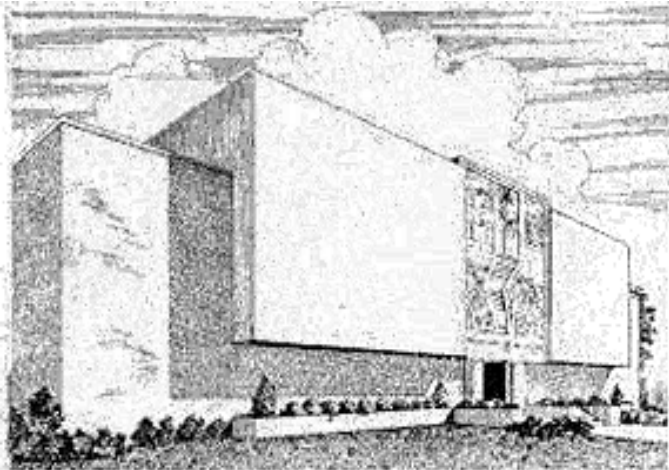


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
June 2006
Volume 36 Number 12
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting:
June 14, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

NOTICE:
Consideration and Vote
on Contract for the Sale
of Holland Lodge No. 1,
at the Stated Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Remember this Month:
Election of 2006-2007 Officers
Holland Lodge No. 1, A.F. & A.M. at the Stated
Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Also this Month:
Portrait Ceremony: R.: W.: Elmer Murphey III
Open Meeting, Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

Holland Lodge No.1: 1835-2005
170 years of Masonry in Texas

Brethren, before bidding you a fond farewell from the East, I must again remind you all of the upcoming Stated Meeting for June. To be brief: **NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION and VOTE – SALE OF HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1 PROPERTY**; **Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 ---- 7:30 p.m.**, at the Stated Meeting, Holland Lodge #1, 4911 Montrose Blvd., Houston, Texas 77006; **Purpose: To consider and vote on the earnest money contract for the sale of the property at Holland Lodge No. 1.** The issue of the Lodge real estate has been discussed frequently over the last couple of years and at the Stated Meeting we will be considering the earnest money contract presented to the Lodge at the May Stated Meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee will again report, as it did at the Town Hall meeting on March 4, 2006, and at the March Stated Meeting. As has occurred throughout this past year, we will be updated on the real estate situation. This is a very important decision for the Lodge and I encourage you to attend and participate in the decision making process on your Lodge. I have mailed a separate 1st class postage letter to all our membership with the notice and more details. **Please attend and help decide where our Lodge goes from here.**

It has been an unforgettable experience to serve as Master of Holland Lodge No. 1 in its 170th year of masonry. I am honored and will treasure the honor. I want to thank all of the hard working officers of Holland Lodge and wish them and the Lodge the best in the future. As noted on the calendar, I am looking forward to the 171st installation and, in particular, immediately afterwards heading to the golf course to play a round, or two, or many, with my son, Tommy. I want to especially thank our Jr. Warden, Bro. Patrick Porter for his faithful and tireless efforts, our Sr. Deacon, Eugene Wright, for traveling round trip 90 miles from Cleveland for every meeting, and our Stewards, Mike Orr and Charlie Dreizin, for their outstanding work and service to the Lodge. Charlie had to be in New Jersey for around half of this year, but he gave his job a 110% effort when he was here. Max Bernstein may be temporarily sidelined, but he has been our faithful chaplain all year. I thank the Brethren who stood in for our officers when they were not able to attend. These men are an inspiration to us all. Again, I want to thank all the officers for their hard work this year.

We have been fortunate to have unveiled 3 portraits in our portrait gallery this year, R.: Ws.: and Bros. **David B. Dibrell, Reese L. Harrison** and **Elmer Murphey III**. I am delighted that we have added to the prestige of our Lodge by including these members and Past Grand Masters in our Gallery in the Lodge room. We also have two new Master Masons to welcome, Bro. **Oliver Charles Wenker**, raised on May 3, 2006, and Bro. **Christopher Adam Clemence**. At our January Stated meeting, raised on May 17, 2006, in the 3rd Lawyers' Master Mason degree, conferred by R.: W.: **Reese L. Harrison**. Hopefully, by the time this issue of the *Alpha* reaches you we will have yet another Master Mason raised. Congratulations to all these Brethren and they bring honor to Holland. There are several candidates still in the process of doing their work and there is more degree work to be done at Holland. With our several new MMs, we will have to look to the upcoming year for our newest Master Masons to give their traditional short talks on Masonry in the Lodge. Given the number of various candidates this year and the degree work, I need to emphasize again the importance of

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“From the South” For the Last Time

So, it is with some degree of regret, and mostly of relief that I am finally able to write my last article as your Junior Warden. From here, someone else should be helming this portion of the Alpha. Not being a particularly chatty person to begin with it was often hard to come up with topics that I thought would be interesting enough to expand upon and which weren't inviting me into someone's cross-hairs.

So, as was announced at the May Stated Meeting the Worshipful Master has received a contract from a buyer to purchase our Lodge building. It was also announced that our property taxes on the building have doubled this year. Now, being a member of the SPC, and being someone that is heavily data focused, these facts are of particular interest to me.

First off, if the trend of doubling our taxes continues, we will be broke in 3 years (2009) at least according to my data model of Holland Lodge financials. It was my understanding that we will most likely have to start cutting into our CD's as soon as this year in order to pay-off the tax bill for our building. Doing this is pretty hard for me to model, but cutting into our assets that are producing income and putting them into checking accounts never seems like a good thing. This is pretty alarming...as it cuts the projected time we have in the building by about 4 years.

So, this brings me to the fact that we have a contract on the building. It's of a nature that would result in us getting a sizable chunk of money, but not so sizable that we can easily go off and buy a new building without being in similar straights as to what we are experiencing now. This leads me to believe that we need to rent for some time while our investments committee grows the nest-egg into something actually usable, should the membership actually want to try and build/buy a new building.

Kind of a depressing situation; granted we could try some kind of sell and lease-back, or co-residence scheme, but none of the people that have come forward with offers on the building have made overtures to that effect. So, we are pretty much needing to sell the building, or have some kind of massive donation provided to cover the taxes that will be ever-increasing.

I suppose we could attempt some kind of fund-raiser for the lodge taxes, I didn't hear that suggestion floated up at the town-hall meeting, and I of course neglected to mention it, probably due to that fact that if we can only raise ~\$3000 for a scholarship, the prospect of raising \$100,000 for our tax bill is going to be pretty difficult or no one is going to what to sign on for what it would take to make that happen. I know I don't have that kind of fund-raising experience.

Well, this is just a taste of things. I'm sure that I will give a more refined report at the June Stated Meeting as the rest of the data filters in. Hope to see you folks there!

Fraternally, Patrick Porter

From the East continued...

your participation in the instruction and shepherding of our candidates. We continue to need our members as instructors and your active participation in helping our candidates through the learning process to become a Master Mason is very important. Please let us hear from you on how you can participate and help. The last five weeks have been a very busy period at Holland, with Past Masters' Night at the Stated, the conferral of 2 Fellowcraft degrees and 3 Master Mason degrees, together with the proficiency work to go with the degrees. On Monday evening, May 22, 2006, we awarded the **GLOT Community Builder Award** to a husband and wife tag team, **June S. Holly, Ed. D.**, and **William T. Harrison, M.D.**, both of whom in 'so-called' retirement have dedicated their lives to years of out-reach work on behalf of the homeless, sick and poor both in both Houston and in Mexico. June and Bill have worked tirelessly in the Lord of the Streets Episcopal Mission and the Community of Hope programs as lay ministers for the homeless, sick and bereaved. It was a great honor and privilege to recognize their outstanding service to the community and humanity by awarding them the prestigious **Community Builder Award**. We had an enjoyable time at the ceremony and had a fun dessert reception afterwards. Congratulations to Bill and June on a life's work 'well done, thou good and faithful servants'.

I want to remind you that we will be hanging the portrait of past Grand Master, **R.: W.: Elmer Murphey III**, on **Wednesday, June 7, 2006**. Elmer's wife, Judy, and family, and friends will be in town and will attend to celebrate his portrait being in our gallery. It was great fun to receive Elmer when he was Grand Master and it will be great fun to 'hang' him on June 7. Elmer is not only a member of Holland, but was raised in our Lodge. Let's give him a good hang'n! Please plan on attending this fun event.

Needless to say, at the June Stated meeting we will be conducting the elections for the 2006-2007 Officers of Holland Lodge No. 1. Since we will also be taking up the real estate issue and earnest money contract, please plan on attending this important meeting. As noted, 171st Installation of officers will be on **Saturday, June 24, 2006**.

Brethren, I again want to thank you all for the chance to serve this year. This year we have faced many of the challenges confronting both Masonry in general and our Lodge in particular. Regardless of the decision of the Lodge with respect to the real estate, we must all come together and respect each other for our different opinions. As I have said before, no matter how many years you have been at Holland, the bond that ties us together is the bond on being a Mason, not a particular address. It is what is in our heart, not the address, that makes us who we are. It is important that we come together and truly be 'those who can best work and best agree.' I am confident that Holland will continue to have a rich history and tradition. It is a continuing challenge to make our Lodge a meaningful, relevant, engaged, effective and economically viable fraternal organization. I know we will continue to work on that challenge in the future. God speed and best wishes to our new officers.

As always, see you at Lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternaly, Tom Behrman

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION AND VOTE - SALE
OF HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1 PROPERTY

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 --- 7:30 p.m., at the Stated Meeting, Holland Lodge #1

Purpose: To consider and vote on the earnest money contract for the sale of the property at Holland Lodge No. 1

Did you see this NOTICE? Did you get your letter from the Worshipful Master?

Editorial by Bill Sessums, Jr., Past Master 2000-2001.

**Will you be at the Stated Meeting to let your vote count and to take part in this
VERY IMPORTANT Decision about the Future of Holland Lodge?**

Are you ready to vote to sell our building or not?

I Strongly Encourage you to be at the June Stated Meeting to take part in the
consideration and ask the questions you need answers to so that you can cast an intelligent vote.

This is not just another Stated Meeting!

I almost forgot you will be electing the new officers as well!

This is the last meeting of the 170th year of Holland Lodge! Be there if humanly possible!

From the Secretary

The Grand Lodge of Texas is interested in obtaining Military Information on each of our Texas Masons regarding Military Service. This information is for the Military Books in the Memorial Library at the Grand Lodge in Waco. The Secretary has the application to provide the information...please call or email him for more information.

Welcome to our New Members

Oliver Wenker Raised on 5/3/2006
Raymond Batchelor Affiliated 5/10/06
William H Vahludiek, Sr 4/14/06

We will miss our Departed Brothers...

Kenneth Wayne Urmy deceased 11/16/94
Young Frank Jungman deceased 4/30/06

Your Alpha needs your input! If you have any articles or topics you would like published in the Alpha let us know or better yet, get to typing! Right now we have a few Brothers who will be providing articles of interest for Holland Lodge's 171st year! Please put on your writing cap and forward any materials you think you would like to share in the Alpha!

Lodge Activities/Calendar

June, 2006 —

June 5	Monday – SOI, certificate work
June 7	Wednesday – Portrait Ceremony for R.: W.: Elmer Murphey III, PGM
June 12	Monday - Dark
June 14	Wednesday - HL #1 June Stated Meeting
June 18	Sunday - { Father's Day }
June 19	Monday - SOI, certificate work
June 21	Wednesday – Dark
June 24	Saturday - 171st HL #1 Installation of Officers { St. John the Baptist Day }

July, 2006 —

July 12	Wednesday - HL #1 July Stated Meeting
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Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
Senior Warden	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	SeniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Junior Warden	Patrick Porter	713- 796-1131	713- 316-4961	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	Max Bernstein	713- 667-5697	713-667-5697	Max.bernstein@lswc.net
Senior Deacon	Eugene Wright	281-593-1867	281-592-6446	SeniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Junior Deacon	Wael Semaan	713-530-9786	713-530-9786	JuniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Senior Steward	Michael Orr	713-290-1934	713-613-2830	SeniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Junior Steward	Charlie Dreizin	713-524-7039	713-524-7039	JuniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Marshal	Collin Keel	713-799-2735	713-942-8000	Marshall@HollandLodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Duke Keller	281-497-6019	281-589-9010	MasterCeremonies@HollandLodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliot	713- 236-0359	713-236-0359	Rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	Tiler@Hollandlodge.org
Immediate PM	Earl A Thompson, III	713-466-8452	281-893-0550	eat003@wans.net

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