



The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.



Number 4

Winter

2009

Piney woods opens its arms to TLR for fall meeting

Texas Lodge of Research returned to deep East Texas for its September 19 meeting in Lufkin.

“Mr. Mason” in the area, R.W. Gene Brookshire, made sure our arrangements were top notch. Our host hotel was the Best Western Crown Colony, a brand new facility centrally located in Lufkin. From the well-appointed breakfast room (which served well as the Friday night Hospitality Room) to the comfortable sleeping rooms, complete with high definition TV and refrigerator, there were many comments that this was one of the best hotels ever to host TLR.

Just steps from the front door of the hotel were two restaurants from which to choose.

Saturday’s meeting was held at the Lufkin Masonic Center, a new facility which



Worshipful Master Jack Harper joins first-time presenters after they received their aprons as Full Members of Texas Lodge of Research. Left is Bro. Jim Rumsey and right is Bro. Darron Ross. Full Member Max Hirrell also presented a paper.

houses not only Lufkin Lodge No. 669, but also Chapter, Council, Commandery, Eastern Star and Masonic youth organizations.

A fine turnout of Masons helped fill the chairs. Past Grand Masters Harrison and Dibrell, both Full Members of TLR were on hand, along with a delegation

of four current Grand Lodge officers led by Grand Senior Warden Gene Carnes and Grand Junior Warden Jim Brumit.

Fellows in Masonic Research Pierre “Pete” Normand and Dr. Michael Wiggins were also on hand. It was reported that Past Grand Master and

See **THE LUFKIN MEETING**, Page 6.

Next Stated Communication

Nederland, Texas

Friday, Jan. 15, 2010

4 p.m. Hospitality Room opens at the Candlewood Suites 2095 N. Hwy. 69, Nederland
Dutch-treat supper at Sandersons Steaks 2125 N. Hwy. 69

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010

10 a.m. Quarterly Meeting of Texas Lodge of Research Nederland Lodge No. 1368 1204 27th St.

See back page for details.

On the inside:

Coverage of TLR’s participation in the Texas Music Heritage Foundation and Schreiner University tribute to Texas Mason Brother Jimmie Rodgers on Page 3.

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By Jack Harper

A message from the Master

Brethren, what a joy it was for Texas Lodge of Research to be back in Lufkin and Angelina County for the first time since 1988! A great time was had by all in the Piney Woods of East Texas. I would like to thank the members of Lufkin Lodge No. 669 with a special "thank you" to Gene Brookshire for helping to coordinate our weekend events.

A special thrill for the weekend was having three fine papers presented before the lodge. Brethren, we are known for our research, and these papers were truly worthy endeavors!

However, we must continue to have papers submitted to our Editorial Committee. As of the time of this writing, we have five papers being reviewed; this means that we should be able to have at least two papers presented for our next meetings in January and March, but after that we are looking slim. Researching and writing a paper for Texas Lodge of Research is a very exciting and rewarding opportunity for both you as an individual but for the lodge as well.

As I have stated previously, our own Texas Lodge of Research Editorial Committee members have begun holding meetings coinciding with our stated meetings to meet with interested Brethren as to how to successfully write a research paper. The committee highlights some of the more common mistakes as well as discusses successful writing techniques. These meetings began at our June stated meeting and will continue so long as there is interest. I can say that I was extremely pleased to see the library overflowing inside Lufkin Lodge with those interested in writing a paper!

In order for Texas Lodge of Research to be more "customer friendly" several items have been revamped in order to help our members and potential authors. On our website, www.texaslodgofresearch.org, we have posted our new *Form and Style Manual*,



Jack Harper
Worshipful Master

which should be required reading for any prospective author before beginning to write his paper. We have also posted a new section titled "Rules for Submitting Papers." In this, the Editorial Committee outlines changes they have made in order to streamline the entire editorial process. It also will allow for instant tracking and status updates so that both the author and the Editorial Committee will know the exact status of each and every paper as it winds its way through the editorial process. Brethren, the Editorial Committee and your elected officers have worked very diligently to help streamline and revamp the entire writing process, all in an effort to serve and assist you, our members and potential authors.

Please know that I welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions about this new process or anything else you would like to discuss with me. You will find my contact information located in every issue of the *Occasional Bulletin*.

P.S. Do not forget to check the last page of the *Occasional Bulletin* for the dates and locations of our upcoming meetings. We will be in Nederland in January and I hope to meet as many Brethren as possible during the New Year.

TLR joins Texas Heritage Music Foundation and Schreiner University in a tribute to Bro. Jimmie Rodgers

Texas Lodge of Research marked another first in its history as it joined the Texas Heritage Music Foundation and Schreiner University in honoring Texas Mason and “Blue Yodeler” Jimmie Rodgers on Friday, Sept. 25, in Kerrville.

The annual event spotlights living musicians but recalls the pioneers of Texas’ musical heritage, of which Bro. Rodgers was a true pioneer.

TLR members were invited to have an informational booth on the grounds and, thanks to Grand Master Counts, Masons were allowed to appear in Masonic regalia.

For the past few years TLR member Herb Arbuckle has served as a master of ceremonies for the Rodgers tribute, and this year, with the kind permission of THMF Director Dr. Kathleen Hudson, he arranged for Texas Lodge of Research and the Grand Lodge of Texas to take part on the program.

The current *Transactions*, Vol. XLI, contains two papers delivered in 2006 that attempt to put to rest the mystery of Bro. Rodgers’ receiving Masonic Degrees in both San Antonio’s Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 1219 and his hometown lodge in Meridian, MS. Penned by Bros. Arbuckle and Pierre “Pete” Normand, the papers paint a portrait of the singer, who tried to please everyone ... especially his Masonic brothers.

Bro. Rodgers was a member of John L. Spinks Lodge No. 507 in Mississippi, but also Blue Bonnet, as well as the San Antonio Scottish Rite Bodies and Alzafar Shrine, in the early 1930s. In the Scottish Rite Reunion panoramic picture, the always playful Jimmie can be seen hanging from one of the San Antonio Temple’s bronze lanterns.

Unfortunately, any Masonic career he might have had was cut short in 1933 with his untimely death in New York City. His remains were returned to Meridian and, on May 29, and he was granted a full Masonic funeral, conducted by Meridian Lodge No. 308.

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At noon, the Masonic delegation was called to the stage and after a



Above: Jim Dougherty, PM and Secretary of TLR, makes brief remarks before presenting copies of *Transactions* Volume XLI to Texas Heritage Music Foundation Executive Director Dr. Kathleen Hudson (far right) and Schreiner University President Dr. Tim Summerlin (far left). Laurent Sorrel, of Kerrville, holds the two volumes. Grand Senior Warden Gene Carnes is in the background. Photo by Gay Carnes. Below: TLR Editorial Board Member and author of “Jimmie Rodgers in Story and Song” Herb Arbuckle is joined by special guests from left Dixie Haslett, Cody and Austin Court, great-grandchildren of Jimmie Rodgers.



few remarks, Past Master and, TLR Secretary Jim Dougherty, presented copies of Vol. XLI to Dr. Hudson and Schreiner President Tim Summerlin for their respective libraries.

Both papers are very interesting and a “must read” for those inter-

ested in early Texas music history.

TLR is grateful to the THMF and Schreiner University for allowing us to bring Masonry to the school children of Texas.

Additional photo on Page 6.



Friday's Hospitality Room was the place to spread out after a long drive.



Longtime TLR member Clyde Kenneaster (right) was on hand with Grand Lodge items of all kinds.



TLR Master Jack Harper with Fellow Pete Normand.



PGM David Dibrell and Grand Jr. Warden Jim Brumit.



Lufkin Snapshots Photos by Jim Dougherty



5 Senior Steward Dave Peavy looks after the refreshment needs of PGM Reese Harrison and Paul Bullock.



The Texas Lodge of Research booth at the Texas Heritage Music Foundation Jimmie Rodgers Tribute was always well manned. Photo courtesy David Lynn, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 794.

Lufkin, continued from Page 1

Fellow Leonard P. Harvey had a minor medical concern which prevented his attendance.

Transactions Editor Raymond Bronk reported that the new Form and Style Manual had been adopted by the Editorial Board at a meeting the previous evening and would be posted on the TLR website in the coming days. Worshipful Master Harper praised the hard work of the committee, which included Herbert C. Arbuckle III, Chairman Raymond Bronk, Past Grand Master David Benton Dibrell, and *Occasional Bulletin* Editor Jim Dougherty.

At the close of lodge, prospective authors were invited to meet in the lodge Library for an informal forum with Editorial Committee members.

Who cannot travel to East Texas without having a fried chicken dinner? (Yes, in East Texas, "dinner" is actually the term for "lunch.") And there was enough for everyone, at least twice over.

It is always a treat to see the ladies who traveled to attend with

their Mason.

Following the noon meal, three outstanding papers were delivered. Full Member Max Hirrell regaled the audience with a paper titled "The Grand Master was a Texas Ranger." First time presenters were Darron Ross with a paper titled "The History of Blessing Lodge No. 411: A Lodge Rich in Heritage; Strong in Character," and Jim Rumsey with "History of Tusculum Lodge No. 86, A.F. & A.M."

TLR may adopt Study Group in United Kingdom

Bro. and Dr. Alan Bell of Trimdon, Durham, England enquired some months ago about forming a Masonic Study Group under the auspices of TLR.

After exploring the matter with his local Deputy of the United Grand Lodge of England, the proper authorizations were made and the group will be set to work early in the new year. Most Worshipful Grand Master David Counts has given his blessing for the formation of the study group. The matter will be formally put to the lodge at its January meeting.

Worshipful Master Harper and Secretary Dougherty are expected to travel to the UK to personally present the group with their letters of authorization. Other TLR members are welcome to contact the Secretary for information on the trip as soon as a date is set.

This will be the second active study group working under Texas Lodge of Research. The other is in San Antonio.

Bro. Bell is enthusiastic that a large number of area Masons will join Texas Lodge of Research and the study group and produce papers for Full Membership.

Grand Lodge coin collector?

Thanks to the generosity of Past Grand Master and Anson Jones Lecturer Jack Hightower, TLR has come into a hoard of Past Grand Master coins from 2004 back to the early '70's. If you are missing coins, or want to start a collection, email the Secretary at texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com, or catch us at a stated meeting, and we may have the coins you need. All proceeded benefit Texas Lodge of Research.

Important news for international members

With the end of the year comes Texas Lodge of Research's annual solicitation of dues. Cards will go into the mail in late November.

Due to banking law changes, it has been literally impossible for TLR to deposit dues payments from our members living outside of the United States. This even included payments by postal money orders and certified checks. If a member's bank does not have a United States routing number, it costs the lodge more than the payment to convert the currency.

However, TLR now has a safe and secure method of payment in the form of a PayPal account.

Please check with your bank. If the bank has an associate bank in the United States with a domestic routing number, you may continue to pay in the conventional way. However, international members may use their computer and go to www.paypal.com and pay dues by credit card. This service is free to the member paying.

When using PayPal, the TLR account is: **Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.**

We request that, for the time being, US residents continue paying with check or money order.

From the Secretary

By Jim Dougherty, PM, Occasional Bulletin Editor

I love going to the post office. I love going to the post office **except** when I have to stand in line with my wiggly pug granddog, to pick up a package, or to buy a stamp! I really do like picking up mail from the three boxes: TLR, the Austin York Rite and my personal box, which I've had for 41 years at three (and soon to be four) different post office locations in downtown Austin.

There's something to be said for getting one's personal copy of the *Occasional Bulletin* every quarter. However, there are many who are just as happy accessing the magazine via the TLR web site. After all, it is usually posted on the web weeks before the actual printed magazine arrives.

The leadership of TLR is happy to have found a less expensive and more colorful magazine format. We want everyone who wants a print edition to get one. However, if a member wished to "opt out" on the print version of the *Occasional Bulletin*, please feel free to e-mail me at texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com and you will save your lodge at least four dollars per year in printing and postage.

Finally, dues statements will be going out in November. Please remember that we are on the honor system and the dues card we send is only valid when payment is posted here on the Secretary's data base.

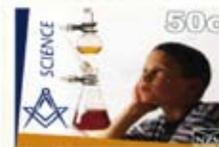
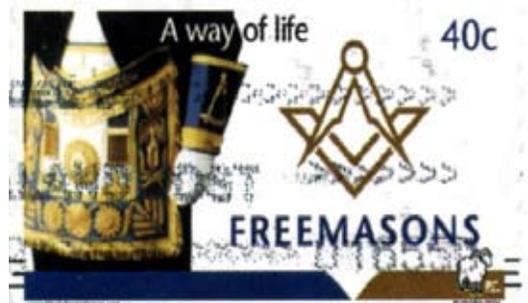
TLR does not issue demits, certificates of good standing, or the like. Members desiring to withdraw from membership need only to e-mail or simply return the dues card requesting a withdrawal. However, please know that if money is the problem, you only have to let us know and we'll try and keep you in good standing.



Jim Dougherty, PM Secretary

A post from "Down Under"

Bro. Robinson from Wellington, New Zealand was kind enough to share a beautiful series of Masonic charity and membership stamps from his country. As a stamp collector, I still cannot fathom the fact that the U.S. Postal Service has never allowed recognition of the fraternity on this country's postage. - Jim D.



MOVING?
Please save your lodge unnecessary postage and printing costs by reporting any changes of address.

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Upcoming Meetings

March 19 - 20, 2010 Host: Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300, College Station. Election and Installation of Officers
June 18 - 19, 2010 Host: Perfect Union No. 10, San Antonio. Anson Jones Lecture
September 17 - 18, 2010 Host: John L. DeGrazier Lodge No. 1349, Dallas.

Nederland Lodge No. 1368 to host TLR in January

Our January quarterly meeting will be hosted by Nederland Lodge No. 1368, located at 1204 27th St., in Nederland, TX.

The Hospitality Room at the host hotel will open at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15. Dinner that evening will be 6:30 pm at Sandersons Steaks. The restaurant serves all kinds of food from steak to seafood. The restaurant is located at 2095 N. Hwy 69, in Nederland. We have hotel rooms reserved at the Candlewood Suites, with room rates of \$79. The hotel is located at 2125 Hwy 69, and is adjacent to

the restaurant. In order to place your room reservation, please contact our local coordinator, Tommy Chapman at (409) 201.2626.

The Saturday schedule is:

9 am: coffee and donuts at the lodge

10 am: Business meeting begins

11:30 pm: Editorial Committee to meet with interested authors

Noon: Lunch

1 p.m. Open portion of TLR meeting

Form and Style Manual available on TLR website

Authors are invited to go to the TLR website, texaslodgeof-research.org, and download the new *Form and Style Manual* which is now in use by the Editorial Committee. "Please discontinue using the previous *Criteria and Style Sheet and Writing Guidelines for Papers Submitted to Texas Lodge of Research A.F. & A.M.*," said *Transactions* Editor and Editorial Board member Raymond Bronk.

The *Form and Style Manual* is the culmination of months of study and labor by the Editorial Committee, composed of Herbert C. Arbuckle III, *Transactions* Editor Raymond Bronk, PGM David Dibrell and TLR Secretary Jim Dougherty.

It is also worth noting that there is a new submission policy for papers. Authors must mail one paper draft and an electronic file (CD, please) to: Secretary, Texas Lodge of Research, P.O. Box 684684, Austin, TX 78768. The paper draft will be dated, logged in, and forwarded to the Senior Warden for distribution to the committee.



TLR's limited edition 50th anniversary coin has been a great hit with Masonic coin collectors since it went on sale in January 2008. The beautifully detailed and enameled coins will be available while supplies last at TLR quarterly meetings for \$10 each, or from the secretary's office at \$11.50, including postage and packing.