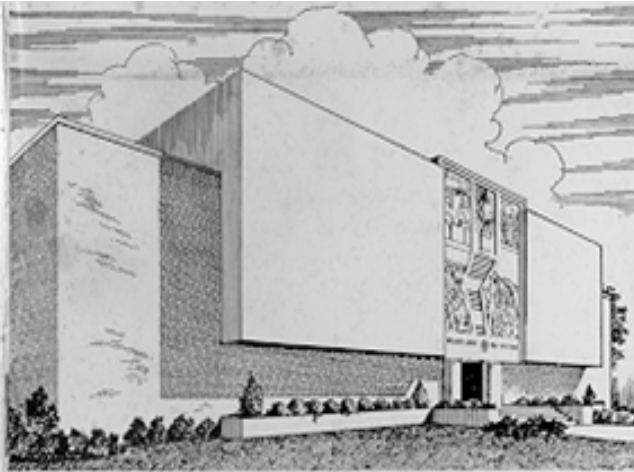


THE e-ALPHA

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912 www.hollandlodge.org
January 2004
Volume 34 Number 7
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



STATED MEETING

January 14, 2004

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome

PROGRAM

**Ceremony of Re-Obligation
To be conducted by**

**Brother William E. Sessums, Sr., P.M.
District Instructor of District 30-A**

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..

Happy New Year to all and to the Craft! Some of our Brothers can count their Membership in the Craft in time of 25, 50 or more years and while they are to be Honored, we should take this New Year celebration to congratulate Free Masonry on the many years which Masonry has guided the lives of our Members and of the years Free Masonry has been making Good Men Better, thereby making our world a better place for all to be apart of.

Grand Lodge was convened in early December with 39 resolutions being presented to the Members of Grand Lodge for consideration. Several resolutions were withdrawn without being presented and several resolutions were withdrawn as a result of an earlier resolution passing. Of particular interest was the 9 resolutions dealing with the closing of the Masonic Home & School in Fort Worth. (Not to be confused with Royal Arch Masonic Home for the Aged) The first resolution was amended to close the Home & School in a Masonic fashion within one year. The next 8 resolutions dealing with closing of the Home & School were withdrawn. On Saturday morning continuing to work on Grand Lodge business a motion to reconsider the previous day resolution closing the Home School was defeated. Understand that the reconsideration is within the Grand Lodge law.

Speaking of the proceedings at Grand Lodge, Past Grand Master, M. Boyd Patterson performed an exemplary Grand Lodge meeting. PGM Patterson conducted the proceedings with skill and concern that everyone be heard, but with a firmness that saw the business of Grand Lodge dispatched in record time. It was a pleasure to see PGM Patterson dealing so effectively, showing concern and with a bit of humor. Thanks for a well done and enjoyable Grand Lodge meeting.

The M.:W.: Grand Master Reese Harrison will be making his official visit to Holland Lodge on January 21, 2003. Dinner will be at 6 PM with Holland Receiving M.:W.: GM Harrison at 7PM. In reviewing the schedule for GM Harrison there are not many "official visits" and Holland should be proud to receive one of their own. GM Harrison is a member of Holland Lodge. R.:W.: Deputy Grand Master Elmer Murphey was raised at Holland Lodge and continues to be a part of Holland. R.:W.: Murphey and his wife had dinner with members of Holland on Thursday night of Grand Lodge. It is particularly pleasing to share with all that Brother Tom Johnson was named as the Grand Senior Deacon. Brother Johnson has been a part of Holland Lodge and Masonry working hard, but quietly for many years. Congratulations W Senior Deacon Johnson.

I am pleased to share with all the Members of Holland that our friend and Masonic singer, Brother Donny Broughton was elected Grand Junior Warden. Congratulations Brother Broughton, we look forward to your next visit and your next soliloquy. R.:W.: Broughton's Masonic songs are available on the Holland Lodge website for downloading. It is truly a gift to all Masons, go and enjoy his singing. <http://www.HollandLodge.org>

Brothers Thompson, S.W. and Behrman, J.W. and myself attended the 165th Installation of Grand Lodge officers at the conclusion of Grand Lodge. It was an honor and a pleasure to witness the installation of GM Harrison and the entire Grand Officers. I am proud to report that Holland Lodge being present was important to several Grand Officers each of whom acknowledged their Membership in Holland Lodge. It is always nice to see how the younger Masonic organizations are doing. Holland is the (168 years) oldest (but only by a little bit) Masonic body in the State of Texas.

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“From the South”

The Lodge Courtesies --- Part III. Brethren, without having exhausting the subject, nevertheless this will be the conclusion of my three part series on the Lodge courtesies. This final installment, as well as Parts I & II, have drawn extensively upon the editorial remarks and teachings of Bro. of R. D. Ellington, Jr., P.M. and Secretary, Portageville Lodge No. 166, Portageville, Missouri, in his article “**Lodge Courtesies**”, from the title *Masonic Tidings*. Again, I certainly encourage you to read the entire article of Bro. Ellington for a more extensive treatment of the subject matter. This series is again by way of reminder to our longer standing Brethren and by way of introduction to our newer Brethren. It is our courtesies, customs and usages that make us a well regulated institution, enjoying peace, harmony, fellowship and progress in the attainment of more light in Masonry.

When last we discussed the Lodge courtesies in both the August and October issues of the *Alpha*, Brethren, I closed on the subject of courtesies within the lodge room during the course of a meeting, or degree. To close, I only want to mention a couple of other items.

Is it merely a courtesy, or is it also the “law,” e.g. the failure of a member to vote on a petition if present in the lodgeroom at the time of the vote? Is it simply discourteous for a Brother member of the Lodge not to vote on a petition, even though the Worshipful Master has instructed all Brethren who are members and present “shall” vote? Well, the answer is yes, it is discourteous, and yes, it violates GLT law. See The *Laws of Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.*, Arts. 417 and 281 (Revised and Annotated, 2002). Actually, I do not think I need to discuss smoking, cell phones, talking, moving about, eating, reading, or sleeping when in Lodge. To be sure, enough said on those items.

And finally, before raising a new matter for discussion, or proposing a motion for action before the Lodge, or possibly engaging in debate during the course of a meeting, it is a courtesy to discuss the proposed matter with the WM **before** the meeting. Your plans may not fit with the course of the meeting or the plans of the presiding WM. Just as you have the right to stand and be recognized on a subject, the WM has the right not to recognize you, or the right to absolutely rule you out of order. A private discussion beforehand tends to avoid the whole problem. It is a courtesy to the WM to privately talk before a meeting in order to avoid the possible embarrassment of a public rebuke. In short, as the old margarine vs. butter commercial used to say, “It’s not nice to fool Mother Nature!,” i.e. the WM, as a lightning bolt stuns the offender. As another anecdote, at the Stated Meeting last month, a Brother rose to raise one of those surprise matters, not discussed before the meeting with the WM. The Brother stood and blurted out near the top of his voice, “Worshipful Master!”, in a manner similar to “Hey, buddy, look over here and call on me instead of them, while the other Brethren were merely standing for recognition. Did he violate a courtesy of the Lodge, or our bylaws, or even both? He apparently struck out on both scores, overshadowing much of anything he even had to say. The courtesy violated is not to raise a new matter for discussion or debate during a meeting without talking with the WM before the meeting. The law apparently transgressed is our Holland Lodge #1 bylaw, Art. XV, § 2, which provides that “. . . Section 2 --- When a Brother wishes to speak in Lodge, he shall rise and be recognized by the Worshipful Master. When two or more rise at the same time, the Worshipful Master shall name the one who is to speak first.” In other words, recognition for the purpose of speaking is gained simply by standing, not by standing and speaking. The right to speak is acquired through recognition by the presiding WM. If not recognized to speak, have the courtesy just to sit down and save it for another day. No shouting is necessary.

Many of these courtesies are contained in Grand Lodge law and our own Holland Lodge #1 Bylaws, e.g. see e.g. Art. XV, *Rules of Business*, §§ 1-13. So much for an important subject for us all.

Next month, some thoughts on either ‘a trip to Grand Lodge for the Annual Communication’, or ‘visitation of Lodges’, or a little bit of ‘masonology as applied to Holland Lodge #1’. We will see how the winds blow this next month to see what comes up on this page. See you soon at Holland Lodge # 1!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

CONGRATULATIONS

Holland Lodge extends its congratulations to three of its members who were elected and/or appointed to leadership positions of the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas for 2004.

M:W: Brother Reese L. Harrison, Grand Master

R:W: Brother Elmer Murphey, III, Deputy Grand Master

W: Brother Thomas B. Johnson, Grand Senior Deacon

ENDOWED

Congratulations to our newest Endowed Members

Their membership will live forever

**Brother Alistair G. Thompson
Brother Robert G. Welch, II**

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

FREE TICKETS TO THE OLYMPICS?

Brethren of Holland Lodge, and their families and friends, **are invited to an escorted tour of the Houston Holocaust Museum following supper at the lodge on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at 6:00 P.M.** The tour will start at the museum at 7:30 P.M. and will be led by Holland Lodge member, Brother Collin Keel, Director of Changing Exhibits for the museum.

The new exhibition is entitled *The Nazi Olympics Berlin 1936*. It demonstrates the pomp, pageantry and propaganda which were part of the game Hitler played during the XI Olympiad to disguise his racist, militaristic ideals. Did he succeed? Brother Keel will explain how the Olympics were a victory for Germany and a loss for the world.

The exhibit is on loan from the United States Holocaust Museum, Washington, D.C., and is locally underwritten by HEB and Bank One with additional assistance by Continental Airlines and KCOH Radio.

The museum is located at 5401 Caroline, one block east of San Jacinto and one block north of Binz.

From the Secretary

Brother Phillip von Stephens wishes to remind the brethren to remit dues for 2004 upon receipt of their dues notice. Follow up notices are both expensive and time consuming. Co-operation by the brethren is most appreciated. .



LODGE ACTIVITIES

<p>January 5, 2004 Entered Apprentice and Fellow craft Festival with all instructors.</p> <p>January 7, 2004 Officers practice receiving the M.: W.: Grand Master.</p> <p>Jan. 12, 2004 Lodge is DARK</p> <p>Jan. 14, 2004 Stated Meeting</p> <p>Jan. 19, 2004 Officers practice receiving the M.: W.: Grand Master</p> <p>Jan 21, 2004 M.: W.: Grand Master Reese Harrison official visit. See page 1.</p> <p>Jan 26, 2004 Graded F C Degree (tentative)</p> <p>Jan. 28, 2004 30th District G.M. Reception</p>	<p>February 2, 2004 EA Degree, Practice or Exam</p> <p>February 4, 2004 Degree</p> <p>February 9, 2004 Holland is Dark</p> <p>February 11, 2004 Stated Meeting and 50 year Awards</p> <p>February 16, 2004 EA Degree or Practice</p> <p>February 18, 2004 Visit to Holocaust Museum</p> <p>February 23, 2004 Degree Practice</p> <p>February 25, 2004 Degree</p>
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From the East continued...

The Masters Wardens & Secretaries Association for Masonic District 30 will host an open meeting for MW Grand Master Harrison on January 28, 2003 at the Scottish Rite Center on Braeswood. Dinner at 6PM and open meeting at 7PM. This is an excellent opportunity to bring your family and let them see masonry in action and enjoy a well prepared presentation by our Grand Master.

The December Stated Meeting was a great success with many Brothers remembering and returning to Holland Lodge. We had a Brother absent from Holland (The Brother lives in Ft. Worth) for 20 years return. Fraternity and Brotherhood is not just a phrase at Holland Lodge. It is a living breathing feeling. I counted 12 Past Masters of Holland Lodge present, along with 7 Affiliated Past Master Members of Holland. I am honored to see so many of my predecessors at Holland Lodge. It is from these Good Men I am learning and it is in their footsteps I now walk. Thank you, please continue to come, participate and guide myself and all the other Officers.

Holland Lodge will be busy with the Officers practicing for the reception of the Grand Master on January 5 and January 19. These nights will include more than just reception practice with the Officers starting their work on new positions. Come join in and learn and participate. We are looking for a stand-in for the GM for both practices. Here is a chance to act the part of the Grand Master without any of the headaches.

The January Stated Meeting (January 14) will have a special meaning for all Masons with a Re-Obligation by PM Bill Sessums, Sr., District 30A Instructor. The Re-Obligation repeated with all of your Brothers is very meaningful and reminds all of what makes us Brothers in the worlds greatest Fraternity. I look forward to seeing each of the Members of Holland for our Re-Obligation.

Be sure to check the calendar for Holland Lodge on the Holland Lodge website for updates for Degrees and Degree Practices.

A special note that the Members of Holland Lodge will be visiting the Houston Holocaust Museum on February 18, Dinner will be at 6PM at Holland Lodge with a caravan going the several blocks to the Holocaust Museum for a tour of a special exhibit about the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. We should recall the Forget-Me-Not worn by many German Masons who with millions of others were hunted down and died at the hands of the greatest inhumanity of man to man.

Congratulations are due to Brother Eugene Wright, who will be installed as The Eminent Commander of Ruthven Commandry this month .

**Fraternally,
Patrick D. Mahoney, Worshipful Master**

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

MASONOLOGY

THE MASON'S RING

Those men who help my dad each day,
They wear those mason rings.
A Square and Compass set in gold,
The praise of which I sing.

My dad, he hurt his back you know,
One cold and wintery day.
He slipped and fell upon the ice,
The insurance would not pay.

And since that time those rings I see,
On hands that help us much.
With mowing lawns and hauling trash,
Each day my heart they touch.

They even built a house for me,
Amid our backyard tree.
Where all the neighbor kids,
Would play with laughter full of glee.

My Mom she cried from happiness,
The time the Masons came.
To aid our family in distress,
Without a thought of gain.

And when I'm big, just like my dad,
Of this it must be told.
I want to wear a ring like his,
A Square and Compass gold.

Submitted by Brother David Hendry

Long years have passed since when
My dad was in that plaster cast.
And since I swore that Solemn Oath,
Which unites us to the last.

But more than that I'm proud to say,
I wear his Mason ring.
The one dad wore for many years,
Until his death this spring.

And one last time his comrades came,
To aid my weeping mother.
They praised and bid a fond farewell,
To our fallen Brother.

And after which MY son did ask,
About their Aprons white.
And of the rings upon their hands.
Of gold so shiny bright.

With tearful eyes I said with pride,
They're men of spirit pure.
Those men who wear those Mason rings,
Of that you can be sure.

And before he went to bed that night,
The family he foretold.
Someday I'll wear a ring like dad's,
A Square and Compass gold.

**Be sure to check the Houston Chronicle
classified section and/or the Holland
Lodge website for
meeting changes and details.**