



# The North Carolina Mason

Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina

VOL CXVII — NO. 3

Oxford, North Carolina

May/June, 1992

## St. John's Day Celebration Set

Mark it now! Don't wait! Ask your wife to note it for the whole family! Clean up those lawn chairs. St. John's Day at the Orphanage is just around the corner and promises to be bigger than ever as Jerry Reed headlines.

The St. John's Day observation will be on Saturday, June 20 at Oxford Orphanage. Join in celebrating what has become the largest Masonic gathering in the state.

The Shriners of North Carolina are sponsoring a Masonic Foundation Golf Tournament on Friday. It's near Henderson, just up the road. You can find the tournament details on page 8.

For you non-athletes, figure on Saturday being parades, picnics, and music under the oaks. Things will kick off at 9:45 a.m. as the Oxford Orphanage Choir performs on the front steps of the campus Administration Building.

It'll then be time to hustle down the street for the 10 o'clock start of the Shrine Parade. There'll be units from Amran, Oasis, and Sudan temples. Be prepared for clowns, bands, motorized units, and much, much more as the parade winds through town.

We all know the cooking talents of those fezzed fellows from all those fish fries to raise money for crippled children's hospitals. They'll furnish your lunch right after the parade.

It'll be up to you to find just the right spot "under the oaks" on the Orphanage grounds to picnic with your family.

A songful afternoon begins at 1 o'clock when The Hollanders return for their second St. John's Day performance. This group of six brothers and sisters wowed the crowd last year with comedy, song, and dance. They'll be even better this year.

Scheduled for 2 p.m. is the headliner for the afternoon, Jerry Reed. You've seen Jerry on TV. You've heard him on the radio. You've even seen him in the movies. A few titles will remind you: "When You're Hot, You're Hot," "Eastbound and Down," "She Got the Gold Mine, I Got the Shaft," and Smokey and the Bandit. His songs have been recorded by Elvis Presley, Tom Jones, Brenda Lee, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, and the Oak Ridge Boys among others.

If you've never made it to Oxford for St. John's Day, there's no better time than June 20. You can't beat the cost — free.

Hope to see you there.



Jerry Reed



The Hollanders



Windell Cunningham's fingers have been known to coax a shy voice. It wasn't a barber shop, but these fellows tried a little harmony at Tuesday night's reception.

## Grand Lodge Holds Annual Communication

Raleigh — On April 21 and 22, the 205th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina was convened by 1,253 voting delegates and more than 500 other interested Masons.

After the call to order and presentation of the colors, Grand Master Lester P. Martin, Jr. opened the lodge and received the distinguished visitors from other grand jurisdictions and the appendant bodies. After past grand masters were welcomed James G. Exum, Jr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina and grand orator of the Grand Lodge made his address.

Most of Tuesday's morning session was spent receiving, referring, and/or approving the reports of various committees and boards. Reynold Davenport, who retired as editor of The North Carolina Mason last summer, was named Editor Emeritus of the publication. Past Grand Master Sam A. Hennis, Jr. was named Treasurer Emeritus.

See GRAND LODGE, Page 3



The one four-legged attendee of Grand Lodge wasn't the only creature present seen to have nodded off during the business session.

## Meet Our New Grand Master

Ray Norris was born in Candler, North Carolina on September 27, 1924. to Isaac and Lois Norris. He is the oldest of five children. Ray grew up on a small farm which had a great and positive influence on his life. His dedication to his studies in the public school system and responsibilities at home on the farm consumed a great portion of his time; however, during his high school days, he found time to participate in athletics and immensely enjoyed relaxing through hunting and fishing. It was during his high school years that he met a schoolmate, Jean, who later became his loving and supportive wife.

Ray graduated from Candler High School in May, 1943 and is also a graduate of LaSalle Extension University in Chicago, Illinois in Traffic Management. At Georgia State University and Northwestern University, he was introduced to managerial developmental studies in logistics, distribution, and transportation.

Ray entered the military immediately upon graduation from high school. After basic training and completion of Army-Clerk-Stenographer School at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, he was transferred to Fort Meade, Maryland. He was later assigned to the U. S. 7th Army in Italy and served with it in France and Germany. He was honorably dis-

charged with the rank of Sergeant and returned home in January, 1946. In 1951, he was recalled as an active reservist in the military and served as Post Freight Officer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri until January, 1953 and was honorably discharged as a Master Sergeant. He received a direct appointment as a commissioned reserve officer in the Transportation Corps while on active duty and later left the military in February, 1960 from active reserve status.

Ray and Jean were married in October, 1946 and are blessed with five beautiful and talented children: Steve, Kathy, Mike, Debbie, and René. Steve and wife, Karen, and three children, Stephanie, Kristie, and Tyson live in Santee, California. Steve is Deputy Test Director for a Sub-Sea Research & Development Project for the Department of the Navy at the Naval Research & Development Center in San Diego, California. Kathy and husband, Ken, and two sons, Scott and Brian, live in Snellville, Georgia. Kathy is a school teacher in the Gwinnett County Public School system. Mike and wife, Leslie, and three children, Russell, Graham, and Rebecca live in Hickory, North Carolina. Mike is Manager of the Personal Insurance Department, First Security Co. Inc. in Hickory. Debbie lives in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Debbie is a Re-

Ray Norris  
Grand Master

See GRAND MASTER, Page 3

