

THE RAMBLER

A newsletter of

SWOPE PARK MASONIC LODGE # 617 AF & AM

Vol. 2005 Issue 2 April-June 2005

Our 94th year

Constituted November 1, 1911

WB Bob Harman, Master PM WB Don Hurlbert, Secretary PM RWB Larry Cameron Treasurer PM
Senior Warden Gary Dryer Junior Warden WB Sergio Martinez PM
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The Master's Trestle Board

Robert Harmon WM

Brethren and friends,

It's been a fairly busy first several months of the New Year. We have had our official visit from the DDGM Dennis Spears and the District School of instruction held by our DDGL Glenn Burroughs. Both went well and were enjoyed by all. Many members of other Lodges attended which was nice to see.

I would like to say, once again, that the generosity of our members is so appreciated. The Building Association and the Lodge have received several donations and these really help. Thank you!

This edition of the Rambler is another example of brothers pitching in! Our editor Jim Payne has done a great job putting it together and the members of the Lodge have made several good article and content suggestions that we have, and will, incorporate into issues. Thanks to all who have contributed. If you have an idea for the Rambler let Jim know.

2005 is passing quicker than we realize! Members need to think of the future and start planning for the fall. I am specifically referring to offices for next year. We are going to need several members to step up and hold chairs some of which may have been held before. We have had some success finding new candidates for offices but need more. I encourage any brother interested in serving the Lodge to let your interest be known.

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SECRETARY'S DESK Don Hurlbert PM

The Lodge presented two 50 year certificates and pins Saturday, March 12th. (photos on page 5)

K. Forrest Mullikin
Cecil Thompson

As soon as they can be scheduled, we will present these brethren their 50 year awards:

James Cummins ✓
Kenneth Hyatt ✓
Larry Maple

We now have 45 fifty yr members. We also have 75 endowed members living, and 9 members who are deceased. Those are not additive as 19 of the endowed are also fifty year members.

We also have a 25 year Grand Lodge pin to award to WB Melvin Tacke during April.

Reported Sick and Distressed during March:

Don Matney
Charles Phillips
John Waggoner

Widows List

Please assist the Lodge in keeping track of the Widows of our deceased Brethren. Notify our Secretary, PM Don Hurlbert of updated name and address information of all known to you.

The Rest of the Story

By: RWB Larry Cameron

(This article is primarily based on the M.S.A.'s Short Talk Bulletin by Brother Robert Morris, Vol. 82, No. 12.)

Brother Israel Baline

Israel Baline was born on May 11, 1888 in a small town in Russia to Jewish parents. Under the tyrannical rule of Czar Alexander III, conditions deteriorated and Jews were an unwelcome people in Russia. "Izzy's" father, a Cantor in the local synagogue, had a relative in America so young Izzy and his parents fled for a life in the "Promised Land". They settled in a crowded tenement on the lower east side of Manhattan where Izzy's father found employment as a Kosher meat inspector. However soon after Izzy's father died and left his mother and her several children to fend for themselves. Although still in grade school, Izzy and the rest of his family took on many menial jobs, sold newspapers and sang on street corners in order to survive.

At age 16 Izzy became a singing waiter in one of Manhattan's many saloons. His musical exposure and background came to light as he began composing his own songs. He also became a self-taught piano player and the melodies he composed held the audience's attention. During his lifetime he would go on to write over a thousand songs, many of which you know and will be with us forever. In 1907 while still a
(continued page 2)

The Rest of the Story (continued)

teen he published his first piece, *Marie from Sunny Italy*. In 1911 he published *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, an immediate sensation which is still with us today.

Young Izzy's background had instilled in him a deep sense of tolerance and charity. When he was 22 years old he became a Mason, being raised in Munn Lodge No. 190, New York City on June 3, 1910. He also became a Scottish Rite 32° Mason and joined the Shrine the following year.

In 1912 he married Dorothy Goetz and while honeymooning in Cuba his beloved wife contracted typhoid fever and died only 5 months after their wedding. He wrote a popular song *When I lost You*, an indication of his personal loss. By 1917, the United States had entered WWI and Izzy was drafted into the Army for the duration of the war.

Coming from an entertainment background of being up until the wee hours of the morning he found Army life very difficult to adjust to. Having already been introduced to Broadway productions he conceived the idea of organizing an all-Army show. With his commander's approval he began work on the famous Army production *Yip! Yip! Yaphank*. It's most famous song was *Oh How I Hate to Get up in the Morning* wherein the hero of the production (himself) vowed to murder the bugler who was causing so much misery for the troops. The show and its theme song were a huge success and Izzy donated all its proceeds to charity.

After the war was over, Izzy was discharged and returned to producing Broadway shows, opening his own theater - *The Music Box*. In the early twenties he met and fell in love with Ellin MacKay, daughter of millionaire Clarence MacKay. The popular songs of his recent shows, *All Alone*, *Remember*, and *Always* were written for her. The MacKays were strict Roman Catholics and when her father found out she was going to marry a Russian Jew, he disowned her. Izzy and Ellin were married for over 60 years and neither changed their religions. As further evidence of Izzy's tolerance and compassion, and after his father-in-law lost everything in the crash of 1929, he loaned him over two million dollars, and the MacKays were eventually reconciled. Further examples of Izzy's

beliefs were the themes of some of his productions. The 1933 production of *As Thousands Cheer* featured the famous song *Easter Parade*, and in 1942 the movie *Holiday Inn* featured the famous song *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*. These Christian themes - written by a Jew - could not but demonstrate his recognition and acceptance of the values of other people's beliefs. In 1938 Izzy released his immortal *God Bless America* for the popular singer Kate Smith to sing on her radio show. All royalties from this song went to the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts and the Campfire Girls.

When the United States became embroiled in WWII Izzy again produced another all-Army show *This is the Army* featuring the songs *This is the Army*, *Mr. Jones* and again *Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning*. Once again the production was entirely staffed by active duty soldiers except for Izzy, who was the star of the show, attired in his WWI uniform. The show was a rousing success and toured the US and various fighting fronts overseas. At that time the military was still segregated but Izzy insisted that the entire cast, both black and white be housed and transported together, insisting that no segregation of their activities be permitted.

After WWII, Izzy continued to write and produce Broadway shows, but like the rest of us, his advancing years caused his activities to start declining. Although he was now 74 years of age, in 1962 he produced his final Broadway show *Mr. President*. The new President John F. Kennedy and his wife attended the opening night's performance. Tributes not only came from the audiences, but also from his fellow artists.

Izzy now began to spend his life in semi-reclusion and did not even attend a 100th birthday celebration at Carnegie Hall held in his honor in 1988. His beloved Ellin died that year and Brother Izzy made the journey to "that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens" the following year at age 101. The Baline's had been married for 62 years and brother Izzy had been a Mason for 79 years. Izzy had been heard to say that he became a Mason "because I knew that Masonry would stimulate my ability to harmonize with my fellow men". Many of us today still fondly remember the songs and shows created by this truly remarkable man. Now I am sure that

some of the history mentioned here has sparked some remembrance in many of you but you may be wondering Israel (Izzy) Baline?..... I can't seem to recall that name. Let me assure you that most will remember him, for at an early age Izzy changed his name for an Americanized version of Israel Baline. Thus the world came to know and love brother Irving Berlin, renowned composer, lyricist, producer and publisher.....and now you know the rest of the story.



A Mason and A Man

C.E. Reynolds, Delta Kansas

My Brother, Masonry means much more than wearing a pin, or carrying a paid up dues receipt so the Lodge will let you in. You may wear an emblem on your coat, From your finger flash a ring, but if you're not sincere at heart this doesn't mean a thing. It's merely an outward sign to show that you belong to this fraternal brotherhood that teaches right from wrong. What really counts lies buried deep within the human breast til Masonic teaching brings it out and puts it to the test. If you practice out of Lodge the things you learn within, be just and upright to yourself and to your fellow man; console a brother when he's sick or assist him when in need, without a thought of personal gain for any act or deed. Walk and act in such a way that the world without can see that none but the best can meet the test laid down by Masonry: Always live up to your trust and do the best you can, then you can proudly tell the world you're a MASON and A MAN.



In Memoriam

Carl A. Morgan
Born Nov 20, 1924
Raised May 16, 1976
Passed away Feb 20 2005

Richard P. Anderson
Born Sept 25, 1941
Raised June 3, 1991
Passed away Mar 11, 2005

April anniversaries Years

Edward	Pugh	55
Robert	Logan	52
Billy	Haynes	51
Harold	Keeling	51
Robert	Nickell	51
Kenneth	Scott	51
Kenneth	Hyatt	50
Edward	Arenson	46
Glenn	Rogers	46
Carl	Younts	46
Nolan	Henry	44
Ervin	Huebner	44
Gary	Hanson	43
Stephen	Allison	34
Melvin	Tacke	25
William	Compton	16
Robert	Johnson	16
Ralph	Smith	14
Robert	Hilliard	13
Keith	Wren	8
James	Brown	5
Gary	Hedrick	5
Warren	Luttrell	5
William	Wheatcraft	5
Ricky	Glover	3

May Years

Finis	Montgomery	62
Howard	Harris	59
Cletus	Losh	57
Herbert	Vendig	54
Herbert	Phillips	53
Jack	Cooper	51
James	Cummins	51
Roy	Stone	51
Warren	Weston	
Edwin	Burr	49
Russell	Wirt	47
David	Christman	39
Lawrence	Cameron	36
Harvey	Fisher	33
James	Pinson	33
Gary	Leftridge	29
Gerald	Mac Dougal	29
Carl	Morgan	29
Phillip	Small	29
David	Brown	27

Free to members. Place your Want Ad in the RAMBLER.

May anniversaries (cont.)

Fred	Aichele	26
Sergio	Martinez	19
Vernon	Hilliard	15
Merle	Teer	14
Jewel	Trussell	12
Dean	Bezingue	11
David	Irvin	10
Philip	Realing	7
Guy	Hasselbring	6

June Years

Jacob	Jenkins	58
Harry	Smalley	58
Robert	Thomas	56
Rick	Van Doren	56
Robert	Fletchall	50
Glenn	Harrison	50
Charles	Weedman	50
Willard	Heidbrink	49
Harry	Williams	48
Harold	Jordan	44
Harry	Albert	43
Albert	Himegarner	43
Nelson	Ruff	29
James	Payne	26
Ellis	Tedlock	26
Gary	Barron	24
Robert	Harman	24
Preston	Pemberton	21
Lawrence	Rieder	21
John	Payne	15
Richard	Anderson	14
Richard	Rader	14
Billy	Smith	12
Neil	Clark	3

Have news about members, appendant organizations or articles of interest you would like to place in the Rambler? Please send them to Jim Payne, Editor, 1001 Spruce drive, Greenwood, MO 64034, fax (816) 623 9078 or e-mail DSMAZDAD@hotmail.com.

New Swope Park Member
Johnny Nimec was voted in as a duel member at the March 10th stated meeting.

Classified Ads
For Sale
30 gallon, 6 HP, Craftsman Professional Series Air Compressor \$200. Call 350-8229
Bob Harmon

FROM THE SOUTH
Sergio Martinez, PM
Junior Warden



Are you a "CHANCE TO ADVANCE CLASS" Mason? Is so; this article is of particular interest to you. When you went through the one-day class with several other brethren you had the chance of experiencing a little of what the Masonic fraternity is about.

But, what you did not experience at that time was the knowledge, the excitement and the ritual that makes every degree so special in nature. Well, now your lodge is in the process of offering you the opportunity, as an individual, if you so desire, to go through the 2nd and third degrees the customary way and receive the full benefit of these degrees. There is no memory work, there is no money involved, but there is plenty of Masonic Ritual to enhance your knowledge of the fraternity, and there is the enjoyment of going through this great experience that hundreds of masons have gone through. The only requirement on your part is your desire as an individual to want to experience what thousands of Masons have done to obtain their degrees. Call and let us know that you want to go through the degrees the customary way. We meet the second and fourth Thursday each month and will set aside a specific date within your schedule. This is a wonderful way for you to learn more of what you missed on your first contact with the Masonic family. Remember that hundreds of thousands of Masons before you received their degrees the customary way, that is what makes our fraternity the greatest, the largest and oldest in the WORLD. Think about this. Call soon,

THE NUMBER AND PERSON TO CALL FOR SCHEDULING IS: Sergio Martinez
PH 816 763 0875

NOTICE

The Lodge is in need of an updated computer to better maintain our membership and financial data. If you have a computer or lap top not in use, why not consider donating it to the lodge? Your donation is tax deductible and would greatly assist the Secretary and Treasurer with their work load.



Installation of Officers Oct. 2, 2004. (L) WB Robert Harman, Master (R), Installing Marshal WB Frank Chester, PM



Assisting afterwards with refreshments. DeMolay Chapter Members (from left to right) Alex Barnes, Danny Best, Charles Sun and Jake Balance



William F. Kuhn DeMolay

Danny Best, Jr. Councilor

The Chapter has been very active the last few months. During Christmas the boys adopted a nine year old little girl and bought presents for her. After Scottish Rite dinners they washed dishes. The boys also served drinks and cleaned tables at East Gate lodge Sunday lunches. During the Ararat Shrine oldies car auction, they pushed cars through to keep exhaust fumes to a minimum.

New Officers this year are: Charles Sun, Master Councilor, William Caldwell, Senior Councilor and Danny Best, Junior Councilor.

With the addition of ten new members over the last six months, the chapter's membership now totals twenty young men.

February 26th, William F Kuhn Chapter had a very successful Mason and Youth Bowling Tournament.

Upcoming events: April 9th, DeMolay will provide a flag ceremony for Royal Arch Masons at Swope Park Lodge.

We invite everyone to come to any of our meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

(Master's Word continued)

Come on out and get involved! We'd love to see you.

As always, it is an honor to serve you as Master. We wish more Brethren could attend our meetings and help steer the Lodge but we know all cannot. I am especially grateful to our Secretary, Don Hurlbert who arranges the 50-year pin presentations and does such a great job with the certificates. I enjoy so much honoring those members who have achieved 50 years and letting them know, personally, how much we appreciate them.

If there is anything we can do for you please let us know!

Fraternally,

Bob Harman

Worshipful Master



MASONIC HOME OF MISSOURI

The Masonic Home provides Financial Assistance to MO Master Masons and Missouri female members of the Eastern Star in good standing though the Outreach Program? The Outreach Program provides financial assistance to individuals living in their own apartments, at the Masonic Residential Living Facility in Kansas City and other facilities. Financial assistance is still available even if you move out of state. The Masonic Home provides financial assistance to residents living at the Missouri residential Care Facility in Kansas City. For more information, contact Warren Weston, PM, Masonic Home Lodge Liaison Officer (816) 816-524-1180

MAY IS MASONIC SERVICE MONTH

WM Bob Harmon requested that Lodge members contribute canned goods to REAP, the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program, as in years past. Please bring canned goods or any non-perishable food items when attending Lodge April 14th and 28th

A collection box will be placed down in Shotwell Hall for your donation

Happy Birthday!!

Brother John G. Waggoner

95 years Young

Warren Weston, PM

Born June 19, 1910 in Lyons, Kansas, John has resided in Kansas City since 1919 and graduated from Northeast HS in 1927. He furthered his education at Rockhurst Junior College and later earned his LLB degree from the Kansas City School of Law in 1931. Though the years he has been in Cub Scout leadership over seventeen years, a past-president of the KC Chapter of Interstate Commerce and a member of Delta NY Alpha, a transportation fraternity. John worked for Conoco Oil company for several years. Brother John was raised a MM in Swope Park Lodge December 27, 1979. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite and Ararat Shrine. He is a member of the Unity Church of Independence. John presently resides at the Western Missouri Masonic home.

Swope Park Lodge honors 50 year members



K. Forrest Mullikin receives his 50 year pin from his wife, June, Saturday March 12th at their home. WM Bob Harmon and WB Don Hurlbert, lodge secretary presented Brother Mulliken his Grand Lodge certificate and pin moments earlier. Brother Mullikin was raised March 10, 1955.



Brother Cecil Thompson (sitting) receiving his Grand Lodge certificate and pin from WM Bob Harmon (right) and WB Don Hurlbert (center) Lodge Secretary Saturday, March 12th. Brother Thompson was raised January 29, 1955.



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