

The North Carolina Mason

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From the Grand Master

Demanding Integrity

The district meetings are in full swing. I would be remiss if I did not thank all those who helped prepare and those who have attended these meetings. This is the real reward of my position. Speaking one on one, brother to brother, about matters that will contribute to the Craft's climb from good to great is important. I work hard to speak to each in attendance and listen to his comments. The masters and my deputies have shown that they understand their duties for district meetings. It is wonderful to know that Masonry across our state is in the hands of such caring men.



Leonard Y. Safrin Jr.
Grand Master

On a personal note, we started with a nostalgic meeting for me when the first district meeting was held at Blackmer 127 in Mount Gilead. My Masonic grandfather Past Grand Master B.T. Phillips was present. Present in spirit, I believe, was my grandfather, the late R. W. Safrin, who was raised in Blackmer Lodge on August 11, 1916. My first memory of a Masonic funeral was on January 15, 1962, when Blackmer buried my grandfather. Being blessed with great lineage is an unearned privilege that one cannot repay except to devote full effort to making that lineage proud. Perhaps there were a few too many in Master Larry Thompson's lodge for the fire marshal to feel good, but the feeling I had was simply "behold how good and how pleasant it is."

If, as was proposed in this column in the last issue, many join our fraternity because they desire to associate with the men of integrity, then searching for that integrity will be an essential part of our membership issues. That means that we need to be men of integrity and adopt and use whatever standards are necessary to assure a certain level of integrity as a benchmark to be exceeded, never reduced. That is the climbing from good to great part.

Integrity is said to come from wise decisions. How then should Masons make wise decisions? Wise decisions cannot be made with haste. Wise decisions on important issues come from study. We Masons call this "searching for light." If we stumble and use the emotion of the moment to make a decision, then we say we have failed to subdue our passions. Remember what you came here to do?

I believe one major leak in our ship is with a Blue Lodge committee. The search for integrity should be a part of the duties when an investigating committee is assigned to a petitioner. It is hard to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Surely, we make good men better, but we must first have a person with a moral foundation capable of carrying this thing called integrity. Masonry is a sublime privilege not a right.

Those who worry about numbers are correct as long as they put integrity as a priority far ahead of sheer numbers. One may get the impression that the pickings for candidates may be slim from a society that is so self indulgent as to present as acceptable an obnoxious and obscene halftime show before millions of viewers assuming our living rooms were a proper place for such. Countering this notion, isn't it great to see so many stand up express outrage — saying enough is enough? Get their names brethren, they show signs of a great moral foundation and leadership.

Masonry is not about numbers. Masonry is about commitment of brother to brother. It means always being able to rely on a brother in time of need and likewise rendering aid for a brother in his tough days. Past Grand Master Bill Mathis said, "Give me ten thousand Masons any day before fifty thousand members."

I close with a quote from one of my favorite poems. "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost. He ended the poem with a call to integrity and a call to action when he wrote:

But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep

All Masons have knelt at the altar before God and men. They made promises that if kept would guide them to be of the highest moral character and integrity. That is Blue Lodge Masonry Plain and Simple. Let us keep our promises and realize we have miles to go before we sleep.

Ever The Survivor St. John's Lodge Abides

By Janet Seapker

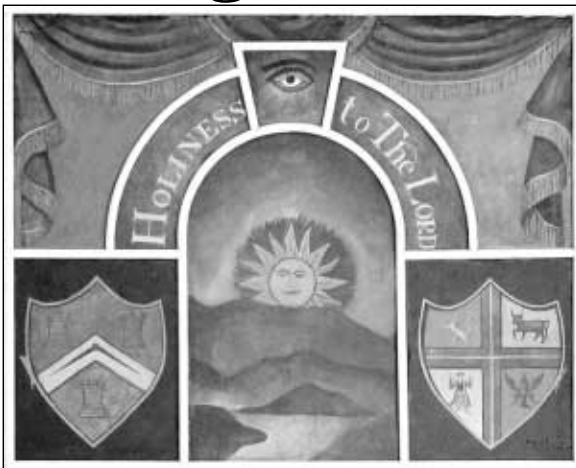
WILMINGTON — After the St. John's Art Museum moved away from downtown here to become the Cameron Museum of Art, its old home remained for sale for some time. Then rumors began that developers were considering demolishing the 1805 St. John's Lodge building to make way for redevelopment. Local Masons and history authorities were frightened into action. A buyer, the Wilmington Children's Museum, appeared and the fight to save the building and its historic Masonic mural shifted to the fine points. The Museum has developed a plan that preserves the building and its historical value. The mural in the old lodge room is planned for also. It will continue to be protected, with the old lodge room becoming a reading room. The lodge last occupied the building in 1825. [Editor's note]

It was an impending crisis. There was rumor of tearing down St. John's Lodge on Orange Street in Wilmington's historic district. A number of preservationists and architectural historians — statewide — were VERY upset about that prospect. It was then that I contacted my heavy-duty Masonic pal, Don Floyd. Don put me in touch with the then Grand Master Charles Lewis, who led me to District Deputy Grand Master Evangelos Fragos and the then Master of St. John's Lodge Bob Snipes, all of whom expressed great distress at the possibility of demolition.

Why were we all so upset about the possible demolition of St. John's? The Grand Lodge of England chartered St. John's Lodge in Wilmington as

Number 213 in 1755. St. John's has the distinction of being the oldest Masonic lodge in North Carolina and will celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2005. Its first building on Orange Street here, built between 1803 and 1805, is thought to be the oldest surviving lodge building in the state. In addition to its stature as the oldest Masonic lodge building in the state, St. John's Lodge is also one of the state's few surviving examples of non-residential urban architecture of its period — a civic-social building — once an important building type, but rarely surviving in the state. Stylistically, it is a combination of the 18th century Georgian style with elements of the new, early national era, Federal style. It is the building you find on the 2004 Masonic dues card.

On January 25, 1803, Peter Carpenter deeded to Anthony



St. John's mural is older than the unification of England's rival Antient and Modern grand lodges.



Janet Seapker was a leader of the most recent drive to save Freemasonry's earliest home in North Carolina.

Jacobs, call him the "builder of our first home." Benjamin Jacobs, and his brother, Joseph, came to Wilmington from Hingham, Massachusetts in 1800, and Joseph Jacobs designed the building that his brother built. We don't know of any other buildings the brothers designed and built. St. John's Lodge No. 1 and Concord Chapter, Royal Arch Masons continued to share the same facility through several moves, until they moved from the Masonic Temple on Front Street in 1980.

The Building

In the Georgian architectural tradition, St. John's Masonic Lodge is a symmetrical building, two-stories high,

See BUILDING SAVED, Page 4

St. John's Day Celebration Coming to Oxford in June

By Chris Richardson

OXFORD — The annual St. John's Day celebration at The Masonic Home for Children in Oxford is set for Saturday, June 26. This is a day, sponsored by the Masons of North Carolina, for all to enjoy food, fun, professional entertainers, and fellowship.

Beginning at 10:00 A.M., a parade of the three Shrine Temples travels through downtown Oxford and to the center of the Orphanage campus. Be ready for clowns, bands, motorized units, classic cars, animal characters, horses, crazed hillbillies, and much, much more. Opening ceremonies will begin at 9:20 A.M. kicking off this annual summertime tradition. Food vendors will be ready to take care of your appetite or, as always, you are welcome to bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy. This year's parade will be highlighted by honoring a very special grand marshal, Lloyd Young. He is "Mr. St. John's Day" and is being honored for his more than twenty years of dedication and devotion to this day. Come help us recognize this wonderful friend of Masons and children everywhere.

Friends and guests are invited to visit our new homes and see how a great future is taking shape here at the Masonic Home for Children. At the conclusion of the parade, one of our new cottages will be open to allow you to visit our very special



St. John's Day Grandfather Lloyd Young will be honored at this year's celebration.



The Shrine parade at St. John's Day always offers fascinating sights for young and old alike.

homes and view one of North Carolina's most important resources for today and tomorrow's children.

This year's unique entertainment agenda will include multiple stages, throughout campus, covering a range of musical tastes. There will be special announcements and charity events throughout the day. It all wraps up around 2:00 P.M., leaving you enough time to visit Oxford and safely travel home, whether it be the coast or the mountains.

Bring a blanket, a lawn chair, and a child. Experience one of North Carolina's best parades, all the while enjoying a visit to your Masonic Home for Children. For more information, visit www.mhc-oxford.org or call 1-888-505-4357.

Chris Richardson is the assistant director of development at the Masonic Home for Children.

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THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

From the Editor's Desk

We're In The News

Many in Freemasonry have wished aloud that the story of Masonry would be picked up by our public newspapers and other media outlets. The argument is that if only our name were put before the public, the popularity of the fraternity would once again rise and membership would again grow. The wish has been fulfilled in the last few months with mentions in the press around the state and nation.

We are reminded to be careful of what we wish. For in the publicity, we may have discovered that, just as Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

While we all carry a positive image of what we think Masonry is about, it may not appear the same to those looking in from the outside. The outsider may, in fact, have a more accurate view of us.

Back in December, the Raleigh *News and Observer* led a Sunday front page with a major feature about Freemasonry in North Carolina. What began as an analysis of how we were changing to deal with falling membership numbers became the story of Masonry existing as racially divided organizations.

A number of Masons called the Grand Lodge office wanting to know what could be done about what they considered an unflattering picture. Couldn't we rebut what was said?

The truth was, the reporter who had done the article was thorough, accurate, perceptive, and presented us in a more positive light than we perhaps deserved. There were no errors to refute. While we would have preferred to have him tout the things we do for our communities and the intellectual and philosophical effects joining a lodge has on the Mason, he and his editor had perceived what "the story" was for the outsider — the efforts North Carolina was making to cope with years of racial division.

Their perception was correct.

Later in December, several major newspapers around the state ran a short news piece reporting the continuing racial division and the fact that our Grand Lodge had once again voted against Prince Hall recognition.

While none of us wanted to see our fraternity presented in such a negative light, it was completely accurate, and frankly, indefensible.

A columnist in a Fayetteville entertainment paper, and a member of one of our lodges, publicly resigned his membership and urged other Masons of conscience to do the same. His protest was to the continued rejection of Prince Hall recognition.

Was his decision effective? We do not think so. Was it the best path for fixing the wrong he perceived? We think not. While it is not the decision we have made, it is a justifiable act of conscience — the kind of decision making we teach men to make as they become Masons — to base their life's path on clear, moral judgment, not passion and ignorance.

In March, national news carried the story of a tragic accident in a New York Masonic lodge. A lodge club was initiating new members when an aged member, as part of the initiation, mistakenly grabbed a loaded gun and shot another Mason in the head, killing him on the spot. A blue Masonic jacket with square and compasses covered his head as he was led away by police. It was not the image any of us wanted to show the world. But, it was the truth. All of our apologies that it was not really a Masonic ritual came up hollow. Everyone involved was a Mason, the club was part of a Masonic lodge, and the initiation had been going on for many years.

Yes, we have detractors in some churches and among fringe conspiracy fanatics around the world. Those we will never convert, they have motivations and needs not interested in truth.

But, when it comes to the way the public sees us in the news media, we are masters of our own fate. We must be willing to see ourselves as we truly are — to build the fraternity we want others to see. As we urge candidates to seek light and self improvement, so must we strive to perfect our Craft, to make it present an unassailable picture of what the world's greatest fraternity should be.

Our shortcomings are not in the eyes of others, but in the image we present. Our fate is not in the tales told by others, but in the reality we must build for Masonry.



The Gift of Masonry

A group of craftsmen were talking about the nature of Masonry, and one had the following insight:

"Masonry is like a mysterious package given to us in beautiful wrappings, and each of us receives it like a child. Some children become so enchanted by the wrappings that they forget about the gift itself. Some rip away the wrappings and immediately dump out the contents so they can play with the box. And some of us tear through the wrappings and the box with a single question in mind: 'What's inside?'"

— www.geocities.com/zenmasonry



Ric Carter photo

Officers Enjoy Weekend River Outing

GOOSE CREEK STATE PARK — Grand Lodge officers really don't have much time to get to know one another. When they have official meetings there's so much business to take care of, they get very little personal time together. That's why Grand Treasurer Cliff Everett started, a few years ago, inviting them for a January weekend at his place on the Pamlico River. They talk a little business and lots of Masonry during the weekend. But, mostly they have fun eating too much, sitting up late, and joking around. They are seen here on Palmetto Trail at Goose Creek State Park where they went for some sightseeing.

Grand Master's Letter On New York Tragedy

[Editor's Note] Freemasonry suffered a great embarrassment in March when a club pranked in a Masonic lodge in New York resulted in the unintentional shooting death of one Mason at the hands of another. It made the news nationally. Grand Master Leonard Safrit sent the following letter to all our lodges to be read to the membership.

Dear Brother:

I felt I needed to talk to you and your membership about the horrible accident that took place in a Masonic Lodge in New York last week. It has been a case of great embarrassment and concern to all Masons. It also is very counter productive to our desire to show our fraternity in a positive perspective.

A blue lodge of the Grand Lodge of New York, a jurisdiction we recognize, was holding an induction into a social/service club — a group of lodge members who helped care for the lodge facilities — sponsored by the lodge. It was in no way sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of New York. The group had its own hazing ceremony which apparently included fooling the new member into thinking other members of the club were shooting a pistol at cans beside his head. A 76-year-old club member had two pistols in his pockets — one loaded, licensed gun he frequently carried and one for the prank that was loaded with blanks. When the time came to fire the "joke" shot, he selected the wrong gun and shot the inductee in the head, killing him on the spot.

While the prank gone horribly wrong was no part of any Masonic ritual, everyone participating was a Mason. While we can understand the difference, much of the public will not. The Grand Lodge of New York has suspended the members and charter of South Side 493 pending a Masonic investigation.

A number of North Carolina Masons have, perhaps thinking wishfully that it was not in a lodge with which we are affiliated, have jumped to the conclusion that this event took place in an irregular lodge. This is not the case, it happened in a lodge recognized by us for many years.

This then becomes a time for some reminders about Masonry in North Carolina. First, no one, not even a law enforcement officer, is allowed to carry firearms into a lodge building in this state. That decision was made in an order issued years ago by Grand Master Nelson Banks and upheld at our Annual Communication thereafter.

Secondly, by *The Code*, no lodge or other organization may form a club based on Masonic membership. The events in New York shed some meaning on the wisdom of this rule in our state.

It is also a reminder that we must be ever mindful of the character of our ritual. While we all want there to be an element of celebration in making our members, we must be careful about where we draw the line on entertainment. Our Grand Lodge has a long and justified history of intolerance of inappropriate frivolity in the degrees. This event is a reminder of the wisdom of that stance.

Freemasonry has weathered many tests and attacks. It will survive this one also. I ask you to read this letter to your membership at the next stated communication of your lodge.

As we move forward, if I can help you in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Leonard Y. Safrit Jr.

Grand Master

Buzz's Diary

The Yard Bird

I was driving south on Wycliff Road up in the north end of the county a couple of weeks ago. My lodge, Acacia 357 has a long tradition of remembering the widows of our deceased members at Christmas. I had just taken a fruit basket to Marjorie Estes.

Her husband, Ed, was tyler of Acacia for a number of years in the '70s. I can remember his smile and his handshake like it was yesterday. He always did the number one ruffian's part in the second section of the Master Mason Degree. His voice was low and raspy — it would make your hair stand on end. And what a Mason — dedicated and proficient in the work.

I guess that what everyone remembers most about Ed was the way he treated visitors and candidates. He gave them his full attention. He would sit with them at dinner, and in the lodge room. In addition to a candidate's coach, Ed was always there to help new members along. He signed many applications for affiliation to our lodge. He made a real effort to make new Brothers and visitors feel welcome. He had a business card he gave out that said something to the effect of "Ed Estes — Tyler of Acacia No. 357 — Call me if you need a hand."

He gave the cards to everyone who showed up at the door to the lodge room. He was a real

ambassador for Masonry and our lodge.

My drive was uneventful until I reached the Stony Creek Bridge. All of a sudden, a bird ran out in front of the car. I was going 55, and this bird runs out in front of me and stays in the middle of my lane running in the same direction. I couldn't believe my eyes — a bird running in front of the car for miles at that speed!

I couldn't imagine what kind of bird it was, so when it turned down a dirt drive, I followed it. Barely keeping up, I saw the bird run through the yard of a farmhouse. I pulled in the drive and spoke to a fellow splitting wood out front.

It turns out he was a retired geneticist from State University. He said that he and his wife and son lived there, and that the bird belonged to him. He said he had bred three-legged chickens so they wouldn't have to fight over drumsticks at the dinner table.

"Three-legged chickens?!" I exclaimed.

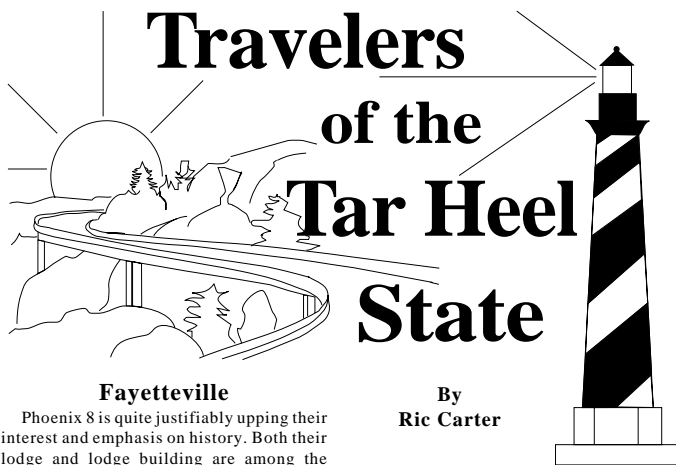
"How do they taste?"

"I dunno," he said, "We've never been able to catch one."

UD Lodge Formed — Temple Corp. Sues GL

GREENSBORO — The case of Revolution 552 continues. We reported in our previous issue that the lodge's charter had been lifted in an effort to force the lodge and its temple corporation into compliance with Masonic law. The temple corporation has sued the Grand Lodge, claiming that the corporation has no responsibility to Revolution Lodge, that the lodge has no claim to the lodge property, and that the Grand Lodge may not legally intervene in their relationship with the lodge.

The law suit caused a freeze on any demits for the members of the lodge, preventing them from continuing their Masonic activities. In an effort to assist those members, Grand Master Leonard Safrit has granted a dispensation to form a lodge for those men. General Greene Lodge UD was granted a dispensation April 1 and will meet at the Elks Lodge in Greensboro. Many Revolution members have taken the opportunity provided by General Greene Lodge to keep themselves in good standing in Masonic organizations.



Fayetteville

Phoenix 8 is quite justifiably upping their interest and emphasis on history. Both their lodge and lodge building are among the oldest in the state. Cumberland County is celebrating its 250th anniversary, and Phoenix Lodge is part of that history. Lodge member Bruce Daws works for the City of Fayetteville preserving and promoting historical properties. He and Louis Deans are currently working on the historical records of the lodge.

They've established a preservation and maintenance fund to take care of their historic building. As should be the case with such special pieces of real estate, they aim to "maintain this structure as close to its period of architecture as possible."

Phoenix Lodge is collecting food and clothing for the Cumberland County Food Bank and Urban Ministries. Their collecting is ongoing.

Methodist College President Elton Hendricks was a recent guest speaker at the lodge. It was part of their renewed emphasis on education.

Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 are designated Masonic education hour at Phoenix Lodge. That's the time they reserve for coaching candidates, officer practices, and lecturer classes. — *Newsletter*

Salisbury

Andrew Jackson 576 shares its food fortune with charity each year. They pay attention to several local charities in addition to our Homes and Foundation. Last year they donated to the Boy Scouts, Rowan County Red Cross, Rowan Helping Ministries, Rowan Hospice, their Masonic Scholarship Fund, Rufy Holmes Senior Center, and the Salisbury Post Happiness Fund. Their annual Brunswick Stew brings in more than \$10,000 each year for their good works.

The L. C. Lake Award in 576 this year went to Dewey Presslar Jr., and Jake Cantrell was named Mason of the Year. Sandy Wagoner received a special award. Richard Shields, author of *Befriend and Relieve Every Brother*, was the speaker at the awards banquet. — *Master's Journal*

Boiling Springs

When Al Tate moved to Friendship 388 and took over the secretary's desk, he brought a newsletter with him. The *Token of Friendship* is the new newsletter there. It looks, not surprisingly, like the one he did for years at Lincoln 137.

Friendship's annual golf tournament is scheduled for River Bend Golf Course May 10. Last year they had 25 teams enter the contest. — *The Token of Friendship*

Greensboro

The 23rd Masonic District held a Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association Saturday morning meeting in January. They talked about their plans for the year. They coordinated their schedules and discussed problems. They went out for lunch together afterward.

Stokesdale 428 celebrated their 114th anniversary with a dinner in January.

Guilford 656 is planning a Pack the House Night May 17. It is to be an open meeting for members, family, and friends. There will be some Masonic history and some entertainment. — *23rd District Happenings*

May should be a hopping time in the 23rd Masonic District. The Arthur L. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament is set for May 1. They hope to raise more than \$10,000 with the contest. It is to go to the scholarship fund at the Masonic Home for Children.

Masonic Night at Greensboro's Carolina Theater is scheduled for May 7. A block of 300 seats was reserved for Masons to see "42nd Street." A dinner at MESH precedes the play. They will be recognized on the playbill and marquee. Funds raised will go to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home. — *Trestleboard*

Joey Bolen, master of Greensboro 76, hopes to be a little poorer by the end of his year in the East. He pledged \$10 to charity for every meeting attended by more than 25 Masons this year. Joey says, "If you would like to spend my money just come out and I will gladly pay."

Greensboro Lodge is stocking lodge personalized polo shirts (\$25) or long-sleeved denim shirts (\$30). — *Old 76*

Gate City 694 raised seven new members last year and averaged 40 attending each meeting. — *Trestleboard*

By Ric Carter

Henderson

Henderson 229 Master Tony Williamson said at the beginning of 2003 he wanted to return the members' families to the lodge. He certainly met his goal with the lodge's Christmas party. Eighty-four members of their Masonic family came to enjoy the get together. Kids from their infancy to their 70s went over their wish lists with Santa Claus at the party. That itself was gift enough for Williamson.

— *Henderson-Vance Masonic Bodies Newsletter*

Bahama

Knap of Reeds 158 had a team of past masters perform a third degree on the last Saturday in January. More than 50 Masons dropped by for the breakfast and degree.

By the way, if you are going to visit them, Knap of Reeds has changed its meeting time from 7:00 until 7:30 P.M.. — *Mark Archambault*

Mount Gilead

Blackmer 127 Master Larry Thompson didn't even wait for a name before launching his lodge's new newsletter. A naming contest is being held among the membership. The winner gets a lodge golf shirt. The first issue was temporarily dubbed the *Name This Newsletter*.

In January, Ken Fritts was recognized by the lodge with a certificate for Meritorious Service. Fritts was lodge master in 1973, district deputy grand master in 1981-82, secretary in 1992, and tyler for the last ten years. He hand-crafted the black powder rifle the lodge recently raffled for our charities. The rifle netted more than \$2,300 for charity.

Several of interesting programs were on tap early this year. Grand Commander Gene Lewellyn talked to them about the Knights Templar. Grand High Priest Dan Hogue treated them to a program. Bob Smith told them about how the Scottish Rite Hospital in Atlanta changed the lives of his sister and brother. Allen Bruce, who won the rifle raffle, came in from Georgia to tell them about the Royal Order of Scotland. — *Name This Newsletter*

Dallas

Gaston 263 recently recognized their top Masons for the year. Mike McGinnis was named Mason of the Year. Dennis Jones got the Service Award, and Fred Cloninger got the Outreach Award.

Gaston Lodge spent \$750 recently to turn an upstairs storage closet into a restroom. The addition required vanities, sink tops, some faucets, a water heater, and a toilet.

Mike McGinnis is offering a school on Tuesday nights to learn ceremonial work. — *The Summoner*

Leaksville

Leaksville 137 had a Brunswick Stew in February. — *Leaksville Lookout*

Charlotte

Charles M. Setzer 693 is replacing the folding chairs in their dining room with padded seating. They've started a Chair Fund to work toward their goal.

Larry Adams of the Southern Building Supply Association recently presented the lodge a program on the "Power of Lobbying." Don't forget, lodge programs can be on topics of interest other than Masonry.

In recent Setzer Lodge awards Russ Elliott was named Mason of the Year and Ken Stevens got the Trowel Award. William R. Allen, James P. Griffin Jr., Frank A. Owens, and William C. Scarborough got their 50-year awards. — *Trestleboard*

Steele Creek 737's new degree team made its first road trip to perform a third degree at Mt. Holly 544. Twenty-seven members participated in the costumed theatrics.

Steele Creek's annual barbecue brought in \$11,000 this year. It takes a crew of about 50 members to pull off this yearly fund-raiser.

Jim Simmons was named the 2003 Mason of the Year at Steele Creek 737.

Their member Dave Crawford was featured in the Charlotte Observer in December. They were fascinated by his project to restore a 1949 trolley streetcar. Crawford had the trolley he rode as a young boy shipped to Charlotte from Philadelphia. — *Trestleboard*

Wilmington

St. John's 1 has added a meal to its meetings this year. They've gone from 17 for dinner and 32 for the meeting in January to 28 for dinner and 39 for the meeting in February. The lodge has been divided into ten equal groups for the purpose of putting on the dinners. Each team is responsible for one meal per year. The team prepares, serves, and pays for the meal. They do all the set up and clean up.

Does your lodge wait for an imminent degree before holding a practice? St. John's 1 has a better idea. They present all the degrees in lodge each year. If a candidate is not in the wings, they exemplify the degree on a stand-in. They say it keeps their skills sharpened. They also believe members "deserve to see the degrees" performed. — *St. John's Lodge*

Orient 395 had 46 members and guests on hand for their Island Night in November. They enjoyed wearing Hawaiian shirts, listening to Hawaiian style music, and Hawaiian pig picking that had more than a little Tar Heel flavor.

Recent service awards at Orient Lodge went to Dan Grantham Johnson, Joseph Aurelio Szakasits. After receiving the awards, both were invited to spend the rest of the evening in the East with the master. They also handed out service awards for resident Masons from out of state. Doug Haight got his 55-year award from the Grand Lodge of New York, and Bolly Joe Barber got his 50-year award from the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

Mo Brown was called to the East for a special recognition in December. He attended Wilkerson College and was the only member of the lodge who attended "every scheduled rehearsal, every emergent, and every stated communication" Orient Lodge held in 2003. — *Orient Express*

Smithfield

Fellowship 84 has initiated a scholarship. It will be known as the Fellowship Lodge No. 84 Evander S. Simpson Masonic Scholarship.

Fellowship Lodge had an April salute planned for their military veterans. Vets were asked to bring information about their military careers. It was then to be shared with the membership during the meeting. Lodge Master Jimmy Hooks said, "It is important not to lose sight of the heroes from our past and reflect upon the sacrifices that were made in the name of freedom." — *The Trestleboard*

Winston-Salem

Old Town 751 took donations from members to pick up the tab for the holiday fruit baskets they delivered to the lodge widows. Tom Cain didn't do just his part, he picked up the entire shortfall. He also bought breakfast for the guys who delivered the baskets.

Old Town Lodge is discussing a golf tournament for charity and the fun of it. They are also talking about getting lodge shirts. — *On the Level With Old Town Lodge*

Bessemer City

Whetstone 515 kept busy last year. They opened lodge 32 times, initiated 21, passed 16, and raised 13. — *The Whetstone*

Raleigh

Raleigh 500 recently presented Dwight L. Green his 50-year award for the Grand Lodge of Maryland. He is a member of Kensington 198. — *Raleigh Lodge 500*

Mark Steelman, master at Masters 754, wants his lodge to try things this year. He told his members, "...[C]all me anytime if you have an idea that you would be willing to head up," promising that he is "willing to help if you would like to do something new." — *The Trowel*



Jones Masonic Campus Schedules April Open House

SWANSBORO — The Jones Masonic Campus is holding an open house April 24-25. It's to let you get a look inside the recently refurbished historic Octagon House. While there you can also learn more about plans for the campus's future. A camp for the kids from the Masonic Home for Children and retirement homes are among the possibilities. You'll be welcomed at the Octagon House on Saturday, April 24, from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. and on Sunday, April 25, from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. For more information, check their new Internet website www.jonescampus.org.

Norwood

Members of Pee Dee 150 took a trip to Oxford in December to visit the cottage they've "adopted" at the Home for Children. They took the girls out for pizza. They also delivered them Christmas presents.

Pee Dee's recent chicken stew brought in more than \$850 for Masonic charities. — *The Trestle Board*

Hillsborough

Eagle 19 is the proud resident of a historic building in a historic town. The disadvantage is that maintenance is more specialized because of a desire to keep its historical integrity. The advantage is that they can set up a tax-exempt foundation for the important building. That allows them to apply for various grants that are available only to tax-exempts. It also lets contributors deduct their donations when they figure their taxes.

The Eagle Lodge Pro-Am Putt Putt Tournament was scheduled for April 17. They're playing the mini-competition at the I-85 Golf and Baseball in Haw River. The entry fee is \$50 per two-man team for this fun event.

They had a spaghetti dinner in March. Eagle holds an officers' meeting on the first Saturday of each month. They have breakfast at the lodge and emphasize the fellowship and getting to know each other as much as the business of planning. — *Eagle Lodge*

Wake Forest

Granville 380 has launched a monthly newsletter to keep their members "informed of the events of the lodge and encourage all of [them] that are physically able to attend as often as possible." — *Granville Masonic Lodge*

Paw Creek

I. J. Corley and Roger Walters coordinated the holiday visits to West Gate 738's widows in December. The ladies reportedly enjoyed the visits as well as the gift cards the lodge gave them for Christmas.

In February, Howard Counts and Roland Smith got Diamond Jubilee awards for 60 years Masonic membership. They received them at the Ladies Night banquet held at the Metroliner Shrine Club. They enjoyed prime rib and an entertaining magician.

West Gate's Wednesday golf outings resumed in March. Players donate a dollar each. This year the money went to a 12-year-old who was in dire need of new glasses and whose family was in financial straits.

They held a country breakfast in March to raise some money for one of the lodge widows. They are helping with her cancer medical expenses. — *West Gate Trestle-Board*

Canton

Plural memberships can lead to some interesting coincidences. This year three members of Sonoma 472 are serving as master of North Carolina lodges: C. H. Morrow Jr. of Sonoma 472, James Michael Terrell of Dillsboro 459, and Bruce Thomason of Clyde 453. All are in the 40th Masonic District.

Sonoma Lodge members are offered the chance to sponsor issues of their newsletter and honor someone special. They simply have to pay the postage for that issue, usually less than \$40. — *News-Letter*

Newell

There's a new "hot line" answering machine at Newell 739. It will carry important messages and let you leave a message for the secretary or master. — *Newell Masonic Lodge*

You're Invited

Petty Raffle

WAKE FOREST — Wake Forest 282 is selling chances on a 1991 Richard Petty Special Edition Pontiac Grand Prix. The car, autographed by The King himself, is in showroom condition with only 948 miles on the odometer. Only 43 were made. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25. You can get more information by visiting <http://wakeforest282.homestead.com/> or by contacting Jerry Blake at jblake@excaliburagency.net or (919) 971-3673 or Horace Macon at horacemaconsr@juno.com or (919) 556-3277. The drawing will be made at the Home for Children during the St. John's Day celebration.



Golf in Greensboro

ARCHDALE — The Third Annual Arthur L. Johnson Golf Tournament is set for Saturday, May 1. The 23rd District will host the event at Holly Ridge Golf Links. The four-man team, captain's choice will be

followed by a cook-out. Men, women, and juniors are welcome at \$50 per golfer. Available sponsorships range from \$100 to \$300. You can get details from Ray Hall at (336) 218-0418 or secy76@yahoo.com.

Have Lunch With Masons From Around the World

STATESVILLE — The Global Fraternal Network is holding its annual cook-out here June 11-13. There will be several social gatherings and an outdoor Masonic degree. Masons from all over the world will be there. You do not have to be a member to attend. Get details at <http://www.geocities.com/GFNcookout/>. Contact Keith Rash (gumborash@aol.com), or Joe Link (jlink@ccitelem.com), or Tom Gregory (tgregory@i-america.net).



Grand Secretary's Awards Made

RALEIGH — The Harris-Dudley Grand Secretary's Award was instituted just a few years ago. It recognizes the best blue lodge secretaries in the state. The selection is made annually by Grand Secretary Walt Clapp in consultation with the Grand Lodge office staff. Two awards were made for 2003: to Fred L. Sherrill Jr. of Conover 709 in Conover and to John A. Richards Pythagoras 249 in Southport. Both were presented at their home lodges early in 2004.

The awards to both men read:
For his years of dedication to the principles of Brotherly Love;
For his exemplification of leadership, rather than self-interest;
For his years of skilled and tireless labors in service to the Brothers of his Lodge; and
For his promotion of The Craft by his personal example.

Grand Secretary Clapp said, "This award isn't just about getting paper work in on time and in good order, although that's part of it. We all know that the best secretaries make lodges work better. Their influence can be invisible, but their presence and work bring the members of their lodge closer together. The best secretaries make happy lodges."

The Harris-Dudley Award goes only to those at the top of the secretary's craft. It is named in honor of two popular, long-term grand secretaries Charlie Harris and Pete Dudley.



John Richards got his award from office staffers Paula Strother, Cornelia Doherty, and Frankie Harles.



Fred Sherrill, center, is seen here receiving the Harris-Dudley Award from Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, left, and lodge Master David W. Schronce.

BUILDING SAVED

From Page 1

constructed of brick laid in decorative Flemish bond (alternating headers and stretchers in a row). It sits on a foundation of English bond — the strongest bond (a row of headers laid on top of a row of stretchers). It is five bays wide and two bays deep with a stuccoed belt course along the façade and stuccoed flat arches above the door and each window. It has a low hip roof—a rare treatment in a sea of gable-ended cousins, thus being counter to the prevailing residential style preferred by the elite for residences. The roof, covered now with standing-seam metal, originally was of wood shingles. The stair ascended from outside to the principal floor where the lodge room and antechamber were.



The building as it looked early in the 20th century.

Very few examples of 18th or 19th century buildings survive in Wilmington. Only one 18th century brick building survives—the 1738 Mitchell-Anderson House—just three doors west on Orange Street. That so few early structures survive is not surprising, considering the number of disastrous fires Wilmington suffered. The lodge was spared from destruction during the fire of 1819, only by the prompt and diligent action of the brethren who kept wet blankets on the roof to prevent it from burning.

By 1825, the brethren of St. John's No. 1, constructed a new lodge on the north side of Wilmington. For \$1,200, they sold the Orange Street property to John Taylor. In 1828, he sold it for \$600 to Thomas W. Brown, the area's premier ante-bellum jeweler and silversmith. Brown was a Mason and in 1837, became the master of St. John's Lodge. The Browns altered the façade to suit their domestic needs and the regrading of Orange Street. Orange Street had a much steeper grade in the early 19th century; it since has been filled in. The Browns switched the center first-floor door with the second-floor window and added a wooden, one-bay wooden porch to provide direct access to the second floor.

The Browns and their descendants continued to live in the lodge for many years. One of Brown's daughters, Miss Mary Bettencourt Brown, in 1895, partnered with Miss Annie Hart to build an addition to the west side of the lodge to contain their School for Young Ladies. The school operated through 1920.

The Mural

A remarkable survivor and unique testament to its original use, is the Masonic mural on the lodge room side of the chimneybreast. It was painted about 1808 by J. J. Belanger, an itinerant artist, who advertised himself as a "Profile-taker, Painter, and Lodge's Decorator." From his newspaper ads, we learned that Belanger was from the Island of Martinique.

The mural is somewhat of a hybrid, including icons associated with the Royal Arch Masons and the Ancient and Modern orders. It depicts, an arched surround, containing the words "Holiness to the Lord" and an all-seeing eye in the keystone. Below, a landscape with a smiling sun rises on the horizon. A shield occupies each lower corner. The left

one consists of three rooks and the right one is divided into alternating gray and red quarters with images of a lion, an ox, an eagle and a man, representing the four principal tribes of Israel. The painting was covered during most of its post-Masonic life.

Henry Bacon McKoy, of the Wilmington 319, purchased the lodge in 1943. He arranged for his brother, Jimmy, to operate a restaurant there called St. John's Tavern. Their father, William Berry McKoy, had been grand master in 1911. During the 1943 redecorating for St. John's Tavern, Jimmy McKoy, engaged Claude Howell, renowned local artist, to restore the mural.

Years later Jimmy McKoy related the story of researching and restoring the mural to Ben Williams, Curator of the NC Museum of Art, who had inquired about the mural. That tale is a story of its own.

Painting conservator, David Goist of Raleigh, restored it again in 1994, a project funded jointly by the NC Arts Council and the Wilmington York Rite Bodies.

In 1962, Mr. McKoy gave the lodge to a newly organized group, St. John's Art Gallery for exhibition space. The gallery was the predecessor of St. John's Museum of Art, now Cameron Museum of Art.

In the early 1980s, the art museum restored the brick portion of the building to its original external architectural character, asserting its strong public presence in the urban streetscape. During the restoration, they removed the two-story front porch and excavated land in front of the lodge to reestablish the original 1805 grade. That allowed the reinstallation of the door at the first floor level with the window above, restoring it to its original appearance, as shown on the 1810 map of the city. Interestingly, the 1810 map was drawn by the mural



The historic mural is above the fireplace in the old lodge room.

artist, Monsieur Belanger, the same man who painted the lodge's mural.

Lodge buildings are the chief architectural embodiment and reminder of the importance of the Masons, and of fraternal organizations. St. John's Lodge is the earliest Masonic lodge building in the state, the second oldest brick building in Wilmington, and therefore, vitally important to the history and architectural history of North Carolina and the city. The building was a pace setter of architectural style, bridging between the Colonial Georgian and the early Republic Federal styles. Its simple and substantial construction enabled it to serve as a lodge, a home, a school, a restaurant, and a museum. It is associated with leading early Masons, the premier nineteenth century silversmith, and other notable people in the community who taught, dined, and painted there. That the Wilmington Children's Museum will make its home there this year seems a good omen for its continued preservation and participation in the life of the community.

Janet Seapker is a historical consultant with Tumbled Weatherings in Wilmington. This article is adapted from a much longer, detailed academic manuscript. We hope to have it available on the Grand Lodge website when it is published.

BLOOD

From Page 8

nors. "Support from local businesses pay for printing and postage to get the word out to approximately 8,000 potential donors," said Burnette. Then there are the many Masons and their wives who work at each site with watching children for parents while they donate.

"WFMX-FM 105.7 has made a commitment to the Masonic lodges in this area to continue to be a co-sponsor for this essential and worthy community project," says Greg Ryan, market manager for WFMX-FM.

"Anything I need, Greg is there to provide, his motto is, 'No problems — only solutions.' I have found that to be very true" says Burnette. An all day remote from the Statesville donor site, and remote visits to all the other locations really help to bring in donors, usually on their way home from work listening to the radio. The station has been able to provide many valuable prizes to be awarded in drawings to blood donors. They've provided race tickets to the World 600 in Charlotte, limited edition Garry Hill NASCAR prints, and player-autographed Carolina Panthers helmets and footballs.

A Holland Grill was donated by White's Sales of Statesville to be given away as a grand prize. Eric Jones of Conover was the lucky Blood Drive donor who won the grill.

Each year the demand for donors increases, but the eligibility for donors decreases due to guidelines set by the American Red Cross to protect blood recipients. Our military being



From left, Holland Grill winner Eric Jones, Drive Coordinator Jack Horton, WFMX Marketing Manager Greg Ryan, Red Cross representative Pamela Campbell, Drive Chairman Raymond Burnette, WFMX Promotions Director Ben Blevins, and Pressley White of White's Sales.

on active duty in the Middle East will mean a significant decrease to the eligible donors. It is our duty as Masons to try and recruit new, first time donors to fill this deficit. If you are not eligible to give, can you recruit someone who is?

Raymond Burnette is a member of Statesville 27. He chairs the Annual Masonic Community/WFMX American Red Cross Blood Drive.

STATE

From Page 3

Manteo

Jim Hughes recently gave Manteo 521 a new flag to fly in front of the lodge.

— More Light from Manteo Lodge

Asheville

Longtime Masonic fixture Bob Bryson has retired as Asheville Scottish Rite Bodies' secretary. Enjoy that time off, Bob.

— Mount Hermon Lodge

Chapel Hill

University 408's new master, Will Towne, held a special planning meeting in February. The members of the lodge were invited for supper and the meeting. — The Plumline

Garner

Garner 701 handed out service awards at its Valentine's Dinner. Veteran's Emblems for 50 years membership went to Phillip George Pery and Willard Futrell. Kenneth Hall got his 60-year award. Delmas Williams was made a life member for his years of service.

Garner Lodge's golf tournament is set for May 5 at Eagle Ridge. They are thinking of a sporting clays tournament at Deep River Gun Club in the fall.

— Masonic News from Garner, NC

Asheboro

David Lawallen and Carlie Smith drove a pickup load of gifts and toys to the Masonic Home for Children in December. The members of Balfour 188 and Asheboro 699 contributed and collect the items from local merchants.

— The Corner Stone

Dunn

The Dunn Chapter of the Eastern Star hosted a barbecue chicken dinner for Palmyra 147 members and their wives in January. Phil Turlington, of Neill S. Stewart 556, was made an honorary member of Palmyra Lodge in February.

Palmyra's Joe Duff got the Daniel Carter Beard Scouter Award in January.

— The Trestleboard

Gastonia

As membership numbers go down and lodge maintenance costs go up, there's no surprise that dues paid per member must go up. The Masonic Temple Association in Gastonia this year went up on per capita rent nearly 40 percent to \$27.50. Additionally, they are calling for donations to keep up their old, shared building.

— The Trestle Board

Southern Pines

Southern Pines 484 will be joining the town of Southern Pines to celebrate Spring Fest April 24. The lodge will hold a yard sale and silent auction. They'll also man a booth at the food court and sell breakfast to the other vendors.

— Trestleboard

Franklin

The annual steak fry that precedes the officer installation at Junaluskee 145 was termed "an outstanding success."

They delivered poinsettias and fruit baskets to their widows for Christmas.

— Trestleboard

Pilot Mountain

As they do every year, Pilot Mountain 493 delivered fruit baskets to the lodge's widows. Bert Meijboom set the record this year for long range delivery. He delivered one to Francis Harris in St. Petersburg, Florida.

— The Pilot Mountain Traveler

Kenansville

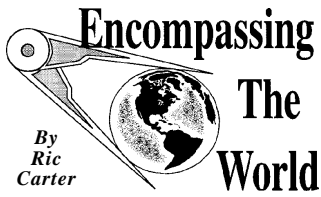
The old, and sometimes inefficient, meal committees at St. John's 13 are no more. Bobby Howard and Keith Kennedy will be arranging the meals for 2004. "Delicious and nutritious meals... provided in a timely and efficient manner" just as they did in 2003 is the promise.

— Lodge Log

Hayesville

Clay 301 has started a business registry so members of the lodge can find a Mason to do business with if they want.

— Newsletter



Encompassing The World

By Ric Carter

Nike Ad Uses DeMolay Hall

CLEVELAND, OH — Chances are you've seen Bernie Mac preaching in the basketball church television advertisement for Nike sportswear. Hoops stars in the "congregation" include Julius Irving, Moses Malone, Jerry West, George Gervin, LeBron James, and many other well-known faces.

The spot was shot in the DeMolay meeting room in the Cleveland Masonic Center. Hoops and a portable basketball floor were brought in from Cleveland State University. — *Beacon*

Vermont Masons Crown Cribbage Champ

BRATTLEBORO, VT — Winter's not the best time to be getting outside in Vermont, so Masons there have developed a way to get together and raise some money for scholarships — a statewide Masonic Cribbage Tournament. The second primary goal for the card games is to "promote brotherhood and fraternal socialization."

They start with a lodge tournament. It costs five dollars to watch or play. Top players from those tournaments move along to the district contests where they pony up ten dollars for the entry fee. The top two players from each of the state's 13 districts will meet to decide the champion. Each of them will add \$20 to the kitty. All of the money collected goes into the grand lodge scholarship fund.

Their grand lodge scholarship program matches blue lodge grants dollar for dollar up to \$500. — *The Green Mountain Freemason*

Washington Museum Reopens

ALEXANDRIA, VA — One of the favorite displays at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is the fourth floor Washington Museum. The museum has recently reopened after being completely renovated, updated, and redesigned.

The museum contains images of Washington, pictures and objects from Mount

Vernon, explores the relationship between architecture and Freemasonry, and details the planning, construction, and dedication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial itself.

The improvements to the museum were financed by the Northern and Southern jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite. — *The Messenger*

Bank Protects Historic Gavel

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — Potomac 5 has long owned one of American Masonry's most prized artifacts — the George Washington Gavel. For years, the gavel stayed in the lodge or was carried home by members for safe keeping. In 1922, Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Georgetown, a long time neighbor of the lodge, was erecting a new building across the street from the lodge. The bank offered to build a special place to protect the much loved gavel.

The lodge accepted the offer. The bank had the Diebold Company design and build

a special vault. In the center of the wall of boxes was a specially built glass-faced safe deposit box — the new home for the Washington Gavel.

The lodge still removes the gavel for special occasions. This past September, they even had a lodge social at the bank to welcome back their members from summer vacation. They gathered up their treasure and carried it to the lodge for their banquet.

Officers of the bank have long been Masons. The bank is currently known as Farmers & Mechanics Branch of Riggs Bank.

— *The Voice of Freemasonry*

Notes

YANKTON, SD — Don Rasmussen was excited when he found that 18 of 30 governors of South Dakota had been Masons. He put together a poster with a photo of the state capitol and portraits of the 18. He got his lodge, St. John's 1 to finance making a bunch of them, and sent copies to every lodge in the state.

— *The South Dakota Masonic Messenger*

GUTHRIE, OK — Oklahoma Grand Master Ronald S. Coppage wants Masons there working on increasing their numbers. He's giving a special lapel pin to members who are the top line signer on a petition for the degrees.

— *The Oklahoma Mason*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — Anyone who's been to our nation's capital knows there are people there from all over the world, Masons from all over the world as a matter of fact. To celebrate that diversity and give Masonic comfort to those far from

home, the grand lodge there has several lodges working in languages other than English. Tongues heard regularly in rituals are German, Farsi, Spanish, French, Armenian, Turkish, Italian, Azerbaijani, and one in English with Scottish emulation ritual.

— *The Voice of Freemasonry*

PORTLAND, OR — Sellwood Lodge rents the street level of their building to an art gallery. In February the gallery hosted a show of Janic Miglavs' photos from remote African villages. A foundation funded gallery visits for 300 school children. Part of their visit had them do a hands-on project on documenting disappearing cultures. The lodge turned over their dining hall for the activities. They not only helped local kids broaden their experience, but also got some community attention for being good citizens.

— *Oregon Masonic News*

Bunker Hill Monument Set For Face-lift

BOSTON, MA — The National Park Service has announced a \$3.1 million rehabilitation of the Bunker Hill Monument here. Massachusetts Masons are chipping in \$500,000 to aid the effort. But, their connection with the monument and Bunker Hill goes back much further — to the 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill itself.

Joseph Warren, president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress was killed there, becoming the first important martyr of the Revolution. Warren was master of St. Andrew's Lodge and a prominent Mason in the colonies. The Marquis de Lafayette made the cornerstone dedication of the monument the last stop on his farewell tour of the United States. That was exactly 50 years after the battle. The finished monument was dedicated in 1843.

The 221-foot, 294-step obelisk and adjacent visitor and exhibit center are set to be renovated.

— *The Northern Light*

Vol Masons Remember the Alamo

SAN ANTONIO, TX — Tennessee Masons came to Texas in 1836 and helped the Texans win their independence from Mexico. A delegation from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee returned in September to celebrate the long tie between the states' Freemasons.

During their long-weekend visit, the Volunteer State Masons visited Austin, the state capital. They attended a lodge meeting in Marble Falls, and the Grand Lodge officers conferred a Tennessee style degree in Sage. The highlight of the visit was their return to the Alamo. — *The Texas Mason*



GREENSBORO — Guilford 656 celebrated its Ladies Night and Awards Banquet at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home dining hall in October. John Lawrence, right, was named the 2003 Mason of the Year. Last year's Mason of the Year Michael James presented the honor. Both are Wilkerson College graduates. Entertainment for the evening was by the Spartones, a male cappella group from UNC-G.



TROY — H. V. Massengill, right, was honored for his more than 50 years as a certified lecturer in January. Twenty-fourth District Deputy Grand Lecturer Ray Williams presented the award. H. V. has been master of a number of lodges: Hamlet 532 in 1955, Caswell Brotherhood 11 in 1960, Johnston-Caswell 10 in 1971, and Troy 718 in 1980 and 2000. Certified since 1952, he has been district deputy grand lecturer in several districts and was chairman of the Board of Custodians for six years. — *Gene R. Griffith*



WASHINGTON — The Blizzard family is mighty proud this year — two of the boys are serving as master of their lodge. The brothers are seen here after Sandy Blizzard, center, was installed as master of Orr 104 here. Chris Blizzard, right, is master of Pleasant Hill 304 in Deep Run. They are joined here by their brother Randy, Sandy's twin. — *Brown McFadden*



NEW BERN — Calvin Stokes, center, of St. John's 3 got his Veteran's Emblem in January. The 50-year membership award was presented by lodge Master Zach H. Paul Jr., left, and Grand Steward Billy Dill, right.



RALEIGH — Past Grand Master Jack Honeycutt, right, and Tony Houser, center, of Hiram 40 were presented their 50-year Veteran's Emblem pin and certificate in January. They were presented by Past Grand Master Bill Brunk, left.



SANFORD — Lee Roy Goodwin, right, is retiring after 25 years as Sanford 151's secretary. At the installation of officers in January, the lodge gave Goodwin a special plaque and apron saluting his years of service to the lodge. Bill Minard is seen here presenting the honors. Congratulations, Lee Roy Goodwin, on many years of a job well done. — *Ron Klepper*



LAWNDALE — During a visit to Lawndale 486 in December, Buddy Ledford was honored for his 50 years as a certified lecturer. He is seen here, right, getting the certificate from 35th District Deputy Grand Lecturer Tony Beaver, left. Ledford is a member of Cleveland 202 in Shelby. — *Tony Beaver*



WAXHAW — Early in his career as a Grand Lodge officer, Charles Lewis told Waxhaw 562's Richard Shields he'd bring a group of Grand Lodge officers one day to raise a candidate in his lodge. In November, as grand master, he kept his promise. He brought a number of familiar faces including Grand Lecturer Ralph Shtiption, Grand Tyler Boog Powell, and Past Grand Master Bill Mathis. He added some district officers as well as several Masons from the 12th District. Lewis and Shields met years ago working with the Boy Scouts. — *Richard Shields*



EAST LAPORTE — They handed out service awards at East LaPorte 358 in November. They had a fish fry to honor the 50-year award winners and the lodge's widows. Veteran's Emblems went to Henry Coates Brown, John Davis Buchanan, Linzie Lawrence Hollifield, Frank Louin Hooper, and James Baxter Wood. — *Ron E. Stephens*

Under the Oaks

Where Have All the Children Gone?



Doug McConnell
Administrator
Masonic Home for
Children

Remember the old 1960s song that asked the question, "Where have all the children gone, long time passing?" It's the same question that many Masons are asking me today when I talk to groups and individuals who remember the "old days" when our Masonic Home for Children at Oxford was filled with over 300 children. At the same time other children's homes and orphanages throughout our state and the nation were filled to capacity with hundreds of children needing a place to live.

What happened? There are certainly more children in our state than ever before and we know that all of our social ills have not been solved. We know of families in our communities who need help and are struggling every day to make ends meet. So why, we ask ourselves, aren't the old children's homes and orphanages filled like they used to be?

Well, there are several very good reasons why they are not, and most of them are very logical. First of all, there are many more support structures available to families in their home communities which, in many cases, make out-of-home placement of children unnecessary. There is Medicaid, Food Stamps, WIC Programs, food banks, and other faith-based initiatives that are aimed at not only helping families in need, but also keeping families together. This focus on assisting families is very different from the time in our society only a few decades ago when social service agencies including orphanages and children's homes had an attitude of, "Bring us the children if the parents can't or

won't do their job, and we'll take care of them." Little effort or energy went into helping them over the rough times or trying to keep them together as a family. Often times, when a child went into an orphanage, it was understood that they went to spend the rest of their childhood there. Families were excluded from the decision making while the child was there, and visits were kept at a minimum, if permitted at all.

Another significant impact on the placement of children in orphanages was the birth control pill and other methods of contraception that greatly reduced the number of unwanted pregnancies and unwanted or unplanned children. Smaller families also often translated into families that were affordable and easier to keep together.

Another factor that has greatly influenced the number of children coming into care is a series of law changes that began in the early 1980s and is still going on today. The first of these mandated that children who had to be removed from their homes be placed according to a prioritized schedule that began with placement with other family members, then into a foster home, then a small group home, and lastly a larger institution as a placement of last resort. All of these placements were also to be in the child's home community. Social workers who were tasked with placing children out of their homes had to follow these rules and could no longer place children all the way across the state or even across state lines, even if this were the best place for the child. That same priorities have been reinforced in federal and state legislation and regulation many times over during the past 30 years. For the most part, families, especially children, have benefited greatly from it.

Still another fact that has influenced this trend is that of reduced funds going to the state and county for the protection of children in peril. It is my opinion, and the opinion

of many others in this field, that decisions to remove a child from parents who are neglectful or abusive, are all too often being made on the basis of funds available rather than on needs of the child. So too are decisions to place a child for adoption in questionable homes or in homes that have not been fully studied just to remove a child from the rolls of a department of social services that is strapped for money. Financial considerations should always take a back seat in any decision where the safety or well-being of a child is concerned.

So where does this leave our Masonic Home? Will there be enough children who need our services? These are questions that our staff are faced with every day and questions that our Board of Directors ask themselves as they go about making plans for our future. And, although nothing would make us happier than to live in a world where all families can live together in safety and in peace, that day isn't here yet; and there are many, many children across this state who desperately need our help. Children who have emotional or behavioral problems who need our services, children whose families need short term help while they work through their problems, families who do not have the skills to raise children in these difficult times, and children who cannot live at home because the problems of their families are just resistant to change and the families can't afford the boarding schools of the wealthy and affluent, all need what we have to offer. The children may not stay as long as they once did, and we may concentrate more on quality than quantity, but there are still an abundance of children who need us.

Bad things still happen to good children every day. And, as long as the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford exists, we will be there for them to make a positive difference in their lives. That is, after all, our charge as Masons.

DeMolay in NC: Fact and Fiction

By Chuck Rouse

FICTION: DeMolay is gone in North Carolina. Don't believe everything you hear; DeMolay in North Carolina is not dead — at least not yet. Although it's true we're at our lowest point in the history of the order, with four registered chapters and fewer than 150 members statewide, we're still fighting. Compare that with where we were in January 1998 with 400 members and almost a dozen chapters. What happened? Apathy, mostly among the young people, but also among the craft, by not recognizing and promoting DeMolay within its Lodges and communities.

FACT: DeMolay needs your help. By the time this article is published, every lodge master and secretary should have received a personal letter from me regarding DeMolay and our sister groups. I encourage each master and every lodge to consider sponsoring a chapter. Also, if you live around the Raleigh area, we will be placing road signs in front of several lodges (with lodge approval, of course) to advertise and promote DeMolay. If it works in Raleigh, the program may spread to other towns. We need good public relations, we need new and invigorated chapters, and we need boys!

FICTION: It takes a lot of money to start a chapter. It doesn't take a great deal of money or lots of boys to start up a chapter. DeMolay International has been looking at a pilot program which can start a chapter structure with as few as five boys and three adult advisors. As for money, a small initial investment for Letters Temporary (dispensation) and supplies for the chapter will be needed, and there are fees associated with the training and registration of advisors, but that's about it. Once the chapter gets going, by holding fund-raisers, the chapter should and can earn whatever they need. We have some resources available to help the boys, but one night of passing the hat might likely get all the up-front money you need.

FACT: Senior DeMolays are joining the ranks of Freemasonry. Now that the age to join Masonry in North Carolina is 18, some of

the older members in DeMolay have taken advantage and joined their sponsoring Lodges. You can have a direct and influential part in helping the fraternity grow by working with and recruiting for DeMolay. You're getting young people into the lodge in a supervised environment, and showing them Masonic principles and brotherhood by holding and attending numerous events, all designed to develop the young man's character, teamwork, and leadership capabilities.

FICTION: It's difficult to get boys to ask about DeMolay. Unlike Masonry, DeMolays can be recruited. We have a lot of tools for that purpose. The only qualifications are that they are of good character, between the ages of 12 and 21 and express a belief in a Supreme Being. That's it. There are no restrictions on race, religion, Masonic heritage, or even hair style. Like Masonry, DeMolay wants to take a good boy, expose him to moral principles, give him mentors and examples to go by and develop what we call, Tomorrow's Leaders Today.

FACT: Every lodge is supposed to have a DeMolay Committee. Regulation 61-8 of *The Code* requires each Lodge to have a committee "... to assist in the formation of DeMolay Chapters in their communities and assist in the supervision of said chapters..." My challenge to you — what is your committee doing?

FINAL FACT: We're here to help. If you are committed to starting a chapter, we'll be right beside you. Grand Master Safrit would like our youth organizations to grow and prosper like we all do. If you have a recruit for DeMolay or want to discuss opening a chapter, contact me and we will see that your needs are met. I can be reached at home (919) 876-6459, work (919) 876-6611 or by email at eo@ncdemolay.org. A member of my staff or myself will answer your questions and assist in bringing DeMolay back to the greatness it once held. Thanks in advance for your support for this project.

Chuck Rouse is state executive officer for the International Order of DeMolay.

The Treasures in Our Attics

Most of us have attics or store rooms in our houses with treasures that we feel are too good to be thrown away but which are unfit for any use. All of them have sentimental value and yet are useless and harmless.

Similarly many of us have treasures in the attics of our minds. Considerable time and effort must have gone into acquiring these treasures and we are not willing to discard them.

Why should we? Because some of these treasures are, more often than not, musty ideas, outdated thinking, and notions that have become irrelevant with the changing times.

We go to a specialist doctor because we know that he keeps abreast of the changes that are constantly taking place in medicine. In fact, there is no field of endeavor in which man can stand still. Freemasonry is no exception.

By discarding these "treasures" we are actually using them as stepping stones to something better.

Not realizing this and being dogmatic in clinging to irrelevant notions will be suicidal for the fraternity. For us, as Freemasons, adaptation and openness is the call of the times that we are in today.

The open session, the video presentations,

the press meets, et al. are steps in this direction — the right direction — steps that will prove to be beneficial to the institution in the long run.

As the saying goes: "Excellent lodges do not believe in excellence — only in constant improvement and constant change."

—Arun Chintpanth, Masonsouth, Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

Some Birthdays From The Home For Children

Katrina D.	April 7, 1993
Krystal D.	April 7, 1993
Montez W.	April 7, 1993
Christopher W.	April 8, 1995
Jessie W.	April 15, 1998
Cheyenne T.	April 27, 2000
Sarah R.	May 1, 1984
Glendon R.	May 1, 1989
Schniqua A.	May 3, 1991
Cassandra Q.	May 4, 1989
Shane F.	May 24, 1989
Devin W.	June 3, 2003
Jennifer H.	June 14, 1985
Kaitlyn H.	June 29, 1993

I Want To Help

I want to add my support to Masonic Charity. Please send my gift to:

- The Masonic Home for Children Vision Capital Fund
- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
- The Masonic Home for Children
- The Masonic and Eastern Star Home
- The Jones Masonic Campus
- Send me information about contributing through wills and bequests.
- I would appreciate a visit. Please have someone contact me.

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

My Phone Number _____ My Lodge _____

In Memory of (optional) _____ Address _____

To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make your check payable to the charity of your choice.

Please mail your check to:
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina
P.O. Box 6506
Raleigh, NC 27628

Using Employer Matching Gifts

By Chris Richardson

In a time when more and more good, honest causes exist, each one needing your support and your donations, how can you make your \$50 gift stretch to equal \$100? How can you and I involve more individuals in the purpose of our lodge and our fraternity, and in the mission of our Home? How can our Home continue to increase in financial support to grow and build for the future? The answer may be your employer, who is prepared to join our worthy charities and contribute and all you have to do is ask them.

Employer matching programs are becoming more and more frequent in today's giving environment. By definition, an employer establishes a matching program, obligating itself to match the donations of its employees who give to approved non-profit charities. Companies which have these programs match at different rates, for example giving \$1 for every \$2 you give, or 50% of your total gift. The purpose for all programs is the same — to give back to the communities a company and its employees serve and to encourage and support employees who work, not just to earn a living and support a family, but to those who donate time and money to others in the name of charitable giving.

The thank you letter below was written to a Brother, who found out that his employer, Merck & Co, Inc., not only supported his work in the community as a Mason, but would join him in contributing to our Masonic charities. I have included it to tell you how it works and how it can greatly benefit our Home.

Dear Brother,

Recently, our Home received a letter indicating your participation in the Merck Partnership for Giving Campaign and your wonderful gift to our Home and our children in the amount of \$100. First, let me thank you for your generosity and kindness in giving this contribution to our Home. The success and survival of our Home is dependent upon those who, through their generosity, find our mission and the lives of our children paramount for the future. Your gift is a special and kind contribution that will allow this Home to prepare children for a better life

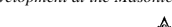
today and a promising future.

Secondly, your gift marks the kind of opportunities available to many in our giving community, as it involves not only your support, but that of your employer. The fact that Merck matches its employees contributions 100% up to \$250,000 per year indicates their strong commitment to the communities they serve. In addition, it generates more money that is desperately needed to provide the quality child care that is our trademark. I thank you for taking your time to participate in this program and thank Merck for their dedication to the lives of those served by health and human service organization, like ours and their support of employees charitable causes. Our thanks once again, for your generosity and support and we hope to join you in this partnership with your employer again next year.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Chris

My thanks again to this supporter and to companies such as Merck & Co., Inc., ExxonMobil, IBM, Phillip-Morris, and a host of other corporations who not only provide a product or service for you and I as consumers, but for their commitment to the charities of their employees. Does your employer have a matching gift program? Would they join you in your support of our Masonic Charities? Could every dollar you give to the children, equal two more dollars thanks to the giving program of your employer? Ask your Human Resource Department today, to see if your company offers a matching gift program and if so, make our Home and our children a part of this popular, successful and satisfying way to give.

Chris Richardson is assistant director of development at the Masonic Home for Children.



Don't forget that your blue lodge dues are payable January 1, for the following year. Check your dues card now to make sure you're up to date. If you don't have a 2004 card, the one with old St. John's 1 Lodge building, you need to contact your lodge secretary.

Ramblin' Rose

Planning for the Future: More Than Three Squares



John A. Rose Administrator Masonic & Eastern Star Home

Masonic and Eastern Star Home planning for the future begins with the first in a series of three articles...

"Each generation brings new challenges and opportunities."

A Master Mason once said to me about services at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home...

This uninformed brother is of the old school where "old folks homes" were marginal answers...

It is important that we educate the brethren about our Masonic charities and the needs of residents whom we have opted to serve...

What if we did not hear the message of B. S. Royster, then chairman of the Masonic Home for Children at

Oxford, in 1900 when he was reported that, "Another urgent need... is an electric light plant. It is unsafe, dangerous, and running too great a risk of losing life and destroying your property to use lamps burning kerosene oil in buildings where so large a number of children live."

If we did not educate our brethren and influence change, perhaps the "Rules and Orders" to be observed by the poor in the Poor House in Stapleton Parish, England would still be in effect:

"All shall be in bed by nine o'clock in the summer and eight o'clock in the winter."

"Persons convicted of lying or swearing shall sit by themselves in the dining room and have papers affixed on their breasts with 'Infamous Lyer' or 'Common Swearer' written thereon."

Those who have not visited our Masonic Homes often conjure up some impression of what these "institutions" must be like. People have a tendency to invent plausible explanations for things they do not know.

Like water, misinformation (or recalling what used to be) will fill a void. The majority of those who have not visited our Masonic charities have conjured up images that are inhospitable and uninviting.

Without a visit and some education, you may not be aware that the Masonic and Eastern Star Home [MESH] in

Greensboro replaced an aging nursing facility with a beautiful state-of-the-space Care Center.

Unless you visit or keep abreast, you would not know that we have augmented our residential accommodations with forty-one beautiful, two-bedroom, 1,650-square-foot homes.

At MESH there are more than 250 residents. Some need few services and lead active healthy lives during their retirement. Some need assisted living services, and some require skilled nursing assistance.

Everyone living at MESH does so because they want to do so. The residents of MESH have the security of knowing that they will be provided only the services they, and, more importantly their spouses, need. Every resident knows that they will be cared for even if they live longer than their assets. The residents of MESH have the security of knowing, and trusting, those that may be providing their services in the future. The residents know that their family members will not be called upon to provide services and make personal and other decisions.

The next step needs to be replacement of our, circa 1948-1970, congregate living buildings. We have to move from too-small rooms with shared showers to studios and apartments with private baths.

This lofty goal has created some confusion. Next Article - Information is the solution to confusion.

Down East Currents

Continuing the Heritage



Bryan Lassiter Project Manager Jones Masonic Campus

One of the things that make most Masons realize they are contributing to the greater good is the wonderful heritage of our Masonic charities. However, the charities of Freemasonry, brethren, are not what make our fraternity great. The fact that our fraternity strives for greatness inspired it's members to build the charities we have today. Following a devastating civil war, there were many children in North Carolina who were orphaned, and literally had no where to turn. Seeing this great need, the Masons of North Carolina decided to use the St. John's College property in Oxford as a home for as many of these children as we could care for — the wonderful home we now know as the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford was born.

After visiting an infirm brother, Masons were appalled by the poor living conditions in a local county rest home. Those brethren felt no Mason, nor his widow, daughter, mother, or sister should have to spend the last of their earthly days in such a place. From this inspired thought, the Masonic and Eastern Star Home was born. Both of these homes have always put care for their residents as their top priority. In North Carolina, Freemasonry has a wonderful heritage of providing for the orphan and the widow. It's a heritage we proudly continue today.

Jones Masonic Campus was designed from it's very beginning to complement the wonderful charitable work blue lodge Masonry already does in North Carolina. This commitment was the fundamental building block envisioned by the donor of the property, and by the members of its Board of Directors. Part of the property is designated for a children's camp especially designed for the needs of our children at Oxford. Another component of the campus is an adult care community. The third major use of the campus will include a conference center for Masons and its affiliated organizations. I am happy to tell you that the children's camp project is

under way, and we are hopeful that we will have campers on site at Jones Campus this very summer.

I am also happy to tell you that because so many of you took the time to participate in a survey we took part in last fall, we are finally able to show beyond a doubt that there is a strong desire for a Masonic retirement community at the coast. The Jones Campus Board of Directors has always insisted that any development must be of long-term benefit to the Craft. The resounding results of the survey were so strong, that the Board unanimously voted at a recent meeting to take the Jones Campus development plan to the next level. In the near future, we expect to have information on the specifics of an adult retirement community at Cedar Point. Shortly thereafter, we expect to begin the process of accepting deposits for accommodations. What a great time for Masonry in North Carolina!

Another exciting thing we are planning here at Jones Masonic Campus is an Open House. The Octagon House will be open to the public from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 24, and from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 25. The Octagon House is a 4,000-square-foot structure built as a home in 1856. It survived conflicts in the Civil War, and was occupied by the North for a short time. The structure will be used for offices, meeting space, and a general gathering area for Jones Campus. A library and museum will also be housed there. Please plan to come to the campus in Cedar Point the last weekend in April and see this wonderful structure. It will also give you an opportunity to see the rest of this beautiful place that is Jones Masonic Campus. For driving directions, or for more information, please look up our brand new web page at www.jonescampus.org.

Oxford Orphanage SINGING CLASS Annual Concert. Songs—Recitations—Pageants Patriotic Drills. 14 Children In Group. Tickets On Sale By Local Committees. BELHAVEN TUESDAY, APRIL 29. School Auditorium, 7:30 P. M.

Times Change

This old poster found in the Belhaven Memorial Museum is a reminder of a time when children from our Home toured the state performing at public venues.

50-Year Lecturers Noted

RALEIGH — The Board of Custodians last year instituted an award for 50 years as a certified lecturer. In 2003 four men had achieved that goal: Willie Parker Goodwin with 53 years, James Kelly Hooper 53 years, Buddy Ledford 51 years, and H. V. Massengill 50 years.

A Heritage of Service

The Masonic Home for Children School of Graphic Arts has maintained a tradition of offering vocational education to our children at the Home and serving the printing needs of North Carolina Masons for 130 years. If you or your lodge need printing done, contact them at lwilliam@mhc-oxford.org or (919) 603-3910.

Your Articles and NC Mason Deadlines

Got something you want to say? Have an announcement to make or invitation to get out? If your lodge never gets mentioned here, appoint yourself lodge reporter, and keep us posted on what you guys are doing. Got suggestions for features? Requests for information? We don't have the space for everything, but we'll make every effort to take care of those things with the broadest interest across the state. The dates below will give you an idea of when you need to get timely matters to us.

Table with 3 columns: Issue, Deadline, Approximate Publication Date. Rows include May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December, January/February, March/April.

Join Us In Welcoming Our New Master Masons

Large table listing names and numbers of new Master Masons, including Charles David Ward, Haskel Dean Collier, Danny Lee Short Jr., Jimmy Lynn Capps, Joseph Lee Murdock, Leopold Kenneth Salzer, William Douglas Hightower, Warren Thomas Hawkins, Robert William Dawes, Adam Ross Jolly, Harold Raymond Hoffmeier, Jack Allen Ritter, Derwood Kenneth Spell, Paul James Myers, Richard Keaton Harrell, William Nolan Toon, Bradley Patrick Moore, Elwood Wilson Hackney Jr., David Delaney, Robert Lee Wilkins Jr., William Delford Gilreath Jr., James Timothy Hairr, Harry Stanley Puckett, Herbert Andrew Mitchell, James Melvin Ballard, Ronald Willard Faison, Steven Dalton Wheeler Jr., Jeffrey Martin Smith, David Ray Jones, Charles Richard Moore, Kirby Steve Adcock Jr., Roger Dale Yates, Thomas Roy Slack, Willard Lonnie Causey Jr., and many others.

Masons Drive NC's Biggest Blood Drive

By Raymond Burnette

The 15th Annual Masonic Community/WFMX American Red Cross Blood Drive was held January 2, 2004, with the cooperative efforts of Masonic lodges surrounding the Statesville and Hickory areas. To help the American Red Cross breathe a little easier after the holiday season, lodges near each of the five donor sites have pitched in for the last 15 years to recruit donors for one of the biggest one-day blood drives in the Carolinas Region. This year there were 573 productive units of blood collected, with more than 650 donors presenting to donate blood.

Results from each location are:

Statesville	291 units
Mooreville	86 units
Conover	59 units
Hickory	72 units
Taylorsville	95 units

The Mooreville site was selected this year to collect bone marrow typing. Eighteen donors agreed to be typed for marrow and be added to a database for potential bone marrow donors — Giving The Gift Of Life In More Than One Way! All it took was a small, extra vial of blood for the typing.

The holidays always bring more demand for blood due to accidents occurring during inclement weather and heavy traf-

fic. Those same accidents can increase organ transplants requiring many units of blood. Many surgeries are delayed until after the holiday season, bringing an increased need early in the year.

The American Red Cross gives some examples of how much blood is needed for different procedures and emergencies:

- Coronary artery bypass surgery uses 1-5 units.
- Open-heart surgeries may take up to 50 units (more than most small drives produce!).
- Bleeding ulcers deplete 3-10 units.
- Brain surgery requires 4-20 units.
- Auto accidents or gunshots may take up to 50 units.
- Fractured hip/joint replacement take 2-20 units.
- Organ transplants may use up hundreds of units.



Donating comes naturally to Cotton Morrison who topped a lifetime 13 gallons in January.



Hurricane Isabell spins over North Carolina.

Masons Answer Neighbors' Calls

By Ric Carter

RALEIGH — Hurricane Isabell raked a path of destruction across North Carolina and Virginia in September 2003. Many in the eastern part of our state were left homeless or with great damage. Some even lost their lives. Masons around the world showed an outpouring of compassion and desire to help.

A national appeal from the Masonic Service Association of North America brought in money to help those in need. The money was distributed by a special committee of North Carolina Masons. Cash help went to Masons and non-Masons based on need and available funds. The committee was composed of several of the people who made similar decisions in previous disaster aid distributions. They sent out checks totaling \$67,000.

Here is a sampling of notes of appreciation from those who were helped.

- Thank you so very much for your help during our time of need. May God richly bless each and every one of you.
- Thank you does not seem to be enough... God will surely reward you for your kindness.
- We are overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness and assure you that the assistance will be well and carefully used.
- I feel so blessed for your kindness.
- It went a long way in helping us get through this very difficult time.

When you next hear an appeal to help your brother Masons victimized by another disaster, remember these kindnesses of our brothers around the world and return the favor.



Richard Holshouser, seen here, joined Al Hardy in encouraging lots of Masons from Boone to travel down to Hickory to give.

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Ric Carter photo

Building Dodges Another Bullet

To survive 200 years, any building must have a generous supply of champions and plenty of luck. The building that housed Wilmington's St. John's 1 from 1805 to 1825 has had its share of both, from Masons tossing wet blankets during an early Wilmington conflagration to history buffs and professionals who fought to preserve authentic features. This old brick lodge building recently lived through another near miss. Learn details beginning on page one of this issue of The North Carolina Mason.