

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

Issued Every Three Months By

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging, through its

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC CULTURE—William E. Yeager, Past Grand Master, Chairman; William E. Montgomery, G. Edward Elwell, Jr., Frank R. Leech, William A. Carpenter, Charles A. Young and Ashby B. Paul.

APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE PRINTED BY

CHARLES H. NITSCH

Right Worshipful Grand Master

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Get Acquainted with The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys

To better acquaint you with the many features and opportunities afforded the boys who attend The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys, at Elizabethtown, and with the hopes of inspiring you, as a Master Mason, to intercede in behalf of some worthy boy, the following sketch of the school is provided for your information:

The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys was established in 1925. It was made possible by the will of Thomas Ranken Patton who directed, that as a memorial to his only son, Thomas Graham Patton, a portion of his estate should be used for the "establishment and maintenance of an institution for the support and education of male orphan children of Master Masons, who were at the time of their decease members in good standing in some subordinate Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania." If there are any vacancies, the Trustees may admit any other male orphans whose father or mother is deceased if he is deemed worthy.

The purpose of the school is to give each boy a thorough training in one of the following mechanical trades—Machine Shop Practice, Carpentry or Electronics, together with an academic training equivalent to that of a good high school course. The time is so divided that one-half is devoted to shop work and one-half to academic studies. A high standard of equipment is maintained to best serve the ends for which the school exists. The school and shops are in session during ten months for five days per week and eight hours per day. The boy's moral, mechanical, and academic training are all given adequate emphasis. Each boy following his admission designates the religious de-

nomination of his choice and is thereafter expected to attend services regularly at the nearby church during his entire stay at the school. Mr. Patton's will states that all boys must be regularly and faithfully taught the sacred truths of the Bible.

The school is located on a part of one of Lancaster County's nationally famous farms, containing 116 acres, which is owned by the school. The school and farm buildings, as far as practical, are kept in repair by the students, thus providing them with some practical experience in their trades. A variety of trees and shrubs grace the campus while a hill of evergreens forms a fitting background to the school. Across the valley from the school grounds are the beautiful Gothic buildings and landscaped grounds of The Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The school is one mile from the Elizabethtown station of the Pennsylvania Railroad and midway between Harrisburg and Lancaster. Visitors are always welcome.

Students are admitted in September of each year. Application blanks may be secured by writing to the Superintendent. Applicants must have completed the ninth grade and be between fifteen and eighteen years of age at the date of admission. Boys seeking admission must be of good character and mentality, and physically capable of working at a trade. Each candidate for entrance must submit a certificate from his former school or schools, showing the cumulative scope and character of the work done, the evidence of honorable dismissal or good standing, and a statement of mental ability. Each applicant must satisfactorily pass the required physical examination and necessary tonsil and adenoid operations must be taken care of prior to enrollment. The boy's teeth must be in complete repair. Eyes must be examined and glasses fitted if necessary.

No charge is made for board or education. Each boy is expected to provide his own spending money and such items of clothing as the school does not provide.

The school diploma is granted on the successful completion of a three-year course in one of the trade courses, together with the prescribed academic work. If a boy fails to complete the prescribed work satisfactorily, he will be given a certificate showing work accomplished. The curriculum has the approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction.

When the course is successfully completed, the boys are competent to enter industry in the trades for which they have been prepared, or to continue their formal education. Also, their moral and academic training fits them to take their places as useful members of society. Every effort is made by the authorities of the school and by the Masonic Fraternity, especially through the home Lodges, to see

that the graduates find suitable positions when they leave school.

The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic School for Boys is your School operated by a Board of Trustees appointed by our Grand Master and financed largely out of income received from funds provided under the will of the late Grand Treasurer Thomas Ranken Patton, supplemented by grants from the Grand Lodge.

This School gives to deserving orphan boys a thorough three-year course in Machine Shop Practice, Carpentry or Electronics, together with an academic training equal to that of a good High School, all in a home-like environment.

Many of our graduates are today outstanding citizens in their respective communities and all are loyal alumni.

If you know of a deserving orphan (at least one parent deceased—the son of a Master Mason is given priority), who has completed the ninth grade, talk with him and ascertain whether he would be interested in such an opportunity. You may also write or have your Lodge Secretary write to: The Superintendent of The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

Masonic Law in Pennsylvania

By GEORGE A. AVERY

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

HOW TO REAFFILIATE WHEN SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

A member of a Lodge in Pennsylvania, who has been suspended for non-payment of dues and desires to reaffiliate with the Lodge in which he stands suspended, may, if he pays the delinquent dues within eleven months of the date of his suspension, be Restored to Membership by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the stated meeting at which action is had on the motion to restore him.

Such Restoration to Membership must be consummated by vote of the Lodge within one Masonic year of the date of suspension. Inasmuch as the motion to restore must be laid over for one month before action can be taken on it, the delinquent dues must be paid and the motion made within eleven months of the date of suspension.

A suspended member who has not been Restored to Membership within the year, but subsequently desires to reaffiliate, must first pay the delinquent dues owed at the time of his suspension, whereupon he may be Restored to Good Masonic Standing by a majority vote of the Lodge. He may then present a petition for membership to the Lodge from which he was suspended, or to any other Lodge of his choice, in this or any recognized jurisdiction. A unanimous ballot is necessary for his election to membership, at least so far as Pennsylvania Lodges are concerned.



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VOLUME IV

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NUMBER 3

A Message from Our Grand Master

In the August 1956 issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason, we told you how the Grand Master spends his time. It is thought you may be interested in knowing how his time has been spent since that time.

Visits to Other Grand Jurisdictions

- October 1, 2, 3, 4—Grand Lodge of Delaware—Wilmington, Delaware.
- October 15, 16, 17—Grand Lodge of Kentucky—Louisville, Kentucky.
- November 19, 20, 21—Grand Lodge of Maryland—Baltimore, Maryland.
- December 18, 19—Grand Lodge District of Columbia—Washington, D. C.
- February 10, 11, 12, 13—Grand Lodge of Louisiana—New Orleans, Louisiana.
- March 1, 2—Grand Lodge of The Netherlands—The Hague—Holland.
- April 2, 3, 4—Grand Lodge of Connecticut—Hartford, Connecticut.
- April 16, 17, 18—Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Atlantic City, N. J.
- May 6, 7, 8, 9—Grand Lodge of New York—New York, N. Y.
- May 13, 14, 15—Grand Lodge of New Hampshire—Manchester, New Hampshire.
- May 19, 20, 21—Grand Lodge of Rhode Island—Providence, Rhode Island.
- June 9, 10, 11, 12—Grand Lodge of South Dakota—Rapid City, South Dakota.
- July 16, 17, 18—Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- August 25, 26, 27—Grand Lodge of Wyoming—Newcastle, Wyoming.

New District Deputy Grand Masters

- Seven new District Deputies were introduced by your Grand Master.
- March 30—John Harper in Philadelphia.
 - April 5—Richard E. Shaffer in Bedford.
 - April 20—Paul G. Pensinger in Gettysburg.
 - May 4—Minor M. Dain in Phoenixville.
 - May 11—J. Watson Harmeier in Pittsburgh.
 - May 11—Raymond H. Grimm in Pittsburgh.
 - May 21—William E. Fleth in Scranton.

New Lodge

- February 9—Constituted Lowther Manor Lodge No. 781 of Camp Hill (Constitution Ceremonies in Harrisburg).

Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

- February 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 in Washington, D. C.

Grand Bodies in Pennsylvania

- December 6—Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- April 13—Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine—Bloomsburg.
- April 21, 22, 23—Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh.
- May 27, 28, 29—Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Cornerstone Laying

- September 22—Laid Cornerstone of Colestock High School—Titusville.
- July 20—Laid Cornerstone of Masonic Temple of Everett Lodge No. 524, Everett.

Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute

- December 9—Opening of Fourth Session—Pittsburgh.
- December 14—Closing of Fourth Session—Pittsburgh.
- January 23—Opening of Fifth Session—Pittsburgh.
- January 27—Closing of Fifth Session—Pittsburgh.
- July 28—Opening of Sixth Session—Pittsburgh.
- August 1—Closing of Sixth Session—Pittsburgh.

Other Visitations

- September 10—Crescent Lodge No. 493—Philadelphia.
- September 13—George W. Guthrie Lodge No. 691—Pittsburgh.
- September 19—Eureka Lodge No. 302, Mechanicsburg—100th Anniversary.
- September 22—Titusville Lodge No. 783, Titusville to celebrate 100 years of Masonry in Titusville.
- September 29—Waverly Lodge No. 301, Clarks Summit—100th Anniversary.
- October 1—William L. Elkins Lodge No. 646, Philadelphia—50th Anniversary.
- October 9—William C. Hamilton Lodge No. 500—Philadelphia.
- October 10—Red Lion Lodge No. 649, Red Lion—50th Anniversary.
- October 11—Sunbury Lodge No. 713—Sunbury.
- October 13—Muncy Lodge No. 299—Muncy.
- October 18—Oriental R.A. Chapter No. 183, Philadelphia—100th Anniversary.
- October 20—George W. Bartram Lodge No. 298, Media—100th Anniversary.
- October 22—Columbia Lodge No. 91—Philadelphia.
- October 27—Good Samaritan Lodge No. 336—Gettysburg.
- October 29—Lancaster Commandery No. 13, K.T. Lancaster, 100th Anniversary.

(Continued on page 2)

A Message from Our Grand Master

(Continued from page 1)

- November 1—Solomon Lodge No. 231—Pittsburgh.
November 7—Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682—
Elizabethtown.
November 14—Eastern Star Lodge No. 186—Philadelphia.
November 17—Beta Lodge No. 647—Wilksburg.
November 23—Huguenot Lodge No. 377, Kutztown—90th
Anniversary.
November 24—H. Stanley Goodwin Lodge No. 648, Bethlehem,
50th Anniversary.
November 28—Melita Lodge No. 295—Philadelphia.
December 21—Louis Wagner Lodge No. 715—Philadelphia.
January 16—Siloam R.A. Chapter No. 226—Philadelphia.
March 14—Jerusalem Lodge No. 506, Philadelphia—85th
Anniversary.
March 18—Lodge No. 2—Philadelphia.
April 1—Richard Vaux Lodge No. 384, Philadelphia—
90th Anniversary.
April 6—Williamson Lodge No. 307—Womelsdorf—
100th Anniversary.
April 10—Oakland Lodge No. 535—Pittsburgh.
April 15—Coalport Lodge No. 574—Coalport.
April 24—Equity Lodge No. 591—Philadelphia.
April 25—Shiloh Lodge No. 558—Lansdale.
May 1—Trojan Lodge No. 306—Troy—100th Anniversary.
May 22—George Washington Lodge No. 143—
Chambersburg.
May 31—June 1—Crafton Lodge No. 653—Crafton—
50th Anniversary.
June 8—Lafayette Lodge No. 652—Carnegie—
50th Anniversary.
June 14—Laurel Lodge No. 651—Uniontown—
50th Anniversary.
June 21—North Star Lodge No. 241—Warren.
June 22—Western Star Lodge No. 304—Albion—
100th Anniversary.

DeMolay

- May 18—Continental Chapter—York—30th Anniversary.
June 29—State Conclave—Butler.

Scottish Rite

- September 23-27—Supreme Council—Cincinnati.
November 15, 16—Harrisburg Consistory—Harrisburg.
March 15—Benjamin Franklin Consistory—Philadelphia.

Council of Deliberation Honors Grand Lodge Officers

Three R.W. Past Grand Masters, two District Deputies and a Past District Deputy were honored at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation which was held in Philadelphia in July by being elected to serve as officers for the next three years.

The three Past Grand Masters include Brothers Scott S. Leiby, Richard A. Kern and William E. Yeager, who were re-elected, while Brothers J. Merrill Oswald and William P. Miller, District Deputies, and Brother Cecil F. Reeser, immediate Past District Deputy were newly elected.

Brother Scott S. Leiby presided, while Brother Richard A. Kern gave an interesting

account of his recent visit to Turkey and Masonic conditions there. Brother Charles H. Nitsch, R.W. Grand Master also spoke.

The complete list of Officers is as follows:

ILL. SCOTT S. LEIBY, 33°, *Illustrious*
Harrisburg, Pa. *Commander-in-Chief*
ILL. RICHARD A. KERN, 33°, *First Lieutenant*
Philadelphia, Pa. *Commander*
ILL. WILLARD G. CUTLER, 33°, *Second*
Pittsburgh, Pa. *Lieutenant Commander*
ILL. WILLIAM E. YEAGER, 33°, *Minister of*
Warren, Pa. *State*
ILL. CARL A. KARSH, 33°, *Chancellor*
Erie, Pa.
ILL. GEORGE R. BUNTING, 33°, *Prior*
Philadelphia, Pa.

ILL. FRANK L. BOWERS, 33°, *Treasurer*
Uniontown, Pa.
ILL. RAY H. CRANE, 33°, *Secretary*
Harrisburg, Pa.
ILL. J. MERRILL OSWALD, 33°, *Master of*
Reading, Pa. *Ceremonies*
ILL. EDWARD J. SHOUREK, 33°, *Hospitaller*
Pittsburgh, Pa.
ILL. EARL H. WEINSHEIMER, 33°, *Seneschal*
Allentown, Pa.
ILL. ROY D. SNYDER, 33°, *Standard Bearer*
Bloombsburg, Pa.
ILL. CECIL F. REESER, 33°, *Guard*
Scranton, Pa.
ILL. William P. MILLER, 33°, *Sentinel*
Altoona, Pa.

- April 11—Benjamin Franklin Consistory—Philadelphia.
April 19—Reading Consistory—Reading.
May 16, 17—Reading Consistory—Reading.
June 16, 17, 18, 19—Coudersport Consistory—Coudersport.
July 12—Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation—Philadelphia.

Dedications

- January 26—Masonic Temple of Brownstone Lodge No. 666—
Hershey.
May 25—Hospital Extension, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

Open House Masonic Temple Philadelphia

- October 30, 31—14,000 visitors were received at your Masonic
Temple in Philadelphia.

Church Services

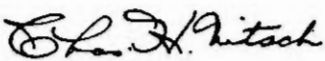
- March 17—Addressed the congregation of St. James Methodist
Church, Philadelphia.

Miscellaneous Visitations

- August 3-4—Kismet Grotto—Meadville.
August 29—Grand Chapter Electrical Craftsmen—Philadelphia.
September 28—The National League of Masonic Clubs—
Philadelphia, Honoring Brother and Admiral
Richard E. Byrd.
October 24—Shrine Club of Philadelphia.
November 13—Stokes & Smith Square Club—Philadelphia.
December 13—Syria Temple, Pittsburgh.
January 24—Philadelphia High Twelve Club—Philadelphia.
January 30—Testimonial Dinner for the Trustees of the Various
Grand Lodge Funds whose Trusts have been liqui-
dated—Philadelphia.
February 6—Golden Slipper Square Club—Philadelphia.
March 20—William Penn High Twelve Club—Glenside.
March 21—Stokes & Smith Square Club—Philadelphia.
April 12—Officers and Past Masters of Oriental Lodge No. 385—
Testimonial dinner in honor of two fifty year members,
whom I had the honor of decorating—Philadelphia.

Grand Lodge meeting, District Deputy Grand Master's meetings,
regular monthly meetings of the Committee on Masonic Homes at
Elizabethtown, and many committee meetings have not been in-
cluded.

Will you, therefore, please consider this tabulation a report to the
Craft as to the Grand Master's activities.



CHARLES H. NITSCH, Grand Master

Masonic Temple Renovated

The appearance of the Masonic Temple at
Broad and Filbert Streets in Philadelphia has
undergone an impressive change in the last
few months.

This Temple, generally regarded as one of
the largest and finest buildings in the world
exclusively devoted to Masonic purposes, was
constructed back in 1868 with grayish white
stone exterior walls. Over the years this stone
had become darker and darker through an
accumulation of soot and dirt.

Last spring, Brother William J. Wallace and
the Committee on Temple was authorized to
renovate the Temple. The exterior stonework
has been steam cleaned, repointed where
necessary and all ledges treated with a bird
repellent. The window frames and doors have
been refinished in a gray color to harmonize
with the grayish white stone.

The entire appearance of the exterior now
emphasizes the beauty of the stonework and
the dignity of this perfect example of Norman
architecture.

A suggestion has been made that the present
windows in the Broad and Filbert Street ele-
vations be replaced with stained glass windows.
A sample window is expected to be available
for inspection at the September Quarterly
Communication.

For the first time in the history of the
Temple a first-aid room has been set up on the
second floor just west of the entrance to
Corinthian Hall. This room, which has been
completely redecorated, contains all the
necessary requisites such as hospital bed,
oxygen tank, wheel chair, litter, medical
supplies, bandages, etc. Brother Dr. Harry L.
Farrell was kind enough to set up these first-
aid facilities. It is hoped that we will have the
benefit of a medical staff in addition to a first-
aid staff.

The rooms in the basement, the corridors
and rear stairway to the third floor have also
been renovated.

The Committee on Temple welcomes your
inspection of this much needed renovation
project.

Extension to Hospital at the Masonic Homes Dedicated

The Extension to the Philadelphia Free-
mason's Memorial Hospital at the Masonic
Homes at Elizabethtown was dedicated last
May 25 with appropriate Masonic ceremonies.
This vast building project which had its in-
ception back in October, 1948 added 105 beds
and associated facilities to permit the Hospital
to keep pace with the ever increasing medical
needs of approximately 650 adult guests.

Many of the guests who were patients in the
Hospital at the time witnessed the impressive
events from the windows of their rooms.

The Philadelphia Freemason's Memorial
Hospital was conceived back in 1914, but the
actual ground breaking for the first unit of
40 beds did not take place until August, 1915.

This first unit was opened for service on
October 14, 1916.

Ground was broken for the West Wing and
Administration Building in September, 1920,
and two years later the Second and Third
Units with a total of 70 beds, were formally
opened on October 21, 1922.

In 1931 further expansion provided an
additional 55 beds.

Then on October 12, 1948 the first meeting
was called to make plans for this latest much
needed addition. Ground was broken in
January, 1955 and the cornerstone was laid
six months later. Not only has a large wing
been added but the existing buildings were
completely modernized before the dedication
last May.

Throughout the years the generous gifts of
the Philadelphia Freemasons have made possi-
ble the most important part of our Masonic
Homes at Elizabethtown. The Officers of the
Extension Fund Committee, who headed this
magnificent undertaking, included Brothers
John H. Doherty, Past D.D.G.M., Chairman;
William H. Betz, Treasurer; Morris Ruberg,
Secretary; and Gerald F. Wilson, Sr., Clerk.

The Trustees included Brothers William R.
Mooney, Chairman; James W. Alexander,
James L. Fawley, George C. Flannigan, Jr. and
E. Marx Schwerin.

Brother Charles H. Nitsch, R.W. Grand
Master, presided at the Dedication. A repre-
sentative of Lawrie and Green, Harrisburg
Architects who designed the Extension de-
livered the keys to Brother Ralph M. Lehr,
R.W. Past Grand Master, who was Chairman
of the Building Committee. Brother Nitsch
officially accepted the building on behalf of
the R.W. Grand Lodge. Brother Morris Ruberg
who has had an active part in this activity for
many years and who has served as Secretary
of the Extension Fund Committee, in his
address outlined the myriad phases of the
work required leading to the completion of this
great project.

Following the Dedication Ceremonies, the
Hospital was open for inspection and then a
picnic dinner was served to well over 5000
Freemasons and their families. —A.B.P.

New Temple Being Built by Everett Lodge, No. 524

Back in the 80's railroads were being built
or planned in many sections of Pennsylvania.
The South Penn Railroad Company with
visions of a new east-west railroad sent its
Chief Engineer Frank H. Clement to Everett
to complete surveys for that part of the state.
Much of the proposed roadbed is now part of
the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

While in Everett, Frank H. Clement was
made a Mason in Everett Lodge No. 524 in
1884. After about three years, business took
Brother Clement away from Everett, but on
one of his subsequent infrequent visits to
Everett, he commented on the difficulty the
older members of the Lodge had in climbing

the steep steps to the Lodge Room, and his
desire for more ample Lodge quarters.

Upon his death on February 18, 1922,
Brother Clement who had no children left a
sizable estate to his wife, which upon her
death was to be divided equally between the
Everett Lodge and the N. Y. National Guard.
Brother Clement's widow died in 1944 and
when the estate was settled a few years later,
Everett Lodge was bequeathed \$229,389.32.

A few of the older members remembered
Brother Clement's remarks about the steep
steps and his desire for better Lodge facilities
and consideration was given to the erection of
a new Masonic Temple.

On July 20, 1957, Brother Charles H.
Nitsch, R.W. Grand Master, and the other
Grand Lodge officers laid the cornerstone for
this new two-story Everett Lodge No. 524
Masonic Temple on a spacious corner plot in
the center of Everett.

Next May when this Temple will be dedi-
cated, Brother Frank H. Clement's desire for
better facilities for his Lodge will have been
fulfilled. —A.B.P.

Freemasonry—A Way of Life

Every individual is by nature endowed with
certain traits of character which form the basis for
reasoning and the conduct of life. In fact, these
natural traits or tendencies are but signposts along
life's highway, directing us in our words, our
thoughts, and our actions. If, by self-analysis, we
can discover and discard those traits which seem to
lead us in the wrong direction, and at the same time,
cultivate those natural tendencies which point the
way to higher achievement, then we have carried
into effect one of the great principles of Freemasonry.

Our station in life is fixed many times by condi-
tions or circumstances over which we have no
control. Consequently, the individual is master of
his own destiny only in a certain degree. It would,
therefore, seem that the niche which we are to
occupy in this world has already been carved for us
by some natural or Divine power, and the heights
to which we can rise are, in all probability defined
by powers and deficiencies within us. Our ability
to make proper decisions, the height of our own
ambition, and the relationship existing between
ourselves and our fellowmen are the cardinal prin-
ciples which can very well determine our success as
individuals and as citizens.

Freemasonry recognizes the inherent faults of the
individual member, and endeavors by precept and
example to curb irregularities. It provides an oppor-
tunity for self-improvement by regular attendance
at its Stated and Extra meetings and throughout the
study and application of its beautiful Ritualistic
and Lodge Work. It provides the opportunity for
social contact, that Fraternal Fellowship, whereby
men from every walk of life may meet upon a
common plane or level. Here, are taught the correct
principles of righteous living. Here, we learn to get
along with our neighbor and our fellowmen. Here,
we are taught the three great virtues—Faith, Hope
and Charity. These should remind us of our obliga-
tions and our duties as Freemasons—those we owe
to God, to our Brethren, and to ourselves.

If the immeasurable influence of Freemasonry
shall continue, then we must have faith in God,
faith in our Brethren and faith in ourselves. Our
Hope in the future depends on the quality and the
sincerity of our Faith, while the journey of Life
itself will be judged by the greatest of all virtues,
Charity, which is the chief cornerstone of that
spiritual temple, that house not made with hands,
eternal in the heavens. —W.A.C.

From Our Grand Secretary's Office

OUR JUNE QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

Proposed Amendment to Permit Lodges to Meet in the Masonic Temple at the Homes at Elizabethtown

The item of business which proved to be of the greatest general interest to the Representatives of the 188 Lodges present at the June Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge was the proposed Amendment to Article XVII of the Ahiman Rezon, presented by Brother Scott S. Leiby, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master, which, if adopted at the December Quarterly Communication, will make it possible for any Subordinate Lodge in this Jurisdiction to hold a meeting in the new Masonic Temple of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

Without doubt, the reaction to this Amendment on the part of the great majority of the members of the Craft throughout the Jurisdiction will be similar to that of those who were in attendance at the June Quarterly Communication. Therefore, so that all may know just what its provisions are, we quote it in full:

"Article XVII, Section 31. Any Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons within this Jurisdiction, after having secured the approval of the Grand Master and the Committee on Masonic Homes, may, under such conditions, rules and regulations as shall be determined upon by the Committee on Masonic Homes, and upon due notice, hold a meeting in the Masonic Temple of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and confer degrees upon duly approved candidates with the same responsibility upon the Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the proper conduct of the meeting that would be his for a meeting conducted at the regular place of meeting of his Lodge."

Other Amendments to Ahiman Rezon Proposed

Three additional Amendments to the Ahiman Rezon were proposed, which will likewise be acted on at the December Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge. One provides for the Amendment of Article XVII, Section 30, which authorizes any Lodge in this Jurisdiction, under the conditions therein set forth, to hold a "special" meeting in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Building at Alexandria, Virginia, by striking therefrom the word "special" preceding the word "meeting," so that said Section, as amended, shall read as follows:

"Section 30. Any Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons within this jurisdiction . . . , may upon due notice hold a meeting in the Symbolic Lodge Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Building"

The deletion of the word "special" will bring this Section of the Ahiman Rezon into conformity with Grand Lodge law as it refers to the meetings of the Subordinate Lodges.

Decision 371 of the Digest of Decisions reads as follows:

"Extra meetings are called for conferring Degrees, Passing to the Chair and Installation of Officers.

Special meetings are called for special purposes, such as performing Masonic Burial Service and acting on a resolution to change the place of meeting of a Lodge."

Brother Robert A. Lamberton, who was Grand Master at the time, issued this Decision in 1871. In all probability he was not introducing an innovation in our use of the words "special" and "extra," but was recognizing a usage that had been regarded as correct for years prior to 1871.

Meetings of Pennsylvania Lodges at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria are always called for conferring Degrees, and consequently are not "special" meetings.

The two remaining Amendments to the Ahiman Rezon were presented by the Committee on Landmarks:

The first of these, to Article XIII, Section 9, is designed to add the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden and the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden to the membership of the Committee on Landmarks.

The second, to Article XIII, Section 20, increases the membership of the Committee on Finance to not less than 9, nor more than 11, and adds as members of that Committee, the Right Worshipful Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden and the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden.

Pension Plan of Grand Lodge Revised

Appended to the report of the Committee on Finance were two resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

The first, recommended after more than a year of study and consideration by the Trustees of the Pension Plan, effects certain changes and modifications therein. The Plan now provides for the surviving spouse of a pensioner, and also for the surviving spouse of an employee not receiving a pension, who dies after fifteen or more years of continuous service.

Furthermore, in the old plan pensions were based upon the employee's average monthly salary for the five years preceding the sixty-fifth birthday. They are now based upon the highest average monthly salary plus perqui-

sites during any five consecutive years within the employee's period of continuous service up to retirement.

Contributions to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

The second resolution recognizes the completion by Grand Lodge of the Watres Memorial Library in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia, and provides for the continuation of the solicitation of members who have not yet contributed, and of all new members of the subordinate Lodges, of at least One Dollar each. The Secretary of each Lodge shall keep a record of all such donations, and remit them to the Grand Secretary annually.

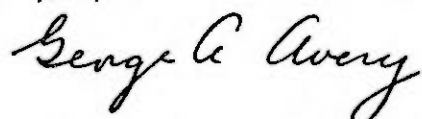
It is earnestly enjoined upon the Worshipful Masters and the Secretaries of the subordinate Lodges that they solicit their new members for a contribution of at least One Dollar each for the Memorial at Alexandria. For a considerable number of years the total annual contribution in dollars for this purpose has been less than fifty percent of the total number of initiates.

Some Lodges have given nothing during all the years the fund has been in existence. If for no other reason than to preserve the honor of Freemasonry, our Lodges should participate in the support of the Memorial. Our Grand Masters have consistently ruled that, if the Lodge does not desire to solicit its new members for these contributions, they may be made from Lodge funds.

Miscellaneous Matters

In addition to the matters already discussed, other items of business included requests for Fraternal recognition from the Grand Lodge of France and from the newly-organized Grand Lodge of Japan, which were referred to the Committee on Correspondence; an appeal by a Trial Committee from the action of the Lodge in refusing to accept the verdict of guilty, with the recommendation of expulsion, in the trial of one of its members, which was referred to the Committee on Appeals; a request from a Lodge to Grand Lodge to remove the suspension of one of its members, convicted June 1, 1948 of Gross Unmasonic Conduct, which was referred to the Committee on Appeals; and the approval of the report of the Committee on By-Laws.

The Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Charles H. Nitsch, informed Grand Lodge of the Dedication of the New Hospital Wing, and the completely renovated Hospital at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, on Saturday, May 25.



GEORGE A. AVERY, Grand Secretary

Noteworthy Masonic Meeting Places

III—THE LODGE HALL AT LANCASTER

By WILLIAM E. MONTGOMERY

In previous articles of this series on Noteworthy Masonic Meeting Places in Pennsylvania, reference has been made to (1) The Free Quaker Meeting House (the oldest Lodge hall . . . in service, 1790-1799 . . . of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania that is still in existence) and (2) Independence Hall (the most famous of all meeting places of Freemasons in the Keystone State). The current article will describe the Lodge Hall at Lancaster, the oldest which is still being used for Masonic purposes in this Jurisdiction, and in certain respects, one of the most unique.

Lodge No. 43 at Lancaster, Pennsylvania was constituted on September 14, 1785. During the first ten years of its existence the meetings were held at five or six locations, but, in common with so many lodges, its members had a great desire to possess a place of meeting which they could call their own. On January 13, 1796 a resolution was adopted for the appointment of a committee "to wait upon the corporation of this Borough in order to know whether they will allow this Lodge the privilege of erecting a Lodge room over the market house." A lot had been deeded for market purposes, located on West King Street just off Penn Square, and the borough corporation at that time was giving consideration to the erection of a market house thereon. The lodge was unable to secure a favorable answer but it would not give up the idea, . . . and refused the offer of several other sites in the hope that eventually a location on or near Penn Square could be secured.

Two years later the Corporation acceded to the Lodge's desire and under date of March 22, 1798 it was agreed: "Corporation to build Pillars and arches sufficiently strong to support the superstructure and roof" at the expense of the corporation, and "the Lodge to build the Superstructure, and Roof, floor and ciel the building." The agreement also provided that "The Room shall always be reserved for the use of meetings of the corporation, all other public uses of the Rooms to be at the option of the Lodge." The Committee in charge estimated that the work of the Lodge would cost \$1,393., the principal items being carpenter work, \$400.; mason work, \$114.; bricks, \$200.; plastering, \$200.; shingles, \$120.; boards, \$100.

The hall was ready for occupancy in August of 1800, and the first meeting in the "new Lodge Room" was held on September 10th of that year. The premises consisted of four rooms and an entry or hallway running the entire length of the building on the north side, the entrance being by a stairway located at the north-east corner of the structure. The long hallway was used for banquet purposes as well as a passage-way. At the east end was a

room for the Corporation and other public use. Next on the west was the large room intended for lodge meetings, while at the extreme west were two small rooms, one for the tyler and the other for use as a preparing room. The building was bounded on the north by Market Square, on the east by the lot now occupied by City Hall, on the south by West King Street, and on the west by Union Court (which has since been closed and is now owned by the Lodge).

In October 1800 the Lodge was asked to rent the lodge-room for the November term of the County Court. This was agreed to, and for sometime afterwards the Courts were held there. Various local organizations were also granted the use of the Lodge's facilities, in accordance with a resolution, "when the Lodge can conveniently accomodate their fellow citizens, Subscribers or others, with a temporary use of the Lodge Room, without interfering with the meeting of the Lodge, that it would be liberal, and honorable, to do so." This was not only a kindly attitude, but doubtless had the additional advantage of securing a small amount of welcome income. In undertaking this project, Lodge No. 43 experienced the same difficulties which beset almost all Masonic organizations in those early days in attempting to secure a home of their own. Interest waned, the payment of subscriptions was slow, and the dues of numerous members were in arrears. Consequently in June 1803, when the Register-General and Comptroller-General of the Commonwealth desired to rent the Lodge premises, the owners were happy to comply, and made arrangements to secure a meeting-place at the Indian King located on the southwest corner of Queen and German Streets. This continued until June 24, 1809 when the Lodge re-occupied its own quarters.

In 1854 the rights of Lodge No. 43 in the property were questioned by the County Commissioners and it was discovered that the original agreement between the Corporation and the Lodge had never been recorded. Fortunately the borough records were quite complete, and after being certified and recorded, the matter was terminated by an opinion of the President Judge of the County Courts to the effect that the title of the Lodge must be recognized as valid. Two years later, when Union Court (the open street bounding the Market on the west) was vacated the Lodge purchased the ground from the city and erected thereon a three-story brick building, the first floor to be rented as a store-room and the upper stories to be used for Masonic purposes. The partitions which separated the Lodge room from the long passage-way and from the small ante-rooms were removed. Provision was then made for ante-rooms on

the third floor of the new building, while the second floor was used as a banquet-hall. In 1884 the old stairway was removed and the present entrance on West King Street was provided. At later dates two properties to the east were purchased and improved, providing (among other things) additional dining space and an armory for the Commandery.

In 1932, the city and the Lodge cooperated in the erection of a small addition to the old original structure and in the strengthening of the entire building. In conjunction with this undertaking, the Lodge-room was redecorated. Sketches were submitted by a number of prominent artists. The one finally selected was entitled "Triumph of Masonry" and is thus described in "the History of Lodge No. 43" (from which most of the facts contained in this article have been obtained): "The painting as a whole represents Masonry Triumphant, guided by the Eagle to higher ideals, with Justice and Perseverance following, while Old Father Time acknowledges the achievement and progress of the same. . . . Masonry is represented by the Eye of God (the All-Seeing Eye), an expressive emblem, which will remind all Masons that the Deity is watching over all mankind, and will weigh in the balance of truth every action, thought, and word." The painting was done on canvas in oil and lead—and surely is a work of art. The coloring is superb and the present writer is always fascinated by the beauty of the design—and frequently has difficulty in turning his gaze from the ceiling, upon his visits to this lovely and historic old Lodge Room. Certainly it deserves to rank high among the noteworthy Masonic meeting places in this great Commonwealth by reason of its age, its unique ownership background, and its unusual beauty.

Annual Conclave of Grand Commandery Held in Philadelphia

At the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania held in Philadelphia on May 28, 1957, the following officers were elected:

Grand Commander
WALTER S. CASSEL, Souderton

Deputy Grand Commander
ROBERT W. MICHAEL, Scranton

Grand Generalissimo
HARRY F. HOSTETLER, Lewistown

Grand Captain General
HARRISON C. HARTLINE, Erie

Grand Senior Warden
PERRY L. LA BARR, Pittsburgh

Grand Junior Warden
JOHN B. COTTRELL, Media

Sir Knights Raymond F. Hoffmann, P.G.C., Pittsburgh, and John W. Laird, Philadelphia, were re-elected Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, respectively. —W.E.M.