

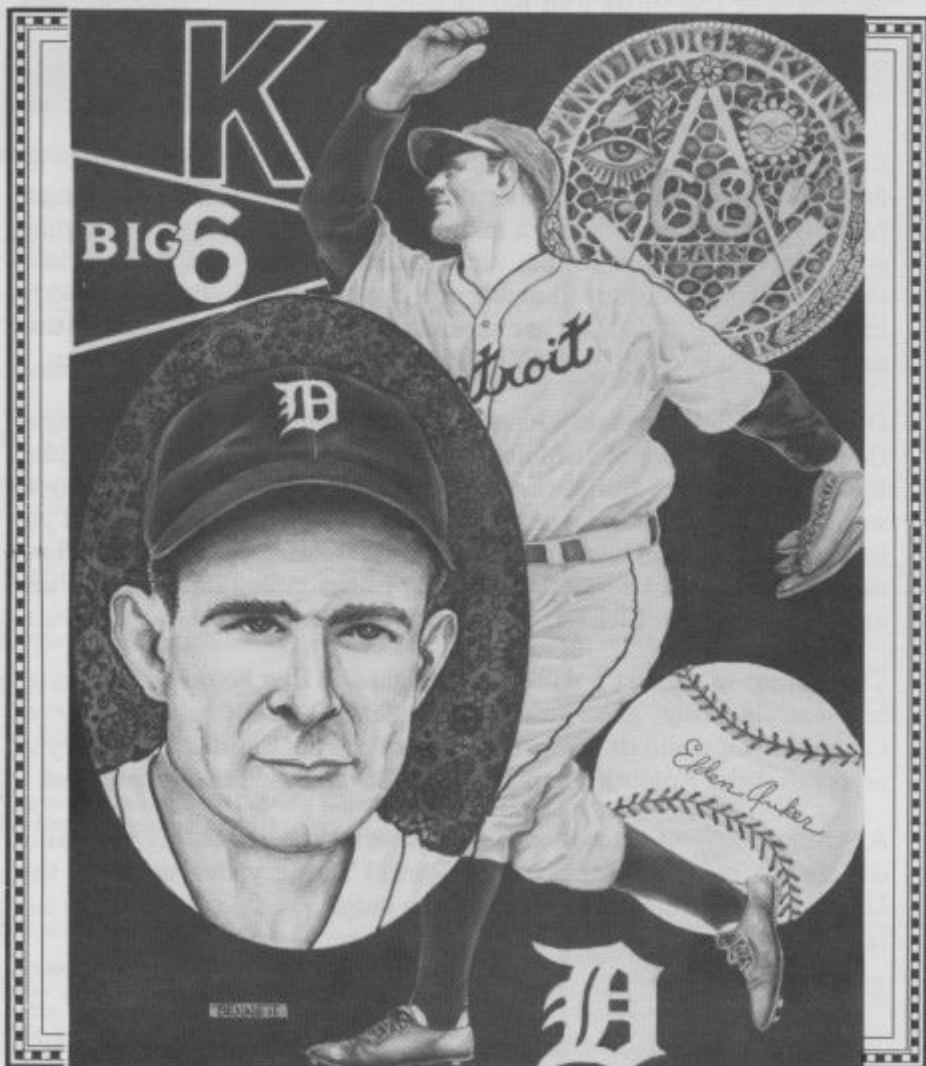


Knight Templar

VOLUME XLVII

AUGUST 2001

NUMBER 8



"Submariner" Elden Auker was a U. of Kansas, Big-Six hero before he starred with the Detroit Tigers. We know him as a 68-year Mason. His story starts on page 23.

August 2001 - Grand Master's Message

I am writing this message while I am attending the 127th Imperial Council Session of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America. We are in Las Vegas, Nevada. Everyone from the Imperial Potentate to members of the units and bands tells me he supports the York Rite and the Scottish Rite. One of the major themes is "Together We Can."



I believe in the Shrine organization and the good works they (we) do for patients in the Shrine hospitals. Even though it is no longer required for a Shriner to be a member of one of the Rites, every man who joined a Shrine Temple more than one year ago belongs to a Commandery of Knights Templar or a Scottish Rite Valley. We need to make them feel that they are an important part of our organization and that membership in the York Rite should be important to them.

During the last few weeks I have represented Templary at the Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay and represented the Knights Templar Eye Foundation at the Rotary International Convention. DeMolay is working hard to make the order more relevant to today's times and yet to retain their proud heritage. Rotary Clubs around the world are planning projects with the goal of reducing preventable blindness. We are exploring ways the KTEF might work with them.

This month of August I will be attending the Eye Foundation annual trustees' meeting, the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. I am sorry to report that the Knights Templar tour of England had to be postponed.

A Sir Knight wrote last month asking what the Dr. before my name denotes. I received a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Illinois. Hope to see you soon!

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

Dr. William Jackson Jones
Grand Master, KCT, GCT

Knight Templar

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

AUGUST: Continuing KTEF coverage, more new members of the Grand Master's and Grand Commander's clubs and many more of the 33° Club contributors are listed starting on page 5. On page 10 Pilgrimage ministers enthusiastically report on their trip to the Holy Land. Don't miss the article from Sir Knight Karnegis speaking for the Religious Committee on page 11, and on page 12 enjoy more pictures by Sir Knight Oscar Olsson of the Easter Sunrise Service. There's still time to join Grand Master Jones and his Lady Lois on the classical tour of Greece in December. Information is on page 20-21 Our feature story by Sir Knight Joseph Bennett, page 23, is about Brother Elden LeRoy Auker

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August 2001

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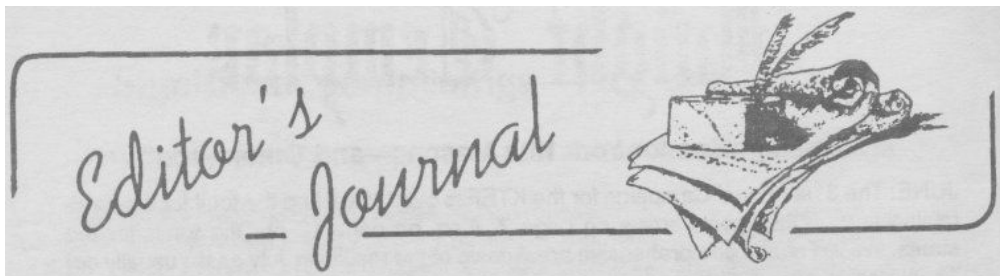
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Commanderies' two-page
supplement is to be directed to the
respective Supplement editors.

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



Attention: all Grand Commanders and all Deputy Grand Commanders who will be in office as Grand Commanders on November 1, 2001; 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 14, 2001. 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 14, 2001. After that date, it may not be possible to include them in the November magazine.

Needlepoint Kits Available: Several years ago the Grand Encampment began offer-sag 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 badges, \$5.00 each, gold or silver, plus \$2.00 S & H (while supply lasts); and 61st Triennial program books, \$3.00 each plus \$2.00 S & H (limited supply) payable to the Grand Encampment, and send to: Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

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

Knight Templar magazine Index, including all previous indexes and covering the years, 1969-1999, is now available at a price of \$5.00, plus \$2.00 postage - total, \$7.00. This is your chance to invest at a bargain price in the index which covers main articles of the magazine from 1969 to the turn of the century. Make check or money order payable to: the Grand Recorder and send to: the Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

YORK RITE FREEMASONRY ON THE INTERNET - Official Web Sites

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

General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, international
<http://members.aol.com/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
www.YorkRite.com

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 Harry A. Wood (CO), 33°
 Herbert D. Sledd (KY), 33°
 Moton H. Crockett, Jr. (CO), 33° in honor of David H. Rainey, 33°
 Lawrence Orson Weaver (OR), 33° in honor of James J. Taylor, 33°
 Lloyd A. Hebert (LA), 33°
 Anonymous (LA)
 Xavier A. Pitassi (CA), 33°
 Charles E. Losey (FL), 33°
 Jasper E. Pinson (MS), 33°
 Frederick John Brunner, Jr. (PA), 33°
 Frederick John Brunner, Jr. (WV), 33°
 Neal R. Olsen (MA/RI), 33°
 Ronald P. Watkins (VA), 33° in honor of T. Dudley Myers, 33°
 John A. Reining (IL), 33° in honor of Rodney D. Hewins, 33°
 George F. Baxter (PA), 33°
 John D. Brown (GA), 33°
 W. H. Brown (AL), 33°
 Ludvik H. Jun (MT), 33°
 William Darrell Jeffries (MO), 33°
 Robert Milton Loflin (TX), 33°
 Allen L. Heaton (IA), 33°
 Jerome H. Krupp (TX), 33°
 Kenneth J. Faub (PA), 33°
 C. K. Wright (IA), 33°
 Harold L. Johnson (IA), 33°
 Harry S. McDuff (IA), 33°
 Dixie J. Grmnalds (VA), 33°
 Bryce B. Hildreth (IA), 33° in honor of Richard L. Campbell, 33°
 John D. Nelson (CA), 33°
 Arthur C. Meiga (CA), 33°
 Donald L. Lawrenson (IA), 33°
 Kenneth E. Weaver (IA), 33°
 Mary Burns No. 24, O.E.S. (IL) in honor of Johnny Wagner, 33°
 Earl D. Osborn (KS), 33°
 William Ray Hague (CA), 33°
 Charles L. Stuckey (OK), 33°
 Don R. Forquer (OH), 33° in honor of William Ammer, 33°
 Patrick G. Bailey (CA), 33°
 James S. Spence (NH), 33°
 Joseph Bigwood (NH), 33° in honor of Winslow E. Melvin, 33°
 George W. Carlson (MN), 33°
 James R. Reeves (TX), 33°
 Thomas F. Wilhelm (FL), 33°
 Philip P. Steele (MI), 33°
 Edward A. Adams (PA), 33°

Glen W. Neikirk (CA), 33°
 Ralph H. Nikolaus (CA), 33°
 Harold R. Longmire (TX), 33°
 Edward E. Pope (CA), 33°
 David C. Decker (CA), 33°
 William D. Wood (NM), 33°
 George E. Sealander (MI), 33°
 Kay Darrel Greany (IA), 33°
 Richard G. Langdon (IA), 33°
 William R. Clark, Jr. (IA), 33°
 Billy Joe Hildreth (IA), 33°
 Mark A. Clark (IA), 33°
 David D. Goodwin (NY), 33° in honor of Carl J. Smith,
 33°
 David D. Goodwin (NY), 33° in honor of Harold L.
 Aldrich, 33°
 David D. Goodwin (NY), 33° in honor of Bruce
 Widger, 33°
 James Spoerl (IA), 33°
 George J. Harrison (IA), 33°
 Grover R. Hertzberg (IA), 33°
 James C. Taylor (OK), 33° in honor of David E.
 Brooks, 33°
 Earl P. Dewees (IA), 33°
 Jack L. Warren (CA), 33° in honor of Donald Bohn,
 33°
 Russell E. Shell (OH), 33°
 Edwin C. Frey (PA), 33°
 Herbert E. Berg (MA/RI), 33°
 Kenneth G. Nagel (CA), 33° in honor of John Lund,
 33°
 Sidney H. Cerates (CA), 33° in honor of Dana Turpin,
 33°
 Sidney H. Cerates (CA), 33°
 Dale A. Will (CA), 33° in honor of Dalton Noland, 33°
 Wayne B. Heimsoth (CA), 33° in honor of Dalton
 Noland, 33°
 William L. Mundy (CA), 33°
 John R. Campbell, Jr. (VT), 33°
 Carl F. Hawkins (CA), 33°
 Paducah Commandery No. 11 (KY) in honor of
 George R. Effinger, 33°
 George Woodley Malone (SC), 33°
 Walter D. Morris (FL), 33° in honor of James H.
 Brunson, Jr., 33°
 Walter D. Morris (FL), 33° in honor of Howard E.
 Lippencott, 33°
 Walter D. Morris (FL), 33°
 Walter D. Morris (FL), 33° in honor of Johnny M.
 Mallory, 33°
 Paducah Commandery No. 11 (KY) in honor of Ralph
 Pryor, 33°
 Paducah Commandery No. 11 (KY) in honor of
 William G. Canfield, 33°
 Paducah Commandery No. 11 (KY) in honor of Leslie
 C. Boggess, 33°
 David Brooks (OK), 33°
 Ralph A. Wilson (VT), 33°
 E. C. Kelley, Jr. (GA), 33° in honor of Gary D.
 Lemmons, 33°
 Earl J. Vincent (KY), 33°
 Dell Yarnell (IL), 33° in honor of Bruce Hudson, 33°
 Paul S. Diefenbach (ID), 33° in honor of Oliver Ellis,
 33°
 Gregory R. Klemm (IL), 33°
 Lee Bradley (IL), 33°
 Ironton Commandery No. 45 (OH) in honor of all 33°
 Masons
 George E. Proctor (IN), 33° in honor of Ralph E.
 Proctor, 33°
 M. J. Butterfield (KS), 33° in honor of Rev. Conrad
 Johnson, 33°
 James A. Tinsley (FL), 33° in honor of James A.
 Marler, 33°
 Tr-state Morning Ledge No. 673 (IA) in honor of
 Melvin A. Reynolds, 33°
 Carl H. Elliott (IN), 33°
 Edward Seabon (NJ), 33°
 Donald W. A. Reineck (NY), 33° in honor of DeWitt F.
 Goodmate, 33°
 Donald W. A. Reineck (NY), 33° in honor of John
 Windgate Taylor, Jr., 33°
 Donald W. A. Reineck (NY), 33°
 Ivanhoe Commandery No. 17 (IA) in honor of Jack
 Dalbey, 33°
 Ivanhoe Commandery No. 17 (IA) in honor of Ralph
 Livermore, 330
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33°
 William Gaston Parsons (TX), 33°
 Anonymous (LA)
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of Edward Helton,
 330
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of N. Avery Weldon,
 330
 Donald T. Anderson (IL), 330
 Michael R. Gutteridge (IL), 33°
 Leonard M. Lyssy (TX), 33° in honor of Marshall H.
 Dodge, 33°
 Harold A. Queen (PA), 33°
 Willy F. Bohlmann, Jr. (TX), 33° in honor of Archie W
 Scott, 33°
 William H. Wise (OH), 33° in honor of Willard D.
 Terry, 33°
 Dan Boswell Jordan (TX), 33° in honor of J. W.
 Chandler, 33°
 Dan Boswell Jordan (TX), 33°
 William H. Wise (OH), 33° in honor of Ned E. Dull, 33°
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of William M.
 Hutcheson, 33°
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of Gary D.
 Lemmons, 33°
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of Earl D. Harris,
 33°
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of Joseph P.
 Suttles, 33°
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of Ted H. Hendon,
 33°
 Wilford H. Hall (GA), 33° in honor of James E.
 Moseley, 33°
 William M. Mason III (PA), 33°
 William M. Mason III (PA), 33° in honor of Ranald R.
 Mac Adam, 33°

Comments from 2001 Holy Land Pilgrimage Ministers...

Please convey my most profound gratitude to the Grand Commandery of Minnesota and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for their support of me for the Holy Land Pilgrimage. It was a dream come true and something that I did not even consider a financial possibility until perhaps retirement! The feelings that came from deep within me when I first approached Jerusalem were a very emotional blend of gratitude and amazement that I was actually there in the Holy Land and seeing Jerusalem. This has been one of the nicest and most generous things ever done for me!

The impact is already showing both personal and professional results. I find a new liveliness when reading the biblical place names and a greater sense of setting and landscape when I read the biblical materials. As for information, I have already found new insights that have worked their way into Bible study and sermon preparations. No doubt this experience will serve as a seed with much harvesting yet to do!

The accommodations were excellent, the guide and bus driver were outstanding, and the whole experience with AMI Travel was a blessing. Duane Kemerley, our Knights Templar host, added his special gifts and presence. It was a joy to travel with clergy in a variety of traditions from across the United States. We had good fellowship!

My deepest appreciation goes to everyone who supported this experience for me in any way. You are, indeed, enriching and investing in ministry!

Rory Swenson, Pastor
Park United Methodist Church
Brainerd, Minnesota

I want to thank you so much for your generous trip to Israel. As I read the scripture now, I have an idea of what the scenery looks like, and that means a lot. My spiritual director said that understanding the geography of Israel would help me a lot in my ministry, and she (and you) is right about that. I brought some rocks home (Certainly they have rocks to spare!), and they are meaningful evidence that I truly walked by the Sea of Galilee, etc. I have already given a program to my congregation; they were very excited to hear about my experiences. Several other programs are planned.

Especially I would like to thank then Grand Commander Loper for his kindness in planning our trip to Newark and back. He went above and beyond the call of duty in keeping us informed of what was happening and where we'd be and when.

Thank you again for your kindness; pastors need a little ministering to as well. Yours is a wonderful witness we can all learn from.

Anita Bane, Pastor
United Methodist Church
Strawberry Point, Iowa

We Wear the Uniform and Bear the Cross!

by Sir Knight James N. Karnegis, M.D., P.G.C. (NE)

Member of the Grand Encampment Committee on Religious Activities

"Those who preach the Cross of our Lord Jesus are the terror of modern thinkers. In their hearts they dread the preaching of the old-fashioned Gospel, and they hate what they dread.

Charles H. Spurgeon

What do the following have in common?:

- A mortarboard
- A red octagon
- A flag with thirteen red and white stripes and a blue field with fifty five-pointed stars
- The Knight Templar uniform adorned with crosses

This list easily could be greatly expanded. The idea is that each item mentioned expresses to the observer a specific bit of information: The mortarboard symbolizes an academic achievement; the red octagon is a sign indicating 'stop'; the flag symbolizes the United States of America; and the Knight Templar uniform with crosses indicates that the wearer professes the Christian religion.

In our daily lives we are so much accustomed to this indirect method of transferring information that we may not be consciously aware of it. Nevertheless, its influence is profound, and there is an obvious application to every Knight Templar.

The Knight Templar has been admitted to an order founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. He has the exceptional Masonic opportunity and privilege, when he appears in public, of openly declaring the position he has taken. He can do this at a distance and without saying a word, simply by means of his appearance.

Wearing a Knight Templar uniform is a special occasion. The uniform silently preaches an important message. In effect, the Sir Knight puts on the whole armor of God and is prepared for the challenges he may face in a hedonistic, cynical, and selfish society. He stands as a champion of a great cause, a defender of his Redeemer, and a witness of the Good News. It is with justifiable pride, therefore, that we view our unique uniform. We understand, but steadfastly reject, the misconceived notions that might be advanced by some who would state that the uniform marks us as being regimented or militaristic. Nor can we agree that owning the uniform is prohibitively expensive and unnecessary, or that wearing it is too much trouble, or that, by wearing it, we become easy targets for those who dread and hate our tenets. On the contrary, the uniform often stimulates from the onlooker genuine interest and appreciative questions. It is not unusual for the viewing public to become curious and to ask about the uniform, the chapeau, the sword, and the jewels. This gives us a golden opportunity, on our own terms and in our own words, without distortion and without mischaracterization by others, to explain who we are and what we represent.

It is clear, therefore, that a Sir Knight should be thoughtful when he puts on his uniform. This uniform is not a deaf and dumb collection of cloth, thread, and buttons. Not at all! The uniform loudly broadcasts that the wearer is a Christian Mason. It displays multiple and various crosses, even crosses on crosses, each of which boldly testifies to the faith of the wearer. Indisputably, the Knight Templar in uniform is a walking, breathing advertisement of our Christian order.

It may be that, at times, we lamentably lose sight of the fact that our order exists for its Christian purpose. Truly, we can effectively advance Templary only by promoting its Christian basis. The wearing of our distinctive uniform adorned with its crosses gives us an enormous advantage. Let us make the most of it!

The Committee on Religious Activities:
James N. Karnegis M.D., P.G.C. (NE)
Robert J. Cave, P.G.C. (NY)
James C. Taylor, P.D.C. (OK), Chairman
Sir Knight James N. Karnegis is a Past Grand Commander of Nebraska. He lives at 20975 Bonanza Boulevard, Elkhorn, NE 68022-1838

Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar!

Highlights From The Easter Sunrise Service - Alexandria, VA

Photos by Sir Knight Oscar D. Olsson, P.G.C. (NJ)



Top: The lineup of state contingencies; middle, left: Grand Master William J. Jones addresses the assembly; middle, right: grand officers with Grand Encampment banner; bottom, left: "The Lord's Prayer" performed on flute by Grand Master's daughter, Jane Ann Pickett; bottom, right: the Ohio contingency.

CONNECTICUT KNIGHTS CLASS IN MARCH 2001



Above is a Connecticut class of candidates taking the Commandery Orders on March 31, 2001, in New Haven, Connecticut.

**OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MINNESOTA
WELCOME BACK BRAINERD MINISTER FROM HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**



To welcome Reverend Rory Swenson, pastor of Park United Methodist Church in Brainerd, Minnesota, on his return from the Holy Land, ALL officers of the Grand Commandery of Minnesota attended Sunday morning services at his church on April 22, 2001. Reverend Swenson spoke enthusiastically about the Pilgrimage and about the fellowship of Masonry. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Sir Knights of Minnesota for selecting him for the 'opportunity of a lifetime.' Upon concluding his comments, the Sir Knights present were warmly received with a rousing ovation from the congregation.

In the picture above with Reverend Swenson (center, front row) are officers: front row, left to right: Anthony W. Lecakis, G.C.G.; Kenneth W. Carroll, G.G.; Charles W. Nelson, G.C.; Allan F. Kauppi, G.Sw.B.; Daniel P. Grambush, D.G.C.; and Harland L. Thomesen, G.R.; second row, left to right: James E. Odland, G.Sr.W.; Robert E. Holden, G.S.; Rual L. Lee, G.W.; Richard W. Anderson, G.Jr.W.; Donald W. Mathison, G.P; Jens C. Mikkelsen, G.St.B.; and Carl A. Pettis, G.T.

See Reverend Swenson's letter on the Holy Land Pilgrimage program on page 10.

New York Sir Knights Are Honor Guard For 100th Anniversary Of President T. Roosevelt Becoming A Mason



The Sir Knights of Nassau Commandery No. 73, Hicksville, New York, and Patchogue Commandery No. 65, Islip, New York, were the honor guard for a special service marking the 100th anniversary of President Theodore Roosevelt becoming a Mason in the Lodge in Oyster Bay. Following a special program, the group gathered at Roosevelt's grave in Young's Cemetery for "Taps" and wreath laying. The Grand Commander of New York, Sir Knight Charles Mendell, a member of Patchogue, participated in the program, along with Nassau Commander, Arthur Wade, and Patchogue Commander, Robert Bukowski.

Kansas Viet Nam Memorial Services



The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas performed their annual Memorial Services at the Viet Nam Memorial in Junction City, Kansas, with a large crowd in attendance. Shown in the picture, left to right, are: Sir Knight John Heckart as Uncle Sam; Sir Knight Donald Kelley, R.E. Grand Commander from Mound City; Sir Knight T. Michael Fegan, P.G.M., Commander of Junction City Commandery; Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz, US Army, retired, the featured speaker; the Honorable Kay Blanken, Mayor of Junction City; and Sir Knight James Walker from Shawnee, Grand Prelate. The ceremony is performed every year to honor the dead of American conflicts. (submitted by Sir Knight Donald B. Kelley, G.C.)

TEXAS ASSEMBLY, S.O.O.B., PRESENTS NEW BANNERS TO COMMANDERY



The ladies of Worth Assembly No. 264, Social Order of the Beauceant, Fort Worth, Texas, have made and presented six new banners to Worth Coimnandery No. 19, Fort Worth, to replace its old, worn banners. Above left, left to right, are ladies of Worth No. 264: Mrs. Charles W. Modesitt, Past President; Mrs. J. F. Litchfield, Recorder; and Mrs. Darrell Smith, President. Above right are Mrs. J. F. Litchfield with Commander Don R. Cowley, Worth Commandery No. 19, Fort Worth, Texas. (submitted by Mrs. Modesitt)

News From Northern California DeMolay



Each year Northern California DeMolay holds its annual Grand Master's Membership class, and this year the officers were pleased to meet Dad David C. Decker. In honor of his being installed as the Grand Master, both degrees of the order were performed and 63 new members were initiated into DeMolay. In recognition of his numerous displays of outstanding leadership as well as the great

service he has given humanity, in 1998 Dad Decker was granted the Honorary Legion of Honor, the highest honor given of the International Supreme Council of DeMolay. N.C.D.A. officers are pictured with Dad David C. Decker and the rest of his Grand Lodge officers who attended the 2000 Grand Master's Membership class

Early 2001, the Northern California DeMolay Association was proud to be a part of the East-West Shrine Football Classic to raise funds for the Shrine's Children's Hospitals. They were honored to meet Dad Raoul L. Frevel, the Shrine's Imperial Potentate, before the start of the game at Pacific Bell Park, San Francisco. DeMolay members and their guests were also invited to participate in and be introduced in the pre-game parade. DeMolay appreciates the support of the Shrine

Each year Northern California DeMolay sponsors P R I D E Ritual Competition. New records were set in several competitions once again. P.R.I.D.E. stands for *Perfect Ritual Improves DeMolay Every way*, and it has become the standard by which Northern California DeMolay Chapters judge their ritual performances all through the year. In addition to impressive trophies and certificates for their efforts, winners took home very helpful and constructive comments that will assist them in improving their Chapters' ritual efforts. The photo shows members of the team and individual competition winners.



Chaucer and Chivalry

by Francine Renee Hall
(*Knight Templar*, page 28, Dec. 1980)

In his medieval classic, *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer is quite deliberate when he introduces his cast of characters with the Knight. Although chivalry was a stylized code of behavior that signaled the decay of the medieval feudal system, Chaucer is upholding what is essentially the perfect expression of earthly behavior with divine aspiration - knighthood.

During the Age of Chivalry, the ideal knight owed fealty to his king. The king considered himself God's intermediary, so a knight's military obedience became not only a spiritual defense of Christendom in general but a personal homage to God. In the Middle Ages, God was often referred to as the "Lord" and "Heaven-King"; therefore, when Chaucer tells us that the Knight "had proved his worth in his *lord's* wars," we can easily interpret this as meaning God Himself. Chaucer's Knight, then, becomes the standard by which the other pilgrims are gauged. And the Pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Thomas Becket at Canterbury becomes more than an opportunity to journey to a different place and tell stories - the presence of the Knight transforms it to a spiritual quest.

What is the history of this saintly English Knight who leads the 'company of nine and twenty' on their pilgrimage to Canterbury and who sets the spiritual tone of the journey? He 'loved chivalry, truth and honor, liberality and courtesy.' He also 'proved his worth' in the holy wars and yet he is humble:

"Although he was valiant, he was prudent, never in all his life had he been rude to anyone at all.

He was a true, perfect, gentle knight."

With such bravery, kindness, and gentleness for an opening portrait to *The Canterbury Tales*, it is hardly surprising that scholars have seriously researched the possibility that such a memorable character actually existed and served as Chaucer's model. Of course, the inevitable place to look for historical evidence is the Knight's own impressive military career.

In enumerating his campaigns, we learn that the English Knight was 'at the siege of Algeciras' and battled "for our faith in Tlemcen." These were attempts to control the raids on the Christians by the North African Moors as well as to force the Moors out of Spain. Algeciras was the Moors' great stronghold, which finally fell to Alfonso of Castile with the help of the Christian world in 1344. Englishmen did participate in the siege - several Earls of England headed a group of approximately 30 knights each. Chaucer's Knight, more than likely, was among them.

Tlemcen (in what is now northwestern Algeria) also falls into the above early expeditions in order of time, and although the date is not certain, there is evidence that the Knight's 'three tournaments' in Tlemcen are an accurate description of man-to-man combat set up by mutual agreement between the opposing parties.

The Knight, we are also told, 'was at Alexandria when it was won,' with Pierre de Lusignon, King of Cyprus, defeating the Saracen stronghold on October 11, 1365. Pierre, of course, had long prepared for the encounter when in October 1362 he started a campaign to recruit the Christian powers of Europe against the 'enemies of God.' To be sure, many Christians did follow the King of Cyprus, and when he sailed from Rhodes to battle the Saracens, he had the backing of the nobility of Europe, the Pope, and the Knights Hospitallers.

Chaucer also mentions that our worthy Knight 'had been at Lys and

Attalia when they were won." Interestingly, Attalia was captured in August 1361 - prior to Pierre de Lusignon's journey to Europe to recruit Christendom in his struggle with the Saracens. This suggests that Chaucer's Knight was initially drawn to the Middle East largely on his own. The Knight was also with Pierre at the capture of Lyas, the Turkish city and harbor, in 1367.

Finally, we may turn to the Knight's campaigns in northern Europe:

'...he had sat at the head of the table in Prussia, above knights of all nations; he had campaigned in Lithuania, and in Russia, more often than any other Christian man of his rank;'

Although Chaucer places the above expeditions at the beginning of the Knight's campaigns, there is good reason to believe that these excursions into northern Europe occurred later. For one thing, the Knight "sat at the head of the table in Prussia," an honor accorded only to an experienced soldier mature in years and with a distinguished military history. If the Knight fought in Algeciras in 1344, and appears in Southwark, a suburb of London, for the pilgrimage to Canterbury in 1387 (the generally accepted date of *The Canterbury Tales*), he must have been between 60 and 65 years of age. For another thing, the Knight's campaigns in Prussia, Lithuania and Russia were largely under the leadership of the Knights of the Teutonic Order who experienced military setbacks in 1385 in the struggle to defend their borders against the pagan Lithuanians, as well as the Tartars who ruled Russia. Many foreign knights came to their aid in 1385, and it is very likely that Chaucer's Knight was among them.

Thus, at the onset of *The Canterbury Tales*, the Knight is a mature man in his early 60's who has had a successful military career. Chaucer is careful to point out that the Knight fought only in the holy wars where he joined, among others, two of the three major military-religious groups which formed

in the Holy Land during the Christian Crusades - the Knights Hospitalers and the Knights of the Teutonic Order. (By this time, of course, the third group, the once-powerful Order of Knights Templar, had perished as a result of the intrigues of Philip W, King of France, and Pope Clement V, in the early 14th century.)

With such specific descriptions of the Knight's activities, it is probable that the Knight served as a model of persons Chaucer actually knew. It has even been purported that a certain Yorkshire family of Scrope was in Chaucer's mind as he portrayed his noble figure representative of the Age of Chivalry.

Two English families, the Yorkshire family of Scrope and the Chester family of Grosvenor, claimed the same heraldic insignia - the 'arms Azure, a bend Or' - as their own, and to decide the dispute, testimony was undertaken in 1386. Chaucer himself was one of the witnesses who testified in behalf of the family of Scrope. Testimony was given by those witnesses who had seen first-hand the arms displayed publicly, such as on a tombstone, or more importantly, in actual battle. Those knights and esquires who testified in favor of Scrope described the self-same battles that Chaucer's Knight had fought in.

That Chaucer used actual persons to paint his figure of the Knight is interesting historically. But we would be missing a vital clue to Chaucer the artist if we overlooked the fact that the Knight becomes a living representative of all that humanity strives for - harmony between earthly valor and spiritual humbleness.

The above information was submitted by Sir Knight Charles A. Ganes; H.P.D.C., P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations. He is a member of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. Write: Charles A. Ganes, 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944; e-mail: caganes@aol.com.

2001 Bicentennial Biennial Session - Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction

Charleston, South Carolina, will be the site of the unique 2001 Bicentennial Biennial Session of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction. This Session celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Mother Supreme Council, which was founded in Charleston in 1801. From September 30 through October 3, more than 4,000 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies from 35 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Japan, and the NATO Scottish Rite Military Bodies will gather at the Charleston Convention Center and at historic Scottish Rite sites throughout the city of Charleston.

The Bicentennial Biennial Session is highlighted by the conferral of the 33° upon more than 400 Scottish Rite Masons. In addition, more than 800 Scottish Rite Masons will be invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honour. These high honors recognize outstanding achievement within the Scottish Rite, S.J., and significant service to America reflecting credit on Freemasonry.

The four days of impressive ceremonies and gala celebrations begin on Sunday afternoon, September 30, with an interdenominational Vesper Service at 2:00 P.M. in the Performing Arts Center at the Charleston Convention Center. A reception in the Ballroom of the Convention Center will follow the Vesper Service. Later that afternoon, Sovereign Grand Commander C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, will open a Scottish Rite Commemorative Exhibit in downtown Charleston at the Charleston Museum at 5:00 P.M. (invited guests only due to space limitation). The Commemorative Exhibit will be open to the public, starting Monday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. throughout the session. Following the 2001 Biennial Session, the exhibit will be available

for display in various (yet undetermined) locations in the Southern Jurisdiction.

The formal opening ceremonies of the session take place on Monday, October 1, at 9:00 A.M. at the Coliseum of the Charleston Convention Center and will be followed by the official welcome of Scottish Rite dignitaries from across the United States and around the world. All session events, except for the opening of the Bicentennial Museum Exhibit and the conferral of the 33°, are open to all registered Brethren, their ladies, and guests. Also, there are many tours of historic Charleston available to anyone prior, during, and after the Bicentennial Celebration. The Gala Concert on Monday evening, October 1, at 8:00 P.M. will feature stellar performers and will benefit the Scottish Rite's nationwide network of Childhood Language Disorders Clinics, centers, and programs.

Tuesday, October 2, at 10:30 A.M., the Scottish Rite Research Society will present a program in the Coliseum of the Charleston Convention Center, and commencing at 2:00 P.M., Bicentennial observances will take place, in turn, at five Scottish Rite historic sites in Charleston. Some streets will be closed to traffic so that the assembled Brethren and guests can walk comfortably between three of the sites. Buses will be available for transportation to sites beyond walking distance. That evening, various Orients will host dinners for their Honor Men, ladies, and guests.

During the morning of Wednesday, October 3, the investiture of the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honor will take place at 10:00 A.M. in the Charleston Coliseum adjacent to the Charleston Convention Center. The conferral of the 33° at 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday afternoon will take place in the Performing Arts Center and will be open only to 33° Inspectors General Honorary and those elected to receive this high honor.

The Bicentennial Biennial Session festivities close with a Gala Banquet on Wednesday evening at the Convention Center at 7:00 P.M.

The editor and staff of *Knight Templar* magazine wishes to sincerely apologize to author Nelson King, FPS, president/editor of *The Philalethes* magazine, and *The Philalethes* magazine for an article that we ran in the February issue of our magazine. Most of the article "Infamous or Strange Masons" printed on page 18 was plagiarized (stolen) from an article of the same name by author Nelson King, which ran in the August 1991 issue of *The Philalethes* magazine and again in 1998; the article had been copyrighted to *The Philalethes* twice, in 1991 and 1998, and again in July of 2000 to Nelson King's book, *Born Again Fundamentalist Freemason*. *Knight Templar* would not knowingly reprint an article or information without the permission of the author and without giving credit to both the author and the original publication(s), and we deeply regret that this has occurred. Again, our most sincere apologies to author King and *The Philalethes*.

Tennessee Lodge, Chapter, Council And Commandery Enter Float In Christmas Parades



This is corrected copy from the April 2001 issue, page 13: In December of 2000, the float pictured above was entered in four Tennessee parades: Meigs County, December 3; Athens, December 4; Sweetwater, December 5; and Etowah, December 7. This was a joint effort by Meridian Sun Lodge No. 50, McMinn Chapter No. 74, Athens Council No. 118, and Athens Commandery No. 34. They were awarded \$100.00 in prize money in Sweetwater. (submitted by Dewey J. Purkey, Secretary)

Thanks From David L. Hargett, Jr., And Ed Blackburn

Monroe, North Carolina: Companions and Sir Knights David L. Hargett, Jr., and Ed Blackburn wish to pass along their sincere thanks and appreciation for the many cards, letters, flowers, and prayers received. Donna Hargett Blackburn, daughter of David and the wife of Ed, passed away in May in Monroe. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Templars: Any of you who have anecdotes (either funny or informational) about a Templar, a group of Templars, a Commanders 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 Road, Norwood, MO 65717-9466; new e-mail: jcbaird@getgo.in.net

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Christian Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel Itinerary For December 5-14,2001

*It will be led by our Grand Master, Sir Knight William J. Jones, and his Lady Lois
(More information and a reservation form are printed on page 19)*

December 5, Day 1 - Depart USA on your way to Tel-Aviv, Israel.

December 6, Day 2 - Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport where your representative greets you and gives you an introduction about our forthcoming tour. Proceed to our hotel in the Galilee for the overnight stay.

December 7, Day 3 - Today we tour the Sea of Galilee; visit Capernaum and Simon Peter's house; the Mount of the Beatitudes and Tabgha, the site of the feeding of the multitudes; take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee; and enjoy a St. Peter's fish lunch in Tiberias. Then, it's back to our hotel for the overnight stay.

December 8, Day 4 - This morning we drive to visit Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle; on to Nazareth to visit the magnificent Church of the Annunciation, built on top of the Virgin Mary's house; continue along the coast to Caesarea, where St. Paul was imprisoned and Cornelius baptized; visit the Roman Theatre, Aqueduct, and the Crusader ruins; and ascend to Jerusalem for the overnight stay.

December 9, Day 5 - Walk into the Old City of Jerusalem; experience the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Armenian quarters of the Old City; see the Temple ruins and the Temple Mount; on to our procession of the Fourteen Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa to the sacred Church of the Holy Sepulchre; stroll through the many bazaars of the Old City; visit King Solomon's quarry located next to the Damascus gate;

on to Mt. Zion to see David's tomb, the room of the Last Supper, and Dormition Abbey. Overnight stay is in Jerusalem.

December 10, Day 6 - In Jerusalem we visit the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb, and the Church of Peter in Gallicantu, built over the palace of the high priest Caiaphas. We drive to Bethlehem to visit the ancient Church of Nativity, Manger Square, and view the beautiful Shepherds' Fields. And it's back to Jerusalem for the overnight stay.

December 11, Day 7 - This is a day of leisure. Your guide directs you to places you may visit at your own pace with an overnight stay in Jerusalem.

December 12, Day 8 - Today we drive to the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea area. Then, we tour Masada, site of the Jewish zealots' last stand against the Romans, and we drive to Ein Gedi to experience the salty water of the Dead Sea and continue our journey to the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Our overnight stay is in Jerusalem.

December 13, Day 9 - Today we visit the Israel Museum; the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed; and Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Later we drive to Jaffa to visit St. Peter's Church and the house of Simon the Tanner. We enjoy our farewell dinner and transfer to the airport for our flight home.

December 14, Day 10 - We arrive back in the USA.

THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
SPONSORS THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND OF ISRAEL
DECEMBER 5-DECEMBER 14, 2001

Grand Master William Jackson Jones and his Lady Lois are planning to lead the Pilgrimage. *Please come and join!*

PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Round-trip airfare, Newark or 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, hotel staff, and items of a personal nature, such as sodas, other beverages, laundry, etc.

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

COST AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Package price per person, double occupancy:

From Newark Airport (NYC)—\$2,145 From Chicago O'Hare—\$2,255
Single room supplement, if needed, please add: \$435

For payment by credit card, add 3.25% of total. Senior discounts (age 60+, spouses age 55+): please deduct \$60 per person. **Deposit due with reservation: \$250 per person. Balance due: October 20, 2001.** 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.

RESERVATION FORM

Knights Templar Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel—Dec. 5—Dec. 14, 2001

Please circle your choice—Price per person, based on double occupancy:

Newark Airport (NYC): \$2,145 Chicago—\$2,255

NAME (as appears on 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 to be used on identification badge: _____

() Please confirm a single room supplement for an additional \$435.

() Senior discounts—age 60+ and spouses age 55+—please deduct \$60 per person.

Enclosed is my payment of \$250 per person. Balance due October 20, 2001. Please make checks payable to AMI Travel, Inc., and mail to: Knights Templar, C/O AMI Travel, Inc.; 6200 N. Hiawatha Avenue, Suite 625; Chicago, IL 60646.

Summer Uniform Sale Aids Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Milford Commandery No 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering 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 tie, 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 tie 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 was approved by Sir Knight James M. Ward, Past 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. Pleas.- include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This is for our charity.



KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2¹/₂-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 Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan information and enrollment kit.

Sale of Beautiful Kneeling Knight to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

This kneeling Knight is hand-cast in ceramic. It is hand-painted in black and silver and has an antique effect. It was produced in Germany, and the size is 15 inches tall by 8 inches wide by 7 inches in diameter. The price of the Knight is \$90.00, including shipping, handling, and insurance. The net proceeds will benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Once you have ordered, please allow four to six weeks for delivery. If you are interested in ordering, please make check or money order payable to: Stanley C. Buz, and send your order to Stanley C. Buz, P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052



Part I - A Walk in the Sun: The Story of Brother Elden LeRoy Auker

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



Part I - A Walk in the Sun: The Story of Brother Elden LeRoy Auker

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

To a baseball enthusiast, professional skill as a player of the game is an art form equal to that of a prima ballerina. Pitching is at the top of the list. The ability to throw a ball at high velocity is coupled with a requirement to make it move deceptively. Obviously, delivery style is part of that skill, as well as a degree of psychological control over the batter. One effective method of intimidation is an unorthodox method of throwing the ball. The genuine underhand or "submarine" pitch is difficult to master and exceedingly rare in the game of baseball. Properly executed, it is a highly successful style.

In the decade of the 1930s, the unrivaled master of the submarine pitch was Elden Auker. His brief, albeit fruitful, career in the big leagues was one of triumph and accomplishment. His created a distinguished collegiate record prior to professional baseball, followed by an outstanding industrial-business career after he left the game. The priorities of World War II hastened the end of his big league career prematurely.

Auker's counterpart in the minute circle of great submariners during the decade of the 1920s was the somber Carl Mays, a figure hounded by tragedy and death on the playing field. As the result of a misadventure which cost the life of a devoted Freemason and talented baseball figure, Carl Mays was

cast in the permanent role of an - indicted menace.

Both of those submarine artists made a mark on the history of the game. Elden Auker's life has been a walk in the sun. Mays' active life was a haunted existence marked by unrelenting condemnation, finally terminated by his demise in 1971.

Elden Auker was born at Norcatur, Kansas, on September 21, 1910, the son of a rural mail carrier. Fred and Florence Auker were married in 1908, and Elden was their only child. It was the Aukers' fond dream that their son would enter a profession and carve out an affluent life superior to Fred's 40 frugal years as a rural postman. He has exceeded his parents' fondest hopes.

Young Auker enjoyed a bucolic small-town boyhood, developing into an outstanding student with superior athletic abilities. When he graduated from Norcatur High School in 1928, he was already skilled in baseball, basketball, and football; but his primary goal was to become a medical doctor. At the same time bright young Elden Auker stood at the threshold of a productive and successful adult life, Carl Mays was nearing the end of his career as a major-league baseball player.

Elden enrolled at Kansas State University and began his studies in the fall of 1928. Without family funding it was necessary to work his way

through school. His time was devoted to holding down a job, accomplishing his academic goals, and participation in the athletic programs. He became involved in baseball, football, and basketball at the university, although he was barred from varsity competition until his sophomore year. Nevertheless, Elden won nine varsity letters and was selected All Big Six in the three sports (Big Six Conference). He graduated with academic honors as a pre-med student in 1932, with the accolades of University President, James McCain, declaring that he "was the greatest all-round athlete in Kansas State history." Elden was the first one at the university to achieve All-American status in three sports.

There was only one glitch in the successful completion of Elden's academic career at Kansas State. He did not have the funds necessary to enter medical school. His alternative was to turn to professional baseball and to earn sufficient money to continue his education at a later time. The Detroit Tiger organization had previously offered him a contract to play in their farm system.

Auker was assigned to the Tiger's Decatur, Illinois farm team in the Three I League. He was a rookie pitcher with some control problems, which were immediately addressed by manager Bob Coleman. Elden had sustained an injury to his right shoulder while playing football at Kansas State and could no longer throw overhand with any velocity. He had reverted to a sidearm delivery for the balance of his collegiate career.

Coleman, an astute baseball man, advised Auker to abandon the

sidearm delivery. It was difficult to achieve the control necessary for a major league pitcher by throwing sidearm. Coleman advised Elden to consider mastering a full underhand motion. It was a difficult method of pitching, but the young pitcher solved the technique before long. As predicted, his control improved. In addition to pinpoint control, he had outstanding speed and a sharp breaking ball in his pitching arsenal. It was the most valuable period in his career, but it ended at Decatur with the team declaring bankruptcy. Six weeks into the team's regular season, Elden was reassigned to Moline of the Mississippi Valley League to complete his first year of professional baseball. After one year of seasoning, Auker was ordered to spring training with the Beaumont team of the Texas League in 1933. A few weeks later the aspiring youngster was summoned to Detroit. He was a bona fide big leaguer.

The winter of 1932-1933 was an eventful time for the young pitcher. He married his college sweetheart, Mildred Purcell, on February 18, 1933, a month after he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Elden petitioned Norcatur Lodge No. 317 in his home town and received his E.A. Degree on December 17, 1932. He was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on December 15. On January 12, 1933, a month into the new year, Auker became a Master Mason. The year 2000 marked his 67th year of happy, married life and a similar tenure as a dedicated member of the Masonic Fraternity. Norcatur Lodge consolidated with Mountain Slope Lodge

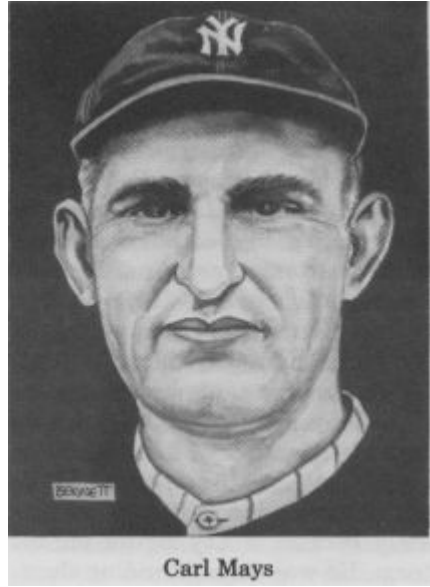
No. 186 in 1979, and today that is Brother Auker's lodge.

Carl Mays' active career in the big leagues had ended in 1929 with the Cincinnati Reds. His 16 years as the premier submarine pitcher in baseball yielded a lifetime record of 204 wins and 127 losses. He broke into American League baseball in 1915 as a member of the Boston Red Sox. By the following year he was an established pitching star, winning 22 games and losing 13, while posting a brilliant earned run average of 1.74.

His blazing submarine pitch roared up from ground level at the pitcher's mound with a wicked, sinking break as it crossed home plate. Mays' knuckles virtually scraped the dirt when he released the ball. It was a disconcerting image for a batter to face the white sphere rising up from the dust, only to dart downward as it neared the plate. Mays' scowling visage intensified the intimidating experience.

Carl Mays had a truculent personality. One writer described him as having "the temperament of a man with a permanent toothache." He wanted no friends, and had none. What he did have was a fanatic drive to win. He was similar to the irascible Ty Cobb both in temperament and personality and equally unpopular. Nevertheless, Mays was a great pitching asset for a big league baseball team, and he was a perennial winner. Among his laurels were five seasons with more than 20 victories.

Elden Auker and Carl Mays were diametrically opposite in personality. Auker was handsome, affable, and popular with his teammates and the public. Mays wore a perpetual scowl, accented by a prominent



hooked nose and had an acerbic personality. The single similarity between Auker and Mays was in their superb, right-handed submarine pitching styles.

The only reason for including Carl Mays in a profile about Elden Auker is the fact that both were skilled in the art of underhand pitching. The submarine ball was a factor in the death of a fine professional ballplayer in 1920. The victim, a Freemason, was Raymond Johnson Chapman of the Cleveland Indians baseball club. His death as a result of being hit by a submarine pitch has added an intriguing dimension to a tragic event. We, as Masons, are invariably interested in a member of our Fraternity, and Chapman became one of our circle in 1913.

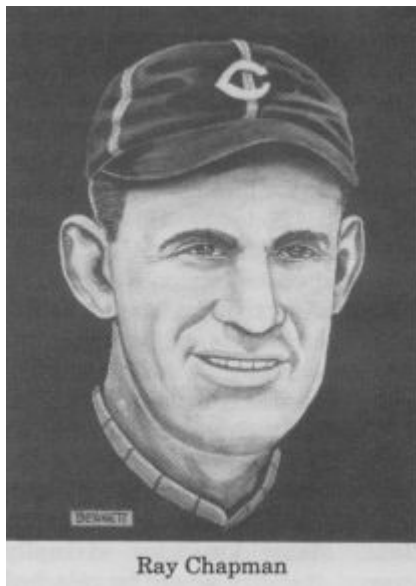
Chapman, a native of Kentucky, crossed the border and joined a Masonic lodge in Herrin, Illinois.

His petition was accepted in Herrin's Prairie Lodge No. 693, and the E.A. Degree was conferred on him on January 4, 1913. The Fellowcraft Degree followed on January 25, and he was raised to the Sublime Degree on February 3, 1913, a Master Mason at age 21. The record of his death is documented in the annual return of Herrin's Prairie Lodge in July 1913.

Ray Chapman was a native of McHenry, Kentucky, born in 1891. He shared the same home state as Carl Mays, born in the town of Liberty, Kentucky, in 1893. Ray broke into the American League with Cleveland in 1912 and immediately became a key figure on the team. He was an outstanding shortstop and a swift base runner. An aggressive baseball player, he was particularly skilled in the batter's box. He habitually crouched low over home plate, trying to unnerve the pitcher and force him to throw outside the strike zone. Against Carl Mays, a notorious "head hunter," it was foolhardy to crowd the plate.

The fatal game was played at the Polo Grounds in New York City on August 16, 1920. Mays had been a Yankee pitcher since mid-season 1919. He quit the Boston Red Sox because he was convinced the players did not try to win when he was pitching.

Financially-strapped, Boston owner, Harry Frazee, sold the rebellious pitcher to beer baron, Colonel Jacob Ruppert, owner of the New York Yankees. During that point in the 1920 season, Mays was well on his way to posting a record of 26 wins against 11 defeats. He was the vanguard of an exodus of Boston Red Sox players to the Yankee fold, a list which included Babe Ruth, pitcher



Waite Hoyt, and pitcher Herb Pennock. Those players became the nucleus of Colonel Ruppert's baseball dynasty, and their sale resolved Harry Frazee's money problems.

On that August day at New York's Polo Grounds, Ray Chapman stepped into the batter's box in the last of the fifth inning, crouching low over the plate, feigning a bunt. Mays released a smoking, fast ball, that was followed a split-second later by a loud crack. The ball rolled toward the pitcher. Thinking the ball had hit Chapman's bat, Mays scooped it up and threw it to first base for the out. Chapman fell to the ground. He had received the full impact of the pitch above his left ear. Immobilized, Ray made no apparent attempt to move his head out of the path of Mays' pitch.

rv 1

Yankee catcher Herold "Muddy" Ruel, one of the game's most astute players, stated that Chapman had not even moved his feet when the ball came toward the plate. Yankee manager, Miller Huggins, believed that Chapman's spikes caught on something, momentarily preventing him from moving. It had been a tragic accident and not a deliberate attempt to hit Chapman. The hapless Cleveland shortstop was rushed to New York's St. Lawrence Hospital, where he had emergency brain surgery. At first Chapman seemed to rally, but during the night he lapsed into a coma and died.

The sports world awoke on August 17, 1920, to learn of the death of the popular shortstop. Immediately, the condemnation of Mays began because of his lack of emotion. Castigated without a shred of evidence indicating that he was culpable in the tragedy, Mays was to play under a cloud of suspicion and hostility for the balance of his career. Nevertheless, he ended his 15-year, active career with a brilliant winning record, which should have entitled him to a niche in baseball's Hall of Fame long ago. The hostility he suffered over the tragic event, his unpopularity with teammates and sports fans; in addition to the negative sentiments of the sports writers and veterans committee who elect nominees to the Hall-of-Fame, have prevented Mays' election. Curiously, committee members have maintained the primary reason was because he quit the Boston Red Sox team in 1919. It seems to be a biased decision against a well-qualified

candidate for Hall-of-Fame honors. All of the facts related to Ray Chapman's death amount to a tragic accident involving a devoted Mason. For that reason, we, the Fraternity, mourn his premature death.

All of the somber events surrounding the life of submariner Carl Mays have little direct impact on Elden Auker's story. He never had contact with Mays nor suffered any anxiety over using the submarine pitch himself. Auker's control was always outstanding, and he rarely walked a batter. His popularity with the fans and rapport with teammates was always exemplary.

It was manager Mickey Cochrane, who followed Auker's progress during spring training in 1933 and decided to bring him up to Detroit to play for the parent club. Elden worked in 15 games during his abbreviated rookie season and became the pitcher of record in six games with three wins and three losses. He was a starter in 1934 and a workhorse on a sterling pitching staff, which included Schoolboy Rowe, Tommy Bridges, Fred Marberry, and Alvin Crowder. Elden worked in 43 games and posted a record of 15 wins and 7 losing efforts. The Tigers had a splendidly balanced team in 1934 with a good defense and a fearsome offense. The offense included home-run hitter Hank Greenberg, Leon "Goose" Goslin, Charlie Gehringer, Marvin Owen, Jo-Jo White, and playing manager, Mickey Cochrane. The hitting and pitching performances of the team put Detroit in the 1934 World Series with the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Detroit Tigers were outgunned by the legendary Gashouse Gang from St. Louis in the 1934 World Series. The great Dean brothers, Dizzy and Paul, led the charge. Dizzy was at the pinnacle of his career, finishing the season with 30 victories, tops in the National League. Turbulence marked the Fall Classic, which saw the Cardinals take the series in seven games. The personal highlight for Elden Auker was a hard-fought win in the fourth game against Cardinal ace, Tex Carleton, and several relief pitchers. Auker's formidable hitting opposition included manager Frank Frisch, Joe Medwick, Rip Collins, and the "Wild Horse of the Osage," Pepper Martin. In the end the Dean brothers won two games each and were the primary factor in bringing the championship to St. Louis.

The rowdy series was marred by a near riot in Detroit when Joe Medwick spiked Tiger third-baseman, Marvin Owen, sliding into third base in the seventh inning of the last game. Judge Landis, the Commissioner of Baseball, was finally obliged to order Medwick out of the game in order to restore order. Another incident occurred during the fourth game in which Auker was working. Dizzy Dean was hit on the head by a ball while acting as a pinch runner. He was carried from the field unconscious but recovered without serious after-effect.

Detroit won another trip to the World Series in 1935, following an outstanding season. It proved to be Elden's finest year, as he chalked up 18 victories in 36 mound appearances. He lost only seven games. The Tigers played the Chicago Cubs in the World Series and emerged the victor, winning four games and losing two. The pitching star of the series was curve-baller Tommy Bridges. He baffled the Cubs completely, winning the second and sixth games. Auker dueled with Cub ace Larry French in the second game, until manager Mickey Cochrane decided to relieve him in

the seventh inning of a free-hitting contest. Credit for the win finally went to Schoolboy Rowe, in relief.

Detroit's fortunes began to decline in 1936. They finished the season a distant second behind the New York Yankees. Auker continued to be a sturdy and reliable starter, struggling to win with indifferent performances from both the Tiger offense and defense.

The scenario was repeated at the beginning of the 1937 season, and it took a dramatic turn for the worse on May 25. Manager Mickey Cochrane was struck on the head by a pitched ball from the hand of pitcher Irving "Bump" Hadley of the New York Yankees. The blow was nearly fatal, and Cochrane spent many weeks in a New York hospital struggling to a partial recovery. The accident ended Cochrane's playing career and demoralized the Tiger players. They finished the 1937 season 13 games behind the league leader. Auker grimly continued his excellent pitching chores, providing one of the few bright spots in an otherwise depressing season at Detroit. He posted a record of 17 wins and 9 losses in 43 mound appearances. The terrifying scene of Cochrane being almost fatally injured in the spring of the 1937 season must have conjured disturbing memories of the tragedy involving Carl Mays and Ray Chapman. It was déjà vu for New York fans, and Elden Auker was there. The tragedy was certainly a screaming wake-up call for the adoption of protective helmets.

Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 33^o, FPS, and P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, is a member of Holy Grail Commandery No. 70, Lakewood, Ohio. He resides at 802 Laura Belle Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028. His email is jebenett@mymailstation.com

Part II of the Brother Elden Auker story will appear in the September issue.

Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria, Virginia History Bits - Looking Back To Another Era!

by Sir Knight Robert D. McMarlin, P.G.C., KCT

In the 1870s, in addition to conferring the Orders and drilling, the Commandery arranged social functions and went on pilgrimages. Old Dominion No. 11 became well known for its ritualistic work, discipline, and appearance. There were many invitations to visit including: one from the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania to participate in the 100th anniversary celebration of our independence at Philadelphia, one from the Grand Commandery of New York to attend the dedication of the Masonic Temple in that city, invitations to the dedications of Masonic Temples in Hampton and Warrenton, Virginia, and many others. There was the fun of moonlight cruises on the Potomac with their ladies; the pleasure of attending divine service on Good Friday (The first recorded was held at Christ's Church.); the fun of visiting other Commanderies, including Appomattox, Fredericksburg and Columbia No. 2; attending Grand Commandery Conclaves; and the fun the men had, marching in uniform wherever they went, accompanied by Prof. Donch's Band - proud in their dark blue uniforms with their plumes and swords.

And like soldiers they were superbly disciplined and following a leader they loved. Following is Sir Knight Alexander's account of their departure from the Grand Commandery Conclave at Lynchburg, October 1877:

"On the morning of our departure from Lynchburg R.E. Sir W. Isaacs, E. Sir Peyton Coles and E. Sir Foster A. Scott were standing near the front of the hotel as others were about to leave. R.E. Sir Isaacs seemed to wait and upon being questioned as to the cause said he wanted to see that command (Old Dominion) start. At this time, not a man was in sight except the Captain General and a drummer of the band.

"R.E. Sir Knight Isaacs further remarked that we (Old Dominion) would carry with us every man we had brought. A wager was offered that the Command would be formed in five minutes from the order.

'Sir Knight Kersey, our Captain General, overheard the conversation, and to test the matter and without the slightest previous notice of what was expected, ordered the drummer to beat the 'Roll.' In two minutes the Command, 'full ranks' and in fatigue uniforms and as neat as if they had just issued from the asylum at Alexandria, was marching by sections down the street.

'General Jubal Early, who was a guest at the Arlington Hotel during our stay, remarked, 'those fellows look like soldiers.'

**They were soldiers -
Soldiers of the Cross!**



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 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; 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: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; sizes: 44 short 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

Travel in the footsteps of St. Paul with the Grand Junior Warden of Pennsylvania, March 14-26, 2002. Trip includes an optional 3-day cruise on the Aegean Sea to visit Patmos and Rhodes. For further info: Sir Knight and Rev. William D. Hartman, 951 Bridge Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

Knight Templar dress ties: cross and crown on square and compass (\$25.00 each); fund-raiser for celebration of 150 years of Templary in Texas. The Grand Commandery of Texas was formed in 1855 in San Antonio, and the sesquicentennial will be commemorated in San Antonio in April 2005. Both ties are navy blue with emblem. One large emblem tie (56 inches long) has one emblem of gold crown, red cross, blue square and compass outlined in gold on the body, small emblem tie (60 inches long) has reoccurring pattern of emblem with crown, square and compass in gold with red cross diagonally across body. View these ties at www.texasorkrite.org/ties.htm. Make check

payable to San Antonio Commandery No. 7 and mail to James N Higdon, 10122 N. Manton, San Antonio, TX 78213. Ties will be sent same day of receipt. H: (210) 344 4309, 0: 349-9933; e-mail higdon@stic.net

For sale by Park Place Commandery No. 106, Houston, Texas: Knight Templar caps, black with cross and crown logo. Available are baseball and golf (mesh) styles. Proceeds of cap sale go to KTEF. Price is \$15.00 per cap plus \$2.00 S & H. Send check or MO and specify style to Recorder, PO Box 263430, Houston, TX 77207-3430

For sale: commemorative 200th anniversary Chapter pennies to celebrate Federal Chapter No. 10, RAM., Cambridge, New York The coin is bright copper with keystone emblem on front, and reverse has triple tau in a circle with the name "Federal Chapter No. 10, Cambridge, NY" and the words "Bi-centennial 1801-2001." Each is \$5.00 including postage to Federal Chapter No. 10, RAM.; CIO John J. Falkenberg; 2003 State Route 29; Greenwich, NY 12834-2929

Chapter pennies available: Poinciana Chapter No. 50, Fort Myers, Florida, has Chapter pennies for sale. The front has keystone symbol, and the reverse has "Poinciana Chapter No. 50, RAM, Fort Myers, Florida," along with charter and dispensation dates. Send \$5.00 each to Poinciana Chapter No. 50, RAM.; c/o Guy E. Waltman, Sec.; PO Bar 935; Lehigh Acres; FL 33970

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, PO Box 433, Farmington, NM 87499

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 are 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 Masonic Lodge No. 217 and mail to Harry A Bruno, Chairman, Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F & AM.; PO Box 732; Cochran, GA 31014; or e-mail harry217@bigfoot.com

Watchmaker is putting together a collection of wristwatches, pocket watches, clocks, watch fobs, pictures, articles, books, etc. that show a relationship between Masonry and Time. They will become a traveling exhibit as a historical expo. and teaching tool. Any donations/contributions would be greatly appreciated; recognition of donor and history, if submitted, will accompany each piece. Hans "Kris" Johnson, 8 Link (La Luz), NW; Albuquerque; NM 87120-1805; (800) 687-3927 or (505) 897-0915 or e-mail oneofone@flashnet

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 four immortal chaplains lapel pin, a pin honoring the chaplains who sacrificed their lives by giving up their lifejackets in order to save the lives of others. One of the chaplains, Reverend and Brother George Lansing Fox was a member of Moose River Lodge No. 82, F. & A.M., in Concord, Vermont Price per pin is \$8.00 ea. including S & H. S. Kenneth Bard, 6922 Royal Green Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244, (513) 232-6989. 107b of proceeds will benefit the KTEF.

For sale: The Medal of Honor The Letter Gin 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 28 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: Commemorate your next Masonic event or occasion with 250 beautiful custom made 1 and 1/2-inch antique bronze die cast coins for \$3.32 each, with no die, setup, shipping or handling charges. Or get 1,000 beautiful 4-color 1-inch lapel pins for \$1.04 each without above charges. All coins and pins are

custom designed with your specific purpose in mind. Minimum orders of one hundred are available. 3% of profit goes to KTEF Call Frank Looser for more cash quotes and details, or send \$5.00 for full color catalog to 408 Ashlar Circle, Nashville, TN 37211. \$5.00 is refundable on first order. 1-800 765-1728 or e-mail cnfi@honw.com or www.cnfinteractive.com

Wooden nickels for sale: Now through the end of the year, get 1,000 natural wood nickels with blue square and compass imprint on one side and your lodge name and number on the other side, \$186.00 - no setup or art charges and free shipping. Send check or MO with a description of what you would like imprinted on your nickels to CNF interactive, 408 Ashlar Circle, Nashville, TN 37211. 3% goes to KTEF. More cash quotes and details call Frank I ser, (800) 765-1728 or visit www.cnfinteractiue.com

A heart-warming thanks to the staff of "Knight Voices." Without them the Sir Knights could not buy or sell items! I would like to hear from Sir Knights who are living in the Los Angeles and Hollywood, California areas. I will be able to send you a list of Masonic books and something else you will consider valuable. I am Sir Knight Bill Wheless, 809 Battle Bend Boulevard, Austin, TX 78745

For sale: new book on Masonry, A Survey of the History and Mysteries of Freemasonry. The book is hardbound, 322 pages, indexed, contains a bibliography of more than 100 sources, and makes liberal use of footnotes. It also contains a 114-page glossary of Masonic words and terms that one reader says "is the most comprehensive ever published in one source." Nine highly-placed Masons who read it gave it raving reviews. it is written, published, and financed by Robert L Breeding and can be obtained from him only. Price is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling. Check or MO to him at 405 Ascot Court, Knoxville, TN 37923-5807. E-mail rbreed4217@aol.com. Telephone (865) 539-9932; fax (865)690-7588

S Retired Mason and Sir Knight 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; and old U.S. stamps (pre-1940).71m Rickheim, 14761 Tunnclyff Road, Petersburg, MI 49270-9716, collect: (734) 854-3021, e-mail: heim@accesstoledo.com All inquiries answered.

Wanted: mechanical watches, railroad type, in excellent running condition: Hamilton, Elgin, Illinois, or Dudley Masonic. Write or call Sal Campos, P.O. Box 18542, San Antonio, TX 78218, (210) 655-7300

Buying all US 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 40 years experience. A percentage of profits to KTEF Randy Mogren, 8 Gould Street, Millbury, MA 01527, (508) 865-4816

Every Time I Tie the Strings

Every time I tie the strings
I think of all the subtle things:
Of Brothers' smiles and grips so firm,
Of Brothers' words that reaffirm,
Of friendships made in lodge rooms there,
Of Brothers I know really care.
No matter when, no matter where,
I know that they are always there;
No matter far or even near,
To whisper counsel in my ear.
They will always have my love
Till called to the Great Lodge up above.
This is why my heart sings
Every time I tie the strings.

Brother Richard D. Berry, Jr.
27811 East 21st St
Catoosa, OK 74015
(918) 266-3732
rdb66@dellepro.com