

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

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

OCTOBER 2004—NOVEMBER 2004



FROM THE EAST

Brethren: Brethren: We had a good turn out for Past Masters Night. I did not get a good count, but I think it was 81. "The Trombones" was very entertaining. **The next time I make Gumbo, if ever, I promise not to put too much salt!**

Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 18 starts with Fellowship at 6:00 pm and dinner served at 6:30 pm. Bro. Jones is working diligently on providing us with entertainment but at the moment it is not completed. I am sure he will be successful in providing us with a wonderful evening. We all thank Bro. Jones for our year of festivities. It has been most enjoyable.

Thanksgiving dinner will be Sliced Fried Turkey, Cornbread Dressing with gravy, Cranberry sauce, String Beans, Salad, Pecan Pie, and Pumpkin Pie. This is an Open Meeting, so bring you spouse or friend. This would be a good time to invite a potential member also.

There will be a Special Meeting Saturday, Nov. 20 for the purpose of conferring two Master Mason Degrees. Breakfast will be served, eggs cooked to order, at 7:30 am and Degrees to start shortly after. Please come and enjoy a morning of Good Fellowship.

Last but not least, Dec, 2, 2004 will be Election of Officers for 2005. Please mark this on your calendar. All members of St. James need to be present to cast your vote. Be there.

FRANK E. DEDMAN

"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 (End Casual Summer Attire)

Oct. 7 Past Masters' Night (Open/meal 6:30) *
(I hope WM Dedman will take this comment with a grain of salt.)
The meal was unforgettable and the excellent company and entertainment by the Trombones made us all relish every moment of the evening.

Oct. 14 Special. One examined, and two passed to FC degree 7:00
Oct. 21 Masonic Education Program
WBr. Larry Wade gave a most edifying paper, "John Theophilus Desaguliers -- Father of Modern Speculative Freemasonry".
It was announced by the Master, after consultation with Past Masters, that permission was granted for the Lodge Of Nine Muses to use the Red Room at St. James Lodge for their meetings one night each month. More information about the Lodge Of Nine Muses will be announced later.

FUTURE EVENTS

Nov. 4 St. John the Evangelist Program
Nov. 18 **Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:00)**
Dec. 2 Election of Officers for 2005
Dec. 16 **Installation of 2005 Officers (Open/meal 6:30)**

"Pelican DeMolay Chapter in Baton Rouge will be holding a Garage Sale to benefit Masonic Charities on Saturday, November 6, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - at the Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Building on Florida Blvd. All members of the Masonic Family and friends are welcome to come, look, buy and help support our young people help and support our Masonic projects." --W. A. Morris

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.

Combined area York Rite Bodies will have a Festival on Saturday, November 6 in the Red Room at St James Lodge with Chapter and Council Degrees and on November 13 at Istrouma Lodge with the Knights Templar Order of The Temple.

On Saturday, Nov. 6 the Chapter and Council degrees, Order of Red Cross and Order of Malta will be conferred at St. James Lodge beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and concluding about 3:00 p.m. On the following Saturday, Nov. 13 the annual Commandery Inspections will be held, and Knights Templar Order of The Temple conferred at Istrouma Lodge (corner of Dayton and Plank Road) beginning at 11:00 a.m. and concluding about 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served both days.

All Master Masons who are Christians are eligible for membership in Knights Templar. Anyone wanting more information and a petition, please contact Joe Richard, Past Commander, Plains Commandery No. 11, at 924-7965 or jgr2@cox.net.

Since November 18 is an Open Meal meeting for Thanksgiving it is desirable to invite potential member guests. Have YOU invited a NEW guest?

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953
A MAGNIFICENT EFFORT

The Mason must ever look upon Masonry as a Magnificent Effort. That which is achieved no longer calls for the effort of the individual worker. The Temple erected closes the minds and hearts of the Craftsmen, and no longer is there use for the working tools, which served to build the man as he worked upon the Temple.

If you look back upon the long history of Masonry, you find its greatness in an examination of those who hurled the poison of derision, their invectives of hate, and who sought political power in the name of religion through their avowed opposition to the principles of Right.

Just as you may judge an individual by his enemies, you may also judge Masonry by its enemies. You can be justly proud because they are the enemies of society.

Let us be grateful in our hearts. The Strength and Wisdom which has brought Masonry through the rough and dangerous centuries is not of man. The Mason is the beneficiary of a Power that is his so long as his acts and deeds are in harmony with that Power.

Every Mason who lives a life of service to God and man creates a defensive strength against which all the forces of evil cannot prevail.

To contemplate the beauty of the completed Temple is important, but the greatest importance is the silent contribution that each of us may contribute daily toward its ultimate completion.

With the Triangle of Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, let us go forward with determination, hope, and courage. Our names may little known to posterity, but the bit of beauty that we may build into the Temple will be reflection of man's effort to make of Earth a Heaven.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

THE DIRTY TRICK

"Old Tiler, what would you do about Jones?"

"Give him what he needs, of course."

The New Brother sat down beside the Old Tiler in the ante-room. "Of course, he's a Mason, and all that, but- but I don't like him. He did me a dirty trick once. I don't mean I want to get even with him, but I don't think he's a good enough Mason to get relief from this lodge."

"Is he under charges? Suspended? Expelled?" asked the Old Tiler.

"No-o-o-o, but..."

"But nothing!" The Old Tiler was emphatic. "A man is innocent until proven guilty. If he is good enough for the lodge to accept his dues when he is prosperous, he is good enough for us to relieve when he is in hard luck."

"But it was a filthy trick he played on me..."

"When I was a very little boy," interrupted the Old Tiler, "some fifteen years after the war between the States, my parents moved to a small town in the north. They brought with them a lot of confederate money. Confederate notes were of no value after the war. My parents gave me some to play with. I thought it was real money, and no Midas had anything on me when I looked at my ten dollar bill!"

"I trotted down to the country store and bought the biggest, most red and whitish stick of peppermint candy which ever delighted any small child's heart. The storekeeper wrapped it up for me, unsmiling. I handed him my ten dollar bill. He looked at it a moment, and then took from my hand the candy. He told me the money was no good and I couldn't have the candy."

"It was the greatest financial lesson I ever learned. I didn't understand; I was terribly disappointed."

"Only when I grew up did I come to know that I had met a particularly mean specimen of he-thing, a man who would hurt a baby for the sake of one cent. I grew up feeling rather contemptuous of that storekeeper. He was within his rights, but I didn't have much of an opinion of him."

"In later years I met him, a much older man. He was glad to see me. We chatted a while, and then he recalled my youth. So I told him I hadn't liked him for many years, and why. 'You tell me what you think of a chap who would take a stick of candy from a child for the sake of a penny.'

"He flushed. 'I was just mean,' he said. 'Will you forgive me?' Of course I did, and thought no more about it. But I still didn't like him."

"Several years later his wife appealed to me for aid. He was down and out. He had been so sharp a business man that people didn't like him, any more than I did. And he had failed. They were destitute."

"What did you do?" inquired the New Brother, as the Old Tiler paused.

"All I could, of course," answered the Old Tiler. "He was a brother of the Mystic Tie."

The New Brother sat silent for a minute.

"Something tells me I have been properly spanked!" he said at last. "Of course, I have no right to consider a personal matter in connection with a brotherly appeal to the lodge for relief. I shall vote for it. And I'll see if I can't do something, personally. I still don't like him and I never will, but-"

"But you have come to a Masonic viewpoint!" interrupted the Old Tiler. "That's one of the hardest lessons to learn- that there are two viewpoints. A man is a man, a neighbor, a friend or an enemy. But he is also a brother. When he appeals to us for that brotherly aid and assistance we have all sworn to render, we have to remember only the brotherhood and not the man. I have never liked the man who took my stick of candy. The incident gave me an opinion of his character which I found unpleasant. But I couldn't vote against him in my lodge because of it, and I couldn't deny him the relief the lodge should have given him, because of it. Jones may have done you an unbrotherly trick- but that's no reason for you not to act like a brother to him."

"It is not, and I am going to, but I wish Masons wouldn't do dirty tricks!"

"So do I. But if all men were perfect, there would be no need of Masonry!" grinned the Old Tiler.

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

Did You Know?

**The MAYO CLINIC started in a Masonic Temple at Rochester Minn.
William W, Charles H, and Chas. W. Mayo were all members of Rochester Lodge NO. 21**

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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