



Masons above listen intently to Orphanage and Home information during Regional Meeting.

Columbia, Roanoke Rapids Bryson City & Wadesboro

(Continued from Page One)

\$43,000,000 in Masonic contributions. Last year the figure was \$215,000,000.

Brother Gray is in total agreement, terming the program the "bread-and-butter for Oxford, and cites similarly dramatic increases in Masonic contributions to the Orphanage.

Considering the significant increases in contributions that have been realized, one is tempted to feel that perhaps we are at last giving enough. Not so. Just as inflation has greedily gobbled up our individual increases in income, so it has taken its toll at Greensboro and Oxford. As if that was not enough, at both institutions it has been necessary to enter into extensive rebuilding programs. Old buildings, no longer safe for human habitation must be torn down and new buildings erected in their stead. This is involving vast expenditures.

Guest capacity at the Home has been increased and additional facilities provided. Because people today live longer, an ever-increasing percentage of guests in the Home are bed patients requiring additional and more expensive care. Regulatory agencies constantly adopt new and more stringent rules concerning all areas of care, thus necessitating new and greater expenditures for personnel, facilities and equipment. And, of course, inflation has been an ever-present companion.

No Mason with children of his own needs to be told that the cost of supporting children, at home or in school, has been skyrocketing. All Masons have children of their own at Oxford and the cost of supporting these is likewise going straight up.

No, we have not yet reached the point where we can afford to heave a deep sigh and relax in our giving. Probably we never will. So long as we have the Home in Greensboro and the Orphanage at Oxford we will want to provide the very best that we can for those we care for in them. This constant striving for the best will maintain these institutions as accomplishments of which we can be truly proud, and the goal of doing just a little bit better will be always before us

Past Grand Master Pugh Resigns From Committee

The following statement was issued by PGM Robert L. Pugh on October 4.

In the September 1971 issue of the *N. C. Mason* the front page included an article entitled "Grand Master's Committee Reports Orphanage Facts" and there followed the quoted statement of the special committee which was "presented by a majority of the committee to the Grand Master." I, as a representative of the minority could not agree with all of the purported findings in the report, nor could I agree with the manner in which the majority of the committee had changed, or altered the initial findings and conclusions of the committee as agreed upon in its meeting held in Oxford on August 31, 1971 with all members present.

I immediately wrote a letter to the Grand Master informing him of my disapproval of the procedure and of my subsequent resignation from the special committee. With no desire to go into the details, I wish now merely to quote from my letter of September 20, 1971 to the Grand Master as follows:

"No doubt either Deputy Grand Master Kahn or Junior Grand Warden Mills has informed you of my resignation from the Special Committee on Oxford Orphanage. As I met with these two brethren just prior to the luncheon Saturday and was handed the revised version of the committee's statement to be submitted to the *N. C. Mason* for publication, without inclusion of the questionnaire upon which the committee had formerly agreed and with no intention whatever of obtaining any expression of opinion from the Masons of the State, I told them that I could not add my endorsement to such a statement. I went even further and told them that I thought that the

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RUPERT FRANKLIN MCKINNEY

Conover Lodge No. 709, Conover, N. C. Card No. 39. Card replaced by Card No. 101.

statement and the questionnaire both should be sent to every lodge in the State with the request from the Grand Master that the lodge take action upon whatever course they thought should be pursued. Of course there was disagreement and I told them that I was afraid it would be impossible for me to remain on the committee and retain their friendship and that in order to preserve as much harmony on the committee as possible, I was resigning immediately. I did not agree with their proposal, I cannot agree with it, because I am willing to do, and I want to do, what the Masons in North Carolina desire, but first I must make an effort to determine what that desire is. If and when I could get some expression from them, I would then be willing to make whatever proposal for the orphanage their decision might indicate. I still believe this was the best course to pursue, but, failing to obtain any agreement thereto, there was only one course of action left for me. Hence, my resignation.

"I sincerely trust your committee will be able to give you a recommendation which will enable you to lead the Masons in North Carolina in some plan which will be for the best interest of the orphanage children.

"With very best wishes for continued success as you seek to lead the Masons in North Carolina and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
ROBERT L. PUGH, P.G.M.



PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION IN PROGRESS

Past Grand Master Dudley Humphrey, seated above, hears Home Superintendent Troy Robbins prove his right to bear the title of "Certified Lecturer." Certified Lecturers, like all other Masons, are proficient in the "Knife and Fork Degree," as evidenced in above left. Wash King (DDGL-9), in coat at left, examines Douglas Pridgen of Wilmington Lodge No. 319.

