

## *Past Masters*

Since the first of the year, in the Blue Lodge Masonry of Iowa, there are many new faces in the Masters' Chair. Wherever a change has occurred a Past Master has been added "to those who have formerly been."

To be a Past Master is generally accepted as Masonry's highest honor, for it is the evidence of having been elevated by the brethren to the highest authority within their power to confer.

The Institution of Masonry from its earliest traditions to the present day, has given as its highest concept -"life in harmony with law."

We may give more poetic and even more elaborate definitions to our instruction, but none will be more fundamental. If reverence, honor and right living are taught in one place and diligence, zeal and fidelity in another and brotherly love, relief and trust somewhere else -by putting them all together you make the worthwhile discovery that there should be no better man to his family, no truer supporter of religion, no more loyal citizen of the state, than he who says he is a Mason. To be a Past Master of such a group is to have been indeed honored by your brethren.

Past Masters should never regard their work as having been finished, for as they welcome their successors to preside over the conduct of the brethren they realize as no one else can a peculiar responsibility.

To them has come that period when the three principal officers are renamed, Conscience, Reason and Will

The choice between right and wrong is their Master, with Reason to counsel and Will to execute the governing of the lodge of the inner life.