

THE SILVER YEAR
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Hamilton, Missouri.

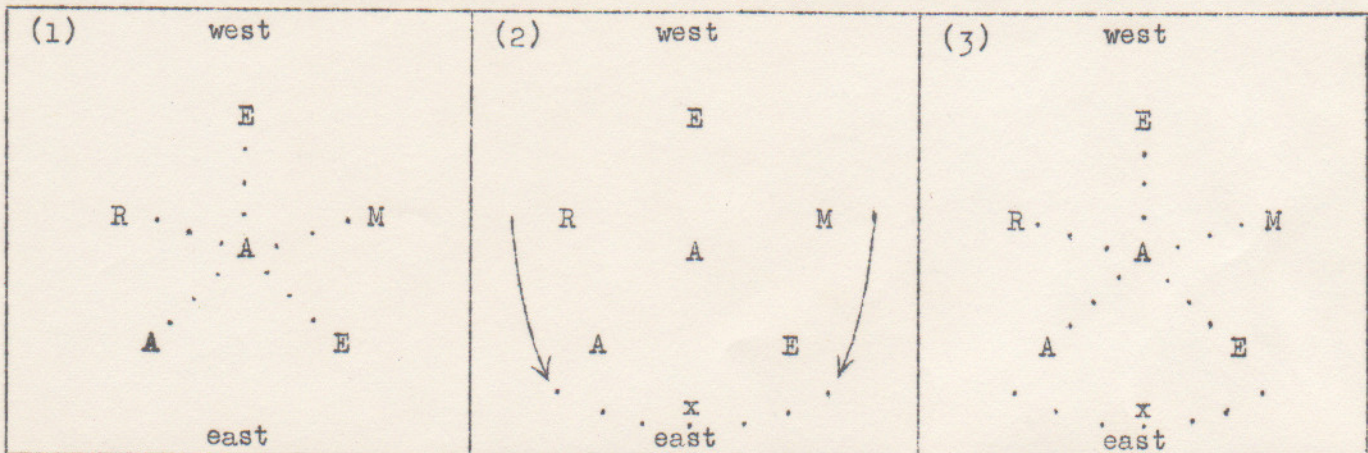
Welcome speech by Worthy Matron:

We are very happy at this time to welcome all who have come to help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of our Chapter. To us this is a very important occasion. Those of you who took the first vows at our Altar, and who first clasped hands in fraternal love, will realize more than anyone else what the past 25 years have accomplished in the work of our Order. We have indeed gathered here a little and there a little to make our Chapter more profitable and more attractive. We who have added our names to the list in later years are reaping the reward of faithful service which has during this time been given to our Chapter. To those who have been members of this Chapter for the past 25 years, may we say that your service has been love, kindness, and charity in action, and the beauty of your service has been the spirit which prompted it. Not all who became members when our Chapter was first instituted are here to enjoy this occasion with us, for they have been called to join the great Order above. In their memory may we pay this tribute:

The links have been severed one by one from our silver chair of love,
For Orders are forming day by day in our Father's house above;
The work they have done so nobly, they have not done in vain,
For the links will all be welded to complete our endless chain.

To those who have a part in this 25th anniversary we would say:

God took a part of Heaven's blue, and a bit of golden sun,
And when a cloud went sailing by, a bit of white was won;
A little fern gave us our green, and then some red was found,
And all were put together for points our Star around;
These colors are a gift from God bestowed upon us here,
And they are ours to enjoy through each and every year;
And may we keep this symbol clear and clean from any stain;
Until the world shall come to end, may our Star ever reign.



At the close of Worthy Matron's speech, she hands gavel to Worthy Patron and approaches Altar on the east. At same time, Associate Matron rises and approaches Altar on the west. Worthy Matron and Associate Matron clasp hands across the Altar. The Associate Matron carries in her left hand a lighted silver taper, and after they have clasped hands she hands the lighted taper to the Worthy Matron who bears it to the East and places it upon her pedestal, as Associate Matron resumes her station.

Three extra members are needed to assist officers in forming Star at Altar. All in Star formation carry lighted candles. Star is formed as follows: Star points pass

to center of Star next to Altar. Secretary and Marshal form point with Adah; Conductress and a member form point with Ruth; Associate Matron and a member form point with Esther; Associate Conductress and a member form point with Martha; and Chaplain and Treasurer form point with Electa. When all are in position, Star is formed as in Fig. 1.

As soon as Star is formed, a member with birthday cake on which are 25 unlighted candles passes to the East and places the cake upon a pedestal which has previously been placed in front of dais. Several other members, with equal number on each side, and each with lighted candles, approach the East, Fig. 2, and the two members next to the East step forward and light the candles on the cake. When candles are lighted, these members step back in place, and together with the other candle bearers, they form a semicircle in front of dais, facing west, with member who carried the cake standing back of pedestal, Fig. 3. When all are in position, soloist sings.

Tune: "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem". (Hymn)

We come to celebrate the birth, Of our dear Chapter here,
We come to sing in words of praise, The memories we hold dear;
Through years gone by it's members, Have served with truth and love,
Twenty five years of peace and joy, And faith in things above.

This lovely Star has guided us, With all it's lessons true,
It's colors always shining out, Teaching the right to do;
It's blue and yellow gleaming, With white to give us light,
With green and red together form, Our emblem of the right.

Oh happy anniversary, Twenty five years of joy,
They have been years we hold so dear, Years time cannot destroy;
And as we come together, To celebrate this day,
May there be many more birthdays, With peace and love always.

Verse for Worthy Matron:

May our Chapter have many more birthdays,
With fair skies to shine all the way,
And if any clouds seem to gather,
May we turn them about every day;
And as this anniversary shows silver,
We'll keep all our clouds turned about,
For clouds always show silver linings,
As long as they're turned inside out;
May we have many more anniversaries,
That will shine with a bright silvery glow,
And when our anniversary turns golden,
May there still be some silver to show.

At close of verse, officers join in singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" and return to stations during singing of last verse as in the initiation ceremony.

During the song and closing verse, all forming Star face the East, and those in semicircle face the Altar.

Children may be used to light the candles on the cake if desired.

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