

Journal of the Masonic Unit, American Topical Assn.

> Waiter J. Kirby, Editor 2106 N. Van Buren Street Little Rock, AR 72207

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WE ARE A TEAR OLD!!

Since the by-laws of the Masonic Unit are set up on a fiscal year begining May 1, this brings us to the end of our FIRST FISCAL YEAR!

This year has been beset with many difficulties — difficulties known to only a half-dozen persons. For the most part, these have been met without complaining and have been overcome, leaving the Unit in better condition for the coming year.

We have finished the year with 62 members, which may seem discoursging.
"Every Nember Get a Member," and watch our Unit grow! With a larger membership, we will have funds for promotion that are now lacking. Ask Secy. Needham for application blanks — and don't stop at one application!

Due to a late start, this in only our <u>fifth</u> edition of THE PHILATELIC FREE-MASON, and will be our last of Volume 1. We have been given a number of checklists and biographies, some of the unusual in that entirely original material has been used. We have tried to avoid biographies that have been published heretofore unless new material has been found. We need more research from members; two or three can't do it all.

This also brings about the election of officers for the coming year. A ballot is enclosed for your use. Please fill it out and mail to Secy. Needham TODAY. "Vote, and vote for the good of the order."

This also calls for the paying of dues. Please send your \$5.00 to Secy. Needham NOW. (Foreign members, \$8.00.)

Our Unit will only be what WE make it. Let us all pledge to make it the greatest of all those connected with the American Topical Association.

DUES ARE DUE!

ANOTHER MASON PHILATELLICALLY HONORED—

The USPS has announced a 13¢ stamp to be issued at Meridian, Mise., May 24 honoring Jimmie Rodgers, the Singing Brakeman," it to be a part of the Performing Arts series.

James Charles Rodgers was born Sept. 8, 1897, the youngest of three sons of

Aron Rodgers, a maintenance of way foreman for the Mobile and Ohio railraod at Meridian. At the age of 14 he began his railroad career as water boy for his father's track gang. When 18, an older brother secured him a job as brakeman on the New Orleans and North Eastern railroad.

In 1924 young Rodgers developed tuberculosis, which temporarily ended his railroad career. His hobby had been singing and entertaining his friends, and he now turned to this as a livelihood. Organizing a traveling road show he played to one-night stands until a tornado destroyed his tent. He again turned to the rails, and secured a job as brakeman on the Florida East Coast railroad at Miami. Less than two years later he was terminated because of his health.

Seeking a better olimate, he went to Tucson, Arizona, where he secured a job as a brakeman on the Southern railroad. Frail health soon ended this jobhis last as a railroad man. Returning to the southeast he organized a small band, entertaining over an Asheville, North Carolina, radio station. he attracted the attention of a representative of the Victor Talking Machine Company, now RCA-Victor. He secured an audition in August, 1927, and was an immediate success. His health prevented personal appearances, and his only ventures from his home was for recording sessions and to make a movie, "The Singing Brakeman," which gave him his favorite nickname. He was also known as "The Blue Yodeler" and "Father of Country and Western Musio." During a recording session in New York City he died of a lung hemorraghe on May 26, 1933. In 1961 when the "Country Music Hall of Fame" was established at Nashville, Jimmie Rodgers was the first person named to it.

His home town of Meridian holds the "Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Festival" the last week of May of each year, many of those famous in country music attending and taking part. This year's festival will be held May 21-27. A museum in his honor has been established, and is open to the public.

Jimmie Rodgers was initiated in John L. Spinks Lodge No. 507 on Aug. 9, 1920, passed Dec. 31, 1930, and raised Jan. 5, 1931. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in San Antonia, Texas, May 14, 1931, and affiliated with Alzafar Shrine Temple the next day. His Masonic apron and other mementoes of the Craft are on display in the museum.

DUES ARE DUE!

EARLE CHRISTMAS GRAFTON PAGE-

Dr. Page, after attending the university on a scholarship, graduated in medicine at the head of his class. During World War I he served with the Army Medical Corps in Egypt and France. His political career extended over many years, and he often referred to himself as a "truant surgeon." In 1918 he was elected mayor of Grafton, and in 1919 was elected to Parliament, where he served for more than 40 years. In April of 1919, after the resignation of Menzies as Prime Minister, the Governor General called upon Page as the leader of the Minority Coalition party to serve as Prime Minister, however his term of office only lasted three weeks. He served as Minister of Health from 1949 to 1956, and as a private member until just before his death in 1961.

Page was initiated in Lodge Prince Leopold No. 87, N.S.W. constitution, in Grafton on Dec. 4, 1917, passed Jan. 29, 1918, and raised Feb. 25, 1918. His lodge still holds his Masonic Apron.

Stamp: Scott's #614, S.G. #592, issued March 26, 1975.

NEW MEMBERS --

- 5. Robt. E. Bloodworth, Jr., 2337 Robin Road, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33409
- 14. Howard J. Gaston, 267 W. Granby Road, West Granby, Conn. 06090
- 16. Norman G. Lincoln, 1072 N. Barron St., Eaton, Ohio 45320
- 65. Jeffrey J. Jackmen, 849 Church Street, Raynham, Mass. 02767
- 66. George D. Fallows, Jr., 7555 Brisbane Dr., Richmond, Va. 23225
- 67. Anthony G. Ziages, P.O. Box 28, Lowell, Mass. 01853.
- 68. W. F. Smit, Utrechtseweg 33-C, 6866 CH HEELSUM, The Netherlands.
- (Please make the followin corrections in February-March issue:
- 4. Adrian Faigin, 860 Bronze Lane, Los Angeles Cal. 90049
- 33. Chas. A. Korleski, 1108 Somonauk St., Sycamore, Ill. 60178.)

DUES ARE DUE!

UNIT TO SPONSOR FIRST DAY COVERS-

The Masonic Study Unit will sponsor a first day cover for the Jimmie Rodgers stamp to be issued May 24.

The Unit will also sponsor a first day cover for the George M. Cohan stamp to be issued July 4.

Orders for either cover should be sent to the editor: Walter J. Kirby, 2106 No. Van Buren St., Little Rock, Ark. 72207. Send your order as quickly as possible, but DO NOT order the two stamps together. Price will be \$1.00 each, plus a SASE. All profits will go to the Unit treasurer for use as a part of the regular treasury funds. Don't forget the SASE.

DUES ARE DUE!

JOHAN ERNST GUNNERUS (1718-1773)—

Johan Ernst Gunnerus was a Norwegian theologian and an eminent botanist. He studied in Copenhagen, Denmark, and in Halle and Jena in Germany and graduated as a Doctor of Theology. In 1755 he was a professor in Copenhagen, and in 1758 he became Bishop of Trondheim, Norway. He was a disciple and friend of Prof. Carl von Linne, the Swedish founder of classified botany. Gunnerus was the first man who gave close attention to the Norwegian flora, and distinguished himself in the science of botany. With his friends, Gerhard Schöning, the historian, and Hans Strom, the geologist, he founded the Norwegian Royal Society of Sciences in 1760.

Gunnerus was a member of Lodge "Zu den drei goldenen Sohlüsseln" in Halle. He was initiated May 2, passed May 13 and raised Sept. 3, 1744.

Stamp: Norway, Scott's #564, Oct. 15, 1970.

- Marshall S. Loke

SANTIAGO DERQUI, 33°, was a member of Union Del Plata Lodge No. 1 in Buenos Aires at the same time as Urquiza, Mitre and Sarmiento, all of whom became president of Argentina.

LIFE has its ills, but it is not all evil. If life is worthless, so is immortality.

-. Albert Pike, 33°

ANDRIES WILHELMUS JACOBUS PRETORIUS (1798-1853)-

Born in Graff-Reinet, Cape Colony, Pretorius took part in several frontier campaigns, and in 1837 took part in a preliminary trek to the north, settling in Natal. After the murder of Piet Reteif by Dingaan, the Zulu king, he was appointed commander in chief of Vortrekkers to avenge Reteif, a brother Mason. He met and defeated Dingaan at the Battle of Bloor River in 1838. A vow was taken that if they defeated the Zulu king a church would be built as thanksgiving to the Most High. The church was built and is now a Voertrekker museum.

Although he had left the Cape to get away from English rule, he stayed on in Natal after the English occupation, remaining friendly with the authorities. In 1847 he organized a protest against the pending British occupation of the Orange Free State. This brought him into conflict with Sir Henry Smith, and in 1848 he led a Boer army which was defeated at Boomplaats by the British. He then settled in the Transvaal and in 1852 took a lead in the Sand River Convention which recognized independence of South African Republic and Transvaal. He died in 1853. His son, Martinus Wessels Pretorius, served as president of Orange Free State and of South African Republic.

The elder Pretorius was initiated in Lodge "De Vereeniging" at Graff-Reinet, which was founded Oot. 11, 1833. It is No. 3 under the Grand Lodge of South Africa, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Stamp: Union of South Africa, Scott's #216; S.G. #167, issued in 1955.

- Dr. C. R. Mackenzie

DUES ARE DUE!

VISCOUNT RICHARD BEDFORD BENNETT (1870-1947)-

Canada's twelfth Prime Minister, Bennett was born in Hopewell Hill, Albert county, a small village in New Brunswick. Graduated from Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., and went to Chatham, New Brunswick, as a young school teacher. He soon began to "read law" with a local lawyer and was admitted to the bar of New Brunswick in 1893. He served as governor of Dalhousie University from 1920 to 1939.

Bro. Bennett as a Canadian Conservative politician served in the local legislature, then became Minister of Justice, Attorney General, Minister of He also held the Portfolio of Minister of Finance and Prime Minister. External Affairs. In October, 1930, he led the Canadian delegation to the Imperial Conference in London. He settled for Canada the amended terms of the Statute of Westminster in 1931 and presided at the Imperial Economic Conference in Ottawa in 1932. In 1933 he led the Canadian delegation to the World Economic Conference in London and acted as Chairman of the Wheat Conference while there. His government negotiated with the United States concerning the St. Lawrence Seaway and in 1932 signed a treaty later rejected by the American Senate. He represented Canada at the League of Nations Assembly in 1934.

He was a very generous man and donated large monetary sums to religious and philantrophic causes. He retired to Great Britain in 1939 where he became a member of the House of Lords. In 1941 he was created Viscount Bennett

of Mickleham, Calgary and Hopewell. In 1944 he gave \$750,000.00 to Dalhousie University. Died June 26, 1947, at Juniper Hill, Mickleham, Surrey, England.

He was initiated in Miramichi Lodge No. 18, Chatham, N.B., Feb. 18, 1896, Bassed March 19 and raised May 19, 1896. He never took a dimit, but remained in good standing until his death. Moved to Calgary, Alberta, in 1897. Affiliated with Ashlar Lodge No. 28, Calgary, April 14, 1947.

Stamps: Scott's #357 (1955); #590 (1973).

DUES ARE DUE!

ELY S. PARKER (1828-1895)-

Parker was one of the prominent Freemasons of the Civil War era. This Worshipful Brother, Excellent Companion and Sir Knight was a brigadier general of the Union Army under General U.S. Grant. He served as Grant's secretary and was present at the surrender of General Lee, writing the official document of the surrender. Bro. Ely was a member of the Seneca Indian tribe, born on the Tenawanda Indian Reservation in New York in 1848, the son of Seneca Indian ohief, William Parker and grandson of the famous Chief Red Jacket. Parker, in his turn, became a Sachem (or chief,) the eighth such of the tribe. His Indian name was DO-NE-HO-GA-WA, meaning "Keeper of the Western Door." President Grant later appointed him Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This brother is an excellent feature to go along with the 13¢ Indian head penny stamp, recently issued. This year is the 150th anniversary of Parker's birth, a fitting tribute to an Indian, a Mason and an American.

Bro. Parker's Masonic record is as follows: Raised in Batavia Lodge No. 88, Batavia, N.Y. in 1847; affiliated with Valley Lodge No. 109, of the same city May 6, 1850; dimitted Sept. 6, 1858, to become a founder and Worshipful Master of Miners' Lodge No. 273, Galena, Ill.; dimitted from there in 1862, to become first Master of Akron Lodge No. 527, Akron, N.Y. He was Grand Orator of the Illinois Grand Lodge in 1861. He was exalted in Hamilton Chapter No. 62, R.A.M., Rochester, N.Y. in 1851; became the first Exalted High Priest of Jo Davies Chapter No. 51 in Illinois (1859-61.) Was knighted in Monroe Commandery No. 12, Knights Templar, Rochester, N.Y. in 1853, and received the Cryptic Degrees at Elmyra, N. Y. He died in 1895.

- Richard M. Needham.

DUES ARE DUE!

HELP WANTED -

MANY MEMBERS sent us a biography on Sir Sandford Fleming (see page 14) but it was recently called to our attention that nothing was said about his being raised to the degree of Master Mason. We have checked the biographies sent us, and none give this information. Can you help us?

DUES ARE DUE!

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, "the Great Commoner," was raised in Lincoln Lodge No. 14, Lincoln, Neb., April 15, 1902. He later affiliated with Temple Lodge No. 247, Miami, Florida.

"CHARLIE" CHASE, movie comedian, was a member of Henry S. Orme Lodge No. 458, Los Angeles, California.

AGAIN HELP IS WANTED-

According to "Stamp Collector" France has already announced 56 stamps for 1978 "with more to come." At least 19 of these are "Famous Persons," though no names have been announced at this time. Will any of these be Masons? We appeal to our members, especially those having an interest in this country, to keep us informed should members of the Craft be honored.

DUES ARE DUE!

MANUEL LUIS OSORIO (1808-1899)-

Osorio, Brazilian soldier and patron of the cavalry, enlisted in the army in 1823, taking part in the siege of Montevideo. In 1824 he was promoted to second lieutenant. In the campaigns from 1825 to 1828 he stood out, especially at the Battle of Ituzaingo where, for acts of bravery, he rose to the rank of lieutenant. In the Civil War, from 1835 to 1845, he fought for the



victory of lawfulness and of national union. In that period he received promotions to captain, major and lieutenant-colonel. In command of the 2nd cavalry regiment against Uruguay and Argentina in 1851-52 he attained the rank of colonel. He stood out in his brilliant performance at Nonte Caseros, Argentina. He was raised to the rank of brigadier in 1856, and in 1864, at the head of a division, invaded Uruguay, participating in the siege of Paieandu and

Montevideo. He was elevated to field marshal in 1865, to army marshal in 1877, and in 1878 was named Minister of War.

Osorio was made a Mason in Lodge Uniao Constante in the city of Rio Grande, state of Rio Grande Sul, in 1840. In 1872 he was a member of Lodge "Uniao Humanidade" in the city of Pelotas.

Stampe: Scott's #868 (1938) and #1162 (1970). The L970 stamp commemorates the opening of Osorio National Historical Park.

DUES ARE DUE!

GEORGE PITT-MORRISON-

George Pitt-Morrison, Curator of the National Art Gallery of Perth, Australia, designed the 1929 stamp to mark the centenary of West Australia, a 12d stamp depicting the famous Black Swan.

He was initiated Nov. 5, 1900, in the Lodge of Unity, Perth, and later became a member of Mount Alexander Lodge No. 5, Grand Lodge of Victoria, formerly No. 692 under English Constitution.

Stamp: Scott's #103, S.G. #116, issued in 1929.

-Trevor J. Fray.

ARTHUR GODFREY, "the Old Red-head" of radio and television, is a member of Acacia Lodge No. 18, Washington, D.C. He is also a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner.

AVERY BRUNDAGE (1887-1975)-

Avery Brundage was graduated in engineering from the University of Illinois in 1909. He established construction and real estate companies in Chicago and became a multi-millionaire. He was a collector of Oriental art and a trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago.



As an amateur sportsman he was American all-around champion in 1914, 1916 and 1918; from 1939-45 he was president of the U.S. Olympic Association. He was president of the International Olympic Committee from 1952 until the close of the Summer Olympics at Munich in 1972.

His first wife having died in 1971, Brundage remarried, sold most of his real estate holdings and retired in 1973 to the winter sports resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the Bavarian

Alps, where he died May 8, 1975.

Avery Brundage was initiated March 7, passed April 11 and raised May 2, 1911, in North Shore Lodge No. 937, Chicago. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite Consistory (N.J.) and Medinah Shrine Temple, both of Chicago. Stamp: San Marino, Scott's #429, issued May 19, 1959.

- Marshall S. Loke.

DUES ARE DUE!

FLORENCIO PARRAVICINI (1876-1941)-

Parravicini, Argentine actor, was called "L'Enfant Terrible" of the Argentine theatre. He inherited a fortune, but squandered it in European travels. He returned to Buenos Aires and studied acting, becoming a member of the company at the Apolo Theatre. In time he became the head of the company



working at the Argentine Theatre, a position he held for 15 years. He became the most popular comic actor in the nation. He also wrote some plays in which he acted.

Parravicini was the first civil airplane pilot in Argentina, and was a champion automobile racer.

He was a Mason, initiated in Lodge "Roma" No. 128, later affiliating with Lodge "Bernardo de Monteagudo No. 316.

His likeness is on a 15c, black on pale rose, Scott's #957,

Yvert's #890, issued May 29, 1971.

- From the Editor's Files.

DUES ARE DUE!

MASONIC STAMP CLUBS--

Our Unit secretary, Bro. R. M. Needham, furnishes with the following list of Masonic Stamp Clubs, both here and abroad:

GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC STAMP CLUB, c/o Herman J. Lichty, secy., 4532 47th st., N. w., Washington, D.C. 20016

fwd.

- TEMPLE STAMP CLUB, 2564 No. 90th St., Wauwatosa, Wisc. 53226.
- MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA, c/o D. Krantz, 506 Toll rd., Oreland, Pa., 15075.
- MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK, Collectors Club Bldg., 22 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.
- MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF CLEVELAND MASONIC LIBRARY, 3615 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, c/o Gordon J. Cole, Sr., 1254 Beach Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107
- ITALIAN MASONIC STAMP CLUB, c/o Renato Boeri, Giargini Vittorio 52, 18038 San Remo, ITALY.
- MACONNIEKE PHILATELISTISHE STUDIEGROEP de GETANDE RAND, c/o A. C. Beekman, treas., Wealstraat 101, Amsterdam 1010, THE NETHERLANDS.
- MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o T. J. Fray, Sec., 76 Merrivale Rd., Beacon Park, Plymouth PL2 2RP, ENGLAND.
- GERMAN STAMP PHILAMASONIC-ZIRKEL, c/o Ludwig Appledorn, Secy., D-2270 wyk Auf Fohr, Johanness Trasse 9, WEST GERMANY.
- MASONIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA, o/o Alan Bunn, P.O. Box 13, South Yarra 3141, AUSTRALIA.
- Some of you may wish to contact some of these, but don't forget the SASE or an International Reply Coupon.

DUES ARE DUE!

FREEMASONRY IN MISSOURI

(The following, taken from The Royal Arch Mason, an issue of 1976, was sent to us by Unit Historian Leonard W. Kemp. Can we find like histories of other states? — Editor.)

From the arrival of the first missionary on the Mississippi River until it became a part of the United States in 1804, the Louisiana Territory was not considered a good place for Masonry. As early as 1724 King Louis XIV of France had issued an edict banning any other rites than those of the Apostolic Roman Catholic Church and that anyone that violated this law should be punished as rebels. With the purchase of the territory in 1804 by the United States this oppression was forever broken and non-Catholics arrived in droves, bringing the seeds of Freemasonry with them.

Louisiana Lodge No. 109 at Ste. Genevieve was in effect the Mother Lodge of all Missouri lodges. During the 15 years of its existence many other lodges were formed: St. Louis, Herculaneum, Potosi and Jackson, but the Louisiana Lodge probably had more impact on the Masonic, civic and political life of its era that any other lodge in the history of the state.

Ste. Genevieve was founded about 1735 and is the oldest settlement in Missouri and was the most important village on the west bank of the Mississippi river. Its only rival was Kaskaskia on the opposite shore, which was then a part of the Indian Territory.

Nearly half of the membership of Western Star Lodge No. 107 at Kaskaskia resided on the western bank of the river. Western Star was a dispensation on Sept. 24, 1805, by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and was formally charted June 3, 1806.

Col. Rufus Easton, a pioneer lawyer and territorial judge was one of the applicants for the dispensation of Western Star Lodge and was a member of fwd.

Roman Lodge No. 82 at Rome, New York, and later President Monroe appointed him postmaster at St. Louis, the first postmaster west of the Mississippi River.

Other visitors to Western Star included Thomas P. Riddick, the Hon. John Scott, Shadraoh Bond and Capt. Otho Shrader. Shrader was a member of Lodge No. 84 in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and later became Master of Louisiana Lodge No. 109.

Let us now meet some of its outstanding members: Bartholemew Berthold, who was a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 111, and a partner in the American Fur Company; Nathanial Cook, a member of the first Constitutional Convention; T. T. Crittenden, attorney of the Missouri Territory in 1810; Josiah Dodge was one of the earliest Protestant preachers in the Louisiana Territory; Gen. Henry C. Dodge was a general in the Missouri militia and was active in the War of 1812, served with distinction in the Black Hawk War. Fort Dodge, Iowa, was named for him; Aaron Elliott was a member of a lodge at Stratford, Conn., (now St. Johns No. 8) in 1870 and was the first Master of Louisiana Lodge No. 109.

DUES ARE DUE!

WALTER FRANKLIN GEORGE (1878-1957)-

Senator Walter F. George worked his way through high school and Mercer University, graduating in 1901. He then made his home in Vienna, Georgia, where he began the study of law and entered politics. His first political office was Solicitor of the Vienna city courts. After that he was Solicitor



General of the Cordele Judiciary Court, Judge of the Georgia Superior Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals and Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. In 1922 he resigned to enter the United States Senate where he remained for five terms. He never lost an election. President Eisenhower appointed him special ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He became ill in 1957 and died Aug. 4. At the request of the president, flags across the nation and on ships

Bro. George was initiated Feb. 25, passed April 22 and raised May 13, 1903, in Vienna Lodge No. 324, Vienna. He was a member of Wolihin Chapter No. 130, R. A. M., at Vienna, and of Cyrene Commandery No. 13 at Cordele, Georgia.

A 4¢ memorial stamp, Scott's #1170, was placed on sale at Vienna, Georgia, his home town, on Nov. 5, 1960.

at sea were flown at half mast at the time of his funeral.

-- Marshall S. Loke.

COMULATIVE INDEX, 1977-78-

A		Wenceslaus P. Gomes Braz	19
Galioano Apaoible	27	Prazilian Masonry	14, 18
Kemel Ataturk	33	Avery Brundage	47
В	with military	James F. Byrnes	7
Daniel C. Beard	34	C	
P. G. T. Beauregard	34 26	Francisco A.V. Caldes, J	r. 19
Richard Bedford Bennett	44	George M. Cohan	31
Ernest Borgnine	37	Bernardino de Compos	19
			fwd.

CUMULATIVE INDEX, 1977-78 (cont.)			
Capt. James Cook	34	0	
D		Officers, List of	11
Dance Stamps, American	36	Manuel Luiz Osorio 19,	46
Joaquin A.N. de Aranjo	18	P	
Quintino de Baoaluva	18	Earle C.G. Page	42
Muanuel F. de Compos-Salles	23	Rafael Palma	38
Ruy Barbosa de Olivera	23	Jules François Pare	29
John Dickinson	11	Ely S. Parker	45
Dom Pedro I	23	Florencio Parravicini	47
E		Roberto J. Payro	26
Sam Erwin	37	Dr. Nilo Pecanha	23
F		Prayer - a Checklist	22
Homer R. de Fonseca	23	Jose M. de Silva Paranhos	18
Manuel D. de Fonseca	24	Jose M. de S. Paranhos, Jr.,	23
Father Diego A. Frija	23	Gen. Goe. Edw. Pickett	8
H.J.W. Frere Orban	9	George Pitt-Morrison	46
Sir Arthur W. Fadden	4	Andries Pretorius	44
Sir Sandford Fleming	13	Q.	
G		Euzelio de Querioz	19
Horatio Gates	12	R	
Walter F. George	49	Giodomenico Romagnosi	29
Antonio Carlos Gomes	18	Rouget de Lisle	31
Johan Ernst Gunnerus	43	Elias E. Ries	6
Casimir S. Gzowski	35	Jimmie Rodgers	41
H		\$	
Saml. C.F. Hahnemann	37	Joas Cantino Dos Santos	23
Gen. Nicholas Herkimer	2	Carl Sohurz	3
Hamilton Hume	7	Dalmaoio Velez Sarsfield	7
Hubert H. Humphrey	33	Washington L.P. de Souza	19
J	ALC: Y	Lauro Sodre 'E Silva	23
Al Jolson	6	Jose B.A. 'E Silva	23
L	de gallet	Louis A. deL. 'E Silva	23
Miguel Lillo	26	T T	
LaFayette	3	Jacquin J.R. Torres	19
Gen. Benjamin Lincoln	5	"Trading & Confidence Lodge"	24
Chas. A. Lindbergh	2	W The second sec	
Jose De Silva Lisdon	18	Gen. Joseph Warren	28
Friederich List	25	George Washington	13
M		X and the second second second	
Masonic Americana (checklist)	16	Jacquin J de Silva Xavier	19
Gerardo Machado y Morales	29	Y	
Lauro Silverino Muller Masonic Stamp Clubs	19 47	"The Yankee Doodle Dandy"	31
Missouri, Freemasonry in	48		
MEDBOURT, Freemasonry in	40		
New Issues, Masonic	27		
,	-1		

HELP, PLEASE-

Several members have asked for a source of supply on PEELABLE address labels. Can you help us? Advise the editor.

DUES ARE DUE!