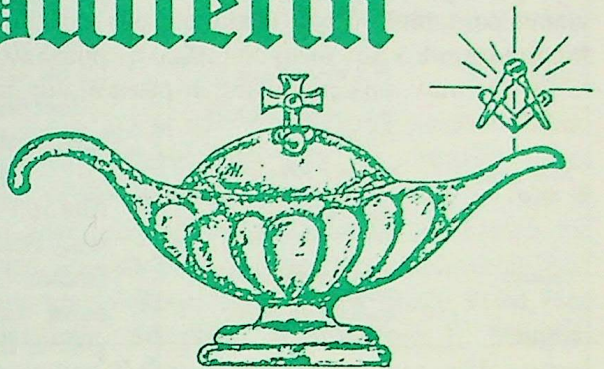


The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research



2001 - 2002

September 2001

No. 3

Stated Communication Saturday, September 15, 2001

Rio Grande Lodge No. 81
1131 E. Jefferson St.
Brownsville, Texas

9:00 AM
Gather at Lodge

9:30 AM
Ladies and Visitors Tour

10:30 A.M.
TLR Business Meeting

12:00 Noon
Lunch

1:00 P.M.
Presentation of Papers

The Lost Masonic Dirge
By Randolph Martin

Be Leery of Tall Tales
By Howard Stewart, PM & Fellow

Future Meetings

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

From The East

What a great time we had in Austin! If you were not there, you missed a fun weekend. Everything from the capitol building tour, the evening boat ride, and the dinner and program, the annual Anson Jones Lecture, went extremely well. I wish to thank Junior Warden Gordon Kelso and the Austin Scottish Rite Bodies for their efforts in making the Austin weekend a great success.

The lecture was excellent and was well received. I thought our speaker, Brother Cooper, did an outstanding job. Being from Scotland, a word or two got by my ear without recognition but the lecture was exciting and very interesting. Special thanks go to Brother Plez Transou and the lecture committee for their fine efforts in securing our Anson Jones speaker. It could not have gone any better.

There are some business issues that I would like to address concerning expenses. It seems that the cost of doing business overseas has gone up considerably since the last time we raised our dues. The secretary has pointed out that we have many overseas members and the cost for mailing has exceeded the dues. We may be at a point to consider some options to correct this matter. Raising the amount of our annual dues may be one consideration or perhaps just increasing the individual cost of those foreign members. Whatever the case, this will be a topic of serious discussion at the next meeting in Brownsville.

In other business a scholarship idea was presented and is being discussed. Like any project done well, this will take some time and require interest and discussion from the membership. In the past Austin Lodge No. 12 funded the Ziller Award, which went to a

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**Texas Lodge of Research
A.F.&A.M.
2001-2002 Officers**

Master	Ross J. Cox, Sr. Rt 2, Box 19A San Saba, TX 76877 915-372-4190
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Junior Steward	Bobby L. Shehorn P.O. Box 821272 Dallas, TX 75238 214-739-0114
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Assistant Secretary	Clyde W. Howard, Jr. P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221

From The East (continued from page 1)

writer in TLR. However, after consideration and in keeping with the true spirit of the original bequest, TLR members will no longer be eligible. Now we have an opportunity, if the membership so desires, to do something that could involve assisting young people with a scholarship. It is my understanding, at this time; Austin Lodge is with us on this idea. This would be a joint venture and could be a reality within the next year or two. If you have a suggestion and would like to offer assistance, feel free to get involved.

By now you should have received your order form for a TLR ring in the mail. You may have looked twice as the envelope did not read Balfour Ring Company. Instead the letter had "Commemorative Brands Inc." as the return address. I am not sure of the reason Balfour's name was not mentioned but the order is genuine, I can assure you. I almost threw the envelope away thinking it was a junk mail letter. If you did throw it away, don't despair as the information can be obtained on the TLR web page. If you don't have a computer then contact Town & Country Balfour in Austin at 512-206-0460.

Our next meeting will be in Brownsville hosted by Rio Grande Lodge No. 81 on Saturday, September 15th. Brother Douglas Collins will be our point man and he has planned an exciting weekend for us. Now Brownsville is a long way off for most of us but we are assured the trip will be well worth the effort. Some may ask why meet in Brownsville? Well why not? TLR has never met there before and we are assured of an enthusiastic turnout. So, make your plans now, bring your family, and dare to experience another part of our great state. See you in Brownsville.

Ross Cox Sr., Worshipful Master

Masonic Character – Food for Thought

The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment that the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine, except those written in the heart by the fingers of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received; and in humble solicitations for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions; he disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense because he does not choose to be offended. He is honest upon principle.

The above is reprinted from the 1823 edition of The Farmers Almanac, Andover, Massachusetts, courtesy of The Quarterly Newsletter of Anniversary Lodge of Research No. 175, New Hampshire, First Quarter 2001.

The Austin Meeting

Pete Martinez, P.M.

I missed the bat flight again this year. But I have a good excuse. I had spent the week in Albuquerque with my wife while she attended the Supreme Session of Daughters of the Nile. We drove out on the Saturday before the TLR meeting and her last function was the installation of the new Supreme officers on Thursday evening. We left Albuquerque about 6:00 a.m. on Friday morning and arrived back in Tyler, 773 miles later, around 7:00 p.m. I did arrive in Austin, the following morning, in time to make the tour of the old Land Office building and the Capitol building. And for the bat flight, I had "been there - done that," but I never got a T-shirt.

The Albuquerque trip was only one of the things I had done between the March and June meetings of TLR. As some of you know, my wife's sister married an Englishman and lives in Chippenham, Wiltshire. That is about 100 miles west of London. This "forces" us to visit her sister once in a while and this year was one of those times. We arrived at London's Heathrow Airport on Sunday morning 22 April, picked up a rent car and drove straight to Chippenham. In addition to the usual tourist things, I got away on Monday through Thursday evenings to attend Lodge meetings. Monday evening's meeting was unique for me as it was a meeting of a Mark Master Lodge. When I was asked by some of the brethren if our meeting was anything like theirs, they were surprised when I told them in the U. S. the Mark Master degree falls under the Royal Arch and only meets for the conferral of the degree and that is usually only once a year. One of the members gave the trestle board lecture during the meeting and it was very interesting. The next three nights were spent in Craft Lodges and I witnessed initiations and passing.

On May 1st we packed up and drove to Edinburgh, Scotland, and spent the last five days of our vacation there. The following day we visited Edinburgh Castle and Rosslyn Chapel. On Thursday, 3 May, I had the pleasure of attending the Quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland where I met our soon to be Anson Jones Lecturer, Brother Robert L. D. Cooper. Then on Friday evening I attended the installation of officers of Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 in the Masonic Hall in Greenock. Check out

the Photo Gallery on TLR's web page.

While I was in Albuquerque I attended two Lodges. One in Rio Rancho and one in Santa Fe. This makes lodges in 13 other Grand Jurisdictions that I have visited. And Texas is still the only place where we do the ritual right. <VBFG> (That's email talk for Very Big Fraternal Grin).

Enough of this...On with the Austin meeting. Worshipful Master Ross Cox, Sr., opened Texas Lodge of Research at 3:00 p.m. Saturday 16 June in the Lodge room of University Lodge No. 1190 in the Austin Scottish Rite Temple. Introductions of Past Masters and Fellows John E. "Jack" Kelly, PGM, Plez A Transou, Secretary, and William P. Vaughn, Transaction Editor, were made along with several PMs of this and other Lodges.

The Minutes were read by Secretary Transou and, after comments by Past Masters Pete Normand, William P. Vaughn and Charles I. Bukin, they were approved. There followed a presentation by Worshipful Master Cox of a beautiful Past Masters Certificate to Junior Past Master James Beeler who made some very appreciative remarks.

Worshipful Master Cox thanked Junior Warden Gordon Kelso for his involvement in setting up the meeting. Brother Kelso then made announcements about the evening meeting. Twenty-three petitions for affiliations were announced and the petitioners were elected to membership in Texas Lodge of Research

Past Master Charles I. Bukin read the Audit report in the absence of Audit chairman, Leonard P. Harvey. The report indicated we are in good financial shape and it was approved. A list of bills that had been paid since our last meeting was read and approved.

Transaction Editor William P. "Bill" Vaughn reported Vol. XXXIV is ready. Biographical information on Clyde Kenneaster was rumored to have been taken from a police blotter. The book sales report, by Chairman Cliff Acker, indicated that sales are up in some areas. However, it was reported that there were no books available at some Grand Master's Conferences. James F. Brumit, PM, reported on papers being prepared for Deputy Grand Master Michael Nanny for use in his programs for the Lodges of Texas when he is Grand Master next year.

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Austin Meeting (continued from page 3)

Junior Warden Gordon Kelso reported on the scholarship of Austin Lodge No. 12. The Lodge withdrew the Ziller Award and has proposed a replacement system to award scholarships for High School Junior and Senior students. Bill Vaughn spoke of the problems of others actually writing the papers for students. The proposal will be studied and the findings reported at the next meeting.

Under New Business, a resolution was presented by John E. "Jack" Kelly, PGM, PM, Fellow & Leonard P. Harvey, PGM, PM, to purchase three memberships in the Sam Houston Hall of Fame for James Carter, Anson Jones and D. D. Tidwell.

Pete Martinez, PM, Webmaster, reported that 8 to 10 people are visiting our web page each day. Several have requested copies of our Criteria and Style sheet in anticipation of submitting a paper to our Senior Warden. The web page address is <http://pentium2.gower.net/Community/tlr>. Contact the webmaster if you would like to be notified when changes are made to the web page.

Senior Warden L. Randal Rogers reported that several papers are being reviewed and we will be hearing some of them at future meetings. Tiler Doug Collins announced plans for the Brownsville meeting and it looks like we will have a great time when we visit the Lower Rio Grande Valley in September. After several other announcements, Texas Lodge of Research was closed at 4:30 pm.

The Anson Jones banquet and lecture was held at the Radisson Hotel beginning at 6:30 p.m. Hon. Robert L. D. Cooper of Edinburgh, Scotland, presented his paper "History and Origin of the Order of Free Gardeners". It was an interesting paper on an organization very similar to Freemasonry. Brother Cooper indicated there are still several Lodges of Free Gardeners in existence today, some in the U. S. Brother Cooper's new book, "An Introduction to the Origins and History of the Order of Free Gardeners", will be available at our book sales table. Several of us purchased copies and had the author autograph them. The last few pages of the book contain illustrations of aprons, banners and jewels of the Free Gardeners. He had the actual items with him and they are on display on TLR's web page in the photo gallery.

I hope to see some of you in Brownsville.

NEW MEMBERS

Elected March 17, 2001

Full Member

Roy A. Harrell, Jr.

Elected June 16, 2001

Full Member

Robert L.D. Cooper

New Members

Donny W. Broughton, Heath, TX
Harold E. Donaldson, Stephenville, TX
Bill J. Holden, Stephenville, TX
Garland Knipstein, Stephenville, TX
Waymire J. Lee, Livingston, TX
John Shannon, Commerce, TX
Robert E. Melear, Quanah, TX
Jim Nyfeler, McKinney, TX
William R. Curry, Kingsland, TX
John R. Diskerud, Schertz, TX
Donald T. Keller, Jr., Houston, TX
Richard M. King, Dallas, TX
Donald A. Young, Schertz, TX
Erin Lee Peters, Abilene, TX
Charles L. Steen, Palestine, TX
Phillip J. Puzzo, Austin, TX
William C. Simpson, Mobile, LA
Marlon W. Bruno, Corpus Christi, TX
Joseph H. Baker, Jr., Pineville, LA
Jack W. Bridges, Bossier City, LA
Thomas P. Dickson, Bossier City, LA
Ron Ferris, The Netherlands
John K. Miller, Irving, TX

Hilburn Recognition Dinner

TLR Past Master Sam E. Hilburn will be recognized for his dedicated service to the Texas Masonic Fraternity at a special dinner in November. Right Worshipful Bro. Hilburn is a Past Master of Midland Lodge No. 623 and a Past Grand Master of Texas, having served as such in 1980. He served TLR as Master in 1988-89. Within the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, he is currently serving as the Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Texas and as the Supreme Council's Grand Treasurer General. In addition, he has faithfully served on many committees of the Grand Lodge of Texas and the various appendant Masonic bodies.

This special event will be held on Friday evening, November 16, at the Hella Shrine Temple in Dallas. Advance reservations and ticket purchase will be required. Complete details can be obtained from the Dallas Scottish Rite office at 214-748-9196.

Attention Authors Changes to Paper Submittal

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.

To assist in the preparation of the annual Transactions volume, authors are requested to submit an electronic version of their paper to TLR. Authors should submit their paper on a 3.5 inch high density floppy disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. At the time your paper is presented you should deliver the electronic disk of your paper along with the paper copies to the Senior

Warden for handling. The Publications Committee appreciates your cooperation in this matter.

Bulletin Deadline – October 12

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 2002 bulletin is October 12. 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 address 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 the TLR secretary at 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.

Note

Special August 10 Deadline

Please note the special August 10 deadline to participate in the Dolphin Cruise and Beachside Barbecue planned in conjunction with the September Quarterly TLR meeting in Brownsville. Complete details are on the back page.

The Brownsville Meeting

September 14 – 15, 2001

Rio Grande Lodge No. 81, located in Brownsville, will host Texas Lodge of Research for its September quarterly meeting. The lodge building is located at 1131 E. Jefferson Street. The building will open at 9:00 AM for coffee and doughnuts while the business meeting will be conducted at 10:30 AM. A special historic tour of Brownsville has been arranged for the ladies and visitors. It will depart from the lodge building at 9:30 AM and return by lunch. Lunch will be shrimp gumbo at the lodge and will include fresh, hot tamales for those who do not like shellfish. Paper presentations will follow at 1:00 PM.

The headquarters motel will be the Fairwinds Executive Inn at 1945 N. Expressway. Rooms are \$49 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy. Reservations should be made by calling 1-877-314-1333. Mention that you are with TLR to obtain the special \$49 rate.

A special outing has been planned for Friday evening so plan on arriving by 4:00 PM to participate in the activity which will leave the hotel around 4:45 PM. Arrangements have been made for a Dolphin Watch Cruise that evening. The group will travel to the Marina at South Padre Island and arrive no later than 5:30 PM to board a catamaran for the evening cruise. The evening will include a trip into the bay followed by a hayride and barbecue brisket dinner with Tiki lamps and a live band at the "South Forty." After dinner, the hayride will return to the catamaran, which will then sail to the Marina, arriving around 9:00 PM. The cost for the evening adventure is \$37.85 per person, tax included. Beverages, other than tea and soft drinks, will be available on a cash bar basis. The trip will require a minimum of 40 persons and reservations should be made with Douglas Collins no later than August 10. You can contact Bro. Collins at 956-546-0161 (office), 956-544-1697 (home) or dcdpd2493@aol.com (e-mail). If you do not make the August 10 deadline and would like to enjoy this outing, call Bro. Collins anyway to see if there is space available.

The TLR hospitality room at the motel will open early Friday afternoon to accommodate the early arrivals and serve as a gathering place for those participating in the Dolphin Watch. For those arriving late or not making the cruise, the hospitality room will be open Friday evening.

If you are traveling by air, Continental flies into the Brownsville/SPI airport with 10 daily flights. All are regional jet flights except for the last flight from Houston, which is a Boeing 737. Southwest Airlines flies into the Rio Grande Valley Airport in Harlingen from Houston, San Antonio, and Austin. Rides from the Brownsville or Harlingen Airports can be arranged with adequate advance notification. All questions regarding the weekend should be directed to Bro. Collins. We look forward to seeing everyone in Brownsville.

TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH
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