B EFORE comes the Christmas season, that time for happy gatherings and expression of good will and peace toward our fellow men. Let us consider peace as it must have been regarded by the Galilean whose birth we celebrate this December 25, 1956. He spent His earthly life in bondage to the Roman Legions. That fact He considered unimportant. His work reached beyond and above it.

Who Guards the Portals of Freemasonry?

Who guards the portals of Freemasonry? It may surprise some to be told that three Master Masons guard these cherished portals. And but for the committee of three Master Masons, the sacred rights of the Fraternity would be exploited by the ambitions, corrupted by the imposts, or subverted by the seekers of evil power.

Each petitioner for membership must be worthy of a favorale report. Nothing more. It is true that the indifferent member oftentimes is influenced by the report of the Committee. But the petitioner must be worthy of a favorable report, or to warp and distort these cherished portals. And but for the vigilance of the three Master Masons, the sacred rights of the Fraternity could prove to be a most powerful influence.

Who guards the portals of Freemasonry? Three Master Masons who, if they are vigilant and alert that the petitioners are worthy of a favorable report, will guard our great portals, but, alas, if heedless and irresponsible of their responsibilities, will allow the secret entrance to the detriment of the Craft. The guard or sentinel must always be awake and faithful in the discharge of his duty. In time of war he who sleeps will pay well with his life for his slumbers. Today, this very day of our current Masonic year, we urge war—no, we must insist upon it—against the most insidious forces that would destroy the Fraternity, and the Master Mason who permits himself to be led will pay with his life for his lethargy.

You will find this letter at the next stated meeting of the Lodge, and then file it in the Official Register.

What is the Masonic Service Association of the United States?

The Association was formed in 1919 as the result of need developed in World War I, of a means by which American Freemasonry could function unity in relief for the distressed.
The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys

By THOMAS H. FORD, Member of Board of Trustees

A thorough trade training is offered each day. Moral and spiritual values are stressed. A healthy activity program is scheduled and supervised. A conflict of interest never exists. The staff is a highly qualified one, consisting of high school men and our Masonic Brothers as "The Patton School." Trova, shrubs and grass adorn the property. The necessary additions and improvements to the School building are being provided by the trustees. The School is for the care and education of orphans of Master Masons, who were at the time of their deaths, members in good standing in some subordinate lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. For the full care and education of any orphan, the Trustees may appoint any other male orphans whose father or mother is deceased, if it is deemed necessary to do so.

In keeping with the great tradition of the past, the Board of Trustees in cooperation with the Grand Lodge officers and appropriate committees have recently provided considerable time, energy and money to properly renovate and equip the School with the necessary improvements after the forty-nineth year it has served the community. The need for a replacement building has long been recognized. The School, in the opinion of the Alumni, is a reminder of the grant made by the Alumni for the purpose of education and development of orphan children who are able to care and provide for themselves. The School is for children whose homes of origin were so deprived of those who have been benefitted.

The School's address is: 800 Patton School Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. For more information, please contact (717) 367-2255. The School's mission is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for boys who have experienced a loss of a parent or a parent's significant other, and to help them achieve their full potential in all areas of life.
From Our Grand Secretary's Office

The SEPTEMBER QUARTERLY

Those who were not present at the September Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge will be interested to know that the meeting was held in the Masonic Auditorium in Altoona, under the direction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. The meeting was well attended and the business was conducted in an orderly manner. The Master Masons were those who were present at the meeting, and the business was transacted in a manner that was considered fair and just to all.

During the meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania be increased by a member of the Masonic Service Association of the United States.

2. That the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge be approved, and the By-Laws Committee be appointed.

3. That the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown be approved, and the Masonic Homes Committee be appointed.

4. That the Secretary be instructed to publish the Grand Lodge Circular as soon as possible.

5. That the Masonic Homes be visited, and the By-Laws of the Masonic Homes be approved.

The membership of the Masonic Service Association was increased by a member of the Masonic Service Association of the United States.

Membership in Masonic Service Association

The membership in the Masonic Service Association was increased by a member of the Masonic Service Association of the United States.

Why Not Make Use of Your Circulating Library

Your success in the Masonic Homes depends upon the management of your library. The following are the reasons why you should make use of your circulating library:

1. Your library is a valuable asset to the Masonic Homes.
2. Your library is a source of entertainment for the residents.
3. Your library is a source of knowledge for the residents.
4. Your library is a source of moral and spiritual support for the residents.
5. Your library is a source of social interaction for the residents.

Medical Consultants to The Masonic Homes

Honored at Annual Testament

Brother Richard A. Kern, while R. W. Grand Master, recognized the urgent need for a "Medical Consultant Service" to the Philadelphia Masonic Hospital at The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. Prior to 1947, the resident physicians involved the assistance of specialists, but there were no facilities. The hospital was located in a rural area within fifty miles of the Homes. No group of Masons were more dedicated to the service of the community than these Brethren who comprise the Consultants' Staff.

The Masonic Homes will be able to provide a hospital for our community at Elizabethtown. The hospital will be a vital link in the network of Masonic Services, providing medical care to our members and their families. The hospital will be a valuable asset to the community, and it will be a source of pride for all Masons.

The hospital will be located in a beautiful, rural setting, overlooking the Susquehanna River. The hospital will be equipped with the latest medical technology, and it will be staffed by a team of highly trained physicians and nurses. The hospital will be open to all Masons, and it will be available to the community at large.

The hospital will be open to all Masons, and it will be available to the community at large. The hospital will be a valuable asset to the community, and it will be a source of pride for all Masons.

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