



*James Dewey Penley, Jr.*

*M.W. Grand Master*

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Dewey Penley, Jr., was born in Hickory, North Carolina, on July 17, 1928. He is the eldest of two sons of James Dewey and Theora Holloway Penley. When he was two years old, the family moved to Clover, South Carolina. Here he spent his boyhood, working on the farm, attending school and participating in sports. He was Captain of the football team and served as Vice President of the senior class. His parents still live on the home place, his father now retired after 50 years service with Carolina and Northwestern Railroad.

Brother Penley's vocation is accounting, having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of South Carolina. He is employed as Controller of J. N. Pease Associates, Architects-Engineers-Planners of Charlotte, North Carolina.

He is married to the former Mildred Laurice Harper of Clover, South Carolina. To this union came five children. Patricia, the eldest, is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. She majored in Pharmacy and resides in Union, South Carolina with her husband, Thomas E. Browning, Jr., also a graduate of the University of South Carolina. A second daughter, Joan, came next and the beginning of the most tragic event in Brother Penley's life. When this little girl was two years old, she became ill with that most dreaded of childhood diseases, leukemia, and lived for only a short time thereafter. Needless to say, he is a torch carrier for the Knights of York Cross of Honor and its leukemia research program. But with every tragedy, there comes blessings. The Penleys became parents of a son, Robert, who will be a student at Spartanburg Methodist College this year; then twins, Stephen and Jeffrey, who are seniors at York High School and will enter the University of South Carolina in the fall. The Penleys reside at 365 McCelvey Street, York, South Carolina.

At the outbreak of the Korean War, he was called to active duty, being a member of the 713th AAA Gun Battalion of the South Carolina National Guard. He was

stationed in Georgia, Wisconsin and Illinois during his two year tour of duty and was discharged as a Master Sergeant. He was later commissioned as a Lieutenant in the reserve.

The Penleys are members of the First Baptist Church of York. Brother Penley has been very active in the church and has served as a Deacon, teacher of the Furman Bailes adult men's Sunday School Class, Chairman of the Ushers, President of the Brotherhood and Chairman of the Finance and Budget Planning Committee. He is interested in civic and professional affairs and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a 28 year charter member and past President of the York Lions Club, The Good Fellows Club, the National Association of Accountants, and the American Legion. Delta Sigma Pi was his college fraternity.

He is a York Rite Mason and has served as the presiding officer of his Chapter, Council and Commandery. His Chapter and Council have honored him with life memberships and he is the Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter to Louisiana and the Grand Council of Western Canada. At the Annual Assembly of 1974, he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of South Carolina. He served as Chairman during 1975-77 of the Grand York Rite Bodies Bicentennial Committee.

With the encouragement of the Grand York Rite Bodies of South Carolina, he, along with an ideal and select team, journeyed to Cleveland, Ohio, in August of 1975 for the Thirty-Second Triennial of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, International. Here his name was placed in nomination for General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work by H. Dwight McAlister, our Grand Secretary, and he was elected to the office. This is the start of a nine year tenure through the elective line and he should become General Grand Master for the term 1981-84.

Brother Penley is a member of the Columbia Scottish Rite Bodies and has been invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour.

Other Masonic bodies in which he holds offices and/or memberships are Prelate of Palmetto Priory No. 54, Knights of the York Cross of Honour; Vice President of the Holy Order of High Priesthood; Outer Guard of Cana Tabernacle No. XLIX, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest; St. Patricks in America Council No. 1 and a charter member and Priest of South Carolina Council No. 20, Knight Masons of the U. S. A.; Royal Order of Scotland; Red Cross of Constantine; Hejaz Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; the Philalethes Society; York Rite Sovereign College; Allied Masonic degrees; Order of the Eastern Star; National Sojourners; Knight Crusader of the Cross; Iowa Lodge of Research No. 2; Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis; Order of Bath of the U. S. A.; Ye Ancient Order of Corks; and the Missouri Lodge of Research. At Washington, D. C. this year, he started in the elective line of the Grand College of Rites as Grand Mareschal.

He is also a recipient of the Order of DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor and served as a staff member of the state executive officer for several years.

Brother Penley petitioned Philanthropic Lodge No. 32, A. F. M., York, South Carolina, and was raised a Master Mason on April 28, 1953. He served this Lodge as Master in 1964. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 22nd Masonic District in 1965 and 1966, Grand Marshal in 1970 and Grand Steward in 1971. He was elected and served as Junior Grand Warden 1972-74, Senior Grand Warden 1974-76 and Deputy Grand Master on April 23, 1976. He became Acting Grand Master on June 21, 1976. His Lodge has honored him with a life membership. He is the Grand Representative of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

He was highly honored this year by being elected Chairman of the Conference Committee of the 1978 Conference of Grand Master of Masons in North America, which will be held in Washington, D. C.

When time permits, he is an avid reader and student of Masonic history, enjoys hunting and fishing and finds his way to the links as often as possible to try to reduce his handicap.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## *Two Hundred Fortieth Annual Communication*

OF THE

## Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina

MYRTLE BEACH

APRIL 28 and 29, A.L. 5977, A.D. 1977

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PRESIDING

R.'W.'BRO. JAMES D. PENLEY, JR., D.G.M.  
Acting Grand Master

ELECTED

M.'W.'BRO. JAMES D. PENLEY, JR., Grand Master  
York

M.'W.'BRO. H. DWIGHT McALISTER, P.G.M., Grand Secretary  
Columbia

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*Columbia, S. C.  
1977*

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