



NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina



Volume 135 Number 2

Oxford, North Carolina

March/April 2010

Lake evens the scales of justice

By Ric Carter

RALEIGH — There are societal parallels to Masonic teaching and its promotion of the search for light. Education is certainly one, and Masons have exemplified that search in their promotion of schools and colleges around the country. But, in North Carolina this year, it would be hard to find a more striking example of the search for light than in the criminal justice system.

As you might expect, there is a Mason intimately involved with the existence of the Innocence Inquiry Commission, the country's only state-financed body charged with insuring justice in cases where all appeals have been exhausted. I. Beverly Lake Jr., a lifelong conservative jurist, was Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court from 2001 through 2006. No small number of people in the law enforcement and justice system were taken aback when Chief Justice Lake started talking about the system being flawed. Alliances and friendships were taxed by what some saw as his seeming relaxation of the tried and true conservative maxim of law and order.

Lake says, "We have got the best criminal justice system in the world. It is absolutely the best in the world. But, it is not perfect. It is made by men and women, so we do make mistakes occasionally." While Chief Justice, Lake had been talking with his law clerk, Chris Mumma.

Mumma, on her own time Lake stresses, taught at UNC and Duke law schools. With the help of law students from UNC, Duke, Wake Forest, and Campbell universities, she examined cases of possible wrongful convictions. When she found convincing cases, she shared them with Lake. As more and more suspicious cases became apparent, Lake began to think that some other form of review might be necessary. By November of 2002, he was convinced.

He set up the Actual Innocence Study Commission with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police chiefs, and victims. "I noticed at the first meeting that the prosecutors sat on one side of the room and defense attorneys on the other side of the room. I told them, 'This is not going

to work. This is not an adversarial process."

"Our basic system is adversarial, and it's worked well. This goes beyond that. I want us to look at some of the mistakes we have obviously made and see why we made those mistakes and see how we can correct them." In 2006, the North Carolina Legislature created the Innocence Inquiry Commission to give a last avenue of hope to those wrongfully convicted.

Today's Commission consists of eight members: a Superior Court judge, a prosecuting attorney, a criminal defense attorney, a sheriff, a victims' rights advocate, a member of the public, and two additional discretionary appointments.

Speaking with Lake on the day that the Commission first freed a man wrongfully imprisoned for 17 years, Lake spoke of calls from eight to ten other states about how the program works, including an email from Connecticut's Chief Justice the previous week. "It is going nationwide, in my opinion."

What made Bev Lake become a Mason?

Lake says, "I heard a lot of good things over the years about the work of Masons. I had several friends in the Masonic order." He mentioned Dick Ellis from local radio and television, Rufus Edmisten, for whom he worked for a short time in the Attorney General's Office, and Raleigh lawyer Earl Purser, a student of his father's. Lake was raised in Raleigh 500 in 1981.

He was grand orator for Grand Master Jerry Tillett in 2002. Lake spoke then about the duties of Masons in society. He encouraged especially the duty we have as Masons to pass along to young people the values we have come to appreciate — that they have a duty to public service. "We have to appreciate," says Lake, "the foundation we were given by our founding fathers through civics and history. I think that's a very serious mission for the Masons."

The other lesson we can take from the example of our brother is to be true to the light, to stand up for truth and the innocent, even if it makes our friends doubt us.



Ric Carter photo

Brother Lake sat in his living room immediately after the Innocence Commission he inspired freed a man for the first time. Waves of media interviews quickly followed to learn more about this innovative justice program.

White House stone exhibit opens

By Mark A. Tabbert

ALEXANDRIA — The George Washington Masonic Memorial opened a new exhibit in February featuring 45 historic White House stones. Each stone is marked by a Scottish stonemason who helped build the White House. The stones are reassembled for the first time since President Harry S. Truman sent one to every United States Masonic grand lodge in 1952. Complementing the stones is a minute book from the Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Scot-

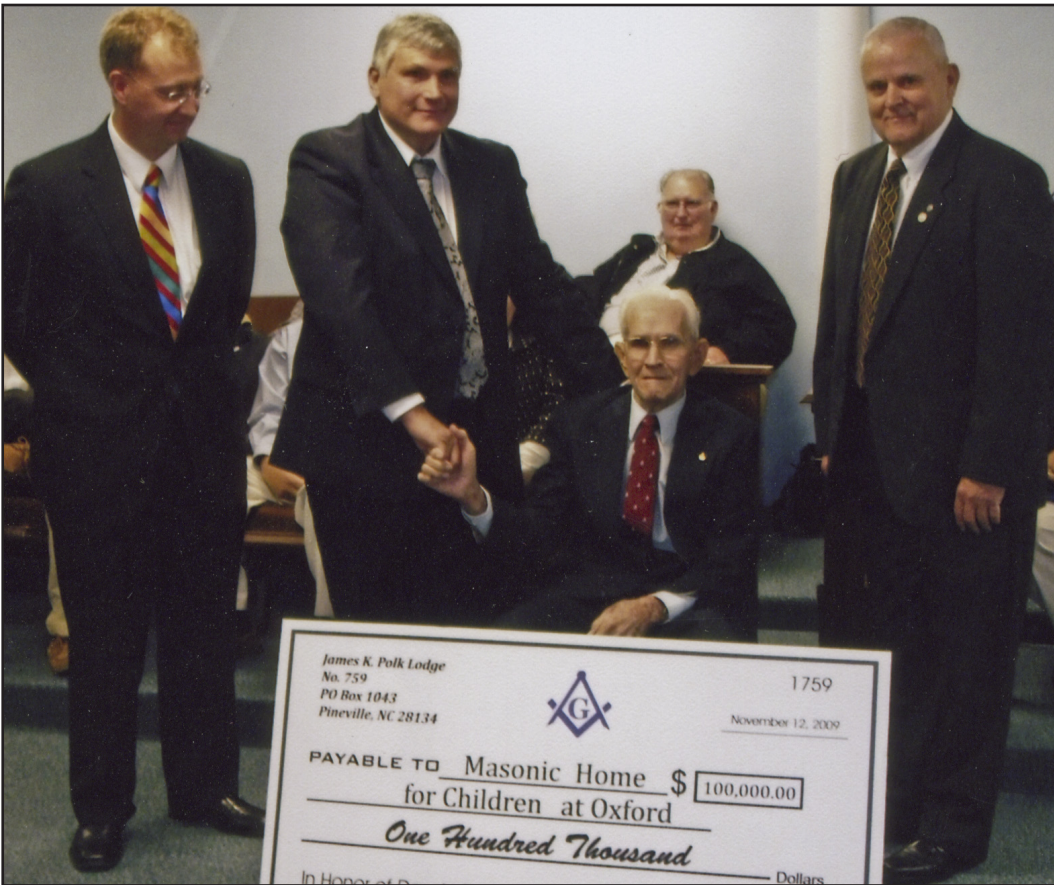
land. It lists members of the lodge who, in 1794, immigrated to help build the White House. Accompanying the minute book is the lodge's mark book, showing each stonemason's trade mark. By comparing these marks to the marks on the stones, visitors may identify the men who helped to build the President's House. The exhibit opened in conjunction with the Memo-

see STONES, page 5



Mark Tabbert photo

Several of the White House foundation stones have returned to their community to help mark the George Washington Masonic National Memorial's centennial.



Polk makes major donation

PINEVILLE — On December 10, James K. Polk 759 presented the Masonic Home for Children \$100,000 in honor of Darwin Byrum. Seen here at the check presentation are, from left, Home for Children Director of Financial Development and Marketing, Past Grand Master Dan C. Rice, Darwin Byrum, and 32nd District Deputy Grand Master Jack Thrower. — Randy Richardson

THE BOTTOM LINE



In and out of the lodge

By William L. Dill
Grand Master

The season is ending, the season that is for Blue Lodges to hold their annual installation of officers. Each year it seems I tend to install more and more officers in their respective lodges. The more times you do the ceremony of installation the more familiar it becomes.

This year it is especially true. As grand master, certain passages of the ceremony have really stayed with me. Such are the ancient charges and regulations which point out the duty of a master of a lodge. I find it unsettling, to install not just a master-elect but also his officers, when I learn that not one of them has read previously the ceremony of installation. None are aware of the responsibilities and obligations they are accepting as they progress through the chairs. It is a wonder that later during the year we often hear the remark, "I didn't know that was my job."

Just in the fifteen regulations of Free and Accepted Masons are found the plan for a master to follow in leading his lodge. Each master is directly asked: "Do you submit to these charges and promise to support these regulations, as masters have done in all ages before you?" I daresay every master installed answered "I do!"

It does not take a brilliant person to recognize those masters who answer "I do" and mean it and those who do not. Just listen to the credentials report at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. Those lodges not present are quickly identified and are often pointed out as those who have not had representation in a number of years. Masons from the districts of the missing lodges often notice they are also absent from annual schools of instruction year after year.

Let us consider the charge upon the installation of the master of a lodge. The passage that has deeply impressed upon me the responsibility of a master is: "Forcibly impress upon them the dignity and high importance of Masonry, and seriously admonish them never to disgrace. Charge them to practice out of this lodge those duties which are taught in it." Practice out of this lodge those duties which are taught in it. What a powerful charge, what an awesome responsibility, and what an enormous expectation placed on each of us.

First is to have the brethren attend lodge. How else can they be taught what Masonry expects of them? Each Master admits that it is not in the power of any men or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry. Freemasonry is what it is. We may change the ritual or how we instruct the brethren, but we do not change Masonry. It has survived for hundreds of years because we do change it, it changes us.

Second we must instruct the brethren. Programs at our lodge meetings are outstanding. They cover a vast range of topics. From explaining something in our ritual to having a guest present a topic of interest to the brethren. These are all good. But we must go further.

When was the last time your lodge had an educational program on what Freemasonry truly teaches. We are, as Past Grand Master William Mathis brought out during his year, "a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." When did we stop teaching the principles of pure morality, the ethics of pure religion, the doctrines of brotherly love, and the sentiments of exalted benevolence?

As I travel, whether at a lodge, or Wilkerson College, or in personal discussion, the question always comes up: "Where can I get good Masonic Education?" From where does the light searched for by each candidate come? The Great Light in Masonry rests upon our sacred altar, in the center of our lodge. It sits there for a purpose. "From it we may learn our duty to God, our neighbors, and ourselves." What more can anyone ask?

As our need for quality Masonic instruction grows and changes, we must all come together and return to our basic fundamentals of Freemasonry. And always remember to instruct all brethren to practice out of this lodge those duties which are taught in it.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Keeping up with brothers

Keeping up with friends is a two-way street. You cannot assign all the responsibilities of maintaining an old friendship to your friend. Sometimes, you are the one who must make the first call after months of quiet. It's not always easy or simple to be the first caller, but someone has to do it if the relationship is to continue.

The same rules apply to lodge affiliations. It's not unusual for the Grand Lodge office to get a note from a Masonic widow asking that her late husband's name be removed from a Masonic mailing list. "He died last spring, and nobody from the lodge has asked the first thing about him in the three years he was sick."

The reflex is sometimes to ask, "When was the last time he attended lodge?" In many cases, these men have not been in lodge for 20 years before their illness.

"Did he let anyone at the lodge know that he was sick?" The member may well be the only source of such information his lodge has.

The Grand Lodge sees lodge exclusions for non-payment of dues every year with disclaimers that nothing has been heard from a member in "years."

"He hasn't told us anything" is often preceded by a call asking for Masonic funeral services for a man excluded three years ago who has been suffering Alzheimer's Disease for five years.

Who's to blame? Everyone. Please, you be the grownup this year.

You take the initiative to let your lodge know that you need some help making your dues.

You be the one to check and see if an old friend may be suffering a dementia problem (frequently, his family may not know to call you).

You be the one to tell your family that if your health gets bad, to let your lodge know your dilemma.

You be the one to call some mutual friends to find out why mail is coming back undeliverable for a lodge member.

You be the one to maintain that relationship.



Grand Master's Conference held in February

ALEXANDRIA — Several officers of the Grand Lodge attended the Conference of Grand Masters in North America in February. The conference allows grand masters from all over the continent to discuss common concerns and solutions over three days each February. They took the train to the meeting. They are seen here waiting for an Amtrak departure in Alexandria, at the foot of Shooter's Hill, the site of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Seen above are, from left, Senior Grand Warden Bob Gresham, Grand Treasurer Cliff Everett, Junior Grand Warden Dewey Presslar, and Grand Master Billy Dill. At right are, from left, Deputy Grand Master Lew Ledford, Grand Master Dill, Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, and Past Grand Master Berry Rigdon.



You're invited

Oregon Trail commemoration July 3-4

INDEPENDENCE ROCK, WY — Celebrate the first Masonic communication in Wyoming, which was held at the crest of Independence Rock July 4, 1862. The celebration comes every ten years, and 2010 is the time. Get down with your bad cowboy self on the Oregon Trail with camping, a wagon train, assembly on the Rock, and cowboy poetry. There are motel accommodations for the dude ranchers interested in history only. Celebration events begin July 3, and the tiled meeting on the Rock opens at 1:00 P.M. July 4. For details contact PGM

Clarence Darling, 7131 Sharrock Road, Casper, Wyoming 82604-9314, <cowboylemm@aol.com> or PGM Don Porter, 1014 South 13th Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070, <donporter1666@msn.com>.

Car show May 15

CREEDMOOR — Creedmoor 499 will be holding a car show at Ellington-Brim Chevrolet from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. May 15. Entry fee is only \$20, and there are lots of specialty prizes for best in the show. The top 75 cars will get trophies. Come to look or come to compete. For more information call Tommy Keith at (919) 801-3799, <csm-keith@ymail.com> or Rick Haskins at (919) 691-4289.

Eagle Lodge works to preserve their heritage



New online edition ready

By Ric Carter

Back in late October, Phoenix 8 member Tony Duffer contacted us about improving the Internet presentation of *The North Carolina Mason*. Duffer is director of Digital & Mobile Media at Advantage Newspaper Consultants in Fayetteville, a company specializing in moving newspapers into the electronic age. Duffer talked about how much Masonry meant to him and how he would like to give something back to his brothers in North Carolina.



What he wanted to do was donate use of his company's epageflip technology to make *The NC Mason* a richer online experience. The new form of presentation gives the reader the ability to flip pages and search content of each edition of the paper. Navigation and viewing are simplified.

We went online with epageflip with the January/February issue. Additionally, the 2009 issues are now archived on the service, allowing you to browse recent issues. Older issues are still available online in older formats. To see any available past issue, got to <http://grandlodge-nc.org/nc-mason.htm>.

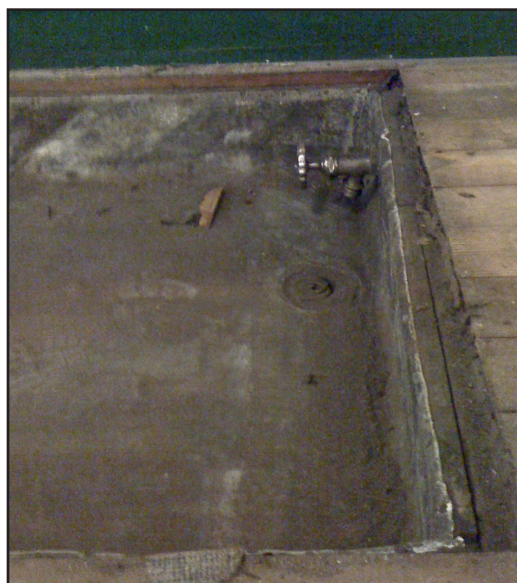
A recently published paper of The Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the world's premier Masonic

research lodge recognized *The North Carolina Mason* as likely the world's first grand lodge "e-Zine," a journal made available electronically on the Internet. In *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, Volume 121, Trevor McKeown's extensive study "An Historical Outline of Freemasons on the Internet," cites many early uses of the medium by Freemasonry around the world. The *electronicNCMason* (a.k.a. *eNCMason*, the "stripped-down, online

version of the real thing") first appeared 17 years ago this issue when the March/April 1993 issue of the *eNCMason* first appeared on computerized bulletin boards around the country and on the Internet via AOL and CompuServe. Those issues were a text-only edition produced just for the medium. Beginning with the July/August 1996 edition, we went to a PDF format which preserved photos and graphics and original look of the entire paper. We now advance another step.

The next time you run into Brother Duffer, tell him we all said, "Thanks."

Trevor McKeown is grand historian of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon and edits their grand lodge newsletter.



The faucet end of the sink.

Asheville's mystery tub

By Ric Carter

ASHEVILLE — Mount Hermon 118 is renovating many parts of the Masonic Temple in downtown Asheville. Among the many details, they are restoring the floors in the lodge room. The floors had been covered by carpet for years and were apparently covered in linoleum for some time also. The wood floor had never had a finish applied. They are sanding the floors and finishing them with tung oil.

While renewing the floors, they discovered a mystery under the seating. On pulling up a section of flooring on the first riser, they found a



The positioning of the sink under the concealing floor is seen here.

large trough. It has a faucet that still works and drain. The metal trough is 30 inches wide, 16 feet long, and four inches deep.

While designed and built to house Masonic meetings, in 1918 the lodge converted its facility into a hospital to treat African Americans suffering from Spanish influenza.

What is this just discovered pan? There have been no proven answers. Send us your guesses as to the original use of the long, hidden pan, or sink, or tub or whatever it is.

NC Mason Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Approximate Publication Date
January/February	January 1	February 1
March/April	March 1	April 1
May/June	May 1	June 1
July/August	July 1	August 1
September/October	September 1	October 1
November/December	November 1	December 1

NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

(USPS 598-260) is published bimonthly by The Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina, 2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608. Third class postage paid at Oxford, NC 27565. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The North Carolina Mason*, School Of Graphic Arts, Masonic Home for Children, Oxford, NC 27565.

Grand Master William L. Dill
Board Of Publication John O. Newman Jr., Chairman
Gary R. Ballance
Don E. Bolden
Thomas A. Pope Jr.
Hugh K. Terrell Jr.
Editor Ric Carter

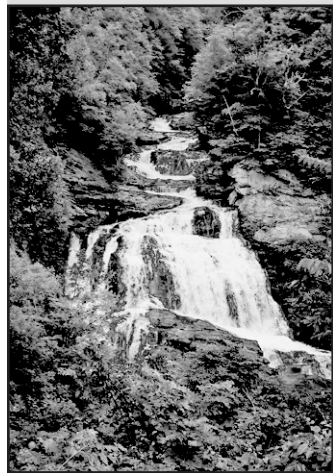
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TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter



Statesville

Kevin Combs launched four initiatives as part of his year as Statesville 27's master. 1. A wage increase for all Master Masons. That will take the form of a pat on the back, or recognition in lodge or in the lodge newsletter. 2. Attendance goals. He will contribute ten dollars to Masonic charity each time a meeting of his lodge opens with more than 25 present. (January alone cost him \$30) 3. Perfect Attendance Award. Awardees can get two mulligans, the first free, the second requires participation in a special event. 4. Rookie Mason of the Year recognition.

Statesville Lodge will be participating in the Iredell County Relay for Life May 21-22. The event takes place nationwide to raise money and awareness for the fight against cancer.

Statesville enjoyed their Ladies' Night February 16. After a nice dinner, they put three couples on the spot playing the Duly Wed Game.

Two Statesville Lodge members recently received their Veteran's Emblems for 50 years Masonic membership. Thomas Nason Chandler and Fred Lewis Gurley Jr. were presented the awards November 7. — *The Joppa Informer*

Garner

Garner 701 was using their Valentine dinner as a fundraiser as well as a celebration. They were serving steak and lobster at the ladies' event. Tickets to the February supper were \$15 each or \$25 per couple. Proceeds were going to the Masonic Homes. — *Garner Lodge 701 Newsletter*

Greensboro

Things are going gangbusters all over North Carolina when it comes to making Masons. Gate City 694 is a standout among standouts. This report is from early January. Gate City initiated 21 in 2009, raising ten of them before the end of the year. They raised nine in a one week period in early January 2010. They had seven being coached in their Master Mason catechism and seven studying their Entered Apprentice memory work. At the same time, they had four in waiting for the first degree and three petitions in progress. Hope they don't have a Lecture Service that has to be done soon.

Twenty-five members showed up to clean Gate City Lodge's stretch of Greensboro's Adopt-A-Street. They "picked up the normal and the abnormal from the sides of the road" from North Holden Road between Benjamin Parkway and Bicentennial Park.

Gate City is weighing dates in May, June, July, and September as dates for their annual two visits to see the Greensboro Grasshoppers play baseball. — *Trestleboard*

Charlotte

Excelsior 261's first fellowship activity for 2010 was a field trip to the Sports Connection in Balantyne for three hours of bowling.

— *Trestleboard*

Charles M. Setzer 693 enjoyed a red and white night when their Valentine-themed Ladies' Night was dusted with a pretty snow. Everyone had a "wonderful" time anyway.

Setzer Lodge has held several visitation events with local Prince Hall Masons. In February, they presented Charles Sharpe, the Prince Hall Mason who helped coordinate the visits, an honorary membership. It is one of the first honorary memberships presented by one of our lodges to a member of North Carolina's other grand lodge. — *Trestleboard*

The officers of Temple 676 have issued an attendance challenge to their membership. If the attendance goal is met, each officer will donate ten dollars (\$110 total) to the Masonic Home for Children. They missed by one man in January. No word has been received on February's damage.

Temple Lodge's guest speaker in March was to be a representative of UNC-Charlotte's chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity. The group was founded in 1869, and its modern ritual was written by Mason Stephen Alfonso Jackson. Two members of Temple Lodge (Tim Berly and Tim Counts III) are alumni of the fraternity as are Bob Dole, Jimmy Buffett, Robert Redford, and Edward R. Murrow. — *Trestle Board*

Paw Creek

West Gate 738 recently made life members of father and son team of Tom and Bob Dooley to honor their years of service to the lodge.

West Gate Lodge held their Ladies' Night Dinner February 20. They served ribeye steaks and entertained with a bluegrass band.

Things really start to pick up in March at West Gate. The Senior Golf Group was to crank up for the year on March 10. Call Charlie Sherer if you'd like to take part. The lodge's Spring Chicken Fry was set for March 19. — *News from the West*

Franklin

The Junaluske Comets (a girls basketball team sponsored by Junaluske 145) won their league championship. The lodge entertained the champs with pizza and hot dogs January 5. The girls gave the lodge and Coach Gregg Jones a plaque of appreciation for their help.

Jim Dautel has spiffed up the sitting area in front of the fireplace at Junaluske Lodge. He's given the lodge sofas and love seats making the area perfect for conversation, visiting, and coaching.

There's a veritable retail shop at Junaluske lodge. They sell pocket calendars, caps, and hats at this time. — *Trestleboard*

Pilot Mountain

December 21 was delivery day for fruit baskets for the widows of Pilot 493. J. T. drove, Dickie navigated, and Gerald complained about being cold in the back seat. At least that's the way Rick Smith reports it.

Pilot Lodge's barbecue fundraiser dates for 2010 have been announced. They are April 24 and November 13.

Pilot Lodge's most recent blood drive brought in 43 units, 13 over goal.

Dale Goins was recently named an honorary member of Pilot 493. — *The Pilot Mountain Traveler*



Dignitaries attend Thomasville celebration

THOMASVILLE — They're celebrating their 150th birthday at Thomasville 214 this year. When they held their open installation December 15, several local dignitaries were on hand. Among the honored visitors were Thomasville Mayor Joe Bennett, City Councilman Neil Grimes, and Davidson County Commissioner Sam Watford. Past Grand Master David R. Cash was the installing officer. Seen here are, from left, PGM Cash, newly installed Master Darrell Wilson, Mayor Bennett, and Commissioner Watford. — *Darrell W. Wilson*

Archdale

Bush Hill 732 got off to a running start by initiating six candidates in January. That should keep them busy for a few months.

— *Richard Wall*

Clayton

Granite 191 used to feed on fourth Tuesdays, but they've now added second Tuesdays as "Cook Out Night." The lodge furnishes a salad, a potato, and a hot grill. The member brings chicken, or steak, or pork chop, or whatever hunk of meat he wants for supper. They are invited to bring family members or friends interested in joining.

— *Grover Dees*

Wilson

The 2010 Bruce Boyette Scholarship and Masonic Charities Golf Tournament was set for April 2. They were again playing at Happy Valley County Club. The tournament was open to Masons and non-Masons alike. There was a separate contest within the tournament to choose the best lodge team. Entry fees were \$220 for a four-man team. — *Tony Ferrell*

Spruce Pine

Reaching out to their neighbors included lots of charity last year at Vesper 554. They gave their widows poinsettias at Christmas. They sent their annual donations to the Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone (MESH). They also aided local charities including the Muscular Dystrophy Society, Mitchell County Hospice, a local schools reading program, Mitchell Parks and Recreation, and Shriners Hospitals for Children. — *The Beacon*

Fayetteville

Talk about a good problem, Phoenix 8 has been holding a monthly Masonic breakfast. A turnout of 50 people required the officers to hustle out for more food. No one complained about the extra work. — *Lodge Newsletter*

John Huske Anderson 731 handed out special awards February 10. The Harry S. Truman Award went to Phillip Edney for stimulating attendance and petitions. The Benjamin Franklin Award went to Archie Bullard for his candidate coaching dedication. Ted Brinson got the King Solomon Award for diligent commitment to the lodge. — *Eric Frazee*

Black Mountain

Local emergency services workers and their families were to be honored by Black Mountain 663 on February 15. They were feeding their guests lasagna.

Lodge Master Matthew Kinne has promised to donate \$20 to Masonic charities each time 20 members attend a stated communication. — *The Traveling Trowel*

Wilmington

St. John's 1 passed out service awards at their January 12 meeting. Diamond Jubilees (60 years membership) went to Walter Raimey Dixon, George Stanly Rehder, Alfred Melton Wingfield, and Randolph Ladd Coble. Veteran's Emblems (50 years membership) were awarded to Dallis Emery Bennett, Jemison Williams Durant, John Wilson Parmenter Jr., Henry Vanson Reid, and James Earl Vann. — *St. John's Lodge*

Belhaven

The Third Masonic District held its first district meeting January 23 at Fish Hooks Restaurant. The new get-togethers will be held the second Monday of each quarter. The next meeting is April 12 at Perseverance 59 in Plymouth. Hosting lodges will furnish the meal and speaker. A plaque will go to the lodge with best attendance. — *The Trestleboard*

Wallace

Past Masters' and Awards Night at Wallace 595, back on October 5, featured chicken and pastry for dinner. — *Jeff Murray*

Gibsonville

Tabasco 271 will be cooking and selling barbecue on April 23. The fundraiser will coincide with Gibsonville's Car Show and Spring Fling. Tabasco member Bob Prudhon got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years in our fraternity. District Deputy Grand Master Hugh McLaurin III made the presentation. — *Trestle Board*

Asheville

Renovations on the Asheville Masonic Temple's lodge room are wrapping up. Many other projects are afoot in the historic building in downtown Asheville. Frustrations with the cost of upkeep of the building led recently to Scottish Rite abandonment of the 95-year-old landmark. Mount Hermon 118, as the sole occupier of the building, has instituted a plan to try to save the edifice. — *Trestle Board*

Thomasville

Master's bribes are becoming popular around the state. At Thomasville 214, Master Darrell Wilson has pledged to put \$50 in the lodge till every time attendance at one of his meetings exceeds 30 members.

March is pine needle month in Thomasville Lodge. That's when they deliver bales of pine straw at five dollars per bale. Profits go to the Masonic Home for Children. — *Trestle Board*

Cary

Cary 198 is reviving their charity golf tournament. They'll be playing the Lonnie Poole Golf Course at North Carolina State University on April 26. The Home for Children in Oxford will benefit. — *Trestle Board*

Murphy

Cherokee 146 has been doing so much degree work; they've set every Monday as a regular practice.

Cherokee Lodge got to raise money for charity by just taking their families out to dinner. Brothers Restaurant promised to send 15% of all February 9 meal sales to the Masonic Home for Children. — *Derek Cheek*

Robbinsville

Robbinsville 672 had a Poor Man's Pot Luck Supper January 9. Members were urged to each bring a dish to the event. — *Jim Hyde*

Chadbourn

Family Night and Awards Dinner at Chadbourne 607 was set for January 30. Carlton Edwards Nance was to get his Veterans Emblem for 50 years membership, and Harry Pittman Floyd was to get his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years. — *George W. Baysden Jr.*

Canton

Sonoma 472 had more than 30 veterans bussed over from the Asheville VA Center for their third annual Veterans' Dinner in November. — *Mike Hooper*

Raleigh

James B. Green 735 has a "thanks" column in their newsletter. It simply salutes those who do the little things around the lodge — taking pictures at installation, decorating some tables, fixing refreshments, coaching a candidate. — *The James B. Green Scene*

Mount Gilead

Blackmer 127 has started a Floor Fund to replace their worn carpet in the lodge room with a mosaic floor with indented tessel and blazing star.

Blackmer's Charlie Reid Robinson recently received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership. — *Blackmer Buzz*

South Mills

New Lebanon 314 averaged 30 present at their meetings last year, not bad for a lodge with barely 100 members. They were a popular visit for neighboring lodges, including a couple in Virginia. — *The Plumb Line*

Lewisville

Local Masons held a fish fry March 13 to help the family of their friend, Paul Huffman of West Bend 434. Huffman's grandson has been battling leukemia since 2003. The fundraiser was to help the family with medical and personal expenses associated with stem-cell treatments at Duke. — *Joey Transou*

Cherryville

There was to be a poor man's supper at Cherryville 505 on February 17 to raise money for the lodge's Christmas in July program at the Masonic Home for Children. The menu, if you can have one for a poor man's supper, included beans, liver mush, cabbage, potatoes, slaw, and more. There was even bluegrass music.

Cherryville Lodge is looking at parking lot repairs. As many of you might have noticed, the severe winter we just lived through has been pretty tough on pavement. — *News Out of the Blue*

Goldsboro

Wayne 112 and Goldsboro 634 sponsored a blood drive January 12. They brought in 42 units of blood, pretty good considering only 30 were expected. — *Bob Franks*

Chapel Hill

Dustin Long, newly installed master of University 408, was recently awarded the Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by Graduate Teaching Assistants. The Tanner rewards "inspirational teaching." Long is a graduate student in the School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. He was presented the award during halftime of a Tarheel men's basketball game in Smith Center. — *Will Towne*

Mosaic 762 has changed its meeting night to second Mondays. Supper is served at 6:00 o'clock.

Bahama

Knap of Reeds 158 was holding their Ladies' Night February 19 at the Homestead Steakhouse Plantation in Timberlake. — *Kenneth R. Baker*

Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 helped create a family tradition for dual member John O. Moore. Jerusalem did a courtesy initiation for Farmville 517 as Moore's son Cameron began his Masonic journey. — *The Jerusalem Journal*

Washington

Orr 104 has started a lodge newsletter, *The Trestleboard*. — *The Trestleboard*

see STATE, page 5

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, happy, and informed.

Spencer adds fun to school start

OXFORD — An event the children at the Masonic Home for Children look forward to each year is the Back to School Pool Party. The party is a joint project of Spencer 545, Spencer Eastern Star 51, and Pat and Jeff Phillips. This is the time when the school supplies they have collected during the year are delivered.

Last August's Pool Party started with loading with a ton (actual) of school supplies getting a rental truck. People piled into several cars for the journey east. It seemed that once they had crossed the Yadkin River, the bottom fell out. Each time they thought the downpour was over; along came the rain again. After a very slow drive, they finally arrived at Oxford.

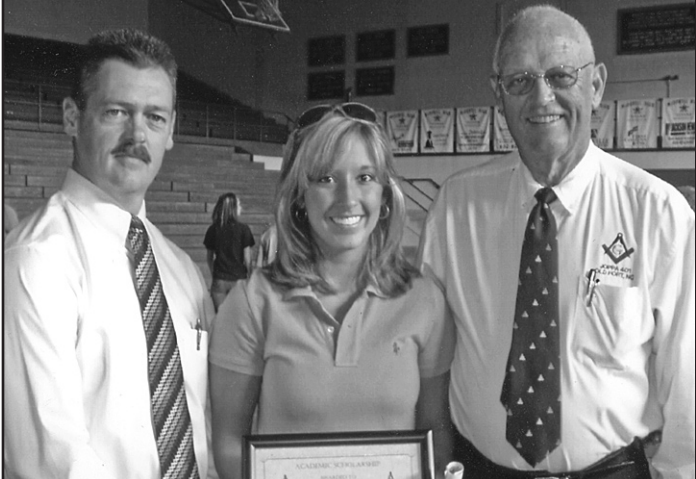
In Oxford, the sky was dark and threatening. Just as everything was being set up, the bottom fell out again, and Home officials thought that the party would be called off. But soon, the rains ended, and the sun shone brightly. D.J. (and 28th District deputy grand master) Steve Schenk set up his equipment. Pat and Jeff setup their snack tent, and the door prizes were displayed so that the children could see what would soon belong to someone.

With the coming of clearing skies, the children began to appear from their cottages. They headed straight to the pool and for the junk food at the snack tent. They danced, they swam, and they ate. They even threw John Hatley (fully clothed) into the pool. Everyone had great fun. The better weather also let them get school supplies unloaded.

About five o'clock, when the children were almost worn out, they made their way to the picnic area for a supper of hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, chips, cookies, watermelon, and cold drinks. While they were eating, they were entertained by professional clown Mike Decker, who made balloon characters for each child.

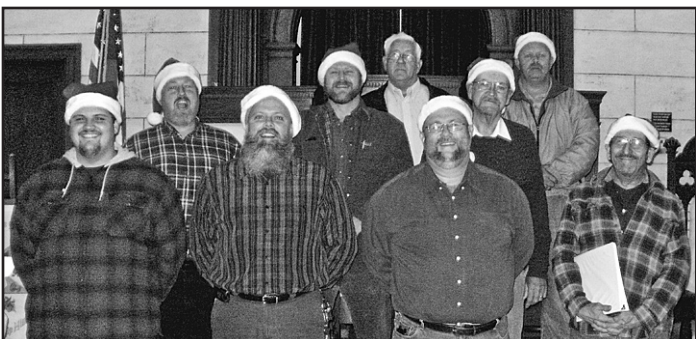


Pool romping and balloon clowns made unloading school supplies more bearable.



Academic rewards for kids

OLD FORT — Joppa 401 last year decided to encourage excellence in students by sponsoring a financial award for academic performance. Each of the kids receiving the award graduated from their McDowell County school at the top of their class. The winners were Levi Pittman, a sixth grader from Old Fort Elementary (top left); Mary Greene, ninth grader from West McDowell Junior High (top right); and Kaylie McCraw, a graduating senior from McDowell High School (above). Ms. McCraw is pictured with Joppa Master Mark Murphy and Treasurer George Ellis. — Mark Murphy



Fruit and song for the ladies

MOUNT AIRY — This past Christmas season marked the tenth year that Granite 322 has serenaded the widows of their lodge with Christmas carols as they home-delivered fruit baskets to them. They also carolled at the Eastern Star meeting and at Ridgecrest Assisted Living Center where several widows live. — Joe Arnder



Tomcats help lodge scholarship

LUMBERTON — As with all of us, St. Albans 114 is suffering in these economic times. Their scholarship fund was looking for help. The Tomcats, a parade unit of the local Shrine Club, stepped up to the pump with support to St. Albans Lodge's local scholarships. The annual contributions to the St. Albans Masonic Lodge Scholarships at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Robeson Community College are long standing traditions. With the help of the Tomcats and others, it will continue to grow. Tomcat members come from St. Albans 114, Proctorville 643, St. Pauls 474, and Fairmont 528. They are proud of their members from different lodges moving forward together for a local benevolent goal. — Dayton Wilson



Looking after a brother

RANGER — Doc McCarter, a Montgomery 426 member, was excited about his son taking his Masonic degrees in Texas. However, he was too ill to go see them for himself. He wanted his son to have something of home with him in the degrees. He asked the members of his lodge to all sign a Bible that he was sending to Texas for the ceremonies.

In mid-February, many members of the lodge visited McCarter to deliver the book. They enjoyed this one and the many other visits they had made to his home during his protracted illness. He died less than a week later. They again went to be with him when they performed his Masonic funeral. — Derek Check

Doc holds patient appreciation day

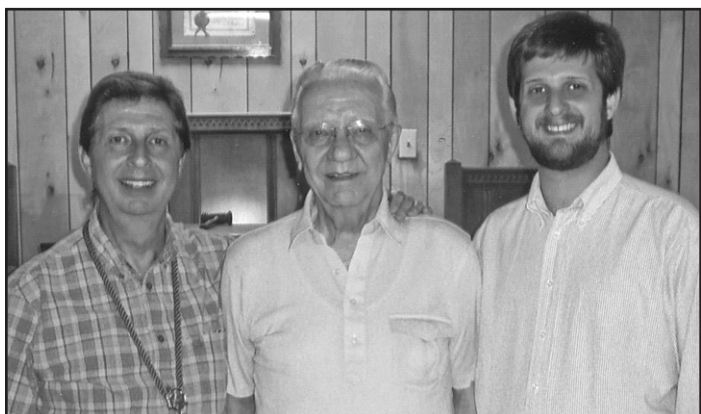
STATESVILLE — Chiropractor Ron Adams, a member of Statesville 27, held a customer appreciation day for the second straight year. Patient visits that day cost only a donation to charity — specifically the Masonic Home for Children in

Oxford. Adams says his goals are threefold: show his customers he appreciates them, do more for our charities, and spread the word about Freemasonry. He's satisfied he's accomplishing those things with this simple formula. — *The Joppa Informer*



PHA Mason new honorary

CHARLOTTE — Several lodges here have been very active in visiting with their Prince Hall brothers. They have participated in degrees, lodges of sorrow, dinners, and other activities. Allan Mann has been central to planning many of the events. His Prince Hall cohort Charles Sharpe was recently made an honorary member of Charles M. Setzer 693. Sharpe is one of the first Prince Hall Masons in North Carolina to be made an honorary member of one of our blue lodges.



Family line at Joppa

OLD FORT — Joppa 401 picked up a third generation member last year, Scott Robinson, right. He is seen here with his father, Randy Robinson, and his grandfather, James Groce Robinson. — Mark Murphy

Planting a successful lodge garden

Paul Shuler of Junaluskee 145 gives us this green thumb guide for a productive lodge. A man of words and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds. And don't forget a liberal application of the fertilizer of fun.

First Plant five rows of peas

- Patience
- Promptness
- Preparation
- Perseverance
- Purity

Next three rows of Squash

- Squash gossip
- Squash criticism
- Squash indifference

Next five of lettuce

- Let us be faithful in duty
- Let us be unselfish
- Let us be loyal
- Let us be true to obligations
- Let us love one another

Complete with turnips

- Turn up for meetings
- Turn up with a smile
- Turn up with good ideas
- Turn up with determination

RAGAN, from page 8



David Ragan saddled up and ready.

road to it," said an enthusiastic Ragan after the Tuesday night degree.

Oasis Potentate Wayne King said, "We're all excited that David and his teammates have begun the exceptional journey of Masonry and the Shrine. It's the world's best fraternity with the world's greatest philanthropy, and we need to strengthen it by getting quality, young, enthusiastic members."

"The NASCAR race schedule is tough, and it's taken us a while to be able to get David and the guys started, but it all came together," said Shea Fadel, who has worked many months behind the scenes to work out the initiation and who also serves as Oasis membership chairman. "Hopefully, we can get on track for the next two degrees and have three new Masons by summertime."



The 41st Masonic District, NC's most westerly, launched a new degree attraction last fall.

Mountain Masons raised in a barn

By Jim Hyde

In the far southwest corner of North Carolina, the brothers of the 41st Masonic District are fortunate enough to be a short distance from the annual outdoor Rock Quarry Degree in northern Georgia and close to the Cave Degree in eastern Tennessee. However, in order to further promote good fellowship within our own borders, Clay 301 Master Preston Cabe and his Brothers, with assistance from surrounding lodges, took meeting in high hills and low dells to new level. One of outgoing District Deputy Grand Master Jim Hyde's goals to promote fun and fellowship was taken to heart by Clay 301 when they volunteered to hold the first Barn Raising Degree.

Ronnie Smith volunteered to let his hay/tobacco barn be converted in a lodge room, where the officers' stations and spectator seating were made from hay bales donated by Brother Smith. The venue being a working barn, select farm animals could be seen assisting the tyler with his duties of watching for eavesdroppers outside the lodge. Sitting in the barn let one absorb the aroma of seasoned lumber and stacked hay, and gaze at the many poles crisscrossing the rafters. For many it brought fond memories of playing in the family barn as children or the not so fond memories of playing the high-wire act in the hot

recesses of the loft while hanging tobacco. It also made one wonder if our forefathers had to meet in similar surroundings out of necessity while their lodge buildings were being built.

Due to limited parking, a hay wagon shuttle, dubbed "Solomon's Express" was used to shuttle visiting brothers from a nearby church to the barn.

As the evening came to an end, 56 Masons from four states witnessed what appears to be the beginning of an annual event for the 41st Masonic District.

The degree, held on the evening of October 30, was preceded by a hickory slow smoked (not charcoal) chicken dinner fundraiser with funds raised going toward a new roof for the lodge. Mason cooks met early that morning to light the wood and put 150 chicken halves over the open pit. Several brothers brought family members to share in the good food, while several carry-out plates were sold.

When the event came to a close, charges presented, Bibles given, and congratulations conveyed, our two newly raised brothers, Jason Chastain and Darrell Parker, were told that they could proudly say, "Yes, as a matter of fact, I WAS raised in a barn!"

Jim Hyde is a member of Robbinsville 672.

Farmers' lodge has its own dress code

KINROSS, IA — As reported in the June 2009 *Grand Lodge Bulletin* for the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Farmers 168, here has an unusual, rare actually, dress code — bib overalls.

It is a tradition for lodge members [here] to dress in bib overalls when attending lodge. It is believed that the custom stems from the occupation of the lodge members — farming, and goes way back to 1863.

Master David Jackson puts it this way: "We'd rather you attend lodge in whatever clothing you feel most comfortable, including jeans and street clothes, than to miss a lodge meeting. Many of us wear our bib overalls to honor the tradition of those lodge brothers who came before us. When Grand Lodge officers attend Farmers Lodge to assist in performing degree work or other special events, they don their bib overalls as a show of respect to the long traditions of our Lodge."

It is left to the Brother to choose the style — solid blue or hickory stripes.

— Fraternal Review, Southern California Research Lodge

Scholarship student says, "Thanks"

Editor's note: The Grand Lodge recently received the following letter from a 2009 winner of a Charles E. Cathey Masonic Scholarship.

Thank you so much for providing money to help forward my education. It means a lot to me that I was given a chance to experience college life with the help of your assistance.

My first semester was a good one. I tried very hard with my 17 hours worth of introductory engineering courses, and I am quite happy with my results of making the Dean's List. It made both of my parents quite happy as well. I enjoy being in WISE, the NC State living and learning community for women in science or engineering. I get to meet many girls with similar majors while we work on projects to help the community. One project we worked on early in the term was creating emergency food packets for countries which were experiencing famines.

While in the application process, I was wavering whether I wanted to be a civil engineer. During the College of Engineering Welcome, a seminar I had to attend as a first year engineer student, I heard about a program in the electrical engineering department that related to renewable resources. Also during the summer, I attended a Women in Engineering camp and met with a member of a research center at NC State that was working on green research and smart grid systems. They wanted engineers. I am quite excited about this new option and believe it will be a wonderful and challenging fit for my abilities and interest.

Once again, thank you for the generosity of your gift.

Kathryn Hornburg, General Engineering 2013



Ramp for a brother

WASHINGTON — When a local Mason recently broke his hip, a skilled crew from Washington 675 headed over to his home and built a wheelchair ramp to ease his coming and going.

— Larry E. Riegel



Fathers and sons

GREENSBORO — The change of year was the season of the sons at Corinthian 542. On December 28, 2009 (in the photo at top) H. L. McLaurin III stands with his son Scott McLaurin who had just returned his Master Mason catechism. In the photo above are Jeff Bullington and his son Richard after Richard's January 2, 2010 raising. Family ties run deep at Corinthian.

— Jeff Bullington

STATE, from page 3

Conover

Trying to offer assistance to brothers in need, Conover 709 Master Brent Sigmon recently reminded members that they should call for help if they needed help getting to appointments, getting groceries or medicines, driveways cleared, or other such chores.

— Conover Lodge

Stedman

The Masonic Home for Children was enriched last year by \$6,000 from Stedman 730's steak dinner and golf tournament. The lodge also held a yard sale at the end of the year.

— The Blueprint

Quitting Expectations?

A Master Mason approached Peter Gower and said, "I am not getting from Masonry what I expected. I am thinking of quitting."

Peter Gower responded, "The ash can never again be firewood."

STONES, from page 1

rial Association's 100th Anniversary and will run through May 2011.

In 1789, first president George Washington and the US Congress were determined to build a great capital city. By 1792, the site was chosen, designer Pierre L'Enfant's street plan was adapted, and work began. At the city's center would be the US Capitol, the "People's House." The President's House would be located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Washington reviewed the site and personally selected architect James Hoban's design. The mansion's cornerstone was laid with a small civic and Masonic ceremony on October 13, 1792.

Although foundation work then began in earnest, the government soon discovered the young nation had an abundance of craftsmen, but few master stonemasons. What's more, those it did have were working on the US Capitol. After a thorough search in America and Europe, agent George Walker traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland. By spring 1794, he had recruited at least eight stonemasons from the Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8.

With the arrival of the eight Scots stonemasons, the White House walls rose to completion in 1798. During construction, the stonemasons, being Freemasons, joined the local lodge. Federal Lodge No. 15 had been chartered September 12, 1793 by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. James Hoban was its first master. Federal Lodge became the first lodge when the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was constituted in 1811. The exhibit also includes Federal Lodge's first account book listing the Scots stonemasons and White House architect James Hoban as its first master. Additional materials include a letter from President Truman, historic photographs and other items.

The White House stones were discovered soon after Truman became president in 1945. With major plaster cracks appearing and a piano dropping nearly through the floor, it was obvious that the executive mansion needed a complete overhaul. The First Family relocated to Blair House as work began. By 1950, only the White House facade and some of the original foundation stones remained. President Truman inspected the work often, and during one tour, he noticed a large number of stones engraved with mason's marks. Recognizing that they were made by Scottish stonemasons, he contacted the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and had more than 100 of them delivered to the Grand Lodge headquarters on New York Avenue — just three blocks away.

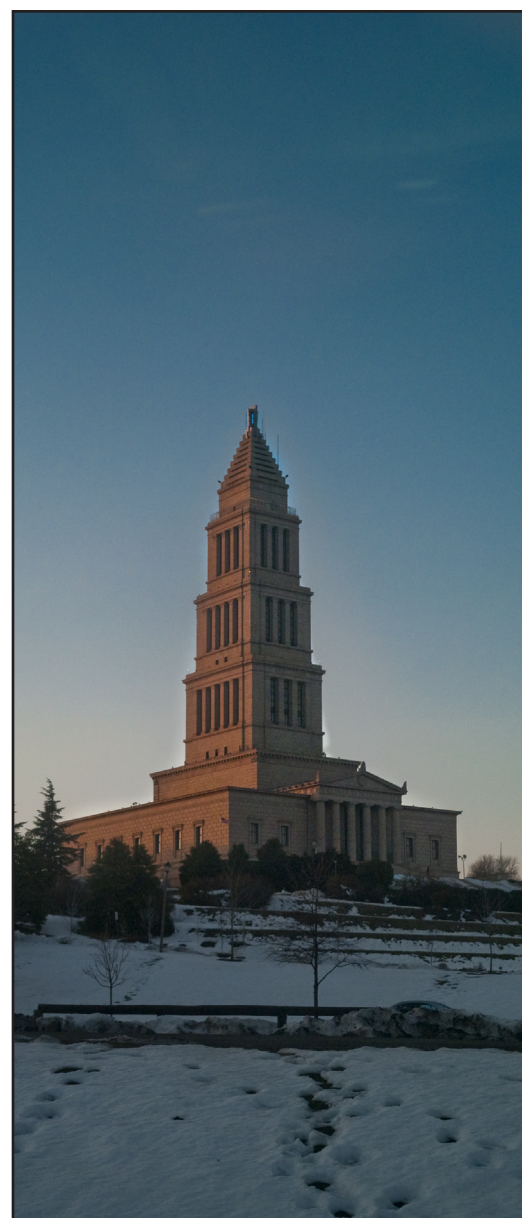
In 1952, President Truman asked the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to send one of the marked stones to each US grand lodge. Each stone had a small White House brass plaque affixed to it accompanied by a letter — framed of recycled White House wood — to each grand master. Additional stones were distributed to Canadian grand lodges, several Order of East-

ern Star state grand chapters, a few local lodges, DeMolay International, the two US Scottish Rite Supreme Councils, the Grand Lodge of Israel, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Many were hand delivered by Truman or by Carl Claudy, executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association. In 2004, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia presented stones to the recently independent Grand Lodge of Alaska and Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

This unique exhibit of American and Scottish Masonic history is sponsored by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, and the Grand Lodge, FAAM, of the District of Columbia. It is also made possible by the cooperation and support of many US grand lodges, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia, and the White House Historical Association. North Carolina's foundation stone is among those exhibited.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is a private, nonprofit educational organization. Its membership is comprised of 52 grand lodges (50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), representing nearly two million Freemasons in the United States. The Memorial Association was created on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1910. Between 1922 and 1932, it built the George Washington Masonic Memorial through volunteer donations from American Freemasons. The Association's mission is: "To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character, and vision of George Washington, the man, the mason, and father of our country."

Mark A. Tabbert is the director of collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



The Washington Masonic National Memorial stands atop Shooters Hill.



The account books containing the listing of the Scots craftsmen who built the White House and a bust of President Truman.

BENEATH THE OAKS



Hearts of the children

By Allen Hughes
Administrator
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

We try to teach our children and hope they learn well the lessons we offer. When they're old enough to start making some decisions for themselves and we let them go out without our supervision, we plead that they will do the right thing.

In their youthful exuberance, the hearts of children often lead them to be caring and to show concern for the welfare of people in need or for other worthwhile causes.



Ric Carter photo

Grand Secretary Clapp sets program

ALEXANDRIA, VA — Grand Secretary Walt Clapp chaired the agenda committee for the 2010 North American Grand Secretaries' Conference.

For others, yet the sincerity with which they approach their fund raising shows they really care. As much as the young ladies have done, they say they wish they could have done more.

Although the children who live here at the Masonic Home for Children are not in a position to do much, they display an interest in helping others. When they learn of disasters such as major hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, flooding, or a local fire which cause hardships on families they are quick to suggest that we take up a collection and do something to help.

Often, when adults make donations we are as concerned about getting a tax deduction or credit for our group as much as the purpose of the donation. With children, that is not the case. Their gift comes from the heart, and they are sincere in their desire to help others.

Let me help Masonry's charities

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

My name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ My lodge _____

In memory of (optional) _____

Address _____

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.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- 1. Erik Martin Gray
1. Ryan Vance Jones
1. Allen Victor Lee
1. Sammy Greg Nobles
1. Robert Alan Parker
8. Ian Shelley Brown
8. Joseph Marshall DeCosta V
8. Scott Timothy Harvey
8. Casey Dallas Jones
8. Jeff Perry Singleton
8. Treager Rigil Stout
10. Brian Wayne Mazor
17. Ronald Lee Baker Jr.
19. James Richard Whitfield
27. Doyle Eugene Shoemaker
27. William Alexander Walker
31. Charles Allen Cutlip
31. Christopher Brian Miller
31. Jon Steven Porter Jr.
53. Joey Shane Russell
58. Jonathan Charles Cobb
58. Christopher Michael Craft
58. Stephen Wayne Nobles II
75. Dean Stillman Alley
75. Stephen Carle Dunn
76. David Austin Beck
76. Geoffrey Thornton Cass
76. Christopher Wade McCoy
81. William Gerald MacIntosh
83. Brandon Lee Blackmore
83. James Sean Cudd
83. John Russell Petit
83. Jarrod Paul Solar
97. Eric Gray Crawford
97. Alvis Gray Speight Jr.
102. Samuel Herbert Leggett III
109. Orville Gillikin Jr.
115. Jason Allen Browne
115. John Francis Dullaghan
115. James Earl Sauls Jr.
117. Peter Bridgeford Edgar
117. William Lee Turner
118. Galen Woodrow Holland
122. Timothy Mark Carroll
122. Matthew Luther Perkinson
122. Roger Dale Setzer
122. Danny Dean Williford Jr.
125. Joseph Brian Hope
125. J. B. Price
125. Billy Obid Tart
125. William Brian Tart
125. Billy Obid Tart Jr.
127. Randall Clinton Poole
128. John Henly Chauklyn III
128. Darren Vestal Layton
132. James Scott Nethercutt
132. Johnny Everett Wooten
134. Arnold Emory White Jr.
136. William Perry Barnes IV
136. Christopher Cameron Clark
136. Joshua David Eanes
137. James Garry McCorkle Jr.
137. Robert Franklin Varney Jr.
143. Anthony Wray Maddox
145. David Leslie Crunkleton
145. David Wayne Nix
147. Douglas Patrick Godwin Jr.
147. Edward Lynn Holder
147. Jerry David Jackson Jr.
147. Kevin Burns Matthews
147. Carl Phillip Miller
158. James Harold Clark III
172. Justin Wm Pace
176. Jeffrey Bruce King
176. Andrew Ryan Oliver
181. Roy Eugene Timbs
191. Alvis Stirling Clack III
191. Andrew Scott Hemphill
207. Harry Lee Parker Jr.
217. Matthew Kyle Arney
217. Randall Lee Pitts
217. John Wesley Watkins
218. Clemens William Bremer III
218. Scott William Souffrant
218. Gregory Swain Williams
226. Alec Charles Englebort
240. Randy Alan Powell
243. Bradley Cecil Gaskins
243. Jason Corey Gaskins
244. Jeremy Scott Benoy
244. Joseph Dustin Pursler
244. Thomas Lee Starnes
249. Samuel Franklin Watts Jr.
253. Brian Matthew Clark
253. Justin Cody Fortner
261. James Lynn Ringley
262. Robert Thomas White
262. Phillip Allan Branch
262. William Thomas Bridges Jr.
262. Benjamin Ray Sutton
262. Larry Todd Triplett
263. Timothy Lee Lancaster
265. Rufus Neil Brock
267. Benjamin Michael Hawkins
272. Eric Brandon Dunn
277. Lee Ritchie Irvin
282. Edward Earl Norris Jr.
284. Jason Lee West
289. Johnny Keith Jackson
289. George Lee Troxler
292. Todd Henry Duckett
293. Myron Scott Allen
293. Joseph Richard Moffat II
301. Jonah Bruce Matheson
301. Rodney James Penland
301. Anthony Mark Wiegold
306. Kirk Nathan Ellis
306. Adam Serrano
319. Gerald Daniel Glunt Jr.
319. Ricky Lynwood Parrish
319. Michael Clyde Spradley
319. Timothy Dale Waters
339. Eric Brandon Carroll
339. Ricky Dean Carroll Jr.
339. Tracy Max Davis
339. Ronald Kevin Ramey
340. James Keith Harris
343. Adam Wesley Beagles
344. Edward Wayne Hurley III
344. Michael Keith Megimose
344. David Wayne Turnipseed
344. Matthew Bryan White
348. Edward Tate Talbert
356. Christopher Howard Davis
358. John Hunter Morris
358. Erick William Roberts
373. John Anthony Lee Bryan
373. Dwayne Anthony Lawrence
373. Joshua Brant McMillan
375. Ronnie Dwayne Dixon
375. Daniel Ugene Freeman
375. Jordan Chance Piercy
377. Mason Kenneth Hurt
377. Jonathon William Walker
381. Michael Larry Jones
384. Jerry Allen Hobbs II
384. Edward Alton Owens
387. Charles Russell Jones
387. Timothy Scott Stiwinter
388. Darrell Wayne Barkley
388. Michael Todd Moore
391. Terry Del Dahl
391. Daniel Scott Davis
391. Kyle David Mueller
391. Leo Boyd Starkey
403. John William Linton
404. Anthony Kyle Hoglen
408. Steven Paul Boggs
408. Altin Ilirjani
408. Samuel Bradford McKnight
413. Joshua Tyler Perry
418. Joshua Michael Brock
418. Daryl Kent Williams
428. Justin Douglas Hite
432. Michael Shane Ashley
432. Roger Lee Billings Jr.
432. Craig Randall Williams
435. Charles Franklin Lambert III
435. Michael Anthony Smith
437. Vance Reid Lambert
439. Robert Neal Neal Posey Jr.
446. Herbert Gibson IV
446. Lemuel Frederick Moore Jr.
446. Jason Eddy Patla
446. Lynn Edward Perkins
446. Robert Marvin Stetson Jr.
453. George Bullard Brown
461. Edward Doyle Plyler Jr.
462. James Paul Blair
462. David Walter George Jr.
462. Jerry William Woods Jr.
483. James Elisha Dowell
484. Christopher Edward Goodyear
484. Robert Thornton Moore Jr.
497. Stephen Craig Shearin
499. Paul Thomas Keith
500. Aaron Andrew Guyton
500. David Edward Mirfin Jr.
502. Bradley Charles Johnson
502. Jeremy Samuel Jordan
502. Travis Charles Shaffer
505. William Andrew McSwain III
515. Chadwick Martin Farris
515. Todd Lee Irby
515. William Jefferson McKnight
515. Michael Scott Nichols
521. Michael John Hoert
529. Jerry Vincent Parker
542. Richard Lee Bullington
543. Joshua Michael Saylor
550. Keith John Childress
550. Charles Everett Pearson
550. William Matthew Swearingin
552. Justin Dwight Hall
552. Christopher Todd Key
552. Casey Michael Landreth
564. Jason Ray Burgess
564. Linwood Benjamin Foy
564. Christopher Michael Gibson
564. Wilbur Ray Gurganus
564. Kelly Joe Jessee
564. Randy Allen Meeks Jr.
571. William David Saunders
571. Jerry Todd Sipes
576. Eric Eugene Reavis
578. David Michael Ludlow
578. William Lee Mosley
578. Brian Eric Sossamon
579. Donnie Lee Downs
590. Matthew Keith Jacobs
592. Tony James Thomas
593. Matthew Wade Hartsoe
593. Joseph Christopher Martin
594. Joseph Parker Slade Jr.
595. Johnnie Jefferson Murray III
602. Scotty Ray Medlin
602. Michael Charles Rose
616. Cory James Baldwin
617. Donald Edward Martin III
617. Joshua Thomas Raney
618. David Franklin Barbee
618. Jeffrey Bryce Jones
618. Christopher Ronald Wiley
626. Brian Keith Atkinson
629. Roger Arnold Vance Jr.
637. Brandon Wesley Plyler
637. William Randall Shelton
643. Charles David Andrews
648. Gaston David Russ Jr.
656. Brandon Matthew Cox
663. Honley Dee Etherton Jr.
663. Robert Kirk Forbes
668. James Aaron Thompson
669. Johnny Thomas Ballard II
669. Joshua Robert Ford
669. Billy Harden Stockton Jr.
670. Joshua Douglas Martin
675. Joshua Thomas Carter
675. Thomas Mann Carter III
675. Billy Winston Thorp
676. Patrick Doherty Finn Jr.
676. Napoleon Deon Thompson
679. Michael Justin Davis
679. Derec John Mercer
680. Michael Dean Burr
680. Jeffrey Lloyd Finnell
680. Terrell Lantwan Ford
680. Timothy Paul Ryan
680. John James Stein
680. Glenn Walter Trieselmann
680. Earl Ethelbert Wilson Jr.
683. Edward Donahue III
685. Fred Allen Elliott Jr.
687. Edward Campbell Berry III
687. Ricky Lamont Riley
688. Vincent Anthony Medgley
688. Thomas Earl Simmons
688. Peter Devlin Van Vliet
688. Charles Ray Webb Jr.
692. James Arthur Hill
692. Christopher Wade James
694. Adam Whitley Butler
694. Robert Earl Bynum
694. Benjamin Michael Crissman
694. Jeffrey Scott Jalovec
694. Robert Dale King
694. Michael James Lopez
694. Andrew Michael Pisano
694. Robert Bruce Pugh
694. Christopher Neal Walker
701. Adam Anthony Berkowitz
701. David Charles Guy
706. Nicholas Dean Culpepper III
708. Marcus Christopher Dill
708. Matthew Ashkan Hojatzadeh
709. Fred Lee Sherrill IV
710. Timothy Wayne Smith
710. William Andrew Suggs
713. Jason Michael Stroupe
715. George Donald Barrier
720. Lewis Wetzel Burgess
720. Justin Alexander Lewis
722. Collin Shore Davis
723. James Donavon Cannette Jr.
723. David Earl Pope
723. Christopher Scott Rountree
724. John Gary Hardison Jr.
734. John Gaston Harrelson
741. Kenneth Wayne Harrell
743. Robert Raymond Wilson
744. Earl George Culbertson Jr.
744. James Robert Cody Marshall
749. Dillon Lane Helms
749. Brian Lew Whitley
751. Jeremy William Ingle
751. Bruce Donald Ingle Jr.
751. James Sterling Minton
752. Jason Gray Cheek
756. Joseph Thomas Lorenzo
758. Christopher Lee Gupton
758. James Frederick Reid
759. James Gregory Chamberlain
759. Scott Edward Karrow
759. Kenneth Brian Walker
759. Billy Ray Winecoff
762. Aaron Bart Cecil
763. Charles Gregory Kirkman
763. Jeffrey Alan Stallings

SENIOR MOMENTS

Remember WhiteStone

By Mark Kolada
Administrator
WhiteStone



After a winter of worrying about snow and cold weather, it is refreshing to welcome the warmer temperatures, as spring is definitely in the air at WhiteStone! With spring comes the annual tradition of traveling with the grand master to the district meetings throughout this beautiful state. For those of you who may not get a chance to attend the district meeting in your area, below is a summary of my district meeting report.

WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, a continuing care retirement community located in Greensboro, was established in 1912 to meet the retirement and long term care needs of its fraternal brothers and sisters. This mission continues today, stronger than ever.

WhiteStone consists of several housing options and levels of care for seniors, including independent living, residential living, skilled nursing, dementia care, as well as a home care. The community has approximately 275 residents currently, more than 80% fraternal. Amenities of the community include on site chapel, indoor pool, local transportation, gated security, on site medical clinic and pharmacy, full activity program, and a dining room that provides three meals a day.

In 2009, I am happy to report that WhiteStone once again fulfilled its charitable mission, providing more than \$1.5 million in financial assistance to approximately 68 fraternal residents and collecting \$1.4 million in contributions. Contributions from blue lodges totaled \$327,449 in 2009 compared to \$379,862 the previous year.

In 2009, WhiteStone expanded its charity by introducing a new outreach program that provides an information hotline for members to call if they need help accessing government benefits and programs such as veteran benefits or Medicaid and Medicare. In addition to the hotline, a medical equipment loan program was also introduced, whereby members who need a piece of medical equipment such as walker, motorized wheelchair, or scooter, may borrow the equipment from WhiteStone at no charge. To access the program, the number to call is (877) 784-9309. In the past month, two electric wheelchairs were loaned to a fraternal couple in need. We ask that, to keep our charity programs strong, that Brothers continue to give generously, as WhiteStone will continue to do as much charity as it brings in donations. The more we receive, the more fraternal brothers and sisters we can assist.

Last year also saw the continued improvement in the communi-

ty's finances. For the second straight year, the community was in the black and had positive cash flow thanks to continued high occupancy and emphasis on expense control.

WhiteStone also continues to reinvest money to improve the services and amenities for our residents. In 2009, WhiteStone enhanced security, installed a new chiller in its Linville Administration building, replaced an elevator in one of its residential buildings, and made needed repairs to its historic chapel. WhiteStone, thanks to a generous contribution from Cary 198, also introduced a state of the art Snoezelin room program, whereby a room in our skilled nursing unit was renovated and turned into a multi-sensory stimulation area to help those residents with severe cognitive impairment.

Moving forward, plans to renovate and expand WhiteStone continue to progress. Renovation work has recently been completed on the Bennett residential building. It saw carpet, drywall, paint, and lights replaced to give it a more up-to-date appearance. Construction crews also recently completed the renovation of our old multipurpose room into a modern fitness center complete with weight machines and cardio stations for residents and staff to use. Besides the renova-

tion work, ground has broken on the addition of six new independent living houses on campus that have been pre-sold and are to be completed later this year. The next renovation phase, scheduled for later this year, is the substantial renovation of the Linville building into more of a clubhouse for residents, featuring a new library, game room, arts and crafts area, resident store, lounge area, and new office space for staff. Finally, the \$30 million expansion plans continue to move forward with more than a third of the one and two-bedroom independent living units already sold. Once 70% of the units are pre-sold, permanent financing can take place and construction can begin. For more information on the project, pictures, and sample floor plans visit our website at <www.liveatwhitstone.org>. As you can see the spring season is bringing lots of changes to the community in Greensboro.

On behalf of our 275 residents, 180 staff members, and many more family and friends, we appreciate your continued support of WhiteStone and encourage you stop by to visit us when in Greensboro. As always, if you have any questions or need more information about the community, feel free to call me at (336) 547-2992 or email me at <mkolada@liveatwhitstone.org>.

WhiteStone questions and answers concluded from our previous issue:

I hear that charitable dollars are going to non-fraternal members. Is this true?

This is simply not true. In 2009, WhiteStone received over \$1.4M in contributions and provided over \$1.6M in financial assistance to 70 fraternal related residents (approximately two thirds are Masonic affiliated and one third is Eastern Star affiliated). One hundred percent of fraternal dollars goes to fraternal members only. Fraternal financial assistance helps to pay for room and board, medical equipment, medical fees, pharmacy bills, and any other incidental expenses that the resident cannot afford to pay. In 2009, WhiteStone introduced a new medical equipment loan program as well as information hotline that is available to fraternal members through out the state, in the hopes of starting to expand its mission to those fraternal members living outside the community.

Now that WhiteStone is "in the black" and has improved its finances, does the charity really need my contributions?

While it is true that WhiteStone has stabilized financially, contributions and donations are just as important now as ever. WhiteStone is committed to expanding its charity and helping more fraternal members not fewer. However, the only way this can be done is through the continued financial support of both fraternities. The more contributions our community receives, the more sisters and brothers it can help. WhiteStone has ambitious plans to expand its

charity to financially assist not only those at WhiteStone, but potentially to soon help those sisters and brothers in need in their own homes through out the state.

Why is WhiteStone going through with an expansion and renovation project?

The reason for pursuing an expansion project is to replace currently empty, aging buildings that no longer have any use, improve services and amenities for current and future residents making the community more competitive, and to generate profits to help expand its charitable mission of providing financial assistance to its older fraternal members.

Are donations being used to fund the development expenses?

Money to pay for development expenses is currently being paid out of existing cash flow from WhiteStone and does not utilize any donation funds. A small seed capital loan from the Masonic foundation is available, and money has been used to pay for development expenses, but WhiteStone does pay any interest rate on the loan. It is a good investment for the foundation and assists WhiteStone in getting the project off the ground.

If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to call Executive Director Mark Kolada at (336) 547-2992 or email at mkolada@liveatwhitstone.org.

MILEPOSTS



WALLACE — At their October Past Masters' and Awards Night, Wallace 595 presented a 50-year service award on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Maine. Richard H. Andrews, of Ralph J. Pollard Lodge 217, in Orrington, Maine was the proud recipient. He is seen here, left, with Wallace Lodge Master Raymond Turner. — Jeff Murray



VANCEBORO — On February 23, Vanceboro 433 made William A. Haddock a life member. Haddock is a past master and past secretary. He was treasurer until recent health issues forced his resignation. He is currently living in a retirement facility in New Bern. — Joseph E. Whitford



MAIDEN — At Maiden 592's Annual Awards Banquet in December, Frank Cloninger received his Diamond Jubilee award for 60 years Masonic membership. Bob and Charlotte Garbarino prepared the dinner. — Tom Barto



CLAYTON — On January 16, Granite 191 held an emergent communication to raise Andrew Scott Hemphill. He is a third generation member of the lodge. He is seen here, center, with his father, Scott Hemphill (left), and grandfather Paul Hemphill (right). — Scott Hemphill



GIBSONVILLE — Tabasco 271's Robert George Prudhon, right, recently received his 60-year membership award. His award was presented by 23rd District Deputy Grand Master Hugh McLaurin III.



SWANSBORO — Two members of Seaside 429 got a special gift December 11 when the lodge held its Christmas Party and Widows' Night. David Holland, left, and Richard Riggs, right, were made life members of the lodge. Each has been a Mason more than 60 years. — Greg Padgett



LOWELL — In November, two members of Lowell 590, V.W. "Jake" Benfield and Robert A. Harrison, received their Veteran's Emblems for 50 years Masonic membership. Past Grand Master Rick Moore made the presentations. Seen here, from left, are Moore, Benfield, Harrison, and Lowell Lodge Master Scott Weaver. — Paul Waters Jr.



WALLACE — On October 5, at Wallace 595's Past Masters' and Awards night, Wilton Francis Townsend, second from left, received his Diamond Jubilee for sixty years Masonic membership. He is seen here with members of his family. Townsend's wife of fifty-nine years, Ellis Henry, pinned the emblem on Brother Nort as he is called by many of his close friends. Several members of Townsend's family were present, including his brother Thomas Townsend, himself a fifty-year member of Wallace Lodge. Townsend spoke of his desire to take the hardest job in the lodge — cleaning the kitchen. He still performs these duties at the age of 84. — Jeff Murray



BAILEY — The Glover family is playing a strong hand in Bailey 411. There are three members of the family serving as lodge's top three officers in 2010. Seen here from left, are Senior Warden Tyler Clayton Glover, Master Charlie Gerald Glover, and Junior Warden Randy Gerald Glover. Randy is father to Charlie and Tyler. All three were raised in Bailey Lodge by the late Gerald Glover, Randy's father and Tyler's and Charlie's grandfather. — Charlie Glover and Horace M. Meacombs

St. John's Day at Home for Children set for June 26

By Chris Richardson

OXFORD — The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is proud to host St. John's Day, Saturday, June 26, and we want you to join us. Activities for the annual summer visit to the Home will focus on the past and the present. Campus tours will be given by staff and residents. These tours were a big hit with all visitors during last year's celebration. The tour will include visits to some of homes of the children, the School of Graphic Arts, cafeteria, and Cobb Center museum/archives. Starting at 11:00 A.M., lunch will be available. Residents will have food and craft booths open throughout the day selling breakfast, home-made deserts, and crafts. Shuttles will be available to carry guests throughout the campus, with a full schedule of activities planned for the day.

This year's event will include special guest speaker Dr. Richard B. McKenzie who has a newly released book and a heralded article from the *Wall Street Journal*. McKenzie is the Walter B. Gerken Professor of Enterprise and Society in the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine and is a noted authority on orphanages and their impact on child care. McKenzie will be sharing some of his thoughts and concepts from his *Wall Street Journal* article ("The Best Thing About Orphanages") and those heard on "The State of

Things" on WUNC-FM, Dr. McKenzie will inform and enlighten on why the concept of orphanages and children's homes has been and continues to be important, providing positive results in the lives of children.

McKenzie is the author of several books including *The Home: A Memoir of Growing Up in an Orphanage*, *Rethinking Orphanages for the 21st Century*, and *Home Away from Home: The Forgotten History of Orphanages*. He was also executive producer of a documentary film, *The Homecomings: The Forgotten World of America's Orphanages*. He speaks from his heart and personal experience as an alumnus of Barium Springs Home for Children. You may learn more about his research and publications regarding orphanages at <http://web.gsm.uci.edu/~mckenzie/>.

A full day of fun, fellowship, interest information, and a special visit at your Masonic Home for Children is planned. We hope you, your family, your friends, and your lodge will join us. For more information, contact your lodge secretary, call the Home at 1-888-505-4357 or visit the Home's St. John's Day website at www.mhc-oxford.org/. See you June 26.

Chris Richardson is director of Financial Development and Marketing at the Masonic Home for Children.



On hand for the initiation of NASCAR driver David Ragan (center) and his teammates (to his right) Joe Huff and Mike Congdon, were (from left, back row) Ruben McIntosh, Andy Armstrong, Steve Hamlin, Graham Weaver; (front row) Jerry Hinson, Congdon, Huff, Ragan, Bob McIntosh, and Jeff Ballard.

NASCAR driver on first Masonic lap

CORNELIUS — Rising NASCAR star David Ragan recently took his first step in Freemasonry, beginning a journey that will bring him "officially" into the fraternity and a cause he's embraced for several years.

Ragan and fellow racing team members Mike Congdon and Joe Huff were initiated here January 26 at Williams 176, in the Lake Norman community the Georgia-born Ragan now calls home. That's where he parks his Number 6 Roush Fenway Racing UPS Ford when he's not on the Sprint Cup or Nationwide racing circuit.

Members of Williams, Saint Andrew 702, Excelsior 261, and James K. Polk 759 participated in the degree. Bob McIntosh sat in the East.

"Because of his racing schedule, it took us a while to get this together, but thanks to the efforts of many members of Williams Lodge and other lodges, we were able to make it happen," said McIntosh.

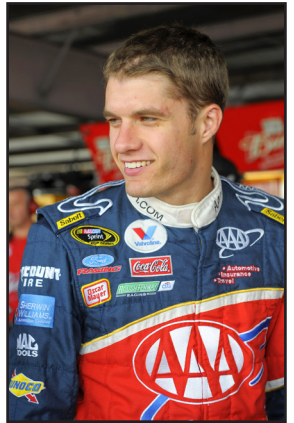
A delegation from Oasis Shrine also attended, including Potentate Wayne King, Past Potentate Bob Burroughs, and Executive Director Harvey Burgess. Ragan has long embraced the Shriners Hospitals for Children, donating money, time, and effort to the hospital system through his racing and many personal appearances, including appearances at the last three Imperial Shrine meetings.

"This is something I've been wanting to do for a long time, and now it's great to be on the

Ragan is a man with a track record

CONCORD — In 2004, David Ragan graduated from Robinson High School in Concord, NC. It was not long before he followed in his father's (Ken Ragan) tracks driving stock cars.

Roush Racing named him Mark Martin's replacement in the AAA Ford in 2007. The same year, Ragan finished fifth in points and was named rookie of the year in the NASCAR Busch Series. In his first start he finished fifth in the Daytona 500. He finished the season as runner-up to Juan Pablo Montoya in Sprint Cup rookie of the year balloting.



David Ragan

Today he drives Roush Fenway Racing's No. 6 UPS Ford in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series and the No. 17 Citigroup Ford in the Nationwide Series. He has yet to break into the winner's circle in the Sprint Cup Series, but his first two Nationwide Series wins came last season in Talladega and Bristol.

see RAGAN, page 4



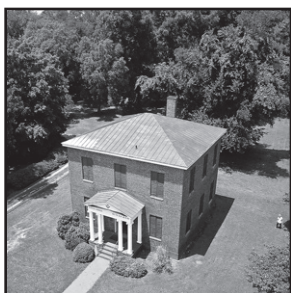
There will be souvenirs and snacks at St. John's Day.

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Former Chief Justice Bev Lake and innocents.



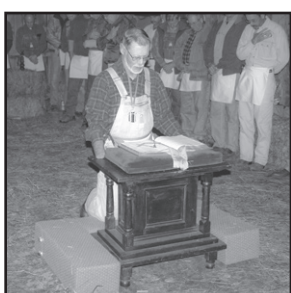
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Eagle Lodge is preserving our history.



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Annual pool party adds fun to school's start.



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Mountain Masons hold a barn degree.

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NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



Volume 135 Number 2

March/April 2010



Ric Carter photo

A Mason who made a difference in the world

Every Mason would like to make the world a better place for his family and neighbors. All of us can apply ourselves and make a little difference here and there. Occasionally, one of our number can do something that rings around the world, changing lives and improving mankind's lot. I. Beverly Lake Jr. has had just such an effect. We salute him in this issue of *The North Carolina Mason*.