

# The Occasional Bulletin

## Texas Lodge<sup>of</sup> Research



2001 - 2002

January 2002

No. 4

### *From The East*

#### **Stated Communication Saturday, January 19, 2002**

Hillsboro Lodge No. 196  
212 Happy Lane  
Hillsboro, Texas

8:00 A.M.

Gather at the Lodge

9:00 A.M.

Depart for Hill College Tour

10:30 A.M.

TLR Business Meeting

12:00 Noon

Lunch at the Lodge

1:00 P.M.

Presentation of Papers

**"The Lone Star Omitted"**

by Gordon Kelso, JW

**"A Historical Perspective of Valley  
Lodge No. 175"**  
by Ray Bronk

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#### **Future Meetings**

Saturday, 16 March 2002  
Kingsland Lodge No. 1424  
Kingsland, Texas

It is with great sadness that I write this article just days after the terrorist attacks that took place in New York City and Washington DC. I believe we can all say just how shocked we were and still are. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims and their families. I'm certain someone who has lost a loved one in those attacks will read this article. To you I express my deepest sympathy for your loss. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten and our country will recover. May God grant you and your family the strength, guidance and protection that will see you through these trying times.

The September meeting in Brownsville was tempered by the recent tragedy. During the meeting I was asked how we as Masons in TLR could help. I learned the next week, from the Grand Secretary, that we can immediately send monetary assistance to our brethren in New York through the Masonic Service Association of North America. The MSA will provide your donations to those deserving Brothers, their widows and orphans. The MSA telephone number is 301-588-4010. The address is 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-4785. For more information about the Masonic Service Association visit them on the World Wide Web at [www.msana.com](http://www.msana.com).

Sometimes we count our blessings and in Brownsville we certainly did. On Friday evening our group left the hospitality room at the motel and traveled across the bay to the island. There we boarded our boat and enjoyed the dolphin watch. The weather was splendid and the water was smooth. Afterwards, we went out to eat finishing off what I would call a near perfect day. Our party then traveled back across the bridge to the mainland. Just a few hours

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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
Senior Warden	Dr. L. Randall Rogers P.O. Box 834 Buchanan Dam, TX 78609 512-793-2722
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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	Clifford L. Acker, PM P.O. Box 571 Liberty, TX 77575 936-336-6575
Senior Deacon	Steve L. McCoy Rt. 1, Box 114 Iredell, TX 76649 254-364-2577
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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Marshal	Joby Dixon 10 East 40 <sup>th</sup> Street, B-104 Austin, TX 78751 512-458-5393
Master of Ceremonies	Gary Farley Rt. 2, Box 275F Goldthwaite, TX 76844 915-648-3402
Tiler	Douglas Collins 80 Cheryl Lane Brownsville, TX 78521 956-544-1697
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 405-364-7154
Assistant Secretary	Clyde W. Howard, Jr. P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221

*From The East* (continued from page 1)

later, a barge traveled through the bay and destroyed that same bridge. Several people lost their lives. Again our thoughts and prayers are extended to those in this tragedy as well.

I wish to mention here that I am thankful for the help and assistance rendered by Brother Douglas Collins who coordinated this meeting. Rio Grande Lodge No. 81 was a fine host and their lodge hall is a historic gem indeed. For those who did not attend, you missed a great time in old historic Brownsville. In front of his home lodge, Brother Collins was presented The James David Carter Award for Literary Excellence. Again I offer my personal congratulations and thanks for a fine job well done!

In other news we discussed the topic of raising our lodge dues. The issue of raising dues is never pleasant for any lodge but the facts speak for themselves. The cost of mailing to our foreign membership exceeds what is taken in. There was some discussion about raising the cost of just foreign membership but a case of discrimination was offered. Mailing and postage rates do not discriminate. There are other considerations and those too will be brought forth at the next meeting in Hillsboro. The meeting did end on some bright notes. We welcomed Brother Randolph Martin as the newest full member to the Texas Lodge of Research. The other interesting event was the seven Mexican Nationals, all brothers in good standing, who attended our meeting from across the border. As a token of their friendship they presented to me a Masonic Apron and sash from their jurisdiction. I was indeed honored and will share it at the next meeting in Hillsboro.

Change is constant and I mention here a new change for the TLR rings. It seems the old Balfour representative has left for greener pastures and a new one has taken his place. I was contacted by the new dealer and was asked to announce the new information. For inquiries concerning TLR rings contact Capital Area Balfour, 6514 McNeil Drive, Austin, Texas 78729. The new representative is Carol Bernhard who can be reached at 512-335-3935. There are several rings now ready for delivery and all future contacts should be made with her. For more information see our website.

Another change we will all see this year will be at Grand Lodge. It seems our TLR book sales table has been moved across the hall from our traditional location. It appears the powers that be made the decision for us. As you know the sale of books at Grand Lodge is most important from a financial point of view. I am asking for each and every member, who will be attending Grand Lodge this year, to make a special attempt to sell books at our table. Even if it is only for a short time, please make the effort to help out.

After Grand Lodge we will be into another year with our January 2002 meeting in Hillsboro. Hillsboro Masonic Lodge No. 196 will be our host and our contact person is Brother Joe Crass. If you should have any questions please call him at one of these numbers: home 903-682-2216, office 214-812-7876, or cell 214-769-4571. Headquarters hotel will be the Comfort Inn Motel and their number is 254-582-3333. A group rate of \$59.95 is offered until January 3, 2002. More details concerning the meeting will appear elsewhere in this issue.

In closing I ask you to remember our own sick and distressed and keep the victims of the national tragedy in your prayers. Pray for our country, our military forces, and our leaders during these difficult days. May God bless you and your family until we meet again.

**Ross J. Cox, Sr.  
Worshipful Master**



## The Brownsville Meeting

Pete Martinez, PM

I have often started these reports by talking about the distance traveled to reach our meetings. It seems to have been a good start so I won't change my style. The Official Texas Travel Map from the Texas Department of Transportation gives the distance from Tyler to Brownsville as 526 miles. Now, I don't know the route they used to figure that distance, but my route took me through Waco on State Highway 31 (130 mi.) and then down to the Corpus Christi city limits on Interstate 35 and 37 (324 mi). From there it is a long, mostly uninhabited, stretch to Brownsville on US 77 (159 mi.). That totals 613 miles which is a full 12 to 13 hour drive and that includes three stops totaling around 3 hours. It all adds up to averaging around 70 miles per hour. Checking my Rand McNally Atlas I find the mileage from Brownsville to Mexico City is about 610 miles, so we went half way to Mexico City. My return trip was on a more direct route and totaled 532 miles - only 6 miles off the Official Texas Travel Map.

My reason for stopping off in Waco was to visit with Grand Secretary Jim Ward. In addition to discussing the due date on my Fraternal Relations Committee Report, I picked up some interesting information pertaining to the re-location of the Texas Lodge of Research book sales table during Grand Lodge. The Grand Master's jewelry sales committee will be taking over our usual area and we will be moved across the room to a place apposite the soft drink vending machines. I think we will have about the same amount of space as before and we will be closer to the soft drinks and food service. I suppose I had better get busy and make some signs to direct our customers to our new location.

My wife, Chris, and I stopped in Round Rock for lunch and again in Robstown for gas and necessities. We arrived at the motel in Brownsville late on Thursday afternoon and, after getting settled, Brother Doug Collins stopped by to check on us. We discussed the possibilities for exploring Brownsville the next morning and decided to visit the Gladys Porter Zoo. Next time you are in Brownsville and have some time, visit the Zoo. It is really first class and a pleasure to see. By the time we got back to the motel, some of the faithful were there and the

hospitality room was open and crowded. At the designated time we boarded four vehicles and headed for South Padre Island for the Dolphin watch cruise. Although I don't recall any of the dolphins jumping out of the water, like they do at Sea World, we did see quite a few of them feeding in the waters off the south point of the island. We arrived back at the pier at dusk and went to a seafood restaurant and had a great meal.

We crossed the Queen Isabella Causeway around 9:30 p.m. on our way back to Brownsville and the motel. The next morning we turned on the television and discovered a barge load of steel coils had struck the causeway about 2:00 a.m. and caused two of the sections to plunge 80 feet into the water with several cars ending up in the water and some people drowning. This was one of the main topics when we arrived at the Lodge that morning around 9:00 a.m. The ladies left a little later for a tour of some of the historic places in Brownsville and at 10:30 a.m. Worshipful Master Ross Cox, Sr., opened Texas Lodge of Research.

Several things contributed to a slightly smaller attendance than desired. First, there was a conflict with the statewide Scottish Rite Reunion in Waco honoring Texas Lodge of Research Past Master and Past Grand Master Sam E Hilburn. Then there were the events of September 11th in New York and Washington, D. C. that had all the airlines grounded and the uncertainty of what was going to happen. The third reason was probably the distance from home for many of our regular attendees. I think it was Past Master Pete Normand who did a study of the location of most of the members of Texas Lodges and discovered the main concentration was within the points of our "golden triangle" of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, San Antonio and Houston. Most of our meetings are within or very close to that triangle, but every once in a while we must go to other areas of the state to allow Masons from those areas to be able to easily attend one of our meetings. Everywhere we go we are well received and we usually have a great time along with the meeting. Because of the situation we had several pro tem officers. Junior Warden - Ray Brock, Secretary - Jim Beeler, PM, and Senior Deacon - Pete Martinez, PM.

Tiler Doug Collins introduced the visitors and spoke about the history of Rio Grande Lodge. Past Master James Beeler was acting as Secretary and read the minutes of the last meeting. They were approved.



**Brownsville Meeting** continued from page 3

He also announced we had several petitions for affiliation and they were all duly elected. He then read the Treasurers report and it was approved.

Worshipful Master Cox read the report of Transactions Editor William P. "Bill" Vaughn, which stated the next volume of the TLR Transactions would be a little late. Book Sale

Chairman and Past Master Cliff Acker reported we would be in good shape for the Grand Lodge meeting in December. He also informed everyone of the change of the location of the book sales table at Grand Lodge.

Then came the web page report by Pete Martinez. We continue to receive 8 to 10 "hits" a day and when I update the page or find something to add to the page I send an e-mail to an e-mailing list I have compiled and we get a lot of hits at those times

Chairman Cliff Acker read the Necrology report. The report on sickness and distress included Past Master and PGM John E. "Jack" Kelly's daughter and Past Master Clyde Kenneaster, who is recovering from cancer.

Under new business, Brother H. C. Abernathy offered Loma Alto Lodge No. 544 in Tilden as a future meeting place. A discussion of the mailing expenses for foreign members exceeding their dues will be given some study and a possible resolution will be made at our January meeting. Worshipful Master announced the plans for the meeting in Hillsboro Lodge No. 196 on 19 January 2002. A flyer was handed out with map of the location of the Lodge.

In old business, the Publications Committee report by Howard Stewart revealed that too many papers submitted are not conforming to the TLR Criteria and Style Sheet. Cliff Acker read a report for the Scholarship Committee.

Six visitors from Matamoras, Mexico were introduced. One spoke to the Lodge about the invitation to visit TLR. Alan Neely, PM-Sec. of Rio Grande Lodge, interpreted his statements. Much discussion followed and the Mexican brethren made presentations of aprons. The Lodge was called to refreshment at 11:45 a.m.

and we joined the ladies in the dinning room and enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Lodge was called to order for the open session at 1:00 p.m. and the pledges to the US and Texas flags were given followed by a prayer for those affected by the events in New York and Washington, D. C. Dr. Howard Stewart, Past Master and Fellow presented the first paper, "Beware of Tall Tails." This was Brother Stewart's 12th paper for Texas Lodge of Research.

The second paper, "Pleyel's Hymn," by Judge J. R. Martin proved to be very interesting. The hymn, which appears in Lightfoot's Monitor of the Lodge is not used as the funeral dirge in Texas, but is used in many other Grand Jurisdictions in the United States. At one point Brother Martin sang a verse of the hymn and I don't recall anyone singing as part of his paper before this.

After the non-Masons left the Lodge room, Worshipful Master Cox called the Lodge to Labor at 2:10 p.m. with 36 members and guests present. Brother J. R. Martin was elected to Full Membership in Texas Lodge of Research and presented with his G. L. R. T. Apron. Lodge was closed at 2:15 p.m.

Now, those of you who with Internet access can go to the Photo Gallery at the TLR website and see some of the pictures I took while there. Those of you without Internet access... well, sorry about that. You can go to a friend's house and get them to look up the TLR website at <http://pentium2.gower.net/Community/tlr>

## Memoriam



G. H. Watt

Homebush  
Australia



## 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.

## New Members Elected September 15, 2001

Michael V. Weaver  
Wichita Falls, TX

Mitchell Thompson  
Mabank, TX

Raymond P. Dotson  
Dudley, NC

Robert R. McInvale  
Houston, TX

Jeff Miller  
Dallas, TX

James D. Laughlin, Jr.  
Alvin, TX

## Bulletin Deadline – January 25

*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 March 2002 bulletin is January 25. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.

## Masonic Charity

One of the first lessons we are taught in Masonry is that of charity or benevolence. This lesson is repeated in various forms throughout the first three degrees of Freemasonry and is presented throughout the degrees and teachings of the appendant Masonic bodies. As we enter the New Year, it is a good time to reflect upon your personal charitable activity. In doing so, consider your contribution to the assistance of those in need and the less fortunate. Your contributions are not limited to financial giving, but also to the giving of your time and talent. Many organizations need volunteers to carry out their programs as much, if no more, as they do financial contributions. Do you give regularly to your religious congregation, church, or synagogue? Do you support the many Masonic philanthropies? In Texas, we have several key Masonic programs that require our continued support. They include the Masonic Home and School of Texas, the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, and the Shrine's Houston and Galveston Hospitals for Children. The youth programs, Rainbow, DeMolay, and Job's Daughters, all need adult volunteers to work with the local chapters. There are many other opportunities for you to practice charity within and without the Masonic fraternity. As you plan for 2002, consider giving both your time and financial resources to support those programs you deem worthy. Your gift will make tomorrow a brighter day for the people who benefit from your contributions.



## The Hillsboro Meeting January 18-19, 2002

Hillsboro Lodge No. 196 in Hillsboro will host Texas Lodge of Research for its January quarterly meeting. The lodge building is located at 212 Happy Lane, just west of I-35 and south of Old Brandon Road. The headquarters hotel will be the Comfort Inn Motel located at 1515 Old Brandon Road just west of I-35 in Hillsboro. A block of rooms has been reserved with the cost of a standard room being \$59.95 per night plus tax. The phone number for reservations directly with the hotel is 254-582-3333. 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 January 3, 2002 to ensure the group rate. After that date, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. Friday evening activities will include a Dutch-treat dinner around 7:00 PM. The hospitality room at the motel will open at 3:00 PM.

Activities on Saturday will begin at 8:00 AM with coffee and doughnuts at the lodge building. At 9:00 AM, the group will travel to Hill College for a tour of the Harold B. Simpson History Complex. The activity will include a self-guided tour of the Confederate History Museum with a special guided tour of the Confederate Research Center. After the tour, the ladies will be free to visit the downtown area of Hillsboro or shop at the Prime Outlet Mall on I-35.

The men will return to the lodge building and the TLR business meeting will be held Saturday morning at 10:30 AM. Saturday lunch will be provided by the local Rainbow Assembly and Eastern Star Chapter for a small donation. Questions about the meeting can be directed to Joe Crass at 214-812-7876 (work) or 903-682-2216 (home).

### Dues – Dues - Dues

It is that time again when every Masonic body is collecting annual dues. Please take a minute right now, pull out your wallet, and check your TLR dues card for the expiration date. If expiration date is not December 31, 2002, then your dues are in arrears. Please submit your payment immediately to Secretary Plez A. Transou at the Dallas address listed in the table of officers on page two. The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas call for dues to be paid in advance and the automatic suspension of all members who are in arrears as of June 30, 2002. Do not let your TLR membership expire because you failed to pay your dues. Thank you for your cooperation.

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