



# Knight Templar

VOLUME XLVI

AUGUST 2000

NUMBER 8



**Brother Glenn Ford (ca. 1955)**  
**Hollywood Leading Man**  
**His story starts on page 19.**

## **August 2000-Grand Master's Message**

### **Thank You! It Has Been a Pleasure!**

I thank you for your loyalty and dedication to our Christian Order and for your commitment to excellence. I thank you for your kindness, courtesy, and hospitality to Jan and me. I thank you for your friendship and support during the fifteen years I have served as an officer of the Grand Encampment. I especially thank you for affording me the high honor and privilege of serving as Grand Master. You have made my term in office very special, and I truly love it.

To all of you who have labored long and well, it has been an honor to serve with you; the Grand Encampment officers, Past Grand Masters, Department Commanders, aides, committeemen, and all others; and I am grateful for all you have done to support this Grand Master and our great Christian Order.

To Jan, my wife of fifty-one years, and to my daughter J. K. and to my other daughters, Frann and Karla Paula, I am truly thankful that God sent you my way; and I am grateful for your love and understanding. You are a blessing, and thank you, God.



**You Do Make Me Proud!  
Go, Templars—Charge!**

**I Wish for You the Best of All Good Things!**

**\*\* I'm Done Pumpin'. \*\*\*  
Godspeed!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Ward'.

James Morris Ward, Grand Master, KGC

# **Knight Templar**

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

AUGUST: Best wishes to all members of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, on the occasion of their 61st Triennial Conclave, August 11-16,2000! Grand Master James M. Ward signs off as the head of Templary on page 2. Soon we will feature pictures and biographies of the grand line officers, elected at the 61st Triennial, and later we will bring you the Department Commanders for the triennium starting this month. It's time to give special attention to the next Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian ministers: What the group from 2000 have to say will surely inspire all Commanderies to support this endeavor. See these comments on page 9. And join other Sir Knights, ladies, and friends on the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for Knights Templar. Everything you will need to take part is on page 18. The story of Brother Roscoe Turner is completed in this issue, and we're sure you will enjoy the story of Brother Glenn Ford starting on page 19.

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### **August 2000**

Volume XLVI      Number 8

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

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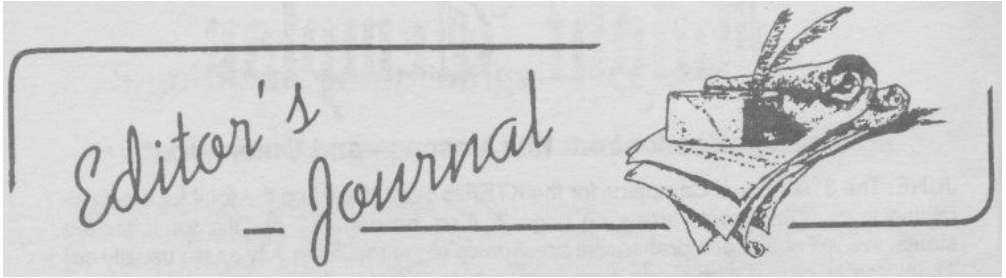
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Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chico, IL-  
60630-2460.

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

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



**Needlepoint Kits Available:** Several years ago the Grand Encampment began offering needlepoint kits for sale. These kits include a printed canvas with the Knight Templar emblem in red, white, yellow, and black on a white background. Kits are still available and include the printed canvas, needle and yarn (finished size is 10 by 10 inches). The cost of a single kit is \$11.50 postpaid, or \$10.50 each in quantities of three or more. Orders may be sent to: Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chicago, IL 60630-2460.

**Attention:** all Grand Commanders and all Deputy Grand Commanders who will be in office as Grand Commanders on November 1, 2000; 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, 2000. 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, 2000. After that date, it may not be possible to include them in the November magazine.

**Now available:** 2-volume set of *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America* by Francis J. Scully, M.D., and *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America - Book II* by Lt. Col. Jacob C. Baird, Chairman, the Committee on Knights Templar History. One or both are a great gift for that Sir Knight or anyone else who is fascinated by Templar history. As a set, the two books are \$25.00 plus \$3.50 S. & H. (\$28.50). Separately, each book is \$15.00 plus \$2.50 S. & H. (\$17.50). Make check or M.O. 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.

**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. Pins are \$5.00 apiece, payable to the Grand Encampment. Send to the Grand Recorder, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630

#### 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/GGCOUNCIL/HomePage.html>

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

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

## An Eye Foundation Recipient Sends His Story and His Thanks

I am writing to thank you for the generous assistance provided to me by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation during my recovery from a retinal detachment.

I am experiencing vision that is substantially improved over my vision before I had the detachment. I am truly grateful to the Knights Templar and to doctors Brooks and Steinmetz for preserving the miracle of sight.

Retinal detachments are something I once believed happened to other people. My prescription was relatively weak, so I didn't expect to be a candidate for vision loss, but in the fall of 1998, I noticed I wasn't seeing as well. I started seeing "flashers," but I wrongly assumed they were caused by the television or streetlights.

One day I noticed an obstruction in my left eye. There was a "veil" covering part of my vision. I went to see my optometrist, who set up an emergency appointment with Dr. Steinmetz. Within an hour surgery was performed.

The clinic helped me with transportation, driving me and my car home and picking me up for the first follow-up. The surgery was a complete success.

Next came the slow recovery. I had to sleep in a chair for a week. The most difficult part was learning to function with the side effects of the cryopexy and retinopexy, which involved the injection of nitrogen gas into the eye cavity. This produced a bubble that greatly obstructed the vision of my left eye and increased internal pressure.

Each day of recovery it was a challenge for me to function. Since my eyes never worked together properly, I had a habit of using my left eye to read and my right eye for distance. As a child playing sports, I couldn't perform with my eyeglasses, even though they improved my acuity. In order to have the depth perception to swing at a ball, I had to give up the glasses. While I used my glasses to drive or look at the chalkboard, I would frequently bump into things or

miscalculate the distance of my hand to a nearby object.

Now, I had to learn to read with my right eye. It was difficult even to walk. I would try using an eye patch, but after a while my brain would "see" the gas bubble in my right eye. Each day was a new struggle. I had entered the silent world of the visually disabled.

The weeks went by, and I wondered if I ever would see again. The gas bubble finally dissolved, but the vision in my left eye was horribly weak. I learned to drive short distances. Dr. Steinmetz reassured me that my vision would improve in time.

After another month I had my prescription updated. When I first put on my glasses, I was amazed. Not only was I seeing more clearly than before, I was experiencing full depth perception with my glasses. The long recovery had done something for me that no exercise plan could have done. I had relearned to see.

Perhaps, the surgery cleared up a longstanding weakness in the left eye, as well as curing the retinal detachment. For whatever reason I am now seeing better than ever. My first response was to thank God for this miracle, but I must give thanks also for the skilled work of my doctors and the professional assistance of their staff.

I am glad there is an organization like the Knights Templar Eye Foundation that is dedicated to helping people see. I want to thank everyone involved in this wonderful mission. Special appreciation is also due Mr. Bill Cogburn, who kindly interviewed me at my apartment when I was unable to drive.

When my financial situation improves, I intend to do my part with support for your charity, so that others like myself will be able to enjoy the greatest miracle - seeing!

Philip C. Twelves  
Tallahassee, Florida

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Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commanders Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution of \$100 or more will begin your Grand Commanders Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commanders Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Masters 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

### **Grand Master's Club And Grand Commander's Club Pins**

Since July 1, 1992, all new members of the Grand Master's and Grand Commander's 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.



Perry L. LaBarr  
 Pennsylvania  
 Grand Commander-1961  
 Born July 18, 1899 Died May 22, 2000

Olin Eugene Lehman  
 Arizona  
 Grand Commander-1980  
 Born July 7, 1918  
 Died June 21, 2000

# Special Report On Prerequisites For Shrine Membership

## *from the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment*

The voting Representatives to the 126th Annual Session of the Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America held in Boston, Massachusetts, did, with near unanimous approval, at the first General Session on Monday, July 3, 2000, amend Section 323.3, "Prerequisite for Membership," of the bylaws of the Iowa Corporation to read:

"A Temple may not accept a petition from a candidate unless he is in good standing as a Master Mason of a lodge recognized and in amity with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. Furthermore, a Temple may not add to or take from the qualifications for membership as fixed by these bylaws."

The amendment substitutes the term "Master Mason" for the first present prerequisite of York or Scottish Rites.

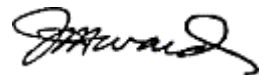
The proposal for establishing a "Social Membership" was by unanimous approval withdrawn.

I am encouraged by and appreciative of the fact that the representatives to the Annual Session of the Imperial Council recognized the importance of retaining Masonry as a prerequisite. "MASONS FIRST" is the concept and ideal that is the foundation on which this great fraternity was built and should continue to be the guiding light for all the organizations in the family of Freemasonry.

Sir Knights, I am disappointed and saddened, as I am sure many of you are, that the Shrine of North America has severed an association that began with the founders of the Order of the Mystic Shrine 128 years ago: namely, that a candidate for Shrine membership must be either a York or a Scottish Rite member in good standing.

I believe it is imperative that we remember that we are "MASONS FIRST" and that we must continue to work together to promote the welfare of all Masonic oriented organizations. UNITY is still the name of the game. However, it is a two-way street. What's good for one will surely be good for all.

As Masons, and particularly as Knights Templar, we must continue in our effort, our crusades, to provide moral and spiritual inspiration to our members, families, friends, and others around us and material assistance to those who clearly need our help.



James M. Ward, Grand Master, KGC Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America





**The Holy Land Pilgrimage-2000!**  
***Let's Start Working for 2001!***  
**Here's What This Year's Pilgrim Ministers Have to Say!**

This gift from the Knights Templar is absolutely amazing! I cannot ever recall being given something so meaningful and so generous that will have such an impact on my preaching and teaching, indeed on all phases of my ministry. I know it sounds like a cliché, but words really cannot express my gratitude for such generosity.

We have done so much in those two weeks: We have been where Jesus was. We have walked on holy ground. We have touched sacred stones. We have splashed in life-giving water. Indeed, we have encountered history in ways that can ground us and give depth to our spiritual lives. I cannot imagine anything that could give more energy and strength to my calling and commitment to preach and model the love of Jesus in my ministry to others. For that gift I offer my sincere gratitude for how this has affected me personally and for what it will mean to the many lives I encounter in my congregation and beyond.

Our group was a loud group! Get fifty ministers together on a tour bus for ten days, and nothing short of chaos is inevitable. The group was diverse and expressed that diversity in an atmosphere of mutual respect and challenge. At times I found myself withdrawing from others. I needed that space in order to digest the myriad facts and sites I was taking in, and at those times I realized anew the profound depth of what was happening to me: I needed to hear the voice of Jesus long after our time on the Mount of the Beatitudes. I needed to feel the sand and smell the aroma by myself long after my trek along the shore of Galilee. I needed to be quite alone after the singing in St. Anne's to sense the presence of the living Christ, who not only walked the Via Dolorosa but walks with me and lives in my soul. I needed time to grieve after walking through the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem. I just want to express this to ensure that my quietness will not be perceived as indifference.

Please accept my sincere thanks for all that you, the Knights Templar, have done to make, in the words of Ezra Eini, "the Bible come alive in color." These are days I will never forget!

*Reverend Dr. M. Scott Landis, Senior Minister  
First Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
Englewood, Colorado*

I arrived home in Fort Collins after a 33-hour day with time adjustments; indeed the hard part of the journey was the travel to and from Israel - eleven hours in a very crowded 747 to and from Newark and Tel Aviv - but the trip was well worth it!

I am thinking a lot about my experiences. I do appreciate being in so many of the places of the Biblical story. They give me a way of *seeing* what I hear. I think of the trip as a truly transforming experience, and I think it will make me a better teacher and preacher. It was also a gift to be engaged in such a different place so intensely during those eleven days.

I am grateful for the gift of this pilgrimage, and I have a much deeper appreciation for the work of the Knights Templar and for Masons in general.

Reverend Rick Riddoch  
Fort Collins, Colorado

Once again, The Grand Encampment is offering its members, Families and friends an opportunity to:

**"JOIN A DRUG PLAN THAT ALLOWS YOU TO  
USE YOUR LOCAL PHARMACY  
FOR ONLY \$39.95 PER YEAR AND IT  
COVERS YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY!"**

**COMPARE WITH OTHER PLANS!  
SAME DISCOUNT-HALF THE COST**



Why pay \$7.95 per month for a Drug Plan – As seen advertised on TV when you can:

- ✓ Receive the SAME DISCOUNT
- ✓ Pay HALF THE AMOUNT and also
- ✓ SUPPORT THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT GENERAL FUND!

**"America's Only Guaranteed Prescription Savings Plan"**

Through this special program, All Knight Templar members, families and friends, are eligible to join this Drug Plan for the same LOW ANNUAL FEE OF \$39.95. Families of ANY SIZE CAN JOIN!

**PLAN BENEFITS**

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- ✓ Covers Brand and Generics
- ✓ Use Your Local Pharmacy
- ✓ No Claim Forms
- ✓ No Age/Health Restrictions
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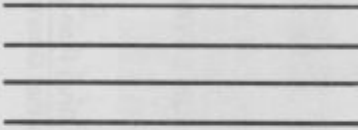
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### **Sir Knight J. Randolph Walker, Maryland, Receives Golden Chalice**



Sir Knight J. Randolph Walker of St. Bernard Commandery No. 9, Hagerstown, Maryland, was presented with a Golden Chalice at the Masonic Temple in Hagerstown. The presentation was made by Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who was Chairman of the Eye Foundation and Chairman of the 32nd Annual Voluntary Campaign. The Golden Chalice was presented "that others may see" in the name of J. Randolph and Bette Walker in recognition of Walker's donation of \$10,000. Many Commanders and dignitaries of the Maryland Knights Templar, along with other Freemasons and friends, were there for the presentation.

### **Texas Sons Knight Father**

Sir Knight Paul E. Wunsche, Eminent Commander, and Sir Knight Carl W. Wunsche, Past Commander, both of Melrose Commandery No. 109, Houston, Texas, were recently honored to Knight their father, Donald A. Wunsche. Sir Knight Paul conferred the Order of the Temple, and Sir Knight Carl participated as Senior Warden and gave the remaining Attributes. Sir Knight Don took all his Orders at the Houston area Crusade 2000 York Rite Festival and then returned on a very special night to receive his Order of the Temple. Left to right are: Sir Knights Carl Wunsche, Don Wunsche, and Paul Wunsche



### **Grand Commandery Of Iowa Honors Veterans**



Early this year then Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, Sir Knight D. Michael Bonney, accompanied by Grand 2nd Guard, Stephen G. Libby, presented both a ceremonial, oversized check and an actual check in the amount of \$5,000 to Al Lenway, Veterans' Commission chairman. The funds will be used with other donations to erect a gold-plated, stainless steel flame atop the Veterans' Memorial Coliseum in Cedar Rapids. The flame measures 8 feet in height and 9 feet in diameter. Oscillating lights at the base will be used to simulate an actual flame and will add to the effect.

## Christmas In August?

*Since we're already thinking about Christmas 2000, these items came to us a bit late! Still, they are worthy of our attention:*

**Local Group (right) Supports KTEF:** Betty Phillips, leader of the Fantaptics, a performing group in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, presents a check to KP William A. Howard, P.V.E.P. and Registrar for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This outstanding group of approximately 18 very talented lades and men (mostly beautiful ladies) have performed at the banquet portion of the in-gatherings of the Spirit of Truth Tabernacle No. LXXI, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, for over six years. They perform for a check to be donated to the charity of their choice, and on this occasion the charity was the KTEF. Registrar Howard says, "What a wonderful idea and spirit.. .and the members of the Tabernacle appreciate it most graciously!"



**District Supervisor, Grand Commandery of Oregon, brings Christmas cheer to hospitalized children:** Santa, a.k.a. Sir Knight Richard C. MacKenzie (left), District 5 supervisor, is caught just before his visit to the Children's Ward and Heart Ward at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene, Oregon, 1999 Christmas. He passed out stuffed animals and sugar-free candy to all the children and heart patients. His wife donated 65 stuffed animals from her collection. Santa's (Sir Knight Mackenzie's) visit is scheduled to be an annual event!

## **New York's Deputy Grand Commander Charles Mendell and Minister Hilsenbeck Perform Palm Sunday Services At Nursing Home**

Sir Knight Charles Mendell (left), Deputy Grand Commander of New York State, assists Reverend Juanita Hilsenbeck (right), one-time Holy Land Pilgrimage minister and wife of Nassau Commandery Commander, at the Berkshire Nursing Home, where they performed Palm Sunday services and communion. In the center is resident Barney Tallarita. Sir Knight Mendell distributed the palms and matzo provided by the reverend's church, the Peoples Church of Long Beach, New York. Reverend Hilsenbeck has been a volunteer at the home for 30 years!



## Summer Uniform Sale Aids Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Look for Our Display in Nashville!

Milford Commandery No. 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering a complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for \$125.00. (GO. and PG.C. add \$35.00 for gold on cap visor.) This includes cap and insignia, shod sleeve shirt, shoulder rank insignia, collar insignia, metal ribbon bar, name plate, black be, tie clasp with cross and crown, and shipping and handling. Send cap size, shirt size, rank, Commandery name and number, choice of engraving on the be clasp (plain/Knight Templar/your state/Commandery name) to the address below. Make checks payable to Milford Commandery No. 11. This is a fundraising project. All **profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.**

This summer uniform has been approved by Sir Knight James M. Ward, Grand Master of Knights Templar, U.S.A. See the May 1999 issue of *Knight Templar* magazine. For further information write to: Milford Commandery No. 11, c/o Robert P. Winterhalter, PO Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This is for our charity.

## Sale Of Knights Templar Tapestry Wall Hanging To Benefit KTEF

Beautiful Knights Templar tapestry wall hanging is a limited edition of 1,000 pieces only. It is made in the U.S. and is in full color containing 360 threads per square inch. It is made of 100% preshrunk cotton and has a solid upholstery backing. The wall hanging has a 1760 flag on one side and the present flag for our country on the other side, and text states: "Pride in our past, faith in our future." It has the nation's bald eagle, and it contains the nine battle shields of the Crusaders who founded Knights Templary. It has a poem "A Knight Templar" in the center. It has beautiful illustrations of Knights Templar past and present, and it also has the Masonic arch and the York Rite working tools. It comes with a black lacquer wooden pole and a brass chain for hanging. The size is 26 inches by 32 inches.

A donation of \$5.00 will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for each wall hanging sold. A color photograph can be mailed to you upon request. The price is \$43.00 each, which includes shipping. For outside the U.S., please add \$15.00. Please send check or money order payable to: Stanley C. Buz. Send to him at: P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052



## 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 Program 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.

Under the Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Plan, you will benefit in many ways:

You have the freedom of choosing your own doctors and hospitals, there are no health questions or medical exams to qualify, there is no waiting period for pre-existing conditions if you switch plans or are about to turn 65, and there is hassle-free claims processing in about 7 days!

To make sure you can pay for the expenses Medicare doesn't cover, call (800) 749-6983 for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan information and enrollment kit.

## **History of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America: Book II**

### **Chapter VI**

#### **Features Of Triennial Conclaves**

##### **Fifty-sixth-1 985 (continued)**

"At 7:30 P.M. on that same day, the drill teams went on parade in review in front of a large audience in the Convention Center. Some eight hundred Sir Knights participated in this review. Included on this program was an exhibition drill by the (members of the) drill team of Detroit Commandery No. 1, which dazzled the audience with their expert and precisely maneuvered drill formations."

Those in the Convention Hall were "surprised to see the drill team escort a women's drill team onto the floor for an exhibition drill. This team, formed in conjunction with the drill team of Detroit Commandery No. 1, consisted of approximately twenty women. Their uniforms, red blazers over white blouses and black slacks, presented a smart appearance which won the appreciation of the crowd.

"The divine service was held on Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M. in the Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballroom with a large attendance. Grand Prelate Buxton gave his message, entitled 'Run to Win.' Most Eminent Grand Master Ned E. Dull's oldest daughter, Deborah Dull Frysinger, spoke for a few moments before her offertory selection, Songs of Faith."

"The Grand Master's Reception was held at 8:00 P.M. on Sunday in the Netherland Plaza's Pavilion - Caprice Ballroom. This large reception was attended by several thousand people, most of whom stood in line to greet the grand officers, the Past Grand Masters, and the Department Commanders and their wives.

"Throughout the whole weekend, committee meetings had been held, with old Templar friends and acquaintances renewing their bonds in the Fraternity and the York Rite.

"Monday morning the Grand Encampment held its public Opening for the Triennial Sessions, beginning at 9:00 A.M. The opening ceremony had an attendance of approximately 1,500 people and began with the procession of officers of the Grand Commandery of Ohio. Grand Commander William Ammer then directed the processional for the dignitaries of the Grand Encampment, including the Department Commanders, Past Grand Masters, and grand officers. Most Eminent Grand Master Dull stepped up to the stage through an arch of steel formed by the members of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 54, his home Commandery from Van Wert, Ohio. This procession was followed by the procession of flags representing all of the different jurisdictions in which the Knights Templar meet. After remarks by various Masonic dignitaries, including Masonically affiliated women's groups, the public Opening closed, and the Triennial Conclave opened to begin the work at hand."

The distinguished guests introduced were: Frederick P. Williams, Grand High Priest, Royal Arch Masons; W. A. Ballidan, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Royal and Select Masters of Ohio; Mrs. John B. Cottrell, Jr., widow of the late Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment; Mrs. Agnes McLeod, Supreme Worthy Advisor, Rainbow Girls; Mrs. Paul Etter, Past Supreme Royal Matron, Order of the Amaranth; Mrs. Herbert S. Roth, Supreme Recorder, Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant; Mrs. Paul E. Mihal, Supreme Worthy President, Social Order of the Beauceant; David J. Miller, Most Worthy



Grand Patron, Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; Mrs. Helen D. Roquemore, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron, Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; A. J. Tullos, Jr., Grand Master, International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay; Howard P. Bennett, Most Eminent Governor General, York Rite Sovereign College of North America; Major Charles A. Folsom, Past National President, National Sojourners, Inc.; E. Leslie Webb, Jr., Grand Preceptor, Grand College, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; Marvin E. Fowler, Provincial Grand Master, Royal Order of Scotland; Clarence K. Jones, Knight Grand Cross, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine; Charles A. Fly, Grand Master General, Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour; Arthur E. Johnson, Grand Monarch, Supreme Council, Grottoes of North America, M.O.V.P.E.R.; Walker Kisselburgh, Imperial Potentate, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America; Evan L. Fleming, Jr., General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Cryptic Masons International; James A. Kirkbride, Deputy General Grand Master, Cryptic Masons International; Bernard F. Mandelbaum, General Grand Master, Cryptic Masons International; Albert A. Remington, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International; The Reverend Marvin L. Isley, General Grand King, General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International; Dr. Walter A. Winchester, General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International; Charles B. Moody, Thirty-Third Degree, Deputy for Ohio, Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction; Stanley F. Maxwell, Thirty-Third Degree, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction; Dr. Philip J. Kendall, Past Supreme Grand Master, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada; W. Stanley Wright,

Past Supreme Grand Master, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada; James W. Gerrard, Past Supreme Grand Master and Grand Chancellor, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada; Donald A. King, Deputy Grand Master, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada; Fred C. Morrison, Supreme Grand Master, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada; and the Right Worshipful Brother Elmer Newman, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge, F.& A.M. of Ohio.

"Monday evening was reserved for state dinners and the Grand Master's Banquet was scheduled for Tuesday evening, with several thousand guests attending the banquet. Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Executive Director of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, served as emcee for the evening. Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauer assisted Sir Knight Bell in presenting a program on the efforts of the Eye Foundation in raising money for the visually handicapped.

"Wednesday was reserved for the conclusion of the business sessions and the open installation" of officers, following which "the Grand Encampment Triennial sessions were declared closed for 1985," and the Templars and their ladies "left for their respective destinations."

### **Fifty-seventh-1988**

The Grand Encampment held its Triennial Conclave in the historic and colorful city of Lexington, Kentucky, from August 5-10, 1988. Triennial activities began on Saturday, August 6, with the Drill Competition in Heritage Hall of the Convention Center in the heart of downtown Lexington. "Sir Knight Jack Loree, chairman of the Committee on Drill Regulations, was the coordinator of the drill competition, along with committee members James E. (D.) Berry and Herbert A. Newman." There were six Class A teams and eighteen Class B teams in the competition. Observers in the grandstands enjoyed a day of precision marching by Sir Knights who were well prepared for the intricate maneuvers they displayed on the drill floor.

**THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**  
*Sponsors the Knights Templar*  
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December 9–December 18, 2000

Our next Grand Master, Sir Knight Bill Jones, and his Lady Lois are planning to lead the Pilgrimage. *Please come and join them!*

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Single room supplement, if needed, please add: \$425

Senior discounts (age 60+, spouses age 55+): please deduct \$65 per person

**Deposit due with reservation: \$250 per person. Balance due: October 20, 2000**

Note: All checks should be made payable to: AMI Travel, Inc. and mailed to: Knights Templar Holy Land Program; C/O AMI Travel, Inc.; 6200 N. Hiawatha Avenue, Suite 625; Chicago; IL 60646. The program is based on a minimum of 25 participants. Schedule and sequence of events are subject to change.

**RESERVATION FORM**

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Price per person, based on double occupancy—*Please circle your departure city.*

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**From Chicago-O'Hare: \$2,175**

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Name of roommate, if known \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_ Issue date \_\_\_\_\_ Expire date \_\_\_\_\_

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(    ) Please confirm a single room supplement for an additional \$425.

**Senior discounts (age 60+, spouses 55+): please deduct \$65 per person.**

Enclosed is my payment of \$250 per person. Balance due October 20, 2000. Please make checks payable to AMI Travel, Inc., and mail to: Knights Templar Holy Land Program, C/O AMI Travel, Inc.; 6200 N. Hiawatha Avenue, Suite 625; Chicago; IL 60646.

## Brother Glenn Ford: Hollywood Leading Man

by Dr. Ivan M. Tribe, KYCH, 32°



In 1958 *The Motion Picture Herald* annual poll named Glenn Ford the top ranking "box office star in America." From 1946 well into the 1970s, Ford would be counted among the more durable male stars on the Hollywood scene, noted in the words of British film critic Leslie Halliwell as "adept at [portraying] tortured heroes." In those years Ford starred not only in rugged he-man westerns, but he could effectively play shady underworld characters, crooked policemen, and sensitive school teachers. Less well known is the fact that Ford has been a Mason for more than forty-five years and a Shriner for more than a quarter century.

Born Gwyllyn Samuel Newton Ford in Quebec on May 1, 1916, the only child of Newton and Hannah Ford had some distinguished persons in his family tree. Sir John MacDonald, his father's uncle, was the first prime minister of Canada (and a longtime member of St. John's Lodge in Kingston, Ontario), and another relative was U.S. President Martin Van Buren. The family owned a paper mill in Glenford, Ontario, and young Gwyllyn Ford spent his early years there. Later he dropped his Welsh first name and borrowed the name of the town of his childhood as a professional name, as Gwyllyn proved a bit too complex for American theater goers. Ford has been quoted as saying his ambition to be an actor dated from a local stage role he had at age four, which required him to eat a large quantity of chocolate candy.

When Ford reached the age of seven, his parents moved to Santa Monica, California. There the youngster attended public schools, graduating in 1934 from Santa Monica High, where he had excelled in English and had competed in several varsity athletic teams.

His parents did not object to an acting career, but they did insist that he learn a trade in case acting did not work out. Ford had already begun to work in a variety of amateur theatrical groups as both a stage manager and an actor. In 1938 he took a part in the play *Soliloquy*, but it failed after three days in New York, and the young aspiring actor returned to California on borrowed train fare.

Finally, in 1939 Glenn Ford's luck began to change as he landed a major role in a minor film, *Heaven with a Barbed Wire Fence*. Soon afterward he signed a contract with Columbia Pictures, and good roles followed in the westerns; *Texas* (1941) with William Holden, *The Desperadoes* (1943) with Randolph Scott; and a comedy, *Go West Young Lady* (1941), with Ann Miller and Penny Singleton (of Blondie Bumstead fame). Glenn had a smaller role in *The Lady in Question* (1940) with Rita Hayworth, the first of five films in which the two appeared together; they eventually ranked as one of screen's "great romantic teams."

Prior to the release of *The Desperadoes*, Glenn enlisted in the U.S. Marines on December 13, 1942. He served for the duration of the war. During his years in military service on October 23, 1943 - Ford married actress Eleanor Powell, who is often remembered as the most acclaimed dancer in motion picture history. The marriage lasted until 1959 and produced a son Peter with whom Ford now makes his home. Three later marriages proved to be of short duration.

Following his wartime duty, Glenn Ford returned to Hollywood and soon emerged as one of the top stars of the postwar generation. Two films in 1946 that did much to

elevate his reputation were *A Stolen Life* with Bette Davis and *Gilda*, the picture that perhaps more than any other established Rita Hayworth as one of the silver screen's all-time sex symbols. As "Johnny Farrell," the casino manager and former lover of Gilda who wins her away from her rich gangster husband, George MacCreedy; Ford created one of the film's more memorable characters.

Other films in the immediate postwar years that helped enhance Ford's reputation as a versatile actor included *Framed* (1947) with Janis Carter, *The Return of October* (1948) with up-and-coming starlet Terry Moore, and *The Loves of Carmen* (1948), in which he was miscast as a bullfighter but was again matched with Rita Hayworth. He also continued to make successful westerns not always in heroic roles. For instance, in *The Man from Colorado* (1948) he played a power-crazed federal judge, who comes to a bad end. However, he fared better in *The Redhead and the Cowboy* (1951) with Rhonda Fleming and overcame accusations of cowardliness in *The Man from the Alamo* (1952) with Julia (later Julie) Adams. Another film from that era, *The Secret of Convict Lake* (1951), paired him with Gene Tierney.



Glenn Ford in *The Man from Colorado*, 1948.



Rita Hayworth and Brother Glenn Ford in *Gilda*, 1946.

In 1954 Glenn Ford became a member of Palisades Lodge No. 637, F. & A.M., in Santa Monica. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 23, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on July 20, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on November 9, 1954. On June 27, 1957, he became a plural member of Riviera Lodge No. 780 in Pacific Palisades. In 1987 Palisades Lodge merged with Santa Monica Lodge No. 307. Ford retains membership in both Santa Monica-Palisades and Riviera. Some years later on May 6, 1972, Brother Ford took the Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Los Angeles, and the following week on May 12, he became a noble of Al Malaikah Temple, AAONMS.

Meanwhile Ford remained quite active in the motion picture industry for the remainder of the decade. Many critics responded favorably to his parts in the *film* noir classics, *The Big Heat* (1953) and *Human Desire* (1954). Others preferred his role opposite Eleanor Parker in *Interrupted Melody* (1955) or what some considered the high point of his career as the troubled teacher combating juvenile delinquency and school violence in *The*

**Blackboard Jungle** (1955), or with Donna Reed as concerned parents of a kidnapped child in **Ransom** (1956). **Affair in Trinidad** (1952) reunited Ford with Rita Hayworth, while **It Started with a Kiss** (1959) and **The Gazebo** (1960) paired him with Debbie Reynolds, the reigning Hollywood sweetheart and the girl-next-door of the Eisenhower Era.

Some of Glenn Ford's most memorable roles in the fifties continued to be in westerns. **The Fastest Gun Alive** (1956) saw Ford and wife, Jeanne Cram, trying to live down his reputation as a gunfighter but being forced into a showdown with the villainous Broderick Crawford. In **3:10 to Yuma** (1957), regarded as a classic, Ford played "an amiable but deadly scoundrel" being transported to prison by failing farmer Van Heflin and playing "mind games" with his guard. Other Ford westerns included the title role in **The Sheepman** (1958), a tough trail boss in **The Cowboy** (1958), and as the central figure in a remake of Edna Ferber's epic novel, **Cimarron** (1960). The latter is said to be Glenn's own favorite among his many starring efforts.

In 1961 Glenn Ford had one of his more memorable and unusual roles as "Dude Conway" in **Pocketful of Miracles**, in which he is part of a group that helps bag lady, "Apple Annie" (Bette Davis), by temporarily upgrading her status when her daughter - played by a young Ann Margret - pays a surprise visit. In **The Courtship of Eddie's Father** (1963), he plays a widower whose young son works at playing matchmaker with Shirley Jones as the aspiring step-mom. Other Ford films of the sixties include **Experiment in Terror** (1962) with Lee Remick and **Dear Heart** (1964) with Geraldine Page. One of several westerns was **Smith** (1968) in which he is a white farmer who tries to defend his Indian neighbors. He also made a final film with Rita Hayworth.

Meanwhile, outside of his screen career, Ford acquired something of a reputation as a

Hollywood Mr. Do-It Yourself. While waiting for his break as an actor, he had supplemented his income by installing windows and shingling roofs. In later years, Glenn installed his own plumbing, wired his home, and put in the air-conditioning system. According to his 1959 entry in **Current Biography**, the actor was then passing on these skills to adolescent son Peter.

With fewer motion pictures being made in the seventies, Brother Ford turned increasingly to television, as did more and more Hollywood people with the passing of time. His principal entry into the small screen division came in 1971-1972. **Cade's County** dealt with a modern sheriff coping with the challenges of law enforcement in a large western county. He also played the same role in a TV movie **Marsha! of Madrid** (1972). He did another short-lived series in 1975, **The Family Holvak**, wherein Glenn portrayed a minister in the South during the Great Depression. In fact, many of Ford's later films consisted of the "made for television" variety such as **The Disappearance of Flight 412** (1974), or in such mini-series as Louis L'Amour's **The Sacketts** (1979).

Nonetheless, he still had some good moments in movies for theater release. Among these was **Santee** (1972), in which he plays a mean bounty hunter out



A still for the **Fastest Gun Alive**, 1956  
with Glenn Ford and Jeanne Crain in center.

to avenge the death of his ten-year-old son. British-born Dana Wynter had the leading lady role. In the first big budget **Superman** (1978), Glenn played the part of Jonathan Kent, who adopts the baby from the doomed planet Krypton and rears him as Clark Kent.

Glenn Ford slowed down considerably after 1981. Except for a brief flurry of 1989-1991 activity, he has been pretty much retired. He played a sheriff in **Casablanca Express** (1989) and had a supporting role in **Border Shootout** (1990). In recent years he has been in poor health and makes his home with son Peter and his family. During the mid-nineties, he made some headlines when he was victimized by someone who tried to cheat him out of a considerable sum of money. Boyd Magers; who edits **Western Clippings**, a newsletter that keeps up with the activity of aging western stars; reports that Ford celebrated his 83rd birthday in May 1999 (making him 84) and reminisced about one of his favorite mementos, a gun presented to him some years earlier by John Wayne. He also reports that Ford almost never leaves the house. However, in his retirement Brother Glenn Ford can look back over a long and satisfying career as a film

star. He may not have reached the legendary status of Brother Clark Gable or Brother John Wayne, but in his lengthy career as a leading man, he and Masons everywhere can recall Glenn Ford as one of the best in his profession during the post-World War II generation.

*Note: This biographical sketch has been put together from a variety of film encyclopedias as well as Ford's entry in the 1959 edition of Current Biography. He did author an autobiography, entitled Glenn Ford, A. F. D. Beverly Hills (1970), which may be available in some libraries. For his Masonic record, I am indebted to the staff of the Grand Lodge of California and Al Malaikah Shrine Temple. Mrs. Joan Sansbury, librarian at the A. & A.S.R.,S.J., supplied his Scottish Rite record. I also appreciate the information furnished by Mr. Boyd Magers of Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

Sir Knight Ivan M. Tribe, KYCH, 32°, a professor of history at the University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Ohio, is Eminent Commander of Athens Commandery No. 15, Athens, Ohio. He resides at 111 East High Street, McArthur, OH 45651



Brother Glenn Ford in a scene from Dear Heart, 1965.



Brother Glenn Ford as Sam Cade in Marshal of Madrid, 1972.

## Part III: Life at Full Throttle - Brother Roscoe Turner

by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett KYCH,  
33<sup>o</sup>, FPS



At Cleveland, he won the Shell Speed Dash at a sizzling 280.47 M.P.H. and then qualified for the Thompson race at 280.274 M.P.H. He was sure he could take the pylon race. He jumped off to the lead immediately in the Thompson but missed a pylon turn on the second lap. Rules stated that a pilot must circle a missed pylon on the same lap. Afraid to do so because of traffic congestion at the pylon, Roscoe made his re-circle on the next lap. At the end of the race, Roscoe was waved to the winner's circle to accept the trophy. Just as he was about to begin his acceptance speech, an official ran up and explained that he had been disqualified for failing to circle the missed pylon in the same lap. Roscoe was momentarily devastated but soon regained his composure in time to accept the Cliff Henderson trophy for the Most Outstanding Pilot in the 1933 National Air Races. However, Jimmy Wedell received first-prize money for the Thompson race.

The 1934 racing year shaped up to be the most eventful of Roscoe's racing career. Two of aviation's most famous race designers were killed in 1934. Zantford "Granny" Granville died in a tragic accident in one of his Bee Gee models at Spartanburg, South Carolina, in February. Granny crashed when he stalled the lethal Bee Gee on his landing approach. Before the Bee Gee went out of manufacture, the unorthodox racer killed five other pilots in addition to Granny Granville. The acknowledged master of the Gee Bee was Jimmy Doolittle. He retired from air racing in 1932 to devote full time to his duties at the Shell Oil Company.

Another casualty in 1934 was Roscoe's good friend Jimmy Wedell. Ironically, Wedell was killed in a crash at Patterson,

Louisiana, in June, while giving dual instruction to a student pilot. At the time, Wedell-Williams was completing an improved version of the Model 44, designated Model 45. It was a faster, heavier version with a retractable landing gear and an improved wing design. For a time in 1935, the Air Corps considered a similar fighter design from Wedell-Williams, designating it the XP-34. The Model 45 look-alike, XP-34, was never built. It was superseded by other designs with more promise.

The 1934 National Air Races brought more tragedy. Roscoe missed the Bendix transcontinental race when his revamped Model 44 developed a fuel leak in a newly-installed tank. It was not repaired in time to start. Vincent Bendix was personally disappointed when only two of the seven starters finished the competition within the allotted time. However, the Bendix was won by Doug Davis, a pilot for Eastern Airlines, in Jimmy Wedell's Model 44. Immediately after the race, Vincent Bendix posted a \$3,500 prize for anyone who could better Roscoe's 1933 cross-country record.

Doug Davis won the Shell Speed Dash at Cleveland in Wedell's Model 44. His plane had a hastily-installed 800 H.P. P&W, which boosted his speed substantially and made him a formidable challenger to Roscoe's newly-modified racer. In the Thompson race Doug Davis jumped out to a quick lead over Roscoe. Flying cautiously, Turner anticipated that Davis would over-tax his engine and push it to destruction. The course had been altered in order to be in full view of the spectators in the stands. It was a 3-pylon course of 100 miles. On the sixth lap Davis cut inside the second pylon. Pulling up abruptly to circle it, he went into a high-speed

speed stall and spun wildly into the ground. Davis was killed instantly, while Roscoe coasted to an easy victory.

It was a somber Roscoe Turner who accepted the Thompson trophy at the speaker's podium after the race. It proved to be a turning point for air racing, bringing more stringent restrictions and safety precautions. Roscoe ferried his Model 44 to Detroit where it was in storage for eight months. He hoped to build a new plane for the 1935 Nationals. First, however, he had a fresh flying goal and very little time to prepare for it.

Roscoe planned to compete in the MacRobertson Air Race from England to Australia, scheduled to start on October 6, 1934. The contest was sponsored by Sir William MacPherson Robertson, a wealthy Scottish candy manufacturer. He was also co-owner of the MacRobertson-Miller Aviation Company of Australia. It was billed as the race of the century, a contest with two categories; speed and a handicap classification. The first prize was \$15,000 (American dollars), and international entries were welcomed. The race would start at Mildenhall, England, 55 miles outside London and end at Melbourne, Australia; an 11,000-mile flight with designated fuel stops en route. Lloyd's of London quoted odds of one to twelve against a participant's survival.

Seeking international exposure, Roscoe persuaded the Boeing Aircraft Company to lend him a new Model 247D and provide financial backing for the race.

Turner selected Clyde E. "Upside Down" Pangborn for his co-pilot. Clyde was a good mechanic and had been with Hugh Herndon, Jr., in 1931, on a failed around-the-world flight. Thus, he had valuable experience in long-distance flying. The contest would be a grueling physical experience. The 247D was a brand new passenger airliner, boasting many innovative features, including a retractable landing gear. It was powered by two 550 H.P. Pratt & Whitney radial engines. With the 247D Boeing hoped to find a world market.

By June 1, 1934, there were 65 race entries, with 17 of them from the United States. The American entries included Wiley Post, Jacqueline Cochrane, Frank Hawks, and Laura Ingalls, flying an assortment of different aircraft. Turner had enlisted several sponsors in addition to Boeing. Two of the most prominent and faithful were the H. J. Heinz Company, with their famous "57" variety logo, and the MacMillan Petroleum Company, with "Ring-Free Oil." Warner Brothers Pictures and publisher William Randolph Hearst were also among those on the Turner sponsor list.

The Boeing 247D was shipped to England aboard the *S.S. Washington*. Roscoe endured a harrowing trip, with countless bureaucratic delays, among them an unscheduled off-loading in France. With all obstacles resolved the 247D was rolled out at 3:00 A.M. to prepare for takeoff on October 20, 1934. Only 20 planes survived the preliminaries to take off as scheduled. Roscoe was second in line, behind Captain James Mollison. He was flying one of three twin-engine de Havilland Comets and was the 12-1 favorite to win. Besides Roscoe the only Americans starting were Jacqueline Cochrane in a Bee Gee Super Sportster and the Jack Wright-John Polandro team in a Lambert Monocoupe named *Baby Ruth*. An American-made Douglas DC2, belonging to KLM Airlines, was among the starters.

Nine of the starters reached Melbourne with Roscoe the only American. Poor accommodations en route, coupled with inferior radio communications, hampered Roscoe's flight continuously. He was obliged to make an unscheduled landing at Bourke, Australia, a few miles short of Melbourne, to make emergency repairs on one engine.

They arrived in Melbourne after 3 days, 21 hours, 5 minutes, and 2 seconds. Turner and Pangborn received an enthusiastic welcome, as the only Americans to complete the course. Roscoe had placed third in the race, behind the winning de Havilland Comet, *Grosvenor House*, flown



by C. W. A. Scott and T. Campbell Black. The KLM Airlines team, Parmentier and Moll, placed second in the Douglas DC2. The stop at Bourke had cost Roscoe second place. Nevertheless, in spite of their ordeals, Roscoe and Pangborn climbed out of the Boeing in a state of total exhaustion but still able to manage broad smiles for the cameras. It was a monumental publicity event for American aviation manufacturers and a personal triumph for Roscoe Turner. He was a world-wide celebrity.

Back in the United States Roscoe took full advantage of his world-class publicity. He toured in a Boeing tri-motor 80-A and spoke constantly, picking up additional sponsors along the way. He starred in a Heinz-sponsored national radio series publicizing their cereal. The famous "57" was prominent on all his aircraft in 1935. When Al and Fred Keys broke the world endurance record for aircraft aloft, Roscoe was in Corinth, Mississippi, to greet them. In preparation for the 1935 National Air Races, Roscoe announced he would enter with a new 1,000 H.P. P&W engine in his famous Model 44.

Roscoe did not win the Bendix cross-country event in 1935. The honor went to Benny Howard in his *Mr. Mulligan*, thanks to a substantially larger fuel capacity. Roscoe made his usual three fueling stops and finished second, a mere 23 seconds behind Benny. With dominating speed Roscoe was sure he would win the Thompson trophy, however. He jumped into a big lead and was far ahead of the field going into the final lap, when the supercharger impeller disintegrated, and oil began gushing from the engine. With speed remaining Roscoe climbed to 1,500 feet, circled, and rolled to a perfect dead-stick landing in front of the grandstand. He climbed out drenched in oil, the climax of the most exciting day in the 1935 National Air Races. It was learned that Roscoe's numerous mechanical mishaps had prompted Associated Press to have a stand-by obituary prepared in the event he had a fatal accident.

Roscoe's new racer for 1936 was a design created by Professor Howard W.

Barlow. It was intended to be in the 350-400 mile-per-hour class when completed. The new 1,400 H.P. P&W engine, swinging a 3-blade propeller along with a sleek design, would guarantee that, they hoped. The Lawrence W. Brown Aircraft Company in Los Angeles had the contract to build it, with Don Young's omnipresence protecting Roscoe's interests. Brown made some unauthorized changes on Barlow's design, and when questioned, he refused to adhere strictly to the professor's specifications. Work was stopped, and the uncompleted racer was shipped on a boxcar to the E. M. Laird Airplane Company in Chicago. Emil "Matty" Laird was the prestigious aircraft designer, who had designed the *Super Solution* in which Doolittle won the 1931 Bendix race.

Laird completed the new plane according to Barlow's plan with a few exceptions. He improved the wing structure and eliminated some weight, but the LTR was not ready for the 1936 Nationals. Roscoe would be obliged to fly his old Model 44 in the race. He took off from Los Angeles in August 1936, bound for Floyd Bennett Field in New York City for the start of the Bendix race.

Some 45 miles south of Flagstaff, Arizona, the carburetor of the Model 44 iced up over the Yavapai Indian Reservation, and Roscoe was obliged to make a forced landing. The rough landing virtually demolished the plane, breaking it in half just aft of the cockpit. Roscoe suffered several broken ribs and fractured vertebrae in his neck. He was physically disqualified from competing in the Nationals. He was quite vocal, however, in his opposition to military aircraft competing in the 1936 National Air Races, when a French government military model won the Bendix race. The resistance discouraged further military participation during the prewar years.

Roscoe promised to be back with a winner in 1937. Meanwhile, he continued his radio career with a daily series titled "Flying Time," aired over NBC in Chicago. He met Zack Mosley in 1936, the creator of the comic strip, "Smilin' Jack," and became

an inspiration for the main character, a composite of Roscoe and pilot Duke Krantz. In May Matty Laird had the LTR finished, shaving 400 pounds of weight from Barlow's original design. It was a beautiful ship, a mid-wing monoplane with graceful fixed landing gear and the big P&W power plant. It carried the license designation NR263Y. While Laird was putting the finishing touches on the new plane, Don Young was rebuilding the severely-damaged Model 44. Lieutenant Joe Mackey would fly that in the 1937 Nationals. Once again, a mishap thwarted Roscoe's plans.

A fire caused by a leaky gas tank in the Laird-Turner racer occurred at the Burbank Airport. Roscoe received a painful burn on one hand while extinguishing the fire. The injury disqualified him from the 1937 Bendix event. Joe Mackey's performance was a disappointment. He over-revved the 44's engine during the Bendix and caused a failure in the propeller control. Mackey also failed to finish in the money in the Thompson race. The Nationals were a total disappointment for Roscoe in 1937.

It was his lowest point financially, brought on by his disastrous experiences. His bad luck was so widely known that Fred Crawford, President of Thompson Products, sent Roscoe a check for \$500 "to help with the good work." He also promised to increase the Thompson prize money in 1938. The Nationals that year included a new rule which prohibited participants in the Bendix race from flying in the Thompson pylon event. Roscoe opted to pass up the Bendix in 1938.

The Thompson event that year became a two-plane race between Earl Ortman and Roscoe flying his LTR. It was not close after Oilman missed a pylon on lap six and had to recircle it. Roscoe lapped the field and finished ten miles ahead of Oilman to set a new record of 283.149 M.P.H. Roscoe's prize was \$22,000. Joe Mackey placed fifth in the Thompson in the old Model 44. It was Turner's second win in the Cleveland Thompson classic. A great year climaxed

with the presentation of the Harmon Trophy as aviation's premier aviator of 1938. In October Roscoe had a role in the movie, *Flight at Midnight*, and was promised larger roles in the future. The film debuted just before the 1939 races.

The year 1939 provided another 12 eventful months for Roscoe. He was elected president of the Professional Racing Pilots' Association. He approached Grumman Aviation for permission to fly one of their new fighter planes in the National Air Races, but they finally declined. Roscoe also became vice president of sales and advertising for the Porterfield Aircraft Company of Kansas City in 1939. Not impressed with their design plans, he resigned the following year. An ominous threat of war settled over the world in 1939, as Germany began its military campaign to conquer Europe by overrunning Poland. It would mark the final year for the National Air Races as Roscoe knew them.

Roscoe began the Thompson race cautiously in 1939, at the controls of his Laird-Turner Racer. He needed his superior speed when he missed the second



Roscoe Turner, 1939  
Artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett

pylon and had to re-circle. With the 14-cylinder Wasp at full throttle, he was back in the lead by the ninth lap. He lapped the entire field and was clocked on one lap at 299.04 MPH., the fastest ever turned on a 10-mile course. Roscoe won the event with an average speed of 282.536 M.P.H. and picked up the \$16,000 first prize. Tony LeVier finished second, with Joe Mackey taking fifth in Roscoe's Model 44 Wedell-Williams. It was Turner's third Thompson victory, the best record in the National Air Race history. He closed his tremendous racing career to the most thunderous applause he had ever received. Jimmy Doolittle and Roscoe were the only pilots to win both the Bendix and Thompson classics. Of eight pre-WWII Thompson winners, only three survived; Doolittle, Roscoe, and Harold Neuman.

Roscoe had his plans made as he entered into a new phase of his life at 44 years of age. He had selected the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, as his new home, following a year of careful prospecting. He intended to lend his name to promote a major advance in the expansion of the city's Weir Cook Airport. In addition, Roscoe was about to establish a world-class flying school in the facilities previously occupied by the Central Aeronautical Corporation at the field. Turner also acquired their fleet of aircraft and all assets. His financial partners were Ray P. Johnson and William M. Joy.

The Turner marriage deteriorated during the 1930s, and Carline remained in Hollywood. She filed for divorce in 1941 and remarried after the decree became final. Roscoe remarried on December 5, 1946 to Madonna M. Miller of Sheridan, Indiana. She was an accountant and an accomplished musician. Following a quiet wedding in New York City, Madonna proved to be a major asset in Turner's business activity for the balance of his career.

During World War II Roscoe made a futile attempt to obtain a commission in the Air Corps. Even his great friend, Jimmy Doolittle, was unable to help Roscoe back

into uniform again. He redoubled his war effort by turning his excellent flying school into a training facility for Air Corps personnel; including flight training, ground school, and mechanical training. He was also the authorized distributor for Waco, Stinson, and Taylorcraft airplanes. His historic Laird-Turner Racer was suspended from the ceiling in the hanger at Indianapolis for twenty-eight years. Nobody had ever piloted it except Roscoe. His famous Wedell-Williams Model 44 racer is still displayed in the Fred Crawford Auto and Aviation Museum at Cleveland's University Center.

Roscoe was badly injured in an auto accident in 1940 when broadsided by another motorist. His received a substantial settlement out of court, which further fortified his financial stability. Eventually, Roscoe was a millionaire; an odd financial pinnacle for an old barnstormer who nearly starved in the heyday of private flying. During the Indianapolis years, the Turner school turned out 3,500 military pilots and instructors. Roscoe also became a major booster for the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America. Both organizations received extensive publicity, along with a substantial amount of Roscoe's time and efforts devoted to their promotion.

On August 14, 1952, Congress unanimously passed a bill awarding the Distinguished Flying Cross to Roscoe Turner "for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight." The award listed his Bendix and Thompson race awards, including his speed records; and for training 3,500 pilots and instructors in World War II. Roscoe was the sixth civilian to receive the award normally reserved for military aviators.

Colonel Turner dabbled in a number of air-passenger ventures in the years following WWII, none of which proved particularly successful. Turner Aviation was a valuable and profitable Beechcraft distributor for several years, in addition to Roscoe's involvement in a number of product ventures unrelated to flying.

Always available for testimony before a congressional committee on aviation, Roscoe remained a strong advocate all his life. He never passed up an opportunity to advance his support of aviation in countless speaking engagements. Roscoe did not neglect his roots, either. He continued to visit Corinth regularly throughout his life and maintained strong ties with his Mississippi family. He was a man with few leisure interests outside of aviation, except in the kitchen. A prodigious eater all his life, he loved to cook. After his marriage to Madonna, he took over the kitchen to practice his culinary arts. The Turner home in Indianapolis was a popular social gathering place for many friends. They reveled in the collection of trophies and aviation memorabilia from Roscoe's historic career, including the preserved figure of Gilmore, his 600-pound lion who died in 1952.

During the 1960s Roscoe gradually disengaged from many of his aviation interests, leasing his facilities at Weir Cook Airport in Indianapolis. He wanted to devote more time to leisure pursuits and build a retirement home in Florida. On September 28, 1968, Roscoe and Madonna sold their remaining stock in the Roscoe Turner Aircraft Corporation.

They were visiting in New Orleans late in 1968, when Roscoe suddenly fell ill. He was admitted to the Ochsner Clinic, where he was diagnosed with bone cancer. He remained at the clinic for a month, undergoing cobalt therapy. In April 1969 Madonna drove to Florida to open their home there before Roscoe made the trip south. She received a phone call soon after arriving in Florida that Roscoe had fallen off a ladder at home and had broken some ribs. Madonna hastened to Indianapolis to set up a hospital bed and sick-room in their home, and Roscoe soon appeared to be well on the road to recovery from his fall.

The ground breaking for the long-awaited Roscoe Turner Museum took place on the last week of July 1969. Soon afterward the Turners were invited to a banquet and reception at Los Angeles on August 13,

1969, hosted by President Richard M. Nixon. Roscoe looked forward to an enjoyable evening, because the banquet was to honor the Apollo 11 astronauts. A few days later he was informed that Indianapolis Mayor Richard G. Lugar had proclaimed September 9, 1969, as Roscoe Turner Day. That was a great autumn for the famous aviator. The spring of 1970 brought another pleasant invitation. Jimmy Doolittle invited Roscoe to be his special guest at a reunion of the pilots and crews who survived the historic flight from the aircraft carrier *Wasp* to bomb the mainland of Japan. It turned out to be one of Roscoe's final public appearances.

He was in Florida by mid-May 1970, and was admitted again to the Ochsner Clinic. In June Roscoe asked to be taken home to Indianapolis. His old chief pilot from Roscoe Turner Aviation Corporation, Bill Yager, flew him home in a Lear jet. Madonna met them at Weir Cook Airport and carried him directly to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Roscoe worsened steadily at the hospital and finally expired on June 28, 1970, only three months before his 75th birthday.

A tremendous throng of mourners, including 300 close friends, attended his funeral service at Christ Episcopal Church in Indianapolis. Among the mourners were Jimmy Doolittle, Senator Barry Goldwater, Tony LaVier, Dick Merrill, and a host of Lockheed officials. During the ceremony a flight of Indiana National Guard aircraft passed over in formation. In the U.S. Congress a number of eulogies were read into the Congressional Record. Roscoe's mortal remains were borne to his mausoleum at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis for entombment.

The Roscoe Turner Museum and Education Center was dedicated on September 29, 1970, at Weir Cook Airport, with a great deal of pomp and circumstance. It was dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America and Sons of the American Legion just as Roscoe intended. Indianapolis had only a rather brief time to enjoy the memorabilia of the immortal aviator

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however. In August 1972 Madonna Turner was notified that the Smithsonian Institute had received the necessary funding to move the memorabilia to Washington, D.C., to the new Air & Space Age Museum. It was finally dedicated on July 4, 1976. Among the treasures exhibited in the great national facility were several of Roscoe's renowned aircraft. The collection included the Boeing 247D he flew in the MacRobertson Race in 1934, his Laird-Turner Racer - and Gilmore, forever guarding Roscoe's treasures.

There have been wonderful and breathtaking developments in aviation and space exploration since Roscoe thundered past the last checkered flag at Cleveland in 1939. However, for many of us, the image of that gallant aviator flashing through a brilliant 1930's sky in his red and cream Wedell-Williams racer has never been equaled. When Roscoe cut the engine after his final Thompson victory in 1939, a way of life ended for many of us that can never be duplicated. Today, at the beginning of the 21st century, senior Masons everywhere reflect a little wistfully on the golden memories the great Roscoe Turner spun for us when we were young.

### THE END

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## MSA Appeal For Relief In New Mexico

Wildfires have caused severe damage in the Los Alamos area of New Mexico, and at the time of this appeal, a separate fire was threatening Santa Fe, New Mexico. There had hardly been time to assess the damage from one fire before a second one was threatening the same kind of damage.

There are many people in New Mexico who have lost everything as a result of this disastrous fire. Please forward to the MSA such funds as you feel will be appropriate to help our devastated Brethren in this stricken jurisdiction. Please make checks payable to: the MSA Disaster Relief Fund, and send them to 8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785

Thank you very much for your help!

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



To place your "Knight Voices" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to "Knight Voices," The Grand Recorder, 5097 N. 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 a donation of \$10.00, you will receive a lapel/tie tack pin depicting 'the Templar seal.' The pin is polished bronze and is a real eye-catcher that will invite inquiries. It will open the door to discussions of Templary. All net proceeds are given to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Mail your check, payable to Charles A. Games, 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944. Include a note: "For a Templar seal pin." Please provide legible mailing address.

History sought for Knight Templar sword with the name "R. R. Morisse" on blade and leather scabbard and initials "RRM" and number '48" on metal scabbard. Please advise Fred W. Decker, 827 N. W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Corvallis, OR 97330, e-mail: [deckerf@ucs.orst.edu](mailto:deckerf@ucs.orst.edu)

A Sir Knight needs the following: size 50-long, C.P.O. uniform. Ralph Rose, P.O. Box 1945, Lufkin, TX 75902, (936) 639-0898 or e-mail [drrose@lcc.net](mailto:drrose@lcc.net)

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, (740) 927-7073

For sale: Royal Order of Scotland jewelry, both ladies' and men's. Marvin and Roberta Fowler, 1904 White Oaks Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306, (703) 768-6404

For sale: Be a part of history and promote longevity of life as we know it. Beautiful lapel pins are available showing New York State, Triple Tau, and Masonic Research logos on the same mount. Proceeds from the sale of pins are to be divided equally between Masonic Medical Lab and RAM Medical Research Foundation. Order yours today for \$10.00 each, postpaid. Check payable to RAM Medical Research Foundation. Send to Walter J. Hilsenbeck, 32 New York Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11758-4818

New Carlisle Lodge No. 100, New Carlisle, Ohio, has for sale a limited supply of their 150th anniversary (1850-2000), 143-page history. This history is not just a Masonic narrative but is accompanied by interesting and informative background material on the political, economic, and social development of the local community, the state, national and world scene from 1850 through the present time. The price is \$6.50 plus \$2.50 for shipping (\$9.00). Check or money order to William M.

Berry, New Carlisle Lodge, 110 S. Main Street, New Carlisle, OH 45344

Square and Compass Lodge No. 3, Kunitachi City, Tokyo Japan, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. They have minted silver-dollar-sized coins to commemorate this distinctive occasion. The price is \$7.00 each, including S & H. Checks or money orders to John C. Fisher III, P.O. Box 4288, Woodland Park, CO 80866-4288

Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M., Cochran, Georgia, is continuing its long-term charity project. We are selling Masonic jewelry boxes, 6 x5 x2.5 inches in size and the shape of the square and compass. They are constructed of exotic woods from Central America and hand-crafted with an interlocking design. All profits from these Masonic jewelry boxes will be going to Masonic charities, a portion directly to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. The price is \$20.00 each with \$5.00 shipping in the U.S. and Canada. Check or money order to Cochran Lodge No. 217 and mail to Harry A. Bruno, Chairman; Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F & AM.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail [hary217@bigfoot.com](mailto:hary217@bigfoot.com)

Jefferson Lodge No. 15, A.F. & AM., Lewes, Delaware, has bronze coins, limited edition, to celebrate its 150th anniversary in Masonry. They are \$8.00 each, including S & H. Checks or money orders to Charles E. Goepel, Secretary; M50 White House Beach, Long Neck, DE 19966-8524

Meridian Sun Lodge No. 20, F. & AM., in Crattsbury, Vermont, is preparing to celebrate its 200th anniversary on October 14, 2000. They have especially minted coins for sale, modeled after their lodge seal and containing pertinent bicentennial information. Price with S & H is \$7.00 each. Also available: cachet envelope with a bicentennial cancellation for philatelists. Send your envelope for cancellation or enclose \$1.00 and address for our special cachet envelope. Satisfaction guaranteed. Order to Monty S. Shatney, PM.; 33 Dog Pond Road; Woodbury; VT 05681

For sale: Masonic wall clocks with six-year guarantee. They make a great gift for a Masonic friend or candidate. This is a fund-raiser for Chapter R.A.M. Each is \$12.50, or buy 3 for \$35.00, shipping included

Please indicate Blue Lodge or Shrine clock face. Waukesha Chapter No. 37, R.A.M.; PO Box 322; Waukesha; WI 53187

DeMolay memorabilia wanted: pins, Cordon magazines, old shirts/sweatshirts, etc. (I have current Iowa Chapter and Iowa State T-shirts and pins to swap.) 3-generation DeMolay and Masonic family. Gerald Edgar, 230 W 5th Street, Garner, IA 50438

Sprig of Acacia lapel pins: Each handcrafted pin is sterling silver with a 24 karat gold vermeil finish. Price per pin is \$10.00 ea. including S & H. New item available: The Masonic bridge builder pin in sterling silver with antiqued finish. Price per pin is \$10.00 ea. including S & H. Both pins are available only through S. Kenneth Banl, 3747 Westgate Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208-1122, (513) 731-0737. 10% of proceeds will benefit the KTEF.

For sale: The Medal of Honor The Letter G in Valor, a 268-page digest with the names, congressional citations, and Lodge membership of all Masons who have received our nation's highest military award for bravery. Check or money order for \$21.95 (CT residents, \$23.27) to Weidner Publishing Group, Dept. K., 490 Cornwall Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410, or credit card order by calling 1 (800) 783-9654. Author's portion of profits donated to KTEF.

For sale: York Rite cap with six-color embroidery showing Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery emblems. Specify white or dark blue cap - \$11.00 each plus \$1.00 postage. Also: gold color Knights Templar lapel pin, \$4.00. Part of each sale goes to the York Rite charities. Robert Hauptert, P.O. Box 433, Farmington, NM 87499

Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 27 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 Storck, Sr.; 775 W Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705; (520) 888-7585

FOR SALE: cast coins, medallions, lapel pins, wooden nickels, round tuits, pens, pencils, markers, yardsticks, mugs, caps, key tags, knives, belt buckles, bumper stickers, calendars, business cards, awards, plaques, magnetic items, license plates, and ornaments. Use one or all of these popular promotional items in your Blue Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, Council, and Commandery. All items produced to your specifications using your camera-ready art, or we can create the art from your sketch. Masonic organizations have an automatic line of credit. 3% of profit goes to KTEF. Frank Looser; 800-765-1728 or e-mail [cnfi@home.com](mailto:cnfi@home.com) or leave a message; all calls returned ASAP. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Wanted: gold, folding, hinged Masonic watch fobs to buy for distinguished historical fob collection. Marshall Jacobowifz; 306 East 5th Street, No. 24; New York; NY 10003; (212) 533-0968

FOR SALE (interested in low dollar only): large collection of Masonically oriented stamps on Masonic sheets, autographs, first-day covers (US, Israel, etc.), in 135, large, 3-ring binders; also miscellaneous Masonic medals. Otto Graph, P.O. Box 202, Johnstown, PA 15907. Contribution to KTEF.

Wanted: Past Master and Sir Knight seeks programs, photos, posters, scrapbooks, letters, and other historical items from the field of professional wrestling, particularly former wrestlers who are/were Masons. S. D. Johnson, 2410 S. Street No. 10, Sacramento, CA 95816, (916) 451-8170, e-mail [duff@midtown.net](mailto:duff@midtown.net). (member CAC)

Masonic clip art for Windows computers on CD disk. Artwork includes Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar, Shrine, and several others. Over 200 images available for your correspondence and trestle-board publications. Some are in color. The price is \$12.95 including postage. Percentage will benefit KTEF. John Yates, P.O. Box 3496, Wichita Falls, TX 76301-0496, internet e-mail: [jyates@wf.net](mailto:jyates@wf.net)

Retired Mason wants to buy, any condition: train sets - American Flyer, Lionel, and Marx, all gauges; Aurora "model motoring" race car sets; U.S. and German military items; old U.S. stamps; and American Indian stone artifacts and arrowheads. All inquiries answered. Tim Rickheirn, 14761 Tunnicliff Road, Petersburg, MI 49270, collect: (734) 854-3021, e-mail: [heim@accesstoleado.com](mailto:heim@accesstoleado.com)

For sale: new book, Communicate and Negotiate by Rick E. Schroeder: a step by step guide for: communication, negotiation, mediation, arbitration. Write for more detailed information. Edwin R. Schroeder; P.R. 1, Box 4150, Pittsburg, NH 03592-980 1.

My sincere thanks to all the Sir Knights and others who have responded to my ads. I am still collecting Hopalong Cassidy, Belknap, and International Harvester memorabilia. I appreciate your phone calls, letters, and e-mail. William L. Best, 114 N. Poplar Street, Brownstown, IN 47220, (812) 358-3059, [vwbest@juno.com](mailto:vwbest@juno.com)

Starting a collection of bookmarks to teach granddaughter the value of having a project to follow throughout her life at a reasonable cost and to teach the value of something of beauty. If you have unusual bookmarks and a written history of same, all would be appreciated. Krystal Skinner, CIO Toney R. Scott, 1110 Edgewood Drive, Jerseyville, IL 62052-1120

Buying all U.S. and foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, silver, proof sets. Also selling \$20.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00 gold coins. Call for quotes. Buyer has forty years experience. A Percentage of profits to KTEF. Randy Mogren, 8 Gould Street, Millbury, MA 01527, (508) 865-4816

Wanted: old ritual books for the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (Grange). any and all degrees, any and all editions. Please advise as to availability and price, and I will, of course, pay postage. Want solely for the purpose of collection, not for any clandestine purpose. I am a member of the order. Reverend G. Dimick, 20 West Lincoln Avenue, Hatfield, PA 19440, (215) 855-8543

Wanted: I am collecting postcards of outdoor sculpture, including giant roadside attractions, big statues or monuments, or world's largest items, jackalopes, mythical and albino animals, bobcats, map cards, all outdoor sculptures, mimetic architecture, and North Dakota Masonic related postcards. I will trade, swap, purchase, or consider approvals. Brother Robert Tubbs; 909 Fourth Avenue, N. W.; Mandan; ND 58554-2712, [rtubbsC4state.nd.us](mailto:rtubbsC4state.nd.us) My memberships include: A.F. & AM., O.E.S., YR bodies.



**61st Triennial Conclave of the  
Grand Encampment - August 11-16, 2000**