

## Grand Master's Corner

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they will come up with a sound program which will mean much to the Lodges and the Masons in North Carolina in the years ahead. As in the case of Area Education, the other Grand Lodge Officers agree that this should be a continuing program from year to year.

During the week of September 15 we held District Meetings in Coinjock, Colerain, Plymouth, and Buxton. These were all well attended; in fact, there were 141 Masons present at Coinjock—one of the largest crowds we have had this year. This was an especially good week, primarily because Nell made the trip with us. On Tuesday and Wednesday mornings we played golf—or maybe I should say we played at it. On Thursday morning we got an early start and went deep-sea fishing off Oregon Inlet. We had a lot of fun and came in with more than 300 pounds of fish.

On the return trip Friday, Nell and I took the long way home so I could stop by Engelhard to see Brother Durwood Gibbs, District Deputy Grand Master of the 3rd Masonic District. Brother Gibbs has been seriously ill for several months, and I was pleased to find that he was feeling much better when we arrived. While in Engelhard we picked up a few pounds of big, beautiful shrimp which we later found were also delicious.

Because some of our September meetings had been postponed until a later date, my first meeting the next week was on Thursday night, September 25, at Hamlet Lodge No. 532. It was my privilege to present 25 and 50-year awards to several members of this Lodge, including a 50 year award to my good friend and brother, Allen G. Powers, with whom I had served as District Deputy Grand Master many years ago. This was a most enjoyable occasion for me, as well as for the large number of Masons present from the Hamlet area. Among those in attendance was another friend and brother who served as District Deputy Grand Master with me, Brother B. A. Cox.

That night I drove from Hamlet to Greensboro where the next day I instituted P. P. Turner Lodge U.D. This new Lodge is named for a beloved Mason who served for many years as Secretary of the Scottish Rite Bodies in Greensboro. I was especially pleased to be able to conduct this ceremony because the Junior Warden of this new Lodge is none other than my good traveling companion, Brother Troy G. Robbins, Superintendent of the Masonic & Eastern Star Home. During our travels Troy has worked hard on learning the ritualistic work, and is doing so well that I predict he will be a Certified Lecturer within the next year. Other prin-

cipal officers were a couple of old friends, Brothers C.L. Ozmint, Senior Warden, and James O. Thornton, Master.

On that same evening it was my pleasure to attend a Ladies Night dinner meeting of Revolution Lodge No. 552. This was a special meeting celebrating the outstanding job done by this Lodge in raising the sum of \$10,500.00 for Oxford Orphanage this year under the leadership of their young and energetic Master, Brother Bill King. In addition to speaking to this fine group, I was privileged to present several 25 and 50 year awards.

The next week I was able to commute to District Meetings in Henderson, Franklinton, and Wendell, and it was good to be able to get back home and sleep in my own bed each night. Again, it was my pleasure to see another Mason who has served as District Deputy Grand Master with me, Brother Dover Hinton, who is again serving as Master of his Lodge, Wendell No. 565.

The week's activities ended with a Ladies and Past Masters Night program in my own Lodge, Fellowship No. 84 in Smithfield, on Thursday, October 2. I was pleased to have the opportunity to present a Past Master's jewel to Brother Floyd W. Stewart, who had done an outstanding job as Master of the Lodge last year and is now serving as our Secretary. The main feature of the program was an excellent talk by Brother David Henderson, U. S. Representative from the 3rd Congressional District.

Because a trip Nell and I planned fell through, I had a reprieve during the two weeks from October 3 through October 17, and was able to catch up on some work which had been sadly neglected. I found, however, that those two weeks slipped by in a hurry, and although I did get a lot accomplished, much remained to be done.

I want to close this column with a few remarks about two of the finest institutions you will find anywhere, the Oxford Orphanage and the Masonic & Eastern Star Home. The season of Thanksgiving is upon us, and this is the time of year when we focus our attention on our Masonic philanthropy. The needs of these institutions are increasing in line with the increase in the cost of living. It is my sincere hope that every Lodge in North Carolina has an active committee engaged in the task of raising the funds needed by the Orphanage and the Home this year.

Oxford Orphanage is in great need of increased support to enable us to continue giving our 320 children there the best in training opportunities. Each of these children were found in need by one of our Lodges and taken to our Orphanage to receive our care. They are depending upon "their" Masons, and we must not let them down.

## Gastonia Lodge 396 Has Annual Ladies Night

The Annual Ladies Night of Gastonia Lodge No. 369, A.F. & A.M., was held in the Masonic Temple Dining Room, Friday Evening, October 17, 1969, at 6:30 P.M.

Approximately 225 Masons and their guests attended, with the highlight of the occasion being the recognition of the Widows of our departed brethren. Twenty-five of these special guests were present and recognized.

The officers and their wives of Holland Memorial Lodge No. 668 and King Solomon Lodge No. 704 were also guests at the dinner.

Each lady present was presented a favor and approximately a dozen door prizes were awarded to the lucky ticket holders.

The male quartet of the First United Methodist Church furnished entertainment during the evening.

There is also great need for increased support of our Home in Greensboro, where we are caring for 140 old folks who have reached the point in life where they are unable to care for themselves. The kind of care we will be able to give them in the coming year will depend upon the kind of support received from you, the Masons in North Carolina. If every Mason will make a contribution in keeping with his ability to give, I'm confident this will be our best year. This is not an "either-or" proposition, brethren, it is imperative that we as Masons be true to our Masonic obligation.

Brethren, this year and every year, there is nothing more important to us than these two fine institutions, and I urge you to open your hearts, and your pocketbooks, in their behalf.

## "Freemasonry Is A Way of Life"

Over the years volumes have been written as to what Freemasonry is and what Freemasonry is not.

Freemasonry is first, last and always a way of life. It teaches monotheism and the Golden Rule. Its ethical principles are acceptable to all good men. It encourages toleration and understanding.

Freemasonry does not pretend to take the place of religion or the church; although it is certainly religious in character.

Freemasonry is kindness in the home, courtesy in society, honesty and fairness in business, concern for the unfortunate, help for those who need assistance, forgiveness and above all, reverence for God.

Freemasonry is many things to many people. . . Most of all however, Freemasonry, is in fact, A WAY OF LIFE.

—New Mexico Freemason