

THE GOLDEN LINKS  
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,  
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,  
Hamilton, Missouri.

Lights are lowered for service.

Fifty year members are introduced and welcomed by Worthy Matron as follows:

I feel sure this occasion is a very outstanding one for it gives us the privilege of honoring you who have served our Order for the past 50 years. We are very proud of your record and realize that you have placed before us a banner, unstained and untarnished, and have given us the challenge to keep it so. You have given many years of service to our Order, and this service has been lovingly dedicated to charity, truth, and loving kindness. We extend to you our congratulations. It is a privilege and an honor to welcome you to this Chapter. May you long be spared to enjoy with us the love and fellowship which we offer. (Use the words "many years" in place of "50 years" for Charter members.)

A half century of service and devotion,  
A half century of happiness and tears,  
There is formed a chain yet unbroken,  
The treasure of these golden years;  
Coming years will be filled with much gladness,  
To repay you for good you have done;  
For fifty years of loyal devotion  
Will bring love which you truly have won.

Many years of etc.  
Many years of etc.

For many years of etc.

As soon as guests are seated in the East, the Marshal, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Associate Matron, Treasurer, and five Star points form semicircle in front of dais, facing east. Each officer carries strip of heavy yellow paper about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 ft. long. As semicircle is formed, Secretary with lighted candle takes position at south end of semicircle, and Chaplain with lighted candle, at north end of semicircle. Each officer with paper strip, represents five years of service. As first two lines of following poem is given, Treasurer pins the ends of her paper strip together, forming first link of chain. As second two lines are given, the officer next to Treasurer begins forming chain by passing her paper through link made by Treasurer, and after doing so, pins paper to form second link. As next two lines are given, next officer forms link, etc. Links should be made quickly to keep in time with poem.

Secretary, Chaplain, or Worthy Matron gives following poem:

Five years of faithful service,  
Just a start upon life's way;  
Ten years more and it will find you  
Farther on at close of day;  
Fifteen years that life has given,  
Interspersed with work and fun;  
Twenty years and work not ended,  
For the race is not half run;  
Twenty five - it adds another,  
Chain grows longer every year;  
Thirty years and you're still working,  
For your Chapter always dear;  
Thirty five years, you enjoy it,  
And your work is not yet done,

Many years of etc.  
Few years more etc.  
Other years that etc.  
Time goes on and work etc.  
Just a few years etc.  
Yet some more and etc.  
You keep serving, for etc.

Forty years finds you still working,  
Starting right in with the fun;  
Forty five years, time keeps marching,  
But your praises yet are sung;  
Fifty years, would you believe it,  
You are only fifty young.

Time moves on, you are still  
Years go by, and time etc.  
All these years, would etc.  
Makes you still to us look  
young.

As soon as verse is given and chain formed, soloist sings:

Tune: - "Let The Lower Lights Be Burning". (Hymn)

We now bring our welcome to you,  
A glad welcome just for you,  
For we know you have been faithful  
All the way your journey through.

Chorus: Fifty years of faithful service,  
Fifty years of watchful care;  
We are here to sing your praises,  
As with you our joys we share.

Many years etc.  
Many years etc.

May sweet memories often linger  
With you at the close of day;  
May the golden gleams of sunset,  
Close for you each perfect day.

May your clouds have silver linings,  
If they chance to pass your way;  
May our Star shine all the brighter  
As you journey on your way.

At close of song gifts or flowers may be presented as follows:

From out of our hearts treasures  
Comes this little gift to you,  
For you've sown the seeds of kindness  
And they've brought reward to you.  
May the sheaves which you now gather,  
With their fruits of gleaming gold,  
Bring you joy and peace together,  
With a wealth of love untold;  
With this gift you'll find a greeting, With these flowers you'll etc.  
And a message just for you  
From each member of our Chapter,  
With our love sincere and true.

We now bring these flowers to you,

At close of presentation, chain may be placed at foot of dais, as officers return to stations.  
If service is used for Charter members (or other members) use words at right of line as suggested.

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