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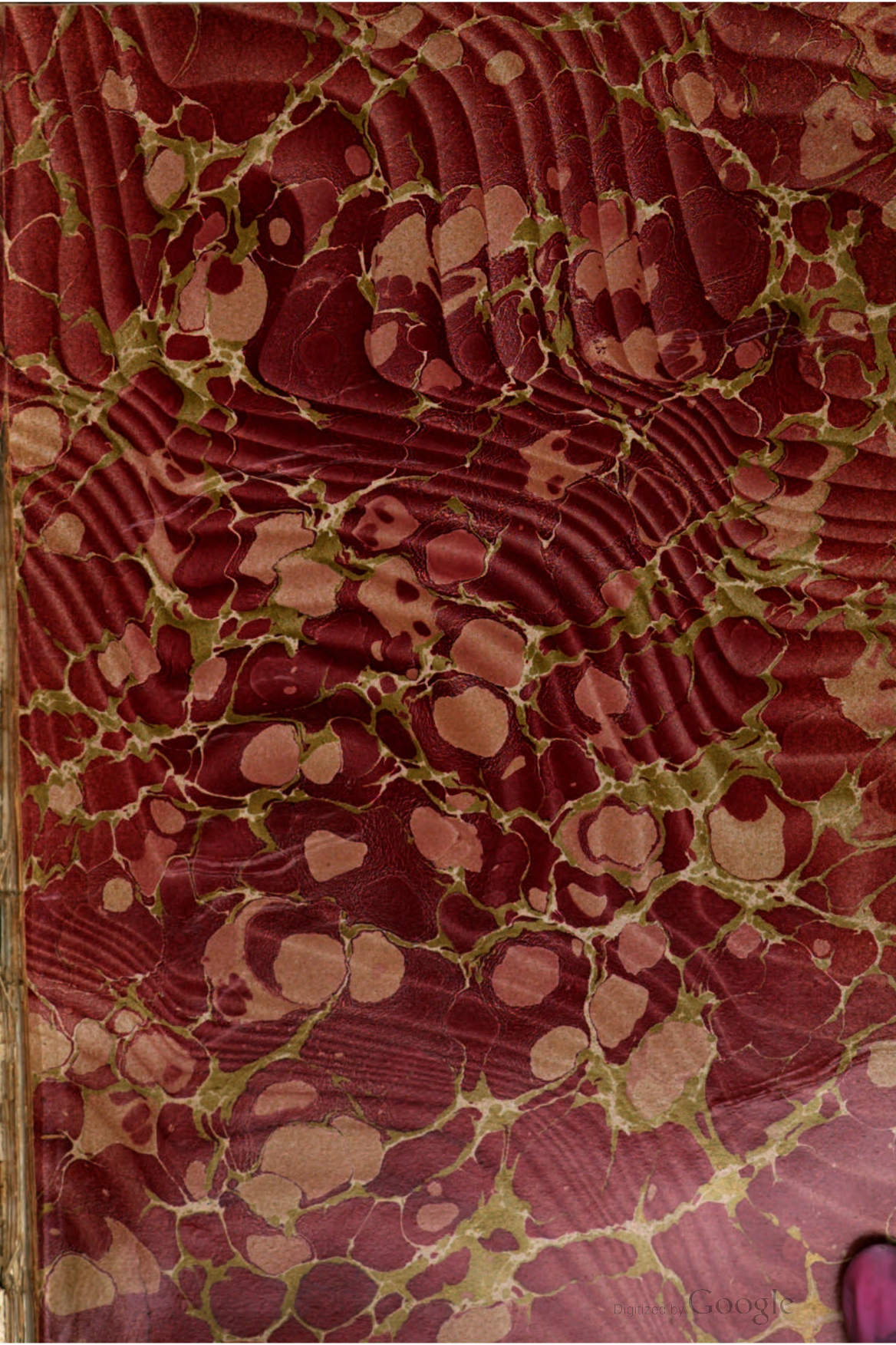
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Autograph Edition de Luxe

Especially designed, executed and arranged for the
Particular Friends of

Joseph Seep,

And presented with grateful thoughts to

W. J. Stephens,

With the compliments of the committee at the Memorable
Reception and Banquet to do him great honor on the
occasion of Mr. Seep's seventieth birthday.

Given in the

Hotel Fieldmore,

Citrusville, May seventh,

1908.

S. S. Bryan Toastmaster.

No. 121

117

Committee:

C. N. Payne,

S. S. Bryan,

Robert S. Hampton,

Thos. M. Blackwell.





C. N. PAYNE.



S. S. BRYAN.



ROBERT S. HAMPTON.



THOS. M. BLACKWELL.

Foreword.

This brochure was prepared by direction and authority of his hosts in commemoration of the seventieth birthday of Joseph Seep ; in appreciation of his fine character and manifold virtues.

The edition consists of 200 copies.



CAPTAIN JOHN TONKIN.
Friend and Associate.



W. V. MILLER.
Friend and Associate.



H. M. FLAGLER.
Friend and Associate.



SAMUEL C. T. DODD.
Friend and Former Associate.



J. A. BOSTWICK.
First Employer and Friend.



WM. T. SCHEIDE,
Friend and Former Associate.



DANIEL O'DAY.
Friend and Former Associate.



JACOB JAY VANDERGRIFT,
Friend and Former Associate.

Friends and former Associates of the Guest of Honor, who, with life's labors ended, have gone to claim their just rewards.

Autograph Edition de Luxe.

450.00

Three Score and Ten.



THE GUEST OF HONOR.

Joseph Seep rounded out the seventieth year of a useful, active and honorable career, May 7th, 1908. His neighbors and business associates resolved to make the occasion a memorable one. A Committee consisting of C. N. Payne, S. S. Bryan, R. S. Hampton, of Titusville, and T. M. Blackwell, of Oil City; put their fertile wits together, and their deliberations resulted in plans for a monster re-

ception, followed by a banquet at the Fieldmore. Mr. Seep, for obvious reasons, was not consulted nor taken into the confidence of the Committee. It was intended as a surprise, and, strange to say, for a secret that was extensively spread and shared by many, was well kept.

Invitations had been sent broadcast, responses came in a crush of letters and telegrams that quite overwhelmed the Committee; many of acceptance, but some of regrets; all were phrased in terms of compliment for Mr. Seep. The acceptances became so numerous and grew with each incoming mail at a rate that caused the Committee to repeatedly revise and enlarge their plans; when finally covers had been laid for 130, every chair was occupied.

The number of regrets, if read by the Toastmaster, would represent still larger numbers than those present and would have occupied the entire evening in the reading. The Toastmaster was granted leave to print; these will be found in another part of this volume. Among the absentees were many old and valued friends of Mr. Seep.

The ramifications of the industry of which Mr. Seep is an important factor, are so extensive as to include the

world at large, as the field of its operations; his friends are not limited by National environments nor confined within racial lines. Wherever there are transactions in American crude oil, his friends abound. It has been well said "that the sun lighting the pathway of commerce round the world, never sets on Seep's quotations."

By "early candle light," the guests had been seated; the company assembled to do him honor were, as a body, the most representative ever brought together in Titusville. Among them were giants in finance and achievement in various lines of human endeavor. The scene was one to recall Oliver Wendall Holmes' imperishable lines:

"Hang the Almanac's cheat, and the catalogue's spite,
Old Time is a liar, we are twenty to-night."

For this occasion the poet's words possessed a peculiar significance, with youth and age met at the festive board, and engaged in blithesome competition, rendering honors to one of Nature's noblemen. It was a time for merry-making, happy speeches and joyous greeting was made the order of the hour; compliments were freely exchanged between old friends long separated by the shifting scenes of oil developments. Aside from the natal feature which brought them together, to a casual observer; the scene was one which might pass for a reunion of oil veterans, and to a certain extent, such it proved to be.

Back of all this was the memory of hard fought financial contests, waged in days of yore, battles lost and won at the bull ring. Invariable on the one side, (not always the winning), was Seep. On the other, (not always the losing one), were those who came to do him honor. But on this occasion, the victors and the vanquished met on the common level of fellowship; unsettled balances are forgotten and the past forgiven in the millennial hour of Seep's triumph over Father Time.

Down through the dim but glorious retrospect ran the elevating thought: "Who has accomplished man's allotted span of 'three score and ten,' and yet remains physically sound, with faculties unimpaired to the end, has not lived in vain."

The memory of old Parker days recalled, through

jocose references to the gladiatorial combats at the "bullring," in which the trophy was oil, and the weapons check books; exercised a humanizing effect upon the assemblage. Those who had not been gladiators on the open market, deftly concealed the fact by affecting familiarity with the terms of the bullring which placed them at once on easy conversational terms, with the old timers. Dignity was put aside, titles gave way to familiar names, the old and the young, the grave and the gay, addressed one another in the flippant terms of youth. H. H. Rogers, calm, reserved, one of the world's distinguished figures, cheerfully answered to "Harry" without perceptible shock.

The guest of honor divested himself for the moment of his "peacock feather," the badge of honor as well as authority; and gave courteous attention to calls for "Joe." When he found his voice, which had, when most needed, played him truant, it was used to wave aside with earnest tones and deprecatory gesture, the fine compliments addressed to him, as "unmerited and extravagant," but with their consent he would accept them in a representative capacity as custodian for the grand organization which had honored him with its confidence, made him what he is, and which, in his feeble way, he represented so many years, to his best ability—the Standard Oil Company.

The banquet was spread upon detached tables, some seventeen in number, and about these the participants had been placed with special reference to fraternal attraction. A large round table graced the center of the banquet hall, and about this the smaller tables ranged in natural order. The round table was dignified as the guests' table where sat the one guest and he the guest of honor, with him were these friends and neighbors: H. H. Rogers, Peter Theobald, S. C. Lewis, J. A. Moffett, C. N. Payne, M. B. Daly, J. I. Buchanan, John Tonkin, C. R. Huntley, W. S. McGunnegle.

Space had been specially reserved for T. A. McLaughlin but the dean of the bullring was unavoidably absent.

In the selection of the round table, the usual fiction

of providing a board with no visible head apparent was attempted with the usual result. It failed as it properly should, and always will where an individual person is selected for special honors. Where Seep sat, there was the head of the table. That point was promptly and satisfactorily settled by the waiters. Service began at Seep's plate.

The decorations, pronounced by experts to be of the highest order, were largely floral and included all the clever pieces known to the decorators' art, but conspicuous among the elaborate collection, was a grand cluster of rosebuds, several hundred in number, from the Standard Oil Company.

The crowning feature of the occasion was the production at the psychological moment of a mammoth birthday cake, borne upon the interlocked arms of two stalwart waiters and deposited with ostentatious ceremony at Mr. Seep's plate. It was the Committee's crowning secret and proved to be its most highly sensational feature. The cake was a triumph of the confectioners' art, pyramidal in form, it towered above the table decorations and measured 24 inches across the base. It was doubtless plum-studded within, as all birthday cakes genuinely are, and liberally sugar-crested without; upon its saccharine surface were seventy candles aflame, to represent the years that had gone, with a liberal number not alight, to represent the years yet to come.

The surprise and merriment created by the appearance of the spectacular cake was great and vociferous. The company by this time at ease with its surroundings and fully imbued with the spirit of the occasion, sang out its approval till the atmosphere became vocal with shouts and laughter.

The commotion continued at the deafening point during his effort to extinguish the candles one by one in the customary way, and ceased only when the distinguished guest, with task duly performed, sat back in his chair with labored respiration, very red in the face.

The Committee won merited praise in the discharge of its multifarious duties. The program, an elaborate one, was carried out to the letter and on schedule time.

Nothing was neglected or omitted; its activities stamp the members as past masters of detail.

The placement cards were well calculated to become souvenirs. They consisted of an artistically contrived menu in a case of finished leather, on which was the name of the particular guest at whose plate it had been placed, in gold leaf. The front cover of the menu card bore a striking half-tone likeness of Mr. Seep and over it his initials in gold leaf. The frontispiece contained the following:

ODE

TO

Mr. Joseph Seep

ON HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.

By Victor J. Free.



To say a cheery word to
 one who lives,
 While yet his voice
 may answer, word
 for word;
 To place a humble
 flower in his coat,
 While yet its frag-
 rance in his pulses
 stirred;
 To write an honest and
 endearing note,
 And know his eye has
 read the thing we
 wrote—
 In short, we pay our
 meed of homage
 now
 And fashion garlands
 for a living brow.
 Well known to us his
 kindly, helpful life,

His unassuming work and modest ways;
 None worthy sought his aid and turned aside
 Without a benediction in his praise.
 His sterling work makes high example here,
 Where honesty's a virtue over dear.
 So, while we may we'll recognize who can
 The tribute justly due an honest man.

May each new year beyond the prophet's gift
 Bring fuller life to him and broader light,
 Wherein to shape his work as God might wish
 Ere Life is finished in a last goodnight.
 And may the angel choirs around him sing,
 As sunbeams kissed the childhood path he strayed—
 We wish him all the best that age may bring,
 "The last of life, for which the first was made."

Menu.

Anchovies en Tomato.

Celery Bisque.

Olives.

Sweetbread Medallion.

Celery.

String Beans.

Sorbert Creme de Menthe.

Roast Squab—Currant Jelly.

Sweet Potato Patade

Salad—Fieldmore.

Candlesticks—Glace.

Fromage.

Cafe Noir.

Salted Almonds.

Toasts.

"Sir, you are very welcome to our house,
It must appear in other ways than words,
Therefore, I scant this breathing courtesy."
Shakespeare—"Merchant of Venice," Act V, Scene I.

Address - - - - - The Toastmaster

"This is my birthday, and a happier one was never mine."
Longfellow—"The Divine Tragedy."

Response - - - - - The Guest of Honor

"May he live
Longer than I have time to tell his years,
Ever beloved and loving may his rule be!
And, when old time shall lead him to his end
Goodness and he fill up one monument."
Shakespeare—"Henry VIII," Act II.

Response - - - - - C. N. Payne

"The kindest man,
The best conditioned, and unwearied spirit,
In doing courtesies."
Shakespeare—"Merchant of Venice," Act III.

Response - - - - - P. C. Boyle

"The friends thou hast and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with hooks of steel."
Shakespeare.

Response - - - - - J. J. Buchanan

"More years had made me love thee more."
Tennyson.

Response - - - - - Col. S. C. Lewis

"Ohne bruder kann man leben,
Nicht ohne freund."
German Proverb.

Response - - - - - W. V. Miller

"Do as adversaries do in law,
Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends."
"Taming of the Shrew," Act I, Scene II.

Response - - - - - W. J. Breene

"See'st thou a man diligent in his business,
He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean
men."
Proverbs 22:29.

Response - - - - - Rev. Thos. W. Cavanaugh

"Here's to us. God bless every one."
Dickens.

S. S. Bryan.



THE TOASTMASTER.

chestra of Titusville, the program being especially prepared for the occasion. Interspersed with toasts proposed and their responses, there was vocal music from the quartette of the Allegheny College Glee club, of Meadville.

Mr. Bryan proved an ideal man for the position assigned him. His remarks, when proposing the toast and designating the candidate for a response, were apt and witty and added no little to the general effect. His opening address follows:

“In assuming the post of toastmaster I do it with some diffidence, as I somewhat question my right to act in this capacity; as of the 130 gentlemen present this evening, there is only one guest and the rest are his hosts, and it may seem impertinent for any one to assume the duty of making an address of welcome, as we are all guest of honor, but in deference to a time-honored custom it was thought fitting by the committee to extend a welcome to those gentlemen who have gathered here from the Atlantic ocean on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west and from the Great Lakes on the north to the

The feast was served, and it was not until the miniature electric batteries in the form of cigar lighters had been brought into their sphere of usefulness that the toastmaster inaugurated another feast, aptly called by descriptive writers as the “feast of reason and the flow of soul.” And in this instance the expression was not meaningless. During the time the banquet was being served instrumental music was rendered by Coleman’s or-

Ohio river on the south, to do honor to one whom we all love and esteem, and whom we can never look upon as old, but who to-night is 70 years young.

"The committee have asked me to solemnly charge all present to-night, as they value their peace of mind and future happiness, to enjoy themselves to the limit and to feel that you are in the house of friends, and if by any chance there has been a failure to introduce you to those seated at the table with you, we hope that you will waive all formality.

"Your committee further begs to announce that every precaution has been taken for your safety for we have invited to be present two president judges of adjoining county courts, the present mayor of Titusville, two ex-mayors, two physicians, two clergymen, and, furthermore, all the policemen of Titusville have been instructed as to what will be expected of them on this occasion. With this in view, gentlemen, I think you cannot blame the committee for not taking every precaution for your safety and comfort.

"Again I greet you all and bid you welcome to Titusville and to Fieldmore, and hope that you will always look back to this occasion with the most pleasant memories."

"This is my birthday, and a happier one was never mine."
Longfellow—"The Divine Tragedy."

Response by Joseph Seep.

"I thank you heartily for the expression. I do not think I deserve what the gentleman has said about me, although I think it is intended and that it comes from the bottom of your hearts. It is something that I wish that I could respond to in a proper manner, but I am unable to do so, and you will have to pardon me for that. If I had been advised of this entertainment the chances are that we would not have had this party to-night. (Laughter.) I happened to see by the invitation cards

that were distributed—of which I received none—(applause)—that it was my 70th birthday. I would have let it go at that provided there was not some old Parkerites here, among them my friends, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Payne and several other gentlemen whom I do not wish to name.

“They used to accuse me of having several birthdays in the year. I never counted them, but I am sure they did not number 70.

“I wish that I could really express myself in a proper manner to do justice to this grand entertainment that my friends have gotten up for my benefit. I wish that I could.

“As a speaker, I am rather a failure—that is one of my weak points. I am not unmindful, however, gentlemen, that for the many friends I claim in the oil country is largely due to that grand organization which I have served for 35 years or more, and of whom you are all proud. It was that old organization that made it easy for me to make these men friends in the oil country, many of whom are here to-night to honor me. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, gentlemen, and at the same time am willing to take all the honors that are due, partially to that organization that I have just mentioned; but it is not the first time that they have failed to receive proper credit for what they have done for the oil country.

“You will pardon me for cutting this short for I am out of material. I thank you all for this grand banquet, this great honor that is bestowed on me, and not forgetting the gentlemen that came a great distance, several hundred miles. I thank you and I hope that the youngest man living who is present here to-night will live to celebrate his 70th birthday, and that we may all be present at the time.” (Great applause.)

"May he live
 Longer than I have time to tell his years,
 Ever beloved and loving may his rule be!
 And, when old time shall lead him to his end
 Goodness and he fill up one monument."
 Shakespeare—"Henry XIII." Act II.

Response by C. N. Payne.



"Mr. Chairman, Mr. Seep and Gentlemen:

"I count it all joy and honor to be one of the goodly company, and only regret the absence of a number (for good reasons) whose presence would have added to our pleasure. Mr. J. D. Archbold, owing to previous business obligations, declined—t h u s putting upon myself the hopeless task of attempting to fill his place in a response to the toast:

"'May he live longer than I have time to tell his years; ever be loved and loving may his rule be; and when Old Time shall lead him to his end, goodness and he fill up one monument.'

"This sentiment, expressed by Buckingham of King Henry VIII, does not imply anything analogous in the character of our guests and friend, Mr. Seep, and that of King Henry. He was titled "Defender of the Faith," yet committed many outrageous murders, married six wives and was faithful to none of them; while our friend here has been a king in the oil trade for 38 years and is entitled to the name "Defender of Our Faith in Men," he has married but one true, good wife, to whom he has been faithful for 42 years. To inscribe his deeds of love and kindly help, with all his goodness, would be a large monument to his memory without himself or a marble shaft. Himself we cannot spare and will not let Old

Time lead him to his end until Heaven shall need such a man to adorn its citizenship more than we need him here.

“Since the formation of the Standard Oil Company Mr. Seep has been one of its chief pillars, honoring that company with his strong personality. Drop the much maligned name ‘Standard Oil Company’ and you have left, making up the real thing it is, such personalities as Mr. Seep, Mr. Archibold, Mr. Flagler, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Tilford, Messrs. Rockefellers, and the late active men, Mr. Moffett, Mr. Bedford, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Folger and many thousand other good citizens, scattered through all the states, adding their individual energies to the success of a great commercial enterprise. Coupled with these men and forming a large part of the oil industry, are the producers of oil, the builders and sellers of oil machinery, the bankers, and the representatives of gas companies and of carrying companies—all linked together by the one bond of commercial unity; one cannot succeed without the helpful co-operation of the other; their success or failure go hand in hand; taken together they form a democracy of trained business men and good citizens, loyal to the best interests of the state and nation; men with kind, not callous, hearts; men with joyous, not pampered spirits; men with broad, not petty, minds; men with trained, not idle, hands; men with sympathetic, not critical, eyes; men with direct, not shifting, speech; men who meet wealth with simplicity, and poverty with dignity; who face life with a quiet strength, without losing one noble quality; who promote and preserve a wholesome atmosphere in their business and communities; who minister to the righteousness of the state and reflect the thought and guidance of God.”

“A sentiment was handed to me the other day, which I shall quote as illustrating the spirit of the oil man’s life:

“Let me live in a house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by,
The men that are good, and the men that are bad,
As good and as bad as I.

“I would not sit in the scorner’s seat,
Or hurl the cynic’s ban;
Let me live in a house by the side of the road,
And be a friend to man.”

"The kindest man,
The best conditioned and unwearied spirit
In doing courtesies."

Shakespeare—"Merchant of Venice," Act III.

Response by H. C. Boyle.

Mr. Toastmaster, Our Guest of Honor, and Gentlemen:—



"I concede that Joseph Seep is all that is expressed in the toast and more. He possesses the amiable qualities of the Merchant of Venice combined with the practical ones of the man of large affairs.

"Friendship, loyalty and fidelity are prominent keynotes of his character.

"Educated in the practical school of experience, he brought to the oil business, a rich fund of

general information. His introduction, 39 years ago, to this business, was not an accident. The sterling qualities of the unassuming young man were known and appreciated after ten years of devoted and faithful service, by the same employers.

"When Bostwick & Tilford, cotton factors, permanently abandoned cotton, and transferred their activities to oil, Joseph Seep was the man sent here to represent the firm. That the selection was a wise one, will not admit of doubt. When Seep came into it, the oil business was in a chaotic state; transactions were conducted in a loose way, and the sutler's methods of price-making generally prevailed. The firm's affairs prospered and Seep, by sheer force of individual merit, supplemented by an 'unwearied spirit in doing courtesies,' rose from one responsible position to another, until he was called, 29

years ago, to the headship of the purchasing department of the Standard Oil Company, a position which he now holds, and since its organization has filled with fidelity and ability, to the eminent satisfaction of the oil trade. What this means to an industry so comprehensive as oil, only the initiated know.

“Mr. Toastmaster, I will not take up your time with exact figures. It is sufficient to state, by way of illustration, that the annual disbursements of this agency are not exceeded by those of any fiscal agency, except government, some of the prominent railway systems, and of these, the number are indeed few.

“Compared with Mr. Seep’s daily transactions, Shylock’s hoard would diminish in size and importance to the ‘widow’s mite.’ As one of the speakers has well said, ‘Mr. Seep is a friend to man.’ The people of this region, with whom he has lived so long, and who know his effective works, are, to a man, his friend.

“His charities and benefactions, dispensed with a lavish hand, when want or distress appear, are too numerous for specific mention. I can only say, ‘Stop, Look, Listen.’ The half will not be seen, but enough will be heard by the attentative listener to cause even the hard of heart to swell with conscious pride.

“I am moved, Mr. Toastmaster, to note and dwell on the points of resemblance in our honored guest and the leading character in Shakespeare’s comedy.

“The friendship of the Merchant of Venice for Bassanio, and the mutual sacrifice which each in turn was prepared to make for the other, finds an exact parallel in the bond which existed between our honored guest, and the late Daniel O’Day.

“It began in 1869 with Seep’s introduction to this business and ended with O’Day’s death, less than two years ago. The circumstances which brought them together have passed out of mind. It is immaterial at this time, and for the purposes of this toast, whether Dan was discovered by Joe, or Joe was discovered by Dan. The circumstances that brought them together made life

friends of them. For 37 years these men toiled together in and for the upbuilding of the special lines in which they were engaged.

“Upward and onward they progressed side by side with and for the success of the Standard Oil Company; success came to these faithful stewards about the same time and degree. Their duties brought them in daily contact with the people. There had been times when the Standard men seemed to live a joyless existence, and to him life was full of trouble. But Seep and O’Day moved on, through weal and woe, trusting to time and a righteous cause to make the rough places smooth, and departed not one pace from the straightforward course of approved commercial usage, to ameliorate the hostility of a misguided public sentiment, that thrift might follow fawning.

“The qualifications of the team for the work assigned to them supplemented each other in a way to render their efforts irresistible in combination. A casual examination of team work, looking backward, fills me with admiration and wonder, that so much was accomplished against opposition so active and formidable. They stood their ground man fashion, facing contumely and insult, when others fled before the storm. From this distance, they appear as undersized Hectors, gallantly fighting the bloodless battle of a commercial cause, and wresting victory from apparent defeat. Might, for a time, reigned; but in the end right prevailed.

“It is not worth while to go beyond the sentiment expressed in this toast to seek reasons for a moral victory so far reaching in its effects.

“The ‘unwearied spirit in the doing of courtesies’ covers it all.

“It is seldom that friendship’s bond is so firmly welded in men of mature years, or finds expression in ways so varied. To the end it was hopeful, elastic, confiding, spontaneous, enduring. A remarkable and beautiful example of the attachments of youth, transferred to middle age and beyond, without a break in its continuity. Dan and Joe were constantly exchanging small courtesies, keepsakes passed between them as marbles

passed from hand to hand among small boys, and for the same purpose to cement existing regard. It was no unusual discovery to find Joe's handkerchiefs in Dan's bag, or Dan's collars in Joe's bag, when they had been traveling together.

"Trinkets were exchanged, and keepsakes transferred from one to the other in the same spirit that a boy proffers a favored chum a bite from a choice apple. They worked together, thought alike, and as occasion permitted, were inseparable in their companionship. One example of the almost juvenile enthusiasm of their personal regard, that will bear repetition here, found expression in an exchange of shirt buttons, which brought down ridicule upon them from their devoted wives. The buttons in original hands had been useful and serviceable, but in their exchanged relation, owing to difference in construction of the garments for which intended, they were unserviceable and useless.

"So it went on. Life to each was a fond, sweet dream; but not all play; there was serious work as well.

"Though passed away from earth, Mr. O'Day is not forgotten. He left the impression of his strong personality upon everything he touched. Those of us remaining behind, whose privilege it was to be with Seep and O'Day, with the Standard, in the making, feel highly honored to be of that distinguished company.

"In Mr. Seep, certain of Shylock's characteristics find expression, but no favor. As a banker, Mr. Seep will concede that Shylock was behind these times, that he did not understand the primer of modern banking. Had he lived in those days and escaped the penalties of the clearing house, he would fall a surprised victim of the 'big stick' for raising the price of meat. But his perseverance and devotion to business furnish examples that might profitably apply to modern banking.

"If I may shift the spot light from the present to the past, in order to observe more closely certain shades of the character of our distinguished guest in the making, let me add that man's character is substantially expressed in his record. Paradoxical as this may seem,

his character was ready made in nature's mould before the making of his record was fairly begun.

"The outbreak of the Civil War found Mr. Seep at the mature age of 23, living in Lexington, Ky. War spirit ran high. The young men of his age were forming military companies for the southern cause. A young brother had made up his mind to join with his neighbors in their warlike enterprise. He came to talk it over with 'Joe,' and received this sage advice: 'Henry, I have no desire to interrupt your plans. You and me occupy a different position in this contest from our neighbors, born and bred on the soil. We came as aliens, and have acquired our right of citizenship through renunciation of allegiance to a foreign power. If we take up arms against the government, we add the crime of perjury to that of treason. Think it over.'

"Another example indicating in a way that peace hath her victories no less renowned than war, and that men capable of great deeds are unemotional, silent, resourceful, confident, and conscious of reserve power.

"At a critical moment of the attack on Fort Donelson, General Grant was approached at top speed by an aide from the firing line, with the startling report that the enemy were out in full force, with full haversacks, and fully accoutred with overcoats and blankets. The indications were for a long and desperate struggle, and the division commanders were calling for reinforcements. Grant saw in the situation, a disposition on the enemy's part to get way rather than fight. He dispatched a polite note to General Buckner, demanding his immediate and unconditional surrender, and received it without a battle that at a later period in the war would be thought worthy of the name. This victory was a tribute to Grant's common sense and mental activity.

"Mr. Seep's business career is not without conspicuous examples of mental activity and the quick decision of a commander. When the memorable bull movement of 1876 was at its height, he found himself with 20,000 barrels of \$4 oil in the Pennsylvania Pipe, which at the time was not in remarkably good repute, although the sworn statements made in accordance with the law indicated

ample stocks on hand to meet all obligations. Seep continued his purchase to the limit of safety, basing his estimates on the pipe line report; but as oil was offered in excess of the stocks, Mr. Seep expressed himself in choice Shakespearean phrase to the effect that the printing press under the constitutional guarantee shall be free; and the freedom of the printing press meant more paper oil than he cared to buy.

“He called his oil, and Thomas M. King, the railway potentate of that day, provided against any scarcity of cars. Seep sent his inspectors to the oil yards, and awaited results. It came in the form of a complaint from his inspectors that deliveries were slow, and later that no oil could be had before 11 o'clock in the day, and no explanations were forthcoming. The truth dawned on Mr. Seep that the line had no stocks, and its deliveries had been made from its daily receipts. He wired his inspectors: ‘Don’t breath a word of that to a living soul. Take what you get without comment, and wait for more.’ After several days the order was filled, and it proved to be the last filled by that pipe line.”

"The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with hooks of steel."

Shakespeare.

Response by James J. Buchanan.

Mr. Toastmaster, Our Guest of Honor, and Gentlemen:—



"I esteem it a very great honor to have been invited to participate with you on this happy occasion and to be one of those to voice the felicitation of the event is indeed a distinction.

"It had never been my hope that I would ever find myself in such a notable assemblage. I value this all the more from the fact that when we touch shoulders with greatness, as has been my lot to-night, we feel some

of the stirrings of power. But the best part is our warming our hearts at the altar fires of old friendship.

"My being here and in this capacity may perhaps be accounted for by an incident. It is said that upon a visit of the Duke of Argyle to Edinburgh, a blind piper claimed near relationship to him. The Duke promised him a sovereign if he established his kinship. The man said 'an' it please your grace, I am the fifteenth cousin of your piper." He got the pound! Well, I presume my association for a quarter of a century with Captain J. J. Vandergrift, the old friend and business colleague of our guest of honor, has given me title to recognition. I would not care to stand upon better footing. If we are to be known by the company we keep, if like draws to like, not only will it, if possible, assure me as to what I may say of his colleague, our guest of honor, but I can myself bask in some reflected glory.

"In all these years of the closest and most confiden-

tial relation that ever falls to a man, the Captain not only never directed me to do a questionable act for him or for any one else, but if I had suggested such a thing to him, or to any one else, it would have ended my regime. He was honest and true from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head, and you and I know his old friend and colleague, our guest of honor, is.

"I am reminded of another incident. In our Scottish families the members are intensely loyal to each other. They stand by each other through thick and thin. A Scotch lad had joined the volunteers and his regiment was coming to town. The family, of course, turned out in their best to see him in his uniform. As the soldiers filed into the street his little brother tugged at his mother's gown, saying "there they come mither, there they come, and there's our Johnnie, mither, and they are all out of step but our Johnnie!" That was the little fellow's idea of loyalty. His brother was always right to him. As we all know full well, our guest of honor has been loyal to every trust 'through all these tracts of years, wearing the white flower of a blameless life.'

"He has been more than loyal, for while always and everywhere true to his principles, by his genial spirit he has also commanded the regard of those who have dealt with him. Whatever differences may have arisen between the great interest he has represented and those having business with it, no man has ever arisen to question his honest manhood. This great gathering to-night is a testimony of this.

"Our affection for the man has brought us here. We hail him as our friend. There must be quality in a man who, after 40 years of business relations, can be so regarded.

"Reference has been made to our departed friend Daniel O'Day, and his association with our guest of honor. A romancer has said that when they were boys they looked like twins. Their teacher once, so it is said, propounded two questions to them—'how deep was the ocean and how far it was round the earth'—which the boys answered satisfactorily, as 'a stone's throw' and 'as far as the sun could travel in twenty-four hours.' A third

question, which would bring them a good thrashing if not answered correctly, was then proposed. Before asking it the teacher turned his back; with that Dan and Joe, for so they were called, changed places. Turning round and looking at Dan the teacher asked, 'Joe, what am I thinking about?' Dan answered: 'You are thinking I am Joe and I am not, for I am Dan.' It was not the only time that our guest of honor was helped out by the ready wit of his friend Dan. They made a great team and each always pulled his own share of the load.

"I remember a statement made by the honored president of the great corporation represented by our guest of honor to a company of oil producers at a meeting some years ago at which I was not present but which was reported to me at the time. He said that the power did not exist in any individual, or any set of individuals, or even in the government of the United States to permanently withstand the law of supply and demand. Much of the legislation and regulation of to-day is an attempt to do that.

"The best legislation and regulation of our business interests are to be found in the personality and character of such men as our distinguished friend here. This has been variously called the age of steam, of steel, of newspapers, and of societies. It is pre-eminently the age of co-ordination and co-operation. The great corporation so largely represented here, could not exist or have accomplished its beneficent work in transmuting a material of little use into a commodity for world wide human comfort without co-operation and the loyalty of friendship. One man could not do it alone.

"The tendency of the day is toward expansion of narrow things and the consolidation of separated things. It is an age of putting together what had been kept apart. In science and art, as well as in business, there are everywhere evident this widening and consolidation.

"While the wagon has given place to the railroad, the retail store to the department store, the small workshop to the factory and these factories have been consolidated into so called 'trusts,' which regulate and compen-

sate the industry of the country, in science no less changes have taken place and are taking place.

“Separate branches of human knowledge, each studied by its own rules and methods, are consolidated into one. The law of the conversation of energy makes motion, and sound, and heat, and light appear not as separated isolated things, but as transmutations of a single force, never lost or destroyed. In biology the doctrine of natural selection has brought into one well ordered whole those detached parts on which naturalists had to concentrate their separate attention.

“Then there is our expansion of education—represented by consolidation into the great university.

“Another great change has come about in our every day life. A combination has come about that does away with the distinction between worktime and playtime, which establishes the foundations of true democracy. The obligation to work is no longer a badge of inferiority or the right to play the exclusive privilege of the few. Service has become the means of self-development and enjoyment. The man who has the passion for achievement that will make him count his present comfort as nothing before a great end to be accomplished and who will sink his own personality to give another and better personality than his own the opportunity to bring about the result is the man who understands the true principle of co-operative service.

“This is the age when success more than ever depends upon things being done supremely well. It is to thoroughness in the life of our guest of honor more than anything else perhaps is due our presence here to-night.

“Then there is confidence. It is said that only five per cent. of the world’s entire business is done on a cash basis; 95 per cent. on credit or confidence in man’s integrity. Destroy that confidence and what is there left? If one-tenth of what we constantly hear about dishonesty in business were actually true, business would cease. But it goes on, because there are far more honest than dishonest men in business. It is no special art and reflects little credit merely to fill a position. It is not enough merely to be faithful. Faithfulness must exist, but only

as a foundation. The man who most loudly complains of being underpaid is generally very apt to be already overpaid. The cause of discontent in business is generally found in inability of some sort, forgetfulness of the fact that opportunity to learn is the better part of compensation.

“Why have I referred to these? Because they seem to furnish some clue or reason for the commanding position our friend has attained in the esteem of the business community and in our hearts.

“An old friend of mine used to offer as a toast ‘here’s to all friends and may the devil take the rest of our relations.’ A boy ten years of age, when asked for the definition of a friend, said it was ‘a fellow who knows all about you but likes you.’

“Reference has been made to some of us who have come great distances. I am sure we would have crossed the ocean to be here to-night if we could and we all wish that such an affair as this might be an annual event, provided we could always have the same friend as our honor guest.

“Many tales could be told of our experiences and of persons in the old oil days, but the end of them all would be, whatever occurred, we always liked and believed in Joseph Seep, whom we salute to-night.

More years had made me love thee more.
Tennyson.

Response by S. C. Lewis.



“In the great Cathedral church of St. Paul’s, in London, whose architect was Sir Christopher Wren, there is an inscription on the walls: ‘If you would see my monument, look around.’

“It would seem as though this saying was particularly applicable to our friend Seep, as he has only to look about at this assemblage to see the friends that his kindness has reared up and brought together on this

occasion to do him honor. I think it is possibly the union of the strongest common sense and real tenderness of heart more than anything else that endears him to us.

“It has been my privilege to know Mr. Seep well for a good many years, and I can say of him what I never heard said of any other Man—I never heard an unkindly word or thought expressed in regard to him.

“The Seep family are a very ancient and prolific family. Some years ago, while on a train in Ireland, I got into conversation with a gentleman in the train, who told me his name was O’Seep. He said there were a good many of the family in Roscommon county, and as you all know Mt. Ararat is situated in this county, and the old log book of the ark is in an ancient abbey in the southern part of the county. And this gentleman, whose acquaintance I made, asseverated with undoubted truth that the old chronicles and writings in the log stated that an

O'Seep had been one of the shipmates who bought the oil that was used on this famous trip.

“This would prove without question the widely diffused family and their connection with the oil business at a very early date.”

Freundschaft.

Herr Präsident, Geehrter Gast und meine Herren:

Ohne Bruder kann man leben, nicht ohne Freund.

(One can live without a brother, not without a friend.)

Die Wahl-Fähigkeit ist hier die Hauptsache.

Man wählt den Freund; der Bruder wird uns gegeben.

Merkwürdig ist es, daß Menschen, von derselben Mutter geboren, auf dem Pfad der Liebe und der Gutmütigkeit nicht immer zusammen gehen.

Wie kommt denn das?

Ihre Lebenswege kreuzen sich; ihre Privat-Interessen sondern sie oft von einander ab und eine natürliche Verwandtschaft, welche die innigste, die vertrauteste sein sollte, erniedrigt sich nicht selten zur Gleichgültigkeit, wenn auch nicht zur Feindschaft. Im Gegenteil, die Welt-Literatur ist gefüllt vom Anfang zum Ende mit dem Ruhme der Freundschaft.

In Heiliger Schrift steht's geschrieben:

„Niemand hat größere Liebe denn die, daß er sein Leben läßt für seine Freunde.“

Zahlreicher Zeugnisse dieser Art, über den hohen Wert der Freundschaft, wird sich jedermann erinnern, doch unter allen wird keine bessere Aufmunterung zu dieser seligen Empfindung sich finden als in den Worten des alten Dichters der singt:

„Der Mensch hat Nichts so eigen,
Nichts steht so wohl ihm an,
Als daß er Treu' erzeigen
Und Freundschaft halten kann.

Wenn er mit seines Gleichen
Soll treten in ein Land,
Verpflicht er nicht zu weichen
Mit Herzen, Mund und Hand.

Die Red' ist uns gegeben
 Damit wir nicht allein
 Für uns nur sollen leben
 Und fern von Leuten sein.

Was kann die Freude machen
 Die Einsamkeit verhehlt?
 Das giebt ein doppelt Lachen
 Was Freunden wird erzählt.

Mit diesen Bundgesellen
 Ver'ach ich Fein und Not,
 Geh' auf den Grund der Höllen
 Und Erbe durch den Tod."

So auch von Schiller wird's gesungen:

„Wem der große Wurf gelungen,
 Eines Freundes Freund zu sein;
 Wer ein holdes Weib errungen,
 Miße seinen Jubel ein;

Ja, wer auch nur eine Seele
 Sein nennt, auf dem Erdenrund,
 Und wer's nie gekount, der sichele
 Weinend sich aus diejem Bund.

Was den großen Ring bewohnet,
 Hulbige der Sympathie;
 Wo der Unbekannte thronet,
 Zu den Sternen leitet sie."

Und wie aus dieser Versammlung, ragt sich die Stärke dieser Empfindung hervor? Aus weit abgetrennten Gegenden sind wir hierhergekommen, aus New York, aus Buffalo, aus Pittsburg, aus dem Westen, um unseren Gast zu versichern wie lieb wir ihn haben.

Wir sind diesen Abend hier versammelt um seinen Geburtstag zu feiern.

Unsere Anwesenheit ist nur ein schwacher Versuch ihm anzudeuten wie wir ihn in Achtung halten und wie wir, seit Jahren, seine Güte, seine Freundschaft, seinen Rat, zu schätzen gelernt ha-

ben. Viele andere, die nicht hier sind, die mit ihm in eine so vertrauliche Verwandtschaft nicht eingetreten, können bezeugen wie er das Jammer-Geschrei der Elenden immer gehört und ihre Armut, ihre Trübseligkeiten zu lindern sich bestrebt hat. Wie breit, wie weit ausgedehnt müßte nicht der Raum sein um die Teilhaber seiner Freigebigkeit zu fassen.

Wohlthaten still und rein gegeben,
Sind Tote, die im Grabe leben;
Sind Blumen, die im Sturm bestehen;
Sind Sternlein, die nicht untergehen.

Als deutscher Knabe hier angekommen, um sich in der Fremde einen Lebensunterhalt zu gewinnen, um eine gute Lebensstellung, vielleicht ein Vermögen zu erreichen, hat er, trotz aller Schwierigkeiten, gegen alle Hindernisse, einen beneidenswerten Lebensstand erworben; mit Fleiß, mit Aufrichtigkeit, mit ehrlichem Gebrauch der, in diesem Lande sich allen Menschen anbietenden günstigen Sozial- und Geschäfts-Gelegenheiten, führte er seinen Gang fort und heute, in seiner schönen Heimat, im Kreise seiner Familie, in der Gesellschaft zahlreicher Freunde, mag er die Blicke auf ein nützlichcs, gut angewendetes Leben zurück gehen lassen, worin er alle Pflichten als Gatte, Vater, Wohlthäter und als Bürger erfüllt hat.

Und nun, Freund Seep, teilen wir alle Ihnen unsere Glückwünsche mit, die Ihres Geburtstages wegen, so schicklich sind.

Sei der Tag noch weit entfernt, wo wir es nicht wiederholen können.

"Do as adversaries do in law,
Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends."
"Taming of the Shrew"—Act I, Scene II.

Response by W. J. Breene.

Mr. Breene responded in part as follows :



"The assignment of any subject for a toast upon an occasion so auspicious as this is generally regarded as a suggestion to the speaker to speak upon anything else than the subject suggested by the toast.

"Our distinguished toastmaster, the gentleman who has all the sauvity of a Chesterfield, with the physical appearance and mental superiority of a Henry

Clay—this gentleman who assigned me this toast never for a moment thought or intended that I could or would say anything of interest to any one in all this brilliant assembly by way of describing the relations of lawyers, who, in the absence of their clients after the fray is over, gather about the festive board laden with good cheer and garnished with hale fellows well met.

"This occasion is indeed most auspicious. Fortunate indeed is that man who, when the shadows are falling from the west, after a long, honorable life, productive of good, beholds himself surrounded by legions of loyal friends.

"An old Greek philosopher once said that the most beautiful thoughts are those suggested by a retrospective of a long and well spent life.

"He who enters life's battle with honest thought and purpose, with naught but head and hands; he who appreciates the vital fact that lasting success is not the

achievement, birth or growth of an hour or day; he whose word is ever equal to his bond; he who gains great power and in the exercise of it is not unmindful of the lowly and the meek; he whose whole life is an exemplar for emulation, is a man pleasing to the gods, venerated of men, and such a man do we honor here to-night.

"A good friend, a good neighbor, ever thoughtful and ready to make sacrifices for others, he has for more than an ordinary lifetime been one of the ablest and most trustworthy representatives of the greatest corporation of ancient or modern times, the most influential perhaps in the financial annals of men; a corporation created and advanced by the transcendent business genius of a coterie of men sprung from no wealth-pampered ranks in life.

"I am not here to laud, attack or defend the history or policies of the men whose indomitable efforts and far-reaching sagacity have made to-day the hut of the Tartar as light as the palaces of ancient kings.

"I am not here to criticize or attack the convictions of men upon certain great public questions nor am I here to surrender or apologize for any of my own.

"The friends of our distinguished guest occupy every rank and station in life; they are not limited to any particular business, creed or conviction, and I am proud to say with you their names are legion.

"I am here, and right glad to be here, to tender my appreciation and respect for the civic virtues of our distinguished guest.

"I am here to pay tribute to the morale of a long and beneficent life; a life, from the standpoint of good citizenship, as pure as Caesar would have had the virtue of his wife—above suspicion.

"I am here, in common with his many friends, to do homage to that most estimable of all possessions, a good character and a good name.

" 'Good name in man and woman, dear, my Lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls;
Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something, nothing.

" 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him
And makes me poor indeed.' "

“In time’s cycle, imperial ambition, regal domain, high place, princely retinues, the wealth of Ormus or of Ind, are as evanescent as a dream; but a life replete with honor respected by the truly great, loved, revered and revered by the poor and lowly, synonymous with high manhood, ever tempered with charity and mercy, is the life that, after all, outlasts the renown of a Lucullus or Tammerlane, and such a life is the life in whose honor we are assembled here to-night.

“A kind Providence has allotted to our distinguished guest the span and years of the patriarch. It is your wish and mine that his days may be numbered like unto the sands upon the sea’s shore. With you, I join in extending to him the felicitations of this happy hour and, in the language of the Arab, ‘may his shadow never grow less.’ ”

"See'st thou a man diligent in his business,
He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean
men."

Response by Rev. T. M. Cabanaugh.

Mr. Seep, Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen:—



"Arising so late to offer my tribute at this 'feast of reason' I am reminded of the proverb that was in vogue among the banqueters of classic days, 'Sero venientibus ossa:' for those coming late to the banquet there is left only the bones. The beautiful euconiums that have been offered by the gentlemen who have preceeded me, leave nothing to be added with regard to the points on which they have touched. But as the diamond refracts the

light in prismatic hues of beauty, from whatever side it is viewed, so the character of Mr. Seep, however we consider it, elicits our admiration and respect. The toast assigned me suggests that I call your attention to his life as a consistent Christian gentleman.

"Prosperity is often a more severe test of a man's true worth than adversity. Not infrequently success is purchased at the heavy cost of principles that were fondly cherished before fortune smiled on persevering efforts.

"Many a man has toiled and struggled up the mountain on whose summit is fame or fortune to find, in the evening of life, that he has left behind him, or lost on the way the dearest ideals of his youthful days. But the gentleman who is the honored guest of this notable assembly can look back over the achievements of his life and feel that his mind has clung tenaciously to those solid principles

of religion and morality instilled into it in the morning of life. Whatever measure of success he has met with in life has not spoiled his heart or impaired the virile qualities of true manhood.

“Affable, unassuming, sympathetic, kind and charitable, he has not permitted selfishness to make him forgetful of the needs of others. Nor has his unwearied devotion to business made him neglect the great business of every human life that pertains to Eternity. As a Christian Catholic gentleman, his example has ever been conspicuous. From early childhood, amid all the vicissitudes of fortune and with all the changes of environment, he has been a consistent adherent to the Faith of his Fathers. For thirty-nine years his life as a Catholic and as a member of St. Titus Church has been one of edifying devotion. Without ostentation he has been faithful in the discharge of all of his religious obligations. He has not only given most liberally of his means for the maintenance of Divine worship, but what is more, he has given himself unsparingly. Religion with him has not been a cloak for hypocrisy or the garb for selected occasions, but an active principle that has permeated and influenced his whole life. In public and in private, his life has proclaimed to the world, that a man does not need to forget his Creator in order to succeed in business. His success is not due to blind fate or chance, but has been won by persevering efforts, by indefatigable devotion to duty, and by a judicious selection and improvement of the opportunities that Providence has strewn in his path, and in a great measure is a truthful illustration of the saying of the Divine Teacher, ‘Seek first the Kingdom of God and his justice and all things will be added unto you.’ If any man ever deserved prosperity as the reward of a well spent life it is the gentleman, whom we honor ourselves in honoring to-night.

“But while we give due credit to those sterling qualities of head and heart as the chief sources from which success has come there is one factor that should not be forgotten on this occasion, that has contributed more than anything else to his achievements, and that is the faithful wife, who has shared his joyes and helped bear his sor-

rows for upwards of forty-two years. To her tender care and watchful solicitude he can attribute that strength, moral and physical, that has kept him youthful amid the advancing years. Of all the favors that heaven has showered upon him, the greatest benediction has been the companionship of the noble woman whose wise counsel and prudent assistance has been a comfort in the time of trial and an incentive to greater efforts in the battle of life. His happy family life has made his home the dearest spot on earth to him, and to-day on his seventieth birthday he has seen gathered around the family table his ten children with their descendants, whose presence on this occasion is a source of mutual joy and congratulation.

“Mr. Seep, you have to-day passed the seventieth mile post on your earthly journey. As you enter into the twilight of the evening of life and look back through the vista of the receding years, you have every reason to feel satisfied with your efforts and grateful to the ‘Giver of every best and perfect gift.’ As you review the works your hands have wrought you can say with the poet, Horace, ‘errexī monumentum aere perēnius,’ (‘I have erected a monument more enduring than bronze.’) For marble will crumble and bronze will corrode, but the merits of a well spent life will endure forever. And as the sun sinking in the west leaves on the horizon a golden reflection of its noonday splendor, so the memory of the good deeds of your long life will cheer the approaching years less fruitful of ambition or capable of effort.

“May you live long to enjoy the fruits of your labor, to edify by your exemplary Christian life the vast army of your friends and acquaintances. May you for many years continue to be an ornament to that church which honors you as one of her most devoted children. And when the finger of death beckons you from the ranks of the living may you be able to say with the Great Apostle, ‘I have fought a great fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. For the rest there is laid up for me a crown of Justice, which the Lord, the Just Judge, will render on that day.’”

Impromptu Remarks by H. H. Rogers.



Although Mr. H. H. Rogers had made a special request of the committee that he be not asked to make an address, pleading his long journey to reach here, the assemblage was not to be denied and he was compelled to respond to repeated and insistent calls. He said in part:

"I feel a good deal as Dan O'Day used to tell about when he was addressed by somebody who said: 'Harry, you

are drunk.' The response was: 'I only wish I was.'

"That is about the way I feel to-night, because I am not in a condition for speaking."

Regarding his arrival in Titusville this afternoon he said:

"We got mixed up a little in our day's work. My son is a very nice young fellow and wanted to come up to the oil regions. So I asked him to come along and when we reached Titusville I learned that we were to go to a hotel whose name I had forgotten. We drove out through Spring street—I think it was. I wanted to show off Titusville as well as possible and so I began to point out the different places and personages. I said 'there goes Cal. Payne down the street; Cal is all right.' We moved around and went by some of the old familiar places. When we reached the hotel I got out and left the young man to arrange the details and to pay the expenses of the rig, and I heard this conversation outside the door of the hotel: 'How much?' said my son. 'Three dollars,' said the driver. 'No, no, my father does not want to buy this team; he only wants to hire it,' I heard him say.

"I love Titusville. I rolled in here 47 years ago, one

night on top of the stage from Union Mills, and put up at the old stage stand. I became acquainted with the people, and I observed one thing, and that is their great geniality. We used to have many lively stories on fine old fellows who lived here, but the most of them I have forgotten, and as they run through my mind, I know of no one who has a fonder place in my memory than Joe Seep. We used to tell stories of him many years ago. They said that he went down to New York once and stayed at the Hoffman House. It was a little warm in the evening, so he stepped outside and into a hack. The coachman followed him up and asked where he wanted to go. He replied, 'I want to go home.'

"Street number, please!" demanded cabby.

Joe replied (falling inflection): "What streets have you here?"

"Mr. O'Day was a faithful churchman, but once in a while he would make a slip. He went into a restaurant, a number of years ago, and said to the servant there, 'Nick, what kind of fish have you?' it being Friday. Nick said, 'Mr. O'Day, the fish is not good to-day, I'm sorry to say.' 'Well,' said Dan, 'what have you? Give me a roast beef; it is not my fault. Lord knows I asked for fish.' (The conclusion of the remarks were drowned in the peals of laughter and hand clapping.)

Impromptu Address by Rev. J. M. Critchlow.

“Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—



“I assure you it is a great privilege and no small pleasure to be present on this festal occasion as a producer of petroleum, as well as an ardent admirer of him whom we endeavor to honor to-night, and from such a standpoint briefly outline the local producers' conception of the Standard Oil Company and his feelings toward it, as that organization is personified to him in Mr. Joseph Seep.

“Some one might imagine that the only thing entering into the proposition of pumping a few hundred Pennsylvania oil wells, where it takes from one to five to net a barrel a day, at \$1.78, was the profit or loss of it from a commercial standpoint. And no doubt with many it is all, and with others of us it is primal; but there are several things in the business that are unknown in any other.

“When an operator starts to develop a lease by drilling 30 or 40 wells, if he has oil experience, sense and judgment, he knows if the territory meets his expectations, that he will not have to peddle his product; that the same is cash within 24 hours; that no panic or stringency has ever occurred or ever will, in which he takes one chance in a million of being paid in anything more worthless than a check on ‘The Seaboard Bank;’ that if his territory is consistent, he can anticipate large expenditures, large purchases and regular dividends, with no more risk than he would run with his funds on deposit in banks. But, as I have intimated, with some of us here there is a sentiment surrounding or accompanying every monthly

check signed Joseph Seep. Joseph Seep means to us the National Transit Company—and that means the Standard Oil Company—and we are not afraid of it or them, but almost feel we are a part of it, so long as Joseph Seep signs those checks and Joseph Seep lives on Main street, Titusville, Pa. As producers, we recognize the impossibility or improbability of being taken largely into the confidence of such an organization, much as we would like to be soon authoritatively informed that Pennsylvania crude will be marked \$2. In the meantime we pump on in the confidence that the Standard Oil Company of Titusville will give it to us just as soon as he can.”

Impromptu Remarks by Wade Hampton.

“Mr. Toastmaster, Mr. Seep and Gentlemen:—



“It gives me very great pleasure to meet here to-night so many of my friends and to join with them in honoring our guest on this, the 70th, anniversary of his birth. It is an unusual privilege to be permitted to tell a friend to his face how much you think of him, and I am thankful for this opportunity of expressing my love and esteem for Joseph Seep. I have had the pleasure, in past years, of helping

him celebrate some of his birthdays, and he has had a good many of them, as he says. I also had the pleasure of assisting in the celebration of another anniversary of Mr. Seep's, his tin wedding. It was on a Sunday, and,

owing to the day, we were compelled to wait until twelve o'clock at night before calling at his residence. We arrived at midnight with an express wagon full of tin-ware, and soon had our friend and his family up and stirring. It was a great occasion, (Charlie Goodwin can vouch for this).

"I am also thankful, Mr. Chairman, for the privilege of being here this evening to meet and greet so many of my dear old friends of the days gone by, and it is a particular pleasure on account of the nature of this gathering; and I sincerely hope Mr. Seep may live to celebrate many more birthdays."

Impromptu Remarks by Gen. Chas. Miller.

"Mr. Chairman, Honored Guest, and Gentlemen:—



"It is indeed, a great pleasure to be present on this auspicious occasion. It has been my pleasure to know Mr. Seep for over a quarter of a century, and to know him is to love him. There has been much said about self-made men. In speaking of Mr. Seep I think I am warranted in quoting the Latin proverb, 'Nasitur non fit' (born, not made). Mr. Seep, at his birth inherited all those excellent qualities

which go to make a worthy citizen and a grand man. He simply cultivated and developed the natural qualities of a good man, hence the statement that no man living who is a success but what has his enemies. Joseph Seep is an exception to the rule. He has hosts of friends because of

his fair dealings and his amiable disposition, and so far as I know, I never heard a disparaging word spoken of him. This, we all know, is a remarkable instance, and I believe my statement to be true. The question has been asked in the Good Book, 'will a man live again?' I am sure that when Joseph Seep shall pass beyond this sphere of life his good works and open, manly life will be a lesson that will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and even beyond that time his life will have a potent influence because of his many charitable acts and the building up of social and church work which he has sustained. And I am glad to pay this tribute to a man while he is living. We often say good things about those who have gone before and fail to speak well of their good qualities while they are here with us, and I feel that I would rather speak these words of commendation and admiration of our honored guest while he is living, because what I have said I believe to be true, than to cover his coffin with flowers."

Impromptu Remarks by M. N. Allen.

“Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen:—



“It is a privilege for me to bear testimony to the personal qualities of the guest of this evening. I have coveted the opportunity for giving expression to my feelings of deep respect and good will which, for more than a generation I have entertained toward Mr. Seep. I have known him intimately the last thirty-nine years. He came to Titusville in the spring of 1869, to take charge of the business of Bost-

wick & Tilford, who for some time past, had been purchasing refined oil and ‘bridging’ it to New York, principally, if not exclusively, for export. He had been a friend of Mr. Bostwick, and had assisted him at Cincinnati in the cotton trade.

“At the time of Mr. Seep’s advent here I was engaged in refining oil, and I sold the greater part of my product to Bostwick & Tilford. I presume my acquaintance with Mr. Seep began within twenty-four hours after his arrival in Titusville. For the next three years I saw him generally every day, because I was constantly selling him oil—until Mr. Bostwick became a part of the Standard Oil Company, when Mr. Seep’s distinctive work was changed to the purchase of crude oil for that great association; and to this day—a period of thirty-six years—Mr. Seep has continued in charge of the entire agency for purchasing crude oil for the Standard. But during all his life in this city, both while selling him refined oil for three years and constantly meeting him, thirty-six years since, I have known him intimately, and am pre-

pared to testify that his whole career in the oil country has been distinguished by personal honesty. I can say that in all the vast business which, since coming to Titusville, he has transacted, the name of Joseph Seep has been the synonym of integrity.

"With entire absence of ostentation in a constant current of good deeds, much of which the public never has knowledge, his life has been full of beneficence. And now, on his seventieth birthday, it is especially a grateful duty to bear witness to the fact that he is beloved by the community among whom he has lived thirty-nine years.

"I may also be permitted to bear testimony to the memory of one well known to most of the company present, whom the reaper, suddenly and with little warning, a few months ago removed from a life of much usefulness in Titusville. I refer to the late William T. Scheide.

"Mr. Scheide was a good man; and his death was a marked loss to this city. I have taken the liberty of referring to him because of the close friendship, for many years, between him and Mr. Seep. It is a grateful privilege to me to say that Mr. Scheide's character was pure gold, and offer this tribute to his memory."

Illuminated Letter.

The climax was at the conclusion of the reading of Mr. Rockefeller's letter. That Mr. Seep might have something tangible to hand down to his children and their children's children as commemorative of this unusual tribute to his worth and personality, a letter to be signed by all who participated at the birthday dinner, given in his honor, was prepared, and before the party had left their tables these autographs had been appended, and as the closing ceremony Mr. Robert S. Hampton, who had framed the document, read the inscription.

It was bound in book form. The binding of royal blue Morocco leather, the center of the outer cover bearing in raised sterling silver the initials "J. S." and the

date of his first and present birthday, "1838 and 1908." The lining was of white moire silk, and the title page showed a cluster of pink roses done by hand. The lettering being in illuminated text, done in colors by hand and India ink, insuring its perpetuity:

Congratulatory Letter

TO

Mr. Joseph Seep

By the Participants in the Dinner Given in Honor of His
Seventieth Birthday at "Fieldmore," Titusville, Pa.,
on Thursday evening, May 7, 1908.

Dear Friend—This is written in token of the happy evening passed with you at the dinner, given to mark your seventieth birthday, and to express the esteem and affection in which you are held.

Entering the petroleum trade in its infancy, when the business was in a chaotic condition, you have been a potent factor in its rapid and wonderful development, and no man has done more in bringing the industry from a condition of disorder to a state of stability and soundness.

It is fitting to record here the established fact that the name, "Joseph Seep," stands throughout the oil trade for ability, alertness, good judgment, and, above all, for fair dealing and absolute honesty.

As a financier you have achieved brilliant success, and your name is a shibboleth amongst bankers.

Always keenly interested in the public welfare your generous contributions and wise counsels have had much to do with the betterment of religious, educational and charitable institutions. What your private charities have been no man knoweth, but if the beneficiaries could speak their name would be legion.

For these things you are, sir, justly respected and esteemed, but those of us who have had the good fortune to be closely associated with you personally carry you in our hearts, with affection and admiration, as well as with profound respect. To some of us you have come with kindly, wise advice and substantial assistance in time of stress, your genial fellowship has renewed hope in many a despondent soul, and the manly serenity with which you have faced your own sorrows and difficulties has been an inspiration to your associates.

So we hail you, generous friend, loyal Christian gentleman,

genial humorist. Surely your sweet and wholesome life, the equanimity with which you receive success, your quiet courage in days of danger and distress, your kindly courtesy and consideration for everyone rich or poor, yes, surely these are the "fountains of youth" that have kept you from growing old, and we congratulate you, your family and all your friends that this is so.

May you so continue with all the happiness you so fully deserve and may God's special blessing rest now and always upon you and yours.

Yours affectionately and respectfully,

A. C. BEDFORD,
DOUGLAS S. BUSHNELL,
J. W. R. CRAWFORD,
GEO. CHESEBRO,
A. L. FENNESSY,
J. H. FENNESSY,
H. C. FOLGER, JR.,
WADE HAMPTON,
WALTER JENNINGS,
J. A. MOFFETT,
JAMES MOFFETT, JR.,
H. D. MORRISON,
GLENN FORD MCKINNEY,
D. O'DAY,
CHAS. O'DAY,
W. W. PILKINGTON,
H. H. ROGERS,
H. H. ROGERS, JR.,
FORREST M. TOWL,
H. B. BEATTY,
JAMES I. BUCHANAN,
L. A. BRENNEMAN,
THOMAS CHESTER,
E. E. CROCKER,
GEO. W. CRAWFORD,
JOHN J. FISHER,
J. M. GUFFEY,
GEORGE HEARD,
THOMAS LIGGETT,
JOHN M. PATTERSON,
CHRISTY PAYNE,
S. D. ROBISON,
H. L. SCRAFFORD,
J. M. TATE,
W. J. YOUNG,
C. R. HUNTLEY,
W. W. RICHARDSON,
JERRY CRARY,
W. H. FILLER,
M. W. JAMIESON,
J. P. JEFFERSON,
R. L. BATES,
T. A. McLAUGHLIN,
WM. W. MILLS,

CHARLES E. GOODWIN,
E. H. HILLMAN,
F. H. PAYNE,
W. W. BELL,
A. H. SEEP,
H. B. SEEP,
M. B. DALEY,
CAPT. W. S. MCGUNNEGLE,
V. J. FREE,
COL. S. C. LEWIS,
GEN. CHARLES MILLER,
D. McINTOSH,
J. J. McLAURIN,
MILTON CARNAHAN,
R. J. MOOREHEAD,
J. E. O'NEIL,
J. G. WHITMORE,
T. M. BLACKWELL,
D. T. HORLAND,
P. C. BOYLE,
W. J. BREENE,
J. B. CRAWFORD,
D. J. GEARY,
J. F. HEYWARD,
WM. HASSON,
C. M. HOLBROOK,
A. M. LOWENTRITT,
GEO. LEWIS,
W. V. MILLER,
H. R. MERRITT,
H. McSWEENEY,
J. N. PERRINE,
JOHN M. REED,
FRED S. RICH,
S. Y. RAMAGE,
A. B. STEEN,
E. E. SEEP,
A. F. SEEP,
S. H. SIMPSON,
A. SMEDLEY,
E. R. SHEPARD,
CAPT. JOHN TONKIN,
M. N. ALLEN,
J. M. BLOSS,

DR. G. W. BARR,
 DR. S. N. BURCHFIELD,
 S. S. BRYAN,
 WM. BAYLISS,
 A. J. BYLES,
 COL. J. J. CARTER,
 C. R. CHURCH,
 D. COLESTOCK,
 HON. J. H. CALDWELL,
 REV. T. W. CAVANAUGH,
 REV. J. M. CRITCHLOW,
 J. T. DILLON,
 HON. R. E. DICKINSON,
 Geo. A. ECKBERT,
 HON. E. O. EMERSON,
 HON. J. L. EMERSON,
 E. O. EMERSON, JR.,
 F. S. FLEURY,
 HON. JOHN FERTIG,
 M. J. HUGHES,
 R. S. HAMPTON,
 D. D. HUGHES,
 WM. MORAN,

WM. MUIR,
 HON. J. L. MCKINNEY,
 HON. J. C. MCKINNEY,
 DAVID MCKELVY,
 ROBT. MCKELVY,
 C. E. MARTIN,
 C. N. PAYNE,
 DR. E. C. QUINBY,
 M. W. QUICK,
 E. T. ROBERTS,
 REV. SAMUEL SEMPLER,
 GEORGE R. SEEP,
 W. J. SEEP,
 W. J. STEPHENS,
 I. L. SHANK,
 JOSEPH SEEP,
 J. F. THOMAS,
 PETER THEOBALD,
 CAPT. A. J. THOMPSON,
 W. W. THOMPSON,
 FRANK VON TACKEY,
 W. C. WARNER.

Bit of Biography.

Some of the Remarkable Achievements of the Guest of Honor.



JOSEPH SEEP AT 50.

with her four children moved to Cincinnati, where

Joseph Seep—banker, merchant and manufacturer, was born in Voerde, Hanover, Germany, May 7, 1838, and there he received a common school education. When he was about 11 years old his parents, with their family, moved to the United States and settled at Richmond, Ind. There the father, six months after landing in America, was stricken by Asiatic cholera and died. Then the mother

Joseph, after finishing his education, learned the cigar-making trade and followed the business eight years.

In 1859 he went to Lexington, Ky., and there entered the employ of Jabez Boswick, in the grain and hemp trade. At the close of the civil war, in 1865, Mr. Seep returned to Cincinnati and there engaged in the cotton commission and forwarding business. In January, 1866, he was married to Miss Kate, youngest daughter of Francis X. Hillenmeyer, a most highly respected citizen of Fayette county, Ky. This happy union was blessed by 11 children, of whom 10 now survive. Their names are Lillian M., Eugene E., Arthur F., Albert H., William J., May C., George R., Alice E., Herbert B., and Alma E. Seep.

In 1869 Mr. Seep came to Titusville and engaged in the petroleum trade with his old friend, Boswick, then of New York, who had gone into partnership with John B. Tilford, under the name of Boswick & Tilford. When, in 1874, this firm became associated with the Standard Oil Company, Mr. Seep entered the service of that company and became the purchaser of all the crude oil handled by the Standard. This position he still retains—buying all the crude oil for his company in the producing districts east of the Mississippi river, except Illinois. Distributed through these fields he has more than 30 buying offices. He has handled more oil and paid out more money in the purchase of oil than any other man living or dead. His annual disbursements approaching to the enormous total of nearly \$100,000,000.

He is interested in several banks in the south and west; is president of the Oil City Trust Company, and a charter member, as well as director, in the Seaboard National bank of New York. He has a large financial interest in the United Hardware and Supply Company, and the Specialty Manufacturing Company, in Titusville, and Modern Tool Company of Erie. He is president and one of the organizers of the Central Kentucky Natural Gas Company, which furnishes gas to Lexington, Winchester and Mt. Sterling, Ky. In 1901 he acquired a large interest in the Mine and Smelter Supply Company, of Denver, Col., and in 1904 he became its sole owner. This company is the largest mining machinery and mining

supply establishment in the world, and is capitalized at \$1,500,000, with branch houses in Salt Lake, Utah, El Paso, City of Mexico, and New York.

In 1899 Mr. Seep purchased a tract of land near Hydetown, Pa., and upon it built St. Catherine's cemetery, expending thereupon about \$50,000 and presented the entire institution to the St. Titus congregation at Titusville. This cemetery is one of the handsomest locations in the state and is the pride of Titusville. The beautiful and imposing statue of St. Catherine at the entrance Mr. Seep erected in honor of his good wife, whose name it bears, as Mrs. Seep has always taken an active interest in beautifying the "Silent City of the Dead." Several years ago Mr. Seep built upon the northwest corner of Main and Perry streets, for himself and family, a residence, which, with its grounds, is one of the most magnificent in Western Pennsylvania.

He is a member of the Buffalo club, of Buffalo, N. Y.; of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic club, and the Ohio Society of New York, besides several charitable institutions. He was one of several citizens of Titusville who, a dozen years ago, subscribed each \$10,000 to the local Industrial Fund Association. He is a stockholder in both the Commercial bank and the Second National bank of Titusville, and is a director of the former institution.

Mr. Seep's appearance in Titusville 39 years ago was practically the beginning of his remarkable business career. During this period of his residence here his activities have been prodigious.

Habitually modest, of Mr. Seep it can be truly said that every year of his residence in Titusville has been marked by numerous acts of benevolence of which the public has but limited knowledge. In all his personal relations—as husband and father; as an active member of a Christian church; as a foremost and liberal promoter of advantages to the community in which he has lived—in a word, in the discharge of all his duties, both public and private, Joseph Seep pre-eminently deserves the praise of his fellow men. His career furnishes a bright example to the young, especially to those dependent, wholly or

in part, upon their own individual efforts for success in life.

S. S. Bryan, as toastmaster, announced that he had received several hundred letters and telegrams, requesting him to extend compliments and felicitations to Mr. Seep, and had also received a number of telegrams and letters of regret from friends who, through great distance, illness or business engagements which could not possibly be ignored, were unable to be present. He had selected the following out of this number:

Pontico Hills, N. Y., May 4, 1908.

Dear Mr. Seep:—



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER.

I much regret that I shall be deprived of the pleasure of being present at the dinner to be given in Titusville by your friends in honor of your seventieth birthday. Please accept my hearty congratulations on this happy occasion, and best wishes for many joyous returns of the day. The ranks of our old veterans are thinning out, but we all hope you will remain for many years.

It is a pleasure to know that while you have pursued your business life so faithfully and acceptably for the long period in which we have been so happily associated, you have not forgotten the better part; and great numbers will bless you on this, your seventieth birthday, for the good you have done in wisely dispensing the fruits of your successful business career not only, but also for the kindly and helpful personal service you have rendered.

Sincerely Your Friend,

John D. Rockefeller.

New York, May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Hearty congratulations on this, your seventieth birthday. May your life and health be spared to round out an even hundred.

Wm. Rockefeller.

New York, May 5, 1908.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

Nothing but the most engrossing business obligations prevent me going out to be present at the dinner tendered you by your fellow citizens on your seventieth birthday. I am delighted that so many of your friends and business associates from here can be present. Permit me to offer you my very hearty congratulations, and to express the earnest hope that your life may be spared for many years.



JOHN D. ARCHBOLD.

the greatest possible pleasure and satisfaction. With every good wish for you and your family, I am,

Very Sincerely Yours,

John D. Archbold.

S. S. Bryan, Chairman:

Mr. Preston acknowledges, with thanks, the invitation to a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on

H I S S E V E N T I E T H B I R T H D A Y ,

at Fieldmore, Titusville, Pennsylvania, on the evening of Thursday, the seventh of May, and regrets his inability to be present on so gladsome an occasion.

He expresses the sincere and earnest hope that Mr. Seep may enjoy many more Anniversary Birthdays.

Philadelphia, May 1, 1908.

New York City, N. Y., April 23rd, 1908.



J. A. MOFFETT.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I accept with pleasure your invitation to be present at the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Seep at Fieldmore, Titusville, on the 7th of May.

Enclosed herewith please find check for \$10.00 for the ticket.

Yours Truly,
J. A. Moffett.

Lexington, Ky., May 6, 1908.

S. S. Bryan:—

Have delayed replying to the kind invitation to attend dinner in honor of Mr. Seep to-morrow, hoping I might be able to accept, but am forced at the last moment by business engagements to decline. Hope I may have the pleasure of attending his centennial birthday dinner.

M. C. Alford.

Lexington, Ky., April 22, 1908.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

I am in receipt of an invitation to be present at a dinner to be given in honor of your seventieth birthday on the seventh of May, and take the liberty of writing you personally (instead of a formal address to Mr. S. S. Bryan, the chairman) in order to express my regret that my duties in court at this place will prevent my accepting the kind invitation, and to tender you my hearty congratulations, and my hope that you may have many other birthday anniversaries. You have many friends in this city who wish you well, and honor you for the long, useful and upright life you have led, but none who is more sincere than myself in extending you hearty congratulations on this auspicious occasion, and who would be more glad, if possible, to be present at the dinner in your honor.

Sincerely Yours,

John R. Allen.

New York City, N. Y.,
April 28th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

With this I enclose cheque for ten dollars, being my contribution to the banquet to be given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep. I do not expect to attend the dinner, as it is doubtful if I am in Titusville on the night of the seventh.

My delay in replying to the invitation is due to my having been absent from the office for the week.

Yours truly,

Walter Jennings.



WALTER JENNINGS.

Covington, Ky., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

May you live many years to celebrate this eventful day.

Herbert.

Witchwood, Asheville, North Carolina.

S. S. Bryan, Chairman:

Mr. John F. Archbold greatly regrets his inability to accept Mr. Joseph Seep's kind invitation for dinner on Thursday evening, May 7, and extends to Mr. Seep his heartiest congratulations and best wishes for his seventieth birthday.

Scranton, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Friend:—

I learn of your approaching seventieth birthday anniversary. May its celebration be full of happiness for you and yours.

Sincerely,

Jules A. C. Dubar.



H. C. FOLGER, JR.

Brooklyn, N. Y.,

May 5th, 1908.

Mr. Folger accepts with much pleasure the invitation to the dinner to Mr. Joseph Seep on May 7th.

Friendship, N. Y., May 10, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

Trusting this to reach you on the morrow, we wish to be among the many extending you a word of congratulation on the occasion of your seventieth anniversary. I trust the day will be a joyous event in your home, and that you will be happily surrounded by all your own, in the celebration of this, and many future years of happiness and peace.

Hoping the day will find you well, and with best wishes to Mrs. Seep, yourself, and all the family, believe us,

Very Sincerely,

C. L. Connolly and Family.

New York, May 9, 1908.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

I have just read, with keenest enjoyment, the article in the *Derrick*, describing the meeting of your friends at the dinner. What a pity I had to get that miserable jury notice and be compelled to miss being there with others—and the irony of it is that I got off Thursday after all.

You have been such a good friend, it affords me special pleasure to know that the party was such a complete success. I hope they left space for me to sign my name to that testimonial souvenir. With renewed congratulations, believe me,

Always Sincerely Yours,

Henry D. Morrison.



A. C. BEDFORD.

New York, April 24, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

I beg to accept with pleasure the invitation to attend the dinner given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, on the evening of May 7, and enclose to you herewith my check for \$10.00 to cover price of ticket.

Yours Very Truly,

A. C. Bedford.

May the Seventh,
Nineteen Hundred and Eight.

Dear Mr. Seep:—

We extend to you our cordial greetings on this, your seventieth birthday anniversary, and express the sincere hope and earnest wish that you may be spared to us for many years to come.

Faithfully Yours,

J. G. Skelly,
E. J. Delahoyde,
G. L. Skelly,
P. J. Hoenig,
E. S. Powers.

William J. Scott,
Simpson L. Brown,
Edw. T. Flynn,
M. M. Morrison,
C. A. Clark.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 17, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

Your letter of April 15 is just received, and while I do not believe that I can be present at your reception to Mr. Seep I certainly want to join with him, and will be there in spirit, if not in person.

With My Best Regards,

Joseph W. Craig.

Bartlesville, Okla., April 24.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.



W. J. YOUNG.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

On account of the distance between your city and this place, I am compelled to decline to do honor to our friend, Joseph Seep. I regret, as it would be a pleasure to join you, and others, on that occasion. "Three score and ten years do sum up," but you would hardly think it a fact that Joe Seep was seventy years old. I have known him almost half of that time, and have never heard one say a disparaging word against him. His business methods when he first came to "the creek" made it a pleasure to trade with him. Longer acquaintance has only developed that natural honesty, fair dealing, and conscientious

desire to do that which was right, as between his principals and the trader. Many returns of his birthday, so he may be spared long to his family and friends, both business and social, I will be with you in spirit when you sing "Auld Lang Syne" on the evening of May 7, next.

Yours Very Truly,

W. J. Young.

Newton, Pa., May 5, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman Committee on Invitations,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I regret exceedingly my inability to accept the invitation to attend the banquet to be given Mr. Joseph Seep on the anniversary of his seventieth birthday, which your committee has so kindly tendered me. As there are none of my old friends among the so many honorable gentlemen of your city that I hold in higher regard and esteem than the recipient of this honor, I trust he may be spared to celebrate many more such anniversaries. Kindly extend my congratulations and regards to Mr. Seep.

Very Truly Yours,

Thomas P. Chambers.

San Francisco, Cal., May 7, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
For Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.



JNO. J. CARTER.

That I have been permitted to know Joseph Seep in the flesh before he reached the scriptural age of three score and ten, makes me hope that I may know him in the flesh many years yet to come! These individual feelings should be good cause for mutual congratulations, so I extend my hand to my old friend, and say: "Let us shake."

Forced from home and all the pleasures of this occasion, including "something to take," how can I do less, metaphorically speaking, than to the good health of Joseph Seep: "May he live long and prosper."

Jno. J. Carter.

Erie, Pa., May 4, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I regret that I must decline your kind invitation to attend the dinner in honor of our mutual friend, Mr. Joseph Seep, on the seventh day of May.

Very Truly Yours,

E. D. Carter.

Erie, Pa., May 3, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I very much regret that it will be impossible for me to be present at the complimentary dinner to Mr. Seep, as I expect to be detained here most of the week. Trusting the occasion will be a delightful one, I am,

Very Sincerely,

W. M. Coombs.

Titusville, Pa., May 2, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Chairman.

Dear Sir:—

I deeply regret that I shall be unable to accept your kind invitation to attend the dinner to be given to my neighbor, Mr. Joseph Seep, at Fieldmore, Thursday evening, May seventh, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. As one of his host of friends, I rejoice in the fact that the Psalmist's words "The days of our years are three score years and ten," have been rounded out in his life, and that he may "by reason of strength" attain a full four score years without the accompaniment of "labor and sorrow" is the earnest hope of

Yours Very Truly,

J. H. Cogswell.

Warren, Pa., April 21, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have your letter of the 14th in reference to the dinner to be tendered Mr. Joseph Seep on May 7. Owing to other arrangements I will not be able to attend the dinner. I should like, however, to join you as one of the subscribers to this dinner and would thank you to extend my congratulations to Mr. Seep.

Please advise me as soon as the cost of the ticket is determined.

Yours Very Truly,

Jerry Crary.

Franklin, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman:—

Sincerely regret my inability to join friends this evening in honoring Mr. Seep, and celebrating his seventieth birthday.

Geo. S. Criswell.

Bradford, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Congratulations on your seventieth birthday. May there be many more.

W. W. Bell.

Oil City, Pa., April 22, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.



J. R. CAMPBELL.

Dear Sir:—

I have delayed replying to your courteous note of 15th inst., hoping I might be able to join in the birthday festivity in honor of my esteemed friend, Mr. Joseph Seep, on May 7, but my slow recovery from the result of a somewhat serious accident in November last, will not permit me to risk the fatigue of the necessary journey and the evening. With kindest regards to yourself and to my many friends of early days whom I know will gladly be present, and with the earnest hope that the honored guest may be with us and enjoy good health for many years to come, I am

Sincerely Yours,

J. R. Campbell.

Washington, D. C., April 23, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

Your kind favor at hand, and I thank you for thinking of me in relation to the dinner to our good friend, Mr. Seep. It would be a great pleasure for me to be present, but I have already promised, some weeks ago, that if I am able to leave Washington at that time I will attend the annual dinner of the Erie Board of Trade, on the evening of May 7th. I know what a delightful time you will have and I only wish I could be with you, but you will see from the above statement that if I can leave Washington at such a busy time, that I will be duty bound to go to Erie for that night.

With personal regards,

Very Truly Yours,

Arthur L. Bates.



GEORGE CHESEBRO.

New York, April 27, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of invitation to be present at a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, at Fieldmore, Titusville, Pa., on Thursday evening, May 7.

It affords me much pleasure to say that I will be able to attend.

Enclosed please find my check to your order for \$10, in payment for ticket.

Very Truly Yours,

George Chesebro.

New York, May 5, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman.

Dear Sir:—

I regret, from circumstances beyond my control, I will be prevented from accepting your kind invitation to be present at the dinner to be given to my esteemed friend, Mr. Joseph Seep, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

Will you kindly express to him how delighted I would have been to be present and add my greetings with those of his many friends and wellwishers. I would have been glad to have personally welcomed him to the ranks of the septuagenarians, to which I belong, as it would mean partial rest and respite from the strenuous life he has been leading.

I think of him as a whole-souled, genius, generous, straightforward and true gentleman, whose good deeds has endeared him to all his friends and associates, commanding the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

He justly deserves all the honor his friends can bestow upon him.

Respectfully,

Samuel Q. Brown.

Titusville, Pa., April 28, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman.

Dear Sir:—

I regret that I will be unable to attend the dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on the evening of May 7. I thank you for the invitation.

Yours Very Truly,

Alanson Crosby.

Bucuresti, May 19, 1908.

My Dear Seep:—

I was with you, in spirit, on the evening of May 7, and the next morning, when I awakened, I said to myself, "What a good time I have missed." But how sorry I am for the heads of Joe Seep and his party this morning. Lots of men live to reach 70, my dear fellow, but how very, very few have anything like the host of friends that you have? If your future days could be numbered by the number of dear friends you have, you would live to be so old that Methuselah would be a mere kid. I am a long way from the Bowery, but from this distance, across the ocean, the North River and Oil Creek, I send unto thee my felicitations, my earnest esteem and my love.

Yours Sincerely,

F. Q. Barstow.

Lima, O., April 20, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Answering your favor of 15th inst., I beg to say it will afford me great pleasure to be present at the complimentary dinner in honor of our esteemed friend, Mr. Joseph Seep, on May 7th next, and thank you very kindly for remembering me in this matter.

Should anything occur to prevent my attendance, I will advise you in ample time; however, I shall expect to pay my share of the assessment, whether I attend or not.

Yours Very Truly,

R. L. Bates.

Lexington, Ky., April 23, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

I regret exceedingly that it will be impossible for me to accept the invitation to a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, on his 70th birthday at Fieldmore, Titusville, on the evening of Thursday, the 7th of May, at 7 o'clock.

Were it at all possible for me to be in the east at that time, I should certainly do myself the honor of attending, and appreciate highly the thought which prompted my being invited.

With great pleasure, I have the honor to be

Your Obedient Servant,

Desha Breckenridge.

New York, April 23, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

In the absence of Mr. F. Q. Barstow, I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your invitation to the dinner which is to be given Mr. Joseph Seep on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

Mr. Bartsow is at present abroad, and will not return until the latter part of June or the first of July. Consequently it will not be possible for him to be present.

Yours Truly,

Fred Mohr, Jr.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Mr. Joseph Bushnell regrets that he is unable to accept the kind invitation extended him to be present at the dinner given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, on Thursday, May the 7th.

Mr. Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

"Many happy returns." A little late, but all the more sincere.
Charles Burton.

Montpeller, Ind., April 25, 1908.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

It would afford me the greatest pleasure to attend the dinner in honor of your seventieth birthday, Thursday, May 7, 1908, but the necessities of the business at this time will prevent my doing so.

With best wishes, and hoping you may enjoy many returns of the happy occasion, I am

Very Sincerely Yours,

A. C. Beeson.



A. C. BEESON.

New York, April 23, 1908

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt this morning of the invitation to attend a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep's seventieth birthday.

I regret that I shall not be able to be present, for there is no one whom I would be more pleased to see honored in this way than Mr. Seep, and I am gratified to know that his fellow townsmen are going to show their appreciation of his sterling qualities by giving him a public dinner.

Hoping that the affair will be an unqualified success, I am,

Yours Very Sincerely,

R. D. Benson.

New York, April 23, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

This morning I received a formal invitation to attend a dinner given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on the 7th of May. I am very sorry that business engagements will prevent my acceptance. I wish to express my heartiest approval of the dinner, which will give the friends an opportunity to express the esteem and affection they have for Mr. Seep, and regret exceedingly that I shall be unable to be present on this occasion.

Yours Truly,

W. S. Benson.

Atlantic City, N. J., May 4, 1908.

S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Your invitation to the dinner to our mutual friend, Mr. Seep, has been forwarded to me here. I regret that I cannot be with you in person. Kindly present my compliments to Mr. Seep, and wish him, in my behalf, many happy returns of his birthday.

Truly Yours,

W. T. Baum.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 23, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.



GLENN T. BRADEN.

My Dear Sir:—

I have your kind invitation to attend Mr. Joseph Seep's seventieth anniversary party. I regret very much that I will not be able to attend, as important business will find me in Oklahoma within the week. I think a great deal of Mr. Seep, as well as all the boys who will be at the party, and I regret very much that I cannot attend and renew old acquaintances.

Again thanking you for your kind invitation, I remain,

Very Truly Yours,

Glenn T. Braden.

Pittsburg, May 3, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I am very sorry that I cannot be with you on the seventh, but I cannot get away—it seems almost impossible. I intended to write you before, but delayed in order to see if I could get up to Titusville on that day. And I would like to be with you and Mr. Seep, as he has always been a good friend of mine. But I do hope to be able to attend his 80th birthday.

Yours Truly,

T. N. Barnsdall,

By Lawler.

Findlay, O., May 2, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have been waiting to see if, by any chance, I might be present at the dinner to be given Mr. Joseph Seep on the seventh of May, but find that it is impossible for me to be there at that time, and want to thank you for the invitation and offer my congratulations, with the rest, to Mr. Seep, on the celebration of his seventieth birthday.

Yours Truly,

F. S. Bates.

Titusville, Pa., May 8, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Dear Sir:—

I regret very much my inability to be present at the banquet to be given to our esteemed townsman, Mr. Joseph Seep, in response to your very kind invitation, ill health being the only thing that keeps me away from so delightful an occasion.

Kindly extend to Mr. Seep my heartiest congratulations.

Very Truly,

James R. Barber.

New York, N. Y., May 7th, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep,

Titusville, Pa.

Upon this, your 70th birthday, kindly permit me to tender sincere congratulations, and further, to wish you many more years of continued good health and especial blessings. Your exemplary life has always been an inspiration to your personal friends and your high stand of integrity has been a tower of strength to the great company which it has been your pleasure to represent for the past forty years. Your word in all business transactions has been as good as a bond in every phase of life. You have proven that an honest man is the noblest word of God.

Geo. W. Darr.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of an invitation to attend the dinner to be given to Mr. Joseph Seep on the evening of May 7, 1908, in honor of his 70th birthday.

I deeply regret my inability to be present on that occasion, but am amply consoled by the thought of the pleasure I have experienced in knowing Mr. Seep personally for many years—the distinction and delight in meeting such a man on a social plane or in business intercourse is compensation for the endurance of whatever ills that can come to one in the journey through life, however tortuous it may be. I wish the life of Mr. Joseph Seep could be extended to 70 times 70 years, to be a model of what a man can attain to, in securing the love and esteem of his fellow men by the consistent worth and strength of irreproachable characteristics.

Very Truly Yours,

S. B. Dryer.

Cleveland, O., April 28th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I am just in receipt of yours of the 27th inst. Am also in receipt of a note from Mr. Bedford this morning, in which he states that it is the intention of most of the party to be present at Mr. Seep's birthday dinner on the evening of May 7th. I assure you that this was good news to me, as I am anxious to be present at the dinner to pay my small tribute of respect to a man whom we all dearly love.

Yours Very Truly,

M. B. Daly.



M. B. DALY.

New York City, N. Y., May 6th, 1908.

Mr. Jos. Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

Time has rolled on silently and swiftly, and the milestones marking the years have been passed until now, when you are to pass the seventieth in your onward course. This is truly an occasion of which you and your many friends may well be proud and celebrate with thanksgiving. I am glad to know that your fellow citizens of dear old Titusville and elsewhere, will honor this day with a celebration of especial heartiness and evidences of best wishes. My greatest regret is that I cannot be present and add my heartiest congratulations. I would gladly have come to Titusville to have the pleasure of greeting you personally, indeed, nothing but unchangeable professional engagements could have kept me away. The dates were filled long ago, a considerable time before I had heard from "T" or received the invitation to come, and it has been impossible to change the arrangements, otherwise I would certainly have done so.

I therefore must do the next best thing and send my congratulations by letter and I sincerely hope that you may be spared for many years to come in health and happiness, to give your family and friends that comfort and joy that you so bountifully spread and is so gratefully received.

Again extending my best wishes and remembering our friendship formed so long ago with keenest pleasure, I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Carl E. Dufft.

May 7th, 1908.

Mr. Jos. Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Friend:—

Please accept my hearty congratulations, and warm personal regard, on this, your seventieth birthday. I deeply regret my inability to be present with you and your friends in the celebration of this happy event.

Wishing you many years yet of usefulness and happiness, I remain,

Most Cordially Yours,

E. O. Emerson.

New York City, N. Y., April 18th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. It would afford me great pleasure to attend the dinner you and others propose to give to Joseph Seep on his birthday. It will be impossible, however, for me to leave this city at this time.

Yours Truly,

M. F. Elliott.



M. F. ELLIOTT.

New York, April 23rd, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sam:—

I have your invitation to be present at a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on the occasion of his 70th birthday on May 7th, and hope that I can so arrange matters as to be present with you on that occasion. As, however, my plans so far in advance are indefinite, I think it will be preferable to accept my regrets at this time, and presume that as the dinner is to be held at the hotel at Fie'dmore, that arrangements can be made for an extra seat at the foot of the table in case I may be present.

Yours Very Sincerely,

J. H. Fertig.

Oil City, Pa., April 30th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Thomas Farmer regrets that he will not be able to be with you at the reception for Mr. Seep, Thursday, May 7th.

Titusville, Pa., April 18th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

Replying to your inquiry as to whether I would care to join yourself and others in tendering a complimentary dinner to our mutual friend Mr. Seep on his seventieth birthday, May 7th next, will say I cannot imagine anything that would give me greater pleasure than to contribute my full share to such a pleasant affair, and to be present and participate in the festivities, unless absent on account of previous engagement, in which event, I desire to be counted in the expense.

Very Truly Yours,

John Fertig.

Salt Lake, Utah, May 7th, 1908.

Mr. Jos. Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

The employes of the Salt Lake House desire to offer their congratulations and wish you many happy returns of the day.

J. W. Gates,

Findlay, Ohio, May 5.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I regret that a previous engagement prevents my acceptance of your kind invitation to be present on May 7th at the dinner to be given in honor of our worthy friend on his seventieth birthday.

Please extend to Mr. Seep my best wishes, and I sincerely hope he may live for many, many years to come.

Very Respectfully Yours,

J. C. Donnell.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 22d, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Replying to your favor of the 15th inst., I enclose herewith check for \$10.00, and will come personally if I can. At the present date, I am not positive, but I will do the best I can to attend the dinner.

Very Truly Yours,

J. M. Guffey.



J. M. GUFFEY.

Titusville, Pa., April 29th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Chairman,

Dear Sir:—

I very much regret my inability to be present at the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, at Fieldmore, on May 7th, 1908, because of a professional engagement on that day requiring my presence at Philadelphia.

There is no one among my Titusville friends and acquaintances whom I would take greater pleasure in thus honoring, than Mr. Seep. I have known him for a quarter of a century and my relations with him, while not intimate, have been most cordial and pleasant. As a citizen of Titusville who has always been identified with her best interests, and whose liberality has done much toward the improvement and stability of the town, he is most deserving of the compliment.

Very Truly,

Samuel Grumbine.

Frankfort, Ky., May 4th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

The very kind invitation of your Committee to attend a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on the 7th inst., is received. The invitation is highly appreciated, but I regret to say that engagements here preclude my acceptance of same. Wishing the "young man" a long life and a happy one, I remain,

Respectfully Yours,

J. H. Hazelrigg.

Santa Barbara, Cal., April 21st, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

Your favor of 14th, forwarded from Warren, was not received. I regret more than I can express that it will be impossible for me to join in the proposed dinner to Mr. Seep on the occasion of the celebration of his 70th birthday on May 7th. I cannot conveniently arrange to leave here for home until the latter part of May. If it were possible, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to join with his other friends in the proposed tribute to him, which is eminently fitting as a recognition of his personal worth, his value as a citizen, and his eminence in his business career.

Although I cannot be present in person, I will in spirit, and would be glad to be counted as a contributor to the fund.

Very Sincerely Yours,

J. P. Jefferson.

Lexington, Ky., April 23rd, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan:

Mr. H. F. Hillenmeyer regrets that he will be unable to accept the kind invitation to be present at the dinner given in honor of Mr. Seep on May 7th.

Mr. S. S. Bryan:

Mr. Heywang regrets that he will be unable to accept the invitation to attend a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on his seventieth birthday, on Thursday, May 7th, 1908.

New York City, N. Y., May 2d, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Penn'a.

My Dear Sir:—

I beg to thank you for the invitation to the banquet to be given Mr. Joseph Seep, on the 7th inst., and regret exceedingly that it will be impossible for me to be present.

There is no man living that I have higher regard for than Mr. Seep, and am under many obligations to him, and also Mr. Payne.

Again thanking you, I am,

Yours Respectfully,

Geo. H. Jones.

Lima, Ohio, April 28, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

The kind invitation sent me, to be present at the dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on Thursday, May 7th, 1908, was duly received, and I thank you most heartily for same, and regret that for home reasons I can not be with you on this occasion.

With the most kindly feelings for the one whom this dinner is to honor, and hoping he may be spared for many, many more birthdays, I am,

Most Sincerely Yours,

O. S. June.

Bradford, Pa., April 29th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your kind invitation to a dinner in honor of my good friend Joseph Seep, on the evening of May 7th, 1908.

While it would be very pleasant to meet Mr. Seep and his many friends at Titusville, the state of my health warns me that it would not be wise to attend.

Very Truly,

F. W. Davis.

Titusville, Pa., April 28th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan:

Mr. Fletcher deeply regrets that he will be unable to attend the birthday dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, at Fieldmore on the evening of Thursday, the seventh of May, at seven o'clock.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 24th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

Thanking you for the kind invitation to attend the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, May 7th, next; I regret to be obliged to write that I shall be unable to be present, as I expect to be in Oklahoma at that time.

Will you kindly give Mr. Seep my sincere congratulations and wish him many happy returns of the day.

Yours Very Truly,

H. Heasley.

Erie, Pa., April 29th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Owing to ill health I regret very much that I cannot avail myself of your kind invitation.

Having known Mr. Seep for the past forty-seven years and being indebted to him for many kindly acts and often for ready assistance, it is a regret to me not to be present.

Knowing you will have a jolly time and exchange many pleasant reminiscences of by-gone days, I remain,

Very Truly Yours,

Alfred Hillenmeyer.



Buffalo, N. Y., April 24th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your courteous invitation to dine with Mr. Joseph Seep on the occasion of his seventieth birthday on May seventh.

It is with much pleasure that I accept your invitation.

Yours Very Truly,

Charles R. Huntley.

CHARLES R. HUNTLEY.

Richmond Hill, L. I., April 30th, 1908.

Mr. E. T. Hall regrets that his absence from the city will prevent his accepting the kind invitation to be present at the birthday celebration for Mr. Joseph Seep, at Fieldmore, May 7th.

Plainfield, N. J., April 25th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kepler Hyde regret that they will be unable to attend the dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep's seventieth birthday, on the evening of Thursday, the seventh of May. Wishing Mr. Seep the brightest, happiest birthday, and many of them, is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. Louis K. Hyde.

Oil City, Pa., April 17th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Much to my regret, I find it will be impossible for me to be present at the dinner in celebration of Mr. Seep's 70th birthday. I hasten to advise you so that my place may be filled by some other one of his numerous friends. Although unable to be there in person, I hope to be considered as assisting to do him honor on that occasion and therefore ask the privilege of contributing the same as those who are more fortunate, and to that end, find my check enclosed. I do not know of anyone to whom I would wish more years of prosperity and happiness than to Mr. Seep.

Sincerely Yours,

Chas. H. Lay, Jr.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 16th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have your letter of April 15th containing a suggestion for complimentary dinner to Joseph Seep on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, which falls on May 7th, and I accept or will accept with pleasure, an invitation to be present. If any man in olddom is worthy of a compliment, of this kind, it is Joseph Seep.

Very Truly Yours,

Geo. Heard.

Titusville, Pa., April 27th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your kind invitation to be present at the dinner to be given at Fieldmore in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on his seventieth birthday on May seventh, next Thursday evening.

I assure you that if nothing unforeseen happens to prevent me, I will be there and consider myself highly honored by being permitted to help honoring a gentleman and citizen to whom honor and respect is truly due.

Yours Sincerely,

D. D. Hughes.



GEORGE LEWIS.

Oil City, Pa.
April 15, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Yours of even date just received. Nothing could give me greater pleasure than joining in giving Mr. Seep such a dinner, and you can depend on my being present if nothing unforeseen comes up to prevent.

Yours Very Truly,
Geo. Lewis.

Sewickley, Pa., April 27th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I regret exceedingly that, owing to my being obliged to leave for Illinois to-morrow night on business that will keep me there for ten days, I will be unable to accept the very kind invitation of your committee to participate in the celebration of Mr. Seep's anniversary, much as I would like to do so.

With my sincere congratulations to Mr. Seep, I can only add fervent wish that long may he be spared to the trade. We need him.

Yours Sincerely,
A. L. Lowrie.

Cincinnati, O., May 12th, 1908.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Seep:—

Just received a paper supposed to be from you, giving a description of a banquet tendered to you on your 70th birthday. If I had of known of it, I would of sent you this telegram:

Birthdays come but once a year,
Welcome them with smiles, not tears.
Guard your thoughts, words and deeds,
Him above do strive to please.

I have just passed my 74th birthday, four years older than you. Many more happy years to come is the prayer of your friends.

Mrs. S. N. Meyer.

Covington, Ky., May 19, 1908.

Dear Friend Joe:—

Your paper with accounts of the lovely reception given you on your seventieth birthday was received—although not present on that memorial day, will present to you from my wife, self and family, our best wishes that your life may be a continuance of years past, and that you may be spared to your dear wife and family, many, many such happy years you have been together, and that God may give thee blessings of good health, is the wish from our hearts. Don't forget to give our best regards to Mrs. Seep.

From Your Old Friend,
P. P. McVeigh.

P. S.—Last Sunday evening we enjoyed a lovely visit from Father Heldem. He brought your paper for me to read, not knowing you sent me one. He is very well, but I can tell you he has plenty of work.

Greenwich, Ct., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes.

Arletta A. Fennesy.

Denver, Col., May 7, 1908

Joseph Seep,
92 West Main Street,
Titusville, Pa.

Kindly accept my congratulations on this, your seventieth birthday, and best wishes for continued good health and happiness.

Chas. E. Fennesy.

Marshall, Ill., April 30, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

Since writing you some days ago in reference to my being present at Titusville on May 7th, some matters have come up that makes it impossible for me to be with you.

I am extremely sorry, as there is nothing that would give me more pleasure than to have met with you on this occasion.

Yours Very Truly,

F. H. Hillman.

Atlantic City, May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

My congratulations. Many returns.

W. T. Baum.

Denver, Col., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Our best wishes to you on this, your seventieth birthday,
and for future and good health.

Cornelius and Mrs. Fitzgerald.

Elpaso, Tex., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Congratulations. A most pleasant anniversary. Many happy
returns are my earnest well wishes.

Albert E. Lotzean.

Rochester, N. Y., May 7, 1908.

Congratulations and best wishes for many years of health
and happiness.

Grace and Neil Knapp.

Elpaso, Tex., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Please accept my heartiest congratulations. May your future
years be many and as happily blessed and fruitful to yourself
as these three score and ten have been.

David L. Gregg.

El Paso, Tex., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

All the employes of the house extend hearty congratulations
for many happy returns of the anniversary.

The Mine & Smelter Supply Co.

Wellsville, N. Y., May 7,

Joseph Seep:—

This being your seventieth birthday, myself and children
join in extending to you our sincere congratulations on your
splendid health and happy surroundings, and that God grant you
a return of many of them is the wish of ours.

Wm. Dillon.

Mexico City, Mex., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Staff of Mexico Mine & Smelter Supply Company unite in congratulations and many happy returns.

Geo. Aids Orr.

Bartlesville, Okla., May 7.

Joseph Seep:—

Your many Oklahoma friends are sorry they cannot join your townspeople in doing you honor this evening. Wish you many more anniversaries, with good health to enjoy them.

Thos. B. Simpson,
W. J. Young,
D. C. Stewart,
W. P. Johnson,
W. H. Hoffman,
Clint Moore,
Geo. C. Priestley,
C. W. S. Cobb,
Frank M. Breene,
A. A. Smith,
J. J. Shea,
L. W. Young,

Owen Evans,
J. B. Jaynes,
H. H. Breene,
R. T. Eastell,
C. S. Matson,
Howard Webber,
H. H. Hilton,
F. M. Sowers,
R. D. McConnell,
C. F. Degolier,
J. S. Barlow,
E. W. Tibbals.

Montpelier, Ind., May 7.

Joseph Seep,

Titusville, Pa.

I wish to congratulate you on your seventieth birthday, hoping you may enjoy many more years with health and happiness.

F. F. Young.

Scioto, O., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,

Please accept sincere congratulations on this, your birthday, and I wish you many more of them.

W. M. Heffernan.

Marietta, O., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,

Titusville, Pa.

Accept congratulations upon occasion of your seventieth birthday. May you live to enjoy many more.

F. W. Callaghan.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 28th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

I wish to assure you of my appreciation of your thoughtfulness in having sent me an invitation to the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on Thursday, the 7th of May, and I regret most sincerely to advise you that it will be impossible for me to be in Titusville to do the honor to Mr. Seep on the occasion of the seventieth birthday.

Regretting sincerely that such is the case, I am,

Yours Very Truly,

E. C. Lufkin.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 24th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

Responding to the kind invitation to be present at the dinner to be given on the occasion of Mr. Joseph Seep's seventieth birthday; I sincerely regret that it will be impossible for me to attend, as I expect to be in the west at that time.

Will you kindly give Mr. Seep my hearty congratulations with the wishes that he may live to enjoy many more occasions of the same nature.

Yours Very Truly,

J. R. Leonard.

Muncie, Ind., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

I congratulate you on having attained to your three score and ten, and you have my best wishes for this happy occasion. I trust you may enjoy many more anniversaries.

A. D. Sutton.

Parkersburg, W. Va., May 7.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on your seventieth birthday. May you have many more.

W. H. Tonkin.

Toledo, O., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

We all congratulate you on three score and ten, and sincerely hope you will be with your friends for many, many more years.

D. W. Vaughan.

Washington, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Wish you many happy returns for the day.

R. W. Mason.

Tidioute, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

I wish you perfect health from your seventieth birthday in honor of a useful life.

Joseph A. Walters.

Chicora, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Accept my hearty congratulations on this being your seventieth birthday. May you live to have many more years of success.

P. M. Doty.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

I wish to congratulate you on your seventieth anniversary, and hope you may live to see many another. May each year bring you more blessings, in the same ratio that you have always endeavored to give to your friends, associates and employes in the past, which have been unlimited.

Henry S. Norris.

Olean, N. Y., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Congratulations on this, your seventieth birthday. May you grow 71 years young instead of old.

J. P. Murray.

Sistersville, W. Va., May 7.
Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Allow me to extend to you my sincerest congratulations upon your safe arrival at three score and ten, and may you live long and prosper.
E. A. Whiting.

Gibsonburg, May 7, 1908.
Joseph Seep:—

Since this marks your seventieth mile-stone, I wish to express my sincere congratulations to you.
F. W. Zorn.

Marion, Ind., May 7, 1908.
Dear Mr. Seep:—

Please accept my hearty congratulations and good wishes on this, your seventieth birthday. Hope you may enjoy many more years with health and happiness.
T. S. McGraw.

McDonald, Pa., May 7, 1908.
Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on this, your birthday.
J. M. Collins.

Findlay, O., May 7, 1908.
Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Please accept congratulations on this, your birthday anniversary. Wish you many happy returns of the day.
J. H. Scott.

Franklin, Pa., April 20th, 1908.
Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

I acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th. In reply beg to say that I would like to have you put my name down and I will endeavor to be present.

Kindly let me know as soon as you can particulars in regard to trains, etc.

Yours Truly,
D. McIntosh.

New York City, N. Y., April 23rd, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I expect to be in Titusville on the 7th of May, to visit the oil fields, and will be very pleased to accept your invitation to be present at the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, at Fieldmore, provided the rest of the party attend.

Yours Very Truly,

J. A. Moffett, Jr.



T. A. McLAUGHLIN.

Lima, Ohio,
April 18th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Your favor of 14th at hand and will be glad to be with you May 7th to attend complimentary dinner to our friend Joseph.

Thanking you for invitation, I remain,

Yours Very Truly,

T. A. McLaughlin.

Lima, Ohio,
May 6th, 1908.

Cannot attend banquet account sickness.

T. A. McLaughlin.

New York City, N. Y., April 25th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I am this morning in receipt of your invitation to attend the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep on his seventieth birthday at Fieldmore, on Thursday, May 7th. I should very much like to be present at this dinner as I am certain it will be one long to be remembered.

The chances are, however, that I shall not reach Titusville in time to attend and I must therefore at this time send regrets. Should I find myself able to be home on May 7th, may I reserve the privilege of notifying you later of my wish to attend the dinner.

With best wishes for the success of the entertainment and kind regards to yourself.

Very Truly Yours,

Glenn Ford McKinney.

Oil City, Pa., April 29th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—



H. McSWEENEY.

I must beg pardon for not acknowledging at an earlier date, your letter of the 15th inst., as well as the subsequent invitation to be present at the birthday dinner to be given to Mr. Joseph Seep on the occasion of his birthday, May 7th.

I have been uncertain as to whether it would be possible for me to be present on the occasion mentioned or not. I have only learned to-day that I will be at home at the time stated, and I, therefore accept with the greatest of pleasure, the invitation in question, and will certainly be on hand unless something occurs that I cannot now foresee.

Very Truly Yours,

H. McSweeney.

Marietta, Ohio, April 18th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

It will give me the greatest pleasure to join with some friends of Mr. Joseph Seep in the celebration of his birthday on May 7th next, as outlined in your valued favor of the 15th inst. I will accordingly be greatly pleased to have you include me in the list of those who will assist in the very appropriate function suggested.

There is but one contingency so far as I now know that may prevent me from being present. If that does not arise, I will certainly be on hand. However, you will please include me in the list, and oblige.

Very Truly Yours,

Wm. W. Mills.

April 17th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Mr. David McKelvey would be glad to be associated with complimentary dinner to be given Mr. Seep on May 7th.

San Francisco, Cal., May 14th, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Friend Seep:—

I have before me the "Oil City Derrick" of May 8th, in which is a full report of the banquet tendered you at Titusville in honor of your seventieth birthday. Now friend Seep, I want to add my congratulations to those of the other gentlemen who were present, and to those who congratulated you who were not present at the successful banquet given you.

During the many years that I have had the pleasure of your acquaintance, several of them being of very friendly close acquaintance, I must say that the longer the acquaintance lasted the kinder and more friendly my feelings was toward you; and I can only hope that you may live to enjoy the close friendship that you cultivated in the years that you have been associated in the oil business. Again congratulating you, I am,

Yours Most Truly,

W. S. Miller.

Denver, Col.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

We tender you our united and heartfelt congratulations on this anniversary and pray that you may be permitted to enjoy for many years to come, continued happiness and prosperity.

The Mine & Smelter's Supply Company,
Henry T. Jurs, Local Mgr.

New York City, N. Y., April 28th, 1908.

Mr. C. N. Payne,
Titusville, Pa.

Telegram received to Mr. Archbold, who is away. Mr. Tilford says he is very sorry but he will be unable to attend on the 7th. Mr. Archbold will reply upon his return to-morrow.

Fred Mohr, Jr.



W. S. MCGUNNEGLE.

Meadville, Pa., April 28th,
1908.

Mr. McGunnegle accepts with great pleasure, your very courteous invitation to the dinner to be given Thursday, May seventh.

Titusville, Pa., April 27th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have your kind invitation to attend a banquet on May 7th, at seven o'clock, on the seventieth birthday of my old friend Joseph Seep, who I have known for a great many years, and it is with great pleasure that I accept the invitation.

Yours Very Truly,

J. C. McKinney.

Franklin, Pa., April 17th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I regret that I am not able to accept your very kind invitation to Joseph Seep's birthday. I am ten milestones in advance of Joe.

Respectfully Yours,

F. W. Mitchell.

Titusville, Pa., May 7th, 1908.

Mr. Jos. Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Accept heartiest congratulations with best wishes for a new lease.

R. J. Moorhead.

Franklin, Pa., May 7th, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

The number of your years are three score years and ten, and if by reason of strength they may be four score years, you have my best wishes that they reach the century mark.

Jno. B. Moorhead.

Florence, Italy, May 21st, 1908.

My Dear Joe:—

I am not so far away from home but that I keep in touch with passing events. I notice you have had a birthday party, having passed the seventieth mile stone. Although late, allow me to express my sincere congratulations. I will never forget our early days in Parker's Landing, and the many courtesies I received from you without in any manner impairing your trust. I hope your later days will be crowned with all the sunshine which has characterized your seventy years of active and useful life.

With many kind wishes for yourself and Mrs. Seep, I am,

Most Sincerely Yours,

W. H. Nicholson.

New York City, N. Y., April 18th, 1908.

Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I have received your letter of April 14th, and would be very glad indeed to participate in the giving of a dinner to Mr. Seep. I have shown your letter to my brother Charley and he has asked me to notify you that he, too, would be very glad to be present if it is possible for you to include him.

Yours Truly,

Daniel O'Day.

Oil City, Pa., May 4th, 1908.

Mrs. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I regret very much that I shall not be able to accept your kind invitation to attend the dinner in honor of Mr. Seep's seventieth birthday. A previous engagement which I must keep makes this absolutely necessary.

Thanking you very kindly for the invitation, I am,

Very Truly Yours,

H. M. Nichols.

Mexico, May 20th, 1908.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

I have received your letter of May 11th, and am glad to know you received our telegram of the 7th. Have also received the Oil City Derrick for May 8th, giving an account of the occasion. We are all pleased to know that your anniversary proved so enjoyable, and wish you many such events.

Yours Sincerely,

Geo. Olds Orr.

Meadville, Pa., May 4th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan,
Chairman,

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I have just received a communication from Judge Walling, calling me to Erie Thursday, this week, to hold court, which I am in duty bound to respond to.

I cannot, therefore, be present at the notable function in honor of your respected townsman and worthy citizen, Mr. Joseph Seep. I would be pleased to have you personally notify him of my sincere regrets because of my unavoidable absence from an event so fitting to his sterling manhood and successful career.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Thos. J. Prather.

Erie, Pa., April 25th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I received your favor of the 15th inst., notifying me of the proposed dinner to Mr. Joseph Seep on the event of his seventieth birthday, and am afraid that it will be impossible for me to be present but am thankful to you for having been remembered, and nothing would give me any greater pleasure than to assist in paying this compliment to Mr. Seep.

Yours Truly,

Frank H. Payne.

Oil City, Pa., May 7th, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Hearty congratulations. I wish you many more happy birthdays.

T. J. Richards.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 2d, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Acknowledging receipt of your kind invitation to attend a dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep to be given on his seventieth birthday. I regret to say that, while there are none among my friends that I esteem more highly than I do Mr. Seep, yet, owing to some previous engagements here, I will be unable to be present.

Yours Very Truly,

Geo. Porter.

Titusville, Pa., May 7th, 1908.

Oil City to Joseph Seep,
Fieldmore.

The Paresis Club extends heartiest congratulations to our honored member. Remember our motto, "virtue is its own reward."

At a special meeting this evening, you were elevated to the 33rd degree, which confers the right to wear a yellow jacket and peacock feather. "AnnO Multus."

J. B. Faint,
President.

Independence, Kan., May 5th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I hope you will pardon the delay in acknowledging receipt of your very kind invitation to attend the dinner to be given in Titusville, May 7th, in honor of the seventieth birthday of Mr. Joseph Seep. It is with the greatest regret that I am compelled to advise you that it will be impossible for me to attend this dinner, however, I wish to extend to Mr. Seep, through you, my very best regards and a hearty wish that he may enjoy a great many more as happy birthdays as I am sure this one will be.

Respectfully,

E. T. Patterson.

Oil City, Pa.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Mr. H. H. Stephenson regrets that he is unable to accept the invitation to the dinner in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep at Fieldmore, on Thursday evening, the seventh of May.



W. W. THOMPSON.

Titusville, Pa.
May 5, 1908.

S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have your letter and
accept with very great
pleasure.

W. W. Thompson.

Titusville, Pa., April 21st, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan:—
Dear Mr. Bryan:—

Replying to your suggestion under date of the 15th I wish to assure you of my desire to join in any movement to do honor to our townsman, Mr. Seep, and shall be glad to second any effort in this direction.

You have but to command my services in any direction where they may be available.

Yours Very Sincerely,

M. W. Quick.

New York City, N. Y., April 20th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Replying to your esteemed favor of the 15th inst., I beg to say that it will give me great pleasure to be present on the occasion named if my health will permit.

I have just returned from a trip to Bermuda, and am a little uncertain yet about my strength; but my great regard for the gentleman named will certainly command me on the joyous occasion contemplated.

Yours Truly,

H. H. Rogers.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 16th, 1908.



H. L. SCRAFFORD.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Your letter of April 15th received, and in reply will say that it will afford me great pleasure to be present at the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Seep on May 7th.

Yours Truly,

H. L. Scrafford.

Oil City, Pa., April 16th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Penn'a.

Dear Sir:—

Replying to yours of April 15th beg to state that I would consider it a pleasure to take part in the complimentary dinner to Mr. Joseph Seep on his seventieth birthday, and you may count on me being with you.

Very Truly Yours,

Fred S. Rich.

Robinson, Ill., May 21st, 1908.

Joseph Seep, Esq.,
Oil City, Pa.

I did not learn of your birthday celebration until after the event, and so could not add my congratulations to the many others you received, and will therefore offer them now.

That you may live to enjoy many happy returns of the day, is my earnest hope. I also wish to thank you for your many acts of kindness to me during the 18 years I was in your employ. I am sure that no man ever had a more considerate employer, and, while I have always felt in duty bound to enter any branch of the service where I was most needed, I would have been perfectly satisfied to remain in your employ to the end.

Yours Very Truly,

E. L. Taylor.

Bartlesville, Okla., May 1st, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Bryan:—

I am very sorry not to be able to attend the dinner in honor of my old friend J. Seep, on May 7th, 1908.

I have known Mr. Seep since 1870, and know of no man in the oil country so universally liked and respected, and it would give me great pleasure to be present at the dinner on his 70th birthday, and like Mark Twain, I hope he will feel 70 years young.

With kind regards to yourself and Mr. Seep,

Yours Truly,
Thos. B. Simpson.



THOS. B. SIMPSON.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 28th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Thank you very much for remembering me in connection with the dinner to Mr. Seep and I appreciate the opportunity of showing, in a slight way, something of the high esteem in which I have always held him.

It is, however, just now, unlikely that we shall be in Titusville sooner than the 7th, and I regret to advise that you will have to count me out.

Very Respectfully,

J. H. Scheide.

Lawrenceville, Ill., April 24th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your valued invitation to attend a dinner in honor of the birthday of my good friend Mr. Seep, and am very sorry to say that I shall not be able to attend.

Wishing you all success in the matter, and all a most happy time, I am,

Very Truly,

S. Y. Ramage.

Oil City, Pa., May 4th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have a business deal on hand which will probably take me away next week and I regret very much that I cannot attend the dinner in honor of Mr. Seep. I would like very much to be present.

Hoping you will all have a very enjoyable time,

Very truly,

W. W. Splane.

Titusville, Pa., May 1st, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

It gives me much pleasure to accept the invitation to a dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Joseph Seep, on his seventieth birthday, at Fieldmore, on the evening of May 7th.

Trusting that our honored citizen, Mr. Seep, may live to enjoy many happy returns of the day, I beg to remain,

Yours Very Truly,

A. J. Thompson.

New York City, N. Y., April 26th, 1908.

Dear Mr. Seep:—

I regret very much that I shall be unable to attend the dinner to be given in your honor on the 7th of May. The card that was enclosed was mislaid, however, I write you direct.

Please accept congratulations of Mrs. Tack and self, and that of all the family. I hope you will be good for thirty years more and that I may be on hand to see you celebrate on that occasion.

With kind regards to Mrs. Seep and all the family, I am,

Sincerely Yours,

Theo. E. Tack.

Oil City, Pa., April 15th, 1908.

Mr. S. S. Bryan,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of an invitation to a complimentary dinner to be given to Mr. Joseph Seep on May 7th next, and in reply will state that I shall be only too glad to accept same, and consider it an honor to be remembered in this way.

Very Truly Yours,

J. Tonkin.

New York City, N. Y., April 24th, 1908.



Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I enclose herewith check for \$10.00, for ticket for dinner to be given to Mr. Joseph Seep, at which I hope to be present.

Very Truly Yours,

Forrest M. Towl.

FORREST M. TOWL.

Wheeling, W. Va., May 11th, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Joseph:—

I note by the papers that you have been having a time on your seventieth birthday, and take this occasion to extend my hearty congratulations. Whilst I don't want to see you bent with age, I should like to see live to 140, that will make me 120.

You will remember having seen me last at Parker, Pa., in '79 as manager of the Telegraph Company.

Yours Respectfully,

M. R. Wolff.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 17th, 1908.

S. S. Bryan, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have your confidential communication of April 15th and it would give me the greatest pleasure in the world to accept. I can not, however, because my engagements of the week of May 4th are such that I can not.

With kindest regards, and trusting you will have a fine time, especially because of the worthiness of the object, I am.

Sincerely Yours,

Edward Worcester.

Titusville, Pa., April 17th, 1908.



PETER THEOBALD.

S. S. Bryan.
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Your letter of April 15th with an invitation to attend a birthday party in honor of Mr. Seep, which occurs on May 7th, is received. I can assure you that I will be much pleased to accept, for Mr. Seep and myself are friends of long standing.

Yours Very Truly,
Peter Theobald.

My Dear Hampton:—

The kind invitation to the dinner to be given in honor of Mr. Seep's seventieth birthday came Saturday. Permit me to thank you for the kind thought which is so much in accordance with your usual courteous ways towards me. I often wish you could see in my heart how sincere is my appreciation and how often my thoughts are of you.

Please congratulate Mr. Seep for me, and present my regrets. He is a remarkable man and I feel deeply the honor of being an invited guest at such a function. I know you will enjoy it and I wish I could hear the toast I know you will make.

Hoping you are well and with sincere regards to Mr. Seep, Capt. Tonkin, and Mr. Judge, if he is in Oil City, believe me,

Yours Truly,
Geo. S. Weeks.

Mr. S. S. Bryan, Chairman,
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Exceedingly do I regret that, owing to the critical illness of a very near and dear relative, I shall have to forego the pleasure of being at the banquet in honor of Mr. Seep, whom I have known and esteemed many years. I heartily unite with all the guests in sincere congratulations to Mr. Seep, and best wishes for many years to come.

Respectfully,
E. K. Thompson.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 6th, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Sir:—

Learning through my intimate friend, Miss McNamara, that to-morrow, May 7, you celebrate your seventieth birthday, I take the liberty of addressing you this note to extend to you and your estimable family my hearty congratulations, and sincerest hope that the Almighty God, whom you have so well served, will in His goodness and justice see fit to spare you for many years more of useful and enjoyable life.

Very Respectfully,

Thos. J. Kavanaugh.

Greenwich, Ct., May 7th, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep:—

We send you our best love and congratulations. Hope to deliver them in person on your 80th birthday.

Eleanor and Marcla.

Pittsburg, May 7th, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

All the boys in the Pittsburg office join in hearty congratulations upon this, your seventieth birthday anniversary. May you live to round out a century.

Chester's Office.

Oil City, May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Titusville, Pa.

All the boys in the office join in hearty congratulations to you on this, your seventieth birthday, and wish you many returns of the day.

T. M. Blackwell.

Findlay, May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Hope you will enjoy the dinner.. Sorry could not be with you.

J. C. Donnell.



J. C. McDOWELL.

Pittsburg, May 8, 1908.

My Dear Mr. Seep:—

I noticed in this morning's paper, with great pleasure a gathering in your honor, celebrating your seventieth natal day, in your home city.

I congratulate you and extend to you my kindest regards and best wishes for many returns of your birthday.

Yours Respectfully,

J. C. McDowell.

Butte, Mont., April 30, 1908.

Dear Mr. Seep:—

I want to congratulate you on attaining your seventieth birthday. You are a living example to the younger man—what good care and proper treatment of self will do. May you continue in health, wealth and prosperity. Love to all the family.

Very Sincerely Yours,

John F. Webber.

New York, May 7, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep:—

Accept my heartiest congratulations. I wish I could be with you this evening to present them in person.

W. H. Tilford.

Oil City, Pa., May 8, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep,

Dear Mr. Seep:—

I have intruded my troubles upon you to such an extent that I feel some hesitation in writing this letter. But I want to say no one can wish for you more brightness in the coming years than I and my family do. We thank you for your kindness at a time when it was greatly needed, and we shall always remember it as one of the brightest things in a time of exceeding darkness. With great respect and gratitude,

Yours Sincerely,

Charles A. Babcock.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 4, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep:—
Titusville, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Seep—

Mrs. Wilkins called my attention to a press report of the occasion of your seventieth birthday, occurring on the 7th inst., and the event is to be so happily felicitated by the presence of a few of your many friends and admirers from many places.

Mrs. Wilkins joins me in sincere congratulations.

Wishing you and Mrs. Seep many more years of life, health and happiness, with great respect, I am

Yours Very Truly,

Geo. H. Wilkins.

Lexington, Ky., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,

Your Blue Grass friends unite in a message of love for a happy anniversary.

Rudolph R. Harting.

Franklin, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,

With best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

Jos. Reisenman.

Oil City, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Please accept my hearty congratulations on this, your seventieth birthday, and I wish you many more with health and happiness.

T. A. Brown.

Sistersville, W. Va., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

I want to add my congratulations on this, your seventieth birthday, wishing you many more birthdays with health and happiness.

E. A. Durham.

New York, May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Regretting that I am unable to attend reception, I beg to extend congratulations and wish you many happy returns of the day.

H. F. Davis.

Erie, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep:—

Accept congratulations on reaching this birthday. May you enjoy many more. Important engagements here keep me from being with you.

Arthur L. Bates.

Lexington, Ky., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Congratulations on your seventieth birthday. Men pass away, but their good deeds live forever.

H. F. Hillenmeyer.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—
Oil City, Pa.

In father's name and my own right I send congratulations and best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

Harry D. Bushnell.

From a sometime Parkerite to Mr. Seep, in honor of his seventieth birthday, brought to mind by his allusion to the days of Parker at the Fieldmore banquet, and trusting he will pardon all faults in rhyme and rhetoric and accept it with the best wishes of the "would be" poet:—

In the days of Parker,
What mighty "larks" sir,
Were carried on by you, and the crew,
That since have managed,
But never damaged,
The ship of the Standard, but brought it through;
The great Commotion,
Of public emotion,
Because you were staunch and loyal and true.

While in Memory's halls,
Pendant on the walls,
Are portraits of friends, not Standard at all,
Yet to you
They were true,
And jolly good fellows too.
Oh isn't the singing
In your memory ringing,
Of Larry Tack, Rod Collins and Jimmie Lowe,
As well as the pranks,
Of all gone from the ranks,
In the days of long ago?

You remember the "proms"
From the Exchange to Toms (Taylor's)
In days when oil was low,—say—
And the cabbage bouquet,
Culled by the way,
In each coat lapel put to glow;
And then the song
As you marched along,
"Keep a-rolling, keep a-rolling, keep
a-rolling on to Jordan's shore."

I enjoyed that time,
So am writing this rhyme,
As a sort of congratulatory ode,
That you've beat Osler's time,
And are still in your prime,
Stepping cheerfully along on life's road;
May many more years,
Blessed by smiles and few tears,
Be granted to you from above;
May those you hold dear,
In each coming year,
Bless and crown you with their love.

Lexington, Ky., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Hearty congratulations and many returns of same.

Col. and Mrs. Richard Morgan.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 7, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Seep:—

Congratulations and many happy returns of the day.

Mrs. Wm. Richardson.

Somerset, Ky., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Accept my heartiest congratulations on your attainment of the three score and ten, and wishing you many happy returns of the day.

N. H. Myers.

Marietta, O., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Congratulations on your seventieth birthday.

Albert C. Cunningham.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 7.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

I congratulate you and hope you will enjoy many more returns of the day.

J. B. Young.

Bradford, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Congratulations and best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

J. B. Skelly.

Emlenton, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

I heartily congratulate you on your seventieth birthday and wish you may see many more.

H. P. Clark.

Butler, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

I congratulate you on this, your seventieth birthday, and, Dr. Osler to the contrary, hope that you may still have many years of active service before you.

C. R. Wattson.



A. W. SMILEY.

Foxburg, Pa., May 7, '08.
Joseph Seep:—

Please accept in return my hearty congratulations on your arrival at the 70-mile post. I earnestly wish you may live to see many more. Should old acquaintance be forgot.

A. W. Smiley.

Knox, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Kindly accept my heartiest congratulations on your seventieth birthday. Sincerely hope you may live to enjoy many more.

R. M. Smiley.

Wellsville, N. Y., May 7.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Have just heard this is your seventieth birthday. Accept congratulations, and hope you will enjoy good health for many more years to come.

J. W. O'Day.

Mannington, W. Va., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

On this, your seventieth birthday, you have my best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

Walter O'Day.

Parker, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Please allow me to congratulate you on your seventieth birthday, I hope God will spare you for at least 30 years more, as we need men like you in this world.

Henry Turk.

Warren, Pa., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on becoming seventy years young. No matter how long you live, may you never grow old, and may it be many decades before you become an angel.

F. H. Langworthy.

Woodsfield, O., May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Am advised this is your seventieth birthday. Please accept congratulations. Trust you are enjoying good health.

Very Respectfully,

W. B. Myers.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 7.

Joseph Seep,
Titusville, Pa.

Hearty congratulations, young man. Hope to shake hands with you seventy years hence.

N. D. Preston and O. B. Lake.

Springfield, Mass., May 7.

Joseph Seep:—

We congratulate you. Hope will live forever.

William Kimball.
Frank Webber.

New York, May 7, 1908.

Joseph Seep:—

Please accept from self and family earnest congratulations and an expression of our high regards.

Charles N. Tibbits.

New York, May 7, 1908.

Mr. Joseph Seep:—

Congratulations and earnest wishes for many returns of the day from the employes of the New York office.

The Mine & Smelter Supply Co.

Denver, Col., May 22, 1908.

Joseph Seep, Esq.,
Titusville, Pa.

Friend Seep:—

I was very much pleased, a few days ago, to have an opportunity to talk with Albert about his recent visit to the oil region, and about your banquet, and about the people whom he met that he used to know.

I also enjoyed reading the account of the banquet doings, and the letters quoted, in the Oil City Derrick, a copy of which was sent to me, for which also I am indebted to Albert's thoughtfulness.

I wish to send, though rather late, my congratulations and best wishes, and hopes for "many happy returns."

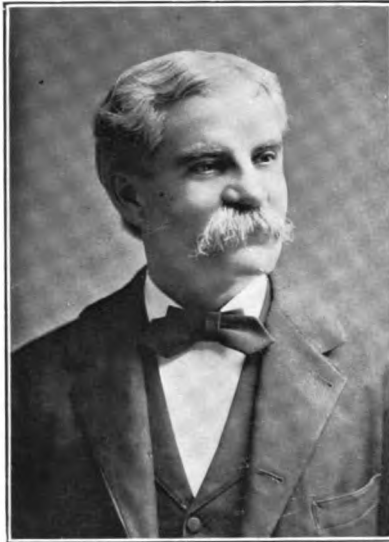
Yours Very Truly,

W. D. Archbold.

Joseph Seep

In Honor of His Seventieth Birthday.

(By John J. McLaurin.)



It was seventy years ago
to-day,
On the bright and balmy
seventh of May
A. D. Eighteen-hundred-
and-thirty-eight,
In beautiful Germany,
grandly great,
The stork came along
with a bouncing
boy;
Fond parental hearts
overflow'd with joy,
For the welcome
stranger was theirs
to keep,
And they named the
prize package Jo-
seph Seep.

The proud father's soul
exulted with mirth,
Dear mother tho't baby
the finest on earth;
Her opinion had no dis-
senting vote;

The household's delight was pleasant to note.
Bubbling with kindness from the third sand,
Kinsfolk and neighbors all gave the glad hand;
The infant arrival smiled in his sleep.
A thoroughbred entry was Joseph Seep.

Baby kept growing as live babies must,
The lad in short pants took nobody's dust;
Sound in his morals, in wind and in limb,
Spirited youth had ambition and vim;
Sail'd to America, train'd mind and voice,
Wed in Kentucky, the girl of his choice,
And built his high aims so broad and so deep
That ages to come will crown Joseph Seep.

He quickly reveal'd in maelstrom of trade
The sterling stuff of which winners are made.
The nation had known four twelve months of peace
When the hustler struck this region of grease.
In Titusville fair took up his abode,
And never got off the go-ahead road.
The hill of Success is rugged and steep,
But a tireless climber was Joseph Seep.

For Bostwick and Tilford, capable, shrewd,
At Foxburg and Parker he purchased crude,
Then went to the Standard, foremost and best—
Mankind owes it more than can be express'd.
To John Rockefeller, Rogers, the Pratts,
Archbold and Flagler, we take off our hats;
Captains of Industry topping the heap,
Their triumphant right bower is Joseph Seep.

He has stood ace high, according to Hoyle,
In the busy whirl of the realm of Oil;
Loyal to principle, straight as a string,
Nothing could tempt him to do a base thing.
Faith, truth, hope, skill, tact his clear royal flush,
No action of his makes good people blush;
He sows seeds of kindness others may reap—
Rich, poor and lowly extol Joseph Seep.

Did he gain lasting friends? Well, look around;
Where can another such legion be found?
Yet we're a small fraction—why the whole lot
Could not be pack'd in a ten-acre plot;
Rome's Coliseum would bulge with the bunch—
Just think of serving the throng Fieldmore lunch.
He's yard-wide, all-wool, not narrow nor cheap—
Three cheers and tiger for Joseph Seep.

From Atlantic shores to Pacific coast,
Each for the moment a volunteer host,
Now we have father'd to prove our respect,
Regardless of class, condition or sect;
Some humble in life, some kings of affairs
Who trot in the ranks of the millionaires;
At the goodly crowd take a little peep,
Assembled to compliment Joseph Seep.

Here are men of mark, big in heart and brain,
As H. H. Rogers, Charles Miller, Payne,
Buchanan, Jim Guffey—always four-square,
O'Day, Moffett, Bedford—brand that will wear.
George Lewis, McIntosh, Hasson, O'Neill,
McKinney and Fisher, trusty as steel,
Paying a tribute which does not o'erleap
In thus doing honor to Joseph Seep.

Such Oil City steppers fall into line
As Tonkin, Tom Blackwell, Smedley, Perrine,
Reed, Lamberton, Merritt, Lowentritt, Rich,
Lay, Crawford, Simpson—none nap at the switch,
With writers like Boyle, the Derrick's rare boss,
Grand-Old-Man Allen and clever young Bloss—
No maverick herd, no goats 'mong the sheep—
To greet and congratulate Joseph Seep.

Toastmaster Bryan illumines the scene;
See lawyers Whitemore, McSweeney and Breene,
Mark Father Cavanaugh, gifted in speech,
Semple and Critchlow, who know how to preach;
Three doctors, Barr, Quinby, Burchfield, assist,
Bates, Warner, Theobald, Caldwell enlist;
Quick, Goodwin and Crocker—not snails that creep—
One and all warmly endorse Joseph Seep.

Three score years and ten. A fortunate stage—
Juvenile vigor and wisdom of age,
We wish for our guest a century run
And the great O. K.: "Good servant, well done."
God's books in his favor, from the word go,
A large credit balance surely will show;
St. Peter the gates wide open will sweep
When to his reward death calls Joseph Seep.





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