



Mount Hermon Lodge 118

A.F & A.M

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

The newsletter

JULY 2007

FREEMASONRY AND RELIGION : UNITED IN DIVERSITY

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Ecclesiastes is not the best-known book in the Bible, but I was introduced to it at a very early age. At the end of term service at my prep school, the reading was invariably from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 12. There is a marvelous poetic description of old age in that chapter, and at eight, ten or 12 years of age we understood nothing of that, but then the author comes down to earth. He writes: 'Of the making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh'. That we could understand. Different as we were – all children are – in this we agreed 100%. Here in our diversity we were united. Psalm 133.3 states: 'Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity'. Just as Lodges are different, so, too, are we as individuals. One Mason appreciates primarily the simple gifts of friendship and comradeship, another the dignified ceremonial and the moral and ethical lessons he learns in Lodge. There is in Masonry a wonderful diversity, and we all have our own particular perceptions of it. But there is also a deep underlying unity. For all our diversity, we do indeed dwell together in unity, and at the heart of our unity are our three Grand Principles: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. We hear a great deal these days about the plight of the so-called sink estates in some of our inner cities – and that plight is real enough. But suburbia, too, has its problems. Man is a social animal. He was made to relate – to care and to cry, to love and to laugh – but in so many areas community has collapsed. You can live in the same house for years, and you probably know the people next door, but you do not necessarily know the people next door but one and you certainly do not know the people next door but two. There is so little nowadays to bring people together. But Masonry does bring people together – people of different backgrounds, jobs, cultures and faiths. My own Masonic roots are in East Lancashire. In Manchester, where the Jewish community holds an honored place, it was Masonry and Masonry alone which introduced me, a Christian minister, to members of that community. Masonry lifts us out of our narrow ruts. It helps us to dwell together in unity – and that means not just the absence of conflict – but the deep fellowship we enjoy when we relate positively and harmoniously to one another. The cement with which Masonry binds us together is that of our first Grand Principle – Brotherly Love. But love is one of the most ambiguous words in the English language. It can refer equally to the deepest self-sacrifice or to the sloppiest sentimentality. But in Masonry, love is always practical. The second Grand Principle on which our Order is founded is Relief. We seek to care for one another and for our dependants, and to offer relief in times of need. Although, when we toast our Masonic charities, we often add the phrase: 'May we never need them', as none of us can know the future. It is a sobering thought that our first Grand Master was himself a recipient of the charities in his old age. Masonic charities have brought relief to many thousands of brethren and their dependants, but if charity begins at home, it certainly does not end there. Masonry has extended its charity far beyond itself, and there must be very few worthy humanitarian causes which it has not helped in one way or another. 'Blessed is he that considerate the poor and needy', says the psalmist. The giving of alms has always been regarded as a fundamental religious duty, and for us relief is a fundamental expression of brotherly love. Our third Grand Principle is Truth. The manner in which we communicate that truth is peculiar to Masonry – a series of ritual dramas based partly on ancient mythology and partly on the customs and tools of the old operative Masons. The truth itself is not peculiar to Masonry – civil and moral duty, dependence on others, fidelity, natural equality, the rewards of labor and the inevitability of death. But we see these things 'under God' as it were, just as we see the common brotherhood of man resting ultimately on the common fatherhood of God. In England we recognize as authentic only that Masonry which is based on belief and trust in a Supreme Being. But the fact that we believe in God, and that we offer prayer in our Lodges, does not mean that Masonry is a religion or a substitute for religion. Many of us in our own personal faiths would want to say much more about God than Masonry itself says, and that is quite right, and Masonry does not in any way discourage us here. In the earlier days of Masonry, belief in God was well-nigh universal and religious faith could almost be taken for granted. Ours is a more secular age, but perversely (and I find it very perverse), Masonry is attacked nowadays not so much by unbelievers, as by those believers who have adopted a sort of 'back-to-the-wall' or siege mentality and who have become more and more exclusive. Time was – and not so long ago – when most bishops were members of the Craft, and often high officers, but that time has passed. Many senior clerics, even in the Church of England and other mainstream churches, seem very suspicious of Masonry, if not downright hostile to it. But we have nothing to hide, and I am sure our increasing openness will help to convince people of this. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth – the Grand Principles are sound. Where we fall short – as we have done and still do at times – the fault is not with our principles but with ourselves. So let us dedicate ourselves anew to these principles, that Masonry may continue to flourish, and that we may make our daily advancement in it. DR mark Dalby

Mount Hermon Lodge 118
80 Broadway . Asheville
NC 28801

WWW.MASONIC118.COM

STATED MEETING:

1st THURSDAY OF EVERY
MONTH

FOR FURTHER INFO OR
EVENTS CHECK WITH OUR
ONLINE CALENDER

SEE MORE ONLINE

FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East,

Mt. Hermon, your Lodge, is doing well. This has been an exciting year and much has been done and accomplished. And I am looking forward to our July stated. We have three good Masons who will receive Honorary Membership Certificates from our Lodge. The three who will be presented

the certificates are:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, W. Berry Rigdon

W.B. Todd Lancaster. DDGL

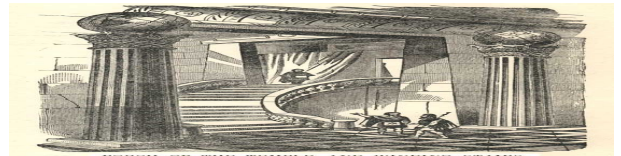
Bro. Charles Cox, sitting Master of Nichol-West Asheville.

These three are stand outs in Masonry in my sight. I just wish that all of you could be with us for this great meeting. We stand ready to greet you and if you need a little prompting on the protocol we will gladly help you

Brothers, I wish you well and thank you for being a Mason.

'till next time, I remain, Fraternally,

Fred K. Morris, Master.



FROM THE WEST

Dear Brothers.

Last month, we had a great 3rd degree practice, preceded by a wonderful snack brought to us by newly raised Brother Bill Boeheim. All that showed were fed VERY well, indeed. We still have a couple of spots to be filled to complete our cast, and would love to see you there, who knows, we may have a surprise at the practice on July 12th at 6:30 pm.

The Temple Company seems to be doing well, and plans for some improvements to the building are being discussed. We are planning to have a work day in the near future to repaint lines in the parking lot, attempt to remove the graffiti, and just some general "sprucing up" the place. It is a great time to get together and we have fun while taking care of our building. At the July stated, we plan to present the Honorary membership to the Grand Master. I hope you can make it as we will be eating well since Brother Bill Boeheim has agreed to prepare dinner. If you want to come but for whatever reason need transportation, please contact one of the officers and we will do everything we can. We would be glad to see you.

Also, a quick note, our Junior Warden Emmanuel Dumigron recently got married to a wonderful woman, Sarah. We all wish them the best of everything as they start their lives together.

Fraternally, Mark Bloomfield

FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

It is with sincerity and the utmost respect that I say to my Brothers: what a pleasure and honor it has been to serve you as the elected Junior Warden of Mount Herman Lodge. For the allowance to follow in the foot steps of my companions thru the York rite and to be supported in the position of editor of the Newsletter, to all the Brethren in whom I have seen the light, to their kind words and dedication to the craft, I thank you for the privilege and honor to be called your brother. All Masonry of the past dealt largely with the ethics and symbolism of Ancient Mysteries. If the Masons of the present age will but seek for the Spirit of the symbolism upon which the degrees are based, the grandest achievements in knowledge and reconstruction will be possible and the mysteries concealed in the Greater Mysteries of Antiquity will be recovered to them. Fraternally Emmanuel Dumigron JW

39th District Meetings

Blackmer Lodge #170 2nd Tue 7:30

French Broad Lodge #292 1st Mon 7:30

Vance Lodge #293 3rd Mon 7:30

Biltmore Lodge #446 Every Tue 7:30

Hominy Lodge #491 2nd Tue 7:30

Swannanoa Lodge #561 1st/3rd Thu 7:30

Nichols West Asheville Lodge #650 3rd Mon 7:30

Black Mountain Lodge #663 1st Mon 7:30

SECRETARY'S DESK

The June Stated was quite eventful, fun and interesting. Our guests included WB Don Laney, the DDGM of the 39th Masonic District and WB Wayne Gaskin, a Past DDGM from Florida Keys Lodge #336. WB Gaskin has also approached me for an Application for Af-filiation [plural] so that he may also be a member of Mount Hermon. A very delightful brother and someone I know each of you would like to meet. The rest of the news I'll do in a quick format:

The WM appointed me, Lance Grunge, to be the Acting Secretary following the resignation of WB Mark Rodgers.

Then, as the Treasurer, I appointed, with approval from the Master, Brother John R. Yarnell to fill the position of Asst. Treasurer. I will continue to handle the books, but Bro JR will handle the deposits and checkbook.

The Grand Secretary informed us that we could have yard sales, flea markets, auctions or food functions to raise money for chari-table events. Please give us your ideas on fund raising.

We did a graveside Masonic Memorial Service the following Sunday for Brother Henry Lee Moore Jr. from Taylor 349 in SC. The eulogy emphasized that he was joyful, generous and loving in life and courageous in death. A brother we would have en-joyed knowing.

We balloted and approved Honorary Membership for MW Wallace Berry Rigdon, WB Wilson Todd Lancaster and Brother Charles Erick Cox. **NOTE-** Plan to attend the July 5th Stated for the certificate presentations- Brother Bill Boenheim will be preparing wonderful refreshments to delight the Grand Master and all of us.

We approved the continuation of the degrees for Brother Mark Radford who has returned from service overseas.

We also read a petition from Brian Scarborough that will be voted on during the July Stated.

Plan your calendars for August 18th. There will be a combined charity fund raising event with a miniature golf tournament in the afternoon followed by dinner, speakers and auction. Contact any of us if you need a ride!

I also want each of you to know that the sale of the Temple is no longer in effect. Efforts to repair, upgrade and enhance the building appear to be the direction we're headed. Each of our efforts, whether it be financial contribution, trade skills, labor, creative ideas or general verbal support will be greatly appreciated by all!

Fraternally Lance Grunge

HISTORIAN CORNER

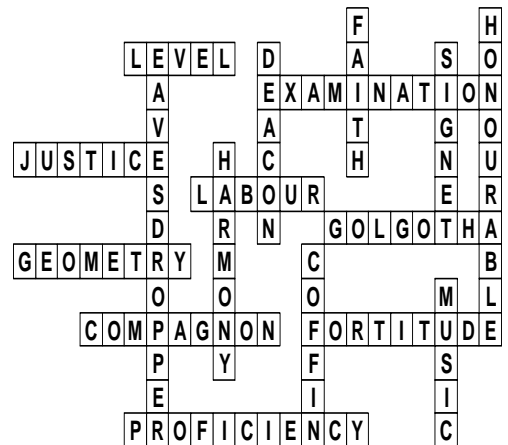
A treasure was found while "digging" around in one of the rooms by the Preparation Room, it was a 1948 Centennial booklet with several pages of Mt. Hermon history. Most of this booklet will be presented on the web site in a few months. I'll quote from the booklet an interesting section about our history." During World War I the nations most destructive pandemic in the form of Spanish influenza hit America and Asheville almost 'became a City of the dying and the dead.' Few were left to wait on the sick. Public gather-ings of all kinds were prohibited, except the Courts and these only sat for extraordinary Civil matters and immediate essential enforcement of the criminal law. Some members of the Bar became drivers of ambulances and hearses. Cemeteries were only able to partially close graves for more death certificates were written giving influenza as the cause of death than all war casualties. In this dire calamity Mt. Hermon met the highest standards of genuine service. The furniture in the Blue Lodge was removed and its space used for an emergency hospital ward for women patients. The remainder of the building was utilized to prepare over 40,000 meals delivered into homes, where there was no one to feed the sick and dying...In 1918 mind you- and not 1948 with its political fights over Civil Rights Bills, involving social and marital equality between the white and Negro races- to the everlasting credit of Masonry, Mt. Hermon Lodge and the Masonic Temple Company voted unanimously without debate to tender to the Public Health Ser-vice of the City this entire Temple to be used as a hospital for the colored people of the County. It was not a question of votes, [ed. or outside viewpoints or pressure] ...but a Southern Masonic Lodge seeing Colored people suffering and dying for lack of medical attention freely and without charge offering its facilities for the alleviation of human suf-fering."Ya know...when you find out more about our brothers who proceeded us...you can't help but be proud to be a Mason and a member of Mt. Hermon. Then, you kind of got to bow your head and pray that we will also be found as worthy.

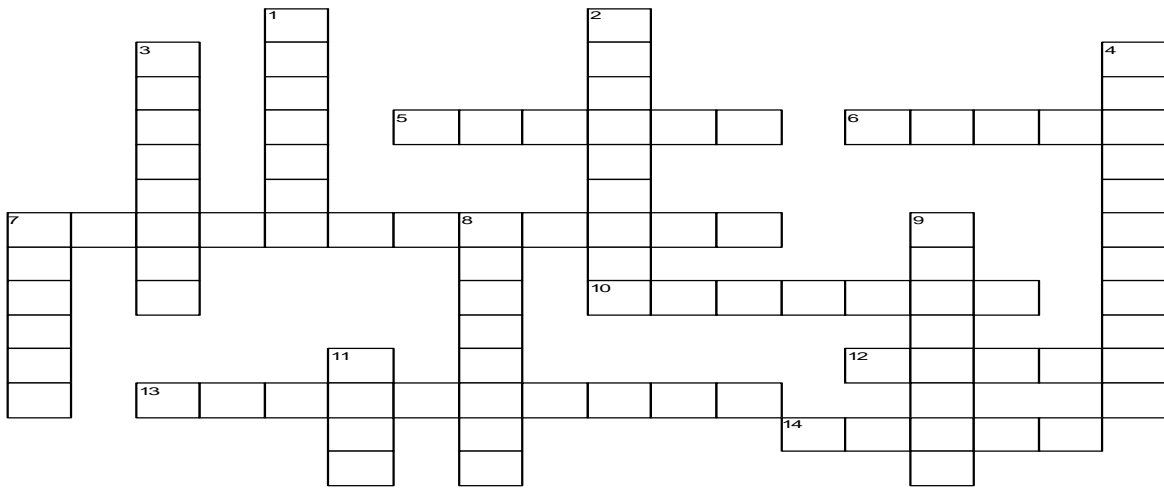
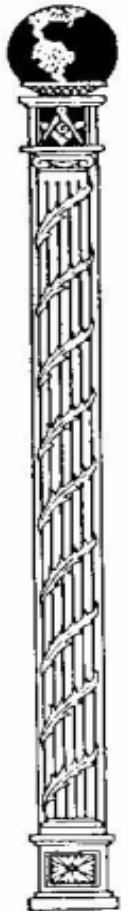
Mnt Hermon Lodge 118 : The Officers

- Brother Fred K Morris WM
- Brother Mark Bloomfield SW
- Brother Emmanuel Dumigron JW
- Brother Lance Grunge Secretary
- Brother JR Yarnell Treasurer



Answers : June crossword puzzle





www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 5** from the latin MANUS , a hand
- 6** insignia of the treasurer
- 7** aquisition of knowledge
- 10** german for master
- 12** from the anglosaxon TACN or sign to teach
- 13** synonymous with duty
- 14** symbol of peace and victory

DOWN

- 1** that which is commanded
- 2** false or fictitious name
- 3** belonging to the brest
- 4** opposite of labor
- 7** a round knob
- 8** traitors of the 3rd degree
- 9** the art of embellishing a language
- 11** from the latin word RITUS

Asheville Masonic Bodies
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