

The Occasional Bulletin



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

P. O. Box 684684 • Austin, Texas 78768-4684

2003-2004

September 2003

No. 2

Stated Communication Saturday, September 20, 2003

Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300
3411 Longmire Drive
College Station, Texas

9:30 A.M.
Gather at Lodge Building

10:00 A.M.
Tour Departs
For Bush Presidential Library

10:30 A.M.
TLR Business Meeting

12:00 Noon
Lunch at Lodge

1:00 P.M.
Open Meeting and Paper Presentations
**"Eugene Omar Goldbeck:
A Unique Eye on the World,"**
by James G. Dougherty

**"South Alabama Participation in the
Texas War of Independence:
Freemasons and Their Influence,"**
by Wayne E. Sirmon

Future Meetings

Saturday, January 17, 2004
Waco, Texas

From The East

My Dad spent over fifty years in the motion picture booth. He began with the hand-crank projector and retired when automation replaced him...the "thread-ups" being done, now, by an usher. Dad was ready to retire but with that retirement came the end of a local Masonic tradition. You see, ol' Dad was a "teacher." Because of his shift work, he could not (in his mind) serve the lodge as an officer but he could teach – coach the newly initiated...and so it was that all the lodges in town gave out his name, the theatre where he worked, and his private "booth" phone number for the convenience of the candidate.

Of all the many and various workplaces, the motion picture projection booth was the perfect classroom. Once the projectionist made his "change-over," placed the "spent" reel in the "rewinder," pulled and threaded the next reel of film, "re-trimmed" the carbon-arc lamp-house, and returned the previous (re-wound) reel to its proper storage place, he was then ready to "sit" for 15 to 20 minutes until the warning bell rang signaling the time to get up and repeat the process. That "sit" time was ideal for the candidate...just the proper pacing for learning, just the proper timing for a short break while the projectionist performed his ballet.

Dad must have taught hundreds of Masons over the years. He had no idea how many students he helped but loved each and every one of them and, when he believed the student ready to "turn-in," would conclude his instruction with a thoughtful admonishment..."remember, now that you've learned the words, take time to think between them." That's how I learned my "work"...in the booth...between changeovers. Dad's gone, now...and how I miss him. Gone with him, too, is the priceless learning experience, the workplace-classroom, and the master craftsman's hand on the apprentice's shoulder.

My Dad was a Master Mason...and I am proud to be his son. See you all in College Station!

Shalom. Gordon Kelso

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The Bee Hive

No one knows when the Bee Hive entered the Masonic ritual as a symbol. However, the bee in Masonry is mentioned as early as 1724 in an expose printed in Ireland. In *The Early Masonic Catechisms* it is said, "A Bee has in all Ages and Nations been the Grand Hieroglyphick of Masonry, because it excells all other living Creatures in the Contrivance and Commodiousness of its Habitation or Combe."

The early 19th century lecture of the Master's degree contained the following. "The Bee Hive is an emblem of industry, and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in the heavens, to the lowest reptile of the dust. It teaches us, that as we come into the world rational and intelligent beings, so we should ever be industrious ones; never sitting down contented while our fellow-creatures around us are in want, especially when it is in our power to relieve them, without inconvenience to ourselves."

Jones' *Freemason's Guide and Compendium* also indicates the early use of the Bee Hive as a Masonic symbol. "On old jewels, tracing-boards, lodge furniture, banners, summonses, certificates, etc., the beehive with its flying bees is often a prominent symbol, and in at least one case is to be found in a lodge seal.... As far back as 1724-27, a Masonic pamphlet speaks at length of the bee and the beehive as a symbol."

The bee is a very energetic insect that never appears to rest from sunup to sundown. As a result, the bee and the bee hive have long been symbols of industry or work. Masonically, the Bee Hive is an emblem of industry and the lecture strongly recommends that virtue be practiced by everyone. It suggests that we should never be idle, especially when we can assist our fellow man by being industrious.

The bee is a hard and tireless worker, not for himself but for the swarm. The bee works in complete cooperation with the other bees and does so without dissension. The bee protects the queen, refuses admittance to enemies, builds, makes honey, and lives in a society ruled by order. Man must work as a unit to accomplish great things. The builders of old worked as a unit to build the great cathedrals. He could not work alone and expect to build the mighty edifice. Every man had to do his part, take pride in his assignments, and work in cooperation to complete the cathedrals. As Masons, we must imitate the bee, be industrious, work with others and for others, take pride in our vocations, obey the rules of our society, and strive to add to our body of knowledge and understanding.

Did You Know?

The Committee on Masonic Education and Service has been posting a Monthly Masonic Education Program on the Grand Lodge of Texas website. The web address is www.grandlodgeoftexas.org and a link to the monthly educational programs can be found on the main home page. These brief papers, which can be read in five to ten minutes, can be used as a lodge education program. This resource can assist your lodge in developing or enhancing your lodge's educational program.



C of C Conv Ctr
and Visitors Bureau

HILTON HOTEL

**College
Station**

30

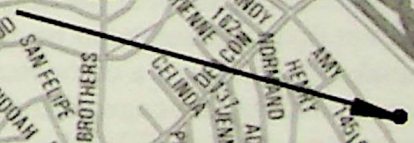
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6B

**BRAZOS VALLEY
MASONIC LIBRARY & MUSEUM**

2818

BUS
6R



The Austin Meeting

Raymond G. Bronk

Summer arrived in Austin while the members of the Texas Lodge of Research gathered in great numbers for our second quarterly meeting, 20 and 21 June 2003. Not to worry; TLR was coolly headquartered at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake, a great venue for the meeting. The hotel staff, quarters, parking, hospitality rooms, the food buffets, and the hall for the Anson Jones Lecture and Banquet all contributed to an atmosphere of comfort and luxury. The Scottish Rite Temple and University Lodge No. 1109 and Austin Lodge No. 12 lodges also contributed to our convenience and comfort for dining and meeting.

The TLR hospitality rooms were in the spacious Plaza Club, and began to fill immediately. Hospitality was provided with great skill, service and stamina by Baron Bonds, volunteer bartender. Sightseers soon left for Duck Boat tours that were a thrill for local members as well as our many out-of-towners. Our guide skillfully piloted the 23,000 pound amphibious vehicle as he delivered an interesting hour-long ride through central Austin and on Lake Austin and pointed out the many points of interest on land and shore. Many characters, pioneers, buildings and historical events of Austin came alive through his narrative. Later, a buffet deli dinner was served in the Plaza Club. At nightfall, several members strolled to the Congress Avenue bridge to view the famous "bat flight" of 1.5 million of the creepy hairy flying mammals.

The next morning, following a continental breakfast, members bussed to the Bob Bullock Texas Museum of History to view the exhibits, the "Texas" I-Max movie, and the Star of Destiny movie. A noon meal was served at the Austin Scottish Rite Temple. After the meal, the bus whisked all back to the Radisson for a spruce-up, dress-up, hospitality room visit, or a nap. TLR members then returned to the Scottish Rite Temple for the business meeting of the Lodge. Worshipful Master Gordon Kelso struck the gavel promptly at 2:30 to open the Lodge, and a lively and amicable meeting was enjoyed by a lodgeroom filled to capacity. Details of the meeting are published in the

minutes, available from the Secretary. While members met, our ladies and guests gathered at the Plaza Club for dessert, coffee, and conversation.

The Saturday night Anson Jones Lecture and Banquet included a delicious meal followed by a unique lecture by Worshipful James W. Daniel, Past Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England. His topic was "From Alabama to Wales via a Texas Star: Aspects of Anglo-American Relations 1860-1875." Brother Daniel held the attention of all present as he guided us on a series of voyages of the British-built and armed 1000-ton Confederate warship CSS Alabama. The warship fought and pillaged over much of the globe via England, Jamaica, Brazil, Capetown, Singapore, France, the Malacca Straits, and scores of ports during its 21-month destructive rampage (taking at least 64 prizes, worth a total of \$6.5 million). Finally, on 19 June 1864, the Alabama met the USS Kearsarge in international waters off Cherbourg, France, and joined in combat. After an hour of firing broadsides with both ships steaming in decreasing circles, the Alabama was sunk from a distance of 400 yards.

Brother Daniel crafted a Masonic tie to this tale by introducing a group of negotiators and arbitrators from both sides (mostly Master Masons) who, after the Civil War, skillfully and successfully succeeded in righting the wrongs, real or perceived, caused by the Alabama. The U.S. had sued the British for violating neutrality and causing great monetary damage. The arbitrators' common tie to Masonry was obviously the principal factor in the success of the negotiations. Then, Brother Daniel created a "first" in Anson Jones Lecture history by leading TLR members and guests in singing choruses of "O, Alabama Roll," a ballad telling the story of the Alabama, her accomplishments and her fate.

Several members have asked for advice on beginning a TLR paper. The task of beginning can be simplified if a systematic routine is followed. This first step is almost mandatory: Obtain a CRITERIA AND STYLE SHEET from the Senior Warden or any member of the editorial committee. Read the Criteria and Style Sheet from cover to cover. Experience shows that about 95% of editorial committee corrections and suggestions could be eliminated if writers followed the guidance and instruction within the Criteria and Style Sheet!

Begin with an idea. The idea must fit the Criteria and Style Sheet guidelines as to a proper subject. Hone and polish your idea until you can describe it with one sentence. The "one-sentence" technique will take your idea from general to specific, limit the breadth of your idea, and help keep your paper within the suggested 13-page suggested length. Too broad a subject will require much writing to do justice to the subject, and result in a lengthy paper. Divide broad subjects into two or more shorter papers.

Next, frame the content. You alone know what needs to be researched and gathered to finish the paper. Write a series of sentences describing what topics you absolutely want to cover. You may have ten or so topic sentences. Then, "hang" your facts, anecdotes, quotes, quotations, statistics, and narrative on these topic sentences. When you feel your research has given you enough information to thoroughly support the topic sentences, arrange them into a logical sequence. Chronological order is popular for history.

Blend your researched information into sentences and paragraphs. Raw research can be combined into compound sentences that use far fewer words than the original bits of research. Eliminate repetition. Be frugal with words. In a paper, every word, sentence, and paragraph must belong. Your research may take you down interesting rabbit trails where you discover fascinating information that does not fit your original topic sentences. Do not use this information, it will cause your paper to balloon and to wander away from your original subject. It will cause digressions that will confuse the reader and listener. Keep this information for another paper.

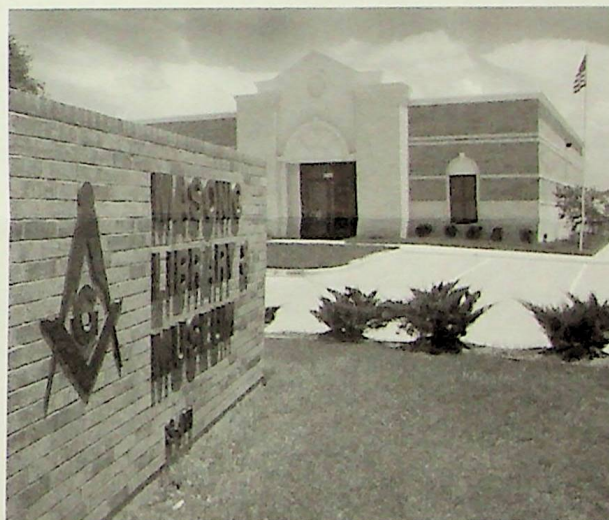
Pay particular attention to endnote use as directed in the Criteria and Style Sheet. The endnote list at the end of the paper must be exactly as shown in the examples. Use or non-use of commas and periods are shown. Where the endnote section does not seem to cover an endnote problem, look in the printed Transactions. You may find the example you need there. Be ruthless in self-editing and rewriting. Your paper deserves to be as excellent as you can make it. If you use a computer and printer, you can easily reprint any page where a last-minute correction was necessary. NEVER send in anything that has not been your very best effort. Do not rely

on a computer spellchecker. It will not show misuse of words; it will not discover to/too/two or similar errors.

We presently have 82 full members; Master Masons who have presented papers and are thus privileged to wear the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas apron. You could, in just a short period of time, and with a slight burst of effort, be one of those honored few. All members of the editorial committee stand ready to assist and guide you where necessary. Take advantage of our eager TLR resources to help polish your professional paper. Contact us by telephone, email or snail mail. Good luck!

Bulletin Deadline – October 17

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 2004 bulletin is October 17. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.



**Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum
3411 Longmire Drive, College Station, Texas**

As *The Occasional Bulletin* was going to press, news of the death of Past Master L. Randall Rogers was received. He died in an automobile accident on Aug. 12. His obituary will be in the next issue.

The College Station Meeting September 19-20, 2003

While the Aggies are away engaging in pigskin poker, the Texas Lodge of Research will slip into town, set-up lodging at the Hilton Hotel, stock the Hospitality Room, and prepare for another superb TLR weekend. Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300 will serve as our host for the September quarterly meeting, which will be held at the Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum. The Library and Museum serves as the home of Sul Ross Lodge and is located at 3411 Longmire Drive in College Station. (Maps to the Library and Museum will be available in the hospitality room Friday evening.)

The College Station Hilton Hotel will serve as the headquarters hotel for the weekend. A special room block has been reserved for TLR at \$79.00 per night plus tax with a reservation deadline of September 5. Reservations can be made by calling the Hilton reservations at 1-800 HILTONS or the College Station Hilton direct at 1-979-693-7500. Be sure to mention TLR to get the special rate. Check-in time is 4 PM with a 12 Noon checkout. The hotel is located at 801 University Drive East.

Activities will begin in the hospitality room at 4:00 PM Friday afternoon. When you register, ask for the location of the hospitality room for the weekend. Around 6:30 PM, we will adjourn and walk next door from the Hilton for dinner. A private room has been reserved next door at *T. Bone Jones's Steak House* at 6:30 P.M. with separate-check menu selections beginning at 7:00 PM. According to our host Pete Normand, the "food's very good" and reasonable priced (half-pound burger with fixing's, \$6.95; fried chicken, \$9.95; chicken-fried steak, \$10.95; 12oz ribeye, \$14.95; and, the House Special Porterhouse, \$21.00). The Hospitality Room will re-open following dinner.

Coffee, juices and Danish are planned for the Saturday morning in the Hospitality Room. People will begin gathering at the Lodge building around 9:30 AM with an informal tour of the Bush Presidential Library is scheduled for the Ladies and other non-Masonic guests. The tour will leave from the Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum at about 10:00 A.M. and return in time for lunch. TLR will open for business at 10:30 A.M. for the business. TLR will call-off for lunch, and following the meal, re-assemble in open Lodge for the presentation of two papers. The Lodge should close at about 3:00-3:30 P.M. Questions about this meeting event may be answered by calling 1-800-754-3079. See you in College Station!

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