

AS TIME MOVES ON  
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,  
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,  
Hamilton, Missouri.

A wagon wheel, painted white or covered with white paper or cloth, is previously placed in the Chapter room, standing in front of, and to the right of the Worthy Matron.

Welcome speech by Worthy Matron:

There are no guests in our Chapter who are more deserving of honor than those who have served our Order through the years which have passed and gone. Life is not measured by time alone, but by growth of mind and soul. Life is not measured by wealth, for although we strive for success because it means security and independence, wealth can never be the measure of life. Life is measured only by the standard given us by our Creator, and it is only by keeping our souls in tune with the Divine will that we grow and that we live.

The work of the Eastern Star inspires us to new thoughts and new ideas, and we are constantly finding new riches in service. As Charter members, and as Past Matrons and Past Patrons, you are very familiar with the lessons taught by our beautiful Order, and we find they are of deep significance. When taken together the five Star points signify the advancement of human thoughts and the progress of civilization, and we now find ourselves following new laws which represent God as a kind and loving Father, and still teaching charity, truth and loving kindness.

Just as the moving of a wheel, time has made changes in our Order. Many who were faithful workers when our Chapter was first instituted, have long since gone to their reward. Of the ----- Charter members, only ----- remain, and to them we express our thanks, and pay our tribute. Many of our Past Matrons and Past Patrons have gone to join the Great Order above, but because of their faithful service they will ever live in our memory. To all who are here we express our thanks and our sincere appreciation.

You have been faithful through the years as all our records show,  
And you'll always remain this way as years may come and go;  
And for the service you have given we bring our tribute true,  
For time moves on but does not change the faith we have in you.

As soon as guests are escorted to the East, Associate Matron takes position west of Altar and speaks:

We learn a lesson every day from heroines of our Star,  
But time moves on and now we find we are removed so far  
From all the things they had to do to live in bygone days,  
But we can emulate their truths in our more modern days.

Adah was so true and kind, but time moves on and now  
We still feel it is only just to keep a spoken vow;  
Ruth as a gleaner in the field was very sweet and true,  
And teaches us reward will come to all who carry through.

Esther was a lovely Queen who dared a King to face;  
She risked her crown and even life to save her captive race;  
The faith that Martha had we find was great enough to give  
A trustful faith that we can look beyond the grave and live.

Electa showed such wondrous love when she upheld the cross;  
She showed that through the Christian faith we never suffer loss;  
And like these faithful ones who've served our Chapter through the years,  
She had the love and charity to comfort doubts and fears.

These are the heroines we love, who lived in bygone days;  
As time moves on we still will try to emulate their ways;  
For they were born to give us hope as we see lights afar,  
And through the years which are to come, we'll follow that dear Star.

The Associate Conductress passes to position to right of wheel and speaks:

Time moves along just like a wheel that travels on it's way,  
As it moves on, time also brings some changes every day;  
So we present a wheel of white for honor which is due,  
To all the dear ones of the past, so loyal and so true.

Esther rises and speaks: (Esther does not present flowers)

The white will represent the faith and of the courage too,  
Which has been given these dear ones to help them carry through;  
It forms a background for the love which they used every day,  
To scatter friendship, joy, and cheer as they went on their way.

Adah rises and speaks: (Adah presents blue flowers to Conductress)

I want to bring a bit of blue from out the cloudless sky,  
For with such great fidelity, we could on them rely;  
Our violets show a loyalty from which we lessons learned,  
For they served faithfully each day for honors they have earned.

Ruth rises and speaks: (Ruth presents yellow flowers to Conductress)

I hope the lovely jessamine with it's rich golden hue,  
Can find some place to honor those who have for years been true;  
It willingly will share it's place with faithful ones each day,  
Who so deserve our word of praise as they pass on their way.

Martha rises and speaks: (Martha presents green leaves to Conductress)

It is with faith we bring our gift that they may look above,  
And see the promise that is made for those who serve with love;  
So let our faith be round about the work we do each day,  
That we may be encircled with a truth that guides our way.

Electa rises and speaks: (Electa presents red roses to Conductress)

I bring a very lovely gift, the fragrant rose so red,  
That those who served so faithfully will always round them shed  
The seeds of charity and truth, as did each noble Past,  
And give in loyalty and love, a service that will last.

Conductress with basket, gathers the flowers from Adah, Ruth, Martha, and Electa,  
and takes position to left of wheel, opposite that of Associate Conductress. The  
flowers should all be on wire stems that they may be placed on the wheel.

Conductress speaks:

In honor and in memory of all our Charter members, I place the blue violets.

(With the assistance of the Associate Conductress she places the violets in the hub of the wheel. These flowers may all be paper ones, and there should be enough to completely fill each required space.)

Associate Conductress speaks:

In honor and in memory of all who served each humble station, I place the golden jessamine as a reward for faithful service.

(With the assistance of the Conductress, she places the golden flowers around the outside of the hub, forming a circle around the blue.)

Conductress speaks:

In memory and in honor of those who have completed their labors, and who serve the great Order above, I place the green of immortality and faith.

(With the assistance of the Associate Conductress she places a green vine (or fern leaves) around the rim of the wheel.)

Associate Conductress speaks:

The spokes of our wheel represent the Past Matrons and Past Patrons who have through the years kept our wheel in motion by their faithful service.

As soon as she is through speaking, Warder opens the outer door and a brother dressed as Father Time enters. He has a long white beard, is dressed in white robe (Made of sheets) and is very stooped. He carries a scythe over his shoulder. He walks very slowly to the west side of Altar, and kneels. He carries a scroll from which he reads the names of the Past Matrons and Past Patrons, also Charter members, if desired. As each name is read, the Conductress and Associate Conductress place a red rose on the spokes of the wheel, placing them so when all are on they will be evenly distributed. Each Past Matron and Past Patron present may place their own rose on the wheel if desired.

After all names have been called, Father Time retires.

Soloist sings: Tune - "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton."

Past Matrons and Patrons, we welcome you here;  
We are glad to greet you with our words of cheer;  
To you we will always be glad just to say,  
We will love you always, not just for a day;  
You served our dear Chapter, each one for a year,  
With you in the East we had nothing to fear;  
Now your work is over, you've nothing to do,  
But rest and be happy the coming years through.

We are always glad to say welcome to you,  
For through the past years you have to us been true;  
You worked for us always with such love and truth,  
As faithful as Adah, as loving as Ruth;  
We know you've been loyal like Esther of old;  
We know you've had faith that's more precious than gold;  
For Martha and Electa had lessons for you,  
And we've found you always so loyal and true.

Through years yet to come we now want you to know,  
That we will be faithful as days come and go;  
You set an example of truth and of peace,  
And you'll find that our love for you will not cease;  
You'll always be to us our Pastors who are dear,  
And you deserve honor each day of the year;  
As years come and go there'll be nothing to mar  
Your great faith and your trust in our Eastern Star.

After song officers return to stations.

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