



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

Volume 1, Number 11

November, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

The month of November begins the Holiday Seasons for most of us and our families. We all look forward to good meals and visiting with our families & friends. Let us remember that the Holiday season is highlighted by Christmas. Let us also remember that gifts, visiting and sharing our love for family and friends is a big part of the Christmas celebration, but the real reason for celebration is the birth, death & resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us show our love for our Heavenly Father and practice those tenets he laid out for us 2000 years ago.

- The Oasis Lodge # 79 Practice sessions will be dark in the month of December.
- The Masters, Wardens, & Secretary's Association will be dark in the month of December as it was in November due to the timing of the meetings and the Holidays.
- Temple Lodge # 70 is always dark in the month of December.
- Omaha Order of the Eastern Star Chapter # 997 will be hosting a visit of the Worthy Grand Matron at their stated meeting on December 19, 2017. Also, The Worthy Grand Patron may be coming. All members are invited to attend. Please let Worthy Matron, Deborah Abernathy, or Carole McGee know so they can adequately plan refreshments for the Fraternal visit.
- The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will be holding their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant. All Shriners and their ladies are invited to attend. The Club will also hold its annual election that night.
- We all need to remember our shut-in's, those who are disabled or in nursing homes and those who may not have family who can visit. Make someone's Day---show them you care.

- Temple Lodge # 70 will be having their Christmas Party on December 09, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lodge. The Lodge will be honoring the Widows as well as the wives of the Masons.

The District has conferred numerous degrees this month and those that have been reported have a story related to each degree in this issue.

I will cut this message short and simply wish you all a Happy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and a healthy & prosperous New Year. Take care of yourself, be careful and remember to pray for those needing God's Grace.

The MWSA Newsletter wants to print news from your Lodge or OES Chapter, but we need it reported to us so we can give the activities coverage. This would apply to happenings in the future that your Lodge would like to announce or reporting completed activities you would just like everybody to know about. You may contact me at 903/577-3233 or alvinrexmcee@hotmail.com or Joe Reynolds, Newsletter Editor, at the "contact us" button that appears on the MWSA#6 website to report the news. If you choose to communicate by email make sure you also leave a good phone number so we can reach you in case we need to clear anything prior to publishing.

*Rex McGee
President*

Our web site is www.mwsa6.org.

THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

Tongue in Cheek

Q. What did the recalcitrant EA say before he was slain?

A. She sells seasells by the seasure.

To Order

Q. Why do Freemasons Stand to Order?

A. Because if they sat down the waiter might not notice them.

Tyler Tiler

Q. What is the difference between a tyler and a tiler?

A. One tyles lodges and the other lodges tiles.

VSL

Q. What is the Volume of the Sacred Law?

A. Ten thousand cubic centimetres.

Whodunit?

Q. What's the worst thing about being a Fellowcraft?

A. You're always one of the usual suspects.

Women Freemasons

Q. Why aren't women allowed into Freemasonry?

A. Imagine telling your wife that you had a Worshipful Mistress in the Lodge!

Carole McGee, know so they can adequately plan refreshments for the Fraternal visit.

Temple Lodge #70 confers Master Masons Degree

by Rex McGee

Temple Lodge # 70 was a lively place Saturday, November 04, 2017. A Master Mason's Degree was conferred by area Masons representing two Districts and members of nine different area Lodges. There were sixteen Past Masters and four current Masters in attendance.

This morning the attendees were treated to a delicious breakfast of biscuits, sausage and gravy, coffee & orange juice. That really got the morning started out right and everyone geared up to go.

The following individuals participated in the Degree and made it a memorable occasion for the candidate.

MWSA OFFICERS



President	Rex McGee	577-3233
Vice President	Rhett McCullough	767-2488
Secretary-Treasurer	Mark Munkres	235-9001
Chaplain	Jerry Rook	575-7577
Webmaster	Joe Reynolds	575-8791

Worthy Grand Matron to visit Omaha OES Chapter

by Rex McGee

Mrs. Melissa Hudman, Worthy Grand Matron, Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star will be honoring the Omaha Chapter with a fraternal visit at their stated meeting on December 19, 2017. She travels with an entourage of well known Eastern Star members and Grand Chapter Officers. Worthy Grand Patron, Mr. Rick Skidd, Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star is also expected to make the trip to Omaha.

Eastern Star members are invited to attend the visit. Please let Worthy Matron, Deborah Abernathy, or

1 st Section	Participant
WM	Louis Pitts
SW	Paul Dempsey
JW	Joe Reynolds
Sec	Bill Guy
SD	Joel Bumpass
JD	David Davey
Tiler	Gary Oliver
MC	Rex McGee
2 nd Section	Participant
MWKS	Gary Rockefeller
SW	Bill Guy
JW	Candidate
Sec	Howard Barron
SD	Joel Bumpass
JD	Rex McGee
Tiler	Gary Oliver
SFM	Billy Williams
R 1	Jerry Rook
R 2	Paul Dempsey
R 3	Bruce Carpenter
FC1	Joel Bumpass
FC 2	Joe Reynolds
FC 3	Ken Kennedy
Lecture	Jim Cornett
Charge	Gary Rockefeller
Apron Presentation	Billy Williams
Bible Presentation	Todd Brashears

After the Degree was conferred the Master of the Lodge, Jacob Blue, took over and gave the newly raised Master Mason an opportunity to say a few words and then to the other brethren in attendance were given the opportunity to bring greetings and a word of congratulation to the new Master Mason. The Worshipful Master thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the conferring of the Degree.

We had eight Past Masters participating in the Degree along with five Past District Deputies. Representatives from at least eight Lodges were present. The Worshipful Master gave everyone an opportunity to say a few words and then gave the candidate an opportunity to speak. Temple Lodge now has several new Entered Apprentices learning their work and looking forward to their next degree.

**Temple # 70 confers
Entered Apprentice Degree**

by Rex McGee

Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant, Texas conferred an Entered Apprentice Degree upon its newest member on Monday, October 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments were served prior to the degree giving everyone an opportunity to meet the candidate and the other visitors at the Lodge who travelled from South of Dallas to attend the degree.

**A Short Christmas Story
by Charles Dickens**

Master Peter, and the two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.

Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course, and in truth it was something very like it in that house. Mrs. Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs. Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast; but when she did, and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah!

There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by the apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs. Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows! But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs. Cratchit left the

EA Degree	Participant
WM	Rhett McCullough, PM,
SW	Gary Oliver
JW	Chris Piephe, PM
Sec	Bill Guy, PM
SD	Paul Dempsey, PM
JD	Joe Reynolds, WM Frank Sexton Lodge
MC	Rex McGee, PM, WM of David Elliott Lodge
Coin Presentation	Riley Sullivan, PM
Lecture	Billy Graham, PM
Charge	Gregory Burdette, PM

Brothers Burdette, Sullivan, Graham, & Piephe are from South of Dallas and traveled down to work in the Degree. Several of these men knew the candidate and wanted to work in his degree. The Lodge is always honored to have visiting Brothers participate in activities at the Lodge.

room alone, too nervous to bear witnesses, to take the pudding up and bring it in.

Suppose it should not be done enough! Suppose it should break in turning out. Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back-yard and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose, a supposition at which the two young Cratchits became livid! All sorts of horrors were supposed.

Hallo! A great deal of steam! The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing-day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastrycook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that! That was the pudding! In half a minute Mrs. Cratchit entered, -flushed, but smiling proudly, with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half-a-quartern of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.

Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs. Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs. Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been, flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing.

At last the dinner was all done, the cloth was cleared, the hearth swept, and the fire made up. The compound in the jug being tasted, and considered perfect, apples and oranges were put upon the table, and a shovel-full of chestnuts on the fire. Then all the Cratchit family drew round the hearth, in what Bob Cratchit called a circle, meaning half a one; and at Bob Cratchit's elbow stood the family display of glasses. Two tumblers, and a custard-cup without a handle.

These held the hot stuff from the jug, however, as well as golden goblets would have done; and Bob served it out with beaming looks, while the chestnuts on the fire sputtered and cracked noisily. Then Bob proposed:

"A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us!" Which all the family re-echoed.

"God bless us every one!" said Tiny Tim, the last of all.

by Rex McGee

The Grounds and Building Maintenance Committee has started work on the Lodge that has been needed for some time. Members of the Committee are Kevin Summerlin, Kerry Wooten, Dwayne Fortenberry, Rex McGee, Paul Dempsey, Buddy Blue & Bill Guy. The biggest part of the work is dedicated to the dining room & kitchen.

In the dining room ten feet of the old carpet was pulled up and replaced by tile to keep accidents from soiling the carpet around the serving area. The carpet was replaced by 400 square feet of tile. The kitchen area covered approximately 800 square feet of floor that had previously been painted. Traffic over the past fifteen years had taken a toll on the floor and it needed a more substantial surface. The new surface is an acrylic base with skid proofing and a sealer to make it more serviceable. These two tasks were handled by separate contractors that were selected and supervised by Buddy Blue & Paul Dempsey.

We also had some minor electrical work performed inside & outside the Lodge as well as having an air conditioner serviced. We have several other tasks we will meet about, prioritize and get completed in the coming months.

Northeast Texas Shrine Club Gives vote of appreciation to IHOP Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant

Northeast Texas Shrine Club Secretary Rex McGee is shown below giving a plaque of Appreciation to Chad Elam, Manager of the Mt. Pleasant IHOP Restaurant. Chad, along with his staff, have participated the last few years in the program and helped raise thousands of dollars for Shrine Hospitals and other charities.

Shriners traditionally participate in fund raisers to support their Hospitals and other worthwhile charities. IHOP celebrates National Pancake Day at IHOP and customers get a FREE short stack of IHOP's Original Buttermilk Pancakes! In return, IHOP asks that you make a donation to their charitable partners. The Shriners Hospital is part of this charity group. Every stack served helps IHOP reach their goal of raising \$3.5 million for children battling critical illnesses. Since

Temple Lodge # 70 starts renovation on Lodge Building

IHOP's National Pancake Day began in 2006, IHOP and their guests have raised more than \$24 million for charity. Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network of 22 non-profit medical facilities across North America. Children with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment. While the main emphasis of the hospitals is to provide medical care to children regardless of the family's ability to pay, the mission of the hospitals also includes research on the conditions treated and the education of medical professionals including medical residents and fellows, nurses, physical, recreation, and occupational therapists, speech and language pathology, psychologists, social workers, and child life specialists.



THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

It seems a Jewish family had rented an apartment that sat directly under the Masonic Temple, and at least once a month they would always hear this stomping from above. One day Izzy told his wife he was going to drill a hole in the ceiling and see what those Masons were up to. After doing so, one evening he heard some stomping coming from above, so he got his ladder, climbed up and decided to take a peek. After a few moments, he flew down the ladder and ran in and told his wife to pack all

their belongings and "Let's get out of here and fast !!!" When she asked why, Izzy told her that he was just peeking in on the Masons above and saw them kill a man and said they were going to blame it on the 'JEW-BELOW'.

Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 confers Master Masons Degree

by Rex McGee

Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 was a lively place Monday November 13, 2017. A Master Mason's Degree was conferred by area Masons representing two Districts and members of five different area Lodges. There were Ten Past Masters, seven Past District Deputy Grand Masters and two current Masters in attendance.

The attendees were treated to a delicious dinner prior to the Conferring of the degree and it allowed everyone to become acquainted with the candidate.

The following individuals participated in the Degree and made it a memorable occasion for the candidate.

1 st Section	Participant
WM	Rhett McCullough
SW	Paul Dempsey
JW	Joe Reynolds
Sec	Bruce Carpenter
SD	Bill Guy
JD	J.C. Friedl
Tiler	David Davey
MC	Rex McGee
2 nd Section	Participant
MWKS	Gary Rockefeller
SW	Bill Guy
JW	Candidate
Sec	Bo Davis
SD	Bruce Carpenter
JD	Rex McGee
Tiler	David Davey

Sec	Bo Davis
SFM	Dennard
R 1	Rhett
R 2	Paul Dempsey
R 3	Doyce Kennington
FC1	Bruce Carpenter
FC 2	Joe Reynolds
FC 3	J.C. Friedl
Lecture	Ronnie Moore
Charge	Bo Davis
Apron Presentation	Bo Davis
Bible Presentation	Rex McGee

After the Degree the Master of the Lodge, Joe Reynolds took over and gave the newly raised Master Mason an opportunity to say a few words and then the other brethren in attendance were given the opportunity to bring greetings and a word of congratulation to the new Master Mason. The Worshipful Master thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the conferring of the Degree.

Oasis Lodge # 79 hosts Committee on Work Forum

Oasis Lodge # 79 in Daingerfield hosted a Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas Committee on Work Forum on Saturday November 18, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. This was the last Forum for Right Worshipful Ricky Brown as he is not seeking re-election to his seat on the Committee of Work. The Lodge provided drinks and donuts prior to the forum.

Brother Joel Bumpass, Past Master of Oasis Lodge, brought the welcome form the host Lodge. Depending upon who did the counting and who was hiding in the kitchen there were approximately thirty-eight to forty Master Masons attending the Forum where they received instruction in the Ritualistic and floor work of the Masonic Degrees as well as the Ritual Openings. Right Worshipful Brown answered questions through out the presentation process to clear up any issues brought forth by the attendees.

The Forum took a lunch break around 11:00 a.m. and enjoyed stew cooked by Jodie Harris, Past Master. After lunch Right Worshipful Brown held a testing session for the purposes of receiving or renewing Certificates in the esoteric work. The forums are always a good source of valuable information as well as asking questions and resolving issues about the ritual or floor work.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

By Rex McGee

Nursing Homes, Assisted living, and Retirement Homes

Jim Clifton -----Nursing Home in Hughes Springs
 Bennie Stevens-----Nursing Home in Hughes Springs
 Sybil Walton-----Nursing Home in Daingerfield
 Ray Burgin-----Nursing Home in Mt. Pleasant

Illness, Injuries, Surgery, & Rehabilitation

Henry Moles-----Treatment
 Randy Brock-----Treatment
 Bobby Goswick & Wife-----Illness
 J.N. Duck-----Ongoing illness
 J.D Baumgardner-----Illness
 Tommy G. Heard-----Convalescing
 Joann Floyd-----Tests & Treatment in Dallas
 Lilma Godsey-----Tests & Surgery in Tyler Hospital
 Glendle Lange-----Home in Mt. Pleasant
 Burnis Covington-----now living with son, Gary

Deaths

B. C. Wyninegar-----member of David Elliott #360

Contact information for reporting Sickness & Distress:

Rex McGee: alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com
 Phone---903/577-3233
 Joe Reynolds: Joe.Reynolds@franksextton206.org
 Phone: 903/575-8791

David Elliott Lodge # 364 confers Master Mason's Degree

By Rex McGee

David Elliott Lodge # 364 was alive with Mason's who came from all Lodges in District 6 to either participate

in or watch the conferral of a Master's Degree. There were Ten Past Masters, seven Past District Deputy Grand Masters and two current Masters in attendance.

The attendees were treated to light refreshments prior to the Conferring of the degree and it allowed everyone to become acquainted with the candidate.

The following individuals participated in the Degree and made it a memorable occasion for the candidate.

1 st Section	Participant
WM	Ken Kennedy
SW	Scott Brock
JW	Fred Holcomb
Sec	Billy Williams
SD	Mike Goforth
JD	Rick Holland
Tiler	Howard Barron
MC	Jerry rook
2 nd Section	
MWKS	Jodie Harris
SW	Howard Barron
JW	Candidate
Sec	Billy Williams
SD	Joel Bumpass
JD	Rex McGee
Tiler	Jerry Rook
SFM	Billy Williams
R 1	Mike Goforth
R 2	Fred Holcomb
R 3	Ronnie Moore
FC1	Joel Bumpass
FC 2	Randy Blackmon
FC 3	Mike Garcia
Lecture	Ken Kennedy

Charge	Rex McGee
Apron Presentation	Billy Williams
Bible Presentation	Jodie Harris

After the Degree the Master of the Lodge, Rex McGee took over and gave the newly raised Master Mason an opportunity to say a few words and then the other brethren in attendance were given the opportunity to bring greetings and a word of congratulation to the new Master Mason. The Worshipful Master thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the conferring of the Degree.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- November 2nd** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 5th** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 5th** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 7th** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 11th** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 12th** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 12th** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 14th** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 18th** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting, this date for December only
 - December 19th** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 19th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 19th** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - December 19th** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
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David Elliott Lodge honors the Order of the Eastern Star with Fish Fry

by Rex McGee

Masons from David Elliott Lodge # 364 honored the Local Eastern Star Chapter # 997 with a Fish Fry at their November stated meeting. Those hard working Masons who prepared the meal were Fred Holcomb, Scott Brock, Mike Goforth & Odis Cline. The Ladies of the Eastern Star & the hungry Masons of the Star enjoyed a wonderful dinner of fried fish and all the trimmings.

The Masons of Omaha and the Eastern Star have enjoyed a great working relationship over the years in the Omaha area. The Ladies of the Eastern Star honor the Masons yearly to show their appreciation toward the Masons. The present site of the Lodge was some sort of a mutual building program involving both the Eastern Star and the Masonic Lodge with the Eastern star providing some of the furnishings of the Lodge. Both organizations have taken turns with housekeeping and maintenance issues at the Lodge as well as working together on other activities.

The Lodges & Eastern Star Chapters of Masonic District # 6 has excellent working relationships that help to insure a healthy Lodge System for the members of both organizations as well as the community.

Shrine Club plans Christmas Meeting

by Rex McGee



The Shrine Club held its monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Shrine Club Past President, Rhett McCullough welcomed members and wives of members.

The Shrine Club voted to hold its annual Christmas Party at Herschel's and the Ladies could bring a dessert if they so desired. The room at Herschel's is available for the meeting.

The Club also voted to take two actions related to charitable giving at Christmas. Harold Connor would locate a family and the Club voted to allow a \$200.00

expense for food, toys, etc for the family. If a family can not be located the Club will determine at the next meeting what to do with the money.

Each member would be asked to bring \$10.00 to donate to a worthy cause that would be identified at the next regular meeting.

The Shrine Club will also hold its Annual election at the December meeting.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on December 19, 2017 at Hershel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. You need not be a member to attend. Bring your wife or a friend as we always enjoy having visitors.

THE LARGEST AND THE SMALLEST MASONS

At the time he was raised in Highland Park Lodge No. 382 in Los Angeles, California, John Aasen was eight and a half feet tall and weighed 536 pounds. Twelve craftsmen were required for certain parts of the ceremony. There were 1500 Masons present to observe the ceremony.

Charles S. Stratton, a midget, was made famous by P. T. Barnum as "General Tom Thumb". He was first presented to the public in 1842; as the time he was two feet high and weighed 16 pounds. In 1844 he married Lavinia Warren, also a midget. He settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut and was raised in St. John's Lodge No. 3 on October 3, 1862.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Texas 6th Masonic District MWSA. Letters and articles may be submitted to: Joe.Reynolds@franksexton206.org (Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)