

O. E. S. GRAND
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

7A.
Febr 30
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This ceremony is to be given before or just after the regular officers take stations. Worthy Matron speaks:

We have long been waiting for this hour when we might have an opportunity to honor our Past Matrons and Past Patrons, and express to them our appreciation for the splendid work they have been doing in our Chapter, and for their faithful efforts which are so essential to the success of our Order. Sister Marshal, you will conduct the Past Matrons and Patrons to position back of Esther's station.

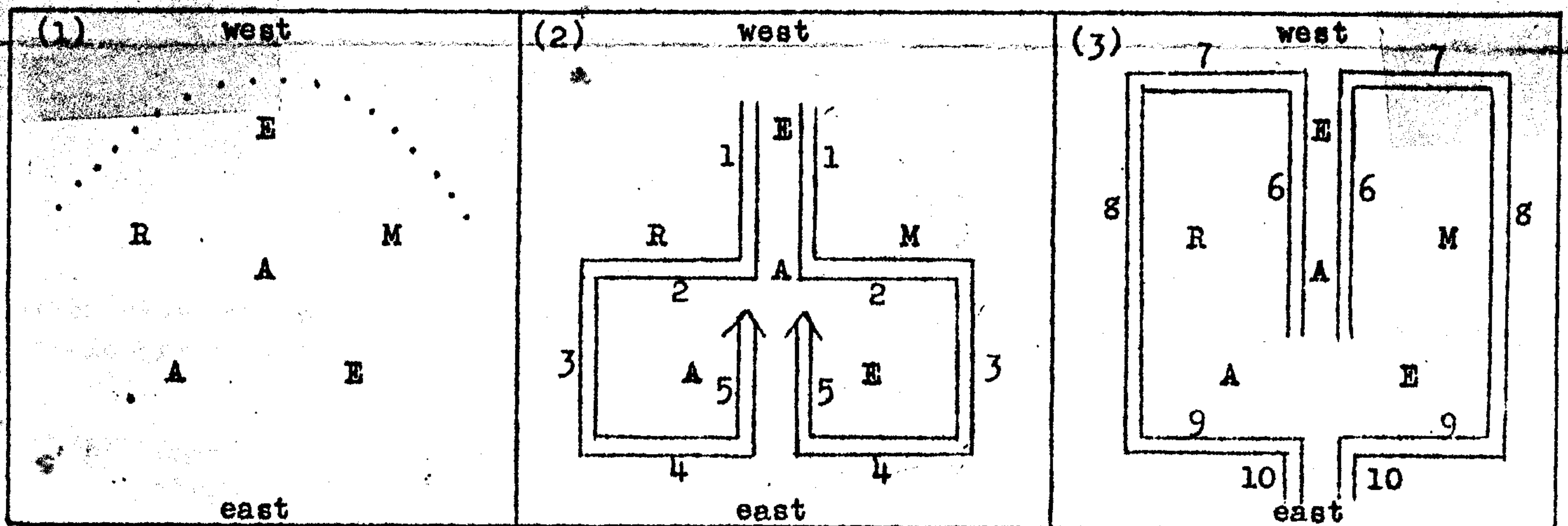
As soon as Past officers are in position, Worthy Matron welcomes them as follows:

Past Matrons and Past Patrons, it is with a great deal of pleasure that we extend to you a most cordial welcome. You have paved the way so firmly for us as you have through the years traveled the Eastern Star highways, and for this we are indeed grateful. We appreciate your attendance, and the interest you have taken in our work through the years. Through your fine leadership, you have helped to make our Chapter what it is today. We are ever mindful of the many years of service you have given, and we appreciate your continued interest, which gives us the benefit of your wisdom and experience. We are most happy at this time to welcome you, not only as Past officers, but as our friends.

Come walk with us again tonight down memory's friendly way,
And lay aside all toils and cares, at least just for today;
We know you have all been good Stars, so loyal and so true,
And that is why we want to give our very best to you;
We open wide our gates of love for you to step inside,
We know you'll find a warmth within where faith and love abide.

Worthy Matron requests Marshal to escort guests to their seats.

The Secretary calls the name of officers to fill chairs. As the name of officer is called, the regular officer rises, and in turn each escorts their guest officer to position in semicircle back of Esther's station. Officers are called as follows: Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Chaplain, Marshal, Treasurer, Secretary, Organist, Adah, Electa, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Ruth, Martha, Warder, Esther, Sentinel, Associate Matron, Associate Patron.



The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron take position in semicircle just back of Esther's station, each officer on north standing to right of their guest, and officers on south each standing to left of their guest. Officers in semicircle line up as follows:

(each officer with guest) North side: Worthy Matron, Chaplain, Treasurer, Organist, Electa, Associate Conductress, Martha, Esther, Associate Matron. South side: Worthy Patron, Marshal, Secretary, Adah, Conductress, Ruth, Warder, Sentinel, Associate Patron. In march, officers on north offer left arm to guests, and officers on south offer right arm to guests. Following line of march, the Associate Matron and Associate Patron, who are last in line, stop at their stations first, then Sentinel and Esther, Martha and Warder etc., until all officers are in position. Regular officers bow to guests in their respective stations, after which Chapter is seated.

Just before the close of Chapter, an officer or other member approaches the East with four escorts, two marching east on north and two on south of labyrinth. These escorts may carry ribbons, gifts, or flowers. When in position in front of dais with two escorts on each side, the officer speaks:

We come to bring you gifts of love because we know you're true,
And may our words with gladness ring in bringing praise to you;
May these gifts bring you happiness, with faith, and hope, and love,
Fulfilling every earthly wish, with blessings from above;
We wish you every peace of mind without a blot to mar,
All this because you have been true to our dear Eastern Star.

Soloist sings: Tune - Silver Threads Among the Gold.

We now bring our welcome song,
Past Matrons and Patrons too,
You have been so true to us,
So we will be true to you;
You have been faithful to us each day,
Always loyal on your way,
So we bring our praise to you,
For you have been always true.

Adah's courage gives to you
Faith to be in all things true,
And like Ruth you'll constant be,
Having Esther's loyalty;
For our Martha's faith we always pray,
That you may have it always;
And we give Electa's love,
With God's blessings from above.

Refrain: Matrons, Patrons, you've been true,
And you've been so loyal too;
May our love be one that lasts,
For you are our own dear Past.

Our love never will grow old,
When locks are no longer gold;
Although you may older grow,
Still our love for you we'll show;
Our own Past you will forever be,
Always young and fair to see,
This one thing we'll always know,
To us you'll no older grow.

After close of song, the four escorts pass around the room presenting gifts, ribbons, or flowers to the Past Matrons and Past Patrons.

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