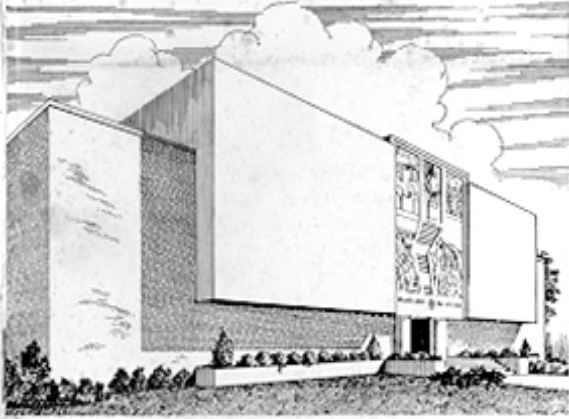


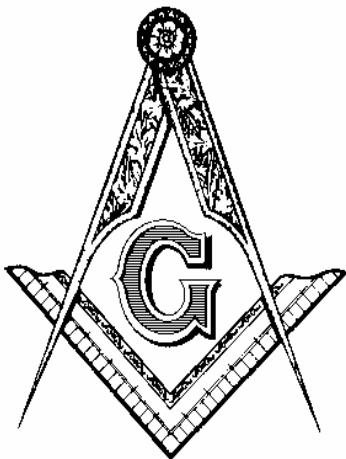
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
August 2007
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



The Next Stated Meeting:
August 8, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

Members, please join us for our regular Stated Meeting Business and if you wish to contribute to the discussion of our property and the future of Holland Lodge No. 1



Brethren,

I am writing this immediately after the July stated meeting. At this meeting I presented a budget which indicated that Holland Lodge would probably again post a net income loss for the year. I expect that this year's loss will be close to \$113,000. The main line item that is contributing to our loss is the expense associated with our property at 4911 Montrose.

I know that there is a lot of speculation out in the Masonic community about where certain bodies might be able to meet in the upcoming years. I would like to clear up a lot of that speculation during the August stated meeting. I tabled a motion during the July stated meeting which would discuss how I will approach questions regarding the building and/or potential sale of the building. I tabled this motion so that everyone interested in expressing an opinion in the matter might have the opportunity to show up to the August stated meeting and take part in the discussion.

I have observed with great interest the past couple of years and have seen how these issues have attempted to be handled and how they have caused some degree of stress and anxiety for certain members. My goal is to have August be the last time these discussions have to take place and that we all leave with a clear understanding of what my position and the Lodge's position will be for the upcoming year in regards to the sale or non sale of our property. This will hopefully, allow the Lodge to focus on more important issues that relate closer to the core of what Masonry is supposed to be about.

I believe that we will have a clear "mission" or "position" statement established during the August stated meeting and that Holland Lodge's intent can be taken to other Masonic organizations with confidence and eliminate the speculation about Holland Lodge's future location etc. In many ways Holland Lodge No. 1 is regarded as a leader and for there to be so much uncertainty about the future of this great institution is a disservice to Masonry in Texas, more especially to those Lodges and Masonic Bodies that might need information about Holland when trying make decisions that would affect their own Lodge or organization.

My personal opinion is that the Lodge is not ready to sell the building. Based on my observations from the past couple of years, it would take an exceptional offer in order to make us consider selling the building. I don't believe that the membership feels that the pending pressure of financial problems is significant enough to warrant selling the building at this time. Based on that assumption, I would be extremely reluctant to bring any offer that I received before the Lodge if I didn't think it stood a chance at being accepted, unless I was so directed.

Enough of this talk, this subject is not one that I enjoy and I hope that by August 9th we have a well established position and Holland can take care of the more important business of educating candidates, members and the community and more importantly having fun and enjoying the fraternity.

I do like is the fact that we have at least 3 EA degrees that will have likely taken place before the August stated meeting. It is always good to see new men who are excited about the prospect of joining this brotherhood. Witnessing a degree serves to remind us of the energy and excitement we felt when we were introduced as Mr. and left as Brother!

In case you don't know. I'm going to be or will have been in Egypt and Kenya during most of July. I will be visiting the great buildings which inspired men to start building progressively more and more complex buildings. I will be seeing the roots of Masonry, some of the great wonders of the ancient world, those edifices which inspired a widow's son from the tribe of Naphtali to dream to build a temple with the assistance of two kings. I look forward to sharing some great pictures and better stories about my travels.

Until then my brothers, take care.

Fraternally Patrick Porter, W.M.

From the South...

In last month's Alpha you learned a little about my background, where I come from and where I was raised. And you had a glance at the Cedars of Lebanon, which played a great role in the building of King Solomon's Temple. In this article, I will be talking about a person, linked to my background that played a great role in the temple; his name was King Hiram of Tyre. Tyre is located in old Phoenicia Lebanon today.

Hiram followed his father (Abi Baal) as king of Tyre. He himself was followed by his son (Baal-User), who ruled for 17 years, and his grandson (Abdastratus), who ruled for 9 more till he was murdered in a conspiracy. This was tied for the longest that a single family ruled as kings of Tyre, of course we only know of the 17 kings that ruled from the time of Hiram's father till it came to be ruled by judges. Hiram came to power in a little town and created from it the most important port in the Mediterranean. According to H. J. Katzenstein in The History of Tyre (1973), "It was Hiram who laid the foundations for the great Tyrian Sea Empire that knew no equal in ancient history." The 'Golden Age' of Phoenicia/Tyre began during his reign, but it wasn't all his doing. Tyre was aided by the waning power of Egypt, by the defeat of the Philistines in 975 by David, and by the unification of Israel. Israel was a state friendly to Tyre (Hiram's diplomatic skills may have had to do with this), and one which had few ships, a large market of customers for Tyre's trade, and access to land trade routes with Mesopotamia. One of the first efforts he made for Asian trade is the famous commercial treaty signed by him and Solomon. In this document, they agreed to engage in large-scale commercial transactions. Hiram provided advanced technology, building material (cedar and cypress wood to both David and Solomon), specialist technical assistance (architects & craftsmen), in exchange for Solomon's silver, farm products, and "food for the royal household. The agricultural products sent to Tyre were received on an annual basis over a period of twenty years. Hiram's craftsmen designed and built the temple of Jerusalem and the Palace of Solomon. Among the furnishings these craftsmen built were two bronze pillars (18 cubits high and 12 cubits in circumference with finely worked bronze capitols on each, rising another 5 cubits. Israel also paid 120 talents of gold to Tyre and turned over "twenty cities" in the lands of Galilee as a guarantee of the agreements. Solomon needed more wood and gold-work than he expected. The 20 cities were turned over to him as a surety that the debt would be paid. When it was paid, the cities were returned to Solomon.

The Phoenicians had a proven record of their building skills in their Temple of Melqart in Tyre. Historians refer to it as one of unmatched magnificence in the Eastern Mediterranean. It was said to have two great columns one of gold and the other covered with precious stones. Herodotus sang its praises when he visited Tyre. Its name was change to the Temple of Heracles when he visited. After studying records about Solomon's Temple and Melqart's Temple, one finds a lot in common between the two. It would not be a far-fetched suggestion to say that Solomon's Temple of Jerusalem was a copy of Melqart's Temple of Tyre. Because of the splendor it occupied in their mind, it is understandable that the Phoenician builders must have used Melqart's Temple as a prototype for designing and building Solomon's Temple. This was a little story that connects the country that I was born and raised in to the greatness of King Solomon's temple. And as everybody knows masonry is greatly influenced by King Solomon and king Hiram as both had a great deal in building the temple. Brethren I leave you here and I hope you enjoyed my article for this month. We will see each other next month.

Fraternally, Wael Semaan, Junior Warden

Texas Masonic History, from John "Corky" Daut

At a celebration of the Festival of St. John the Baptist in 1844 at Portland, Maine, R.:W.: Brother Teulon, a member of the Grand Lodge of Texas, in reply to a toast complimentary to the Masons of that Republic, observed "Texas is emphatically a Masonic country: all of our presidents and vice-presidents, and four-fifths of our state officers, were or are Masons; our national emblem, the 'Lone Star,' was chosen from among the emblems selected by Freemasonry, to illustrate the moral virtues -- it is a five-pointed star, and alludes to the five points of fellowship."

The first known Masonic meeting ever held in Texas was in February 1828 when Stephen F. Austin, Ira Ingram (who had his land in what would be Waller County) and 5 other masons met in San Felipe. They met to draw up a petition to get a dispensation to form new masonic lodge in San Felipe Texas. The petition was submitted to the grand lodge in Mexico City. The petition was never acted on.

The second effort was organized in Brazoria County in March of 1835 for the purpose of establishing a lodge in Texas. After meeting under an oak tree near the town of Brazoria the six Masons attending decided to apply to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to create a new lodge in Texas.

After the dispensation was issued the first Texas lodge, called Holland Lodge No. 36, was formed and opened. It was named after John Henry Holland who was the Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana. John M. Allen delivered the charter for the new lodge to Anson Jones, the first Worshipful Master of Holland Lodge No. 36, just before the battle begin at the San Jacinto battleground. Holland Lodge No. 36 was later changed to Holland No. 1.

Two additional Texas lodges were formed, and each given a dispensation and charter by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. They were: Milam Lodge No. 40 in Nacogdoches, and McFarland Lodge No. 41 in San Augustine. Both of these lodges were formed in 1837. Representatives from the two new lodges, and Holland Lodge No. 36, met in Houston and established the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. \ Anson Jones who was the fourth and final President of the Republic of Texas was elected as the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas.

By the time the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was held in Houston on April 16, 1838 the list contained 25 lodges. (The First was Holland Lodge No. 1.)

From the Secretary

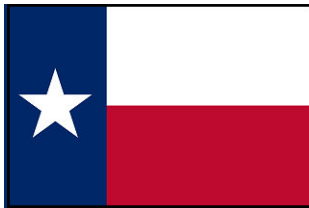
Did You Know? What was the symbolism of the tribe of Asher? Eighth son of Jacob, and the ninth point of the ancient English lectures of the twelve original points that formed the basis of the system of Speculative Science, in allusion to the twelve tribes of Israel. In-trusting the candidate with the mysteries was symbolized by the tribe of Asher, as it was said that he was an inheritor of richness and royal dainties. Gen 49: 20.

Thank you, Bro. Phillip von Stephens for sharing this info!

The New Pledge to the Texas Flag

Just a reminder, in June of this year the official Pledge to the Texas Flag was changed, it is now:

**"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee,
Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."**



Lodge Activities/Calendar

Upcoming Meetings

**August 8, 2007 Stated Meeting
September 12, 2007 Stated Meeting**

Please be sure to check the website at
www.HollandLodge.org
for updates & announcements.

We will miss our departed Brothers

**Doyle B Crawford
Raised March 2, 1957
Deceased June 3, 2007**

**Past Grand Master
Harry Cunningham Deceased June 2007**

From The Stewards, 50 Year Masons to Be Presented with a Special Dessert!

50+ year members will be specially recognized with a special dessert before the Stated Meeting on August 8th. All 50+ year members are invited to dine with us at 6:30pm and partake of this treat for you (pl). Of course, all Masons and guests are invited to join in with this celebration.

Brother Adams and I are honored serving as your Holland Lodge Stewards for 2007-2008 and will continue with ongoing surprises so come more often to experience what's happening and to sample our meals. We hold a "Kitchen Klatch" every Wednesday evening wherein all are welcome to polish the Work, visit, and generally have a Masonically good time.

We always look forwards to shaking your hands and filling your plates.

F & S, Brother Meier

Suspended for Non Payment of Dues

Brethren, each year we have Brothers go suspended for non payment of dues. We sometimes find out that they have passed away, are sick or can't pay their dues for reasons that the Lodge may assist with. If you know any of the Men listed below who have now been suspended for non payment of dues please contact them and then let your Secretary know the specifics. We don't want our Brethren lost to Masonry due to circumstances beyond their control.

Roberto L Brave– Raised November 1988
Lewis E Bruecher– Raised October 1959
Harry M. Carlton, Jr.—Raised October 1978
Maurice E. Dodson– Raised March 1967
Edwin S Hill– Raised April 1962
David C Hornsberger– Raised January 2002
Kenneth R. Miller Sr.– Raised June 1981
Lawrence P Monks– Raised March 2001
James T Parsons, Jr.– Raised December 1978
Adolfo R Rodriguez– Raised August 2000
Edward S Topek–Raised September 1968

Have you made your family aware to notify your Lodge upon your passing? Have you discussed your desires regarding having a Masonic Burial Service? Your Family needs to know your desires and be willing to allow your Lodge to perform the service. Please discuss your wishes with your family and provide them with information on how to contact your Lodge. Your family will likely have many things on their minds including grief, sadness, funeral arrangements etc, make it easier for them by putting your affairs in order ahead of time. Let them know what type of funeral service you would like to have, where your will and insurance papers are kept and finally, let them know that they can turn to your Fraternity for comfort and assistance during difficult times.

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Patrick Porter	713-796-1131	713-294-3704	worshipfulmaster@hollandlodge.org
Senior Warden	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	Seniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Junior Warden	Wael Semaan	832-251-7051	713-935-8109	Juniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Treasurer	Emile A. Bussemey	713-729-1348	713-260-7453	Treasurer@hollandlodge.org
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713-723-2009	713-723-2009	Secretary@hollandlodge.org
Chaplain	Steven Lattelle			Chaplain@hollandlodge.org
Senior Deacon	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	Seniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Junior Deacon	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	Juniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Senior Steward	Michael Meier	713-729-6426	713-529-0912	SeniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Junior Steward	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	JuniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Marshal	Nicolas Evanoff			Marshal@hollandlodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Nicholas Rocha		713-645-7200	Masterofceromonies@hollandlodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliott	713-236-0359	713-236-0359	Musician@hollandlodge.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713-666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate P M	Duncan Chapman	281-447-8200	832-212-3181	ImmediatePM@hollandlodge.org

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