

# Grotto Unit to Be Chartered For Lowell Area on Oct. 22

June 4<sup>th</sup> 49 - Inst.

By Leon V. Stone

Staff Writer of *The Christian Science Monitor*

## Lowell, Mass.

A recently organized unit of the Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm for Lowell and the Merrimack Valley, is to be formally chartered at a full-form ceremonial at Worcester, Oct. 22.

Known as Mer-I-Mak Grotto, it was organized primarily to provide a purely social organization for Freemasons in the Merrimack area who do not seek additional degrees.

The Grotto has been known as the "Playground for Blue Lodge Masons" and has a definite place for many Masons, particularly veterans of World War II, according to Edwin P. Simpson of North Billerica, monarch of the new Grotto.

A group headed by Mr. Simpson set out to get a Grotto for the Lowell area, and in six months the new unit was set. More than 100 new candidates are expected to be initiated as charter members of the new Grotto Oct. 22.

Three or more busses are expected to be used to take the officers, members, and candidates from Lowell to Worcester for the ceremonial in Worcester, to be under the auspices of Aletheia Grotto of Worcester. The grand monarch is to visit the group at the Municipal Auditorium, after a parade from Masonic Temple to the auditorium.

Several Grottos from various parts of the state are to join in

the Worcester ceremonial. The officers of the new unit, chosen after the institution of the Grotto at the Masonic Temple in Billerica, June 4, besides Mr. Simpson as monarch, are:

William H. Wallace, South Billerica, chief justice; Waldo S. Ford, West Billerica, master of ceremonies; Ulric E. Carson, Pinehurst, assistant master of ceremonies; Edmund C. Webster, Billerica, treasurer; Harold J. Pearson, Chelmsford, secretary;

Chester A. Merriam, Lawrence, veiled prophet; Frederick G. Brown, North Billerica, marshal; George F. McEnnis, North Chelmsford, grand chamberlain; Ralph E. Frost, Westford, orator; Ralph M. Whitehead, Tewksbury, captain of the guard; Harry R. Rogers, South Billerica, chaplain; Frank E. Walker, North Billerica, sentinel; and the following trustees: Louis A. Bennett and Percy D. Scott, both of Chelmsford; and Ralph M. Whitehead, Tewksbury.

Monarch Simpson plans to head a group of prophets and their wives to attend Hejaz Grotto's Connecticut state convention at New Haven, Oct. 15.