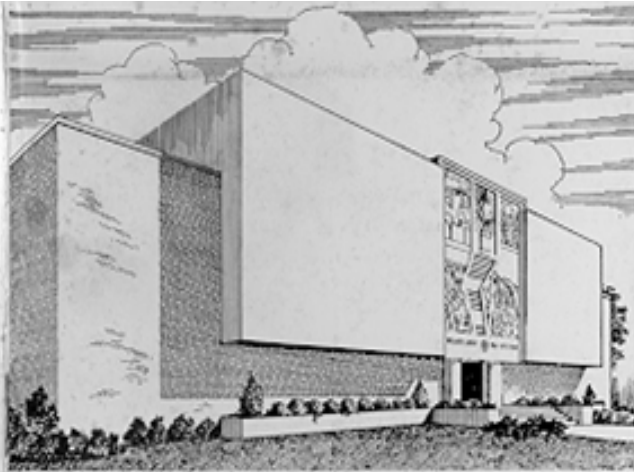


THE e-ALPHA

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912 www.hollandlodge.org

November 2003
Volume 34 Number 5
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



STATED MEETING

November 12, 2003
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome
Program will be

Fifty Year Service Awards
to be presented On Wednesday,
November 12, 2003 at 7 p.m.

To the following Brethren:

Brother Richey I. Brunskill
Brother William B. Harrell, Jr.
Brother Peyton H. Henderson, Jr.
Brother Shelby B. Oringderff

This will be an open meeting.
Friends and family are cordially invited.

From the East..

I have not seen and meet all of my Brothers of Holland Lodge. When was the last time you sat in Holland Lodge ? Well that is too long. Come and allow me to greet you with Fraternal Brotherhood.

Masonry provides opportunities for many of the Members, while at the same time presenting challenges. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to stand before the challenges of Holland Lodge and step forward with my best effort. I thank you and ask you to help me along in the challenges now before Holland Lodge.

Holland Lodge is prospering, if we look upon the trestle board there are 14 men listed, learning and growing in Masonry. But Holland Lodge is hurting at not being able to provide the Degrees in manner that follows how Holland has done Degrees. This past month two Masters Degrees and two Entered Apprentice Degrees were conferred. Along with several exams and a Stated Meeting. Holland Lodge is at work and needs more of the Brothers to help, else we may lose good men from our trestle board. Holland Lodge Members have been able to confer degrees with competence but several Brothers grow weary and need a rest.

November 5 will be yet another Masters Degree. This will make three MM Degrees in 3 weeks.

Holland is really cooking. Have I mentioned the superb dinner fare being served by Bro. Jerry Jones, Senior Steward and his sidekick, Bro. Carl Reilly, Junior Steward. Be a judge for yourself but you must come to do so.

We will Honor those whom The Supreme Architect has chosen to let remain among us for 50 Years as Masons. On November 12, 2003 Holland Lodge will honor 4 Brothers who have kept Masonry in their hearts for 50 years. There will be an open meeting at 7PM followed by Stated Meeting at 7:30PM. Dinner will be served at 6PM.

Our Brother junior Warden will review for the Lodge the 37 Resolution being presented at Grand Lodge in early December. The large number and surely controversial resolutions will affect how our Grand Lodge will proceed on a wide range of issues. Come and participate in formulating the position Holland Lodge will take and vote at Grand Lodge.

Brother Wa'el Seeman was raised on October 15 and Brother George Hoonon on October 29. It is always a pleasure to greet new Master Masons at Stated Meeting. Come be a part of the congratulations. Remember when we were the ones new to being a Master Mason and share that special feeling. Brother Tony Marks will turn in his Masters work at Stated. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear again those words we have all spoken and that have such meaning to us as Masons. Come and remember again.

Last month I reported that the Holland Lodge website was down. Thanks to the effort of Bro. Patrick Porter Holland Lodge is again on the WWW and we now have statistics of visitors to our website. Just a few notes about the stats: The most visited hours are between noon and 5PM and again from 10 to 12 PM; an average of 27 different visitors a day come to our website; thru October 26 there were 702 different visitors; 28% of the pages visited were those of the visit to Harmony Lodge in Galveston; Google sent most referrals to our website; the October E-Alpha was downloaded 103 times with September 14 times, August 8 times, and July 6times all in October. This is a busy website. Consider the young men now becoming a part of our Lodge and think about the influence our website has.

Bar B Que was great and thanks to Bro. Earl Thompson, Senior Warden for the Saturday special on October 18. Leadership shone along with lots of Brotherly love and affection. Visitors, family and Masons made the Scholarship fund raising a success. Thanks to all who participated, came and or bought a brisket.

Following is picture of the website calendar which is update on a regular basis. Keep informed as to the activities and how you may participate in growth at Holland Lodge.

This month as we embrace family and friends for Thanksgiving let us ever remember those in need and come quickly to their aid and assistance. May Peace be upon all Masons and the world as well.

CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome R.:W.: Brother David R. Dibrell, P.G.M.
As Holland Lodge's newest Endowed Member

Our newest Master Masons

Brother Wael Louis Semann

Raised in Holland Lodge on October 15, 2003

Brother George Hoonon

Raised in Holland Lodge on October 29, 2003

Our newest members by Affiliation

Brother Ian Murray Goodwin

Brother Thomas Ray Squashingroff

Both of whom affiliated on September 19, 2003

Our Worshipful Master, Brother Patrick D. Mahoney

Was presented with a Life Membership by

Wharton Lodge No. 621 on October 14, 2003

Members of Holland Lodge

receiving the Rank and Decoration of

Knight Commander of the Court of Honor of

the Supreme Council Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction on

Nov. 1, 2003

Joseph R. Melanson, Jr. & Carl T. Reilly



“From the South”

Fun Times at Holland Lodge #1 --- September/October/November, 2003. Brethren, since we last talked, yes, this is talking with each other, on Saturday, September 20, a traveling group of members of Holland Lodge #1 saddled up in a caravan and drove down to Galveston for a big shrimp boil with the brethren of Harmony Lodge #6. We put on a Fellowcraft degree, advancing Bro. **Brad Reel** to FC, in one of the most beautiful lodgerooms I have ever seen. The Harmony Lodge lodgeroom is painted and decorated in the fashion of ancient Egyptian art and architecture. It was a beautiful environment and added a great deal to Bro. Reel's degree. The brethren, families and quests of Harmony Lodge were terrific in their hospitality and nobody lost weight eating all that shrimp, red potatoes and corn. And Moonpies, too! Harmony Lodge #6 Worshipful Master, **Marvin Labohm** was a gracious host and fun was had by all. Sr. Warden and Bro. **Earl Thompson** cooked up a passel of shrimp and I believe Bro. **Owen Popham** may still be down in Galveston putting away a couple of more pounds of shrimp. It was a pleasure to practice our Craft and share in good fun and fellowship with our Brethren at Harmony Lodge #6. What shall we do next year? A fish fry? Another degree? Think about it, my brothers.

On Saturday, October 18, Holland Lodge #1 was the place to be for barbecue. The Eastern Star was present for a craft sale and we delivered the barbecue briskets that were presold to the public. The statistics are still out on the sale, but it looks like we surpassed last year. Bros. **Duncan Chapman, Allen Johnston** and **Terry Morton** looked pretty tired from all that 36+ hours of cooking the briskets, but their efforts were well worthwhile. We also served lunch during the day, barbecue sandwiches (sliced & chopped), sausage-on-a-stick, hamburgers and hotdogs. Another great time was had by all, the Brethren, quests and the many neighbors and public visitors seeing Holland Lodge #1 for the first time.

I wanted to emphasize these two events of Holland Lodge to let you know how much currently is going on at Lodge, how much activity, fun and Masonry are being enjoyed at Lodge, how much exposure to the public Masonry and Holland Lodge #1 are getting this year. And how much you are missing by not being there, taking part in the fun!

This month, we enjoy our annual Holland Lodge #1 Forum and exam on Saturday, November 8, 2003, and celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with our annual UT vs. TA&M dinner and program. I will be making breakfast (scrambled eggs, sausage/bacon, biscuits and gravy/jelly, maybe even some grits) and lunch (hamburgers, etc.) for the Forum, another no weight loss meal program, and Bro. **Bill Sessums, Sr.** will be assisting **RW Tommy Griffin**, from the Committee on Work, in the forum and exam. Good food, good work and good fun, the Craft at labor! And on Monday night, November 24, 2003, we will again enjoy the fun and rivalry of the UT and TAMU alumni squaring off on their annual turkey day tradition. The WM has invited **Pete Norman** (PM of Sul Ross and St. Albans Lodges, College Station) and **Gordon Kelso** (General Secretary, Scottish Rite, Austin) back from last year for another dialogue and as a special treat we will have two former football players, one from each school, **Sammy Williams**, from TA&M, and **Lloyd Waincott**, from UT, both from the 60's, remember the Southwest Conference, to talk about their experiences at their respective schools and playing in this game in particular. There will be game predictions abounding, burnt orange and maroon cake and a lot of good fun, school spirit and rivalry for the whole family. Bring your family and a friend for a fun night to get the Thanksgiving Holiday off to a good start.

Next month I will try to wrap up my series of articles on the lodge courtesies, barring further lengthy reports on all this fun going on at Lodge. Next month, my final article, **The Lodge Courtesies --- Part Drei!** Come join us this month. Remember, on November 8, the Forum, and on November 24, a Thanksgiving tradition: *The University vs. TAMU*. Hook'em, until December! See you at Holland Lodge No. 1!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

From the Secretary

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

Those Brethren who intend to attend Grand Lodge are requested to confirm this with Brother von Stephens by sending him a check in the amount of \$158.00 payable to Holland Lodge.

Forum and Exam **November 8, 2003**

Make your calendars for Saturday, November 8, 2003 when Holland Lodge will host a Forum and Exam with R.: W.: Tommy Griffin, Member of the Committee on Work.

There will be coffee and something to snack on before the Forum and lunch before the exam. We have had many Brothers from other Lodges coming to this Forum because of the Friendship and Welcoming attitude at Holland Lodge. Our building was bubbling with Masonry last year from the many Masons. You could almost hear the Building sighing with delight. It was a great time, come and be a part.

The Life Cycle

With Sincere Sympathy

*Brother William H. DeBruhl, Jr.
Was lost to us on October 12, 2003
He was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason
In Holland Lodge on September 28, 1961
He was Holland Lodge Organist
And Past Organist of the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas*

Going to Grand Lodge?

It is time to consider a trip to Grand Lodge during **December 4, 5 & 6** in Waco. We will be staying at the Hilton Hotel - home of Holland Lodge in Waco for a number of years. This is a road trip that is more for Members than Officers. We will have dinners together on Thursday and Friday night. The Grand Lodge Library is open and is a real treat. The Texas Lodge of Research has a wonderful selection of Masonic reading to purchase and there are Masons everywhere. Just to be among 3,000+ Masons who are your Brothers is amazing. The legislative process for the Grand Lodge of Texas is conducted on Friday and Saturday and provides an understanding of how we get some of the Grand Lodge Law that is read each month by our Junior Warden, Tom Behrman. Reservations should be made the Secretary. The cost for Grand Lodge this year will be \$158 per person, based on double occupancy. More will be said about going to Grand Lodge but please mark your calendars and make your reservations with the Secretary now!

LODGE ACTIVITIES

November 3, 2003	MM Degree & F C /EA SOI
November 5, 2003	MM Degree
November 8, 2003	Forum & Certificate examination 8am
November 10, 2003	Dark
November 12, 2003	Stated Meeting
November 17, 2003	EA Degree Practice
November 19, 2003	EA Degrees x 2!
November 24, 2003	Open Meeting UT & A&M Rivalry
November 26, 2003	Dark
December 1, 2003	EA & FC Festival
December 3, 2003	Dark- possible Degree
December 4-6, 2003	Grand Lodge
December 9, 2003	Dark
December 10, 2003	Stated Meeting

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

Principal Officer 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:

PURE WHITE GLOVES

When visiting a Masonic Lodge in England, and perhaps elsewhere, one is expected to wear white gloves. The custom has a long and well documented history, starting with operatives in the 1300's. This was an interesting development since there existed, in the middle ages, certain prohibitions against their use. Masons must have enjoyed special privileges reflecting this need as protective clothing, along with the apron, in the building trade. Early records show that gloves were supplied to the masons by their masters.

Many examples have survived. At Ely, in 1322, "the Sacrist bought gloves for the masons engaged in the new work". At Eton College, in 1456, "five pairs of gloves were provided for 'layers of the walls' as customs may have required." At York, in 1423, "ten pairs of gloves were supplied to the mason 'setters' at a total cost of eighteen pence."

As the advent of the operative mason drew to a close the custom of presentation of gloves did not. In the Schaw manuscript, of 1599, addressed to Kilwinning Lodge the earliest record presents itself. It required that "all Fellows of Craft at their admission to that grade were to pay L10 Scots with 10/- worth of gloves." At Aberdeen, in 1670, "the apprentice was called upon to pay 4 rex dollars with—Ane linen apron and a pair of good gloves —to each of the Brethren." At Dunblane, in 1724, "the lodge presented gloves and aprons to its 'intrants'." And at Haughfoot the lodge enacted, as late as 1754, "—that none can Enter here in time Comeing without a pair of Gloves to each member of the Lodge—"

When considering the evolution through which the use of gloves have gone in speculative Freemasonry one must remember the age in which the formal customs of the Craft were developing. It was an age of formality in speech, dress and manners, an age of courtly elegance, even in face of it also being an age of course, brutal and deprived. Gloves were an item of formal male attire and they have persisted as such into modern times in formal evening and court dress. Thus are seen two influences for the adoption of gloves as part of Masonic clothing; like the apron as symbolic and as part of formal dress of polite society.

A charming custom of presentation of a second pair of gloves for the new brother to present to his lady 'held dearest to his heart' was described in 1723 in a London newspaper.

Today gloves of purest white are worn to lodge by the brethren to symbolize and remind them of the tenets of our profession 'founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue' and to express the idea of one clean of heart and hands.

This same expression of piety and virtue is to be found in the wearing of white gloves at Masonic funeral services in Texas, and elsewhere, as a part of the loving memory to our departed brethren.

Parts of this article were taken from papers on the subject by Wor. Brothers T.O. Haunch, Past Grand Librarian of the Grand Lodge of England and C.N. Batham, Past Secretary of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London. The papers appear in summons of Q.C.Lodge for September 1985 and September 1990.