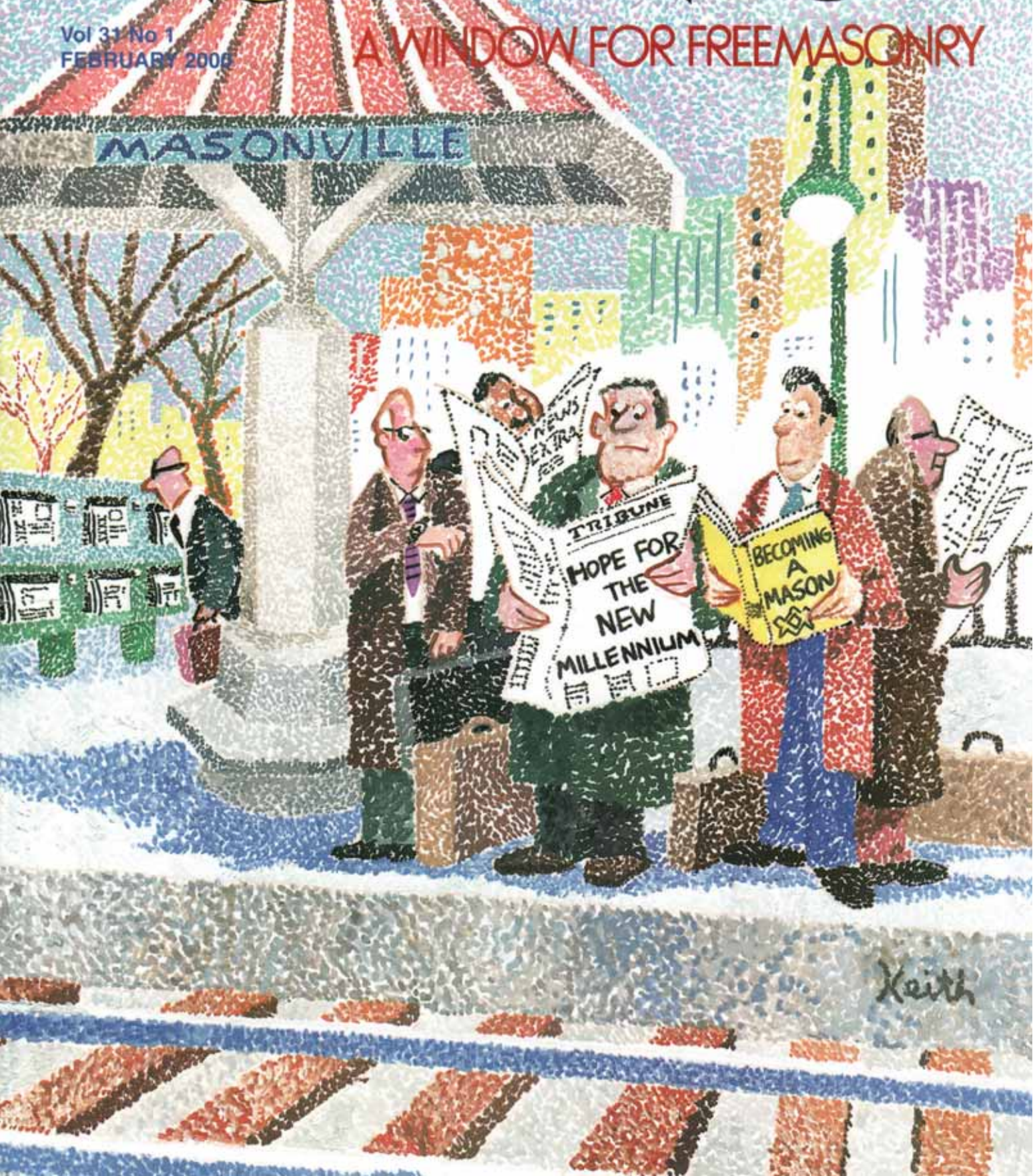


THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Vol 31 No 1
FEBRUARY 2000

A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY

MASONVILLE



A Year to Remember



Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand
Commander

“For
Scottish
Rite Masons,
this will be a
once-in-a-
lifetime
opportunity.”

Not too many years ago, the thought of the year 2000 seemed like only a topic for science fiction writers. But then in the last few years, we were deluged with monumental concerns surrounding the uncertainty of Y2K and its problems.

It was nice to wake up on New Year's Day to find that the world did not come to an end, that our telephone line was still connected to the system, and that our water faucet still flowed freely. In fact, until we looked at the calendar, we hardly noticed that the year had changed to a row of zeroes. Even though the millennium has ushered itself in quietly, there is something exciting about living at a time when such a change takes place.

We as Masons are looking to celebrate the exhilarating times ahead with several special events, thanks to the Supreme Council Millennium 2000 committee. For the past year and a half, the special committee has been busy preparing for this milestone. They have put together a wide-ranging series of programs so that we can celebrate throughout the year.

One of the major events will take place on Saturday, April 29. For Scottish Rite Masons, this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

If you have not had a chance to attend a reunion of your Valley lately, this will be one you will not want to miss. At 50 locations throughout our 15-state jurisdiction, all Valleys will join together to meet on the same day. Following the conferral of the 32°, I will broadcast a special millennium message to each site at exactly the same time (5 p.m. EDT, 4 p.m. CDT).

Immediately following the message, you will witness a professionally produced 32-minute extravaganza that will highlight the key elements of Freemasonry and the

Rite. It promises to be a day you will be talking about for years to come.

For the millennium class location closest to you, contact your Valley secretary or e-mail me directly:

rralston@supremecouncil.org.

Another opportunity to celebrate the millennium with fellow Masons around the jurisdiction will be Saturday, July 29, when we will lay the cornerstone for the new addition to the Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington, Massachusetts. The day's events will offer something for everyone, giving brethren a wonderful occasion for a family day.

In addition to a picnic, there will be entertaining events for all members of the family throughout the day, not only on the grounds but also inside the adjacent Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage.

Those traveling a distance can make it a family weekend by taking advantage of specially offered hotel and tour packages. Full details about the event, the hotel accommodations, and optional tours appear in this issue of *The Northern Light*.

Last but not least, we will wind up the year with a tour of London and Edinburgh in October. Here you can join with your 32° brethren, their families and friends for a return to our Masonic roots.

The entire year promises to be an exciting time for all of us. Not only are we approaching a new era, we have several opportunities to unify across the jurisdiction as Masonic brothers. I hope you will make an extra effort to join in one or more of these celebrations to join us in ushering in the new millennium.

Robert O. Ralston
Sovereign Grand Commander

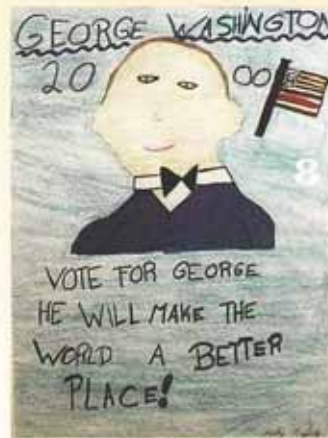


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SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°
 Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
 Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
 Robert O. Ralston, 33°

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EDITOR
 Richard H. Curtis, 33°

ASSISTANT to the EDITOR
 Robin Robinson

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
 Sonja B. Faiola
 Beth E. McSweeney
 Norma F. Small

EDITORIAL BOARD
 Richard H. Welkley, 33°, Chairman
 Bill C. Anthis, 33°
 Donald J. Soberg, 33°
 Douglas K. Wilson Sr., 33°

Mailing Address:
 PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519

Editorial Office:
 33 Marrett Road (Route 2A)
 Lexington, Massachusetts 02421
 781-862-4410
 Fax: 781-863-1833
 e-mail: dcurtis@supremecouncil.org

Internet:
 www.supremecouncil.org

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Mason of the Century

By RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°

*Melvin Maynard Johnson stood out
above the crowd*

The history of Freemasonry is the history of people who have had an influence on the fraternity. A careful review of those who have had a powerful effect on the Masonic institution during the 20th century would lead us to single out one Mason above all others.

Melvin Maynard Johnson left an indelible mark on Freemasonry. During a 20-year span as Sovereign Grand Commander for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, he built a reputation as a forceful leader, well-versed in Masonic history, philosophy and ritual.

His successor, Ill. George E. Bushnell, 33°, noted at the time of Brother Johnson's death in 1957, "Few men in our fraternity have met their opportunities for service as Dr. Johnson did and fewer still have brought to the craft and Rite the beneficial accomplishments that he has left as his real memorial."

Throughout the entire first half of the 20th century, Grand Commander Johnson played a leading role in the fraternity. He was Master of his lodge in Waltham, Mass., in 1902-03, and a year later became District Deputy Grand Master. By 1913, he had been elected Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. It was there that he had a profound effect on that Grand Lodge not only during his three-year term as Grand Master but also for decades to follow.

After his tenure as Grand Master, he assumed a position as a presiding officer in the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston, and by 1920 was elected an Active Member of the Supreme Council.

The untimely death of Sovereign Grand Commander Leon M. Abbott,



SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER (1933-53)

33°, in October 1932 elevated Ill. Fred-eric B. Stevens, 33°, as acting Grand Commander, a position he did not wish to have. He made it known that at the next annual meeting of the Supreme Council in September 1933, he would ask to be relieved of his duty. It was at that point that Dr. Johnson became the unanimous choice to lead the Supreme Council.

And lead he did for more than 20 years, stepping down reluctantly on Dec. 31, 1953, at the age of 84.

What was it that made those two decades of leadership so important? Ill. Irving E. Partridge Jr., 33°, Active Member for Connecticut, referred to Dr. Johnson as "the Great Crusader." Wisconsin Deputy Benjamin F.P. Ivins, 33°, called him "a great scholar, a de-

voted and enthusiastic Mason, a born trained and tried leader of men in many fields."

When he was elected Commander in 1933, Johnson was prepared to deliver his first Allocution, in which he spoke about the need to put Scottish Rite funds to charitable uses. The following year he offered a plan of action. After considering many options, he settled on mental health and chose research in Dementia Praecox, which later became known as schizophrenia.

By 1941, Dr. Johnson had established the Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation, which continues today to serve charitable purposes.

With his keen interest in Masonic philosophy, Commander Johnson understood Masonic ritual and the theory and philosophy behind the ritual. He prepared many essays on Masonic subjects and was constantly in demand to speak at Masonic gatherings throughout the world.

In the 1987 *History of the Supreme Council*, Ill. Louis L. Williams, 33°, emphasized that Dr. Johnson was a "take-charge officer" and "inclined to be a bit dictatorial in his operations," and although he was not rude or offensive, "he did tend to assert himself and take control."

He was an intelligent man and never hesitated to state his opinion. From time to time he would issue position papers on a variety of subjects. Some of his writings included, "The Attitude of Freemasonry toward the Roman Catholic Church" and "The Attitude of Freemasonry toward Politics and Religion." A collection of some of his work appears in "For All Men and All Time — the Universality

of Freemasonry and Other Aspects of Masonic Philosophy."

Commander Johnson was also responsible for developing the Declaration of Principles that continues to be in effect today.

Prior to assuming command of the Supreme Council, he had published in 1916 *Freemasonry in America Prior to 1750*, and revised it in 1924 under the title, *The Beginnings of Freemasonry in America*. The latter is still considered recommended reading for Masonic scholars.

Dr. Johnson authorized Ill. Samuel H. Baynard Jr., 33°, an Active Member for Delaware, to research the history of the Scottish Rite and the developments within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. A two-volume history was published in 1938. Ill. Brother Baynard then became the Grand Secretary General.

In 1949, the Grand Commander appointed a special committee on history from among some of the most distinguished historians in the United States. Making good progress throughout Johnson's tenure, the committee was disbanded after his death.

Dr. Johnson was impressed with Dr. Mellyar H. Lichliter, 33°, pastor of a Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio, and convinced him to join the Supreme Council staff in 1942. Dr. Lichliter was appointed Grand Prior but was also asked to reorganize the Supreme Council library and to produce a monthly newsletter for distribution to 33° members and Valley officers. The newsletter was discontinued in 1970 with the inauguration of *The Northern Light*.

He was also asked to research the rituals of the Scottish Rite degrees, examine the origins, and offer suggestions for future revisions. His research remains in the archives. His work was never completed because he resigned in 1957 during the term of Grand Commander Bushnell.

Wanting to recognize Masons who had made significant contributions, Dr. Johnson created the Gourgas Medal in 1938 for "notably distinguished service in the cause of Freemasonry, humanity or country." In 1943, the Supreme Council voted to present the first award to Harry S. Truman, although Truman did not receive the award until 1945.

In 1946, the Supreme Council Active Members voted to recognize Melvin Maynard Johnson with the award.

Excerpts from Dr. Johnson's Allocutions

"There are those who cry out that in this terrible struggle (WWII) Freemasonry is not doing its share. Mostly, they expect things for which it is not fitted. Freemasonry cannot successfully serve except in its own field. It has a philosophy to teach to men, a philosophy which inculcates liberty, morality and personal responsibility. If it can inspire its members with these, it has accomplished its goal, which is the building of character in men."

"Our philosophy includes the comforting of those who are in trouble and the relieving of their necessities. It does not extend, however, to the coddling of the lazy or to him who, having even a single talent, deliberately refuses to use it to meet the call of duty to his country and his fellows."

"What impact can our Rite of Freemasonry make today that will aid in the salvage and rehabilitation of civilization? Is it not our message that individuals, races and countries alike should abandon the making of Declarations of Independence, admit the necessity of cooperation, and give their earnest consideration to the Declarations of Dependence? There lives not a man, neither exists there a nation able, in a civilized world, to stand alone."

"If mankind would devote itself exclusively to morality and utterly neglect science for the next 9950 odd centuries, a mathematical time balance would be struck between science and morality."

"He who has become a real Freemason, who appreciates its simplicities and understands the essence and purpose of its mysteries, who has made its spirit a part of himself and is in accord therewith, seeks to give rather than to get. It is not even his absorption of its lessons that makes him vital; it is their radiation in his life's contacts with his fellow men."

"What the world needs even more than new discoveries in the physical sciences is a better understanding of human relationships. That is the goal toward which we strive."

Another of Dr. Johnson's innovations was the adoption of the Meritorious Service Award in 1939 to recognize Scottish Rite workers. The program was patterned after a procedure established by the Illinois Council of Deliberation.

Having met informally with the leadership of the Prince Hall Masons in 1944, Dr. Johnson was a member of a special committee recommending the legitimacy of Prince Hall Masonry. The recommendation was accepted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1947 but proved to be highly controversial at the time. The action was rescinded two years later because of pressure from other Grand Lodges.

The Grand Commander enjoyed

his association with other Supreme Councils and developed an excellent reputation as a leading authority on worldwide Masonry. Following World War II, he offered assistance to the European Supreme Councils.

Throughout his tenure in the north, Johnson's counterpart in the Southern Jurisdiction was Grand Commander John H. Cowles, a man with an equally strong personality. Ill. Brother Cowles had been in office since 1921, more than a decade before Dr. Johnson took command. Ill. Brother Williams referred to the pair of them as "an irresistible force meeting an immovable object."

Johnson urged Masonic bodies not to engage in political activity. ➤

➤ Many, including Cowles, objected to this proposal. In fact, Cowles became quite vocal on the subject and let Johnson know it. As the debate heated up, Johnson defended his position by preparing and distributing a white paper on the subject, "A Brief to the Court of Masonic Public Opinion," which included an attack on Cowles' arrogance.

Over the years, there were many points on which the two Grand Commanders disagreed. There were reports at the time that several Southern Jurisdiction Valleys inquired about the

possibility of affiliating with the Northern Jurisdiction.

Dr. Johnson was an intelligent man. He also made use of his knowledge of law. He had followed in his father's footsteps in the practice of law and became active in the field of corporate law. It is interesting to note that while he maintained a high profile as Sovereign Grand Commander (1933-53) with a hands-on approach, he also was a law professor (1920-35) and then dean (1935-42) of the Boston University Law School.

During the course of the sum-

mers, he would become a recluse at a small hideaway on Moosehead Lake in Maine. Known as Camp Ogontz, the land could not be reached by auto. Occasionally he would invite select committees to meet with him there to deliberate over important matters. He would have them transported to his camp by boat.

In his two-volume history, Ill. Brother Baynard wrote that Johnson was "an aristocrat because of his democracy, a power by reason of his humility, a ruler by virtue of his service, in every sense of the word a man." 🐾

Other Masons Who Made a Difference

Roscoe Pound. A universally recognized scholar of Masonic jurisprudence and philosophy, Pound was dean of the Harvard Law School from 1916-36 and thereafter taught for another 11 years. In 1953, the Supreme Council published a collection of his Masonic addresses and writings. He examined the system of Masonic philosophy of four eminent Masonic scholars and concluded with his own view of 20th-century Masonic philosophy. A Gourgass medalist, he was a confidant of Dr. Johnson.

Henry Wilson Coil. Much of his writings are still considered timely. *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* published in 1960 is a masterpiece. Other important works include *A Comprehensive View of Freemasonry* (1954), *Freemasonry Through Six Centuries* (1967), and *Conversations on Freemasonry* (1976).

Carl H. Claudy. As a writer and editor, Claudy contributed a great deal to Masonic literature. During the 1920s, he edited *The Master Mason*. As executive secretary for the Masonic Service Association, he authored many Short Talk Bulletins, digests, books, and plays, including "A Rose Upon the Altar."

George A. Newbury. As Sovereign Grand Commander from 1965-75, Newbury was responsible for many changes in the Northern Jurisdiction. He relocated the headquarters from rented office space in Boston to a permanent home in suburban Lexington. He launched *The Northern Light* to reach every 32° Mason. His idea for a museum and library near the headquarters came to fruition.

Stanley F. Maxwell. As the executive secretary during Commander Newbury's ten years, Maxwell was influential in seeing that Newbury's dreams came to life. He then succeeded Newbury as Grand Commander to build an even stronger organization.

Harry S. Truman. Whether or not you agree with his political decisions, you must recognize that he maintained a keen interest in Freemasonry throughout his years as a Senator and U.S. President. He was elected Grand Master in Missouri only a few months before he was elected to the U.S. Senate and served as Master of

the Missouri Lodge of Research while President of the United States. He made frequent visits to Masonic events during his term as President.

John J. Robinson. As a non-Mason, he became one of the fraternity's greatest spokesmen after he accidentally stumbled onto Masonry while researching the medieval Templars. He stood up to Freemasonry's critics and eventually joined the fraternity.

James D. Richardson. As Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction from 1900-14, he was also instrumental in the design and construction of the House of the Temple. He also arranged for a new Masonic publication. The first issue of *The New Age* was published in 1904. Richardson encouraged Valleys to build stages to perform Scottish Rite degrees. His term as U.S. Congressman from Tennessee (1885-1905) overlapped his early years as Commander.

John H. Cowles. Because of his strong personality and the length of service as Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, he became embroiled in many heated discussions and ruffled many feathers. A good part of his term paralleled that of Dr. Johnson in the Northern Jurisdiction. Cowles played a major role in the development of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Allen E. Roberts. His down to earth Masonic writings occasionally rattled some Masonic leaders, but Roberts was probably the most prolific Masonic writer of the 20th century. He constantly refuted any Masonic writer who tended to distort historical facts.



Who's your choice?

Who would you choose as the Mason of the century?

Send us your thought and the reason for your selection.

Pennsylvania Masons To Launch New Education Program

John Hamill slated to keynote opening session

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has announced a new program that will help Masons gain a better understanding of the fraternity. The Pennsylvania Academy of Freemasonry will be launched this spring.

Grand Master Robert L. Dluge Jr., 33°, explained, "The purpose is to strive for excellence in our fraternity by offering our members an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of Freemasonry, its origins, history and ritualistic work and to impart skills and planning information for their lodge leadership."

The program is under the direction of Ill. Thomas W. Jackson, 33°, who re-

tired in December as Grand Secretary for the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge.

The first session is scheduled for March 11. The keynote speaker will be Brother John Hamill, director of communication for the Grand Lodge of England and an internationally recognized Masonic scholar.

Brother Hamill authored the *History of English Freemasonry*, *History of World Freemasonry*, and several other histories. He also co-authored *Celebration of the Craft*. Previous to his current position, he was the librarian and curator for the Grand Lodge of England for 16 years.

Another session is scheduled for October. The program is limited to Pennsylvania Masons.

The Pennsylvania Academy will consist of three vital tracks of learning: a school for ritual, seminars for leadership, and an academy for Masonic knowledge.

The speakers will offer a dialogue on the origins of Freemasonry and its relationship and relevancy in today's society. Written material will be distributed which, along with suggested reading lists, could serve as a home study guide for those interested in expanding their knowledge.

In Memoriam

Ill. George Francis Peabody, 33°

Ill. George Francis Peabody, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council and former Grand Treasurer General, died Dec. 16, 1999, at a Bangor, Maine hospital.

Born in Houlton, Maine, on Aug. 30, 1912, he attended the public schools of Houlton, graduating from Houlton High School in 1929 and from Hebron Academy in 1930. Peabody continued his education at Bowdoin College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1934 and from Harvard Law School with an LL.B. degree in 1937.

In 1938, he married Helen E. Dill of Houlton and they had three daughters, Sarah P. Pendleton and Mary P. FitzPatrick, both of Bangor, and Jane P. Snyder of Lunenburg, Mass. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Brother Peabody began the practice of law in the office of Ill. George F. Eaton, 33°, Bangor, in 1937. In 1940 the partnership of Eaton & Peabody was formed. It later became Eaton, Peabody, Bradford & Veague. Although Ill. Brother Peabody had officially retired five years ago, he continued to come into the office most every day where he was a powerful presence for 60 years.

Raised a Master Mason in Monument Lodge No. 96, of Houlton, Maine, in 1937, Brother Peabody later affiliated with St. Andrews Lodge No. 83, Bangor, where he served as Master in 1947.

He completed the degrees in Eastern Star Lodge of Perfection and Palestine Council, Princes of Jerusalem on

Dec. 3, 1941, in the Valley of Bangor. The next year, he received the degrees in Bangor Chapter of Rose Croix on April 3, 1942 and his 32° in the Maine Consistory, Valley of Portland, on May 8, 1942. He was Thrice Potent Master, 1951-53; Most Wise Master, 1953-55 and Sovereign Prince, 1955-57.

Ill. Brother Peabody received the 33° in 1958, and was crowned an Active Member in 1971. He was elected Grand Treasurer General in 1979, holding this position until 1986 when he became an Active Emeritus Member. He had served on numerous Supreme Council committees.

His activities in the community were numerous. He was a member of the Bangor Rotary Club, a member and former president of the Bangor City Club, trustee and chairman of the board of Husson College, and served on the Bangor City Council for three years and as its chairman in 1945.

Other civic activities included service as a trustee of the Eastern Maine Medical Center, trustee of the Bangor Public Library, a member of the board of managers of the Bangor Children's Home, a member of the board of managers and former president of the Home for Aged Men, trustee and president of the Bangor Fuel Society, and a trustee of Katahdin Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America. He was a recipient of the Silver Beaver award from the Boy Scouts. He also served as Secretary of the DeMolay and Pine Tree Youth Foundation.

'Buy George!' on display

By ROBIN ROBINSON

Student posters accompany museum's Washington exhibit

When third-grader Molly Keeping gets her award-winning poster back from her school project, she wants it to adorn her bedroom wall. But for now, it hangs in the brick-walled gallery of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, Mass. The poster, which features George Washington campaigning for president in the year 2000, is part of the museum's "Buy George!" exhibit, an adjunct to a larger display of "George Washington: American Symbol."

Molly was one of 24 local elementary students to win the opportunity to have his or her artwork displayed as part of the Washington exhibit. The exhibit, a retrospective of the many ways Washington has been viewed for more than 200 years, also includes handmade quilts from a local quilting guild, and a collection of Washington portraits, busts, and artifacts. The display tracks the appeal of Washington's image from the earliest period, when his face was an icon in every patriotic American home, to today, when his portrait is used for many purposes.

The museum, funded by the Scottish Rite, NMJ, was established in 1975 as a gift to the American people. The museum displays alternating exhibits relevant to American history and fraternal organizations.

The poster contest, a collaborative effort between the museum and several

Lexington elementary public schools, was designed to encourage third grade students to think of the nation's first president in terms of today's standards, and to encourage the school to use the museum as an educational resource.

Students were asked to submit entries to their art teachers, who then chose four winning entries to send to the museum.

The guidelines of the contest instructed the students to either draw Washington as a potential presidential candidate or as a salesperson for a product. Molly chose to illustrate Washington as a presidential candidate because she said she thinks he could improve the condition of the nation. She writes on the poster, "I think Washington would be a good president because he would help people if they needed it." Molly said she believes the country could use a man like Washington today.

"When he was president before, he did make the world a better place. I read a Revolutionary War book and he was helping our side," Molly said.



Third-grader Beth Rutila inspected fellow classmates' artwork during the reception for contest winners held at the museum.

Molly enjoys having her poster as part of the museum's larger exhibit.

"I think it looks really good," she said with a shy smile.

Another third grade artist, Beth Rutila, said seeing her poster displayed at the museum made her feel "weird" but she was obviously excited about being a part of the exhibit.

Beth, 8, used colored pencils and markers to draw a colorful Washington, complete with white wig, aboard a windsurfer, because she thinks he would like to do it if he were alive today, and he could sell them.



ROBIN ROBINSON, Assistant to the Editor, is a former community newspaper editor and reporter with a master's degree in publishing and writing.



Beth Rutila drew Washington on a windsurfer for the poster contest. The artist said, "He is selling windsurfers. Fast and easy to use."

Beth said she thought having students involved in the museum project helped them build self-esteem and also increased adult awareness of what children are capable of doing.

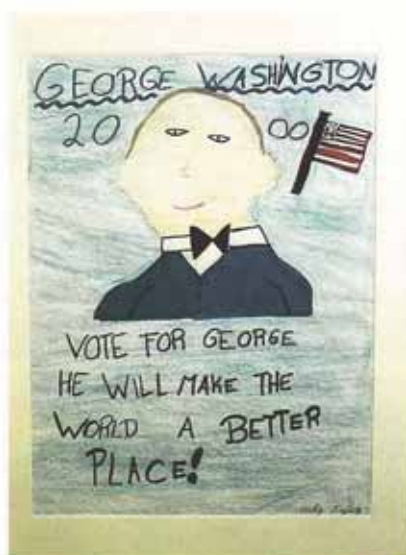
"It's important so people can see artwork done from kids and not just adults," she said. "Plus, if kids get a chance to be in a museum and they might want to be an artist someday, they know they can."

The project was the brainstorm of elementary social studies specialist for Lexington public schools Mary Gillespie and museum curator of education Elaine Ermolovich. Gillespie said the project seemed a perfect liaison between the schools and the museum that could teach the students more about George Washington.

"Elaine and I got together and said this would be a wonderful project for third-graders, because this is the first year third-graders have been studying U.S. history. So, we came up with the idea for a poster contest," she said.

According to Gillespie, the students not only began learning about the history of their country through the project, but also gained a closer look of how a museum display is created.

"The nice thing, too, is that along with having them become aware of history, they really became aware of a museum and what it takes to design an exhibit. They are going to look differently at museums from now on. How many children that age have a



Molly Keeping portrayed Washington as a 2000 presidential candidate. She said, "I think Washington would be a good president because he would help people if they needed it."

chance to become an exhibitor in a museum?" Gillespie commented.

Margy Keeping, Molly's mom, said she appreciated the fact that the program encouraged students to learn outside of the school program.

"It was such a great concept," she said. "Here is this great resource right here and if each kid brings a friend to show what they've done, it will bring a sense of ownership for them."



Museum education curator Elaine Ermolovich congratulated contest winner Molly Keeping after presenting first place ribbons to all the winners.

The local Burlington Quilters Guild display was a companion piece to the student's participation in the exhibit. The museum offered the guild "the George Washington challenge," encouraging them to create quilts that illustrated their idea of George Washington. The quilts are hung in the gallery next to the student's posters.

"Their creative expression adds to the exhibit," said Ermolovich, pointing out that the museum and the quilters have established a long-term reciprocal relationship.

The quilters help the museum by repairing exhibit clothing and by providing quilting samples for various exhibits, and the museum allows them to use the facility for their annual quilt and craft show.

Dean Rutila, the father of Beth Rutila, one of the poster winners, thought the intergenerational aspect of the exhibit, with the quilts from the guild and the posters from the students, added to the overall appeal.

"I really like the way they tied the art with the quilts and the larger exhibit," he said.

Ermolovich said cultivating that sense of ownership is important in early ages.

"They are future museum-goers," she said. "A museum now means something to them."

The students were required to do their own research, incorporate their social studies lessons and their art skills for the project, making it a well-rounded learning experience. "They were given a choice of a series of books to read about George Washington, and the research they did on their own in the library, and so forth, introduced them to research techniques," Gillespie said. "The project was interdisciplinary in many ways, incorporating the art teacher, social studies, and the library."

The collaboration is one of the first major efforts of the museum to reach out to the schools in the area and include the students in such a significant way. The museum has been working on creating a warmer, more



A sampling of the award-winning posters on display: Above, Alexis Goolkasian advertises George's Hair Gel and comments: "What makes George's hair so perfect in all those paintings? It must be his hair gel!" Top center, Dalya Weinronk illustrates Washington selling watermelon. Her slogan, "Buy watermelon because it tastes great and is healthy."

►inviting atmosphere and this is the first of several planned outreach programs.

According to Ermolovich, the relationship between the museum and the local schools has been a work in progress, initiated by the new Massachusetts education frameworks that require schools to use outside sources. In the past, trips to the museum were often considered a break from the normal routine and given to students as a



fun reward. Today, students are coming to the museum more often to supplement a particular school program.

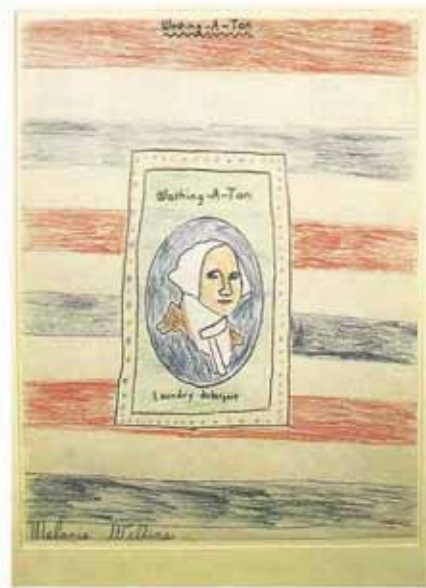
"The new frameworks encourages partnerships between museums and schools," she said. "Museum trips now are intimately tied in with the school curriculum."

That relationship not only benefits the students in their learning process, but also provides them with a place in their community where they can feel they belong, said Ermolovich.

Molly's mother agreed, adding that the impact goes beyond the students and reaches to the families and community.

"This isn't just a building anymore (to us)," said Mrs. Keeping, standing in front of Molly's artwork in the gallery hall. "We are very impressed with the outreach of the museum. We are lucky to have an organization and a curator who says, 'Come on, let's work on this together.'"

Gillespie said no one was more pleased with the out-



Left, Priscilla Briggs uses Washington to promote horseback riding. "George liked riding horses so I thought he would be a good person to sell horses," she said. Above, Melanie Willins advertises laundry detergent. She said, "I chose Washing-A-Ton because he always keeps his clothes clean, and because it goes with his name."

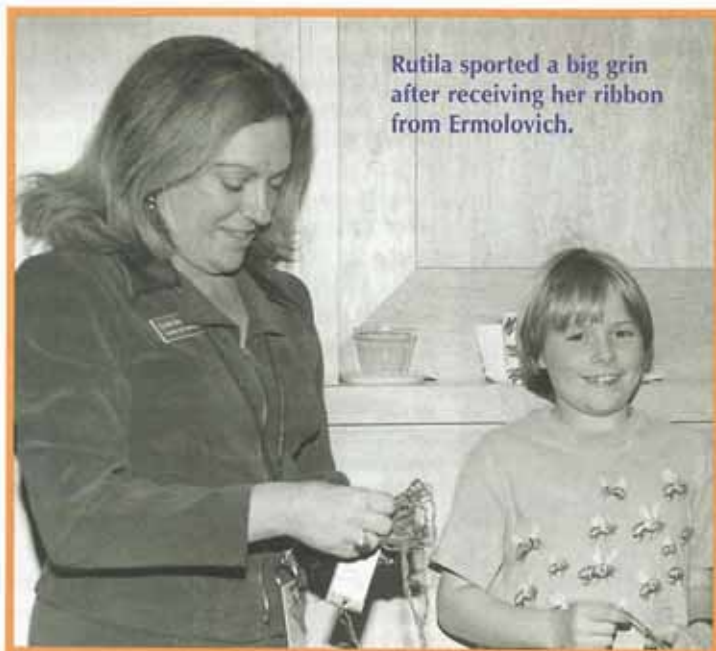
come of the project than the students themselves.

"The kids were so enthusiastic about the whole project. We were looking back at all U.S. heroes and looking ahead to the millennium, and this gave kids a new way of looking at Washington and what he would be doing today."

Museum Director John Ott said this sort of collaboration is one the museum's main missions. "The museum feels it is very important with each exhibit to find a way to build a children's component," he said. "It's a great way to entice families and people to come here. To me, it is priority one."

Ott also has plans to extend the educational value of the museum to families throughout the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction through the use of traveling exhibits. "We are trying to create funds to support the production of research and curriculum materials, teacher packets, and videos for the use by both schools and teachers that will enhance and extend the quality educational programs at the museum throughout the Northern Jurisdiction," he said.

Beth's father, standing in the museum hall, said the museum is accomplishing its mission. "It got us here," he said with a grin.



Rutla sported a big grin after receiving her ribbon from Ermolovich.

DeMolay strives for 3,000 members in March



The Order of DeMolay has big plans for the month of March, when it launches its largest organized membership effort ever. The organization plans to induct more than 3,000 new members in just 31 days with its "March to 3000" program.

March is traditionally "DeMolay month," and this year's endeavor to build its membership is projected to be bigger than ever. A concerted effort involving all chapters around the world will hopefully result in 100 new memberships per day.

"We want this March to have the largest increase in membership in DeMolay history," said DeMolay Executive Director Ben Johnson, 32°.

No more than 100 new members can be registered in one day, and once the threshold is reached, that day will close for new registrants.

According to Johnson, the effort will not only bring a significant number of members into the organization, but also benefit those current members who work toward the project. The program enables local chapters to get involved in a worldwide effort, expanding their horizons beyond their local level.

"DeMolay chapters around the world are all working toward one goal, giving kids a chance to work beyond their local chapter on something global in scale," he said. "It gives them something big to work toward."

To accomplish the goal, chapters will work through February and March to register pledges. Each chapter will commit to a certain number of new members and choose the day it will hold its initiation. Each chapter sets its own membership goal, said Johnson.

A representative of the DeMolay Congress will contact registered chapters and inform them of the other chapters participating on the same day. Chapters with the same induction date will communicate throughout the month to encourage and update each other. By using e-mail and the "March to 3000 Online Bulletin Board," chapters have the opportunity to work with members around the globe to ensure their day reaches the 100-member goal.

"It is the most ambitious program tried in such a short amount of time, and we expect to meet our goal," Johnson said.

While prior initiatives were operated over a yearlong period, Johnson said the emphasis on this program strives to accomplish a large goal in a short amount of time.

"We said, let's be successful in March first," Johnson said.

Chapters can register at either: www.demolay.org
e-mail marchto3000@demolay.org
or by fax, phone, mail, or through their executive officer.

The program concludes with the local induction of the new members. Chapters hold their induction ceremony as scheduled and report the new members accordingly.

Johnson said the progress of the program can be tracked "live" at www.demolay.org, and Masons are more than welcome to attend inductions and follow the progress of the program through the Web site. Initiation dates of all chapters will be listed on the site.

Johnson is predicting nothing but success for the organization's magnanimous efforts.

"This March is going to be better than any other," he said.



DeMolay International has adopted a new corporate logo, replacing the DeMolay "Y-underline" logo in circulation since the 1980's. The new trademark is the official logo of DeMolay International.



DeMolay will maintain the use of the "Crown" as its emblem, which will continue to be displayed proudly on the DeMolay flag and in DeMolay chapters.

New Web Site

January 2000 brought the launch of the new DeMolay Web site, sporting an entirely new look and navigation. It includes DeMolay's most detailed planned giving information to date, as well as the easiest way possible for chapters to register for "The March to 3000" program. Upcoming developments include program commercials, an online store for ordering products and supplies, statistics and other administrative functions, helpful links and tech tips, expanded resources, games and history.

Museum Inventory Grows

By MARK TABBERT, 32°

*Masonic collection increases
through gifts and purchases*

Like many museums, the Museum of Our National Heritage receives many offers for donations of a family's historical artifacts. The museum is open to considering such donations, particularly those with Masonic significance.

This past year alone, the museum added 60 groups of more than 350 items to its collection, many of which were donated. While many items are purchased specifically for the museum for their value and significance, some items simply appear at the door like a lost puppy.

Only a third of the museum's entire collection of 12,000 objects is of a Masonic or fraternal nature. Much of the Masonic items in the collection include ritual costumes and props, aprons, jewels, and common objects with symbols on them. The rest of the collection ranges from clocks, tools, art, clothing, and weapons to furniture and dishes.

Generous Masons and their families have donated most of these objects. The museum's location in the heart of New England also perpetuates Masonic items that originate predominantly from the region. The museum is interested, however, in receiving objects from all parts of the country.

Along with donations, the museum also purchased some interesting Masonic artifacts this year. One of the first acquisitions of 1999 was a portrait

of John S. Angell painted circa 1820. The painting has its own artistic merits and would be valuable to many private collectors and museums for its style, technique and the artist's reputation. While the museum holds a few paintings, it does not collect art. The portrait was purchased, however, because of its Masonic significance. The subject, Brother Angell, appears an ordinary fellow who could have chosen anything about himself for the painting. But by including the Bible and square and compasses, he wants us to know him first as a

Mason. He may have been a farmer, doctor or businessman, husband and father, but he is certainly a Mason. Today the painting tells us how the craft was extremely important to men of the 1820s, just as lapel pins or bumper stickers tell us of issues and allegiances today.

The photographs of the Royal Arch High Priest and the Prince Hall Imperial Potentate were also purchased this year.



Painting of John S. Angell, with Masonic symbols. Arnold Steere possible artist, Woonsocket, RI, ca. 1820.

The High Priest proudly and vividly displays his costume, aprons and breastplate. The image documents the high and dramatic emphasis placed on the rituals and officers during the Victorian Age. Preferably, we would like to know who the man was and his Royal Arch chapter. The museum knows where the photo was made and hopes to find a chapter that might have a duplicate or other photos of the Excellent High Priest.

The photograph of Imperial Potentate Caesar L. Blake documents a well-known brother. He reigned from 1919-31, guided his Shrine though



MARK TABBERT, 32°, assistant curator of collections at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, is a member of the Valley of Boston.



Royal Arch Mason High Priest photograph taken by R. R. Haug, Philadelphia, 1900.

many troubles and passed away in office. The museum purchased this image and several other Prince Hall objects because it seeks to document all aspects of Freemasonry; the institutional and the individual alike. Researching the photos and combining other objects and more facts increase our exhibit's historic and educational value.

The museum also collects non-Masonic objects such as the Junior Order of United American Mechanics (JrOUAM) sign. It is a piece of folk art that is finely hand- and machine-carved. The museum purchased it at auction for several reasons.

The order was nationally important between the 1840s and 1920s and was so large it had junior and senior branches. Most striking are the square and compasses, which regularly confuse the order with Freemasonry. To the more discerning, the arm and hammer and shield frame is not at all Masonic. Yet the order was founded and heavily influenced by Masons and occasionally in print the arm and hammer was stylized into a "G."

The sign documents a unique organization, but also shows the broader influences of Masonry. The JrOUAM still exists but is so diminished that it is unable to actively collect its own history. Such is true for many fraternal organizations and part of the museum's mission is to assist in protecting their history as well.

The museum welcomes donations from Masonic bodies and this year it received a large gift from the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, Ohio. Among the 54 items accepted were a group of Scottish Rite Reunion badges from the early 1900s. The badges are not as rare, beautiful or valuable as the painting or wood-carved sign, but they nevertheless have historic value. They document styles, lettering, and materials no longer popular. They also remind us of the long line of men who participated in the rituals and fellowship of the Scottish Rite.

Another important donation this year came from the Perry family in New Jersey. The ring and jewel belonged to Frank M. Perry (1886-1937) of Shamokin, PA. These two objects show one man's affiliation with three organizations. The ring is unique in combining the Scottish Rite Eagle, a shield and cross and a locomotive with the initials "B.L.E.". Next to this is a Knights of Malta Past Commander's jewel. The Ancient Illustrious Order of Knights of Malta is not of the Masonic York Rite, but from a separate and independent organization which began in 1870 and flourished until the 1930s. Though primarily a Protestant Christian organization, it includes chivalric degrees and meets in commanderies. "B.L.E." stands for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and was an ➤



Prince Hall Shrine Imperial Potentate photograph. Caroline Studio, Charlotte, NC. Signed: "Yours in the Faith, Caesar L. Blake, Imperial Potentate." ca. 1925.

Appraisals

The museum often receives requests to know the monetary value of an object. While museums can refer you to professional appraisers, no museums can or should do them for several reasons:

- Price is one of the most relative things. Air conditioners are more valuable in Arizona than in Alaska, and one man's junk is another man's treasure. What a museum values differs from museum to museum, and from collector, family, or investor.
- Museums are happy to identify objects, and answer who made it, why, when, how and where, but appraising is an extremely time-consuming job. True appraisals are done by professionals and are based on the object's selling prices quoted in the catalogs and price lists of accredited auctions and dealers.
- While museums place monetary value on its collection, it does so only for insurance purposes so that if an object is stolen or damaged, it might be replaced.
- Many objects are donated to museums as income tax write-offs. It is unethical for a museum to assign a value to an object for a donor's own advantage. This is explained in IRS Tax Form 8283 for Noncash Charitable Contributions.
- To a museum all objects are equal. Museums take objects forever, not to buy or sell. They cannot appraise objects because to them all their objects are priceless. When families give an heirloom, they expect it to be as well cared for as Monet painting.
- Museums are created by society because certain things hold value greater than money. Museums preserve those things that make us who we are and that should be treasured by everyone. Museums see the sentimental value in that ragged old flag that makes it more valuable than a new one.



The ring contains Scottish Rite Eagle, Knights of Malta Shield and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' Emblem and initials, ca. 1919.

Ancient and Illustrious Order Knights of Malta Past Commander's Jewel, Calvary Commandery No. 123, 1926.

The ring and jewel belonged to Frank M. Perry and were donated by Clair M. and Raymond B. Perry.

➤ important fraternity and early national trade union.

The museum gladly accepted these objects because they poignantly document one man's life and his proud membership in these organizations. By donating these objects the Perry family now knows that its heirlooms are safe and available for viewing by them and the public.

Advising and assisting on the care of heirlooms is a true part of the museum's mission. Beyond inviting people to donate objects, see exhibits, do research in the library or hear programs, the museum welcomes questions on the care and history of heirlooms. The staff does its best to provide technical and historical information and refer inquiries to other Masonic, historic and local resources. We are here to help the public determine the best way to document, to care for and to display objects, papers and books. We are happy to assist Masons, non-Masons, and all Masonic and fraternal groups.

While the museum seeks and accepts many artifacts and heirlooms offered, it cannot and should not take everything. In some cases donations need to be refused due to duplication or suitability. For example, good sets of badges and jewels are desired, but the museum's vaults could not contain them all. Owning a variety of badge styles from different organizations is important, but attempting to acquire every type would be like Melville's Captain Ahab hunting for the white



Junior Order of United American Mechanics wood emblem sign. The date carved in the arm is March 6, 1902.



Group of Scottish Rite Reunion badges from Toledo, OH, made by Whitehead & Hoag, Newark, NY, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1908, 1911. Gift of the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, OH.

minnow. This is one way that museums differ from private collectors.

As a professional staff with a broad mission we assess an object offered to the museum on its own merits and limit our personal desires. No matter how valuable, the museum avoids accepting objects it already owns.

The museum may accept complete private collections, but we put the needs of the collection before the wants of the museum.

Part of all museums' mission is to find the best home for an object or family heirloom. Recently a World War I women's Naval Reserve uniform was offered to us. The museum did do an exhibition on the war and has a few related books and items. We felt, however, that such a rare and important uniform should be where the most people may appreciate it. We referred the donor to the United States Navy Museum in Washington, DC.

Knowing what objects to accept, to refuse or to refer to other institutions often causes a lot of thought. To aid this process the museum staff began a complete inventory of the entire collection this year. When the inventory is complete, the collection will be more accessible to all.

And in the near future we hope to make the collection database with digital images of every object available on the World Wide Web. The inventory and this year's acquisitions have already made us realize there is much more we need from lodges and from brothers.





Celebrating Millennium 2000

April 29th Jurisdiction-wide Class is History in the Making

In a first for Scottish Rite Masonry, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has coordinated a jurisdiction-wide class that will confer the 32° to hundreds of Masons all on the same day. This once-in-a-lifetime event will be held on April 29, 2000, at 50 locations across the 15 states of the jurisdiction.

Connected via special hookup, Scottish Rite Valleys will gather after the jurisdiction-wide 32° degree class to hear a live audio broadcast from the Sovereign Grand Commander. Thousands of Masons will witness the simulcast on that Saturday afternoon.

The message from the Commander will be broadcast promptly at 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (4 p.m. Central Daylight Time in Illinois/Wisconsin and Eastern Standard Time in Indiana).

"This will be a once-in-a-lifetime Scottish Rite event," said Grand Commander Robert Ralston. "We're very excited about it."

The NMJ will premiere a video production for the celebration of the first millennium class of 32° Masons.

Breathtaking in scope and dramatic in nature, this film will take you on an incredible journey of the heart, the mind and the Masonic spirit. Blending the music of an orchestra and singers assembled just for this special occasion with the narration of leading American Masons and depicting scenes from throughout the 15 states and numerous Valleys of our Jurisdiction, this film will enlighten, entertain and uplift the spirits of all who witness it.

"The enthusiasm of all associated with this once-in-a-millennium-event, from the planners, writers, producers, musicians, singers and narrators will be conveyed from the screen to your heart," said Millennium 2000 chairman Norman L. Christensen, 33°. "Be sure you're in the audience with your family and friends and join Grand Commander Ralston to celebrate your meaningful membership as a 32° Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction."

Although some Valleys do not confer the Consistorial degrees, all will be represented by joining with other Valleys at a central location.

New Millennium Passport Replaces 32° Certificate

A new 32° Passport has been introduced this month as part of the Scottish Rite Millennium 2000 program. The passport will be mailed directly to every 32° Mason of the Northern Jurisdiction with instructions for its use.

Passports will then be issued to each new candidate as he receives the 32°. It will replace the certificate that previously was presented to all members. An optional diploma, suitable for framing, will continue to be made available.

The new item is similar in size to a government passport. It contains a separate page for each degree with suitable

32° Masonic Passport



Issued by the
Supreme Council, 33°
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction
United States of America

space for a Valley to stamp the location where the member witnesses a particular degree and to record the date.

Those who view all 29 degrees in full form will receive special recognition from the Supreme Council. Only degrees witnessed after Jan. 1, 2000, will be eligible for stamping in the passport.

Once a member has filled the passport, he may obtain a second one to renew the process.

To help members achieve the goal of witnessing every degree, Valleys are being encouraged to present all the Scottish Rite degrees over a six-year period.



Celebration 2000!

A Fun-filled New England Family Weekend in July

Celebrate the millennium in historic Lexington, Mass.

The Scottish Rite Supreme Council invites you to a summer Family Day of fun at the headquarters in Lexington, Mass., on Saturday, July 29.

The Scottish Rite will host this special millennium celebration to commemorate its newly renovated headquarters and learning center, as well as the 25th anniversary of its museum.

Family-oriented events will take place throughout the day on the 22-acre grounds, such as a huge family-style picnic, roving barbershop quartets, Lexington Minutemen in colonial costume, antique auto display, and much more.

Observe a brief cornerstone-laying ceremony for the addition to the new headquarters and check out the exhibits and musical entertainment at the museum.

If you plan to make it a weekend trip, you can choose from five hotel packages and optional tour plans. Free shuttle service is available to and from your hotel to the headquarters.

Tour packages are available for Thursday, Friday and Sunday including visits to historic sites in Boston and the vicinity.

Join other Scottish Rite families in a memorable summer weekend celebrating the new addition to the Supreme Council headquarters building, as well as the 25th anniversary of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage.

Hotel and tour arrangements can be made through Garden City Travel Services. (617-969-2323 or 800-322-7447)



Museum Events

The museum will be hosting musical entertainment throughout the afternoon, including chamber music by the Lexington Sinfonetta, a band of Civil War musicians called the Amoskeag Players and the New New Orleans Jazz Band. Other events will take place outside.



Rendering of the new addition to the Supreme Council headquarters. Original building is shown at far left.

at Supreme Council Headquarters, Lexington, MA

July 29, 2000



Optional Tour Packages

(Available on Thursday, Friday and Sunday)

Tour 1 A 4-hour bus tour of **Boston and Cambridge:** includes the Back Bay, Freedom Trail, North End, Charlestown Navy Yard and Harvard Square.

\$22
per person

Tour 2 Boston's Famous **Duck Tours:** A 90-minute tour of Boston on an aquatic land rover. See Boston by land and by sea! Visit all the major sites including Boston's Public Gardens, Old North Church and sites along the Charles River.

\$24
per person

Tour 3 **Plimouth Plantation/Lexington and Concord.** An 8-hour bus tour w/guide. Visit Lexington Green and Concord, North Bridge. Then travel one hour to Plymouth to visit the Mayflower, Plymouth Rock and Plimouth Plantation.

\$54
per person

Tour 4 **Whale Watch Cruise/Cape Cod Bay:** A full-day tour. Travel south to picturesque Cape Cod and cruise the bay to see whales in their natural habitat. Also visit Hyannis with time for shopping.

\$70
per person

Tour 5 **Salem and Marblehead:** A 6-hour tour, traveling along coastal roads to Castle Rock with visits to Salem's famous House of the Seven Gables and the beautiful harbor sites of Marblehead with time for shopping at the many boutiques and shops.

\$33
per person

Hotel Packages

#1. Ramada, Bedford **\$88***
includes breakfast daily

#2. Wyndham, Burlington **\$89***

#3. Westin, Waltham **\$130***

#4. Colonial Inn, Concord **\$159***

#5. Park Plaza, Boston **\$186***

*per room/per night, plus tax



Mail to: Garden City Travel Services, 233 Needham St., Newton MA 02464

Registration form

Name _____

No. in your party _____ No. of rooms requested _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Date of arrival: _____

Date of departure: _____

☐ Check to request brochure

☐ Check if you require air transportation/city

☐ Hotel Package # _____ Optional Tour(s) # _____
Date of Optional Tour(s) _____ available 7/27, 28 & 30

\$100 per person deposit required to reserve space

☐ Check or money order payable to **Garden City Travel**

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Name on card: (please print) _____

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Masonic Academy Appears on the Web

*Masons join forces with leading Web site
to offer a free educational opportunity*

The 32° Masons of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction have collaborated with one of the fastest growing learning Web sites on the Internet to offer all Masons and their families a unique educational opportunity. The site at www.learn.com/masonic is the result of that partnership.

Through the efforts of Dean Vaughn, 32°, president of Dean Vaughn Learning Systems, Inc., and chairman of Learn.com, Sunrise, Fla., a self-paced interactive course curriculum is now available online. By using the site "Masonic Academy for Excellence in Personal Development," Masons can improve their memory skills, speaking skills and more, all at no charge.

"We are pleased to have the Masonic Academy take advantage of this technology that is offered free to the fraternity and its members," said Jim Riley, president of Learn.com.

Vaughn, a leading author of applied memory techniques, has worked

with Patrick Toomey, vice president of Learn.com and a fellow Mason, to develop the Internet Academy for Freemasons.

A member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Harrisburg, Pa., Vaughn developed the world's first commercially successful applied memory course in 1974.

As of Feb. 4, 2000, the number of Freemasons registered for the Masonic Academy is 4,127 from all 50 states and 25 countries.

The Academy site now includes Chat Rooms and Forums. Chat Rooms offer the opportunity to chat live with Masons anywhere in the world. A Forum is the equivalent of an electronic bulletin board making it possible to post questions and receive answers from anyone who wishes to reply immediately or at a later time.

A new feature has been added to the site enabling any Valley, Masonic Lodge, etc., to provide its own members with information, schedules or

Current Courses

- How to Master the Art of Remembering Names
- How to Master the Art of Public Speaking
- How to Remember a To-Do List
- Spanish Vocabulary Volume 1, 2 and 3

Upcoming Courses

- How to learn verbatim information
- How to conduct a meeting without notes.
- Leadership Development

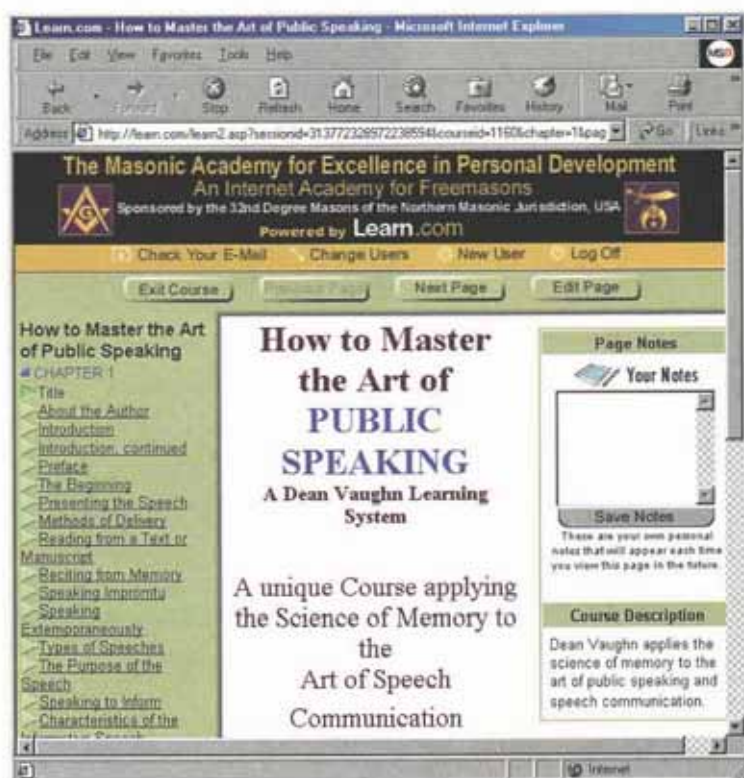
instructional material. The feature includes the ability to password-protect any or all of the information desired.

All registered members now have the option to receive a daily e-mail service offering a word a day with color graphics to build English vocabulary skills utilizing organized memory techniques. A better vocabulary is essential for leaders who wish to improve their ability to communicate effectively.

The Supreme Council is in the process of preparing a leadership development course for the Academy. The course should be ready in the spring. It is based on material created by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey and previously used in seminars.

Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston sees the program as a natural complement to the Scottish Rite philosophy of self-improvement.

"We are delighted to sponsor this free Internet Academy for Freemasons throughout the world," said Commander Ralston. "It provides a wonderful opportunity for Masons to further develop their personal skills."





Here's a deal – free!



By Leigh E. Morris, 32°

Forecasting the future is a tricky business. Witness Brother Rudyard Kipling's prediction of 1927: "By 2000, atomic-powered zeppelins will zip along at 300 miles per hour." He should have confined his remarks to cigars (read his Departmental Ditties).

Nonetheless, I have been repeatedly asked to offer an outlook and some advice (be it wise or otherwise) regarding the future of the Internet. This is an especially daunting task when you consider the Internet began as a military experiment in 1969 (nope, Al Gore didn't invent it!) and it wasn't until the late 1980s that we mere mortals had the opportunity to access it. Most of the Internet's growth has occurred in just the past few years. Now for my fearless forecast.

Change will be rapid. Everything from the way you access the Internet to what will be available on it will undergo constant, dramatic and rapid change. It will be a good many years before the dust settles. It is imperative that you maintain maximum flexibility by avoiding long-term agreements for Internet services. What's long-term? Anything beyond 30 days! As for computers and other hardware, do your homework before you buy – and when you buy, be frugal because something better and cheaper is just around the next corner.

Internet service will become faster. We already have seen a tremendous increase in the speed of modems. The 56K modem is now the standard. Unfortunately, modem speed is only part of the story. Since most of us are linked to the Internet through a telephone line, information only will move as fast as that phone line allows, usually at a maximum of 28.8K, creating a significant barrier to maximizing the Internet's potential. Survey data published in the *Wall Street Journal* noted that 65 percent of Internet users say increased transfer speeds are needed before they will make greater use of the Net.

However, profound change is on the horizon. Cable television is entering the ISP field with a super-fast service called digital subscriber line (DSL). Traditional ISPs and phone companies are countering with their own flavors of DSL. Though costly now, prices will plummet and DSL will spread. And keep an eye on satellite dish television, which also is entering the field with incredibly fast Internet connections.

The Internet's impact will be overestimated and misunderstood. If we are to believe all of the oracles, the Internet is going to replace everything from the local shopping center to cash.

Atomic powered zeppelins are far more likely. Remember, the Internet is a communication tool. Nothing more and nothing less. Its strength as a communication tool lies in its speed, convenience and low cost. The Internet's ultimate impact will be determined by you, the user. No matter how good the idea may seem, if people don't accept it, it won't fly.

Navigating the Net will continue to be a formidable obstacle. Creating a Website is easy. But before people can use a site they first must find it, and that is an enormous problem. Even the very best search engines (such as www.northernlight.com) only have a fraction of all Websites in their databases. Furthermore, the search process is often time consuming and fraught with frustration. Not until the search process is simplified will the Net be able to realize its full potential.

Cheap is good, but free may not be. Computer, software and ISP costs have fallen, and even lower costs are just around the corner. That is good. There also is a rise in free services, but free does not mean there isn't a price to pay. Read the fine print. Generally, free services mean the user must endure online advertising. In addition, in order to use the free service you may be required to complete one or more annoying surveys designed to pry all sorts of personal information out of you. Free is not for everyone.

The future belongs to the diversified. Whether you head a major corporation or manage the flow of information for a Blue Lodge or a Valley, remember that diversity in communication is the key to success. Don't allow the razzle-dazzle of the Internet to blind you from reality. Traditional print communication will continue to be a primary information source (hey, you are reading this in a magazine!). Specialty magazines, weekly newspapers, books, direct mail and newsletters are enjoying a renaissance of sorts. Radio, TV, movies, videos, CDs, telephones and such are not about to become passé. The Internet is but one tool.

Well, there you have it, my fearless outlook and a little advice. Now get out there and surf the Net. And, for heaven's sakes, don't buy any stock in an atomic-powered zeppelin enterprise.

I bid you adieu until the next issue. If you would like a copy of the new and improved Web Guide or have some questions, send an e-mail to me at leighm@pmihwy.com. And be sure to check out the Supreme Council's Year 2000 Website (www.32ndDegreeMason.org).



Dayton Dedicates Children's Learning Center

The newly dedicated 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in Dayton, Ohio, has already positively influenced at least one life, and has the potential to affect many more.

According to Learning Center Director Bonnie Gregory, during the opening dedication of the Center, a 16-year-old boy gave a presentation to the more than 300 people in attendance, attesting to his success in the program.

In his freshman year of high school, according to Gregory, Tyler could not fill out administrative forms, because "they were a mystery to him." However, this year, after attending the Dayton Learning Center the forms were not a problem.

"He talked about what a difference it made in his life," she said. "He talked about the down periods of his life, how he was always the last one done. He was reading at the fourth-grade level even though he has a higher than average intelligence. He said,

'For the first time in my life I can read well enough to get a message off my computer from my friends and send one back they can read. My parents thank you, I thank you, but most of all, my English teachers thank you.' "

Brothers in Dayton joined the ranks of many other Masonic bodies

***"My parents thank you,
I thank you, but most
of all, my English
teachers thank you."***

Tyler

this fall when they dedicated the city's 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children. The Center, sponsored by the Scottish Rite, is the fourth to open in Ohio, and one of 55 planned to open throughout the 15 states of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite.

The other Ohio locations are in Cincinnati, Youngstown, Toledo, and one just recently opened in Columbus. There are currently 24 Masonic Learning Centers in operation.

The Learning Centers offer a free tutoring program for dyslexic children, which provides them with the tools to learn to read and write effectively. The number of people with dyslexia is estimated to be 15 to 20 percent of the world's

population. Research indicates that at least 2 million children attending school in the U.S. are dyslexic. The Supreme Council allocates funds each year to support the growing network of Learning Centers.

Gregory said the program at the Dayton facility is essential to fulfilling the need for one-on-one tutoring for dyslexics, since such support is not offered anywhere else.

"Public schools do not have a program that works for these kids," she said. "The tutoring has to be one-on-one and that is too costly. We are the only place in Dayton that can serve dyslexics and train tutors in the Orton-Gillingham method," she said.

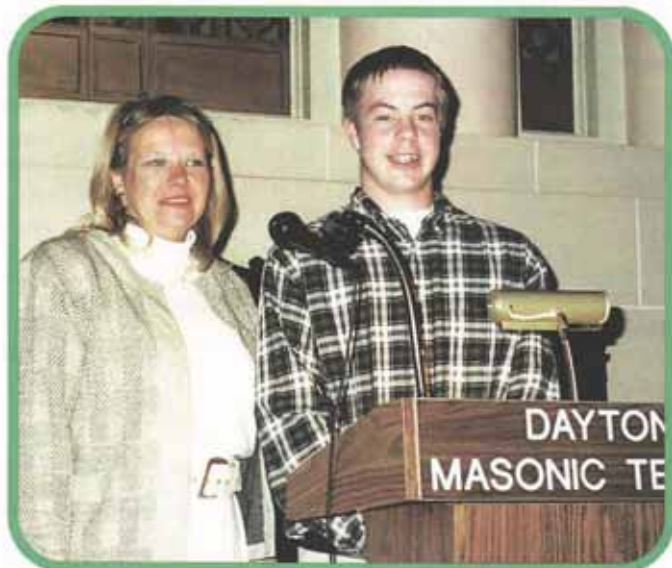
With the Orton-Gillingham approach, students use sight, sound and touch in learning to read, write and spell. The structured, sequential, multi-sensory program enables dyslexics to break the English language down into workable parts and build upon their knowledge.

The Center in Dayton opened in June, enrolling four students for a six-week session with two tutors. Through the winter, nine tutors are currently instructing 17 students, and there is an extensive waiting list for future registration.

A teacher in the area for more than 24 years, Gregory is well aware of the need for such specialized tutoring. She also is familiar with Masonry. Her husband and father are in the craft, so she was not surprised with the benevolence of the organization.

"We are so fortunate the Scottish Rite Masons took on this cause. We have a sign hanging in the center that says: 'Mankind owes to children the best it has to give.' Scottish Rite Masonry is all about giving the best we have to give," she said.

Other Centers that opened recently include Columbus, Ohio and Reading, Pa. Ohio will be hosting its dedication ceremony in June.



Tyler, a Dayton 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children student, gave a heartfelt testimonial at the opening dedication last fall. His mother stood with him.

The Stamp Act

A Philatelic Review



By Robert A. Domingue



Brother Jonathan Wainwright is pictured on a Marshall Islands release of May 1992 to commemorate the "Fall of Corregidor." He was a member of Union Lodge No. 7, Junction City, Kan., receiving all three degrees on May 16, 1946.

He also belonged to the Scottish Rite bodies of Salina, Kan. He was invested with the KCCH by the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, in 1947 and the following year was presented the Grand Lodge of New York's Masonic Achievement Medal.

Born Aug. 23, 1883, at Walla Walla, Wash., Wainwright graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1906. He served in France during World War I and was appointed to command the Philippine division in 1940.

Becoming a prisoner of war during the Fall of Corregidor, he was released from a camp in Manchuria on May 16, 1945.



Scenes from the works of Brothers Gilbert and Sullivan are depicted on a set of Great Britain stamps in July 1992 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Arthur Seymour Sullivan's birth. Both Sullivan and William Schwenck Gilbert were Freemasons.

They met in 1871 and the two entered into a remarkable collaboration that lasted for 25 years. Together they produced 14 comic operas that

were well accepted throughout the English-speaking world.

Sullivan was initiated in the Lodge of Harmony No. 255, Richmond, Surrey, England, on April 11, 1865. He served as Grand Organist in 1887.

Sullivan was born in London on May 13, 1842. His father was bandmaster and clarinet teacher at the Royal Military School of Music and gave him his earliest military training. He later trained at the Leipzig Conservatory and upon his return to England was appointed organist at Saint Michael's Chester Square, London.

Among his more noted compositions was "Onward Christian Soldiers," which he completed in 1872.

He was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1883 and died at Westminster in November, 1900.

Brother Gilbert was born in London on Nov. 18, 1836, and was educated at the University of London.

Called to the bar of the Inner Temple in 1864, he later devoted himself entirely to literature and became widely known as a dramatic writer.

Gilbert was a member of St. Machar Lodge No. 54, Aberdeen, Scotland, being initiated on June 12 and raised on June 23 in 1871; he later joined Bayard Lodge No. 1615, London, in June 1876.

Gilbert, who was also knighted, died in 1911.



Astronaut James Benson Irwin is pictured on a stamp issued by Ras Al Khaima to commemorate the Apollo 15 mission of 1971.

Born in 1930 at Pittsburgh, Pa., the oldest son of a plumber was the eighth man to walk on the moon. He served as the command module pilot on the mission and spent almost three days exploring the lunar surface. He was also back-up lunar module pilot for Apollo 12 in 1969.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, and after achieving his master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1957, he attended the Air Force Experimental Test Pilot School.

In 1961, Irwin was severely injured when acting as a pilot instructor during a training flight that crashed. The disaster rendered him unable to walk, talk or remember. However, he was flying again within 14 months, and graduated from the elite Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School and joined the astronaut corps in 1966.

Irwin is a member of Tejon Lodge No. 104, Colorado Springs, Colo., having been raised there on Sept. 8, 1975.



Clara Barton was honored on one of the Civil War stamps issued by the USPS in June 1995. Barton, a member

of the Order of the Eastern Star, was born on Christmas Day, 1821, in North Oxford, Mass. She was a clerk in the American Patent office from 1854 to 1861 and during the Civil War was active in distributing supplies for the relief of the wounded.

Following the war she organized the Bureau of Records in Washington, D.C., to aid in the search for missing soldiers.

She personally directed relief at the 1889 Johnstown flood, the 1900 Galveston disaster, the Russian famine, the Armenian massacres, the Spanish-American War in Cuba and the Franco-Prussian War.

She founded the American Red Cross in 1882 and served as the president until 1904. Unlike the International Red Cross, which provided only battlefield relief, Barton's society served America in war and in peace.

She died in Glen Echo, Md., on April 12, 1912.

Barton joined the Order of the Eastern Star in June 1906, eight years after the Chapter in Oxford, Mass., was named for her. She received her indoctrination from Robert Morris, founder of the Order. The Clara Barton Chapter, O.E.S., laid her to rest in Oxford, Mass., following her death in 1912.



ROBERT A. DOMINGUE is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, Mass., and editor of *The Philatelic Freemason*.



By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

Working the Rough Stone — Freemasonry and Society in 18th-Century Russia by Douglas Smith. Published in 1999 by Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb, IL 60115. \$38 (plus \$4.50 shipping and handling).

I have been aware for quite a few years that Freemasonry was not totally dead in Russia, although it was forced into a state of inactivity. I learned this from citizens of Russia who have been in my office over the past 20 years and gave me this information. Recently I became more aware of the influence of Freemasonry, albeit not a form of regular Freemasonry, in Russia following the assassination of the Czar. Today regular Freemasonry does exist in Russia having been consecrated through the National Grand Lodge of France. This is the first book that I have read as a complete text that traces early Russian Freemasonry over a period of time in all its various stages, from its rises and falls to its contributions to Russian society.

Freemasonry in Russia has experienced a traumatic existence and did indeed fail to exist as an active organization on more than one occasion. It has possibly been more glorified and more vilified than anywhere else on earth. It has been credited with as much potential influence and attacked with as much hatred as it has anywhere else, and yet it keeps cropping up. Although this text does not deal with the present Grand Lodge, or Freemasonry of the recent past, it does reveal the tenacity of the craft.

The author holds a Ph.D in Russian history from UCLA. I don't know him to be a Mason, but I learned from the book's introduction that his inspiration to research the subject was stimulated by attending a performance of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. He has written a creditable text (assuming that the research material is creditable) "using archival resources previously unavailable" on the subject which many of us know little about. The jacket cover indicates that Smith uses Freemasonry as a prism through which to view changes in Russian society, and he does it pretty well.

The title of the book is taken from the desire of the Masons to perfect their manners, to smooth the rough edges. "By 'working the rough stone,' the Masons sought to 'civilize' themselves, to become polite, refined, and agreeable. Freemasonry offered Russians the opportunity to shed their 'Asian' manners for those of the 'European,' to smooth their barbaric coarseness into a civilized polish."

According to the author the motives (to produce the same end) for joining the craft in Russia were the same as for those joining other European Grand Lodges, yet members and society were perhaps impacted more because they had further to go in accepting the teachings of civic responsibility. The members of the fraternity "bore the name of Freemason as a badge of honor

that distinguished them from the rest of society." It brought them into play in a period of history where Freemasonry was a major factor in the birth of civil society. "Membership in the lodges signaled both a separateness from the rabble and a superiority over other members of educated society."

One point the author examines is how the influence of the late Renaissance impacted the development of Freemasonry and how it was as important as the period of the Enlightenment. He discusses the "profound intellectual transformation" which the craft underwent from the late Renaissance period through the Enlightenment period, along with the commitment to "moral betterment of humanity, Brotherhood, toleration, social harmony, and equality."

Smith made a significant observation about the Russians' motivation to join the craft, compared to the goals of those living in Western Europe.

For most of Europe, the allure to Freemasonry was that it offered a mechanism to breach societal divisions and transcend the rigid hierarchies of structured society. This is how we generally look at Freemasonry, and it probably was the first organization of note to minimize class distinction.

In Russia, on the other hand, the attractiveness of the craft was in its providing the stimulus to provoke the exact opposite. Russians found Freemasonry to be a vehicle through which structure might be imposed on society. I had never considered that the same end could be achieved through the craft when the purpose accepted was that different. What it does show is that the principles of Freemasonry may be used to accomplish an end even though the minds receiving them may be stimulated for such different purposes. What is important is that in the end the basic result is what characterizes Freemasonry and defines its purpose.

There can be no doubt that Freemasonry was a major influence in Russian society during its active periods. Many men saw it as a way for the transformation of themselves into a "model of civility and politeness." The craft was regarded as an organization superior to all others in providing the opportunity to excel. S. S. Eli is quoted as saying, "Freemasonry was the proper place, indeed the best place, for all who wanted to learn how truly to think, to discern, to choose, to want and to repudiate, to work and to act."

Regretfully Freemasonry took a pathway in Russia that led to near extinction. I quote several examples: "... the original Freemasons had been philosophers devoted solely to furthering the 'common good,' but as the order's membership grew its basic purpose eventually became perverted. They began to admit to their ranks the most debauched men without selectivity and often for reasons of profit. ... The single reason they

joined was to acquire the social advantages and benefits that came with membership in Freemasonry."

The end result was that by the early 1790s the "Masonic movement had run its course" and had ceased to exist as an active organization. There were a number of reasons this occurred, but this willingness to sacrifice quality must have been a major factor. There could well be a valuable lesson for us in this scenario.

I have used numerous quotes from this text because I felt the quotes might encourage someone to read the book and those who will not can learn something from them.

I recommend the book to those who have a definite interest in Masonic history. There is much thought-provoking information in it, which may change the way we look upon the craft today. I also recommend it to those who have an interest in Russian history. It may clarify some of the changes that took place in Russian society as influenced by Freemasonry.



I Just Didn't Know That by Nevell Barker Cryer. Published in 1999 by Ian Allan Publishing, Riverdene Estate, Molesey Road, Hersham, Surrey, England KT12 4RG. Use MasterCard or Visa. £13.49 (approx. \$23).

The author of this book is a very well-known Masonic scholar, and even though he is from England, his name should be familiar to any student of the craft. He holds a degree in history from Oxford University, studied theology in Cambridge and was ordained in 1950. He has held many significant positions in Freemasonry, was Prestonian Lecturer in 1974, and Batham Lecturer in 1996-98. He also served as Worshipful Master, Secretary and Editor of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research as well as Worshipful Master of the Manchester Lodge of Research. In addition to his Masonic life, Brother Cryer has had a notable career in his chosen profession of the ministry.

The book represents a collection of 10 papers which the author delivered at various functions during his 50-year Masonic career. These papers answer questions which most of us never think about and yet are common components of our heritage. To most, the book could just as well have been titled, "I just didn't think to ask that." Some of the chapters will be more interesting to those members working under an English-style constitution but most should be of interest to all Freemasons.

The chapter titles alone should stimulate interest in all of us. I found the first four chapters the most interesting to me as an American Freemason. "The origin of our meeting place," "A walk round your lodge room," "Where did we get our clothing?," and "Why do we say and do that?" The other chapters, however, also provide answers to other questions some of you may have observed, such as "The puzzle of the third degree," and "What is the point of other than craft degrees?" In the final chapter "Adventures of a Masonic author," the author discusses some of his "adventures" and the discoveries he has made as a result of his more than a passing

interest in the craft.

You will find answers to such questions as: why the altar and columns are in the lodge room, and what is the significance of the mosaic floor, the way the apron is worn in the three degrees, as well as why they are now standardized. The development and use of the collar is also discussed, as well as the jewels.

I Just Didn't Know That is a small paperback book with just 104 pages. It is a book, however, from which all could probably learn something. I recommend it for your reading.



The Golden Book of Light by Dennis Williams. Published in 1999 by Vantage Press, Inc., 516 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001. \$10.95.

This small paperback book was sent to me by Vantage Press, Inc., as a review copy at the request of author Dennis Williams. A letter stating that the author is a "fellow Brother in Light" and that it was a "pro-Masonic book" was enclosed.

According to the back cover, the book is a "mystical commentary on the Holy Bible that took 10 years to materialize." It was written following "intense research in volumes of religion, philosophy and science, and years of development in the art of meditation." It "now allows for an easy read for modern readers who are interested in Biblical Enlightenment."

Well, the book is definitely not anti-Masonic, but I would be hard-pressed to call it "pro-Masonic," because it is not Masonic at all. This does not mean that its contents would not support Masonic principles or that Masons may not support its contents, but certainly all would not. It is totally devoted to one Volume of the Sacred Law, and even though it includes discussion and interpretation of the Old Testament, it is purely Christian in its intent. Since Freemasonry is religious, but not sectarian, it could not appeal to all.

It basically is the author's interpretation of what the Bible is really conveying; therefore, there will be those who disagree with him. Even though it is referred to as "an easy read," frankly, there were parts I did not understand.

I think it is Brother Williams' sincere attempt to use all of his resources to understand and convey the word of God as he sees and understands it. Even among Christians there will be those who will accept and those who will reject its contents.

Since I am reviewing books for a Masonic organization which supports its members right to worship God as their consciences dictate, I neither recommend nor withhold recommendation for it to the craft.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°, recently retired as Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He is Executive Secretary for the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and the book reviewer for *The Northern Light*.



Scottish Rite Offers New Internet Access



The Scottish Rite offers an easy, affordable Internet access through a program called the "Rite Connection."

For only \$17.95 a month, members can receive unlimited 56K access to the information highway as well as technical support, and an e-mail address for every member of the household.

A portion of every subscriber's monthly fees will be returned to the 32° Masonic Charities.

The Scottish Rite is also offering a Masonic-oriented Web site, customized for the members. The site, called a portal, connects online members to Masonic activities, interests and people, as well as information on the latest headline news, weather, financial news and Web searches. The portal offers all the features you would expect from AOL, Yahoo, or MSN.

The Web site, designed by iBe-long, an Internet company that builds customized portals for organizations, offers a trusted and comfortable online environment for members. The site allows you instant access to Scottish Rite headquarters, your Valley, Masonic Lodge and fellow Masons, as well as your family and friends. The site can be found at:

www.32ndDegreeMason.com

One advantage of the site includes highlights of activities that support the Scottish Rite, such as a calendar of events, Masonic chat rooms, polls, online shopping, stock reviews, 32° Masonic Learning Centers information, museum information and other Masonic links.

Perhaps the most important benefit of all is the contributions that will be made to the Masonic Charities

every time a member logs on. Shopping online through Scottish Rite Internet access also funds Masonic charities. Members will also receive a \$300 value of savings at brand name retailers when they sign up for the Rite Connection.

Sign up today for this advantageous Masonic Internet access by calling 1(800) 999-6162 to receive a free CD that enables a quick and simple connection to the Internet, or register online at www.register.masonsol.com to download the software.

*The more members that subscribe,
the greater the return to the
Masonic Charities will be!*

MASONIC WORD MATH

How to solve: Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word associated with Masonry.

(CONSTRAINT) + (BETWEEN)

- (TOWER) + (ROASTING) - (GRAB)

+ (BLUNDERS) - (DISTANT) + (SUIT)

- (BUSINESS) + (SEA) - (TALE)

- (SCENT)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 14.

Answer from previous issue: COSTUMES

HealthWise

Protein aids arthritics

People with rheumatoid arthritis have joints that may swell, stiffen, and become extremely painful. Now researchers have discovered a protein dubbed TNF that not only erases symptoms, but slows the rate at which further damage occurs. "It's the most dramatic thing I've seen in 30 years in rheumatology," says Michael Lockshin of New York's Hospital for Special Surgery.

Vitamin E and cancer

Vitamin E may reduce the risk of lung cancer in smokers by up to 23 percent, according to a study of 29,000 male smokers in Finland.

The best protection against cancer of the lung, mouth, pancreas, and other areas is to stop smoking, says Dr. Demetrius Albanes of the National Cancer Institute.

Vitamin E is found in nuts, whole grains, and dietary supplements. Previous studies show that vitamin E gives some protection against heart disease and stroke.

Calcium vs. fat

Doctors at Purdue University studied dietary habits of women in their 20s. They found those who ate more calcium-rich foods during the study weighed less than those who did not. Women who drank three glasses of milk a day lost six pounds of fat over two years without dieting. Calcium turns off one hormone responsible for making fat, says lead researcher Dorothy Teegarden, Ph.D.

Pump up metabolism

Lifting weights is one of the best ways to keep your metabolism pumped up. Doctors at Colorado State University say their test subjects' metabolisms returned to their normal calorie-burning rate within an hour after aerobic exercise, but took up to 15 hours to return to normal after weight training.

Coffee and conception

A study at Johns Hopkins University shows that nonsmoking women who get more than 300 milligrams of caffeine a day reduce their chance of conception by 26 percent. The 300 milligrams of caffeine can be found in three cups of coffee.

Exercise for asthma

A recent study published in the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* analyzed the effects of exercise on asthma patients over three years. Overall, there was a significant decline in emergency room visits and an improvement in asthma symptoms for patients on the exercise program.

Ginkgo assists memory

There is new evidence that *Ginkgo biloba* has an effect on Alzheimer's disease.

The ginkgo tree has a form of natural antioxidant properties, enabling it to neutralize some types of damage to the brain, says Jeffrey Kays, M.D., director of the Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Dr. Kay's research shows that ginkgo significantly improved mental function in sufferers taking 120 to 240 milligrams for three to six months, as reported in the *Archives of Neurology*.



Pluses in bright food

The more colorful your dinner plate is, the healthier you will be say doctors at the School of Public Health at Berkeley, Calif.

Deeply colored fruits and vegetables are not only beautiful and rich in flavor, they have the most vitamins and minerals. More importantly, pigments, the stuff that gives them their color, may also protect against chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer.

Many brightly colored fruits and vegetables have the ability to interfere with cholesterol synthesis and protect our arteries. Others are rich antioxidants that reduce the activity of cell-damaging free radicals.

Fruits with the top antioxidant scores for 3.5 ounces are:

Prunes, 5770; Raisins, 2830; Blueberries, 2400; Strawberries, 1540; Raspberries, 1220; Plums, 949; and Oranges, 750.

Vegetables with the top antioxidant scores for 3.5 ounces are:

Kale, 1770; Spinach, 1260; Brussels sprouts, 980; Broccoli florets, 890; Beets, 840; Red bell peppers, 710; Yellow corn, 400; Eggplant, 390; Carrots, 210.

Pigments and antioxidants are more concentrated in dried fruits.

Herbs and anesthetics

Anesthesiologists in Texas found that a significant percentage of patients awaiting surgery took some kind of herbal remedy or supplement. That can put them at risk of serious interactions with anesthesia if they don't tell their doctors before a surgical procedure.

Reduce Germs

Studies at the University of Arizona show that the sink drain, kitchen faucet and taps, plus the refrigerator handle and bottom shelf are the five most germ-laden spots in a typical kitchen. The germ count can be significantly reduced with regular use of antibacterial sponges to clean these areas. They are available in supermarkets.

Regular heartbeat

By giving up salad dressing made with oil, you deprive yourself of a "good" fat called alpha linolenic acid (ALA), say doctors at Harvard. ALA is one of the omega-3 fatty acids that keep the heart from developing dangerously irregular heartbeats. Other sources are flaxseed and walnut oils.

VIEWS FROM THE PAST

*Quotations selected
from the past
may not necessarily
represent
today's viewpoint*

It's the Mason in the Man

With the exception of organized religion, Freemasonry probably has created a greater beneficial impact upon the development of present-day civilization than any other organization that has existed on earth. Yet, when you read historical documentation of the evolution of civilization, Freemasonry is rarely mentioned and, if it is, it is only peripherally.

When the first World Conference of Grand Masters was held in Mexico City, out of it came the Charter of Anahuac. The third item in that charter presented the need of the craft in the 21st century to fight against ecological depredation, contamination of the environment, social instability, and religious commitments in education, among others.

I have a very serious concern with any proposal that suggests Freemasonry's involvement in political and/or religious issues.

When I presented my concerns about the charter to some Masonic leaders, the rebuttal I received was that Masonry must have been involved in political and religious issues in the

past. Freemasonry's influence in the American Revolution was cited as an example. They pointed to the actions of men like Washington, Franklin, Lafayette, and others as Masonic involvement.

And then, for the first time, I began to understand why the influence of Freemasonry is not discussed in history books. We cannot deny the impact of Washington and so many others in the development of American freedom; but it was Washington the man, not Washington the Mason, and not Freemasonry that made America what it is.

The philosophical purpose of Freemasonry always has been to develop the man — to start with good men and make them better, to increase the intellectual capacity of the individual, and to give the man the incentive to contribute to making the world a better place to live.

Thus we read about the man in history texts, not the organization.

— *From a message by Thomas W. Jackson, in The Pennsylvania Freemason Aug. 1996.*

On the Level

At the close of every meeting, the Senior Warden reminds us that we as Masons should meet upon the level. That phrase captured the essence of what I perceive to be one of Freemasonry's strongest assets. Within our walls all men, so long as they believe in the universality of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, meet on a common level.

The level is the insignia of the office of the Senior Warden. It teaches us that we are all descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hopes and dreams. This Masonic implement teaches us that although distinction

among men may be necessary to preserve subordination and order in a society, no eminence of station should make us forget that we are brothers. These distinctions only make us different than our other brothers; they do not themselves make us better than they are.

By bringing men of all stations together — by meeting on the level — Masonry seeks to remind us of our common traits, diminish our differences, and better enable us to work together for the service of God and our fellow man.

— *From an editorial by Alan G. Lisle, in the Indiana Freemason, Summer, 1994.*

Masons Give a Little More

Though we have much to learn from the Masonic and Scottish Rite degrees, the most important and difficult task is to take what we learn and put it into practice in our daily lives.

So where do we begin? Permit me to refer back to the Studebaker Corporation. Until his death in 1917, John Mohler Studebaker was the prime moving force within the company. It was he who gave meaning to the firm's motto: "Always give more than you promise." Not surprisingly, Studebaker was a Freemason, a man who took seriously his commitment to the craft.

If we truly believe in improvement, we could begin by adopting that motto as our own.

Back in my home state of Illinois, there is a garage owner who cleans the interior of every car he works on, even the oil changes and lube jobs. He doesn't advertise the service, he just does it. And he doesn't charge any more than the competition. It's just his way of giving a little more.

There is a grocery I frequent. The owner and his employees carry bags out to customers' cars. It isn't necessary. The competition doesn't do it. I doubt his business would suffer if he didn't do it. But it is his way of giving a little more.

Then there was the man whose daughter had moved away after college to start her new career. One night she called home with tears in her voice. Her best friend had died in an auto accident. They talked, but he knew he had to do more. He told his wife to quickly pack their bags. They drove through the night to be with her and bring her some comfort in a difficult time. They were giving a little more.

I'm certain we all know people who give more than they promise. The person who volunteers his or her time and talents, the person who goes the extra mile for a friend, the one who sacrifices a little so they can give to others. We admire these people. They make life a little more pleasant.

Is this not what Freemasonry is all about? Giving more than we promise. Imagine if we all gave a little more each and every day. Now that would give real meaning to our commitment to improvement.

— *From an editorial by Leigh E. Morris, in Wisconsin Scottish Rite Messenger, Dec. 1996.*

Masonic Mission Will Not Fail

The face of our nation is changing, and we must correspondingly adjust. Millions of our population growth may not be material for Masonic membership, and the great influx of candidates after the two World Wars may be only a memory. We wish to initiate good men, that we may make them better, hence we must remain selective.

And while Masonry does not believe in solicitation of members, nevertheless we do have an obligation to let good men know what principles we advocate, in order that they may know what Masonry is. For too many years, Masonry remained a secret; now the world should be able to learn about us.

From its very beginnings, Masonry was an organization of elite members. For the future, it must continue in that status and seek to initiate men who are leaders in their respective walks of life. Numbers in themselves do not assure success, but quality does. If we believe in our cause, then we must support it with whatever funds it takes to do the job.

Life has now become so complex that many men think they have no

time for the development of a philosophy of living. We have become a materialistic rather than a contemplative society. What in the end this will do to man's psyche, his soul, is still undetermined.

The Scottish Rite was first organized in 1801 to bring a sense of orderliness into what could have been a feeling of frustration.

Our Scottish Rite still tries to instill a sense of divine mission into its adherents. Such a purpose and such a mission cannot fail so long as there is a single believer in the inherent godliness of man.

We constantly seek perfection, and while it may prove illusive at times, even the search is uplifting to the soul. Righteousness, goodness and truth are the primary concepts of the sacred law of the Scottish Rite. Our supreme task is to inspire men to seek righteousness because it is right; justice because it is just; goodness because it is good and truth because it is true!

While this remains our goal, we cannot fail.

— From the book,
History of the Supreme Council, 1987.

Challenge the Changing Times

There are many wrongs to be found in the world. There are many complexities in life which combine to mock the laws of the land and to undermine moral standards and divine laws. No magic wand exists which can solve them all at a single stroke. However, there are tools that will help us to eliminate or palliate those wrongs.

These tools are prudence, justice, tolerance, integrity, moral responsibility, temperance, fortitude, and love. All of these are tools that are at the immediate disposal of Freemasons.

The principles and tenets of our craft have stood the test of time. In the midst of vast social changes, incredible advances in science, the growth and decline of empires, the greedy ambitions of dictators, the principles and teaching of Freemasonry have remained immovable and immutable in their

belief in, and promotion of, the innate dignity of man.

Freemasons have the tools to meet the challenges that will inevitably emerge in a constantly evolving society. The real question is whether we have the energy, courage and perseverance to use them.

— From an editorial in *The NSW Freemason*, Oct. 1997



We'll need these if we're going to reach younger members of the community.

Quick Quotes

Giving is a secret of a healthy life. Not necessarily money, but whatever a man has of encouragement and sympathy and understanding.

John D. Rockefeller Jr.

Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to reach them.

Louisa May Alcott

Our trials are great opportunities, but all too often we simply see them as large obstacles.

L.B. Cowman

Carry the consciousness of your spirit wherever you go. Gently release your desires, and the universe will handle the details for you.

Depak Chopra

If you're looking for perfection, look in the mirror. If you find it there, expect it elsewhere.

Malcolm Forbes

When a thing is done, it's done. Don't look back. Look forward to your next objective.

George C. Marshall

It is the rough road that leads to the heights of greatness.

Seneca

It is not enough to be industrious: so are the ants. What are you industrious about?

Henry David Thoreau

If it's a mistake of the head and not of the heart, don't worry about it. That's the way we learn.

Earl Warren

You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality.

Walt Disney

The most important lesson you can learn from winning is that you can.

Dave Weinbaum

Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of going out of one's self, and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another.

Thomas Hughes

Child's play

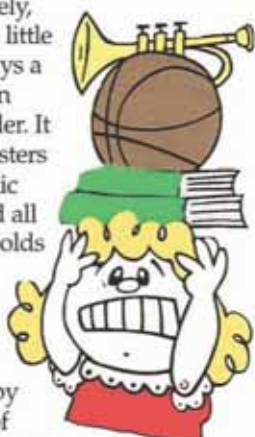
Doctors at Harvard Medical School say unstructured play encourages independent thinking. And it allows kids to negotiate relationships with peers. Play time is important.

Unfortunately, kids today have little time for it. So says a study of children ages 12 and under. It included youngsters from every ethnic background and all kinds of households — rich, poor, single-parent and dual-income.

The study by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research shows that today's kids are overscheduled, overworked, and running out of time for fun. Their leisure time has dropped from 40 percent in 1981 to 25 percent today.

The results of the study were the same for dual-income families and those where only one parent worked outside the home.

While organized activities help keep young people "busy" and out of trouble, parents, say the doctors, should make an effort to allow time for independent play.



Home alone

Middle-schoolers are battling for the right to be home alone after school. Many are tired of sitters and after-school programs. Renee Magid of Initiatives, a Fort Washington, Pa., independent-care consultant, says kids differ so much that parents have to assess their capabilities carefully before leaving them alone.

Among middle-schoolers between ages 12 and 14, 41 percent stay home unsupervised. Some benefit from the responsibility, but others are too immature. For kids age 10 or 11, classes and lessons can help.

Wireless deal's a steal

Long-distance callers may get a better value by going wireless. Flat-rate wireless plans, such as those offered nationally by AT&T, GTE, and Sprint PCS, often bundle a fixed number of minutes per month no matter where



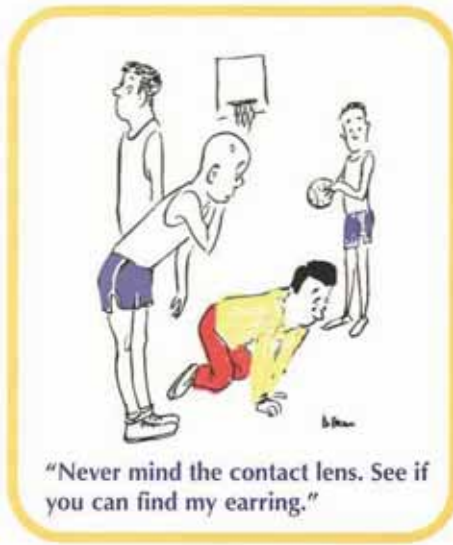
you're calling to or from. If you travel or call long-distance frequently, a call-anywhere wireless phone plan might save you money, say experts in *The Kiplinger Washington Letter*. To check wireless deals on the Internet, go to www.point.com.

Battling the blues

It is estimated that 10 million Americans suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD) and even more from its common cousin, the winter doldrums. Anyone who feels less cheerful, energetic, or productive in winter is a likely sufferer, says Dr. Michael Terman of the Winter Depression Program at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York.

According to studies published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, patients who receive bright-light treatment each morning for 20 or more days improved significantly.

If you think you are affected, you can buy a light box from Lighting Resources (800) 875-8489. If you just have the doldrums, maybe keeping bright lights on during evening hours will help.



Gimme the remote!

Ever wondered how long those annoying TV commercial breaks are?

According to the media review magazine, *Brill's Content*, MTV is the worst commercial offender, running 18 minutes and 42 seconds worth of commercials, public service announcements, and promos and credits each hour.

The fewest commercials are on TNT with just 9:24 minutes of commercials.

Other commercial rates:

TBS	17:58	E!	17:48
ABC	16:27	UPN	16:22
NBC	16:05	WB	15:56
Fox	15:37	ESPN	14:50
CBS	14:45	CNN	14:43
A&E	14:37	Discovery	13:20
USA, 12:07			

401k ceiling rises

Employees will be allowed to put up to \$10,500 in their 401k retirement savings plans in 2000, up from \$10,000 in 1999. Contributions are made from pretax pay, and employers may add to them. Contributions and gains are not taxed until the worker retires.

Those earning more than \$85,000 will be considered "highly compensated," up from \$80,000 in 1999. They may be subject to lower savings limits, depending on how a company's program is set up.

Retirees can earn more

Starting in 2000, over-65ers can earn \$17,000 from jobs without a cut in Social Security benefits. Over that amount, they lose \$1 in benefits for each \$3 earned. After age 70, there is no earning limit.

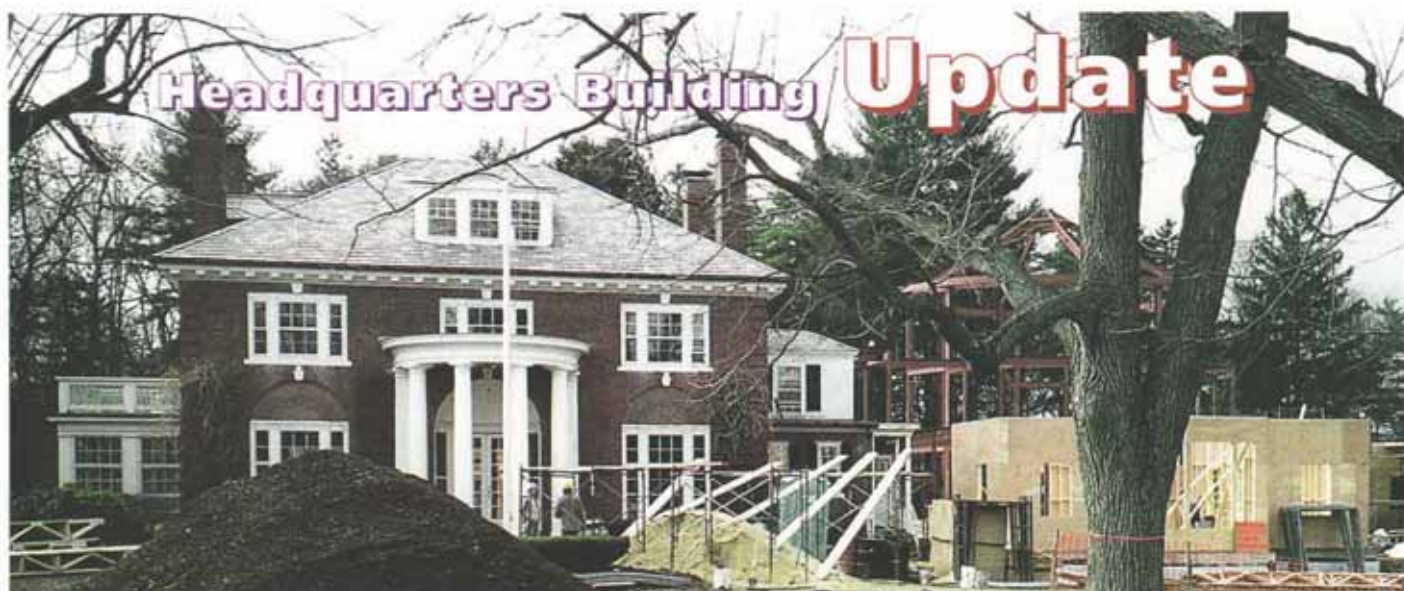
Retirees under 65 can earn up to \$10,800. They lose \$1 in benefits for each \$2 over that amount.

When X is just a kiss

In medieval times few people could write. If they had to sign an important paper, they would make an "X," often in some distinctive way.

To give the document further credence, they solemnly kissed the X.

Over time, the X came to stand for a kiss. Though people sign with their names today, the X tells the receiver to visualize that kiss, not for the document but for the receiver.



Headquarters Building Update

The addition to the new headquarters of the Supreme Council is slowly taking shape, thanks in part to the unseasonably warm weather in New England this fall and winter and the diligence of construction workers and subcontractors of Harvey Construction of New Hampshire.

"The weather has been very cooperative," said Learning Center Director Joseph Berlandi, 32°, who is overseeing the project. According to Berlandi, the construction is on schedule and a substantial amount of work has been completed. By the end of January, the building's walls and the roof had been completely framed in. With the advent of below zero temperatures and snow, the workers will move inside for the remainder of the winter to complete the interior of the addition.

When the workers move outside again in spring, they will finish the exterior roof and lay the brick on the facade.

"There are no delays," said Berlandi. "The masonry and the roof will be done by March."

Berlandi expects the entire project to be complete by the end of July.

"The only thing that is held up is the landscaping, and we have to wait until spring for that," he said.

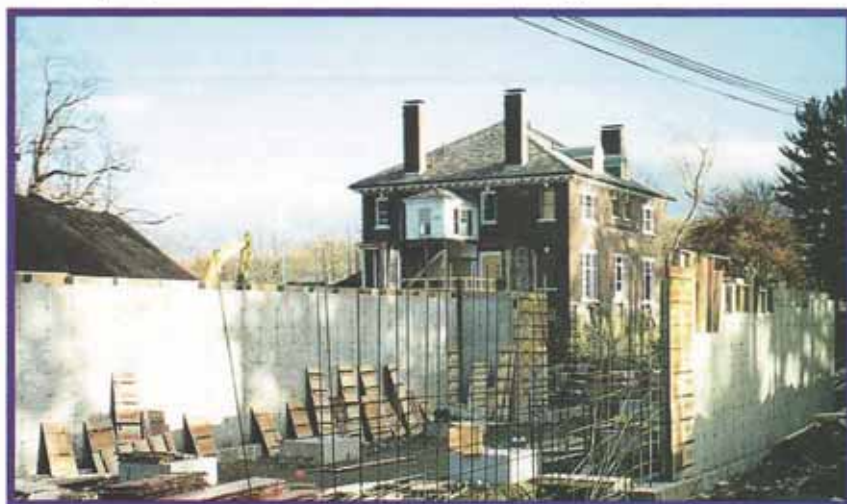
The new headquarters, designed by architectural firm Earl R. Flansburgh & Associates, will have several wings attached to the original brick building, with the main entrance moved to the center of the new addition.

The first floor of one wing will house a Children's Learning Center that will be a flagship for the jurisdiction's charitable dyslexic program. The center will be one of 55 being opened across the jurisdiction providing one-on-one tutoring for dyslexic students. The facility in Lexington will eventually serve up to 60 dyslexic children per week. During the summer months the center will be used to train tutors.

The administrative headquarters of the Children's Learning Center department will be housed in the new facility, along with other departments that serve Masonic outreach programs. The Supreme Council administration and *The Northern Light* editorial staff will also be located in the newly renovated building.



Top, view from the front of the existing building as the rotunda and wings of new addition are being erected to the right. Above, foundation is dug to join the old and the new buildings. Right: View from the back of the property, foundation of new wings being constructed.



Our Readers Respond

Which way is up?

I looked at the picture on the front cover of the August issue, and I looked again for five minutes. There is something wrong with this picture. Why is the big G, square and compasses upside down?

I turned the picture 180° and "wow," what a difference. The picture came to light.

Why is this picture on the cover printed backward?

Hubert A. Butterworth, 32°
East Providence, RI

Editor's note: The photo was taken from the observation deck on top of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. You can see the shadow of the memorial in the photo. We decided this photo was much more eye-catching and dramatic than a photo taken of the Masonic emblem with the memorial in the background.

Ease up on word math

One of the fun things in *The Northern Light* is the Masonic word math.

In the past, with 32° friends, everyone tried the puzzle and few succeeded. I am a Cornell graduate and I have never solved a puzzle.

Now the puzzle is so difficult none of my friends or I even try.

I suggest the puzzle start easy in February, and progress harder through the year. For a test get 5- to 10-year old boys. If they can't solve February, it's too hard.

Elder S. Wolfe, 32°
Avon, OH

Working contradiction

The August issue contained an item headed, "Kids OK when Mom Works." The content flies in the face of the tone of the page titled, "Family Affair." This finding is not universally accepted nor is it consistent with other studies that demonstrate quite the contrary.

Considering our organization's strong position regarding family values, I am surprised, even shocked, that the voice of the Scottish Rite offers such a statement without, as a minimum, expressing the contrary findings of other surveys and the opinions of other professionals in the field.

John A. Woodhall Jr., 32°
Canton, Ohio

King with a wrong country

King William IV, depicted on a 1984 stamp from Granada (Stamp Act, Nov. 99) did not serve as "King William of England" but rather as the "King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland." To the English this may seem like nit-picking, but nits need to be picked when the Scots are forgotten, aye, and the Irish and Welsh as well.

George B. Higgins, 32°
N. Eastham, Mass.

On the Lighter Side

You know you're drinking too much coffee when . . .

- You ski uphill.
- You haven't blinked since the last lunar eclipse.
- You watch videos in fast-forward.
- Your eyes stay open when you sneeze.
- All your kids are named "Joe."
- You don't sweat, you percolate.
- Your life's goal is to amount to a hill of beans.
- When someone says, "How are you?", you say, "Good to the last drop."
- You name your cats "Cream" and "Sugar."
- You have a picture of a coffee mug on your coffee mug.
- You can outlast the Energizer bunny.
- You help your dog chase its tail.
- You introduce your spouse as your coffeemate.
- You answer the door before people knock.
- Your lips are permanently stuck in the sipping position.
- Your Thermos is on wheels.
- You go to sleep just so you can wake up and smell the coffee.

HIRAM™ By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*

***More than one copy?** A number of readers complained that they had received several copies of the two previous issues. We apologize for the oversight and ask that you bear with us as our membership files are being converted to a new computer system.

If you receive more than one copy of this issue, why not pass along the second copy to a friend.

Please be assured that our Information Systems team is aware of the problem and hopes to have the problem solved in the very near future.

***Family line.** When Mark R. Kurzenknebe received the 32° at the Valley of Harrisburg's fall reunion, he became the fifth generation of his family to join the Harrisburg Consistory. Both Mark's father, Glenn, and his grandfather, John, were on hand for the occasion.

***Florida snowbirds.** When we published the announcement of the Florida luncheons for 33° Masons of the Northern Jurisdiction residing in the south, we listed the wrong contact for the Tampa area.

The correct name should be Ill. Milton H. Thoene, 33°, 55 Blackbeard Lane, Nokomis, FL 34275. He can also be reached by phone (941-488-0466).

***Licensed.** Dick Rappleye, 32°, a member of the Valley of Detroit, sent us a photo of his Michigan license plate. It reads, "OICUR12." To the left of the plate on the rear of the car is a 32° emblem.

"I've been getting a lot of positive comments from other Masons, who are usually the first to understand it," he notes. "But then, more light doesn't come easily."

***Butler County.** Freemasons have served at every level of government from the presidency to local borough councils. Although it is common to have Masons serving in public office, it is a rarity to have not just one but three 33° Masons



all serving the same municipality at the same time. Butler County, Pennsylvania, has the unique situation of having its sheriff, coroner, and a county commissioner fall into this category.

Ill. William L. McCarrier, 33°, is currently a county commissioner, and Ill. Dennis C. Rickard, 33°, is county sheriff. Both are Past Commanders-in-chief of the Valley of New Castle.

The third member is county coroner William F. Young Jr., who was recently elected to receive the 33° in September. Brother Young, also a member of the Valley of New Castle, is currently Assistant Chief Rabbani for Syria Shrine Temple.

***Chess anyone?** If you're a chess player, you may be interested in the Masonic Postal Chess Club. Master Masons of recognized lodges are eligible to join the club to play chess with other Masons.

Membership includes both beginners and experienced players. Some members prefer to play with only one opponent, while others play seven or eight games simultaneously. Annual dues are \$20, and there are no additional charges for game assignments.

The club has been operating since 1975. For more information, write to the club secretary: Dennis Plymette, 371 Holly Hock Circle, Mountville, PA 17554.



***Special aprons.** The Scottish Rite Valley of Burlington, Vermont, has put together a special degree team that will travel around the state to confer the Blue Lodge degrees when requested by a lodge. The team now wears special aprons.

The use of the aprons by the degree team was approved by Grand Master Edward J. Wildblood Jr., 33°. They are only authorized for those specific occasions and not for general lodge attendance.

The triangular-shaped aprons carry a double-headed eagle on the flap. The emblem pertaining to a particular lodge officer's station also appears on the apron.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor

The Northern Light
PO Box 519
Lexington, MA 02420



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with 32° Masons, families and friends

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- A London pub-crawling dinner
- Air London/Edinburgh/London
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