

The North Carolina Mason

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Above, Jerry R. Tillett kneels at the altar and takes his oath. Right, Myrtle Tillett, the grand master's grandmother, plays piano after the ceremony. Far right, NC Senator Marc Basnight welcomes the guests. Behind him are, left, Tillett's father-in-law Ralph Umphlett and, right, DDGM Randell Holmes.



Tillett Becomes 150th Grand Master

Manteo — In a ceremony reenacted each year since 1787, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina officers for 2002 were installed December 8, 2001, at Manteo High School. Jerry R. Tillett became the 150th man sworn as grand master of our fraternity. It was the second year that the installation has been a road show, being held at a place determined by the incoming grand master

rather than occurring at the close of Annual Communication.

By the time the crowd of more than 250 arrived in the amphitheater-styled auditorium, Manteo 521 had already opened and closed Grand Lodge for the installation ceremony. Tom Supplee made the invocation. Marc Basnight, president pro tempore of the North Carolina Senate called the assembly to order and welcomed everyone. Dare County Sheriff Bert Austin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bill Johnson sang "God Bless America." District Deputy Grand Master Randell J. Holmes told the group about our incoming grand master and his many accomplishments and how proud he has made his community, lodge, and family.

Past Grand Master Clifton W. Everett Jr. was the installing officer. PGML R. Thomas Jr. was installing marshal, and PGM Lester P. Martin Jr. was assistant installing marshal. Jerry R. Tillett was escorted to the altar, kneeled, and took the oath of his office. Following him, the other officers took their respective oaths: Deputy Grand Master Charles A. Lewis Jr., Senior Grand Warden Leonard Y. Safrit Jr., Junior Grand Warden Graham W. Pervier, Grand Treasurer Clifton W. Everett Jr., Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III,



See INSTALLATION, Page 5

Meet New Grand Master Jerry R. Tillett



Jerry R. Tillett
Grand Master

At our September Annual Communication we elected Jerry R. Tillett to become the 150th Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina. He assumed the office with his December 8 installation.

Jerry Reginald Tillett was born on December 22, 1957, in Elizabeth City, NC to Willett R. Tillett (deceased) and Jeanine D. Tillett. Jerry attended public schools in Manteo. He graduated from Wake Forest University with high honors. He was awarded the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Wake Forest University School of Law. Jerry's father, Willett Tillett, was active in Masonic work and was serving as senior grand warden at the time of his death. Jerry and his wife of 23 years, the former Tanya Umphlett, have two children, 22-year-old Jeremy and Ara, age 14.

After a brief period of work with a large firm in Winston-Salem, Tillett returned home to become a partner in the firm of Merrell, Tillett and Barnes. He engaged in general practice of law until 1992. He then served as legal counsel and liaison to the NC General Assembly President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight. In 1993 he was appointed special superior court judge. In May 1994 he returned home with an appointment as resident superior court judge and was elected resident superior court judge in November 1994. He continues to serve the people of our state in that position.

Jerry Tillett is an active member of his community and attends Manteo Baptist Church. He is a member of the American and North Carolina bar associations; has

served on numerous committees of the North Carolina legislature, and chairs or serves on committees of the Conference of Superior Court Judges, and as a member of the College of the Albemarle Board of Trustees and the State Employees Credit Union Advisory Board. Judge Tillett teaches law related courses at the College of the Albemarle, and has served on the Dare County Chamber of Commerce Board, and the Dare County Tourism Board. He is a member of the Lions Club and numerous other organizations.

Tillett was raised a Master Mason on June 28, 1982, in Manteo 521 and served as 521's master in 1989. He is a member of the Sudan Shrine, Dare County Shrine Club, the Knights Court of Honor, and was coronated an Inspector General Honorary 33° of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction.

He was appointed as junior grand steward in 1995 by then Grand Master Clifton W. Everett Jr. and progressed through the offices until being elected by the Grand Lodge delegates in September of this year.

At his installation, Tillett said, "From the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the world has become aware of our vulnerabilities, the power of unity and resolve, and the need for men of character, dedication, and personal responsibility. Tanya and I are deeply humbled by and greatly appreciative of your presence here today. We ask for your prayers and continual assistance during my term of office. Working together, consistent with our obligations, we can make a difference!"

Home for Children Improvement Plan Launched

Making Room for Every Heart

John Foster Dulles once said, "A capacity to change is indispensable. Equally indispensable is the capacity to hold fast to that which is good." The Masonic Home for Children is continuing the journey which began in 1872 and evolving into the organization it must be to serve the children of the 21st century, while remaining dedicated to its roots and mission, as Dulles put it, to "hold fast to that which is good."

Change is coming to the Masonic Home for Children. The change paves the way for the future of the children. It also ensures that the history, tradition, and legacy created by the Masons of North Carolina will remain steadfast for another 130 years and beyond.

The change comes in the form of licensure, expansion, and renovation. Officially kicked off at the November groundbreaking celebration, current residents, Oxford Orphanage alumni, board members, and local dignitaries gathered at the Home to show their support and enthusiasm for the project. The event was the symbolic beginning of the construction of seven new residence cottages designed to create safer, more homelike living quarters with more privacy for the children. The building of the new residence cottages, followed by a large pavilion for Masonic and community gatherings, will help ensure that the Home meets not only North Carolina's safety regulations, but also provides the highest quality of care for the children. The

construction of the new cottages also allows the current residential buildings to be transformed into areas for social, educational, and recreational programs for the children.

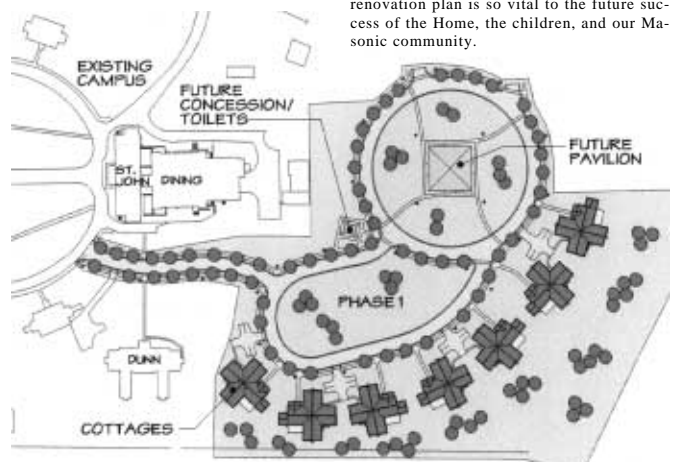
The groundbreaking marked only the beginning of an extensive project that will depend on the participation and support of all Masons, as well as their friends, coworkers, and neighbors over the next several years. The support of every individual Mason for the Home and its mission is vital to the success of this project. The fundraising campaign, Making Room for Every Heart, began on January 1, 2002 to begin to raise the funds necessary to build and expand the Home. The Masons of North Carolina have made room for every heart — both financially and emotionally — at the Masonic Home for Children for well over 130 years. That legacy of care has withstood the test of time, and with the commitment and support of every blue lodge, and every member of the Masonic fraternity, will continue for future generations.

Regional Advisory Boards composed of Masons from representative communities across the state will be meeting soon to discuss the Home's vision for the future and how to contribute and get others involved in the lives of these very important children. The next issue of *The North Carolina Mason* will have more on the Making Room for Every Heart cam-

paign, and details on how you can be part of this special time in the history of your Home.

To learn more now about the Making Room for Every Heart Capital Campaign call Chris

Richardson at 1-800-505-4357 or visit www.mhc-oxford.org. Better yet, tour the home and meet the children for whom it is home. You'll see firsthand why the expansion and renovation plan is so vital to the future success of the Home, the children, and our Masonic community.



The plan for phase one of the Home for Children's new growth.

The North Carolina Mason

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THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

A Reason for Being Without Well-Worn Alibis

Many have deplored the alarming decline in Masonic membership. We usually fail, however, to diagnose the malady or offer a decisive cure. Often we merely echo the often used alibi that "non-solicitation" and the failure to "selectively recruit" are at the root of falling Masonic membership.

The causes of such erosion are subtler and far more insidious. They may require an earnest reappraisal of our collective rationale, our practices, and our very reason for being.

Yes, membership is down nationwide. True, participation in Masonic activities is on the decline. No doubt, attendance is low or spotty at many lodges. Surely, a shortage of worthy and well-qualified candidates has inhibited the supply of new officers and forced the recycling of past officers to keep the chairs suitably warm.

But attempting to revive a comatose organization by boosting membership is like dispatching freshly recruited and untrained soldiers to reinforce to a battle-weary unit that has lost its will to fight. Imagine applying a Band-Aid to a severed jugular vein. In the long term, a successful transfusion depends as much on the wholesomeness of the plasma than on the volume of blood pumped into the veins.

A stronger fraternity can provide a greater, more positive influence on society, but strength cannot be derived from numbers alone. If a chain is as strong as its weakest link, then strength must be equated with quality, not quantity.

There is a difference between attracting more Masons and making Masonry more attractive to Masons. We must enhance Masonic life, by making Masonic proceedings into meaningful, stimulating, relevant experiences.

Is there anything more baffling to an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft, or even a newly raised Master Mason, than sitting in an empty lodge, however impeccable its ritual might be? Is there anything more disconcerting than a lodge dedicated to producing more Masons, who will do nothing more than make more Masons?

If there is a correlation between diminishing visibility and decreasing membership, it is perhaps because, after joining, Masons are often left suspended in a vacuum. They've now paid their dues. They've become cogs in an immense engine laboriously engaged in keeping the wheels turning just to perpetuate itself. But the intellectual nourishment, the spiritual stimulation so vital to a Freemason, is nowhere to be found.

Many of our initiates are never seen again. One can speculate that they didn't find in the Masonic experience what they sought or

were led to believe they would find. Perhaps they simply were not "Masonic material." Their absence from the lodge supports either assumption.

Being a "fraternal club," as the Yellow Pages label us, is descriptive only of the edifice in which dwell and must be nurtured more glorious aims.

There is a higher purpose, a loftier calling, a grander scheme to Freemasonry than a couple of monthly meetings, a slate of swiftly adjourned stated communications, or a belabored and half-hearted degree conferral or two.

We need a challenge — a mystical journey with teachers ready and able to guide the neophytes upon spheres of higher teaching with students eager to apprehend and appreciate the history, lore, and mysteries of our order.

Together as a body, we must be willing to take a stand on issues of importance, to speak out against injustice wherever it may exist, to share ideas, to impart knowledge, to foster true universal brotherhood, to slay sacred cows when warranted, to protect the widow and orphan when necessary, to shed Light — not just receive it. We should reach for new heights of human intellect instead of basking in the brilliance of yesterday's Masonic constellation.

George Washington, Ben Franklin, Lafayette, Mozart, Goethe, Kipling, the Roosevelts, Truman — we idolize these men as though notoriety, or wisdom, or creative genius were Masonically transferable. It is not. As a child should not bear the burden of his ancestors' misdeeds, neither should that child revel in his forefathers' fame. He must seek his own paths of glory.

Produce more Masons? Go forth and multiply? Only if we can offer sustenance as well as food for thought. Show that life can be more than just an organic occurrence. No man should father a child he cannot love, protect, educate, and guide. No organization should recruit more members until it can satisfy the needs and aspirations of its present constituency. No institution should place its own corporate welfare above the welfare of each member.

A sustainable and thriving membership is the culmination of, not the basis for a healthy Masonic family. Yes, the fraternity needs more adherents. Let's first clean up the lodge from the inside. Let the faithful breast, the attentive ear, and the instructive tongue be the measure of our hospitality.

— **By W.E. Gutman, King Hiram 12, Shelton, CT, The Connecticut Square and Compasses, October 1994**

Weatherington Receives International Honor

Dan Weatherington of Wilson 712 has been elected to membership in the Masonic Brotherhood of the Blue Forget-Me-Not. This is an honor reserved for few within the quaries of Freemasonry.

This international brotherhood was founded to recognize those Freemasons who have worked primarily in the field of Masonic education. This includes writing and the many other facets that bring light to those who might otherwise be left in darkness. Those few selected are teachers who have helped members of the Craft become dedicated Master Masons. Only recipients who are deemed worthy leaders in this field by the membership commission of the Brotherhood are selected for this award. It cannot be solicited, nor can it be purchased.

The blue forget-me-not has been chosen as a symbol of Masonic dedication, courage, and fidelity. This symbol was born in the face of Nazi persecution of Freemasonry under the Hitler regime. Although the dictator ordered thousands of Freemasons murdered, tortured, and incarcerated, those who would not renounce the Craft and its teachings continued to practice Freemasonry in secret. So they might know one another,

the little flower was selected as their emblem. Against overwhelming odds these men, a scant handful, kept the light of Freemasonry burning throughout Nazi darkness. We are proud to perpetuate a remembrance of this unselfish dedication.

This is not a degree; it is not a political award; there will never be a plea for a greater membership. There are no dues and fees to be paid by anyone. It is in every sense an award for service to Freemasonry and thus to our fellow man. Because of its nonpolitical objective, and because its only members are workers in and for the Craft, many consider it the greatest honor one can receive in Freemasonry.

Weatherington is known around the state for his work on the Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee and has served as chairman for the last several years. He is also widely known across the country and state for his participation in email discussion groups. He was instrumental in starting the Lodge Night Program of Masonic education and the orientation sessions for district deputy grand masters. He is currently dean of Wilkerson College which will be admitting its first class of NC lodge deacons in March of this year.

Buzz's Diary

Lace's Retriever



The wind off the Sound was really cold yesterday morning. Lace Rosebury, Harry Trump, and I huddled together in Harry's blind on the east side of Edisto Point. I think I was the windbreak as my left ear stayed cold all morning.

Lace and Harry have been friends since childhood, but their friendship has always been a competitive one. They've always tried to outdo one another, and if one gains an edge, rub it in until it hurts. I've hunted with them before, and it's always who's the best shot, who has the best gun, pickup, etc. Neither will give the other credit for anything. They never seem to be happy for each other.

Around 7:00 A. M., we saw some Canada geese coming off the backside. Harry began working his call and I began waving the black flag to bring them in. Three responded, and we dropped one of them right into the decoys. I wasn't sure whose goose it was, but I knew I hadn't touched it.

Lace had spent the entire morning bragging about his new retriever. All the way from the Olympia Cafe to our blind, he told us it was by far the best dog he had ever owned, and certainly the best retriever.

Well, when that goose hit the water, Lace's new retriever left the side rest on the blind and walked on top of the water out to the decoys, picked up the goose, turned, and returned to the blind. The dog was walking

on top of the water!
Lace, with a sly grin, turned to Harry and asked "Harry, do you notice anything remarkable about my new retriever?"
Harry replied, "Yeah, I sure do — it looks like the poor dog doesn't even know how to swim!"

We Masons sometimes act as if we are in competition. Some of us don't seem to be happy when a Brother gets a promotion, earns a degree, receives an honor, becomes a district officer, or becomes master. It's as if we're trying to outdo one another. My Mom would have called that kind of reaction just plain jealousy.

On the other hand, the vast majority of Masons are excited about a brother's success — about any good coming his way, and they will always be there to extend a hand, and say "Good job!" or "Congratulations!"

When our ritual says that "the heart and tongue join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity," it confirms the sincerity in our relationship with a Brother.

Anyway, I figure we're generally happy for a brother who does well — we just need to make sure we let him know it, and not hold back our rejoicing.

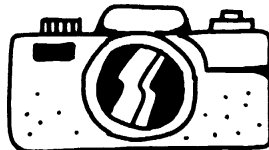


Mount Moriah Reaches Out to Kids

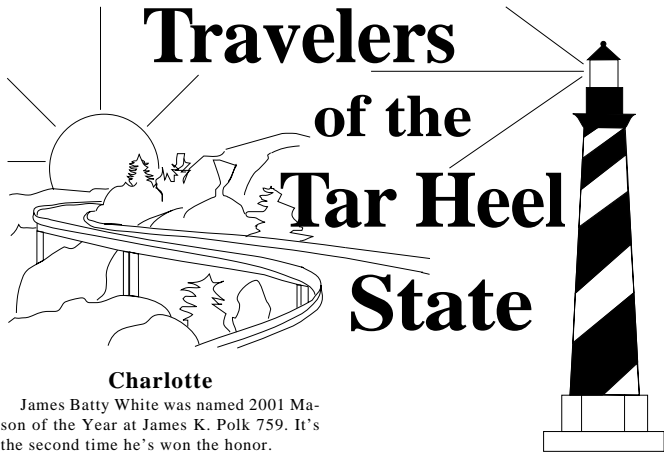
Statesville — Going to the ER is traumatic, but for children it can be downright horrifying. To help comfort sick or injured children, Mt. Moriah 690 recently donated stuffed animals to the Emergency Department at Davis Regional Medical Center. Rick Rhyme, project coordinator, discussed the project. "I think we all have a soft spot for kids, especially when they're hurt or sick. Our lodge wanted to do something to help comfort them and make their ER experience less frightening." Shown at the presentation of the stuffed animals are, from left Andy Setzer, Davis Regional ER nurse Pat Mayberry, Jim Barnett, and Rick Rhyme.

A Note About Digital Photos

If you're sending digital photos for publication please keep a few things in mind:
•What looks good on your screen and what looks good in print are different.
•To optimize the appearance of your photo in *The NC Mason* make sure that you use a high quality resolution taking the photo — at least 640 X 480 pixels for a tightly cropped image, 1024 X 768 if your subject doesn't fill the frame.



•Choose the high quality/low compression setting when saving a JPEG file — the quality of your photo decreases as quickly as your file size.
•Decrease file size by saving the photo as a grayscale photo — it reduces the size to about one-third the size of the color version.
•Email them to rcarter@grandlodge-nc.org.



Charlotte

James Batty White was named 2001 Mason of the Year at James K. Polk 759. It's the second time he's won the honor.

— *Messenger*

To reward attendance, Temple 676 is holding a drawing each meeting night for a free dinner for two. Each member attending gets a number to drop in the drawing jar. Wives who come along get a number also, doubling a couple's chance to win. Members who return after an absence of more than three months get an automatic dinner to welcome them back.

Keeping their new lodge building program going hasn't made the members of Temple Lodge forget their charities. They gave the Masonic Home for Children more than \$7,000 last year.

As a courtesy to his home lodge in Ohio, Temple 676 presented John Henry Meyer his 50-year award.

— *Trestle Board*

Phalanx 31 recently presented 50-year awards to one of their own, George T. McDonald. They also presented one to Joseph E. Miller on behalf of Garfield 559 in Pennsylvania.

— *Trestleboard*

Wade H. Price remembered Charles M. Setzer 693 in his will. The \$1,000 he left them will help with maintenance of the lodge. Price was a member of Friendship 700 which recently merged with Setzer Lodge.

Setzer member John K. Moore recently got his 50-year award.

— *Trestleboard*

Thomasville

Thomasville 214 held a Thanksgiving Banquet in early November. Hubert Leonard was the speaker for the evening. They had an "especially good turnout of [their] widows." They held the occasion in the fellowship hall of Memorial Methodist Church.

— *Trestle Board*

Gate City 694 had a program in November entitled "Gift of Life." It was about bone marrow donor registry. As they said, "We can all be involved in the help to save another life."

Gate City is trying to organize a funeral call list of members who are retired or have flexible hours. As we all know, it can be difficult to rustle up enough men on short notice for a Masonic funeral.

— *The Trestle Board*

Greensboro

B. T. Boone was recently made a life member at Corinthian 542. C. Ray Hall was elected an honorary member.

Kinston

Richard Caswell 705 member Bill Sharber had a friend make a necklace for his wife. They used a North Carolina First Flight quarter. It was so popular among folks who saw it that Bill saw that the necklaces would make a good fund raising project. He sold enough to make a \$750 profit, all of which went to the Masonic Homes.

Holly Springs

Holly Springs 115 took kids from the Masonic Home for Children to Durham to visit the Museum of Life and Sciences in November. They also took them to lunch and on a shopping spree.

— *The Trowel*

Last October's blood drive in the Holly Springs/Apex/Fuquay area brought in 65 donors. Holly Springs 115 co-sponsored the collection with Holly Springs United Methodist Church.

— *James R. Minor*

Dunn

Palmyra 147 saluted their ladies and presented lodge awards at their Christmas banquet. Chip Hamilton was named their Mason of the Year for 2001. Joe Wilson of Mingo 206 was made an honorary member. James Robert Jackson got his Veteran's Emblem. Mrs. Bonnie Lee won the non-Masonic prize of the evening, a 17-pound country ham.

— *The Trestle Board*

Southern Pines

Past Masters' Night for Southern Pines 484 last summer was an outdoor celebration. There was a steak dinner before the evening's degree work. The outdoor lodge overlooked a large lake and was protected by large grove of trees. The music for the evening was supplied by "a well-tuned chorus of crickets, frogs, and other creatures of the night."

One hundred-twenty Masons from 33 lodges attended.

— *Doug Smith*

Salisbury

Andrew Jackson 576 member and Past Grand Lecturer Dan Hogue Jr. was recently named to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Hogue officiated high school sports for many years before moving on to be an ACC football referee. He is a retired educator.

— *Scottish Rite News*

Warsaw

Richard Shields, author of *Befriend and Relieve Every Brother: Freemasonry During Wartime*, was guest speaker at Warsaw 677's Ladies' and Awards Night. The lodge made special recognition of member Jimmy Strickland, recent recipient of the NC Governor's Order of the Longleaf Pine and the Scottish Rite's Harry Truman Award. Jimmy was also recently inducted into the Duplin County Hall of Fame.

— *L. C. Jones and The Wallace Enterprise*

Smithfield

Twenty past masters and 18 widows were honored at Fellowship 84's November Past Masters' and Ladies' Night. They were, of course, in addition to the wives and sweethearts on hand.

— *The Trestleboard*

Henderson

Members from the Masonic groups here, including Henderson 229, hosted a charity holiday meal for 40 needy people in November. The United Way of Vance County furnished the recipients and transportation for the meal. They held it in Henderson 229's building.

— *A. B. Cobb Jr.*

Stedman

In November Methodist College's Center for Entrepreneurship named Bonner Hubbard Entrepreneur of the Year. A past master of Stedman 730, Hubbard built a multimillion-dollar operation selling plumbing fixtures. Hubbard spoke of his enjoyment in "getting to know and love people of many cultures and faiths over the years."

— *Rebecca Logan and Thomas Pope, The Fayetteville Observer*

Spencer

With their centennial coming up in 2005, Spencer 543 has appointed a committee to start exploring ways to celebrate.

— *On the Square*

Franklin

They've just completed the new roof and some painting at Junaluskee 145.

— *Trestleboard*

Raleigh

The young ladies of the Raleigh Rainbow Assembly are enjoying a new home at James B. Green 735. The Masonic club for girls meets on first and third Monday evenings.

Seventeen of the 51 attending 735's Past Masters' Banquet were past masters of the lodge.

— *The Trestleboard*

Garner

Norm Karr, past master of Garner 701, was recently elected president of the Garner Kiwanis Club.

— *Masonic News From Garner*

New Bern

Berne 724 sold out of chickens, nearly 750 of them, at their 16th Annual Barbecue Chicken Fundraiser. They earned \$2,300. The lodge is also recycling aluminum cans for the Berne Lodge Fund and saving Pak-a-Sak receipts to help buy computers for local schools.

David Webb is editing *On The Square*, the new lodge newsletter there.

— *On The Square*

Fayetteville

Phoenix 8's new master, Bill Ivey, is cooking breakfast at the lodge on second Saturday mornings this year. From 7:30 until 9:30 each of those mornings he's promising "a never ending flow of coffee, eggs to order, SOS with toast, and no telling what else."

The new elevator there has been dedicated to Louis O. Dean.

Herman L. Bishop, Howard P. McDonald, Samuel L. McDonald, and Harry Sherman got their Veteran's Emblems at the lodge's Annual Award Night.

— *Newsletter*

Four members of Creasy Proctor 679 were awarded Veteran's Emblems for 50 years membership in November: Marvin Bray, James H. Horne, Klearchos Katsoudas, and Archie C. Cameron.

— *The Trestle Board*

Asheboro

Balfour 188 held its Awards and Widows' Banquet in November. Each of the 14 widows attending got a poinsettia to take home. Luther Berrier Jr., Ralph Ratledge, and James Smith recognized for their 50 years membership. Masonic and Eastern Star Home Administrator John Rose was the evening's speaker.

— *The Corner Stone*

Mt. Airy

The Round Peak 616 Santa Claus made his regular visit to the Masonic Home for Children in December. He distributed more than \$3,000 in goodies to the kids and staff and a check to home for \$6,600. Ho, ho, ho, indeed!

— *The Round Peak Mason*

Bailey

The table was set with a turkey and dressing supper and Ralph Sullivan strummed his guitar at Bailey 411's Past Masters' and Ladies' night in October.

— *Newsletter*

Newton

The 34th District's Annual Golf Tournament raised more than \$1,500 for Masonic charities.

— *The Trestle-Board*

Winston-Salem

You can tell the season here by what food you can buy at Old Town 751's fund raiser — Fish Fry for the Masonic and Eastern Star Home means October, Pancake Festival for the Masonic Home for Children means December.

The lodge recently had Terry Rose of Elkin in to add music to a Third Degree. Rose played his bagpipes including a rendition of "Amazing Grace."

— *On the Level at Old Town Lodge*

South Mills

After suffering through copier problems, not to mention preparing a newsletter for the mail, New Lebanon 314 has decided to get the Masonic Home for Children School of Graphic Arts to do the job for them. Editor Ben Stallings will prepare the issue and send it to Oxford for printing and mailing.

— *The Plumb Line*

Asheville

Mount Hermon 118 enjoyed a successful reunion in October.

— *Mount Hermon Lodge*

Paw Creek

West Gate 738 is selling drink coasters with the name of the lodge and square and compasses. The white coasters with blue trim and lettering are going for \$15 per set of four.

— *West Gate Trestle-Board*

Wilmington

Charlie Riggs' work chairing Wilmington 319's Golf Tournament this year was praised in the lodge newsletter recently.

— *The Wilmington Mason*

Statesville

The Pancake Jamboree at Statesville 27 in October brought in almost \$2,000. They plan to make it a bi-annual event.

— *The Trestle Board*

Kenly

Kenly 257 had their Ladies and Widows Night recently. The lodge widows got to take home the table decorations — bud vases filled with daisies.

— *Past Meridian*

Gastonia

Harry V. Cathey was recently presented his Veteran's Emblem by Gastonia 369.

— *The Trestle Board*

Gibsonville

Tabasco 271 gave about \$2,000 to the Masonic Homes from their pork shoulder roasting last year. It's an annual event there.

— *Dick Smith*

Wallace

Joe Morrison, of Wallace 595, was one of the grand marshals for the 81st Veteran's Day Parade in Warsaw. Morrison served in the Pacific during World War II as an Army chaplain. He and his wife Carolyn celebrated their 65 anniversary last fall.

— *The Warsaw-Faison News*

12th District Shows Off at UNC-Wilmington

Wilmington — Masons in the 12th Masonic District got to strut their stuff at the University of North Carolina Wilmington this past fall. The Freemasonry On Display exhibit featuring more than 125 items at Randall Memorial Library commemorated the family of Freemasonry in the southeastern part of our state. Charles Ponton of Wilmington 319 headed up the effort working with the University, local Masonic bodies, and media to make a successful exhibition that reached large portions of the public.

The showing resulted in multiple appearances on WWAY TV3 and a feature article about Freemasonry and the display in the *Wilmington Star*.

Sixty people attended the September 1 opening. Ponton, master of ceremonies, introduced the speakers: then Grand Chaplain James Apple, then Grand Orator James E. Vann, Past Sudan Shrine Potentate Lloyd

Tyndall, and Wilmington Scottish Rite Secretary Joseph Knox. Deputy Grand Master Charles A. Lewis Jr., a professor at UNC-W, made the keynote address.

Lewis said, "In this ribbon cutting we are symbolically cutting through more than two-and-one-half centuries of the history of Freemasonry... The history of Masonic activity in southeastern North Carolina is a rich one. The Grand Lodge has been presided over by men from the area — Benjamin Smith, Louis Marstellar, Phineas Fanning, Alfred Martin, Horace Munson, Charles Newcomb, Julius Hobbs, William Hand, George Dudley Humphrey, William Bellois, and William Mathis.

"The involvement of Masons can be seen in... the many buildings which have housed lodges, namely St. John's Tavern, more recently the St. John's Museum of Art and 21 North Front Street, built in the late 19th century to house the majority of Wilmington's Masonic organizations; in Mason's Inlet and Masonboro Island, peculiar namesakes; we see it in the public buildings dedicated with Masonic ceremony — Wilmington Town Hall, Tileston School, the Temple of Israel, and the North Carolina Steam Rice Mill."

The ribbon to unveil the exhibit was cut by the 12th District's then newest Mason, Glenn Rivenbark of Atkinson 612. The exhibit continued for two months.



Top, Freemasonry On Display gave visitors to UNC-W's Randall Memorial Library two months to peek at our fraternity. Left, Freemasonry On Display Chairman Charles Ponton, center, and Glenn Rivenbark answer questions for local media.

Grand Master Tillett's Area Meeting Schedule

Grand Master Jerry R. Tillett plans to hold 28 district meetings this year. His meetings with the membership will begin in late February. He should finish in May.

His meetings will be similar to the area meetings of the past couple of years. Pre-meeting meals are scheduled for 6:30 p. m. with the typed meeting starting at 7:15. District officers and the grand master will be received with usual honors.

You may make your lodge's reservation for the meeting with your district deputy grand master. Please be considerate of the host lodge. Make your reservations for dinner at least 7 days before your

scheduled meeting. It is very frustrating to try to plan for a meal when reservations have not been made. Your lodge will be responsible to pay for all meals reserved. Those who have not made reservations should not expect to eat.

There are few stated meeting nights on the schedule. However, conflicts do arise. If your lodge would prefer to attend another meeting, please notify that host lodge and the DDGM to let them know you plan to be with them. If your stated is scheduled for the same night as your district meeting, you may cancel your regular meeting in order to attend.

Date	Host DDGM	Host Lodge	Town
February 25	29	Albemarle 703	Albemarle
February 26	31	East Gate 692	Charlotte
February 27	30	Statesville 27	Statesville
March 4	1	Eureka 317	Elizabeth City
March 5	2	Manteo 521	Manteo
March 12	3	Belhaven 509	Belhaven
March 13	6	Bethel 589	Bethel
March 14	7	St. John's 3	New Bern
March 18	41	Andrews 529	Andrews
March 19	40	Waynesville 259	Waynesville
March 20	39	Nichols-West Asheville 650	Asheville
March 21	38	Saluda 482	Saluda
April 1	5	American George 17	Murfreesboro
April 8	21	Rockingham 495	Rockingham
April 9	11	Warsaw 677	Warsaw
April 10	18	St. Alban's 114	Lumberton
April 11	17	Phoenix 8	Fayetteville
April 15	13	Oxford 122	Oxford
April 16	19	Oak Grove 750	Durham
April 17	12	Wilmington 319	Wilmington
April 18	15	Masters 754	Raleigh
April 22	26	Winston 167	Winston-Salem
April 23	23	Gate City 694	Greensboro
April 24	20	Sanford 151	Sanford
April 25	28	Andrew Jackson 576	Salisbury
May 7	16	Kenly 257	Kenly
May 8	33	Snow 363	Boone
May 9	34	Catawba Valley 217	Morganton

Masonic History Book Available

Raleigh — The Grand Lodge office has a few copies of historian Steven Bullock's *Revolutionary Brotherhood* for sale. We highly recommend this book about the part Freemasonry played in the Enlightenment and the Revolutionary movement in our

country. It was first published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1996.

The trade quality paperback is \$20. All book orders must be accompanied by four dollars for shipping and handling. The address is P. O. Box 6506, Raleigh, NC 27628.

TRADITION

From Page 8

I do not remember anyone being operated on at our hospital, but the old bone saws and other operating gadgets were in a glass case in the hospital. I will tell you that, it gave a kid the creeps to look at that stuff. We used to tell ghost stories about kids having amputations and their discarded limbs haunting the hospital.

In 1926 a new on-campus school was built and totally equipped. It housed kindergarten through 12th grade. It was a beautiful structure and lasted until the 1970s. Building and furnishing the school building cost as much as the hospital. I started at the orphanage in the third grade in that school and can honestly say that I got a well-deserved whipping in almost every classroom.

During this same period an electrical shop, a shoe shop, and a print shop were built. The vocational training program was developed and continues today. The farm was expanded and new barns were built. I learned three things farming at Oxford Orphanage: one, it is hard work; two, that cow and chicken manure will wash off; and three, that if you have to farm, it is much easier to drive a tractor than to use a hoe or a mule.

The Baby Cottage was also built during this time period. In the 1924 Annual Report of the Home, the campus physician highly recommended that they build a bathing pool to keep the boy's from swimming in the contaminated creek. Well, the Orphanage got its pool, but even 40 years later a lot of us boys took a trip every warm Saturday to the Old Swimming Hole at the back of the farm.

The orphanage spent \$400,000 on new buildings in three years. This equates to a \$12,000,000 today. To help offset this burden, a Singing Class made up of our students traveled all across the state for six months of the year and collected donations. Some nights they took in only a dollar and on a good night they might get \$10.

The great depression of 1929 stopped the building projects on campus. They remained stopped until after World War II. During the thirties and forties many changes were made in the training, vocational, religious, and educational programs on campus.

In the early 1950s the world was alive with hope and economic activity. The building started again with a new gymnasium, Master's Cottage, chapel, administration building, and a new cafeteria.

The gym was a wonderful thing and we spent many an hour there. I got my first kiss in its shadows and in its basement we all learned to dance just well enough to get by. We lifted weights, had Halloween carnivals, played basketball, and spent our weekends just piddling around that great building.

The chapel was another story altogether. I remember the Rev. A. DeLeon Gray preaching to us for hours hoping that God could slow us down some because he was convinced that he could not. Most of us had our first encounter with God in the chapel. I really do wish that I had paid more attention to all of those sermons and Sunday School lessons.

In the early sixties a new print shop was built as a vocational center. During the sixties a full scale decade-long building project was taking place with all of the old dormitories being replaced. By the eighties many of the old buildings, such as the hospital and the old school, were being demolished. Many quiet tears were shed, but the happy memories will always exist in our minds. We can recall those places on those slow days when we close our eyes and get truly still.

The loss of the school on campus changed the way things had been done. People had to rethink and formulate new ways to help the children. In the nineties a new media center was set up. The chapel was revitalized and spruced up. We changed our name to the Masonic Home for Children. Computers were introduced and wired

"Over 150 years of almost constant change has taken place. Where are we now and what really matters?"

to the Internet all over the campus and we were instantly high tech. We have one foot in the 21st century.

Over 150 years of almost constant change has taken place. Where are we now and what really matters?

To figure this out I went back ninety years to the 39th Annual Report of Oxford Orphan's Asylum. In 1911 lady supervisor, Miss Nettie N. Bemis said, "To instruct children in the principles of right living and assist them in forming good character is a part of the work of this home. We will present the children, both in school and in the cottage life high standards and ideals. We will endeavor to teach the children the formation of correct habits, the strict performance of duty, and a love for truth and honesty.

"Believing that one good example is worth a thousand arguments. We will impress upon the children the importance of character building."

In the 1925 Report Miss Nettie said, "One great service that we can render the boys and girls, especially those of high school age, is to arouse in them an ambition for higher attainments, to send them out with the knowledge that through their own individual efforts, as far as possible, success will come.

"Nothing takes the place of personal talks with children, therefore we emphasize the importance of the personal touch with each individual to guide him in the path of rectitude and right — a thing so much needed in this day and time of thoughtless youth.

"These boys and girls are to help in managing the affairs of our country in the future, therefore, they must be taught to live, to study, and to think, and to do things. They must have a chance



Alvin Hardy photo



Clayton Wright photo



Clayton Wright photo

More than 150 Masons, top, joined the Rites at the Masonic Unity Challenge. Some of the many men coordinating the event are seen above.

Masonic Unity Challenge Popular

By Clayton L. Wright

Charlotte — The Masonic Unity Challenge held in Charlotte last October offered qualified Masons a chance to join the Scottish and/or York Rite on a fast track. More than 150 North Carolina Masons took the supplementary degrees. Brethren from Scottish Rite and York Rite Bodies came from all over our state and did some of the finest ritualistic work either of the rites has seen.

The classroom sessions were excellent,

interesting, and educational. Visitors came from several other states. All of the committees functioned as a well-oiled machine even though this was the first time this type of event had been tried. Brotherly love abounded for the two days of this groundbreaking event. While each of the institutions has previously offered short classes of their degrees, it is the first time both have been available at the same event. Clayton Wright is a member of Fairview 339

Oasis Shrine Team Does Third Degree

Hickory — There's been lots of talk in the last few years about the Shrine cutting or minimizing its ties with Masonry. The leadership of Oasis Shrine here in North Carolina sent a message in the fall that they are still firmly attached to the importance of the craft to the Shrine. Before their Fall Ceremonial a degree team of Shriners raised two new Masons at Hickory 343.

Then Potentate Bill Burroughs said, "I'm extremely proud of this event. Sometimes Masons tend to think that Shriners forget their blue lodges once they are raised to the

third degree.

"We wanted to show our lodges that we haven't forgotten, and we thought the best way to do that was to put on the second section of the third degree ourselves."

John Davidson, then master of Hickory Lodge, called it "one of the best third degrees" he'd seen.

The team, dressed in tuxedos, was composed entirely of Oasis officers and past potentates. The two men they raised on the Thursday night were inducted into Oasis Shrine that weekend.

to develop initiative, to stand up for their rights, to give and take in games, to practice fair dealing, self-control, and to develop strength of character and dependability."

Her words are as true today as they were 75 years ago.

These great oak trees and this hallowed ground has quietly watched as God performed his magic on this place. He took the ruins of an abandoned college and built it into a great place. The leaders of this home despaired greatly over the dire circumstances in its early years. Can you imagine the exhaustion that the leaders felt in 1925 when 256 children had influenza and several died. The little grave yard on our farm, known as God's Half Acre, is a quiet testament to the tough times experienced here. There are more than 60 graves of children that died while residents here. Their names are recorded on the tombstones but, with the erosion of time, their stories are lost from us forever. As a young boy, I used to fish in the creek and visit a mulberry tree next to the graveyard. I spent hours wondering about the kids that were buried there. What were their plans, their dreams, and why did they have to die?

In the 42 years since I arrived as a scared young boy at Oxford Orphanage, I have had plenty of time to ponder the good and bad about this place. My conclusion is that this is a place built by God and its cornerstone is love. There have been things that were not good, but eventually God corrected them, and the home has continued to thrive.

The unseen things are what makes this home really great. It is the lessons learned, the experiences gained, the friendships cherished, and

...this is a place built by God and its cornerstone is love.

the finding of the security blanket of God's love, that makes this home truly special.

Listen quietly to the voices of the children that grew up here more than a hundred years ago. They have lived their lives, made their large or small mark on society, and then passed on. The whispers of the breeze, in the tops of these beautiful old trees, are their voices urging us to continue to make this home the best it can be. I firmly believe that the Masonic Home for Children is a light shining bright, to help the needy children of this state. This home started out with the most humble beginning and has succeeded only because God has watched over it constantly for 128 years.

The Masons of North Carolina are amazing when it comes to charity. In 1889 there were 400 children in this home and only 1,000 Masons in our state. The Masons will rally and support this

project all the way to its completion. The Alumni Association will support this project enthusiastically. The people of Granville County and the people of North Carolina have always been and will continue to be supportive of this home.

The state has historically been a tremendous help to this home. In 1962 the state and this home parted ways

over Civil Rights issues and control of the home. Some saw this as a racial issue but many saw it as matter of government interference in the private affairs of this home.

This home has for some years now served all of God's children regardless of the color of their skin. We have signed the Civil Rights Compliance Act. The Home is getting state licensure to assure ourselves and others of the safety and quality of care here. These were two barriers that prevented us helping state agencies help children in need. There are desperate children who need our services

but because of the aforementioned problems could not join us here.

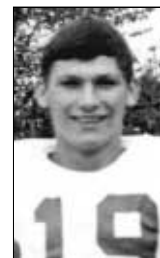
As a result almost half of the beds in this home are empty. With the beginning of this project and the changes that we are currently making in regard to licensing, we feel that we can now work hand in hand with the state of North Carolina to see that all the assets of this great home are utilized to help North Carolina's ever growing number of needy children.

Close your eyes and try to imagine what can be accomplished when you team up with the state of North Carolina, Granville County, the city of Oxford, the Masonic Home for Children, the Masons, and all the other good people of our state working together to help children. The project we are about to start is, on the surface, about building cottages, but it is really the first step in reuniting the efforts of the state and the Masonic Home for Children. My prayer is that we can all pull in the same direction under the clear vision of God so that we can do His will and care for the children.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, the Great Architect of the Universe and the Giver of All Good Things, please hear our humble prayer. Lord, help the Masons, the Alumni, the people of Oxford, and the State of North Carolina, to band together to do everything possible to use this wonderful old home to serve as many needy children as is possible. May You also bless our new project and let it be a shining light for You. Lord, give us the faith to believe that all things are possible with your help. Bless the children of this home, and keep them safe and protect them from life's dangers.

Thank you Lord for promises kept and for demonstrating your constant love for each of us. May this home always be a sanctuary for children and a place where your immeasurable love is openly demonstrated to the rest of the world. Amen.



Rice as a young 'Sylum Dog

INSTALLATION From Page 1

Senior Grand Deacon Gene T. Jernigan, Junior Grand Warden W. Berry Rigdon, Grand Marshal David R. Cash, Senior Grand Steward Dan C. Rice, Junior Grand Steward William L. Dill, Grand Tyler Jerry O'Neal Combs, Grand Chaplain Paul M. Pridgen III, and Grand Chaplain Thomas B. Supplee. Also assuming office at this time were the district officers, new committee members, and other miscellaneous appointments including Grand Lecturer Joseph L. Robertson Jr., Grand Orator I. Beverly Lake Jr., Grand Historian Clarence E. Horton Jr., and Judge Advocate Ronnie Stewart.

Going out of office after a year in the East was now Past Grand Master William G. Mathis. Mathis and his wife Devonna were asked to the stage where Past Grand Master William B. Brunk presented Mathis his past grand master's jewel. Brunk thanked Mathis on behalf of the craft for his hard work during his year.

Grand Master Tillett thanked those who attended and went through a lengthy list of people important to him and to his pursuit of Freemasonry.

Bill Johnson's rendition of "God Bless the USA" and Paul Pridgen's benediction brought the ceremony to a close. The new grand master's grandmother, Myrtle Tillett, played the postlude/recessional on piano as the guests dispersed to the reception also held at the school.

Masonic Household Names

- Ringling Brothers Circus** — All seven brothers were Freemasons.
- Pike's Peak** — Named for Brother Zebulon Pike.
- Hilton Hotels** — Brother Charles C. Hilton founded his hotel chain in Chicago.
- Lipton Tea** — Company founded by Brother Thomas J. Lipton.
- Chrysler Corporation** — Founded by Brother Walter P. Chrysler.



Top, our Grand Lodge officers for 2002 are, front from left: Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III, Senior Grand Warden Leonard Y. Safrit Jr., Deputy Grand Master Charles A. Lewis Jr., Grand Master Jerry R. Tillett, Junior Grand Warden Graham W. Pervier, and Grand Treasurer Clifton W. Everett Jr. Standing are: Grand Tyler Jerry O'Neal Combs, Senior Grand Warden Gene T. Jernigan, Senior Grand Steward Dan C. Rice, Junior Grand Steward William L. Dill, Junior Grand Deacon W. Berry Rigdon, Grand Marshal David R.



Cash, Grand Chaplain Paul M. Pridgen III, and Grand Chaplain Thomas B. Supplee. Above, Devonna Mathis adjusts husband William G. Mathis's past grand master's jewel after PGM William B. Brunk presents it. Right, Ahn decides to join her dad Grand Secretary Walt Clapp near the end of the ceremony.



MILEPOSTS



Stanley — This past year Stanley 713 presented their eldest member, John Boyd Rhine, his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years membership in the fraternity. Rhine is seen here, left, being congratulated by Past Grand Lecturer Bob Braswell. Master Raeford Dean Lingerfelter presented the certificate and Secretary Bill Cope presented the lapel pin.



Wilson — Bruce Boyette, center, of Wilson 712 recently received his Grand Lodge Veteran's Emblem. He was joined for this photo by several of his lodge's other 50-year members. They are, from left, Charles Elis, C. C. Burriess, Dean Sullivan, and Horace Harwell. — Dan Weatherington



Roanoke Rapids — Widow's Son 519 recently held their Annual Ladies' Night Banquet. Eley Newsome, left, was their guest speaker. He is seen here presenting Raleigh L. Topping Jr. his 50-year award. Robert L. Taylor, who now lives in Texas, also earned his 50, but was not on hand for the presentation. — Jerry Mosely



Bethel — Logan Brown, center, is the latest winner of the Scotty Canter Sportsmanship Award. The recognition is made each sports season of the Bethel Youth Organization, with Brown's coming in football. Logan is the son of Rickey Brown and Sherry and Tom Cseledy. Logan is seen here with his mother and Gene Canter, master of Sonoma 472, father of the award's late namesake.



Asheville — Mount Hermon 118's Robert B. Bryson recently got his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years as a Mason. Bob joined the lodge in 1950, and has twice been its master. He has also been district deputy grand master and district deputy grand lecturer and served on several Grand Lodge committees. He is an honorary member of Biltmore 446, John A. Nichols 650, and Clyde 453. Bob has been secretary of the Asheville Scottish Rite Bodies since 1985.



Scotland Neck — Scotland Neck 689 celebrated their 50th anniversary at their Ladies Night Banquet in November. Then Grand Master William G. Mathis was guest speaker for the event. The banquet was held at Scotfield Country Club. GM Mathis is seen center with, left, 689 Secretary Gene W. Todd, and, right, Master Elbert H. Phelps. Forty-six men were founding members of the lodge in 1951. Among them, and serving as senior warden that first year, was Past Grand Master Irwin Clark.



Conover — The last time Fred L. Sherrill Jr. wasn't secretary of Conover 709 was 1961 — he was master that year. The lodge recently gave Fred a clock plaque to thank him for his 40 years keeping the lodge's paperwork moving smoothly. Fred, left, is seen receiving the plaque from then Master Terry Killian.



Smithfield — Fellowship 84's Joseph Teague, left, recently got his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership in the fraternity. Past Master Wallace Ashley Jr., right, presented the award. Teague was raised in Hiram 40 in 1951 and moved his membership to Smithfield in 1954. — Harvey Evans

Under the Oaks

Thanks to Our DDGMs



David Grissom
Administrator
Masonic Home for Children

During the weekend of January 11-13 many of the district deputy grand masters (DDGMs) from across our state brought their wives and shared a weekend with our children on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children. It was an exciting weekend, directed by Grand Master Jerry Tillet, where the deputies received an update on the progress and programs in each of the Masonic charities. It was especially important for us at the Masonic Home, in that the DDGMs had the opportunity to visit various parts of our campus to see where the staff works and the children live and where the new cottages are being built.

Our development team, led by Jim Medlin and Chris Richardson, shared with the brethren the details of a fundraising program intended to raise more than seven million dollars in the next two years to build new cottages and renovate existing buildings on campus, so that they can continue to be useful resources for the children and staff. Many of the weekend's speakers emphasized again and again that "we are building not only a better future for our children at the Masonic Home for Children but a safe and secure environment for our brothers and sisters at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro." In the near future, we look forward to creating a new retirement community as well as a children's camp on the Jones Campus at Cedar Point near Swansboro.

Throughout the weekend the DDGMs were provided with valuable information and material to take back to your lodges. Most importantly for us, they had the opportunity to see and visit with our children who are grateful for what masonry has done and continues to do to provide them with love, security, and hope.

The DDGMs and their wives got first hand experience in the old saying "out of the mouths of babes" when they were here talking with the children. The deputies received a reinforcement of the importance of their vow to help the widows and the orphans. It is my hope that many more of you, along with your families, will take the time to share the joy that a visit to our campus brings. Make time in your year to regularly visit and learn about all the Masonic charities. I am convinced that you will leave with a deep feeling of pride and enthusiasm and a promise to yourself to return soon and often because it feels so good to feel that good.

On behalf of the children and staff at the Masonic Home for Children, many thanks to our district deputies, grand line officers, wives and leaders who designed this special weekend, for sharing time and giving support to a meaningful and wonderful weekend.



Lodge Delivers Widow's Bequest

Oxford — Members of Charles M. Setzer 693 traveled here recently to deliver the \$250,000 bequest of Virginia Carpenter. Mrs. Carpenter was the widow of Augustus Carpenter, a member of Friendship 700 and later Setzer 693 in Charlotte. The visitors brought a message of support and love for our children on behalf of the Carpenters. Front from left are Master Steve Lee, Secretary Buddy Kessler, and Home Administrator David Grissom. In back are J. B. Kiser, Leeland Martin, Russ Elliott, and Home CFO Allen Hughes.

Home's Sizemore Has Heart Surgery

Oxford — Don Sizemore, long-time director of admissions at the Masonic Home for Children, had double bypass surgery in mid-January. He'll be taking a few weeks at home to recuperate. We're sure he'd love to hear from you. Write him in care of the Masonic Home for Children, 600 College Street, Oxford, NC 27565.

Home for Children Adds New Faces

Oxford — Two new administrative people have recently joined the staff of the Masonic Home for Children: Assistant Administrator/Business Manager Allen Hughes and Program Director Ted Whiteside.



Hughes

Hughes is an alumnus of the Home, living there from 1952 through 1962. He has administration degrees from UNC Chapel Hill and Webster College. A Vietnam veteran, Hughes spent 20 years in the Army, retiring as a Major in 1986.

For 15 years he taught high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in South Boston, VA. His wife of 27 years, Sandra Whittle Hughes is a special education teacher. Their son teaches English in Japan.

Ted Whiteside introduces himself, "I have worked with children all of my professional life. After graduation from college, I taught school for two years. I taught 5th grade and junior high school. For the next 24 years I worked in a program very similar to the Masonic Home for Children. I started as a child care worker (my favorite job of all) and worked as a social worker, the director of social services, and as the assistant administrator. After the agency closed I became the executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island.

"After five years in that job, I came to North Carolina to run a statewide program called Summit House. When I heard of the opening at the Masonic Home for Children, I applied immediately. I am very excited about becoming a part of the Masonic Home for Children family and look forward to working with the children and the staff of the Home."



Whiteside

Ramblin' Rose

The Mission of MESH and The Power of Masonry



John A. Rose
Administrator
Masonic & Eastern Star Home

We have such gifts to give by our examples. To me, my brethren, this is the definition of power. This concept of consistent effort is intriguing.

Our Masonic Charities in North Carolina are wonderful examples of the potential of Freemasonry. Our charities operate at a deficit. This is not a problem — they should. Would there be a need for charity (love) if these proud Homes had no need for its fraternal members and for funds?

The power we have is in our consistency. If each and every one of the more than 50,000 Freemasons in North Carolina gave one gift of \$23 to the Home, the income from all sources in fiscal year 2002 would be sufficient to

operate the Masonic and Eastern Star Home without having to rely on the corpus of our small investments. If one does the math, he might think we have a problem. We have no financial problem — we have a small opportunity.

To this end, every lodge master in North Carolina received a letter from MESH asking the lodge to establish a goal of \$23 per member for fiscal year 2002. Grand Master Jerry Tillet, and the MESH Board of Directors support this goal. Working consistently together we have such power in pursuing our obligation as Masons and in the support of those in our Home who would otherwise remain at a perpetual distance.

The Home has a \$7.3 million operating budget to support what will be more than 250 residents. The Home needs nearly \$1.3 million support for the residents of our Home whose maintenance is subsidized through your gifts. A small and consistent effort will do the job.

Difficult as it may be to imagine, one day we shall all be old. If I could paint a picture it would be the creased but wise face — with the glistening eyes of an elderly person. Out of this time worn but handsome face would emerge the face of a child with ambition, hopes, and dreams. When we are old we will remember ourselves as young, vibrant, and energetic.

The best long-term care insurance policy you own for yourself and your families is your dues card. Please think about the Masonic and Eastern Star Home and make a gift through your lodge or directly to the Home. We have such gifts to give.

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I Want To Help

- I want to add my support to Masonic Charity.
- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
 - The Masonic Home for Children
 - The Masonic and Eastern Star Home
 - Send information about wills and bequests.
 - I would appreciate a visit. Please contact me.

My Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 My Phone Number _____ My Lodge _____
 In Memory of (optional) _____ Address _____

To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make your check payable to the charity of your choice.

Please mail your check to:
 The Grand Lodge of North Carolina
 P.O. Box 6506
 Raleigh, NC 27628

HART TO HEART

From Page 8

for a lifetime.' You gotta get to 'em early, 'cause once boys get much beyond 15 and get gasoline and perfume in their nostrils they pretty much put fishing on the shelf. Once they get about 18, a lot of them get started fishing again."

Hart would volunteer more pearls of wisdom as the day went on, but within earshot of the guests his vocabulary was subdued, even polite, because, "I promised my wife I would be a positive role model to these fine young men." His wife, Kathy, would later meet us at Crosswinds Marina with a great picnic spread.

The first couple of stops proved bare, as the fluctuating water levels and weather patterns had caused the crappie to move from their usual haunts. After anchoring in the back of Bush Creek and helping Joseph and Derrick land a few slabs, Hart deferred the hands-on stuff to Abney and responded to a few questions, one of which was the financing his forays.

When asked about how much it has cost him to do these trips, Hart responded, "I don't know and I don't care. Anyone who puts a boat in the water knows how much it costs. I'd rather spend \$100 to take a kid fishing now than spend \$1,000 to get his ass out of jail later. But I have gotten a lot of support lately to do these trips."

And support he has. I was impressed as Hart rattled off a list of sponsors and products: Chatlee Marine with hats and t-shirts, Dick's Sporting Goods for tackle, Pepsi Cola Bottling for drinks, Wilsonville General Store for bait, fruit snacks from Carnell & Rhodes Produce, cookies and juice from U.S. Food Service. Chris Bower from Bower Taxidermy

agreed to mount the kid's largest fish, and Hart's wife Kathy bought lunch out of her household budget. The aforementioned Mason, Millard Ferrel, simply wrote a check and handed it to Hart. With support like that, all it takes is time, right? Don't tell Hart you're too busy for this sort of thing.

"With my schedule, don't tell me you don't have time to take a kid fishing," warned Hart as he tossed a minnow and bobber out after rebaiting it. "I work six days a week if there's no catering job on Sunday, and I average 12 catering jobs a month. My day starts at 3:30 a.m. taking 400 pounds of Boston butts out of the oven that I put in the night before. If I'm lucky I get off at 3 p.m. each day." Again, no hero or martyr complex, simply a man telling it like it is. When asked what part of this newfound mission he disliked the most, Hart replied, "The worst thing about going to the Oxford Home is leaving. It tears me up to leave that place."

In preparing for this column I talked at length to the boys involved in the trip, to Jim Abney, and to Chris Richardson, the assistant director of development at the Home (and an avid angler himself) who coordinates events of this type for the Home. Although I compiled a lot of additional material, it really wasn't needed to make the point.

Take a kid fishing. We, as outdoorsmen, like to talk a good game, but when was the last time you "walked the walk?" Hart's effort is intense, but then so is Hart. You can do it to your comfort level, but the important point is that you do it. Surely you know a co-worker, neighbor or relative who has a kid who would like the

chance to go out and enjoy a day on the water (or in the field).

You may not be able to change a kid's life, but you can change a day in a kid's life. Dreams and careers have been fostered by less.

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Photos by Mike Zimnicki

Somebody better tell Jim Abney that sizes counts! Abney assisted Hart on this trip to Jordan Lake, and Derrick Berkey got a kick out of it.

Some Birthdays From The Home For Children

Michael Joseph Paschall III.....	February 2, 1998
Jamie Michael Day	February 5, 1988
Aaron Robert Sutton	February 6, 1987
Carrissa Randall Schultz	February 8, 1993
Tabitha Nicole Wilson	February 9, 1989
Bianca Shonte Waller	February 11, 1990
Anna Marie Barraza	February 14, 1987
Derrick Joseph Berkey	February 17, 1986
Selena Austin Helton	February 18, 1992
Jessica Nicole Spencer	February 19, 1990
Ashley Selina Cartwright	February 25, 1986
Thomas Edward Spencer	February 26, 1988
Rebecca Anne Joines	February 28, 1986
Earl Ross Wilson	March 3, 1982
Michael Wayne Blanton	March 11, 1990
Kenneth Wade Watson	March 11, 1985
Wendy Nicole Oakley	March 12, 1985
Natasha Meika Sanders	March 12, 1989
Joseph Edward Poplawski	March 13, 1990
Sean Michael Carrese	March 13, 1984
Gannon Robert Matthew Owens	March 19, 1987
William Quinten Brantley	March 19, 1989
Brittaney Marie Dominguez	March 26, 1987
William Brandon Alexander	March 28, 1987
Katrina Lace Dean	April 7, 1993
Krystal Love Dean	April 7, 1993
Kimberly Ann Poplawski	April 8, 1989
Matthew James Griffin	April 16, 1987
Joseph Ryan Griffin	April 16, 1989
Dominique Marquis Murray	April 19, 1995
Stephani Mari Anglehardt	April 24, 1987
Victoria Mae Baker	April 27, 1992
Stormy Ann Spence	April 27, 2001

Different jurisdictions use almost a dozen separate methods of displaying the Lesser Lights.

— Light From The Great Land

Eat Pizza, Help Kids

Durham — When the California Pizza Kitchen, Inc. opens its newest restaurant at the Streets of Southpoint mall in Durham, it will donate 100 percent of its opening day pizza sales to the Masonic Home for Children.



The new CPK will open in March during the grand opening of the mall. Watch your local media and further communications from The Home for the exact date, and bring your family and friends. As you know, the Home is currently in the middle of a Vision Campaign to raise funds for new cottages and renovations.

Fred Hipp, president and CEO of CPK, said, "The funds we donate through pizza sales will help the Masonic Home for Children in its current campaign to provide the highest quality care possible. CPK has a history of raising funds for children's causes from coast-to-coast." Your support of CPK's

opening day pizza sales means more donation dollars for the campaign.

The Streets at Southpoint, heralded as the third or fourth largest mall in the country, is an enclosed two-level regional shopping center with an outdoor cityscape called Main Street. It is a 200,000 square feet outdoor entertainment area featuring several exclusive new restaurants including CPK, popular retailers and a movie theater. The mall is located at 6910 Fayetteville Road off I-40 in Durham.

California Pizza Kitchen, Inc., founded in 1985, is a leading casual dining chain in the premium pizza segment. The full-service restaurants feature innovative pizzas including its Original BBQ Chicken pizza and the new Jamaican Jerk Chicken pizza plus a broad selection of distinctive pastas, salads, soups and sandwiches.

Indian Degree Team Coming

Charlotte — The Oklahoma Indian Degree Team has been exemplifying Masonic ritual for more than 50 years. They will be visiting North Carolina April 12-13 thanks to the Carolina Consistory of the Charlotte Scottish Rite Bodies. They also present a program of Native American dance and music.

They'll perform for staff and patients at the Greenville Shrine Hospital on Friday, and at the Charlotte Scottish Rite Temple for Masons and their guests on Saturday. While the schedule was

not firm at this writing, the music and dance performance is set for Saturday morning about 10:00 A. M. and the degree for Saturday afternoon around 2:00 P. M. Proceeds from the visit will go to the Scottish Rite Language Clinic in Charlotte.

For details on the visit and how you can attend contact Clayton Wright at ClaytonWright@carolina.rr.com; 3820 Foxridge Road, Charlotte, NC 28226 or Allen Hardy at (704) 535-6815; 5304 Camp Stewart Road, Charlotte, NC 28215.

"Treasures" Bring Pleasures To Charlotte Masons

By Walter Klein

Charlotte — "If some outsider were to find his way to these displays, he might get lost looking for things that glitter. For these treasures are people."

The new Treasures of Charlotte Masonry project opened last summer at the Scottish Rite Temple on Randolph Road after months of research, writing, photography, and gathering.

Four stunning carved oak and glass cabinets contain more than 40 exhibits that define and document the deeds of Charlotte's band of brothers. These showcases found the first Alexanders in 13th century Britain. The displays parade 20 early Masons as the key to the development of Charlotte from a mud-and-logs frontier crossing to the largest and most powerful Carolina city.

The exhibit even suggests that the first lodge was purposely named Phalanx because its Masons were dedicated to revolution. (No other Phalanx lodge exists in Freemasonry.)

In documented detail, Treasures of Charlotte Masonry takes visitors to the Hezekiah Alexander rock house on the Aldersgate estate. There the Masonic inscriptions and traditions reveal it is not only the oldest remaining building in Mecklenburg County but, in the opinion of some, the oldest freestanding Masonic structure in America.

Moving forward in time, the exhibits travel through the birth and growth of the Scottish and York Rites, Oasis Shrine Temple, the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas, and many Masonic meeting places.

Its stars are the two American presidents born in the Charlotte area: Andrew Jackson and James Knox Polk. But it selects John Belk as its prime example of the amazing Masonic bridge across the centuries. It traces Belk's ancestors to medieval European Freemasonry and seamlessly moves to the man who became mayor of Charlotte and its merchant prince.

Treasures of Charlotte Masonry even gets interactive. Visitors are invited to guess what secrets lie inside the Hezekiah Alexander house cornerstone and to recommend candidates for the Charlotte Masonic Hall of Fame.

The mini-museum is drawing prompt and positive input from area Masons: a 1943 White Shrine roster, a Scottish Rite cane carved by Glenn Powell of Vale, and original Masonic music of Ziggy Hurwitz are points of interest.

One eye-opener came from a member who allowed as how the Rite might wish to remember Randolph Scott. That 25-year-old Charlotte accountant joined Phalanx 23 in 1923 and paid his dues religiously until his death in 1987. In the meantime he starred in 100 movies, mostly westerns, always the hero and always the money maker. He left an estate of \$250 million. That just might make Randolph Scott the wealthiest Mason in US history. His story is now a part of the Charlotte display.

Walter Klein is a member of Excelsior 261.

Purser a Super Fan

Earle Purser of Garner 701 was recently featured on a Saturday Sports front page of the Raleigh News and Observer. Yes, at 80 Earle is a little mature to be a top athlete, but he's hard to beat when it comes to being a fan. Earle and his wife Carolyn are avid followers of Garner High School football only missing about five of the team's last 150 games. For the last five years they've carried the team out for a seafood supper each season.

Ned Barnett, in his column, quotes Purser as saying, "When a kid thinks a lot of himself, he gets into a lot less trouble. It's absolutely great for the kids. All I do is try to encourage them."

Your example encourages us too, Earle.

Down East Currents

Jones Campus Update



Bryan Lassiter
Project Manager
Jones Masonic Campus

This is the time of winter that wears our good cheer thin, when cabin fever grabs us in earnest. Keep your chin up! Spring is just around the corner, and at Jones Masonic Campus we're ready for it! We've been working hard all winter, and we too are looking forward to the beautiful designs the Great Architect always displays on his springtime trestle board!

The goal in developing any new Masonic community in North Carolina is to build a top quality facility that will be "home" for the residents, comfortable for guests, with the amenities our membership feels are important, and to do all this affordably. Don't be misled! Even though this goal can be summed up in such few words, it is quite a daunting task. Plans for Jones Masonic Campus call for the children's camp to be open by fall 2002, and accommodations ready for long term residents in the spring of 2003.

To accomplish this, the Board of Directors, committees, and staff are hard at work right now planning the layout of the property; making decisions with architects, planners, and zoning boards; working with local, state, and federal regulators; obtaining permits, clearing necessary areas for roads and buildings; and so many other things, there is not enough space in this whole issue to list them all!

Even with all the planning and building necessary to make Jones Campus a physical reality, the heart of the community will be its residents. The residents of every community I have ever lived in determined if it was friendly or cold. No matter how beautiful the buildings are, no matter how well the property is laid out, or how much care goes into the planning, the Masonic families who come here to live will ultimately determine, more than any other thing, how pleasant the com-

munity at Jones Masonic Campus turns out to be.

This being the case, I can't think of a better group from which to draw our residents than the fraternal families of Freemasonry. From the blue lodges across our state; to the rays of the five star points that illuminate each Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star; to the noble and charitable work done in all the appendant bodies, Freemasonry sets itself apart and urges its members to live to a higher moral standard. We have already seen the results of communities built from these Masonic values. We need only to look at the wonderfully warm Masonic communities we already have in our state. On campus at Oxford, in the Home at Greensboro, or at the new Masonic Independent Living Community at Greensboro, friendly faces and open hearts greet us each time we visit.

Yes, the hardest thing to plan is what kind of "community" we'll end up with. But, in this, Masonry is our advantage from the start!

In addition to building new buildings, part of the development of Jones Campus is the renovation of the octagon shaped house built here in 1856. The project is going well. Many people stop by each week to see the house, both Masons, and non-Masons. One of the things that has been particularly rewarding is the friends who come out on the last Saturday of each month to help with the project. I guess it kind of goes back to the Masonic spirit setting us apart. Volunteers normally arrive between 9:00 and 10:00 in the morning, we work on the house and property until noon, have a good lunch, and go back to work until time to go home. The friendship and camaraderie have been wonderful.

If you are interested in seeing the house, come by some time. If you'd like to help one Saturday volunteer day, bring your hammer, or your gardening tools, and come on over on the last Saturday of the month. I'm sure there will be plenty for you to do.

The campus is located in Cedar Point, which is near Swansboro, Cape Carteret, and Emerald Isle. Find Masonic Avenue off Highway 24, and go all the way to the end, through the gate, and you will see the octagon house. Come on by!

Masonic Scouting Award Created

The Boys Scouts of America and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania have created the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award, a national Masonic recognition award. Boy Scout founder Daniel Carter Beard was a Mason.

The award is for a currently active scouter who has "displayed outstanding dedication" to scouting. Rather than years of service, the criteria for the award are: "development of scouting units; assisting lodges in forming units; exemplifying the Scout Law and Masonic virtues; recruiting Scouting volunteers; and strengthening the relationship between Freemasonry and Scouting."

The petition for the award and a letter explaining the candidate's qualifications must be approved by the master of the candidate's lodge and passed along to the district deputy grand master who submits it to the local Boy Scout Council. If approved at all levels, the petition is passed along to our Grand Lodge for action. The \$20 cost of the award kit is borne by the awardee's lodge. A check should accompany the petition.

For more information contact the Grand Lodge or award administrators at (800) 462-0430 ext. 1920.



Mason Daniel Carter Beard, Scouting's founder in America, is the namesake a new national Scouting award for Masons. A special medalion and patch go to the honorees.

Join Us In Welcoming Our New Master Masons

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Benjamin Chance Dutton | 162 Ray Bruce Randleman | 397 Jesse Franklin Sigmon | 568 Lindsey Connell Sugg | 693 Philip Paul Stroup Jr. |
| 1 Steven Bradshaw Shoaf | 181 Ken Copley | 405 Richard Wayne Alexander Jr. | 568 Thomas Carter Townsend | 693 Timothy Hayward Niedermeier |
| 8 Daniel Edward Mitchell | 198 Horace Paul Hodges Jr. | 409 Charlie Larry Pickard Jr. | 568 William Osmond Ernul II | 697 Tyrone Carey |
| 8 James Edward Grimes | 198 James Gregory Spears | 409 Richard Northrup Fisher Jr. | 573 Bobby Ray Huffman | 713 David Roger Ferguson Jr. |
| 11 Michael Glenn Adkins | 208 James Madison Myers III | 413 Donald Griffin Gardner | 576 Forster B. Fry III | 713 Geoffrey Brian Weber |
| 19 Dennis Edwin Hackler | 208 Nathan Joseph Lassiter | 413 Shad Edward Leonard | 576 John Robert Webb | 720 Larry Gene Carter |
| 19 Jeffrey Allen Borcik | 214 Roger Garland Bryant | 428 Charles Gregory Westbrook | 592 Brian Eric Scruggs | 725 Michael Dennis Haridson Jr. |
| 27 Ramon Thomas Thompson | 218 George Everett Harber | 428 Ryan Wayne Rice | 592 David Eugene Stiltner | 727 James Richard Danford Jr. |
| 53 James Joseph Tirak | 218 Kurt Dean Barbee | 434 Danny Webb Taylor | 593 Larry David Crouse | 727 Randolph Alan Stanley |
| 53 Kenneth Wayne Wallace | 229 Aaron Michael Wheeler | 434 Thomas Lawrence Brown | 594 Jeffery Thomas Badger | 727 William Chaney McLeod |
| 64 Corey Weldon Davis | 229 John Pryor Ayscye Jr. | 437 Ernest Eugene Asbill | 594 Jeffrey Thomas Jones | 729 Lee Alexander Newman |
| 64 Robert Louis Treadaway | 249 James La Dean Wright | 459 John Alan Beegle Jr. | 595 Eric Andrew Minter | 729 Odie Delbert Joyner |
| 83 Donald Grey Walton Jr. | 283 Jerry Lee Blackwelder | 461 Claude Morrow Mitchell III | 605 Jeffrey Scott Ramsey | 731 Timothy Malcom McMillan |
| 83 John Russell Childress | 289 Joseph Thomas Woods Jr. | 461 Michael Darien Cain | 605 Mark Christopher Beddingfield | 734 Alan Christopher Nielson |
| 85 Anthony Tobias Wall | 292 David Michael Stephens | 461 Phillip Jackson Martin | 606 Donald Sconley Cooke | 737 Jerry Mason Drumm |
| 85 Thomas Christopher Batchelor | 292 Heath Voyd Edwards | 461 William Michael Warr Jr. | 609 Thomas Gerald Norris | 738 Earl George Blache Jr. |
| 97 James Norwood Canady | 306 Paul Daniel Simniok | 471 Joshua Dale Mahaffey | 616 Gary Dwayne Leonard | 738 Ronald Lee McLeod |
| 97 Stephen Eugene Shear | 317 Stephen Wood Day | 495 Fred Lee Lathan | 646 Michael Ray Maher | 739 Charles Lovell Sowards |
| 97 Walter Harrison Mason Jr. | 322 Edward Gray Culler | 495 Gregory Scott Benton | 658 Jonathan Bradley Whaley | 739 James Morton Durham Jr. |
| 102 Jason Stuart Carter | 322 Johnny William Barneycastle | 495 John Daniel Roberts | 667 David Bruce Elliott | 739 Robert Graham Latford |
| 104 Keith Wilson Lawrence | 340 Joseph Berry Gray | 497 Walter James Williams | 667 Kenneth Leon Clark Jr. | 741 William Craig Merkle |
| 104 Kevin Paul Jarvis | 384 Roy Lee Allen | 543 Terry Stokes Smith | 667 Robert Edward Schultz | 742 Dennis Ray Mitchell |
| 112 Vance Andrew Drenkhahn | 387 Bill Lee Mathews | 551 Merritt Roland Newman IV | 668 James Howard Critchley | 742 James Romie Taylor Jr. |
| 113 Harvey Yancey Eline | 387 Bryan Keith Noel | 555 Danny Ray Britz | 669 Bradley George Burwick | 742 Mark Alan Bland |
| 126 Steven William Klins | 387 Dan Lee Waters Jr. | 555 Dustin Quinn Hussy | 678 Obert Lee Voliva | 742 Norman Edward Brown |
| 136 Benjamin Lee Bragdon | 388 Clair Hays Bennett Jr. | 562 James William Jackson | 679 Michael Dale Brisson | 742 Terry Paul Aliff |
| 136 David Morton Brooks Jr. | 388 David Andrew Lail | 562 Timothy Hoyle Starnes | 680 Henry Bernard Drake | 749 Jeffrey Mark Rapp |
| 136 James Malcolm Robertson | 388 Johnathan Andrew Jackson | 563 Michael Shannon Glenn | 680 Steven Francis McGowin | 754 Carl Daniel Larsen |
| 147 Kenneth Beard Wiseman Jr. | 391 Johnston Graves Overbey | 568 Forrest Edward Pruitt | 680 Yousif Telya | 758 Charles Bryan Cashwell |

Hart to Heart

By Mike Zlotnicki
Managing Editor,
Carolina Adventure

For the most part, Jerry Hart is the what-you-see-is-what-you-get kind of guy. He owns Ole Time Barbeque in Cary (motto: "A great place to get porked.") He's got the work ethic of a longshoreman. His vocabulary would be the envy of any sailor. He minces no words on any subject with his gravel-voice delivery. And he takes kids fishing.

"Take a kid fishing" is a such a tired cliché that I almost hesitate to use it within the context of this column. To a lot of guys it means some obligatory once-a-year trip to assuage some hidden guilt complex, kind of like going to church once a year on Easter Sunday. In Hart's case what started as a neighborhood lark has evolved into something much more.

"I started about three years ago, taking single-parent kids from my business and the neighborhood fishing," said Hart. "I was amazed at how many kids had never been fishing." Hart is a member of William T. Bain 231 in Raleigh.

He put a jar on the counter of his business with a sign on it that stated "Help take a kid fishing." Whenever the jar accumulated about \$100 he'd put it in an account and draw money to buy his charges a rod, reel, and tackle box. Hart estimates that he'd taken about 25 different kids out on the water when his focus turned to a different set of children.

"One day one of my customers who's a Mason, Millard Ferrel (Green Level 277), said "Why don't you take kids from the Orphanage fishing?" Hart related. "I'm a Mason, and it's my obligation to help take care of those children."

Ferrel was referring to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, formerly known as the Oxford Orphanage. With that exchange, Hart had a new focus. After passing a background check required by the Home, he's



Photo by Mike Zlotnicki

Derrick Berkey, left shows off nice crappie he caught while fishing with Jerry Hart (center) and Joe Degard. Berkey and Degard are residents of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, and Hart is a rough-hewn restaurant owner from Garner who makes time to take kids fishing.

started to take these kids out on the water.

I accompanied Hart on a recent trip to Jordan Lake with two 15-year-old young men from Oxford, Joseph Degard and Derrick Berkey. Another Mason, Jim Abney of Raleigh, went along and served as transportation coordinator for the boys and mate on the water. We put in at Ebenezer Point that day and headed out in search of crappies.

"A lot of people's attitude in this world is 'what's in it for me, or what can I get out of it,'" growled Hart as he piloted his boat across the lake. "We're just a couple of old softies who love kids. It goes back to that old saying 'give a man a fish and feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and feed him

See HART TO HEART, Page 6

Our Tradition of Change

In November, the Masonic Home for Children broke ground for modernized cottages for our children. Junior Grand Warden and Home Alum Dan Rice gave the keynote address to the more than 300 people attending. Rice reminded us that the unchanging appearance of the campus to which we have become accustomed is not the historic way at the Home. Building has long been part of our outreach to our children. We share Rice's address and its history of the Home here with you.

By Dan Rice

Good morning and welcome to my home. Today we are breaking ground for some new cottages. These new cottages will allow us to make some changes in the way things are done. Counting the old St. John's Building, these cottages will be the third generation of cottages and the fourth generation of residences built here. They will be more like a home and less like an institutional building. I am certain that there are many people across North Carolina and even some here today that would say, "The Masonic Home for Children has done just fine for the last 128 years, so why should we change it now?" Let me fill you in on just a little history about change here at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Change has been constant here for the last 150 years.

In 1851 the Masons of North Carolina decided that the state needed an institution of higher learning for the young men of the state. The Masons soon formulated a plan to build a men's college at Oxford. St. John's College opened in 1853 and experienced some small success during the next eight years. The Masons of the state were taking great pride in their new college until the Civil War started. That great conflict tore North Carolina apart and most of the students at St. John's College left to fight in the war. The beautiful campus with its great forests of oak trees suddenly fell silent. The campus was abandoned for the next ten years.

In 1865, when the war was over, there was little interest in getting the college started again. Brother John Mills approached the Grand Lodge in 1870 about the possibility of turning it into an orphan's asylum. This was a controversial idea. There were people at that time who took in the war's orphans just to get free labor. The vote at the Grand Lodge's Annual Communication of 1871 was tied — totally deadlocked. Grand Master John Nichols went to the altar and prayed. He then cast the deciding vote to let John Mills start a home for the orphaned and destitute children of North Carolina. The Grand Lodge was only able to give a few thousand dollars to get the home started. The first child was received in 1873 and the Oxford Orphan's Asylum was

off and running. At that time, Oxford was the only orphanage in the state and proved to be a good substitute for the counties' poorhouses.

The word asylum carries some sinister connotations today, but it's understanding then was simply as a place of refuge or a sanctuary from harm. It is funny that most of the alumni still affectionately refer to themselves as 'S y l u m Dogs. This nickname was given to the orphanage football players over a hundred years ago and it seemed to fit our football team's image over the years.



Dan C. Rice
Senior Grand Steward

By the time the orphanage had received its first child, the state of North Carolina had stepped up and was helping the children with financial gifts. The state continued giving to our home until the early 1960s.

In 1880, Buchanan Duke of Durham challenged the Masons to build some new dormitories for the children. He agreed to pay for half of each cottage as long as the Masons could raise the other half. By 1910 there were eight new cottages on the campus. These cottages were of brick made in a field behind Granville County Hospital. I picked up many remnants of those bricks years ago while hoeing corn in the field.

World War I stopped all the building projects. The name of the home became Oxford Orphanage in 1922. Then the world economy began to recover and the Roaring Twenties rolled into Oxford, and new buildings were started for almost every conceivable need.

In 1924 it cost \$100,000 to build and equip a new hospital on the campus. It contained surgical equipment and a complete dentist office. Remember that contagious diseases spread like wildfire back then and it was especially dangerous in an orphanage. Many ailments that are easily treatable today were fatal in 1925. I still remember the old belt driven dentist drills that would slow down when forcefully applied by Dr. Rufus Jones.

See TRADITION, Page 4

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Grand Lodge officers for 2002 were installed December 7 in Manteo, the hometown of new Grand Master Jerry R. Tillett. The officers are seen here making their pledge to their best job for the Grand Lodge. Full coverage is on page one of this issue of The North Carolina Mason.