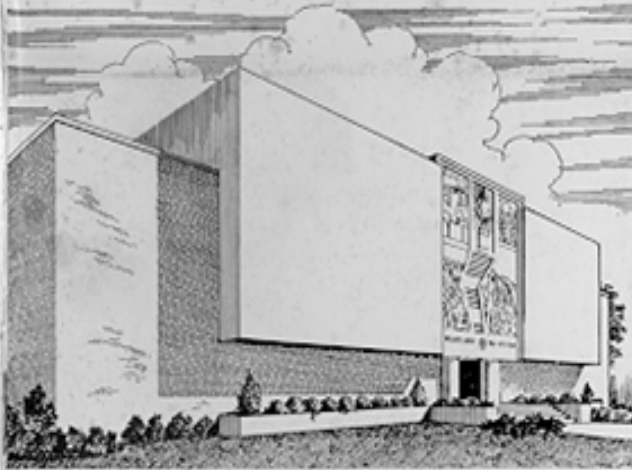


THE e-ALPHA

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

September 2003
Volume 34 Number 3
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



From the East...

Howdy my Brother ! Holland is rocking & rolling with activity and fun, come be a part of it !! The E-Alpha keeps getting better. Join in receiving your Alpha electronically by sending your preferred e-mail to the E-Alpha Editor, Bill Sessums, Jr. at Sessumsjr@houston.rr.com.

Planning for 2 months of Lodge activities is tough, but not when there is so much going on at Holland. Here is what we are doing this month and a glimpse at October and November. Don't forget to check the Holland website calendar regularly. It is updated as changes occur. Print it out and carry it for a handy reference.

A Masonic Work Day was held on August 23, 2003. Masons gathered at 9am to be a part of the installation of our new front doors. The doors were installed allowing access to our Lodge Building from the front of the building. Many thanks to Bro. Bill Lins for his help in carrying out this project. Lunch was provided by our EA's & FC's cooking the meal. Everyone enjoyed the Fellowship & Brotherhood. Check out the photos and video posted on our website.

At the Sept. Stated Meeting, Floyd Myers will receive his 65 Year Award. Dinner will be at 6pm and an Open Meeting at 7pm for the Awarding of Bro. Myers 65 Year Pin. Please come and Honor Brother Myers achievements and dedication to our Craft.

The 3rd Monday Program (September 15) will feature Bro. Jim Hodges as George Washington, in full uniform with sword. This is an open meeting so bring your cameras and get a picture with our first President. Also, the Lodge will express our appreciation to Mike Feehery for his help in last years brisket cooking. Dinner will be at 6pm with the presentation of the Lodge's appreciation to Mr. Mike Feehery by "President Washington" at 7 pm.

On Saturday, Sept 20 we are going to visit Harmony Lodge No. 6 in Galveston for a shrimp boil and possibly a FC Degree. Plan on meeting at the Lodge at 9am for a caravan to Galveston. Nothing is more fun than to travel and talk with your Brothers. Harmony Lodge will be hosting the lunch, which will cost \$10, and it is reported they have some special Island Recipes. Contact the Junior Warden about going and paying your \$10 for the lunch.

Later that evening several Members of Holland we will be going to the Rice -Texas football game at Reliant -Center Point Stadium on September 20, 2003. This is truly a classic and in a beautiful new stadium. The Fellowship enjoyed as Masons outside of the Lodge is as important as the Fellowship inside the Lodge.

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STATED MEETING

September 10 , 2003
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome

**Program will be the Presentation of the
65 Year Service Award To
Brother Floyd C. Myers, P.M.**

THIRD MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2003
7:00 P.M.

Andy Deas – Chairman

Brother James P. Hodges
Will present a program in which he portrays
President George Washington

**This is an open meeting, so please bring your
friends, family or others that you would like
to share your Masonry with!**

From the East Continued...

October 18 will be the second Holland Brisket sales Event. Last year about 100 briskets were sold. 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 money was raised from sales of briskets last year. The winning essays will be printed in the e-Alpha. Look for Bro. Earls article about the Brisket Sales event on October 20 in the Alpha & e-Alpha.

At our August Stated Meeting a presentation was started about the effort to send 20 tons of medical supplies overseas. The story needs more time to be told fully and will be presented on October 20, Bro. Sam Olivires of Jewett Lodge presenting 20 Tons of Medical Supplies! The pictures and story are amazing. Come and hear a truly touching story and how we can be a part.

On Sat. November 8, 2003 Holland Lodge will host a Forum and Exam. There will be coffee 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. 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.

Keep your ideas, cards & e-mails coming. I have enjoyed and appreciate being able to talk with the Brothers, families and friends of Holland Lodge.

At Installation this year, Bro. Donny Broughton, Grand Orator, was the featured speaker. Actually he played and sang several of his Masonic songs. Beats a speech by long winded new Master any day. Now you can find his songs on the Holland Lodge website <http://www.HolandLodge.org> in MP3 format making them easy to enjoy on your computer. My favorite is I'm a Bar B Que Lovin' Mason. By the way Bro. Broughton has promised to come back in November. Will keep you posted about his return visit.

Road Trip - to Grand Lodge in Waco! December 4, 5 & 6. This is more for Members than Officers. The Officers should listen to everything, while the Members can come and go and really enjoy themselves and being amongst so many Masons. To be among 3,000 Masons who are your Brothers is amazing. This is the legislative process for the Grand Lodge of Texas. 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. 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.

Patrick Mahoney, W.M.

"From the South"

Brethren, a couple of weeks ago, Earl, Duncan and I got away to God's country, that is Austin, Texas, to the hill country, next to The University and in eyesight of those magnificent burnt orange sunsets, for the annual Wardens' Retreat sponsored by the Committee on Masonic Education and Service of the Grand Lodge of Texas. This is the annual weekend of intensive training and work sessions for Senior and Junior Wardens and a few stout hearted Senior Deacons. Since all of us could not be together at the retreat here in Houston we decided to rendezvous in Austin. We had a very intensive Friday night, all day Saturday and half day Sunday work sessions. They hardly gave us a break and even had speeches and educational events when we got together to eat. I wanted to give you a brief report on how the weekend went and the merits of the exercise.

The retreat, like last year, was very well planned and on a tight schedule. After checking in and picking up the packed 3-ring binder of written materials we were split into separate groups for the Senior and Junior Wardens. There were over 130 Masons participating from all over Texas representing the future leadership of their Lodges. The Friday and Saturday sessions included breaking down into smaller work groups of around 10 people. I cannot speak for Earl and the Senior Warden's group, but Duncan and I were with the Junior Wardens and our groups were required to form a Lodge, gave it a name, specify its goals and purposes, plan the execution of its projects and calendar for the year, prepare a budget and specifically tell how the goals were going to be achieved. I do not think I can over emphasize the intense nature of the breakout sessions. We would have approximately one hour each time to come up with the plans and then reconvene in front of the entire Junior Warden group to report on our Lodge's activities. We basically ended up with four different Lodges reporting three different times on the nature and execution of their respective Lodge plans for the year. Frankly, the dialogue in the smaller work groups was invaluable to learn what other Lodges were doing, what they had tried and had proven successful or unsuccessful and why. Every Lodge had examples of projects and activities, tried and proven experiences, that were invaluable to learn about at the retreat. The Masonic fellowship, dialogue and enthusiasm was very rewarding and inspirational to each of us.

We were able to speak with numerous Grand Lodge Officers and Representatives and engage in meaningful discussions, including asking them questions and also seeking answers, discussing ideas and the future plans of the Grand Lodge. Not only was there a question and answer session late Saturday afternoon, but we were treated to the remarks of the Deputy Grand Master, R.:W.: Reese Harrison speaking later that evening on his perspective on the future of Masonry in Texas. In particular, he reported that the Grand Lodge of Texas is going to attempt some of what Holland Lodge No. 1 has started doing for the last couple of years, namely long term strategic planning. R.:W.: Harrison told us that he, R.:W.: Elmer Murphy and R.:W.: Brian Dotson had already met to discuss and coordinate the planning the next three years for the Grand Lodge of Texas. Not just one year --- but the next three! Starting in 2004, he discussed three new actions of the GLT, (1) eliminating the periodic Grand Master's conferences and returning to an expanded number of official visits at Lodges, (2) reinstating Masonic workshops for Masonic education throughout the various districts and (3) holding an Annual Convention of Masonry in Texas, the first to be in Arlington, Texas, tentatively in May, 2004, where all the various and appurtenant bodies of masonry attend and participate. He was quick to emphasize his interest in listening to the Masons of Texas, having an engaged and coordinated type of leadership approach.

Our participation in the Annual Wardens' retreat is invaluable experience for your Lodge leadership. Earl, Duncan and I worked hard and certainly profited from the entire weekend. When you are next at Lodge, I hope you will ask us about our individual and mutual experiences. Some of the funny stuff I will convey at our next Lodge meeting, e.g. the 2:00 a.m. fire alarm at the hotel! See you at Lodge! Next month, I will return to my series started last month, the Lodge Courtesies --- Part Deux.

Fraternally,
Tom Behrman

THIRD MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2003, 7:00 P.M.

Andy Deas – Chairman

Brother James P. Hodges

**Will present a program in which he portrays
President George Washington**



**This is an open meeting, so please bring your
friends, family or others who you would
like to share your Masonry with!**

Feel like a little Shrimp?

September 20, 2003

Holland Lodge will visit
Harmony No. 6 for a shrimp boil / fry.

Plan on meeting at the Lodge at 9am
for a caravan down to Galveston.

Harmony Lodge will prepare the lunch for only \$10 each and
it is reported they have some special Island Recipes.



**Contact our Junior Warden for more information
and to pay your \$10 for the lunch.**

Depending on the status of candidates at Harmony and/
or Holland we may do a degree or have a presentation
on the respective histories of both Lodges.

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!**



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, Chair 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.

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

September 1, 2003	Lodge is DARK. Happy Labor Day.
September 3, 2003	Entered Apprentice festival and practice
September 8, 2003	Lodge is DARK
September 10, 2003	Stated Meeting
September 15, 2003	Third Monday – James P. Hodges
September 17, 2003	See website and/or newspaper
September 20, 2003	Trip to Harmony Lodge # 6- Galveston
September 22, 2003	See website and/or newspaper
September 25, 2003	See website and/or newspaper
September 29, 2003	See website and/or newspaper
October 8, 2003	Stated Meeting
October 18, 2003	Brisket sale and Bar-B-Q lunch.
October 20, 2003	Sam Olivires-20 tons medical supplies
October 22, 2003	M, W & S Assn. see website for work
October 27, 2003	See website &/or newspaper for work
October 29, 2003	See website &/or newspaper for work
November 3, 2003	Fellowcraft festival
November 5, 2003	See website &/or newspaper for work
November 8, 2003	Forum and certificate examination
November 12, 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

Congratulations!

Welcome to Holland Lodge's newest Master
Mason

Brother Anthony Joseph Marks

Brother Marks was raised in Holland Lodge
on August 20, 2003

Brother Secretary, Phillip von Stephens has
announced his pending marriage to
Ms Anita L. Hunter.

The happy event is set for early 2004.

The Life Cycle

With Sincere Sympathy

Brother William Howlett Bruecher, Jr.

Was lost to us on July 6, 2003

**He was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason
On August 26, 1959 in Holland Lodge No. 1**

Masonology: THE LETTER "G", by R.:W.: Bro. W.P. Lamb, P.G.M., Oct. 14, 1980

In a shop specializing in English antiques, the Editor found a brass medallion, used for decoration on harnesses of carriage horses, about 3 inches in diameter, and containing the Masonic Square and Compasses, but without the letter "G" superimposed. A book jacket on one of Bro. Harry Carr's books, published in England, also shows the Masonic emblem without the letter "G". In the United States, we are accustomed to seeing the Square and Compasses with the letter "G" superimposed.

Referring to the letter "G" Mackey's Encyclopedia states, "We may say ... that the explanation is by no means, and never has been, esoteric... our Masonic authors from the earliest times, have not hesitated to write openly and in the plainest language, of its signification."

Mackey also tells us that the word "God" is the initials of the Hebrew words Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty as follows:

	Hebrew	English
G	Gomer	Beauty
O	Oz	Strength
D	Dabar	Wisdom

And that this seems "... to present almost the only reason that can reconcile a Freemason to the use of the initial "G" in its conspicuous suspension in the East of the Lodge ...". However, it is not a Masonic symbol, per se, as further explained by Mackey "... the use of it as an initial would necessarily confine it to the English language and to modern times.. It wants therefore, as a symbol, the necessary characteristics of both universality and antiquity."

Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia indicates that in about 1850 the "G" was placed in the center of the Square and Compasses as a jeweler's design and not by action of any Masonic body, and that this placement is an incongruity.

Dr. Dalcho, in 1801, perhaps said it best when he wrote "the letter "G" which ornaments the Master's Lodge, is not only expressive of the names of the Great Architect of the Universe but also denotes the science of Geometry, so necessary to artists...", and Claudys (Introduction to Freemasonry) states "God is always Geometrizing. Geometry is particularly His science."

Submitted by Bro. Phillip von Stephens, P.M.