



54th ANNUAL ADDRESS OF  
**HONORABLE VERNON SCOTT**  
**M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

**GREETINGS:**

By the grace of Almighty God, we have gathered together here in this beautiful city of Bremerton, Washington, as guests of Hamma Hamma Lodge #35., and Madrona Chapter #14., to recount the labors of our hearts and hands, for the twelve months that have so swiftly sifted through the sands of time. This day marks the close of an eventful year, and I stand before you to make a report of the affairs of your Grand Lodge for this Masonic year now ending at this our 54th Annual Grand Communication,

The report which I shall give to you as your Grand Master, this year, shall be varied. It will include many phases of Masonic work accomplished this year, which for various reasons, found their fulfillment an unexpected function of my office. It was my duty, as your Grand Master, to see this work accomplished and this has been done for your worthy consideration at this our Grand Communication.

As we face the duties and our obligations that await us, the countless generations of Masons who are to follow us shall hold us to strict accountability. They will hold us responsible for the work we do here or for the neglect of the work we should have done. I, therefore, call upon every member of our Grand Assemblage to have the heart to lay aside all mental differences and political aspirations for the time being and dedicate our souls and minds and to give your best endeavors to the many great causes we here represent. Our successors will either commend and praise us for that which we do here today, or they shall condemn us for what we shall fail to do. I pray that we shall work with a clear perspective, a cooperative endeavor, with faith in ourselves, in our leaders and in our future.

**NECROLOGY**

Since our last Grand Communication held in Portland, Oregon, the Grand Master of the Universe has seen fit to summon six brethren to answer the roll call to enter into that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. They have finished their earthly pilgrimage and today they rest from their labors. We bow in humble submission to Him who has removed these craftsmen from our rolls, including our Grand Historian and Past Grand Trustee, Brother Ray Williams. I started to Seattle to conduct his funeral, but due to car trouble, I was detained.

Past Grand Master Joseph I. Staton with the assistance of Past Grand Master Hilliard Hood, Deputy Grand Master Johnny Allen and the Lodges of District Number One, very ably conducted the Grand Lodge funeral for our beloved Brother. Ritualistic honors, as beautiful as they are, over the remains of our departed Brothers, are but meaningless gestures unless they represent the practice in our every day lives of the highest and most noble tenets inculcated and practiced by all true Masons everywhere.

- Brother Leon Self of Harmony Lodge #2
- Brother James Tolliver of Hercules Lodge #17
- Brother Willie Leo Shine of Enterprise Lodge #1
- Brother W. A. Stephens of Hercules Lodge #17
- Brother Willie Lee Taylor of Cassia Lodge #5

were the other Brothers, true and tried, of our Most Worshipful Jurisdiction that were called by the Grand Architect of the Universe this year. We pause here for a moment of solemn silence to their memory, Peace be to their ashes, now, henceforth and forever. We shall cherish the memory of these our departed Brethren forever.

### **MASONIC TEMPLE**

Although the completion and dedication of the temple took place this year during my administration, the credit for its noble beginning belongs to Past Grand Master Harris. The work moved forward toward completion under the administration of Past Grand Masters Fred U. Harris, Hilliard Hood, Theodore Spearman and Joseph I. Staton. Now in the sixth year, under the cumulative energies and labors of those administrations, we have a Masonic Temple of which we are proud. A progressive look reveals that within a few years we shall grow out of this Hall and have to plan for larger facilities to house our many Lodges, Chapters, and the official family.

Before plans were let for the renovating, in 1956, meetings were held in the old foyer of the theater; heating was a problem, as was water seepage; organizations objected to meeting in the building due to lack of sanitation, ventilation and accommodations. Income from the property was being reduced to such a degree it was difficult to meet commitments made in the purchase. The Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, the Lodges and Chapters of Seattle, composing the Temple Association, rallied their energies and finances and began the work of putting the building in a capacity that it would, not only carry its financial obligations, but, also, make the building worthy of the Prince Hall fraternity emblem, I shall not go into the contracts, since the Grand Trustee Board's report will give you these details.

In November, 1956, the Temple Association sent a request to the Grand Chapter to make a loan to them for \$1,000. In January, a similar request reached my office. I informed them that, in my opinion, the Grand Lodge would not favor a loan, but advised a request to purchase stock. I also advised the Worthy Grand Matron a stock purchase would be more expedient than for the Grand Chapter to enter into a loan.

This request to purchase stock was made by the Chairman of the Grand Trustee board to my office. I forwarded same to the Office of the Chairman on Finance, W. Brother Russell Gideon, 33°. It was duly processed thru his office by his committee on Finance and passed by an overwhelming majority. I favorably passed it and the warrant was drawn for the purchase of \$1,000 additional stock in the Temple Association, The Grand Finances at that date considered the request, but due to their programming could only purchase \$500 in stock; but gave assurance of additional purchase later. The work is now completed and our Temple Auditorium is beautiful to behold. On April 21st with the official family of the Grand Lodge, the assistance of Fred U. Harris, P.G.N., Hilliard Hood, P.G.M., Joseph I Staton P.G.M., and the Lodges of District #1, the Temple was dedicated before a large and enthusiastic audience. There are so many who gave so unselfishly of their time and energy to this noble work, that I do not like to call out or single out, one individual for fear of leaving out another who labored equally as hard. This is the way it should be, for by our collective efforts we unite ourselves into a unity and fellowship that will surmount all obstacles. May it be our highest ambition that our united efforts shell shed lustre on the immortal pages. We are very thankful and humble to Him, who know all and sees all, for seeing our cause as worthy and rewarding our energies. The galleries arc full of critics--they play no ball, they fight no fights. They make no mistakes because they attempt nothing. Down in the arena arc the doers, Thank God we hove so many Doors. Ford forgot to put a reverse gear in his first auto. Edison spent two million dollars on an invention that failed. So you see all we humans make mistakes. Only the Grand Architect of the 1Tniverse unknown to us men, has perfected all. So the man that makes no mistakes locks boldness and the spirit of adventure. He is the one who never tries anything. He is the brake on the wheels of progress. Yet, it cannot be truly said that he makes no mistakes, because the biggest mistake he makes is the very fact that he tries nothing, does nothing, except criticize those who do things. The most significant lesson is this: Don't park beside of in DEFEATISM. Now I say to you that we have come this far-we shall not park in Success. We shell take our Success and put it into positive action. We offer our congratulations to all members of this Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter on the successful conclusion of this, our project. We commend you zeal and. hope it will moot with ample recompense. Nay our Temple be the homo of Piety, Virtue end Benevolence. May our M. W. Prince Hall Jurisdiction continues to flourish, our union to strengthen, and our happiness to abound, till time shall be no more. Our Temple is now able to operate on a sound financial basis. It should and shall be on a basis to complete paying itself off without any inconvenience to the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter.

### **STATE OF THE CRAFT**

In the visitations to the various lodges and district meetings, we have found a great interest manifested in the Grand Lodge's programming end in its officers. We have found the Brothers of the lodges interested in, and demanding programming in, the fields of Youth and Education. This interest and vitality of our membership and, they in our work, means a healthy jurisdiction. A militant jurisdiction.

Most of the Lodges show a desire to become better informed Masons. In lodges where the membership are being properly taught, you can easily find men with a desire and programming to serve the needy and less fortunate. Our fraternity is becoming more intelligent and better informed each year, to the real purposes of Ancient Craft Masonry and applying it to modern day living.

I did not visit all the Lodges of our Jurisdiction during the year because we met many of the Worshipful Masters and members in our District meetings; and secondly, you will be able to ascertain by the schedule I maintained and the extra work it was necessary for me to undertake and perform in my office, that it was an impossibility.

I shall not go over the importance of programming in your lodges as that was accomplished and gone over thoroughly for the first time last fall, with the officers of the Lodges and District Deputy Grand Masters; and again at the District meetings this year. Adequate programming is essential to a healthy lodge. We support the idea of a yearly programming which is submitted to each lodge at the first communication in the fall, and again emphasized at the first communication following election of officers. Well planned St. John's Lay services and Prince Hall Day programs should be in the programming stage a minimum of two months before those dates. This was done in many lodges this past year, and splendid results were the reward.

I was one of the proponents of District meetings. In fact, if you recall, I made a lengthy speech, when Deputy Grand Master, defending the use of District meetings. I am still of the opinion that properly used and attended, they enhance our program. After watching their effectiveness the past two years, I have concluded that two of our Districts use them or utilize them to a distinct advantage. The participation in the other Districts has not been of sufficient numbers to warrant their continued use. The choice is evident. We must have larger participation to continue with them or return to the visitations of each Lodge. The latter is more costly in a dollar sense to the Grand Lodge, but the "Grass Roots Movement" of reaching each individual in the subordinate Lodge is more effective. We find that each Lodge, in the privacy of its own chambers, is more willing to discuss its individual problems and needs. The strength of any Grand Lodge lies in the vitality of its members and when we work with the individual membership we revitalize them, which make for better lodges. We have 18 lodges in our jurisdiction, with 17 of these within traveling distance for visitations. It is my opinion, and I sincerely believe a sound one, if these lodges wish individual visits, although it may cause an increase in budget, they should have their choice. The Grand Lodge should make it possible for several of our lodges which are in dire need of assistance to plan their budget so the Grand Lecturer and Grand Master can visit them up to three times a year. This is the only way these lodges will be placed on a sound foundation.

It is, also, the sound judgment of this administration, after careful evaluation of our Jurisdiction, and also research of methods of successful programming in our sister jurisdiction, that all spring visitations should be cut out. It is absolutely mandatory that these visitations and District meetings, if some districts still desire them, should be set up on a schedule from September 7th to December 15th.

That is the only time, planning and programming may be established on a basis by which the Lodges may fully utilize the planning of the Grand Lodge. After that period the lodges cannot inject the programming into such a short time schedule of progress cannot be attained for the jurisdiction.

I inject a serious note. The Grand Lodge must end shall inject a sternness and determination into the laws of the August Body. I found in many places the controversy of Lesters, Duncans, and Richardsons, still provides a lively evening of discussion.

I have noted our work conveniently adheres to the Grand Lodges edict when the Grand Officers are present, but I have well-founded suspicions it does not adhere in the daily activities of the Lodge at work and in instructions. I roderod the Grand Secretary to cancel and order from one lodge for an order of twelve Duncan rituals this year. I, your Grand Master, do not like the unsavory task of being a watch dog, but if the Grand Ledge Laws so order you to use "Lesters Look to the East", I expect you to; and demand that, that ritual is to be used, not just for the evening your Grand Lecturer or Grand Master is present, but during every communication during th0 year, and in any Lodge instruction. If it is not, that Lodge may expect to be censored, I expect to see you fulfill the law just as you expect use, your Grand Nester and Grand Officers, to fulfill the law.

### **REPORT ON OFFICIAL FAMILY**

An evaluation of the accomplishments of the official family of your Grand Lodge is something new for this jurisdiction. It is being used by many of our progressive sister jurisdictions, and I feel it is a necessary addition to let you, the Brethren of this Grand. Lodge, know what has been accomplished, and the assistance and cooperation which has been given this administration. It will also bring to light some of the errors which have been made and make many of our officers realize the importance of the office they hold and that by taking office, they obligate themselves to the service of this jurisdiction, It is essential we realize that we are rapidly approaching the level of a large business organization, and those that assume office, also assume a debt obligation to our Masonic fraternity to maintain a standard of excellence and decorum while in that office. They must forget private differences and personal feelings and work for the building of our fraternal orderso it will be a. delight to us and a shining example of self sacrifice and service to our communities.

I am very pleased to report that the Official Family has worked together in Harmony, with but one or two exceptions.

R.W. Grand Secretary Fred U. Harris, PGM has worked hard and arduously again this year. One does not realize the sincere endeavor he puts into his office until one has worked with him. Before becoming Grand Master I had criticized our Grand Secretary rather severely at times. After working with him this year, and beginning to understand the methods under which he has labored, I have begun to appreciate his services more and more. I began to understand that many of the changes that were not forthcoming from his office were not due to his negligence but due to our methods of handling those programs.

We have worked together on many of these methods this year, and we both assure you, with your assistance at this Grand Lodge, many of these progressive changes you have been wanting will soon be forthcoming. In addition to handling all official matters with the secretaries of 17 subordinate lodges, and handling my directives and proclamations, he serves as secretary to the Grand Trustees, and has assisted me admirably in communications.

R.W. Grand Treasurer R. D. Bird, PGM. I know and you all know, how faithful he has been these many years. He guards, protects and supervises your money as he does his own. It has been a pleasure to work with him and his office has cooperated with this administration fully.

R.W. E. A. Douglas, 33<sup>o</sup>, Grand Lecturer, has been very active since planning his program this year. He contacted all lodges requesting dates for visitation in September, in October, and again, early in December. I have copies of those requests in my office, many did not answer him, and so, in many phases, his program was held up. His program was held up, and so the Grand Lodge's program was hold up. This was not his fault, as he was ready and willing to come to assist you whenever you were ready. He has attended and demonstrated the work at all District meetings, also, several visitations to the subordinate lodges. He traveled to the Grand Masters' Conference on his own expense just because of his interest in your Masonic activities, and to gain all information and programming that this splendid conference had to offer, to bring back to our jurisdiction and to implement our programs.

The Office of Deputy Grand Master did not function up to expectations this year. The Youth and Scholarship program was to have been directed from this office. Early in our Masonic year, September 3, 1956 to be exact, I received a communication from the Grand Secretary enclosing un-Masonic placed against our R.W. Deputy Grand Master. Before I could answer this communication to inform them the charges were not properly placed, I received a communication charges had been placed in Queen of Sheba Chapter #12 O E S. Those charges were not withdrawn until September 18, 1956. Although our Deputy Grand Master was cleared of those charges the whole affair set our programming back considerably. This action on his part, I hope, will reflect upon the minds and consciences of all, we must ever remember that our conduct must not only be correct in the lodge hall but that our expressions and actions must also be the opinions of genuine builders of society outside the lodge hall. We, of the Masonic fraternity and more especially the official family must at all times subdue our emotions, if the attack on us is unwarranted and unfounded. We must not forget that fidelity to the trust which is reposed in us, and explode in aggression in public even if we feel personally such action is justifiable, In March 1957, it was necessary for me to receive and accept the resignation of the R.W. Deputy Grand Master from the Chairmanship of the Committee on Youth and Education. In March I requested my District Deputy Grand Master to go to R.W. Allen's house and receive the scholarship applications which had not been sent out. Upon following, my order, he found that none of the applications has been sent out and took receipt of all of them. More on the scholarship and education program will come under that heading.

On the balance side of the ledger, Brother Allen assisted very ably in the dedication of the Temple in Seattle and gave excellent advice and assistance during the Temple in Seattle and Tacoma and the Past Master's Council in Tacoma. This office left much to be desired, in the assistance and work the Grand Lodge should have received from it this year. It is my opinion it is the responsibility of the Grand Master to afford opportunity for training and guidance of his Deputy Grand Master. To this end, I began the year, but it was impossible to continue with this policy with the obstacles the Deputy Grand Master placed before me, which finally culminated in my receiving his resignation.

The Grand Senior Warden, Lee Grant Rogers, cheerfully executed every assignment tendered him, this year. He was present and assisted in the dedication of the Temple, assisted in the District meeting in Tacoma and he has executed assigned tasks with credit to both himself and the Grand Lodge.

The Junior Grand Warden and C.C. F.C. Sylvester J. Lake has brought sincerity, and a very complete and broad review of our sister jurisdictions, to our jurisdiction throughout the year. He contributed articles to the Grand Master's letter to the Craft. He has been in attendance at several of the District meetings; addressed the Past Master's Council; assisted in the dedication of the Masonic Temple, and he has executed assigned tasks with credit to both himself and the Grand Lodge. His knowledge of ritualistic work and the unassuming dignity, with which he serves, adds lustre and enhances the office he fills. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have had him to assist and work with me in the many phases of the work this year.

Chairman of Finance and Auditing Committee, W. Russell Gideon, 33<sup>o</sup>, has been most cooperative this year, in all phases of our work. As Chairman of the Masonic Temple Board, his ability as a director and getting things done is unsurpassed. The speed with which he dispatches business through our complex finance system is more than efficient. His judgment on business propositions to this Grand Lodge has been more than helpful and I would have been lost without his ability to coordinate activities.

Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees, Hilliard Hood, PGM has given me splendid cooperation. I received a semi-annual report from his office in January, which was very complete. He has informed me that I shall receive his yearly report before the sitting of the Grand Lodge. It shall be read to you this day. I am sure it will be most informative and interesting.

The appointed officers, I wish to point out as contributing much to the programming and Grand Lodge activities this year, are W., Brother Ray Williams, Grand Historian (deceased). The last article he contributed to the Grand Master's letter shall be read at this session. W. Brother James W. Tyree, Grand Orator; W. Alfred David, Grand Marshall; W., Orval N. Denton, Grand Senior Deacon, and W., Earl Loneia, Grand Junior Deacon.

I wish to point out the following Brothers, for outstanding service to our Grand Jurisdiction this year. R.W. John Prim, PDGM, and Grand Attorney. He has assisted your Grand Pastor in many ways during this year, and I am more than appreciative for his very able advice.

W., Jim Purnell's work on Guidance Clinics for Youth, and a member of the Youth and Education Committee.

W., W.B. Foster, Grand Senior Steward, work on Youth Clubs and activities and a member of the Youth and Education Committee.

W., Brother George Jordan, for outstanding research which will prove beneficial to Masonry here in the Northwest.

The following District Deputy Grand Masters; R.W. Lemuel L. Smith, District #1; R.W. Gerald L. Baldwin, District #2; R.W. Benjamin Chandler, District #3; R.W. William G. Tucker, District #4; R.W. James L. Watson, 33°, PDGM, District #5; and R.W. A.E. Pendray, PDGM, District #6.

Last, but far from least, M.W. Theodore Spearman, PGM, who so graciously at the last minute accepted and worked on the Scholarship Committee, who at District #4 District meeting and banquet so ably presented me with my jewels of office and during the year has given me able and expedient council, I, and the whole jurisdiction, thank you all.

All Prince Hall Grand Lodges are becoming aware of the serious growth of bogus Masonic groups. We find this serious situation not confined to the Prince Hall family, but to others also. I shall cover this phase of my report under the report on the conference of Grand Masters. This year I have been determined to do more than merely write or talk about bogus Masonry in this annual report. I am sure many of you remember my address at the District meetings concerning those clandestine groups. A well-qualified committee has been appointed and is working, not only to develop a policy, but, when perfected it shall be put into execution, and I assure you we shall drive every segment of those spurious bodies from our jurisdiction. This committee shall not report at this Grand Session. Every lodge in the Jurisdiction shall have this report as soon as all phases of it are completed.

### **GRAND LODGE BURIAL FUND**

There was a recommendation placed before the Grand Lodge at its last communication relative to exploring the possibility of increasing our Grand burial benefit along sound lines; especially to ascertain if through an insurance plan we could increase the benefits to the Brethren. All lodges received a communication from the Office of the Grand Secretary in September, 1956 to forward the names, addresses, and ages (birth dates) of all members of cash subordinate lodges. The response to this request was very poor. I was informed from many sources; the brethren resented having to give their ages. However, by February, a fair return from the jurisdiction was received. I placed these in the hands of Joseph I. Staten, PGM, who I named Chairman of this committee. I was informed by Brother Staten, that after investigation with several insurance companies, with the age bracket the greater percentage of our Fraternity are in, it would be prohibitive to adopt an insurance plan due to the increased premiums that would have to be paid.

I then went to Robert E. Hall, Deputy Insurance Commissioner of the Eastern Washington District representing William A. Sullivan, State Insurance commissioner, to obtain information concerning our possibilities and limitations operating as a fraternal organization to dispense charity at the death of a member with the assessments we could make on our membership and the amount we could pay without placing ourselves within the insurance laws of this State. I was informed we were permitted to pay up to three hundred dollars upon the death of a member without placing ourselves in the classification of operating insurance.

The reason for the interest in this field is that we have initiated and practiced poor business manner we have operated this fund for some number of years. In 1939 we were paying \$3 per year into this fund and upon a death would pay one hundred dollars. In 1946, we began paying \$125 upon a death and still only paid \$3 to this fund; and in 1954 we increase this death benefit to \$200, and are still only paying \$3 a year. Under this system one would have to be a member 33 1/3 years to pay in \$100, which we originally began with, and now you would have to be a member 66 2/3 years to fulfill such a contract, less ten percent the money should earn in that length of time.,

Although we have averaging under 10 deaths per year, with the increased age bracket of our jurisdiction we can expect that number to be doubled or more than doubled in the near future. This will produce a severe strain upon our financial structure at that time. The State would never permit an insurance company to operate under the system we have been using as they know the ultimate end is bankruptcy. There is only one thing to do and that is to begin preparing for an immediate change in policy and place this department upon a sound financial basis.

I proposed two plans to the Deputy Insurance Commissioner, which he took to Seattle to confer with the State Insurance Commissioner. Both were acceptable. I submit them both to you, with the recommendation that the second plan be used. It will be a fund that will be depleted each year. It is a plan that will give adequate insurance to the membership up to the limitations set by the State, yet it will not affect your Grand lodge financial structure the years we find an unusual number of deaths. It will also in many years provide adequately for many of the worthwhile charities we Prince Hall Masons should be supporting. I solicit your earnest consideration for this recommendation.

**Our membership is approximately 800.**

**Proposed plans for Grand Burial Fund:**

1. Each member of the Jurisdiction pay into the Grand Burial Fund through their subordinate Lodge \$5 per year.

Upon the death of a Brother (member) the Grand Lodge will pay to his subordinate Lodge up to \$250, as the funds in the Grand Charity Fund will afford, to assist the Lodge in the Charity to his family.

Surplus left in this fund at the end of each year is non-transferable and will be hold or retained in this fund and placed in U.S. Government Bonds as a reserve for this Grand Burial Fund.

2. This fund shall be designated as a Grand Burial and Charity Fund.

Each member of the jurisdiction pay into the Grand Burial and Charity and through their subordinate \$5 per year.

Upon the death of a Brother (member) the Grand Lodge will pay to his subordinate Lodge \$125 to assist the Lodge in the charity to his family.

At the end of the Masonic Grand Lodge fiscal year all monies left in this fund shall be divided by the number of deaths up to the total amount of \$300 for each death and be forwarded to the respective subordinate lodges for distribution of charity to the respective families.

All above this amount of a Grand Total of \$300 per death to the deceased family shall be proportioned to the charities of:

- a. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- b. National Polio Fund
- c. Negro College Fund
- d. The Urban league
- e. The Grand Lodge Youth and Guidance Clinic Department.

All monies each year shall be deposited in this fund and shall be disbursed to the above charities at t ho end of each fiscal year.

A reserve from the General Fund of the Grand Lodge of \$1000 shall be established to complete obligations to this fund until the first quarter returns of the Lodges composing this Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction have deposited monies in this fund.

### **YOUTH AND EDUCATION**

We began a program on Youth and Education this year. The Scholarship program was established last year. I shall have to give you a picture of the problems we were confronted with this year.

I am alarmed about many phases of this program. Many things have happened this year that demands the re—tooling of our thinking and the re—direction of our action. We are known to be a charitable organization. We decided to select a worthy charity in which we could all share the growth and be proud. We selected Youth and Education. No cause could be more worthy of our support. If you road the papers, and I know you do, crucial decision are being made daily, momentous decisions about where our children are to receive their education; the type of jobs they may be eligible to seek; how to assist in eliminating juvenile delinquency; where they and we shall live. All these phases now are determining the course of American Democracy f or generations to come.

Most of the Prince Hall Grand Jurisdictions are taking specific action and tremendous strides in participation in community progress and assisting youth. We are as much a part of this second reconstruction era here in the North as any other part of those United States. What affects the Negro in the South, the East or Midwest, affects us, the Negro here, and is our concern. Our youth enter decidedly into this second reconstruction period, and truly merit our support. We selected a worthwhile charity last year. Now let me give you a frank analysis of what we did with it.

In my record of our semi-annual report, and I am using that report since no other monies were turned in this year. Monies collected and sent to the Grand Secretary's office for the Educational Fund collected on Prince Hall Day. A total of \$19.39 was collected by the whole jurisdiction. We can't hide these things. We have to bring them out in the open and do something constructive about them. A breakdown of these figures: Cassia Lodge # 5 - \$8; Guiding Star Lodge #6 - \$2.25; Perfect Ashlar Lodge #40 - \$2; Inland Empire Lodge #3 - \$2.14; and Apple Blossom Lodge #32 of Wenatchee, Washington, a lodge of only 5 members - \$5. A total of \$19.39. No other lodges in our Jurisdiction contributed this required Prince Hall Day cause. I was told by some, they didn't know. The law on our books tells what to do. All we had to do was read the law. So ignorance is no excuse. I am not calling this to your attention to embarrass you. I can sincerely say I feel it hurt me more than anyone else in this whole jurisdiction. If it were not for the ten percent being taken from the Grand Charity Fund at each Grand Communication we would not have a fund or a Youth Department or the two scholarships we shall give this year. In fact, if this fund had not been started ten years ago, we could not give the two scholarships this year, as what is deposited in this fund per year is not sufficient for two scholarships. You see, it is mandatory for us to take militant action, to do that job which we obligated ourselves to do. We must take a sharp look at our antiquated financial structure under the system which we now operate. We have a fixed budget of expenditures but no fixed budget of receipts for the program. We have grown to a point of maturing where we cannot say "Throw it in the ash can" as we have programs in the past. We have a responsibility to face and if within our power we shall face it and we shall revamp this charitable program and share and grow with it and be proud of our accomplishments.

If each brother in our jurisdiction had done what the five brothers of Apple Blossom Lodge felt it was their duty to do to assist our Youth, we would not be grappling with this momentous phase of this program, but could be directing our energies towards the successful operation of it. We are all sound citizens. I know you all make contributions to the March of Dimes, the Heart Fund, Muscular Dystrophy Cause, T.B. Drive, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Camp Fire Girls, the United Crusade and many others. They are important. However, we seem to forget the very important Educational Fund of our Prince Hall Fraternity, that every dime will go to help your very own. I might add that this Charity is as deductible as any of the above. "We take care of our own" is an unwritten axiom the world over.

I have the privilege of presenting to you a proposition, a plan whereby with our membership where it now stands, a very small part individually, multiplied by all, collectively will do so much for our own. By such a method you will be able in four years to maintain scholarships for two freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and two seniors in college. You will be able to sea and maintain two boys or girls through their whole college career. This proposition calls for each brother of our fraternity to share in this enterprise by contributing thirty five cents a quarter or one dollar and forty cents a year. In this manner we shall promote a' program of which every brother will feel proud and. a part. It is my opinion this is the. way we should promote this worthy charitable program so every brother will assist in this important work, and Brethren, it is such a small amount with which to accomplish so much. This reappraisal of this, our Youth and Educational program, is essential to our economy. I have brought these problems to the attention of all District meetings and the interest and militant reaction was very heartening, I solicit your earnest support to this phase of our work at this our 54th Annual Communication.

At the reception of the Scholarship program last year, the previous mentioned financing of the program was omitted as well as a matter of this program usually loft to the scholarship committee. In the interest for the program and for the membership of the Grand Lodge I feel it is necessary to include the following recommendation:

In awarding a scholarship, no check or money for the awarded scholarship shall be paid directly to the recipient; but shall be paid directly to the college or university of the recipient's choice, after confirmation that recipient has been accepted by said college or university.

This is the only way the Department of Scholarships will be able to check and receive information from the school concerning grades, deportment, and progress of the recipients of the scholarships.

Directing your attention to the scholarships you voted to award this year. It is the opinions of this office and reaffirmed by educators and Deans of several colleges of the state of Washington, that after an organization as large as ours has decided upon a scholarship, it is for the best interest of that program to have your Scholarship Committee complete all details upon proper advice from the several colleges and universities. Only men trained in these fields will be able to give you competent guidance and by those decisions you shall have a soundly administered program, I wish to show you how the lack of understanding and knowledge of the program and the making of ill-advised motions governing the functioning of your program caused many problems for your committee last year.

Upon the presentation of the Scholarship program at our last Grand Communication, Harmony Lodge and Cassia Lodge both presented resolutions requesting the Grand Master's address Scholarship not be approved until the convening of the 54th Grand Communication, and to award the scholarship in September of each year, just before the opening of school.

On page 31 of our previous proceedings, it does not state the action taken as to whether it was referred to the Committee on Resolutions, the Committee on Jurisprudence, or just what category it passed on the floor; but was referred to the Committee on Finance for further consideration.

Why, to the Committee on Finance, I will never know, as it was not a consideration of finance with these two lodges. The proposition was that they did not have sufficient time for their lodges to get out the scholarship forms. Page 32 of our proceedings, the Jurisprudence Committee on recommendations by my office on Scholarship, they concurred. Page 33--educational action #20., adoption of DGM W. Vernon Scott's program. Moved by Brother Loneia and seconded by brother Denton that the program be received and adopted. Motion carried. Final action by the Finance Committee #15. We recommend the pictures of the Scholarship recipients be carried in the 54th Annual Souvenir Program and the Grand Lodge shall underwrite the cost of same. This passed unanimously. A beautiful merry-go-round of words.

You could not have the recipients of the Scholarship Awards pictures in your souvenir program for the 54th Annual Communication if they were not announced until this fall--September to be exact. We definitely know September is too late for a student to be received by many colleges.

The registration should be established in June, if possible, as often in most universities and colleges, the registration for certain popular classes such as in engineering and chemistry is closed before August as the classes are already filled by the applicants. So such action is entirely improper for the best interests of the program. Men not acquainted with the regulations of such a program were in error when making this resolution on this floor. We must do our business in an orderly manner. We must not speak on a phase of our work until the committee reports, then make your recommendations and act on them and refer them to the proper committee. Such conditions as this will not then occur and we shall not lose so much valuable time. So you see the lack of adequately understanding a program on this level can cause a break down of the effectiveness of administering your scholarship. I therefore recommend that you leave the detailed business of dating your awards, etc., to your Committee. With sound advice from the educators in these fields they will do a job of which you will be proud, and will give your program an effectiveness it can attain under no other proceeding.

Last year we were informed that the several subordinate lodges did not feel they had time to adequately get their scholarship applications in--so requested a delay in the program. This year these some subordinate lodges had knowledge of acquainting their communities with this program for a whole year. I, personally, brought this phase of the program to you very clearly and pointedly at our District meetings. These could have been distributed earlier by the Deputy Grand Master. Upon accepting his resignation I found out they had not been distributed and I personally took over the task. This was followed by a reprinting of the applications so no mistake would be made in where to return the application, and were mailed out by the Grand Secretary to the subordinate lodges of the jurisdiction. So all had adequate and timely knowledge. Last year the lodge of District #5 lead in the scholarship applications returned.

This year District #5 lead in scholarship applications returned. District#1 and #2, who stated last year they did not have adequate time to work out the scholarships, again this year, with adequate notice, did not return one application.

I sent a directive to all my District Deputy Grand Masters when I noted toward the deadline that the applications were not forthcoming as they should, to contact the Worshipful Masters and all members of the Lodges and directed them if it were necessary to order a special communication to get the information before the Lodges and their Districts. With this we still did not get a response from District #1 and #2. I know that a total Negro population in the combined first and second Districts of forty thousand Negroes (conservative estimate), there are qualified boys and girls who are in need of assistance in their education program and our program did not reach them, The information was not disseminated, to them. The Lodges must do this publicity work themselves. It takes work but it is well worth it. The Grand Lodge cannot do all these things for you. We expect you to be conscious of these responsibilities in the future and work for the enlightenment and improvement of our young citizens in the immediate future.

The Committee was unable to obtain the Pythagoras Rituals in adequate numbers this year. R.W. Douglas, G.L., obtained one copy from the jurisdiction of California. R.W., J. Allen, D.G. sent an order for several copies which never materialized and at the latest date (April), his remittance had not been returned to him. However, while attending the Grand Masters Conference, I conferred with the delegation from Ohio, where this your program originated and R.W. James Simmons, Grand Master of Ohio, assured me copies would be made available for us.

After consultation with delegates from several of our sister jurisdictions at the conference, I found , with our present situation, it is far more advisable and expedient that we first concentrate our energies upon setting up Youth clubs, and after proper preparation, then enter those groups into organized Pythagorean Units.

After receiving DGM Allen's resignation as Chairman of the Youth and Education Committee, I made a trip to Seattle and set about the reorganization of the Committee. From experience gained in the program last year, I took the Department of Scholarships under my office and this is why this phase of the report is being made under the Grand Master's Address, this year. I placed W., Brother Furnell in charge of the Department of Guidance Clinics, and W., Brother Foster in charge of Youth Clubs. Both of these Worshipful Brothers will make a complete report on these activities at this Grand Lodge.

I mailed a proclamation to the jurisdiction informing them that W. Brother Russell Gideon of Seattle; WA., Brother William Mitchell of Portland, OR and I, your Grand Master, would judge the Scholarship applicants. Upon receiving a communication from the District Deputy Grand Masters of District #5, I replaced W. Brother Mitchell with M.W. Theodore Spearman, PGM.

### **SISTER JURISDICTIONS**

We are pleased to report that our Grand Lodge has cordial relationships and is in fraternal accord with all other jurisdictions of the Prince Hall family. We have had correspondence during the year with many of our sister jurisdictions.

I had hardly unpacked my suitcase, upon returning from Grand Lodge, before I received an official welcome from M.:W.: Amos T. Hall, Grand Maser of Oklahoma, and President of the Conference of Grand Masters, welcoming me to the circle of Grand Masters. The same day I received congratulations from the Honorable J. T. Maxey, Grand Master of Texas and the Hon. John Wesley Dobbs, Grand Master of Georgia. I had the pleasure of meeting 28 of the Grand Masters of our sister jurisdictions personally at the Grand Masters' Conference. Meeting them personally inspired, and gave me renewed enthusiasm to return to my jurisdiction, and make our jurisdiction measure up to the best. Our C.C.F.C. the R.W. Sylvester J. Lake will bring you a detailed report on same, during the communication.

## **CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF PRINCE HALL MASONS OF AMERICA**

in session at

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

MAY 20-22, 1957

On the above date I attended this stimulating, and vary informative conference of Grand Masters. It was a sacrifice at this time of the year for me to go. As you know, I have a family to raise and an office to operate. I feel the sacrifice was well worth my going. It was a sacrifice for you to send me, and I feel very honored that you, my Brethren, felt I should attend this conference and by my report I pray that you will feel your decision was justified.

This organization is made up of Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries, Grand Treasurers, C.C.F.C. 's and Past Grand Officers of these ranks. It is a non-legislative body, but without question a most potential force for good throughout the Masonic world.

M.W. John Lawrence, Grand Master of Minnesota, gave the Welcome Address. The response was made by M.W. E. A. Fulcher, Grand Master of California. Attendance was large and quite representative. 24 Grand Masters were present, seven Deputy Grand Masters, 12 C.C.F.C.'s, five Grand Treasurers, 15 Grand Secretaries, 18 Special Representatives, and a total of 86 out of State registrations were recorded. We were represented by R.W., E. A. Douglas, 33°, Grand Lecturer and your Grand Master. Representatives for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Hon. Thurgood Marshall, Head of the Legal Research Department of the N.A.A.C.P., Urban league, Sovereign Grand Commander, United Supreme Commander, the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rites of Freemasonry for both the Southern Jurisdiction and Northern Jurisdiction were in attendance. I. L.B. Blakemore, Past Grand Master of Ohio addressed the conference on Masonic Lodge methods.

He was the first white Grand Master to ever attend or address the Conference. Grand Masters from New York to Georgia and from Texas to the State of Washington were present to indicate the wide range of interest and the national benefits to be derived from such an annual meeting, all designed to give unanimity of strength and action to Prince Hall Masonry everywhere.

Among, the highlights of the conference was the annual address of Amos T. Hall, President and Grand Master of Oklahoma. His review of the program to eliminate illegal Masonry was very informative. This year, the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico affirmed the judgment enjoining the bogus group from operating in the State of New Mexico.

Their appeal was denied and the illegal group is making an effort to consolidate with the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma has won their lawsuit this year and the bogus groups have sought membership in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. In Kentucky, a suit for an injunction against a bogus group is pending in the Circuit Court of Louisville, Kentucky. The trial will be held soon, and again we expect to win. In New York, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge through the Office of the Attorney General, is challenging the right of a bogus group to operate in that State. In Pennsylvania, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge is opposing the admission of a spurious group in that state. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kansas under a statute which was passed by the legislature of Kansas, the Grand Lodge prosecuted several bogus Masons in the Criminal Courts, and in a jury trial, the Defendants were found guilty and punishment meted out to them.

M.W. Amos T. Hall, brought out the Hon. George W. Crawford, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council Scottish Rites Masonry for the Northern Jurisdiction, requested that he meet with him in the Cathedral at Philadelphia, as they are laying plans formulated for waging an intensive battle all over the country in an effort to wipe out illegal Masonry. The Imperial Council of the Shrine has set up a commission to study and eliminate the evil. This commission, in cooperation with the Grand Masters of the various states, is doing more, in an organized way, to stamp out illegal Masonry than has ever been done before.

The information bureau of the Conference this year will forward to every Grand Lodge for their jurisdiction, material to be read to make the whole fraternity more aware of that pertinent material, we should know to prove our legality and the illegality of the bogus groups. One point I wish to stress is that the conference has long conceded the need of the information bureau, but until adequate financial support was forthcoming from all the Prince Hall Jurisdictions to sustain the cost of it they felt it expedient to wait. We have not been giving the financial support to this, our Conference, as we should, the past several years, and I recommend we become active this year and send a contribution to assist in sustaining the conference.

The President's address also stressed Youth and the important insight of offering to our youth, our boys, and organization with uniformity and stature in all jurisdictions. Material will be forthcoming from his office concerning planning and uniformity of this work to 11 jurisdictions wishing it.

Thurgood Marshall, Director and Counsel, N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., addressed the conference. He also distinguishes himself by being an active 33° Mason.

His report to the conference was highly informative, making one and all realize up until recently the work of the N.A.A.C.P. had been directed, almost exclusively, to securing for Negro citizens rights long denied, albeit, originally guaranteed. Then under the 13th, 11th and 15th amendments, litigation under these amendments created a now and distinct field of law--Civil Rights. The cases already handled have taught thorn that more expert services will be needed. These developments are emphasizing the importance of the Prince Hall Masons legal research department fund, and the N.A.A.C.P.'s ability to meet that challenge depends for the long haul on its output. This is the fund the Prince Hall Masons of these United States and Canada subscribed to underwrite in 1951. His address made every participant in the conference realize what concerns the Negro in the South also concerns the Negro in the East and West, what affects all Negroes, and the principle of Right must work in all States.

I became more aware of our M.W. Jurisdiction not contributing to these most important programs as the afternoon wore on. Nearly every Prince Hall Jurisdiction present saw to it that they were represented in this militant struggle which is being waged against mankind. They came prepared. I came home prepared to make us more aware of our duty we have forgotten for some several years. I shall include this worthy duty in my recommendations. I, also, urge every Master Mason in this jurisdiction to see to it, whether you have a N.A.A.C.P. chapter in your city or not, to become a member immediately and assist in this fight for human rights.

The Conference decided on publishing the Prince Hall Masonic Year Book. It will come off the press in February 1958. It is expected that each Grand Lodge official family, and the Worshipful Masters and Secretary of each Lodge have these informative books. This quota, if met by all Grand Jurisdictions, will defray the cost which will amount to approximately sixty cents (estimated) per book. I am sure we shall more than fill that quota for our jurisdiction.

"Qualifications and Responsibilities of a Grand Lecturer as Viewed by a Grand Master" presented by H.Z. Plummer, Grand Master of Virginia, and "Duties of a C.C.F.C.", by Fred W. Hickman, Past Grand Master and C.C.F.C. of Wisconsin, were two very interesting and informative articles. Instead of reviewing them here today, due to their length, and also feeling the whole jurisdiction should like to have them, we shall have portions of them mimeographed by the Grand Secretary's office and released to the jurisdiction this summer.

James B. Simmons, Jr., Grand Master of Ohio led the panel discussion on Spurious Masonry. He was very ably assisted by O. E. Vanderburg, Grand Master of Illinois, Henry A. Rhodes, Grand Master of New York, John C. Lewis, Grand Master of Louisiana, and J. W. Dobbs, Grand Master of Georgia. The most notable point was the work and proposition creating a commission of research and body of reference for the following:

1. Information on Education
2. Information on Illegality of the Bogus Groups.

### 3. Information of legal Points and Guidance.

Much of this information has already been disseminated to the proper committees and the essential areas of our jurisdiction.

Wednesday evening, at the banquet closing the Conference, a fiery Georgian told leaders of the Conference, we can obtain Civil Rights if we will battle for them. M.W. John Wesley Dobbs, Grand Master of Georgia, as the gentleman and was in rare form that evening. He held an audience of 600 spellbound. He recently returned from the celebration of the founding of the African Negro Republic of Ghana. Grand Master Dobbs said nationalism is sweeping Africa's millions. They want freedom and are entitled to it, and so are we. We must tell our Government we are interested in the welfare of oppressed people in Hungary and other countries, but we are, also, interested in the Black People of those United States.

Amos T. Hall, President of the Grand Masters Conference, endeared himself to all those who attended this important fraternal event. He efficiently and objectively conducted the business at hand. These men, whose every moment of time was valuable, were especially grateful to him for adhering to the time schedule which had been previously adopted for the conference. To do this and still give each participant ample opportunity to feel free to express his opinion is an enviable accomplishment.

#### **“OUR ADOPTIVE RITE”**

Many years ago our predecessors saw the need for the Order of the Eastern star being given official status with the Prince Hall masons. They therefore accomplished what is known today as “Our Adoptive Rite”.

During this year the Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction have exchanged fraternal greetings. The Worthy Grand Matron, Elise Reynolds, and I, your Grand Master, have worked together on a sincere and friendly basis, exchanging ideas and working for a better understanding and coordination of activities. We are proud of our “Adoptive Rite” and commend the Worthy Grand Matron, Elise Reynolds, and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Robert V. Hargroves, for the progressive administration they have initiated the last two years.

We congratulate the Worthy Grand Matron, Elise Reynolds, on receiving the honor of being named “Mother of the Year” for the state of Oregon. This is the first time in the history of Oregon, or a state west of the Mississippi, that a woman of color has received this distinction.

We urge all Prince Hall Masons to give assistance wherever, whenever, and for whatever is needed, to our sisters.

I further recommend, we send a personal fraternal greeting to the Grand Officers of the Grand Order of Eastern Star, who are convening at the same time here in this beautiful city of Bremerton, Washington.

## NEW LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION

I have for you the very cheering news of a dispensation being granted this year, for the formation of a new lodge in our Prince Hall Jurisdiction. It shall be known as Cherry Blossom Lodge U.D. until granted a charter.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. I recommend that the Chairmanship of the Youth and Education committee cease to be and elective office of the Grand Lodge, and instead that a qualified member of our jurisdiction be appointed to this position by the Grand Master.
2. I recommend that the Youth and Education committee be composed of the following divisions.
  - a. The Director of Scholarships
  - b. The Director of Guidance Clinics
  - c. The Director of Youth ClubsAnd shall be appointed by the Grand Master. One of whom shall be the Chairman.
3. I recommend that whereas the budget for the Youth and Education Committee requires a fixed and detailed plan for receipts as well as one for expenditures, that each member of this M.W. jurisdiction be assessed the amount of 35 cents per quarter to meet said budget, of the department of Youth and Education.
4. I recommend that where as the above mentioned assessment would be collected for the Youth and Educational department, that 80% of these monies collected be designated for scholarships, and 20% of these monies collected be designated for Guidance Clinics, and Youth Clubs.
5. I recommend that whereas this assessment is made (Youth and Educational Assessment) for Youth and Education, that the money collected in this fund be non—transferable to any other department or fund of this M.W. Grand Lodge.
6. I recommend that this sitting of the Grand Lodge consider both plans for the Grand Lodge Burial fund detailed in my Address; and I further recommend that after due consideration the Grand Lodge adopt plan No. 2.
7. I recommend whereas sound and proper financial and ritualistic principles were not followed in establishing Pioneer Lodge No. 39. That the following action be taken by the Grand Lodge.
  - a. The Grand Secretary be ordered to go over its books and delete portions of its indebtedness to the Grand Lodge which have been carried up to two years and these deletions shall follow the standard order of procedures of Masonic Lodges.
  - b. The several lodges of the jurisdiction that have furnishings in excess of those necessary for their own functioning be requested to allow pioneer Lodge their temporary use.
  - c. The Grand Lodge shall contribute furnishings if any are available.

- d. The Grand Master and Grand Lecturer be permitted to make up to 3 visits to this lodge this year. The visits of the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer shall not be made simultaneously; thereby Pioneer Lodge will have supervised assistance assured on six communications.
  - e. We request the Brethren of Guiding Star Lodge and Inland Empire Lodge to visit Pioneer Lodge and work with them so progress will be achieved in the Tri-City area and pioneer Lodge shall take its rightful position in our Prince Hall Fraternity.
8. I recommend the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and Grand Lecturer; with the assistance of the District Deputy Grand Masters this year begin work to formulate an established plan of assistance to the smaller lodges in our jurisdiction.
  9. I recommend, whereas the general fund for the past two years, the expenditures have been in excess of the receipts, the committee on finance, after their budgetary study make positive recommendations to correct this condition.
  10. I recommend that Cherry Blossom Lodge U.D. upon meeting all conditions and specifications of this Grand Lodge be granted a charter.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

As you can see Brethren the official acts have been many and varied this year. During the year the Grand Masters office mailed out three hundred and twenty eight parcels. In making district meetings and other official business visits your Grand Master has traveled 10, 575 miles. Acting as my own secretary for this office you can see it has consumed a tremendous amount of my time and energies.

The work for the year is ended, and yet our work for all of us is just beginning. For a Masons work is never ended until the Supreme Architect calls him to that house not made with hands. I am heartened in knowing I have not stood alone during the year, in carrying the responsibilities and duties of being your Grand Master. I have been aware of your willing aid and best wishes where ever I traveled. For this sincerity and friendliness I am humbly grateful. Each one of you has been of utmost importance, for without you the wheels of our Grand Lodge would have been motionless. Our Grand jurisdiction needs many an able and willing hand. Let every Master Mason on down to the newest initiated E. A. remembers that, and strives to exemplify the teachings of Freemasonry. Let not the mistakes of the past year in any way hinder our progress, but serve as stepping stones over which we must climb towards our Masonic Goal.

I am returning to you the gavel of authority entrusted to my care one year ago. I can sincerely say and feel every Grand Master before me felt the same way, that no man can fill the high office of Grand Master, carry the weight and duties successfully without an ever present awareness of his own inadequacy. Your problems were my problems; your mistakes were my mistakes.

I believe it was said, it is human to err. The errors I have made were not made intentionally, but were made while endeavoring to serve you. For it has been the one desire of my heart, the one purpose of my life, to promote and preserve the progress and principles of our institution. In using the gavel of authority you entrusted to my cares I trust you will find it has not been used to foster selfish motives and promote personal interests, but every act was motivated with the single desire to serve my Crafts.

Fraternally Submitted,

**W. Vernon Scott, 32°**

**Grand Master**