**June 1981 is Our Time to Celebrate!**

Although it is but nine-months into the future at this writing, it is not too soon to announce that a great event has been in the planning and design stage for several months for the dates of June 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th of 1981.

On those five dates our Grand Lodge will celebrate 250 years of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. An elaborate celebration was planned and conducted back in 1931 in commemoration of two hundred years of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. So, it is both fitting and proper that we set aside a few days to commemorate another fifty years of Masonic activity in our great Commonwealth.

Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, and his 1981 Committee, have already devoted many hours of deliberation and effort with the hope and purpose of making this coming celebration one of the greatest Masonic events of our time.

A Special Communication of Grand Lodge is planned for Wednesday, June 24, 1981, which happens to be St. John the Baptist’s Day, a Masonic date. A wreath-laying ceremony will follow at the grave of Benjamin Franklin who was Grand Master of our Provincial Grand Lodge in 1734 and 1749, following which a Church service will be conducted in Old Christ’s Church, Philadelphia.

Honor guests will be entertained on Thursday, June 25th and provided with a tour of the Masonic Homes on Friday, June 26th. On Saturday, June 27th a Masonic Parade is scheduled in Philadelphia from the Art Museum to the Masonic Temple following which will be the unveiling and dedication of a statue to be placed directly across Broad Street in front of the Masonic Temple.

A banquet is planned for Saturday evening, June 27th. A religious service on Sunday morning, June 28th, will conclude the formal celebration.

In due time a set of six recommended programs for use at Stated Meetings of the Symbolic Lodges January through June of 1981, will be distributed.

Medallions, coins and special literature are also being considered for those interested.

More information and pertinent details as to how you can help make this coming celebration a successful and memorable occasion will follow.

**Recent Appointments by R. W. Grand Master**

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

Bro. Howard E. Vaughan, Past Master of Newtown Lodge, No. 427, Woodside, Pa., has been appointed the Philadelphia Regional Instructor, vice Bro. Maurice A. Singer, deceased.

Bro. Ernest C. Hunt, Past Master of Lewisville Lodge, No. 556 Ulysses, Pa., has been appointed District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture for the 44th Masonic District, vice Bro. Charles H. Carlin, deceased.

---

**What Should We Say if Asked About Freemasonry?**

What should we tell our non-Masonic friends when they ask questions about Freemasonry?

When these questions arise, and they often do, our response will undoubtedly influence the mental attitude of our friends toward ourselves and the Craft in general.

We should not take a timid approach to our answers. We should indicate a desire to "change the subject." We should not reflect a "yes-man's" attitude.

Instead, we should be prepared to speak with ease, pride and authority.

Make it known that Freemasonry is a way of life. Freemasonry is fraternal in organization, religious in character, based on the belief in the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man and the Immortality of the Soul.

Be prompt to make it known that Freemasonry is not a "secret society" as many surmise. Freemasonry is a voluntary association wherein the interested one comes of his own free will and accord.

Indicate also that Freemasonry is not a religion as many claim.

Discussions on religion or politics have no place in our proceedings.

Proclaim that Freemasonry, in every effort and purpose strives to do charitable work within its membership and for society, and through its teachings, seeks to make good men better men. You can proudly state that the basic ethical principles as exemplified in our Ritual and Lodge Work are, such as are most acceptable to all good men: they are based on the golden rule, tolerance towards one another and respect, charity towards all and being true to God for His gracious and numerous blessings.

Be proud to proclaim that Freemasonry is a bond of man bound together in the bonds of Brotherly Love and Affection that extends throughout the world.

And to sum it all up, Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, charity in society, fairness in work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance to the wicked, help for the weak, trust in the strong, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another and, above all, reverence and love for God.

These and many other answers can be applied to the questions your friends will ask.

Speak up. What do we have to hide — save that which pertains to our esoteric Work? Freemasonry is a Way of Life!
Total, Positive Response to Questionnaire Needed to Complete Our Computer Program

Dear Brethren:

Your Grand Lodge has initiated a program to put its records on a computer to be installed in the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. The successful completion of the program will have a beneficial effect, not only on the Grand Lodge, but on each and every Symbolic Lodge in the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. Contributions in Lodge expenses and in the efforts required of Lodge Secretaries are but a few of the benefits to be obtained.

These benefits, however, cannot be realized without some initial effort on the part of every Pennsylvania Mason.

Recently, a questionnaire was mailed directly to all Members of Blue Lodges of our Jurisdiction requesting Masonic data and information that is on file in the computer program. Nothing less than a total, positive response to the questionnaire by every Pennsylvania Mason will make this undertaking successful.

Be assured that the data requested in the questionnaire will be held in the strictest of confidence. The complete computer complex, i.e., the "hardware," the "software," and all the employees who will operate the computer, will be under the complete control of your Grand Lodge.

It is highly probable that some of the information required will have to be obtained from the Lodge Secretary. Remember that many Members will be seeking his aid, so be patient. He will be a beneficiary of the program, but if everyone cooperates fully in making it work.

As in all Masonic endeavors, let us go hand in hand with unanimity so that success will, truly, crown our efforts in this important undertaking.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Joseph E. Trate, Grand Master

Contributions to Homes Always in Order

One way to feel real good is to remember our much needed and ever useful Guest and Building Fund of Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pa.

Contributions to this great charitable cause are always in order and welcome. The success of your Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes provides not only the necessary comforts for our dearful Guests admitted to the Homes but, when the funds permit, some of the extra nice things that make our Masonic Homes more than just a home for our more than 700 Masonic Brothers.

Your contributions are always in order.

Make your checks payable to: Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa.

R. W. Grand Master Appoints New Chaplains

Bro. Charles H. Lacquemont

Bro. Gerald D. Wagner

Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, was pleased to announce the appointments of the new Grand Chaplains at the Quarterly Communication held June 4, 1980, in Washington, D.C., by investing each of them with their Grand Lodge Aprons.

The new Grand Chaplains are Bro. Charles H. Lacquemont, a Member of Abraham C. Treichler Lodge, No. 682, held at Elizabethtown, Pa., and Bro. Gerald D. Wagner, a Member of Patton Lodge, No. 658, held at Patton, Cambria County, Pa.

Bro. Lacquemont, former Pastor of the Church of God, Harrisburg, has been a full-time member of the Administrative Staff at the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, for the past nine years and is presently Director of Spiritual, Social and Recreational Activities at the Homes.

Ordained in 1961, Bro. Lacquemont served his first Church in Oklahoma City where he was born. He has a Doctor of Theology Degree from Pioneer Seminary in Illinois and later a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the College of American Bible.

Bro. Lacquemont is a Member of all York Rite Bodies and is an active Member of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Harrisburg.

Residing in a house on the Homes’ grounds with his wife and youngest daughter, Bro. Lacquemont’s full-time dedication to the needs of our Guests has made him a valuable asset to the Staff at the Masonic Homes.

Bro. Wagner, former Pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, Shippensburg, Pa., is presently serving as Pastor of the Avis United Methodist Church, which he has led between Lock Haven and Jersey Shore, Pa. He has been Pastor of the Avis Parish since 1973.

Separated by several miles from his Lodge at Patton, Pa., Bro. Wagner is a frequent and active visitor at the Stated and Extra Meetings of Le Belle Valley Lodge, No. 232, Jersey Shore. A Member of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Williamsport, he is known to take several active parts in the various degrees.

Bro. Wagner is a member of the Board of Pensions of the Central Penn United Methodist Conference. Of recent, he has served as editor of the Daily Christian Advocate for the 1980 Sessions of the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Past Masters With Long Life

Word comes from Harmony Lodge, No. 492, Hanover, that on December 27, 1979, the Lodge had the distinction of having four living Members at a Grand Lodge meeting held with little left for any more for fifty years. They are: Bro. Charles S. Passavant, III, who was Master in 1923; Bro. Walter E. Wise, who was Master in 1926; Bro. Dale L. Rees, who was Master in 1928; and Bro. George J. Lynch, who was Master in 1929. Bro. Lynch was pleased to witness his brother, James D. Lynch who was Master in 1930, receive his Grand Lodge Fifty Year Masonic Service Emblem at the Stated Meeting of the Lodge held November 8, 1979.

Two Pennsylvania Masons — One is 96 and One is 99

Our ever increasing list of Pennsylvanian Masons reaching life’s milestones with longevity has two Members at the age of 99 years.

Masonic Law — Article XI-1

Reference: Gambling

"No Member of the Masonic Fraternity in this jurisdiction shall alone or with any person, assist in, or be a party to, any lottery, game, de vice of chance, or other activity, whereby or wherein an individual participant or any one may be, through the element of luck or chance, to win, be awarded or receive a greater sum of money than shall, either directly or indirectly, be due to the benefit of any Masonic Lodge, body, association or organization, or to any body, club, committee, or other organization in Pennsylvania whose Members are required to have membership in the Masonic Fraternity."

A Father and His Four Sons Are Now Masons and Brothers

Another family affair took place at the recent Stated Meeting of John C. Passavant Lodge, No. 91, located in Williamsport, Pa., where Bro. Charles S. Passavant, III, a Member of the Masonic Degree on two of his sons, John R. Young and Bro. Edwin R. Young, Jr., was installed as W. Grand Master.

Two other sons, William A. Young, now Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and Bro. John R. Young, were installed as the first member of the family to become a Mason, who served as Junior Warden for the two degrees.

One is 96 and One is 99

Bro. Elmer H. Maier, a Member of Davage Lodge, No. 374, held at Bellefonte, was 96 years old. Bro. Maier was Entered on October 15, 1908, at age 23.

Bro. Charles S. Passavant, III, a Member of Columbia Lodge, No. 91, held at Philadelphia, who is 99 years old, was Entered on May 22, 1910, at age 41.
Many Masons Enjoyed June Quarterly held At Williamsport, Pa.

Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, had the satisfaction of being present at the meeting of the Grand Lodge held at Williamsport, Pa., on the evening of Wednesday, June 4, 1980. Being a native of the Sunbury area, the Grand Master and Bro. Mark Trate, his blood brother who traveled from Clearfield, PA., took in the 4th day renewing long established friendships in the "old home town.

Another highlight of the day for the Grand Master was a visit with the Mayor and other officials of the City of Williamsport after attending the presentation of an engraved Certificate of Recognition presented by the Mayor.

**Freemasonry Is Not a Religion**

While Freemasonry is religious in purpose as Freemasonry is not a religious organization by virtue of its Articles of Constitution, we do accept the fact that our Members are generated from the other religious beliefs. We respect the fact that one person’s religion may not be the same as another’s. It is not the purpose of this organization to be a substitute for religious instruction. We seek to provide a place where Men of all religious beliefs can come together and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded comrades in a spirit of brotherhood and service.

Our Special Program at Paton School Is Rewarding Experience for Our Youth

As we go to press with this August edition of "The Pennsylvania Freemason," a goodly portion of our Special Youth Programs under the excellent facilities at the Paton School Campus, will be completed, except for the last missing pieces of the hundreds of young people and their adult advisors.

Now in its fifth year, this Special Youth Program provided by our Grand Lodge through its Committee on Youth Services, is bringing life to a generation of the world's finest halls and homes of the Temple Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys which we were forced to close just a few years ago.

Four sessions for the Order of Rainbow for Girls throughout Pennsylvania were held this year in June and July. Two sessions of the Order of Joe's Daughters of Pennsylvania were held in July. And, a three-day Keyman Conference for DeMolay throughout Pennsylvania and a three-day Workshop for DeMolay Chapters comprising the Western Region of Pennsylvania, were conducted in August 1980. A two-day Adult Leadership Conference for DeMolay and a two-day Summer Seminar for ten DeMolay Chapters comprising the Southwestern Region of Pennsylvania, will take place at the Camp in September and October.

The enthusiastic reception and the excellent dedication of these young people, both to hours of training and instruction plus the well-timed hours of recreation is something to behold. It has been stated that the cost of this program, our Special Youth Program, which is one of the best investments ever made by our Grand Lodge.

Symbolic Masonry—A Way of Life

Of definitions for Symbolic Masonry there have been many. Perhaps one of the simplest and most direct is that given by our English Brethren: "Symbolic Masonry is the system of morality taught in the Craft and the Craft of the Craftmen. Another version claims: "Symbolic Masonry is the organized society of men practicing principles of operative masonry and architecture and the building arts and the science and art of the buildings."

Symbolic Masonry has a threefold aspect, the first being secret, the second being helpful, and the third being charitable. The Secret aspect consists of keeping safe and invisible the secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry from the curiosity of the non initiated and the uninitiated. The Helpful aspect consists of the Lodge work which is practiced in the privacy of the Symbolic Lodge Room. The public aspect consists in the teachings of Symbolic Masonry. The Order is one in which the Craft Lodge at one time has been held in the privacy of the Craft Lodge. The true aspect has no reference to their relative importance. Each aspect has been practiced in the past and is practiced today.

It is the fusion of these three concepts into one integral whole which makes Masonry what it really is—a way of life.

As a Freemason when you become a member of Masonic Lodge, you are no longer a member of a religious body. While you still believe in a personal God and a Supreme Being, you no longer believe in the exclusive right of any one country, race, or creed to interpret God. You believe in the freedom of worship and the right of each individual to follow his own conscience and follow his own religious convictions. You believe in the equality of all men and the right of each man to pursue his own happiness and the happiness of his family. You believe in the freedom of speech and the right of each man to express his opinions freely.

We believe in the right of each man to be an instrument of good, not an agent of evil. We believe in the right of each man to give help in his own way, whether it be by word or deed, whether it be in time of need or in time of plenty. We believe in the right of each man to work for the good of his fellow man and the good of his community. We believe in the right of each man to be a part of the great society of men who have united together for the common good.
Four Young Brothers of Avalon Lodge, No. 657 Wear 50-Year Emblem

Bro. Arthur B. Bessecker, Past Master and Secretary of Avalon Lodge, No. 657, located at Belweett Street near Pittsburgh, shares with us a fact worthy of mention.

Four members of the Lodge are blood brothers and have quite a record of Masonic service. Bro. Frank D. Young was Entered November 11, 1924; Bro. Robert R. Young was Entered November 11, 1927; Bro. Milton C. Young was Entered November 11, 1930. When Bro. Milton C. Young received his Grand Lodge Fifty Year Masonic Service Emblem recently, he became the fourth living member of the same family to be wearing the coveted gold emblem provided by Grand Lodge.

New District Deputy Has Busy Evening

Bro. James T. Amacher, Sr., the new District Deputy for the 22nd Masonic District, had a busy evening when he visited Union Lodge, No. 354, Bradford, on March 13, 1930.

Bro. Amacher was pleased to present Grand Lodge Fifty Year Masonic Service Emblems and Warrants to five members of Union Lodge, all Entered in 1930. They were:


Bro. Blair then conferred the Master Mason’s Degree on Terry Carl Brown after receiving his new Fifty Year Gold Life Membership Card. It was an impressive evening, reports Bro. Amacher.

When we are faithful and true to our obligations, and the teachings of Symbolic Masonry, we enjoy the blessings and satisfactions of conscience which become sustaining assets. They are the peace of mind and improvement of soul.

Modern Freemasonry may claim to be the world’s oldest laboratory for practical and experimental research in the Art of Living.

Three Children Admitted To Our Children’s Home; There’s Room for More

We are pleased to announce that since the article appeared in the May 1980 issue of Pennsylvania Freemason and the report presented by Bro. Arthur R. Diamond, R.W. Grand Treasurer, we have received a number of inquiries from the public expressing interest in the Children’s Home of the Grand Lodge Committee Committee, and we are happy to report that there are still three children, one girl and two boys, who have been admitted to our Children’s Home at the Masonic Homes.

As stated, there surely are other deserving charitable organizations who would profit greatly from what we have to offer at our Children’s Home and the Masonic Homes. We can recall an enrollment of fifty or more in previous years but the present enrollment is down to ten.

The requirements for admission are as follows:

1. Any orphan by one or both parents, or a social orphan (from a broken home), or a child who has a great need for care and protection provided at our Homes.

2. The child you endorse must be admitted by one of our Blue Lodges.

3. The first step is to contact the Secretary of the Lodge and present the necessary application form.

If you feel that you need further clarification as to the requirements for admission of a child, you may call on or by writing to the Office of the R.W. Grand Master, or by writing to the Office of the R.W. Grand Master, Masonic Temple, One Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19107.

Four Past Masters Meet At 1929 Class Reunion

At the 50th reunion of the Class of 1929 of Sunbury High School held recently in Sunbury, four Living Past Masters of Sunbury Lodge, No. 713, were on hand and had the pleasure of chatting about “old times.” They were Bro. John R. Trull of Williamsport who was Master in 1938; Bro. Arthur E. Zimmerman, Williamsport; Bro. William B. Brown, Sunbury; and Bro. William E. Gass, Sunbury, in 1950.

Bro. Lewis T. Casulli, now residing in Johnson City, N.Y., who was Master in 1951.

A Third Field Agent Honored by M. S. A.

Three Children Admitted To Our Children’s Home; There’s Room for More

We are pleased to announce that since the article appeared in the May 1980 issue of Pennsylvania Freemason and the report presented by Bro. Arthur R. Diamond, R.W. Grand Treasurer, we have received a number of inquiries from the public expressing interest in the Children’s Home of the Grand Lodge Committee Committee, and we are happy to report that there are still three children, one girl and two boys, who have been admitted to our Children’s Home at the Masonic Homes.

As stated, there surely are other deserving charitable organizations who would profit greatly from what we have to offer at our Children’s Home and the Masonic Homes. We can recall an enrollment of fifty or more in previous years but the present enrollment is down to ten.

The requirements for admission are as follows:

1. Any orphan by one or both parents, or a social orphan (from a broken home), or a child who has a great need for care and protection provided at our Homes.

2. The child you endorse must be admitted by one of our Blue Lodges.

3. The first step is to contact the Secretary of the Lodge and present the necessary application form.

If you feel that you need further clarification as to the requirements for admission of a child, you may call on or by writing to the Office of the R.W. Grand Master, or by writing to the Office of the R.W. Grand Master, Masonic Temple, One Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19107.

Four Past Masters Meet At 1929 Class Reunion

At the 50th reunion of the Class of 1929 of Sunbury High School held recently in Sunbury, four Living Past Masters of Sunbury Lodge, No. 713, were on hand and had the pleasure of chatting about “old times.” They were Bro. John R. Trull of Williamsport who was Master in 1938; Bro. Arthur E. Zimmerman, Williamsport; Bro. William B. Brown, Sunbury; and Bro. William E. Gass, Sunbury, in 1950.

Bro. Lewis T. Casulli, now residing in Johnson City, N.Y., who was Master in 1951.

TWO FIELD AGENTS NEEDED

Brethren interested in serving as Field Agents for the Veteran’s Hospital Visitation Program conducted by the Masonic Service Association in Pennsylvania may contact the Office of the R.W. Grand Master for pertinent facts and details.

Of the nine Veteran’s Hospitals being serviced in Pennsylvania, two are presently in need of a Field Agent. They are located in Butler and Coatesville.

“District Nights” are Being Planned for You

A schedule is now in the final stages for the visit of the R.W. Grand Master to the remaining District Meetings throughout the Jurisdiction.

His effort to strengthen Freemasonry at the Blue Lodge level, Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R.W. Grand Master, will attend a “District Night” in each of the seven Masonic Districts during his term in office.

One Masonic District Masonic District will act as host and the Officers and interested Members of the other Lodges in the District will be extended an invitation to attend their particular “District Night.”

“District Nights” held thus far have been most productive. They have provided a time for open dialogue between the Grand Master and the Craft.

Father and Son are Devoted Ritualists

Bro. William J. Staas, Past Master of Philadelphia Lodge, No. 72, shares this interesting story with us: Bro. Staas served as Worshipful Master of Philadelphia Lodge, No. 72, in 1962 and again in 1973. His son, Bro. William J. Staas, also served as Worshipful Master in 1968 and 1969 when he was 23 and 24 years old. Both father and son are competent ritualists even having the pleasures of installing each other as Worshipful Masters.

Bro. William J. Staas, who was born in Tullytown, Pa., 1972, served as Field Agent for the Veteran’s Services in Philadelphia, Pa., from 1975 to 1980, his father by attending Lodge in the United States for the benefit of Philadelphia Lodge, No. 72, in 1980.


Bro. William B. Brown, a Member of Victory Lodge, No. 604, held at Butler, Pa., was honored by the受益者 Communication held in Williamsport, June 4, 1980, when he was presented with the coveted Masonic Service Association Award Certificate for completing ten years as a Field Agent assigned to the Butler Veterans Administration Hospital.

Bro. Brown is our third Field Agent to be honored over the past two years, the first being Bro. Paul S. Stewart, our first Field Agent, appointed in October 1966 for the Veteran’s Hospitals in Philadelphia, and Bro. Julian R. V. Johnson, our Field Agent for the Oakland Veteran Administration Hospital, Pittsburgh, who received his Award at our Quarterly Communication, March 5, 1980.


Bro. Brown has had a most active life mostly devoted to service to others. A Member of all York Rite and Scottish Rite Bodies, he served as the Master of the Lodge of Perfection, Sunbury, Pa.; he had his own Insurance agency; was an Income Tax Practitioner, and has specialized in teaching safety courses in Butler County.