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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

A Real Bonus

Did you ever hear of Tammany Lodge 16 in Williamston? Or Pansothia Lodge 25 in Carthage? Or Mount Moriah Lodge 82 in Statesville?

Did you know that Halo Lodge at Cahoba, Alabama was instituted by our Grand Lodge in 1818 and chartered in 1821 by the Grand Lodge of Alabama?

Do you know how many of the lodges that founded our Grand Lodge in 1787 are still in existence?

Does your lodge have an unbroken record? Or has it at one time or another ceased to operate for a time?

If you do not know the answers to the foregoing, do you know where to find them?

Well, these answers are all in the *1980 Annual Proceedings*, available to all members. These, and many other interesting facts, are in the Historical Table of North Carolina lodges, appearing in the back of the *1980 Proceedings*. The table begins with Solomon Lodge (no number) at Masonborough, in Hanover County. This lodge, of which there is little or no record, is said to have been chartered in 1735 by the Grand Lodge of England, and it is thought to have ceased work about 1754.

The next lodge listed is St. John's 1, at Wilmington. Also chartered by the Grand Lodge of England (1755), it accepted its North Carolina Charter in 1794, and it has an unbroken record.

The last lodge in the table is Denver U.D., at Denver, which was instituted in May of this year and which hopes to receive its charter next year, becoming 757.

There are a whole lot of lodges listed between St. John's 1 and Denver U.D.—almost eight hundred of them, when you include those that were never assigned a number.

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District Meetings 1980

The 1980 district meetings are winding down. By the time this paper is in the hands of the members not more than three meetings will remain: Sep 29, Eureka 317, Elizabeth City; Sep 30, Washington 375, Washington; Oct 1, Zion 81, Trenton.

The 1980 meetings have been well attended, averaging more than 130 Masons per meeting. Top attendance was registered in Charlotte July 23, when more than 300 Masons were on hand.

The general format this year is much like members have become accustomed to in recent years. The host lodge serves the evening meal at 6:30 and opens at 7:30. All District Deputy Grand Masters attending are received together, the host District Deputy assuming the East and receiving Grand Master E. Stansil Aldridge. The Grand Master conducts the meeting.

The first item on the agenda is the roll call by the Grand Secretary. District officers make their reports. Representatives of the Home and the Orphanage speak briefly in behalf of their respective institutions. The Grand Secretary summarizes proposed amendments to THE CODE to be acted upon next year, and briefs the Craft on other matters of particular interest.

The Grand Master delivers his address, stressing matters he deems worthy of particular interest and effort during the year. He closes with the following quotation, attributed to General Douglas MacArthur:

BUILD ME A SON

"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

"Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a son who will know Thee—

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North Carolina Leads

Masonic Service Association last month released its annual tabulation of Grand Lodge memberships, this one for the year 1979. Only three Grand Lodges registered membership gains, and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was highest of the three.

South Carolina, the perennial "gains" leader in the annual tabulations, suffered its first membership loss in forty-five years, showing a net loss of 21 members. Nevertheless, our neighbor to the south moved into 15th place in the rankings, passing New Jersey, which experienced a net loss of 2,272 members in 1979. We predict South Carolina will soon be back in the gains column.

Grand Lodges showing gains, other than our own, were Arizona and Florida. North Carolina's gain marked 37 consecutive years of increasing membership, Florida and Arizona have both registered gains during each of the seven years we have been reporting these figures. All three gains were miniscule: North Carolina's gain of 215 to a total of 72,966 represented a gain of only three-tenths of one percent, Arizona's gain of 94 comes out to six-tenths of one percent, and Florida's gain of 97 works out to just one-tenth of one percent.

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In the picture at left above Grand Master E. Stansil Aldridge, flanked by lodge and district officers, presides over a district meeting. The picture at right shows Masons fortifying themselves.