

THE E - ALPHA

HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 MONTROSE BOULEVARD - HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006-6530
(713) 529-0912 – www.hollandlodge.org
JULY 2003
VOLUME 34 NUMBER 1
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – EDITOR



**W. : M. : Patrick Mahoney and
His Son Bro. Dan Mahoney**

STATED MEETING

JULY 9, 2003

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome

PROGRAM

A paper to be delivered by

Bro. Bob Welch

My Visit to a New York City Lodge

The 2003-2004 Holland Lodge

Budget to be presented by

Bro. Earl Thompson, S.W.

**Mark October 18, 2003 on you calendar for the
2nd Annual Holland Lodge Brisket Sale and Bar-B-Que**

Brother Earl Thompson, S.W., will chair the 2nd Annual Brisket Sale including the cooking, sales and luncheon. Washington Chapter, Houston Council, Ruthven Commandery and Houston Chapter, OES will also be participating.

All members and friends of Holland Lodge are encouraged to attend and support the event by purchasing several briskets and joining us for lunch, and by serving on any one of the committees with Brother Thompson.

**This is and “open” event and a great way to
introduce good people to the works at Holland Lodge!**

PATRICK MAHONEY, W. : M. :

A Great Big Masonic Howdy! And my thanks to all those who have helped and encourage me on my way to the East. To be the Master of Holland Lodge is beyond my dreams, including Masonic.

Enclosed is the budget for the year 2003-2004. We are living in a building which is exceeding our usage. The Lodge Room is special to every member of Holland, especially so to those Raised there. We will not clear our expenses again this year. The operation of the Lodge is requiring that we use our savings more each year. The declining Membership, increased cost of operation of the building and drop in regular dues paying members all contribute to the deficit. The Members thoughts and ideas are earnestly solicited. Else, your ideas may be too late to have any affect on our continuing decline.

We have been doing Degrees with an ever improving skill. The Certificate Teams are being formed and are doing their work very well. Congratulations to Brother Tom Behrman & his F.C. Team Members. They did two very good FC Degrees on a single night in June.

Holland Lodge has been invited by Harmony Lodge # 6 in Galveston to join them for a shrimp feast on Saturday, September 20. Holland Members will meet at the Lodge and drive down to Galveston in caravan formation. Cost for the shrimp lunch will be \$10 each. Harmony Lodge is planning to open a Lodge and a put on a Degree or present a paper on the history of Harmony Lodge. This will be a fun time. A road trip, shrimp for lunch and a Lodge meeting at the Galveston Scottish Rite Center. Please contact the Junior Warden about going and paying your \$10 for the lunch.

The Alpha will be produced in an electronic format. Using Adobe Acrobat you can print the Alpha. (Free for downloading at www.Adobe.com) Plans are underway to send the Alpha to Members with e-mail. The cost for the Lodge is about \$5.00 per year to send the Alpha in paper form. With more than 250 Members having e-mail we can save the Lodge a considerable amount in paper and postage. Please send me your e-mails, if you would like to help on the costs of the Alpha and receive it electronically.

Check the Website for current info about what is scheduled and going on at Holland Lodge. The website is <http://www.llandLodge.org> Besides the current schedule, we have lots of photos of the activities, Officer contact info and more.

As the July Stated Meeting will be my first from the East, I will need the help and support of all the Brothers of Holland Lodge. Not just in July but all year long. Sitting in the East brings a view of great responsibility. My hope is see every Member of Holland Lodge at least once this year. If you are not close enough to come in person then your report of having attended Lodge in your neighborhood can substitute. I look forward to hearing from the Membership and seeing You at Holland Lodge.

Patrick Mahoney

THE LIFE CYCLE

With Sincere Sympathy

*Brother Alton L. McMillan, P.M.
With grace and love joined his departed brethren
On June 12, 2003
He was raised to the Degree of Master Mason
In Holland Lodge on June 13, 1960
He served as Worshipful Master 1976-1977*

*Brother Charles Francis Mitchell
Was lost to us on October 19, 2002
He was raised to the Degree of Master Mason
In Holland Lodge on May 24, 1972*

*Brother John Finley Skinner
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above
On July 10, 2002
He was raised to the Degree of Master Mason
In Holland Lodge on January 20, 1954*

ENDOWED

By his endowment his membership will live on forever. One day his earthly journey will end but by the treasure of his Endowed Membership in Holland Lodge and in the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas his name and presence will be known to future generations of our brethren.



“From the South”

Tom Behrman, J.W.

A new year; a new station. Brethren, it is an honor and privilege to have been elected the Junior Warden of Holland Lodge for the 2003-2004 year. I and all the newly elected officers of your Lodge are anxious to get going on another Masonic year, merely the 168th year for Holland Lodge No. 1, A.F. & A.M.

I have no grand agenda for this column, but only hope to bring some occasional light, reporting, observations and commentary over the next few months. For example, next month I hope to refresh my memory on a few Lodge courtesies, occasionally overseen, perhaps a series of two or three such articles to remind me of the beauties of the Lodge. Without encroaching on the masonology turf of Bro. Jeff Burnett, I hope to write an article or two on some aspect or topics of historical interest to Holland Lodge. We have a long, distinguished and proud tradition at Holland and it takes me back to my college disciplines to do historical research and writing. Since part of my responsibilities this year will be the law and reporting on some of our brethren, I may bring some of this information to you as well. I will try to avoid any bylaws articles. Only in the event of nuclear war, or absolute necessity. Hopefully, the topics will be of some interest to you and the Lodge in general. Stay tuned. If in writing this column I can stimulate you to think, or act, the effort will have been worthwhile.

Since nothing is written in stone about the form or substance of this column, I hope you will take the time to let me know your thoughts and ideas, whether it be by telephone call, note, email, or otherwise. I can be reached at home, (713) 721 6003, at my direct line at work, (713) 863-2234, or by my email address at home, “tbehrman@mindspring.com.” Remember, that if you speak to a recorder at home, or a child under the age of 18 years, you should assume that I did **not** get the message. So call back again and talk to me, or better, email me. I check the email at least once a week and will respond by email or in this column.

More importantly, I and all the officers sincerely hope to see you at Holland Lodge this year! I do not consider masonry a spectator sport. Rather, it is the *participation* in masonry that makes us who we are. It is your presence that makes Holland Lodge and masonry a great thing, of enduring value. See you in Lodge soon!

Fraternally,

Tom Behrman

SAM HOUSTON LECTURE – 2003

THE CASE FOR A UNITED GRAND LODGE OF THE UNITED STATES of AMERICA

By **Illustrious Brother William R. Miller**
33°, PGM and SGIG in Washington

A precis of the lecture by permission of the author

One of, if not the first, consideration of a UGL in America was some 220 years ago when General George Washington was urged but declined service as GGM. By 1843 national leaders met in the city of Baltimore to synergize their efforts for a greater good but the Baltimore Convention still produced no United Grand Lodge.

Fast forward to World War I and the formation of the Masonic Service Association of the United States. It was greeted with immediate suspicion with its leaders promising to never encourage a United Grand Lodge.

Bro. Miller outlined some failed efforts on his part and disappointments surrounding those efforts and then examined, in detail, the three most important functions of Grand Lodges:

1. Elect a Grand Master
2. Dealing with regularity issues and resulting fraternal recognition's.
3. Promote and sustain fraternal health in the jurisdiction.

The 51 U/S. Grand Lodges create 143 Grand Masters every three years. This is true even in declining membership. Dealing with regularity and recognition poses problems more easily solved by fewer bodies to promote the Universality of Freemasonry. Fraternal health is a reflection of membership numbers and self and public good will killed by parochial self interests. It kills a great opportunity to collaborate nationally for the common good.

Many think the annual Conferences of Grand Masters and of Grand Secretaries are perfect forums for national collaborative action. Each conference adopts rules making it NOT a Legislative Assembly. Each Grand Lodge being Sovereign it is not possible to take votes that would be binding on any of them. This, plus its lack of continuity, makes it impractical for nation wide action.

In 1989 a national survey of 1000 heads of households, who were not Freemasons, was presented to the Conference of Grand Masters. It also identified some 16 million American males as in tune with our purposes and goals. and perhaps inclined to be interested in becoming one of us. Yet 14 years after it was distributed to all 51 Grand Lodges we have had a continued decline of membership. We cannot even figure out how to take action (on a national bases) on information we paid to gather.

When national action is called for the 51 Grand Lodges generally leave such action to the Concordant Bodies, the Scottish Rite, Knights Templar and Shrine as when it was up to the Scottish Rite to take on the Southern Baptist minority some years ago. So what can, or should, be done?

Should we duplicate the English Mother Grand Lodge or the United Grand Lodge of Germany? Or should we just design our own UGL? One perhaps with national spokesman within the framework of our present 51 Grand Lodges .

LODGE ACTIVITIES

BE MY SERVANT——

July 7, 2003	Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft work
July 9, 2003	Stated Meeting-see page 1.
July 14, 2003	Fellowcraft Degree or practice
July 16, 2003	Lodge is DARK or degree practice
July 21, 2003	Lodge is DARK or degree practice
July 23, 2003	Entered Apprentice certificate practice
July 28, 2003	Lodge is DARK or degree practice
July 30, 2003	Master Mason degree certificate practice
August 4, 2003	Lodge is DARK or degree practice
August 6, 2003	Entered Apprentice festival & degree
August 11, 2003	Lodge is DARK
August 13, 2003	Stated Meeting
August 18, 2003	Third Monday program.
August 20, 2003	Fellowcraft Degree or practice
August 25, 2003	Lodge is DARK or degree practice
August 27, 2003	Master Mason Degree or practice
September 1, 2003	Lodge is DARK
September 3, 2003	Entered Apprentice festival & practice

Brother let me be your servant
Let me be as friend to you
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant to.

We are pilgrims on a journey
We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will bring Masonic Light for you
In the night-time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you ,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping:
When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
'till we've seen this journey through.

Brethren will kindly take note of the Houston Chronicle classified section and/or Holland Lodge website for meeting details.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF HOLLAND LODGE – 2003-2004

		HOME	OFFICE	e-mail
Worshipful Master	Patrick D. Mahoney	(713) 932-1993	(713) 552-1700	patrick@mahoney.associates.com
Senior Warden	Earl A. Thompson	(713) 466-8452	(281) 376-5530	eat003@wans.net
Junior Warden	Tom Behrman	(713) 721-6003	(713) 426-6114	tbehrman@mindspring.com
Treasurer	Emil A. Bussemey	(713) 729-1348	(713) 260-7453	bizme@flash.net
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	(713) 723-2009	(713) 723-2009	secretary@hollandlodge.org

Did you know, Holland Lodge has a website?

[It can be found at www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)

You will find the most up to date Lodge schedule along with informative Masonic information, links and even a picture or two of what is happening at your Lodge!