A Message from Our Grand Master

At High Noon on December 27, 1957 I assumed the office of Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania. During the past six years it has been my privilege to serve the Grand Lodge in the offices of Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden and Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master. Previous to that I was District Deputy Grand Master of the Fifty-fourth Masonic District. It has been my privilege to serve under Albert T. Eyler, Ralph M. Lehr and Charles H. Nitsch during their terms as Right Worshipful Grand Masters. During these years it has been the practice of the Grand Officers under the guidance of the Grand Master, to endeavor to coordinate the activities of the Grand Lodge with the combined knowledge and assistance of all to solve the numerous problems which must be decided, in the end that the Grand Lodge activities proceed along those lines which will result in the continued forward March of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

As our immediate Past Right Worshipful Grand Master, Charles E. Nizich, has so aptly stated, "The Office of Grand Master is not a one-man job." On the contrary it requires 100% cooperation of all to the end that our Grand Lodge may continue to prosper and maintain its rightful position in Freemasonry. I am strengthened in assuming the duties of this high office in the knowledge that there are available to the Grand Master those who have preceded me in the office and many other outstanding Masons in Pennsylvania all of whom stand by resolutely and willingly to be of such help as may be necessary in this great undertaking. At the same time it is my thought that every Mason in Pennsylvania must stand by the regular meetings of his own Lodge and enthusiastically support the principles of Freemasonry which we stand for. In the context of the great mission of Freemasonry it is imperative that all of us give careful attention to our Masonic obligations as they arise from day to day and by applying those principles which we teach, each of us can make a distinct contribution within his sphere of activity to the advancement of the principles of Freemasonry to which we are all personally dedicated.

I was greatly surprised and pleased on December 27, 1957 when approximately fifty members of my Lodge, Verona Lodge No. 549, Verona, Pennsylvania, assembled in Philadelphia and be present in the Masonic Temple when I was installed. Many of those present in this group had never had the opportunity of attending a Communication of the Grand Lodge. To have those with whom we have been so closely associated in the activities of Freemasonry travel a round trip distance of over six hundred miles by buses in order to be present on the occasion of the installation of one of their past Masters as Grand Master is something which creates a feeling of raised emotions. The thought occurs to me that All Masons in all Lodges should have, and I feel certain do have, the same spirit with regard to Freemasonry. It was my privilege to visit my own Lodge on my first official visitation as Grand Master on January 3, 1958 at the Masonic Temple in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our Own Lodge Room being inadequate for the occasion. At that time I am informed there were approximately 517 Masons present and I was accompanied by the Grand Officers, many Past Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Masters. The presence of those many Masons brought to my mind the slogan of Brother George H. Deake, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master, who on many occasions during his term of office said: "Freemasonry is on the march in Pennsylvania. I believe that as is applicable today as it was during his administration. Not only is Freemasonry on the march in Pennsylvania but throughout the world. It will continue to be so as each of us, wherever we find ourselves, becomes more active, if possible, in this great movement.

I have been so impressed by the inscription which appears over the "House of the Temple" in Washington, D.C. this outstanding Masonic Jurisdiction, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. The inscription reads "Freemasonry builds its Temples in the hearts of men and among the nations." We, therefore, do have a great obligation as each of us to continue to preserve that heritage which is ours. We must build the Temples of Masonry within our hearts and live in the end that these same principles which have to do with the preservation of the heritage which we have as citizens, he perpetuated throughout the world.
Leonard Forman Lodge, No. 782, Forbis Trail Lodge, No. 783 Recently Constituted

One of the last official acts performed by Brother Charles H. Nitsch as W. W. Grand Master was to preside at the Constitution of Leonard Forman Lodge No. 782, Masons from the other end of this meeting held the first Wednesday of each month in Egyptian Lodge most successful.

Leonard Forman Lodge became the eleventh Lodge in District D in which Brother Albert Forbes Trail Lodge is the ninth Lodge in District D in which Brother Benjamin S. Barbour is the District Deputy Grand Master. Leonard Forman Lodge came into being because of the wholehearted enthusiasm of a small group of Master Masons, most of whom were at the time members of Brotherhood Lodge Cutler No. 601, East Pittsburgh. The Lodge was organized by the Past Grand Secretary, Brother George A. Avery, and he as always gave the guidance and assistance needed to bring this new Lodge into existence. Brother Mac Sanders of Brother of Assistance and District Deputy Grand Master was also of valuable assistance in the formation of the new Lodge officiated officially sponsored the new Lodge.

New Lodges have seldom borne the name of a former Lodge. A group of Brethren recently inducted and five years ago a small group of Masons at the other end of the Pennsylvania Masons in Indiana and a Fellow of the Pennsylvania Masonic University Club. Among the last official acts performed by Brother Charles H. Nitsch as W. W. Grand Master was to preside at the Constitution of Leonard Forman Lodge No. 782, Masons from the other end of this meeting held the first Wednesday of each month in Egyptian Lodge most successful.

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Noteworthy Masonic Meeting Places

Y--MR. CAMPBELL'S BRICK HOUSE

By William E. Montgomery

Montgomery (constituted in 1779) is the oldest in the State which can point with pride to its birth--the very first Masonic Lodge to be organized in the United States. This is the only one of them that was founded in New Hampshire.

The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, has been properly conformed to all the laws and regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, and the Grand Lodge of Maine. It is the oldest Masonic Lodge in New Hampshire, and is now in being after more than one hundred and seventy-eight years.

New York R. W. Junior Grand Warden

Our new R. W. Junior Grand Warden, Brother Elbert E. Hofeld, is a busy man not likely to be in the business world and civic affairs as well. Masonically, he has been a member of Butler Lodge No. 272 for over 40 years, having been its Worshipful Master in 1928. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 27 in 1935 and served in that capacity until he was elected and installed R. W. Junior Grand Warden of New York.

He is a Past High Priest of Butler Chapter No. 272, a Trustee of Butler Council No. 42, and a Past Commander of Lorraine Commandery No. 47 in which he has served as Regent for over 35 years. He is a member of New Castle Council, and was consecrated an Active Member and a Life Member of Syria Temple in Pittsburgh.

In the field of business, Brother Hofeld is President of Hofeld Savings and Trust Co., a Director of the Pennsylvania Tie Co., and a Member of the Mercer Line and Stone Co., and a Vice President and Director of the Butler County Merchants and General Fire Insurance Co.

He is a member and a Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Butler, a Former Director of Butler Savings and Trust Co., active in the Red Cross and Community Chest of Butler, and is an active member of the Cancer Society for nine counties in Western Pennsylvania.

He was born and raised in Butler and has spent most of his life there where he is a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Brother Hofeld was honored at a testimonial dinner on January 31st when 175 of his friends paid tribute to him at McAlister's Restaurant in Butler.

In recognition of his contributions to the Butler County Improvement Association.

He was a member of University Chapter No. 256, Royal Arch Chapter Philadelphia, and was a Past High Priest of Butler Chapter No. 272, the Prince Hall Commanders of the State of Pennsylvania, where he was a Trustee and the Scottish Rite Rebuilding Committee.

He was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33rd, Honorary Member of the Supreme Council No. 33 in Michigan.

In conclusion, Brother Hofeld was a truly humble person and he believed in and practiced Devotion to Service to his fellow men.