





Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of North Carolina



The NORTH CAROLINA MASON



VOL. CII—NO. 8

Oxford, North Carolina, July, 1977

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

District Meetings For 1977 Edenton and Erwin Covered

Grand Master Injured

Mount Airy—Grand Master J. Earl Watson suffered painful injuries to his left leg in a fall June 22, just as he was leaving his room to attend the meeting of the 6th District at Aurora. Despite intense pain, he went ahead with the Aurora meeting, following which he received treatment at the emergency room of a New Bern hospital. He has since received additional treatment in a Mount Airy hospital and at Winston-Salem.

Although the Grand Master completed the remainder of the meetings during the week of June 19, he decided it would be best to cancel the meetings scheduled for June 28, 29 and 30, at Davidson, Cramerton and Dallas, in order that he might receive treatment and rest. Those meetings will be rescheduled.

As this paper was being prepared for the press, the Grand Master's leg had improved considerably and he was planning to resume the district meeting schedule on July 13 at Bryson City.

Grand Master J. Earl Watson and Grand Secretary Robert P. Dudley set out upon the 1977 district meeting trail in May with their first stop in Blackmer Lodge 170 on May 17. By the time this paper is mailed over 40% of the 65 districts will have met.

The agenda for a district meeting this year is much like those of prior years; the host lodge serves dinner at 6:30 and opens at 7:30. The lodge officially receives the District Deputy Grand Master, who then officially receives the Grand Master. The Grand Master presides from that point. The Grand Secretary calls the roll, then the Grand Master recognizes the district officers, the past and present Masters and Secretaries, and the distinguished guests. Reports are heard from Oxford Orphanage and from Masonic and Eastern Star Home.

A variety of officials have been giving reports for the Home; including Senior Grand Warden William B. Bellois, Grand Treasurer James W. Brewer (PGM), Past Grand Master Robert L. Pugh, Superintendent Tom Patterson, Board Members Norburn Hyatt and Jesse

(Continued on Page Five)

Joseph Warren Lodge 92 Celebrates Anniversary



Stantonsburg—Grand Master J. Earl Watson (above left) was the speaker and Master Louis F. Hales (above right) was master of ceremonies when Joseph Warren Lodge 92 celebrated its 150th anniversary on June 11 in the Stantonsburg Community Center.

The sesquicentennial banquet opened with group singing of "America" and Chaplain Louis Taylor offered the invocation. Following the meal the Master introduced lodge officers and others in the audience. In addition to Grand Master and Mrs. Watson, the Grand Lodge was represented by Grand Treasurer James W. Brewer (PGM), Past Grand Master Leslie H. Garner and Editor Reynold S. Davenport, with their ladies.

The audience was loud in its applause of Mrs. Florence Holton, who sang two solos.

Grand Treasurer Brewer presented 25-year awards to Dr. Edgar T. Beddingfield and Ralph P. Renzo.

(Continued on Page Three)

Orphanage School Reopening

Oxford—Delegates to Grand Lodge last April approved the reopening of the school on the

Oxford Orphanage campus and the first day of school is tentatively scheduled for September 7. Renovation of the building is virtually complete, the cost of renovation being paid by the Orphanage Alumni Association. Contributions to the "school fund" are steadily rising. Planning calls for raising a large fund—\$3½ to \$5 million—during the next three years to perpetually endow school operation, in order that members will not be asked to contribute in future years for that

(Continued on Page Five)



Edenton—The lodge leaders in the 1st District are pictured above with the Grand Master. Front row, from left: Bill Durham, M-317; Richard Dowdy, M-463; J. D. Elliott, M-7; Grand Master J. Earl Watson; W. Frank Wood, SW-314; John W. Harrison, Jr., M-126; Frederick P. Smith, Jr., M-126. Second row, from left: Cecil Winslow, PM&S-106; Stanley Watkins, PM&S-463; W. P. Goodwin, PM&S-7; W. M. "Coonie" Smith, PM&S-317; Everett Brothers, PM&S-314; Bob Ward, M-75; C. H. Greene, PM&S-126.



Erwin—And here are the lodge leaders in the 28th District. Front row, from left: Harold Pope, SW-147; Danny Holland, M-431; Melvin Hayes, M-556; Grand Master Watson; Bill Adams, M-686; Hubert Hogue, M-302. Second row, from left: Nick Joseph, PM&S-147; Fulton Godwin, PM&S-556; Robert Coleman, PM&S-302.