

FROM THE GRAND EAST

Brothers,

First of all I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving! Next I hope you have a very merry Christmas! Finally I hope you have a great New Year the whole year through.

Might I suggest that we look at our lives and be thankful for all that we have. I think we are extremely fortunate to be able to celebrate these joyous occasions with our family and friends. As Americans we are truly blessed with all the freedoms we have. We enjoy this lifestyle only because of all the Men and Women that make up our National Defense. These brave soldiers that are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and fellow Americans. It's easy to see when we pass by a national cemetery that freedom has never been free.

It seems to me that when the "Holiday Season" begins in November that most Americans have forgot to incorporate the most important day of remembrance. Election Day is not to what I am referring. Veterans Day is when citizens need to show just how grateful we are for all the sacrifices the American soldiers have made for us. Without their sacrifices our freedoms and liberties would be limited.

Never forget we do have the freedom to choose our religion, choose our leaders, choose our employment, and choose our fraternity. As Americans we can travel

freely and are blessed with freedom of thought. These are luxuries that are not enjoyed in much of the world.

This feeling of patriotism has always been a part of our great fraternity. In the beginning of the American Revolution, Freemasons from different Lodges served within the Sons of Liberty. This act of rebellion was a movement toward American independence. Freemasonry was in harmony with the ideals of the new republic. Our fraternity's principles were incorporated into the early American culture and symbols started appearing on public buildings and furniture. General



George Washington knew that Masonry and patriotism should be synonymous. He made that point clear by having our U.S. Capitol's Masonic cornerstone dedication done with President Washington wearing his Masonic regalia.

Conner and Dee Patton were volunteering that day and the way those two Masons light up a room with their presence was truly heartwarming. I was so proud of those two for all they do for the Veterans in need. Their unselfish and helpful actions really made a difference in the lives of those people they helped.

So as the Holiday Season rains down upon us let's not forget the reason we celebrate Christmas and the promises of a New Year, but please remember those brave souls that made it all possible for us to enjoy. Next year just maybe our celebrating can begin a little earlier on the 11 day of November, Veterans Day.

Fraternity

John J. Mangan, Grand Master

George Washington knew that Masonry and patriotism should be synonymous. He made that point clear by having our U.S. Capitol's Masonic cornerstone dedication done with President Washington wearing his Masonic regalia.

Last month when I was in Helena we visited the Masonic Service Association at Ft. Harrison. Brothers Bill



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH MASONRY?

What are we going to do with Masonry?

I have been pondering a potential comparison to the now often heard question of "what are we going to do with Masonry?" I, like many of you am just a rough ashlar that spends my days working in the Masonic quarries. As such, I have come to realize over these many years the repetitive nature of all things that we do.

This made me think about a little known psychologist in the early 1900's by the name of Karl Duncker. Duncker was one of the early psychologists that performed experiments that dealt with problem solving. Of course, many of you might ask, what does problem solving have to do with Masonry? We don't have any problems; at least we wouldn't if people would just do things the way we use to do them. Back when our halls were full; when brothers fought to get in line for the chairs (and that wasn't dinner chairs); you know, back when, well...when all was well.

Well let me tell you a little more about Mr. Duncker's experiments, and then maybe you can let me know what you think. Mr. Duncker use to set a table in the middle of a room and place a wide assortment of seemingly unrelated objects on the table. He would then call in a

group of volunteers (subjects) and ask them to perform some task utilizing the objects set before them; none of which on the surface appeared appropriate. His goal was to see if the subjects could determine other possible uses for the objects and under what conditions.

In the first experiment, the subjects were asked to mount three small candles on the wall at eye level. Duncker had placed on the table; tacks, paper clips, paper, string, candles, and three small boxes. After pondering the situation all of the subjects realized that they could attach the boxes to the wall and use them as platforms for the candles.

In the second experiment, utilizing the same materials and instruction, Duncker filled the three boxes with the other items that had previously been placed separately on the table. This time very few of the subjects were able to solve the problem. This time the subjects viewed the boxes as serving a specific purpose, simply because they were holding the other items. Therefore, the subjects had a hard time seeing another use for the boxes.

Duncker coined this impediment to problem solving "functional fixedness." This happens when someone

that is expected to solve a problem sees the object as having only one specific function (sometimes due to repetitive exposure of a singular use and with a repetitive singular understanding) and it becomes much more difficult for the subject to see any other use or function for the object. Duncker considered this a very important discovery (not quite as valuable as discovering the lost word; however, maybe close in our situation). Duncker explains that this is why, in many situations, the most knowledgeable people in any subject are the least likely to deduce a good solution to a new problem in their field of expertise. In a similar fashion, education can create expertise but also functional fixedness. The experts see their tools in terms of functions that they know they serve. He suggests that neophytes may, while coming up with uninformed and even absurd suggestions, see them more creatively. In addition, he suggests that it is no accident that most scientists generally make their most original and important contributions early in their career before suffering, "functional fixedness."

So, is Masonry suffering from functional fixedness? Here are your three boxes, now tell us "what You are going to do with Our Masonry."

W. Brother Ronald D. Martin, 2nd Vice President – The Philalethes Society (Reprinted from the SoCal Research Lodge publication)

A DESCRIPTION OF FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry has been defined in many ways. Most of the definitions are accurate, but insufficient. Many of those seeking to enter our portals today are looking for and expecting more than simple moral principles. To be able to explain Freemasonry to them as fully as possible is important.

The following from the pen of Manly P. Hall could be copied and presented to them. It is: "The sanctum sanctorum of Freemasonry is ornamented with the Gnostic jewels of a thousand ages; its rituals ring with the divinely inspired word of seers and sages. A hundred religions have brought their gifts of wisdom to

its altar; arts and sciences unnumbered have contributed to its symbolism. Freemasonry is a worldwide university, teaching the liberal arts and sciences of the soul to all who will hearken to its words. Its chairs are seats of learning and its pillars uphold an arch of universal education. Its trestleboards are inscribed with the eternal verities of all ages and upon those who comprehend its sacred depths has dawned the realization that within the Freemasonic Mysteries lie hidden the longlost arcane sought by all peoples since the genesis of human reason."

Jack R. Levitt PGM(CA) #6 & 18

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 email 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.

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Reid Gardiner, Editor

Montana Masonic News

PO Box 1158, Helena, Montana 59624

or email to mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org

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

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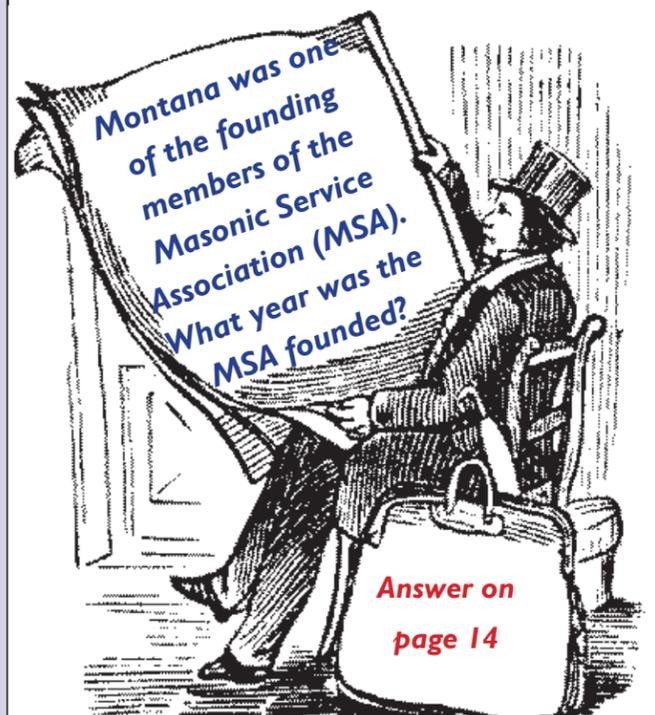
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Our Vision

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 selfimprovement through excellence in leadership, education, family, charity, and community involvement.



ALWAYS FAITHFUL AND ON THE LEVEL MARINE AND MASON

There are many correlations between the values and standards held by the Marine Corps and the Masons. I served in the Marine Corps for twentytwo years; I have now been a Mason for approximately nine years. My transition into Masonry was made smoother due to these correlations.

The Brotherhood of Marines has held strong for 235 years .This Brotherhood is kept strong by qualified recruiting, intensive training, and a strong tradition. A tradition that is bigger than the individual. The process of recruiting and training has changed as the culture of our nations changes, but the traditions remain unchanged.

Marines are held to the highest standards, ethically and morally. Marines are taught the values of honor, courage and commitment. Marines are taught to respect others and act responsibly. The Marine Corps motto Semper Fidelis is Latin for always faithful, always faithful to God, country and family. Always faithful to the Corps a bond that lasts a lifetime. These are the standard on which I have built my life.

Masons are also held to the highest standards, ethically and morally. Masons are also taught respect and responsibility to God, family, country, community and self. Masons take good men and make them better. Masons are also steeped in tradition and a share a bond of brotherhood which spans centuries. These are the standards which allow me to continue to grow, become a better man and continue to serve others.

The traditions, training and the petition process of becoming a Mason have kept Masonry strong for thousands of years. Yes pressures have changed how candidates are qualified but in the end, the respective duty of all Mason is to continue the craft in a manner that gives credit to our traditions. I feel the Masons I have served beside are indeed men of value. They have that honor, commitment to selfimprovement and the willingness to give of themselves. They willingly share their time, lend their wisdom and knowledge and know the true value is in giving.

If you were to attend an event at your local community center or church, you might have the

opportunity to meet one hundred new people. As you get to know these people you would certainly find some very good people, but you would also meet a large percent who do not have the same levels of honor, commitment to self improvement and service to mankind that we as Masons clearly have and believe in. I have found not all but a large percentage of the Marines I have met have the same values that we as Masons hold true.

Mason or Marine the correlations are there, both are steeped in traditions that span years. Both are held higher standards of ethics and morals and both serve God, family and country. Most importantly both seek to take good men and make them better men. This is why I am proud to call myself a Marine and a Mason.

Semper Fi

Leslie C. Kelly
Grand Sword Bearer
Master Sergeant, USMCR (ret)

SAPPHIRA DRUMMERS

September and October were exceptionally busy and fun times for the Sapphira Drummers. Having met and worked with Supreme Queen Sue Layman for several years when she was a Patrol Captain of Isis Patrol, Supreme Director of Patrols, and then elected Supreme Princess Badoura, we were especially eager for her Supreme Visit to our Sapphira Temple No. 79 in late September, 2010.

We went to Butte for the Supreme Visit with Tirzah Temple No. 3. What beautiful fall weather Montana provided for that day! Supreme Queen Sue accompanied us back to Helena for her official visit with Sapphira Temple No. 79 on September 29, 2010.

Supreme Queen Sue chose teal and white as her official colors for her Installation and had invited the Sapphira Drummers to participate in

the Supreme Session and her Installation. Pictured from left to right are Shirley Allen, Brenda Wiles, SQ Sue Layman, Sarah Herold and Nancy Fuller (Director)

After a day of relaxation, Supreme Queen Sue, the Drummers and several officers went to Calgary, Alberta for the Official Visit with Sakkara Temple No. 115 and the Celebration of Performances. That's where the problems started. Bass drummer Shirley Allen was very ill and Tom drummer Brenda Wiles was unable to go because of work. That left two drummers..... both Nancy Fuller and Sarah Herold play Snare drums. What to do? The picture below give clues to the solution. Nancy Fuller, SQ Sue Layman, Sarah Herold we certainly wish we had pictures of the surprised faces as it dawned on people who the third drummer was! Priceless. It had been kept an absolute secret.

Although an accomplished musician who played the cello and the piano at the Supreme Session, SQ Sue had not attempted our drum cadence although she had heard it for years. What an amazing lady she is! With a

few hours of practice and wearing Shirley's uniform, SQ Sue and the Sapphira Drummers were able to drum in the festivities opening the Celebration of Performances led by our own Queen Carol Huston carrying the Sapphira Temple's new traveling banner.

In addition to the entrance SQ Sue continued playing the Tom drum as the Sapphira Drummers accompanied

Al Amira Temple Patrol of Edmonton, Alberta for their drill performance.

Thanks Supreme Queen Sue for making Calgary's Celebration of Performances a celebration of the Nile Love you show for getting in there and making things

work out. A great performance, a terrific musician and a delightful lady!



DISCOVER THE NEW PHILAETHES

Today's Freemasons are acutely curious about the meaning of the Craft in their lives. They want to understand more deeply the profound lessons of the ritual. Greater insight into the nature of Masonic initiation requires a search for knowledge, and Philaethes is ready to be a trusted ally on that quest. Our approach is academically responsible, without being dry ... traditional, without stifling creativity and new ideas.

Established in 1928, the Philaethes Society is the oldest independent Masonic research society in North America, serving thousands of members around the world. With a new, contemporary design, the Philaethes magazine features thoughtprovoking, substantial articles on Masonic symbolism, philosophy, ritual, artwork, literature and history.

If you are looking for more light in masonry, if you are looking for source material or something to share within your Lodge, if you are looking for a solid foundation of Masonic

information this is for you. Take a look and enjoy the Philaethes magazine and online forum.

Whether you're a new Mason or a seasoned Past Master, you will

find much to enjoy in every issue of Philaethes! https://secure.freemasonry.org/join_subscribe.php



*Have a Safe and
Happy Holiday Season*

TEN STIMULATING IDEAS FOR YOUR LODGE (OR NOT)

In my home Lodge of Gallatin #6, we brag that we've never had a "repeat Master". While some of our founding members may have served backto back terms in the late 1800s, over the past 100 years or so, Gallatin Lodge #6 professes to not having to 'recycle' a Past Master. And we have dated photographs on our wall to prove it. Isn't that special? Not always.

Last year, Bozeman Lodge #18 was quite fortunate to have a particular 'recycled' Master W. Bro. Mark St John, who decided that he would endeavor to "light a fire" under his Lodge members with a myriad of ideas and activities he wished he had implemented during his first term as Master some ten years before.

Brothers, the following is a list (in no particular order) of some of the **SUCCESSFUL** programs W Bro Mark St John (with the assistance and participation of area members) set in motion during his term. We hope these ideas will inspire you and your Lodge to do the same. Any Lodge is capable of most of them. Your Lodge may already be utilizing some of them. We offer them here as examples of fun, forwardthinking, outsidethebox, we'vegotnothingtolose, extracurricular activities that will stimulate membership by generating interest within and without your Lodge.

1. **Saturday Morning Coffee Club** This is a no-brainer.

Occasionally, we'll cook up a big breakfast. Someone might bring a slab of bacon or homemade Moose Sausage. Most often it's just good strong coffee, sticky rolls and titillating conversation. Prospects and candidates are especially welcomed. Interestingly, we often see Brothers at Coffee Club who seldom attend Lodge meetings. These early morning conferences are the breeding ground for many Lodgerelated activities and provide a convenient forum for ad hoc committees.

2. **Diners' Night Out** Every 3rd Saturday of the month is established as our Diners' Night Out. Reservations are made at a local dining establishment where we meet to eat (Dutch Treat). We have our favorite places, but try to gather at a different restaurant each month. When the weather is accommodating we might travel to a neighboring town. This occasion is an excellent opportunity for wives and significant others to get acquainted as well as creating a casual, friendly environment for new members and their families.

3. **Building Enhancement** Bozeman Lodge #18 recently installed a 60" (yes, SIXTY INCH!) highdefinition projection TV, with cable, highspeed internet, Blue Ray DVD, etc... It's like going to a movie theater! From Masonic Education Presentations to Monday Night Football to marathon video game tournaments, this infusion of modern technology has brought young and old together in ways we could not have imagined. We're planning a chilicookoff during the CatGriz football game with the youth groups as impartial judges. How fun is that! Limited on money? Obtaining an entertainment system can make for a great fundraising activity.

4. **Public Open House** These days many Lodges are celebrating landmark anniversaries and birthdays. Why not make it a community event? Invite the local newspaper to do a story on the history and influence of Freemasonry in that community. Invite dignitaries,

such as the mayor, town council, school board members, clergy, etc.. as guests to celebrate your Lodge's big day. Dust off those photos. Open your doors. We have nothing to hide and nothing to lose.

5. **Public Lecture Forum** This is a **MARVELOUS** idea and relates somewhat to #4 in that it invites the public into your Lodge facility, many for the first time ever. This idea will intrigue and attract members and nonmembers alike on an intellectual level.

Step 1. Visit Humanities Montana's website at www.humanitiesmontana.org

Step 2. Choose an appropriate speaker from their Speaker's Bureau. There are hundreds to choose from in a wide variety of categories, such as: Native Peoples, Montana & Western History, The Arts and Literature, Living History, to name but a few. (*note: Last year, Brother Mark choose Gary Forney, a historian from Ennis who is an expert on the mysterious murder of John Bozeman. Forney, dressed in period costume, assumed the role of Montana Territorial Attorney Moses Veale. The audience served as a members of the Grand Jury considering an indictment against Tom Cover for the murder of Bozeman. As you can imagine the lecture was well received and very well attended.)

Step 3. Apply for a Humanities Montana Grant. Grants are most often given to nonprofits, service organizations, education and community groups. (*note: A stipulation to receiving a grant might be that admission to the lecture consist of a can of food donated to the local food bank.)

Step 4. Set the time and place and ADVERTISE. Place ads in your local newspaper, send PSA (public service announcement) information to the local radio stations, utilize social media such as Facebook and Twitter, canvas the town with posters, invite all interested to attend.

Step 5. Provide appropriate venue. Spruce up your Lodge if the lecture is being held there. Brother Mark had wine and cheese set out for the reception afterward. The total cost of this event was less than \$100 and it brought in over 100 spectators, several of whom asked for more information about Freemasonry! Any Lodge can implement this idea. This program, and those like it, promotes Freemasonry as the intelligent, contemplative organization we declare it to be. If you pursue only one of these ideas, choose this one. It's a doozy.

6. **Past Masters Club** Past Worshipful Masters are some of our most valuable assets in that they possess experience, knowledge, and status. A Past Masters Club might consist of PMs who meet regularly outside of the stated meetings to exchange phone numbers and contact information relative to Lodge members who might be in need of "kind counseling" or a "helping hand". Their purpose is to reach out to Lodge members in a display of genuine brotherly love. Calling a Brother who might be having difficulties, taking him to lunch, inviting him and his family to dinner these gestures go a long way to strengthen the bonds of Fraternal Brotherhood.

7. **Shooting Club** Area members who are interested in refining their sharpshooting skills reserve a time at the local shooting range. Invite the gals too!

8. **Christmas Caroling** Last Holiday Season, dozens of Lodge Brothers and their families planned an unforgettable evening of Christmas Caroling. We mapped out a route that included as many housebound Brothers, Widows and friends as possible. Several members of our youth groups joined us and handed out platters of homemade cookies to each unsuspecting recipient. Just imagine the JOY that is shared when we take time to bring a little happiness to others. This year we're planning at least two outings.

9. **Lodge Newsletter** Communication is a key ingredient in any organization. It has been observed that those Lodges who publish and distribute a monthly newsletter to its members are the most active and healthy. Please don't forget to ask a Brother's widow if she desires to continue to receive updates of your Lodges activities. You'll discover that many do.

10. **Visit Neighboring Lodges** Traveling with your charter to a neighboring Lodge for a joint meeting benefits both participants. Plan a dinner and a program for the occasion. The Rocky Mountain District recently held a Rusty Trowel Night with a scrumptious dinner followed by an evening of instruction on basic Lodge protocols. As many as 9 different area Lodges were represented by over 80 members, most of whom hadn't attended a Lodge meeting in years. That magnanimous affair was truly of benefit to all!

While we realize that most of these ideas are not new, and many of them, and more like them, are published in the Trestleboard which was distributed to each Lodge years ago, we hope that your Lodge will be inspired to nurture it's own existence by taking ACTION in whatever ways it can.

W. Bro. Brian J. Murphy



JOB'S DAUGHTERS NEWS

September 25 will forever be remembered as a special day for Montana Job's Daughters and the dozens of people who traveled to Helena Montana to witness and participate in the Reinstitution of Bethel No. 5. The girls who chose to become members of the Order, and the parents who committed to assist, did not realize what a big deal it was. They just wanted to bring back a positive, quality girls organization to their community. Leslee and Lauren Haylett, recent transplants to Helena from Boise, just plain missed Jobies and weren't ready to say goodbye to the organization. Little did they know that bethels just aren't reopened every day!

In March 2010 the first conversations were held about taking on the project and there was immediate support and enthusiasm from all. In May Bethel 9 of Great Falls initiated the first two members and Lauren became a dual member with Bethel 6 in Idaho and Bethel 9. Kali Whitehead, the daughter of the future ABG, Sam Whitehead was already a member in Bethel 9. The original plan being to initiate the Helena girls into Bethel 9 and then affiliate them to Bethel 5 when the Bethel reopened. Through the spring more girls were recruited through friends of friends and work contacts. The girls gathered for pizza parties, participated in a spring clean up event for the elderly and held two car washes. We had the commitment of several other girls during the summer, but summer vacation schedules prevented us from actually making another trip to Great Falls for initiation. In June several girls traveled to Missoula to represent the Job's Daughters at the OES Grand Chapter and in July, to Great Falls to attend the DeMolay Conclave. With the Reinstitution date nearing, we held four "Jobie 101" classes to help familiarize our incoming members with the history of the Order, how a Bethel functions, how the Bethel room is set up, and to start learning songs and the marches. That brings us to September 25.

The day was wonderful! We had help from four different bethels for the initiation: Bethel 3, Billings MT; Bethel 6, Meridian, ID; Bethel 7, Coeur d'Alene, ID; and Bethel 9, Great Falls, MT plus the participation from our already initiated members. The reinstatement started out with the installation of the Bethel Guardian Council and then initiation. The ceremony was beautifully done and nine more Daughters were initiated. After a break for lunch, Installation of Officers was held. Again, we were assisted by PHQ's and Majority Members from Idaho and Montana. Most special to Honored Queen Lauren was the attendance of her Bethel 6 sisters, with good friend Tiffany Mattson, PHQ, presiding as Installing Officer, who earlier in the week was sick and her participation was in doubt. The room was full of Job's Daughters dignitaries with many members of the Idaho Grand family being present. Numerous Past Grand Guardians, past Montana Job's Daughters Grand Bethel and Jurisdictional Bethel officers and former members of Bethel 5 were in attendance. We were also very happy to welcome the assistance of the newly reopened E.C. Day Chapter, Order of DeMolay. The entire day was an event to remember and we hope it is just the beginning of many very happy memories for the reinstating members of Bethel 5, Helena MT.



INSTALLATION OF E.C. DAY DEMOLAY CHAPTER

On September 12 in the Helena Masonic Center the newly restarted, after approximately 5 years, DeMolay Chapter installed its officers. Over the past many years this Chapter has been very active in the state, so we are proud that it is again being reactivated with a great group of 11 boys.

The Installing officer was Brian Murphy, DeMolay Dad of the Bozeman Chapter, with the assistance of the State DeMolay and Bozeman officers Juaguin Burkhart, Ethan Schaff, Drew Burkhart, and Jacob McDonald. Installed as Master Councilor was David Yocom from the Bozeman Chapter, now in the National Guard training in Helena. Senior Councilor is Thai Nguyen, Junior Councilor, Alex Nessman; Senior Deacon, Jacob Liston and Junior Deacon, Darby Fowler with Justin Johnson as Scribe. The boys introduced their parents and the Advisory Board of 3 parents, 2 representatives of Helena Lodge #3 and 2 from Morning Star Lodge #5, DeMolay Dad Shawn Rachford, and Executive Officer Sam Whitehead were introduced by myself, Boyce Fowler, CoChairman. A nice sized group attended the ceremony including several Rainbow Girls introduced from the Helena Assembly #7.

The reception was organized and put on by David Yocom's family, from Bozeman including his Grandmother, in honor of David being installed as Master Councilor. The boys are now in the process of learning their ritual for opening and closing their meetings. They invite Star and Lodge members when in town to come to a meeting as **they are meeting at 7:00 PM the first and third Wednesdays of the month** in the Masonic Center Building in Helena. **Boyce Fowler, PPPM, Morning Star Lodge #5**

(Great News! You'll remember in a previous issue the reinstatement of Job's Daughter's, Bethel #5 in Helena on September 25.)

CELEBRATION OF PERFORMANCES

Queen Wendy Newton, Sakkara Temple No. 115 in Calgary, Alberta had a dream and this year her dream came true. Her dream was to have a Celebration of Performances in her Temple with a picture in the memory of her father, Noble Jack Armstrong looking on. Her mother Muriel Armstrong and sisters helped at every event.

Queen Wendy sent out invitations to join in the festivities. Our Queen Carol Huston issued the call to all of Sapphira (pictured right) and was joined by Pr. Royal Diane Boley, Pr. Tirzah Pam Jackson, Pr. Marshall Alice Fohn, Attendants Dot Stewart and Maxine Treadway, PSQ Karen D. Burk, PQ Margaret Beatty. Pictured bottom right are Nancy Fuller and Sarah Herold of the Sapphira Drummers.

Friday night, October 1st was formal with Supreme Queen Sue Layman's official visit and a lovely banquet.

Saturday was casual and the morning dedicated to practice times for the Units. Then the Performances began. The first performance was from the Al Azhar Mounted Patrol.

Queen Carol Huston opened the performances when she brought in the Sapphira Traveling Banner followed by Supreme Queen Sue Layman, Director Nancy Fuller and Sarah Herold of the Sapphira Drummers. SQ Sue had been given an honorary membership from Sapphira Temple No. 79 on Wednesday and was inducted

into the Sapphira Drummers on Saturday.

Supreme Queen Sue's performance had been kept secret and was a surprise to everyone.



DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE SCARF JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

This beautiful Silk Crepe Scarf supports the Daughters of the Nile Foundation. This 100% silk scarf is beautifully designed with the white rose on a soft gold background that shows that the Nile committed to "Working Together for the Children". Guys this would be a wonderful Christmas present (hint hint). Only \$30.00 (plus shipping & handling) go to <http://www.donfdn.org/scarf.htm> or Contact: Ann Triplett, 3550 Triplett Lane, Boise, ID 83716.



BACKGROUND CHECKS IN MONTANA MASONRY

My Brothers, we are now midway through the year of the introduction of the background check!

The reactions have ranged from preposterous, to hohum, to good idea, to it's about time!

The original purpose, to guard the West gate from those who are predisposed to lying, those who would sully our reputation by association with them, was not lost on its supporters and detractors alike. Everyone agrees this is a worthy objective.

The introduction and execution, however, have left some respectable Brothers feeling at odds. The fee to be paid by the petitioner is now to be paid by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, showing his personal commitment to this endeavor. The introduction date in the mostly "dark" months was designed to give us a fresh start as our work resumed was viewed by some as negative. Additionally there were some objections to the verification of the investigator's findings.

On the other hand, the majority of Brothers, who have shared their opinions with me, have supported this with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Statements like "This is the only way we can really know our

petitioner's past", "I expect this from any group known for its integrity", "I'm glad Masonry is protecting us from associating with criminals", and "we owe it to our legacy to do the best job we can, using the latest tools, to ensure we stay Good Men Becoming Better".

When the background check results are viewed as an additional question of the investigator's examination it meets this purpose.

Make no mistake, this is an edict, and due diligence has been applied to ensure it's legality to our Code and Constitution. We are all obligated that we will "stand to and abide by all the laws, rules and regulations" of our lodges, and that means Grand Lodge.

The two prime objectives of the Blue Lodges are to make new Masons, and to create and maintain an environment that men can improve themselves. Both of these have been tested by the reaction to this edict.

The level of debate and concern for the craft makes me proud of my Brother's sense of friendship, morality and brotherly love, even to those not yet Brothers.

There will be a Grand Master's Recommendation and at least one Lodge Resolution, upon which this will be

debated, and with a vote of the craft, resolved.

My concern, however this is resolved, it that we have not always "subdued our passions" and words were said that caused disharmony and personal attacks amongst out Brethren. This is not the Masonic way. As it is written in the Master Mason Charge:

"To preserve the reputation of the fraternity unsullied, must be your constant care; and for this purpose it is your province to recommend to your inferiors, obedience and submission; to your equals, courtesy and affability; to your superiors, kindness and condescension."

This edict will continue, in its present form, until the Grand Lodge 145th Annual Communication beginning on June 24th.

I appreciate all my Brothers endeavors, for maintaining their principles for what they know in their heart is right, to keep ours the Greatest Fraternity in the World.

Bill Murphy (29), PM, Secretary, Grand Pursuivant

MSA SEEKING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Commission of the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSA) has received a letter of resignation from MW Richard E. Fletcher, PGM as the commission's executive secretary.

MW Bro. Fletcher announced his resignation following the commission's semiannual meeting in Silver Spring. It is effective at the close of the MSA's next annual meeting which will be in conjunction with the Conference of Grand Masters, to be held in Denver, CO in February.

To assure smooth transition in MSA's office, MW Bro. Fletcher generously has offered to remain with MSA until his successor is named and functioning comfortably as executive secretary.

"The entire MSA family, including not only the commissioners but the member jurisdictions, recognizes that MW Bro. Dick's resignation will mark the end of a period of honorable devotion to MSA. He will truly be missed," said MSA chairman Bill Roberts (PGMNV).

MW Bro. Fletcher's near quarter century of MSA service as executive secretary mirrors the esteemed contributions of his predecessors including Conrad Hahn through 1977 and Stewart Pollard, who devoted his time and knowledge with great honor and distinction until his retirement in 1987.

At that time, the elected Commissioners of the MSA selected MW Bro. Fletcher, an honored Past Grand

Master of Vermont (1983-1985), to become MSA's executive secretary. He has devoted his time to the craft through MSA and many other Masonic affiliated and concordant bodies, following retirement from a distinguished banking career.

During his tenure as executive secretary, he worked with MSA commissioners in many important undertakings. Some of the most recent have been:

- ♦ Establishment of the Masonic Information Center, a respected and needed tool in the dissemination of facts about Freemasonry;
- ♦ Institution of the "Mark Twain Award," meant to recognize achievement in Masonic awareness by constituent lodges;
- ♦ "Operation Phone Home," which focused on providing prepaid international phone calling cards to military personnel serving overseas; and
- ♦ Continuing and strengthening MSA's mission to present educational materials, to coordinate contributions when disasters strike at home or abroad and supporting the longexisting and fraternally important purpose of providing a helping

hand to our nation's veterans through the Hospital Visitation Program.

"The commissioners and chairman stand together to recognize MW Bro. Fletcher's service and to wish him well in the future," Roberts said.

Member jurisdictions of MSA are represented by commissioners from five regional divisions including G. Ray Marsh (PGMSC, vice chairman), Thomas

Galyen (PGMOhio), Lanny Sander (PGMOK), Raymond J. Vanden Berghe (PGMNJ, secretary) and Fred L. Sorsabal (PGMCA). Roberts serves "at large" as chairman.

The Executive Commission is accepting resumes and proposals from interested individuals who may apply to become MSA's next executive secretary. Should you have interest or feel you know someone who could fill this important position, please contact:

MW Thomas Galyen, Chairman of Recruitment, MSA of NA; 9112 Fern Cove East
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
Email: Tophat97@aol.com

For other inquiries about the important work of MSA, please contact:

William G. Roberts, Chairman MSA of NA
PO Box 193
Tonopah, NV 890490193
Email: wgm2001bjr@citlink.net

For further information contact: William G. Roberts, Chairman Executive Commission, MSA of NA



MONTANA MASONIC FOUNDATION PRESENTS CHECK TO VA MONTANA HEALTHCARE

After a recent visit to Fort Harrison VA Hospital and Regional Office the Montana Masonic Foundation approved a gift of \$3000.00 to the Voluntary Service program. The funds will be used to support veterans statewide with support services not covered by the VA. Reid Gardiner, Grand Secretary presents the check from the Montana Masonic Foundation to Robin Korogi, Director of the VA Montana Healthcare System.

Additional support to our veterans is an ongoing effort provided by out members who are active with the Masonic Service Association (MSA) Hospital Visitation program at Fort Harrison, Miles City and Columbia Falls and the various VA outreach centers.



Miles City 2011

The 145th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana will be conducted June 23, 24 & 25, 2011 in Miles City.

Session will be held at the Omni Center. There are five hotels with rooms blocked for Grand Lodge. Room rate information will be available after the 1st of the year. The banquet and reception for the new Grand Officers will be at the Park Place banquet facility. More information will be available in the next couple months.



Omni Center, "Valley Drive East"



Banquet & Reception at the Park Place banquet facility, 20 N 8th St

Five hotels are ready to accommodate you for Session:



Comfort Inn, 1615 S. Haynes Ave, 406-234-3141



Econo Lodge, 1209 Haynes Ave. 406-232-8880



Super 8, 2006 S. Haynes Ave. 406-234-5261



Holiday Inn, 1720 S. Haynes Ave 406-234-1000



Guesthouse Inn, 3111 Steel St "all rooms booked"

GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO FORT HARRISON VA HOSPITAL



Left: GM Mangan presents Bill Conner with an award certificate for 5 years of service to the MSA Hospital Visitation Program.

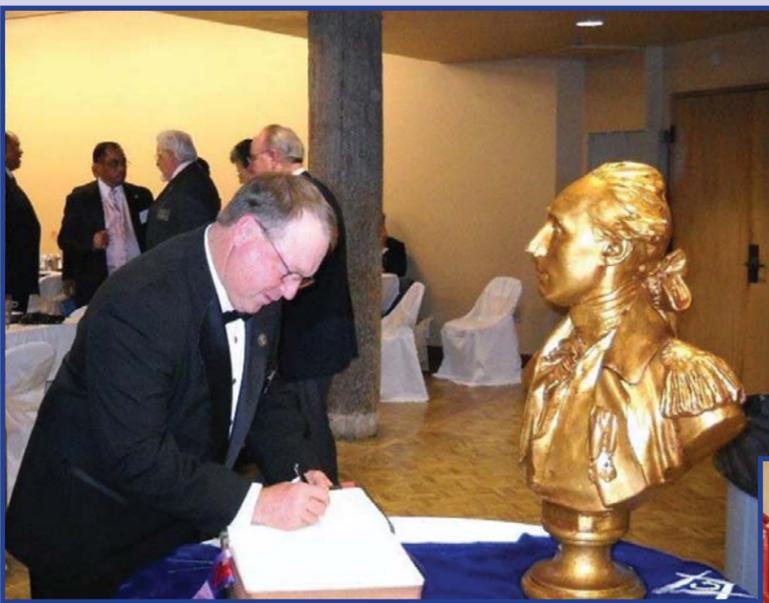
Below: Brother Bill Vincent from Ashlar No. 29 greets GM Mangan at Fort Harrison. Pictured are MSA Hospital Field Rep. Mrs. Vincent; Brother Bill Vincent (29); MWGM John Mangan; Mike Molinona (VA Public Relations Officer), Bill Conner (MSA Hospital Field Rep. State Director)



Ionic Lodge No 38 Table Lodge pictured below. (LR) Tom Lund, PGM; John Mangan, Grand Master; Lance Turner, WM No. 38 and Jack Anderson, PGM



LAFAYETTE LODGE #241 - ANNUAL MEETING



Pictured above: GM John Mangan signing the lodge bible; Far right: GM Mangan, GM of MT and Skip Owen GM of ID; Bottom: GM Mangan with the other GM's attending Lafayette Lodge #241 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington - November, 2010



WALTER BREUNING

WORLD'S OLDEST MAN TURNS 114

Walter Breuning was a century old when he walked into a downtown Great Falls bank in the mid 1990s to take advantage of a promotion. Five-year certificates of deposit were being offered at a special rate, and Breuning wanted to take advantage of the deal, according to former Great Falls resident Gavin Seeberger, now of Portland, Ore. His father is former Great Falls banker John Seeberger, a onetime Great Falls school board chairman.

The elder Seeberger and another bank representative politely told Breuning he might want to consider a two-year certificate of deposit instead. "Mr. Breuning firmly declined and insisted on a five-year CD, saying that he would be there to collect it in person at maturity," Gavin Seeberger said.

And that's exactly what happened. Breuning waltzed into the bank at age 105 and collected his earnings. "That is being sure of one's self," Seeberger said. This tale reveals a few character traits of Breuning, who worked as a railroad clerk in Montana for half a century.

"He is outspoken; he says what he thinks," said George Pamerter, a fellow resident at Rainbow Retirement Community in downtown Great Falls and a pal of Breuning.

Breuning also is forward-looking, even at his age. On September 21, 2010, the plainspoken Breuning turned 114 years old, remaining the oldest man in the world, according to the Gerontology Research Group. Breuning also is September's Super Centenarian of the Month on Yahoo.com's World's Oldest People group.

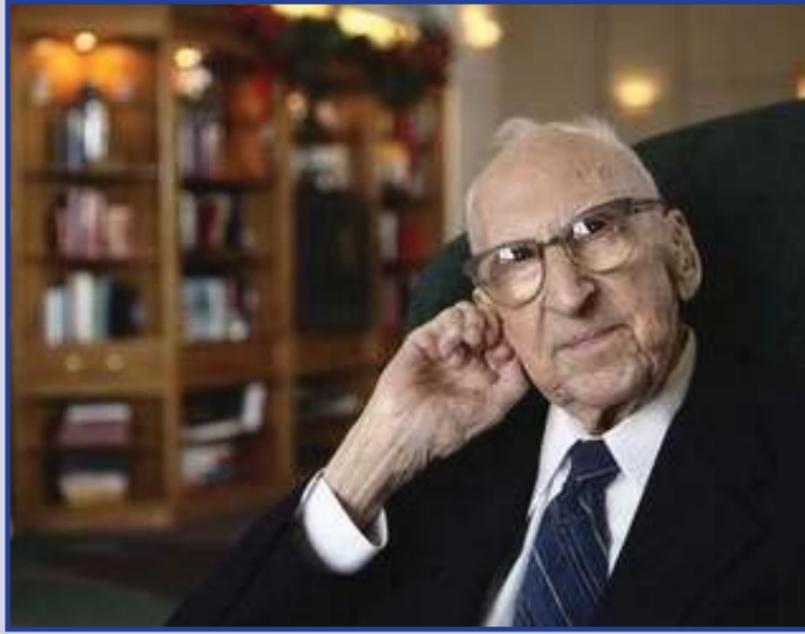
This month, Breuning also stands as the verified fourth-oldest person in the world. The top three are women from France, Texas and Georgia, each of whom was born in 1896, but earlier than Breuning's September birthday. Breuning also is ranked in 79th or 74th place for longest-lived person of all time, and in 7th or 5th place for longest-lived man, according to Robert Young, senior consultant for gerontology for Guinness World Records. Those rankings depend on whether some people whose ages are disputed are included on the list, Young said.

Breuning was born in the rural Minnesota town of Melrose and moved in 1918 to Great Falls, where he worked for the Great Northern Railway. His wife, a railroad telegraph operator from Butte named Agnes, died in 1957. She was a good cook, according to

Breuning. The couple had no children.

One of Breuning's greatest regrets was not serving in the military. He was not called up for service during World War I, and he was in his 40s and considered too old to fight when World War II broke out.

As it turns out, longevity runs in much of Breuning's



family, although his parents died at ages 50 and 46. His paternal grandparents lived into their 90s, and three siblings lived to ages 85, 91 and 100. Another brother died at age 78. Of course, Walter Breuning takes the cake in the family for living a long life.

At an invitation-only birthday party Tuesday afternoon, he is expected to eat cake and deliver a birthday speech at the Rainbow in downtown Great Falls. Gov. Brian Schweitzer is set to attend, along with representatives from the "Guinness Book of World Records," Montana PBS, the building's owners and Masonic, Shrine and Scottish Rite groups.

Breuning, who delivered a well-received speech at his birthday celebration last year, is hard at work on another address for this year, according to Tina Bundtrock, executive director of the Rainbow. "He never discloses what he's going to talk about," Bundtrock said. But, she added, "he's been fantastic" during the last year.

One might think all the hubbub over Breuning would get old to some fellow residents. But several Rainbow dwellers said in interviews last week that they take Breuning's fame in stride. "I didn't know he was a celebrity; he's just lived a long time," quipped

92-year-old resident Ray Milversted. He said he doesn't mind Breuning living in the Rainbow, but he expressed sympathy for the world's oldest man, who has visitors "waiting in line and all asking the same questions." When he turned 113 years old, Breuning finally had to "duck and hide" to avoid more questions and gawking, Milversted said.

Bundtrock said the facility has adopted a policy of scheduling visits with Breuning by appointment only, so the building's most famous resident is not taxed by people dropping in to see him. "He's a gentleman," said Ray's wife, Genese Milversted. "His stately walk and his (active) mind is something to be admired."

Resident Ray Stingley, who is retired from U.S. West, said his granddaughter and other relatives are happy that Breuning lives in the building and will talk to them.

"I think he's a great man, to be honest with you," the 87-year-old Stingley said. He added that he admires the fact Breuning never even needed a cane or walker to help him move around until the last few years.

Margie Arganbright, 80, pronounced it "wonderful" to have Breuning live in the same facility. "He's such a gentleman," Arganbright said. Several residents said they enjoy Breuning's habit of donning a pinstriped suit and tie every day, defying the casual nature of modern times.

At 92, Theresa Luoma said she doesn't give a second thought to Breuning living in the former Rainbow Hotel, although she finds him an interesting fellow. "He is just an ordinary guy, just like the rest of us," Luoma said, adding she plans to attend the birthday bash for Breuning. "If it's right here, you almost have to," she said with a chuckle.

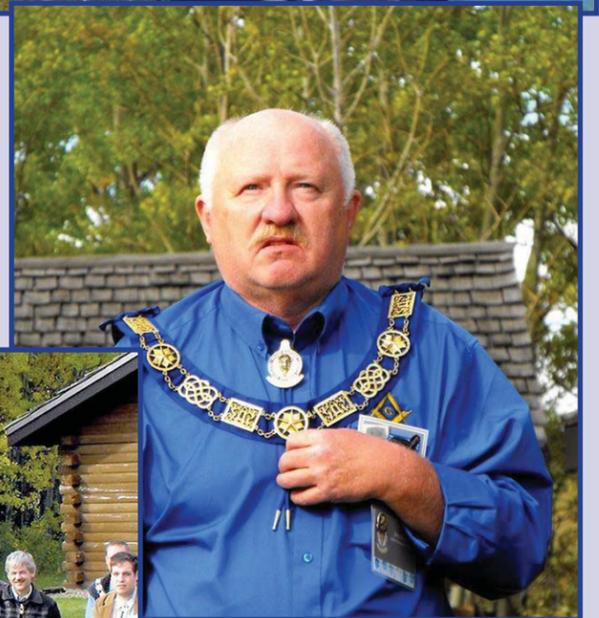
Myrtle Schultz, 90, said she is thrilled to live in the same building as the world's oldest man. "I think it's great to put Montana on the map," Schultz said. "You'd never know he was that old. We're so proud of him."

Left: Dewey Goreing and (Right) Glenn Nielsen honor Aaron Mans with his 50 year pi.

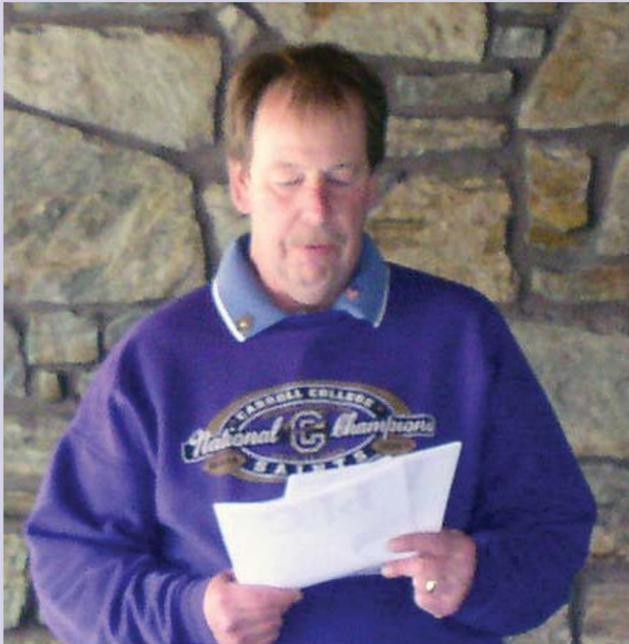


TRI JURISDICTIONAL GRAND MASTER'S ROAMING OUTDOOR LODGE

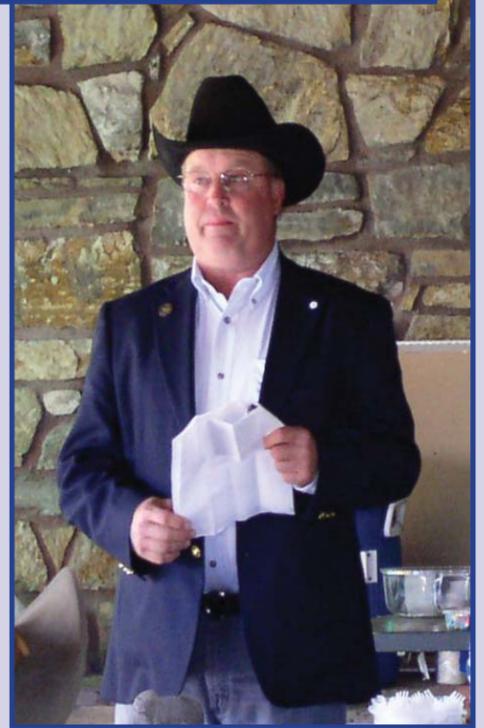
The following photo's were taken during the Tri-Jurisdictional Grand Master's Roaming Outdoor Lodge, September 24-26, 2010 held in Elkwater (Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park), Alberta. This first tri-jurisdictional meeting was hosted by the Grand Lodge of Alberta and joined by the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan and Grand Lodge of Montana. The weekend featured: an outdoor lodge meeting with Master Mason degree (conducted by the Grand Lodge of Alberta with lots of help from the Medicine Hat Lodges); Masonic education; Ladies events; BBQ and entertainment, including Hagsis and all Bagpipes you could ever ask for. The 2nd Annual Tri-Jurisdictional Grand Mater's Roaming Outdoor Lodge will be held August 19-20, 2011 at Mullan Pass and host city of Helena. The hotel for the event will be the Holiday Inn Downtown, 22 N Last Chance Gulch. W. Brothers Gary Long (5) and Blake Gardiner (3) are the Co-Chairman for this event.



HELENA LODGE NO. 3 CELEBRATES 145 YEARS



Chuck Felter, WM of Helena No. 3



MWGM John Mangen

MORE OUTDOOR LODGE...

Enjoying the Haggis!



HISTORIC GIFT LEFT TO MONTANA MASONIC MUSEUM

by Reid Gardiner (3), Grand Secretary/Curator

Many years ago during the period of urban renewal in Helena, Alice Ayers Schmidt Otten had the opportunity to acquire artifacts that had been part of the fixtures of the Chinese Masonic Lodge.

The Chinese Masonic Lodge had been located on Main Street (aka Last Chance Gulch) in downtown Helena. Alice passed away on Aug. 6, 2010 at the age of 92.

Her neighbor for 40 years was W. Brother Frank Rice a member of Helena Lodge No. 3 and as a result of their friendship in her Will; Alice left these important historic artifacts to the Montana Masonic Museum. In discussion with her, Alice asked that the items be properly displayed and with recognition that the items were presented by her in memory of her father W. Brother Fred Ayers who was raised in Oklahoma No. 4, Atoka, OK on 01/13/1906. In 1909 he affiliated with Estancia No. 33 of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico.

Her brothers Fred and Edgar Ayers were also Masons. We are still working on finding an appropriate display case but this will soon be available for viewing by visitors to the Montana Masonic Museum. The artifacts shown include an altar cloth and candelabra from the Chinese Masonic Lodge.



“assisting Heaven”.

In overseas Chinese communities there were dubious linkages between Freemasons and these organizations; however, outsiders called these Masonic Lodges because of their secretive nature. Even members of the Freemasons attempted to find linkages between Chinese secret societies and free masonry with limited results besides some similar iconography and rituals. Other

freemasons however, have made the claim that even up through 1882, the Chinese did not have any freemasonry connections, though they were starting to incorporate some traits.

In 1884

The Helena newspaper reported that there was even

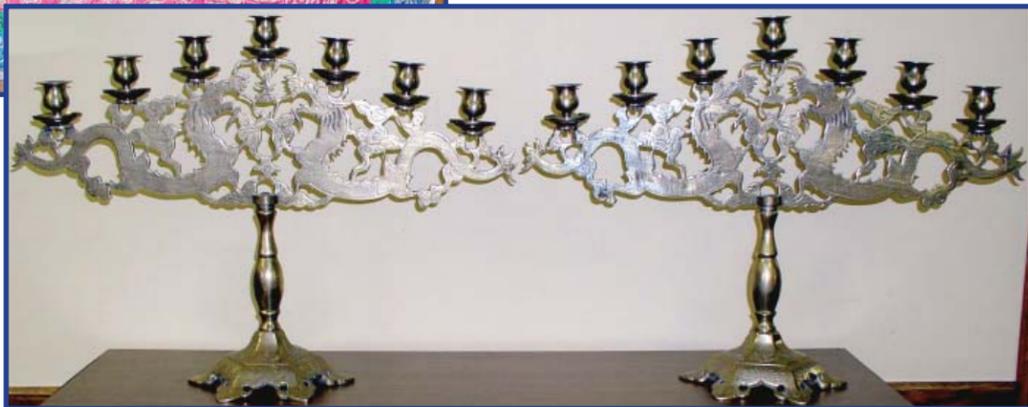
As noted in the 1870 federal census, Helena had a population of 666 Chinese, including 60 women, by far the largest number of Chinese females in the Territory. By the 1870s there were a number of Chinese mining operations in western Montana. As placer mining declined during the late 1870s and 1880s, the Chinese moved into other fields such as railroad construction and business which served not only the Chinese population but the white majority as well.

Montana's largest communities of Chinese were in Butte and Helena. The Chinese contributed much to the development of Montana, especially in the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which opened the state up to further development. Little remains of Montana's Chinese era. The failure of the community was due to racism, discriminatory laws, immigration laws, as well as the shortage of Chinese female emigrants in western America. By the 1940s, most of the Chinese living in Montana had left, taking with them the secret societies operating in the state.

Overview of the Chinese Masonic Society

The headquarters of the World Chinese Masonic Society or Yee Hing in San Francisco changed its Chinese name to the 'Chee Kung Tong' and advised all Chinese Masonic Societies to adopt this new title.

It was recorded that the Yee Hing had a membership in San Francisco in 1886 of 4500, and in the Americas where the Chinese had penetrated the total membership was 15,000. Their records indicated that they had



Chinese Masonic Lodge Helena Montana

Within the Chinese community one of the important institutions which served the religious and social needs of the community was the Masonic Lodge; there were Chinese Masonic Lodges in Virginia City, Butte and Helena.

The Chinese Masonic Lodge (Chee Kung Tong) in Helena was located at 310 Main Street, artifacts also show the address as 306 ½ Main (306 Main). Photographs show the building in 1899 and also around 1937. This institution played an important role in the lives of early Chinese settlers to Montana. In addition to providing its members with an opportunity for relaxation and entertainment, this institution with its emphasis on brotherhood, also reinforced the Chinese social and cultural values. The 'Chinese Masonic Society' did practice certain fundamental tenets of Freemasonry; some were very active in community affairs and raising monies for charities. They were not active in the political affairs of the host country. In the original teachings of the Hung Society, the candidate, during his initiation in the society, was taken on a symbolic journey of the soul through the underworld. The teachings of Freemasonry can be associated with a symbolical journey where we strive to perfect our principles and control our passions from birth to death. Both Societies believe in benevolence, assisting their fellow man and moral selfimprovement. There does not seem to be a lot of information recorded for them as part of the Helena or Lewis and Clark County community.

On display at the Mai Wah Society museum in Butte, MT, is an altar from the Chinese Masonic Temple in Helena, with Chinese characters that translate as

the excessive pomp and attendance at a funeral of a Chinese man in Helena was discussed in relation to his position as a head person among the Masons.

Chinese Arrive In Helena Montana Territory

By 1866 descriptions of Chinese began appearing in a variety of historical documents, showing a significant increase in population throughout the Montana Territory. The first mention of Chinese in Helena is in the Lewis and Clark County Deed Records, where several groups of Chinese companies began to purchase mining lots in the "Rattlesnake District" of Last Chance Gulch. It is recorded in the deed books that in 1866 groups of Chinese miners purchased several placer claims in upper Last Chance Gulch. At the time of the Chinese purchase of claims and lots, Helena was part of Edgerton County, named after the first Territorial Governor of Montana appointed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. Edgerton County was officially renamed Lewis and Clark County on March 1, 1868. The most interesting aspect of the purchase of claims and lots by Chinese is that after 1866 there were no more recorded deeds under Chinese names until the 1900s in Lewis and Clark County.

The Chinese population of Helena was unsurpassed by any other single district in the Territory during the 1870s, and comprised nearly 21% of the residents in that township. It appears that the majority of Chinese in Helena clustered around the downtown area, near the mouth of Last Chance Gulch. Newspaper accounts indicate that Chinese businesses and habitations were in and around the intersections of Cutler, Water, and Main.

branches in 390 towns in the United States, Canada, Spanish America and Cuba. San Francisco, as stated earlier, was the World Headquarters of the Yee Hing or 'Chinese Masonic Society'. In 1919 the Headquarters issued a statement indicating that all 'Chinese Masonic Societies' were to be also known by the Chinese title 'Chee Kung Tong'.

Chinese Masonic Societies (sometimes referred to in North America as Chinese Freemasonry) spread rapidly through the United States of America and Canada, assisted by the mode of transport which they were instrumental in constructing the railway. In areas such as Boston, San Francisco and New York, the Chee Kung Tong exists even today. There are Chinese Masonic Societies (Chee Kung Tong) in Mexico, Hawaii, England, Canada, and other countries. To give some appreciation of its spread, in the early 1990s Hawaii was host to a world 'Chinese Masonic Society Conference'.

There were six major Tongs operating in North America. Each had an associated gang which conducted the unsavoury part of their operation, the only exception being the Chee Kung Tong or 'Chinese Masonic Society', which had no affiliated gang. The six Tongs with their associated Gangs were:

INTEGRITY AS A BAND OF BROTHERS

I recently applied for a volunteer wrestling coaching position with the Wolf Point High School District, my Alma Mater, as my seventeen year old son, Dakota, had started practicing on the team. Of course, his participation required, what I presumed was my expert experience as a college wrestler, but obviously I must have realized I am much older, quite a bit fatter, and extremely slower.

Upon my completion of the written application, the payroll clerk advised me the application was almost complete, except for the fingerprint analysis background records check, which is sent to Helena for previous criminal history. For a split second, I stared incredulously at an old classmate, thinking to myself, "I am the Police Chief for the City of Wolf Point, the Lay Minister at the First Presbyterian Church, a graduate of the FBI National Academy, AND the Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana." After this short momentary lack of personal judgment, I agreed to have my School Resource Officer fingerprint me, as per school district policy, which is required to do something

very simple..., safeguard the wellbeing of our children.

In response to the Masonic Brothers uproar over the Nationwide Criminal Background Check Program, I obviously examine the criminal history and driving history of every potential job applicant to my police department. Believe it or not, I have actually had several applications for a police officer position not accurately documenting or revealing specific charges or convictions. These same individuals sign the application stating the information is true, correct, and complete to the best of their knowledge. These criminal and driver license histories are merely checks and balances to the basic integrity of a potential law enforcement officer. Without these simple basic tools at my disposal, it would be possible for an unscrupulous applicant to further themselves in my employment process. It is absolutely imperative to exceed the expectations of our peers in law enforcement as well as to meet the same standards in the finest fraternity in the World, the Masons.

I wear two rings on my fingers, my National Academy ring has three words, Knowledge, Courage, and Integrity, and my Masonic ring proudly displays

the Square, Compass, and the letter G. This Masonic symbol, while recognized by both young and old, both rings represent similar high qualities of men, especially my Masonic Brothers. Whenever I am asked about my Masonic ring, it automatically alludes itself of the basic concept of men becoming better men through Masonry. A young lady at a customer service position, asked me about my ring, and I asked her if she knew any other Masons; and she replied, "Bob Coleman", our MWPGM. I was immediately proud to be in such honorable company.

It saddens me to read the most recent letter from MWGM Mangen, in which he is paying for the background checks out of his own pocket because of dissension of Brothers. It is our responsibility as Brothers to promote our craft to our benefit, as in the total support of our Grand Master. The Grand Master merely provided an additional and beneficial tool for our lodges for the betterment of Masonry. Let us work together as Masons, to maintain our integrity as a Band of Brothers.

Jeff Harada (121), Junior Grand Steward

Historic Gift Cont'd from previous page

Tong

On Leong
Hip Sing
Hop Sing
Tung On
Fukien American Assoc.
Chee Kung

Affiliated Gang

Ghost Shadows
Flying Dragons/Wah Ching
Hop Sing Boys
Tung On Boys
Fuk Chink
No Affiliated Society

The Glory Days of the Chee Kung Tong

The 1890s saw the Chee Kung Tong at the peak of

its power. Chinese texts and objects in museum collections point to the same conclusion as do historical photographs and English language newspapers. The Chee Kung Tong was by far the most important institution in most North American Chinatowns. In 1895, the San Francisco Chronicle stated that, contrary to what most Americans believed, the Chinese Six Companies [i.e., the Zhonghua Huiguan or Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association] had "little or no authority" compared with the Chee Kung Tong."

Mother of Chinese Secret Societies

The secret society that called itself the Chee Kung Tong (Pinyin: Zhigongtang, "Hall of Universal Justice"), was the dominant organization in New World Chinatowns in the late 19th century. Just about all Chinese secret societies were, in a way, descended from it.

The organization itself was already old. Its parents were the cluster of independent but closely linked secret societies called the Hongmen ("Hong Gate"), the Hongshuntang, the Tiandihui ("Heaven and Earth Society"), or the Yixingongsi ("Company for Promoting Integrity"). All members were sworn to overthrow the Manchu dynasty that ruled China, which meant they were fiercely persecuted by the government in Beijing. Such societies existed in China from the eighteenth century onward, had spread to Southeast Asia by the early nineteenth century, and came to the

Americas with the first wouldbe Chinese gold miners in the midnineteenth century. As early as 1854, local Englishlanguage newspapers reported that the "Hung Society" was active in San Francisco.

The name "Chee Kung Tong" did not exist in those days. Chinese societies in China and Southeast Asia never used that name. As far as it has been determined the name was not used before the 1880s, whether in the Americas or the Pacific. The name first appeared more than a quartercentury after the Hongmen is known to

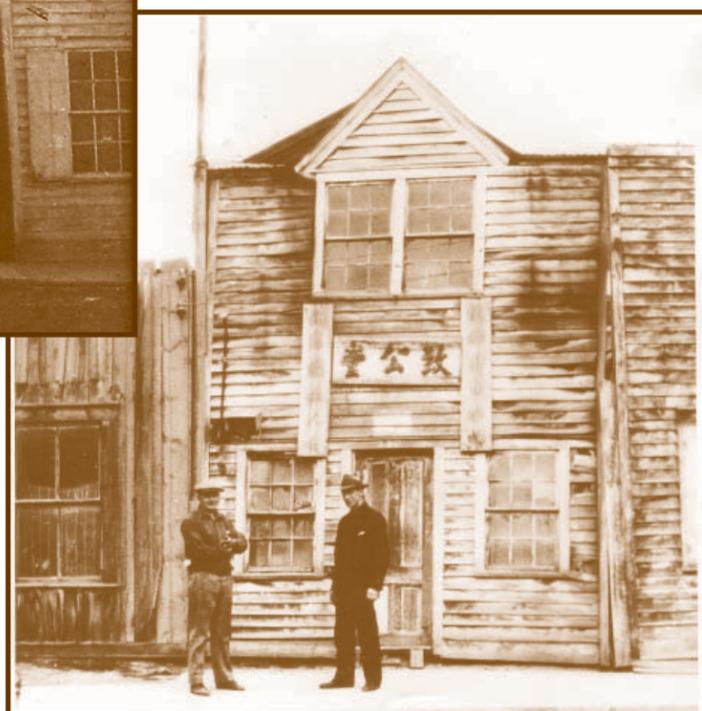
have reached California.

By the late 1880s, the Chee Kung Tong claimed to have branches in 390 places

As also happened in Southeast Asia, the Hongmen in California soon began to spin off smaller secret societies. These often used Hongmen rituals and considered themselves to be, in part at least, its heirs. Unfortunately, certain of these derivative societies soon turned to crime. Like the Triad societies of East and Southeast Asia, which the American spinoffs closely resembled, they lived by extorting protection money from gambling houses, brothels, and legitimate businesses. They also fought fiercely for control of those revenue sources. Later, the white press would call these quasicriminal organizations, "tongs," and their disputes over turf, "tong wars."

The bad reputation earned by such spinoffs must have influenced the Hongmen's decision to change its name, not once but twice. The first change was to "Chinese Masons." This had the effect of underlining an idea advanced by Western scholars, that the Hong

Men might share a common origin with European and American Masons and that it was not only equally old but also, although secret, equally public spirited and opposed to crime. One of the earliest mentions of Chinese Masons in Englishlanguage media was in 1878, in Sacramento. Ten years afterward, organizations calling themselves Chinese Masons existed in most North American



in North and South America. A least some branches seem to have preferred the older name, continuing to call themselves only Chinese Masons, Hongmen, or Yee Hing Uey (Pinyin: Yixinghui) until the 1890s or, in the case of New York, even later. The English language press first noticed the Chee Kung Tong in Victoria in 1888, Indianapolis in 1890, Chicago in 1891, Sacramento in 1892, Pittsburgh in 1895, and finally New York in 1901.

The Chinese Masonic Society Changes Its Name

A name change took place, one theory is that the leaders of the Hongmen felt it needed a new image.

Chinatowns.

The second change was to "Chee Kung Tong". This took place in the early 1880s. The first mentions of an organization with that name date to 1882 in both the U.S. and Canada. In that year, a reporter in Los Angeles described a San Francisco secret society called the Chee Kung Tong, stating that it had a temple and membership certificates written on linen or silk.



SERVICE AWARDS

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2010

Please note that recent deaths and dimits from membership may not be reflected in this listing. Any brother with a question about his membership status should contact his lodge secretary.

50 YEAR MEMBERS

Lyle T. Soule	128	Donald A. Engleson	55	Robert R. Fleming	150
John L. Adams	43	John Ross	46	Glenn A. Hacker Jr.	13
William A. Fairhurst	73	Larry A. Yaeger	37	John A. Wayman	29
Howard E. Hill	78	Donald Phay	46	Donald H. Micken	150
Donald D. Gross	34	Robert L. Payne	(28,71)	Roger H. Elliot	89
Robert A. Rhodes	34	Melvin G. Humphrey	51	Walter E. Watts	155
W. Reid Stuart	80	Russell Glazier	46	Carl R. Flood –	155
Donald G. Peterson	61	Donald E. Jenkins	17	Aaron R. Mans	58
Clarence Sherlock	41	Thomas W. Mensing	26	Lester W. Herbold	86/101
Willard W. Bruns	11				

NEW CRAFTSMAN WELCOMED TO THE QUARRIES

Morning Star Lodge 5 / 8

- 7035 Eric J. Malmberg Raised 08/13/10
- 7036 Demetrios M. Hadjistavropoulos Raised 08/13/10

Dillon Lodge 16 / 4

- 6876 William F. Orr Raised 09/11/10

Bozeman Lodge 18 / 5

- 6734 Kenneth J. Weskamp Raised 10/21/10

Butte Lodge 22 / 8

- 6634 Daniel J. Newgard Raised 10/19/10

Ashlar Lodge 29 / 1

- 7084 Parker J. Aldrich Raised 07/13/10
- 7085 Steven B. Cowan Raised 07/13/10
- 7086 Anthony J. Horton Raised 07/13/10
- 7087 Spencer S. Russell Raised 7/13/10
- 7088 Alvin J. Schiffer Raised 07/13/10
- 7089 James A. Wingebach Raised 07/13/10

Euclid Lodge 58 / 3

- 6588 Mark A. Binkley Raised 10/19/10
- 6639 Spence J. Bentley Raised 10/19/10
- 6982 William J. McGinn Jr. Raised 10/19/10

Corinthian Lodge 72 / 1

- 6955 Phillip H. Rolan Raised 09/20/10
- 6956 Roger M. Hillman Jr. Raised 09/20/10
- 6957 Matthew M. Ostwald Raised 09/20/10

Libby Lodge 85 / 2

- 6359 Ben I. Amin Raised 10/27/10

Eureka Lodge 93 / 2

- 6774 John M. Acord Raised 10/27/10

Meridian Lodge 105 / 3

- 6694 Matthew H. Hastings Raised 10/19/10

Loyalty Lodge 121 / 7

- 7097 Thomas A. Smail Raised 09/11/10

Ottawa Lodge 51

- 6992 Brenton J. Hartwig Raised 11/19/10

Rimrock Lodge 149 / 1

- 7068 Ryan C. Rogers Raised 06/12/10
- 7070 Kenneth E. Hogue Raised 06/12/10
- 7071 David P. Kenat Jr. Raised 06/12/10

My Health, My Care: 24/7 Access to VA

What is My HealthVet?
My HealthVet is VA's award-winning online Personal Health Record. It offers Veterans anywhere, any time Internet access to VA health care. Launched nationwide in 2003, My HealthVet is the gateway to web-based tools that empower Veterans to become better partners in their health care. With My HealthVet, America's Veterans and their caregivers access trusted, secure, and informed health and benefits information, at their convenience.

How do I access My HealthVet?
Log-on to: www.myhealth.va.gov

Get an Upgrade with IPA
To get the most out of the My HealthVet Personal Health Record, Veterans should get an upgraded account, known as In-Person Authentication (IPA).
Upgraded accounts, or IPA, allow Veterans to see the names of VA prescriptions online when refilling, not just the numbers, receive important Wellness Reminders, and use other features as they become available.

Refills Without the Wait
Refill VA Medications Online with My HealthVet
Why wait in line or on the phone when you can go online to refill your VA-issued prescriptions? Veterans can refill VA prescriptions online at www.myhealth.va.gov. They can also access personal health information after registering as a My HealthVet user. In addition to refilling VA prescriptions online, Veterans with My HealthVet accounts can access trusted information and education resources. Since the online pharmacy refill service is only available to VA patients who have registered with My HealthVet, it is important to register today at your local VA facility. Registration is easy. Simply follow these steps:

- * Type www.myhealth.va.gov in the address bar on your web browser, and then press Enter. This takes you to VA's My HealthVet website
- * On the right-hand side, click the "Register Today" button. Complete the registration page and review and accept the Terms & Conditions and the Privacy Policy for using the My HealthVet website
- * Log into your My HealthVet account and begin to create your Personal Health Record
- * Begin using My HealthVet for online prescription refills
- * Bookmark www.myhealth.va.gov as a favorite

Benefits of Online Prescription Refill:
Through the Refill Prescriptions Option, Veterans can:

- * Refill VA prescriptions online without the wait
- * View active VA prescriptions
- * Select an active prescription to be refilled
- * Have the refills delivered to the home
- * Check the status of a refill order anytime from anywhere

Through the Prescriptions History option, Veterans can:

- * View and track VA prescription history
- * Print a copy of VA prescription history
- * Review and print specific information about a single prescription from the "View Details" option

Note:
Prescription refills ordered through My HealthVet are delivered by the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy typically within 5 to 10 business days.

VA's Award-Winning Personal Health Record
Celebrating 5 Years of Online Access to VA Health Care!

VHA Office of Health Information OnlineRx Fact Sheet Revised 07/09 IB 10-243, P 96287

Buffalo Skull Square & Compass Bolo Tie

These Bolo's are about 2 x 2.5 in size and gold plated. They are available in a limited edition of 100 and sell for \$40.00 the proceeds go to Pondera Lodge No. 80. If you are interested please contact: Robert Hames at 406 2793393 or sent check to PO Box 81, Valier, MT 59486.



CELESTIAL LODGE



September, October, November 2010

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

Helena Lodge 3 / 8 5707 Edward E. Bowers 07/04/2010	Kalispell Lodge 42 / 2 1784 Harvey L. Knebel 06/04/2010 3362 Billy G. Redmond 08/26/2010	1900 Stanley W Lance 11/25/2010 549 James H Fox 11/26/2010
Morning Star Lodge 5 / 8 4064 James E. Sparing 08/20/2010 5554 Jack C. Benson 10/29/2010	North Star Lodge 46 / 7 520 Danny Foote 08/05/2010 2680 Wayne F. Morris 08/15/2010 3981 Howard Smith 10/23/2010	Mission Valley Lodge 78 / 6 5213 Ralph A. Andersen 09/13/2010 3811 Carl A. Seifert 10/19/2010
Flint Creek Lodge 11 / 8 6253 Leonard Courtney 09/22/2010 5673 Edward H. Bohrsen 10/27/2010	Chinook Lodge 50 / 9 2022 William E. Leonard 10/21/2010	Judith Lodge 86 / 9 6839 Charles A. Loberg 09/01/2010 4319 Charles B. Taylor 09/21/2010 594 William K. French 10/13/2010 2014 Steven O. Lemmon 10/27/2010
Dillon Lodge 16 / 4 6052 James R. Chambers 09/18/2010	Ottawa Lodge 51 / 8 3456 Richard E. Richter 10/30/2010 118 John L. Delano 11/24/2010	Saints John Lodge 92 / 1 4033 Kenneth L. Snively 10/16/2010
Valley Lodge 21 / 5 5480 Allan O. Baynard 09/01/2010 400 William L. Evans 10/12/2010	Hiram Lodge 52 / 10 4802 Larry D. Williams 09/04/2010 3990 John H. Smith 09/28/2010	Lavina/Temple Lodge 101 / 1 384 J. Laurence Erickson 11/07/2010
Yellowstone Lodge 26 / 10 1680 Joseph P. Kelly 09/30/2010	Mount Jefferson Lodge 56 / 4 3754 Harold L. Schultz 10/24/2010	Western Star Lodge 104 / 9 4009 Stephen S. Smith 10/08/2010
Stevensville Lodge 28 / 6 6135 Maynard H. Clevidence 10/07/2010	Malta Lodge 57 / 7 1320 George R. Hoynes 06/04/2010 299 Carl F. Eaton 06/19/2010	Scobey Lodge 109 / 7 475 Harry D. Fishell 08/12/2010 107 Glyn W. Deem 11/02/2010
Ashlar Lodge 29 / 1 6932 Marvin H. Haapala 07/22/2010	Euclid Lodge 58 / 3 253 James V. Duffy 10/03/2010	Billings Lodge 113 / 1 434 Robert E. Fears Jr. 10/14/2010
Acacia Lodge 33 / 8 2186 Theodore R. Lyon 07/25/2010	Stillwater Lodge 62 / 1 422 John D. Fantz 06/09/2010 4917 William R. Wright 08/22/2010 3159 Herman E. Peters 09/04/2010	Ekalaka Lodge 120 / 10 6890 Vernon Walters 09/10/2010
Butte Lodge 22 / 3 577 Lester C Franks 11/19/2010	Whitefish Lodge 64 / 2 6314 Carlyle D. Crum 08/01/2010	Delta Lodge 128 / 3 1682 Marshall D. Kelly 10/22/2010
Cascade Lodge 34 / 3 214 Fred J. Douglas 08/14/2010	Belgrade Lodge 68 / 4 2471 Leland E. McMilin 06/22/2010 3754 Harold L. Schultz 10/24/2010	Powder River Lodge 135 / 10 5270 Chesley Angle 09/20/2010
Monitor Lodge 35 / 8 1756 James B. Kirkland 06/30/2010	Corinthian Lodge 72 / 1 2050 Donald P. Libecap 10/20/2010	Rimrock Lodge 149 / 1 5916 Joe Burris Jr. 06/30/2010
Ruby Lodge 36 / 8 2811 John A. Nelson 08/02/2010		Bigfork Lodge 150 / 2 6766 James S. Payne 10/04/2010
Friendship Lodge 37 / 9 5108 Gerald Charlton 09/27/2010		
Ionic Lodge 38 / 6 3365 Charles W. Reed 11/07/2010		
Boulder Basin Lodge 41 / 4 5243 Lloyd P. Anderson 10/10/2010		

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.

Name: _____
Lodge: _____

**Submission Deadline for
March 2011
Montana Masonic News
is PRIOR to
February 15, 2011
(see page 2 for details)**



Trivia
Answer:

1919

Calendar of Events

December 2010			
Dec 3 - 4	York Rite Festival Billings	Dec 18	Ponemah No. 63 Annual Christmas Party
January 2011			
Jan 15	Glacier Dist Meeting Bigfork	Jan 21 - 23	Grand Lodge of Colorado
February 2011			
Feb 3 - 5	Grand Lodge of Nebraska	Feb 23	Proposed Legislation Due to Grand Lodge
Feb	Grand Lodge of Utah	Feb 24 - 28	Shrine PNSA
Feb 19 - 23	Conference of Grand Masters & Grand Secretaries		
March 2011			
Annual Returns Due prior to 15 March		Mar 17 - 19	Grand Lodge of New Mexico
Mar 3 - 4	DeMolay Sweet Retreat, Fairmont Hot Springs		
Mar 14	Annual Returns due		
April 2011			
Hall of Fame nominations prior to 1 April		Annual Election of Lodge Officers No Earlier than April 1; No Later than 1st regular meeting in May	
Upcoming Events in 2011			
June 23 - 25	145th Annual Communication Miles City	August 19 - 20	2nd Tri-Jurisdictional Grand Master's Roaming Outdoor Lodge (Montana, Alberta & Saskatchewan Host City Helena, MT. Meeting will be at Mullan Pass)
July 14 - 16	Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference Salt Lake City		

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

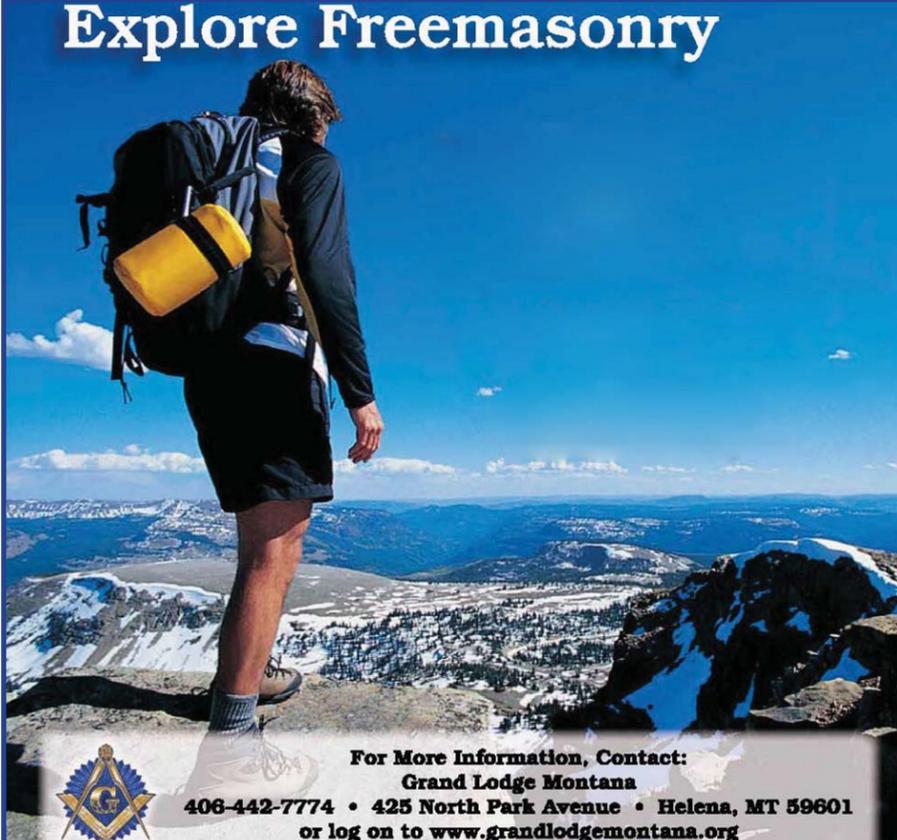
As the new chairman of the Education and Research Committee, I thought I would try to enlighten all as what is going to be happening this year in Ed & Research. After talking with Past ED Chairman Brother Levitt and spending several days browsing through the Grand Lodge Library, I determined that it was not necessary to reinvent the wheel. MW Bro Jack and those who had served prior to my appointment had spent years of man hours to develop material and Grand Lodge printed reams and reams of information only to be mailed out and never presented in lodge.

Each lodge has been assigned to a committee member. The committee members are to establish initial contact, then each lodge is to report monthly to the committee member as to what training or educational program was conducted for each monthly meeting. Each committee member will report to me and I to the MWGM. Do you know what the Education committee is charged to accomplish? Are there any Brothers who are academically inclined? I'm looking for two or three research papers to be developed this year and the selected piece to be placed in the Grand Lodge Library. Subject matter your choice as long as it is Masonic related.

I have been asked to recommend were to start or what course of training should be pursued. I have instructed those who have called to start with the opening charge, very few lodges use this powerful charge in opening their lodges. One version contains eleven sentences, another ten. What is the missing sentence? Dissect the charge, what is meant by each sentence. Next, I recommend the Coaches Handbook be covered. Each Master Mason in Montana should have this booklet. Do you have the current edition? Or are you using a copy that 'expired' two decades ago. If you don't have the most recent edition, contact Grand Lodge for the current edition, Coaches Handbook, section four, revised 2002.

If you have any questions, contact me Lewie Fletcher, 406-208-7580 or lewiefletcher@grandlodge.org

Lewie Fletcher, Chairman (144)



Explore Freemasonry

For More Information, Contact:
Grand Lodge Montana
 406-442-7774 • 425 North Park Avenue • Helena, MT 59601
 or log on to www.grandlodgemontana.org

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