



NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



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Contest moves to May AgFest

Pig Jig gets promotion from Ag Department

By Ric Carter

RALEIGH — Who cooks the best Masonic barbecue in the Tar Heel State?

The 2009 Masonic Carolina Pig Jig Barbecue Cookoff got a major upgrade in this its fourth year. Word of its previous successes apparently found its way to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. The Department wanted a sponsoring organization for the a barbecue contest at its Got to Be NC Festival, a mini-state fair of sorts spotlighting our state's agricultural products. Raleigh 500 answered the call with no small amount of trepidation. The change meant moving the Pig Jig from September to May 30.

While there were new problems to face, including longer lines than anticipated and running out of barbecue earlier than expected, everything points to this being a giant step forward for the Masonic event. The 2009 Pig Jig was visited by 1,750 barbecue fans. The contest was described in the ads from the Ag Department: "Do you prefer [your barbecue] cooked over gas, charcoal, or wood? Eastern or western style? You're the judge, as the winning cooking team will be determined by your votes." Twenty-one cooking teams put their reputations on the line, though most seemed to be there for the fun and fellowship. The chemistry, cooking, and cultural mix made this a truly unique event for North Carolina and for Masonry.

Raleigh 500 envisions the Pig Jig as an event for both of North Carolina's grand lodges. Of this year's 21 Masonic teams, several were from Prince Hall groups. The \$8,000 netted from the event was divided evenly between the Masonic Home for Children and Central Children's Home.

This year's Carolina Pig Jig Grand Champion was the Prince Hall District 27 team made up of Brent Gerald, Nate Degraffinreaidt, and Mil-

see PIG JIG, page 4



Ric Carter photos

Lines were long to sample the Masonic pork wares of the 2009 Masonic Carolina Pig Jig Barbecue Cookoff. At right, David Wicker of Oak Grove 750 chops pork for his version of the state's best barbecue.



Grand Lodge meeting set for Winston-Salem

Coming
September 25-26

By Ric Carter

WINSTON-SALEM — Grand Master Dan C. Rice will preside as 2009 Annual Communication opens in Winston-Salem. The 222nd annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina is scheduled for September 25-26. The meeting will be at the Twin City Quarter here, the same hotel we used last year. It will be the headquarters hotel, the site of all committee meetings, and Grand Lodge business sessions. The hotel is large enough to house all delegates to the communication. Participants at previous communications held here enjoyed having everything on one site. It will be a great chance to enjoy a classic convention atmosphere, with everyone spending a couple of days in close proximity.

see MEETING, page 4



The Grand Pavilion will become the state's largest lodge room again this year.

Amendment
rundown

By Ric Carter

Here we go with our annual recap of the year's proposed amendments to *The Code*. This is an effort at placing the proposals in plain language and sharing some of the arguments commonly expressed on the amendments. The discussion is far from exhaustive, but intends to give you a better understanding of the changes offered and their possible repercussions.

A lodge cannot and should not attempt to bind its delegates to a particular vote on a particular question. Very often, the amendments are changed on the floor before voting. More often still, arguments not thought of in analysis or lodge debate arise at the meeting, bringing a different outlook to the proposal. Discuss the votes and suggest the thinking of the lodge. Your

see AMENDMENTS, page 4

THE BOTTOM LINE



Embracing Change

By Dan C. Rice
Grand Master

When elected grand master last September, I told the delegates at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge that I would be honored to serve as grand master. I also told them that I would give the office of grand master all the honor and respect that it deserved and that I would not forget from whence I came. Most of you know by now that I came from Oxford Orphanage, where the Masons paid for my upkeep for almost ten years. It was my childhood home, and it will always be from whence I came. When I arrived at the Orphanage in 1959, it was as if time had stood still for almost 50 years. The outside world had very little impact on the orphans at Oxford in the 1950s, and it was as if nothing ever changed.

When I arrived at Oxford, many of the staff had been there a long time. Several of the key people that controlled what went on, had started in the 1920s and had been mentored by the original employees that had been there from the 1870s or 1880s. Many of these cornerstone employees, from the second wave, had lived through the great depression and had learned from those who they had slowly replaced at Oxford. They were very careful and conservative in the way they lived their lives. Even today, I tell people that I am really a depression era baby because of the methods, emotions, and thinking those great teachers passed down to me at the Orphanage. Part of that old time training is to have an aversion to change and to always want to mentally resist any and all changes.

Personally, I have always disliked change as it always shakes things up, and you never know exactly how it will turn out. Forest Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you are going to get." Sometimes, I believe I would rather stay on a sinking ship rather than take the risk of getting in the life boat

because that requires a change. My mind will tell me things like the boat will not actually sink and that everything will be okay. The life boat is smaller and will be crowded, and we will all just drown, so I think I will stay in the sinking boat and maybe, just maybe it will not sink.

Change is defined as "To cause to be different." Change requires that we let loose of the sure thing and go after something that could be much better. But, that carries risk. Risk is defined as the possibility of suffering harm. Usually, we are scared of change because of the actual fear of what might happen when the change occurs. I remember the great fear associated with the change that would occur when 12-31-1999 ended and the year 2000 started. Y2K was feared by every government entity, and they were all sure that our computer gadgets were going to go haywire, and the world would not be able to function. They predicted chaos would occur, and the fear forced most of us to update our computers so we did not have to fear the Y2K bug. All the fear was unfounded as January 1, 2000 was just another day in our lives. Maybe all the fear of Y2K was actually being fed to the public by the computer makers who could profit from our fear and could drive all of us to update our computers with the combination of risk, fear, and change.

The secret to living with constant change is that you have to simply realize that you are not guiding the boat of life. There was a day, a few years ago when I started worrying about a particular business issue and what type of negative impact it might have on our business, if it actually happened. I found myself on the anxiety train riding along wherever it took me. I mentally rode into areas with gigantic problems that would surely spell the demise of our company. It was as if a monster were driving me through hell in my mind. At every stop was a new crushing issue, and the train just got faster and the problems were larger, and I knew it had to be over for us. All of the king's horses and all the king's men could not stop the dominoes from falling over in my imagination. Then I caught my breath and opened my eyes and knew that what I

was doing was stupid. The negative thought process, caused by the catalyst of a small change in my business, had kicked in the risk factor thinking, and the danger signal had gone off in my mind. The next thing I knew, I was sweating profusely, scared to death, and my anxiety was running wild. Then it occurred to me that I was absolutely not in charge of any of those events. My preacher says that 80% of what we worry about never happens and that we have no control whatsoever over at least 10% of what is left. Our lives are operating with someone else at the wheel whether we want to admit it or not. Our United States coins say "In God We Trust." Do we really trust Him, or do we let our own sense of helplessness make us sick and miserable? Many times, I am certainly guilty of the latter as I tend to want to try to control my own destiny. I have realized that I try to take credit for driving the train when things are good, but when things start to get scary or out of control and fear and hopelessness stares me in the face, I realize that God is really driving the train and has been doing it even when I thought I had my hands on the controls.

Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." He was pushing us to constantly look for the truth not in what we believed based on our experience and perception but instead on closer and constant examination of things. He taught us to constantly search for the truth through careful examination of the facts. We all think we know everything by the time we are 15. At 25, we laugh about the foolishness of our teenage years with our new found sophistication. By 50, we realize just how little we know. When I was twenty, I thought I had the world twirling on a string. In my blissful ignorance, I believed the whole world rotated around me and my life and that I had a sense of control over things. At 50, I found that I was just trying to hang on for all I was worth and not get thrown off the world as it spins in orbit, knowing that I have absolutely no control over life.

see BOTTOM LINE, page 2

A sign of respect

By Henry M. Bruce

In looking at the November/December issue of *The North Carolina Mason*, I was struck by a conspicuous contrast: In the photo of the Prince Hall Masons assembled for their annual Grand Lodge meeting, every man in the assembly is wearing a white shirt, dark jacket, dark tie, apron, jewels, and white gloves. In a corresponding photo in the September/October *NC Mason* of the attendees at our Grand Lodge meeting, the uniform of the day seems to be jeans or slacks, and open-neck shirt

I have attended grand lodge in Florida and Utah, and the attendees all "dressed proper," or

didn't gain admittance.

Perhaps one reason that we are having retention problems in the North Carolina lodges is that we are portraying membership in Freemasonry as equal to being in the Elks, Moose, or Odd Fellows. If we as Freemasons do not perceive ourselves as being more than just a "secretive good-old-boys-club," we will not "walk and act as such" in our daily lives.

I suggest that our Prince Hall brethren have shown an example in dress code that we could well learn from.

Henry M. Bruce is a member of Mocksville 134.



Ric Carter photo

AF & AM Masons visit Prince Hall degree

DURHAM — On March 14 more than a dozen AF & AM Masons visited A.S. Hunter 825 (PHA) here for their annual raisings. Members of Mosaic 762, Cary 198, and P.P. Turner 746 joined approximately 150 Masons from around the country for the all-day degree. Many enjoyed hospitality at a local hotel the previous night. Eight new Masons were raised. Sections of the third degree were divided around a luncheon. Prince Hall dignitaries from South Carolina, Georgia, Colorado, Virginia, and Maryland came to participate in the widely admired work of the lodge. Several AF & AM members took part in the second section of the degree taking the parts of fellow craft. It was likely the first NC Prince Hall Master Mason Degree witnessed by our members. All were duly impressed with the high quality of the work and the power of the historic nature of the visit. — Ric Carter

BOTTOM LINE, from page 1

President John F. Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those that look only to the past and present are certain to miss out on the future." He had no clue at the time he made that statement that a bullet would take his life in just a few months. Life is definitely uncertain, and change is constant.

There have been lots of changes in our Grand Lodge in recent years. The biggest change has been the 2008 vote to recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. With that vote came fear and risk. Some brothers felt sure that it would lead to the destruction of both our grand lodges. Others believed that it was totally wrong, based on the belief that the Prince Hall brothers were clandestine. They believed this simply because they were told that Prince Hall was clandestine by another brother. Even though some of our brightest legal minds in our Grand Lodge had studied Prince Hall and determined that they were not clandestine. Other folks believed that our Grand Lodge would lose a lot of members rather than sit in a lodge with a brother from Prince Hall. Other brothers feared that recognition would lead to cross visitation and lots of issues. Our delegates at the 2008 Annual Communication voted to recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NC despite the risk, and the next week cross visitation started. They had to have known that this would certainly create change in NC Masonry both for our Grand Lodge and also for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

In November 2008, a recognition compact was signed between the two grand lodges at the Old Capitol Building in Raleigh. The issue of visitation did not come up since it had already been started. What many brothers feared the most was beginning to take place.

Early on as grand master, I was asked to address the issue of cross visitation between the two grand lodges. Many brothers believed that they had been purposely misled by the Grand Lodge officers and by the editorials in *The NC Mason*, regarding whether the vote for recognition included visitation. I can certainly understand how they could feel that way based on how we at one point said that recognition did not necessarily include visitation.

The issue of recognition of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NC has been a topic discussed by our delegates at the Annual Communications of our Grand Lodge going back into the 1940s. We have toyed with the idea of recognition of Prince Hall for more than sixty years. How much time and energy has been wasted on this issue? I am glad that we finally had the courage to do what was right, even if it is late in coming. From a personal standpoint, I do not want to ever discriminate against anyone based on how God made them. I will use my discrimination for the people that are mean, viscous, and cruel.

After carefully considering how to deal with visitation between our grand lodges, it is my belief that a visiting Prince Hall brother should be

treated just like a brother from any other grand lodge that we recognize. I came to this conclusion by seeking wise counsel from brothers whose judgment I trusted, by reading our *NC Masonic Code, Constitution and Bylaws* and by quiet prayer. As grand master I felt that I should lead NC Masonry where I believed it should go on this issue.

I would like to update everyone about what has been going on between the two grand lodges. There has been a lot of cross visitation, and it has gone extremely well. Friendship and long overdue brotherly love have been extended both ways. It has been extremely healthy for both sides to find out that we are all working for the same causes under the direction of an Almighty God who made us all. The Prince Hall Shrine

The players for Annual Communication 2009

By Ric Carter

Most Masons don't think too much about Grand Lodge officers until Annual Communication rolls around. Can't tell the players without a program?

Now you'll be able to identify those guys opening and closing the meeting. Here's your program.

Starting just inside the door is Grand Tyler Steve Lynch (Bula 409) from Burlington. He'll be assisted by volunteer assistant tylers who will be posted outside the several entrances to the meeting room to check at your dues card and listen to a whispered password.

At the front of the auditorium, a lodge room will be set on and before a riser. It is of much the same form as your blue lodge, but with a station or two added. Four officers will be on the stage facing the crowd. Front and center on the stage will be Grand Master (GM) Dan C. Rice (Bula 409). Rice and wife Debbie live in Elon. Rice, a alumnus of the Masonic Home for Children, owns Piedmont Truck Tires — a chain of tire dealerships around North Carolina.

On his right will be Deputy Grand Master (DGM) William L. Dill (St. John's 3). Dill is a retired school principal who lives in New Bern with his wife Margaret. He is secretary of New Bern's Scottish Rite bodies.

On the left side of the stage is Grand Treasurer (GT) Clifton W. Everett Jr. (Crown Point 708). Everett, who was grand master in 1995, has been grand treasurer since 1996. Everett, a Superior Court judge, lives in Greenville with his wife Mary.

At the right on the stage is Grand Secretary (GS) T. Walton Clapp III (Mystic Tie 237) who has served in the office since the retirement of Pete Dudley in 1997. Clapp resides in Raleigh with his wife Betty (a Presbyterian minister) and daughter Anh.

Seated at the back of the stage in neat rows are special guests and past grand masters. The special guests include officers from state appen-

Past Grand Master McCall dead at 80

CHARLOTTE — "A man is known by his deeds and actions." That was the message then Grand Master Bud McCall shared in 1986 with Masons around North Carolina. He lived his life by that creed. Walter Franklin McCall died at his home July 6 after a ten-year battle with cancer and more recently leukemia. He was 80 years old.

Anyone who shook Bud's hand knew he was and lover of the outdoors. He was a lifelong, avid hunter, fisherman, and gardener.

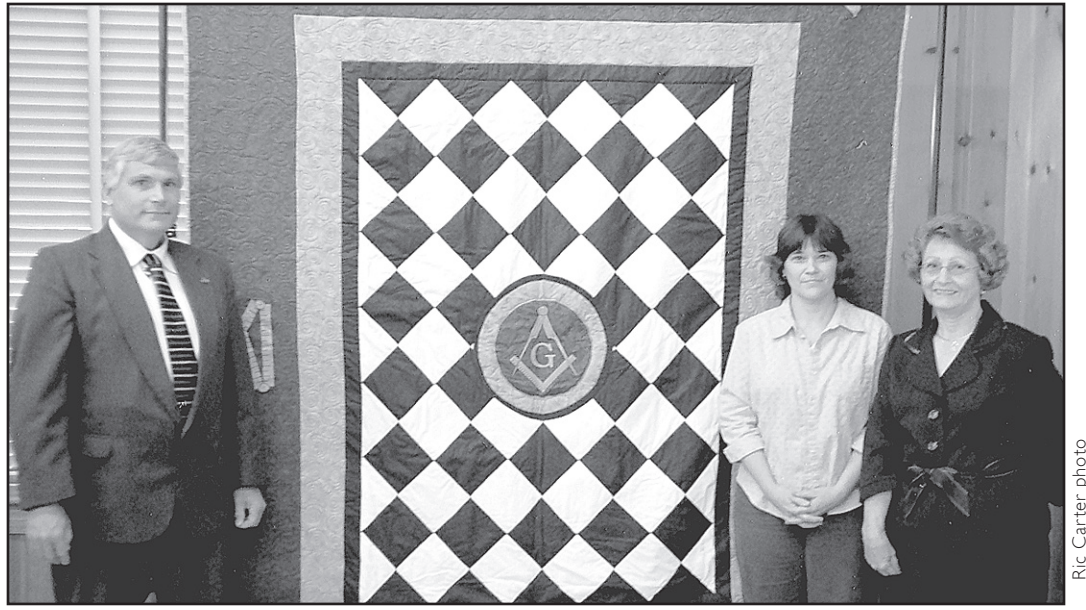
McCall is survived by Martha, his wife of 60 years, two daughters, six grandchildren, and one

great grandchild. He was born in the Thomasboro community outside Charlotte February 29, 1929, the ninth of eleven children of William and Lille McCall.

He was initiated in Joppa 530 in 1962 and appointed to the Grand Lodge line in 1980 by Jacob C. Goodman. He served as grand master in 1986.

McCall was co-founder of McCall Brothers Well Drilling Service.

Bud's good deeds and actions will be missed by all.



Ric Carter photo

GM Dan Rice poses with the raffled quilt and its creators Anita Beard and Marie Miller.

Eureka Masons raffle quilt

ELIZABETH CITY — Eureka 317 recently raffled a Masonic Quilt that was created, designed, and constructed by Marie Miller whose husband is of Eureka Lodge Senior Warden Paul Miller. Once the piecing was completed, it was quilted by Anita Beard. The quilt was nearly eight months in the making.

The idea was inspired after Paul saw the quilt raffled at Annual Communication last year — it brought in more than \$1,000 for WhiteStone

(MESH). They thought the idea would work in the Eastern part of the state to raise money for the Masonic Home for Children also. They were right. Approximately 600 raffle tickets were sold, and more than \$1,500 was raised for the Home. Eureka Lodge has donated more than \$3,000 this year to Masonic charities.

When the drawing was held at Eureka Lodge's May 16 Ladies' Night, Francis Pugh of Currituck 463 was the happy winner. — Paul Miller

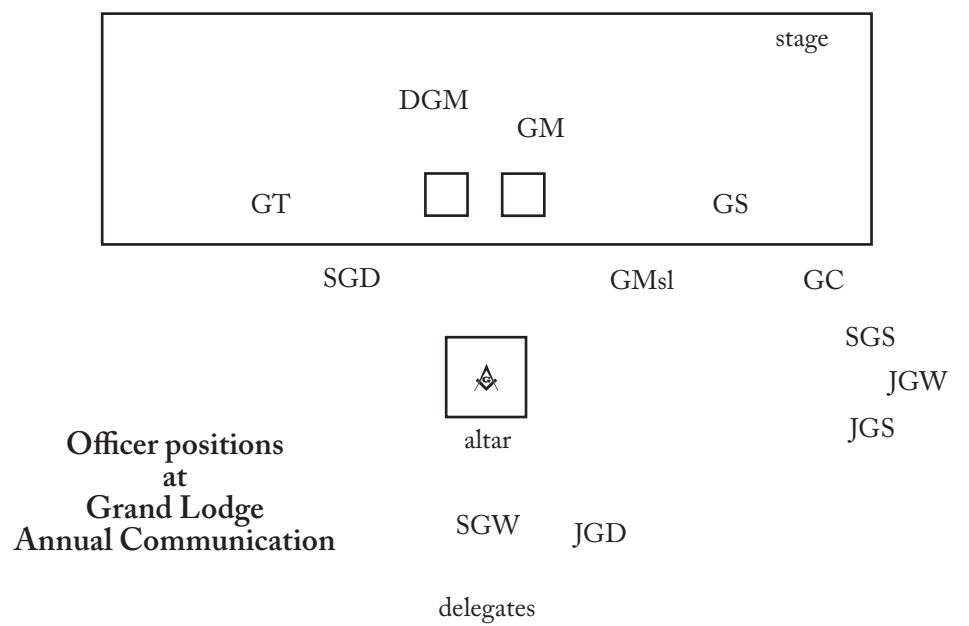
Units in NC have committed to help the Shiners' Hospital in Greenville, SC. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge has also been using the Masonic Home for Children's Graphic Arts School for their printing. At the Carolina Pig Jig in Raleigh this year, there was at least ten teams from Prince Hall raising money for our home in Oxford. They cooked some good barbecue, too.

Brethren, change is hard, and it certainly has its risks, but this change has been very positive. We have lost a few brothers, who just could not accept what was done. I do hope they will reconsider and come back once they realize that this change will ultimately be positive for Masonry in our state. For every brother we have lost because of the recognition, we have gained several young, smart, and enthusiastic men who wanted

no part of any perceived racist organization. The number of good men petitioning our lodges has certainly increased. Many of our lodges are on fire with degree work and enthusiasm.

Many brothers who have actively been involved with cross visitation have told me how thrilled they were after the visit. They found they had much more in common than they ever believed they would find. They had universally lost all fear from the unknown about Prince Hall and were pumped up about working with their newly found Prince Hall brothers to make this world a better place for all of us. Brethren, there is room in this world for as many good Masons as we can find.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Communication.



dant bodies and officers from other grand lodges and Masonic organizations.

The rest of the officers are on the auditorium floor in front of the stage. Facing the stage, with his back to the delegates, you'll find Senior Grand Warden (SGW) Lewis R. Ledford (Statesville 27). Ledford is superintendent of North Carolina State Parks. He and his wife Susan live in Raleigh.

Junior Grand Deacon (JGD) Dalton W. Mayo (Hiram 98) sits on Ledford's right. Mayo is retired from the faculty of Sampson Community College. He lives in Clinton.

On the south side of the floor, to the delegates' right, is Junior Grand Warden (JGW) Robert E. Gresham Jr. (Albemarle 703). Gresham and his wife Carolyn live in Mount Gilead. He was president of Service Distributing Company (SERVCO) before his retirement.

At the meeting, Gresham is flanked by the grand stewards. Senior Grand Steward Bryant D. Webster (Nichols-West Asheville 650) is nearest the stage and Junior Grand Steward A. Gene Cobb (Royal White Hart 2) is nearest the

delegates. Webster is a lawyer and lives in Black Mountain with his wife (Janet) and daughter. Cobb is minister at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Sanford where he lives with his wife Brenda. Their children are grown.

Senior Grand Deacon (SGD) Dewey R. Preslar Jr. (Andrew Jackson 576) sits before the stage in front of the grand treasurer, to the grand master's right. Preslar and his wife Terrie live in Salisbury. He is a vice president of Food Lion.

Another officer in the Grand Lodge line we don't have in the blue lodge progression to master is grand marshal (GMsl). Grand Marshal Douglas L. Caudle (Statesville 27) holds that chair beside Grand Chaplain (GC) Louis A. Sasser (Bula 409). Caudle and his wife Angela live in Taylorsville. He is president of Piedmont Fiberglass.

There, you have it — the starting line up for the 222nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Don't get cocky, though. We'll elect new officers at the meeting. They'll be installed in November and take us all, once again, into a new year.

THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

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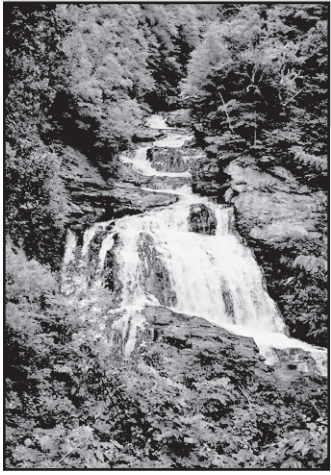
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TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter

Winston-Salem

Old Town 752 celebrated their 35th anniversary April 25. Kids enjoyed bouncing attractions, and the grownups took on the horseshoe pits. More than 120 attended.

In April, Ed Schuller, publisher emeritus of *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*, got his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years Masonic membership. He is only the lodge's second 60-year recipient.

Old Town Lodge had a cleanup day May 30, and their golf tournament is set for October 3 at Long Creek Course.

— *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

Kenansville

St. John's 13 participated in the Duplin County Relay for Life May 15-16 at James Sprunt Community College. The Relay is held across the country and raises money for cancer research as well as offering support to those who are battling the disease. The lodge raised more than \$2,300 from contributions and by selling ribbons and food. A big portion came from auctioning the 1993 Lincoln Town Car donated by Mildred Mathis.

St. John's 13 member Eugene B. Davis got his Veterans Emblem for 50 years membership at the lodge's July stated communication. — *Lodge Log*

Mount Olive

Mount Olive 208 held their Awards and Ladies' Night April 28. Fifty-two people, including nine lodge widows were on hand to see Thomas Hollowell get his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years Masonic membership.

Mount Olive Lodge's Family Night was set for June 5. It was to be a covered dish affair. A. J. Bullard (on guitar) and wife (on fiddle) were supplying bluegrass and gospel music for the evening. Guests and kids were invited.

To spruce things up at the lodge, Mount Olive has begun replacing floor tiles.

— *Trestle Board*

Hickory

They went through 70 pounds of pancake mix when Hickory 343 held their Plez Teague Memorial Pancake Breakfast May 2. The 750 plates served brought in more than \$5,500 for charities. During his life, Teague was one of the state's foremost promoters of Masonic charities.

— *Hickory Lodge*

Pineville

James K. Polk 759 has been emphasizing community outreach this year. They are sponsoring a girl's choir. The girls will wear the lodge name and colors for their event day at Carwinds and other social activities.

The lodge also is a team sponsor in the Pineville-Ballantyne Community Athletic Association. They set up tables and ran the concessions at the association's April Spring Fling.

Polk Lodge had a Memorial Day Tribute at their April 14 meeting. Brent Wildon organized a food and supply drive for a Marine unit in Iraq.

— *James K. Polk Lodge*

Asheville

Mount Hermon 118 reports that the newly refinished floor in the dining room at the temple is "handsome."

— *Asheville Masonic Bodies*

Charlotte

In mid-June, Charles M. Setzer 693 had a barbecued Boston butt sale. The slow-cooked, five-six-pound butts went for \$25 each. In spite of torrential downpours, they made about \$1,700 for Masonic charities.

J. J. Yates is leading Setzer Lodge's School Tools Drive for the third straight year. Last year, they delivered more the \$600 worth of school supplies to the kids at the Masonic Home for Children. They collected office supplies at the lodge all summer. Delivery was set for August 8.

Ken Barnett built and donated a barbecue smoker to Setzer Lodge. The lodge is also talking about cosmetic improvements to the facilities.

— *Trestleboard*

Steele Creek 737's annual Fish Fry and Car Show in May was one of their best ever. Ed Simmons and Mickey Lawson ramrodded the event which brought in more than \$6,000 for Masonic charities. The car show ran through the middle of the day, and they served fried fish from lunch through supper.

Steele Creek Lodge has adopted a new rental policy for their lodge building. They are now renting only to lodge and Eastern Star (Chapter 339) members, and only for personal family events. The fee is \$100.

Steele Creek was planning a family night at John's Family Restaurant on June 29.

— *Trestleboard*

Excelsior 261 recently chipped in \$600 sending eight kids from the Masonic Home for Children to the Speed Street celebration and the Coca Cola 600 at Lowes Motor Speedway. Lucky kids!

Excelsior Lodge is starting a building fund to take care of maintenance issues. Every lodge needs one.

For the second year, Excelsior is doing a car wash fundraiser. They sell wash tickets for a local carwash. They buy at a discount and sell at retail.

— *Trestle Board*

West Gate 738's April fish fry was a sell out. Between the profit and donations, they sent \$6,000 to the Masonic Home for Children. They report that it was one of their best fish fries ever.

West Gate is running OSW classes on off Monday nights. Students can study whatever ritual part they like.

— *News From the West*

Fuquay-Varina

Fuquay 258 planned a shooting event for Masonic charities for May 23. They were doing sporting clays at Drake's Landing.

— *Trestle Board*

Wallace

Wallace 595 is holding a ham and egg supper and gun raffle on October 23.

They have their Past Masters' Night set for October 5.

— *Bulletin of Wallace Lodge*

Pilot Mountain

Pilot 493 presented two \$500 scholarships in May. One went to a graduating senior at East Surry High. The other went to helping last year's winner for a second year.

Pilot Lodge's barbecue brought in more than \$1,050 for charity. They have already started discussions on details for a fall event.

The lodge, in August, will be helping again this year with National Police Night Out.

The lodge has gotten a couple of gifts recently. Forrest Boaz has given them some books for the lodge library. Master J. T. Shelton is using a new gavel made by Tom Bryant Jr., a member of Ararat 558.

— *The Pilot Mountain Traveler*



Fellowship and fun mark a traveling gavel

GASTONIA — On June 8, members of King Solomon 704 visited Gaston 263 to get the 36th Masonic District's Traveling Gavel. The fun involved in competition for traveling gavels is widely enjoyed. Some of the associated goofiness is evidenced in the "special fellowship" moment pictured here as Gaston Lodge Master Johnny Click hands the gavel over to King Solomon Lodge Master Steve Willis. Seen in the more standard (and more realistic) version of the event are, from left, Billy Wiggins, Jim McClure, Steve Willis, Chris Hall, Kevin Brown, and Charlie Grissom.

— *Chris Hall*

Fayetteville

Clifford Duell 756 has been enjoying group road trips lately. They made a group visit to Lillington 302 July 13 and attended lodge in South Carolina in May.

— *James Baker*

Creasy Proctor 679 is running a raffle fundraiser. Third prize is a gift certificate to Chris's Steakhouse, second is a \$150 detailing from TLC Carwash. Top prize is a 47-inch LCD television.

— *Timothy Williams*

Greensboro

The 26th Masonic District's Annual Arthur Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament was held May 20 at Holly Ridge Golf Links in Archdale. It was the fifth time they've held the event.

— *P. P. Turner Lodge*

P. P. Turner 746 had their Homecoming set for August 20. They were making it an open meeting format so that family and friends could join them. Mike Daniels was presenting a special program.

On April 16, Turner Lodge Master Tom Dolinger gave a program on the history of the Greensboro Masonic Temple.

— *P. P. Turner Lodge*

June 11 was Thirsty Thursday at Gate City 694. That also meant that it was Gate City Lodge Night at the Greensboro Grasshoppers game. The minor league baseballers were taking on the Kannapolis Intimidators.

For those who didn't make it to the baseball game, there was another chance to enjoy the fellowship at the June 13 Family Night. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and homemade ice cream were on tap. In addition to family, prospective Masons were also welcome.

Gate City member Buddy Owens was named Volunteer of the Year at WhiteStone (MESH). Buddy organized a program which had volunteer Masons doing handyman chores for WhiteStone residents. They do things like install gadgets, move furniture, and trim shrubs.

— *Trestleboard*

Salisbury

Andrew Jackson 576 had their old-fashioned picnic scheduled for July 16. Bob Himes was grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. Lots of watermelon was also to be on the table. Fifty folks from the Masonic Home for Children were also coming after spending a day at Dan Nicholas Park.

Jackson Lodge members were planning to visit the Home for Children in June to do some landscaping around Eller Cottage and have a cookout for the kids while there.

On April 16, young ladies from Rainbow for Girls presented a program on their organization to Andrew Jackson Lodge. The lodge will be sending one Rainbow girl to Rainbow Camp this summer.

Past Masters' Night at Jackson Lodge was set for August 20.

Salisbury's lodges, Fulton 99 and Andrew Jackson 576, were having a joint family dinner July 30. They were dining together at a local seafood restaurant. They were urged to wear their lodge shirts and hats to make sure other folks knew who they were.

— *Master's Journal*

Fulton 99 recently made Ronald Lee Beacham and Charles Haskell Shoaf life members of their lodge.

Fulton's Past Masters' Night was set for July 9.

— *Master's Journal*

Raleigh

Things were hopping at James B. Green 735 this summer. They had an ice cream social for the lodge June 25. They had a cookout for the Rainbow Grand Assembly June 28. They held a cleanup day July 11.

The Spring Chicken Fund Raiser at Green Lodge was a "smash success," serving 500 plates and making \$3,300 for their new heating and air conditioning system at the lodge.

— *James B. Green Scene* and Dustin Tarditi

J. J. Crowder 743 hosted the 14th Masonic District blood drive July 18.

— *Dustin Tarditi*

Canton

Sonoma 472's Charles Branson Memorial Scholarship went to three young people: Shawn Messer, Michael Mathis, and Josh Evans. The recipients were joining the lodge for dinner June 4.

Phil Cruise and Paul Reece are making and installing a new sign for the lodge and chapter.

Sonoma Lodge had a blood drive May 23. They had 11 donors present themselves, two first timers. They had another set for July 24.

The Calvin Taylor Memorial Toy Ride is September 12. The motorcycle ride in the mountains remembers a local Highway Patrol trooper who died in the line of duty. This ride began in 2001 and has raised more than \$42,000 for the Masonic Home for Children. It has also donated nearly \$3,000 to the Haywood County School Foundation for the Cecil E. Taylor Scholarship Fund.

— *Valley of the Moon*

Thomasville

May 9 was a big workday for Thomasville 214. There was work for any interest — landscaping, roofing, wall repair, ceiling tiles replacement, and even just plain old cleaning the basement.

Thomasville Lodge combined a fundraiser and family outing July 7. They sold tickets to the Hi-Toms minor league baseball game. They made some money selling the tickets, and they got spotlighted at the game on Masons night.

They've set November 17 for their Widow's Banquet.

— *Trestle Board*

Conover

As a fundraiser, Conover 709 sold hamburgers and hot dogs at the local Wal-Mart on May 9.

— *View From the East*

Durham

Fellowship 687 held a Saturday morning Greet and Eat Breakfast at Knap of Reeds 158 on June 20. It was a chance to meet men who were interested in joining a lodge or learning more about Masonry.

— *Horace Lane*

If your lodge has a newsletter for its members, make sure *The North Carolina Mason* is on your mailing list. Lodge newsletters are a major source of news for Masons around the state. If you don't have one, think about starting one. Newsletters are a good way to keep your members active and informed.

PIG JIG, from page 1



The zen of magic barbecue sauce.

ton Gerald. Second Place went to Riverside 606 (AF & AM), and third to Stony Point 593 (AF & AM). Perennial People's Choice winners Salem 289 (AF & AM), cooking by Joey Transou and Cliff Pranke, repeated their title. William T. Bain 231 (AF & AM) won the Team Spirit award.

After three years of getting their lessons learned and honing the Pig Jig, Michael Sterling and his Raleigh Lodge coordinating crew had to change many things. The biggest new "problem" seems to have been the large crowd. They are now aware of what to expect and can better cope. They hope to top 30 team entries next year.

Says Sterling, "We are trying to build this into the largest AF & AM and F & AM joint fundraising/competition in the United States. Next year's event date is May 22 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds." Be there! And bring the kids because there's lots more to see and enjoy. Heck, bring a team and show the rest of the state how to cook pig.



Packing the equipment for another day.



Some entrants created an atmosphere.



NC Agriculture Secretary Steve Troxler, center, presented the top award to PHA District 27's team as Raleigh 500's Swindell and Sterling looked on.



Relaxing after the serving.



Sixth District prays together

JASON — In March, the Sixth Masonic District launched a quarterly church visitation. Chad Smith, of Grimesland 475, is coordinating the program. On June 21 they visited Jason Presbyterian Church where Radiance 132 member Scott Hardy, far right, serves as lay minister. Hardy delivered the sermon (about stepping forward to serve) naming that Sunday the church's Freemasons and Fathers Day. The visitors are seen here with members of the congregation. — David J Stapleton

A young Master Mason approached a stoic old Past Master that he highly respected. The Master Mason said: "Brother, if there is anything I have learned from you, it is that too many brothers speak too many words about light and the True Word. To me their speech is like a multitude of veils and crashing symbols that further conceal the bright and quiet wisdom of Masonry."

"Mmm-hmm," replied the old Past Master, "but have you never seen the beauty in ten-thousand falling leaves, nor heard the strength in the many-rivulet crescendo of a rushing waterfall?" — <www.geocities.com/zenmasonry>

MEETING, from page 1

While every Mason in the state is invited, only the master and wardens of your lodge, or their official proxies, may vote during business sessions. They'll join the same officers of the other lodges around the state. The other voters are committeemen and officers of the Grand Lodge and its districts. Workshops and committee meetings held before the official sessions will be at the Twin City Quarter on Thursday, September 24. The Lodge Secretary's Workshop will be held there that Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and will feature a training session on the new lodge software — MORI, Masonic Online Registry Interface.

All voting sessions will be held in the Twin City Quarter's Grand Pavilion Friday and Saturday, September 25–26. Lodge officers are asked to bring and wear their aprons for all business sessions.

Please do not mail your credentials to the Grand Lodge office. You must present them at the registration desk to receive ballots and other essential information. You may register at the

AMENDMENTS, from page 1

delegates should vote in the best interests of your lodge and all Masonry after hearing all discussion.

The exact wording and changes on the amendments is in the hands of your lodge secretary and on the Grand Lodge web site, www.grandlodge-nc.org.

Group 1

After discovering that a couple of lodges were allowing candidates to deliver less than the full catechism during examination, the Board of Custodians is asking us to make the wording in *The Code* more explicit.

Group 2

The Board of Custodians is also asking that *The Code* be brought into more explicit alignment with the general rules of the *OSW*. This change specifically addresses the junior deacon's station being filled at all times.

Group 3

The procedures for excluding members who do not pay their dues were modified and simplified about five years ago. This change, suggested by the grand secretary, fixes references missed during that original change.

Group 4

The use of alcohol in Masonic facilities has been presented to Grand Lodge previously. It has been modified in an attempt to make it safer and more palatable. It is sponsored by several urban lodges. Alcohol was part of Masonry for many years. In early times lodges often met in pubs where dinner and a few drinks were part of the fellowship. That is still the case in much of the world. The temperance movements here helped push us to a ban all forms of potentially intoxicating beverages at any lodge function. We went a step further by banning it in any Masonic building, even when used by non-Masons. Many still harbor distrust of such drinks and wish them banned everywhere, not just lodges. They often see the use as a slippery slope that inevitably leads to drunkenness.



Apron given to widow

SELMA — Elizabeth P. Jones, widow of Everitt Craig Jones III, received a past master's apron and past master's necklace in memory of her late husband. Jones was the master of Selma 320 in 2008 and died December 22, 2008, just before his tenure ended. The gifts were presented at Selma Lodge's Past Masters' and Ladies' Night Banquet held on April 25. — Anthony Jones

main lobby on Thursday and outside the Grand Pavilion on Friday and Saturday mornings. In order to vote, you must have your credentials, and you must register. Again, DO NOT return your credentials to the Grand Lodge office.

Grand Master Rice will open the first session at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning. That's when you'll see the formal opening and welcoming of special guests. Grand Orator Clifton Everett Jr., past grand master, will make the keynote address. The rest of the morning, a number of reports will be read and others submitted for the record without reading.

Downtown Winston-Salem has lots of restaurants, so you can find a place you like for the lunch break within easy walking distance of the hall.

A memorial service for those Masons who died in the past year will follow the call from refreshment to labor. The Grand Master's Report is next. Other reports will also be received. Some voting will take place on Friday afternoon.

Many of our lodges believe that they would be better able to rent their facilities if alcohol could be served by renters. The example most frequently mentioned is the wedding reception where the bride and groom wish to celebrate with a toast. Some lodges believe they are missing out on thousands of dollars in income by not allowing drink in moderation. This amendment would not require any lodge to rent for such purposes, nor would it automatically allow it by those desiring to do so.

There are two variations ready for presentation. Both would require that a lodge amend its bylaws to allow alcohol use in their facility. Amending lodge bylaws requires discussion and a vote in favor by two-thirds majority. It would further require proof of proper and defined liability insurance. Permission of the grand master would also be necessary.

The substitute amendment, to be voted on first would allow lodges to hold Masonic Festive Boards, a dinner meeting in which toasts are made with alcoholic beverages. They are common in many jurisdictions.

If the substitute fails, the original will be voted on. It would allow alcohol, but at non-Masonic functions only.

Group 5

The lodges of the 13th Masonic District want us to amend *The Code* to allow Masonic funerals for entered apprentices and fellows craft. Opponents say qualifying for a Masonic funeral is one of the things that gets men to finish their degrees. They say it is the way things have been done for years.

Those in favor point to several things in replying. They say that a stroll through old cemeteries will reveal the square and compasses on tombstones denoting all three degrees, not master Mason only. They further cite our portion of the first degree when we tell the new entered apprentice that the apron we give him then is for his Masonic funeral, a promise that we cannot always follow through on given current law.

In the last year, there have been a number of cases of entered

You're invited

Charity golf tournament

September 2

ADVANCE — Clemmons 755 has their big Charity Golf Tournament at Oak Valley Golf Club September 2. Registration and lunch are at 11:00 a.m., and the start is 1:00. Entry fee is \$300 per team. Snacks and drinks will be available on the course, and the awards ceremony follows immediately. Get details from Bob Charlier at (336) 766-5133 or <rcharliersr@triad.rr.com>.

Motorcycle ride to Maggie Valley

September 12

CANTON — The Calvin Taylor Memorial Toy Ride is September 12. The bike ride in the mountains remembers a local Highway Patrolman who died in the line of duty. For details on participating, contact Mike Hooper at <hoopermka@bellsouth.net>.

Motorcycle ride to Home for Children

September 12

CHINA GROVE — The 12th Annual Ride for the Children is set for September 12. They eat breakfast at Eureka 283 at 6:00 a.m. and hit the road at 7:30. You don't have to start in China Grove. You can start your own group or ride lone wolf to the Raleigh rendezvous for registration at Town North Shopping Plaza at 8345 Creedmoor Road at 10:00 a.m. They depart for the Home for Children at 11:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$20. That gets you a t-shirt and a chance at dozens of prizes drawn for at the Raleigh registration. For information contact <doug.earnhardt@flextronics.com> or (704) 957-0346 or Jerry Edwards at <jeredwar7@aol.com> or (704) 857-8162.

Plan to spend Friday evening with friends and Brothers. There are several restaurants and night spots along the streets around the hotel to spend your evening.

Business resumes on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. when the last day of the session opens. That's when more proposed amendments and resolutions will be considered. An analysis of those proposals starts on page one of this issue of *The North Carolina Mason*. We will also adopt a budget for the year. We will elect Grand Lodge officers. Business is generally concluded around lunch time.

To reach the Twin City Quarter take the Cherry Street exit off I-40 Business and go four blocks north. The hotel is taking reservations now. Their toll-free reservation number is (800) 320-0934. Be sure to specify that you are with the Masonic Grand Lodge in order to get our special rate.

Come to Annual Communication this year for the fun of it. Bring a Masonic buddy with you. See you there!

apprentices dying while working on their degrees. It is difficult to explain the subtleties of Masonic law when a family is told that they may not have a Masonic burial of their proud entered apprentice or fellow craft Mason.

Group 6

The Code defines when the Board of General Purposes (the grand master's advisory board) must have its quarterly meetings. This alteration would bring that schedule into alignment with current practice since the changing of Annual Communication and Grand Lodge installation dates.

Group 7

These changes are housekeeping issues brought about by changes made over the last several years. There are almost always references missed when the original alteration is made. These reference changes in the annual communication dates for lodges.

Group 8

The Code makes certain requirements in terms of lodge record keeping. With the extensive use of computers that we now enjoy, these rules need a little updating. These allow primary record keeping on computer and define which and how printed copies must be made available.

Group 9

A one point in time, criminal background checks by Masonic investigating committees were as easy as a phone call to a lodge member in law enforcement. This is no longer the case as governmental agencies would rarely allow this today. This amendment would allow the Grand Lodge to negotiate a price with a commercial investigating group to report on all applicants undergoing investigation. This price should be significantly lower than regular rates.

If you have questions about any of the proposed changes to *The Code*, contact the grand secretary's office at <grandsecretary@grandlodge-nc.org> or (919) 787-2021.



Aaron Meredith, left, presents his gift to Palmyra Master Pat Godwin Jr. and Hubert H. Warren Jr.

Palmyra Lodge given historic artifact

By Pat Godwin Jr.

DUNN — Newly raised Mason and Palmyra 147 Chaplain Aaron Meredith gave his lodge a cufflink February 10. The brass cufflink is from what is believed to be the original Palmyra Lodge location in Averasboro. It has Masonic emblems surrounding the square and compasses in the center and is thought to date from as early as 1800. The gift was made in honor of Hubert H. Warren Jr. for his “dedication and tireless work for the betterment of Masonry.” Warren is a past master of Palmyra Lodge and past district deputy grand master.

The original Palmyra Lodge was formed in old Averasboro then called Averysboro, between Erwin and Chicora Country Club. Palmyra 147 was chartered in 1852, so it is thought the cufflink may have been a family heirloom at the time. It was found by a friend of Meredith while on an artifact excursion in old Averasboro. The friend gave it to Meredith, realizing the significance to the lodge he was about to petition.

It is a striking reminder that Masonic history is imbedded in the formation of our country and community. It is further a reminder of the importance the Cape Fear River and Averasboro once held. The river was the interstate highway of our early history, and Averasboro was the navigable end of the river. That era ended when the railroad came through Dunn in the 1880s. Averasboro dried up to become nonexistent.

You can see this piece of history on display in Palmyra Lodge.

Pat Godwin is master of Palmyra 147.

WhiteStone hires marketing director

GREENSBORO — WhiteStone: A Masonic & Eastern Star Community has appointed Stacy Adkins marketing director of the rapidly growing community for seniors who are attracted to the fun, active lifestyle that defines WhiteStone. Jo Frazier, who has been with WhiteStone since October 2008, will remain as senior sales counselor for the community. The community, now open to all seniors (not just Masonic and Eastern Star members), has a long-standing reputation for outstanding wellness and continuing care since 1912.

Adkins steps into her role during an eventful time for the community, which is expanding to include 75 beautiful new apartment residences and six homes that are pre-selling at a rapid pace. Construction will begin in late 2009 with the WhiteStone expansion due to be completed in late 2010 or early 2011.

“My first priority is to generate awareness of

the beautiful and comfortable homes that are being built, so potential residents don't miss their window of opportunity,” says Adkins. “This is an ideal community for seniors who want to be just as active as in their previous years – only better!”

Adkins brings several years of senior living expertise to her position at WhiteStone, having served most recently as marketing director for a continuing care retirement community in Chapel Hill. Her appointment indicates WhiteStone's ongoing commitment to build a staff of educated, experienced professionals with proven talent in the senior living industry.

“Stacy takes great satisfaction in helping people plan for the next step in their lives,” says Executive Director Mark Kolada. “Her passion is contagious, and we are fortunate to add her to our team. She brings terrific perspective on what it takes to build an engaging, enjoyable community for seniors.”

STATE, from page 3

High Point

On May 17, the Masonic lodges in High Point held an open house to help celebrate the town's 150th anniversary. High Point 199 (now extinct) was founded a few months before the town was founded. There are now three lodges in the town: Numa F. Reid 344, Acacia 674, and Piedmont 681. — Michael Rinehardt

Cary

The Spring Barbecue at Cary 198 raised more than \$5,000 after selling out the 1,500 pounds of barbecue they cooked.

Back on April, Cary Lodge members Ted Long, Sonny Bjork, and Don Ellers went up to Oxford to repair a grill the lodge donated to one of the cottages at the Home for Children. The same guys went back a few weeks later to clean all the grills on campus.

June 29 was the date of Cary Lodge's most recent fifth Monday dinner. It was their Eastern Star's turn to host the regular event. They were grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. A major attraction of the day was the testing of Master Mike Sibley's insistence that homemade ice cream from a hand-cranked freezer is superior to that from an electric cranking. The kids they sponsor at the Home for Children were also invited. — *Trestle Board*

Spruce Pines

Vesper 554 recently helped buy uniforms for youth sports teams in the neighborhood. Lodge Master Dan McKinney even got his picture in the Mitchell News Journal giving the check to the county Parks and Recreation director. — *The Bacon*

Wilmington

Orient 395 Master Jimmy Hyatt is having a past master close lodge at his meetings this year. He does so as a sign of “respect and honor for their service.”

Orient Lodge presented Julius Townsend his 50-year service award on behalf of his lodge, Gardenville-Cache 455 in Missouri. — *Orient Express*

Bakersville

Bakersville 357 had their Charity Barbecue Fundraiser June 13. They served plates or sandwiches. They even had hot dogs for those who didn't know how to handle the good stuff. — Robert Morgan

Jacksonville

Semper Fidelis 680 had a Ladies Night Out in April. Forty-six folk enjoyed the excursion to Tony's Restaurant.

Semper Fi's barbecue fundraiser is set for September 11. They're serving from 11:00 A.M. till 6:00 P.M. — *Trestle Board*

Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 has granted a request from the town of Hookerton. The southeast corner of the lodge property will be the home of a new living, town Christmas tree.

The lodge has elected two new honorary members, Giles Stroud and Thomas Mooring. — *The Jerusalem Journal*

Warsaw

Since local firefighters and police are usually working during Warsaw 677 Veteran's Day event, the lodge decided to have a special appreciation day for them on June 6. They had them over for a pancake breakfast. — Warsaw Lodge

Franklin

Junaluskee 145 held their Annual Family Night and Memorial Service May 19. Bob Kraus conducted the ceremony honoring the lodge members who died in the past year. They also had a program on the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

The lodge is selling ten-dollar denim caps with a lodge logo. Since Lindsey Bell donates all the caps, that means 100% of receipts go to the lodge. — *Trestleboard*

Waynesville

On May 16, Waynesville 259 was hosting a poorman's supper to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the local York Rite chapter. — Mike Hooper

Kernersville

On June 13, Kernersville 669 held a pancake and sausage fundraiser.

South Mills

Ben Stallings promised the lodge a fish fry if they hit an attendance challenge. They met his challenge almost immediately when 62 Masons, including several from just across the state line, attended a degree. The fish fry was held June 9. They are celebrating five initiations and passings. — *The Plumb Line*

Second annual on-line charity auction starts September 1

OXFORD — After a successful first year, the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford looks to build on its success by hosting their Second Annual Board of Directors On-Line Charity Auction. The 15 members of the Board have collected and donated a number of unique and valuable items, all available for you to bid on eBay with all proceeds benefiting the Masonic Home for Children.

“Our Board sees this as another way to contribute to the Home we care so much about, while introducing countless people to the cause of MHCO,” said Board Chairman and Grand Marshal Doug Caudle.

Last year's auction included athletic event tickets and many Masonic items, some of which drew the attention of Masons and museums from around the world. “We shipped a few items overseas and a museum in Philadelphia bid on two of our Masonic figurines to complete their collection,” said Development Director Chris Richardson. Any eBay user may place auction items on behalf of the Home, using eBay's Giving Works and Mission Fish, which support non-profits like MHCO. Non-profits can use Giving Works free of charge.

Visit <www.mhc-oxford.org> starting in September and click on the “Second Annual MHCO Auction” link. Users can also visit eBay and search for the Masonic Home for Children Auction. New items will be added every two days. Some of this year's items include a pair of ACC men's bas-

ketball tickets, autographed sports items, Carolina Panthers Suite ticket packages, vintage coin sets, and antique Masonic memorabilia. Grand Master Dan Rice is placing two handmade Masonic quilts on-line for auction.

The auction ends November 1. For more information call (888) 505-4357 or email crichards@mhc-oxford.org.

Third Christmas MHCO ornament

OXFORD — The Masonic Home for Children is offering a third limited edition Christmas ornament. This year's ornament features the spiritual center of the campus, the York Rite Chapel, built in 1951. The York Rite Chapel has served the children of MHCO and the community with services throughout the year. This gold-flashed brass ornament pictures a silhouette of the chapel and includes a brief history. Ornaments go on sale September 15 and will cost ten dollars plus shipping. Profits benefit the Sallie Mae Ligon Archives and Cobb Center Museum, which houses the history of MHCO. Only 400 ornaments will be produced, and orders can be placed by phone, or email, or purchased at Grand Lodge session in September. For more information visit the Home's website at <www.mhc-oxford.org>, email Tina Gilreath at tgilreath@mhc-oxford.org, or call 1-919-603-3906.



Clyde Lodge reaches out to neighbor kids

CLYDE — In an effort to share Masonry with their community, Clyde 453 recently donated \$500 to Special Needs Programs in each of two local elementary schools. Seen here at a formal presentation, are, from left, Clyde Lodge Master Geoff Cooper, retired teacher and lodge member Hugh K. Terrell, Clyde Elementary School Principal Jeff Haynes, Riverbend Elementary School Principal Greg Parker, Jack Shuler, and Lodge Treasurer Cecil Medford. — Geoff Cooper

Old Town 751 puts kids on wheels

WINSTON-SALEM — Old Town 751 was a local sponsor of the Bikes for Books project. The program rewards elementary students for improving their reading skills and habits. Several kids were moved from under achievement to excellence during the drive.

Nine bikes were given away in local elementary schools. Principals from Old Town Global Academy and Gibson School sent letters to the lodge thanking them for the inspiration for the kids. Staffers at all participating schools praised the program and reported progress in reading skill. — *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

Jones Masonic Campus gets a name

By Bryan Lassiter

CEDAR POINT — NC Masonry's newest retirement community has been named. Earlier this year, the Board of Directors chose the name Shell Pointe at Jones Masonic Campus as the name of the new retirement community in Eastern North Carolina. Many North Carolina Masons have already inquired about living at Shell Pointe, and at the time of this writing, we have over 60 in our Charter Club priority reservation list.

Initial marketing efforts were focused exclusively to Masonic households. In June, we began spreading the word about our new retirement community to the general public. While we have begun to advertise locally, we will continue to focus on the Masons of North Carolina as our primary market. To that end, we will be available to speak at lodges or other appendant bodies as needed. If there are Masons who want to know more about Shell Pointe at Jones Masonic Campus, we will be glad to come to where you are and make a 10 to 15 minute presentation. We would like for you to know first-hand about Shell Pointe's aim; the lifestyle and homes offered at Shell Pointe; and the surprisingly affordable fees associated with living at this beautiful, waterfront community. We would love to have you visit us at the Shell Pointe site in Carteret County. To schedule a presentation or a visit, call us at (252) 342-5562 or (877) 303-4562.

Private homes at Shell Pointe will include apartment homes, plantation villas, and courtyard cottages. These are available in a variety of size and price options. In addition to independent living, Shell Pointe will have assisted living available on site from the first phase of development. Come and see why we call Shell Pointe a jewel in the east.

Postal Chess Club

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA — The Masonic Postal Chess Club has been around since 1975. They pair up Master Mason chess players, beginners and masters, to play chess by mail. Nowadays, they have added email gaming to the mix. Dues are just \$20 a year.

You can get more information on participating by contacting club Secretary Dennis Plymette, 304 Longmeadow Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or <mpccsec@live.com>. — *Oregon Masonic News*

Ranger

Montgomery 426 hosted its Annual Homecoming Open House May 30. They were serving hickory-smoked, pulled pork barbecue. Chip Siller and the Wayfaring Strangers played bluegrass music for the crowd. — Derek Cheek

Shallotte

May 29 was fish fry time for Shallotte 727. Money from the cooking went to Masonic charities. — Shallotte Lodge

Bailey

Horace Meacombs has been reviewing Bailey 411's history. He's been reading minutes of the lodge and has extracted doings of the lodge from April 1916 through December 2008. He's recorded them all on compact disk for others who want to know the history. If you've done such a project in your lodge, please share a copy with the Grand Lodge so that the information may be shared with others.

Bailey Lodge is installing a memorial plaque saluting the lodge's past masters. Marshal Brock Jr. is making a walnut display to hold the nameplates. Charlie and Tyler Glover are getting the emblems and nameplates. — *Newsletter*

Chapel Hill

Mosaic 752 serves supper before every stated meeting — that's the first Monday night every month. Supper's at 6:00 P.M., visitors are welcome, Mason or not.

Zebulon

The 16th Masonic District celebrated Masonic Night with the Carolina Mudcats when they played the Chattanooga Lookouts on July 18. Tickets for Family Night were \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids. That included pavilion seating and all-you-can-eat burgers and dogs and fries, and Pepsi. — Harvey Evans

Spencer

Spencer 543 did a Port-A-Pit barbecue May 26. — John Wagoner

Henderson

For more than 15 years now, Henderson 229 has sponsored pre-prom entertainment for the kids at the Masonic Home for Children. They feed them supper and furnish their transportation to the junior-senior prom at J. F. Webb High School. This year, they took them and their dates to Middleburg Steakhouse. — Chris Richardson

BENEATH THE OAKS



The new/old St. John's Day

By Allen Hughes
Administrator
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

St. John's Day 2009 has come and gone without the parade and free entertainment, and it appears from first glance that the revised format met its goal. Several guests were energized by their visit to the Home and expressed a desire to get involved more.

The service in the chapel was one of special meaning and brought a more solemn expression of St. John's Day. It was not well-attended, but I would have been surprised otherwise. Just as with most of the national holidays set aside to commemorate special events - Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veteran's Day, etc. - St. John's Day had become one of festivity rather than focusing on the purpose of setting aside a special day of remembrance.

Donations given as a result of the St. John's Day activities far exceeded those of previous years. Despite serving a free meal to our guests, the expenses for St. John's Day were decreased significantly from prior years. It was a day that focused on our Home and our children. We were able to reach out to new Masons and first-time visitors, as well as long-time contributors, and give them a sense of the true value of their support.

The "Monday morning quarterbacking" also had a different slant. Instead of the usual complaints about the little things that went wrong, by mid-morning Monday after this St. John's Day

celebration, we had received three calls from some of the visitors who enjoyed the event and asked how they could help the Home and the children. We wanted St. John's Day activities this year to benefit the children in our Home, and, from all indications, it did.

We started planning for St. John's Day 2009 in August 2008 by asking two questions: (1) "Is there a volunteer who wants to take over the responsibility of organizing and coordinating all the activities for St. John's Day to keep the same format of years past?" and (2) "What is the purpose of St. John's Day?" Despite our efforts of trying to meet with the leaders of the Shrine Temples and other groups involved in St. John's Day, followed by written communications to the groups and the Craft as a whole, we got no positive answers and little constructive assistance.

Six years ago, the MHCO Board of Directors began meeting with the leaders of all groups involved to address the challenges of the St. John's Day celebration. Major concerns of the Home's Board of Directors and administration were the increasing demands placed on the smaller MHCO staff and the rising costs incurred by the Home for St. John's Day. Each successive year the same issues were addressed without resolution. This year we made a decision to address the problems head-on, but that decision drew a lot of complaints. However, the Board of Directors and I, as administrator, felt the change was in order. Yes, some guests said they missed the parade but almost in the same breath said they enjoyed the chapel service and the chance to meet the children.

Should we go back to the way it was in recent years? Do

we need a parade or big name entertainers to make St. John's Day a success? I don't know which way the wind will prevail, but if my vote counts, I say let's build on the change and make St. John's Day even more about the Home and the children we serve. Let's give the children an opportunity to put faces to some of the people who have helped change their lives, and let's offer more opportunity to those who have helped the children see the value of their support. I ask again, what should be the purpose of St. John's Day?

On special occasions, such as St. John's Day, we tend to remember and place importance on the things to which we become accustomed. The most recent 30 years or so, St. John's Day was synonymous with parade and entertainment, but for the 100+ years prior that was not the case. While I will readily admit to memory lapses, I recall only two events associated with St. John's Day during the ten years I lived "under the oaks." The first event was St. John's Day, June 24, 1955, on which the centennial cornerstone for the original St. John's Building was laid. The second was on June 28, 1958, when the cornerstone of the current St. John's Building was laid. Other than that, my childhood memories did not include St. John's Day. However, I have many fond memories of occasional bus loads of Masons visiting the campus to share Sunday lunch with us and tour the campus. It gave me a true sense that the Masons really cared about the "faceless" children they supported, and it gave me a chance to say "thank you" to those I escorted around campus. I haven't heard any of our children complaining about not having the parade this year, but I have heard comments about getting to meet "the nice people who came to visit." Our visits with the children can make a difference to them and to us.

NC Mason Deadlines

Table with 2 columns: Issue and Deadline. Rows include January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- A long list of names and numbers, likely representing new members or their dues status. The list is organized in columns and includes names like Craig Lee Blasingame, Eric Kenneth Elder, Gary Vinton Byrd, Steven Ray Greene, and Robert West Byrd.

SENIOR MOMENTS



Your update from WhiteStone

By Mark Kolada
Administrator
WhiteStone

One of the significant challenges I face, whenever I am asked to give presentations to lodges throughout the state, is trying to convey how special WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community is. Invariably, the vast majority of Brothers have never had an opportunity to visit the campus in Greensboro and thus may have misconceptions about what we do, who we serve, and how it is done. Admittedly, it is often difficult to hear criticism or be with people who are apathetic toward the community, because it is, in my view, such a wonderful place to live and work and is an excellent example of Masonic values on display. So if you have never been to Greensboro to visit the community or are new to the fraternity, here are a few reasons to be proud of your home in Greensboro.

History: Established in 1912, the community has been serving its two fraternities for over 97 years, providing members a special place to retire. Proud of our rich history, throughout our administrative and residential buildings are various pictures of the original Masonic Home, portraits of all 13 administrators, as well as a beautiful historic display of Eastern Star Jewels, memorabilia, write ups on important fraternal members throughout history, and, in our library, Masonic literature, and numerous editions of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter Proceedings from as far back as the 1930s.

Residents: Obviously, WhiteStone would not have survived this many years without the support of its residents. WhiteStone is currently made up of over 270 residents all of whom come from different parts of the state, and are retired from various professions. But for the vast majority who are fraternally connected, what makes WhiteStone truly special is the love and friendship they share with each other. Examples of the love shared are Independent Living residents who ensure that nursing home residents get taken to and from the chapel for Sunday services, a special committee of residents who give their neighbor's birthday and holiday cards spreading good cheer, and check in with each other when not feeling well. Our residents are also proud of "their home" and spend countless hours investing their time and money in making the community a better place to live, by doing things such as volunteering to help others, conducting special projects on their own like recently refinishing the chapel pews, planting flowers on campus, and serving on various committees so that they can help give feedback on how to improve services and amenities on campus.

Care: One of the most important aspects of our community is the quality of care we provide to our residents in the Care and

Wellness Center. Thanks to our knowledgeable and caring staff, state of the art equipment (much of which donated by fraternal members) and contractors, WhiteStone has an excellent reputation in the Triad area for providing stellar rehabilitation, personal care services, and dementia care. This is verified by numerous annual inspections by state officials. Visitors often comment not only on how nice and clean the center looks but also how friendly and helpful staff is toward the residents and how content they are. One of the things that separate WhiteStone's Care and Wellness Center from other nursing facilities is the continued emphasis on improvement in care and resident satisfaction.

Charity: All Masons and Eastern Star members can be extremely proud of the amount of charity WhiteStone provides each and every year. Thanks to the continued generosity of its fraternal members, WhiteStone is able to provide over \$1.8 million worth of charity to almost 70 fraternally related residents who would otherwise not have the financial resources to live at our community. Every penny of donations received are used to pay for such things as room and board, medical supplies, prescriptions, and required medical services. Know that, everyday, WhiteStone is committed to fulfilling its mission of providing fraternal support.

Staff: A little-known fact about WhiteStone is that it is a great place to work and continues to exemplify Masonic and Eastern Star ideals by striving to be a caring employer. WhiteStone is fortunate to have more than 180 employees who truly care about its residents and believe in our mission. WhiteStone is blessed to have experienced and caring staff led by a management team with over 50 years of tenure. WhiteStone works hard to provide competitive wage and benefits, but also believes in treating its employees well with special events such as health fairs, employee picnics, family day, and holiday gatherings. WhiteStone also believes strongly in making sure that all employees have access to training, education, and seminars that can help them do a better job. But, what truly makes our staff special are the relationships they develop with the residents to the point where many staff become extensions of our resident's families. It is not uncommon to walk around campus and see hugs being given, laughter shared, and tears shed between employees and the residents.

Chapel: The historic Chapel, built in 1940, is the sentimental favorite building for residents, staff, and visitors alike and is one of the first buildings you see when you drive through the campus gates. It is the oldest building on campus and is used daily for prayer, meetings, Sunday services, and Bible study. Musical chimes from the top of the Chapel fill the community air with hymns three times a day at 9:00 A.M., noon and 5:00 P.M. The Chapel front doors have engraved Masonic and Eastern Star symbols. The Chapel is adorned with several stain glass windows. Behind the pulpit is a beautiful mural of Christ praying, and was

painted in 1942 by a 72-year-old resident named Paul Olson of Unanimity lodge in Edenton.

Masonic and Eastern Star Culture: The fraternal culture is still very much alive and flourishing on campus. Although there were concerns a few years ago when the community was opened to non-fraternal residents, that the Masonic and Eastern Star culture would some how be diminished, the reality is that the community is as "fraternal" as ever. Masonic and Eastern Star symbols are clearly evident and proudly displayed at our front gates, as well as our large eastern star on our front lawn. You can't walk past a common area or apartment without seeing a sign commemorating a donation from a certain lodge or chapter. Within the past year, an Eastern Star Chapter has been started on campus with more than 50 residents and staff becoming members. A weekly Masonic coffee club and monthly Masonic luncheon was started, at which Masons from the community and various lodges in Greensboro get together for good food and fellowship.

As you can see there is plenty to be proud of at WhiteStone, however words do not do the community justice. If you are ever in the Greensboro area and would like a tour of the community to see for yourself how special it is, don't hesitate to give me a call at (336) 547-2992 or email me at mkolada@liveatwhitestone.org.

Let me help Masonry's charities

- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
- WhiteStone (MESH)
- The Masonic Home for Children
- Send information about wills and bequests.
- Please have someone contact me.

My name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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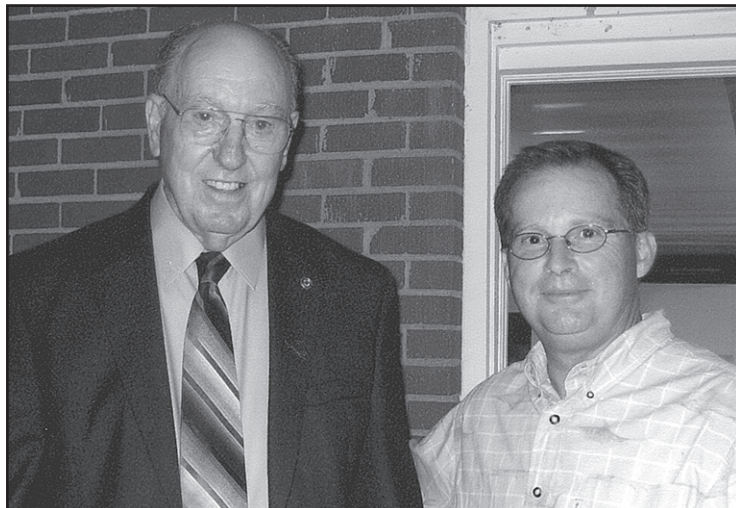
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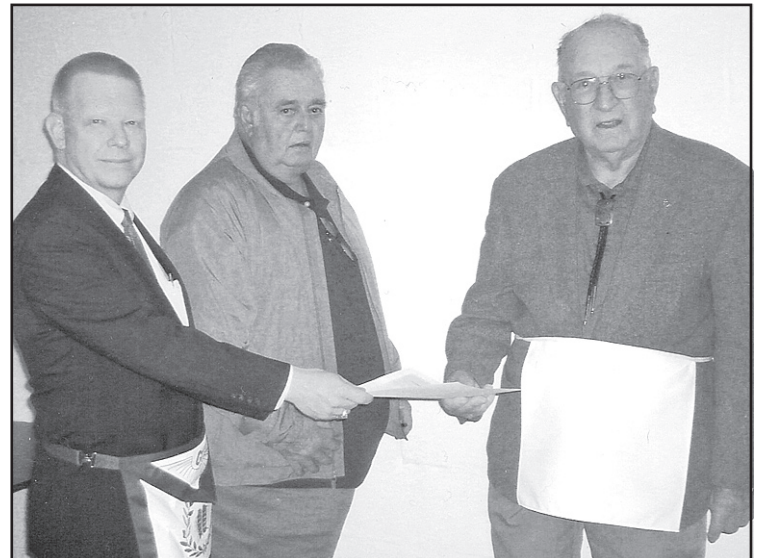
To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make the check payable to that charity.

Mail to The Grand Lodge of North Carolina,
PO Box 6506, Raleigh, NC 27628.

MILEPOSTS



BELHAVEN — On June 9, Belhaven 509 honored Martin Floyd Credle and Clyde Sutton with Diamond Jubilee Awards for 60 years Masonic membership. Sutton, left, is seen here with Belhaven Lodge Master Ricky Radcliffe. — Johnny Marvin Smith



FARMINGTON — Wade Groce, right, of Farmington 265 was recently presented his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years lodge membership. The award was presented by Jimmy Myers, left, and Master Yoman Smith, center. Groce has been an integral leadership role in many civic organizations including the Grange, Yadkin Valley Telephone Cooperative, Farmington Fire Department, Farmington Baptist Church, and building the Farmington Medical Center. — Craig P. Steelman



CHARLOTTE — Earlier this year, Jack Clifford Austin Jr., right, was presented his Veterans Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership. He is seen here receiving the award from his father, Jack Clifford Austin, himself a 60-year Mason. Both are past masters of Steele Creek 737. — Wray Moxley



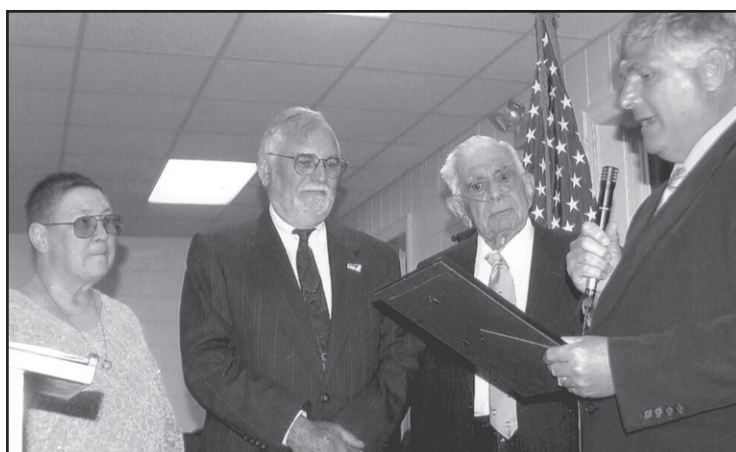
SPRING HOPE — Central Cross 187 recently presented Diamond Jubilee awards to two members. Grand Master Dan Rice, center, gave the 60-year membership awards to Alvin Vick Edwards, left, and Roscoe Lee Joyner, right. — Clyde Best



MOORESVILLE — Harry Moore, "somewhere north of 90 years," still attends Mooresville 496 regularly. On June 23, Moore, left, received his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years Masonic membership. Mooresville Lodge Master Richard Ferguson, right, presented the award. — Richard Ferguson



MURPHY — On June 1, Cherokee 146 presented service awards to several members. Veterans Emblems for 50 years membership went to James Franklin Smith, left, and Harry Howard Burgess, right.



WENDELL — On March 7, Wendell 565 Master Rodney Brown received his Veteran's Emblem honoring his 50 years as a Mason. Grand Master Dan Rice made the presentation with the assistance of O. G. Spell who raised Brown in 1958. Seen here, from left, are Brown's wife Laverne, Brown, Spell, and Rice. — Ray Burch



AFGHANISTAN — Joshua Weaver is a member of Semper Fidelis 680 stationed in Afghanistan with the Second Marine Expeditionary Force. He recently found himself meeting former British Prime Minister Tony Blair at his base. Blair posed for a photo with the sergeant. — Howard Kahn



Brad Garner photo

GM visits Fayetteville VA Health Center

FAYETTEVILLE — Grand Master Dan Rice visited the Fayetteville VA Hospital May 26 where he was greeted by hospital staff and volunteers of the the Masonic Service Association's Hospital Visitation Program. Seen here, from left, are Marie Robinson-McLaughlin, associate chief, Patient Care Services/ Long-Term Care; John Lynch (Phoenix 8), retired MSA coordinator; Norma Fraser, chief of Voluntary Service; Claude Capps (Clifford Duel 756), MSA coordinator; Rosalyn Cole, associate director; Grand Master Dan Rice; Junior Grand Deacon Dalton Mayo; and Jim Hay (Stedman 730). — Dalton Mayo



Mac Sigmon photos

St. John's Day returns to an earlier model

OXFORD — 2009 was a year for rethinking the St. John's Day celebration at the Masonic Home for Children. Without a volunteer to coordinate the long running event, the Home was forced to return the celebration to an earlier model without the parade and lunch under the oaks.

There was an early morning lodge meeting and a devotional service in the chapel. There were bouncing games for the children and booths with refreshments and trinkets to raise

money for the individual cottages. Home grad Grand Master Dan Rice conducted a tour of the campus featuring many of his personal recollections of life at the Home. Guests had tours from the kids and enjoyed a lunch in the cafeteria.

Home Administrator Allen Hughes has a report from the new celebration in his column on page six of this issue of The North Carolina Mason. Special thanks go to Mack Sigmon of Catawba 248 for his pictures from St. John's Day.



Woodard turns 106

RALEIGH — At 106 years old, Macon Watson Woodard, center, is likely the oldest Mason in North Carolina. The Hiram 40 member was born the same year as powered flight, the World Series, Ford Motor Company, the teddy bear, and the Tour de France bicycle race. A group from Hiram Lodge went by to pay him a visit and present him a special commendation on his birthday. He became a Mason in 1936. Woodard is seen here, center, with Chuck Henline (master of Hiram 40), left, and Frank Putney (Hiram 40's oldest past master). Word is that Woodard was anxious to move things along with the visit — he was getting ready to drive over to see his girlfriend — really. — Tom Imler

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The Masonic Carolina Pig Jig was held in May to its biggest attendance ever. Details of the big barbecue event are on page one.

Ric Carter photo