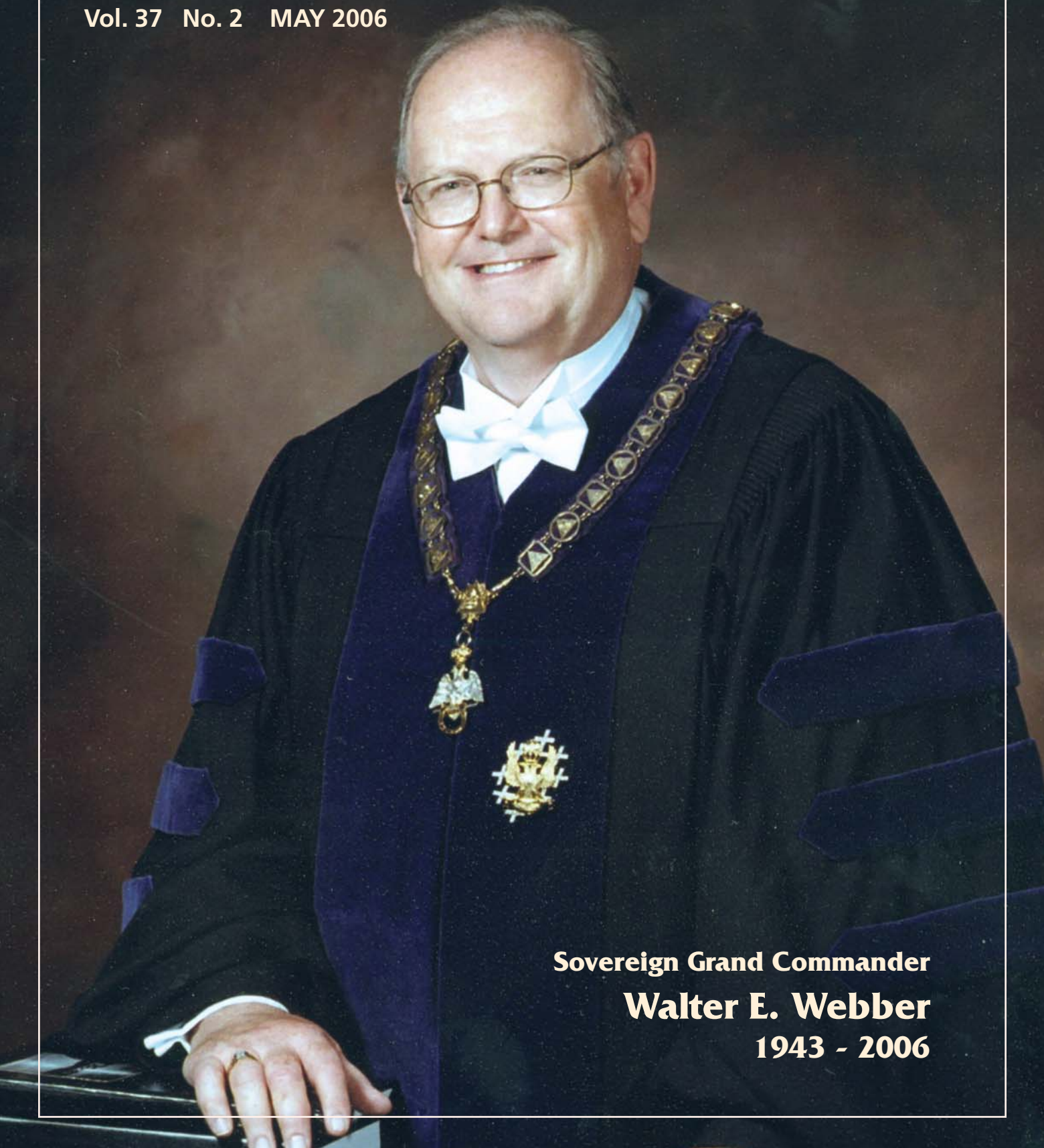


THE **Northern Light**

A Window for Freemasonry

Vol. 37 No. 2 MAY 2006



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Walter E. Webber

1943 - 2006

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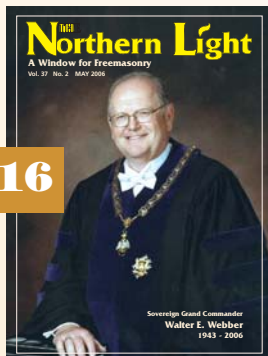
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Illustrious Walter E. Webber, 33°

July 31, 1943 – April 22, 2006

The smile was genuine. It radiated with enthusiasm and carried with it a positive outlook on life.

Even when he discovered a year ago that cancer was attempting to change his life, he refused to accept defeat. With a firm determination to find a way to beat this dreadful disease, Walter E. Webber accepted aggressive treatments last summer realizing that the percentage of success was still being tested.

He wanted to interrupt treatments in late August so that he could fulfill his duties as Sovereign Grand Commander at the Supreme Council annual meeting in Grand Rapids. Doctors strongly advised against it because the procedures had reduced his resistance to infection. He backed off, completed the medical plan, and returned to the office by early September.

Defeat was not in his vocabulary. Medical professionals were amazed at his resilience. He was able to spend long hours at the office and appeared to be getting back on track. He resumed his speaking engagements, convinced that he was on the road to recovery.

But by early April he began to feel weaker. After the doctors performed another battery of tests, he was told that the earlier procedures were not producing the anticipated results and the cancer had once again begun to take hold.

He was told that he had only a matter of months to get things in order.

Walter was in the process of making necessary arrangements when he underwent still another series of tests. By mid-April he was told that the cancer was spreading faster than expected and he had only a few weeks to live. In less than a week, the "weeks" became "days."

The Masonic world was shocked when the news of his death came on Saturday, April 22. Those who saw him just months ago could not believe that life had been taken away from this robust man with the pleasant smile and upbeat appearance. He maintained his composure to the end.

Just as his life was cut short, so too was his term as Sovereign Grand Commander.

In less than three years, he had begun to set in place his plans for the future direction of the Scottish Rite. There was not sufficient time for him to see his goals reach fruition. He has left that part for all of us to complete.

May we pick up the working tools that he has laid down and move forward with a genuine smile, a radiant enthusiasm and a positive outlook on life.



Richard H. Curtis, 33°
Editor

Red Skelton Comes Home

By DAVID C. GOODNOW, 33°

Indiana center to be dedicated to "America's Clown"

The new Red Skelton Performing Arts Center honoring America's clown will be the centerpiece of the first annual Red Skelton festival and grand opening gala in Vincennes, Indiana, June 10 and 11.

The late Ill. Richard Bernard "Red" Skelton, 33°, the local boy who made good, would be delighted.

The celebration on Saturday morning, June 10, will begin with a two-mile long Parade of a Thousand Clowns, floats and bands.

The Grand Marshals will be Mrs. Red Skelton and Red's daughter Valentina riding in Red's big red Mercedes with the Smothers Brothers as Honorary Grand Marshals.

The celebration then continues with a downtown street festival of tours, food, arts and crafts.

Scottish Rite Masons, Shrine Circus clowns and other members will be there in the long procession as well as other jesters from near and far.

The Parade of a Thousand Clowns will embody what Red always said he wanted to be — just a clown.

For anyone with the urge to wear a big red nose, this is made to order.

Saturday evening, the events begin at the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center on the campus of historic Vincennes University where the big new \$17 million state-of-the-art theatre complex will play host to headline acts the Smothers Brothers and famed Red Skelton impersonator Tom Mullica.



ILL. DAVID C. GOODNOW, 33°, is an Indiana native and a former CNN anchor. He is also an honorary member of Vincennes Lodge No. 1.



The building and grounds at the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center.

Vincennes University alumni who are now professional New York performers will also return to entertain.

That is just Day One.

Then, Sunday, June 11, will be "Red on the Green" family day on the lawn and patio at the center.

Arts and crafts, food, the Hasty Pudding Puppet Company, face painting, clowns and more entertainers are in store.

At 3:00 pm, impersonator Tom Mullica will present another show portraying Red's most famous characters.

Red had been honored numerous times over the years in his southwestern Indiana hometown.

But his fondest hope was to have some permanent honor in the historic old French city.

The wish came true and he might be astounded that the new Red Skelton Performing Arts Center sits just one

block from his birth home.

Mrs. Lothian Skelton has donated \$3 million worth of items her husband created over the years.

These include his costumes, scripts, paintings, songs, symphonies, stories, poems and items he acquired from other famed comedians.

The center is the largest site of Red Skelton memorabilia anywhere. It is said he copyrighted about 15,000 creations.

The Saturday evening gala will not only honor America's clown but also help the volunteers, "Red's Friends,"

More information, including clown participant registration, is available online at redskelton.vinu.edu or call the Vincennes University ticket office toll-free 1-800-889-1396.

raise funds to build the Red Skelton Museum adjacent to the performing arts center.

The entire collection of Red's items will then be on display.

The gala will not only highlight Red's amazing career but also his humble beginnings as the youngest of four brothers growing up in deprived circumstances with their widowed mother.

His father, a former circus clown, had died before Red was born and the little boy had to work to help support the family.

By the early 1920s, the eight-year-old was doing his part by selling newspapers on Vincennes' Main Street near the Pantheon, a busy vaudeville theatre.

He yearned to buy a ticket but money was scarce.

Red knew how to draw a crowd by hawking the latest headlines. As customers read the news, he would offer to stand on his head for an extra nickel.

One day would be a turning point in Red's life.

As he went through his newspaper routine, an onlooker asked what he was doing.

Red replied he was earning money for his family and hoped to get a little extra to see the famous Ed Wynn then appearing at the Pantheon.

The man then bought all the papers and told the boy to get a ticket and return for the show.

That evening the excited paperboy returned to the theatre and saw the same man who then introduced himself as none other than Ed Wynn.

Red's jaw dropped as the star took him backstage to see other performers and look through the curtain at the audience then filling every seat.

It was a day neither star would forget



The auditorium at the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center in Vincennes, Indiana.

and the beginning of a world-famous career.

The comedy, acting and clowning bugs had bitten Red in earnest that day and he made up his mind this was what he had to do.

By 1928, Red was on the road making people laugh, the goal he'd often repeated to friends.

He even clowned in the Hagenbeck & Wallace Circus, the same show in which his father had appeared years before.

Time passed and Red's fame spread as he appeared in movies and on radio.

He petitioned to become a Freemason in 1939 and his journey began as a member of Vincennes Lodge No. 1.

He completed all memory work in three days' time, a feat still remembered in the 206-year-old lodge.

As years passed, his Masonic awards held great importance for him.

The many honors included the rare Scottish Rite Gourgas Medal, the highest honor accorded by the NMJ; the 33° in the Valley of Evansville, Indiana, and the 50-year Award of Gold presented by Vincennes Lodge No. 1.

His generosity was legendary and included the Red Skelton Needy Children's Christmas Fund for Vincennes school children established in 1963. The charity is still active today.

The Red Skelton Show ran on network TV for 20 years, second longest of any series.

It was one of many achievements and honors settled upon him as a clown, comedian, Freemason, gifted artist, musical composer and humanitarian.

The honors served notice that America had given a unique treasure to all whose nature would respond to laughter, generosity and hope.

A few of the many characters Red Skelton portrayed during his career.



San Fernando Red



Junior the Mean Widdle Kid



Freddie the Freeloader



Clem Kadiddlehopper

Sowing the Seeds of Liberty

New American Revolution exhibition coming to the National Heritage Museum

After the first shots of the American Revolution were fired on Lexington Common, patriot Samuel Adams described the event as “a glorious morning for America.”

Others were more somber, calling the resulting conflict a “most unnatural civil war between Great Britain and America.”

From either view, the battle that took place at Lexington, Massachusetts, on the morning of April 19, 1775, still captures the American imagination.

“Sowing the Seeds of Liberty: Lexington and the American Revolution,” the National Heritage Museum’s upcoming cornerstone exhibition, is being designed to stimulate new ways of thinking about a crucial event that shaped our national story.

While describing the battle and the events that led to it, the exhibition will also explain why people in a small farming community were willing to take up arms against their own countrymen and the world’s most powerful army.

Through an engaging mix of objects, documents, images, re-creations, interactive elements, and sound, visitors will witness how the lives of everyday people were influenced by the larger world around them, even as their own choices, large and small, were shaping the course of history.

The museum’s exhibition, due to open in April 2007, will be presented in thematic sections.

It Happened Here

First, the museum visitor will be introduced to the familiar story of the Battle at Lexington.

Every schoolchild has been taught the basics but here it is brought to life through everyday events and lives.



Print by Amos Doolittle titled “The Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775.” Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT.

Among the items on display will be a plow reportedly left in the field by John Curtis of Boxford when he responded to the alarm of April 19.

The opening vignette provides an important starting point for further investigation into the reasons why and how such an extraordinary event could have begun in a small town of ordinary farmers.

What Were Colonists Defending?

Moving into the second area of the exhibition the visitor will see what caused everyday citizens to risk their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, as Thomas Jefferson would later

characterize it.

Most Americans are familiar with the term “No taxation without representation,” but to a modern audience, this abstract concept may not seem reason enough to go to war.

As the colonists’ daily lives are examined, and the ways in which they felt threatened by new taxes and changes in government are portrayed, this vignette shows why they were willing to take up arms against their mother country.

It also shows how Great Britain’s display of force made New Englanders feel their lifestyles were threatened and how the bonds with a government so far away were loosened.

The section begins in a re-created colonial farm kitchen.

The kitchen scene highlights the fact that those in America participated in both a local and world economy. The visitor can examine various agricultural products and contrast locally made and purchased goods with imported ones.

Colonists bought and sold goods with neighbors, with shopkeepers in Boston, and with British merchants.

Moving from home to town, the exhibition provides an overview of the self-government that the colonists had become accustomed to.

Next, the visitor is introduced to the changes brought on by such British dictates as the Townshend Acts and the Stamp Act.

The colonists, with good reason, feared the loss of self-determination.

A video presentation, illustrated with political cartoons and other primary sources, will examine those laws, the results, and the reactions, such as the Boston Tea Party.

The Farmers' Revolt

Another vignette is designed to demonstrate how ordinary people and ordinary events shaped the future.

Long before the first shots were fired, colonists were resisting British rule in many ways.

There were boycotts against taxed goods. Weapons stockpiles were created, and local militias were trained and prepared for resistance.

In this portion of the exhibition, we see how farmers and craftspeople lived,

through their tools and images related to their activities.

A highlight is selections from the wheelwright shop of John Parker, cap-

tain of Lexington's militia. Objects and images from a colonial meetinghouse will describe Rev. Jonas Clarke's role as the voice of moral and spiritual authority that helped unify the town.

This part of the display transitions to treatment of the town military preparedness as mandated by the Provincial Congress' committee of safety.

Examples of the arms stockpiled in nearby Concord are featured.

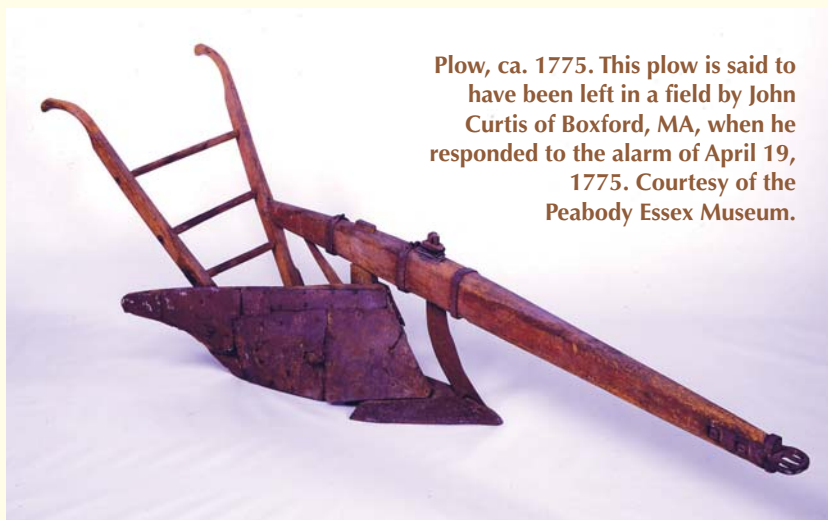
Visitors will see how the 77 men who assembled on Lexington's common in the early morning of April 19 had been preparing for the possibility of armed conflict with British soldiers for many months.

Confrontation on the Common

Another section provides full details of the events of April 18-19, 1775, including Paul Revere's alarm ride into town, the British march from Boston, the battle on Lexington Common, and the march back to Boston. ➤



"The Bloody Massacre, 1770,"
by Paul Revere. National Heritage Museum.



Plow, ca. 1775. This plow is said to have been left in a field by John Curtis of Boxford, MA, when he responded to the alarm of April 19, 1775. Courtesy of the Peabody Essex Museum.



The National Heritage Museum is located on the grounds of Supreme Council headquarters and is one of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's four main charities. It is free and open to the public year-round except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

For information on exhibitions and special events, visit the museum online at:

nationalheritagemuseum.org

➤ John Hancock's trunk is one of the objects in this section. The trunk was originally filled with important papers and hidden near the militia's meeting place by the Common. Paul Revere spirited it away during the battle.

The visitor will also see firearms like those used in the battle, portraits of patriots Revere, Hancock, Sam Adams and other key participants, and contemporary prints depicting the battle scene.

Supplementary stories include that of the Loring sisters, who hid church silver from the retreating British army and a display of tools and clock parts simi-

lar to those stolen from the Mulliken family's clockmaking shop before the retreating army burned it down.

The section ends by linking the day's events with the larger national story. Visitors can see the ramifications of the Battle of Lexington on the local, national, and international levels.

Also examined is the spreading of the news from Lexington to New England and beyond.

Broadsides, prints, and other propaganda generated in the days following the battle show how both sides attempted to win hearts and minds.

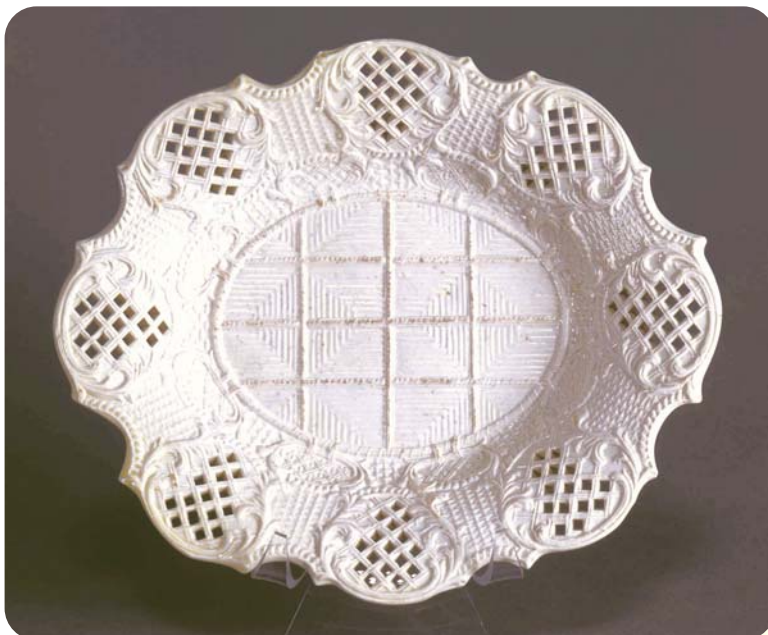
Finally, this section looks at when and

how the battle at Lexington became known as the beginning of the American Revolution.

Enduring Symbols

The conclusion will examine how the Battle of Lexington has been used as a symbol of freedom and American ideals.

The visitor should leave the exhibition with a better understanding of the events of that April so long ago and how they relate to Americans and people throughout the world today. 🐾



**Plate imported from Britain to America, ca. 1760.
National Heritage Museum.**

CURRICULA

A set of curricula, developed in conjunction with the exhibition will be put to use in schools throughout the country. It conforms to guidelines endorsed by the National Council of Social Studies and the National Council for History Education.

Capital Campaign Begins

Raising funds for new National Heritage Museum history exhibition

In describing the National Heritage Museum at Lexington, MA, Steve Pekock, director of development for the Supreme Council, said, "It was born of two parents.

One is the Scottish Rite family and the other is Lexington and its surroundings, where the idea of American liberty was born."

This year those same "parents" are working together in raising \$440,000 to create a major exhibition for the institution and a companion curriculum called "Seeds of Liberty."

The National Heritage Museum was opened in April of 1975 as a bi-centennial gift to the nation from the Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Located on the grounds of Supreme Council headquarters it is one of the Rite's four main charities.

The new cornerstone exhibition is designed to explain the battle of Lexington and Concord, the crucial events that led to it, and its evolution into a full-scale revolution, which resulted in a new nation.

It also explores the role of Freemasonry in the birth of our country, through the involvement of such notables as George Washington, John Hancock, Paul Revere, James Otis, and Joseph Warren.

The curriculum, developed in conjunction with the physical displays, will be made available for use in schools throughout the country.

Ill. Forrest D. McKerley, 33°, of New Hampshire, general chairman of the campaign to make the plan a reality, says that he envisions the work in the coming months as "shared involvement between Masons and the community."

Those sentiments are echoed by Lexington resident Elsa Sullivan, who has agreed to head up the committee of local volunteers.

She says, "Like Freedom, this museum is not really free. There may be no admission price, but it takes hard work and commitment, both in time

and money, to make it work and to allow it to grow."

She also said, "It may be the Masons who built it and maintain it, but those who frequent its galleries justifiably feel that it is theirs as well."

She has already been successful in recruiting movers and shakers in the Lexington area community to help with the project.

Ill. Philip L. Hall, 33°, heads up the campaign among the Masonic community. Together with Bro. McKerley, he is encouraged by early donations, giving the campaign a solid head start.

The new exhibition, which will tell the story of the beginnings of the American Revolution — events that took place less than a mile from the museum — replaces "Lexington Alarm'd," which has reached a similar audience for several years.

The older display opened in 1995 and has served well. Since that time, though, many user-friendly video technologies have been developed that will allow the new state-of-the-art exhibition to give the visitor an enhanced experience.

It is anticipated that "Seeds of Liberty" will attract more than a million visitors during its lifetime, projected to the year 2013.

The fund-raising campaign is an ambitious one. "Seeds of Liberty" is scheduled to open the week of April 19, 2007 — the 232nd anniversary of the famous battle and the 32nd anniversary of the opening of the museum.

According to the campaign committee, a number of recognition opportunities, both within the exhibition and on printed materials and through advertisements, will be available.

Pledges of up to three years will also be accepted.

To get involved with this new era at our museum, contact Bro. Steve Pekock, director of development at (800) 814-1432 ext. 3326.

According to the project overview "It will provide the visitor with an interactive experience. As a long-term exhibition, it will provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn about the roots of the Revolution and of our nation."



Don't Forget Addie Joss

By WILLIAM J. SWARTZ

Another Mason on the mound

In *The Northern Light* of May 2005, Alan Foulds authored a very interesting article called *Mason on the Mound*. It focuses on Cy Young, one of the all time great major league pitchers.

Foulds mentions Cy Young's record total of 511 wins and that pitching awards today bear his name.

He also states that many today still consider him to have been "the greatest pitcher in the early part of the 20th century."

It would be difficult to take issue with this premise. Indeed, most fans feel that Young's total wins record will never be surpassed, and that today's Cy Young Awards appropriately keep alive the memories of a great performer.

Foulds proceeds to discuss the merits of Rube Waddell, a challenger of Young's superiority, and adds, "Throughout the first decade of the 20th century, debate raged as to who was the superior player."

In the first decade of the 20th century, another challenger of Cy Young certainly deserves attention.

Adrian "Addie" Joss was a 32° Scottish Rite and York Rite Mason. He also belonged to the Mystic Shrine.



WILLIAM J. SWARTZ is retired from the faculty of Montana State University. He is an avid baseball fan and cousin of Joss.



Adrian "Addie" Joss, photo from the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY.

Born in Woodland, Wisconsin, in 1880, Joss grew to manhood in nearby Juneau, and signed his first professional baseball contract with the minor league Toledo Mudhens.

After pitching for Toledo in 1900 and 1901, he signed with the American

League Cleveland Bluebirds (later Naps, now Indians).

Joss pitched brilliantly for Cleveland in the nine years 1902-10. He was expected to pitch Cleveland's opening game in 1911.

On the team's northward trip after spring training, Joss was stricken with tubercular meningitis. He died a few days later.

Because his career was relatively short, Joss's totals are not outstanding.

However, in his nine-year career, he recorded superb numbers.

For many years, election rules of the National Baseball Hall of Fame required service in ten major league seasons.

In Addie's case, it was clear that only the ten-year rule precluded his election.

In 1977 this rule was relaxed, providing the possibility of a waiver in the case of deserving players whose careers were shortened by illness, injury, or death.

In 1978 he was elected, inducted, and took his rightful place in the Hall of Fame alongside Cy Young,

Rube Waddell, and many other great performers.

The Young versus Waddell debate in the first decade of the 20th century has been mentioned.

Rube Waddell's major league career spanned 13 seasons. He spent his last nine seasons in the American League.

Those seasons, 1902-10, coincide exactly with Joss's nine-year American League career, so a fair comparison of

their numbers can be made.

The omission of Waddell's four years in the National League will do him no disservice for he had a losing record in those years.

Joss had 160 wins and 97 losses for a winning percentage of 62.2. Waddell's record was 164 and 111 for 59.6 percent.

Joss's earned run average was 1.88, Waddell's was 2.37. The numbers for hits plus bases on balls allowed per nine innings were Joss 8.71 and Waddell 9.69.

Joss gave up 1.41 walks per nine innings; Waddell yielded 2.40. Ninety percent of Joss's starts produced complete games.

Waddell's figure was 75 percent. Of Joss's complete games, 28.1 percent were shutouts. Waddell's shutout percentage was 28.7.

Joss struck out 3.56 batters per nine innings. In this area, Waddell excelled by fanning 7.34. Joss's career earned run average of 1.88 is the all time second best, surpassed only by Ed Walsh's 1.82.

His 1.41 bases on balls per nine innings rate him as one of the greatest control pitchers of major league baseball's modern era. (Prior to 1893 the pitcher's mound was only 50 feet from home plate.)

Joss's 8.71 hits plus walks per nine innings is the all-time best, making him the most difficult pitcher in history to reach base against.

Fred Lieb, a noted baseball writer and historian whose career spanned more than 70 years, and was a member of the Veterans Committee that

elected Joss, said, "he was the best pitcher in the first quarter-century of the American League.

Foulds details an historic match-up of Cy Young and Rube Waddell in May 1904. Young was the winner, authoring the first perfect game in baseball's modern era.

In 1908, Joss pitched the second perfect game. His mound foe that day

The first Joss versus Waddell encounter did not occur under the auspices of organized baseball.

In 1901, after winning 27 games for Toledo, Joss returned to Wisconsin at the end of the season and pitched several games for Racine's semi-pro team.

Racine then claimed the unofficial Wisconsin semi-pro championship. Nearby Kenosha disputed this claim,

It is tragic and rather ironic that some of his greatest publicity was occasioned by his untimely death.

was most formidable — Chicago's Ed Walsh who won 40 games that year. Walsh's performance in losing 1-0 was outstanding: 15 strikeouts, four hits and one unearned run.

Joss's perfect effort was particularly remarkable since it occurred on October 2 during the pressure of an extremely close pennant race involving Cleveland, Chicago, and Detroit.

Arthur Daley, writing in the *New York Times Magazine*, April 17, 1949, labeled this game as one of baseball's "Ten Greatest Moments." Joss pitched another no-hit, no-run game in 1910.

Scott Longert, in his Joss biography, "King of the Pitchers," describes several Joss-Young and Joss-Waddell match-ups.

and a late October game to settle the matter was scheduled in Racine.

To oppose Joss, Kenosha reached into the major leagues and engaged the services of Rube Waddell, then the property of Chicago's National League team.

Joss prevailed 4-2, giving up the two runs on Waddell's second inning triple.

Foulds contrasts Young's steady demeanor with the flamboyant and unpredictable temperament of Waddell.

In this regard, Joss resembled Cy Young. Addie was quiet, unassuming, and never sought headlines. He was modest in victory, never blamed his teammates for a defeat, and found good in every person he met.

His name is mostly forgotten today. He pitched many decades ago, his career was rather short, and he never had a chance to pitch in a World Series.

It is tragic and rather ironic that some of his greatest publicity was occasioned by his untimely death.

Yet, in his time, he did not toil in anonymity. Midway through his career he accepted off-season employment with the *Toledo News Bee*, serving as their Sunday sports editor.

His writing was favorably regarded, and it appeared that he had found a career to pursue after his playing days ended.

In addition to being Brothers in Masonry, Cy Young and Joss were close friends, even prior to Young leaving Boston and joining the Naps in 1909.

In 1910 they were roommates. The ➤

What's In a Name?

The Cleveland American League franchise has had several names throughout its history. When Addie Joss began his career there the club was called the Bluebirds or Blues. A year later, according to thebaseballpage.com, "team members voted to scrap the sissy name" and went with Broncos. In 1903 the club honored star player Nap Lajoie by calling the team the "Naps." When Lajoie left Cleveland in 1914 it prompted yet another name change — this time to Indians. Why Indians? There are a couple of theories. One says that it was to honor Louis Sockalexis, thought to be the first Native American to play pro baseball. Another says that it was chosen because of the "Miracle Braves," Boston's National League club which had finished in last place six years out of eight, when the team miraculously won the pennant and swept the 1914 World Series.



League Park, home of Cleveland's American League baseball team during "Addie" Joss' career.

► next spring it was Cy Young who accompanied Addie's mother and widow to Joss's funeral service.

In 1951 Wisconsin's Hall of Fame was dedicated. Cy Young, at age 84, traveled to Milwaukee to represent Addie and unveil the Joss plaque.

Joss and Waddell were also good friends. At the time of Joss's passing, the *Toledo News Bee* quoted Waddell as saying, "Ad and I were close friends, and to be a friend of his really meant something."

Rube went on to recall first meeting Addie at the Racine-Kenosha game and said, "I believe it was the greatest battle I was ever in."

After Joss's death, the Cleveland owners arranged a benefit game, the proceeds to go to Addie's widow and two young children.

It was played on July 24, 1911, in Cleveland, a day when no American League games were scheduled.

The Cleveland team played an ag-

gregation of the American League's outstanding players.

Their roster included Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, Eddie Collins, Home Run Baker, Hal Chase, Sam Crawford, Bobby Wallace, Walter Johnson, and Smokey Joe Wood.

All are in the Hall of Fame today. It was the greatest collection of American League talent ever to appear in uniform on a baseball diamond.

Some have described it as the major

leagues' first All-Star game. It emphasized the esteem in which Joss was held by fans, teammates, and even diamond foes.


Ty Cobb was generally considered hot tempered and vindictive, with few friends in baseball.

Yet Cobb and his wife sent a floral offering to Joss's funeral service. Cobb not only played in the benefit game, but also purchased several hundred game tickets to increase the proceeds for Joss's family.

He had very kind words for Joss, touted his defensive abilities and described him as "a fifth infielder."

Not surprising, bunting for a base hit was a favorite ploy of Ty Cobb. Cobb's .367 career batting average is the best ever. Facing Joss, he batted .233.

Joss died two days after his 31st birthday on April 14, 1911. The funeral services were held at the Toledo Masonic Temple under the auspices of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and Toledo Commandery Knights Templar.

When considering the greatest pitchers of the early 20th century, one should not overlook Addie Joss, another Mason on the mound. 

MASONIC WORD MATH

How to solve: Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word

(DREAMERS) + (MODERNISTIC) -
(ROMAN) + (MANDATE) - (REST) +
(SAIL) - (DEMAND) - (SLIME) +
(MEASURE) - (SUITES)

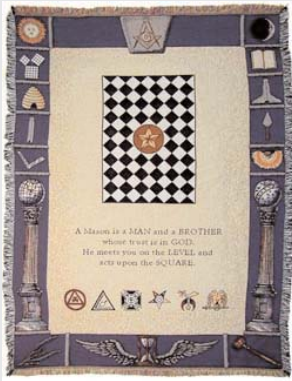
=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 26.
Answer from previous issue: TENETS

Ad and I were close friends, and to be a friend of his really meant something.

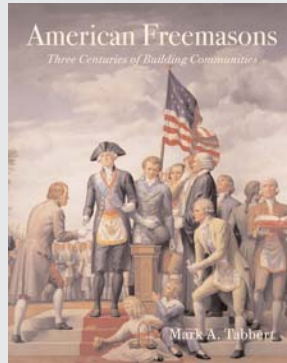
— Rube Waddell

THE HERITAGE SHOP at the National Heritage Museum



100% cotton woven coverlet beautifully displays Masonic symbols. Perfect as a throw or wall hanging. Size: 48" x 60".

A set of four dress shirt studs with the square & compasses in gold on a blue background.



This beautifully illustrated book explores the role played by Freemasons in the development of the country, and reasons why men have joined the fraternity.

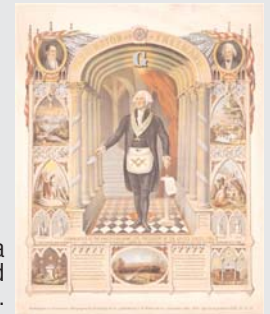
100% silk ties. Choice of black with gold eagle or Navy with square & compasses.



Pocket knife adorned with Masonic symbols.



A 100% black cotton polo shirt with the square & compasses embroidered in white. 100% cotton low-profile cap is available in black with the square & compasses emblem.



"Washington as a Freemason" unframed print. Size: 16" x 20".

Description	Price	Size	Qty	Total Price
Black Polo Shirt (L, XL, XXL)	\$37.95			
Cap (Black)	\$19.95			
Masonic Tie (Navy/Gold)	\$29.95			
Scottish Rite Tie (Black/Gold)	\$29.95			
Shirt Studs (Navy/Gold)	\$19.95			
Masonic Knife	\$11.95			
"Washington as a Freemason" print	\$27.95			
Masonic Coverlet	\$54.95			
<i>American Freemasons</i>	\$29.95			
Shipping	Up to \$20...\$4.95	Merchandise Total		
	\$21-\$50... \$8.95	Shipping		
	\$51-\$100....\$13.95	Tax (MA res. add 5%)		
	\$101+.....\$16.95	Order Total		

Become a member of the **Friends Program at the National Heritage Museum** and receive a 10% discount on all future orders at the Heritage Shop. A membership application will be sent with your order.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Order Online: nationalheritemuseum.org

Order by Phone: 781-861-6559, ext. 4108 • **Mail Orders to:** The Heritage Shop, NHM, 33 Marrett Rd., Lexington, MA 02421

32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

One Child's Story

Without intending to do so, we often reduce students at our learning centers to numbers and statistics.

Occasionally when we hear a success story firsthand from a child or parent we again become aware of exactly why our centers have been established and what they can accomplish.

For a boy named Mark results from the program are more than case studies and graphs. His life has been changed for the better.

His parents relate the following story, thanking the Scottish Rite Masters, and center director Gina Cooke in particular for all that has been done.

"We were all at a boy scout meeting and one of the den leaders called about six boys up to the front to help him out. (There were about 50 people in the audience).

"Greg, Lauren, Alex and I were sitting in the back row. Mark was one of the boys called up. The den leader then asked the boys (In a very loud voice) . . .

"I hope you guys can all read. Of course you can. You aren't a bunch of dummies are you? All of our hearts dropped. I looked at Mark and he just had this look of fear on his face. I did

Regional Conferences Conducted

Throughout the spring Bro. Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°, director of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., and Bro. Steve Pekock, 32°, have been traveling throughout the jurisdiction meeting with boards of governors from all the centers.

A primary purpose of the conferences is to provide the latest information on the learning center program. The meetings also offer a forum for addressing any issues or concerns of the local boards.

The new format for meeting with the centers includes a greater number of attendees, so that more voices can be heard. Berlandi says, "This is a departure from our annual conferences where we invited only those chairing the boards, together with

the center directors, to a multi-day conference."

A major topic of discussion concerns the importance of fund-raising by the boards of governors and Valleys where centers are located, in order for each center to be self-supporting and self-sustaining. Both the reasons to be actively involved in fund-raising and programs available to assist in this endeavor were topics of discussion.

The regional conferences have been well attended and, according to the director, "very productive and informative." Bro. Berlandi has been impressed with the efforts of members of the boards of governors, saying, "Without their dedication and commitment the program would not be the success that it is."

not know what to do. Greg went up to the front and stood behind Mark and quietly asked him if he needed help. Greg told me Mark said to him, 'Don't worry Dad. I can do this.'

"Mark stood in front of 50 people and all of his peers and read. We have never been more proud of Mark. Because of the center Mark has gone from being a shy little boy that could

not read at all to a very self-confident boy who can read.

"I think I have always overprotected Mark, as I never wanted him to get hurt.

"But on that day we saw Mark differently than we have ever seen him — confident and not afraid to take a chance. Thank you, Gina, for all that you have done for Mark."

Six New Learning Centers for 2006

With 52 learning centers already open, the program is expanding once again. Six new locations are in varying states of readiness.

In Peoria, Illinois, Gina Cooke has agreed to be center director, moving over from Chicago. The center will be open in time for the start of the summer program.

Heather Petrucelli, currently in Canton, Ohio, will

direct the new Akron center, which will open in September.

Philadelphia has been approved and is waiting for a floor plan and pre-opening budget. Funds are being raised for Danville, Illinois. To date no director has been chosen.

Interim locations have been chosen for both Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and Springfield, Illinois.

KEEPING UP THE PACE

The running of the famed Boston Marathon is a tradition that dates back to 1897. Following virtually the same course for more than a century it is a must race for anyone serious about the sport.

Also a tradition now for several years is the participation by the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children. Each year directors, tutors, and others have taken part, while raising money for the centers they represent.

The 2006 edition was no exception as 16 runners from the centers were among the 20,000 who started in the suburban town of Hopkinton, MA, and ran the 26.2 miles to Boston.

Returning from last year's race were Kurt Walborn, Randy Bachman, Arnie Grot, Loren Winn, John Heycock, Thomas McClintock, and George Tournas.



Legendary runner Bill Rogers (center), four-time winner of the Boston and New York City marathons, is flanked by Kurt Walborn (left) and Randy Bachman (right).

Race Results:



*Kurt A. Walborn	Ft. Wayne	3:08.50
*Randy Q. Bachman	Cincinnati	3:28.46
Arnie Grot	Waterbury	4:51:09
Loren Winn	Detroit	4:33:43
Rhonda Cloutier	Detroit	5:01:01
John Heycock	Harrisburg	5:10:00
Thomas McClintock	Boston	4:04:54
Marcus Holliday	Wilmington	4:21:07
George Tournas	Lowell	4:51:19
Dean Wilson	Milwaukee	4:51:37
Cathleen Samborski	Worcester	4:46:38
Mary Ball	Worcester	4:02:41
Douglas McCready	Columbus	5:47:19
Jim White	South Bend	4:56:21
David Ingham	Reading	4:34:58
*Jim Winker	Freeport	3:12:53

* These runners received numbers by meeting strict BAA qualifying times.

RELAY RUN NEXT YEAR

In 2007 the learning centers will see a new twist in the walks to help children with dyslexia. Currently in the works is a relay run event including the Pennsylvania Valleys of Reading, Allentown, and Bloomsburg. Originating at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, it will conclude in Reading.

Expected are more than 400 relay teams of 12 runners each. The relay event is intended to raise

much needed funding, allowing the learning centers program to continue its expansion and to enhance public awareness of the invaluable services provided.

Although the inaugural run is limited to the three Pennsylvania cities, plans are in the works to expand the event in 2008 and beyond, to include all centers within the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

ON THE WEB

As plans are formulated for this year's charity walks, those interested in volunteering or participating are reminded that the latest contact and scheduling information can be found at dyslexiawalk.org. Information concerning the learning centers is available at: childrenslearningcenters.org.

Setting An Example To Follow

Commander Webber's brief tenure provides legacy for the future

When Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber, 33°, set sail on his final voyage on April 22, the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson came to mind. Commander Webber loved the coast of Maine and he had a fascination with ships.

Although Tennyson's poem, "Crossing the Bar," was written with another shore in mind, Commander Webber would have agreed with the sentiments in the poem. In place of sadness, he would have encouraged everyone to carry on the work he had started.

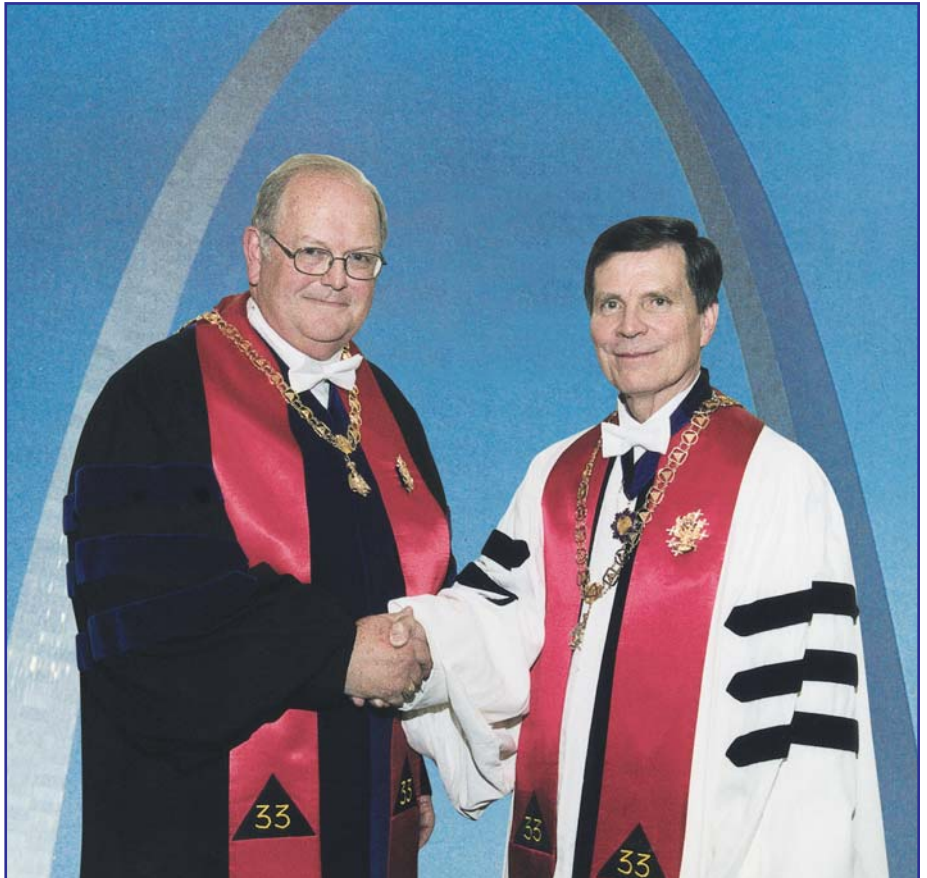
A memorial service at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington on April 30 was a celebration of his life. Speaking at the ceremony were representatives from the Masonic fraternity, a law partner and long-time friends of the family. Each spoke of the strength and personal conviction of the man being honored.

Commander Webber carried the Masonic principles in his heart and accepted his responsibilities with pride. He was Master of Casco Lodge No. 36, Yarmouth, Maine, in 1979; a District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1980-81, and a member of many Grand Lodge committees.

He presided over several groups in the Scottish Rite Valley of Portland and was recognized for his service by receiving the 33° in 1987. He was elected an Active Member in 1994 and became the Deputy for Maine in 2001.

When Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, announced in advance his plans to retire at the end of the 2003 annual meeting, a search committee was selected in 2002 for a successor.

Ill. Brother Webber was highly regarded as an attorney in Portland. He first joined the law firm of Jensen & Baird in 1969 and eventually became the first president of Jensen Baird



Ill. Walter E. Webber, 33°, received congratulations in 2003 at the Supreme Council meeting in St. Louis when he succeeded outgoing Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°.

Gardner & Henry. His expertise was in the field of commercial real estate and was directly involved in such projects as the Maine Mall, South Portland Crossing, the Augusta Mall, the rehabilitation of the Eastland Hotel and the conversion of Congress Square Hotel into elderly housing.

He was a member of the Cumberland County, Maine State and American Bar Associations, and was invited to be a member of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys and the American College of Real Estate Attorneys. He

was regularly listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*.

The Marietta College graduate had no desire to give up a well-established career in Maine. Yet the search committee set their sights on him as the first choice to head the Supreme Council and eventually convinced him to accept the position of leadership.

His term in office was brief. He was installed Sovereign Grand Commander in September 2003, and immediately shifted into gear with enthusiasm and determination. In his remarks at the



The Webbers gathered for a family photo in November. (Seated) Leslie and Walter with grandson Ethan in the center. (Standing) son-in-law Ross Crampsey, daughter Elizabeth, daughter-in-law Sheila, granddaughter Allison, son David, and son Seth.

close of that meeting, he reinforced his firm belief that it is the responsibility of every Scottish Rite Mason to strengthen "the very fabric of our civic society."

He also emphasized that it is "the quality of a person's character and not some other distinguishing characteristic that defines a person."


Duty and character were important elements in his life. His family learned

those principles by example. He challenged Scottish Rite Masons in a similar manner.

In the conclusion to his first Allocution, delivered a year later, he once again pointed out that all members have a responsibility to help others to enrich their minds not only through the way each of us conducts our individual life but also through the support of the

Scottish Rite Charities.

He stated, "We cannot compel you to live in harmony with the lofty principles taught in our degrees. All that we can do is to entreat you to obey what cannot be enforced, and to be loyal to that which you know to be right."

That is the message he instilled in his family. That is the message he leaves to the world at large. 

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the
boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of
farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time
and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

—Alfred Lord Tennyson

McNaughton Succeeds Webber

Ill. John William McNaughton, 33°, who was elected Grand Lieutenant Commander at the annual meeting in August, has been elevated to the position of Sovereign Grand Commander following the death of Ill. Walter E. Webber, 33°.

Not to be confused with his father, Ill. John Willard McNaughton, 33°, who is an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council, the new Grand Commander is usually referred to as "Bill."

Both father and son have been presiding officers in the Scot-

tish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Commander McNaughton graduated from Indiana University with a degree in forensic studies and became a detective with the Fort Wayne Police Department for ten years. He later worked with the family business, All Rite Distributing Company in Fort Wayne, and became president of the firm.

For the next few months he will divide his time between Fort Wayne and the Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington.



John Wm. McNaughton, 33°

NOTES FROM THE **SCOTTISH RITE**® JOURNAL

OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

Good Morning America Broadcasts from the House of the Temple in Washington, DC

On Wednesday, April 19, ABC TV's *Good Morning America* broadcast live from the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, headquarters of the Southern Jurisdiction Supreme Council. This was the second segment of a three-part series on "Secret Societies," which also included a day each devoted to Opus Dei and the Knights Templar.

Charles Gibson, GMA co-anchor, opened the show at 7:00 a.m. from the steps of the House of the Temple, and then did previews in the atrium and Pillars of Charity alcove before interviewing Ill. Richard E. Fletcher, 33°, executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America, who talked about Masonic secrecy and women. Later in the show Gibson in-

terviewed Dr. S. Brent Morris, 33°, managing editor of the *Scottish Rite Journal*, who talked about Masonic religious tolerance and the sociological forces affecting membership. Gibson closed the show from the Temple Room with a nice summation of Freemasonry's mission of making good men better. There was also during the show a live shot from the front of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA.

The staff of *Good Morning America* contacted the House of the Temple on Tuesday a week before the show, visited the next Wednesday and Thursday, and then made their final decision to use the Temple on Monday, April 17, less than 48 hours before the show. A crew of about 15 set up from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, and then returned at 3:00 a.m. before broadcasting live at 7:00. The Grand Commander's office was prepared as a news room in case a major story required Charles Gibson to broadcast from a more formal setting. The show was a unique opportunity to present Freemasonry to the American public.

For more information about the *Good Morning America* episode, please visit www.srmason.net.



Charles Gibson (left), co-anchor of ABC TV's *Good Morning America*, interviews S. Brent Morris, 33°, in the Temple Room of the House of the Temple.



First 2006 Scottish Rite Leadership Conference Held in Houston, Texas

The first of three 2006 Scottish Rite Leadership Conferences was held in Houston, Texas, on March 17–18. This year's theme was "Charting the Rite Course." More than 200 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies were in attendance to learn about the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction's strategic plan. The strategic plan includes five main objectives: education, leadership, public relations, finance, and philanthropy. The Valley of Houston worked diligently as a wonderful host and session attendees enjoyed a Houston-style Tex-Mex buffet. Other conferences will be held in Atlanta and San Francisco.

CHARTING THE RITE COURSE



Photo: Heather K. Calloway, Dir. of Special Programs

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children to Host 2006 RiteCare Conference

Speech-language pathologists, dyslexia specialists, and clinic leaders will have the opportunity to soar at the 2006 RiteCare Conference, scheduled for September 29–30 in Dallas. Hosted by Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC), the conference will focus on research-based interventions and current clinical issues that will prepare educators and clinicians for the improved treatment of children with speech, language, and learning disorders. For more information, call TSRHC at 214-559-7816 or visit the events calendar on the hospital's website at www.tsrhc.org.



If nothing else, readers of this column love their Internet service providers (ISPs) and their computers. On the other hand, they have doubts about the effectiveness of Masonic Internet efforts.

Those are among the findings that come from our Internet survey, where we also learned something about computer preferences, security concerns and attitudes toward spam.

Often a source of irritation among consumers, a whopping 92 percent of our survey respondents voiced satisfaction with their ISP. The breakdown was 74 percent voicing complete satisfaction and 18 percent saying they are somewhat satisfied. Of those who confessed to being somewhat satisfied, the number one complaint was high cost.

While most of us use some form of high-speed Internet access, it is worth noting that about a quarter of us still use dial-up. Nonetheless, the dial-up users are satisfied with their ISP, though many expressed a desire to switch to high-speed should it become available. Not one respondent is using satellite broadband.

Regarding high-speed ISPs, respondents are about evenly divided between cable modem service (36 percent) and DSL (33 percent).

As for computers, the desktops outnumber laptops by nearly three to one and ten percent own both.

Windows XP is the leader among operating systems with 60 percent of total. However, Apple finished surprisingly strong with 12 percent opting for the Mac OS. A few respondents use the Linux system.

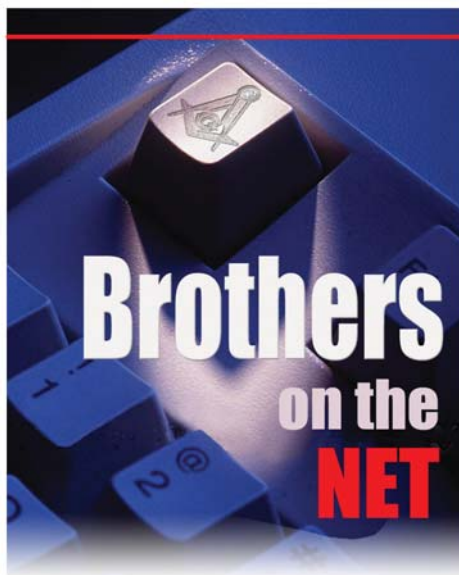
No matter what brand of computer respondents own, 63 percent would buy the same brand again. Five percent had built their own computers or had computers built for them — and all would do it again.

Almost all respondents reported being concerned about Internet security. Nevertheless, slightly more than half do not turn their computers off — a practice that makes your computer vulnerable and wastes energy.

Attitudes toward spam were split between those who consider it a serious problem (53 percent) and those who don't (36 percent).

Respondents also were divided on the Masonic fraternity's effective use of the Internet.

Typical of the comments was this from Brother Jim Cogan, newsletter editor for Acacia Lodge No. 651, in Euclid, Ohio: "Most



And the survey says ■ ■ ■

sites are used to provide information on lodge functions. There is very little education and promotion." Brother Cogan notes that his newsletter is aimed at older members, while the Web site (www.acacia651.org) is directed at both younger members and prospective members.

Bro. Bob Ivey wrote: "[Provide] more useful and up-to-date information, [and] tie print publication references to Internet sites."

Bro. Brad Steigerwalt commented: "Every lodge should have its own website to recruit and drown out anti-Masonic sites."

Past Master Pattric W. Gould in Ohio, offered this: "We're still unknown to the general public. Some of the general public reads/sees/hears from the anti-Masonic crowd. Perhaps we can use more positive information that shoots down what the anti-

Masonic people say/write. In general, there are a lot of people who still do not know that Shriners are Masons."

Bro. Robert Boone wrote: "I think they (Masonic sites) could and should provide members e-mail accounts, similar to HotMail. This would provide an excellent opportunity to see how many of our members actually use the Internet. As usage increases, the fraternity will be able to increase its use of the Internet as a means of communication. The way it is now, I think it is unable to gauge who does and who doesn't use the Internet."

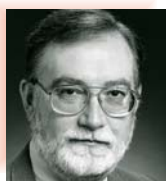
Bro. John Miller suggested: "I saw the info in an issue of *The Northern Light* concerning the book *American Freemasons*. I immediately ordered it and have read it from cover to cover twice. What a wonderful work. It has done more to answer questions I have had than any other book I've read. If we could put up a website that embodies the high points of that book, get the word out that it exists, and keep it actively updated, we'd have a phenomenal tool to promote the best that we are. We have so much to offer as an organization in a society that needs a real infusion of brotherly love, morality, and truth. The use of that society's most powerful communication tool to foster this goal should be a priority for all of us, not just a few blue lodges and the headquarters group."

Oh yes, you might be interested in the ages of the respondents. The youngest was 31 and the oldest 85. Well, there was one Brother who simply listed his age as "old." The average age: 63 years.

Thanks to all 238 of you who participated in the survey.

Please send your comments, questions and thoughts to me at [<studebaker55@casscomm.com>](mailto:studebaker55@casscomm.com).

Fraternal wishes to you all.



Leigh E. Morris, 33°, works in corporate communications for a major utility company. He is a member of the Valleys of Milwaukee and Springfield, IL.

CHARITIES

As you read this article, you have probably already received the first of up to three letters reminding you of this year's blue envelope appeal. As you consider a donation to this, the oldest and most enduring charitable campaign of the Scottish Rite, it is important to look at its legacy and scope.

The roots of the blue envelope can be traced back to 1955, and became at that time the first comprehensive fund-raising effort at the Scottish Rite. The campaign was established under the leadership of Ill. Richard A. Kern, 33°, Deputy for Pennsylvania and long-time chairman of the Committee on Benevolences. (His leadership is remembered today through the Kern Award that recognizes Valley participation in the blue envelope appeal. The award has been presented at each annual meeting since 1985.)

In the early days, the notion of establishing a jurisdiction-wide appeal was not universally supported. One state deputy proposed that, rather than send the Brethren of that state a solicitation, he would prefer to send a single check reflecting the amount that Sovereign Grand Commander George Edward Bushnell would have expected from that state. The Commander rejected this suggestion. Financial support of our charities aside, he understood the importance of communicating the good works our charities provide, which the blue envelope conveys. He also wished to make the blue envelope appeal a campaign supported by the rank and file of our membership.

The most enduring symbol of this appeal — the envelope — is blue. Blue is the primary color of Freemasonry and of our blue lodge roots, which unite us all. At a time when fund-raising programs have become rife with gadgets and give-aways, the blue envelope remains uniquely simple and remarkable in the tremendous loyalty and response to it by our Brethren.

Consider the Blue Envelope

Over the years, the blue envelope has evolved to support three of our charitable initiatives — the Leon M. Abbott scholarship program, the schizophrenia research program and the National Heritage Museum. Blue envelope remains the only major fund-raising appeal for each of these programs.

Consider its success:

- Last year, nearly 400 young men and women attending colleges or universities — children or grandchildren of Masons — received Leon M. Abbott scholarships. That represents \$400,000 supporting talented students from all corners of our jurisdiction because of blue envelope.
- Annually, up to 15 schizophrenia research fellowships, each worth \$15,000 are awarded to doctoral students conducting groundbreaking work at the best universities in our jurisdiction. Schizophrenia research was the earliest jurisdiction-wide charitable initiative in Scottish Rite. Now about \$180,000 each year continues this commitment in hopes that the work we support at Penn State, or Harvard or Indiana University, among others, may finally help society defeat schizophrenia.

The National Heritage Museum includes perhaps the most extensive library and collection of Masonic antiquity in the Western Hemisphere. While also a popular and free destination for families who want to explore and celebrate the many facets of the American story, the museum conserves and maintains tens of thousands of Masonic books, papers and artifacts. The blue envelope supports this work.

So, as you consider the letter and simple azure envelope that has arrived recently, please imagine that your participation continues a commitment long regarded and beneficial all over our jurisdiction.

We welcome your support exemplifying the values of Brotherhood.

New 33° Masons Provide Extraordinary Support

On more than one occasion it has been said that receiving the 33° is more than an honor. It is the beginning of a new obligation to further our work as Masons. While this is widely demonstrated in different ways, two recent 33° recipients (Class of 2005) used their personal foundations to prove this point to benefit the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children.

Ill. Richard Stephenson, 33° (Valley of Chicago) and trustee of the Stephenson Family Foundation presented Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber a check for \$100,000 during an event in Chicago recently to support the

Chicago Learning Center. Ill. Roger Wilson, 33° (Valley of Detroit) through his personal foundation made a \$25,000 commitment to sponsor five students at the Detroit Learning Center. Extraordinary generosity from two extraordinary brothers.



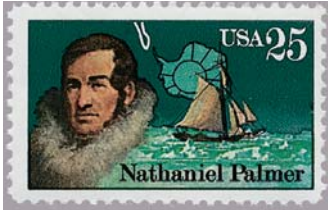
Steve Pekock, 32°
Director of Development

Ill. Richard J. Stephenson, 33°, presents a check to Commander Webber from the Stephenson Foundation to endow the Chicago Learning Center.





The Stamp Act



Capt. **Nathaniel Brown Palmer** was a great man in seafaring annals of the 1800s and is acknowledged in the U.S. as the discoverer of Antarctica. He was born in Stonington, CT, on Aug. 8, 1799, and was reared in his father's shipyard in that town. He shipped as a boy on one of the blockade-runners in early 1814.

His first open ocean sailing experience was as second mate on the brig *Herzilas* in 1819 to the Shetland Islands south of Cape Horn. His next trip was in command of the sloop *Hero* and during that trip he ventured further south — down to 68° south latitude where solid ice barred his way. He met up with Capt. Fabian von Bellingshausen, commodore of the Russian Imperial Navy Fleet that was on a discovery mission.

When Palmer described what he saw, the commodore declared that the mountain range would bear Palmer's name, as he was the discoverer. He made many more notable trips to that area and elsewhere around the globe.

In 1877 while trying to find a climate which might cure his nephew's tuberculosis, the boy died and Capt. Palmer's health failed steadily. Within a few

days, he also passed away — on June 21, 1877.

Bro. Nat Palmer was a member of Asylum Lodge No. 57, Stonington, CT, being initiated in 1826. He remained a member of that lodge until his death, which was reported at a special meeting of the lodge on June 29, 1877. He is pictured on a USPS stamp issued in September 1988 to honor Antarctic Explorers.



Apolinario Mabini, pictured on a stamp released by the Philippines in July 1964 to honor him, was one of the leading Freemasons in that country. He was a member of the Lodge Balagtas No. 149 of the Grand Orient of Spain in Manila. He served as the first orator of that lodge.

Born into a farming family on July 23, 1864, in Talaga, he studied in Manila at the College of San Juan de Letran and then studied law at the University of Santo Tomas in 1894. He was stricken with paralysis the following year and could help the Revolution only from a chair, but he earned the title "Brain of the Revolution."

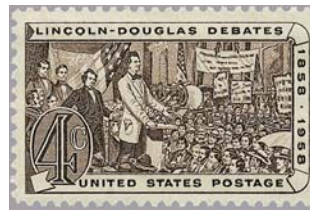
He wrote the laws for the republic in 1898-99 and was the right-hand man to Emilio Aguinaldo when Bro. Aguinaldo became



president. He would not take the oath of allegiance to the U.S. and in 1899 was imprisoned by American troops and banished to Guam. He was allowed to return to his homeland a few months before his death on May 13, 1903, in Manila.



Born in Vermont in 1813, **Stephen A. Douglas** moved to Illinois, where he was admitted to the bar in 1834. He was judge of the Illinois Supreme Court in 1841, a representative in Congress from 1843-47 and a U.S. Senator from 1847-61. He was defeated by Buchanan for the Democratic nomination for president in 1856 and by Abraham Lincoln in 1860 following a heated series of debates. He died in 1861.



The Lincoln-Douglas Debates were commemorated by a U.S. stamp in August 1958. He is standing directly behind Lincoln, dressed in a dark suit.

Bro. Douglas was raised in Springfield Lodge No. 4 on June 26, 1840, and the following October was named Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Illinois but declined to serve. In December of that year he was elected Junior Warden of Springfield Lodge. Masonic services were held the evening before his funeral.



Bro. **Arthur William Fadden** received his degrees in Caledonia Lodge No. 737,

Robert A. Domingue is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, MA, and editor of *The Philatelic Freemason*.

Scottish Constitution, in 1915. He affiliated with both Unity Lodge No. 306, and Lamington Lodge No. 110, both of the U.G.L.Q., in 1920. He is shown on an Australian stamp released in 1994 to honor prime ministers.



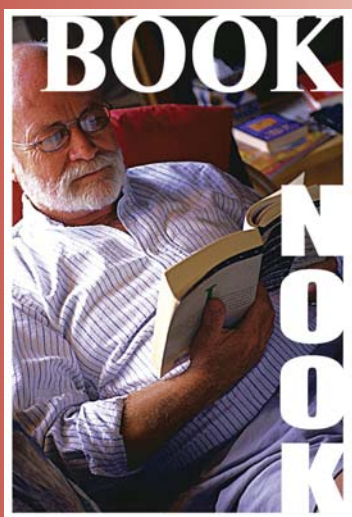
Born at Ingham, Queensland, in 1895, he worked in his youth as an office boy and a clerk in a sugar mill.

He served as city councilor and entered the Queensland Parliament in 1932. He was leader of the Federal Country Party from 1940-58. When R.G. Menzies resigned as prime minister in August 1941, Bro. Fadden became the prime minister but served for only a short period when the opposition voted against his budget and he was also forced to resign. When the Menzies government regained office in 1949, he served as deputy prime minister and treasurer. He died in 1973.



France issued a Masonic stamp on May 12, 1973, to commemorate the bicentennial of the Grand Orient of France.





Reviewed by Thomas W. Jackson, 33°

The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts and Fictions

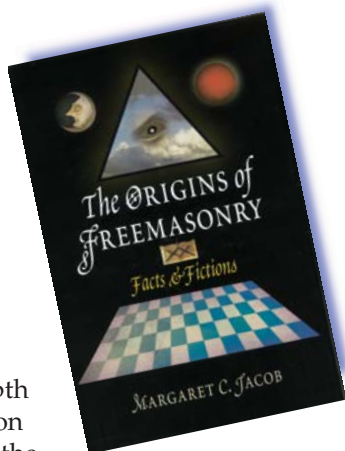
By Margaret Jacob. Published in 2006 by University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA, 19104-4112. \$26.50.

I have been a fan of Margaret Jacob's writing since first reading *Living the Enlightenment*. Her latest book, *The Origins of Freemasonry*, does not lessen my appreciation for the quality of her writing, although it may be less academically committed than has her previous works. She continues to represent some of the more superlative research and writing in the field of Masonic history today.

This book is much shorter and easier to digest but it is no less valuable in the significance of its contents and its in-depth analysis of the contribution made by Freemasonry to the development of civil society and support of democratic thought.

Jacob has applied much of her extensive research knowledge of the origin of the Masonic fraternity as well as reasons for its rapid expansion, its attraction to men of influence and its impact on the development of world governments.

She has concentrated on pocket diaries and Masonic almanacs that tend to reveal reasons for affiliation by those outside of operative masonry.



It is her contention that operative masons began admitting non-Masons to obtain their financial support, thus transforming it into a voluntary society that, in turn, evolved into speculative Freemasonry.

I appreciate her observation: "Of the many forms of new social behavior to become an integral part of enlightened culture during the 18th century, Freemasonry has been the most difficult to understand." Indeed, it remains so today.

Certainly one of the greatest contributions that our craft has made to society is that it became a school for democratic government.

She emphasizes the significance of the lodges being a "vital piece in the new 18th-century social experience we call civil society." She also makes the observation, "where else but in 18th-century lodges could an entire system of governance be found. . ."

The book includes a chapter titled "Money, Equality and Fraternity" that effectively presents the issue of the spread of a market economy and the impact on it by a fraternal equality developed within Masonic lodges. This new concept is significant to the development of a new style of economy that remains today as the driving force in world society. In this chapter she discusses the final transformation from a fraternity of guildsmen into a society of gentlemen and merchants that was ensured by the year 1734.

A chapter, "Women in Lodges," presents a comprehensible understanding of the position of women in Freemasonry at this period in history and in turn their influence in shaping the new society that is evolving.

Co-Freemasonry (a form of Freemasonry accepting both men and women) provided an opportunity for women at that time to assume a more prominent role in contributing to the development of civil society.

In the conclusion, the author evaluates the present-day position of North American Freemasonry and its possible future position concerning women's involvement in the craft in America.

I am confused with an observation she makes when she implies that "Benjamin Franklin brought the Freemasonry he learned in London to Philadelphia," and that "American Freemasonry derived directly from its British counterpart as imported by Benjamin Franklin." I must speak with her some day concerning this point.

This book is worth reading and worth having in your library.

Secrets of The Widow's Son

by David A. Shugarts. Published in 2005 by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 387 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016. \$17.95.

In the November issue of *The Northern Light* I made note of the number of books being written relative to Dan Brown's books, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and*

Demons. It seems that there were many writers jumping on the bandwagon to make a profit on a subject that had created such an impact on the American psyche.

I guess we should not find it unusual, therefore, that a book would be written projecting what Dan Brown's next book would be. *Secrets of the Widow's Son* is dedicated to this purpose. The introduction is written by Dan Burstein, editor of the New York Times bestseller, *Secrets of the Code*, a book also referencing *The Da Vinci Code*. It is his contention that Brown's next book will be to early American history what *The Da Vinci Code* was to early Christian history.

It is believed that Brown's book will involve the subject of Freemasonry and be set in Washington, DC.

Shugarts uses the style of Brown's books to project the possibilities of the plots. He researched into the subject of Freemasonry and its involvement in the layout of Washington, DC. He even admits to reading *Morals and Dogma* that he refers to as 861 pages of wonderful weirdness.

He projects a positive image of the Masonic fraternity and its contribution to American society. It is his proposition that Freemasonry had been one of the "many long threads that tie the history of the old world with the new" and therefore provides Dan Brown with a tie-in to his prior books. He states that "the philosophical foundations of the American Revolution and, in fact, the high ideals of rationalism, science, separation of church and state, and the wonders of nature were reflections of the foundations of Freemasonry."

The suppositions made by Shugarts may quite possibly be touching upon the plots of Dan Brown. I could not help thinking, however, that it is a real stretch to project what someone else will do. If you have an interest in the writings of Dan Brown you may find this book interesting reading, but I would suggest you read it before Brown's next book is released.

Freemasons for Dummies

by Christopher Hodapp. Published in 2005 by Wiley Publishing Co., Inc. 111 River St., Hoboken, NJ 07030. \$19.95.

I was prepared to dislike this book because of the title. I thought it was degrading to Freemasonry and felt "Freemasonry" for Dummies sounded more logical. I understand the publisher chose the title because the word "Freemasons" is more frequently searched on the Internet. (What a weird world.)

I read the book on a flight to attend the Grand Orient of Italy and I found myself trying to conceal the title from anyone near me, because I thought it demeaning.

Much of the book is written with tongue-in-cheek and a somewhat irreverent attitude but this is the style chosen by the author and probably adds to the read-

ability for those who read books for dummies. I did find that the insertion of sidebars in the middle of topics somewhat disconcerting. It forced me to skip ahead and then back to sidebars.

Although Hodapp qualifies most of his statements when he alludes to exceptions, there are a number not qualified and the statements are too generalized. Many are exceptions to general lodge practices that he has experienced. I have since learned that he has been a member of the craft for only eight years and the statements probably reflect a lack of experience.

There are several, however, that should be corrected. For example, he specifically indicates that Masonry has been outlawed in all Muslim countries, except Morocco, Lebanon, and Turkey. Mali is a Muslim country. I attended the consecration of the Grand

Lodge there ten years ago. I do not know if "outlawed" would be the cor-

rect terminology. In some countries we simply do not exist but have not been acted against by law. Also, his assumption that there is a Grand Lodge in "almost every country in the world" is wrong. Many African, mid-east and far-east countries do not.

Although I have not read any part of the ex-

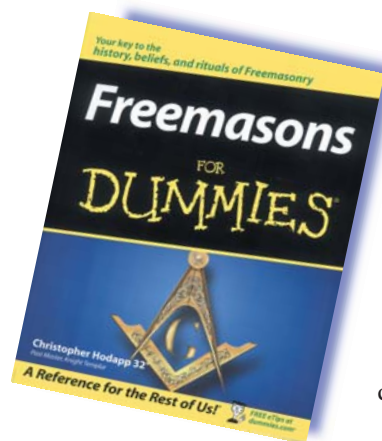
posé written by William Morgan, I would suspect that Morgan may have suffered his fate for exposing less of Freemasonry than has Hodapp. This however, is present-day North American Freemasonry.

I seriously disagree with his statement: "the mission of the Masonic lodge is to make new Masons . . ." There are leaders today who operate on that assumption, but it is clearly wrong.

Having said all this, I feel it is still a dang good book for its purpose. I am impressed with the amount of knowledge and the understanding the author has on the subject considering his limited time as a member. It is comprehensive and easy to read, provides a simplistic answer to many questions, and will serve as a good reference book.

It is just as valuable to the Mason as to the non-Mason and is a book that I can recommend to any Brother wishing to learn more about the craft and not willing to spend the time to research the multitude of categories it covers. Just keep the title covered when traveling.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°, was formerly Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He is Executive Secretary for the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and the book reviewer for *The Northern Light*.



Health Wise

ideas
for
health
and
fitness



Sleep apnea and strokes

Doctors at the Yale Center for Sleep Medicine have found that people with obstructive sleep apnea have twice the risk of strokes as steady breathers.

People with mild apnea may waken four or five times an hour. Those with severe apnea may wake up every 30 seconds, often without becoming fully conscious. It's a cycle of oxygen deprivation; adrenaline-fueled waking to restore breathing; an increase in blood pressure from the adrenaline; then a return to sleep.

The cycles lead to inflammation and clogging of the arteries. Over time, they could lead to stroke and death.

Kids' throats and strep

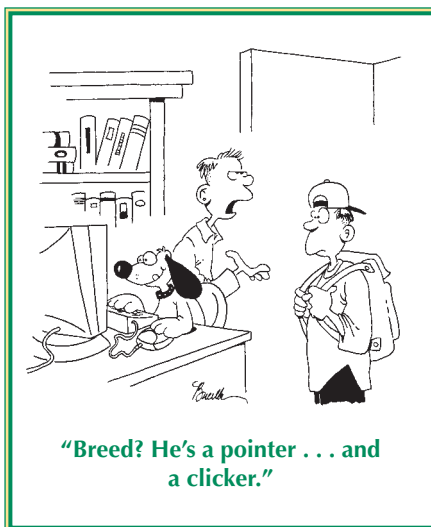
Researchers at Harvard Medical School say 53 percent of kids with sore throats aren't given a test for strep before antibiotics are given. Antibiotics effective against strep include penicillin, amoxicillin, and erythromycin. Antibiotics won't work on a sore throat that is caused by a virus.

Dental care: good investment

If you visit your dentist on a regular basis, you are doing yourself a favor in four ways. First, you are saving your teeth so you can chew properly, which is an important factor in nutrition.

Second, when you visit your dentist, he or she can check your gums. Periodontal disease can result in lost teeth and is a significant factor in heart disease. Periodontal bacteria can lead to blood clots, increasing the risk for heart attack and stroke.

People with diabetes should be particularly watchful for periodontal dis-



ease. They are more prone to infection, and periodontal disease makes it more difficult to stabilize blood glucose levels.

Third, properly caring for your teeth results in big financial savings in the future. Root canals, bridge work, dental implants, and dentures can cost thousands of dollars.

Fourth, by properly caring for your teeth, you will ultimately save yourself a lot of pain and inconvenience.

Handle hamburger correctly

When meat is ground, much more of it is exposed to harmful bacteria. That's one reason to cook hamburger thoroughly. Don't depend on appearance. A patty can turn brown before it reaches the safe temperature of 160 degrees. Other tips from the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

- Keep it cold. Buy hamburger just before you leave the store. Refrigerate or freeze when you get home.
- Store ground beef at 40 degrees or less and use within two days.

- Well-wrapped frozen hamburger will keep indefinitely, but is best if used within four months.
- Never put cooked hamburgers on the same plate that held raw patties. Never reuse the packaging materials.
- Don't partially cook ground beef to use later. This allows harmful bacteria to survive to the point where subsequent cooking may not destroy them.

You can get a cold if you are chilled

Though infectious disease specialists have long said that getting chilled or having cold, wet feet can't give you a cold, research proves they are wrong.

Studies at Cardiff University's Common Cold Centre in Britain show that chills can lower the nose's natural defenses and unleash latent viruses. They say we all carry cold viruses, but respiratory defenses keep them in check.

For everyone you see with a cold, there are two or three who have a sub-clinical infection. It's those people who are prone to developing a common cold when they are chilled, say the researchers.

Lose a pound and save your knees

Even small amounts of weight loss can improve knee function, especially in osteoarthritic adults.

Each pound you lose means four less pounds of pressure on your knee joints, say researchers at Wake Forest University.

Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight pays off in pain reduction.

NEW MEMBERSHIP VIDEO RELEASED

In late December more than 30 Ohio Masons met at the Perrysburg Masonic Temple and took part in the creation of a new membership tool.

The result of their effort is a DVD aimed at new and prospective members.

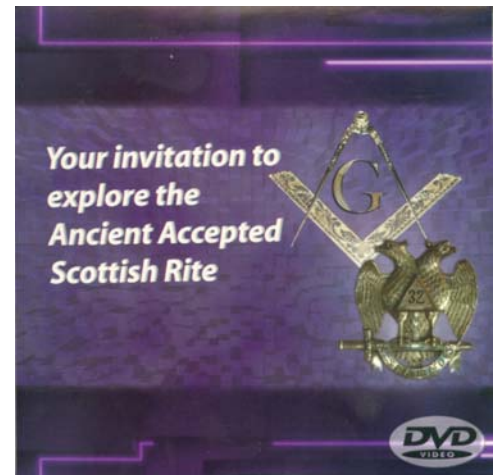
The video program features Ill. Charles Murphy, 33°, speaking casually, explaining the tenets and purposes of Freemasonry.

Also included in the program

are additional lodge Brothers sharing their love of the craft and relating stories of the impact it has had on themselves and their families.

The DVD is one component of a kit to be provided to initiates and also includes local contact information and an explanation of the Scottish Rite.

Members wishing to acquire a set of kits for their lodge should contact the local Scottish Rite Valley Secretary.



2006 Valley Incentive Program Offers Computer Equipment

For the second straight year the Supreme Council is offering a significant incentive to Valleys to initiate new U.S. Bank Scottish Rite Visa cards. In the spirit of friendly competition each Valley will contest with the others in a race to generate the largest number of new cards.

This year Valleys have been segmented into four brackets, based on membership. The top three Valleys in each bracket will win their share of computer equipment, which includes

flat screen monitors, printers, and barcode scanners. Although the contest is between Valleys, our charities are the real winners as royalty fees from the start-up and usage of every account goes directly to them.

To learn more about what your Valley is doing to win this equipment, contact your Valley Secretary. For more information about the only card that gives back to your Scottish Rite Charities, go to www.supremecouncil.org/visa.

Last Year's Incentive Program Results

The 2005 Valley Incentive Program which was launched to promote the new U.S. Bank Scottish Rite Visa cards was a huge success. Last year the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction was divided into five brackets allowing Valleys to compete against similar-sized Valleys. A spirited competition between Valleys resulted. After months of effort by all Valleys the final standings were as follows:

Membership

Less than 1,000
1,000 to 1,999
2,000 to 2,999
3,000 to 4,999
Greater than 4,999

Valley

Portsmouth-Dover, NH
Rockville Centre, NY
Youngstown, OH
Toledo, OH
Boston, MA



VIEWS

FROM THE PAST

Freedom of Discussion Should Be Encouraged

Addressing the Grand Lodge of New Zealand after his installation in the Wellington Town Hall on November 26, M.W. Bro. Cuthbert Taylor said he believed the greatest possible freedom of discussion of Masonic subjects should be not merely grudgingly tolerated but should be actively encouraged.

It would be a good thing for the craft if the generality of the Brethren could be induced to think about and talk about Masonic matters.

He strongly disagreed with the view expressed in Masonic circles that lodges of research discussed matters which would better be left undiscussed. Everything expressed in the ritual should be open to the fullest and frankest expression of opinion and the same applied to the Constitution and Laws of Grand Lodge.

He expressed the hope that during his term of office the lodges of research would receive greater encouragement and added that there was something wrong with any organization that was unable to stand up to the fullest investigation of its teachings and beliefs.

— H. L. Gaston,
The West Australian Craftsman,
February 1959

Freemasonry in the Crisis of Our Times

Of one thing we can be sure, crisis is no stranger to us. It has been with us many times before, and it will be with us many times more within our lifetimes. Therefore, the first order of business in dealing with crisis is to organize our lives, and our fraternity to cope with it. Presumably we have anticipated adversity in times of our prosperity and made provision for it. Now, is the time for us to put these plans into action.

Regrettably, most persons never do today what they can put off until tomorrow and in like manner believe during prosperity that crisis will never return. But, it always does return. And, it always will.

But, so does prosperity return. It always has and it always will. Freemasonry has survived the crises of the past and it will survive the crisis of our time. It is the acid test of Brotherhood. Like marriage, initiation into Freemasonry is "for better or for worse." Perhaps we have enjoyed the "better," now, we must endure the "worst."

For Freemasonry to cope with the crisis of our time, the welfare of the fraternity must take priority over that of its members. Its members come and go with the passing of time, but the

lodge must continue if it is to survive the crisis and be ready to serve Freemasons of the future.

Retrenchment in money-spending activities and their replacement with inspirational programs sponsored by the members instead of the lodge should be a first step toward morale building and cost cutting.

Developing a competitive generosity among members to give to the lodge rather than ask from it, whatever each Freemason may best be able to give. During prosperity lodges have consistently provided refreshment to give a home-like incentive for Brethren to gather and experience a most pleasant camaraderie. Now, it is incumbent upon those who have enjoyed the hospitality of the lodge in prosperity to undertake the continuance of the lodge in adversity.

Our Brotherhood must be able to "roll with the punches," outlive the crisis, and aim for the future. Every Freemason is a part of the fraternal team. Your contribution of time, effort, material means, and, most of all, constructive suggestion is needed and most welcome.

— Raymond E. Wilmarth,
The Far Eastern Freemason,
Vol. 66, No. 3, Jul-Sep 1984



A Family Affair

An American paper reports the final admission into the craft by a father of six of his sons on the same lodge night, and this with another son already a member makes eight Brethren by nature and by craft science.

In England such an event could only take place by dispensation for our limit, very wisely, is two for any degree at the same time. This limit would have entailed the fa-

ther working the degree on three occasions. An imaginative Brother who showed me the report presumed that the event recorded was an indication of why lodges in the U.S.A. are so large. The prospect of seven W. M.'s in succession bearing the same surname is alluring and piquant according to our ideas.

— "Observer,"
The Masonic Record,
December 1927

Personal Differences

In view of the obligations which Freemasons are under, one to another, we would suppose it almost impossible for Brethren to entertain ill-feeling toward one another; and truly they did not when our membership was fired with the holy determination to observe and faithfully execute our laws, and live together in the enjoyment of the pure and heavenly spirit of fraternity.

But things have changed, and we have changed with them. Freemasonry is not now the pure creature that it was when its members had the interest of the institution at heart, and felt assured that upon their good conduct and brotherly kindness depended the ultimate success of the glorious enterprise.

It is established upon a firm basis, that they do not think it necessary to exercise brotherly kindness towards a Brother; or that their good conduct has anything to do with the great final triumph which awaits Freemasonry or that a moral course of conduct is necessary to maintain the respectability and purity of the institution.

"We are not in the habit of crying out that there is no longer any good in the order but we believe that there is not a proportionate amount of good in the institution, when we compare the present with the past. The plain halls, and plain men, few in numbers, have all passed away, and now quite a different state of things exist. Look around at the stately edifices, reared to our excellent tenants. Examine our statistics, and see the immense number of names inscribed upon our roll-books.

"We do not find any fault with these; but ask the Brethren to look around them carefully and see how often they are at variance with each other, and then permit us to inquire whether we are all moved by the same spirit that actuated Freemasons years ago?

We must love one another if we would have others to love and respect us; and we speak pointedly in regard to brothers cherishing ill-feeling towards each other, or forming factions or parties in subordinate or Grand Lodges.

Men should never disagree, let alone Freemasons, yet we all know that perfection cannot be looked for in an institution purely human, we cannot hope to escape having differences among us now and then; for we cannot disrobe ourselves of our depraved natures altogether, and exercise love towards one another at all times.

We can all labor, after differences have occurred, to reconcile the parties, and try to restore them to a proper state of feeling toward each other as men and Masons. A soft word turneth away anger, and he who affects a reunion of severed hearts, will certainly receive his reward here and hereafter.

We are prone to err; all do err; all must some time or other be forgiven, and why not forgive? There is nothing weak in admitting that we have been wrong; it does not lessen us in the estimation of God or man.

Then why will you not be reconciled at once, forget all animosities, and live together as the great Creator hath designed. But one says, "I will forgive just as soon as I am asked to, but not before, and just as soon as the hand is extended to me I will not refuse it."

We would ask the Brother reasoning thus if he ever did wrong, and he must certainly answer "Yes." He who knows that he has done wrong, is conscious that he may do wrong again; and we entreat you, knowing these things to be so, that you may teach your erring Brother by your kindness in extending to him a Brother's hand, and there is nothing weak or unmanly in forgiving.

He is certainly the best man who makes the first advance toward a reconciliation, no matter under what circumstances it takes place.

There is something so beautiful in a man's acknowledging an error, and it gives such a glorious earnest of better in the future, that we never look upon a man performing this action without wishing his happiness was our own; and he surely reaps a blessing that the unforgiving can never enjoy.

— Frank R. Newell
The Ohio Freemason,
May 1891

Quick Quotes

Conflict cannot survive without your participation

— Wayne Dyer

Low self-esteem is like driving through life with your hand-break on.

— Maxwell Maltz

In prosperity, our friends know us. In adversity, we know our friends.

— John Churton Collins

Labor to keep alive that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.

— George Washington

There is no power on earth that can neutralize the influence of a high, simple, and useful life.

— Booker T. Washington

Stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong.

— Abraham Lincoln

An optimist sees an opportunity in every calamity; a pessimist sees a calamity in every opportunity.

— Winston Churchill

Your future is created by what you do today, not tomorrow.

— Robert Kiyosaki

No one would ever have crossed the ocean if he could have gotten off the ship in a storm.

— Charles Kettering

Win as if you were used to it. Lose as if you enjoyed it for a change.

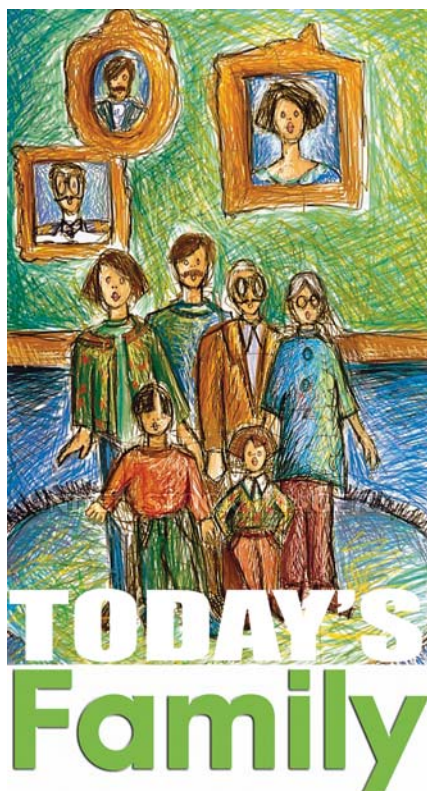
— Eric Golnli

Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing.

— Albert Schweitzer

It was character that got us out of bed, commitment that moved us into action, and discipline that enabled us to follow through.

— Zig Zaglar



Brighten paneling

If you're tired of the dark-colored paneling in your recreation room, dining room, or den, painting it a light color will do wonders to brighten the area. Here's how to do it successfully.

- Buy a quart or two of degreaser at a paint supply store. Wash the walls with it to remove grease, wax, and cigarette smoke. These substances could bleed through a light color of paint.
- If the paneling is very smooth, rough it up a little with sandpaper.
- Apply a primer. Save yourself the trouble of applying two coats of paint afterward by having the primer mixed so it's the same color as the paint.
- If the paneling has grooves, apply the primer and paint with a paint pad so the grooves will be evenly painted.

Dry cleaning at home

Wouldn't it be nice to dry clean your clothes at home? Unfortunately, most home dry-cleaning products have faded out of the marketplace, probably because they weren't very effective.

If you want a quick freshener of your clothes between dry-cleaner vis-

its, tumbling them in the dryer with a damp cloth and a fabric softener sheet for 30 minutes will do just about as well as the home dry-cleaning products. The garments look fresh, ready to wear, and have a light, pleasant fragrance.

Seed starting success

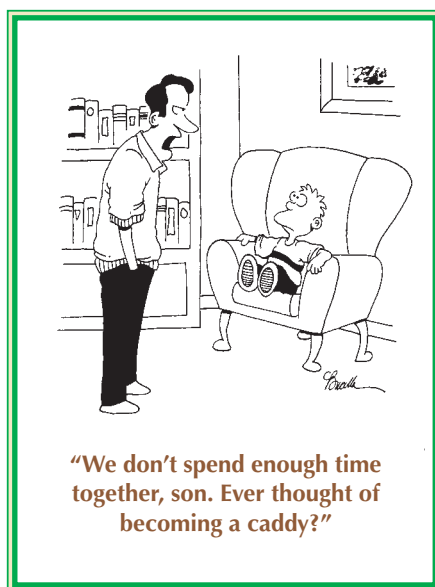
- Soaking vegetable or flower seeds in water (no longer than 24 hours) softens their hard coats, triggering germination. Plant immediately after taking them out of water.
- Seeds of many flowers benefit from being cooled in the refrigerator four to 12 hours before planting. In a plastic bag, mix with a dampened mixture of perlite or vermiculite. Seal the bag.

Add a deck

Adding or upgrading an outdoor deck is one of the most popular home improvements. The deck is a valued spot for relaxing, dining, holding parties, or entertaining friends.

Builders recommend that the deck should be no larger than one-third of the size of the main floor. Smaller decks, however, can be very attractive and enjoyable.

The climate in your area and the views you'll see are the major factors to consider when deciding where to place your deck. A north-side deck may be the coolest location. Southern or western orientations may be too warm in the middle of the summer unless the deck is in a shaded area.



Though wood is most often used for decking, new engineered decking may be easier to maintain and last longer. It's particularly true in areas of high humidity and frequent rain or snow.

Engineered decking is made of everything from sawdust to plastic to peanut shells. It tends to be more stable and wears better than wood.

Fast garden soil test

You can do a quick soil test by picking up a handful of slightly moist soil (not wet) and closing your hand around it. Watch the soil when you open your hand. If it falls apart immediately, it's sandy. If it holds its shape briefly, then crumbles into small chunks, it's loam. If it stays in a ball and shows the impression of your fingers, it's clay.

Window box encourages reading

This window box is not for flowers. You can encourage learning by mounting a light-weight window box on the wall of your child's room. Fill it with favorite colorful books that can easily be seen and selected.

Window boxes also make good storage places for toys and stuffed animals.

Kids think 'inside the box'

You always knew that little kids seem to like the box more than the toy. Now it's official. The National Toy Hall of Fame has given the cardboard box an honored place in its exhibit.

At the Parents' Choice Foundation people wonder why it took so long. They say the Jack-in-the-Box and Candyland, which were both enshrined on the same day as the box, were never as attractive to kids.

Maybe it's the smell of cardboard that they find so attractive, but it's more likely to be the endless possibilities of a big box. A child can get away from mom and dad, sister, and brother for hours in a box. *USA Today's* Craig Wilson says his box became a little crowded when his collie and the neighbor kid got in with him, but he didn't mind.

Strategic Plan for 32° Masons

Unless a navigator charts a course, how can he possibly know where he and his crew are headed? So, too, any organization that hopes to survive well into the future must draw up a vision and mission statement to insure a safe journey on a proper course.

The Strategic Planning/State of the Rite Committee of the Supreme Council, 33°, has prepared vision and mission statements as well as strategies to carry out the goals.

The committee, which has the reputation of being the "think tank" for the Supreme Council, meets on a regular basis to evaluate the current plan and to make recommendations for change.

Strategic Plans have been in place for many years and the current plan, revised in January 2006, will be reviewed again in May 2006. The entirety of the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan is available on line through the Supreme Council website, www.supremecouncil.org/valleyresources.

The Vision of 32° Masonry as set forth in the most recently approved plan reads as follows:

Thirty-Second Degree Masonry must be an organization that is effectively managed by highly motivated men with vision and leadership skills. It must be attractive to men of good character, well understood and embraced by the family, and which, through financial strength, ultimately makes a positive impact on the quality of life and the reinforcement of high moral values in a global society.

The Mission of the fraternity is composed of five parts wherein the future has been charted to:

- **Improve the individual character, leadership, and spirit through relevant programs**
- **Inspire men to support the principles of the organization**
- **Promote family and community values**
- **Strengthen and promote Symbolic Masonry and the Masonic Way of Life through its worldwide Brotherhood**

- **Serve mankind through the impact of its extensive charitable outreach**

In order to realize the vision and mission statements, the Committee has devised eight strategies, each of which is divided in several sections, called objectives. Those eight strategies are set forth as follows:

- 1. Be attractive to Masonic Brethren**
- 2. Build closer working relationships with Grand Lodges and other Masonic-based organizations**
- 3. Be an organization that is managed effectively**
- 4. Be led by men with leadership skills**
- 5. Be recognized as a fraternal organization committed to philanthropy and community service**
- 6. Be active in the community at large**
- 7. Be endorsed by the entire family**
- 8. Be financially strong to accomplish the long-range mission**

Although the committee will monitor all of the strategic initiatives, several plan objectives have been identified as top priority for 2006. Among them are:

- **To expand both image-building & marketing programs**
- **To expand financial development & fund-raising programs**
- **To assure steady learning center network expansion**

Valley and Council of Deliberation Secretaries have been requested to review and to update their respective strategic plans and to forward them along to Supreme Council headquarters.

The committee invites all 32° Masons to forward reactions both pro and con relating to the various elements of the Strategic Plan to the attention of Ill. Richard B. Burgess, 33°, **Recorder for the Strategic Planning Committee, P.O. Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519** or by e-mail, rburgess@supremecouncil.org.

Your helpful comments will be shared with the committee at its next meeting.

READERS



RESPOND

Familiar Face

I'm writing to you because I have a story that you might find interesting. I am the office manager of the Scottish Rite in Portland, OR, and we receive *The Northern Light*. Imagine my surprise when I saw the back cover of the February issue and saw a photo of my "significant other," who lives in Oregon and is a member of the Portland Valley.



Garlen "Spike" Selmyhr is retired now but dabbles as a model and is an occasional actor. I have spotted him in several ads and billboards, and thought you might get a kick out of knowing that the man whose photo you selected for your magazine is indeed a true Mason in every sense of the word.

Cecille Kelly
Portland, OR

Beethoven Still Popular

In "Beethoven's Ninth" (February 2006) you made mention of Leonard Bernstein changing the words of the Ninth Symphony to "Ode to Freedom" when he conducted the Berlin Philharmonic. The story is true. I was driving to Berlin on Christmas 1989 when I heard the live performance on the radio. The words did not sound correct — "Freiheit" instead of "Freude." Upon returning home I saw the CD cover of the performance and it all made sense.

Ralph G. W. Lamy, 32°
Valley of Springfield, MA



I just finished reading "Beethoven's Ninth (February 2006) and had to drop you a note telling you just how much I enjoyed it. I found it informative, interesting, and just exciting. I could almost hear the music as I read it.

Kenneth G. Leib, 32°
Valley of Rockville Centre

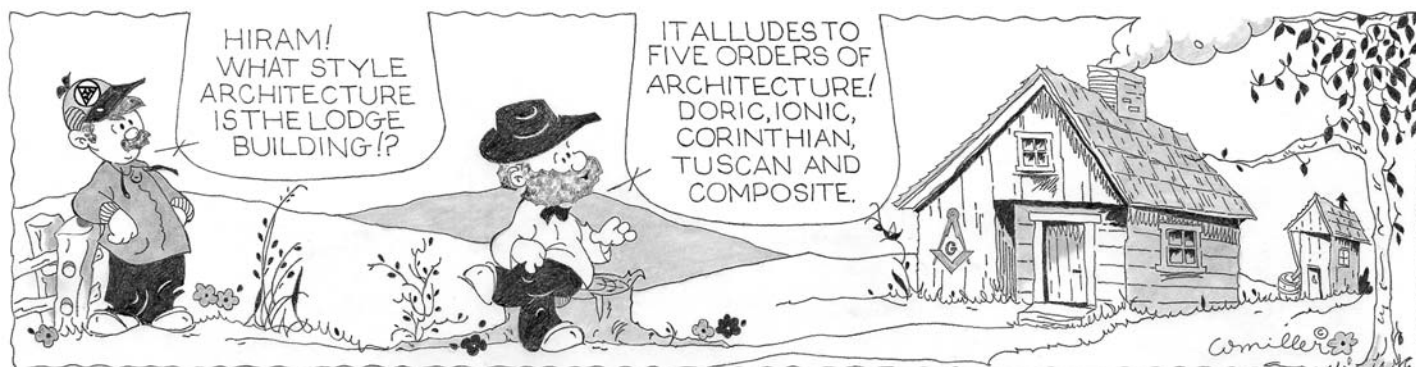
On the Lighter Side

Church bulletin:

- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- This afternoon services will be held at the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- The Little Mothers Club will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday. All wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the minister in his private study.
- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- Next week we will take a collection to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet should come forward and get a piece of paper.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement today.
- A bean supper will be held on Thursday evening. Music will follow.
- The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*

* **Tributes.** Expressions of sympathy have been pouring in to the Supreme Council headquarters from all corners of the earth. Our late Sovereign Grand Commander was highly respected by Masons throughout the world. It was his pleasing personality and friendly greeting that resonated with those he met. It should have been no surprise the so many people came long distances to attend the memorial service for Commander Webber.

During the 20th century there were three instances of the death of a presiding Sovereign Grand Commander. The first was Ill. **Henry L. Palmer**, 33°, who passed away at the age of 90 on May 7, 1909. He had presided for nearly 30 years (1879-1909) and had been an Active Member for 45 years. The Wisconsin Mason was actively involved in the Union of 1867, during which two Supreme Councils in the Northern United States merged. Because of failing health he submitted his resignation several weeks before his death.

Sovereign Grand Commander **Leon M. Abbott**, 33°, assumed command at the annual meeting of 1921. He was elected an Active Member and Deputy for Massachusetts in 1909, the year of Ill. Brother Palmer's death. He became Sovereign Grand Commander in September 1921 and served in that capacity until his death on Oct. 10, 1932. He closed the September 1932 session with these words: "It may be that we shall not all meet again." Less than three weeks later, while at the peak of his Masonic career, the Grand Commander died. He left a legacy that established the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Fund.

At the Supreme Council annual meeting in 1965, Sovereign Grand Commander **George E. Bushnell**, 33°, presided over the conferral of

the 33° on the evening of Sept. 30. He later retired to his hotel room for the evening. The following morning those in attendance learned of his passing during the night. Ill. Brother Bushnell was elected an Active Member in 1934 and became Grand Lieutenant Commander in 1945. With the unanticipated resignation of Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin M. Johnson, 33°, in December 1953, Ill. Brother Bushnell assumed command and continued to serve for eleven years.

* **New Commander.** This is indeed a very difficult time at the Supreme Council headquarters. The staff was busy fulfilling the goals set down by the Sovereign Grand Commander. The loss could have created a vacuum. Yet the Grand Lieutenant Commander, Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, realizes that the shoes he must fill are large ones and is prepared to step into his new role. He has assured the staff that he plans to carry forward the goals established by his predecessor, and we wish him well in his new assignment.

* **Twain award.** In the last issue we brought to your attention the new Masonic awareness program announced by the Masonic Information Center, an arm of the Masonic Service Association. Details of the program were highlighted in the April issue of the *Short Talk Bulletin*. The award was developed to encourage local Masonic lodges to develop plans that will heighten Masonic awareness within the lodge and throughout the local community.

Lodges should submit a letter of intent by June 1. This will allow participating lodges to be part of a networking resource to share ideas.

Full details appear on the MSA website: msana.com/twainaward.

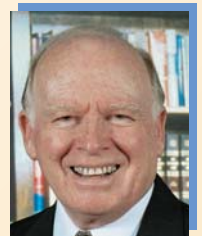
* **Book business.** We continue to receive rave reviews for the National Heritage Museum's latest book, *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities*. Written by Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, former curator at the museum, the book is a treasure trove of information about the many fraternal association that developed as an outgrowth of the Masonic fraternity. It is also a sociological study of the reasons why men have joined over the years.

The book is available through the museum's Heritage Shop. Ordering information appears on page 13 of this issue.

* **Index.** Every five years we compile an index of material that has appeared in *The Northern Light*. Copies of the indexes are available on request. The most recent index covers the issues from 2000-2004. Copies of a limited number of past issues of the magazine are also available.

Information about past issues and indexes should be addressed to: *The Northern Light*, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420, or via e-mail: editor@supremecouncil.org.

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RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor

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Lexington, MA 02420

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