

THE NORTH CAROLINA MASON

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TOLERANCE

"The act, practice, or habit of tolerating; the quality of being tolerant; specifically, the disposition to tolerate, or allow the existence of, beliefs, practices, or habits differing from one's own; now often, freedom from bigotry; sympathetic understanding of others' beliefs, etc., without acceptance of them . . ."

Thus Webster defines *tolerance*.

Tolerance is so necessary to the practice of Masonry that without it Masonry as we know and cherish it could not survive for even a brief period. In no other organization of men can there be found a purer practice of tolerance than is present in Masonry.

Masons come from every God-loving faith, from every profession, from every political persuasion, from every walk of life, and join together in a unique Brotherhood of Man which acknowledges belief and trust in one God, supreme over everything.

In an ordinary lodge meeting may be found members of opposing political parties or factions, competitors in business, proponents of many differing religions, and, as the ritual tells us, "the high and low, the rich and poor." If Masons of so many divergent beliefs and practices and opinions can meet on the level and act on the square, then so can men everywhere.

The Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence were not forged by men who were of the same opinion on every subject, but by men who were tolerant. These great documents could not have been born out of intolerance. In any undertaking in which two or more participate there can be no good result unless tolerance is practiced by the participants.

We do not have to adopt another's beliefs in order to respect his right to them; we need not condemn another's opinions because we do not share them. No mortal was ever right about everything, and no mortal was ever wrong about everything.

History is replete with accounts of the terrible results of intolerance as practiced by governments, by religions, by individuals. All around us today are the tragic results of in-

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Three Wilmington Lodges Confer Degrees Together

BY R. C. SAVAGE, *Secretary*

Members of St. John's Lodge No. 1, Wilmington Lodge No. 319 and Orient Lodge No. 395, A. F. & A. M., met in the Masonic Temple in the Port City on Saturday, October 30, 1971.

This was a mutual endeavor between the lodges to promote Masonic Brotherhood and unity, the first such affair of its kind in many years.

St. John's Lodge No. 1 opened a lodge at 2:30 in the afternoon and conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree, followed by Wilmington Lodge No. 319 opening and conferring the Fellow Craft Degree at 4:30 in the afternoon.

The brethren retired to the dining room within the Masonic Temple at about 7:00 o'clock and were feasted to a delightful dinner prepared and served by the ladies of Goldenrod Chapter No. 142, Order of the Eastern Star.

After dinner Orient Lodge No. 395 opened a lodge and conferred the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

All three lodges were well attended and there were few vacant seats in the dining hall. We overheard many favorable comments concerning this joint communication and everywhere Masons were introducing themselves and being introduced to their counterparts of the other Blue Lodges present. Thus, we think the endeavor was a smashing success, for if ever in our lifetime we need unity, now is the time. Without a doubt, as evidenced on October 30, it prevails among the Wilmington lodges.

tolerance. No study of the past or of the present will built any kind of case for intolerance.

It may well be that Masonry owes its long life as much to tolerance as to any other virtue. And it may well be that the tolerance learned in Masonry may some day inspire its members to take the lead, as they have in years past, in putting down intolerance and thus righting some of the wrongs which oppress so many.

The Faithful Secretary

Most Masons are aware that a dedicated and efficient secretary is essential to a well governed lodge, but perhaps only a small percentage are truly aware of the many extra hours, the knowledge, and the patience that are required of a really good secretary. Without doubt Grand Secretary Charles A. Harris, P.G.M. is more acutely aware than anyone else of the qualities that make a good lodge secretary. "Good Old Charlie Harris," as our Grand Secretary is affectionately known, depends entirely upon the individual lodge secretaries for the efficient functioning of his office, and he always has a good word for those faithful secretaries about the state who serve so well. He recently compiled a list of lodge secretaries who have served for twelve years or longer.

Heading the list is Brother Russel G. Laughridge, Cleveland Lodge No. 202. Brother Laughridge became secretary in 1920 and has served for forty-nine years, missing only the years 1934-1935-1936.

Following closely are Brother Jasper E. Haynes who has served Andrew Jackson No. 576 for forty-four consecutive years and Brother Charles M. Lasley with forty-three consecutive years in West Bend No. 434.

Then come Harry W. Walker, Francis S. Packard No. 630, 38 years; Joseph W. Gilbert, Grifton No. 243, 37 years; John T. Coates, Jr., Saluda No. 482, 34 years; G. Archie Thomas, Belhaven No. 509, 32 years; Alfred A. Kafer, Jr. (PGM), St. John's No. 3, 30 years; and Charles A. Cates, Thomas M. Holt No. 492, 30 years.

Past Grand Master Kafer took time out in 1967 to serve as our Grand Master but has otherwise served continuously as lodge secretary since 1941.

Three secretaries have served for 28 years, three for 27, two for 26, two for 25, two for 24, three for 23, three for 22, two for 21, five for 20, two for 19, nine for 18, seven for 17, six for 16, eleven for 15, twelve for 14, nine for 13, and ten for 12 years. What a remarkable record of service this is.

Your own secretary, whoever he is, deserves your gratitude and your assistance. It will boost his morale if you let him know from time to time that you appreciate what he is doing for the lodge and for Masonry. It will reduce his workload if you will keep him advised of your correct address, pay your dues on time, fill out petitions and other forms properly, and refrain from doing or suggesting those things which entail unnecessary correspondence and/or bookkeeping.

Then, too, there is a pretty good secretary on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh—let us not forget Good Old Charlie Harris.

RSD

BAD TOOLS

A dull chisel, used on fine marble, leaves a disfiguring mark. The artist knows it, and he is careful that his tools shall be of the best temper possible, for marble is too costly to be spoiled needlessly.

Thoughts are the chisels used in the making of the soul. A bad thought mars and disfigures the texture of the spirit just as surely a dull tool scratches and spoils the marble. Used long enough, that chisel, wrong thinking, will mar the character forever. But how a good thought does beautify the soul. Right thinking day after day chips away the crude and the unlovely, and brings out the best and the truest and the most beautiful.

—Exchange