

**ROCKY RIVER LODGE NO. 703 F. & A. M.  
20149 LAKE ROAD  
ROCKY RIVER OHIO 44116**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Oct 02 Fellowcraft Degree Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Oct 09 Stated - Dinner 6:30 pm
- Oct 16 TBA - Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Oct 23 Stated - Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Oct 30 Dark
- Nov 01 Oktoberfest
- Nov 06 TBA - Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Nov 13 Annual Meeting
- Nov 20 Installation @ 7:30 pm  
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Nov 27 TBA


*Please see inside articles for additional information*

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*Volume 66 - Issue 07*



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## From the East



Worshipful Master  
Donald M. Auping

It seems like only yesterday I took on the honor of being Master of your Lodge. Now this is the next to last time I will be writing this. It sure has gone fast and it has been a lot of fun.

We have some up coming events you should try and be apart of. November 1<sup>st</sup> is our annual Oktoberfest hosted by WB Jack Allen. Tickets are available at Lodge or through Jack. Also, on November the 13<sup>th</sup> is our annual election of officers. One week later on the 20<sup>th</sup> will be our 81<sup>st</sup> Installation. This is an open installation and you are welcome to bring your spouses and non-Masonic guests. Please be aware that there will be a dinner before the Installation ceremonies. A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board at the Lodge, or contact Brother Ben Farah and let him know if you and your lady or guests are coming. I'll look forward to seeing everyone at Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Don Auping, Worshipful Master

## 4th Annual Oktoberfest! Date Correction!

Last month the Honorable editor incorrectly printed the date for this fine event. The correct date for the 4th annual Oktoberfest is **Saturday, November 1st** at the Rocky River American Legion Rocky River Post #451, located at 19911 Lake Road.

Doors will open on **Saturday, November 1st** at 5:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 5:30 p.m.

Unfortunately, due to an increase in rent and other costs, the tickets this year will be \$14.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children under 10 years old for all you can eat and drink.

Dinner on **Saturday, November 1st**, will include Brats, potato pancakes, sauerkraut, and dessert.

There will be a band again this year thanks to Worshipful Brother Emerson Garber. Hope to see you all there for friendship and a great time.

Please call Brother Jack Allen at 216-521-6366 for tickets.

Did I say it was on **Saturday, November 1st** at the Rocky River American Legion Rocky River Post #451, located at 19911 Lake Road.

## Corner Stones

[The following is from an article in the February-March 1996 The Oklahoma Mason announcing two cornerstones being laid at Owasso schools, no author so we assume credit to the editor, Brother Jim Tresner, author of the new Albert Pike biography.]

From time to time, Brethren ask why Masonry is involved in the placement of corner stones, and so a little information about the history of the tradition may be helpful. The tradition goes back to antiquity - so far that it literally cannot be traced to its origins, and it probably evolved out of the foundation and completion sacrifices which were common with any large building project (and which are echoed in the legend of the Master Mason Degree). In Babylon, clay cylinders, called "timmon" were inscribed with the history of the king and of the building, and buried in the foundations of the structure. Clay tablets describing the building and the history of the king were buried in the floors of the buildings erected by Darius and Cyrus.

During the construction of the cathedrals of the Middle Ages, special stones, hollowed to receive offerings, were included in the foundations of the walls.

Thus, from the remotest times, the laying of a special stone, usually sealing in a deposit intended for future generations, has been a part of any significant building.

Although the terms are often used interchangeably, there are actually three major classifications of such stones.

FOUNDATION STONES are the first stones placed as part of the foundation of a bulding (or, in the case of most of the medieval cathedrals, the high altar). These stones are below the level of the ground. The stone George Washington laid for the nation's

(Continued on page 3)

# ROCKY RIVER 703 TRESTLEBOARD

**Rocky River Lodge# 703 F. & A.M.**  
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## Quote of the Month

"There are two worlds:  
the world that we can measure  
with line and rule,  
and the world that we can feel  
with our hearts and imagination."

Leigh Hunt

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## Birthday Trivia

The October birthday goblins are busy "goblin-up" years to age 13 of our brethren. Joe Straka is our eldest, turning 89 on the 24th. The youngest is our JD Brian Spooner. Ed Grooms and Bill Bovard are our two Past Masters also celebrating this month. Other no less distinguished birthdays are Larry Baker, Tom Egan, Herman Graebner, Jack McGreevey, George Mineff, Fred Priest, Jim Sekosky, Bill Winold and John Zinitz. Happy birthday to all you tricksters and may you be around to see us through many more Halloweens.

Bill Gay, P.M., Secretary

*(Continued from page 2)*

capital was actually a foundation stone, as is clearly shown by the newspaper accounts of the time.

CORNER STONES are the first stones placed at ground level. They are generally placed in the northeast corner, from which building traditionally commenced. They are part of the structure of the building, and, of necessity, are placed before the building is built. Until the 1950s and 60s, this was the type of stone most commonly placed by the fraternity.

COMMEMORATIVE or DEDICATORY STONES are the stones most commonly placed by the fraternity today. They are not part of the structure of the building, but fit into a space left in the stone or brick work. They usually seal a cavity in which a "time capsule" type of deposit is made. Generally, the placement of such a stone is the last act in the building and serves as a dedication of the building and a signal of its completion.

The association of Masonry with the placement of corner stones is obvious and comes from the craft guilds. There are records of Masonic Lodges in Ireland placing corner stones, with full parades and ceremonies, dating from the 1500s and records from England from the late 1600s. Apparently, the first stones in Washington, D.C. which were placed by Lodges with Masonic ceremonies were not those in federal buildings at all, but those which marked the boundaries of the District of Columbia.

Southern California Research Lodge

## From the West

Summer is over, and the Lodge is back at work. At the stated meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, we read the proposed by-law amendments for the second time, and voted them into effect. Most of the changes were not substantive. There were a number of clarifications, combinations of related resolutions into a single provision, and technical corrections.

There were some substantive changes, however. As a result of the increase of our costs, the fees for the degrees was increased to \$200, payable with the petition. The Secretary's honorarium was increased by \$15.00 per month. We also enacted an indemnification provision whereby, if a brother were to be sued for acts occurring while engaged in a Lodge function, that brother would be indemnified by the Lodge. The provision was modeled after the provision in the Temple Company's bylaws.

By the time you receive this, a copy the by-laws should be posted in the private section of the Lodge's website: [www.rockyriver703.com](http://www.rockyriver703.com). You will have to sign in to access them.

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the EA Degree was conferred on Brother Bill Ritley. We had a relatively good turnout. Please make the effort to attend Lodge. The more of you that are there, the more fun it is.

I look forward to seeing you back at Lodge this fall.

Fraternally,  
Ben Farah, Senior Warden

## Ole' Sol

The reappearance of thirsty brethren after our summer hiatus from #703 ½, appears to have been sufficient to rescue the Linden Lounge Temple from the brink of bankruptcy. The "bar-tenderesses" gave a warm welcome back and the assembly was soon gaveled to order for the serious consumption business on the agenda.

The term "gaveled" of course represents the process of hammering to order the rabble of an assemblage whether it be in a court room or Lodge room but in Masonic Lodge rooms it presents a minor contradiction in terms. Gavels, hammers, mallets, or mauls, have both practical and symbolic uses in Lodges and other meetings, as well as both practical and symbolic uses in operative and speculative Freemasonry.

The gavel is often thought to be an outgrowth or companion of the mallet, maul or setting maul which Mason's have for years referenced in their degree portrayals. In the Entered Apprentice Degree, one of the first instructions given the new apprentice by the Master is that "the common gavel is used by operative Masons to prepare the rough stones for the builder's use". The nomenclature of tool usage presumes the purpose of a maul in ancient times to be a long-handled tool with a large wooden (never metal) head used to nudge blocks or timbers into place without damaging the surface thereof. We of course all know what us one of the ruffians made of the tool when he met Mr. Abif "thus alone" so the device lends itself to a variety of purposes. A practical application because of it's required size, would never be to use it to open or restore order at a meeting.

Masonic scholars had this to say about the subject: "The appropriate symbol to be used for the purpose on maintaining order in a meeting should be wooden with a flat surface at one end and a pointed surface at the other. French and Spanish Freemasons sometimes refer to it as the lodge "president's hammer" and use an instrument that is flat at both ends, then slightly pinched, and larger again in the middle. (Macoy) The gavel should not resemble a setting maul. (Hunt). The use of a hammer to keep order was common in medieval institutions such as an Elizabethan guild in Exeter where, "the governor having a small hammer in his hands made for the purpose, when he will have scilence to be hadd shall knocke the same upon the Borde, and who so ever do talke after the second stroke to paye without redempcion two pence."

The question of the relationship between the maul and the gavel may not be of earth-shaking consequence for this article or any other dissertation but it does show that within our own ritual there are inconsistencies in it's reference.

Now, before Thor and his hammer or the afore-mentioned bar-tenderess in her judgement, determine that I have become to "hammered" to safely negotiate my way home, I shall end this topic before I "beat it into the ground".

Til our next opportunity, next month.

Ole' Sol, Secretary #703 1/2

## ***A Visit to Edinburgh and Lodge Canongate Kilwinning***

Wor. James T. Watson, Jr.

[From The Trowel, Summer 1994, of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts]

Edinburgh, the second largest city in Scotland, was named in honor of Edwin of Northumbria, an Anglian king who built a fort there in the 600's. On the site of that fort now stands Edinburgh Castle on Castle Rock. From this height one can look over the tallest buildings of Princes Street to the coastline of the Firth of Forth and beyond to the North Sea.

The "Royal Mile" leads from this castle to Holyrood Castle, home of Mary, Queen of Scots, from 1561-1567. On this road are the Norman Chapel of Saint Margaret, Saint Giles Cathedral and the homes of dukes, earls and lords in ancient times. From this Canongate run St. John's Close (demolished in 1966) and St. John's Street. From both these entries, one gains admittance to the Chapel of St. John, meeting place of Lodge Canongate #2, Royal Arch Chapter #56 and the Preceptory and Priory of St. John Canongate Kilwinning.

The traditions of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning #2 date to the building of the Abbey of Holyrood, founded by King David I in 1128. Skilled builders and craftsmen were brought from far and near to complete that work, dedicated to the Holyrood (cross) brought to Scotland by David's mother, the pious Margaret.

While dating its early history to King David's Charter, the Lodge identified itself with the general body of Freemasons in Scotland in 1677 by accepting a warrant from the Lodge at Kilwinning in Ayrshire, which was exercising the functions of a Grand Lodge. From this connection #2 derives its title of Canongate Kilwinning. It is one of the few Lodges which cannot produce a Charter or Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The initiative in forming the Grand Lodge of Scotland was taken by this Lodge. One of its members, William St. Clair of Rosslyn became first Grand Master. The Lodge motto, "Post Nubile Phoebus" (After the clouds the sun), refers to dawn and ancient sun worship. At every communication the work is closed but not the Lodge, which is only adjourned.

This Lodge preserves the ancient Scottish arrangement of having the Master and Wardens at the three angles of a triangle. The Master's chair, dating from the early 18th century, forms the apex in the center of the East, with a canopy over the Master's station and the altar directly before it. The Senior and Junior Wardens' chairs are at the two corners of the Lodge room in the West. The Annual Festival is held on St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24th.

The present Lodge building was consecrated in December, 1736, and is the oldest building in the world built for Masonic purposes. On entering the Lodge room, one is instantly drawn drawn to what appear to be four alcoves containing statues, two on the north wall and two on the south. When approached, they are found to be cleverly executed mural paintings of Lord Byron and Sir Walter Scott on the north wall and Robert Burns and William Shakespeare on the south. These works were completed by an unknown artist in 1833.

A distinctive fireplace is set into the center of the north wall. Above the mantel is a lifesized portrait of William St. Clair, painted by Allan Ramsay. In a recess in the center of the south wall, between the murals, is the organ built by Snetzlear of London, installed here in 1757. This organ is similar to that used by Handel at his first performance of the "Messiah" in 1742. In the center of the west wall is a mural given by the Royal Order of Scotland as a memorial to Bro. Dr. Alexander F. Buchan, Grand Secretary of the Body for many years, who served as Master of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning #2 in 1947.

Throughout the world in Scottish-created Lodges the most frequently seen engravings are of Stewart Watson's "Inauguration of Robert Burns as Poet Laureate in Canongate Lodge." The original painting is in the museum of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh. Other interesting items contained in this Lodge are the gavel on the dais presented by William St. Clair, said to have been used at the construction of Rosslyn Chapel, and the gavel used at the altar, made from cedar from Lebanon.

Two very old Bibles are used regularly, one a Breeches Bible from the translation in Genesis 3. This book was printed in 1589 and presented to the Lodge on November 14, 1735. The other is a Black Letter Bible of 1642, known as the Treacle Bible, presented on August 3, 1737. Lighting of the Lodge was first by candles in the chandeliers, then gas and now electricity, the greatest change in the last 260 years.

Because of the economics of the times and present building and fire regulations, the membership cannot continue to provide the upkeep of the premises. The Royal Order of Scotland will take over ownership of the site, making the expansion compatible with the rapidly growing Moray House College of Education. The membership of the Lodge will enjoy meeting in the Chapel with many items made more visible than previously possible.

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