

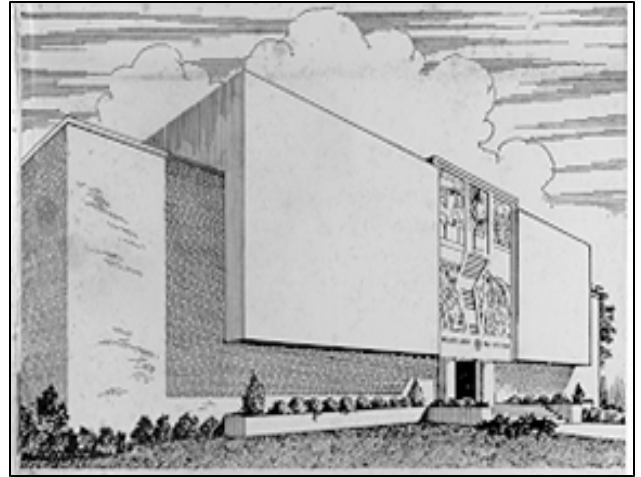
The Alpha April 2005

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
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www.hollandlodge.org

Volume 35 Number 10
Bill Sessums, Jr., P.M. – Editor

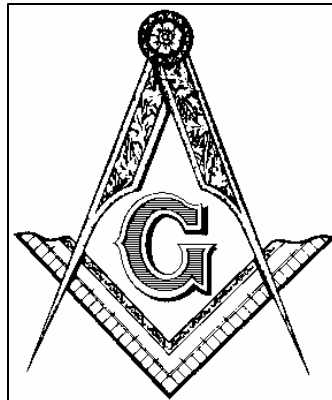
**The April Stated Meeting
will be held on
April 13, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Meeting Starts at 7:30 P.M.**

**Program will feature
An Honoring of Golden Trowel
Recipients.**



Lodge Activities/Calendar

April 4	EA and FC Festival	April 27	Degree or Degree Practice
April 6	Golden Trowel Presentation	May 2	EA and FC Festival
April 11	Holland Dark	May 4	Degree or Degree Practice
April 13	Stated Meeting	May 8	MOTHER'S DAY
April 18	School of Instruction	May 9	Holland Dark
April 20	Degree or Degree Practice	May 11	Stated Meeting—Past Master's Night
April 25	School of Instruction		



From the East...

April 2005 has been designated Golden Trowel Month. April 6 will be the presentation of this years award to Brother Emile Bussemey, PM and Treasurer and District Instuctor. Dinner is at 6:00 pm and the presentation will be at 7:00pm. This is an Open Meeting so bring your spouse and family. There will be a large turn out for this award and you will not want to miss it. Brother Bussemey means a lot to Holland Lodge No. 1 and all of Masonry and its affiliations in Texas - Holland could not be more proud and heartiest congratulations are in order. Congratulations Brother Emile for all you have done for all of us in Masonry as Brothers and Friends.

Continuing with the awards theme, the April Stated on the 13th will honor all past recipients of the Golden Trowel from Holland Lodge and affiliated and dual members who have received the award from another Lodge . These honored Brothers will share in the spotlight the Brotherhood of the Trowel . If you can attend please let Brother Secretary know in advance so we will not miss any one. Plan to attend both of these special meetings.

The **Eighth annual Sam Houston Lecture will be on June 5, 2005.** And will be presented by Brother Aaron Kornblum of California who will present **“The Nazi Persecution of Freemasonry: Squaring the Facts, Leveling the Myths”** This presentation will include a slide show and information from many museums. There will be a flyer soon with the details and you will not want to miss this insight to history, so sign up and confirm early for this annual open meeting and bring Brothers and Friends from other Lodges or your other organizations .

Degree work continues at Holland and a special “lawyers degree” is scheduled for May, lawyers from Holland including the Grand Master; details will follow next month. We have seven E.A’s working on their proficiency and will be having several Fellowcraft and Master Degree’s in the next few months and Past Masters night in May and should tradition prevail an officers election for the next Masonic year. Many of you have regularly contributed to the Masters Fund and more will be out this month about contributions. My year is coming to a close but Holland is moving in all aspects of Masonry, I urge you to get involved and be a part of your Lodge. See you at Lodge – check the web sight www.Hollandlodge.org for an updated calendar.

Sincerely and Fraternally

Earl A. Thompson

**Are you an Endowed Member?
Remember, only \$500 for an Endowed Membership!
Congratulations to our newest Endowed member,**

**Be a part of your Lodge!
How is your resolution to make a meeting, participate in a Degree or
write an article for the Alpha in 2005 going?
There really are a bunch of ways you can be involved...
Your Officers’ contact information is on the back if you want ideas on
how you can take part in Holland Lodge!**

The All-Seeing Eye and Freemasonry
By Brad Reel

The All-Seeing Eye and Freemasonry
continued

The first official use of the all-seeing eye as a Masonic symbol seems to have come in 1797 with The Freemasons Monitor of Thomas Smith Webb. Webb's monitor explained the symbol in this way: "And although our thoughts, words and actions, may be hidden from the eyes of man, yet that All-Seeing Eye, whom the Sun, Moon and Stars obey, and under whose watchful care even comets perform their stupendous revolutions, pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart, and will reward us according to our merits." (incidentally, you will find this exact explanation in our monitor as well) Thus explained, the Eye of Providence, or All-Seeing Eye is always present to remind a Mason that his words and deeds are being judged by the Supreme Architect of the Universe. The first illustrated version of Webb's symbol appeared in The True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor in 1819. It was depicted as being surrounded by a semicircular glory. In fact, even today, in most cases the All-Seeing Eye is represented by glory, or what appear to be rays of light emitting from the source shining down upon us.

The All-Seeing Eye appears to be a recent addition to Masonic symbolism. It was not found in any of the Gothic Constitutions until after 1730. It's use as a design element appears to have begun as an artistic representation of God given by society at large, rather than that as a generally accepted Masonic symbol. The Eye of Providence was part of the common cultural iconography of the 17th and 18th centuries. During that time, Masonic ritual and symbolism evolved. It's not surprising that many symbols common to and understood by general society made their way into Masonic ceremonies in this period.

Although Web did not describe the eye as being in a triangle, it has sometimes been illustrated as being in a triangle. During the 17th and 18th centuries when the All-Seeing Eye was making it's way into Freemasonry, Masons may have promoted the use of the triangle in conjunction with the eye due to the common use of the number "3" in our ceremonies. The three sides of the triangle are symbolic of the three degrees, three original grand masters, three lights (greater and lesser), three principle officers, etc. However, the pyramid is not a Masonic symbol and has no generally accepted Masonic meaning, except that of possibly mystery or permanence.

There have been many conspiracy theories attributed to Freemasonry. Before I began my research, I was largely unaware of most of the conspiracy theories and anti-Masonry movements that are out there. However, one that most of us have heard is that the Masons are covertly planning to take over the world. Conspiracy theorists offer The Great Seal of the United States of America as evidence of a sinister plan. Brother's, there is nothing farther from the truth than this exaggerated tall tale!

As I have stated earlier, the All-Seeing Eye did not officially come into use in Freemasonry until 1797. This was 14 years after Congress adopted the design for the Great Seal. Even then, in 1797, it was only a written description. Masonry did not

I say disputably, because Thomas Jefferson was also on the first design committee and there has been ongoing controversy as to whether or not Thomas Jefferson was in fact a Mason or not. It has never been proven that he had been initiated. However, regardless of whether he was a Mason or not, it was the committee's artist/consultant, Du Simitiere, a non-Mason, who proposed the Eye of Providence inside the pyramid for the Great Seal. And, the first design committee's suggestions were declined by Congress, as well as that of the second design committee. The eye in the pyramid wasn't accepted by Congress until the third design committee borrowed from the earlier committee's work to make what became the Great Seal of the United States. None of the members of the third and final design committee were Masons.

Furthermore, the interpretation of the eye on the Great Seal is subtly different from the interpretation that we use in Freemasonry. The "Remarks and Explanations of Charles Thomson and William Barton, third design committee members and non-masons, are the only explanation of the symbols' meaning. They explain that the eye on the Great Seal represents an active intervention of God in the affairs of men. However, Freemasonry interprets the All-Seeing Eye as a passive awareness by God of the activities of men.

**Welcome to Our
Newest Affiliated Member**

William B Kemmer

We will miss our departed Brother...

James R Willett

Raised February 18, 1942

Died February, 28, 2005

**Thank you very much to Brad Reel,
Patrick Mahoney and Duke Keller**
**for providing articles and items of
interest to the Alpha.**
**Others have called and have great
intentions...I look forward to getting
more articles and information to publish
from our Brothers!**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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