



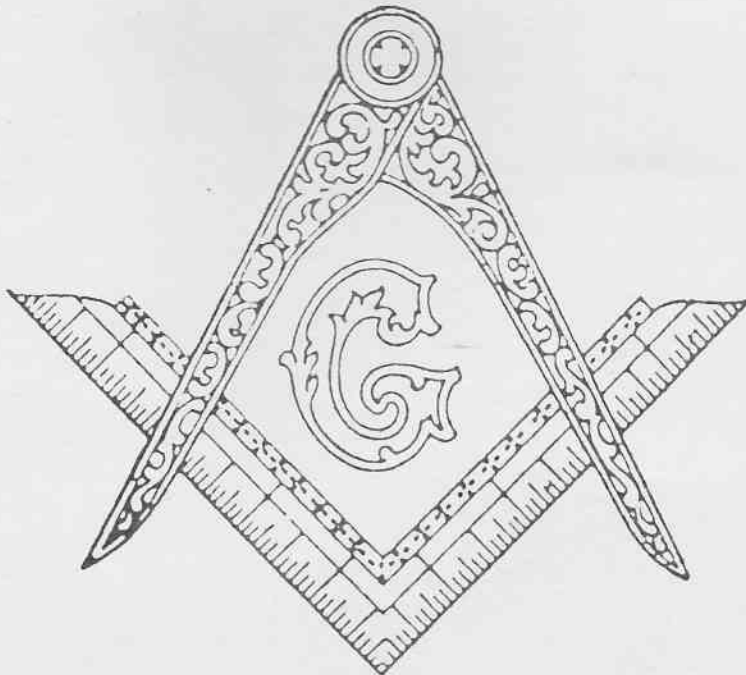
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M. W. Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Alaska

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Alaska Grand Lodge

Bulletin

First Quarter, 1989

March 31, 1989



Our Trust being in God . . .

Grand Master's MESSAGE

Brethren,

By electing me as your Grand Master, you have bestowed on me the greatest honor that any jurisdiction can present to one of its own. Your confidence in me, makes me very proud and I pledge that I will make every effort to earn the trust you have reposed in me.

It is with great enthusiasm and confidence that we enter this Masonic year. If indeed a *'positive attitude'* will make our future brighter; 1989 should be a banner year for Masonry in Alaska, because *"a positive attitude towards Masonry is contagious!"*

We plan no radical changes during 1989. Our goal for the

year is simply to reverse some of the deterioration that has been slowly building within our ranks - by correcting some of the inconsistencies which have been spawned through indifference to both ourselves and the fraternity..

It is no secret that there are those within our ranks who are less sincere and who have failed to embrace Masonry's teachings. We should realize that perhaps it was we who failed, *not them!* We need to do a bit of soul searching and self analysis! Did we do our investigations right? Were we blinded by our own lack of understanding? Did we do all that we could within our power to guide them in the right direction? etc. All things have a way of coming home!

(see Grandmaster, P.2)

Grand Master


From this day forward, let us pledge to ourselves - to be the individual we once promised we would! Let us show the world that Masons *are something special!* Let's get back to the basics - *by practicing the basics!*

During this Grand Lodge session, the members voted to increase the per capita tax from ten to fifteen dollars per year - and by so doing, we will now be in a position to do several things that we had been unable to accomplish in the past. Our first priority is to procure more space for the Grand Secretaries Office. With this done, we intend to get another desk, more file cabinets, computer and word processing capability, and generally prepare the Grand Lodge Office to better serve the membership of the jurisdiction. We will even be in a position to "hire" some help for our Grand Secretary - to more fully service the Constituent Lodges, contribute to charitable undertakings, and many things that are long overdue, but our previous budgets simply wouldn't allow.

Once in larger quarters, we have many things in mind, and with your help, there is little doubt that we can put something together that we will all be proud of. We should be moving about the time this copy of the Bulletin goes into the mail.- *please note* - There will be no change in the mailing address or phone number of the Grand Secretary.

Brethren, I am intensely proud of the Masonic Fraternity, and all that it stands for - I hope that you share my feelings. Singularly, we are limited in what we can do, together, we can accomplish all things. I would ask each of you to lay aside any differences of opinion you may have, and let us all work together towards a brighter tomorrow. We can do anything that *we think* we can - if we *think*, we can

Fraternally,



Charles I. Gregg
Grand Master

From the DGM

42nd Annual Western Conference Ashland, Oregon

All elected Grand Lodge officers from Alaska, California, Oregon and Washington attended this conference, and each line officer was given a set of subjects to address. The Questions asked to each officer follow:

Junior Grand Wardens:

- A) "How do we address the subject of candidates who do not complete their degrees? What can be done to prevent this, or at the very least cut down the number who are lost?"
B) "What are the causes of the continual decline of membership? What can be done to stop this trend?"

Senior Grand Wardens:

- A) "How should Prince Hall Masonry be addressed, now and in the future? What is the current position of your GL on this subject?"

Deputy Grand Masters:

- A) "When does information stop and solicitation begin?"

- B) "What is really meant by on your own free will and accord?"

Grand Masters:

- A) "How can Masonry effectively and positively respond publicly to the growing negative and often inflammatory articles being published today?"

Past Grand Masters:

- A) "What was the major problem encountered during your year as GM? Could or did you circumvent this problem?"

After presenting their written papers on these subjects at the conference, all attendees received a copy of all responses.

This conference was more one-to-one than the GM conference. and individually we get more out of these conferences. There is a move to get Nevada and Idaho into the Western Conference for a greater range of ideas. In the future, Alaska will try to host the conference.

This was my third conference, and different subjects were

(see Deputy GM, P.4)

From The WEST

Brethren,

I would like to thank you all for your vote of confidence at Grand Lodge.

I have traveling since our February Grand Lodge session -- first to Washington D.C. and then to the Western Area Conference in Oregon.

Brethren, although these meetings with Brother Masons are interesting, impressive, and always informative -- It is good to be back home!

Our Grand Lodge is young -- full of vitality, hospitality and

Deputy GM

assigned at each one. There is so much presented, we are not able study each in depth, even when we take them home to our own jurisdiction. For instance, there were over 50 pages of responses this year, all full of the experience and wisdom of the Grand Lodge officers writing. It takes serious thinking to get your ideas on a question down on paper.

good cheer! We should try to hold our pioneer spirit and not become a group controlled by the gloom and doom of negative thinking!

As we travel and meet with people who have visited with Alaskan Masons, they always comment on our fresh attitude, our great land and how much we seem to enjoy our Masonry.

No doubt about it Brothers, if we continue to enjoy our labors and always be positive, we will prosper!

Fraternally,

Frank Erie,
Senior Grand Warden

We will discuss these Western Conference questions at our district meetings.

Fraternally,

David J. Thomas,
Deputy Grand Master



From The South

Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free And Accepted Masons of Alaska. It is with humility that I say thank you for the honorable position which you have elected me.

The emotions that I struggled in vain to subdue that day were intense to say the least, and I thank each of you again for your support. I can say without reservation that this is something that has given my father, Frank W. Little, an enormous sense of pride in these, the final days of his life. To those of you who know and remember him I would say that he misses his Brothers in Alaska, but as he is now totally bedridden, we will not see him in Alaska again.

Many positive things happened for the benefit of Masonry in Alaska during our Grand Lodge session this year. One item which was finally resolved was the issue of the Alaska Past Master's apron. This resolution was approved by a very large proportion of the voting delegates present.

In order to purchase a number of these at a reasonable price, we will probably need to order about fifty aprons at one time. To those of you who are, or are about to become Past Masters, I urge you to advise us as to whether you would be interested in owning one of these aprons. Please tell either WB John Edgar in Fairbanks, myself in Anchorage, or VWB Al White on the Kenai Peninsula, your District Deputy, or any Grand Lodge Officer. This is not for a firm order, but merely to approach the manufacturer for a price quote.

To all Masons who are reading this Bulletin and who do not attend Lodge regularly for whatever reason, I ask: Don't you miss the fellowship of your Lodge? If you can't get to Lodge for any reason, call your Master and he will see that transportation is provided for you. We miss you in Lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Les Little
Junior Grand Warden

(Editors Note: *Brother Frank W. Little left us in death on March 8, 1989. He will be missed.*)

Report: Eighth Annual Communication

February 2-3, 1989 in Fairbanks

Grand Master MW Ralph Kavorkian opened the Eighth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska on Thursday, February 2, 1989, preceded by a brief informal opening which included the flag ceremony by the Heroes of '76, Billy Mitchell Camp, National Sojourners.

The Grand Master reported on the initiation of District Meetings, the financial condition of the Lodges, the Grand Lodge, the proposed Masonic Club at Thorne Bay, and the mid-year appointment of Very Worshipful John Grainger as Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 4. This is the first appointment to District 4 in about five years. He also discussed the background of the temporary Edict issued last fall relative to DeMolay.

MW Brother Kavorkian recommended a per capita increase, approval of the carry-over resolution allowing amendment to the Standard Work, and asked for approval of an amendment to the Code

relating to titles of elected officers after leaving office. He also requested legislation providing a clear cut record distinction between the Permanent Fund principal and interest.

A fifth recommendation relating to the Alaska Masonic Research Association (AMRA) and its gold pan program was withdrawn because AMRA members had voted the day previous at the annual meeting to continue the organization.

The Grand Secretary reported the printing and distribution of a newly reorganized Alaska Masonic Code, and receipts for the Permanent Fund during the calendar year 1988 of \$5,391. A net loss of 48 members was noted, mostly NPD's in two Lodges. About \$7,000 was left on the table but this was due to inability to get out more Proceedings of previous communications, forging some other items on which money should have been spent, and some one-time changes in accounting. The

Grand Secretary also discussed the general financial picture.

The delegates voted to approve a Charter for North Pole Lodge No. 16 and it was presented to the Worshipful Master, VW John Underwood, and the Lodge Officers and members present.

Recognition of the Grand Lodges of Uruguay and Valle de Mexico was approved.

All legislation action was completed Friday morning as follows:

Approved:

88-2 (carry over) - to authorize an Alaska design for Past Masters aprons.

88-5 (carry-over) - allows amendment of the Standard Work.

88-6 (carry-over) - housekeeping measure to change method

by which Lodge bylaws and amendments are approved.

89-3 - clarifies per capita payment for honorary members.

89-8 - increase affiliation fees due Grand Lodge to \$30.

89-9 - delete per capita limit; level set by vote of delegates.

89-10 - members of Alaska Lodges dropped for NPD in another jurisdiction must be dropped in Alaska also.

89-11 - brings reference to affiliation fees elsewhere in the Code into line with fee specified in 89-8.

89-12 - (Emergent) - allowed normal fall distribution of carry-over resolutions to Lodges and officers to serve the present requirement that such resolutions be published in the Proceedings. Effective for this communication only.

"What our schools do may prove in the long run to be more decisive than any other factor in preserving the form of government we cherish."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Alaska Grand Lodge Bulletin . . .

The Bulletin will try its best to print any Masonic news we receive. We will be happy to print either articles or letters related to Masonic matters from any source if space allows. Each constituent lodge within the Grand Lodge has an editor assigned to it by the Grand Master, and these editors are the heart of our bulletin's reporting crew.

Letters . . .

Everybody has wisdom to share. It is unfortunate that editors have to crop articles and letters to fit available space, and even exclude items which do not pertain directly to Masonry. Please, allow us to say "We're Sorry" in advance for the mistakes which we will make this year. Every effort will be made to preserve the thoughts and flavor of each item we have to crop or edit.

News . . .

We want to read news of our community before any other community, our state before any other state, and our nation before any other nation. The Alaska Grand Lodge Bulletin will do its best to follow these guidelines. A side note is that nobody really wants to read long-winded opinions, so the editorial staff will stick to news, and let our Grand Lodge Officers take care of being the 'Editorial Staff'.

Send any item for the bulletin to either the Grand Lodge office, or to the following address:

Rex Plunkett
PO Box 140594
Anchorage, AK 99514-0594

M.W. GRAND LODGE

of

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ALASKA

March 1, 1989

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The freedom of the people is contingent upon an education, for without an education, there can be no freedom; and

WHEREAS, The Public School System of our country is the primary source for the education of our children; and

WHEREAS, All children, regardless of race, color or religious beliefs, are entitled to an education supported by our taxes; and

WHEREAS, All Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska are induced and encouraged to promote a program in support of our Public School System;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Charles I. Gregg, Grand Master of Masons in Alaska, hereby proclaim the Month of April 1989 as Masonic Public Schools Month in Alaska.

BY ORDER OF:


Most Worshipful Charles I. Gregg
Grand Master of Masons in Alaska

Attest:


Neil R. Bassett
Grand Secretary



GRAND MASTERS ITINERARY

Masonic Year 1989

February

18th to 22nd - Conference of GM's of North America
(Return to state on 26th of February from Wash, D.C.)

March

3rd and 4th - Western Area Conference (Ashland, Oregon)
11th - District 3 meeting - Anchorage
15th - Tanana Lodge in Fairbanks
20th - Constitute & Install North Pole Lodge No. 16

April

3rd - Eagle River Lodge No. 13
7th and 8th - Kodiak Lodge No. 9
11th - Mount Susitna Lodge No. 8
20th - Glacier Lodge No. 10
27th - Kenai Lodge No. 11 (Soldotna)

May

12th and 13th - Anvil Lodge No. 2 in Nome
18th - Fairbanks Lodge No. 12
20th - International Day in Fairbanks (picnic)

June

1st and 2nd - Grand Lodge of Oregon
18th - 24th - Grand Lodges of Washington & B.C.

July

5th - 8th - Shrine Imperial Session (Toronto, Canada)

August

4th and 5th - Adak Lodge No. 14

September

1st and 2nd - White Pass Lodge No. 1 (Skagway)
6th - Valdez Lodge No. 4
7th - Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5 (Cordova)
24th - 27th - Grand Lodge of Missouri (Columbia)
30th - District 1 meeting in Fairbanks

October

3rd - Seward Lodge No. 6
9th - 12th - Grand Lodge of California (San Francisco)
16th - North Pole Lodge No. 16 (Fairbanks)
21st - District 2 meeting in Soldotna
25th - Aurora Lodge No. 15
26th - Joint Lodge Dinner in Anchorage
31st - Matanuska Lodge No. 7 (Palmer)

November

4th - Joint Lodge Dinner in Fairbanks
13th - 16th - Grand Lodge of Nevada
18th - District 3 meeting in Anchorage

December and January

Currently void of activity in preparation for Grand Lodge in Anchorage - on 1st and 2nd of February 1990.

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ON EDUCATION ...

"Without popular education no government which rests on popular action can long endure; the people must be schooled in the knowledge and if possible in the virtues upon which the maintenance and success of free institutions depend."

Woodrow Wilson

"The good education of youth has been esteemed by wise men in all ages as the surest foundation of the happiness both of private families and of commonwealths."

Benjamin Franklin

"I view it (education) as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in."

Abraham Lincoln

Kenai Lodge Masonic News



On December 12, 1988, Kenai Lodge held its installation of officers at the Kenai Masonic Lodge. WB Clyde Saltz was installed as Master in an open installation.

The traditional Christmas party and gift exchange followed, with a dinner organized by Junior Warden Art Rindahl. The ladies of the lodge assisted in preparing the dinner, and decorating the refreshment room.

Masonic work left over from the 1988 lodge year includes several degrees. Bros. James D. Thomason, Scott Lee Casson, Fred Korpinen, and Richard W. Brian are all expected to receive additional degrees. Leland C. Johnson received his first degree on February 23, 1989.

Kenai Lodge wishes all Masons the best of luck in 1989, and urges all interested Masons to come to meetings every Thursday evening in the Kenai Lodge.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Freemasonry traces its ancestry to the operative craftsmen, primarily cathedral builders, of the Middle Ages. These men, because of their special knowledge and skills, were permitted special travel privileges from country to country. They developed means of recognition and identification of their work.

In the 17th and 18th Centuries, as cathedral building came to an end, some of the operative Masonic Lodges accepted into membership men who were not operative craftsmen. Gradually the Lodges came to be composed entirely of philosophical or speculative Masons. From these groups Freemasonry of today has its beginnings.

Eagle River Lodge No. 13 Installation

Marks New First

Eagle River Lodge No. 13 wrote lodge history in the 1989 installation of officers. WB Chris Woodard was installed by WB Larry Sizemore, and all installing officers were Past Masters of Eagle River Lodge.

As Eagle River Lodge No. 13 enters 1989, it is no longer the 'new kid on the block'. With Aurora Lodge No. 15, and now North Pole No. 16, our 1988 membership of 69 members

ranks us eleventh among Grand Lodge of Alaska lodges in membership.

Eagle River Lodge is striving to visit other South Central area lodges to share degree work, even adopting the "have candidate, will travel" approach. Any interested lodge should contact WB Chris Woodard at 694-4290 to arrange a 'working visit'.

Glacier Lodge Activities Keep Brothers Busy

Glacier Lodge No. 10 Activities Glacier Lodge has had a very active first three months of 1989.

An evening of Masonic Education was presented on February 23rd in honor of the 200th Anniversary of the Presidency of the United States. The evening consisted of a presentation of our Masonic Presidents and more especially W. B. George Washington.

Additionally, the "Rusty Brother Master Masons Degree" was presented on March 2nd and very well received by all the brothers in attendance.

Lodge work included degrees conferred to Bros. Richard L. Besse, Curtis M. Jackson, and David F. Holland

A memorial service for Bro. Frank William Little, Jr. (father of RW Les Little) was held in Glacier Lodge on March 9th.

Degree Work and Educational Program At Matanuska Lodge

Matanuska Lodge No. 7 is buzzing with activity. Degree work in 1989 has started quickly with two Master Masons raised and three proficiencies.

The lodge sent a letter to all delinquent candidates asking if they had any desire to finish their work. Eight to ten replies were received, with three expressing no desire, and the others asking for more time. One brother who had taken his first degree in January of 1978 returned for his second on January 9th and his third on February 28th! He gave his proficiency on March 7th, after only one week under the care of his coach, Brother Stan Woodin, who is also Matanuska's Senior Deacon and Head Coach.

Brother Bill Folsom (Junior Warden) headed the committee which developed the educational program Matanuska Lodge will implement this spring. The lodge will give pins featuring the Lamp of Knowledge to all area

high school students maintaining superior grades throughout the school year. Matanuska Lodge will sponsor this program at five area high schools.

Kodiak Lodge No. 9

Kodiak Lodge No. 9 held a special communication on Wednesday, March 15, to confer the First Degree on Mr. Fred Lentz. The degree was a first for more than just the candidate. WM Ken Creamer left Kodiak for a three-month school within days of his installation, and returned within days of this degree. He performed a very impressive feat in conferring this degree.

Kodiak Lodge is open every Saturday morning from 8 AM until Noon for any work, planning or just socializing that the Brethren desire. The informal situation and handy coffeepot lend just the right atmosphere for productivity and enjoyment.

North Pole Lodge No. 16 Constituted

March 20, 1989 - The North Pole Lodge No. 16, was constituted by Most Worshipful Grand Master Charles I. Gregg and the Grand Lodge Officers. For this purpose, this special session of the Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form, and the ceremony was held in the Grange Hall in North Pole, Alaska; the meeting place of the Lodge.

Preparation for the consecration was excellent. The construction of the Symbolic Lodge was done by W.B. Lloyd Triggs and was one of the very best - and most uniquely realistic.

The Grand Lodge Officers assisting in the ceremony were:

DGM - David J. Thomas
Sr. Gr. Warden - Franklin W. Erie
Jr. Gr. Warden - Leslie R. Little
Grand Secretary - Neil R. Bassett
Grand Chaplain - John W. Edgar
Grand Orator - Milton M. Rutzahn
Grand Marshal - Larry M. Sizemore
Sr Gr Deacon - Henry T. Dunbar
Jr Gr Deacon - Raymond F. Tidwell
Gr Std Bearer - George Bristow
Gr. Bible Bearer - Harold H. Ervin
Sr Gr Steward - William Lefferson
Jr Gr Steward - Frank L. Dickensen
Grand Tyler - Mitchell R. Miller.

The elected officers present were installed immediately following the constitution. -

Master - John W. Underwood
Senior Warden - Lloyd W. Triggs
Junior Warden - Keith E. Herve
Treasurer - Gene R. Freeman
Secretary - Ralph Kavorkian
Chaplain - Darrell C. McSpadden
Marshal - James E. Callan
Sr Deacon - George W. Earp
Jr Deacon - Garland E. Gardener
Sr Steward - Clifford E. Stever
Jr Steward - Michael S. Langford
Tyler - William E. Oldham

Preceding the ceremony of making the North Pole Lodge No. 16 regular, the festive board was spread and all present enjoyed one of the finest of dinners; it was delicious! The refreshments were prepared by Forget-Me- Not Assembly No. 14, International Order of Rainbow for Girls. These young ladies were outstanding in food preparation and service. They greatly enhanced the good fellowship that prevailed among all present. Then to top off their accomplishments, they outdid themselves with the desert they served.

Joint Installation Starts Year of Tanana

On December 27, 1988, St. John's Day, Tanana Lodge No. 3 and Midnight Sun Chapter No. 6, OES held a joint installation of officers. Monty Ervin was installed as Tanana Lodge's Worshipful Master for 1989, and Eddie Lou Thacker was installed as Worthy Matron of Midnight Sun Chapter.

W.B. Ervin has an exciting year planned, including the annual International Day on May 21, 1989. MW Ralph Kavorkian and VW John Underwood are organizing this function, which will be held at The Shrine Club facilities at Harding Lake.

A special invitation is extended to all Alaskan, Canadian, and Sojourning

Brethren to attend the International Day.

The event will be preceded on May 20 by a Luau sponsored by Fairbanks Chapter No. 18. Good food and entertainment are planned from 5 to 7 PM (at least). Y'All Come, Alaska.

For further information, please contact either VW John Underwood at (907) 488-6832 or MW Ralph Kavorkian at (907) 456-5919.



To the Officers and Members of North Pole Lodge No. 16 . . .

Our sincere best wishes are extended that your Lodge continue to work in peace and harmony for the good of your members and the furtherance of our beloved institution.

District 3 Meeting Widely Attended

Masons from ten of the sixteen lodges in the Alaska Grand Lodge were present during the District 3 meeting of March 11th. VWB Will Josey conducted the meeting, with many Grand Lodge officers also in attendance.

Highlights of the meeting included statements of lodge activities from attending Lodges, a report from District 4, a Grand Lodge Finance Committee mini-workshop and brief comments by Grand Lodge Officers.

Summary Lodge Reports:

Seward No. 6: Reported on membership (96 members with only four of them in Seward) and on their educational program dealing with the School Science Fair.

Matanuska No. 7: Reported on the degree work of January and February, and the new school program instituted.

Mt. Susitna No. 8: Reported on progress of lodge bylaws revision, their budget plan,

and plans for a Rusty Mason Night on March 28th.

Glacier No. 10: Reported on the success of the lodge Rusty Mason Night (25 to 30 in attendance), improving communication with members, and plans for another Rusty Mason Night in the fall, and the scholarship program.

Kenai No. 11: Reported on lodge budget, school awards program, membership (136 members), and upcoming events. Both a Past Masters night and a Masonic Widows night are planned. Also reported on plans for fund raisers for lodge activities, including a golf tournament and an auction.

Fairbanks No. 12 and Tanana No 3: WB Mitch Miller reported on for both lodges fund raising, lodge budget and dues structure, and on the halibut feed Tanana will be putting on.

(See District 3, P. 23)

District 3 . . .

Eagle River No. 13: Reported on lodge budget and dues structure, degree work, and the work the lodge schools committee was doing on the Teacher of the Year award in Eagle River and Chugiak.

Aurora No. 15: Reported on degree work, fundraising for lodge projects, and lodge Candidate Breakfasts. Also mentioned the work of lodge educational committee.

VWB John Grainger of District 4 reported by letter that the Thorne Bay Masonic Club was progressing toward requesting dispensation. Also in District 4 news, there is an excellent chance that the Thorne Bay masons will be given lodge

equipment form a lodge in Washington which is consolidating with another lodge.

WB Tom Black presented a plan by Grand Lodge Finance committee to support charitable work of all Alaskan Lodges. The plan presented would match lodge expenditures for charity from Grand Lodge funds. While the formula for these matching funds is not firm, the possibility of matching one dollar of Grand Lodge funds for every three dollars of constituent lodge funds was mentioned.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the MW Gharles I. Gregg spoke on the need for professionalism in all phases of Lodge activity, and the necessity for a positive approach to our daily living as Masons.

"Because our schools help shape the mind and character of our youth, the strength or weakness of our educational system today will go far to determine the strength or weakness of our national wisdom and our national morality tomorrow. That is why it is essential to our nation that we have good schools. And their quality depends on us."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

"The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expense of it."

John Adams



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

of

Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

PO Box 190668

Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0668

A tip of the hat to WETCO -- Not only has WETCO been nice enough to let the Grand Lodge of Alaska use thier scanning equipment, they were also nice enough to buy this space to wish every Mason in our state the best of luck in 1989.

WETCO is an Alaskan manufacturer of Ice Melt, Windshield Washing Fluid, Plumbers and RV Anti-Freeze, Boiler Treatment, Cleaning and Specialty Chemicals, and Plastic Containers for a variety of products. Matanuska Maid Dairy is one of the Alaskan businesses which support WETCO by buying Alaskan manufactured products.

An additional tip of the hat to Bill and Frankie Wilson at Printer's Ink. When the whole shop is not working overtime to help out the Grand Lodge Bulletin, PRINTER'S INK offers a full line of printing services at very reasonable prices.