

# KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OPEN CELEBRATION

High Dignitaries Join State  
Group To Observe Its  
Sesqui-Centennial

Banquet Slated Tonight As  
Highlight Of Two-  
Day Affair

High national dignitaries of the order of Knights Templar gathered last night in the Masonic Temple, 225 North Charles street, to honor the Maryland Commandery of the Knights Templar as the State group started its sesqui-centennial celebration.

The Maryland group, which was organized in 1790—one year after the signing of the Constitution of the United States—was the first unit of the Knights Templar organized in the United States and is the mother commandery of the organization in the United States.

#### Ritual Held

The ceremonies opened at 4.30 P. M. with a special ritual for members only on the fifth floor of the building. This ceremony was followed by a banquet attended by representatives from Washington, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and a number of national officials of the order.

C. Byron Lear, of Paterson, N. J., senior grand warden of the Grand Encampment of the United States, was the principal speaker at last night's dinner. He was the personal representative of Harry G. Pollard, of Lowell, Mass., the most eminent grand master of the Grand Encampment.

#### 'Must Keep Alert'

Mr. Lear advised his audience that "the year 1940 shows us that no fraternity can settle down in self-complacency and enjoy that which they have inherited, or they will not enjoy it long.

"Endurance is the thing that is going to count the most for us during the next few years.

"The onward march of the war-mad dictatorships," continued Mr. Lear, "is a threat to our existence. Tonight we find that the lights of Masonry are extinguished in practically every country east of the British Isles.

"We must keep alert," he added, "or we may have to fight similar opposition within our own country."

#### Those Introduced

Before Mr. Lear made his address Robert C. Little, right eminent grand commander of the Commandery of Maryland, introduced the following  
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representatives of Masonry in Maryland and other States:

GEORGE S. YOST, most worshipful master of the Masons of Maryland.

RICHARD H. WORTHINGTON, most excellent grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Maryland.

ALBERT M. COBLENS, grand thrice illustrious master of the Grand Council of Maryland.

JOHN H. HESSEY, former grand master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

J. WALTER CARSON, grand commander of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia.

REV. EDGAR CORDELL POWERS, sovereign grand inspector general of the Ancient and Accepted Order of Scottish Rite in Maryland.

GEORGE RILEY, very eminent deputy grand commander of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey.

GEORGE KANE, very eminent deputy grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania.

### Pageant Planned

At the evening session, Sir Knight Robert P. Gaston, historian of the Commandery of Maryland, read a paper outlining the history of the organization during its 150 years of activity. The meeting was opened by Roland H. Finkeldey, eminent commander, who introduced Mr. Little.

The highlight of the two-day celebration will be a banquet at 6.30 P.M. today at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Sir Knight William E. Dodge is in charge of tickets for the dinner.

According to plans announced last night, the main ballroom of the hotel will be transformed into a flower garden. Following the dinner, Senia Solomonoff will direct a pageant outlining some of the history of the organization.

As a conclusion to the pageant, the members of the Maryland Commandery, in full-dress uniform, will dance a minuet with their wives.

Joseph P. Singewald of G, John C. Weiss, and Ralph W. Martin, all past commanders of the Maryland unit and present members of the executive committee, are in charge of arrangements for the sesqui-centennial.