



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

Volume 1, Number 8

August, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

The month of August was the real beginning of the Masonic year as all the Lodges had their new officers installed and the Worshipful Masters were able to get their programs for the year presented to their members. Lodges have started out the new Masonic year with a flurry of EA, Fellowcraft and Masters Degrees. A study of members attending Lodge meetings over the past four years indicate that every Lodge in the District except one has had increased attendance for this period over prior years. Even though it is slight, it is still a positive increase and we look forward to this trend continuing.

The MWSA held its first four-week place officer academy with an average of seven members in attendance at each meeting. Our next scheduled academy for these officers will begin in April to train the new crop of place officers for next year. The one thing that all the participants carried back to their Lodge was the knowledge of the importance of their positions and that there are many things that place officers must know to successfully open and close all Lodges, participate in reception of Grand Lodge Officers, participate in balloting and that there is a specific manner to conduct oneself in open Lodge. Many Lodge Courtesies and Traditions were also discussed from the stand point of providing a good working environment for conducting Lodge business & conferring degrees.

We had three local Master Masons make the trip to Hella Temple to join the Shrine on August 19, 2017. We anticipate having approximately five more in the next month to seek membership in the Shrine.

Call a Brother, or a Sister in the case of the OES, who is not a regular attendee and ask them to come to the next stated meeting of the Lodge or Chapter. We have six Lodges and seven OES Chapters represented by this newsletter. I think many of us have forgotten the power of a personal invitation to a brother or sister to get them back in the Lodge or Chapter.

There are numerous other activities taking place in the District and are covered in separate stories spread across the pages of this newsletter.

Our next MWSA meeting will be held on the fourth Thursday of September, 2017 at the Old Union Community Center. Refreshments will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there. Bring a brother Mason who hasn't yet attended the meetings. Brothers, don't forget that being a few minutes late doesn't mean you are not welcome.

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 alvinrexmccgee@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.

Our web site is mwsa6.org.

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

Many writers and thinkers have tried to define Freemasonry but it really defeats definition. It is too complex, too profound in conception, to easily expressed in words. Perhaps the simplest and best definition of all is the phrase "the brotherhood of man

under the fatherhood of God." Our Masonic forefathers had an understanding of human needs and human aspirations. They may never have dreamed of the mindless computer which governs our lives, or the fission of matter which threatens our lives, but they understood human nature and what motivates the spirit of man. Thus, from a simple process of using stone and mortar for building they progressed to the most important of life's functions, the building of character.

Louis L. Williams

THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

Masonic Light Bulb No.1

Q. How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?

A. No one knows. It's a secret.

Masonic Light Bulb No.2

Q. How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?

A. CHANGE?

Masonic Policeman

Q. What did the police officer say to the Brother caught speeding home from Lodge?

A. I shall now direct your attention to a charge.

Masonic Terrorists

Q. Why is Freemasonry a suspected terrorist organization?

A. Because the Square and Compasses are weapons of maths instruction.

Masonic Thermometer

Q. Why did the Cowan break open the thermometer?

A. To discover the secrets of the degrees.

Non-Masonic Light Bulb

Q. How many Cowans does it take to change a light bulb?

A. None. They are in eternal darkness.

A GOOD STORY

*From the January 1977
New Mexico Freemason*

A young man passed a pawnbroker's shop. The money lender was standing in front of his shop, and the young man noted that he was wearing a large and beautiful

Masonic emblem. After going on a whole block, apparently lost in thought, the young man turned back, stepped up to the pawnbroker, and addressed him: I see you're wearing a Masonic emblem. I'm a Freemason too. It happens that I'm desperately in need of \$25 just now. I shall be able to repay it within ten days. You don't know me; but I wonder whether the fact that you are a Freemason and that I am a Freemason is sufficient to induce you to lend me the money on my personal note.

The pawnbroker mentally appraised the young man, who was clean-cut, neat and well-dressed. After a moment's thought, he agreed to make the loan on the strength of the young man being a Freemason. Within a few days the young man repaid the loan as agreed and that ended the transaction.

About four months later the young man was in a Lodge receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree; he had not really been a Mason when he borrowed the \$25. After he had been admitted for the second section of the degree, the young man looked across the Lodge room and saw the pawnbroker from whom he had borrowed the \$25. His face turned crimson and he became nervous and jittery. He wondered whether he had been recognized by the pawnbroker. Apparently not, so he planned at the first opportunity to leave the Lodge room and avoid his benefactor. As soon as the Lodge was closed he moved quickly for the door, but the pawnbroker had recognized the young man, headed him off and, to the young man's astonishment, approached him and greeted him with a smile and outstretched hand.

Well, I see you weren't a Freemason after all when you borrowed that \$25, the pawnbroker commented.

The blood rushed to the young man's face as he stammered, No, I wasn't, but I wish you'd let me explain. I had always heard that Freemasons were charitable and ready to aid a Brother in distress. When I passed your shop that day I didn't need that \$25. I had plenty of money in my wallet, but when I saw the Masonic emblem you were wearing, I decided to find out whether the things I'd heard about Freemasonry were true. You let me have the money on the strength of my being a Freemason, so I concluded that what I had heard about Masons was true, that they are charitable, that they do aid Brethren in distress. That made such a deep impression on me that I presented my petition to this Lodge and here I am. I trust that with this explanation you will forgive me for having lied to you.

The pawnbroker responded, don't let that worry you too much. I wasn't a Freemason when I let you have the money. I had no business wearing the Masonic emblem you saw. Another man had just borrowed some money on it, and it was so pretty that I put it on my lapel for a few minutes. I took it off the moment you left. I didn't want anyone else borrowing money on the strength of my being a Freemason. When you asked for that \$25, I remembered what I had heard about Masons, that they were honest, upright, and cared for their obligations promptly. It seemed to me that \$25 wouldn't be too much to lose to learn if what I'd heard was really true, so I lent you the money and you repaid it exactly as you said you would. That convinced me that what I'd heard about Masons was true so I presented my petition to this Lodge. I was the candidate just ahead of you.

**Temple Lodge # 70 confers two
Entered Apprentice Degrees
Thursday night, August 31, 2017**

by Rex McGee

Temple Lodge members and visitors were treated to back to back Entered Apprentice Degrees. These degrees had masons attending from five different Masonic Districts as far away as Cisco, Troup & Krum, Texas and then our neighbors from the Daingerfield, Bogota, Pittsburg, Mt. Vernon and Omaha areas. A total of ten Lodges were represented at the degrees. It was truly a motley crew of Masons ranging from some of our most experienced Masons to some of our newest Master Masons. The Masons met in the dining hall for refreshment and a period of socializing while the candidates and lodge was being prepared for the degrees.

Worshipful Master Jacob Blue, one of the youngest Worshipful Masters in the state, opened the meeting with words of appreciation for all those who came to participate in or just enjoy the degrees. He then turned the Lodge over to Brother Bill Guy, PM of Temple Lodge who conferred the first degree with Bro. Buddy Blue, PM of Temple Lodge as Senior Deacon. The second degree was conferred by Brother Rhett McCullough, Past Master of Frank Sexton Lodge and Brother Jaime Sterret, Senior Deacon of Krum Lodge handling the Senior Deacon Duties. Brother Ken Kennedy, PM of Oasis Lodge gave the Lecture to the two new Entered Apprentice Masons. Paul Dempsey, PM of Temple Lodge served as Senior Warden in both

degrees and gave the Charge to the new Masons. Others working in both degrees were Joe Reynolds, Worshipful Master of Frank Sexton Lodge, served as Junior Warden in both degrees, Gary Oliver, Senior Warden of Temple Lodge, served as Treasurer in both degrees, Jeff Parchman, Senior Deacon of Temple Lodge served in the capacity of Junior Deacon. Christopher Hamilton, Temple Lodges newest Master Mason served as Tiler in both Degrees and Rex McGee PM, & current Master of David Elliott Lodge served as Master of Ceremonies for both Degrees.

When the Degrees were completed Worshipful Master Blue assumed his seat in the East and again thanked everyone and gave the visitors an opportunity to introduce themselves and congratulate the new Masons. He next gave the members an opportunity to address the lodge and the new Masons. The New Masons were then given an opportunity to address the members and visitors. They were extended invitations to visit other Lodges in the area and participate in their meetings. We have numerous new Masons working in the Lodges of this District and they have proven to be real assets to their Lodges.

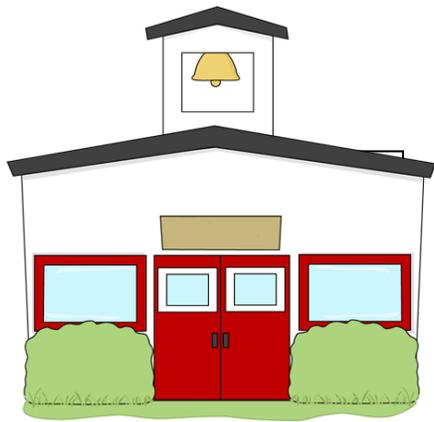
THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

A Doctor and Plumber are in the same Lodge. On Sunday Morning, the Doctor wakes up to find his toilet blocked. So, he rings the Plumber. "But I do not work Sundays! Can't it wait until tomorrow." The Doctor said. "I do not like working Sundays either but if you were in trouble, and felt unwell, Brother I would come around to see you" "Ok" says the Plumber and goes around to the Doctor. Goes upstairs and looks at the toilet, take two aspirins from his pocket and throws them down the bowel. "There" he says "If it's no better tomorrow give me a ring and I will call round."

There are one-story intellects, two-story intellects, and three-story intellects with sky-lights. All fact collectors, who have no aim beyond their facts, are one-story men. Two-story men compare, reason generalize, using the labors of the fact collectors as well as their own. Three-story men idealize, imagine, predict, their best illumination comes from above, through the skylight

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Old Union Community Center



Old Union Community Center (OUCC) is planning their Annual Fall Festival for the second Saturday in October, 2017. (October 14, 2017) Dinner will be served starting at 4:30 p.m. until about 6:00 p.m. Late comers for dinner as well as take out will be able to participate while other activities are taking place on the other end of the Center.

We will have a cake auction and then the afternoon will be highlighted with entertainment by THE "C", Dale Cummings, a local singing artist that is extremely popular in this area. He does a prepared program but has been convinced to do a few requests.

The Meal Menu will be Chicken Spaghetti, Salad & Dessert, plus a drink for \$7.00. We will also have a good chili recipe for the connoisseurs of fine country chili, salad, dessert & drink for \$7.00. Both items will be available for carry out in **sturdy carry out containers.**

Come participate in an excellent meal with your friends and neighbors, help the Community maintain its building, and enjoy a singing performance that would be worth the time & price by itself.

Old Union Community Center
Three miles east of Mt. Pleasant
on Hwy 67 East across from
Old Union Baptist Church

Saturday, October 14, 2017
starting at 4:30 p.m.
until 8:00 p.m. or so.

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
Burnis Covington-----Nursing Home in Mt. Pleasant
Sybil Walton-----Nursing Home in Daingerfield
Ray Burgin-----Nursing Home in Mt. Pleasant
Jerry Green -----Nursing Home in Paris

Illness, Injuries, Surgery, & Rehabilitation

O.M. Adams-----Convalescing & Rehab at Home
Henry Moles-----Treatment
Randy Brock-----Treatment
Beverly Sikes-----Successful Surgery & Recuperation
Bobby Goswick & Wife-----Illness
J.N. Duck-----Ongoing Illness
J.D Baumgardner-----Illness
Randy Blackmon-----Surgery & Rehab
Tommy G. Heard-----Convalescing
Ms. Barbara Alford-----Surgery
Glendal Lange-----Illness & Injury
Bill Butler-----Treatment for Cancer

Deaths

Johnny Peek-----Member of Frank Sexton # 206
Tommy Wilson-----Member of Frank Sexton # 206
Wilburn Watson, PHD-----Member of Temple #70
Raymond Reynolds-----Member of Frank Sexton # 206
Betty Crow-----Member of Linden OES # 576
John Paul Vissering-----Member of David Elliott #364.

Contact information for reporting Sickness & Distress:

Rex McGee: alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com

Phone---903/577-3233

Joe Reynolds: Joe.Reynolds@franksexton206.org

Phone: 903/575-8791

Temple Lodge confers Master Mason Degree

by Rex McGee

Temple Lodge # 70 met on Saturday Morning, August 5, 2017 and started the day by serving breakfast to hungry Masons and then conferring a Master Masons Degree on Christopher C. Hamilton.

Worshipful Master P.T. Buddy Blue opened the Master Mason Lodge and then turned the gavel over to Brother Ken Kennedy, who served as the Degree Master during the conferral of the Degree. Brother Kennedy announced the other members of the degree team and then the work of the day began.

Every Lodge in District 6 had a representative at the Degree and participated in the conferring of the Degree. This was obviously a joint effort to bring this Brother in as a Master Mason. Six Past District Deputy Grand Masters also participated in the conferral of the Degree.

The future of Masonry in our area is bright due to the caliber of men, especially young men, that are coming into area Lodges.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September 4th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
September 5th – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 5th – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 7th – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 11th – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 11th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
September 12th – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 12th – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 14th – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 18th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
September 19th – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 19th – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 19th – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 19th – North East Texas Shrine Club, Monthly Meeting
September 21st – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 25th – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
September 25th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
September 26th – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

September 28th – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting

The purpose of the research lodge is to (1) Discover, (2) Disseminate, and (3) Preserve Masonic knowledge. By delving into source records, and biography, history, ritual and symbolism of Freemasonry is discovered. By printing the results of the researchers and distributing copies on a wide basis, this information is disseminated and preserved. Our research lodges are doing this,

W. W. Denslow

Annual Rob Morris Celebration held in Nash, Texas

by Rex McGee

District 1, Section 9, Order of the Eastern Star members held its yearly program honoring Rob Morris. Rob Morris is the generally accepted founder and impetus behind the formation of the Order of the Eastern Star. Morris was born on August 31, 1818 near Boston, Massachusetts. However, there is some evidence that he was born Robert Williams Peckham, in New York City, and that he adopted the name of his foster parents after the death of his birth parents. He grew up in New York, where he also went to college.

He worked as a teacher for 10 years before moving to Oxford, Mississippi, where he taught at Mount Sylvan Academy, a school established by Freemasons. He married Charlotte Mendenhall, whom he met while living in Oxford, on August 26, 1841.

After he became a Mason on March 1846, he became convinced that there needed to be a way for female relatives of Masons to share in some measure in the benefits of Freemasonry. While teaching at the Eureka Masonic College he wrote Eastern Star's first ritual, titled The Rosary of the Eastern Star. In 1850, Dr. Morris selected the Biblical heroines and the lessons and values of the Order. He established the signs and passes, colors and emblems of the Order and defined the fundamental principles which have remained unchanged throughout the years. The first ceremony book for the Order was compiled and published under the title of "The Rosary of the Eastern Star." He later served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1858-9. Upon being given a job as

professor of the Masonic University, he moved to La Grange, Kentucky in 1860.

In 1866, Dr. Morris became associated with Mr. Robert McCoy, who took over the planning and organization of the Order of the Eastern Star. In 1867 and 1868, Mr. McCoy compiled and published a Ritual, using Dr. Morris' Rosary as a guide. This was the beginning of the organization of Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star in the United States as well as internationally. He immediately attempted to make the work more systematic and succeeded in adapting it to organized Chapters in such a way as to assure their success. The first Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Michigan in 1867. Since then the Order of the Eastern Star has enjoyed a strong foundation and has provided a strong sense of togetherness & meaning for its members.

The Annual Rob Morris Celebration was held at Smokey Joe's BBQ Restaurant in Nash, Texas where everyone started out with a wonderful meal. After the Meal, The Mistress of Ceremonies, Sister Molly Willey, President of the Friendly Lions Club of District 1, Section 9, introduced those at the head table. Those introduced were Ms. Phyllis Makin, Guest of Honor and speaker for tonight, District 1, Grand Examiner, Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star, and her husband, Carroll.; Next, James Parker, District 1 Board of Directors, Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star and his wife Xanthe. Lastly, Ms. Willey introduced Ms. Carole McGee, Secretary of the Lion Officers Club, District 1, Section 9. A representative from every Chapter in the District was present at the meeting as well as five sitting Worthy Matrons and four sitting Worthy Patrons.

After introductions, the meeting was turned over to Ms. Makin to present her program on Rob Morris, Founder of the Order of the Eastern Star. Ms. Makin presented an excellent program and everyone thanked her for the presentation. Shortly after announcements and the benediction the meeting was closed.

To awaken each morning with a smile brightening my face;

To greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains;

To approach my work with a clean mind;

To hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things, the Ultimate Purpose toward which I am working;

To meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart;

To be gentle, kind, and courteous through all the hours;

To approach the night with weariness that ever woos sleep, and the joy that comes from work well done-

This is how I desire to waste wisely my days.

Thomas Dekker

Shrine Club VP carries three Master Masons to Hella Temple for initiation

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 Vice-President, Jerry Rooks, furnished transportation to Hella Temple in Garland, Texas on August 19, 2017 for a full day initiation into the Shrine for three enthusiastic Master Masons. We hope to start seeing these new Shriners attending the Northeast Texas Shrine Club in the near future.

Vice-President Rooks stated that Hella management told him that they would offer a short initiation at a local Lodge in the near future if we could get a few new candidates for initiation.

This month the Shrine Club made a donation to the widow of a Shriner who has cancer and her insurance was cancelled by the insurance company upon the death of her husband. The Shrine donation was supplemented by another donation by individual members to assist with living expenses. Brother Dempsey took charge of delivering the donations.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 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.

David Elliott Lodge Confers Degree

David Elliott Lodge conferred an Entered Apprentice Degree on a candidate on August 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The Lodge was full and this candidate received a degree that was attended by a representative of every Lodge in Masonic District 6 as well as members from three Lodges and two Districts outside the home District. There were seven past DDGM's and four current Worshipful Masters in attendance with most working in the Degree itself.

The candidate received an excellent degree and he was a great candidate. Everyone congratulated him on the excellent job he did as a candidate. Then, the candidate was given an opportunity to speak to the Lodge. He has someone picked to teach him his Masonic work and we look forward to taking him through his next two degrees.

Past Master Munkres conferred the Degree while Brother Ken Kennedy gave the Lecture. After the degree was conferred the Lodge was adjourned and everyone retired to the Dining room for refreshments.

"Stay" is a charming word in a friend's vocabulary.

Amos Bronson Alcott

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brother Larry "Joe" Reynolds
1007 Stone Shore Street
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455-7487
(903) 717-8608

Joe.Reynolds@franksexton206.org

Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the MSWA Association of the 6th Masonic District.

Letters and articles may be submitted to:

Joe.Reynolds@franksexton206.org
(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)