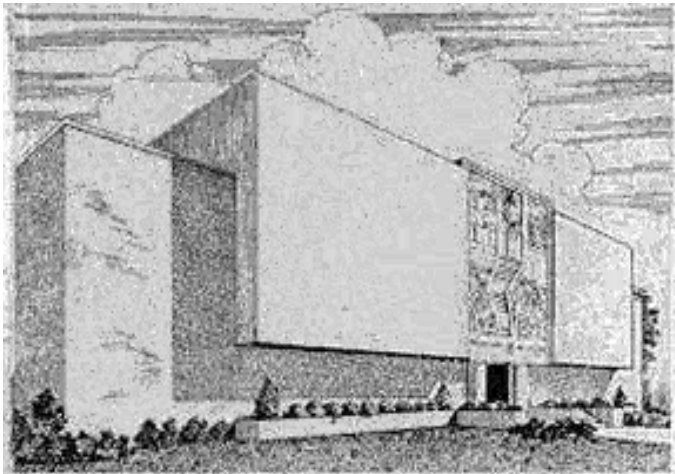


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
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September 2005
Volume 36 Number 3
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting
September 14, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Program will be:
“A Less Than Perfect Body,” presented by our
Senior Warden, Bro. Mike Orr

Remember this Month:
The 2nd Galveston-Houston Family Shrimp Boil
with Holland Lodge #1
Harmony Lodge #6 and Tucker Lodge #297
Saturday, September 17, 2005

And next month:
The 4th Annual Holland Lodge #1
Brisket – Barbecue Sale
to benefit our College Scholarship Program
Saturday, October 29, 2005



Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

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

Brethren, at the August 10, 2005, Stated Meeting we took a big step toward expanding our membership by passing the membership initiative as presented by Bro. Luther Van Cleve. His articulate presentation of the proposed membership program, based on previous, successful experience, was instrumental in the Lodge taking an important step in attempting to increase our membership. I want to thank the “Skipper” for all his planning and we all look forward to his interim reports on this important initiative. As soon as the initial letters are written and forwarded to the various, targeted Grand jurisdictions and we begin to receive some responses, I am confident Luther and the Lodge will need your assistance in this effort. I am forming a committee to assist Luther and please let me know if you would be interested in helping. This will be a working committee, so make sure you have the time and commitment to help. An expansion of our membership is important to a vital, vibrant and healthy Lodge.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the **2nd Galveston-Houston Shrimp Boil**, to be held at our Lodge on **Saturday, September 17, 2005**. Because of the success and fun we had two years ago in Galveston with Harmony Lodge #6, I have spoken with the Worshipful Masters of both Harmony #6 and Tucker #297, respectively W.:M.: Al Leal and W.:M.: Doug Bali, and have extended our Holland Lodge #1 hand of friendship to invite the Brethren, their spouses/girlfriends/dates and families to come over to Houston for a shrimp boil lunch. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of our neighbors in Galveston and to return the hospitality shown to our group in August, 2003. I have suggested to Harmony and Tucker that they caravan over to Houston and use the opportunity to enjoy the attractions immediately around our Lodge, namely the wonderful Houston Museum District, Hermann Park and Zoo, all within close proximity of Holland and all on the Metro Rail train route. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your family to host our guests and also see the museums, park and zoo in the morning and the afternoon, with a tremendous shrimp boil lunch in between. I am sure Bro. Keel is anxious to give another guided tour of the Holocaust Museum, we have the Children’s Museum, the park and zoo for kids, and I am anxious to see the baseball exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts. Please check the website for more details as the date approaches, but plan on having a great time at Holland on that day.

At the Stated Meeting this month, September 14, 2005, our Senior Steward, Bro. Mike Orr will be presenting a program very near and dear to his heart. The title is “*A Less Than Perfect Body*” and without disclosing the subject matter, suffice it to say that Mike will be speaking passionately about his personal family experiences. I am confident you will be both informed and moved.

As you all know, our annual barbecue fundraiser is rapidly approaching. As previously announced and as planned about a year ago, I scheduled the barbecue for October 22, 2005. In the meantime, the Grand Master of Texas, M.:W.: Elmer Murphey II, who just happens to be a member of Holland Lodge #1, has scheduled a town hall meeting on the same day in the lower auditorium of the Grand Lodge Building in Waco. The announced subject matter of this new meeting format, including the catechism/proficiency, should it be modified,

Continued on page 2

“From the South”

Traveling upon the level of time...
What the Level means to me.

I have heard it said that some people's favorite part of the work involves the passage "...and remembering that we are traveling upon the level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns." Which in some sense begs the question what does the level symbolically mean? In this passage, I take it to mean that we are taking a steady path toward death, everyday drawing us nearer to the inevitable consequence of having been born into the world. The reason that the path we take is a "level of time" is that nothing we can do can change the pace at which we progress; a day is a day for everybody. No one has power over time, and no one can speed up or slow down our lives. We must all move one day at a time, taking each step with everyone that isn't already at that final destination. I believe this to be another reminder of that fact that all men are created equal. Sure, some people's eventual destination may arrive sooner than others, but we are all going to the same place, and we are all certainly equal in death.

This is a much too somber message for the level, though not necessarily a bad one. One of the duties of the Senior Warden (not that I am telling the Senior Warden his duties, but I have heard it said...) is to maintain peace and harmony.

So, for me that begs the question...what is "peace and harmony"? As defined "peace" is the absence of war, and "harmony" is compatibility of opinion and action.

So...what are the main causes of war and incompatibility of opinion and action? In my own youthful ignorance I will propose that these are because of a lack of balance. People who are used to getting their way all the time, have a difficult time accepting other people's opinions and actions if they do not align exactly with their own. Such extraordinary treatment also breeds resentment in other whether intentional or not. People who never seem to get their way, will always be unhappy because they always feel as if they are being slighted; they will tend to blame other's for their problems and tend to be much more argumentative. It is the balanced person who is able to see both sides who is most inclined to live harmoniously with his neighbor. That person has seen the good and the bad and realizes that excess of either will eventually cause problems. I almost see this as a representation of the "Golden Mean", a Greek philosophy of beauty which describes the middle point between excess and deficiency. This was applied to ancient geometry and architectural constructs and is most visibly represented by the "Golden Rectangle".

So...how does one achieve balance? He finds a point upon which what he is trying to balance remains level. How does he know if something is "level"? He uses a tool by the same name.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

From the East continued...

one day classes in the work and qualifications to be a Mason, the internal and not the external, are certainly all areas of interest and importance to all Masons in Texas. In talking with the Grand Master recently, I am convinced that it is important that we all make the attempt to attend the town hall meeting on October 22. Therefore, I have decided to move back our **4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket – Barbecue Sale**, to benefit the HL #1 College Scholarship Program, to **Saturday, October 29, 2005**. That way we can not only have our annual fundraising event, but also support our Grand Master and attend the town hall meeting at Grand Lodge in Waco on October 22. I look forward to seeing you at both. I am sure we will be having a caravan going up to Waco, just like when we attend the Annual Communication.

Although I will be attending at least part of my 40th high school reunion on Saturday, September 24, 2005, I wanted to mention to you all that I also hope to go to at least the halftime show and 2nd half of the Rice vs. Navy football game that night. This would be a wonderful outing for Holland to attend, with Rice offering discounted tickets, \$22 tickets for \$10 each, as reserved seating. They plan a big night, celebrating the military that night and concluding with a fireworks display at the end of the game. Rice allows people and kids on the artificial turf field at the beginning and end of the game, which is great fun for kids. If you and your family would like to make an outing out of this game, please let me know and I would like to get a block of tickets for Holland. Call me as soon as possible to let me know if you would like tickets and will join us for great fun at Rice Stadium.

A shrimp boil, a football game and fireworks display and a barbecue all in the span of a month. And a few degrees are coming up, too! Needless to say, a lot is going on at Holland Lodge and we look forward to your being there and enjoying the fellowship and family fun.

As a part of the Alpha this month I have included a reminder of the opportunities to our Brethren for planned giving to support your Lodge. This is an area and activity that has been overlooked for some time and I hope you all will sit down and seriously consider how you can best remember and support Holland Lodge #1 in the future through your gifts and estate planning. We are all conscious of the importance of the financial future of our Lodge and serious thought and planning can result in a legacy which will support Holland for years to come. We are all considering the many ways we can best help Holland Lodge #1 in the future, including establishing a charitable entity as a vehicle to support the Lodge. I hope you will not hesitate to talk with your officers about how planned giving and estate planning can be utilized to help your Lodge and future of Masonry at Holland Lodge #1.

It is not too early to start thinking about our annual Forum at Lodge, put on by the Committee on Work and our own R.:W.: Bill Sessums, Sr., the first weekend in November, 2005, and do not forget that the annual communication at Grand Lodge in Waco will be on us soon, December 1-3, 2005. Start making your plans to attend. Holland always has a great time at Grand Lodge. I hope to see you all soon.

Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.

From the Secretary The Meaning of "Light."

Critics of Freemasonry are concerned that when Masons use "light" someone might think the word is referring to salvation rather than truth or knowledge. Masonry uses light as a symbol of the search for truth and knowledge and as Masons we are very unlikely to think of Masonic "light" as representative of salvation?

Until next month stay safe, healthy and happy.

Phillip von Stephens, Secretary

Are you online?

Have you been to www.HollandLodge.org ?

Do you get the e-Alpha notices on your email?

**Send your email address to billjr@insper.com
and get online with your Lodge!**

The Life Cycle

We will miss our departed Brothers...

Henry Arbuckle Sr.,
F. Furman Vinson, PGM
and a courtesy funeral for Don A Reel

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. :

In The Farmers Almanac for 1823 published at Andover, Mass., the following was printed under the heading, "definition of a Freemason": The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil, in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge because he is honest upon principal. **Thanks to Brother Sr. Warden for the submission!**

Lodge Activities/Calendar

September, 2005

September 5	Monday -	Dark - Labor Day - HOLIDAY
September 7	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI
September 12	Monday -	Dark
September 14	Wednesday -	HL #1 September Stated Meeting
September 17	Saturday -	2nd Galveston-Houston Shrimp Boil, @ HL #1
September 19	Monday -	Degree practice, for EA or FC degree
September 21	Wednesday -	EA or FC Degree
September 26	Monday -	Certificate/SOI; EA & FC SOI
September 28	Wednesday -	Dark

October, 2005

October 3	Monday -	Degree practice, for EA degree; EA & FC SOI
October 5	Wednesday -	EA Degree; EA & FC SOI
October 10	Monday -	Dark - Columbus Day - HOLIDAY
October 12	Wednesday -	HL #1 October Stated Meeting
October 29	Saturday -	4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket – Barbecue Sale, to benefit the HL #1 College Scholarship Program, @ HL #1

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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