

# *The Occasional Bulletin*

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

2002-2003

September 2002

No. 2

### **Stated Communication Saturday, September 28, 2002**

Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348  
3310 Poppelwell  
Fort Worth, Texas

9:00 A.M.  
Gather at the Lodge

9:30 A.M.  
Activities for Guests

10:30 A.M.  
Open TLR  
Business Meeting

12:00 Noon  
Lunch at the Lodge

1:00 P.M.  
Presentation of Papers  
**"A Fallen Masonic Brother: A  
Search for Answers"**  
by Roy D. Harris

**"The Life and Times of Sweet Home  
Lodge No. 576"**  
by Gene D. Bethel

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### **Future Meetings**

Saturday, 18 January 2003  
Corpus Christi Lodge No. 189

## *From The East*

In my message to you this quarter, I want to say two things. First is my expression of appreciation and gratitude for the Past Masters of TLR. As the Masters completed their term of office, they did not graduate, but continue to attend and support the work of the Lodge. Our meeting in Wichita Falls was a pleasant and helpful one to all of us because of the support and help of so many Past Masters. Dr. Vaughn did a superb job in presenting the Anson Jones Lecture. This lecture will be available in the *TLR Transactions* for those who were not able to attend this special presentation on the Masonic Home and School of Texas. Due to unexpected circumstances, our Stewards were unable to attend this meeting. In their absence, Brothers Gordon Kelso and Raymond Bronk stepped in and did a wonderful job with the hospitality, which was enjoyed by all.

Secondly, I want to encourage all members who have not presented a paper before TLR to seriously consider doing some research and submitting a paper as soon as you can. You may obtain a criteria and style sheet from the Senior Warden that provides information on acceptable topics, paper preparation, and submission requirements. Many lodges have copies of our *Transactions* in their lodge libraries. Thumb through an issue or look at the Concise Index to the Transactions and you will be amazed at the range of subjects that have been presented before TLR over the years. Maybe they will give you an idea for a paper. We need your contribution. Masonic research is the lifeblood of our Lodge and the fulfillment of our purpose for being.

May the peace of God be with you and bless you in all worthy undertakings.

L. Randall Rogers

## **IMPORTANT ALERT**

**Due to the Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas called by Grand Master Nanny, please note our September meeting date has been moved to September 28, 2002.**

# TLR Changes

After many years of having an administrative home at the Dallas Scottish Rite, the Texas Lodge of Research has begun a transition in the conduct of its usual business. The change results from the recent retirement of Past Master and Fellow Plez A. Transou as the General Secretary of the Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies. Bro. Transou was named Secretary Emeritus of the Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies at the time of his retirement. By coincidence, the Secretary of the Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies has also been the Secretary of TLR for a number a years. Due to the generosity of the Dallas Scottish Rite we have had access to their staff to assist with our routine business. With Bro. Transou's retirement, we will be undergoing some changes in administrative procedures.

The first change you will notice is that TLR has a new mailing address. This address is not shared with any other Masonic body. The new address is:

**Texas Lodge of Research  
P.O. Box 684684  
Austin, Texas 78768-4684**

Use this address for dues payments, petitions for affiliation, and inquiries which you are not sure where to direct, just as the Dallas address has been used in the past. Please begin to use this mailing address immediately. Mail will be forwarded from the Dallas address for a short transition period only. General correspondence for the Secretary should be directed to his new address listed in the table of officers to the left of this article.

Printing and mailing of *The Occasional Bulletin* will also be undergoing changes. In the past, the newsletter has been printed and mailed from Dallas. With this issue, an Austin area printer will print and distribute our quarterly newsletter.

Our transition will also affect the annual *Transactions*. Over the past several years, the *Transactions* have been electronically assembled in the Dallas Scottish Rite offices and printed in Dallas. Once the volume had been returned from the printer, they were packaged and prepared for mailing by volunteers. TLR will be transferring the electronic "typesetting" of the *Transactions* to an Austin contractor who performs such activities.

These changes are major deviations from our past operations and may result in glitches until we get the new routine down. We ask your patience and understanding as we implement this transition.

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## 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 2003 bulletin is October 31. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.

### Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M. Officers 2002-2003

Master	Dr. Randall Rogers P.O. Box 834 Buchanan Dam, TX 78609 512-793-2722
Senior Warden	Gordon Kelso P.O. Box 3672 Austin, TX 78764 512-472-7247
Junior Warden	Douglas Collins 80 Cheryl Lane Brownsville, TX 78521 956-544-1697
Treasurer	James F. Brumit, PM 819 Twilight Dr. Cedar Hill, TX 75104 972-291-7315
Secretary	Plez A. Transou, PM 11255 Garland Rd. Suite 1302, #113 Dallas, TX 75218 214-321-0744
Chaplain	Merlen Howe 700 Jagged Rock Cedar Park, TX 78615 512-260-8276
Senior Deacon	George Beeler 883 Fleming Prairie Rd Victoria, TX 77905 361-575-2107
Junior Deacon	Bob Melear 410 W. 13th St Quanah, TX 79252 940-663-5803
Senior Steward	James C. Yelvington 1711 San Antonio Austin, TX 78701 512-495-9988
Junior Steward	Joe Everett 901 N. Hill St Burnet, TX 512-715-0050
Marshal	W. Oscar Orum 8607 Azelea Trail Austin, TX 78759 512-346-4310
Master of Ceremonies	Brian Dodson 2738 Oakland Dr Sugar Land, TX 77419 281-265-1678
Tiler	Ray Bronk 100 Quirt Dr Burnet, TX 78611 512-756-2756
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

## Joint Meeting With Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Lodge of Research (OLR) held their June 1 stated meeting in Durant Lodge No. 45 with a number of Texas Lodge of Research members attending. Bro. John E. King, Worshipful Master of OLR had extended a special invitation to TLR to attend this meeting. After opening the Lodge he extended a special welcome to TLR for joining OLR in this meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the brethren gathered at a local restaurant for lunch. Among the TLR attendees were Worshipful Master Randall Rogers, Junior Warden Douglas Collins, and Past Master Clyde Kenneaster.

After opening the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, the TLR members were introduced as special guests. Bro. Rogers received a special welcome and was invited to the East. Upon completion of their business, an interesting paper was presented by Bro. Gene McKelvey. The paper discussed the history of the Journal Record Building in Oklahoma City. The Journal Record Building was originally built in 1923 by the Masonic Fraternity as a multipurpose Masonic building and tenants included Oklahoma City lodges and the Shrine. The building was an asset to downtown Oklahoma City and served both fraternal and civic interests.

During the Great Depression, the building owners came under extreme financial difficulties. As a result, the Masonic lodge owners slowly left the building due to the financial obligations and the Oklahoma City Shrine became the primary owner. As membership decreased, the financial burden became so great the mortgage owners assumed possession of the building and the last Masonic tenants left.

While the loss of the building was unfortunate, it was eventually sold and used for business purposes and became known as the Journal Record Building as it housed an Oklahoma City daily business newspaper by that name. Unfortunately, the building was severely damaged in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995.

After assessing the damage the owners decided it was not viable to repair the building for their purpose. However, efforts were undertaken to save the historic building from demolition. As a result, the building was purchased by the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust and now houses the Oklahoma City National Memorial museum and visitor's center, which includes information about the Oklahoma City bombing.

This Masonic building survived the financial difficulties of the Great Depression and the Oklahoma City bombing and now serves the public as a museum and information center.

## New Members

Elected June 15, 2002

Yannis G. Athanassiades, Carrollton, TX  
Jewel P. Lightfoot Lodge, Dallas, TX  
Jeremy L. Dabbert, Dallas, TX  
William E. Sawyer, Buchanan Dam, TX  
Paxton K. Williams, Houston, TX  
Frank O. Baker, Kingsland, TX  
Henry Parker, Buchanan Dam, TX  
Roger A. Jacobsen, McKinney, TX  
Bob Hope, Dallas, TX  
Warren Donnorth, Manchester, TX  
Robert E. Richard, Denton, TX  
Larry Blanchard, Lindale, TX  
Daniel P. Vasquez, Austin, TX

## Back Issues of *Transactions* Wanted

Arlington Lodge No. 438 is looking to collect a complete set of TLR's *Transactions* for the lodge library. The lodge library serves the members of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center as well as its own members. The lodge is looking for Vols. IV, V, VI, VIII, IX and X. If you can assist Arlington Lodge in this project, contact the lodge librarian, Thomas A. Spencer at 817-460-4889. You can contact Bro. Spencer by mail at P.O. Box 23, Arlington, TX 76004.

## Did You Know?

That the Committee on Masonic Education and Service has been posting a Monthly Masonic Education Program on the Grand Lodge of Texas web page? The web page address is [www.gltexas.org](http://www.gltexas.org) and a link to the monthly educational programs can be found on the main home page or use [www.gltexas.org/GM-educational-programs.html](http://www.gltexas.org/GM-educational-programs.html) to reach the archived articles. These brief papers, which can be read in five to ten minutes, can be used as a lodge education program. Past programs have included topics such as Masonic symbolism, the Fellowcraft Pillars, Biblical verse in Freemasonry, and the Masonic Apron. Check out this resource that can assist your lodge in developing or enhancing your lodge's educational program.

## The Wichita Falls Meeting

Pete Martinez, P.M.

When I was about three years old, my father built a wooden cube about 10 inches in size. He covered the wood with some kind of red cloth and placed it in the middle of the front seat of the car. I was placed on the cube so I could see out the windshield. When we went anywhere my parents would point out interesting things that a three year old should see. Now we would realize that this was not a safe place for a young child to occupy in a moving vehicle, but back then, in 1936, there were no safety belts or child safety seats in automobiles. I can remember my mother throwing her arm out across my chest every time we slowed down for something. It was a habit she kept until I was a teenager and, if any of my friends were in the car, it was embarrassing.

From that perch on the cube, I learned to look for things along the highway and I still make that a part of my travel routine. These long drives to the meetings of Texas Lodge of Research are made much easier and enjoyable because of that habit I was taught those many years ago. Unlike my sister, who would go to sleep and every once in a while would ask "Are we there yet?" I enjoy every minute of a trip. On this trip to Wichita Falls, by the time I reached my destination, I was in the mood to keep on going. It has been several years since I have been to Colorado and I wished I could keep on going. I do have one other trait of my father's. When I start for home I don't stop for much and I have a "lead foot" and may fudge a little on the speed limit. (Don't tell our Junior Past Master Ross Cox. He'll be waiting behind a billboard somewhere to give me a ticket.)

The trip to the TLR meeting, on Friday, was no different. I used the quickest route from Tyler to get to Wichita Falls. US 69 North to IH 20, IH 20 to US 287 South of Fort Worth, from there all the way to Wichita Falls on US 287. From my house to the US 69/IH20 junction is about 11 miles. From there the next traffic light is 244 miles away in Wichita Falls.

The return trip, on Saturday, was different. I decided to take the more rural route. US 287 to US 82 at Henrietta, US 82 to US 69 at Bells, US 69 to

Tyler. This route is 12 miles shorter, but it takes a little longer because those highways go through the middle of a lot of the cities and towns along the way. About half of that trip is on two lane roads and it seems I always get behind slow moving vehicles where there is no safe place to pass for three or four miles.

So what did I observe on this trip? To begin with, the speed limits and the traffic around me. That makes for a safer trip. I have made this trip many times and there wasn't much new along the way. I left around 10:30 that morning and a couple of hours later stopped in Decatur for a sandwich. This is where my age played its trick on me. There is a deli where I stopped and in the counter was a nice looking double-decked ham on rye. The lady asked if I wanted lettuce and tomato on it and I said I did. That took a while for her to do and I picked up a candy bar and some chewing gum while she was working on the sandwich. She gave me the sandwich in a bag and a drink to go with it and I went to the checkout. After I fumbled around with my wallet and paid the bill, I grabbed the bag and drink and, thinking the girl had put the candy bar and gum in the sack, I walked out the door. Well... guess where the candy and gum were. I didn't discover this until I was several miles up the road. It was about the same time I discovered the lady had also added pickles and onions to my sandwich. I DO NOT like pickles and onions!! Fortunately, the rest of the two-day trip went smoothly.

The return trip was uneventful. As I drove along I thought about what I would write in this report and you have read most of it by now. Watching the scenery go by I thought some of the folks that are raised in the mountains would think this is flat land. It isn't hilly, but it isn't flat either. The Red River is a few miles to the north and parallels the route. The economy along the route seems to be based on agriculture - cattle and hay and grain to feed them. There are a lot of mesquite and oak trees. There are many motels and gas stations that have been abandoned and I would think it is because the traveling public chooses the Interstates and expressways on their travels. It was a pleasant trip and I am looking forward to the January meeting in Corpus Christi and that long drive.

Friday evening we had a nice meal in a restaurant next door to the hotel, and then returned to our lodging to solve all the problems of Freemasonry.

Saturday morning found the faithful gathering at the Lodge for the 9:30 breakfast. Brother Bobby Shehorn had the book sales table set up and there were several new titles to attract our attention.

Worshipful Master L. Randall Rogers opened the Lodge in due form at 10:30 AM and promptly called to refreshment and ladies and guests were invited inside. Introductions were made that included John E. King, Worshipful Master of Oklahoma Lodge of Research, Fellows and Past Masters of TLR, and members of Faith Lodge.

The Necrology report was given and included Past Master R.A. Ford (1971-72) and a tribute to Past Master Mike Donegan (1969-70). Junior Deacon Bob Melear was then installed, as he was not able to be present at the Kingsland meeting.

Senior Warden Gordon Kelso was then called upon to introduce the Anson Jones Lecturer, our own Past Master and Fellow, Dr. William Preston Vaughn, to deliver the 2002 Anson Jones Lecture. His paper, "The Masonic Home and School of Texas, The Early Days" was well received. Brother Vaughn has recently received the very prestigious honor of being named a member of the Blue Friars. Afterwards, the ladies of the Eastern Star served a fine lunch.

Labor was resumed at 1:30 PM and a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was made and seconded. Although the vote was to approve the motion, the Worshipful Master, using his prerogative, had them read. Brother Wiggins reported the death of Claudine Acker, the mother of Past Master Cliff Acker. A graduate of the Masonic Home and School, she often sent her special "spice cake" to the Friday night TLR hospitality suite.

The Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer and Past Master Jim Brumit and was approved by the Lodge. Thirteen petitions for affiliations were read and these were accepted for membership. Secretary Plez A. Transou has retired as General Secretary of the Dallas Scottish Rite bodies and new mailing address for Texas Lodge of Research will be forthcoming.

Book sales committee chairman Bobby Shehorn reported all books are now removed from the Dallas Scottish Rite. He stated he has plans for restocking our inventory in the amount of \$9,593.46. There followed a discussion on books and how they are ordered. The Web Page report was then made by yours truly. We continue to receive visits to the web page and also requests for the "Criteria and Style Sheet and Writing Guidelines for Papers Submitted to Texas Lodge of Research, A. F. & A. M." We continue to get an occasional request for help with genealogy, which we are not equipped to handle. Since the Grand Lodge staff is very busy and does not have time to search the records, I will occasionally refer the inquiry to the local Lodge Secretary for help. I made a request to place the first paper presented to Texas Lodge of Research on the web page. This will be done if permission is granted by the Grand Lodge Trustees. The paper is "The Development of the Texas Ritual" by D. D. Tidwell. Some consider this a must read for those who delight in learning, teaching and practicing our ritual.

As an addition to the web page report, Book Sales Chairman Bobby Shehorn presented a proposal for a system of selling our books on the Internet. The directors of the Lodge will study the proposal and report back at the September meeting.

Senior Warden Gordon Kelso reported on the papers that will be presented at the September meeting. The Publications Committee report was made by Dr. Vaughn and revealed the Beeler volume (Vol. XXXV) of the Transactions has been typeset and will be forthcoming.

Dr. Vaughn then reported for the Fellowship Nomination Committee. The Committee presented the name of Leonard P. Harvey, our Past Master and Past Grand Master. He was elected and the nomination will be referred to the Masonic Education and Service Committee for approval and submission to Grand Lodge for final approval.

Payment of the bills was approved. Brother Leonard Harvey, PGM, announced Past Master John E. Jack Kelly, PGM, would be retiring from the San Antonio Scottish Rite with a dinner to be held on 29 July.

With all business transacted the Lodge was closed in due form at 2:45 PM.

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## The Richland Hills Meeting

### September 27-28, 2002

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Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348 located in the eastern Fort Worth suburb of Richland Hills will host Texas Lodge of Research for the September quarterly meeting. The lodge building is located at 3310 Poppelwell Street. **The meeting date has been moved to the fourth Saturday, September 28, to accommodate the Called Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas on September 21.**

The Best Western Mid-Cities Inn located at 125 North East Loop 820 in Hurst will serve as the headquarters hotel. The TLR rate is \$45 per night plus tax. Call the hotel direct at 817-284-9461 or 800-988-8388 for reservations and ask for the special TLR rate.

The hospitality room will be located at the Mid-Cities Inn and will open around 3:00 PM Friday afternoon. Arrangements for a group dinner are being made for Friday evening around 7:00 PM.

Activities will begin at the lodge building Saturday morning at 9:00 AM where doughnuts and coffee will be served. Activities for the guest are being planned and they will depart the lodge building around 9:30 AM to tour a local museum. Lodge will open at 10:30 AM and the morning will be dedicated to business. Lunch will be served at Noon and two research papers will be presented at 1:00 PM.

**Directions:** The hotel is located at Loop 820 and Highways 10 and 183 on the east side of Fort Worth in Hurst near Exits 23 and 24A. From the hotel, travel west on Highway 183 through two traffic lights and turn right on Poppelwell. The lodge is located at 3310 Poppelwell. A map is provided at the following web location: <http://pentium2.gower.net/Community/tlr/map.htm>

### \*\*\*\* ATTENTION - SPECIAL NOTICE \*\*\*\*

Please note that the September quarterly meeting date has been changed to September 28, 2002 to accommodate the Called Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Please note this change in your calendar.