

KING OSCAR LODGE NO. 855, A.F. & A.M. CHICAGO, IL.

CHARTERED 1898

**King Oscar
Lodge No. 855**

Ancient Free
&
Accepted Masons

Centenary Celebration

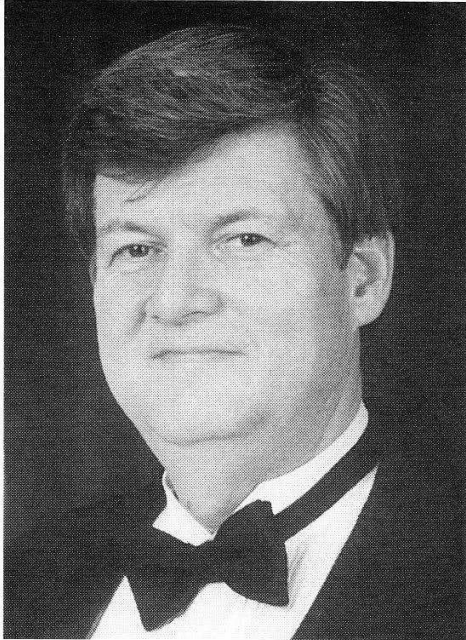
In 1998, King Oscar Lodge celebrates 100 years of excellence in the promotion of Masonic fellowship, service to the brethren of the Lodge, and to the fraternity in Illinois. Commemorative booklets covering the history of the lodge were published in 1923, 1948 and 1973. The material in this centennial history covering the years 1898-1973 is reprinted from the 75-year booklet, written 25 years ago by brothers John Pesick, Bruce Groat, and Past Master Charles Hendricks. The result of their efforts, a well-written labor of love, is the comprehensive and definitive work in our story of a Century of Excellence.

MASONRY AND KING OSCAR LODGE---- **A PERSONAL REMINISCENCE**

I came to King Oscar following my 21st birthday after asking my mentors in De Molay to steer my petition to the "biggest lodge in Chicago". I was raised in that beautiful old building at 912 N. LaSalle in 1954 during Gunnar Melin's year, and learned my catechism the old fashioned way---mouth to ear---in many sessions at the home of Past Master Clarence Coombs. Soon I went into the service and established a working career, returning to King Oscar after the move to Ravenswood Temple.

By then the native Americans had purchased the building, and the colorful sounds of their ceremonies punctuated the ritual at the conferrals of our degrees. During those years I remember the hospitality of Past Master Bob Kulieke at Pink Landing in Door County; the satisfaction of gleaning the petitions of friends and business associates and the fun of posting sessions after after they passed the ballot.

But most of all I remember the warmth and the caring---as a father for a son---of the men of King Oscar who guided my first admission into a Lodge of Masons. This brotherly affection from many distinguished Masons and the magic of the ritual brought me to seek more and more light in the years that followed, and the friendship of Bill Sandroff and Russ Johnson brought me back to King Oscar after serving as Master of Grove Lodge in 1990-91. I believe that same aura of warmth and caring displayed by Masons who truly practice their profession of brotherly love remains the heart of our fraternity, and while it endures, will sustain us in the century to come. — Brother Randy Becker



Remarks delivered by Jay Burris, Worshipful Master, on the occasion of the centenary celebration and dinner dance of King Oscar Lodge #855, A.F. and A.M., on June 7, 1998. at the Drake Oakbrook Hotel, in Oak Brook, Illinois.

100 years ago Wm. McKinley was President of the U.S., Queen Victoria was monarch of Great Britain, the Romanov's ruled in Russia, and the king of Sweden and Norway was King Oscar II.

The world of our founding fathers, Charles Pearson and Martin Magnuson, was a vastly different place from the one we know today. Most people traveled by horse and buggy, and although Henry Ford took his quadricycle for a spin down a Detroit street on June 4, 1896 most people had never seen a car, the pneumatic tire was only one year old, and roads were unpaved in most areas. The Wright Brothers would fly an airplane five years later so there were no airlines. Sugar was 4 cents and corn beef 8 cents per pound, and for \$2.50 you could buy a handsome pair of men's shoes. The average yearly wage was between \$418 and \$575, and our brethren put in 10 hours per day, 6 days per week. A four-course meal cost 20 cents and a bottle of gin seventy-five cents.

Although over a million Americans had telephones, communication was difficult; there was no television, radio, or movies, the Kodak Brownie was introduced in 1900, so photography was left to the professional. Less than 30% of the world's population had ever sent or received a piece of mail,

junk or otherwise, and for those who did send and receive mail the wait was long and unsure, and no one had ever said, "yada, yada, yada".

There were no vacuum cleaners or electric toasters and food was more difficult to obtain and maintain, refrigeration was by ice and traveled by wagon, train or steam ship, so the variety was limited and completely seasonal. Generally shopping was done every day. Chuck, imagine the milkman in those days. The famous Campbell's soup label made its debut a year later in 1899

On February 15th 1898, the 7,000 ton U.S.S. Maine, the navy's newest battleship rode quietly at anchor in Havana, Cuba. It had come to pay a courtesy call on the island's Spanish colonial government. Suddenly a deafening explosion tore through the vessel. The hull lifted, split into two sections, and then settled to the bottom taking with it 250 American sailors. The cause of the blast was never fully discovered, but Randolph Hearst's New York Journal screamed. "Spanish Treachery", and the country agreed. On April 25th Congress declared war. In December, 1898 Spain officially ceded Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam, and in return the U.S. agreed to pay 20 million dollars.

There was child labor, and sweatshops. Women couldn't vote, there was no air conditioning or income tax. Baseball was played by sunlight on real grass and Chicago Cubs fans were already saying, "wait till next year." Utah had been a state only two years, Oklahoma wasn't yet a state and Arizona and New Mexico wouldn't become states for 14 years.

The world then was a vastly different place but no less challenging. True riches then, as now, were to be found in character, integrity and other principles taught by the lessons of Masonry, and so our brethren decided it would be good to form a Lodge.

The intervening years were no less challenging. We went from the wood stove to the oil stove, to the gas range, to the microwave and finally to the restaurant. From the horse to the horseless carriage, to the airplane.

Anton Johnson was W.M. when the U.S. entered the First World War in 1917, followed by Samuel Manning in 1918.

G. Arthur Holmberg was W.M. in 1929 when Wall Street crashed and our country was plunged into the great depression. During the depression King Oscar Lodge grew strong under the leadership of such Masters as E. Willard Cox, Otto Berns, Einar Liljberg, Edwin Johnson, Paul Olson, William Chitwood, Stanton Nelson, and Martin Johnson.

During World War Two Harry Freeman, Rupert Butsch, J Edgar Daniels, and David Hillstrom were keepers of Masonic light.

Brethren like C. Randolph MacDonald, Russell Holmquist, and Ralph W. Randau saw us through times of conflict in Korea and Vietnam.

During these passing years life has been turned upside down and inside out, things men died from then have been all but eradicated from the face of the earth, but in this advanced age men still die from hunger, for food for both the body and soul, they still die from being lonely and afraid, persecuted and oppressed, telling me there is as great a need today for the goodness of our beloved fraternity as there ever was.

Building material and methods are vastly different but the principles of on the level and by the square remain unchanged, so tonight with gratitude to God, who has blessed us in innumerable ways, we celebrate the courage of those who formed our Lodge. We celebrate the effort of those Past Masters, officers and their wives who preserved our beloved Lodge, and we salute those who will lead us into an uncertain future and pray for their well being.

Please join me in one final toast to King Oscar Lodge #855, may it remain and serve for another 100 years.



CARL WILHELM PETERSON
Founder, 1898



BRO. CHARLES K. PEARSON
Worshipful Master 1898

It was nearing the start of a new century, America was on the brink of war with Spain, and the Klondike Gold Rush was in full swing. During the early fall of that year of 1897, Carl Wilhelm Peterson and Charles K. Pearson, two Swedish immigrants, met on a streetcar on the Chicago Surface Lines for which Brother Pearson worked as a conductor. The two men discussed their desire to organize a Swedish Masonic Body where degrees could be conferred in their native tongue.

Soon after their initial meeting, they met Nels J. Johnson, an attorney. Together, they took the first steps to interest a sufficient number of Masons to make application to the Grand Lodge of Illinois for a dispensation to form a Masonic Lodge. This brought the total membership to seven (7) with the addition of Charles K. Hoglund, Alfred E. Holmes, Will S. Hussander and Oscar E. Lewis.

The first recorded meeting was held December 5, 1897, called by Oscar A. Lewis, acting as Temporary Chairman. Brother Charles K. Pearson was elected Chairman and Brother Nels J. Johnson, Secretary. At this meeting, it was reported that the Grand Master had approved the application for a dispensation. A second meeting followed on December 12 when names for the Lodge were considered. Among them were: Svea, First Swedish and Sweden. The name Svea was the choice of this meeting. Three (3) officers were elected at this meeting: Brother Pearson was elected Master; Will S. Hussander, Senior Warden, and Oscar A. Lewis was chosen Junior Warden. Nels J. Johnson continued as Secretary.

On January 17, 1898, the group met and the name Svea was re-considered and the name King Oscar, after the ruler of Sweden, was decided upon. It was felt that members would be proud to have their Lodge bear the name of King Oscar, a great man and Mason, as well as a monarch who was truly cosmopolitan and representatively American.

It was March 2, 1898, when Brothers Pearson, Rixon and Johnson were chosen as a committee to present the charter petition to the three (3) nearest lodges, which resulted in approval and support by Lake View Lodge No. 774, Lessing Lodge No. 557, and Lincoln Park Lodge No. 611. Records of March 2 show that the Master of Lincoln Park Lodge graciously offered the use of the furniture and paraphernalia of that Lodge until the new Lodge was able to purchase its own. The offer was gladly accepted. The first Bible was donated by Brother Carl Wilhelm Peterson. Each member contributed \$5.00 to pay for the dispensation fee, and the fee for the degrees was set at \$50.00. It was during this meeting that the idea of communicating with His Majesty, King Oscar, was put forth.

The date was April 6, 1898. By now the membership had grown to 37. The first slate of officers was elected and the foundation for the future King Oscar Lodge was set.

Worshipful Brother Charles K. Pearson	Worshipful Master
Brother Will S. Hussander	Senior Warden
Brother Oscar A. Lewis	Junior Warden
Brother Sven J. Akesson	Treasurer
Brother Nels J. Johnson	Secretary
Brother Charles K. Hoglund	Chaplain
Brother Martin A. Magnuson	Senior Deacon
Brother Charles E. Peterson	Junior Deacon
Brother Alfred E. Holmes	Senior Steward
Brother Charles Hallberg	Junior Steward
Brother Charles R. Adams	Organist
Brother George McCauley	Tyler

The first step in the institution of the new Lodge was the letter of dispensation addressed to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, signed by thirty-seven (37) Master Masons from various Masonic Lodges. The Minutes of Record of the April 6 meeting recorded that a

commission was granted by the M. W. Brother Edward Cook, Grand Master, to R. W. Brother Bates Iott, D. D. G. M. to institute King Oscar Lodge, under dispensation, with power to confer the three (3) degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry.

During the period between April 6 and August 31, twenty-three (23) candidates were raised. The first candidate being logged was Andrew L. Lofstrom on June 8.

The Charter of King Oscar Lodge No.855 A.F. & A.M. bears the date October 5, 1898. It was issued by M. W. Brother Cook, G. M. who personally officiated at the ceremonies of presentation, which were held November 2, 1898.

The building of the Lodge began to take shape when the first meeting of the chartered Lodge took place November 16, 1898. Twenty-three (23) raised candidates together with 24 of the original 37, who signed the petition for dispensation, made a total of 47 who became chartered members of the Lodge of King Oscar when the Charter was granted.

Chas. K. Pearson
Will S. Hussander
Sven J. Akeson
Nels J. Johnson
Chas. E. Peterson
Martin A. Magnuson
Alfred E. Holmes
Axel E. Lundberg
Charles Hallberg
Carl W. Peterson
Charles H. Hoglund
Lawrence Hesselroth
Nels Johnson
Hugo B. Hawkinson
Alexander Anderson
John O. Ryrholm
Charles J. Rystrand
Eric Forsell
Frank O. Strand
Andrew M. S. Soderlin
Carl F. Falk
Nels P. Nelson
Gustaf S. Lundquist
Axel Alilman

John H. Hoglund
Carl Lundberg
Edwin A. Olson
Oscar C. Peterson
Andrew E. Anderson
Carl J. O. Berggren
Frank O. De Saix
Charles P. Ekblom
Edward A. Linn
Conrad E. Cederborg
Charles J. T. Green
William L. Edvall
George S. Oleson
Per Aug. Hallberg
Adolph Walters
Peter O. Peterson
August Larson
Gustavus C. Broberg
Nels Bjornberg
Albert W. Rixon
Martin Anderson
Nels Peter Nelson
Andrew L. Lofstrom

The Lodge met every Wednesday until January 1, 1899, at North End Masonic Temple when it moved to North Side Turner (Masonic) Hall, 822 North Clark Street, where it met every Tuesday for a year. It was during that year that the Lodge received a reply from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Sweden granting permission for the use of the name King Oscar. The letter is translated below:

**TRANSLATION OF LETTER
KING OSCAR'S PERMISSION TO ADOPT HIS NAME**

*Masonic Temple
Stockholm, Nov. 23, 1899.
Grand Lodge of Sweden
To the Worshipful St. Joh. Lodge
King Oscar Lodge No.855. A. F.
A. M., Chicago, with Threefold
Greeting of Peace!*



His Majesty King Oscar II, our Most Worshipful Grand Master, has with pleasure given his consent to name your Worshipful St. Joh. Lodge King Oscar Lodge and wishes you Peace, Happiness and Blessing in your work, in the sure anticipation that Visiting Brothers, of the Swedish and Norwegian Grand jurisdiction, shall experience a brotherly reception from you, as Brethren of your lodge shall ever be welcome at the workings within the Worshipful St. Joh. Lodges laboring under above mentioned Grand Lodges; and hereby are forwarded as a gift two volumes 'Notes on the History of Swedish Freemasonry.'

We greet you Dearly, Friendly and Brotherly, By Most Gracious Command, S. H. B. Svenson, Grand Secretary.

In 1900, America celebrated the new century; the Olds Company opened its first Detroit auto factory, and Hawaii and Puerto Rico became U.S. Territories. On January 1, 1900, the Lodge moved to Oriental Hall, Masonic Temple, State and Randolph Streets, where it met every Friday for eight (8) years. Then it moved to Commandery Hall, meeting on Wednesdays until January 1, 1913, when it moved to the Auditorium Masonic Hall. In 1918 the membership was 900. The First World War was in full swing and the world found itself in chaos. In spite of the turmoil, King Oscar Lodge continued to grow.

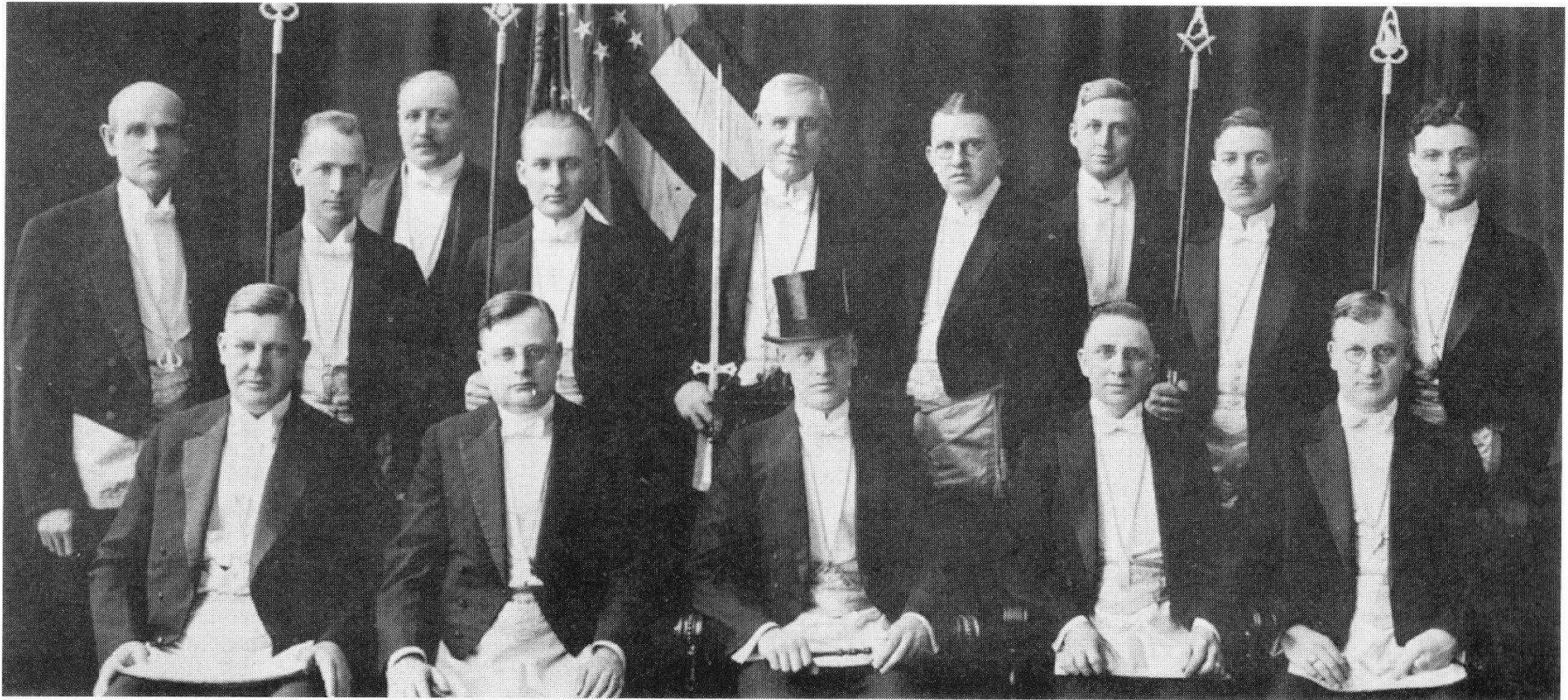
In the fall of 1919, when the Lodge was doing considerable work due to the influx of candidates after World War I, the Lodge considered the building of a Masonic Temple of its own. Worshipful Brother Justin S. Wiener at the close of this year appointed a Building Committee to procure a suitable building site on the north side of Chicago. A Board of Trustees was elected by the Lodge, to be known as Trustees of King Oscar Masonic Temple Association, with the following members serving:

John E. Ericsson	Chairman
Alfred E. Holmes	Vice-Chairman
John P. Friedlund	Treasurer
Nels O. Johnson	Secretary
Samuel F. Manning	
Alfred A. Norton	
Alfred Johnson	
George A. Oleson	
Charles H. Rosberg	

Numerous meetings were held by this Board of Trustees and on January 9, 1922, a property with four buildings at the intersection of Clark, Eugenie and LaSalle Streets was considered and purchased. The following article appeared in one of the Chicago papers at that time:

“A \$300,000 Masonic Temple will be built at the intersection of Clark and LaSalle at Eugenie Street by King Oscar Lodge A.F. & A.M., it was announced yesterday. John P. Friedlund, Treasurer of the Building Committee of the Lodge, took title to the 166x66x164 site from Edward Levy for an indicated \$60,000

1923 — TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OFFICERS



1923 — Geo. A. Gothberg, Worshipful Master; Geo. A. Oleson, Senior Warden; Hans. A. Leseth, Junior Warden; Harry A. Nordholm, Senior Deacon; Geo. L. Brannen, Junior Deacon; Philip Gothberg, Senior Steward; Paul Thorelius, Junior Steward; G. Arthur Holmberg, Marshal; Edward A. Linn, Treasurer; Nels O. Johnson, Secretary

subject to \$18,000. Crowe Bros. were brokers. No architect has been engaged, but building operations will start sometime within the next three years. It will be a four story structure, overlooking Lincoln Park, with the upper three floors devoted to Lodge Halls and with shops on the first floor."

With the widening of north LaSalle Street, a strip of ground 14 to 18 feet was taken off this property, with the result that the property would be considered too small for our purpose of building a Masonic Temple. After several bids to purchase the property were made, the Trustees of the Association sold the property for \$150,000 in August, 1928.

As a note of interest, George Gothberg was Worshipful Master in 1923 when the purchase was made. It is a coincidence that his brother Philip was Worshipful Master in 1927, the year that the property was sold. Phil had much to do with the setting up of the Trust with the Chicago Title and Trust Company which has proved to be a stroke of business astuteness that put our Lodge in a solid financial position from that time to the present.

King Oscar Lodge celebrated its 25th birthday in our silver anniversary year of 1923. Brother Warren G. Harding was president of the United States and died in office, while Prohibition and the Roaring 20's were the order of the day. George A. Gothberg was Worshipful Master; George A. Oleson, Senior Warden; Hans A. Leseth, Junior Warden; Harry A. Nordholm, Senior Deacon; George L. Brannen, Junior Deacon; Philip Gothberg, Senior Steward; Paul Thorelius, Junior Steward; G. Arthur Holmberg, Marshal; Edward A. Linn, Treasurer; Nels O. Johnson, Secretary.

Through the efforts of Worshipful Master Charles E. Sward, 179 new candidates were accepted and raised in 1920. During that time, the Lodge was meeting as many as three times a week to confer these degrees. And, so King Oscar Lodge advanced from the dream of two men to a thriving adventure with membership reaching 1,323 in 1928.

It was a time of personal growth, sacrifice and dedication for members and the Lodge. Many here may know the feelings of Paul Thorelius as he accepted the charge of Worshipful Master in 1928. We quote from his ceremonial speech:

“Custom it seems, had decreed that at this time the newly installed should have something to say. I quite agree. On such occasions as this, however, his feelings are almost certain to run riot, and though he may have ever so much to say, his audience may never know it. He may find himself in the predicament of the man who had taken great pains and spent much time preparing a speech for a certain occasion only to find when he rose to deliver it that it had slipped away from him. This is how he started: Ladies and Gentlemen: An hour ago, only God and I knew what I was going to say to you. But, now, only God knows.”

Brother Thorelius did find the words. He went on to say: “A Lodge composed of such men is bound to be a credit to Masonry and a blessing to mankind. Such a Lodge cannot stand still. It must progress. Let us be a truly worshipful lodge, thoroughly involved with the spirit of service to God and our fellow man, and I am sure, 1928 will be for King Oscar Lodge a year of unprecedented Masonic success.”

The calendar rolls around to the '30's. The days of the Great Depression were upon us and candidates were few. Through the years 1930 to 1942, only 89 new members were welcomed. But, many happy memories were made during that time. The first Past Master's Dinner, as suggested by Master G. Arthur Holmberg in 1929, was held. And, Einar G. Johnson, who went on to become Master in 1948, remembers the years as follows: “I remember many outstanding nights. First and foremost the great attendance at all meetings stated or special. The standing-room only crowds at the Installations; the beautiful Snow Ball Cotillions at the lovely ballroom in the Auditorium Hotel; the eagerly awaited Ladies' Nights when we took over the third floor down to and including the Moorish Rooms in the lower level —where Brother Rudy West and his committee filled the plates to overflowing with delicious food. “ Incidentally”, he goes on, “it was at one of these Ladies' Nights that Irene and I won first prize in a dance contest — a fine green marble and gold Sessions desk clock which still occupies a prominent spot in our home.”

In 1940, as World War II engulfed Europe and Congress enacted the peacetime draft, the Grand Lodge of Illinois celebrated its centennial year. Worshipful Master Earl H. Primm recalls that at that time "King Oscar Lodge joined with three other Lodges in marking the celebration." He also remembers another "very nice night when it was arranged to have representatives of the Masonic Home in Sullivan; the Orphanage at La Grange; the Masonic Hospital; the Masonic Board of Relief and the Masonic Employment Bureau present at a Lodge meeting to give talks on their organizations."

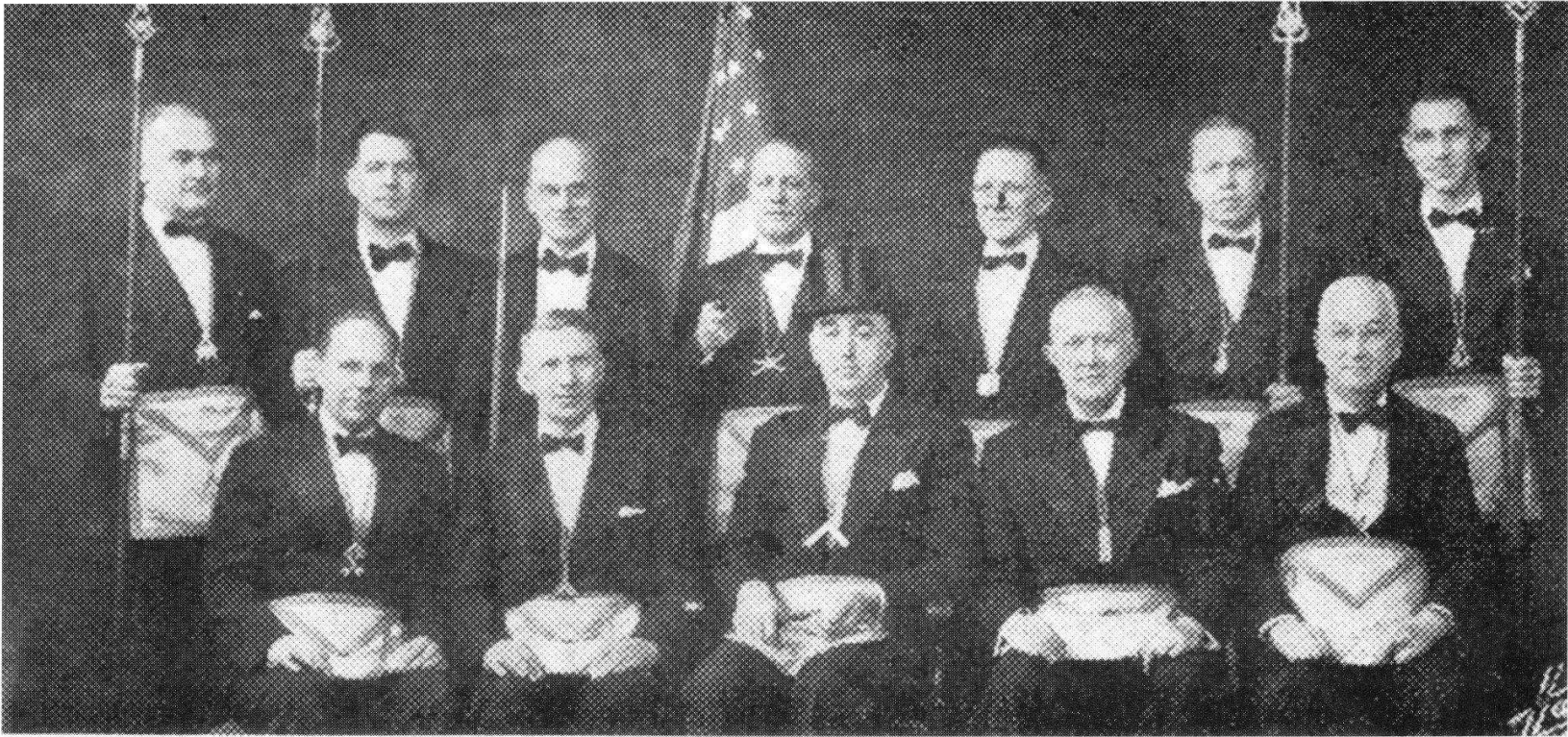
In 1941, the Lodge moved from the Auditorium Hotel Hall to the Independent Order of Forresters at 1016 N. Dearborn, and in 1943 to 912 N. LaSalle.

The 1940's brought World War II and many of our sons went off to serve our country. Worshipful Master Harry A. Freeman began a program of letter writing to the boys in service. "The more the boys hear from us, the more they will realize that we appreciate their service to their country", the Master stated in the King Oscar Lodge News. During this time, under Master Harry A. Freeman, "Birthday Parties" were held. The first was dedicated to His Majesty King Oscar II; Brother Carl Chindblom (former Congressman) introduced the Swedish Consul, the Honorable Goesta Oldenburg, who spoke of King Oscar II and his personality. The North Star Singing Club entertained, as did the Swedish National Folk Dancers.

After four (4) years of meetings with the Grand Lodge, we were able in 1942 to recognize the Swedish and Danish Grand Lodges. Up to this time, no one from Illinois could visit a Lodge in Sweden or Denmark. All this came about because many years ago the Grand Lodge of Sweden made the Prince a Mason on sight. After protests from all over the world, the Prince was put through the degrees as every one has done since. Illinois and some other states did not recognize Sweden and Denmark even after the correction was made, but most of the Eastern U.S. Lodges did. After the Illinois Grand Lodge announced the recognition, they named Nels Otto Johnson, our then Secretary, as Swedish representative from Illinois.

And, the '40's brought rationing! Sugar, meat and gasoline.

1947 — FIFTY YEAR OFFICERS



1947 — Einar G. Johnson, Worshipful Master; Peter J. M. Solheim, Senior Warden; Howard DeFord Trainor, Junior Warden; Nels Otto Johnson, Secretary; Hans Axel Leseth, Chaplain; Leonard H. Lindblom, Treasurer; C. Randolph MacDonald, Senior Deacon; Walter C. Scheel, Junior Deacon; Russell W. Holmquist, Senior Steward; Edward Brischke, Junior Steward; Eric G. Melin, Marshal; John Hjertelius, Organist; Charles Edwin Sward, Tyler

"Sometimes," Master Freeman recalled, "the Brethren would come a long distance by street car or "el" and would then offer their coupons for gas to the lodge for funerals, etc. The same was true with meat and sugar coupons. They would go without at home so we could have repast after meetings. This was living Brotherhood."

According to Worshipful Master Harry Glader, who led the lodge in 1946: "What stands out in my memory about the year 1946 was the Past Masters' Dinner held in the Terrace Casino of the Morrison Hotel. There were approximately 300 in attendance. We had the distinguished honor of having with us that evening, Brother William Tinsley, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of Illinois."

King Oscar celebrated its 50th birthday in our Golden Anniversary year of 1948. America saw the re-election of Brother Harry S. Truman, the former Grand Master of Missouri, as President. The first jet airplane crossed the Atlantic, and 1948 saw the debut of the Ed Sullivan Show and Hopalong Cassidy in the first western TV series. At the movies it was Lawrence Oliver's *Hamlet*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *I Remember Mama*, *Key Largo*, Cole Porter's musical *Kiss Me Kate*. Ray Bolger in *Where's Charley?* came to Broadway, and *Baby It's Cold Outside* and the *Tennessee Waltz* became popular songs of the year.

Einar G. Johnson served as Worshipful Master. His officers included Peter J. M. Solheim, Senior Warden; Howard DeFord Trainor, Junior Warden; Nels Otto Johnson, Secretary; Hans Axel Leseth, Chaplain; Leonard H. Lindblom, Treasurer; C. Randolph MacDonald, Senior Deacon; Russell W. Holmquist, Senior Steward; Edward Brischke, Junior Steward; Eric G. Melin, Marshal; John Hjertelius, Organist, Charles Edwin Sward, Tyler.

It was during the 1950's that more outside activities were included in Lodge plans. Giving members more opportunity to get acquainted and enjoy each other's fellowship. The bowling league was formed. The two members most responsible for the league were David Larson, Master in 1938, and at the time starting a 12-year tenure as Secretary of the Lodge, and Melvin

O. Peterson, Master in 1957 and later Treasurer. The first year there were four five-man teams with the late Sigurd Benson as President and David Larson as Secretary.

Features of the league in the early days were participation in Craftsmen Tourneys and the Booster's Division of the A.B.C. Many members have the distinction of bowling in such cities as St. Louis, St. Paul, Ft. Wayne, Buffalo, and Detroit. Mention should be made that a team from King Oscar won the Craftsmen Tourney in 1971 in competition with 840 teams around the country. The team consisted of Andy Janson, Bob Anderson, Harry Edfors, Wes Lilja, and John Johnson. The original 1950 bowlers still around were: David Larson, Melvin Peterson, Harry Edfors, Edgar Bergman, C. R. MacDonald, Hartnall Strom, Harry Schee, Harold Carlson, and Einar G. Johnson. Harry Edfors had the distinction of having bowled every year since the formation of the League.

No account of bowling league history would be complete without the name of Hans A. Leseth, Master in 1924, and for many years Chaplain of the Lodge. He was 80 years of age when he took up the sport of bowling in 1950. He had the distinction of appearing on nation-wide television as the country's oldest bowler. He passed away on December 6, 1962.

The bowling ball wasn't the only item being batted around back in the '50's. One sunny afternoon found Worshipful Brother Russell W. Holmquist, David Larson, Einar G. Johnson, and Peter J. M Solheim enjoying a day at the golf course. The group had such a good time, remembered Brother Holmquist, "that we thought it would be a good idea if the Lodge began having golf outings again". Three short weeks later, King Oscar Lodge members and four ladies enjoyed the first revival of the Golf Outing at Bonnie Dundee Golf Course, dedicated as Pete Solheim Day. Since its inception, our Golf Outings had averaged 80 to 100 golfers.

In 1954, we moved from 912 N. La Salle to Constellation Temple.

It was February of 1955 that the blood bank was started. It had come to light that many elderly members had need of blood but had no children or friends young enough to donate. Mel Peterson, who became Master in 1957 took it upon himself to go

out and see how many members he could get to cooperate in the program. With the help of Dave Larson, things got started and the program goes on today.

In 1956, the annual Family Picnics were started once again; the first outing taking place at Foss Park, North Chicago, Illinois.

In 1962, the Lodge moved from Constellation Temple to Ravenswood Temple.

It was 1964 when Worshipful Master Robert L. Broch paid tribute to some of his fellow Brethren. "During the past year, it has been a privilege to have the assistance of and personally become acquainted with our Secretary, Past Worshipful Brother G. Arthur Holmberg. No one but the Master can realize the invaluable assistance of a good secretary."

Master Broch went on to add, "Many a Lodge has been blessed with men dedicated to Masonry and, as such, our Lodge has been very fortunate in having R. W. Grand Lecturer, Peter J. M. Solheim, as our head instructor; Past R. W. D. D., C. Randolph MacDonald; and Past Worshipful Brother Carl Holmbom as instructors in our Lodge. It is only through their devotion and desire for perfection that our Lodge has maintained a high level of ritual that is the envy of many.

"Happenings" during the early '60's were: Testimonial dinner for Peter J. M. Solheim and David Larson at Orphei Singing Club; the official presentation of a \$10,000 check to the Homes Endowment Fund; and the Minstrel Show of 1964 brings back many a smile with the memory of the crazy antics of members of King Oscar Lodge . . . a memorable night for all.

In 1965, Congress approved Medicare and the Voting Rights Act, and President Linden Johnson called for the Great Society. Knute O. Lindquist was Worshipful Master; and our three writers recall a bright morning when a delegation of King Oscar Brethren assembled at the Glenview station to greet visiting brethren from Ark Lodge, Minneapolis. The itinerary for Saturday included a review of the Andersonville parade with C. Randolph MacDonald parading by on his mechanical horse-drawn sulky, which he had made himself. Attendance at the smorgasbord and Swedish demonstration at the Scottish Rite Temple that evening

closed the day. On Sunday, a caravan of King Oscar cars conveyed the Ark Lodge brethren back to the Milwaukee Road depot at Glenview as the busy weekend came to a close.

It was a time when others paid tribute to some of our Brethren. There was a letter of memorium in honor of the late Worshipful Master Carl E. Holmbom from Brother Charles A. Nickason of Vancouver, B.C. "There aren't enough people in our world like Brother Carl E. Holmbom and those that are here are taken too much for granted. How many men in the same position as Brother Holmbom, who had just met a stranger like myself, would take enough pride and interest in his fellow man to send him a published reminder that he and his Lodge appreciated the visit from a stranger? Carl E. Holmbom had everything it takes to be a Mason a real good Mason—and I think he was a great Mason."

Also in 1965, we quote from a letter written by Brother Lester B. Kidwell, published in *The Chronicler*: "One of your members of King Oscar since 1917, Andrew E. Holmes, has been appointed by Governor Edward T. Brethitt of Kentucky, as aide-de-camp on his staff with the rank of Colonel. You boys from King Oscar get around."

In 1966, with Worshipful Master Clarence E. Coombs, officers and members of the Board of Illinois Masonic Hospital were present at the stated meeting of June 3 to accept a check of \$2,500 the contribution of King Oscar Lodge to the Hospital Fund.

In 1967, during the term of Worshipful Master Russell D. Rynerson, the Lodge made additional contributions to the Illinois Masonic Homes Endowment Fund which brought our total to over \$20,000. Thanks to the efforts of Peter J. M. Solheim and King Oscar members.

It was also during this year that the "Widows and Orphans" plan was inaugurated. Widows eligible for benefits and privileges and those in the Masonic Home in Sullivan were contacted. Those who responded were grateful for this evidence of continued concern on the part of King Oscar Lodge and had not been aware of any benefits due them.

February 24, 1967, was one of the coldest nights of the season,

but the hardy and happy souls who attended "A Night To Remember" at the Fontana D'Or didn't seem to notice. Here was an opportunity to forget the miseries and woes of Chicago's severest winter. The moon was full, the ladies gorgeous, the setting lavish, the food delicious, the sociability contagious, the entertainers fantastic and Chris Penner's Orchestra was superb. What a way to greet old friends and make new acquaintances!

"I deem it a pleasure in being asked to speak to you regarding the history of King Oscar Lodge," Worshipful Brother G. Arthur Holmberg began in his address at the gathering to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England, held in 1967.

"As we look back," he pointed out, "over the 70 years your Lodge which was created by a small group of loyal, true and zealous brethren, little did they know at that time what they were building for the future."

On to November when 75 friends regaled G. Arthur Holmberg and C. Randolph MacDonald at the Testimonial Dinner. The affair was held at the Lincolnwood Hyatt House. On behalf of King Oscar Lodge, plaques were presented to Art and Mac in commemoration of their years of service to Masonry and our Lodge.

At the close of 1967, we quote from an article in *The Chronicler*: "There are many criteria upon which a Master may be judged—financial success of the Lodge, number of candidates, social activities, visitation, etc. We feel that Russell D. Rynerson, by precept and example, by hard work and sacrifice of time, has done much to enhance the reputation of his Lodge in particular. Our personal thanks to Russ for many kindnesses and we add: 'Congratulations for a job well done'."

During the year 1968 with Warren T. Hansen as Worshipful Master, many events and milestones took place. About 100 Brethren attended the Father-Son Banquet on March 29. Secretary Arthur Holmberg reported that contributions from King Oscar Lodge to the Illinois Homes Endowment Fund totaled \$22,640. Four King Oscar members made up the Banner Patrol that escorted the Medinah Brass Band down Michigan Avenue. The four were: Alan Penner, Bruce Groat, Walter

Kroyer and Robert Kulieke. Brother Gordon Berg of Elmhurst, Illinois donated a two-volume set of the "Encyclopedia of Freemasonry" to the Lodge.

The year 1969 brought Worshipful Master Magnus Moe to the chair. Close to 200 friends attended Ladies' Night at Fontana D'Or on March 21. On September 11, a group of Past Masters met at the Swedish Club to organize the Past Masters Club of King Oscar Lodge. The following temporary officers were elected: Arthur Holmberg, President; Melvin Peterson, Vice-President; David Larson, Secretary/Treasurer. The President appointed a By-laws Committee consisting of David Larson, William Sandroff and Warren Hansen. The primary purpose of the Club was sociability and fellowship.

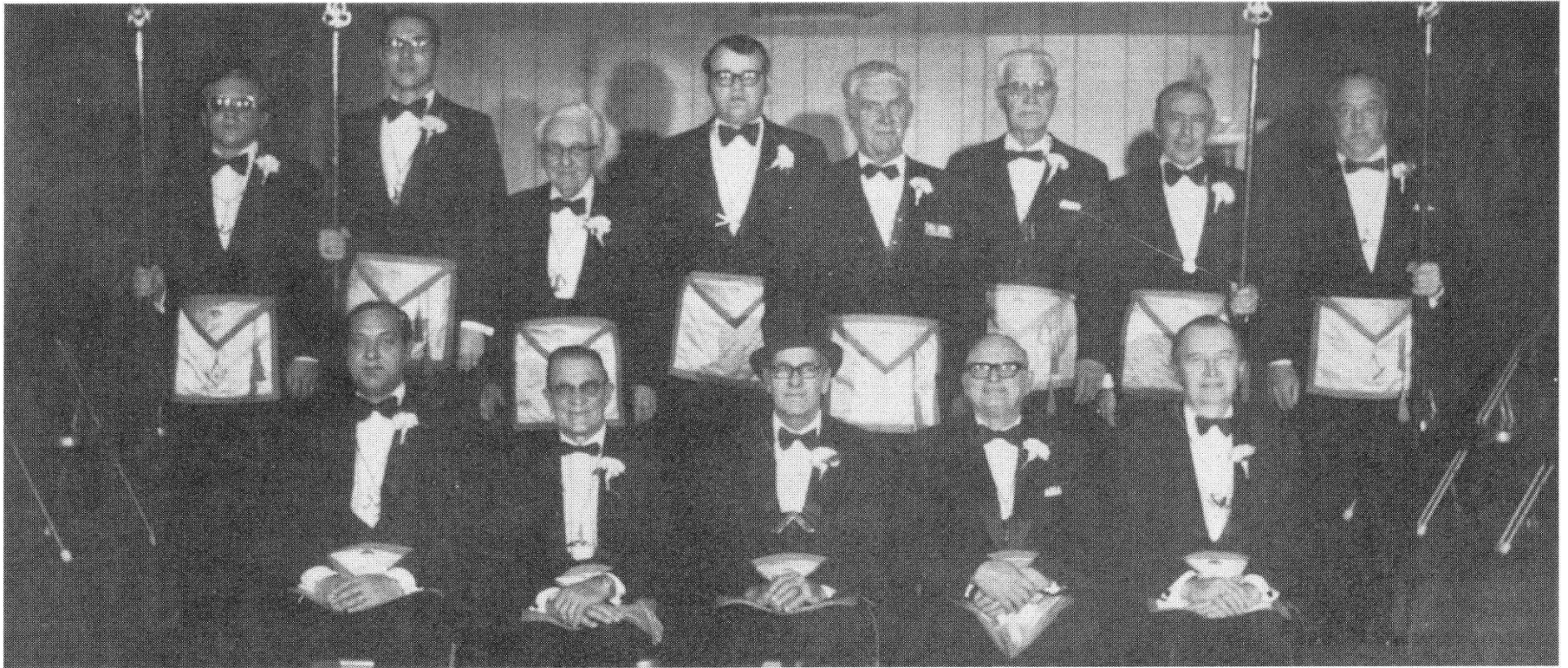
Here we pause to quote from a statement by Worshipful Master Magnus Moe: "It has been said that the love of learning is the ladder on which an inferior may climb to become equal to his superiors. Whoever invented that phrase must have observed the collective effort of our line officers in their endeavor to reach the zenith of perfection as they climb that ladder leading to the Oriental Chair. Every Friday night we have the privilege to view the excellent proficiency of our officers, their stately manners, and superb decorum. The perfection of our line officers is not the gift of chance. It is the consequence of diligent, determined, continuous labor and concentration. All work seems difficult until it is made easy by repetition and practice. It cannot be learned and perfected at the same time. "King Oscar", W. M. Moe went on, "is in good hands. There are no clouds on the horizon but plenty of sunshine to brighten the way for the journey into the future."

The King Oscar Lodge entered the era of the '70's. And, under the leadership of Worshipful Masters Jack Gerts, Robert Kulieke, and Gordon A. Nystrom---the years of '70, '71, and '72 saw continued progress.

A particularly memorable event took place in 1971 when Worshipful Master Robert Kulieke wrote, produced and acted in "The King Oscar Follies". A great evening of fun for all.

In 1972, with Gordon Nystrom as Worshipful Master, Ed Anderson who held the office of Secretary, recalls that a group of

1973 — SEVENTY-FIFTH YEAR OFFICERS



1973 — Walter R. Kroyer, Worshipful Master; Phillip E. Borstrom, Senior Warden; Thure Carlson, Junior Warden; Warren T. Hansen, Secretary; Paul Thorelius, Chaplain; Russell D. Rynerson, Treasurer; John A. Nelson, Senior Deacon; Carl H. Helgren, Junior Deacon; Charles R. Hendricks, Senior Steward; Robert L. Rhoades, Junior Steward; Gunnar J. Rosen, Marshal; George W. Loach, Organist; Herman Willard, Tyler

King Oscar members visited Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they were greeted by members of five Lodges from that city. During their stay, they were guests at the Grand Lodge offices and library and also spent time in the Amana Colonies. They also witnessed a Master Mason Degree conferred by many of the officers of different lodges, and were welcomed to the State of Iowa by the Grand Master.

It was also in 1972 that the King Oscar Lodge moved from Chicago to the Glenview Masonic Temple.

In 1973, the U. S. ended the war in Vietnam, Gerald A. Ford, an Entered Apprentice, became the first appointed Vice president under the 25th Amendment, and the country was absorbed in the Watergate scandal.

King Oscar Lodge celebrated its 75th birthday in the Diamond Anniversary year of 1973, with Walter R. Kroyer leading the Lodge as Worshipful Master while he continued to work toward the high ideals of Masonry. He is well remembered by those who knew him as an affable and highly personable leader. In their 75th Anniversary brochure he stated "We, as Masons, are builders. Let us, in a like manner, start building our bridges of communication with our fellow man. Let us build our bridges of help and understanding today, helping others to cross over tomorrow's torrents."

Worshipful Master Kroyer's officers included: Philip E. Borstrom, Senior Warden; Thure Carlson, Junior Warden; Warren T. Hansen, Secretary; Paul Thorelius, Chaplain; Russell D. Rynerson, Treasurer; John A. Nelson, Senior Deacon; Carl H. Helgren, Junior Deacon; Charles R. Hendricks, Senior Steward; Robert L. Rhoades, Junior Steward, Gunnar J. Rosen, Marshal; George W. Loach, Organist; Herman Willard, Tyler.

In 1975, with Thure Carlson as Master, King Oscar's trestleboard included a bowling banquet, two blood banks, a Past Master's degree and dinner, a Spring Dinner dance at the Lincolnwood Hyatt Hotel, a lodge visit to Ark Lodge in Minneapolis, a family picnic at Holiday Park, a golf outing at the Svithiod Singing Club, and the annual picnic of the Sun Coast division of King Oscar Lodge in Florida.

In 1976, America celebrated its 200th birthday, and Carl Helgren was our Master. Twenty members of the Lodge visited Madison Lodge in Madison, Wisconsin for a 3rd Degree, the bicentennial lodge picnic was held in Cedar Lake Park, and the bicentennial Past Masters Dinner was held at La Venece restaurant. Talking about longevity, on December 31, 1976 Brother Carl Roseland celebrated his 101st birthday.

In 1977, Master Charles Hendricks sadly noted that 17 funerals were performed in his year. They included Past Masters Magnus Moe and David B. Larson, Master in 1938 and Secretary from 1950-1961. The Lodge delivered Christmas baskets to shut-ins and to the wards of the Children's Home in La Grange. This year's visitation was to Ferguson Lodge in St. Louis, and a square table was held for Masonic enlightenment here at home.

In 1978 another square table was held with speakers exploring the ritual, symbolism and meaning of Masonry. The Lodge visited Lovell-Moore Lodge in Muskegon, Michigan, and Editor and Past Master Bob Kulieke once again gathered Past Masters together at Pink Landing in Door County, Wisconsin for a great time. (This writer remembers Bob's warmth, geniality and hospitality while visiting the Kuliekes there, and the bracing experience of stepping into the waters of Lake Superior outside his door).

1979 was Charles Strobel's year as Master, The events he recalls as most notable were the visitation from Muskegon's Lovell-Moore Lodge and a Wendella boat trip on the Chicago and Des Plaines rivers to Joliet and back as well as the visitation to Evansville Lodge in Indiana.

In 1980, Donald L. Dykinga presided. The Sweet Adeline's entertained after a stated meeting in May, the Past Masters Golf Outing was held at the Fox Lake Country Club and the Past Masters Dinner at the Swedish Club.

In 1981, Robert J. Marchi was Master. The Lodge was visited by Lovell-Moore Lodge, and the members enjoyed Jerome Kern's landmark musical *Showboat* at the candlelight Playhouse.

John Kessler, Master in 1982, writes: "Near the end of my term as Junior Warden, I suffered a severe stroke that caused paralysis of

my entire left side and affected my speech. I thought I would never be able to proceed up the line to Master. With the full support of the Lodge I continued up the line and served as Master. With the full support of the lodge I was able to accomplish things I never thought I would be able to and to regain some of my abilities and self-esteem. For that I will be forever grateful to Masonry and King Oscar Lodge.”

In 1983, Brother William I. Sandroff, our Tyler for many years, presided in the East. This writer remembers Bill as the most genuine and kindest gentleman he has ever known in his lifetime.

In 1983 the Lodge moved from Glenview to our present home on Gail Street in Chicago.

Dave Olver, Master in 1984, remembers a tale of a Past Masters' visit to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin: “One who shall remain nameless had fallen into a deep sleep and others attending placed a sprig of flowers in his hands as he lay there and marched around him sounding a very familiar dirge.” He also recalls a bus trip where P.M. C. Randolph MacDonald, a bagpiper of note, and, as was his wont, blew his pipes in the middle of the night at a motel, and before his angered cronies could rush in to stop him, requested Dave Olver to practice blowing the pipes in his stead. Dave blew until he was blue in the face without a decent sound, but was caught red handed with those dastardly pipes and blamed for the malfeasance.

In 1985 Russell E. Johnson took over the reins, and remembers numerous social events, a dinner dance that worked out well, a visit to Ensor Lodge in Kentucky to watch the rough and ready 3rd Degree which has ensured that state fame in the folklore of the Craft, and a visit from Muskegon Lodge, noting out-of-state lodge visits that began in 1917 were continuing. During this year Russ began planning for the future to strengthen our Lodge.

In 1986 R. Alan Randau presided, following the footsteps of his father, Past Master Ralph Randau, who this year served as Lodge Secretary. Grove Lodge #824 in Downer's Grove visited the lodge, after King Oscar had visited them.

The 1980's marked the beginning of the influx of plural members

into King Oscar, thanks to the popularity and reputation of the lodge.

1987 and 1988 were years with President Reagan at the helm, as America witnessed U.S. Soviet cooperation with Mikhail Gorbachev and the winding down of the Cold War. Irwin Dahlstrom and Robert Marchi continued the King Oscar traditions.

1989 was the year Steve Klos served as Master, and later as our Treasurer. Having been appointed chairman of investments in 1987, Steve was highly instrumental in the organization and documentation of Lodge finances, and gave distinguished service to both the York and Scottish Rites, receiving the 33rd Degree for his outstanding efforts for Masonry. He held his installation at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Chicago, which has been repeated in later years, and held a 90th anniversary celebration banquet for the lodge. Under Steve's direction, a Table Lodge for Masonic enlightenment was held at the Swedish American Museum Center, repeated at the Garden Terrace in 1994 and, over the years, the King Oscar Lodge Players Group performed scripted Masonic plays at various lodges. Steve recalls such a performance in Muskegon, Michigan, where the Michigan brethren served a ham dinner that evening. He responded by agreeing with them that our players were indeed hams, so the members of our lodge later presented him with a statue of a pig! Touché!

1990 and 1991 were President George Bush's years, and were the times when our country saw the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, followed by Operation Desert Shield and the defeat of Iraq under dictator Saddam Hussein. Presidents Bush and Gorbachev signed the first nuclear arms reduction treaty. Joseph M. Rosch and Mel C. Jorgensen served as Masters.

Joseph S. Botko, Master in 1992, stated: " I can't understand how fast the time by from when I entered the line until I took over from Mel Jorgensen." During his year Presidents Bush and Yeltsin announced the official end of the Cold War, William Clinton was elected as our 42nd President, Past Master and editor Chuck Strobel was appointed the official Lodge correspondent and presented with the jewel of his office.

In 1993, George C. F. Niemann was our lodge's leader: "a man", according to Editor Charles Strobel, "given to weighty thoughts and high ideals". Worshipful Brother Niemann states: "Quite a number of respected brethren became plural members of our lodge, \$15,000 was given to charity, and two \$500 scholarships were granted in 1993. Over 7,000 points were amassed by the Lodge, and King Oscar #855 was awarded the Grand Master's Award of Excellence as the top lodge in Illinois!"

Edward C. Stracek was Master in 1994, and states he what he "remembers most was the loss of Secretary Bill Sandroff and Treasurer Steve Klos. Both resigned during the year after outstanding service to the lodge." Bill Sandroff submitted this written resignation to the Lodge, giving personal insight into his humility and dedication: "There comes a time when the ravages of time and health take their toll. The standards I have set for myself are such that I believe that King Oscar Lodge excepts from its Secretary. I do not feel that I can continue to perform at that level, therefore it is with a heavy heart that I herewith tender my resignation as your Secretary. I wish to thank the brethren for the confidence that have reposed in me in the past several years. Thank you again and God bless you."

King Oscar again won the Grand Master's Award of Excellence. Past Master Joe Botko was proclaimed Mason of the Year. At the official Roast for Master Stracek, Past Master Charles Strobel delivered this insightful and thought-provoking address: "This event this evening is one of those long-time traditions of King Oscar Lodge, a time when the Past Masters and officers meet to "roast" or critique the outgoing Master's year. For at least the last 20 years that I've been involved with this event it has ceased being a roast and become a glorified love-in. We no longer find fault with any Master's performance, but stress only the positive, and this is not all bad.

"There was a time that our annual meeting held an air of excitement. There would be two or more candidates for the Marshal's chair, and it was not automatic that you would be slated for the next chair in line. More than one individual was asked to step aside because the Past Masters and officers felt he was not qualified to advance, therefore when a brother was elected Master it was expected that he was well able to perform his duties.

“Unfortunately, over the past 20 years or so, I cannot think of one Master who has spent seven years in line training for that eighth year when he alone would be responsible for the conduct of King Oscar Lodge. I know I didn’t. We have needed bodies in the chairs to survive, and we have survived because each of those bodies performed to the best of his abilities.

“Brother Ed’s year, as those of all our Past Masters, has been successful because King Oscar Lodge continues to grow and maintain its reputation as a strong and viable lodge. We are attracting new, young members with a strong interest in Masonry. Also we have been fortunate to have join with us so many outstanding members of other lodges. Their presence can only continue to strengthen King Oscar Lodge. Therefore, Ed, I want to welcome you to the Past Masters of King Oscar Lodge. It’s an honor to have you with us.”

1995 saw the guidance of Master Charles W. Rabishaw, (formerly District and Area Grand Master, Grand Pursuivant of Illinois, and Chairman of the Board of the Children’s Home in La Grange) who remembers two outstanding events of his year “when King Oscar hosted a visit from Buehler Lodge of Louisville, Kentucky for an exciting exemplification of their 3rd Degree at the Scottish Rite. The air conditioning went out, we were passing out, but the event was well attended and definitely enjoyed by all. In August, the Lodge chartered Wendella for a cruise on the Chicago River to watch the Air Show, then came to the Scottish Rite for a BBQ dinner. It was another event where everyone who was there had a great time.”

During Chuck’s year, our loved and respected Past Master William Trubeck, Past Potentate and Treasurer of Medinah Shrine, passed to the lodge on high, as did Past Master and Secretary Bill Sandroff. “Brother Bill always exhibited pride in being a Past Master, Secretary and member of King Oscar Lodge #855 and weaved something about King Oscar into every conversation.” (*From his Masonic History*)

For the third year running, King Oscar won the Grand Master’s Award of Excellence as top lodge in Illinois. George Imlach was proclaimed Mason of the Year.

1996 was Walter Kloepper’s year with a Riverboat Casino event

held on February 18, a July 20th visit to Buehler Lodge in Kentucky to confer our 3rd Degree for them, a funeral service conducted for Past Master Carl Helgren. The Past Master's Degree night in May witnessed the exemplification of the 3rd Degree with Grand Master John Louden serving as Master, Senior Grand Warden J. Garrie Burr as Senior Warden, Junior Grand Warden Jim Durbin as Junior Warden, and our Past Masters filling the slate.

A tremendous amount of herring was consumed at the Christmas celebration. At stated meetings throughout the year, Junior Warden Jay Burris delivered his highly challenging and informative lodge education lectures from the Pillar Program to impart Masonic knowledge to the brethren. Jay served on the Grand Lodge Leadership Development Committee for four years, in two of which he presided as chairman. In 1996, the lodge proclaimed William Schliep as Mason of the Year.

In 1997 Bjorn Skaalerud, our resident Viking, assumed the helm. He writes: " A couple of things stand out quite vividly from the year I was Worshipful Master. One was the bus trip we took to Iowa City to confer the Third Degree on a brother Fellowcraft. This was the last trip Brother Wooten would make before his death. The Masonic fellowship we experienced from each other and the Brethern and their wives, from both King Oscar and the host lodge, is something I will carry with me always. The second instance the same year was during a visit to a small mountain town in the Philippines with my family where we showed up unannounced at the house of a local Mason and his family. The reception, the love and the fellowship was truly heartfelt; it made me grateful to be a part of this fraternity."

On Past Master's Night, Senior Grand Warden Jim Durbin obligated and Deputy Grand Master J. Garrie Burr raised the candidate, while Junior Grand Warden Charles Sullins delivered the Charge to the lodge. John Nelson, Master in 1975 and former Secretary, passed to his eternal rest with Masonic funeral services conducted by the lodge. Mohsen Modaressi was proclaimed Mason of the Year. A Friend's Night was held to enlighten all interested with a glimpse into the many facets of Masonry.

1998 — ONE-HUNDREDTH YEAR OFFICERS



1998 — Jay E. Burris, Worshipful Master; Sal DeCola, Senior Warden; Kenneth Lindgren, Junior Warden; Sheridan Ostrander, Treasurer; Russell E. Johnson, Secretary; Bjorn D. Skaalerud, Chaplain; Mohsen G. Modaressi, Senior Deacon; Maximilien Kernbaum, Junior Deacon; Craig Stewart, Senior Steward; James E. Morgan, Junior Steward; Michael Langdon, Marshal; Jorge Luis De Jesus, Tyler.

In 1998, our centennial year, '60's astronaut John Glenn returned to space and the movies revisited the 1912 Titanic disaster, the world made great strides for peace in several trouble spots, and Americans began planning for life in the 21st Century.

Jay Burris was elected Master, and during the annual meeting, the time-honored tradition of serving apples to the brethren was continued in fine form. His officers included: Sal DeCola, Senior Warden; Kenneth Lindgren, Junior Warden; Sheridan Ostrander, Treasurer; Russell E. Johnson, Secretary; Bjorn D. Skaalerud, Chaplain; Mohsen Modaresi, Senior Deacon; Maximilien Kernbaum, Junior Deacon; Craig Stewart, Senior Steward; James E. Morgan, Junior Steward; Michael Langdon, Marshal; Douglas C. Thomson, Organist; Jorge Luis De Jesus, Tyler; and Charles E. Strobel, Correspondent

The centennial year's events included a Veteran's Night with 120 in attendance, where the colors were presented by members of the U.S. Marine Corps followed by reminiscences of World War II and an explanation of the Masonic Service Association Hospital Visitation program. For several years the annual Christmas Party had been held at the Scottish Rite, and this year was no exception. There was another Christmas smorgasbord at the lodge, a Sweethearts and Wives dinner, Awards Night, the annual blood drive and Past Masters Degree Night, golf outing, picnic, Past Masters Memorial Dinner, and Officers Appreciation Dinner.

The most notable event in our 100th year was the Centenary Ball on June 7. Members, their ladies, and invited guests donned formal attire for an elegant reception, a superb dinner, and dancing to a full orchestra in the style of the 40's and 50's. It was a fitting capstone to the first hundred-year history of an outstanding Masonic lodge that now sets its vision on its second Century of Excellence.

Along the path we have come. .

King Oscar Lodge is proud of the accomplishments of Worshipful Brother David Larson, Master in 1938. As Past Master and Past Secretary of King Oscar Lodge, David Larson was elected first vice-president of the Illinois Masonic Medical Center Board of Directors and served as a lifetime Trustee of that Board.

William Trubeck, Master of King Oscar in 1937, had the distinction of being Potentate of Medinah Temple in 1962.

On one evening in the year 1965, the First Degree Ritual was performed in the Swedish language.

Gordon Nystrom, Master in 1972, has the distinction of being the only third generation member of the Lodge to reach the chair of Master. His grandfather, Swante, and his father, Arnold, both deceased, were members of the Lodge.

Masonry was a family affair for Einar G. Johnson, the Worshipful Master in 1948. His uncle, Brother Nels Johnson, took his petition; his brother, Gunnard H. Johnson and two sons, Arthur C. Johnson and Russell E. Johnson were all members of King Oscar Lodge. At the age of 70, Einar's father, Swan Johnson became a member of Stephenson Lodge in Stephenson, Michigan. Einar's nephew, Worshipful Brother Gunnard H. Johnson, Jr., is a Past Master of Berwyn Lodge, Berwyn, Illinois.

King Oscar Lodge looks with pride to the visitations they have exchanged over the years with Lodges in: Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Kentucky. This is in addition to many individual visits made by King Oscar Lodge members in their travels all over the world.

King Oscar's contributions to charities and scholarships continue to increase over the years to a current minimum of \$15,000 annually.

PAST MASTERS OF KING OSCAR LODGE

*Charles K. Pearson	1898	*Paul E. Olson	1934
*Will S. Hussander	1899	*William D. Chitwood	1935
*Martin A. Magnuson	1900	*Stanton Nelson	1936
*Alfred E. Holmes	1901	*William Trubeck	1937
*Edwin A. Olson	1902	*David Larson	1938
*Charles P. Ekblom	1903	*Martin R. Johnson	1938
*Oscar D. Olson	1904	*Earl H. Primm	1940
*William R. Price	1905	*Leonard H. Lindblom	1941
*Peter O. Peterson	1906	*Harry A. Freeman	1942
*John P. Friedlund	1907	*Rupert L. Butsch	1943
*August A. Johnson	1908	*J. Edgar Daniels	1944
*Henry E. Lindblade	1909	*David W. Hillstrom	1945
*Berndt T. Henrikson	1910	*Harry Glader	1946
*George B. Hanson	1911	*Bert Webster	1947
*Nels O. Johnson	1912	Einar G. Johnson	1948
*Alfred A. Norton	1913	*Peter J. M. Solheim	1949
*Edward H. Titus	1914	*Howard deFord Trainor	1950
*Charles H. Rosberg	1915	*C. Randolph MacDonald	1951
*Otto J. Sandberg	1916	*Walter C. Scheel	1952
*Anton Johnson	1917	*Russell W. Holmquist	1953
*Samuel F. Manning	1918	*E. Gunnar Melin	1954
*Justin S. Wiener	1919	Cyril B. Fox, Jr.	1955
*Charles E. Sward	1920	*George L. Marshall	1956
*Hiram H. Hartman	1921	*Melvin O. Peterson	1957
*George A. Gothberg	1922	*Gustaf A. Lindquist	1958
*George A. Oleson	1923	*Carl E. Holmbom	1959
*Hans A. Leseth	1924	*Edward A. Erickson	1960
*Harry A. Nordholm	1925	*Wolmar A. Ericson	1961
*George L. Brannen	1926	*Ralph W. Randau	1962
*Philip Gothberg	1927	*Swan H. Seashore	1963
*Paul Thorelius	1928	Robert L. Broch	1964
*G. Arthur Holmberg	1929	*Knute O. Lindquist	1965
*E. Willard Cox	1930	*Clarence T. Coombs	1966
*Otto M. Berns	1931	Russell D. Rynerson	1967
*Einar S. Liljeberg	1932	Warren T. Hansen	1968
*Edwin L. Johnson	1933	*Magnus Moe	1969

*Jack F. Gerts	1970	Russell E. Johnson	1985
*Robert R. Kulieke	1971	R. Alan Randau	1986
Gordon A. Nystrom	1972	Irwin A. Dahlstrom	1987
*Walter R. Kroyer	1973	Robert E. Morris	1988
*Thure Carlson	1974	Steve M. Klos	1989
*John A. Nelson	1975	*Joseph M. Rosch	1990
*Carl H. Helgren	1976	*Mel C. Jorgensen	1991
Charles R. Hendricks	1977	Joseph S. Botko	1992
*Sidney J. Petersen	1978	George C. F. Niemann	1993
Charles E. Strobel	1979	Edward J. Stracek	1994
Donald L. Dykinga	1980	Charles W. Rabishaw	1995
Robert J. Marchi	1981	Walter L. Kloepper	1996
John Kessler	1982	Bjorn D. Skaalerud	1997
*William I. Sandroff	1983	Chester Larson (Honor.)	1997
David A. Olver	1984	Jay E. Burris	1998

AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS OF KING OSCAR LODGE

Alhenius, William H.	Macon #8	1961
Arboleda, Daniel A.	Northwest #271	1995
Balbin, Gilberto	Evans #524	1995
Barker, Iman C.	Fair Oaks #1006	1959
Becker, Randall W.	Grove #824	1990
Bissen, William J.	Ravenswood #777	1965
Brahmstadt, Harry R.	St. Cecilia #865	1978
Chew, Martin S.	Elgin #117	1989
Dakof, Bernard	River Jordan #1068	1957
DeCola, Joseph M.	Westchester #995	1998
DeCola, Salvatore J.	Westchester #995	1978
James E. Durbin	Neighbor #1169	1979
Epperson, Royle L. II	Glenview #1058	1985
Gielow, Elmer W.	Parkway #1008	1958
Gordon, Richard R.	Providence #711	1996
Haury, Charles D.	Westchester #995	1994
Hoffman, John R.	Wilmette Park #931	1993
Imlach, George A.	St. Cecilia #865	1994
Johnson, John H.	William McKinley #876	1965
Johnson, Kenneth P.	Constellation #974	1954
Johnson, Richard D.	Triune #422	1989
Koch, Robert W.	Euclid #65	1973
Kyros, Anthony H.	Kelvyn Park Willing #1075	1965
Lillard, Harold W.	Northwest #271	1985
Mandelski, Alfred	Union Park #610	1973
Marose, Nortman O., Sr.	Wrights Grove #779	1962
Modaressi, Mohsen	Providence #711	1983
Moore, Jarvis B.	Providence #711	1982
Ochanpaugh, George W.	Avonwood #921	1985
Ostrander, Sheridan	Advance #1039	1967
Parell, Frank A.	Deerfield #1110	1978
Pater, John	Cicero #955	1958
Raschke, Elmer A.	Avonwood #921	1971
Rogers, George W.	Waverly #172	1972
Rund, Edward A.	Wilmette Park #931	1986
Sager, Oscar G.	Portage Park #1002	1971
Samuelson, Howard A.	Ivanhoe #1100	1959

Schoene, Harold A.	Skokie/Composite #774	1995
Schwartz, Phillip S.	Composite #774	1954
Sherden, Arthur E.	Loyal #1007	1964
Shimanek, Edward L.	Mithra #410	1963
Smith, William J.	Union Park #610	1988
Stastny, Roy L.	Cicero #955	1965
Thomson, Douglas C.	Theodore Roosevelt #1022	1971
Thornton, Eugene C.	Park #843	1972
Valencik, John H.	Providence #711	1983
Von Werder, Robert	Portage Park #1002	1960
Warner, Franklin R.	La Grange #770	1990
Zwick, Benjamin F.	Evans #524	1993

MEMBERS RECEIVING GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION

CERTIFIED RITUALISTS

*C. Randolph MacDonald

CERTIFIED LODGE INSTRUCTORS

Erwin Dahlstrom

Sal DeCola

Joseph S. Botko

Charles W. Rabishaw

F. Ross Warner

GRAND LECTURERS OF KING OSCAR LODGE

*Nels O. Johnson

*Samuel F. Manning

*Harry Glader

*Peter J. M. Solheim

*Ernest T. Ahlquist - Affiliated P.M.

*Harry R. Tyler - Affiliated P.M.

William Ahlenius - Affiliated P.M., Emeritus; Past Chairman of the Board of Grand Examiners

Donald L. Dykinga

Russell E. Johnson

Robert W. Koch - Affiliated P.M.

Elden W. Boice - Affiliated P.M.

James E. Durbin - Affiliated P.M., Past Chairman of the Board of Grand Examiners

Mohsen G. Modaressi - Affiliated P.M.

Roy L. Epperson - Affiliated P.M.

Roy L. Stasny - Affiliated P.M.

John Valencik - Affiliated P.M.

Elmer Raschke - Affiliated P.M.

Kenneth P. Johnson - Affiliated P.M.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS OF KING OSCAR LODGE

*Nels O. Johnson

*Samuel F. Manning

*J. Edgar Daniels

*Harry Glader
 *C. Randolph MacDonald
 *Harry R. Tyler - Affiliated
 Gordon Nystrom
 Russell D. Rynerson
 Russell E. Johnson
 Charles W. Rabishaw
 Donald L. Dykinga

GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATIVES TO SWEDEN

*Nels O. Johnson	1947-1952
*David Larson	1953-1973
*Russell W. Holmquist	1973

TREASURERS OF KING OSCAR LODGE

*Sven J. Akeson	1898-1902
*Edward O. Linn	1903-1934
*Paul E. Olson	1935-1946
*Leonard H. Lindblom	1947-1949
*David W. Hillstrom	1950-1959
*Melvin O. Peterson	1960-1971
Russell D Rynerson	1972-1989
Steve M. Klos	1990-1994
Robert W. Koch	1995-1996
Randall W. Becker	1996-1997
Sheridan Ostrander	1997-

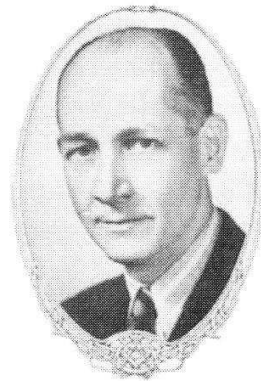
SECRETARIES OF KING OSCAR LODGE

*Nels J. Johnson	1898-1919
*Nels O. Johnson	1920-1937
Philip Gothberg	1938
*Nels O. Johnson	1939-1949
*David Larson	1950-1961
*G. Arthur Holmberg	1962-1971
Edward A. Anderson	1972
Warren T. Hansen	1973-1978
John A. Nelson	1979-1984
Ralph W. Randau	1985-1986
William I. Sandroff	1987-1994
Russell E. Johnson	1995-

OUR GALLERY OF HONOR



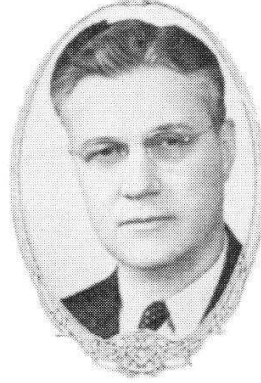
BRO. GEORGE GOTHBERG
Worshipful Masester 1922



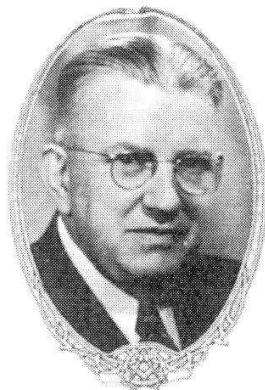
BRO. PHILLIP GOTHBERG
Worshipful Master 1927



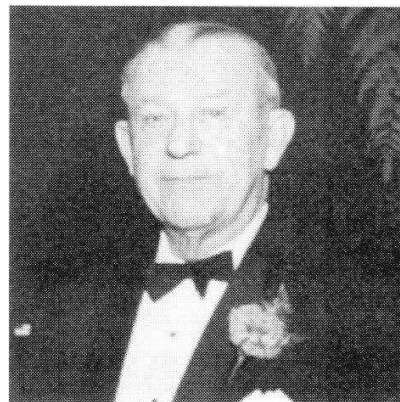
BRO. CHARLES E. SWARD
Worshipful Master 1920



BRO. PAUL THORELIUS
Worshipful Master 1928



BRO. G. ARTHUR HOLMBERG
Worshipful Master 1929



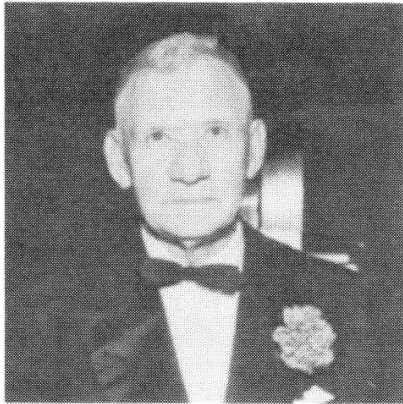
BRO. HARRY GLADER
Worshipful Master 1946



BRO. HANS A. LESETH
Worshipful Master 1924



BRO. ROBERT L. BROCH
Worshipful Master 1964



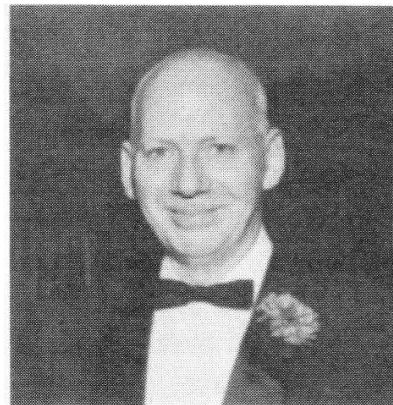
BRO. PETER J. M. SOLHEIM
Worshipful Master 1949



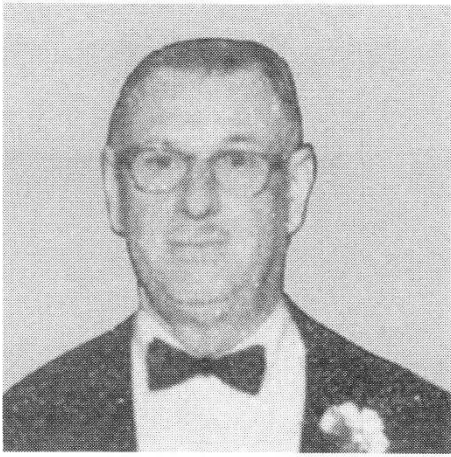
BRO. DAVID LARSON
Worshipful Master 1938



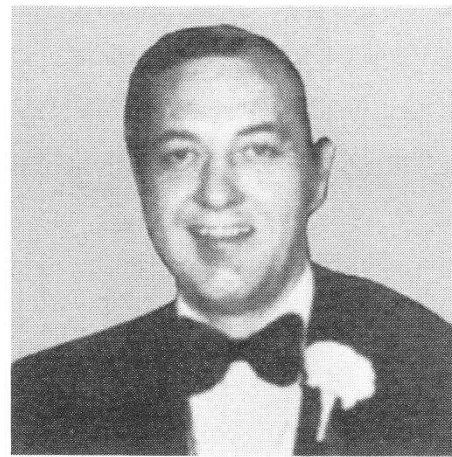
BRO. KNUTE O. LINDQUIST
Worshipful Master 1965



BRO. CARL E. HOLMBOM
Worshipful Master 1959



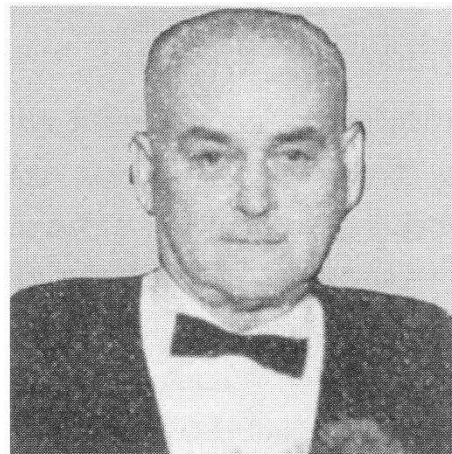
BRO. CLARENCE E. COOMBS
Worshipful Master 1966



BRO. RUSSELL D. RYNERSON
Worshipful Master 1967



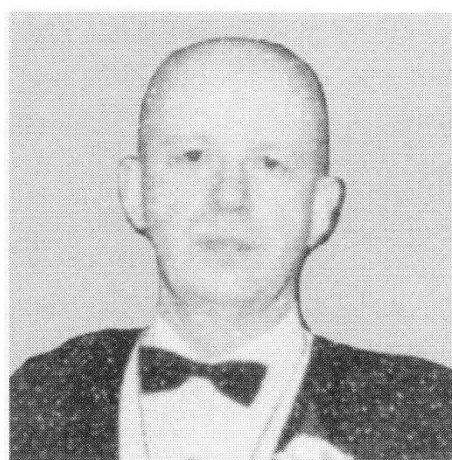
BRO. G. ARTHUR HOLMBERG
Worshipful Master 1929



BRO. C. RANDOLPH MAC DONALD
Worshipful Master 1951



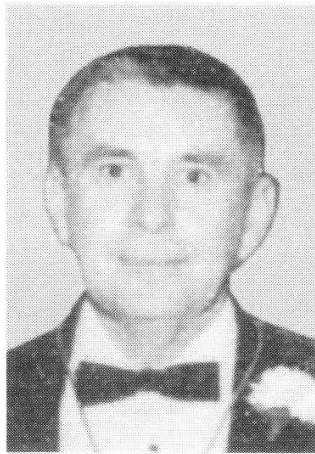
BRO. WARREN T. HANSEN
Worshipful Master 1968



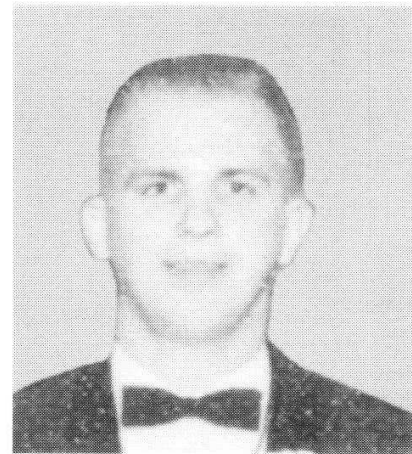
BRO. MAGNUS MOE
Worshipful Master 1969



BRO. JACK F. GERTS
Worshipful Master 1970



BRO. ROBERT KULIEKE
Worshipful Master 1971



BRO. GORDON A. NYSTROM
Worshipful Master 1972



BRO. WALTER R. KROYER
Worshipful Master 1973



King Oscar Lodge No. 855

1898 - 1998

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons