Questions & Answers

Question: Can a Roman Catholic, even a known member of the Knights of Columbus, become a Mason?  
Answer: There are no rules or regulations in Freemasonry forbidding a Roman Catholic, even a known member of the Knights of Columbus, from petitioning for membership in a Masonic Lodge.

Question: Explain the emblems or oraments that look like inverted "T"s on the Apron of a Worshipful Master?  
Answer: The Ahiman Rezon, Article XV, Section 3, states: "...There may also be perpendicular lines about two inches long and one-inch wide raised on horizontal lines of the same width and about three-inches in length, thereby forming two squares." The Constitution of the United Grand Lodge of England, our Mother Grand Lodge, in its 1815 edition described them as "perpendicular lines upon horizontal lines, thereby forming three several sets of (two) right angles." They were designated only for purpose of distinction. They are not to be confused with the Tau Cross the form of the Greek letter "T".

Question: If you have only been a Mason for five years, can you be a Master Mason?  
Answer: No, you must continue to be a member for a minimum of five years before becoming a Master Mason.

Question: Is there any other Jurisdiction of the Fraternity?  
Answer: The Ritual and Lodge Work in Pennsylvania is still distinctly different from any of the other Jurisdictions. And, to possess or use a written or printed ritual, code or cipher is a Masonic offense. The Ritual and Lodge Work must be acquired "mouth to ear".

Question: Was James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a Mason?  
Answer: Yes, James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a Mason, was the first American Freemason to be admitted to the Grand Lodge of England in 1734.

Question: Name the first three American Masons.  
Answer: The first three American Masons were Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, and Silas Deane.

Question: How does a candidate for the Masonic Body other than a Symbolic Lodge?  
Answer: The Ritual and Lodge Work in Pennsylvania is distinctly different from any of the other Jurisdictions. And, to possess or use a written or printed ritual, code or cipher is a Masonic offense. The Ritual and Lodge Work must be acquired "mouth to ear".

The PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON
A Time for Proud Participation
250th Anniversary Set for Five Days in June

Bro. Joseph E. Trate, R. W. Grand Master, has his rather active 1981 Committee finalizing arrangements and details for the 250th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania to be celebrated in June, this year. Special programs prepared in recognition of this 250th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania have been produced and distributed to the various Lodges for use during the Stated Meetings for January through June, this year.

An excellent Grand Lodge Medalion has been struck to commemorate this 250th Anniversary. These solid bronze medallions, 3-inches in diameter and inserted in a beautiful wooden case, will be made available for purchase to those interested.

The Grand Master is still hopeful that many more Symbolic Lodges and also individual Pennsylvania Masons will contribute toward the cost of the large bronze statue of Bro. Benjamin Franklin — Craftsman, to be dedicated and presented to the City of Philadelphia at the conclusion of the Masonic parade on Saturday, June 27, 1981.

The plaque at the base of the statue will read in part: "Presented by Pennsylvania Masons. A few Pennsylvania Masons and two Symbolic Lodges have made contributions thus far. Your prompt consideration of this appeal is encouraged as we endeavor to honor a great man and a great Mason who served as Grand Master of our Provincial Grand Lodge in 1734 and again in 1749.

Highlighting the five-day program of events and beginning on Wednesday, June 24, 1981, a true Masonic pageant will be the following:

Wednesday, June 24th—Special Communication of the Grand Lodge followed by a wreath laying ceremony at Bro. Benjamin Franklin's grave and then a church service in Old Christ Church.

Thursday, June 25th—A formal black-tie dinner and reception for distinguished guests and members of the Grand Lodge in North America and England.

Friday, June 26th—A day at the Masonic Homes and an evening dinner and entertainment back in Philadelphia.

Saturday, June 27th—A Masonic parade down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway; unveiling and dedication ceremony around the new statue; dinner in the spacious ball room of the new Franklin Plaza Hotel.

Sunday, June 28th—A religious service in the ballroom of the Philadelphia Sheraton Hotel following breakfast at 10:00 A.M. and, finally, a real Masonic farewell to all from our Right Worshipful Masters.

Contributions toward the large bronze statue should be mailed to the Office of the Grand Master, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107, made payable to the R. W. Grand Secretary.
The better citizens among young men? around the world, and that there are between the ages of 13 and 21 years is not restricted to the sons or relatives of gone on to become leaders in all walks of life.

That membership for young men of age (such as John Wayne, Walt Disney and Senator Mark Hatfield, have accepted Masons by the means thee and me Brethren!

The most important thing needed hence. The most important thing needed for the Boy Scouts of America many years in his Council. Bro. Stenberg is a past advisor of the Temple Chapter, Order of DeMolay and a past president of the Whitehall Athletic Association.

Employed by the Mellon Bank, he is presently serving as a vice president and manager of the Estates Section of the Trust Department.

Stenberg served as Worshipful Master of Whitehall Lodge, No. 794, in 1965. He was elected a Trustee of the Lodge in 1967 and also served as Representative in the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for many years.

He has served as Secretary of the Lodge for 40 years, he has also been Secretary of the Masonic Temple Association for 35 years.

That estimated 50% of all DeMolays become Master Masons. That more than 150 DeMolays have become Grand Master Masons and numerous other DeMolays have attained exalted Masonic honors in the various bodies.

That the Order of DeMolay is the largest fraternal youth organization in the world today.

Note: Whenever or wherever you can help, aid and assist in the advancement of the Order of DeMolay, please do. These young men are taking our place as a generation or so hence. The most important thing needed by the Order of DeMolay is the time and effort of Master Masons. And, that means thee and me Brethren!

Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., Elected and Installed R. J. W. Junior Grand Warden

Bro. Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., Past Master of Whitehall Lodge, No. 794, held at Whitehall, Allegheny County, and former District Deputy Grand Master for the 57th Masonic District, was elected R. J. W. Junior Grand Warden at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, December 3, 1980, and was installed at the Annual Communication on December 27, 1980.

Bro. Stenberg was born in Sewickley, Pa., in 1916, and resided in Whitehall Borough, Pittsburgh, since completing military service with the United States Army in 1946. Educated in the public school system of the city of Pittsburgh, he then entered his freshman year at the University of Pittsburgh where he graduated in 1953.

A member of the Baldwin Community United Methodist Church, he has served as Trustee and on several church committees. Active in his community, Bro. Stenberg served as treasurer of the Baldwin-Whitehall Schools Authority for 20 terms. Having been a member of the Scotch-Scots Award in Scouting, he served as a neighborhood commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America many years in his Council. Bro. Stenberg is a past advisor of the Temple Chapter, Order of DeMolay and a past president of the Whitehall Athletic Association.

Employed by the Mellon Bank, he is presently serving as a vice president and manager of the Estates Section of the Trust Department.

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A "Knife and Fork Degree?"

I seldom attend my Lodge Meetings. For I've not the time to spare; But, every time they have a banquet, You will surely find me there.

I cannot help with the Degree; For I do not know the Work. But I can applaud the speakers, And handle a knife and fork.

I'm real nasty in the Ritual, It all seems like Greek to me, But I hope you made me perfect With the "Knife and Fork Degree."

Did You Know...

That more than 60 years ago, in 1919, the Order of DeMolay was founded in Kansas City by Bro. Frank S. Land and nine teenage boys, as an organization for building better character and molding better citizens among young men?

That more than 3 million young men have knelt at the Affairs of DeMolay around the world and that there are more than 111,000 DeMolays today in 12 countries and territories?

That membership for young men between the ages of 13 and 21 years is not restricted to the sons or relatives of Masons?

That DeMolay is an organization that inspired young men of all classes, better men, and better leaders?

That Senior DeMolays (those over 21 years of age) such as John Wayne, Walt Disney and Senator Mark Hatfield, have accepted Masons by the means thee and me Brethren!

The most important thing needed hence. The most important thing needed for the Boy Scouts of America many years in his Council. Bro. Stenberg is a past advisor of the Temple Chapter, Order of DeMolay and a past president of the Whitehall Athletic Association.

Employed by the Mellon Bank, he is presently serving as a vice president and manager of the Estates Section of the Trust Department.

Stenberg served as Worshipful Master of Whitehall Lodge, No. 794, in 1965. He was elected a Trustee of the Lodge in 1967 and also served as Representative in the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for 1968 through 1979.

He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the 57th Masonic District for 1980.

A member of the Craft Masonic Royal Arch Chapter, No. 312, Bro. Stenberg is presently serving as a Trustee of the Masonic Fund Society for the Craft Masonic Royal Arch Chapter. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Pittsburgh and is presently serving as Master of the 3rd Degree of the Thrice Potent Master of Gourges Lodge of Perfection. He is also

New Appointments Made By R. W. Grand Master

DeMolay Grand lodge appointments made by Bro. Joseph E. True, R. W. Grand Master, since the November 1988 issue of "The Pennsylvania Freemason," include the following:


Bro. Frank W. Bobb, Grand Lodge Counselor of the Lodge in 1967 and 1968, was elected a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Cooperation.

Bro. Gregory L. Chesnethough, Oakdale Lodge, No. 869, as District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture for the 47th Masonic District, vice Bro. Edmund R. Eberly, resigned.

Bro. Eugene W. Hobbs, Sharpsville Lodge, No. 799, was elected as District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture for the 83rd Masonic District.

A Multi-Million Dollar Government Gimmick

Commuter Tunnel Causing Cracks in Our Temple

Conceived and planned by uninitiated Freemasons whose ambition was to erect an enduring and fitting monument to Freemasonry, our Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, truly a perfect specimen of authentic Norman architecture, has stood for more than 110 years with but few minor structural blemishes.

The physical structure of our world-renowned Masonic Temple has been threatened, however, by circumstances conceived by local and federal governments. We refer to the Center City Commuter Tunnel now under construction and the purpose of connecting the former Penn Central and Reading Railroads. This controversial project was, at one time, estimated to cost $307 million. More recent figures now rate the completed project to exceed five to six-hundred million dollars—if it is ever completed.

As shown in the photographs to the right, the excavation under the thick wooden deck used to accommodate traffic has resulted in the removal of soil that was right up against the original foundation along the south wall of our Masonic Temple. During the early stages of the drilling and excavation near the Temple, a seismograph was installed on the south wall of the Temple and it registered vibrations beyond a reasonable tolerance on a few occasions.

The real tragedy of this project, thus far, other than the daily noise and inconveniences caused those visiting the Temple, has been the appearance of large cracks in the floors, and interior walls and ceilings within the Temple along and adjacent to the south wall. These damages started to appear about the middle of January of this year. On February 2nd, 1981, all excavation, heavy drilling and pile driving has stopped in the area of the south wall of the Temple.

Several of the top-level engineers assigned to the project have been reviewing the damages encountered and we certainly hope they are able to correct the problems caused by the construction.

A wound from the tongue is worse than a wound from the sword; the latter affects only the body, the former, the body and soul.

Three-month itinerary of Grand Lodge Elected Officers

The schedule for the Grand Lodge Officers for the next three months includes:

April 2—27th Masonic District Meeting, Butler Lodge, No. 272, Butler, Pa.
April 3—Grand Lodge Meeting, Plum Creek Lodge, No. 799, Plum Borough, Allegheny County.
April 4—Sectional Meeting, School of Instruction, New Castle.
April 6—38th Masonic District Meeting, Sylvania Lodge, No. 394, Chicory Township.
April 7—42nd Masonic District Meeting, York Lodge, No. 266, York.
April 8—11th Masonic District Meeting, Lewistown Lodge, No. 203, Lewistown.
April 11—Sectional Meeting, School of Instruction, Scranton.
April 14—6th Masonic District Meeting, Skelton Lodge, No. 558, Lanclare, Montgomery County.
April 15—11th Masonic District Meeting, Union Lodge, No. 168, Towamens.
April 16—11th Masonic District Meeting, Warren Lodge, No. 240, Montrose, Susquehanna County.
April 18—125th Anniversary, Cherters Lodge, No. 237, Cannonburg, Washington County.
April 23—6th Masonic District Meeting, Kears Business Lodge, No. 682, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.
May 4—Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes Meeting, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.
May 25—Sectional Meeting, School of Instruction, Johnstown.
May 30—Annual Memorial Sommerville Banquet, Union Lodge, No. 121, Philadelphia.
May 1—Worshipful Master's Night, Zembo Temple, A.A.O.M.S., Harrisburg.
May 2—Sectional Meeting, School of Instruction, Kno.
May 3—4th Masonic District Meeting, Loyalhanna Lodge, No. 275, Latrobe, Westmoreland County.
May 8—4th Masonic District Meeting, Blyth Lodge, No. 593, West Newton, Westmoreland County.
May 8—23rd Masonic District Meeting, Leighton Lodge, No. 621, Leighton, Carbon County.
May 8—5th Anniversary of Pulaski Lodge, No. 316, Pottsville, and Sectional Meeting, School of Instruction, Williamsport.
May 9—Annual Meeting for “G” Masonic District Meeting, Council Lodge, No. 121, Philadelphia.
May 9—7th Anniversary, Belle Vue Lodge, No. 643, Belle Vernon, Fayette County and section Meeting, School of Instruction, Meadville.
May 22—Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes Meeting, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.
May 22—100th Anniversary, Lewisville Masonic Home, No. 556, Ulysses, Potter County.
May 22—35th Anniversary, Masonic Veterans of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
May 27—75th Anniversary, Joppa Council No. 4, Royal and Select Masters, Philadelphia.
June 6—Sectional Meeting, School of Instruction, Mt. Union.
June 10—15th Masonic District Meeting, Peter Williamsson Lodge, No. 223, Scranton.
June 23—Grand Lodge Committee on Finance Meeting, District Deputy Grand Master’s Session Quarter Communications of Grand Lodge.
June 25—7th Anniversary, Tyuan Lodge, No. 644, New Kensington, Westmoreland County.
June 25—6th Masonic District Meeting, Library Lodge, No. 527, Finetown, Forest County.
June 25—7th Masonic District Meeting, Langhorne Lodge, No. 442, Williamsburg.
June 6—27th Masonic District Meeting, Somerset Lodge, No. 358, Somerset.
June 18—51st Anniversary of Grand Lodge Meeting, Everett Lodge, No. 524, Everett, Bedford County.
June 18—Special Communication of Grand Lodge, Dedication of new Lodge Room, Laying of Cornerstone, Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 300, Huntingdon.
June 25—22nd Masonic District Meeting, Garfield Lodge, No. 559, DuBois, Clearfield County.

A wound from the tongue is worse than a wound from the sword; the latter affects only the body, the former, the body and soul.
In Memoriam

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Free-masonry in general have been saddened by the death of Bro. Walter P. Wells, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master.

Bro. Wells passed away during the early morning hours of March 16, 1981, his death ended a notable career as a lawyer, a judge, a chairman, a public official and a Masonic leader.

Born May 20, 1899, Bro. Wells resided in Coudersport, Pa., where he distinguished himself for most of his earthly life in civic, community projects, church work and fraternal activities. He was a member of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church and served for many years as a vestryman.

A Past Master of Escola Lodge, No. 342, he later served as Most Wise Master of Coudersport Chapter of Royal Arcanum Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Coudersport. A trustee of the Valley of Coudersport for over thirty years, he also served as Commodore-In-Chief of Coudersport Consistory.

Bro. Wells was a member of all the York Rite Bodies in Coudersport and served as High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter, No. 263. Active in the Order of Jesters of Jaffa Temple, A.A.A.N.M., he was also an active member of the Pennsylvania College Society of Raisers and the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Bro. Wells served as District Attorney of Potter County, residing in 1942 to become a Judge. He became the President Judge of the 15th Judicial District and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1975, when he became a Senior Judge.

A graduate of the Washington School of the city of Pennsylvania, he was also a graduate of the Dickinson School of Law. He was a director of the First National Bank of Coudersport and at one time was president and director of the Coudersport & Port Allegheny Bank. He was a past president of the Potter County Memorial Hospital.

Bro. Wells was honored in 1953 for outstanding service in Freemasonry and excellent services for the benefit of his community.

Brother Walter P. Wells
Right Worshipful Past Grand Master

when he was decorated an Honorary Thirty-second Degree Mason.

Serving as Right Worshipful Grand Master in 1978 and 1979, Bro. Wells' two-year term was highlighted by the co-sponsoring of a new Symbolic Lodge in Heritage Township, Mason Consistory and conducting several leadership training seminars for Symbolic Lodge Officers throughout the Jurisdiction; and the creation of a Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Gold Benjamin Franklin Medal for presentation to distinguished Masons.

Surviving are his wife, the former Anne Mulligan, four children, John Waller, III, Rosemary Ana, Christopher Arthur and Mrs. Patricia Wells Kaptain; two grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs. Howard Schutt and Mrs. Helen Anger.

Masonic services were conducted at the Fidiger Funeral Home, Coudersport, Pa., on Sunday evening, March 22nd, and the funeral was held Monday, March 23rd, following memorial service in Christ Episcopal Church, Coudersport.

Silver Beavers are Good Scouts and Busy Brethren

Another "first" for our jurisdiction took place at the January Stated Meeting of your 编辑错误, 无法理解。