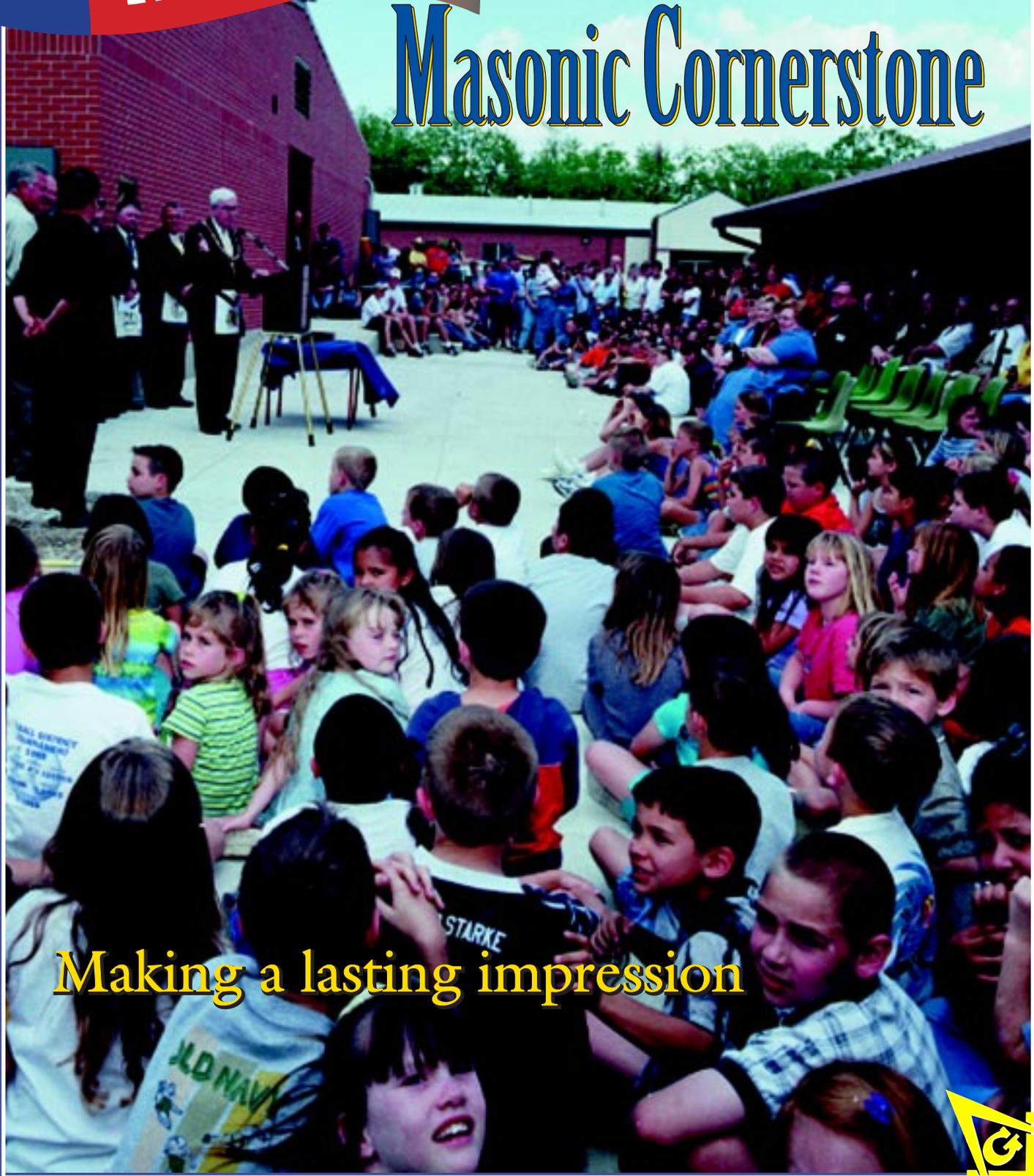




The Masonic Cornerstone



Making a lasting impression





The official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons
The Oldest Continuous Institution Chartered by the Republic of Texas

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Grand Master **David B. Dibrell** (left) taps the cornerstone with the trowel during leveling ceremonies at a new Holland Public School building. Cover photo: Youngsters of all grades in the Holland ISD listen attentively to the leveling ceremony. *Texas Mason photos by Jim Dougherty.*

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WE PREPARE

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, author of light and life, we thank you for the many blessings you have given to each of us. We ask for your continued blessings. Give us strength as we prepare for the future of our Lodges and of Grand Lodge. Guide and direct our paths so we may help our youth as they prepare for the future. Bless our new Lodge Officers with wisdom and understanding as they prepare for their years of leadership. May we always remember to be kind and charitable to all that we meet, especially may we always help the children. Amen.

There is a new excitement in Masonry today. Lodges are growing and new members are becoming more involved in Lodge activities and with their communities. Two of our youth groups, Rainbow and DeMolay, have installed new State Officers and have begun new terms of leadership. It is exciting for me to see how well-prepared these young men and women are and how hard they work to prepare for their year of leadership. Both groups require attendance and completion of leadership courses. They realize that there is more to leadership than ritual. They realize that they can inspire and motivate with the ritual, but true leadership requires planning and preparation. How I wish we could convince all of our Lodge Officers to do the same.

There is an outstanding opportunity for a few of you to prepare for your year of leadership. The Wardens' Retreat Program continues to provide a compact leadership course for Lodge Officers. Because there is more required of our Lodge leaders in today's world, the Wardens' Retreat Program was developed some six years ago to provide a compact training course for Lodge Officers. This is an excellent way for you to prepare for your year of leadership to your Lodge and to Masonry.

The Retreats are fast paced and the presentations are equal to any leadership seminar offered in the business world. The cost is just a fraction of any commercial course. The Retreats are held in five locations across the state; enrollment is limited to the size of the facility, so you must register early. I hope that you will realize, as I do, that the Lodge is different today from the time when I was Master of my Lodge. With the demands on members' time, with the work in the community that needs to be done, it is incumbent upon each of us to prepare prayerfully, proceed positively and pursue passionately. Build your leadership skills for the Lodge and for your profession by attending a Wardens' Retreat this year.

We continue to focus on the lofty principles of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

LIBERTY is Freedom and Obligation.
EQUALITY is Teamwork and Commitment.
FRATERNITY is Fellowship and Devotion.

Masonry **is** Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

As future Lodge Officers you must ask yourself whether or not you are prepared to give your Lodge freedom, commitment and fellowship by providing leadership that is obligated and devoted to work as a team. If you need help, build your leadership skills for the Lodge and for your professional career by attending a Wardens' Retreat THIS year!

Each one of you holds your destiny and the future of Masonry in your hands. I now challenge you to SHARE THE ENERGY that we feel in Masonry today and to help us RELEASE THE POTENTIAL for Masonry in the future. And as we work together toward a better future, I am confident and I know that we will make progress and that we will make **Progress with Dignity.**

Thank you for all that you do and will do for Masonry and for our Grand Lodge.

Sincerely and fraternally,

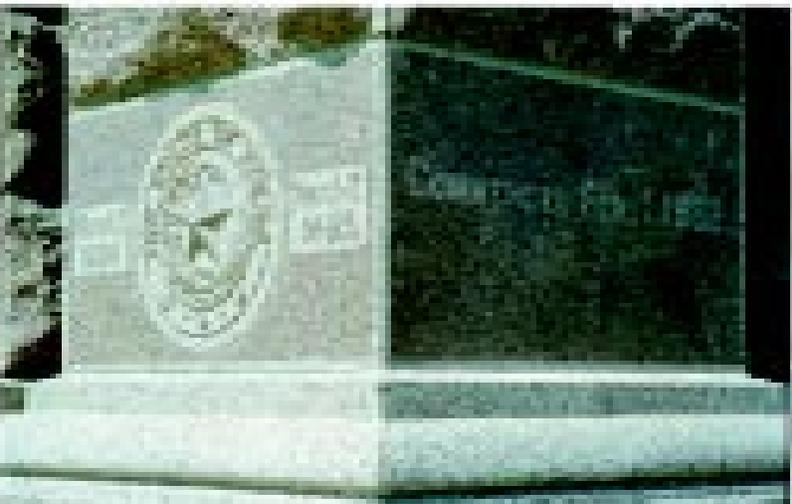


M.W. David B. Dibrell is escorted by Grand Drill Leader Anastasia Larkey at the recently concluded Rainbow Grand Assembly in Amarillo.



A Cornerstone: A cubical or rectangular polished stone at a corner of a building near the foundation but not a part of the foundation and high enough to be easily read, having carved upon it the name of the owner or purpose of the structure, the date of erection and sometimes other data. Such a stone is frequently made hollow and, at the time it is laid, is filled with various articles current at the time, which it is believed will be interesting to those who remove the building at some distant future date. The cornerstone should be placed in the northeast corner of a Masonic building, but that is not always convenient. Cornerstones of Masonic structures always, and of other edifices sometimes, are laid with symbolic ceremonies by the officers of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction at the place.

Grand Master **Billy W. Tinsley** leveled the flat “stepping stone”-style cornerstone for the Texas Capitol extension only weeks before his death in 1994. Below, the huge cornerstone of the Texas Capitol, although leveled by the Grand Lodge, has no obvious Masonic reference.



The Masonic

A cornerstone remembered

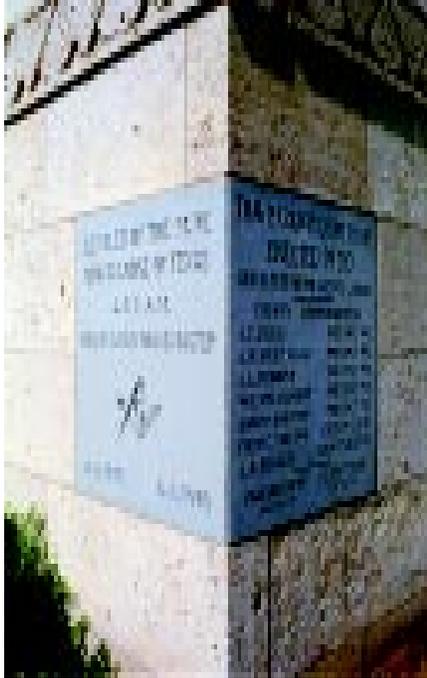
My introduction to the Masonic tradition of leveling the cornerstone of a public building came in my teens. It was 1964 and the “Flying Grand Master,” **John R. Collard Jr.**, landed his gleaming white twin-engine airplane and taxied to a stop at the gate of Harrison County’s airport. In front of the otherwise deserted terminal was a large reception committee of plumed-hat Templars, Marshall Lodge No. 22 dignitaries and a contingent of robed DeMolays.

Following an “Arch of Steel” and welcoming remarks, everyone loaded up for the 10-minute drive to downtown Marshall and the newly completed Harrison County Courthouse, where an even larger crowd awaited the arrival of the Grand Master.

This was a big event for Marshall! Long in the planning stage, nothing was left to chance. Those in charge well-remembered reports in the local press only days earlier when one of the first residents of the new county jail on the top floor of the building discovered that a workman had not securely welded a steel panel in his cell. The prisoner removed it and made his escape to parts unknown.

There were local press, a live radio broadcast, TV crews from Shreveport and a 17-year-old future Grand Photographer — all with cameras poised to record the event. It’s hard to remember just how many people crowded around the northeast corner of the building to hear and see the ceremony, but it seemed

Travis County Court House, erected in 1930, has a cornerstone typical of the era. Levelled by Grand Master **Herman Lively**, the stone carries the names of local officials, the architects, builders and the Grand Master. Contemporary Grand Masters have insisted that their names not be included on cornerstones. *Texas Mason* photos by Jim Dougherty.



In 1994, then Grand Orator and future Grand Master **David B. Dibrell** authored the cornerstone oration now used at most leveling ceremonies.

One of the ancient customs that Masons observe is the symbolic leveling of a cornerstone. The ceremony is as old as Masonry itself and connects us directly to those craftsmen and stonemasons of the Middle Ages who erected the magnificent cathedrals of Europe. References to the cornerstone are found in various places in the *Holy Bible*, in both the Old and the New Testaments, indicating the antiquity of the cornerstone and its uses.

In Isaiah 28:16 we read, “Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.”

In Amos 7:7 we read, “The Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. And the Lord said unto me, ‘Amos, What seest thou?’ And I said, ‘A plumb line.’ Then said the Lord, ‘Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.’”

This same ritual has been performed by modern Masons for hundreds of years. George Washington, while serving as President of these United States, acted as Grand Master of Masons in Maryland in leveling the cornerstone of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Masons of the Grand Lodge of Texas leveled the cornerstone of the magnificent state Capitol building in 1885. In 1994, M.:W.: Billy W. Tinsley, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, leveled the cornerstone on the extension to the same Capitol building.

Throughout the ages, Masons have leveled the cornerstones of thousands of churches, lodges and public buildings.

It is customary in operative masonry to place the first stone of the building in the northeast corner. The cornerstone, which is to Masons a symbol of morality, is placed between the north, which Masons consider as a place of darkness, and the east, which Masons consider the place of light. It symbolizes man’s progress from Darkness to Light; from Ignorance to Knowledge.

This cornerstone reminds us that we have a sure foundation of Eternal Life in that House not made with hands, Eternal in the Heavens. The cornerstone is carefully prepared by the Master Workman. It is prepared perfectly square, with each side perpendicular to the other.

The cornerstone was leveled by the ancient craftsmen with great care. So long as they erected the walls “IN LINE” with the sides of the cornerstone, the wall would be “TRUE and SQUARE.”

As they built the wall above the stone, with the plumb line, so long as it remained “IN LINE” with the cornerstone, it too would be “TRUE and SQUARE.”

For Masons, the cornerstone symbolizes the importance of erecting our spiritual building according to the plans laid out for us by the Great Architect of the Universe. So long as we erect our lives “IN LINE” with the Great Cornerstone, our lives will also be “TRUE and SQUARE.” I challenge each of you here today to direct your lives in such a way that your life will be “TRUE and SQUARE” with the great plans of our Heavenly Father. And so, the cornerstone is the symbol and the embodiment of all that is perfect in Form, Alignment and Character.

May this building stand ever tall among the citizens of this state and may the Wisdom, Strength and Justice of those who occupy it from time to time, distinguish this building and this community with paramount integrity, impeccable reputation and outstanding service.

Cornerstone

ance

as if everyone in town had turned out to see *The Masons*.

Items were collected for the time capsule; the stone was found to be “good and square work,” anointed with corn, wine and oil, and set into place. Witnesses were heard to comment that, for a short man, the Grand Master had a voice that carried across the courthouse square to the domed former seat of county government.

Earlier this summer, I happened to be in Marshall. “The Square” has dramatically changed in almost four decades. Woolworth’s is gone, as is the drugstore where my dad jerked sodas before the war and stole my mother’s heart. Over a full block of 19th-century buildings have fallen to urban renewal’s wrecking ball. The imposing turn of the 20th century court house (with its Masonic cornerstone) is now a museum and the centerpiece for the annual Christmas Lights Tour. None of the banks have names I grew up with. And most of those good men and Masons, including Grand Master Collard, have laid down their working tools.

Driving around The Square, I glance over to the “new” court house and am taken back in time. Despite all that has changed, the square and compass remains in place — a constant reminder of from whence we came and why the Masonic tradition of the cornerstone ceremony endures.

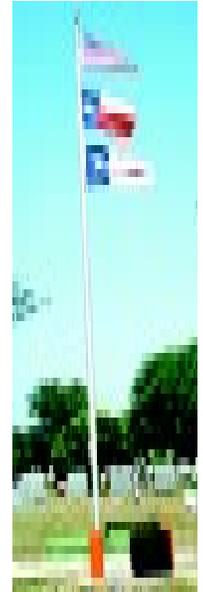
- Jim Dougherty



Center Point Lodge, Ranger history intertwined



Rising Star Lodge No. 429 lodge hall (above) awaits its annual installation of officers. The U.S., Texas and Ranger flag fly above the nearby Center Point Cemetery (right) where 28 members of the lodge who were Texas Rangers are buried. Photos courtesy Gene Carnes.



CENTER POINT — In the tapestry of Texas history, the fact that the Texas Rangers had a major impact on the Texas frontier is undeniable. Many of the Rangers were Masons and nowhere is this more evident than in the community of Center Point.

Rising Star Lodge No. 429 was founded over 125 years ago by Masons who were also Texas Rangers. Thus, the lodge became known as “The Ranger Lodge,” and its members proudly wear a lodge pin fashioned after the Ranger badge: a silver and blue circle with a five-pointed star in the center. The first six masters of the lodge were Rangers and between them served a total of 31 years in the East.

The nearby cemetery contains the remains of 32 Texas Rangers, more than any other burial ground in the state. Thirty of these men were Masons, and of these 28 were members of the lodge.

Geographically situated in a very small town, Rising Star Lodge draws much of its membership from surrounding cities and towns. There is an ongoing struggle to preserve and pass on the intangible spirit of the early founders as well as a desperate need for new members so that this historic lodge will not be lost to antiquity.

The lodge earnestly solicits all active or former Texas Rangers, peace officers, or any other Mason to obtain plural membership to help maintain its continued existence.

Requests for membership should be addressed to:

Roland L. Tessier
Rising Star Masonic Lodge No. 429
P.O. Box 429
Center Point, TX 78010

19th-century Mason possibly oldest Endowed Member in Texas

Eastland Lodge No. 467 recently received a memorial endowment with a historic twist. The recipient, the lodge’s second Worshipful Master, died 104 years ago.

Joseph Peter Davidson was born on Nov. 5, 1823, in Giles County, Tennessee. He married **Elizabeth Ann Bolin** on New Years Day 1846, moving first to Missouri and then to Texas.

The couple settled near Strawn, where he became a farmer-rancher and established a trading post that is believed to be one of the first businesses in the area. The Davidsons always had an open door to travelers and were known for their hospitality.

Instrumental in the initial economic, political and social development of Palo Pinto and Eastland Counties, Bro. Davidson served for 20 years as



Joseph Peter Davidson

Palo Pinto Land District Surveyor. He was known for his help to early settlers in obtaining a good survey, often without payment.

In 1865, the first Methodist Church in the area was organized in the Davidsons’ parlor, with the entire family becoming charter members. As a Mason, Bro. Davidson helped organize and served as the second Worshipful Master of Eastland Lodge No. 467.

Death claimed Bro. Davidson on March 13,

1897, and he was buried with Masonic honors in the family cemetery located southeast of Strawn in the vicinity of the Davidson home site.

Edward Ravey, a member of Tarrant Lodge No. 942 purchased the Endowed Membership, which may make Bro. Davidson the oldest endowed Mason in Texas.



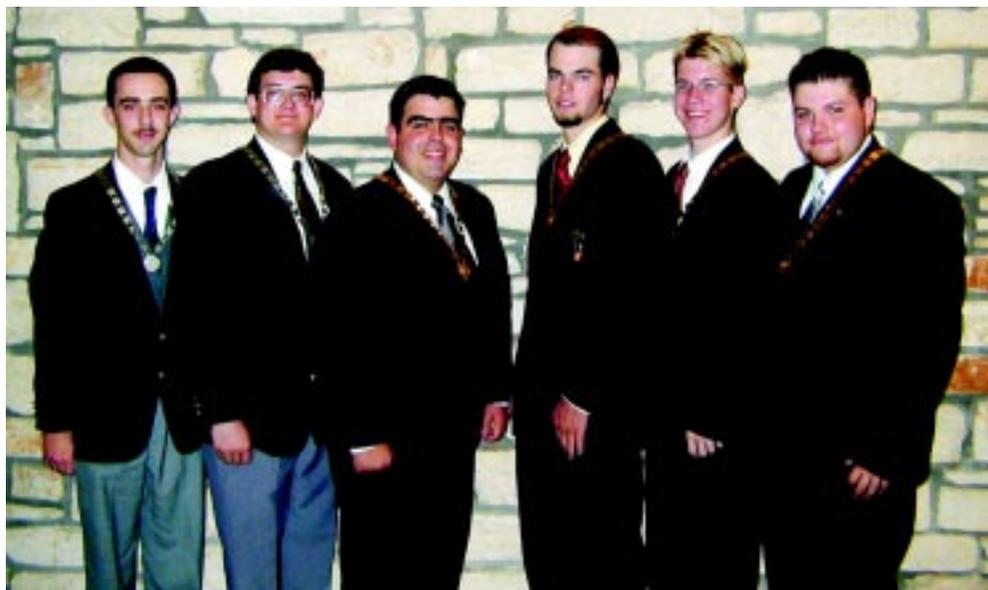


“Butterflies are Beautiful” scholarships totaling \$8,000 were presented at Rainbow Grand Assembly in Amarillo. Pictured (from left) **T.J. Ramey**, DDGM for Masonic District 39-C, Mrs. **Marlene Dibrell**, Supreme Deputy; recipients **Randi McMullin**, **Kristy Leos**, **Alicia Kerr**, **Claire Barber**, **Jamie Smith** and **Marion Marvin**; Mrs. **Renee Ramey** and Grand Master Dibrell. The Grand Master, T.J. and Renee Ramey represented the selection committee. Additional scholarships will be presented in the fall.

At Rainbow Grand Assembly and DeMolay State Conclave
 First Lady’s Butterfly-Pin Scholarships
 awarded to 8 Rainbows; more to come



Tiffany Thornton, Grand Worthy Advisor of Rainbow in Texas. Her theme for 2001-2002 is “Treasures of the Sea” and her motto is “Seek to find your own hidden treasures through Faith, Hope and Charity.”



Newly installed officers of the Texas State DeMolay Association are (from left) **Graham Cull** (Houston Priory) – Deputy State Illustrious Knight Commander, **George Pandzik** (Albert Pike Priory) – State Illustrious Knight Commander, **Douglas Van Griner** (Albert Pike Chapter) – State Master Councilor, **Philip Rose** (Farmers Branch Chapter) – Deputy State Master Councilor, **Kristopher Rice** (Houston Chapter) – State Senior Councilor, **Jeffrey Holder** (Houston Chapter) – State Junior Councilor.

Texas Senate honors Masonic Home & School for service to children

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1033

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas takes great pleasure in recognizing the Masonic Home and School of Texas for providing more than a century of excellent education to the children of Texas; and WHEREAS, A commitment to educational superiority was exhibited in 1899 with the opening of the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home in Fort Worth; the 200-acre site was donated by Fort Worth Lodge 148 as a permanent home for Masonic widows and orphans; and

WHEREAS, Graduating its first class in 1904, the fully accredited Masonic Home independent public school system offers pre-kindergarten to 12th grade instruction with an ideal ratio of one teacher to six students; and

WHEREAS, The Masonic Home is open to all Texas children aged four years and older, based solely on need; these fortunate youngsters receive a home and care that emphasize compassion, strong moral values, spiritual growth, academic initiative, creativity, individualism, responsibility, and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, Due to the generous support of Texas Masons, former students, corporations, foundations, other benefactors, and friends, all the services of the Masonic Home and School are offered to children at no cost to them; and

WHEREAS, The Masonic Home currently houses more than 150 students, and this number includes more than 20 sibling groups, one of the largest sibling programs in Texas; plans for the future include a new technology media center offering a new library, computer lab, television studio, and distance learning lab; and

WHEREAS, A corps of committed administrators, faculty, and staff have been dedicated to ensuring that each child leaves their care equipped with dignity and pride; the contributions that the Masonic Home and School of Texas have made to the lives of over 1,100 children over the last 100 years are incalculable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 77th Legislature, hereby congratulate the Masonic Home and School of Texas for its success in equipping its young charges with the skills to compete in today's marketplace and salute it for its more than 100 years of successful operation; and, be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Masonic Home and School as an expression of highest esteem and regard from the Texas Senate.

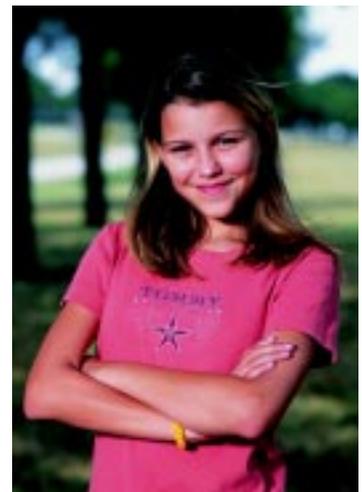


Fort Worth State Senator **Mike Moncrief** (left) welcomes Past Grand Master and MH&S Board President **Joseph Regian** and Administrator **Johnny Wright** to the Texas Senate to receive a special resolution honoring the work done at the Home and School. *Texas Mason photo by Jim Dougherty.*

MH&S makes dream come true for grandfather, granddaughter

Twelve-year-old **Nikki Bolton** had lived with her grandparents, **James** and **Jane Bolton**, since she was 4 years old, together with her older sister. Their mother was troubled and their father was deceased, and in 1996 tragedy struck again when Nikki's grandmother passed away. The girls, concerned, asked their grandfather: "Where will we live now?" James Bolton, now 71, did the best he could raising the girls alone, but he knew he needed help with young Nikki.

A friend of his, **Jack Berlin**, Worshipful Master of Polytechnic Lodge No. 925, suggested Masonic Home and School. Masonic Home and School of Texas is a place of safety for more than 150 children, ages 5-18, who live and learn in a loving, supportive environment. Thanks to the



Nikki Bolton

home's many generous donors, all services to the children are provided free of charge.

Bolton, who lives in Fort Worth, had always known

Continued on next page.



about Masonic Home and School. A boy he went to church with lived there, and later, when Bolton worked for a catering service, the company catered events at Masonic Home.

Still, he was understandably reluctant to part with his younger granddaughter. But in December 2000, Bolton and Nikki attended a Christmas party at cottage 5 at the urging of Berlin. "She liked it and I liked it, so I asked Jack if I could get an application," recalled Bolton.

During the interview process, Bolton and Nikki met adults and children who were raised at Masonic Home and School, some Bolton's age now. "When you get in Masonry and find out what they do out at the Masonic Home and School, it's great," he said. "They are doing wonders out there."

Nikki is in the seventh grade at Masonic Home and School, and her grades have improved dramatically. She has made many new friends and is gaining confidence. "She has done a turnaround," said Bolton. "Everyone there works with her and she gets along real well with them. I'm real proud of her. She's growing up."

Bolton was so impressed with Masonic Home and School and the Masons that he fulfilled a lifelong dream and was recently raised a Master Mason of Polytechnic Lodge No. 925 on June 7, 2001. "I thought about joining the Masons when I was a young man, but I never seemed to have the time. This is one of my dreams that has come true."

MH&S' ability to provide these services without charge depends on continued financial support through wills, bequests and donations from Texas Masons, former students, corporations, foundations and other benefactors. For more information on how you can contribute to Masonic Home and School, please call toll-free 1-877-531-9300.

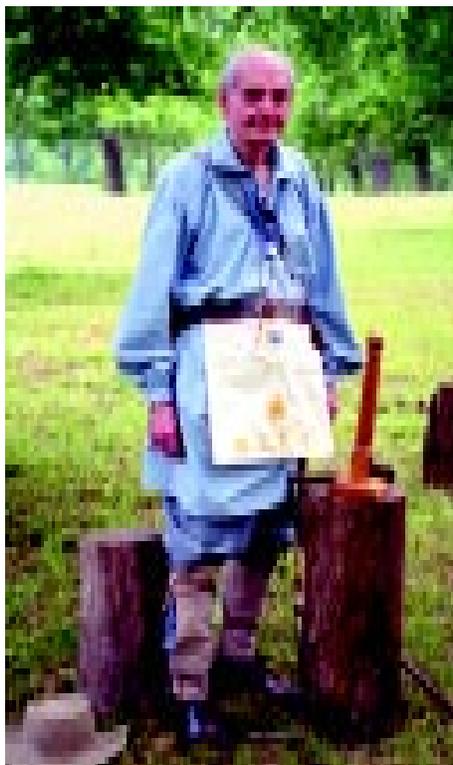
Tranquility Lodge 2000 comes through for MH&S

Tranquility Lodge 2000 celebrated its first year by donating \$5,000, plus a members' collection of \$1,049 to the Masonic Home and School's general fund.



Members of the team standing from left are: **Gordon W. Kelso, Michael Dow, Ben Houle, Keye Perry, James Baker, George Robbins, Kervin Warnken, Victor Armstrong, Walter Otto, Kent Kinkade, Ray Moxley, Scrappy King.** Kneeling from left: **Andrew J. McVeigh III, Jeff Dietrich, Warren Angerstein, James Mitchell, Tripp Garza and Steve Rye Sr.** Bottom photo: **Walter Otto**, Past Master of Austin Lodge No. 12, is well turned out in his station as Senior Warden. His costume would not have been out of fashion in 1837, the year the lodge was chartered. His apron is similar to those worn by members of the Grand Lodge of the Republic and more recently the design adopted as the official apron of the Texas Lodge of Research. *Texas Mason photos by Jim Dougherty.*

Lem Maddox Day features Republic of Texas ritualists



OTTINE — Members of the Austin Scottish Rite Master Masons Degree Team sported period costumes and aprons for the first time at the Annual Lem Maddox Day observance on the bank of the San Marcos River. Newly Raised Bro. **John B. Friend** (in checked shirt) and his father (kneeling on front row), who traveled to the event from his home in Florida, join in the group photo.

The idea of **Gordon W. Kelso**, Republic of Texas period costumes were constructed, along with aprons similar to those worn by members of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas.

More than 75 Masons attended the annual event named in memory of the prominent Central Texas Mason and sponsored by Hardeman Lodge No. 179 and the Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association of the 35th Masonic Districts.





More than 250 Masons, family and friends attended the installation of officers at Ft. McKavett. Grand Pursuivant **Barry Riggs** is at left, Grand Master **David B. Dibrell**, center, and Grand Marshal **Allen Tuell**, at right. **Ilee Simon**, Worshipful Master of Ft. McKavett No. 750, next to the Grand Marshal, arranged the event. Also pictured are the Worshipful Masters of Big Lake No. 1203, Brady No. 628, Camp San Saba No. 555, Christoval No. 901, Concho No. 1260, Dee Oro No. 715, Eldorado No. 890, Ft. San Saba No. 784, Irion County No. 699, Junction City No. 548, Leakey No. 622, Sterling No. 728 and Rocksprings No. 758.



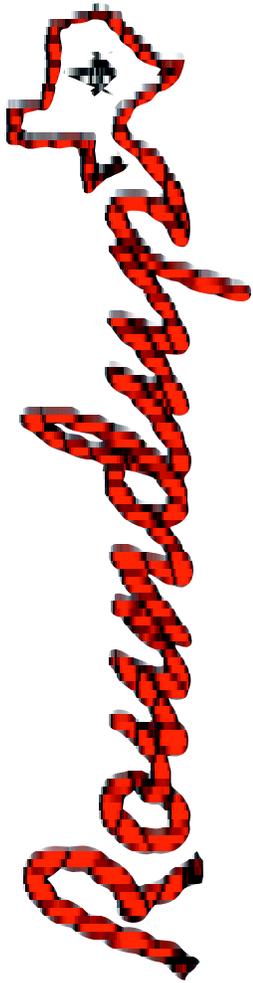
Tyler Lodge No. 1233 celebrated its Diamond Jubilee earlier this year. Grand Master Dibrell is presented a sterling-silver commemorative coin by (from left) **Lloyd Howerton**, PM, then-Worshipful Master **Gregg P. Bonham** and **Earl Bates**, PM.



The Shady Grove Ramblers entertained at the Fifth Annual Corsicana Memorial Day Celebration. R.W. **Tom Uhr**, DDGM- 14B plays the guitar at right. Photo above and top right by R.W. Allen Tuell.



Bill Wyatt, newly installed Worshipful Master of Brahan Lodge No. 226 in LaVernia, is joined by DDGM-38 **Gary W. Horejsi**, PGM **Jack Kelly** and Deputy Grand Master **Michael Nanny** in front of the historic lodge. WM Wyatt stands directly below the attractive new sign he donated and erected to kick off his year and create new interest in the lodge.



Springfield Lodge No. 74 in Mexia celebrated its sesquicentennial on June 22. Worshipful Master **Hughes Dillard** holds the Grand Lodge Sesquicentennial Lodge Certificate. More than 100 members, family and friends of the lodge crowded into the Mexia Junior High School Auditorium for the celebration. Grand Historian **David Harris** gave an account of early Masonry in the Mexia area.



James E. Hodges, Worshipful Master of George N. Denton Lodge No. 24, left, presents the Golden Trowel Award to lodge Tiler **Clyde L. Martin**. Brother Martin happens to be 95 years young and a Mason since 1940. He proudly announces that the only organization he has been a member of longer than the Masons is his church. He joined North Waco Baptist Church in 1936. Tiler since 1999 he has missed only one lodge meeting, and then only due to the funeral of his sister. Until recently he walked from his home, but due to the dangers of heavy traffic, lodge members now shuttle him to and from his duties. Photo courtesy John E. Peck, W.M., J.H. Lockwood Lodge No. 1343.



Like father, like son. Grand Master Dibrell installed **Walter Matyastik** (left) as Worshipful Master of John Armstrong Lodge No. 291 in Valley Mills. He follows in the footsteps of his father, **Bill Matyastik**, who is the outgoing Master of the lodge.

Texas Masonic family members pose for a panoramic photo at the 51st Annual Ma



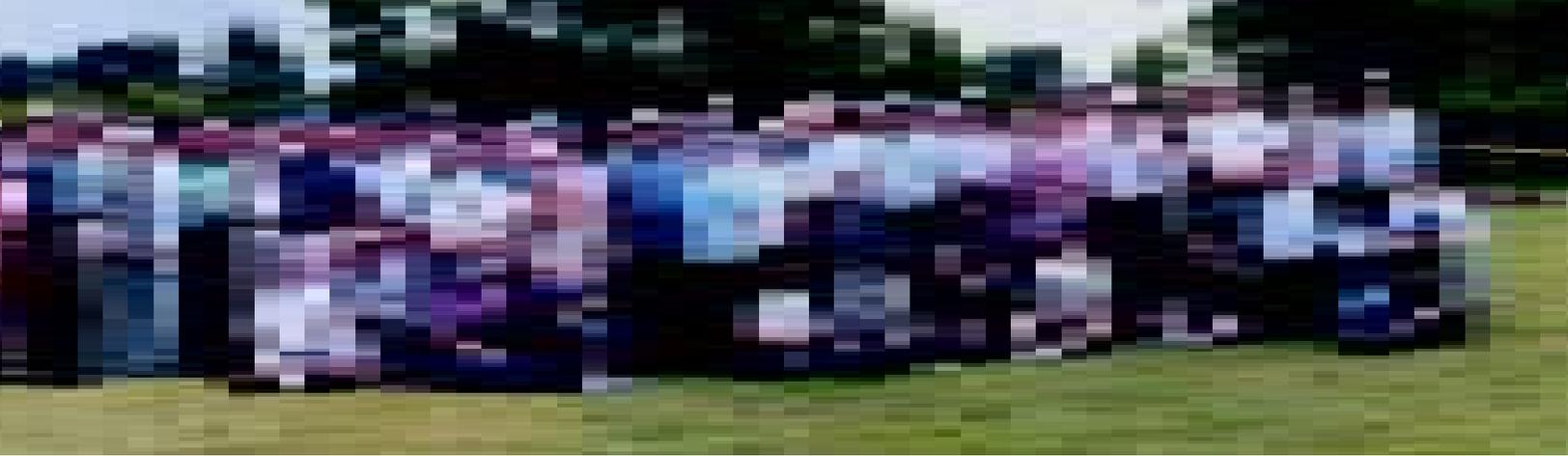
Above photo: Post Oak Island No. 181 Secretary **Dud Morris** (center) and Worshipful Master **Donald Hardy** presents PGM **Joseph Regian** with a check for \$20,000 raised during the "Beaukiss State Fair." Hundreds of Masons (including eight PGMs) and friends of the MH&S gathered for a day of fun and food. The fair is expected to become an annual fund-raising event for the MH&S. The check was presented at the Masonic Oak picnic.



Right photo: Grand Master Dibrell dedicates the first of several oak trees, descendants of an oak on Stephen F. Austin's home site, recently planted in Masonic Oak Park. The trees honor the Masons who met under Masonic Oak to petition the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a charter for the first Masonic lodge in Texas.



Palo Duro Lodge No. 1239 was one of the higher education of students across the state. Graduating seniors were presented with their diplomas. Pictured are **Alicia Ornelas**, and their parents.



Masonic Oak Pilgrimage and Picnic, May 20, 2001, at Masonic Oak Park in Brazoria.

Roundup

(Left photo) Baylor Lodge No. 1235 in Waco takes its adopted roadway seriously on cleanup day. The highway adoption of the Texas Department of Transportation is a great way for Texas lodges to keep the good name of Freemasonry in the public eye. Photo courtesy Ray Rushing.



of many Texas lodges contributing to
ss the state. Three Amarillo gradu-
ne Lamar Medal and \$500 scholar-
Riley Redus and Crystal Hubbard



Residents of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center in Arlington conferred the Master Mason Degree on **Earl Russell III** on March 16, 2001, at the Masonic Temple in Gainesville. The same team, less one member who is now deceased, conferred the Entered Apprentice on Bro. Russell and had planned to confer the Fellowcraft, only to be thwarted by inclement weather. The oldest member of the team is 100 years old. Pictured in the front row are **Bud Plymate, E. Frank Smith, Buddy Webster, Earl Russell III, Lonnie Dunson and Paul Duckworth**; back row, H.C. "Red" Robason, Bill Bryant, Kirby Rudisill and David Lamb.



From the Grand Secretary

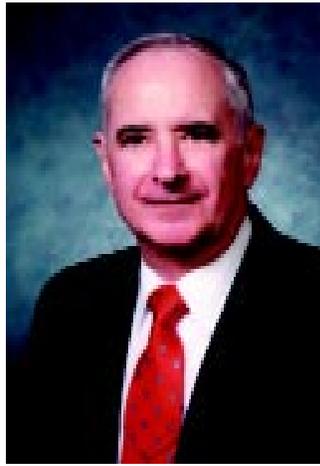
As I write this, installation ceremonies are being conducted all across this great state. By the time you read this, however, all officers will have been installed and should be busily performing the duties of their respective offices. Congratulations are due all officers and our best wishes go out to each and every one of you.

Being a Freemason is a high honor and an even greater privilege. With all privileges, though, responsibilities inevitably abound, and the privileges of Freemasonry do not, by any stretch of the imagination, absolve or exempt us from responsibilities. Quite the contrary! In fact, our duties and indeed our obligations demand a degree of uprightness of conduct not expected of large segments of society. We have promised to uphold the honor and dignity of our order on every occasion, and when we display the square-and-compass emblem on automobiles, wear it on articles of clothing or in the form of jewelry, we advertise to the world our association with Freemasonry. We become living instruments by which the public measures and assesses the value or relevance of Freemasonry. Needless to say, they are attracted to Freemasonry, repelled from it, or so utterly unimpressed that they completely ignore Freemasonry as having an important role in today's world.

Should we become fortunate enough to be selected to a position of leadership and installed into lodge office, again the responsibilities incumbent upon us are magnified. Not only does the public expect us to conduct ourselves in the highest fashion, even our own members single us out as examples of emulation and the quality of character of those members are molded in our likeness. What an awesome responsibility!

Again, we congratulate all lodge officers for being selected as leaders by their brethren and offer our sincerest prayers that each will be blessed with the wisdom, strength and beauty from on high to meet the challenges facing them.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



James D. Ward
Grand Secretary

Fire ravages Blue Ridge Lodge No. 490

Blue Ridge Lodge No. 490 was heavily damaged by fire the morning of June 19. The Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire Dept. was dispatched to the scene at 6:42 a.m. by the Colin County Sheriff's office. Fire departments from Farmersville, Westminster and Melissa also responded.

The lodge building is located on the south side of the downtown square and adjacent businesses suffered smoke damage, according to press accounts.

Fire investigation reports said a propane torch and bottle were found on the roof of the lodge. A roofing company had been doing repairs late the day before the fire.

The lodge lost much of its furnishings, but some furniture and records were saved. The lodge had about 50 chairs made from bois d'arc wood with cowhide bottoms, built by a Masonic carpenter.

The lodge will be rebuilt elsewhere and in the meantime has accepted the hospitality of Princeton Lodge No. 1436.

Correction

It has been pointed out that in the last issue of *The Texas Mason*, Gov. **Dan Moody** was identified as a Past Grand Master. Bro. Moody was an active Texas Mason, but never served the Grand Lodge in that capacity.

2001 Wardens' Retreats

Aug. 10 - 12	Dallas
Aug. 17 - 18	Austin
Aug. 24 - 26	Nacogdoches
Aug. 31 - Sept. 2	Houston
Sept. 14 - 16	El Paso

Qty.	Description	Price Each	Total
___	521DBD Lapel Pin	5.00	___
___	521DBDC Ladies Charm*	5.00	___
___	520DBD Bronze Coin	3.00	___
___	524DBDEC Enamel Coin	5.00	___
___	525DBDSC Silver Coin	25.00	___
___	525DBDM 2001 Mint Set	SOLD OUT	___
___	526DBD Large Belt Buckle	30.00	___
___	522DBD Small Belt Buckle	25.00	___
___	523DBDBB Bronze Bolo Tie	5.00	___
___	523DBDEB Enamel BoloTie	10.00	___
___	523DBDSB Silver Bolo Tie	30.00	___
___	532DBD Tie Chain	10.00	___
___	536DBD Cuff Links	SOLD OUT	___
___	539DBD Money Clip	10.00	___
___	528DBD Logo Sticker	1.00	___
___	529DBD Decals for Tail Light	3.00	___
___	537DBD License Frame	4.00	___
___	536DBDG Cap, light gray/navy	10.00	___
___	536DBDW Cap, white/red	10.00	___
___	533DBDG Shirt, light gray	SOLD OUT	___
	Specify size MED L XL XXL XXXL		
___	533DBDW Shirt, white	SOLD OUT	___
	Specify size MED L XL XXL XXXL		
___	540DBD Logo Silk Tie	SOLD OUT	___
___	527DBD Dominoes Set	30.00	___
	ALL ORDERS ADD P&H	3.00	___
	* Not Pictured	TOTAL	___



Grand Lodge Jewelry 2001



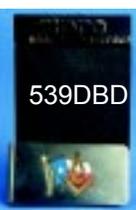
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Make checks payable to: **The Grand Lodge of Texas. Visa or MasterCard orders must include card number, name as it appears on card and expiration date. Please allow four weeks for delivery.**

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BUTTERFLIES ARE BEAUTIFUL

From Cocoon to ...
Beautiful butterfly
From Today's Youth to ...
Tomorrow's Leaders



A scholarship program for Masonic youth is the special project of First Lady, Mrs. **Marlene Dibrell**, for the Masonic year 2001. This program has as its goal the presentation of college scholarships to members of the three Masonic youth organizations, DeMolay, Job's Daughters and the Rainbow girls of Texas. The first scholarships were presented at the Rainbow Grand Assembly in Amarillo in June, followed by presentations later this fall.

Your buying, wearing and selling of butterfly pins is a symbol of your support of our youth and evidence of your contribution to this program. Grand Lodge Officers' wives, District Deputy Grand Masters' wives, representatives of the youth groups and friends are selling the pins and they are also available through the Jewelry Sales Team.

Pins are only \$10 each and are available in white, red, blue, purple, green and gold. To order by mail, please send \$13.00 (including postage and handling) to:

Bill Hale
P. O. Box 2887
Cedar Hill, TX 75106-2887

Please make checks payable to: "Grand Lodge of Texas"
Thank you for supporting our youth!

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