



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

Volume 2, Number 3

March, 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

I certainly hope no one has been caught in flood waters this month since we have had a huge amount of rain. In Texas we will probably be screaming for rain in three or four months to keep our gardens alive. Our scheduling of activities is often as unpredictable as the rain alternating between drought and floods.

Activities have hit strong and heavy the past two months along with the change of Grand Masters and a new set of mandates and requests to support his year in office. New programs, new mandates, new round of District Deputy visits, and Grand Masters Conferences all make for a heavy schedule that tests the resolve of members & officers to carry out the workload of the year.

Pine Tree Lodge hosted the first Grand Masters Conference in our area on Saturday. It proved beneficial because of the information provided. There is a separate article in this newsletter covering the Conference

The Order of the Eastern Star, District 1, section 9 & 10 held a joint two-day Fraternal Visit and School of Instruction in Texarkana on February 21st and 22nd at Border Lodge. There is a separate article in this newsletter covering the Fraternal Visit and School.

The Masonic District continues to confer a number of degrees on candidates. The Newsletter will begin to handle the coverage of these degrees differently than in past issues. Beginning this issue we will only write stories ourselves on Master Mason Degrees if we know about them and simply list Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees conferred under one article. If you wish to write a story about EA & FC degrees and submit them we will be happy to publish them as long as they meet our publishing guidelines. We will publish notification of scheduled degrees under one article

named “upcoming events” if they are sent by the last day of the month for the following month.

The Masters, Wardens, & Secretary’s Association held its regular meeting on February 22, 2018 at the Old Union Community Center. Brother Ken Kennedy, District Instructor, demonstrated the proper method of receiving the DDGM on his official visit. Afterward, he held a question and answer period on the same subject and closely related issues.

Next Month we hope to have the full District Team present to present a program.

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.

*Rex McGee
President*

Our web site is www.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

THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

Freeway

Q. How are freeways and Freemasonry alike?

A. They both provide a pathway to where you want to go.

Grand Lodge Above No.1

Q. Why can't Brethren working in Antarctica pass to the Grand Lodge Above?

A. Because they're not dead.

Grand Lodge Above No.2

Q. Why couldn't the absent-minded Brother enter the Grand Lodge Above?

A. Because he forgot to bring his regalia.

Hiram and the Sheriff

Q. What do Hiram Abiff and Gary Cooper have in common?

A. They both faced murderous ruffians at high noon.

Hiram et al

Q. What do Hiram Abiff, George Washington and a tombstone cutter have in common?

A. They're all monumental masons.

David Elliott Lodge presents service Award Certificates to three Masons.

by Rex McGee

David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Omaha Texas held an Award Ceremony for two fifty year members and one sixty five year member. Pat Tomberlain and Rex Raney received fifty year awards and Glenn Forrest received the sixty five year award from Rex McGee, Worshipful Master of the Lodge. These members were honored for their many years of service to the Masonic Lodge and their individual communities. The members received a nice certificate and a gold lapel pin to wear indicating their respective years of service.

Family members & friends attended the ceremony in the Lodge Room which was open to the public due to the ceremony. Family members were asked to pin the gold

service lapel pins on the members receiving them. Members & guests were allowed to take pictures of members receiving their certificates and pins during the ceremony.

The Worshipful Master thanked everyone who attended to honor the recipients. He also thanked the Order of the Eastern Star for providing their yearly "Honor the Masons" dinner on the Award night. The Eastern Star Ladies are generally among the best cooks in any town and prove it every time they serve a wonderful meal for the Masons or special events.

THE RING OF LOVE

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- It was one of those private pacts a daughter makes with her dad. The one who died first would send a signal to the other that all was well in the hereafter. Two days after her mother and father plunged to their deaths on Alaska Airlines Flight 261, Tracy Knizek believes she got that message. A commercial fisherman who helped scoop debris from the crash site found the red-and-gold Mason's ring worn by her father, Bob Williams. Until she was told of the ring's recovery, the Suquamish, Washington, woman had struggled to accept her parents' deaths.

"Maybe this is God's way of telling us that this is really happening and that everything is going to be OK, and that hopefully I'll hear from him again," she said Thursday in a telephone interview from her parents' home in neighboring Poulsbo.

It was only a year ago, after her grandfather died, that she reminded her father of an agreement they made years earlier. "Ever since I was a little girl, my dad and I had a deal. Whoever died first, the other one would come back and tell them what it's like," she said. "It was just to let the other person know if it's OK, like we think it's going to be." That the ring was recovered at all seems as miraculous as the crash was tragic.

Oxnard fisherman Scott Jarvis' boat Meridian was part of a flotilla of commercial fishing boats that helped illuminate the crash scene Monday night while rescuers searched for survivors. Jarvis, 37, and his nephew, 21-year-old Kevin Marquiss, pulled enough seat cushions, insulation and other debris from the water to cover the back deck of the 32-foot boat. Later, as they cleaned jet fuel off the decks, they discovered the ring nestled in a deck hatch. Studded with three ruby-colored jewels, it

had a large capital G in the center -- that, Jarvis later learned, stood for "Grand Master Mason." "It's like he sent it from heaven and just set it on the boat." Jarvis said.

Bob Williams, 65, and his wife, Patty, 63, were returning home to the Puget Sound after spending two weeks in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, with friends Robert and Lorna Thorgrimson, who also died aboard Flight 261. The couple traveled often after Williams retired as an Air Force colonel 20 years ago, visiting Panama and cruising to Alaska in the past year, Knizek said. Knizek, 39, had always been close to her parents. After living away from home for several years, she moved into a second house on their nine-acre property five years ago. Although the homes are separated only by a small woods, a quirk of geography placed them in different towns.

Just last year, her father carved a one-acre horse pasture out of the property. In the years ahead, they planned to fence it and build a barn, eventually buying horses for Knizek and her two children. "They were my best friends in the whole world," she said of her parents. She never told anyone of her agreement with her dad. But as she spoke to Jarvis, who contacted the Poulsbo Mason's Lodge after finding the ring, the story poured out.

"When that ring came around, I thought, 'Wow.' It's just to tell us, 'This is really happening, Tracy, this is real, and you're going to be OK and your brothers are going to be OK.'"

The ring remains with Jarvis, who will hold onto it until the families can arrange a meeting. In a letter to be opened upon his death, Bob Williams left the ring to the oldest of his two sons, Greg.

*Robert S. Ferguson PM, Secretary
Midland Lodge 144*

THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

I heard this the other day: A Candidate for initiation was to be picked up and driven to the Lodge, but before this could happen the car broke down. The Candidate said as no great distance was involved he would go on his bicycle. Just when he reached the top of the hill his chain broke. As the Lodge was at the bottom of the other side and all he needed was a backpedal brake, so he repaired the chain with a cord he had in his pocket and free-

wheeled downhill to the Lodge. Later that evening in reply to a toast in his honor, he said how proud he was to be a Freemason but could not understand, as he had told no one, how the WM knew that he had come on his own free wheel and a cord.

District 1, Sections 9 & 10 receives Fraternal Visit and hosts School of Instruction

District 1, Sections 9 & 10 of the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star receives a Fraternal Visit from the Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs. Melissa Hudman and Worthy Grand Patron, Mr. Richard "Rick" Skidd and a host of Grand Chapter Officials, Board Members, and other out of state and in state dignitaries. The Fraternal visit was preceded by a banquet at the Border Lodge facility in Texarkana with the food being prepared by Eastern Star members and local area Masons. The main menu item was fried fish and Chicken and all the Northeast Texas trimmings. Sister Sandra Power introduced the Guests & Dignitaries at the banquet.

The Fraternal Visit included the opening & closing ceremonies of the participating Chapters of District 1, Introductions of the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, and other Grand Chapter personnel, visiting dignitaries, as well as Constitutional and Special Committee members. The Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron brought greetings to those attending. Sister Treaca Huston, Humanitarian Chairman, gave the Humanitarian report during the visit. Several other reports by various members were read into the record during the meeting.

The District 1, sections 9 & 10, School of Instruction started early the next morning with a buffet style breakfast prepared by the same Eastern Star members & area Masons. Eastern Star gatherings are always known for their excellence of dining, but these meals were absolutely finger licking good. Thanks to the chef's.

The two Deputy Grand Matrons responsible for the supervision of the school were Gina King, Section 9 & Brandy Dorner, Section 10. One could easily tell the time, patience and careful planning put into their endeavors. There were many other members working behind the scenes that helped to make the school a

success. We need to congratulate and sincerely thank all who participated in the success of this school. Torrential rain storms, wind, bad roads and high water did not damper the spirits of those determined to attend and participate in the school.

The School officials insured that all appropriate introductions were made. In addition, those members making themselves available for nominations for offices at the next Grand Chapter were introduced.

During the School the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron spoke several times on timely issues and items of interest to the attendees.

Statistical Data for Fraternal Visit & School of Instruction:

- Rob Morris Auction collected \$1005.00.
- The Fraternal visit had 103 in attendance
- The school of instruction had 111 in attendance.
- The school of instruction issued a total of 76 A certificates which included 8 first timers.



Left: Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs. Melissa Hudman; Middle: Ms. Brandy Dorner, Deputy Grand Matron, District 1 section 10; Right: Ms. Gina King, Deputy Grand Matron, District 1 Section 9.

The Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of The Eastern Star is a fraternal organization composed of women with Masonic affiliation and Master Masons. Our members share a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being and

promotion of the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Order of the Eastern Star honors District 6 Masons

by Rex McGee.

The Order of the Easter Star holds an “Honor the Masons” dinner yearly to honor the Masons in their particular Lodges. The Order of the Easter Star and Masonic Fraternity has a close relationship all over Texas and especially in our area. The Eastern Star Chapters in our area all share facilities with their host Lodge. The organization has many husband and wife combinations as well as children and grandchildren belonging to the same Lodges and Chapters which makes for strong organizations with a pronounced sense of community service. The two organizations coordinate on many fund raisers, family days, Award banquets and similar activities.

In February the Eastern Star Ladies prepared meals at the Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 in Pittsburg and at the David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Omaha.

The Order of the Eastern Star is a Masonic-related fraternity of women and men dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness. Although not a part of the Masonic fraternity, membership is based on a Masonic affiliation or relationship, a belief in God, and a desire to acquire additional knowledge and for self improvement.

The Eastern Star is also a social organization with frequent formal events and ceremonies. Being a member is a wonderful and a fulfilling way of life. Please ask an Eastern Star to tell you more about it.

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
Dixie Webster---Haven Care Nursing & Rehab Center,
111 Ruthlynn Dr., Longview, TX., Room # 104

Illness, Injuries, Surgery, & Rehabilitation

Bobby Goswick & Wife-----Illness
J.D Baumgardner-----Illness
Joann Floyd-----Tests & Treatment in Dallas
Lilma Godsey-----Treatment in Tyler
Glendle Lange-----Home in Mt. Pleasant
Burnis Covington----- now living with his son, Gary

Deaths

James N. Duck-----Member 691 Mount Vernon
Curtis Wilkerson-----Member of Frank Sexton 206
Dorothy DeLay-----Linden OES # 576

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

ANONYMOUS

The nicest thing happened in lodge tonight," began the New Brother enthusiastically to the Old Tiler in the anteroom. "I don't know when I have been more touched."

"Tell me about it," suggested the Old Tiler.

"Brother Wells said he had received an anonymous letter from some brother of the lodge inclosing a \$5.00 bill, which was to go towards buying a birthday present for Brother Wells' boy. He told us about his boy being injured in an automobile accident and how he has struggled with the doctor's bills. He said he had bought the boy some books with it; and that it would be the biggest part of the lad's birthday. When he thanked the unknown brother, I would have cried, if I wasn't a pantsweaver."

"Why did the unknown brother send his gift anonymously?" inquired the Old Tiler.

"Oh, didn't I tell you? That was the prettiest part of it. The letter said the present wasn't from any one in particular, just from the 'Masonic spirit' and came because the 'agent' – that's what the anonymous brother called himself - he benefited from instructions received from Brother Wells. Wells is always instructing

someone, so he can't tell which of dozens of men sent it."

"That was a nice thing to do," agreed the Old Tiler. "Brother Peters' work bearing more fruit."

"Peters? Peters? I don't think I know him. . . ." the New Brother considered thoughtfully.

"He's dead ten years," explained the Old Tiler. "You never saw him in lodge, but he started the idea. He made a talk once in lodge about lodges not being Christian or Jewish or Mohammedan, just Masonic. He didn't see why Masons shouldn't observe the lovely things in any religion. He didn't want to inject religion into the lodge, he would like to see brethren take part in the generosity taught in all religions.

"Brother Peters had a comfortable income; could afford it. But it cost him some effort. And gradually we found out about it by comparing notes and asking questions. Brother Peters had made himself the lodge benefactor. He learned which brethren were poor and had children, and he sent them all birthday gifts. He always had a list of the sick, and they all had flowers and visits. If a widow didn't have much she got a ton of coal or a cord of wood, or some man appeared and told her he had been hired by the Masonic Society to clean off her snow. But no one knew, until his talk started us to investigating, that he was the individual who had made this lodge a Giver with a capital G. He'd draw a square and compasses on the package, or just a letter G, beside the address. He had a lot of fun out of it. When he died, he had the biggest funeral this town ever saw.

"The anonymous five dollar bill must have come from Brother Peters - someone else was indeed the agent, but it was Brother Peters' idea here. Of course it wasn't his originally.

"It's a pretty idea, too – using Masonry to make someone happy. Some brother who doesn't expect a visit from you – you go and see him on his birthday, just to let him know you are thinking of him; think of the joy he'd have. Half a dozen boxes of flowers sent to as many hospitals marked for birthdays would give sick people a lot of pleasure. A few small greenbacks, sent like Brother Wells received his, without a name, but with a letter; can you imagine anything more joyful?

"There is no taint of alms about a birthday gift – the proudest of the poor might be happy to be so remembered. I recall one old lady who got money from

someone in this lodge once - there was nothing in the envelope except the ten spot and the card saying 'Birthdays should be merry; the lodge hopes yours will be.' I knew her - she insisted I find out who did it, so she could thank him. Of course I couldn't. But I have always thought that whoever he was and is, he and Brother Peters found out more about how to have a good time than most of us know."

"There isn't any patent on the idea, is there?" demanded the New Brother. "I can do that if I want to, can't I?"

Of course you can," responded the Old Tiler.

"Will you find out and tell me where to send them?"

"I will not. If I did the work, you wouldn't have the fun. Besides, I supervise no brother's gifts. The Master will tell you. . . ."

"You said it wasn't Brother Peters' idea originally. Whose idea was it, in the very beginning?"

"Someone who said, 'Inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these, my brethren'"

"Oh!" said the New Mason. And again, "Oh!"

Grand Masters Conference held In Longview on February 24, 2018

by Rex McGee

The first Grand Masters Conference of the year in our area was held in Longview at the Pine Tree Junior High School on February 24, 2018.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Tommy F. Chapman was introduced and presented the main topics of discussion. He covered programs of interest that the Lodges may want to consider and adopt. He has reinstated the full District Team concept we had years ago. This will now include the District Education Officer and the District Communications Officer which replaced the District Masonic Relations Officer. We have not been able to determine if we, in fact, have these Officers in District 6.

He discussed Community involvement in depth while plugging the "Open House" he has mandated for this year. He further discussed school programs, funerals, honor the first responder programs and others to try and supplicate the involvement of the community in the

Fraternity. He has removed some of the bureaucratic red tape and onerous guidelines for implementing these projects as well as actually included instructions and directions for the programs.

We discussed numerous other issues we have heard before, but he talked about the issues with clarity and conviction, something that we have not always experienced.

My travelling companion and I were satisfied with what we heard at the conference and now we look forward to seeing those words morph into deeds and actions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 1st – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 5th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

March 6th – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 6th – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 8th – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 12th – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 12th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

March 13th – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 13th – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 15th – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 19th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

March 20th – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 20th – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 20th – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 20th – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs Monthly Stated Meeting

March 22nd – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 26th – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

March 26th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

March 27th – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

President---Rex McGee
Vice-President---Paul Dempsey
Secretary/Treasurer---Bill Guy
Chaplain---Jerry Rook

Hellon Cattlett Birthday Celebration at David Elliott Lodge

by Rex McGee

Family members, Eastern Star Sisters & Brothers, Masons, as well as local and out of town friends joined together to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Hellon Catlett of Omaha at the David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Omaha on Saturday January 27th, 2017..

The Lodge dining room was beautifully decorated with flowers, pictures painted by Hellon, and table arrangements along with enough food to feed an army of well wishers.

Hellon has been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for many years and is a Past Matron of the Chapter. She has held numerous offices in the Order over the years and has been a loyal member. Her late husband was active in the Masonic Lodge and was a Past Master of David Elliott Lodge.

Here is wishing Mrs. Hellon Catlett a very Happy 90th Birthday and many more.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club holds Christmas Party & Yearly Election

by Rex McGee



The Northeast Texas Shrine Club held its regular meeting at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant on February 20, 2018.

The Club held its yearly installation of officers. Past President Rhett McCullough installed the following Officers:

Garrett Lyons, a Master Mason from David Elliott Lodge and Noble from Hella Temple joined the Shrine Club at this meeting. We welcome him as a member and encourage him to attend regularly.

Noble Rhett McCullough made a motion to donate five Hundred Dollars to the Shrine Hospitals for Children, The Motion received numerous seconds. The Vote was favorable for the donation.

We completed the schedule for the Pancake Breakfast at the local IHOP that benefits the Shriner's Hospital for Children as well as other benevolent organizations. The pancake breakfast was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Mt. Pleasant.

Shriners and Masons from the Northeast Texas Shrine club and local Lodges worked shifts welcoming the customers and accepting donations.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next **stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on March 20th, 2018** 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.

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 Texas 6th Masonic District MWSA. Letters and articles may be submitted to: Joe.Reynolds@franksexton206.org (Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)