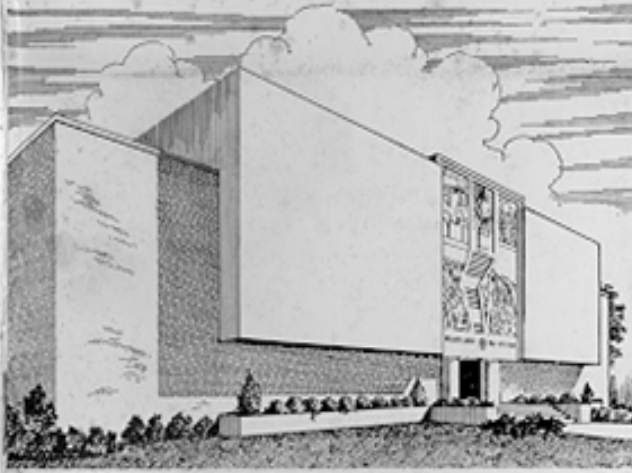


THE e-ALPHA

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

October 2003

Volume 34 Number 4
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



STATED MEETING

October 8, 2003

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome

Program will be Brother Hank Clore
General Secretary of the Scottish Rite Bodies
Valley of Houston
presenting a paper on the
*Historic and Little Known Facts about the
Grand Lodge Temple, Waco, Texas*

Brisket sale

And

Bar-B-Que Lunch

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Saturday, October 18, 2003 at the Lodge

By reservation

Whole brisket = \$25.00

Sliced whole brisket = \$30.00

Lunch = \$8.00

Proceeds to benefit the Scholarship Fund

From the East..

Where are you my Brothers? How can I call you? These questions are asked by each of us on a regular basis. Holland Lodge now has a Membership Directory of our Members. Telephone numbers and addresses make it easy to keep up with our Brothers. Get a copy of the Roster and share in the information.

Oh, did I forget to tell you how to get a Roster? Easy, send an e-mail to me <mailto:WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org> and I will reply with the web address where the Roster can be downloaded & printed. WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org The Roster comes in Acrobat format and can be printed on almost any printer. The Roster takes about 15 pages and is readable even with my bi-focal glasses.

If you can not download the Roster or need assistance please call upon myself or any of the Officers and we will be glad to assist you in getting a Roster. The Internet is providing an excellent roadway for sharing our interests in Masonry. We have pictures and information on-line just waiting to be viewed.

Holland Lodge is saving the cost of having a commercial printer do a Roster which is out of date when printed. Check your address and telephone numbers and report any corrections to

Secretary@HollandLodge.org &
WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org.

Our website is providing more information, pictures, calendaring and interest to prospective good men than ever before.

I was Honored to have R.: W.: Donny Broughton, Grand Orator, participate in my installation last June by performing several of his Masonic Songs in our Lodge Room. Bro. Broughton's music has touched me and we are fortunate to his permission to make his Masonic music library available on our website. [Http://www.HollandLodge.org](http://www.HollandLodge.org) Check out my favorite D. Broughton Masonic song "I am a Bar B Que Lovin' Mason"

Holland Lodge was visited by our First President, George Washington visit last month. Our Brother Jim Hodges presented George Washington in the first person excellently. I was seeing and hearing Pres. Washington. Actors try to make a character come alive, but Bro. Hodges made George Washington step into our Lodge Room. He spoke not in a stilted speech but from the heart of Washington. An imposing figure and a convincing posture had everyone lining up to have their photo with George Washington. View the pictures on our website. Look for Bro. Bussemey's picture as Washington seemed to tower over him.

Holland Lodge was 'On the Road Again' last month when we visited Harmony Lodge No. 6 in Galveston. We were warmly received by the Worshipful Master and Brothers of Harmony Lodge. They have a magnificent Lodge Room. Their Lodge Room is done in an Egyptian motive with many brightly painted designs on the walls and ceilings. We have posted pictures of the Lodge Room and of our visit to Harmony on the web site. Check out the fun and fellowship we enjoyed. I had the privilege of commenting on how glad we at Holland are to see the 'younger lodges' doing so well. After the laughter went down Harmony's Master remind me that our Lodges are only a few years apart. Fun and Fellowship in Masonry brings us closer together. The purpose of our visit was to confer a FC on a Holland Candidate. Bro. Tom Behrman assembled a fine FC Degree Team and everyone, including our Candidate were impressed.

Continued Page 2

A Big Island shrimp lunch followed the Degree with the families of Harmony's Member coming for the lunch. Bro. Earl Thompson cooked the shrimp better than has ever been done on the Island. Everyone had cold boiled shrimp and lots of grins and smiles afterwards. Desert was served in the form of mini moon pies. Bro. Junior Warden and myself were caught by the camera man just before we had a big bite out of our moon pies. Look on the web and enjoy the visit and moment with us.

At the October Stated Meeting we will have a MM Exam. Come and listen and recall when you spoke those same words. The words having such meaning to me that I still mouth the questions and answers. What about you? When did you last hear an exam and go through the words too? Come on October 8 and relive your special memories with our new Brother, Tony Marks.

October 18 will be the second Holland Brisket sales Event. Last year about 100 briskets were sold. Bro. Earl is running hard on this program because the orders are coming fast. Our Bro Senior Deacon was carrying Orders from all over the Lodge Room last month. The proceeds are going to Scholarship Essays on Masonry. The Scholarship Applications and Essay have gone out to Houston Community College, San Jacinto Campus, and Holland Lodge should be awarding several thousand dollars later this fall. The winning essays will be printed in the E-Alpha.

On Saturday, November 8, 2003 Holland Lodge will host a Forum and Exam. Bro. Behrman is making a Guest appearance in the kitchen and will be providing a breakfast and lunch. There will be coffee and something (how about heart healthy, Tom?) before the Forum at 8am followed by a lunch of hamburgers and fixings before the exam. We have had many Brothers from other Lodges coming to this Forum because of the Friendship and Welcoming attitude at Holland. Our building was bubbling with Masonry last year from the many Masons. You just feel good when you can hear Masonry throughout our building. Come and be a part.

On the Road Again - We're Going to Grand Lodge in Waco ! December 4,5 & 6. This is more for Members than Officers. The Officers ought to listen to everything, while the Members can come and go and really enjoy themselves. To be among 3,000 Masons who are your Brother is amazing. This is the legislative process for the Grand Lodge of Texas and about which we have a responsibility to understand and participate in. The Grand Lodge Library is open and is a real treat. The Texas Lodge of Research has a great selection of Masonic books for purchase. We will be staying in Waco Hilton again which is the best of Waco. The cost for Grand Lodge this year will be \$158 per person, based on double occupancy. Let Bro. Secretary know your interest in coming and come be a part of the largest gather of Masons in Texas.

The Holland Lodge website had some troubles last month and we hope that we are past any further troubles. The Lodge calendar has proved popular with lots of hits on the web page. Keep those ideas, cards & e-mails coming.

Patrick Mahoney, WM

The Lodge Courtesies --- Part II. Brethren, we pick up again after my August article to discuss again the many courtesies practiced over the years in Lodge. 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 makes us a well regulated institution, enjoying peace, harmony, fellowship and progress in the acquisition of more light in Masonry.

Aside from touching upon some of the courtesies in Part I of this article, the list of courtesies is long and has been tested by time. What are some of the many courtesies? For example, the gavels in the Lodge are instructions, not only to officers, but also to the Brethren. What do you do after 1, 2, or 3 gavels? And does it matter whether you are an officer, the gavel comes before or after being addressed by the Worshipful Master, or are simply a Lodge member? The answer to all of the above is, of course, yes, it matters! In order to conduct a regular, orderly meeting the Worshipful Master and Wardens must use the gavels to guide the officers and Lodge through a meeting, not to mention the conduct of the degrees. The gavels are used at stated, called and open meetings. After a Lodge has been opened by the WM, it is a matter of profound respect that no Brother walks between the altar and the East. Such a tradition maintains the reverence and solemnity of the Holy Bible, the letter G and an unbroken source of light and wisdom between the WM and the great light in Masonry.

Another practice in respect to the office of WM in the East is that a Brother, dignitary, or guest does not sit in the East unless invited by the Worshipful Master. Also, when a Brother is addressed by the WM he should always **stand**, an observance I am seeing not practiced by our newly initiated, passed and sometimes even newly raised Masons. Any Brother should always stand when speaking in Lodge, only 1 Brother standing and speaking at a time. During a discussion, or what we might even call debate, during a stated or called meeting, a Brother's remarks, statements and 'argument', and any question, should always be addressed directly to, and through, the Worshipful Master, and not to another Brother. Traditionally, a Brother is only recognized once on any given subject, topic, or comment, subject to the discretion of the WM to allow a follow-up remark or question. It almost goes without saying that there should be no talking during a meeting, nor during a degree, nor should food, drinks, cellular telephones, pagers, or other electronic equipment be brought into the Lodgeroom. Such activities can be disruptive, discourteous and disrespectful of your fellow Brethren.

After the Lodge has been opened, if necessary to leave the Lodgeroom, always remember the instructions from your degrees on the proper etiquette of entering and exiting and the required recognition addressed to the Worshipful Master. During a degree, a ballot, or a speech, you should not enter or exit the Lodgeroom. One of the greatest courtesies is to actually participate in the degrees at Lodge, as well as to gladly serve on an examining committee, or investigating committee. It is a time honored tradition that a courteous Brother does not refuse a request made in the name of the Lodge, to perform a service or accept an appointment at the request of the Worshipful Master on behalf of the entire Lodge.

I will bet you did not know there were so many rules! They are not so bad after you get used to them. More to follow in a later article, **The Lodge Courtesies --- Part Drei!** Next month, some thoughts on a Galveston shrimp boil, how fat you can get off of 10 barbecue briskets and a Thanksgiving tradition: The University vs. TAMU. Hook'em, until November! See you soon at Holland Lodge No. 1!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

**The 2nd Annual
Brisket Sale and Bar-B-Que Luncheon**

October 18, 2003

Brother Earl Thompson, S.W., will chair the event including the cooking, brisket sales and luncheon. Washington Chapter, Houston Council, Ruthven Commandery & Houston Chapter, OES will also be participating in this event.

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 4911 Montrose!



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!

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 Charles Hardin Pollard
Past Master, Secretary and 50 Year Member of
San Andres Lodge No. 170
Affiliated with Holland Lodge No. 1
on August 10, 1988
He was lost to us on August 22, 2003***

LODGE ACTIVITIES

October 8, 2003	Stated Meeting
October 13, 2003	EA Practice
October 15, 2003	EA Degrees
October 18, 2003	Brisket sale & Bar-B-Q 10am -2pm
October 20, 2003	MM Degree Practice
October 22, 2003	M, W & S Assn. see website for work
October 27, 2003	MM Degree
October 29, 2003	MM Degree
November 3, 2003	EA & Fellowcraft festival
November 5, 2003	See website &/or newspaper for work
November 8, 2003	Forum & Certificate examination 8am
November 10, 2003	Dark
November 12, 2003	Stated Meeting
November 17, 2003	Check website or Newspaper
November 19, 2003	Check website or Newspaper
November 24, 2003	Open Meeting UT & A&M Rivalry
November 26, 2003	Dark
December 1, 2003	EA & FC Festival
December 3, 2003	Dark
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:

Masonic History of THE FORGET-ME-NOT in Germany. DAS VERGISSMEINNICHT

It all started back in the year 1933, when Adolph Hitler declared that all secret organizations were harmful to his criminal plan for world conquest. Not only were the Jews and Catholics murdered, but also ordered the Masonic hatchet man to conduct the bloody purge that was to come. At the time, there were 85,000 Masons of good standing in Germany. Eichmann secretly issued strict orders that every single one of them would be put to death. Needless to say his orders were carried out and 80,000 Masons met an untimely death. The other 5,000 German Masons, for some reason had not had their names on the books of the Grand Lodge, and their lives were spared. That was only because Eichmann did not know who they were. Immediately the remaining 5,000 went underground. They hid all of their Masonic records and also stopped wearing Masonic rings and pins. They adopted a little flower, the Forget-Me-Not. Therefore they communicated in this way without the Nazi's ever finding out. Ironically, this was Hitler's favorite flower and was impressed that men would wear this symbol as a tribute to him! Eichmann never found out the true meaning of this pretty little flower called the Forget-Me-Not. This symbol of Freemasonry is still used in Germany in memory of those who were murdered trying to live up to the teachings of the Masonic Order. This certainly was a real tragedy, and from all documents and accounts, this story is true.

As early as the year 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became apparent Freemasonry was in danger. In the same year, the German Grand Lodge of the Sun in Bayreuth (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges), realized the imminent problems facing them and elected to wear a little blue flower, the Forget-Me-Not, in lieu of the traditional Square and Compasses, as a mark of identity for Masons. It was felt the new symbol would not attract attention from the Nazis, who were in the process of confiscating and appropriating Masonic Lodges and property. Masonry had gone underground and it was necessary that the Brethren have some readily recognizable means of identification.

Throughout the entire Nazi era, a little blue flower in the lapel marked a Brother. In the Concentration Camps and in the cities a little blue Forget-Me-Not, distinguished the lapels of those who refused to allow the light of Masonry to be extinguished.

In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the sun was reopened in Bayreuth by Past Grand Master Beyer, a little Blue pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not, was proposed and adopted as the official emblem of the first Annual convention of those who survived the bitter years of semi-darkness, bringing the Light of Masonry once again in the Temple.

At the Annual Convent of the United Grand Lodge of Germany, A.F.&A.M. In 1948, the pin was adopted work under adverse conditions. At the Grand Master's Conference in the United States, Dr. Theodor Vogel, the Grand Master of the newly-formed UGL, A.F. & A.M. presented one of the pins to each of the representatives of the Grand Jurisdictions with which the UGL, A.F. & A.M. enjoyed Fraternal relations.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a meaningful emblem of the Fraternity and become perhaps the most widely worn pin among Freemasons in Germany, Most German Lodges present this pin and it's history to their newly raised Master Masons.

Many members of National Sjoumers, Inc. have served in the U.S. Armed Forces in Germany and have learned to love and respect DAS VERGISSMEINNICHT and what it stands for.

Submitted to by Worshipful Master Patrick D. Mahoney.