

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2004—DECEMBER 2004



FROM THE EAST

Brethren: Once again the Holiday Season is upon us. The year is almost finished.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR"

My year is almost up also. It has been an enjoyable ride and I must say I will miss it but I am also looking forward to being a Past Master.

We have had a good year. My goal of getting our attendance up has only been partially successful. All of our functions have been successful. There were no less than seventy, counting Masons, wives and visitors, attending each event. Several times we had over eighty. We raised several new masons, but not as many as I would like to have seen raised.

There are so many that I want to thank for their efforts during the past year. Without them we could not have done anything. All the committees have done a superb job. All Officers have been diligent. The Entertainment has been First Class. The meals have been excellent, or at least all "the ones without too much salt".

So we fed and entertained well. Some may say we do too much of that and not enough Charity. Well, when we break bread together, we are doing what Masonry is about, FRIENDSHIP AND BROTHERLY LOVE. St. James has and will always do more than its share for Charity.

St. James is blessed with having so many faithful Past Masters. Without them our Lodge would be in bad shape. I intend to be one of those faithful Past Masters and to be available whenever needed.

So, THANK YOU, St. James Lodge, for giving me the privilege of being Worshipful Master for 2004. If I have done any good this year, it is because of the support and confidence you all have given me.

I look forward to receiving my Past Masters Apron and seeing my picture on the wall. Some have said the pictures are the "Who's Who" of Baton Rouge; well mine will be part of the "Who Was" of St. James.

Fraternally,

FRANK E. DEDMAN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER 2004

"The holiday gift" for the Mason that has everything:

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

Forms for Perpetual Membership are available from Secretary Pence. The Perpetual Membership fee is a minimum of twenty (20) times the current annual dues of \$54.50 in one installment of \$1,090, or five (5) annual installments of 4.52 times the annual dues, or five annual installments of \$246.34 each.

RECENT EVENTS

Nov. 4 St. John the Evangelist Program
The Lodge responded to a request from Rainbow Girls by a donation of \$100 from the Relief Fund.

Investigation Committee reports were accepted and ballots passed on three Petitions. A Master Mason transfer request was received from a brother from Colorado and referred to committee.

An interesting Masonic Education program was given by Bro. Tim Atkins. He spoke on St. John the Evangelist whose birthday we celebrate on Dec. 27.

A report was given by S.W.: Ken Streater on the Special Communication of Grand Lodge held at Alexandria, LA on Saturday, October 30. The G.L. decided to sell the Orphanage property for \$1,300,000, vacate it by March 2005, and build a new \$1,100,000 metal and brick veneer building with 11,800 square feet. The roof shall be metal, and the bid includes a parking lot on the 2-acre site (of the remaining 35 acres) on Masonic Drive in Alexandria, Louisiana. The building is to include a Grand Lodge meeting room, offices, library and museum, all of which are to be conditioned by 35 tons of air conditioning. The bid does not include a sprinkler system, fire alarm or burglar alarm.

Nov. 18 **Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:00)**

The Lodge was pleased at the excellent turnout for the Thanksgiving Dinner. Thanks to Frank's Restaurant for an excellent dinner and thanks to W: Brother Jones for arranging the wonderful entertainment by the "Honky Tonk Angels" from The Cabaret Theater, which is located at 8419 Florida Boulevard.

Saturday Nov. 20. Special. 2 master masons raised, after a great breakfast at 7am (thanks to WM Frank Dedman for the breakfast).

Congratulations to the two Master Masons raised on Nov. 20, Turhan Ak and Josh Gunn. St. James Lodge was pleased to have visitors from Fairfields Lodge # 425, Istrouma Lodge # 414, and Trinity Lodge # 392 attend these Master Mason Degrees.

FUTURE EVENTS

Dec. 2 Election of Officers for 2005
Dec. 9 Special, 5pm to initiate 3 entered apprentices
Dec. 16 **Installation of 2005 Officers(Open/meal 6:30)**

Other Masonic Events - Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a 13th District meeting at 2:30 PM, Sunday, December 9, 2004 at East Gate Lodge # 452.

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

DO YOU WEAR A MASONIC BUTTON?

The greatest honor that a group of men can confer upon an individual is to make of that person a Master Mason. It is true that one is a Mason in his heart before he becomes a Mason through the process of taking degrees. It is also true that good begets good and that no one could enjoy the privilege of being a Mason unless that strength of character was recognized by those who must judge by the strict standard of Masonry. After one receives such an honor, even though that distinction may arise from the fact that his life is so in accord with the principles of Masonry that it readily admits him into the Mysteries of our Order, there is yet a debt of gratitude for the signal honor that has been conferred.

How should such an obligation be discharged? By showing to Masons and to the world some visible emblem of that feeling.

That one places a high value on his membership in a Universal Fraternity, that he has the desire in his heart to be a Messenger of Brotherhood at home and in foreign countries, that he wants to recognize his brothers and be recognized, should be evidenced by the wearing of a Masonic button or ring. Let it be an open expression of an inward feeling of pride in what it represents and has stood for throughout the centuries.

We speak of the "force of Masonry." Though each may be a small part of that force, our united efforts make it a really Great Force. The wearing of a Masonic emblem does not make one a Mason, but it stands as a symbol of our happiness and pride in being a Mason.

Are you grateful for the rare privilege of being a Mason? Do you proudly wear the Square and Compasses?

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

EYES LIFTED HIGH

"I'm so tired of hearing about brotherhood!" complained the New Brother. "I'm sold on it, but I am weary of hearing it preached!"

"I make my bow to you!" answered the Old Tiler. "All my life, I have wanted to meet the perfect brother!"

"Why, Old Tiler!" cried the New Brother joyfully, "I never expected to hear that from you! Are you too, tired of the preaching of brotherhood?"

"Oh, no!" responded the Old Tiler. "I meant that if you are weary of hearing of brotherhood, you know all about it. The human mind tires of what it has already beheld. We long to hear the new and unknown, to see the strange and the unusual. We tire of that which is well known. You weary of brotherhood, because you know all about it. The man who knows all about brotherhood is, obviously, the perfect brother. So I make my bow!"

"I thought there was a trick in it somewhere!" grinned the New Brother, somewhat shamefacedly. "Of course, I don't know all about it. What I am trying to say is that I weary of being preached at, rather weary of the preaching."

"That is something else!" smiled the Old Tiler. "We all resent being preached at. And I know what ails you--that good brother from the far jurisdiction who spent half an hour talking platitudes. But you should look behind what he says to the motive before you let him weary you. A little boy I know sat down beside me recently and read me a chapter out of his school history. I knew the history and I knew the boy. I wasn't especially interested in either. But the boy was grateful for some small favor I had done him and because his history was a new story to him, he thought it would please me. I was bored by the history, but pleased with the child's effort to entertain me.

"Brother Small Talk in his dry and uninteresting remarks means to do right. He is an honest and earnest Mason. He is following Oxenham's lovely lines as well as he can, and..."

"Who is Oxenham?" interrupted the New Brother.

"Oh, don't you know him? A poet. Listen..." the Old Tiler stopped for a moment, and then, very softly, quoted: "But once I pass this way. And then... and then the Silent Door swings on its hinges; opens... closes... and no more I pass this way again. So, while I may, with all my might I will essay sweet comfort and delight to all I meet upon the pilgrim way. For no man travels twice the Great Highway, that winds through darkness up to light, through night, to day."

"That's beautiful!" cried the New Brother.

"Indeed it is!" agreed the Old Tiler. "It is the very Shekinah of Brotherhood; the glow of beauty which surrounds that which is holy. Brother Small Talk knows he will pass this way but once, and so, while he may, he essays sweet comfort and delight to all the brethren he meets upon the pilgrim way of Masonry. His idea of 'sweet comfort and delight' is to spread the doctrine of the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God."

"But," objected the New Brother. "It doesn't spread it to bore people with platitudes. I've heard what he said a thousand times."

"Ah, but now you are criticizing God!" answered the Old Tiler. "Look for the motive. God didn't give him much of a mind or provide him with many ideas. But Brother Small Talk does the best he can. His heart is right and his Masonry is good, and he tries to spread his 'sweet comfort and delight' as he goes along. To him his thoughts are beautiful. They touch his heart. And so, with a pleasant voice and smooth flow of words, he gives them to his brethren, not knowing that they hear nothing that isn't better said in the ritual. Do you know Abou Ben Adhem?"

"No," answered the New Brother. "Member of this lodge?"

The Old Tiler smiled. "Not exactly," he answered. "He never lived; and yet he will live forever." The Old Tiler quoted softly; "Abou Ben Adhem, may his tribe increase, awoke one night from a deep dream of peace, and saw, within the moonlight in his room, making it rich and like a lily in bloom, an Angel, writing in a book of gold. Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold, so to the Presence in the room he said 'What writest thou?' The Vision raised its head and with a look made of all sweet accord, answered. 'The names of those who love the Lord.' 'And is mine one?' asked Abou. 'Nay, not so,' replied the Angel. Abou spoke more low, but cheerily still, and said. 'I pray thee, then write me as one who loves his fellowmen.' The Angel wrote and vanished. The next night it came again with a great wakening light and showed the names whom love of God had blessed; and lo, Ben Adhem's name led all the rest."

"That is very beautiful, too," said the New Brother, softly.

"Aye, that is beautiful," answered the Old Tiler. "Brother Small Talk, with his platitudes and his love of his fellowmen is beautiful, too. Look within, my boy, to the motive. Do not judge men by what they do, but by what they try. We all fail; if the Great Architect judged by accomplishment, what a pitiful state we would be in! But if He judges us by what we try, if He regards not our stumbling feet, but our eyes fixed on the star, then will Brother Small Talk meet kindly friends and a great welcome when he approaches the Tiler's door of the Grand Lodge above, for his eyes are lifted high!"

"I will never be tired of any man's sincere talk again!" assured the New Brother. And Old Tiler, write me that about the pilgrim way, and Abou, too, will you please?"

The Old Tiler grunted as he reached for his pencil.

NOTE: "The Old Tiler" stories use an archaic spelling of the word Tyler"

Did You Know?

The Liberty Bell cracked when it tolled the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, PGM of Virginia, (1835).

From **Did You Know Vignettes in Masonry** from the "Royal Arch Mason" magazine, edited by Wes Cook

My thanks for the contributions to this issue of the news letter! Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu



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