

PACIFIC MASONIC LODGE # 325, A.F.M.



THE TRESTLEBOARD

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6 JUNE, 2009



SUMMER FAST APPROACHING

I pray this newsletter finds everyone doing well. Can you believe it is already June? Schools are out, pools are open, and these are the days children dream of from the first day of school.... SUMMERTIME! OK, so summer doesn't "officially" begin until the summer solstice which is June 21st. See the article on page 2.

Take a moment to pause and reflect. The expression of time passing like a river is so very true. Where have you travelled during this year? What have you done? Have you accomplished that which you set out to do? Have you acted upon the square and used that gavel to better yourself?

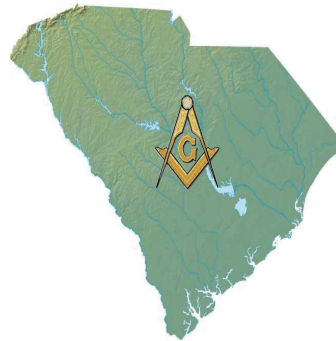
There is an old expression which says "time waits for no man." The articles on page 5 deal with this from both in a Masonic and a personal perspective.

I wanted this particular issue to deal primarily with the events of April, namely, Grand Lodge. You will find the Grand Masters Biography and his Message within.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who has supported this publication and encouraged me to continue writing. The honor of winning the H. Dwight McAllister Award in Journalism was a most humbling experience. I will endeavor to continue to spread light and love within the pages of these issues.
Fraternally, Bro. Bosie

All Brothers are welcome. Please be prepared to show a valid dues card or have a Brother vouch for you. This is not done to embarrass anyone, but rather to ensure that all who pass are duly qualified....

Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge A.F.M. of South Carolina.



OFFICERS FOR 2009

- *Brian Gambrell, W.M.*
- *David Dowden, S.W.*
- *Vardie Corley, J.W.*
- *Jim Jaco, Treas.*
- *Bosie Martin, P.M. Sec.*
- *Bill Yandle, S.D.*
- *Jan Barkan, J.D.*
- *Wayne Whitworth, Stew.*
- *Lindsay Bacon, Stew.*
- *James Glyn Smith, Chap.*
- *Michael Hershberger, Tiler*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT	2
FAMOUS MASON	2
MASONIC EDUCATION	2
FROM THE EAST	3
MORE LIGHT	3
GRAND LODGE	4
HISTORY FROM MSA	4
TIME - MASONIC ...	5
GRAND MASTER BIO.	6
G.M. MESSAGE	7
FREE-THINKING MASON	8
PALESTINE	8
SETTING THE WORK	9

ANNUAL BBQ FUNDRAISER - JUNE 27TH

The annual Pacific Lodge Bar-B-Que Fundraiser for the Building Fund will be held on Saturday, June 27th. Please get the word out and let's support our Lodge by cooking, serving, cleaning, selling tickets, taking orders, delivering... There is much to be done in every aspect of this event. This is one

time when the entire Olympia Community comes out and gathers to enjoy fellowship and great food. We are, in the midst of all the economic downturn, holding firm on our price again this year and plates will still be \$ 7.00 each, eat in or take out. If the meal is eaten in the Lodge, it becomes an all-

you-can eat affair!

Please mark your calendar. Help is needed getting ready on Friday the 26th as well as the serving and delivery on the 27th. ALL proceeds will go towards the Building Fund to keep up the Lodge. See you soon.

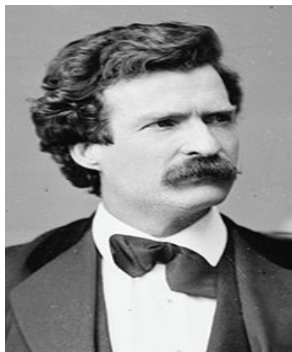
OFFICER SPOTLIGHT AND FAREWELL - BRO. DAVID DOWDEN, S.W.



Bro. David Dowden Presented Plaque

Saying goodbye is never easy, but at least we did it in a proper way. April 7 was both the date of the Grand Master's Official Visit as well as Bro. David Dowden's last meeting at Pacific. Sgt. and Bro. Dowden is now stationed at Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs, CO. We said goodbye to our outgoing Grand Master as well as wishing Bro. David well in his future trav-

els. The Lodge presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his service to Craft and Country and reminding him he ALWAYS will have a home here in Columbia. We will miss you, Bro. David! Good luck and may God Bless. Pictured L-R: M.W. Gerald L. Carver, Bro. David Dowden, Brian Gambrell, W.M., and R.W. Bro. Edward Neeley, now Past DDGM of the 10th District.



Mark Twain, detail of photo by Mathew Brady
February 7, 1871

FAMOUS MASONS: BRO. MARK TWAIN

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), better known by the pen name **Mark Twain**, was an American author and humorist. Twain is most noted for his novels *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which has since been called the Great American Novel, and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. He is extensively quoted. During his lifetime, Twain became a friend to presidents, artists, industrial-

ists and European royalty. Twain enjoyed immense public popularity. His keen wit and incisive satire earned him praise from both critics and peers. American author William Faulkner called Twain "the father of American literature." Twain was a Freemason. He belonged to Polar Star Lodge No. 79 A.F.&A.M., based in St. Louis. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on May 22,

1861, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on June 12, and raised to the degree of Master Mason on July 10. **Note:** Suspended for non-payment of dues and later reinstated April 24, 1867. Demitted October 1867, but recorded as having visited Carson City Lodge U.D. in February and March 1868.

© Wikipedia

Masonic Education: SUMMER SOLSTICE - June 21, 2009 1:45 A.M. EDT



Astronomy is that art by which we are taught to read the wonderful works of the Almighty Creator in those sacred pages, the celestial hemisphere. Assisted by astronomy, we observe the motions, measure the distances, comprehend the magnitudes, and calculate the periods and eclipses, of the heavenly bodies. By it we learn the use of the globes, the system of the world, and the primary law of nature. While we are employed in the study of this science, we perceive unparalleled instances of wisdom and goodness, and through the

whole of creation trace the glorious Author by his works.

(William Preston - 1812)

Solstice, from the Latin for sun stands still, in astronomy, either of the two points on the ecliptic that lie midway between the equinoxes (separated from them by an angular distance of 90°).

At the solstices the sun's apparent position on the celestial sphere reaches its greatest distance above or below the celestial equator, about 23 1/2° of arc. At the time of summer solstice, around June 20 or 21,

the sun is directly overhead at noon at the Tropic of Cancer.

In the Northern Hemisphere the longest day and shortest night of the year occur on this date, marking the beginning of summer. At winter solstice, about December 22, the sun is overhead at noon at the Tropic of Capricorn; this marks the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. For several days before and after each solstice the sun appears to stand still in the sky, i.e., its noon time elevation does not seem to change from day to day. © Infoplease.com



FROM THE EAST - BRIAN GAMBRELL, W.M.

Of the many tragedies of the Holocaust, the sacrifices of Masons in opposing the Nazi regime are often overlooked by the public at large. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC has an exhibit on the Nazi's regimes attempts to destroy the Fraternity within its borders. This exhibit is truly enlightening and reminds all of us of Edmund Burke's admonition that "All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

The Nazi regimes hatred of the Fraternity was based on the Nazi rejection of the fundamental tenant that all men are "on the level." The Nazi's sought to prove that the Fraternity was part of a "global Jewish conspiracy" to rule the world. The Nazis rounded up Masons sending them to concentration camps along with other undesirables such as Jehovah Witnesses, homosexuals, the mentally and physically infirm, and (of course) the Jews. Masons

sent to concentration camps wore red inverted triangles to denote their status as political prisoners. There are no reliable numbers, but an estimated 80,000 to 200,000 Masons were murdered as a consequence of their fidelity to brotherhood.

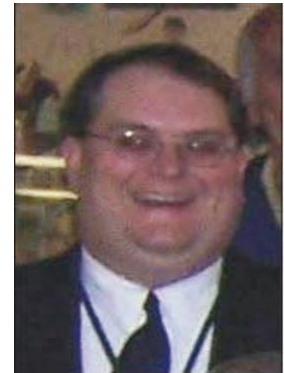
The Grand Lodge Zur Sonne, in 1926 adopted the "forget me not" as a Masonic emblem at the annual convention in Bremen, Germany. By fortuitous coincidence, the Nazis adopted the "forget me not" for their Winterhilfswerk charitable organization. Masons continued to use the "forget me not" as a symbol of the fraternity while hiding in plain sight of the Nazi authorities. Today, brothers (such as Jim Jaco) wear the "forget me not" on their lapels as a constant reminder of the sacrifices these brothers.

What sacrifices have you made for the Fraternity? Hopefully, none of us will be asked to sacrifice our lives. The major sacrifice we are

asked to give is our time. Have you learned a portion of the work? We have three brothers who have learned the lectures, but we can always use more. We had a clean up day at the Lodge, and only five brothers (including a brother who was not yet a Maser Mason) were there. The barbeque is coming up at the end of this month. I understand, with two small children, there are many things that can claim our time and attention. However, a small sacrifice of your time is necessary to support the work of the Lodge. When I find myself making excuses, I try to remember the lesson of the "forget me not" and remember that brothers have given their lives in love. My time is far less valuable in comparison.

Fraternally,

Bro. Brian



Two images of the forget-me-not



MORE LIGHT: THE WAYFARING MAN

A term used in the legend of the Third Degree to denote the person met near the port of Joppa by certain persons sent out on a search by King Solomon. The part of the legend which introduces the Wayfaring Man, and his interview with the Fellow Crafts, was probably introduced into the American sys-

tem by Webb, or found by him in the older ceremonies practiced in the United States. It is not in the old English instructions of the eighteenth century, nor is the circumstance detailed in the present English lecture. A wayfaring man is defined by Phillips as "one accustomed to travel on the road." The

expression is becoming obsolete in ordinary language, but it is preserved in Scripture - "he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city." (Judges xix, 17) - and in Freemasonry, both of which still retain many words long since disused elsewhere.

©phoenixmasonry.org



© Iowa Masonic Library

ON THE WEB
WWW.PACIFIC325.ORG
E-MAIL:
PACIFIC325@AOL.COM

GRAND LODGE OF S.C.; A.F.M.



At the 272nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons in South Carolina, Brother Barry A. Rickman (pictured at left) was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master. Most Worshipful Brother Barry's biography and message can be found on pages 6 & 7 of this Trestleboard and are from the Grand Lodge A.F.M. of S.C. website, www.scgrandlodgeafm.org, and my thanks go to R.W. Bro. Clifton Simmons, Sr. Grand Deacon, Grand Webmaster.

Also elected were Right Worshipful Brother Jay Adam Pearson as our Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother David J. DeChant as our Senior Grand Warden and Right Worshipful William "Bill" Rogers was elected Junior Grand Warden. Most Worshipful Brother G. Ray Marsh was re-elected as Grand Secretary and Most Worshipful Brother Jack A. Marler was re-elected as Grand Treasurer. Right Worshipful Brother Jerry L. Phillips was re-elected Grand Chaplain. Locally, Right Worshipful Brother C. Gregory "Greg" Shockley was appointed as District Deputy Grand Master for the 8th Masonic District and Right Worshipful Brother Charlie R. "Bill" Bouknight was appointed as District Deputy Grand Master for the 10th Masonic District. I would encourage all of the Brethren to take advantage and view our Grand Lodge Web Site, .

Right Worshipful Brother Clifton is to be commended on his hard work on updating and maintaining the site. I also urge Lodges to use the "Post Message" feature on the web site to announce any work your Lodge may have. This form is easy to complete and is most informative to everyone who subscribes. If you are not a subscriber to this, I would urge you to sign up and receive these announcements. What better way to communicate in this modern era? My congratulations are extended to the Brothers listed above and to all those who serve our Gentile Craft. May the Great Architect of the Universe be with you and bless you all as you lead us in the coming years.

History of Freemasonry

No one knows with certainty how or when the Masonic Fraternity was formed. A widely accepted theory among Masonic scholars is that it arose from the stonemasons' guilds during the Middle Ages. The language and symbols used in the fraternity's rituals come from this era. The oldest document that makes reference to Masons is the Regius Poem, printed about 1390, which was a copy of an earlier work. In 1717, four lodges in London formed the first Grand Lodge of England, and records from that point on are more complete.

Within thirty years, the fraternity had spread throughout Europe and the American Colonies. Freemasonry became very popular in colonial America. George Washington was a Mason, Benjamin Franklin served as the head of the fraternity in Pennsylvania, as did Paul Revere and Joseph Warren in Massachusetts. Other well-known Masons involved with the founding of America included John Hancock, John Sullivan, Lafayette, Baron Fredrick von Stuben, Nathanael Greene, and John Paul Jones. Another Mason, Chief Justice John Marshall, shaped the Supreme Court into its present form.

Over the centuries, Freemasonry has developed into a worldwide fraternity emphasizing personal study, self-improvement, and social betterment via individual involvement and philanthropy. During the late 1700s it was one of the organizations most responsible for spreading the ideals of the Enlightenment: the dignity of man and the liberty of the individual, the right of all persons to worship as they choose, the formation of democratic governments, and the importance of public education. Masons supported the first public schools in both Europe and America.

During the 1800s and early 1900s, Freemasonry grew dramatically. At that time, the government had provided no social "safety net". The Masonic tradition of founding orphanages, homes for widows, and homes for the aged provided the only security many people knew.

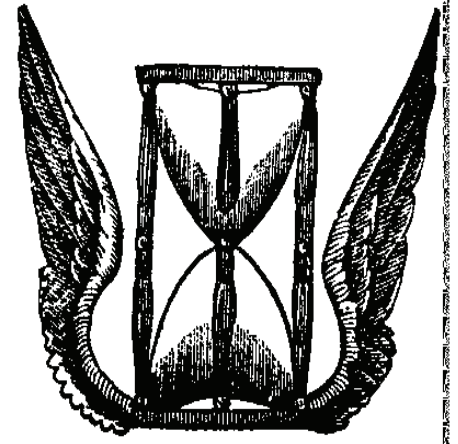
Today in North America, the Masonic Fraternity continues this tradition by giving almost \$1.5 million each day to causes that range from operating children's hospitals, providing treatment for childhood language disorders, treating eye diseases, funding medical research, contributing to local community service, and providing care to Masons and their families at Masonic Homes.

The four million Masons worldwide continue to help men and women face the problems of the 21st century by building bridges of brotherhood and instilling in the hearts of men ideals for a better tomorrow.

THE HOUR GLASS

The hourglass is an emblem of human life. Behold! how swiftly the sands run, and how rapidly our lives are drawing to a close! We cannot without astonishment behold the little particles which are contained in this machine; -- how they pass away almost imperceptibly! and yet, to our surprise, in a short space of an hour they are all exhausted. Thus wastes man! To-day, he puts forth the tender leaves of hope; to-morrow, blossoms, and bears his blushing honors thick upon him; the next day comes a frost which nips the shoot; and when he thinks his greatness is still aspiring, he falls,

like autumn leaves, to enrich our mother earth. As a Masonic symbol it is of comparatively modern date, but the use of the hour-glass as an emblem of the passage of time is older than our oldest rituals. Thus, in a speech before Parliament, in 1627, it is said: "We may handle and play with the hour-glass: that is in our power, but the hour will not stay for us; and an opportunity once lost cannot be regained." We are told that in the early part of the last century it was a custom to inter an hour-glass with the dead, as an emblem of the sands of life being run out.



MY PERSONAL HOUR GLASS - In my own words by Bro. Bosie Martin

I never want to write about myself in these issues, but I would be remiss if I failed to mention MY life and how it has changed since I first knelt at that sacred altar. Masonry means more to me that I can honestly say in such a small space, but I will try to tell you of my personal hour glass experience...

I knew my father was a Mason. I had known it all my life and I kept waiting for him to ask me to join the Fraternity. Little did I know... you see, I always wanted to be like my father. He was the most kind and gentile man I have ever known. He had such a great sense of humor, compassion for his fellow man, and the love God in him. My father was a 50 plus-year life member of Winnsboro # 11 when he died in March. My Mother didn't want to have Masonic Rites because he was not, what she called, an "active" Mason.

While I abided by her decision, I knew that the principles of Masonry were the core and foundation of his life. He may not have made it to many Lodge meetings, but his life was dedicated to truth, friendship, and brotherly love. Yes, I wanted to be just like my father. I wanted to be a Mason. As it turned out, I started out just like him. I asked the question of a friend and took those obligations. While I held them securely in my heart, I had other things to pursue in my life. I had a life to live and there just "wasn't enough time" for Masonry. I became, what I call, a "dormant" Mason. Sure, I paid my dues and kept current, but I didn't attend Lodge. I finished college and got married. I had children and I had a job. That river of time was racing by and I was letting it.

Then one day, I didn't feel well. I went to the doctor and found out that I had lung cancer. You must know that the survival rate of someone with lung cancer back then was only 10%. Well, the Great Architect seemed to have other plans for me. I was certain that He was calling me to be with Him, but that was not the case. That diagnosis was almost 12 years ago and I am blessed to be here. I am blessed to be able to watch my children grow up. I am blessed to find some wonderful friends, whom I later found to be Brothers who would lead me back into the fold of the Lodge. I didn't know what I would find and I couldn't remember anything. I was scared to death when I went back into the Lodge, but I went.

The day I knocked on the door, I changed my life yet again. I was reminded of those useful implements and how they are to be used. I became an officer and have had grand honors bestowed upon me. I am not worthy, but I AM thankful. I am thankful that I have become just like my father. I'm thankful that I have learned the lessons which he exemplified in his every breath. Faith, hope, charity, brotherly love... You know the list. I thank God every day for the chance to see that river flow by and to watch a few more grains of sand make their way to the lower portion of "my" hourglass. I am blessed to have a loving wife and family who support me in Masonry and I am blessed to be a part of the greatest organization in the world. I am blessed to have had such a wonderful and loving father. I am blessed, for I know that one day we will be reunited. May God Bless you. May you enjoy the river while you can, for its passage IS, indeed, swift. Go and find yourself a dormant Mason. He needs you.

Grand Master's Biography

MOST WORSHIPFUL BARRY A. RICKMAN

A native and life long South Carolinian, Barry Albert Rickman was born in Columbia, on March 2, 1952. He is the only child of Jessie Pearl Carter Rickman and the late Clarence Bruce Rickman formerly of the Sandy Run community in Calhoun County. Barry attended public school in Spartanburg and Greenville Counties and graduated in 1970 from Union High School in Union. He is a graduate of Palmer Junior College and Midlands Technical Education Center both of Columbia.

Barry is married to the former Gail Marlene Turner of Cayce and they have two daughters Lauren Elizabeth and Jennifer Lynn and a granddaughter Breanna Leigh Mack. Barry was ordained a Deacon at West Side Baptist Church of West Columbia where he also taught Discipleship Training to young teens and assisted with children's Bible Drills. Barry and Gail are now members of Broadacres Baptist Church of Cayce. He is retired from South Carolina Electric and Gas Company of Columbia beginning his career in 1973 as an Apprentice Draftsman and retired as a Gas Engineering Specialist. During his thirty-four years of employment, he was on the Executive Board of the SCE&G Good Neighbor Fund for two consecutive terms and served as its president. He served several years on the Board of Lexington County's Vocational Rehabilitation Center in West Columbia and served as co-chairman where he helped decide curriculum for drafting students retraining for the job market. He was a professional member of the American Design Drafting Association of Rockville, Maryland. At home, Barry enjoys reading biographies, dabbling in genealogy and collecting all manner of Masonic memorabilia. The Rickman's reside at 814 Jefferson Drive in West Columbia.

Brother Barry was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Cayce Lodge No. 384 in 1976 presided as its Worshipful Master in 1983 and has been awarded a Life Membership in his lodge. Over the years, he has also been granted several honorary memberships to lodges within our Grand Jurisdiction. From 1984 through 1986, he served as President of the Masters' and Wardens' Club of the Eighth Masonic District and later served as its Chaplain. He was a founding member of the Square and Compass Club of the Midlands.

A member of the Valley of Columbia Scottish Rite Bodies, he is a Past Venerable Master of Aleph Lodge of Perfection; Past Wise Master of Will Chester Plant Chapter, Knights Rose Croix; Past Commander of Kadosh of Barron Council, Knights Kadosh; serves as an officer of Columbia Consistory and served as Class Director for two years. He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and the Scottish Rite Research Society. He serves on the Valley of Columbia Board of Directors for the E.C. Singleton Rite Care Center. In 2001, he was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour by The Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA.

Brother Barry is a member of Columbia Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons; Union Council No. 5, Royal & Select Masters; and Columbia Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar of the Columbia York Rite Bodies having also received the degree of Super Excellent Master. He served as Sovereign Master in 2008 of Columbia Council No. 157 Allied Masonic Degrees. He is a member of the South Carolina College SRICF, Palmetto York Rite College No. 70 and South Carolina Council No. 20, Knight Masons, USA.

He is a member of Fort Jackson Chapter No. 184, National Sojourners, Inc. and was Commander of Mordecai Gist Camp, Heroes of '76 in Columbia. He is a member of Hejaz Shrine Center in Greenville, Newberry Shrine Club, Cayce Chapter No. 260 Order of the Eastern Star and The Masonic Brotherhood of The Blue Forget-Me-Not. A Charter Member of the South Carolina Masonic Research Society, Brother Barry served as its Charter Treasurer and later as its fourth President in 1993, receiving the Society's Fellow in Masonic Research award that same year. He also served as Chairman of the Editorial Committee and Editor for the Society's publication Transactions. He was a founding member and Chapter Dad of the Granby Chapter Order of DeMolay. He is a former member of the Grand Executive Committee for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in South Carolina, served as Assembly Dad for West Columbia Assembly No. 36 and the Supreme Assembly of Rainbow in 1996 invested him with the Grand Cross of Color.

Brother Barry served the Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of South Carolina as Junior Grand Deacon in 1985; Masonic Services Association for the 6th, 8th and 10th Districts in 1986; and District Deputy Grand Master of the Eighth Masonic District in 1987 and 1988. Through the years, he has been on a variety of Grand Lodge committees including Fraternal Relations and served as its Chairman. In 1992 he was appointed Grand Representative for the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Utah and was bestowed an honorary membership in that Grand Lodge in 1993. He was made an honorary Past Grand Senior Warden in 1995 in the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. He also was appointed in 2008 as Grand Representative for the Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. At the 2009 Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America he was elected to the Planning Committee for the 2010 conference that will be held in Arlington, Virginia in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

He was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1993 and 1994; Senior Grand Warden in 1995 and 1996; and in 1997 was elected to the station of Deputy Grand Master. In 1998, at the Annual Grand Lodge Banquet, the Grand Master awarded Brother Barry with the Albert Gallatin Mackey Medal Award. On the following day, he declined re-nomination as Deputy Grand Master and stepped down from the elected Grand Lodge line. Five years later in 2003, the Craft chose to re-elect him as Junior Grand Warden and has continued to advance him through the Grand Lodge line stations.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina held its 272nd Annual Communication at Omar Shrine Center in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. At this event, on Friday, April 24, 2009, Brother Barry A. Rickman was elected and installed Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina.

Information from Grand Lodge web page courtesy of R.W. Bro. Clifton Simons, Sr. Grand Deacon and Grand Webmaster

Grand Master's Message

Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, Wardens, Brethren, Ladies, Gentlemen and Friends:

In April of 1998, I was sure I would never reach this office. I had chosen to step down as a Grand Lodge officer because of family and occupational concerns after serving only one year as Deputy Grand Master. A little over a year and a half later I was reading in one of our older Proceedings and discovered that the late Most Worshipful Brother William A. Giles, II, PGM, had gone down a similar path. He too had stepped down after serving only one year as Deputy Grand Master subsequent to his employer transferring him to another state. Four years later, he came back to South Carolina and was re-elected as Junior Grand Warden and traveled back through the elected Grand Lodge line to serve as Grand Master from 1928-1930. After reading this, it occurred to me I might also be able to do the same one day.

In 2003, the Craft of South Carolina decided to give me that second chance. Thank you my brethren for your continued and sustaining support of me over the years and now showing your confidence today by electing me as your Grand Master. I do not take lightly the responsibilities of this station of service and I will endeavor to do my best to preserve the dignity and honor of this high office you have bestowed upon me.

I congratulate Most Worshipful Brother Gerald L. Carver, PGM, on a superb two years as Grand Master. He has become nationally known and Freemasonry and particularly our Grand Lodge are better because of his accomplishments and devoted service. Thank you for all you have done, Most Worshipful Brother Jerry.

I thank Most Worshipful Brother G. Ray Marsh, PGM, Grand Secretary for installing me as Grand Master and Most Worshipful Brother Tommie F. Brant, PGM for installing the remainder of the Grand Lodge officers. I have known these two brethren for many years. Brother Ray gave me my start as a Grand Lodge officer as Junior Grand Deacon and Brother Tommie would allow me to ride along with him to lodge meetings as he progressed through the Grand Lodge line.

I thank my family for being here today – my wife, Gail and my oldest daughter, Lauren. There are several friends here as well. Thank you all for taking time to come and be here today for this occasion. It means much to me.

I thank the Worshipful Master, officers and brothers of my lodge, Cayce No. 384, for your support of me now and throughout my almost thirty-three years as a Mason. Some of you here today were with me the night I became an Entered apprentice. Your presence here today truly is appreciated. I thank the Worshipful Masters, Wardens and all other brethren from around our Grand Jurisdiction for coming to Grand Lodge and participating in its deliberations. I hope as you go back to your lodges you will leave better informed as to the business of your Grand Lodge.

I congratulate the newly elected and appointed officers of this Grand Lodge and say to you I look forward to serving with you in the coming year. I also ask of our Past Grand Masters the continued guidance you have given me so freely in the past. I will look toward you on many occasions.

Brethren, we have a long, deep and rich heritage of Freemasonry in South Carolina. The symbolic Grand East of our Grand Lodge is located – at Charleston. Freemasonry in and of the south was born here in our great state but more especially – in Charleston. From here, it spread across the southern states with our Grand Lodge chartering lodges in Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Florida and even Cuba. The Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. also had its beginnings with the original eleven gentlemen – of Charleston. The world-renowned, Dr. and Right Worshipful Brother Albert G. Mackey, is best known for his authorship of many books and articles about Freemasonry and was a native – of Charleston. As you can see, the cradle of so much Freemasonry is Charleston and we as Masons and South Carolinians are proud of our heritage. It is because the Charleston area so immersed in history and Freemasonry, that I chose it to be the place of my installation.

Nevertheless, South Carolina has much more Masonic history than just Charleston. It is within every lodge no matter how young or old and within each one of us. Each day that passes adds historical significance to our beloved fraternity. It is up to each of us, brethren, to preserve and maintain our history. There is significant Masonic history waiting for us in the not too distant future. In the year 2010, our Grand Secretary, Most Worshipful Brother G. Ray Marsh, PGM will be elected as President of the Conference of Grand Secretaries of North America. Also, that year, the Southeastern Masonic Conference will celebrate its 50th anniversary here in South Carolina. October 28, 2011 will mark 275 years of the official presence of Freemasonry in South Carolina. Then in 2012, under the guidance and leadership of RW Brother Jay Adam Pearson, we will celebrate the heralded 275th anniversary of our Grand Lodge. Yes, we have some exciting historical times just over the horizon.

My brethren, we must always be striving to raise the bar of our standards, individually as well as collectively. As the high jumper strives to better his or her best by raising the bar, we too must strive to better our best by continually raising our personal bar. To raise that bar we must strive for quality. Brethren, to give us direction and then stay the course, I have chosen as our theme – “Our Focus is on Quality.” We want to focus on four areas of quality. They are our candidates, our dress, our degree work and most importantly, ourselves. If we will make an effort in just these four areas, I believe we will improve the quality of Freemasonry in South Carolina and surpass all our expectations.

With my closing words, I ask for your understanding and prayers that I will not falter at the task set before me. That I will be able to serve you, the brethren of South Carolina. Let us now set forth together on our journey as “Our Focus is on Quality.” Moreover, as you leave this place today, it is my earnest prayer you arrive safe at your destinations and may the blessings of Heaven rest upon you and your families.

So mote it be.

THE FREETHINKING FREEMASON

by W. Bro. Tim Bryce, Florida

- Reviewed by Northeasterly

Tim Bryce refers to himself as “a footsoldier for Freemasonry”. After reading and re-reading his book, I think that he must be a footsoldier with a Field Marshal's baton in his knapsack.

This is a most enjoyable, thought-provoking and, at times, argument-provoking book; but it is never boring. It is a collection of Tim Bryce's articles written for various magazines and internet websites; about 70 give or take. These articles are grouped together under the following headings: Lodge Administration, Management Issues, Masonic Commentaries, Membership, Grand Lodges, Masonic Stories, and Masonic Quotations & Poetry. In the introduction, the late W Bro Theron Dunn tells of the trouble the author has had with his local Masonic authorities for some of his controversial views. Do not be put off by this – W Bro Tim Bryce is certainly controversial at times, but always interesting and he makes you think about your Freemasonry and what you can do to serve the Craft better.

Each of his articles takes not much more than 15 minutes or so to read; but he writes so well that you will be thinking about what he has said for some time. Sometimes you will agree with what W Bro Bryce has written; sometimes you will think, why that's so obvious why didn't I think of it; sometimes you will disagree with what he has written. I don't think that W Bro Bryce is looking for agreement from you – what he wants from you is to think about the issues he has raised. At the end of each article, he writes two post scripts: “Keep the faith” and “THINK”.

One paragraph early on in the book made me realize that W Bro Bryce does have something relevant to say: this was some advice he offers to brethren looking to move to the Chair of King Solomon at some time in the future: “Whatever you are going to memorize, do it now.” He goes on to say, when you become Worshipful Master, your plate will be full and you will have little time to spare.”

Here is W Bro Bryce's view on the Festive Board: “When we eat with our brothers (sic), we digest more than the meal.” He also writes about fighting lodge apathy, about fundraising, about alcohol at the festive board, about falling membership and many other topics, including a very controversial issue for American Freemasonry – the recognition of Prince Hall Freemasonry. Clearly, Tim Bryce loves Freemasonry; he doesn't always agree with the powers that be, but there is no doubting his love for the Craft. Freemasonry would be much poorer without him. I've only had my copy of this book for a few weeks. It is already becoming well-thumbed and is more on my desk than in the bookshelf; several articles I have read more than once. I understand the GL Library will be getting a copy, but in the meantime, it is available from www.amazon.com and www.cornerstonepublishers.com for US\$24.95 + p&h. “The Freethinking Freemason” by Tim Bryce; first published by Cornerstone in December 2007; ISBN 1-887560-89-0.

PALESTINE

This is another name for the Promised Land of Israel, or for the Holy Land, situated on the coast of the Mediterranean, extending from Lebanon on the north to the borders of Egypt on the south, and extending east to the deserts of Syria. It was conquered from the Canaanites by the Hebrews in 1450 B.C. and became the national land of this people for fifteen centuries, even though it was subjugated by the Assyrians, and the Babylonians during certain periods of that time, and became subjugated to Persia, Alexander the Great, and the Romans during the last few centuries of this period. The division of the country into two Israelitish nations in 975 B.C. and the subsequent destruction of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria, left only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, or the Kingdom of Judah, for the perpetuation of Jewish history. With the Holy Land, especially with the building of King Solomon's Temple and its successor, Zerubbabel's Temple, the mythical, and much of the authentic, history of Freemasonry has been closely connected. From the wars of the Crusaders in Palestine, the order of Knights Templar had its origin. Although the principles of Freemasonry have swayed men from the beginning of time, and fraternal Orders of a similar character most probably existed from time immemorial, Freemasonry as we have it today quite certainly had its beginnings at the building of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.



PACIFIC MASONIC LODGE # 325, A.F.M.

719 Maryland St.
Columbia, SC 29201

MAIL: 4528 Ivy Hall Drive
Columbia, SC 29206-1229

Phone: 803-960-9136
Fax: 803-223-9409
Email: pacific325@aol.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.PACIFIC325.ORG

BOSIE MARTIN, P.M.,
SECRETARY & WEBMASTER

MASONS IN ACTION

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

SETTING THE WORK

June 2 - Regular Communication - 7:30

June 9 - DARK

June 16 - Practice at 6:00

June 19 - Annual SC/GA Exchange Visit in Augusta, GA 6:00
Meet at the Lodge and we will caravan leaving at 4:00

June 23 - Master Mason Degree (*)

June 27 - Annual BBQ Fundraiser for Building Fund

July 7 - Regular Communication - 7:30

JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!

Any questions, please call

W. Bro. Bosie Martin, Secretary at 803-960-9136

or

Bro. Brian Gambrell, W.M. at 803-920-8131

(*) Denotes tentative Special Communication

**ALL SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS DEPEND ON THE BALLOT BOX AND
THE CANDIDATES...**

We eat at 6:45 and Meet at 7:30

SECRETARY'S MUSINGS

Newsletter time again and I honestly have little to say that has not already been said. I have discussed TIME and have endeavored to enlighten by way of articles on the Internet.

I have just finished serving as a member of a Grand Lodge Trial Commission and this is not an easy task. I would like to thank all of the member of the Commission and most especially, our Chancellor.

As you may or may not know, there are three Chancellors appointed to serve the state. These Brothers are most well versed in

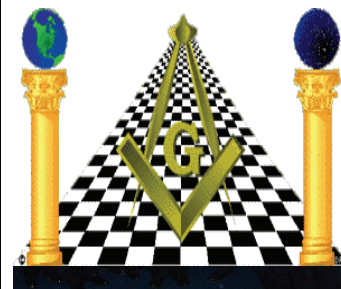
Masonic Law and ensure that EVERYONE has a fair trial, both accused and accuser. This particular event was most disturbing and I will not go into details. Suffice it to say that personalities got involved and have disrupted the Harmony of the Lodge.

I regret this in more ways than one. Whenever there is a Masonic Trial Commission, there will be (at least) one dissatisfied Brother. Even as we do our due diligence to ensure the proper verdict is reached, we realize that one of the two parties will leave feeling "disappointed" or "let down." As the old adage

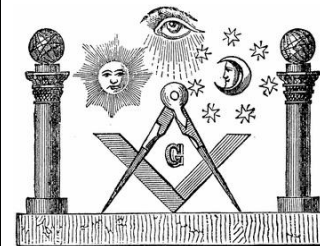
goes, you can't please everyone.

At this juncture, I would simply pause and ask ALL parties involved in this matter to stop and reflect upon what has transpired. We ARE all Brothers. Please remember that and remember the OBLIGATIONS we have taken. I would urge each and every Brother to read the "Closing Charge" which reminds us that we are under an obligation to not only love one another, but to aid in a reformation of anyone straying from the course of our honored duty.

Bro. Bosie



Support YOUR Lodge



MASONS IN ACTION