

FROM THE GRAND EAST

Brethren,

Thanksgiving allowed each of us to contemplate the many blessings that we have to be thankful for. And now we are looking forward to the Holiday Season with expectations of celebration with family and friends and I am pleased to wish each Mason in Montana the warmest of "Holiday Greetings" and a most successful "New Year".

As in past years we each have New Year Resolutions and as your Grand Master I am no exception. In the last six months my social life as well as my business life has revolved around Masonry in Montana. My family has been very supportive and my business partners have stood up to the plate to assist me with a win-win attitude. It helps that our management team is all Masonic and the trust one for the other is based upon Masonic principles.

My New Years resolution to serve Masonry for the balance of this year I am sure is similar to those of our Past Grand Masters. I am committed to several programs that I feel will benefit our Craft and invite each of you to contribute your strengths toward their success.

Lodges in Montana have enjoyed the Master Builder Program in past years and I invite each lodge to participate. The lodges that participate will enjoy

If only 10% of us were to bring in one new member each year our losses would subside.

community involvement, friendship dinners and Masonic leadership training.

Completion of the revision of the Mnemonics and Monitor is an attainable goal and I ask each lodge that is invited to assist the Committee on Work in its review process to lend their expertise in forming the final product.

Your Grand Lodge Officers and its Education Committee is active in providing you with short education scripts for each of your meetings.

Education is a key component of improving ourselves and our lodges and allows us to communicate the values of Freemasonry to our members and non members alike.

By Code, our St's John Day Observances should be celebrated in January. I am committed to joining a number of lodges for a tiled table lodge during this month and I know that I'll enjoy each of them.

Our instructor certification program is still a priority for 2010 and I encourage those masons who are instructors or may become instructors to complete the requirements. Your lodge deserves

the best that masonry has to offer and certification is an important step to assure that your members are getting the most from the lessons of the first three degrees.

The degree work has improved in Montana over the period of the last 3 years and I encourage each degree team and lodge officer to continue training for improved degree performance. Many of you have the qualifications to become a Master Ritualist. I look forward to recognizing each of you who are worthy of the lofty accomplishment.

Brethren, the exposure that Masonry has received from recent movies and books has placed us in the forefront of many young men looking for the traditional values that we have to offer. There appears to be a resurgence of new candidates petitioning the degrees of Masonry. If only 10% of us were to bring in one new

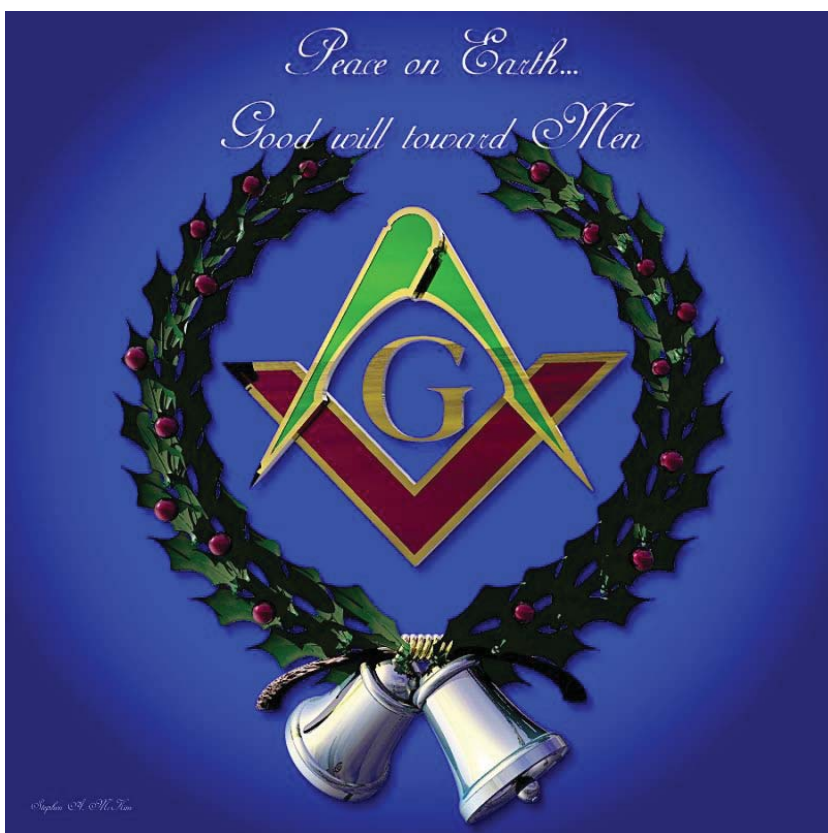
member each year, our losses would subside. Make a commitment to show the pride that each of us have in Masonry by encouraging men of all ages to consider "self improvement" as an important part of their life by joining Masonry.

And as I conclude this Holiday message, I ask each of you to consider a prayer in which you ask for the gift of strength and wisdom to give support to your family; a prayer that allows you the gift to serve Masonry contributing whatever strengths that you possess, and a gift of prayer for the men and women in our Military asking for their safety and well being.

Fraternally,



Thomas L. Lund, Grand Master



Merry Christmas

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM

While on a summer road trip to Alaska, we had occasion to visit a small, out of the way village on the Kenai Peninsula. In the local museum sat three gentlemen, drinking coffee and making conversation.

One recognized me as a Freemason, so it followed that he and I should visit as Masons. I shall call him Mr. X.

Mr. X proceeded to inform me that Masons meet "on the level" and that he had sat at a Masonic dinner with President Dwight D. Eisenhower who sat across the table from him. Harry Truman was sitting adjacent. Members were seated alphabetically and his last name began with a 'T' as did Brother Truman's, thus the sitting arrangement. Mr. X told me he was a member of a mid western Missouri Lodge. He also mentioned his other Masonic attributes, which were many. He then informed me that all U.S. Presidents up to John F. Kennedy were Masons, not all Master Masons, but Masons none the less.

His authoritative statement seemed questionable. Although Mr. X was a Master Mason so far as I could tell, I thought it best to refrain from discussing our fraternity's attributes further. We were pleased to visit with one another, and I took my leave.

Research suggests that his statement of "fact" simply is not the case. Historical records do not corroborate his information that all U.S. Presidents up to JFK were Masons. Again the world of 'erroneous misinformation' raises it's head to provide infinite knowledge of falsehood and present same as factual information. Newspapers are full of it.

It is known that fifteen Presidents were Masons. President Lyndon B. Johnson took the first degree, but

did not advance. There remains some question as to whether Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were Masons. There is strong evidence that they were, but no definitive proof. That would make seventeen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Abraham Lincoln were not Freemasons, but both exhibited the virtues to which all Masons should subscribe.

The point derived from this experience is that things aren't always as they seem. Mr. X did not intend to be untrustworthy and was sincere, but certainly misinformed. Perhaps his ego was 'stretched'.

Although proper inquiry might be made, as Masons we must continue to learn to subdue our passions (and ego) and improve ourselves in Masonry. As a consequence we become more vigilant discerning between that which is true from that which is not. We are reminded that learning is continual and that history is written by winners, not the losers.

The human ego is frail. Mr. X was a Brother, or a very well versed cowan. Regardless, we need to guard ourselves from misinformation and should it become necessary, be ready to retire to the veil of secrecy.

Such is Masonry. If we look, it teaches us subtleties of daily living that no other institution provides. In all cases, however, diligent search of one's self must be made to subdue passion. It does not happen on it's own. In part, that's what we come here to do.

John N. Love, Grand Historian

I AM FREEMASONRY

Ray V. Denslow, WPGM, Grand Lodge of Missouri

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God.

I have been tried through the ages, and found true. The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands.

I strive for beauty and for symmetry.

In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask.

Upon my altars is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God, my sons work and pray together, without rank or discord,

in the public mart and in the inner chamber.

By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death and the relationship of man with God and of man with man.

My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report

who seek me of their own free will.

I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men,

and thereafter, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain.

I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick.

I hark to the orphans' cry, the widows tears, the pain of the old and destitute.

I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbor and themselves.

They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger.

At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life.

I ponder the sands within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal universe. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life.

I am Freemasonry.

The End but actually, just the beginning.

Montana Masonic News General Information and Submissions

The Montana Masonic News is an official publication of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana and the Montana Masonic Foundation Corporation. Unless otherwise noted, articles appearing in this publication express only the private opinion or assertions of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Grand Lodge. The jurisdiction speaks only through the Grand Master and the Executive Board, when attested to as official, in writing, by the Grand Secretary.

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.

While we often state when articles are due for the next issue, in order to insure there is space available for your article please submit it well before the due date. We don't send out reminders or solicitations for articles.

Articles are subject to editing and, when published, become the property of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana. No compensation is allowed for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted for publication. Permission to reprint articles will be granted upon written request; to the Editor from recognized Masonic Publications and others. When reprinted the articles should note: "Reprinted with permission of the Montana Masonic News." Please direct all correspondence and changes of address to:

Editor: Montana Masonic News

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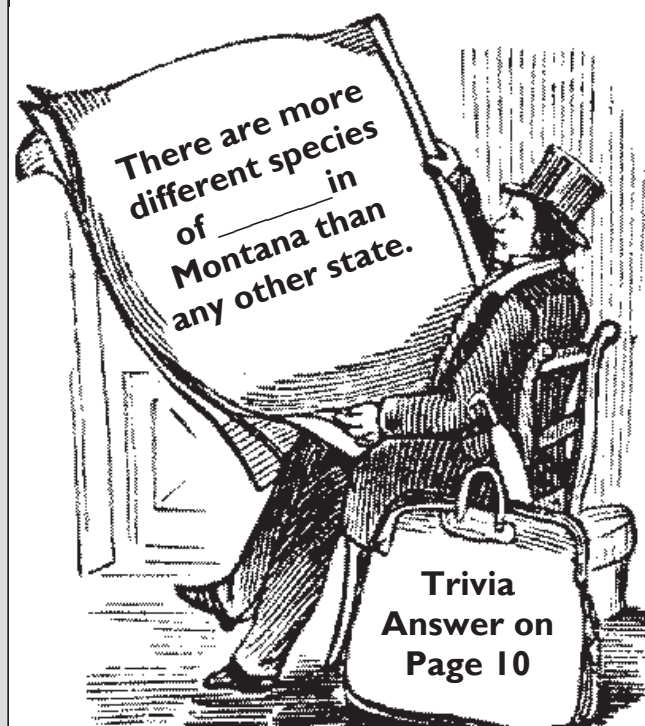
Please provide full given name, Lodge or affiliation and US Mailing address.

Article and Photo submissions:

Articles: pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off.)

Photo: Black and White or color; preferably accompanied by a computer disk with photo image in .jpg, .bmp, or .tif. Include who took the photo, when and where. Include a note with permission to print the photo.

Sponsors: Anyone interested in sponsoring in the paper will need to contact the Editor.



AN EXAMPLE TO EMULATE

One of the most solemn and impressive rituals that I have ever witnessed is the one performed twenty four hours each day, seven days each week, by the Honor Guard of the Third U.S. Army Infantry Regiment at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery. The ritual is very precise, symbolic, and meaningful. The web page¹ of the Honor Guard describes it this way:

“The sentinel crosses a 63-foot rubber surfaced walkway in exactly 21 steps. He then faces the Tomb for 21 seconds, turns again, and pauses an additional 21 seconds before retracing his steps. The “21” is symbolic of the highest salute accorded to dignitaries in military and state ceremonies. As a gesture against intrusion on his post, the sentinel always bears his weapon away from the Tomb. Only under exceptional circumstances may the guard speak or alter his silent, measured tour of duty. He will issue a warning if anyone attempts to enter the restricted area around the Tomb, but will first halt and bring his rifle to port arms.”

Our Masonic ritual can be and should be equally perfect and impressive. Like the steps and pauses of the sentinel at the Tomb, every movement and gesture we make is intended to convey or symbolize some important Masonic lesson or principle. As we open and close our Lodge, or confer a degree, every phrase we speak contains valuable and symbolic instructions for the erection of our inner temple. Each of our roles in the ritual should be performed with the

same practiced precision as the Tomb’s sentinel, so that any observer, whether candidate, visitor to the Lodge, or regular member, is impressed by the lessons being conveyed.

Poorly delivered ritual detracts from the beauty of the ceremony, just as the Tomb’s sentinel would detract from the solemnity of his guard mission by dropping



his rifle, something that has never happened. A monotone delivery, devoid of any emotion, will cause the listeners’ minds to wander, and during a long lecture, may even put the sideliners to sleep. A halting, hesitant delivery, requiring

frequent prompting, can destroy the continuity of the lesson being conveyed, and leave the candidate thinking, “What is he trying to tell me?” Even a seemingly letter-perfect delivery, one that is parroted because the lecturer does not understand the lesson contained

in the ritual words, can convey the wrong meaning. A misplaced word here, a pause where there is no comma, or no pause where there is a comma, can completely change the meaning of a sentence.

The authors of our ritual have included many symbolic instructions and moral lessons in our ceremonies, using beautiful and eloquent prose. It is our duty to deliver this ritual to our new members and candidates as pure and unblemished as we can. Only then will they get the full meanings of our symbols and lessons. Only then will the new candidate be impressed to a point where he is hungry to receive and learn much more from Masonry.

How do we achieve this standard? We should emulate the Honor Guard. We achieve the high standard in our ritual delivery the same way that the Honor Guard achieves its standard of excellence in its ritual. We must first study the work, then understand the lessons the work conveys, and finally, practice, practice, practice, and practice some more! We will then be prepared to assist our Lodge in its primary mission of making Masons. The more ritual parts we learn, the more valuable we will be to our Lodge.

And you will discover something else. Each time you do a part of the ritual, you yourself will learn a hidden lesson that you had not discovered before.

The Ritualist Program provides an avenue to achieve excellence in our ritual. More information and the application for the Ritualist Program can be found at the Grand Lodge Website www.grandlodgemontana.org

1. <http://www.army.mil/info/organization/unitsandcommands/commandstructure/theoldguard/specpl/tomb.htm>

Thomas E. Valente, Jr., (6, 18), PGM

Masonic Secrecy

“Freemasonry, I admit, has its secrets. It has secrets peculiar to itself, but of what do these principally consist? They consist of signs and tokens which serve as testimonials of character and qualifications, which are conferred after due instruction and examination.

These are of no small value. They speak a universal language and are a passport to the support and attention of the world. They cannot be lost so long as memory retains its power. Let the possessor of them be expatriated, shipwrecked or imprisoned; let him be stripped of everything he has in the world, still their credentials remain, and are available for use as circumstances require.

The good effects which they have produced are established by the incontestable facts of history. They have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer; they have subdued the rancor of malevolence and broken down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian alienation.

On the battlefield, in the solitudes of the uncultivated forest or in the busy haunts of the crowded city, they have made men, of the most hostile feelings and the most diversified conditions, rush to the aid of each other with special joy and satisfaction that they have been able to afford relief to a Brother Mason.”

- Worshipful Brother Benjamin Franklin, 1778

THE ART OF FREEMASONRY

Evolution takes place under the alternation of forces which require a constant adjustment between seemingly competing, but, in actuality complimentary forces – the material and the spiritual. In any age when materialism is pushed to excess, there is a tendency toward a revival of spiritualism.

For quite a number of decades our society has been strongly influenced by demoralizing and disintegrating influences. Ideas, which otherwise would not be tolerated, find support in the atmosphere of discontent.

The art of Freemasonry embodies morality and teaches us to obey the law and serve our fellow man, not from fear of the penalties provided for breaking the law, but because we are committed to maintain those standards of conduct by which civilization is possible.

We, as individual members of the Craft, must defend the principles of morality taught by our Craft and upon which our country was founded, and distrust any attempt to substitute expediency for principle.

By precept and example, reason and sanity of thought, and holding fast to fundamentals we can show the world a timeless model. A model both of morality and of spiritualism. A model called Freemasonry, which is as glorious now as it has been for centuries.

Jack R. Levitt, (6, 18) PGM-CA

THE SPIRIT OF MASONRY AND CHRISTMAS

The spirits of Christmas and Masonry have marched hand and hand through the ages.

Regardless of which religious faith or creed any of us may profess, we cannot help but be moved by the message of Christmas. It is a season that voices humanity's longing for peace on earth. As Brothers of the Mystic Tie, we know that wherever the hope of love and compassion is lifted in the hearts of men, then the spirit of Freemasonry is there to sustain and strengthen them.

The Prince of Peace voiced humanity's longing for peace, and Masonry strives to make this possible among men of good will. The spirit of Christmas and the spirit of Masonry have marched hand and hand through the ages. Century after century, the spirit of universal brotherhood has emblazoned the spirit of Christmas upon its every banner, has carried it to the farthest corners of the earth, and spread it in both mansion and shack, palace and hut. And today, wherever Yuletide trees brighten homes and corners, where bright lights burn to give cheer to the lonely and tired, where glad voices sing songs of great joy, where the laughter of children and happy smiles of our grandparents round out the hours—there you will read the story of the spirit of Christmas and the spirit of Masonry.

Of course, in Masonry, it matters little the belief system from whence we come, so long as we have faith in a Higher Influence capable of moving us to love one another. It is this beautiful universal principle of religion

that permits us to shake hands and meet on the square with good men of all faiths in essentially every country in the world.

The devout Israelite heeds our signs and lives in accordance with the sacred teachings of Freemasonry. The Christian knows he is a better man because he is a Freemason. The Hindu recognizes the universal language of the Craft and, speaking a different language, believing in an entirely different system of religion, and familiar with different laws, rises from a shrine in an Eastern pagoda to clasp hands with a Brother from the far West.

The Moslem, turning his face toward Mecca in prayer or crossing over the desert sands, remembers the sacred obligations he has assumed as a Mason and performs to a Brother from a distant land the kindest acts of humanity.

The pure and moral principles of our beloved Fraternity inculcate charity to all mankind—a Brotherhood

without boundaries, a faith without sectarianism, a patriotism without party, a unity of hearts, universal, embracing a worldwide community of men.

Can we not see the message of Christmas here?

Robert G. Davis, PM, 33°



FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTMAS

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns. On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial. They've been saying it for years—it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon A Charlie Brown Christmas which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.

Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our

Masonic ceremonies. The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do

unto you." In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount.

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the

principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator." Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular

connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft—faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmas-time.

*Just A Mason
Vancouver, BC Canada*

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft—faith, hope and charity.

MONTANA MASONIC HALL OF FAME

In past years, several nominated, deserving Brothers have not been inducted into the Montana Masonic Hall of Fame due to minimal participation by their Lodge.

To be successful in placing a Brother, either living or deceased, into this esteemed honor, must indeed be a Lodge effort and requires considerable participation by the members of that Lodge to obtain sufficient numbers of worthy accolades from many sources other than just members of that Lodge.

These might include but not restricted to: Family, Activities, non-Masonic Friends, Masonic Appending Bodies, Business Associates, Religious Affiliations, Clubs & Fraternal Organizations, Local Officials, etc. Each nomination must be typewritten and not to exceed 400 words.

And (very important), this must all be done without the knowledge of the nominated Brother, and **(also extremely important)**, be received by the Grand Historian; c/o Grand Lodge; PO Box 1158; Helena MT 59624-1158, along with the nominating form, completed with the Lodge Seal, and supporting documents, no later than **April 1st**.

For explicit details, refer to Section 10030 of the Code of Statutes.

The Montana Masonic Hall of Fame Board may induct only three nominees. However, they are not required to induct any. They will diligently screen any and all nominations.

Although not specifically referred to in the Code, but perhaps should be, it has been an informal practice of previous Hall of Fame Boards to not consider a living PGM or Grand Lodge Officer for the Hall of Fame as their high honors have already been established by being included in the Grand Line.

So, Brothers, if you plan on nominating one or more of your Lodge Brothers, seriously make the effort required to see that nomination through. And, although not required, try to insure that your living nominated Brother, while remaining uninformed of his nomination, is present at the next Grand Lodge Communication.

Nomination forms and instructions may be obtained by visiting; <http://www.grandlodgemontana.org/> - Request: [Form33 Hall of Fame.doc](#)

Montana Masonic Hall of Fame Board
2009/2010 Chairman: Larry Hale, PM
larry@hale.net

MASONIC INSURANCE PROGRAM OPTIONS

Many Lodges have inquired about the insurance needs for lodges. We are very much aware that insurance is a major cost for many Lodges, especially those with a lodge building and that the cost of insurance has increased dramatically over the last couple of years. We have on going research on coverage, providers and types of policies. One that holds interest and is being used by other jurisdictions is a Master Policy concept. It is being used by the Grand Lodge of Maine, Washington and others. As more information becomes available we will let you know.

For assistance or questions please contact our Insurance Committee: Peter DeWit (13), Chairman at 2805 Tivoli Way, Missoula 59802, 406 728-5836 or Bill Price (37) at 32 Sir Arthur Dr, Bozeman 59718 (406) 587-5111.

The following information is provided by Payne Financial Group who is a possible source of insurance for Lodges. Please note that this does not mean that they are the only company nor does it mean that the Grand Lodge is advising you to seek policies and recommendations only them. However, there are only a very few companies that provide actual policies for fraternal organizations.

Payne Financial Group, Inc. is pleased to announce that we have partnered with Philadelphia Insurance Company to deliver a wide range of coverage's to the Masonic community. Philadelphia Insurance Company is an A+ (Superior) rated company. Philadelphia specializes in property, liability, directors and officers and employment practices liability for nonprofit associations. This program offers coverage custom-tailored to the unique needs of Masonic organizations in addition to competitive premiums.

Eligible organizations and facilities include:

- Shrine Temples
- Grand Lodges
- Blue Lodges
- Scottish Rite
- York Rite
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Job's Daughters
- Demolay
- Other Masonic Affiliates

Coverages include:

- Property
- Inland Marine
- Crime
- Directors & Officers Liability
- Liability
- Auto
- Umbrella Liability
- Special events and other items, customized as needed

If you would like to contact Payne Financial Group with questions or concerns, please feel free to contact: Sherry Brophy, Account Executive/Program Specialist, sbrophy@pfgworld.com, 877-455-6767

If there's help needed for a degree in your neighborhood
Who you gonna call?

THE YORK RITE SOVEREIGN COLLEGE OF NORTH AMERICA

Freemasonry, just as in the case of King Solomon's Temple, is made up many stones or parts all fitting into one solid edifice or in the case of modern Freemasonry, one solid institution with each part contributing to the strength of structure. These parts are made up of the Grand Lodges with their constituent lodges, the Rites -- York and Scottish, along with many other varied organizations. One of those parts, or what is generally referred to as an appendant body, is the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

The avowed purpose of Freemasonry is to "make good men better." This purpose is accomplished primarily through the craft lodge degrees along with those of the Rites. The York Rite has a long history of advancing the quality of Masonic education. The importance of the need for Masonic Education is, "it is incumbent upon any society or association and particularly Freemasonry to make available the basic information a member would normally require to first, understand the organization, and second to be aware of his responsibilities and opportunities in the functioning of the craft." The Sovereign York Rite College of North America was created to give York Rite Masons the working tools required to carry out their educational obligation and to provide the information each freemason needs to be an informed and functioning member of the craft.

The mission of the Sovereign College is to be of service to the York Rite of Freemasonry, which includes all the craft lodges and the three bodies of

the York Rite – The Royal Arch, Cryptic Masons, and Knights Templar.

In conformity with the mission, and to assist and to improve the conferral of the York Rite work, each college creates a system by which a College carries out the purposes of the Sovereign College. In the case of Big Sky College the Secretary Charles Tesch maintains a list of all the ritual parts and lectures each of the college members are proficient in. It is from this



list Big Sky College is able to assist the work of the York Rite Bodies in improving their use of the ritual and conferral of degrees. For example, if a lodge needs someone to present the staircase lecture either the Master, Secretary or Instructor can contact the secretary or the Governor to request assistance in conferring the Fellow Craft Degree.

The College will provide the name of and the contact information for a member of the College close to the location of the lodge who is proficient in the stair case lecture. If he is available he will assist the lodge in conferring the degree. More than one name is usually provided to avoid scheduling conflicts. This assistance is gladly provided without any expense to the lodge.

For more information or to contact the Big Sky College please contact: Charles Tesch (44, 58) at e-mail charlest@bresnan.net and phone number is 406-454-1244

R. Bruce McGinnis (5), PGHP

TRUE TRAVELER FROM THE EAST



*GM Lund visits
Lafayette Lodge*



Butte area Lodges host Thanksgiving Gathering

Butte Lodge No. 22 along with Deer Lodge No. 14, Mystic Tie/Riverside No. 17, Acacia No. 33, Monitor Lodge No. 35, Mount Moriah No. 24, and Boulder Basin Lodge No. 41 celebrated Thanksgiving with a joint dinner on November 19th. In attendance were 126 along with distinguished guests; Most Worshipful Grand Master for the state of Montana, Most Worshipful Thomas L. Lund and his wife Betty, Past Grand Master for the state of Montana David L. Nielsen and his wife Judy. It was very pleasurable renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. Hopefully this will become a tradition to be carried out through the coming years.



TRUE TRAVELER FROM THE EAST



GM Lund pays a visit to Fort Harrison



Merry Christmas



RECORDS ONLINE FOR LODGE SECRETARIES (ROLLS)

COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

ROLLS is easy to use and locating the correct entry section is a snap. That it is tailor made to our needs means our membership data reporting is accurate and relevant.

In that the web interface is intuitive I've not needed much support but it has always been there when requested.

Thank you for implementing this tool for our lodges.

Bill Murphy, PM, Secretary
Ashlar Lodge #29, Billings, MT

ROLLS is a great asset and I have been generally pleased with system and support from Bro. Andrew. I have had problems with the Dues Management and Payment Management sections of the system.

Ronald D. Burnett, Secretary
Unity Lodge # 71, Roundup, MT

I am thoroughly enjoying the use of ROLLS, if I have any problems the solution is only a phone call away. I like the fact that everything is at my fingertips and easy to access. I sent out all of my dues notices and it was the easiest year ever.

It should be easy to do my yearend report, as all of the work has been done. Thanks.

Willard Hjartarson, Secretary
Cut Bank No. 82, Cut Bank, MT

A simple comment on ROLLS: "Well done good and faithful Brothers enter thou into cyber space." As the rookie Secretary of Lavina-Temple Lodge No. 101 and a computer "dummy" thank you for all your assistance - "Roll on."

Brother Francis Rose
Lavina-Temple #101, Lavina, MT

Getting everything set up originally has been somewhat time consuming, however, I have enjoyed the challenge and do think that it is a very worthwhile system. Having all the members information at my fingertips in one place has it's advantages. The dues set-up on ROLLS is quite handy.

Mel Hamilton, Secretary
Three Forks Lodge No. 73, Three Forks, MT

I think that ROLLS is going to work for us ---.

Billy Millhollin, PGM, Secretary
Hiram No. 52, Forsyth, MT

I really like the ROLLS program and am trying to learn how to use it.

Glenn Nielsen, Secretary
Euclid #58, Great Falls, MT

I believe ROLLS was a good decision by the Craft, Our WM this year was able to easily pull a list of brothers birthdays and has begun to give well wishes in lodge for those brother who have birthdays close to the meeting.

As for myself as Secretary of the Lodge, I find the program useful and informative, Sure there are still some data issues to be corrected, but that is to be expected with a transition to a computerized system. I especially like that fact that we can enter and update new candidates as they progress through the degrees.

Wor Jerry Knox, Secretary
Missoula Lodge 13, Missoula, MT

As far as the ROLLS go, I am very impressed with it so far. To date, I have compared my List with the Grand Lodge Membership List, and now both Lists match. That should probably be the first step with everybody.

Putting in the information to print the Monthly Invoices was not terribly hard, but I did need to make several Calls to the Grand Secretary to get it set up. Once it got set up, the Dues Notices printed off in about 30 Seconds. The Grand Secretary was very helpful to get this process done.

I have had a couple of updates to make to the ROLLS system, one being reporting the Death of a Brother, And that was very simple to do.



I think overall that the ROLLS program is easy to use and you mostly just need to play around with it to Become familiar with it.

If you are not a computer "wizard", it may take a little more time to become familiar with it, but overall It will be an asset for the Secretaries.

Bro Reid Thank you again for all of your help, it is nice that we can call you up. Thanks again!!

Jim Noe, Secretary
Star In The West No. 40, Red Lodge, MT

The ROLLS program is very easy to use. We have always done everything by hand, so this was a new experience for us. This year we used the online ROLLS program to generate our dues mailing and will use it to manage incoming dues payments, membership history and print a membership survey. As we started to use the program we called for support several times, each time we called we were given courteous and knowledgeable help. We will no doubt have to call for support again, as we learn the program, but so far we are very happy with it.

Craig Averett, Secretary
Lower Yellowstone No. 90 Sidney, MT

ROLLS program has been great so far. I'm looking forward to using it more.

Clifford Brophy, Secretary
Stillwater #62, Columbus, MT

ROLLS a great improvement--I like it.

Ken Wolf, Secretary
Shelby # 143, Shelby, MT

ROLLS is much simpler than keeping books with the old ledger system. It's easier because you can correct a written error with the BACKSPACE or DELETE keys. You can print forms etc. while working inside the program. Multitasking is a way-of-life today. Setting up the job parameters takes the most time and ROLLS helps a great deal in that area. But once setup is correct and complete your job is (almost) finished.

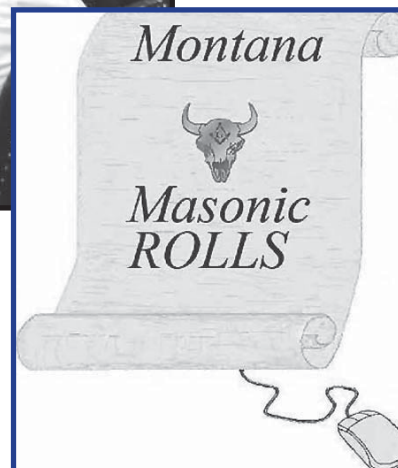
Yes ROLLS is new and thus has some "bugs" that we have to work out. ROLLS can be like anything else - the more you use it the more efficient you get with it.

The most time consuming part of working with computers for office book-keeping is setting up the job before you begin. It takes patience and is time consuming. You can't get around that no matter how you try. And after the preliminaries are setup you are more than halfway to the goal of doing the whole job. A bit of patience, a positive attitude and everything comes out as it is supposed to - nothing new.

Joseph P. Heyde, Secretary
Cascade No.34, Great Falls, MT

I really like ROLLS!

Chuck Racicot, Secretary
Libby #85, Libby, MT



I find this new Data Base Program to be Outstanding. I have noticed a great improvement in time savings when it comes to updating records, sending out dues notices and tracking them when they start coming in. It takes a little time reading the instructions and understanding them but Grand Lodge (Worshipful Brother Reid and Brother Andrew) have been very helpful in answering

questions and making the learning process a positive experience. The more I use the program the more I learn. I believe this is money well spent.

Terry E.Davis, Secretary
Butte Lodge No. 22, Butte, MT

Montana ROLLS Polo Shirts

Polo Shirts will be available for order with the ROLLS Logo for the Montana version logo.

You can also have your name and/or Lodge added. Right now we believe the cost will be \$22.00.

The shirts will be available in a variety of colors as well. If you are interested contact the Grand Lodge Office.

THE RITE CORNER

Too many Masons are not familiar with Scottish Rite, its benefits and philanthropy.

Scottish Rite, as it is commonly called, is actually "The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry." Montana along with 35 other states comprise the Southern Jurisdiction. Scottish Rite Masons learn that there is more to Masonry than three degrees. One way Scottish Rite offers Master Masons continuing education is through its 4° through 32°. These "high degrees" are almost as old as Freemasonry and expand upon and elaborate the teachings of the first three degrees.

Scottish Rite is the proud sponsor of the RiteCare Childhood Language Programs, which provide services in remedying communication disorders in children. Montana has three RiteCare Clinics that provided services to more than 400 Montana children in 2008. Unfortunately we have waiting lists of many more who need the speech and language therapy.

The Supreme Council for Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, held its Biennial Session this October and approved the awarding of the 33° to eighteen deserving brothers and the Knights Commander Court of Honour on twenty-one distinguished members. The brothers from the Orient of Montana that were honored are:

Honorary Inspector Generals, 33°

William Alexander, Philip Blaisdell, Fred Curtis, Ron Fritz, Lynn Gross, Joseph Heyde, Donald Herndon, Jack Humphrey, William Langford, Gordon Lockwood, David MacInnes, Charles McLane, Daye-Llyn Randle, William Rogers, Paul Peterson, William Spurzem, Thomas Vivian and Jack Waterfield.

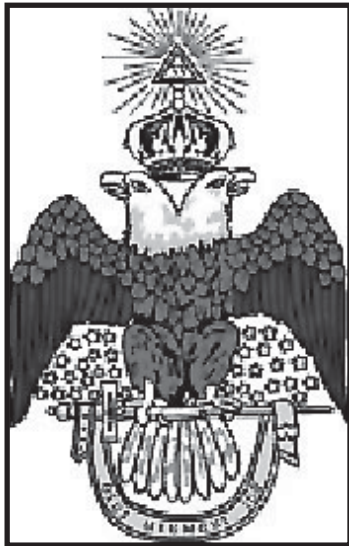
Knights Commander Court of Honour

William C. Austin, John O. Baber, William P. Ballie, Mark Bassett, Edward L. Burdette, Steven P. Chord, Justin J. Davis, Thomas M. Duffy, James D. Flesher, Blake D. Gardiner, Douglas N. Hallesy, Robert M. Hames, Stephen F. Hanser, N. Jay Klawon, Larry L. Love, David W. Michael, Roy F.

Nelson, William E. Rubich, Everett M. Snortland, Sandon Stinnett, and James L Woodward.

Congratulations to these brothers for their exemplary service to Masonry, humanity and their community. What Scottish Rite is can best be summed up in its Creed:

Human progress is our cause,
liberty of thought our supreme wish,
freedom of conscience our mission,
and the guarantee of equal rights to all people
everywhere our ultimate goal.



Any Master Mason interested in joining the ranks of Scottish Rite may contact the closest Valley.

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A&A Scottish Rite
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Western MT Scottish Rite, 1-406-543-7883,
126 E. Broadway, Suite #9, Missoula, MT 59801
David L. Nielsen, Deputy in Montana

Trivia
Answer:

Mammals

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.

SWINE INFLUENZA AND YOU ...OR... I GOT THE SWINE (FLU SEASON, H1NI VIRUS & YOU)

As Masons active in our Lodges and our appendant organizations such as Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine and OES we need to be especially careful during this flu season. If you are sick, don't go to a meeting and expose everyone else, they can get through a meeting or two without you. Sure we want everyone to attend meetings and activities but.. we want everyone to be healthy. Please take the time to read this article and if you have any questions please contact your Health Care Provider.

It's officially "Flu" season. Usually, this means that only the seasonal influenza is upon us. However, this year we, are facing an additional flu crisis. The H1NI influenza A virus, initially called Swine Flu, is infecting people nationwide.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) studies show that people typically affected worst by the H1NI virus are those younger than 25 years old. But deaths

are being reported in people older than 64 (the average age of a Montana Mason is 66), one reason being that about one-third of adults older than 60 may have the antibodies against the virus. However, it is not known whether the antibody provides complete protection from the virus. If a person is pregnant, has diabetes, asthma, heart disease, suppressed immune system, neuromuscular or kidney disease they are at "high risk" for experiencing complications related to the H1NI virus, and should seek medical attention when symptoms arise.

All influenza viruses infect the upper respiratory tract to some degree, Symptoms of the H1NI virus include: cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, fever, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. There have been reports of vomiting and diarrhea associated with exposure to the virus, and in some cases even death.

Since H1NI is a virus, the precautions we take to

avoid contracting it are essentially the same as any other virus. This means washing our hands or using alcohol-based hand rubs, covering our mouths when we cough or sneeze, avoiding close contact with sick people, and staying home if you are sick.

The CDC recommends that when sick with any virus, you stay home, except to get medical care, for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone to avoid spreading it. Influenza can remain alive for 2 to 8 hours after being deposited on any surface. If you are infected it is possible to spread seasonal flu and H1NI virus anywhere from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after.

Germs/viruses spread by a person touching something contaminated, not washing their hands, and then touching their own eyes, nose, or mouth. So keep your hands away from your face, and keep things clean!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: MSA HOSPITAL VISITATION PROGRAM

Since the formation of the MSA Hospital Visitation Program following WW II, Masons have been at the forefront in caring for those who served. MSA, through the Hospital Visitation Program supported by all Grand Lodges has been a leader in providing that essential human touch to tens of thousands of veterans.

Volunteers are needed to participate with the MSA Hospital Visitation Program here in Montana. There is an urgent need at the following locations: Fort Harrison Veterans Medical Center in Helena; Miles City Medical Center in Miles City and the Columbia Falls Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. If you have what it takes and can provide a few hours a week or month please contact the State MSA Hospital Field Representative, Bill Connor at 406 227-7649.



50 YEAR MEMBERS DECEMBER 2009

Please note that recent deaths and dimitts from membership may not be reflected



in this listing. Any brother with a question about his membership status should contact his lodge secretary.

Martin E. Mutch
Havre No. 55 12/10/09

George Arnold
Friendship No. 37 12/12/09

Joseph D. Brookshier
Golden Eagle No. 66 12/28/09

Creath A. Tooley
Rimrock No. 149 12/29/09

Richard A. Correll
Circle No. 136 12/20/09

NEW CRAFTSMAN WELCOMED TO THE QUARRIES

Sean M. McCormick Gallatin No. 6 10/30/2009	Orman L. Puckett Euclid No. 58 11/17/2009
Christopher W. Channell Lavina Temple No. 101 10/14/2009	James M. Porter Euclid No. 58 11/17/2009
Roderick D. Brewer Ionic No. 38 11/17/2009	Steven E. Sprague Scobey No. 109 11/16/2009

What Masons Do for Christmas

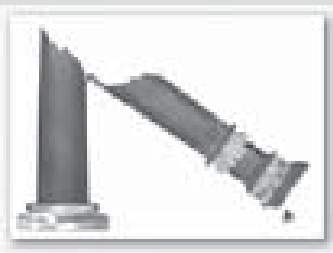
By: Kevin Noel Olson, (22) PM

A friend and I strode the Stroll December,
 "What do Masons do for Christmas?"
 We saw a child walking with his feet in braces.
 "That child for instance, we help such cases."
 My friend nodded and prodded me forward.
 "In Shrine hospitals? Is there much more?"
 "Our York Rite Eye Foundation helps many to see,
 And our Scottish Rite gives to many, speech."
 My friend sipped his steaming chocolate, "Is that all?" he chided.

"What of it?" "Is that all?" Was it not enough?
 "Oh, we do all kinds of other...stuff."
 We walked past the Christmas tree.
 "What do the Masons do for community?"
 "Scholarships for college we gift,
 To give young students a lift."
 "You wonder," my friend to me turned,
 "Why I ask what makes your heart burn?"
 "What is it that Masons for you do,
 That gives such pride to such as you?"
 I look up at the Christmas lights,
 Each one ever burning bright.
 "What do Masons do you ponder?"

"For myself, I can but wonder."
 "We do these things," I meekly mumbled.
 "They make me proud, yet I am humbled."
 "You see the lights upon the tree?
 They alone offer no beauty."
 "Each represents a boy who walks,
 A man who sees, a girl who talks.
 A student makes himself better.
 Even becomes a man of letters."
 "All together, Masons do great work.
 We learn our duty to man, not to shirk.
 Those lights are people like me and you,
 That is what the Masons do."
 "We improve ourselves and thus the world,
 When we stand together a light's unfurled.
 Not just this season but daily too,
 On Christmas this is what Masons do."

**Submission Deadline for
March 2010
Montana Masonic News
is PRIOR to
February 15, 2010
(see page 2 for details)**



CELESTIAL LODGE

December 2009



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

William R. Crichton	Deer Lodge No. 14	9/19/2009	Wayne T. Snyder	Three Forks No. 73	10/24/2009	Archie J. Emry	Euclid No. 58	11/17/2009
Robert L. Brown	Ashlar No. 29	9/10/2009	Edwin A. Falkenstern	Terry No. 74	10/06/2009	Hugh H. Wilson	Musselshell No. 69 & Lavia	
Loyal M. Johnson	Acacia No. 33	9/23/2009	Gerald W. Leighton	Mission Valley No. 78	10/28/2009		Temple No. 101	11/06/2009
George M. Schwenneker	Stillwater No. 62		Jack Young	Lavina Temple No. 101	10/31/2009	Lee E. Roberts	Unity No. 71	11/05/2009
		9/30/2009	Mons L. Teigen	Jerusalem No. 115	10/24/2009	Harold J. Kicker	Shelby No. 143	11/13/2009
Carl O. Westermarck	Shelby No. 143	9/09/2009	Raymond K. Boe	Helena No. 3	11/08/2009			
A. Douglas Ferris, Sr.	Helena No. 3	10/16/2009	Wayne Ward	Missoula No. 13	11/04/2009			
Richard A. Morris	Gallatin No. 6	10/17/2009	Lester G. Lay	Star In The West No. 40	11/05/2009			
Gerald I. Erickson	Gallatin No. 6	10/28/2009	John "Jack" Fohn	Ottawa No. 51	11/02/2009			
Andrew W. Kidd	Acacia No. 33	10/28/2009						
Rodney M. Hanneman	Ionic No. 38	10/10/2009						
Bernard W. Alt	Kalispell No. 42	10/30/2009						
Omer A. Nelson	Chinook No. 50	10/22/2009						
Dan F. Stansbury	Euclid No. 58	10/03/2009						
William H. Langford, Jr.	Stillwater No. 62	10/06/2009						
Ewing M. Micken	Belgrade No. 68	10/11/2009						
Emil R. Zimmerman, Jr.	Unity No. 71 & Captain Scott							
	No. 98	10/24/2009						

If you are aware of a fellow brother who has passed away, please email the information to rgardiner@grandlodgemontana.org or complete this form and mail to:
Montana Grand Lodge PO Box 1158 Helena, MT 59624.
Deceased: _____
Lodge: _____

Thank You MMN Sponsors

We'd like to "Thank" our sponsors for their continued support of the Montana Masonic News. If you would like to help sponsor the MMN please contact Reid Gardiner at mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org or call the Grand Lodge.

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Calendar of Events

December 2009

Dec 10	Helena SR Annual Mtg & Installation	Dec 12	Billings Commandry
Dec 12	Ponemah 63 Christmas Party - Senior Citizen Building 205 West Meany St, Plains	Dec 13	Chanters Concert - Billings

January 2009

January 2010	Sts John Observance Month	Jan 12	Sts John Observance Whitefish 64
Jan 1	New Years Day	Jan 18	MLK Day
Jan 1	Al Bedoo Installation & Potentates Ball	Jan 21-23	Grand Lodge of Colorado
Jan 8 -9	Algeria Installation & Potentates Ball	Jan 28-30	Grand Lodge of Utah

February 2009

Feb 19-21	Winter PNSA - Portland	Feb 25	Resolutions Due to Grand Lodge
Feb 21-24	Conference of Grand Masters & Grand Secretaries		

March 2009

March	Annual Returns Due prior to 15 March	Mar 11	GM visitation Billings area lodges
Mar 5 -6	Al Bedoo Ceremonial	Mar 14-15	Grand Lodge of New Mexico
Mar 11	Helena SR Remembrance & Renewal	Mar 31	Hall of Fame nominations

LODGE NUMBER ONE, THE NORTH POLE

'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the lodge
not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge.

Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West
You could savor the silence, most gladly divest

All metal and mineral, it mattered not,
Since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot.

In the hearth of your homeplace, all Masons abed,
As visions of trestleboards danced in their head;

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter
Our Tiler jumped up to see what was the matter!

He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,
Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered 'What for?'

He answered the knocking with raps of his own,
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan

Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red
Except for one notable feature instead!

Upon his large finger he wore what we knew
Was compasses and square on a background of blue!

'Why Santa!' he shouted and lowered his blade,
'I see you're a Mason!' the Tiler relayed.

He looked tow'rd the Master's most dignified chair
And said, voice near trembling, 'Most Worshipful Sir

There's a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!
The Master replied, 'Let's allow him - but wait!

You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be

Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?

'I do beg your pardon,' ol' Santa said quick
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick

But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!

Adorned like the Master's, complete with a sign
Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one line!

"Now let this man enter," the Master declared,
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,

For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen
For many a century - there in between

The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar
Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone line a dollar!

"It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess
"Are actually images brought from the West

By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled

An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,
"My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast

On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,

As presents and promises flew from his sack!
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack

For making this Christmas the best you could glean,
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they'd seen

On this very night only happiness reigned!
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained

That only a Mason could be so inclined
To make all kids happy, make all people find

A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

- author unknown.