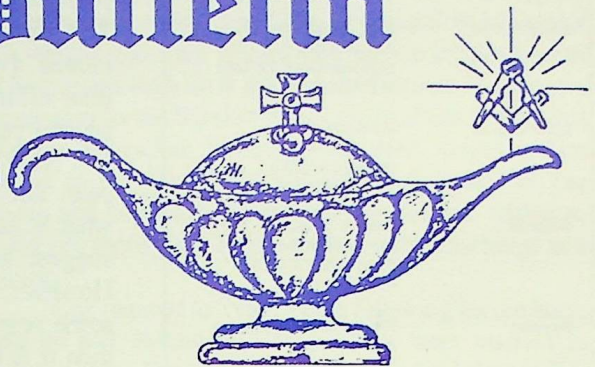


# The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research



2001 - 2002

June 2001

No. 2

## Stated Communication Saturday, June 16, 2001

Austin Scottish Rite Temple  
207 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas

10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.  
State Capitol Complex Tour  
For Members and Guests  
Depart From Radisson Hotel

1:00 P.M.  
Lunch On Your Own

3:00 P.M.  
Business Meeting of TLR  
Austin Scottish Rite Temple

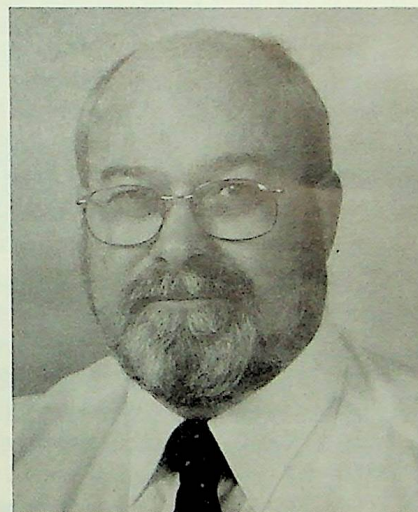
6:30 P.M.  
**Anson Jones Banquet & Lecture**  
**Hon. Robert L.D. Cooper**  
**Radisson Hotel**

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### Future Meetings

Saturday, 15 September 2001  
Rio Grande Lodge No. 81  
Brownsville, Texas

Saturday, 19 January 2002  
Hillsboro Lodge No. 196  
Hillsboro, Texas



## Cooper to Present Anson Jones Lecture

Past Master and Fellow Plez A. Transou has announced that Hon. Robert L.D. Cooper of Edinburgh, Scotland will present this year's Anson Jones Lecture. This annual lecture will be held in conjunction with the June 16 Stated Meeting in Austin, Texas. Complete details of the meeting can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Bro. Cooper, Scottish Mason and full member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, has entitled his lecture, "History and Origin of the Order of Free Gardeners." The lecture is open to all Masons and their guests. The Lecture will be preceded by a banquet at the Radisson Hotel in Austin and will require advance reservations. Tickets cost \$30 per person and reservations (and ticket purchases) must be made to the Austin Scottish Rite by Wednesday, June 13.

**Cooper** (continued on page 5)

## From The East

As the new Worshipful Master of TLR I want to offer a warm thank you to each and every Mason who was present making the installation a success. Stephenville Lodge No. 267 did a great job as host, preparing an enjoyable meal and providing a morning tour for our ladies. The weather may have been a bit cold but the hospitality was warm indeed. I wish to recognize Brothers Jack Kelly and Leonard Harvey for their efforts as the installing officers. They have performed this duty for several years now and I, as do others, appreciate their efforts.

Now speaking of efforts, I wish to offer some insight for the ensuing year. The committees have been appointed and there are no mysteries as to what is expected. As Master I do not like to "micro-manage" but rather suggest and let the committee members work out their own details. However, I do expect full committee reports at each meeting and if for some reason a chairman will not be able to attend a particular meeting, then it is his duty to have another Brother ready to offer a report. As we only meet four times year it is easy for things to slip away. As Master I don't have a theme except to offer a steady course and stay on track.

A favorite project I am most interested in will be the scholarship committee. Last year the principle officers met in Mansfield and this topic was discussed. For some reason the idea faded and now I wish to have this on the front burner. One of the first duties a Freemason learns is charity. This would be a wonderful opportunity to exercise that great lesson and promote TLR at the same time.

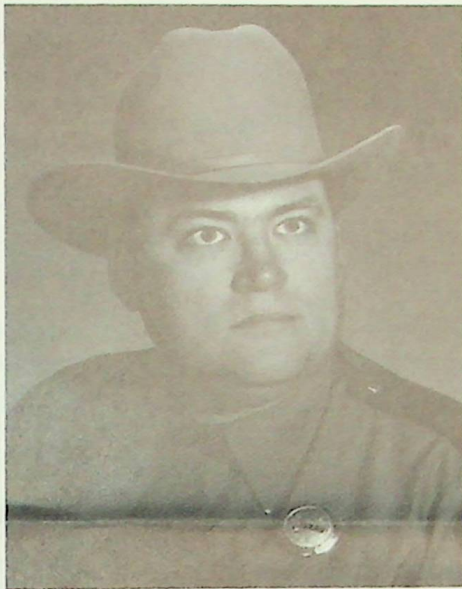
Another area I am pleased with is the Anson Jones Lecture. As you all know Right Worshipful Brother Bob Dillard passed away last November and as that committee chairman his shoes were indeed hard to fill. The new Chairman, Brother Plez Transou, and his committee members have made great progress in a short period of time. They went to work right away and located a fabulous speaker from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Worshipful Brother Robert L. D. Cooper. I won't mention much about the speaker's biography here, as I know it will be mentioned in another part of this publication. However, I am excited about this lecture and encourage all of you to make your plans to attend the June TLR meeting. Aside from the lecture, we are anticipating some fun times in Austin.

One of the sights I have planned for us to explore in Austin is the Old Land Building next to the Capitol and of course the Capitol building itself. I have used all of my favors for this one and we have been promised an exceptional morning tour for our group. If you have not been to our Capitol since the renovation then you are really missing a treat. The tour will be through by noon that Saturday keeping in mind many of you wish to see other things in Austin. The main idea that day is for everyone to enjoy him or herself, savor some free time and have some fun.

In closing I want to offer congratulations to the new officers. No Worshipful Master can do it all alone. I ask for your help, support and commitment not only to the Craft but also to our unique lodge. I think we can accomplish some things this year and at the same time enjoy some fun times as well. See you in Austin!

Sincerely & fraternally,  
Ross J. Cox, Sr.

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Secretary	Plez A. Transou, PM P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221 214-748-9196
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Junior Deacon	James C. Yelvington, III 1003 Austin Highlands Austin, TX 78745 512-495-9988
Senior Steward	James Lee Waymire Rt. 6, Box 133D Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-5722
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Assistant Secretary	Clyde W. Howard, Jr. P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221



## Ross J. Cox, Sr. Master, 2001-2002

By Clifford L. Acker, PM

Ross J. Cox, Jr., the forty-second Master of Texas Lodge of Research, casts a large shadow. He is a passionate man about the preservation of the past and he honors those who have gone before him with reverence and a humility that often belies his physical presence. Over six feet tall and 200 pounds, Cox is not what is normally thought of as the scholarly type. But this is one instance where looks are most definitely deceiving.

A long-time Trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety, Cox is serving his second consecutive year as Master of San Saba Lodge No. 612 while fulfilling his duties as Master of TLR. When work transferred him to San Saba, he affiliated with San Saba Lodge. Dedicated to thorough research, he presented his TLR research paper, "A Brief History of San Saba Lodge No. 612," in September 1997. The paper received the James D. Carter Award for Literary Excellence and the inaugural Ziller Award for a first-time TLR author. For this paper he was also elected to full membership in TLR. In March 1999, Cox was elected Junior Warden of TLR.

Cox was born in Dallas on 29 April 1956. His late father, Otis H. Cox, was a Dallas area wholesale grocery salesman and his mother, Betty Jean Billingsley Cox, was a homemaker. The family lived in the area that is now the sprawling Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. While growing up he attended Irving Public Schools until the family moved when construction began on the new airport. Moving to the Rockwall area with his family, he graduated from Rockwall High School in 1974. He later attended Navarro Junior College in Corsicana where he received an A.A.S. degree in

Law Enforcement. He transferred to the University of Texas at Tyler and received a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice in 1977.

After college, Cox enlisted in the US Army and attended Military Police school in Alabama. Following his training, he was stationed in Korea at Camp Kittyhawk near the de-militarized zone. His military service included escort and bodyguard work with the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission for the Swedish Major General that headed that particular delegation. Following his stint overseas, Cox returned to the States and attended K-9 school in San Antonio and was later sent to Fort McClelland, Alabama, serving two more years before his honorable discharge as a sergeant.

Cox returned to Tyler, Texas following his discharge where he met Rosemary Carter. They were married in December 1981. For a time the couple lived in Liberty while he worked in the oilfield. During this time, he made application to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and began his career with them in March 1982. He graduated with 69 other officers in July 1982 after 18 weeks of training.

Cox' first assignment with the DPS was in Leon County. He transferred to Livingston in Polk County in November 1983. While living in Livingston for a dozen years, Ross Cox Jr. was born on 23 December 1985 and Joseph William Cox joined his older brother in April 1987.

His interest in Freemasonry began while living in Livingston and he petitioned Trinity Lodge No. 14. Cox received the Entered Apprentice degree in February, the Fellow Craft in June, and was raised a Master Mason on 1 August, all in 1989. He later became an endowed member of Trinity Lodge and joined the Houston Scottish Rite Bodies, where he is also an endowed member.

An active member in Trinity Lodge, Cox started the Lodge's newsletter, provided yearly programs to area schools during public schools week, coordinated the Lamar Medal and scholarship programs, and obtained dyslexia material for five area schools. Trinity Lodge recognized his contributions to the Lodge when they presented him the Golden Trowel Award in 1991.

It was during this period that Cox began an active interest in TLR. He started an index of his lodge's records but was transferred to the DPS License and Weight Service in North Texas for a brief period. He moved his family to San Saba in 1996, affiliated with San Saba Lodge shortly after arrival and was elected Master in 1999. He served as Master in 1999-2000 and was reelected to serve 2000-2001.

His activity ranges beyond Freemasonry. He is a member of the American Legion in San Saba and is a life member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). He was commander of the SCV's Ike Turner Camp in Livingston for two terms. As commander, he was instrumental in obtaining

Cox (continued on page 6)

## The Stephenville Meeting

Pete Martinez, PM

"Getting there is half the fun." Seems I have heard that somewhere. I left Tyler around 8:00 a.m. and stopped in Athens to pick up Clyde Kenneaster. We have been TLR traveling companions for several years. If our wives don't go with us we go together and split the expenses. We get a lot of Masonry done on these trips. This time we went through Waco for a stop at the Grand Lodge. I needed to get a traveling certificate for my upcoming trip to England and Scotland and we always like to visit with Grand Secretary Jim Ward when he isn't so busy with the Grand Lodge meeting in December. Seems Brother Jim had everything running smooth at the Grand Lodge and we had a nice visit.

We stopped at the post office in Crawford to mail a package from the Texas Whitehouse (President Bush was away in Washington so we didn't get to see him) and again in Valley Mills for lunch. From there we went to Glen Rose in hopes of stopping off at Dinosaur Valley State Park to see the dinosaur tracks in the creek bed. Clyde has been there before and assured me it would be interesting. Unfortunately, mother nature did not cooperate and all the rain we have been having lately had raised the level of the creek to the point all the tracks were covered in muddy water and were not visible. I suppose I will have to make that trip sometime in late summer when things dry up a little.

We arrived in Stephenville around 3:00 p.m., drove by the Lodge just to see where it is located and then to the Holiday Inn to check in. After dumping our gear in our room we found the hospitality room where several of the faithful and a couple of first timers were enjoying some snacks and talking Masonry. Later we went to dinner and then back to the hospitality room to solve all the problems of Masonry before bedtime.

Morning found a few of us in the dinning room for breakfast and around 8:30 a.m. we checked out and drove to the Lodge. Stephenville Lodge No. 267 had the donuts and coffee spread in the dinning room and good friends were catching up on all the latest happenings. The ladies left at 9:00 for a tour of some local historical places.

At 10:30 a.m., Worshipful Master James Beeler applied the setting maul to the stone on the master's pedestal and, for his last time, opened a meeting of Texas Lodge of Research. After he welcomed everyone to the meeting Brother Beeler thanked the officers and members of Stephenville

Lodge for the opportunity to hold our meeting in their facility.

Introductions were made and the following 11 Past Masters of TLR were present; Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM and Fellow, John E. "Jack" Kelly, PGM, PM and Fellow, Leonard P. Harvey, PGM, PM, Pete Normand, PM, Pete Martinez, PM, Dr. Jack E. Beeler, PM, Dr. Howard R. Stewart, PM and Fellow, Dr. Michael L. Wiggins, PM, Clifford L. Acker, PM, James F. Brumit, PM, and Clyde B. Kenneaster, PM.

The minutes of the Farmers Branch meeting were read by Assistant Secretary Clyde Howard and, after a couple of corrections, were approved. Petitions for affiliation of 13 new members were read and accepted. Treasurer Jim Brumit reported the lodge is solvent and his report was accepted.

According to Jack Beeler our book sales of late have been around \$1,200.00 and total approximately \$12,000.00 for the year. There should be a few more sales at the upcoming Grand Master's Conferences. Jack Beeler gave the necrology report. He reported we had 27 deaths during this TLR year.

Transactions Editor Dr. William P. Vaughn reported a delay in the production of Volume XXXIV, the Kenneaster volume, but it will hopefully be out soon. Webmaster Pete Martinez reported we are receiving 8 to 10 visitors a day on our site. It was mentioned that the address of the web site was not in the Occasional Bulletin, which shows that someone is not reading these reports because it is mentioned here. It is <http://pentium2.gower.net/Community/tlr>. I suppose we shall have to place it in a more obvious location in the printed addition of the Occasional Bulletin.

Pete Normand reported information from his book, "The Texas Masons," was on the Grand Lodge website although no permission had been granted nor credit given. The election of new officers was then held and the results may be found elsewhere in the Occasional Bulletin and the On Line Occasional Bulletin.

The selection of Worshipful Brother Robert L.D. Cooper as the Anson Jones Lecturer at the June meeting was announced. Brother Cooper is the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library. Worshipful Master Elect Ross J. Cox, Sr. and Junior Warden Elect Gordon Kelso announced plans for the June meeting.

Other announcements were made and then Lodge was called to refreshment for lunch. The ladies were back from their tour and joined us for a good meal prepared by the Order of the Eastern Star of Stephenville. After lunch the ladies joined us in the Lodge room for a reading of a research paper, "The Rise and Fall of York Rite Masonry in Crockett County" by Brother Roy Harold.

Our two distinguished Past Grand Masters then held installation of officers in the usual serious/humorous way.  
**Stephenville** (continued on page 5)

## TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH COMMITTEES 2001-2002

### Finance and Audit

Leonard P. Harvey\*, Larry Canada, Doug Granger

### Distinguished Lecture Committee

Plez A. Transou\*, John E. Jack Kelly, Leonard P. Harvey,  
Pierre G. Pete Normand, Jr., Reese L. Harrison Fellow

### Nominations Committee

William P. Vaughn\*, John E. Jack Kelly, J. Dexter Sammons,  
Plez A. Transou, Howard R. Stewart

### Transactions And Publishing Committee

William P. Vaughn

### Editorial Committee

Pete Martinez, Gordon W. Kelso, Howard R. Stewart

### Necrology Committee

Clifford L. Acker, Plez A. Transou, Michael Wiggins

### Grand Lodge Special Projects Committee

James F. Brumit, Jr.\*, William P. Vaughn, Howard R. Stewart,  
Plez A. Transou, John E. Jack Kelly, J. Dexter Sammons

### Book Sales and Membership Committee

Clifford L. Acker\*, Pete Martinez, Charles I. Bukin,  
Doug Granger, Bobby L. Shehorn, Douglas Collins

### Bylaws Committee

Pete Martinez, Gordon W. Kelso,  
Stephen L. McCoy, Reese L. Harrison

### Budget Committee

James F. Brumit, Jr.\*, Plez A. Transou, Charles I. Bukin

### Website Committee

Pete Martinez

### Scholarship Committee

William P. Vaughn\*, Clifford L. Acker, James F. Brumit, Jr.,  
James R. Beeler, Gordon W. Kelso

\* Denotes committee chairman

### Cooper (continued from page 1)

While in Texas, Bro. Cooper will present the annual L.A. Pires Lecture hosted by the Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies. Details of this presentation can be obtained from the Dallas Scottish Rite at 214-748-9196.

Since June 1994, Bro. Cooper has served as the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library. As Curator, he has been involved in many projects ranging from the production of a post card of the Grand Hall, reproduction of the famous Robert Burns' Inauguration print, refurbishment of the Museum within Freemasons' Hall, and developing the Grand Lodge of Scotland's website. Bro. Cooper states his greatest pleasure as Curator comes from meeting and greeting visitors to the Museum and Library.

Bro. Cooper became a Freemason in The Lodge of

Light No. 1656, and was Master of Lodge Edinburgh Castle No. 1764 in 1998. He has taken the Holy Royal Arch degrees in Castle Park RAC No. 520. He is a Past Principal (1987-89) and is Scribe E. He is also a Knight Templar, Preceptor of the Eastern Marches – Eyemouth, and the Red Cross of Constantine, St. Giles No. 2. Bro. Cooper is a member of the Supreme Council of Scotland in Edinburgh Conclave No. 1 and holds the 18<sup>th</sup> degree. In February 2001, he was admitted to full membership in Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 in London, England.

Bro. Cooper holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and has a long-time interest in Scottish history. His admission into Freemasonry added an additional element to that interest and he is a serious student of the history of Scotland and Scottish Freemasonry. He is married to Yvonne Cooper and they have one son who is currently studying engineering at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. Texas Masons will not want to miss Bro. Cooper's presentations. So make your plans now to join TLR for the Anson Jones Lecture in Austin.

## New Members

### Elected March 17, 2001

Jimmie C. Rushing, Arlington, TX  
Kenneth R. Moss, Fritch, TX  
Michael T. Brolly, Merrick, NY  
Jose G. Cantu, Jr., San Antonio, TX  
John T. Rowell, Dallas, TX  
Ted Hennis, Amarillo, TX  
David R. Wilson, Plainview, TX  
Donald W. Cain, Jr., Glenn Heights, TX  
Taylor J. Ramey, Fischer, TX  
Jeffrey C. Owens, Sr., Stephenville, TX  
Mickey Fuller Lodge # 720, Juliette, GA  
O. C. Ashley, Abbott, TX  
Childs D. Darr, Honey Grove, TX  
Gary E. Farley, Goldthwaite, TX

## Bulletin Deadline - July 13

*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 September 2001 bulletin is July 13. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.

### Stephenville (continued from page 4)

RW Leonard P. Harvey was installing officer and RW John E. "Jack" Kelly was installing marshal. After the installation there were a few presentations and then the non-Masons were excused. The Lodge was called from refreshment to labor and Lodge was then closed. The officers were then assembled for photos after which everyone headed for home.

## The Austin Meeting June 15-16, 2001

The Austin Scottish Rite Bodies will host Texas Lodge of Research for its June quarterly meeting. The Scottish Rite Temple is located 207 West 18th Street in downtown Austin. The Radisson Hotel on Town Lake will serve as the headquarters hotel for the weekend. The hotel is located at 111 E. Cesar Chavez. This is at the corner of Congress Avenue at the bridge and old East 1st Street. A block of rooms has been reserved and the cost of a standard room will be \$119 per night plus tax for a single or double. The phone number for reservations directly with the hotel is 512-478-9611. Make sure you mention Texas Lodge of Research to get the group rate. **Reservations must be made by May 29, 2001 to ensure the group rate.**

The TLR hospitality room at the Radisson will open at 3:00 PM Friday afternoon. Everyone will be on their own for dinner. However, Friday evening activities will include a riverboat cruise aboard the Lone Star Riverboat. Boarding will begin at 7:30 PM at the dock located near the Radisson. So get a group together at the hospitality room, eat early, and return to cruise Town Lake and watch the bats flyout. The cost for the riverboat cruise will be \$10 per person and reservations will be required. Reservations and payment should be made to the Austin Scottish Rite prior to Wednesday, June 13. Saturday includes a busy morning of sightseeing. A bus will pick up at the Radisson around 10:00 AM for a tour of the State Capitol Complex. Tours will include the Old Land Office, a video presentation, and a special tour of the State Capitol. The bus will return the group to the hotel around 1:00 PM. You will be on your own for lunch. There is no cost for this activity, which is being sponsored by the Austin Scottish Rite. However, reservations must be made by Wednesday, June 13.

The TLR business meeting will be held Saturday afternoon beginning at 3:00 PM in the Blue Lodge Room of the Austin Scottish Rite Temple. The Anson Jones Banquet and Lecture to be held at the Radisson Hotel will follow at 6:30 PM. The catered banquet will cost \$30.00 per person. Once again, reservations with the Austin Scottish Rite will be required by Wednesday, June 13. You should have noticed a trend by now. All activities in which you would like to participate require some advance planning and reservations on your part no later than Wednesday, June 13. **Reservations and payments for all events (except lodging) should be made directly with the Austin Scottish Rite by calling 512-472-7247 or 1-800-754-3079.** The Scottish Rite can accept your Visa, MasterCard, and American Express for payment or you can mail them a check. Anyway you do it, we will see you in Austin.

Cox (continued from page 3 )

a Texas Historical Marker for the Alabama-Coushatta Indians recognizing their service to the Confederacy.

Bro. Cox also helped obtain historical markers for his church, the San Saba Church of Christ, and the first Masonic lodge in San Saba, San Saba Lodge No. 225. He is a strong believer in community service and in participation. He says that community service promotes the qualities men are taught in Masonic lodges and which all men should strive to obtain.

“All of my heroes have been Masons even though at the time I had no knowledge of their Masonic membership,” Cox said. “It is no accident that I am a Mason, for it has made me a better man, husband, and father.”

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