

International DeMolay Conference – 1969

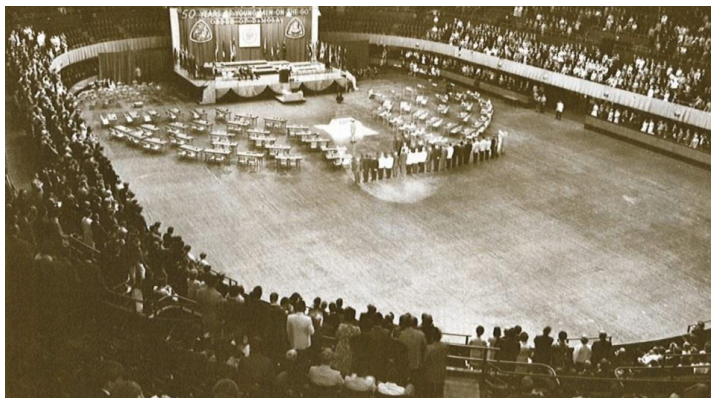
Instead of trying to meld a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration into the Annual Session of the Supreme Council in March, 3,762 members, advisors and friends of DeMolay registered to participate in a 4-day International DeMolay Conference on July 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City, Missouri. Representatives of all 50 states, plus 6 provinces of Canada, and the countries of Japan, Germany and the Philippines were present.

The program was planned and executed by Rick Harkins, Executive Director of DeMolay; Chester Hodges, Grand Junior Councilor and 50th Anniversary Chairman; and Chief Staff Coordinator, Thomas W. Moberly. Vice-Chairman Henry O. Dormann, an Active Member of the Supreme Council from New York, arranged for many of the distinguished guest speakers.



Ararat Shrine Temple provided a motorcycle escort for the distinguished guests from the airport to the headquarters hotel.

The Oldsmobile Division of General Motors furnished 33 Gold Oldsmobile 88 and F-85 sedans, and two white Olds 98 convertibles, manufactured at the GM plant in Kansas City. Each car bore the DeMolay emblem, the words "DeMolay 50th Anniversary Official Car," and the names of DeMolay leaders on each side of the vehicles.

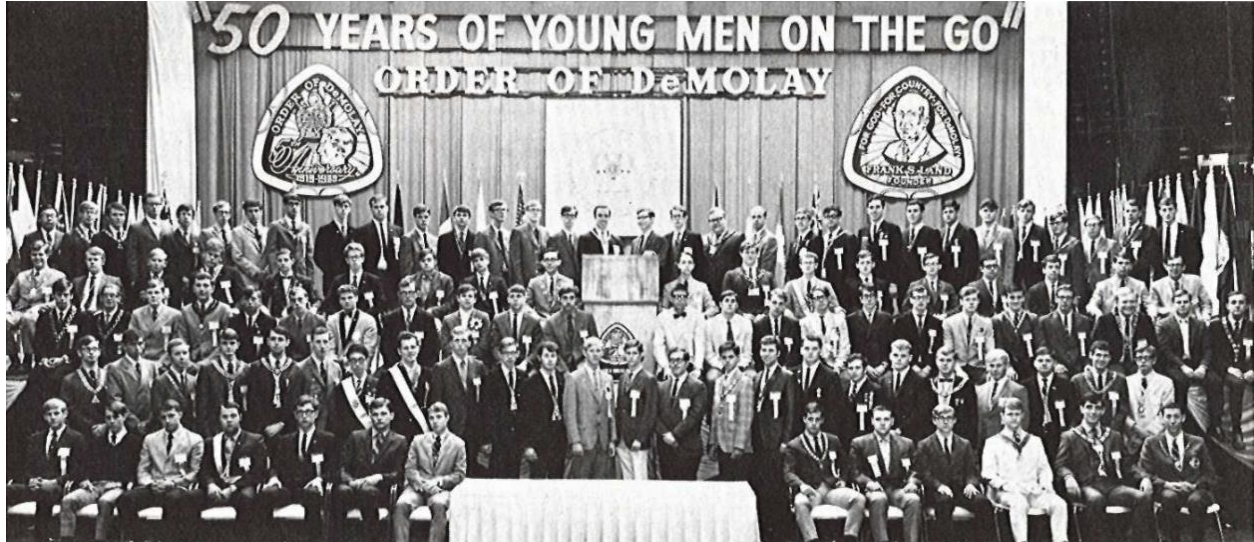


A 75-piece All-DeMolay-Member Band performed each afternoon and evening, and on Saturday during the pageant and parade, under the direction of the President of the Kansas City Band Director's Association.

One free tour was provided to every registrant, and they had a choice of DeMolay Headquarters, The Harry S. Truman Library, Mount Moriah Cemetery where Frank Land and Frank Marshall were buried, the original Scottish Rite Temple where DeMolay began, and the

General Motors Assembly Plant, among others. Over 2000 people participated in one or more of the tours.

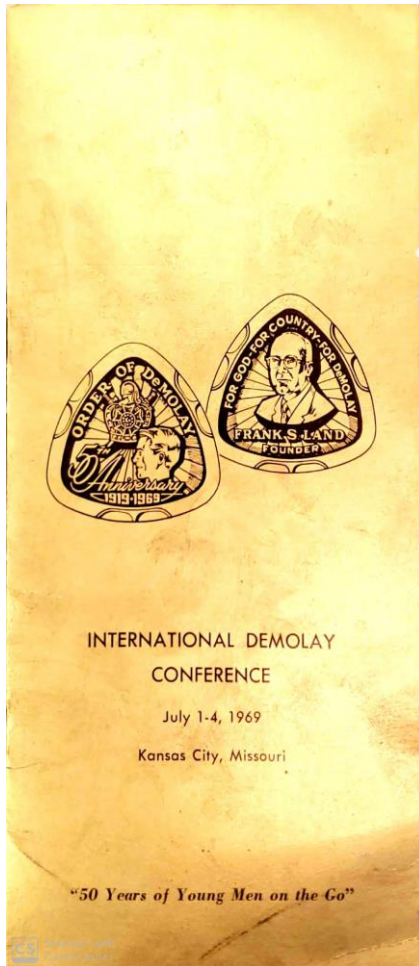
During this 4-day period the 2nd International DeMolay Congress was conducted.



37 members of the Supreme Council attended the Congress.

Four of the 6 living original DeMolay members were present-- Gorman A. McBride, (the First Master Councilor) and his cousin, Clyde Stream; Elmer Dorsey, and Ralph Sewell, who had lived with Louis Lower's family at the time DeMolay was formed. Jerome Jacobsen was ill, and William Steinhilber, who lived in California, was thought to have been deceased and was understandably upset that he had been left out. Dad Tom Moberly remembers that they were given an extended standing ovation exceeding 10-minutes!





Billboards, window posters, light pole posters, radio, TV and newspaper commentaries and interviews were prominent throughout the celebration.

Over 2100 people participated in the three mornings of multiple seminars on important national and DeMolay topics: The Proper Functioning of an Advisory Council, Program Planning, Leadership and You, Membership, an Apollo 11 Mission Update (which was scheduled for the first landing on the moon later in the month), Orientation of New Members, Honors and Awards, How to be an Advisor to Youth, Public Relations and a national Mothers Club Coffee Klatch.

Degree exemplifications were held multiple times over three days with a total attendance of over 7,300. Three Order of Knighthood conferrals took place and a total of 425 members were created. Over the 4 days many celebrities and significant national leaders addressed the Conference, including:

The Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister of Canada (1957-1963) and an Honorary Grand Master of DeMolay; Robert Cummings, motion picture and television star, and a Senior DeMolay; Barry M. Goldwater, former Presidential Candidate and U. S. Senator from Arizona; Hobson Adcock, Assistant to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover; Secretary of the Navy, Hon. John H. Chafee, former Gov. of Rhode Island; Ernesto Pineda, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Philippines, and a Senior DeMolay; Patrick J. Buchanan, Special Assistant to President Richard M. Nixon; Stuart Symington, U. S. Senator from Missouri, and a member of the International Supreme Council; Major General Robert J. Dixon, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for the U. S. Air Force; Former United States Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark; Clayton Watkins, the first Representative DeMolay; James B. Sommerall, President of the Pepsi Cola Company; Lew Calloway, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Newsweek magazine; Plus a host of national and local Masonic leaders who came to attend the program.

Entertainment throughout the Conference was provided. Some of the performers included the Sing Out Group of Up With People, a very popular youth chorus of the day; Miss Kathy Garver, a very popular TV actress of the time who played Cissy Davis on the TV show, FAMILY AFFAIR, and who was the National Teen Chairman for the March of Dimes; the rock and roll band, "American Breed" which the previous year had a Top-5 hit with, "Bend Me Break Me," and comedian Pat Paulsen, who had made a humorous run for President of the United States in 1968, and announced his candidacy for International Master Councilor. The Congress Delegates promptly elected him as the very first Honorary International Master Councilor.

For many DeMolays and Advisors, this event was the highlight of their DeMolay experience.

Oh, and did we mention that the Registration Fee was just \$15, and included a tour, a banquet, a program and a souvenir?

1. A standing ovation seldom lasts for more than two or three minutes, at most ceremonies and performances. Can you imagine what a 10-minute sustained ovation of applause and shouts must have been like?
2. If DeMolay International planned a special 4-day conference of education and entertainment, would you consider attending it?
3. What celebrities would you invite to attend it today?