

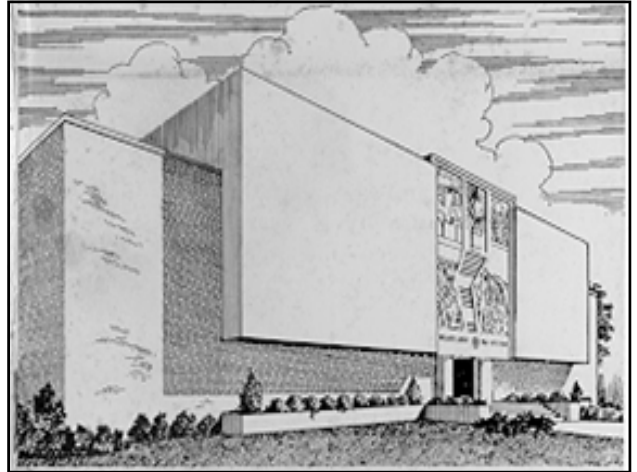
The Alpha February 2005

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
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Volume 35 Number 8
Bill Sessums, Jr., P.M. – Editor

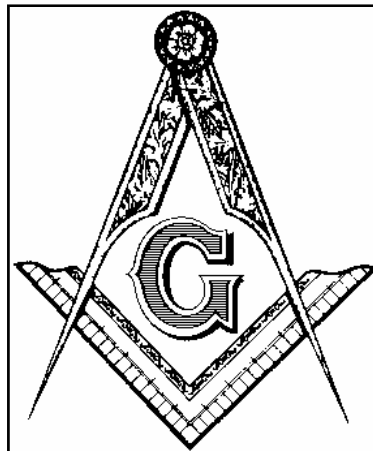
**The February Stated Meeting
will be held on
February 9, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Meeting Starts at 7:30 P.M.**

We will officially receive the
District Deputy Grand Master,
Patrick Mahoney



Lodge Activities/Calendar

February 2, 2005	Degree Practice	February 23	FC Degree Practice
February 7, 2005	School of Instruction	February 28	School of Instruction
February 9, 2005	Stated Meeting DDGM Official Visit	March 2	Degree Practice
February 14, 2005	Dark Chapter and Council	March 7	School of Instruction
February 16, 2005	EA Degree	March 9	Stated Meeting
February 21, 2005	School of Instruction	March 14	Holland Lodge Dark
		March 16	EA Degree



From the East...

February 2005, February, the month of Presidents, February, the month this Master Mason was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, in fact it was George Washington's birthday -the 22nd of February.

This makes me stop a moment and think about all the Masonry that I have experienced and all the wonderful time I have shared with Brethren of Holland Lodge No. 1 and many other Masonic Lodges and other entities. Two of the most enjoyable in the very recent past – One being the Holiday Feast at Holland Lodge on December 21, 2004. Over sixty Brothers and their families joined together in a Holiday dinner that was truly enjoyed by all who attended and left full – yes, everyone left full of Holiday and Masonic Excitement as well as Cajun Fried Turkey, corn bread dressing with shrimp, candied yams with pecan praline sauce and those little marshmallows, green-beans with onion casserole and colorful fruit salad followed by pecan, pumpkin, and apple pie. Ask some one who was there, they will tell you what a great time was had by all – Just Food & Fellowship.

Next was the reception of Most Worshipful Elmer Murphey, Grand Master of all Masons in Texas. The steak dinner was wonderful, over 150 Masons were present, 60 visitors (seventeen first timers) and 13 District Deputy Grand Masters (three of which are members of Holland Lodge No. 1) were in attendance. Brother Jeff Burnett presented the Grand Master (whom he initially investigated in 1966) in a manner we will never forget. The Lodge gave the Grand Master a Life Membership and Holland Lodge mementoes with a US Marine Corps footlocker - Semper Fi - to keep them in. Introductions given by past Masters Ron Sisk and Clarence Brown for the DDGM's. Introduction of the Grand Master by our own Bill Lins and Patrick Mahoney – What a Show – but then it was the Grand Master's talk from the HEART about his family, Holland Lodge No. 1, DeMolay and Masonry in Texas that topped the evening. PRIDE in Holland Lodge, its history, members and aura abounded in those massive walls as the Grand Master spoke from deep within his inner being and brought shivers of pride to all Brothers in attendance. Some things were hard to share, but the brotherly love brought more light into the hearts and spirits of those in attendance than can ever be measured .

As your Worshipful Master, I could not have been more proud to be a part of an outstanding evening at Holland Lodge No.1 – and there is more to come.

Three new candidates are in the system, an EA degree is Monday the 24th and we will be formally visited by our District 30A- DDGM on February 9th. Schools of Instruction and practice for all of our work will continue.

Save the date of April 6, as our own Past Master Emile Bussemey 3rd – who has just been named District Instructor, Dist 30A – will be formally honored with the coveted “Golden Trowel” award. Stay tuned for more details –

Things are happening at Holland Lodge in it's 169th year and I invite those who have not been a part of the activities to get involved and Thank the Brethren that consistently support “OUR” Lodge.

Fraternally, Earl Thompson, W.M.

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!

From the South
J.W. Duncan Chapman

I do not know where the brethren at Winnie Stowell Lodge # 1377 learned to cook, but if you were not at the Forum and Exam on Saturday Jan 8th you missed an event. The food alone was worth the effort. The feast consisted of fresh fried fish, cooked in a huge outdoor pot over a propane burner, hot cornbread, homemade pintos, flavored to taste, banana pudding, sweet tea and lots of hot coffee.

With Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden Brother Thomas Griffin frying the fish, Brother Brack Jones doing the seasoning and Mrs Sharon Brown providing her womanly touch it was a feast fit for a king.

Brother Thomas Behrman, Mike Orr, Bill Sessums Jr. and myself attended this forum not only to learn, but to show our support for R.W. Bill Sessums Sr. our new elected Committee on Work Member..

Right Worshipful Sessums was purely in his element, at the beginning of the forum he was confident, prepared and organized. He provided the brethren with interesting information about our esoteric work, told a joke to lighten up the meeting and set us to work. District Instructor Duane Anthony took the east, Brother Wayne Jones was in the west, with our own Brother Behrman in the south. We practiced opening and closing a lodge of sorrow. Then initiating a candidate in each degree. Brother Sessums answered any and all questions, and allowed discussions on each question or from any point view.

As previously stated Brother Sessums was in his element and we are fortunate to have him.

After Dinner we were divided into company's of about 6 each and set to work on the exams. I cannot speak for the rest but I can assure you that the 5 Masons at my table knew their work. Our instructor was Duane Anthony, a serious no nonsense type of guy, who immediately set us to work, Duane knew his work hands down and he was polite and patient with those of us who needed it. (that being me) The exams were concluded at 4pm, handshaking and congratulation around, we then headed back to Houston. The return trip included much discussion about the different points of Masonry in the esoteric work, with Brother Bill providing corrections as needed.

You might ask what did we gain by attending this forum. We made new friends, we learned a lot, we associated ourselves with men of high standards, we ate good, we enjoyed ourselves and we improved ourselves in masonry as well as in our personal lives.

Brother Behrman, Brother Orr and myself are much better educated and we created a brotherhood or bonding that goes with working together.

Brethren you cannot get any better than that!

From the Secretary

Dues cards for endowed, life and 50 year members have been mailed. Dues notices have also been mailed and many of you have already mailed in your dues. PLEASE keep your Lodge informed of an address change and in advance when possible. It helps to keep the Lodge's mailing costs down. If you have an email address and are not receiving periodic notices of called meetinas and special events as well as the e-alpha please see a note via email to secretary@hollandlodge.org and we will be sure you are added to the lists.

**Congratulations to our
Newly Endowed Member
Octavio J Calvillo**

**Welcome to Our
Newest Affiliated Member
James A. Passamano**

We will miss our departed Brother...

**Charles L Baskett, Sr.
Raised March 7, 1945
Died January 17, 2005**

Help Still wanted

**Still seeking knowledgeable Masons who
would like to contribute to the Lodge
Newsletter. Experience not required,
just a true desire to participate!
Apply by emailing your article to
billjr@insper.com**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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