

In Memoriam

Distinguished Masonic Leader's Career Comes To End After Long Service

Masons throughout the country are mourning the death of a dedicated Mason and leader, Bro. William E. Yeager, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.

He was R. W. Grand Master in 1950 and 1951.

Bro. Yeager, who had a distinguished career in practically all Masonic Bodies, died in a hospital in his home community of Warren, Pa.

He was born in Lilly Lake, Luzerne County, Pa. on Dec. 20, 1892.

Bro. Yeager was made a Mason in Hazle Lodge No. 327, Hazleton, in 1918, following World War I in which he served as a Navy Ensign.

Having moved to Warren, he was the guiding influence in forming Joseph Warren Lodge No. 726 in 1923 and served as its first elected Worshipful Master.

Upon formation of the 56th Masonic District in 1932, Bro. Yeager was appointed District Deputy Grand Master, serving until 1942 when he was appointed to the Committee on Masonic Homes.

On Dec. 27, 1943, Bro. Yeager was installed as R. W. Junior Grand Warden. He served as Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania in 1950 and 1951.

Shortly after completing his tenure as Grand Master, he was again elected to the Committee on Masonic Homes, serving as a member of its executive committee and subsequently as chairman. He resigned from the Committee on

Masonic Homes on Sept. 15, 1973.

In a letter announcing his resignation, Bro. Yeager wrote:

"Masonry has done far more for me than I could ever do for it. It is my hope that I have made some positive contribution as a token payment on my debt to the Fraternity, which I acknowledge but which I realize I can never repay."

Bro. Yeager's dedication to Freemasonry and Grand Lodge is well told by his work and service.

As examples, while serving as chairman of the Committee on Masonic Culture, "The Pennsylvania Freemason" was first published. The pamphlets for Instruction of Candidates were completed and an organized education program was initiated.

His dedication extended to the establishment of the Committee on Information and Recognition. He was active in the organization of the Northeast Conference on Masonic Education and Libraries.

The Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute was organized and operated by Bro. Yeager and the late Bro. Gustav L. Schramm, a Pittsburgh Juvenile Court Justice and District Deputy Grand Master.

In York Rite Masonry, Bro. Yeager was a member of Occidental Royal Arch Chapter No. 235, having served as High Priest. He was a member of Occident Council No. 41, having served as Thrice Illustrious Master. He was a member of Warren Commandery No. 63, having served as Eminent Com-



BRO. WILLIAM E. YEAGER
R. W. Past Grand Master

mander.

From 1931 to 1958 Bro. Yeager served as a director and treasurer of the Knights Templar Educational Loan Foundation of Pennsylvania.

Bro. Yeager belonged to most all Bodies and Organizations in York Rite Masonry. In 1970 he served as Grand Sovereign of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine for the United States, Mexico and the Philippines.

In Scottish Rite Masonry, he was a member of the Bodies in the Valley of Coudersport. He served Coudersport Council, Princes of Jerusalem, as Sovereign Prince in 1931 and 1932.

For his dedicated work in Freemasonry, Bro. Yeager was coroneted a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, in 1934. On Sept. 29, 1949, he was made an Active Member of the Supreme Council. He also served the Supreme Council as Grand Captain General.

At his death, Bro. Yeager was Deputy for Pennsylvania for Supreme Council.

In Community activities, Bro. Yeager was so active that it is not possible to list them all.

In 1970, he received Warren's Community Service Award in recognition of his outstanding service.

He received an honorary doctor's degree from Thiel College for his years of dedication as a Trustee of the school.

For his years of dedication and service to the Boy Scouts of America, he was awarded the "Silver Beaver" for service to boyhood.

He leaves his wife, Alice Houghtling Yeager, and a son, William, Jr.

On Saturday, Oct. 6, 1973, Bro. Yeager's Masonic Lodge held its 50th Anniversary. He left a hospital bed to attend the meeting.

In the 50th Anniversary booklet, a history of the Lodge, the tribute to its first elected Master — Bro. Yeager — ended with:

"Our Brother puts the Precepts of Masonry into action in his daily contacts with his fellow men and service to the many institutions which make the community and world a better place in which we live."

The PENNSYLVANIA

FREEMASON



AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF PENNSYLVANIA

VOLUME XXI

MAY • 1974

NUMBER 2

Oldest and Largest Fraternity!

Freemasons Have Faith In God and Eternal Life

By Bro. Rochester B. Woodall
R. W. Grand Master

The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world.

Freemasonry is a system of moral mysticism, expressing faith in God and eternal life, in old and simple symbols of the building arts, and teaching brotherly love.

It strives to aid members to win a clear conception of their duty to God and man, to develop their spiritual faculties and to refine and exalt their lives in fellowship and service.

Some historians trace Freemasonry to the Tenth Century, B.C., during the building of King Solomon's Temple. Records reveal that Freemasonry was introduced into England in 674 A.D.

Today there are more than 150 Grand

Lodges in free countries of the world with a membership of nearly 6,000,000.

Symbols are used by Freemasons to remind members of definite truths. A Lambskin, for instance, widely known as the "badge of a Mason" symbolizes purity. It therefore, is emblematic of the high exemplary character taught to and expected of all Masons.

Freemasonry challenges its members to the highest reaches of noble living when rightly understood.

Membership is limited to adult males who can meet the recognized qualifications and standards of character and reputation.

One of the Landmarks of Freemasonry is not to solicit members. One seeking admission must have a desire and of his own volition request a petition from one he believes to be a Mason.

The petitioner must be recommended

by two members of a Masonic Lodge and pass a unanimous ballot. The petitioner must be 21 years of age, mentally and physically competent, of good moral character and believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.

In the United States, 13 Presidents are known to have been Masons. One of them Harry S. Truman was Grand Master of Masons in Missouri. Others were Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Har-

(Continued on Page 2)

Masons Are Urged To Return to Lodge Meetings

The Grand Master is doing everything possible to encourage increased attendance at Lodge meetings.

He is specifically pointing out at every opportunity:

"How can you be a Brother to someone you don't even know?"

Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, has directed that Worshipful Masters in this Jurisdiction appoint five members to a Committee on Lodge Attendance.

He said the names of this Committee can be printed on the Lodge Notice.

Bro. Woodall said the primary duty of this Committee is to contact members of the Lodge to:

1. Urge attendance at Lodge meetings.
2. Talk up the planned program of the Worshipful Master.
3. Use every idea possible to increase attendance — telephone campaigns, car pools and even pick up and delivery service for those who need assistance.

The Grand Master added:

"You will find that many members will be happy to return to Lodge meetings.

"All they need to be persuaded is our concern."



The June Quarterly Communication will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 5, in Masonic Temple, 4227 Fifth Ave., Oakland Area, Pittsburgh, Pa. All Master Masons are urged to attend.

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Approved and Authorized To Be Printed By
The Grand Master

Grand Lodge Officers

Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master
John L. McCain, R. W. Deputy Grand Master
Walter P. Wells, R. W. Senior Grand Warden
Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Junior Grand Warden
Arthur R. Diamond, R. W. Grand Treasurer
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Grand Lodge Officers' Three-Month Itinerary

The schedule for Grand Lodge Officers the next three months includes:

June 2 — Graduation Exercises, Patton Masonic School, Elizabethtown.

June 5 — Quarterly Communication, Masonic Temple, 4227 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh.

June 21 — Junior Grand Warden Annual Conclave, Order of DeMolay, Scranton.

June 28 — Grand Lodge Officers' Meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

July 12 — Grand Lodge Officers, Council of Deliberation, Pittsburgh.

July 26 — Grand Lodge Officers' Meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

August 8 — Grand Master, Pennsylvania Grand Assembly, Rainbow for Girls, Penn State.

August 23 — Grand Lodge Officers' Meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

State Divided Into Three Areas To Help Masonic Culture Programs

The Committee on Masonic Culture has divided the Jurisdiction into three areas in an effort to assist District Deputy Grand Masters and the Lodges.

Bro. John K. Young, R. W. Past Grand Master, Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Culture, said this will make it easier to coordinate Masonic Culture activities.

In announcing the plan, Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, said he expects full cooperation in this effort "for the best interest of Freemasonry."

The three Area Chairmen are also members of Grand Lodge's Committee on Masonic Culture. The following lists Area Chairmen and the Masonic Districts that make up the areas:

Area "A"

Bro. Edward A. Hagel, P.D.D.G.M.,
Chairman
Cochranville, Pennsylvania 19330
Telephone — (215) 593-5643

Districts: A, B, C D, E, F, G, H, I, J,
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, 36,
40, 42 and 60

Area "B"

Bro. Thomas H. Burgess, Chairman
513 West Diamond Avenue
Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201
Telephone — Home (717) 455-4664
Office (717) 454-3535

Districts: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,
21, 22, 33, 35, 44, 45, 46, 50, 58
and 59

Area "C"

Bro. Walter L. Sykes, P.D.D.G.M.,
Chairman
230 Belmont Avenue
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317
Telephone — Home (412) 745-5697
Office (412) 745-3000 Ext. 14
Districts: 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29,
30, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 47,
48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57

The Area Chairmen will be responsible for coordinating the Grand Lodge Masonic Culture programs.

Freemasons Have Faith In God, Eternal Life

(Continued from Page 1)

ding and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Outstanding early American patriots who were Masons include Paul Revere, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Isaiah Thomas, Richard Gridley and James Otis.

Through the years, Freemasonry has sought to develop tolerance to build character and to cultivate the finest moral qualities.

We fully realize that Masons are not perfect, for it is human to err. However, experience has shown that each undergoes a measure of self-improvement by his association with members and his attention to the lessons of the fraternity.

For instance, Freemasonry teaches that a brother's welfare is closely linked with one's own happiness. It demands opposition to all sinister projects or forces.

Contrary to what many believe, Freemasonry is not a secret society. It does not hide its existence or its membership.

There has been no attempt to conceal the purpose, aims or principles of Freemasonry. It is an organization formed and existing on the broad basis of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Its constitutions are published for the world to behold. Its rules and regulations are open for inspection.

It is true that we have modes of

recognition, rites and ceremonies, with which non-members are not acquainted. In this regard, all human groups and institutions have private affairs. For instance, families have discussions on subjects which do not and should not concern their neighbors.

Often Freemasonry is said to be a religion. It is not a religion, although we are religious in nature.

It does not pretend to take the place of religion nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members.

Freemasonry accepts men, found to be worthy, regardless of religious convictions. An essential requirement is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Freemasonry does not teach that one religion is better than another.

We stand for values that are supreme in the life of the church. We are sure that a man who is true to his religious convictions will be a better Mason.

Freemasonry, rightly conceived and practiced, will enhance every worthy loyalty in a man's life.

It will not weaken a man's loyalty to his church, but will strengthen it by the increased sense of responsibility to God and his fellowman.

To members of the Fraternity, Freemasonry is many things, but most of all, Freemasonry is a way of life.

Universal League Edicted

Grand Master Makes Edict Part of Law

The Grand Master has again reminded Pennsylvania Masons that The Universal League of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons has been Edicted in this Jurisdiction.

Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, said that the Universal League has again circulated applications for membership throughout this Jurisdiction.

In 1968, when Bro. John K. Young was Grand Master, he issued an Edict against this organization and directed that no Member of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction could hold membership in it.

Bro. Young directed that Pennsylvania Masons holding such membership must renounce their membership or face Masonic Charges for refusing to

Memorial Needs Money To Build Endowment

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association has a new program to raise funds to place the Memorial in a better financial position.

The plan as revealed by Bro. Raymond C. Ellis, M. W. Past Grand Master of New York and president of the Association, at the Association's annual meeting at the Memorial in Alexandria, Va. on Feb. 18. It includes:

1. More than 10,000 Brethren throughout the country to become Honorary Members by contributing \$100 to the Endowment Fund. This will increase the Endowment Fund by \$1,000,000.

2. Secure at least 1,000 donations of \$1,000 each. This will bring in another \$1,000,000 for the Endowment Fund.

The names of the donors will be placed on a suitable plaque which will be displayed in a prominent part of the Memorial.

Bro. Ellis pointed out that the goal is to reach the \$2,000,000 objective by February 1976.

Bro. John K. Young, R. W. Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, is second vice president of the Memorial Association.

Three new trustees were elected to replace three no longer serving. They included Bro. Donald W. Vose, M. W. Grand Master of Massachusetts; Bro. Forrest A. Wakeman, M. W. Grand Master of Indiana; and Bro. J. Lewis Monical, M. W. Grand Master of Arizona.

— ATTEND YOUR LODGE —
"How can you be a Brother to someone you don't even know?"

obey an Edict of the Grand Master.

In 1965, the Grand Lodge of England adopted a resolution with regard to the League to the effect that "membership of it or attendance at any of its functions is incompatible with regular Freemasonry."

The Commission of Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters said the League is indiscriminate in its source of members, adding:

"Masons everywhere should be informed that we cannot be too strict in maintaining our standards of recognition. This cannot be done by indiscriminate mingling on a Masonic basis with those otherwise regarded as irregular."

Bro. Woodall said this Edict will stand and will be strictly enforced in this Jurisdiction. He pointed out:

"If any of our Members have joined this organization, they are directed to denounce their membership immediately."

Further, the Grand Master announced that the Edict is made a part of the Digest of Decisions, and that it will be Decision XCVI, Paragraph 1, Page 141. It will read:

"XCVI. Universal League"

"1. A member of a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge may not become a member of nor hold membership in, The Universal League of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons."

Revised Funeral Service

The Grand Master has approved a revised Masonic Funeral Service.

Each Lodge in this Jurisdiction will be provided six printed copies of the new service.

Additional copies can only be obtained through the Committee on Masonic Culture, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

A modest fee will be charged for the additional copies to cover the printing cost.

Masonic Dress Clarified

The Grand Master has issued a new Decision to further clarify Masonic dress in this Jurisdiction. It states:

"Shirts which are to be worn with Masonic dress must be white in color and may be worn with studs. The shirt may have a pleated bosom, but it is not to be ruffled either at bosom or cuffs."

Patton School Graduation June 2 at Masonic Homes

The 47th Baccalaureate and Commencement Exercises of Patton Masonic School will be held at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown on Sunday, June 2.

The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Lacquement, director of spiritual services at the Masonic Homes, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at 10 a.m. Patton School Chorus will provide the music.

Dr. D. Luke Biemesderfer, past president of the Trustees of Patton School, and president emeritus of Millersville State College, will deliver the address at commencement exercises, at 2 p.m.

Both services will be held in the Deike Auditorium of the Masonic Homes.

Dr. Warren M. Maurer, superintendent of Patton School, said the 1974 graduating class will include ten students.

Those desiring to attend the services should contact Patton School for reserved seats by calling (Area Code 717) 367-1536.

50-Year Wallet Cards Available To Qualified

The Grand Master has received many requests for engraved Wallet Cards from those who had previously been the recipients of 50-Year Masonic Service Emblems.

The cards are now being automatically issued to all Brethren who are now eligible to receive the Service Emblem.

Presentation of the Service Emblems and Wallet Cards to those who are newly eligible are under the supervision of the District Deputy Grand Masters.

Now, because of the great interest and desire for the Wallet Cards, the Grand Master has approved a procedure to permit those who have previously received the Service Emblem, to obtain the Wallet Card.

The following is the procedure to obtain Wallet Cards:

1. Write a letter to the Grand Secretary, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107, requesting a Wallet Card, giving your full name, Masonic Lodge, and year you received the 50-Year Masonic Service Emblem.
2. Enclose with your letter a stamped and properly addressed envelope.

When the above is received, the Wallet Card will be forwarded just as soon as possible.

Requests for a Wallet Card must be on an individual basis. Lists of names, or letters received for more than one card, will not be honored.

State Orders Costly Alterations At Homes

Grand Lodge To Provide Most Of the Needed Money

Pennsylvania Masons have been ordered to make extensive and costly alterations to the Philadelphia Freemasons Memorial at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

Early estimates place the cost at approximately \$4,000,000.

The problem was created by strict enforcement of new state and federal regulations for adult care centers.

This was brought about by the wave of recent disastrous fires throughout the state that cost the lives of many elderly patients.

The Committee on Masonic Homes is doing everything possible to find the best solution for the benefit of Freemasonry and the Guests at the Homes.

It will require either extensive alterations to the entire Memorial, or demolition and rebuilding of a portion of the Memorial. Sections of the Memorial are more than 50 years old.

So strict is the state order that approximately \$50,000 must be spent on the Masons Care Building that was only dedicated and placed into operation ten months ago.

Because of this serious building problem, the Committee on Masonic Homes has been forced to reinstate its policy of no admission for non ambulatory Guests.

This policy will have to continue until the Masonic Health Care Center that includes the Philadelphia Freemasons Memorial and the Masons Care Building is reconstructed to meet state and federal regulations.

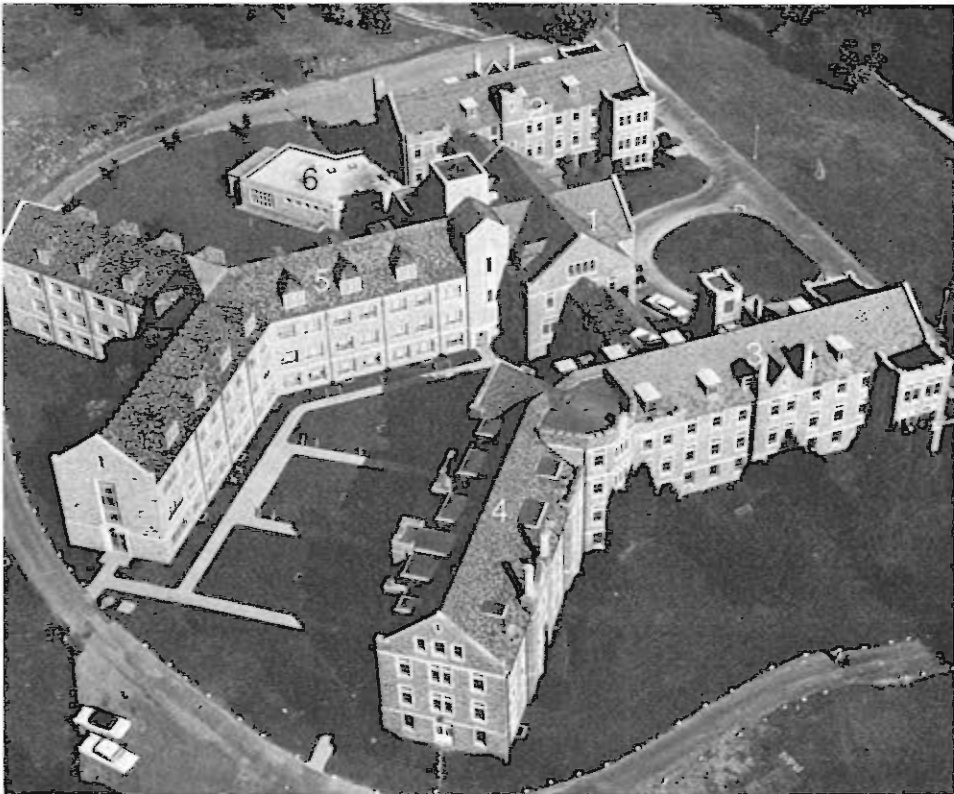
In setting the policy, the Committee said it was not possible to estimate how long this requirement will have to be continued.

Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Homes, has made two immediate moves to help solve the problem.

He presented a resolution to Grand Lodge and it was approved to provide \$3,500,000 of the needed money. The resolution calls for the money to come from the following sources:

- \$ 700,000 — Hospital Reserve Fund
- \$ 400,000 — Guest and Building Fund
- \$2,400,000 — Masonic Homes Reserve Fund

Bro. Woodall said he will urge Pennsylvania Masons to continue their dedicated giving again this year to the Guest



The above is an aerial view of the Philadelphia Freemasons Memorial at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. The Numbers represent the following: 1, Center Building; 2, East Wing; 3 and 4, West Wings; 5, North Wing; and 6, Dining Room and Kitchen.

and Building Fund to assist in this great emergency.

He appointed four members of the Committee on Masonic Homes to serve as a Building Committee in an effort to speed up the necessary work.

The Building Committee will include:

Bro. Theodore K. Warner, Jr., Chairman; Bro. Samuel C. Williamson; Bro. Arthur R. Diamond, Grand Treasurer; and Bro. Walter J. Heim.

In announcing the committee, the Grand Master said it is the policy of Grand Lodge to do everything possible to continue the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown as one of the country's outstanding adult care centers. He added:

"We can do no less. We owe this to our Guests at the Masonic Homes.

"We are fortunate to have funds available to nearly complete the requirements.

"I know I can count on every Mason to meet his financial obligation to this great charity."

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Grand Master Thanks Donors To "Guest Fund"

The Guest and Building Fund solicitation that ended March 15, totaled \$705,683.00.

This sum was presented by approximately 60,000 Brethren, representing a twenty-six per cent participation.

The new solicitation program also started March 16, and will conclude March 15, 1975.

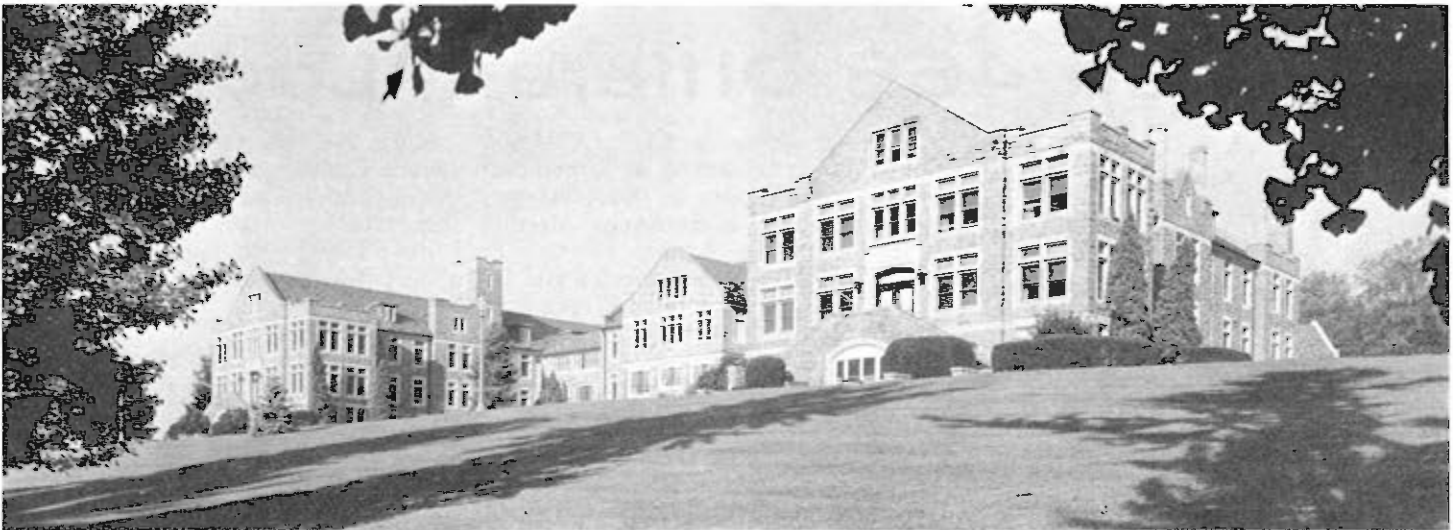
Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, personally thanks all Masons who participated in the program that concluded March 15, but added:

"You will note from this issue of The Freemason that our needs are great.

"We can meet these needs if we get a greater percentage of Masons to participate."

A 96-year-old Guest at the Masonic Homes wrote:

"I'm proud of my home.
"I'm proud of my room, now.
"Thank you for the new drapes and rug.
"I get along with everybody."



The above picture shows the first three sections that were constructed for The Philadelphia Freemasons Memorial at the Masonic Homes. They were built in 1916, 1922 and 1932, as the finest constructed buildings of the time. It now requires extensive alterations.

\$4,000,000 Expenditure?

Corrections Must Be Made To Continue Operation

In an effort to keep members fully informed about the problem at the Masonic Health Care Center at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, the following requirements from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Department of Labor and Industry of the state are highlighted below:

These corrections must be made for the proper licensing of our Health Center.

Masons Care Building:

1. All hazardous areas must be protected by automatic sprinklers.
2. All lounge areas must be provided with fire doors.

West Wing, Numbers 3 and 4 in aerial photo:

1. Building does not comply with minimum construction standards. A waiver will not be recommended unless building is altered to protected type.
2. Automatic sprinkler protection will be required throughout the entire structure.
3. All corridors used for access must be altered to provide a minimum of 48 inches in clear width.
4. Existing dead end corridors shall be altered so that exits will be accessible in at least two different directions.
5. Doors in patients rooms must be replaced with doors equal to one hour construction.
6. All transoms will be replaced or

altered to conform to one hour construction.

7. All exposed floor, roof, columns or other non-protected structure members must be protected by one hour construction.

8. All smoke barriers must be equal to one hour construction.

East Wing, or Number 2 on the aerial photograph:

1. Building does not comply with minimum construction standards. This is a four story ordinary non-protected type of construction. A waiver will not be recommended unless building is altered to protective type.
2. Automatic sprinkler protection will be required throughout the entire structure.
3. At least two exits of the approved type, remote from each other, shall be provided for each floor.
4. The existing dead end corridor shall be altered so that exits will be accessible in at least two different directions.
5. All transoms shall be replaced or altered to conform to one hour construction.
6. All exposed floor, roof, columns or other non-protected structural members shall be protected by one hour construction.
7. All doors and fire doors that open into a corridor must be provided with doors and partitions equal to one hour construction.

8. Automatic fire extinguishing equipment and ventilation equipment for the kitchen range must be installed in the dietary and cafeteria kitchens on the first floor.

North Wing, or Number 5 on the aerial photograph:

1. This is a four floor fire resistant building.
2. All hazardous areas must be protected by an automatic sprinkler protection system and/or smoke heat detection devices.
3. Fire doors must be installed in many specific areas, such as linen room and beauty shop.
4. All required exits shall discharge directly to the outside at grade level.
5. All stairways to be closed with partitions equal to two hour construction with all openings protected by self closing doors.

Center Building, or Number 1 in the aerial photograph:

Note: This includes the main entrance to the Memorial, staff offices and lounges. Its construction is the same as the East and West Wings.

The Dining Room and Kitchen is Number 6 on the aerial photograph:

Note: This is a fire resistant building.

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Visited 468 Different Lodges

Visiting Record

Bro. Henry I. Stephany, of Roxborough Lodge, No. 135, Falls of the Schuylkill, Philadelphia, recently received the Grand Lodge Fifty-Year Masonic Service Emblem. He served as Steward of his Lodge for 45 years. He is presently serving as Tyler for four Lodges, including his own. During the past 25 years he has visited 468 different Lodges, including: 295 in Pennsylvania; 148 in New Jersey; 23 in Delaware; one in Maryland, and one in New York. Since 1971, he has attended 15 Lodges on their 100th Anniversary; three on their 125th Anniversary; one on its 150th Anniversary and one on its 175th Anniversary.

* * *

"Mother" of Six

Kensington Lodge, No. 211, Frankford, Philadelphia, is 147 years old. It has the distinction of being the "Mother Lodge" of Richmond Lodge, No. 230; Shekinah Lodge, No. 246; Athelstan Lodge, No. 482; William C. Hamilton Lodge, No. 500; Gothic Lodge, No. 519 and Tacony Lodge, No. 600, all very active Lodges in the Philadelphia area.

* * *

Half Century of Service

Bro. Edwin H. Kinback, Past Master and Secretary of Oriental Star Lodge, No. 588, Peckville, near Scranton, is congratulated for an unusual and

lengthy service to the Craft. A Mason for 54 years, he served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge in 1923. He was elected Secretary at the Annual Meeting in 1923. At the Annual Meeting in December, 1973 he was elected and installed as Secretary for the fiftieth consecutive time.

* * *

Attendance Record

Bro. Jeremiah D. Oplinger, of New Temple Lodge, No. 720, Allentown, celebrated his 100th birthday on April 3, 1974. A Mason for 51 years, he served his Lodge as Tyler for 43 years and has the distinction of having attended every Stated and Extra Meeting in addition to every Masonic Burial Service during those 43 years.

* * *

Human Relations Honor

Congratulations are in order for Bro. Leon Alexander, Past Master of Equity Lodge, No. 591, held at Philadelphia, who was recently honored as the recipient of the Human Relations Award for 1974. This annual award is sponsored by the Human Relations Commission of Greater Philadelphia.

* * *

Father and Son

Bro. James L. Cummings, Worshipful Master of Grove City Lodge, No. 603, Grove City, has the distinction of pre-

siding over his Lodge while his son, Bruce Cummings, is serving as Master Councilor of Charles Alfred Filer Chapter, Order of DeMolay, sponsored by Grove City Lodge, No. 603.

* * *

Four Brothers Assist

A real Brotherly act happened in New Bethlehem Lodge, No. 522, New Bethlehem, at its February 1974 Stated Meeting. Bro. Lonnie Merle Sherman received his Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree on that evening. Conferring the Degree was Bro. Frank W. Sherman, his brother and a Member of the Lodge but never an Officer. Assisting Bro. Frank were Bro. Vaughan D. Sherman, Past Master of the Lodge, who served as Senior Warden; Bro. Dan N. Sherman, Junior Deacon of Garfield Lodge, No. 559, Du Bois, as Junior Warden, and Bro. Jan C. Sherman, of Lodge No. 559, as Guide. The four brothers participated in conferring the Fellow Craft and Master Mason's Degree on their younger brother with Bro. Vaughan D. Sherman, Past Master, acting as Worshipful Master.

* * *

Six Laches

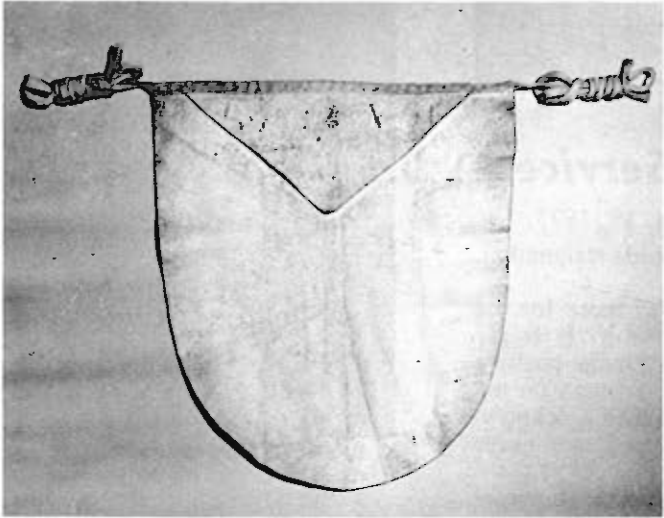
When Ionic Lodge, No. 525, McCandless Township, Allegheny County, decided to honor Bro. Ernest Lache for his many years of faithful visiting of the sick and confined Brethren all of his five sons were on hand to enjoy the testimonial. They included: Bro. Ralph G. Lache, Bro. Eric W. Lache, Bro. Roy C. Lache, all Past Masters of Ionic Lodge, No. 525, and Bro. Karl L. Lache, of San Lorenzo Lodge, No. 709, California, and Bro. Ernest E. Lache, of Fort Niagara Lodge, No. 375, New York. The six Lache Masonic Brothers had quite an evening and reunion.

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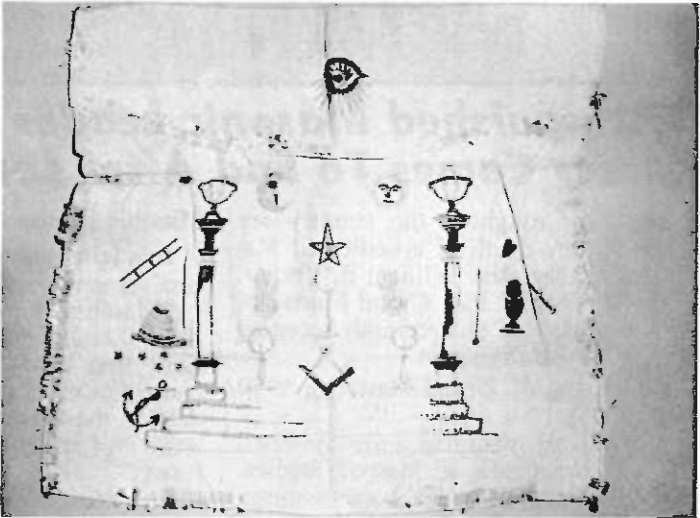
Top this Record

A Masonic record is reflected in the Snyder family of Patmos Lodge, No. 348, held at Hanover. Bros. Emmanuel John and Earl Snyder have a total of 172 years of service in the Lodge. Their father, Bro. Titus Snyder, Past Master, deceased, was a Member of 66 years. Bro. Emmanuel was Raised in 1912: Bro. John in 1917 and Bro. Earl in 1919. Bro. Earl Snyder, a Past Master, has Raised four sons of Bro. John. Three of the sons have served as Worshipful Master of Riverside Lodge, No. 503, held at Wrightsville, and the fourth son is Worshipful Master this year.

Bro. William A. Carpenter
R. W. Grand Secretary



The above picture is the Masonic Apron that was worn by Bro. "General Tom Thumb." It is approximately 7 inches wide and 8 inches deep.



The above picture is the Masonic Apron worn by Bro. Daniel Cox, Provincial Grand Master in 1730 and 1731. It is approximately 16 inches wide and 13 inches deep.

Masonic Aprons

From "Tom Thumb" To Prince of Wales

The lambskin or white leathern apron, worn in all Masonic Lodges, is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Freemason.

This custom dates back to operative masons, the cathedral builders of the Middle Ages. They wore the apron to protect their clothing.

"Speculative Masons" or "Free and Accepted Masons" wear the apron to remind them of their duties as a Freemason.

Originally, the apprentice Mason wore an apron with a bib secured by a tape around his neck. The bib was to protect the upper part of his clothing when clasping a heavy stone, such as a pillar, with both arms.

Later, as the apprentice became proficient in his trade, he became a craftsman and his job was then to smooth and prepare the stone for its place in the building. He had no further use for the upper portion or bib of his apron, so he let it hang down over the lower part. The apron was then a triangular piece overlapping the lower square portion, similar to our present apron.

The significance of the apron worn by Freemasons is "work." It is the initial investiture of the Lodge to a candidate and it is the final tribute to a Brother at the end of his pilgrimage through life.

Although early Masonic aprons rarely had decoration, most of those in the collections of the Grand Lodge are very decorative. The majority are of lambskin, but others are made of heavy silk or satin.

In the Grand Lodge Museum in Philadelphia is an international display of over seventy-five aprons from many countries, including Mexico, Belgium,

Switzerland, Cuba, Norway, Brazil, Puerto Rico, the Netherlands, Denmark, New South Wales, Israel, Nova Scotia, India, Philippines, Ireland, Bermuda, Australia, France, Turkey, Scotland, Germany, England and China. Each is distinctive, and many have national characteristics, such as the tartan binding on some Scottish Aprons.

There are a number of aprons in the Museum that deserve special attention and comment. The most famous, Masonically, is the unique apron embroidered by Madame Lafayette, and presented to Bro. George Washington in 1784 by Bro. the Marquis de Lafayette, French statesman and military officer and hero of the American Revolution.

Of importance to Pennsylvania Masons is the apron once worn by Bro. Daniel Coxe, Provincial Grand Master of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania (1730-31), a member of Lodge No. 8, which met at the Devil Tavern within Temple Bar, London. The apron, 15½" x 13", is of lambskin, embroidered in color, and with pleated silk edging. It was presented to Grand Lodge by F. Travis Coxe, a direct descendant of Bro. Coxe.

There are two aprons that especially attract the attention of our many visitors. One is the unadorned lambskin apron worn by Bro. Charles Sherwood Stratton, better known as "General Tom Thumb." He was made a Freemason in St. John's Lodge No. 3, Bridgeport, Conn., in 1862. This unusual apron measures 7¾" x 6¾".

The other apron is very elaborate, part of the regalia of the Grand Master of England, presented by Bro. Albert Edward, H.R.H., Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. The record in our Grand Lodge Museum states:

"When his Kingly duties required him to relinquish his Masonic activities, he had a number of replicas made of the Apron he had worn as Grand Master of England and presented them to various foreign Grand Lodges with whom he enjoyed a friendly relationship. This is one of those aprons."

Other outstanding aprons include the ornate apron of lambskin with hand-painted figures worn by Bro. John Ord of St. John's Lodge in Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, and the one worn by Bro. William Strickland, noted Philadelphia artist and architect, which he himself designed and painted.

Man's love of ornamentation is reflected in the great variety and richness of Masonic aprons of all times and all places. In Pennsylvania, the apron was standardized by the Grand Lodge on June 7, 1852.

(Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania, Reprint of the Minutes, Vol. X, page 527.) According to the resolution of that date, the approved apron was a variation of the English apron, and is the one now in use by all Pennsylvania Masons. Lavish or plain, the apron is universally "the badge of a Freemason."

SUSPENSIONS

It is hoped the Lodge Officers will make every effort possible to have their Members, who have been suspended for non-payment of dues, promptly restored to membership.

A personal contact is often successful.

More Initiates In 1973

The number of initiates increased in 1973 by 276 more than in 1972, preliminary statistics indicate.

In 1973 there were 5,005 initiated in this Jurisdiction, compared to 4,729 in 1972.

The Grand Master hopes this is a trend that will continue in the years ahead. He added:

"These same statistics, however, show a decrease in both membership and the number of Blue Lodges in Pennsylvania."

Bro. William A. Carpenter, R. W. Grand Secretary, reported there were 234,623 Masons in 604 Symbolic Lodges as of December 27, 1973, the start of the new Masonic year.

Compared to that date in 1972, it represents a decrease in membership of 2,209.

There also was a loss of one Blue Lodge during 1973 as a result of a

merger.

Bro. Carpenter pointed out that the above figures may change slightly after a complete study of the General Returns. He presented his report at the March Quarterly Communication at Philadelphia.

The statistics for 1973 show:

Admitted in 1973	720
Initiated in 1973	5,005
Increase	5,725
Suspended 1973	1,122
Resigned 1973	634
Deaths 1973	6,178
Decrease	7,934

This makes a net loss of 2,209 members in 1973.

Additional information on membership in 1973 will be printed in the Proceedings.