

VOLUME XLVII

DECEMBER 2001

NUMBER 12

Merry Christmas-2001



## Grand Masters Message-December 2001

Christmas 2001 has come so quickly. It does not seem like a year ago that I was preparing a message for our December 2000 magazine. During the past year we have met in all states of this great nation, enjoyed our fellowship, given greatly to our philanthropies, and learned together what we must do to promote our Knights Templar organization.

Let us not forget that we also promote the love God has for us. Christmas begins with *Christ*, God's son. Jesus, who had lived at the right hand of God for eternity, was born in a stable and was laid in a manger. He left the glories of Heaven to be the Savior of Mankind. Some had no room for Him, some were jealous and wanted Him killed, and some felt threatened by Him. Our response



is like the one spoken by an old priest in the Temple, whose name was Simeon. He took the Christ child in his arms and said, "My eyes have seen your salvation." In this season of giving and getting, let us not overlook this greatest of gifts, Jesus our salvation.

Special occasions are the ties that bind. I pray that this Christmas binds you closer to your families, to your Commanderies, and to our nation, and that all are blessed. May Jesus Christ be in your hearts and lives, as you participate in the joys of the season.

Dr. William Jackson Jones Grand Master, KCT, GCT

William Jacks



## **Knight Templar**

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

DECEMBER: The 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation will have started by the time you receive this issue. Chairman W. Bruce Pruitt has valuable information for participants (hopefully every single member) on page 10, so read his article and dive right into the fund-raising! It can be a lot of fun, and it is always very rewarding to support this great cause. Our holiday greetings abound, but especially inspirational is the Prelates' Christmas message, starting on page 7! Please relax and enjoy it. You'll also love the article, "The Return of 'God Bless America,' the story of Brother Irving Berlin and his master-piece - how currently newsworthy it is! Ransom Olds story continues and will be concluded in the January issue. Happy holidays and best wishes for the new year.

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#### December 2001

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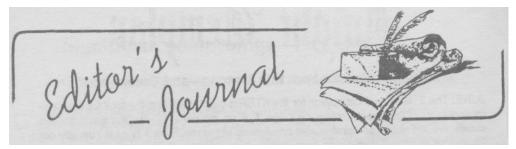
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Corrections: Grand Commandery Chairmen of the 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign, page 9, November issue: MASS/RI: William E. Eltzroth, 360 S. Main Street, Bellingham, MA 02019; NEW HAMPSHIRE: Thomas X. Tsirimokos, 2395 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03103; OHIO: Robert E. McNutt, 296 W. Indiana Avenue, Sebring, OH 44672

Contacts for all Masonic organizations listed in our January 2001 issue should have the form for our next listing in January 2002. Please respond immediately as the magazine goes to the printer about December 15, 2001. If your organization has a new contact, please inform him/her of this. We would rather not leave any organization out!

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 Ave, 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 Ave, 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.

A 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 Ave, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

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

#### YORK RITE FREEMASONRY ON THE INTERNET - Official Web Sites

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

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

## **Our Cross of Honor**

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor for the year 2001. These distinguished Sir Knights have demonstrated meritorious service and have been rewarded for it. The Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor "shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."

This year the Grand Commanderies and Subordinates have selected fifty-three Sir Knights to receive the coveted Cross of Honor.

#### Alabama

Brent Russell Haller, Mobile No. 2

#### Arizona

Robert D. Callahan, Yuma No. 10

#### **Arkansas**

Robert C. Oswald, Baldwin No. 4

#### California

Gary Duane Miller, Riverside No. 28

#### Colorado

Lawrence Howard Williams Oriental No. 18

#### Delaware

John Basil Dorsey, St. John's No. 1

#### Florida

John Frederick Goerke Couer de Lion No. 1

#### Georgia

Wallace David Mays, DeMolay No. 5 Robert L. Gill, Waycross No. 36

#### Idaho

Howard Austin Smith, Idaho No. 1

#### Illinois

John Albert Reining, Freeport No. 7

#### Indiana

Michael B. Montgomery, Lafayette No. 3

#### Iowa

Bryce Brent Hildreth, Temple No. 4

#### Kansas

Ernest McKinley Griffiths, DeMolay No. 4

Kentucky

Richard Lee Parker, Ashland No. 28

#### Louisiana

Albert Huckaby, Crusader No. 21

#### Maine

Harry Donald James, St. Amand No. 20

#### Maryland

Rodolfo B. Aparentado, Maryland No. 1

#### Massachusetts/Rhode Island

Frederick E. Fiske, Berkshire No. 22

#### Michigan

Duane Valoris Todd, Ithaca No. 40

#### Minnesota

George H. Fahrenholtz, Damascus No. 1

#### Mississippi

Charles Franklin Huckaby, St. Cyr No.6

#### Missouri

Darrell Dean Wisemore, Palestine No. 17

#### Montana

Daniel J. Simon, Black Eagle No. 8

#### Nebraska

Allen H. Millar, St. John No. 16

#### Nevada

Ernest J. Kappe, E. C. Peterson No. 8

#### **New Hampshire**

Erville Smith, Mount Horeb No. 3

#### **New Jersey**

Marshall F. Wyman, Jr., Hugh De Payens No. 1 & Melita No. 13

#### **New Mexico**

Robert M. Addison, Rio Hondo No. 6

#### New York

Conrad Kupinski, Washington No. 33

#### North Carolina

Galard Carter Moore, Jr., Malta No. 19

#### **North Dakota**

Donald O. Johnson, Auvergne No. 2

#### Ohio

Richard Lee Miller, Hope No. 26 Fred August Rader, Forest City No. 40 Philip Vernon Rutan, Fremont No. 56

#### Oklahoma

Gene Delano Harper, Ardmore No. 9

#### Oregon

Frank Aspinall, Pacific No. 10 Walter G. DePrefontaine, Nativity No. 71

#### Pennsylvania

Donald Theodore Beecher Pittsburgh No. 71

#### **South Carolina**

George Bixby Senft, Columbia No. 2

#### **South Dakota**

Francis L. Winkler, Capitol City No. 21

#### **Tennessee**

Danny Frank Sherlin, Lookout No. 14

#### **Texas**

Reese Lenwood Harrison, Jr.
San Antonio No. 7
Clarence Joy Laney, Denton No. 45
Orville Lee O'Neill
Alexander C. Garrett No. 103

#### Utah

Richard A. Yeakey, El Monte No. 2

#### Vermont

Stuart John Gasson, Lafayette No. 3

#### Virginia

Jack Kolya Cadden, Moomaw No. 27

#### Washington

Leslie E. Vannice, Yakima No. 13

#### West Virginia

Clyde Scott Fry, Calvary No. 3

#### Wisconsin

Phillip John Darinski Henry L. Palmer - Wauwatosa No. 51

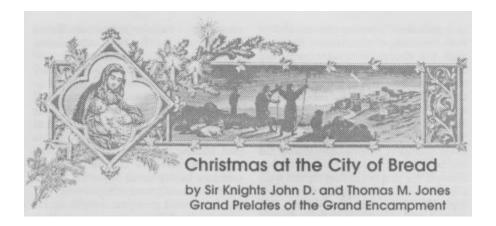
#### Wyoming

Louis Martin Ellenberger Immanuel No. 3

#### **Subordinates**

James Walter Morton Anchorage No. 2





The book of Matthew (Chapter 2, 1-12) reveals the Christmas story in the following description:

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Judea: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

"When they had heard the king, they departed: and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and

stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."

The wise men naturally came to Jerusalem, the Royal Capital. They were seeking one whom they thought was to be born a king, so why not start with the present king? This would be Herod, also known as Herod the Great. It would be necessary for him to title himself, for his claim to the crown was that of an appointment from Rome. He practiced the religion of the Jews, but he was not of a Jewish lineage. Apparently since his kingly authority was supported by the earthly authority of Rome, he might not be keenly interested in Divine authority that was prophesied to come from the lineage of Judah. The visiting wise men must have been so sure of the time of the birth that they didn't even ask the king or his scholarly advisors. Daniel had predicted that there would

be a period of 69 weeks or years before the Messiah would come. Starting with the decree of Artaxerxes to aid Ezra, the time frame would lead to the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the temple that had been rebuilt. The least difficult question was one that Herod had to defer to his scholars. That was the location of the birth. Even though it was nearby, Herod did not bother to check out the situation himself. He just requested for the wise men to return and report their findings. The scriptures record that neither Herod nor any of his scholars went to gather evidence of a monarch in the making. Perhaps. Herod felt so much in control that there was nothing that could happen in a little village just five miles away which could not be dominated or destroyed by his decree.

Herod consulted with his scholars and then sent the three visitors to Bethlehem. The three foreign travelers went to the village, whose name means the City of Bread, to pay homage to the baby, who would become the Bread of Life. The wise men knew that in the temple was displayed the shewbread. It was referred to as the Bread of the Presence because symbolized the very presence of God. The wise men did not know that years later the baby would take bread and bless it to feed five thousand. It has been referred to as the Bread of Abundance because it symbolized unimaginable abundance resulting from God's blessing. The wise men did not know that years later this baby would take bread and bless it and break it to forgive sins. It is referred to as the Bread of Forgiveness because it symbolizes His body, which was broken for our sins allowing us to experience forgiveness. The three wise men left the City of Bread having seen the baby. We cannot experience that event. We can only imagine that scene and what they saw. We can view the representations on canvas or in sculpture of that scene. Yet

even today, we can experience the Bread of Presence, the Bread of Abundance, and the Bread of Forgiveness.

William Stidger published a story about bread that has been adapted to give us a more modern perspective. This man had been out of work for months and had finally gotten down to begging, which he despised with all his soul. Having just been rejected, he was about to leave when he heard a woman's kindly voice: "Here's a dollar. There is a small restaurant nearby, and the owner will give you something for even a dollar." The man said he couldn't take the money from her. "Is it because I'm blind?" she asked. "This really isn't my money," she continued. "I've just come from the baker who bakes bread for our church to use in Communion; we call it Christ's bread. This is change left over. You are not taking from me. You are giving me an opportunity to share Christ's bread. Pass it on."

The man found the cheap eating place, and to his surprise the restaurant owner had only charged him fifty cents, reportedly because the baker had given him some bread and the owner did not want to profit from the gift but instead to pass it on. The man reduced to begging experienced the same feeling that occurred when the blind woman had said, "Pass it on." One could not save up Christ's bread just for oneself! Passing by outside was an old man who, lived on the streets. Maybe the old fellow was hungry. Christ's bread must be shared. The old man couldn't believe the offer until he was seated at the table and the bowl of stew was before him.

During the meal the former beggar, who was now a benefactor, saw the old man wrap up part of his bread in a paper napkin. When asked if he was saving some for tomorrow, the old man replied, "No, no. There's a kid down my way. He's had tough luck and was crying when I left - hungry. I

aim to pass some of this bread on to him." Again, that same feeling struck the young man, and the words "Christ's bread," echoed in his mind.

The two of them took the bread to the hungry boy, who began to eat greedily. Then, he stopped and called to a dog, a frightened lost dog. The boy shared his bread with the dog. Again, the young man had that feeling and heard the words, "Christ's bread."

Left with just the dog, who was nosing at his leg, the young man bent over to pet it and noticed a collar and tag with the owner's address on it. The young man took the long walk to the owner's home and rang the bell. The man who answered was delighted to see the dog. He said that he was going to put the offer of a reward in the paper and would give it to whoever returned the dog. The young man, experiencing that now familiar feeling, refused the reward, saying that he himself had been

## **Holiday Time**

## by Reverend Donald C. Kerr

For all people the holiday season speaks primarily of peace. For years and centuries, people have cried out for peace. Everybody is for it. Everybody wants it. Even terrorists and violent adversaries say they want peace!

What is it we are all talking about? Is peace the prize of all virtues? Is it the absence of war? Is it something to be gained after everyone has what he/she wants? If we escape all the turmoil and agitation, will life be more peaceful?

My philosophy comes from the Bible, which says that peace is the by-product of righteousness. In other words, something else must first come before peace. There is peace where there is harmony. There is peace where there is justice. There is peace when there is honesty

beneficiary of some kindness this day and that he was happy to pass it on. Just then the man's wife came to the door and cried in delight at the return of her dog, on whom she depended so much. On her way home, a crowd of people, some loud noises, and a loose harness had caused her to be separated from her dog. She could not look for the dog herself because the woman was blind.

Christ's bread, the baby that was born in Bethlehem, the City of Bread, the Bread of Presence, the Bread of Abundance, the Bread of Forgiveness, the Bread of Life - Pass It On!

Sir Knights John D. Jones and Thomas M. Jones, Grand Prelates of the Grand Encampment of the U.S., are P.C.s of Melita Commandery No. 37, Tuscola, Illinois. Sir Knight John Jones resides at 710 Front Street, Villa Grove, IL 61956-1318, and Sir Knight Thomas Jones' address is PO Box 313, Paxton, IL 60957-0313

and truth and dignity and respect.

It would be foolish to think there can be peace if people prove to be untrustworthy and obstinate. It is right that we should pray for peace, but it is a delusion to believe peace will come when humanity does not take the necessary steps to straighten itself out. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" are the words of biblical wisdom, because if we cannot be at peace with our selves we cannot be at peace with our neighbor.

To those of a Christian mind, Christ is the Prince of Peace. To those of a Jewish culture, peace is inherent in all the prophets proclaim: "For a child is born for us, a son is given to us.. Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"; therefore, "Depart from evil, and do good, seek peace, and pursue it."

Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr, Th.D., 32°, and Chaplain Emeritus of Baltimore Chapter, is a member of Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, Maryland. He resides at 830 W. 40th Street, No. 409; Baltimore; MD 21211

December 2001



# Message from the General Chairman The 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign

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

Dear Sir Knights and ladies:

Let me begin this message by correcting something that was contained in the November issue. In that message I told you that we would be awarding a special lapel pin to each person with a contribution of \$10.00 or more. At that time, it looked like a good idea; however, with further reflection and a more critical look at the contribution pattern, it became obvious that such a program would be: 1) unnecessarily expensive. 2) extremely difficult administer, and 3) of no benefit to the Eve Foundation. If the normal gift happened to be only a few dollars, it would make sense to encourage an increase in the individual amount; however, the fact is that those of you who do make contributions are fairly generous. We receive guite a few \$50, \$100, \$200, etc., contributions. The problem, then, is that not enough of you send anything at all! Our percentage of participation is very low. In some Commanderies only 10 to 15 percent of the membership sends money to the Eye Foundation. As a result, what is needed is to encourage more Sir Knights to be a part of this major Knights Templar program.

In light of the situation explained above, instead of lapel pins we are going to recognize those individual Commanderies that show a significant participation in this year's **34th Campaign.** There will be beautiful certificates given to Commanderies that have 50%, 75%, and 100% participation. Sir Knights, what we need to do now is to go



out and find those of our fratres who have not experienced the joy of supporting our major charity. We need to get **everyone** involved!

The other part of the program that was announced last month *will* be done. We will recognize the Grand Commanderies who achieve the following: 1) the greatest dollar increase over last year, 2) the highest percentage of increase over last year, 3) the greatest increase in the per capita dollar figure, and 4) the highest percentage of increase in per capita giving.

The Grand Commanders of those Commanderies will be rewarded by their receiving a set of the recently published *History of the Grand Encampment*. In addition, they will be given membership in the Grand Master's Club. The latter gift is equal to a \$1,000 contribution to the Eye Foundation, so *that is not hay!* We are approaching the Campaign in this way to recognize that it is LEADERSHIP that causes things to happen.

The **34th Annual Campaign** began on the first of December. We are off and running! There is no reason we cannot

have a spectacular campaign. The objective this year, as was announced last month, is to show a BIG INCREASE over last year's contributions. With your cooperation and an interest in the incentives discussed above, we can accomplish that. Let's make our motto for this Campaign REAL:

I'M UPPING MY CONTRIBUTION. HOW ABOUT YOU?

Fraternally, Bruce Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt; Chairman of the 34th 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. His personal e-mail address: is wbpruitt@aol.com. For information on the KTEF, call (773) 205-3838 or send e-mail to ktef@knightstemplar.org

## Report of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

#### **Grand Master's Club**

No. 3,781 - Carl F. Hawkins (CA)

No. 3,782 - Wallace D. Mays (GA)

No. 3,783 - Wallace D. Mays (GA)

No. 3,784 - Walter D. Hanisch (CA)

No. 3,785 - Walter D. Hanisch (CA)

No. 3,786 - Amber Johnson (WI)

No. 3,787 - Barbara Foster (WI)

No. 3,788 - Spencer P. Johnson (TN)

No. 3,789 - Brian T. Miller (NM)

No. 3.790 - Robert L. Steinmetz (GA)

No. 3,791 - Lewis S. Janzow (MA/RI)

How to join the Grand Commander's or 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 will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. addition. members of the Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and there is now Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eve Foundation, Inc., 5097 N. Elston Ave, Suite 100; Chicago; IL 60630-2460; (773) 205-3838

#### Grand Commander's Club

No. 101,553 - Charles W. Umberger (TN) No. 101,554 - James E. Reddish (NC)

No. 101,555 - Gordon Downs (NY)

#### Contributors to the 33' Club

Leroy McMahan (NC), 33° E. L. Phelps (NH), 33° Jack L. Ward (CO), 33°



December 2001



## **Recipients Of The Grand Encampment Membership Jewel**

- 437. George H. Jones, Plains Commandery No. 11, Baton Rouge, LA. 5-31-2001.
- 438. C. David Burgess, St. Johns Commandery No. 12, Bozeman, MT. 7-16-2001.
- 439. Donald Ray Barrett, Patton Commandery No. 69, Mt. Vernon, IL. 7-23-2001.
- 440. Roy E. Rader, Sr., Hope Commandery No. 26, Bridgeport, OH. 8-29-2001. (jewel and 1 bronze)
- 441. Gary B. Click, Arlington Commandery No. 107, Arlington, TX. 8-29-2001.
- 442. Floyd E. Hall, Arlington Commandery No. 107, Arlington, TX. 8-29-2001.
- 443. Frank H. Welter, Sr., Evanston Commandery No. 58, Evanston, IL. 10-30-2001. (jewel and 1 silver cluster)
- 444. Newell K. Barker, Calvary Commandery No. 26, Bartlesville, OK. 10-30-2001.
- 445. Harry M. Bartch, Jr., Cyrene Commandery No. 34, Elizabethtown, PA 10-30-2001.



William J. Bushong Ohio

Assoc. Grand Prelate Born: May 21, 1946 Died: March 23, 2001

Ernest L. Biery
Arkansas
Grand Commander-1990
Past Grand Prelate
Born: September 10, 1910
Died: September 26, 2001

Walter Lewis Skinner Michigan Grand Commander-1987 Born: June 14, 1919 Died: October 1, 2001

J. B. McGuirt South Carolina Grand Commander-1962 Born: February 10, 1914 Died: October 24, 2001

## Remarks from 2001 Pilgrim Ministers...

**David L. Buche** - I want to thank the Knights Templar for making such a wonderful experience possible. "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart for such a marvelous experience. There is simply no way that I could ever have made this trip without your generosity. God is using you in a very unique ministry, and I praise Him for it. The Pilgrimage has been one of the most significant, life-changing events of my ministry. I tried to find words that would adequately describe what I experienced. These words were among the strongest: overwhelming, sobering, refreshing, informative, spiritually renewing, and unbelievable. This experience changed my perspective with regard to the Bible and God's people.

**Sam R. Davenport** - The pilgrimage will be of help to me as a minister - absolutely - the footsteps of Jesus are burning within me. There were many opportunities presented and received which gave way to personal, spiritual renewal and committal. Thank You, Knights Templar.

**James England** - Yes, it was a pilgrimage, because we were pilgrims on this journey. It was enough for the first time - the trip helped things to be more clear about everyone in the Bible. My mind has a new look on the Bible. I experienced joy on the Sea of Galilee and at the Garden Tomb. - I feel I'm full to the brim.

Mark & Sheila Hostetler - This gift came at a time when we were both beyond burnout - daily struggling to provide the services we provide to those who are incarcerated and their families. (Editor's note: They work with over 1,000 inmates in prisons in Indiana.) The Pilgrimage helps us to share our faith through the time honored tradition of truths, just as Moses, Abraham and Christ did. Being able to stand at the cradle of civilization and know that we were walking upon ground that is Holy ground, because God chose it to be so, offered us a deeper spiritual connectedness to this beautiful country. We want to thank the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana, for sponsoring this Pilgrimage. You are truly instruments for God and brothers in faith.

Ralph Hillenburg - I learned so much. It will impact my ministry in a positive way: the educational value of seeing firsthand, our guide Ezra's knowledge and teaching, the presence of the Holy Spirit. This will help me teach and preach with greater knowledge of the land, people, and places. I experienced spiritual inspiration during the Sunday service at the Garden Tomb and the Communion service there the following Wednesday. There was a nearness to Jesus. HE LIVES!!!!

From R. Frank Williams, H.P.D.C., Committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage: We praise the Lord for His watch care, His protection, and His guidance for this ministry. Sir Knights, please consider a gift to the Holy Land Pilgrimage to help send pastors to the Holy Land for the next Pilgrimage, which will be Monday, February 25, 2002-March 7, 2002.

On the Masonic Newsfront...

## Michigan Ministers Enjoy 2001 Holy Land Pilgrimage



Michigan ministers of the 23rd Holy Land Pilgrimage sitting outside the Church on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?" three times.



In the November issue of Knight Templar on page 22, we published a picture and news item concerning the awarding of a KTEF grant check to Dr. Duanduan Ma, Ph.D., a deserving young doctor and scientist from Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology, at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. In the picture presenting the grant check was Past Grand Master, Blair C. Mayford, of the Grand Encampment. The following is a letter sent to Sir Knight Mayford and his Lady from Dr. Ma:

Thank you very much for the picture; you are very considerate. St. Peters is a very beautiful city. The city hall and veterans' memorial area is a wonderful place for pictures. This picture will always remind me of the precious moment when I received the Knights Templar grant and of the support I have gotten from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. It will encourage me to work hard to overcome the difficulties we meet in retinoblastoma research, and it will inspire me to make breakthroughs in my Rb-Id-2 project. I will let you know when we have findings which will benefit the therapy of the retinoblastoma patients.

Thank you again for all of the support and encouragement I have received from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and also from you personally.

Dr. Duanduan Ma

## **Connecticut Commandery Supports Blue Lodge Masonry**

Late last year Palestine Commandery No. 6, Mystic, Connecticut, donated a lounge in the A. Norman Johnson building at the Masonic Home in Wallingford, Connecticut

The lounge was dedicated to the Past Commanders of Palestine No. 6. Cutting the ribbon is Sir Knight Michael Castroll, then E. Commander of Palestine Commandery. Behind him, left to right: Sir Knights Lester Jordan, P.C.; Janus Luth, P.C.; Lady Luth; Sir Knight A. Norman Johnson; Howard Orr; Sir Knight Peter Ingles; and Sir Knight Charles Maxson, P.C.



## **Dubuque, Iowa York Rite Masons Provide Food And Fellowship For Less Fortunate**

On a Sunday this summer 2001, the Dubuque York Rite members prepared and served a delightful noon meal at the Dubuque Rescue Mission located at 398 Main Street.

The meal consisted of ham, green beans, scalloped potatoes with cheese, buns, and delicious pineapple upside-down cake topped with cool whip. The meal was cooked by the York Rite Brothers, who enjoyed some fine fellowship during the preparation and serving of the meal, and this bounty was greatly appreciated by the 120 guests at the Rescue Mission.

The mission is operated by members of all religions in this area to provide an ecumenical ministry of hope and miracles for the homeless and the hungry.

The Masons took the opportunity to sit down and share the meal with the guests. This was a rewarding experience for the hard-working Masons, who are interested in helping those who are less fortunate than themselves. The Dubuque York Rite members are scheduled to serve their second meal at the mission on June 9, 2002. (submitted by Brother Roland (Ron) B. Willard, H.P., of Dubuque, Iowa)

## **Balloon Fiesta In Albuquerque, New Mexico**



The 30th Kodak Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta had 750 hot air and gas balloons from fifty states and twenty-one countries flying in this year's event. Sir Knight Η. William Hart of Pilgrim Commandery No. 3, Albuquerque, was invited to be an honorary member of Sunshine's Ride Balloon team along with New Mexico's Secretary of State, Rebecca Vigil-Giron. (Sir Knight Hart is coordinator for Mexico National Tartan celebration of Scottish-American heritage, which takes place annually on April 6.) This balloon was the first known to be piloted and crewed by people wearing Scottish attire; the

clothing included the state of New Mexico tartan kilt with balmorals and sporrans. (Permission to use the photograph was granted by the photographer.) Standing in front of balloon, left to right: Dr. B. Brett Davis, piper; Kevin Cloney, pilot of Sunshine's Ride; Sir Knight H. William Hart; Rebecca Vigil-Giron, Secretary of State for New Mexico; S. Scott Davis, Esq., drummer; and Ralph L. Stevenson, Jr., designer of the state of Mexico tartan.

## The Latin Kingdom Of Jerusalem

by Francine Renee Hall (Knight Templar, page 28-29, April 1981)

The founder of the First Crusade, Pope Urban II. never lived to see the realization of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem; he died on July 29, 1099, a fortnight after the Crusaders captured the Holy City. Everyone desired Bishop Adhemar of Le Puy to be the spiritual leader of the new kingdom, but he too had Thus, the business of choosing candidates for the throne had to be done without a Patriarch or spiritual head. There were four candidates: Raymond of Toulouse, Godfrey of Bouillon, Robert of Flanders, and Robert of Normandy. Raymond's friendliness with Emperor Alexius, his insistence on being the military leader of the Crusade, and his suspicions toward Peter Bartholomew and the validity of the Holy Lance made him unpopular. Robert of Flanders and Robert of Normandy desired to go back to Europe. Godfrey remained, but as he did not want to be labeled king, called himself instead "Advocatus Sancti Sepulchri," "dedicated defender of the Holy Sepulchre." Godfrey, a pious man, believed that the Church of Christ should be sole ruler of Jerusalem.

The political situation became entangled soon after Godfrey's election. Arnulf of Robes was chosen Patriarch, though the election was uncanonical. Arnulf also forced Orthodox Christians to Latinize, thus widening the spiritual breach between East and West.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian army headed by al-Afdal advanced north of Ascalon but they fled, taken by surprise by the Crusaders. The victory assured the possession of Jerusalem. However, Ascalon itself was not taken due to the squabbles of the Crusaders' leaders. The Moslems in Ascalon wished only to surrender to Raymond of Toulouse, the only leader who spared those he could at the

massacre of Jerusalem. Godfrey, jealous of Raymond and desiring possession of Ascalon for himself, refused the terms.

At this time, Daimbert, Archbishop of Pisa and appointed by Pope Urban shortly before his death as new legate to take the place of Adhemar, pillaged the countryside as his troops advanced East from Italy. Bohemond, anxious to consolidate Antioch, joined Daimbert in attacking Lattakieh, Byzantine port just south of Antioch. Raymond, whose sympathies sided with Byzantium, forced Daimbert and Bohemond to stop their siege. Raymond then stayed in Lattakieh while Bohemond and Daimbert headed for Jerusalem. Baldwin left Edessa and traveled toward the Holy City as well. All desired to be successors to Godfrev who was old and unwell. Meanwhile Tancred succeeded capturing Galilee. strengthening Latin and enlarging Kinadom.

When Daimbert and Bohemond finally reached Jerusalem, the Patriarch Arnulf was deposed and Daimbert replaced as new legate since he derived his appointent from Pope Urban. It was also agreed that Bohemond become Prince of Antioch, and Tancred, Prince of Galilee.

As symbolic leader of Jerusalem, Godfrey impressed the Moslems as a great but modest soldier. He established cordial rations with the Moslem cities of Arsuf, Ascalon, Caesura, and Acre. However, Daimbert's ambitions marred Godfrey's good intentions; he demanded secular power over Jerusalem and Jaffa. In the midst of such troubles, Godfrey fell ill and died on July 18, and he was buried in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In his will he made Daimbert the new spiritual ruler, and his cousin, Warner of Gray, military leader of the Crusading armies.

Upon Godfrey's death, dissension arose. Warner asked Baldwin, Godfrey's brother, to be the leader of Jerusalem; and Tancred and Daimbert asked Bohemond if he would take Godfrey's place.

Bohemond was soon out of the race, however. Before leaving for the Turkish territory of Melitene, he had chosen a Latin, Bernard of Valence, as new Patriarch of Antioch, expelling John IV, a Greek who was suspected by Bohemond of strong Byzantine sympathies. Bohemond thus caused the first serious schism between the Greek and Latin Churches. After assuring his power in Antioch, Bohemond set out for Melitene but was captured and taken prisoner by the Turks.

With Bohemond made prisoner and Daimbert thereby weakened, Baldwin's right to the kingship of Jerusalem went uncontested. On Christmas Day 1100, Baldwin was crowned by Patriarch Daimbert as King. Thus, in a little over four years, the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem was established.

#### Aftermath: 1100-1145

Added to the Latin States of Jerusalem, Antioch, and Edessa was the county of Tripoli in 1109. However, if these states were to survive, it was necessary to ensure a thriving economy. Thus, trade was established with the Moslems of Damascus as well as with the Italian cities of Genoa and Pisa, the latter power establishing trading centers in the major Latin cities.

Since the existence of the Latin States was ensured only by constant warfare, birth of the Military-Religious Orders of the Hospital of St. John the Evangelist and the Knights Templar took place in 1118. Although these orders owed allegiance solely to the Pope, King Baldwin gave them his full support. Monks by principle and soldiers by necessity, the orders became a valuable asset to Jerusalem. By 1140 the great castle of Bethgibelin was built. Maintenanced by Hospitallers, the castle helped curb Moslem attacks from the south of Jerusalem.

Where cultural assimilation by the soldiers of the First Crusade took place, political security for the Latin States became certain. Frankish-Moslem alliances against more dangerous Moslem threats would ensure a measure of stability. An alliance with Byzantium against the Turks would also be necessary if Christianity was to survive in the East. And when squabbles among the Latin leaders were forgotten in the face of the Moslem threat. the Latin campaigns succeeded.

Often, however, a broad cultural, political and religious understanding was not attempted or even desired by the Franks. This proved disastrous not only for the Franks themselves but for Christianity as a whole. Bohemond, for example, after being released from prison in 1103, persuaded Pope Paschal to preach a Holy War against Byzantium, which became official Church policy. Quarrels for the next forty years among the rulers of the Latin States also proved their undoing.

In 1127 the great ruler Zengi began his conquest of Syria, and by 1144 he turned his powerful army on the State of Edessa. With the Count of Edessa and the Prince of Antioch quarreling, the Count Tripoli uninterested in events far from his county, and the Kingdom of Jerusalem under rule of Queen Melisende and her 13-year-old son, Baldwin III, Edessa was easy prey. After a four-week siege, Edessa fell to the Turks.

The Latin Kingdom was crumbling. The Latin East had no other recourse than to appeal to Pope Eugenius III for fresh military aid. On December 1, 1145, the Second Crusade was proclaimed.

#### **Next - The Second Crusade**

The above information was submitted by Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes; 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. Garnes, 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944 or e-mail: cagarnes@aol.com

#### **Summer Uniform Sale Aids Knights Templar Eye Foundation**

Milford Commandery No. 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for \$125.00. (G.C. and PG.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, nameplate, 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. II. 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.SA See the May 1999 issue of *Knight Templar* magazine. For further information write to: Milford Commandery No. 11, CA) Robert P. Winterhalter, P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This is for our charity.

Robert L Diuge, Jr., IL W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, has a great love for model train collecting, so it is only fitting that he would have created a Pennsylvania Masonic train. The train, manufactured by Weaver Models of Northumberland, PA, is an "O" gauge, three-rail set consisting of an Atlantic C-1 engine with a tender, five cars, and a caboose. Each piece is marked with Masonic symbols representing a majority of the organizations that comprise the Family of Freemasonry. Masonic charities including the Knights Templar Eye Foundation will benefit from profits generated by the sale of these sets.

The engine and cars are available for \$375.00 from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520. A special limited run Pennsylvania M-1 engine may be available. There is also an option for track and a transformer. Telephone 1 800 462-0430, or contact: www.pagrandlodge.org for more information. I intend to get one, and I hope you will, too!

Grand Master William J Jones



KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A  $2^1/_2$ -inch diameter, embroidered emblem has been produced for use on mantles and blazers of KCT recipients. 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.

## The Return of "God Bless America"

by Sir Knight Peter H. Johnson, Jr. P.G.C. of Arizona

"I couldn't visualize soldiers marching to it. So I laid it aside and tried some other things." With this thought in mind, America's great song smith, Irving Berlin, placed his latest musical effort, "God Bless America," in his "trunk" of discarded songs. It was 1917, the first year of American involvement in World War I, and the song was deemed too solemn for inclusion in Berlin's upbeat war show, "Yip! Yip! Yaphank." Berlin had hit it big just six years earlier with his international song hit, "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

Berlin's real name was Israel Baline, and he was born on May 11, 1888; his family was Jewish and resided in Tolochin, Bylorussia. To avoid the persecution of the Czar, they immigrated to the United States via New York in 1893. The family lived in the slums on New York's Eastside.

By the time he was 13, "Izzy's" father had passed away, and he was earning money as a singing waiter. He also picked up the piano and was soon playing in saloons and "dives."

Approaching adulthood, Israel Anglicized his name to the now familiar "Irving Berlin."

Young Irving had almost no education or training in music. His singing voice was true, but high and a bit scratchy. His piano playing was extremely crude. He played mostly on the black keys pitching every song in the key of F sharp major. As his career advanced, Berlin obtained a transposing piano allowing him to shift the keys and play in different tonalities

with the same fingerings. This piano is now in the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Berlin never learned to read or write music and used a musical secretary for over sixty years. Despite these unorthodox methods, he wrote over 1,500 songs including "White Christmas," "Easter Parade," and "Puttin' on the Ritz," and 18 musicals. Unlike many composers with advanced training, Berlin also was his own lyricist.

By 1938 war was again raging in Europe, and Berlin was again contemplating a patriotic song. He had several ideas but was not pleased with any of them.

In frustration he asked his secretary to search the files for "God Bless America," now in storage for 21 years. The manuscript was untitled and difficult to locate.

At first glance Berlin realized that the lyrics were dated and needed revision. Original manuscripts transcribed by Berlin's musical secretary, Helmy Kresa, indicate that the changes were made between October 31 and November 2. One line, "stand beside her and guide her, for the right with a light from above," was changed to "stand beside her and guide her, through the night with the light from above." Another line toward the end of the song read: "make her victorious on land and foam, God Bless America, my home sweet home" was rewritten "from the mountains to the prairies to the ocean white with foam, God Bless America, my home sweet home." Slight changes were also made in the melody and rhythm. Kate Smith, the popular radio singer, was selected to premier the song on her Armistice Day program on November 11, 1938. Smith's lovely natural voice and unpretentious manner

were a perfect complement to Berlin's patriotic yet peaceful song.

The appeal of the song was instant and electrifying. The sheet music of "God Bless America," published by Berlin's own company, was soon in short supply. Some considered the song another National Anthem.

When the song was played at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn on Memorial Day of 1939, the crowd stood as if for the "Star Spangled Banner," and gentlemen removed their hats. Kate Smith also continued to sing "God Bless America" at the New York World's Fair.

Berlin was embarrassed to be drawing royalties on his unexpected patriotic hit. In response, he set up a trust fund to distribute all earnings of "God Bless America" to an appropriate organization.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.; Gene Tunney; and Herbert Swope were selected to administer the fund. They were of diverse religious backgrounds: Roosevelt was Protestant, Tunney was Catholic, and Swope was Jewish. It was first proposed that all royalties would go to the Red Cross, but on Swope's recommendation, the proceeds were assigned to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

Looking back at a distance of 60 years, it is hard to imagine that there were critics of "God Bless America." Dr. Franklin Romig, pastor of the West End Collegiate Reformed Church in New York, denounced "God Bless America" as "doggerel," "excessively emotional," and a "substitute for religion." There was also an undertow of prejudice against Berlin's patriotism because he was a Jew born outside the United States somewhere in Siberia.

Berlin's friend Swope responded in the New York Times by stating that Berlin's background only enhanced the message of the song and that his family had come to America seeking "refuge and hope."

Irving Berlin's patriotism during World War II was prodigious. His wartime show, "This is the Army," toured almost all theatres of the war. Berlin, dressed in his World War I "doughboy" uniform singing "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" in his high tenor was a "show stopper." It is estimated that 2.500.000 service men and women saw this morale boasting production. The film version "This is the Army," starring Ronald George Murphy Reagan and appearances by Berlin and Kate Smith, was great success. raisina \$9,500,000 for the Army Emergency Relief.

President Truman awarded Berlin the Medal of Merit for his outstanding support of the war effort. Berlin would later also receive awards from Presidents Eisenhower, Ford, and Reagan.

Berlin's last musical, "Mr. President," premiered in 1962 and was a colossal failure. Irving Berlin's last public appearance was on the "Ed Sullivan Show" on his 80th birthday; Berlin closed the show by singing "God Bless America" in his high raspy voice to a stage lined with Boy and Girl Scouts. It brought the house down!

Berlin's comeback was short lived. He was now considered a relic of another era. "God Bless America" also did not fit the cynical mood of the Viet Nam era.

Berlin lived in seclusion for over two more decades with his wife Ellin at their Beekman Place mansion. He was said to be bitter and kept a constant watch on his vast royalties and fortune. He could have made a lot more money, but he would not allow his songs to be used in TV commercials, and at age 98 he turned down

Steven Spielberg for the use of a song.

CBS broadcast a three-hour program in 1988 honoring Berlin's 100th birthday. The program featured Marilyn Home leading all assembled in "God Bless America" with the isles filled with uniformed Boy and Girl Scouts.

Berlin refused to acknowledge the tribute and apparently did not even watch it on television. Irving Berlin died at his home on September 22, 1989 at age 101. President George H. W. Bush heard the news at a luncheon in Boston and lead the guests in an impromptu chorus of "God Bless America."

After the tragic terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon; America instinctively turned to Berlin's old song. The sentiment again rings true. "God Bless America" can now be seen as a patriotic slogan in home windows, store fronts, and even automobiles. The song is performed as a rallying cry at sporting memorials, events. concerts. ceremonies. In old age the reclusive composer finally revealed his thoughts concerning his masterpiece: "I tried to express my feelings in song in 'God Bless America,' a song which is not alone a song but an expression of my gratitude to the country that inspired it."

Masonic record: Irving Berlin was a lifelong Mason. He was a member of the fraternity for 79 years, perhaps longer than any other show business personality. He received his first three degrees in Munn Lodge No. 190 on May 12, 26, and June 3, 1910. He became a life member of the lodge on December 12, 1935. He received his 32° in the Scottish Rite in New Jersey on December 23, 1910. He was initiated into the Shrine at Mecca Shrine Temple on January 30, 1911. He became a life member of the Shrine in December of 1935. Berlin wrote possibly one song with a Masonic connotation, "Hiram's

Band," around 1912 in collaboration with E. Ray Goetz.

Most of the information concerning "God Bless America" was found in As Thousands Cheer - The Life of Irving Berlin by Laurence Bergreen, Penguin Books, 1990. Other general information was found in several Internet articles. Masonic information was taken from 10,000 Famous Freemasons by Denslow.



Brother Irving Berlin at the piano.

Sir Knight Peter H. Johnson, Jr., is the junior Past Grand Commander of Arizona and a Past Commander of Calvary Commandery No. 8 in Winslow, Arizona. He is a public school music teacher in Holbrook, Arizona. He has composed several Commandery marches for band and also enjoys researching Masonic related music topics. He resides at 1524 Smith Drive, Holbrook, Arizona 86025

## 2001 Knights Templar Afghan To Benefit The KTEF

Available November 1, 2001, is this beautiful afghan that is being sold to benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The afghan is a tapestry throw made of 100% cotton with 360 picks per square inch. It is very unusual because it has two American flags, one from 1776 and one from the present day. This afghan has our national bird, the bald eagle, on it, and there are nine battle shields for the nine Knights of Malta, who founded the Christian Crusaders and led to the Knights Templar period. These battle shields are from the original design that was taken from historical artwork of the Grand Lodge of England. It has a beautiful poem, 'A Knight Templar," and four pictures from the past to the present of knighthood. On the bottom of the afghan are five Sir Knights - early to present with the far right showing a Knighting.

These afghans will make great Christmas gifts or other gifts including: gifts for outgoing Grand Commanders at Annual Conclaves,



merit awards for individuals who bring in many new Knights to the Commandery, or a gift for yourself. An afghan would also look great mounted on a furring strip and hung on the Commandery wall.

If interested, please send check or money order for \$49.00 to: Stanley C. Buz, PO Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052. \$5.00 from each afghan will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.



## Sale Of Blue Lodge Tapestry Throw To Benefit The KTEF

Made of 100% cotton and with 360 picks per square inch, this new afghan tapestry throw has advantages like enhanced color. There are new items to this design, which is the three steps of Freemasonry. There is a black and white checked floor leading to center column, and the compass and square are larger and enhanced with a cluster of leaves symbolizing the Acacia of Freemasonry. The afghan measures 48x60 inches and is lightweight but weaved very tight to give it definition. There are additional features, as for example, a written verse, Matthew 7:7, on 3 steps.

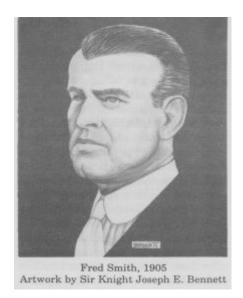
Order yours now at \$48.00 including shipping for there are only 1,000 made. Each comes with a beautiful degree certificate so you may write your important dates on it. \$5.00 will be donated to the KTEF for each afghan sold. Send check or MO to: Sandra D. Knotta, P.O. Box 158, Trexlertown, PA 18087

# Part II: The Lansing Years: Sir Knight Ransom Eli Olds

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

The 1901 fire in Detroit created tremendous pressure on the Lansing facility to increase production of engines. The city of Lansing saw an opportunity to lure the coveted Oldsmobile manufacturing operation back to their city and made an offer which proved irresistible to the stockholders. They offered a 52-acre factory site at the ridiculously-low price of \$1,800. On June 30, 1901. both Ransom Olds and Samuel Smith voted to accept the offer. For three and a half years Oldsmobile operations were divided between Detroit and Lansing. Samuel Smith's son, Fred, assumed a major role in Oldsmobile decisions: with Ransom confined managing the operation in Lansing and with a diminished voice in company policy.

Increasing friction between Fred and Ransom exploded into verbal warfare. In 1902 Fred Smith became openly critical of Ransom's management at the Lansing operation. They disagreed over the introduction of a new model touring car scheduled for production in 1903. A break was imminent, and Fred Smith held the stockholder votes to prevail. Olds wrote in a letter to Fred Smith, "I do not care to be associated with you." At a board meeting on December 7, 1903. Olds made a motion to be relieved of all supervisory duties, and the board approved. Olds was nothing more than a minority stockholder with a seat on the board. He disposed of his remaining stock and severed all connections with



Oldsmobile in the summer of 1904. He had plans well developed for another automobile venture.

Ransom Olds built a new home in Lansing and moved his family there during the summer of 1902. It was a lavish structure at the corner of South Washington and Main Street, which would be the Olds' family dwelling for the balance of their lives. It included a large music room with a mammoth pipe organ. Extremely fond of music his entire life, one of Olds' regrets was that he had never learned to play the piano. He indulged his fondness for the melody "In My Merry Oldsmobile" in 1945, when he had an electric carillon installed in the Olds Tower office building in downtown Lansing. It played Ransom's song.

One of the innovative features of the Olds' home was a huge "automobile room" at the rear of the ground floor. It was a completely finished, 1,000-square-foot garage, with a

turntable, which rotated the parked cars so they would not have to be backed out. It was a continuing reaffirmation of Ransom's dedication to a strong family life, which was never neglected regardless of demands for his time in business affairs.

It is of interest to note that Fred Smith and his father had a rather brief period to relish the departure of Ransom Olds from the Oldsmobile firm. For two years Oldsmobile prospered while public appetite for large luxury cars slowly declined. The decline deepened until 1907 found the manufacturer in dire financial straits. The Smiths were happy to accept an offer from William C. Durant to buy Oldsmobile and add it to the General Motors family. By 1909 the name of Smith had faded completely from the automotive scene. Ransom Olds still had another 25 active years to go.

When word circulated that Olds had severed his ties with Oldsmobile, many attractive offers poured in. They were all declined, for Olds had plans in place to begin the manufacture of a new line of cars in Lansing. The key members of his staff were, for the most part, former Oldsmobile employees determined to follow their beloved R. E. Olds into a new venture. Ransom never solicited a single employee to leave Oldsmobile. They were voluntary and spontaneous moves. Olds had the ability to generate unparalleled lovaltv from subordinates.

In June 1904 Reuben Shettler, a Lansing investor who acted as Olds' primary moneyraiser, was well along in his project to assemble a group to finance the new Olds venture. One major investor was Edward F. Peer of Lansing, the owner of the Huber Manufacturing Company. He would be secretary-treasurer of the new corporation.

Ransom Olds would be allotted 52 percent of the stock, with no investment beyond specific real estate, his patents, his name, reputation, and management services. The property and patents turned over to the new corporation were valued at \$130,000. Ransom Olds had an iron-clad deal whereby he would not lose control of the firm.

The first name chosen for the new company was "R. E. Olds, Incorporated." That brought an immediate threat from Fred Smith to sue. He claimed the name Olds infringed on Oldsmobile. On September 24, 1904, the permanent corporate name "REO Motor Company" was adopted. REO, of course, represented Olds' initials. It was destined to become a proud marquee in automotive history.

The Detroit Free Press trumpeted the announcement that Olds would be in production with the new REO in 1905 and proclaimed the city "Lucky

"On September 24, 1904, the permanent corporate name "REO Motor Company" was adopted. REO, of course, represented Olds' initials. It was destined to become a proud marquee in automotive history"

Lansing" to have the world-renowned auto builder locate his new firm there. Reuben Shettler had the largest block of stock outside of Ransom's, so he was the logical choice for vice president. Olds was crowned President and General Manager at the board meeting of August 16, 1904. Someone commented at the time that the word "REO" in Greek translates to "to run".

REO's first temporary quarters in Lansing were in the Pure Food Company factory, primarily a location

where freight could be received and drafting operations started. The first prototype work was also done there. The permanent home of the REO industrial installation was located in a ten-block area bordering on Lansing's South Washington Avenue, with the Grand Trunk RR on the north. It would be a complex of two-story brick buildings. projected completion 1905 for in Construction began on September 5, 1904.

The first REO was ready for testing in October 1904. Horace Thomas, a former engineer with the Olds Motor Works, was REO's chief engineer. Richard Scott, formerly Olds' aide at Oldsmobile, was factory superintendent. Scott would take an increasingly important role at REO as time passed. The new REO was far different than previous Oldsmobile designs.

Ransom was determined not to imitate past auto models in any way. The new REO no longer resembled the horseless carriage. It had a dummy front hood, housing the radiator, battery, and gas tank. Most important. Ransom replaced conventional tiller with a steering wheel. One model was a two-seat touring car, retailing for \$1,250. REO also offered a single-seat runabout for \$650, incorporating the same features as the larger model. The REO concept enjoyed enthusiastic acceptance everywhere it was exhibited. Ransom Olds was ready to roll the production line.

National advertising began for REO in November 1904 with plenty of hoopla. Olds' name and reputation were prominent in all the advance ads. An early proposition came from Ray Owen, an automobile retailer in Cleveland with a national sales reputation. He proposed that REO grant an exclusive sales distributorship to himself and the

Rainey brothers, Roy and William. They would sell REO's entire production and be responsible for all advertising and for the establishment οf their own dealer organization. Olds was in favor of delegating all the expense and responsibility of retail sales, and the REO board concurred. The contract between Ray Owens and REO existed from 1904 through 1914 and proved to be a lucrative agreement for the Lansing manufacturer. The formal debut of the new REO models was the hit of the National Auto Show in New York in January 1905.

Ray Owens' publicity efforts outstanding. He managed to keep the REO name in the news constantly, arranging one event after another. One high-profile activity was a cross-country trip, sponsored by the American Touring League and featuring the new REO. It was a significant achievement. although not the first cross-country event. It was a great distance to cover with an automobile in 1905; 11,742 miles over abominable roads. Overall production figures for REO were impressive from the beginning; and advertising certainly was an important factor. REO produced and sold 2,458 units in 1906, 3,967 in 1907, and 4,105 in 1908. An economic downturn in 1908 slowed growth somewhat, but sales revived in 1909 with a total of 6.592 units. REO was very profitable. and stock dividends were substantial. In 1909 the dividend was 100 percent of par value.

Ransom Olds began to spread his business activity into other areas after REO was up and running. Most of the day-to-day activity was left to the efficient staff. Olds turned to banking in 1907 and became involved in the organization of the Capital National Bank in Lansing. He became the first president in January 1907.

That was only the beginning of many more business and civic ventures in Lansing for the man who had become their industrial patriarch.

Olds became a Master Mason in Capitol Lodge No. 66, S.O., at Lansing, Michigan on May 20, 1908. Soon thereafter he received the Royal Arch degrees in Capitol Chapter No. 9 and in Lansing Commandery No. 25, Knights Templar, when he was

developments and had allowed their planning to become somewhat moribund. Some of that responsibility must be attributed to Olds' preoccupation with activity outside of REO. Ray Owens suddenly awoke to the fact that advertising had lagged dramatically as had manufacturing practices.

Owens hired Claude C. Hopkins, a nationally-acclaimed advertising expert, to launch a campaign to regain momentum

"Olds became a Master Mason in Capitol Lodge No. 66, S.O., at Lansing, Michigan on May 20, 1908. Soon thereafter he received the Royal Arch degrees in Capitol Chapter No. 9 and in Lansing Commandery No. 25, Knights Templar, when he was Knighted on May 29, 1909. In May 1913 Ransom Olds became a member of DeWitt Clinton Consistory, A.A.S.R., of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Unable to be in frequent attendance during his early years of membership, he became an enthusiastic and active supporter after retirement from active business commitments. His ultimate Scottish Rite preferment came when he was crowned a 33° Honorary at Pittsburgh on September 25, 1925. He was also a member of the Shrine."

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By 1911 REO production had declined about eleven percent from their production of 1909, and their 10th-place market share reflected the downturn. REO failed to pay a dividend for the first time in 1911. One reason was that they had failed to keep abreast of new engineering in REO sales.

Hopkins made several demands before agreeing to begin his campaign. He insisted that Ransom Olds' name as founder and spokesman for REO be part of every advertisement. Hopkins also insisted that the new REO model designed for introduction in 1912 be christened "REO the Fifth." Although it was a strange name, it was intended to designate the 1912 model as Olds' finest and final design - one that offered so much quality that he could never improve on it. Hopkins called it Olds' "Farewell Car."

Although Ransom Olds had no intention of retiring at 47 years of age, the announcement that he could never again offer such a fine car was a sterling attention-grabber. The R.M. Owen Company launched the most massive ad campaign in automotive history.

Claude Hopkins' 1912 advertising program is still regarded as a classic. The title "Farewell Car" became somewhat prophetic when Olds really became semi-inactive in REO after the introduction of REO the Fifth and with REO's recovery to seventh place in national sales. Olds was away from his REO office the majority of the time, a great deal of it spent at home in his study.

In 1911 REO also launched a truck line. It had been in the planning stage since 1908. Olds had acquired a bankrupt manufacturing plant in Lansing to build trucks, but plans were not finalized until 1911. Ransom calculated that a line of trucks would be subject to less competition than passenger automobiles, and there would be a growing market for them in the expanding U.S. economy. The prototype was ready by 1911, and REO had two truck models for sale the same year. They called them "REO Speed Wagons," a light delivery truck retailing for \$600 and a heavier model for \$750. The Speed Wagon sales for 1911, their first year, reached almost 1,000 units. It turned out to be one of the most astute projects Ransom Olds ever launched. ROE truck production was destined to continue for almost 40 years after their last passenger car rolled off the assembly line.

After 1910 the daily operation of REO was assigned to Richard H. Scott, in spite of the complaints of Reuben Shettler and other major stockholders. Olds supported Scott's management, and that ended the debate. Scott's religious and personal convictions were the primary reason so much dissatisfaction attended his rise to power. He was vehemently opposed to the use of alcohol in any form, and an employee of REO risked being fired instantly if sighted

entering a speakeasy. Smoking was not permitted on REO's premises, and that was usually a firing offense. Chewing tobacco and snuff were the alternatives permitted. Although Olds held the same views as Scott, he was not as quick to apply punitive measures - and he was much more diplomatic. Nevertheless, Ransom had enough influence in Lansing to keep it a dry city until he died.

Ransom joined the First Baptist Church of Lansing in 1912. He had never belonged to an organized church but finally agreed at Metta's insistence. Olds became an active and ardent member and a substantial financial supporter of First Baptist. However, Ransom's zeal did not burn as brightly as Metta's. She was a dedicated prohibitionist and an active member of the W.C.T.U. She held essentially the same views as Richard Scott and never permitted alcohol in the Olds' household, not even when the doctor prescribed a small amount to Ransom for medicinal use. Rumors in Lansing alleged that Metta's prohibitionist fervor strained their spousal relationship at times.

After Richard Scott took over active management at REO in 1910, Olds made no secret that he was receptive to selling his stock in the firm. His price tag of \$7,000,000 was too steep for interested prospects, so he retained his financial stake in REO ventures.

## See Part III of "The Lansing Years: Sir Knight Ransom Eli Olds" in the January 2002 issue

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: 802 Laura Belle Drive, Kerrville. TX 78003

## Northern California DeMolay at DeMolay International Annual Session



Shown at the Annual Session of DeMolay International, left to right, are: Nicole M. Wien, Junior Princess of Northern California DeMolay; Edwin D. Clarke, Executive Officer; Jennifer L. Chilton, Sweetheart; Michael E. Fritz, International Congress Secretary; Gregory R. Lemm, Grand Master of DeMolay; Michael J. Erreca, N.C.D.A. Master Councilor; Jason R. Polonsky, International Master Councilor; Robert L. Wien III, Senior Councilor; and Michelle L. Bokamper, Senior Princess.

## **Holy Land Pilgrimage Presented To Maryland Minister**

Shown at the presentation of a Holy Land Pilgrimage trip for 2001 are, right to left: Sir then Grand Kniaht Calvin Parker. Commander, Grand Commandery Maryland; Sir Knight and Rev. Pennell V. Jester, Grand Prelate, Maryland; Rev. Jack Fitzgerald, Pilgrim minister; and Sir Knight Ronald L. Aughenbaugh, P.G.C., Maryland. The cost of the trip was sponsored by Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, Maryland. Brother and Rev. Jack Fitzgerald is the newest member of Baltimore Chapter No. 40 and is waiting the degrees for Acria No. 24 and the Orders for Beauseant Commandery No. 8.







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



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: antique Knight Templar nickel-plated belt buckle (excellent condition) for use on one and a half to one and two-thirds inch belt. Motto: 'In Hoc Signo Vinces" in raised letters with red enamel Christian cross in center. I have several for \$50.00 each and also have one with Grand Commander's Maltese cross (gold) for \$85.00, all plus \$6.00 S & H. Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., P.C.; 60 Manor Rd; Staten Island; WY 10310-2698; (718) 981-0973

For sale: 1910 A Concise History of Templarism: This 311-page leather-bound book carries the title, Complete History of the Epochmaking XXXI Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States with a concise history of 7Implarism from its inception. Printed on heavy, gold-edged paper, weighing about 4 pounds, the volume of text and pictures was prepared by Andrew J. Redmond, LLB, official historian of the XXXI Conclave. This copy is signed by author, at the time a resident of Oak Park, IL, and was presented to Charles S. Cutting. Lloyd M. Levin; 116 West Eastman, No. 300k Arlington Heights; IL 60004; toll free phone 1-877 685-6851

For sale: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; sizes: 44 short and 46 short. \$23.00 includes shipping and handling. 10<sup>0</sup>/c of all sales will be donated to KTEF. General Merchandise Company; 13690 Broad Street, S. W; Pat as/oslo; OH 43062, (740) 927-7073

Handsome lapel pins are being offered to help support RAM Medical Research Foundation. The cost of each is \$10.00, postpaid. Check payable to RAM Medical Research Foundation and send to Walter J. Hilsenbeck, Chairman Royal Arch Charities; 32 New York Avenue; Massapequa; NY 11758-4818

For sale: Royal Arch collector coffee cups with original two-color design showing Triple Tau emblems in red and working tools and emblems of the four Capitular degrees in black. Excellent presentation item for officer recognition, PHP Night, new exaltations, etc. A must for Masonic cup collectors. Fund-raiser for Union Chapter No. 2, RAM., Little Rock, Arkansas. Send \$10.00 per cup, postage paid, to Steve Gregory, 3 Arcadia, Bryant, AR 72022, or call (501) 847-2251. Make check or money order payable to Union Chapter No. 2, RAM. \$1.00 per cup will be donated to RARA. 20% discount for orders of 10 or more.

Lodge commemorative coin collectors: Hope Lodge No. 214 in Delphos, Ohio, has 150th anniversary coins for

sale at \$5.00 each. Send request and check to Herbert R Odenweller, 1240 Rose Anna Street, Delphos, OH 45833

Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & AM., Cochran, Georgia, is continuing its long-term charity project: Masonic jewelry boxes, 6x5 x2.5 inches in size and the shape of the square and compass, constructed of exotic woods from Central America and hand-crafted with an interlocking design. All profits from the Masonic jewelry boxes will be going to Masonic charities, a portion directly to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. They are \$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 Bruno, Chairman; Cochran Masonic 1s1geNo. 217, F & AM.; PO. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail hany217@bigfcot.com

Tyler Masonic Lodge No. 1233, A.F. & AM., Tyler, Texas, is having a fund-raiser for our Diamond Jubilee Celebration. We have for sale our 75th anniversary bronze and shinning bronze coin. They are \$6.00 and \$9.00 respectively including postage. Face has "Tyler Masonic Lodge #1233,A.F. &A.M." with letter "G", and square and compass on the face of a star. Reverse side has the columns, seeing eye, altar, and square and compass. Check or M.O. to Tyler Masonic Lodge No. 1233 and mail to 1329 East Fifth Street, Tyler, TX 75701

Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, F. & AM., Tampa, Florida, is celebrating its 150th anniversary and has available a  $1^1/_{2^-}$  inch bronze coin enclosed in hard plastic featuring the square and compass on one side and an engraved picture of the first and present Temple on the reverse side. Each is \$5.00. Also available is the 150-page history of the Lodge for \$15.00. Text of the history is 100 pages plus 50 pages of historical photos. Hillsborough Lodge is the largest member lodge in the Grand Lodge of Florida and the oldest on the west coast of Florida. S & H included in prices. Mail checks to Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, F & AM.; 508 E. Kennedy Blvd.; Tampa; FL 33602

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. Also available: the four immortal chaplains lapel pin, a beautiful 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. & AM., in Concord, Vermont. The price per pin is \$8.00 ea. including S & H. S. Kenneth Ban!, 6922 Royal Green Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45244, (513) 232-6989 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 28 years and still need many pieces as lam collecting all varieties. These one day will end up ins 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.; 775W. Roger Rand, No. 214; Meson; AZ 85705; (520)888-7585

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 99 sources, and makes liberal use of footnotes. It also contains a 114-page glossary of Masonic words and terms that many readers say "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 10<sup>0</sup>/c of proceeds goes to KTEF. Special attention: any Masonic organization that orders ten or more copies to be shipped in one package, to one address, will pay only \$14.00 per copy, postage included. Check or MO to Robert L. Breeding at 405 Ascot Court, Knoxville, TN 37923-5807. e-mail rbreed4217@aol.com. (865) 539-9932.

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. Silver color only. \$110 plus West Virginia tax and \$4.00 S & H. Whole sizes only, 7-16. Also 10K gold for \$395. 10% of profits will go to KTEK Check or MasterCard/Visa info to Auratech Designs; 2620 Fairmont Ave., Suite 215; Fairmont; WV 26554-3494. Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.

For sale: Job's Daughters Queen doll (18 inches, slim, brown hair, blue eyes) in regalia: robe, taffeta-lined purple velvet cape with silk cords, tassels, and perfect Greek Key edge embroidery; adjustable metal crown with purple and clear rhinestones; stand: \$75.00 plus \$5.00 insurance and postage. Also: Job's Daughters 10K pin with horn guard, \$20.00. Byrd and Dianne Dehinten, 17853 N. Willowbrook Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373-1512, (623) 815-7051

For sale: A Tragic Tale, by Gregg Knotts, a story of betrayal set in Scotland during the Renaissance, raises question about morality and is written in literary style of the Renaissance. It is \$9.95 plus \$3.00 shipping, total \$12.95. \$1.00 for each book will be donated to KTEF. Check or MO to Mr. Gregg Knotts, 219 S. 18th Street, Allentown. PA 18104

For sale: stains, Chapter coins, photographs of the 1900s, lithographs, and other Masonic collectibles. Non-Masonic items are German beer stains, collectible bells, and nutcrackers. Percentage to KTEF. If interested, specify what items, and I will send you a flier. Stanley C. Buz, EQ. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052

For sale: pecans and nut gift packs direct from the South. Check website: www.ccnut.com or call toll free: 1-888 880-6887 for brochure/price list. At time of order, indicate "Knight Voices," and a percent of profit will be donated to KTEF. CC's Nut Co., Inc; 32476 Hwy. 231 S.; Ashville; AL 35953

For sale: Show Masonic patriotism with American flags (poles not included), cotton, 2-ft. by 3-ft., \$15 Ca; nylon, \$40 each; flag lapel pins with military clutches, \$6 en.; flag-square and compass lapel pins, \$6 each. While supplies last! 20 to KTEF 20 to American Red Cross Disaster relief fund. Check or MO to Frank Looser, 408 Ashlar Circle, Nashville, 7W 37211, 1-800 765-1728, masonkpromo0knfinteroctive or www.cnfintemctive.com.

Commemorate your special Masonic event or occasion with custom-made die cast coins and lapel pins and wooden nickels (1,000 natural wood nickels with blue square and compass on one side and your lodge name and number on the other: \$189, free shipping). Minimum orders of one hundred plus are available for coins and lapel pins. 3<sup>1</sup>1v of profit goes to KTEE Call or e-mail Frank Looser for cash quotes and details 1-800 765-1728, cnfi@home.com or www.cnfinteroctive.com

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 (pro-1940). 7lmRickheim, 14761 Tunnicliff Road, Petersburg, MI 49270-9716, collect: (734) 854-3021, e-mail: heim@iccesstoledo.com All inquiries answered.

Retired Brother and Sir Knight is offering for sale some of his pocket knife collection, mint and used: mostly Case. Tasted, XX, U.S.A. and some early dot; mostly stag, some red bone, bone, MOP, slick black, and yellow; some F. & A.M. commemorative; Boker, John Primble, Shrade, etc. Send self-addressed envelope for list and price sheet. Bob G. Ray, PM.; 182 John Stan Street, Owingsville, KY 40360, e-mail dray@yesconnect.net, (606) 674-6097 or 776-0171.

P.M. and Sir Knight seeks old professional wrestling documents and memorabilia of all kinds, especially from knowledgeable Masons. S. D. Johnson; 2410 S. Street, No. 10; Sacramento; CA 95816, (916) 451-8170, duff/9/mildtown.net.

Buying all US and foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, silver, proof sets. Also selling \$20.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00 gold colas. 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

For sale: cigar, tax tokens, coins, Thmple, Masonic, aprons, compacts, jewelry, etc., 1850 to 1970s. D. Haddon, P0. Box 1085, Buellton, CA 93427. % to Children's Hospital, L.A.

Wanted: Oklahoma Sir Knight is collecting Lionel trains. Please look in your attic or storage closet, and call or write John Alexander, 7617 E. 66th Street, Tulsa, OK 74133-1802, (918) 252-4981.

I buy old fountain pens, any condition. David F Memory, 702 Davie Avenue, Statesville, NC 28677-5309, (704) 873-3078

For sale: 2 cemetery lots at Lane Memorial Gardens, Garden of Everlasting Life, lot 9B, spaces 3-4, in Eugene, Oregon, valued at \$1,295.00 each. Will sell both lots for \$1,700.00. Joseph Feghal4 4126 Chesapeake Drive, No. 2B;Aumm IL 60504; (630) 851-6009, jtf417@msn.com

