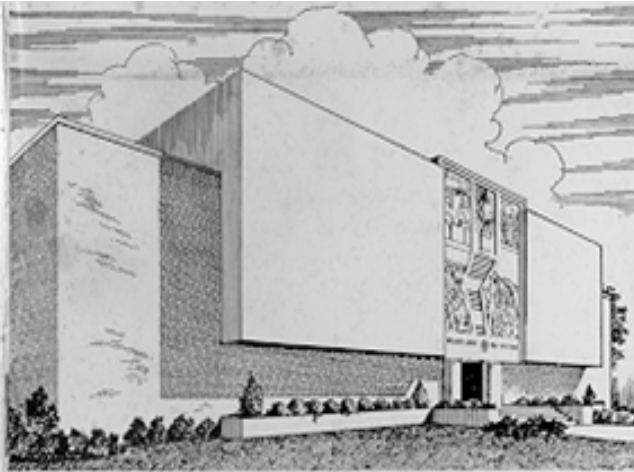


THE e-ALPHA

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912 www.hollandlodge.org
December 2003
Volume 34 Number 6
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



STATED MEETING

December 10, 2003
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome

PROGRAM

Brother Thomas Behrman, J.W.
Will deliver a report of the
Grand Lodge proceedings

Be sure to join us as we welcome

M.: W.: Reese L. Harrison, Jr.
Grand Master of Masons in Texas
(and member of Holland Lodge)

As he makes his Official Visit

To Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F.&A.M.
On Wednesday, January 21, 2004
Supper will be served at 6:00 P.M.

Also in attendance will be our
Scottish Brethren in full kilts

From the East..

November continued to be a busy month with Degrees, Forums and schools of instruction. Bro. Brad Reel was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on November 5. Be sure and congratulate him.

Holland Lodge hosted a Forum with R.: W.: Tommy Griffin teaching the finer points in our Masonic Degrees. There were over 55 Masons present but only 10 from Holland Lodge. The Forum was put on at Holland Lodge for the members of Holland to come and learn. Unfortunately, the Members of Holland Lodge were busy.

The November Stated Meeting was busy with the reading and voting on 39 Resolutions for Grand Lodge. Thanks to Bro. Tom Behrman for effort in presenting the Resolutions to the Membership. Bro. Tony Marks and Bro. Wael Semaan turned in their proficiency at the Stated Meeting. Both did well and reminded those present of the day when we gave our Masters exam in Lodge.

Holland Lodge had the pleasure of seeing an EA Degree put on in Holland Lodge by the Degree Team from El Campo Lodge. They did a wonderful job. Our thanks to El Campo Lodge No. 918. They helped out when Holland Lodge could not confer an EA Degree on our own Candidate.

November 24 saw an open meeting about Masonry and the rivalry between the University of Texas and Texas A&M. Gordon Kelso from Austin returned with new stories that delighted everyone. Bro Earl Thompson told an 'old Army Fable' (Aggie wish fullness) and two former football players, Loyd Wainscott (Texas Ex) and Sam Williams (A&M Former Student), spoke of the big game and the meaning to their team and themselves. The Eyes of Texas and Sprit of Aggieland were played and all enjoyed themselves. I presented to Bro. Behrman a burnt orange tie for him to wear. It was really hard for this Aggie to find a burnt orange tie.

Monday, December 1 was an EA & FC Festival with work in both degrees being taught. Yes, we need instructors. We plan on moving the centuries old Holland chairs into the 3rd floor lodge room.

Grand Lodge is in Waco on December 4-5-6. By the time this is read it may be too late for you attend. There will be a short recap of the many issues to be decided at Grand Lodge at the December Stated Meeting.

Fraternally,
Patrick D. Mahoney, Worshipful Master

“From the South”

Brethren, rather than pick up again with the conclusion to my three part installment series on **The Lodge Courtesies [Part III, Das Ende!]**, I wanted to digress once again on the happenings around Holland Lodge #1 and briefly discuss visitation and involvement at your Lodge. Brethren, if I have said it once, I have said it a thousand times, Masonry is what you make of it. It can be as little a part of your life or as significant a part as you desire. We have had an eventful several months this year at Holland, with initiating and advancing candidates, stated meetings, special meetings and the like, chronicled in previous Alpha articles by the Worshipful Master and myself. And now we are about to embark upon the annual journey to the three days of Grand Lodge of Texas (“GLT”). I labored through the almost 40 resolutions to be offered up before GLT at the last stated meeting and look forward this month to reporting on the results of their consideration at GLT, in addition to the proceedings at GLT in general. I hope you will take time to seriously consider attending GLT with us this year. Typically, Holland Lodge #1 sends a good contingent of representatives, not only PM members of GLT, but all sorts of Master Masons and new Master Masons to take part in the annual communication. Not only are all Masons welcome, whether you can vote or note, it is a once a year opportunity to visit you Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco, see all the sites and festivities, visit the exhibits, library and other points of interest at GLT and, moreover, enjoy the good company and fellowship of not only your Holland Lodge brethren, but the brethren of Lodges from all over Texas. Of course, this is not to mention all the other sites in Waco, the Texas Sports Museum and Hall of Fame, the Dr. Pepper Museum, the Texas Rangers Museum and the Baylor University campus. A significant part of being a Mason is simply enjoying the company, fellowship and good times of your fellow Masons and brothers. The officers of Holland Lodge #1 hope that you will take the plunge and go to Waco with us to make the trip all the more enjoyable.

Well, we are coming off the Lodge trip to Galveston for the shrimp boil with Harmony Lodge #6, the barbecue brisket sale and festivities and the all day Forum and exams held at Holland Lodge #1 this November. Although this article is published in December, I am writing it in late November, November 24, 2003, to be exact, just before we celebrate Thanksgiving and the annual UT vs. TAMU dinner at Lodge. I hope all of you will be able to make it to the fun time tonight. From last year, Austin Scottish Rite member, Gordon Kelso, will probably be passing out burnt orange tokens, I still have my burnt orange pair of longhorns to wear again, and keeping the crowd in laughing with his stories. We are honored tonight to have visiting and speaking at Lodge two former football players at their respective schools, **Sammy Williams**, from Texas A&M, and **Loyd Wainscott**, from UT. I have met and know both of these fine representatives of their schools and I am sure that their stories tonight will be humorous, informative and, indeed, inspirational. We hope you will not miss the opportunity to take part in the celebration of Thanksgiving, bringing your family to this open meeting and joining into the fun. I have told the Worshipful Master on many occasions that I get goose bumps whenever both “*The Eyes of Texas*” and “*The Spirit of Aggiland*” are played. Putting them together at one time may cause me to suit up again and join the fray. As my wife and teenage children would say, “**Not!**”

I guess I will have to talk about visitation of lodges another time. We hope to see you tonight, at Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco and at the December Stated Meeting. The conclusion to **The Lodge Courtesies --- Part Drei!**, next month, or later. Also, I will probably have some thoughts on GLT, lodges visitation, involvement in your Lodge and maybe a comment or two on our Thanksgiving tradition: **UT vs. TA&M**. Happy Thanksgiving and see you this month at Holland Lodge No. 1!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

CONGRATULATIONS

**Welcome to Holland Lodge’s newest
Master Masons**

Brother George Griggs Huntoon III
Raised to the Degree of Master Mason on October 29, 2003

Brother Brad Allen Reel
Raised to the Degree of Master Mason on November 5, 2003

ENDOWED

Congratulations to our newest Endowed Members,
Their membership will live forever

Brother Anthony Joseph Marks

Brother Gordon H. Krantz

From the Secretary

Holland Lodge dues notices for the year 2004 were mailed in early November. Kindly remit at an early date.

Waste

Waste indicates affluence. Throwing things away means you know there will always be more. That is, until you lose someone close to your heart. Then comes the pain of learning that sometimes there 'isn't any more'. Sometimes what we care about most gets all used up and goes away – never to return. So while we have it, its best to love it and care for it and fix it when its broken and heal it when its sick. This is true for marriage and old cars and children with bad report cards and dogs with bad hips and aging parents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we really do need them.

FIAT LUX

by Patrick D. Mahoney, W.M.

M.:W.: Grand Master Boyd Patterson lead the Fiat Lux program in Waco, on November 14 thru 16, 2003 for sitting Masters and Past Masters in an effort to invigorate those who hold or have held leadership positions in their Lodges. The course work was not a lecture by the Grand Lodge but a sincere effort to teach and make those in attendance think about their own lodge and the future of Masonry in Texas.

I am pleased to report on the eve of Grand Lodge in early December that M.:W.: Grand Master Patterson truly desires open discussion and encourages frank exchange on the problems in Masonry. M.:W.: Patterson emphasized that recognizing the problems of Masonry is not enough and that we as Masons must put into motion solutions to the problems we see in Masonry.

The Life Cycle

With Sincere Sympathy

Brother Dallas Earl Evans

Was lost to us on October 13, 2003

*He was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason
In Holland Lodge on September 28, 1983*

Brother Conrad Wilbur Marshall

Passed to the Grand Lodge above on October 39, 2003

*He was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason
October 6, 1967 and Affiliated with Holland Lodge on
August 13, 1969.*

Brother Stevens Mafrige

Died on November 22, 2003

*He held an 80 year service award and was
Affiliated with Holland Lodge on February 8, 1956.*



LODGE ACTIVITIES

December 1, 2003	EA & FC Festival	January 5, 2004	Entered Apprentice and Fellow craft Festival with all instructors.
December 3, 2003	Dark– possible Degree	January 7, 2004	Schl of instruction and officers practice receiving the M.:W.: Grand Master.
December 4-6, 2003	Grand Lodge	January 12, 2004	Lodge is DARK
December 9, 2003	Dark	January 14, 2004	Stated Meeting
December 10, 2003	Stated Meeting	January 19, 2004	Schl Of instruction & Officers practice receiving the M.:W.: Grand Master
December 15, 2003	School of instruction – see website	January 21, 2004	M.:W.: Grand Master Reese Harrison official visit. See page 1.
December 17, 2003	Degree work – see website.	January 26, 2004	Fellow Craft Degree practice
December 19, 2003	Chanukah begins	January 28, 2004	Fellow Craft Degree- perhaps graded
December 22, 2003	See website for work.		
December 24, 2003	Lodge is DARK		
December 25, 2003	Merry Christmas		
December 29, 2003	Lodge is DARK		
December 31, 2003	Lodge is DARK		

Principal Officers of Holland Lodge 2003-2004

	<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Patrick D. Mahoney (713) 932-1993	(713) 552-1700	worshipfulmaster@hollandlodge.org
Senior Warden	Earl A. Thompson (713) 466-8452	(281) 376-5530	seniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Junior Warden	Tom Behrman (713) 721-6003	(713) 863-2234	juniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Treasurer	Emile Bussemey (713) 729-1348	(713) 260-7453	treasurer@hollandlodge.org
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens (713) 723-2009	(713) 723-2009	secretary@hollandlodge.org

FORGOTTEN AND CLOSING

by Patrick D. Mahoney, W.M.

Masonry in Texas is slowly closing its doors. With the average age of the Members of Holland Lodge exceeding 67 and considering the number of Masons who do not come to Lodge, Texas Masonry will be closing the doors soon to all activities except annual installations. Sad, but it is becoming more true every day. The Wardens and myself are pleased to report that Holland Lodge has many young candidates who are working their way to becoming a Master Mason. Our Candidates are such good men, too.

Then you say, what is the problem at Holland Lodge with good men coming in? The problem is only a few members attend who can teach the work or do the degrees. Holland is blessed to have many Certificate holders and many Past Masters & Affiliated Past Masters. While they have been leaders and doers in the past, they are unfortunately not participating and have forced Holland Lodge to find others to carry on our great Fraternity.

The walls are lined with Certificates of men not seen in a long time. Perhaps the certificates and graded degree records should be removed from the walls to allow room for new certificates for those now participating in degree and instruction work.

Holland Lodge has a current membership of 495 but we rarely have more than 20 members at a meeting. It seems the state wide attendance average is 10% while we are at 4%. I understand that many members live out of town, unable to attend, or that they have forgotten Holland Lodge is still here. Considering Holland Lodge is 168 years old it is hard to imagine Texas without a Holland Lodge, but most of our Members act as though they have forgotten it.