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

Masons throughout the country are saddened by the death of Bro. Charles H. Nitsch, R. W. Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania. He was R. W. Grand Master in 1956 and 1957.

Bro. Nitsch, who had a distinguished career in Freemasonry, died in Holy Redeemer Hospital, Huntingdon Valley, on June 19.

Bro. Nitsch lived at 720 Upland Road, Jenkintown.

Born in Philadelphia on April 4, 1908, he was graduated from Central High School and attended night classes at Drexel Institute of Technology and University of Pennsylvania.

He started to work for Stokes and Smith Co. in 1921 as a tracer in the engineering department, and was promoted to chief engineer in 1947. In 1947 Stokes and Smith merged with FMC Corporation.

For 45 years with the firm, he retired on June 2, 1976, to devote full time to the office of R. W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania.

Bro. Nitsch served eight years in the Third Regiment of the National Guard. During World War I, he was detailed to assist in designating the oil burning equipment for the U.S. Fleet. He was very active in various civic organizations, having served as president of the Jay Cooke Junior High School Parent-Teacher Association.

Chairman of the Activities Committee of the Northeast Boys Club and a member of the board of managers of the North Branch Y.M.C.A.

Bro. Nitsch was a member of Crescent Lodge No. 495, Free and Accepted Masons, serving the Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1920.

He was elected Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in 1952 and elevated to Grand Master in 1956, serving two years as Grand Master.

Bro. Nitsch's other Grand Lodge positions included: member Grand Lodge Lecture Corps; Chairman, Committee on Masonic Culture, 1962 and 1963; and Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance, 1954 and 1955.

In Scottish Rite Freemasonry, he was a member of Palestine Royal Arch Chapter No. 844 and served as the High Priest in 1943. He also was a District Deputy Grand High Priest. He was a member of Ioupa Council No. 46, Royal and Select Masters St. John's Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar; and Philadelphia Conclave No. 8, Red Cross of Constantine.

In Scottish Rite Masonry, he was a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies in Philadelphia since 1919. He served as Thrice Potent Master of Philadelphia Lodge of Perfection, 1934-1935; Sovereign Prince, De Joinville Council, 1939-1940; and Commander-in-Chief of Benjamin Franklin Commandery, 1946-1948.

For his dedicated work in Freemasonry, Bro. Nitsch was coroneted a Thirty-Third Degree Mason in 1926, the highest honor in Scottish Rite Masonry. He also was a member of Lu Lu Shrine Temple, Philadelphia since 1918.

Bro. Nitsch was known in many countries outside the United States for his Masonic work.

He was extended the following Masonic honors:

Hats-off Award, Order of DeMolay.
Honorary Legion of Honor of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay.
Honorary Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, Canada.
Honorary Member, Grand Lodge, A.F., A.M., South Dakota.
Christopher Champlin Medal for meritorious service, Grand Lodge of Rhode Island.
Jeremy L. Cross Medal for distinguished service, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire.
Josiah Hayden Drummond Distinquished Service Medal, Grand Lodge of Maine.
Merit Medal, Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.
Henry Price Medal, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.
Paulskirche Medal, United Grand Lodge of Germany, and International Gold Medal, Grand Lodge of Cuba.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Nitsch; two daughters, Mrs. Dorothy M. Adamson and Mrs. Betty L. Harvey; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam

The PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

An Official Publication of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania

Volume XXII

AUGUST 1975

NUMBER 3

Proclamation

Rededication to Freemasonry

Whereas, the members of our Masonic Fraternity should continually renew and expand the teachings of Freemasonry and love of country; and

Whereas, appreciation of the wonderful heritage enjoyed by all Masons constantly should be recalled; and

Whereas, there is considerable apathy on the part of some of our members and a great need to revive and increase active participation when possible; and

Whereas, our nation approaches the Bicentennial year of 1976 with great hope and faith in the future,

Now Therefore, I direct each Masonic Lodge in this Jurisdiction, to include in its program at the Stated Meeting of October 1975, an opportunity for the Brethren to recommit themselves to Freemasonry in general and their beloved country in particular.

Given under my hand and the seal of our Grand Lodge, the Fifteenth day of August, A.D., 1776. A.L. 5976.

R. W. Grand Master

Attend October "Rededication" Meeting

The Pennsylvania 1976 Masonic Emblem will only be available this year at Stated Meetings in October, 1975. Members must attend the Stated Meeting of their own Lodge to receive one.

This is an opportunity for many Brethren as possible to recommit themselves to Masonry and Country and support the Grand Master's program to increase Lodge attendance.

The following rules will govern the October sale of the 1976 Masonic Emblem:

1. Masons can purchase the Emblem at the October Stated Meeting of their own Lodge at a cost of $2.00.

2. District Deputy Grand Masters will be responsible for the distribution of the Emblems to Lodges in their respective Districts.

3. Visitors cannot purchase an Emblem.

4. No exceptions can be made.

Wearing the Emblem in 1975 has been restricted to those who have attended the "Rededication" meeting of their respective Lodge.

Those who cannot attend the October Stated Meeting of their Lodge can obtain an Emblem for delivery after January 1, 1976, by sending $2.25 to the Committee on Masonic Culture, 1 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

The price covers mailing and postage costs.
Proposed Replacement building for Masonic Health Care Center at Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown

$4,000,000 Construction

New Building Required To Replace “Lost” Rooms

Memorials Available

The Committee on Masonic Homes plans to build a $4,000,000 replacement building at the Masonic Health Care Center of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

Memorials are available in the $4,000,000 replacement building that will be erected at the Masonic Health Care Center at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

Masonic Law

All Memorials are on file at: The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pottsville, Pa. 19934

Masonic Law

The Masonic Law of Pennsylvania covers all Masonic buildings, including all Masonic lodges, halls, and other Masonic properties.

The Masonic Law of Pennsylvania provides that all Masonic buildings must be kept in good repair and maintained in a safe and clean condition.

Masonic Law

The Masonic Law of Pennsylvania prohibits smoking in all Masonic buildings and requires all Masonic buildings to be free of tobacco smoke.
Among those whose names stand high not only as Freemasons, but as military heroes, distinguished in civil, political and military affairs, was Rev. Arthur St. Clair, born March 25, 1736.

Member of the Continental Congress, 1775-1782; and in its President, 1777.

Bro. St. Clair was the first Governor of Northwest Territory, serving from its creation in 1787 until 1802.

He was a member of an early British military lodge.

On September 8, 1779, he was one of those signing a request for constituting a Lodge at Cincinnati, Ohio. (Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2.) It is still in existence. The warrant for this Lodge was granted by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 1791.

Bro. St. Clair settled in Ligonier vicinity, Pennsylvania, about 1764, where he became a member of Lodge No. 84.

He is no longer in existence. He was a land owner and one of the Valley's outstanding citizens.

He was commissioned a Colonel of militia in July 1775, and assisted in the retreat of the American army from Canada in that year.

Promoted to Brigadier General in August 1776, Bro. George Washington in the campaign, and battles of Trenton and Princeton to the winter of 1776-1777.

In 1777, Major General St. Clair was unable to defend Fort Ticonderoga, and was court-martialed in 1778. Although not encouraged by his parents, being a determined sort, he rowed his bride-to-be across the Delaware River on November 4, 1777, where they were married by Justice of the Peace, J.N. John and Betsy Ross had a thriving upholstery shop on Mulberry Street, now Arch Street, Philadelphia.

Col. George Ross, John's uncle, was a delegate to the Continental Congress and an officer of the militia engaged in stockpiling arms and ammunition for the new Continental Army.

Col. Ross was also charged with raising men for defense. Among his militia men was his nephew John, whose tour of duty was to guard the river front. Disaster struck on the night of January 21, 1776, when a warehouse storing ammunition exploded and Bro Ross was killed.

Burial records of Christ Church are brief: "John Ross, Upholsterer, Died January 21, 1776, Buried C.C."
Brethren

Many Masons Enjoy Long Life Span

Driftwood's Oldest Member
Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, Grand Master, personally congratulated Bro. Joseph Williams, oldest living member of Driftwood Lodge No. 572, Driftwood, Pa., at the 100th Anniversary of the Lodge. Bro. Williams is 98 years old and has been a Mason for 75 years. A bachelor, he retired four years ago from his own business.

New Centenarian
Bro. Clyde A. Fitzgerald, Cambria Lodge No. 278, Johnstown, is added to the growing list of centenarians in Freemasonry. Dr. Fitzgerald, born April 19, 1875, started practicing medicine in South Fork Pa., in 1903. He received his Symbolic Degree in July, September and November, 1904. Bro. Fitzgerald, now living in Des Moines, Washington, says he is looking forward to visiting Johnstown to attend his Lodge again.

Another New Centenarian
Bro. Ernest H. Dove, Past Master of Green Ridge Lodge No. 597, Scranton, was 98 years old on Wednesday, July 2. He received his Degrees in 1916. He was served as Worshipful Master in 1921 and Treasurer from 1937 to 1956. Still remarkably spry for his 98 years, Bro. Dove said that he was one of the first persons born in Colorado after it became a state in 1876. He plans on returning to Scranton to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Five Thirty Year Members
Three "Old Timers," — Fifty-Year Members of Mahoning Lodge No. 516, Danville — attended a Stated Meeting of their Lodge. They are Bro. William McCloough, 73; Bro. William Penn Amesbury, 79; and Bro. William C. Burger, 98.

Mount Piasgh's Oldest Member
At the June Stated Meeting of Mount Piasgh Lodge No. 443, Greensdale, Bro. Howard I Craig, Past Master and oldest living member of the Lodge was honored. Bro. Craig is a 78 year member and Past Master for 64 years. He is 98 years old.

Dedicated Candidate
Bro. Robert LaBar was raised a Master Mason in Pocenoe Lodge No. 780, Swit zer, on April 9. That same evening, he served as Guide for three candidates receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree. At the May Stated Meeting, he guided the same three candidates when they were Crafted. He completed the "four" in Guiding, when the same three candidates were Raised at the June Stated Meeting.

"Father and Son" Lodge

Freemasonry in Action
Freemasonry in action was displayed at the Stated Meeting of Mahoning Center Lodge No. 791, Monaca, Pa., on May 7. Bro. Robert A. Pete, District Deputy Grand Master for the 37th Masonic District, reports that he made an official visit and was accompanied by nine Worshipful Masters, seven Senior Wardens and five Junior Wardens of the District. During the evening, Bro. Jerry Harris, a victim of a fire that had destroyed most of his personal and household possessions, was presented with a replacement copy of his Bible, Masonic Edition, and a $1,000.00 check by his Masonic Brethren.

Free of Debt
With nearly 400 Masons, families and friends, the Kittanning Masonic Temple Association, Kittanning, conducted outdoor mortgage-burning ceremonies on Saturday evening, June 21. The memorable event took place thirteen years ahead of schedule. Through the generosity of many Members of Kittanning Lodge No. 244 and Seneca Lodge No. 805, the new Masonic Temple is debt-free — eight years after construction. The appraised value of the building is $300,000.

Rated Excellent
Bro. John A. Roth, Sr., Past Master of Exemplifier Lodge No. 491, Philadelphia, in 1940, seldom misses a Lodge Meeting. At the June Stated Meeting, he exemplified the Master Mason's Degree, the first time in thirty-five years. The Officers and Members say he rated an "E" for excellence.

High Lodge Attendance
Six Lodges reported attendance of 200 or more at June Stated Meetings, including: Perry Lodge No. 458, Mahaffie, ville, 205; Marion Lodge No. 562, Scottsdale, 304; Robert Burns Lodge No. 464, Harrisburg, 213; East Shore Lodge No. 681, Camp Hill, 237; Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown, 227; and Shule Lodge No. 601, Irwin, 210.

Bro. Fred Mason burns the mortgage.

“Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye”

Grand Master’s Dinner-Dance, December 27, in Pittsburgh

Masons and their ladies will "Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye" at the Grand Master's Banquet and Dance on Saturday, December 27.

It will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh. The cost will be $15 per person. This includes the following:

- A delicious roast beef dinner.
- Dancing to midnight with Sammy Kaye and his orchestra.
- Poplar "Do You Want to Lead a Band" feature.
- Special 1976 Souvenir for every Brother attending the affair.

The Annual Grand Communication of Grand Lodge will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, December 27, in Syria Mosque. The Grand Master will be installed as Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania at 12 noon.

Masonic leaders throughout the country will attend the Annual Grand Communication as has been customary throughout the years.

They will also attend the Grand Master's Banquet. This will conclude two days of activities for the Masonic Brotherhood.

Dress for the affair will be tuxedo but dark suit acceptable.

The tickets this year will be limited to approximately 1,000 in order that all those attending will have a comfortable table.

All tickets are available on a first come basis. Don’t put this off if you hope to attend.

If you plan to participate, complete the coupon form in this issue, marking it and your check as indicated on the form. There are 10 places to a table. If you want to seat with specific Brethren, please send your money and reservations together, so indicating.

Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

These dancing hotel reservations can make reservations directly by writing, or calling (area code 412) 391-4600.

Further details can be obtained from outside of the Bundling Office, One North Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19107, or calling (area code 215) LO 7-5582.

Sammy Kaye has been one of the top orchestra leaders in the band business for years because of his ability to relate his music to millions of fans with superb dancing and listening tempo.

"So You Want To Lead A Band" has been one of Kaye's most popular features since its discovery at the Commodore Hotel in New York.

Some of his many hit recordings include: "Harbor Lights," "Red Sails In The Sunset," "It's All Right," and many more. Kaye and his orchestra were featured in two hit musicals, "Ice Land" for 20th Century Fox with John Payne, Sonja Henie and Jack Oaken, and "Sway with Sammy," the song of the Century" for United Artists with Jane Powell, W. C. Fields and Edgar Bergen.

The Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel, in the center of the photograph, is located in Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers form the Ohio River.

Send to —
Office of R. W. Grand Master, Masonic Temple Lodge No. 1
One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
Enclosed is my check for $..................... for ..................... reservations at $15.00 per ticket for the Grand Master's Banquet to be held at 6:30 p.m., December 27, 1975 in the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh. Checks should be made payable to R. W. GRAND SECRETARY.

Print Name

Address

City State Zip

NOTE: Please enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.