



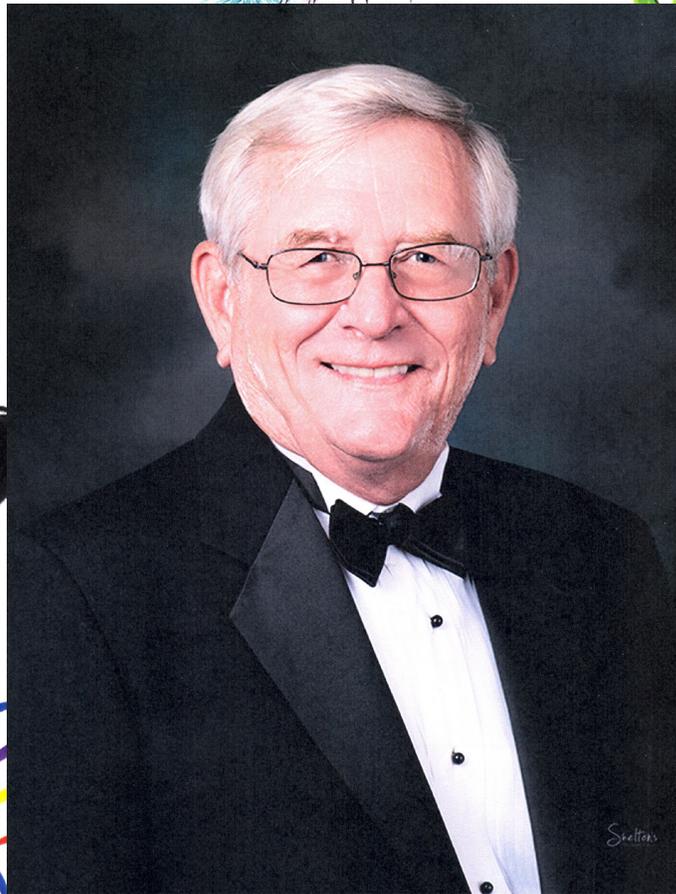
The Oklahoma Mason

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Mason Magazine 2015

Electronic Edition Issue #1

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

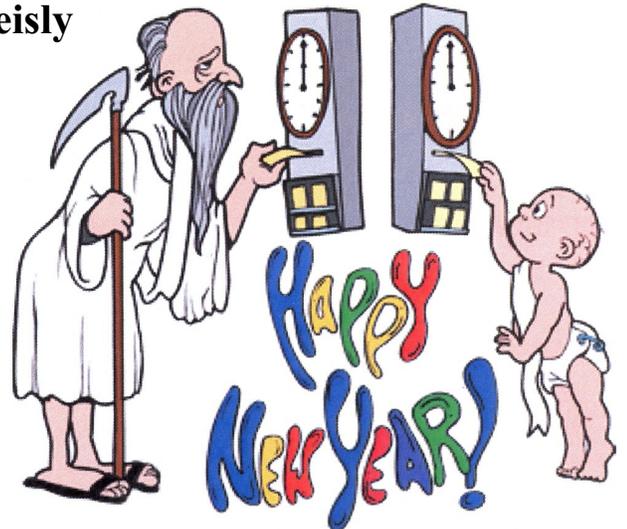


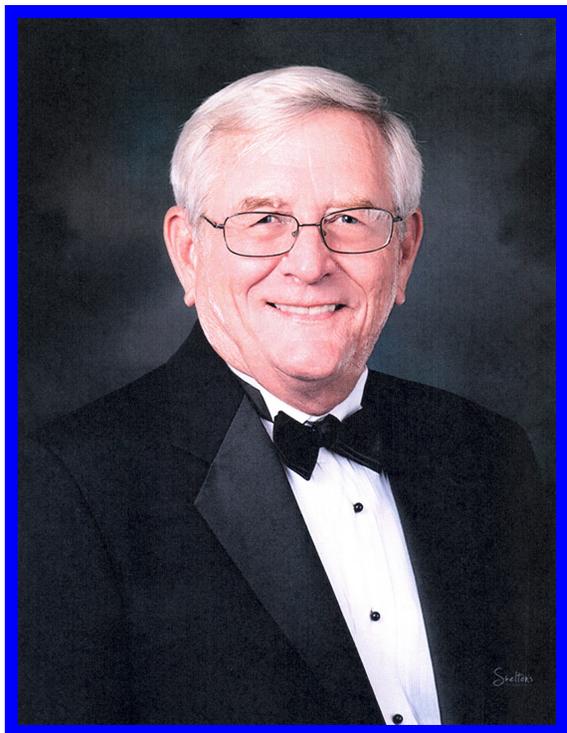
M. W.: Gary Lee Beisly



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

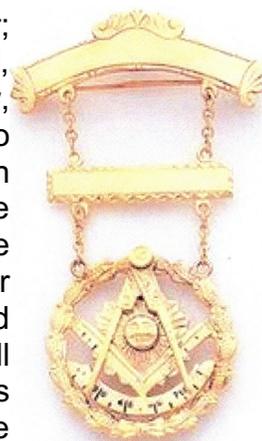




M.: W.: Gary Lee Beisly

From the Grand Master

2014 is in the history books! We had a good year; had a successful Grand Lodge Session; elected, appointed, and installed lodge officers; and, now, we are getting ready for 2015 and look forward to another great year. I hope all our lodges have an interesting and enjoyable year planned. In the Installation ritual, there is a part where the Installing Master tells the newly installed Master that the honor, reputation, usefulness, and happiness of his lodge will depend upon the skill and assiduity with which he manages the lodge's business and the zeal and ability with which he propagates the principles of Masonry. While this is directed to the new Worshipful Master, it is also the duty of all the officers. This leads into the idea of "responsibility", one of what I like to call the three R's of Masonry (Ritual, Rules, and Responsibility). Having a useful and happy lodge is one of the Responsibilities of the Lodge officers ... to conduct the business of the lodge in such a manner that the members feel they have gained by attending the meeting and want to come back for more. This is accomplished by the Lodge officers having a plan; a plan for the year that includes not



only the normal and sometimes boring business nights, but a plan that includes things of interest to all the members and their families; family nights, picnics, lodge visits, district meetings, meetings with school and civic people, jam sessions, domino tournaments, and other such things.

There are several places the lodge officers can turn to for help in developing a lodge calendar for the year. The Grand Lodge Correspondence Course # 1 is an excellent source for developing a calendar. This course also provides a solid background in the Constitution and Code, another of the three R's - Rules. Correspondence Course #1 is obtained from the Grand Secretary and is taken in the comfort of your home. It is a study course with an open-book test based on the Constitution and Code. Upon completion, each participant is awarded a certificate of merit.

Ideas for putting together your lodge calendar can also be found in the Award of Excellence program. This program has not been active the past few years, but the information on it is available from your lodge files or the Grand Lodge. We want to re-institute the Award of Excellence program this year. But, even if a lodge is not participating officially in the program, the lodge can go through the requirements of the Award of Excellence, select the sections that they want to achieve, and use these selections to build their calendar. The Award of Excellence program provides a lodge with a structured program on planning a year of events.

Finally Brethren, the Grand Lodge Officers hope to visit many lodges and district meetings this year. I enjoy district meetings, Student of Today events, degree conferrals, 50-year pin presentations, and especially picnics! If your lodge, district, appendant body, or youth order has a special function or meeting you would like me to attend, please contact me directly or through the Grand Secretary so we can get it on my calendar of events. My calendar can be viewed on the Grand Lodge website (www.gloklahoma.com).

Again Brethren, thank you for allowing me to be your Grand Master this year and to work with each of you to promote Masonry within the Fraternity and to the public ... and especially Oklahoma Masonry.


Gary L Beisly Grand Master

Meet the Grand Master

M.: W.: Gary Lee Beisly and his wife, Carolyn, live in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He is the owner and Principal Engineer of GB Consultants in Broken Arrow. During his professional career he has worked on projects throughout the U.S. and several countries, and has been registered as a professional engineer in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Dakota. The Grand Master also holds a Master/Journeyman electrician license in Oklahoma, Michigan, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Utah. He has held membership in the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers, the Tulsa Pipeliners Club, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and the Instrument Society of America.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Wichita State University, and serves as Deacon and member of the Stewardship/Financial Committee of the Fellowship Christian Church.

Grand Master Beisly served Redfork/Brookside Lodge #505 as Senior Deacon in 1986, Junior Warden in 1987, Worshipful Master in 1988, Secretary in 1989, Senior Steward in 1999, Chaplain in 2002, and Junior Deacon in 2006.

He served Broken Arrow Lodge #243 as Worshipful Master in 2003. In 2004 he served as Worshipful Master of Akdar Lodge # 555, which Lodge he also served as Trustee in 2005/2006 and Secretary in 2007. He has served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master in 2009 and 2010, as well as on various Committees. An "A" Certificate Lecturer for more than 10 years, he has also served as President of the Certificate Lecturer's Association.

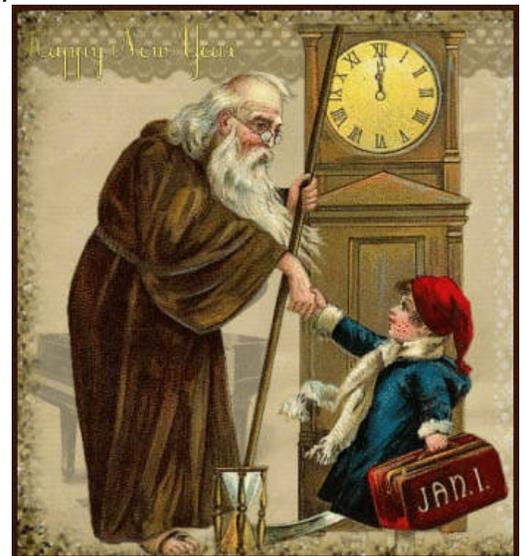
Most Worshipful Brother Beisly is a member of the Tulsa Scottish Rite Valley, where he holds the KCCH. He is past Director of the 13^o team, and Junior Deacon of the Tulsa Knights of St. Andrew. He is a member of the 7^o, 11^o, 13^o, and 26^o teams, and a cast member of the Feast of Remembrance and the Last Supper Tableau.

He is a member of the Tulsa York Rite Bodies and Akdar Shrine Temple, where he has served as Director General 3 times, is Past Director of the Kar Buffs Unit, and a member of the Oriental Band. He is also a member of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He has served as DeMolay Dad for Highland Park Chapter.



G**r****e****e****t****i****n****g****s** **o****f** **t****h****e**
S**e****a****s****o****n**

The Grand Master, the Grand Lodge Trustees, and the staff of the Grand Lodge wish you and your family the very best of the Holidays!



Meet the Junior Grand Warden

Clarence William “Corky” Grigsby, Jr. Right Worshipful Brother Grigsby and his wife, Nicolasa “Nickie” live in Altus, Oklahoma. Son Christopher is in the U.S. Army, and son Jeffrey is in the U.S. Navy. Brother Grigsby himself is retired from the U.S. Air Force and, subsequently, from the Department of Defense Civil Service. In the latter position he managed a large tool and equipment operation, including a staff of 24 employees. He received an award for outstanding service with the security forces, was non-commissioned officer of the year in 1981, NCO Academy, was nominated for General Marduez Outstanding Maintenance Award, and holds numerous decorations for military service.

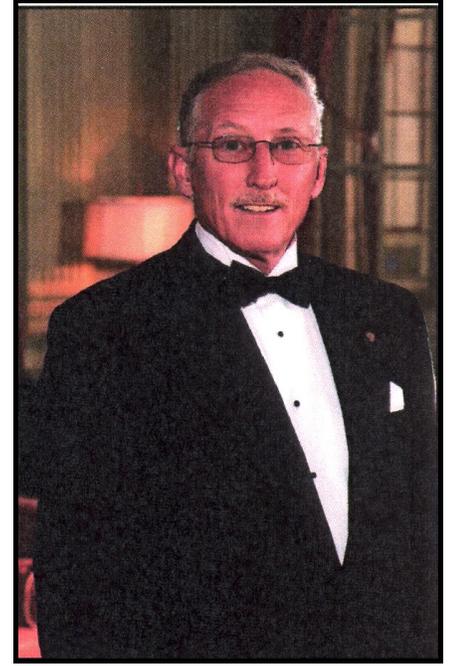
He was Raised at Altus Lodge in 2004. He is a perpetual member of Altus Lodge and an active member of Yeldell Lodge, having served Altus Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2008 and as Treasurer in 2012 and 2013. He served Yeldell as Junior Deacon in 2010.

Brother Grigsby served the Grand Lodge as Grand Chaplain in 2012, 2013, and 2014. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in 2010 and 2011, and served on the Necrology Committee in 2013. He is a member of the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo and served as Chief of the Tribe in 2014. He is a “C” Certificate Lecturer and has completed the Grand Lodge correspondence courses I, II, and III.

He is a member of the Guthrie Valley of the Scottish Rite, where he serves as Chancellor in the Council of Kadosh, Membership Chairman of Altus Lodge, and as a member of the 7^o, 17^o, and 27^o teams. In the York Rite, he is a member of the Altus Chapter #60, Altus Council #33, and Elk City Commandery #22. He served as High Priest in 2012 and Illustrious Master in 2013. He belongs to India Shrine Temple and the “SWOKIES” motorized unit.

In other organizations, he served as President of the Windsong Home Owners Association, Team Leader in software research for the Air Force tool rooms, Loss Prevention Supervisor for Walmart, Inc., Senior Church Greeter, and much more.

Right Worshipful Brother Grigsby said “I have a heartfelt desire to serve the Craft of Oklahoma in every way possible. I want to give back of my self to our gentle Fraternity that has given so much to me. My desire is to serve and continue the positive programs that our Trustees have established the past few years. I am retired and with God’s help and my family standing beside me, want to serve the Craft to the best of my ability. Let’s continue to “Go Back to Basics as Masons” and really be our Brothers and Widows Keepers, while striving to make Oklahoma Masonry highly visible in a positive light in every community in our great state. So Mote It Be.”



Meet the Grand Treasurer

Right Worshipful Brother David and his wife, Dale, live in Oklahoma City, where he is the owner of David Brokerage Insurance Agency. Professionally, he won the National Quality Award yearly from 1979 through 1994. He was made an Honorary Deputy Insurance Commissioner in 1979 among numerous other achievement awards in business. He is active in the Britton Christian Church, having served as Deacon for 12 years, Elder for 3 years, property manager for 3 years, and as Board President. A perpetual member of Britton Lodge #434, India Lodge #551, and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, he served as Worshipful Master of Britton Lodge in 1981 and India Lodge in 1999. He has served India Lodge as Chaplain since 2003.

R.: W.: Brother David has served as Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Pursuivant, District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Marshal and Grand Chaplain, as well as serving on numerous Grand Lodge Committees.



He is a perpetual member of both the Guthrie and McAlester Scottish Rite Temples and holds the 33^o. He is Past President of the Guthrie Supernumeraries Club, Lodge Representative, Past Master of Kadosh, Past

President of the Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Society, among other positions. R.: W.: Brother David is a member of the Norman York Rite Chapter, Council, and Commandery, and Life Sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

He is a member of India Shrine Temple, where he served as Potentate in 2004. He has served on many committees and in many offices in the Shrine, primarily dedicated to their charitable work.

He is a life member of Fidelis Chapter #426, Order of the Eastern Star, and Carter Maupin Court #10, Order of the Amaranth, which he served as Royal Patron in 1988 and 1993 and in several positions at the Grand Court. He is also a member of National Sojourners, The Royal Order of Scotland, Heroes of '76, Red Cross of Constantine, Knight Masons of the USA. He has also served as Associate Grand Guardian for Job's Daughters and, for 5 years, Chairman of Finance.

R.: W.: Brother Davis was appointed as Grand Treasurer by M.: W.: Ron Chambers upon the death of R.: W.: John Alexander, and was elected to the office at the 2014 Annual Communication.

Meet the Grand Secretary

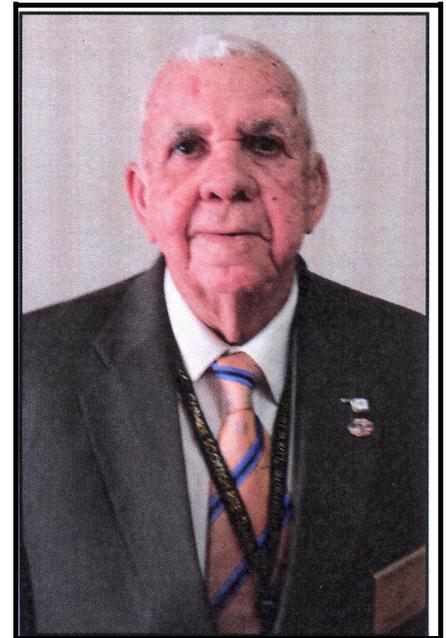
The Grand Secretary, Bobby L. Laws, is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, having served in 1990. He is retired from the U.S. Air Force after 27 years of active military service. In that time, he achieved the top 1% of all enlisted ranks and graduated in the top 1% of the Air Force Senior NCO Leadership Academy.

He was Raised at Union Lodge #28 in Georgia, and, in 1975, affiliated with Altus Lodge, where he is a perpetual member. He served that Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1978 and again in 2003. In addition to Altus Lodge, M.: W.: Brother Laws is a member of Yeldell Lodge, Frederick Lodge, Mangum Lodge, Hobart Lodge and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He has served as Secretary or Treasurer of Altus Lodge for many years, and has also served as Treasurer for Yeldell and the Lodge of Research, and as Junior Steward for Frederick Lodge.

M.: W.: Brother Bobby is a member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Valley, and holds the 33^o. For five years he has been the Chairman of the Membership Committee. He also directs and acts in the Degrees at the Temple, perhaps most notably as John the Baptist in the 17^o. He is Past Commander, Council of Kadosh.

In the York Rite, he is a member of Altus Chapter #60, Altus Council #33, and Elk City Commandery #22. Since 2005 he has been Secretary/Recorder for the Altus Bodies. He is a member of the India Shrine Temple and of Altus Chapter #49, Order of the Eastern Star, which he served as Worthy Patron in 1985 and has served as Sentinel for the last 7 years. He is also a member of Tinker Chapter #43, National Sojourners.

In addition to the 33^o, He has received the York Rite Membership Award, the Joseph P. Murrow Medal, the Honorary Legion of Honor of DeMolay, and the Rainbow Grand Cross of Color.



The building of King Solomon's Temple commenced around the year 972 B.:C.:

The oldest existing Lodge record is that of Edinburgh Lodge #1, dated July 30, 1599.

Many Presidents of the United States were Freemasons: M.: W.: Andrew Jackson & M.: W.: Harry S. Truman were Grand Masters.

From the Deputy Grand Master



When I contemplate why I enjoy Masonry so much, I consider the various things that Masonry means to me: Fellowship, service to others, high ideals, traveling to other lodges and being greeted as a Brother, fine dining, and many other “perks.” I particularly enjoy participating in the Masonic degrees. If I could do Masonic Degrees every night of the week, I’d be thrilled. I get particular pleasure from Initiating, Passing and Raising a new Brother. I’m very pleased to see that more and more young men are joining Masonry. This is exciting!

When I look back on my years as a Mason I remember that cold night in December, 1986, when I was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. I had no idea how much that was going to mean to me and my family. Three days later, I was installed as Junior Steward of the Lodge and my Masonic career began. (Yes, for those of you wondering, I did pass proficiency before I was appointed.)

Since then, Masonry has become a way of life for me and my family. I cannot imagine what our lives would be like without this great fraternity. I am eternally thankful to my late father-in-law who introduced me to Masonry. Actually, he handed me a petition and said, “Here. Sign this.” While I don’t recommend that technique to get new members, I have to admit that it was effective.

My Brothers, I hope that each of you will take advantage of the many rewarding activities in our fraternity. As I travel around the state, I agree with our Grand Master that “Masonry is alive and well in Oklahoma!” With that in mind, please let us know if you need assistance or information. The Grand Lodge is here to serve you, the Masons of Oklahoma. Our contact information is on the Grand Lodge web site or in the Blue Book.

On another subject: Our Grand Lodge website has lots of valuable information: Masonic education, Lodge forms, and other worthwhile links. I particularly recommend a document which can be found at the “Resources” tab on the main title bar, “Downloads” sub-tab, called “Guarding Our West Gate.” This document provides valuable information for the Brothers assigned to an investigation committee for a prospective member. This document can be downloaded and printed, or viewed on-line to give the investigating committee members a procedure to follow in performing an investigation. The investigating committee is one of the most important committee assignments that can be given to a Brother. We need to make sure that investigation of prospective members is given the time and status that it deserves, not only for the protection of the Lodge, but also to show the prospective member the high regard we have for our fraternity.

An important part of our Grand Lodge budget is fund raising. The extra funds that are brought in through our fund raising efforts allow the Grand Lodge to better serve the Craft in Oklahoma. I believe the best fund raising program we have is the Grand Lodge Visa Card. This card has no annual fee, and the interest rates are very competitive with other credit cards. Every time you use the Grand Lodge Visa Card, the Grand Lodge gets a percentage of the sale. This doesn’t increase your cost, but it is a real bonus for the Grand Lodge. While the percentage for each purchase is very small, when accumulated from the Masons all over the state, it is a significant amount of money. There is no overhead charged to the Grand Lodge, so it is a classic “win-win” situation. The card has the Grand Lodge logo and a Square and Compasses, so every time you use it, you show that you are a proud Oklahoma Mason.

As I said, there is no annual fee for this card; however, if you’d like to participate in the rewards program, called “Points to Anywhere,” there is a \$24.95 annual fee. In this rewards program, each purchase that you make gives you one point for each dollar spent. Your points are redeemable for airline travel, hotels, rental cars, and gift cards. The gift cards are available for Amazon, Bass Pro Shops, Chili’s, Cracker Barrel, Home Depot, Lowe’s, WalMart, Southwest Airlines, Carnival Cruise Lines, and lots more. I personally use my points to get WalMart gift cards to buy gasoline for my travels around the state – I think it’s a great way to save because you get a discount when you buy gasoline with a WalMart card.

If you’re interested, you can obtain an application from the Grand Lodge office, or feel free to write or e-mail me and I will mail you an application myself. My contact information is on the Grand Lodge web site or the back of the Grand Lodge Blue Book.

In closing, I want to borrow a great quote from Brother Jim Parker, “You are someone’s image of what a Mason is – make sure that image is a good one.”



D. Ridge Smith



R.: W.: Rick Allison

From the Senior Grand Warden

When we were initiated, and even later in the higher degrees, the cable tow was an important part of our degree. Have we ever considered what the physical symbol of the cable tow means to us in our quest for Masonic knowledge? Why the cable tow? Why was it used and why is it later taken away from us during the most important part of the degree? We are told that we are obligated to do certain things according to the length of our cable tow. So then what is the length of our cable tow?



Well, let's look at a couple of things about the term cable tow as it relates to an operative mason. In ancient times when craftsmen were working upon scaffolding they had to have something to pull the tools of their trade up to the level where they were working. In those times, the higher the craftsman's skill the higher he worked on the scaffolding. In other words, as he advanced in knowledge, as he gained fame within his craft or guild, the higher he was placed upon the scaffolding. Is this starting to sound familiar? As in "...with light added to the coming light your ambitious feet may tread round after round of the ladder which leads to fame in our mystic circle."



Anyway, as he went higher and higher on the scaffolding, he needed a longer and longer rope to bring his tools up to him. In ancient days, and in some cultures, this rope—called a "tau"—was made of rope or "cable".



As we advance through the degrees, from Entered Apprentice, to Fellow Craft, and on to the sublime degree of Master Mason, our own cable tow gets longer. As we advance in Masonic Knowledge the length of our cable tow increases as our duties and obligations increase.

Study this for yourself and you will see that there is much debate on the length of the cable tow. There are those that say the cable tow is three miles in length. One writer suggests that is as much as three thousand miles in length as in the distance you should go to help a Brother. This very subject was discussed in 1842 at The National Masonic Convention. Albert Mackey, the great masonic scholar that laid down the twenty-five Landmarks we use here in Oklahoma said that after considerable discussion it was decided that the length is "what is within the scope of man's reasonable ability." I tend to agree that a cable tow is the length you should go to help a brother according to your own abilities. Does this always mean monetarily? No there may be other things we can offer from our hearts.

I believe that the cable tow is a visual and physical symbol of our tie to the fraternity and consequently, the fraternity's tie to us, and that its removal represents the transition of the words of our obligation from our mouths into our hearts. When we take our obligations into our hearts, before the Craft and before God, we no longer need the visual or physical symbol. Our actions will speak louder than our words.

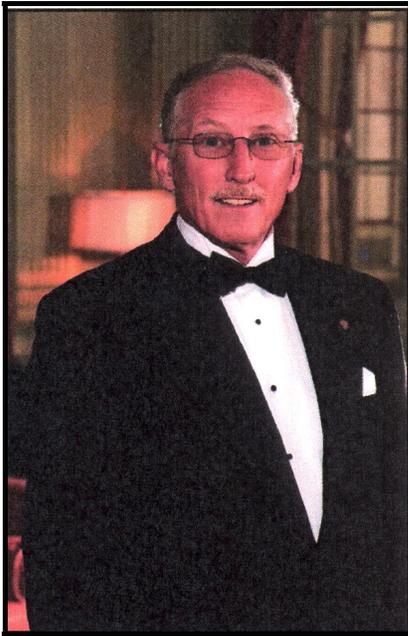
The next time you witness a degree I hope you will reflect upon the cable tow and what it means to you. What I have related to you is my own personal views and not necessarily the opinion of those much more learned who have studied this subject. What the cable tow means to me and what it means to you may be something entirely different and that is okay. One of the great things about Masonry and one of the things most hated about Masonry by dictators and despots is that we are taught to think freely and for ourselves. We are taught about symbols, but we are free to draw our own conclusions.

I hope to see you soon in my travels around our great State.

Fraternally,

Rick Allison
Senior Grand Warden





From the Junior Grand Warden

My Brethren all,

I am proud to have the Honor of serving the Craft of Oklahoma Masonry as an elected officer. During the past year I have traveled our great state and visited many Lodges and made several new Brothers and friends.

One of the most talked about subjects was keeping in touch with each other outside the Lodge. This is important to me, as I have had several Brothers pass to the Grand Lodge above, and others in the same Lodge not know.

We say to have a phone tree contact system in place for connecting with one another. But when a Brother hasn't been seen in Lodge for several meetings or functions do we make an earnest effort to contact them? We call and they say, yeah I'm doing ok just been busy. Sometimes our man pride gets the best of us, and, as "Keepers of the Flock" we feel we are to take care of others. But who takes care of us when we need help or get sick and we live

alone?

Sometimes we need to go and make physical contact with our Brethren and ensure they are doing alright. You don't need to play 20 questions, but just ensure your Brother is in fact doing alright and doesn't need any assistance. When eight Masons are providing help to others and one gets a little behind or in a personal pinch, the other seven must fill in. So we need to help our Brother get back to the team, thus the saying "more especially a Brother Mason."

This coming year I urge you to stay in contact with your Brothers and when you haven't seen him for a while, go make that knock and be your "Brother's Keeper." It's also very important to make any new members of your Lodge feel like they are a part of the Lodge, and a part of the Masonic Family. Get them interested and involved in assisting in any fund raisers you have scheduled, help them to learn a part in the degrees, learning and teaching the categorical lectures.

If your Lodge doesn't have a Family Night Dinner function each month, start one and invite not just members of the Lodge but their friends also, you just may be surprised to see what happens. I ask you to remember our Masonic Widows when you plan your functions. As I traveled the state and arrived at the Lodges, the first place I'd go was the kitchen. Sure enough, there they were, two, three or more Masonic Widows cooking or preparing the dinner meal, May God Bless you all for all you do for our Fraternity. If I haven't visited your Lodge as yet, I look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

Masonry is Family, Friends, and should be fun.

Fraternally and Respectfully,
C. W. "Corky" Grigsby Jr., JGW

Found on the Internet



Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Honor Recipients - 2014

The Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Honor is the highest distinction awarded by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. This year, we are honored to announce the recipients:

Owen Major - Kingfisher Lodge #52

Raymond Fisher - Broken Arrow Lodge #243

Stanley Pospisil - Garfield Lodge #501



Congratulations, Brethren!



SECRETARY SEMINARS SCHEDULED

The Lodge Secretary is one of the most important officers—with monthly activity reports, communications, dues, and other responsibilities. In addition, he's usually the “middleman” in applications for Matching Funds, Promises Matter grants, and other financial obligations. The Charity Foundation relies on the information provided by the Secretary in maintaining the records required by the IRS. The accuracy of the Grand Lodge database depends upon the accuracy of his work.

To help the Secretary, 6 seminars are scheduled across the state with M.: W.: Bobby Laws, Grand Secretary, and W.: John Logan, the Executive Director of the Masonic Charity Foundation. It's a chance for the Lodge Secretary to ask questions, give input, and build relationships. **Please try to attend one of these events.**

The cost for registration is \$10 to cover the cost of materials. Attendance by any Lodge officer is encouraged, not just Lodge Secretaries. This is important information for anyone in a Lodge leadership position. The dates and locations are given below, but are subject to change based on weather and event conflicts. A registration form has been mailed to the Lodge. **The seminars start at 9:00 AM and end at 12:30 PM.** Two seminars have already been held. Those remaining are:

- ③ 14 February - Poteau Lodge #46 - 402 Dewey Avenue, Poteau
- ④ 28 February - Broken Arrow Lodge #243 - 117 W. Commercial, Broken Arrow
- ⑤ 7 March - Sulphur Lodge #144 - 1624 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Sulphur
- ⑥ 21 March - Mustang Lodge #407 - 406 E. Highway 152, Mustang





Changes in Oklahoma Masonic Law

At the Annual Communication in November, certain resolutions was adopted by the Craft which change the Masonic Law of Oklahoma. The resolutions which passed are summarized below. Note that the official wording of the resolutions (found in the Yellow Book) and not these summaries control. Updated pages for the Constitution and Code will be sent to the Lodges as soon as they are available. § = section ¶ = paragraph

Resolution #1 - {amends §U 301, ¶3} Specifies that a change in Lodge dues does not take effect until January 1st of the following year. In effect, it means that a dues change cannot take effect if the dues cards and notices for the old amount have already been printed.

Resolution #4 - {amends §202, ¶B.1.d.} Specifically grants the Grand Master the power to give a dispensation to a Lodge to temporarily relocate the Lodge (as might be needed in case of storm damage, furnace or air conditioning malfunction, etc.).

Resolution #5 - {amends §U 420 ¶D.4} Would simplify the payment of earnings on perpetual memberships to Lodges and Lodge payment of per capita to Grand Lodge by deleting the requirement for Grand Lodge to send the Grand Lodge share of perpetual earnings to the Lodge which then has to send it back. Lodges will still get a report of total earnings.

Resolution #6A - {amends §U 213 ¶F} and **Resolution #6B** - {amends §T 407} Provides that when a Lodge suspends or expels a Brother for unmasonic conduct, the Lodge is to provide the Grand Secretary with the documentation and the Grand Secretary will notify all other Lodges and Masonic organizations of which the Brother is a member.

Resolution #8 - {adds new section to Article III} Sets requirements for the type of hat worn by the Worshipful Master in Lodge.

Oklahoma Scottish Rite Reunion Dates - 2015



Guthrie

April 10, 11, 12
October 3, 4



McAlester

April 18, 19
October 17, 18



Tulsa

May 2, 3
October 24, 25



BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

- M. W.: Glenn E. Almy was elected to fill a term expiring in 2016
- M. W.: Gary A. Davis was elected to a term expiring in 2019
- M. W.: Ronald S. Coppedge was elected to a term expiring in 2019
- R. W.: D. Ridge Smith was elected to a term expiring in 2019

2014 WAS A BUSY YEAR FOR THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA

You made a difference in 2014 through the Masonic Charity Foundation. While not all the numbers are in yet, it's obvious that Freemasonry made life easier, better, and richer for many Oklahomans during the year. It's easier to see the impact of Masonic Charity if we divide the support of **\$3,966,218** into different areas.

EDUCATION

Youth Orders &	
Youth Order Scholarship Program. . .	\$132,250
Student of Today / Teacher of Today /	
Teacher of the Year.	\$29,634
Arts Excellence Awards.	\$7,800
Higher Education.	\$100,000
Senior Essay Contest.	\$15,293.75
Payne Education Center.	\$42,500
Will Rogers Memorial Museum.	\$2,000

FRATERNAL

Promises Matter.	\$240,096
Masonic Service Association.	\$8,857
George Washington Masonic	
National Memorial.	\$32,422
Masonry In Action.	\$10,357

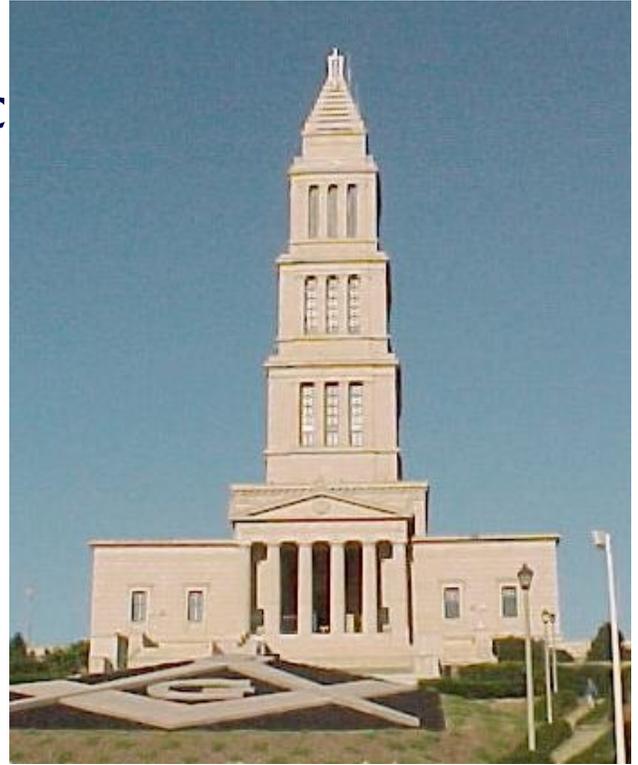
COMMUNITY

OETA.	\$55,263
Oklahoma Association of	
Area Agencies on Aging.	\$727,040.48
Alzheimer's Association.	\$175,000
Partners In Prevention	
(Prevent Blindness Oklahoma).	\$170,000
Matching Funds*.	\$1,671,102
Guthrie and McAlester Scottish Rite	
Temple Improvement	\$666,666.66
Food Banks.	\$38,235



Speakers from the Masonic Charity Foundation are always happy to present programs at District Meetings and in Lodges. Charity is one of the greatest stories Oklahoma Masonry has to tell.

December is **Oklahoma Month** at George Washington National Masonic Memorial

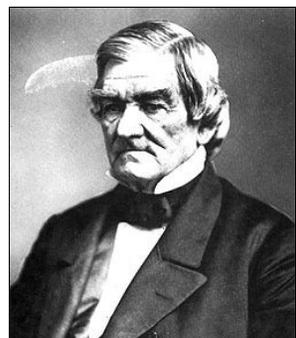
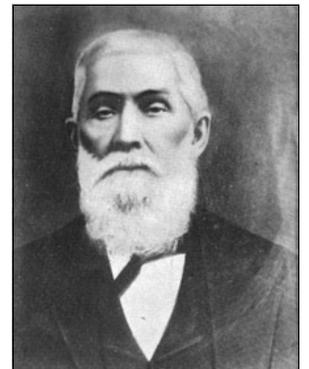


On the highest hill in Alexandria, Virginia, a short distance from Washington, D.C., stands the magnificent George Washington National Masonic Memorial. The great hall is shown above. Built by the Masons of the United States and owned by the Grand Lodges, the building has many displays featuring Freemasonry, a fine library, a reproduction of George Washington's Lodge room with many of the original furnishings, a museum of Washington's artifacts, and beautiful paintings and decorated rooms. Many events are hosted at the Memorial for Masons and non-Masons alike.

Each month a different Grand Lodge is honored with a special display, and the state's flag flies over the Memorial. December is Oklahoma's month. The theme of the display is Territorial Oklahoma, and the Native Americans who were so important in the Masonic history of those days. To share it with you, some pictures and captions from the exhibit are shown here.

William P. Ross **Chief of the Cherokee Nation, 1848**

"Chief Ross, who received the Master Mason Degree in Federal Lodge #1, Washington, D.C., on April 25, 1848, organized the first Masonic Lodge in Indian Territory (Cherokee Lodge #21, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas). It was located at Tahlequah, the seat of the Cherokee Government. He was the charter Secretary of the Lodge and served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1851."



John Ross **Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation 1828-1839** **Chief of United Cherokee Nation 1835-1866**

"John Ross led 15,000 Cherokees in the "Trail of Tears" from Georgia to Indian Territory. By an act of the Cherokee National Council, he gave the land on which his nephew John (also a member of Federal Lodge #1) built Cherokee Lodge #21. The membership of the Lodge was primarily Cherokee. Members of the Lodge helped to charter the second Lodge in Indian Territory at Ft. Gibson. The membership of that Lodge consisted primarily of soldiers and merchants."

John Jumper
Chief of the Seminole Nation
Ordained Baptist Minister

“A lifelong friend of Joseph Murrow, Jumper was largely responsible for the rebuilding of the Seminole nation. An ardent Freemason, he encouraged many Seminole to join the Fraternity.”

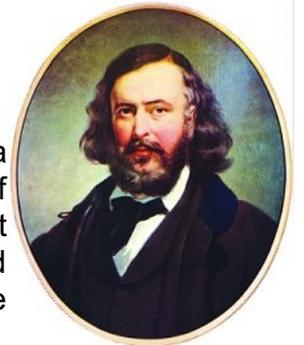


George W. Stidham
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Creek Nation

“He came to Indian Territory with the Creek in 1837 and established the fifth Lodge in the Territory. He served as Worshipful Master of Muskogee Lodge when the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory was organized in 1874. Elected a Principal Chief of the Creek during the Civil War, he became Chief Justice in 1867 and continued in that office until his death. Tribal leaders from many Nations were among the most active and important Freemasons in the young Territory.”

Albert Pike
Confederate Commissioner of Indian Affairs

“Perhaps the most important figure in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Pike was also a tireless advocate for the rights of Native Americans. He wrote the Declaration of Independence for the Cherokee Nation and continually petitioned Congress for payment of treaty obligations to the Indians. He created the Seminole Nation as a separate and independent tribe from the Creek Nation. He defined the geographical boundaries of the Nations, and wrote much of the Indian law in America.”



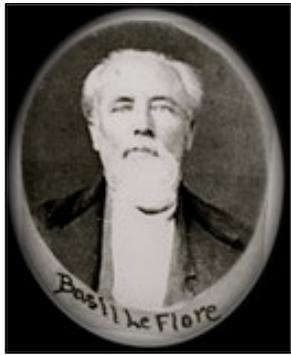
Opothleyahola
Chief of the Muskogee Creek
Speaker of the Upper Creek Council

“One of the most important leaders of the Creek Nation, he was known as an outstanding orator. He became a “diplomatic chief,” responsible for treaty negotiations. As his biography in the “Chronicles of Oklahoma” states: “His influence over his people became a fixed factor in their lives. He was cool, cautious, and sagacious and displayed talents of a superior order. His fidelity to the best interests of his people was unquestioned.” He was active in the early Masonic life of the Territory.”

Peter P. Pitchlynn
Principal Chief of the Choctaw 1864-1866

“Pitchlynn assisted in the removal of the Choctaw to Indian Territory, serving as an interpreter. He became a Master Mason and joined the York Rite of Freemasonry in Washington, D.C. In the spring of 1860, he was one of the four head Chiefs of the Five Civilized Tribes who received the Degrees of the Scottish Rite personally from Albert Pike. He was instrumental in establishing the third and fifth Lodges in Indian Territory, comprised principally of Choctaw members.”



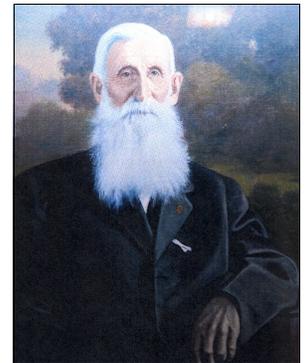


Basil LeFlore
Chief of the Choctaw Nation 1860 - 1875
Auditor of the Choctaw Nation 1875 until his death

“Not only a political leader but a cultural leader of his Nation, LeFlore championed education for his people, stressing the need not only to know their own culture and history but to learn the “majority” culture well enough to function smoothly and progressively. He was highly regarded in both the Tribal Councils and the Masonic Lodge, and his example encouraged many young Choctaw to petition for membership in the Fraternity.”

Joseph Murrow
Father of Oklahoma Freemasonry, Indian Agent, Missionary

“He established more than 100 Baptist churches in Indian Territory and became the patriarch of tribal leaders, establishing the first Baptist Orphans Home for Indian children in Atoka and the Bacone College for Indian students. During the Civil War he was responsible for the distribution of food to the Native Americans whose farming and supplies had been disrupted by the conflict. He created and published a newspaper for his Native American friends, titled the *Indian Missionary*. He also established Masonic Lodges throughout Indian Territory, carting home-made Lodge furniture from place to place in his wagon and teaching the Masonic ritual.”



The Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team

“Founded more than 50 years ago, the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team has conferred more than 600 Master Mason Degrees. They have performed all over the United States, with frequent performances in Canada and England. The team members wear the traditional ceremonial clothing of their various tribes. The conferrals usually include Native American song and dance. The team is known as Oklahoma’s Masonic Ambassadors. Over time the tribal affiliations of the team members have changed as old members retire and new ones take their place. There are more than 30 Native American Nations in Oklahoma, and the relations between those Nations and the Fraternity is one of our greatest strengths and our greatest pride.”



In addition to the photographs and captions, the display shown here in a photo by the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, included an Oklahoma flag, a color version of the Oklahoma State Seal, and a Grand Lodge banner. During the month of December, the Oklahoma State Flag flew over the Memorial.



New Correspondence Course Available From Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma



Correspondence Course #4

**Symbols
and How They Work**



The text for this Correspondence Course is *Symbols: The Language of Freemasonry* which is found on the flash drive "Freemasonry on a Stick" available from the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.

We're happy to announce that a new Correspondence Course is available. The Correspondence Courses are an excellent way for Masons to gain more information, no matter how young or old they are in Masonry.

Course #1 focuses on the Oklahoma Masonic Constitution and Code.

Course #2 deals with general background knowledge of Oklahoma Freemasonry and Freemasonry in general.

Course #3 is a more in-depth study of the 3 Blue Lodge Degrees.

Course #4 represents a new venture in Masonic Education for the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. As part of the Chance to Advance program in 2012, the Arrangements Committee produced **Freemasonry**

on a Stick, a flash drive containing an entire library of Masonic books, essays and articles. That placed a great deal of Masonic information at the disposal



of anyone with a computer. It opens the possibility to develop additional correspondence courses by providing the study materials in an inexpensive format (at current prices, it would cost more than a thousand dollars to purchase all the material on the drive in its original printed form). Current plans are that the next several Correspondence Courses will

use the study materials on the drive. **Once you buy one Freemasonry on a Stick drive, at a cost of \$10, you will be set for Course #4 and the following Courses.**

To enroll in a Correspondence Course, you write to the Grand Lodge at P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044, tell us which Course you want, and enclose a check for the amount. We will send back the test book and the study materials. When you have completed the test (it is open book) return it to the Grand Lodge. It will be graded. If you do not pass we will return the test to you, so you can see which questions you missed. If you do pass the test, you will be sent an official Certificate of Completion. Most Masons enjoy taking the Correspondence Courses, and we hope you will enjoy Course #4.

Course #1 - The Constitution and Code

Course (test) only - \$10 ----- Copy of the Constitution and Code (if needed) \$15

Course #2 - General Freemasonry (basic)

\$16 — (includes the Course Handbook)

Course #3 - General Freemasonry (more advanced)

\$21 — (includes the book *Further Light*)

Course #4 - Symbols and How They Work

Course (test) only - \$10 ----- Freemasonry on a Stick flash drive \$10



Update from the CHIP (Childhood Identification Program) Committee

Glynn L McCoy Jr.

During the calendar year 2014 we have had 24 event days to date and have completed the Child Identification Procedure on 1377 children. We have three more event days scheduled for 12/9, 12/10 at Vinita and 12/13 in Mannford.

The Cresap Family Foundation in Vinita donated the funds to Vinita Lodge #5, W.M. John Spurgeon to offer the program to all school age children in Craig County, OK. Approximately 2300 forms have been sent out to the parents. A majority of the Schools wanted to wait until after the first of the New Year. The events on 12/9 and 12/10 are the beginning and the remainder will be done in 2015.

Broken Arrow Lodge #243 was presented a Testament of Appreciation on November 18, 2014 for hosting 19 event days and completing 937 children in 2014.

The following Lodges sponsored events during 2014 with the number of children completed in parenthesis. Broken Arrow #243 (937), Mount Scott #540 (177), Norman #38 (69), Trinity #502 (8), and Vinita #5 (186).

I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers, which included Lodge members, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, job corps, DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters, Platt College, Dental Assistants, Jane Porter Owner of Cartridge World for her assistance with our Ink Cartridges. Last but not least my wonderful wife Lucile McCoy who has attended every event and also helps me at home when we are printing and assembling the forms, envelopes, loading and unloading the equipment and supplies. She says she represents Broken Arrow Eastern Star #140.

We plan on encouraging more Lodges to participate in the program in 2015. The Grand Lodge provides all the equipment and supplies needed to complete the program event. We bring all the supplies and equipment to the location of your event. For information and help on getting an event for your Lodge contact Glynn McCoy at 918-872-9350, cell 210-573-6413 or e-mail glynn.mccoy@cox.net



Frederick Lodge # 249 Says

"Merry Christmas"

to the Tipton Senior Citizens Center

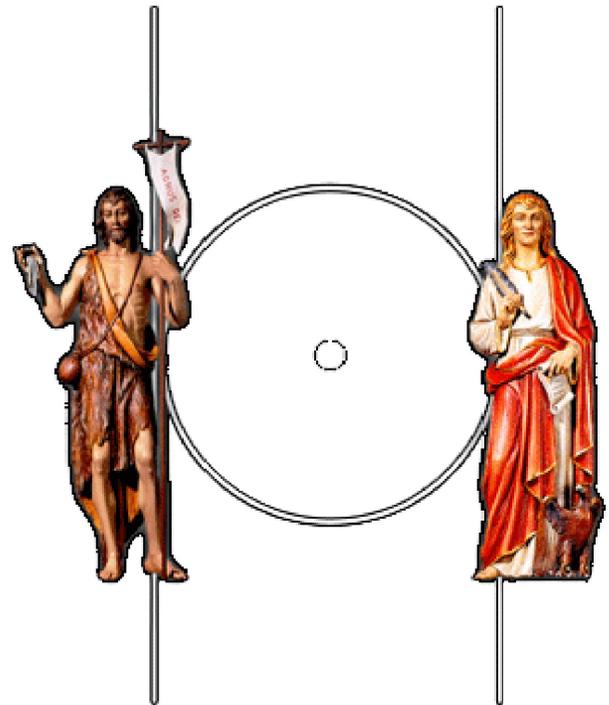
A check for \$18,125 can do a lot in the right hands, and the Tipton Senior Citizens Center is living proof. The Lodge held a Thanksgiving Dinner fundraiser and applied for Matching Funds to make up the total. The Tipton Center not only provides a place for seniors to meet and socialize but also provides an average of 50 meals a day to seniors in the area. Well done, Brethren!

St. John the Evangelist Day

— St, John's Day in Winter —



Massive mural in the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia, showing Washington and his officers in church celebrating St. John's Day.





Altus Lodge #62 buys more than \$4,450 in Toys

Altus Masonic Lodge recently donated toys to the local Salvation Army to assist with the Angel Tree. The Lodge raised money through fund raisers and purchased the toys, which were presented to Captain Joe Price of the Local Salvation Army. Captain Price thanked the Lodge for their continued support of the program. The Lodge has been involved with the toy drive for more than 20 years. Members of the Lodge also volunteer to ring the Red Kettle Bells one day during the season. This year they collected more than \$1,420.



The Oklahoma Mason Magazine is a publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of the State of Oklahoma. Offices are located at 102 South Broad Street, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044. Jim Tresner, Editor



“Masons Donate Over \$8K to Peppers Ranch”

So read the headline on the front page of the *Guthrie News-Leader* for December 27th. Worshipful Master Bryan Shackelford, Guthrie Lodge #35, along with Brothers Rick White, and Phillip Mosley are shown presenting the check to the officials of the ranch. (Photograph by Meg Morgan of *The News Leader*)

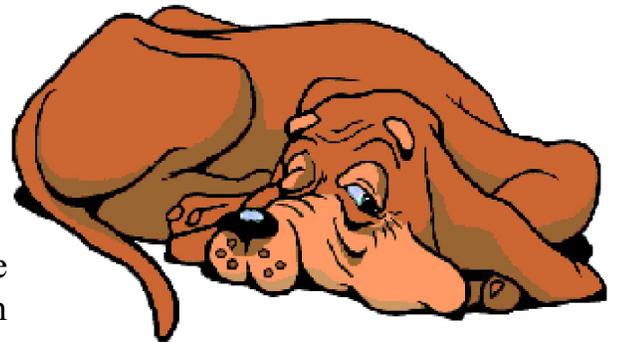
Peppers Ranch Community Care Facility is a ranch with several individual homes where foster care parents live with the children for whom they are caring. The Ranch provides support for the foster parents as well as special recreational and educational facilities for the children, including equestrian activities, a learning center, and art facilities. They are making a major difference in the lives of the children, some of whom come from backgrounds of almost unimaginable horror.

The Ranch has a special place in the hearts of the Brethren of Guthrie Lodge #35. This was the second donation of the year. The first, over \$6,000, was from a walk fundraiser held during the summer.



The Old Dog Barks Backward

**“The old dog barks backward
without getting up.
I can remember when
he was a pup.”
Robert Frost**



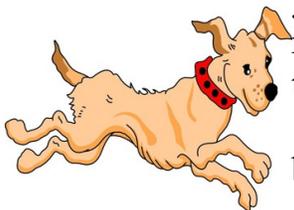
It's easy for those of us who have gotten a little long in the tooth in Masonry to sympathize with the old dog in Frost's poem. There you are, living in a small town, with so little traffic that you can sleep in the street, and, if something needs to be barked at, you can do it over your shoulder without really disturbing your comfort.

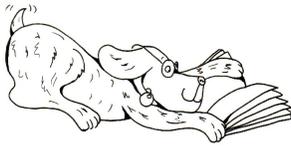
Then, without warning, an oil boom hits. There's a lot of traffic, and the drivers don't even see you, let alone understand that the street's your favorite napping spot. Not only that, but there are lots of new, young dogs in town, and they want to *do* things; chase rabbits, tree cats, and generally run around and explore things. What's more, they want you to help show them where the best rabbits and squirrels are to be found.

All of a sudden, we old dogs are not only being asked to learn new tricks, we're being asked to teach them to others.

But that's the reality of Freemasonry in the United States today. It's great news, because it means survival, and not only survival but growth and expansion. Across the United States, Lodges are seeing a growing interest in the Fraternity. Not only is Masonry appearing in more serious scholarly books (for example, Margaret Jacob's *Living the Enlightenment*), but in special after special on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and in popular literature and films. It is as if the world were discovering Freemasonry for the first time.

This increased interest is resulting in increased numbers of petitions for the Degrees, and the Candidates in some states who averaged 45 years of age just a few years ago are now averaging in the upper 20's. It is a vast change and challenge for the fraternity. It is a special challenge for us older dogs.





For these younger dogs are a whole new breed in many ways.

First of all, most of them know a lot about Freemasonry before they petition. We didn't. If we knew anything, it was that our father or grandfather or someone we liked was a member, and if they thought it was good, it probably was.

Most of our young members do not have fathers or grandfathers who were Masons. But they have checked us out thoroughly on the Internet. The day this was written, I did a Google search on the word "Freemasonry." The computer came up with more than 2,200,000 different sites. They have read a lot, both good and bad. Some have even watched the Degrees on the Internet. They have made a more informed choice to join the Fraternity than we *could* have made.

But they come with questions, and they expect answers. And it is our fraternal responsibility to find the answers.

The Grand Lodge recently surveyed new Master Masons who were 40 years of age or younger. The results are interesting. Overwhelmingly, they believe in the traditional Masonic values. Strongly. The majority want to learn and participate in the ritual. A majority are willing to be officers in the Lodge.

Eighty percent have education past high school, with about 50% having one or more college degrees. About 3 out of 4 are looking for spiritual growth and/or intellectual stimulation. And they expect the older Masons to be their mentors and guides. Here are some of the things they told us on the survey form:

◆ *It's frustrating not having men that will teach me what I need to know. Not many Lodges seem to want to teach.*

◆ *I would enjoy most to have a night once or twice a month, when Lodge is opened to have open discussions about Masonry (e.g. history of Masonry). Everybody has something they can add.*

◆ *No one will tell me where I can get more information.*

We old dogs in Masonry are going to have to stretch the back, get on our feet, and start helping the young ones get what they are searching for. We don't have to know the answers—they are happy to accept "I don't know, but I'll help you find out." But we do have to be willing to help them look. There are lots of resources.

It takes us a bit out of our comfort zone; we have to do less barking and more leading. But if we are willing to share in their excitement and sense of discovery, we may find it makes us younger to run with the pack.

And, after all, the ritual promises them that we will be as willing to teach as they are to learn.

Jim Tresner