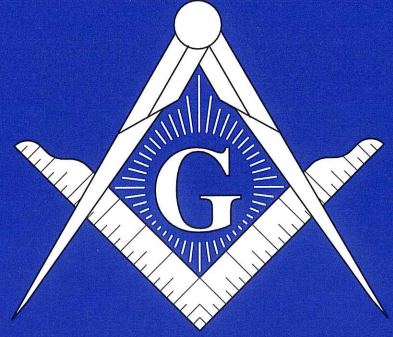


Freestate Freemason



Winter 2001

From the Grand Master—

MASONRY FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Brethren:

As we start the new millennium and as our lodges start their new lodge years, let me wish each of you a very happy and successful new year. I have adopted six goals to try and accomplish during my term as Grand Master. They are well within the doable range. They are not necessarily new. Many of our problems in Freemasonry are not within our realm to solve, but we can accomplish those things that will give our fraternity a more solid foundation on which to build as times and opportunities change. They are exactly what we have been striving for during recent years.

SIX GOALS FOR MARYLAND MASONRY:

1. Maintain the Moral Standards that Freemasonry demands.
2. Retain Quality Members.
3. Promote Growth (Membership).
4. Improve Ritual and Decorum.
5. Improve Communications.
6. Enjoy Freemasonry!

If we do nothing else, we must maintain our moral standards. This is the aspect of our Fraternity that should earn the respect of the major religious leaders of the world. Without moral fiber, Freemasonry is just another social group. There is nothing wrong with social and community groups, but I would hope that Freemasonry is something just a little more special.

THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT,
FREE, AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF MARYLAND

See **GRAND MASTER** on p. 3



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 and objectives of the Masonic fraternity.

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Deadlines for submitting articles & information for possible publication in the *Freestate Freemason*:

Fall Issue – October 1
Winter Issue – January 1
Spring Issue – April 1
Summer Issue – July 1

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Changing of the Guard

It seems like only yesterday that M.W. Bro. Francis E. Larrimore asked me if I would undertake the task of reviving the *Freestate Freemason*. That was eight issues and over two years ago. The time has come for me to pass the torch on to another, R.W. Bro. John R. Biggs, P.S.G.W. My original plan had been to edit the *Freestate Freemason* for 4–5 years and then move onto something else for the Craft.

Well ... life has a way of going on despite your best plans, so I am stepping down a little earlier than I had planned. I am confident that the *Freestate Freemason* is in good hands, and that the original vision of Bro. Seymour Lipschitz will be preserved.

FACING THE INEVITABLE. Bro. Benjamin Franklin wisely assured us that two things were inevitable: Death and Taxes. Experience has shown there is another inevitability, one that sends chills down the spine of Masons—*Change*. It's not that Masons are strangers to change, we just try to pretend that we don't like it. Since 1750 when the first lodge met in Annapolis, the York and Scottish Rites were created, the Shrine appeared from thin air, and Maryland Lodges have gone from meeting on the First Degree to meeting on the Third to back to any Degree that suits the Master. And we shouldn't forget that the Baltimore Convention of 1843 completely rewrote our ritual, from top to bottom. Maryland Masons are no strangers to change!

One of the biggest challenges facing Maryland Masonry is the current decline in membership. New men are not joining at the rate they once did, but this is a problem facing virtually all American voluntary associations. This situation is compounded by the fact that during the 1950s and 1960s an unusually large number of men joined Maryland Lodges. These Brothers made Masonry what it is today, and they are seen in the bulge of members aged 70–80. In ten years they will be 80–90 and not as active as they are today.

As these stalwart Brethren leave active participation, there are not as many men behind them, and so our Lodges will face an inevitable decline in numbers. Like it or not, there will not be as many Maryland Masons, and this means we must change the way we do business. We can start planning for this change now, or wait until we have no option. The choice is still ours.

THE DOG ATE MY HOMEWORK! Well actually I didn't have a dog when I moved to my new home on December 1, but I did pack up my desk and several unpublished articles for the *Freestate Freemason*. Those articles are still carefully packed away, but I can't find the box! I know there was an article about the Scottish Rite Singers of Baltimore and a nice story about a father in South Carolina who had the privilege of Raising his sons as Master Masons. There were probably others, but I cannot say for sure until I find the box. If you read this and think one of your articles is lurking in my box, please contact me at bmorris@srmason-sj.org or 301-498-6485.

S. Brent Morris, Editor



GRAND MASTER *from p. 1*

We must establish programs for meetings and for lodges that not only promote our teachings, but also entertain and involve our members. There are, of course, some members of our fraternity that should not be members at all. Those men will never be quality members. We do, however, have a majority of our members that are well-pleased with our teachings and support us in many ways other than with attendance. We must retain all of our Quality Members

Membership is the life blood of any organization. We must have new members each year in order to survive. For years we have relied wholly upon those men who wished to associate with Freemasonry based on what they saw or heard from those men whom they knew to be Freemasons. In our modern environment we don't seem to be getting our examples before the public as

well as we may have in the past. Emulation does not prove to be as great a tool in our present culture. We must find ways to rekindle that flame.

To rekindle that flame we must put our best foot forward. Ritual well done is one of the superlative ways to demonstrate our ideals. Participation in ritual well done, either as a participant or as a spectator, creates a satisfaction in the individual that is beyond compare. Ritual is like advice: If we give it—we better live it. Our decorum must of necessity improve. Ritual and Decorum are our best modes of advertisement.

We must improve communications at every level of our fraternity. Lodges, Inspectors, Officers, Members, and The Grand Lodge itself must do a better job. Publications, letters, word of mouth, E-mail, and—most important—the way we follow through. Let us never forget

that communication is a two-way street.

If we do not enjoy Freemasonry, the other FIVE GOALS will have been in vain. If we are bored to tears, we will not enjoy a meeting. If we do not like the individuals who are present, we will not enjoy their company. If we do not agree with the principles involved, we will not enjoy the presentation. If you can not take the brotherly love of Freemasonry home to your family, you will not enjoy one of the finest things in life. If you can not give love away, you will never have it.

My best to all, please help me to accomplish these goals for ourselves and for our fraternity.

Sincerely and fraternally,

BENNIE G. OWENS
Grand Master

Magic & Chocolate Raise Money for Masonic Charities

Patmos Lodge No. 70, Ellicott City, found a unique combination to raise funds for Masonic Charities of Maryland. On November 7, forty-eight members, friends, and family members gathered at Oakland Manor in Columbia, a magnificently restored 1811 mansion. Awaiting the attendees was a buffet of chocolate desserts—hand-dipped truffles, pralines, and chocolates; chocolate chip cookies; chocolate tortes;

champagne, and coffee. This was a chocoholic's delight!

The catering—exquisite food and exceptional service and beautiful settings—was provided by Nick's Inner Harbor Seafood. While better known for their oysters (and the Grand Lodge Bull Roast and Fourth of July Picnic), Nick's arranged to have the finest chocolates in Baltimore served to the guests of Patmos Lodge. The professional expertise of Nick's insured a most successful evening.

After indulging in all sorts of chocolate delights, the guests heard

Bro. Fred Reitz, P.M. talk about the Masonic Charities of Maryland and what they support. Nearly \$1,000 was raised by Patmos Lodge!

The evening ended with entertaining and amazing sleight of hand provided by three Masonic magicians: Ralph Fowler of Warren No. 51 and Jim Connor and Brent Morris, P.M. of Patmos No. 70. All three are members of Columbia Conjurors, Assembly No. 141 of the Society of American Magicians, and have decades of performing experience between them. Their performances closed a truly magical evening.



Maryland Masons at Eblen Cave's Degrees in Tennessee

Eleven members of Charity Lodge No. 134, Freeland, one member of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116, Towson, and one member of Wheaton Lodge No. 228, Wheaton, plus five wives traveled 570 miles to Kingston, Tennessee to exemplify the Maryland Master Mason Degree at the twenty-ninth Annual Eblen Cave's Degree. Each year one state jurisdiction is given the opportunity to exemplify their work in the unusual setting of a cave. Entering the propane lantern-lit cave from the outside in 90°+, one is immediately struck by the cool dripping damp 55° temperature inside, while a path takes you into a room some 200 yards within the cave.

The Eblen Cave's Degree is a weekend of Masonic fellowship hosted by Union Lodge No. 38, Kingston, Tennessee and held each year during the third weekend in August. Degree teams have traveled from as far away as California to participate. This year's Maryland team, Charity Lodge No. 134, started planning its trip in 1995 and performed their ritual before 175 Masons from 10 different States and 80+ Lodges crowded into the small cave room. A Master Mason, Bobby Phillips from Orangegrove, Mississippi was made an "onary" member of Charity Lodge No. 134 for serving as their candidate.

In addition to the Saturday afternoon featured event in the cave, a

South Carolina degree team Woodruff Lodge No. 229, Woodruff, South Carolina, exemplified their work Friday night at the Union Lodge No. 38 Temple to a Standing Room Only crowd. Following Saturday afternoon's Cave's Degree, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on property adjacent to Union Lodge's temple for the third Habitat for Humanity house in Roane County sponsored by the Masons of Tennessee through their program "Vision 2013." The Maryland degree team presented a check to the chairman of the local Habitat for Humanity, Tom Boduch, M.D., also a member of Union Lodge No. 38.

Saturday evening concluded with a dinner and presentations including making the Master of the Maryland Degree team, Fred Laser, an "Honorary Tennessee Colonel" as proclaimed by their State Representative. Bro. Laser also received a handmade gavel commemorating the event presented by Union Lodge No. 38's Master, Gene Labounty.

The dinner was held in the largest facility in town, the Roane County High School cafeteria where some 250+ guests were fed and entertained by the Kerbela Shrine String band and a command performance of "Rocky Top" sung by the Grand Master of Tennessee, K. I. Wright. On Sunday morning a farewell breakfast was served to the departing guests.

All agreed it was a wonderful experience and one they want to repeat. Plans are underway for the thirtieth Eblen Cave's Degree to be held in 2001.

Appeal for Relief in Alabama

JANUARY 3, 2001

To the Masons of Maryland:

Tornadoes have again struck the State of Alabama. The Masonic Service Association of North America has been advised that hundreds of homes, businesses and churches were destroyed or damaged. It is known that several Masonic Brethren and many, many others have lost their homes or suffered damage. The need for Disaster Relief in Alabama is very great, and we hope that Maryland Masonry will help in this time of need.

The Masonic Service Association of North America is collecting funds to help with this relief as we do for nearly all large disasters. Please consider making a donation of such funds as you or your Lodge feel will be appropriate to help our devastated Brethren in this stricken jurisdiction.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please make checks payable to: "MSA Disaster Relief Fund"; mail to:

The Masonic Service Association
8120 Fenton St., Suite 203
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

Thank you very much for your help!
Most sincerely and fraternally,

RICHARD E. FLETCHER, PGM

Executive Secretary
301-588-4010



“The Greatest of These is Charity”

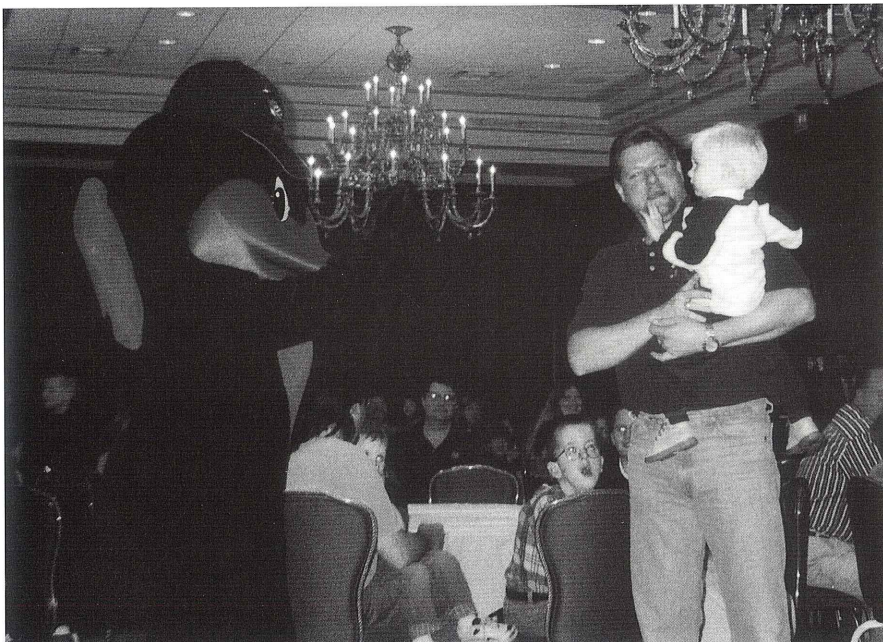
WILLIAM B. COLBURN

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is a Masonic charity, one that contributes to the more than \$2 million a day spent on philanthropy by American Freemasonry. The foundation was chartered in 1956 under the laws of the State of Maryland. Its purpose is to provide free medical treatment of eye disorders for those who cannot afford the treatment themselves. The Eye Foundation also provides research money for doctors working on cures for these eye disorders. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is the largest source of such research funds in the United States.

This past year 2,700 applications were received, and 2,545 people were helped. Research doctors were awarded \$409,715, with \$30,000 going to the Wilmer Eye Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In the State of Maryland, two people were helped to regain their sight and we hope to help more this year.

If you know of anyone we can help, please tell us. If you would like more information for yourself or for a Lodge program, please write. If you can help us with a financial gift, know that it will make a difference in someone's life. Please make checks payable to “Knights Templar Eye Foundation” and mail to:

Knights Templar Eye Foundation
P.O. Box 951
Mount Airy, MD 21771



The Orioles Bird meets one of his young fans at the Baseball Night held by Warren Lodge No. 51 in the Grand Lodge Ballroom, January 26, 2001.

Orioles Night at Warren Lodge

Warren Lodge No. 51 hosted a Baltimore Orioles Night on Friday, January 26, 2001, in the Grand Lodge Ballroom in Cockeysville. Members and their friends and family enjoyed a very special evening of informal reminiscences by former Orioles players Joe Orsulak, Dave Johnson, Tim Nordbrook, Tippy Martinez, Ross Grimsly, and Ken Singleton. These well-loved veterans were a hit with the adults, but the biggest hit with the youngsters—a grand slam home run—was an appearance by the Orioles Bird, the team's official mascot.

The refreshments were appropriate for the evening and included selections from the four major baseball food groups: hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, and soft drinks.

Getting Your Pictures Published

The *Freestate Freemason* is the way the Maryland Lodges share information with each other. Not only do the stories inform and educate, they may inspire other Lodges to action. Warren Lodge's Orioles Night is a perfect example of an excellent program that can be duplicated.

Pictures are more difficult to duplicate in the *Freestate Freemason* than programs in Lodges, however. For quality images, we *must* have original photographs; pictures from newspapers are just not satisfactory. If a story runs in your local paper with a great photo, you can nearly always purchase a photograph from the paper. This little extra effort insures your story is seen with the best possible images by Maryland Brethren. Your help in getting quality images will be appreciated by all!



Reflections of a “One-Day Class” Survivor

J. GARY LEWIS
Ionic Lodge No. 145

As a candidate in the first “one day” class to become Master Masons in the great state of Maryland, I am only now beginning to realize a year later what the ceremony and activity of that day has implanted into my life. I am starting to see the light in the east in a whole new perspective from the way I viewed a sunrise prior to June 19, 1999. That day has been special to me for quite some time—my wife’s birthday, my god child’s birthday, and now, the day I was raised as a Master Mason. A great triple play if ever I’ve heard of one!

The process of filling out the petition for membership, being visited by a group of brothers from the lodge, and then being notified I was accepted, were occasions that stirred both excitement and fear. Excitement at the prospect of belonging to a fraternity whose members I had known and respected, but fear—as any creature would feel—at the thought of entering the unknown.

I need not have feared.

Through the registration check-in, coffee and pastries, and tracking down my lodge secretary for my lambskin, I started to feel at ease with the situation. Oh yes, I was still very excited, but the brethren who were handling the candidates were very calm, cool, collected, and fraternal. The candidates I met milling

around in the Grand Lodge ballroom all had that same fraternal air that seems to permeate every Masonic function I have attended since that day. An air of helpfulness, courtesy, and brotherly concern that flows over the crowd and stimulates conversation between brethren, both mundane and serious.

Mother nature was very cooperative and supplied us with a perfect day. The morning degree activities were very interesting, and after a great lunch, the afternoon exercises were the highlight of the day. The floor work and the oratory for each degree were performed in a very dignified and formal fashion. Although, at the time, this candidate did not understand all of what was transpiring, upon gaining further light through the third degree catechism, it is amazing how much of that day registered in my consciousness and is continually releasing its bounty on a regular basis.

As I progressed through my third degree catechism class with four other worthy brothers from the one day class of ’99, and we stood for proficiency in Ionic Lodge No. 145 a few months later, the meaning of the activities of that day continued to grow and nurture my quest for Masonic knowledge. In attending lodge meetings, and conversing with well-informed brethren, one grows in the procedural, as well as speculative, ways of Masonry.

Having just completed my first attendance at the Grand Lodge Summer School session, I was amazed at Grand Lecturer Ed Kraft’s fortitude, knowledge and

adherence of the Craft ritual, and the dedication of the assisting brethren. As Grand Master Larri-more was awarding attendance certificates, I was strengthened by the resolve of those who had perfect attendance for 36, 35, 30 years, and so on.

In reflection on my first year as a Master Mason, I remember many of my conductors stating, “Masonry is a great fraternity, but you only get out of it what you put into it.” This is very true on many levels of personal thought and action. Every time I think about some phrase from a charge or lecture I have heard, I find myself viewing it from different angles, with the light from the east shining on it in different ways, exposing new views I had not seen during my previous examination.

With our brothers aid, may we all continue to receive the light from the east and use that brightness to illuminate the growth in Masonic brotherhood.

Oxon Hill Lodge Moves to New Home

Oxon Hill Lodge No. 231 has moved into its new Lodge building. The address is:

Oxon Hill Lodge No. 231
5730 Fisher Road
Temple Hills, MD 20748
Phone: 301-630-1384

Oxon Hill Lodge meets the first & third Mondays. For information, contact Tom Lord: tom.lord@verizon.net or 301-839-0766.



Masonic Charities of Maryland— “A Continuing Success Story”

VERN MULES

Your Masonic Charities of Maryland continues to address the problem of drug and alcohol abuse among our young people by sponsoring the Maryland Student Assistance Program, (MSAP) in the public school systems throughout the state of Maryland.

MSAP is an intervention program now being used in Maryland schools that provides a systematic procedure of early identification, intervention, referral, and follow up of “at risk” students. These students are considered “at risk” because of dysfunctional behavior patterns which may be related to involvement with drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. These are behavior patterns that are detected in all school levels including elementary grades

In early 1986, M.W. Bro. David Haacke, P.G.M. approached the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools with the concerns of drug and alcohol abuse problems in our public school systems and the offer to develop and fund the MSAP concept through Masonic Charities of Maryland. The program had a very modest beginning in August 1987, with the training of eight school teams. The program was off to an immediate success. Since this humble beginning, there are now over 300 active teams with more than

2,500 volunteer members helping Maryland Families who have been affected by this terrible problem of drug and alcohol abuse.

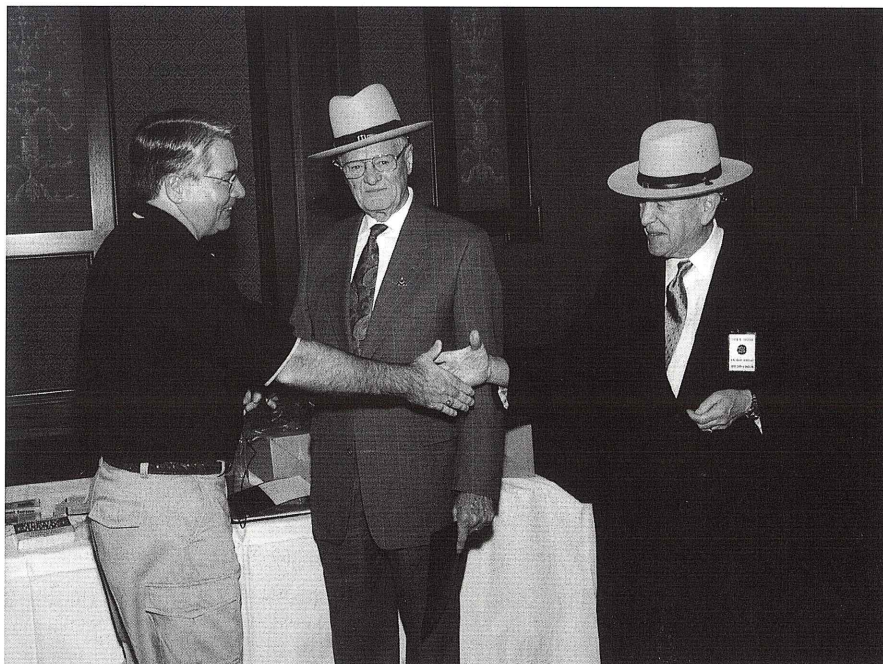
The MSAP Core Team concept has been fine-tuned to where each team now consists of multi-disciplined groups of school personnel who work in collaboration with local health department addictions assessors. Each team averages eight to ten members working together with other concerned agencies, assessors, psychologists, department mental health counselors, etc. who frequently serve as members-at-large of the Core Teams.

With this continuing success and the dire need for this program among our young people, there is also a great need for direct donations and endowments to support

MSAP and all the other endeavors of the Masonic Charities of Maryland. This is where you and your Lodge can help.

All Freestate Freemasons can be extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Masonic Charities of Maryland, which works hard to help Masonry make a big difference in our community and state. Masonic Charities of Maryland needs your help to assure this “Continuing Success Story.” For information as to how you or your Lodge can help, please contact the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 or Vern Mules at 410-296-1015 or vmules@aol.com.

**DO YOUR PART NOW HELPING
YOUNG PEOPLE—SUPPORT
MASONIC CHARITIES OF
MARYLAND!**



Bros. Francis E. Larrimore, M.W.G.M., and Jack R. Frazier, R.W.G.S., are made Honorary Troopers by David B. Mitchell, Superintendent of Maryland State Police, in recognition of their “active participation and steadfast support.”



The Bethel of Honored Queens and Princesses of Maryland met at the Grand Lodge of Maryland in Cockeysville on December 3, 2000, with Grand Master and Mrs. Bennie G. Owens.

St. Alban Universal Lodge, U. D.

St. Alban Universal Lodge is a Traveling Lodge under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The Lodge will use the Grand Lodge building as its home base and travels to other Lodges in the state.

St. Alban Universal Lodge is an assembly of Brothers who have a strong desire to Learn, to Educate, to Encourage Growth, and to Enjoy Freemasonry. Their mission is to

- Explore what it might have been like to sit in a Lodge in the 1700s or 1800s.
- Educate themselves and others on the rich history of Masonry;
- Demonstrate the craft degrees of

various Masonic constitutions;

- Encourage and promote the growth of Maryland Masonry;
- Provide an enjoyable medium for the exchange of new and interesting ideas;
- Operate as a Traveling Lodge, meeting in a host Lodge building or interesting location to provide educational and informative programs to Masons and to the general public.

Their long-term goal is to provide unique alternatives—under dispensation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master—for initiating, passing and raising Brothers into Masonry in Maryland.

For further information, contact one of the charter members of St.

Alban Universal Lodge: BENJAMIN F. DYER—PM, PSGD, GI, Prince Frederick, No. 142; RONALD A. BLOCK—PM, PJGD, GI, Collington, No. 230; S. BRENT MORRIS—PM, PGDC, Patmos, No. 70 and Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London; STUART J. CORDISH—PM, PSGD, DGL, Amicable, No. 25; VERNON H. HUEBSCHMAN—PM, PGDC, Warren, No. 51; GLEN B. CLARY—PM, PGSB Collington, No. 230; CHARLES R. JOSEPH—PM, Wheaton, No. 228; JOHN A. RAFFINE—PM, Landmark No. 127; STAN KATZMAN—PM, Kensington, No. 198; JAMES B. COKER, PM, SGD, Patmos, No. 70; JOHN M. LISTER—PM, PGSB, WGM, Annapolis, No. 89; LESLIE G. METCALF—WGC, Sincerity, No. 181.



Oakland Lodge Dedicates Cornerstone

Oakland Lodge No. 192 dedicated the cornerstone of the Oakland Heritage Center with Masonic honors, using the gavel George Washington used to lay the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol in 1793. Bro. Charles Tressler, W.M. presided over the ceremony on Sunday, October 10, 1999.

The town of Oakland, Maryland celebrated its 150th birthday, and

the dedication of the old railroad station as the Oakland Heritage Center was part of the kick-off events.

George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol with a specially made gavel. Its head was made of the same Maryland marble used in the interior of the original building, and its handle is of dark American cherry. Following the ceremonies in 1793 Washington gave the gavel to Potomac Lodge of Georgetown, now No. 5 in the District of Columbia. The Brethren of

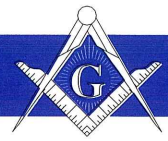
Potomac Lodge graciously agreed to let Oakland Lodge use their gavel.

Bennie G. Owens, R.W.D.G.M. presented Mayor Asa McCain a 15-star, 15-stripe flag that flew over Ft. McHenry for use at the historic railroad station. Following the cornerstone dedication and flag presentation, a reception was held in the Paul C. Naylor Masonic Temple. Visitors were served refreshments as they toured the building and viewed the George Washington gavel. This is Masonry at its finest at action in the community.



70 Years a Mason!

Grand Master Bennie G. Owens had the unique pleasure of recognizing Bro. John William Cary for 70 years of Masonic membership. The special presentation was made at the Charlestown Retirement Community on December 1, 2000. Pictured from left to right around Bro. Cary are Jack R. Frazier, R.W.G.S., H. Allen Lewis, Sr., G.I., William E. Guy, W.M., Bennie G. Owens, M.W.G.M., and John A. Young, Jr., R.W.D.G.M.



Free State Shield & Square Club on the Move

Defiance, Missouri

On Friday, July 14th, 2000, by invitation of Mechanicsville Lodge No. 260, members of the Free State Shield & Square Club traveled to Defiance, Missouri to take part in a Multi-State Degree conferral. Defiance is just outside of St. Louis.

The members of the FSS&SC taking part in this venture were Brothers Jack Biggs, Marv Printz, Dave Kane, Gary Pierce, Tom Hess, and Tom Morris along with honorary members Bro. John Naquin,

P.G.M., Ed Kraft and Jack Frazier. Also joining them for the weekend festivities were Bro. Bennie Owens, RWDGM, and Bob Englebach, P.M. of Ohr Lodge No. 131.

On Saturday morning Hyland Lodge No. 113, District No. 20 degree team of Vicksburg, Mississippi, conferred the Mississippi M.M. Degree and raised Mississippi brother Chris Hadad.

Following lunch the Free State Shield & Square Club conferred the Maryland M.M. Degree. Bro. John Naquin, P.G.M., sat in the East for the second section and raised Bro. Jackie Dale Miller to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Jackie is a member of Ohr Lodge No. 131 in

Cumberland, Md. and a Cumberland City Police Officer.

On Sunday morning, following breakfast and a non-denominational church service conducted by the Grand Chaplain of Missouri, "Charlie's Angels," the Missouri Degree team, exemplified the Missouri Master Mason Degree. Bro. Bill Soutiea, M.W. Grand Master of Missouri sat in the East and raised Bro. Jackie Miller for the second time that weekend. The differences in the ritual of each individual jurisdiction were interesting to observe, and each team's presentation was excellent. Everyone in attendance had an enjoyable weekend and learned very much. The members of



The Maryland Degree Team at Mechanicsville Lodge in Defiance, Missouri. From Left to right: Jackie Dale Miller, candidate, Ed Kraft, Tom Hess, Bennie Owens, Gary Pierce, Jack Biggs, Dave Kane, Jack Frazier, Tom Morris, John Nacquin, Bob Engleback, Marv Printz.



Mechanicsville Lodge were superb hosts and many new friendships were begun.

The FSS&SC wishes to publicly thank Bro. Robert Brodie, Sr., Worshipful Master of Ohr Lodge No. 131 for providing not only a candidate, but also one who was a police officer as well.

Dayton Ohio

On September 8, 2000 the John W. Durst Lodge invited the FSS&SC to visit their Lodge in Dayton, Ohio to raise a Dayton City police officer. The team arrived on Friday evening and given a tour of the beautiful Temple which sits on the river across from downtown Dayton. Following dinner the team was piped onto the Lodge room by brother Wayne Penly where they conferred the Master Mason Degree Maryland style. A large crowd of Ohio brethren was gathered to watch the conferral and the efforts of the team were loudly applauded. The members of the FSS&SC taking part in this venture were Brothers Jack Biggs, Marv Printz, Dave Kane, Gary Pierce, Jimmy Rinehart and Tom Hess along with honorary members Bro. John Naquin, P.G.M., Ed Kraft, and Jere Place.

This dedicated team of law enforcement officers and honorary members travel at their own expense and on their own time to promote Freemasonry. To date they have raised over 25 new Master Masons, the majority of which have been law enforcement officers. In addition they have learned and conferred the Scottish Rite 12th Degree

in the Valley of Baltimore. Each one will tell you quickly that whatever their expenditure of time and travel, it is well worth it when they receive the thanks from the brothers they visit.

To apply for membership in the Free State Shield & Square Club or to schedule a trip to your Lodge for a Degree conferral by this team, contact Bro. Jack Biggs at 410 329-6665 or email at k3sp@home.com.

I Sat in Lodge With You

WILBUR D. NESBIT

There is a saying filled with cheer,
Which calls a man to fellowship.
It means as much for him to hear
As lies within the brother-grip.
Nay, more! It opens wide the way
To friendliness sincere and true;
There are no strangers when you say
To me: "I sat in lodge with you."

When that is said, then I am known;
There is no questioning nor doubt
I need not walk my path alone
Nor from my fellows be shut out.
Those words hold all of brotherhood
And help me face the world anew
There's something deep and rich
and good
In this: "I sat in lodge with you."
Though in far lands one needs must

roam
By sea and shore and hill and
palm,
Those words bring him a touch of
home
And lighten tasks that seem in
vain.
Men's faces are no longer strange
But seem as those he always
knew
When some one brings the joyous
change
With his "I sat in lodge with you."

So you, mv brother, now and then
Have often put me in your debt
By showing forth to other men
That you your friends do not
forget.
When all the world seems gray and
cold
And I am weary, worn and blue
Then comes this golden thought I
hold—
You said: "I sat in lodge with you."

When to the last great Lodge you
fare
My prayer is that I may be
One of your friends who wait you
there,
Intent your smiling face to see.
We, with the warder at the gate,
Will have a pleasant task to do
We'll call, though you come soon or
late:
"Come in! We sat in lodge with you!"

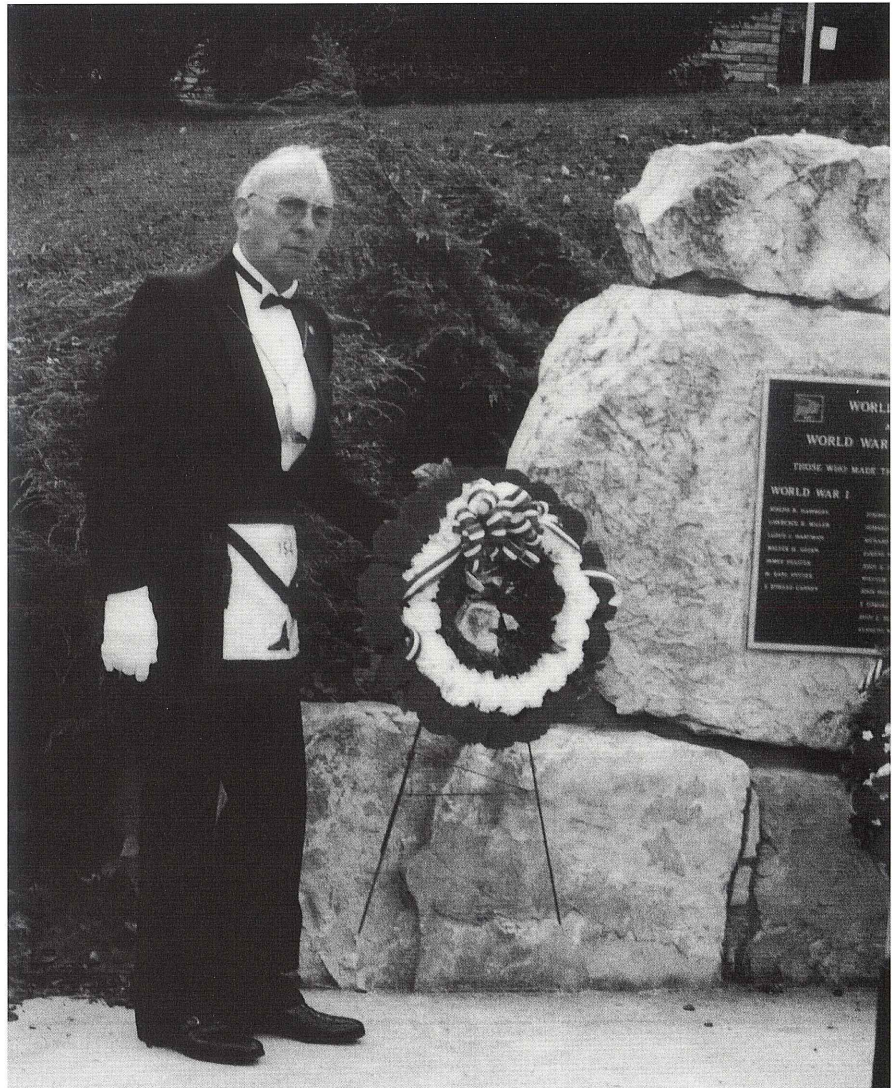


Grand Master's Accelerated Class—April 6 & 7, 2001

An accelerated Master Mason Degree class is being planned for April 6 and 7, 2001. The accelerated class provides a management tool for Lodges to efficiently handle candidates with differing needs. Lodges that cannot confer the Entered Apprentice Degree in time to meet the April 7 deadline may make arrangements to have their candidates receive their Entered Apprentice Degree at a Special Communication to be held by the Grand Lodge on April 6 at 7:30 PM. Registration for these candidates will begin at 6:30 PM.

The Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees for the accelerated class are scheduled for Saturday, April 7, 2001. Registration for the candidates will begin at 7:30 AM with coffee and doughnuts being served. Grand Lodge will open at 8:00 AM. Each candidate is to be escorted to the Grand Lodge by a member of the candidate's Lodge. The escort must bring a written statement from the Lodge Secretary stating the candidate has received the Entered Apprentice Degree.

It will be the Lodges' responsibility to notify the Grand Secretary's Office of the name of each candidate for the Entered Apprentice or Master Mason Degree at least thirty days in advance. The \$50 fee must accompany the petition, and the cost of the class photograph will be \$12. For more information call the Grand Lodge: 410-527-0600.



Bro. Charles F. Shelble, P.M., Sr. Warden, presents a wreath for Kemp Lodge No. 154 at the Veterans Day Program in Mount Savage on November 11, 2000. Bro. Shelble, an Army veteran of World War II and of the Korean Conflict, is a 52-year member of Kemp Lodge.

Golf Tournament Benefits Eye Foundation

The Grand Commandery of Maryland, Knights Templar is sponsoring a Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 25, 2001, at the Glade Valley Golf Course in Walkersville, Maryland. The cost of this outing is \$60 per player and covers lunch, all

green fees, and a contribution to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Tee-off time is 9:00 AM, and lunch follows play.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, which provides sight-saving surgery and research grants, will benefit from this exciting event. For more information, contact Bill Colburn, P.O. Box 951, Mt. Airy, MD 21771, 301-829-1277. Registrations should be received by April 15.



Perseverance Lodge Honors Special Mason

Brother Robert Wright was honored by Perseverance Lodge No. 208 on Tuesday, November 28, 2000. Sixty-two members and guests were in attendance at this special event.

Bro. Wright has been a living model of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth for fifty-three years. He was appointed to the Lodge's Sick and Welfare Committee in 1986.

His duties have included visits to

the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and Hospital where Brothers and friends were receiving treatment. Throughout the years he has sent hundreds of cards and note of encouragement to those in distress. Mrs. Fred White gave an emotional presentation on how Bro. Wright's cards and notes lifted her husband, Senior Warden Fred Wright, while he was under treatment.

Bro. Wright's attendance at Perseverance Lodge is impeccable, and he has twice been elected Mason of the Year by the Lodge. At each meeting before the announce-

ment of the names of those in distress, the following prayer by Bro. Wright is read. "Our Heavenly Father, we offer our prayers to all our Masonic families who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. May the Grand Architect of the Universe restore their health and deliver them from any pain and suffering. Amen."

Care of his wife, Genevieve, has occupied Bro. Wright this year. When asked if he would like to be relieved of his job, he replied in typical fashion, "When I can't do this job any longer, I'll let you know."



Special attendees at the night honoring Robert Wright at Perseverance Lodge No. 208 included, from left-right, back row, Bro. William Holt, Associate Guardian of Chapter No. 24, I.O.J.D., Daniel Mayer, County Commissioner, Warren Bowie, Mayor of Indian Head, Bro. John C. Naquin, M.W.P.G.M., Bro. William Clark, M.W.P.G.M., Tim Hutchins, Charles County Delegate to the General Assembly, Marlon Deen, County Commissioner, front row, Bro. Keith M. Vivian, P.M., St. Columba Lodge and Supervisor of Service to all Veterans Homes and Veterans Hospitals in Maryland, Bro. Bennie G. Owens, M.W.G.M., Bro. Robert Wright, honoree, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. White, S.W. of Perseverance.



News from Bonnie Blink

JOE EDMONDS

It's time for another report form "The Top of the Hill." A lot has happened since my last writing and the fact that I missed the fall issue means a catch-up issue is in order, so I will waste no time on preliminaries and get to the heart of things with this winter installment.

Beginning in August a "Writing Club" was formed with the first entry by resident Laura McCoubrey. This club will meet once a month and is under the direction of the Recreation Department, who also conduct a Cooking Club, a Sing-a-Long, and the ever famous "Reminisce." They certainly do a bang-up job. I stop in for the coffee hour on Tuesday mornings (on my way to the in-house wood shop).

The usual activities continue—Bible Study, Can you Recall?, the Bookmobile, Trips to the supermarkets, visits by the O.E.S. and The Board of Relief, and Happy Hour. The ladies continue needle work (with the addition of one male, Brother A. Noon), they are geared up for Harvest Home Day and are looking forward to the fall holidays.

The 17th Family Night was a highlight and was held in the Grand Lodge Ballroom. However, BINGO remains No. 1 on the hit list. Just about everyone enjoys BINGO on Friday evenings. We enjoyed field trips, a mystery ride, a Watermelon Social by Camp Springs Lodge No. 227, the Peach festival at the

Cozy Inn in Thurmont, Md., and fine pit beef/ham at Hereford Fire Hall. Lunch out is always popular, and topping them all was the variety show, here at the Homes, featuring the staff, residents and volunteers. Those kazoo players are something else again! So one can see Bonnie Blink had a busy August.

September and Harvest Home Day—what a splendid day it was, lots to eat, of course. Those Brothers who prepare and serve the food deserve a lot of credit. (I wonder if they get letters from brethren who write and say, "Thanks, Well Done"?)

This day was very special for me. This was the day the M. W. Grand Master Francis, E. Larrimore, and R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Bennie G. Owens, dedicated the WOODSHOP here at Bonnie Blink. Hitherto we did not have a woodshop—perhaps some small work area and a few hand tools. When I moved into the facility I donated power tools, hand tools and supplies enough to start a fine and workable wood shop. With the help of Brother Larrimore, Warren Lodge No. 51, Pickering Lodge No. 146, Sincerity No. 181, Bro. Charles Burdette, Mrs. Laura Beauchamp, Brother Melvin Klotzman, Bro. Charles Mather, Brother Jerrold Bushman and a number of Bros. and Lodges who gave donations, we now have a fully workable and functional shop—and we are busy producing everything from door stops to an operational loom. (I recently produced a small table for my Loving Bride, Ethel). We have Gavels, Pencil Boxes, Pen Sets, Square & Compasses (with

a mounted clock), Door Stops, and many more such items. These items can be seen in the Homes' Gift Shop, and your donation helps keep the shop going. I would be remiss if I failed to mention the many needle crafts put out by the ladies—You will just have to make a trip to the Gift Shop and see for yourself.

(One thing we don't have is a NAME for the WOODSHOP—lets see what you can come up with? The winning name gets a Gavel made of Maple and fashioned in the shop by yours truly. Send your suggestion to Joe Edmonds at 300 International Circle, Cockeysville, Md 21030).

We now have two computers with monitors and two very old printers without ink cartridges (black ink only). We are looking for a color printer, to print greeting cards, etc., and an instructor to teach our residents the basic use of the computer. As to date we are not connected to the internet. If you or someone you know is willing and able to provide a color printer or basic instructions—let us know. The computers are "Compaq" and have Windows 95 installed along with a rather nice Print Shop Deluxe II program for making cards and other notices and banners.

Now comes word from our in-house Trinity Chapter No. 99 O.E.S. I ask the Chairperson of their Publicity to give us a little news of there happenings—she writes, "I am happy to do this for several reasons, one being that you, Joe, are currently serving this Chapter as their Associate Patron. In addition to myself there are five other residents



who are filling various stations, both elective and appointive, and on the side-lines, at meetings, we have an average attendance of from 15 to 18 residents. A recent survey revealed there are only two other chapters of the Eastern Star that currently hold regular meetings in a Masonic Home. That makes Trinity Chapter unique—being able to attend an Eastern Star Meeting in a Masonic Home and being able to get to that meeting by taking an elevator ride—how lucky we are!”

“As most of you are aware the

Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women may belong. Its members are comprised of men who are Master Masons and women with specific Masonic relationships.”

“If you are a member of the Eastern Star, we invite you to visit us anytime. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:45 P.M. in Fraternity Hall at Bonnie Blink. The Secretary is Mrs. Harriet V. Cole, 10329 Greentop Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030 or telephone

410 667-1535.”

Now back to Joe! On December 2nd a bus load of residents tripped to the Inner Harbor for the Lighted Boat Parade—Beautiful! Than on December 15th we enjoyed the Grand Master’s Christmas Party in the Ball Room—Fantastic! We all came away very thankful, then on the 16th we had an open house for family and friends.

I think the above is enough for this issue so I will sign off for now and hope to be with you next issue.

Joe



Bro. S. Claus Visits Prince Frederick Again

For the third year in a row Prince Frederick Lodge No. 142 has put on their Visit with Santa Clause program at the Holiday Inn Express in Prince Frederick. Each year the attendance has improved to the point where this year 181 children visited Santa and received fruit and a candy cane along with a photograph of their visit. While awaiting their turn, the children were entertained by the magic of Mike O’Kelly.

Shown above are the Brethren responsible for this program: Wayne Hutchins, Vince Keyser, Gary Utterback, Lawrence Wilson, P.M., William Kugel, Michael Close, E.A., William Kindsvater, S. Clause (Gene Utterback), Mike O’Kelly, Benjamin Dyer, P.M. Harold Taylor, P.M., James Bosworth, H. Edward Potts, G.I., Joseph Roberts, Kenneth Young.

Maryland Masonic Calendar



FEBRUARY 2001

- 3 Regional Meeting, G.L., 9:00 AM
- 10 Regional Meeting, Wicomico
No. 91, Salisbury, 9:00 AM
- 24 Regional Meeting, Mt. Ararat
No. 44, Bel Air, 9:00 AM

MARCH 2001

- 3 Regional Meeting, Hagerstown
No. 217, 9:00 AM
- Job's Daughters Art Show &
Auction, Boumi Temple, 12:00
NOON, \$5, 301 645-1764
- 10 Regional Meeting, Camp
Springs No. 227, 9:00 AM

High Twelve Guild Luncheon,
Tuesdays, G.L., 12:00 NOON, \$10

APRIL 2001

- 25 KTEF Golf Tournament, Glade
Valley GC, Walkersville, 9:00
AM, \$60, Info: 301 829-1277

MAY 2001

- 20 G.L. Religious Services, Bonnie
Blink, dark clothes, 10:00 AM
- Bull Roast, G.L., 2:00-5:00 PM,
Adults \$25, Children 6-12 \$10,
Under 6 free!
- 21 Semi-annual Communication,
G.L. of Maryland, 7:30 PM

JUNE 2001

- 16 Family Day Picnic, G.L.,
11:00 AM- 4:00 PM

High Twelve Guild Luncheon,
Tuesdays, G.L., 12:00 NOON, \$10

JULY 2001

- 4 G.L. Independence Day Cele-
bration, G.L., 6:00 PM—
- 21 G.M. Ball, G.L., 6:30 PM

AUGUST 2001

- 25 John Coats Memorial Lodge
Seafood Festival, 2:00 PM—
6:00 PM, Tuckaho Steam &
Gas, Boumi String Band

SEPTEMBER 2001

- 15 Harvest Home Day, G.L.

OCTOBER 2001

- 27 Oktoberfest

High Twelve Guild Luncheon,
Tuesdays, G.L., 12:00 NOON, \$10

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