



Light from the Great Land

Volume 4, Issue 3

September 1, 2012

Grand Master's Message



Greetings Brethren,

I am in Wyoming right now attending the Grand Lodge of Wyoming. I had to drive from Arvada, WY to Buffalo, WY to find a computer so I could create the document for my article for the Newsletter.

Masonry is truly an International fraternity and we are the ambassadors for the fraternity.

We need to wear our Masonic jackets, hats, and pins as we travel from our great state to destinations throughout the world. Since I wear my Masonic jacket and hat in my travels for personal reasons or representing our great fraternity, I have had numerous people see my attire and comment that they are a brother or their father or grandfather was a Mason. I have had several ask me "How do I become a Mason?" This scenario has become fairly common to me since I became Grand Master, I haven't thought about it very much.

I carry several Masonic Brochures in my briefcase and have given them to many prospective candidates for Masonry. This information can be a selling point for Masonry and not just be a decision by the prospective candidate from your conversation. He can keep the brochure and it will be a reminder of his intention to join the fraternity. The contact doesn't have to be a fellow Alaskan. It can be a person in Florida or North Carolina or anywhere.

How you act toward a prospective candidate, or the readiness to respond to a prospective candidates question can be the deciding factor of him wanting to become a mason. Our conduct and behavior can be a selling point for Masonry as well. Whether we know it or not, Masonry is being judged by the conduct and behavior we display every day. If we are impolite to someone or we cut in line and we wear our Masonic hats or jackets, society judges all of us, good or bad.

I am proud to wear my Masonic attire as I travel and I hope you are too. Be kind to everyone you meet and you will promote favorable impressions to our fellowman.

May the God of Love and Peace, delight to dwell with you and bless you.

MW Jerry W. Pinion
Grand Master

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"The Mason, who reads, however little, if it only the pages of the monthly magazine to which he subscribes, will entertain higher views of the Institution and enjoy new delights in the possession of these views. The Masons who do not read will know nothing of the interior beauties of Speculative Masonry, but will be content to suppose it to be something like Odd Fellowship, or the Order of the Knights of Pythias - only, perhaps, a little older. Such a Mason must be an indifferent one. He has laid no foundation for zeal. ."

- Albert G. Mackey (1875)



Light from the Great Land

Deputy Grand Master

True Wealth



What is true wealth? As some of you know, my younger brother passed away on the first of June this year. You might ask yourself what does true wealth have to do with your brother passing away.

Before I tell you the end of the story, I must tell you the beginning.

Our parents were basically migrant workers. My father never had the same job for an extended length of time until 1967 when he took a job at Boeing as a janitor. During our many years of travel we changed schools 18 different times. I am happy to say the last three years were at the same school. We have lived in many different states from Louisiana, Texas, and Washington to Pennsylvania. My father worked on farms taking care of animals and crops to digging graves in a cemetery. As you can image we never acquired many positions.

After completion of high school we both joined the Army. As you can guess we drifted apart a little but always stayed in touch. My brother got out of the Army after his 4 years were up and I stayed in. My brother got married and later divorced and settled down in the Seattle area and after several years landed a job at Boeing. He started at some less important job and worked his way up to one of the most important positions a person at Boeing could have and that was a "Part Inspector". Even that is not what true wealth is all about.

It was at my brother's funeral when I realized what True Wealth was all about. The Chapel was filled and there was standing room only. Out of all the individuals there, there were only 9 relatives (that's about all that's left of my family). During the service several of his friends got up and talked about

my brother. One young lady said that he loved to dance and on every occasion that he was at her tavern he would wait until the three waitresses had gotten into their cars and were safely on their way home prior to his departure. Another gentleman who stood 6 ft. 7 in tall told me that he didn't look up to very many individuals but he looked up to my brother because Henry was always there to help him out when he was just starting out on the new job in Henry's department. His supervisor told me that even though she was the supervisor everyone knew who ran the department. They talked about how he would come in at all hours of the night or on his days off to help with a problem. My mother, my niece and I spent the whole afternoon after the funeral service talking to his friends about the good things he had done for them.

What does all this have to do with True Wealth and Masonry you ask? Even though my brother was not a Mason he was doing all the things that we as Masons should be doing. He helped other people and enjoyed doing it. He always had a smile on his face and treated everyone with respect. Even though we grew up with very little my brother died a very, very rich man. You cannot take your worldly possessions with you. All you can do is to enjoy the happy reflection consequent on a well spent life and die in the hope of a glorious immortality like my brother!!!!

RW James R Herrington
Deputy Grand Master





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August 1, 2012

Shriners
believe in
community

beashriner.com



Brethren:

All Alaska Shriners invite all Master Masons to join Shriners International during the 140th anniversary of the fraternity. When you become a Shriner you become part of a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged in ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children in need. While our backgrounds and interests may be diverse, what binds us together are shared values and a desire to have fun, do good, and build friendships that can last a lifetime.

Becoming a Shriner is easier than you think and its rewards can be far more than you expect. To learn more log-on to BeAShrinerNow.com and register for the ceremonial on December 1st. During this initiation ceremonial there will be new and exciting presentations made for the first time in Alaska; don't miss this historic opportunity to HAVE FUN & HELP KIDS.

Fraternally yours,

Bruce

Bruce Kling
Potentate



90TH ANNIVERSARY
SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN[®]
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Light from the Great Land

Alaska Scottish Rite Symposium



The Scottish Rite symposium was held July 21 through July 28 in Anchorage and Fairbanks. It brought together Master Masons from all over Alaska and Canada to learn and discuss the history, philosophy and concepts of Blue Lodge Masonry along with Scottish Rite ma-

sonry.

The symposium was sponsored by the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction and the Alaska Scottish Rite, and arranged and coordinated by WB Joe Dahl. Guests from the House of the Temple included Arturo de Hoyos, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite—Southern Jurisdiction, Washington DC. As someone with a wealth of knowledge and ready access to a huge store of information and material, Illustrious Brother de Hoyos has authored, or co-authored more than 45 papers and articles and several books including: *Is it True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, *Forms and Traditions of the Scottish Rite and Committed to the Flames: The History and Rituals of a Secret Masonic Rite*.

Illustrious Brother Dean Alban, Director of Member Service, of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite—Southern Jurisdiction accompanied Brother de Hoyos on the journey North.



L to R: Ill. Bros. Arturo de Hoyos, Dale Cain, Dean Alban, and Jerry Pinion



The Masonic Society and the Masonic Library and Museum Association have come together to sponsor The Quarry Project, a conference and workshop on Masonic research and preservation, to be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia on September 27—29, 2013. The conference will draw from both Masonic and academic communities to provide detailed instruction on Masonic research and the editing of the results. Additionally, a set of voluntary standards for future Masonic research, writing, and editing will be introduced. Professional librarians, museum curators, and experts on display and preservation will provide practical instruction and advice on maintaining and improving Masonic historical repositories. Multiple concurrent presentations will be offered on all three days. A few success Stories that will enthuse and inspire you will be mixed in along the way.

Registration and accommodations information will be announced in the fall of 2012. For more information visit www.TheQuarryProject.com or e-mail info@thequarryproject.com.





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News from Around the Jurisdiction

DISTRICT No. 1:



Brethren,

Tanana 3 went dark for the summer. They did have a cookout at the July Stated meeting and the Worshipful Master presented the Lodge Service Medal to Mike and Jody Starkey in recognition of their service to the Lodge this year. Several Members of Tanana will be traveling to Dawson on Labor Day weekend to participate in International Days with our Canadian Brothers. Tanana will host the Grand Masters visit on September 5th, and will confer EA degrees on September 19th and a Master Mason degree on September 26th.

Valdez 4 hosted a community breakfast in June as part of the Valdez Military Appreciation Day festivities. They served breakfast to about 200 people. The first weekend in August was the Valdez Gold Rush Days celebration. Brothers from around the state came together in Valdez to confer an EA degree, conduct a Shrine Ceremonial, and participate in the Gold Rush Days parade. Valdez will host the Grand Master for his Official Visit on September 25th.

Fairbanks 12 has scheduled a "pin" night the first Thursday in November to recognize those Brothers with 20 or more years membership in the fraternity. The fifth Thursday in November Fairbanks 12 is planning to hold a Past Masters dinner. At one of these two events the Worshipful Master will be presenting annual Lodge awards to deserving Brothers.

North Pole 16 cancelled the turkey shoot due to inclement weather. Hopefully things will work out better next year. They had a booth at the North Pole Cruisin' with Santa Car Show in May

and passed out bottled water and Masonic information. They also had an entry in the North Pole 4th of July parade. To finish off the summer they will be cleaning their assigned section of Laurance Road on August 25th.

The District Deputy made his official visit to Valdez in June. There was a very good turnout for dinner and the meeting. Valdez has more participation of family members at their functions than any other Lodge in the District. It is so very nice to see the ladies and children at the Lodge.

The District Meeting will be held on September 22nd at 3:00pm at Tanana Lodge. There will be refreshment after the meeting.

Fraternally submitted,
Mike Starkey, DDGM District 1

DISTRICT No. 2:

Reported by WB Bill Roberts

Highway Cleanup

Sterling Lodge #22 held the first of its three annual Sterling Highway clean-up projects on May 26, 2012. Seven Brethren were in attendance, as well as two members of Chapter #17 Star of the North, Order of the Eastern Star [Worth Matron Tichi Cole and Sister Yolanda Lindstrom] were gracious enough to assist the Brethren in this Community event.

Fundraising Fish Fry

Sterling Masonic Lodge #22 held a Fund Raising Fish Fry at the Sterling Area Senior Citizens Center on June 2, 2012. Numerous masonic brethren, their families & friends were among the 105 individuals who were served. Donations received from the Fish Fry are to help fund the operations of Sterling Masonic Lodge # 22 and to provide financial support for its



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philanthropic activities: The Outstanding Student Scholarship Fund on the Kenai Peninsula, Elementary School-aged Children Aid Fund in the Sterling area, Shriner's Children Hospitals & Burn Centers, Sterling Area Senior Center, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, VA, community support and aid for those in need (case by case), and to provide handicap equipment as needed, in conjunction with the Sterling Area Senior Center.



Master Mason Degree

A Special Session of Sterling Masonic Lodge #22 was opened to confer the Sublime degree of Master Mason on Brother Gary James Pendras, Saturday, June 16, 2012. There were 18 Brothers in attendance, which included seven Brothers who drove from Anchorage and Seward areas to assist with the degree. At the conclusion of the degree, members and guests participated in a Family "pot luck" dinner in honor of Brother Pendras, our newest Master Mason, and his wife Kay. There were 40 brothers, family members and friends in attendance at the dinner.

District Deputy Picnic

On a very beautiful Saturday afternoon on the Kenai Peninsula, VWB Carl Lindstrom, Deputy of the Grand Master for District #2, sponsored the "Deputy's Picnic" for the Three Kenai Peninsula Masonic Lodges at his fish camp - The Catch'em River Front Lodge - on Gene Autry Road, Sterling, AK. There were 16 brothers present and a total of 26 people [friends & family] in attendance, which included the Worshipful Master, Ralph Sterling, Kenai #11, and Worshipful Master Carl Lindstrom, Sterling Lodge #22 and VWB Will Josey, Senior Warden, Sterling #22.

All present appeared to be having a good time with lots of fellowship. Everyone I talked to spoke highly of the idea to have a Peninsula wide Masonic Picnic so the brethren get to know each other than just at the Masonic Lodge functions.

Another Fish Fry

Sterling Masonic Lodge# 22 held another of their Fish Fries within the Sterling Area Senior Citizens Center on July 7, 2012. Among the 110 individuals served were several Masonic Brethren and their families. A big "THANK YOU" from the members of Sterling Lodge #22 goes to Brother Marcus Ashkenasy and Brother Dwight Locke [Kenai Lodge # 11] for their help with our activity. The donations received from our annual Fish Fries go directly to the support our Lodge's Operations and to help fund several Philanthropic Activities.

Fraternally yours,
WB Bill Roberts, Junior Deacon
Sterling Lodge #22



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News from Around the Jurisdiction - Cont.

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DISTRICT No. 4:
Reported by
VW Al Brookman, Deputy

The report from District 4, dated May 10th, was not received by the editor in time for publication in the June 1 edition of the newsletter, and is being included here at the request of the Grand Master.

MAY 10, 2012

The Masonic Lodges in District 4 are alive busy and have many plans, that should take place the year of 2012.

Early April, Grand Master Jerry Pinion and his grand officers, visited all 5 Lodges in District 4.

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge #21, started the year, by opening a Lodge of sorrow. A Masonic memorial service was conducted for Brother Stephen Wright, a longtime member of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux who has served on the Grand Lodge scholarship and other committees. Our valuable secretary will surely be missed by us all.

VW Russ Shivers and Brother Larry White were elected to serve on the Masonic Center Association.

The lodge scholarship committee will make a selection and award several thousands of dollars, where each year many applications are submitted to the Stevens Trust Scholarship Fund.

Degree work practices are held each month and, so far this year, four Entered Apprentice degrees were conferred along with one Fellow Craft degree, and 2 members gave their third degree proficiencies at lodge meetings.

Mt. Verstovia Lodge # 18 installation of officers went off as planned, and was well attended by members and guests. Sitka is famous for bringing

out wives and widows to their stated meeting each month, where they are served dinner by the officers and members of the lodge. The Shrine Club and Scottish Rite Club also meet at the Sitka temple and the lodge serves them a breakfast or dinner, as well. After any meal, the wives and widows are invited to stay and visit while the meeting is going on, and share in refreshments after the meeting.

Five bicycles are awarded each year to the third grade students, chosen by their teachers for lesson on good citizenship. The award is made, to the youth in front of their classmates and parents.

The lodge is awaiting the return of an application for membership. Two Brothers are working on their third degree proficiencies and a third Brother is working on a proficiency in another degree.

Ketchikan Lodge # 19 installed their officers January. 7th, and most offices were filled.

January 14th, the Lodge held a fellowship breakfast with wives and widows included as guests.

Several Brothers from Ketchikan Lodge attended the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, this year.

Lodge members were very excited to receive a petition for membership. Ketchikan Lodge is quite small, so they hope to add additional interested members to their roster..

Ketchikan Lodge # 19 continues to support their scholarship program to high school graduates.

Petersburg Lodge # 23, since the Grand Master's official visit April 6th, now has another petition for membership. The Lodge will be sending the candidate to Juneau or Ketchikan or a degree team from another Lodge will help give the degree.

Two \$1000.00 scholarships were awarded to Petersburg students this year.

One of the lodges lots, has been leased out to a cell tower, more income to the lodge is always helpful. In Petersburg, fishing season is upon them, and



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the Worshipful Master and other Brothers are out fishing. At this time of year, it was good to receive news from their Lodge.

White Pass Lodge # 1 in Skagway received the Grand Master and his party, in big style on April 7th, on his official visit. All the lodges in District 4 are accessible only, by air or water, except, for White Pass Lodge, which has highway access through Canada.

Our Canadian Brothers from White Horse, Yukon Territory, visit the lodge and Skagway returns the pleasure, by visiting them. It means so much when our lodges are visited by other Masons, where it is very rare for Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan or Petersburg to have Brothers visit.

The Grand Master's official visitation was well received in all the lodges in District 4. The personal contact with the individual Brothers resulted in conversations and many Brothers had a chance to ask questions of the Grand Lodge officers who attended.

I am proud of the members in this District, for their interest and support to their lodges and to the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

AUGUST 13, 2012

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge # 21 has in my estimation, broken all local records for new applications, into this lodge. To date, Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux has done 10 Entered Apprentice degrees and has scheduled five more, to be held on September 8th. There are three more applications for membership to be investigated and we are doing two Fellow Craft degrees this month, on August 21. With all the degree work we have done this year, it has given our junior lodge officers much valuable experience, and we look forward to a busy fall and winter.

From **Mt. Verstovia Lodge # 18** comes an unusu-

al report that a new Catholic priest, has recently moved to Sitka, and soon after his arrival, he went out of his way to locate a Master Mason there. Father Jim came from a town in Pennsylvania where the Knights of Columbus and the Masonic lodge met monthly for dinner. This program was well attended and many unanswered questions were resolved, on a regular basis. Mt. Verstovia Lodge invites Father Jim to dinner before their meetings and while the men are in the lodge, he visits with the wives and widows. He remains after the lodge meeting to share in refreshments with the members. This practice is something we should all think about, as the future of Masonry could be better served.

Aprons & monitors were presented to Brothers Mike Kernin and Eric Swanson for completing their Master Mason degrees at the June meeting. The annual summer picnic will be held June 30th.

Ketchikan Lodge # 19 is dark in the summer, as many members are fishermen, and yet they have met this summer to give a school of instruction to three Entered Apprentices. A Brother from Prince Hall Masonry is in the process of transferring his membership to the Grand Lodge of Alaska and he will be active in the Ketchikan Lodge. I have met him and he is a learned Mason and could add a lot of help to Ketchikan Lodge.

From **Petersburg Lodge # 23**, comes the same news, with so many commercial fishermen in their Lodge, no meetings have been scheduled this summer. They do have one Entered Apprentice degree to confer, and will likely bring him to Juneau or a degree team from Juneau could go to Petersburg and perform this degree.

The Petersburg local library is building a new building and has asked the Petersburg Lodge to conduct a Masonic corner stone laying in 2013. Petersburg Lodge has made arrangements with RW James



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Herrington to perform this duty.

White Pass Lodge # 1, reveals no unknown new news – except they do have one Entered Apprentice degree to do this fall and two applications have not been returned as of yet. Of course, they also are dark during the summer. The repair work on Skagway’s Masonic temple, is ongoing as the building is quite old and the restoration projects continue. We wish you well in that venture.

In May I had the opportunity to accompany RW James Herrington, on his officers training program here in District 4. He has a unique style and is a very qualified teacher, very soon after each class began the officers were asking questions, his style of teaching involves participation from the class. It was a great experience for me to work with Jim, he began each class with the importance of using, the current Alaska monitor and cypher, and repeated that statement several times during each class..

Respectfully submitted :
VW Al Brookman
Deputy in District 4



DISTRICT No. 5:

Reported by the
VW Dennis Oakland, Deputy

Well, it has been a delightful summer so far and many activities we have had were well attended and loaded with fun.

First we had the Colony Days Parade in downtown Palmer on June 9th where we took 2nd place (again) in the fraternal category. This parade was very well attended with a full contingent of Blue Lodge, Scottish, York and Shrine well represented, and the Mini-Patrol

was right with us. The crowd really gave us lots of recognition and cheers.



Next, we had the Highway cleanup sponsored by Eagle River Lodge and we ended up with another couple of heaping pickup loads of trash. Matanuska Lodge had a couple of degrees in June as well.

Next up was the Independence Day Parade in Wasilla, again well attended but without the Shrine Mini Patrol, as they were in Anchorage for the parade there. Following the parade we had a District BBQ picnic at Brother Gary Satterfield’s home on Wasilla Lake, beautiful day and great fellowship, and all three lodges were represented.



This was followed on Friday by the Fair Booth shift drawing, but by the time you read this, the fair will be coming to a close.

On July 14th, we had the float in Eagle River for the Bear Paw Parade, and again that was well at-



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tended, and like last year, the Mini Patrol was with us. Matanuska Lodge also conferred a Master Mason degree on the 17th.

Saturday the 21st was the Scottish Rite Symposium featuring guests Ill. Br. Art de Hoyos and Ill. Br. Dean Alban whom both delivered superb presentations that were informative as well as entertaining.

I made my official visitation to Iditarod Lodge in July. Attendance was fair and I reiterated the Grand Masters message and also presented a few excerpts from Walter Wilmshurst' "The Meaning of Masonry" and that was well received.

I also made my Official Visit to Matanuska Lodge on August 7th with the same message and will be making my OV to Eagle River in September.

On Saturday the 11th, Downtown Palmer annually is taken over by the local Street Rod clubs and we had the Grand Lodge Corvette there to sell raffle tickets. Masons were invited to come and enjoy the many cars that were on display.

Now, we are getting ready for the Alaska State Fair and I wish to take this opportunity to announce that am re-



tiring as Fair Booth Committee Chairman after this year's fair, so if anyone would like to take up that duty, let me know right away, because you have to

begin preparing for 2013 shortly after Grand Lodge in February. I have done this now for the last 5 years and it's time for someone else to take on the duty.

Respectfully submitted,
VW Dennis N. Oakland
District Deputy for District No.5



In Memoriam

With a heavy heart we say farewell to two of our Past Grand Master's wives, Sister Mary Wallace and Sister Gwyn Fitzpatrick.

These two gracious ladies provided us examples of true kindness and many years of support to the Grand Lodge of Alaska. Our Grand Lodge will greatly miss their presence. We send our thoughts and prayers to MW Johnnie Wallace and MW Marvin Fitzpatrick.

Most glorious God, author of all good and giver of all mercy, pour down Thy blessings upon us and strengthen our solemn engagements with the ties of sincere affection. May the present instance of mortality remind us of our own approaching fate, and by drawing our attention toward Thee, the only refuge in time of need, induce us so to regulate our conduct here, that when the final moment shall arrive at which we must quit this transitory scene, the enlivening prospect of Thy mercy may dispel the fear of death; and that after our departure hence, in peace and Thy favor, we may be received into Thine everlasting kingdom, and there join in union with our friend and enjoy that uninterrupted and unceasing felicity which is allotted to the souls of just men made perfect.
Amen.



Light from the Great Land

Reflections on Irish Masonry

By John Bishop Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Ireland



Itinerary: I arrived in Dublin on April 10th, and after checking into the hotel, I walked a block and a half to the Grand Lodge of Ireland,

where I toured the museum and was given a grand tour of the building and its four Lodge rooms. There were Lodge rooms for Commandery of the Knights Templar, and Royal Arch, an additional Lodge room, and the Grand Lodge room. All were most impressive, the Grand Lodge room was



spectacular, with much history, and a beautiful Pipe Organ in the West. That night I attended **Curragh Emerald no. 397**. This Lodge was originally a military Lodge. This evening they were doing a Fellow Craft degree, and it was interesting to observe the differences, and the welcome by the Brothers was most gracious. I presented to the Deputy Grand Master a Gift from MW Jerry Pinon to be given to the Grand Master of Ireland, and extended to the W\M greetings from the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

The next day, April 11th I visited the museum at Trinity College, and the “Book of Kells” (“*Turning Darkness Into Light*”) which was written in the 9th century by monks, it is the four gospels in Latin, and is quite ornate. In the afternoon I walked around Dublin, and along the Liffy which runs through the center

of town. That evening I again attended **Leinster Lodge no. 141**, which met in the Grand Lodge room which was a treat in and of itself. The hospitality again was outstanding, and I again extended greetings from the Grand Master, After Lodge we retired to the Festive Board.

The following morning I picked up a rental car, (with GPS) and headed out for Cork. I managed to find my way out of Dublin without wrecking or driving on the wrong side of the road, and once on the motorway it was a piece of cake, speeding along at about 78 mph. It only took about 2 ½ hours and I was at the hotel in Cork. Thirty minutes after arriving Brother David Walls who I had been communicating with met me at the hotel, and gave me a

grand tour of the area. That evening I attended **Shamrock no. 27**, where they again opened on the 1st degree, called up to the second and did the Fellow Craft degree. The welcome again was outstanding, and again I extended greetings. After Lodge we repaired to the Festive Board. The next morning Brother David picked me up for coffee with the Brothers at the Lodge, followed by additional touring of the Munster county area. David was a great tour guide having grown up in the area. He showed me the harbor at Kinsale where the Titanic sailed from. That weekend they were having ceremonies celebrating the 100th anniversary of the sailing of Titanic.

In the evening Brother David drove me up to Limerick where we visited **Antient Union no. 13**, Antient Union Lodge is the Lodge that has the Baal’s Bridge Square which is a Masons Square dated 1507,



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and was found in the bridge when they were repairing it. They did a first degree that evening. Shamrock Lodge and Antient Union as well as “First Lodge of Ireland no. 1, all claim (good naturedly) to be the first Lodge in Ireland, and all pre date the grand lodge formation. The welcome was again most gracious, and after lodge we went to refreshment and a light dinner. The Brothers then asked if I could do “The Shooting of Dan McGrew”, which I was happy to entertain them with. After refreshments we returned to Cork, it would have been nice to have had a little more time in Limerick.

On Saturday the 15th Brother David toured me around some more, and then we attended the “Installation Dinner” (similar to our Table Lodge) at a nice restaurant in Kinsale. I had roast shank of Lamb, and just thinking about it makes me want to go back to Ireland soon. After dinner they had formal

introductions, after being introduced I extended greetings from the Grand Master to the Brothers and thanked them for their hospitality, (“gur rev mata gah) that’s thank you in Galic.

On Sunday I left for County Clare for a little touring on my own. I now found the tiny roads of which Ireland is noted for. Made for a bit of an adventure, only got lost twice, but didn’t dent the car. County Clare has to be the rockiest place on earth, stone walls everywhere, small cottages, and all of it very neat and clean. Sheep and horses grazing among the rocks. I found a small town of Ballyvaughn on the west coast and checked into a B &

B. Walked around town, stopped at the pub for a pint of Guinness, and had great conversation with a couple of locals. In the evening the pub had local and traditional Irish music, so I enjoyed a few more pints and the music. Next day, it was off to the west coast and the “Cliffs of Moher” which drop vertically over 400 feet to the Atlantic.

Then it was on to Galway where I arrived about 2 PM. Driving in the cities is a real challenge for any stranger, but again I survived without dents. I was not at the hotel more than 20 minutes, when my phone rang, and a Brother called and said “he

had heard I wanted to hear some traditional Irish music”. Thirty minutes later he met me at the hotel and we went on a pub crawl until around 1 AM. Not only is the Guinness good but the pub food is excellent in Ireland, and we did find lots of good music. The next day I did a walking tour of central Galway and in



the evening attended **Premier Connaught no. 14**, which is the smallest lodge room in Ireland, but they are soon to move to a larger facility. They had their original charter on the wall, it is 237 years old. The Brothers again outdid themselves with their warm welcome.

Wednesday the 18th, I headed north for County Armagh in Northern Ireland, again on the motorway and a pleasant drive. The noticeable thing when you cross the border is the speed limit is now in MPH. I arrived in Dromore at B & B owned by the Provincial Grand Master RW Wilson Mark where



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again I was most warmly welcomed. That evening we attended **Jubilee Temperance no. 652**, where they were doing a 3rd degree. The next day, I toured around the local area south of Belfast. Then in the evening, I attended the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in Armagh where I was formally introduced with the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers. I presented a gift from MW Brother Pinion to RW Wilson Mark the Provincial Grand Master and extended to him greetings on behalf of our Grand Master. The PGL meeting lasted about two hours, and we then went to the festive board.

Friday the 20th I wandered my way slowly back to Dublin. First going east over the mountains of Mourn towards Newcastle on the east coast, then over to the “Hill of Tara”. A very historical place and the seat of the Irish kings for about 2500 years until around the 5th century. Then unfortunately it was back to Dublin to turn in the car. The next morning took a flight to Oslo where I spent a few days visiting old friends, then back to Anchorage. Wonder of wonders all that snow was gone when I got home, good timing!

Reflections on Irish Masonry

For those of you who have studied the history of Masonry and the formation of the first Grand Lodges you are aware of the Moderns and the Antients. Irish Masonry traces its heritage back to the Antients and their ritual reflects this heritage. The Lodges in Cork, Limerick, and Galway trace their heritage to the pre Grand Lodge era. There are many notable differences. The first caught me off guard when they collect the pass for the first degree. They do not have a Marshal, but have a Director of Ceremonies. All Lodges, except Grand Lodge open on the first degree, and the officers and visiting Grand Lodge officers enter in formal procession, visiting Brothers are seated in the East. When doing degree work they call up to the appropriate degree. They do not do the Lectures as we do but the information is presented at the Altar by the Brother who does the conferral. However the same lessons are presented

at that time.

After opening the Lodge the Secretary calls the roll of the members, and members not present in most cases notify the Secretary of the reason they are absent. Also the Master relies on the Secretary to present the next order of business. Any Brother addressing the East holds the Salute while addressing the East, unless excused by the Master, (such as the Secretary reading the minutes). There are three steps at the Alter for the candidate to kneel on as appropriate.

Prospective candidates have to be nominated, and seconded at a meeting. They are then investigated by the solicitors. Once accepted by the Lodge their name is submitted to the other Lodges in the area (district) for any reference they may have. The candidates' names from other Lodges are read in Lodge. After this if the candidate is accepted he takes his degrees.

These are some of the observations I made which may be expressed in this format. I do not claim to fully understand the Irish ritual, and the accuracy of these observations is to the best of my recollections. Other observations that I observed I will be happy to discuss among Brothers in Masonic conversation. I would definitely like to know more about the heritage and history of some of the Lodges I visited.

It was a grand visit, the welcome extended to me was fantastic and I hope to return for another visit soon. To travel from one part of Ireland to another can be done in a day for the most distant places. Places I would like to visit on my next trip are: The Guinness brewery, Donegal, Londonderry, Antrim, and the Bushmills Distillery. The Bed and Breakfast are great and the way to go. Driving on the motorways is only a minor challenge if you have a GPS, in the cities and smaller roads the challenge is elevated a wee bit. The people are most friendly; the food is great, and the Guinness----!

WthoG&tToGR

John Bishop Grand Representative of
Ireland, near Alaska