

Trestleboard

Volume 110

May 2003

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Pray for our military!



Lodge Officers

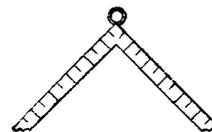
- Worshipful Master Larry Burton 972 618-7472
- Senior Warden Mike Heidenreich 972 390-1925
- Junior Warden Gene Blackmore 972 222-7879
- Treasurer Warner Richeson 972 422-4268
- Secretary Harry F. Powell II 972 424-7153

Just in case you were not able to donate blood at the Plano Lodge "Gift of Life Program" You still have a chance.

You may donate your blood at a Carter Blood center and tell them to credit account #1620.



From the East



April 21, Plano, Larry Burton, W.M.

The time is flying by too fast. It seems like just yesterday I was installed as your master of the lodge. I am having a great time and I hope that everyone else is as well.

I have tried to allow for everyone to gain insight to appending Masonic functions. This month Brother and Monarch Jerrel Jones will be informing us all about the Grotto and all of the wonderful things that they do. It is an organization that

the men as well as the ladies will enjoy. To find out more about the Grotto be sure and attend our May meeting.



Thus far we have assisted Knox Corinthian lodge in various degrees and it is my understanding that the bulk of the members are men who are associated with the Scottish Rite Hospital. Our

Secretary, Tiny Powell has been kind enough to find candidates for us to confer the various degrees upon.

Brethren, we need to be more aggressive in obtaining new members for Plano lodge. I do see signs of activity, however, we sure could use more new candidates. Perhaps you know someone who will become a good Mason. Talk with him and who knows perhaps we can gain more good men.

The Masonic North

During the course of initiation, the new Mason is taught the North is Masonically a place of darkness. This is explained in the ritual by describing the orientation of King Solomon's Temple and stating the location prevented the rays of the sun at meridian height from entering a north window. This explanation is based upon natural phenomena. However, it is known that diffused light will enter a northerly oriented window. In addition, this explanation provides some difficulty for most of those living in the Southern Hemisphere where the north is subjected to the sun's rays. There are no additional references to the North as a place of darkness in the ritual leaving

one to ponder this brief reference in the Entered Apprentice Lecture.

The north is not something that was thought up by some deep thinker. It is a direction and is used by man to orient his understanding of the universe. The concept of north is evident in the King James translation of the Bible where Job 37: 9 reads, "Out of the south cometh the whirlwind; and cold, out of the north." The mythologies of several ancient cultures evidence a dread of the north as a place of darkness and desolation. Even among the people of England there existed a desire not to be buried on the north side of a church indicating an aversion to the north.

The Graham Manuscript, a Masonic catechism published in 1726, provides some additional insight. It contains the following questions and answers:

Q. How stood your lodge at your entering?

A. East west and south

Q. Why not north also

A. In regard we dwell at the north part of the world we burie no dead at the north side of our churches so we carry a Vacancey at the north side of our Lodges

Continued on page 4

Plano lodge plans Fellowcraft certified degree

The certification of the Fellowcraft degree will be planned for the month of May. Check the Trestleboard and our website to learn of the date. It is all dependant on the



availability of the instructor who will be grading the work. We will start practice on the Masters degree right after our certi-

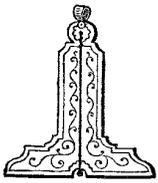
fication. If you are interested in participating in the degree work contact Tom Masters at (972) 243-2020 or Joe Moses at (972) 509-1834. We will need a lot of resources for this so now is the time to learn our work.

The website location is

Masonic service for Brother Jim Underwood well attended

I am saddened to hear about Jim Underwood. He passed away on April 12th and we had 29 masons present at his service. Several Masons implied that they were so happy to be a mason and be a part of the work performed during his service. The Scottish Rite performed a Rose Croix funeral service and the Masons had performed grave site burial services. Thank you all for attending. Jim was an outstanding mason and an outstanding man. I'm certain that he is now looking down upon us with his apron on and smiling at all of us. Thank you very much everyone and "I'm proud to be a Mason"

From the West



Brethren,

Another month has come and gone and once again, Plano lodge has been busy. We continue to do degree work both for us and courtesy degrees for Knox-Corinthian. We have a team that is practicing a Fellowcraft's degree in preparation for a graded degree. Come up on Wednesday evenings to help, watch or just see what goes on.

The 9th District Masters, War-

dens, and Secretaries Association met on April 16th and watched a program titled Masonry in Scotland put on by Brother Charles McKay that was excellent. If you ever get the chance to see this program, I hope you will do so. Bro. Charles has spent a lot of time putting this presentation together and it is full of beautiful pictures and interesting information.

We have our semi-annual blood drive on April 26th. Hopefully, by the time you receive this, I will have already seen

you there while one of the fabulous technicians from Carter Blood Care was reliving you of some of your "unneeded" blood.

May will be another busy month for Plano. Our stated meeting will be on the 1st and we will have practices and called meetings on the rest of the Wednesday and Thursday nights. Come meet with us and enjoy all the fellowship this lodge can bestow.

Hope to see you soon.

Calendar of Events for May

Plano Lodge Events	Special Events
<p>May 1st stated meeting</p> <p>May 8th EA degree Walter J Ford Jr.</p> <p>May 15th Dark at Plano, but be sure and attend the Shrine Stated Meeting</p> <p>May 22nd FC degree</p> <p>May 29th Certified FC degree EA proficiency</p> <p>Note: the schedule may be flipped for the 22nd and 29th dates depending on the availability of the Certified Degree Teams' schedule.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Rite—Valley of Dallas stated meeting May 12th • The last two chances to attend the 2003 Grand Master's conference— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORT WORTH Saturday, May 3 Conference 10:00 AM PORT ARTHUR Saturday, May 17 Conference 10:00 AM • The Grand Lodge of Texas MASONIC OAK OBSERVANCE Sunday, May 18 (Time to be announced) • A Masonic Forum on Opening & Closing Ceremonies & Various Lodge Procedures. In the Auditorium on the 2nd Floor Of the Masonic Temple. 507 S. Harwood St., Dallas, Texas 75201 On Wednesday, April 23, 2003

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“The Masonic North” continued from page 2

This allusion to the north as a place of darkness can be found in the very early Masonic rituals. Perhaps this dread of the north was related to the natural inclemency that threatened him from the north, the winds bringing the cold from the Artic regions.

There is another, and perhaps more practical, reason for the north to be considered a place of darkness. Early religious buildings were built in an east-west fashion with the east being the predominant direction. This orientation was desired as the east was considered the source of light and power, related to the sun rising in the east.

In creating their work area, the medieval lodge built a lean-to type

building erected along side the church under construction. This building was invariably placed on the southern side of the construction to avoid the inclemency of the cold northern winds. As a result, the lodge acquired an east to west orientation and the openings were in the east, south, and west. This exposed the hut or lodge and the workmen to as much east, south, and west light as possible, providing the necessary light to work by for as long as possible. The light was blocked from the north by the adjacent building.

As Masonry moved from the operative to the speculative, it was natural that the north would continue to symbolically represent the darkness of the working structures. As such, the north represents the profane world and symbolizes ignorance, as study and examination are not possible in darkness. So it is fitting this

symbol is presented to the Entered Apprentice during his initiation. In this act, the candidate enters a new stage of his life dedicated to improving himself morally and seeking a better understanding of his relationship with the Creator. As such he seeks enlightenment, leaving behind the darkness of ignorance. As Masons we should remember our continued quest for self-development and personal growth.

