FAREWELL TO OFFICERS

(A Brief Gift Ceremony for Worthy Matron to Honor Associate Officers at Close of Year.)

(Worthy Matron will appoint substitute organist, and two Sisters to take position in the West and furnish each officer with candle.)

WORTHY MATRON:

At this time, I desire that the officers vacate their stations, and, bearing candles, form a line back of Esther's station.

Led by secretary and treasurer -- other officers following as their stations are passed -- officers march to West, receive candle, and form line as requested, while organist plays Old Black Joe. (Lights dimmed.)

WORTHY MATRON:

Now, if you will light your candles,
So your faces I may see,
I'll try to tell each one of you
Just what you mean to me.

The two sisters in the West move in front of line of officers, and light the candles, at the same time giving each a typed slip of the closing verse.)

WORTHY MATRON:

I know that you are wondering
What this is all about;
So give me your attention, please,
And you shall soon find out.
The Order of the Eastern Star
To me is very dear;
And I am truly happy
To meet and greet you here.

My love and appreciation
For you each day grows stronger,
And deep would be my pleasure
Could we serve together longer;
But in a few short days now
Your matron will be a "past,"
And I can only hope that
Our mutual ties will last.

A word or two with each of you,
And I will try to say
How fine you've been throughout the year,
And how dear you are today.

Worthy Patron, in our Chapter ever near,
It has been indeed a pleasure
To serve with you this year.
Believe me, Worthy Patron,
This parting makes me sad,
For you're the best Worthy Patron
A Worthy Matron ever had.
WORTHY MATRON (continued):

Sister Associate Matron, you have helped me this year in so many ways. If I can be of service during your year, just call on me—I'll be here.

Brother Associate Patron, you have always been willing to help when called upon to do.

Our Secretary's records
Are always fine and neat,
And all of us agree, I'm sure,
That you are hard to beat.

Sister Treasurer, you have served our Chapter well, and I want you to know that I think you are a fine treasurer, and serving with you has been a pleasure.

Sister Conductress, you escort me
To the Chapter's East each night;
I'm proud of you, because, you know,
You do your work just right.

Sister Associate Conductress, you have lived
Our Order's tenets each day.
That's praise enough for anyone,
And what more could I say?

Sister Chaplain, in your prayers
To heaven above each night,
You've helped to keep us mindful
To live and do the right.

Sister Marshal, all can tell
You've done your work supremely well.

Sister Organist, I'd have you understand
Your music has been simply grand.

Sister Adah, at the point of blue,
You always do your work well, too;
I've found you ever loyal, true,
In every task assigned to you.

Sister Ruth, at point of yellow,
E'er mindful of the other fellow,
Your constancy has been a joy—
Pure virgin gold, without alloy.

Sister Esther, at point of white,
Your work has been to all a delight.

Sister Martha, at point of green,
No better have I ever seen.
WORTHY MATRON (continued):

Electa, at the point of red,
Of you it may be truly said
Our heroine's virtues you have taught
In voice and act, with love well fraught.

Sister Warder, I'm proud to tell
You've kept our portals guarded well.

Brother Sentinel, I have in mind
That a better one would be hard to find.

And now, in appreciation of your faithfulness and co-operation throughout the year, I have a little gift for each of you. (Sisters in West distribute gifts.)

And as tonight I say adieu,
May our love continue our whole lives through.

With our installation of officers on (Date), our year of service together will end. The golden chain about our altar will contain new links. Perhaps never again will that circle be formed exactly as we have formed it. And so, to all of you I give my love, extend my best wishes, and say a fond

FAREWELL.

(Officers repair to their several stations, singing:)

Air--Old Black Joe

Gone are the days when we together met;
Gone are the days when we together served;
Others must take the stations we now hold--
We wish for them success and blessings manifold.