

Centennial Celebration Moments #34 (2/22/19)

"Dad" Frank S. Land's Religious Beliefs

"Dad" Land and his wife, Nell, were early adherents to a branch of Christianity that was rather controversial from its beginnings in 1875 in Boston, Massachusetts, known as the Church of Christ, Scientist. This non-trinitarian version of Christianity used the life of Jesus and in particular his ministry of healing, as the basis of its teachings. (Christian Science is NOT to be confused with the modern-day Church of Scientology—they are very different!)

Founded by a woman named Mary Baker Eddy, the Church of Christ, Scientist, taught that the healing powers of prayer were better than modern medicine, and since medicine in those days was a hit or miss proposition, sometimes prayer and time for the body to self-heal seemed to work better than the concoctions of doctors.

"Christian Science" as it became known, had some major controversies in the early part of the 20th Century, when parents refused medical treatment for their dying children. In some parts of the country, members of this Church were severely persecuted for their beliefs. We see similar attitudes today among those who choose not to have their children inoculated against the measles and other diseases that used to seriously strike terror in the hearts of parents just 50 years ago. As you may have seen on the news, recently, the controversy continues, and the outrage at the death of children causes extreme actions and emotions among many people.

Regardless of these controversies, the Christian Science church was a strong and good influence on "Dad" Land who was known to be a firm believer in prayer during every day of his life, and not just in times of crisis. He did not push his religious beliefs on anyone, but he expected DeMolays to be religious, to attend a church, synagogue or temple of their choice on a regular basis to worship God the Creator of All. He invited others to worship with him, but he was not a recruiter for his church. While he believed in the doctrine of healing prayer, it did not prevent him from seeking medical help when his illnesses started to slow him down. The important thing to remember about Dad Land was his firm faith, and his daily practice of praying on behalf of others.

One of the major programs of the Christian Science Church was a national newspaper known as the *Christian Science Monitor*. Because "Dad" Land was well-known around the country, that newspaper published an entire page about the Order of DeMolay in its March 28th, 1957 edition.

1. Have you ever heard of the Christian Science religion?
2. Does it surprise you that "Dad" Land was a firm believer in this particular branch of Christianity?
3. [Have someone recite, or read, the Second Preceptor from the Initiatory Degree.] Does knowing about Dad Land's strong faith help you understand and better appreciate the words of the Second Preceptor?

4. Do you think that it is possible that the persecution of fellow Christian Science church members might have had something to do with the principles of Fidelity and Toleration being featured prominently in the DeMolay Degree?
5. Here is a more difficult question to consider: the Christian Science religion was said to be “non-trinitarian.” Can you explain what that means? [Do you have a cell phone with you? Look it up and share with your brothers!]

DeMOLAY ORDER

Service and Honor



Frank Sherman Land

By Leon V. Stone
Staff Writer of The Christian Science Monitor

A 14-YEAR OLD BOY who started an after-school club class in the basement of his parents' home in 1919, thereby acquiring the title in the daily press of "the world's youngest millionaire," now wants a son of his own, it today called "The DeMolay Club," which has 2,000,000 boys and adult men dedicated to clearing up the world, for he has been a member of the Order of DeMolay in all parts of the globe.

He is Frank Sherman Land of Kansas City, Mo., founder of DeMolay and secretary-general of the International Order of DeMolay, a fraternal order — a 23rd degree Mason whose members speak many different languages in 11 overseas colonies, including Canada, Australia, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and Australia.

Young boys and men have seen or now are De-

Molays in 20 countries, each year since the age of 14 to 21 years since the order was founded; including better citizens and practicing the principles of manly conduct, the love of one's parents, reverence for sacred things, courtesy, fidelity, cleanliness, and patriotism.

DeMolay supports and upholds the public schools, and its members are leaders in training leaders and developing character needed by teaching supplement but never conflict with the duties given to God, country, family, country. Fellowship and wholesome entertainment are given to members through the order. DeMolay is not a junior Masonic order.

Members Accept Code

In conferring the degrees, youthful officers teach the value of clean and upright living to youth in the "morning of life." Members



DeMolay Emblem

ship offers opportunities for self-expression and creative direction in planning the affairs of a chapter.

At the altar of the chapter room, new members receive the "Masonic Degree" of DeMolay to prove them worthy to be members of the order.

The head of a wholesale firm donated an acre of land for the first DeMolay chapter in the country.

DeMolay school teachers took turns assisting Frank Land in his work, and many youngsters not attending meetings classes.

Frank Land was preaching the love he most desired to teach others, the love of God and the principles of the good life. He had natural courage and strength. His vision of his mission developed into a desire to help others, and he quickly realized that, like a marshaling army of youth, there was a need to teach the world the principles of their steps indicative of purpose, their planned formation providing a strength known no other.

When the DeMolay moved back to Kansas City the afternoon Sunday school came in an end.

Frank Land, then 14, went to the basement of his home in Kansas City where he completed his schooling, took an active part in the community, became a successful businessman, and operator of a restaurant. Two years before reaching his majority he had \$3,000 in the bank, and was a member of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Boy Scouts, the YMCA, the Art League of Kansas City at the age of 21.

He was a member of the board of directors of the social service department of the Scottish Rite, the DeMolay Club, the Masonic Club, and the Masonic Service Association of Kansas City. His dream was still that of a master mason, but he knew there was no limit to what he could do.

So he began to work for the DeMolay Club, and Louis Lesser was orphaned and had to help care for a family, though only a boy himself. From that day on, Frank Land worked for the DeMolay Club, and associates with boys, and that was the basic key to his success. He was a natural leader, and he and his helpers selected the name DeMolay. Louis was the first to take the obligation of DeMolay — on the 21st birthday of Frank Land, and for perfect Sunday school attendance in St. Louis.

Then Mr. Land was born on a rainy day, and he was the last of previous DeMolay members to make that boy be mainly in their love of pastime, and the love of the DeMolay Club.

Frank Land is unusual, one biographer points out, because he is the only man in the world to have away from credit, and a friend of his says, "Even Frank Land doesn't realize the size of the bill of goods he's been selling these last three decades."

Frank Land now travels three weeks out of every month visiting chapters everywhere and conducting the DeMolay Club, and the DeMolay Club's schedule is laid out two years in advance. He is described by friends as an easy-going, pleasant, and always smiling person in person.

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DeMolay is composed of chapters in various countries, and the organization is headed by a president offered by DeMolay who exemplify the degree for candidates. An advisory council of Freemasonry supervises chapters, one of whom is selected as the advisor, often a former De-

molay, who serve God, his country and his fellow men.

It also informs him that a DeMolay is courteous, is clean in mind and body.

DeMolay boys have been given a special name, "Knights Templar," which are in use in all its chapters. They include: Integrity, Loyalty, Efficiency, Content, Operation, Membership, Unity, Conquest, Vocational Guidance and Leadership.

DeMolay is the name of thousands of other majority members throughout the world, whose names are known to the world, and who have a high standing in the business and professional world.

Senior DeMolays — those who have reached and passed their majority — are now holding positions in the DeMolay Club, and are eligible to apply for the Masonic Degree by virtue of being a DeMolay.

Statistics show that about 8 per cent of DeMolay eventually become Masons. Another fact

is that DeMolay is a secret society.

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