Annual Address Highlights of R. W. Past Grand Master Lehr

In his Annual Address as R. W. Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr cited the progress in membership (with about 9,000 candidates initiated during the past year) to an "all-time high" of approximately 252,400 Master Masons. Reference was made to his having exceeded George M. Loder, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the number of initiates during a single day in York, Pa., on March 3, 1955. One new Lodge was chartered and the membership of Lodge No. 71B, Marcellus, Pa., on January 25, 1955.

Brother Lehr stated that two years ago he had visited the Masonic Temple Hospital, a program of which some projects are complete, in some, in process and none yet started but with plans in the making. He believed this "has been the longest period since the turn of a century."

At the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa., designated by Brother Lehr as "the heart of the Pennsylvania Freemasonry," work is progressing satisfactorily. The utility tunnel is nearing completion and the work of the hospital is scheduled to be completed in the near future and immediately thereafter, the remainder of the old section to be utilized as classroom.

From an administrative standpoint, amendments to the Ahiman Rezon were mentioned providing for additional necessary revenue and fuller facilities to the Administration of the Children's Home and Hospital.

The Hospital was made the Pennsylvania Masonic Juvenile Care and Development Home in December 25, 1955 to December 3, 1955, at which time Brother Broder Rouse Found, Dean Emeriti, Masonic Philosopher, was the closing speaker.

Brother Lehr recommended that serious consideration be given to a plan for providing alternates for Representatives in Grand Lodge in order that a greater proportion of the Lodges may at all times be properly represented during the various Communications.

Lodge No. 9 of Philadelphia Celebrates 175th Anniversary

Back in 1786, Lodge No. 9 of Philadelphia, "...recommending itself to our support and assistance," set about building a dispensary to which the Lodge was given perpetual rights to send two patients. Nearly 180 years later in what may be considered this venerable Lodge mark its 175th anniversary then by donating five thousand dollars to Grand Lodge to be used for establishing a general dispensary in the Hospital at Elkhannah.

And when the dispensaries are well under way, Lodge No. 9 has promised to contribute another $50,000 for this worthwhile project, and to expect to donate annually approximately that amount for the maintenance of this dispensary.

When Brother T. Harrison Coburn of Elkhannah, Ill., left a trust payment for the proceeds of which are to be used as endowed scholarships or for the purchase and use of vehicles to be used in the service of the Lodge No. 9, one of the first to establish a "fund of indigent and destitute Masons," from then until today Lodge No. 9 has been charity themselves and charity to others. "This is Masonry at its best."

Brother Joel Conaway, who prepared the Historical Report, presented at the recent celebration of Lodge No. 9's 175th anniversary, reported the few Lodges which did not take steps of this type of twenty-three years when they ceased labor for some reason or other, showing Lodge No. 9 has a continuous record.

Brother R. M. Lehr, in his address as Grand Master, made an official dedication and declared the address at their 175th Anniversary Banquet.

The Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute

Under the auspices of the Children's Service Committee of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the first juvenile court institute ever held was conducted at the juvenile Court House at Allegheny County from November 27 to December 3, 1955. As the sessions continued throughout the year, it is hoped that the Institute, known as the Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute, may do for the emotionally crippled child, regardless of race, creed, or religion, what the Masonic Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has done for the children's Hospitals already do so magnificently for the physically crippled child.

The Institute developed in response to an urgent and fundamental need in society—that is key public officials in their communities—to better serve the more than 1,000,000 unhappy, bewildered boys and girls who, each year, thru the juvenile courts of America. These young people are a part—a large part—of our greatest national resource, the future of our junior citizens. It is the Masonic Juvenile Court Institute that is designed to act as a parent, would, or should, oversee the care of these troubled youth in a troubled society.

In the adult judicial procedures are a trial or adversary nature in which the judge acts largely as an agent. In the children's field, he is directed to make an inquiry, as an parent, to find out how best to correct the individual child. Instead of acting as though his power is absolute, he is put into the position of the parent and finds the experience of parents and others that no two children are alike but that the same procedure, the same set of principles may be advantageous in any court.

The Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute is a small group of judges come together to make a clinical study of a Court which devotes all its time to children. Living together during the week, they consult with each other and listen to, and consult with, outstanding leaders in this new field of endeavor who are informed by these exceptional opportunities and abilities, the goal to be better to meet their unique, official responsibility in building on the benefits of the Institute spread more and more as a result of an attempt to be a better and more effective "hospital," coordinating and focusing in a responsive, judicial, professional concern for the mentally crippled child.

In the opening ceremony of the first session of the Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute, Brother Ralph M. Leut, President of the Institute, and Brother Joseph Conaway, Secretary, received many congratulations and declared their desire to attend. Twenty judges were selected to participate, becoming the first Fellows of the Institute. These 20 judges, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish, represented the 14 different states and were representative of America and of our local communities, large and small.

In the words of one of the Fellows, the Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute is the first in the nation to bring together in the same institute the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of Arlington County, Virginia, the Juvenile Court of the City of Philadelphia, the Juvenile Court of the State of Illinois, the Juvenile Court of the State of Pennsylvania, the Juvenile Courts of the State of New York, the Juvenile Courts of the State of California, and the Juvenile Courts of the State of Washington. All 20 of you have started it. May it be getting the Juvenile back to the idea of the Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute.

The Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute recognizes that the Juvenile Court is the most constructive interest in combating the alarming social and civic problem of juvenile delinquency. The Malaysia, Juvenile Court, is itself a noble and creative institution, to be used advantageously to channelize the energies of all the leaders in juvenile technique, to strengthen positive social law and democracy itself.

The second session of the Institute will be held May 6-11, 1956.
Amendments to Abimam Recon Adopted

What may well have been a record for attendance at the Lodge on December 7, last, when almost a thousand members, representing 488 of our 356 Lodges, were present.

These figures are not surprising when it is known that steps had been had upon the proposed Amendment to Article X, Section 1, Item 7 of the Abimam Rezon, which Amendment was tabled by Lodge D-1500 at 2:00 a.m. $19,016.49, and of the Masonic Homes totalling $30,000.00, to be applied to the cost of the erection of the Recreational Building at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethon.

The Committee on Finance

The Committee on Finance, which adopted the budget for which was unanimously approved, it allocated $1,130,000.00 for the Construction and Lobby of the Grand Lodge Building, $2,000,000.00 for maintenance and operating costs, and $50,000.00 for the operation of the Grand Lodge, a total of $2,186,499.

Included in the budget was an item of $10,000.00 for the Children’s Service Committee, which was increased to $35,000.00 by a resolution presented by the Committee on Finance, and unanimously approved by the Grand Lodge.

This appropriation is to be used to defray the expense of the Pennsylvania Masonic Juvenile Court Institutes, the report of which, held in Pittsburgh, November 25 to December 3, 1955, may be read elsewhere in this issue of the "Pennsylvania Freemason." Four resolutions attached to the report of the Committee on Finance were unanimously adopted.

In the first of these amended a resolution adopted by Grand Lodge on September 5, 1955, which had been included in the proceedings so far as the publication of certain portions of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Richard A. Kern and William C. Dorsey, Members of the Supreme Council, all R. W. Past Grand Masters, and Brother Ralph M. Leb, R. W. Grand Master, took a prominent part in the ceremony.

The Masonic Temple portion of the building was formally dedicated in our name, and which will add immensurably to its surroundings.

Harrissburg Dedicates Spacious Catholic and Masonic Temple

The dedication of the new Social Rite Cathedral and Masonic Temple in Harrisburg on November 17, 1955 marked the beginning of a new epoch in the annals of Freemasonry in that historic part of our Commonwealth.

New for the first time Harrisburg truly has a Masonic Center with the Social Rite Cathedral and Masonic Temple adjoining for the first time. The new cornerstone was laid in the presence of the Lebanon.

Speaking of the building itself, Brother Deike said: "The cornerstone, laid the corner stone of the Recreation Guest at Elizabethon has always been of Conducted at Homes for New employees, while the new Lodge Hall in growth of the Masonic Homes from its humble also the accompanying steps taken to insure Brother Deike commented K. All comments were recorded in connection with the laying of the cornerstone, which was done by Brother George H. Bushnell, Sovereign Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Richard A. Kern and William C. Dorsey, Members of the Supreme Council, all R. W. Past Grand Masters, and Brother Ralph M. Leb, R. W. Grand Master, took a prominent part in the ceremony.

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