

# LIGHT



## From The Great Land

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

Volume I - Number 2 ..... August - October, 1994

### The Grand Master's Page

While most Lodges are still "dark" for summer, it won't be long before we get working again in full swing. Vacation time is always good, because we need a break in what may have become a routine round of meetings. (And there's always some fishing that just has to be done.) But I always enjoy getting back to Lodge, refreshed and ready to go.

Many Lodges have already had their "Official Visit", but for those who have not, and as a reminder for the others, I would like to repeat some of my requests for activities during this year. - First, please see the Grand Secretary's column regarding the "365 Club".

Then, as you know, our Grand Lodge Permanent Fund is not growing quite as rapidly as we had hoped. This is a matter concerning the future of **Your** Grand Lodge. As we all know, money is required to perform even the smallest and/or most necessary projects. I therefore request that: **Each lodge should sponsor some fund raising activity to benefit the Grand Lodge Permanent Fund.** The project you choose is left to your discretion and imagination - dinners, sale of a product, or other - and whatever you are able to raise for this purpose will be greatly appreciated. (Only the interest from the Permanent Fund will be used - and not even that until the Fund reaches \$100,000. Your contribution will go to a truly permanent fund)

Next, we all talk about membership, but what do we do about it? I'm asking each Lodge to DO something this year to both attract new members and to keep old ones. Many groups have found both **Friendship Nights and Fellowship Nights** to be very effective. What is the difference? **Friendship Nights** are those where we make an effort to invite non-Masons (and their families) to the Lodge to get them acquainted with Masons and Masonry. Maybe we can arouse their interest enough to have them request a petition. **Fellowship Nights** are times when we get together just for our mutual enjoyment, and possibly for a little education, too. A speaker on a topic of interest, a film, a round-table discussion - the possibilities are endless. The whole purpose is to give the members some reason to come to Lodge that doesn't just involve ritual work.

We would like to hear about your ideas on these projects. Maybe your fundraising or membership project could be used by someone else. Please send your unique ideas to the Grand Secretary. Thanks!

Faternally,

Howard N. Hobbs, Grand Master





## 1994-95 Grand Lodge Visitation Schedule

(Subject to Revision)

July, August

Most activities are "Dark"  
(except for Lodge Stated Meetings)

### 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

Mail - P.O. Box 190668, Anchorage, 99519  
(Physical Address - 4101 Arctic Blvd. #101)  
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

### September

- 1/3 Kodiak Lodge No. 9
- 6 Seward Lodge No. 6
- 8 Kenai Lodge No. 11
- 10 District No. 3 Meeting  
(Anchorage)
- 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  
(Anchorage)

### 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.

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Next Copy Deadline - October 25

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## What Do You Guys Do?

I've been asked this question several times. Usually it's been by those who are not part of our Fraternity, but sometimes active Masons complain that "We don't DO anything." Normally, these comments are in reference to the activities of the several concordant bodies - York Rite Eye Foundations, Scottish Rite Language Clinics, Shrine Hospitals for children, etc. People seem to wonder why the Blue Lodge (or Grand Lodge) doesn't seem to have similar programs.

The obvious answer, of course, is that many Lodges and Grand Lodges do have programs of this type. There are scholarship programs, homes for the orphaned and aged, and a variety of other charitable activities which can be of vital importance to the recipients. In fact, S. Brent Morris has written a whole book on the subject of Masonic Philanthropies (available through the Scottish Rite). In it, he quotes the Masonic "Old Charges" as requiring assistance to the needy, and our Masonic ceremonies enjoin every Entered Apprentice to have "charity for all mankind".

Whether it is because of our teachings, or because Masonry attracts the type of men who are in sympathy with the concept of assisting those in need, the end result is that Masons provide for their fellow men. They try to make this world a little bit better place to live.

But, back to the original question. Why does it seem that Blue Lodges (and some of our Grand Lodges) have no apparent organized program for the betterment of their communities and their neighbors? I would suggest that there are two answers:

- **First, Is it possible that this is not the function of the Blue Lodge?** We know that we try to make "good men better". We know that the Lodge works upon men who are some of the best individuals in the community. This "work" consists of identifying our individual responsibilities toward God, country, neighbor, family, and ourselves. However, we do not attempt to dictate how those responsibilities should be acted upon. A Mason is asked to use his own intellect, talents, interests (and conscience) to bring the teachings of our gentle craft into active participation within his community. But not all Masons think alike, nor should they. While we follow common principles, our ways of accomplishing them is diverse. Should a Lodge or Grand Lodge attempt to dictate specific activities, no matter how worth while, this would go beyond our principles of self-determination. It is hoped, however, that each Mason will join with others who are of a like mind, and be an active participant in some project which helps to satisfy his obligations as a man and as a Mason. Because they can be more focused and less universal in scope, Masonry's concordant bodies may provide the atmosphere where projects of specific interest can be implemented.
- **Second, What's stopping you?** As was stated above, Masons should join with Brothers who are like-minded to develop projects, as has been done by many Lodges and Grand Lodges in this and other jurisdictions. Just make your project one of common interest which will attract the willing participation of your Brothers. There is really no limit to the extent in which you can become involved. Nor is there any limit to the type of projects which will help you meet your Masonic obligations to God and Man. (Note: The key to success is "the willing participation of your Brothers". When presenting a new idea, be prepared with more than just another good idea. Be able to "sell" your idea with enough facts that you will make your Brothers want to join with you for its success.)

Yes, there are many things that Masons and Lodges "DO" for their communities. But there is always need for more, and **all you need is a good idea properly presented.**

**Good Luck and Best Wishes in making Your Lodge one that "Does" Something.**

## If God Should Go On Strike

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike, because He wasn't treated fairly in things He didn't like. If only once He'd given up and said, "That's it - I'm through! I've had enough of those on Earth, so this is what I'll do: I'll give My order to the sun, cut off the heat supply; and to the moon, give no more light and run the oceans dry. Then just to make things really rough and put the pressure on, turn off the vital oxygen until every breath is gone!"

You know, He would be justified, if fairness were the game, for no one has been more abused or met with more disdain, than God - and yet He carries on supplying you and me with all the favor of His grace, and everything for free. Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go; but what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe. We don't care whom we hurt to gain the things we like; but what a mess we'd all be in . . . if God should go on strike.

From the December, 1981 issue of *The Inquiring Elk*,  
bulletin of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Lodge No. 1863



## Grand Lodge Lays Cornerstone for Wasilla AmVets

Almost all of the officers of Alaska's Grand Lodge met in special communication on May 21, in order to lay the cornerstone of AmVets Post No. 9 in Wasilla.

As you can see from the picture, this almost seemed to be a Masonic building. The AmVets, many of whom are Masons (primarily from Matanuska Lodge No. 7), agree with Masonic principles, and follow many of our practices. They are especially interested in community service, and spend many hours helping others.

Therefore, it seemed appropriate for them to have the Grand Lodge lay the cornerstone of their building. In addition to recognizing the Masonic ideals of Faith, Hope and Charity, they also found the Creed of the Scottish Rite to express their own thoughts.

While it is not placed in our traditional "North-East Corner", this beautiful plaque is placed at eye level next to their front door - right where everyone can see it every time they enter the building. This may be an

even better location, because both our Masonic Brothers, and our Brothers in Spirit can be reminded of the basic teachings of Masonry every time they attend their Post.

**Thanks, AMVETS for the opportunity!**

*(For those who may be worried, the plaque is rectangular - it was being held at an angle when the photo was taken.)*

## "Warden's Charge"

Come One / Come All! - All the Senior Deacons, Junior Wardens and Senior Wardens, and their ladies, that is. Your Grand Lodge team is making the final preparations for the third annual "Warden's Charge", to be held Friday, September 23 through Sunday, September 25. This year the "Charge" will be held at the Ramada Inn (formerly the Northern Lights Inn) on Northern Lights Blvd. in Anchorage.

We have a special treat this year - Vern Wertz and Marty Martinez will be returning from Oregon to serve as facilitators. What a team! Just ask anyone who attended the first "Charge".

Leadership and Lodge Management, with emphasis on Planning - that's what it's all about. Lodge officers who have used the principles taught at this seminar report excellent results.

For those Lodges on a tight budget, I encourage you to hold a dinner or other fund raiser to assist those officers who may have difficulty with the expenses. (The cost is \$250.00 per couple, and includes all seminar materials, room and most meals for the officer and his lady.) This is an investment in the future of your Lodge, and will be returned many times in increased membership and attendance.

Registration forms have been sent to all concerned. Please assist us by returning them as soon as possible. Members of the Warden's Charge Alumni Club are invited to the Saturday evening banquet. Please contact our Grand Secretary, R.W. Rick Bender at the Grand Lodge office (561-1477) for reservations.

**See you in September!**

Faternally,

Stan Foulke, Junior Grand Warden

*Editor's Note:*

I have been fortunate enough to attend both of the previous "Charge" sessions. I really believe that these seminars were well worth my time, effort, and expense. The ideas presented are geared to the operation of individual Lodges, and can be implemented immediately. This is not some theoretical "blue sky" kind of session, but one which is of practical benefit. And don't forget the ladies! They can be of great help to any officer as he works through the line. They are given specific ideas on how they can be of assistance, as well as learning a little about what their husbands are expected to do and the requirements he is about to face.

*G.R.F., Editor*

## Where Are We?



What is the location of this Alaskan Masonic Temple? (Answer in next issue.)

Visit YOUR Lodge - TODAY!

District No. 1 - V.W. Mitchell R. Miller, Deputy

Anvil Lodge No. 2 ..... Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:00

Tanana Lodge No. 3 ..... Meets Second Wednesday at 8:00

Fairbanks Lodge No. 12..... Meets Third Thursday at 7:30

North Pole Lodge No. 16..... Meets Third Monday at 7:30

Other (special) meetings as called by the Master

### Tribute to the Flag

Fellow Americans, before you unfurled our country's flag! It is not in a spirit of boastfulness but rather in a sense of justifiable pride, we would have you remember that . . . that flag never has known defeat. It has ever gone forward, victorious, triumphant! Not like the Roman Eagle or the Crescent of the Saracen to conquer and to crush, but to make men free.

No symbol - save the cross - epitomizes so much suffering and devotion, and radiates more hope than that flag. It is the symbol of your noble heritage, your kingly prerogatives, and your civic duties as American citizens. We call you to an active exercise of those prerogatives - with prudence and nobility of purpose, and to the performance of every duty with unfaltering spirit.

We here solemnly pledge you to an unquestioning obedience to the mandates of that flag. Should your country command you - obey! Give to your country - your service, your purse, and even your life, if necessary - to the end that our nation may ever go forward upon its lofty mission, and stand in the Congress of the nations of the world - the champion of an ever freer, nobler, happier, humanity.

And continue our prayer, oh God, that of such devotion Thy Kingdom may come - Thy will may be done - on earth here as it is there in Heaven, and we will continue to give Thee all the praise - both now and forever and ever. - Amen.

#### A Mason's "Tribute to the Flag"

The Tribute to the American flag (printed above) was written in 1961 by Roy H. Shepherd, a member of Mt. Moriah Lodge #77 in Anderson, Indiana. He wrote the Tribute to inspire all Americans to be proud of this great symbol of America. After many months preparing the Tribute, he presented it for the first time on Dec. 28, 1961, when he was installed as Commander of Anderson Commandery, Knights Templar.



The Tribute has been incorporated into a number of programs sponsored by Masonic, civic, fraternal, and veterans organizations. In 1972 it was entered into the Congressional Record, and two years ago a bill was introduced in Congress to make it the Preamble to the Pledge of Allegiance.

**This Tribute stands as an emotional and inspiring accolade to the symbol of America and a prayer for every American.**

Extracted from "The Indiana Freemason"

Your Lodge NEEDS YOU - Attend Often!

District No. 2 - V.W. Raymond F. Tidwell, Deputy

Valdez Lodge No. 4 ..... Meets First Wednesday at 7:30

Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5 ..... Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:00

Seward Lodge No. 6 ..... Meets First Tuesday at 8:00

Kodiak Lodge No. 9 ..... Meets Third Monday at 8:00

Kenai Lodge No. 11 ..... Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday at 8:00

Other (special) meetings as called by the Master

### "Moon Lodge" held at Cotton Moore's in Soldotna

The Kenai Peninsula - home of the "lunker" salmon, and the only "Daylight Lodge / Moon Lodge" I am familiar with. Yes, the moon was there, all right, but so was the sun.

Originally, a Moon Lodge was one whose stated communication was specified as being on the date of the full moon. This was to give the members enough light to return home while there was moonlight - electric street lights in rural areas were often non-existent. (A Daylight Lodge usually meets at noon.) But in Alaska in June, we really don't have much of a lighting problem. Sure, things get a little dim between 1:30 and 2:30 a.m., but we were done by then.

At any rate, there was a great turn-out, everyone who wanted to get a chance to participate, and both candidates seemed to enjoy the experience. (Yes, two third degrees were done.) The only problems we had were a few "friendly?" mosquitos, a rather uneven surface which made the circumambulation "interesting", and our attempts to stay awake after a fabulous (and huge) Bar-B-Q put on by Master Chef Cotton. The site was surrounded by woods, with a view of the river. Quite a "Lodge room".

While I didn't get Cotton's recipe for Bar-B-Q sauce, I did pick up the following "Secret Recipe" at Sal's Klondike Diner the next morning:

#### Alaskan Blue Stew

Ingredients	Preparation
1 Blue Whale (approx. 121 tons)	Cut whale in bite size pieces (including blubber). Place in an empty gas storage tank. (I'm sure this will be easy to find.)
2,092 Medium Onions (quartered)	
8,242 Lbs. Potatoes (shredded)	Adding vegetables, cover with water.
4 Matanuska Cabbages (65-100 Lbs. each)	Add seasoning. Cook at 325° for 42
2,100 Lbs Carrots	hours, (then simmer 6 days). Serves
862 Lbs Celery	539,000 people - approximately the popu-
Season to Taste	lation of Alaska

#### More "News" from Sal's

Cheechaco (Chee-Chah-Ko) Pronounced Cheechaker by Old Time Alaskans. A tenderfoot, greenhorn or other confused mortal not used to Alaska ways. An old tale has it that the term was used by natives on the Yukon during the gold rush to refer to two Chicago gold hunters who did everything wrong. The natives took to calling any really incompetent newcomers a Cheechaker, that being as close as they could come to "Chicago".

Based on this definition, all those who participated in the "Moon Lodge" were certified "Sourdoughs". They really knew what they were doing.



## From the Senior Grand Warden

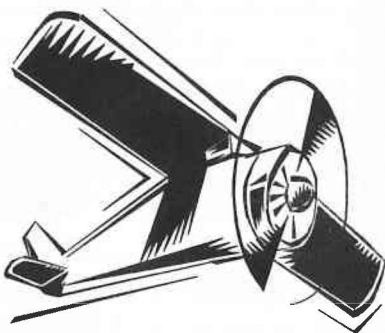
Some of you may remember the Degree Team that Grand Lodge had a number of years back. This Team was available to put on each of the three Degrees in full costume. Blanche Hobbs spent a lot of time making these uniforms, and they are still available for use, (and Blanche would like to get them out of her basement).

At the Grand Master's Visitations, I spoke of using these costumes to put on a Master Mason Degree the day before Grand Lodge next April. I asked anyone interested to let me know what part they wanted to do. I haven't heard much from anyone so I'll try once more. Anyone interested in helping put this Degree together, please contact me as soon as possible. Let me know what part you wish to do and we can start putting the Degree together.

This Degree is not meant to "show the Lodges how to do a Degree", but only to make use of some very fine costumes. Let me know if you are interested. (Write to R.W. Lloyd Triggs, 1414 Valley Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99705.)

## From the Grand Secretary

Enclosed in this issue is a remittance envelope for the "365 Club". This program has been approved by the Grand Master and was one of the topics of discussion at the Grand Masters Visitations.



This program, often called the "Penny-A-Day Club", is one that many Jurisdictions currently have in some form or another. The idea is that for only a penny per day, you can contribute to this designated program of the Grand Lodge. Net profits from the "365 Club" will be deposited in the Dedicated Travel Fund that was established at the recent Annual Communication in Sitka. Funds will be used to help the elected Grand Lodge officers with some of their travel expenses.

The Fund is set up similar to the Permanent Fund. No part of the principal can be spent. Until the Fund reaches \$100,000, the earnings will be split with 50% being used for Grand Lodge officers travel, and 50% going back into the Travel Fund Principal. The 50% used for officers travel is divided proportionately among the elected Officers.

A one year membership is \$3.65. A five year membership is \$18.25, and a Life Membership is \$36.50. Although participation in this program is strictly voluntary, we hope you will consider making a contribution. Our elected Officers travel many long miles each year with the cost of that travel coming from their own pockets. Right now, the only officers that have any travel allowance are the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, and the available (budgeted) amount doesn't come close to meeting their expenses.

### Join the "365 Club" Now!

It's only a penny a day, and helps insure quality representation

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**We Thank Them For Their Support!**

### Tanana Lodge No. 3

Fairbanks, Alaska  
**Rex Hasty**  
Worshipful Master

There's Room  
On This Page  
for  
**YOUR**  
Lodge or  
Organization,  
Too

### Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8

Anchorage, Alaska  
**Thomas V. Houser**  
Worshipful Master

### Glacier Lodge No. 10

Anchorage, Alaska  
**Loyd G. Williamson**  
Worshipful Master

### Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18

Sitka, Alaska  
**Richard O. Brookman**  
Worshipful Master

### Tongass Lodge No. 19

Ketchikan, Alaska  
**Martin W. Parsons**  
Worshipful Master



**Orient of Alaska  
Valley of Anchorage**

### Alaska Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Foundation

Gerald R. Fairley,  
Secretary  
(907) 274-0277

### Anchorage Scottish Rite Bodies

(907) 274-0277

### We Support Our Alaska

### Grand Lodge

(We Meet 2nd & 4th Friday)



### Al Aska Shrine

(907) 274-4344

Stated Meetings - 2nd Monday  
(Except July & August)

Dinner at 7:00

Meeting at 8:00

Lunch - Every Wednesday



### York Rite Masons

(907) 274-8051



### Brothers Helping Brothers

(Meets 1st & 3rd Friday)

**The Following Individuals  
Have Helped Make This Publication Possible**

The printed covers for our "LIGHT from the Great Land" were donated by a Brother.	<b>Roy Foss</b> Past Grand Master Washington (509) 328-5554 N. 7141 Winston Dr., Spokane	<b>Hazen R. Ricker</b> P.M., Eagle River Lodge No. 13 <b>The Masonic "Ol' Goat" of the Anchorage Area</b>
<b>Fred V. Angleton</b> Grand Master - Alaska - 1987 Potentate - Al Aska Shrine (907) 262-4051 Box 4155, Soldotna, AK 99669	<b>Gene &amp; Hilary Freeman</b> (He's P.M. of Tanana No 3 and Fairbanks No. 12) Box 71085, Fairbanks, AK 99707	<b>Arthur A. Rindahl,</b> P.M. Kenai Lodge No. 11 P.O. Box 784 Sterling, AK 99672-0784
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<b>Senator Dave Donley</b> Alaska State Legislature 716 W. 4th Ave., Suite 430 Anchorage, AK 99501 258-8181	<b>Ralph Kavorkian</b> Grand Master - Alaska - 1988 (907) 456-5919 P.O. Box 72782 Fairbanks, AK 99707	
<b>Frank W. Erie</b> Grand Master - Alaska - 1991 (907) 456-7490 410 Noyes Street Fairbanks, AK 99701-2931	<b>Dragoljub Nedic</b> Tanana Lodge No. 3	<b>We Hope You Find This Publication Worthy of YOUR Support! (If Not, Please Tell Us Why!)</b>

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## From Your Editor:

Even though this is summer, and we are "dark" for many of our regular activities, there's still a lot of Masonry going around. As just one example, there was an open air degree held at the Wasilla home of Brother **Emmett Roetman**. The degree was well done, and the picnic lunch was excellent.

Haven't had much time to catch up on my Masonic reading - there's too much backlog - but you see some of it in this issue of "**LIGHT from the Great Land**". **I'd really rather publish your articles.** Please send them to our Grand Secretary, and I'll do my best to get them in.

W. **John Dolenc** from Matanuska Lodge No. 7 sent the following:

Have you ever thought how many man-hours are required to take one petitioner through to the signing of the By-Laws? Considering discussion, investigation, voting, opening and closing Lodge for each Degree, coaching, etc., I estimate that it takes about eighty-three (83) man-hours. This is in contrast to most organizations that may initiate and make full fledged members in a matter of a few hours.

*And, it's quite a commitment to Masonry!*

While we're talking about a commitment to Masonry, give a cheer for all of our Brothers (and Sisters, too) who devote many long hours in service as **Advisors to the Masonic Youth Groups - Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, and DeMolay**. Obviously, we hope to have the young men of DeMolay as direct descendants in our Masonic Fraternity. And, hopefully, our young ladies will influence their future husbands, and other men with whom they may have contact, to become Masons. These new members will be a result of our youth groups, too. Starting in their teens, these men and women are learning about Masonic principles and the need to be of service to their community. While a great part of these lessons comes from the organization itself, a more direct influence is received from contact with the local Advisory Board. *The way these advisors portray the lessons (and demonstrate them in their daily lives) often leaves a greater impression than the ritual's teachings. It's quite a responsibility.* Thanks, advisors for your time, resources, and efforts. **You make a great difference!**

**Please consider the Senior Grand Warden's request** for expressions of interest in a "demonstration" degree team. As he said, this is not an attempt to standardize all work, or even to show "how it should be done". But I sure enjoyed seeing something a little different when we were treated to some Nevada work at the Wasilla outdoor degree. It might be really interesting to have a joint team, and to see how the other guy does it. *Hope to see you on the team.*

Finally, we haven't run obituaries in this publication, but we have lost a number of our old stand-bys recently, and there are always reports of sickness and distress. Please remember our Masonic widows. And please **say a prayer for all those who are distressed in mind, body or estate.** They deserve our kind thoughts (and our assistance, too.)

Jerry Fairley, Editor



## Are YOU Prepared?

A very good friend of mine has changed, and not for the better. She was always a loving and affectionate wife who just knew that the sun rose and set over her husband's head. Now, she is bitter and disillusioned, and no longer has the warm thoughts about him that she once had.

Why the change? Merely because her husband had the nerve to die before she did. If she had gone first, everything might have been fine. But, you see, he did die first, and she was left unprepared to handle their business affairs. As is the case in so many families, business decisions were left totally up to him. Many (if not most) were made without consultation with her, or even without her knowledge. Of course, they were just little things like where they had bank accounts (there were several), what insurance coverage they had (she is a partial invalid), and what his desires were as to his final disposition. In addition, she still has not found his will, and so their estate had to go through probate at the cost of several thousand dollars.

The word probate offers up many emotional responses, and usually none of them are positive. Most of us think we know what it means, but few can explain it. Very simply, probate is a process wherein a court examines a decedent's will and estate to make sure the final instructions are completed exactly as stated. But for those who die "intestate" (they left no will), the state of legal residence files the probate petition with the court, and the state (not the heirs) will decide how to divide the estate. All this is expensive and time consuming - and may not produce a result which agrees with the decedent's wishes. And, for those who are left, it is a horrible, emotional experience.

**If you do not have a current will, we urge you to have one drawn up immediately!** This is the **ONLY** way that you can insure that your estate is divided according to your wishes. Everyone, regardless of their circumstances should have a will, because circumstances change - sometimes sooner than we anticipate, and most often without warning. (Yes, your wife needs a will, too. Yes, there will be some expense involved. But this expense is nothing compared to the monetary and emotional costs of an unprepared death.

*May we suggest that you consider including a provision naming one or more of your favorite charities as recipients of a portion of your estate? Masonry sponsors several fine organizations which can put your contribution to very good use. In addition, the Alaska Grand Lodge has a Permanent Fund which will use only the earnings from your perpetual memorial to further the cause of Masonry. If you already have a will, a codicil (or amendment) can be made without having to rewrite the entire document.*

**Do yourself, your loved ones, and Masonry a favor - maintain a current will.**

- Christopher Columbus was the world's most remarkable salesman. He started out not knowing where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he returned, he didn't know where he had been. He did all this on borrowed money and managed to get a repeat order.
- At many of our gatherings the ladies talk about their children and/or grand-children, but many don't know the real definition of a baby:
  - "A Baby is a hollow tube - with a loud voice on one end - and a complete lack of responsibility on the other."



**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

**Glacier Lodge To Initiate A  
Monthly Masonic Education Night**

For all who are interested in Masonic history, philosophy and symbolism, a new series of meeting topics is about to begin. Starting in September, Glacier Lodge No. 10 will devote the fourth Thursday of each month (unless a holiday is in conflict) to a discussion of items of Masonic interest. **All Masons are invited to attend**, as are all those interested in our Fraternity. It is anticipated that sessions will present materials which do not require a tyled Lodge, except when a "Lodge of Instruction" is open. In this case, attendees must be Brothers of the appropriate degree. (Advance notice will be given.)

The decision to hold these Education Nights was prompted by the fact that the Lodge has a number of relatively new Masons in its officer line. In addition, there are some who are of longer tenure, but who are not well versed in Masonic lore. In order to make these Brothers better Masons, and to help them become more effective in their work in (and for) the Lodge, it was decided to provide the opportunity to learn, and to teach others.

The topics to be discussed will be chosen by the Brothers who attend the sessions regularly. (Yes, this includes members of other Lodges, too!) Brothers who express an interest in a particular topic may be asked to do some research on the subject and to "report" back to the group at a later date. Suggested reading material will be available whenever possible, and basic information sources will be identified.

These sessions ARE NOT meant to be a substitute for, or a start of, a Lodge of Masonic Research. They are just a means of getting a little bit better educated in some of the basics of the Fraternity in a congenial setting, and among Brothers who are not afraid to admit that there may still be a few things they can learn.

If you want to learn more about Masons and Masonry, or if you already have a store of information, please join with us. We need those who are experienced, and hope to help those who may still be trying to get their Masonic feet on the ground.

**These Masonic Education Nights will meet every 4th Thursday (Except November and December) at 7:00 p.m. in the Anchorage Masonic Temple.**

**We hope to see you there.**

Loyd G. Williamson, Worshipful Master, Glacier Lodge No. 10

**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

**Bobby Alexander - Our New Grand Treasurer**

Grand Master Howard Hobbs has appointed one of the Past Masters of Eagle River Lodge No. 13 to fill the new position of "Grand Treasurer".

This office was established at our Grand Communication in Sitka last April. However, because actions of the Grand Lodge do not take effect until after the completion of the Grand session, it was not possible to have the new Grand Treasurer installed with the other Grand officers.

Most Worshipful Brother Howard has appointed Bobby Alexander to the position of Grand Treasurer for the remainder of this Masonic year. As with all Grand Lodge officers, we will elect the Grand Treasurer at the next annual communication. In the meantime -

**Congratulations! Right Worshipful Brother Bobby!**

**Square Facts**

We celebrate the Holy Saints John. Their traditional feast days were June 24th (Saint John the Baptist), and December 27th (Saint John the Evangelist). These days were chosen because the summer and winter solstices occur at these times, and helps illustrate the Masonic cycle of life.

George Washington was initiated, passed and raised a Master Mason in "The Lodge at Fredericksburg" in Virginia, but was never its Master. He became a charter member, and first Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, Virginia and served two terms. His second term did not end until eight months after he was inaugurated President of the United States. (He was never Grand Master, though he was nominated for that position at the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and was proposed as Grand Master of a General Grand Lodge which was never formed. He declined both honors.)

Things have changed a little since the old days, and our regulations will no longer permit a repetition of the record set by the Fourth Duke of Atholl on March 1, 1775. About nine months before he attained his majority, he was initiated, passed and raised, then installed as Master, and then elected Grand Master - *all on the same day!*

Have trouble with names? Consider Rising Sun Lodge No. 71, Orland Maine whose Masters in 1935, '36, and '37 were triplets! You could probably remember that the last name was Grey, but which one was Kelsey, or Kenneth, or Kermit? (They were Masters in the order shown.)

Different jurisdictions use almost a dozen separate methods of displaying the Lesser Lights.

In Massachusetts, Lodges have names only - there are no Lodge Numbers.



## Where are Masonry's "Giants"

Last June 6 marked the 50 year anniversary of "D-Day" and the battle to end Germany's takeover of the entire European continent. England had seen hard times, and it seemed that the war would go on forever. But Winston Churchill always fought back, and attempted to inspire his countrymen. Once, on a trip to Harrow, his old school, he asked the students to sing a song called "Giants", written by Edward E. Bowen in 1874. It starts:

"There were wonderful giants of old, you know, there were wonderful giants of old;  
They grew more mighty, all of a row, than ever was heard or told;  
All of them stood their six feet four, and they threw to a hundred yards or more,  
And never were lame, or stiff, or sore; and we, compared to the days of yore,  
Are cast in a pygmy mold, for all of we, whoever we be,  
Come short of the giants of old, you see."

The song goes on to describe "splendid cricketers" and "scholars of marvellous force" among those giants, whose feats, both gymnastic and academic, are daunting, and unmatched. Yet the final verse of the song offers an entirely different message:

"But I think all this is a lie, you know, I think all this is a lie;  
For the hero-race may come and go, but it doesn't exactly die!  
For the match we lose and win it again, and a balliol comes to us now and then,  
And if we are dwarfing in bat and pen, Down to the last of the Harrow men,  
We will know the reason why!  
For all of we, whoever we be, come up to the giants of old, you see."

Now why should this song take up space in a Masonic publication? Simply because we still face a balliol coming to us now and then. The balliols were a family of Scots who frequently waged war on England in olden times. And we, too, have those who wage war on Masonry. But where are we to turn? Our great Masonic philosopher Albert Pike is long gone as are other "Giants" of Masonry, such as the Masonic historian Albert Mackey, Masonic authors Henry Coil and Harold Voorhis, and more recently, John Robinson. Every day, our lists of Past Masters show more in the ranks of those who now attend the Celestial Lodge.

The answer, of course, is simple. WE ARE THE GIANTS about whom songs will be written in the future. WE are the ones who must, and CAN fight the battles of today.

- Are religious groups making false claims about us? WE can fight this battle, for right is on our side. WE can show Masonry to the world, and prove our worthiness.
- Is our membership down? WE can influence men to become new members by spreading our Masonic principles throughout the community.
- Are there other problems we face? WE can solve them, for they are merely challenges which we have the ability to overcome.

For the hero-race may come and go, but it doesn't exactly die!  
For the match we may lose but will win it again, and challenges come to us now and then,  
And if we are met even with poison pen, down to the last of the Masonic men,  
We will know the reason why!  
For all of we, whoever we be, come up to the giants of old, you see.

Parts extracted from an article by James W. Muller, a professor in Political Science at U.A.A., as printed in the Winter, 1994 edition of the "Wilson Quarterly". Prof. Muller is an expert on Winston Churchill, and has a book on him which will be printed this year.

## WHAT IS IT?

by

W David W. DeLong, Grand Standard Bearer

The most important question that you, as a mason, may be ever called upon to answer is one from a non-mason. "Masonry - what is it?" You could respond with the timeworn and very elementary statement: "It is a system of morality, shrouded in allegory and illustrated by symbols." If used, this statement is simply a prelude to the launching pad and isn't even a part of lift-off.

You are talking to a person who may be known to you, maybe a friend - maybe a stranger. He is knocking at our door!!! Tell him you certainly want to supply an answer adequately and with accuracy. Invite him for coffee, or a brown-bag lunch, or perhaps just a quiet ten to thirty minutes in the place where Masons meet in your community. It makes little difference whether it's a simple room, a floor, a small or large Masonic lodge building or a temple.

Show him your library, if he desires to read about the craft. Explain our charities, beliefs and the mechanics of Masonry (within legal limits and stressing the family and social aspects of the brotherhood). There should be brochures, papers and books to assist in the explanation (They should be read by you at your own convenience in anticipation of such requests for Masonic information. Contact your Lodge Secretary if none are currently available to you.) Speak of the centuries of Masonic evolution, but emphasize that masonry is not to be thought of as a dusty remnant of antiquity. It has an exciting present and a bright future.

Your Lodge room, or adjacent space, should display, prominently, those things which are happening in your community today that are supported by Masons. Pictures of trade shows, scholarship recipients, fairs, parades, assistance to children and the disabled. **This is important** because it shows the vitality of our Fraternity. All this time you are explaining what masonry is.

Only at the end of your meeting should you hint that membership is available to those that qualify, and that if he is interested, you will assist. If you do not show a real interest in answering his questions, you can expect the same in return - disinterest.

"Masonry - what is it?" In answering this question, you may not only bring a candidate to the door of the Lodge, you will move closer to Masonic light in your own life.

## Bits, Bites, and Short-Notes

The Grand Master's official visit to Matanuska Lodge No. 7, has preceded by their usual excellent dinner. W. C. Paul Jones gave the blessing - in Finnish! It might be interesting to see how many languages we can have represented at similar functions.

Also at Matanuska, Worshipful Brothers John Dolenc, C. Paul Jones and Stanley Wooden each had birthdays within a week of the Grand Master's visit. Together they represent 257 year of experience. **Remember - People (especially Brothers) Are Our Most Important Asset!**

*Secretaries - Send in similar items of note even if you don't have a full page article. They are of interest to many, and help recognize our individual members.*

## WHAT IS A MASON?

A Mason is a member of the world's largest fraternal organization. He enjoys the friendship and brotherhood of other Masons, not only in his community, but is welcomed as a Brother by Masons anywhere in the world.

A Mason is a man who professes faith in God. As a man of faith, he uses tools of moral and ethical principles to serve mankind. A Mason binds himself to like-minded Men in a brotherhood that transcends all religions, ethic, social, cultural and educational differences.

A Mason in fellowship with his Brothers, finds ways to serve his God, his family, his fellow men and his Country.

A Mason shows the aspirations and obligations of men of good will who seek to make themselves better than they are - not better than others.

A Mason is educated - he recognizes his responsibility for justice, truth, charity, enlightenment, honesty and integrity in all aspects of human endeavor.

(Source - Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan "Tracing Board") - as reprinted in our Tanana Valley Masonic News, Tanana Lodge No. 3, Fairbanks AK, Don Chaffin, Editor

## Has "Techno-speak" Gone Too Far?

Today, when everything is computerized, it sometimes appears that we have about as many technocrats as we have bureaucrats. Some of us have a little difficulty with the technical way of speaking, and find that the old definitions, while possibly not as precise and up-to-date, are still more easily understood. For example, take the following definitions:

- A Virtual-Reality Device/Entertainment Center. It has no keys to press, no mouse to move. The touch-sensitive interface allows users to explore other worlds, civilizations, and times. It is user-friendly and has random access. The current program library includes millions of choices. Must be stored below 451 degrees F.



- A Home Security System. It has not only electro-magnetic and vibration sensors, but has highly developed chemical receptors as well. The continuous 86 decibel alarm will scare off intruders and alert neighbors. As additional features, this unit provides companionship, newspaper-retrieval and cardio-vascular health benefits. It is portable, and may be taken with you, or left home unattended. (May be destructive to slippers if unattended.)

Call me old-fashioned, if you want, but I still prefer to call them "Books" and Dogs".

Adapted from Omni Magazine

## Are You Planning to "Vote Smart"?

Another political ad came on the T.V. last night - some on the radio, too. And, of course, this morning's paper was full of them. Hard to tell which are straight-forward - telling their story as it really is, and which are merely making political promises with little or no intention to remember what was said once the election is over.

But I have found a way to get some accurate, impartial information on our incumbents, and on many challengers for national and state-wide offices. It's called "**Project Vote Smart**".

Run by the Center for National Independence in Politics (CNIP), Project Vote Smart, a non-partisan and non-profit organization will tell you the candidate's evaluations by 20 different special interest groups representing all aspects of the political spectrum. You can also learn about each candidate's campaign finances - how much was collected, and where it came from. There's also some biographical information.



And, best of all - it's **FREE!**

O K - What's the catch?

Well, so far, I haven't found one. I've learned the position of my representatives in Washington on specific issues. I know which P.A.C.'s are supporting them in their bid for re-election. I have found out which special interests think they're great (and which don't like them). Sure, CNIP wants you to become a member - after all, someone has to pay the bills. But anyone can get information just by making an "800" phone call.

Learn about the people who want to represent you. As James Madison said:

*"A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."*

It's **FAST** -

It's **EASY** -

It's **FREE** -

**KNOW ABOUT THOSE WHO WANT TO REPRESENT AND TO GOVERN YOU!**

**YOUR FUTURE MAY DEPEND UPON IT!**

**Call the Voter Information Hotline!**  
**1-800-786-6885**

Don't be like our friends in this cartoon!⇒

**LEARN WHO YOU CAN VOTE FOR!**



Cartoon is from "The Wilson Quarterly"

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