



The Occasional Bulletin

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

Number 3

Fall

2012

At Texas Scottish Rite Childrens Hospital

Oklahoma GM presents latest Anson Jones Lecture

Dallas certainly didn't disappoint!

The June quarterly meeting of Texas Lodge of Research and the annual Anson Jones Lecture was a great success.

Friday evening, members from out of town checked into the palatial and historic Adolphus hotel. One couldn't miss the glaring stare from the hotel's namesake, brewer Adolphus Busch, in a large portrait keeping an eye on the registration desk. On the opposite side of the column was an impressive portrait of two obviously happy former patrons of the hotel, Their Majesties Queen Elizabeth II and Bro. Prince Philip.

Once settled into the hotel, it was time to find the Worshipful



Worshipful Master Jim McCrae with 2012 Anson Jones Lecturer Most Worshipful Randall Rogers, Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma.

Next Stated Communication Waco, Texas

Friday, Sept. 14, 2012

Hospitality Room at
Fairfield Inn and Suites.
Dutch treat dinner at the
nearby Cracker Barrel
restaurant.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012

10 a.m. Waco Lodge No. 92
hosts the quarterly meeting
at 4324 Cobb Dr.

Noon luncheon at the lodge.
See back cover for details.

Master's suite and the spacious hospitality room in the "new" section of the hotel. For those not minding the heat, there was a great view of downtown from the suite's terrace. There was even a pool table for entertainment.

Anson Jones Lecturer Randall Rogers, accompanied by fellow Oklahoman and 1995 AJ Lecturer Jim Tresner arrived from "North of the Red" and were made to feel right at home.

After an evening of socializing, it was off to bed to prepare for a long Saturday.

Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048 was our host and the Dallas Scottish Rite Temple was our location for the business meeting. Over 60 members and Masonic guests signed the register. The one traveling the farthest was W. Dr. Alan Bell, the founder of Texas Lodge of Research's County Durham Study Group in the United Kingdom.

TLR Past Master and current Grand Master M.W. James Brumit was in attendance along with Past Grand Masters Reese

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www.texaslodgeofresearch.org



By James McCrae

Message from the Master

All Texas Lodge of Research officers and members are to be commended for their participation and effort in making our June 2012 meeting a great success. Thank you Brethren, one and all.

During the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to the Brethren of Trinity Valley Lodge, your Worshipful Master related a conversation that he had with Most Worshipful Grand Master Jim Brumit, regarding the importance of written lodge histories. Grand Master Brumit agreed that documenting the history of our lodges is a priority that requires our immediate attention.

Although the above described occurrence does not rise to the level of a Grand Master's mandate, it is of significant enough importance to merit the attention and I pray action of all members of Texas Lodge of Research.

I submit that it would be a significant step forward if the records of lodges were gathered and cataloged. The next step would be for an interested Brother to create some sort of chronological history from those records. Even if these initial efforts do not immediately lead to a research paper, they would at least be a very fine



James McCrae

beginning for someone with such intentions.

I know that if you are reading this article the chances are very good that you have a love of history. I also know that if you are a member of Texas Lodge of Research you are admired and respected by your peers. Therefore I, along with Grand Master Brumit, ask that you take an active roll in this effort and encourage every lodge in your sphere of influence to undertake the task of putting his lodge history down on paper. Our beloved Fraternity along with Texas Lodge of Research will prosper through your efforts.

I hope to see you in Waco.



Junior Past Master Merlen Howe presents the Community Builder Award to Bob Doherty, Vice President of Ginny's Printing of Austin. Mr. Doherty was recognized for his community involvement and to Texas Lodge of Research in providing printing services that allowed TLR to continue to publish the *Occasional Bulletin* economically. The award was voted by the lodge during PM Howe's year.

Editor receives writing award

Occasional Bulletin Editor and PM Jim Dougherty received the Texas Philatelic Association's Forcheimer Literary Award at the group's 116th annual convention in San Antonio this past April.

The prestigious "First Place Author Award" was presented for his series of three articles on the 1936 Texas Centennial stamp's first day of issue and subsequent usages of the stamp on commemorative event covers throughout the state. The series appeared in the *Texas Philatelist* magazine.

Dougherty pointed out that the relatively tiny post office in Gonzales was selected over far bigger facilities in Houston, San Antonio and Austin to handle hundreds of thousands of requests for first day cancellations and huge stamp sales.



Gonzales Postmaster and Mason Fred Boothe created a series of highly prized first day covers for the 1936 Texas Centennial stamp.

He went on to say Postmaster Fred Boothe, who orchestrated the event, was an active Mason in Gonzales and a member of the Scottish and York Rites, as well as the Shrine.

Dougherty is currently working on a paper for TLR on Brother Boothe and his contribution to the Texas Centennial celebration.

Dallas, continued from Page 1.

L. Harrison Jr. and Leonard P. Harvey.

The business meeting was lively with numerous important pieces of business handled by Worshipful Master McCrae from the East.

Following the conclusion of the meeting it was off for the Texas Scottish Rite Children's Hospital for lunch and the 2012 Anson Jones Lecture.

The hospital is known for its great cuisine. The chicken breast atop a nest of noodles with artichoke, caper and cream sauce was a definite crowd pleaser.

Following lunch everyone adjourned to an adjacent meeting room where Most Worshipful Randall L. Rogers presented his outstanding paper titled "The Relevance of Ritual: Implications for the Fraternity in the 21st Century."

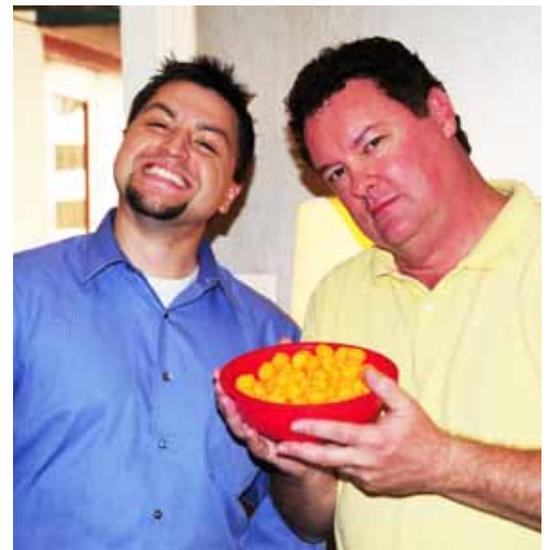
Before being presented his Full Member apron, WM McCrae called upon Herb Arbuckle for two presentations. First, on behalf of Texas Lodge of Research, M.W. Rogers was presented with a set of engraved Masonic knives. Then Grand Master Brumit was called up and presented with one of Herb's unique handmade bolo ties. The tie, made from deer antlers, featured the TLR logo pin along with Grand Master Brumit's pin.

Past Grand Master David Dibrell announced that there would be a special tour for anyone interested in seeing the workings of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. The tour was led by a knowledgeable staff member who outlined the hospital's history as a polio hospital that branched into orthopedics and learning disorders.



This page from top, clockwise: Large audience for Anson Jones Lecture. Roberto Sanchez and the Rev. Jerry Yelvington inspect the cheese balls in the hospitality room. Jane Ulrich chats with Dr. Alan and Hazel Bell from County Durham, England. No telling what they are up to: Past Masters Truitt Bradley, Doug Collins and Treasurer Mark Dermit.

Opposite page, from top, clockwise: Herb "The Old Professor" Arbuckle (center) after presenting a set of knives on behalf of the lodge to AJ Lecturer Randall Rogers and a custom bolo tie to Texas Grand Master Jim Brumit. PGM and FMR Leonard P. Harvey and Lena Ruth. A TSRCH staffer shows off custom prostatitis during hospital tour. Andrew McVeigh talks with 1995 Anson Jones Lecturer Jim Tresner.



Dallas snapshots

Photos by Jim Dougherty





Worshipful Master McCrae presents the Texas Lodge of Research Certificate of Appreciation to Trinity Valley Lodge Worshipful Master and TLR Senior Deacon Brad Billings, officers and lodge members.

Peregrinusing with the Professor

One of the most difficult tasks a writer of papers for TLR has is getting started. And the worst part about that is usually a topic, although most of the time I think of a title and then try to write a paper to fit it. Paper topics and connections abound if only we will open our eyes and see them.

As an example, take Texas politicians of the 20th Century. If you like biography, there is rare drama in the lives of men like “Farmer Jim” Ferguson, Preston Smith, Allan Shivers, Dolph Briscoe, Coke Stevenson and a myriad of other men of their ilk. And never forget that true Texas liberal and friend to the “little man,” Senator Ralph Webster Yarborough, as well as Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentson. And might anyone shed light on which Texas politician(s) may have been made a Mason-at-sight? Well, you seek ‘em out and let’s all talk about it.

And while you are “a-tellin’ the news to Mary,” as the Old Folks used to say, don’t forget that we have had two governors who definitely were not Masons, namely Governor Miriam A. “Ma” Fergu-

son and Governor Ann Richards, but both of whom were Eastern Stars!

Abound? I ‘magine! Read on, if you please!

Do you like real-life heroes who were also on the Silver Screen? Then look up Buck Jones, who died in the Coconut Grove disaster, rescuing others as he gave his own life. “Greater love hath no man,” as we all know. Then turn to Arvon Gene Autry, World War II pilot and real-life and Silver Screen cowboy, and see what you find. My main man is Randolph Scott, who was criticized for not going to war during World War II. What Bro. Scott’s critics did not know was that he had already gone “over there” with the Doughboys in 1918!

You say that biography is not your thing? How do you feel about scripture? Why were the three passages chosen for the three degrees? What do they mean? Are there hidden or even higher significations? You will need a *Texas Monitor*, a Masonic encyclopedia, a *Bible*, a *Bible* dictionary, a concordance and even a commentary or

two, but soldier on, my Brothers, and mine this vein and watch it yield gold to your touch!

Maybe symbolism is more your style. If so, look at the hymn sung in the Master Mason’s degree. “Hark from the tomb” is how it starts, as I recall. Whose tomb? What doleful sound? Whose ears attended the cry? Why the admonition to “Ye living men”? There is more meat here than first meets the eye, certainly.

Always remember that you can always write about the universality of our Craft. That very universality is what makes us so unique, my Brethren.

Now go forth, be fruitful workers in the quarries, and send those papers to the Secretary for him to send to the Senior Warden who will forward them to the Editorial Committee. And never forget that the Mentoring Committee is here to help you, so feel free to call upon us as needed.

And so mote that ever, ever be, my Brethren, henceforth and forevermore.

- H. C. Arbuckle III, *The Professor*
Chairman, Mentoring Committee 6

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It is very important that we update both our “snail mail” and email addresses for all members. Please take the time to give us an update when you move. While we have not found it necessary to send email to the general member-

ship, we would appreciate your email address for our membership records. Please know that it will not be shared with any other organization or sold for solicitations.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Waco Lodge to host TLR for September event

Texas Lodge of Research will be hosted at its Sept. 15 quarterly meeting by Waco Lodge No. 92. Local coordinator Ed Brown (254 751-7047) is quick to say that the lodge is the oldest institution in Waco and the oldest lodge in the home county of the Grand Lodge. It might also be noted that only two institutions remain that were chartered by the Republic of Texas: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas and Baylor University, both now headquartered in Waco.

This is a home game weekend for the Baylor Bears, so it is imperative that members planning to spend Friday night in Waco make reservations as soon as possible. The recommended hotel is the Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott at 4257 N. I-35. The reduced rate is \$90, plus tax. A block of rooms will be held at this rate until Aug. 14. Call the hotel directly at **(254) 412-2535** and tell them you are with Texas Lodge of Research. Reservations may also be made on-line using the code **TLRTLRA** at www.fairfieldwaco.com.

The hospitality room will open at 4 p.m. in the host hotel followed by Dutch treat supper at the nearby Cracker Barrel restaurant.

Waco No. 92 will host a continental breakfast starting at 8 a.m. at Quebe Masonic Temple, 4324 Cobbs Drive. Directions and maps will be available at the hospitality room.

Following breakfast, wives and non-Masonic guests will depart for either the famous Armstrong-Browning Library on the Baylor campus or the soon-to-be national monument Waco Mammoth Park (weather and preference considered.) Lunch will follow the meeting and conclude with the presentation of at least one research paper.

