

THE FLORIDA MASON

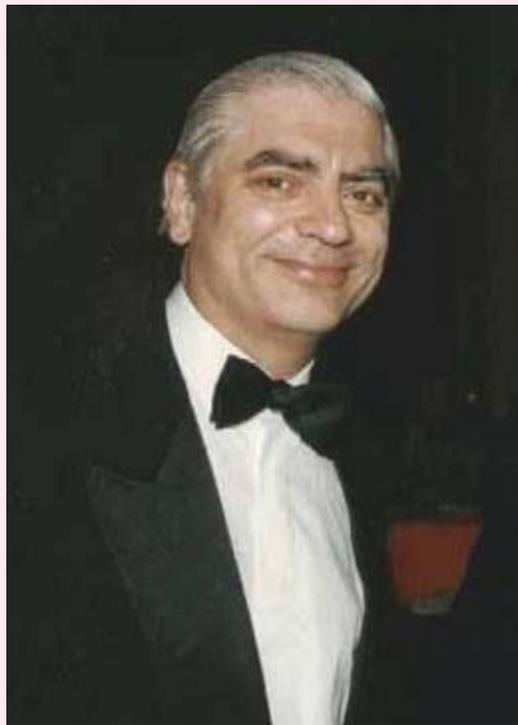
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA
VOLUME 101 ISSUE 3 NOVEMBER 2002



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THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING
PRINCE PAUL OF ROMANIA IS MADE A FLORIDA MASTER MASON
SEE STORY PAGE 10

THE FLORIDA MASON

VOLUME 101 ISSUE 3
NOVEMBER 2002

EDITOR

Tim Bryce
P.O. Box 1637, Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1637
Tel: 727/786-4567
Fax: 727/786-4765
E-Mail: timb001@attglobal.net

ADVERTISING

W.: Louis Marchetti, PM
9397 Midnight Pass Road, Unit #202
Sarasota, FL 34242
Tel: 941/349-3318
E-Mail: louestakey@aol.com

BUSINESS MANAGER

State Chairman, Public Relations & Publicity
R.:W.: David Paul Royals, PDDGM
1746 Scott Road, Westville, FL 32464
Tel: 850/956-4324
E-Mail: paulroyals@yahoo.com

PUBLISHER

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Accepted Masons of Florida
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Mailing Address:
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Tel: 800/375-2339
WWW: <http://www.gflmason.org/>

Grand Lodge Elected Officers for 2002-2003

Grand Master - M.:W.: James A. Durham, Jr.
Deputy GM - R.:W.: John R. Givens, PDDGM
SGW - R.:W.: C. Edward Gonzalez, PDDGM
JGW - R.:W.: Elmer Coffman, PDDGM
Grand Treasurer - M.:W.: J. Roy Crowther
Grand Sec.- M.:W.: Roy Connor Sheppard, PGM

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Masonic Medical Research Laboratory
2150 Bleecker Street, Utica, NY 13501-1787
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Tel: 888/888-6675
Fax: 315/735-5648
E-Mail: kamp@mmrl.edu
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GRAND MASTER'S THEME

"Excellence Through Knowledge"

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THE FLORIDA MASON is the official magazine of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Florida. It is published bi-monthly and made freely available to Masons and friends of the fraternity.

Opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect official position of the Grand Lodge of Florida unless so stated.

THE FLORIDA MASON encourages submission of articles and pictures, but the editor reserves the right to edit or reject any article for any reason, and to use only as needs and policies dictate and space permits. Articles and pictures should be sent to the Editor.

Articles can be submitted through *THE FLORIDA MASON's* web site; also, copies of the publication can be downloaded from there as well:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>

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The following rate card is based on an annual run of 6 issues per year.

1/20 page (25/32" X 3+3/4")	\$ 135.00
Business card size (2" X 3+3/4")	\$ 225.00
1/4 page (horizontal) (2+5/16" X 7+5/8")	\$ 375.00
1/4 page (vertical) (4+5/8" X 3+3/4")	\$ 375.00
1/3 page (3" X 7+5/8")	\$ 450.00
1/2 page (4+3/4" X 7+5/8")	\$ 675.00
FULL PAGE (9+1/2# X 7+5/8")	\$1,125.00
CLASSIFIED (50 words or less)	\$ 20.00

CLASSIFIEDS: A lodge may like to post their location and meeting times so that visiting Brothers will know when and where the lodge will meet. These classified ads would be inexpensive and would have statewide coverage. Even District Deputy Grand Masters might list their official visits so all members could make plans to attend. The list of possibilities for classified advertising is endless.

**Call W.: Bro. Louis Marchetti to place an order:
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MASONIC FLOAT

The Masonic Float is a float which has been used in both large and small parades throughout Florida. It promotes all branches of the Masonic Family and seats approximately 30 people. The float can be made available for your next parade simply by contacting the coordinator below.

Float Coordinator
W.: Steven A. Sagal, PM, DI
954/553-6222
stevesagal@aol.com

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

FUND RAISERS

Recently, the SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association (representing Districts 20 & 21) held a golf tournament which generated funds for the Masonic Home and the Association's Scholarship Fund (see story on page 12). In addition to generating money for charity, the group enjoyed some good old fashioned Brotherhood. Although the tournament director is to be commended for his organization and footwork, he received considerable help from the golf course hosting the event.

In prior years, the Association's principal fund raising event had been a fish fry at the Masonic Home requiring a tremendous amount of effort on the part of the coordinator and local Brethren. Despite this well intended effort, the fish fry generated little in terms of funds.

The contrast in terms of the golf tournament and the fish fry is substantial and denotes how the times are changing. The staple of Masonic fund raisers of the past primarily consisted of pancake breakfasts, fish fries, and spaghetti dinners. These types of events are typically labor intensive, generate little interest from younger and middle aged people and, consequently, produce little in terms of funds. Instead, new types of events aimed at a younger generation are being devised with much success, such as golf tournaments, trap shoot competitions, fishing trips, car shows, health fairs, cigar smokers, father/son camp trips, shrimp boils, dance socials involving the wives, outdoor MM degrees with a theme (e.g., Ft. Clinch), etc. The emphasis now is:

- Focused on a new generation of Masons; more affluent and interested in the good life. Lodges are recognizing that it is vital to stay in step with the changing interests of the Craft.
- Creating "win-win" situations (promote both Brotherhood and Charity).
- Making it fun, not boring and routine, thereby motivating the Craft to participate.
- KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) - minimize the amount of effort, maximize the return.

These new fund raising events are to be applauded for their innovation and keeping in step with the times. I'm reminded of the old expression:

"If you have tried something and failed, you are vastly better off than if you had tried nothing and succeeded."
- Anonymous

Keep the faith!

Tim Bryce
timb001@attglobal.net
Editor



P.S. Don't forget to add me to your *Trestleboard* mailing list:

Tim Bryce
Editor, *THE FLORIDA MASON*
c/o M. Bryce & Associates (MBA)
P.O. Box 1637
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1637

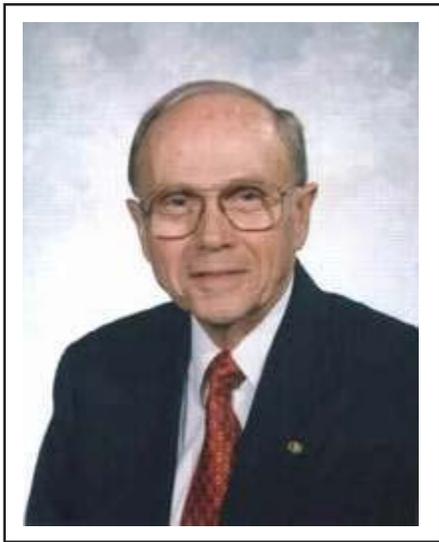
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GRAND MASTER'S COMMENTS
M.:W.: James A. Durham, Jr.
Grand Master of Masons in Florida

As we approach the holiday season of the year 2002, I am reminded of the many things for which I am extremely thankful, not the least of which is my citizenship in the greatest country on Earth. Every citizen of the United States of America, together with every visitor to this great nation can thank our creator, the Great Architect of the Universe, for the opportunities that we have in this day and age.

We are also reminded of how we came by these privileges of citizenship, free speech, a right to protest, to join fraternal organizations or to do just about as we please whenever the mood strikes us, provided we do not step on the toes of our neighbors. Our founding fathers had been through great struggles in their lives and worked diligently and laboriously to create a framework which drives the legal and social systems in our society today.

When one feels depressed and perhaps a little out of sorts, it takes only a look around to appreciate the many joys of living in the United States of America. There are many shortcomings, that is true, but on the whole, the positives far outweigh the very few negatives we might identify.

Many television programs today border on the immoral - no, many of them are pure and simple immoral at its best. On the other hand, television offers many excellent forms of entertainment right in our own living room. We have only to select the "right" ones for us.

As members of the greatest fraternal organization every known to man - Freemasonry - our opportunities for

friendship and associations the world over are practically endless. Where else and under what circumstances can you go to a different community on almost any day of the week, month or year and meet with those who know you as a personal friend and brother? We are thankful for the protection that our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters are afforded — protection that extends throughout the world wherever Masonry exists.

We are forever extending the hand of friendship and assistance to those in need. I am reminded of two recent incidents where one of our own needed help and was cared for by a Brother. The following is an e-mail that came from a Florida Past Master regarding a very trying time that turned out well:

"I am a motorcycle enthusiast. Recently upon returning home from a motorcycle event in Daytona, my wife and I found ourselves stranded, late at night on a desolate road. For about an hour or better dozens of vehicles passed without anyone offering assistance. I was reluctant to wave most of them over because of the risk of the wrong one stopping. As vehicles approached the headlights prevented us from determining what it was or the appearance of who was operating it.

Finally, someone slowed enough for me to tell it was a late model SUV and I took a chance and waved for them to stop. The sole occupant was a mature white male dressed in a shirt and tie. He asked if I needed help and I told him we were stranded and needed to call for assistance. He offered his cell phone but it was useless in that we were in a dead cell service area. He offered to transport one or both of us to assistance. Not wanting to separate from my wife or leave my late model touring BMW unattended, we declined his offer but asked him to try his phone later where there might be service. He refused my offer to cover the expense of the calls but he did continue to call, no less than six times, as he continued his travels, to Ocala to my good friends and motorcycle companions who had a rescue trailer and who did, in fact, shortly rescue us. In addition, our good Samaritan returned to us, traveling a great distance, to let us know he had been able to contact our Ocala friends.

After our good Samaritan left us the first time my wife informed me he was wearing Masonic jewelry, something I had not noticed. When he returned we introduced ourselves, and discussed our Masonic affiliations. . .

The grand Masonic lesson of charity has hereby, once again, been reemphasized."

(continued on page 5)

GRAND MASTER'S COMMENTS

(continued from page 4)

The Brother who stopped to assist that past master of a Florida Masonic Lodge was one of our current District Deputy Grand Masters. He took a chance in stopping, and I am sure he was cautious. Nevertheless, one of our Brothers rendered assistance to a needy man and his wife, a Masonic couple on a motorcycle.

Another incident occurred on a recent trip across Alligator-Alley, which is Interstate 75 running from Miami to Naples. One of our appointed Grand Lodge officers lost the serpentine belt on his late model Buick, leaving him stranded many miles from civilization — no civilization other than the many hundreds of automobiles passing without stopping to assist.

This Brother called the emergency assistance telephone listed along this desolate stretch of Alligator Ally, and after over an hour it appeared there would be no help from the Road Ranger Service. Finally, he located the telephone number of the Secretary of a Lodge in Naples, some thirty miles away. That call was referred very quickly to a past master who is in the vehicle towing business.

Again, a Brother Mason was assisted and helped out of a rather difficult situation through the aid of several individuals with Masonic values and the inclination to fulfill that part of their commitment to help, aid and assist.

My Brothers, it is indeed a pleasure to be in the position to serve this wonderful body of great men and Masons. There is much good work being accomplished throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. We provide video taping for young children as well as for the elderly who may be prone to wander from home — just ask a Child ID representative about this service.

Our charities include the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory where many great things in the health field are being accomplished. We also support the Masonic Home of Florida and the many residents who have elected to spend their remaining years in the loving hands of Masonic residential care. Our work at the Masonic Home also includes the First Lady's project to replace some of the public use furniture that will be more usable by the residents. This project is proceeding quite well.

As we move into the second half of the 2002-2003 Grand Lodge Year, the Fraternal Administrative Endowment Program, i.e., FA-100, will be working to develop a Commemorative Grand Lodge Booklet that will be distributed at our annual Grand Lodge Communication in May 2003. These efforts will benefit the Endowment

Program which helps to make our annual Grand Lodge budget. There will be opportunities for Lodges, Districts, appendant orders, and individual Brothers to purchase ads at reasonable costs. The District Chairmen for FA-100 and the District Deputy Grand Masters have the details on this project.

Lodges all across the state are requesting dispensation for conducting one-day or short-of-time degree programs. At this writing, we have approved 63 such requests with a large number of candidates. Many Brothers who were adamantly opposed to the short-of-time program have participated and contributed to making these successful and meaningful experiences for the candidates. After all, the quality of individual candidates is no less than for those who are initiated in the usual manner - in fact, as everyone is aware, the candidates this year are actually receiving almost everything they would in the traditional format. And, for the most part, they are receiving the degrees in their own Lodge.

Thank you, again, Brethren and friends of Freemasonry in the great state of Florida for the many successes that we are experiencing.

With Fraternal love to all,

James A. Durham
Grand Master

FM



www.mmrl.edu

**CORPORATE BOARD ACTIONS/
PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP RETURNS TO
PARTICULAR LODGES**

TO: Worshipful Masters and Brethren
DATE: September 30, 2002

The Corporate Board has discussed at length the issues relative to the annual return to Particular Lodges from the Perpetual Membership fund in January 2003. The Corporate Board at its meeting on September 21, voted to pay five percent (5%) of current value of the fund as specified in the Digest of Masonic Law paragraph 26.05.1(g), with the understanding that such payments will be coming from the perpetual membership fund.

A survey was made of the members of the Jurisprudence Committee regarding this issue, and their overwhelming recommendation, despite the downturn in overall investments, was to make the 5% payment as specified in the Digest even if some base dollars would have to be used. Therefore, as noted above, the return will be five percent (5%) of fair market value as of the end of December 2002.

Sincerely and fraternally,
James A. Durham
Grand Master
jdurham653@aol.com

FM

SOUVENIR CONVENTION PROGRAM

5 June 2002

To All Brothers:

My Brothers, Grand Lodge will be producing a Souvenir Convention Program for our 2003 Grand Lodge Convention. I know you will want to be part of Freemasonry in Florida, here you can honor your lodge or a deserving brother with in your lodge, or remember a brother who has served Freemasonry, by purchasing an Ad to show you care.

The following Ad sizes are available for the listed prices:

Outside Front Cover - Unavailable
Outside Back Cover - \$250.00
Inside Front & Back Cover - \$200.00 each
Center Fold Pages - Unavailable
Full Page Ad - \$160.00 (Size: 7-1/2 X 10)
1/2 Page Ad - \$115.00 (Size: 7-1/4 X 5)
1/4 Page Ad - \$75.00 (Size: 3-5/8 X 2-3/8)

NOVEMBER 2002

We will also have a special section my brothers for you and your lady to be sponsors by being a line signer to show your support of the Grand Lodge of Florida. By signing your name for only \$10.00, you will go down in history as the backbone of Freemasonry. Remember only one name per signature box. (**Note** - do not sign as Mr. & Mrs. John Doe or John & Mary Doe, this would count as two signatures).

Ads will be accepted from ALL MASONIC BODIES, Allied and Appendant Orders, Individual Masons, Masonic Material Suppliers and Selected Businesses.

Pictures may be used in the ads, (Prefer Black & White Glossy) but will not be returned. All Ads, Art Work, and Photos **must be Camera ready.**

Make Checks payable to: **Grand Lodge of Florida**, with the notation on the bottom of the check: **2003 Souvenir Convention Program.**

Mail Order Forms, Ads, Photo, Signature Sheets and Checks to:

R.:W.: Daniel E. Date
Program Chairman
601 14th Ave. W.
Palmetto, FL 34221-4522
E-mail: DnIEDI@aol.com
Tel: 941/729-1301

Net profits from this Magazine will go to Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund.

The Grand Master shall be the approving authority on all Ads where there may be a question.

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER AT ALL STATED MEETING THROUGH FEBRUARY 2003.

Deadline for all Ads is 15 March 2003.

Attachment (next pages):
Order Form
Signature Sheet

(approved for distribution by James A. Durham, Grand Master - 9/30/02)

FM

SOUVENIR CONVENTION PROGRAM

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1/4 Page Ad	\$ 75.00	_____	(Size: 3-5/8 X 2-3/8)
Signatures (each)	\$ 10.00	_____	
Total of check enclosed	\$ _____		

R.:W.: Daniel E. Dale
Program Chairman
601 14th Ave. W.
Palmetto, FL 34221-4522
Tel: 941/729-1301
E-mail: DnIEDI@aol.com

SOUVENIR CONVENTION PROGRAM

Signatures for Grand Lodge of Florida 2002-2003
 Yearbook @ \$10 per line
 R:W.: Daniel E. Dale, Yearbook Chairman
 R:W.: Charles F. Irle, State Chair, FA-100

Contributions support the FA-100
 Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund of
 The Grand Lodge of Florida

District _____ Zone _____

Make checks payable to **Grand Lodge of Florida**

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DOWN THE ROAD CALENDAR OF EVENTS



For the Grand Master's Calendar, please see:
<http://www.geocities.com/glf2002/calendar.html>
or <http://www.gflflamason.org/>

Thursday, November 7th

Outdoor MM Degree at Lake Worth Scottish Rite Center, Lake Worth, FL at 6:00pm. For info, contact W.: Mike Palmer, PM at 561/868-4890 (H) or 561/254-9770 (cell)

Friday, November 8th

GM's official visit to Districts 31 & 32; Lake Worth; 5:30pm. For info, contact R.:W.: John G. Allen at 561/433-8880, loggerhead@loggerheadcharters.com or R.:W.: Joel Case at 561/790-5124; 5:00pm Registration, 6:00pm Dinner

Saturday, November 9th

GM's official visit to Districts 34 & 35; Miami; 5:30pm. For info, contact R.:W.: Lester Berry at 941/722-0849, 305/256-0216 (H), 305/957-9573 (O), kmbaccounting@msn.com or R.:W.: Bernard Silva at 305/264-9358, bsilva3731@aol.com .

Saturday, November 9th

50 Year Award Dinner for M.:W.: Richard F. Griffie, PGM (1976) at Harbor City Lodge No. 318 F.& A.M., 5:00pm-registration, 6:00pm-Dinner, 7:00pm Program. For info, contact W.: Fred C. Baker at 321/723-4764 or rbaker12@cfl.rr.com. See web page at: <http://www.geocities.com/hcl318/>

Saturday, November 16th

The Hillsborough County Masters and Wardens Association (Dists. 22 & 23) presents its 15th Annual Outdoor Degree at 4:30pm at the Masonic Park and Youth Camp, Tampa (on Highway 301 three miles south of SR 674 and south of Sun City Center); <http://www.25.MasonFL.com/parkpage.htm>

Sunday, November 17th

Grand Lodge Board of Trustees Meeting at the Masonic Home, St. Petersburg (11:00am-12:00pm).

Wednesday, November 20th

SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association meeting (Districts 20 & 21) at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 in Madiera Beach. For info, call Secretary R.:W.: Ron McMillan at 727/539-1645 or flddgm97@mpinet.net .

Friday, November 22nd

GM's official visit to Districts 1 & 2; Pensacola; 5:30pm. For info, contact R.:W.: Johnny D. Gaither at 850/994-0565 (H), 850/457-3364 (O), jdgp349@cs.com or R.:W.: Keith A. Beaumont at 850/438-8272 (H), 850/983-9291 (O), zrxy2k@home.com

Saturday, November 23rd

GM's official visit to District 34; Fort Walton Beach; 5:00pm. For info, contact R.:W.: John J. McDaniel at 850/651-6813, jmcda78448@cs.com

Sunday, December 15th

Grand Lodge Board of Trustees Meeting at the Masonic Home, St. Petersburg (11:00am-12:00pm).

Friday, December 27th

Sts. John Day

Got an important date you want listed here? Send your announcements to THE FLORIDA MASON either through our web site at:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>

Or e-mail it to timb001@attglobal.net

FM

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE



Bro. Prince Paul, RW Hueting & RW Lupion

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING PRINCE PAUL OF ROMANIA IS MADE A FLORIDA MASTER MASON

Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 F.& A.M. is very proud to announce that one of their members is now His Royal Highness Prince Paul of Romania

Prince Paul, or now Brother Paul, was raised on Saturday October 5, 2002 at Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330 as a courtesy to Hillsborough Lodge. M.:W.: Jim Durham, our Grand Master, had a previous commitment and was unable to be present, however, per his request, his representative R.:W.: Ron Lupion, DDGM of the 22nd Masonic District, on behalf of our Grand Master, raised him.

H.R.H Prince Paul and his wife Princess Leila were received by the Worshipful Master of Hillsborough Lodge No 25, W.: Ed Martin and the Secretary, R.:W.: Fred Hueting. During the presentation of the degrees, Princess Leila was entertained by Audrey Lupion, Pat Martin and Cora Hueting, and received a Royal welcome and was very pleasant surprised by the reception and courtesies by which she was recognized.

Brother Paul, who is stated to be the next King of Romania has applied for a perpetual membership, was most grateful and very impressed by which the degrees were presented, he is presently receiving additional instruction and information from R.:W.: Fred Hueting.

Brother Paul was most impressed with our system as well as our Masonic Home operation. During the cocktail party at the house of the Secretary, at which time he was able to loosen his tie, he indicated his pleasure as well as the cooperation and courtesies he has received from every person who was involved with the process of the application, security and the manner each person worked without making waves.

- R.:W.: Fred W. Hueting, PDDGM
tampa25@gte.net

FM

BIOGRAPHY

Born on August 13, 1948 in Paris, France, Prince Paul is the son of HRH Carol Mircea of Romania and of Helena Henriette Nagavitzine. His father is the first born son of King Carol II of Romania from his first marriage to Princess Ioana Valentina Lambrino.

HRH Prince Paul studied in France under the tutelage of the Jesuits and later graduated from Millfield College in Somerset, England. After he finished his studies he launched a successful business career.

Between 1979 - 1981 he became President of "Dolphin Art Inc." located in Washington, D.C. During the past years, Prince Paul has resided and has business interests in London, Paris, Madrid, Lisbon, Washington, New York, Lima, Peru and New Delhi, India. In 1981, Prince Paul wrote a best-selling biography on his grandfather, HM King Carol II. The book covers the period between the two great wars. During the last days of the Revolution, he came to Romania for the first time on a flight organized by Marc Burca, a descendant of the statesman, N. Titulescu, a humanitarian airlift filled with desperately needed foodstuffs and supplies as well as press. Prince Paul was invited and became the first member of The Romanian Royal Family to come back to Romania.

Prince Paul stayed in his country and established The Prince Paul Foundation for Romania, which has been named one of the major success stories of Eastern Europe. In 1995, he married Lia Triff, an American woman of Romanian origin. His Romanian citizenship was obtained one year later. Prince Paul is a Fellow of "The Royal Geographic Society" (U.K.). He was also awarded the Leadership Award by the President of the Rotary Club International.

His Royal Highness' priorities are to promote foreign investments to Romania through the business and political relationships that he has abroad, to create new jobs and business opportunities, to preserve Romanian traditions and the national patrimony by restoring churches, monasteries, monuments and art works, to create a new image of the Romanian peoples' potential.

source: Prince Paul of Romania
<http://www.princepaulofromania.com/>



Inside the fort just before the degree.



R.: W.: Danny Fullwood, PDDGM (left) congratulates the new MM Brothers: Orlando Jose Avila & Adam David Salsburg. W.: Fred K. Lindes (right) is Worshipful Master of Amelia Lodge

AMELIA LODGE HOLDS GEORGE W. CALL CIVIL WAR-ERA DEGREE

FERNANDINA BEACH, FL (October 12, 2002) - Amelia Lodge No. 47 F.& A.M. (<http://www.mastermason.com/amelia/>) held their annual "George W. Call Master Mason Degree" in historic Ft. Clinch in full Civil War era military uniforms. The special degree is performed only once a year by Brothers from Amelia Lodge. George W. Call was the first Worshipful Master of Amelia Lodge and died in the Civil War.

Ft. Clinch is located near picturesque Amelia Island (just north of Jacksonville), and is laid out in accordance with a Masonic Lodge. The fort was built during the Civil War and changed hands a couple of times during the war by Union and Confederate troops. Consequently, the MM degree was performed in both Northern and Southern uniforms.

The degree team was headed by R.:W.: Danny Fullwood, PDDGM who sat in the east. Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason were Brothers Orlando Jose Avila & Adam David Salsburg.

The weather for the degree was beautiful with a cool and comfortable breeze coming off the ocean and stars overhead. This event was open to Master Masons only and more than 100 Masons were on hand for the degree including Brothers from around the Jacksonville area, southern Georgia, Mississippi, and Tampa Bay (the Masonic Adventures entourage).

Prior to the degree, Amelia Lodge hosted a good old fashioned shrimp boil that was simply delicious.

Fort Clinch State Park, one of the oldest parks in the Florida park system, was acquired in September 1935. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was responsible for some of the initial development of the park.

The park has a very well preserved Civil War era fort with a long and storied history. The structure served during the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War II. Many of the fort's structures were rebuilt and repaired by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s as part of the public works program enacted by President & Brother Franklin Delano Roosevelt (Holland Lodge No. 8 A.F.& A.M., New York). The coastline along the Cumberland Sound, where the fort is located, has the remnants of many buildings scattered along its beach. Some of these were associated with the fort and later the caretaker residence after the fort was abandoned. Another remnant is a brick fireplace that can be seen when the sand level allows. This fireplace is assumed to be all that is left of a beacon house that was situated on the sound. An attached light beacon helped ships navigate the entrance into the St. Mary's/Amelia River. Along the park drive is the masonry structure believed to have been the oil storage house for another beacon located near there. These two beacons, the one on the Cumberland Sound and the one on the park drive, were used to line up with larger Amelia Island Lighthouse when ships were coming into the channel to visit the port of Fernandina.

W.: Fred K. Lindes and the Brothers of Amelia Lodge are to be congratulated for their superb hospitality and first class degree work.

*- Tim Bryce
FM*



The fort is located near Amelia Island; just north of Jacksonville.



Steve Morris sinks the winning putt.



Brothers pose in front of their sponsorship signs.

SUNCOAST GOLF TOURNY GENERATES MONEY FOR CHARITY

CLEARWATER, FL (September 21, 2002) - Brothers from the 20th & 21st Masonic Districts gathered to participate in the First Annual Golf Tournament of the SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association at the Aircow Golf Club in Clearwater. 36 golfers from Lodges throughout Pinellas County participated. The event produced \$1,500 for charity, specifically, the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg and the Association's Scholarship Fund. In addition to playing fees, District Lodges and individuals sponsored holes in the course.

The following people took away trophies from the event:

1st Place Team

Cal McGann, Mike Rowe, Jason Scanga, Greg Campbell

2nd Place Team

Sam Buck, Jack Beckwith, John Girard, Gary Jones

3rd Place Team

R.:W.: David Jones, PDDGM, R.:W.: Tom Cox, PDDGM, Danny Fisher

Longest Drive

Sam Buck - Northside Lodge No. 283 F.& A.M.

Closest to the Pin

W.: Jim Clouser, PM - Star Lodge No. 78 F.& A.M.

Putting Contest

Steve Morris - Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 F.& A.M.

Following the tournament, the group retired to the Sneaky's Sports Bar in Largo for a banquet and to present the various awards.

"This was a win-win situation all the way around," said Tournament Director W.: Rick Hoover, PM, DI. "We enjoyed some good old-fashioned Brotherhood as well as generating money for charity."

Hoover was quick to thank those Brothers assisting in preparations and judging the various contests, including:

W.: CD Kennedy, PM, and President of the Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association

R.:W.: J. Paul Stellrecht, DDGM/21 from Star Lodge No. 78 F.& A.M.

W.: David Henderson, Master of Nitram Lodge No. 188 F.& A.M.

W.: John Denehan, Master of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 F.& A.M.

- Tim Bryce
FM



From left to right. Fla. State High Twelve 3rd VP Merv Harris and his Lady Patricia. Tri County High Twelve Masonic Representative Tom Wright and 1st VP Bob Parker and his Lady Gerry prepare monthly dinners at Leesburg Masonic Lodge No. 58. Brother Tom's Lady Bev is recovering from surgery and was unable to be there when the picture was taken.

SUNDAY DINNERS AT LEESBURG LODGE

Merv Harris, Florida State High Twelve Association 3rd Vice President and his Lady Patricia. Bob Parker 1st Vice President Tri County High Twelve and his Lady Gerry. And Tri County High Twelve Masonic Representative Tom Wright and his Lady Bev, have been preparing the Sunday Dinners at Leesburg Lodge for nearly three years. All three Nobles also belong to Lake County Shrine Club in Tavares. Noble Merv is President of the club and Noble Tom is on the Board of Directors.

On the third Sunday of each month except June, July and August, these three Brothers and their Ladies prepare the Sunday Dinners to the delight of Lodge and High Twelve members and their family and friends. When the "Kitchen Krew" start the meals each September they have about seventy-five people attend. During the remainder of the year approximately two hundred people enjoy the "Krew's" fine cooking at the dinners. The menu varies from Roast Pork or Beef to Baked or Sweet and Sour Chicken. Ham dinners are also a great favorite and the "Krew" will even throw in a special dinner every now and then. Other meals enjoyed by all are Kalbasa and Sauerkraut or Corned Beef and Cabbage. Pat Harris usually makes the desserts for each meal. Those attending dinner enjoy her Lemon Pie best, however she never has any complaints with any of the other pies or cakes she prepares.

The "Krew" prepared a meal in September for 250 plus Masons and their Ladies at the Grand Master's Official visit to the 18th Masonic District. A delicious Pork Loin Dinner was served. The function was held at the Leesburg Masonic Lodge under the direction of R.W. Ken Graves, District Deputy Grand Master for the 18th Masonic District, and also Past President of Lake County Shrine Club.

Anyone interested in attending the Sunday Dinners at Leesburg Masonic Lodge are asked to call the Secretary at 352/787-5696 for reservations. Cost of the meal is \$6.00 per person.

FM

MID-FLORIDA LAKES HIGH TWELVE CLUB LEESBURG, FLORIDA

President Darrell Miller of the Mid-Florida Lakes High Twelve Club No. 522 presents a certificate and check to the first 2002-2003 Teacher Grant Program winner (see photo below). Please meet Mrs. Dana Genesi, Pre-K teacher at Treadway Elementary School near Leesburg. She is the first of eight recipients this school year to receive a one hundred dollar grant for use in educating her pre-kindergarten children. Mrs. Genesi is the September winner. A big High Twelve and Freemason congratulations to Dana.

A written agreement with proposed guidelines were submitted to the school for their information. After a meeting with the school principal, faculty and the club committee consisting of Floyd Cogley and Richard Davis, both retired school administrators, the program was put into motion. A committee of three receives the requests and makes a determination of which is to be considered. From those considered, one is selected and awarded the grant each month of the school year. Those rejected may resubmit their request again for consideration but they are not held over.

One of the basic principles of High Twelve is the "encouragement and promotion of the Public School System."

If any Lodge, Club or group would be interested in viewing the contents of the grant program they should contact; J.R. Satterthwaite at 106 Sterling Way in Leesburg, FL 34788-2792, jrsatt@comcast.net

FM





Martha Mohn (left) John C. Denehan (Master of Gulf Beach Lodge)

MARTHA MOHN OF SEMINOLE RECEIVES MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

Martha Mohn, owner of Mohn Funeral Home in Seminole and Past Worthy Matron of the Gulf Beach Chapter No. 241 Order of Eastern Star, was presented a Memorial Certificate and pin honoring her late husband Lewis W. Mohn who passed away on September 14, 2002 at Morton Plant Hospital. The presentation was made by John C. Denehan, Worshipful Master of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 F.& A.M.

Lewis Mohn was a 55 year member of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge in Madeira Beach as well as Past Patron of Gulf Beach Chapter No. 241 Order of Eastern Star, Masonic T. Club, Boca Ciega Scottish Rite Club, J. Edwin Larsen White Shrine, Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa, Seminole Shrine Club, Tri-City Shrine Club, Seminole Hi-Twelve and a Shriner. Lewis Mohn was a great supporter of the Masonic fraternity and its appendant and allied orders. His love for the fraternity was apparent and he will be sorely missed amongst his brothers.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida prepared a widow's certificate and pin which was presented to Martha Mohn as a memorial to her late husband and his activity as a Mason. This certificate also serves as an outward show of appreciation for the many years of service Lewis Mohn gave to the fraternity.

Lewis W. Mohn became a Mason in 1947 at Wooster, Ohio and joined Gulf Beach Lodge in 1952. Brother Mohn was also very active in the community where he was a member of the Seminole Elks Lodge 2519, Seminole American Legion Post 273, VFW Post 9272, Seminole Republican Club, Kiwanis, and the Seminole Lions Club. He was instrumental in forming the Seminole Volunteer Fire Department and assisted in founding the City of Seminole.

- W.: Bro. Howard Knapp, PM, PDI
(hwknapp@tampabay.rr.com),
District 21 Chairman, Publicity & Public Relations.

FM



STARKE SHRINE CLUB TAKING CHALLENGES FOR THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WALKING TALL

The Shrine activities for months of August through November 2002 are allowing the Starke Shrine Club many challenges that we believe give us the opportunity for greatness. We improved as a club last year and that momentum established in President Herb Reinheimer's year is still going for Morris Mahoney's year as Club President. We are stretched, but we have met the challenges thus far!

Two Shriners were discussing the challenge of walking with the Sultans in the Starke Shrine Club Bathroom following the Fall Festival Parade September 7, 2002. One Sultan was saying that each year the physical exertion gets more challenging as he gets older. He told me that he was 81 years young this year. His fraternal Sultan came back with the fact that he had just turned 85 this year and was still an active participant in the Shrine parades. My remark to both of them was that I was going to be 60 years young next year and that I hoped that I would be in half as good physical and mental shape as they were in when and if I was so fortunate to reach their ages. I told them that their active life-styles must be the secret for their excellent condition. They both looked like they were in their 60's.

Friday evening, September 6, 2002, we held our regular Starke Shrine Club Meeting. Competition with the York Rite and the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons Official Visit to the 13 Masonic District kept our attendance down, but we still had plenty of good food, members and quests. First time visitors included Noble Willie Busby's wife, Bernice Busby and Corrine Bryant from Union County.

Saturday, September 7, 2002, were the Starke Fall Festival, Shrine Parade, and spaghetti dinner. The morning began with donuts and hot coffee as we lined up the cookers, food, utensils and paper products. Clark and Shirley Manser, Jimmy Wilson, Freddie and Linda Magyari, Martha Epps, Ted Barber, and Richard Dipalo got the ball rolling. Our own Illustrious David Newton, came into the Starke Shrine Club Kitchen to observe the work activity!

Willie Busby, Mark and Julia Griffith, Morris and Mary Mahoney, Clark Manser, Jerry Ingle and Robert Clayton
(continued on page 15)

STARKE SHRINE (continued from page 14)

got the Starke Shrine Club's downtown food booth into operation. What a crowd of hungry people gathered!

Both locations experienced such an intense demand for spaghetti dinners that the cooks could hardly keep up. The hungry people kept coming. It seemed like we would never see the end of the line.

Mel Reed and Libby Miller kept the Oasis in high gear as the heat of the day drove the many thirsty Shriners and guests to the "watering hole." Jimmy Epps was the Club's "meet and greeter" and the "trashman." Amy Anderson was the "Jill of all trades"- especially for cleaning the pots and pans. Martha Epps and Linda Dipalo kept track of the dinner tickets and money donations for the spaghetti dinners at the clubhouse.

At 11:00 AM we lined up for the Shrine Parade. Jack Seelig had the honor of driving the Parade Marshall, Shay Anderson, and a local Shrine Hospital Child from Lawtey, Florida. Noble Jack's beautiful 1931 Ford roadster's rumble seat allowed Shay to wave Old Glory as she smiled at the spectators. Chuck Miller, Jerry Walden, Ted Barber, Gerry Anderson, Richard Dipalo, Jimmy Epps, and Sweed Larsen formed our parade unit for the Starke Shrine Club.

After the parade, we honored our Illustrious Potentate with a perpetual membership to the Starke Shrine Club and a sizable check for the Shrine children Hospitals. The crowd at the Starke Shrine Clubhouse was fantastic and the assembly of Shriners, our families and friends was enjoyed by all.

We turned in our Eagle Country, 106.3 FM radio advertisement donations to Chuck Miller on August 28, 2002. Chuck Kramer had plenty of time to line up the many businesses and individuals that gave their support to the Shrine Children Hospitals. Chuck Miller, Mel Reed, Ted Barber, Herb Reinheimer, and Sweed Larsen provided the advertisements to Chuck Kramer for him to give a word of thanks and to spread the word about the Starke Fall Festival, Shrine Parade, and spaghetti dinners to help the Shrine Children Hospitals. We want to give a special "thank you" to Chuck Kramer, Eagle Country 106.3, Janet Presley's donation of paper products, and to all the Shriners, their families, friends and all the many spectators who supported the fun filled Starke Fall Festival, Parade, and Spaghetti fund raiser.

Speaking of fun, Ed and Brenda Harvey sponsored a Baker County "Road Rally" and fish fry luncheon that started from the Harvey's home in Macclenny, Florida on Saturday, August 24, 2002, and ended at the Harvey's

home for a delicious fish fry luncheon. Show time was 9:30 AM and the vehicles (dunebuggys, trikes, motorcycles, and other roadworthy vehicles) were released for a 64-mile fun-filled trip at 10:00 AM in 2-minute increments. I must say that the Rally Instructions were difficult to figure out. My wife Lila and my navigator misinterpreted one of the instructions that took us into the State of Georgia. I really felt better when I saw at least four other rally participants come across the Florida State line!

When we got back to the Harvey's home, we were treated to a fantastic cover dish and fish fry that put the "icing on the cake!" Not only did we have a wonderful time, but also we showed the residents of Baker County that Shriners enjoy their activities. Who knows, maybe we will find a few more members for our fraternity as a result of that fun day.

We are now looking forward to the Ha Hiram Parade in Georgia, Saturday, October 5, 2002, a non sanctioned Veterans Day Parade at Northeast Florida State Hospital, 9:00 AM, Thursday, October 24, 2002, the Ocala "Hot Sands" Parade, October 226, 2002 and the Veterans Day parade in Lake Butler, Monday, November 11, 2002.

Needless to say, we have a full plate, but the challenges make our Starke Shrine Club stronger. We thank all of you for your support and look forward to extending our support to you in any way that we can. We will continue to walk tall for the Shrine Children Hospitals and take on the many challenges that gives us the opportunity for walking tall.

- Ted Barber
tedbrb@aol.com

FM



"Kitchen Krew" members and their ladies prepared and served a delicious dinner when Most Worshipful James A. Durham, Grand Master of Masons of Florida visited the 18th Masonic District.

GRAND MASTER VISITS 18TH MASONIC DISTRICT

On Saturday, September 28, 2002, The Grand Master of Masons of Florida M.:W.: James A. Durham and his Lady visited the 18th Masonic District. There were 250 plus members and ladies in attendance.

District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: Kenneth Graves requested that Past Master Merv Harris and his Lady Pat and their "Kitchen Krew" prepare the dinner and also do the decorating for the evening. Lady Pat did an excellent job in decorating in Red, White and Blue and the dining room looked magnificent.

Merv's "Kitchen Krew" is made up of High Twelve State and club officers, Lake County Shrine officers, and members of Leesburg Masonic Lodge, and their Ladies. In addition to Merv, who is 3rd State Vice President for High 12 and President of Lake County Shrine Club, he is also Past Master of Leesburg Masonic Lodge No. 58. "Krew" members are the President of the State High 12 Association Jim Satterthwaite and his Lady Naomi, Tri County High 12 club 1st Vice President Bob Parker and his Lady Gerry, and Lake County Shrine Assistant Treasurer and Tri County High 12 member Bill Bailey and his Lady Lori. Also assisting were Angela Brown, Anna Gbula, Carolyn Browning and Pat Lightner, all Ladies of Leesburg Lodge members.

Those attending the dinner reported that the food was delicious, hot and served very quickly. Mount Dora Rainbow Girls and their Advisors served the meals. These lovely young ladies really did an outstanding job and should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

Several awards were presented after dinner and Lodge members and guests made presentations to the Grand Master. A tiled meeting was held with maximum attendance.

This was a memorable evening for the DDGM Ken Graves; 18th District members; the Masonic fraternity; and Youth Group members attending the function. It is a real pleasure being a part of such a great fraternity.

- Merv Harris
3rd VP, Florida State High 12 Association

FM



BRANDON PAST MASTER KNOCKS DOWN A MARLIN

This is a picture of W.: George W. Reese III, PM who was Master of Brandon Lodge No. 114 F.& A.M. in 1993.

Worshipful Reese, his sister, Rose Gobbel and her husband, Jay Gobbel battled with the Blue Marlin, which weighed 770 pounds, on an 80 pound test line at 7:30 a.m. on September 19, 2002 off Cabo San Lucas in Mexico. It took six hours to wear out this fish.

- W.: Barry McAuley, PM
Brandon Lodge No. 114 F.& A.M.
<http://www.brandonlodge.org/>
Scm1101@aol.com

FM

**ALPHA LODGE NO. 172 SPONSORS
MOZART PIANO COMPETITION**

FORT WALTON BEACH, FL (October 12, 2002) - Alpha Lodge No. 172 F.& A.M. (District 3) brought together 59 young local artists to compete in a Mozart Piano Competition. The event was held at the Playground Music Center, who donated their recital hall and grand piano free of charge. The competition was co-sponsored by the Okaloosa County Music Teacher's Association who worked side by side with the Alpha Lodge Piano Competition Committee to make the event a success. Four age groups (8-10, 11-13, 14-15, and 16-18) competed for 1st prize awards of \$500, \$200, \$100, and \$50, which will be awarded at the Masonic Widow's Night Dinner on October 19, 2002. Three professional music judges were brought in from outside the local area to adjudicate. The contest honored our Brother Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and our talented music students. The piano competition was very well received by the local community. While Alpha Lodge has traditionally supported youth sports activities and provided academic scholarships, this was our way to show the local community Freemasonry also supports the fine arts and encourages young artists to develop their talents. We invite other Lodges/Districts to establish similar programs and will provide guidance and assistance to any Masonic group with an interest. For further information contact W.: Gene Barnes (helgen2@cox.net)



Group picture of Joint Mozart Piano Competition Committee (Alpha Lodge = Alpha Masonic Lodge #172, F&AM. OCMTA= Okaloosa County Music Teachers Association

Top row, left to right:
David Gaillard, Alpha Lodge; Ben Gaillard, Alpha Lodge;
Gene Barnes, Alpha Lodge; Helen Dingus, OCMTA

Bottom row, left to right:
Susan Gaillard; Julia Sublette, OCMTA; Tony Frangioni,
Alpha Lodge; Dorothy Frangioni; Ilma Mohacsy, OCMTA;
Betty Najarian, OCMTA. Not shown: Betty Madden,
OCMTA

- W.: Gene Barnes
Worshipful Master
Alpha Lodge No. 172 F.& A.M.
helgen2@cox.net

FM



*Winners at Elementary level: (Minuet in F Major, K.2)
with W.: Gene Barnes, Alpha Lodge No. 172 F.& A.M.:
Ben Johnson, Niceville, Honorable Mention
Stephanie Hsiang, Niceville, Honorable Mention
Olivia Strom, Fort Walton Beach, 1st prize (\$50.00 prize)
Rebecca Gunger, Niceville, Honorable Mention*



New East Gate Lodge Master Masons: Schultz, Dunlap, and Coquelet
- Three of 25 raised in District 20

DISTRICT 20 RAISES 25 MASONS IN ONE WEEK

District 20 (northern Pinellas County) recently raised a whopping 25 Master Masons in one week under the quick-time program authorized by the Grand Master, M.:W.: James A. Durham. In one week in October, Lodges throughout District 20 raised the following Brothers:

Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252 - W.: Bruce Moir - Master

- Brent Baldwin
- Timothy W. Broom
- Thomas G. Deegan
- Stephen C. Gordon
- William J. Halasyn
- Michael T. Rhoades
- Christopher Wright
- Matthew W. Wright
- Arthur C. Zinkerman
- Randall G. Dixon (courtesy for East Gate Lodge)

Tarpon Lodge No. 112 - W.: Jerry Puigdomenich - Master

- Richard John Bracker
- Horace Alan Langston
- Drew Martin Willard

East Gate No. 355 - W.: Artsen Bayandrian - Master

- Eduardo Coquelet
- Michael Dunlap
- Georg Schultz

Clearwater Lodge No. 127 - W.: Mel Hinkley - Master

- Stephen Ash
- Chris Cooper
- Robert Davis
- Richard Kastel
- Thomas Meachum
- Michael Peasley

- Larry Wymore
- G. Edmund Wallace *
- Celal Ozkan (courtesy to GL of Turkey)

* At 94 years young; possibly the oldest raised Mason in Florida.

Also participating was Sutherland Lodge No. 174 in Palm Harbor who, although didn't raise any Brothers of their own, assisted with the degree work on a courtesy basis.

R.:W.: Gerald M. (Jerry) Lee, DDGM/20, racing between the various degrees said, "This was a strong and positive sign of cooperation between the Lodges in the District. The degree work was superb. The Brotherhood was fantastic. Hopefully, we can all build on this."

- Tim Bryce
FM



HARBOR CITY LODGE HOLDS TABLE LODGE WITH M.:W.: JAMES A. DURHAM

MELBOURNE, FL (October 22, 2002) - The members of Harbor City Lodge No. 318 held their annual Table lodge on October 22nd in Melbourne. The Grand Master, M.:W.: James A. Durham and Senior Grand Warden R.:W.:C. Edward Gonzalez were in attendance. 90 members from District 26 enjoyed a great roast beef and chicken dinner, then the Grand Master gave an outstanding oration. Lodge was closed at 9pm.

For more information on this announcement, please contact W.: Fred C. Baker at 321/723-4764; E-Mail: rbaker12@cfl.rr.com or <http://www.geocities.com/hcl318>

FM



**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER LECTURES
FELLOWCRAFT**

MacCLENNY, FL (September 25, 2002) - R.:W.: John R. Givens , Deputy Grand Master, gave the Fellowcraft lecture for two newly passed Fellowcraft Brothers at at Dawkins Lodge No. 60 F.& A.M. Pictured is FC Brother Jere Cook of Pinehill Lodge No. 9 F.& A.M.; R.:W.: John R. Givens, Deputy Grand Master, and FC Brother Kelly Scott of Dawkins Lodge No. 60 F.& A.M. Brother Scott is the son of R.:W.: Lawrence Scott, PDDGM. R.:W.: Scott is also the Personal Secretary for R.:W.: John R. Givens. There were many Brothers in attendance and the 10th Masonic District Degree Team took part in the Degree.

- R.:W.: Bob Holder
DDGM, District 10
Pinehill Lodge No. 9 F.& A.M.
FM

BIAS - BY-US (continued from page 23)

lodges, the young, the manhood, and especially the senior citizens to talk Masonry. We should target a training program that makes use of our Masonic citizens experience and wisdom to promote our Masonic society.

The keystone to the Masonic arch of prosperity is the education and training of its members. Training that will take advantage of our Masonic way of life, opinions and biases. Training that will allow our members to verbally explain to the citizens of the world those Masonic virtues of friendship, morality and brotherly love. All Masons should learn how to select their replacement. Who better to judge and select the best, than the best, a Mason. "There is nothing wrong with Masonry today," we just need to teach our members how to sell it, and trust them to judge to who and when.

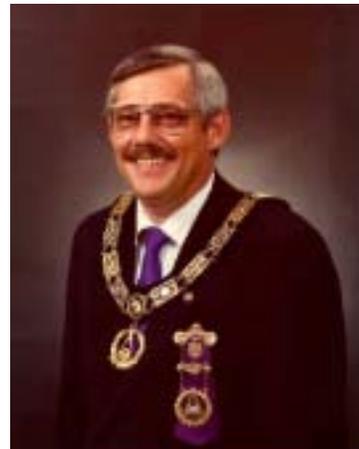
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RUSTY MASON VIII ANOTHER SUCCESS!

SARASOTA, FL (October 16, 2002) - approximately 105 Masons gathered at Sahib Shrine Center to celebrate the 8th Annual Sahib Freemasonry Reunion and Rusty Mason Class. The attendance was exactly the same as last year! By all accounts, the event was another success. All of the Brothers shared in the great night of fellowship and brotherly love for those seeking yet more light in Masonry. This year we offered an brand new format, with much more of a theatrical flavor, and everyone felt the program was much better.

Again, our Brothers crowded, with emotional anticipation, around the worthy instructors that offered personal instructions on the Masonic Degrees, the Grips and Words and the Due Guards and Signs. As usual, emotions of days long ago, flowed from brothers that were anxious to re-live instructions that many had not participated in for 50 or more years, in some cases.

A Special Thanks to our Guest Speaker:



M.:W.: David A. Eschrich, 33
Past Grand Master of Florida (1990)
Personal Representative of the
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in the Valley of Tampa.

- Gary Schweinshaupt
<http://sahibshrine.org/>

FM

MASONIC EDUCATION

“BACK TO BASICS”

Why did we stray from the Basic Concepts of Freemasonry? Why is Masonry not sought after with a strong desire by the uninitiated? Why can't we get better attendance at Lodge? What can we do to answer these questions and improve Freemasonry today?

I can only offer my thoughts. I believe that during and after the big war of the 1940's, many applicants were received by lodges due to the close association of men in uniform. New Lodges were formed to accommodate these new Brothers. Camaraderie continued from the military service to civilian life. Lodges grew with excellent attendance. This continued through the 1950's and into the 1960's. Then, other problems surfaced to the forefront. Attention was centered on the political situation and Vietnam. The Civil Rights Movement was beginning to steal the headlines. A President was assassinated. A Civil Rights leader was assassinated. The slain President's brother, a candidate for the Presidency, was also assassinated. The country was in turmoil. Older Masons were staying home from Lodge or diverting their attention elsewhere. Applications for membership declined. Lodges began to experience financial difficulties.

In an attempt to preserve their Charters, many Lodges began to merge or consolidate during the Seventies and Eighties. Some Lodges gave up their Charters and closed. Many Brothers from the previous era long since stopped coming to Lodge. Every effort was made to try and get the Brothers to return to Lodge. Rides were offered. Personal pleadings were made. A few returned, but it was only a temporary return. Many Brothers had lost the incentive and motivation to continue on in Masonry.

New applicants were hurried through their degrees. They progressed very rapidly through the degrees. Then, when they attended Lodge, they could not understand the rituals of opening and closing. They had no idea what was going on. They had no understanding of Masonry. They were totally lost. They began to stay away, and each time they stayed away from Lodge, it became easier to stay away the next time. They sent in their dues as requested, but they never came back to Lodge to attend any function or meeting. Many potential good Masons were lost. Of course, there were also many who continued on in Lodge, attending, learning, and participating in all events. They are here today and we have them to thank for ensuring that Masonry is still alive and well in Florida.

Today, we initiate new Brothers, guide them through the degrees and the catechisms, then we see them no more. Why? Is it because he found out he did not like Masonry? Is it because he did not like the Lodge? Or is it because we have failed him? We did not light the fire of desire, dedication and understanding of Masonry in him? Did we receive him properly when he attended his first meetings? Did we really make him feel he was accepted with genuine Friendship and Brotherly Love toward him? Or did we just ignore him when he came in and let him stand alone or sit there alone in the corner?

Did we teach him properly? Did we impress upon him how important the Rituals and the Catechisms are? Or did we rapidly pass him through, assuring him that even though he did not know the work fully, that he should not worry about it. He was assured he would be advanced to the next degree. After great anticipation and anxiety during the first steps in Masonry, then finding that learning the work properly was incidental, did he lose a little of his desire and belief? Then, after being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, he was told how important it was for him to attend Lodge. He attended, but found it difficult to sit through the opening and closing Rituals as he had no idea what they were doing. Being hurriedly advanced and not taught properly, he soon finds himself bored. Then he finds many excuses not to attend Lodge.

We, sitting in lodge, cannot understand why our newly raised Brothers do not attend Lodge. We blame everything but ourselves. We sit and watch a degree performed, seeing how ill-prepared some degree teams are and then we tell the new Brother that it was a beautiful degree. We congratulate the Degree Team for work well done. We sit and hear a proficiency full of errors. It is obvious the new Brother was not prepared properly. The instructor although very dedicated, has failed in his task. We then vote approval and allow the Brother to progress upward.

The new Brother, knowing he made mistakes, begins to have doubts about the seriousness of the Catechism and Masonry Rituals. If he committed so many errors, and he knows he has, and we vote to advance him further, how can we believe the seriousness of the Rituals of Masonry? What values can be he place on the secrets he has learned? What values will he place on his obligation? He knew he was not prepared but he was approved and praised highly. We now have a Brother who was cheated out of his first steps in Masonry. The steps that will make him a true and dedicated Mason. He had an instructor, who, although very loyal and dedicated to Masonry, failed him. We have a Brother who has shown Masonry is not as important as he expected. *(continued on page 22)*

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STOP PAYING YOUR DUES?

Who among us really knows what tomorrow will bring? This is a very important question every Masonic Member must consider before they drop out and stop paying their dues. My Brothers, have you carefully thought out what you are doing to your wife and yourself when you stop paying your dues? Where in the world can you get the privilege, after all other requirements are met, for life care for \$50.00 a year. That kind of guarantee is impossible to beat. I hope you never have to call on this privilege, but it is a wonderful feeling to know that it is there.

Furthermore, if you never need the Home, you are making it possible to keep it going for some other worthy distressed Brother or his wife, if they are in good standing and if they need it. Have you ever visited the Masonic Home to see what a wonderful place you represent and own? Yes, in a sense, we all own it and the Grand Lodge manages it. Who is Grand Lodge? Well, we are, you are, so why not take a look at what you own and find out how you can help, support and maintain it for your possible home in the autumn of your life, while you grow old gracefully and with dignity, while receiving tender, loving care.

Keep in mind if you will, when you stop paying your dues, you have just cancelled your wife's privilege of having the Home for herself, if she needs it. You might be surprised how many wives have needed it after meeting all other requirements. I did not plan to come to the Home. It just happened. But I was a Perpetual Member and I was in good standing with paid up dues. My wife had a stroke and after six and a half years of trying to take care of her, I brought her as well as myself to the Masonic Home.

Remember this, it matters not how poor or wealthy, or what your misfortune may be. The only thing that will start you on obtaining the privilege of the Home is by being in Good Standing.

If you have any health or economic reasons that makes it impossible for you to pay your dues, check with your Lodge. Many have an "Angel" or "Help a Brother" program where another Lodge Brother will pay your dues for you.

- W.: J. Bruce Moore, PM

High Twelve Lodge No. 317 F.& A.M.

Now residing at the Masonic Home, St. Petersburg

Masonres@aol.com

FM

THE OLD MASTERS WAGES

by Neil Neddermeyer-1979

I meet a dear old man today
Who wore a Masonic pin,
It was old and faded like the man
Its edges were worn quite thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat
To give the old brother his do
I said, "I see you've traveled east"
He said, "I have, have you?"

I said, I have and in my day
Before the all seeing sun
I played in the rubble with Jubala
Jubilo, and Jubalum.

He shouted, don't laugh at the work my son
It's good and sweet and true
And if you've traveled as you said,
You should give these things a due.

The word, the sign, the token,
The sweet Masonic prayer,
The vow that all have taken
Who have climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason
are never paid in gold
but the gain comes from contentment
when you're weak and growing old.

You see I've carried my obligations
For almost fifty years
It has helped me through the hardships
and the failures full of tears.

Now I'm losing my mind and my body
Death is near but I don't despair
I've lived my life upon the level
And I'm dying upon the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew
And the old man in the park today
has changed my point of view.

To all Masonic brothers
The only secret is to care
May you live upon the level.
May you part upon the square.

courtesy of W.: Gil Weisman, PM
BCC1953@aol.com
Zone 6 Chairman, Masonic Education

THE ARGUMENT FOR QUICK-TIME DEGREES

W.:Gennaro Lume, PM
Duneln136@aol.com
Dunnellon Lodge No. 136 F.& A.M.

Recently Dunnellon Lodge received dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Florida to use the one-day degree format to raise eight candidates to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in our own Lodge. Dispensation is required for postponing the proficiency work to a later time. Brothers, it is one of the best things that can happen to a Lodge. The Master of the Lodge did an excellent job of preparation for the occasion and instilling a sense of camaraderie amongst the Brethren. Members of the Lodge did ninety to ninety-five percent of the work. All those who participated in the degrees or attended the practice sessions received ritual reinforcement in all of the degrees.

The degrees may be concluded in one long day or from two weekends to four consecutive days. We chose the four-day program so as to give a respite to the candidates, the team(s) and members of the Lodge. The candidates were initiated on the first day. This took no longer than a regular lodge meeting. On the second day they were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The first section of the Master Mason Degree was completed on the third day and the second session was completed on the fourth day. This gave everyone a chance to think about the upcoming degree on the next night and the candidates to think about what happened to him.

The times are changing and Masonry should take the opportunity to make it available to take advantage of these changes. Our present Grand Master is bold enough to help us do this. There have been changes in the past and Masonry is still alive and active. Membership has been down in our Brotherhood and other organizations but I believe things will turn around at this point in our existence.

There have been arguments pro and con for the one-day classes. By placing the job into the hands of the individual Lodges should eliminate a lot of the controversy. One of the outstanding objections is that, *"Its not the way we did it."* True, but we do not have to walk to school or church anymore. Another argument is that the Lodge members do not have the privilege of conferring the degrees as a function of the Lodge. In this case it is a repetitive duty because you can have more than one or more "quick time" degrees. Instead of doing it two or three times a year you will be doing it two or three times a year for three or four times the candidates. You will be helping increase membership not only for your Lodge but also for Florida Masonry.

FM

NOVEMBER 2002

MASONIC EDUCATION (continued from page 20)

Isn't it time to step back and evaluate ourselves? Our Lodges? Our indifferent attitudes towards the initiation and advancement of new Brothers? Isn't it time we started attending the District School of Instruction, taking the new Brothers with us, to refresh and update our work on catechisms, degree work, wording and floor work? Isn't it time we went back to the basics and began producing good Masons again?

- R.:W.: Joseph F. Basler, PDDGM
State Chairman, Masonic Education
Hialeah, FL
Jo16TOPKOP@aol.com
FM

TRAVELING MAN

by Bro. Wayne Thigpen
Senior Warden, R.T. Schafer Lodge No. 350 F& A.M.
Gainesville

I was brought into a Lodge by fellow Brothers.
Giving me the secrets, as they have with others.
Entered, passed, and raised, my travel took,
Each time, my hand, a Brother shook.

After knocks on a door, my name was read.
I was bound, blinded, and could not see,
Lead by a Brother, trust in him would be.
Instruments applied upon my body, in the degrees,
Teaching me the meaning of symbols would be.
Become a traveling man and an oath to take,
Of my own free will, I would have to make.

I learned the working tools of Freemasonry.
Symbolically used from Biblical history.
Brothers among Brothers in friendship,
morality and Brotherly love.
Asking blessings, from God up above.
In light, as in dark, we can recognize a Brother,
And in time of need, to help one another.

Masons before did the same as I,
Even my father, Brothers by and by.
It is my turn to pass on down the line
the secrets and words, to new Masons,
when it becomes their time.
With love and devotion, as they did with me,
With pride and anticipation, I'll love to see.

Love of God, country, family, and Masonry,
Those gifts, mean the world to me.
Bless you all, deep from the heart,
Brothers, in Masonry, we all are a part.

FM

BIAS - BY US (is okay)!

"Some people have it and some don't, the Masonic lodge is full of it!"

by Richard A. Wolfe, KYCH
Merritt Island Lodge No. 353 F.& A.M.
<http://www.mi353.org/>
Merritt Island, FL
rawolfe@megabits.net

The purpose of this paper is to express a concern; my opinion on that concern, and offer a solution. Please listen to the entire paper before you judge it.

Its a fact the biggest problem in Masonry today is membership. I also believe it is within our ability to solve the problem.

During our degree work we declare, "*The three principle stages of life are youth, manhood and age.*" As we grow through these stages we are educated, experience life, develop disciplines, and form opinions or biases. Biases are what you perceive normal to be. Maybe how we desire normal should be. Biases or opinions form what and who you are. New members come with a variety of experiences, at various education levels and are in all stages of life. They bring with them their life's experiences, opinions and biases. Opinions or biases make the man.

In a 1950's song, "Welcome to my World," Eddy Arnold sings, "*Welcome to my world, won't you come on in. ... Knock and the door will be opened, Seek and you will find, Ask and you will be given the key to this world of mine.*"

The Masonic invitation we extend candidates is similar, welcoming them into our Masonic world; however, we don't always readily accept the journey of Masonic initiation is not a packaged tour, it's defiantly not as smooth as Eddy's song. Initiation into a Masonic lodge requires social, family, individual, and personal change. The nature of change is that it is usually at some level of conflict with the candidates established routine, habits, opinions and yes, even his biases. As the candidate grows into Masonry their experiences and biases are mixed with his Masonic training. This metamorphosis from candidate to Master Mason may take a lifetime. With luck you might get there, it's not as simple as the stages of life and not as explainable.

Youth and Manhood: We all know the young Masons are the busiest; just ask them. With a young family they don't always have time to come to lodge.

From our aged or senior Masons we expect more. "Seniors" are older and wiser. You could say they have real-

ized life's mileage counts. They understand the saying, "*if I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself.*" Our senior citizens have experienced life; they've seen and felt change. They've witnessed the unwelcome changes of death. They have lived and learned to accept their own as well as others opinions and biases. They've earned the right to have and express an opinion. For example, "*We tried that ten years ago Worshipful Master and it didn't work then either,*" and my favorite answer, "*I can't tell you that, it's a secret.*"

Thomas Paine in his manuscript "Common Sense" in 1775, writing of England's treatment of the colonies and proposing a solution said, "*We have the power to begin a new world.*" His idea in writing his manuscript was not just to state his opinion but also to inform and educate the people, actually educate the masses. Common Sense became a best seller in the colonies and one of the principle documents promoting the growth of the American Revolution. It actually did educate the citizens of the colonies.

In the York Rite Mark Master degree as we talk of the working tools on Page 31; "*The chisel morally demonstrates the advantages of discipline and education. The mind, like the diamond in its original state, is rude and unpolished, but as the effect of the chisel on the external coat presents to view the latent beauties of a diamond, so education discovers the latent virtues of the mind.*"

It is safe to say the wisdom of age is earned through experience. As our senior Masons advance in age and experience, the latent beauty and Masonic virtues in their minds, is untapped. Of our senior Masons it could be said we are drinking from the saucer because the cup of Masonic wisdom is running over. We must learn to take advantage, to use, to apply this experience and wisdom.

Our senior Brothers have the one thing that could ensure the life of our lodges and even make them prosper. They have years of education, experience, years of fellowship, but most important, the ability and wisdom to make and keep good quality friends. This is what we should plan and base our Masonic future on.

If we are to profligate Masonic membership we MUST make available to every Mason a decade 2000 Masonic Common Sense document, a training plan, a plan that uses our most valuable asset, our members experience, a plan that actually educates our Masonic masses. All Masons should learn how to talk about the oldest and best fraternal society in our free country, and the world, FREEMASONRY. We should educate the citizens of our

(continued on page 19 - see BIAS - BY-US)

THE MOTHER LODGE

- by Bro. Rudyard Kipling

Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782. E.C.

Lahore, India

There was Rundle, Station Master,
An' Beazeley of the Rail,
An' 'Ackman, Commissariat,
An' Donkin' o' the Jail;
An' Blake, Conductor-Sargent,
Our Master twice was 'e,
With 'im that kept the Europe-shop,
Old Framjee Eduljee.

Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
An' Saul the Aden Jew,
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman
Of the Survey Office too;
There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,
The Roman Catholick!

We 'adn't good regalia,
An' our Lodge was old an' bare,
But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,
An' we kep' 'em to a hair;
An' lookin' on it backwards
It often strikes me thus,
There ain't such things as infidels,
Excep', per'aps, it's us.

For monthly, after Labour,
We'd all sit down and smoke
(We dursn't give no banquits,
Lest a Brother's caste were broke),
An' man on man got talkin'
Religion an' the rest,
An' every man comparin'
Of the God 'e knew the best.

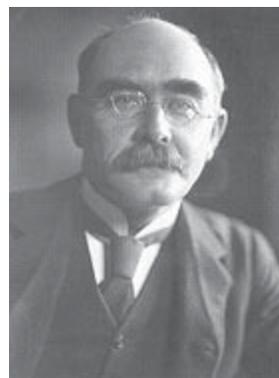
So man on man got talkin',
An' not a Brother stirred
Till mornin' waked the parrots
An' that dam' brain-fever-bird;
We'd say 'twas 'ighly curious,
An' we'd all ride 'ome to bed,
With Mo'ammed, God, an' Shiva
Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

Full off on Guv'ment service
This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,
An' bore fraternal greetin's
To the Lodges east an' west,
Accordin' as commanded
From Kohat to Singapore,
But I wish that I might see them
In my Mother-Lodge once more!

I wish that I might see them,
My Brethren black an' brown,
With the trichies smellin' pleasant
An' the hog-darn passin' down; [Cigar-lighter.]
An' the old khansamah snorin' [Butler.]
On the bottle-khana floor, [Pantry.]
Like a Master in good standing
With my Mother-Lodge once more!

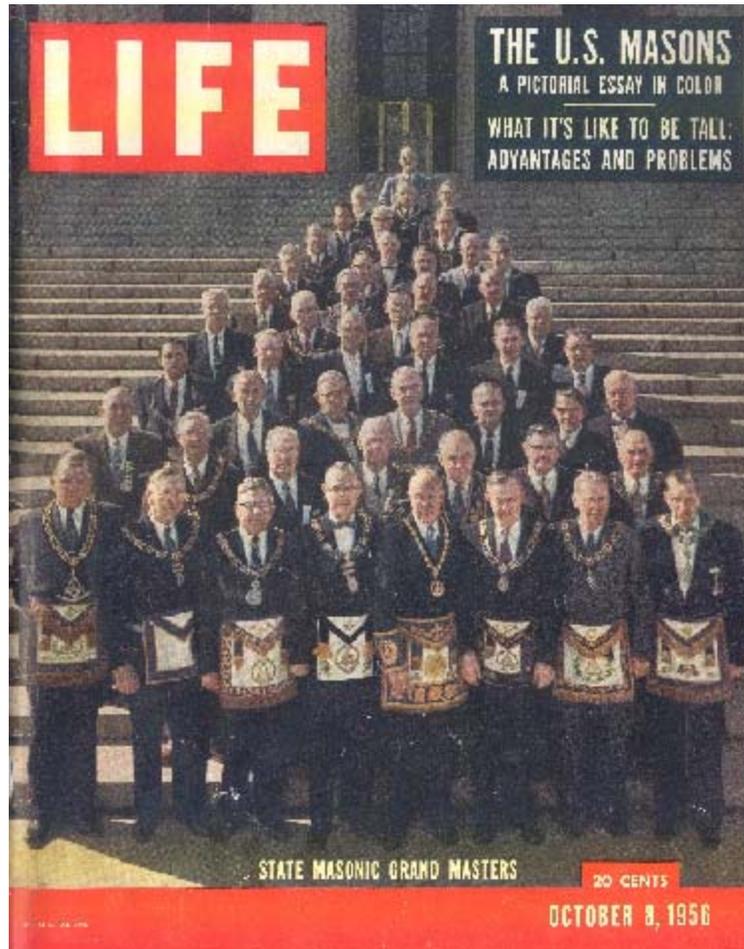
Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

FM



Bro. Kipling

AND FINALLY...
"The Way We Were"
LIFE MAGAZINE - October 8, 1956



Courtesy of Bro. Steve Branham - Sutherland Lodge No. 174 F.& A.M., Palm Harbor

FM

THE FLORIDA MASON



END