A Message from Our Grand Master

Another milestone in history of Masonry in the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was completed at the year 1954 came to a close. South Pennsy svg County Charles Pa. The Masonic Home for Boys in Lansford, Pennsylvania, was dedicated in a ceremony on September 25, 1954. In response to those inquiries I wish to draw for you a mental picture of what we have done, and are planning to do in the year ahead—1955 for the Masonic Homes at Lansford, Pennsylvania.

April 10, 1954 the Committee on Masonic Homes put into operation a Rest Home in the Allegheny Building, providing 10 beds for Guests that normally are known as Infe Guests, that is those who are not ambulatory but also not clased as Hospital Guests. This building is now known as the "Allegheny Rest Home." The new Rest Home is a big relief to our greatly overcrowded Hospital, however, as a Rest Home, it is only in a temporary stage. We need a permanent Rest Home with facilities for 150 beds, theaters, service kitchen, assembly room, medical and nurses room, large indoor and outdoor solutions and the necessary apparatus. The Masonic County of Allegheny is counting a survey of Rest Home needs. They are having an Architect prepare plans and specifications as well as estimates of cost of erection and fitting such a building as is to be known as "The Allegheny County Memorial Rest Home." It is their hope to be ready to open the new facility for the Summer of 1955.

May 3, 1954 the Committee on Masonic Homes completely finished and put into operation a new centralized kitchen located in Grand Lodge Hall. This kitchen prepares and cooks all food used in the homes for the Guests and Employees. The cooked food is dispatched to the Girls Home and the Allegheny Home, and to the Girls Home by trucks equipped with electrical thermostatically controlled stainless steel food containers. By this method of preparing food hope we aim to save a 10% in food department.

July 23, 1954 the Committee on Masonic Homes let a contract to Wafte Associated, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for the construction of a 65 foot high silo to house all heating pipes and returns, domestic hot water and electrical cables. The tunnel is approximately six feet wide and 66 foot long and the finished tunnel will be completed, opened and inspected from the upper part of the tunnel. Appropriately we do say "Blue Lodge." The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the construction and installation of all mechanical and electrical equipment necessary for the new utilities work. This equipment will be installed in the new tunnel. The contract will be completed in 280 working days at a cost of $454,902.

The firm of McConnell & Light, Engineers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was employed to make a utility survey, prepare plans and specifications and bid the contract of this new tunnel. They recommended the Committee on Masonic Homes to continue the manufacture of electrical power at the Hospital for the use of the Homes, as the tariff of over $1,000 a month is being purchased of the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company

Another contract for $550,000 was purchased of the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company for the erection of a new Hospital Wing and alterations at the Philadelphia Freemasons Memorial Hospital at Lansford, Pennsylvania. The contracting and purchasing contract was given to S.H.S. Inc., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; the electrical work to H. P. Foley Company of Baltimore, Maryland, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; the elevator to be provided and installed by The Elevator Company of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The total cost of the first four contracts above is $1,326,000. Ground breaking for the Hospital project took place Friday, January 28, 1955 at 4:00 P.M. The Hospital will be completed June of 1956.

The Committee on Masonic Homes engaged Mitchell & Ritchey, Architects, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to design a dual building to be known as the Educational Building and Lodge Hall. The Recreation Building will be used for the entertainment of our Guests and Employees. The Lodge Hall will be for the use of Masons throughout the Jurisdiction for special Masonic Ceremonies or Commercial purposes. The contract for this dual building is expected to be let February 17, 1955. The project will cost approximately $590,000.

The above building program, with the exception of a portion of the Hospital, will be built, furnished and put into operation from September 1, 1955. The Masons and Non Masons, who have given their unyielding support of their work of charity at the Masonic Homes, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars of the cost of the Hospital was provided by voluntary contributions from the Masons of Philadelphia County, the balance was given to Grand Lodge by Bequests or Gifts.

The Grand Lodge constituted the following new Lodges during 1954:

April 7, 1954, Brotherhood Lodge No. 773 with 61 warrant members was constituted in Corinthian Hall, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

April 10, 1954, Mount Zion Lodge No. 774 with 27 warrant members was constituted in Masonic Temple, McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania.

November 16, 1954, Beaver Lodge No. 775 with 128 warrant members was constituted in Zembo Masonic Hall, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

September 25, 1954, Fairview Lodge No. 776 with 190 warrant members was constituted in Pennypack High School, Norristown, Pennsylvania.

November 15, 1954, Suburban Lodge No. 777 with 30 warrant members was constituted in Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Masonic Homes of our Jurisdiction is that you, and yours, may enjoy health, happiness and prosperity throughout the year 1955.
Harristown Is Scene of Memorable Masonic Event

Back in November, 1779, a memorable Masonic event took place in Harristown, Pa.—the constitution of Perseverance Lodge No. 48, the third lodge to be established in Pennsylvania. The event was memorable by the celebration of the One Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Perseverance Lodge, Harristown, Pa. As the Harristown Masonic Temple, built to house the cornerstone of the new Scottish Rite Cathedral and Masonic Temple and designed for the Lay inns of Freemasonry and to the glory of God.

Following Brother Ball's remarks the Grand Master, R. W. Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, addressed the group and presented the evening's entertainment. After the Past Grand Master, Commissioner of Masonic Education, in the Masonic Temple and then attended an Extra Meeting of the Temple Association of Harrisburg on September 15, 1954, and when completed will be a credit to the people.

The Plan

"We, Masons, believe in God and, therefore, have confidence in the future and build with a faith that Freemasonry will not be AAC.

Nothing was too much trouble for him though it meant many hours to prepare and present the plan to the people.

When the design and plans were almost ready for printing, the suggestion was made that the Scottish Rite Cathedral might be enlarged to include the York Rite Bodies. This was taken up immediately and a very general approval as to the submitting the plan to the Grand Master for its approval, or that the project could be fully considered.

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