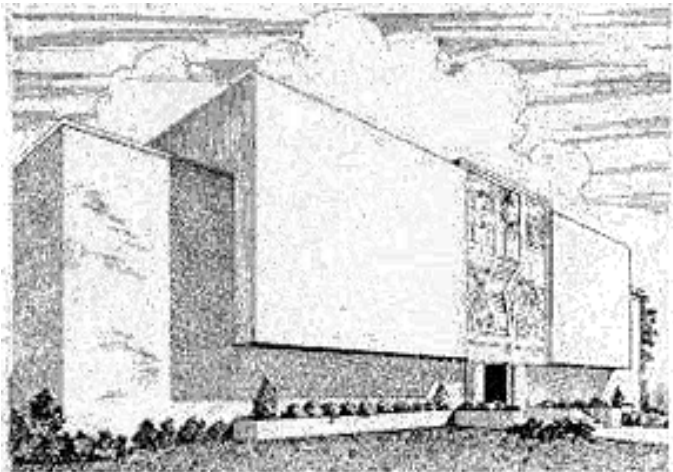


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
November 2005
Volume 36 Number 5
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



**Stated Meeting
November 9, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

**Program will be "A Review of the Grand Lodge
Resolutions by our Junior Warden,
Bro. Patrick B Porter**

Remember this Month:

**The Annual UT vs. Texas A&M
Dinner and Party**

**Open to all Brethren, their families and guests
Monday, November 21, 2005**

Remember next Month:

**170th Grand Annual Communication of the
Grand Lodge of Texas**

**Thursday - Saturday, December 1-3, 2005
Waco, Texas**



Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

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

Brethren, Fall is upon us, the time change has taken place, football is in full swing, temperatures are finally dropping after a long, hot summer and, before you know it, Thanksgiving and Christmas will have come and gone. We have much to be thankful for at Holland Lodge and we should all count our blessings. We missed out on a couple of massive hurricanes and hopefully the season will pass without further threat. I hope you and your family are in good health and enjoying the season. And I hope you will take this opportunity to reflect on our fraternity and enjoy the fellowship at your Lodge. We have several new candidates in the pipeline and I hope you will interact with them at Lodge in order to bring them along, encourage and advance them to becoming Master Masons. Getting back to degree work at the Lodge has been a refreshing break from the more mundane distractions of the times. It is invigorating to engage in the practice and performance of degree work at Lodge. I hope you will volunteer, or at least attend our degrees. The great thing about a degree is that everybody in the Lodge room is a participant.

The return of the **Third Monday** programs got off with a bang this past month. Bros. Andy Deas and Marvin Peterson had our first program on October 17 in the Holland Lodge dining room. The program was dedicated to all of our Holland Lodge veterans, but primarily emphasized our World War II veterans. In attendance were Bros. Clarence Brown, Dan Jordan, Ron Sisk, Jeff Burnett, David Fallas, Carl Reilly, Max Bernstein, Bob Sandler, Bill Meyer, Hunter Harang and Tom Johnson. Although some of our Brethren missed the dinner and story telling, e.g. Jack McCaine, Charles Browder and Owen Popham, they were all remembered and honored as well. We were all graced by the presence of spouses, family, friends and guests, all of whom shared in our memorable experience. The stories and reminiscing ranged from the poignant, to the moving and inspirational and even the hilarious. The evening was put on videotape and video and disk copies will be made for a permanent addition to our Holland Lodge No. 1 Library. I was pleased and proud to recognize the service, patriotism and example of my own father during WW II at the end of the program. The night meant a great deal to me and everyone present. Thank you Andy and Marvin for a wonderful evening and preserving the memories of our WW II veterans for many years to come at Holland. We look forward to the next 3rd Monday program, which I hear may be a return to some good old fashioned masonology at Holland Lodge.

Several Brethren joined me on Saturday, October 22, 2005, in Waco for the first **Town Hall** meeting put on by our Grand Master, M.:W.: Elmer Murphey III, a member of Holland Lodge #1. The purpose of the meeting was to address the issues of (1) should our catechism/proficiency be modified, (2) should we have 1-day classes and (3) the qualifications of a Mason – it is the internal and not the external. A good part of the downstairs of Grand Lodge was taken up by those in attendance and M.:W.: Murphey opened the floor to all who wanted to speak on each subject. In the spirit of frank and free discussion, the speakers came down on all sides of each issue. The Grand Master announced that next year there would be 16 town hall meetings throughout the state where masons in each city would have the opportunity to express their viewpoints on these issues. What shape and form this takes during the course of the upcoming year remains to be seen.

Continued on page 2

“From the South” with Patrick Porter, J.W.

Walking uprightly, how I use the Plumb’s lessons in my life.

The Plumb is an instrument that is very close to my heart at the moment. Get it? It is the jewel I wear at the moment, but on a more serious note it is also a symbol of how I try and live my life.

What does it mean to “walk uprightly”? Aside from the obvious physiological differences from walking hunched over or with your eyes to the sky; it implies an attitude, and a disposition.

“Walking uprightly” means that I am proud, confident and sure that no one wants to do me harm. A person that is constantly looking over their shoulder has a hard time walking uprightly. It also implies that they are second-guessing their actions and wondering who will lash-out at them. In this metaphorical sense it also implies that they have regret in their lives and are living in the past and not looking forward to anticipate obstacles approaching.

I try to live my life with no regrets about what I have done. I’m not always successful, but I try my best to learn the lessons to apply them to my then and future condition. I try not to look backwards because the reference I have in my head and in my heart will guide my future actions.

As a child, my father told me that I should never do anything that I was afraid to tell anybody. At the time I never realized what a lofty goal it was. I also did not realize how truly effective it was in leading a good life. One of the reasons, that I love Masonry is that in our work you can find tidbits that mirror some of the lessons we received growing up. The lesson in which we are admonished to not speak ill of those that aren’t present is a perfect example of being able to “walk uprightly”. If we are about to say something that we know should not be said, our first instinct is to look around to see if anyone around should hear what we are about to say. This is generally, my first clue that I am about to say something I should not.

The other interesting aspect of the Plumb is that as we are walking, the speed at which we conduct ourselves affects it. If we walk to fast, the weight on the line has trouble keeping up and lags behind. This is a sign to me that as we are “walking uprightly” we are not to be speeding ahead, potentially to get tripped up. “Walking uprightly”, also doesn’t infer that we are unaware of where we are going. A slow steady pace allows that line to stay perpendicular to the ground and allows us to make progress while taking in what is going on around us.

The day-dreamer that looks to the sky never gets anywhere while he is walking and sometimes goes in circles. The ultra-driven person looks at nothing but the ground in a rapid march to a place that they might miss because their line of sight is so narrow. Only the person walking uprightly with his eyes level can see the big picture.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

From the East continued...

By the time this article goes to press, or to the internet, or whatever, we probably would have already had our Saturday, October 29, 2005, **4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket – Barbecue Sale**, to benefit the Holland Lodge #1 College Scholarship program. This is our annual fundraiser and I hope you all participated. We share the day with our Sisters in Houston Chapter 385 of the Order of the Eastern Star, who simultaneously hold their annual crafts sale. Thank you, Worthy Matron Sandy Kelly, for all you and the women of Houston Chapter #385 do for the Star, Masonry and Holland Lodge No.1. We are looking to raise enough money to award at least 1, and possibly 2, scholarships to deserving college bound students next Spring. Since the Legislature and Grand Lodge have now given the approval to lodges conducting raffles, I still hope to be able to organize a raffle next Spring to enhance our fundraising efforts. Since this Masonic year is starting to close more rapidly than expected, I still hope to organize a second fundraising event to help the scholarship program and in any event we will perform the groundwork necessary to have a raffle at least by the next year.

Speaking of the OES, do not forget that our Sisters at Houston Chapter #385 will be honoring the Masons at Holland Lodge No. 1 on **Thursday, November 3, 2005**. Come on down to Holland Lodge on that night for some real Southern hospitality and an informative evening. Bro. Jack Wright will be speaking on the Texas Masonic Retirement Home. Also, at the **Stated Meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2005**, our Junior Warden, Bro. Patrick Porter will be presenting the Grand Lodge resolutions to the Lodge. There are 18 proposed resolutions and 4 Grand Master’s Recommendations.

Remember that also around the corner is the annual **UT vs. Texas A&M** dinner and party. This year we will be having the slugfest in the dining room and the dinner and program will be open to all Brethren, their families and guests, no matter what their alma mater. The boasting and game calling will be held on **Monday, November 21, 2005**. Wear your school colors, bring a story or two about the football game, or rivalry you best remember and cherish. I think each of us has our Turkey Day stories and we can share the fun and festivities regardless of school loyalty. With a UT degree and a daughter at Texas A&M, I will try to be a totally neutral mediator between the warring factions. We will get everyone’s predictions of the game score, so finely hone your prediction skills before the 21st. There should be either a burnt orange, or maroon, cake. Or both! No betting! And as the Beach Boys would say, “Be true to your school!”

I will be cooking a heart unhealthy breakfast and lunch for our upcoming **Forum** at Holland Lodge #1, on **Saturday, November 12, 2005**. Holland Lodge will be hosting a number of visiting Brethren and I hope you all will attend, not only for the instruction but also to welcome and interact with our visitors. We will serve both breakfast and lunch on that day. The Forum will start in the morning and certificate exams will start after lunch. As always, the Forum should be very instructional and for the first time will be conducted by our own R.:W.: Bill Sessums, Sr., of the Committee on Work, Grand Lodge of Texas. Thanks, Bill. Continued on page 3

Continued, From the East

I again encourage each of you to attend brush up on your proficiency in the work. I have attended many forums and always have great fun with our fellow Brethren.

As announced at the September and October Stated meetings, please get your reservation in for the **170th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge of Texas**, in Waco, starting on Thursday, December 1, 2005, and running through Saturday, December 3, 2005. The cost is \$160.00, which includes a room for 2 days, the Thursday night dinner with the Lodge Brethren and breakfast. This is a great chance to get to know your fellow Lodge members better, to learn what is going on in Grand Lodge, to enjoy the sights in Waco and partake in the Craft. Going to Grand Lodge is always a lot of fun, informative and rewarding. Come join the caravan and fun.

It is not too early to start thinking about the 170th birthday party of Holland Lodge No. 1, to be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2006. More details later. And for those curious, fun loving and adventurous, I wanted to report that the Rice vs. Navy football game, originally scheduled for Saturday, September 24, has been moved to Saturday, October 22, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m., which will allow for the fireworks you missed last weekend. I will let you know at Lodge about the ticket deal, if you are interested. I look forward to seeing you at Holland!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

PLANNED GIVING TO HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1

Brethren, this is a reminder that gifts may be made in order to provide income and funds for the programs of Holland Lodge #1.

Your contributions and gifts can go to secure the future of our Lodge. At present, various gift methods include outright bequests, appreciated stock, life insurance, a residuary bequest and other forms of planned giving. If you would like to remember Holland Lodge #1 in your gift and estate planning, please contact the Worshipful Master.

A legacy is a great thing to leave behind!

Tom Behrman, W.:M.:

Committee Volunteers Needed:

The Telephone Committee is in need of 3-4 good men to fill in as volunteers. This committee is important in notifying our Brethren of important announcements not otherwise on the Calendar of the Lodge, including funerals and other important items.

If you would like to donate a little time to this important Lodge committee, please contact the

Worshipful Master, or the

Committee Chairman, Bro. Owen Popham, PM,
at 713-723-6680.

Thanks! Tom Behrman, W.:M.:

Lodge Activities/Calendar

November, 2005

November 2	Wednesday -	EA or FC Degree; EA & FC SOI
November 7	Monday -	Dark
November 9	Wednesday -	HL #1 November Stated Meeting
November 12	Saturday -	Forum and Exam @ Holland Lodge #1, Committee on Work
November 14	Monday -	Degree practice, for EA or FC degree; EA & FC SOI
November 16	Wednesday -	EA or FC Degree
November 21	Monday -	UT vs. Texas A&M Party – Dinner, Open
November 23	Wednesday -	Dark for Thanksgiving – HOLIDAY
November 24	Thursday -	Thanksgiving – HOLIDAY
November 28	Monday -	Degree practice, for FC or EA degree; EA & FC SOI
November 30	Wednesday -	FC or EA Degree

December, 2005

December 1	Thursday -	Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication , Waco
December 2	Friday -	Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication , Waco
December 3	Saturday -	Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication , Waco
December 5	Monday -	EA & FC SOI, Certificate SOI; Degree practice
December 7	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI, Certificate SOI; Degree
December 12	Monday -	Dark
December 14	Wednesday -	HL #1 December Stated Meeting
December 25	Sunday -	Christmas – HOLIDAY

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-503-1472	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
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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
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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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