

# Miller receives 65-year pin from Lodge members

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Correspondent

XENIA — Members of the Yellow Springs Lodge 421 gathered at the Elmcroft Nursing Home in Xenia to give 96-year-old Frank Miller his 65th year pin.

Now having been a Master Mason for 66 years, Frank happily shakes the hands of his fellow Mason brothers as they present him with his pin and certificate.

Born in Fairfield on Sept. 15,

1915, Frank has loved his life on the farm.

"Growing up, I've done farming," said Frank. "I love the country side."

Frank, married twice with no children. He has two nephews; one in Florida and one in Colorado.

"I've outlived most of my family, but I like to think that they keep looking out for me."

Around 1942-43, Frank

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Herald photo by Kathryn Capenos

Jackie D. Butler II WM presents Frank Miller with a certificate congratulating him on 65 years with Yellow Springs Lodge 421.

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joined the United States Air Force as a mechanic.

Frank said, "I served for four years and seen a whole lot of things and been to a whole lot of places around the world."

Frank toured Rome among many other places. "It's a wonderful place. Helen Hayes had turned over a fancy house in Capri to the Air Force and that's where we stayed, it was quite a deal," he said.

Frank took care of the airplanes and kept them fueled during the tour.

"I stayed a couple weeks in Capri and the big thing about it is that there were no cars, you were out in the country," he added. "I used to get flower seeds and send them to my mother and she would raise a lot of flowers."

When invasions weren't happening, Frank states that there would be air shows to keep up moral.

"I like to travel and, of course, when there were airplanes in different places, we would go on different trips and sometimes we didn't know if we were going to make it."

On one such occasion, Frank had the pleasure of meeting the Doolittle Raiders.

"Doolittle started our outfit because we were B25's. Jimmy Doolittle was just as little as I, in fact I'm sure that he was shorter than I was," Frank mused.

On April 1, 1946, Frank joined Yellow Springs Lodge

421.

"We have probably one of the oldest fraternities in the world," said Keith Swigart, Tyler for Lodge 421. "It started out as a basis from the Masonic tradition."

It's been tradition for members who have been with their respective lodges for over 65 years to receive recognition from their fellow Lodge members.

Frank petitioned the Lodge on the 8th of December in 1945 and he was raised to the degree of Master Mason on April Fools Day, 1946.

"Frank has been a very respected member of the Lodge for a number of years," added Swigart.

The Lodge has one 70 year member and five 65 year members.

Worshipful Master Jackie D. Butler II approached Frank with a certificate and pin to commemorate his 65 years with Yellow Springs Lodge 421. "The Grand Lodge of free and accepted Masons of Ohio and acknowledgement of the honor conferred upon the Grand Lodge of free and accepted Masons of Ohio find Frank Miller who has extinguished himself as a man and Mason this 65 year award which is presented to him with the gratitude, congratulations and best wishes of the Grand Lodge and all brothers holding allegiance there to. Their hope is that our fraternal bonds may be strengthened with each passing day."