

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Sept 10 Stated - Dinner - First Meeting Back  
P.M./Officer line discussion
- Sept 17 Special - Dinner
- Sept 24 Stated - Dinner
- Oct 01 Special - Dinner
- Oct 08 Stated - Dinner
- Oct 15 Special - Past Masters M.M. Degree  
Grand Lodge Communication

Sept 2009  
Volume 67 - Issue 06



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**2009 Officers**

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**From the East**

Summer is rapidly drawing to a close, as has our summer recess. Over the summer, several of the brethren and guests assembled on a Thursday night to eat pizza and watch a movie on our new system. The movies have been comedies and with no Masonic contact. It is good to socialize with brothers and friends, and to share a laugh. Once we start back up, if we have a special night with no business to transact, we may look at watching a movie with some Masonic content, fictional or not.

Many thanks to JW Brian Spooner who headed up this project.

I would appreciate it if all past masters would make an effort to attend the our first meeting back on September 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Line for next year. There will be a few gaps that will need to be filled.

Brothers Chuck Hlynosky and Mark Fritz Jr. were raised at the Grand Master's one day class in June. Congratulations to them, and we hope to see them up at Lodge on a regular basis. We will be conferring 2 Master Mason degrees this fall. One will be conferred in the ordinary course upon Bro. Bill Ritley. Renewing an old tradition of Rocky River Lodge, the Past Masters and some other brethren will be also be conferring the degree up Wor. Bro. Paul Hartman's nephews, Brent & Keith Miller, during Grand Lodge.

Please expect a call from the Marshall to help fill out the cast, and please give freely of your time to make the degrees meaningful for the candidates.

The date of Bro. Ritley's MM degree has not yet been set. Please check our website for the date.



Worshipful Master Benjamin F. Farah

Fraternally Yours,  
Ben Farah, Worshipful Master

**New Chair Lift**

Members who haven't been to Lodge will be glad to know the Temple board replaced the chair lift. The new one is 4" wider and has a capacity of 350 lbs.

Anyone should be comfortable using the lift. There are no more worries about being stranded. It is battery operated even if there is a power failure.

Mark Rantala, P.M.

**Birthday Trivia**

This September issue necessitates the recognition of three months of birthdays so let's get at it.

**JULY:** David Evans has been celebrating birthdays longer than any other brother in July and this year was his 98th, Mark Bennett on the other hand, has been at the birthday exercise less years than any other brother on the July list. so he is our youngest celebrant for this month. A good month for Past-Masters finds Don Auping, Bob Illig, Harry Kreizwald, Fred Beech, Ray Ecobichon and Tom Plotz all tolling the bell for another year. The Saxton's double-teamed us this month (as they have a tendency to do every year) with both Harlan and Scott registering birthdays. Not to be forgotten are Larry Thomas, Al Bendo, Bob Collins, Jim Harmon, Ward Proeschel, Ryan Wilson, Mike Goldbach, Bill Rantala, Gary Szechy, Karl Hughes and Kermit Arterburn.

**AUGUST:** Both Jullian Terrell and Harvey Stauffer have their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays this month which makes them the brothers who have been around the longest in the Month of August. Chris Walzer has the distinction of being the youngest brother on the August birthday list. Pitch in a couple of Past Masters' and you have Don Wright and Jack Allen. Mention also is required for George Sheffler, John Cassidy,

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## 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 building (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 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.

## In Memoriam

### GABRIEL MICHAEL CHOHANEY

Brother G. Michael Chohaney was born on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1919 in Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Michael Chohaney was initiated an Entered Apprentice on June 20, 1968, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on October 3, 1968 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 21, 1968.

All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703 F. & A. M.

Brother G. Michael Chohaney was called to the Grand Lodge above on December 16, 2008 at the age of 89, ending 40 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

### WALTER B. HENDRICKS, JR.

Brother Walter B. Hendricks, Jr. was born December 7, 1932 in Moundsville, West Virginia.

Brother Walter Hendricks, Jr. was initiated an Entered Apprentice on May 21, 1959, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on October 15, 1959 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 17, 1960.

All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703 F. & A. M.

Brother Walter G. Hendricks, Jr. was called to the Grand Lodge above on December 23, 2008 at the age of 76, ending 48 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

### James B. Manthey

Brother James B. Manthey was born on September 4, 1929 in Toledo, Ohio.

Brother Jim was initiated an Entered Apprentice on February 15, 1951, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on February 22, 1951 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 3, 1952. Brother Jim also served as Worshipful Master of Rocky River Lodge #703 in 1993.

All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703 F. & A.M., in the presence of his father George, who was also a member of Rocky River Lodge.

Brother Jim was called to the Grand Lodge above on May 26, 2009 at the age of 79, ending 57 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

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## OLE' SOL

Hello brethren, Ole'Sol here again. Looks like there is a good chance I will make it through the summer in a more or less upright condition with some vestige of a pulse and faithfully attempt to resume patronage of Lodge #703½ at the Linden Lounge. This September issue always poses a modest dilemma because, as you probably are aware, there are no Thursday night gatherings at the ole' watering hole during summer recess. The astute intellectual observations usually made within that sacred establishment (which tend to increase in direct proportion to consumption), form the basis of this articles commentary. Therefore, no assemblage, no B.S. to pass on.

Ole' Sol however has many operatives working on his behalf to unearth items of Masonic interest and one of my most dedicated minions is non other than brother Larry Thomas. Larry found a November, 1978 issue of the Western Reserve Mason up at the Lodge and passed it on to me. The Western Reserve Mason (which is no longer published) was a means for Lodges in the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Districts to inform their membership without incurring the expense of publishing their own newsletters. Fellowcraft Clubs and the York Rite Chapters, Councils and Commandries also availed themselves of this publication opportunity.

The following caught Ole' Sol's attention:

1. Most noticeable by their absence, 72 Lodges had their installations listed. Of the 72, 2 have relocated out of the district (Ashlar & Bedford) and 49 no longer exist under the name they had in 1978. Members of those Lodges of course didn't lose their membership but became members of a new Lodge via merger which usually meant giving up their old name or through consolidation which resulted in the new combination of Lodges having a new name.

2. There was an article about two O.E.O.C. Kennels electing new officers. The initials stand for Omnipotent and Effervescent Order of Canine (like in going to the dogs). These groups are affiliated through the York Rite, Knight Templar Commanderies (Heights #76 & Forrest City #40). The dog-gone theme interestingly carries on through the officer names: Grand Cur, Worth Dog Catcher, Nobel Watch Dog, Registrar of Pedigree, Shepard (that was the spelling) Dog, Kennel Master, Coach Dog and Stage. I understand that the kennels unlike the missing Lodges in item #1, still exist.

3. The Masters, Wardens & Deacons Association also published their agenda. Fortunately that group still exists but is now named Cuyahoga (and Lorain) County Blue Lodge Associations.

4. Eaton & Chevrolet Cleveland Craftsmen Fellowcraft Clubs, Westlake and Lyndhurst Senior Clubs, the Acacia Club and the Western Reserve Chapter of the Philalethes Society (who met in the Cleveland Masonic Library) announced their activities. Wonder how many of those organizations are announcing anything anymore.

5. There was a feature "Masonic Library Book" review.

6. A. D. Pelunis Oldsmobile advertised. The dealership took advertising license to promote the A.D. as "Always Dependable". My father bought several Oldsmobiles from old A.D. Now, neither A.D. or Oldsmobiles are around anymore.

So there you have it from the November, 1978 Western Reserve Mason. A good picture of what used to be in this Masonic area. The survivors become fewer with each year's passing, but those of us who are left proudly soldier on with the task of bringing to present, some of the great traditions of the past.

Until next month,

Ole' Sol

(Continued from page 2)

Dave Freeman, Ted Neuhaus, James Wahl, Ed Saxton, Kenneth Mueller, Roger Rounds, Steven Gibel, Dale Finley, John Tanis, Warren Knox, David Kenney and Spencer West.

**SEPTEMBER:** Clarence Shaffer at 99 years, tops the list as having celebrated the longest and Bill Camerlin is our youngest September brother. Past Masters Mark Rantala and Sid Solomon are tossed in for good measure. Other notable September birthday occasions feature Bob Patzwahl, Dave Sawyer, Jack Combs, Neal VanUum, Dean Westover, Bob Patterson, Bill Selnick, Don Thompson, Wally Preslan, Al Strodbeck, John Weitz, Emil Krug, Ed Swearingen, Ray Ferguson and Bob Havens.

The list may be long but every entry is a valued resource worthy of our best wishes for a happy birthday.

WB Bill Gay, Secretary

(Continued from page 3)

### ROBERT CHAPMAN KIRK

Brother Robert Chapman Kirk was born on June 17, 1916.

Brother Robert C. Kirk was initiated an Entered Apprentice on July 24, 1942, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on September 16, 1942 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 14, 1942.

All degrees were conferred in East Palestine Lodge #117. Brother Kirk affiliated with Rocky River Lodge #703 F. & A.M. on January 11, 1968.

Brother Robert C. Kirk was called to the Grand Lodge above on June 9, 2009 at the age of 92, ending 67 years of continuous Masonic affiliation. Brother Bob was also one of the Endowed members of this Lodge.

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