

Freestate Freemason



Spring 2002

From the Grand Master—

MASONRY FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Brethren:

We have completed our regional meetings for 2002. I am well pleased with the general attitude of the Craft. The Officers of the Grand Lodge hope that the message of cooperation and assistance has been well received. Nothing can be accomplished by individual activity alone, only by the final results of individual and combined activities. We appreciate the input and discussions from our various regions and hope that you will continue to keep us apprised of the various concerns in each region. The strength of the Grand Lodge depends upon the strength of the individual lodges.

It is my hope that we can assist local lodges by assigning Grand Inspectors within the district. This should make for stronger districts. This should put more responsibility on the Vice-Presidents of the several districts and allow the lodges more latitude in cooperating with one another. If each district can develop instructors in the ritual who can work with the Deputy Grand Lecturers and eventually have those individuals work within the district; many lodge problems can be solved by friendly advice. Care must be taken that inspectors only inspect and offer good counsel. They should never directly interfere with the operation of a lodge.

We respectfully request that local lodges keep us informed of their progress and their needs. We cannot supply all of your wants, but we would like to assist with information and advice to the best of our ability. Please do not hesitate to call upon any Grand Lodge officer or other representative for assistance.

We are very pleased with the general participation of the Craft in Grand Lodge functions. We invite you to attend all that you can and to assist in making these functions the types of affairs that you would like to see produced. Although these functions have not been planned to raise funds, neither are they designed to be an expense to the Grand Lodge. Please help to make them (cont. on page 3)

**The Grand Lodge of Ancient,
Free, and Accepted Masons
of Maryland**



Issued quarterly by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, & Accepted Masons of Maryland, U.S.A. This publication serves as a medium for informing the Craft of pertinent activities of the Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges and for sharing with the media, community, family, and friends those events, activities, and personalities which exemplify the purposes & objectives of the Masonic fraternity.

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Editorial

It has been just a little over one year since I received a call from Most Worshipful Grand Master Owens, asking if I would be interested in assuming the duties of Editor of the Freestate Freemason. I must admit I accepted the task with some reservations as I had never undertaken anything more than a monthly Lodge communication previously. But here I am a year later with three editions under my belt and the satisfaction that comes from an enjoyable and rewarding effort.

My thanks to all of you who have taken the time to submit articles of interest regarding your Lodge activities. Without your input we would not have a Freestate Freemason. And I would be most remiss if I didn't thank Bro. Harry Scott, who meticulously scans each article for typos and punctuation ills that are often found lurking about my computer. Thanks so much, Bro. Harry, for the cheerful giving of your time and expertise.

In our Masonic fraternity everything appears to go along at a certain pace, and then, looking back, we see that things are not quite the same as they once were. We have experimented with "The Grand Master's Class," enabling men to join our ranks in a manner other than the traditional route; we have taken part in television programs; we have opened our Lodges to the public during our installation ceremonies, and we are shying away from hiding our wonderful fraternity. These were unheard of ten years ago.

There are so many misinterpretations regarding our fraternity that some Grand Lodges now have active "Masonic Public Relations Committees." Web pages contain lengthy explanations of what our fraternity is and what it is not. Myths, rumors and gossip seem to take on a life of their own and travel under their own power. This is especially true if the subject takes place behind closed doors.

If your Lodge has not created a positive public image, there is no better time to start than now. Community service; recognition of outstanding citizens such as police, firemen, scouts, or citizens of the year and establishing rapport with the local media are excellent beginnings.

John R. Biggs, Editor

Article and Picture Submission

The following guidelines should always be adhered to: Original pictures only; no fax, ink jet prints or newspaper pictures. These do not reproduce well. Pictures should have the owner's name on the back and include information such as who is shown and what the picture represents. Ideally, an article will accompany the pictures. Articles should be typewritten and can be submitted to the Editor by e-mail, fax, or U.S. mail.

Please keep the Freestate Freemason informed of planned activities in your Lodge and area. Be proactive when publicizing your events.



(cont. from page 1) a success.

Our Semi-Annual Communication will be very soon and we hope that you have considered the legislation very carefully and will vote accordingly. The ballot will be conducted as it was at the Annual Communication. I hope that each lodge has advised the Grand Lodge office of the names of their representatives so that the distribution of ballots can be accomplished in an orderly fashion. To use proxies, please report to the Grand Secretary in a timely manner. By not using the old roll call method we will be able to save many hours.

We look forward to seeing many of you as we are invited to the several lodges and at the several functions of the Grand Lodge.

Yours in Faith, Hope, and Charity,

Bennie G. Owens

Ritual Competition

Bro. Ed Kraft, Grand Lecturer, advises that it is not too late to enter your Line of Officers in this year's Ritual Competition.

Remember, you may use your existing line of officers or you may advance your line - it is your choice. But please remember that this is a competition designed for the elected and appointed officers of a Lodge.

Contact your Lodge Secretary; he should have the form required. Fill it out and mail it to Ed. He will contact you regarding an agreeable date.

The two judges will visit your lodge on that date. The competition

is held right in your own Lodge.

No corrections are made during the evening. Following the close of Lodge, the score is tallied and you are informed of the results. The winner is announced during the Annual Communication in November.

Masonic Charities of Maryland

I became a Mason because of the Masonic Charities of Maryland. In 1997, I met with this organization and was introduced to David Haacke, M.W.P.G.M.

Bro. Haacke's vision and determination led to the establishment of the Maryland Student Assistance Program in 1987. Through the more than 250 Student Assistance Program teams in schools across Maryland, students at-risk for substance abuse and other harmful behaviors are identified and their parents offered the help needed to restore these children to academic productivity and personal well-being.

The Masonic Charities of Maryland generously funds the entire Student Assistance training program for Maryland. The members of The Maryland Student Assistance Program Professionals Association (MSAPPA), a state-wide volunteer organization of Student Assistance professionals who devote their time and talents to support one another's efforts and, through the training committee of MSAPPA, coordinate and conduct the training of new Student Assistance Program members and teams. This school year, 349 teachers, counselors, secu-

rity, support staff, administrators, nurses, and other school staff underwent intensive two-day training sessions to become members of their school's Student Assistance teams.

Part of my role as president of MSAPPA is to meet periodically with the Masonic Charities of Maryland to update them on MSAPPA's training efforts and the overall status of Student Assistance in Maryland. My funding requests for training are always cheerfully granted and I have grown to marvel at their generosity and genuine concern for children. With Bro. Haacke's encouragement, I contacted Larry Chisolm, executive director of the National Masonic Foundation for Children, and have become a national trainer in the Student Assistance Program.

In my travels as a trainer throughout the country, the Masons of the various Grand Lodges have welcomed my colleagues and me and provided the funding for the Student Assistance training for many educators. At each training session, the Grand Master always takes a moment to explain the charitable work of the Masons, which includes unflagging support for the Student Assistance Program.

No one could experience this and not be inspired by the Masonic dedication to the welfare of children. Last year, while training in North Carolina, I approached one of my co-trainers, whom I knew to be a Mason, and inquired about becoming a Mason. He gave me the "Friend to Friend" pamphlet and the rest is history. (cont. on page 4)



(cont. from page 3) I was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Montgomery Lodge No. 195 on September 24, 2001. When the Worshipful Master extended me his hand as a token of his friendship and brotherly love, I remembered my long association with the Masonic Charities of Maryland where I first became a Mason in my heart. I was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on November 26, and on January 28, 2002, I was raised to the degree of Master Mason by my good friend, David Haacke, who had traveled many miles to share in this important event in my life. His influence and support during my journey in Masonry can never be adequately described.

My continued association with the Masonic Charities of Maryland has enhanced my relationship with and respect for Brothers Haacke, P.G.M., Grand Master Owens, and others who work so diligently in this effort. I have also had the pleasure of expanding my friendship with other Masons on the committee, especially Vernon Mules.

My 36-year career as an educator has included 14 years as a teacher, 15 years as an administrator, and 7 years as a Student Assistance Specialist. Although I have had many growth experiences in those years and gathered many friends along the way, I have never encountered a group of men who "walk the talk" about caring for children as much as the members of the Masonic Charities of Maryland.

I am proud to be associated with this fine assembly of Masons; both

professionally and personally, to assist them in carrying out their mission to support at-risk children through our on-going partnership in the Maryland Student Assistance Program. Without them, our work to continue Student Assistance in Maryland would be impossible.

Mike Codori, M.M.

Bonnie Blink

Where are the winter winds and snow? I asked the same question in the last issue - we still haven't found the answer, so let's chalk it up to kismet!

The Homes continues to be a busy and happy place - plenty to do, places to go, eating out, trips, and new residents to become acquainted with. The next BIG event will be FAMILY DAY. Family day will be June 15th from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of the MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES (BONNIE BLINK). There will be entertainment, lots of food, petting area, picnic area, rides for the children, and ONE GREAT "WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE" (don't miss this table), bake sale (always a good treat here), visiting with friends and relatives, visits to the many areas of the Homes e.g.: computer lab, wood-shop, greenhouse, arts and crafts room, chapel, dining room (with the beautiful new table flowers), men and ladies' lounge rooms, and many other areas. Do come, spend the day, and bring your children and your friends. Join in the festivities of the day. Remember JUNE 15TH FROM 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M. While I am giving you dates to remember, jot this one

down: JULY 4TH 7:00 P.M. THRU 10:00 P.M. This is a 4th of July special on the grounds of the Grand Lodge, to see the Fireworks at Oregon Ridge. Bring your picnic basket (there will also be food for sale, if you wish), great fellowship and entertainment.

Great news: Our resident 94 year-old (or is that young?) Wally Dow is now an Entered Apprentice in Pickering Lodge #146. Wally expects to go all the way - and we will be there - "We are family, you know."

I have received word that the first 18 year old is being raised in one of the lodges - I have forgotten the name. Sorry. If you remember telling me of the event - please give me a call with the name.

While speaking of age - We have living among us Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson at the age of 103 - see picture below - isn't she a sweetheart?



Born Elizabeth Kiwan June 15, 1900, 2418 East Baltimore St. She started working at the Eutaw Savings Bank of Baltimore when she was 18 years of age. When I asked when she retired from the job she just said "I don't remember." (Sometime in her early adult life she married William R. Wilson, a Brother Mason, they had no children). In the early days, at the bank, she would go to (cont. on page 5)



(cont. from page 4) various schools to collect the monies the children had saved for deposit in the Bank. She gradually worked her way up the corporate ladder and retired as Assistant Vice President of the Bank. Many of us may remember saving pennies and holding a bank-book from the Eutaw Savings Bank. (I do - I had an account with this bank for over 40 years). Elizabeth has a niece, Barbara Bartlett, who visits frequently from New York.

In addition to regular evening lodge meetings there is the Daylight Lodge. This lodge brings together brothers who work at night, have difficulty attending night meetings of their parent lodge or are retired and prefer to attend lodge in daylight hours. All Master Masons in good standing are invited and encouraged to attend. Daylight Lodge is held every SECOND TUESDAY MORNING OF THE MONTH AT 10:30 AM, in the Grand Lodge Building (Activities Building) Lower Level, Roman Room, and lunch is served after the meeting. With most Daylight Lodge meetings - Ladies are invited to the luncheon and the topic of the day.

One of our recent past events was the annual Easter Service in the Chapel. The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland Masons Bennie G. Owens and his lovely wife Ruth along with the Grand Line Officers were present. The presence of the Grand Line Officers is always appreciated by the residents. Their procession into the chapel is inspiring and gives the residents the feeling and warmth of others caring.

With that I had better say so long -

have a great spring!

A BIG WARM - THANK YOU!

Joe Edmonds

Police Serving Lodges

In the last issue I mentioned a number of police officers that were presently serving their Lodges as Line Officers. Since then, it has been brought to my attention that I erred by leaving out several of our Brothers.

Tom Johann is serving as Jr. Warden, **Greg Santangelo** is serving as Sr. Deacon and **Chris Pavlon** as Jr. Deacon of their respective Lodges.

Tom and Greg are Deputy Sheriffs, and Chris is a Cpl. for the Dept. of Natural Resources Police.

Bro. **Greg Selby**, while not a law enforcement officer, was raised by the Shield & Square Club and is now serving as Worshipful Master of Philanthropic Lodge # 168.

If I have missed anyone else, please let the editor know.

Congratulations, brethren!

Golf Tournament

St. Columba Lodge No. 150 hosts their Fifth Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 3, 2002. Tee time: 9:00 a.m. Captain's choice. A portion of the proceeds benefits the "Relay For Life Cancer Fund."

Directions: Rt. 301 south to Rt. 234. Left on 234 to Wicomico Shores Road. Clubhouse phone - 301 934-8191.

Fee: \$70.00 per golfer. Please register by May 15. Send your check, list of players and their phone numbers, Sponsor's name, telephone number, address, and hole of choice.

Make all checks payable to St.

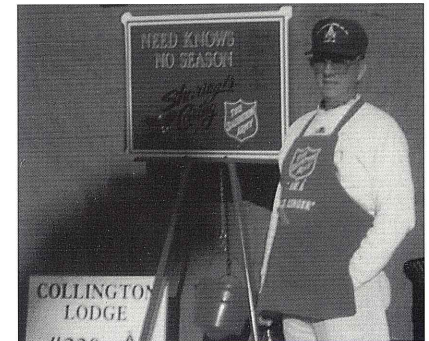


Columba Lodge No. 150 and mail to: Robert E. Pine, 10025 Spring Oak Court, La Plata, MD 20646.

Now is the chance for our many golfers to support this worthy endeavor.

Ringling the Bells

Each year Collington Lodge No. 230, Bowie, Maryland has been ringing the bells for the Salvation Army as one of its community service projects. This year Jack Calloway, PM, and sixteen brothers rang the bells at the Target and Wal-Mart Stores in Bowie and raised \$1154.00.



Public Television

Bro. Jack Young, Deputy Grand Master, advises that we are making a third visit to assist Maryland Public Television Channel 67 pledge drive. This visit will be on June 2, 2002 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Arrival time should be no later than 6:30 P.M., at which time a buffet supper will be served - and judging from past experience, it will be good.

Bro. Jack has been advised that this time is tentative and a change in programming could affect our times. The station has promised we would be notified at once should this time change, but this is not expected to happen. In the unlikely event that it does, you will be notified.

We are again (cont. on page 6)



(cont. from page 5) asking all attendees to wear their tuxedo, aprons and jewels. If you are not a Blue Lodge or Grand Lodge officer, a dark suit will be fine. We want to look GREAT for the viewing audience. We have received many positive comments concerning our appearance and I know you are proud to be identified as a Master Mason. Won't you come sign up to help out?

Thanks in advance for your assistance. I am very pleased we have made this commitment and believe the TV exposure is beneficial to the fraternity. If you can attend, please advise Grand Lodge at 410 527-0600.

Anti-Masonry

The Masonic Information Center has had a dramatic increase in the number of requests for information to respond to attacks from anti-Masonic critics. Particularly, attacks from the religious community.

In an attempt to understand why these attacks are increasing and what is behind the nature of them, the Masonic Information Center invited Chip Berlet, author of *Right Wing Populism in America; Too Close for Comfort*, to participate in a discussion at a recent Masonic Information Center Steering Committee Meeting.

Mr. Berlet brought with him a number of books on conspiracy thinking in contemporary America and several books, originally published in the 18th century, claiming that "the enlightenment was a conspiracy promulgated by the Green-masons to undermine established belief structures."

He then went on to discuss how reli-

gious extremists view the reading and interpretation of religious texts and how people fuel their religious philosophy around what is wrong in society. The concept is to define which organizations (in their view) create social and religious instability in the world, and then work to get rid of these organizations. Once a group is demonized, then it becomes the central focus of challenge between right and wrong. To the conspiracist, the hero becomes the person who sounds the alarm that a group is evil.

It was also pointed out that many religious groups had very high hopes for a major catastrophic event to occur at the beginning of the new millennium. When nothing they had anticipated occurred, their anger, frustration and disappointment were unleashed in the form of attacks on groups they label as anti-Christian or involved in a "world-wide conspiracy" to take over the world. When this happens, Freemasonry is almost always at the top of their "enemies" list.

The Masonic Information Center is deeply concerned about these new attacks and realizes that many Masons would like to have good information to help them respond locally. We have a variety of publications available to respond to the attacks from religious extremists and conspiracy theorists.

A listing of some of the publications available through the Masonic Information Center is available through your Lodge Secretary or through Grand Lodge.

Several of the brochures available are: *A response to Critics of Freemasonry*, *Facts About Freemasonry*, and *Who Are the Masons?* These are sold in lots of 50 only, plus shipping @ 27 cents a piece.

Booklets: *Get a Life; Thoughts on Freemasonry and Religion*. *There is No Sin In Symbols*, and *What's a Mason*. These range in price from 25 cents to 60 cents a piece, with discounts available when ordered in lots of 50.

In addition, there is a good book authored by S. Brent Morris and Art deHoyos (foreword and addendum by Jim Trestner) that provides excellent responses to some of the more virulent anti-Masons.

Grand Secretary's Corner

Brethren, your Grand Lodge will meet in Semi-annual Communication, May 20, 2002. At this meeting we will be considering the two proposed amendment changes for the duties of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. Please make sure you have designated someone to represent your lodge for the voting process.

Lodge representatives will be required to register and receive their credentials prior to the voting process. Remember, your lodge's vote is important.

Reservations for the 6:00 p.m. Grand Lodge dinner is a requirement. Please call the Grand Secretary's Office and speak with Mrs. Beth Kennedy - (410) 527-0600.

St. John's Birthday

St. John's Lodge No. 34, only the fourth Lodge in Maryland Masonic History to reach its 200th anniversary, held their Installation of Officers on January 9, 2002, in the Corinthian Room at the Grand Lodge Building.

The installation was open and officiated by Grand Master Bennie G. Owens and Grand Line Officers.

Brother Robert (cont. on page 7)



(cont. from page 6) Starr, G. M. of Washington, D.C., was in attendance with five of his Grand Line Officers, including Jules Tepper, D.G.M. of D.C. and plural member of St. John's No. 34.

St. John's will conclude the celebration of their 200th anniversary with a re-enactment of their charter presentation by Grand Master Owens on Friday, November 8, 2002, its actual charter date in 1802. This will be followed by a black-tie gala ball on Saturday, November 9, 2002 in the Grand Lodge Ballroom

For more information and purchase of tickets to the gala ball, call: Paul I. Adler, Chairman (410) 486-6480, Brian Robinson (410) 484-5457, Al Tamres (410) 655-7580 or Jeffrey Schuster (410) 922-1407.



Pictured from left to right: Allan Schwartzman, J.W., Bennie G. Owens, M.W.G.M., Jeffrey Schuster, W.M., Robert Starr, M.W.G.M. of D.C. and Al Tameris, S.W.

Scottish Rite

The winds of change are coming to the Scottish Rite Valley of Baltimore.

The temple itself is changing, generating income through hall rental, etc., a new canopy has been installed over the side entrance and the building is more polished than ever.

All of the degrees have been rewritten. In many cases these degrees are shorter and more to the point of the great precepts they

teach. The casts and crews are working hard to learn and present several of these newly rewritten degrees to you this spring and fall.

The fall class will be dedicated to the memory of Brother John McWilliam Smith, M.W.P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Contact the Scottish Rite office at 410 243-3200 for fall degree dates.

Now, more than ever, it is time to revisit your Scottish Rite, view these new degrees and reaffirm the obligations that you took. You and Masonry in general will be better for it in the long run.

If you are not yet a Scottish Rite Mason, isn't it time that you seek more light in Masonry? Seek out one of your Scottish Rite brethren and ask him for a petition or call the Scottish Rite office for more information. Our web site can be found by inserting the following URL: <http://www.freemasonry.org/maryland/AASR/default.htm> into your browser. It is presently being updated. Visit there for a list of activities.

The Hon. Edgar W. Faulkner, Jr., 32°, KCCH, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, the Hon. Douglas A. Lauf, 32°, KCCH, Wise Master of Meredith Chapter Rose Croix, the Hon. Wayne C. Penley, 32°, KCCH, Commander of Kadosh, Maryland Council, and Hon. Royal Pollakoff, 32°, KCCH, Master of the Chesapeake Consistory, join Ill. Dr. Hans R. Wilhelmsen, 33°, and staff in inviting you to attend the four lodges and the many other interesting and exciting events planned for you throughout the year.

Finally we would like to thank Ill.

Dr. Bernard E. Rothman, 33°, for his many years of excellent and devoted leadership as Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Maryland and for his nomination of Ill. Dr. Hans Wilhelmsen as his replacement.

Boumi Temple News

The Illustrious Potentate, Divan, and all Nobles of Boumi Temple extend greetings and best wishes for continued success in 2002.

A new and innovative event will be held at Boumi Temple on Sunday, April 28, when we host the first Longaberger Basket Bingo. Come on out, bring your friends and enjoy this special event.

On Sunday, May 5, you your family and friends are invited to attend the annual Potentate's Ball, honoring the Illustrious Potentate and First Lady of Boumi Temple. This event will be held at Boumi Temple where you will experience the thrill of all the Units and Clubs in one formal presentation.

There are still a few spaces left for the fabulous trip to Ireland on May 10 to 19. Come and join our Illustrious Potentate John and First Lady Janice on this memorable trip to the "Old Sod."

A no-cost screening clinic will be held on Saturday, May 25 to identify those children under age 18 who may benefit from the expert care provided at the Shriner's Hospitals for Children. If you know of such children bring them to the clinic for an evaluation. The clinic will be held at St. Albans Anglican Church, located at 1011 Old Joppa Road in Harford County. Call Boumi Temple at (cont. on page 8)



(cont. from page 7) 410 391-6400 for details.

On May 30 to June 2, our annual Shrine Circus will be held at the Timonium Fairgrounds. This spectacular show is one that is always enjoyed by young and old alike.

The Feast of Fun, another new and fun-filled event, will be held on the outside area of Boumi Temple, on Saturday, June 8. Come out and enjoy an exciting time of an old-fashioned family picnic with food, fun, and games.

The annual Unit Heads Dance will be held on Saturday, June 15 at Boumi Temple. This event honors the very colorful marching and parade units of the Temple and follows a very impressive Ceremonial earlier in the day.

The Imperial Session of the Shrine of North America will convene at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on June 23 to 27 and our own Imperial Sir Raoal L. Frevel, P.P. and Illustrious Sir John Al. Dunnigan, Sr. will lead the Nobles and their Ladies to this annual meeting.

After the Imperial Session, you and your lady are invited to accompany our Illustrious Potentate John and First Lady Janice in an unforgettable Alaska Cruise on June 28 to July 5. There are a few staterooms left, so don't delay - call today.

The philanthropy of the Shrine of North America is the care and treatment of the crippled or burned child, and the Shriners Hospitals are always eager to learn of any child who is in need of this treatment. If you know of such a child, please call

the phone number listed below and you will be put in touch with the proper Nobles who will contact the family and set up an evaluation appointment. For information concerning any of the above, please call the Boumi Temple Office at 410 391-6400, Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. "We Give Hope"



Kemp Lodge No. 100 held their installation of Officers on January 8, 2002 in the Masonic Temple at Mt. Savage, MD. Pictured above right is Bro. Charles Schelble, P.M. presenting the gavel to incoming Worshipful Master Terry Beal, P.M. Directly above from left to right: George DeHaven, S.D., Terry Beal, W.M., Vincent Thompson, P.M., J.W., Jay Cochrane, P.M., G.I. Second row: Gary Shircliff, P.M. and Installing Marshal; James Hott, P.M., Treasurer; Benny Beal, P.M., S.W., and in the third row: Wayne Skidmore, J.D.; Larry Stafford, J.S.; William Marin, P.M., Secretary and William Matthews, Tyler.



An open Installation of Officers for the year 2002 was held in Mr. Ararat Masonic Lodge No. 44 of Bel Air, Md. From left to right: Robert H. Hill, Jr., J.W.; Stephan D. Campbell, Chaplain; William E. Whitaker, S.W.; William G. Richard III, W.M.; William G. Richard, Jr., J.S.; Paul L. Hagert, J.D. And back row from left to right: William L. Lasley, S.S.; Ronald A. Hill, Sr., S.D.; Russell Bonchu, Jr., Treasurer; Jonathan S. King, P.M., Secretary; Richard E. Mainly, Jr., P.M., Marshal and Andrew B. Bright Tyler.



Spaghetti Dinner

Solomon's Lodge No. 121 will host their annual "Spaghetti Dinner with Meat Sauce" on May 11, 2002 from 4 to 7 P.M. This event, as usual, will be held in the Jessup Community Hall on Rt. 175 and Wigley Ave. in Jessup, MD. Dinner is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 10 and free if you are under 4.

Come visit, bring your family, enjoy a good dinner and support a worthy cause. They will also hold a 50-50 raffle and you need not be present to win.



Bro. Bennie G. Owens, M.W.G.M. and Grand Line Officers officiated at an open installation of officers in Columbia Lodge No. 58 in Frederick, MD. on January 7, 2002. Shown from left to right: Creed Parker, S.S.; Bennie G. Owens, M.W.G.M.; Robert V. Kotchenreuther, W.M.; John A. Young, R.W.D.G.M.; Raymond Cullen, J.S., and James E. Cameron, Secretary. Back row from left to right: Jack A. Newkirk, Treasurer; Eric W. Diaz, J.W.; Donald A. Wyand, S.W.; Thomas A. Burns, Chaplain; and Frank L. Fisher, Tyler.

Summer School

As is our custom, Summer Schools of Instruction will begin on the first Tuesday following the 4th of July.

Listed below are the locations and Degrees to be exemplified at the various schools throughout the state. Note that all schools open promptly at 7:30 PM

All First and Second Degrees will be opened in Full Form.

Cockeysville schedule:

July 9: Fellow Craft^o Receive the Grand Master and Grand Line
 July 16: Entered Apprentice^o
 July 23: Master Mason^o
 July 30: Special Topics Night
 Aug. 6: Entered Apprentice^o
 Aug. 13: Fellow Craft^o
 Aug. 20: Master Mason^o
 Aug. 27: Master Mason^o
 Final Evening

Upper Marlboro, schedule:

Centennial Lodge No. 174
 July 18: Entered Apprentice^o
 July 25: Fellow Craft^o
 Aug. 1: Master Mason^o
 Aug. 8: Workshop

Eastern Shore schedule:

July 18: Fellowcraft^o Wicomico Lodge No. 91- Salisbury, MD.-
 Aug. 1: Master Mason^o Cambridge Lodge No. 66 - Cambridge
 Aug. 22: Entered Apprentice^o Temple Lodge No. 28 - Denton^o

Western Maryland schedule:

July 11: Fellowcraft^o in Columbia Lodge No. 58 - Frederick
 July 25: Master Mason^o James W. Bowers Lodge No. 173 - Hancock
 Aug. 15: Entered Apprentice^o Hagerstown No. 217 - Hagerstown

We are pleased to add James W. Bowers and Columbia Lodges to the Schools of Instruction this summer.

Brethren, this is an evening of fellowship, and good instruction. If you are a Line Officer, you will benefit from the instruction given by attending, and you will benefit even more by signing up to work. This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your ritualistic skills while enjoying the company of your brethren. Here

you can meet your fellow Line Officers from the surrounding Lodges and make many new friends. Don't miss out on this opportunity. See you there.

Assistance Please

The **Shield and Square Club Degree Team** has been invited to take part in a "Multi State Degree Day" in Vicksburg, Mississippi on **June 2, 2002.**

Does your Lodge have a Fellowcraft that would like to **travel with this team** and be raised on this special day in Mississippi? This is a unique opportunity for someone to receive his Master Mason Degree in a setting unlike that any Maryland Mason will have had.

If you know of someone that may enjoy this, please contact Bro. Jack Biggs or any member of the Shield and Square Club Degree team.

The candidate will receive **free transportation** to and from the event and **must** have stood proficiency **prior** to this date. (cont. on page 10)



(cont. from page 9) The team will depart the Baltimore area early in the morning on Thursday, May 30 and return to Baltimore by noon on Monday, June 3.

As dispensation is required for the Fellowcraft to receive his Degrees out of state, it is necessary to make these arrangements as far in advance as possible.

For further information on this event, including directions should you wish to attend, check out the club's web page at www.fsssc.org and go to the "schedule of events" page.

Virginia Ritual

For the past several years, Ed Kraft, Grand Lecturer and Jack Biggs, Deputy Grand Lecturer at Large, have traveled to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in January to attend the Virginia annual Ritual Competition.

Their first trip there was to gather information in order to help set up a similar competition for Maryland. They enjoyed their visit so much that Ed and Jack have made it a regular January visit.



Shown in the picture from left to right: Mac Edwards, Grand Lecturer of Virginia, Ed Kraft and Jack Biggs. In the back row: Billy Conner, Deputy Grand Lecturer and Chuck Rowell, Asst. Grand Lecturer of Virginia.



Bro. Bennie G. Owens, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland greets Bro. Kenneth W. Smith, Imperial Potentate of the Imperial Shrine of North American.

I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection.

Excellence I can strive for; perfection is God's business.

Michael J. Fox

Reflections from the 40s

Dear Brethren,

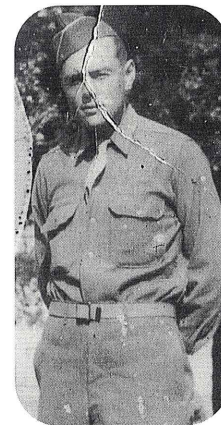
I am writing this to enlighten you about some of the contributions of Freemasonry during World War II.

I am and have been a member of King David's Lodge No. 68 since 1940. In addition, I am now a member of Accomack Lodge No. 243, in Virginia.

I would like first to start off by saying something about my time in the Army, while I was stationed within the U.S.

I was inducted into the Army January 1, 1944, and sent to Jacksonville, Florida. After a few weeks of training in Jacksonville, my wife, Leona, and her girlfriend

came to visit. I think they were allowed to visit for ten days on the post. While they visited, we went in town and saw a Masonic symbol on a building and went inside. The building was for Masonic members and we found out that my wife and her friend could stay in one of the Brothers' homes. (My wife's friend was allowed to stay because her uncle was a Mason). I think she and her friend could stay there for 8 or 10 days. I didn't get to see Leona often during the week but on the weekends I did. Not long after Leona and her friend visited I was shipped overseas, of which there follows another little story about being a Mason during war times.



(The picture shows Bro. Evans in his uniform.) After, being in Italy a short time, we were in a valley encampment that was owned by Mussolini. A big aid station

was set up by the time we got over there and I met up with a Masonic Brother from Chicago. He and I began traveling together. Well, on this one morning while he and I were in the encampment, we ran across a flag embroidered with the Masonic emblem, fixed on top of a tent that belonged to the army chaplain. Upon talking to the chaplain, who was a major, he informed us of a meeting that was being held in Castro, Italy, 35 (cont. on page 11)



(cont. from page 10) miles from Naples. (He only informed us about the meeting after "due" examination.) He told us that he would like us to attend and that the meeting would just be a fellowship get together, of Masons from all over the States. He drove us to the meeting in his jeep. This was a real treat, as we were infantry. I think we actually got to go over there twice. It was a very large home, more like a villa.

Incidentally, Mussolini's son-in-law owned the villa. The villa was located around the town of Castro, which was not heavily damaged from the war nor was Mussolini's large farm. The U.S. forces had taken over all of the territories I am writing about.

I am trying to write down all of the details to share with you while my mind is still active, I'll be 83 this year.

In addition, I have lost contact with my buddies over the years. I used to get mail from them after I was honorably discharged from the service.

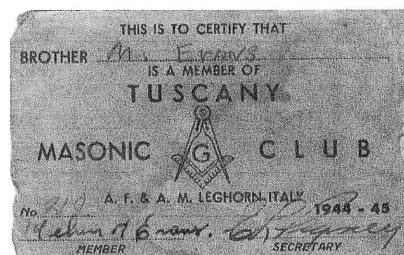
Well, back to my story - when we got to the villa in Castro, there was a large number of members present. They had a secretary who kept records and the chaplain was present collecting information. We had the usual refreshments, like all Lodges do. We had soft drinks and cake. My buddy and I felt out of place; many of the members there were officers and we were buck privates.

After we left Castro, we went on a ship to Leghorn, Italy. There were more Masonic events over there. We were right at the Leaning Tower of

Pisa, in Italy. You would always see peddlers in these towns. One of my buddies went over to one that was standing in the town and my buddy came back with a metal spinning article. When you spun it around the Masonic emblem appeared. When I went over to get one I found out that the peddler had only one. It was unreal to be standing there and see this gadget.

Later on our travels took us to the town of Vino. In Vino an Italian saw our Masonic rings and took us to a very large church located along the side of a tower. The cornerstone had a Masonic emblem on it that dated back to the 1400s. He took us inside the church, which was very beautiful, and showed us a marble slab with the words written on it "By God, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth." The Germans had taken these articles and they had just gotten them back. Around the marble slab, was a full size marble statue.

I am enclosing my Masonic club card, which I was lucky to have after



all these years and I am very happy to have been able to do so. The troop card is from when we left Naples, on an Italian ship. (I still remember how dirty that ship was.)

Well I think I have it all down. By the way, while in Leghorn, we were

assigned to the 10th Mountain Division. Italy sure had a lot of mountains!

Editor's note: We thank Bro. Evans for sharing his World War II Masonic experiences with us. It truly is a world wide fraternity.

Tall Cedars

During a mid-winter conference held at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, in Lancaster, PA. held on January 18, 19 and 20, Past Supreme Tall Cedar Harold A. Gross installed Brother Earl T. Myers, Jr. as Supreme Tall Cedar of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America. The keynote speaker for the evening was R.W. Thomas W. Jackson, Past Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Brother Earl was raised a Master Mason in Red Lion Lodge No. 649 in Red Lion, PA. and served as Worshipful Master in 1986.

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon is a Masonic affiliated organization with over 17,000 members in 102 Chapters, called Forests, throughout the United States and Canada.

Since 1951 the Tall Cedars have had the distinction of being the first organization to provide financial support to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and have contributed over fourteen million dollars to the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon.

What Type of Mason Are You?

An operative mason who lays bricks and stones?

A paper Mason who holds a certificate but does little for his Lodge or community? (cont. on page 12)



(cont. from page 11) A speculative Mason who reflects the operative tradition of the Craft by being active in practical community pursuits, charitable endeavors and accepts the responsibility of nurturing it?

Each of us is an integral part of the fraternity, obligated to share in the work to attain its objectives. What we are willing to do today weighs heavily on the future and destiny of Freemasonry. Though we are individuals, we have unequivocal common denominators that make us one, a Lodge, a Vital Force.

Masonic Dream Trip

On Tuesday, December 5, 2000, Ed Kraft and Jack Biggs met in the International terminal at B.W.I. and took off at 5:55 pm in the evening to flew all night to London, arriving at Gatwick airport at 6:06 a.m. England time. The flight was smooth and uneventful and following a short layover left London at 8:45 am and arrived in Edinburgh at 10:15 am.

After checking in at the Royal Scott hotel we met the several others in our party who had arrived at Glasgow from Southern Maryland, Gus Souris, Doug Souris. and John Hall. Iain Whyte, the Scotsman we came to see installed, met them at the airport and led the way to Edinburgh.

We spent the afternoon in old Edinburgh sightseeing. When we were coming down the Royal Mile from the castle, Jack spotted a Regalia Shoppe on a side street and on the way back from the castle, stopped in to see if it was a Masonic shop, which it was. We went in and

talked to the lady operating the shop. She told us there was a Lodge upstairs. One of the officers, the treasurer who also owned the shop, was in the Lodge and came down to talk to us. He invited us up to tour the Lodge room and facilities. After looking over the Lodge he invited us to return that evening to witness the conferral of a Master Mason Degree. We took a bus back to the hotel and showered and changed and, because of the time, took a cab back to the Lodge. Roman eagle Lodge No. 160 dates back to the 1700's, but this Lodge room dates back only to 1927.

After the Lodge was opened the Right Worshipful Master instructed the Director of Ceremonies to introduce the visiting brethren. The reception we received, in the Lodge, was unique compared to the way we do it. Each of us was taken by the grip of a M.M. and escorted to the west by the Director of Ceremonies. He then introduced us individually and escorted us to the northeast corner of the Lodge, about where our Senior Deacon would sit. The Right Worshipful Master then came down and spoke to each of us, personally welcoming us to the Lodge. We were then offered a seat in the East for the remainder of the evening. There were three other delegations welcomed to the Lodge that evening that were there on visitations. It was all very formal and very impressive.

The signs were very confusing and done very fast. They differed greatly from ours but still had an element of ours in them. All Lodge

business, with the exception of the conferral of the Degrees is done in the E.A. Degree.

We also found out that each Lodge has the right to use its own ritual and signs, which may differ from Lodge to Lodge. Each Lodge has its own personal design for its apron. Each member carries his own apron with him. None are supplied by Lodges anywhere in the UK. Aprons there are very fancy, with different colors or Scottish plaids on them. Each Lodge has its own color scheme and the aprons, sashes and cuffs are in that color scheme. They look more like Grand Lodge aprons than Master Mason aprons. The only person who wears a white apron is an Entered Apprentice.

We found that each Lodge usually has a tie that is designed specifically for their Lodge with the name and number of the Lodge on it. The seating of the officers was also different than in our Lodges. Again, we found, this can vary in each particular Lodge.

The Master Mason Degree was to be conferred upon a candidate by the Past Masters of the Lodge, however the candidate was in the hospital so there was an exemplification of the Degree instead, which I might add was very impressive.

During the exemplification of the Degree the presiding R.W.M., who was a part of the Past Master's Degree team, sat on the floor level just in front of the Right Worshipful Master and the Altar, which is normally directly in front of the R.W.M. but was moved forward leaving the acting R.W.M. sitting between the R.W.M. and the (cont. on page 13)



(*cont. from page 12*) altar.

The Degree is not nearly as involved as ours and most of the story is told to the candidate with very little actual acting out of the Degree. They use a casket with three burning candles around it, which we do not use. The Deacon got too close to a candle and his apron began smoldering while he was standing by the casket, doing his work. He put the fire out and proceeded without apparently losing a word. The Degree was very impressive.

During the close of Lodge, we were called upon to respond as visitors.

We retired to the room below for beverages and conversation. There was no dinner, this evening, as is often the custom in British and Scottish Lodges. In fact it was the only Lodge we attended which did not have a "Festive Board," "Bountiful Board" or "Harmony."

After a pint of bitters and much friendly conversation we returned to the hotel. We could not find the other members of our party so, after having another pint of bitters, we retired.

Thursday, December 7, 2000:

In the morning we took a cab to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for a very interesting tour through the building, museum and library. The Historian and Curator of the Museum conducted the tour.

An interesting sidelight to the trip was that our taxi driver spotted the Past Master's emblem on Jack's jacket and said he was also a member of the craft. Upon further conversation we found that he was a

member of Roman Eagle Lodge, which we had visited the night before. When we got to the Grand Lodge building he didn't want to accept any fare from the group of us in his cab. After much conversation we changed his mind and needless to say, he got a very good tip.

The Curator of the Museum took us into the Museum and allowed us to look around for a little while, answering any questions we had and finally ended by giving us a 15 minute talk about the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland was the third Grand Lodge formed, following the Grand Lodge of Scotland and England. At the time of its formation there were already over 100 working Lodges of Operative Masons in Scotland. The Grand Lodge felt they could not tell those Lodges, who had been in existence for so long, how they should operate. Consequently they were allowed to keep whatever ritual they were using, including their signs and regular customs. The Grand Lodge also felt it would not be right to impose on the new Lodges any requirements as far as ritual and customs that they did not require the old Lodges to follow. The outcome of this thought was that the Grand Lodge of Scotland has no one ritual that each and every Lodge is required to follow. Each Lodge uses the ritual, signs and customs they decide upon. The Grand Lodge ordered that all aprons would be worn inside the coat rather than is our custom over the coat. The thought behind this was that a

working Mason would put his apron on to protect his clothes. After he had worked awhile and got warm, he would want to take his coat off. With the apron under his coat he would not have to remove his apron to get his coat off, but just take off his coat. It was a simple logical reason to wear the apron in that way. To this day, this is the rule in all Scottish Lodges. Also an apron in a Scottish Lodge does not have a triangular flap. It is rounded rather than pointed. Consequently in all Scottish Lodges you see different aprons, different signs and different manners of operating within the Lodge.

Following our tour of the Grand Lodge we loaded in the vans and drove to Rosslyn, a small town approximately 10 miles south of Edinburgh to see the famed "Rosslyn Chapel." This Chapel was built in the 1300's by men who are believed to have been some of the Templars who escaped prosecution in France when Jacques deMolay was burned at the stake. It is a very unique building, still used as a church, with many Masonic images carved into the structure.

We had a guided tour of the Chapel by a man who had grown up in the village and was a Masonic scholar who specializes in the study of Rosslyn Chapel. The chapel is undergoing some massive reconstruction due to the fact that it had been allowed to deteriorate for so many years. The stone carvings are of particular interest to Freemasons as many are familiar to those in the craft. One particularly beautiful column is called (*cont. on page 14*)



(cont. from page 13) "the entered apprentice's column" which is probably the most beautiful in the chapel. It is supposed to have been carved by an entered apprentice while his Master left him alone and was entirely his own work.

After our tour of the Chapel we left for the northern part of our trip in Scotland. We drove to Edzell, a small town in the vicinity of Aberdeen and St. Andrews.

We settled into the Glenesk Hotel in Edzell, a town of approximately one thousand people. The hotel is a family run affair. The owner was a member of St. Lawrence Lodge where Iain was to be installed Right Worshipful Master.

We left to attend St. Lawrence Lodge No. 136 (Iain Whyte's Lodge) to witness a Master Mason Degree. The Degree was very well done and especially since it was the first M.M. Degree they had conferred in two years. The differences, again, were very interesting. Their M.M. Degree is nowhere near as involved as ours; however it gets the same message across as ours does.

Friday, December 8, 2000:

We left the hotel after breakfast and drove to St. Andrews, by way of Dundee for a tour of the city, shops and golf course, which is a story in itself, which Ed will be happy to discuss with those interested.

Later in the evening we attended an Installation of Officers at Stone Haven Lodge No. 65. We had met the Master-elect the night before at St. Lawrence Lodge and he had invited us to his installation.

The Lodge is opened in the E.A.

Degree. All who are not Fellowcrafts are excused and the F.C. Lodge is opened. All who are not M.Ms are excused and the Fellowcraft Lodge is closed and a M.M. Lodge opened. All who are not W.M.s or P.M.s are excused and then a P.M.'s Lodge is opened and the P.M.'s Degree is conferred upon the R.W.M.-elect by the P.M.s present. The P.M.'s Degree is entirely different from our Degree. It was very impressive, done all by memory and totally different. One of the most impressive parts, to me, was the prayer at the end of the Degree. Following the conferral of the Degree the Lodge was called to "harmony."

"Harmony" is a "called off Lodge where the P.M.'s, W.M.'s and the new candidate have about half an hour of pleasant conversation and toasts. It is very relaxed and just a good time for the Masters and Past Masters to have a chance to congratulate the newly conferred candidate.

Let me tell you about the toasts! We had noticed the secretary and treasurer at their desk with large wine goblets, pouring what, to us, looked like white wine. The goblets were passed out to all members present and the first toast was made to the Right Worshipful Master-Elect. Thinking this was white wine we both took quite a swallow and quickly found that this was not wine at all but rather straight scotch. Reacting to our surprise, a member of the Lodge, who was standing beside us, said, "what's wrong" and I said this isn't wine, it is straight scotch!" He answered,

with his heavy Scottish brogue "and what did you expect in Scotland?"

After about a half of an hour Lodge was called back on and we were most grateful to return to our seats after two full goblets of straight scotch. We were, to say the least, just a little wobbly. That did pass by the time Lodge was over. This all happened on an empty stomach. Dinner is after Lodge. So that was our introduction to the Past Master's Degree in Scotland!!

Following the P.M.'s Degree the Lodge was opened again in the E.A. Degree, following the same progression, only in reverse, and the officers were duly installed. The installation was done mainly by the Director of Ceremonies. The D.C., as he is called, is a very active part of the Lodges in the UK. He is like a senior deacon, Master of ceremonies and Marshal all wrapped into one.

Once the meeting was finished we retired to the dining room for "the Bountiful Board." This is the meal that follows most Lodges in the U.K. It consists of a full meal (shredded beef in gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots and peas) with many toasts (at least 7 or more), much singing (in Scotland) and a lot of joking and story telling on each other.

In Scotland, it was hard to follow much of what was said, because they spoke very fast and many had a very heavy brogue. One of the officers from a Lodge in Aberdeen (to the north of us) spoke and told jokes for about ten minutes and I have not yet understood one word he said. One of (cont. on page 15)



(*cont. from page 14*) the P.M.'s sitting across the table from us realized we were having trouble with the accents and tried to help us by translating what was being said but with the brother from Aberdeen, there was too much to try to translate. They tell us that the northern part of Scotland had the fullest brogue of anywhere and the one that foreigners have the most trouble understanding. We did speak to the same man the following evening and when he spoke more slowly we could understand most of what he said. We finally closed the evening with all six verses of Auld Lang Syne. This was written by Robert Burns, their native son, and very popular in Scotland. They sang it with much gusto.

With us on this evening was Paul Reeves, a Past Master from the London area, who is also a provincial Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of England, and a Detective Sergeant with the London police.

We finally left Lodge around 3 A.M. and headed back to the hotel. What a full day but a very exciting day, one beyond full description.

Saturday, December 9, 2000:

Another rainy day found several of us visiting the ruins of Edzell castle. The original castle was made of earth works and timber and was built around 1100 A.D. The stone castle was built in the early 1600's and then gradually enlarged and improved over the years. The chief delight of the castle, which was laid out in 1604, was the walled formal garden, which is surrounded by an elaborately decorated stone wall, including very elaborately carved

stone panels and recesses for flower arrangements and places for song birds to nest. There is also a "summer house" built into one of the corners of the wall and in another corner a bathhouse. The present layout of the gardens was restored in the 1930's.

Following our return from the castle we got ready and left for Iain Whyte's installation as R.W. Master of Lodge St. Laurence No. 136 in Laurencekirk, twenty miles away.

As on the preceding evening, the Lodge was called off and the Past Master's Degree was conferred upon Iain by the past Master's present.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master had informed us that it would be proper for us to salute the new Right Worshipful Master with the sign of a Maryland Past Master. This we each did and because it was so very different than their sign, when John Hall, who was the first to approach the R.W. Master, explained to the R.W. Master that we salute you as we would in Maryland. It caused a great deal of interest among the brethren present. As usual, following the conferral we had a time of "Harmony." We were a little more cautious this time with the toasts.

Until that evening we had been under the impression that we should try to give the signs as they gave theirs. However the Deputy Provincial Grand Master told us that each brother in Scotland gives the signs as they are given in his Mother Lodge, so it was quite proper for us to give our signs, in all Degrees, as we would in Maryland. From that point on it is what we did.

The installation was the same as the one on the preceding evening except it was attended by the Provincial Deputy Grand Master (a member of St. Laurence Lodge) and several past and present Provincial Officers. The Provincial Grand Master had just recently resigned and the Provincial Deputy Grand Master has been installed as Provincial Grand Master Mason. He installed Iain into the East.

Following the installation, "Harmony" was set up in the Lodge room and a very happy time was had by all present. Again, there were the customary toasts and responses to the toasts. Iain had asked Ed to make the toast to the Past Masters, which I was pleased to do. Jack Biggs gave the Charge to the R.W. Master and presented Iain a copy of our Maryland Masonic Family Book, signed by all of the Marylanders present, and Ed presented him with a Grand Lodge pewter crab. Again we arrived back at the hotel in the vicinity of 2 A.M. even after starting around 5:00 P.M.

This article was a joint effort by Jack Biggs and Ed Kraft. Out of the ten days in the U.K., we were in Lodge every day but Sunday. Space prevents us from including the second half of the trip which was spent in England. Maybe next issue.

NOTE: *If you sent in an article that was not found in this issue, please be patient; it will be in the next issue. We are fortunate to have a slight backup in articles. Two in this issue have been in house for nearly a year.*

Maryland Masonic Calendar



April 2002

- 21 Bull and Oyster Roast -
2:00 p.m. thru 6:00 p.m.

May 2002

- 19 Semi-Annual Commu-
nication - Dinner 6:30
p.m.

June 2002

- 1 Shield & Square Club
attends the Mississippi
Degree Festival.
15 Family Day at Maryland
Masonic Homes 11:00 a.m.
thru 5:00 p.m.

July 2002

- 04 Fireworks - Grand Lodge
7:00 p.m. thru 10:00 p.m.
20 Grand Master's Ball

August 2002

- 24 Grand Lodge Crab Feast

September 2002

- 21 Harvest Homes Day
28 Grand Lodge trip to Nova
Scotia

October 2002

- 26 Oktoberfest - Grand Ball
Room

Luncheons

High Twelve Guild Luncheon
is held in the Grand Lodge
Ball Room on the second
Tuesday of each month follow-
ing the Daylight Lodge meet-
ing at 12:00 noon.

Cost \$5.00.

and

on the second Thursday fol-
lowing the Daylight Chapter
meeting at 12 noon.

Cost \$5.00

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