become a permanent identification for the balance of his professional career. Even today it is one of the best remembered titles among all the band leaders of the Big Band Era. During an appearance at the fabled Trianon Ballroom in Chicago, the band was being aired frequently over station WGN. Their announcer, the well-known Pierre Andre, introduced Jan as "The Idol of the Airlanes." That designation, coupled with the famous theme, "My Dear," became his everlasting trademark.

The decade of the '30s opened with the Jan Garber Orchestra enjoying an impressive measure of success, but the little maestro was not satisfied. He was convinced he must adopt a musical style tailored to the tastes of the dancing patrons populating the major hotels. As Prohibition was being ushered out, new and opulent supper clubs were emerging in virtually all the larger hotels. The dancers in those surroundings preferred their music on the sweet side, and highly stylized. It was another opportunity that Garber did not intend to ignore.

Jan and the band were playing an engagement in Cleveland in early 1933. In those days, the Ohio city boasted many first-rate venues booking some of the finest orchestras of the period. Guy Lombardo enjoyed early success there. Another Canadian was also struggling to gain recognition when Jan and the boys arrived. He was Freddie Large, one of three saxophone-playing brothers from the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. Freddie was leading a nine-piece band billed as "The Little Freddie Large Orchestra." Among the newest arrivals in the band was trumpeter Fritz Heilbron. One other prominent member of that nearly-forgotten group was the fabled pianist/arranger,

Doug Roe; however, Garber was most interested in the saxophone playing of Freddie Large. The little Canadian was an absolute genius with the alto sax. His gorgeous tone and eloquent phrasing were pure musical poetry, and the section work of the reeds behind Large was flawless. Jan came on three successive nights to listen and evaluate.

After the third evening, Garber was convinced. He approached Freddie Large with an offer to hire his entire orchestra. Large agreed, marking the beginning of a lifelong friendship and musical association. The particular mix of personal talents produced one of the most successful commercial musical ventures in the history of the Big Band Era. With the sweeping saxophones dominating the new sound of the Jan Garber Orchestra, punctuated with the elegant trumpeting of Fritz Heilbron, the band became an immediate success. The imaginative arrangements of Doug Roe, the guitar work of Don Shoup, and the trombone obligatos of Harry Thorpe were also indispensable elements of the new Garber sound. Few people remember that in the early days of that band, Jan featured two pianos. He retained Rudy Rudisill from his original band, and teamed him with Doug Roe. Their musical family was complete with the acquisition of baritone singer Lee Bennett. The Omaha native was discovered singing over radio station KFAB in Lincoln, Nebraska, and immediately signed to a contract.

Jan had no peer as a businessman and promoter. His musical credentials were impeccable, but his boundless energy and uncanny business acumen were the primary reasons for the band's success. Jan was constantly on the lookout for new talent, and his search often resulted in personnel changes, when he was convinced it would benefit the band. Over the years, his business methods sometimes generated frayed relationships,



but it was all done to improve his brand of musical entertainment. Jan was a fierce fighter, always willing to take on friend or foe in defense of his musical philosophy. He seldom played the violin in the new orchestra. Freddie Large acted as bandmaster, calling the sets and conducting rehearsals, while Jan concentrated on selling the band = on and off the stand. The format was set. The band opened at the Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, where they scored a sensational debut. During the engagement they were aired frequently over radio station WLW. That gig was followed by a long, successful stay at the Trianon Ballroom in Chicago. There they also enjoyed constant broadcast time over station WGN, the most powerful in the Midwest. During the calendar year of 1934, the Jan Garber Orchestra became one of the most popular in the United States.

A long list of recorded hits is eloquent testimony to the band's great musical talent. Among the notables from 1934 are "Blue Sky Avenue," "Rain," "Accent On Youth," and "You're An Angel." All featured the fine baritone voice of Lee Bennett. Those numbers did not become longtime favorites, and are nearly forgotten. Not so with "Beautiful Lady in Blue," which Jan introduced. Who could forget "Avalon," the famous arrangement which made Catalina Island nationally famous? Fritz Heilbron sang many up-tempo numbers in the 1930s, and shared vocal fame with Lee Bennett. Among his famous efforts was "It's a wonderful world." Nothing, however, transcended the band's lovely theme, "My Dear," composed by Jan and Freddie Large. Only during the 1941 ASCAP ban did Jan make use of another theme. It was "Mexicali Rose," in case you don't remember.

Many of the band personnel were almost as well known as Jan himself. Fritz Heilbron and Norm Donohue played trumpets, with Harry Thorpe handling the trombone chores. The reed section was comprised of Freddie Large, his brother



*Lee Bennett, 1933, featured baritone vocalist of the Jan Garber Orchestra. Picture courtesy of Mr. Con Good, the Garber family's business agent.*

Jerry, and George Fortier. Rudy Rudisill and Doug Roe shared piano duties, and Don Shoup played guitar. Shoup also penned some arrangements and occasionally doubled on trombone. Charlie Ford played on both string bass and tuba, and served as road manager for the band. Lew Palmer completed the rhythm section as the drummer. He also sang an occasional vocal chorus. Over the years, there were many changes in personnel, but those boys were in the chairs when the Jan Garber Orchestra rocketed to national fame.

As indicated earlier, Doug Roe should be accorded great credit for creating the massive Garber musical library. As much as any other individual, Doug deserves accolades for his contribution to the distinctive Garber style. Ken Large, the third brother, joined the band in 1935, and stayed for three years before dropping



*Jan Garber Orchestra, 1939: back row: Charlie Ford, tuba/bass; Harry Wallace, trombone; Jack Barrow, trombone; Norman Donahue, trumpet; Fritz Heilbron, trumpet; Doug Roe, piano/arranger. Front row: Lee Bennett, vocals; Al Powers, baritone sax; George Fortier, tenor sax; Jerry Large, alto sax; Freddie Large, alto sax; Jan Garber, and M. C. "Muddie" Berry, drums.*

out to rejoin his family back in Niagara, Ontario. Russell Brown, a fine vocalist, relieved Harry Thorpe as the trombonist in 1936, and Muddie Berry followed Palmer on the drums in 1939. Al Powers replaced Ken Large when he departed in 1938. Those were the major changes before 1942, when Jan reorganized to launch a new musical venture.

World War II dominated all musical activity in 1942. Perhaps that became a factor in Jan's decision to abandon his sweet hotel style and switch to a swinging format. Freddie Large departed to work in a defense plant, and Fritz Heilbron left to play for a year or two in the Don Reid Orchestra when Jan decided to change his style. The swing venture, although musically successful, was not the commercial bellringer to which Jan was accustomed. By late 1945, he reverted

to his original style, and the public applauded the change. The old Jan Garber was back with a flourish, aided substantially by trombonist/arranger Frank Bettencourt and trumpeter Bill Kleeb. They had actually joined the band in 1942, but shortly thereafter, Bettencourt was drafted into military service and was absent until 1945. Frank immediately assumed most of the arranging duties, in addition to his trombone chores and an occasional piano stint. Kleeb became a fixture with the band for the better part of a quarter century, and his classic horn was a hallmark of the post-war Garber music.

Those critics who considered themselves musical purists pronounced Garber "ambivalent." The critics had

always made disparaging statements about Mickey Mouse" music and "commercial" styles. Lombardo, Sammy Kaye, Kay Kyser, Hal Kemp, and Wayne King - among others - had always suffered those labels. The public, who always determined what they liked, paid little heed to the snipping of any critics. As the war wound down, the Jan Garber Orchestra regained its former popularity.

Freddie Large rejoined in 1945, and brought longtime Casa Loma drummer Tony Briglia with him. The old Garber sound was back in a modern wrapping. New faces filled most of the old chairs, and they were worthy successors. Although we cannot name everyone, it is unthinkable that the names of Memo Bernabei, Al Powers, and Jo Jo Huffman be omitted as outstanding saxophonists. Trumpeter Ted Bowman joined in 1953, and handled many jazz choruses through 1971, when Jan finally retired. Freddie Large retained his magic on the alto until his death in 1968, when Don Korinek took over his chair.

The Garber band was always a great organization in terms of finances. Although a strict taskmaster, Jan was generous in the matter of salaries. He enjoyed living and traveling in comfort, and used the train to transport his entire company wherever possible. As a member of the Jan Garber Orchestra, one traveled first class. Each bandsman was under the constant scrutiny of the road manager who demanded that linen, shoes, and personal grooming be immaculate at all times.

With booking becoming scarce in the post-war decline of the Big Band Era, Garber began looking around for other musical opportunities. He found one in the extensive horse show circuit functioning in the south and southwestern United States. Jan's first show came about through an invitation from the governor of Louisiana. As a result of that initial Baton Rouge outing, the band

proceeded to equip themselves musically to work the affairs on a regular basis. Jan created a library especially arranged for horse show competition, to which the animals responded admirably. Before long, his band was the one of choice for horse shows. Dorothy Garber recalls that the band played seventeen consecutive years at the annual show in Houston, beginning in the early 1950s. Their circuit extended as far north as Indiana. Horse shows were not the only activity which interested Jan in the decade of the 1950s. He recognized the potential for musical entertainment in the Nevada gambling areas, and was one of the first to play there. One of his initial engagements was at the Mapes Hotel in Reno, followed by a stay at Harrah's Lake Tahoe establishment. Most of all, Garber is remembered for his long engagement at the fabled Desert Inn in Las Vegas, holding forth in the Lady Luck Lounge into the 1960s. During the band's long run in Las Vegas, Janis Garber established her permanent home in the city. She was married briefly, but there were no children born to the marriage. During Jan's active years, Janis maintained a high profile with the band as a vocalist.

Over the fifty-plus years Jan led a band, many important male singers worked with the group. Of course, the most prominent was Lee Bennett. In 1936, he departed for two years, and during his absence, his chores were delegated to Russ Brown. Bennett returned in 1938 and remained until 1942. He was followed by several fine singers, among whom were Alan Copeland and his "Twin Tones," Tommy Traynor, Roy Cordell, and Mary Nielsen. Several of the sidemen in the band also sang occasionally. Jan enjoyed a singing band, and many of his arrangements included group vocal efforts.

The Garber Orchestra played an incredible number of fine locations over the years. Some are particularly vivid in

the memory of Garber fans. One prominent location was Catalina Island. When P. K. Wrigley of Chicago purchased the island, he chose Jan to open the spot. The broadcasts from Catalina made history and the old standard "Avalon" enjoyed renewed popularity when the band featured it during their stay. Other prominent west coast venues included the Palladium, the Coconut Grove at the Ambassador Hotel, and the Biltmore

"In a 1974 interview for a college fraternity publication, Jan estimated that he had recorded 1,000 sides over the course of his long career. Many of his hits were reissued on LP albums, and others were included in film appearances. He was featured in five full-length movies, and a number of short films."

Bowl - all in Los Angeles. Others included the venerable St. Francis Drake in San Francisco, the Schroeder in Milwaukee, the Cafe Rouge and the Roosevelt Grill in New York. The band played repeat engagements at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, and many dates at both the Aragon and Trianon ballrooms in Chicago, the famous twin dance palaces owned by the Karzas brothers.

Reciting Garber's recording history is a task of no small dimensions. His most prominent labels included Columbia, RCA Victor, Decca, Brunswick, Okeh, Capitol, Varsity, Vocalion, Elite, Black and White, and Dot. In a 1974 interview for a college fraternity publication, Jan estimated that he had recorded 1,000 sides over the course of his long career. Many of his hits were reissued on LP albums, and others were included in film appearances. He was featured in five full-length movies,

and a number of short films. Fans also remember his highly-publicized 1936 debut as the featured orchestra for the Burns and Allen radio show. Reports state that Jan bought out of his contract with the Karzas brothers for \$28,000, in order to appear on the Burns and Allen show.

By the early 1970s, Jan's health was deteriorating noticeably and he began to contemplate retirement. He had been going at a top speed for over half a century and the pace had taken its toll. Janis had been associated with the band for many years, and was well versed on every aspect of its operation. When Jan retired in 1971, he urged her to take the baton. She agreed, and continued to lead the orchestra for a year or so. It was an assignment she had not asked for, nor particularly enjoyed. Many of the sidemen were retiring, and the constant effort necessary to keep a band working generated more problems than Janis cared to assume over a long period. She disbanded the orchestra, and for the first time since the early 1920s, there was no Jan Garber Orchestra active on the musical scene.

Dorothy was active in civic and social affairs in her native Shreveport. In retirement, Jan joined her in these activities, and for a couple of years life was pleasant for both Garbers. Jan's health, however, failed seriously in 1975. A partial diagnosis of his illness indicated a hardening of arteries to the brain, bringing with it a degree of mental impairment. The Garbers opted for surgery recommended by a prominent Shreveport neurosurgeon, and the operation was duly performed. Sadly, Jan did not enjoy a complete recovery. The following two years passed with constant deterioration. The passing of Freddie Large in 1968 had been a heavy blow for Jan, and continuing news of the demise of former band members added to his depression. During the early months of 1977, he continued to lose ground, and

by fall the end was near. The little band leader who had enchanted an entire nation with his stylized melodies departed this life October 5, 1977, at Shreveport. He was lovingly interred in the family plot in that city.

A couple of years later, an authorized Jan Garber Orchestra" was sanctioned by the family, under the leadership of Dick Wickman, a Nebraska native. The venture continued with modest success through 1992 under an agreement reached in 1988 with Wisconsin's Ron Harvey. The band was revived in 1994 under the direction of Rudy Scaffidi, a prominent Cleveland, Ohio trumpeter. At the present writing, Garber fans are hoping for a revival of the familiar music from the new group.

Realistically, however, a musical phoenix will never arise from the ashes of the Jan Garber Orchestra. There can never be another genial leader with the same charisma, business acumen, and uncanny ability to please dancers. The moment has passed, and those qualities are simply unique - assembled in the same package only one time. That occasion occurred with the birth of Jan Garber, and there will never be another. His admirable qualities as a musician entrepreneur were surpassed only by his stature as a citizen, loving husband, and father. Small wonder that a man of Jan's merits would elect to become a Freemason. Those of our Fraternity were honored to have him among us.

Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, 33°, KYCH, and P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, is a member of Holy Grail Commandery No. 70, Lakewood, Ohio. He resides at 2300 Chalet Trail, Apt. 0-3, Kerrville, TX 78028

#### Source Material

#### And Acknowledgements

George T. Simon: *The Big Bands*, the MacMillan Company, New York, NY, 1967.

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Jan Garber family records, courtesy of: Mrs Dorothy Gather, Shreveport, Louisiana and Ms. Janis Garber, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hindsight Record annotators: Leo Walker, Dave Dexter, Jr.

Miscellaneous: *The Washington Star*, October 7, 1977.

The International Musician, March, 1967, article by Harvey Siders.

Sam Watts, recording credits.

Don Korinek, former orchestra member.

Archives of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, A.F. & A. M.

Archives of Ascension Commandery No. 6, K.T., Shreveport, LA.

Archives of El Karubah Temple, AAONMS, Shreveport, LA.

Special appreciation is due Mr. Con Good, Jan Garber historian and author, for his assistance in providing biographical material and photographs.



Jan Garber, early 1950s. Picture courtesy of Mr. Con Good, the Garber family's business agent.



# 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, 5097N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chicago, IL 60630-2460. 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. You must submit a written request and check, if applicable, for each time you want your ad to run. Each request must be separate and at monthly intervals, not several at the same time. All other requests for repeat ads will either run just once or will be returned to sender.

To build the library of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, we are looking for copies of the Allied Masonic Degree Annals and Miscellanea, as well as Collectanea prior to 1990. Also Annals of the Grand College of Rites prior to 1994 and copies of the Rosicrucian Fame. Will pay postage and nominal price if required. Robert E. Price Recorder; P.O. Box 702, Connersville; IN 47331.

To celebrate 200 years of Templary in Pennsylvania, the 144th Annual Conclave Committee is selling Knight Templar key fobs for a donation of \$1.25 each or \$1.00 each in quantities of ten or more. The key fobs are white with Cross and Crown emblem and "In Hoc Signo Vinces" imprinted in red. They measure three inches long and two inches wide with a one-inch split key ring. Send orders payable to 144th Conclave to George Metz, 130 Springton Lake Road, Media, PA 19063-1826.

Louisville-DeMolay Commandery has a limited supply of cachets issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Commandery in 1991. These cachets are cancelled at Masonic Home, Kentucky. Also available are First Day Covers of the Kentucky stamp issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Kentucky on cachets issued by the Grand Commandery-available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost is \$2.00 per cachet or three for \$5.00 plus a self-addressed, legal size envelope. All moneys received will be donated to the KTEF. Requests to Cliff Stigger, 7601 Wesleyan Place, Louisville, KY 40242-4037.

For sale: new C.P.O. uniform coats, polyester/wool, summer weight. Sizes: 42S, 44S, 44XL. (Sorry, we are Out of 48XL.) \$20.00 each plus S & H. Small sizes (35S and 36XS) for \$5.00 each can be used as pocket flap material. Percentage will be donated to KTEF. John Myers, 2120 N. SR. 127, Angola, IN 46703, (219) 665-2797 or J. William Meyers, 1460 East U.S. Highway 20, Angola, IN 46703, (219) 665-5686.

Wanted: for a relatively new Commandery: chapeaux and Order of Malta banners at a reasonable price. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Ronald J. Coates, Recorder; Dickson Commandery No. 41; 286 Defeated Creek Road; Centerville; TN 37033; (615) 729-3335.

For sale: Past Grand Commander (purple) chapeau, size 7 1/8, and case belt and buckle (36"); shoulder boards; and sleeve crosses. Items never used. All for \$400.00. Please remit. I'll pay the postage. M. Russo. 8342 S. 1050 E, Sandy, UT 84094, (801) 561-4753 (evenings, mt. time).

Wanted: to purchase P.C. chapeau, size 7 1/8. Must be reasonable and in good condition. Reply to Bill Stacey, 610 Hibiscus Trail, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951.

Video for your Lodge. Two hours of questions and answers on the "Masonic Quiz Tape." Entertain and inform your Brethren. \$10.00 each, \$1.50 S & H. Partial proceeds to KTEF. Earl H. Spahl; nger, 848 E College St., Alliance, OH 44601, (216) 823-8336.

Coins, medals, lapel pins, and embroidered patches by active 13-year Mason. Commemorate your anniversary, reunion, or any special event with a special token. First time visitors pins. Many applications. Call for prompt quote. Friendly service, fast delivery, low fraternal prices ensure you of a special memento. Percentage to KTEF. Sid and Debbie Leluan, 1-800-733-2735.

You can help the KTEF & Aviano Lodge No. 643, F. & AM., in Aviano, Italy, is offering a beautifully enchanting "praying hands" plate. 7" diameter, featuring 2 praying hands in front of a peaceful, flowered setting. It is made of genuine porcelain with lovely "Copenhagen" finish and has loop on back and comes with easel for wall or table display. All proceeds will benefit the KTEF. Send \$10.95 plus \$2.50 S & H to Frank Farrar; PSC 54, Box 701; APOAE0960.

Spring of Acacia lapel pins: Each handcrafted pin is of sterling silver with a 24k gold vermeil. Price is only \$9.00 per pin, including S & H. 10% of proceeds will benefit the KTEF. These unique pins are available only through Professional Creations Unlimited, 1630 Orchard Hill Road, Cheshire CT 06410-3728.

Pythagoras Chapter No. 10, RAM., of Griffin, Georgia, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1994. About fifteen of one hundred golden bronze anniversary pennies are left. Send check or money order for \$6.00 each, payable to Pythagoras Chapter No. 10 to Joe Turner, P.O. Box 326, Hampton, GA 30228.

Limited edition 100th anniversary coin (1893-1993), Palatine Chapter No. 206, Palatine, Illinois. Limit three coins only per order, while supply lasts. \$5.00 each. Send your order to Secretary Jim Maurais, 1116 East Plate Drive, Palatine, IL 60067, (708) 358-7788.

Golden Rule Lodge No. 562, F. & AM., Willard, Ohio, celebrated its 100th anniversary. Both silver and bronze medallions are available to commemorate this event: silver, .999 fine silver, numbered edition, \$20.00; bronze, \$5.00. Shipping is included in cost. Make checks payable to Golden Rule Lodge No. 562, P.O. Box 237, Willard, OH 44890.

For sale: 100th anniversary coin of Rockdale Lodge No. 414. A.F. & AM. (1875-1975). This aluminum coin goes for \$5.00 including postage. Send check to Secretary Rockdale Masonic Lodge No. 414. A.F. & AM.; P.O. Box 225; Rockdale; TX 76567

Pans Lodge No. 108 of Paris, Tennessee, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1994. Commemorative coins in polished brass or antique brass are \$6.00 each, pp. Send check to Secretary Alan R. Harris; RI. 2, Box 213 M; Buchanan; TN 38222.

Malta Masonic Lodge No. 118, Norwich, Ohio, have several commemorative 150th bronze coins to sell at \$6.00 each, including postage and handling. Please send check to Robert Hicks, PM.; 470 Airport Road; Zanesville; OH 43701.

The Masonical Society of Alberta. Canada. Invites Masonic collectors, archivists, librarians and curators to subscribe to the quarterly publication, Masonical Magazine, the only magazine of its kind which is devoted exclusively to Masonic material culture. Open the door to a fertile area of Masonic research. Send \$1200 U.S. to Tom Hargreaves, Masonical Society of Alberta. P.O. Box 4271, Station C., Calgary, Alberta, Canada. T2T-5N1.

Only 500 Case Trapper model pocket knives made by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, each one numbered. 1920s Grand Lodge logo lasered on outside of walnut display case. Same logo etched in one blade and filled with blue enamel, with two balls and a chain on each end. Second blade has three etched and blue enameled emblems: new GL logo, a square and compass, and a trowel. They are \$100 each while supply lasts. A real collector's item. James R. Onkst, 5009 Judy Drive, Del City, OK 73115.

For sale: Scottish Rite. Valley of Peoria, 125th anniversary coins at \$5.00 each, which includes postage. Mail check to Scottish Rite, 400 N. E. Perry Avenue, Peoria, IL 61603.

Thank you. Jim Wright. I would never have entered the York Rite in 1988 if I had not enjoyed seeing you live the Masonic life. Frank Lonny Sweet.

For sale: Philates Lodge No. 527 chocolate pot dated 1913 (missing lid), \$65.00. I still have several silver plated antique items left and other miscellaneous items. Send SASE for list. I'm always looking to buy or trade antique Masonic items. Stephen J. Kapp, 1180 B. Okinawa Lane, Vigo, Guam 96929-1220, 011-671-653-6143.

Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 23 years, and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. These one day will and up in a Masonic museum. Why not find a home for your mark? I will gladly send you a check for one piece or will buy your collection. If you collect, I will gladly exchange. Any assistance will surely be appreciated. I will answer all letters. Maurice Storck, Sr.; 775 W. Roger Rd, No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705; (602) 888-7585.

Wanted: Tennessee Masonic Chapter pennies and other related medals. I am working on a book listing Tennessee tokens which were used by drug stores, general stores, bakeries, confectionaries, lumber and coal companies and other businesses, plus I am adding Chapter pennies. Joe Cope/and. P.O. Box 4221. Oak Ridge, TN 37831, (615) 482-4215.

Looking for owner of well-worn Masonic ring which was recently found in North Danville, Vermont. Ring has 32° insignia on the crown and a Knight Templar insignia on one side and a Chapter insignia on the other side. The inscription on the inside of the ring reads "F. L. Coolidge May 22 1899." I would appreciate any help in locating the owner as I have exhausted all available resources in my search. Omlah R. Smith, Jr.; P.O. Box 184; 51. Johnsbury; Vermont 05819. (802) 748-3049.

For sale: Masonic ring; 1950s. 320 Scottish Rite, Commandery York Rite; with 1.6 carat diamond set on top of a double eagle. Belonged to my grandfather. A beautiful ring in excellent shape, appraised at \$7,500. Picture available. Will sell with equity. Telephone Ohio (419) 354-1066.

It was the custom of Freemasons throughout the early 1900s to present their ladies with a pin shaped like a slipper. / would like to buy one of the slipper pins, if anyone has one or knows where I might order one. Please inform me. Thank you. Robert E. Tharp, 1706 Bedford Road, Washington, IN 47501, (812)254-0507.

U For sale: three choice cemetery lots in Memorial Cemetery, Masonic section, in Kansas City, Missouri. Price is \$1,200. Phone (913) 539-6947.

My grandfather. Charles P. Linder. Birth name Carl Petrus Jonsson, was born in Sweden in 1880. He was a lawyer in Chicago in the early 1900s. He was a member of Edgewater Lodge No. 901, A. F. & A.M. He died in 1923. He had a brother living in Chicago. I would like to know the surname his brother used. Charles F. Lagerquist, 4384 Applewood Lane. Loves Park, IL 60176.

Great-granddaughter seeking into on Revolutionary War patriot. Philip Brookhall, said to have died in Natchez, MS. circa 1840. Betty L. Carter, 8452 Desert Avenue, Boise, 1083709.

Brother Knight of state of Ohio looking for Earnest "Red" Wagner. who was in air force in 1961. Wife died of a spinal disease and left him with a young son at that time. If you know of whereabouts contact Rev. Dewey V. Murphy, 1626 S.F. 14th Street, Grand Prairie, TX 75051, (214)263-0730.

I would like to contact anyone who served with the U.S.N.C.B. 38th Special, in Port Hueneme, California, in 1945 for reunion purposes. Richard Stewart, ID-Highway, 28-South; Fontana Dam, NC 28733, (704) 479-6903.

WWII, 24K gold-plated Lame Duck insignia tie bar, and a 1982 proof, 1-oz. .999 pure silver Eagle and Liberty Bell coin, dollar size, sealed in airtight holder, and 1995 calendar. \$12.95 pp. Art Joel, P.M.; 3259A San Amadeo; Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

For sale: Florida mobile home, double wide (24-48), with 2 bedrooms. 2 baths. Florida room-\$26,500. Ready for you to move in. Furniture included. 5-Star Park location. Call (813) 559-8077 until March; after that, call (513) 390-6237,

For sale: week number 26 in beautiful time-share condominium on spectacular Lido Beach, Sarasota. Florida-This is the week of the 4th of July and the Grand Prix International power-boat race. Accommodates four persons: two full baths, \$650,000. OIB/O will finance. Theo E. Scheide, 6101 34th Street. West; Apartment 24-F; Bradenton, FL 34210.

For sale: one lot for \$500 in Acacia Park Cemetery, Wistaria Section, 7800 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60634. Irene Hampel. 28257 W. Worcester Road, Sun Valley, CA 92385.

Mount Emblem Cemetery, Elmhurst. Twilight section-3 lots, \$3,585 value for \$1,200 or best offer. Call collect (704) 897-8962 after 5p.m.

Corrected information on ship reunion: U.S.S. Algol (AKA-54) July 12-15, 1995, San Diego, California. Anthony Soria, 2045 Avalon Drive, Merced, CA 95340.

50th anniversary and second joint reunion: U.S.S. Griggs (APA-110) and U.S.S. Grundy (APA-111) at Comfort Inn. Foglesville, Pennsylvania. July 14-16, 1995. Dan/el L. Brown, 3258 2nd Avenue, Orefield, PA 18069, (610) 398-1174.

Reunion: former shipmates on the U.S.S. Bellatrix (AKA-3) will be having a reunion on February 15-18, 1996, in San Diego, California, and anyone wanting further information should contact one of the following John J. Sinsimer, 7 Van Ness Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-1427 or Bill Finnen, 9 Argent Circle, Irvine, CA 92714-3109.

1995 reunion: U.S.S. Samuel N. Moore (DD-747), September 7-9, Bremerton, WA. For information Don Rank. 6304 Ashcroft Lane, Edna, MN 55424. All crew members are encouraged to respond even if unable to attend.

Wacky Mac reunion: The third reunion of the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. McCawley (APA-4) by U.S. PT boats after having been torpedoed by Japan will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, June 28-30 at the Holiday Inn. Contact Jesse Cannon, (504) 748-4131 or Frenchy Maurais. (708) 358-7188.

## Reflections

Stars lie broken on a lake  
Whenever passing breezes make The wavelets leap;  
But when the lake is still, the sky  
Gives moon and stars that they may lie On that clam deep.

If, like the lake that has the boon  
Of cradling the little moon Above the hill,  
I want the Infinite to be Reflected undisturbed in me, I must be still.

Edna Becker