On Sunday, February 26th, Rev. John H. Weaver, Pastor of Trinity Tower United Methodist Church in Penn Hills, near Pittsburgh, graciously invited members of the Masonic Fraternity to attend church services. The affair was made possible through permission from Bro. Alan T. Male, D.D.G.M., who has urged Lodges in the 5th District to look for ways to bring the Light of Masonry before the public.

Members of the Fraternity were given royal treatment, and the occasion proved to be a moving experience for both Mason and non-Mason alike. Comments from the Brethren reflected a feeling of great satisfaction. "It's good to see Masons in tails and white gloves at something other than a Funeral Service," remarked one Brother. "We used to do this sort of thing all the time," said another.

In this endeavor, the Lodge not only helped expose the public to Freemasonry, but it gained a new member. Rev. Weaver's petition was approved just days before this picture was taken, and by now, we may recognize him as a Brother of the Craft. It is our hope that other church members will follow Rev. Weaver's example by seeking Masonic Light.

On Thursday, March 9th, Grand Master Kurtz broke ground for the new Independent Living Community which will be located at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown. Site clearing will begin by the end of March, with construction scheduled to begin in June. Occupancy of Phase I is expected by the Fall of 1990. At this time we are pleased to inform you that we have fifty-one of the eighty-two units planned for Phase I reserved. This type of response reaffirms our belief that we are developing a community which is both appealing to and needed by the Masonic Fraternity and their families.

Masonic Temple
One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2988

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Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania
and Additional
Letters

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONs OF PENNSYLVANIA
VOLUME XXXVI MAY 1989 NUMBER 2

The PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

Grand Master Kurtz Breaks Ground for the Independent Living Community

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continued on page 2
Bro. Arthur J. Kurtz, R. W. Grand Master

Brethren... It was most gratifying to see the exceptionally large attendance at the recent Philadelphia March Quarterly Communication. Additional chairs had to be set up in Corinthian Hall and every seat in the house was filled... It presented a convincing picture of support and interest in your Grand Lodge... Thank you, Brethren...

The June Quarterly will be held at Zemba Mosque, Third and Division Streets, in Harrisburg on the date of Wednesday, June 14, 1989 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note — because the Grand Lodge Officers and other Brethren are touring Southern Ireland and climaxing the tour with a two-day official visitation to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, from the dates of May 21 thru June 3rd, the June Quarterly has been changed to Wednesday, June 14.

All Brethren are cordially urged to attend the June Quarterly in the beautiful and spacious auditorium of Zemba Shrine Mosque. Dinner for the Brethren will be served at 5:30 p.m. in the Harrisburg Scottish Rite Cathedral, just adjacent to the Masonic Complex parking lot.

Brethren, the Great Architect of the Universe has been most kind to your Grand Master and his lady June, for a good long time and we are truly grateful. However, this past month of January, He saw fit to call home our oldest grandchild Richard, just 27 years old. Your response to our loss was overwhelming. It helped immeasurably to ease the emptiness and sorrow of those few days. June and I thank you, Brother Masons, your ladies, members of our Youth Groups and personal friends, for your many, many expressions of sympathy, flowers, phone calls, contributions, kind thoughts and prayers. We shall never forget your love and compassion in our hour of sadness. Thank you so much.

Plans for the Independent Living Community at the Elizabethtown Masonic Homes are progressing nicely. A ground-breaking ceremony was performed on March 9th, and pictures of same will be featured in this issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason.

We invite you to share in our enthusiasm and interest... Sincerely and fraternal.


The Regional Instructor's Lament: The Long Drive Home

The laughter was good
The fellowship great
Hoped for students aplenty
There were only eight.
Ah, yes, the ritual
So few want to learn it
So few want to hear it
Why am I doing this?

The midnight hour
The blinding snow shower
Mind your Ps, sound your Ds
Watch your "bits" if you please.
Ah, yes, the ritual
So few want to learn it
So few want to hear it
Why am I doing this?

The flag of the bludes
The mountain road grades
Did he say it in the plural?
My memory fades.
Ah, yes, the ritual
So few want to learn it
So few want to hear it
Why am I doing this?

Is it which, it is that
Is it left, is it right?

Watch out for the deer,
They're out late at night.
Ah, yes, the ritual
So few want to learn it
So few want to hear it
Why am I doing this?

Village lights in the valley
indicate action.
Be careful of steering,
Pay attention to traction.
What would Lodge be without
the Past Master factions?
Ah, yes, the ritual
So few want to learn it
So few want to hear it
Why am I doing this?

My eyes are tiring,
The truck lights glaring,
What's the use of even caring?
The instructor before me must've asked the same question.
Look out for the turn he
forgot to mention!
Ah, yes, the ritual
So few want to learn it
So few want to hear it
Why am I doing this?

Relief in sight; the
driveway is bare
My wife had it plowed;
she really does care.
Did I tell him "this" did I tell him "that"?
At what point did I say,
"Put on your hat?"
Ah, yes, the ritual
So few want to learn it
So few want to hear it
Why am I doing this?

Bed feels good to these
weary bones.
Sleep will shuffle out
the ritual's tones.
If I can just keep goin'
to help it survive;
The next Brother, too,
will keep it alive.
Umph! I guess that's
why I'm doing this!
Ah, yes, the ritual.

—Bro. R. Dean Jull

Grand Master's Itinerary
May, June, July and August 1989

MAY 1989
2-3 Grand Lodge of Maine
6 Lodge No. 548, 125th Anniversary, Haverford
11 Harrisburg Chapter, Sojourners, Harrisburg
12 Spring Reunion, Valley of Bloomsburg, A.A.S.R.
13 Lodge No. 577, 100th Anniversary, Lehighton
15-16-17 Grand Lodge of Indiana
19 Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown
20 Spring Reunion, Valley of New Castle, A.A.S.R.

JUNE 1989
9-10 Spring Reunion, Valley of Goudersport, A.A.S.R.
14 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, Harrisburg
16 International Order of Job's Daughters, Banquet, Elizabethtown College
16-18 Council of Deliberation, A.A.S.R. Held at the Sheraton, Valley Forge
21 Lodge No. 576, 100th Anniversary, Millvale
23 Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown
24 Special Communication of Grand Lodge for the purpose of
Laying the Cornerstone and Dedication, Lodge No. 492, Berwick

JULY 1989
2-7 Imperial Shrine of North America, Canada
7-9 Grand Lodge of New Hampshire
22 Potomac's Dinner, Inverness Temple, Wilkes Barre
25 Lodge No. 597, National Camping Travelers Rally, Center Hall
28 Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown
29 Board of Directors Meeting, Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, Elizabethtown

AUGUST 1989
18 Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown
24-31 Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., Pittsburgh

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Is it left, is it right?
The Forget-Me-Not and Hitler:

A Biographical Anecdote

Hermann Obersholtzer, son of Bros. Hans-Helmuth Obersholtzer of Lodge Zur Freundschaft (meaning “Friendship Lodge”) in Forstheim near Frankfurt am Main, was seventeen in 1933. He and his friends were schoolboys when Hitler assumed power, and like anyone else not old enough to vote, they thought to their new government.

When everyone of school age was automatically made a member of Hitler-Youth, he participated happily; it was very much like the American Boy and Girl Scouts. Meanwhile, Bro. Hans-Helmuth also happily, in his quiet way, continued his loyal membership in his Masonic Lodge.

Suddenly one day, Bro. Hans-Helmuth came home driving one of his company’s trucks. He called his sons to help him unload it. They carried a beautiful wooden chest embossed with carved symbols to the attic. The boys asked what the symbols represented, and their father briefly, but clearly, explained the working tools of the Masonic Fraternity, and showed them those contained in the chest. The boys inherited from their father’s quiet earnestness, and the sweetly sad look on his face as he covered the chest, that the Freemasons were unwelcome in the new scheme of things. This was also confirmed by the fact that Father no longer was “bei der Loge” (“at Lodge”) every first Wednesday evening of the month.

When a boy reached his eighteenth birthday, he received a form in the mail, as automatically as he had become a member of the Hitler-Youth. It was an application for, or really a confirmation of, membership in the Nazi Party. All of Hermann’s other friends, had received, signed and returned their applications. They all wore new ties with the eagle-and-swastika emblem. Only Hermann still had the old one, which had only an eagle. Finally, Hermann asked the office named on the application why he had not been sent one. “Your Father is a Freemason,” they told him. Hermann did not understand. His father had never done anything wrong; in fact, from everything he could see, his father and the Lodge Brothers had always done good things for the citizens and their town of Forstheim. Something told him to keep quiet, especially since his friends remained otherwise unchanged.

The boys, now young men, passed their final exams, which also enabled them to further study, but, because of the economic situation, they either went to work or joined the army. Hermann started to work for his father at the older man’s insistence. “You’ll get experience. You’re young yet. Leave the army alone. Then you can work that required six months for free for someone outside the family, and you’ll be all set for the University.” Hermann had to admit that this all made sense.

The year is now 1939. The war has broken out. Hermann was working at his six-month volunteer job for a company foreman and Lodge Brother of his father. He had just time to finish. The next year, 1940, found Hermann in the army. Bro. Hans-Helmut, his father, had been right. Hermann had learned not only the basics of the furniture business, but had acquired secretarial skills and improved his French and English, all on the job. A superior in the army asked Private Hermann Obersholtzer to deliver a message to another officer. Hermann, without much thought, had taken down the message in shorthand. The officer discovered this as he tried to proofread the message. Hermann became secretary to this officer and his superiors, which saved him from being sent to the Russian Front until almost the end of that terrible winter of 1942. Eventually sent to the Eastern Front, Hermann was wounded, and in therapy for a year. Finally, he received an honorable discharge, and applied for a place in the University. The war ended. Haler was drafted. Members of the Nazi Party could not get jobs nor enter academic programs. “How does it happen that you were never a member of the Party?” asked the University admissions officer. “My father is a Freemason.”

Hermann studied engineering, is alive, well, and at seventy-two, still a consulting civil engineer.

The Apotheosis of Washington

Recently, a surprising discovery was made in the sub-basement Archives at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. This discovery is signed from two perspectives. The value it holds for the Masonic world, and the value it holds for the non-Masonic world.

The first question is a painting which seems to have a certain aura of significance about it when it was discovered. The fact that the ages having been cleaned off, the item was recognized as a very rare Chinese reverse-painting-on-glass, made for the export market, known as The Apotheosis of Washington. It was taken directly from a print published in Philadelphia by John Barralet and Simon Chaudron in 1824.

The painting depicts an angel and Father Time bearing Washington from his tomb; heavenly, weath, Faith, Hope and Charity mostee. A stylized Masonic Past Master’s Jewel is draped over the side of the sarcophagus.

New Exhibits At Your Grand Lodge

George Washington’s Inauguration 1789-1809

Bro. George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789 at the Federal Hall on Wall Street, in New York, the Capital at the time. This exhibition commemorates and celebrates that fact and the life that surrounded it.

The exhibit, of which Bro. Washing- ton’s Apron given him by Bro. and Mrs. Lafayette and the “Washington Case” in the Museum should be considered a part, is a pictorial biography of Bro. Washington from the time he was elected and reluctantly accepted the first Presidency of the new United States until his death on December 14, 1799 and burial a few days later. Shown also are the reactions of the public to these events in Washington’s life as well as several depictions of Bro. Washington as a Freemason. The bicentennial is a celebration by representative articles from recent newspapers, a copy of a newly published Inauguration Canasta feature including ancient Egyptian artifacts; and descriptive accounts published by the Grand Lodge.
Family of Freemasonry in Selinsgrove

L. Hottenstein were Raised to the Degree of Master Mason on January 28, 1989. The following question has recently raised the desk of the Librarian and Curator: "Why is it that some of the Brethren do not have Masonic Funeral or Memorial Services?"

The important thing for the Brethren to remember is that neither the Funeral nor the Memorial Service is done automatically by the deceased Brother's Blue Lodge. Either the Funeral or the Memorial Service must be requested by a member of the immediate family; or, in the case where there may be no surviving kin, the request must be made by a close friend, or group of friends. This request must be directed to the current Worshipful Master or Secretary of the Lodge, a record of which may be found on the last page of the Lodge Notice, at the member's demise.

The above information has been taken from a special card which was produced by one of the Diocesan Deputies in our Jurisdiction, and it is suggested that it be filed with the important papers of any Brother wishing to have either the Funeral or the Memorial Service performed for him when he dies.

Current Opening At Masonic Homes of Elizabethtown

PHYSICAL THERAPIST — F.T.
Salary Negotiable
Based on Experience
Relocation Assistance Negotiable
New Grads and Experienced Therapists Welcome

A challenging position awaits for the physical therapist who has a keen desire to work with the dynamics of long-term care in our seven hundred plus bed facility.

Located on 1,730 acres in Elizabethtown, just twenty minutes from Harrisburg, York and Lancaster, the Masonic Homes has been providing excellent care to its residents since 1910. This position will involve evaluation and treatment of a diverse caseload of patients including employer health. We emphasize an interdisciplinary team approach. Excellent benefits include health and life insurance, dental plan, continuing education, tuition reimbursement, pension, holiday pay, vacation and sick leave, plus no weekends or holiday work. For more information and a confidential interview, call:

Carolyn J. Bair
Personnel Director
Masonic Homes
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania 17022
(717) 367-1121, Ext. 225
EOE
New Rendering of the Independent Living Community

A new rendering of the Independent Living Community at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown has been completed. This new rendering displays the final design for the community. You will note the apartment buildings have been changed from a five story building to a three story design. This change has proven beneficial in improving the aesthetics of the community, as well as allowing us to provide our residents with an additional option of a two-bedroom apartment with a balcony. Also, based on response from future members of the community, we have added screened-in porches on all cottages.

Model Cottage and Apartment Units

This full scale model of the two-bedroom cottage and the Unit B, two-bedroom apartment, is located on the grounds of the Masonic Homes. We invite everyone to visit these models Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and receive a personally guided tour by one of our Independent Living Community Staff, or call and schedule an appointment to meet at your convenience. The models are also open for inspection Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at which time our residents serve as hosts and hostesses. There is a special "Open House" scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Representatives will be available to answer your questions.

Interior Design of Two-Bedroom Apartment

These photos were taken of the beautifully decorated Unit B, two-bedroom apartment, that is on display in our model unit located on the grounds of the Masonic Homes.

Living room with large bay window.

Dining area with adjacent fully-equipped kitchen including refrigerator, self-cleaning range and garbage disposal.

Master bedroom features walk-in closet.

Bathroom adjacent to Master Bedroom features full-sized washer and dryer.

Second bedroom features ample closet space.

Two-bedroom units feature walk-in showers, as well as tub/shower combinations.
Children's Home Receives Special Gifts


This acquisition has made this school year a bit easier, especially when English and science research papers are completed on time with no excuses. The one computer system enabled fifteen young men to produce well-written compositions with a minimum of paper, erasable pens, and headaches.

In February of this year, through a generous gift from the Dormont Lodge No. 684, the Children's Home received an Apple II GS computer including monitor, keyboard, disk drives, and Imagewriter II printer. This was a timely donation because the young men now have much computer work in addition to the perennial English essay.

Besides impressive academic improvements, the young men derive considerable self-satisfaction from mastering the computer and software and demonstrating this knowledge to others in school, including their teachers. The Apple II GS offers many other possibilities in graphics and sound. The Children's Home is anticipating additional software to further increase vocational and academic interest in computer technology.

The residents of the Children's Home are truly grateful for the generosity demonstrated by these Masonic Brothers. Our sincere thanks to the men who made this all possible.

Nursing Scholarships Offered By Masonic Homes – Let Us Invest In Your Future

No doubt you have heard that there is a shortage of nurses throughout the country at a time when the need for nursing care is on the rise. As more of the population becomes elderly and exhibits the problems common to older Americans, this shortage is expected to worsen. Just when the demand for caring professionals is about to skyrocket it worsens that fewer people are choosing a career in nursing.

The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown has for many years recognized this growing need for qualified nursing professionals who are dedicated to meeting the needs of the elderly. In fact, since 1910 we have been providing nursing care to our Masonic family. We are proud to have top-notch medical and nursing staff serving our residents and meeting the challenges of long term care.

We are always on the lookout for high caliber individuals who may be interested in joining our dedicated team. We are searching for people just like you who are equally concerned with the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our residents, and demand professional excellence from themselves as well as from the place where they work.

The Masonic Homes currently offers opportunities to pursue a career in nursing through several different nursing scholarship programs. The K. N. Scholarship Program offers tuition reimbursement of $2,500 per academic year and the L.P.N. Scholarship Program offers fifty percent tuition reimbursement. Both programs require only an eighteen month employment commitment following graduation.

So if you are considering a career in nursing and would enjoy caring for residents at the Masonic Homes, why not ask us about our scholarship programs? Or if you are already a licensed nurse, who may be interested in joining our staff, why not give us a call?

Additional information and application forms may be obtained by contacting the:

Masonic Homes
Personnel Office
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania (717) 967-1121, Ext. 223

P.Y.F. Representatives
Be sure that your Lodge's Youth Foundation Representative has been registered with the P.Y.F. office to receive mailings and information about the Masonic-related youth groups.

Annual Youth Conventions
Job's Daughters Grand Sessions
June 15-18, 1989
Elizabethtown College

DeMolay Conclave
July 15-18, 1989
Muhlenberg College, Allentown

Rainbow Grand Assembly
July 19-22, 1989
Jaffa Shrine Mosque, Altoona

Scholarships Available

The Masonic Homes is anticipating additional software to further increase vocational and academic interest in computer technology.

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Scholarships Available

The Pennsylvania Youth Foundation is offering educational enrichment funds to Masonic Homes residents. The Masonic Homes is anticipating additional software to further increase vocational and academic interest in computer technology.

Summer Programs Taking Shape

Plans for the summer programs of the Masonic-related youth groups are being made to provide educational sessions at the Masonic Conference Center – Paton Campus in Elizabethtown.

The Rainbow programs will be conducted at the Campus from June 4-11. Three sessions will be held during that time to reward assemblies showing growth in membership, and to help the Grand Officers prepare for their annual Grand Assembly meeting in July. Included in the schedule will be the annual Capping Ceremony for Rainbow Girls who have performed exemplary service and grandchildren of its members. The Lodge plans to continue to contribute to that restricted fund so that more awards can be made over the years, without depleting the principal.

Almost any kind of restriction may be placed upon the funds, so that only applicants who meet the Lodge's criteria will receive funds. Typical restrictions might be placed upon a geographical area, relationship to a Lodge's membership, Masonic ability or program of study.

If you would like information on how to establish a restricted scholarship fund for your Lodge, please contact the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation.

Pennsylvania Youth Foundation
1244 Rainbridge Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
(717) 367-1536

Scholarships Available

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The Masonic Homes is anticipating additional software to further increase vocational and academic interest in computer technology.
Masonic Temple Employee Receives
Chapel of Four Chaplains Award

Bro. Paul J. Dobson, P.M., of Integrity Lodge No. 187, and a building maintenance
worker at the Masonic Temple, was honored recently by being given the
Legion of Honor of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia.
Bro. Dobson received this honor for his dedication and donations to Phila-
delphia Assembly No. 47, Rainbow for Girls, in memory of his mother and
father. Other Masons who have received this distinguished non-Masonic award
include several Past Grand Masters, which proves how even the non-Masonic
world looks upon Freemasonry as being an organization that is truly “on the
square.”

Quarterly
Communication September 1989
To Be Eliminated

In accordance with Article 8, Section 8.01 of the Ahiman Recom, Brother Arthur J. Kott, Right Worshipful
Grand Master, hereby directs that an Extra Communication be held in conjunc-
tion with the December 6, 1989 Quarterly Communication and that the September 6, 1989 Quarterly Communi-
cation be eliminated.

New Elevators to Be Installed at Grand Lodge

Bro. Carl D. Homans, Chairman of the Committee on Temple and Building Superintendent reported that the
Security Elevator Co. will be installing completely new elevators at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. The old
elevators have been eliminated, and it is expected that the new elevators will be installed by October 1, 1989.

Drug and Alcohol Foundation

Pennsylvania Masons and the Commonwealth Student Assistance Program
Receive National Recognition

Student Assistance Programs are

purposes successful school-based
intervention program ever undertaken
in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
Its success can be observed not only in
the number of students serviced, but also in
the number of referrals, which doubles every year.
Pennsylvania Masons and the Commonwealth
model was the cover story in the January issue of the
National Student Assistance Program Journal. In February, Sandy Raker was
asked to present the model at the national

efforts were highlighted. Since then, he has received several calls from state
agencies requesting additional information on how they might work
collaboratively with their Grand Lodge.
In March, President Bush visited the
Conestoga Valley School District (Lan-

dated) to highlight their drug
and alcohol efforts. Conestoga Valley was
one of the many districts trained at
Paton Campus.

Commonwealth has been reporting
success for years, the program has most recently been receiving national recog-
nization.

Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic
Education Has Three New Appointments

The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education is pleased to announce that the R.W. Grand Master has appointed three new members to the
Committee, which now comprises 11 members.
In line with these new appointments, we are pleased to announce that the Committee has adopted the six Masonic Areas
now used by the District Deputy Grand Masters throughout the Juris-
diction of Pennsylvania. By using these

which are state-of-the-art in the industry, should be operable by October 1, 1989.

Everything possible will be done to meet
that this completion date will be met, and that any inconvenience to the
Brothers and staff will be kept to an
absolute minimum.

20
21

drug and alcohol

Education has Three New Appointments

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Committee, which now comprises 11 members.

In line with these new appointments, we are pleased to announce that the Committee has adopted the six Masonic Areas
now used by the District Deputy Grand Masters throughout the Juris-
diction of Pennsylvania. By using these

Districts, we will have uniformity of
interest and each member of the
Committee will hold responsibility for a
particular Area. By using the 1989 Gold Book under each of the District Deputy
listings anyone may find the location of his
Lodge within the Area.

The following are those Brothers who
were appointed to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education with their Areas of responsibility:

Area A-1
Bro. Joseph Gentile, P.D.D.G.M.

Area A-2
Bro. Edward O. Weiszer, P.D.D.G.M.

Area B-1
Bro. John C. Raverol

Area B-2
Bro. Terry D. Bentzel, D.D.G.M.

Area C-1
Bro. Glenn W. Olsen

Area C-2
Bro. Everett J. Elliot, P.D.D.G.M.
The Johnstown Flood: Then, as Now, Masons Care

The City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania will observe a year-long commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the great Johnstown Flood of May 30, 1889, a disaster considered to be one of the greatest the world has known.

The main event in this celebration will occur on May 30, 1989 when there will be a large parade in the city. Johnstown has prepared for visitors and tourists from all parts of the compass.

The program is not intended to celebrate a disaster, rather it commemorates the determination, endurance and indomitable will of the citizens of the area to recover through the years and to build anew after this, and several other devastating floods. Loss of many lives and extensive property damage were suffered in floods in 1889, 1936, and again in 1977.

The action of Fraternal and other societies in aiding the Johnstown sufferers was both speedy and commendable. The first organization to reach the ill-fated district after the flood were the Free and Accepted Masons of Allegheny County. Immediately upon learning that Johnstown had been swept away, Bro. James S. McKean, D.D.G.M. for the State of Pennsylvania, set out. The Masons arrived at Pittsburgh and planned the provision of food and clothing for the stricken area. The City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania was established a committee consisting of Bros. James McKean, Sr., Johnathan Wilson, and James J. Buchanan who went to the devastated district as the Committee's representative. At noon on the same day the Committee was called a meeting of the local Masonic Committee, and at five o'clock Saturday morning, June 1, less than twelve hours after the flood, Bros. James L. Buchanan and Johnathan Wilson went to the devastated district to confer with the local Committee and to offer their services.

They arrived there about five o'clock that afternoon, and one hour later had established a committee nearby.

Nobody save those who were on the scene after the 1888 disaster, will ever thoroughly comprehend the noble work done by the various relief committees upon their arrival at Johnstown, or of the hardships they endured in getting there. On the Saturday following the flood, the first relief corps found it impossible to get nearer than four miles from Johnstown, and from this point the loads of provisions, clothing and medical care were carried, beneath a broiling sun, upon the backs of many, many of whom had never before been called upon to perform a single act of labor. As the "stone bridge" a serious obstacle confronting the rescuers. Everything except the stonework was washed away and there apparently was no way to get goods into the city. A rope bridge was soon constructed, and at the imminent peril of the rescuers' lives, the noble band from Pittsburgh carried the provisions to the half-starved families and multitudes.

Nor was the difficulty they experienced in reaching Johnstown the only unpleasant thing the rescuers faced. All along the route grim death confronted them. Corpses by the score were strewn upon the roadways, while starved families who had lost everything they possessed perched on the wet grass on the hils. Many men and women searching for relatives and friends were encountered.

On Sunday morning, a general meeting of the officers of the various Masonic bodies was held in Pittsburgh and in a few minutes, $1,300 was subscribed to a relief fund. The same day, Bros. Clifford MacCulloch, R. W. Grand Master, telegraphed $500 and later raised this to $5,000. Within a few days, before the Masonic committee closed its fund, the various Masonic bodies throughout the United States had donated nearly $100,000.

Realizing the importance of proper sanitation for the area, the Masons appointed a committee consisting of Bros. James S. McKean, T. J. Hudson, C. W. Batchelor, and James J. Buchanan to consult with the President of the United States regarding the best method of procedure. The following correspondence between the committee and the Chief Executive took place:

Pittsburgh, June 3, 1889

Situation at Johnstown appalling in extreme; unless immediate steps are taken to remove dead from water, every river affected by the disaster will carry pestilence.

Can you not send a government sanitary corps to the scene to put out a moment's delay? Every hour's delay serious. Two members of this committee have been on the scene for two days. No work can describe the terrible suffering and anxiety. Houses and whole families swept away by flood and fire. Death and devastation incomprehensible.

James S. McKean
T. J. Hudson
C. W. Batchelor
J. L. Buchanan
Masonic Committee

Then there came this pointed reply from the White House:

EXECUTIVE MANSION
Washington, June 3, 1889

James S. McKean and Others, Masonic Committee, Pittsburgh:

Our only sanitary corps consists of a few medical officers. One, Dr. Carrington, is stationed at Pittsburgh. You have a State Board of Health, and unless the Governor should request it, Surgeon-General Hamilton could not interfere. We are anxious to extend every possible help, but what we need is systematic work under proper authority. If the Governor and your State Board of Health make any call upon me in any matter in my discretion I will gladly respond and will direct Dr. Carrington to report to the situation and Dr. Hamilton will communicate at once with your State Board of Health.

Respectfully,

Benjamin Harrison

Then followed this:

Pittsburgh, June 3, 1889

His Excellency, Benjamin Harrison, President, Washington.

Your very satisfactory telegram received. We thought it proper to communicate with you in view of national and state interest in relation to water highways. We thank you.

(signed by the same committee as above)

Johnstown Flood, continued

The work of the Masonic organization was wonderfully systemic and effective. Two permanent Masonic relief committees were organized at Johnstown and Pittsburgh. These Masons involved were early on the scene and late to leave. Bro. McKean's work was particularly effective, and the same may be said of Bro. Buchanan.

Regardless of the fact that the rescuers of Johnstown are typified in the manner in which Masons care; and then as now, Masons still care, not only for their fellow Brethren, but for all.

( NOTE: Local Masonic Districts, the first in particular, will participate in the parade mentioned in this article. The parade will be held on May 30th, 1989.)

A Member of the Family

Our Right Worshipful Grand Master has chosen to emphasize during his term of office the fraternal spirit among Masons in Pennsylvania. In this light we extend our congratulations to a Pennsylvania Mason, Bro. Jacob R. Carroll. Bro. Carroll is being elected as presiding officer on a national level was installed as Supreme Tall Cedar of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America at the Mid Winter Conference in January 1989. He is a Member of Otstown Lodge No. 292 and has been active in other Masonic Bodies.

He has devoted a considerable amount of his effort in Tall Cedarism to the Muscular Dystrophy Charitable Objective and served as Director of the Foundation in 1981 and 1982 and as Chairman from 1983 through 1986. He is the recipient of the John S. Broughton Award, the highest award presented by the Supreme Forest.

Bro. Carroll has been extremely active in community programs, especially those relating to the youth of the area. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1983. We congratulate Bro. Carroll on achieving this distinguished position.

An Update on The Emergency Help Network

Due to a lack of response from the Brethren, the Emergency Help Network that was introduced in an article on page 15 of the November 1988 issue of this publication, has been cancelled.

Throat Medallion Recipients

Bro. Arthur J. Kurtz, R. W. Grand Master, at the March Quarterly Communication, presented the SOLOMON II Throat Medallion to Bros. Robert A. Redder, Jr., Charles F. Korman, David M. Howells, Sr., and his son, David M. Howells, Jr. In the past five years, Bro. David M. Howells, Sr. has been responsible for bringing in sixty-one petitions, and his son has brought in thirty-two of these. The award is given to those Brethren who have brought twelves or more men into the Fraternity. Bro. Michael O. Corda also received the Throat Medallion. These members represent more than one hundred new Masons in Pennsylvania.

Raising A Family

Friday evening, November 18, 1988, was a memorable evening for both Peter A. B. Widener Lodge No. 671 and the Levinson Family. On that evening at the Masonic Temple in Tacony, Philadelphia, three generations of the Levinson family were Rucked. The Master Mason's Degree was conferred upon Bro. Abraham Levinson, the grandfather; Bro. Gary D. Levinson, the father and Bro. Craig A. Levinson, the grandson. All three degrees were conferred by Bro. John J. Gigliotti, P.M.