

News of the Grand Lodge of Alaska

The North Star



Vol. 3 July 1993 No. 2

SITKAN JOE ASHBY RECEIVES HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARD

*Daily Sitka Sentinel, Sitka,
Alaska, November 3, 1992*

Joe Ashby, a longtime Sitka resident, received the Alaska Historical Society's Evangeline Atwood Award for Historical Excellence Friday night at the society's annual meeting in Anchorage.

Ashby, an active member of the Sitka Historical Society and a member of the state society's first board of directors 25 years ago, was honored for his "sustained contributions to historical activities in Alaska."

In nominating Ashby for the state award, Sitka Historical Society board members call him "an 'oral responder' to ever possible sort of question about Sitka and its people. He is acknowledged by many, including both the Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Sitka Historical Society, as being able to call to memory personal relationships and activities of early Sitka as well as contemporary Sitka...

"For his work with the Alaska

Historical Society, the Sitka Historical Sites Preservation Committee, the Sitka Historical Society and for being 'Mr. History' of Sitka. Joe Ashby is nominated for the Atwood Award."

Ashby, originally from North Dakota, came to Sitka after World War II following his discharge from the U.S. Navy. He worked for Sitka Cold Storage and Sitka Realty, was city assessor, a magistrate and, for 20 years, superintendent of Sitka National Cemetery.

He has been active in many community endeavors, including the Alaska Day Festival, and served as chairman of the St. Michael's Cathedral Restoration Committee.

He's a member of the Sitka Elks Lodge, is a Master Mason in the Sitka Masonic Lodge and is a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine. He also is a member of the Pioneers of Alaska, and just finished a term as state president.

He has served as a member and officer of the Sitka Historical Society from the time of its founding in 1957 until the present. He helped develop what is now called the Isabel Miller Museum, located in the Centennial Building.

The North Star Editors

MW John H. Grainger 225-5557
P.O. Box 5326, Ketchikan, 99901

RW Howard N. Hobbs 272-9263
1504 E. 26th Ave. Anchorage, AK. 99508

RW Henry T. Dunbar 333-1518
2412 Lee St., Anchorage, AK. 99504

RW Lloyd W. Triggs 488-2818
1414 Valley Dr., Fairbanks, Ak. 99705

RW Richard D. Bender 561-1477
2723 Challenger Cir. Anchorage. Ak 99517

Publication Committee

Contributing Editors

W. Phillip A. Ambrose Chmn 696-1338
17915 Lacy St., Eagle River, Ak. 99577

W. David W. DeLong 789-0355
P.O. Box 021194, Juneau, Ak. 99802

District No. 1

VW Mitchell R. Miller, 488-6341
693 Pleasure Dr. North Pole, Ak. 99705

District No. 2

VW Robert L. Fulton, 776-8250
P.O. Box 1087, Kenai, Ak. 99611-1087

District No. 3

VW Pete Nilles, 243-8350
2950 Turnagain St. Anchorage, Ak. 99517

District No. 4

VW Tom Leslie 225-8859
P.O. Box 5597, Ketchikan, Ak. 99901

To Schedule an ad contact your
District Deputy

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.

John H. Grainger Grand Master

AMRA is sponsoring a Mail-a-Bid program to raise moneys for the Alaska Grand Lodge. Grand prize will be a seven-day cruise to the Caribbean for two persons on one of the Princess ships.

"Mail-A-Bid" auction is an opportunity to do some holiday shopping from the comfort of your own home. You select your purchases and the Alaska Grand Lodge receives the money. Monies received from the auction will benefit the permanent fund of the Alaska Grand Lodge.

Donations both large and small are needed. Many items will consist of fishing, hunting and weekend excursions for the family.

An opportunity to successfully
Continued on page 3

*The success of the fraternity
depends
on the interest of our members*

pan gold at a Yukon gold mine is another exciting prize!

Solicitations for auction items will close by October 3rd to allow time for a catalog to be prepared. The catalog will be ready for mailing by November 1, 1993 in time for awards to be made before Christmas.

It is hoped that as many as can will participate in the auction. The auction promises to be exciting and rewarding for the bidders.

We hope you will try something new and fun. Do contact your District Deputy for items to be donated and have fun on the bidding!

From the Senior Grand Warden:



First, I would like to thank all the brothers who took time to respond to the survey concerning recognition of Prince Hall Masons. I knew this would be a controversial issue before I started the survey. But, several brothers had approached me wanting this

Grand Lodge to take some action. Henceforth, the survey. The end result was a dead heat. 50 Yes responses and 50 No's. No further action will be taken at this time since a 2/3 majority is required to amend the Alaska Masonic Code Constitution. (reference AMC Section 7 06)

I had the pleasure of attending the Grand Lodge of Washington's annual communication the second week of June. Several brethren sent **Fraternal Greetings** to their brothers in Alaska.

By the time you get this bulletin, we will be nearly half way through summer. I hope all of you have a nice summer and hope to see you back in lodge in September. Most of our Senior Wardens are now looking for members to be appointed officers for next year. They need help, so if you're interested in helping, contact your senior warden. I'm sure they'd appreciate your help.

Survey Results

Following is the result of the survey proposed in the last edition of this bulletin concerning Recognition of Prince Hall Lodges in Alaska. This survey was strictly unofficial and includes only the opinions of any Master Mason who cared to respond, whether he's a voting member of Grand Lodge or not.

Continued on page 4

Survey Results continued

Lodge	Yes	No
White pass No.1	2	1
Anvil No. 2	1	0
Tanana No. 3	3	11
Valdez No. 4	1	0
Mt.McKinley No.5	0	0
Seward No. 6	0	2
Matanuska No.7	4	1
Mt. Susitna No. 8	4	5
Kodiak No. 9	4	2
Glacier No.10	5	11
Kenai No.11	3	7
Fairbanks No.12	3	3
Eagle River No.13	3	1
Adak No.14	6	1
Aurora No.15	2	0
North Pole No.16	0	1
Anchorage No.17	7	3
Mt.Verstovia No.18	2	1

Totals 50 50

Several Brothers asked some questions that deserve answers. Some wanted to know - "Why now?" Now because several other Grand Lodges in the U.S. have granted varying degrees of recognition to Prince Hall Lodges in their respective states and some of our brethren wanted us to do the same. Several wanted to know if Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska had asked for recognition? The answer to that is **NO!** However, I talked with several Prince Hall Grand Lodge officers last summer about their feeling toward recognition. Most of them stated that they would be in favor of recognition and visitation rights but would not be in favor of any type of merger. One brother

wanted to know if Prince Hall Masons have to profess a belief in God as we do? The answer to that is yes, their requirements and standards for membership are identical to ours. Some people have suggested that Prince Hall Masons are more critical and selective when balloting on new members than we are. This, however, is their personal opinion and is very subjective.

There were also four other surveys received but were invalidated because they could not be identified as members of this jurisdiction. Their results were identified as (1 Yes and 3 No's).

Several Surveys included comments such as the following!

"I think we should let lie until they apply for recognition and ask for a petition. Maybe some day in the future they will."

"Masonry: Historically-Masonry has been segregated. I believe in honoring our fraternity past choice. I have friends who are Prince Hall Masons and respect them, but I don't wish to combine our Lodges."

"Yes I enjoyed your article very much. It was right to the point. Keep me advised..."

"Yes-Due to volatility of issue, I wonder if any passive survey such as this could be accurate."

Continued on page 5

Survey Results continued

If you want this to happen, it will. If not, it won't:"

"Yes-Visitation only;"

"Yes-A mason is a mason! No better, no worse than another mason;"

"Yes-keep up the good work!"

"Yes- I would like to grant recognition to Prince Hall Lodges. I believe in leading more than following. "America", live it or lose it.:"

"Yes- it is the nature of man as he grows older----to protest change, particularly change for the better."

"No-not until Prince Hall asks to be recognized by us:"

"No-not at this time"

"No-No"

"No-if Hall goes in, I goes out;"

"No-Hell no."

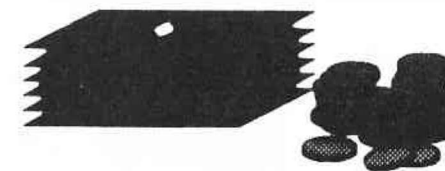
"No-No need to"

"No-Especially since they have not requested recognition, or have they? If they haven't, why are you doing this?"

**Henry T. (Hank) Dunbar
Senior Grand Warden**



A HUNDRED YEARS from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different, because I was important in the life of a boy.



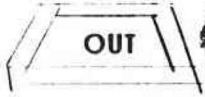
CONTRIBUTORS

- Fred Angleton. PGM
- Rick Bender
- Russ Burnett
- Dave DeLong
- Hank Dunbar
- Frank Eric. PGM
- Roy Foss. PGM
- Robert Fulton. DDGM #2
- Perry & Jerry Green
- Rex Hasty
- Cliff Huston
- John Ingram. PGM
- Herman Kuppler. PGM
- Maurice Leahy
- William H. Lefferson
- Howard "Mac" McElrath
- Mitchell Miller
- Norman Parker
- Hazen Ricker
- E. L. Soldin
- Dave Thomas. PGM
- James A. Williams. PGM

Next time you see or talk to one of the Brothers listed above be sure to thank them for their contribution to this bulletin!

**Please mail your contributions to:
Grand Lodge of Alaska, F & AM
P.O. Box 190668
Anchorage, AK. 99519**

FROM
The Grand Secretary



Although many of the Lodges go dark for the summer, the work continues in the Grand Lodge Office. I am in the process of transcribing the Proceedings of our last Annual Communication from the cassette tapes to the computer. The next step will be editing the taped transcription down to the printed Proceedings. The taped transcription is kept for the "word for word" record of the Annual Communication but the published material is edited down considerably. It is a very large project to get from taped transcript to the final product. I hope to have the most recent Communication ready to go to press by early fall.

You may have noticed the new format for this publication. One thing that was changed was the format for the supporters. In the past, anyone could take out an ad to promote their self or business. To conserve on the printed space, this year we will be listing the contributors in a column format. Notes were sent out to all past contributors with the hope that they renew their support of the Bulletin. If you have not sent in

your contribution, you may do so at any time. The cost is \$45.00 and will be good for one year of support. To those who have already contributed, thank you! If you've been thinking about sending in a contribution, now would be a good time. AMRA made a very generous contribution to the Grand Lodge Bulletin of \$1500.00. However, that money has nearly been exhausted with this publication. We hope to publish another issue in the fall and winter but only if we have enough income from our supporters. Grand Lodge approved a \$1.00 increase in the Per Capita Fees but we cannot collect that until the 1993 Assessments are sent out next January. This Bulletin serves as an excellent contact with our "Outside" brethren. I receive numerous phone calls and notes after each publication from brothers in the Lower 48 who really enjoy hearing about what's happening in Alaska Masonry. Checks may be made out to the Grand Lodge of Alaska and designated for the Bulletin. Thank you for your support.

Richard D. Bender
Grand Secretary

Deputies of the Grand Master
This section is devoted to our District
Deputies



DISTRICT NO. 1 Greetings from the Tanana Valley

Tanana Lodge No. 3 held its annual international day with Whitehorse Lodge No. 46 on the weekend of May 22nd. The degree was well attended and all the brethren had a great time at the picnic on Sunday. There was a lot of people that showed up that we had not seen in years, it was great! "The meeting will be held in Whitehorse next year, so make your plans to attend.

Tanana and Fairbanks lodges have been busy with new petitions at the end of the season prior to going dark for the summer. I know that Tanana and Fairbanks both will start off in September with several first degrees. North Pole No. 16 does not go dark during the summer months and will be conferring an outdoor degree June 26th. Remember, that the Three Lodge Breakfasts and the Masters and Wardens are during the months of June, July and August.

The Farthest North Shrine Club meets for lunch at 11:30 AM each Tuesday at the Regency Hotel. All Masons and friends are invited as this is just a informal no host lunch. The Shrine club will hold its annual picnic at the Harding Lake cabin July 25th. All masons and families are invited, come to

the Golden Days parade on the 24th and the picnic the next day.

The Scottish Rite had a Great reunion in May with 8 new members. They are also dark during the summer months.

I will be going to Russia with the Grand Master and will give you my report on the trip in the next issue. I missed going to Nome with the Grand Master for his official visit, but am looking forward to my visit this fall. The Bridgewater Hotel, Old Chena View, is offering a special rate to Masons this summer. The rate is \$90.00 for a single and \$100.00 for a double. To make reservations call and ask for Gloria or Susan, you have to identify yourself as a mason for these rates. They are pretty full so if you are coming to Fairbanks anytime this summer be sure and call early.

Did you know? The Minutes of Mary's Chapel, otherwise the Lodge of Edinburgh, go back to the year of 1599, and appear to be the oldest Lodge Records in the world?

V.W. Mitchell R. Miller, DDGM #1



Deputies of the Grand Master
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DISTRICT NO. 3
HOME OF THE TRAVELING
GAVEL

First off I would like to congratulate WB Wragg and his officers for the warm hospitality extended during my recent visit to the island of Adak. Although the Grand Lodge team was small, a fun time was had by all. Keep up the good work!

Furthermore, would you believe that this little Lodge has done twenty-nine degrees this year and still going. Believe me, that is quite an accomplishment for such a small lodge. It looks like the Grand Lodge plaques could be on their way to Adak Lodge No. 14 in the spring of 1994.

As we look to the fall, we find that two Grand Lodge visitations are scheduled for District 3. Matanuska Lodge No. 7 will be on the 11th of September and Eagle River Lodge No. 13 will follow on the 13th. Check with your Worshipful Master for times and whether there is a dinner preceding the meeting. Lets have a big turn-out!

As we are about to go to press the Traveling Gavel is about to leave Adak Lodge No.14 and should be in Anchorage real soon. Watch for it, as nobody knows who

may be next. I did find that WB Gare Wragg the Master of Adak Lodge No. 14 has taken a likening to the gavel and is nearly to the time limit before he has to part with it. There should be a quicker turn-around in the Anchorage, Eagle River and Palmer area.

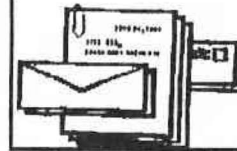
In closing, I would like for the Lodges to make good use of our Membership Renewal Kit. I have one available at this time. Just give me a call at 243-8350 to get it.

V. W. Pete Nilles, DDGM #3

THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
KITS

One of the Grand Master's recommendations that was approved at our last Annual Communication was the purchase of 4 of the Masonic Membership Renewal Kits. These kits have arrived and one kit has been sent to each of the District Deputies.

These kits are a series of pamphlets and 2 videos that have been put together by the Masonic Renewal Committee. They deal with many of the questions that might arise as non-Masons ask about our Fraternity. They are excellent resources for a Masonic Friendship or Information Night that a Lodge might put together. If your Lodge is presenting one of these programs or is interested in these kits, contact your District Deputy for more information.



Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest

A REPORT ON
FREEMASONRY

by, Home Mission Board,
Southern Baptist Convention

The long awaited report of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), on the study of the compatibility of Freemasonry with Christianity and southern Baptist doctrine has finally emerged.

The report both praises and criticizes Freemasonry.

It commends the Masonic order "for its many charitable endeavors; "such as its hospitals." It also acknowledges many "outstanding Christians and Southern Baptists who have been and are Masons.

The report also recognizes that "many of the tenets and teachings of some Grand Lodges could be considered compatible with, and even supportive of Christian faith and practice, such as the strong emphasis on honesty, integrity, industry and character, and the insistence that every member believe in God."

The report lists several examples from Masonic publications, including one from the "Louisiana Masonic Monitor."

It reads: "However they may differ in creed or theology, all good men are agreed that within the covers of the Holy Bible are found those principles of morality which lay the foundation upon which to build a righteous life... It is the one volume which has lived in the hearts of the people, molding and shaping their destinies, and it leads the way to Him who is the Light of the world."

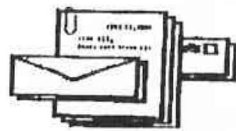
In addition to such affirmations, however, the report notes that many Freemasonry tenets and teachings are not compatible with Christianity or Southern Baptist doctrine. It outlines eight areas:

1. The prevalent use of offensive concepts, titles and terms, such as Worshipful Master for a lodge leader, references to Masonic buildings as mosques, shrines or temples and the use of terms considered to be the secret name of God. "To many, these terms are not only offensive but sacrilegious, the report notes.

2. The use of offensive rituals "bloody oaths" considered by many to be pagan and incompatible with Christianity.

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Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest



Continued from page 9

The report cites three examples, in which Freemasonry members swear allegiance to Masonic obligations, with transgressions punishable by such things as having one's throat cut or body severed. "Even though these oaths, obligations and rituals may or may not be taken seriously by the initiate, it is inappropriate for Christian to, 'sincerely promise and swear', with a hand on the Hold Bible, any such promises or oaths, or to participate in any such pagan rituals," the report says.

3. Recommended reading "of religions and philosophies, which are undeniably pagan and/or occultic."

4. "The reference to the Bible placed on the altar of the lodge as the 'furniture of the lodge', comparing it to the square and compass (symbols of Freemasonry) rather than giving it the supreme place in the lodge."

5. "The prevalent use of the term 'light', which some may understand as a reference to salvation rather than knowledge or truth."

6. "The implication that salvation may be attained by one's good works, implicit in the statement found in some Masonic writings that 'Masonry is continually reminded of the purity of life and conduct which is necessary to obtain admittance into the Celestial Lodge above where the Supreme Architect of the Universe preside' Even

though many Masons understand that the 'purity of life and conduct' can only be achieved through faith in Jesus Christ, other may be led to believe that they can earn salvation by living a pure life with good conduct."

7. "The heresy of universalism (the belief all people will eventually be saved), which permeates the writings of many Masonic authors, which is a doctrine inconsistent with New Testament teaching."

8. Refusal of most lodges to admit African-Americans as members.

The report concludes with its recommendation to leave Masonic membership as a matter of personal conscience and with an exhortation for Southern Baptists "to prayerfully and carefully evaluate Freemasonry in light of the Lordship of Christ, the teachings of the Scripture, and the findings of the report, as led by the Holy Spirit of God."

See related article on Page 15

**From April 1993 issue of
The Louisiana Freemason**



Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest



**Greetings From Adak Lodge
No. 14**

Yes Virginia, there is a lodge in the Andreanof Island! In fact, we are quite proud to be the Western Most Lodge in the United States.

We're relaxing somewhat after our 29 degrees to date this year (as of 23 June) and a hectic week supporting the commemoration of the Battle of Attu in 1943. Adak Masons were highly visible supporting the Adak and Anchorage WW2 Commemorative Committees in this solemn event. Over 100 American, Japanese and Aleut veterans, relatives, dignitaries and guests were entertained on Adak and escorted to Attu.

Future Lodge community service projects include installing a new playground for our Child Development Center, marching in the 4th of July parade in full regalia with the Adak Shrine Club, hosting a Masonic Information Night and running a non-profit information booth at the annual Tundra Fair. The playground job actually harkens back to Operative Masonry (!!!), as we will be shoveling sand—it doesn't hurt to be a "bearer of burdens" occasionally.

I am very proud of Brother Russ Grimes who has volunteered to take the lead on the Grand Master's vision of combating the destructive influence of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in our society. He is representing both the Lodge and the U.S. Navy in establishing the DARE program on Adak, with the full support of all brothers and Shriners.

For some time we have been desirous of establishing a unique

degree on Adak. We are pursuing establishment of a Gordian Knot Synod for the conferring of the unusual degree in a tundra setting for our brethren, sojourners and visitors.

Our degree schedule for the summer is as follows:

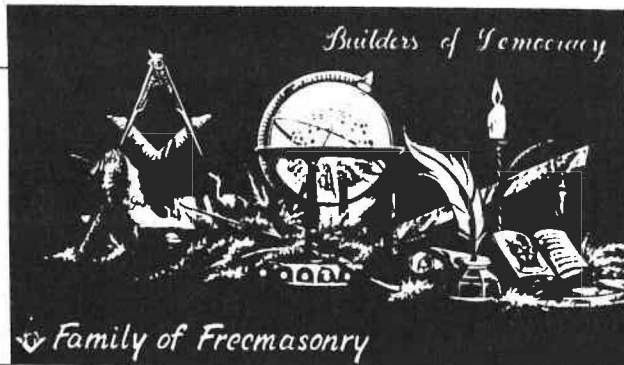
DATE	Degree	Number
24 June	3	1
1 July	2	4
8 July	Stated Meeting/Table Lodge	
15 July	3	1
22 July	1	1
29 July	1	1
31 July	3	2
5 August	1	1
12 August	3	1
21 August	3	1

Let me add that any brother who is desirous of visiting our Lodge is more than welcome. Getting to Adak may be slightly complicated, but we are willing to work with you to ensure a pleasant and hassle-free experience if you so desire. Please feel free to contact me or any of my officers listed in the Grand Lodge directory, the Grand Secretary, Rick Bender, or our District Deputy, Pete Nilles. I will warn you that if you do not qualify for military transportation (the old "MAC" system, now referred to as "AMC") that Reeve is fairly pricey, but how often do you get to visit an Aleutian paradise?

Fraternally,

Gare Wragg, WM





GIANT SQUARE AND COMPASS TO DECORATE MASONIC FLOAT

The most majestic and symbolic float to ever represent the Family of Freemasonry has been entered in the 1994 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Emblazoned with a 16-ft high square and compass, the colorful 55-ft long float will for the first time immediately convey the dynamic imagery of Freemasonry as it rolls down Colorado Blvd. New Year's Day in Pasadena.

Grand Master Stephen R. Doan and float committee chairman Stanley Channon both predict the float will make a strong impact on an international audience of millions of viewers.

"There will be no question who the float represents in this, the most watched television event of the year," said Channon, himself a Past Grand Master.

In addition to the square and compass, other symbols and tools of Masonry will decorate the float.

An open book on the front of the flower-adorned entry showing the enumeration of the seven cardinal virtues honors the 75th anniversary of DeMolay.

A candle symbolizes the illumination of the darkness, and various books devoted to geometry and architecture convey other aspects of Masonry.

And in the center of the float is a large globe depicting the universality and scope of the various orders of the Family of Freemasonry.

Constructed again by C.E. Bent & Son, Inc., the float will make wide use of a variety of flowers, according to Bill Lofthouse, president of the firm.

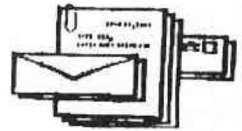
The garden areas around the base of the entry will be made up of roses, orchids, gladiolus, iris, gerberas and carnations. The symbols and tools are to be covered with bark, seed, strawflowers and eucalyptus.

Contributions are welcome, and checks should be made out to Rose Parade Masonic Float and sent to Robert C. Cove, P.O. Box 3377, Arcadia, CA 91066-3377.

See related articles on pages 13 & 14.



Letters to the Editor & Letters of Special Interest



Democracy Builders Is Theme for 1994 Rose Parade Entry

"Builders of Democracy" will be the theme for the Family of Freemasonry float now being readied for its January 1 ride through Pasadena, it has been announced by float committee representatives.

The idea was adopted because of Masonry's major contributions to the creation of democracy throughout the world. It was also agreed that it tied in well with the parade's overall theme, "Fantastic Adventure."

To help depict Masonry's involvement in the founding of democracy, a rider representing President George Washington, one of America's first great Masons, will be aboard the float, along with one of democracy's newest leaders in Europe, Nicolai Filip, Grand Master of Romania.

The International Master Councilor of DeMolay will ride at the front of the float to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of that organization.

He will be accompanied by a

celebrity still to be selected.

Once again, the Tournament of Roses float is being sponsored by California Masons and the millions of members of the Masonic Family around the world.

From California Freemason

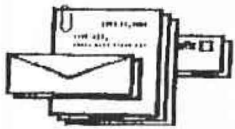
DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS IS OCTOBER 1ST

Although the 1994 Annual Communication was changed to meet in April, the deadline for submitting Resolutions remains October 1st. Please don't wait until the last minute. If changes need to be made to other sections of the Code or if the Resolution needs to be re-written, they cannot be done after the October 1 deadline. We already have 5 Resolutions submitted. Get them in early to allow Jurisprudence to look at them.

**Grand Secretary
Richard D. Bender**

A Summary of Our Overall Mission in Masonry

To seek that which is the most worth in the world;
To exalt the destiny of every person, the human side of our daily activities and the maximum service to humanity;
To aid mankind's search in God's Universe for identity, for development and for destiny;
And thereby achieve better men in a better world, happier men in a happier world and wiser men in a wiser world



Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest

*Do You Look Like
George?*

If you think you bear a resemblance to George Washington, you are invited to send your photograph to Stanley Channon, Chairman of the Masonic Float Committee, 2361 Daventry Rd., Riverside, CA 92506.



The winner will be selected to ride on the Family of Freemasonry float in the Tournament of Roses Parade to help depict the "Builders of Democracy" theme.

You may wear a white wig in the photo to help demonstrate your similarity to the famed American President and Mason.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so don't delay sending in your picture," said Channon. Entry is limited to Masons.



*Ode To A Masonic
Teacher*

To all you brother Masons, you'll know the reason for this poem: You'll find these special men, no matter where you call home. He'll tell you he's just a brother, no different than the rest: But we all know different. He always gives you his best. His duty is unswerving, he'll never let you down; No matter how slow you seem to learn, You'll never see him frown. He's always a good example, of what a Mason should be and do: You all know what I mean, Brothers, because you've been here too. Need I say more? I think it's plain to see; This man not only teaches you. He does it all for free. Now Brothers, I could go on for hours, and never reach the end; But of one thing I'm sure of, He's a man I'm proud to call, A Brother, and my friend.

Written by Brother David A. Jones
Thirteenth Day of May, Nineteen
Hundred and Ninety one.



Letters to the Editor & Letters of
Special Interest



"In light of the fact that many tenets and teaching of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, while others are compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, we therefore recommend that consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and autonomy of the local church, membership in a Masonic Order be a matter of personal conscience. Therefore, we exhort Southern Baptists to prayerfully and carefully evaluate Freemasonry in the light of the Lordship of Christ, the teachings of the Scripture and the finding of this report, as led by the Holy Spirit of God."

-HMB Report

JUBILEE

The word as we know it stems from the Hebrew word yobel, meaning ram's horn, blown at the beginning of the Jewish New Year



For Friends of The Aged

By Esther Mary Walker

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and palsied hand
Blessed are they who know that my ears
today.
Must strain to catch the things they say
Blessed are they who seem to know
That my eyes are dim and my wits are slow
Blessed are they who looked away
When coffee spilled at my table today
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
Who stop to chat for a little while
Blessed are they who never say,
"You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the ways
To bring back memories of yesterdays
Blessed are they who make it known
That I'm loved, respected and not alone
Blessed are they who make it known
I'm at a loss
To find the strength to carry the cross
Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey home, in loving way.



Quotes

Freemasonry is many things, but most of all Freemasonry is a way of life.

Freemasonry is a philosophy of life for the development of character; a fraternity of character in which virtue, goodness and knowledge are prescribed and practiced precepts.

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