

## **HISTORY OF TENNESSEE'S "MR. LION"**

(Excerpted from an interview with Marjorie Driskill published in 12-N News & Views in 1972)

In February of 1965, Clyde Driskill was in charge of a Zone Social held at the high school and hosted by the Newport Lions Club. Working together, (I designed and painted, he cut and built) we made four stand-up cardboard lions for decorations. Jim Masters, as District Governor, used them all over 12-N. He even took them to Memphis, I think. They were well received. Jim cut duplicate ones of masonite. I painted them and they are still in use. They were used in Gatlinburg at the International Board Meeting in 1967.

In early 1968, (then PDG) Jim Masters was in charge of getting a Tennessee pin designed for the convention in Japan. He asked me to draw three or four designs for the presentation. At Clyde's suggestion, I included a "Mr. Lion" among the ideas. "Mr. Lion" was unanimously accepted by the Board of Governors. Jim contacted various companies about production of the pins, their samples were examined, contracts were made, and "the rest is history" as they say. "Mr. Lion" seems to be doing O. K. on his own.

*Marjorie Driskill*