

The history you are about to read of Union Lodge No. 66 and Union Lodge No. 479, in its original form, was researched by Brother John M. Hohl, P.M. He alone can take credit for all the hours of work that went into compiling it. It was truly massive undertaking which he carried off in a remarkable manner. The time it must have taken to research and put down on paper can only be attributed to a labor of love. I have simply copied it to preserve it for the future members to read and learn of the glorious past of Union Lodge No. 66 and Union Lodge No. 479.

This man, a truly remarkable man, has served Union Lodge long and well. Since he is such a modest man, you will find little mention of his years in this history. Therefore, here follows a very brief list of his accomplishments that I was able to piece together from information found in this history.

Brother John M. Hohl entered into Freemasonry in 1916, so it is safe to say that he received his "50" Year Membership Pin sometime in 1966. He served as "Worshipful Master" in 1924. He has also served on many committees and is now serving on the "Committee of Greivance". He has been and still is a very active member of our Lodge. His faithful attendance at meetings can only lead one to take a quote from Brother Hohl and Hamlet, altered a bit for our purpose, "THERE WAS A MAN".

Leon E. Adam, Worshipful Master

May 10, 1973

P.S. Brother John M. Hohl, P.M. died in December 1973

LODGE NO. SIXTY – SIX

To persons of mature age, a voice from the past is always welcome, and especially should this be true of Masons whose past has been so eventful and glorious.

One of our present day statesmen applied this same principal to our beloved Country when he told us to have faith in and believe that America's future can be judged by her glorious past.

Thanks to the free land of America. Thanks to the noble Masonic Brethern of her early days for their sacrifice in self and fortune in order to make her Free. We have been able here, to plant and maintain institutions of the best type, which thrive here as they could no where else in the whole world.

With its foundation anchored deep in the ages, the fraternity of Free Masonry has not been an exception in this growth. Now we are especially interested in the history of our own Union Lodge, and we shall consider it in two ways. First as Lodge No. 66 in Morgantown, Pennsylvania and secondly as Lodge No. 479 in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania.

We treasure very highly in our relic case the following items which belonged to Union Lodge No. 66:

The complete minutes from 1795 to 1835.

The complete Treasurer's records same period.

Eight genuine lambskin leathern aprons.

One silk embroidered apron.

One standard lodge apron.

One pair Indian Moccasins.

Two hand made Oak Columns.

One wooden Square.

The seal and Press of Union Lodge No. 66.

One Ballot Box and Hand-made Wooden White and Black Oak Balls.

One wine bottle. (According to tradition, used by the Marquis De Lafayette)

Two wooden Candelabra.

Five Collars.

One wooden Ink Stand.

One Masters Tool Box.

One Bible printed in Edinburg in 1791.

HISTORY OF UNION LODGE No.66 AND No.479

***Compiled and Written By:
JOHN M. HOHL, Past Master***

On June 1, 1795, a Warrant was granted to Lodge No. 66 to be held in Caernarvon Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. That very night 19 warrant members met and constituted a regular lodge of Masons.

One week later, June 8, 1795, they signed their by-laws, which still remain in our possession in the original handwriting. These by-laws consist of 26 articles and among other things, forbid the derogation of God's name in any manner, the appearance of any member at Lodge Meetings while under the influence of liquor, the taking of cases of disputes among brethren to civil courts, and the levying of dues on each member amounting to four shillings eight pence each stated Lodge night. The entrance fee was set at twelve dollars. The last words in these by-laws are both appropriate and significant and we ought to consider them thoughtfully and act accordingly. They are: **“My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments, and remove not the ancient landmarks thy Fathers have set”**.

On our Lodge notices at one time, was the picture of a building and underneath were these words: **“In this building still standing near Morgantown, Lodge No. 66 held its first meeting August 8, 1795”**. The minutes of that meeting reads as follows: “The Lodge met in due form at the home of the widow Jones, in Caernarvon Township, County of Berks, when our Worthy Brother Thomas Church, Esq., consecrated the Lodge No. 66 in form under a dispensation granted by Right Worthy William Ball, Esq., Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, and the officers were installed and William Kinney was entered apprentice and returned thanks in the form. And it is unanimously agreed that the first Monday of every month shall be the stated meeting night.

Members present:	Dr. John C. Baun,	Master.
	Mathias Kaller,	Senior Warden.
	John Jones,	Junior Warden.

Thomas Kennedy, L. Jones, Jo. Evans, John Wright, Thomas Church, John Good, Jno. Edwards. The Lodge closed in perfect harmony, half past twelve o'clock.

David Jones, Secretary.”

This fine old house is indeed still standing and is in a fine state of preservation. The Jones Family owned the place for many years, when it passed into the ownership of the Jacobs Family. It is built of fine, uniformly cut sandstone. A story still current at

Morgantown concerning the house goes as follows: One day the Jacobs Family went to town and told the servants to give the place a thorough cleaning and put things in good appearance. Night came and the family came back, but could not locate their house. Finally they decided to investigate and to their dismay found that the servants very foolishly, but with good intentions, had white-washed the fine sandstone house. Even today the good work of the operative masons shows under a coat of grayish green paint. Regular meetings were held here and minutes kept of these meetings, but in the minutes of the meeting held November 27, 1796, we read "That it is no longer convenient for the brethren to remain in the present quarters and they would adjourn the Lodge to Morgantown," but just where in Morgantown the meetings were held, at this time is unknown.

The minutes of the old days show that the attendance at the meetings averaged from 12 to 18 members.

At the March meeting in 1799, a resolution was passed that all members were to pay into the Treasury the sum of fifty cents whether they were present or absent. Only nine members were present at the next meeting.

General George Washington died December 14, 1799. Old Union Lodge met for their regular meeting December 29th and the minutes read as follows: "**Agreed that all members of this lodge are to wear black crape on their left arm for six months as a token of respect for our worthy brother, George Washington, lately deceased**". These minutes are signed by Thomas Kennedy, Secretary.

Under the date of June 29, 1805, we read this notation: "**In consequence of an exceptional rain, this Lodge did not meet this Lodge Night**".

Under date of April 25, 1807, we find the following record in the minutes. "**It is unanimously agreed that the Lodge will in the future meet at the house of John E. Jones in Caernarvon Township, Berks County**". No reason was given, but this means that once more, Lodge No. 66 moved back to the stone house in which they held their first meeting twelve years before, but it is interesting to note that Mr. Jones was at that time the Senior Warden of the Lodge.

On December 26, 1807, we find that Abner Thomas received the Fellow Craft and Masters Degree on the same night, because of his residing at such a great distance. He paid his initiation fee at this meeting amounting to thirteen dollars.

Due to the prominence of the Brooke Family in Birdsboro, although none were

members of Union Lodge, one notices that on May 28, 1818, one Clement Brooke was elected Secretary of the old Union Lodge, but he served for only four meetings when for some unknown reason Frans Cosgrave became his successor.

A brother by the name of Mathias Kaller deserves much credit for his faithfulness. He was the first Senior Warden of the Lodge and his name is recorded on the minutes of each meeting for 23 years. He served as Wardens, Master, Secretary, etc., and in the later years the letters P.M. Are placed behind his name, but on May 16, 1818, his name appears for the last time. No mention is made of his absence, but one wonders if the hand of death did not remove from the Lodge a man who served so well.

One is struck by the number of charges brought against brethren in these old records, and the quick action of the Lodge in dealing with offenders. Dozens were expelled forever; many were reprimanded by the Master before the open Lodge; brethren who had obtained money on notes and did not make prompt payment had charges brought against them. Permission was sought to go to court and the Master would investigate and return the decision. Non-payment of dues cost many a brother his membership. But the charitable side also shows in the records too. Donations were ordered made to needy persons. In 1814 a \$12.00 board bill owed by a brother confined to his bed with a broken leg was ordered paid.

For 16 years it is thought the meetings continued in this old house shown on our notice cover from 1807-1823.

At the meeting held February 22, 1823, Brother Benjamin Jenkins presented a memorial, stating that for a long time he had felt for the better accommodation of the members, the Lodge should be moved some distance west of their present quarters – either Churchtown or to Morgantown. At the next meeting, held March 22, 1823, it was decided by a majority of one vote that they should move to Morgantown instead of Churchtown.

From that time on, all minutes are headed Morgantown, until September 1826 when the place of meeting was mentioned as being at David Morgan's house. The fact is that on October 30, 1826, David Nathans, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Lecturer, criticized, in writing, the methods of the recording of the minutes and ordered the Lodge to be more specific in stating the place of meeting. Apparently his orders were strictly obeyed, for all the minutes are headed **“Brother David Morgan's House, Morgantown, Pennsylvania,”** until December 1828, when the first meeting was held in the famous old building still standing and in a fair state of preservation on the grounds belonging to the Parish of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Morgantown, and in those

days known as **“The Masonic Hall”** built in the year 1827.

This is a two story building built of stone with walls about 24 inches thick. The first floor is used by the church as a room where meetings were held. The second floor is reached by a stairway constructed on the outside of the first floor and one can easily picture the Tyler standing at the head of the stairway on a landing where a second door enters into a room about 15'0” by 15'0”. A space for a stove pipe opens on the west wall of the room. Originally nine windows were built into the room, but two have been plastered shut. The seven remaining are still protected by heavy wooden shutters.

Brother Shingle and I could easily locate the place where the alter stood. We both felt, I am sure, that even today we stood on Holy Ground as we inspected the old room and remembered the tragedies, hardships and joys too, of our fathers of old Union Lodge. In this room, and looking as if it were very new, stands the solid walnut bier on which Colonel Morgan of the Revolutionary Army, under General Washington was carried to his last resting place. Morgantown was named after Colonel Morgan.

This building was built in 1827 and old Union Lodge “66” met there for the remainder of its days. The Master of the first meeting held at this old room was John C. Evans, Senior Warden James Sands, Thomas Welsh was Junior Warden and Thomas McCamant was the Secretary. In glancing over the Treasurer's records, we find some interesting facts. For instance, on April 24, 1799 (while George Washington was enjoying life at Mt. Vernon) Lodge No. 66 paid 1 pound 10 shillings for a compass and square, 7 shillings 6 pence for having the utensils of the Lodge, and in March 1800, \$3.63 was spent for repairs to aprons. Past Masters Jewels were costing \$7.00 each in those days.

The roll of members reads as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dr. John C. Baum | 5. David Jones |
| 2. Mathias Kaller | 6. John Good |
| 3. John Jones | 7. Thomas Kennedy |
| 4. Johnathen Edwards | 8. Rees Moore |
| 9. Samuel Jones | 33. Jesse Thomas |
| 10. Charles Cramp | 34. Benjamin McCord |
| 11. David Lewis | 35. Phillip Hinkell |
| 12. Samuel Lewis | 36. John Mourr |
| 13. Edward McClees | 37. David Knabb |
| 14. Jacob Kimmel | 38. Clement Brooke |
| 15. Isaac Lewis | 39. William Guthrie |
| 16. Samuel Jones | 40. James Sands |

17. Thomas Kerlin
18. Phillip Williams
19. Rev. John Armstrong
20. Elija Pearson
21. Peter Kremer
22. John Sylvis
23. Calob Jones
24. Dr. Sataloff
25. Abner Lewis
26. William Kinney
27. Dr. Benjamin Talbott
28. Mr. Michael Link
29. Benjamin Ward
30. Daniel Uble
31. Hartman Leightheiser
32. Landings Barclay

41. James McIntyre
42. John Barclay
43. John Smith
44. Richard Jacobs
45. Thaddeus Smith
46. Robert Lantlin
47. Johnathen Hudson
48. George Rigg
49. David Morgan
50. James Morgan
51. John Nyce
52. John Morgan
53. Jacob Kumbele
54. Thomas I. Jones
55. William Hamilton
56. James Given

About twelve members was the average attendance continuing to the year 1833.

during that year the minutes are brief and several times simply state that **“Owing to the fact that not enough members were present the meeting had to be post-poned until next Lodge night”**.

After this year our records stop.

You Know brethren, those were the days of the **“Anti-Masonic Crusade”**. It meant many things to attend a Masonic Lodge then. Money too was very scarce. Did our Brothers of the old days loose heart? I for one will never believe that! Whatever happened, they suffered much as we would if conditions became for us what they did for them. Anyway, on February 6, 1837, Grand Lodge vacated their warrant.

“FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE”

Whatever may have been the reason for the disbanding of **“Union Lodge No. 66”** the spirit of Masonry has never died in the neighborhood of Morgantown.

Thirty-three years later, on November 10, 1870, a new Warrant was granted by Grand Lodge and Union Lodge No. 479 was duly Constituted.

The minutes of the meeting tell us that at 12 o'clock high meridian, the officers of Grand Lodge opened the meeting and consecrated the new Lodge and installed the officers as follows: Worshipful Master, Jacob L. Plank; Senior Warden, John Plank; Junior Warden, Robert A. Gilmer; Secretary, John M. Barclay; Treasurer, John W. Kenney. Seventy one brethren members of other Lodges were present to witness the ceremony. After the ceremonies, the brethren formed a procession and walked to St. Thomas Episcopal Church where an address was delivered by Rev. Brother J. L. Stichter of Lodge No. 62, Reading Acting Grand Master, also addressed the Brethren.

Several times in the history of Lodge No. 66 and Lodge No. 479, St. Thomas Church, Morgantown is mentioned. Therefore, we ought to know a few things about this church. It was founded by the will of Thomas Morgan in 1740. The dedication of the first building took place August 4, 1765, The original stone church was erected in 1824. This building was destroyed by lightning in May 1918 and was rebuilt in 1923 using the same walls, doors and windows openings. Every true Mason will respect this old church body for their sympathy bestowed on our Masonic Brothers of earlier years. Union Lodge prospered and started to make Masons meetings every first Thursday of the month until August 10, 1871, when it was decided to meet every first Thursday on or before the full moon, and for 95 years we have voted that night for our regular meeting night. In the minutes of the meeting held November 27, 1879, a committee appointed to procure new candle sticks from St. Thomas Church.

On June 21, 1888, a resolution was presented by Jacob L. Plank, L. F. Shirk and Charles Cosgrove, that the place of meeting of the Lodge be moved to Birdsboro, Pennsylvania. This step was approved by Grand Lodge in a letter dated September 6, 1888. The last meeting held in Morgantown was on October 18, 1888.

The first Masonic Lodge met in Birdsboro on November 15, 1888 with Brother Past Master Dr. D. Herber Plank as Worshipful Master. He was the father of William B. Plank who will be mentioned later. His father, like George Washington, served his Lodge for three years as Worshipful Master, 1876, 1887, 1888.

The first meeting in Birdsboro was held in the old Odd Fellows Hall at Main and Farmer Streets.

Brother P.M. Luther W. Shingle was made a Mason in this hall January 31, 1889. He was the father of our worthy Treasurer, Brother P.M. Murrey W. Shingle. On April 11 of that same year, Brother P.M. Elmer J. Shaneman first saw the light of Masonry in this hall. Brother Shaneman lived near Morgantown and St. Thomas Church in his early

youth and has tender recollections in his heart. On the same night Brother Shaneman was entered, a committee reported that the Friendship Fire Company would build a third floor on their building at an estimated cost of \$1,000 and would rent the same to Union Lodge for \$100.00 per year. The committee was instructed to make the best possible terms with the Fire Company.

The first meeting in the Friendship Fire Company's building was held September 5, 1889. Brother P.M. Charles H. Armour was Worshipful Master; Brother Oscar Hertzog, Senior Warden and Brother Jacob M. Prutzman, Junior Warden. Many visitors were present and it must have been a very happy occasion for Union Lodge.

The following reference to Brother P.M. Jacob Z. Plank, our first Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 479, is found in the minutes of the meeting held December 26, 1895 and reads as follows: **“P.M. Jacob Z. Plank being the oldest Past Master, was urged to make the presentation of the Past Master's Jewel to Brother Lewis M. Steward”**. Upon his retirement as Worshipful Master, Brother Plank, with a fitting speech, presented the jewel to Brother Steward in behalf of the members of Union Lodge.

Again as late as January 23, 1902 the Plank family was honored in Union Lodge: **“Dr. George Hetrich presented the Lodge with two crayon pictures of our first two Masters, Jacob Z. Plank and John Plank who so faithfully served Union Lodge in her infancy at Morgantown and who have passed from our midst never to return”**. P.M. Charles H. Armour accepted the pictures for the Lodge and suggested that they be given the first place of honor by being hung in the East.

At a meeting held August 16, 1894, Brother Lewis M. Steward advanced the idea of providing a suitable case to keep the ancient relics of our Lodge, and today they still remain to testify to us a strong and noble generation of another day.

We treasure very highly in our relic case the items that belonged to and were used by our predecessor --- Union Lodge No. 66. Founded June 1, 1795...I especially appreciate them.

For a decade they were not in our Lodge room --- In order to preserve them for us, they were secretly removed from here and hidden for ten years. During my term as Worshipful Master in 1924, they were returned, Again during World War I they were put into safe storage in a bank vault to protect them from war damage.

The list includes: The complete minutes from Lodge 66 from 1795 to 1835 --- Tells of the Morgan incident and its effect on Masonry. These minutes are quite

interesting.

The entrance fee was equivalent to about \$12.00 today.

William Bell was the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at that time and it was my privilege to chat with his Great Grand Son.

The Complete Treasurer's records for the same period are there also.

There are eight genuine lambskin aprons, one silk embroidered apron, one regular Lodge apron, a pair of Indian moccasins, two hand made oak columns, one wooden square, the brass seal of Lodge No. 66. On top of the cabinet the press for the seal, and if you look at it carefully, you will marvel at the handy work it required to make it. The ballot box containing hand made white and black balls, one wine bottle --- after much painstaking research by Past Master Dr. George W. Hetrich and Brother William B. Plank, both now deceased, it was established that the Marquis De La Fayette, who was a Masonic Brother of General George Washington and who was wounded in the fight for American Liberty at the Battle of Brandywine, returned from France for a triumphal visit to this country in 1824. The records of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania show that he was in Grand Lodge on a certain night in June 1824. He left Philadelphia by carriage the next day, visited Union Lodge No. 66 in Morgantown that evening and arrived in Lancaster the following day. While being entertained by Lodge No. 66 in Morgantown, General La Fayette drank wine from this bottle.

At this point while speaking of La Fayette and Washington, it is appropriate to mention that the members of old Lodge No. 66 passed a resolution at the time of the death of George Washington, to the effect that each member would wear a black armband on his coat sleeve for a period of six months after December 13, 1799, the date of the General's death.

Also found in our relic case are two wooden candelabra for the lesser lights, one wooden ink stand, one Master's tool box and our old Bible printed in Edinburg Scotland, in 1791. These things complete the list. At this point when so many of our younger members are present, and plans are being made to build a temple in Birdsboro, I beg you who are making these plans, that you provide a suitable case in which to keep our ancient relics of our Lodge, and today they still remain testifying to us of a strong and noble generation of another day.

On September 1, 1895, a special meeting of Union Lodge was held. Brother Howard C. Deam, Worshipful Master, presiding. The object being to discuss the renting

of a new Lodge room known as Brooke Hall and the rental fee to be \$96.00 per year. P.M. Lewis Steward moved that the matter be placed in the hands of the Trustees and his motion carried.

At the following meeting it was decided to give notice to every member to be present to vote on the question at the next meeting. On October 27, 1898, the vote was taken and by a large majority, it was decided to move.

Possession was taken December 1, 1898, and the Trustees reported that no rent would be charged for four months. Thirty dollars in cash and some new lumber would be donated by the E. & G. Brooke Land Company, to put the room in shape for Union Lodge's occupancy. The Trustees felt that the Lodge would have a room much more agreeable, in all points, than the one vacated. At this time the Trustees were: Jacob M. Prutzman, Charles H. Armour, John H. Brinley and Dr. George Hetrich in an advisory capacity. Brother Howard C. Deam was the Worshipful Master.

The minutes of the meeting held December 22, 1898, are headed **“First meeting held in Brooke Hall”**. The following attended that meeting: Howard C. Deam, Worshipful Master; Elmer E. Squibb, Senior Warden; Samuel J. Huyett, Junior Warden; Lewis M. Steward, Treasurer; George W. Lacey, Secretary; Jacob M. Prutzman; Leonard Frescolon; Charles H. Armour; Thomas Beecher; George Hetrich; Elmer J. Shaneman; William R. Kemmerer; Noel B. Whitman; Irvin J. Greismer; William R. Huyett; Francis Miller; James Kurtz; John H. Sponagle; Frank M. Brown; Walter Maderia; Edgar Wells; Samuel G. Spotts; P. Sherman Fasnacht; Howard L. Hook; G. Washington Hook; Daniel Rothermel; James R. Kline; Brother Luther Patton of Honey Brook was a visitor at that meeting and Elmer E. Squibb was elected the new Worshipful Master in the new Lodge room that first night.

From that time until World War I Union, Lodge must have been in a “Golden Day”. The minutes record large attendances at all meetings.

We would like to mention all the Masters and his accomplishments of the Lodge under him, but time does not permit.

Coming up in 1916 when Brother Daniel K. Miller was the Master, we just have to pause to mention the improvements to our Lodge room. The removal of a partition, new lighting fixtures, new covering for the Masters and Officers stations, new wall paper and repainting.

Then come World War days. Under date of August 30, 1917, we read “Brother D.

Herber Geiger, Acting Worshipful Master". This means that for the first time in either Lodge No. 66 or Lodge No. 479, the Master of Union Lodge laid down the gavel to serve under the Stars and Stripes. Worshipful Master Heister Eschelman was followed to the service by the following Brothers:

Daniel K. Miller
J. Bertollette Miller
Charles U. Snyder
Edward N, Deacon
Adam Haas
Frank P. Lytle
Gail L. Hook
Claude M. Lacey

Daniel E. Maderia
Walter Shirey
Raymond A Hyuett
Ralph A. Dilzer
Harrison P. Tallman
William J. Shaneman
George A. Ehrgood
Elmer J. Weidner

Varnes C. Foreman

In line with the spirit of the fighting brothers, Union Lodge passed a resolution on October 25, 1917, pledging its support to the President of the United States. Identification tags were presented to each one of the boys of Union Lodge who went to war, by the Lodge. Liberty Bonds were purchased to the full extent of the resources of the Lodge.

An unusual happening took place on Sunday June 5, 1919, when Union Lodge in cooperation with her sister lodges of the Seventh Masonic District, took part in a procession forming at the Masonic Temple, Reading, and proceeded to the Memorial Church of the Holy Cross, also in Reading, to commemorate St. Johns Day.

During the year 1920, Union Lodge with Brother Johnathen J. Clemons, Worshipful Master, observed in a quiet manner the 50th. Anniversary of the founding of Lodge No. 479. One hundred and three brethren attended the meeting. It was at this meeting that the petition of the lamented Past Master Robert W. Albright was presented.

While Brother P. M. Lee K. Hook was Master, on July 21, 1921, the question was raised as to whether Union Lodge should take over the second floor of the building in which we met. It was felt that this would provide suitable space for a banquet hall and insure proper privacy for the sessions of the Lodge.

During the following year when Brother P. M. Murray W. Shingle was Master, the second floor was acquired, and after some hard personal work on the part of the active members, the floor was put in shape for the refreshments of the brethren.

When Brother William Reinaur was Master, we felt, that the Stars and Stripes should be on display in our Lodge room and procured the flag we proudly salute.

At the annual meeting held December 1934, the suggestion was made that since June 8, 1935, would be 149 years since the first meeting of Lodge No. 66 was held at the Widow Jones House near Morgantown, and as much as St. Thomas Church had always been so closely related with Union Lodge, it would be fitting, if our Worshipful Master agreed, to attend divine services in St. Thomas Church in commemoration of the anniversary. Our Worshipful Master, Stanley P. Elliot, acting upon the suggestion, secured permission of the District Deputy Grand Master, Brother William I. Wise, to attend services in St. Thomas Church on Sunday afternoon, June 16, at 2:30 P.M.

On the Thursday of June 13th, previous to the above Sunday mentioned, Union Lodge held its regular stated meeting. About 60 members and visitors were present. After appropriate remarks by Worshipful Master Stanley P. Elliot, Brother William B. Plank read the history of Union Lodge No. 66 and No. 479. Rev. F. B. Hornby, rector of St. Thomas Church was present and honored those present with fitting words. The Lodge adjourned to the banquet room where refreshments were served and a pleasant hour was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday June 16th the pilgrimage to Morgantown became a reality and the brethren met in the church yard under the fine old buttonwood and locust trees. The old hall, on the second floor of the parish house, was open and many of the brethren availed themselves of the opportunity to view the home of Union Lodge No. 66. At precisely 2:27 o'clock the brethren formed a line and entered the church two abreast. At 2:30 the rector, Rev. F. B. Hornby, opened the service. The regular service of the Episcopal Church was used and afterwards Rev. Hornby read a short history of St. Thomas Church and of Union Lodge. After this he presented a sermon based on the text from Kings 21st. Chapter, 3rd. Verse **“The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee”**, and brought out the value of great traditions. The following hymns were used during the services: **“Onward Christian Soldiers”**; **“Faith of our Fathers”**; and **“Come Thou Almighty King”**. Brother Rev. Hornby was the recipient of many congratulations from the brothers present and many of them tarried long after the service was ended, among the graves of our departed brothers, relating old stories and kind memories. Prof. William B. Plank proved to be an interesting and well in formed guide in this tour of God's Acre.

Among those present were:

Worshipful Master	Stanley P. Elliot
Senior Warden	Raymond Harner

Treasurer
Secretary
Chaplin
Senior Deacon
Past Master

Murray W. Shingle
George W. Lacey
John W. Hohl
Chester Matthias
Elmer J. Shaneman
Howard C. Deam
Elmer G. Squibb
Daniel K. Miller
Ernest S. Rhoads
Johnathen J. Clemens
Lee K. Hook
C. Lee Care
Luther R. Huyett
Daniel M. Kaseman
Edward H. Albright
Edward M. Squibb
Oliver G. Henderson
Prof. William B. Plank
Harry E. Hart
Aaron Yoast
Lott D. Evans
Gerald E. Deam
Ashton Rahn
H. F. Plank
M. E. Hernandez
Frank Lange
Earl Plank
John Dengler
William Shaneman
Henry Shirk
Harry T Carson
Oscar Y. Schmeck
Oliver Naftzinger
Marshall Pulford
George K. Miller
William Williams
Gail Hook
Grant Keehn
Roy Engle
Edward Warner

of Howell Lodge
of Camden N. J.

of Honey Brook

of Indiana

of Howell Lodge
of Stichter Lodge
of Stichter Lodge

James Eyrick
Harkey Long

of Stichter Lodge

A number of the wives of the brethren sat in the back of the church and everyone agreed that a wonderful and inspiring service had been attended.

On September 8, 1938, Brother Laurent O. Hess received the second and third degree on the same night, having been granted a dispensation due to his occupation as a seaman and his times at home being uncertain.

On March 30, 1939, our Lamented Brother and Past Master Carl P. Hernandez, was entered. Brother Hernandez's father, Miguel Hernandez, was a member of Ionic Lodge, Camden N. J. He was a refugee from Cuba during the insurrection there and was frequent visitor to Union Lodge.

During the year 1940 at which time Brother Bertrand Japikse P. M. was Master, Marshall Hess, a brother of Laurent Hess, and also a seaman, received the second and third degree on the evening of May 22, 1940, having also been granted a dispensation by our District Deputy Grand Master, Brother William G. Brossman. Also, during that year, Brother Oscar H. Lincoln, one of the few survivors of that family, passed away.

During the term of Brother Past Master, Ralph M. Houp, in 1941, the Lodge vacated the banquet room on the second floor of this building, and the same was converted into apartments. Also during that year, Brother Past Master, Murray W. Shingle was appointed to membership in the Berks Memorial Endowment Fund of Elizabethtown.

World War II came and it was decided to place a suitable Honor Roll on the East wall of the Lodge Room and the same to have thereon the names of our brethren who entered the armed services. The Names are: Harold T. Care, Chester M. Matthias, Carl P. Hernandez, Oswald M. Hess, Laurent O. Hess, William Lacey Francis, Lewis R. Jones, Elmer R. Musser, Eugene L. Shirk, Lloyd L. Wolf, Stanley S. Yoder and Jesse A Diefenderfer.

Past Master R. Lee Wood succeeded Brother Houp, and on January 1942, Brother Elmer Musser received the second and third degrees because of a dispensation granted due to a short furlough at home from his duties in the service. A pledge was made to the President of the United States of our loyalty and support and the Right Worshipful Grand Master ordered the flag ceremony to be used at our meetings.

On April 30, 1942, the relics of Lodge No. 66 were placed in the vault of the First National Bank of Birdsboro as a precaution against air raid, fire or other hazards. All members also were urged to attend Divine Services on Sunday May 31, 1942.

On November 19 of that year, Carl P. Hernandez, our Worshipful Master attended only one meeting of Union Lodge. He enlisted in the United States Air Force on November 18th 1942, became Master of Union Lodge on December 27, 1942 and was called to service for training in February 1943. He went overseas in May 1944, was home on leave March 1945. He served gallantly and bravely and was promoted First Lieutenant and honorably discharged in October 1945.

Brother Past Master, Howard Murrey served as acting Worshipful Master during the enforced absence of Brother Hernandez. It is at this time, that the holding of the Masonic Burial Service at the mortuary instead of at the grave, was allowed.

Brother Past Master Murrey inherited a year of post war recession. In the banquet room that year, Mrs. Murrey's own baked cakes were the main course, and strict economy was necessary. It was during this year, that Brother Mathew Galt, Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, defined the phrase "**Free Born**". Past Master Murrey financed personally, the publications of "**Early History of Lodge's No. 66 and No. 479**", a copy of which is in the museum at the Masonic Center at West Reading.

A special meeting of Union Lodge No. 479 Free and Accepted Masons will be held in the Masonic Hall, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania on June 23rd, 1945 at 5 o'clock P.M. For the purpose of honoring the Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Scott S. Leiby and other Grand Lodge Officers in connection with the 75th Anniversary of Union Lodge No. 479 F. and A.M., Birdsboro, Pa. E. Raymond Mohr, Worshipful Master.

The above notice appeared inviting members and visiting brethren to a meeting, followed by a dinner in Community Hall, when the Worshipful Master, as toastmaster, conducted the following program:

Invocation – Brother Rev. Thomas B. Smythe, St Michael's Episcopal Church, Birdsboro, Pa

Salute to the Colors

Star Spangled Banner

Dinner

Remarks – Right Worshipful Grand Master, Scott S. Leiby

Historical Sketch "Union Lodge" - John M. Hohl

Address – E. Martin Grove, Robert Burns Lodge No. 464
America

The committee appointed by Worshipful Master Mohr for this occasion was composed of the following members of Union Lodge:

E. Raymond Mohr, Chairman	Aaron F. Yoast
Murrey W. Shingle P.M.	John J. Clemens P.M.
Ralph M. Houp P.M.	Luther R. Huyett P.M.
John M. Hohl P.M.	Howard Murrey P.M.
Gerald E. Deam P.M.	R. Lee Wood P.M.
William G. Arters P.M.	George Gross Reeser
George O. Zerr P.M.	George Marshall
Daniel K. Miller P.M.	

At this June 23rd. Meeting, the present Alter, Secretary and Treasurer's Desk's, Master's and Warden's Stations, were used for the first time. They were presented by individual members whose name appears thereon. The window drapes, seven chairs and the drape behind the master's station represent contributions by all the members of the Lodge. Eighty-five members and visitors, and nine Grand Lodge Members were present. Among them were two of the authors best friends, advisors and brothers, John K. Klink, and Joseph L. Gehris. Joseph L. Gehris was Past Master of both Lodges No. 62 and Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660 of Reading, Past Commander of Reading Consistory. John K. Klink, Past Master of Stichter Lodge of Pottstown was my Superior at Birdsboro Steel for many years and was my sponser in Masonry, Brother Gehris conferred on this writer the Master Mason's Degree in July 1916. Both of these men were 33rd. Degree Masons.

Because he was in the armed services, William Lacey Francis, was allowed, by special dispensation, to receive the three degrees of Freemasonry on the evening of April 10, 1945. When P.M. Gerald E. Deam was Master on March 4, 1946, the man who later was to become District Deputy Grand Master, Dr. J. Merrill Oswald, conferred the third degree upon Dr. Frank A Beidler.

Past Master William G. Arters was Worshipful Master in 1947 when our deceased Brother William Williams, was one of the recommenders of Brother Howard Reilly for initiation in Union Lodge. Dr. Carroll S. Kring was entered in that year and Past Master Johnstone Campbell died December 4, 1947.

Brother Past Master George C. Zerr holds the unusual distinction of having served as Worshipful Master for two terms in Union Lodge. During his first term in 1948, the

late Clarence Buckwalter, a very talented brother, visited Union Lodge and conferred the Master Mason's degree upon Dr. Carroll S. Kring. Also in the year 1955, when an emergency arose due to the death of Senior Warden, Brother Russell Garber, Brother Zerr rendered service above and beyond the call of duty and as a result his Past Master's Jewel contains an extra bar which only a few Past Masters can wear.

During the term of Brother Past Master Herman G. Musser, new aprons and collars were procured by the Lodge.

Past Masters Howard W. Oswald, Clarence Arnold, Warren Amole and Howard Reilly followed each other in the order named and performed the duties devolving upon them with credit and are honored and respected as they deserve to be.

Past Master, Brother Gerald Knerr looks back on his year as Master in the following remarks. **“It was during my term of office that the Grand Master issued an order, through his District Deputies, that no man was permitted in the East unless in Masonic Dress, This presented a problem to me, however, I called a special meeting of all my officers and conveyed his message to them telling them that I expected to abide by his ruling”.**

At this point we are happy to state that Brother Knerr is advancing steadily in his progress towards the higher degrees of Freemasonry.

“It was at our very next meeting”, Brother Knerr continues, **“that many of the brothers, including myself, saw all the officers of Union Lodge in tails. Secondly”,** continues Brother Knerr, **“it was also during my term that the Grand Master insisted that the Ancient Charges be given at the opening and closing of each Lodge Meeting. If you recall, I always obeyed this order. I remember the first night I opened the meeting, many of the brethren were spellbound because of the words contained in these charges, would make one wonder, if he were worthy of being called a Mason. I have always felt”,** continued Brother Knerr, **“that repeating these charges slowly deserves the feeling that it is a spiritual house cleaning to aid us in fighting off the temptation of our modern day world. If we can truthfully say that we live by the lessons taught therein, we are worthy of belonging to this great Brotherhood of Man, who believed in the Fatherhood of God”.**

This is the first time that the ancient Charges were used since Brother Past Master Ernest Rhoades used them and recited them in a very impressive manner.

Brother Past Master Donald Peiffer's term was marked by sadness due to the fact

that his uncle, Brother Russell Garber, who at that time was Senior Warden, died suddenly. Then followed the death of Brother Earl Warden, one who never had a more faithful and earnest ambition to be Master of Union Lodge in all our history. This is followed by the death of Brother Past Master Peiffer's Grandfather, Harry Peiffer, who had been the recipient of the Grand Lodge Fifty Year Gold Medal. And again, during his term, there passed from our midst our highly esteemed Brother William Burton Plank. Brother Plank was born in Morgantown, the son of Dr. D. Herber Plank, who served three years as Worshipful Master of Union Lodge. Brother William Burton Plank was a member of the first graduating class of Morgantown High School and a graduate of Pennsylvania State College. He was also a Professor of Mining and Engineering at a Lafayette College for over thirty years. He was a member of an engineering group sent to Europe for consultations regarding mining operations for the United States Government. He was married to Helen Beck who survives him. Both he and Mr. Plank were faithful members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Morgantown and he delighted in his splendid relationship that the church had with Union Lodge. When we think of Brother William Burton Plank, the words of Hamlet ring in our ears, "There was a Man".

The important achievement of Brother Peiffer's term of office, was the installation of the beautiful floor covering we now enjoy here in our Lodge Room and adjoining rooms. Costing \$1200.00, it was paid for by the contributions received from all the members of Union Lodge.

Brother Past Master Harry R. Huyett Jr., had behind him in Masonry his father, Harry Sr., his Grandfather, Brother Samuel J. Huyett, who was Worshipful Master in Union Lodge in 1900. Also he had a wonderful advantage of having his uncle, Luther R. Huyett, adding influence and knowledge. Brother Luther R. Huyett was our Worshipful Master in Union Lodge in 1926. His fidelity and devotion to Masonry is known throughout our entire district.

Next in our consideration at this time is one of our Trustees, Brother Past Master, Oscar M. Huber, who like his Brother Past Master Harry Huyett, has quite a background in Union Lodge. His father, Brother Past Master Oscar Huber, of Chandler Lodge, was Worshipful Master in 1924. Also Brother Huber's Grandfather, Brother Past Master Harry A. Foreman, was Worshipful Master of Union Lodge in the year 1907 and continued a lively interest in the Lodge until his death.

The good examples of our forefathers in Union Lodge are apparent at this time as you will note that the fathers of our present leaders here were members of Union Lodge.

Another such leader is Brother Past Master, G. Raymond Dengler, who was Master 1959 and whose father was Rufus Dengler and was a promising young member of our Lodge and in line for future honors, when an early death removed him from his station in the Lodge.

In 1960, Brother Past Master Richard S. Murrey became our Worshipful Master, following in his father, Brother Howard S. Murrey's, footsteps, after a large lapse of sixteen years. He served in a pleasing and dignified manner. It was during this year that the plans for building a new hall for Union Lodge were first mentioned and which later were placed in the hands of a Temple Committee. We miss very much Brother Murrey's companionship, but rejoice in the mark he is making for himself in the employ of a large company and anticipating more success from him in this field.

In a conversation with Brother Past Master, Ernest Miller, he said he thought the highlights of his administration in 1963, was that for the first time the annual banquet was held at the local Fire Company Dining Hall. He said he was very pleased to have had the Illustrious Brother, Glenn C. Ross, as a speaker of the evening.

Union Lodge was fortunate to have Past Master Edwin R. Haig Jr. as its Master in 1964. When asked what he felt the outstanding happenings of his regime were, said **“I did try to expand and promote the work of the Masonic Culture Program which I felt and still feel, is important and every effort should be put into it for the benefit of the Craft. The highlights of my year as Master, I guess, would be those things that stay foremost in my mind: being President of the Board of Managers of the School of Instruction, my Past Master's Night, the Lodge Church Service which was held in July in St. Michael's Church in Birdsboro, Rev. Lloyd L. Wolfe having the service at which time we received the Communion of the Church. About fifty members of Union Lodge were in attendance. Then there was my Annual Banquet of Union Lodge. Mayor Eugene L. Shirk, Mayor of the City of Reading, was the guest speaker of the evening. That year the members were allowed to bring their wives or lady friends along to the banquet. I always thought that the presence of the ladies helped make it a very nice affair”**.

“I guess that about gives my views of my year. I tried to do my best as Master and it was one of the finest years of my life. It all came to an end too soon for me”. The writer also feels that the banquet was a very fine way to leave the ladies know that we appreciate the interest and sacrifices they make to enable us to work in Union Lodge.

The movement started in Past Master Richard Murrey's term, to form a Temple Committee and secure funds for the building of a temple of its own for Union Lodge,

was encouraged and brought to real life during the term of Brother Past Master Robert Moore. It has grown into a real and noteworthy effort by the Temple Association.

Under date of February 1966, an auditors report of the financial condition of the Temple Association shows a balance on hand of \$27,509.12. An interesting note attached to the report says that to date, sixty members and two non-members have each donated \$200.00 or more to this fund. In addition to the above figures, the Association has purchased and paid for the land upon which the new Temple is to be erected at Second and Washington Street in Birdsboro.

At this writing the Officers of the Association are:
Lester Shurr, President; Leonard Happel, Vice President; Ralph Schaeffer, Secretary; Havard Fosnocht, Treasurer.

The Directors are: Past Masters, William Arters, Harry Huyett, Howard Reilly, also Brothers, P. Rodney Hoffman, Myner Lott, and Frank Clouser.

It is the earnest hope of the Temple Association and the other members of Union Lodge, that they may be able soon to see the actual new Temple standing on the hill in the western end of Birdsboro.

Brother Charles M. Shirey had the pleasure of being Worshipful Master during the year 1966. He cooperated with the Temple Association in every endeavor they made to hasten the erection of the Temple in Birdsboro. One of the outstanding happenings of his regime was the increasing of the yearly dues of each member to \$25.00 per year.

On May 31st. Of his year, the brethren of Union Lodge and many other brethren of the Seventh Masonic District, were shocked to hear of the death of Brother Past Master Luther R. Huyett. For a period of over thirty-five years, Brother Huyett assumed the duties of instructor of Union Lodge and was widely known for his accuracy and faithful attendance of all affairs at which Freemasonry could be advanced. Masonic Funeral Services were held in the Dengler Funeral Home where a very large attendance of Masons were present to pay their last respects to Brother Huyett.

Richard S. Happel succeeded Past Master Shirey as Worshipful Master for the year 1967 and performed the duties of that office in a creditable manner. He too showed every effort to advance the work of the Temple Association and also that of the Committee on Masonic Culture. One of the outstanding events having been his attendance with a number of officers to the Masonic Culture meeting in Lancaster during the fall of 1967. It was during his term also that the new owners of the building, in

which Union Lodge had been meeting for seventy years, served written notice that they would have other uses for the third floor of the building and requested our removal from same.

Brother Edward J. Rissmiller succeeded Brother Happel as Worshipful Master and has the happy distinction of having construction of the new Temple started in the beginning of his year. The ground breaking took place on March 1st and is described as follows.

Under date of March 1st, 1968, a letter, signed by Havard E. Fosnocht, President of the Birdsboro Temple Association, was sent to the members acquainting them with the fact that a contract had been signed by the Board of Officers of the Association. The David Welsh Co. Inc., of Pottstown, is to construct the Temple on the lot at 2nd. And Washington Streets in Birdsboro and that ground breaking ceremonies would take place at the site on Saturday March 9, 1968, at 11:00 A.M.

Saturday March 9th. started as a rainy day, but at 11:00 A.M. Some patches of blue appeared in the sky, and some fifty of the members of Union Lodge arrived and an early arriver was our popular and respected District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Carl A. Focht.

At precisely eleven o'clock, Brother Havard Fosnocht, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, announced that Brother Past Master Daniel K. Miller, who is the oldest living past Master of Union Lodge, would wield the shovel to break ground for our new Temple. Brother Miller performed the duty in a very creditable manner. Brother Fosnocht asked the Rev. Thomas B. Adams, of St Paul's United Church of Christ, to lead the group in devotions. After a very appropriate prayer, suitable to the occasion, Brother Fosnocht introduced the Master of Union Lodge, Edward J. Rissmiller, who expressed his personal pleasure at what was taking place and introduced the District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Carl A. Focht who also expressed his pleasure at being present at the beginning of the erection of our new Temple. He gave us some encouraging and helpful advice to guide us in the coming weeks of construction.

Brother Fosnocht then announced the formation of several committees to work toward the dedication of the Temple and introduced the members of the Board of Directors who were present. They are: Brothers Gail Hook, Myner Lott, Leonard Happel and Ralph Schaeffer. After many photographs were taken and the brothers had time to congratulate each other on this day, to which they had long looked forward to, then the group dispersed.

Mr. Welsh of the construction firm, assured the brothers that work on the project would start inside of a week or ten days.

On Saturday March 15, 1969, the dreams of many Masons, for many years, was realized. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, with Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother John K. Young and his staff of Officers, came to Birdsboro, laid the cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple and held a special meeting of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to dedicate the new Temple. The following items were placed in the cornerstone: A set of U. S. Coins; a copy of the Birdsboro Dispatch; Photographs of the officers for 1968-1969; the by-laws of Union Lodge and the 99th Annual Banquet Program, which was held in the Friendship Fire Company building and attended by 180 Masons.

Visiting Brethren from Pottstown, Reading, Philadelphia and surrounding areas were present.

Previous to the dedication of the Temple, permission was granted for meeting in the building and the same were held on January 2nd, January 30th, and February 27, 1969.

One of our present day statesmen recently made the following statement, **“Today grows from yesterday and tomorrow grows from today”**. In that spirit Union Lodge goes forward into the Space Age. Eight of our Astronauts who comprised crews on the trips prior to and the actual landing on the Moon, were Masons. And to bring the moon flight closer to Union Lodge, we have information telling us that the son of Cecil Schick, a member of Union Lodge, was the man who actually made the countdown at the time Apollo 11 was launched on its way to the moon landing.

The year 1969 has been a very heartening year for Union Lodge. Petitions are coming in at every meeting from candidates and the membership is gaining new life and vigor as we enjoy our new home.

In the world at large, one does not boast of his charitable works, but it is proper that we should mention that side of our affairs at this point.

I well remember, many years ago, reading that Chandler Lodge No. 227 donated a barrel of flour to a needy widow of a deceased brother. In the records of old Lodge No. 66, we are apprised of charitable actions of the Lodge and lately in the booklet issued by Oxford Lodge No. 353 we have a dozen instances of charity recorded.

Union Lodge has not failed in her works of charity. At least ten members or their

dependents have ended their days at the beautiful surroundings of the homes at Elizabethtown. Our charity fund has been carefully maintained by our worthy Treasurer, Brother Murrey Shingle and on orders from the Lodge, he dispenses it with kind and careful dealings.

At one time in conjunction with Grand Lodge, we provided funds for a widow of a former Past Masters widow and his children.

At another time members of the Lodge donated money each week to support a former Worshipful Masters wife in a nursing home.

These facts are not mentioned in a spirit of boasting, but to prove to younger members, that as Masons we have kept the faith with those in need.

One dollar of each members yearly dues, is placed in our Charity Fund and although modern Medicare and other circumstances have changed conditions, the opportunity to aid the unfortunate will always present itself.

The first meeting in our new Masonic Temple, was held by special permission of Grand Lodge, on January 2, 1969 with Samuel C. Straway, Worshipful Master.

Brother Past Master, Daniel K. Miller, died on September 15, 1969 and was buried with Lodge Burial Services, with 21 members present.

On March 14, 1970, Union Lodge celebrated it's 100th Anniversary in a big way. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, headed by the Grand Master Hiram P. Ball, and Staff, comprising of some 15 men, arrived here from Elizabethtown Pa. At 4:30 P.M. And prepared to visit Union Lodge No. 479. After changing clothing and viewing our relics and trophies assembled in our basement museum, in our Temple, which were explained by Brothers Past Masters William Arters, C. Lee Care and John M. Hohl.

At precisely 5:00 P.M., our Worshipful Master, Brother Oscar M. Houp, opened the Lodge in the Master Masons Degree. Every seat plus extra chairs were filled by approximately 200 brethren, members of Union Lodge and neighboring Lodges from Reading, Pottstown, Harrisburg, Philadelphia and other localities. At 5:45 P.M. The visit of Grand Master Ball and the other members of Grand lodge were announced. After welcoming them, the Grand Master presented Gold Emblems, in token of their Fifty Year Membership in Union Lodge to Earl Linderman, George L. Mohr, Lewis Holstein and Oscar Y. Schmeck. Brothers Clarence W. Grim, Walter C. Wolf, and George H. Wert were entitled to receive these medals also, but were unable to be present to receive them.

After this business was disposed of, the Grand Master complemented the Lodge on it's Hundredth Birthday and told us of the conditions that existed in this country one hundred years ago.

After introducing the members of his accompanying group, the Grand Master turned the gavel back to Worshipful Master Houp. The Grand Lodge retired, after which our Master closed the Lodge and all left for the fire company building. A banquet was held beginning at 6:30 P.M. When members of Grand Lodge spoke after which the day was ended.

On Saturday September 5, 1970, an announced event took place. Seven Masonic Brethren placed the large stainless steel Masonic Emblem over the entrance to the Temple. This emblem is a result in the interest in its placement, by Past Master Herman Musser.

When he heard of the idea of placing an emblem on the building, Brother Musser asked his friends of other Lodges about one of stainless steel. He was encouraged to go ahead with the idea and through his friends, the Lantz Brothers of Union Lodge, he had the pattern made by Reading Pattern Works.

After this was finished, he contacted officials of Penn Steel Castings Co. who very cooperatively cast the emblem free of charge.

The Lantz Brothers proceeded to machine the casting. It weighs approximately 150 pounds and is a lasting emblem of our fraternity.

Those present at its placement were, Brother Past Master Herman Musser, his brother Sylvester Musser, Worshipful Master Oscar Houp, Brother Senior Warden J. Edward Wood and his son, who helped in the raising of the heavy emblem to its present position, Gerald Wells and Allen Althouse who did the necessary carpenter work and John M. Hohl, sidewalk supervisor. The emblem, if all goes well, will outlast all of us.

Among the things contributed by various members toward the improvement of conditions here, at the corner of Second and Washington Streets, is the landscaping of the grounds by the firm of Buddies Nurseries, whose proprietors are Harold C. Hart and Past Master Donald Peiffer, both of whom are members of Union Lodge. The grounds were graded, more top soil applied and grass seed sown. The work was performed by the men sent by this firm, plus some assistance of some of the members of the Lodge. The hired help was paid by the above mentioned firm, and they spent four days improving the grounds. The appearance of the lot has been very much improved and we are very

grateful for this gift of a good appearance of our grounds.

On the notices we received on December 31, 1970, we noted that our Worshipful Master for the year was J. Edward Wood Jr., our Senior Warden was James H. Bitting and our Junior Warden was Leon E. Adam. Brother Glenn G. Hart was to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree but no other candidates were mentioned.

On January 28, 1971, we received notice that Brother Norman Hughes died on December 8, 1970. It also announced that the laying of a memorial wreath on George Washington's Monument, at Valley Forge, would take place on Sunday February 14th at 3:00 P.M. An inquiry was to be made into the character of Daniel William Light for another Lodge. No candidates for Union Lodge at this time.

On March 3rd it was announced that tickets could be purchased for the 101st Banquet, but no candidates reported and Glenn G. Hart received the Master Masons Degree.

On April 1st, announcements were made that examinations of visitors would be exemplified. The Acacia Club of Reading would be our guests and also the new approved notices would be used. No candidates again this evening.

At the meeting held April 29th Brother Rev. Stanley Wagner presented a very fine description of Solomon's Temple. Again no petitions.

June 3, 1971, a young Master Masons Night was held and Brother Warren V. Witman's death, on April 28th, was announced.

On September 2nd, the deaths of two Brethren, William H. Jacobs on June 13th and Past Master George C. Sprague on July 22nd, were announced. Again no candidates were mentioned.

The notice for the September 30th meeting was marked by the visit of the officers of the Seventh Masonic District, Brother Carl A. Focht, and the observation of Past Masters Night. A fitting Memorial to the deceased Past Masters was observed. Sixteen living Past Masters were present. The petition of Henry Harrison Hyneman was approved.

James H. Bitting was elected Worshipful Master at the meeting held December 2, 1971. On January 27, 1972, Henry Harrison Hyneman received the Master Masons Degree and Daniel Russell Heist received the Entered Apprentice Degree. We were all

invited to the formal presentation of the new District Deputy Grand Master, Brother John R. Price, at a special meeting of Lodge No. 549.

At the meeting of February 17, 1972, an announcement was made of the Annual Banquet, to be held March 10th and a petition was received from Alfred Twardowski. He was approved and entered at the March 23rd meeting.

At the April 27th meeting he received the Second Degree.

At the meeting of May 25, 1972, Brother Twardowski received the Master Masons degree. The petition of John William McMullen was received and notice was taken of the deaths of three of our brethren last month. They were Brothers Lewis R. Jones, Walter C. Wolf and Past Master William G. Arters. Brother Arters had a private funeral on May 2nd, but the following Brethren were invited: John Holstein, Murrey Shingle, Howard Murrey, Earl Linderman, Gail Hook and John M. Hohl. Brother Henry Hyneman served as one of the pall bearers.

It was announced that the June meeting would be held on June 22nd, but for the first time in the history of Union Lodge No. 479, this meeting was canceled. Hurricane Agnes was so violent, that flooding made it impossible for the officers to reach the Temple. Because of this cancellation, a meeting was held July 20th at which time the petitions of Melvin Stanley Gaul, Peter Charles Knerr and James Frederick Knisely were acted upon and approved. Also at this session, Brothers Carroll S. Arnold, Norman Danner, William Myers and Winfield Romig were passed to the chair.

The September meeting was held on September 21, 1972, when Peter Charles Knerr received the Entered Apprentice Degree. Past Masters Night was observed and the official visitation from the officers of the Seventh Masonic District and the new District Deputy, Brother John R. Price, took place. Also a minute of silent prayer was held for Brother Howard Murrey, who died August 13, 1972.

The October meeting was held on October 19, 1972, when Peter C. Knerr received the Fellow Craft Degree. It was also announced that the Annual Ladies Night would be held Saturday November 11, 1972 and an extra meeting would be held October 24th for the conferring of degrees. At the November 16th meeting, John C Zerr Jr. was approved for membership and the Master Masons Degree was conferred upon Peter Charles Knerr and the Fellow Craft degree upon James Fredrick Knisley.

An extra meeting was held on December 21, 1972, for the conferring of the Master Masons Degree upon Melvin Stanley Gaul and the entrance of John C. Zerr Jr.

The annual election of officers was held December 21st when Leon E. Adam was elected Worshipful Master. This closed Brother Past Master James Bitting's year which was an inspiring one and successful in every way.