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North Carolina's favorite Masonic celebration returns

By Ric Carter

OXFORD — After a much lamented absence of several years, the big Masonic Family celebration returned to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford October 7–8. The Shrine parade, music, and lunch under the oaks are back as a focus for the fraternity. An estimated 3,000 were on hand to see the creation of a new tradition. The return was the culmination of a dream of many Masons, but especially Grand Master Lewis Ledford who started promoting the idea before he became grand master.

The inaugural Homecoming event was rolled into the Home's annual Alumni Homecoming weekend. It's the time former residents of the Home return to see their friends and visit the home of their youth. They were kind enough to include the Masons of the state in their festivities this year.

Masons increased the size of the field in this year's Chipshots for Children Golf Tournament on October 7. The annual tournament held at Kerr Lake Country Club raises money for the Home.

A new event for both Alumni Weekend and the Masonic gathering in Oxford was a barbecue cooking contest. John Sullivan and

■ see HOMECOMING, page 5

Clockwise from below, Sudan Shrine's Choo Choo threads the campus, marching fezzes approach the administration building, barbecue cook tents filled one corner of the grounds, and famous animals greet the kids along the parade route.



Building our future on our past

By Ric Carter

Masonic lodges have often been landmarks in their communities. In many cases, they served as centers of community activity. Thanks to the antiquity of the fraternity, many of our facilities are historic. They are often our public face.

With the privilege of owning a treasure comes the magnified requirement to keep it fit and polished. Our connection to our operative predecessors makes maintenance even more symbolically critical.

As we have seen declines in membership, our incomes have fallen. Fear of raising dues to cover our expenses forced us to sometimes choose that so popular path of doing nothing. Rather than taking care of repairs to preserve the value of what we have, we have too often chosen to close off portions of our facilities. One cut leads to another until we have a rundown building that is too expensive to make usable again.

A renewed pride and interest in our heritage are bringing more Masonic groups to rejuvenate their landmarks.

In Halifax, Royal White Hart 2 built their simple frame two-story lodge building around 1820. It sits midway between the homes of William R. Davie and Joseph Montfort, two of NC Masonry's brightest stars of the colonial period. Joseph Montfort is buried in the lodge's front yard. It has long sat beside the historic buildings in the town's historic center with minimal upkeep. In the last few years, consolidations have brought increased membership and men interested in making sure the lodge is a source of community pride for another 200 years.

■ see RENEWAL, page 4 The Grand Lodge headquarters has been restored after years of defilement.



THE BOTTOM LINE



Grateful appreciation

By Lewis R. Ledford
Grand Master

It's that season when we're called upon to show gratitude and reflect on just what that is. "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings," according to William Arthur Ward. Ward was a newspaper columnist and essayist who came of age in World War II, one of the most difficult times in our national story. Some have faced the challenges of tough times again and may have to lean a little harder on our sense of gratitude to turn common days into thanksgivings. Similarly, self-help writer Melody Beattie advises, "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, and confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Despite the economic uncertainties and other issues that have challenged our society of late, when one truly assesses our circumstances and positions we see that we have been extended many mercies and blessings as individuals and as a fraternity. I hope that you will take the opportunity to spend as much time as possible with family, your lodge brothers, and friends during this busy season. It's sure to provide you with a sense of gratitude. As I

reflected this week on where we are with the goals set for this year, I am grateful for the progress made — yet as is always the case, there remains much to do in 2012 as we celebrate the 225th anniversary of our Grand Lodge. The following are a few updates I would like to share.

State of the Craft

It is an exciting time to be a Freemason. I am firmly convinced that craft Masonry in North Carolina is strong, active, and well positioned to grow. There are many indicators. We could possibly experience a net increase this year or in 2012 for the first time since 1981. Yes, we have a number of older members — six are grateful for living more than 100 years, including our oldest member who is 106. In terms of new members, of the 2,883 petitioners in the last two years, the average age is 37. We must focus on these new Masons and engage them such that they gain a passion for this greatest of fraternal organizations. There are many reasons that foreshadow this renewed interest.

Obviously, we have a rich and proud heritage. The good works of members have in large part quietly continued to aid those in distress and need. It is pleasing to be frequently made aware of the community engagement and additional services being provided by local lodges. There have, of course, been a number of media reports, best selling novels, and mainstream feature films that have referenced Masonry in a gripping, captivating, and enthralling manner. Some even suggest that our fraternity becomes a choice when times are difficult such as the ones we are experiencing now in this "great recession" with high unemployment rates. I am re-

mindful of the admonition of Past Grand Master Graham Pervier who suggested membership declines were nearing their end, and that "friendship, morality, and brotherly love will always be important to men of character."

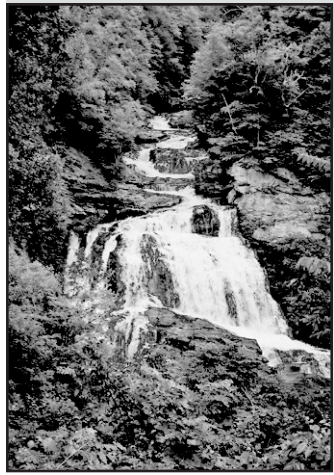
Whenever possible, I have endeavored to convey that in my view there are two traits that are vital to being successful. Those are being passionate and being competent. Whether it is work endeavors, undertakings at church, or achieving the mission of our fraternity, it is vital to have that true belief in your efforts and always seeking to improve your knowledge, skills, and abilities. These traits in my view are paying dividends in terms of the successes we are realizing in the Craft.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

I am particularly grateful for the strong and active support of the inaugural gathering this fall — Homecoming or whatever the name becomes for this joint gathering of alumni, friends, and ambassadors to celebrate and advance the mission of our beloved Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. By all reports, the weekend of October 7–9 was a striking success. In the first planning meeting, it was determined that 1,000 in attendance would be a positive goal. The most common estimate that I heard about the actual attendance was 2,500! The barbecue cooking contest was very popular and well managed. There were many positive events, including golf, a marquee bluegrass band, numerous volunteers, and more.

■ see BOTTOM LINE, page 2

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter



South Mills

When you are as close to the state line as New Lebanon 314, it's easy to develop a close relationship with lodges in another state. New Lebanon Lodge frequently trades visits with Virginia's Indian River Lodge. Indian River came down for 314's fish fry in the spring. New Lebanon returned the visit and ate chicken with Indian River Lodge in June. They were also planning to visit Virginia again October 18 on Crazy Tie Night.

New Lebanon filled their officer stations with past master for their Past Masters' Night September 13. They figured up and found that they had 772 years of Masonic experience among those in the chairs.

They were holding their fish fry fundraiser for the Masonic Home for Children on October 8.

— *The Plumb Line*

Gastonia

King Solomon 704 did their adopted highway (Gaston Day School Road) trash pickup June 25. They accumulated ten bags including one each of glass, aluminum, and plastic for recycling.

The lodge is adding a new multimedia projector. The old Carousels are disappearing quickly and being replaced by digital projectors.

— *The Plumb Line*

Spencer

Spencer 543 has established a calling system to pass along the word of meetings, special events, and items of interest.

— *On the Square*

Warsaw

Hurricane Irene took off some roof shingles at Warsaw 677. Insurance handled the issues, but it did remind them to pay attention to their building fund for planned maintenance issues.

Warsaw was to hold their Veterans' Day parade November 5. Warsaw Lodge was holding their Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast the same day. Lodge Master Johnny McGee, currently serving in the Army, was participating in the parade.

The lodge Ladies' and Awards Night was set for December 6.

— *Warsaw Lodge*

Wallace

Wallace 595's Past Masters' and Widows' Night was scheduled for October 3.

— *Newsletter*

Smithfield

Many lodges are discovering that while financial times may be slow, the squeeze is not finding its way to operating costs. Lodge expenses continue to climb requiring that lodge dues be raised. Friendship 84 has raised their dues to \$100 for 2012.

They had Past Masters' and Ladies' Night set for November 3. They had a lodge workday expected October 15.

— *Harvey Evans*

Jacksonville

Semper Fidelis 680's Annual Barbecue Fundraiser this year brought in \$1,900 for Masonic charities.

Semper Fi Lodge also enjoyed two "very successful" Family Days this summer.

— *Trestle Board*

Hickory

August 13 was the date for Hickory 343's Family Day. They host a large crowd for the outdoor fun day each year. They enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs and ice cream at the event. They have a bouncy castle and a water slide for the kids. There was Becky the Balloon Lady to entertain and tours of the foundry exhibit and the Catawba Science Center.

Hickory Lodge sponsored a summer blood drive August 12.

— *Hickory Lodge*

Southport

Predicted bad weather led to delaying Pythagoras 249's Sixth Annual Masonic Golf Tournament. First scheduled for September 16, they changed the date to October 29. The \$50 entry fee included breakfast and lunch. Non-Masons and ladies were welcome. It was being played at Lakes Country Club in Boiling Springs Lakes.

Pythagoras Lodge's Annual Awards and Widows Appreciation dinner was set for November 11.

— *Newsletter*

Gastonia

Holland Memorial 668 was celebrating their 1,000th stated communication with a dinner October 13.

— *Ric Clanton*

Weaverville

Vance 293 held their annual barbecue fundraiser October 8. It was also the night they pass out awards and honor their past masters and widows. They even hold an open house. Bluegrass and gospel music were featured.

— *Edward Hamlin*

Carthage

They are considering building improvements at Carthage 181. They are looking at renovating an outside kitchen area as well as upgrading the fellowship hall, kitchen appliances, cabinets, and sinks.

The September 30 fish fry fundraiser here was considered a success. Proceeds went to the Masonic Home for Children. A chicken and dumpling fundraiser was set for November 4.

Carthage Lodge has launched their first newsletter.

— *Quarterly Trestle Board*

Conover

Work on the ceiling is done and is proceeding on the stairwell at Conover 709.

Fundraisers at Conover Lodge include a couple of local businesses. They had a day in August during which Texas Roadhouse donated to a lodge designated charity ten percent of every meal ticket accompanied with a special coupon. They had a similar arrangement with the Five Star Car Wash, getting two dollars back for every deluxe car wash they sent to the company. Money from the projects went to Masonic charities.

— *Conover Lodge Newsletter*

Salisbury

Andrew Jackson 576 recently congratulated member Jason Mazzoni on his graduation from the United States Naval Academy and his marriage to Susannah Stokes, also an Academy grad.

In July, Andrew Jackson Lodge members Elmer Lagg and Bob Yount got their Veterans' Emblems for 50 years membership.

The big project at the Salisbury Temple is the replacement of the windows there. New windows will be more energy efficient, more attractive, and require less maintenance. They were hoping to have the needed \$24,000 by September. The drive stood at nearly \$14,000 in July.

— *Master's Journal*

Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 had some minor roof damage during Hurricane Irene, but repairs are complete.

Jerusalem Lodge paid the expenses of their delegates to Annual Communication this year.

Jerusalem's members have been faithful in their remembering the lady at WhiteStone they "adopted" a couple of years ago. They send her a few dollars every month for "the little things."

— *The Jerusalem Journal*



At the Abernathy hat trick adding a third generation of certified lecturer are, from left, Jake Abernathy, Jake Abernathy III, Grand Lecturer Mack Sigmon, and Ray Abernathy Jr.

Abernathy family pulls hat trick

CATAWBA — When Jacob Ray Abernathy III passed his proficiency exam August 20, he joined his father Jacob Ray Abernathy Jr. (certified 20 years) and his grandfather Jacob Ray Abernathy (certified 49 years) as a Class A certified lecturer. Records are not readily available, but this milestone could be one of the first three-generation families of certified

lecturers since the program began in 1941. The currently active three hundred-seventy lecturers now include nine sets of father/son certified pairs. Grand Lecturer Mack Sigmon made this special presentation at Riverside 606 on September 12. Just two months after this celebration, Jake passed away. He is much mourned.

— *Mack Sigmon*

Charlotte

Phalanx 31 was having a past masters Master Mason degree October 15. They were having breakfast followed by the degree on a Saturday morning.

— *Brad Hufeld*

Charles M. Setzer 693 collected Halloween candy and decorations for the kids at the Masonic Home for Children.

Their yard sale was not the success they hoped, but they were trying again October 15.

At their October stated meeting, Setzer Lodge was having a program about Mozart's Magic Flute and opera with Masonic themes.

— *Trestleboard*

Excelsior 231 recently hosted a barbecue enjoyed by members of Charlotte Fire Stations 3 and 14 and several MEDIC ambulance crews. Jim Ringley and Jeff Peck did the chef duties.

Excelsior Lodge did their street clean up along Sharon Amity Road September 17. Chuck Menkel, Frank Riley, and Charles Blake did the work.

— *Trestle Board*

Thomasville

Thomasville 214 had a special awards program September 6. Lawrence Hiatt was presented his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years in the lodge. They presented Veteran's Emblems for 50-year members to Fred Plummer, Ellis Jackson, Charles Stout, and Harold Hillard. For their dedication to training new members, Thomasville Lodge saluted coaches Roger Bryant, Doug O'Kelly, Ronnie Boles, Royal Jarvis, Gus Plakakis, Mike Elbersson, and Sam Watford.

Thomasville Lodge has finished their sale of pine straw bales.

— *Trestle Board*

Concord

Cabarrus 720 has raised their dues to \$100, its initiation fees to \$150, and their affiliation fee to \$25.

Cabarrus Lodge's second fundraiser of the year, the iPad raffle, brought in \$800 for the Masonic Homes.

In October, Cabarrus members Bobby Layel, Art Layel, and Frank Burrage got their Veteran's Emblems for 50 years lodge membership.

Union 618 held their Ladies' Night Out November 19. A bluegrass band was to entertain.

Union Lodge and Cabarrus Lodge and the other bodies meeting in their building are installing a new computer projection and sound system.

— *Cabarrus Lodge*

Kinston

St. John's 4 participated in a Masonic church service September 18. They wore aprons and brought their spouses to the Southwood Memorial Christian Church for the ceremonies. Rick Vernon was to give the message.

— *Lynn Hill*

Cary

Matt Ward, son of Cary 198 Past Master Watts Ward, has made a curio cabinet for the lodge. It is being placed in the foyer and will house historical artifacts of the lodge.

Cary Lodge is reviving their scholarship program. This year, they presented two \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships. The promising recipients were Hannah Wetmore, Cameron Bunch, Zakiya Toney, and Erin Beasley.

Their Past Masters' Night was held October 3. Their Fall Barbecue for Masonic charities was November 4.

— *The Trestleboard*

Asheville

The Lodge System of Masonic Education (now available on the Grand Lodge website) is reported to have become quite popular at Mount Hermon 118. It is certainly getting a thorough workout with their raising of seven new Masons in September alone.

Restoration continues on the Asheville Masonic Temple. The most current projects are the rebuilding of the recreation room and building the emergency shelter stocks. They were seeking a shuffleboard, card tables, chairs, a modern television, stereo, cots, bedding, clothing, canned goods, water vessels, and board games.

October 1 was Appalachian Harvest Festival at Mount Hermon 118. They were conducting public tours of the Masonic Temple and serving barbecue. There were art demonstrations, line dancing, clogging, and Appalachian music. They were holding a rummage sale at the same time to raise money for the Masonic Homes.

The Annual Theater Degree at the Temple was set for September 17. The Saturday degree included breakfast and featured the second section of the Master Mason degree in the upstairs theater of the lodge.

At Mount Hermon's Service Awards Dinner September 22, Herbert A. Hill received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership.

— *Trestle Board*, Ron Lambe, and John Burchfield

Kannapolis

Allen-Graham 695 was to hold their Charities Breakfast October 15. Their Annual Ladies' Night was to be held November 19.

Cannon Memorial 626 had their Ladies' Night Banquet set for October 29.

The Kannapolis lodges were having a workday October 22. Upgrades to the building were on tap, with redoing the kitchen area paramount. They were not doing all the restorative work, but cleaning up and tearing out in preparation.

— *Randy Crainshaw*

Cherryville

Cherryville 505 was cooking for fundraising this fall. They had their chicken barbecue October 21. They were selling Boston butts on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

— *News Out of the Blue*

Marble

Marble Springs 439 was having a Poorman's Supper October 1.

— *Sonoma News*

Apex

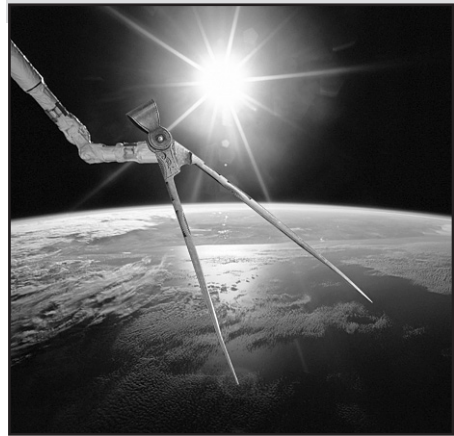
After rain washed them out for a week, the kids at the Masonic Home for Children got to fly model airplanes again in late September. Dave Nyce of Apex 584 visits periodically with his tiny flyers and teaches the kids how to use them — a unique experience for them. Nyce says, "The kids had a great time, and so did I." A coincidental blimp flyover added another special note to the afternoon.

— *Dave Nyce*

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.

ENCOMPASSING THE WORLD



A Roaming Outdoor Lodge

HELENA, MONTANA — In August, 130 Masons attended the second annual Grand Masters' Roaming Outdoor Lodge in Helena and at the Mullan Pass Masonic Historic Site. They centered the gathering around the outdoor exemplification of a Montana Fellow Craft Degree. In addition to many Montana Masons, there were Master Masons

from grand lodges of Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Yukon, Idaho, California, and Scotland.

The weekend was capped off with a pig roast at the Montana Masonic Home. The next Tri-Jurisdictional Roaming Outdoor Lodge will be held at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in September 2012. — *Montana Masonic News*

Actor Dreyfuss becomes a Mason

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — Academy Award winning actor Richard Dreyfuss became a Mason in June. District of Columbia Grand Master Jesse Villarreal made him a Mason at sight in a ceremony at the Scottish Rite Center there. Dreyfuss is a member of Potomac 5.

Dreyfuss' interest began to peak back in 2001 when he worked as narrator on Mr. Dreyfuss Goes to Washington. The show, written by DC Mason Akram Elias featured a profile of many of the Masonic landmarks in our nation's capital. — *The Voice of Freemasonry*

Phillips named honorary member

CARTHAGE — At a special ceremony October 11, Carthage 181 held a steak dinner to celebrate making Past Grand Master B. T. Phillips an honorary member. More than sixty guests and members were present.

Master Ken Lewis and introduced by 19th District Deputy Grand Lecturer Butch Trimmer. Master Jon Hines and Dave Bosworth presented Phillips his honorary membership. He was then "given time to reflect upon his concerns and journeys throughout the years."

Gene Brooks, Columbus 102, presented a program on early lodges in their area and the part that lodge played in the lives of early Masons.

Phillips was presented at the altar by 21st District Deputy Grand



See here, from left, are District Deputy Grand Master Ken Lewis, Phillips, Jon Hines, Carthage Lodge Master Dave Bosworth, and Gary D. Bosworth. — *Dave Bosworth*

Notes

WISCONSIN — At their 167th Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin raised their per capita (the amount paid per member to the grand lodge) to \$37. — *The Wisconsin Masonic Journal*

ARIZONA — At their recent annual communication, the Grand Lodge of Arizona moved the decision on serving alcohol in the lodge to the individual lodges. — *Arizona Masonry*

NEW JERSEY — The Grand Lodge of New Jersey, at their 224th Annual Meeting, defeated a proposal to lower the minimum age for petitioning for the degrees to 18. — *The New Jersey Freemason*

MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN — Wisconsin's Masonic Soccer Camps celebrated their 20th anniversary this past summer. The local lodge, Middleton 180, hosts a cookout for the All-Stars and Youth Campers. — *The Wisconsin Masonic Journal*

New New Mexico Masons get book

Newly raised Master Masons in New Mexico get a copy of Christopher Hodapp's *Freemasons for Dummies*. The book, one of the best general information books on the fraternity, is supplied by the Lodge of Research of New Mexico.

They have their own edition with an introductory letter and lists of resources for Masonry in New Mexico. — *The New Mexico Freemason*

Does size count?

The smallest jurisdiction in the United States is Hawaii with 11 Lodges and 1,641 Masons.

Alaska has 20 Lodges with 1,936 Masons.

The largest is Pennsylvania with 114,447 Masons in 431 Lodges.

— *2011 List of Lodges Masonic*

New head for MSA

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND — George O. Braatz has been named the new executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association. He succeeds Richard E. Fletcher who held the post for 24 years. Braatz is past grand master and past grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

The Masonic Service Association, created in 1919, produces Masonic educational materials, statistical reports, collects disaster relief funds, and administers a large hospital visitation program.

Help for CA kids

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA — The Masonic Center for Youth and Family has been launched here. It is designed to help youth who struggle with behavioral and mental health issues. They offer analysis and treatment in all areas of youth psychology.

Children between the ages of four and 17, related to a California Mason are eligible for services. — *Fraternal Review*

RENEWAL, from page 1

A few years back, state archives experts developed a rescue/rejuvenation plan for the lodge that prioritized portions of the work based on importance to the building's survival and future protection. All those projects are, of course, being done in a manner to preserve the historic value and appreciation of the building.

Archives personnel recently got to visit the lodge while in Halifax doing historical work on the Davie home. They were pleased to see the roof replaced and lodge room painted and largely restored. Experts consulted regarding the work yet to be done, discussing techniques for best protecting their history. The lodge is exploring methods which will allow them to accept tax-deductible gifts to help the building.

The Greensboro Masonic Temple was built in the 1920s by several Masonic organizations. The massive structure is one of downtown Greensboro's cornerstones.

In recent years, faced with decline of the building's condition and falling income, the temple began closing off portions of the building. The building board became divided on keeping or selling temple, became stalemated and ineffective. The building and cooperation began a downward spiral. Within the last year, there have been several consultations with parent organizations of the owners of the building, primarily the Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite Valley. All interested parties decided to drop plans to sell the building and begin looking for ways to reorder their assets to assure increased income and restoring the building to its former grandeur.

Most of the projects so far have been clean up and paint up, but these things have changed the outlook there. They are studying ways to take on bigger jobs and maintain the presence in a renewed downtown Greensboro.

The Grand Lodge has also been guilty of letting some things go, sometimes choosing a path cheaper than is in the long term interest of our property.

The Grand Lodge headquarters in Raleigh, built in the 1950s, was once named as among the 50 best buildings in Raleigh, a town known for its architecture. It featured glass all around, offering an expansive view of the grounds all the way through the structure, from front to back — a modernization of a Greek temple form. The back of the building sported a large deck off the grand hall on the building's top floor.

Apparently, in the late 1960s the deck began to settle, pulling against the glass and aluminum

back of the structure. Rather than tackle the expensive job of replacing the deck, they removed the deck and closed in all the glass on the back, turning a sunny expanse of a lobby into a dank cave. Repairing this mistake has been a longtime goal of Grand Lodge members. Today, reaching the goal is within sight.

Destruction followed by construction began late in the summer and should be finished well before spring. Modern glass has been placed in all its original places, and a concrete deck suited to the building are in place. Finish work is yet to be completed, but already the building is much more inviting.

Next on the agenda is paint and removal of carpet to reveal the terrazzo floors, including the mosaic pavement of the grand hall. Modern, appropriate furniture is a future goal in the renovation.

All three facilities welcome your visits and participation in their revitalized Masonic lives.



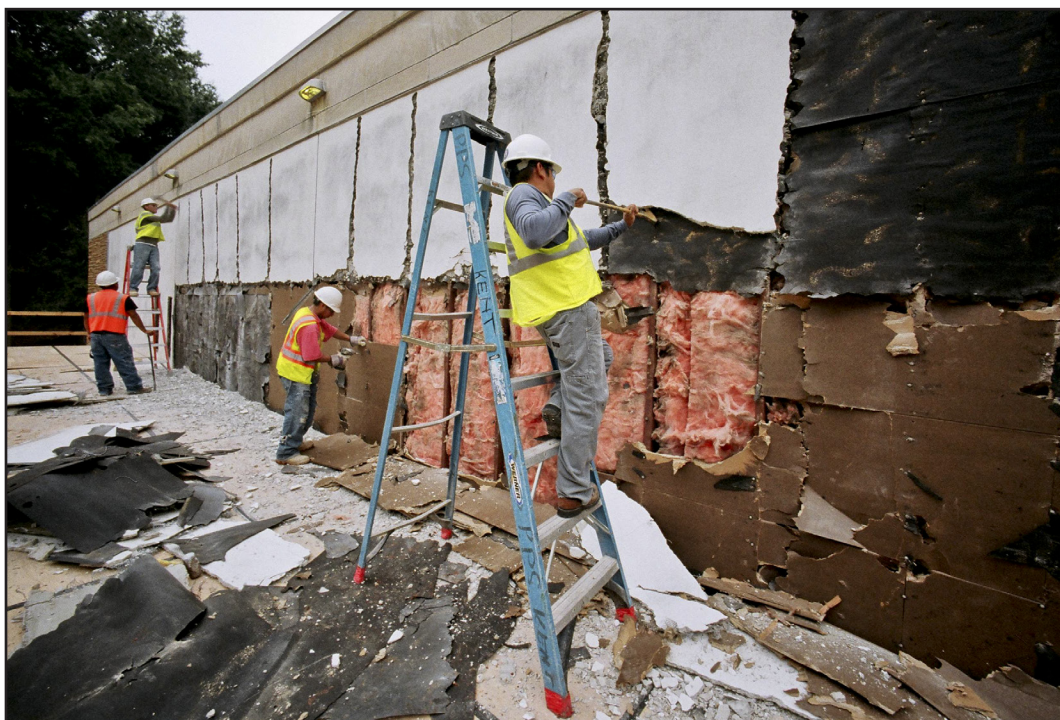
Exterior paint discussion in Halifax



Greensboro Masonic Temple's winding stair goes from flaking to spit shine.



The old look of the back of the Grand Lodge office.



Workers tear out the back wall of the Grand Lodge office before restoring it.



Royal White Hart's lodge room looks its best in many years.

HOMECOMING, from page 1

Todd Ham marshaled the competition. Cooking started on Friday night. Two bands played for the contestants Friday night: Kelly and the Cowboys were followed by the Swang Brothers.

Judging was conducted Saturday morning. Boston butts, spare ribs, and chicken thighs were cooked. Judging was based on appearance, aroma, tenderness/texture, taste, and overall impression.

In the barbecue contest, Raleigh 500 claimed the Grand Champion title, and Knap of Reeds 158 was Reserve Champion. In the Ribs Division, Raleigh 50 won followed by Oxford 122, and Virginia's Spurmont 98. The Pork Division winner was Leaksville 136, second to Knap of Reeds, third Rocky Mount Shrine Club. Raleigh 500 won the Chicken Division, with Knap of Reeds 158 in second and Orphans 761 in third.

Best of all, when the judging was done, five dollars got you an all-you-can-eat wristband to rove the cooking area and sample all the wares. What a country gourmet experience it was! No one left wanting.

Orphans 761 held a meeting in their campus lodge room first thing on Saturday with a good number of visitors on hand. They got out with plenty of time to catch the 10:00 A.M. Shrine parade.

The parade featured several dozen units from Sudan, Oasis, and Amran Shrine. Kids and adults alike smiled and laughed watching the little cars, trucks, bands, clowns, and animal units move through town and finish their march at the Home.

After the parade and during lunch there were other distractions. There were inflatable slides and bouncers for kids on the grounds. A few vendors were there. Entertainment took to the stage on the front steps of the administration building. Lonesome River Band played into the afternoon as visitors toured the campus and its museum.

For years, North Carolina's largest Masonic gathering was the St. John's Day celebration held each June at the Home for Children. Thousands would gather at the Oxford campus to watch one of the state's largest Shrine parades, listen to some music, and have lunch together. As time



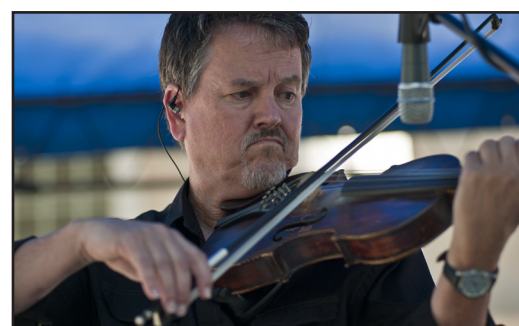
At an Archives exhibit, Tommy Jones points to a photo of himself as a tot.

went on, a shrinking staff at the Home found the party more and more debilitating and costs began to climb. With the death of longtime St. John's Day coordinator Lloyd Young, the job of coordinating the gathering seemed impossible. St. John's Day was cancelled for a few years.

Grand Master Ledford and the Grand Lodge officers started talking about rejuvenating the tradition late last year. They invited the Shrine potentates to join their discussions, and found they were also interested in renewing the celebration.

Hundreds expressed their pleasure at the return of an old Masonic tradition. Just as many celebrated the cool temperatures — a huge improvement over the often blistering heat of the old St. John's Day. Alumni expressed their happiness that the events added to the fun they had for their weekend.

Make plans to come to the Home for next year's celebration when the kids from the Home will celebrate with the fraternity which helped raise them, October 12–13, 2012.



STATE, from page 3

Statesville

More than 50 people attended Statesville 27's Ladies' and Past Masters' Night October 22. They unveiled Grand Master Lewis Ledford's portrait. It will hang beside Past Grand Master Tom Gregory's picture there.

Kevin Combs was honored with the J. C. Brown Award. The Horizon Award went to Justin LaCount. Veterans' Emblems for 50 years membership went to Skyler Little and Reid Summers.

Statesville Lodge's Pancake Jamboree was held October 14–15. They brought in \$1,500 for WhiteStone and \$220 to jump start their January blood drive.

Statesville Lodge recently tapped two new honorary members: Bill Smith and Budd Immesberger.

Mount Moriah 690 held their drawing for the beach house vacation. Pressly White won the raffle which benefitted the John B. Earle Scholarship Fund.

The stair carpet has been replaced, and the lift chair has been installed at the Statesville Masonic building. Cotton Morrison and Vester Boone each made large contributions to the project, but more are being solicited. — *The Joppa Informer*

Raleigh

Masters 754 was making its annual visit to the Masonic Home for Children October 3. They were serving the kids pizza lunch.

November 17 was set for Advancement Night at Masters Lodge. It's the night officers move up a station to the one they expect to hold next year. — *The Trowel*

James B. Green 735's Past Masters' Night was held October 11. They were putting past masters in the chairs for the opening and closing. — Dustin Tarditi

Pittsboro

Columbus 102 was holding an event October 15 to increase community awareness of the lodge and raise funds for charity. They were having an open house, a car show, and a silent auction. They plan to make the event an annual affair around Columbus Day. — Mike Kenlan

Kernersville

On their off Monday nights, Kernersville 669 has a study session they call Mason's University. They start at 6:00 P.M. and offer informal study for men wanting to be coaches, generalized study of Masonry, or just fellowship for Brothers who only want to come and hang out.

Kernersville Lodge was holding their Spaghetti Supper fundraiser October 22. Tickets were six dollars. — *The Kernersville Masonic News*

Deep Run

Pleasant Hill 304 had their Annual Pancake and Sausage Supper September 16. It was five dollars for all you can eat. — Justin Byrd

Mount Airy

Granite 322 was having their spaghetti supper October 28. — Stephen McCraw

Mount Holly

Mount Holly 544 was holding their Annual Barbecue Fundraiser October 14. — Dewayne Gore

Creedmoor

A fish fry was scheduled for November 14 at Creedmoor 499. Grand Historian Michael Brantley was presenting a program about the building of King Solomon's Temple. — Rick Haskins

Wake Forest

Tickets were \$15 for Wake Forest 282's womanless wedding. The big event was November 19. — Andrew Barrett

Hayesville

Clay 301's third annual Barn Degree was set for Saturday, September 10. The degree is held in Ronnie Smith's barn. Dinner at Downings Creek Baptist Church was to precede the degree. — *Sonoma News*

Liberty

Liberty 714 held an open house October 20. They had Frogmore Stew. After supper, Terry Cox presented his program "The Secrets of Masonry Revealed." — Paul Bruhon

Stedman

Thomas Pope Jr., member of Stedman 730, is having an eventful year. He was recently named district deputy grand lecturer. That was just a couple of months after being promoted to sports editor at the *Fayetteville Observer*. Pope is chairman of the *NC Mason* Board of Publication.

Greensboro

The 23rd Masonic District was entering its float in Greensboro's December 3 Holiday Parade.

P.P. Turner 746 was having their Ladies' Night and Awards Banquet October 20. Past Grand Master Tom Gregory was the guest speaker. — *P.P. Turner Lodge*

Guilford 656 was holding their open house on August 15. Terry Cox was reprising his "Secrets of Masonry Revealed" program.

Turner Lodge was holding their Annual Ladies' Night and Awards Banquet October 15. They were to hand out service awards and honor their widows. They were having the affair at The Painted Plate. — *The Trestle Board*

Benson

Relief 431 has a funeral tradition that recently attracted attention around the 16th Masonic District. They have the lodge deacons stand at each end of the casket during visitation. Selma 320 is reportedly adopting the custom. — Grover Dees

High Point

North Carolina Lawyers Weekly named Acacia 674's Jim Morgan as one of their Leaders in the Law for 2011. Morgan has been a lawyer here for more than 40 years. Morgan served in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1977 until 1982. — Charles Ingram

Kenansville

St. John's 13 held their annual family picnic this fall. They hold it every year at Maxwell's Mill. Seventy people enjoyed the good food and entertainment this year.

At the picnic, Willard Ray Westbrook got his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years of Masonic membership. — *Lodge Log*

Franklinville

Hanks 128 again adopted their neighboring Franklinville Elementary School. Over the past few years, the lodge has provided sports equipment, school supplies, clothing, and last year started giving food items for the schools Back Pack program. — William Baird

Wilson

Wilson 712 hosted a spaghetti dinner (eat in or take out) October 7. Proceeds were earmarked for local charity, including help for a local brother on hard times. — Grover Dees

Canton

Each year, Sonoma 472 honors military veterans. This year's dinner was held on October 6. — *Sonoma News*

Snow Hill

Radiance 132 was holding a charity fundraiser November 4. Pancakes, sausage, and scrambled eggs were to be served. — *The Jerusalem Journal*

Winston-Salem

Old Town 751 is having a raffle. Prizes up for grabs are a Troy-Bilt riding mower, a Mossburg Silver Reserve shotgun, and a 42-inch LCD television. They were drawing at their November 12 awards banquet. The banquet ticket price includes one raffle ticket. — *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

Walnut Cove

Walnut Cove 629 was holding an outdoor degree October 1. — *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

Wallace

Wallace 595 was planning a golf tournament in October. — *Bulletin of Wallace Lodge*

Maggie Valley

Masonic Motorcycle riders converged in western North Carolina for the Calvin E. Taylor Memorial Toy Ride. The ride honors a fallen Mason and NC State Highway Patrol Trooper. — Derek Cheek

Ric Carter photos



Taylor Brown with some of his Merlefest camper buddies.

Campers honor their favorite Mason

WILKESBORO — Each year, during the music festival Merlefest, Liberty 45 rents their grounds to campers visiting for the music. It is the lodge's primary annual fundraiser for Masonic charities.

Many of the 200 campers in 100 tents are regulars and have been for years. Over time, many have become friends of the lodge. For the past several years, several of the campers have been feeding the Masons and other campers a feast on the last night of the festival. They cover the menu from shrimp to steak to barbecue and more.

This year, the campers gave Taylor Brown a plaque. It was given in appreciation of Brown's "hard work and commitment to the campers."



Merlefest campsites

They also donated \$600 to Relay for Life, one of his favorite causes. — Steve Brown



Saturday breakfast enjoyed in Burgaw

BURGAW — The Saturday morning breakfast held at King Solomon 138 in August was a good success. Twenty-nine people attended. Eight were non-Masons interested in the fraternity. Three Entered Apprentices were also on hand. As always, Past Grand Master Bill Mathis gave a very interesting and informative talk. — Keith Batson

RIDE, from page 8



Riders board for the last leg of The Ride.

they were fed by the 13th Masonic District. It is the tenth year the district has hosted the riders.

The riders whiled away the afternoon offering to the children rides and views of the many bikes. After an enjoyable day in the clean air and blue skies, the riders headed off for their homes

taking their own routes and getting a little more solitary time as they returned to their families.

If you'd like to learn more about participating next year as a rider or sponsor contact Ride Chairman Doug Earnhardt at (704) 957-0346 or <doug.earnhardt@airspeedllc.com>.

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.

MANTEO — At Manteo 521 this year, Chris East is serving in the master's chair (commonly know as he East). In the South, is found Joe Southern who is this year's senior warden. Efforts so far have been unsuccessful to persuade Junior Warden Bo Taylor to change his name to West. — Russ Lay

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1..... Richard Lynn Paxton | 198..... Shade Allen Wooten III | 391..... Ryan McCabe Haynes | 552..... Gary James Grant | 691..... Justin Dale Jones |
| 1..... James Joseph Scrimo | 205..... Christopher Joseph Brady | 391..... Jeffrey Scott Staples | 552..... Alan M. Mullis | 692..... Patrick Michael Fain |
| 8..... Matthew Howard Ellis | 205..... Thomas McCellan Forehand | 395..... Christopher George Hughes | 552..... Raymond Cary Spillers | 692..... Dennis Lee McLendon |
| 8..... Emmett Paul Starnes | 205..... Harry Crittendon Sheldon | 397..... Bennie Riddle | 562..... Zachary Dale Connelley | 694..... Zachary Filmor Gavin |
| 8..... Donald Lee Wiggins | 208..... Ashley Earl Carter | 397..... Bradley Glen Mills Vess | 562..... Jody Allen Gill | 694..... Ronnie Lee May |
| 19..... John Byron Roberts | 217..... Ralph Everett Green | 405..... John Talbot Capps III | 563..... Edward Thomas Britt | 694..... Trevor Alan Ogle |
| 40..... David Dietrich Holder | 217..... Levi Russton Henry | 405..... Kim Todd Hughes II | 564..... Jeremy Shawn Bright | 694..... Henry William Stringer |
| 40..... Fred Leo Puryear | 217..... Terry Keith Moore | 405..... Michael Ray Luther Jr. | 564..... Edward John Michael | 694..... Ralph Lyndon Wall |
| 40..... Cary Franklin Squires | 218..... Daniel Leroy Hopping | 405..... Donald Tyler Mann | 573..... Jerry Shea Davis | 695..... Joseph Ray Self |
| 64..... Jeffrey Allan Boothby | 218..... Scott Woolard Kennedy | 407..... Christopher Edward Slane | 576..... Richard Dolan Starnes | 695..... Gary Wesley Yandle |
| 64..... Stephen Mark Lear | 229..... Samuel Wilbur Brummitt | 407..... William Dwayne Youhouse | 578..... Andrew Barclay Goodwin | 699..... Rodney Keith Hardy |
| 75..... Bobby Steven Hassell | 231..... Robert Gordon Eaton Jr. | 408..... Wendell Craig Burch | 578..... Joshua John Roskoskey | 699..... Matthew Ronald Needham |
| 76..... Phillip Roy Bialek | 231..... Charles Houston Milligan | 408..... Jeremy Stuart Harn | 584..... Christopher Gordon Howard | 703..... James Darren Bursell |
| 76..... Elmon Fowler Dale Jr. | 237..... Ricky Todd Buchanan | 408..... Jonathan Martin Sparrow | 589..... Bryan David Farquhar | 705..... Paul Johnson Welch |
| 76..... Jason McCray Trakas | 237..... James Earl Hoskins | 408..... Theodore Hasen Talisman | 589..... Gunner Lloyd Lane | 706..... Mark Vincent Adams |
| 83..... Joshua Lindsey Parker | 237..... Lars Christof Kagan | 409..... Gerald Wesley Boone | 589..... John Timothy Roberson | 707..... Samuel Patrick Stuart Jr. |
| 83..... Hector Luis Saavedra | 237..... Richard Wayne Monosso | 409..... Lee Franklin Booth | 593..... Clifford Wayne Hartsoe | 708..... Justin Wallace Kimrey |
| 83..... Charles Franklin Tyson | 243..... Craig Steven Edwards | 409..... David Allen Foy | 594..... Shane Mitchell Scott | 708..... Jeffrey Scott Sanborn |
| 83..... Wayne Scott Yates | 244..... Eddie Lynn Purser | 409..... Joshua Slade Hammill | 598..... Allen Mark Beach | 710..... Robert Joel Crofts |
| 84..... Dale Stafford Wilson | 249..... Samuel Aaron Puschaver | 409..... Howard Lee Hayes | 598..... Richard Alexander Elkins | 714..... Christopher Dwight Bowman |
| 85..... Philip Andrew Parker | 249..... Brandon Reed Raleigh | 409..... Gregory Michael Victor LaRocco | 598..... Frank Anthony Luther | 714..... Jason Scott Rouse |
| 98..... John Marcus Strickland | 259..... Edward Andrew Dodd | 420..... Timothy Lee Scott | 598..... Skippy Warren Sparks | 714..... Robert Charles Rouse |
| 99..... Jon Eric Clenney | 261..... Caleb Clark | 427..... Adam David Roper | 606..... Kyle Edward Sigmon | 719..... Richard George Krebs |
| 104..... Edward Scott Sheppard | 263..... Michael David Lookadoo | 427..... Roger Lee Wiggins | 606..... Zachary Clark Sigmon | 720..... Christopher Scott Craft |
| 104..... Willis Cohoon Watts Jr. | 263..... David Rhett Timmerman | 428..... Ronnie Lee Amos | 616..... Kenneth Luke Atkins | 720..... John Malachi Lewis |
| 114..... Cornelius Stewart Chance | 265..... Mark Hamlett Lundy | 428..... Michael Bradley Stewart | 617..... Robert W. Armstrong | 720..... Kevin Joseph Williams |
| 114..... Jeffrey Curtis Halliburton | 271..... Michael Shane Clark | 428..... Leonard Glenn Stump Jr. | 617..... Jonathan Bennett Deese | 722..... Nicholas Scott Hartgrove |
| 114..... David Lane Wade | 282..... John Paul McGuire | 429..... James Robert Gentry | 618..... Brian Keith Knox | 723..... John Mark Wall |
| 117..... Justin Ray Crisp | 282..... Mark Richard Williams | 429..... Michael Thomas Koger | 618..... Arnold Joel Price | 725..... Nicholas Adam Armstrong |
| 117..... James Carlton Green | 289..... Jonathan Matthew Bowman | 433..... Christopher Paul Teasdale | 618..... Perry Lee Sams | 725..... Douglas Michael BacsKay |
| 117..... Benjamin Michael Thomas | 292..... Robert Junior Shelton | 435..... William Larry Holt | 626..... Walter Kenneth Gaylor III | 730..... Joshua James Cain |
| 117..... Bradford Wright Webb | 294..... Justin Ryan Berry | 437..... Jonathan Russell Hancock | 629..... Durwood Wayne Bennett | 732..... Gary Randall Kennedy |
| 118..... Donald Keith Clayton | 299..... Ronald John Gority | 454..... Larry Samuel Couch | 629..... Thurmond Hugh Hall Jr. | 732..... Roy Grayson Lockhart |
| 118..... William C. Coin | 301..... Christopher Michael Jones | 460..... Mark Aaron Cobb | 629..... Clifford Thomas Shrewsbury | 734..... Thomas Dall Goodwin |
| 118..... Christopher Prescott Johns | 304..... Stephen Curtis Norville | 460..... Kevin Dennis Johnson | 629..... Alexander Nicholas Simmons | 737..... Daniel Scott Scherr |
| 118..... Mark E. Jordan | 305..... Donald Brandon Christian | 461..... Ludwig Wolfgang Amadeus Albl | 629..... Salvador Souto IV | 737..... William Hayward Smith |
| 118..... James Ronald McNatt | 305..... Aaron Matthew Culver | 461..... Randal Scott Hudson | 637..... Randy Lynn Huneycutt | 737..... Brian Scott Spaulding |
| 118..... Joshua Paul Warren | 317..... Jacob Ian Johnson | 461..... Martin Keith Shelton | 650..... George Matthew Hall | 738..... Travis Austin Hughes |
| 127..... Steven Kreg Hutchinson | 317..... Ernest James Rennie | 461..... Terry Franklin Walker | 654..... Derrick Justin Wendler | 738..... David Kenneth Sluis |
| 129..... Dickie Dean Brannock | 319..... Kelley Dean Ballard | 472..... Jeremy Cagle | 656..... Kevin Dillon | 740..... Jimmy Lawrence Jackson |
| 134..... Christopher Aaron Pitts | 319..... Henry Lyman Carter | 483..... Jimmy Lee Epley | 656..... James Jason Goff | 741..... Cory Adam Noe |
| 136..... Michael Vincent Gourley | 319..... Edward Earl Croom | 483..... Jason Daniel Lester | 656..... Lyle Sutton Smith | 743..... Skylar Alan Adams |
| 145..... Brett Erskine Monteith | 319..... Andrew Douglas Glass | 484..... Brian Matthew Morris | 656..... Samuel Alen Watson | 743..... Gabriel Allen Hicks |
| 145..... Kenneth Edward Rueckert | 319..... Mark Scott Johnson | 495..... William Walter Adcock | 657..... Jeffrey Scott Gardner | 743..... Joel Christopher Liptak |
| 145..... John Allan VanHook | 319..... Jacob Kendall Lea | 495..... Braxton Thomas Greene | 657..... Justin Matthew Jones | 743..... David John Soprano |
| 146..... Joseph William Lovingood | 319..... Joshua Reagan Lea | 495..... Samuel Howard Williams | 664..... Timothy Matthew Register | 749..... Johnny Clyde Price |
| 146..... Ira Hayden Alexander Rogers | 320..... Edward Milton Davis III | 500..... Alton Paul Brown | 667..... Jeffery Ray Bailey | 751..... Corey Devin Kiges |
| 146..... John Joyner Snow III | 340..... David Thomas Grimes | 502..... Trevor Britt Livert | 667..... Prateek Bhatnagar | 752..... Joseph Michael Gibson |
| 147..... Albert John Lenowicz | 348..... Adam Richard Hatley | 502..... Justin Travis Meeks | 667..... Rolando Rodriguez Pacheco | 753..... Michael Greer Harrison |
| 147..... Charles William Wright | 348..... Walter Neil Miller | 509..... William Ray Askew Jr. | 669..... James Paul Dobson | 755..... David Furrow |
| 151..... Tommy Ezra Holder | 359..... Christopher Blake Mackey | 509..... Joshua Kyle Legan | 669..... Miguel Antonia Fernandez | 757..... Brian Martin Bishop |
| 151..... Alexander Daniel Holder Jr. | 369..... Marvin Wayne Franks | 515..... Terry Patrick Clark | 670..... Phillip Nathan McLeese | 757..... Tyler David Guess |
| 158..... Patrick Kent Dixon | 369..... James Calloway Patterson | 515..... Andrew Lloyd Johnson | 679..... Fouad Kifah Fakhouri | 757..... Olan Christopher Henderson |
| 176..... William Thomas Wentzien | 369..... David Thomas Stowe | 515..... Troy Clifton Yawn | 679..... Jeremy Lawrence Morgan | 757..... Harry C. Johnson |
| 188..... David Clarence Cottrell | 380..... Michael Delano Montjoy | 521..... William Randolph Collins Jr. | 679..... Jacob Alan Morris | 757..... Robert Casey Noles |
| 190..... William Brian Ezzell | 381..... Timmy Daniel Edwards | 521..... Dennis Lee Franklin | 680..... Quinton Deshaun Harris | 757..... Nathan Andre Sallach |
| 190..... William Brian Ezzell | 381..... Preston Brooks Hamrick | 521..... Christopher Todd Magee Jr. | 683..... Carl J. Corry | 757..... Christopher Carroll Sawyer |
| 190..... Bruce Sumrell Hart | 384..... Eddie Bruce Needham | 527..... Jeffrey Wayne Watson | 687..... William Edward Bailey | 757..... Timothy Allen Sawyer |
| 191..... Adam Aaron Provenzano | 384..... Wesley Damon Wade | 529..... Ryan Paul Christy | 688..... Thomas Howard Bonner | 757..... Casey Byron Snyder |
| 198..... Jose Miguel Patricio Guerreiro | 388..... Terry Roger Allen | 543..... Samuel Benjamin Krohn | 688..... Shayne Thomas Bunn | 757..... Timothy Lynn Tench |
| 198..... James Matthew Kohut | 388..... John Charles Glenn | 543..... Michael John Painter | 688..... William Neil Drysdale | 757..... Clifton Edward Tuck |
| 198..... Chintan Upendra Patel | 388..... Richard Chance Witherspoon | 544..... Christopher Wayne Crump | 688..... Gary Wayne Odle | 762..... Geary Deward Blackwood |

SILOAM, from page 8



Mike Carter photos

The lodge did not submit any reports during its last two years of existence; neither did any of its members attend the annual Grand Lodge meeting. Its last report showed that it had 30 members on its roll. On January 10, 1929, the Grand Lodge withdrew Siloam's charter. Perhaps hard times took its toll on this small rural lodge.

The building, once in danger of being demolished, was saved by the Franklin High School Alumni Association which took on the restoration of the building as a special project. The old Franklin High School lost its identity quite a few years ago when it consolidated with Union High School. The school building is now on property owned by Harrells Christian Academy.

On Sunday afternoon, March 26, a special celebration was held to dedicate the restored downstairs and the new windows of the old lodge building. Junior Grand Warden Dalton W. Mayo was on hand to provide a brief history of Siloam Lodge.

Plans are to use the ground floor for community purposes such as the offering of continuing education classes. To make sure that the building does not lose its connection with the Masonic fraternity, a copy of the lodge charter and early

Siloam's columns have a crude beauty.

annual returns are on display in a glass case provided by Alderman Boreham Johnson, a member of Rehoboth 279 in Rose Hill, in memory of his late wife Carolyn. The Alumni Association

hopes to restore the upstairs lodge meeting room as funds become available.

Dalton W. Mayo is senior grand warden-elect of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.



While the lodge room awaits restoration, the downstairs is ready for use.

MILEPOSTS



TARBORO — On September 13, Concord 58 had their best turn out of the year when they presented Turner Felton, right, his Veterans' Emblem honoring his 50 years of Masonic membership. He served Concord Lodge twice as master (1971 and 1995) as well as secretary and treasurer. Felton moved his membership as he lived in different towns, joining Concord 58, Queen City 602, Lebanon 391, and Twin County 729 during his Masonic career. Felton passed away less than two weeks after receiving the honor. Felton is seen here with Concord Lodge Master Billy Phillips. —William Reid



ASHEVILLE — Nichols-West Asheville 650 Master Thomas Boza recently shared the east with 210 years of Masonic experience. They handed out service awards during the meeting. Seen, from left, are John Tom Case (60 years); Boza; Frank Sentelle (50 years); Maurice Herzberg (50); and Joe Hamrick (50). — Jack Barnett



RALEIGH — On October 3, William T. Bain 231's Carl J Honeycutt, center, received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership. Bain Lodge Master Dean Moran, right, made the presentation. Seen here with them is Honeycutt's son Scott. — Larry Reynolds



REIDSVILLE — Jefferson Penn 384 Past Master Jay McCollum, left, received, September 20, his Veterans' Emblem for 50 years lodge membership. Jefferson Penn Master David Walke presented the award during their Past Masters' Dinner and Awards Night program. — Paul Tutherford



VANCEBORO — Vanceboro 433 held their annual Past Masters' and Ladies' Night October 27. They gave Fountain Simpkins his 60-year Diamond Jubilee award. Seen here, from left, are Seventh District Deputy Grand Master Johnny Surlis, Simpkins, Seventh District Deputy Grand Lecturer Dale Kreuger, and Vanceboro Lodge Master Travis Powell. — Joseph Whitford



ZEBULON — White Stone 155 recently presented two Diamond Jubilee awards celebrating 60 years Masonic membership. Senior Grand Warden-Elect Dalton Mayo presented the awards to Donald Pettigrew Richards and Jerome Oliver Williams. — Robert Rideout



PAW CREEK — Roland Smith had the pleasure of seeing his grandson, David Sluis, raised in West Gate 738 September 19. Seen here, from left, are West Gate Master Danny Davis, Smith, Sluis, 31st District Deputy Grand Master Burgess, and John Litaker. — Roland Smith



EDENTON — Unanimity 7 held their Ladies' & Awards Banquet, October 8. Willis "Bud" Wreagly, center, received his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. He is seen here with his wife Thelma and First District Deputy Grand Master Phil Johnson. — Mickey Spruill



More than 100 motorcycles roared up NC 50 from Raleigh to Oxford during The Ride.

14th Annual Ride carries \$26K to Home for Children

By Ric Carter

OXFORD — Fourteen going on 15; this adolescent is adjusting well. On September 10, the Ride again gathered motorcycles from all over the state and funneled them through Raleigh to their final destination, the Masonic Home for Children.

Now known by most simply as the Ride, its real name is the Charity Ride to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. It was first and remains organized by Eureka 283 in China Grove. During its history, the Ride has raised more than \$300,000 for the Home. This year alone, they brought in nearly \$26,000.

In addition to the entry fees from each rider, they sell company sponsorships beginning at \$250. Many sponsors also provide products for door prizes which are distributed at the Raleigh assembly before the final leg of their ride. Sponsor names appear on the annual Ride t-shirt. There were 61 total sponsors listed this year, including nine which have supported the Ride every year since it started.

The weather this year was perfect for the 108 motorcycles which headed up NC 50 with police escort. Thirty-one lodges were represented. Not surprisingly, Knights of Solomon 764, our motorcycle enthusiasts lodge, had the most riders turn out. Past Grand Master Billy Dill joined them for the second straight year.

On their arrival at the Home,



Ric Carter photos



see RIDE, page 6 Knights of Solomon 764 brought the most riders.



Mike Carter photo

Siloam Lodge ceased to exist in 1929, but their building and memory of them lives on.

Community saves old lodge

By Dalton Mayo

HARRELLS — On December 5, 1855, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina issued charters for 14 Masonic lodges. One of these lodges was Siloam 178 at Harrells Store in New Hanover County.

When I saw this in the Grand Lodge records, my first reaction was that there must be some mistake. But, as it turns out, this community in 1855 was known as Harrells Store, and Harrells Store was indeed located in New Hanover County. Beginning in 1795, Sampson County expanded periodically at the expense of New Hanover County until, in 1872, it got its present land area and final shape.

It is believed that Siloam Lodge was named after the Pool of Siloam, which was located in the southwestern corner of Jerusalem. The water of the Pool of Siloam, being spring water, was considered pure and was used in the ceremonies held in King Solomon's Temple. The water was also thought to have curative properties. In the fifth century, a church was built over the Pool of Siloam and named "Our Savior, the Illuminator." The pool was inside the church and surrounded by porticos. The sick, in hope of being cured, bathed in Siloam Pool. The church was destroyed in 614 and never rebuilt. The site of this ancient water source is now a ruin in Jerusalem.

The first annual report to the Grand Lodge by Siloam 178 listed 21 charter members, with Owen Fennell as master. They took in six new members during their first year.

see SILOAM, page 7

In this issue of The NC Mason



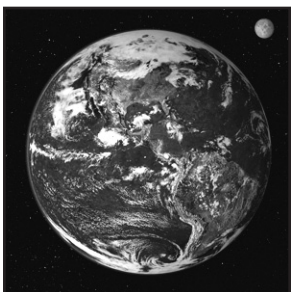
page 1

Masonic Family Homecoming in Oxford



page 1

Wave of renovations spreads around state



page 4

News from around the Masonic world



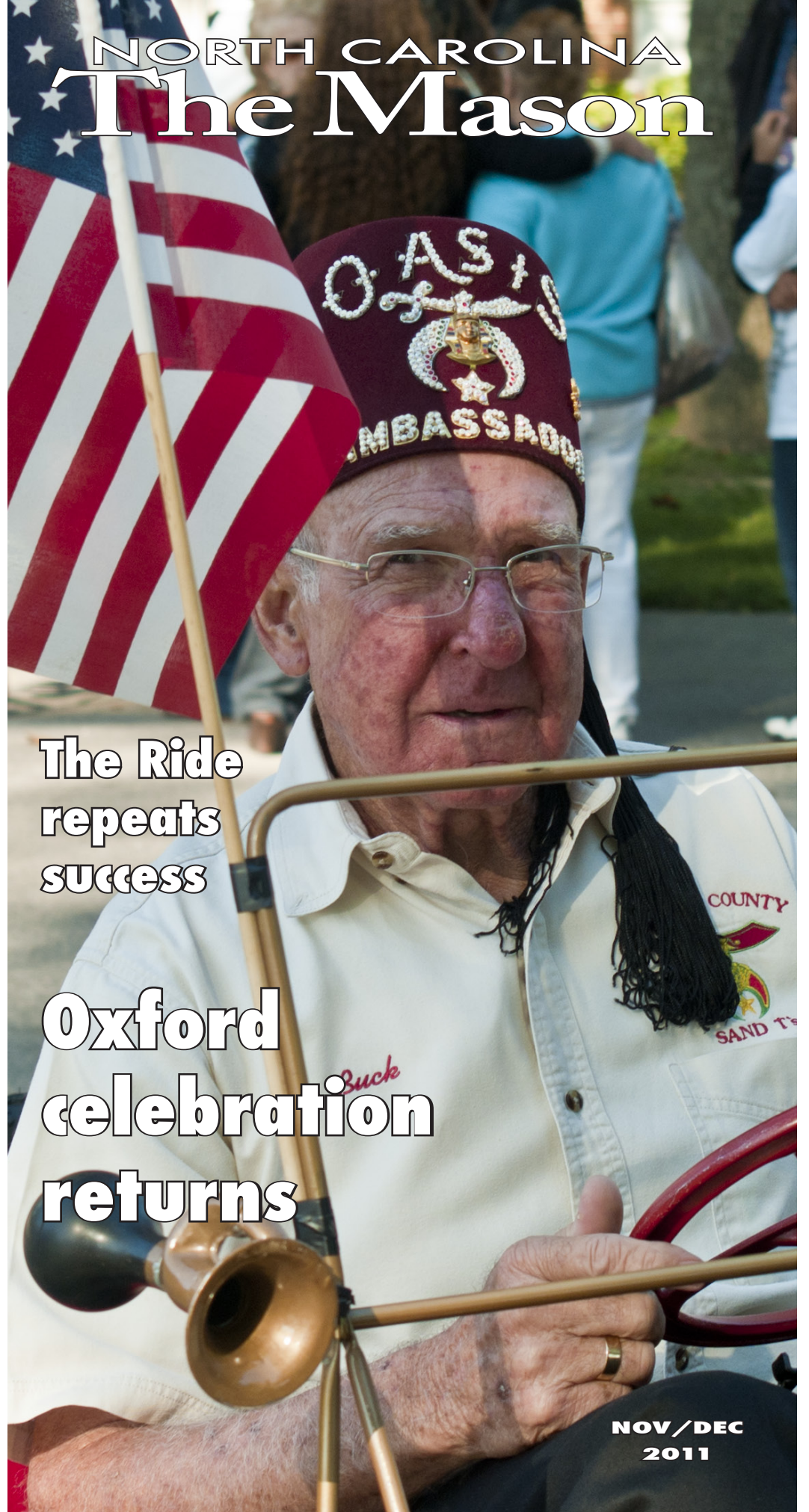
page 6

Campers thank favorite Mason

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The Ride repeats success

Oxford celebration returns

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