

CROWNS OF GOLD

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To celebrate 50th anniversary of Chapter.

Speech for Worthy Matron:

Someone has said that each day we live makes the yesterdays a dream of happiness. Tonight we are reminiscing through the past fifty years and bringing to mind some of the happenings of ----- Chapter since it was first instituted. We look back into the past and see a period of years filled with a mixture of business and pleasure, joys and sorrows, anxieties and cares. It seems that providence has directed each event for us, and in remembering these things, we will be rewarded with fond recollections, and with a record for which we have hoped and desired. The past is no longer before us, but we can turn back the pages of time and review with pride the accomplishments of our Chapter during the past fifty years.

We wonder what our Charter members would think if it were possible for them to appear after so many years have passed, and examine our work and our records. We wonder if they would think that we have made progress, and that we have grasped every opportunity of unselfish service to others. We may well feel that our own lives have been enlarged and enriched, and that we are now ready to continue onward and upward with the kind of record we have tried to attain, to fulfill our duty and our destiny. To do this, it is well for us to view the stepping stones by which all these things have been accomplished.

Soloist sings:

Tune: "Long, Long Ago."

Let us go back to the time we first met,  
Long, long ago; long, long ago;  
Back to the time we can never forget,  
Back to the long, long ago;  
Back to the time when our Chapter was new,  
When all together we numbered but few;  
When vows were made to remain always true,  
Long, long ago; long ago.

Let us tonight try to call back the years,  
Long, long ago; long, long ago;  
Forgetting sorrows, our doubts and our fears,  
Long, long ago; long ago;  
We know that service cannot be repaid,  
But from our memory such things never fade,  
As we recall all the friendships we made,  
Long, long ago; long ago.

Raps are heard outside the door.

Warder:

Worthy Matron, there is an alarm at the door.

Worthy Matron:

Sister Warder, you will ascertain the cause of the alarm.

Warder answers the alarm.

Warder:

Worthy Matron, the alarm was caused by visitors seeking admission to our Chapter.



Worthy Matron:

Are they properly prepared?

Warder:

They are.

Worthy Matron:

You will admit them.

Spirit of Progress enter with five other members. Spirit of Progress wears a gold crown. Other members carry gold crowns. All form line back of Esther's station and bow. Spirit of Progress marches back of Altar, then east to position between dais and Altar. When in position in front of dais, she turns, facing west and speaks as follows:

I come to you tonight in the Spirit of Progress. This Chapter was not constituted 50 years ago for that period alone, but for the time which was to come when everyone who was privileged to see His Star in the East, would realize that all that was done would be held sacred, and in later years, others would look upon their work and call it blessed. Through the past 50 years, the members of this Chapter have been bound together for the good of humanity. We have tried to extend fellowship to our fellowmen, and in so doing, have promoted the welfare of our Order. We have only to review our records to learn just how well these things have been accomplished.

Reader gives briefly the first ten years of Chapter history.

Spirit of Progress:

Sister Adah, (Adah rises) the work of the first ten years of our history could not have been accomplished without Fidelity. Those who were our Charter members, worked together with faith, were true to their obligations, and gave us a firm foundation on which to build. For the untiring efforts of those who have served in your station through the years, we present to you the Crown of Fidelity. May you wear it with pride for the debt we owe to the modest maiden whose name you bear.

Adah's assistant north in line, passes back of Altar, turns east, steps to right of Adah, and places crown on her head, after which she takes position between stations of Adah and Ruth.

As soon as Adah is crowned, soloist sings:

Tune: "Danny Boy."

Dear Adah you have always been so loyal,  
And to your station you have been so true,  
And for your service you have freely given,  
We want to say, we love and honor you;  
Through all the years you have to vows been faithful,  
You have been always true as true can be,  
And now we crown you for your loyal service,  
Could not be had without Fidelity.

Reader gives next ten years of history.

Spirit of Progress:

Sister Ruth, (Ruth rises) so much has been woven into the past records of our Chapter that required constant service, that we find past members have pro-



vided for it's future welfare. For the faithful service of those who have filled your station through the years, and for the accomplishments of their many duties, we are reminded that these things should not go unrewarded. Because we have found you true to every duty, as well as, those who have served before you, we present to you the Crown of Constancy. May you remain true to the things which you believe to be right as you follow the example of those who have served before you by being constant, loyal, and true.

Ruth's assistant next in line, passes back of Altar, turns east, stops to right of Ruth and places crown on her head, after which she takes position between stations of Ruth and Esther.

As soon as Ruth is crowned, soloist sings:

Tune: "In The Garden."

You worked in the fields all alone,  
As you gathered sheaves for the harvest,  
And your love was true, for the one you knew,  
Was always true to each test;  
So through fifty years, you have stilled our fears,  
With no doubts that you'd walk alone,  
But the God above, shares with you His love,  
And tells you, that you're His own.

Reader gives briefly the next 10 years of history.

Spirit of Progress:

Sister Esther, (Esther rises) you have been our Queen to serve in magnificence and splendor because you chose to be loyal to your people. Through the past 50 years we have all been called upon to make decisions in regard to loyalty to friends, to our country, and to our God. The loyalty of those who have served in your station have helped us to decide for ourselves the things which were right and just, let the consequences be what they would. Because of the sincerity to the way of right and justice of all who have served in your station through the years, we present to you the Crown of Loyalty. May the lessons which you teach help us in coming years to be loyal to ourselves, to each other, and to the best there is in us.

Esther's assistant steps to right of Esther and places crown on her head, after which she takes position between stations of Esther and Martha.

As soon as Esther is crowned, soloist sings:

Tune: "Beautiful Garden of Prayer."

We now crown you with Loyalty's emblem,  
For to your friends you have been so true;  
Through the years you've been loyal to kindred,  
So to you many honors are due;  
For you bravely faced danger to show your true love,  
As you prayed for your downtrodden race,  
When through sorrow and care,  
You found comfort in prayer,  
When great danger you knew you must face.



Reader gives briefly next 10 years of history.

Spirit of Progress:

Sister Martha, (Martha rises) our lives reach out beyond material things, and we so often try to search for things beyond our knowledge. The answer to this can be found only in faith. The assurance that we will have a resurrection after death, makes the troubles of this life much easier to bear, and gives us a comforting hope for the future. For the belief which has ever been present in the lives of those who have served in your station, we present to you the Crown of Faith. May the inspiration which we have received through the years from your truths, cause us to search for the infinite things which are beyond our knowledge, and give to us the assurance that beyond this life there will be a life eternal.

Martha's assistant passes back of Altar, turns east, steps to left of Martha, and places crown on her head, after which she takes position between Martha and Electa.

As soon as Martha is crowned, soloist sings:

Tune: "This Is My Father's World."

Dear Martha, give us faith  
To look beyond and see,  
If we believe, we will receive,  
The best in destiny;  
Oh give to us the hope,  
That in that home above,  
We'll have the best, enjoy a rest,  
With all hearts filled with love.

Reader gives briefly the last 10 years of history.

Spirit of Progress:

Sister Electa, (Electa rises) you, and those who have served in your station before you, have been generous to the poor and the distressed. As you did so, you put into practice the greatest of all commandments that we love one another. You were heroic in time of persecution, holding high the cross that all the world might see that you were a follower of the Christ. May this be a lesson to all of us to observe the laws which are given to us by the greatest of all Teachers. For your great spirit of hospitality, and your expression of love through the years, we present to you the Crown of Love. May you wear it with pride for it is given to you because all who have served in your station during the past fifty years, have been heroic in persecution, and have been abundantly blessed with charity, love, and understanding.

Electa's assistant passes back of Altar, turns east, steps to the left of Electa, places crown on her head, after which she takes position between Electa and Adah, east of Altar.

As soon as Electa is crowned, soloist sings:



Tune: "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms."

Electa, we crown you with all that is dear  
To our hearts when we think of each year,  
When our faithful ones served just to give to us now  
All things which bring comfort and cheer;  
The friendships we hold, that's so dear to our hearts,  
The love and the charity too,  
Will stay in our memory as long as we live,  
For it's love coming to us from you.

Worthy Matron speaks:

Through the past 50 years we have been bound together by the ties which unite us for the good of humanity. We have tried to extend fellowship to our fellowmen that in so doing we might promote the welfare of our Order. Providence has directed each event in the past, but the past is no longer an open book. It is now closed, and we can only look forward to the unknown expanse which lies before us. The years roll around very swiftly, and we are advancing with rapid strides. May we continue to cultivate and strengthen the fraternal bonds as we unite together for the good of our beloved Order, and for the good of humanity.

We are standing at the gateway of another span of years,  
And as we now look forward, we must banish doubts and fears,  
For those who served us in the past, kindled the torch we know,  
So we must hold it high with faith, and keep it's light aglow.

Worthy Matron hands gavel to Worthy Patron and joins Spirit of Progress on the right. They march together to position within labyrinth to join other officers who at same time, step within labyrinth to form circle around Altar, leaving room for Worthy Matron and Spirit of Progress. When all are in position, Chapter is called up, officers clasp hands, and all join in singing, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds." During the last verse, officers return to stations as in initiation service.

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