



Knights Templar

VOLUME XLIII

DECEMBER 1997

NUMBER 12



December 1997 Grand Master's Message

Sir Knights and friends, this month we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST. It is a most sacred observance by Christians around the world and particularly by Knights Templar.

"Jesus is the reason for the season!"
says it all.

Christmas is a special time that young children, and indeed children of all ages, look forward to with Joy and anticipation. I hope it is a time for remembering and giving and receiving, for love and tolerance and peace on earth, for good fellowship and for worshipping in a special way a true and living GOD for each of us. I pray it is a time when mankind most nearly manifests that spirit of Christian love that JESUS taught. Sir Knights, as we observe this Christmas Season, let us strive to minister to the

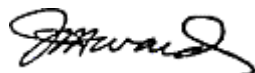
needs of those around us and to fulfill our vow as Templars to uplift the Christian religion and glorify our Father which is in heaven. I hope that each Knight Templar will participate in a Christmas Observance as a Commandery activity - and invite your family and friends to attend.

Merry Christmas!

Sir Knights, I am high and lifted up and commend you for the interest and enthusiasm you have shown at our Department Conferences, Grand Commandery Annual Conclaves, and other meetings for the Grand Commandery, Commandery, and Grand Encampment to plan for establishing and achieving our objectives. We are confident that your programs, the 5/50 plan for getting new members and for retaining our members, and the plans to educate and train our leaders and members will be implemented forthwith and be successfully executed, Working together we can do it!

Fratres, the 30th Annual Voluntary Campaign to raise funds to finance the good works of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation started December 1, 1997. I commend you for your efforts on behalf of the past campaigns and urge you to continue your generous support of the work of the Foundation by your contributions and by becoming personally involved in this campaign, especially in assuring that your commandery participates.

Sir Knights, If you ask, they will come.
Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar!



James Morris Ward, KGC
Grand Master

Knights Templar

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

DECEMBER: The 30th Annual Voluntary Campaign has started! Our goal is not difficult, as Chairman Games points out starting on page 5; it only requires the participation of all Sir Knights. Our Cross of Honor recipients are listed on pages 7-8. Congratulations to these venerable Sir Knights. On page 19, the chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage speaks of its history and current program. Grand Master Ward (page 2), Grand Prelate Smith (page 9), the staff of the Grand Encampment (page 29), and Grand Commander Robert Ohman (page 28), Virginia, extend Christmas greetings. We all remember the singing cowboy, Sir Knight Tex Ritter. Don't miss his story (page 11) or that of Brother Ruel Gridley (page 24). Greetings of the season!

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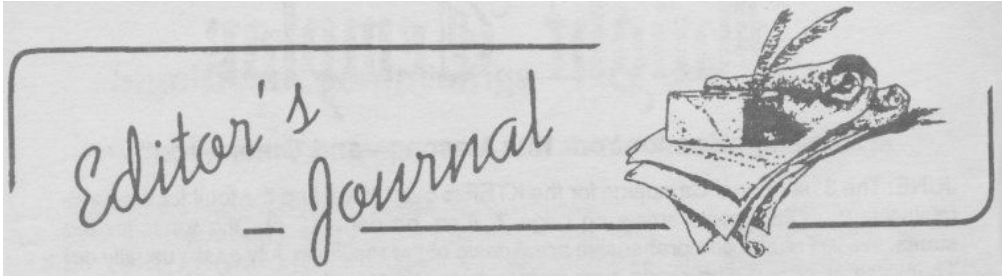
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Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders



Announcement: Knight Commander of the Temple Award: All nominations for the Knight Commander of the Temple award should be made to a HOLDER of the award in the state of the nominee. These nominations will be reviewed by the holders and then forwarded to the Grand Encampment. NO nominations will be accepted if sent directly to the Grand Encampment office. Any further questions should be directed to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment.

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. It is 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. There are 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, plus shipping and handling; \$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 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 shipping and handling. • **Dungeon, Fire, and Sword: The Knights Templar In the Crusades:** This history of the Knights Templar by the late John J. Robinson is 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

Complimentary for Widows: Widows of Knights Templar are eligible to continue receiving our magazine as long as they desire. To retain or reinstate the mailing, simply instruct your local Recorder or the Grand Encampment of your wishes.

YORK RITE FREEMASONRY ON THE INTERNET - Official Web Sites

Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America
<http://www.knightstemplar.org>

General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, international
<http://members.aol.com/GGCOUNCILJHomePage.html>

General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International
<http://members.aol.com/GGCHAPTERIHomePage.html>

York Rite Freemasonry . The International Information Site
<http://members.aol.com/YorkRiteFM/HomePage.html>



The Challenge Is Before Us!

The 30th Annual Voluntary Campaign
Begins December 1, 1997 and Ends April 30, 1998

by Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes, Honorary P.D.C.
and Chairman of the 30th Annual Voluntary Campaign

Did you know that the success and performance of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation relies to a great extent on the funds raised in the Voluntary Campaign, so to be successful in the "Journey for Sight" provides the means to "Help Others to See." Those who we help have turned to the Foundation as their last hope because they have been denied help by other agencies. This position creates concern because without the Knights Templar Eye Foundation someone may lose his or her sight. I feel a responsibility, and I hope every Sir Knight has the same feeling.

It is difficult to understand why, with all the information written about the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in the *Knight Templar* magazine and in the many brochures that have been distributed with Commandery notices, we still have many Sir Knights who do not understand the purpose and mission of the Foundation.

I believe that, for those who may not be aware of the importance of the Foundation, we need to state the Mission of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Purpose of the 30th Voluntary Campaign:

"Mission Statement of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.: to provide assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need of surgical treatment without regard to race, color, creed, age, **sex** or national origin provided they are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from current



government agencies or similar sources and to provide funds for research in curing diseases of the eye."

"The Purpose of the 30th Voluntary Campaign: to supplement the income of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation from assessments, bequests, gifts, endowment income and other sources so that sufficient funds are available to provide assistance as stated in the Mission Statement of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc."

Now that we have stated our Mission and *Purpose* in the *Knight Templar* magazine, which goes to every Sir Knight, I believe every Christian Knight should want to be a participant in the "Journey for Sight."

It is understandable that not every Sir Knight will read the *Knight Templar* magazine, but there are thousands who do read the magazine, and they are officers in the Grand Encampment, Grand Commanderies, and constituent Commanderies who can encourage and promote the Journey for Sight." In short, Sir Knights: We all need to say a good word for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The key to our success in meeting the challenge of \$2 million is 100% participation of the membership.

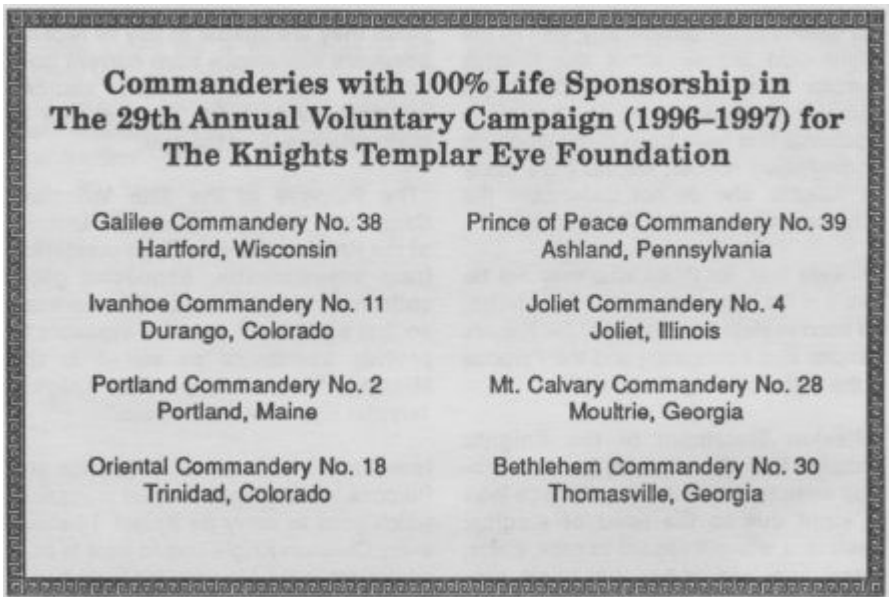
There are two actions requested of each Sir Knight and every Commander in December 1997:

1. Every Sir Knight is requested to send a \$10.00 donation in the envelope that has been inserted in this issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine.
2. Every Commander of a Commandery in the Grand Encampment is requested to take a collection at the December

stated Conclave, and the Recorder is requested to mail whatever is collected to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation before the end of December. This will ensure total team cooperation of all Commanderies, and each prudent Commander is responsible for seeing that this small request is met.

Merry Christmas to all Sir Knights and their families, and by the way, don't forget to help make a merry Christmas for someone less fortunate by "Helping Others to See." Remember, the Lord loves a cheerful giver, and nothing equals "The Gift of Sight."

Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes, Honorary Past Department Commander and P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, is the Campaign Chairman for the 30th Voluntary Campaign and a member of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. He resides at 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944



Templarys highest award...

Our Cross of Honor

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the 1997 recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor. These distinguished Sir Knights have demonstrated meritorious service and have been rewarded for it. The Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor "shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."

This year the Grand Commanderies have selected forty-eight Sir Knights to receive the coveted Cross of Honor.

Alabama

Robert Frank Elkin, Huntsville No. 7

Arizona

Clarence George Stone, Mohave No. 13

Arkansas

Labon L. Tompkins, Gethsemane No. 31

California

Edwin Foster Seaward
Golden West No. 43

Colorado

William Don Peters, Central City No. 2

Connecticut

John George Radeach
New Haven No. 2

District of Columbia

Rodrigo Phillips, Washington No. 1

Florida

Willis Denson Porter, St. Elmo No. 42

Georgia

Gary Dale Lemmons, St. John's No. 19

Idaho

Joe Harrison Dennis, Idaho Falls No. 6

Illinois

John C. Butterfield, Sr., Ottawa No. 10

Indiana

Lloyd Laverne Marsh
Connersville No. 6

Iowa

Earl George Jens, DeMoiay No. 1

Kansas

Preston Sylvester Hale, Newton No. 9

Kentucky

Everett L. Parish, Jr., Jefferson No. 52

Louisiana

Clayton Albert Wolfe
Indivisible Friends No. 1

Maine

Paul A. Adams, Dunlap No. 5

Maryland

Richard Allen Ortt, Beauseant No. 8

Massachusetts/ Rhode Island

Helge David Peterson, Olivet No. 36

Michigan

Roy M. Geer, Mt. Clemens No. 51

Minnesota
Lyle E. Aho, Eveleth No. 35

Mississippi
Lindsay Woodie Mundy, Cyrene No. 9

Missouri
Bobby L Detherow, St. John's No. 20

Montana
Charles F. Tesch, Black Eagle No. 8

Nebraska
Marion H. Wiles, Mt. Zion No. 5

Nevada
James Mervin Dahl, Malta No. 3

New Hampshire
Rodney Arthur Robinson
DeWitt Clinton No. 2

New Jersey
Donald W. Burdick, Trinity No. 17

New Mexico
Adam L. Crouch, Rio Hondo No. 6

New York
Douglas W. Holbrook, Malta No. 21

North Carolina
Dallas Davis, Waynesville No. 31

Ohio
Richard Alien Benadum, Lancaster No. 2
Montford Lewis Looker, Raper No. 19

Oklahoma
James Harvey Lasley, Ardmore No. 9

Pennsylvania
Paul L. Sattzer, Jr., Nativity No. 71

South Carolina
John Legrand Lane, Florence No. 10

Oregon
Raymond A. Ruff, Delta No. 19

South Dakota
Joseph G. Whittemore, Dakota No. 1

Tennessee
Wallace Eugene Maybery, Sr.
Plateau No. 38

Texas
Edward Hadley Holland, Ruthven No. 2
William Ellison Crozier, Melrose No. 109

Utah
Robert B. Coates, Utah No. 1

Vermont
Arnold G. Preston, St. Aidemar No. 11

Virginia
Everett Alexander Luckenbach
Hampton No. 17

Washington
David Ferdinand Baer, Cowlitz No. 29

West Virginia
Winford W. Hays, Weirton No. 30

Wisconsin
Robert E. Mueller, Sr., Wisconsin No. 1

Wyoming
Neil Clark, Jr., Ivanhoe No. 2

A Town Called Bethlehem

By Sir Knight Donald H. Smith, M.E.P.G.M.
Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment. Knights Templar, U.S.A.

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars roll by; Yet in thy dark
streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight*

Those words and music were written over a hundred years ago by Phillips Brooks and Lewis Redner.

It is my favorite carol, and I love to hear it sung by a choir because it brings me the image of a little town near Jerusalem, a town where David grew up and was anointed king and a town where Ruth and Boaz lived. I have never been there, but ever since I was a small boy it has been a special town to me.

The town is located on a limestone ridge in the Judean highland above the Shepherd's Field near the Dead Sea.

My image is of a quiet night and of shepherds quietly guarding their sheep, and in the silence of the darkness, a baby cries; then, from above the shepherds comes the voice of an angel, saying that the world's greatest gift has arrived, "A Savior is born this day to you. Go and see him! He is in a stable wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Then, angel voices sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace." What a wonderful sight to see in our minds, a sight almost 2,000 years old.

Today Bethlehem is a city of more than ten thousand people. Much of its business is involved with tourists who come to see the places that we picture in our minds at Christmas. The city is no longer a little town, and the shepherds are not in the fields, and the voices heard on Christmas Eve are from the many churches.

Although the times have changed and the world is much smaller, the words of the angels still shape the lives of Christians everywhere. Unto us a Savior is born.

Merry Christmas!

Sir Knight Donald H. Smith, Grand Prelate and Most Eminent Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and P.G.C. of Kentucky, is a member of Richmond Commandery No. 19, Richmond, Kentucky. He resides at 1041 Idylwild Drive, Richmond, KY 40475



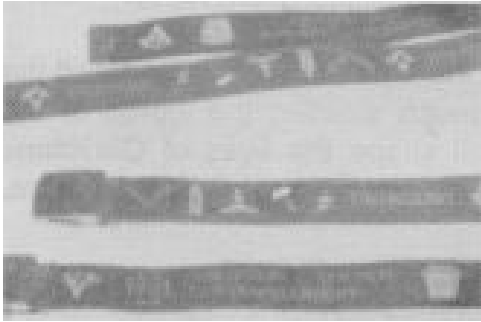
Knives From Illinois Commandery Benefit KTEF

Aurora Commandery No. 22, Illinois, is offering for the first time the opportunity to own one of the finest handmade pieces of cutlery made in the U.S. The 4¹/₂-inch Skinner blade is made of high carbon (SAE 1085) steel, tempered to a spring hardness that will hold an edge and is resistant to breakage. The handle is from antler, either mule or white tail deer or elk (recovered after it is dropped by the animal). There is a choice of brass cap or crown cut (where the antler is joined to the head) on the end of the handle. The knife comes with a square and compass engraved on the handle. Included is an 11-oz. (latigo laced) leather sheath. The price is \$80.00 plus \$6.50 for S & H. For each knife sold, a \$10.00 donation will be made to the KTEF. Also available is the steak knife, blade approx. 4 inches



long and handle of antler, crown cut. The square and compass are on handle or on the crown. There is no sheath. The price is \$30.00 each or can be ordered in sets of four for \$105.00. For each separate knife, the KTEF receives \$4.00; for each set, \$15.00. S & H is \$5.00 for single knife or \$6.50 for sets. Orders can be e-mailed to ozrkmtncut@juno.com, faxed to (630) 554-7166, phoned to (815) 246-9623 or send name, address, and phone number to Aurora Commandery No. 22, 16 Shell Court, Oswego, IL 60543-9303. Check or money order payable to Aurora Commandery No. 22. No cash please. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

New Hampshire York Rite and Freemason Belts To Benefit KTEF



York Rite and Freemason belts are still available from the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire, and there is a good supply on hand. The York Rite belt is made of a black web belt with a matching black ribbon sewn on it and emblems in gold and silver colors and the three bodies spelled out in gold as well as "York Rite." The Freemason belt is in navy blue with the Masonic working tools and the square and compass and "Freemasonry" woven through a matching blue ribbon. Standard length is 51 inches and may be trimmed shorter. 62-inch belts are available on special request. A brass buckle is supplied with each belt. The cost is still \$12.00 each, postpaid, and quantities over 10

will be discounted \$1.00 each, over 25. will be discounted \$2.00 each. U.S. funds only please. Many thanks to all who have bought these fine belts. You have assisted me in contributing over \$10,000 to our KTEF as well as smaller amounts to RARA, CMMRF, MSA, and the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. Send order and check to Frederick H. Heuss, P.G.C.; 6 Vernon Avenue; Rochester, NH 03887-2034

Beautiful Knights Templar Afghan To Benefit The KTEF

A limited edition afghan has been produced with old designs, early Knights Templar period, and with a poem: 'What is a Knight,' defining a Knight Templar and what he stands for. The afghan is a tapestry weave measuring 54 by 68 inches; it has ten warp fill-in colors. It is 100% cotton that is preshrunk and colorfast. It weighs 5 pounds, 2 ounces and has a multi-color fringe border. The price is \$48.00, including S & H within the U.S. If ordering out of the U.S., please add \$20.00 for shipping. For every afghan sold, there will be a donation of \$5.00 to the KTEF. Please send check or money order to: Stanley C. Buz, P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052



Sir Knight Tex Ritter: Hollywood's Singing Cowboy

by Dr. Ivan M. Tribe, KYCH



From the mid-1930s onward, Americans have been entertained on stage, screen, radio, and television by a host of what became known to the world as singing cowboys. In their films, these folks championed truth, justice, and clean living while entertaining us with pleasant songs that painted pleasant word pictures of life on the frontier and the open ranges of the American West. While the West of the imagination that Hollywood created may have been more myth than reality, it was quite real and vivid to the millions of youth and numerous others who watched their films. Although most of these young viewers never became cowboys, they often adopted many of the values that these celluloid heroes exemplified as their own. Perhaps, given these characteristics it is little wonder that at least four of the seven major singing cowboys had Masonic affiliations. These four are Rex Allen, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and the subject of this narrative, Tex Ritter. The latter won his way into the hearts of millions of fans atop his magnificent steed, White Flash.

Born Woodward Maurice Rifler on a farm near Murvaul in Panola County, Texas on January 12, 1905, the youngster grew up in a family of fourth generation Texans. After spending his early years in a rural environment, the Ritters moved to Nederland, near Beaumont. The future cowboy star rode the interurban into the city where he had the lead role in the junior class play titled *The Terrified Bridegroom*, and also played on the basketball team. Following graduation in 1922, he moved on to the University of Texas with intentions of studying law. Glee club, dramatics, and the study of cowboy lore with such professors

as the noted J Frank Dobie soon competed with legal studies for young Ritter's attention.

Tex remained in Austin until 1928, and while gaining a good education found himself one course short of a law degree. He drifted to New York and landed a position in a Broadway production called *The New Moon*. In the fall of 1929, he went to Chicago and enrolled in law school at nearby Northwestern. However, in mid-January 1930, the young Texan dropped out of law school and went back to *The New Moon* then playing in Milwaukee. Soon he was back in New York where he landed a part in another play titled *Green Grows the Lilacs*. It ran for eight weeks in New York and then went on the road for fifteen more. Tex also became a radio singer of cowboy songs on a program titled "Cowboy Tom's Roundup" and via a show of his own called "Tex Ritter's Campfire." Gaining something of a reputation as an authentic western singer, Rifler recorded four songs for the American Record Corporation in the early months of 1933. His best known effort was the traditional song "Rye Whiskey." In January 1935, he signed with Decca, a company for whom he cut thirty songs through 1939.

By the time Ritter cut his second session for Decca in December 1936, he had shifted his base of operations to Hollywood. In 1935, Gene Autry had become the first singing movie cowboy to achieve national stardom with Republic pictures. Other studios began searching for similar potential stars. Warner Brothers signed Dick Foran, who possessed a rather sophisticated singing style, but who managed to star in a short-lived series. Producer Edward Finney signed Tex Rifler to appear in a singing western series for



Grand National Pictures. His first film, *Song of the Gringo*, was released on November 22, 1936. Through July 1938, Ritter starred in a dozen B Westerns for Grand National. Perhaps the most memorable, *Trouble in Texas*, matched Tex with an attractive nineteen-year-old leading lady named Rita Cansino, who later became more famous as the international sex-symbol, Rita Hayworth. Other Ritter leading ladies included Eleanor Stewart and Iris Meredith. Horace Murphy often had the role of the comic sidekick. With his deep voice and Texas accent, the onetime Broadway actor probably ranked as the most authentic sounding Hollywood singing cowpoke.

Authenticity and Tex's popularity, however, did not constitute enough stature to save Grand National from bankruptcy in mid-1938. With Edward Finney continuing to produce his films, Ritter moved over to a somewhat more solvent poverty-row studio Monogram, where he starred in twenty more westerns through May 1941. *Take Me Back to Oklahoma* with Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys probably constituted his most significant effort for that company. Arkansas Slim Andrews worked as sidekick in many of the Monogram

oaters often accompanied by his cantankerous mule Josephine. Dorothy Fay was Tex's leading lady in two of these films, and the pair became life partners when they married on June 14, 1941. They subsequently had two sons, Tom and John.

After the Monogram series ended, Tex Ritter became something of a journeyman singing cowpoke for the remainder of his motion picture career. At Columbia he shared top credit with Wild Bill Elliott in eight films and in one with Charles Starrett. Beginning in September 1942, Ritter and Johnnie Mack Brown did eight movies together for Universal. After Brown left that studio to do his own series for Monogram. Tex had three solo outings for Universal which many critics consider *his best efforts*: *Arizona Trail*, *Marshall of Gunsmoke*, and *Oklahoma Raiders*. All three featured Fuzzy Knight as sidekick and Johnnie Bond's Red River Valley Boys as supporting musicians. Jennifer Holt, the sister of RKO action cowboy star Tim Holt, was the leading lady in two of them. Beginning in the fall of 1944, Tex co-starred with Dave O'Brien and Guy Wilkerson in the P.R.C. low-budget Texas Ranger series. He made eight of these films through the end of 1945 which wound up his career as a movie cowboy. Thereafter his appearances in pictures came in either support roles or as a vocalist on sound tracks. Since many of these films continued to be shown for some years in drive-in theaters and on Saturday matinees, many fans were unaware that his movie career had virtually terminated.

Meanwhile, Tex Ritter continued to be a recording star. In June 1942, he began an association with the then new Capitol Record company that would continue for the remainder of his life. Early releases included covers of Gene Autry's "Jingle, Jangle, Jingle" and Jimmie Davis' "There's a New Moon Over My Shoulder," the latter of which became one of Capitol's first major hits. In 1945, he had his biggest hit with that firm, "You Two-Timed Me Once Too Often,"



Sir Knight Tex Ritter atop White Flash in a scene from one of his earlier films. Photo from the author's collection.

which remained atop the *Billboard* country and western charts for eleven weeks. Some years later, he would make an even bigger impact with the theme from "High Noon" which reached number twelve on the pop charts in the fall of 1952.

In 1952, a promoter named William Wagon initiated a barn dance type program called *The Town Hall Party*. In order to get a major television station to carry the program, Wagon needed someone with star stature for a headliner. Tex Ritter filled this bill, and not only starred but also emceed much of the program. The *Town Hall Party* became the major country and western music venue in the Far West, running until January 1961. For a time, as much as three hours of it was televised every Saturday night in the Los Angeles area, and tens of thousands of fans came to see Tex and their other favorites in person. In addition thirty-nine syndicated half-hour programs were televised under the name *Ranch Party* and shown nationally on many local TV stations.

It was during the early days of *Town Hall Party* and right after the success of *High Noon* that Tex flitter began his Masonic journey in Metropolitan Lodge No. 646 in Los Angeles. He took his Entered Apprentice Degree on March 31, 1953; passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on June 30; and was raised a Master Mason on August 18, 1953 (another Hollywood cowboy Rod Cameron also belonged to this lodge). Somewhat later, he completed the York Rite Degrees in Hollywood Commandery No. 56. On March 19, 1955, Tex became a Noble of Al Malaikah Shrine Temple. He apparently treasured his Shrine connection and like Hank Thompson displayed his pin with considerable pride on his Capitol album covers. In 1972, he demitted from Al Malaikah Temple and affiliated with Al Menah Temple in Nashville.

As *The Town Hall Party* faded in 1961, Tex needed a new hit song to sustain his career and got one with a revival of Eddie Dean's 1954 song-recitation "I Dreamed of a Hillbilly Heaven." With slightly updated lyrics the song reached the fifth spot on the country charts and number twenty on the pop listings. In 1963 and 1964, he served as president of the fairly new Country Music Association, and worked tirelessly to upgrade the music's image. As a result, he became the first western singer to be elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1964. Ironically, while Ritter had never had as much motion picture success as Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, he managed to be chosen for that Hall of Fame prior to either of them. With the musical scene in the West in a bit of recession (it would soon re-emerge with Bakersfield as its new center), Tex Ritter relocated in Nashville and joined the cast of "The Grand Ole Opry," the longest running program in the history of radio.

Tex spent his latter years in Nashville as an "Opry" member and as something of an elder statesman in the field. In essence, he was someone who bridged the gap between the country tradition and the western tradition. Back in California for a visit on June 15, 1966, Metropolitan Lodge held a testimonial

dinner in his honor. Biographer Johnny Bond described it as one of the "highlights of his life." Like other well known Nashville artists, he toured a fair amount from time to time, including an appearance at The Plains, Ohio in 1969, where this writer was fortunate enough to moot him in person and hear him relate a story of his first record session back in 1933. He also appeared in some county music motion pictures from that era such as *Nashville Rebel* and *The Girl from the Tobacco Row* in which he played a role as a Southern tobacco farmer who doubled as a lay preacher. Although he had no more big hit records, he had several



smaller ones that kept his name on the charts regularly. These included numbers such as "Just Beyond the Moon" and "Comin' After Jenny." He also did some fine recitations including one about an incident where a plane he was riding got hijacked and flown to Cuba titled "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Miami" and "Dark Days in Dallas" which dealt with the Kennedy assassination. His last chart-maker which appeared after his death was the Gordon Sinclair composition titled "The Americans (A Canadian's Opinion)."

Tex also dabbled in politics, but without much real success. According to his biographer Johnny Bond, Ritter had been enthusiastic in his 1964 support of G.O.P. conservative Brother Barry Goldwater (a member of Arizona Lodge No. 2 in Phoenix since 1930). In 1970, he threw his hat into the Tennessee G.O.P. U. S. Senate primary. Opposed by east Tennessee Congressman William Brock, Tex ran a distant second. Brock went on to win in November and later served the nation as Secretary of Labor. Tex not only lost the election but also ran up a

considerable campaign debt which plagued his last years. Like Roy Acuff, Ritter found that being a beloved musical figure did not guarantee victory at the ballot box. Nonetheless, he continued to be much admired as a person and for his contributions to the entertainment world.

Although Tex's health had been a little shaky toward the end, his death came as a surprise. On January 2, 1974, he went to the Nashville jail to post bail for one of his band members when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Last rites were held at Nashville's First Presbyterian Church. Dorothy and the two sons, Tom and John, survived him. The latter later went on to achieve a degree of stardom in his own right as an actor in such television comedies as "Three's Company" and "Heart's Afire." Today, nearly a quarter century after his passing, Tex Ritter remains a fondly remembered figure. Many of his movies are available on videocassette, and some of his recordings are on compact disc. Except for the tense, the inscription on his plaque at the Country Music Hall of Fame remains as relevant today as it was when

placed there in 1964. It reads His devotion to his God, his family, and his country is a continuing inspiration to his countless friends throughout the world.'


A word of thanks: The best source for information on Ritter is the affectionate but out-of-print biography by Johnny Bond The Tex Ritter Story (New York: Chappell Music Company, 1976). See also the appropriate chapter in David Rothel, The Singing Cowboys (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. 1978). Thanks also to M. W. David Dresser of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Ms. Bonnie Johanson at the Grand Lodge of California in San Francisco, and the staff of Al Malaikah Shrine Temple in Los Angeles.

Sir Knight Ivan M. Tribe, KYCH, a professor of history at the University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Ohio, is a P.C. and a member of Athens Commandery No. 15, Athens, Ohio. He resides at 111 East High Street, McArthur, OH 45651-1111



Sir Knight Tex Ritter in his later days as a Grand Ole Opry star. Note Shrine pin in lapel. 1969 photo from author's collection.

KTEF GOLF SHIRTS AND JACKETS



Choose your color: black, navy, dark green, purple, maroon, red or white (The KTEF logo is purple on white items, white on dark colors.)

Golf shirts and flannel lined windbreakers with the Knights Templar Eye Foundation logo embroidered in white or purple are available for Sir Knights and their families who want to "Help Others to See." Golf shirts are 50/50 cotton/polyester jersey knit with fashion collar and ribbed cuffs. The flannel lined windbreakers are hip length. These items make ideal gifts for that special person. Net proceeds will benefit the KTEF and help reach the goal of \$2 million for the 30th Voluntary Campaign.

ORDER FORM

Please circle color and size required; if necessary use separate sheet or photo copy this form.

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Enclose check for total amount. Prices include postage and handling when shipped in the U.S.A. All prices are firm on orders placed by March 10, 1998. Mail order and make check payable to: Charles A. Games, Trustee; 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944. Delivery in 5-6 weeks after receipt of order.

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Every Sir Knight should be proud to wear the emblem of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. SUPPORT YOUR CHARITY, SUPPORT TEMPLARY.

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In Memoriam



Lee J. Sideras
South Dakota
Grand Commander-1994
Born March 7, 1927
Died September 26, 1997

William Tyler Green, Jr.
New Jersey
Grand Commander-1967
Born August 11, 1905
Died October 31, 1997

Grand Commander's Club

No. 100,690-James R. Ferguson II (KY)
No. 100691-John F. Abel (MI)
No. 100692-Lawrence D. Matson (CA)
No. 100,693-Jerry W. Foster (AL)

Grand Master's Club

No. 2,845-Robert W. Hamilton, Jr. (NE)
No. 2,846-J. Frederick Scott (NY)
No. 2,847-4n honor of Mrs. Joseph &
Markham by Oregon Lodge No. 101 (OR)

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 Temple, Eye Foundation. This initial contribution of \$100 or more will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commanders 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 Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 100; Chicago; 1L60630-2460; (773) 205-3838.

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

Since July 1, 1992, at new members of the Grand Master's and Grand Commanders clubs have been issued pins 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 Chicago, and you will receive one.



Life Sponsorship Pins Available

This very attractive pin in the shape of a shield is available for a donation of \$7.00 each or \$5.00 each in lots of twenty. Show your Commandery members that you are a Life Sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by ordering yours today. Pins are available to any Knight Templar who already has purchased a Life Sponsorship or who intends to do so. Contact: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.; 5097 N. Elston Ave., Suite 100; Chicago; IL 60630-2460; (773) 205-3838



Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Program

by Sir Knight George D. Gilbreath
Chairman, Holy Land
Pilgrimage Committee
Grand Commandery of Virginia

Part I - Beginnings of the Program

Some years ago, a group of Knights Templar was discussing the question: What are we doing to promote the Christian religion? Since each Knight Templar has vowed at his Knighthood in the Order of the Temple to protect and defend the Christian religion and has thereby accepted the responsibility of promoting that religion, the question was a significant one.

After a short discussion, they reached two conclusions: 1) There are very few Christian ministers who, early in their ministry, can afford to make a visit to the Holy Land. 2) To send ministers on a visit to the Holy Land would be promoting Christianity, a responsibility each had accepted.

They observed that laymen who visit the Holy Land and walk where Christ walked and preached find it a very moving experience. They reasoned that such an experience would do even more for a Christian minister, a person specially motivated to teach and preach the gospel of Christ.

It was in 1975 that Sir Knight Harry M. Smit proposed a Templar project named "in Defense of the Christian Religion." (See *Knights Templar* magazine, December 1979.) Sir Knight Smit is Past Commander of Damascus Commandery No. 42, Detroit, Michigan. By the format of his proposal, modern Knights Templar would take upon themselves the original purpose of the ancient Templars, "escorting pilgrims to the Holy Land." They would sponsor annual pilgrimages for clergymen and women from the participating Templar jurisdictions.

In response to Sir Knight Smit's proposal,

the Grand Commanderies of Michigan and Kentucky sponsored seven pilgrim ministers, who embarked from New York on the first modern Templar pilgrimage in February 1977. By the end of the year 1979, four Grand Commanderies had joined in, and a total of thirty-two ministers had visited the Holy Land. A corporation was formed under the name of "The Holy Land Pilgrimage, Inc." with Sir Knight Smit as chairman of the board. In August 1979 at the 54th Triennial Conclave in Indianapolis, Indiana, the Grand Encampment Committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage was created. It provided a national program in which each Grand Commandery could participate on a voluntary basis. In February 1983 eighteen Christian ministers, sponsored by eight Grand Commanderies, took part in the Seventh Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This made a total of ninety-two ministers sent on the Pilgrimage since its inception in 1977.

Part II - Participation by Knights Templar of Virginia

It was in 1983 that Sir Knight George B. Yeates, then Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Virginia, initiated participation in the program by the Grand Commandery of Virginia. He appointed a committee with Sir Knight Robert D. McMarlin, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, as chairman, to undertake fund-raising efforts in order to sponsor ministers from Virginia. As this was a state in which many of the early churches of the American colonies were founded, the Grand Commander believed that the Knights Templar in Virginia should take part in this growing program. He requested that every Commandery support the committee with donations and promotional efforts. Sufficient contributions were received to send one Virginia minister on the Pilgrimage in February 1984. Since that time, Virginia has continued to participate each year. We sent one minister in 1985, two in 1986, three in 1987, four in 1988, two in 1989, five in 1990, and four

in 1992, and two each year thereafter, 1993 through 1997, making a total of thirty-one. The Pilgrimage was canceled in 1991 due to the fighting in the Middle East that year (the Desert Storm action against Iraq). Two more are scheduled for February 1998. This is a good record for such a new program, which is now in the fourteenth year of participation by the Knights Templar of Virginia.

Part III - Current Program

The Grand Encampment chairman of the Committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage is Sir Knight P. Fred Lesley, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and currently Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Michigan. In the spring (May) of each year, he initiates the year's program by a letter to the committee chairman of each Grand Commandery. In Virginia we then send a letter to each Commandery, giving instructions and guidelines for the year. A nomination form is provided for ministers' nominations to be made through the local Commanderies. Only ordained Christian ministers who have not been to the Holy Land are eligible for nomination. The Commandery approval is required with the Commander's signature or that of the Recorder on the form.

Each Commandery in Virginia conducts its annual fund drive from May 1 to October 31. Originally, the total of contributions determined the number of ministers to be selected for the Holy Land Pilgrimage the following February. The goal each year has been set at two dollars average per member, a goal we have not yet achieved in any year, although, of course, some Commanderies make the goal while others do not. Unfortunately some Commanderies do not bother to participate.

Nomination of ministers early in their ministry is encouraged as many of the younger ones cannot afford the trip on their own. Also, they are likely to have many years yet in their careers, years of ministry which will be enhanced by this moving experience. The nomination forms provide the committee with basic information by

which the selections can be made for the next Pilgrimage. Information the minister should enter includes data on education, experience, current assignment, and a statement on what motivated him to enter the ministry. The committee screens the data received and assigns a numerical ranking, "One" being the highest. This permits immediate identification of a replacement in the event any of those selected must decline. The committee notifies selectees and sends the information to the Grand Encampment Committee chairman.

The ministers who are selected sign a detailed agreement, obtain their passports, and make the other necessary preparations for the trip. Those from Virginia provide their own transportation from their home to New York. In some cases, a minister's congregation takes care of this expense. The committee schedules a visit with each minister, at one of his church services prior to his departure. Sir Knights of the local Commandery and of the Grand Commandery generally take part in the visit, and a certificate of award of the Pilgrimage is presented to the minister, usually by the Grand Commander. This gesture is always favorably received by the congregation. The public image of Freemasonry is enhanced by these actions, and more Virginians learn about Knights Templar as the major Christian order in Masonry, worldwide. Air travel to Israel is arranged by the Grand Encampment committee, via El Al Airlines.

Since the outset of the program in 1977, 972 Christian ministers from forty-eight states have been spiritually enriched by going on the Holy Land Pilgrimage. The program is still in its infancy. Its recent growth nationally is quite evident, and it should continue to grow even more rapidly in future years.

Sir Knight George D. Gilbreath, chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, is a member of Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria, Virginia. He resides at 15221 Jones Lane, Gaithersburg, VA 20878-3716

On the Masonic Newsfront...

Open House In New Mexico

Albuquerque York Rite Masonic Bodies recently held an "open house. The purpose of the program was to inform Master Masons about Royal Arch Masonry, the Royal and Select Masters, and the Knights Templar. The afternoon's program consisted of a tour of the Temple, a lecture, a slide presentation titled "A Desire for Knowledge," and a question and answer period followed by refreshments and fellowship. (Photo and report by Sir Knight H. William Hart.)



Historic Conferral Of The Order Of Malta In Kansas

This fall in the beautiful York Rite Masonic Temple in Wichita, Kansas, occurred a historic conferral of the Order of Malta performed by a select cast before a large audience which represented nearly every part of our nation.

This conferral was held in conjunction with the 77th Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant. While the ladies enjoyed their nationwide meeting, the men attended this special Malta conferral.

The Order of Malta was conferred with great solemnity in full form and with musical accompaniment. The Priory was opened under the skilled direction of Sir Knight Joe N. Randall, Eminent Prior and Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Kansas. After the conferral, the Priory of Knights of Malta was closed in peace and harmony. Special thanks go out to everyone who participated in this historic and very memorable occasion. (submitted by Sir Knight James A. Marples)

Grand Commander Visits Mount Vernon No.73 At Hazleton, PA



At a meeting held this fall, members of Mount Vernon Commandery No. 73, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, were honored by a visit from Sir Knight David L. Kempfer, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. Officers and guests are shown in the picture, left to right: first row: Harry R. Jacobs, Past Commander and Treasurer; Robert Murphy, Senior Warden; Steven G. Krouse, Generalissimo; Donald Leidich, Division No. 7 Commander; William B. Palmer, E. Commander of Mt. Vernon; David L Kempfer, R.E.G.C., Grand Commandery PA; Erroll V. Hawksley, V.E.D.G.C.; John M. Lewis, E.G.Jr.W.; Robert W. Klein, P.C., KTCH; Robert J. McGarry, P.C., Recorder; and Joseph Osilat, Past Division Commander. Second row: Leslie Loomis, P.C. No. 45; Robert A. Stocker, P.C.; Edward Vergari, Captain General; Steven Higgins, D.C. No. 9; Bryan L. Berry, D.C. No. 15; Patrick J. Connor, E.G.W.; Everett D. Decater, P.C. New Hampshire; Nick Felegi, aide to R.E.G.C.; and Edward Collins, E.C. No. 13.

Norfolk Assembly No. 235, S.O.O.B., Virginia -.30th Anniversary

This fall Norfolk Assembly No. 235, Social Order of the Beauceant, Virginia, celebrated the 30th anniversary of their constitution (May 27, 1967). Mrs. Rudolph Diaz; the organizer, first president, and mother of the Assembly; gave a brief history. Eleven of the original signers of the charter were present. Several are still active and are officers. Overall there were twenty-seven members present. Mrs. Timothy Moran, Worthy Second Vice President, read the history of the S.O.O.B., and Mrs. Joseph Posey, Most Worthy Oracle, explained the symbolism of the robe. Charter members are shown in the picture, left to right: Mrs. James Harris, Mrs. Rosewell Garland, Mrs. Willis Payne, Mrs. Leslie Sawyer, Mrs. Bernard Goarheart, Mrs. William Ray, Mrs. Rudolph Diaz, Mrs. William Barnett, Mrs. Charles Downing, Mrs. Stewart Deem, Mrs. James Blanchard.



GRAND MASTER WARD PRESENTS COMPANION OF THE TEMPLE AWARD



At the annual banquet of the Social Order of the Beauceant in Wichita, Kansas, Sir Knight James Ward, the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, presented Mrs. Milton F. Baker, S.W.P., with a Companion of the Temple award for her many years of dedicated service to Masonry. That same evening the S.W.P. presented Sir Knight Ward with a check for \$28,654.58 for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This represents a portion of the monies donated by the ladies of the Beauceant this year.



Tom Thumb



How many of you remember P. T. Barnum and his most famous performer, Tom Thumb? Tom's real name was Charles Stratton. Charles was a member of Hamilton Commandery No. 5 of Bridgeport, Connecticut, where the Barnum Museum is located. A presentation was recently made by the Barnum Festival Committee in honor of Sir Knight Stratton. The picture shows a contingent of Knights Templar marching in the Barnum Festival Parade in Bridgeport

Nevada Masons Celebrate Gridley Days Parade

Although it was raining and cold, more than forty Masons and Eastern Star members gathered in Austin, Nevada, for the Gridley Days parade. For many years the citizens of Austin have honored this man for his exploits with a sack of flour. Nevada's Masons decided to educate them to the fact that Ruel C. Gridley was also a Mason and a Past Master of Lander Lodge No. 8, one of the original Nevada Lodges, chartered October 13, 1864. Below are pictures of the affair and following is a short history of Ruel Colt Gridley.



Masons from all over Nevada—2nd place marching



Past Masters Bill Spahr (left) and Wayne Perkins



Masonic wagon—1st place winner



Bill Spahr, P.M., putting flags on wagon

W. Wayne Perkins also reports: In a continuing effort to bring the old hail back into good condition, Past Master Bill Spahr, myself, and our wives, Betty Sue and Jerrie Lee, traveled to Richmond, CA, to remove a 'gas light' with Masonic emblems from the building that once was Point Richmond Lodge. We also want to thank some men we have never met, Gary Towery for letting me know where the light could be found, John Spahr for surveying the job, and Gus Treuel, who put us in contact with the new owner. We appreciate their help. We had hoped to have it installed on our building for Gridley days, but that did not happen. A wooden plaque with Lender Lodge No. 8, Electra No. 2; O.E.S.; and Austin Rebekah Lodge No. 13 charter dates, meeting day and time was crafted by PM Trent Woods of Tonopah Lodge and will be installed on the front of the building.

Ruel Colt Gridley—Past Master, Lander Lodge No. 8, Nevada

by W. Wayne Perkins, P.G.H.P, P.G.M.—also W.G.P., O.E.S. (Nevada)

We came from Rena, Winnemucca, Tonopah, Yerington, Fallon, Eureka. and Las Vegas to join the parade for Gridley Days. Almost every Masonic body was represented. The Masons took first place in the float and second place in the marching group. We all met in the Lodge after the parade to dry out and have some chili with the fixings to warm the inside. The people of Austin now know that Ruel C. Gridley was a Mason.

The following is a short history of Ruel Colt Gridley and the story about the "Sanitary sack of flour": The following is taken from a paper on Gridley written by a good friend of mine, Robert W. Harrell; he was the Grand High Priest of California while I was Grand High Priest of Nevada in 1995-96. "July 7, 1857 Gridley was one of the twelve Royal Arch Masons who petitioned for a Chapter in Oroville, California He was also the first legally' elected High Priest of the Chapter. Henry Gaston was first elected as High Priest but had not demised from his first Chapter and was therefore not eligible to be a member of Franklin Chapter No. 20, so his office was declared vacated by the Deputy Grand High Priest. As a result, Ruel Gridley was elected.

In 1861 we find Gridley in the grocery business in Austin; silver was discovered there the next year and his business thrived. In March 1864 Gridley was one of the twenty-three Brother Masons who met for the purpose of procuring a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of California to form Lander Lodge of Austin, Nevada, which was chartered on October 13. 1864, and it is still going |

Eighteen of those Brothers were from California. two from Minnesota, and one each from Canada, New York, and the Nevada Territory. Gridley was appointed Senior Deacon and I. S. Titus of El Dorado

Lodge No. 26 of California, the first Worshipful Master under dispensation. Gridley was the-first elected Senior Warden under charter. He was also a charter member of Austin Royal Arch Chapter No. 3, which was chartered June 19, 1868 and surrendered June 19, 1884.

In 1864 the nation was torn asunder by the Civil War, and Gridley, now a successful merchant, had time for politics and ran for mayor of Austin as the Democratic nominee against Republican Dr. Herrick. The contestants agreed that if Herrick lost, he would carry a sack of flour from Clifton to upper Austin, a distance of about one mile and a quarter. If Gridley lost, he would march with the flour from upper Austin to Clifton. In addition, each would have his own marching song. Gridley's would be "Dixie" and Herrick's "Old John Brown."

Gridley lost the April election. The next day he was at his store ready with a fifty-pound sack of flour from General Bidwell's wheat flour mill in Chico, California It was trimmed with flags and ribbons of red, white and blue. The town was ready, too. Thirty-six men on horseback, led by the city officials-elect, began the procession. Ten musicians followed; then Dr. Herrick came carrying Gridley's hat and cane. Gridley, straight, six-foot and shouldering the flour, was next, with his son alongside carrying the American flag; behind them came the Democratic Central Committee, citizens, Indians, and boys.

Along the line of march, spectators cheered, steam whistles blew, the band played. The procession stopped at the Bank Exchange, a saloon. There Gridley, declaring his defeat, presented the sack of flour to Dr. Herrick, who having no use for the flour would not accept it. Gridley then suggested that the sack of flour be auctioned and the money contributed to the United States

Sanitary Commission, a forerunner of the American Red Cross, that aided the Union wounded. By the next day, \$5,335 had been raised for the Sanitary fund.

Gridley was invited to bring his sack of flour to Virginia City, and Samuel Clemens, an old school mate of Gridley's in Hannibal, Missouri, reported in "Roughing It" that a mass meeting was held at the Opera House and Gridley's auction began. But only \$5,000 was raised the first day, falling short of the amount raised in Austin.

The next day a procession of carriages, headed by Gridley and his flour, went to Gold Hill, Silver City, and Dayton, and then returned to Virginia City. According to Clemens, \$40,000 was raised in Virginia City alone that night. Gridley had just begun. He went to Sacramento, San Francisco, St. Louis, and other cities along the way.

By the time he had made the last flour sale, he had been gone from Austin nine months and had raised \$275,000 for the Sanitary fund. Mrs. Gridley later said that the figure was closer to \$324,000.

By the time Gridley had returned to Austin, he had exhausted his won funds for expenses, and the prosperous business he had left declined in his absence in spite of the boom times of the area. His health was failing, too.

In February 1885, Gridley and what appears to be a group of Southern sympathizers signed a petition to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Nevada requesting a dispensation to form a Lodge in Austin to be called Austin Lodge. The petition was presented to Lander Lodge No. 8 requesting their recommendation that a dispensation be granted. It was resolved that the recommendation be granted, and Gridley, at his request, received a demit.

The Lander minutes showed only that peace and harmony prevailed. Nevada historians, however, believe that there might have been some heated discussions. Many

members of Austin Lodge No. 10 were made members of Lander Lodge No. 8 when Austin Lodge surrendered its charter. (Austin Lodge No. 10 was chartered April 12, 1865 and surrendered its charter on September 21, 1871.)

Gridley sold his interest in the store, which bears his name to this day. In 1866 being in poor health, he was carried on a bed over the mountains to Stockton. In Stockton he sold groceries with his friend Henry Sargent. He moved to Paradise City, Stanislaus County, where he lived until his death in November 1870 at the age of forty-one. He left a wife, a son, and three daughters.

According to his wishes, Gridley was buried in Stockton at the Rural Cemetery. On September 9, 1887, a marble monument carved in Italy and twenty feet tall, was unveiled and dedicated. His monument says simply, "The Soldiers' Friend, Ruel Colt Gridley, Erected by Rawlins Post, Grand Army of the Republic."

Companion Harrell gave several more items of information about Austin then and now. Also, he noted that in 1914 at the fiftieth anniversary of Nevada's statehood, Gridley's daughter, Mrs. Josephine Wood, presented the famous flour sack to the Nevada Historical Society for display in its Reno Museum.

He closed his history like this..."we have here a Brother Mason who gave his health and wealth to relieve suffering created by the Civil War. Think of the types of transportation and the distances traveled. What would the amount of money raised for the relief of the Union soldiers amount to today? Ruel Colt Gridley was a Southern sympathizer yet he demonstrated two Masonic brotherly love and relief for the wounded and destitute Union soldier."

W. Wayne Perkins, P.G.H.P., P.M.
1850 Allen Road
Fallon, NV 89406

KTEF Grants Awarded To Six At Wilmer Institute John Hopkins



This year six people at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, were awarded grants of \$20,000 each from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Three grand officers from Knights Templar of Maryland; Harry Miller, Jr., Grand Commander, and Calvin Parker, Grand Captain General, and William Gulley, Grand Secretary/Recorder; came to Wilmer Eye Institute to personally present the checks. Wilmer has received grants in the past, but this year may have broken a record! Shown in the picture, left to right, are: Teri Belicky-Adams, recipient, postdoctoral fellow; Shiming Chen, recipient, postdoctoral fellow; William Gulley, G.S. and Grand Recorder; Harry Miller, Jr., Grand Commander, Maryland; Calvin Parker, G.C.G.; Noriko Esumi, recipient, "Generation and Analysis of a Murine Knock-Out of the RPE-Specific Frazzled Gene"; Joshua Dunaief, recipient, first year resident; Jinghua Chang, "Generation and Analysis of a Murine Knock-out of the Retinal Degeneration B (rdgB) Gene"; Morton Goldberg, M.D., director of Wilmer Eye Institute. The sixth recipient, John Karrison, M.D., was not present.

KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2 1/2-inch diameter, embroidered emblem has been produced for use on mantles and blazers of KCT recipients. Emblem is to be centered on the Cross that adorns the left side of the mantle or ceremonial robe or on the left side (on pocket) of a dress blazer. The same use for the GCT emblem which is bordered with a wreath. The cost of the KCT emblem is \$8.50 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling, and the cost of the GCT emblem is \$10.00 plus \$300 shipping and handling. Contact Jon Patrick Sweet, 7474 Benton Street, Westminster, CO 80003-7001, or phone at (303) 430-8483



Knights Templar License Plates From West Virginia To Benefit KTEF

Let the world know you are a Knight Templar! It may help you get new members. Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling, West Virginia, is selling license plates; with white background, black letters, gold crown, and red cross; for a donation of \$7.00 each. Proceeds go to the KTEF. The plate if mailed is postpaid. Please make check payable to: J. Nelson Deakin, Jr., and mail to 1276 National Road, Apt. 313, Wheeling, WV 26003.



Rainbow Scholarships Presented In Texas

The Grand Assembly of Texas. International Order of Rainbow for Girls, presented three scholarships at the recently completed Grand Assembly held in Beaumont. Katherine Long received the \$2,500 Victor C. And Martha Marie Whitfield Scholarship, Tuna Luther received the \$2,500 Lela and Roy Jones Scholarship, and Stacy Hoefling received the \$500 Past Grand Officers Scholarship.



The selections for the scholarships were based on scholastic record, financial need, and Rainbow service. They are intended to make a significant financial contribution to a graduating senior. These three recipients were selected because of their superb qualifications, extraordinary Rainbow service, and well-defined financial need.

The Victor C. and Martha Marie Whitfield Scholarship was established to honor the Whitfields for their many years of Rainbow service. Victor Whitfield served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas in 1953-54. He later served as Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas in 1958. Mrs. Whitfield began her Rainbow service as Supreme Duputy in Texas in 1943.

The Lela and Roy Jones Scholarship was established to honor the Jones for their many years of service to Rainbow. The past grand officers established their scholarship to honor Mrs. Pearl Mills, Supreme Chaplain and Supreme Inspector in Texas.

Pictured, left to right, are: Mrs. Marlene Dibrell, Grand Committee, the Victor C. and Martha Marie Whitfield Scholarship Fund and the W. Mark Sexson Loan Fund; Miss Katherine Long, Del Rio Assembly No. 351; Miss Tina Luther, Harlandale Assembly No. 139; Mrs. Shirley Ferguson, Grand Committee, the Lela and Roy Jones Scholarship Fund. For more information: David B. Dibrell; (972) 931-7699 (H); (800) 527-0979, ext. 212 (6)

DeMolay Knighthood In New Mexico



The Order of Knighthood is an advanced degree for members of the Order of DeMolay who are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. This past August, the biannual investiture of W. Carlos Powell Priory took place in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Seen standing within the Circle of Lights, left to right, are: Sir Knight Wesley D. Thornton, Deputy member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, and director of Knighthood for DeMolay in New Mexico; James D. Fisk, new member; Kris

W. Woodward, Squire Commander; Josef A. Hart, Illustrious Knight Commander; Stephen A. Sparks, Page Commander; Andrew G. Thornton, new member; Brother G. Wayne Morrison, P.M., Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. (submitted by Sir Knight H. William Hart)

Recipients Of The Grand Encampment Membership Jewel



264. Malley Johnston, St. Aldemar Commandery No. 3, Columbus, GA. 10-14-97.
265. Joseph B. Chambers, Sr., St. Omer Commandery No. 2, Macon, CA. 10-21-97.
266. Charles D. Strickland, St. Bernard Commandery No. 25, Covington, GA. 10-21-97.
267. John A. Wages., St. Bernard Commandery No. 25, Covington, GA. 10-21-97.
268. Reed S. Britt, Jr., Arnold de Troye Commandery No. 31, Buford, GA. 10-21-97.
269. Robert L Gill, Waycross Commandery No. 36, Waycross, GA. 10-21-97.
270. Elliot P. Ham, Jr., Waycross Commandery No. 36, Waycross, GA. 10-21-97.
271. Canton Q. Holland, Waycross Commandery No. 36, Waycross, GA. 10-21-97.
272. Caton Langston, Malta Commandery No. 12, Lake Charles, LA. 10-24-97.
273. Timothy J. Henwood, Hugh do Payens Commandery No. 1, Little Rock, AR. 10-27-97.
274. V. V. Jones, Godfrey do Bouillon Commandery No. 14, Athens, GA. 11-7-97.

The Blending Of The Christmas Season

December colors the hills and valleys with an array of Christmas hues; the festive green and red, the silver, the white, and the gold.

The bringing of green indoors for winter festivals is an ancient custom. The Romans presented each other with green branches for good luck in the new year. Isaiah wrote: "The glory of Lebanon shall come into thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary." To Christians, the holly became sacred as a symbol of the chaste maiden, Mary, Mother of Christ in whose being glowed a sacred fire. To some, its berries symbolized the blood of the Savior, for the crown of thorns was thought to have been woven from it. Legend says that the berries were originally white and then turned red after the Crucifixion.

In Italy, the ground ivy, with its perfumed, heart-shaped leaves, was thought to be "where God has walked."

In England, many legends are entwined about the Glastonbury thorns. Because it blooms in the spring and then, briefly, again at Christmas time, one of the most popular is that its winter blooming is mindful of our Lord. The fragrant rosemary, used little in this country but extensively in England, was thought to have acquired its aromatic qualities when the swaddling clothes of the Infant Jesus were hung upon it.

The bay tree is of the laurel family and is thought to be forever safe from lightning, because it sheltered the Holy Family during a thunderstorm. Its leaves are used for Christmas decoration, and its berries to give fragrance to Christmas candles.

And for the Christmas season, the poinsettia reigns supreme. The bright red bracts and the deep green leaves represent the Christmas colors in a cheerful and striking fashion, and the blooms remain for a surprisingly long period indoors. The plant is a hardy natural of Mexico, where it is also used as a Christmas decoration. The striking blooms caught the attention of our first minister to Mexico, Dr. Joel Poinsettia. He sent some cuttings to a nurseryman in Philadelphia in 1828. The species proved to be very acceptable as a potted plant and later was named in his honor.

As the striking colors of the several flowers are blended together and used to celebrate the season, so also do all the ethnic peoples of the world blend together at this time of year to celebrate the birth of our Blessed Savior, born in a stable, who came to speak to multitudes about freedom and justice and fundamental rights. One who spoke in a simple tongue in terms of the lilies of the field. But it is His simple words that endure, and it is the Birth in the stable that we solemnly commemorate. Robert M. Ohman, Grand Commander of Virginia 8126 Old Ocean View Road, Norfolk, VA 23518-2747

*To Each Sir Knight and His Loved Ones...
Our Wishes for Safe and Happy Holidays!
...the Staff of the Grand Encampment*



The Grand Encampment staff persons are, left to right: top: Sir Knight Charles R. Neumann, Right Eminent Grand Recorder, and Sir Knight James O. Potter, comptroller; middle: Karla Neumann, accounting and database supervisor, and Sylvia Ericksen, database operator; bottom: Joan Morton, assistant editor, and Bessie Cooper, word processor.



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.

For sale: silver non-voting delegate badges from the 55th Triennial held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1962 \$5.00 each and proceeds to be split between Eye Foundation and Arkansas' Holy Land Pilgrimage program. W. E. St. John, Grand Recorder P.O. Box 7653; Little Rock AR 72217; (501)227-6846.

For sale: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; sizes: 44 short, 44X long, and 46 short. \$23.00 Includes shipping and handling. 10% of all sales will be donated to KTEF. General Merchandise Company; 13690 Broad Street, S. W; Pataskala, OH 43062, (614) 927-7073.

For sale: new C. P.O. coats, polyester/wool, summer weight, sizes: 42S and 44XL. \$20.00 each plus S & H. Also, used chapeaux, size 7 with new plumes. A percentage will be donated to KTEF or HLP. John Myers, 2120 N. SR. 127, Angola, IN 46708, (219) 665-2797.

Wanted: Knight Templar license plate, made of pewter. Send to Gene O. Light, 3118 James Buchanan Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022-3101, (717) 361-50.

Seeking to locale grandfather's Templar sword. Deceased Colorado Knight Templar was Albert Louis Stickles. Please contact Albert Louis Stickles III, 270 Columbus Way, Marco Island, FL 34145.

Help! My wife is engaged in autumn housekeeping and says I must pair with my Knight Templar periodical collection. It is all packaged and ready to ship. I will send anywhere in return for postage, fourth class. Weight: about ten pounds. Paul A. Choate, P.O. Box 2294, Philadelphia, PA 19100-'94.

Needed: Size 48 long uniform jacket for Commandery. Larry Haynes, 4639 South State Route 159, Glen Carbon, IL 62034, (618) 288-3918.

Fate Masonic Lodge No. 802, A.F. & A.M., Fate, Texas, has a supply of 100th anniversary antique bronze coins for sale. It is 1.585 inches diameter with reeded edge, 3 m thick or nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ Inch. Face of coin has "Fate Masonic Lodge No. 802, A.F. & A.M." on border, very center has a star, very center

of star has square and compass, with wreaths outside of coin and banners "1896-1996." Bottom of coin below on border has the word "centennial." Reverse has square and compass In center with working toots around. Price is \$5.00 and \$1.00 postage. Checks or money orders payable to Joseph Ray Moran, Sec. and send to him at P.O. Box 293, Rockwall, TX 75087.

Pulaski Royal Arch Chapter No. 39, Pulaski, Virginia, has a supply of 100th anniversary antique bronze coins for sale. Coin measures 125 inches in diameter. Face has 'Respect for the Past, Confidence In the Future,' circled around outside edge with 100th anniversary" In middle; reverse has "Pulaski Royal Arch, Pulaski, Virginia,' circled on edge with Chapter No. 39, 1896-1996" in middle. \$5.40 each includes postage, etc. Checks or money orders to Pulaski Royal Arch Chapter No. 39 and send to A. J. Spradlin, PHP; P.O. Box 396; Dublin; VA 24084.

The three Lodge rooms dedicated by a special Communication of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was held on Saturday, May 3, 1997. Brother Edward O. Weisser, R.W. Grand Master, presided with the Grand Lodge officers at this historic event, which was a first in PA history - three rooms dedicated at the same time. The U.S. Post Office issued a beautiful set of 27 different commemorative stamped cachet envelopes for this event; with each envelope having one 32-cent stamp commemorating different non-Masonic historical events that happened in the USA complete set or individual envelopes can be purchased at \$5.50 per envelope. Make out check to Masonic Fund Society, Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

For sale: 125th anniversary pins. Help celebrate with us, Westmoreland Lodge No. 518 of Pennsylvania. It's keystone shaped. This is the home Lodge of the R.W. Grand Master of PA. \$4.00 ppd. or 2 for \$7.00 ppd. Checks to Westmoreland Lodge No. 518. Send to G. A. Sutherland, R. D. Na 11, Box 711, Greensburg, PA 15601-9142.

For sale: In Memoriam booklet, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", from Blue Lodge to family of deceased Brother. It has card stock cover with 5 parchment-like pages including

Personal history page. The Lodge Memorial series Masonic sympathies and convictions in 2 1/2 pages, and there is a signature page for Brethren. Quality presentation for family, especially U no Masonic service or Brother lived away. \$3.75 each Including postage or ten for \$23.50. Satisfaction or refund. A Connecticut Brother replied: "Definitely an enrichment to our Fraternity." Check to Monument Lodge, P.O. Box 743, Houlton, ME 04730.

Do you keep a library on Masonic history? Lodge No. 1Z Austin, Texas, has written a history book just for you. It contains 460 pages and toils the annals of this great Lodge. The author will autograph your book. Send \$17.50 plus \$5.00 S & H to Austin Lodge No. 12 A.F & AM.; P.O. Box 5150 Austin; 1X 78763.

For sale: S.O.O.B. note stationery, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" 8 notes and 8 matching envelopes, with gold crown and red cross emblem and SOOB In black letters on front: \$5.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Percentage of all sales donated to KTEF. Check payable to S.O.O.B. Waco Assembly No. 199. Mail to Mrs. John C. Buckles, 5719 Roxanne Drive, Waco, TX 76710-5731. or call (254) 741-1220.

Sprig of Acacia lapel pins: Each handcrafted pin is sterling silver with a 241< gold vermeil. Also available In an antiqued silver finish. Price is only \$9.00 per pin including S & H. 10% of proceeds will benefit the KTEF. These unique pins are available only through Processional Creations Unlimited, 1630 Orchard HAD Road, Cheshire, CT 96410-3728, (203) 272-7579.

Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 24 years, and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. These one day will end 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 coiled. I will gladly exchange. I will answer all letters. Maurice Storck Sr.; 775 W Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson AZ 85705; (520) 868-7585.

Wanted: Match and Medicine stamp; Scott #RO106iChailles S. Hale, the set of four Space stamps printed In 1972 in Honduras with Masonic symbols on them. Also, will consider buying any antique Masonic items. Steve Kapp, 301 IS, P.S.C. 76 Box 8285, APO AP 96319-8285, USA or can reach at kaibo@mswo.attnet.orp

For sale: Dudley watch 12-No. 2 with yellow-gold filling, Hunter back, approximately made 1924, serial number 3557. Number of Jewels Is 19, and this has an original, gold-colored Arabic dial signed Dudley. it is in excellent condition and working condition. John P Mangos, 1447 Alexander Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

New! Scottish Rite ring with doe eagle on top, trowel on one side and plumb on other. Also, available are Past Master and Blue Lodge rings with PM or BL logo on top, trowel on one side, 2-ball cone on other. All three are signet style, durable, yet elegant in solid chrome/nickel alloy. Silver color only, \$99.00 plus Ohio tax and \$4.00 S & H. Whole sizes 7-16. Also, 101< gold for \$395.00, any size. 10% of profits to KTEF. Check or MasterCard/Visa Into to Auratech Design, P.O. Box 119, & Clarksville, OH 43950.

For sale: three adjacent grave sites in the Masonic section of Killeen, Texas, Memorial Perk. Sites include headstones and crypts. Must sell and will negotiate and meet best offer will sell below cost. Sites are located in the heart of other Masonic sites. A. fl Natho, 1509 Searcy Dave, Kitleon, TX 76543, (254) 699-2336.

The original Masonic 'two bat' walking cane Is now available directly to you from Walking Wood Enterprises, Inc. This is a beautiful and functional work of art that is both full of Masonic symbolism and is allegorically correct. The cane Is 36 inches long, made of red oak, and coated six times with a clear polyurethane. This is the same cane seen in most of the Masonic supply houses in the U.S.A. The cost of the cane is \$60.00 plus \$8.95 S & H. On behalf of my wife and many other people with the disease Lupus, we are donating \$5.00 for Lupus research from every cane sold. Send name, address, phone number and quantity wanted, along with check or money order, to Walking Wood Enterprises, Inc.; P.O. Box 2439; Titusville; Fl. 32781. Allow 6 weeks for delivery.

Wanted: Blue Lodge Past Master's Jewel: traditional dangle type in gold. Will pay reasonable price. J. A. Dion, Box 5, South Woodstock, VT 05071-0035.

We are trying to find out where we can purchase a York Rite perpetual funeral wreath. We would appreciate it if you can help us. Send into to Jack C. Marlow, PI-LP; P.O. Box 747; Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-0747.

My company and I will donate 10% of the commission on any real estate transaction originating from this ad to the KTEF, be it purchasing a home, vacant land, etc., or selling property. Working for Coldwell Banker allows me to service locations all over the United States and the world. Contact Bit Schnalke, Coldwell Banker Major League Realty, Inc.; Residential Real Estate; 1625 Taylor Road, Suite B; Daytona Beach; FL 32124; 1-800 752-5021.

Do you remember Yo Yo the Clown? Yo Yo was eighty-six on his birthday, August 21, 1997, and we think he would love to hear from you Write Harry Francis Yeoman, 212 Metuchen Avenue, Woodbridge, NY 07095. There are many Brothers all wround the country who would appreciate your greetings by mail or something more personal. Be with them and with others this holiday season.

Wanted: cards or letters from former fellow officers or enlisted personnel who served with me at the German P.O.W. camp, Camp Breckinridge, KY, 1943-47. If you know the status (living or dead) of other comrades, their addresses, and/or phone numbers, I'd appreciate that information. (Maj.) Fred Par. her, 202 W. Schreyer Place, Columbus, OH 43214, (614) 26.2-1809.

The U.S.S. Kankakee was commissioned In 1942, decommissioned in 1968, and sold for scrapping In 1977. Reunion: U.S.S. Kankakee (A039), June 18-22, 1998, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Contact Roy Stewart, 523 Mockingbird Drive, Long Beach, MS 39560, (228) 864-3010.

A Miracle from Heaven

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph
With the heavenly host
Fear not to take unto thee thy wife Mary
Who is conceived with child by the Holy
Ghost

Behold a virgin shall bear a Son
Jesus Christ his name will be
He shall save his people from their sins
Throughout all eternity

Mary walked in grace and beauty
She had a special task to do
Chosen by God to give birth to Jesus Christ
the Savior
He would live and die In this world for you

Her task was not an easy one
No special favors were given
The Immaculate Conception
A miracle from heaven

Joseph and his wife Mary
The earthly parents of Jesus Christ our Lord
First human family of earth divine
They are first holy family with the
Saints in heaven.

Susanna Burton Goehler (Campbell) 2160
W. Beaumont Lane Lecanto, FL 34611
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Library of Poetry*