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Editorial

IT'S TIME

The three hundred and ninety-four North Carolina lodges begin their new year along with the calendar, on January 1. The Grand Lodge begins it's new fiscal year on the same date, but the real new Grand Lodge year begins at the conclusion of the annual communication, in mid-April. There is then a new Grand Master, each of the other grand line officers have advanced a step, and about a third of the district officers are new.

It is fitting that all this should take place in the spring, when there is evidence of new life in all nature, and when the blood seems to pulse through our veins with renewed vigor. It is a time in our lives too valuable and too brief to be spent idly, and this is also true in the life of our Grand Lödge and our lodges.

Our new lodge Masters and other officers have had time to settle in, the shakedown cruise is complete. It is now time to turn to and lend a hand with all our Masonic initiatives, old and new. It is time to begin making this the best year ever in contributions to the Home and the Orphanage; time to get moving on the addition to the Care Center at the Home; time to make a real breakthrough with contributions to the Foundation; time to plan for the finest district meetings we ever had; time to begin or to continue every single program and activity that can possibly serve mankind and Freemasonry.

Is it possible to accomplish the best ever results in all these areas in a single year?

Of course it's possible!

And it need not even be particularly difficult—if we can somehow convince our idle sparkplugs to commence firing. We are much like a twenty-mule team hitched to a wagon with only two of the mules actually pulling, so the wagon moves at a snail's pace and just barely climbs the hills. If we can just get those other eighteen mules to begin pulling their weight, the wagon will move briskly and easily and the hills will become as level ground. North Carolina Masonry is functioning at no more than ten or fifteen percent of the effectiveness that might be reasonably expected. Our potential is almost limitless.

THE NORTH CAROLINA MASON

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Life Member

Huntersville - For outstanding service, Allen Alexander, pictured at left, was elected to Life Membership in Long Creek Lodge No. 205 last December. Alexander has been a Mason since 1962 and has served the lodge as Tyler for the past twenty-three years.

Saint Patrick's No. 617 **Begins New Temple**



Princeton — Shown with the cornerstone for the new temple of St. Patrick's Lodge No. 617 are Grand Master L. R. Thomas, Jr. (left) and Elton Y. Evans, Master of the lodge.

Princeton — Grand Master L. R. Thomas, Jr. laid the cornerstone for the new temple of St. Patrick's Lodge No. 617 on March 18. Other Grand Lodge officers and officials attending were Deputy Grand Master Jerry G. Tart, Senior Grand Warden Bunn T. Phillips, Jr., Grand Secretary Robert P. Dudley, Grand Chaplain James H. Coile, Past Grand Master Berl M. Kahn, Assistant Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp, III, and the following D.D.G.M.'s: James A. Harris-16, David E. Jordan-17 and J. Kirby Rose-27.

The following officers and members of the lodge assisted the Grand Master in the ceremony: Master Elton Y. Evans, Senior Warden Henry B. Butts, Junior Warden T. Harold Lancaster, Treasurer W. Franklin Ingram, Secretary Sidney A. Wellons, III (PM), Senior Deacon Larry A. Peedin, Junior Deacon Scott E. Boyette, Stewards Kenneth L. Abel and James R. Worley, Tyler Christian E. Watson, Chaplain Charles A. Daughtry, and the following Past Masters: Edwin J. Pearce, J. F. Nutler Holt, Bobby F. Wellons (DDGL-27), James E. Woodard and E. Rudolph Pittman.

Eagle Scout Masons

(Continued from Page One)

Here are the Eagle Scout Masons most recently heard from:

Warren N. Cobb, Jr., member of Fulton 99, Past Master of Capeville 106 in Virginia, has been an Eagle since 1949, has earned Bronze, Gold and Silver Palms, God and Country Award, and was associate advisor of an Explorer Post.

Jackson E. Gavlord, member of Belhaven 509, has been an Eagle since 1943, awarded Bronze Palm, was Cubmaster three years and Scoutmaster twelve years, member of Order of Arrow and received Vigil Award, received District Merit Award and Silver Beaver Award, still active in scouting.

Everett L. Peterson, member of Hiram 98, is an Eagle Scout.

William L. Miller, member of Hiram 98, is an Eagle.

Nicholas K. Gilbert, member of Catawba 248, has been an Eagle since 1956 and also received the God and Country Award.

Paul B. Barbee, member of Mooresboro 388, has been an Eagle since 1949 and a Quartermaster Sea Scout since 1950. He belongs to the National Eagle Scout Association.

John B. Sewell, III, Master of Franklin 109, received Eagle Scout and God and Country certificates in 1967. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, attended the World Jamboree in 1967, and is Den Leader of his son's Cub Scout Den.

Kent R. McIver, Senior Steward of Green Level 277, has been an Eagle since 1976, received thirty Merit Badges, member of Order of the Arrow and Explorers, served in all offices and was Assistant Scoutmaster.

Phillip E. McLain, member of Cannon Memorial 626, an Eagle since 1972, received God and Country Award and was a Patrol Leader.

Questions and Answers

The Grand Lodge Constitution and Regulations (THE CODE) spell out the Masonic law that governs lodges and Masons in North Carolina. Copies of THE CODE are furnished each lodge, individual members may purchase copies through their lodge secretaries (\$10.00). The answers to the following questions are brief, they are subject to error; and they are unofficial; they are intended only for general information. Some members may wish to score themselves in their knowledge of Masonic law with their anwsers to these questions. The answer follows each question

1. Is it OK for the Past Masters of a lodge to form a Past Masters' Club in an effort to get all of them interested in coming back to lodge?

Answer: That is a laudable purpose, but the means would be illegal. No club may be formed within a lodge. REG. 97-02(25) and others.

2. May a lodge march in a July 4th parade? Answer: Not as a lodge, that is forbidden in REG. 97-02(42) and others. It is guite all right for members of a lodge to do so as individuals.

3. I understand the law has been changed to allow me to use the Masonic emblem on the letterheads of my business. Is this correct?

Answer: No, sir. That is just a wild rumor. REG. 97-02(44) and others.

4. How about my grave marker? Is it legal to place the Masonic emblem on that?

Onslow Lodges, Sojourners Sponsor Youths to Seminar

(Continued from Page One)

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and was sponsored by Semper Fidelis 680. (Although she was selected by school officials, it just so happened that her father, Lt. Col. Russ Eggleston, USMC, is a member of the sponsoring lodge.)

Matt Raymond, local Ford dealer and a member of Semper Fidelis 680, donated a luxury automobile for use by the students and their counselor on the trip.

Col. Thomas Romanetz, President of Lejeune Sojourners and member of Semper Fidelis 680, spearheaded the project and it was fitting that he should accompany the four students as their counselor. He was excited and enthusiastic about the entire endeavor and he said the students shared his feelings. He said the programs at the seminar, beginning at early morning and extending into the night, were aimed at teaching students to be responsible citizens, to determine what they will do with their lives, and to appreciate their country. Freedoms Foundation's themes of patriotism and freedom permeated the seminar.

Separate dorms were provided for boys and girls, two permanent staff members reside in each dorm, and the adult counselors accompanying the students are housed in the appropriate dorms.

The local participation in the seminar received extensive coverage in The Jacksonville Daily News and in The Camp Lejeune Globe.

Col. Romanetz regretted that time restrictions prevented fuller participation by 9th District lodges, but feels an early start next year will enable more lodges to become sponsors. He hopes to send at least one student from each area high school in 1990.

Lodges outside the 9th District that are interested in sponsoring students to the 1990 seminar should write to Col. Thomas Romanetz, 1208 Greneway Road, Jacksonville, North Carolina 28546. The seminar will not register more than 130 students and these are accepted on a "first come" basis.

What Others Are Doing

Delegates to the Annual Communication this month of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico will vote to approve or disapprove the following policy statement:

"Freemasons may voluntarily discuss with non-Masonic men the basic concepts and tenets of the Fraternity; supply them with approved Masonic literature; and invite them to sanctioned 'open' Masonic fellowship meetings. Each potential member must be told that the final decision on whether to petition is his and his alone and will not be questioned; also, that each petition is subject to the unanimous approval of the Lodge."

The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has moved its offices into the Westview Building on the grounds of the Wisconsin Masonic Home at Dousman, WI. The former Grand Lodge building in Milwaukee was sold last fall.

So it is up to each of the three hundred and ninety-four Masters to activate, or reactivate, his brethren. The mushroom effect would be awesome. Why, we do not even know all we could accomplish if everyone worked at it.

Reynold Davenport

ACCORDING TO JIMROD We present below this month's poetical offering from that distinguished Mason and philosopher, JIMROD Q. WAXPILLOW.

This bald-headed brother named Jerry Beat Harry to become Secretary But in the desk light His head shone so bright The brethren wished Jerry was hairy

Having completed the ceremonies in the lodge room, the Masons, escorted by Princeton police, walked the three blocks to the building site for the ceremony.

J. Kirby Rose, DDGM-27, presented county and town officials attending and Princeton's Mayor George Carlisle offered brief congratulatory remarks. Ralph Howell, PM-112, spoke of the lodge's historical significance, and the ceremony proceeded in ancient form. The Grand Master addressed the gathering at the completion of the ceremony. The Master, having earlier welcomed all attending, expressed the lodge's appreciation to the Grand Master and others assisting, and he presented honorary membership in St. Patrick's to the Grand Master.

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Answer: If you are a member of a lodge at your death, it will be quite legal for your grave marker to bear the Masonic emblem. REG. 97-02(45).

5. I have always heard it is a Masonic offense to solicit a non-Mason to petition the lodge, but I have never seen it in writing. Where is it?

Answer: In at least three regulations: 49-03(5), 73-01 and 97-02(21).

6. You regularly refer to REG. 97-02 when discussing violations of Masonic law. Is that the only one in THE CODE dealing with violations?

Answer: By no means. You will find violations described and penalties prescribed in various areas of THE CODE, REG, 97-02 is most often referred to because most of the designated offenses are found there, often duplicating regulations in other chapters.

7. Are all Masonic offenses listed in THE CODE?

Answer: Not by a long shot. Any violation of moral law, whether or not it is listed in THE CODE, is a Masonic offense. REG. 97-01(1).

8. Please give an example.

Answer: Well, it would generally be considered immoral for one to parade down Main Street in the nude, or to pour sand into someone's gas tank, or to tell lewd stories to children. I don't believe any of these actions are listed in THE CODE, but I feel quite certain one could be brought to Masonic Trial on account of any of them. There are literally hundreds of acts of immorality which could warrant Masonic Trial and which are not listed anywhere as Masonic offenses. This inability to list all possible offenses is recognized in REGS. 97-01 and 97-02.

9. Why are penalties listed for some offenses and not for others?

Answer: I can only guess that those who drafted the regulations regarded some offenses as being so grave that no extenuating circumstances could be considered, whereas many of the other offenses were less grave or were quite likely to be committed unwittingly. In the latter instances, of course, it is left to Trial Commissions to determine the degree of guilt and the degree of punishment.

10. Can the decisions of Trial Commissions be reversed and, if so, how?

Answer: Yes, by the Grand Lodge at it's annual communication. REG. 106-03.

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