"OUR NEIGHBORS"

This very neighborly and beautiful ceremony was arranged by Frank Bushby, Past Worthy Patron, to honor the Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Anna L. Suter, and the Worthy Grand Patron, Bro. J. Edward Hilleary, at their official visitation to Ruth Chapter No. 7, Hyattsville, Md.

The Worthy Matron, Sister Elsie Witter, greeted the visitors as follows:

"Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Suter, and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Hilleary: It is with great joy that Ruth Chapter No. 7, of Hyattsville, greets and welcomes you this evening upon this your official visitation to our chapter, and we do earnestly hope that you both will spend a very happy and pleasant evening with us.

"For months we have looked forward with pleasure to this visit — not alone from your presence here officially as the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, O. E. S., but more so, Sister Suter and Brother Hilleary, for your visit with us as true, loyal friends and neighbors — and may I speak briefly this evening of neighbors — just who they are, and what they are.

"It may be surmised that I am referring to our near neighbor, Worthy Grand Patron Brother Hilleary, of Adah Chapter No. 25, who has proven himself a good and True neighbor.

"Brother Hilleary, you are a wonderful and beloved neighbor, and not alone from the nearness of your abode, but also from your sterling character and the attributes of love, sincerity and fidelity which you possess, you have endeared yourself to each one of us.

"Fortunately, we have other good neighbors, many of them, who do not reside so close to Hyattsville, and are nevertheless truly good neighbors. So tonight we also welcome another good neighbor, our Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Anna L. Suter, of Arlington Chapter No. 13, of Baltimore, and although her home is miles away, we know, Sister Suter, that distance makes no difference in your love for the chapters. So we consider you our good neighbor — beloved by all of us — as likewise are all loyal and sincere members of our Order.

"One may ask: Why and how can someone residing afar, quite distant from us, be termed 'Our Neighbor!' That question is correctly and fully answered in the tenth chapter of Saint Luke, wherein the true meaning and definition of the word 'neighbor' is recorded, as is also the admonition of our Master to us that we emulate the character of that neighbor, and in the words of our Master: 'Go, and do thou likewise.'

"What wonderful admonition are those words, and our obedience to the Master's command to 'Go, and do thou likewise' is the very foundation of our beautiful Order of the Eastern Star that teaches each one of us to 'Love one another,' and to do unto others as we would have others do unto us.

"Again may I ask, and I will also try to answer the question: 'Who is my neighbor?':

"Perhaps the one who lives next door; Perhaps he dwells on distant shore;
Possessed of meager, earthly things—
But with loving heart, and smile that brings
To weary travelers along life's way—
The help that is needed day by day.
That is my neighbor—my Lord doth say.

"So, Sister Anna and Brother Ed,
Good neighbors both—for, be it said,
You cheer the weary with your smile;
With handclasp true and love worth while.
You lead us upward on our way,
And forward always, every day;
So you are good neighbors, we all do say.

"Good neighbors both—'Our Ruth' greets you
With fraternal love, sincere and true.
We wish for you the best in life,
Free from discord and all vain strife,
And may you ever lead the way
That Ruth Chapter will follow every day.
Lead us, 'Our Neighbors,' in God's way we pray."

WORTHY MATRON (to Conductress and Associate Conductress): "Have you something to say about thy neighbor?"

CONDUCTRESS: "Yes, Worthy Matron, I have:

"My neighbor lives real close to me.
Inside my heart, there he will be—
If I will do my part.
But should I fail to do his will,
He will leave me lonely, weary, ill,
And from my life depart.
My neighbor wishes I should say
Naught but kind words, day by day,
And only kind acts do.
So these flowers here, so lovely and bright,
May we share with those who are here tonight,
Who are our neighbors true." (Presents basket of flowers.)

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS:

"My neighbor, too, resides within.
I hear his voice above life's din.
He bids me what to do.
He tells me to be pure in heart,
And never from the truth depart,
And be sincere and true.
My neighbor wishes I should do
Naught but good deeds each day through,
And be a neighbor real.
Forgetting self for others, who
May need a neighbor, staunch and true,
With love sincere and zeal." (Presents basket.)

WORTHY MATRON: "Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, I have every reason to believe that you both, as real neighbors, desire that the
beautiful flowers and tokens handed to the Worthy Patron and myself are to be passed along for the enjoyment and pleasure of our visiting neighbors; the Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Suter, and the Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Hilleary. Is that your wish?"

**CONDUCTRESS and ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS:** "It is, Worthy Matron."

**WORTHY MATRON:** "My sisters, your request shall be granted."

**WORTHY MATRON:** "Worthy Patron, you have heard the request of the Conductress and Associate Conductress, so "Let us see what you will do With the tokens passed on to you."

**WORTHY PATRON:** "Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Suter, our true and loyal neighbor, one whom we highly esteem and sincerely love, allow me to present you this basket of flowers as just a small token of the fraternal love and affection in which you are held by the entire membership of Ruth Chapter, for "We all love you, our neighbor true; God bless you every day. Good luck to you in all you do While traveling on your way. May love increase and prayers ne'er cease, Is our best wish, 'tis true. Because you are our real neighbor, Ruth Chapter has adopted you.

"May you accept this basket of flowers with the best wishes of Ruth Chapter, and may they — "With fragrance rare and colors bright, Bring back tomorrow thoughts of tonight. "Worthy Matron, I've passed my flowers on their way; You have some, too, what will you say?"

**WORTHY MATRON:** "Worthy Patron, I'll say but this, so all can hear Just what I tell our Eddie dear.

"Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Hilleary: You, too, are a real good neighbor, one whom we all love, and "'Our Neighbor,' who lives just next door, A neighbor we love more and more As time speeds swiftly by. The neighbor we are glad to meet In any town or any street, Because of friendship's tie. Our neighbor of the Golden Kule, As taught in Adah Chapter's school, We love you, our Edward dear. So Ruth Chapter has adopted you For you are our neighbor, loyal, true, And always welcome here.

"This basket of flowers is but a small token and very inadequately expresses our pleasure in having you with us this evening to greet you as our neighbor and friend and to honor and congratulate you as the Worthy Grand Patron of our wonderful Order of the Eastern Star."
"May you accept these flowers as a token of fraternal and lasting friendship, with love and best wishes of the entire membership of Ruth Chapter, and
"May this token bring memories bright
Of your visit here, to us, tonight.

"Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Suter, and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Hilleary:
"Now may I tell who neighbors are?
They are you—and you—and all
Who hear our Master's pleading voice,
And answer prompt His call.
His will obey, with faith and love,
With hope and charity.
Then we will all be true neighbors, real,
With love and loyalty.
So, Sister Anna and Brother Ed,
Real neighbors we've found you.
Both loyal, faithful, staunch, sincere,
With loving hearts and true;
That's why Ruth Chapter has adopted you
As members here tonight.
So within the baskets you have there,
Perhaps now—just out of sight—
But take a look and you will find
Two scrolls—and with delight
We say to you and make it known
Ruth Chapter claims you as her own.
So, Sister Anna and Brother Ed,
I don't think more should now be said,
Except just this: That where'er you may roam,
Ruth Chapter will always be 'Home, Sweet Home.'"