

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



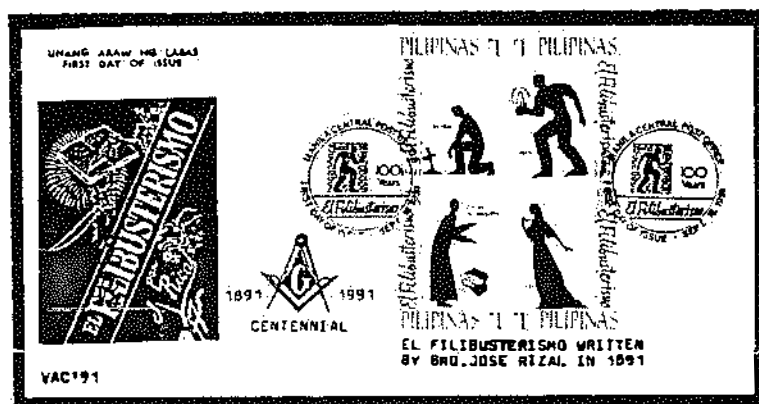
Editor  
Robert A. Domingue  
59 Greenwood Road  
Andover, Mass. 01810

VOL. 15, NO. 4

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1991

WHOLE NO. 86

## CENTENNIAL YEAR OF "EL FILIBUSTERISMO"



On September 18, 1991, the Philippine Postal Service issued a set of postage stamps to mark the Centennial Year of "El Filibusterismo". The designs depict the characters of the novel written by Bro. Jose Rizal in 1891 as examples of the positive qualities needed for the Filipinos of the 1990s.

After five years in Europe, Bro. Dr. Jose Rizal returned to the Philippines to provide unity to the country. While in Calamba working on his goal of a free, united nation, he started "El Filibusterismo" - the sequel to his famous work "Noli Me Tangere". The major characters which are pictured on the stamps are:

- Basilio - the medical student whose only dream is to live peacefully. His kindness is his strongest quality.
- Simoun - the reborn Crisostomo Ibarra, a dreamer who believes that a revolution is necessary to change the nation.
- Padre Florentino - the only priest in Rizal's works who symbolizes goodness, holiness and wisdom.
- Juli - the epitome of selflessness who kills herself for the love of her father and boyfriend-the image of an ideal Filipina.

Bro. Jose Rizal was initiated in 1889 in Lodge Acacia No. 9, Madrid, and was raised on Nov. 15, 1890, in Lodge Solidaridad No. 53, also in Madrid, Spain.

Cover and article contributed by Bro. Antonio Cu,  
P.O.Box 1443, 1099 Manila, Philippines - covers  
available at a cost of \$2.00US each.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS:

139. Richard Wright, 13675 N. Hartly Lane, Lodi, CA 95242
144. Dr. Paul Rich, Dept. of Education, Univ. of Western Australia,  
Nedlands, Western Australia 6009
158. Gasper S. Sciacca, Jr., 164 Dwelly St., Pembroke, MA 02359
166. Clifford T. Stigger, Jr., 7601 Wesleyan Place, Louisville, KY  
40242

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

237. Pierre Normand, P.O. Box 10361, College Station, TX 77842
264. David Bailey, 1720 Highland Ave., Metairie, LA 70001

For many years - since the revival of "The Philatelic Freemason" in 1977 by Bro. Walter J. Kirby, I believe - the Newsletter has been printed at the Lincoln Institute of MIT through the kind efforts of Bro. Bruce Wedlock. Bruce is not a member of the Unit but a practicing Mason (Secretary of his Lodge among other duties) and a close friend of one of the charter members. He was also responsible for the maintenance of the membership list and mailing labels.

Since starting at my new position, I am unable to take a couple of hours off from work to travel into Cambridge to pick up the completed newsletters and labels. Consequently, I have had to change the system to one more local. I now use a local printing house (at a somewhat higher cost) and have created an address book/mailling list system on my home computer.

I would like, however, to recognize the superlative efforts of Bro. Dr. Bruce Wedlock and his staff - particularly Virginia - over the years. We have seen a lot of his efforts and few of us understand the trials and tribulations he has endured in our regard - but he has been there for us. Thank you very much for your efforts Bruce. (Bruce can be contacted at MIT Room E32-105, Cambridge, MA 02139)

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### AUSTRALIAN MASONS?

Several pre-stamped envelopes and stamps released by Australia on Oct. 10 of this year picture prominent writers and literary legends of the 1890s. With the preeminence of Freemasonry in that decade, it is highly likely that some of these were members of the Craft. Can anyone shed any light in that direction? The men pictured include:

|                 |                |                |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| J. F. Archibald | A. G. Stephens | Bernard O'Dowd | Arthur H. Davis |
| Henry Morant    | Joseph Furphy  | C. J. Brennan  | A. B. Paterson  |
| Will Ogilvie    | E. J. Brady    | Victor Daley   | Henry Lawson    |
| Barcroft Boake  | Edward Dyson   | Roderick Quinn |                 |

## GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY COVERS

In a previous issue of our Newsletter Bro. Stanley Longenecker informed us of the branch of his Masonic Philately effort which concentrated on covers postally used on February 22 - the birthday of one of our nation's greatest Masons. While attending BALPEX for the GWMSC meeting and the \$14.00 stamp first day ceremonies, he managed to be able to look through boxes upon boxes of stampless covers - about 20,000 of them after which he says he needs an eye transplant. His efforts were rewarded, however, with two prime covers.

The older of the two covers was posted in 1824 in Harrisburg, PA, upon payment of the 10 cent going rate. The circular date stamp is in the upper left corner. The cancellation on the other cover was applied in Lyon, N.Y., and the letter contents show the year to be 1842 - almost 150 years ago.



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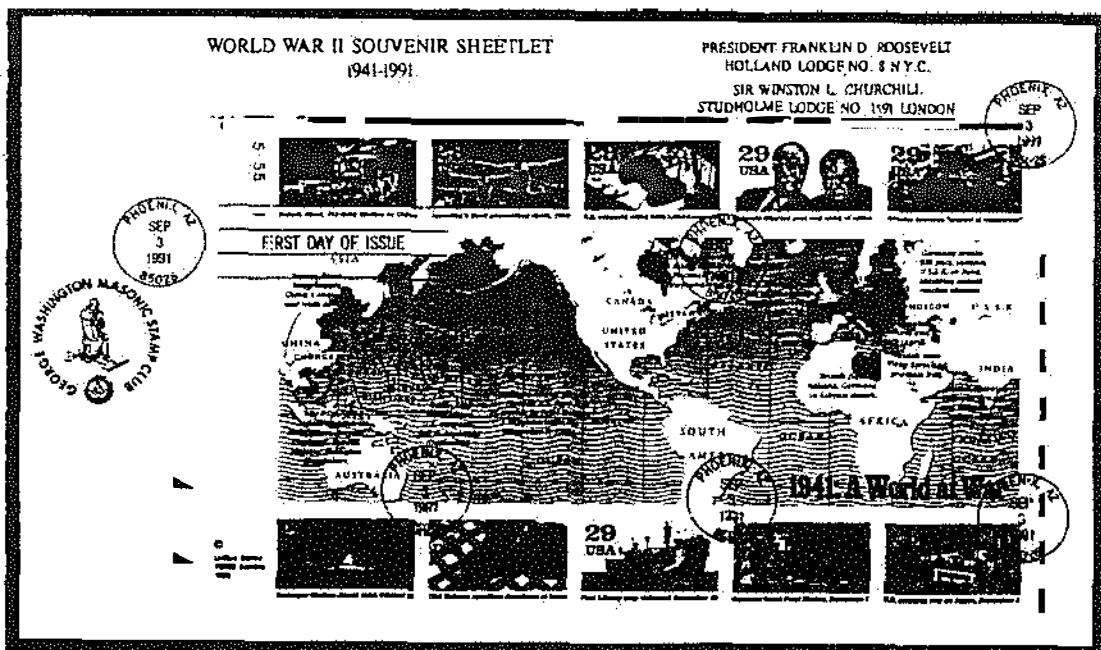
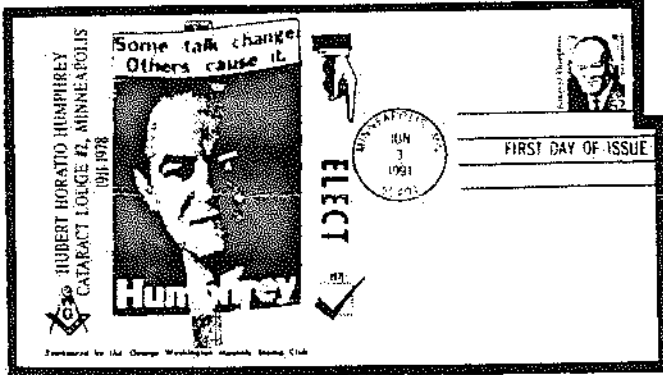
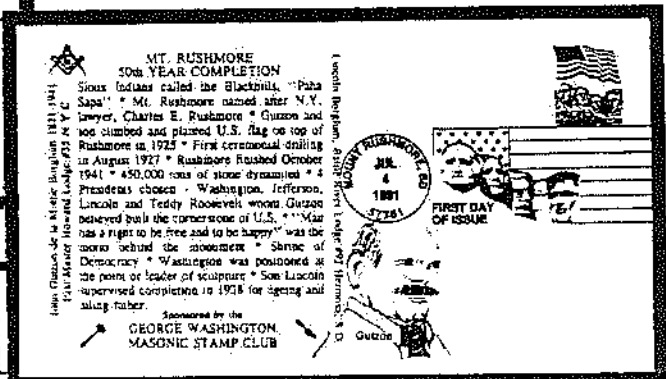
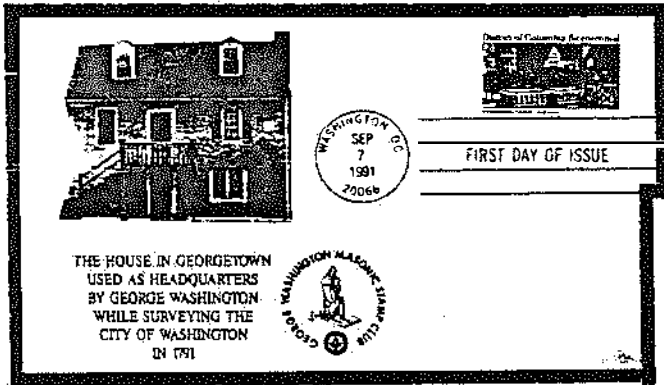
## ROBERT BADEN-POWELL?

Bro. Pierre Normand of College Station, TX, has posed an interesting question which should provoke some thinking and research. He wants to know if there is any positive evidence of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouting, being a Freemason. There are several references to his having been a member of the Craft but he has been unable to find any proof.

He points out that there are many "Baden-Powell Lodges" around the world - most consist of Masons who are Scouters. This in itself is not proof of his membership. Neither of the two biographies about him - "Two Lives of a Hero" and "The Boy-Man" mention any Masonic affiliation. The confusing factor is that his signature appears on the decorative dust jacket of Denslow's "10,000 Famous Freemasons"; there is no listing, however, within the four volume set. Why would Denslow include his signature on the cover with no entry therein? Can anyone provide more light on this subject?

## GWMSC COVERS

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club has released a few new Masonic Cacheted Covers recently. Shown below, they can be obtained from Bro. Stan Longenecker, P.O. Box 7244, Lancaster, PA 17604. The cost of the Washington, D.C., FDC and GWMSC Meeting Cover are \$1.50 each. The price of the H. H. Humphrey and World War II Sheetlet covers should be checked with Bro. Stan.



## AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL COVER

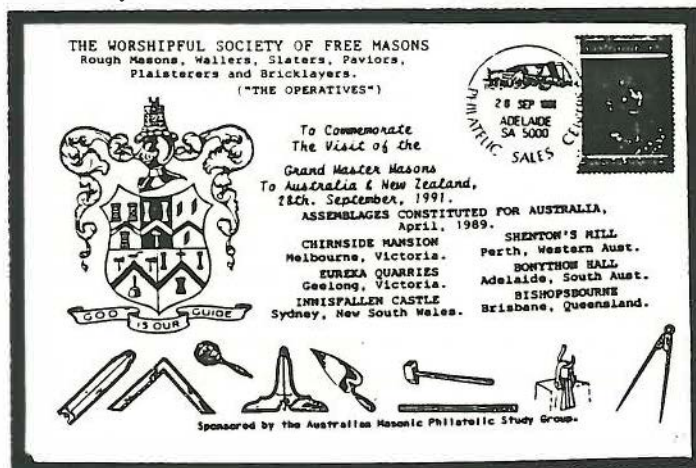
The Australian Masonic Philatelic Study Group, under the leadership of Bro. Sid Martin, has released a Special Souvenir Cover to commemorate the establishment of The Worshipful Society of Free Masons - "The Operatives". The date of the postmark - Sept. 28 - coincided with the arrival of representatives of the Society in Australia from London. On that day they arrived in Perth, Western Australia, and commenced a very intensive itinerary involving the six mainland States of Australia before proceeding on to New Zealand on October 11.

This is the most recent of the many Masonic Sects and Orders already active in Australia and the credit for its establishment goes to Bro. **Kent Henderson**, a member of the Australian Masonic Philatelic Study Group who resides in Geelong, Victoria. He had been to London to become a member of the Society and coordinated the activities in each state to establish a potential membership.

The Society operates in the United Kingdom and countries within the British Commonwealth - little is known about it in "foreign" countries. Dr. Albert Mackey devotes only four lines to the Society in his encyclopedia and cites Dr. Thomas Carr among others as 'active in the modern study and practise of old guild customs'. W. Bro. Carr published a paper in 1911-12 which explained much of the ceremonial working of the 'Operative' Lodge. The Order apparently was founded in 1913 and its object is to perpetuate or preserve a memorial of the practices of operative Free Masons. Membership is open to all Master Masons who are also Mark Master Masons and Royal Arch Companions. The Society is governed in England by three Grand Master Masons, each subordinate Assemblage or Lodge being ruled by a Deputy Master Mason.

The traditional origin of the Society is that lodges of operative stone masons (of which there is undoubted evidence in the 17th century and earlier) did not disappear on the formation of lodges of speculative Freemasons but continued until a much later date. With the rise of trade unionism, however, and particularly after the Trade Union Act of 1871, the old guild system declined and shortly before the first world war there were only one or two operative lodges left. The ceremonials consisted of seven degrees - the candidate being termed an 'Indentured Apprentice' in the first and thereafter progresses through an intricate web of operative practices. For the sixth Degree he must have been duly installed as a Master in a Craft and also a Mark Lodge.

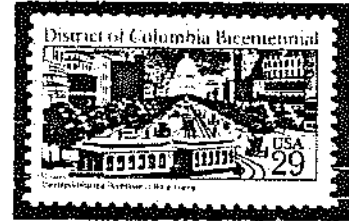
Copies of this cover are available from Bro. Martin at: 4 Barrow Crescent  
Lockleys  
South Australia 5032  
at a cost of \$US3.00 each (includes airmail postage return).



## FREEMASONRY AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Bro. James A. Reynolds of Chicago, IL, has provided some information on the recently released District of Columbia Bicentennial stamp and copies of two different articles that appeared in "The Scottish Rite Journal" detailing Masonic involvement in establishing the Federal District. Excerpts from each are repeated here for the benefit of all Unit members and assistance in creating a page for this issue.

The 29 cent stamp was released on Sept. 7, 1991, in Washington, D.C.. The design is based on a popular 1903 photograph depicting horse-drawn carriages, streetcars and pedestrians on a tree-lined Pennsylvania Avenue.



In 1790, Congress authorized President George Washington to choose a site for a permanent capital for the United States. He selected land in Maryland and Virginia in Jan. 1791. Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker formally surveyed the land for the newly created federal city in Feb. and Pierre L'Enfant arrived in March to begin its design. On Sept. 9, 1791, the commission overseeing the development of the city named it the City of Washington, the surrounding was named the Territory of Columbia. The Virginia land was ceded back to the state in 1846 because of the capital's slow rate of growth.

When the boundaries of the Federal District were fixed the commissioners immediately marked the parameters and arranged for the placement of a starting-point stone marker, or the "Corner Stone of the District of Columbia". On April 15, 1791, W.M. Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick and Brethren of Alexandria Lodge, VA, conducted the ceremony with two of the Commissioners participating. Brethren from Georgetown Lodge No. 9 and other Maryland and Virginia Lodges also undoubtedly attended.

The first official building for the new city was the President's House - Georgetown Lodge No. 9 laid the cornerstone on Oct. 13, 1792. The Grand Lodge of Maryland, under G.M. pro-tem, Joseph Clark, laid the cornerstone of the United States Capitol Building on Sept. 18, 1793 - George Washington was present, dressed in his Masonic apron, and participated in the ceremony. The W.M. of Federal Lodge No. 15 of Maryland, chartered on Sept. 12, 1793, was a young Irishman named James Hoban who was the architect of the White House and one of the architects working on the Capital's construction.

Columbia Lodge No. 19 was chartered in 1795 but appears to have lasted only a year. Until 1802, Federal Lodge No. 15 was the only Lodge working on the Maryland side of the District while Alexandria Lodge and Brooke Lodge No. 47 worked on the Virginia side. In Nov. 1802 the Grand Lodge of Maryland chartered Columbia Lodge No. 35 in the city of Washington, it was composed of Treasury Department employees. Naval Lodge No. 41 was chartered in 1805 for employees of the Navy Yard. Potomac Lodge No. 43 was chartered in 1806 and the minutes of this Lodge have continued uninterrupted to the present time. By 1811 a Grand Lodge had been established for the District.



## JOSEPH COOK

Australia honored Bro. Joseph Cook on one of the Prime Minister Series stamps released on March 8, 1972 (Scott No. 515).



Sir Joseph Cook was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1860 and began his career as a coalminer. He went to Australia in 1885 working there as a miner also. He entered politics on July 3, 1891, representing the Labor Party in the Hartley electorate in the Parliament of New South Wales. He left this party in 1894 refusing to pledge himself "to vote in the House as a majority of the Party sitting in Caucus determined", thereby giving effect to the Masonic principle of voting according to one's conscience.

He joined the party led by Sir George Reid and was appointed Colonial Postmaster-General from Aug 1894 to Aug. 1898. In March 1901 he entered the Commonwealth Parliament as the member for Parramatta. He was appointed Deputy Leader under the Prime Minister Sir George Reid; when Reid resigned in 1908, he became the leader of the party. As Minister of Defense in a coalition with Alfred Deakin, Joseph Cook helped establish the Australian Navy and was instrumental in bringing Lord Kitchener (another Mason) to Australia to advise on a compulsory military training scheme.

Bro. Cook became leader of the Federal Liberal Party in 1913 which won the election by one seat with minority in the Senate - a situation which brought on the first double dissolution in Australian politics. He was Prime Minister for 1913-14, Minister for the Navy under Hughes in 1917, one of the Australian representatives to the Versailles Peace Conference and High Commissioner in London 1921-27.

Sir Cook was created a Privy Councillor in 1914 and in 1918 was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. He died in Sydney on July 30, 1947.

Bro. Joseph Cook recieved his degrees in Independent Lodge No. 8, New South Wales Constitution, at Lithgow being initiated on Feb. 12, passed on March 11 and raised on April 15, all in 1892. While serving as the High Commissioner for Australia in England, he affiliated with the Royal Colonial Institute Lodge No. 3556, E.C., in London, and was Deputy Master in 1925. The rank of Past Provincial Grand Deacon was conferred upon him. On Oct. 14, 1948, Wor. Bro. S. G. Cook presented his father's Grand Lodge regalia to Independent Lodge.

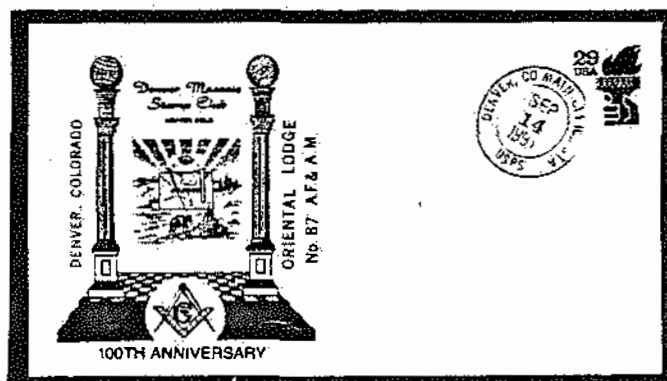
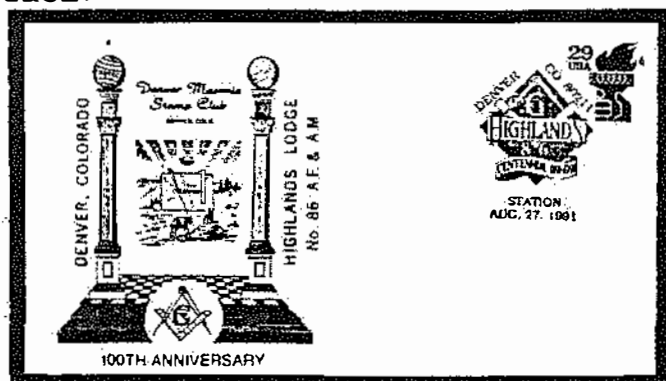
-information provided by Bro. S. W. Martin (to W. Kirby)  
and Bro. N. Lincoln (to R. Needham)

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It's not too early to start thinking about a slate of officers for our bi-annual elections in April 1992. Let your editor know of any self-nominations or recommendations.

## DENVER MSC COVERS

The Denver Masonic Stamp Club has released three more Masonic Cacheted Covers in their continuing series commemorating the Centennials of the various Colorado Lodges. They are priced at \$1.50 each or 4 for \$5.00 and can be obtained from Bro. Jim N. Adams, 2685 So. Sherman St., Denver, CO 80210. Another cover - issued by Highlands Lodge #86 - can also be obtained from Bro. Adams. (I have ordered a copy but have not yet received it to illustrate it here) The cost of that cover is \$1.25 each.



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## RONALD REAGAN?

Bro. Pierre Normand has offered some interesting comments regarding the "Masonic Membership" of Ronald Reagan. "...from a legal point it could be argued that Reagan was made a Mason. Historically, Masonic degrees are conferred one of two ways. In the York Rite tradition they are conferred by ritual. In the Scottish Rite tradition they are conferred by the presentation of a "patent", like transferring title to a degree by "deed or diploma". In the 17th and 18th century nearly all Scottish Rite Masons received their "degrees" by patent only and only very rarely by actual ritual conferral. In fact, many of the degrees did not exist in ritual form but by name and title only.

"When the Supreme Council was formed the Sovereign Grand Commander was vested with full power to make Scottish Rite Masons by patent when and where he wished; he has full authority over all 33 degrees, including the first three. In the U.S. he does not exercise power over these three degrees but the power is there if he ever needs it. In fact, during the 1800s there were craft lodges chartered by the Supreme Council in areas where there was no Grand Lodge.



"Lastly, it may be argued that Pres. Reagan was only made an "Honorary Mason". But, isn't that what we all are? We certainly are not operative Masons. In the 1600s when lodges began "accepting" non-operatives into operative lodges, were they not making them "honorary Masons"? And is not becoming a Mason an honor?

"I believe the Sovereign Grand Commander did not realize that he really did have the power to make the President a Mason-at-Sight and actually did so (by certificate or patent) inadvertently!"

Definately food for thought!

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## NEW ISSUES

Recent new issues of interest to Masonic Philately, as defined by the philatelic media, include:

- Mar. 11 - Antigua & Barbuda - Milestones of WW II  
                   - 5 Val.+1 S/S - 45 cent value  
                   shows F. D. Roosevelt and W.  
                   Churchill.  
                   (Overprinted versions also  
                   issued by Barbuda July 25)
- Mar. 29 - Redonda - Nobel Prize Winners - 8 Val.+1 S/S - 50 cent value  
                   shows W. Churchill.
- Apr. 15 - Turks & Caicos - 500th Anniv. of Columbus' Discovery - 4 Val  
                   + 1 S/S - 75 cent value shows "Terra Nova" ship  
                   which Robert Scott sailed on to the Antarctic.
- Apr. 22 - Oman - Blood Donation - 1 Value
- Jun. 20 - Lesotho - Movies of Africa - 8 Val.+ 1 S/S  
                   - includes C. Gable and J. Wayne
- Aug. 14 - Marsall Islands - WW II - setenant pair  
                   shows F.D.Roosevelt and Winston  
                   Churchill.
- Sep. 16 - El Salvador - 500th Anniv. of Columbus' Discov-  
                   ery - sheetlet - design includes an  
                   hourglass.



Issues to commemorate the 200th Death Anniversary of Mozart:

- July 2 - Bulgaria - 1 Value - portrait
- Aug. 28 - French Polynesia - 1 Value - conducting
- Sep. 6 - Hungary - 2 Values + S/S - portraits
- Sep. 23 - Wallis & Futuna - 1 Value - at keyboard
- Oct. 7 - Italy - 1 Value - portrait
- Nov. 5 - Germany - 1 S/S - portrait
- Dec. 2 - Belgium - 1 Value - portrait

65th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II - showing Prince Philip: all July  
 and all consist of 4 Values and 1 S/S

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Antigua & Barbuda  | Nevis                  |
| Dominica           | St. Vincent            |
| Grenada            | St. Vincent-Grenadines |
| Grenada-Grenadines | Turks & Caicos         |



## MASONS AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR.

John G. B. Adams, William Badders, John H. Balch, Frank D. Baldwin, William C. Barnes, Henry A. Barnum, Richard N. Batchelder, Wallace A. Beckwith, John C. Black, William P. Black, George N. Bliss, Zenas R. Bliss, Robert E. Bonney, Thomas W. Bradley, Willis W. Bradley, James M. Burt, Smedley D. Butler, Daniel A. Butterfield, Frank G. Butterfield, Richard E. Byrd Jr, Henry Capehart, Joshua L. Chamberlain, James T. Clancy, John W. Clark, William F. Cody, Robert J. Coffey, John C. Curtis, Newton M. Curtis, John Davis, James H. Doolittle, Daniel A. Dorsey, Alan H. Dougall, James C. Dozier, James M. Drake, Henry C. Drexler, James M. Drury, James Dunlavy, Merritt A. Edson, Thomas F. Ellsworth, Albert E. Fernald, Frank F. Fletcher, Joseph J. Foss, Donald A. Gray, Theodore W. Goldin, Nathan G. Gordon, Charles G. Gould, Lewis A. Grant, Adolphus Greely, John Hack, William E. Hall, John F. Hartranft, William W. Henry, Francis J. Herron, Dennis W. Hickey, George W. Hooker, Samuel B. Horne, Squire E. Howard, Joe M. Jackson, Erastus W. Jewett, Ruel M. Johnson, Philip C. Katz, Benjamin Kaufman, John T. Kennedy, Albert Knaak, Morgan D. Lane, Henry W. Lawton, Charles A. Lindbergh, Josiah O. Livingston, Moses A. Luce, James H. Luther, Alexander G. Lyle, Joel H. Lyman, Arthur MacArthur, Douglas MacArthur, William Marland, Charles H. Marsh, Charles P. Mattocks, Lowell M. Maxham, George H. Maynard, Henry C. Merriam, Nelson A. Miles, Lewis L. Millett, Audie L. Murphy, Henry C. Nichols, Carlos C. Ogden, Cassius Peck, Theodore S. Peck, Carl E. Peterson, Orlando H. Petty, Jackson C. Pharris, James P. Postles, Albert Power, Matthew S. Quay, Edward V. Richenbacher, William Y. W. Ripley, George S. Robb, Augustus J. Robbins, Robert S. Robertson, John C. Robinson, Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Henry W. Rowe, Donald E. Rudolph, Willie Sandlin, Rufus Saxton, **Christian F. Schilt**, Thomas O. Seaver, William R. Shafter, Carl L. Sitter, Joseph S. Smith, William A. Soderman, William J. Sperry, Paul F. Straub, Richard L. Tea, Sidney W. Thaxter, Stephen Thomas, Leo K. Thorsness, Amasa S. Tracy, Benjamin F. Tracy, Harold L. Turner, Voltaire P. Twombly, Charles A. Varnum, Wheelock G. Veazey, Jonathan M. Wainwright, Francis E. Warren, William Wells, Daniel D. Wheeler, Hulon B. Whittington, Henry C. Wood, Leonard Wood, and Carle A. Woodruff.

Source: The Masonic Service Association.

# Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Utah

ROBERT D. BRAMAN  
GRAND SECRETARY  
PHONE (801) 363-2936



MASONIC TEMPLE  
650 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

December 3, 1991

Ernest E. Fricks, WM  
26 Windmill Drive  
Clementon, NJ 08021-5821

Dear Brother Fricks:

Enclosed please find a copy of our Grand Lodge file card which does confirm that Lester Farnsworth Wire was indeed a member of Mt. Moriah Lodge NO. 2 F. & A.M. of Salt Lake City. The card gives his EA, FC & MM dates and also indicates that he dimitted on May 13, 1946. I do not know if he affiliated somewhere in another state, nor can I give you any further details as to any offices he might have held or honors he earned. If you would like to inquire directly to Mt. Moriah in the hopes that their records are more detailed you could contact Brother Howard Telford, Secretary at his home; 424 Bryan Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84115.

Sincerely & fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert D. Braman".

Robert D. Braman,  
Grand Secretary.

ENCL:





a separate listing of those projects for which funds are available only for pre-construction work, but not for actual construction. In previous programs these projects were listed in the regular sections of the plan, but were marked as having no construction funds available.

A breakdown of the next fiscal year's allocations by transportation system is as follows: public transit, \$73.1 million; ports, \$19.2 million; airports, \$10.9 million; primary highways, \$149 million; urban highways, \$111.7 million; secondary highways, \$135 million; and interstate highways, \$274.6 million.

For the maintenance of interstate, primary, and secondary highways and for

the state's payments to municipalities to maintain local streets, the allotment will increase from \$632 to \$671 million.

Based on current revenue projections, Virginia expects to spend \$4.3 billion in state and federal funds on highway improvement projects, mass transit, ports, and airports over the next six years.

*VDOT News*, July 18, 1991.

### **Anniversary of Traffic Light Inventor's Birth**

Salt Lake City was the home of the original traffic light, invented by native Utahn Lester Farnsworth Wire. Wire, who was born September 3, 1887, was on

the traffic beat for the Salt Lake City Police Department. It was at a time when automobiles were just coming into vogue, and the mixture of horse teams and cars was wreaking havoc on the city streets.

Wire knew something had to be done to bring order to this chaos. He came upon the idea of using red and green lights to control traffic at Christmastime, appropriately enough. He took some old Mazda lamps and dipped them in some watercolors, then put them on a wooden box that he placed upon a ten-ft pole.

The light was put on the intersection of Main Street and Second South in 1912. At first people thought it was a rather silly idea, and they largely ignored it. After a while, however, the light caught on. And with its red and green signals, Wire's light has now gained acceptance and use worldwide.

It is known almost universally that a red light means to stop, a green light means to go, and a yellow light is an indication to clear out the intersection because the light is about to turn red. A flashing red light means to come to a complete stop, yield to traffic and pedestrians, and proceed when it is safe. A flashing yellow light means to reduce speed and use caution at the intersection.

Some new traffic lights have extra features that may seem confusing at first, but will actually make traffic flow much easier. The protective/permissive traffic light is the same as the red-yellow-green variety with one exception. It has two types of green lights for left turns. A solid green light means that it is permissible to turn left if there are no oncoming cars. A green arrow means that it is safe to make a left turn; oncoming traffic has a red light and should stop.

There are some special situations that drivers need to be aware of. If a traffic light loses power and no lights are showing from any direction, the intersection should be treated the same as a four-way stop. And if there is a police officer controlling an intersection, his directions should always be obeyed regardless of what traffic lights may indicate.

The Utah Department of Transportation is urging motorists to use caution in their driving with the slogan, "It doesn't hurt to drive carefully." Lester Wire would probably agree.

*UDOT News*, August 30, 1991.

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### **Tire Maintenance**

*(Continued from page 46)*

tire and written justification for not using retreads must be available for audit by oversight agencies such as the General Accounting Office. In 1991, the General Services Administration issued its first ever National Federal Supply Schedule Contract for retreaded tires.

While retreading may be a new venture for some municipalities and governmental agencies, it is a time tested process

