

Questions & Answers

Question: Can a Pennsylvania Mason be a Member of more than one "Blue Lodge" at the same time as permitted in various Grand Jurisdictions?

Answer: It is not permissible for a Pennsylvania Mason to be a Member of two "Blue Lodges" at the same time, either in the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, or in our Jurisdiction and another Jurisdiction. Dual membership has been prohibited since 1804.

Question: Was Freemasonry involved in the first oil wells credited to Pennsylvania?

Answer: Only the fact that the world's first oil well was successfully drilled on August 27, 1859, at Titusville, Pa., by "Colonel" Edwin L. Drake, a retired railroad conductor, and a Member of our former Oil Creek Lodge, No. 303, now Titusville Lodge, No. 754, held at Titusville, Pa.

Question: I have heard that John Wanamaker, prominent American merchant and founder of the Wanamaker Department Stores, was opposed to Freemasonry. Can you enlighten me on this rumor?

Answer: John Wanamaker was not only a prominent American merchant and founder of the Wanamaker Department Stores, but he was a prominent Mason. Bro. Wanamaker was made a Mason at Sight by the Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania on March 30, 1898. He was then accepted by Friendship Lodge, No. 400, held at Jenkintown, near Philadelphia, and later worked through the chairs, serving as Worshipful Master in 1905. Bro. Wanamaker later financed the beautiful Doric styled Masonic Temple in Jenkintown, Pa., and presented it to his Lodge on January 11, 1913. A powerful influence in the establishment of the widely acclaimed Library and Museum of our Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, and a generous contributor in the early days of our now famous collection of Masonic memorabilia, Bro. Wanamaker served as Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Library and Museum for many years.

Question: Is there something printed in brief form that would explain just what Freemasonry is to a non-Mason?

Answer: The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has produced a folder, entitled "Freemasonry, A Way of Life," that can be read in a few minutes. This attractive folder was designed and produced as a broad definition of Freemasonry for the Mason and non-Mason alike. It is free upon request either through your Lodge Secretary or by

writing to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19017.

Question: In addition to showing a "Blue Lodge" current Dues card, when visiting Lodges in American and foreign Jurisdictions, do we have any other type of confirmation of a Pennsylvania Mason's Good Masonic Standing?

Answer: There are two items. One is a Grand Lodge Certificate, a beautiful printed-type document with a gold Grand Lodge embossed seal attached, which sells for \$5.00. A second is a Commission to a Brother to Visit Foreign Grand Lodges and Lodges which is typewritten on a Grand Lodge 8½x11 letterhead and issued free of charge. Each of these documents must be processed through your Lodge Secretary who, in turn, obtains them from the Office of the R. W. Grand Secretary. Please allow reasonable time before you depart on a trip.

Question: Has there been any progress in solving the damage done the south wall of the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, created by the construction of the Center City Commuter Tunnel?

Answer: When cracks began to appear on the interior of the south wall of the Masonic Temple, construction was suspended on the tunnel near the Temple for several months. Since early June the contractor has been drilling a series of ninety-five holes along the south wall of the Temple near the original foundation. These holes, each fifty-feet deep, will contain a steel I-beam encased in concrete. When this process is completed, additional concrete abutments will be poured to guarantee the maximum shoring up of the south wall of the Temple.

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99 PLUS and 72 YEARS A P. M.—Relaxing in his favorite chair is Bro. Walter K. Thorne, Past Master of Coatesville Lodge, No. 564. Bro. Thorne was Worshipful Master 72 years ago and is looking forward to his 100th birthday which he hopes to celebrate this coming September. The Brethren wish thee well Walter. You have been a real inspiration to the Craft.

Editor's Note:

As we go to press with this belated edition of "The Pennsylvania Freemason," delayed to carry articles on the five-day 250th Anniversary Celebration of Freemasonry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the September Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge to be held in the Cumberland Valley High School Sports Center near Mechanicsburg, we are aware of several articles in our pending file that will not appear in this particular edition. A 12-page edition of "The Pennsylvania Freemason" is being considered for the August-September edition and will be circulated during September. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.



The PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

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

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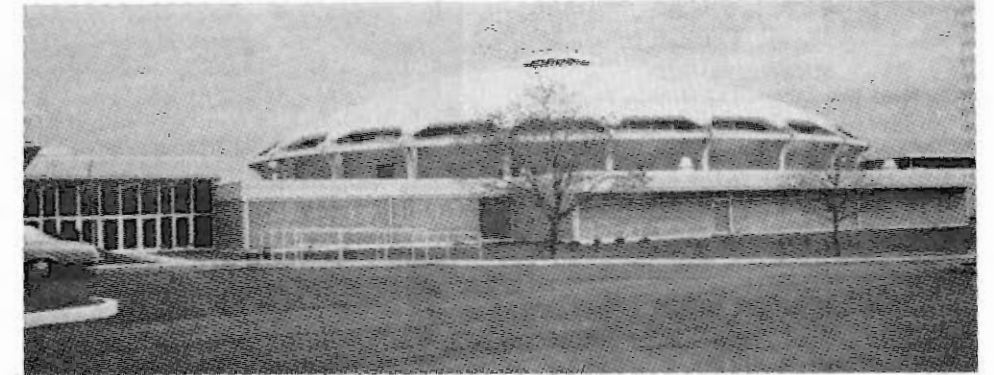
FREEMASONRY— A WAY OF LIFE

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 conditions 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 principles 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 opportunity 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

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SITE OF SEPTEMBER QUARTERLY OF GRAND LODGE—Shown above is an outside view of the new and spacious Cumberland Valley High School Sports Center where the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge will be held on Wednesday evening, September 2, 1981, beginning at 7:00 o'clock. The entrance to the Cumberland Valley High School complex is at 6746 Carlisle Pike (U. S. Route No. 11) near Mechanicsburg, Pa., approximately 10-miles west of Harrisburg. Pennsylvania Turnpike Exits 16, 17 and 18 are handy approaches to U. S. Route No. 11. The complex has parking space for 1000 cars and the Sports Center has a seating capacity of 2800.

September Quarterly Communication At Cumberland Valley School Complex

Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, has selected the spacious Cumberland Valley High School Sports Center as the place for the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge to be held on Wednesday evening, September 2, 1981, and beginning promptly at 7:00 o'clock.

This will be the first time a Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge has been scheduled for the 3rd Masonic District which is comprised of Lodges located in the beautiful Cumberland County Valley.

The Cumberland Valley High School complex is actually located at 6746 Carlisle Pike, near Mechanicsburg, Pa., which is U. S. Route No. 11, and is accessible by many excellent highways from all directions. And, there are several motels in surrounding areas. Parking will be no problem as there is ample

parking space on the school property. And, being one of the newer high school complexes, it is adequately air conditioned.

The custom of scheduling Quarterly Communications in various cities throughout the Jurisdiction is to afford every opportunity for Pennsylvania Masons to attend and experience a Grand Lodge Communication. The Grand Master is hopeful that a large number of Pennsylvania Masons, particularly from Lodges in the central sections of the Jurisdiction, will plan to attend the September Quarterly Communication.

It is not necessary to be a Lodge Officer or a Past Master to attend a Communication of Grand Lodge. All Master Masons are eligible and invited to attend. And, guess what? Refreshments will be served following the Communication.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

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February-March, May-June, August-September and November-December at Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, 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.

Approved and Authorized To Be Printed By
The Right Worshipful Grand Master

Grand Lodge Officers

Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master
Samuel C. Williamson, R. W. Deputy Grand Master
William A. Carpenter, R. W. Senior Grand Warden
Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., R. W. Junior Grand Warden
Arthur R. Diamond, R. W. Grand Treasurer
Thomas W. Jackson, R. W. Grand Secretary

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**McKeesport Mason Cited
For Good Samaritan Act**

Bro. James W. Wetzler, Member of Alliquippa Lodge, No. 375, McKeesport, was the recent recipient of Bell Telephone of Pennsylvania's Meritorious Service Award. Bro. Wetzler was honored for assisting a lady who suffered a broken shoulder in a fall during a snow storm. While driving his company van in McKeesport, he spotted the lady lying almost helpless in deep snow. Bro. Wetzler took her to his home then persuaded her to be hospitalized, preventing possible complications. The award was presented by Mr. Robert C. Bacher, General Operations Manager.



A FITTING TRIBUTE—Photograph was taken from a distance but shows Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master with his Elected Grand Officers and several R. W. Past Grand Masters and a Grand Lodge Chaplain, conducting a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Bro. Benjamin Franklin following the Special Communication of Grand Lodge held on St. John's the Baptist Day, Wednesday, June 24, 1981.



A REAL HAPPY GRAND MASTER—Surrounded by four smiling Masons, Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, is shown receiving a \$4,000.00 check for the Masonic Homes from Bro. Harry S. Nitterauer, Past Master and Trustee of Lodge No. 9, held at Tacony in Philadelphia County, on the occasion of a Stated Meeting of the Lodge set aside to celebrate its 200th Anniversary. Looking on from behind are Bro. Arthur W. Buzzard, District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District "D," and Bro. and Dr. William L. Longenecker, Medical Director at the Masonic Homes. Bro. William Patrick, Jr., Worshipful Master, on the right, had really surprised the Grand Master earlier in the evening by presenting to him, in behalf of Lodge No. 9, a signed letter of intent amounting to \$125,000.00 for the purchase, installation and maintenance of a Hyperbaric Chamber for the Masonic Homes Health Care Center in honor of the R. W. Grand Master. The dedication of this addition to our Masonic Health Center and related activities will be featured in the next issue of "The Pennsylvania Freemason."

Freemasonry—A Way of Life

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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 obligations 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.

A DeMolay is All This:

- A DeMolay serves God.
- A DeMolay honors all womanhood.
- A DeMolay loves and honors his parents.
- A DeMolay is honest.
- A DeMolay practices honest toil.
- A DeMolay is loyal to ideals and friends.
- A DeMolay's word is as good as his bond.
- A DeMolay is courteous.
- A DeMolay is at all times a gentleman.
- A DeMolay is a patriot in peace as well as war.
- A DeMolay is clean in mind and body.
- A DeMolay stands unswervingly for the public schools.
- A DeMolay always bears the reputation of a good and law-biding citizen.
- A DeMolay by precept and example must preserve the high standards to which he has pledged himself.

So far as I am acquainted with the principles and doctrines of Freemasonry, I conceive them to be founded on benevolence, and to be exercised only for the good of mankind.

Bro. George Washington

**CEASED TO LABOR
HOME AT REST**

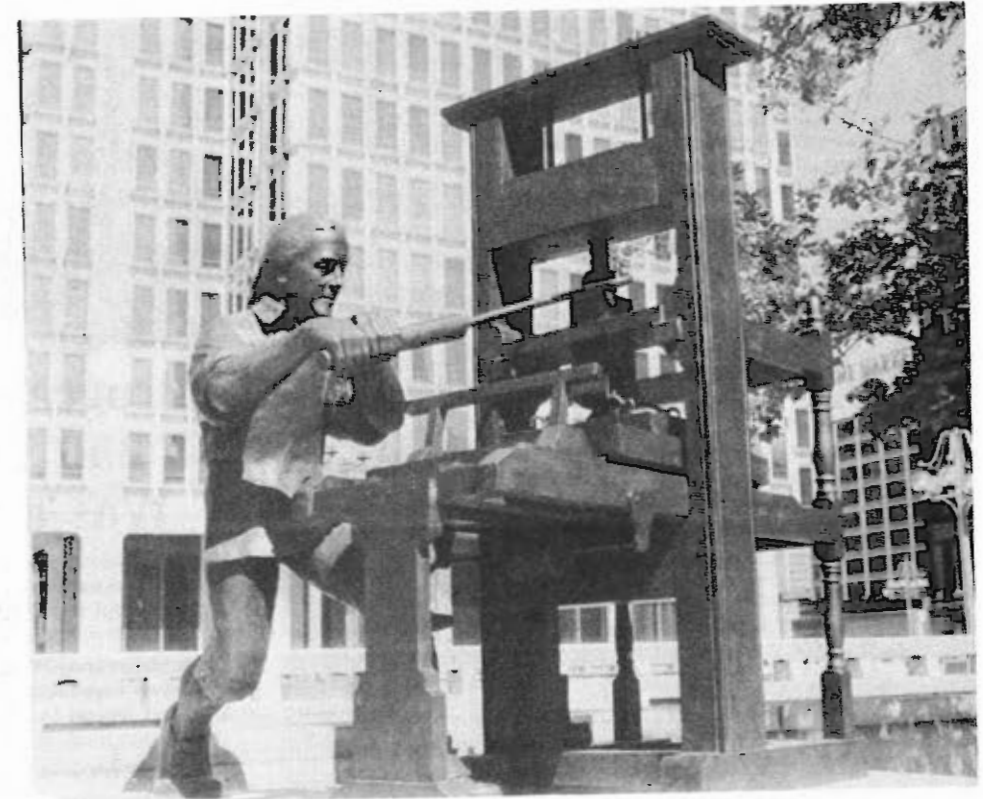
Grand Lodge has again been saddened by the passing of the following Brethren, each most competent and truly dedicated in the appointment they served:

BRO. HAROLD OBERNAUER
Lodge No. 680
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Trustee of Title to the Masonic Temple
and other Real Estate of Grand Lodge
Died April 6, 1981

BRO. PHILIP B. DRIVER, JR.
Lodge No. 609
Member of Grand Lodge Committee
on Correspondence
Member of Grand Lodge Committee
on Masonic Temples,
halls and Lodge Rooms
Died June 19, 1981

BRO. ANDREW O. FRIEDRICH
Lodge No. 569
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Chairman of Trustees of Grand Lodge
Consolidated Fund
Member of Grand Lodge Committee
on Finance
Died June 29, 1981

BRO. FRED O. KALWEIT
Lodge No. 541
District Deputy Grand Master
12th Masonic District
Died July 5, 1981



A GIFT TO THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE—Shown on its still to be completed base, is the Benjamin Franklin—Craftsman Statue now located directly across North Broad Street from the Main Entrance of the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. The statue, the work of the renowned sculptor, Mr. Joseph Brown of Princeton, New Jersey, was dedicated and unveiled as a highlight of the five-day celebration commemorating 250 years of Freemasonry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on Saturday afternoon, June 27, 1981, following a Masonic parade down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. The statue is a gift to the City of Philadelphia from the Masons of Pennsylvania and is so indicated by a bronze plaque on the base.



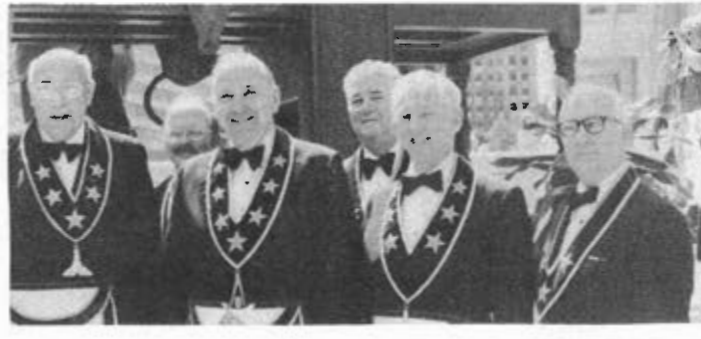
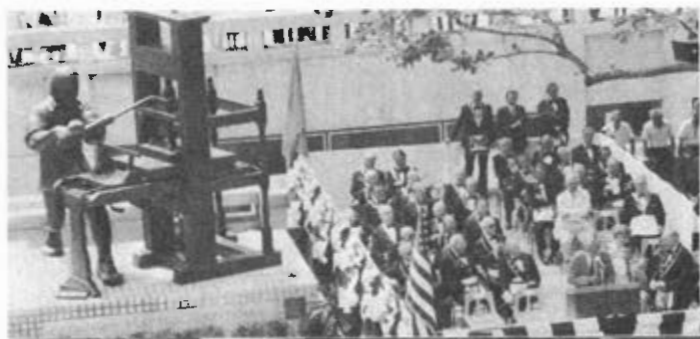
A HAPPY GOVERNOR, A HAPPY GRAND MASTER AND HAPPY BRETHREN—Having read and signed a Proclamation declaring the week of June 22, 1981, as Freemasonry Week in Pennsylvania, Gov. Dick Thornburgh, is shown handing the beautiful engraved Proclamation to Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, while Matthew Ryan, Speaker of the House, John Zubeck, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and Representative Fred C. Noyes look on along with several of our Grand Lodge Officers. The Proclamation was one of four received, one coming from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, another from the City of Philadelphia and one from the Commissioners of Allegheny County.

Dedicated to Past Masters

(A conversation between a lonesome little boy and his Mother)

"Who's the stranger, Mother, dear?
Look! He thinks he knows us—ain't he queer?"
"Hush, my son, don't you talk so wild,
He's your Father, dearest child."
"He's my Father? It is not so.
Daddy died six years ago."
"Daddy didn't die, O lover mine,
He's been working through the line.
Now, he's been Worshipful Master,
and so,
He has no place to go.
There is no place for him to roam.
That is why he's coming home.
Kiss him—he won't bite you child.
Most Past Masters are meek and mild."

Freemasonry is not just a way of doing certain things. Freemasonry is a certain way of doing all things.



Program Commemorating 250 Years of Masonry Was a Great Experience

The five-day schedule of events and activities commemorating 250 years of Freemasonry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is now history also, but it is history that several thousand Masons, their families and friends will long remember and cherish.

An observance of the few reproductions of photographs surrounding these two pages will attest to the excitement and joy experienced by so many. A legend included near this article attempts to briefly describe each of the photographs.

The five-day program included the following:

On Wednesday, June 24, 1981, at 2:00 o'clock, P.M., a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was held in Corinthian Hall, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Following the receiving of many Grand Lodge Officers from Grand Jurisdictions in the United States and Canada, three interesting and informative papers were presented, which included a paper on St. John the Baptist; a paper on St. John's Lodge, The First Lodge and Bro. Benjamin Franklin's Lodge; and a paper on the erection of our Provincial Grand Lodge.

At the adjournment of the Special Communication, the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers and a Grand Lodge Chaplain were transported to the site of Bro. Benjamin Franklin's grave where a special wreath-laying ceremony was conducted by Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master.

At 7:00 o'clock, 30 minutes, P.M., a Vesper Service was conducted in the Old Christ Church at Second Street above Market in Philadelphia. This excellent service, conducted by three of our Grand Lodge Chaplains, was attended by several hundred.

On Thursday evening, June 25, 1981, a black-tie dinner was held in the Franklin Room of The Franklin Institute where an excellent address was presented by Bro. and Dr. Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., Executive Officer of the American Philosophical Society. An official reception for our Distinguished Guests and Grand Lodge Family followed in the Pennsylvania Room of The Philadelphia Sheraton.

At 8:00 o'clock, 30 minutes, A.M., on Friday, June 26, 1981, several deluxe buses transported our Distinguished Guests and a large number of Grand Lodge Officers to the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, where they were entertained with tours, viewing of a film and a luncheon while the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes was in session with its monthly meeting. An informal dinner was held on the return to Philadelphia at The Philadelphia Sheraton.

Following a Buffet Luncheon served in The Philadelphia Sheraton Grand Ballroom between 10:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. on Saturday, June



Re: The Photographs Herewith

(Beginning with the photo above and reading clockwise)

- Grand Lodge Elected Officers form receiving line*
- Dr. Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., delivering address*
- Old Bro. Ben over-looking black-tie dinner*
- Grand Sword Bearer leads them all*
- One of seven divisions of Lodge Officers*
- Bonnets and sun glasses were in order*
- A few Masons, their families and friends*
- Sitting in the sun and the band plays on*
- Another acre of wall-to-wall Masons*
- A time for prayer*
- Three Distinguished Guests enjoying it*
- One Past Grand talks, two listen*
- An unveiling predicament*
- Grand Master and his sculptor laugh it up*
- Bro. Ben making an impression*
- Elected Grand Officers say: "So Mote It Be"*

27, 1981, everyone began taking their respective places in readiness for the unveiling and dedication of the Benjamin Franklin—Craftsman Statue, erected directly across North Broad Street from the Main Entrance of the Masonic Temple. At 1:30 o'clock, P.M., the parade proceeded down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway from 20th Street, and terminated at the site of the new statue. Over 2000 Brethren participated in the parade. Observing the line of march of Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, seven divisions of "Blue Lodge" Officers from throughout our Jurisdiction, and the Officers of York Rite, Scottish Rite and other Masonic Bodies, was a sight never to be forgotten.

The ceremony for the dedication and unveiling of the statue and the presentation of the statue to the City of Philadelphia, presided over by Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, was, indeed, an inspiring experience and a real credit to Freemasonry in our Jurisdiction. It was great.

The Anniversary Banquet, held in the spacious Dominion Room of the new Franklin Plaza Hotel, was also a sight to behold. Nearly 1000 enjoyed the delicious dinner and entertainment provided by the famous Conti Family.

On Sunday morning, June 28, 1981, at 8:00 o'clock, 30 minutes, A.M., a breakfast was served in the Grand Ballroom of The Philadelphia Sheraton, followed by an impressive Ecumenical Service conducted by the Grand Master. Following the breakfast and service, the Grand Lodge Officers formed a "departing line" to say farewell to all and to conclude one of the greatest events ever planned and conducted by our Grand Lodge.





ONE GOOD DEED DESERVES ANOTHER—Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, is shown presenting Gov. Dick Thornburgh with his Grand Master's Medallion commemorating 250 years of Freemasonry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as various Grand Lodge Officers look on approvingly. The presentation took place in the Governor's Reception Room at the Capital Building, Harrisburg.

Recent Appointments of Right Worshipful Grand Master

Recent Grand Lodge appointments made by Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, include the following:

Bro. W. Edward Sell, Lodge No. 45, Pittsburgh, Trustee of Title to the Masonic Temple and other Real Estate of Grand Lodge, vice Bro. Harold Obernauer, deceased.

Bro. Andrew O'Herko, Plymouth Lodge, No. 332, Past District Deputy Grand Master, as Acting District Deputy Grand Master for the 12th Masonic District, vice Bro. Fred O. Kalweit, deceased.

Bro. Horace M. Comfort, Melita Lodge, No. 295, District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture for Masonic District "A," vice Bro. Charles W. Wilcox, resigned.

Bro. Freeman Z. Frey III, Harrisburg Lodge, No. 629, District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture for the 2nd Masonic District, vice Bro. Robert H. Mason, resigned, and the new District Deputy Grand Master.

Bro. James S. Ritter, Washington Lodge, No. 265, District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture for the 35th Masonic District, vice Bro. John Haines, resigned.

Bro. Samuel R. Harper, Jr., Wilksburg Lodge, No. 683, District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture for the 38th Masonic District, vice Bro. Phillip E. Frye, resigned.

There are many good reasons why we should love and live our Freemasonry, but the principal one is because the Craft stands for every splendid attribute that tends toward the building of good, broad-minded, square-acting men.

ERRATUM

We regret, sincerely, that after twenty-eight years of editing, we made a serious error in an article in the February-March edition of "The Pennsylvania Freemason."

Our article covering a testimonial honoring two Past Masters of Corinthian-Philo Lodge, No. 368, held at Philadelphia, and on the occasion of their fiftieth year as Past Masters, mentioned Bro. Alfred Hoffman's age in excess of his correct age. And, we compounded our error by referring to the evening as "This Is Your Life," instead of "A Night to Remember."

We apologize for these errors. And, we also apologize for the disturbance these errors have caused.



ANOTHER CHECK FOR THE HOMES—Bro. Robert A. Pote, District Deputy Grand Master for the 37th Masonic District, is shown receiving a check from Bro. Merle Gallagher, Worshipful Master, in the amount of \$1,280.00, while other Officers and Members of Monaca Center Lodge, No. 791, look on. The check, for the Guest and Building Fund at the Masonic Homes, was the result of a Craft and Strawberry Festival held by the Lodge.

Itinerary of Grand Lodge Officers Through September

August 9 to 15—International DeMolay Leadership Training Conference, Patton School Campus, Elizabethtown.

August 28—Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes Meeting, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

September 2—Grand Lodge Committee on Finance Meeting; Seminar sessions; Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, The Embers Motor Inn, near Carlisle and the Cumberland Valley High School complex, near Mechanicsburg.

September 3—District Meeting for "A" Masonic District, William L. Elkins Lodge, No. 646, Philadelphia.

September 8—50th Masonic District Meeting, Barger Lodge, No. 325, Stroudsburg.

September 9—District Meeting for "B" Masonic District, St. Alban-Swain Lodge, No. 529, Philadelphia.

September 12—Special Communication of Grand Lodge for Dedication of new Lodge Room for Hazle Lodge, No. 327, Azalea Lodge, No. 687 and Fellowship Lodge, No. 771, Hazleton.

September 16—55th Masonic District Meeting, Dallas Lodge, No. 508, Pittsburgh.

September 17—District Meeting for "F" Masonic District, Gothic Lodge, No. 519, Philadelphia.

September 18—5th Masonic District Meeting, Coatesville, Lodge, No. 564, Coatesville.

September 24—125th Anniversary, Eureka Lodge, No. 302, Mechanicsburg.

September 25—Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes Meeting, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

September 26 to 30—Annual Meeting of Supreme Council, 33°, A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Philadelphia.

Five Ancient Charges Used by Our Symbolic Lodges Form Basis for a True and Meaningful Masonic Life

The following brief excerpts taken from five of the Ancient Charges, used by our "Blue Lodges," relates the tremendous impact Symbolic Masonry could have on our individual lives if we would only get more involved with the basic lessons taught in our Lodges and govern ourselves accordingly. (NOTE: A folder of these five Ancient Charges, printed in their complete form, is available upon request. Write to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.)

Excerpts from Charge at the Opening of a Lodge:

As useful knowledge is the great object of our desire, we ought to apply ourselves with zeal to the practice and profession of Freemasonry. . . . If we are united, our Fraternity must flourish. Let all private animosities, if any should exist, give place to peace and good fellowship. . . . Let us promote the useful arts . . . let us cultivate the moral virtues, and improve in all that is good and amiable. . . . Let the genius of Freemasonry preside over our conduct. . . . Let our recreations be innocent and pursued with moderation . . . never let us suffer irregular indulgences to expose our character to derision and contempt.

Excerpts from Charge at Initiation:

The world's Great Architect is our Supreme Grand Master; and the unerring rule He has given us, is that by which we work. . . . There are three general heads of duty which Freemasons ought always to inculcate, namely to God, our neighbor, and ourselves . . . In the State, a Freemason is to behave as a peaceable and dutiful citizen, conforming cheerfully to the government under which he lives. . . . He is to be a man of benevolence and charity. . . . In the Lodge, he is to behave with all due decorum . . . If he recommends a friend to be made a Freemason, he must vouch him to be such as he really believes will conform to these duties.

Excerpts from Charge at Passing:

The internal, and not the external, qualifications of a man are principally regarded by Freemasonry. . . . The study of the liberal arts, that valuable branch of education which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind, is earnestly recommended to your consideration. . . . As the solemnity of our ceremonies requires a serious deportment, you are to be particularly attentive to your behavior in our regular assemblies; . . . and to preserve the Ancient Usages and Customs of the Fraternity sacred and inviolable, and induce others, by your example, to hold them in due veneration.

Excerpts from Charge at Raising:

Duty, honor, and gratitude, now bind you to be faithful to your trust; to support the dignity of your character on all occasions, and strenuously to enforce, by precept and example, a steady obedience to the tenets of Freemasonry. . . . The laws and Regulations of the Fraternity you are to support and maintain. . . . Your virtue, honor, and character are concerned in supporting with dignity the respectability of your Masonic profession. . . . Let no motive, therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows to God, or betray your trust; but be true and faithful. Thus you will render yourself deserving of the honor and worthy of the confidence your Lodge has conferred and reposed.

Excerpts from Charge at the Closing of a Lodge:

You are now about to quit the sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. . . . forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended within this Lodge. . . . And remember that around this Altar you have solemnly and repeatedly promised to befriend and relieve, with unhesitating cordiality . . . every Brother who shall need your assistance. . . . If you faithfully observe these duties, the world will observe how Freemasons love one another, in obedience to the will of God. . . . These solemn rites are as binding on your consciences out of the Lodge as within it.

NOTE: Many Symbolic Lodge Officers have memorized the five Ancient Charges in their entirety. Others have made it a practice to stay familiar with them by reading them often. The important thing, however, is to become so well acquainted with them that each of these Ancient Charges will have a lasting influence upon your Masonic life.