Taking Stock at Year-End...and Giving It.

Many people own appreciated stock — stock that has risen in value over time. For example, Stan has a stock account with a well-known brokerage company. One of his stocks has grown from $15 a share to $75 a share over the past few years. If he asked his broker to sell the stock he would owe tax on the $60 of appreciation for each share that was sold.

However, if Stan gave the stock to Masonic Homes, he would avoid this tax on the appreciation and receive, instead, an income tax deduction on the full value of the stock. What's more, because Masonic Homes is a qualified charitable organization, it could sell the stock and avoid any tax on the appreciation. A win for Stan; a win for Masonic Homes.

Let's say Stan decided to give 1000 shares of this stock as a year-end gift to Masonic Homes. In making the gift, he would obtain a charitable income tax deduction of $7,500, even though he only paid $1,500 for these shares originally. If he happens to be in the 31 percent tax bracket and claims the deduction on his itemized tax return, he could possibly save $2,325 in taxes — more than he paid for the stock in the first place!

Historically, year-end is a popular time for making stock gifts. In fact, most stock gifts occur during the fourth quarter of the year. Many thoughtful donors review their stock portfolio and select those stocks which have appreciated the most and which have been held for more than a year. These donors give stock instead of cash because they have discovered the value, and enjoyment, of stretching their giving power by giving the appreciation. And, after all, the more they can prudently give to help the worthy efforts of Masonic Homes, the better they feel.

Have you ever considered making a gift of appreciated stock to Masonic Homes? It may be better for you than making a gift of cash. To learn more about this, you may want to talk with your financial advisor.

You can also contact Fred D. Rissinger, Director of Development or John R. McFadden, Planned Giving Officer in the Development Office at the Masonic Homes. They are delighted to help friends of the Masonic Homes make tax wise gifts. Why not call them today? You can reach them by calling 800-599-6454.

(Please complete and return this coupon)

A Gift to America

Page 3

Dear Friends at Masonic Homes:

[ ] Please send me literature about giving appreciated securities to Masonic Homes.
[ ] Please contact me to arrange for a personal visit.
[ ] I have included Masonic Homes in my estate plans.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Masonic Homes

One Masonic Drive

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

THE GRAND LODGE F&A.M.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

Masonic Homes

One Masonic Drive

Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2199

Return Service Requested
The Annual Grand Communication And Grand Master’s Banquet Set For December 27 in Pittsburgh

The Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is scheduled to be held in the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center on Saturday, December 27, 1997, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Communication will mark the end of the administration of Edward O. Wasser as the E.W. Grand Master and the beginning of the expected term of James L. Ernette.

The Grand Master’s Banquet is scheduled for the evening at the Pittsburgh Hilton. Tickets are available for $25.00 per person and will be sold by the Grand Master’s office, District Deputy Grand Masters, or lodges on a first request basis.

The Members of the Grand Lodge are requested to attend:

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, One North Grand Street, Philadelphia, Wednesday, December 3, 1997 at 10:00 A.M., at which the Grand Officers and Committees on Masonic Homes will be elected.

Action will be had upon the following proposed Amendments to the Articles of the Grand Lodge.

Amendment No. 1

Eliminating Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services

Whereas, the Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services was eliminated by the action of the Grand Lodge Officers, and whereas, it becomes necessary to amend Article 12.03.1 of the Articles, therefor, it is resolved that Article 12.03.1 shall be removed in its entirety from the Constitution.

Amendment No. 2

Honorary Membership

Whereas, the creation of life membership was eliminated by action of the Grand Lodge in 1995; and whereas, it is thought our lodges may benefit financially by re-creating such membership.

Now, therefore, it is resolved that Article 17.04.1 of the Articles of the Grand Lodge shall be amended so as to amend the same shall read:

"17.04.1 Lodge have the option of having a membership classification known as Honorary Member which may be created with a minimum of 25 years’ membership and upon the payment of at least Six Hundred Dollars ($600.00) to the Lodge, which sum shall be paid in cash and which shall be placed in the Permanent Fund of the Lodge. Lodges are prohibited from making Honorary Memberships based solely or partially on number of years of membership in a Lodge. Principal Officers of Lodges shall not be members of a Lodge in any combination of the foregoing.

Any By-Laws which are in contravention of the foregoing are hereby declared null and void."

Amendment No.3

Life Membership

Whereas, the creation of life membership was eliminated by action of the Grand Lodge in 1995; and whereas, it is thought our lodges may benefit financially by re-creating such membership.

Now, therefore, it is resolved that Article 17.04.1 of the Articles of the Grand Lodge shall be amended so as to amend the same shall read:

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Any By-Laws which are in contravention of the foregoing are hereby declared null and void."

Amendment No.4

Recommending Best Friend or Another Lodge

if he hereby resolved that the second paragraph in Article 25.01.1 of the Article of the Grand Lodge shall be amended as follows, and it shall read:

"We must apply by petition, to be presented at a State Meeting of the Lodge. The petition must be in writing, properly written, and properly presented. He must sign the petition with his full name, set forth therein his qualifications, and reason why the petition should be granted, and that he is eligible in the existence of a Supreme Being, He must be recommended by two Master Masons, one of whom must be a member of the Lodge being petitioned for."

The Members of the Grand Lodge are also requested to attend the Annual Grand Communication in the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center, 2785 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, Saturday, December 27, 1997 at 9:00 A.M., at which the Grand Officers will be installed.
Masonic Military Leaders Recalled

In a fitting preparation for Memorial Day after the May meeting of Philanthropy Lodge No. 225, Greensburg, Past Master Duane V. Myers (front, right) led 20 members of the Ambrust Veterans Association in a program on "Famous Masons in Military Service." Nine of the group that conducts military funerals, marches in parades, and presents programs in schools are Masons.

The veterans are (l-r): Front - Joseph Hartman; Bro. Wendell Summy, Westmoreland Lodge No. 518, Greensburg; Codet Shirer, a World War I veteran who is now 100; and Past Master Myers. Second row - Bro. Charles Miller, F.M., Westmoreland Lodge; Bro. Wayne Kloffer, Marion Lodge No. 562, Scottdale; Henry Sobota; Paul Wilson; John Beer; Don Qay; and Bro. Robert Ramney, Philanthropy Lodge. Third row - William Kunkle; Samuel Bregele; Eugene Brinker; Kenneth Hillis; David Hamilton; and Donald Fowler. Back row - William Hillis; Thomas Webb; Bro. Curtis Dell, Westmoreland Lodge; Bro. Arthur Hill, F.M., Philanthropy Lodge.

Ground Broken For Lodge No. 307

R. W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser, accompanied by the Grand Lodge officers, broke ground Thursday, Sept. 4, for a new building for Williamson Lodge No. 307, Woreteldorf. The new lodge hall, to be constructed at U.S. 422 and PA 419 at a cost in excess of $425,000, will replace the building in which it has met since it was constituted in 1857. Looking on as Grand Master Weisser turns the shovel, are (l-r): William S. Arnold, Sr., D.D.G.M., 60th Masonic District; Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer; and a member of Williamson Lodge; Clark A. Knarr, W.M.; Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary; Grand Master Weisser; Robert L. Sligh, Jr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden; and Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Junior Grand Warden.

The Masonic carrousel is adorned with most of the fraternal symbols, including many of the working tools, cabinet, officers in formal Masonic dress with collars and aprons, an altar complete with the Bible, ballot box with voting pieces, columns, 24-inch gauges, common gavel, square and compasses, scalia brushes, lodge lapel pins, and other symbols too numerous to mention. All are surrounded by 21 brightly decorated horses mounted on brass poles that go up and down just as on a life-size carrousel. It is highlighted by 250 lights and features the Friend to Friend theme.

Crafted Clock Honors Secretaries

In recognition of all of the hard work he does, and the devotion to the lodge shown by Jacob A. Marquart, Secretary of Mazazi Lodge No. 456, Bro. William O. Reithmeyer wished to present Marquart with a gift. Bro. Reithmeyer thus carved a clock like the one shown here. It is an exact copy in wood, of the Secretary's Service Award which had been presented to Bro. Marquart. The wainscot, loom's feet, and square and compasses are red oak; the ring surrounding the clock movement is bird's eye maple; and the ball panes are black walnut. These clocks, to be made in a limited edition of 100, of which number 001 was the gift, will be branded, numbered, dated, and signed. One of these clocks would make a wonderful gift for your lodge secretary. The clocks are available through the Gift Shop at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Call (215) 988-1973 or fax (215) 988-1972 for more information.

Team Travels for One-Day Class Conferences

The Pin Club Conferential Team, comprising Masons who are low/nonfiction officers from Western Pennsylvania, traveled to Juniata Lodge No. 282, Hollisensburg, near Altoona, to confer the Master Mason's Degree to state police officials as part of a one-day class. On another occasion, they conferred the Master Mason's Degree in Valley Lodge No. 613, Turtle Creek, on two officers of the Monessen Police Department.

Participating in the conferential at Juniata Lodge are (upper photo, l-r): Front - Albert Roll, P.M.; the newly named Masons, Trooper Charles R. Stitt, II, and Sgt. David C. Gehret, Daniel Koniezskal, R.A.J., and Lewis Bauckecker, P.M.; Rear - Dale DeLozier, P.M.; Chief Richard Bramson; Michael De Cimmino; Joseph Barth; William Polinsky; Leo McCarthy, S.W.; and Chief John Kelly, Sr., P.M.


Larry Ebersole, a 22-year member of Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown, has hand-crafted a miniature carousel of Masonic symbols that took a year to complete. It consumed more than 600 hours of work, not including the designating and tracking down the supplies and special materials needed to fabricate the intricate and precise working tools of the Craft and the assorted regalia that adorn the beautiful, fully crafted masterpiece.

The Masonic carrousel has been on display numerous times in various places, including lodges and the Miniature Carousel Association show, where he has been well received. He has earned the highest accolades for his efforts and perfection of work. Brother Ebersole also has crafted a double-decker standard carousel, a regular carousel with a gazebos-type roof, and five doll houses. He has displayed his carrousels in nursing homes for the enjoyment of the residents.

He would like to construct another Masonic-related carrousel, if time permits. Let's hope so!
While home on his first leave in 16 months, Marine L/Cpl Michael T. McCarter was entered, passed, and raised during a one-day con-
ferral of degrees on Saturday, July 19, in Boyertown Lodge No. 291, Scran-
ton. The entire community has joined in celebrating the event.


All Together in Purple Jackets

A large contingent of the more than 3,200 proud Pennsylvania Masons who have earned the purple jackets of the Grand Master's Team rallied, Friend to Friend, with R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weiss in Autumn Day, September 27, at the Masonic Homes. A Mason becomes a member of the Grand Master's Team and earns the purple jacket the first time he is the first-line signer of a petition for a new Mason.

Polie Degree Team Raises Trooper

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D.D.G.M. First on Tap to Give Blood

Dieter Doubel, D.D.G.M., 15th Masonic District, was the first on top to donate in the Masonic Blood Drive in New Milford, May 10, and said he intended to do the same September 10, in Tunkhannock. The blood drive, sponsored by the 15th Masonic District, is open to the public.

Masons of Note

Four Pennsylvania Masons are among seven elected to offices of the Supreme Foremost of Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America. John L. Dobies, a member of Susquehanna Lodge No. 366, Millburn, was elected Supreme Scribe; Charles L. Rush of H. Stanley Goodwin Lodge No. 648, Bethlehem, Supreme Treasurer; Clifford M. Mengel of Magee Lodge No. 270, Schuylkill Haven, and Ellis P. Updagraff, Wayne's Lodge No. 310, Colleagville, both Supreme Directors. James J. Benson of Virginia Beach was elected Supreme Toll Cedar; Donald H. Kidic of Forest Hill, MD, Senior Deputy; and Barry R. Stokes, Philadelphia, NJ, Junior Deputy. All will be installed and begin their terms during the mid-Winter conference in January in Philadelphia.

When Frank R. Deming (right) of Duquesne Lodge No. 731, McKeesport, gave a presentation on the Congression-
al Medal of Honor in Ironhead Lodge No. 446, Kansas City, MO, he was honored to meet the W.M. Grand Master of Missouri, Donald E. Scott. Bro. Scott is the first Grand Master from Missouri's 52nd Masonic District since Preident Harry S. Truman.

At the Grand Assembly for the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in Denver in mid-August, Marvin G. Speicher (right), R.W. Grand Treasurer, received the York Rite's highest honor, the Order of the Purple Cross. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary, a former recipient of the honor, congratulated Bro. Speicher after presenting him with the award.

The honor is conferred for services to Freemasonry for beyond the norm, or for outstanding services rendered on behalf of the nation or humanity.

At the annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 8, R.W. Past Grand Master Edward H. Fowler, Jr. was to be installed as the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland for the United States of America, and served as the Provincial Deputy Grand Master for four years, and succeeds Marvin E. Fowler (no relation), who has served as Provincial Grand Master for 44 years.
In August, 62 youth and 16 adult leaders spent the weekend at the Freedoms Foundation Campus, adjacent to Valley Forge National Historical Park, to participate in a special Youth Leader Weekend that was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation. The weekend program, supported by DeMolays, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters from across Pennsylvania, included a visit with a costumed Revolutionary War Soldier, a tour of the park, a supercharged motivational talk by Bob Tryanski, and a dance on Saturday night.

After a Sunday morning worship service, an actor portrayed James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Each youth was challenged to make the same commitment for the country as did the original signers. Each young person then approached the candlelit table to sign the copy of the Declaration.

At noon, the youth leaders joined additional members of their organizations for the Grand Lodge’s celebration of the preservation of the Valley Forge Memorial Arch. This was followed by a “Family of Freemasonry” p蓓 in which 175 youth group members participated.

The program was made possible, in part, by a contribution of $1,000.00 from Infinity Lodge No. 546, to honor Bro. William R. Hovis, a 70-year member of the fraternity. A certificate of appreciation was signed by all participating youth leaders to be presented to Bro. Hovis, who recently celebrated his 104th birthday.


1997 Youth Leader Weekend

The 1997 Pennsylvania DeMolay Key Man Conference

Goal-setting and accountability were two of the key ingredients of the 1997 Pennsylvania DeMolay Key Man Conference that was attended by 50 Pennsylvania DeMolays, 27 out-of-state DeMolays, 12 Jurisdictional Officers, 6 Advisors, and a full-time staff of 25.

The week was a mix of formal DeMolay training, with an emphasis on membership recruitment techniques and commitments; basic chapter procedures; leadership ideas and ideals; and preparing the students for success. The conference also included guest speakers on the dangers of drug and alcohol use; sex education; and leadership development from a Top Gun Instructor.

During the membership magic sessions, each DeMolay was challenged to set a membership recruitment goal for himself. These commitments could result in 260 new members for the Order of DeMolay. To support them as they aggressively pursue their goals, these key men will receive reminder calls and specialized assistance from the conference staff members throughout the next several months.

The goal is high, but the probability of success is also high. Pennsylvania DeMolay should grow in membership for the third straight and unprecedented year!

Scholarship Guide Published

The tenth edition of the Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide has been produced by the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation. It includes a summary of more than 50 scholarship or grant programs provided by various Masonic bodies for Masons, their families, and members of the Masonically-related youth groups. More than 4,000 copies of the guidebook have been distributed, free to all of the Masonically-related youth group leaders, lodge secretaries, lodge youth chairmen, and more than 500 guidance counselors in high schools in Pennsylvania. Additional copies are available from the PFY office, 1244 Bainbridge Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. (717) 367-1536 or (in PA. only) (800) 366-6424.

The 14th Brotherhood Weekend For Youth at Elizabethtown

The 14th meeting between the members of the Order of DeMolay and the Knights of Pythias was held August 15-17 at the Masonic Conference Center—Patton Campus in Elizabethtown. The Brotherhood Weekend was organized by Charles L. Saltsgaber, Jerusalem Lodge No. 506 and Pennsylvania DeMolay’s Director of Brotherhood, and Edward W. Perrine, Wausau State Director of Youth for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

The weekend included brotherhood exercises, interactive group activities, and a tour of Fort Indiantown Gap, where the military staff stressed the importance of leadership development, education, and service to country.

Five Students Awarded Stenberg Scholarships

Five students were awarded Carl W. Stenberg Scholarship checks for $1,000 each by the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children. The checks are the first installment toward as many as four years of support for each of the students who have turned their lives around through the Student Assistance Program (SAP). The five were selected from 18 finalists out of 123 original applicants. Presently, the fund is awarding $15,000 a year in scholarship money.

The 1997 recipients are: Joseph Flowers of Pittsburgh, Jamie Cramer of Johnstown, Sarah Olvera of Glenshaw, Jonathan Romanovski of Reinholds, and Gina Rubino of Blairsville.

Each recipient is eligible for as much as $1,000 a year for as many as four years of post high school education. Each student has completed a Student Assistance Program and has been recommended by his or her school’s (SAP) team. The students must remain drug- and alcohol-free and maintain a 2.0 grade average while in college.

348 Enjoy Traveling To Alaska On Grand Master’s Tour in August.

At a Friendship Banquet for the Grand Lodge of Alaska hosted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (in Anchorage Hilton Hotel), R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser greeted M.W. Grand Master Stanley Foulks in Alaska. In right photo, Stanley P. Polekoff, Lodge No. 9, Tacoma, Philadelphia, shows the king salmon he caught, along with other pink salmon, in Ketchikan.

7th Masonic District Hosts Rainbow Tour

The lodges of the 7th Masonic District hosted the Grand Assembly Tour of Rainbow for Girls in the Masonic Center, West Reading, late in March. During the session, the Rainbow Girls exemplified their ritualistic work and initiated seven young ladies. Leading the session were [l-r]: Frank E. Donehew, D.D.G.M.; Barbara Johnson, the Grand Deputy of Rainbow District No. 24; Miranda Gesko, Grand Worthy Advisor of Rainbow for Girls, 1996-97; Beryl L. Hogue, Supreme Inspector in Pennsylvania for Rainbow; and June Cleypool, Grand Trustee.

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Nearly two hours before the ceremonies were to begin, people were arriving at the Memorial Arch. Estimates of the total attendance ranged from 6,000 to 8,000.

Following the cadence of the Continental File and Drum Corps, R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser led an impressive procession of the officers of the Grand Lodge, accompanied by grand masters from 17 Masonic jurisdictions and leaders of nearly all of the appendant Masonic bodies. Joining in the procession and the ceremonies were Congressmen and Br. Jon Fox, U.S. Department of Interior representatives, National Park Service directors, and the Valley Forge National Historical Park Service Superintendent and staff.

As the program began, the restored Arch was veiled with a large blue banner with a white Square and Compasses emblem. Following the invocation by Grand Lodge Chaplain Charles H. LaQueen, Arthur L. Stewart, Superintendent of the Valley Forge National Historical Park, joined Grand Master Weisser in lowering the veil to reveal fully the preserved 60-foot high structure and a huge American flag hanging in the center of its arch. It was a dramatic experience with stirring patriotic moments as the thousands joined the Grand Master in pledging allegiance to the flag and singing "The Star Spangled Banner" led by Past Master Raymond Foose of Newtown Lodge No. 427, Woodside.

The ritualistic capstone-laying and dedication began with a prayer by Grand Lodge Chaplain Thomas C. Haugh after which Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer, presented coins and valuable articles for depositing in the vault under the capstone. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary, read the inventory of items that were placed. The vault, subsequently sealed and lowered in the presence of Grand Master Weisser and Superintendent Stewart, is a stainless steel box with a bronze date plate adorned with the Grand Master's Medallion.

The ceremonial "Approval of the Work" was performed by R.W. Junior Grand Warden Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., who proved and pronounced it plumb; R.W. Senior Grand Warden Robert L. Dlugie, Jr., assurred it to be level; and R.W. Deputy Grand Master James L. Ernste, verified it to be.

The Grand Lodge also erected a new monument at the base of the American flag pole facing the Arch that pays tribute to Brother George Washington and Freemasons who were among the soldiers of his Continental Army encamped there in 1777-78. The ceremonies were to begin, people were arriving at the Memorial Arch. Estimates of the total attendance ranged from 6,000 to 8,000.

The First Continental File and Drum Corps set the cadence for the procession.

The Knights Templar Color-Guard and the Friend to Friend banner led the Grand Lodge procession to the Memorial Arch.

A Gift to America
Thousands Unite in Stirring Ceremony As Freemasons Unveil, Dedicate Preserved Valley Forge Memorial Arch
(continued from page 3)

The Grand Master's Oration
Children Are Freemason's Keystone for Future
(continued on page 12)
This small sampling of the granite stone that you have received is an actual fragment of the George Washington Memorial Arch that was restored to its grandeur by the Freemasons of Pennsylvania. It is being rededicated on this 24th day of August, 1997, to future generations. May this rock always remind you that Brother George Washington and his men, who were encamped at Valley Forge during the harsh winter of 1777-78, believed in freedom and fought to preserve it.

The Masons of Pennsylvania, who restored this Arch to its grandeur in 1996-97, also have a strong belief in freedom. They want you, your children, and their children to know that the Masons of this great country have always believed in freedom. Keep this authentic piece of granite as a solid remembrance of this belief—and may you enjoy freedom always!

Thank You, Freemasons

V. F. Park Superintendent Accepts Gift

Following are the remarks of Arthur L. Stewart, superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park, when he accepted the gift of the "preservation of the National Memorial Arch" from the Freemasons. The original text has been placed in the time vault under the capstone of the Memorial Arch.

Thank you Grand Master Weisser. Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to be here today representing Valley Forge National Historical Park, The National Park Service, and the American people, for we are the recipient of a most generous gift.

A gift... that helps us fulfill the mission of the National Park Service to preserve and protect the nationally significant resources that have been entrusted to us by you, the people of the United States.

A gift... that helps us preserve a most worthy resource... the National Memorial Arch.

I do not believe that we can state too often the purpose of this monument... to honor the patriots displayed and the suffering endured by General George Washington, his officers, and men.

Though no battles were fought here, during that winter of 1777-1778 hundreds of soldiers died. For Valley Forge is the site of the American army's epic struggle to survive against hunger... disease... and the relentless forces of nature... as the price of those most elusive commodities... liberty and independence.

When Washington's Army marched into Valley Forge, the men were tired... cold... and ill-equipped. The Continental Army had been handicapped in battle because military training was not unified, but rather administered from a variety of commands, using a variety of techniques and field manuals. This made coordination during battle difficult at best. But after six months of intense training at Valley Forge... that same army emerged as a cohesive fighting force able to go on to secure liberty... and win our independence.

On March 15th, 1996, we stood on this same ground... and made a covenant to insure the future of the memorial that honors them.

Today... we have returned to this same place to celebrate the culmination of the most difficult part of our journey in this covenant.

Over a year of craftsmanship, innovative engineering, and design have resolved problems that began almost 60 years ago, when the Arch was new. But, what is equally significant is that our covenant will go on... beyond today... for our journey together continues. The Grand Master has given the Brotherhood a charge... to continue to help the National Park Service care for the National Memorial Arch.

We are comforted by the knowledge that the National Memorial Arch will continue to be jointly protected by the Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and by the National Park Service... two organizations with a devotion to our nation's past, as well as a stake in our nation's future.
Today's health care facilities face cost containment pressures which often lead to shorter hospital stays for individuals who require rehabilitation services. This can be unfortunate for patients if their rehabilitation requires additional care. To help patients experience a smoother transition from the hospital back to home, the Masonic Homes has been providing quality subacute care since February, 1996.

The 51-bed Renaissance Unit, located in the Ben Franklin Building of the Masonic Health Care Center, is designed with capabilities to perform transitional care services for individuals who may require complex medical management following a hospital stay. The staff utilizes equipment conducive to providing services such as: intravenous therapy, respiratory services including ventilators and tracheostomies; feeding tubes; continuous heart monitoring; pain management; and rehabilitation for patients recovering from fractures, strokes, heart attacks, or surgery.

The Renaissance Unit offers a higher level of subacute care for individuals who require less than an acute level of hospital care, but who need medical or rehabilitative services. Immediately after, or instead of, acute hospitalization, an individual who has had an acute illness, injury, or is in the exacerbation stage of a disease process, can receive active, complex medical treatments through subacute care until stabilization occurs.

Margaret Brandt, a resident at 551, Mount Joy, entered the Renaissance Unit, a month after he suffered a severe stroke with complications from a cerebral hemorrhage. His wife, Anna Ruth, said the care he received was "first rate." The Nissleys were familiar with the Masonic Homes, but were not aware that the facility contained a special unit for the purpose of transitional care.

The Renaissance Unit also is convenient for the residents of the Masonic Homes, because it allows them the option to recover in the comfort and security of the Masonic Health Care Center, where family and friends can take on-campus transportation to visit. As soon as they are able to return to a more independent environment, the residents receive assistance while they become readjusted to their regular home setting.

Helen Brookhart, widow of the late Bro. James F. Brookhart, and a resident in the Masonic Homes' independent living area, spent time in the Renaissance Unit in February and April. She required assistance while she recuperated from two broken hips which occurred in separate incidents. She deemed the staff "remarkable," said that she still likes to "pop in" every now and then to see some of the staff. She said her experience in the unit "couldn't have been better," and feels that during her stay she made lasting friendships. Mrs. Brookhart said her therapy was marvelous. "I think I'm quite fortunate," she said.

For more information about the Renaissance Unit, call 1-800-432-1207.
The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania Order of Eastern Star and the Masonic Homes of the R.W. Grand Lodge of F & A.M. are pleased to announce that the Eastern Star Homes in Warmminster, Bucks County, and in Belleverie, Allegheny County will become part of the Masonic Homes' continuum of services.

On June 23, Eastern Star members voted to accept the agreement from the Masonic Homes to merge their facilities. On Friday, July 25, the Committee on Masonic Homes moved to move forward with the merger, which could take place by January 1, 1998. The preliminary plans for the merger were agreed upon with R.W.G.M. Edward O. Weisser, and Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, NHA, Executive Director/CEO of the Masonic Homes, signed the Letter of Intent on Friday, August 29, with Bros. R. Cameron, Carol, and Betty M. Macadam, PGM, Chairman of the Overview Advisory Board, signed the document the following week.

The merger of the Homes brings an opportunity to expand the Masonic Homes' quality care services to individuals across the Commonwealth. Admission eligibility for all three Homes will then extend to Masons and their family members and to Eastern Star members. Details are being finalized at both facilities to meet the needs of the residents and employees at the three Homes.

To build and maintain efficient administrative relationships among the three homes, Bro. Murphy, NHA, Executive Director/CEO, has appointed Bro. William C. Davis, Jr., NHA, as Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, effective July 25, 1997. In this capacity, Bro. Davis is responsible for the services provided in the Masonic Homes' Freemasons Building and Village Green Area, as well as the operations of the two Eastern Star Homes. Brother Davis has been employed by the Masonic Homes since 1990 as Administrator of Health Care Services.

Outreach Provides Support through Helpline Referrals

Your Masonic Homes' Outreach Program continues to serve Pennsylvania Freemasons across America. As and when you are well aware, the Outreach Program also extends its information and referral services to our friends in our local communities.

Respite Care Facility to Open at the Masonic Homes

The Committee on Masonic Homes has approved the opening of a respite care facility at the Masonic Homes for developmentally disabled adults. The eight-bed respite care cottage is tentatively scheduled to open March 1998. Masonic Homes' goal in establishing this new service is to help meet the needs of Masons and members of our community in caring for their developmentally disabled and mentally retarded adult children.

Helping a family member with mental retardation and/or a developmental disability presents some unique challenges. As children with mental retardation or developmental disabilities grow into adulthood, they often are unable to acquire the skills necessary to become independent adults. Many times they remain dependent on their families throughout their adult lives. The burden of caring for a child diagnosed with mental retardation or a developmental disability falls almost exclusively on the immediate family, and usually on the parents. Parents of children suffering from deficits in cognitive abilities, learning skills, judgment, and adaptive skills encounter many difficult situations. Children with physical, behavioral, or psychological challenges require additional demands from their parents. As both the parents and the child age, all of those pressures become even more significant.

All parents hold their children in their thoughts: at work, at play, and at home. How many of children with mental retardation or a developmental disability experience even more constraints and greater challenges. The time and energy spent caring for their child is interminable. Even something as simple as a weekend at the beach presents unique and difficult questions: Who will care for my child? Will my child be safe without me? Will my child be lonely? How will he or she occupy his or her time? Where can my child go to experience a safe, secure, and nurturing environment? To whom can I turn to help me and my child?
**Some Dreams Really Do Come True**

Thirty-five residents of the Masonic Children's Home and 14 staff members flew to Disney World on Friday, August 6, and returned August 13. Funds to finance this special trip were raised through the sale of note cards designed by the children.

The morning they left for Florida, the youth and staff were presented with t-shirts imprinted with the Masonic logo and the quote, "Nothing is impossible if you dream. Dreams do come true," compliments of William W. Weisert, Grand Sword Bearer of Grand Lodge, and twin brother of R.W. Grand Master, Edward O. Weisert.

The residents of the Masonic Children's Home extend a big "Thank You!" to Grand Master Weisert for making this dream come true. The youth also appreciate the support given by the Committee on Masonic Homes. They are extremely grateful.

There are several very attractive two-bedroom apartments available for immediate occupancy. If you are trying to decide whether independent living at the Masonic Homes is for you, call the Marketing Office at 1-800-676-6452. The marketing staff will be pleased to schedule an appointment for you to see the apartments and answer any questions you may have regarding retirement living. Moving into a community that has so much to offer can be an enjoyable experience.

Mail the following coupon to: Marketing Office, Masonic Homes, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

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**Busy Day on Franklin Drive**

The trip presented countless highlights, but the heart-stopping rides were the overwhelming favorite. Other exciting events included the fireworks that lit up the Disney World parks in the evenings and Epcot's 25th Anniversary light show. The youth also spent several delightful hours swimming in the pools and relaxing in the spas at the resort where they stayed.

From the time they boarded the plane until they arrived back at the Harrisburg International Airport, the youth were in a world of fantasy and amazement. Their faces wore continuous smiles and expressions of excitement. Thank you to all the Masons throughout the state for touching the lives of these young people. This is one experience they will never forget.

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**Considering Success or Failure**

By Bro. Thomas W. Jackson
R.W. Grand Secretary

For a good many years, I have given thought to the significance of Freemasonry, as well as the purpose of the Craft. Certainly, there are many definitions existing that state its purpose, all of them admirable, some ethereal.

There is no doubt that in many cases, and probably most, we succeed. In others, we fail. The successes and failures depend upon our efforts and systems, as well as our members' willingness to receive and respond to our efforts.

The success or failure of a man in life, however, depends more upon the recipient than upon the giver, and I would suspect that our failures are less of our making than of the Brother's willingness to accept our philosophies and principles.

I was reading the publication of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii recently and I saw a little quotation which impressed me. It was an old Indian saying:

"When you were born, You cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a manner that when you die the world cries and you rejoice."

So great would be the Craft if we simply accomplished instilling that adage into our members. I have expressed a number of times that the value of the life of a man might be determined by the number who are sad when he passes away. That, basically, is what is expressed in the old Indian saying.

It must lie in the responsibility of the subordinate lodges to improve the character of the man. That cannot be the responsibility of the Grand Lodge, or any other higher body. Grand lodges may contribute to the impression on the man, but it will always be the subordinate lodges who reach the brother. Our definition is to take good men and make them better. How much better could we do than to have the world cry when we die?

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**District 55 Races For Charity**

The 55th Masonic District fielded a racing "car" and crew in the Arthritis Foundation's Mini Grand Prix on August 23 in Pittsburgh's Station Square. Ted Benfield, Milnor Lodge No. 287, Pittsburgh, headed the team for the charity event. George H. Hart, D.D.G.M., explained that this is the second year for there has been a Masonic car in the race. Last year, Milnor Lodge participated; now it is a district-wide program.

More than two dozen teams participated. District 55 didn't make it to the finals, but noting that this is the second year, the "young timer" vowed to be back next year—maybe with two racers. There will be trials and practice runs for drivers (wives and daughters over 21 are encouraged to join the competition). Between the go-kart races, elsewhere on the grounds, people inspected booklets set up by the teams. The District 55 booth that was attractively decorated with a banner created by Bro. Gregory Nowell (picture with his wife, Linda Stoppleton), provided refreshments and featured literature on Freemasonry and tie-shirts with the racing team's logo.

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**Two-Bedroom Apartments Available in Independent Living Community**

YES, I'm interested in hearing more about Independent Living at the Masonic Homes. Please send me a brochure with prices and floor plans.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ______________________________
State: _______ Zip: ___________
Phone: ____________________________

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**District 55 5 Years of Service Noted at Lodge 648**

"Awards Night" at the June stated meeting of Stanley Goodwin Lodge No. 648, Bethlehem, was ... "a night of very special rewards," reported Terry E. Minnich, D.D.G.M., 9th Masonic District.

First, 100-year-old Charles J. E. DuBois was escorted to lodge by his two sons, Richard and Donald, to receive his 75-Year Masonic Recognition Certificate from the District Deputy. They are pictured in the front row below (1-1) Richard; D.D.G.M. Minnich; (center) Charles J. E.; (2) Charles R. Daniel; W.M.; and Donald.

Then, three brethren — two from Stanley Goodwin Lodge and one from Centennial Lodge No. 544, Cambridge — presented their 50-Year Emblems of Gold. They are in the front row below (1-4) Richard; D.D.G.M. Minnich; (center) James J.; and (4) Jack E. Cole. In addition, twenty brethren received 25-Year Grand Lodge Service Emblems; five received Friend to Friend Grand Master's purple team jackets; and four newly raised Masons received copies of the Exemplar.

The Worshipful Master presented D.D.G.M. Minnich a gavel and wall plaque. All brethren joined in an appropriate "Rededication Service."