In Memoriam

Distinguished Masonic Leader's Career Comes To End After Long Service

Masons throughout the country are mourning the death of a dedicated Mason and leader, Bro. William E. Yeager, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.

He was R. W. Grand Master in 1950 and 1951.

Bro. Yeager, who had a distinguished career in practically all Masonic Bodies, died in a hospital in his home community of Warren, Pa.

He was born in Lilly Lake, Luzerne County, Pa., on Oct. 20, 1893.

Bro. Yeager was a Mason in Hazle Lodge No. 327, Hazleton, in 1918, following World War I in which he served as a Navy Ensign.

Having moved to Warren, he was the guiding influence in forming Joseph Warren Lodge No. 726 in 1923 and mourning the death of a dedicated Mason.

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From 1951 to 1958 Bro. Yeager served as a director and treasurer of the Knights Templar Educational Loan Foundation of Pennsylvania.

Bro. Yeager belonged to most all Bodies and Organizations in York Rite Masonry. In 1970 he served as Grand Master of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine for the United States, Mexico and the Philippines.

In Scottish Rite Masonry, he was a member of the Chapter in the Valley of Coudersport. He served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

Yeager's Masonic Lodge held its 75th Anniversary booklet, A History of the Lodge, the tribute to its first elected Master—Bro. Yeager—ended with:

"Our Brother puts the Precepts of Masonry into action in his daily contacts with his fellow men and service to the many institutions which make this community and world a better place in which we live."

Bro. William E. Yeager
R. W. Past Grand Master

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Oldest and Largest Fraternity!

 Freemasons Have Faith In God and Eternal Life

By Bro. Rochester R. Woodall
R. W. Grand Master

The Freemasonry of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, largest, and most widely known fraternal organization in the world.

Freemasonry is a system of moral mysticism, expressing faith in God and eternal life, in old and simple symbols of the building arts, and teaching brotherly love.

It strives to aid members to win a clear conception of their duty to God and man, to develop their spiritual faculties and to refine and exalt their lives in fellowship and service.

Some historians trace Freemasonry to the Seventh Century B.C. during the building of King Solomon's Temple. Records reveal that Freemasonry was introduced into England in 1674 A.D.

Today there are more than 150 Grand Lodges in free countries of the world with a membership of nearly 6,000,000.

Symbols are used by Freemasons to remind members of definite truths. A LAMBSKIN, for instance, widely known as the "budge of a Mason" symbolizes purity. Therefore, it is emblematic of the high exemplary character taught to and expected of all Masons.

Freemasonry challenges its members to the highest reach of noble living when rightly understood.

Membership is limited to adult males who can meet the recognized qualifications and standards of character and reputation.

One of the Landmarks of Freemasonry is not to solicit members. One seeking admission must have a desire and of his own volition request a petition from one he believes to be a Mason.

The petitioner must be recommended by two members of a Masonic Lodge and pass a unanimous ballot. The petitioner must be 21 years of age, mentally and physically competent, of good moral character, and believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.

In the United States, 15 Presidents are known to have been Masons. One of them was Harry S. Truman who was Grand Master of Masons in Missouri. Others were Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Harding.

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Masons Are Urged To Return to Lodge Meetings

The Grand Master is doing everything possible to encourage increased attendance at Lodge meetings.

He is specifically pointing out at every opportunity:

"How can you be a Brother to someone you don't even know?"

Bro. Rochester R. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, has directed that Worshipful Masters in this Jurisdiction appoint five members to a Committee on Lodge Attendance.

He said the names of this Committee can be printed on the Lodge Notice. Bro. Woodall said the primary duty of this Committee is to contact members of the Lodge to:

1. Urge attendance at Lodge meetings.
2. Talk up the planned program of the Worshipful Master.
3. Use every idea possible to increase attendance, such as telephone campaigns, car pool and even pick up and delivery service for those who need assistance.

The Grand Master added:

"You will find that many members who are not attending Lodge meetings will be happy to return to Lodge attendance."

"All they need to be persuaded is our concern."
**STATE DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS TO HELP MASONIC CULTURE PROGRAMS**

The Committee on Masonic Culture has divided the Jurisdiction into three areas in an effort to assist District Deputy Grand Masters and the Local Lodges.

- **Area A**
  - Bro. John K. Young, R. W. Past Grand Master, Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Culture, said he expects full cooperation in this effort for the best interest of Freemasonry.

- **Area B**
  - Bro. Walter L. Sykes, P.D.D.G.M.

- **Area C**
  - Bro. Walter L. Sykes, P.D.D.G.M.

**Freemasons Have Faith In God, Eternal Life**

(Continued from Page 1)

...Franklin D. Roosevelt.

...revise Masonic Financial Service.

...officers, with the addition of new officers and the attention to the needs of the Masonic Lodges.

For instance, Freemasonry teaches that a brother's welfare is closely linked with one's own happiness. It demands opposition to all sinners or Glorified.

Contrary to many well-believed, Freemasonry is not a secret society. It does not hide its existence or its obligations.

There has been no attempt to conceal the purpose, aims or principles of Freemasonry, but to make it easier understood and existing on the broad basis of Brotherly Love, Truth and Trust.

Its constitutions are published for the world to behold. Its rules and regulations have been made for inspection. It is true that we have modes of recognition, rites and ceremonies, with which the uninitiated are not familiar.

In this regard, all human groups and institutions have private affairs. For instance, families will discuss on subjects which do not and should not concern the public.

Often Freemasonry is said to be a religion. It is not a religion, although we are religious in nature. It attempts to take the place of religion or serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. Freemasonry accepts men, found, to be worthy, regardless of religious conditions. Acceptance of a man is based on a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Freemasonry does not teach that any religion is better than another. We stand for values that are supreme in the life of the individual: truth, justice, and charity. We are aware that a man who is true to his religious convictions will be a better Mason. Freemasonry has not only the teaching, but the training and practice, will enhance every worthy duty of life.

It will not weaken a man's loyalty to his church, but will strengthen it by the knowledge that he performs his responsibility to God and his fellowman.

To members of the Fraternity, Freemasonry is a way of life.
State Orders Costly Alterations At Homes

Grand Lodge To Provide Most Of The Needed Money

Pennsylvania Masons have been ordered to make extensive and costly alterations to the Philadelphia Masonic Memorial at Elizabethville.

Early estimates place the cost at approximately $4,000,000.

The problem was created by strict enforcement of new state and federal regulations for adult care centers. This was brought about by the wave of recent disastrous fires throughout the state that cost the lives of many elderly patients.

The Committee on Masonic Homes is doing everything possible to find the best solution for the benefit of Freemasonry and the Guests at the Homes.

It will require extensive alterations to the entire Memorial, or demolition and rebuilding of a portion of it. Sections of the Memorial are more than 50 years old.

So strict is the state order that approximately $50,000 must be spent on the Masonic Care Building that was only dedicated and placed into operation ten months ago.

Because of this urgent problem, the Committee on Masonic Homes has been forced to restate its policy of no admission for non-ambulatory Guests.

This policy will have to continue until the Masonic Health Care Center that includes the Philadelphia Masonic Memorial and the Masonic Care Building is reconstructed to meet state and federal regulations.

In setting the policy, the Committee said it was not possible to estimate how long this requirement will have to be continued.

Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Homes, has made two immediate moves to help solve the problem.

He presented a resolution to Grand Lodge and it was approved to provide $500,000 of the needed money. The resolution calls for the money to come from the following sources:

$700,000 — Hospital Reserve Fund
$400,000 — Guest and Building Fund
$2,400,000 — Masonic Homes Reserve Fund

Bro. Woodall said he will urge Pennsylvania Masons to continue their dedicated giving again this year to the Guest and Building Fund to assist in this great emergency.

He appointed four members of the Committee on Masonic Homes to serve as a Building Committee in an effort to speed up the necessary work.

The Building Committee will include: Bro. Theodore K. Warner, Jr., Chairman; Bro. Samuel C. Williamson; Bro. Arthur R. Diamond, Grand Treasurer; and Bro. Walter J. Heim.

In announcing the committee, the Grand Master said it is the policy of Grand Lodge to do everything possible to continue the Masonic Homes at Elizabethville as one of the country's outstanding adult care centers. He added:

"We can do no less. We owe this to our Guests at the Masonic Homes."

"We are fortunate to have funds available to nearly complete the required repairs.

"I know I can count on every Mason to meet his financial obligation to this great charity."

**Grand Master Thanks Donors To "Guest Fund"**

The Grand and Building Fund solicitation that ended March 15, totaled $705,683.00. This sum was presented by approximately 60,000 Brethren, representing a twenty-six per cent participation.

The new solicitation program also started March 16, and will conclude March 15, 1975.

Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, personally thanks all Masons who participated in the program that concluded March 15, but added:

"You will note from this issue of The Freemason that our needs are great."

"We can meet these needs if we get a greater percentage of Masons to participate."

A 90-year-old Guest at the Masonic Homes wrote:

"I am proud of my home."

"I am proud of my room, now."

"Thank you for the new drapes and rug."

"I get along with everybody."

--- ATTEND YOUR LODGE ---

"How can you be a brother to someone you don't even know?"

--- END ---
Brethren

Visited 468 Different Lodges

Visiting Record
Bro. Henry I. Stephenson, of Roxbor-ough Lodge, No. 137, was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge in 1925. He was elected Secretary at the Annual Meeting in 1925. At the Annual Meeting in December 1923, he was elected and inccorinated as Secretary for the following convocation.

Four Brothers Ath

A real brotherly act happened in New Bertholm Lodge, No. 522, New Bertholm, in its February 1974 Stated Meet- ing. Bro. Jerome Miller Sherman, a Brotherly act on his part, was reported as either Worthy Master or his Brother, and a Member of the Lodge, has served in New Jersey, Delaware, etc. for over 25 years, and has visited 468 different Lodges, including 299 in Pennsylvania. Since 1971, he has attended Lodge on its 100th Anniversary; the first of its kind in 1972. At the Annual Meeting in 1973, he was elected and installed as Secretary for the following convocation.

Attendance Record
Bro. Jeremiah D. O'Nieling, of New Temple Lodge No. 720, Allegheny, celebrated his 100th birthday on April 3, 1974. He was a Member in 1975, and has the distinction of having attended every Stated and Extra Meeting in addition to every Masonic Funeral Service during those years.

Human Relations Honor
Congratulations are in order for Bro. Leon Alexander, Past Warden of Equitable Lodge No. 501, held at Philadelphia. He was recently honored for his pres- ence and attendance at the Human Relations Awards for 1974. This award was presented to him by the Human Relations Commis- sion of Greater Philadelphia.

Father and Son
Bro. James L. Cummings, Worshipful Master of Grove City Lodge, No. 603, Grove City, has the distinction of being the father of a son.

Masonic Aprons

From "Tom Thumb" To Prince of Wales

The lambkin or white leathern apron, worn in all Masonic Lodges, is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Freemason. This custom dates back to operate use of the Masonic Lodges as of December 27, 1973, the Lodge during 1973 as a result of a lengthly service to the craft. A Mason for 54 years, he has served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge in 1925. He was elected Secretary at the Annual Meeting in 1925. At the Annual Meeting in December 1973, he was elected and installed as Secretary for the following convocation.

The above picture is the Masonic Apron worn by Bro. General Tom Thumb. It is approximately 1 inches wide and 8 inches deep.

The above picture is the Masonic Apron worn by Bro. Daniel Cox, Provincial Grand Master in 1750 and 1771. It is approximately 16 inches wide and 11 inches deep.

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