

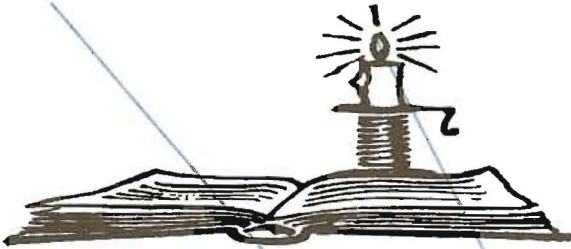
LIGHT



From The **Great Land**

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

Volume V - Number 1..... May - Aug., 1998



Education

Is The
Light
of the
World!

From Your Grand Master:

Thank You!!!

The highlight of my Masonic career occurred when you, my Masonic Brothers, elected me to the office of Grand Master. I am very honored and will do my very best.

As you have seen, my schedule is going to be fairly busy. Hilary is going to accompany me, especially on all my out-of-state visits. Packing for a month on the road is quite a challenge.

By the time you read this article, International Days with Whitehorse Lodge will be history. Also, M.: W.: Brother Alan Tomlins, Grand Master of British Columbia and Yukon held his official visit to Atlinto Lodge No. 4212 on May 21. I was proud to represent our Grand Lodge, along with several other Alaska Brothers. Canadian protocol is very impressive.

Then, on May 22, it was on to Skagway by bus (thanks to Brother Don Frizzel), for my official visit to White Pass Lodge No. 1. It is great to see the Brothers whom we do not get a chance to visit very often. It is like coming HOME.

On May 23 it was on to Dawson City, where we met our Canadian Brothers for International Days. This annual meeting between Tanana Lodge No. 3 and Whitehorse Lodge No. 46 was held, this year, in the very beautiful Dawson City Lodge No. 45. I take my hat off to the Canadian Brothers for all their love and care for this historic lodge. For those of you who were unable to travel to visit our Canadian Lodges, it was a great event, and we witnessed their outstanding work. If at all possible, you should try to attend at least one of their meetings.





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Your Grand Lodge's 1997-98 Visitation Schedule (& Other Important Dates)

(Subject to Revision)

(* indicates Grand Master's Official Visit to the Lodge indicated. All Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen are encouraged to attend if possible.)

JUNE

- 3-5 Grand Lodge of Oregon
- 10-12 Grand Lodge of Washington
- 17-19 Grand Lodge of British Columbia
- 25-27 Grand Lodge of Montana

JULY

- 8-11 Rainbow Grand Assembly

AUGUST

- 13-15 Amaranth Grand Court
- 21-Sept 5 Alaska State Fair

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Anvil Lodge No. 2 *
- 8 Seward Lodge No. 6 *
- 9 Sterling Masonic Club
- 10 Kenai Lodge No. 11 *
- 17 Iditarod Lodge No. 20 *
- 18 Wardens' Charge (Anchorage)
- 20 G.M.'s Ladies Tea (Anchorage)
- 21 Kodiak Lodge No. 9 *

OCTOBER

- 1-3 KYCH Convent General
- 8 Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 *
- 9 Tongass Lodge No. 19 *

NOVEMBER

- 8-11 Grand Lodge of Nevada
- 26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

DECEMBER & JANUARY

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

FEBRUARY

- 20-23 Conference of Grand Masters

**Please contact your District Deputy for
time(s) and specific location(s).**

**"LIGHT from the Great Land"
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by the M. W. Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska**

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**Send In YOUR Article
to the Editor or the Grand Secretary
(If you aren't comfortable writing a complete
article, the Editor will use your ideas to create
an article with you name as author.)**

**Next Copy Deadline -
August 15, 1998**

What Happened at Grand Lodge ?

Following is a brief summary of the Legislation at the Seventeenth Annual Communication.

Carryover Resolution 97-4 would have deleted that portion of the Alaska Masonic Code that pertained to the Washington Lodges still in this Jurisdiction. As a Carryover Resolution to amend the Constitution, it needed a two-thirds majority to pass. It only received a 54% majority and therefore failed.

Resolution 98-1 to create a Statewide Jurisdiction for petitioners failed.

Resolution 98-2 which would have required Grand Lodge to create Masonic Service Pins for 25, and 40-75 years of service, failed. Although this Resolution failed, it does not prohibit a Lodge from presenting a Service pin for those years. It simply means that Grand Lodge does not have to supply the pins. The “generic” Service Pins are available through many of the Masonic Supply Catalogs.

Resolution 98-3 which would allow a Lodge to transact its business when open on any degree did not receive the required three-fourths majority but it did receive enough votes to come back next year as a Carryover Resolution. Next year it will need a simple majority to pass.

Resolution 98-6 passed and now allows a Lodge to hold it’s annual Installation of Officers when one of the Wardens is absent.

Resolution 98-7 passed and now lowers the age of petitioners to eighteen years of age.

There was one **Emergent Resolution** that was adopted. It places the Long Range Planning Committee as one of the Standing Committees of Grand Lodge.

Two other policies were adopted as part of the Grand Master’s Recommendations. One of these recommendations was to **adopt the statement of Freemasonry and Religion**. This policy is printed, in full, on page 5 of this issue.

Finally, the Grand Lodge **adopted a policy on proper solicitation of members**. The policy says “A neutrally-worded approach may be made to a man who is considered to be a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, he may be reminded once after the initial approach was made. He must then be left to make his own decision.”

Charles E. Corbin - Our New Junior Grand Warden

A Mason since 1992, he is a member of Matanuska Lodge No. 7 and Iditarod Lodge No. 20. He was an officer in Matanuska Lodge, and is a Past Master of Iditarod Lodge. He has served on one Grand Lodge Committee. (Look for his message on page 7.)

Thanks to Sessions and Arrangements

Many thanks to the Sessions and Arrangements Committee, and **Scott Thompson** (10), Chairman, for a job well done. The setting was beautiful, the food was great, and the chairs were as comfortable as those things can get for a meeting like this. Even the flow of business was smooth. The weather could have been better for the ladies program on Resurrection Bay, and winds closed the tram one lunch time, but Scott promises to work on the weather, too, if he’s ever Chairman again. Girdwood had to be one of the best Communications we have had in quite a while.

Next Year We’re Going To Fairbanks!

Grand Master's Message (Continued from page 1)

The next morning we were invited by Brother Tom Mickey to watch him pour GOLD. Sorry, there were no samples, but there were goodies to eat - thanks to the ladies of Whitehorse! Also, kudos to the "miracle cooks" in Whitehorse who fed 70 on Thursday night - many more than they were expecting.

Brothers, there is an excellent audio tape called "Facts for a Friend" on the market. It contains excellent information on Freemasonry, and can help solve some of the soliciting problems that we face. It is a very professionally made tape, and costs only \$9.95 plus shipping. It can be ordered from:

Masonic Renewal Committee
10200 North Executive Hills Blvd.
Kansas City MO 64153

Think about giving a copy of this tape to prospective members. This might be a good way to attract new members, or at least to get the Masonic story out to the public. If you are interested in a large quantity of these tapes, there may be a quantity discount. Call 1-800-891-8235 for info.

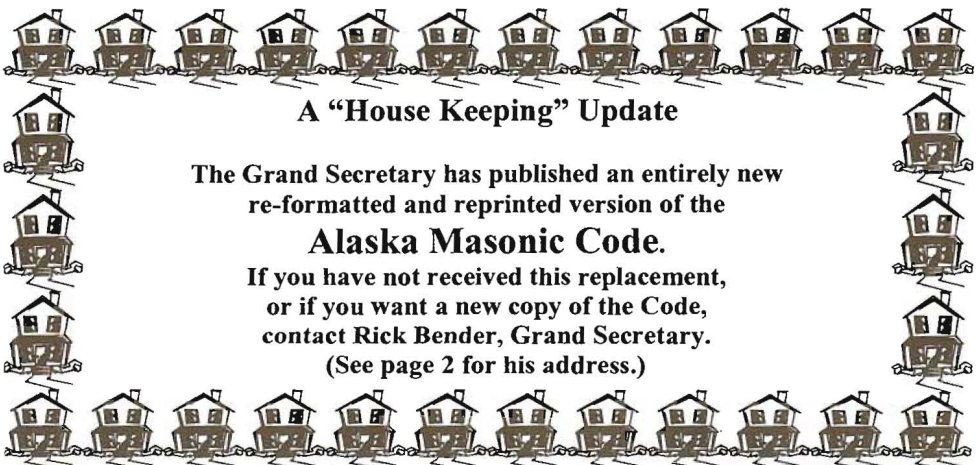
This year, I am stressing Masonic Education. It is something we can not get enough of. The more a Brother knows about the Craft, the easier it is to answer some of the most asked questions - "What is Masonry About?" and "What Is a Mason?" Are YOU ready to become a First Class Salesman for Masonry?

Does each and every Lodge have a Masonic library? It is very easy to start one. Five or more Brothers purchase a different Masonic book, read it, and exchange it with each other. Just continue repeating the process. Then, have a place where other Brothers can borrow these books. Have a check out system so they don't get forgotten. There is a great deal of knowledge to be gained in this manner. Then, become a guest speaker for your Lodge and pass on your knowledge to a newer member. Help get ahead of the false information put out about our Great Fraternity. It's not only interesting, but it's fun, too. Remember - Knowledge conquers Ignorance.

I am looking forward to our scheduled visitations, and to working with you all. In closing, I will leave you with this saying: "Walk Slow, Drink a Lot of Water, and Make a Lot of Pit Stops."

Fraternally,

Gene R. Freeman, Grand Master



A "House Keeping" Update

The Grand Secretary has published an entirely new re-formatted and reprinted version of the

Alaska Masonic Code.

If you have not received this replacement, or if you want a new copy of the Code, contact Rick Bender, Grand Secretary.

(See page 2 for his address.)

FREEMASONRY AND RELIGION

Basic Principles: Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It requires of its members belief in God as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. Masonic ceremonies include prayers, both traditional and extempore, to reaffirm each individual's dependence on God and to seek divine guidance. Freemasonry is open to men of any faith, but religion may not be discussed at Masonic meetings.

The Supreme Being: Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek, and to express what they know of God. Masonry primarily uses the appellation, "Grand Architect of the universe," and other non-sectarian titles, to address Deity. In this way, persons of different faiths may join together in prayer, concentrating on God, rather than differences among themselves. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

Volume of the Sacred Law: An open volume of the Sacred Law, "the rule and guide of life," is an essential part of every Masonic meeting. The Volume of the Sacred Law to a Christian is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held holy by them.

The Oath of Freemasonry: The obligations taken by Freemasons are sworn on the Volume of the Sacred Law. They are undertakings to follow the principles of Freemasonry and to keep confidential a Freemason's means of recognition. The much discussed "penalties," judicial remnants from an earlier era, are symbolic, not literal. They refer only to the pain any honest man should feel at the thought of violating his word.

Freemasonry Compared with Religion: Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion:

- (a) It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy.
- (b) It offers no sacraments.
- (c) It does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means. The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with modes of recognition, not with the means of salvation.

Freemasonry Supports Religion: Freemasonry is far from indifferent toward religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his Duty to God above all other duties. Its moral teachings are acceptable to all religions.

Prepared by the Masonic Information Center

Regarding this Statement on Freemasonry and Religion:

An Emergent Resolution, proposed by Grand Master Foulke at our recent Annual Communication of the MW Grand Lodge of Alaska, recommended the adoption of this Statement on Freemasonry and Religion as a uniform definition of the relationship between our Fraternity and religions.

As reported by the Grand Secretary on page 3, this recommendation was accepted and may be used by both Lodges and by individual Masons who want a specific format to better explain this relationship.

Editor



Grand Lodge is past and the Grand Master is done with his first batch of visits until next fall. The first group of visits went well and he was well received. Right now the Grand Master is out of the state the entire month of June while he attends the Grand Lodges of Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Montana.

By now, all of you should have received the Grand Lodge Mailing Labels from M.: W.: Stan Foulke's Fund-raiser. I wrote a little bit about this effort in the last issue of this publication but I do want to repeat a couple of things. As in the case of past fund-raisers, we had to tack our project on with that of another Jurisdiction. By doing this, we save a considerable amount on the cost of printing. However, what this does mean is that we are governed by the time schedule of the other Jurisdiction. In our case, the Grand Lodge of Oregon was willing to let us combine our printing run onto their program. This meant that the material did not go to the printer until early February and was not mailed out from Oregon until the end of March. With the restrictions of Bulk Mail, many of you did not get your labels until mid to late May. In spite of this long and drawn out explanation, I am very pleased to report that as of June 1st, we have had 342 brothers contribute with a total amount given, after expenses, of \$3,719.25!! This money will be deposited in the Permanent Fund to further establish the foundation of our Grand Lodge. To those of you that have contributed - **THANK YOU**. The feedback that we have gotten from other Fund-raising Companies is that we should expect about to 10-15% return. Right now, we are at the 17% mark. Keep up the good work.

As M.: W.: Brother Foulke stated in the cover letter, please feel free to use these labels even if you are not able to make a contribution. The visibility can only help our public image. If you are able to make a contribution, no gift is too small. Since our largest expenses are paid, any contribution will go directly into the Permanent Fund.

Some of you have sent responses back to me asking that your name be taken off the list because "you already have too many labels." If you are one of these people, please understand that we cannot maintain two separate mailing lists of the "wants" and "don't want". If you do not want these labels, please simply throw them away.

Finally, some of you have sent notes back with corrections to your address. Thank you for keeping our database current. We are happy to do some reprinting but that printing must be sent back to the printer in Oregon and it is not cost effective for him to do only a couple of reprints at a time. I recently sent the first batch of reprints back to Oregon so you should be receiving these labels in the near future.

Again, let me thank those of you who have contributed and ask those of you that have not contributed to please consider a small gift to Grand Lodge. Our Permanent Fund is growing steadily, although slowly, and any contribution helps.

New Address for Alaska's Masonic Web Page

Our own Alaska Masonic Web Pages have moved to a new location. Our Senior Grand Warden, R.: W.: Don Chaffin has placed our accounts on our own domain. This means that we have a dedicated server to handle our pages. Our information is now on an organizational (rather than commercial) basis. We feel that our sites are as good as any on the Web, and this feeling has been echoed by many Brothers who have visited us there.

Visit us at www.alaska-mason.org.

You'll like what you see.

From The Station In The South

Comments from your Junior Grand Warden

Oh but how time flies when you're having fun. The Grand Lodge visits are already half over this year, for the constituent lodges that is. My apologies to Anchorage Lodge No. 17 for missing their Grand Lodge visitation on April 15th, but my appearance at my 25th wedding anniversary seemed like the thing to do at the time. Well so much of this "A". ("A" - that's just an expression I seemed to have picked up along the way. I wonder where?)

It seems that the Lodges we visited here and in Canada all seem to be suffering the same ills - quite a few members but not much participation. I don't know the answer but I have a few ideas and would like to hear some of yours. Perhaps if we could visit a little more among ourselves, and discuss some of these problems, we could arrive at a solution. I, for one, believe that we need to revisit the basic precepts of Masonry. Even though at times I have considered this to be a Volunteer-type organization (as I think most of us do), I am no longer sure about that. It seems to me that we each asked to be considered for membership and also paid a tidy sum to do so. Why would a person pay 60 dollars a year for the privilege of volunteering? We all like that feeling we get when we are recognized publicly at the Shriners outreach clinic or other types of gatherings - whether it be the Moose, VFW or whatever. Yes, it is nice to be publicly portrayed as the great and beneficent author of whatever it takes to save society from the ills and afflictions of life, or maybe even from ourselves. How pompous we are at times. You know what I mean - it's the old "I did more than you" routine. Viewing society today, we see very little greatness among the elected Officials of Government, either Local or National, for it appears that we no longer expect any type of discipline, respect or moral values from anyone. The devil makes us do these things, I guess. Or we come up with some idiotic unknown disease that causes kids to annihilate each other or whatever ridiculous event that is occurring at the time.

Brothers, the really great men of this nation may not have personally performed great acts, but they were indirectly responsible for the great events of history. Many of them were Masons, and have helped to make this the greatest Nation in the World. Let us not stand by idly and watch this Country fail.

Oh! Someone said the stock market is up. Just wait awhile and see what happens when greed decides that a greater profit can be obtained by playing the down side. It happens, you know. Yes, society has fattened itself in the political pig pens of America, and we now enjoy some of the havoc it bestows upon us. Lets wake up before it all becomes attractive to us. (Or maybe our problem is that it already has.)

As men, we paid a fee to become Masons, which would hopefully develop our minds and characters as men of good will in our society. Nothing to volunteer for - you paid, I paid, and if we get nothing out of our "Blue Lodge" it just might be because we put nothing into it. There are many men in our community who possess the characteristics of Masonry but are not members. It is our duty as Masons to see that the leaders of this great Nation are men of good character, and that, my Brothers, is done at the ballot box. The definition by the way, of character is "doing what's right even when no one is looking." That came from my last letter as Worshipful Master of Iditarod Lodge No. 20 in 1997. The last time I looked, it was still in print on our web page.

We must also look to our own balloting within the lodge. We can no longer continue praising people for works that are less than desirable, to say the least. The Nation as a whole is the most undisciplined group of people in the world and if we continue to disregard the basic precepts of Masonry we are lost for sure. It is assumed by many, that our practice of asking candidates to memorize their work is the cause of much of our lack of membership and participation. Actually, it is this very memorization work which teaches the basic precepts of masonry. It also develops self-discipline, the lack of which is one of the key reasons for society's ills today. There's always an excuse for inappropriate behavior and never any individual responsibility or punishment therefor. Heaven forbid!

Continued on next page

Visit **YOUR LODGE** - TODAY!

District No. 1 - V. W.: Gregory Wyman, Deputy.....(907) 452-3538

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

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

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 Lodge's Master

From the South (Continued from prior page)

Let us not fall into this trap. Rethink what is happening in society; revisit the basic precepts of Masonry and lets make a real difference.

Well if this scratches your back a little too hard, I welcome your comments, good, bad, or indifferent.

From the South - Chuck Corbin, JGW

The "Trowel" - newsletter of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, included the following:

A CLOSING INSPIRATION - A Charge to those in attendance at Semi-Public Installations and similar ceremonies. By Bro.: Thomas J. Desalvo

Dear Friends of Freemasonry:

This cloistered hour and tranquility must soon end. In this room you have felt the mystic presence of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth that radiates from Masons whenever and wherever they meet. In the tasks of their everyday world, Masons are taught how to govern their lives and actions according to the moral dictates of the Craft and the three Masonic virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. A Mason's charity toward one who may be on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel, toward a Masonic widow or orphan, toward a burned or crippled child or a child with a learning disorder is offered without want of recognition or reward. A Mason's work is with his Lord and his recompense with his God.

Masons worldwide worship their God at different altars, but each believes that God is one, God is holy, God is eternal, and we are all His children and equal in His sight.

As a witness here today, you have been exposed to the way to recognize a Freemason - by his government and action alone. Hopefully, this provides you with a clearer understanding of our gentle Craft and will assist you in better realizing our true purposes and ideals.

This article was reported in the newsletter of the Southern California Research Lodge, F. & A.M.

**The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F.&A.M.
Alaska and its Jurisdiction, Inc.**

M.: W.: Michael R. Boone, Grand Master

P.O. Box 4717. Eilson A.F.B., AK 99702

R.: W.: J. Andrew Carr, Sr., Grand Secretary

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Alpha Lodge No. 1, Elmendorf A.F.B.

Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 2, Anchorage

Midnight Sun Lodge No. 3, Fairbanks

Summit Lodge No. 6 Ft. Richardson

Arctic Lodge No. 7 Eilson A.F.B.

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We Thank Them For Their Support!



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 For Young Men 12 to 20
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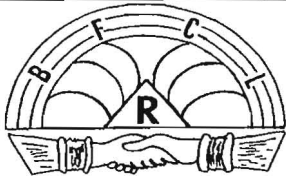
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Anchorage
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Bodies

(907) 274-0277

We Support Our
Alaska

Grand Lodge
 (We Meet 2nd & 4th Friday)



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 Ages 11 - 20
Mrs. Ila Hammond
 Supreme Deputy
 (907) 522-0128

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Al Aska
Shrine

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 with Masonic affiliation
Rachel Elmore
 (907) 243-7761

Gilbert "Gib"
Whitehead
 Intendant General
Red Cross of Constantine
 Division of Alaska

Stated Meetings - 2nd Monday
 (Except July & August)
 Dinner at 7:00
 Meeting at 8:00
 Lunch - Every Wednesday

In Memory of All
Masons
Who Have Passed to the
Celestial Lodge Above.

Doris (Mrs. Earl) Smith
 for Glacier Lodge No. 10



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Masons
 (907) 274-8051

Brothers
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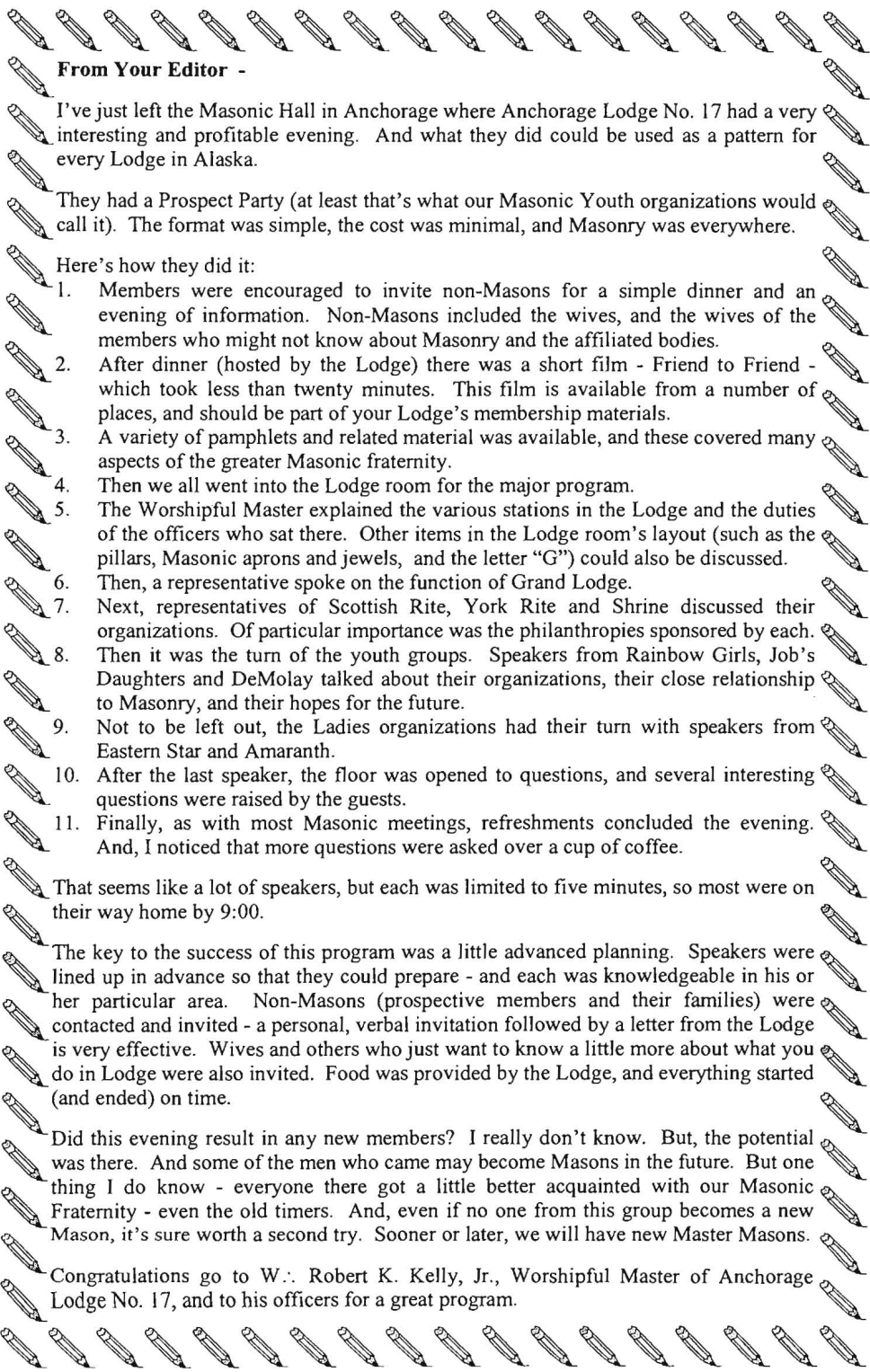
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<p>Fred V. Angleton Grand Master - Alaska - 1987 (907) 262-4051 Box 4155, Soldotna, AK 99669</p>	<p>Frank W. Erie Grand Master - Alaska - 1991 (907) 456-7490 410 Noyes Street Fairbanks, AK 99701-2931</p>	<p>Dragoljub Nedic Tanana Lodge No. 3</p>
<p>R.: W.: Ray L. Beaver Deputy Grand Master 243-8331 (Member - Lodges 3, 10 & 15)</p>	<p>Monte R. Ervin P.: M.: Tanana No. 3 P.: M.: Fairbanks No. 12</p>	<p>Arthur A. Rindahl, Deputy of the Grand Master District No. 2 P.O. Box 784 Sterling, AK 99672-0784</p>
<p>Richard D. Bender Grand Secretary P.O. Box 190668 Anchorage, AK 99519-0668 561-1477</p>	<p>Roy Foss Past Grand Master Washington (509) 328-5554 N. 7141 Winston Dr., Spokane</p>	<p>E. L. Soldin Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8 A Loyal Supporter</p>
<p>R.: W.: Don & Char Chaffin Senior Grand Warden & His Lady Box 10837 Fairbanks, AK 99710 (907) 457-6269</p>	<p>M.: W.: Gene & Hilary Freeman Grand Master & His Lady Box 71085, Fairbanks, AK 99707</p>	<p>Ray Tidwell P.: M.: Valdez No. 4</p>
<p>V. Clifford Darnell Deputy of the Grand Master District No. 5 P.: M.: Mt. Susitna 8, Eagle River 13, & Iditarod 20</p>	<p>Joe E. Halm 2600 Pualani Way No. 502 Honolulu, HI 96815 Life Member Glacier Lodge No. 10</p>	<p>Lloyd W. Triggs Past Grand Master - 1996 / 97 1414 Valley Drive North Pole, AK 99705 488-2818</p>
<p>Arnold DeHeus 2106 N. Eastside Street Olympia, WA 98506 (Tanana Lodge No. 3)</p>	<p>Howard N. Hobbs Grand Master - Alaska 1994 / 95 272-9263</p>	<p>Loyd Williamson Deputy of the Grand Master District No. 3 P.: M.: Glacier Lodge No. 10</p>

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We Ask That You Support Them!**

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From Your Editor -

I've just left the Masonic Hall in Anchorage where Anchorage Lodge No. 17 had a very interesting and profitable evening. And what they did could be used as a pattern for every Lodge in Alaska.

They had a Prospect Party (at least that's what our Masonic Youth organizations would call it). The format was simple, the cost was minimal, and Masonry was everywhere.

Here's how they did it:

1. Members were encouraged to invite non-Masons for a simple dinner and an evening of information. Non-Masons included the wives, and the wives of the members who might not know about Masonry and the affiliated bodies.
2. After dinner (hosted by the Lodge) there was a short film - Friend to Friend - which took less than twenty minutes. This film is available from a number of places, and should be part of your Lodge's membership materials.
3. A variety of pamphlets and related material was available, and these covered many aspects of the greater Masonic fraternity.
4. Then we all went into the Lodge room for the major program.
5. The Worshipful Master explained the various stations in the Lodge and the duties of the officers who sat there. Other items in the Lodge room's layout (such as the pillars, Masonic aprons and jewels, and the letter "G") could also be discussed.
6. Then, a representative spoke on the function of Grand Lodge.
7. Next, representatives of Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shrine discussed their organizations. Of particular importance was the philanthropies sponsored by each.
8. Then it was the turn of the youth groups. Speakers from Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters and DeMolay talked about their organizations, their close relationship to Masonry, and their hopes for the future.
9. Not to be left out, the Ladies organizations had their turn with speakers from Eastern Star and Amaranth.
10. After the last speaker, the floor was opened to questions, and several interesting questions were raised by the guests.
11. Finally, as with most Masonic meetings, refreshments concluded the evening. And, I noticed that more questions were asked over a cup of coffee.

That seems like a lot of speakers, but each was limited to five minutes, so most were on their way home by 9:00.

The key to the success of this program was a little advanced planning. Speakers were lined up in advance so that they could prepare - and each was knowledgeable in his or her particular area. Non-Masons (prospective members and their families) were contacted and invited - a personal, verbal invitation followed by a letter from the Lodge is very effective. Wives and others who just want to know a little more about what you do in Lodge were also invited. Food was provided by the Lodge, and everything started (and ended) on time.

Did this evening result in any new members? I really don't know. But, the potential was there. And some of the men who came may become Masons in the future. But one thing I do know - everyone there got a little better acquainted with our Masonic Fraternity - even the old timers. And, even if no one from this group becomes a new Mason, it's sure worth a second try. Sooner or later, we will have new Master Masons.

Congratulations go to W.: Robert K. Kelly, Jr., Worshipful Master of Anchorage Lodge No. 17, and to his officers for a great program.

Your Lodge **NEEDS YOU** - Attend Often!

District No. 2 - V. W. : Novis L. Eady, Deputy (907) 776-8549

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

Seward Lodge No. 6Meets 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 Lodge's Master

***Editor's Note:** The following article was written almost two years ago at the request of DeMolay's Executive Officer for Alaska. We have held it since then, looking for an appropriate time to print it. Since this year saw the passage of Resolution 98-7 which permits a young man of 18 years to petition a Masonic Lodge for membership, it seems that now is a good time to bring this to your attention. Why? Because the author, still a very active DeMolay, has submitted his petition to North Pole Lodge No. 16 and has received his Entered Apprentice Degree. Masonry is noted for it's assistance to our Masonic Youth Groups. Maybe this is a little "pay back".*

DeMolay, Why?

DeMolay was founded because one boy went to work in the Kansas City, Missouri's Scottish Rite office for Frank Sherman Land. This boy had lost his father in World War One which had ended one year before. The boy's name was Louis Lower and, having lost his father, he had no one to go to and talk with. His mother was worried about him, so she asked Mr. Land to give her son something to do so he wouldn't get into trouble after school. Mr. Land employed Louis as a helper in the office, and by the time they parted many years later, they were the best of friends who both had strong feelings for this new organization they were to build..

Mr. Land started to realize that Louis had some problems, as did many of his friends who also lost their fathers in the war. So Mr. Land asked Louis to get some of his friends together so they could all start talking and help each other. On February 19, 1919, in an ice cream place across the street from the small office of the Kansas City, Missouri Scottish Rite, Mr. Land, Louis Lower and eight of Louis's closest friends met for the first, but not the last, time.

Well, Brothers, that was our beginning, nine boys and an adult with an open mind. Perhaps that is why we, like millions of other boys, are so attracted to this organization. But, it's more than that, it's more than a group or fraternity, and yet by definition it is all of these words. DeMolay is so much more than this. It is for many of us a way of life, a foundation on which we build our own character.

I can't remember why I got in. I was never asked, and I can remember filling out my petition three minutes before the initiation. Perhaps I wanted in because there is no group like us in the world. Perhaps it is because after my dad got into the Masons I wanted to join something just as important. I was thirteen when I joined and I can still remember filling out the petition three minutes before my initiation, into what was to become the rest of my life.

That's how I started but I have a feeling it won't end like that. It was on December 12, 1992, (boy thinking back it seems like yesterday). I'm sitting in the entrance hall of the Masonic Temple and there is another initiate with me, he's so serious, I can hardly get him to laugh, and I'm making fun

Continued on Page 15

Famous Words From History

In the immortal words of President Gerald Ford:

“Things are more like they are now than they have ever been.”

This is certainly a non-partisan comment, and few people would disagree.

Greet Old Friends, and Make New Ones! - Attend Lodge
District No. 3 - V. W. Loyd Williamson, Deputy (907) 696-1890
 Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8 Meets First Tuesday at 8:00
 Glacier Lodge No. 10 Meets Second Thursday at 8:00
 Aurora Lodge No. 15 Meets First Wednesday at 7:30
 Anchorage Lodge No. 17 Meets Second Wednesday at 8:00
 Other (special) meetings as called by the Lodge's Master

Thoughts From Out Of The Past



On Earth:

“She belongs to men as the sky belongs to God: she receives us at birth, and gives us nurture after birth, and when once brought forth she upholds us always, and at the last when we have now been disinherited by the rest of nature she embraces us in her bosom and at that very time gives us her maternal shelter Water rises in mist, freezes into hail, swells in waves, falls headlong in torrents; air becomes thick with clouds and rages with storms; but Earth is kind and gentle and indulgent, ever a handmaid in the service of mortals, producing under our compulsion, or lavishing of her own accord, what scents and savors, what juices, what surfaces for the touch, what colors!”

from: Natural History, an encyclopedia of the physical world
 by: Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus)
 Written approximately a.d. 77

(Sounds Something Like Part Of Our Masonic Obligation)



On December 20, 1950, “The Times” of London printed a letter by noted author and poet T.S. Eliot.

Sir:

In your issue of 17 December you announced that the BBC proposes to spend over £4m during the next three years on the development of television. I have just returned from a visit to the United States, where television (though not, I believe, more highly developed technically) has become an habitual form of entertainment in many more households than here. Among persons of my own acquaintance, I found only anxiety and apprehension about the social effects of this pastime, and especially about its effects (mentally, morally, and physically) upon small children.

Before we endeavor to popularize it still further in this country, might it not be as well if we investigated its consequences for American society and took counsel with informed American opinion about possible safeguards and limitations? The fears expressed by my American friends were not such as could be allayed by the provision of only superior and harmless programmes: they were concerned with the television habit, whatever the programme might be.

Your obedient servant,

T.S. Eliot

(Sometimes, even with the best of intentions, we miss the mark - Or Did He?)



History Is A Great Teacher - Too Bad We Have To Repeat Our Mistakes

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

District No. 4 - V. V. W. : Tom Smotherman..... (907) 747-6759

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 Lodge's Master

Why DeMolay? (Continued from page 13)

of what I can hear coming from inside the Chapter room. Finally, we go in and I am completely stunned to see what the room actually looks like. Everyone in black robes, just four spot lights on and seven candles burning. I guess the first time that's all anyone sees. I take the obligations and then, after the meeting they tell me to start memorizing stuff, no problem. Get that done and I'm put into the Junior Deacon's chair. Then, in the early part of June 1993, I'm appointed State Junior Councilor. SHOCKWAVE!! I'm part of the STATE Chapter, Mr. Bigshot. I'm also off to Kansas City Missouri, first trip out of state by myself. I get back from International and am "forgotten" in Fairbanks for three years.

Brothers, I guess before I go on I might want to explain some things. I'm writing this for two reasons. One, because Dad Fairley asked me to, no, he told me to. Second, because after Dad told me to, I wanted to. Dad Fairley gave me a simple, complicated, easy and difficult question, "DeMolay, why?", that's all - no more no less. I've given to you the "Why DeMolay was founded", as well as the "Why I got into DeMolay?". What I haven't explained and honestly don't know if I can is the "Why am I still in DeMolay?". Before next Conclave I would like each of you who are reading this to stop and ask yourselves that last question.

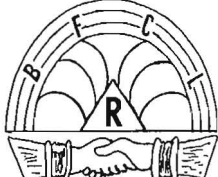
I am in because my obligations make me be an active DeMolay, and live by its principles. I'm in because of the fun, the jokes, and the Brotherhood. I am in because I feel I need to. I am in because I want to. Kinda funny thinking about it. I don't know why I am in, I just am. Twice a month, sometimes more, I can get together with a bunch of cool kids and do something with an organization for me. I'm still in because the association in Alaska is still limping, it still needs a cane and I, along with many other people, don't want to see it fall. I am here to help you as the Alaska DeMolay Association, walk until you, as an organization, can run with certainty and until you can say from our heart that we are the Order of DeMolay.

There you go. See ya.

John Ahern LeFlore: Representative DeMolay, Chevalier, Past State Master Councilor

***Editor's Comment:** John was 16 years old when this was written. He is now well on his way to being a fellow Master Mason. If he is as involved with Masonry as he has been with DeMolay, then Masonry will certainly benefit. And John is not unique. There are other young men who can become the means by which Masonry can become increasingly strong and vital.*

Our Masonic Youth ARE The Future. Support them



<p>Attend Lodge - Help Make Masonry an Active Force in Your Community! District No. 5 - V. V. Clifford Darnell, Deputy (907) 892-7031 Anvil Lodge No. 2 Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:00 Matanuska Lodge No. 7 Meets First Tuesday at 7:30 Eagle River Lodge No. 13 Meets First Monday at 7:30 Iditarod Lodge No. 20 Meets Third Thursday at 7:30 Other (special) meetings as called by the Lodge's Master</p>
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Due and Timely Notice

Brethren, I hate to be an alarmist, and it is with great reluctance that I write this article. But something inside me compels me to do it.

I have been listening to talk radio lately. A fellow named Art Bell hosts a program called "Coast to Coast A.M.". Some of the guests on this program have been making predictions of catastrophic changes coming to the planet Earth in the near future. Normally, I would dismiss these predictions as unreliable and coming from some "kook" who doesn't know what he is talking about. However, these guests seem to have a good track record of making accurate predictions in the past. They come from a lot of different backgrounds; i.e., religious, scientific, military intelligence, astrological, etc.

Some of these predictions are: 1) major shifting of the tectonic plates resulting in catastrophic earthquakes and volcanic eruptions; 2) severe solar activity on the sun causing high temperatures and x-ray blasts to the earth resulting in pole melt-downs and glacial melting, and this, in turn, causing a rise in the oceans and coastal flooding; 3) in addition to these natural disasters, it is predicted that as we turn the century, most major computer systems will crash causing chaos in economies and governments world-wide.

The timeline for these events ranges from 1998 through 2012.

To learn more about these predictions, tune in to the Art Bell Show. The program is broadcast live from Nevada from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Mountain Time (9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Alaska Time). It is carried on several hundred radio stations around the world. In Anchorage, tune in to KENI (650 AM), in Fairbanks it's KFAR. Elsewhere you'll have to check your local radio listings. Also, on the internet, check www.artbell.com.

Finally, I'd like to say that I hope these forecasts are all wrong, and nothing bad happens. However, if these events do happen as predicted, we should be prepared with survival gear (food, water, clothing, etc.) and a safe haven to evacuate to. Caves or underground bunkers would seem to be indicated. I did discuss this article with our Grand Master and he agreed to let me submit it. I take full responsibility for its content.

Sincerely,
Henry T. Dunbar, Past Grand Master

***Editor's Note:** The title of this article tells the reason it has been published here - it is in compliance with our Masonic obligation to provide "Due and Timely Notice" of approaching danger. If you have any feelings on this subject (either pro or con), please send them to our Grand Secretary (P.O. Box 190668, Anchorage, 99519), and he will forward them to me. Our next issue will contain as many of these letters as space will allow. Please recognize that I may have to edit your article to be sure it meets our publication standards and fits in the available space. In addition to your agreement (or disagreement) with the views expressed above, I would hope to receive suggestions of proper Masonic conduct should these predictions be supported by facts. Next issue should be a very interesting one.*

Your State and Federal Governments At Work !

- ⇒ A bill was introduced in the Alaska Senate to make it illegal for a civilian dog to impersonate a police dog. (I don't know how you would do this. The civilian must have to wear a uniform and badge.) This vital legislation was introduced by our own Senator Bob Ziegler.
- ⇒ According to one statistic, the Federal government spends more on travel reimbursement than it does on the travel itself. This sounds like a real trip.
- ⇒ Speaking of trips, the Feds have supported the extension of the Jacksonville Automated Skyway Express which costs \$34 million per mile and is classified as an amusement ride.
- ⇒ As taxpayers, we help support the \$19,000,000 Federal allocation to study the amount of methane gas emitted from cow flatulence.
- ⇒ A bill was introduced into the Alaska legislature to punish "public flatulence, crepitation, gaseous emission, and miasmic effluence". It carried a penalty of \$100. (Seems like an attempt to close the Mexican restaurants in Juneau, at least during session. (Or, maybe there are too many cows in the legislature.)
- ⇒ Almost \$37 million was appropriated by the U.S. House for a "generic increase for industrial preparedness". What this means is unclear.
- ⇒ Until recently, the U.S. Government routinely paid \$54.00 for an ordinary office stapler: Four dollars for the stapler and \$50 for paperwork and overhead. (That's before inflation.)
- ⇒ Congress authorized half a million dollars to construct a replica of Egypt's Great Pyramid - in Indiana. (Indiana has a really strong Mummy lobby.)
- ⇒ We understand that \$5 million was approved by Congress as an interest-free loan under the Federal "antipoverty" funds program to Sears, Roebuck.
- ⇒ A bill had \$1 million added by the Senate to study brown tree snakes. These snakes are found only in Guam, they haven't been proven life threatening to humans, and they can't survive in North America. Maybe the snake is really the one who got all that money.
- ⇒ \$102,000 was given by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for a project which included an experiment to see if sunfish that drink tequila are more aggressive than sunfish that drink gin. (Let's all Party with the sunfish!)
- ⇒ For years we've heard about the problems of Alaska's barley and dairy farmers. We just live in the wrong place. In Clark County, Nevada, 13 U.S.D.A. employees from three different agencies serve a whopping constituency of 40 farmers - that's one bureaucrat for every three farmers. But, do we want more bureaucrats?
- ⇒ In 1986 the National Park Service purchased a half acre of land in southwest Washington D.C. for \$230,000. Two years later it discovered that the park Service already owned the land - they bought it in 1914. I wonder who got the \$230,000.
- ⇒ Congress has appropriated \$107,000 to study the sex life of the Japanese quail.

from: Great Government Goofs
by: Leland H. Gregory, III

The Potentate Speaks Out

Having been a Master Mason all except three years of my adult life, and a Shriner for only twelve years, I guess I am somewhat of a convert. A zealous convert at that. It is hard for me to understand why any Master Mason would not want to become a Shriner. For that matter, it is hard to believe any man of good character would not want to become a Mason.

With that in mind let us discuss the basics of membership. One of (if not the most) pressing concerns of any organization is it's membership. I was particularly pleased that the 17th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska addressed this subject in several areas, i.e. age, jurisdiction, and one day classes to mention but three. Not all of these were approved, nor was the one day class even voted upon, but the discussion was there and the subject is not dead. Let us always keep the discussion open. It is my belief that membership should be on the agenda at every Grand Lodge Session and every Stated Lodge meeting of every Constituent Lodge in Alaska. **Consider this! "Why not have a Standing Membership Committee in the Grand Lodge of Alaska and all of it's Constituent Lodges?"**

Within the Imperial Council of the Shrine there is a Membership Committee chaired by Imperial High Priest & Prophet Kenneth Smith. Imperial Sir Smith conducted a two day seminar in October of 1997. At that seminar it was emphasized that in today's world, time is of the essence where our prospective members are concerned. Many jurisdictions are conducting one day classes with large numbers of new members being brought into the fraternity. With the Shrine being the focal point it is easy to loose sight of one underlying fact. A one day class is preceded by active recruiting. Yes I know the code, and yes, I adhere to the code, but in all sincerity I urge all proud Masons to look at the statistics. We continue to loose more members than we create. Our current, time honored traditions are no longer effective in bringing good men into our fraternity. The majority of the male citizens of these United States are honorable men and worthy of Masonic membership, but they, for the most part, do not know even the rudimentary principals of the order, or how we effect the community. Yet we expect them to seek us out. I firmly believe it should be the other way around. Better yet - both ways.

Al Aska Shrine has a plan. First, to re-excite the merely card carrying Mason by making him a Shrine Mason. By giving him a new inspiration, Masonry may be made more meaningful to him. If we can do that, most will return to their Blue Lodge and contribute there as well. I have seen it happen. Second, as a longer range goal, we will create Shriners by creating Masons.

Every one needs to know and remember what is repeated in every Scottish Rite, York Rite & Shrine ceremony "Master Mason First, Last & Always". The Shrine can, will and does enhance the total Masonic experience.

Let us unite and together find and agree upon a plan to effectively recruit the next generation of Masons and, yes, Shriners.



Fraternally,

Clarence E. Keto
Potentate
Al Aska Shrine Temple

Support Your Masonic "Blue" Lodge

Attend its Meetings Frequently

Keep Your Membership Current

Help to Bring Others To "Masonic Light"



Twice My Brother

Over the last few years I've had the opportunity to work with some very special young men. Therefore, it was not much of a surprise when one of them decided to take advantage of the new provision in the Alaska Masonic Code which permits Masonic membership at age 18. Now I will be able to call him both my DeMolay Brother and my Masonic Brother.

Will this new Code provision help Masonry? I, for one, am absolutely sure that it will. The young man mentioned above has already been deeply involved in Masonic

principles through DeMolay, and he is a proven leader among his peers. He is the type of man (regardless of age) we need to make Masonry strong. And what of DeMolay - will it be hurt by having its Members "graduate" to Blue Lodge? I don't think so. Rather, it will probably become stronger by the example set by these Dual Brothers. It's a win - win situation all around.

Welcome, Brother. You may be the first, but you won't be the last 18-year old to become a Mason and a leader in Alaska's Masonic community.

A Leadership Opportunity

Each year the DeMolays in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and, yes, Alaska, too, gather for a week long **DeMolay Leadership Conference** at Camp Adams, just outside of Portland, Oregon. Until recently, Alaska's participation has been rather limited. This year, however, our Executive Officer has offered to sponsor one member from each Chapter to attend this concentrated learning experience. (He is hoping for parents and others to sponsor additional DeMolays for this exciting event.) Some of the top leaders among Alaska's DeMolays have benefited from this session, and their Chapters have become stronger as a result.

So, what do they do down there? Well, I can assure you that it's not just fun and games (although there is some of that as well). Actually, it's a concentrated program covering teamwork, leadership skills, the "secrets" of program planning and budgeting, communicating, and tips on how to run a meeting. These topics, and others, cover the kinds of things which will be of immeasurable value to these young men throughout their lives - not just for the relatively short time they are active in DeMolay. Obviously, the information they bring back to their Chapter will make it stronger and better run. While the activities are different, the DeMolay Leadership Conference is very similar to the Wardens' Charge program promoted by our Grand Lodge.

We are trying to get as many of our Alaskan DeMolays trained through this program as possible. Because most of our Members (and many of our Advisors) have little DeMolay experience, training of this type will make a vast difference in the success of each Chapter. So, if you would like to support this valuable program, please contact your local DeMolay Chapter or the Executive Officer, Jerry Fairley, at 4410 Edinburgh Drive, Anchorage, AK 99515. Any assistance is appreciated - and it's tax deductible. (The I.R.S. has given DeMolay a 501(c)3 designation.)

DeMolay Honors Seven In Alaska

I'm writing this in May, but it won't go to the printers until the International Supreme Council meets in June. At that time, they are expected to approve nominations to the **DeMolay Legion of Honor** (Active or Honorary) for **Vernon (Butch) Hughes** and **Mitchell R. Miller** of Fairbanks, **Russell W. Sanders** from Palmer, and **Clarence E. Keto**, **Howard N. Hobbs** and **Henry T. Dunbar** from Anchorage. **Clarence Keto** is also to be elected a **Deputy Member of the Supreme Council**. **Gerald R. (Jerry) Fairley**, the DeMolay Executive Officer for Alaska will be the **Grand Orator** of DeMolay International for the 1998-99 year. Thanks for all the help.