

News of the Grand Lodge of Alaska

The North Star



Vol. 3 October 1993 No. 3

Trip to Russia Brings Ideas to Spread The Word About Masonry

In June I had the pleasure of going to Magadan, Russia with the Grand Master of Alaska John Grainger, Mitchell Miller and Roger Barnstead as part of a group to study the possibility of returning Masonry to Russia.

The people I spoke to about Masonry were interested but had no idea what Masonry was. Masonry has been suppressed in Russia for so long that it will take a comprehensive educational program together with much personal contact and support to establish a viable Masonic presence in Russia. However, I feel that it would be a very worthwhile project and worthy of the effort that would be required.

I very much enjoyed the time I spent in Russia. We each stayed with a different family and they were gracious hosts and we were treated to the best they could provide. The Russian people have strong family values, are honest

and willing to work. They have many problems with high inflation, taxes and prices with low wages and are unable to afford many of the things we take for granted.

Russia faces many problems as they change from a Socialist to a Capitalist economy. They look to the United States as a model and are eager to learn English and develop American friendship. There should be many opportunities both for Masonry and enterprise if both they and we can overcome some of the governmental red tape and develop a mutual trust between our people.

I believe Masonry can become a strong force for good in Russia and look forward to returning to Russia.

**Richard L. Owen
Owensboro, Kentucky**

*The only way to have
a friend is to be one.*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson-

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Editorial...

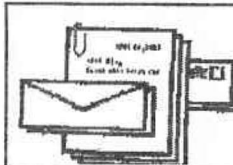
The editors plan four annual issues with a publishing date of April 5, July 5, October 5, and January 5.

Deadline for copy will be March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15.

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*The next time you see or
talk to one of these fine
Brothers listed above be
sure to thank them for
their contribution to this
bulletin!*



Letters to the Editor & Letters of Special Interest

WHO WERE THE MASONS?

by
W. David W. DeLong
Contributing Editor

Who were the Masons? They were the possessors of the most beautiful and precious commodity called morality, the touchstone of their existence--but, they explained themselves badly, infrequently--and most often, not at all--and they became extinct as a result.

Who were the Masons? They were the oldest and largest of fraternal societies, born because men had mutual interests, continued under a necessary mantle of self-imposed silence and secrecy, and then "went public" in the early 1700s only to fail in the 21st Century because of their inability, and/or resistance to define their role, their good works--and, tell the world about it.

Who were the Masons? They were unique--not a religion, but insistent that the membership believe in God, with the right of each member to choose for himself his God. They believed in freedom--they were the adversaries of tyranny and fanaticism. The libraries were filled with countless books and papers written about their history, rituals and tenets. Yet, they failed, in return, to

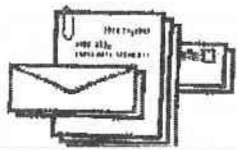
inform the public clearly about themselves, their programs assisting the public--in short, the public heard only that which the enemies of Masonry were expressing. The Masonic response had been silence. The silence was their demise!

Who were the Masons? Their teachings were composed of history, symbols and allegories deftly woven together to impress and instruct the Mason. They published internal newsletters. Yet the function of communicating, in simple terms, Masonry and Masonic activity to the public seemed beyond them.

Who were the Masons? Was their passage into oblivion caused by an inevitability--a sequence of events impervious to Masonic teachings and attempts at survival. What happened to this wonderful craft?

I woke up in a cold sweat from this nightmare. It was the last Christmas season and I had just read Dickens' "Christmas Carol" before retiring. A line kept coming back as Scrooge asks the third spirit, "Are these the shadows of the things that will be, or are they shadows of the things that may be only?"

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Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest

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My brethren, I am proud to serve our Grand Master in the area of publication and public relations. My dictionary defines public relations as promulgating good will. We need to do a lot of it. Masons should be telling their story in the media--all facets. Our scholarships, our Russian Connection, our concordant organizational activities, our position against drug and alcohol abuse need to be publicized to the hilt. We need to act as Masons, explain why we are Masons, and how much we enjoy meeting together as brothers, and invite the public to our Temples. When someone asks, "Who are the Masons and what do they do?", present them with a copy of "Masonic Philanthropies".

The enemies of Masonry have, perhaps obliquely, done us a favor. By pulling our chain, so excessively, they are arousing a reply that they need to hear--and hopefully they will never forget--the public in general really needs to hear it as well.

My brethren, let's get off dead center and promote such good will. Let's change the wording a little--from "Who were the Masons?" to "These are the Masons". ***

PLUS OR MINUS?

by
W. David W. DeLong
Contributing Editor

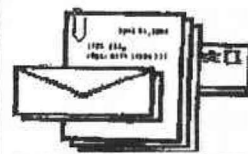
Take an honest, objective, inward look at yourself and your Masonic activity. Do you consider yourself a positive or negative force in this great fraternity? In other words are you a plus or a minus?

Every mason is a distributor of public relations - but whether that PR is good or bad is up to the brother.

Ask yourself these ten questions:

1. Do you attend lodge?
2. Do you keep your dues current?
3. Do you walk and act like a mason?
4. Have you ever offered a petition blank to an interested prospect?
5. Do you wear at least one piece of Masonic jewelry each day?
6. Have you ever offered to work on a Masonic float, display or program that has influence on the general public?
7. Have you ever supplied a personal story, anecdote or Masonic writing for a Masonic or non-Masonic publication?
8. Have you ever invited a non-mason to visit your lodge building?
9. Have you ever given a Masonic

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Letters to the Editor & Letters of
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pamphlet to anyone, not a mason, that explains some aspect of our fraternity?

10. Do you answer questions regarding masonry - and do you invite questions?, or do you attempt to change the subject!

Every mason is expected to satisfy the first three above. The last seven are by no means inclusive, but they are representative of positive actions every mason can take. Very few will answer yes to all these steps.

.But all masons should engage in one or more of those last seven! Some are so very easy and take little effort - but they can be enormously rewarding.

We are, everyone of us, responsible for PR

Make it a plus, not a minus!

**Goose & Gridiron
Anchorage Nest No. 11**

For those who have not had the opportunity to visit our Nest, it currently meets at 10 A.M. on the third Saturday of the month. at the Samovar Inn located at 720 Gambell. All Master Masons are welcome. Join us!

Letter to the editor

How refreshing it is to see that our Grand Master has chosen to print only the names of those who have contributed money toward the sponsorship of the Grand Lodge Newsletter.

For a great number of reasons, the use of business cards and other forms of advertising has always seemed inappropriate for this type of publication -- foremost, being that advertising space costs money and most of our Masonic readers readily recognize, appreciate and support our sponsors.

We are grateful the sponsors have shown that they care enough to assist in the costs of producing this fine publication.

Thank you Grand Master, and,
Thank you sponsors!!

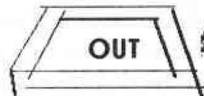
Chuck Gregg - PGM

Grand Lodge of F & AM of Ohio has announced that John J. Robinson passed away on September 6, 1993. Some will probably remember that he was the author of

"BORN IN BLOOD"

Memorial Services were held on September 15, 1993 in Cincinnati, Ohio

FROM
The Grand Secretary



Funeral Hymn Available from
Grand Lodge Office

The Grand Lodge Office has a cassette tape of the Funeral Hymn used in the Master Mason's Degree. The tape is available to any Lodge that wishes to use it during the Degree. The cost is \$5.00 and is available by contacting the Grand Secretary.

1994 Annual Communication is
Coming Soon

Within a couple of months, the Lodges will have registration material for the 1994 Annual Communication. Our communication will be April 7-8 in Sitka. Committees will meet on April 6th. The Sessions and Arrangement is completing final details and will be sending information packets to the Lodges. When those packets arrive, please make your hotel reservations early. We have a limited number of rooms available. There should be room enough for everyone but you will need to have a room reservation prior to your arrival. Also, Alaska Airline will be giving us a small discount on the airfare to Sitka. This will be good on either Alaska Airlines or Horizon Air in the Lower 48. Check with your Lodge Secretary for details.

**When was the last time you
attended your Blue Lodge?**

Contributions To Support The
North Star Still Needed

Thank you to the brothers who have supported the publication of this bulletin. However, our bank Account is being drained fast. We have enough to publish the current issue but it will be up to the brothers whether we can publish our next edition. Grand Lodge approved a \$1.00 increase in the Per Capita to help fund the bulletin but that money will not be received until next spring. The cost for a contribution for 4 issues of The North Star is \$45.00 and may be sent to the Grand Secretary with the check designated **Grand Lodge Bulletin**. The Success of this publication is dependent on your support.

The Real Secrets Of
Freemasonry

Two copies of the newest brochure from the Grand Lodge are enclosed. We hope you will keep one and pass the second one on to a prospective Mason. This brochure is available from your Lodge Secretary for \$2.50/ dozen.

This brochure was originally published by the Grand Lodge of Oregon. For that reason it states "Any man who is 18 or older may petition a Lodge." *In our Jurisdiction the age limit is 21.*

Deputies of the Grand Master

This section is devoted to our District

Deputies



DISTRICT NO. 1
**Greetings from the Tanana
Valley**

Russia! Masonry! Alaska! Is it feasible for the Grand Lodge of Alaska to start Masonry in Russia? I traveled to Magadan, Russia with the Grand Master and two others in June to answer this question. I think it can best be answered by giving a report of the visit. Upon arrival and due to a mix-up, the Grand Master and I spent the first night in the hotel. On our first day we were greeted and welcomed by various groups which included the Rotary. The Rotary is doing very well in Magadan. The second day was spent on a boat trip and cookout on the beach. This gave us the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with members of the Russian Navy and the coordinators of the trip to Magadan. Our group also had a meeting with the administration of the city of Magadan which was opened to a question and answer period. The rest of the days was spent in doing the tourist things and becoming acquainted with our Host families. The Russian people were very generous and considerate to all of the people on the tour. They are very curious about the United States and Alaska in particular. They do not have any

concept of what Masonry is or what it consists of. The nearest thing that they could relate to was the Rotary. They will need to be informed about Masonry which could be done by having the Pamphlet "What I Want My Friends to Know About Masonry" translated into Russian. This would be the first step of many towards establishment of Masonry.

There are many other issues that would have to be resolved prior to the starting of a Lodge in Magadan. Some of them are jurisdiction, resident requirements, memory work, fees, and the establishment of the Lodge with officers in Magadan. Once a Lodge was started, it would have to be monitored to keep it working within our code requirements.

Now to answer the question, can Masonry be established in Russia? Yes, I think that it can, but it will be a long and time consuming process. Would I go back to Magadan? Yes! and I hope to as soon as possible. The Grand Master had two Hosts and I will leave it up to him to explain that situation. I will say this, I have a picture of him with his "Hosts" that is for "sale".

V. W. Mitch Miller, DDGM #1

Deputies of the Grand Master

This section is devoted to our District Deputies



DISTRICT NO. 3

HOME OF THE TRAVELING GAVEL

Where's the gavel? Who knows, but it could be in your Lodge shortly? This is probably one of the best things that has come to District 3 in a long time. Your continued support is necessary to keep it going and gain from the fellowship it carries with it.

I recently had the opportunity of representing the Grand Master in my home state of Idaho. What a joy that was! The hospitality was great and a lot of the Brothers present, I have known for years

Brethren, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported me in the preparation of this publication and the other stressful things I have encountered the last several months. Your continued support is still essential and is very much appreciated by myself and my family. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my wife's involvement in this publication.

I've also had a lot of praise for a job well done, however, I do have to share that with my wife and those have contributed to it's contents. Thanks much!

Until we meet again, keep up the good work. One never knows all until you have been in those shoes.

VW Peter E. Nilles, DDGM #3

DISTRICT NO. 4

TONGASS LODGE UD

For approximately the last 1 1/2 years, the idea for a Lodge in Ketchikan under the Grand Lodge of Alaska was just a passing thought. When the time arrived to start the lodge and the Grand Master of Alaska thought it was a good idea, my vision of a lodge in Ketchikan was a dream come true.

To begin our lodge, we asked for a petition for Dispensation to form a new lodge. The petition was presented to the brothers and in turn, each brother, residing in Ketchikan, signed the petition. After fifteen signatures were received and each applied to his lodge for a certificate of good standing, we were underway.

Our next step was a meeting, called to order on July 16, 1993, to organize the new lodge and elect new officers. There were ten Master Masons present and our meeting was then called to order. The first order of business was to name the Lodge. We decided on Tongass Lodge. The second item of business was to elect the new officers

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Deputies of the Grand Master

*This section is devoted to our District
Deputies*



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As our meeting continued, we then appointed a committee to meet and put our bylaws together. We also voted to have our dues at \$50.00 for membership to Tongass Lodge. We made plans for our lodge to have a friendship dinner (No Host) at least once a quarter. At this time, each brother was asked to think of a time and day of the month to meet at the new lodge. Each item that was brought to the floor was voted on and each brother present was asked to give his thoughts on each item before voting.

Our second meeting took place on July 30, 1993.

Once again, there were ten Master Masons present and five past Masters present. The Worshipful Master conducted the meeting and the discussion was about how proficient each officer had to be. We found that our officers were proficient enough to put all three Degrees on. We also found each officer and member was wanting to be the very best each could be. We practiced each degree so we would be proud to be a part of the Degree. At this time, we also gave the Secretary and the Treasurer the vote to get a new P. O. Box number and to open a new checking account, as the brothers

wanted to pay their dues.

As of this date, we have received recommendations from White Pass #1 and Mt. Verstovia #18 to sponsor our Lodge. We have also set up a committee to advise the Worshipful Master which would have as Chairman the Junior Past Master and two other Past Masters.

Each step of forming a new lodge follows the outline and guide from the Grand Lodge. There are still things to be done and what a good feeling it is as each becomes completed. What a

wonderful feeling to come home from a Masonic Meeting where true peace and harmony prevails. It is with great pleasure I announce to you the New Master and Wardens at Tongass Lodge:

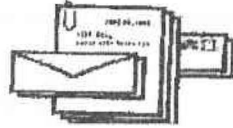
WM: Martin (Marty) W. Parsons

SW: Christopher Westwood

JW: David T. Alderson

The support from our Brethren is something you cannot measure.

V. W. Tom Leslie, DDGM #4



Wardens Retreat Starts New Club

At a recent weekend I had the pleasure of attending the second annual Wardens Retreat, sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Alaska. The event was held at the West Coast International Inn, in Anchorage, and take my word for, it was a tremendous success.

During the course of the Retreat, a new organization was formed, namely the Grand Lodge of Alaska Wardens Retreat Alumni Association Club. The purpose of the Club, in addition to having a lot of fun, is to support the Wardens retreat in what ever way the Retreat might need assistance if it is within the power of the Club to do so.

The requirements for membership in the Club are real simple ; you must have attended the Wardens Retreat. This means that the Ladies too can become members in the Club. You must pay an annual dues of \$10.00 for each member. Charter memberships are open to all who have attended the Retreat in October 1992, and to those who attended the Retreat in October 1993. Charter memberships will be accepted until Wednesday before the opening of Grand Lodge in Sitka in April 1994.

I have the great honor to having been elected (**railroaded is more like it**) as the head of this great organization. There was some

discussion as to whether it should be called an "Association", or called a "Club". If it had been called an Association I would have been the PRESIDENT, but since the term CLUB won out, I am now the "CLUB HEAD".

The following officers were elected to govern the Club for the coming year.

Club Head:

Tom Houser, P.O. Box 201406
Anchorage, AK. 99520
(907) 562-6146

Vice President:

Jim LeFlore
P.O. Box 56599
North Pole, AK. 99705
(907) 488-2295

Secretary/Treasurer

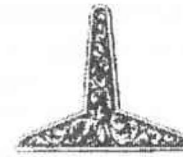
Jerry Wasson
12522 Crested Butte Dr.
Eagle River, AK. 99577
(907) 694-6417

Any qualified persons wishing to join the Club, contact any of the officers listed above. Let us make every effort possible to assure that the great effort thus started in the Wardens Retreat will continue to improve the LEADERS of our Lodges in Alaska and therefore our Grand Lodge.

Tom Houser

Editors Note

*Tom is currently Senior Warden
of Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8*



Notes from The Senior Grand Warden

We just finished our second Wardens Retreat. It was a resounding success and well received by those attending. A quick poll of those attending showed that we should continue the program on an annual basis rather than cutting back to biannual as had been suggested. Next year we will probably opt for a change of venue to better fit the size of our group and hopefully further reduce the cost of the retreat.

On our recent Grand Masters visitation to Sitka, the Master of Mt. Verstovia Lodge revealed that he is trying to organize some sort of fishing tournament

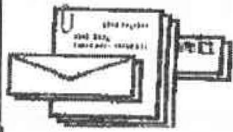
*Fishing tournament
in Sitka in April*

in conjunction with the Grand Lodge Annual Communication to be held in Sitka next April. Kink Salmon and Halibut will be targeted. That should be really exciting to most of us from the interior who can't usually start fishing till May or June. Proceeds of the tournament over and above costs of prizes will go to the Grand Lodge Permanent Fund. Details of the tournament will be forth-coming.

Lodge election of officers for next year is imminent. Most Senior Wardens/Master elect are looking for people to fill all the positions for next year. If you would like to help, please let the new master know you're available. The lodge needs every one's support

Henry T. Dunbar,
Senior Grand Warden





*Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest*

IS THIS CHARITY?

Goose & Gridiron, Nest No. 1

Charity, one of the great aims of Masonry, is the "name of the game" at Nest No. 1 of the Goose and Gridiron Club. At its weekly meetings during the past several years, members of this nest have come out of their pockets with more than \$1,300 each year and donated it to charities of various kinds. Nest No. 1 is justly proud of this accomplishment, and wonders if any other Nest, Lodge Chapter, or other Masonic body (except for the Shrine) can match it. If so, Nest 1 would like to hear from them. As a test, Nest 1 sent a letter of change to the other Nests, but to date the response has not been overwhelming.

In addition to its charitable activities, the members of Nest 1 enjoy their meeting and experience of great fellowship plus good food. Some 15 to 20 members attend regularly. The meetings are at noon each Tuesday from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Kirkland King's Table restaurant at 12120 NE 85th Street. There is a lot of good-natured conversation, informal introductions, an occasional speaker, and almost always a lively discussion on a Masonic subject.

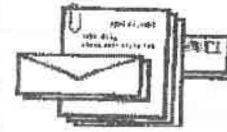
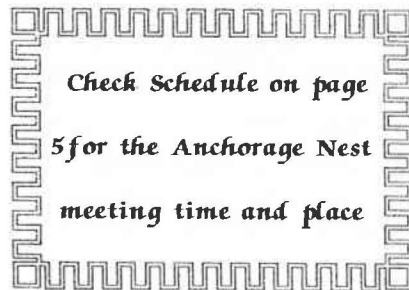
Several of the members' ladies (the Golden Geese) enjoy lunch together in another part of the restaurant. Occasionally, they join the Nest meeting.

The Nest's charities have included donations to disabled persons, Special Olympics, Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts and food for the needy, Shrine food drives and hospital funds, hurricane and flood relief, Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Scottish Rite language problem programs, and various relief and service organizations.

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome and will enjoy the experience. Nest No. 1 considers it to be "Masonry in Action."

James A. Williams, PGM
Phone 206-562-8054

8/25/93



*Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest*

**Warden's Charge Brings
Brothers & Ladies Out**

October 1-3 the Warden's charge committee headed by RW Howard N. Hobbs presented the second annual Wardens Retreat to representatives of Tanana Lodge No. 3, Valdez Lodge No. 4, Matanuska Lodge No. 7, Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8, Kodiak Lodge No. 9, Glacier Lodge No. 10, Kenai Lodge No. 11, Eagle River Lodge No. 13 and North Pole Lodge No. 16, with MW John H. Grainger and RW Lloyd W. Triggs looking on. Visiting the session was Raul Lee, (current Worshipful Master of Trinity Lodge 282, Duluth, Minnesota) a guest of Karl Amundsen the Junior Warden of North Pole Lodge No. 16.

RW Howards staff consisted of the following; RW's Rick Bender and Hank Dunbar, VW Stan Foulke, and Blanche Hobbs, who presented the program for the Ladies.

Brothers, and wives in attendance were as follows:

Tanana Lodge No. 3
SW Rex Hasty
JW John Johnson

Valdez Lodge No. 4
Arvin Smith and wife Nancy

Matanuska Lodge No. 7
JW Frank Bird and-wife Shirley
SD Russ Sanders and wife Bette

Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8
SW Tom Houser and wife Kay

Kodiak Lodge No. 9
SD Scott Stewart and wife Marsha

Glacier Lodge No. 10
JW Jerry Fairley and wife Sharon
SD Charlie Ashcraft and wife Letha

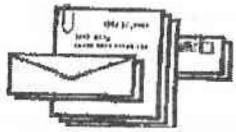
Kenai Lodge No. 11
SD Al Lambert and wife Marguerite

Eagle River Lodge No. 13
SW Jerry Wasson

North Pole Lodge No. 16
SW Jim LeFlore and wife Karen
JW Karl Amundsen
SD Jeff Larsen

See related article on page 10

**From The Texas Mason
Kyle, Texas**
Live Oak Lodge No. 304 was recently honored by a visit from Past Grand Chaplain John Edgar of the Grand Lodge of Alaska. WB John Edgar is planning to move back to Texas in the near future.
(Like last month)



*Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest*

Greetings from Valdez!!!

Brethren,

Just a few words about what is happening in Valdez.

We just had our official visit by Most Worshipful John H. Grainger and his entourage. It was a good and rewarding visit. There is a lot happening and we are looking forward to being a part of it.

We have been busy with a little degree work and getting our plans and materials ready for a storage building. It is hoped we will be able to secure some financial security for the lodge's future. At the present we have the downstairs rented out to preschoolers to help us make it financially, but with insurance and other problems it is always in question if it will go each year.

We had some terrific fish feeds this summer as a fund raiser for our storage building. This is a super way to raise a lot of money, but it takes a lot of work on everyone's part. We raised about \$3700 and could have done better if we could of got more people out to help. We learned a lot, and will do better next year. The tourists thought it was great.

As we end another summer, and fall and winter comes upon us, we start to think about who the lodge officers will be for 1994. This is one of the most important decisions a lodge makes. Who will be the leaders, the doers, the nucleus, and

the mainstay. Who will be there to follow through in the line year after year, and continue afterwards to assist the ones following. When the members of the lodge have enough confidence in you to vote you into office, and you accept, remember you are making a commitment to fulfill your obligation. When you fail to do that it puts the entire line out of balance. There are times when things happen beyond our control and we have to change our plans, then that is understandable.

No one or two people make a lodge. It takes all of the members to make it work. If only every member would contribute 4 hours per month to the lodge it would have a great deal of assistance, and a lot more could be accomplished. There are 720 hours in a 30 day month, so 4 hours isn't much to give. The 4 hours may be attending the Stated Meeting, degree work, or doing something around the lodge building, but it shows your support for the lodge. It is more fun to work with someone than alone.

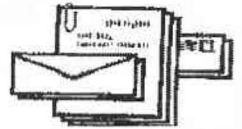
Attend lodge, where ever you may be, and enjoy the fellowship we are so noted for.

Fraternally,

Ray Tidwell
Secretary



*Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest*



**Potentates Comments
Ill. Sir Joseph K. Kish**

On our arrival in San Antonio, early in July, it was obvious that our Past Potentate had done his work well, for every where you looked, people were wearing stickers that read; "VOTE FOR BURT". Even non Shriners in the hotel were coming up, meeting Burt, and wishing him well! All aspects of the campaign were carefully formulated, and very well organized. It appeared as if the majority of the Temples throughout Shrinedom were there to support him - and volunteers were everywhere; passing out stickers, pins, and various other reminders to the voting representatives in attendance. You couldn't go far without someone mentioning, "Vote for Burt".

Al Aska Temple was represented by Past Potentate Gary Preston, the Chief Rabban, Fred Angleton, the High Priest and Prophet, Howard McElrath, Recorder, Ron Cunningham, Noble Wilburn White and myself. And we devoted ever extra minute to Burt's campaign! On the eve of the election, a poll was taken on the expected votes, and as it turned

out, it was accurate to within two votes!

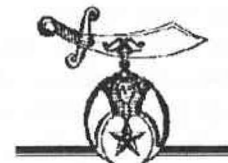
Having our Past Potentate M. Burton Oien elected to Imperial Outer Guard has brought great honor to Al Aska Temple and made others aware of our presence. This is just the start for Burt and Sharon on their long journey and many years of hard work and dedication to the Shrine.

Whenever Imperial Sir Burt will be, he will be wearing the Al Aska Fez as the Temple of the future Imperial Potentate, and it is time for us to start thinking ahead for his Potentate's year.

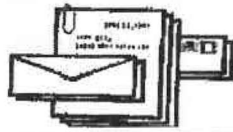
Once again, on behalf of all the members of Al Aska Temple, we congratulate Al Aska Temple's Imperial Sir Burt and Lady Sharon and wish them well in the years to come.

Yours in faith,

Joe Kish, Potentate



Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest



**A note to all members of
the Fraternity in
Alaska**



At the recent Imperial Session of the Imperial Shrine of North America in San Antonio, Texas - Item

No. 6 "Requirements for Temple Membership" was presented for vote. Basically, it was a move to eliminate the requirement of being a member of either the Scottish or York Rites prior to becoming a member of the Shrine.



It read in part:

#323.2 Prerequisite for Membership:

*Adak's Masonic Information
Night Brings Out
Gifted Article*

The following pages contain the remarks made by Captain Dave Henry, USN, at our recent Masonic Information Night. Captain Henry is gifted with the unique ability to deliver a memorable address on little or no notice, and often with minimal preparation, so it was no surprise to any of us who know him well how inspiring this particular evening

A Temple may not accept a petition from a candidate unless he is in good standing as a Master Mason in a Grand Lodge of, or in amity with and recognized by, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America or The Grand Lodge of Mexico.

The measure was soundly defeated, and it was stressed that all Masonic bodies are, and will remain, part of a united family.

Following the Imperial Session, the members of the Imperial Divan issued a position paper stating, that " Any comments to the contrary by an Imperial Officer would be strictly individual opinions, and NOT those of the Imperial Body.

Joe Kish, Potentate

turned out to be. He had actually received some notice of note, and had availed himself of some of the volumes of our local Masonic library, yet his comments reveal his original sense of humor and his common sense view of our current surroundings. The best part is that, in keeping with a tradition used by many lodges at these evenings, Captain Henry is NOT a Mason; obviously, he IS a staunch supporter of the Craft and

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thereby lent a certain degree of authority to other proceedings, seeing as how he is a local celebrity on our small Aleutian Island. We thought that his speech was so good that we should share it with you for inclusion in a future "North Star" bulletin, and with the Captain's gracious permission I am pleased to forward it to you.

Fraternally,

Gare M. Wragg, W.M.

P.S. Captain W. David Henry, U. S. Navy, is currently serving as the Commanding Officer, Naval Security Group Command, Adak, Alaska.

The Words of Captain Henry

I have been rubbing up against Masonry for a long time. My first exposure was as a child at the grave site of my oldest friend's grandfather. I asked about the double headed eagle and the 33 Degree on the tombstone and its meaning was explained.

Over the years my interest was sparked again from time to time. In England I enjoyed rummaging through old libraries and bookstores. As you might imagine, works on Masonry abounded. Some were silly, some were profound but all danced around the central issues.

Again, as a reader of history, I kept coming up against Masonry, especially the conspiracy theories. The very fact that Masons have been feared, vilified, imitated and revered

over the centuries attests to their potency of their ideas.

Ties may be found to Moses and Egypt, the Temple of Solomon, the Templars, the founders of the United States and Nostradamus. Whether it is stories of wounded civil war soldiers crying out for help for "a widow's son" or Kipling's tales of "meeting on the level and passing on the square", Masonry is part of the warp and woof of our literature, history and culture. Even Hiram Abif himself has surfaced lately. He would be proud of the edifice built by modern Masons.

Persecution is inevitable for a secret society. Those outside of it fear that which they cannot control. It is the old "we-they" problem and has roots as old as tribalism. Totalitarian states, (in other words almost all historic states), have been especially distrustful of secret societies in general and of Masons in particular. Stalin for one, went to great lengths to destroy Masons. Even today in the former Soviet Union there is a recent outcry against the "Zionist-Masonic conspiracy".

Masons have been and are today hated by the far right, the far left and many in the middle. Why? Because we tend to fear that which we do not understand, let alone that which we do not understand and of which we are not a part. I have read some of this anti-Masonic literature and one thing is certain. If someone may be known by the nature of his enemies,

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Masons are a fine organization indeed.

So what is the deal with Masonry anyway? What is the appeal, what's the problem? Isn't it just a bunch of guys running around in funny clothes and having fun?

I think the simple fact is that for better or worse, Masonry strikes a resonant chord in mankind. It is certainly similar to many fraternal organizations, or maybe I should say they are similar to Masonry. The lure of such societies and of Masonry in particular lies in the fact that it speaks

to a fundamental level of humanity, it answers a deep and abiding need. The need for answers, the need for structure and explanation to unanswerable questions. If not

answers per se, at least a structure for pondering the imponderable, of becoming a better man for having embarked on a search for such answers.

Yes, it is a place for good men to gather and share. That alone is desperately needed today more than ever and would justify the existence of Masonry. But it is more than that. It stands as testament to the fact that there are good men who know there is more to life than can be agreed upon by two houses of Congress or the General Assembly of the United Nations. They know there is something deeper, even if its exact

boundaries cannot be outlined. They know the search is an answer; the journey is a destination. And they want to help each other along that lonely way.

So why the secrecy? Is it an anachronism or a necessity? Do the Masons really know THE secret? I don't know. I'm not a Mason. But I do think it is necessary to keep Masons' business strictly among Masons. We have a hard enough time with that sort of thing in the U. S. Navy, I can't imagine how tough it might be to keep secrets over several hundred years.

I think the bottom line is simply this. "By their fruits ye shall know them". If measured by that yardstick, Masons are truly to be honored.

Secrecy is also necessary to engender brotherhood, a sense of shared values and the understanding of common bonds which may be taken for granted among Masons. It allows

something of real and lasting value to be shared: trust. You cannot have a will to protect the deepest feelings of a friend without that trust and that secrecy. Maybe that is the real secret of Masonry. If so, it is a secret well worth protecting. It almost has been completely lost in the modern world. Masons preserve that secret well if no other, and who are we to say there are not others? I won't be so bold.

I think the bottom line is simply this. "By their fruits ye shall know them". If measured by that yardstick, Masons are truly to be honored.

NEEDED!

Auction Items for "Mail-a-bid" fund raiser program

Donors: Please send a description of your auction item (s) to MW John Grainger, P.O. Box 5326, Ketchikan, AK 99901

After receipt of description of your donated item (s) a proof of copy will be sent to you for final OK.

Item to be donated: _____

Description: (List on separate page if more space needed)

VALUE: \$ _____ DONOR: _____

SAMPLE OF SOME AUCTION ITEMS RECEIVED:

- * Private cruise: Weekend halibut fishing; two or three days
- * Bed and breakfast; four days and three night, Ketchikan.
- * Complete set of Alaska Grand Lodge coins.
- * Panning gold; Room & board for two at a Dawson gold mine.
- * Souvenir gifts from Russia; Old Alaska Postcard collection.
- * Autographed Alaska print by Jon Van Zyle; J. Seerey-Lester
- * Helicopter tour (Fairbanks, area); * Carpet Cleaning
- * Custom-made mantel clock.
- * Framed Alaska print.

GRAND PRIZE: 7-day Holland-American Caribbean cruise.

Suggested items:

- Three days in a fully equipped R. V.
- Alaska or Mastodon Ivory
- Halibut dinner at home for six persons.
- Two days Caribou or Moose hunting.
- Fishing for "Silvers" (during season)
- Weekend use of condominium; -- Alaska - Hawaii
- Weekend at Al Alaska ski lodge.
- Fishing pole.
- Here is an opportunity to donate those dust gathering -- useful but no longer needed -- items. Add to the fun! Make up your own bidding donations and support A. M.R. A. 's silent auction.

No item too small -- All are appreciated.!

M. W. Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Alaska
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