

# LIGHT



## From The Great Land

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

### From our GRAND MASTER

This issue of the Grand Lodge bulletin - LIGHT from the Great Land - features biographical sketches of some of your Grand Lodge officers, news from our newly constituted Tongass Lodge, and messages from several of your Brothers on a variety of topics. It will also introduce you to some of the policies which your energetic Grand Lodge officers hope to institute in the coming year.

It is our general consensus that instituting "Long Range Planning" should be a primary goal for our future operations. Too many worthy programs have been barely tried, and then dropped without a true litmus test, and allowed to die an inglorious death. If true

thought and effort is not given toward achievement, even the most colossal idea will languish and pass away.

An excellent example is R.W. Lloyd Triggs' survey a few years back. It told us that Alaskans did not rank the causes of Masonry's terrific loss in membership in the same order of importance as found in the national surveys. Unfortunately, no action was taken on this information. Therefore, nothing was gained, and the information just went "down the tube".

We have also pledged Total Communication to you, the Brethren of this Grand Lodge. We will present our ideas and programs, hoping to gain your valued input. Through this publication and official visitations we hope to keep you abreast of which paths the Grand Lodge will endeavor to travel. Maybe - just maybe - the left hand will know what the right hand is doing.

In conclusion, I would inform you that you have elected a strong, compatible group. They may not always agree, but they are knowledgeable and experienced enough to find solutions to their differences. Hence, Long Range Planning will work through the efforts of these dedicated Masons.

In your action at Grand Lodge, you followed the injunction to: "Look well to your ballot". With this group of Grand Lodge officers you have voted for continuity and for perpetuity!

Howard N. Hobbs  
Grand Master



Howard N. Hobbs  
Takes The Obligation  
Of GRAND MASTER



## YOUR GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Grand Master - M.W. Howard N. Hobbs  
1504 E. 26th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99508  
272-9263

Deputy Grand Master - R.W. Henry T. Dunbar  
2412 Lee St., Anchorage, AK 99504  
333-1518

Senior Grand Warden - R.W. Lloyd W. Triggs  
1414 Valley Dr., Fairbanks, AK 99705  
488-2818

Junior Grand Warden - R.W. Stanley R. Foulke  
18122 Tonsina Ct., Eagle River, AK 99577  
696-8099

Grand Secretary - R.W. Richard D. Bender  
3713 Challenger Cir., Anchorage, 99517  
248-4424

### Grand Lodge Office

P.O. Box 190668, Anchorage, 99519  
561-1477

### District No. 1

V.W. Mitchell R. Miller 488-6341  
693 Pleasure Dr., North Pole, AK 99705

### District No. 2

V.W. Raymond F. Tidwell 835-2653  
P.O. Box 2475, Valdez, AK 99686

### District No. 3

V.W. L.V. (Joe) Dees 688-3460  
P.O. Box 670276, Chugiak, AK 99567

### District No. 4

V.W. Tom Leslie 225-8859  
P.O. Box 5597, Ketchikan, AK 99901

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Next Copy Deadline - July 25, 1994**

## 1994-95 Grand Lodge Visitation Schedule

(Subject to Revision)

### May

- 2 North Pole Lodge No. 16
- 4 Tanana Lodge No. 3
- 5 Fairbanks Lodge No. 12
- 6 Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5
- 16 Eagle River Lodge No. 13
- 17 Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8
- 18 Anchorage Lodge No. 17
- 19 Glacier Lodge No. 10
- 21 Cornerstone Laying - Wasilla
- 24 Matanuska Lodge No. 7
- 28/29 International Days - Whitehorse  
White Pass Lodge No. 1  
(in Whitehorse, YT)

### June

- 1/3 Grand Lodge of Oregon
- 8/11 Grand Lodge of Washington
- 17 Moon Lodge at Cotton Moore's  
(in Sterling,)
- 24/25 Grand Lodge of Montana

### September

- 1/3 Kodiak Lodge No. 9
- 6 Seward Lodge No. 6
- 8 Kenai Lodge No. 11
- 14/17 Grand Lodge of Idaho
- 19 Aurora Lodge No. 15
- 23/25 Warden's Retreat (Anchorage)

### October

- 5 Valdez Lodge No. 4
- 7/8 York Rite Festival
- 9/11 Grand Lodge of California
- 21/22 Scottish Rite Fall Reunion

### November

- 3 Anvil Lodge No. 2
- 13/15 Grand Lodge of Nevada

### December

- 3 Install Glacier Lodge No. 10

### January

- 4 Install Anchorage Lodge  
No. 17

**Contact your Deputy, or  
the Grand Lodge Office  
to verify dates.**

## Welcome!

to the Newsletter of the  
M.W. Grand Lodge of F.&A.M.  
of Alaska -

## Light from the Great Land

I know, here you are, stuck with yet another editor, and he's changed the name again.

Well, there's a reason. In researching other publications, I found several with the name "Northern Light" (including the bulletin of the Northern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite), and some with the name "North Star". So, rather than copy someone else, we decided to have a name which would reflect both our purpose and our Alaskan pride.

"Light" is in the name, because it ties back to previous names. But, more importantly, it reflects the great Masonic principle of knowledge or learning. We hope that this publication will bring a little Masonic Light to our readers.

The "Great Land" obviously refers to our great state of Alaska. Those of us who have lived here for a while are proud of this great state. It was called "the great land" by its native people long before the arrival of European settlers. And, we are proud of our Grand Lodge - one of the youngest in the world (and we believe it to be one of the best). This is truly a "Great" Land.

Remember that **ALL MASONS are on our editorial staff**. Each of you are invited to submit articles, letters, comments - even complaints. We will print as many as possible.

Remember, too, that **we rely on your financial support**. Ads are available at nominal rates.

Whatever your opinion, write and tell us!

We hope you enjoy our new format.

Jerry Fairley, (S.W., 10), Editor

## Thoughts On Constitutions:

**RUSSIA** - While most commentators have seen Russia's New Constitution as a foundation for a powerful presidency, there appear to be loopholes that could allow Parliament to flex its muscles. If the State Duma (the lower house of Parliament) gives a government two votes of no confidence within three months, the head of state must either dismiss the government or dissolve the Duma. But the constitution also stipulates that the Duma may not be dissolved for a year after it is elected. Therefore, the President would have no option but to fire the government!

In addition, the Parliament could kill the New Constitution by calling a new constitutional assembly which could effectively abolish the presidency.

(as reported in World Press Review)

**The U.S.** - Most Americans say they favor a free press but believe the government should be able to restrict news reporting in several areas. 65 percent of Americans generally oppose restrictions on the press, but 29 percent favor such restrictions. 69 percent said reporting should be restricted to protect military secrets, 60 percent would allow limits on reporting to discourage terrorism, 59 percent would delete mention of explicit sex, and 52 percent would control portrayals of unnecessary violence.

**While most agree with these concepts, they seem to ignore the lack of definitions.** (What is a military secret? Where is the line drawn between "acceptable" and "unnecessary" violence? **Who will make this type of decision?**) The director of the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University reports that "Most Americans *think* that they believe in a free press, but when it comes right down to it, *they really don't*. That's sad because most Americans appear to be willing ... to give up freedoms that have been fought for long and hard." The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press said the poll results underscore "the regrettable tendency to suggest that government does know best."

(As Reported in The Anchorage Daily News)

**Our Constitution Is Our Strength! Be  
Careful How You Use It!**

## Howard N. Hobbs - Your New Grand Master

Have you ever known someone with so much energy that you wished that some could "rub off" on you? Well, Howard Hobbs is such a person. He is totally involved (and totally committed) to our great fraternity.

Born and raised in Idaho, Howard joined the Navy before going on to college. After school, he worked in construction, building many of the bridges in the Idaho area. Then, in 1952, Howard and his wife Blanche moved to Alaska for a maximum of five years. Fortunately for us, those five years got extended.

Howard worked at Gilman's bakery until it closed in 1965, and then went to the Sunrise bakery until his retirement in 1985. While at Gilman's, Howard helped form the Culinary and Baker's Union (workers had previously been considered Teamsters). As a baker, his children had always claim that "My dad makes more dough than yours." Howard and Blanche used to enjoy bowling - but then along came Masonry.

M.W. Howard was raised in Glacier Lodge in March, 1971, and was Master of his Lodge in 1975. He served Grand Lodge in several capacities before entering the elected line.

In Scottish Rite, Howard has been Master of all four of the Anchorage bodies. In 1993 he was coroneted a 33°. Howard also serves as the Degree Master during the Scottish Rite reunions.



In York Rite, our Grand Master has lead the three Anchorage bodies, as well as being both Grand High Priest and Grand Illustrious Master in Alaska. He is a past Governor of the York Rite College, and a Past Puissant Sovereign of the Alaska Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine.

In 1971 Howard joined Nile Temple of the Shrine (Al Aska Temple didn't exist at that time). He helped form our Al Aska Shrine Temple, was a member of the clown unit, and served as Potentate in 1980.

Howard and Blanche also belong to Denali Chapter No. 16, Order of Eastern Star. (Unfortunately, they haven't been able to devote much time in that direction due to the pressure of other Masonic duties).

When he's not doing anything else, our Grand Master keeps busy by doing many of the degree lectures for area Lodges, he performs many of the funerals for our departed Brothers, and is an active participant in the degree work of both Scottish Rite and York Rite. Of course, a wife, 5 children, 8 grandkids, and 2 1/2 great-grandkids (all living in the Anchorage area) deserve quite a bit of time, too.

What will Howard do when his year as Grand Master is up? Well, it's a little early to talk of specific plans. But you can be sure Masonry will be involved!

## Meet Your New Junior Warden

A man of many talents, our new Junior Grand Warden combines the artistry of music, the logic of a businessman, and the organizational skills of the military. But don't ask Stan to be your Lodge Organist - he plays the bass guitar.

Stanley Ronald Foulke was born on December 28, 1945, in Oakland, California. He grew up in the Philadelphia, PA - Southern New Jersey area. Enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1963, he served as a Military Policeman and Military Pay Specialist until 1966. He then worked as a truck driver for Sears and as a musician while he attended Temple University in Philadelphia where he graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1971. After working as a professional musician for several years, he reenlisted in the U.S. Army in 1976.

Stan came to Alaska in 1977. While serving as an Army Air Traffic Control Tower Operator, he earned a Master of Science degree in Business Management in 1979. After leaving the Army in 1980, he was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Alaska Army National Guard and transferred to Nome. There he served as Personnel Officer, Logistics Officer, and Executive Officer. Active in many community service organizations, he was Commander of AMVETS and President of the Nome Rotary Club.

While in Nome, he met Sheri. They were married in May, 1992 in Anvil Lodge by M.W. Les Little during his year as Grand Master. Stan was transferred to Anchorage in September, 1992, and now lives in Eagle River with Sheri and sons Jim and Bob. He also has a son, Ryan, who lives in Palmer. Stan plans to retire from military service in September, 1994.

Stan was raised in Anvil Lodge #2 in Nome in 1984, and, via the chairs, was Worshipful Master in 1990. He also served as President of the Nome Shrine Club for several years. He is a life member of the Anchorage Scottish Rite, Anchorage York Rite, Al Aska Shrine Temple, and the Alaska Chapter of National Sojourners and Heroes of '76. He has served the Grand Lodge of Alaska as Chairman of the Arrangements Committee in 1987, Deputy to the Grand Master for District #1 in 1992, and Junior Grand Steward and member of the Russian Relations Committee in 1993.

Welcome to the Grand South, R.W. Stan, we look forward to seeing and hearing a lot more from you.






It seems that church criticisms always place the Masonic fraternity in the same no-win situation where, on the one hand they fault the fraternity for any tenets or teachings that resemble doctrinal beliefs, on the other hand they then fault the fraternity for its non-sectarian practices and for not being dogmatic enough. It seems as though they can not make up their mind whether they want Freemasonry to be a religion or not. If the same illogic was applied to another non-sectarian organization, such as the Boy Scouts, it would be no less ridiculous.

from the American Masonic Review



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**Greet Old Friends, and Make New Ones! - Attend Lodge**

District No. 3 - V.W. L.V. (Joe) Dees, Deputy

Matanuska Lodge No. 7 ..... Meets First Tuesday at 8:00  
Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8 ..... Meets First Tuesday at 8:00  
Glacier Lodge No. 10 ..... Meets Second Thursday at 8:00  
Eagle River Lodge No. 13 ..... Meets First Monday at 7:30  
Adak Lodge No. 14 ..... Meets Second Thursday at 7:00  
Aurora Lodge No. 15 ..... Meets First Monday at 8:00  
Anchorage Lodge No. 17 ..... Meets Second Wednesday at 8:00

Other (special) meetings as called by the Master

## Quantity vs. Quality - What Does That Mean?

After Lodge a couple of weeks ago, we had a discussion over coffee. Someone said that we needed quality in our initiates, rather than quantity. But, just what does this mean? And, how are we to determine whether a petitioner is "Quality Material", or "Just a Number"?

From its early beginnings to about 1920, most Masons lived in small communities where everyone knew almost everything about everyone else. Even in large cities, people lived and worked in the same small neighborhood. Knowing so much about each person in the area had advantages - but also had disadvantages. The town drunk could be identified. So could the man who "done wrong" to the "widdler lady". These were not "Quality" prospects. But there was a lot of pre-judgment, and the moral, upstanding man who happened (by circumstances or choice) to live on the "wrong side of the tracks" was apt to be included on the list of those who might not measure up - in spite of his true qualifications. "Quality" was thought to be composed of the "right" people, and accepting anyone else was thought to be sacrificing quality for a mere increase in membership.

If these thoughts were ever valid (and that's very doubtful) they have lost all meaning today. Henry Ford brought mobility to almost everyone, and the close-knit communities of yesterday disappeared. Most of us don't really know the people across the street, let alone those who live in another community. With this change in life style, the word "Quality" was revised to "Professional". The idea was to attract the "movers and shakers" of the community. But "professional" is another word which defies Masonic definition. There are too many politician and lawyer jokes to make us believe that a certificate on the wall qualifies an individual to be a Mason. And who says that a plumber, store clerk, or a person in any other occupation is not a "professional" in his chosen field.

Let's forget about the old definitions of power brokers and the "right class" of candidates. For us, the "Right" candidate is one who is a "good man, and true". A good man, who will benefit from the Fraternity, and who will become an even better man because of his Masonic affiliation. End the practice of pre-judgment, and find the men who are truly interested in becoming closer to the Masonic ideals. These are the true Quality candidates who can contribute to the Fraternity. They are the ones who will shape the future of our communities. And, while helping these good men become better, we just might learn something from them - and become better, ourselves, as a result.

**Be an ACTIVE Mason - Visit lodge Regularly**

District No. 4 - V.W. Tom Leslie, Deputy

White Pass Lodge No. 1 ..... Meets Third Tuesday at 7:30  
Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 ..... Meets First Thursday at 8:00  
Tongass Lodge No. 19 ..... Meets Fourth Friday at 7:00  
Other (special) meetings as called by the Master

## WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

**The QUESTION:** The fraternity of Freemasonry is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. But, **how may Freemasonry be defined?** What is there about it that has attracted the patronage of Kings, Presidents, Potentates and many other famous and learned people to be listed among its members? What is there about it that has brought it into disfavor with totalitarian rulers? What enabled it to survive persecution by tyrants and dictators and caused it to flourish wherever men are free?

**A DISCUSSION:** Some say Freemasonry is a liberal education, but that definition does not satisfy. Some say it is a religion, but most Freemasons do not agree with that definition. True, there are contained in the lessons and teachings of Freemasonry, full instructions for leading an upright and moral life, and the obligations of Freemasonry are taken in the name of God. But, it does not impose any religion on its members, and each mason worships according to his faith whether he be Christian, Jew, Protestant, Catholic, Buddhist, Hindu or any sect that recognizes and believes in the supreme being. Freemasonry teaches that there is life or existence of some kind in another realm beyond this one. Freemasonry is "A system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols". If so, then we need only an explanation of the allegories and symbols. But every one of millions of Freemasons may have one or more of his own explanations of each allegory and for each symbol. And each will be correct as far as that individual is concerned. Our symbols urge us to think, and urge us to study. If we initiate a group study session, the results of that group's thought about any particular symbol may astonish us.

**The CONCLUSION:** All that Freemasonry asks its members to do is to so act that they be prepared for life beyond the veil. Freemasonry has many beautiful ceremonies that illustrate and emphasize these simple things. Students have spent lives delving into the mysteries of Freemasonry without discovering a concise or full answer to our question. There is no ready universal answer that the world would understand. Freemasonry may be called an institution, but it is more a theory or philosophy of life. It is what is in the heart, and not always what the tongue proclaims.

**One ANSWER:** Because of this universality, there may be no better answer than:  
**"FREEMASONRY IS WHAT FREEMASONS ARE."**

Submitted by: Arthur A. Rindahl (P.M. 11)

## Active Masonry At Ketchikan's Tongass Lodge No. 19

Immediately after the Grand Lodge session in Sitka, our new Grand Master Howard Hobbs and his corps of officers visited Ketchikan, and almost took over the town - much to everyone's satisfaction.

Saturday, April 9 was a day which will long be remembered in the Masonic community of Southeast Alaska. Things were timed so precisely that M.W. Howard and M.W. Kenneth S. Robinson (Grand Master of Washington) wore their tuxes on the airplane because there was no time to change before the first ceremony.

### Unique Cornerstone Laying at Ketchikan High School

As soon as the plane landed, the official party was transported to the Masonic Temple for the opening of a Grand Lodge for the purpose of laying a cornerstone. After opening Lodge, the two Grand Lodges, acting jointly, laid a cornerstone at the new High School in Ketchikan. **This ceremony was almost unique in Masonry.** Normally, only one Grand Lodge will officiate at such a ceremony. However, because the original Masonic Lodge in Ketchikan has chosen to retain Washington as its Grand Lodge, and because the newest Alaskan Lodge is also in Ketchikan, both Grand Lodges agreed to share the duties and the ceremony.

### Tongass Lodge No. 19 Is Constituted

Following the setting of the cornerstone, members of the Alaska and Washington Grand Lodges returned to the Masonic Temple to constitute Tongass Lodge No. 19. Over seventy Masons, their wives and invited guests witnessed this great event. The Grand Master, M.W. Howard Hobbs, presided over the ceremonies, assisted by the newly elected Grand Lodge officers.

Once Tongass Lodge had been constituted, the Grand Master took on the duties of Installing Officer. With the assistance of the Deputy Grand Master, Henry Dunbar, the officers who will lead the Lodge through its first year were installed.

Worshipful Master Martin W. Parsons was treated to a gallery of gold, as members of both Alaska and Washington Grand Lodges were in attendance. At one point during closing, the East was occupied by two Grand Masters in addition to W.M. Parsons.

After the ceremonies were complete, the members and invited guests retired to the Westmark Hotel to celebrate the days events. The audience was addressed by both Grand Masters as well as Lt. Governor Jack Coghill and local State Senator Robin Taylor.

Worshipful Master Martin Parsons, and all his officers had worked long and hard for this great day. And Masonry is now richer by having yet another Lodge to spread the Light of Masonry through the Southeast portion of Alaska. Visit them if you can - you'll enjoy the experience.

All in all, it was a blue ribbon day for Alaska Masons

### Glad to have you with us - Tongass

(Information from Martin Parsons (W.M., 19)

Mark Twain said:

"Most writers regard truth as their most valuable possession, and, therefore, are most economical in its use."

*I trust that the Editor of "LIGHT from the Great Land" will prove to be "cautiously extravagant".*



## High Twelve International



Alaska now has its first chapter of the High Twelve. Under the enthusiastic leadership of President Sol Arnovitz, the Forget-Me-Not Chapter has been formed in Anchorage.

High Twelve is an association of Master Masons who desire an hour of Masonic fellowship independent of the formal ritual of the Lodge, but dedicated to service to the Fraternity. All Master Masons are eligible for membership, to join their brothers at lunch, and to discuss topics of mutual interest. The story of the High Twelve is reflected in its logo which contains the motto: "To Reflect Upon Truth - To Talk Little - To Hear Much".

The real work of the organization is with the youth of our country - particularly with the Masonic youth organizations.

- The organization, through The Wolcott Foundation, Inc. sponsors study programs which can lead to Masters Degrees in the Arts, Business Administration, or Arts of Government.
- Major attention is paid to our Masonic Youth Groups - the Order of DeMolay (for boys), and the two girls organizations - the International Order of Jobs Daughters, and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

The members of High Twelve recognize that:

### The future of our country depends upon our youth.

It is up to us, as Masons, to insure that our future leaders have the proper tools with which to work. Those tools consist of knowledge, and of moral principles. Without the values which are so richly expressed by our Fraternity, the future would be clouded and uncertain. We must, therefore, pass those values to our youth. And then, we must give them the knowledge which will let them put these moral precepts into practice. High Twelve tries to assist in this effort.

Come join them for good food, good friends, some fun (in addition to their serious purpose, they try not to take themselves too seriously), and join in the opportunity to make a difference. The Club meets every other Friday at noon. Meetings in May will be on the 13th and 27th. Future meetings will be held at two week intervals. They are currently meeting at Elmer's Restaurant on the corner of Fireweed and the Seward Highway (Gamble Street). Further information is available through the Shrine office (274-4344), the Scottish Rite office (274-0277) or the Grand Lodge office (561-1477).

Job's  
Daughters



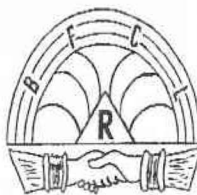
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## Youth

## Our Leaders of Tomorrow

Rainbow  
Girls



The Thirteenth Annual Communication of the  
**M.W. Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Alaska**  
 at Sitka, Alaska - Wed. April 6 through Fri. April 8, 1994



(A few candid shots for those who missed a great [and productive] grand session.)



"Club Head" *Tom Houser* opens a session of the "Warden's Charge Alumni Club" with the help of *Jim LeFlore* and *Jerry Wassen*.



Our Past Grand Masters help in any way possible to keep things **under control**.



*Guy Kornfeld*, grand Inspecteur, Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, and Lt. Governor *Jack Coghill* were among the honored guests.



A stirring tribute to our Alaska Flag was given by *Gene Prewitt* assisted by *John Litten*



We needed some fun along with the work, so we listened as *Brad Howey* lead the *Sitka High School Jazz Band*. (Some of us danced, too.)

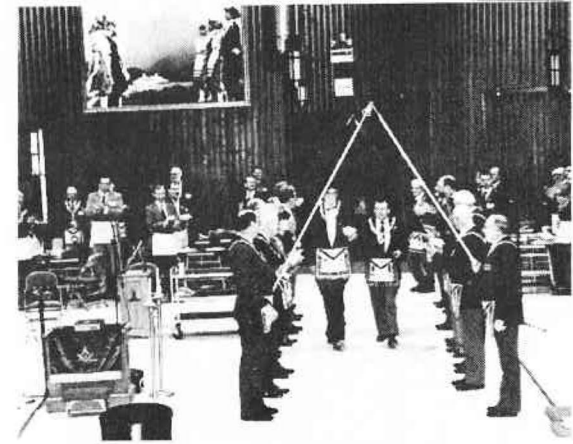


**Thanks, Sitka!**

You have Great Hospitality, a Beautiful City, and Mt. Verstovia No. 18 is a Very Active Lodge. It's easy to see that Masonry is Really Alive and a big part of your community!



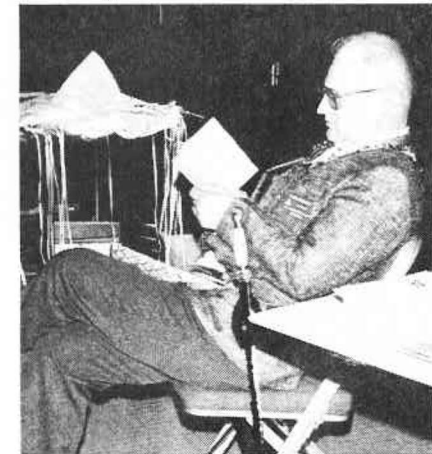
*W. Tony Johnson* was EVERYWHERE, and had everything under control - Thanks for a job well done!



Grand Master *John H. Grainger* is escorted to the East to open the Thirteenth Annual Communication of the M.W. Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Alaska.



*W. Frank Lovell* receives the awards for largest number of Masons raised, and for largest percentage gain in membership for *Adak Lodge No. 14*.



Our sessions were "well tyled" by Grand Tyler *W. Carl Mulvihill*.



Your new Grand Lodge officers for the 1994-95 Masonic year await installation, which was done in "ample form" by our first Grand Master, *M.W. James A. Williams*.

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