

The Occasional Bulletin



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

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

2004-2005

January 2005

No. 4

Stated Communication Saturday, January 15, 2005

Goliad Lodge No. 94
113 Franklin
Goliad, Texas

9:30 A.M.
Gather at lodge hall

10:30 A.M.
TLR Business Meeting
(Tiled Meeting)

12:00 Noon
Lunch

1:00 P.M.
OPEN MEETING
PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

“Dr. R.C. Andrews:
Pioneer and Mason”
by Truitt L. Bradley

“Que Hombre”
by H.C. Arbuckle III

Future Meetings

Saturday, March 19, 2005
River Oaks Lodge No. 1311
Fort Worth, Texas

From The East

Brethren:

This column is a little later than usual thanks to the four weeks Cheri and I were off on our “excellent adventure” to New England. If nothing else, we escaped the heat for a while. Really, we had a great time and visited some historic places with the autumn foliage change serving as a constant backdrop.

I did get to visit one Masonic body while on the trip. On 6 October, I had the privilege to sit in St. Andrew Chapter, RAM, in Boston. St. Andrew is the oldest Royal Arch Chapter in North America. It was chartered in 1760. I wish to thank Companion Robert Brown of Boston for extending the invitation to me.

Congratulations to our newest recipients of the G.L.R.T. apron. Brothers Ron Park and Jack Harper delivered excellent papers at our meeting in San Angelo. Thanks goes to Brothers O.L. Clark and Worshipful Master James M. Smith of Concho Lodge No. 1260 for the great accommodations they provided at our quarterly meeting.

Brethren, the more I see of Masonry throughout Texas and the United States, the more convinced I become that we are losing our heritage due to a lack of interest in preserving it. I believe that too many times, men are being initiated, passed, and raised without the benefit of receiving “all the light his Lodge can bestow”. A prime example: I was in a discussion with an Ohio Mason who was lamenting the fact that the lodge that merged with his lodge several decades ago was a “trade lodge” or a lodge primarily composed of men who worked in the same trade. In this case, the lodge that “went out of business” and merged was made up of railroad workers — engineers, brakemen, switchmen, locomotive mechanics, firemen, etc.

Now, just think of a paper being written about the original
(Continued on Page 2)

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From the East (Continued from the Front Page)

lodge. Imagine these men conferring a Master Mason degree with their railroad lanterns being the only light in the room and imagine that they are dressed up in clean work clothes with the Master wearing an engineer's hat. Perhaps an old picture found in some old, dusty, long-forgotten bookshelf that showed the members in front of one of their steam engines could be included in the research of such a lodge. Alas, no one ever bothered to research that lodge after it merged. What a paper that could have been.

We have a rich Masonic heritage in Texas and in the United States. If it is a well-researched and documented Masonic topic that would add further knowledge to our Fraternity, you should be working on it with the aim of being rewarded for your industry with a Texas Lodge of Research apron.

We have had a great response to the TLR programs conducted throughout the state. So far, the program has been presented in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, and at the 49th MWSA at a picnic along the San Gabriel River in the Hill Country. If your lodge, Shrine club, Scottish Rite club, or MWSA wishes to have a (preferably open) program to learn more about Masonic research, contact me. I will be happy to arrange one with you.

Our next quarterly meeting will be on 15 January 2005 at Goliad Lodge No. 94 in Goliad. We will be staying in Victoria on Friday night. Details are posted on the website and back cover of this bulletin.

I hope to see you in Goliad. In any event, I wish you all the best of the Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Fraternally,
Douglas Collins,
Worshipful Master

Attention Authors

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. Those instructions assist the reviewers in considering your paper and also reduce your work.

Bulletin Deadline – January 15

The Occasional Bulletin invites articles and news items of general interest to TLR members for publication consideration. The deadline for items for the March 2005 issue of *The Occasional Bulletin* is January 15. Submit materials to editor Mike Wiggins at P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070 or electronically as a Microsoft Word document to mwiggins@ou.edu.

THE SAN ANGELO MEETING

by Raymond G. Bronk

The September stated meeting of the Texas Lodge of Research was held in San Angelo, at Concho Lodge No. 1260. What a pleasure it was to visit this historic old city where many early Texas events occurred that helped shape the fledgling history of this state. Sight-seeing in areas with historic names such as the Concho River, Paint Rock and Fort Concho, brought back memories. Like memories of Spanish missionaries and their attempts to pacify this area, the vast buffalo herds that roamed here, and the mighty Indian tribes, most powerfully the Comanche, who dominated the surrounding areas and frustrated any attempts at colonization for several hundred years and who left thousands of pictographs describing culture events and beliefs.

Our headquarters and lodging was centered at the Best Western San Angelo. They provided economical and comfortable lodging and gave us exclusive use of the pool hosting room for use as our hospitality suite. The room was a spacious yet comfortable refuge where we met and mingled while enjoying the Stewards' spread of snacks and libations. Masonic and personal communication flourished as members, their ladies and guests reacquainted with one another. As afternoon turned to evening, we retired to a private dining room at Zentner's Daughter's Steak House. More conviviality followed after returning to the hospitality room.

Concho Lodge was a terrific meeting site on Saturday. Their beautifully appointed lodge room presented a dignified venue for our deliberations and meeting. The lodge brothers and their ladies made us welcome with unlimited assistance, and a high-quality noon meal was prepared and demonstrated how much they welcomed the opportunity to host TLR.

The business meeting was opened by Worshipful Master Collins at 10:30 a.m. Many items of business were discussed, all to be found in the minutes available from the Secretary. New endowed memberships were announced for Oscar Orum, Roy Harris, and Herbert C. Arbuckle III.

After a discussion related to publishing the historical TLR transactions on CD's, a committee was formed to study and form a procedure for publication, chaired by PM Pete Martinez.

Changes to the bylaws were read, and wide-ranging discussion followed. The major discussion centered on selecting proper terminology to perhaps change the "full

member," "member," and "associate member" titles and categories to more closely describe their function and to still comply with Grand Lodge requirements.

Earlier in the year, new collars and jewels had been ordered for TLR officers. The new collars of royal blue plush, with "GLRT" embroidered on both front sides, added style to the officers' appearance. New Lecturer jewels had also been ordered, and our two paper-presenters were escorted to the altar, there to be presented with and to assume their jewels early in the tiled meeting. They wore them throughout the meeting and until they presented their papers. Then, during the open portion of the meeting, they surrendered their jewels and were presented the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas (GLRT) aprons as full members.

The two papers: "Honorable Andrew Sidney Broaddus: Pioneer and Texas Mason" by Ronald D. Park and "100 Years of Masonry in Jones County, Texas" by Jack Harper were well received, and prompted questions and comments from the lodge members.

The last several meetings of TLR have been held in cities and locations of historic importance in the settling of Texas. (And the next stated meeting will be held in historic Goliad!) Many of the papers read at these last few meetings described Masons, lodges, and Masonic activity during these earliest years of the state. There remains a wide selection of subjects to be covered by our member researchers. The future looks exciting for TLR as membership grows and new and fresh ideas and concepts are explored for presentation as research papers.

However, these papers need not be only Texas-oriented. TLR is a distinguished international organization. To quote the *Criteria and Style Sheet and Writing Guidelines*: "... papers concerned directly with Freemasonry will be considered for presentation and publication; the history of lodges, active or demised, biographies of Masons distinguished in the annals of Freemasonry; its ceremonies, usages, and practices; the speculative or philosophical aspects of Freemasonry; and any other Masonic subject of general interest to the Fraternity."

Review your areas of interest and expertise. Decide on a subject and a method of describing an aspect of that subject for a TLR paper and presentation. As always, when needed, help is available from Senior Warden Yelvington or any of the editorial committee members: Brothers Arbuckle, Bronk or Dougherty. See you in Goliad in January!

The Goliad Meeting January 14 – 15, 2005

Goliad Lodge No. 94 will host the first quarterly meeting in 2005 of Texas Lodge of Research. The lodge building is located at 113 Franklin in Goliad. Please see the TLR website for a map of the area.

The TLR headquarters for the weekend will be in Victoria, 25 miles northeast of Goliad on US 59. The headquarters hotel will be the Victoria LaQuinta Inn located at 7603 N. Navarro in Victoria. The special TLR rate is \$60 per night plus tax. Reservations must be made by **January 7** to obtain the special TLR rate. To make reservations, call the hotel at 361-572-3585 and ask for the Texas Lodge of Research rate.

The hospitality room will open at 4 p.m. at the motel for all to enjoy the fraternal conviviality. A local restaurant will host our party. Complete details for the evening will be available on the TLR website, www.texaslodgeofresearch.org. Everyone is invited to stop by the hospitality room and join us for the group dinner. These periods are great opportunities to catch up with the latest Masonic happenings and to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Saturday activities begin at Goliad Lodge at 9:30 a.m. as we gather for registration before the tiled business meeting at 10:30 a.m. Goliad is located about 25 miles southwest of Victoria. The afternoon session will be an open meeting and include the presentation of research papers.

Dues - Dues - Dues

It is that time again where Masonic body are collecting dues. Please take a minute to check your TLR dues card for the expiration date. If the expiration date is not December 31, 2005, your dues are about to be in arrears. Please submit your payment of \$25 as soon as possible to Secretary Gordon W. Kelso at the address listed below in the return address. Do not let your TLR membership expire because you failed to pay your dues. You don't want to miss out on the next issue of *The Transactions*. Thank you for your cooperation.

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