

Biscoe 437 Has New Lodge Dedicated By Grand Lodge

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comed the Masons and guests to the ceremony. Robert L. Comer (PM-437) provided vocal and piano music for the occasion and Mrs. Ricky (Paulette) Harris, daughter of Biscoe's Master, sang "How Great Thou Art."

Secretary Neill W. Freeman (PM-437) read the following history of Biscoe Lodge:

"In 1935 Biscoe Lodge No. 437 had a membership of 106 in good standing. This membership was made up mainly of former members of four lodges.

Mount Olivet Lodge No. 195 at Erect, N. C., was defunct about 1920 or 1921, some of the members affiliating with Star Lodge No. 437. On June 2, 1931 Star Lodge No. 437 consolidated with Biscoe Lodge No. 577. Star Lodge had a membership of 64 and Biscoe had 45. The name of Biscoe Lodge and the number of Star Lodge were used making the present Biscoe Lodge No. 437.

In 1934 Montgomery Lodge No. 309 at Troy was defunct and 16 of its members affiliated with Biscoe Lodge.

Star Lodge was chartered in 1887 with 8 charter members. John L. Stewart was Master, John C. McDuffie was Senior Warden, and D. W. Hunsucker was Junior Warden. The lodge met in school houses and private homes for some time until money could be raised to build a second story onto a school house, but for the faithfulness and continued effort of the Master and two or three others, this lodge would have died in its infancy, but they finally succeeded in arousing enough interest to keep it going and it was in good shape at the time of its consolidation with Biscoe Lodge.

Biscoe Lodge was chartered in 1910 with 10 charter members, W. M. Bostick was Master, C. E. Kellum was Senior Warden, and W. S. Yates was Junior Warden.

Biscoe Lodge secured a part of the second floor of the Norfolk Southern Railroad depot for a hall and after the consolidation it has been rearranged and was really a nice hall for a small town.

From 1931 Biscoe Lodge grew to a membership of 226 and on June 10, 1959 Troy Lodge U.D. was instituted and 62 of our members demitted to what is now Troy Lodge No. 718, leaving Biscoe Lodge with 164 members.

Since that time others have demitted to Troy Lodge and several to other lodges and several others have been called to their reward. We now have 162 members.

In 1970 the lodge purchased a store building and completed the basement which we now occupy. Brother W. A. Lewis, Jr. drew the plans and Kern Construction Company did the work. Popes, Incorporated occupies the store.

Biscoe Lodge is proud of the building and thinks it is a credit to a community as small as ours."

When Brother Freeman had finished reading the history Grand Master Mims told the members that their building was indeed a credit to their or any other community. He praised the members for the effort they had made to provide such a fine Masonic Temple and told them that he and the other Grand Lodge Officers were proud and happy to be a part of the dedication.

Following the ceremony refreshments were served by the ladies of the Eastern Star.



Upper left; some of the ladies who witnessed dedication of Biscoe 437. Upper right; Secretary Neill Freeman reads lodge history.

Lower left; the festive board at Biscoe commands attention. Lower right; Paulette Harris sings during dedication ceremony.

Certified Lecturers Talk And Listen For Five Days

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ing labor, etc. He must know the Tyler's Oath, the questions and answers in all three catechisms, and be able to deliver all three lectures.

In order to remain on the active roster of Certified Lecturers a Mason must be re-examined each five years and we have some who are still active after thirty or more consecutive years. The Laudamus Certificate is awarded each Certified Lecturer completing fifteen or more years of service. A Certified Lecturer unable to remain active because of physical impairment is retained on the roster in an Emeritus status. A Mason must be on the active roster to qualify for selection as District Deputy Grand Lecturer and only those lecturers on the active roster are qualified and authorized to conduct Lecture Service for a lodge.

Under the five-year renewal system a large number of Certified Lecturers must be re-examined each year and these, along with the new applicants, prove their proficiency in their respective areas each September. Several Certified Lecturers are lost by death each year. There are also a few each year who do not respond to the call for re-examination and these are dropped from the roster unless, for good cause, they are granted a one-year extension. Losses are usually more than offset by new applicants and the active roster has shown a slight increase during recent years.

A Mason appearing for examination, either new or renewal, is examined by a team of Certified Lecturers who are not due for re-exa-

mination in that year, each Certified Lecturer examining him in a different segment of the ritual until all parts have been covered. A Certified Lecturer may not be one of the team examining an applicant he has recommended or who is a member of his lodge. An applicant must satisfy each examining lecturer as to his proficiency before he can be issued a five-year certification. The examinations begin shortly after nine in the morning and most applicants finish just before or shortly after lunch.

The Certified Lecturer program is largely responsible for the excellence and uniformity of the work being performed in North Carolina lodges and the Masons who spend so much time and effort in the program earn the gratitude of all North Carolina Masonry.

Quite often when Masons hear how much must be memorized in order to become a Certified Lecturer they view this as an almost impossible undertaking. However, the Mason who attends lodge regularly and is active in the work of the lodge is frequently agreeably surprised to discover that he has progressed to the point that only a little more work will qualify him to become a Certified Lecturer. Almost one percent of the Masons in North Carolina are Certified Lecturers and many more are either qualified or could become qualified with just a little more work. So it isn't all that difficult.

PGM Burrier Hospitalized Last Month Now at Home

Past Grand Master W. Edward Burrier received treatment in a Charlotte hospital during part of September and is now reported to be recuperating at home.

Cards and notes will reach Brother Burrier at Post Office Box 1228, Charlotte 28201.