

The North Carolina Mason

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From the Editor's Desk

Things Change, So Do We

Masons don't readily change the way the institution of Masonry operates. Our fraternity is founded on tradition, traditions so old, we don't even know where we came from.

Our rituals have been passed from mouth to ear for generations. They are passed on with strict admonishment to preserve them exactly. That protection is among our first lessons when entering Freemasonry.

That care keeps us great. It safeguards Masonry from the whims of fashion and foibles of individuals. Like most lessons in life, that lesson needs tempering.

At Grand Lodge Annual Communication this year we reconsidered a couple of measures rejected in 1992. Last year the majority was unmoved when asked to consider revising *The Code* and the hiring of a director for the Masonic Foundation.

We balked in '92 in the face of obvious need. When debating the need for *Code* revision, it took ten minutes to decide what majority was necessary to authorize the update. Despite several years of shortfall in funding the Home and Orphanage, we didn't want to hire someone to help us be more effective.

This year, after a several months of consideration, delegates from the lodges decided it was time for change. Thanks to bravery in the face of change, we'll try to preserve and maybe even improve the Fraternity.

As important as our resistance to change can be, it is important that we never let it stand in the way of vitality. Devotion to our traditions should never blind us to advancing our causes.

The Mason Goes Online

The North Carolina Mason is now available via computer to America OnLine subscribers. The *electronicNCMason* is a text-only version of the regular publication. This edition is condensed, dropping some of the content that is of less interest outside the state. Picture captions are, for the most part, dropped. "Travelers of the Tar Heel State," our round-up on what's happening in our blue lodges, is included. Most news and feature articles are kept.

For you America OnLine users, it can be found at Lifestyles & Interests/Ethics & Religion/The Religion Library Center/Other Religions & New Age Library. We're not completely comfortable with the location, but there's already a Freemasonry forum on that part of the network. We hope to get a better fit in the future.

The *eNCM* is a self-extracting archive that takes under ten minutes to download and may be opened with any text reading software.

Computer owners with a modem may get more information about subscribing to America OnLine by calling 1-800-827-6364.

It's a Matter of Time And Desire

Washington — Henry Gray doesn't give up easily.

In 1982 Henry petitioned for the degrees at Washington 675. Before his investigation committee could finish its work, he suffered a severe heart attack. His candidacy was dropped for health reasons.

In 1992, at age 67, Henry petitioned once again. Things went more smoothly this time. He was elected to the degrees.

Henry's hearing wasn't the best in the world. His coach, John Riffert, got used to coaching a few decibels louder than usual. Henry took one question a day.

He worked slowly through his degrees, was raised, and became the conscience of

675's lawn, taking over the job of landscaping. He was in lodge for every event and nearly every meeting. He continually denied thanks as he asked what more he could do.

He didn't want to leave his advancement incomplete. Henry worked hard to learn his Third Degree Catechism. He moved slowly but surely through the exchange of questions and answers.

He was then hit by a minor stroke — one just serious enough to forget his catechism. He could remember how to get to his coach's office but couldn't recognize John's face. He started relearning the catechism.

Two similar strokes made him lose his speech for a short period and forget the memory work. He just kept coming back.

Thurman Mayo, an old friend of Henry's, hadn't been seen in lodge very often in the past few years. As Henry took the degrees, Thurman became a familiar face again.

Henry took it on himself to coach Thurman through his final catechism. As Henry reviewed his daily work, he shared it with Thurman.

On March 1, one year after his initiation, Henry shared the spotlight with Thurman as they were examined on their memory work. Both passed in impressive fashion.

In these times, when few of us have half the time we feel we need, Henry's a real inspiration.

ACCORDING TO JIMROD

We present below this month's poetical offering from that distinguished Mason and philosopher,



JIMROD Q. WAXPILLOW

This conscientious old Mason named Brent Decided to give up something for Lent

He thought it too risky to swear off whiskey And sex — all he had left there was intent.

Practicing With Asses

The following is quoted from *One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California* in the narration of Mariposa Lodge No. 24. One of their most devoted members was Past Master Frank H. B. Catherwood who served his lodge ten years as master and twelve as secretary, never missing a meeting while an officer in spite of the inconvenience. "In good weather or bad, he hiked eight miles across the mountain to the ranch of Thomas J. Ferguson. There Ferguson would hitch up a team of horses to a wagon or buckboard, and he and Catherwood would cover the remaining eighteen miles to Lodge together, returning home the next day."

"Catherwood's memory and knowledge of the ritual amazed everybody who knew him. He never missed a word, and his delivery was spellbinding. When asked how he attained such proficiency, he smilingly replied that he acquired it with the help of a couple of jackasses that he kept at his place back in the

mountains. 'You see,' he said, 'after I'd finish my supper dishes of an evening, I might feel that I needed a little practice with the ritual. So I'd go out in front of my cabin and call my jacks. I'd post one in the South and one in the West, and sit on a stump in the East myself. Then I'd begin at any place in the ritual where I thought I needed brushing up. You know, those jacks had heard that ritual so many times that they knew it backward and forward and straight up and down. They could pick up with me anywhere along the line. As long as I was all right, they'd just stand there, with their ears laid back, following every word. But if I made the slightest mistake, they'd flop their ears forward, and I knew I was wrong. Yessir, and I'd have to back up and get it right before they'd lay their ears down again.'"

— from *Southern California Research Lodge Fraternal Review*, April, 1992.

1993 The District Meetings

New Grand Master Rick Moore has set his schedule for district meetings this year. A little more than half the meetings will include two or more districts.

Host lodges are to serve the meal, open the lodge, receive district deputy grand master, and receive the grand master. All meetings begin with supper at 6:30. Lodge will be opened at 7:30.

Meetings will be tiled. The gatherings will feature reports from district officers, grand secretary, and grand master.

The schedule is subject to change. Remember the ferry shutdown last year? We'll pass on anything we hear.

These gatherings provide a great opportunity for fellowship. Come to talk with others around your area and hear about what's going on state-wide. All Masons are invited and urged to attend. Host districts are listed in bold type.

Date	District(s)	Host Lodge	Location
May 24	12 th & 15 th	Warsaw 677	Warsaw
May 25	8 th & 9 th	Seaside 429	Swansboro
May 26	6 th & 7 th	Vanceboro 433	Vanceboro
May 27	10 th	Orient 395	Wilmington 319
May 28	13 th & 14 th	Bladen 646	Elizabethtown
June 3	54 th & 55 th	Mt. Holly 544	Mt. Holly
June 4	56 th	Cleveland 202	Shelby
June 8	16 th & 27 th	Fellowship 84	Smithfield
June 9	17 th & 18 th	Bailey 411	Bailey
June 11	32 nd & 34 th	Bingham 272	Mebane
June 21	22 nd & 23 rd	Rolesville 683	Rolesville
June 22	19 th & 20 th	Roanoke 203	Weldon
June 23	31 st & 37 th	Asheboro 699	Asheboro
June 24	28 th & 29 th	Phoenix 8	Fayetteville
June 25	21 st & 33 rd	Henderson 229	Henderson
July 8	38 th & 43 rd	Albemarle 703	Albemarle
July 9	39 th	Beaver Dam 276	Marshville
July 13	50 th	Liberty 45	Wilksboro
July 14	58 th	Vesper 554	Spruce Pine
July 15	59 th	Cliffside 460	Cliffside
August 2	65 th	Montgomery 426	Ranger
August 3	63 rd	Clyde 453	Clyde
August 4	64 th	East LaPorte 358	East LaPorte
August 11	30 th	Elberta 654	West End
August 12	24 th , 25 th , & 26 th	William G. Hill 218	Raleigh
August 13	35 th & 36 th	Revolution 552	Greensboro
August 16	44 th & 45 th	Lexington 473	Lexington
August 17	51 st & 52 nd	Grassy Knob 471	Union Grove
August 18	40 th , 41 st , & 42 nd	Friendship 700	Charlotte
August 23	61 st	John A. Nichols 650	Asheville
August 24	62 nd	Bald Creek 397	Swiss
August 25	60 th	Dunn's Rock 267	Brevard
August 26	49 th	Snow 363	Boone
August 27	47 th	Renfro 691	Mt. Airy
September 15	46 th & 48 th	Clemmons 755	Clemmons
September 16	53 rd & 57 th	Riverside 606	Catawba
September 27	5 th & 11 th	William Pitt 734	Greenville
September 28	3 rd	Providence 678	Columbia
September 29	1 st	Gatesville 126	Gatesville
September 30	2 nd	Davie 39	Ahoscie
October 1	4 th	Atlantic 294	Swanquarter

Solace For a Brother

Many lessons in Masonry and reminders of the brotherhood it teaches us appear unexpectedly. Bob Kraus of Junaluskee 145 in Franklin can tell about it from first hand experience.

Kraus and his wife, Eleanor, were attending a convention in Burlington, Vermont last summer. During some off-time, Bob dropped by the grand lodge offices there. He had some pleasant conversation with the Brothers there and enjoyed attending a local lodge.

Back at the hotel that night he was awakened by pains in his chest. After finally admitting something was wrong, they drove to the hospital. Bob suffered a full fledged heart attack while on the examining table.

Bob was given an angioplasty (balloon treatment). They successfully cleared a blood vessel restriction and two clots at his heart. Although he was then out of the woods, Eleanor was left on her own in a strange town. She was given lodging in the convent across the street from the hospital. Bob had her go to the grand lodge to ask for assistance in cashing a check for some emergency money.

Well, Vermont Masons didn't stop there. There were numerous visits from several Masons. One Brother and his wife even came

by to take Eleanor out to dinner, a break she most appreciated.

They also got more than 30 calls from North Carolina Masons including offers to drive them home.

Bob and Eleanor Kraus know that it sometimes takes a little bad luck to realize just how much good luck you've got.

As Bob said in his open letter to *The Green Mountain Mason*, "The brotherly love demonstrated by the Vermont and Tar Heel Freemasons will forever fill a very special place in my heart and mind — a manifestation that has taken all of the mystery out of the term 'Mystic Tie'!"

Correction

In the last issue of *The Mason* we carried an article on the dedication of the portrait of Senator Sam Ervin at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. We mistakenly listed the late senator's lodge affiliation. He was a member of Catawba Valley 217 in Morganton. Senator Sam's son Sam Ervin III and grandson Robert C. Ervin are members there also. We extend a special thanks to Bryan Grady, senior warden of 217, for letting us know about the mistake.