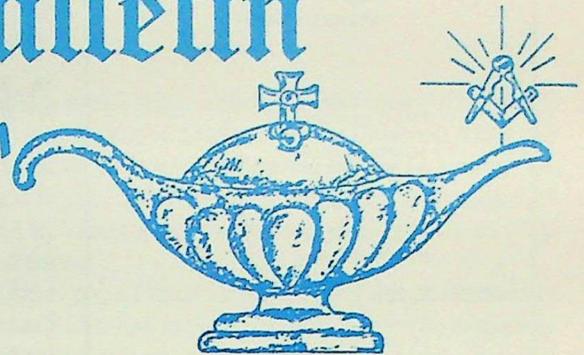


The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge^{of} Research



1996-1997

January 1997

No. 4

STATED COMMUNICATION

Saturday, January 18, 1997
Madison Lodge No.126, A.F. & A.M.
3528 Masonic Drive
Orange, Texas

9:00 a.m.
Gather at Lodge - Fellowship
Coffee and donuts

10:00 a.m.
Ladies tour to the Stark Art Museum
and W.H. Stark House (\$2.00 Fee)
Transportation provided

10:30 a.m.
Business meeting of TLR
All Master Masons welcome

12:00 noon
Lunch for all at Lodge
Served by Madison Lodge

1:00 p.m.
Presentation of Research papers
Open Meeting. Ladies and guests
invited

3:00 p.m.
Completion of business

FUTURE MEETING

Saturday, 15 March 1997, Livingston, TX
Trinity Lodge No. 14
Regular meeting and Installation of
Officers of TLR

FROM THE EAST

I have a quotation which is one of my favorites:

"It is a pleasure to stand upon the shore and see the ships tossed upon the sea; a pleasure to stand in the window of a castle and see the adventures below; but the greatest pleasure is to stand on the hill of truth." Francis Bacon - 1625

I guess being an old navy man and enjoying the peaceful times at sea and wondering if the journey would be fulfilled and would I ever see land again, makes this quotation especially poignant. I recall looking out over the bow of the USS WASP, across the blue Pacific when it was as slick as glass, and at other times when a typhoon was chasing us and tossing the ship around like a bobber. Memories like these can make us wish things were as good now as they were years ago.

Reading about Masonry and the history of Masonry makes a mason wonder how the early masons accomplished so much in the old days and how great their devotion must have been to Masonry. I believe that many of the old masons, the charter members, were men of such strong character who had the foresight to see that a lodge should be formed, chartered and maintained for future men to come. Each lodge has its own mason heroes and many men of whom to be proud, but the accomplishments of those men will go by the wayside unless the history of each lodge is documented.

At the least, the histories of our Masonic ancestors must be written down and preserved in the archives of each lodge. If possible, these memories and facts could be presented as a paper to the Texas Lodge of Research.

It is imperative that we encourage these writings so that the contributions of our Masonic forefathers be recorded for safekeeping before this information is lost or forgotten forever.

The "hill of truth" is a part of Freemasonry.

Chuck Bukin
Worshipful Master

**Texas Lodge of Research
A.F. & A.M.
Officers 1996-97**

Master Charles I. Bukin
1325 Cypress Drive
Richardson, TX 75080
(H) (214) 644-9399
(H) (214) 235-4889

Sr Warden Clifford L. Acker
P.O. Box 571
Liberty, TX 77575
(H) 409-336-9636

Jr Warden James F. Brumit, Jr.
819 Twilight Drive
Cedar Hill, TX 75104
(H) (214) 291-7315

Treasurer R. A. Ford, PM
4802 DeMilo
Houston, TX 77092
(H) (713) 682-5272

Secretary Plez A. Transou, PM
P.O. Box 1850
Dallas, TX 75221-1850
(O) (214) 748-9196

Chaplain J. Dexter Sammons, PM
519 Spring
Weatherford, TX 76086
(H) (817) 596-4180

Sr Deacon James R. Beeler
5606 North Navarro, Suite 200-B
Victoria, TX 77904
(O) (512) 576-0776

Jr Deacon Clyde B. Kenneaster, Jr.
Rt. 3 Box 3276
Athens, TX 75751
(H) (903) 675-6665

Sr Steward Robert Reid
407 N. Casa Grande
Duncanville, TX 75116
(H) 214-709-8004

Jr Steward Dennis C. Hughes
P.O. Box 401
Pattison, TX 77466
(H) (713) 375-8517

Marshall Reid McInvale
4950 F.M. 1960 West, Ste. C-3
Houston, TX 77069
(O) (713) 999-2121

Master of Ceremonies J. Weldon Clampitte
8809 Bonhomme Road
Houston, TX 77074
(H) (713) 541-9813

Tiler David B. Dibrell
7732 Mullrany
Dallas, TX 75248-1717
(H) (214) 831-7699

Transactions Editor Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM
908 Hilton Place
Denton, TX 76201
(H) (817) 387-3005

Occasional Bulletin Joe C. Hays, Jr., PM
3728 Rockdale Dr.
Dallas, TX 75220
(H) (214) 352-9105

Assistant Secretary Clyde W. Howard, Jr.
P.O. Box 1850
Dallas, TX 75221-1850
(O) (214) 748-9196

A Meeting in Advance -

THE LIVINGSTON, TEXAS MEETING

March 15, 1997

Historic Trinity Lodge No.14, 1105 W. Church, Livingston, TX 77351 will host the 15 March 1997 regular meeting and installation of officers of Texas Lodge of Research. The lodge phone number is (409) 327-8711. The business meeting of the Lodge will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. During this business session there will be an "appropriate tour" for the ladies and non-Masons. Lunch will be at noon and that is "about as definitive as possible at this time," according to Senior Warden Cliff Acker. After lunch there will be two papers and installation of officers prior to adjourning. After lodge adjourns you are "on your own to stay in the area or return to your homes."

HEADQUARTERS MOTEL -

Will be the Park Inn International, three miles south of the intersection of US 190 and US 59 (East-Tex Freeway). Rooms, single or double occupancy, are \$40.00 per night, plus tax. These special rates will be available no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, 7 March 1997. Call (409) 327-2525 or toll free 1-800-437-PARK and ask for the TLR special rate.

HOSPITALITY ROOM -

Will be open "about 5:00 p.m." Friday, 14 March at the motel. Dinner that night will be a group session, "either at the motel or at a near-by eatery."

ABOUT LIVINGSTON -

Cliff has provided this capsuled promotional material: Livingston is one of the fastest growing areas in Texas, deep in the piney woods of East Texas. It is only an hour's drive from the Houston Intercontinental Airport on US 59. It is the county seat of Polk County, named after President James K. Polk, organized in 1846 as a political subdivision of the Republic of Texas. Records show the area was first settled by the Alabama and Coushatta Indians in 1780. Through the interest and concern of Sam Houston, a reservation was established for the Alabama-Coushatta Indians, and it exists to this day.

There is a municipal golf course about a mile north of the Park Inn. Lake Livingston is a 93,000 acre man-made lake with excellent fishing for hybrid striped bass and the popular white crappie. There are over one hundred miles of scenic roads traversing the pine and hardwood forests in the area, some winding through beautiful stands of dogwood, magnolia, white oak, sweet gum and pine. Early spring is especially beautiful with all of the wildflowers in bloom, so we can only hope our meeting coincides with some great weather.

If you need additional information call Cliff at (409) 336-9636.
See you there!

The Texarkana Meeting

Pete Martinez, PM
Occasional Associate Editor

Texarkana is only 120 miles from Tyler and as Clyde Kenneaster, Bert Schrivener, Master of Tyler Lodge No. 1233, and I decided not to spend the evening there, we left at 7:00 am on Saturday morning for the trip. It started out to be somewhat foggy, but cleared up shortly after passing over Interstate 20. Then the fog enveloped us again around Lake O' The Pines. When we arrived at the portals of Border Lodge No. 672 it was a beautiful morning with the promise of the rest of the day to be the same. We found several of the brethren of the lodge busy in the kitchen preparing what later turned out to be a great lunch. We stuck our heads into the lodge room and found it dark. A flick of the light switch, along with the familiar statement "Let There Be Light," and we found ourselves in a large and very beautiful setting for the rituals and fellowship of our fraternity.

Worshipful Master Chuck Bukin arrived and unloaded a large container of books which Clyde quickly arranged on a table and the Texas Lodge of Research Book Sales was back in business. Among the arriving brethren was Rev. Gregory A. Megill. Greg now has a church in New Boston which is about 21 miles down Interstate 30. Since the last time we met at a TLR meeting Greg spent some time in Coldsprings where he left the church and lodge in much better condition than he found them. He served Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 37 as Worshipful Master in 1993-1994.

The ladies left the lodge around 10:00 am for a tour of the "Ace of Clubs House" and returned in time for lunch with us.

Worshipful Master Bukin opened the Lodge at 10:30 and what would have been another typical meeting was punctuated with much good humor at the expense of Past Master and Fellow, Dr. William P. Vaughn, who had left his Fellow's Jewel at home. Past Master Leonard P. Harvey, PGM, moved that we rescind Bill's fellowship and there were several seconds. The Worshipful Master used his parliamentary powers and ignored the motion as well as the seconds and the meeting proceeded in a more businesslike manner. In the absence of Senior Warden Clifford L. Acker, Past Master Pete Martinez was seated in the West. After the pledges and introductions, the usual items of business were covered such as reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting, listing of petitions to be voted on and special communications, all by Secretary Plez Transou, PM & Fel. Treasurer and Past Master R. A. Ford's report indicated that we still have money in the bank.

Under the heading of standing committees, Secretary

Transou reported that the Distinguished Lecturer Committee has narrowed the list of speakers for the Gemmell Memorial Breakfast down to three and a decision should be made in the very near future. As chairman of the Editorial Committee I reported we have a couple of papers in the bin, but as usual we need more.

At this point I must step out of my roll as Occasional Associate Editor and make a personal editorial comment or two. It has been my observation that several so called Research Lodges in other Grand Jurisdictions are nothing more than clearing houses for papers that go nicely in a Masonic periodical. These papers are either editorial opinion or testifications. (is that a word?) For the most part these papers are well written and interesting, but they are NOT RESEARCH papers. It is our mission, as a research Lodge, to accept, promote and disseminate research on Masonic subjects. This was brought home to me very early in my TLR experience when my first submission was turned down and sent to the Grand Lodge magazine, The Texas Freemason, where it was published. In the past we have received papers that did not meet our criteria and were either returned by the Senior Warden or rejected by the Editorial Committee. As much as we need good papers, we do not accept a paper unless it meets our standards. And it really isn't that hard to do, so write to our Senior Warden for a copy of the "Criteria and Style Sheet" and keep those RESEARCH papers coming! Well....off of my soap box!

Reporting for the Publishing Committee, Dr. Vaughn explained the delay in getting out Volume XXIX of our Transactions and stated the problem has been corrected and Volume XXX will be out soon. He also announced the winners of the James D. Carter Award for Literary Excellence. The first winner is our Senior Warden, Clifford L. Acker, for his paper "One Masonic Myth Explored," presented in the meeting at Liberty Lodge No. 48 on 21 January 1995. His paper appears in Volume XXIX. The second award was won by Dr. Paul J. Rich for his paper "Freemasonry and Fratricide in the Early Mexican Republic: A Reappraisal of Joel R. Poinsett," presented in Fraternity Lodge No. 1111 in El Paso on 20 January 1996, and will appear in Volume XXX. The Concise Index was discussed and it was decided to wait until Volume XXX is out before updating it and having it published and distributed to the membership.

(Continued on page 6)

The CALIFORNIA MEETING

(A Long Trip For A Short Meeting)

by Pete Martinez, PM
Occasional Associate Editor

My thought was, "Why fly out to San Francisco on Friday, attend the meeting on Saturday and fly back on Sunday? There is too much to see between here and there so why not make it a two weeks vacation and drive out to the meeting?" We left on Friday the 16th and drove through Colorado, Utah and Nevada to get to California and returned through Arizona and New Mexico. Tom Bodet left the light on for us.

The meeting of Northern California Research Lodge, with Texas Lodge of Research as a special guest, was held in the Burlingame Masonic Center on Saturday August 24. Burlingame is the fifth city south of San Francisco, about twenty miles as the crow flies. I am no crow and it was more like thirty miles on the freeway. Refreshments, consisting of coffee and donuts, were served at 8:00 a.m. and Lodge was opened at 9:00 by Worshipful Master John L. Cooper, III, Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of California. The Grand Masters of California and Spain were then introduced. After making a few comments, Charles H. Alexander, Grand Master of California left to attend another Masonic meeting. Some of the other dignitaries were introduced. TLR was represented by Worshipful Master Charles (Chuck) I. Bukin, Past Master Dr. Howard R. Stewart and Past Master Pete Martinez.

The theme of the meeting was "The Heritage of the Past - The Challenge of the Future." This theme is also used by the Grand Master of California. The first paper was presented by our own Dr. Stewart and was titled "Masonic Information - or, A Rose By Any Other name." This was followed by a paper from the Worshipful Master of the Spanish Research Lodge, Santiago Ansaldo, who is also the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Spain. His paper was followed by a prophecy of the future of the Grand Lodge of Spain by its Grand Master Thomas Sarobe. The Grand Lodge of Spain is more interested in their members understanding Freemasonry than their proficiency in the ritual.

After a break for lunch the third paper was read by William F. Sizemore, Past Master of Southern California Research Lodge. His paper dealt with motivating Masons to promote Freemasonry. The fourth and final paper was presented by Worshipful Master Cooper. He noted that most information on Freemasonry is published outside of research lodges and suggested that lodges should meet and discuss Freemasonry in their own facilities - face to face.

As of this time we are not sure how copies of the four papers will be published, but surely they will be available in the near future.

Lodge was closed at 3:00 pm.

That evening we of TLR and our wives were dinner guests of Grand Secretary John L. Cooper and his wife. The evening concluded with a tour of the facilities of the Grand Lodge of California. We had a wonderful time.

MASONIC TRAVELS

By Jim Voelkle
Member of TLR

In September I visited St. Alban's Lodge No.1300 in College Station. The lodge was organized to offer something special to its members. St. Albans meets only about five times a year. (This was only their 18th meeting in almost four years.) The members voluntarily wear black tie; guests are asked to wear a suit. St.Albans meets in a building owned by Sul Ross Lodge, a small red brick building in a strip shopping center across from the Texas A & M campus. The lodgeroom has gold carpeting with paneling on the east wall and sheetrock on the others.

During the business meeting their Secretary reads the minutes from a podium in the southeast corner rather from his desk. That night their DDGM also made an official visit. After the business meeting at the lodge, the members always go to a nearby restaurant for dinner followed by a guest speaker.

Dinner that night was in the atrium room at the Hilton Hotel. The topic was masonic symbolism in the book, Foucoult's Pendulum, by Umberto Eco. Several years ago I read the book. It was interesting, but I found it very complicated. The book contains plots and stories within a story. Fortunately, to augment his presentation, the speaker distributed fact sheets containing references to the various symbols he had found.

I found the meal delicious, the company very pleasant and the talk interesting. I look forward to visiting again.



EARLY TLR TRANSACTIONS SALVAGED

By Robert C. Maxwell
TLR Member

Some months ago I attended an estate sale with a friend. While my friend was interested in buying some jewelry and other things for herself and daughter, I was not particularly interested in the things offered. I wandered around until I came to a stack of books that I browsed through, reading a few pages from each to determine if there were any gems of knowledge to be gained from the moldy words printed therein. I came upon a book with the Masonic symbol on the outside cover. Upon opening the book I discovered the name Abner McCall written on the inside cover. I recognized this name to be the same as the name on the coin that was presented to me when I was initiated into this lodge [Baylor Lodge No.1235]. After making inquiry, I learned that the estate that was being liquidated was the estate of Mary McCall, the widow of our Past Worshipful Master.

I bought the book not knowing what I had bought, but with hope that there might be some words of wisdom within. I showed the book to Brother Holder who was training me in Masonic work, being Entered Apprentice at the time. He suggested that I not read the book at the time as it would only confuse me further. I was plenty confused without any additional help. I took my Brother's advise and asked that he hold the book for me until such time as I should complete my training. After being raised, he returned the book to me.

The book is Transactions, Texas Lodge of Research, 1962, 1963,1964. It is the second printed book of that prestigious organization. Abner McCall was a Charter Member. There is a roster of members for 1964. There were seven Brothers from Waco including Brother McCall.

Brother McCall left some notes and articles between the pages in the book. These were intentionally left intact so that the person who looks through them can get an idea of the way that this great man's mind worked. He also has an article published on jurisprudence.

The first part of the book itself refers to the business of the Texas Lodge of Research and is of little interest to others. However, the second part is very interesting as it contains twenty some odd articles presented before the Texas Lodge of Research between 1962 and 1964. Time does not permit me to review each article, but I will highlight some interesting points made in some of them.

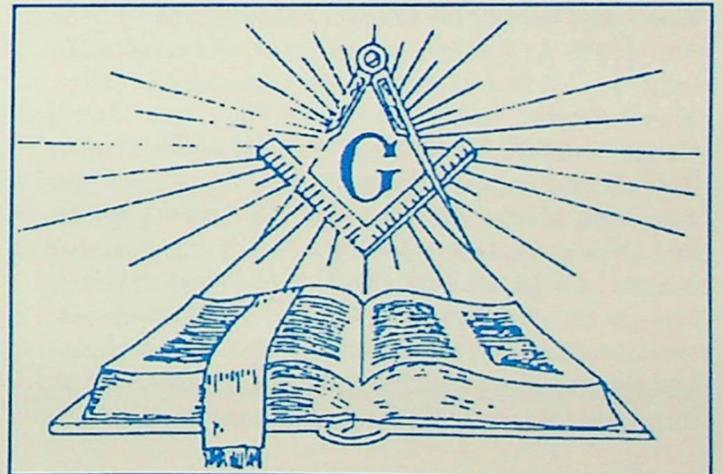
The first article tells about the place where King Solomon's Temple was built. The Temple was built, destroyed, rebuilt, became a pagan place of worship, Christian Church, Moslem Mosque, and so forth. Interesting reading for a Mason.

Another article refers to the influence of ancient civilizations on the building of King Solomon's Temple. Jews at that time lived in shelters of skins or sun dried mud and did not possess the skills to be craftsmen, so they were bearers of burdens, hewers of timber, and quarry workers. The chief architect turned to Babylon for artisans. The Babylonians had a numbering system based on six instead of our present system based on ten. We still are influenced by this system - 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 12 hours of daylight, 12 in a dozen, 12 months in a year, 360 degrees in a circle, and others that we can think of if we contemplate on it. Hiram Abif also brought Egyptian, Phoenician, and Cretan workmen.

There is an article about James Kerr, a Mason in frontier Texas. Another article is about the effects of Masonry on public schools. The "Legend of the Seven Candles" is must reading for any Jewish or Christian Mason. I learned that Mozart and Beethoven were Masons as well as other classical musicians. There is a delightful article about Salado, Texas, the little town down the Interstate a few miles. You will have to chuckle when you find out how the mothers of the town put the saloon keeper out of business.

I hope I have found a way to get the interest of the other brothers such that they will read this book and gain the information from it. It is with great pleasure that I present this book to the Lodge.

[The above was addressed to the Master of Baylor Lodge No.1235, Waco, and read to the Lodge at the stated meeting of 10 September 1996. Brother Maxwell was elected to membership in Texas Lodge of Research at the Texarkana meeting of 21 September 1996]



Texarkana

(continued from page 3)

Clyde Kenneaster, Book Sales Committee Chairman made his report and made the motion to purchase new books for our sales at Grand Lodge in December. The motion passed and we will have our usual large inventory and good selection of Masonic books for sale in the basement during the Grand Lodge meeting on December 6th and 7th.

Worshipful Master Bukin reported on an offer by the Masonic Service Association to distribute flyers for TLR to all those who receive the Short Talk Bulletin. This will cost TLR about \$600.00 which is less expensive because of the availability of paper that is surplus and will be given to us at no charge. Because of the benefits of this distribution the lodge voted to fund the project.

Austin Lodge No. 12 is planning to offer a scholarship to a student who submits an essay on Freemasonry and has asked us to set the criteria for the paper and competition. The Worshipful Master appointed a committee of Dr. Vaughn, Chairman, Dr. Wiggins and Pete Martinez to complete this project. (How did I get in this with these two Doctors?)

An account of the California meeting was given by Yours Truly and Worshipful Master Bukin. A full report will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.

Lodge was then closed and we joined the ladies for a great lunch of roast beef, mashed potatoes and other savory items.

The afternoon session was opened at the appointed hour and after prayer, pledges and introductions the following papers were presented.

Dr. William P. Vaughn delivered his eleventh paper before TLR after a drought of six and one half years, his last being presented on 20 January 1990 at Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300 in College Station. His paper "The Star of T. L. R." is a wonderful tribute and short biography on five of the past luminaries of our Lodge. These distinguished brethren are; Dr. James David Carter, our charter Master, Dr. Donovan Duncan Tidwell, the second Master, Lesley L. Walker, the fourteenth Master, Deed L. Vest, the fifteenth Master and Dr. George Henry Timothy French, the sixteenth Master. All are now deceased. Many memories were brought back to those of us that met in fellowship with these brethren and some eyes were wet with moisture. Perhaps someone will add to the points of this star in the future, but for now Texas Lodge of Research is fortunate

to have had such foundation stones to erect this edifice.

The second paper was "John J. Tumlinson of Colecto Lodge" by Dr. Howard R. Stewart, PM. Due to his absence I had the honor of reading the paper for him. The story, Dr. Stewart's eighth paper for TLR, deals with an early Texas family that produced many law enforcement officers, the majority being Texas Rangers and several were Masons.

The meeting was then closed with prayer and everyone scattered to their homes.

You might be surprised at the amount of research that goes into writing this report. I used our Transactions, my collection of The Occasional Bulletin that goes back to December 1977 and four phone calls to get information. I'm glad I don't have to add end notes.

PLEASE NOTE:

The deadline for receiving items intended for publication in the next "Occasional Bulletin" is:

January 31, 1997

Mail such material to:

Joe C. Hays, Jr.
3728 Rockdale Drive
Dallas, Texas 75220-1864

In Memoriam

James R. DeBates,
McNabb, IL

Ancil D. Hanna,
Wichita Falls

John B. Hill,
Richardson

Booker McGee,
Blossom



I AM FREEMASONRY

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages, and found true. The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry. In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my altars is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God; my sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber. By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death and the relationship of man with God and of man with man. My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereafter, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain. I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphans' cry, the widows' tears, the pain of the old and destitute. I am not a church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbor and themselves. They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger. At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal universe. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life. I Am Freemasonry.

- Ray V. Denslow

Meeting - Orange, TX

(Continued from page 8)

DIRECTIONS:

I-20 Westbound: Exit #876 Adams Bayou

I-10 Eastbound: Exit #877 16th Street

FRIDAY NIGHT DUTCH TREAT DINNER: A casual Dutch Treat Dinner is planned. For reservations, please contact Chuck Bukin, at (972) 235-4889, prior to January 15, 1997.

HOSPITALITY SUITE: Will be available at the Ramada Inn on Friday night (yes, the blue M & M's will be there too!)

MARK YOUR 1997 CALENDARS NOW!

NEW MEMBERS

Elected September 21, 1996

Members

Bruce A. Baily, Farmers Branch
 Charles B. Bollinger, Houston
 Virgil L. Chrestman, Nome, Alaska
 Ernst A. Erbe, El Paso
 Robert A. Foreman, Jr., Houston
 Rudolph M. Johnson, Comfort
 William L. Kuss, Jr., Houston
 Brett Mac Donald, Covona, CA
 Robert C. Maxwell, China Spring
 Jimmy W. McClellan, Dallas
 Ronald R. Montes, Oakland, CA
 Stephen E. Orlando, Houston
 Robert L. Pegram, Dallas
 Danny H. Phillips, Dallas
 John T. Rowell, Dallas
 Charles E. Spellman, Jr., Austin
 Edgar W. Stanley, Star Harbor
 Elwin Stone, Oakland, CA
 Rowland L. Tessier, Comfort
 Constantin Vizante, Hamilton,
 Ontario, Canada
 William G. Ward, Houston

Attention Writers

**OBTAIN A CRITERIA
 AND STYLE SHEET FROM THE
 SENIOR WARDEN
 BEFORE SUBMITTING
 A PAPER**

**HIS ADDRESS IS ON PAGE 2
 OF THIS BULLETIN**

THE ORANGE, TEXAS MEETING

Madison Lodge No. 126, located 3528 Masonic Drive, Orange, Texas, 77630 will be our hosts. The lodge phone number is (409) 883-2281.

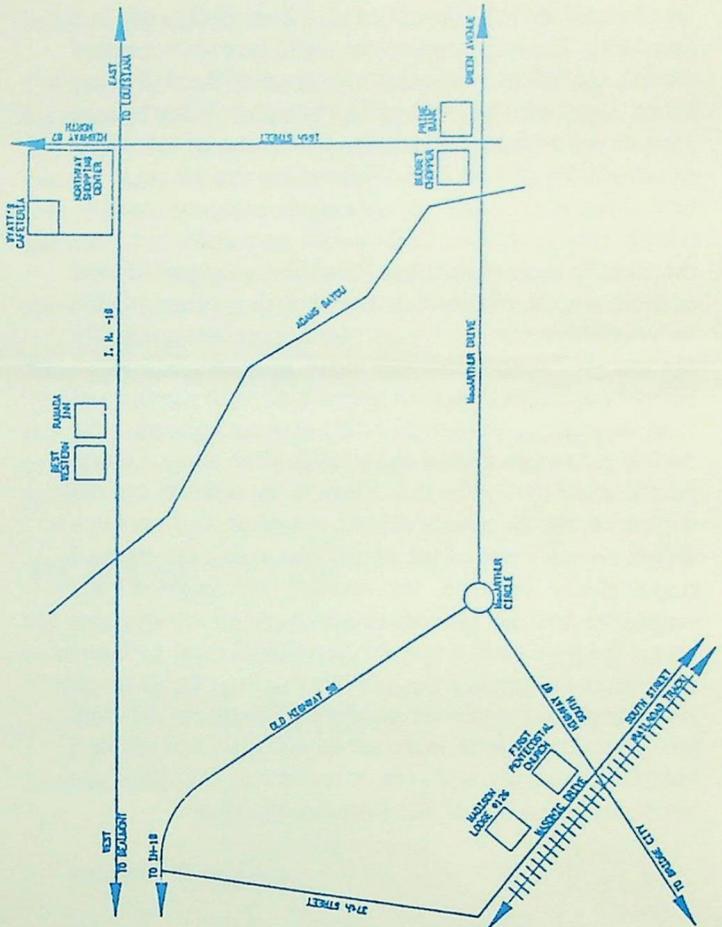
THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WILL BE:

- 9:00 A. M. Donuts and Coffee
- 10:00 A. M. Ladies tour to the Stark Art Museum and the W. H. Stark House (\$ 2.00 Fee) Transportation provided.
- 10:30 A. M. Opening of the Lodge and Business Meeting
- 12:00 A. M. Lunch with Ladies and Non-Masonic Guests. Lunch served by Madison Lodge.
- 1:00 P. M. Presentation of the Research Papers at Open Meeting. Ladies and Non-Masonic Guests are invited.
- 3:00 P. M. Closing of the Lodge

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:

RAMADA INN - Located at 2610 W. I-10, Orange, Texas, 77631-1839. Telephone (409) 883-0231. FAX (409) 883-8839. Toll free 1-800-228-2828. A block of rooms has been reserved by TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH for January 17 and 18, 1997, at the TLR rate of \$53.00 per night, plus tax. ASK for TLR rate!

Directions (Continued on page 7)



TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH
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Dallas, Texas 75221-1850

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Waco, TX 76703-