



*Eunice C. Gonyer
Past Matron, Palestine Chapter No. 114
Worthy Grand Matron*

ADDRESS OF THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON
EUNICE K. GONYER
May 17, 1986

WORTHY GRAND PATRON, INSTALLING GRAND OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, SISTERS AND BROTHERS, FAMILY and FRIENDS,

This is another new beginning and my simple but challenging hope is to bring some new Unity and Growth to our Order. Each one before me has hoped for this, I am sure and now the door is open for me to try. With Privileges come Responsibilities. You, this Grand Chapter, have given me the Privilege of serving as your Worthy Grand Matron, now I accept the responsibility and pledge my untiring efforts to accomplish in some small way a new direction for the Order in Massachusetts.

Our goal of my year us summed up in a simple phrase. To listen...One of our biggest challenges is to listen to the subordinate Chapters, truly to try to understand their problems, aims and plans for the future. To listen is many times more helpful than to talk. Only by listening can we hope to understand why our membership has declined these past years. We all listen to our Ritual but do we really hear it? We know the words but do we try to really understand the true meaning

of these words as Robert Morris intended? I have been trying to listen closely and it has given me some new direction to my thinking and hopefully in my interaction with our membership.

Another goal is to try to make this State more aware of the existence of the Order of the Eastern Star. How can we hope to enlarge our membership if we don't let the world know that the Order of the Eastern Star exists in Massachusetts and inform them of our purposes and goals. Two simple but complex goals and I need your help.

Sister Beverly C. Arslanian:

You are much more than a Fraternal Sponsor. A friend that I can always turn to for any need, someone to share confidences with and to ask advice. A true friend has no equal and you are that true friend to me. Thank you for starting me on this road and your lovely work in installing me into this high office this evening.

Clarence K. Brayton:

It was a pleasure to me when Brother Wendell told me that he had asked you to be a part of this evening.

Brother Robert W. McBournie:

Thank you for officiating at the Altar tonight. I am sure that you will always have the good of this Order in your heart and I know that you always have been and will continue to be my friend.

Sister Marilyn R. Gerrish:

The true test of friendship is when two people can live in the same house and always continue respecting each other for themselves. You lived with Ernie and me for three days out of each week while you were our Grand Secretary and it built a lasting friendship that is rare indeed in this world. Thank you for coming back from Florida to walk with me to the East of this Grand Chapter. No one else could have been in your place.

Sister Pauline S. Allen:

Your friendship is a prized possession. We have that kind of relationship that always seems to be in tune with one another. Thank you for the start that you have given to my Deputy

Grand Matrons and Deputy Grand Marshals. Your quiet wisdom is needed in the Order and I know that you will always keep active in bringing kindness and consideration to our Order.

Sister Dorothy L. Boyce and Marion M. Holt:

You both have played a part in my Eastern Star Life. Sister Dorothy, it was my pleasure to serve as your Grand Conductress and it was a most enjoyable experience. Sister Marion, you have touched my life as you have so many others with your gently kindness and warmth. Thank you both for sharing this evening with me.

Sister M. Elizabeth Davis:

You have a rare and special gift with words that is truly lovely and you always seem to be able to bring a message of hope and understanding. Thank you for the time that you put into this beautiful ceremony and for the thoughts that you have given to my Grand Star Points. I know that their lives this year will be the richer for this new beginning.

Sisters Elizabeth Renton, Ellen M. Peck, Nancy E. Howatt, Georgeanna K. Campbell and Pearl Cousins:

Each of you was chosen for a very special reason to me and to the Grand Star Point that you represent. Thank you for making this evening complete with your participation in this lovely ceremony.

Sister Phyllis J. Hiding and Brother Clifford Brightman:

This has been a most wonderful experience working with you and your H-Flyers these past few years and I wish you continued good health and know that you will both continue to work for this Order as you have both graciously accepted an appointment to an important Committee this next year. Thank you so much. As I knelt at the Altar tonight, I noticed that I had forgotten to take off my white shoes and that I still had "one foot in the Hi-Flyer year". It was a really great year of service.

Brother Wendell:

The vote of this Grand Chapter made us partners in these Searcher years. I appreciate the cooperation and support

that you and June have given to me and to the Searcher Association. I am sure that you will continue to support my efforts for this challenging year ahead for both of us.

To the Elected Grand Officers:

Time moves so quickly and I'm sure you can't believe that you have reached your various stations any more than I can believe that we are here in the East of the Grand Chapter. Working together with each of you has been a pleasure and I look forward to this continuing along with the support of our newly elected Associate Grand Conductress and Grand Sentinel. The door will always be open for discussion no matter how complex or simple the problem may appear. Best wishes to each of you.

To Sister Frances M. Ganong and Blanche H. Shaw for their continued help and cooperation.

To Palestine Chapter:

Always ready with a helping hand. Thank you for everything that you all do to make my task easier. I look forward to sharing this honor with all of you. It was so meaningful to me to have Palestine Chapter's Bible on the Altar tonight. I took my original vows at that Bible and became the Worthy Matron of Palestine Chapter at the same Bible. Now I have taken on this new challenge in front of this same Bible. Thank you Pat for thinking to bring this to me.

To the SEARCHERS:

What a joy you have been. When I was first elected Associate Grand Conductress, I looked forward to meeting and getting to know all of you not realizing that you would play such an important part in the next year with me. Thank you for the support you gave to me when my world dropped out from under me, when I lost my Ernie. You mean so much to me and I hope that I will always be worthy of your friendship and love.

To the GRAND SEARCHERS:

Each of you has been picked for a reason known only to me. Plans are being quickly made and hopes and dreams are unfolding. The success of this year depends in a great measure on your help and cooperation. I will try to make you proud

that you are a GRAND SEARCHER.

Brother George Harrison:

Thank you for drawing and executing the plan for the formation for the Deputy Grand Matrons and Deputy Grand Marshals. The pineapple is the symbol of Hospitality and the Searchers Association hope to offer hospitality to all.

To our Son Brad

For your lovely art work with this very beautiful backdrop and for knowing where to turn to get this all accomplished. As you know, the sand dollar means a great deal to me because your father and I so enjoyed diving together and finding these beautiful little treasures of the deep and now I find strength from the beautiful lessons written on the sand dollar.

To Brother Russ Blood

For the many hours that you put into making this backdrop a reality with the lights and to the construction of the box to hold it together and for your many hours of work as my Hall Committee Chairperson. Also a big thanks to you for being happy that your lovely wife Pam would be travelling to much of this net year with me as my Grand Marshal.

To My Family, who all came to be with me tonight.

You all knew that this would be a very difficult time for me without Ernie here at my side to give me the courage to accomplish my goals and you all came to give me the strength that I lost when I lost him. My father and his lovely wife Hazel from Florida, my brothers and their wives and children. My neices, nephews, cousins and my Aunt all here to support me. Most of all, our children, Pam, Diane, Donna and Brad, myson-in-law Wil and my daughter-in-law Jacqueline and our five wonderful grand children. Your father left me some very wonderful reminders of our 38 years together and I love you all so much.

Let us now go forward with Enthusiasm for this beautiful Order, Kindness to all of our family and friends and Gratitude for the many blessings each of us have received in our lives.

Thank you for your attention and for sharing this evening with me.