

Centennial Celebration Moments #17

A Better Feeling of Harmony

This week, we couldn't find a better way to write this Centennial Moment than the article written for the DeMolay Scimitar, a publication of the Chapters in South California. This is an incredibly telling article about the character and motivations of "Dad" Frank S. Land. Read it, and then consider the questions that follow it:

An Interview With Frank S. Land

On Thursday, October 9, our Grand Scribe, Brother Frank S. Land, dropped into Los Angeles for a short stay of 24 hours, and during that time, in spite of the number of conferences and business matters pressing upon Brother Land's time, we managed to obtain a few words from him while he was eating his morning meal.

"Boys," he said, in his usual democratic manner, "there is one thing more than anything else that prompted me to come to Los Angeles at this particular time, and that is to attempt to secure closer co-operation between the various chapters located in Southern California, and a better feeling of harmony among the members. There is absolutely no reason why the members of the various chapters should have any hard feelings against each other or should feel in any but a true fraternal manner towards each other.

In order to assure closer harmony and co-operation the Southern counties were placed under separate jurisdiction, and an inspector for the Southern Jurisdiction will soon be appointed. I want everyone connected with De Molay to co-operate with him heartily, and there is no reason why Southern California, with its three thousand members, should not be able to put over bigger things in the future than have ever been contemplated by chapters in other parts of the country. The West breeds this spirit of fellowship and yet, strange to say, here and there we find a sprinkling of ill-feeling. This must be obliterated. Let us forget all the trials and arguments of the past, and let us all unite now for a greater De Molay in Southern California. I hope to return here in a few weeks, when I shall have a little more time to devote to various matters and to make a few official visits, and I know that by the time I return, I will be able to notice the changed feeling in Southern California. We are all united for a common purpose and we can carry forth our teachings only by presenting a united

front. I know this appeal for closer harmony will be heeded and that De Molay in Southern California will go forward with more rapid strides than can now be foreseen."

Between sips of coffee and bites of ham Brother Land managed to tell us that the De Molay "Councillor" is to be improved upon next month and several new members have been added to its staff, in order that it might be a magazine worthy of being the official organ for the De Molays spread all over the country.

Brother Land also complimented us on the wonderful progress made by the Scimitar, and was well pleased with the interest being taken in it by prominent Masons in Southern California.

"One of the most pleasing things to my mind, is the active part being taken by De Molays in affairs presented in this section of the State. It is only by being of service to others that the Order can really prove of benefit to itself. There are so many opportunities where De Molays can help without any great effort and yet obtain for themselves and for the Order a great reward. De Molays should at all times be on the look-out to see where they can help practice any of those wonderful virtues which they have heard inculcated in the

Chapter Room. The coming election brings to mind one way in which they may be of service, and that is by propaganda directed at those who are able to vote, in order to coerce them into doing their duty, for, strange to say, many do not realize the wonderful privilege which has been extended to them and neglect to fulfill their citizenship rights by casting their ballot at the polls, and De Molays will have rendered their country a great service if they can have obtained a larger vote for those in whose hands is to be entrusted the welfare of our country."

Brother Land had now finished his meal and as we arose to go he said, "Goodby, boys, remember 'Harmony' is the watchword."



FRANK S. LAND

—Courtesy Masonic Digest.

1. It is impossible to read this article without wondering what was going on between the Chapters in Southern California that made “Dad” Land take a trip there to investigate the problem, and to decide to split California into a Northern and a Southern jurisdiction, and appoint an “Inspector” or what we would now call an Executive Officer. We will probably never know, but, what does this tell you about the way “Dad” Land approached issues and problems?
2. The writer for the publication had to sit with “Dad” Land while he ate a meal before catching the train to go to his next destination. Do you think “Dad” Land kept a very active schedule? Do you think that helped or hindered his work as Grand Scribe for the Grand Council?
3. Dad Land commends the DeMolays of Southern California for their work together, in service to each other and the community. He suggests that they take on a major campaign to get people to do their civic duty and vote. Do you think this was a casual suggestion, or a calculated challenge to the DeMolay members to take their minds off of petty arguments, and focus them on a bigger goal that could only be achieved by working together? Does this suggest to you a method to get past arguments or hard feelings that may have occasionally developed in your own Chapter? Do you think it could work, for you?
4. “Dad” Land’s last words to the interviewers were “Goodbye boys, remember, ‘Harmony’ is the watchword.” What does ‘harmony’ mean, in music? What is a “watchword?” What do you think “Harmony is the watchword” means? Why do you think “Dad” Land made this final statement?