



Number 2

Summer

2008

At Georgetown Quarterly Meeting

Bradly elected TLR's 49th Worshipful Master

In excess of 70 officers, members and guests made the trip to the banks of the San Gabriel River and the March quarterly meeting of Texas Lodge of Research. San Gabriel Lodge No. 89 was host for the event and incoming Worshipful Master Truitt Bradly proudly showed off the sparkling new hall, located in Georgetown's municipal park. He serves as secretary of the lodge.

Worshipful Master Raymond Bronk steered the morning session through various business matters, culminating with the election of officers for the upcoming TLR year. Past Master Pete Martinez conducted the elections and Brother Bradley advanced to Worshipful Master and Jack Harper advanced to Senior Warden. Two candidates were nominated for the position of Junior Warden: Bros. Wayne Sirmon and Oscar Orum. Bro. Sirmon was elected. Senior Warden Bradley nominated the Treasurer and Secretary to succeed them-



The newly installed Tableau of Officers of Texas Lodge of Research selves.

During the business session it was noted that dues payments have been coming in and that 10 Endowed Memberships have been purchased, outright, and a couple more are being paid out over time. It was also announced

that Vol. XL (40) of the *Transactions* has been printed and will be distributed to paid members soon. Dr. William Preston Vaughn, PM and FMR, announced that he would be stepping down as editor after the next volume. **Continued on Page 3**

View the *Occasional Bulletin* in color at the TLR website:

www.texaslodgeofresearch.org

**Texas Lodge of Research
Tableau of Officers
2008 – 2009**

Worshipful Master	Truitt Bradly 3707 Buffalo Springs Road #304 Georgetown, TX 78628 truittb@suddenlink.net
512 567-4756	
Senior Warden	Jack M. Harper II 714 Craig Hillsboro, TX 76645 n7080f@sbcglobal.net.
254 337--0323	
Junior Warden	Wayne Sirmon 4617 Bit & Spur Road Mobile, AL 36608 wsirmon@aol.com
(251)591-3417	
Treasurer	Roy D. Harris 3803 Hidden Hollow Austin, TX 78731 HarrisRoyDD@aol.com
512 345-4328	
Secretary & Occasional Bulletin Editor	James G. "Jim" Dougherty, PM P.O. Box 684684 Austin, TX 78768-4684 512 478-7030 (o) texaslodgereofresearch@yahoo.com 512 970-8746 (m) jdougherty1@austin.rr.com
Chaplain	James Claude Yelvington, PM 1003 Austin Highlands Blvd. Austin, TX 78745-2970 James-claude@sbcglobal.net
512-443-6080	
Senior Deacon	Mark Dermit 1900 Scofield Ridge Pkwy #1401 Austin, TX 78727 kevit64@yahoo.com
512 587-8547	
Junior Deacon	Brett Laird Doyle 5940 N.W. Loop 410 Apt. H3 San Antonio, TX 78238-3478 lordelfin@aol.com
210 520-0185	
Senior Steward	Roberto Sanchez 1678 Beaconsire Houston, TX 77077 rmsh13@yahoo.com
281 293-9330	
Junior Steward	Gary Whitfield 405 Amhurst Laredo, TX 78045-2401 cwhit@grandecom.net
956 723-0677	
Marshal	R.W. David Counts P. O. Box 338 Knox City, TX 79529 dcounts@westex.net
940 658-3596	
Master of Ceremonies	James McCrea 623 Walking Plow Rd. Fredericksburg, TX 78624-6411
830 669-2729	
Tiler	Dave Peavy 2606 Del Curto Rd. Austin, TX 78704-6010 davepeavy@yahoo.com
504-232-6711	
Transactions Editor	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR 22 County Road 1602 Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
903 575-0100	
Editorial Committee	Jack M. Harper, Chmn. Herbert Arbuckle Raymond Bronk, PM Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR
Webmaster	Pete Martinez, PM 3204 Libby St. Tyler, TX 75707 hushpup@gower.net
903 939-2926	

© 2008 by the Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M., all rights reserved. Permission to reprint in Masonic publications is granted, but must include reference to this publication and author, if listed.

From the East

— By Worshipful Master Truitt Bradly

If attendance at lodge meetings is an indication of the health of a lodge, then Texas Lodge of Research is in very good shape. The lodge room of San Gabriel Lodge No 89 in Georgetown was filled with members and guests at the March stated meeting.

The March meeting officially started the year leading up to the Fiftieth Anniversary of Texas Lodge of Research being set to work under dispensation on December 4, 1958. At the 115th Grand Lodge session in 1958, the Grand Lodge approved a resolution that authorized the formation of a research lodge. That same evening, newly installed Grand Master Randall E. Briscoe, set the new research lodge to work under dispensation. Dr James D Carter was the first Master U.D. and he also served as Master when the lodge was constituted a year later after the charter was granted by Grand Lodge in 1959. Dr. Carter is the only person to serve TLR as Master for more than one term of office.

We are honoring Dr Carter and the Fiftieth Anniversary of TLR in part by issuing a commemorative coin and by honoring the Charter Members, Full Members, Past Masters, Fellows of Masonic Research, Anson Jones Lecturers, Gemmell Memorial Breakfast speakers, and Grand Lodge Officers at the January 17, 2009 stated meeting in Waco. I would encourage each of you to plan on attending this meeting.

I would like to thank outgoing Master, Raymond G Bronk, for his service over the last few years. Brother Bronk has served on the Editorial Committee in addition to being an elected officer. After Dr Vaughn announced his retirement as the Editor of the *Transactions*, Ray has consented to follow in Dr. Vaughn's footsteps and be the *Transactions* editor, beginning with Volume XLII (Bronk).

The late John E. "Jack" Kelly, PGM and Fellow of Masonic Research, was installed as the 24th Master of TLR on March 19, 1983 in San Antonio. After looking at the slate of TLR officers that were installed in 1983, I noticed that three of the officers went on to become Grand Masters of Texas Masons, Jack Kelly, Leonard Harvey, and Reese Harrison. PGM Jimmy Willson had served as the installing officer for WM Kelly in 1983. I decided to ask each of them to participate in the 2008 installation. PGM Willson agreed to be



Worshipful Master Truitt Bradly
Photo by Pete Martinez, PM

the installing Master, PGM Harrison agreed to be the installing Marshal and our own PGM Harvey agreed to be the installing Chaplain. To represent PGM Kelly, my special guest, Helen Kelly, was also in attendance. My heartfelt thanks goes out to this great group of special people for their support of Texas Lodge of Research and the heartwarming installation ceremony they provided.

On behalf of the Master, TLR member Fred McAferty presented outgoing Master Ray Bronk with a "Barbed Wire Memory Wreath" in thanks for his dedicated service to the Craft. A wreath was presented to TLR Marshal and Deputy Grand Master David Counts for his service to Texas Lodge of Research and to the Masons of Texas. To recognize that PGM Willson's father received all three Masonic degrees in San Gabriel Lodge No. 89, Bro. McAferty presented a wreath to Bro. Willson as a special gift from San Gabriel Lodge.

I am looking forward to working with the officers and members of TLR during the coming year. The officers, both elected and appointed, are all very qualified and dedicated to performing the duties of the offices they hold. Wayne Sirmon of Mobile, Alabama, was elected to serve as Junior Warden for the 2008 – 2009 Masonic year. Wayne is very active in Alabama Masonry and has been very active in TLR for about 5 years. His dedication to TLR is proven at least 4 times a year, since he travels from Mobile and back for each meeting, and rarely misses a meeting.

Continued on next page



Georgetown Scrapbook



Photos clockwise from top left: Bro. C. Fred McAferty (left) is renowned for his barbed wire art and especially the Masonic wreaths he bestows on the lucky few. Fred's work now resides in the collections of R.W. David Counts, Deputy Grand Master, outgoing TLR WM Raymond Bronk and PGM Jimmy Willson. R.W. David Dibrell gives good council to incoming Senior Warden Jack Harper. TLR PM Ross Cox Sr. (left) talks with Dr. William Preston Vaughn, PM and FMR, prior to the meeting. Dr. Vaughn, the longtime editor of TLR *Transactions* is retiring after the publication of Volume XLI. Outgoing WM Bronk is presented with the Junior Past Master's jewel by PM Pete Martinez. Photos by Jim Dougherty, PM.



I would like to encourage each of you to start working on that paper that you have been thinking about writing, you know, the paper that you have researched and written in your mind over and over but as yet, have not committed it to paper. Each of us has a Masonic subject that we would like to take from an idea to a finished paper. Now is the time to start working on it. Pick up a copy of the Criteria and Style Sheet and start gathering your information. We have some fine papers in the editorial process, but we can always use more.

As Secretary of San Gabriel Lodge No. 89 in Georgetown, I would like to express the heartfelt gratitude for the generosity of the members of Texas Lodge of Research who reached deep into their pockets to support the fund raising efforts of San Gabriel Lodge to benefit 14 month old Cooper Harris who recently underwent a heart transplant in Houston. Cooper is the son of Past Master Tol Harris and his wife Dawn of Georgetown.

Thanks for your support of Texas Lodge of Research and let's work together to make the Fiftieth Year Celebration a great success.

Fiat Lux

Bradly, continued from Page 1.

Following a delicious barbecue lunch, the open meeting was called to order by WM Bronk and WM-elect Bradley presented an excellent paper on the acacia and its connection to the craft.

Past Grand Master Jimmy Willson was called to the East to conduct the installation of officers. He was assisted by Past Grand Masters Reese L. Harrison Jr. (Marshal) and Leonard Harvey (Chaplain). The Tableau of Officers is on the opposite page.

After the installation WM Bradley related that his late father was PGM Willson's District Deputy and he had "pro temed" frequently for PGM Harrison. They had been invited to be part of the installation within days of Truitt's election as Junior Warden.

Everyone was issued a hearty welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting and Anson Jones Lecture on June 21. See you there!

From the Secretary

Brethren:

Members who have paid their 2008 dues and who are not in arrears for 2007 should have received their copy of *Transactions* Volume XL (40) by now. The "Yelvington" Volume is an outstanding book of solid Masonic Research.

Due to escalating printing and postage charges, the leadership of TLR made the hard decision of enforcing requirements that to receive a *Transactions*, or *Occasional Bulletin* subscription, a member must not be in arrears on dues. The press run for Volume XL covers our paid membership with only a limited number of extra books for those catching up. This issue of the *Occasional Bulletin* will be the last for those in arrears, as well.

TLR's financial condition has been reported sound, thanks in great measure by dues income, sale of bound *Transactions* and our beautiful 50th Anniversary coins. In addition, we will soon offer the "full collection" of *Transactions* on CD-ROM. It's something every Member Associate and Masonic researcher will want to have.

By tightening our belt, TLR will continue to publish the best in Masonic research, host outstanding Anson Jones Lectures and offer its members the congenial atmosphere at our quarterly meetings around the state they have come to expect.

While we have lost "numbers," we've gained new, contributing members. That's good for Texas Lodge of Research ... that's good for the Masonic fraternity!

Jim Dougherty, Secretary

An important message to our international members

Several members from outside the United States have, in good faith, paid their dues with personal checks or postal money orders drawn on banks in their own country. Our US bank has returned them to us due to the expensive cost to collecting funds not payable through a US bank. Although they were drawn for US Dollars, they do not have a US bank routing number and cost as much to collect as the payment, itself. Several members living outside the US have sent cash in the form of US bank notes.

We value all of our international brethren and sincerely regret the inconvenience.



King James Bible in TLR display at Grand Lodge

Past Master Raymond Bronk (left), Senior Warden Jack Harper and Secretary Jim Dougherty present pages from an original 1611 First Edition King James Version of the *Holy Bible* to Grand Secretary Tom D. Guest. The pages, purchased by the lodge in 1990, "for the benefit of the Masons in Texas," were put on display in time for the 2007 Grand Annual Communication. The three archival frames hold four pages containing the texts of the circumambulation passages read in the three Blue Lodge degrees. Photo courtesy Bruce Mercer, Grand Lodge Library and Museum.

TLR 50th Anniversary coin available

TLR's limited edition 50th Anniversary coin has been a great hit with Masonic coin collectors at our Dallas and Georgetown meetings. The beautifully detailed and enameled coins will be available while supplies last at TLR Quarterly Meetings for \$10.00 each, or from the Secretary at the address below at \$11.50, which including postage and packing.



Dr. Howard Stewart, PM, FMR

1926 - 2007

Texas born and bred, Howard R. Stewart was born in Hico, 9 August 1926 and attended the public schools of Hico, San Angelo and Merkel. After graduating Merkel High School in 1942, he served almost four years in the U.S. Naval Air Corps as a Combat Air Crewman, Aviation Radioman and Aerial Gunner in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. While in the Navy, he married Taresa Pennyway of Vancouver, British Columbia. They had two children: Sheri Phillips of Lubbock and Dr. Jerald S. Stewart, DVM, of Waco.

After serving in the military, he decided to become a physician. Entering Baylor University, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1951 and his Doctor of Medicine in 1954 from Baylor College of Medicine.

His medical career included general practice in Waco from 1955 to 1963 and following a specializing residency at Scott and White in Temple, entered the private practice of Radiology in Lubbock from 1966 to 1988, when he retired.

His remarkable Masonic career reflects the same commit-

ment and dedication. He became a Mason in 1952; served as Master of South Plains Daylight Lodge in 1985; District Deputy Grand Master in 1987 and served on various Grand Lodge committees as well as being appointed Grand Orator in 1990.

He was active in the Scottish Rite Valley of Lubbock, receiving the Thirty-third Degree in 1985. He was chairman of the board of directors of the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas for many years and a trustee of the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital in Dallas. He was also active in the York Rite, York Rite College and Red Cross of Constantine. He was a member of Kiva Shrine Temple and a Past Director of the Royal Order of Jesters. In 1993, he was awarded the James D. Carter Award for Literary Excellence and served as Worshipful Master of Texas Lodge of Research in 1994-95 and Fellow in Masonic Research in 1999.

Dr. Stewart died in Lubbock on Nov. 8, 2007.

(Excerpted from his biography by John E. "Jack" Kelly, PM, FMR, *Transactions* Vol. XXIV.)

Lodge history, anyone?

What advise would you give a Brother who intends writing a history of his lodge?

First and foremost, history should be interesting reading. A Masonic Lodge's history should *never* be a mere transcription of minutes; it should be vibrant and living, as were the people who made it. John E. Kelly's history of Bluebonnet Lodge, *Behold How Good*, and Frank S. Tamsett's of Kelly Lodge, *The Good Tree*, are excellent examples.

Remember the 5 W's: who, what, when, where and why. WHO organized the lodge; were the charter members; the balls of fire who kept things going through lean times and good; the outstanding members; became G.L. Officers; held local, state or national office? WHAT was the reason the lodge was organized; had it become outstanding; how is it doing today? WHEN were the Dispensation and Charter documents granted; was it honored by Grand Lodge; did it hold unusually important meetings? WHERE was it organized, its first permanent home and subsequent moves throughout the years? Use photographs. WHY was the lodge named as it was; were the stated communications dates selected; does it do some things different from other lodges?

The basic outline for writing a history of your own lodge includes:

- Organization
- Charter Members
- Dispensation and Charter
- Location(s)
- Finances
- Important Occasions
- Outstanding Members
- Accomplishments
- Contemporary History
- Keep Current

Excerpted from an article in *Transactions* Vol. XIV by Herbert C Arbuckle III.

Transactions Order Form

Cut out this form, add your name and address, and mail your check or money order to:

Texas Lodge of Research *Transactions* Program
P.O. Box 684684
Austin, TX 78768-4684

() Soft Bound *Transactions*: \$7.50 each, 1-4 copies. Five or more copies @ \$5.00 per copy.

Please circle from inventory: 7, 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39

\$ _____

Shipping and handling \$ 10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Gray Lodge to host 2008 Anson Jones Lecture

The 2008 Anson Jones Lecture and Quarterly Meeting of Texas Lodge of Research will be hosted by Gray Lodge No. 329 in Houston on Saturday, June 21, 2008. Dr. Gary Leazer, well known for his stand against intolerance against Freemasonry within the Southern Baptist Convention. He was subsequently fired by the SBC for not being critical enough of the fraternity. He was so impressed with the fraternity that he sought membership, went through the chairs and became a Past Master. He has previously given the Sam Houston and St. Alban Lectures. He was named a Blue Friar this year.

The Quarterly Meeting will be opened at 2 pm for lodge business and the dinner and lecture will be at the Hilton Westchase at 7 pm. Dinner tickets are \$45 per person and **reservations must be made and paid for by June 14**, by contacting the Secretary at texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com, or by phone at (512) 970-8746. Unfortunately, we are unable to take credit cards, only checks, and refunds cannot be made after the June 14 cutoff to the P.O. Box below. There will not be a Hospitality Room on either evening.

Gray Lodge is located at 2370 Barker Oaks Dr. From I-10 (Katy Freeway) drive south on SH 6. Pass George Bush Park on the right and the first right will be Barker Oaks Dr. Westheimer Rd. is the next major cross street.

Accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Westchase at 9999 Westheimer Rd. and are available for Friday or Saturday nights, or both, depending on your travel needs at \$82, plus tax. Call the hotel at 713-974-1000 and ask for the Texas Lodge of Research Rate. The hilton is 6.4 miles from the lodge. The Extended Stay Hotel at 2130 Hwy 6, a block from the lodge, has a rate of \$56, their number is (281) 759-2000.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 21, 2008. Anson Jones Lecture. Host: Gray Lodge No. 329. Houston.

September 19-20, 2008. Host: Arlington Lodge No. 438. Arlington.

January 2009. 50th Anniversary Celebration. Host: J.H. Gurley No.337. Lee Lockwood Library & Museum. Waco.

March 2009. Host: Hillsboro Lodge No. 196. Hillsboro.

Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.
P.O. Box 684684
Austin, Texas 78768-4684