

Legislative Dinner

On Wednesday March 14, Helena Lodge #3 and Morning Star #5 hosted the bi-annual Legislative Night, at the Shrine-Consistory Temple. Twenty-four Senators, Representatives and Secretary of State Brad Johnson (a Master Mason) along with 50 plus Masons and their wives came to enjoy an evening of good food, entertainment and a little history lesson. Master of Ceremonies Boyce Fowler, Worshipful Master of Morning Star #5, greeted all in attendance and introduced all of the Grand Officers of the Masonic bodies.

MC Fowler introduced Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master David Nielsen who greeted everyone on behalf of Grand Master Tom Valente, who is visiting Japan, where GM Valente took his degrees. MWB Nielsen spoke about Masonry and Patriotism and thanking all the legislators who devote their time to our great state. At the end of his speech, Deputy Grand Master Nielsen gave a brief history of the CST building, in the past it was the Ming Opera House. He invited everyone to take a tour of the building. The evening's final entertainment was a medley of Montana songs performed by the Algeria Shrine Chanters. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal together served by the Daughters of the Nile.

Legislators in Attendance

Representatives: Duane Ankney, (MM) R - Forysth; Elsie Arntzen, R, Billings; Mark Blasdel, R - Somers; Jill Cohenour, D - East Helena; Julie French, D Scobey; Pat Ingraham, R - Thompson Falls; Llew Jones, R -



Pictured are clockwise from top left, MC Boyce Fowler; a small part of the gathering; below the Algeria Shrine chanters entertain the crowd and left Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master David Nielsen talks about Masonry and Patriotism

Conrad; Bill Jones, D - Big Fork; Bob Lake, R - Hamilton; Penny Morgan, R - Billings; Ken Peterson, R - Billings; Ron Stoker, R - Darby;

Jahna Taylor, R - Dayton; Bill Thomas, D - Great Falls; and Kendall VanDyk, D - Billings.

Senators: Jerry Black, R - Shelby; Kelly Gebhardt, R - Roundup; Ken Hansen, D - Harrison; Verdell Jackson,

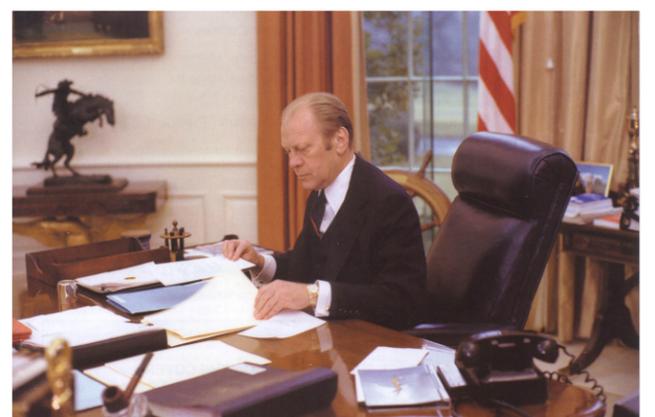


R - Kalispell; Rick Liable, R - Darby; Jerry O'Neil, R - Columbia Falls; Jim Shockley, R - Victor; Frank J. Smith, D - Poplar.

Gerald Rudolph Ford Thirty-eighth President

Gerald R. Ford, the thirty-eighth President of the United States of America, was initiated into Masonry on September 30, 1949, in Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan, along with his brothers Thomas Gardner Ford (1918-1995), Richard Addison Ford (1924-) and James Francis Ford (1927-). The Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees were conferred by Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, D.C., on April 20 and May 18, 1951, as a courtesy to Malta Lodge. Brother Ford was made a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and Honorary Member, Supreme Council A.A.S.R. Northern Jurisdiction at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, on September 26, 1962, for which he served as Exemplar (Representative) for his Class.

Brother Ford was a Royal Arch Mason and a Cryptic Mason, having received those degrees while President, Companion Gerald R. Ford received the Capitular and Cryptic degrees at the White House in the Oval Office on Jan. 11, 1977. The General Grand Chapter was represented by Grand King Junior W. Vandell. The General Grand Council was represented by Grand Master Dr. Owen L. Shanteau. Also present was Most Worshipful Bro. Charles V. Brewer Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of DC, Walter F. Godbey Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of DC and Edward S. Paylor Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of DC. Aubrey A. Gunnels and Paylor secured the President's petition. Gunnels obligated him and gave the lectures. (Ref: The



Bro Gerald Ford, 33° Mason, in the Oval Office

Royal Arch Mason Volume XII No. 5 page 131.)

He was a member of the Furniture City Masonic High Twelve Club No. 236, and the only President of the U.S. ever to have been President and a member of

Ford cont'd page 7

Greetings From the Grand East

The Wages of Masonry

Every so often, life seems to become routine and mundane, and we need something to recharge our batteries. I have had several opportunities to recharge my batteries in the past months. And nothing recharges them like meeting fellow Masons at a good, successful Masonic meeting. Meetings? They have included a Christmas Party in Plains, a lutefisk dinner in Virginia City, the installations of the Illustrious Potentates of the three Shrine Centers, Table Lodges celebrating the Holy Saints John in Three Forks, Bozeman, and Hamilton, assisting in the conferral of Scottish Rite degrees, and eating some haggis with dinner at the Robbie Burns night in Kalispell, while being serenaded by Past Grand Master Doc Harkins on his bagpipe. (The bagpipes are fine, but the knees sticking out of the kilt are something else again!)

In addition, there have been several out-of-state trips, to the Grand Lodges of Colorado and Nebraska and to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Portland, Oregon. These out-of-state trips are very informative and instructive. Not only do we renew friendships with our counterpart officers from other jurisdictions, but more importantly, we have an opportunity to hear about their programs and activities, both successes and failures. This allows our Grand Lodge to borrow and adopt those ideas that have worked and avoid some of the pitfalls that other Grand Lodges have encountered.

There is one constant in all of the activities which I have described. They were all MASONIC events. It was not the lutefisk, the haggis and the other food, the dancing at the Potentates' installations, or even MW Brother Doc Harkins' bagpipes that were important. Yes, they added color to the events. But what was important was the presence of other Masons. Years ago, I visited Jefferson Lodge No. 42 in Jefferson City, Missouri. There was a sign hanging over the door

**"There are no strangers
here, only Brothers that you
haven't met yet."**

into the Lodge that read, "There are no strangers here, only Brothers that you haven't met yet." One of the biggest benefits of Masonry is the true friendship exhibited by Brother Masons. It makes no difference whether you have known each other for a long or a short period of time. The friendship is there, and you can feel it! Unfortunately, you cannot feel it if you are absent. So, I urge all of you to attend your Lodge's meetings and special events, feel the fellowship and brotherly love, and get your batteries recharged! Fellowship and brotherly love among Masons are the real wages of Masonry!

I cancelled the Grand Master's class scheduled for Great Falls in February because there were only two candidates preregistered. There are twenty-nine different speaking parts in the second and third degrees. I could not justify such an effort and ask degree team members to assemble from hundreds of miles away for only two candidates. On the other hand, the class in Drummond on

March 10 was a success. Although the number of candidates was small (only 8 due to some no-shows), the fellowship and quality of degree work

was outstanding. There were 52 Masons present, not counting the kitchen workers. We tried some new procedures which enabled ALL of the candidates to "hit the canvas" and be raised individually, which made the ceremonies that much more impressive to them. I intend to use these procedures in future classes this year.

It seems like only last month that I was installed as Grand Master. I guess time flies when you are having fun. But it is time to start planning for the Grand Lodge annual communication in Bozeman on June 22 – 23. Please make plans to be there. Your Grand Lodge needs your input and your votes.

When you read this message, my wife and I will be on a dream trip. As many of you know, I was initiated, passed, and raised in a constituent Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Japan when I was in the Army. Three and a half years ago, when I was elected Junior Grand Warden, Pat and I started a special savings account so we could afford to visit the Grand Lodge of Japan while I was Grand Master. MW Brother Mike Sutton, Grand Master of Idaho, and his wife, Hazel, are joining us. It will be really

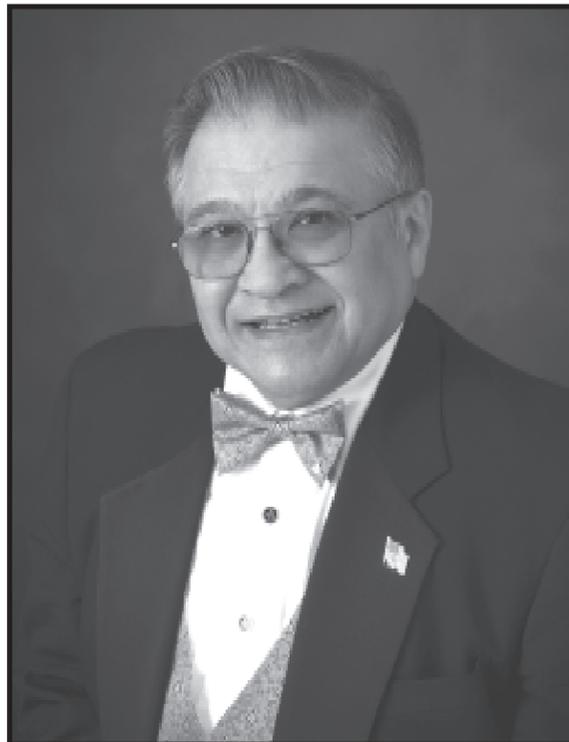
exciting visiting my Mother Jurisdiction as the Grand Master of Montana. And, having had lutefisk and haggis recently, I plan to have some sushi too.

Brothers, I wish you all well.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Thomas E. Valente, Jr.

Grand Master of Masons in Montana



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The editorial staff invites contributions in the form of informative articles, reports, news and other timely information (of about 500 to 1000 words in length) that broadly relate to Montana Masonry, Masonic law, lore, customs, history, symbolism, philosophy, responsibility of membership, etiquette, current events, and/or general public interest. When possible, photographs that illustrate these informative articles should accompany the submission. Pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off) or via e-mail to: mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org

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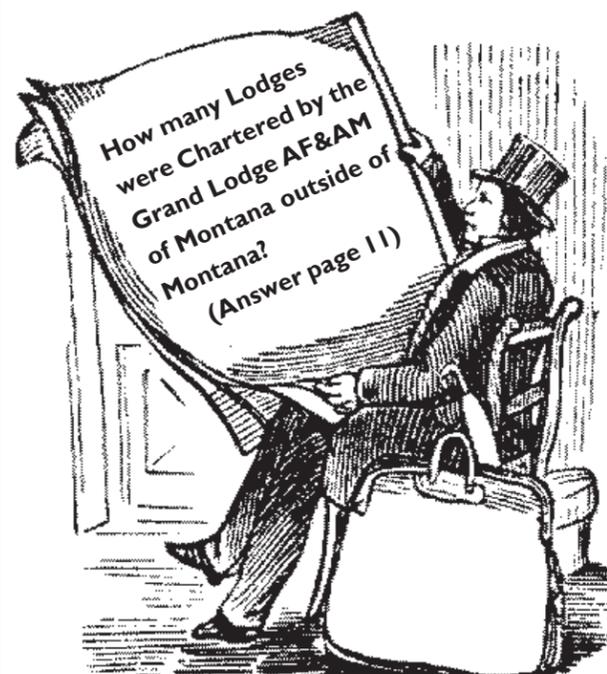
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Photo: Black and white or color, preferably accompanied by a computer disk with photo image in .jpg, .bmp, .tif. Include who took the photo, when and where.

Advertising: Anyone interested in advertising in the paper will need to initiate a New Agreement.

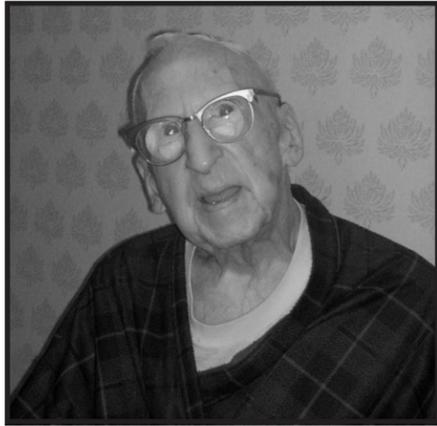
**The Montana Grand Sessions
have moved from Miles City to
Billings, MT. same dates,
different city.**

Trivia Question



National Treasure

Walter Breuning (born September 21, 1896 in Melrose, Minnesota) is currently the oldest verified living man born in the USA. Worshipful Brother Breuning has been as Master Mason for 82 years, making him the most senior Master Mason in the world. Brother Walter has lived at the Rainbow Retirement and Assisted Living Center in Great Falls, Montana for the last 27 years. He walks and eats two meals a day, and always wears a suit and tie. He still maintains a very sharp and accurate memory.



On his 110th birthday, Walter was declared the oldest living retired railroader in the United States. The governor of Montana and the city mayor attended his celebration. Brother Walter, a former railroader for the Great Northern Railway, who is noted for still being on the move and "sharp as a whip" celebrated his 110th birthday in December. At his birthday party in the Rainbow Retirement Center, Great Falls Mayor Dona

Stebbins presented him with a plaque proclaiming him the nation's oldest living railroader still drawing a pension. When asked the key to his longevity, Brother Breuning gave a simple solution: "Work. When I was 50, I was working two or three jobs. The secret is to keep busy."

"This is great advice!" said Montana Governor Schweitzer at the celebration reception held in Breuning's honor. Before his birthday celebration, Brother Breuning had lunch with 15 Shriners, all longtime friends. Until he retired at the age of 99, he managed the Elbon Club, the Shriner's club in the basement of the Rainbow Hotel, Great Falls.

W. Brother Breuning was initiated on March 7, 1925, passed to a Fellowcraft on April 7, 1925 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on May 16, 1925. Bro. Walter served as Worshipful Master of Great Falls Lodge No. 118 in 1934 and had also served as Lodge Secretary. He received his Montana 50 Year Award in 1975 and in 1993 was presented the Meritorious Service Award.

Mount Jefferson Lodge #56



Here is Calvin Smith's picture taken on February 14th when we presented the check to the Madison County Volunteer Hospice.

The individuals in the picture are Ted Williams, Worshipful Master, Stephanie Baker, Secretary of MCVH, Devonna Owens, President of MCVH and Robert Simpson, acting Senior Warden of Mount Jefferson Lodge #56.

Mission Valley Lodge No. 78

Past Master Kenneth Newgard of Mission Valley Lodge No. 78, Polson, MT, traveled to Yakima, WA, on December 16, 2006, to have the honor of installing his son, Jeffrey Newgard as the Worshipful Master of Compass Lodge No. 24. Bro. Jeffrey is a dual member of Compass Lodge No. 24, Yakima, WA and Mission Valley Lodge No. 78, Polson.



George Washington Convocation

The Annual George Washington Convocation was held in Great Falls, February 17, 2007. The Royal Arch Chapters from Great Falls, Conrad and Lewistown presented the four Royal Arch Degrees in full form for 10 candidates. There was a good turnout of York Rite Companions to include Most Excellent Grand High Priest Theodore Williams, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Charles Spindler and Right Eminent Grand Commander James Linderman, Sr. as well as most of the line officers. Great degree work, great fellowship and a great time was had by all.



Left to right: FRONT row: Sean Reddin, Dewey Goering, Anthony Pflieger, Justin Glasgow, Gene Harrison, MEGHP Theodore T. Williams, Rob Davis, Edward Berg BACK row: Dennis Duffy, Fred Jackson, Mark Widseth

Masonic Word Puzzle

How to solve the puzzle. Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word associated with Masonry.

(FANCY) + (ARTWORK) - (YARN) +

(FELINE) - (CAKE) + (MANIPULATE) - (ATONE) - (LEFT) + (CAPSTONE) - (NOISE) - (PUPIL) + (INSERT) - (WINTER)

= %%%%%%%%%%

Answer found on page 11

Brother Mel Tillis

Bro. Tillis was raised as a Master Mason in Branson Lodge No. 587 (Missouri) on December 14, 1992 and is also a 33° with the Scottish Rite.

Country music legend, Mel Tillis, started performing in the early '50's with a group called The Westerners while serving as a baker in the United States Air Force, stationed in Okinawa. In 1956, Webb Pierce recorded a song written by Mel entitled "I'm Tired", and it launched Mel's musical career.

Awards - In 1976, Mel Tillis was inducted into the

Nashville Songwriters International Hall of Fame, and that same year, he was named Country Music Association's (CMA) Entertainer of the Year. Also, for six years in the 70's, Mel Tillis won Comedian of the Year. On September 21, 1999 Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) named Mel Tillis the Songwriter of the Decade for two decades. Most recently, Mel was the recipient of the Golden Voice Entertainer Award for 2001. He also won the 2001 Golden R.O.P.E. Songwriter Award.

Songwriting - Mel has written well over 1,000 songs, and approximately 600 have been recorded by major artists. In June

2001, Mel received a Special Citation of Achievement from BMI for 3 Million broadcast performances of "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town". Songs which have reached this coveted status are in a very select group of world-wide favorites.

Singer/Entertainer - Mel has recorded more than 60 albums. He has had thirty-six Top Ten singles, with nine of them going to Number One - "Good Woman Blues," "Coca Cola Cowboy," and "Southern Rain" to mention a few.



Bro. Mel Tillis will be performing at the Rosebud County Fair in Forsyth, Montana on July 21, 2007.

Mel Tillis has been in the music/entertainment business now for over 45 years. He and his band, the Statesiders, have worked concerts all over the 50 states, Canada, England, and other countries.

Other information:

* Mel was the 1998 spokesman and honorary chairman for the Stuttering Foundation of America.

* Mel was raised to a 33° Mason at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., in 1998. On October 11, 1999, Mel was honored with the Grand Cross.

Hands of the Workmen

2nd Grand Master (1867)

Leander W. Frary

Dr. Leander W. Frary was the first Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Montana. He was elected to this office at the organization meeting in 1866 and was re-elected at the October meeting.

When the Grand Lodge met in October, 1867, he was elected the Second Grand Master.

Dr. Frary was born July 28, 1925, at Moravia, N.Y. At the age of 14 he entered the United States naval service. After a period of training he was assigned to the U.S.S. Somers, which was carrying dispatches to the American fleet on the African coast. It was on this voyage that a mutiny occurred and three members of the crew were hanged on the yard-arm of the Somers. One of them was young Spencer, son of the Secretary of War, and his execution caused a sensation throughout the country.

Subsequently Frary retired from naval service and studied dentistry, following this profession during his mature years.

Dr. Frary was raised in Fort Stephenson Lodge No. 255 at Freemont, Ohio in 1853.

During his Masonic career he was the virtual Master of four lodges in four states, Ohio, Colorado, Montana and California.

In 1854 he was Senior Warden and acting Master of Bellevue Lodge in Bellevue, Ohio. In 1864 he was the Worshipful Master of Golden City Lodge No. 1, Golden City, Colorado.

Also, in 1864, he was elected and served as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Colorado.

Upon coming to Virginia City, he started a movement for a second lodge, and Helena being interested at the same time in organizing a lodge at that place, Dr. Frary was persuaded to assist the Helena effort to get a charter from Colorado while he was securing one for the second lodge in Virginia City. Both efforts were successful and the two lodges were chartered at the same time, that at Virginia City being No. 9 on the Colorado registry and that at Helena being No. 10.

Dr. Frary became the first Worshipful Master of Montana Lodge No. 9 at the first election after the granting of the charter. He was a big man physically and mentally and enjoyed his life in this mountain region.

Many years later in California he organized and became Worshipful Master of Corona Lodge No. 324 of Pasadena.

He was present at the organization of the Montana Grand Lodge at Virginia City in 1866 and it was at that first meeting that he drafted the resolution for the organization of the Grand Lodge and was defeated for Grand Masters by John J. Hull by a vote of 5 to 4.

During his tenure as Grand Master in 1867 he persuaded the brethren of Red Mountain Lodge No. 12 at Highland to purchase the building in which they met; he directed that the members of Gallatin Lodge No. 6 repair their lodge building, and he conducted the special communication of the Grand Lodge at Virginia City to consecrate and dedicate the new Masonic temple in which the lodge was to meet for the next 100 years.

About 1870 Dr. Frary established a cattle ranch on the river which was successively known as the Passamari, the Stinking Water and the Ruby. There he imported a better quality of livestock establishing the

Shorthorn strain for the first time. In 1874 he sold the ranch and moved to Helena where for nine years he practiced dentistry.

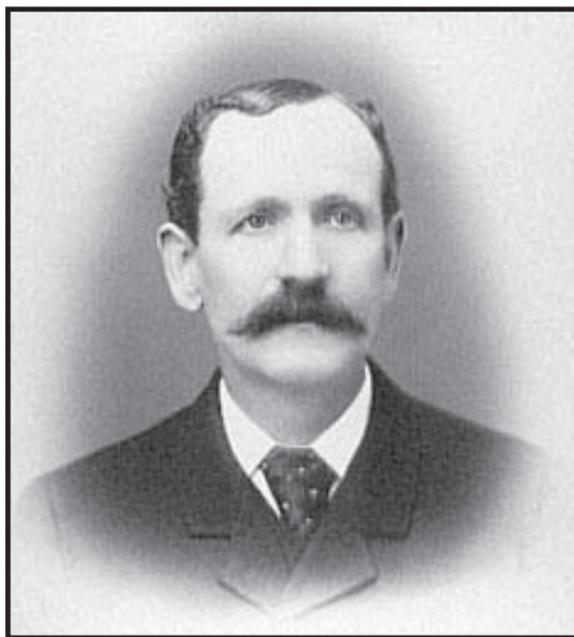
In 1883 he moved to California to engage in fruit raising. It was his great delight to entertain his Montana friends visiting Pasadena by taking them out in the yard and under his orange trees and while serving them with fruit from his own trees regaling to them stories of the mountain regions of Montana. There he died on October 24, 1911, at the age of 85 years.

His California Masonic brethren said of him: "He was a man who was highly respected and esteemed, not only in his lodge but as a citizen; one of the choice men to meet."

2nd Grand Secretary Solomon Star (1868)

Solomon Star or Sol Star was born into a Jewish family in Bavaria, Germany on December 20, 1840. Star and his family immigrated to the United States around 1850 and settled in Ohio

Sol Star arrived in Montana in 1865 from Missouri. He was appointed by President Grant as Registrar of the U.S. Land Office in Helena in 1872-1874. In 1874-1875 he served as Territorial Auditor of the Commonwealth of Montana. He also served as personal Secretary to the Governor. He and Seth Bullock (a Mason and first Sheriff of Lewis & Clark County, Helena, Montana) owned a Mercantile business. Star was also active in Banking in Helena. During his time in Montana he was known as one of its most respected and dependable citizens. There he began a hardware business with Seth Bullock, and together



Sol Star



Star & Bullock Hardware Store

they followed the gold rush to Deadwood in August of 1876.

Sol Star either affiliated or was raised in Virginia City No. 43 (Kansas) which became Virginia City No. 1, Montana when the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana was formed in 1866. Our records show the date raised as Nov 4, 1865. Sol was Junior Deacon of Virginia City

No. 1 when it was organized. He served as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Montana in 1868. He was the first Worshipful Master of King Solomon's No. 9, Helena, Montana in 1867 and served as Worshipful Master of NO. 9 in 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870 and again in 1873 and 1874. Star also served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Montana in 1868 and 1869, elected Deputy Grand Master in 1871 and was elected as the seventh Grand Master of Masons in Montana in 1873.

In later years Sol Star resided in Deadwood, Dakota Territory (later South Dakota) he served as Mayor of Deadwood from 1884-1893 and again in 1898-1901. He also served as the first Post Master of Deadwood. He also served as Clerk of Court for 16 years. Sol Star and Seth Bullock established the Star and Bullock Auctioneers and Commission Merchants at the corner of Main and Wall Streets. Watson Parker writes in Deadwood: The Golden Years that Star and Bullock

were "...effective and adroit businessmen, politicians and guiders of the economic destiny of the Black Hills."

In 1878 the partners sold the first farm machinery in the area. Sol Star was also held in high esteem by the Chinese community, and he was one of the few Deadwood residents allowed to attend meetings at the Chinese Masonic Lodge. In partnership with his friend Seth Bullock, Star expanded his business interests to the outlying towns of Spearfish, Sturgis, and Custer. Star and Bullock also partnered in livestock ranching as the S&B Ranch Company, and with Harris Franklin in the Deadwood Flouring Mill, in 1880, where Star was general manager. The duo expanded their business interests

to the towns of Spearfish, Sturgis, and Custer.

Bullock and Star contributed further to the economic development of the region by convincing the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad to build a track, by offering them 40 acres (162,000 m²) of free right-of-way across their land when a speculator purchased the right of way to Minnesela and demanded a high price from the railroad. The railroad built a station three

miles northwest of Minnesela, South Dakota, in 1890, and Bullock and Star were instrumental in founding the town of Belle Fourche there, offering free lots to anyone moving from Minnesela. Belle Fourche became the largest railhead for livestock in the United States, and stole the county seat away from a declining Minnesela.

Bullock and Star's hardware store in Deadwood burned down in 1894. Rather than rebuild, they built Deadwood's first hotel on the site, a three story, 64 room luxury hotel with steam heat and indoor bathrooms on each floor,

at a cost of \$40,000. The Bullock Hotel continues to operate to this day, now incorporating a 24-hour casino.

He continued as a public servant in Deadwood, serving fourteen years as mayor. Star was one of the

Hands cont'd next page

Masonic Service Association Hospital Visitation Program

I want to thank all of our M. S. A. volunteers for the great service they provided last year for the many hospitalized Veterans at Fort Harrison Medical Center Veterans Homes, and outpatient clinics throughout the state of Montana. Our volunteers here in Montana visited and assisted in providing many comfort items to more than 2,579 patients last year throughout the state of Montana. At our last Grand Communication in Havre it was the will and pleasure of the grand Master Most Worshipful Brother Jack Anderson and Grand Lodge to present Bronze Medal Awards for outstanding service to Montana Masonry.

Two of these recipients were unable to attend this Grand Lodge Communication The Grand Master was not able to present them himself and asked me to convey his most appreciative thanks and warm wishes to each for their outstanding service to Montana Masonry. Brother William Gamble M. S. A. Hospital Field Representative for the Miles City Veterans Home and Medical Center and member of the Yellowstone Lodge No. 26 received his medal for outstanding service to Montana Masonry, assisting in the presentation of this award was Worshipful Jr. Grand Deacon Brother John J. Mangen, others present were Past Most Worshipful Grand Master Brother Billy B.

Milhollin, Worshipful Master Jim Linderman, John Gamble (Son), Don Neese (Son-in Law), and many other members of Yellow Stone Lodge No. 26.

The second Bronze Medal Award recipient was Brother Russell Roy of Kalispell Lodge No. 42, M. S. A. Hospital Field Representative for Columbia Falls Veterans Home in Kalispell. Assisting in Brother Russell's presentation was Past Grand Master Alan D. (Doc) Harkins, W. Brother Phil Blaisdell, Worshipful Master Don A. Garberg and many other members of Kalispell Lodge No. 42. I will always remember my visit to the Columbia Falls Veterans Home with Brother Russell about his remarks that these Veterans our my extended family and that he had been around there for over thirty plus years. It was not long after Brother Russell's presentation that he passed away. He will be remembered with reverence for his kindness, generosity and his faithful duty to the Craft to which he belonged.

I have also had the pleasure to present four other award certificates of appreciation from the Masonic Service Association for going the EXTRA MILE.

Recipients of this award were Brother Leroy Michelson of Morning Star Lodge No. 5. Leroy is the Deputy Field Representative for Fort Harrison Medical

Center a very gracious and honorable servant to the Craft of Freemasonry and to the Veterans in which he serves. Dee Patton of Morning Star Lodge No. 5, Bob Perry of Helena Lodge No. 3, and Bob Shelver of Star of the West Lodge No. 33 Minot, North Dakota.

We owe these Brothers a debt of gratitude for the service they provide in the name of our Honorable Fraternity. If you see any of these Brothers around I hope also you will give them a pat on the back for a job well done. We have also had the good fortune of Brother Tom Beardon joining up with our M.S.A. volunteers at Fort Harrison. (Welcome Aboard Tom). Brother Rocky Ramey of Columbia Falls Lodge No. 89 has accepted the position of M. S. A. Hospital Field Representative at the Columbia Falls Veterans Home and has appointed Brother James Ryan as his Deputy Representative, Brother Ryan also of Columbia Falls Lodge No. 89. We really appreciate you both for stepping up to the plate after losing Brother Russell up there. I hope all the Lodges up in your area will give you some good support for the Veterans at the Home.

I also want to thank Brother Phil Blaisdell from Kalispell, Mt. a member of Whitefish Lodge No. 64 for his visits to Fort Harrison in support of our Veterans, and for their gifts of newspapers and magazines, and also thanks to Brother Ed Stede of Wisdom Lodge No. 61 for his gifts of magazines, and the Brethren of Euclid Lodge No. 58 Great Falls, Roger Cathel, Tim Ryan, Alex Para, Dewey Goering, Dennis & Joseph Deforest, Lisa Joseph, Thomas, Ashleigh & Nicole Lehotsky, Jeff & Erin A., Shane K. for their visit and gift to Fort Harrison Medical Center.

My thanks again goes out to all the Lodges in the state of Montana for the generosity and support you all give in helping support the M.S.A. Hospital Visitation Program. There is a lot of help still needed around the state and if you want to participate in some way, give me a call, (406-227-7649). *William "Bill" Conner, Masonic Service Association State Coordinator*

Pondera Lodge #80 Americanism Program

February 25, 2007 Pondera Lodge #80 held their Americanism Program chaired and MC'd by Past Master Jay Castle. It was open to the public with about 35 people attending. This year the Lodge honored the volunteers in the community. This included the Volunteer Fire Department, the Search and Rescue and the Emergency Medical and Ambulance Crews. A prayer was offered by Brother Tom Duffy, Worshipful

Grand Marshall followed by a Flag presentation and rules of etiquette by Boy Scout Troop 513 of Conrad. A program was presented by long time Search and Rescue volunteer Kevin Moritz and his wife, Colleen Moritz. A video covering the head-on train wreck of 1991, the response by the various volunteer organizations and what they learned from this was presented. It proved to be a well done and appreciated program - enjoyed by all.



Hands cont'd from previous page

first town councilmen elected in 1876 when the vote was taken to organize Deadwood as a town. Star also served as postmaster in 1879, he also served as a Republican legislator after statehood, and was Clerk of Courts when Lawrence County was established in 1877 and held that office until his death in 1917.

He returned to Virginia City to attend the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge in 1916 and delivered an address concerning some of the early-day Masons of Montana.

Recently both Sol Star and Seth Bullock were depicted as the main characters in the HBO Series "Deadwood".

Sol Star died on October 10th, 1917.



Star & Bullock



Bro Milheim Receives 50 Yr Pin

At the Grand Visitation of R.W. Jr. Grand Warden Thomas L. Lund, W. Brother Irvine G. Milheim, Jr. was presented his 50 Year Pin and Certificate on January 3, 2007. Brother Milheim is a dual member with Sharon Lodge No. 250, Sharon, Pennsylvania and Mission Valley Lodge No. 78, Polson. Pictured below presenting the Certificate, from L to R, is RW Bro. Tom Lund; Irv Milheim, and Leroy Lamach, WM of Mission Valley NO. 78.

Investigating Committee

The investigation of a petitioner is such an important duty and requirement that it is included as one of the 15 charges and regulations to which all Masters agree at their installation. Although the Code is explicit that inquiry must be made, when it must be made, and how the committee shall report, it is silent as to the manner in which the inquiry shall be conducted. Snap judgment or casual inquiry does not constitute "diligent inquiry." To comply with this requirement, it is obvious that a thorough, business like investigation is essential.

The appointment of a brother to an investigation committee carries with it a distinct honor and a grave responsibility. While the committee member must completely satisfy himself as to whether the petitioner is acceptable, he must remember that he is not acting for himself alone. He is acting for the great universal fraternity of Masonry in general, and in particular, for his lodge, whose members may not know the petitioner but will have to base their decision on his report.

It is an immense responsibility. It has been said that in this particular assignment, the committee member is endowed with greater responsibility than even the Master of his lodge. He must not be swayed by sentiment, influence or prejudice. He may be a personal friend of the petitioner, or he may dislike him. But he must disregard his personal feelings and render an objective and impartial decision. While there are two other brothers on the committee with him, he must decide for himself. He should report by the date specified, since the lodge cannot act until it has all three reports, but thoroughness must not be sacrificed in the interest of promptness.

During the investigation, it is important to not only find nothing negative about the petitioner but to hear something positive. If negative responses are the rule, the investigation need not proceed any further. If the information is positive, then a personal interview should be arranged, preferably at the petitioner's home in the presence of his wife and family. All the while, the committee member should direct his inquiry to the collection of answers that relate to our obligations, charges, lectures, laws and requirements. Is he a good citizen? Is he bitter or cynical to the government? Is he considerate, unselfish, kind to his family? Does he follow the golden rule? And, of course, does he believe in God and an everlasting life?

Section 37040 of the Code states that a lodge's jurisdiction for membership encompasses the entire state. As long as an applicant for the degrees has been a resident of this jurisdiction for six months, a lodge can act on the application. A lodge's statewide jurisdiction puts a great burden on the members of the investigating committee. The committee may be faced with a requirement to investigate a petitioner who has no history in the local community. All lodges should have a plan as to how the investigation should proceed. Will the committee contact the lodge nearest the petitioner's former place of residence seeking information from the brothers of that area or notifying them that the individual is petitioning your lodge? Will one or more of the committee travel to that community to conduct part of your investigation?

The committee member must constantly remember that he is the official representative of Masonry and of his lodge, and must so conduct himself that he reflects nothing but credit on the fraternity. He may explain about Masonry in a general way, particularly that it is a Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of God, practicing the moral law and the golden rule, with a firm belief in everlasting life.

Finally, the investigating brother should bear in mind that if, on the strength of his report his lodge elects the petitioner, a most important seal has been placed upon his reputation and his character.

Extracts From the Code of Statutes

u37090. Investigating Committee

All petitioners for the degrees shall be referred to a committee of three appointed by the Master, unless dispensation has been granted by the Grand Master to receive them without reference to a committee. The Master shall not delegate the appointment of such committees to any other person. Notices of appointment should show the names of each of the three members appointed. The members of the investigating committee shall be known only to the Master, the Secretary, and the other members of the committee. It shall be the duty of the committee to make strict examination into the standing, moral, mental, physical and other proper qualifications of the applicant. They are guilty of a serious neglect of duty if they report favorably on an application without reliable information as to all the matters on which the lodge requires advice. The committee shall report, orally in person in open lodge or in writing, at the stated meeting next held two weeks or more from the time of the appointment of the committee, unless further time is granted by the Master, or if the Grand Master by dispensation fixes a shorter period. No ballot can be taken on the petition until after the committee has reported. If any member of the committee refuses to act, to report or to recommend on a petition, the Master shall discharge the committee and appoint a new one which shall proceed as though originally appointed. If the report shows that an applicant is not qualified as provided for elsewhere in this Code (37010, 37020), no ballot shall be had but the Master shall declare the applicant rejected. [2000 Proc. 99-100 (R-2000-7)]

38010. Report of Investigating Committee

The reports of the investigating committee shall set forth in detail the facts ascertained respecting the applicant and the conclusion of the committee member. In the event that all three members are in agreement, a joint report signed by all three members may be given in lieu of separate reports.

38020. Investigation of Petitioners for Affiliation

Upon receipt of a petition for affiliation diligent inquiry shall be made to determine the worthiness of the petitioner. The scope and methods to be used in the investigation shall be determined by the Master. Upon completion of the investigation the petition shall be presented to the lodge for balloting during the next stated meeting.

u37010. Moral and Physical Qualifications

An applicant for the degrees of Masonry must be:

- A. A man who has attained the age of 18 years;
- B. A believer in a Supreme Being and a future existence;
- C. Of good moral conduct; and
- D. Without physical or mental impairment that would prevent him from learning and practicing the principles of Masonry or which would create a burden on the lodge.

The question as to the physical or mental acceptability of the applicant shall be left to the sound discretion of the lodge. The Master shall state the nature and extent of any such impairment upon receiving the application and before the ballot is taken.

[2000 Proc. 91-94 (GM Recom. 4)]

37020. Ineligibility for Degrees

A person who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been convicted of, a crime that is morally wrong in itself, is not eligible to apply for the degrees of Masonry unless, for the reason that he did not commit the offense, he either has been pardoned or had his judgment of conviction vacated. No person shall hold or be eligible for membership in any lodge who:

- A. Has advised, advocated, or taught, or who has been a member of, or affiliated with any group, society, association or organization that advises, advocates or teaches, or has advised, advocated or taught the overthrow, by force or violence or other unlawful means of the Government of the United States of America or of any state of the Union; or
- B. Holds a dimit from a lodge in a jurisdiction not recognized by this Grand Lodge unless he has terminated his membership in the unrecognized lodge.

Ahh the Haggis

Trinity Lodge 152 in Kalispell conducted its annual Robbie Burns Night on February 22nd. Yes...they really do eat the Haggis. On or around January 25, his believed birthday, the life and work of Scottish poet Robbie Burns is celebrated with a ritual of food, drink and poetry.

Robbie Burns night celebrates the life and works of the Scottish Poet Laureate, Robert Burns.

What an incredible night! Traditional Scottish fare features the parade and toast of the haggis, Scottish pipers, dance, a string band and readings of poetry. This was a beautifully orchestrated event, made more enjoyable by being with brothers, family and friends. This is truly a unique Masonic event that I hope you all choose to experience in the future.



Ford cont'd from page 1

High Twelve, while serving in the Nations highest office.

He was also a member of Saladin Shrine. He Joined Saladin Shrine Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. in 1959. He was a Member of Court No. 11, Royal Order of Jesters

In 2003 he was presented with Michigan's 50 Year Award by the GM of the GL of California MW Bro. M. William Holsinger.

President Ford said of Masonry, "When I took my obligation as a master mason—incidentally, with my three younger brothers—I recalled the value my own father attached to that order. But I had no idea that I would ever be added to the company of the Father of our Country and 12 other members of the order who also served as Presidents of the United States.

Masonic principles—internal, not external—and our order's vision of duty to country and acceptance of God as a Supreme Being and guiding light have sustained me during my years of Government service. Today especially, the guidelines by which I strive to become an upright man in Masonry give me great

personal strength.

Masonic precepts can help America retain our inspiring aspirations while adapting to a new age. It is apparent to me that the Supreme Architect has set out the duties each of us has to perform, and I have trusted in His will with the knowledge that my trust is well-founded.

...It was almost 200 years ago, in the darkest days of our war for independence, that George Washington answered a question that is sometimes asked today. The question is whether things are as bad as some say. George Washington answered, and I quote: "We should never despair. Our situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the times."

Let us today rededicate ourselves to new efforts—as Masons and as Americans. Let us demonstrate our confidence in our beloved Nation and a future that

will flow from the glory of the past. When I think of the things right about America, I think of this order with its sense of duty to country, its esteem for brotherhood and traditional values, its spiritual high principles, and its humble acceptance of God as the Supreme Being."

Brother and President Ford was unanimously elected an Active Member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay and its Honorary Grand Master, at its Annual Session held at Orlando, Florida, April 6-9, 1975; Brother Ford held this post until January 1977, at which time he became a Past Honorary Grand Master, receiving his Collar and Jewel on October 24, 1978 in Topeka, Kansas, from the Hon. Thomas C. Raum, Jr., Grand Master, Order of DeMolay.

President Ford died at age 93 on December 26, 2006. He will be missed by his friends, family and Brethren.

Conference of Grand Masters in North America



MWGM Thomas E. Valente and the other Grand Masters pose for this photo taken on February 19th in Portland, Oregon during the Conference of Grand Masters in North America.

Topics covered during the conference included: National Masonic Foundation for Children, Attracting Younger Masons, MSA TWAIN Report, Child Identification Program, Masonic Mentorship and Education, Committee on Information for Recognition, Public Awareness, Masonic Responsibilities and Officer Training, Youth Groups, and Long Range Planning Techniques.



New Potentate of Al Bedoo Shrine Center, Russ Stoddard (right) and MWGM Thomas Valente (left), taken at the installation in Billings on Jan 1, 2007.



New Potentate of Algeria Shrine Center Bradford Clark (right) with MWGM Thomas E. Valente (left) taken during the installation on Jan 6th in Helena.

Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America (or Where's Waldo?)

R.W. Bro. Reid Gardiner provided this photo of the Grand Secretaries in North America which includes the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and York-Mexico. The annual conference was held February 18-20 in Portland, Oregon.

Besides the obvious networking with other Grand Secretaries there were presentations and discussions on many topics of interest and possible solutions to common problems shared by all Grand Lodges. Topics included, Unrelated Business Income, Disaster Preparedness, Grand Representatives, One-Day Classes, Lodge Insurance coverage, Masonic Protocol, Long Term Planning, Delays in receiving certificates, Annual Proceedings, Masonic Formation, Suspensions for NPD, Standardizing Forms, and Working with Differing Personalities. The Grand Secretary will be providing some of the information back to the lodges for their edification.



Can you find your Grand Secretary in this line up? (Answer: Second row, third from right)

Masonic Last Rites Request Form

Dear Brother:

Many times we put off the difficult decision in our life feeling time has not yet come. Unfortunately this lack of action can result in leaving to others decisions we would much prefer to make for ourselves. In an effort to assure that your desires are adhered to, the following form has been designed as a service to help prepare each of us for that time we much approach that undiscovered country, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Completion of this form is not in any way required. This form is merely being provided for your convenience as an act of fraternal friendship and brotherly love from the members of your lodge. *(Check the appropriate boxes)*

To the members of _____ Lodge No. _____, membes of my immediate family, members of the clergy, and the proprietors of the funeral home, upon my death:

I would like to have:

- Masonic Funeral Services conducted at the funeral home.
- Masonic Funeral Services conducted at my place of worship – along with my religious memorial rites, if possible.
- Masonic Grace Side Service
- No Masonic Service

I would like to be remembered in my Masonic eulogy for having: _____

I would request the following Brothers to serve as pallbearers and honary pallbearers (if able and willing) at my funeral:

Pallbearers: _____ Honorary Pallbearers: _____

I would like my Masonic jewelry (rings, lapel pins, watch, etc.):

- Left on my person and buried with me.
- Left on my person during my last rites and then given to: _____
- Given to my Lodge for future presentation to: _____
- Given to my Lodge for future presentation to a worthy Brother of their choosing.

I would like to have my Masonic mementos (Past Master's Apron, books, literature, awards, etc.):

- Given to _____
- Given to my local Lodge to dispose of as they see fit.
- Donated to Grand Lodge

I would like to:

- Inform my local lodge that I have made a provision in my Will for its future benefit.
- Inform the Grand Lodge that I have made a provision in my Will for its future benefits.
- Inform my local Lodge that I have not made a provision in my Will for its future but would like to discuss the possibility with its officers.

I would like (Special requests): _____

I would like to have my Masonic April:

- Placed upon my person Draped upon my casket during the service Buried with my remains given to _____ after the funeral.

Your completion and submission of this form is strictly voluntary but it is intended to provide comfort and relief for your family and loved ones at a time when you will be unable to guide them. Should you decide to complete and return this form to your Lodge, please give careful thought to your responses and make a copy to keep with your personal records. You may also wish to give a copy to your local funeral director. This form will be kep on file at the Lodge and may be altered or revoked by you at any time.

Signature _____ Date _____

Masonic Puzzel Answer: CRAFTSMAN

Lost Brothers

The following Lodges have lost track of these members of their Lodge. If you know where any of these Brothers are or their U.S. Postal address PLEASE send it to the Grand Secretary and the Lodge Secretary.

Robert N. Baker	49	Edgar R. Fisher	90	John Moore	13
Ron E. Blake	93	Coury W. Foust	49	Lewis Moore	31
Peter R. Boettger	37	Bruno Friia	49	William B. Moore	34
Lorne M. Calvert	49	Harold W. Gemmell	85	John Robert Murray	32
Rodney C. Carlson	149	Charels A Girvin	37	Rex C. Myers	16
Thomas Richard Carter	42	Theodore Eugene Glasgow	149	Albert D. Olsen	22
Donald L. Christopherson	25	Robert Gwaltney	51	Daniel D. Schindler	1
James D. Cooper	29	Gaylord Hammill	155	Edward Schmidt	51
Stephen Wayne Dale	46	Archie W. Hayden	16	L. Dexter Shaurette	85
Wayne Lewis Dale	46	Ryan J. Hilliard	29	Dustin K. Smith	155
Barry A. Dechamps	13	Michael J. Holder	42	Jeffrey S. Smith	155
Bryan L. DeForrest	38	Jack L Howard	151	William Storbeck, Jr.	22
James V. Duffy	58	Horace E. Hudson, Sr.	5	Thomas H. Thompson	13
William R. Endy, Jr.	22	Michael D. Janeway	31	Paul D. Tinnes	84
Dale H. Erickson	143	Eugene L. Johnson	49	Michael James Welton	90
Kenith R. Featherly	16	Dean M. McGinnis	29	D. Norman Wilson, Jr.	128
				Roger W. Yaeger	42

Rainbow's "One By One" Program

Our Vision

The Masons of Montana will be recognized as a relevant and respected Fraternity, committed to attracting, developing and retaining all men of high quality who strive for self improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in their community, and in the lives of those around them.

Our Mission

Freemasonry in Montana strives to satisfy our members as we teach moral standards, and support a way of life that promotes fellowship, brotherhood, and self-improvement through excellence in leadership, education, family, charity, and community involvement.

The International Supreme Temple in McAlester, Oklahoma, is headquarters for the International Order of the Rainbow Girls. Built in 1951, the building is in need of a new heating and air conditioning system, a very costly project. The Rainbow Girls established a fund to raise money for this project. They are asking members of the Masonic Family to make a donation.

Our founder, Rev. W. Mark Sexson, became a 33rd degree Mason and served as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Oklahoma, Worthy Grand Patron Order of the Eastern Star of Oklahoma, Secretary of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Knight Commander of the Court of Honor as well as many other offices.

In 1908 he went to several European countries and to Assyria, Palestine and Egypt searching for Masonic information in preparation for his work as a contributor to Masonic literature. He spent practically all of his life in this field and as a result was honored by the Fraternity on many occasions.

However, his most rewarding work was writing the ritual for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

If every one affiliated with the Masonic Fraternity would help by contributing at least one dollar (\$1.00) to this project, the Rainbow Girls would realize their goal of helping to preserve their Rainbow heritage for

future members to enjoy. **One by one** this can be done.

Donations of five dollars (\$5.00) or more entitle you to receive a **"Working Together - A Masonic Family"** pin to wear to show your support of this project.



You may have seen members of Montana's Masonic Family already wearing this pin, as it has become very popular. If you'd like to join in this **"One by One"** program at any level, please send a check to Montana Grand Assembly, and mail it to Diane Sherick, 1133 19th Ave. SW, Great Falls, MT 59404. For donations of \$5 or more,

the pin will be mailed directly to you.

Thank you in advance for your support of Rainbow.

Diane Sherick, Supreme Deputy



Bronze Award to Bill Gamble

Masonic Tidbit

US Supreme Court

Thirty-six Supreme Court Justices have been Masons. Five of the court's Masonic Justices have served as Chief Justice of which three have also served as Grand Master of Masons in their respective jurisdictions. Some of the more notables are Oliver Ellsworth, William H. Taft, Robert H. Jackson, Fredrick M. Vinson, Earl Warren and Thurgood Marshall.



50 Year Members October, November & December, 2006

Thomas I. Birkeland	25	1/4/1957	Raymond C. Keibler	89	1/29/1957	Robert J Gray	13	3/5/1957
Rowland A Throssell	149	1/6/1957	Ronald L. Archer	80	2/2/1957	Howard Sell	89	3/11/1957
Kenneth H. Groves	113	1/7/1957	Lorne M. Calvert	49	2/6/1957	Edward G. Duncan	26	3/18/1957
Kenneth G. Kastella	64	1/8/1957	Donald R. Bradford	72	2/11/1957	Donald C. Bloom	44	3/18/1957
Mark E. Norman	80	1/16/1957	Michael T. Sass, Jr.	51	2/13/1957	Bernie A. Swift	38	3/19/1957
Wayne Orlin Roseth	34	1/19/1957	Carl O. Westermarck	143	2/14/1957	Herbert J. Bacon	61	3/19/1957
David R. McDonald	28	1/23/1957	Robert Bemis	110	2/16/1957	Charles F. Hunkins	149	3/20/1957
O. Bruce Thompson	102	1/24/1957	Raymond J. Felton	53	2/20/1957	Frederick F. Burnell	28	3/23/1957
Elmer L. Zoeteman	14	1/24/1957	Melvin G. Weary	2	2/21/1957	Harry A. Odden, Jr.	20	3/26/1957
Ned E. Embry	62	1/24/1957	Theodore R. Lyon	33	2/26/1957	George Henderson, Jr.	33	3/26/1957
Kenneth E. McAfee	7	1/24/1957	Lee M. Bullington	34	3/2/1957	Emmett Bock, Jr.	33	3/26/1957
						William H. Smith	22	3/28/1957

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Pondera Lodge #80 Sponsors Geography Bee

Pondera Lodge #80 of Conrad has sponsored the County-wide spelling bee for the last two years and plans to continue that activity. Since this has been met with great success and is appreciated by both the students and schools, this year, the Lodge decided to build on that success and promote and sponsor Geography Bees or Contests in the County Schools. This first year, two schools, Conrad and Valier, participated

in the contest, which is also sponsored in part by The National Geographic Society. The members of Pondera

Lodge are enthusiastic about this program because it is not only educational but involves the students, parents, teachers and is fun for all, not to mention promoting Masonry in a positive way.

S&F Brad Huffman, Sec



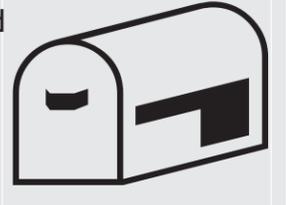
Above: Awards at Conrad. L to R; Everett Snortland, Past Master; Sam Carroll, 1st place and Maggie Springer, 2nd place and Karen Lee, teacher.



Left: Awards at Valier. L to R: Keegan Widhalm, 3rd place; Rick Kellogg, II Master Pondera #80; Pat Majerus, 2nd place; Brad Holden, 1st place

US Mail Addresses

Many of your members have probably been impacted by the "911" address change. Please make sure that you record their new addresses and that you send the address changes on to Grand Lodge. We are finding more and more that mailings are being returned because the mail piece does not have the new 911 address.



The Locatable Address Conversion System (LACS) service provides mailers an automated method of obtaining new addresses when a 911 emergency system has been implemented. 911 address conversions normally involve changing rural-style addresses to city-style addresses, but in some instances conversions may result in the renaming or renumbering of existing city style addresses.

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Submission Deadline for June, 2007
Montana Masonic News is May 15, 2007
 (see page 2 for details)



Celestial Lodge



My Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called, and one more Master Mason has not answered to his name, He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labours here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Strengthened in his labours hereby faith in God, and, confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above. Author unknown

John Clarke Gilpin	Gallatin 6	27 January 2007
Kenneth Baldwin	Bozeman 18	02 February 2007
Zales N. Ecton, Jr	Manhattan 59	03 November 2006
Lee W. Trickey	Ionic 38	
Bernie A. Swift	Ionic 38	
Harold P. Hammer	Hiram 52	21 December 2006
Roger B. Krebs	Augusta 54	22 January 2007
Leonard L. Rice	Three Forks 73	10 February 2007
Alton F. Ingraham	Mission Valley 73	05 January 2007
Ronald R. Archer	Pondera 80	20 January 2007
George A. Beyer	Bigfork 150	14 January 2007
Charles W. Heisey	Valley 21	07 February 2007
Wilber L. Anderson	Ekalaka 120	December 2006
George W. Yeager	Choteau 44	31 December 2006
Basil R. Fultz	Benton 25	23 January 2007
Bill Johnstone	Benton 25	02 January 2007
Gene A. Kelly	Benton 25	19 January 2007

The members listed below may or may not have been reported & are now listed for record

Chester L. Hartz	Choteau 44	08 August 2004
Almer L. Thorson	Livingston 32	20 September 2006
James Uhl	Livingston 32	04 April 2005
Rodney Boyer	Bozeman 18	13 June 2002
Edmond Burke	Bozeman 18	24 October 2003
Robert Kleinschmidt	Bozeman 18	10 May 2003
David K. Peterson	Choteau 44	13 June 2003
Archie H. Lucht	Bigfork 150	07 June 2006
Lew M. Fleege	Manhattan 59	05 November 2005
John H. Lake	Livingston 32	17 May 2003

If you are aware of a fellow brother who has passed away, please email the information to rgardner@ or complete this form and mail to:
Montana Grand Lodge PO Box 1158 Helena, MT 59604.

Deceased: _____
 Lodge: _____

Wearing the Apron

There is probably no Masonic emblem as humble in appearance and as rich in meaning as the apron, nor one that is so completely associated with Freemasonry. It spans the entire life of the member within the Craft, and represents those essential qualities required of the Mason. Traditionally, the lambskin or white leather apron is presented to the newly made Entered Apprentice and is laid with a Mason at his funeral. We are reminded that being a Mason is not a right to be demanded but rather the vocation of those who are "worthy and well qualified", because Freemasonry places ethical, moral, spiritual and even intellectual demands upon the Freemason, such as is demonstrated

by the symbolism of the apron. You have probably seen photos, movies, TV shows that depict Masons wearing their apron under their jackets or coats, and within some grand jurisdictions this is proper. However, within the Grand Jurisdiction of Montana the proper method of wearing the apron is: "The apron will be worn on the outside of clothing; not under the coat or jacket." This information should be imparted to each new member of the lodge and is contained within our written work and should be reinforced by the Lodge Instructor. In Section 3.21.21 of the Monitor in its discussion of uniformity states that "Aprons should always be worn on the outside of customary clothing."

Kyle Lodge No. 96

In the photo, the one on the left is Tyler Hillman our newest brother and the one on the right is Bud Hillman our oldest brother in Kyle Lodge.

Bud is the grandfather of Tyler Hillman who was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on the evening of March 6, 2007. Bud will become a 70 year mason and member of Kyle Lodge #96 this coming January 2008!



Prince Hall Lodge

On December 1, the Grand Lodge of Texas voted to recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas as regular. They voted 70% in favor to 30% opposed according to report. As with North Carolina's proposed resolution, the recognition does not include visitation.

Forty of the United States' 51 grand lodges have now recognized the Prince Hall organizations that share their territory. The most recent trend to normalize relations with our black counterparts began in 1989 with the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. North Carolina

and ten other states (South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida) are left at odds with the other three-quarters of the nation's Masonic bodies.



North Carolina has repeatedly voted on recognizing and have fallen just short on several occasions.

New Master Masons

On Saturday, March 10th at Ruby Lodge NO. 36 in Drummond our MWGM Tom Valente called to order a Special Communications of the Grand Lodge for the purpose of conducting a Grand Master Class. The lodge was packed with 57 Masons from many lodges for the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees. We wish to congratulate the eight new Master Masons: Paul K. Ogle (No. 78), Corey Badgley (No. 78), Scott M. Trochmann (No. 155), Jerry W. Hanson (No. 155), Dylan M.J. Foley (No. 155), Benjamin A. Stein (No. 43), Larry Cocoran (No. 24), Thomas C. Ewing (No. 13).



GM Class - Lewistown March 21st

Attire for GM Class the Candidates and all side-liners is Coat and Tie.

7:00		Temple open - Coffee, Donuts
7:15	7:45	Registration
7:45	8:15	Candidate and Mentor Orientations
8:15	8:30	Open Grand Lodge
8:30	9:10	EA Degree, 1st Section
9:10	9:25	Break
9:25	10:25	EA Degree, 2nd Section
10:25	11:05	FC Degree, 1st Section
11:05	12:05	FC Degree, 2nd Section
12:05	1:05	Lunch
1:05	1:50	MM Degree, 1st Section
1:50	2:10	Break and Pictures
2:10	4:20	MM Degree, 2nd Section & Lectures
4:20	4:45	Remarks & Close Grand Lodge

**William M. Grinnell, Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of Wyoming
April 14, 1941 - March 3, 2007**

Brother Bill joined the Great Architect of the Universe in that Celestial Lodge Above, his column is broken and his brethren mourn.



Fraternal Mother Award Program

Send your nominations for the Fraternal Mother of the Year program to:

**Pat Donehoo, Chairman
Fraternal Mother Program
3300 Graf St Unit 19
Bozeman, MT 59715-7173**

Trivia Answer:

One, Wasatch Lodge No. 8 at Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory on October 7, 1867. United in forming the Grand Lodge F&AM of Utah on January 16, 1872 now known as Wasatch Lodge No. 1.

Attention Snow Birds

If you are one of those who go south (or elsewhere) for the winter, you will need to make arrangements to have your copy of the Montana Masonic News forwarded to you from the Post Office or by a friend. The Montana Masonic News mail list is too extensive to keep changing addresses back and forth. You will be allowed only one US Mail address.

Moved?

Let us know your new address:

Name: _____

Old

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

NEW

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Calendar of Events

March 2007

Mar 3	Sat	GL Idaho Degree exemplification	Portneuff NO. 18, Pocatello	Mar 17	Sat	Fraternal Mother of the Year Nominations due to Committee Chairman
Mar 10	Sat	GM Class—Drummond (FC & MM)		Mar 25	Sun	GM visit to Livingston
Mar 10	Sat	York Rite Chapter Degrees, Missoula		Mar 27	Tue	GM Visit Fort Harrison VA Hospital
Mar 14	Wed	Legislative Night – Helena		Mar 28	Wed	Morning Star 5 PM Night
Mar 15	Thu	Grand Lodge New Mexico; Grand Lodge Japan		Mar 31	Sat	Grand Lodge Officers Meeting —Wolf Point

April 2007

Apr 2	Mon	Candidate Registration for GM Class of 14 April due		Apr 17	Tues	GM Visit to Hiram 52
Apr 5	Thu	Maundy Thursday		Apr 21	Sat	GM Class—Lewistown (EA,FC,MM)
Apr 6	Fri	Good Friday		Apr 26	Thu	GM/GS Visit to Libby 85
Apr 8	Sun	Easter		Apr 28	Sat	International Night @ Creston BC & Bonners Ferry, ID
Apr 14	Sat	York Rite Council Degrees - Hamilton		Apr 30	Mon	Candidate Registration for GM Class of 19 May due to be held in Forsyth
Apr 16	Mon	GM Visit to Valley 21				

May 2007

May 12	Sat	York Rite Commandery Orders -Missoula		May 28	Mon	Memorial Day
May 13	Sun	Mothers Day		May 31	Thu	Montana Grand York Rite @ Miles City
May 19	Sat	GM Class @ Forsyth 7:30 am (FC & MM Only)		May 31	Thu	Grand Lodge of Arizona

Celebrate 100 Years With the Masonic Home of Montana

It may still be winter outside, but turn your thoughts to the **100 Year Celebration of the Masonic Home of Montana**. The 2007 event will be Saturday, July 28th on the Masonic Home campus, 2010 Masonic Home Road in Helena.

This will be a day for Masons, their family and friends to gather for fun, food and fellowship with the 23 residents and their families.

As always, the day will include:

- Musical entertainment
- Food and treats
- Crafts and a flea market
- Special exhibits
- Kids games and treats

Home Day visitors can enjoy a variety of musical entertainment while eating or relaxing. One of the highlights of Home Day will be a Shrine Parade, featuring a variety of floats, cars and marchers that wind their way through Masonic Home campus.

- A booth sponsored by the Grand Lodge Officers' wives will sell special Christmas ornaments to support the Masonic Home.
- Masonic Home campus tours

While here, discover the heritage and reputation of The Masonic Home of Montana which has served the fraternity for 100 years.

Many lodges send a delegation to Helena for Home Day. The Helena area Lodges, Helena Valley Scottish Rite and local York Rite has assisted in the annual Home Day Picnic for many years. Organize your lodge and visit the Masonic Home this year.

As an added incentive make plans to attend the Mullan Pass Historic Lodge annual meeting at Mullan Pass on the morning of the 23 July.

For information on how you can be involved in **100 Year Celebration of the Masonic Home of Montana**, call Phil Blaisdell, President of the Masonic Home Board of Trustees at (406) 756-2203.

On Yonder Book

The following poem is presented with the uncertainty as to the origin and author or actual title. A review has shown possible titles of "On Yonder Book; Candle Light Charge; and the Canadian Charge" it has also been listed as having an unknown author and as being authored by M.W. Benjamin L. Hadley, PGM-Maine. Whatever the source it is well worth the time to read and contemplate it.

On Yonder Book Charge

In Mason's Lodge, with darkened eyes
With cable tow about you,
You swore to keep all mysteries,
That Masons keep, and Masons prize,
All brothers' secrets whispered low,
All words they speak, all things they do,
In mystic manner taught you.
On yonder Book that Oath you took,
And you should break it? Never!
But stand by this __, and this __, and this,
Forever and forever

You swore to answer and obey,
The summons sent you duly,
By brothers' hand or Lodge array,
You swore that you would never stray,
From Ancient laws and rules that bound,
Freemasons in days renowned,
But would observe them truly.
On yonder Book that Oath you took,
And you should break it? Never!
But stand by this __, and this __, and this,
Forever and forever

You swore with generous gifts, to care
For those in sorrow stricken,
The brother on the darkened square,
The mourner with disheveled hair,
The orphan doomed, alas, to stray,
Upon a rough and rugged way,
Whose tears gush forth unhidden.
On yonder Book that Oath you took,
And you should break it? Never!
But stand by this __, and this __, and this,
Forever and forever

You swore with honesty to deal,
With each true heart around you,
That Honor bright should ever be,
Unbroken bonds 'twixt him and you,
Nor wrong, nor guile, nor cruel fraud,
Should ever break the holy cord,
With which that vow hath bound you.
On yonder Book that Oath you took,
And you should break it? Never!
But stand by this __, and this __, and this,
Forever and forever

You swore the chastity to keep,
Of woman true and tender,
Of Masons' widow, wife or child,
His mother, sister, undefiled —
Those pure and innocent, whose love
Make Masons' home like that above;
You are the sworn defender.
On yonder Book that Oath you took,
And you should break it? Never!
But stand by this __, and this __, and this,
Forever and forever

These are our Vows, Brethren, our care,
And may such light be given,
In answer to your earnest prayer,
That we may ever do and dare,
All that God's gracious Laws enjoin,
So that when evening shades decline,
We may be found in Heaven.
For on yonder Book, that Oath we took,
And will we break them? Never:
On yonder Book that Oath you took,
And you should break it? Never!
But stand by this __, and this __, and this,
Forever and forever