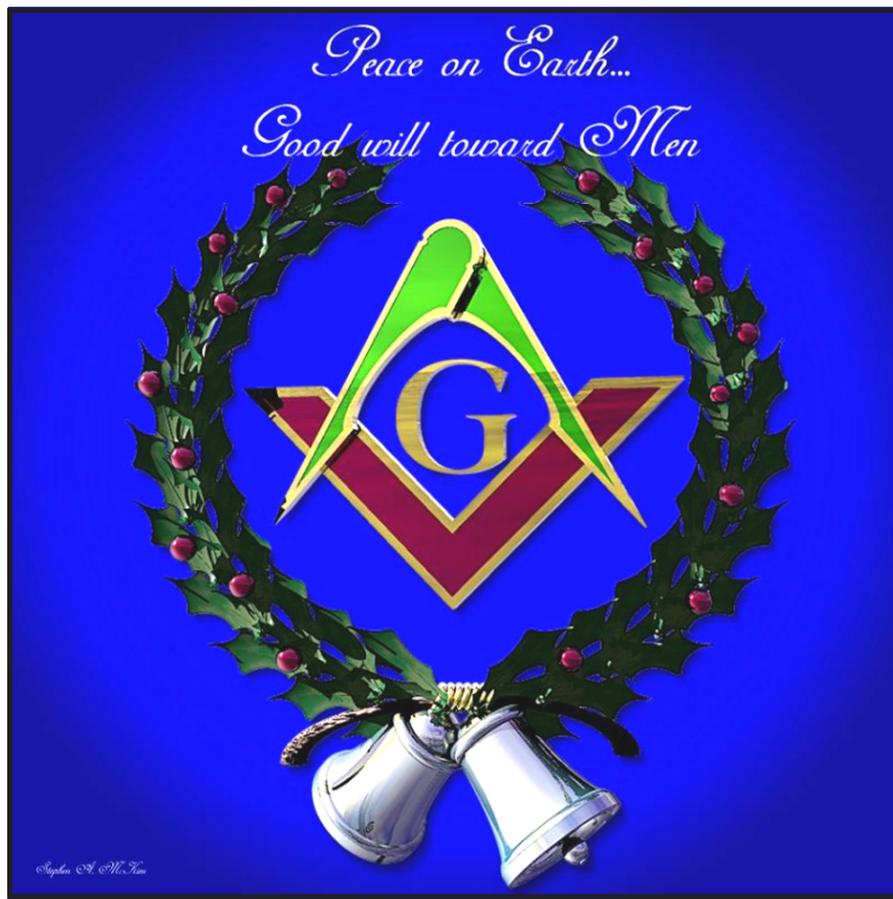


Grand Master's Christmas Message

As I have traveled throughout this Grand Jurisdiction visiting lodges and the district lodges of instruction, I am reminded at each closing that when we meet on the level what a powerful reminder that is of our Masonic heritage and teachings. To meet on the level means more than just the common physical plane upon which we stand. Though it represents equality among the brothers, it does not mean that we are all of the same heritage, color, creed, religion or political persuasion. With Masonic equality we each retain our individual characteristics and religious beliefs while sharing with our brothers a unifying belief in a Grand Architect of the Universe. The strength of our organization is that men with diverse religious beliefs can meet and enjoy brotherhood with other men and not have a diversity of beliefs divide them. Meeting on the level mandates us to look for the common values that unite us with our brothers. Meeting on the level with men from diverse religious beliefs is the product of practicing religious tolerance.

Religious tolerance is and has been for years the hallmark of Masonry. The formation of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and its Bill of Rights were products of the Masonic influence through our Masonic brethren. The first right stated in the Bill of Rights is the right of religious freedom and its corresponding separation of church and state. Because the early founding of this great country was by various religious groups escaping religious persecution in Europe, the desire that each person should have the freedom to practice their religion unimpeded by government interference and oppression was paramount. Religious freedom, however, cannot coexist with a healthy government that unites its citizens for a common good unless there is an abundance of religious tolerance.

In the 1916 Semi-Centennial Celebration of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Montana, Past Grand Master E. C. Day, in speaking of religious toleration, observed that Masonry is not a church in the traditional sectarian sense, in that it has no creed of "fundamental principles, which, if you believe, will immediately upon the extinction of this life, translate you to the elysian fields, or which if you reject them, will transfer you to the regions of the damned." But,



he said, "it is a religion and it has a creed, but its creed does not consist in condemning those who disagree with it." He later explained that Masonry "rises serene

above the fierce contentions of theologians and turns aside in disgust from the record of persecutions for opinions' sake."

From the origin of Masonry in 1717, we have practiced religious tolerance as a principle that has had profound influence upon our society and its formation. However, religious intolerance is as insidious in civilization today as it was 290 years ago. If as a civilization we cannot find good in others who have different religious beliefs, we will fail to become unified as brothers under the All-Seeing Eye.

In the lodge we practice in a microcosm religious tolerance and equality of others—looking for ways to become brothers rather than ways to become adversaries. As Masons we can take those lessons

practiced in the lodge room and exemplify them in society. Just practicing equality in the lodge room and not carrying it out into the community makes Masonic lessons hollow. You are encouraged to practice out of the lodge room the lessons you have learned in the lodge room.

As we approach this Christmas season, remember that Jesus taught that the love of God was inclusive and not exclusive. He ministered to Jews and Gentiles alike. Masonry likewise includes men of many religious beliefs—whether Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, or Christian. Our ability to unite as brothers, regardless of religious

differences, is our fraternity's strength and should continue to be an example for the rest of the world.

***Our ability to unite as brothers,
regardless of religious differences, is
our fraternity's strength***



David L. Nielsen, Grand Master



Celebration the Feast of Saints John

R. Bruce McGinnis

Each year during the month of January all Montana Lodges pursuant to Montana Code § 25060.A., are required to hold and conduct a Saints John Day observance. The code further requires the observance to consist of tyled table lodge including a lunch or dinner. The observance by masons of the Feast Day's of Saint John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist predate the organization of speculative lodges and the organization of the present Grand Lodges as we know them.

According to the Roman Catholic Church law a feast day or holy day is a day set aside to celebrate the "commemoration of the sacred mysteries and events recorded in the history of our redemption, in memory of the Virgin Mother of Christ, or of Christ's apostles, martyrs, and saints, by special services and rest from work. A feast not only commemorates an event or person, but also serves to excite the spiritual life by reminding us of the event it commemorates." Catholic Encyclopedia. The origins of the celebrations or starting-points for the oldest ecclesiastical feasts are the Jewish solemnities of Easter and Pentecost. Together with the weekly Lord's Day, they remained the only universal Christian feasts down to the third century.

The reasons why Freemasons chose the Saints John, as their patron saints are not entirely clear. It appears that some early lodges of operative stonemasons choose Saint John the Baptist rather than Saint Thomas who is also the patron saint of stonemasons, builders and architects. It is believed that Saint John the

Baptist was chosen because he was a man of humility and virtue, a man who steadfastly kept his obligations to God. For those same reasons he was carried over as the patron saint of craft masonry. It is also believed that the operative stonemasons chose him because of the fervency and zeal he exhibited in his ministry. Again, which are principles that can be carried over to craft Masonry.

Saint John the Evangelist became the second patron saint of Freemasonry when the Grand Lodge of England began to celebrate his feast day in 1725. The Grand Lodge of England had been established on Saint John the Baptist's feast day on June 24, 1717. It celebrated that feast day and held its installation of that day until 1725 until it began holding its installation of officers on December 26 the feast day of Saint John the Evangelist. It is believed that Saint John the Evangelist was selected because he was teacher and as such was a bringer of light. His feast day being on the winter solstice, which marks the return of light to man until it culminates on the summer solstice.



The summer being the brightest day which exemplifies the fervency and zeal of Saint John the Baptist. Thus the two saints became a compliment to each other.

The Masonic significance of the two Saints are explained in the explanatory lecture of the Entered Apprentice degree and are represented in all lodges by a point within a circle which is boarded by 2 parallel lines. The lecture gives an esoteric explanation of this symbol within the two parallel lines representing the Saints John, not in their theological significance but in their sense as a calendar, the days named after the Saints themselves, are denoted. Since those days were the two extremes of the year, the sun is represented as swinging in its circuit between them. The two days are, therefore, the limits of the circle as set between the lines. Hence, it is a symbol of control of conduct.

A ritual containing the opening and closing of a table lodge as well as an order for business may be obtained from the Grand Lodge office. The ritual also provides the protocol for the required toasts.

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:

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

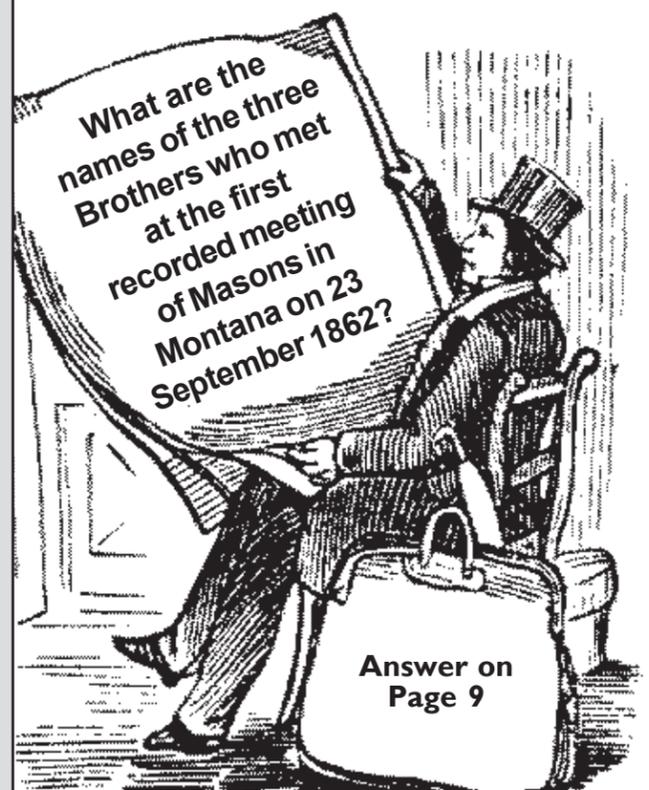
Article and Photo submissions:

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.

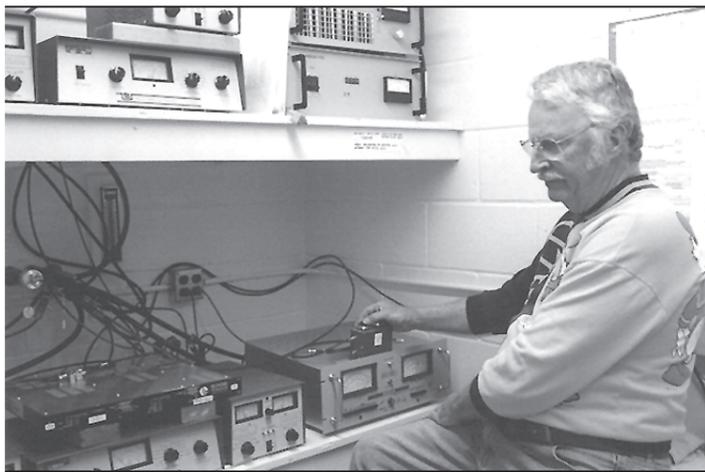
Trivia Question



Bigfork Mason Helps His Community

Brother Russell Pickett of Bigfork Lodge #150, Bigfork MT. Past Secretary of the Lodge and Past Patron of Flathead Lake Chapter #128, Eastern Star, saw a need for an update to the already existing community television service for the Echo Lake, Ferndale, and Swan Lake communities back in 1978. The communities virtually had poor viewable local television service because of the isolation due to mountain terrain and low TV transmitting wattage. A local tax district had been established earlier to support a TV translator system from Swan Hill, east of Bigfork. It took Brother Russell 3 1/2 yrs to purchase new land for a better tower site, buy new equipment, install power, erect the 108 ft tower and correlation of licensing with the FCC and the FAA. On February 2, 1980 Swan Hill TV Districts' electronic site became a reality, broadcasting 4 major networks to approximately 1800 homes. This was before cable and satellite systems were available to the area. With the blessings of the phone company, for which he worked, he was able to spend some company

time on the TV project. Once the system was up and running he resigned to work full time for the telephone company until recently retiring. October 1, 2005 he again became active with Swan Hill TV District as a technical adviser, due to his previous experience, and later was appointed by the Lake County Commissioners as the lone Lake County Trustee. Since Brother Russell's return to the district it has been very timely due to the need of updating the systems and licenses for the upcoming digital conversion mandated by Congress for February 17, 2009. For



those people who own an analog TV set and want to keep them will have to purchase a set top box from an electronic source, to convert the digital signal back to analog or purchase a new DTV set. At present Brother Russell figures he is spending well over 1000 hours a year at the tower site, on the phone or on the computer with this endeavor. Ever since 1980 the translator

station has served the communities well with only a small annual tax assessment. By state law a TV translator station, such as Swan Hill, is required to have 3 trustees who serve without salary but have reasonable expenses reimbursed only. Brother Russell figures that upon completion of this conversion to digital the cost of improvements and upgrades will be estimated to be approximately \$100,000. Another member of the Bigfork Lodge No. 150 has recently been appointed by the Flathead County Commissioners, as one of the 2 Flathead County trustees, is Past Master Del Manicke of Echo Lake.

Sister Peggy Pickett, Past Matron of Flathead Lake Chapter #128 Eastern Star Bigfork, MT.

Scottish Rite News

by Jack D. Rehberg, SGIG

On Monday, August 27, 2007, Masonic history was made in Washington, D.C. For the first time in 194 years the Supreme Councils, 33° Southern and Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, met together. A crowd of over 3,000 assembled in the ballroom of the Hilton Washington Hotel. Grand Master David Nielson 33° was joined with 44 other Grand Masters in attendance.

During the session many members of the Scottish Rite Valleys in Montana were honored with the Thirty-third Degree during the session. Brothers Nielsen of the Helena Valley along with Robert M. Kampfer of the Great Falls Valley and Dwaine Frank Selk of the Western Montana Valley received the degree at the joint session in Washington. Other members from Montana elected to receive the Thirty-third include Eric C. Anderson from the Western Montana Valley; David L. Armsrtong and Clinton G. Frank of the Billings Valley; Arthur F. Hruska from the Butte Valley; Roger A. Jones and James N. Sweaney of the Livingston Valley; and Bryan Donald MacGillvray from the Great Falls Valley. Leroy J. Michalson and Thomas W. Miller of the Helena Valley.

Those elected to receive the Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) were Past Grand Master Jack Anderson, Richard R. Aspinwall, and Rilling David Williams of the Great Falls Valley. From the Livingston Valley were Ronald Fredrick Barron and Walter Fred Mason. From the Helena Valley were Bert H. Bouma, Raymond B. Hartz and Leslie Albert Saisbury. From the Billings Valley, Jeffrey J. Dresch, Stephen D. Marsh and Laris W. Roberts. From the Butte Valley, Cory R. Genzberger and John L. Stoppler. From the Western Montana Valley, Douglas K. Stam, Richard E. King, and Jimmie E. Trowbridge.

There were many highlights of the Joint Session but probably the most impressive was the opportunity of hearing Ill John H. Glenn, 33° share his experiences as an astronaut and his thoughts on Masonry.

Ross C. Jenson Order of Demolay

Ross C. Jensen, Order of DeMolay Assisted by State Master Councilor: J.D. Olsen, Chapter Dads: Brian Murphy, Ted Williams and Erik Erickson, /Ross C. Jensen Order of DeMolay installed new Officers on Sunday, October 21, 2007. Congratulations to Master Councilor: Brother Ryan Parker and the following members: SC - Patrick Murphy JC - Chance Thomas SD - Richard Harding JD - Dustin Olmstead SS - Joe Michael JS - Jack Michael Marshall - Juaquin Burkhart Chaplain - J.D. Olsen Scribe - Drew Burkhart SB - Billy Dove Sentinel - David Yocom Almoner - Merrick Hagland Orator - Jason Cox Treasurer - Russell Dorsey. The recently released



Chinon Parchment from the secret Vatican archives, signed by Pope Clement V in 1308, which exonerated Jacques DeMolay and other Knights Templar, has been a top topic for discussion at RCJ's Chapter meetings. All Masons, Sir Knights, and Sr. DeMolays are cordially invited to RCJ's meetings at 7:30 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Don't miss the upcoming initiation of our new candidates in November!

Zealously submitted by

Brian J. Murphy, Chapter Dad

Hands of the Workmen

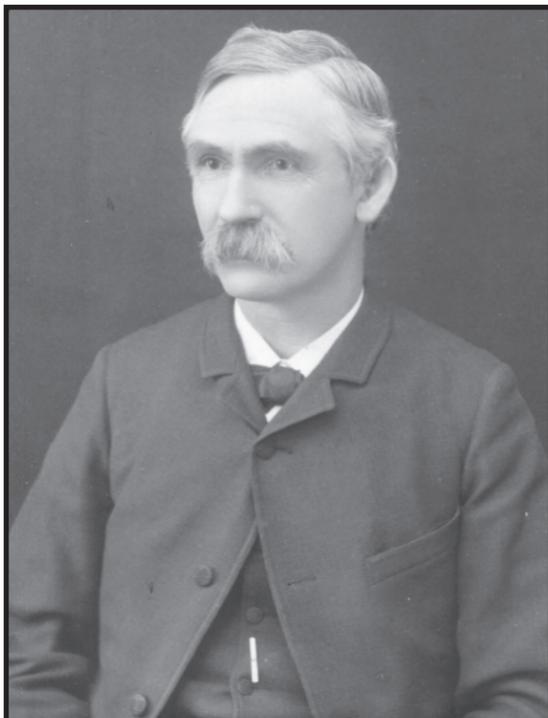
Fifth Grand Master and Fourth Grand Secretary

Cornelius Hedges (1831 – 1907)

Cornelius Hedges, at his death on April 27, 1907, was considered the most venerated figure in Montana Masonry.

He was born on October 28, 1831 in Westfield, Mass., he was made a Master Mason at Independence, Iowa in Independence Lodge No. 87, on October 27, 1858 on the eve of his 27th birthday.

In 1864 he emigrated to the west, walking the entire distance from Iowa and arrived in Virginia City on July 10, 1864. There he embarked upon the popular occupation of gold miner, but later related that he abandoned Virginia City and went to Helena when his mining claim was jumped. Helena became his home for the rest of his life. He soon realized that his livelihood could best be obtained through the practice of the profession for which he was trained.



It was only six months after his arrival in Helena, on June 9, 1865 he demitted from his lodge at Independence, Iowa to aid that movement in establishing the first Masonic Lodge in Helena. He became the master of Helena Lodge U.D. under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Colorado. Upon receipt of the charter as No. 10 on the Colorado registry he became the first elected master and in that capacity assisted in the organizing of the Grand Lodge of Montana under which Helena was chartered as Lodge No. 3 after drawing straws for the first numbers. He served as master of Helena No. 3 until December 1866. He was an active participant with the other Helena Lodges, Morning Star No. 5 and King Solomon No. 9. The three Helena Lodges so admired him they presented a gold walking stick to him that is on display in the Montana Masonic Museum.

At the first election of Grand Lodge Officers he was named Senior GrandWarden in January, 1866. When the second meeting of the Grand Lodge was held in October of that year, Brother Hedges was on his way to Iowa to become reunited with his family. He did not return until the spring of 1867. It was not until the fifth communication, the first one to be held in Helena, that Brother Hedges again had an opportunity to attend and he recorded that his only duty was to write the correspondence report.

In 1870 the Grand Lodge again met in Virginia City and Hedges, who had held no office, was elected as Grand Master. The following year he became Grand Historian, and on June 24, 1872, was appointed as acting Grand Secretary to replace H.K. Hosmer, who had moved from the state. The following meeting he was elected as Grand Secretary and held the office continuously until he died. His gold and silver Past Masters jewel is on display within the Montana Masonic Museum.

Brother Hedges was a member of and received the highest honor in both the York Rite and Scottish Rite. He was a charter member of Miriam Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, and was Grand Patron of

the Grand Chapter in 1893.

For 36 years he wrote the Correspondence Report for the Grand Lodge Proceedings and for all the years of his active Masonic life he took part in many important meetings and conferences of the Masonic world. Ever

active on behalf of Masonic charity, the Montana Masonic Home in the Helena Valley may be considered his most enduring monument.

Besides becoming ever more involved in Masonic activities, he found time to take part in a bewildering number of civil affairs.

Cornelius Hedges, described by a 19th century historian as "one of the ripest scholars and newspapermen" in the Montana Territory, he brought to the newly organized territory three college degrees – two

from Yale (1853) and a law degree from Harvard (1855) – a talent for writing and a deep desire to become part of the unfolding history of the northwestern frontier. He was married in 1856 and with his wife went to Iowa, where he practiced law and worked in a newspaper office.

Hedges served as an editorial writer on the Helena Daily Herald for nearly 20 years. He had contributed articles to the newspaper since August 1869, and he was hired as an editorial writer in 1872 at \$30 a week. In 1885 Hedges helped organize the Montana Territorial Press Association, and he subsequently was elected first vice president. He was inducted into the Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame on May 9, 1965.

His concern over the problems and future of Montana was mirrored daily in his editorials. He was credited with suggesting a national park in the Yellowstone area, the letter from N.P. Langford to Hedges identifying him as the originator of the National Park concept is kept within the Montana Masonic Museum.

Cornelius Hedges was instrumental in spurring legislation to provide funds for the University of Montana. A foe of racially segregated schools, Hedges served four two-year terms as Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction (1872 to 1878 and 1883 to 1885)

In 1871 President Grant appointed him U.S. District Attorney for Montana, and in 1875 he was elected probate judge for Lewis and Clark County, serving in that position from 1875 to 1880. He is said to have earned an enviable reputation in the territorial courts.

From 1880 to 1887 he was supreme court reporter and prepared several volumes of the Montana Reports. An alert scholar, Hedges saved three documents later given to the State Historical Society: his diary, which describes in detail the activities and hopes of the Montana pioneers; the original town plot of Helena; and a map showing routes that led to Virginia City in the 1860s. He co-authored the book "Masonic History of the Northwest", A Graphic Recital of the Organization and Growth of Freemasonry in the North West States, 1909.

He helped organize the State Historical Society and served as its first President. He was a member of the Helena Library Association, which led the way to the formation of the first public library in Montana, the Lewis and Clark County Library.

He was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1884 and when the first state legislature convened in 1889, Hedges, a Republican, took his seat at the first senator from Lewis and Clark County. The Montana Masonic Museum has an autograph book belonging to Bro. Hedges which contains the signatures of all the legislators of the Territorial Constitutional Convention.

Masonic Public Awareness

For those Lodges wishing to promote their lodge in local newspapers you can request "free" camera-ready ad slicks from the Grand Lodge Office. These ad slicks were developed by the Masonic Information Center and are intended to give the public a view of several aspects of the Masonic Fraternity. There are six different ad slicks. There is space for the Lodge name or other contact information to be included. What a great way to promote Freemasonry in your home town.

He's Part of an Even Larger Family



A family of men who call each other "Brother." Freemasons are reliable, trustworthy men who believe in traditional values and live by them.

To learn more about Freemasonry call or write:

Grand Lodge of Montana
406-442-7774
Mtglesec@grandlodgemontana.org



“Retrieving and Recruiting” Order of the Eastern Star

To our fraternal family, Sisters & Brothers all;

I am extremely humbled to send each of you greetings as Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Montana, Order of the Eastern Star. It overwhelms me to see the beautiful love and support that we, Worthy Grand Matron Gayle and I and the grand officers, receive as we travel around our awesome state. We began our year traveling through the Canadian Rockies by rail and coach to raise money for our several charities. The sites were surely a spectacular reflection of His creation.

As Worthy Grand Matron mentioned, we are working hard to generate an increase in our membership. Sheila and I have compiled a program that includes our Golden Retriever dogs, Clyde and Amber to represent Retrieving and Recruiting; retrieving members who no longer attend for one reason or another and recruiting new members.

To members of all our Masonic bodies, we must take it upon ourselves; to coin a phrase....”if it’s going to be it’s up to me”....& talk to people about our beautiful

organizations, and encourage them to become a part of it.

I personally hold memberships in many Masonic bodies and encourage cross membership to help out our families in need. We are only one person and cannot devote every minute to each group, but we can give support in different ways. It may not be holding an office but maybe cooking a dinner, working at a fundraiser or simply saying yes to serving on a committee or helping an elder member arrive safely at a doctor’s appointment.

Sister, Brothers and family all, don’t let our fraternities go to the Dogs.....Get off that porch and Bark up some new enthusiasm

and let’s all take a BITE out of our declining memberships.

*In Star Love and Golden Blessings,
Mo Veerkamp
Worthy Grand Patron*



*Mo Veerkamp
Worthy Grand Patron*

Greetings from the Grand Chapter of MT OES

Dear Friends,

WGP Brother Mo Veerkamp and I are truly looking forward to sharing our “Reflections of God’s Love” year with each of you. Our aim this year is to encourage each of you to “look for the beauty that surrounds us - in nature, our family, friends and beautiful Order- and give thanks to God!”

We are promoting four projects this year: the BC Rail trip, the “BAGG” Raffle, the Appeals letter, and the sale of Key Rings for our Youth Project.

The “BAGG” Raffle is for two sides of Black Angus beef and a \$500 gift card each for groceries and gasoline. The tickets will sell for \$1.00

each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be held during the 2008 Grand Chapter session. The Appeals letter will be sent to out of state members. Both projects will benefit the Masonic Home, Electa’s Cup Fund and Estarl. The Key Rings will sell for \$5.00 each with the proceeds going toward a monetary gift for each Youth Group at the 2008 Grand Chapter session.

We will be encouraging the “Retrieving and Recruiting” of membership. Our total MT OES membership is now **below 6,000** members! Sisters and Brothers, this is becoming a critical situation that cannot be ignored. If our Order is to survive, we must each bring in one, two or more new members!

Once again, there will be a fun travel incentive program titled “Road Runner”. Stamps will be awarded if there are four members from a Chapter, one being an elected officer, attending the outlined Chapter activities. The other part is counting your miles. There will be a ribbon plus various Road Runner pins awarded as your miles accumulate. The final pin is a special Road Runner. Some special awards will also be awarded at Grand Chapter.

Our heartfelt **Thank You** to each one of you for your continued dedication and support of our Order. May your lives be blessed with the “Reflections of God’s “Love.”

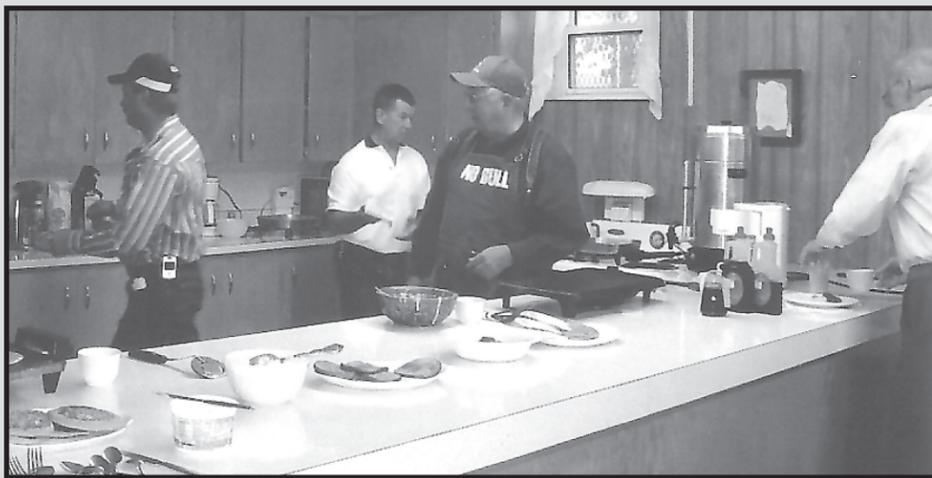
*Star Love and Blessings,
Gayle Holland
Worthy Grand Matron*



*Gayle Holland
Worthy Grand Matron*

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Circle Lodge No. 136 and Circle Chapter No. 125 sponsored a teacher appreciation breakfast on September 22, 2007. The Lodge and Chapter realize the importance of the administration, faculty and support staff of the public schools in McCone County and wanted to show support for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of the young people in the community.



Above: Marvin Stand, Dan Peter, Gene Engen and Eddy Beery



Left: Tom Guldborg, Ivar Lunds, Ron Hintber, Helena and Brim Murphy, enjoying breakfast.

Bill Marquis Receives 50 Year Pin

On October 21st several brothers from Boulder-Basin #41 and MWGM David Nielsen visited Worshipful Brother Bill Marquis in his home to present his 50 year pin. Brother Bill was a little more than surprised at the turnout, his wife, Darlene, had managed to keep it a secret. After hearing several stories about Brother Bill from all the brothers present, Boulder-Basin Worshipful Master Bill Heal read a proclamation that honored the several years of service to the fraternity. MWGM Nielsen talked about his fondest experiences about Brother Bill while active in the Shrine Clown Patrol. After W Bro. Wes Beatty attached the 50 year pin on Brother Bill everyone gathered in the dining room to partake of some delicious carrot cake.

Worshipful Brother Bill Marquis went to the celestial Lodge on November 1st. He was buried on November 5 in Boulder with members of Boulder-Basin performing the funeral services. Survivors include his wife, Darlene Marquis of Boulder; two sons and daughters-in-law, Steve

and Peggy Marquis of Boulder; and Dave and Sandy Marquis of Sheridan, Wyo.; brothers, Dale Marquis of Arizona and Frank Marquis of New Mexico; extended family, Mike and Linda Woods of Utah, Marsha and Ken Hayes of New Mexico, and Tina and Danny Mays of Oregon; and grandchildren, Matthew, Erin, Andy and Max.

Brother Bill was a past Master of Mount Jefferson

Lodge #56 and Boulder-Basin Lodge #41.



Above left: MWGM David Nielsen presents WB Bill Marquis with his 50 yr certificate and pin.

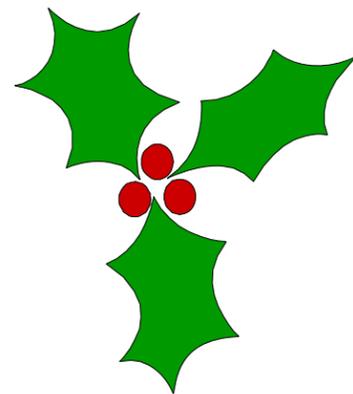


Above: With several Brothers surrounding Bro. Marquis, Boulder-Basin WM Bill Heal reads a letter of appreciation from the Lodge.

Left: MWGM Neisen helps WB Marquis cut the celebration cake.

50 Year Members - Euclid Lodge No.58

Our two new 50 year members Brother Ray Koby (L) and Worshipful Brother James Duffy (R) received their 50 year Pin and Certificate at our Harvest Dinner. Both men have played an incredibly valuable role in Masonry over the last 50 years, and we are so proud to have them as Brothers of our Euclid Lodge. The Award presentation was just a bit more special as Thomas M. Duffy, Jr. Grand Deacon made the Award presentation to his Father.



Will Kussman Receives Award

Lewis and Clark County sheriff's deputy Will Kussman knows exactly where he will display his Peace Officer of the Year Award from the Helena Family Violence Council.

He said the etched glass recognition will go on his memorabilia wall in the entry way of his home.

Other artifacts on the wall include his diploma from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and his paramedic license.

"It's nice to get recognized for something you do every day," Kussman said.

Helena Police Department Corporal Lynette Flink also received the award Tuesday morning at the Montana Supreme Court chambers.

The award, which is in its seventh year, is designed to honor law enforcement officers for their outstanding work with domestic violence. This year is the second time that the council decided to expand award consideration to the tri-county area of Broadwater, Jefferson and Lewis and Clark counties.

Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath said during the ceremony that domestic violence impacts not only the families involved but the community as a whole.

"Helena is very successful in this area," McGrath told the about 30 gathered for the ceremony.

"These are two glorious examples of the system working again," he said.

Flink started with the department as a dispatcher in 1998 and signed with the patrol division four years later. She said the best part of her work with domestic violence is "being able to get victims help and in a safe environment and holding offenders accountable."

Flink, who is a member of the SWAT team, the Crisis Intervention Team and the Missouri River Drug Task Force, said it is a team effort with the whole department.

"She truly cares about what she does. She gets it," McGrath said.

Kussman, who has been with the sheriff's office for 18 years, was chosen because he has a clear understanding of domestic violence while on duty and off, McGrath said. Kussman also is a member of the SWAT team.

"I enjoy this job. I love it," Kussman said.

"I can't ask for a better career and this is just the icing on the cake," he added while proudly lifting his award.



Bro Will Kussman (Ottawa Lodge No. 51, Marysville) Receives Peace Officer of the Year Award from Attorney General Mike McGrath

By Angela Brandt, Independent Record

Lodge of Instruction



Above: Attendance was great at the combined Glacier and Missoula District Lodge of Instruction held in Polson on October 13th.

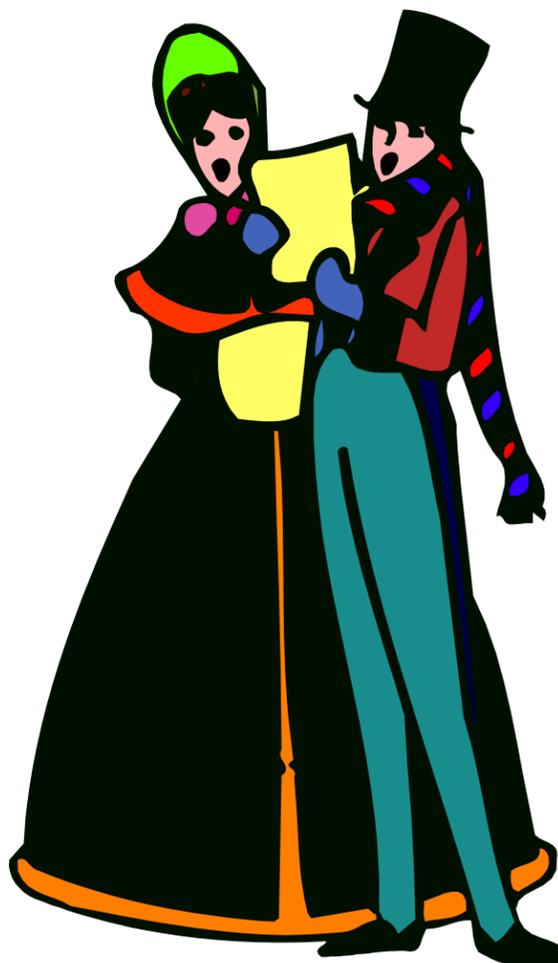
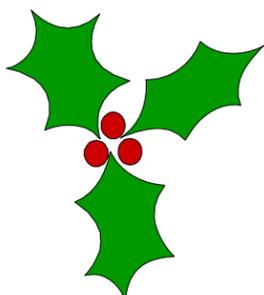
Left: RW Sr. Grand Warden Thomas Lund "really the fish was this big between the eyes"

Below: MWGM Nielsen



Demolay News

Patton R. Hart, Grand Master of DeMolay has announced that W. Brother Samuel H. Whitehead has been appointed as Personal Representative in the jurisdiction of Montana and will become the new Executive Officer of the Jurisdiction of Montana on successful completion of the DeMolay Jurisdiction Management Training Program. W. Brother Sam is a member of Meridian Lodge No. 105 and is a Past Master of that Lodge. He is a Senior DeMolay.



Job's Daughters Continues

In June, Montana Job's Daughters held its third annual Jurisdictional Session of the Jurisdictional Bethel. On the final day of Session, a closing ceremony was held for the Jurisdictional Bethel. While our state level is closing, that does not mean the end of Job's Daughters. As there seems to be quiet a few rumors floating around the state and a lot of confusion, we felt it best to explain what happens from here.

We still have three active, functioning Bethels in Montana located in Billings, Great Falls, and Kalispell. By closing our state level, this allows our adult to put more time and energy into these three Bethels. We need to focus our attention on our foundation to make sure all our members are getting the most out of our Organization. Our Bethels report directly to the Supreme Guardian Council, Job's Daughters International and have been since we transitioned from a Grand Guardian Council to a Jurisdictional Guardian Council. We have been appointed a Supreme Deputy who is responsible for visiting the Bethels and making inspections as well as serving as a resource should the need arise.

We are continuing our Miss Montana Job's Daughter program and she will serve as our representative at other Masonic Organizations' events. Our 2007-2008 Miss Montana Job's Daughter is Miss Katie Rehberg. When she is not available, then we will look to one of our Bethels' Honored Queens to represent us. We plan to get together annually to still have competitions, get to know each other, and hold our Pageant. We are currently looking to hold this annual event in September.

Still confused? The best comparison I can come up with is to compare us to the Scottish Rite which does not have a state level. They have Valleys, we have Bethels; they have a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, we have a Supreme Deputy.

So while we will no longer have a state level we do still exist in Montana. Our Bethels continue to need your support, so we encourage you to get involved in any way you can. For those of you not familiar with Job's Daughters, we are an organization for girls ages ten (10) to twenty (20). Our members must be related to a Master Mason by blood, marriage, or law. We are a leadership and personal development organization. We teach girls how to conduct meetings, parliamentary

procedure, how to organize events or fundraisers, and how to speak in public. We contribute regularly to our communities and have our own philanthropy – The **HIKE** Fund. **HIKE** stands for **H**earing **I**mpaired **K**ids **E**ndowment and the money raised for this fund goes to help children between the ages of newborn and twenty (20) years obtain hearing devices.

If you have further questions, would like to help support a Bethel, or would like to request someone speak at an event for you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,
 Timmie-Lynn Poglajen
 Past Grand Guardian of Montana



Submission Deadline for March, 2008
Montana Masonic News is
PRIOR to Feb 15, 2008
 (see page 2 for details)



50 Year Members September, October, November & December, 2007

Congratulations to our brethren who were raised in 1957 and receive their Veteran's Pin in 2007 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of becoming a Mason. 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.

September-07

Raymond S. Thomas	Mount Moriah No. 24	9/14
Virgil O. Dilsaver	Ionic No. 38	9/18
Lawrence Taylor	Livingston No. 32	9/21
Richard D. Seibert	Mission Valley No. 78	9/21
Richard B. Dundas	Mount Moriah No. 24	9/28
Sidney B. Peyton, Jr.	Butte No. 22	9/29

October-07

Clarence VanFossen	Acacia No. 33	10/15
James L. Meader	Ashlar No. 29	10/25
Arthur F. Hruska	Butte No. 22	10/28
Raymond F. Koby, Jr.	Euclid No. 58	10/29

November-07

Dewey J. Hansen	Billings No. 113	11/02
Robert Blankenship	Sts. John No. 92	11/14

Lester C. Franks	Butte No. 22	11/18
Walter A. Pashley, Jr.	Harmony No. 49	11/20
John J. Dunn	Helena No. 3	11/22
Gerald B. Neely	Corinthian No. 72	11/25

December-07

Clifford E. Schleusner	Ashlar No. 29	12/07
Eugene W. Mossey	Friendship No. 37	12/09
William J. Webster	Friendship No. 37	12/09
Norman L. Shorb	Ashlar No. 29	12/11
Peter M. Winge	Stillwater No. 62	12/12
Dale D. Moore	Delta No. 128	12/20
Manfred S. Maryott	Star In The West No. 40	12/27
Clarence VanFlossen	Acacia No. 33	12/27
George L. Scott	Corinthian No. 72	12/27



Celestial Lodge



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

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

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

Harold M Hagen	Stevensville No. 28	02/06/2007	Andrew J. Sullivan	Pryor Mountain No. 151	08/27/2007	Ronnie H. Allery	Malta No. 57	10/03/2007
Russell Boyd Sparrow	Meridian No. 105	03/07/2007	Travis Kay Davidsen	Delta No. 58	08/28/2007	Richard Lee Pearce	Ionic No. 38	10/03/2007
William L. Bruer	Dillon No. 16	03/17/2007	Floyd Thomas Nobbs	Euclid No. 58	08/30/2007	Kent D. Veatch	Ashlar No. 29	10/06/2007
James McKnight	Trinity No. 152	03/2007	Tracy Wilson	Gallatin No. 6	08/31/2007	Dale W. Williams	Powder River No. 135	10/09/2007
Ira C. Bodkins	Cascade No. 34	04/10/2000	Harold W. Trapp	Captain Scott No. 98	09/01/2007	Herb Ballou	Boulder Basin No. 41	10/11/2007
J. Torrence Harvey	Trinity No. 152	05/01/2007	George W. Sullivan	Stevensville No. 28	09/06/2007	Herbert Smail	Pryor Mountain No. 151	10/12/2007
George E. Todd	Westgate No. 27	05/31/2007	Billy Carr	Trinity No. 152	09/09/2007	George Vielleux	Benton No. 25	10/14/2007
Bjarne Johnson	Delta No. 58	06/19/2007	Charles A. Tode	Bigfork No. 150	09/12/2007	Clarence H. Sonstegaard	Corinthian No. 72	10/26/2007
Paul G. Brunner	Butte No. 22	07/18/2007	Benjamin York, PGM	Lower Yellowstone No. 90	09/13/2007	Larry S. LaRocque	Choteau No. 44	10/29/2007
Lewis Aleksich	Pryor Mountain No. 151	07/30/2007	John K. Schuyler	Morning Star No. 5	09/16/2007	Billy Marquis	Boulder-Basin No. 41	11/01/2007
Kenneth Miller	Pryor Mountain No. 151	07/26/2007	Richard G. Milne	Delta No. 128	09/15/2007	Harold Sampson	Trinity No. 152	11/02/2006
Jack Yardley	Livingston No. 32	08/07/2007	Oswald H. Bennett	Belgrade No. 68	09/20/2007	Ben Redant	Benton No. 25	11/18/2007
Nicholas R. Parker	North Star No. 46	08/08/2007	M. Herbert Goodwin	Morning Star No. 5	09/21/2007	Robert Lee Hornung	Ionic No. 38	11/08/2007
Jerry Ross Hearn	Ionic No. 32	08/09/2007	William R. Kelly	Mission Valley No. 78	09/25/2007	Richard E. Davidsen	Libby No. 85	UNK
Glen N. Stewart	Gallatin No. 6	08/09/2007	Joe Montgomery	Trinity No. 152	09/28/2007	David F. Hembleton	Libby No. 85	UNK
Donald LeRoy Coburn	Ottawa No. 51	08/10/2007	Florin T. Kahnberg	Bigfork No. 150	10/02/2007			
Raymond Sims	Mount Moriah No. 24	08/10/2007						
Lester W. Hektner	Choteau No. 44	08/12/2007						
Lawrence L. Egnor	Gallatin No. 6	08/15/2007						
Phillip G. Haglund	Circle No. 136	08/20/2007						
Clarence Hamilton	Flint Creek No. 11	08/22/2007						
Edwin T. Sansom	Mountain No. 110	08/24/2007						
Carl H. Beyer	Bozeman No. 18	08/25/2007						

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 59604.

Deceased: _____

Lodge: _____



“Actually, your feelings are perfectly normal. Not attending your lodge meetings is something you should feel guilty about.”

Trivia Answer:

**Nathaniel Pitt
Langford; David
Charlton;
George E. Gere.
All were
Minnesota
Masons.**

Attention Snow Birds

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

Christmas Message from the Grand Prelate

As I sit here in front of the computer screen I wonder how to adjust my words to this Christmas season.

In our high pace world, where commercialization has dominated the Christmas season we need to stop and think and thank God for the blessing he has given us.

The new world, the Americas, and particularly the United States of America. Peopled by religious dissidents of Europe, from penal institutions, extremely poor, but each wanting a better life. Not afraid of work they dug in. They built churches and then schools after they had established their homes. God was ever in their minds not only on the Sabbath but with each of them in their daily work. They knew that their very existence came from God, thus Thanksgiving. Praise to God. So many times when circumstances prevailed and they were in desperate times they always turned to God. In this day of liberalism and the fear of a few that we will ask God for help. With a paid Chaplain in Congress and the various tributes to God carved on

the doors of our public buildings, with the picture of the 10 commandments on the Justice Buildings, most of us must still revere and worship God and his son Jesus Christ.

“Away in a manger, no crib for his head, The Little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.” Words I remember from my youth. With no room at the Inn God had provided a stable. Oh how terrible to have to have a baby born in a barn. Let us explore this situation. As Rome had decreed that each should be counted in the city of their birth many were on the road and needed accommodation. I would imagine that facilities were crowded and not too clean. Camping out around a campfire with all to look on was not an option. A stable cut into the rock would keep the wind out with hay or straw for comfort. Mary had most likely brought the clothes along knowing that a birth was imminent. What better place for this wonderful event.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we still have turmoil in this old world as they did in those times. The scheming of men for power, for money, for prestige and dominance over his fellow man is today as prevalent as in the days of Christ. Where is the Golden Rule?

As Christian Knights we still have the vow to bind up the wounds of the afflicted, feed the hungry, and clothe the naked. In our world volunteers are needed. Many groups need a helping hand. Ring the bell for Christmas donations, help at the food bank. The schools could use people to listen to children read. The hospitals and nursing homes can always use a helping hand. An example is the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for all who come. What a wonderful example of reaching out, bind up the wounds of the afflicted, feed the hungry, clothe the naked.

Eleanor and I wish for you and yours a joyous holiday season, we still use the greeting “Merry Christmast and a Happy New Year. May God Prevail.”

Charlie Tesch

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Montana

Christmas 2007

To all Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Montana, The Officers and Members of Constituent Commanderies of this Jurisdiction and all Knights Templar, Master Masons and their families, where-so-ever dispersed:

Season's Greetings,

As we enter this most joyous time of year, Connie and I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed new year. It is this time of year that finds us making plans for family get-togethers complete with all the festivities, food and fun that comes with the Holiday Season. As we do this, let's not forget to be thankful that we live in this great country that was built by those who believed in God. Because of their efforts, along with many more since then, the many freedoms we enjoy, including the freedom of religion, still exists for us today and have become the envy of the world.

We, as Christian Masons, should ever remember “the reason for the season.” It is indeed a wondrous and

exciting time for our Children and Grandchildren with all the sights and sounds. However, there is nothing more wondrous than the Story of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I encourage you to share that with them in both word and song during this special time.

Please say a special prayer during this season for our men and women in uniform who can't be with their family during this Holiday Season. They are deserving of our support and prayers.

And finally, Sir Knights and Ladies, as we go about the hustle and bustle of this season, remember, when you wish someone a “Merry Christmas”, do it with a big smile! Make it your duty and obligation to remind others that this is the time of year that we, as

Christians, celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Give a helping hand to those less fortunate. Take the time to stop and visit with your friends and neighbors. Let your life be an example to others and as Jesus Commanded, “Let us Love one Another.”

May each and every one of you enjoy the special blessings of this Christmas Season.

In His Name,

Bradford L. Huffman

Brad Huffman

Right Eminent Grand Commander

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.



Masonic Home Thank You

The residents, staff and the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home of Montana wish to thank the members of the Grand Lodge of Montana for their generous gift of \$25,000.00 to the building project fund.

We also wish to express our thanks to the Grand Chapter of the O.E.S. and numerous

other individuals for their time, money and effort on behalf of the Masonic Home of Montana.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Seasons

Greetings - Felices fiestas; Meilleurs vœux; Besinnliche Feiertage; Buone Feste



Ed Stede, Chairman Board of Trustees

A Freemason's Christmas Wish

By Brother Andrew Bradley

It is the time of year when the Brethren rejoice, and sing carols of praise in resounding voice. Days of merriment and long nights of cheer, as we all await the "Happy New Year!". It is a time of family and life long friends, a time of happiness and to make amends. Roast turkey and baubles and the Nutcracker Suite, we each have our own way to make Christmas complete.

As we stroll through this happy month of December find time to pause and take time to remember that distinguishing sign of a Freemason's heart - those acts of Charity. How great they are. As your family gathers 'round your Christmas tree, and the children play with giggles of glee, spare a thought for the poor, the man with no shoes, whose daily meal is less than your dues.

Remember also the Grand Lodge above, and the Supreme Great Architect's act of love. And practise those virtues we hold so true. Have some fun! But let Temperance chasten you. And during this season of peace and joy look well to our future - the girl and boy. Then wonder what lessons you may them teach, and with your guidance what heights they may reach.

So, to all of my Brethren from far and wide, whether your Christmas be snow, or hot and dry, may the Architect grant his celestial boon and keep your good health 'til we meet again soon. Take care of yourself and those you find dear. Keep this festive spirit throughout the next year. Look toward your next date with our happy band. 'Til our next merry meeting. Apron, heart, and hand.

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Calendar of Events

December 2007

- Dec 1** GLO Meeting – Helena
- Dec 8** Sagebrush District Lodge of Instruction/FC – Terry
- Dec 8** CMR District Lodge of Instruction/FC – Fort Benton
- Dec 8** Headwaters Lodge of Instruction/FC – Pony
- Dec 12** Ponemah No. 64 Annual Christmas Party –Plains (6:30pm)

- Dec 13** Helena Valley Scottish Rite Annual Meeting
- Dec 25** **Christmas**
- Dec 28** Al Bedoo Shrine Center Installation

- Note:**
- ◆ January is St's John Observance month
 - ◆ Montana Masonic Hall of Fame nominations due prior to 1 April
 - ◆ Annual Returns due before March 15th

January 2008

- Jan 1** New Years Day
- Jan 3** GM @ Bozeman No. 18
- Jan 5** Algeria Shrine Center Installation – Helena
- Jan 5** Deer Lodge No. 14 St's John Observance (Noon)
- Jan 11** Consolidation of Missoula No. 13 & Harmony No. 49

- Jan 12** Bagdad Shrine Center Installation – Butte
- Jan 19** Missoula/Glacier District Lodge of Instruction/MM- Hot Springs (10am)
- Jan 22** GM @ Belgrade No. 68
- Jan 25** **Grand Lodge of Colorado (Jan 25-26)**
- Jan 26** Rocky Mountain District Lodge of Instruction/FC – Butte (10am)

- Note:**
- ◆ Proposed Resolutions & Committee Reports due to Grand Lodge by Feb 25th
 - ◆ February is Americanism month

February 2008

- Feb 1** **Grand Lodge of Utah and Grand Lodge of Nebraska (Feb 1&2)**
- Feb 2** Beartooth District Lodge of Instruction/MM- Scottish Rite Center-Billings (10am)
- Feb 7** **Grand Lodge of Alaska (Feb 7&8)**

- Feb 16** Conference of Grand Masters & Grand Secretaries (Feb 16-19) –Louisville
- Feb 23** Rocky Mountain District Lodge of Instruction/MM – Helena
- Feb 25** **Proposed Resolutions and Committee Reports due to Grand Lodge**

- Note:**
- ◆ Montana Masonic Hall of Fame nominations due prior to 1 April

Montana Annual Communications

For advance planning and to give an idea when and where our Annual Communications will be the following is provided. More information will be added as the various dates get closer.

2008

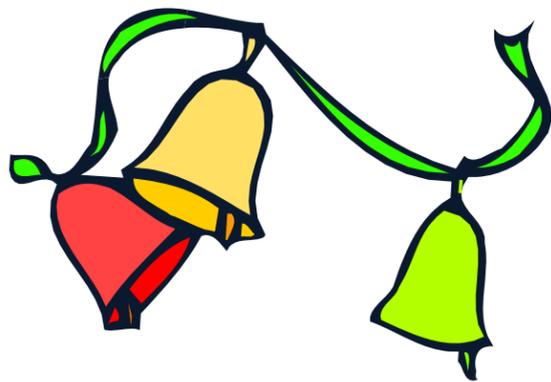
2008 - Helena, June 26 – 28
 Tentative session site is the Helena Civic Center.
 Session hotels will be the Great Northern Hotel (\$98.00) and the Park Plaza Lodge (\$94.50)
 Alternate hotels will include the Red Lion Colonial Inn (\$98.00) and the Days Inn (\$77.00)

2009

2009 – Glasgow, June 25-27
 Session site is the Cottonwood Inn & Suites and Convention Center (\$78.00)

2010

2010 - Missoula, June 24-26
 Session site and primary session hotel will be the Hilton Gardens (\$120.00)
 Alternate hotels will be added later.



Christmas Tree Ornament Supports the Masonic Home

The Christmas Tree ornament (right) is being sold by Judy Nielsen. The net proceeds from each sale will go to the Montana Masonic Home. Cost \$15.00 each.

Contact: Judy Nielsen
 3150 Vigilante Dr
 Helena, MT 59602; call 442-7347;
 email: nielsenhca@bresnan.net

Lodges of Instruction

2008

- January 19** Missoula & Glacier District (MM Degree) – Hot Springs
- January 26** Rocky Mountain District (FC Degree) – Butte
- February 2** Beartooth District (MM Degree) – Billings
- February 23** Rocky Mountain District (MM Degree) – Helena
- March 1** Great Falls District (MM Degree) – Great Falls

