Brother John Llewellyn Lewis: American Labor Leader
His story starts on page 9.
What an honor to be asked by the Most Eminent Grand Master, James M. Ward, to bring a message from the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine to the Knight Templar magazine! Sir Knight Ward indicated that this might be a "first" in that no other Grand Sovereign has ever been requested to submit a message for the magazine, even though our bodies are so closely related. Yes, we are very intimately related ... so much so that ours is a "Common Cause." Both of these great bodies share a common purpose, similar teachings, and the same ultimate goals.

The Red Cross of Constantine may be one of the best kept secrets of Masonry, though that is not our intention. What appears as secrecy is merely the result of being an honorary and invitational organization; there is hesitancy on the part of its members to flaunt their membership before those not yet invited. Ours is a York Rite body, and some have referred to it as the 33rd of the York Rite, it being one of the highest honors in York Rite Masonry. Actually, the qualifications or requirements for membership are very few, for to be eligible for consideration a man must only be a Royal Arch Mason and a dedicated Christian. There is no requirement that he be a member of the Council or the Commandery. The Common Cause" mentioned above lies in the requirement that he be a dedicated Christian, which we know is the status of every true Christian Sir Knight, and the goal of both of our bodies is to promote the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. In the Red Cross we lift up our Sovereign Redeemer and share the motto, "In Hoc Signo Vinces," along with Sir Knights everywhere.

We are interested in quality rather than quantity, our Conclaves being limited in the number of members they may have, and those invited are selected more for their Christian dedication than for how many Masonic bodies they belong to. Thus the Red Cross of Constantine and the Knights Templar share a like purpose - a common cause - the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. May both of our organizations continue to prosper and carry out the goals to which we aspire and profess. We seek God's richest blessing on the Grand Encampment and all Sir Knights, and we join hands with you in the great "Common Cause."

Sir Knight Thomas C. Yantis, KGC
Grand Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine
Knight Templar
"The Magazine for York Rite Masons - and Others, too"

JUNE: This month the Grand Master’s page features greetings from the Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, Sir Knight Thomas C. Yantis. The Annual Voluntary Campaign is over, but the need continues. Read Sir Knight Garnes’ article on page 5 for another way you can ‘help others to see.’ Our cover story by Sir Knight Ivan Tribe celebrates the life of longtime labor leader, John L. Lewis. Don’t miss this insightful story of a remarkable Mason, starting on page 9. And speaking of remarkable Masons, we finish Sir Knight Joseph Bennett's story of Sir Knight Joe Sewell, baseball superstar, which starts on page 25. And there is much more of interest including an informative article about Lodge furniture by Sir Knight James E. Moore.

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June 1998

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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.
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.

Attention: all Grand Commanders and all Deputy Grand Commanders who will be In office as Grand Commanders on November 1, 1998; or Grand Recorders: In the upcoming November issue, Knight Templar magazine will again present pictures of those Sir Knights who are Grand Commanders on November 1. Please provide us with a photograph of yourself in uniform by September 10, 1998. If your Installation will be in late September or October, order your photo NOW or it will arrive too late for inclusion in the November Issue.

Photos may be of any size (they will be reduced as in previous years), preferably black and white of good, clear quality. Color is acceptable. Do not send Polaroid prints as they do not reproduce well. We only use head shots and jewels of office do not appear. Indicate your name and state on the back of the photograph. Photos are requested by September 10, 1998. After that date, it may not be possible to include them in the November magazine.

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.

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 Need Continues
And Our Opportunity
To Serve Our Fellow Man
Is Always Present

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

On behalf of the Trustees of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, inc., I wish to express our thanks to all those who helped in any way during the 30th Annual Voluntary Campaign. We continue to strive to reach our goal, and someday we will exceed that goal. All it takes is the small effort on the part of every member who was dubbed a Sir Knight in the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple. It is unfortunate that all the members of our order are not aware of the need and great work of our Foundation.

During the 30th Voluntary Campaign we were blessed with large bequests from wills, and we hope that our present members recognize the importance of these bequests. In most cases these bequests came from wills made by dedicated Sir Knights many years ago because they believed that the Gift of Sight" is important to every human being. Will the Sir Knights of today, as well as those being Knighted in the future, have the same feeling of Charity for those in need that are helped today through the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.? Every Sir Knight is asked to consider the thoughts in the remark that follows:

Have You Considered a Gift or Bequest to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. In your Will?

Many people have the idea that only the very wealthy have "estates" and that "estate planning" is only for the very rich. EVERYONE has an estate and should have a WILL, and every estate is different.

The day comes when one must plan the disposition of the estate acquired during a lifetime. Your estate may be larger than you think. The law not only permits but also encourages everyone to have a WILL because if a person dies without a WILL, the state laws govern the disposition of the property, and taxes make a large dent in the total estate. Settling an estate is much easier for everyone when you have a WILL.

When making a WILL, you can dictate who is to receive a portion of the estate. One of the best choices you can make that will be an ongoing help to those in need is to specify that a portion of your estate is to go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation being a tax-deductible charity helps to reduce your estate taxes. Why not take advantage of the tax benefits allowed by law?

If you believe in the purpose and goals of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. strongly enough to support it with your funds and donations, you should consider taking advantage of the tax deduction and help perpetuate YOUR CHARITY for future generations.

Gifts of Cash, Real Estate, and Securities are popular methods of giving today. Gifts of Life Insurance are frequently given to the Foundation; you simply name the Knights Templar Eye.
If you desire in planning your estate to make a gift to be used by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., for its charitable program, regardless of the form which your gift may take, the proper words to be used are that the gift is made to "the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc."

Remember, a person making a bequest or gift does not have to be a Sir Knight. The person can be a widow or a friend of Templary who wants to have a part in "helping others to see."

For assistance in preparing a WILL or making a GIFT, contact the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 5097 North Elston Avenue, Suite 100, Chicago, IL 60630-2460, Phone: (773) 205-3838, Fax (773) 205-1689. Your questions will be answered promptly.

Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes, Honorary Past Department Commander and P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, was the Campaign Chairman of the 30th Annual Voluntary Campaign and a member of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. He resides at 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944; Send e-mail to: cagarnes@aol.com

Take A Little Time For The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Show your support by wearing a watch with the KTEF logo. All watches are gold electroplated, and have precision metal quartz movement, scratchproof mineral crystal, long-life silver oxide battery, stainless steel case back, and genuine leather band. Your donation of $25.00 per watch includes shipping and handling. Each Sir Knight will receive credit for at least a $10.00 donation for each watch (the goal per member in the 30th Voluntary Campaign). His Commandery will receive credit in the 30th Voluntary Campaign. (The writer has worn one for four years without repair, and like the Energizer Bunny it's still going!)

Name: __________________________ Address: ________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___ Zip Code: ___ ___ ___ ___
Commandery Name: _______________ No. ______ State: ___ ___
Men's _____ Ladies: __________________________
Send check to: Charles A. Garnes, Trustee; 1700 Jamestown Place; Pittsburgh; PA 15235-4944. Allow three weeks for delivery.
In Memoriam

Edward F. Wehrbein
Nebraska
Grand Commander-1959
Born September 4, 1915
Died March 5, 1998

Lloyd B. Tanner, Jr.
Mississippi
Grand Commander-1977
Born January 1, 1938
Died March 26, 1998

B. Kendall Pitkln
Arizona
Grand Commander-1984
Born October 6, 1912
Died April 6, 1998

Peter C. Burt
Nebraska
Grand Commander-1970
Born May 14, 1918
Died April 7, 1998

Grand Commander's Club

No. 100,811-Jon L. Schmidt (IA)
No. 100,812-Charles F. Dark (PA)
No. 100,813-Henry Clayton, Jr. (CA)
No. 100,814-Daniel Ebbighausen (VT)
No. 100,815-Thomas F. Craig (AL)
No. 100,816-Terry G. McAnanny (WY)
No. 100,817-8. Michael Brain (IA)
No. 100,818-William Bobe (NY)
No. 100,819-Lawrence E. Bodine (KS)
No. 100,820-F. Robert Witmyer (PA)
No. 100,821-David L. Canaday (GA)
No. 100,822-Earl D. Barlow (MS)
No. 100,823-Leslie C. Ricketts (GA)
No. 100,824-Troy Edward Wise, Sr. (GA)
No. 100,825-Larry Wayne Latham, Sr. (GA)
No. 100,826-William Richard Warren (GA)
No. 100,827-Robert E. Roberts (GA)
No. 100,828-David MacCallum (CA)
No. 100,829-John D. Denton (VA)
No. 100,830-Kenneth R. Geary (PA)
No. 100,831-Buy R. Ross (CA)
No. 100,832-Willard E. Hart (KY)
No. 100,833-Harold M. Hand (CA)
No. 100,834-J. Michael Johnson (IA)
No. 100,835-Eric A. Meace (SC)
No. 100,836-in honor of Mary Ynesta by Jeffrey C. Davies (TX)
No. 100,837-Richard Wilcox Burow (TN)
No. 100,838-William Timothy McGlothlin (TN)
No. 100,839-Darrell O. Atkin (FL)
No. 100,840-Stephen G. Libby (IA)
No. 100,841-Robert C. Oswald (AR)
No. 100,842-Paul William Sherwood (NH)
No. 100,843-David W. Engle (VA)
No. 100,844-Harry R. Fritsche (MD)
No. 100,845-John L. Winkelman (PA)
No. 100,846-Charles I. Andress (KS)
No. 100,847-Donald L. Trabue (MO)
No. 100,848-Burney Dent Morriss (TN)
No. 100,849-Bert D. Morgan (OH)
No. 100,850-Jeffry C. Ehrman (PA)
No. 100,851-James W. Anderson II (PA)
No. 100,852-Jacob S. Albright (PA)
No. 100,853-Robert M. Armstrong (PA)
No. 100,854-Charles E. Rhoads (PA)
No. 100,855-George C. Gensamer (PA)
No. 100,856-Kurt R. Tesche (PA)
No. 100,857-William R. Werner (PA)
No. 100,858-Craig T. Kelsey (PA)
No. 100,859-Edward W. Davenport, Jr. (PA)
No. 100,860-Charles L. Stuckey (OK)
No. 100,861-Emmett R. Mackenzie (CO)
No. 100,862-Jans J. Scheurer (NV)
No. 100,863-David W. Tipton (TN)
No. 100,864-Orville Robert Armstrong (TN)
No. 100,865-William Murphy Houston (GA)

Grand Master's Club

No. 3,022-Kenneth E. Rudolph (FL)
No. 3,023-in honor of James Morris Ward M.E.G.M., by Grady Partain (MS)
No. 3,024-Laurence C. Gilbert (OH)
No. 3,025-John D. Millichamp (MI)
No. 3,026-in honor of Wesley Albert Perkins by Lloyd Wesley Perkins (TX)
No. 3,027-in memory of Russell Anton Vedoe (MA/RI)
No. 3,028-in honor of Gaynell Casto Folden by Wayne G. Casto (WV)
No. 3,029-Daniel E. Lesage (WA)
No. 3,030-Steven Edward Blanton (GA)
No. 3,031-Charles B. Stephens (GA)
No. 3,032-Ralph Lafayette McDaniel (GA)
No. 3,033-In honor of Robert F. Cronk (IL)
No. 3,034-Paul E. Dunaway (OH)
No. 3,035-in honor of Jefferson B. Marrett (GA)
No. 3,036-M. David MacCallum (CA)
No. 3,037-in honor of Harold K. Van Horn by Phyllis L. Van Horn (CT)
No. 3,038-Hugh W. McGraw (GA)
No. 3,039-Wayne A. Syverson (IA)
No. 3,040-Donald B. Grauberger (CO)
No. 3,041-Robert L. Sage (CO)

June 1998
No. 3,042-Norman F. Campo (WA)
No. 3,043-Jeffrey Hayward Adams (MA/RI)
No. 3,044-Charles A. Games (PA)
No. 3,045-John E. McKinney (GA)
No. 3,046-Harry E. Astin (GA)
No. 3,047-W. Scott Stoner (PA)
No. 3,048-Kermit E. Browning (GA)

How to join: Any individual may send a check in the amount of $100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution of $100 or more will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of $100 or more. Once contributions total $1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and there is Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 100; Chicago; IL 60630-2460; (773) 205-3838

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
Thirtieth Voluntary Campaign

Campaign report by Grand Commanderies for KTEF Officers and Trustees for the week ending May 8, 1998. The total amount contributed to date is $794,933.01.

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<th>State/Region</th>
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June 1998
The annals of American labor have produced a number of charismatic leaders, at least two of whom were Masons. Samuel Gompers co-founded and long directed the American Federation of Labor during its early decades. Raised in Dawson Lodge No. 16, in Washington, D.C. on May 9, 1904, Gompers held the fraternity in high esteem. According to biographer Harold Livesay, Gompers died with his hand held in a Masonic grip by James Duncan, head of the Granite Cutters' Union. The other major figure, John L. Lewis, left no record of his view of Masonry but joined at an earlier age and held membership longer. Lewis is remembered today as a co-founder of the CIO and especially for his forty years as President of the United Mine Workers' of America.

John Llewellyn Lewis was born in the small coal camp of Cleveland, Iowa, on February 12, 1880. His parents, Thomas and Louisa Watkins Lewis, had migrated to America only a few years before from their homeland in Wales. Like many other Welsh immigrants to America, the Lewis and Watkins clans gravitated toward mining communities, and the south central Iowa fields had opened only in 1876. The family lived a typical late 19th century working class existence, moving frequently as Tom Lewis shifted his labors from one mine to another, and usually on the edge of poverty. To the degree that young John had a hometown, it would be the somewhat larger county seat town of Lucas. The eldest child in the family, young John had four younger siblings who survived infancy. For a time they lived in Des Moines, where Lewis got in three and a half years of high school, an above average education for his day.

About 1897, the Lewis family moved back to Lucas. Young John divided his labors between farm and mine (His occupation is listed as "farm laborer" in the 1900 census.) and apparently engaged in amateur theatrics. In 1902, he joined Good Shepherd Lodge No. 414, F. & A.M., in Lucas. Afterward, the young adult wandered about in the West for a time, being on the scene at the time of a major mine disaster in 1903 at Hanna, Wyoming. By the end of 1905, Lewis returned to Lucas and went back to work in the mines.

John Lewis was an active member of Good Shepherd Lodge in this period and rose to the office of Junior Warden in 1907. On June 5 of that year, he married Myrta Bell, the daughter of a local physician and Master of the aforementioned lodge. Prior to her marriage, Myrta had taught school and attended Drake University. Otherwise, 1907 was not a good year for Lewis as he ran for mayor of Lucas and lost. He also had entered into a feed and grain business that failed with a partner named Brown. In the spring of 1908, John L. and Myrta Lewis left Iowa for Panama, Illinois, a new coal camp. A few weeks later other family members also moved to the Illinois town.

In Panama, Union Local 1475 soon proved to be a vehicle for Lewis' advancement in the labor movement. Within a year of his removal to Illinois, he had become president of the local. In 1911, he accepted
a position as an organizer for the A.F. of L. based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Somewhat later, he was appointed statistician for the U.M.W. of A., and in July 1917 vice president of the union, enjoying the favor of Union President John White. When White became a member and administrator of the Federal Fuel Board in October 1917, the popular but ineffectual Frank Hayes became president and Lewis first vice president. As Hayes' health and drinking problems increased, Lewis took leadership responsibility from March 1919 and became active president on January 1, 1920. Elected to the position later that year, John L. Lewis would head the U.M.W. until his retirement in mid-January 1960.

The United Mine Workers union that John L. Lewis had inherited enjoyed unprecedented prosperity during World War I. As a result, union membership normally about 200,000 to 250,000 soared to just over a half million. The aftermath, however, led to declining demands for coal and a shrinking market. Union leadership struggled to maintain their wartime gains in a much weaker position. In addition, Lewis had to contend with numerous internal critics within his U.M.W. ranks and in the labor movement as a whole. Overall, one can conclude that John L. had more success at dealing with his rivals than in his efforts to stabilize market demands and the wage and price structure in the troubled coal industry.

The Lewis effort to maintain the position of miners was embodied in the February 1924 "Jacksonville Agreement," that called for retaining a $7.50 daily wage to union miners for the next three years. At the time the bargain was hailed as a great advancement in the course of industrial democracy. Knowing that it would be difficult for all mine operators to comply with this contract, Lewis apparently hoped that it would force marginal mines to close and their work force to seek employment elsewhere, while the stronger players would continue to honor the agreement.

What happened, however, was an increasing shift of the coal business to non-union mines in the South. In addition some northern operators violated their contracts. By 1927 the U.M.W. was in serious trouble, and with the onset of the Great Depression conditions worsened. Union membership sank to a twentieth century low of 85,000 with 53,000 of those being in Illinois.

With the near collapse of the United Mine Workers, others attempted to fill the gap but with relatively little success. A Communist group, the National Miners' Union, attempted to organize workers and lead a strike, but in the long run about their only legacy came in the form of several noted protest folk songs. In Illinois the Reorganized United Mine Workers led by John Walker, Adolph Germer, and Frank Farrington flourished for a time. In embattled West Virginia, Frank Keeney led the West Virginia Miners' Union, and in 1932 another Illinois group organized the Progressive Miners' Union. However, none
could create work where none existed, and eventually the United Mine Workers and John L. Lewis outlasted them all.

The recovery of the U.M.W. tended to be closely linked to Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and the National Industrial Recovery Act. Although John L. Lewis had given his political endorsement to Republican presidential nominees through the twenties and to Herbert Hoover's failed reelection bid in 1932, he also generally welcomed New Deal initiatives in labor policy. The N.R.A. and the later Wagner Act gave a degree of shelter to the United Mine Workers that had not existed earlier. As a result, their membership climbed again in the middle and later thirties. In fact, Lewis was so elated with New Deal labor policies that he endorsed F.D.R. for a second term in 1936, the only time he ever endorsed a Democratic presidential nominee.

During his years in service to the U.M.W., Lewis shifted his residence and his Masonic membership. In the period when the union headquarters was located in Indianapolis, Indiana, John L. shifted his lodge, affiliating in 1919 with Ancient Landmarks Lodge No. 319 in Indianapolis. Ironically, the mine leader made his residence in Springfield, Illinois, where he lived in a large brick home. In 1934 the U.M.W. shifted its main office to Washington, D.C., and the Lewis family bought a home in suburban Alexandria, Virginia. By that time the Lewises had a daughter Kathryn born in 1911 and a son John, Jr., born in 1918. An older daughter Mary Margaret had died at the age of seven in 1917. Oddly enough, when the union left Indianapolis, John L. Lewis eventually moved his lodge membership back to Lucas in 1946. Good Shepherd Lodge no longer existed, and Lewis affiliated with Paul Revere Lodge No. 638. He remained a member there until he died.

Beginning in 1935, the charismatic leader led in the formation of the Committee for Industrial Organization within the American Federation of Labor. This action sparked confrontation within the labor movement that included Lewis having an exchange of fisticuffs with William Huteson of the Carpenters' Union. Favoring the concept of industrial unionism over craft unionism, the CIO enjoyed success in organizing auto, rubber, and steel workers. In 1938, he led the CIO unions out of the AFL, changing their name to Congress of Industrial Organizations and also served as their president.

In 1940, John L. Lewis returned to the GOP fold breaking with F.D.R. over the third term issue and endorsing Republican Wendell Willkie. He experienced less success in getting the rank and file union members to follow his lead. After Wilkie's loss, Lewis resigned as president of the CIO, while retaining U.M.W. leadership.

Lewis showed himself to be something of an isolationist in the immediate pre-World War II period. During the war, he led his union out on strike more than once and often displayed a strong degree of independence during the war and into the post war years as well. In 1946, he clashed with the Truman Administration on several occasions prompting the president to make his famous remark that "I wouldn't appoint John L. Lewis dog catcher." Lewis' equally famous reply (too long to be quoted here) suggests that Lewis was extremely wary of the growth of the Federal bureaucracy.

By the fifties, Lewis was not only increasingly showing his ego, but also he was leading a union that again faced a declining membership. Americans turned to natural gas and other sources of fuel, and many mines closed, never to reopen. As in the twenties, the U.M.W. experienced serious problems. Once flourishing coal camps that dotted the hillsides and valleys in West Virginia and other Appalachian states became centers of chronic poverty and unemployment. Nearly eighty, the old war horse of the American labor movement retired in January 1960 from an organization he had led through good times and bad for some
forty years. He continued, however, to oversee the union's retirement and welfare fund. Several weeks after his eighty-ninth birthday, Lewis died on June 11, 1969.

The Lewis legacy proved to be a mixed one. He had, of course, achieved a great deal for rank and file miners and provided able leadership of the early CIO, but also, he had some failures and some victories such as the Jacksonville Agreement that in practice had more often than not proven hollow. Some of his efforts such as the 1942 plan to unionize the nation's three million dairy farmers got nowhere. Perhaps, his greatest shortcoming was in not training an adequate future leadership in the U.M.W. His immediate successor, the aging Thomas Kennedy, soon died and the once proud union fell into the hands of the corrupt and incompetent W. A. "Tony" Boyle. Still, at his death few would have disagreed with the comment of steel workers' leader, David McDonald, "In the field of labor, he was the greatest Roman of them all." Since 1969, his image may be a bit more tarnished, but the sixty-seven year Mason with the big bushy eyebrows typified the labor movement in his era as did no other man.

Bibliography

Department Conferences - 1998

Southeastern Department
June 19-20, 1998
Dothan, Alabama Holiday Inn

Northeastern Department
September 12, 1998, Bowie
Maryland Comfort Inn and Convention Center

South Central Department
September 18-19, 1998
Shreveport Louisiana, Ramada Inn

Northwestern Department
October 16-17, 1998
Boise, Idaho Korah Shrine Temple

North Central Department
October 23-24, 1998
Little Amanda Iowa, Holiday Inn

Southwestern Department
November 13-14, 1998
Burbank California, Burbank Hilton


Note: Thanks to Sir Knight Glenn McKee and the United Mine Workers of America for supplying the photographs. Much appreciation also goes to my student aid, Miss Abby G. Goodnite, for preparation of the manuscript.

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.
A renewed interest in examining our Masonic order deserves a side glance at one of our valuable assets. It is time we took notice of and reevaluated our lodge furniture.

Uncle Hyphen, a member of Poverty Creek Lodge, has often been heard to comment: "Next to the electric chair at the state prison, there's nothing more uncomfortable than the stations' chairs in a lodge room."

To some extent our Brother might be correct. The Master's chair is traditionally short on comfort. Maybe it's not designed as a leisure chair in order to discourage a person from remaining as Master too long. Whatever the reason for the discomfort, lodge furniture reveals much about the heritage of the Craft.

Over the years magazines have incorporated pictures and articles about Masonic furniture. Included are comments about the "brilliant flashes of high style" shown by our early Brethren who commissioned ornate furniture to fill a lodge. Of particular note is a Master's chair made by Benjamin Bucktrout around 1770. The chair is claimed to be the only documented piece of signed Williamsburg (Virginia) furniture.

Combining York Rite and Blue Lodge characteristics, Bucktrout's chair is capped with a keystone. Under the arch is the statue of an ancient personage, most likely a representation of King Solomon. The square resting on the Holy Bible is a true stonemason's tool, not the modified carpenter's square improperly favored by American lodges. Along the back rest are relief's showing three plumb, dual keys, and two feathered writing pens joined by a pick ax, trowel and spade. Other working tools are also represented.

The upright columns are adorned by the sun and moon, signifying how the Master governs the lodge in equal regularity as the sun does the day and the moon the night.

As a practical matter, only the more affluent of our earliest lodges could afford furniture derived from a Chippendale design. Few of our early lodges were able to raise the funds to order furniture from a manufacturer. Most lodges, especially at the beginning of the 20th century and particularly those in the rural area, relied upon local craftsmen to generate serviceable
but less ornate furniture. Within our lodges reside ruminants of station chairs and altars designed by volunteer Brothers sufficiently gifted in their trades to produce a valuable collection of "folk furniture."

With the passage of time, some lodges develop a rejection complex about their furniture. They express a desire as Brother Daddy Algebra might say: 'It's old, so chuck it out.' Masonic folk furniture is an important heritage from our past which requires our attention.

Folk furniture is defined as those pieces crafted by local tradesmen outside the confines of an establishment primarily in the commercial business of mass producing furniture. The "folksy crafts" are an up-and-coming business.

Antique dealers regularly sell what to the untrained eye might appear to be crudely constructed cupboards, bookcases and old-time furniture. Discerning purchasers acquire these fine examples of folk crafts, recondition them, and place them in offices or homes. The commercial worth of folk craft currently attracts high prices in the market. The underlying reason is because the public is becoming aware of the skills of accomplished local craftsmen from our yesteryears.

Within our Masonic lodges reside many valuable examples of folk woodcraft. These items have been left to us in trust. We should take care to preserve and protect Masonic furniture which we have inherited. It is our duty to insure our Masonic furniture is guarded with similar veneration as that attention we give to our ritual.

Reevaluate your lodge's attitude toward the furniture at the various stations. Examine the woodworking skills which crafted these items. When you do, you might be surprised to discover the treasure your lodge has in its possession.

Sir James E. Moore, KYCH, P.D.D.G.M., is a member of Crestview Commandery No. 33, Crestview, Florida. He resides at Poverty Creek Community, 6145 Old Bethel Road, Crestview, FL 32536

Recipients Of The Grand Encampment Membership Jewel

293. B. John Ross, Trinity Commandery No. 16, Sarasota, FL. 9-29-97.
294. Frederick H. Neal, Cape Girardeau Commandery No. 55, Cape Girardeau, MO. 9-29-97.
297. Robert L. Bryant, Rome Commandery No. 8, Rome, GA. 2-3-98.
298. Phillip W. Lovvorn, Rome Commandery No. 8, Rome, GA. 3-3-98.
299. Frank R. Dunaway, Jr., Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria, VA. 2-3-98.
300. Paul A. Fitch, Muskogee Commandery No. 2, Enid Commandery No. 13, and Ardmore Commandery No. 9, OK. 3-2-98.

Numbers 301 through 307 will be published in July 1998.
Ask the Pastor!
Comments from a 1998 Pilgrim Minister!
By Pastor Scott Hogue

The first question folks ask is: ‘Was it a spiritual experience?’ At first while I was in Israel, so much was happening at such a fast rate I did not “feel” spiritual. I realized that I would not be able to sort out the whole experience until I was home and had some time to process the experience. So with that in mind, I soaked up as much as I could and enjoyed every single minute!

Then, in the midst of all the sights, sounds, and learning; I had a profound spiritual experience. Floating in the Dead Sea, where you can’t sink because of the mineral content of the water, I thought about what a great time I was having in Israel and said so to God. During this conversation I realized how much God loves us all to give us experiences and moments in life that are ours for the pure enjoyment of life. There was no lesson, no task, just the gift of floating alive in the Dead Sea. From that point I looked at everything differently, and the trip did take on a deep spiritual significance.

Moments I remember clearly are the sunrise over the Sea of Galilee and the green hillsides where Jesus fed 5,000 with just a few loaves of bread and a few fish. The red anemones growing where Jesus taught the Beatitudes reminded me of Jesus’ promise that God will care for us. Christ's suffering for us moved me when I prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. The pastors I was with were silent and heartbroken when we stood in the dungeon at Caiphas’ palace. It is the dungeon where Caiphas might have held Jesus prisoner. I wept at the Children's Section of the Holocaust Museum. Sitting in the synagogue of Masada we realized what true religious passion meant. The Patriarch of Jerusalem was a friend of one of the pastors in our group. The Patriarch allowed us to view some ancient relics of the church, including what the Greek Orthodox considers part of the original cross. Sunday I went to two worship services, one at a cathedral and the other at the Garden Tomb. I prayed at the Wailing Wall. Touring the Dome of the Rock I learned it was also the site of the ancient holy of holies in the first and second temples. Each and every experience gave me a broader and deeper understanding of the Scripture and life of Christ.

I came away with a clearer picture of God's historic and present love for the human race. You look at thousands of years of history and realize God loved each and every one of those people. God loves each and every one of us through Jesus Christ. It was striking how accurate the Scripture was in the areas of archeology and customs of the people. Jesus became more ‘real” as I walked the hills of Judea. I realized the passion Palestinians and Israelis have for the land. Israel was safer than you would think and much, much greener. I also learned there is no way to look dignified on a bucking camel. Scripture took on a three dimensional quality as I read and saw where Christ walked and ministered. I thank God for the Knights Templar's mission to provide safe passage to Israel - so I could walk there, too. Jesus is alive! Praise God!

from "FBC Today" a publication of the First Baptist Church
Grand Junction, Colorado
e-mail Pastor Scott Hogue: fbcgj@juno.com
The beginning of a Period of Declining Membership, 1961-1970
Forty-ninth Conclave, 1964
(continued)

There were twelve "A" teams and eleven "B" teams in the Drill Competition.

A proposal to raise the minimum fee for the Orders to $40.00 from $30.00 was defeated. After a rather lengthy discussion a proposal was approved to allow Sir Knights to purchase Rituals through their Grand Commandery; the charge would be $5.00 for each ritual with a refund of $3.00 for each ritual returned.

On Thursday, August 27, 1964, the following elected officers were installed for the forthcoming triennium: Sir Knight Wilbur Marion Brucker, Most Eminent Grand Master; Sir Knight John Lawton Crofts, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master; Sir Knight George Wilbur Bell, Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo; Sir Knight Roy Wilford Riegle, Right Eminent Grand Captain General; Sir Knight Edmund F Ball, Right Eminent Grand Treasurer; and Sir Knight John Temple Rice, Right Eminent Grand Recorder.

Fiftieth Conclave, 1967

The first "session of the Fiftieth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America was called to order in the Consistory Cathedral, Masonic Temple, by Sir Knight Frederick G. Kirby, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, in the name of the Grand Commandery of Michigan," at noon on Saturday, August 19, 1967, in Detroit, Michigan.

The Mayor of Detroit, the Honorable Jerome Cavanaugh, gave a welcoming address which was acknowledged by Sir Knight John L. Crofts, Deputy Grand Master. Grand Master Brucker stated that the Governor of Michigan would be present to address the Sir Knights on Monday evening at the Exhibition Drill.

At a conference on December 10-12, 1965, in Detroit, called by the Grand Master, he; with his officers, Department Commanders, and chairmen of policy-forming committees; met to set forth the policies and ways of achieving those policies during the 1964-1967 Triennium, all of which was printed in a brochure entitled "Charting the Course."

Actions taken on proposals at this Triennial were: 1) amended Section 114 concerning mileage and per diem for all officers of the Grand Encampment, Past Grand Masters, and members of standing committees; 2) established Section 145(a) which charges the incoming Grand Master, Grand Commander, and Eminent Commander with the responsibility of making all arrangements for a formal ceremony for the installation of all officers requiring installation; 3) amended Section 207 to provide for contacting all delinquent members prior to any action by the Commandery; 4) amended Section 176 to provide for probation or arrest of the charter for a Commandery which does not hold a conclave or knight a candidate for 12 consecutive months; 5) amended section 169 concerning the consolidation of Commanderies; 6) amended Section 237 1/2 to allow one Knights Templar Cross of Honor to be awarded for each 10,000 members or major fraction thereof in that Grand Commandery; 7) amended Section 106) requiring the Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities to be composed of a chairman and six other members, none of which would be Department Commanders; 8)
added a new Section 262(a) allowing the jewel of office of a Grand Commander to be "worn suspended from a heavy red silk cord with swivel," etc; 9) amended Section 235 to state that an officer who dies while in office is considered to have fulfilled his term of office; 10) a proposal to add a paragraph to amend Section 147 which would allow a Grand Commandery to enter into agreement with another Grand Commandery to waive territorial jurisdiction between them for the benefit of a petitioner; 11) amended Section 237(b) by adding the words "Captain General Emeritus" after the words "Honorary Past Commander"; 12) added Section 244(d) "For Captains General who have retired after six full years of service in office and who have not attained a higher office. The same as for Past Commanders, except that the Level surmounted with the Cock, shall be used instead of the Passion Cross."; 13) amended Section 223 to say "If he is not properly vouched for, a visitor must be examined by a committee of one or more members, and the committee must report that it is convinced that the visitor is a member in good standing of a recognized Commandery or Priory of Knights Templar before the visitor is admitted to the Asylum."; 14) passing of (13) required the deletion of 225 and 226; 15) added Section 48(h) which would require the Grand Commander or his personal representative to conduct official visits to his Constituent Commanderies for the purpose of inspection or evaluation and report his findings at the next conclave of the Grand Commandery; 16) amended Section 48(d) to allow for a period of probation for a Commandery rather than summarily suspending its charter or dispensation; 17) amended Section 67 to state that "it is the duty" of dais officers of (a) Subordinate Commanderies to attend the conclaves of the Grand Encampment and (b) Constituent Commanderies to attend the conclaves of their Grand Commandery; 18) amended Section 9 of the Constitution to the effect that "Each member present in person, or by proxy, shall have only one vote."; 19) proposal to amend Section 40 (concerning Grand Commanderies) in the same manner as Section (9) was just amended; 20) amending Section 62(d) by specifying that the number of Sir Knights in the specified unit of uniformed Knights be six; 21) amended Section 41(d) to require Grand Commanderies to "consider at each annual conclave the condition as to the proper and adequate location of Constituent Commanderies as related to residential and Masonic membership changes."; 22) added a new section as Section 32\(\frac{1}{2}\) which would establish two honorary grades of rank, Knight Grand Cross and Knight Commander. Of these 22 proposed amendments, all were adopted except Nos. 10 and 19, and, following considerable debate and amendment No. 22 was withdrawn.

A Resolution had been filed on May 8, 1967 concerning the printing and circulation of the Knight Templar magazine. It directed the Finance Committee to provide funds for the publishing and mailing of the magazine to every Knight Templar beginning with the July 1969 issue; per capita dues were to be levied upon Grand and Subordinate Commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment to finance the printing and mailing of the magazine. There was much discussion of the Resolution; not so much as to its desirability, but as to the unknown amount of expense that would be involved. It would seem that one great advantage would be that the Grand Recorder would have a list of the entire membership of Templars, which was to be updated by monthly reports from the Recorder of each Commandery. In the age of computers, this seemed to be an attainable goal. However, one lesson that should have been learned by this time: people who want to attend meetings do attend those meetings if at all possible; those who do not want to attend will not attend (unless sufficiently coerced). Likewise, people who want to read a publication will find a way to do so; placing it in their hands will not cause them to read it! This lesson still has not been learned thirty years later! It is well known by most Sir Knights that more wives of Sir Knights read the Knight Templar magazine than do Sir Knights!
Easter Revisited

by Sir Knight Richard B. Baldwin, GCT, R.E. Grand Captain General and General Chairman of the Committee on the Easter Sunrise Service

Easter dawned a beautiful and glorious day this year for which all concerned were very grateful. On Saturday morning, the delegation from Indiana, headed by their Grand Commander, Sir Knight James W. Prairie, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, honoring their war dead from all the conflicts in which the nation has been involved dating back to colonial times. They very graciously invited the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight James M. Ward, to participate. The ceremony was carried out in the usual, highly impressive manner characteristic of the members of the US Army Honor Guard at the Tomb, who were on duty that morning. It was an awe-inspiring moment reminding many of us present of the times when the Easter Sunrise Service was held there at one of the world’s most hallowed and respected sites. This was the fifth year that Indiana has undertaken this ceremony.

The Saturday luncheon was a delight to all those present. There were over three hundred, and it was a great pleasure to see Sir Knights and their ladies from all across this great nation. Most Worshipful Donald M. Robey, Past Grand Master of Virginia and Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, made remarks and was very well received.

There were a significant number of delegation dinners on Saturday evening set up by the delegations themselves at locations of their own choosing. Then, everyone hustled off to bed for a short night’s rest.

At the service itself, the elected Grand Encampment officers of the progressive line, except Sir Knight William Jackson Jones, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master (down with a bad cold from which he has since recovered), were present with their wives, viz.: Sir Knight James Morris Ward (MS), Most Eminent Grand Master; Sir Knight Kenneth Bernard Fischer (TX), Right Eminent Generalissimo; and yours truly, as well as Sir Knight Charles R. Neumann, Right Eminent Grand Recorder.

Four of our seven Past Grand Masters were present: Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, Sir Knight Donald H. Smith, Sir Knight Marvin E. Fowler, and Sir Knight Blair C. Maytord.

Four Right Eminent Department Commanders were present: Sir Knight Robert L. Foreman (MD), Northeastern Department; Sir Knight William H. Koon II (OH), East Central Department; Sir Knight Lloyd A. Hebert (LA), South Central
Department; and Sir Knight Grover T. Halbrooks (CA), Southwestern Department.

Four Past Department Commanders were with us: Sir Knight Thurman C. Pace (NJ), Sir Knight John L. Winkelman (PA), Sir Knight John 0. Bond, Sr. (ME), and Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt (CA).

Once again this year, there were an even twenty Right Eminent Grand Commanders in attendance; they are listed at the conclusion of this article. It was a really fine showing!

The Grand Commandery of Ohio was again recognized as having the largest contingent present at the service with a total of ninety-three Sir Knights in attendance, an increase over their number of last year. Congratulations again for a really fine showing! There were other large delegations in the parade including Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland.

The Grand Commandery recognized as having the greatest percentage of its members present at the Service was the Grand Commandery of District of Columbia. This Grand Commandery provides the color guard for the Grand Encampment colors and is a major contributor to the labor necessary to bring off this event, including the sound system, generator, delegation markers, and helping with the setup.

Total attendance included over four hundred Sir Knights in uniform, which is an increase over last year. Including the guests and visitors, attendance approached one thousand. It was a larger than usual crowd and was a really impressive sight.

The Service began with the march up the hill this year, which provides an impressive sight. Sir Knight Ken Fischer played the military trumpet calls morning march. The Grand Master reviewed each passing unit at the top of the hill, together with their color guards.

The DeMolays from northern Virginia handled the seating and programs.

Everyone thrills a little as we begin the Service singing that Easter favorite, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." Sir Knight Donald Hinslea Smith, M.E.P.G.M. and Grand Prelate, delivered a most meaningful message entitled, 'Be Not Afraid." The Service closed with the singing of The Star Spangled Banner," which cannot help but thrill every citizen.

Special thanks go to the Kena and Almas Shrine Temples for the combined band, which has performed so well for so many years. Equally as great thanks go to those stalwart Templars and DeMolays who are out there Friday, Saturday, and Easter Sunday from the grand jurisdictions of Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia setting up the stage, benches, banners, and other impedimenta including the sound system. The permanent staff of the Memorial itself deserves special mention for all the work they do, not only for the event itself but throughout all the year.

There was one sad and regrettable note. You may have noticed that the huge Grand Encampment banner that was between the columns on Saturday was not there on Sunday morning. It was attacked by vandals sometime during Saturday night and torn down. All that is left is the very top fold through which the rod runs. There were no pieces around so the perpetrators must have taken it with them. This was in spite of police patrols during the night, so they apparently timed their actions well for their malevolent purpose.

Looking forward to next year when Easter occurs on April 4, let's everyone do some serious planning, and let's continue to build this event into a real highlight that will draw Templars from every corner of the nation!

The great spirit of brotherhood permeating every aspect of this special holiday is what sets Masonry in general, and the Templars in particular, apart from all other human endeavors. It really must be experienced in person to be fully understood and appreciated.


Right Eminent Grand Commanders Attending
(Arranged by Jurisdictional Seniority)

Walter Weisgerber (MA/RI)  Elwood M. Adams, Jr. (IL)
Ronald Januszkiewicz (NY)  Edward Seabon (NJ)
Robert M. Ohman (VA)  Steven V. Carter (GA)
Sylvestre L. Maust (OH)  Harold J. Richardson (MO)
Charles D. Stallard (KY)  Harry Miller, Jr. (MD)
Robert D. Chaput (ME)  Carl L. Locke (WV)
David L. Kempfer (PA)  Louis 0. Dean, Jr. (NC)
James W. Prairie (IN)  Urban T. Peters (DC)
Glen D. Brady (MS)  J. Samuel Burton (SC)
Stanley 0. Simons (MI)  James A. Pletz (DE)

Grand Commanderies with Delegations Present
(Arranged by Jurisdictional Seniority)

Massachusetts/ Rhode Island
New York
Virginia
Ohio
Kentucky
Maine
Pennsylvania
Indiana
Texas
Mississippi
Michigan
Illinois
California
Tennessee
Wisconsin
New Jersey
Georgia
Missouri
Maryland
West Virginia
North Carolina
District of Columbia
South Carolina
Delaware

Left: Grand Master
James M. Ward
(middle) led Sir Knights
in the march

Sir Knight Richard B. Baldwin; Right
Eminent Grand Captain General of the
Grand Encampment, General Chairman
of the Committee on Easter Sunrise
Memorial Service, P.G.C. of Virginia, and
P.D.C. (honorary); is a member of
Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington,
Virginia. He resides at 5400 Bromyard
Court, Burke, VA 22015

June 1998
On the Masonic Newsfront...

Sir Knights Of Miami Commandery Form Honor Guard
For Incoming Worshipful Masters

Pictured is a photo of Worshipful Joe Basler being conducted to the East through the lines of an honor guard formed by Sir Knights of Miami Commandery No. 13, Miami, Florida. This was Brother Basler's installation for a fourth term as Worshipful Master of Golden Glades Lodge No. 344, F. & A.M. The installing Officer was R.W. Jerry Wyman and the installing Marshal was R.W. John A. Mangialetto, Sr. Brothers Basler and Mangialetto are both members of Miami Commandery. The honor guard for Sir Knight Basler was one of thirteen honor guards performed by Miami Commandery during this installation period to honor incoming Worshipful Masters.

Connecticut Knights Templar Educational Foundation
Receives Award For Scholarships

At the recent annual meeting of the Connecticut Division of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, Sir Knight Harold I. Fransen, P.G.C., presented to Chairman and Sir Knight William L. Greene, P.C., a check in the amount of $1,500 to be used to award scholarships to deserving students. Right Eminent Grand Commander Charles B. Fowler, Jr., at right, looks on in appreciation of this generous gift.

Sir Knight Charles A. Wofford
Receives Georgia Medal Of Honor

Sir Knight, Worshipful Brother and Judge Charles A. Wofford received the Grand Lodge of Georgia's Medal of Honor for distinguished service, presented by M.W. Grand Master C. Danny Wofford. At the same time Judge Wofford received the Grand Lodge 50-year award.

Born and educated in Atlanta, Georgia, Sir Knight Wofford received both the bachelor of law and master of law degrees from Atlanta Law School and the doctor of law degree from Webster University.
A member of numerous bar associations, societies and clubs and a life member and past grand president of the Sigma Delta Kappa Law Fraternity, Judge Wofford has served on the bench of a court in Atlanta or Fulton County for more than forty-three years.

His civic activities have been many and his Masonic career no less impressive: initiated, passed, and raised in Gate City Lodge No. 2 in 1947, Past Worshipful Master and presently serving 42nd term as Treasurer and life member of the lodge and Past President of the Lodge's Past Masters' Association. Most notably he has not missed ANY communication, stated or called, of the lodge since the day he was initiated-50 years of perfect attendance! Among his many Masonic honors, he is a Past Commander of Couer de Lion Commandory No. 4 and a member of Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56, Knights of the York Cross of Honour. He also is a life member and a 33° Inspector General Honorary Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Atlanta and a Past Potentate and life member of Yaarab Shrine Temple.

Thank you, Sir Knight Wofford, for your dedication and service, and congratulations on this great honor. (from an article by Brother Earl D. Harris, P.G.M)

Sir Knight Forbes - A Certified Service Dog And An Honorary Mason

Forbes, a Golden Retriever guide dog and an honorary Mason in most appendant bodies of Masonry in Kansas, sits beside his master, Frederick E. Sturm of Topeka, Kansas. Forbes was made an honorary Mason on sight by Grand Master Jeffery Sowder of Toronto at the annual meeting of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas on March 20, and then at the York Rite grand sessions held in Salina on April 1-4, he was made an honorary Companion in the Chapter by Grand High Priest Don E. Robinett of Randall, an honorary Companion in the Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas by Most Illustrious Master Clifford L. Trax of Valley Center, and Knighted as an honorary Knight Templar in the Grand Commandery of Kansas by then Grand Commander H. Corvon Carpenter of Concordia. He also has been made an honorary member of the Shrine, several Masonic Lodges, and other appendant Masonic bodies.

Forbes’ master, a third generation of a four-generation family of Masons, is legally blind suffering from Histoplasmosis. He began thirty-seven years of work in Freemasonry when he joined the Masonic lodge in 1961. He then joined the York Rite and Scottish Rite and Shrine. He is a Past Master of his lodge; Past Master of Round Table Chapter of Order of DeMolay, Topeka; and presently is Chaplain in Arab Shrine in Topeka. “Masonry is my life,” he said. “I enjoy the fellowship.” He added, “I don't feel that I am handicapped; I just have to do things differently than other people, and Forbes is my eyes and guide companion.” (from an article by Sir Knight Bob Harrington, G.Sr.W., Kansas)

New President At Galveston Assembly, S.O.O.B., Honored

The 1998 President of Galveston Assembly No. 152, S.O.O.B., Texas, was honored at her installation by the presence of three P.S.W.P.s, a Supreme officer, and the advisory chairman of
the KTEF. Pictured are Mrs. Roland Maddox, P.S.W.P. and installing Officer; Mrs. W. J. Williams, P.S.W.P. and installing assistant Marshal; Mrs. Roy D. Kilough, Advisory Chairman of KTEF; Mrs. Francis White, President; Mrs. Milton Baker, Supreme Worthy Oracle; Mrs. G. Lee Cleator, installing Recorder; and Mrs. Kenneth Fischer, Supreme Color Bearer. Members of four other Texas Assemblies; Houston No. 81, Baytown No. 153, Melrose No. 204, and Parkplace No. 205; participated in the installation.

Pawtucket Assembly No. 217, S.O.O.B., Rhode Island Installs Officers

Pawtucket Assembly No. 217 of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, recently installed its new officers for 1998. Shown left below are: Mrs. Joaquim Soulo, Mrs. Duncan Watson, Mrs. Earl Palmer, Mrs. Richard Colby, and Mrs. Robert Allen in the back row; and Mrs. George Ogelvie, Mrs. James Jennings, Mrs. Douglas Farrar, Mrs. Robert Payton, Mrs. Sidney Clifford, Mrs. Jack Baker in the front row. Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Allen, and Mrs. Clifford are brand new members initiated during 1997. Pawtucket Assembly is fortunate this past year to initiate ten and is working toward a repeat with four already this year. In the picture right below, Sir Knight Walter Weisgerber, R.E.G.C. of Rhode Island, who was present that day, is shown with the installing officers. (submitted by Mrs. Robert Payton)

York Rite And Masonic Belts From New Hampshire Benefit The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The York Rite and Masonic belt supplier has come out of his winter hibernation and is now ready to supply all of you who have not availed yourselves of this unique method of keeping your trousers up, while at the
same time advertising our great fraternity. I will be happy to ship either/or both styles of belts as soon as I receive your order. I just sent a few to Portugal, so they are seen all over. The York Rite belt is still a black web belt with a brass buckle, 51 inches long, with a pleasing design of York Rite symbols and the names of the three bodies in yellow gold color; it also has “York Rite” repeated several times along the length, which can be cut to length to fit. The Masonic belt is made on a navy blue web with several working tools and “Freemasonry” and the square and compass repeated several times along its length. Longer than 51 inches can be supplied if needed. The cost is still $12.00, postpaid, shipped upon receipt of order. Orders over ten will be discounted $1.00 each; over twenty-five, $2.00 each. U.S. funds only please.

Masonic and our York Rite charities have benefited from your purchases to the sum of several thousand dollars, and they will continue as long as I have your support. Please send order to: Frederick H. Heuss, P.G.C.; 6 Vernon Avenue; Rochester; NH 03867-2034. Your order will go out the next day after it is received.

**Pennsylvania Conclave Plate To Benefit KTEF**

The Grand Commander of Pennsylvania will be giving a plate as a banquet gift at the 145th Annual Conclave. This plate (shown to left) was produced in the early 1900s in black and white. It has been produced for the Conclave in color. This beautiful Knight Templar plate is available for as long as they last. Only one thousand plates were made, and anyone wishing to add this plate to his/her collection may do so by sending a check in the amount of $35.00 (including shipping and handling) to: David L. Kempfer, 614 Drexel Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109. Sir Knight Kempfer will donate $4.00 from the price of each plate to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

**How Will You Pay for Expenses That Medicare Doesn't Cover?**

You owe it to yourself to find out about the Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance designed for Sir Knights and their ladies.

With the high cost of health care today the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance is becoming a necessity for more and more of us. That’s why it is good to know that you now have a choice of Medicare Supplement coverage under our plan at very affordable rates. the Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Plan you have the freedom of choosing your own doctors and hospitals. Some of the many ways you benefit are: There are no health questions or medical exam to qualify and no waiting period for pre-existing conditions if you switch plans or are about to turn sixty-five, plus you receive hassle-free claims processing in about seven days.

To make sure you can pay for expenses that Medicare doesn't cover, call (800) 749-6983 for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Plan information and enrollment kit.
Joe’s brother, Luke Sewell, came up to the Cleveland Indians late in 1921. Riggs Stephenson came with him, as previously mentioned. One may assume that Joe had been supportive in pressing for the club to take advantage of his brother’s talents as a catcher, and those of his classmate, Riggs. In Cleveland, Luke became a team institution, equal to his celebrated brother. As the Indians’ long-time, first-string catcher and talented field general, Luke Sewell carved a fine career in baseball over a span of 19 years. He spent several years as a non-playing manager after his playing days ended. Luke never equaled the batting skills of his talented, older sibling, but he achieved a respectable lifetime average of .259.


Baseball experts were of the opinion that catchers usually sacrifice a few points from their hitting average due to the physical demands of playing the position; primarily, because of wear and tear on the legs. Only a handful of catchers became genuine batting stars during their careers, and Luke’s .259 record was considered normal.

Luke played with Cleveland through the 1932 season before being traded to the Washington Senators. He moved on to the Chicago White Sox and eventually back to the Indians briefly in 1939. He signed with the St. Louis Browns as manager in 1941, a job which lasted through the 1946 season. He ended his career as a manager in Cincinnati.

The youngest of the Sewell brothers was Thomas. He never gained the national prominence of his famous brothers. Although a fine baseball player, he played only briefly with the Chicago Cubs, appearing as a pinch hitter.

As the years in Cleveland passed, Joe became a fixture on the roster. He played over 150 games every season from 1921 through 1929. In fact, during the 1929 year, he played 115 consecutive games without a strikeout, another testimony to his extraordinary eyesight. He rarely swung at a bad pitch, and his average consistently exceeded .300. His best year at the plate was 1923, when he posted a mark of .353 for the season. Joe always contended that he could see the stitching on a baseball thrown to him by the pitcher. He always credited his outstanding eyesight to his long-time practice as a boy, hitting small stones with a broomstick hour after hour.

The death of Joe’s father, Dr. Jonathon Sewell, at home in Titus, on February 20, 1927, was a blow to the entire family. Both
Joe and Luke were there during the off season and able to be with the family during that sad period in their lives.

Joe's physical condition began to show the first faint signs of decline during the 1930 season. He was 32 years old, and his batting average dropped to .289 over a total of 109 games played. During the winter layoff, Sewell was given his outright release by the Cleveland Indians, and he signed immediately with the New York Yankees. It is important to realize that in the 1920s, a man in his early thirties was considered to be approaching the end of his baseball career. The age of the live ball had arrived, too, and the era of the long-ball hitter came with it. Sewell hit line drives. He had a total of 30 career home runs when he went to New York.

The Yankees faced the 1931 season with some holes in their infield. Mark Koenig, their long-time shortstop, stumbled badly in 1930 and was sold to the Detroit Tigers via the waiver process. "Broadway" Lyn Lary alternated between shortstop and third base, but he lacked the potent offensive power the Yankees were accustomed to. Frank Crosetti would not emerge as the Yankees' star shortstop until 1932. Joe Sewell and his dependable bat created an attractive solution. In the days when .300 was considered the benchmark hitting requirement for a major-leaguer, Joe qualified. He was assigned to play at the hot corner.

In 1932, Sewell had an opportunity to play in his second World Series, as the Yankees easily captured the American League pennant. They were pitted against the Chicago Cubs in the World Series. The Yankees' new manager, Joe McCarthy, was seeking revenge against the Cubs. He had been fired abruptly by the Cub ownership at the end of the 1930 season, apparently in retribution for losing the 1929 World Series and not winning the pennant in 1930. Now, with a Yankee powerhouse to maul his old team, he seemed unbeatable. Among the illustrious names on that Yankee roster were Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Tony Lazzeri, Bill Dickey, and Earl Combs. The Yanks had a pitching staff which included Wily Moore, Red Fluffling, Vernon "Lefty" Gomez, George Pipgras, and Herb Pennock. It was an intimidating juggernaut, and the Cubs were outgunned in nearly every position.

The most memorable incident during the series was the controversy over whether or not Babe Ruth pointed to the center field stands before hitting a home run in the third game. The victim of Ruth's home-run blast was tough Charlie Root, the Cubs' ace right-hander. The famous hit has been the center of a dispute ever since October 1, 1932. Mutual agreement was never achieved on whether the Babe called his shot. It appears, though, that the incident was enhanced by an over-zealous New York sportswriter. Joe Sewell batted .333 in the series, which the Yanks swept in four games.

Sewell was released by New York at the end of the 1933 season, along with his friend, Herb Pennock. He had played diligently during his three-year tenure with the team, working in a total of 389 games. His average in 1931 was .302, but it slipped to .272 in 1932. In 1933, Joe posted a mark of .273, to end his playing career. His lifetime average stood at a handsome .312, for a total of 1,902 games played. Joe had a total of 2,226 career hits, with 1,055 runs batted in. During his New York years, he had
added 19 home runs to his career total. Now with his playing days behind him at 35 years of age, Joe signed to coach for the New York Yankees. He had three happy years working for Joe McCarthy before deciding that he and Willie would return to Tuscaloosa and make it their permanent home.

In 1936, Joe opened the Sewell Hardware Store in his adopted hometown, and the enterprise prospered from its inception. As a prominent Tuscaloosa businessman, he began to make public speaking appearances. Joe's extroverted nature, infallible memory, and wealth of stories soon made him a popular toastmaster and speaker. Eventually, however, his baseball expertise was in demand again. In 1951, he accepted a scouting position for the Cleveland Indian Baseball Club and sold his prosperous hardware business. The siren call of baseball was difficult to ignore. Joe spent several years as a scout for the Indians before severing his ties to his old club. As mentioned earlier, Carl Mays was scouting for Cleveland during the same period, and their paths crossed frequently.

After giving up his scouting status for Cleveland, he worked one year in the same capacity for the New York Mets. The Mets were an expansion team in the National League, and Joe was able to render the fledgling organization valuable service, before turning full attention to a new occupation in 1960.

The old veteran of the Big Leagues was approached by the University of Alabama to accept a position as manager for their baseball team. Those were the years of the legendary Bear Bryant's coaching tenure at the university, and he was the person who first approached Joe. Thus began a seven-year association with the Crimson Tide as their baseball mentor. It was a demanding task, inasmuch as virtually all of the boys on the squad were "walk-ons." No recruiting or scholarship activity provided talented underclassmen. Notwithstanding, Sewell guided the team to a record of 114 wins against 99 losses during his watch. In 1968, his final year as coach, Joe led the team to the Southeast Conference Championship. He decided to retire for a second time at the end of 1968. He was 70 years old and ready to make way for another generation.

"In 1971, Joe's accomplishments in professional baseball and collegiate sports were recognized by his induction into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. The most prestigious award in baseball was awarded Joe in 1977, when he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York."

Almost immediately, Joe decided that he was not ready for the rocking chair. He accepted a position in public relations with the Dairy Fresh Corporation of Tuscaloosa. Sewell was a natural for the job, with his wide local reputation as a popular speaker. He enjoyed the work and stayed with the company until his health began to fail in 1988.

During the Dairy Fresh years, many honors came to the old baseball veteran. In 1971, Joe's accomplishments in professional baseball and collegiate sports were recognized by his induction into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. The most prestigious award in baseball was awarded Joe in 1977, when he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The entire family made the journey to share the great moment with their famous father. Two years after the ceremony at Cooperstown, Joe Sewell was inducted into the Ohio Hall of Fame. It seemed wherever the little major leaguer from Titus had practiced his craft, folks were eager to honor his accomplishments.

Joe suffered the greatest sorrow of his life on October 27, 1984, when his beloved wife, Willie, expired at their home in Tuscaloosa, after a brief illness. It created a great void in his life, and it was never quite the same again.

In 1988, Joe Sewell passed the 90-year threshold, and his own health became precarious. Alert and vigorous still, he could no longer deny the onslaught of years. He terminated his association with Dairy Fresh and gave up his long-time home in
Tuscaloosa to live with his son, Dr. James W. Sewell, in Mobile. Joe's memory remained infallible, and to the end he enjoyed immensely visits and talks with friends and old fans.

Although friendly and courteous to all, Sewell was outspoken in his evaluation of present-day baseball stars. In one interview, the old master commented that modern hitters wore gloves and had valets; concluding that "It's no wonder they can't hit." He also ventured an appraisal of today's pitchers. He remarked that "Some of them couldn't knock your hat off!" Sewell was contemptuous of salary caps, multi-million dollar salaries, agents, and prima-donna players. For a man who played the game from childhood because he loved it, it was beyond his comprehension that money could be the most important element.

Joseph Wheeler Sewell passed away on March 6, 1990, at 91 years of age. The old campaigner was laid to rest beside Willie in the Tuscaloosa Memorial Park. A legion of fans mourned his passing, and testimony of their affection was evident in the abundance of sympathy mail the family received. Baseball would never forget Joe's legacy to the game. He will be best remembered as the man who was virtually impossible to strike out. During three seasons of his 14-year career, he went down on strikes only two times. As mentioned before, he went 115 games without a strikeout on one occasion. His durability was nearly as important as his consistency at the plate. He earned genuine status as an "Iron Man" with 1,103 consecutive games played. Combined with his fine lifetime batting average of .312, there is little doubt that Sewell richly deserved his niche in Baseball's Hall of Fame.

Further proof of Joe Sewell's likable personality was manifested in his friendship with baseball's most irascible player, the great Ty Cobb. Everybody disliked him. Joe was also close to Carl Mays, the much-maligned hurler whose blazing submarine pitch set the stage for Sewell's major league debut. A friend to all, a father and husband without peer, and a citizen of great stature; Joe Sewell brought great credit to Masonry through his exemplary life. He personified the best traditions of this great nation - and loved every minute of it.

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James W. Sewell, M.D., and the Joseph W. Sewell family archives
Roy V. Kelley, Enid, Oklahoma
Archives of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. F &A.M.
Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 33°, and P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, is a member of Holy Grail Commandery No. 70, Lakewood, Ohio. For correspondence: P.O. Box 2735, Bandera, TX 78003.
Sale Of Musical Knights Templar Statuette To Benefit KTEF

Pictured is a beautiful, hand painted, Knights Templar statuette, that is made of ceramic and plays Onward Christian Soldiers" with the old-fashioned brass drum. The Sir Knight is 7.5 inches tall, from the bottom of his base to the top of his chapeau. The total height from the musical base to the top of the chapeau is 9.5 inches. The bottom base is 6 inches wide. His uniform and jewels are all hand painted. There will be only 750 pieces produced, and out of the 750 pieces, there will be 600 Past Commander Sir Knights and 150 Grand Commander Sir Knights. A donation of $5.00 will be sent to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for every musical statuette sold. The price is $37.95, including mailing and insurance. This musical statuette will be available for shipment come September 1, 1998. If you are interested, please send check or money order to: Stains By Buz, P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052. Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax.

Knights Templar and Blue Lodge Jackets from New Hampshire To Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage

Proud to be a Templar and a Mason? What a nice way to show it by wearing a black coach's jacket that boasts of the Knights Templar (at left). On the left breast is the red and gold cross and crown and "Knights Templar written above it in gold. Or buy a royal blue coach's jacket (to right) with a gold square and compass and letter "0." You will be helping Templar charities and proclaiming your pride! The cost for either is $30.00, including shipping (priority mail). $5.00 from each jacket goes to Templar charities. To order send $30.00, your return address, and your size (S, M, L XL XXL XXXL). Indicate "Templar or "Blue Lodge" jacket Send to: Charles J. Kennedy, 2030 Raymond Road, Deerfield, NH 03037.
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.

A new Commandery, Mt. of Olives, is forming in Missouri, and it needs swords, belts, and chapeaux. Please help the new Commandery and Sir Knights. Charles G. Coy, P.O. Box 2025, Washington, MO 63090.

I wish to communicate with anyone having possession, knowledge, or information about a Knight Templar sword once owned by my father, James Arthur Boudreau (J. Arthur Boudreau or J. A. Boudreau) in Lowell, Massachusetts. My father was a Past Commander of Profile Commandery No. 263 around 1920. Please call or write Harold Boudreau, 5312 N. W 54 Court Gainesville, FL 32653, (352) 378-1070.

For sale: sword with blade engraved with name South Shore Commandery on one side and "C. Ellis" on other and with other faint engravings and symbols. Nice for use or display - $55. J.O. Riley, P.O. Box 58033, Raleigh, NC 27658 (919) 781-0861.

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; Pafaskala; OH 43062, (614) 927-7073.

Leather chapeau case, like new, with chapeau recently returned, price 7 3/16; silver sword with cloth case; Commandery uniform, size 52: $500.00 takes all or best offer, plus shipping. Gerald F. Landon, P.O. Box 331, Houston, FL 32658, (352) 368-6666.

The three Lodge rooms dedicated by a special Communication of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was held on 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 to Sir Knights. Robert Whitehead, 186 Tremont Street Suite 703; Boston; MA 02111-1096. Checks payable to Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts.

For sale: In Memoriam, booklet, 5 1/2 by 8 1/2, from Blue Lodge to family of deceased Brother. Card stock cover with 5 parchment-like pages including personal history page. The "Lodge's Memorial" presents Masonic sympathies and convictions in 2 1/2 pages, and a signature page for Brethren. Quality presentation for family, especially if no Masonic service or Brother lived away. $3.75 each including postage or ten (10) for $23.50. Satisfaction or refund. Check to Monument Lodge, P.O. Box 743, Houillon, ME 04730.

Liberty Masonic Lodge No. 48, A.F. & M., Liberty, Texas, has sesquicentennial (150 years) belt buckles and coins for sale. Buckles are pewter colored with square and compass in middle with blue enamel background, and they measure 2.75 by 1.75 inches. The price is $30 each, postage paid. Coins are $5.00, postage paid with square and compass, dates and "Liberty Lodge, 150 of Masonry" on one side. Both are attractive, and buckles are limited edition. Write Secretary of Liberty Lodge No. 48, A.F & AM., P.O. Box 1685, Liberty, TX 77575-1685.

Do you have books pertaining to Masonry that are lying around your home gathering dust? Austin Lodge No. 12, Austin, Texas, is in the process of building a library second to none. Our library is being designed to preserve for posterity historic books and relics which other-wise might be forgotten. We are not only interested in volumes but especially in single copies. If not donated, postage will be paid on delivery. Send to Librarian, Austin Lodge No. 12 A & AM., Box 5150, Austin, TX 78763.

For sale: Transactions of the Quatuor Corona Li Lodge of Research (QCR). Many loose parts, complete volumes in either hard or soft cover between the years 1945 and 1995 (volumes 59 through 108). Also facsimile editions of vols. 1 through 5. For a detailed list contact F. A. Egan; 1109 Loring Avenue, No. 512; Wilmington; DE 19866; (302) 654-2268. Serious enquires only, please.

Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts Bicentennial coin for sale. On the obverse is represented the Green Dragon Tavern and the words "FIRST MEETING HELD IN MASON'S HALL Boston." On the reverse is the seal of the Grand Chapter. All coins are in .999 fine silver and are numbered—a quality item. Cost: $33.50 (MA residents add $1.50). Requests to Robert Whitehead; 186 Tremont Street Suite 703; Boston; MA 02111-1096. Checks payable to Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts.
Beulville Lodge No. 376, F. & A.M., Beulville, Ohio, has for sale a few 125th anniversary bronze coins, which were for the year 1992. $3.50 includes postage. Make check to Beulville Lodge No. 376, C/O Paul L Frantz, Sec.; 356 Main Street; Beulville; OH 44813.

Sprig of Acacia lapel pins: Each handcrafted pin is sterling silver with a 24K 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 S. Kenneth Ban!, 1630 Orchard Hill Road, Cheshire, CT 06410-3729; (203) 272-7579.

Masonic clip art in color for Windows computers. Artwork includes Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar, Shrine, and several others. Colorful images for your correspondence and trestleboard publications. Please send $6.95, including postage, for the disk. Percentage of proceeds will benefit KTEF. John Yates, P.O. Box 3496, Wichita Falls, TX 76301-0496.

Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 25 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 collect, I will gladly exchange. I will answer all letters. Maurice Storclç Sr.; 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214,' Tucson; AZ 85705; (520) 888-7585:

Yo Yo the Clown, update: Pushing 87, he is still busy. He finished campaigning for prospective new governor, and although his candidate lost, he sent Yo Yo a personal congratulatory note on what a great job he had done and that he know God had a better plan for his future. Yo Yo's clown activities and marching in parades are limited, but he writes new routines for his monthly clown meetings and always attends! He attended the raising of the Irish flag with the Woodbridge City fathers and ran home between the rain drops, and sorely missed the big celebration of the St Paddy's Day parade following this. He is collecting and binding all of his poems, many of which have been printed, and writing new routines. He is a fellow humanitarian and advisory board member of organization called "We Must Care," Last Laugh: told me yesterday we both are going on a diet that he is monitoring. ...says he is getting paunchy around the middle... and I, at 62 years old ... am not fluffy, but just plain fat! So how are all the rest of our Brother Sir Knights doing? Daughter Lee Maloney and Yo Yo the Clown, 212 Mettuchen Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

Wanted: Goebel Masonic figurines: George Washington, Knights doing? Daughter Lee Maloney and others. Colorful images for your correspondence and trestleboard publications. Please send $6.95, including postage, for the disk. Percentage of proceeds will benefit KTEF. John Yates, P.O. Box 3496, Wichita Falls, TX 76301-0496.

For sale: cemetery plot. Franklin Memorial Park, New Brunswick, New Jersey - double, central location, perpetual care. 100% to KTEF over $750 Initial coat. Bid high for a real bargain; donation will be in your name for tax purposes. Lester Auchmoody, Box 6, Mt Joy, PA 17552 (717) 653-6027.

For sale: side-by-side burial plots in the Masonic section of Pacific View cemetery, Newport Beach, California. 100% to KTEF over $1,000.00. Ruth Zinter, (702) 361-5999.

Wanted: Oklahoma Sir Knight is collecting Lionel trains. Please look in your attic or your storage closet, and call or write John Alexander, 7617 E. 66th Street, Tulsa, OK 74133, (918) 252-4981.

Wanted: American Flyer, Lionel, Marx train sets - all ages, gauges, conditions. Also: Aurora race car sets, "model motorizing," and US military items and stamps. Tim Rickhoim, 14761 Tunnicliff Road, Petersberg, MI 49270-9716, call collect (734) 854-3021.

For immediate purchase, wanted property as follows: vacation, resort, recreational, and/or small farm, golf, or RV memberships in warm climates worldwide. Call collect day or night John Belin (303) 761-2585 or fax (303) 761-3946.

For sale: 3 grave sites in the Pine Section of Mount Emblem Cemetery, Elmhurst, Illinois, $1,600 each. Call Ernie Iverson, collect (502) 793-0114.

Wanted: old neckties. Collector will pay cash for 1940s and 1950s ties. Will pay all postage and will return unwanted ties. I am also looking for a long, leather overcoat and a 1920's raccoon coat in a large size. Write Phil Williams, 108 Failmet Street; Wyaneville, NC 28786 or call collect (704) 452-9511.

Trying to contact anyone who served with 464th Signal Heavy Construction Company, Army Air Force, 1946-1950. I am wanting to organize a reunion. W. A. Brown, 2306 Lexington Avenue, S. W; Decatur; AL 35603 or e-mail WIBrown8957@aol.com


Help! I am searching for history and resting place of Nettie Moodie Robinson Powers, believed to have resided and expired in Kennett, Missouri. Her husband was Luther Powers. I am her grandson and would appreciate any information. John I Robinson 1218 Poe Road, Bucyrus, OH 44820-9559.

The 49th reunion of the 93rd Seabees of WWII will be September 17-19, 1998, at the Best Western Airport Inn, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521, (402) 475-9541. Contact Mrs Charles Kermoade, 2410 Jameson North, Lincoln, NE 68512.

My young son is collecting railroad items. If you have anything you would like to part with or sell, please send description and cost Matthew R. Nocmne, 3630 S. 150 W, Pleasant Lake, IN 46779, (219) 475-5773.


June 1998
Happy Father’s Day!
I Hugged a Clown Today

I stood on curb, waitin' for the parade to start,
And looked way down the street
When all a sudden, somebody shouted,
Where come the clowns! - tune of marching feet.

A flash of color, hint of laughter, painted fares
Came closer into view.
Why all this din? I wondered,
As the rainbow moved its hue.

But soon I found to my surprise
My smile had broadened wide;
Clown faces glowed with pride in comic mirth,
What large hearts felt inside!

One clown stopped near with twinklin' eyes
And reached out for a hug,
And I stretched my arms out wider With my heart strings all a tug.

For his eyes reflected Love of All Mankind
Like the sun which shines each day,
As softly in his ear I whispered, Thank you, clown;
You've made the world a nicer place to stay.

Lee Maloney
1501 North Parton Street
Santa Ana, CA 92706