

Ladies And Vets Night At Cleveland

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recognition of his long service to to Masonry and the community.

Each attending lady was presented with a souvenir of the occasion—a miniature Slipper Masonic pin.

The meeting was closed with a benediction by W. Brother Troy G. Robbins.

THIS MOST DESERVED BROTHER

M. W. W. Edward Burrier, P. G. M. in tribute to Brother Russell Gold Laughridge on the occasion of his Fiftieth Year as a Master Mason, and his 47th year as the faithful and efficient Secretary of Cleveland Lodge No. 202.

There is a time of year when Carolina is the most Eden-like place in the country—and at that time of year not only do our physical surroundings appear in their greatest magnificence, but it is also that period when we have just celebrated Thanksgiving, counted our blessings, taken inventory of how kind to us is our Maker—and, while we are looking forward to the celebration of the greatest gift of God to all of us, our Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth.

More than seventy years ago in the midst of that period when the colors of nature in the Piedmont reflected the Glories of God and hearts were filled with gratitude for the bounties conferred on them, Edward Duval Laughridge and his lovely wife, Anna Eveline, were just a little happier than anyone else in the Lawndale Community, for on December second, they were blessed with a boy-child. In their happiness in their rich gift from God, the baby received a rather unusual middle name, "Gold", the meaning for which soon became evident and now in all the Glory of rich life has become so apt, so fitting and so deserving. When the boy was twelve, this happy family established a home in every sense of the word, HOME, in Shelby.

On April 18, now a mature 25 years of age, this young man having petitioned, had been investigated, received a clear ballot and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Recognizing his merit, the elders within two months persuaded him to take on the burdens of Secretary of Cleveland Lodge and except for a brief interval of three years he has continually served his Craft and his Brethren in that all encompassing capacity. And while carrying on these onerous duties, he became a companion in the Lafayette Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, Em. Com. of Shelby Commandery, a member of Carolina Consistory Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, of which he is Ambassador, a Master of the Royal Secret, a 32nd degree Mason, a Noble of the Mystic Shrine of which he is also the Ambassador, a member of the Piedmont Shrine Club and Shelby Lodge of the B.P.O.E.

A life long member of the Methodist Church, he has served the Conference in General and Central

Our Favorite Mayor

There's no telling how many North Carolina greats have been trained in St. Johns Lodge No. 1 of Wilmington. It would be an interesting research project to look into the history of this wonderful lodge.

At the moment this lodge, Wilmington and comprehensive Masonry throughout the state are all filled brimful with pride in the knowing that our beloved Brother Luther M. Cromartie has been elected Mayor of our "Port City" down where the Cape-able Fear-naughts are building their city and county, and all SENC (Southeastern North Carolina) into a great and enterprising Empire.

Additionally, our Brother Cromartie just happens to be Chief Rabban of Sudan Temple A.A.O. N.M.S. and next year he'll be Potentate-Most-Beloved of all Sudan.

We felicitate our favorite Mayor and pray that the years ahead will be for him times of great accomplishment.

United Methodist Church in particular as President of the Clyde R. Hoey S. S. Class, as President of Methodist Men and for many years as Secretary to the Official Board.

Yes, 50 years ago, a group of men just as you and I who are gathered here this evening, convened and conducted in, a very nervous but extremely eager young man and raised him to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. A wonderful occasion for the young man, probably a routine and fairly frequent occasion for those 30 or 40 Shelby Master Masons who then carried the responsibility of the proper sharing keeping inviolable and propagating the secrets, the mysteries and the great ancient truth of Masonry.

If that was—as it probably was—a routine meeting of some forty masons, then if there is an immortal life—and you and I as Masons are fully confident of immortality, then isn't it pleasant to contemplate that they are with us in spirit this evening to happily bask in the Glory that is theirs in having given to today's Masonry that fervid, zealous and avid young candidate of April 18, 1919, for truly Masonry is so much the richer today because of the degree they conferred that Spring Evening fifty years ago.

Masonry honors all of its members and especially those of long-standing—but this evening represents the honoring not only of fifty years of membership, but a half century of True Masonic Service. How many, many men and brothers are better today because of this service so freely rendered by this great Mason.

Yes, I mentioned earlier the middle name of "Gold". How perfect the appellation! How perfect the description of the life and service of Russell Gold Laughridge, a Pillar of Boaz, a true monumental Pillar of Masonic Strength—and because he lives now in all the Glories of a dedicated and now Mature Life, we with such deep appreciation say we thank you Thou Supreme Architect of this Universe for Gold Laughridge!

Traveling With The Grand Master

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of Grand Master in a few more years, is Brother Leslie H. Garner of Greenville. Brother Garner is one of several outstanding masons in the state who were considered for this office, and he was selected only after much deliberation. I am very happy with this appointment, because I know Brother Garner is well qualified to handle the heavy responsibilities which will face him in the future.

He has served as Master of Crown Point Lodge No. 708, and has just concluded three years service as District Deputy Grand Master in the fifth district, where he is considered by many to have been the best District Deputy that District has ever had. He is the Brother who headed up the Rally Day in Greenville in 1966, which was such a big success.

Brother Garner is a pillar in his church and active in the civic affairs of his community. President of a Greenville Wholesale Business, Garner-Wynn-Manning, Inc., he has served as president of the North Carolina Wholesalers Association and is First Vice-President of an International Mercantile Association. I predict that we are going to hear a lot from Brother Leslie H. Garner in the years ahead.

Your Elective Grand Lodge Officers, in addition to the Grand Master, are Brothers Maurice E. Walsh, North Wilkesboro, Deputy Grand Master; William W. Mims, Jr., Charlotte, Senior Grand Warden; Berl M. Kahn, Goldsboro, Junior Grand Warden; James W. Brewer, Greenville, Grand Treasurer; and Charles A. Harris, Raleigh, Grand Secretary. Brother Robert P. Dudley, Raleigh, continues to serve the Grand Lodge as Assistant to the Grand Secretary. I am proud of all of these officers and, can assure you that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina will be in good hands for many years to come.

The District Deputy Grand Master's Conference was held at a late luncheon following a long morning session of Grand Lodge on Wednesday, April 16. With most Grand Lodge Officers and several Past Grand Masters present, the Dedication and Installation service was conducted by Brother Robert L. Pugh. After brief remarks from most of the guests present, the Grand Master outlined his program for the year to the District Deputies. Brother Wyley Danner, from Sylva and the 64th District, was elected President of the District Deputy Grand Masters, succeeding Brother Cecil J. Liverman of Murfreesboro and the 19th District.

The Installation Ceremony on Wednesday night was ably, and sometimes entertainingly, handled by Brothers William J. Bundy, as Installing Marshall, with my Brother, Cullen D. Hooks, and my cousin, Thomas A. Hood of Fayetteville assisting the Installing Marshall. Brother James W. Brewer presented a Past Grand Master's Apron to the new Grand Master and a Past Grand Master's

Jewel to the outgoing Grand Master, Brother Robert N. Bass, Jr.

The Grand Master in North Carolina is authorized to present not more than three Joseph Montfort Medals each year to Master Masons whom he considers deserving thereof because of Distinguished Masonic Service or Achievement. It was my pleasure to present one of these medals to Brother Fred F. Harding, who has been a Master Mason for nearly seventy years, and who on April 16 was beginning his 31st term as Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Brother Fred was so moved with emotion that he could not say a word, and I must confess that I was a little concerned about whether or not the Grand Master was going to be able to get through the presentation satisfactorily. I heard later that Brother Harding said he had seen many of these medals presented, but had no idea that he would ever receive one. I don't believe there is anything I will do in the next twelve months that will give me as much pleasure as presenting this medal to him.

There was a good crowd present for the Installation Ceremony, including a fine turnout from my own Lodge, Fellowship Lodge No. 84, and the 27th Masonic District; also including many of the wives as well as members of the Smithfield Chapter of the Eastern Star. I was happy that my wife, Nell, our three daughters, and other members of our family could be present.

A social hour for the new Grand Master was held in the Ambassador Room at the Statler-Hilton Inn immediately following the installation, and it was a fine affair. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and I must admit that I liked the way everyone treated the new Grand Master.

I am grateful to the Committees from Raleigh and the three Districts in the Raleigh area for the fine job they did throughout this Grand Lodge Session, and especially for the excellent arrangements made for the installation and the reception which followed.

I called a special meeting of all Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters for 10:00 o'clock Thursday morning, April 17. The meeting was well attended, and everyone participated in a serious and informative discussion about Grand Lodge matters. It is my opinion that this was a fruitful meeting, and that we have started this year with a feeling of understanding and cooperation within the Grand Lodge family.

Following this meeting, my family and I drove back to Smithfield, packed some clean laundry, and headed for Wrightsville Beach for a short though much needed vacation. In spite of the cold weather, rain, and wind we managed to take in part of the Azalea Golf Tournament at the Cape Fear Country Club. Back at home I mowed the lawn which had almost gotten out of control; and for the rest of the week just took it easy.

On Saturday night, April 19, I

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