

# 600 Attend Gala Banquet Royal For OES Worthy Grand Matron

The Chicago Defender (National edition) (1921-1967); Mar 15, 1958; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Chicago Defender (1905 - 1975)  
pg. 14

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**SMILING BROADLY** as they show off the plaques they received at a testimonial dinner in their honor to the more than 600 guests who attended the "Banquet Royal" are Mrs. Hazel Stillwell, worthy grand matron of Eureka chapter, OES of Illinois, and Obed E. Vanderburg, most worshipful

grand master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Illinois. They were honored for the services they had rendered to the Order of Eastern Stars. The special efforts committee of the Eureka chapter was responsible for the testimonial dinner.

More than 600 guests attended the Banquet Royal testimonial dinner in honor of Mrs. Hazel Stillwell, worthy grand matron of Eureka grand chapter, O. E. S., recently held at Prince Hall Masonic Temple.

Also honored at the dinner, which was sponsored by the Special Effort committee for the grand matron, was Obed E. Vanderburg, 33rd degree mason and most worshipful grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM.

Elected as worthy grand matron last August, Mrs. Stillwell has worked her way up through the ranks since joining the Order of Eastern Stars in 1942.

Her first office was that of Matron of Venus No. 69 chapter. She then became grand stenographer, assistant grand secretary, grand secretary, associate grand conductress, grand conductress and associate grand matron.

As grand worthy matron, Mrs. Stillwell heads 76 subordinate chapters in Illinois, which has approximate membership of 5,000.

A special project of the worthy grand matrons is to prepare special holiday dinners for residents of the Masonic home in Rock Island. She also heads the Children Youth fraternity, whose purpose is to curtail juvenile delinquency and to promote cultural programs among the youths.

Besides her Masonic work, Mrs. Stillwell is a staunch member of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist

church. She is secretary of the President Council, secretary of the pastor's special anniversary committee for the past 20 years and an usher. Mrs. Stillwell is also a member of the George L. Giles American Legion auxiliary and Fine Arts Guild of the OES.

The clubwoman is married to Curtis Stillwell, a retired U. S. Custom Service employee. A native of Durant, Miss., she attended Kortrecht (Booker Washington) High school and LeMoyné college in Memphis.

After coming to Chicago 35 years ago, Mrs. Stillwell attended the YMCA commercial college. She is chief clerk of area 12 in the Selective Service system, with nine

employees under her supervision.

Taking part in the program were Johanna Davenport, the Rev. Richard C. Keller, Alice R. Childs, Henry G. Fort, Elizabeth Odell, G. Stevens Marchman, Dorothy James, Mrs. Geraldine Brown, Mrs. C. T. Mason, Mrs. Lovonia H. Brown, the Bibbs sisters, Mrs. Lorraine Strickland, Robert E. Wooten and Robert Anderson.

General chairman of the dinner was Hazel B. Walker and her co-chairman was Madeline Oliver. Other chairmen were Alice R. Childs, program; Edna Burke and Alice Robins, souvenir; Geraldine Rachele, hostesses; Ethel L. Bowers and Marjorie Wade, culinary and Minnie Allen, publicity.