



Knight Templar

VOLUME XLVI

OCTOBER 2000

NUMBER 10



William Jackson Jones
Most Eminent Grand Master
2000-2003

October 2000 - Grand Master's Message

Thank You For The Honor!

I want to thank all of you for the honor conferred upon me - the office of Most Eminent Grand Master - at the 61st Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar held in Nashville, Tennessee. The privilege of being Grand Master comes to very few, and I intend to do my best to help Templary move forward in this 62nd Triennium.

During the month of October, I will be attending the Grand Lodge of Illinois in Springfield and a reception in my honor given by the Grand Commandery of Illinois on October 7. On Saturday, October 14, I will be representing the Knights Templar Eye Foundation at the Johns Hopkins Medicine Celebration Luncheon in Boston, Massachusetts. The next two weekends are scheduled for the Northwestern Department Conference in Boise, Idaho, and the North Central Department Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in Dallas, October 22-25, 2000, I will again be representing the KTEF.

The other Grand Encampment officers have similar schedules. We hope to be able to meet and talk with many of you at these Conferences and at the annual Conclaves during this year.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Jackson Jones". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

William Jackson Jones Grand Master, KCT, GCT

Knigh Templar

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

OCTOBER: Meet your top three grand line officers of the Grand Encampment starting on page 5 with Grand Master William J. Jones, the new leader of Templary. It's time to start looking forward to the 33rd Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The new Chairman for the Campaign, Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, introduces himself and offers suggestions for your participation in the Campaign on page 9-10, and an exciting fund-raiser from Maine is explained - Bet you'll want to take part! Also, why not come up with something this appealing for your own state's fund-raising? More Pilgrim ministers praise the Holy Land Pilgrimage on page 21. Sir Knight Edwards presents more history of the early Knights Templar and speculates about a relation to Masonry on page 23. We finish the issue with the conclusion of "Brother Tex Hill: Flying Tiger Ace" including original artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett. Enjoy!

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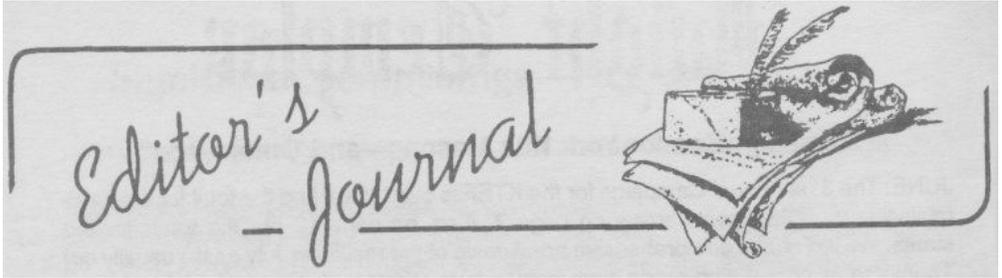
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Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders



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 Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

61st Triennial Conclave mementos available: 61st Triennial Conclave plates, \$15.00 each plus \$5.00 S & H (limited supply); 61st Triennial badges, \$5.00 each, gold or silver, plus \$2.00 S & H (while supply lasts); 61st Triennial program books, \$3.00 each plus \$2.00 S & H (limited supply).

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

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 60630-2460

A Pilgrim's Path: Freemasonry and the Religious Right: This is John J. Robinson's last book, and it is available as a hardbound copy. Every Mason should want this intriguing and educational book in his library. The book is available for \$15.00 each, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

Born in Blood: The exciting book by John J. Robinson is available at the price of \$16.00, including shipping and handling. • **Dungeon, Fire, and Sword:** This history of the Knights Templar by the late John J. Robinson is available for \$20.00 each, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Please make checks payable to the Grand Encampment, and send them to the Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

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>

Sir Knight William Jackson Jones, Illinois Elected New Leader of Templar Masonry

Elected to office on August 15, 2000, at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, Most Eminent Grand Master William Jackson Jones, pictured on our October cover, will preside over 195,000 Sir Knights who comprise the Knights Templar of the United States of America. Our new Grand Master was appointed Right Eminent Department Commander of the North Central Department, 1985-1988 by Sir Knight Donald Hinslea Smith, Most Eminent Grand Master, August 13, 1985. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment on August 20, 1991, in Washington, D.C. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo in August 1994 in Denver, Colorado. He was elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment on August 12, 1997, and installed August 13, 1997 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was elected Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment on August 15, 2000, and was installed on August 16, 2000 in Nashville, Tennessee.

William Jackson Jones was born on March 12, 1939, in Tuscola, Illinois. He went to high school in Villa Grove, Illinois, at Villa Grove High School; he went on to the University of Illinois for his B.S. in 1961, and he received his D.D.S. therein 1964. He married Lois A. Robinson at Tolono, Illinois, on December 10, 1967, and they have two children; Phillip and Jane. Sir Knight Jones currently resides in Villa Grove, Illinois, where Sir Knight Jones has practiced dentistry for 31 years.

Sir Knight Jones has held numerous civic positions, including serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Villa Grove Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors, American Heart Association, Illinois Affiliate; Villa Grove Schools Citizens Consulting Committee; Board of Directors for Villa Grove Community Theater; and President, Eastern Illinois Dental Society.

Sir Knight Jones was Raised in Villa Grove Lodge No. 885, Villa Grove, Illinois, in September of 1960. He has served as Worshipful Master of this Lodge. In the York Rite, he is a member of Tuscola Chapter No. 66 in Tuscola, Illinois, where he has served as High Priest. He is a member of the Order of High Priesthood. He is a member of Mattoon Council No. 10, Mattoon, Illinois, where he has been the Thrice Illustrious Master. He was created a Knight Templar on December 1, 1969, in Melita Commandery

No. 37, Tuscola, Illinois, where he has served as Commander in 1972 and 1977. He is a member and Past Preceptor of Lily of the Valley Tabernacle XLVI, HRAKTP. He has been elected to the grand line of the Grand College of America, HRAKTP.

In the Grand Commandery of Illinois, he ascended the grand line, serving as Grand Commander in 1984. In addition to being Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, he is a holder of the Knight Commander of the Temple and the Knight Grand Cross of the Temple.

Appendant Masonic activities include membership in the Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction, the Valley of Danville, Illinois. He was coronated an Inspector General Honorary of the 33° in 1985. Sir Knight Jones is a member of Ansar Temple, Springfield, Illinois, AAONMS. He belongs to the Knights of the York Cross of Honour, and was recipient of the Purple Cross in 1988. He is a member of Saxa Rubra Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, and the Royal Order of Scotland. He is an Active Member of the DeMolay Legion of Honour, and a recipient of the Order of Chevalier and is an honorary member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay. He is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Knight Masons, and the Order of Amaranth.

Sir Knight Kenneth Bernard Fischer, Texas Elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master

Sir Knight Kenneth Bernard Fischer, Past Grand Commander of Texas, 1990, was elected and installed Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment in Denver, Colorado, in August 1994. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment on August 12, 1997 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master in Nashville, Tennessee, August 15, 2000.

Kenneth Bernard Fischer was born August 13, 1937, in Houston, Texas. He graduated from the University of Houston receiving a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1960.

He married Arlene M. Martin and they have five children; Ken Jr., Kristian, Amy, Wendi and Ken; and they have four grandchildren; Samantha, Alexa, Andrew, Cameron.

Kenneth and Arlene reside in Friendswood, Texas, and are members of Friendswood United Methodist Church. He is retired from Hoechst-Celanese, as Corporate Rotating Equipment Consultant, after thirty-two years.

His professional and civic activities include registered-professional engineering, Texas (36 years); member, American Society of Mechanical Engineers; active member Turbo-machinery Symposium, Texas A & M; Pump Symposium, Texas A & M; Vibration Institute; Amateur Radio Operator, W5KBF; and Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

His Masonic affiliations are: Sagemont Lodge No. 1426, A.F. & AM., Past Master, D.D.G.M., 1994; Galena Park Chapter No. 490, R.A.M., Past High Priest, D.D.G.H.P., 1977; Galena Park Council No. 405, R. & SM., Past Thrice Illustrious Master, D.D.G.M., 1992; Order of the Silver Trowel of Texas, Past Thrice Illustrious Master; Park Place Commandery No. 106, K.T., Past Commander; Park Place Commandery No.



106, Drill Captain (20 years); Grand Commandery of Texas, Past Grand Commander (1990-91); Resurrection Tabernacle No. 21, HRAKTP, K.C., (1993); San Jacinto Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Past Sovereign; Valley of Houston, A.A.S.R., S.J., KCCH (1992), 33° (1997); Royal Order of Scotland; Gulf Coast York Rite College No. 106, Purple Cross (1988); Order of DeMolay, Chevalier, Active Legion of Honor; Friendswood Chapter No. 1131, O.E.S.; Sam Houston Council No. 275, A.M.D., Past Sovereign Master, 1994; Anson Jones Council No. 47, Knight Masons, Past Excellent Chief, 1994; Arabia Temple, AAONMS; Amaranth, Initiated 1994; holder of the Knight Commander of the Temple and Knight Grand Cross of the Temple.

Sir Knight Richard Burditt Baldwin, Virginia Elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knight Richard Burditt Baldwin, Past Grand Commander of Virginia, 1989, was elected and installed Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment in St. Louis, Missouri, August 1997. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo on August 15, 2000, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the 61st Triennial Conclave.

Richard B. Baldwin was born in Concord, Massachusetts, October 28, 1935, the son of David S. and Hope W. Baldwin. He attended the Sudbury, Massachusetts public schools graduating in 1953, was graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1957 with the degree of bachelor of business administration, and received a M.S. degree in 1974 from George Washington University.

He entered active duty on Flag Day, June 14, 1957, served more than thirty years of active federal service, retiring 1987 as a colonel. He has two daughters, one son, four grandsons, and two granddaughters.

His Symbolic Lodge memberships include Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54, A. Douglas Smith Lodge of Research No. 1949, Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777, all in Virginia; and Missouri Lodge of Research in Missouri.

His York Rite affiliations are: Annandale Royal Arch Chapter No. 77, Virginia; Triangle Council No. 3, R. & S.M., DC; Adoniram Council No. 10, R. & S.M., FL; Commandery: Arlington No. 29, Thomas S. Ely No. 30, Penn-Neck No. 33, Grice No. 16 (Honorary) all of Virginia; INRI Commandery No. 4, DC; Winchester No. 12, (Honorary); Bayard No. 15 (Honorary); St. George No. 76, OH. He has honorary Memberships in many Grand Commanderies and also in York Rite bodies of Florida, Alabama, South Dakota and New Hampshire; and the KYCH of Texas and Illinois. He was a long-time general chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on the Easter Sunrise Memorial Service.

Masonic offices held: Grand Commander of Virginia, 1989-90; Department Commander (honorary), Grand Encampment; Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge of VA, 1993-94; District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Royal Patron, Order of Amaranth, VA, 1989-90; High Priest, Annandale Royal Arch Chapter



No. 77, VA, 1974-75 and 1979-80; Past Commander, Arlington No. 29, VA, 1983-84; Royal Patron, Potomac Court No. 4, Order of Amaranth, VA, 1982, 1985, 1989; Grand Tall Cedar, NOR-VA Forest No. 163, 1984; P.D.D.G.H.P, Grand Chapter of RAM., VA, 1986; Governor, York Rite College, (Charter Governor, Honorary Member), 1983-84; Sovereign Master, Allied Masonic Degrees, 1987; Patron, Columbia Chapter No. 15, O.E.S., DC, 1990-91; Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine, 1992-94; Preceptor, Nova-Vita Tabernacle, HRAKTP, 1994; Prior, Rose of Sharon Priory No. 2, KYCH, 1994; Past Celebrant and Chief Adept, Societas Rosicruciana Civitatis Foederatum (1994-95); Watchman of Shepherds, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, 1994-97; President, National Sojourners, 1982-83; Commander, Heroes of '76, 1981-82; P.E. Chief, Knight Masons, 1993; Pres., National Defense Masonic Club, 1982-83; Pres., VA Appreciation Club, KTEF (1989); Pres., VA Assoc. of A.M.D. Councils, 1990; Grand Treasurer, Royal Order of Scotland, 1986-1991; Grand Chaplain, Grand Council, R. & S.M., DC; P.D. Supreme Watchman of Shepherds, 1995-97.

Scottish Rite Bodies: A. & A.S.R., S.J. of the U.S.A., Valley of Alexandria, Orient of VA; A. & A.S.R., S.J. of the USA, Valley of Washington, Orient of DC; A.A.S.R., N.M.J., New Jersey. Holds 33° from D.C.

He is also affiliated with Allied Masonic Degrees, Grand College of Rites, C.B.C.S., Red Branch of Erie, Masonic Order of the Bath, and Royal Ark Mariners.

Next Month: More Officer Biographies!

Rebekah Rogers - Miss Job's Daughter Of Maryland



Miss Rebekah Rogers, who was fourteen years old at the time and is currently the Honored Queen of Bethel No. 31, Job's Daughters of Westminster, Maryland, was chosen Miss Job's Daughter of Maryland 2000. One of the representatives of 30 Bethels in Maryland, Miss Rogers competed in written and oral tests and in extemporaneous speaking and was interviewed and judged on poise. She represents her organization at all MD, DE, VA, and PA Masonic functions and attended the International Session and Pageant in Boise, Idaho, this summer.

Miss Rogers is the granddaughter of Sir Knight Joseph F. Chalker, Past Grand Commander of Maryland and Commander of Carroll Commandery No. 17, Westminster, and Coetta Chalker, Recorder of Westminster Assembly No. 245, Social Order of the Beauceant, and Supreme Recorder, S.O.O.B. Shown in the picture, left to right, are: Mrs. Joseph F. Chalker, Rebekah Rogers, and Sir Knight Joseph F. Chalker.

TEMPLARS!: Any of you who have anecdotes (either funny or informational) about a Templar, a group of Templars, a Commandery, a Grand Commandery, or the Grand Encampment, which might be of historical interest; please write it (by hand, if you wish), and send it to me. I will see that it is "laid up among the archives" of the Grand Encampment, to be printed in this magazine at an appropriate time and in any history published in the next century: Jacob C. Baird, Chairman of the Committee on Templar History, 1334 Royal Rd, Norwood, MO 65717-9466; e-mail: jcbaird@windo.missouri.org



The 33rd Annual Voluntary Campaign: Getting a Start: Purpose – Performance - Program!

by Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, P.D.C. and P.G.C. (California)
Chairman of the 33rd Annual Voluntary Campaign

Greetings, Sir Knights:

Let me introduce myself.

I am Bruce Pruitt, Past Grand Commander of California and Past Southwestern Department Commander. (You'll usually see my name as "W. Bruce" since I don't want to slight my other Grandfather, Willie Hatcher, for whom I was also named.) I am writing this article as living proof that you had better be careful when you tell an upcoming Most Eminent Grand Master that you, "...will be happy to do any job that he wants you to do in the upcoming triennium."

This message will set up some preliminaries to the next campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Yes, that's the job that Grand Master William Jackson Jones has assigned me: Chairman of the 33rd Campaign. As you all know, the campaign will not officially start until December 1, but it is not too early to begin making plans.

The previous Chairman of this effort, Sir Knight Charles Games, was very creative and started several excellent programs to promote contributions to the Eye Foundation. Over the six years that Sir Knight Charlie worked on this effort, he was responsible for such things as contributions by credit card, direct appeals, and the major donor/gold chalice program. We may not see as many **new** programs in the next year or so, but I sincerely hope that we can make good use of those that are already in place. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sir Knight Charlie Games for his sincere dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of the Eye Foundation. **Well done, Charlie! We really appreciate all you did."**



As we contemplate the future and look forward to the 33rd Campaign, I would like for you to reflect with me about three aspects of this very important charity:

Purpose Performance Program

Purpose: The purpose or objective of the Eye Foundation is, of course, to provide relief to those individuals who badly need operations on their eyes or eye exams and to finance research into the many diseases that affect the eyes.

Performance: As we progress through the year, I hope to keep you advised of the many ways in which the Eye Foundation is actually accomplishing the objectives for which it was established. You can be assured that the money you contribute is actually being used to the best possible advantage.

Program: I will, from time to time, be passing along suggestions for creative techniques that can be used to promote and improve contributions. It often helps to be innovative in our appeals, and there

are many good ideas for ways in which to bring the Eye Foundation into everyone's thinking. As I hear about projects that are being initiated across the country, I will share them with you. Hopefully every good idea will help to create other good ideas throughout the Grand Encampment.

If anyone has suggestions as to what you would like to see in these articles; concerning **purpose, performance, or program**; I would be more than happy to hear from you.

As an example: Here is a summary of an excellent campaign being conducted by the Grand Commandery of Maine and Sir Knight David J. Billings, Grand Commander. It is even one in which you can personally participate. The Grand Commandery of Maine is conducting the "See for Me" program. For a donation of \$10.00 you are entered in a raffle with a drawing to be held on March 16, 2001. (Deadline for contributions is March 10.) The lucky winner will enjoy a lobster dinner for two, a 90-minute boat tour for two of the coast of Maine, and two nights at the Goat Island Light at Kennebunkport, Maine. (See the accompanying picture and article about the raffle.)

Information is available from David J. Billings, PO Box 677, Kennebunkport, ME 04046, or you may simply send your \$10.00 contribution along with your name, address, and telephone number (send on a 3x5 card) to the same address.

If you win, you will have to get yourself to Kennebunkport; however, as one who has visited that lovely New England town, I can say that it will be well worth while. It is a unique, quaint, and enjoyable village.

How's that for an interesting, creative idea? Good luck, Sir Knight David. I sincerely hope your program will be a great success!

Keep your eyes on these pages for more great information about the 33rd Campaign. Let's start now making plans for a great kickoff on December first!

Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt; Chairman of the 33rd Annual Voluntary Campaign, Past Department Commander, Southwestern, and Past Grand Commander of California; is a member of Palo Alto Commandery No. 47, Palo Alto, California. He resides at 14101 Manuella Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. For information on the KTEF, send e-mail to ktef@knightstemplar.org

"See For Me"



Goat Island Light, Kennebunkport, Maine

Would you like to spend two (2) nights at this lighthouse? You could and you could also receive a lobster dinner for two and a 90-minute boat tour of the coast of Maine for two. "All of this and more, for the lucky winner of the **See For Me** project," so stated Sir Knight David Billings, Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of Maine, as he kicked off the project, the proceeds of which will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Sir Knight Dave reminded all that the original Knights had one of the largest fleet of ships known during the 11th and 12th centuries and also that a lighthouse is his symbol for the year 2000-2001: "As the light beam of a lighthouse guides manners to a safe harbor, so should Knights Templar let their light shine before men, that they may see our good works."

Print your name, mailing address, and telephone number on a 3x5 card, and send it along with ten dollars (\$10.00) - check, cash or money order, per entry. Mail to: David Billings, PO Box 677, Kennebunkport, ME 04046

Entries must be received by March 10, 2001. The winner must

provide his own way to Kennebunkport, Maine. The winner will be notified by phone and will select the concurring two nights, excluding July 4th and Labor Day weekends. Send your entry now; the Lighthouse Family is waiting to greet you!



"Thank you" from a recipient of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation: Thank you to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and especially to John Nichols and Vernon Rose of Ft. Knox, Kentucky. I just want to say "thank you" from my heart for your generosity and care. I've just had my cataract surgery, and it's been wonderful to see again! I cannot thank you enough for your warmth and good will!

Sandra Wyatt
Brandenburg, Kentucky

How To Join The KTEF Grand Commander's And Grand Master's Clubs:

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.

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,

THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
Sponsors the Knights Templar
CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND OF ISRAEL
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!*

PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Round-trip airfare New York/Chicago to Tel Aviv, including international departure taxes
- All transfers and luggage handling in Israel
- First class hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily
- Hotel taxes and service charge
- Sightseeing in a deluxe motorcoach with an English speaking, licensed tour guide
- Entrance fees to sites, per itinerary
- Boat ride across the Sea of Galilee
- St. Peter's fish luncheon in Tiberias
- Special Roman theme lunch in Jerusalem
- Farewell dinner on the last evening in Israel
- **Not included:** Gratuities to guide, bus driver, and hotel staff (app.: \$65 per person)

For further information please contact: Mr. Charles Neumann, (773) 777-3300 or AMI Travel, Inc., at address below; or telephone: (773) 777-4900 or (800) 821-8947; fax: (773) 777-4921.

COST AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Package price per person, double occupancy:

From Newark Airport, NJ (NYC)—\$2,095 From Chicago-O'Hare—\$2,175

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

Knights Templar Pilgrimage to Israel, the Holy Land—Dec. 9–18, 2000

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

From Newark Airport, NJ (NYC): \$2,095

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

NAME (per passport): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Telephone No. () _____ Work Telephone No. () _____

Name of roommate, if known _____

Date of birth _____ Passport No. _____ Issue date _____ Expire date _____

Name preference for name badge: _____

() 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.

On the Masonic Newsfront...

**(Mrs. Homer) Janice Hendrickson Of Kansas
Installed Supreme Worthy President, S.O.O.B.**

(Mrs. Homer) Janice Hendrickson was elected Supreme Worthy President, Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant, on September 29, 2000, in Omaha, Nebraska, at the 79th Annual Supreme Assembly. Mrs. Hendrickson will preside at the Supreme Assembly, September 23-28, 2001, which will be held in Ontario, California. Her Sir Knight Homer will accompany her as she travels to the Assemblies for her Official Visits.



(Mrs. Homer) Janice Hendrickson was born and raised in Missouri. She married Homer after the family moved to Hutchinson, Kansas, where they raised a family of four children and have seven grandchildren. She attended McPherson College and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management in 1992. Mrs. Hendrickson became a member of Hutchinson Assembly in 1980 and served as their Worthy President for three terms. She is currently a member of Newton Assembly No. 6 and a dual member in Wichita No. 8. Mrs. Hendrickson is a member of Eastern Star, a Past Matron and a Past District Aide; a member of the Women of the Moose; a life member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society; and a Daughter of the Nile.

Her hobbies include genealogy, collecting Knomes by Tom Clark, and collecting Christmas decorations from areas she has visited. Mrs. Hendrickson is looking forward to her visit to the Assemblies and meeting her Beauceant Sisters.

**Boise Assembly No. 137, S.O.O.B., Boise, Idaho
Sponsors Child From Boys And Girls Club Of Ada County**



Boise Assembly No. 137, Social Order of the Beauceant, Boise, Idaho, has donated \$250 to the Boys and Girls Club of Ada County, Idaho. This is the amount necessary to sponsor one child for one year. To left, (Mrs. Clyde) Dana Schrader, President of the Beauceant Assembly, is shown with Mark Kuhnhauser, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club. Below the members of the Assembly, who are wives and widows of Knights Templar, are shown with Mark Kuhnhauser, at left.



Illinois Sir Knight Honored By Legal Profession And College Alma Mater

Sir Knight Glen Bower, who is a member of Gorin Commandery No. 14, Olney, Illinois, has received two honors from the legal profession: He was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Bar Tax Sections, and he was presented with the Illinois State Bar Association's Board of Governors Award "to honor truly exemplary service to the profession." Bower was also recently honored by the College of Liberal Arts of Southern Illinois University, which awarded him a Certificate of Achievement as "a distinguished alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts, Department of Political Science."

Sir Knight Bower is a 1971 graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he was a President's scholar. Presently, he serves on the SIU Foundation's Board of Directors. He is also a graduate of IIT/Chicago-Kent College from which he received his JD with honors in 1974. Bower serves as a member of Governor George Ryan's Cabinet, serving as Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue. From 1990-1997 he served as Chairman of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board by appointment of President George Bush. He has also served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives and as State's Attorney of Effingham County.

News From Northern California DeMolay

"In the last two years, we have held several community service projects such as beach cleanups, removal of graffiti, and other similar activities. We have prepared several hundred gift Christmas stockings for needy children. We have done similar projects at each of our five divisional conclaves, and many of our chapters are also doing their own community service projects.

For example: "Pacific Crest Chapter in Redding, California (Northern) recently suggested to officials at Evergreen Middle School that they be allowed to conduct Swing Dance lessons during the students' regular P.E. period. Soon swing dance lessons were conducted with the assistance from the local Swing Dance Club. Participating were a total of 156 students, 4 teachers, and 10 parents. Other schools have contacted the Chapter for similar projects.

"Pacific Crest Chapter also prepared a display with photos to describe DeMolay and Chapter projects and has been asked to assist 'the kids at risk' program on a regular basis. Just opened in August 1999 the Chapter has already made a great impact on not only the Masonic community but on the general public as well!"

Past Grand Commanders Of Illinois Are Worthy Patrons Of O.E.S. Chapters



Five Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois are currently serving as Worthy Patrons of their Eastern Star Chapters. Four of them are pictured with the Worthy Grand Matron, Suzanne Fitch (center). Left to right are Sir Knights: J. Robert Stockner, Henry J. DeHeer, Robert K. Cronk and Gary D. Hermann. Sir Knight Elwood Adams, Past Grand Commander, is not in the picture

New Assembly, S.O.O.B., In Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant, is pleased to announce that a new Assembly, Elizabethtown No. 265, was constituted on August 19, 2000. The ceremony was held at the Masonic Service Center on the grounds of the Masonic Home of Pennsylvania, where the new Assembly will meet. In attendance were 7 Past Supreme Worthy Presidents, 14 Supreme Officers, and 38 of the 40 charter members.

The long day started early with a practice, progressed to constituting and initiating, followed by another practice, and finally concluded with a banquet and the installation of officers. Many friends and Sir Knights were present to share the fun and the excitement of the day. (Mrs. Keith) Sandra Dean, P.S.W.P., who submitted the story, concludes: "We offer the new Assembly our sincere congratulations and wish for them a long and pleasant association with our Order."

Below, top to bottom, shown at the constituting are: Past Supreme Worthy Presidents, Supreme Officers of Elizabethtown No. 265, and members of Elizabethtown No. 265.



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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

- ✓ Covers All Prescriptions
- ✓ Covers Brand and Generics
- ✓ Use Your Local Pharmacy
- ✓ No Claim Forms
- ✓ No Age/Health Restrictions
- ✓ Immediate Coverage
- ✓ Same Price- All Pharmacies
- ✓ Prompt & Personal Service

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is for One Year and covers ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD!

TO JOIN

Complete the Enrollment Form and send it along with your check to the address shown on the form.

Within two weeks you will receive your Membership Packet and you can immediately begin using the Plan.

TO USE THE PLAN

Present your card to the Pharmacist along with the Cardholder's Social Security Number and the Computer will automatically price your prescription at PSP's Program Price.

Questions?

CALL TOLL FREE MEMBER LINE
800-595-3266

JOIN HUNDREDS OF KNIGHT TEMPLAR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE ALREADY ENJOYING PSP SAVINGS!

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ENROLLMENT FORM



Member Information (Cardholder)

Social Security Number _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ Sex ____
Last Name _____ First Name _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spouse and Dependent(s) Information

Last Name	First Name	Relationship	Sex	Date of Birth
_____	_____	_____	_____	____/____/____
_____	_____	_____	_____	____/____/____
_____	_____	_____	_____	____/____/____



INSTRUCTIONS

ANNUAL FEE IS ONLY \$39.95 AND COVERS YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY!
TO ENROLL, SIMPLY COMPLETE THIS FORM, ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK, PAYABLE TO
PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS PLANS, SEAL ALL SIDES AND MAIL TO:
PSP-Econoscript
PO Box 70692

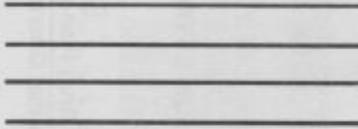
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

When you enroll in the PSP Drug Plan-you are also supporting The Grand Encampment General Fund!
"The only Prescription Plan that Guarantees a Refund if You EVER Pay more than the Program Price!"

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ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48307**

The Holy Land Pilgrimage! Here's What Past Pilgrim Ministers Have to Say!

June 2000: This coming Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, and as I prepare my sermon and read over these portions of scripture, I picture myself standing there in the Upper Room with all my brothers and sisters in Christ. Though we were from all different churches, we were one in the spirit and one as pilgrims. You cannot imagine what it means to me to be able to say: I have been there and stood in that same room where the Holy Spirit of God descended upon the disciples and made them all apostles in His name. We pilgrims also left there as apostles. I am sure that every Holy Land pilgrim will tell on this day about the gift of the Knights Templar. As I look back and remember planting two small cypress trees on a hillside in Israel, I thank God for what was planted in my heart so freely by all the Sir Knights.

*The Reverend Charles E. Cason, Jr.
Trinity Episcopal Church
Oshkosh, Wisconsin*

March 14, 1999: What a fantastic ten days I enjoyed in the Holy Land in the company of 34 pastors from around the country! It was truly a *pilgrimage* from the standpoint of retracing the steps of Jesus from Bethlehem, the place of His birth; to Nazareth, the place of his childhood and the synagogue in which he was rejected; to Cana, the small village nearby where his first miracle of turning water into wine occurred. Then it was on to the places in Galilee, the site of the "Sermon on the Mount," the feeding of the 5,000, with nearby Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene; on to the Sea of Galilee to ride a boat and eat the St. Peter fish; and to the River Jordan, the site of the baptism; and finally to enter Jerusalem like the ancient pilgrims with bread sprinkled with salt, to see the remnant of the temple with its Western Wall (or Wailing Wall). It was truly a *pilgrimage* to remember the days of Holy Week with the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the home of Caiaphas, the courtyard where Peter denied Jesus; and then to walk the Via Dolorosa, the way of the cross originally hugging the exterior wall of the city; to the holiest of Christian shrines, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, and the Church of the Ascension. Last Sunday I worshiped at Redeemer Lutheran Church, adjacent to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The result of this pilgrimage was to remember Jesus really lived in history and walked in the land that had been promised to Moses - a place marked as holy by the three monotheistic religions of the world; Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Reverend Dr. Howard E. Fintzen
Lincoln Park Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Let's All Support the Holy Land Pilgrimage-2001!

Summer Uniform Sale Aids Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Milford Commandery No. 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering a complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for \$125.00. (G.C. and P.G.C. add \$35.00 for gold on cap visor.) This includes cap and insignia, short sleeve shirt, shoulder rank insignia, collar insignia, metal ribbon bar, name plate, black belt, 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 belt clasp (plain/Knight Templar/your state/Commandery name) to the address below. Make checks payable to Milford Commandery No. 11. This is a fund-raising project. All profits 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, P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This is for our charity.

Sale Of Noah's Ark Tote Bag To Benefit The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The Noah's Ark tote bag measures 15 inches deep by 18 inches long; it is made of upholstery material that is 240 threads per inch. It is double sewn at all open areas and double stitched at the handles. Made in the U.S. with a design on both sides, it is machine washable. Only 500 made! \$2.00 of each sale will go the Eye Foundation. The price is \$25.00 each, including shipping in the U.S. only. Please add \$15.00 more for additional shipping costs outside the U.S. If interested, please send check or M.O. to: Sandra D. Knotts, PO Box 158, Trexlertown, PA



KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2½ inch diameter, embroidered emblem has been produced for use on mantles and blazers of KCT recipients. The emblem is to be centered on the Cross that adorns the left side of the mantle or ceremonial robe or on the left side (on pocket) of a dress blazer. The same use is required for the GCT emblem which is bordered with a wreath. The cost of the KCT emblem is \$8.50 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling, and the cost of the GCT emblem is \$10.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Contact: Jon Patrick Sweet, 7474 Benton Street, Westminster, CO 80003-7001, or phone (303) 430-8483

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.

Roots of the Templar Order

by Dr. E. K. Edwards, Jr., 32°, P.M.

This paper was presented at Pompano Lodge No. 263, F & A.M., on the feast of St. John the Baptist.

By definition Freemasonry is a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. The word 'allegory' is a key word in the definition. An allegory is a parable or a story used to make a point. For centuries the Masonic student was lead to believe that Freemasons had their origins in the cathedral builders and guilds of medieval times. This theory was further intertwined with the Hiramic legend and the building of King Solomon's Temple. Most historians, both Masonic and non-Masonic alike, believe that this is not the case but only a legend that is allegorical. In his magnificent book, *Born in Blood*, medieval scholar and historian, the late John J. Robinson, so brilliantly traces the origins of Freemasonry to the Knights Templar. I would like to trace the history of the Templars and illustrate which groups led to the formation of the Templars and other chivalric orders.

Our account begins with the Essenes, perhaps one of the first monastic societies. The Essenes were a strict ascetic group of men who lived in the desert of Judea. The Essenes were a Jewish sect that flourished between one hundred B.C. and one hundred A.D. They lived a strict communal life. They were celibate and had a hierarchical organization, the leader being called the Master of Righteousness. The Essenes founded a site called Qumran and may have been the principal authors of the *Dead Sea Scrolls*.

These scrolls were discovered by a Bedouin shepherd in 1947. The scrolls were part of the Essenes' vast library. The *Dead Sea Scrolls* are considered to be one of the most important archaeological discoveries of this century. The entire Hebrew Old Testament thus far has been discovered. The contents are written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. A controversy still hovers over control and rights to the scrolls and what can or cannot be published.

The scrolls may hold secrets concerning Rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity.

John the Baptist, one of the patrons of the Masonic Lodge system, was himself an Essene. He lived an austere life in the Judean desert and is remembered as a prophet. John's message was directed towards all members of Jewish society. His chief point was that God's final judgment was imminent and one should repent and be baptized. We recall that John was born approximately the same year as Jesus Christ. His parents were Zechariah, a priest, and Elizabeth, the first cousin of Mary, mother of Christ. John and Jesus were close, and let us recall that John symbolically baptized Jesus.

This leads to an extremely controversial topic that has perplexed theologians both Christian and Jewish alike. Current thought is that Jesus Christ Himself may have been an Essene. If this were the case, it may have been possible that after the death of Jesus many of his Essene followers or disciples may have been the first Christians. We know that during the early Roman persecutions the Essenes and early Christian groups fled into various desert areas for safe keeping. We know through history that many early Christian communities lived in the barren areas of Egypt, Syria, and Ethiopia. One of the famous Christians who is considered the Father of Monasticism was St. Anthony of Alexandria. Anthony lived in Upper Egypt from 251-356 A.D. He was a hermit practicing acts of self-mortification and devoted himself to silence, prayer, and labor. In 305 A.D. he founded the first Christian Cenobite monastery. Another famous early Christian was St. Athanasius, also a hermit and then Bishop. He assisted at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.

Many small monastic communities arose through the early Western civilization. A new era was heralded in 480 A.D. with the birth of

Benedict of Nursia, better known as St. Benedict. He is considered the father of modern Western monasticism. While a young man, Benedict lived the life of a hermit in the caves outside of Rome. News of his piety and sanctity became widespread, and soon he had many followers. Shortly thereafter, the Benedictine order was established. One of the first things Benedict did was to divide the working day of the monks into three equal portions of eight hours each: eight hours for rest, eight hours for manual labor, and eight hours for prayer. This should sound a familiar note for Master Masons. The rule of St. Benedict defines the organization and hierarchy of the abbey and stresses the virtues of poverty, chastity, humility, and obedience.

In the year 1098, St. Robert de Molesme founded a new religious order under which the members were to adhere to even further strictness in observing the rule of St. Benedict - the Cistercians, named after the French city of Citeaux, which was called Cistercium in Roman times. The garb of the Cistercians was to be the white tunic with red cross. Membership in the new order grew rapidly thanks to the genius of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, himself a Cistercian. Bernard was largely responsible for launching the early Crusades. It was noted, however, during the first Crusade that a fierce, loyal group of holy warriors would be well suited to help win back the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the rest of the Holy Lands. At this point Bernard drew the rule for a new order of military monks. This new order would be based on strict Cistercian rule and would be called The Poor Fellow Soldiers of the Temple of Solomon or simply the Order of the Temple. The order was chartered by Hugues de Payens and seven fellow knights. Their main headquarters was in the palace of King Baldwin II of Jerusalem, which was built on the site of King Solomon's Temple and adjacent to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Templars adopted the Cistercian garb; that is, the white mantle and the red cross. The Templars growth occurred rapidly and priories were established throughout the Holy Land, France, England, Scotland, Spain, and Portugal. They adopted the first banking and checking systems and answered

to no one but the Pope. Finally in 1314 the Templar Order was suppressed in France largely due to false accusations and a contrived plot between the French government and the Avignon, exiled French Pope.

The last Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, may have secretly designated his successor or line of successors before his death by immolation. The Templars continued to thrive and expand under different names in different countries. The renegade Templars were more than welcomed in Spain, where they were absorbed into the orders of Calatrava, Montesa, and Santiago. In Germany Templars joined the ranks of the Order of St. Mary or the Teutonic Knights. In Portugal they became Knights of Christ of which Christopher Columbus may have been a member, hence the Templar crosses on his sailing ships. In Scotland the Templars were welcomed to the cause of Robert the Bruce, who himself may have been a Templar. Present-day Masonic Knights Templar share in this rich heritage.

As I stated in the beginning of this paper, some modern historians believe that Freemasonry is a direct descendent of Templary. One needs to look at the etymology of the words, "Free Mason"; the phrase probably is derived from Medieval French "frere masson," which translates to "brother builder."

All of the building and working tools of our Craft must also be taken allegorically and not literally. The working tools are used to illustrate, demonstrate, and symbolize moral lessons. These were tools that may have been used historically to build King Solomon's Temple. Some modern historians believe that these tools are more appropriately used for rebuilding the Masonic/Templar order. I have tried to illustrate a logical, historical, and biblical step by step process which leads from ancient to modern times. Thus I propose the following historical flow sheet: Essenes > Christians > Monastic > Groups > Benedictines > Cistercians > Knights Templar > Freemasons.

Sir Knight E. K. Edwards, Jr., 32°, is a member of Melita Commandery No. 35, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. For correspondence: 3051 N.E. 45 St., Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

Part II—Brother Tex Hill: Flying Tiger Ace

by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett
KYCH, 33°, FPS



Now, after 300 perilous flying hours as a Flying Tiger in the American Volunteer Group, Tex Hill was a commissioned officer and pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. As an AVG pilot he had 12 and one fourth confirmed kills and several more that were not credited to him. With his combat record Tex was a logical choice to organize and lead the 75th Fighter Squadron, one of three Colonel Robert Lee Scott, Jr., commanded in the 23rd Fighter Group, 10th Air Force. However, like every other Flying Tiger who remained with Chennault, Tex was running on empty physically.

Suffering from malaria and total exhaustion, his normal body weight of 180 pounds had slipped to 147. Two of the former Flying Tigers who remained in China with Tex and Ed Rector had been killed. Throughout the summer and fall of 1942, the CATF pilots continued to wreak havoc on the Japanese Air Force. Tex was the leading U.S. fighter ace, with eighteen and one fourth official victories. However, P. B. Hill's son was not in the war to seek personal acclaim. Chennault knew it was time to get Tex and Ed Rector back home. Tex landed in Florida on January 1, 1943.

Immediately after touching down at Eglin Field, Florida, Tex departed for Washington, D.C., to brief the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the China air war. General H. H. Arnold, Chief of the Air Corps, was one of those hearing Colonel Hill's report on the Chinese situation. Tex was a twenty-seven-year-old lieutenant colonel, just returning from eighteen months in the Orient, and he was most anxious to get home. His Texas destination was Foster Field, in Victoria, where brother Sam was serving as an administrative officer in the Air Corps.

There was a concentration of Hill family members in Victoria in 1942. Sam was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria before taking a leave of absence to enter military service. His father, Rev. P. B. Hill, had been persuaded to fill his pulpit for the duration. It was a gala family reunion the day Tex arrived to greet his family. Before long, Tex and the family were attending services at the Presbyterian Church, where he spied a pretty girl among the congregation. Tex remarked to Sam, "I've got to meet that girl." Reverend Sam Hill obliged by introducing Tex to Mazie Caroline Sale. The pretty eighteen-year-old lass was the daughter of a well-to-do doctor in Victoria. Tex and Mazie took to each other right off, and got along famously. Their get-acquainted time together was all too short, however, for Tex had been assigned to stateside duty. He must soon report to his new station.

Lt. Colonel Hill was ordered to duty at Eglin Field, Florida, as commander of the Proving Ground Group. It was familiar territory, only fifty miles or so east of his first naval station at Pensacola. The Proving Ground Command in World War II had the mission to develop and test new aviation armament and equipment, develop bombing strategies, and run comparative testing of enemy aircraft. Tex worked in that phase of aviation until October 1943.

On March 27, 1943, Tex and Mazie were married. Tex had observed all the amenities, including formally meeting with Dr. Sale and requesting permission to marry his daughter. Although it had been a brief courtship, Dr. Sale gave his blessing. The years have validated the strength of that wartime romance, however brief; for today the Tex Hill family are anticipating the 57th annual anniversary of that union.

In April 1943, generals Claire Chennault and Joseph Stilwell were present at the "Trident Conference" an Anglo-American meeting in Washington. Among the dignitaries present was Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain. During the proceedings, Chennault eloquently requested an air strike force of sufficient size to mount an offensive against the Japanese. His proposed strike date was July 1943. Predictably, "Vinegar" Joe Stilwell objected but to no avail. President Roosevelt backed Chennault's proposal and so did Churchill. The plan was approved. The mechanism for the offensive had been set in motion a month before.

Claire Chennault had been promoted to the rank of major general on March 3, 1943, and the 14th Air Force was created out of the former China Air Task Force. General Chennault's plan provided for expanding the size of his new command. Personal relations between General Stilwell and Chennault were at their lowest level of the war. In spite of Stilwell's rebuff at the Trident Conference, he had the capacity to influence the air war.

Tex Hill was requested by Chennault for the 14th Air Force, and returned to China in October 1943 to take command of the 23rd Fighter Group, under wing commander General Clinton "Casey" Vincent. In December 1943, Tex was promoted to full colonel. His most notable feat during that final tour in the Orient was a devastating bombing raid against the Japanese on Formosa. Late in the year, Tex was in command of a strike force of B25 medium bombers, escorted by P-38 and P-51 fighters. Fighter escort was a new luxury in China. Up to that time, long-range fighter escort was impossible because, in Tex Hill's vernacular, "The P40s didn't have the legs," referring, of course, to their limited range.

The B25s destroyed over 40 Japanese bombers on the ground, an important milestone in a relentless effort to neutralize all enemy air activity in China. Eleven months later, Tex completed his successful

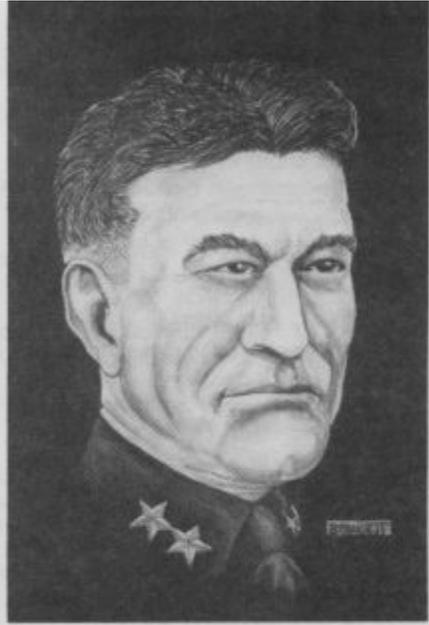
tour of duty and returned to the United States in November 1944. The 14th Air Force, under Major General Claire Chennault, had cleared the China skies of Japanese aircraft.

The 14th Air Force amassed an exemplary record during their final months in the China air wars, in which Tex Hill had been an indispensable participant. When General Chennault resigned his commission July 8, 1945, his aviation tactics were an eloquent confirmation of his successful air-combat philosophy. The 14th Air Force had lost a total of 468 planes, while destroying approximately 3,000 Japanese aircraft. They had sunk or severely damaged 2,230,000 tons of shipping. The Japanese frankly acknowledged that 60-75% of the effective opposition in China came from Chennault's command. The final assessment was that Chennault and his men achieved the highest aerial combat record in WWII. They had done it in spite of bickering and nit-picking by critics in the China-Burma-India theater of the war, and in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. They had been denied adequate supplies, aircraft, and personnel to do a first-class job but had totally defeated the Japanese in the China air war, as well as inflicting significant ground losses. The conquest of the Japanese air force over China was concluded well in advance of the atom-bomb attack, which marked the end of the conflict a few weeks after Chennault resigned.

During his China years, David L. Hill became a Freemason and a member of a lodge in the jurisdictional area of the Valley of Taipei, A.A.S.R., Orient of Taiwan. He is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°, and a life member of Taipei Lodge. Major General Claire Chennault was a member of League City Lodge No. 1053, of League City, Texas. Rev. Pierre Bernard Hill was a member of Texas Lodge No. 8, in San Antonio, having affiliated by demit from Hill City Lodge No. 183, Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1956. David's brother, John Hill, is a member of Kerrville Lodge



Tex Hill late in WWII
Artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett



General Claire L. Chennault late in WWII
Artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett

No. 697, Kerrville, Texas. Likewise, Brother Sam was a member of the Fraternity.

Tex Hill closed the door on his China military career when he returned to the states in 1944. He was assigned to command the 412th Fighter Group at March Field in California. The 412th was the first jet-equipped unit in the Air Corps, and they were tasked to test and integrate the P80 into the role of the next generation of U.S. military aircraft. Upon joining the 412th, Colonel Hill assumed command of the group and was functioning in that capacity when World War II ended in 1945.

David L. Hill, the 30-year-old former Flying Tiger, reverted to reserve status in the U.S. Army in January 1946. He had accumulated 2,400 flying hours during his aviation career, 700 of which were under combat situations. He was fully qualified on virtually every piston-engine plane in the army and navy, from single-engine fighters through four-engine heavy bombers. His military honors

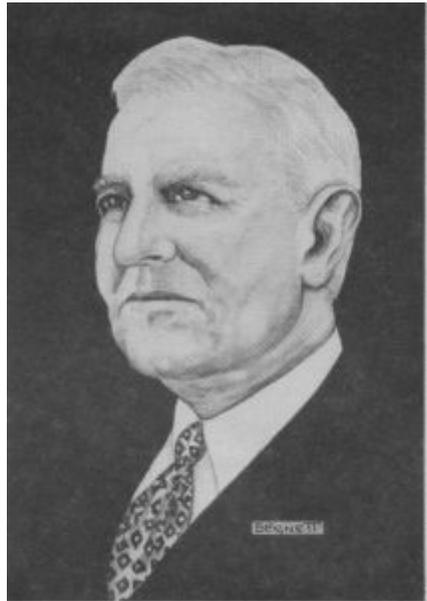
were legion. Tex was decorated by the Chinese government six times and was awarded the British Flying Cross by Lord Halifax. For outstanding United States combat service, he received four Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Air Medals, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and two Presidential Unit Citations. The world remembered and venerated the vaunted Flying Tigers, and they had the honors to attest their accomplishments.

One year after separation from active duty in the army, Tex joined the Air National Guard, at the rank of brigadier general, commanding the 58th Fighter Wing. He became the youngest brigadier in National Guard history. Landing at Victoria in January 1946, Tex looked forward to settling down on a new ranch with Mazie, who was awaiting his return and the arrival of their first child. There was an unexpected and important decision awaiting Tex, almost before his plane rolled to a stop.

He was met by a contingent of political figures and friends who requested that he permit his name to be placed in nomination for the office of Governor of Texas. They were speaking for a powerful faction in his home state, who were totally convinced Tex could virtually be elected by acclamation. His own exalted war record and the statewide fame of his father, Rev. P. B. Hill - plus a legion of friends - were enough to guarantee the governor's mansion, according to wide opinion. Taken completely by surprise, Tex announced he must have some time to digest the proposition and think it over.

General Hill sent his Flying Tiger bonuses and most of his salary home while he was in China. The time had arrived for Tex to invest his savings in his dream ranch. He found it; a 1,600-acre spread near Mountain Home, some 100 miles north of San Antonio, in the Texas hill country. It was perfect for Mazie and Tex. While he was pondering the offer to be a candidate for governor, his first daughter, Mazie Lee, was born. After due consideration, Tex declined the opportunity to be a gubernatorial candidate; influenced by the cherished dream of having his own ranch, surrounded by family members. Going into politics was not part of his vision.

It has been an active and fulfilling life, just as Tex had hoped. He has been actively engaged in a wide variety of leisure activities, with plenty of time to devote to hunting. Rev. P. B. Hill retired in the hill country to his property in Hunt, Texas, not far from the Mountain Home ranch. He lived there until his death on January 15, 1958. Sam eventually retired near his father, too. Today, the Hill family is renowned for a more recent accomplishment at Hunt. John Hill's son, Douglas, completed a replica of Stonehenge, the world-renowned prehistoric monolithic stone structures in England. It has been a tourist attraction at Hunt for several years. John Hill, after spending his adult life in public service in the San Antonio and Hill Country area, remains somewhat active in his insurance business in Kerrville. He is



*Rev. and Ranger Capt. P. B. Hill in the 1950s
Artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett*

known through South Texas as "Judge" Hill.

Tex and Mazie became the parents of three daughters and a son. Two daughters survive today. There are also seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren to brighten the golden days of Tex Hill's life. Mazie remains active as a realtor, while Tex responds to countless calls to speak or participate in a long list of civic and veterans' organizations; particularly those associated with the Flying Tiger legacy. Even in recent years, the honors continue to accumulate. In 1997 Tex was elected to the Combat Airmen Hall of Fame; in 1999 it was the Lifetime Achievement Award from the CAF and the Milton Caniff Spirit of Flight Award from the National Hall of Fame. Another 1999 accolade was Tex Hill's induction into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame. General Hill continues to be a vivid memory in the hearts of those who served in WWII, as well as every citizen who reveres that memorable period in our country's history.

David Lee "Tex" Hill has made a remarkable contribution to our country's history and has been a profound voice for Freemasonry by virtue of his life and accomplishments. His father reflected similar Masonic influence from his earliest days and lived to see his sons perpetuate his support of the Fraternity by their individual conduct as Masons. Few families have been as successful in propagating the tenets and ideals of our Fraternity. None have exceeded their efforts.

The End

Reference And Information Source

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LLOYD S. JONES: *U.S. Fighters*, pub: Aero Publishers, Inc., Fallbrook, California, 1975

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ROBERT LEE SCOTT, JR.: *Flying Tiger*, pub: Greenwood Press, Westport, Connecticut, 1959

JOHN TOLAND: *The Flying Tigers*, pub: Random House, Inc., New York, NY, 1963

Miscellaneous:

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Personal information provided by Brig. General David L. Hill, U.S.A.F., Retired

Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 33°, FPS, 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

News From The Grand Commandery Of Connecticut

To right: 50-year certificate and pin: Sir Knight John L. Falkins (center) received his 50-year certificate and pin from Sir Knight Wayne Niles Saunders (left), R.E. Grand Commander of Connecticut, at Hamilton Commandery No. 5, stationed in Stratford, Connecticut. Looking on at right is Sir Knight John Mellor, E. Commander of Hamilton No. 5. Sir Knight Falkins has also been the recipient of the Knights



Templar Cross of Honor and reliable and faithful organist for Hamilton and other Masonic organizations for the same 50 years. To left: 25-year pins and certificates: At Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford; R.E. Grand Commander Wayne N. Saunders, Connecticut, presented 25-year pins and certificates to Sir Knights Santiago Canales, Roy Salomonsen, and Irving Lieff. Left to right are: E. Commander John Mellor, Sir Knight Canales with Lady Eva, Sir Knight Salomonsen with Lady Almira, and Sir Knight Lieff with Lady Anne.

presented 25-year pins and certificates to Sir Knights Santiago Canales, Roy Salomonsen, and Irving Lieff. Left to right are: E. Commander John Mellor, Sir Knight Canales with Lady Eva, Sir Knight Salomonsen with Lady Almira, and Sir Knight Lieff with Lady Anne.



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.

For sale: Knights Templar triangular aprons, black with silver and silver bullion thread, embroidered crossed swords on flap and skull, and crossbones on the apron. These are identical to those worn by all Sir Knights in the last century and still worn in some jurisdictions: brand new: \$75.00 plus \$5.00 U.P.S. A percentage to York Rite charities. Sal Caradonna, P.C., 23 Gail Court, Staten Island, NY 10306-2234, (718) 987-4532

For sale: Knights Templar shoulder straps, all ranks, embroidered in gold and silver bullion on velvet with Velcro backs: Past Commander (red); serving Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate (green); Generalissimo, Captain General, and Prelate Emeritus serving 7 or more years in rank (red): \$35.00 pair plus \$5.00 S & H. Also: Honorary Past Commander with H.C. in Old English, \$40.00; Grand Commandery, \$45.00; extra fancy Grand Commandery, Past Grand Commander (purple): \$50.00 (all plus \$5.00 S & H). Also: chapeaux crosses: Sir Knight, \$35.00; Past Commander, \$40.00; Grand Commandery, \$45.00 - all plus \$5.00 S & H. Percentage to Masonic and York Rite charities. Checks to and mail to Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., PC.; 60 Manor Road; Staten Island; NY 10310-2698

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

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

Fund-raiser: fine Royal Arch tie, imprinted with the Triple Tau, within a triangle, within a circle - \$15.00 pp. Chapter needs funds to continue to survive. Make checks payable to Bay View Flatbush Chapter No. 298, and send requests to Sal Caradonna, 23 Gail Court, Staten Island, NY 10306-2234, or phone (718) 987-4532

For sale: Wisconsin's 150-year commemorative Chapter penny. All proceeds will be used to cover the cost of placement, memorial and time capsule placed at the entrance to Masonic Living Memorial Park on the Three Pillars Senior Campus located at Dousman, Wisconsin. Mark lists first G.H.P and present G.H.P. and installation dates. Obverse side, date chartered and keystone. Price is \$5.00 each plus \$1.00 S & H to Tri-County Chapter No. 11, RAM.; C/O Douglas Morisset; 1020 Meadow Street; Watertown; WI 53094

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

Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & AM., 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 & A.M.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail harry217@bigfoot.com

Mt. Pulaski Masonic Lodge in observance of its 150th anniversary has lapel pins for sale for \$5.00 each plus shipping and commemorative plates for \$20.00 plus shipping, while supplies last. Send requests to Mt. Pulaski Masonic Bodies, P.O. Box 41, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548

Rising Star Masonic Lodge No. 429, A.F. & AM., of Center Point, Texas, has 125th anniversary pins for sale. Our Lodge is sometimes referred to as "The Ranger Lodge" because the first six Masters of the Lodge were Texas Rangers in the 1880s. The pin resembles a small Texas ranger badge with the square and compass porcelainized in the center of the star and the Lodge name and years circumscribing the star. Pins are available at \$6.00 each, postage and handling included. Check or money order to Rising Star Lodge No. 429 and mail to Hon. Roy D. Espinoza, Sec.; Rising Star Lodge No. 429; PO Box 0429; Center Point, TX 78010-0429

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, Sec.; M50 White House Beach, Long Neck, DE 19966-8524

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 Baril, 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.

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.

Wanted to buy: motorized, 4-wheeled, Army mule - must be operable as want for Shrine

parades. Any Brother who knows where to buy one please call (704) 569-8577.

New design: Blue Lodge, Past Master, and Scottish Rite rings; signet style with BL, PM, or SR logo on top, trowel on one side, plumb on other. Durable, yet elegant; solid cast chrome/nickel alloy. Available in silver color only: \$110.00 plus West Virginia tax and \$4.00 S & H. Whole sizes only, 7-16. Also: 10K gold for \$395.00. 10% of profits will go to KTEF. Check or MasterCard/Visa info to Auratech Designs; 2620 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 215; Fairmont; WV 26554-3494. Satisfaction or money back guarantee.

For sale: The History of Freemasonry, Its Antiquities, Symbols, Constitutions, and Customs, published by John Yorston and Co., Philadelphia, 1896. It is illustrated with portraits of Masonic leaders, cathedrals, etc. Pages are in excellent condition. Four volumes, each about 400 pages, being sold as set: \$95.00 plus \$20.00 shipping, if necessary. Jerry Turnquist, 1021 W Highland Avenue, Elgin, IL 60123, (847) 888-4226, e-mail ibemrt@aol.com

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 trestleboard publications. Some are in color. The price is \$12.95 including postage. Percentage will benefit KTEF. John Yates, PO Box 3496, Wichita Falls, TX 76301-0496, internet e-mail jyates@wf.net

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

Wanted: book, Symbolism of the Eastern Star, by Mary Anna Slipper. Steven G. Tiner, P.O. Box 189, Gould, AR 71643, (870) 263-8889, e-mail sgtinaeraol.com

Retire here: Masonic only residential area on the Lake. Low cost living! Beautiful Ozark Mountain country. This 3bd, 3 ba, 1800 sq. ft. red cedar home located in Rice Camp on Tablerock Lake has large deck and lots of extras including hardwood floors and skylights. Must see to appreciate. Only 30-minutes from Branson and 3 minutes from fishing. Asking \$95,000. Call (417) 338-5471 for details.

Excellent lakefront setting in Masonic Rice Camp for this 2 bd, 1 bath, 16 x60 mobile home with a wrap-around deck and a 8 x16 sunroom. The deck overlooks the camp park which borders the lake. Also has a ramp and a pavilion. Asking \$38,000. Call (417) 338-1185 or (417) 831-0171

Wanted: Brother Mason looking for old baseball gloves, balls, uniforms, trophies, photos, etc - pretty much any old baseball item. Mike Gonsolin, 242 La Pera Circle, Danville, CA 94526

Navel oranges for sale from a local grove. For more information, write to York Rite of DeLand, P.O. Box 681, DeLand, FL 32721, or e-mail WNONES@aol.com

Blessings Forth **by Virginia-Anne Edwards**

Some people always smile,
though a heavy cross they bear,
Some people always lend a hand,
for those who need them there.

Is there something we're not doing,
though we feel we've done it all?
I believe that action is standing,
while the others choose to crawl.

In times when doubt weighs more than faith
and knocks the steadfast down,
There are those who still remember God
and the blessings they have found.

They are those whose names bear sacred
fruits
and to whom His grace is bound.

Virginia-Anne is a third-year law student at Nova Southeastern University and a member of the Order of Eastern Star. For correspondence: 3051 N.E. 45 Street, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064