

A HISTORY
of
MACALESTER LODGE NUMBER 290
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of Minnesota

Compiled by:

W.B. William N. Milne, P.M.

to

June, 1953

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Continued by

W.B. Harold G. Wittich, P.M.

to

December, 1964

Acknowledgement is made to Worshipful Brother Marlow B. Bergstrom, whose history of the early years of the Lodge was of invaluable assistance in the compilation of the History.

Initially presented and compiled on the 20th Anniversary of MACALESTER LODGE.

A H I S T O R Y
OF
M A C A L E S T E R L O D G E N O. 290
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of Minnesota

Compiled by
W.BRO. WILLIAM N. MILNE, PM.

to
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W.BRO. HAROLD C. WITTICH, PM.

to
September 1977

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CHARTER MEMBERS

of

MACALESTER LODGE

A. M. Bergstrom
E. L. Kernkamp
P. A. Larson
R. W. Sharpe
P. A. Mc Millen
C. F. Hamilton
Frank Mc Ardell
Charles G. Wright
C. H. Froberg
George Williams
Alex W. Caldwell
E. H. Boyles
Aaron A. Hertz
Frank J. Nagel
H. F. Blomquist
Charles J. Johnson
J. W. James
O. M. Jorgenson
George O. Miles
John R. Kirby
John R. James
Isaac Rudowsky
Fred C. Schaefer

Charles Ivey
Wm. O. Bergstrom
W. H. Nethway
H. S. Fletcher
Paul G. Bremer
Adam B. Jargo
Allan D. Korfhage
Ralph R. Boyles
Arthur E. Nelson -
John E. Bucka
Henry O. Wold
Albert C. Kormann
Joseph V. Stary
Leonard E. Olson
Henry W. Moore
S. J. W. Jacobson
Thomas Ivey
Jens R. Hall
Nels B. Swanson
Clarence H. Jessup
Ralph R. Rayney
Harold R. Olson
Samuel Cookman

The observance of an anniversary is a joyous affair. Countless organizations are born, flourish and die all within the space of a few years. What, then, does an organization possess that enables it to grow, to multiply its original membership by 13, to exist and to enrich the lives of its members for thirty-seven years, and at the end of that time to be as strong spiritually as at the beginning and far stronger financially than its founders ever dreamed? True, it possesses the strength of hundreds of years of Freemasonry, but also it has survived the uncertainties of time because of the wisdom and farsightedness of its founders, coupled with the earnestness, zeal and integrity of a succession of Masters, officers and dedicated brethren throughout nearly four decades. For these things, we of today's Macalester Lodge may be grateful.

The years have not all been easy ones, nor were they always kind to our Lodge. In its infancy it experienced not only the ravages of the great influenza epidemic of 1918, but it went through the first World War, a major depression which struck hard at our brethren, the second World War, and other events of a lesser, although disturbing nature which tried the mettle of the brethren.

It was a warm, sultry evening in July, 1915, when Wor. Bro. A.M. Bergstrom, Bro. Charles G. Wright and Bro. E.L. Kernkamp were gathered in Brother Kernkamp's garden. All three being Masons, the conversation naturally turned to Masonry and Bro. Wright suggested that Macalester Park, having so many other splendid features to recommend it, should also have a Masonic Lodge, especially since so many Masons lived in the rapidly growing Macalester community. Thus the idea of forming Macalester Lodge was born.

A few weeks later, Wor. Bro. A.H. Bergstrom met Wor. Bro. R.W. Sharpe. (Both were past Masters of Montgomery Lodge No. 258.) The idea of a prospective Macalester Lodge was discussed with W. Bro. Sharpe, who enthusiastically approved and from that time forward became one of its strongest boosters. Later, Brothers P.A. McMillen, C.F. Hamilton and Alex W. Caldwell were approached and also were enthusiastic.

There was considerable doubt on the part of many as to whether a suitable hall could be found, and although the hall above Bucka's grocery store at Grand and Cambridge presented an ideally central location, yet there was doubt that its facilities would be satisfactory for Masonic work. However, as the year 1915 wore on, great enthusiasm was expressed by a number of prospective members of the new lodge and so, late

in the fall, with the idea of taking definite steps to organize Macalester Lodge, Bros. Wright, Kernkamp and W. Bro. A.M. Bergstrom presented themselves at a regular meeting of Triune Lodge No. 190 in the hope of obtaining that lodge's approval of the contemplated organization of Macalester Lodge. However, many of Triune's members felt that this section of the city was not large enough to support two Masonic Lodges, and after much debate the project was voted down.

After this setback, it appeared that the dream of a Macalester Lodge could not be realized, and much disappointment was expressed by the brothers who had been trying to organize the project. However, just before Christmas, while discussing the problem with the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, it was learned that it was no longer necessary for a new lodge to have the approval of the lodge nearest to it, but that it would merely be necessary to secure the approval of two lodges in the same city. This gave a new impetus to the project and in no time at all approval had been secured from Montgomery Lodge No. 258 and Ancient Landmark No. 5.

On March 14, 1916, the founders presented to the Grand Master a petition in regular form for the organization of Macalester Lodge. The petition read in part as follows: "The place named is one mile from the nearest lodge and has a population of about 20,000. We can secure a suitable hall and agree to fully furnish the same. We are confident of our ability to build and sustain a prosperous and harmonious Lodge. We recommend for Master Bro. R.W. Sharpe, for Senior Warden Bro. A.M. Bergstrom, and for Junior Warden Bro. C.F. Hamilton".

The petition was signed by 17 brothers: A.M. Bergstrom, E.L. Kernkamp, P.A. Larson, R.W. Sharpe, P.A. McMillen, C.F. Hamilton, Frank McArdle, Charles G. Wright, C.H. Froberg, George Williams, Alex W. Caldwell, E.M. Boyles, A.A. Hertz, Frank J. Nagel, H.F. Blomquist, Charles J. Johnson, J.W. James.

An organization meeting was called for April 25, 1916, with P.A. McMillen as temporary secretary, in the hall over Bucka's grocery at Grand and Cambridge. Present, in addition to the above, were Samuel Cookman and H.W. Hely. A committee of 3 (Bergstrom, Hamilton and Caldwell) was appointed to secure the necessary equipment. The hall was secured for the first and third Tuesdays of each month, and the unformed lodge had its home. Fees were fixed at \$50. The following officers were appointed to serve until the lodge should receive its charter:

R.W. Sharpe, W.M.
A.M. Bergstrom, S.W.
C.F. Hamilton, J.W.
A.W. Caldwell, S.D.
P.A. Larson, J.D.
P.A. McMillen, Secretary
E.L. Kernkamp, Treasurer
J.W. James, S.S.
Henry Blomquist, J.S.
C.H. Froberg, Tyler

Brother Boyles presented to the new lodge a supply of blank petitions and reports, Bro. Sharpe advanced the \$25 fee required to secure the dispensation, Bro. Cookman offered to secure a Bible, Bro. Hamilton was delegated to secure the altar and pedestals, and Bro. McMillen was instructed to secure the necessary books, receipts, etc.

On May 5, 1916, Grand Master Alfred G. Pinkham granted dispensation to the new lodge, to continue in force until the next Grand Lodge communication. Thus on May 16, 1916, the first meeting of Macalester Lodge U.D. was held. At this meeting eight petitions were received for degrees, namely; A.D. Korfhage, R.R. Boyles, J.V. Stary, A.E. Nelson, A.C. Kormann, J.E. Bucka, H.O. Wald and L.H. Olson. Also at this meeting Bro Hely presented gavels and ballot box, Bro. Jacobsen the three lights and the letter "Q" and Bro. Cookman the Bible. Among the visitors at this meeting and at a great many of the early meetings was Dr. John Wright, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, who gave the Lodge much spiritual encouragement in its early endeavors.

At the next meeting of the Lodge on June 6, all of the petitioners were elected and the following five were initiated in the first degree work of Mac. Lodge UD: Korfhage, Bucka, Boyles, Nelson, Kormann.

On June 20, the F.C. Degree was conferred in a Special Communication; Bro. Professor Funk of Macalester College giving a welcome speech to the new Brethren. Also, at this meeting the first lodge picnic was proposed by Bro. James. At the next meeting, the picnic committee reported progress so that it is assumed the picnic was held although there is no mention in the minutes of that fact.

At a special communication on July 18 Bro. Bucka, one of the candidates, also furnished from his grocery store the refreshments for the evening!

The first third degree was conferred on Saturday evening, July 29. The first brother raised in Macalester Lodge was Bro. Korfhage, followed by R.R. Boyles, Arthur E. Nelson, J.E. Bucka and Henry O. Wald. A banquet was served in the adjoining rooms after the close of lodge.

It might be well to mention here that Bucka Hall, over the years, became more than a meeting place. The little hall over the grocery store, with its adjoining rooms, was rented to many other groups, so that Lodge furniture had to be removed and stored after each meeting. Here it was that the Lodge held its dances, card parties and minstrel shows. After the meetings card games would flourish, sometimes into the wee hours, and it was convenient for the Junior Warden and Stewards to procure refreshments by walking down the back stairs to Ed Bucka's store. The floor was plain hardwood, worn smooth, pedestals and altar were simply made, but it was Macalester Lodge on Tuesday nights.

The lodge continued busy all that fall and winter, and on Tuesday evening, January 2, 1917, was honored by a visit from the Grand Master of Masons of Minnesota, M.W. Bro. Alfred G. Pinkham and other grand officers.

On Tuesday, January 9, 1917, the first election of officers was held:

R.W. Sharpe, W.M.	E.L. Kernkamp, Treasurer
A.H. Bergstrom, S.W.	P.A. McMillen, Secretary
C.F. Hamilton, J.W.	

Wor. Bro. Sharpe immediately appointed the following:

A.W. Caldwell, S.D.	Geo. C. Miles, J.S.
P.A. Larson, J.D.	Hels B. Swanson, Chaplain
J.W. James, S.S.	C.H. Froberg, Tyler

On Tuesday, January 23, 1917, at an occasional communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, A.F. & A.M., which opened at 9:00 P.M. in due form in Bucka's Hall, M.W. Bro. Albert Berg, Grand Master, assisted by P. Grand Masters Tusler and Roberts, and the Grand Lodge officers, constituted Macalester Lodge No. 290, A.F. & A.M. and installed the previously elected officers.

During the nine months while Macalester Lodge operated under dispensation, in addition to the seventeen original signers of the application for dispensation the following became members of Macalester by dimit:

O.H. Jorgenson	Geo. O. Miles	John R. Kirby
Fred C. Schaefer	John R. James	Isaac Rudawsky

Charles Ivey
H.G. Fletcher

Wm. O. Bergstrom
Paul G. Bremer
Samuel Cookman

W.H. Methway
A.B. Jargo

The sixteen members raised while the Lodge was under dispensation, all of whom had the honor of becoming charter members, were:

Aslan D. Korfhage	R. R. Boyles	Arthur E. Nelson
John E. Bucka	Henry O. Wald	Albert C. Kormann
Joseph V. Stary	Leonard H. Olson	Henry W. Moore
S.J.W. Jacobson	Thomas Ivey	Jens R. Hall
Nels B. Swanson	Clarence H. Jessup	Ralph R. Rayney
	Harold R. Olson	

Thus on the night of January 23, 1917, two and one-half months before America's entry into World War I, was born Macalester Lodge. As a stirring young infant it already had rewarded the faith and loyalty of its founders.

In February of that year we find a bill for \$11.35 to cover 8 officers aprons. Even that early the members were giving evidence of that thrift which was so necessary if they were to reach the goal which spurred them on for two decades; the goal of owning their own Temple. And, we learn that very early a motion was made setting aside \$25 from each \$50 fee for a building fund, with the understanding that it might be drawn upon for lodge needs if required.

A Lodge flag was given by Bros. Jargo and Bremer, and we find repeatedly throughout the records evidences of Bro. Bremer's generosity.

A Board of Trustees was elected whose first duty was to negotiate a lease for Bucka Hall. The result was a five-year lease at \$20 per month, "payable in advance, to cover rental from 6 P.M. to 6 A.M. The trustees also were empowered to rent the hall to the O.E.S. as soon as they secured their charter, at \$5 a month.

During that spring a stereopticon was purchased for the sum of \$35, and in May the lodge voted to pay the Tyler 50¢ a meeting.

And then the War came! Those of you who are old enough will recall the intense feeling engendered by that struggle; we find that it strongly colored the activities and thinking of Macalester Lodge. In June, 1917, the treasurer was ordered to buy \$200 in Liberty Bonds. In July, a resolution was

adopted as follows: "Resolved, that until such time as our country is at peace with all the world, that at all our meetings, immediately after the formal opening of the lodge, our national flag shall be brought into the lodge and presented at the altar by a marshal appointed for that purpose, and escorted to the East by the Deacons and Stewards."

In September, a committee was appointed to report on the advisability of donating sufficient money to pay the dues of our brothers serving in the War. Also, it was decided to waive the rent of the hall to the O.E.S. so that they might use that money for their work for brethren in the army and navy.

October 9, 1917, more bonds were purchased. On October 22 a committee was appointed to work with a committee arranging a patriotic mass meeting in Macalester Park. On January 8, 1918, the lodge voted to remit all dues of brethren in active service, and purchased \$82.40 in war stamps. In April more Liberty Bonds were purchased and \$20 was donated to the Eastern Star for Red Cross work.

On May 28 a communication from the Grand Master was read, urging lodge support of the bond and thrift stamp drives, and full compliance with the Federal Food Administrator by abstaining from banquets except banquets except for the third degree, and then a frugal as possible and never as a 4th meal.

In 1918 the two great brazen pillars still in use in Lodge were built by our Bro. Jence Hall. He was a manual training teacher in the city school system and the Lodge furnished the materials in the sum of \$75 and Bro. Hall made the pillars. Also in 1918, a committee on salary for the secretary recommended that it be set at \$40 for the year.

On June 11, Bros. Hamilton, Caldwell and Miles were appointed a committee on Masonic Home Subscriptions. This was to purchase a building site. On July 19, the committee reported having seen 39 members and written to all others, and had received pledges totaling \$213.50.

On October 22, 1918, a request was received from Grand Master Kendrick for contributions for relief of Minnesota Forest Fire sufferers, and a committee was formed to investigate. Bro. James related some of his experiences in rescue work in the forest fire zone. At the end of the year, \$32 had been collected for the fire fund and \$223 pledged toward the Masonic Home site. It had been decided that the lodge would not vote money for the home but would solicit individual subscriptions.

By 1920, finances were easing up a bit. The tyler was voted \$1 a meeting for tiling and for caring for the paraphernalia; the auditor reported a balance of \$550.03

In March of that year, 16 petitions were read in one evening; who now could question the need for a lodge in Macalester Park?

In November, 1920, we find a communication from P.G.M. Pinkham relative to a proposed George Washington Memorial, and shortly thereafter Bro. A.B. Jargo, P.A. Larson and J.L. Tomasek were appointed a special committee to solicit \$1 per member for the proposed Memorial.

Officers in those early days really earned their honors. There were regular meetings, there were special meetings, there even were two meetings on the same day, as evidenced by the minutes of November 30, 1920: "Special opened at 5:30. Raised four candidates and closed at 7:10. Opened on 3* at 8:30 and raised four more, special dispensation having been granted."

In April, 1921, a letter was received from the Minnesota Masonic Home asking that delegates from all lodges be sent to a meeting at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Minneapolis, May 15, to consider propositions for building at the Home. Also in April, a committee was appointed to purchase a Temple site for #290. The committee reported with prices of available sites on May 24, and was given authority by the lodge to select and secure a site. In August, the lodge purchased two lots, totaling 100 x 150 feet at the corner of Lincoln and Cambridge; Lot 10 at a cost of \$1379.66 and lot 11 at \$1150. The membership at the end of 1921 stood at 176.

On January 24, 1922, the Lodge gave its approval to a group of Master Masons who wished to start a lodge at Snelling and University, and in September of that same year we find that the lodge officers conducted a school for instruction at Ludwig Lodge U.D.

It was in April, 1922, that the Temple Committee recommended that the Lodge start a Temple Thrift Club. The money deposited in this fund by Club members was to be used in building a new Temple. This fund existed until the purchase of our present Temple and some of our loyal members contributed more than \$40 thru monthly payments to this Thrift Club.

At this period a Study Club was active; we find the notation, "lodge was at ease for study club exercise."

In June, 1922, we find the first mention of De Molay, with an invitation to attend a meeting of St. Paul Chapter which at that time met downtown.

That year, and for many years thereafter, Lodge attended St. John's Day service in June at St. Pauls-on-th-Hill. Rev. Bro. E.H. Eckel, Jr., was rector there, and he also was chaplain.

The Macalester Low Twelve Club was formed in December, 1922, as a group of brothers to render financial assistance to the widows of Club members.

Dues were raised from \$4 to \$6 on October 9, 1923; the minutes report "40 yeers and no nays".

On October 23, 1923, the Lodge received notice of railroad 1½ fare to the laying of the cornerstone of the Geo. Washington Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia.

We find the first mention of a Masonic Horseshoe league in the spring of 1924, and from then on, during the league's existence, Macalester Lodge was enthusiastically represented by such exponents of the sport as Julius Hovelsrud, Otto Oehme, and others. All through the years there was much interest in cribbage, golf and bowling, and for a time in softball. Often was our cribbage team at or near the top, and our bowling team took the Masonic championship for five years of which we have record.

At our 8th anniversary, April, 1924, it was reported that the lodge had 228 members, owned a building site worth \$2900 and had in the treasury and in U.S. bonds \$4725, or a total net worth of \$7625.

Teams were formed in May, 1924, to solicit subscriptions from all members for the Masonic Home, the quota being \$12.50 per member. These teams did their work well, for in May, 1925, a final report by Wor. Bro. B.M. Storey showed 206 subscriptions totaling \$2763, or \$75.50 more than our quota based on a membership of 215.

The brothers had occasion to remember their annual meeting of December 8, 1925, for more than good reports from the officers; Bro. Frank E. Retzlaff had been hunting near Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and the lodge dined upon 52 pounds of buffalo meat furnished by Brother Retzlaff!

In May, 1926, a number of Macalester Lodge brethren attended

the laying of the cornerstone of the Main Guest Lodge at the Masonic Home by M.W. Brother Albert F. Pray, Grand Master.

At the 10th anniversary dinner, April 20, 1926, a committee was appointed to study every phase of a Temple building, including site, size, plan and cost, together with the possibility of building a basement for a Temple on the lots owned by the Lodge. The committee also was to make suggestions for raising money. One of the plans proposed was to put on a play jointly with the Eastern Star. This was done during the fall of 1926 and the sum of \$755.85 was cleared for the Fund.

The meeting of November 30, 1926, again saw the brothers profiting by the shooting skill of one of the members; Bro. John R. Swangstue furnished venison for a lodge dinner.

December 14, 1926, saw an amendment offered to provide for the establishment of a Temple Building Fund, but no building to be started until plans and specifications had been duly adopted by the Lodge after printed notice had been sent to all resident members.

At Christmas of that year the Lodge furnished cigars and candy for all of the guests of the Masonic Home.

An invitation from Midway Lodge No. 185 to join them in the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the new Hamline M. E. Church by the Grand Master was accepted in July, 1927.

1928 saw the placing by the Grand Lodge of the \$12.50 assessment for the Minnesota Masonic Home.

Again, in June, we participated in St. John's Day services at St. Paul's, and we invited all lodges in the city to join us. Our chaplain, Rev. Eckel, preached the sermon and the brethren thought so well of his words that copies were printed and distributed to all members, and to each lodge in the city.

It was in 1931 that the members of Macalester Lodge first considered the idea of moving to the building occupied by Capital City Lodge No. 217. The suggestion was advanced by No. 217, referred to the Worshipful Master and the Trustees, and an unfavorable report returned so that the matter was dropped.

In April of that year a request came for contributions of \$1 per member for the George Washington Masonic Memorial, and Bros. A.M. Mitchell, W.R. Bailey and H.A. Carlson appointed

to raise this sum. However, by July our Lodge members were beginning to feel the pinch of the great depression, and a relief fund was established to aid distressed members and their families. A minstrel show was put on in the fall to aid the relief fund but the sum raised was less than \$100. However, the show was enjoyed twice, the second time at the Masonic Home, and was so well received that plans were made to continue it as a Masonic chorus, according to announcement by Bro. Hayne.

As the depression continued, many cases of Masonic charity and living up to the Masonic obligation were evidenced. A certain brother would be responsible for a half ton of coal to a needy brother; another sent groceries to several members in distress; one could be relied upon regularly to pay the dues of a worthy distressed brother when requested to do so by the secretary; and several times collections were taken to assist in paying a brother's rent, etc.

On March 22, 1934, the Lodge rented Capital City's temple for a special Third Degree, at which the M.W. Grand Master, Bert-ran S. Adams, Senior Grand Warden Frank Matson, and Grand Secretary John Fishel were present. About this time a committee was appointed to meet with Capital City to discuss leasing of their Temple for our meetings.

September 18, 1934, saw a most impressive rededication ceremony when, by direction of the Grand Master, 75 brothers knelt west of the altar and repeated the obligations of the three degrees. The Worshipful Master read the address of the Grand Master, Wor. Bro. A.H. Betz read the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, and the Chaplain, Rev. Samuel F. Franklin, delivered a brief address. That year the Grand Master also directed the observance of Armistice day and this was done in an appropriate manner.

At this time an educational committee was formed, at the suggestion of the Grand Lodge, and questions were submitted for Lodge discussion, such as, "What is the meaning of Due Guard?", "When did Freemasonry come to America?", "Of what lodge was George Washington master?" Throughout the Lodge minutes after that, we find that these questions would be assigned to brothers for answer and many excellent presentations resulted in stimulating and instructive communications.

In June, 1935, the contract with the Trestleboard expired and the Lodge voted to publish its own bulletin, a practice which continued for a couple of years. It had its advantages; it was strictly Mac Lodge, it was more intimate and could carry

items that were of interest only within our own family circle.

All through the lifetime of the lodge, so far as we were able to determine, a joint Lodge-Star picnic was held each summer. Several of these were held at the old Wildwood amusement park; later, they were moved to Como park where they continue to be held even now.

During the mid-thirties, some of the Lodge investments began to get into trouble; what had appeared sound and conservative now became unsound as state and county governments found their incomes insufficient to meet their obligations. In one case, bondholders assisted in a refunding operation which still is in process of being brought back to the original value.

Lodge attendance was somewhat diminished in 1936 and a question box was installed for questions and suggestions; also, a contest was sponsored for ideas on improving lodge attendance; winners were A.W. Broberg and A. H. Betz, and it was stated that all of the ideas submitted would be considered in efforts to bolster attendance.

During that year, the Worshipful Master, Thomas H. Comfort, designated certain communications to honor past masters.

It was in March, 1937, that a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of purchasing Capital City Temple and to report their findings to the Building Committee and to the Lodge. Then, on March 20, a summons was issued to all resident brethren to be present at a meeting called by the Worshipful Master, Verne W. Benner, to consider the purchase of this building which we now occupy.

At this point, let us pause to consider the problem facing the brothers, as great a problem as the original decision to form a lodge. For 21 years they had met in the same building in Macalester Park; it was felt that we were truly a lodge of and for the Park, and many brothers had misgivings about moving our home two miles away. There also was a feeling of loyalty toward our Bro. Ed Bucka, who had been our benevolent landlord for so many years and whose acts of charity toward his less fortunate brethren were legion. And so, there was strongly divided opinion; yet here was a great opportunity to purchase a building built for Masonic purposes and to keep it in Masonic hands.

At such a crucial period, the Grand Architect must truly have guided our destinies, for he gave to us a Worshipful Master

who, in sagacity, in calmness and wisdom could not have been surpassed. Wor. Bro. Verne Benner saw to it that all brethren were notified of the proposal, to hear and discuss it, and to vote upon it.

Finally, on April 13, 1937, the Lodge voted to purchase the property. Capital City Lodge no longer owned the property, and so we purchased the building and all of the lodge furniture, fixtures and paraphernalia. We then returned the lodge equipment to our brother Lodge.

The last meeting of the lodge in Bucka Hall was held on July 13, 1937. Wor. Bro. Claude Hamilton had the distinction of being the only member present at both the first and the last meetings in Bucka Hall. The Worshipful Master of No. 217 also was present and expressed the satisfaction of the members of Capital City at our having acquired their Temple.

Some question arose about this time as to the Temple Thrift Club and a committee consisting of W.B. A.H. Betz, Bro. E.M. Skipton and W.B. J.L. Tomasek reported that, "The purposes of the Club having been accomplished in the purchase of a Temple building, we recommend that the Club be discontinued and that for history full credit be given to its part in making possible the purchase of our temple."

The two lodges met jointly on two occasions during 1938; once with a party and once a special communication by order of the M.W. Grand Master for the purpose of rededication of our members to the ideals, principles and teachings of Masonry.

Brethren began to show interest in providing lodge furnishings; Bro. Robert Erskine gave a set of Mackays History and Cyclopaedia of Masonry and additional donations of Masonic books were suggested. Wor. Bro. Verne Benner presented a fine drawing of the five orders of Architecture to be hung in a suitable place.

Came 1939 and a hospital building was erected at the Masonic Home. Macalester Lodge voted to furnish one room in the new hospital at a cost of approximately \$150.

Informal minutes of November 12, 1940, are of considerable interest. Until that time, the Lodge had not missed holding a stated communication for lack of quorum in the 24 years of its existence, with the exception of certain periods during July and August. On that fateful November 12, however, Secretary McMillen recorded the presence of Wor. Bro. Powell, W.M.; W.N. Milne, J.W.; P.A. McMillen, Secretary; Royal T. Mc Ardell, SD;

and Bro. Robert Powell, with these comments: "No quorum. Only Randolph and University streetcar lines in operation. Just a few arterial streets in the city open to traffic. 53 people in Minnesota were frozen to death due to high winds, heavy snow and sudden drop in temperature."

In April of 1911 the Lodge observed its 25th anniversary; M.W. Grand Master Chauncey C. Colton was present and congratulated charter members and other early members on their part in establishing so securely the financial and fraternal success of the Lodge.

And then came Pearl Harbor. On December 9, 1941, at the Annual Meeting, "Lodge was recessed at 9 P.M. to listen to President Roosevelt on the War situation, after which labor was resumed on the Third Degree." Little did most of us who listened that night realize that we were embarking upon four years of terrible conflict that would demand the best our country's citizens had to offer, and that would strike at the very roots of those ideals for which Masonry stands.

The Masonic Service Association soon had 12 Centers and three more in process of establishment. During the course of the war several of our members had occasion to visit these centers and spoke highly of the part they played in ministering to brothers in the service. In fact, Macalester Lodge contributed more than money to the M.S.A.; it contributed a Past Master to the cause. Wor. Bro. Claude Hamilton felt the call to have a part in this great work and he became assistant Field Agent for the ISA at Rapid City and later at Sturgis, S.D. and Evansville, Ind. And Spartanburg, W.Va. Later he became the Field Agent and Hospital Visitor at Augusta, Georgia.

The Lodge provided two service flags, one for members and one for the sons and daughters of members. When presented, the flag for members contained 12 stars and the flag for sons and daughters 18 stars. These figures, of course, grew tremendously as the war progressed.

As the year 1942 went into its last quarter, the line of officers began to show war's impact. The SW and JW, Bros. McCordell and Greer, left to work on the Alcan Highway. Before long, Bro. Haskin, JD, joined the Army as a chaplain. It was fortunate, indeed, that the Past Masters came thru to help cheerfully and loyally whenever and wherever needed; Wor. Bros. Wier, Heyno, Powell, V.W. Benner, A.H. Bergstrom. In 1943 Bro. Rupert L. Martin, as JW, served as Acting Master and relied strongly upon the past masters for assistance in the work.

Those were trying times; often a young man would desire to receive one or more degrees during his furlough, or before entering service. Several times the officers responded upon 24 hours notice and it was the boast in 1942 that every man who desired his degrees received them before leaving for service.

One brother, Donald D. Perry, was raised in 1942 and volunteered in the Navy; he was commissioned Ensign and later became commander of a gun crew on a merchant ship. Sailing alone, his ship was torpedoed and sunk with all on board on March 10, 1943. His father, Bro. Dr. Gentz Perry, had come from his home in Evanston, Illinois, to raise his son and now he journeyed to St. Paul to a memorial service for Donald. He was presented with the Lodge Bible on which his son had been obligated, (the Bible presented to the Lodge by Bro. Samuel Cookman in 1916) and in turn Dr. Perry presented the Lodge with the Bible now seen upon our altar.

In 1942, Macalester began a project with and for youth which has persisted for the part dozen years. St. Paul Chapter, Order of De Molay, was looking for a home and for a sponsoring body. They were invited to meet in Macalester Lodge and, altho at that time the Lodge was not permitted to sponsor them, yet a sponsoring group of Macalester Masons was formed. Through the years since then, many men have served on the Advisory Council and now the Lodge itself acts as sponsoring body.

The thirtieth anniversary of the Lodge was observed on April 24, 1945. Present were Grand Master William F. Wolman and other Grand Lodge officers. Fifteen of our Past Masters took part in the work on that occasion.

The new opera chairs which now make us so comfortable were purchased in 1946, after careful consideration of several makes. Also that year, because of repeated questions from members concerning the Masonic Home, Brothers P.A. McMillen and W. N. Milne made a detailed study of all available information and on October 26, 1948, reported to the Lodge on the Home's financial standing.

In December of that year a variety show was staged. The show ran for three evenings, everyone had a good time, and a profit of nearly \$300 was reported.

After 32 years of faithful service, Bro. P. A. McMillen resigned as secretary on October 1, 1948. He cannot be given too much credit for the help he rendered to the Lodge and its

Worshipful Masters during that time, for always he stood unobtrusively behind each Master, ready to help and advise but always accepting the Master's decision without question.

After years of discussion, under Wor. Bro. Henry A. Smith action was started to secure the Past Masters' pictures. The persistence of Wor. Bro. Clem W. Nelson finally saw the job completed.

The thirtieth anniversary of the Lodge was observed on April 24, 1945. Present were Grand Master William F. Holman and other Grand Lodge officers. Fifteen of our Past Masters took part in the work on that occasion.

On May 22, 1945, W. Bro. A.M. Bergstrom, who was the second Master of our Lodge, and a previous Master of Montgomery Lodge, also a Charter member of Macalester, was honored on his attainment of 50 years a Mason.

At the Dec. 11, 1946 annual meeting, the secretary's minutes show that 46 candidates were raised and nine restored or affiliated. Also 4 had received E.F. degree, 9 F.C. degree, 2 awaiting initiation and 8 petitions awaiting ballot.

During 1949 Wor. Bro. Smith instituted the present plan of sick visitation (having an officer responsible for all visitations during a single month.) Also, that year the annual Father and Son dinner set a new attendance record of 210, and in May all members over 70 years of age were honor guests of the evening.

Tragedy struck two lodge members during that year. Bro. C. W. Brewer suffered a total loss of his household possessions in a flood at Fort Worth, Texas, the water rising so rapidly that the Brewers barely escaped. Brother Harold Barck, a captain in the St. Paul Fire Department, was one of the firemen who lost their lives in the Waldorf Paper Products disaster June 9, 1949.

Masonic relief for a distressed brother was evidenced in a heart-warming manner in the summer of 1950. Wor. Bro. Clem W. Nelson wrote to all members, informing them of the failing health and consequent financial straits of one of our brothers; the response was over-

whelming with nearly 200 brothers contributing more than \$800 for the relief of this brother and his family.

Ten officers and brethren from Fellowship Lodge No. 257, North St. Paul, visited us on March 13, 1951, and presented the Traveling Square from Ionic Lodge No. 25, Winnipeg. We, in turn, presented it to Capital City Lodge after it had been suitably inscribed.

On June 12, 1953, the Lodge met to celebrate the Grand Lodge's Centennial Birthday. Nine Grand Lodge officers attended, led by M.W. Grand Master H.T. Olson. 14 Past Masters of the Lodge were present. W. Bro. William Milne presented the Lodge with a "History of Macalester Lodge No. 290, A.F. & A.M. from 1917 to 1953." At this communication were present four charter members; A.M. Bergstrom, Claude Hamilton, A.F. Jargo and M.O. Bergstrom. W. Bro. Harold C. Wittich had the privilege of wearing the Master's apron worn by the first Master of the Lodge.

For his outstanding service in connection with Demolay, on October 13, 1953, W. Bro. Milne was presented the Legion of Honor Award.

Up to 1954, nine members of our Lodge had received 50 Year pins. All of these were Charter Members. Two of them are still living; Brother Nels B. Swanson, who lives in Coldwater, Mich., and Bro. Henry Blomquist.

Feb. 32, 1954, the Lodge voted to install a card system to identify Brothers and Visitors attending meetings.

On May 11, 1955, W. Bro. Arthur E. Nelson, who had served as Mayor of St. Paul, passed to the Celestial Lodge Above. He was a charter member and served as Worshipful Master in 1923.

A request was made by the Lodge May 25, 1954, to open the "Lodge of Sorrow." Permission granted June 7. This was the first such Lodge opened by No. 290.

At the June 26, 1956 meeting we voted to redecorate the Lodge Room for \$660 and the dining room for \$375. That year the Lodge treasury had sufficient funds with which to purchase a \$1500 U.S. Savings Bond.

A new rug for the Lodge Room was purchased in June, 1959, and, with the help of many brothers, was laid at the expense of \$2200. The money was withdrawn from

our savings and repaid at the rate of \$75 a month.

On October 11, 1960, W. Bro. Daniel Hansen announced that a "Regent's Award" from the University of Minnesota had been given to W. Bro. H. C. Wittich ~~in~~ "in recognition of devoted service and outstanding contribution to the University of Minnesota and the State" for 41 years of service from 1925 to 1966.

On May 24, 1960, the Secretary, W. Bro. Gilbert Witzke announced that a new 50-star flag had been presented to the Lodge.

W. Bro. Clifford B. Witzke, Master, spoke about the seriousness of the times and the encroachment of foreign ideals upon weak nations. He suggested that the time had come for Masons to pause, consider and re-dedicate ourselves to the principles and tenets of the Craft. Forty brothers present at the communication went to the Altar and in unison repeated the obligations of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees.

In 1967 our 50th birthday passed without the Lodge observing it with any special activities.

On Nov. 12, 1968, W. Bro. Henry Schmidt reported that up to that date \$1624.50 had been raised for the Masonic Home Care Center in response to a letter sent to each member, outlining what we wanted to do for the Care Center and the need such help would serve. The response was most gratifying, for not only was enough money contributed to purchase furnishings for one room, but enough money came into furnish 2 rooms.

1972 saw the closing of our "Low-12" Club which had functioned since 1922, bringing much comfort and financial assistance to many of our brothers' widows and families following the death of the brother. Bro. Walter Clayton was an ardent promoter of the Club and following him Bro. Jubel Welc carried on until 1972.

During the years 1970-75 the physical appearance of our building was enhanced considerably, for during that period our dining room was improved by the removal of the old stage, a new ceiling installed and new lights and paneling. A new serving counter replaced the stage; shelves were added to display the many beautiful trophies Maculester had won over the years.

In the Lodge Room the dais in the East was rebuilt, enclosing a portion which makes for more attractive and efficient conducting of meetings. New carpeting was put on the steps leading to the second floor, the hallways and in the anteroom. Last, but not least, the roof was replaced.

During 1973 Highland Park Lodge No. 336, which had met in our Temple, found it necessary to surrender its charter and so joined with us. This was no doubt saddening and regrettable to many Highland Park members. During the year 190 Highland Park Lodge members signed the By-Laws of Macalester Lodge No. 290. However, Highland Park Lodge was able to celebrate its 25th anniversary before relinquishing its charter.

With the passing of years since Macalester Lodge's first meeting in 1916, many men have been raised and brothers joined by death. The Secretary's records show that 1294 members have signed the Roll.

During 1975 a very impressive Communication was held, at which time our Lodge recognized nearly 250 members with Certificates showing that they had held membership in Masonry from 25 to 49 years.

Early in the year of 1976 a committee was appointed to revise our Funeral Ritual or form a new one. The committee, consisting of Bro. James D. Lightfoot, W. B. Rolfe R. Ransier and W. Bro. Harold C. Wittich, reported to Lodge Sept. 14, 1976, presenting a complete new Funeral Ritual which was adopted.

In 1977 the Master, Darryl L. Kitzemann, appointed a committee, headed by Wor. Bro. Harold Wittich, to plan for a suitable observance of our 60th anniversary. The Lodge worked U.D. in 1916 and was chartered in January, 1917, so either year could have been our "base" year. The committee chose Sept. 24, 1977, for the observance. It was an outstanding affair: 160 attended, including 50-year members C.G. Holmer, Louis Lerman and Oscar Warwick. 60-year members Albert S. Solik, Henry Blomquist and Nels Swanson also were honored although not present. All 50-year members also were honored. All were welcomed by Deputy Grand Master Donald M. Severson.

In this brief history many events were excluded due to lack of space. However, the purpose of this chronicle has been to show that Macalester Lodge has continued to grow, to prosper, and to take its place in the community and in the hearts of its members. Its first 60 years have been good ones, replete with challenge; may the next be equally as rich.

The Grand Lodge approved to present 50 year emblems to W.B. Donald Murray, Brother Logan Leven and Brother Alfred Parks. It was announced that Brothers Robert Bergstrom and Rohland Thomssen will receive the 33^o of Masonry in December of this year. The Lodge held its Macalester Fund Raising Auction, which was a great success. It was held under the leadership of Brother Jr Warden Robert Peltier.

1978

Brother Allan F. Kauppi, Sr. was installed Worshipful Master. In celebration of George Washington's Birthday, Brother William Woolsey gave an enlightening reading about Washington's days as a youth. Brother Randall J. Stockwell was presented his 50 year pin. Brother Morace LaClair received Lodge applause for the fine work exhibited as he presented the Treasurer's Desk he made. The salary of the Secretary was raised from \$90.00 per month to \$125.00 per month. A 50 year pin was presented to Brother Ruben Orenstein. W.B. Robert E. Green was installed as Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota Order of the Eastern Star. It was announced that W.B. William Milne and W.B. Harold Wittich had completed and brought up-to-date the history of our Lodge. A Past Masters Night and Social Affair was held and was attended by a goodly number of Lodge members, including 13 Past Masters, 4 widows of Past Masters and visitors. W.B. William Milne and W.B. Harold Wittich were presented plaques for their many years of service to the Lodge and to the advancement of the Masonic Principle. Following a stated meeting, a 50 year pin was presented to Brother Walter Rock. The wives of the Lodge members were invited to attend and entertainment and an address by Past Grand Master Clyde Hegman was included. A plaque was presented to W.B. Clyde Hegman for his outstanding work in Masonry.

1979

Brother Robert Peltier was installed Worshipful Master. The Valentine's Day Party which was held with Capital City Lodge, Macalester Park O.E.S., and Job's Daughters was well attended and all had a good time. The Job's Daughters held an initiation meeting following the Lodge meeting. They did excellent work and everyone was very enlightened. W.B. William Milne received his 50 year pin. Capital City Lodge accepted our invitation to attend our annual summertime Lodge Picnic to be held on June 24th. Brother Oscar Warwick announced that he would not attend any more meetings until the speaker system

was repaired. There was much discussion about this matter. It was brought to our attention that Summit Lodge #163 wanted to meet with a committee from our Lodge and discuss possibilities of a merger. After much discussion the Lodge noted to raise our dues to \$25.00 per year which included per capita tax. The result of our Rummage Sale held November 10th and 11th netted the Lodge \$922.50. All unsold material was given to the Union Gospel Mission.

1980

Brother Ralph R. Pendergrass was installed as Worshipful Master. A Valentine's Party was held February 14th which was great fun. Brother Allen Backer was presented with a 50 year pin. The Lodge accepted a bid of \$1,390 to have the Lodge Room washed and cleaned. The possibility of our Lodge sponsoring a DeMolay Chapter was discussed and a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility. The annual Christmas Party co-sponsored by Capital City was held on December 14th.

1981

Brother Robert Baker was installed as Worshipful Master. A new altar cover was presented to the Lodge by Mrs Florence Warwick in Memory of her husband and Good Mason Brother Oscar Warwick. The Tyler's salary was raised to \$7.00 per meeting. On a motion passed, the Lodge agreed to sponsor a DeMolay chapter, and that it be named The St. Paul Chapter. W.B. Rupert Martin was presented with his 50 year pin. Brother James Solin reported the Lodge netted a profit of \$320.00 from the sale of balloons during Grand Old Days. W.B. Harold Wittich donated to the Lodge a set of slides from the Grand Lodge of England.

1982

Brother Lester T. Benson was installed as Worshipful Master. The 65th Anniversary of our Lodge was to be observed October 30th. Part of the meeting would be held in Bucka's Hall where the Lodge was started. Brother William Kirtley from Lodge Vandeleur 3586 Newcastle Upon Tyne, England visiting our Lodge was invited to sit in the East, and the Master presented him with an Honorary Membership in Macalester. It was decided in the future to give a visiting brother an honorary membership in Macalester after the Brother had visited our Lodge 3 times in one year.

The 65th Anniversary of Macalester Lodge was held Saturday, October 30, 1952. The program was a 4 P.M. Social Hour, 4:30 Entertainment for the Ladies and Guests by The Accents, 5 P.M. Special Communication at Bucka Hall, 6:30 P.M. Dinner, and 7:15 P.M. Awards. For complete details: consult Lodge minutes of October 30, 1952.

1953

Brother James H. Solin was installed as Worshipful Master. Brother William Kirtley was presented a V.I.P. pin. Brother Kirtley is Tyler of Lodge Vandeleur 3556 in England. The Masters & Wardens travelling trophy was presented to Macalester Lodge members at Triune Lodge. The sale of balloons at Grand Old Days netted the Lodge \$420.00 which was given to the Minnesota Masonic Cancer Hospital. Jeffrey Wukowitz, son of Brother Mike Wukowitz was presented with a medal for heroism at the DeMolay Installation.

1954

Brother Lawrence K. Davies was installed as Worshipful Master. Rumor had it that our Lodge Temple had been sold. The Lodge took action to advise all present renters this was not so. Brother Ed Hitzeman was presented an Honorary membership in Macalester. Worshipful Brother Fred Martin, PM of Shekinah, advised the Lodge by letter that the Honorary membership bestowed on him was greatly appreciated. W.B. Lester Benson was given a letter of Introduction to present to Cdr M.B.S. Higham, RN Grand Secretary of the Free Mason Hall in London, England, to take with him on his planned trip to England. W.B. Harold Wittich was presented with his 60 year certificate. The DeMolay Chapter meeting in our Lodge has moved to Triune Lodge and it will be jointly sponsored. Brother Ed Jensen was given a plaque commemorating his many years of service to our Lodge. The Lodge bank account was changed from the First National Bank to Merrill, Lynch Co. Masonic Code books were to be ordered for the top line officers. A large number of Midway Lodge members attended our Lodge. The Board of Trustees suggested that all Lodge documents be copied and kept at the home of the Secretary or a place which would be easily accessible.

W.B. Arthur Seaberg has filed on behalf of the Lodge, for a Tax Abatement and for a re-valuation of the Lodge building for tax purposes.

Our Secretary, W.B. Allan F. Kauppi, Sr, presented his resignation from his office, citing a continuing work load in his employment and being unable to devote all the time required for the Secretary's work.

Brother Harley Poller was presented with his 50 year pin.

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MACALESTER LODGE #290

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LODGE

MACALESTER LODGE #290 IS A STALWART IN THE CITY OF ST. PAUL, AND A MILESTONE IN MASONRY.

NOW MEETING ON THE CORNER OF JAMES AVENUE AND EDGECLUMBE ROAD, MACALESTER BOASTS A MEMBERSHIP NOW OF NEARLY 325 MEMBERS. AT TIMES THIS FIGURE HAS SWELLED ABOVE THIS NUMBER WHILE AT OTHER TIMES IT HAS BEEN BELOW THIS, BUT ALWAYS IS A FRATERNITY OF GREAT MEN.

MACALESTER LODGE #290 STARTED ON A SULTRY SUMMER'S EVENING BACK IN 1915 WHEN WORSHIPFUL BROTHER A. M. BERGSTROM, BROTHER CHARLES WRIGHT AND BROTHER E. L. KERNKAMP MET AND SUGGESTED THAT A MASONIC LODGE BE ESTABLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN EDGES OF ST. PAUL. MEMBERS WERE EAGER TO BECOME PART OF THE MASONIC FRATERNITY MOVEMENT, AND THEY SECURED THE MEMBERSHIP OF J. E. BUCKA WHO WAS PROPRIETOR OF BUCKA'S GROCERY ON THE CORNER OF CAMBRIDGE AND GRAND, ABOVE WHICH OUR MASONIC LODGE ESTABLISHED THEIR FIRST MEETING PLACE. THE BUILDING IS STILL IN EXISTENCE, AND OUR PAST MASTER OF 1983 - ^{Bro} JIM SOLIN - CURRENT REIGNING CHAPLAIN IS ONE OF THE OPERATORS OF THE ACE GRAND AVENUE HARDWARE STORE, WHERE ONCE BUCKA'S GROCERY WAS IN BUSINESS. BUCKA'S HALL (AS IT WAS KNOWN) BECAME THE PLACE FOR THE LODGE'S DANCES, CARD PARTIES, AND MINSTREL SHOWS. MASONIC FURNITURE HAD TO BE MOVED IN AND OUT OF THE LODGE ROOM AS OTHER ACTIVITIES DICTATED. ALL, IF NOT MOST OF THE LODGE'S ACTIVITIES WERE CONFINED TO THE HALL ABOVE THE GROCERY STORE WHERE MACALESTER MET, AND THEY PAID A MONTHLY RENT OF SOME \$20 FOR THE DURATION OF A FIVE YEAR LEASE.

A BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS ELECTED, AND AFTER CEMENTING THE LEASE WITH BUCKA WAS EMPOWERED TO RENT THE HALL TO THE MACALESTER PARK CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR AFTER THEY SECURED THEIR CHARTER - MONTHLY AT THE COST OF \$5.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR CAME UPON US, AND IN SEPTEMBER OF 1917 A COMMITTEE MADE A RESOLUTION TO HAVE USE DONATED MONEY TO PAY THE MASONIC DUES OF MEMBERS OF MACALESTER THAT WERE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED FORCES.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GRAND LODGE WERE RECEIVED URGING PARTICIPATION IN THE BOND AND THRIFT STAMP DRIVES.

IN 1918 THE TWO BRAZEN PILLARS STILL IN USE IN LODGE WERE BUILT BY BROTHER JENCE HALL, WHO WAS A MANUAL TRAINING TEACHER IN THE CITY OF ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

IN MARCH OF 1920 A MILESTONE WAS REACHED AT MACALESTER WHEN 16 PETITIONS WERE READ IN ONE EVENING.

THE MACALESTER "LOW TWELVE" CLUB WAS FOUNDED IN DECEMBER 1922 TO HELP SERVE THE NEEDS AND TO RENDER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WIDOWS OF MASONIC MEMBERS OF MACALESTER.

IN 1923 WE FIND THE FIRST MENTION OF THE MASONIC HORSESHOE LEAGUE OF WHICH MACALESTER WAS PART... IN ADDITION WE PARTICIPATED THROUGH THE YEARS IN CRIBBAGE, GOLF, BOWLING, AND SOFTBALL.

DINNERS AT VARIOUS TIMES OF THE YEAR WERE ALSO PART OF OUR HISTORY AND APPETITIES... NAMELY THE SHOOTING SKILL OF ONE OF OUR LODGE MEMBERS WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT WHEN A VENISON DINNER WAS GIVEN IN LATE NOVEMBER OF 1926 COURTESY OF THE HUNTING SKILLS OF ONE - BROTHER JOHN R. SWANGSTUE.

IN 1931, AFTER MEETING IN BUCKA'S HALL FOR SOME 15 or 16 YEARS A MOVE WAS MADE BY SOME MEMBERS OF MACALESTER TO INVESTIGATE THE PROBABILITY OF PURCHASING THE BUILDING IN WHICH WE NOW MEET FROM CAPITAL CITY LODGE #217.

AS OTHER PRIORITIES WERE IN ORDER AT THAT TIME, A RENTAL ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE WITH CAPITAL CITY UNTIL THE YEAR 1937 AT WHICH TIME A VOTE WAS MADE TO PURCHASE THIS BUILDING. MEMBERS HELPED TO FURNISH THE HALL WITH FURNITURE AND MASONIC ARTIFACTS.

THE BIBLE, MASONIC HISTORY BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA'S ALONG WITH DRAWINGS OF THE FIVE ORDERS OF ARCHITECTURE WERE ALL DONATED FOR USE IN OUR LODGE.

IN 1939, AS A NEW HOSPITAL BUILDING WAS ERECTED AT THE MASONIC HOME, MACALESTER ELECTED TO FURNISH ONE ROOM AT THE HOME FOR AN EXPENDITURE OF \$150.

IN 1941 THE LODGE OBSERVED ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY... AND ON DECEMBER 9TH, 1941, THE LODGE AT ITS REGULAR MEETING RECESSED AT 9 PM TO HEAR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S TALK ON THE WAR SITUATION THAT HAD JUST BEEN DECLARED TWO DAYS EARLIER.. THAT WAS A THIRD DEGREE NIGHT.. AND DEGREE WORK WAS RESUMED AFTER THAT MOMENT IN WORLD HISTORY.

G. I.'S AND THE LODGE OFTEN EXPERIENCED TRYING TIMES, AS MEN HOME ON LEAVE FROM SERVICE AND FIGHTING WANTED TO BECOME A PART OF OUR FRATERNITY. IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR LODGE OFFICERS TO RECEIVE 24 HOUR NOTICE OF SOMEONE DESIRING MEMBERSHIP IN OUR FRATERNITY, AND EVER EFFORT WAS MADE TO OBLIGE.

MACALESTER'S FIRST EFFORT AT SPONSORING A DE MOLAY CHAPTER WAS MADE IN 1942 WITH THE INCEPTION OF THE "ST PAUL CHAPTER".

THE OPERA CHAIRS IN WHICH WE NOW SIT WERE PURCHASED AND INSTALLED IN 1946.

1948 CAME AND WENT, BUT DURING THAT YEAR THE THESPIAN

QUALITIES OF THE LODGE MEMBERS WERE TESTED WHEN A "VARIETY SHOW" WAS PUT ON IN OUR LODGE BUILDING FOR THE RAISING OF FUNDS... THREE NIGHT RUNNING AND THE GRAND TOTAL OF \$300 WAS RELIZED FROM THE STAGING OF THIS PRODUCTION... IT MUST 'VE BEEN "REAL BROADWAY".

IN 1945 THE DISPLAY OF PAST MASTER'S PICTURES WAS STARTED AND STILL HANGS IN THE BLUE PREPARATION ROOM. SOME OF THE CURRENT MASTER'S PICTURES ARE MISSING, BUT NOW THERE IS A MOVEMENT AFOOT TO BRING THIS UP TO DATE.

IN 1956 OUR LODGE VOTED TO REDECORATE THE LODGE ROOM FOR A COST OF \$660 AND THE DINING ROOM DOWNSTAIRS FOR \$375. A NEW RUG WAS PURCHASED FOR \$2200 AND THE NEW LOOK WAS UPON US.

IN OCTOBER OF 1960, WORSHIPFUL BROTHER DAN HANSEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRESTIGIOUS "REGENTS AWARD" GIVEN BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WAS BESTOWED ON WORSHIPFUL BROTHER DR. HAROLD WITTICH IN RECOGNITION OF DEVOTED SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY AND TO OUR STATE FOR 41 YEARS OF SERVICE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~.

IN 1972 WE SAW THE CLOSING OF THE "LOW TWELVE" CLUB, BUT FURTHER ENHANCEMENT OF THE LODGE WAS MADE WITH RENOVATION OF THE LOWER HALL BEING MADE. REMOVAL OF THE STAGE ETC WAS PART OF THE WORK, ALONG WITH LOWERING OF THE CEILING.

DURING 1975 HIGHLAND LODGE BECAME A PART OF MACALESTER
LODGE, AND BROUGHT TO US 190 MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.

WE OBSERVED OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1977 WITH DINNER AND
FESTIVITIES IN OUR LODGE HALL

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 70TH YEAR OF MEETING AS MACALESTER LODGE
#290 A.F. & A.M.