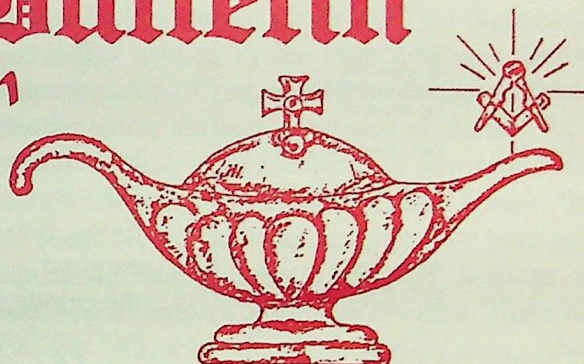


The

Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research



2000 - 2001

September 2000

No. 3

Stated Communication Saturday, September 16, 2000

San Gabriel Lodge No. 89
900 North College
Georgetown, Texas

9:00 A.M.
Gather at the Lodge
Activities for Ladies & Guests

10:30 A.M.
TLR Business Meeting

12:00 Noon
Lunch at the Lodge

1:00 P.M.
Presentation of Papers
"The Winding Staircase"
by D. Roy Murray

"The Last Confederate Governor"
by J. Dexter Sammons, PM

Future Meetings

Saturday, 20 January 2001
Dallas, Texas

Saturday, 17 March 2001
Stephenville, Texas

From The East

Much has been going on in the Masonic world since my first message from the East and not all is good news. The distress many of our members have been enduring lately drives home the simple fact that our membership, in general is aging and suffering the natural consequences of the aging process. Dr. Vaughn's physical problems were noted at the Austin meeting and at the time I sit writing this message, Brother Transou is facing the emanate loss of his grandson. In my own family, my mother is having eye surgery next week, my father is fighting colon problems, my sister has a bad back and my brother has been fighting an adverse reaction to some prescription medication he had taken that resulted in him not being able to hold his working tools. When I was a young man I knew I was invincible, and even now, my brain thinks I am a young man. In Masonic circles I am on the younger side, but the reality of our fraternity is that we are all rapidly approaching that time when we will lay aside our working tools to join with the Great Architect of the universe.

By now I'm sure most of you have heard the news from the Shrine. Now that maintaining membership in either the York Rite or Scottish Rite is no longer required for Shrine membership, what will be the result on those Bodies? Will these Bodies be able to continue when many of the Shriners demit because they only maintained their membership in these Bodies because it was required to maintain membership in the Shrine? The York Rite will likely have more problems maintaining membership than the Scottish Rite, but are we facing a time in the very near future

(From the East continued on page 2)

**Texas Lodge of Research
2000-2001 Officers**

Master	James R. Beeler 5606 N. Navarro, Suite 200B Victoria, TX 77904 361-576-0776 (office) 361-552-1630 (home)
Senior Warden	Ross J. Cox, Sr. Rt 2, Box 19A San Saba, TX 76877 915-372-4190
Junior Warden	Dr. L. Randall Rogers P.O. Box 834 Buchanan Dam, TX 78609 512-793-2722
Treasurer	James F. Brumit, Jr., PM 819 Twilight Dr. Cedar Hill, TX 75104 972-291-7315
Secretary	Plez A. Transou, PM P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221 214-748-9196
Chaplain	Dr. Jack E. Beeler, PM 2219 Larry Drive Port Lavaca, TX 77979 361-552-9510
Senior Deacon	John C. Elkington 5015 Groveton Lane Pearland, TX 77584-1238 281-485-2015
Junior Deacon	Gordon W. Kelso P.O. Box 3672 Austin, TX 78764 512-282-4726
Senior Steward	James C. Yelvington, III 1711 San Antonio St. Austin, TX 78701 512-707-9554
Junior Steward	Robert "Bob" Walker, PGM 4031 Big Bend Port Arthur, TX 77640 409-983-5188
Marshal	Doug Collins 80 Cheryl Lane Brownsville, TX 78521 956-544-1697
Master of Ceremonies	Roland Maddox 1009 Royal Oaks Drive Dickinson, TX 77539 281-337-2861
Tiler	Dana M. Thompson Rt 5, Box 157 Jacksonville, TX 75766 903-854-2289
Transactions Editor	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM 908 Hilton Place Denton, TX 76201 940-387-3005
Occasional Bulletin	Dr. Michael L. Wiggins, PM P.O. Box 720397 Norman, OK 73070 405-364-7164
Assistant Secretary	Clyde W. Howard, Jr. P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221 214-748-9196

From The East

(continued from Page 1)

when these Bodies will only exist in the major metropolitan areas?

Who will take over the various philanthropies supported by these Bodies if they pass by the wayside?

This brings me to what I consider our most important question. Are we doing all we can to insure the survival of Masonry in this new century? I have one son who has joined our fraternity, and even he has asked, where are the men my age and what's in this for me? My other sons see us as a bunch of old men wondering around in funny hats and costumes. Now these are boys who have been exposed to Masonic functions all their lives. What impressions are in the minds of the general public? Too often our focus is on ritual work, when the real work at hand is showing the public what we stand for. The media is quick to pick up on the causes of those who make the most noise in our society, while overlooking the good done by those who seek no praise, but who go about doing good toward others.

I noticed the death notice in the Houston Chronicle on June 28, 2000 for SHAKA SANKOFA (Gary Graham). I'm sure that many of you saw the publicity surrounding his execution and I'm sure some of you wondered if he was really innocent, because the media chose only to discuss part of the facts of his criminal history. Nineteen years on death row until he was finally "EXECUTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS UNDER THE GOVERNORSHIP OF GEORGE W. BUSH, DESPITE HIS INNOCENCE." This quote is taken from the aforementioned death notice. How is it that someone who did so much bad, is made out to be "a great warrior" while the good done on a daily basis by our various "Masonic" hospitals goes unnoticed? Perhaps we Masons need to hire our own "spin doctor" so that instead of being thought of as old men in funny hats and costumes, Masons are thought of as dynamic, patriotic, GOD fearing men. I believe that the future success of Masonry requires that we do a better job of selling Masonry to the general public.

I want to thank all the members who attended the Anson Jones Lecture in Austin. Brother Kelso and the Austin Scottish Rite deserve much more than our thanks. As always they did everything possible to make the weekend a success. If we could only make Masonry grow and prosper like Austin has over the past twenty years, wouldn't we have something that men would want to flock to join as they did after World War II? I have had discussions with Brother Cox about how to improve attendance at next years Anson Jones Lecture and this topic may be discussed before the Lodge at our next meeting.

Now we look forward to the September meeting in Georgetown and I sincerely hope that we can fill the Lodge to overflowing. I hope to see you there!

Fraternally, Jim Beeler

THE AUSTIN MEETING JUNE 2000

Pete Martinez, PM

This year I didn't miss the riverboat tour. I had some business with my employer, the Texas Department of Transportation, and arrived in town around 9:00 am on Friday. My business was finished around 11:00 am and I took off my employees magnetic badge and found my way to the Austin Scottish Rite Temple where Junior Deacon Gordon Kelso, Scottish Rite General Secretary, and his secretary were busy with last minute preparations for the next day's activities. Thanks to the efforts of these two we had handouts with the schedule of activities and nicely printed programs for the Saturday evening affair. You will notice I said that I "found my way". There is a very large building being constructed just east of the Austin Scottish Rite Temple and the normal method of getting there is cut off. It takes a little navigating to get to where you want to be. Soon Senior Steward James Yelvington arrived and the three of us loaded in the van and headed for the airport to pick up our guest and speaker, Richard H Curtis, 33°, Editor of The Northern Light - the magazine published by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. James and I went into the terminal to find Brother Curtis while Gordon entered the van in a holding pattern to wait for us. The flight was a little late and James and I amused ourselves with the thought of how we would recognize Brother Curtis, as there was no photo of him in the Occasional Bulletin. If I had brought my latest copy of the Northern Light, received in my packet from the Southern California Research Lodge, I would have found his picture inside the back cover. James had a small sign with Curtis on it and when Brother Curtis spotted it his face lit up and we discovered each other at the same time.

After we dropped Brother Curtis off at the Radisson Hotel we went back to the Scottish Rite Temple where I retrieved my car and drove back to

the hotel. A few of us opened the hospitality room and enjoyed a little conversation as we awaited the time of departure on the evening trip on Town Lake with dinner provided and a chance to once again, for some of us, to witness the evening bat flight as one-and-a-half million of the little creatures flew out from under the Congress Street Bridge to feed on the insects in the area southeast of Austin. At the appointed time we made our way down the path to the dock to await the arrival of the SS Guano. Once on board we headed west at a leisurely pace as we consumed the gourmet chili and hotdogs and watched an array of flotilla on the lake. There were canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, racing shells, surfboards and a couple of rafts of questionable design. A strong southeast wind blowing up the lake was probably the cause of the late start of the bat flight. It was almost too dark to see the bats as they formed a long trail just above tree top level and headed out for their night flight in search of gourmet bugs.

The Saturday morning activity was unique to all of us and probably, for some of us, it was the first time to ride in a Rolls Royce. Well, I suppose that is stretching it a bit. The amphibious vehicle we traveled in was a British military amphibious truck powered by a Rolls Royce engine. The Austin Duck is one of several of these vehicles of various origins that take people for a tour of the city and ends up splashing into Lake Austin for a cruise. As we boarded the Duck and found our seats, the driver instructed us in a ritual to be performed during the trip. Each time we passed a group of people he would count off - ONE, TWO, THREE - and we would all yell as loud as we could - QUACK, QUACK, QUACK. This would startle everyone around the area and draw a lot of attention to us. Near a golf course we would try to catch someone in his or her back swing when we quacked. I sure hope none of those people realized we were a group of serious researchers.

Worshipful Master James R. Beeler applied the gavel to the pedestal at precisely 2:10 p.m and

Austin Meeting (Continued on page 4)

Austin Meeting

(continued from page 3)

Texas Lodge of Research was opened in proper form with thirty-two officers, members and visitors present. Of the thirty-two, there were three Past Grand Masters, two of them Past Masters of Texas Lodge of Research and one of those a Fellow in Masonic Research of TLR. There were four other Past Masters, one of them also a Fellow in Masonic Research. The Grand Photographer (better known to some as the Grand Click) James G. "Jim" Dougherty was also in attendance.

The Worshipful Master welcomed all to the meeting and called on Secretary Pro Tem, Pete Martinez, to read the minutes of the previous meeting. Brother Martinez also announced there were eighteen new petitions for affiliation to be voted on. All were elected to membership. Claims and accounts, in the amount of \$2,630.10, were read and approved paid.

Reports of those that usually attend, but were missing, were made. Cards were ordered sent to three of these. Chaplain and Past Master Jack Beeler made the Necrology report and announced we had lost two members since our last meeting, Charles L. Woodard, Jr., of St. Louis, Mo. and Ben A. O'Brien of Texas City.

Brother Jack also reported book sales were doing well including those sold at the Tri-State Masonic meeting in Vicksburg, Mississippi. New books for our inventory are to be identified and obtained. He also noted new Masons are our basic customers. Senior Warden Ross Cox stated we have enough papers for this year, but need more papers soon. Worshipful Master Beeler reported that although Dr. Vaughn was having health problems, he has finished with Volume XXXIII of the Transactions and they have been sent to the printer.

There followed a discussion of our Internet web page and just what should be placed there. The Grand Lodge Web Master, Lloyd Addy, requested that we place articles on Texas Lodge history on our web page. He stated that he gets requests for this on the Grand Lodge web page and would like to advise

them to find the information on our page. The decision of the Lodge was to continue to keep our research papers off the web page. It was suggested that Brother Addy could find what he needs in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge in the Grand Master and Grand Orator's messages.

Past Master Jack Kelly, PGM, reported on the upcoming meeting of the Shrine of North America in Boston in July. He told of the comments of the Imperial Potentate, presented before the Meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, that the Imperial Shrine would vote on letting any man become a member of the organization without the requirement of being a Mason. (Just in case you haven't heard: Membership requirements were amended at the July meeting of the Imperial Shrine. Shrine candidates must now be a Master Mason. The past requirement that all applicants be members of the Scottish Rite or York Rite was dropped.)

Immediate Past Master Clyde B. Kenneaster was called to the altar and presented his Past Master's Certificate by Worshipful Master Beeler. Brother Kelly took the East and installed Brother Robert P. Walker, PGM, as Junior Steward of the Lodge. Brother Walker was unable to attend the March meeting when officers were elected and installed.

Upon motion by Pete Martinez and second by Jack Beeler, Brother Richard H. Curtis, our Anson Jones Lecturer for 2000, was invited to Full Membership in Texas Lodge of Research, provided his upcoming lecture was well received by the Lodge. Although there was little doubt that it would be, the formality was done to comply with the by-laws of the Lodge and it also added a little levity to the proceedings.

Brother Jack Beeler called attention to the fact that Brother Howard Stewart was wearing the No. 2 can lid on a rope that represents the Fellow's Jewel he was elected to receive last year. It was also nice to notice that he was wearing the actual jewel in his breast pocket. Well... you have to have a little fun to go along with all the seriousness of the Lodge.

(Austin Meeting continued on page 5)

Austin Meeting

(continued from page 4)

Brother Gordon Kelso gave directions for the Banquet and Lecture at the hotel in the evening. Worshipful Master James Beeler moved that Texas Lodge of Research pay any expenses incurred by the Lodge to the Austin Scottish Rite. Upon second by Senior Warden Ross Cox, the motion passed. There being no further business, Texas Lodge of Research was closed in proper form at 3:45 pm.

The evening banquet was wonderful! We enjoyed a fine meal and good fellowship with our brothers and their wives. Brother Curtis delivered the Anson Jones Lecture in eloquent form and did indeed qualify for the wearing of the apron of a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research. You will see his picture on our web site as Worshipful Master Beeler tied the apron on Brother Curtis after the presentation. He probably hasn't stopped smiling yet.

For those of you who are on the Internet and not receiving my E-mail notice of updating the page, just E-mail me at hushpup@gower.net and I will add you to my list.

New Members

Elected September 16, 2000

Members

Gordon K. Wright, Baytown, TX
Richard H. Curtis, Lexington, MA
James H. Patterson, Lafayette, LA
Raymond G. Bronk, Burne, TX
Dean Darling, Victoria, TX
Eugene A. Meyer, Jr., Floresville, TX
Zelwin B. Eaton, Kirksville, MO
Donald L. Harkrader, Hamilton, OH
Daniel T. Odom, III, Lancaster, TX
Haltom City Lodge No. 1331, Haltom City, TX
J. Albert Pruett, Jr., Houston, TX
Sahadeva das: El, Willingboro, NJ

The Bulletin Deadline – October 31

The Occasional Bulletin solicits brief articles and news items of general interest to the membership of Texas Lodge of Research. These items will be reviewed by the editor and utilized on a space available basis. The deadline for the January 2001 bulletin is October 31. Submit materials to: Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070

E-mail Addresses

TLR is building a data base of e-mail addresses and we want your electronic address. This is a voluntary project that will assist the Lodge in making quick contact with members if necessary. If you want to add your name and address to this listing, send an e-mail to plez@dallasscottishrite.org. In the subject line indicate TLR Address where he can quickly identify the purpose of the message and provide your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

Attention Authors

The Senior Warden solicits papers for review for possible presentation and publication by TLR. Obtain a criteria and style sheet from the Senior Warden prior to writing your paper as it describes suitable paper topics and format for your paper. Following instructions assists the reviewers in considering your paper and also reduces your work prior to final submission. The address for the Senior Warden can be found on page 2.

Memoriam



George R. Scott, P.G.M
Waco, Texas

THE GEORGETOWN MEETING

September 15-16, 2000

San Gabriel Lodge No. 89 in Georgetown will host Texas Lodge of Research for its September quarterly meeting. The lodge building is located at 900 N. College in the downtown area of Georgetown. The headquarters' hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express located at 200 S. I-35 (East side of Highway). A block of rooms has been reserved with the cost of a standard room being \$69 per night plus tax. The phone number for reservations directly with the hotel is 512-868-8555. The general Holiday reservation number is 1-800-465-4329 if you want save the long distance telephone charges. Make sure you mention you are with the Texas Lodge of Research or the Masonic Lodge Group to get the special rate. Reservations should be made by September 1 to ensure the group rate.

Friday evening activities will include a hamburger and hot dog dinner at the lodge building followed by a fellowship period. Activities will begin around 6:00 P.M. The TLR business meeting will be held Saturday morning at 10:30 AM at San Gabriel Lodge. Activities for the ladies are being planned at press time. Questions about the meeting can be directed to Truitt Bradly at 512-257-6279 (work) or 512-819-0453 (home) or via e-mail at masonic@texas.net.

DIRECTIONS TO THE LODGE:

Coming from the North on Interstate 35, exit on Airport Road. At the stop sign turn left and cross the Interstate. Bear right and at the second traffic signal turn left on FM 971. Go one block and turn right and then right again into San Gabriel Park. Turn left and cross the river at the low water crossing. Then turn right and the Lodge is the second building on the right.

Coming from the South on Interstate 35, take the exit for State Highway 29 and turn right at the traffic signal. Turn left on College Street and continue to San Gabriel Park. The Lodge is the first building on the left inside the park.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS:

The Holiday Inn Express is located at 200 I-35. This is on the northbound side (East Side) of the interstate. Coming from the North on I-35, exit to State Highway 29 and crossover the Interstate. Turn left on the service road. The Inn is about 1.5 miles up the service road and just past Chili's and Applebee's and next to Luby's.

Coming from the South on I-35, take the State Highway 29 exit, stay on the service road for approximately 1.5 miles. The Inn is just past Chili's and next to Luby's.

TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH
Post Office Box 1850
Dallas, Texas 75221-1850

Forwarding and Return Postage
Guaranteed

Standard Mail Non-Profit Org U. S. Postage PAID Permit No. 1652 Dallas, Texas
--

Grand Lodge of Texas *
P.O. Box 446
Waco, TX 76703