

THE RAMBLER

A Newsletter of

SWOPE PARK MASONIC LODGE # 617 AF & AM

Vol. 2007 Issue 2

April-June 2007

Our 96th year

Constituted November 1, 1911

Master WB Gary Dryer, Senior Warden Ken Best Sr. Junior Warden Johnnie Nemecek

RWB Larry Cameron Treasurer PM WB Warren Weston Secretary PM

8521 Oldham Rd Kansas City, Missouri 64138

Regular Stated Meetings monthly
Second and Fourth Thursday 7:30 PM



Master's Trestle Board

WB Gary Dryer, WM

I would first like to take this opportunity to thank all the brethren, family, and friends for their help and support during this rough time that my family has gone thru. With all of your support our loss was bearable and our strength was renewed. I want to also send a special thanks to Kenny and Connie Best for their help at the lodge setting up and serving refreshments to all our guests after the funeral. It's always good to have the **BEST** in the kitchen.

Our Chips program held at the lodge was not as big of a success as we had hoped, but the weather, unfortunately, played a big role in keeping the numbers down. The fellowship between all the fraternal bodies was very enjoyable and we had all the help anyone could have wanted. Thanks to all of you who turned out to help. A special thanks goes to Brother Bob Nelson, who as a dentist, took the dental impressions, and also joined our lodge as multiple member. Welcome and thank you so much. We will be sponsoring a couple more Chips events this year hopefully we will have more success with them.

We're working hard to get our Entered Apprentices to step up and finish their degrees. With six or seven of these young men needing to finish up, these numbers would be beneficial in the future of our lodge. Brother Jim Payne is actively working to get a hold of them and trying to help them any way possible. I encourage everyone to find and ask that special someone and encourage him to join our fraternity. Our numbers must grow and everyone's active participation is encouraged. My goals and expectations are lagging and our growth is slow. Our ritual is hurting due to the lack of degree work needed.

Our sponsorship of the youth groups is going steadily forward and our bond is stronger than ever. Wm. F. Kuhn DeMolay leads the west side of the state in their endeavors. They are working nonstop to be the best and with our continued support they will remain number one. By summers end our Job Daughters Club should be up and running and hopefully by my terms end we will have our Bethel chartered and

Our Squires are up and running and continuing to gain momentum. We are also actively seeking to get Rainbow Girl's Assembly, which would round out the youth groups attending here.

All of the officers of this lodge are working above and beyond their call of duty. Once again I am reminded why I became a mason. I am proud of the work and dedication these brothers project not just on meeting nights but each and everyday. I can never thank them enough for all the hard work they do. If it has been awhile since you have attended lodge, please do so. See for yourself the positive attitude and renewed dedication each one of us carries with us.

Fraternally yours
W.M. Gary W. Dryer



From the West

Kenny Best SW

I want thank everyone for there help on the C.H.I.P.S. program although the tornado warnings keep everyone away the social contact made that day was extremely nice.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Swope Park OES for there support in the Opening of Swope Park Manor Squires with the refreshments they serviced after the meeting. The restrooms are about finished with just a couple of minor details to be done. April 11, 2007 at 7:00 pm will be the first meeting of our Jobs daughters club and we invite everyone to attend I expect it to be an official Bethel by fall. I would like to start having some social get together with all the groups this summer and an all inclusive Christmas party this year, will welcome any suggestions or ideas for events that can get everyone together and socialize. The next C.I.P.S. events will be May 5, 2007 and September 15, 2007 please contact me if you have any questions.

Fund Raiser Activity Proposal

You are no doubt aware that every year we are financially in the "red" operating the Temple. The Building Board projects this year's operating expense (utilities, insurance and maintenance) will be \$5000 more than anticipated rental income.

(continued next column)

From the West (cont.)

We have an opportunity to cover that shortfall, or at least put a huge dent in it, with a fund raising activity proposed by some of our members. The Kansas City Chief's organization allows fraternal and Civic organizations the opportunity to staff beer concession stands during the games. It does not require constantly being on your feet working the stand. Perhaps 75 % of the time persons participating can sit in the stands and watch part of the game. This is a huge opportunity to make \$ 600-\$1200 per event for our building fund and enjoy some socializing with your Lodge brothers as well as to get in free to watch the Chiefs play. If interested in participating, call Ken Best (816) 965 5261 and get on the list.



From the South

Johnnie Nemecek JW

"Freemasonry is dying." This is the opening line to The Book of Hiram, by Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas. When I first read them, all I could think was, "What was your first clue?" While things may look bleak for the Fraternity at the moment, it is not hopeless. Some Grand Lodges have some interesting ways of turning the tide. How cool would it be to be a member of the only Masonic Lodge on the Moon, Tranquility Lodge 2000 of the Grand Lodge of Texas? But the brightest glimmer of hope comes from the UGLE and the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Both have chartered Internet Lodges. These specialty lodges physically meet three or four times a year, but have weekly meetings online and nightly chats. They are truly universal lodges as they have members in every country. The next Master for the UGLE's internet lodge will be the second American to hold the post, and the first Past Grand Officer of a foreign jurisdiction. With lodges having many Snow Birds, or members that travel and work odd hours, this seems like the best way to keep an active and happy membership. Both existing internet lodges have a 90% attendance rate for their physical meetings, and about 95% of their membership is active online at any given time. Just some food for thought.



From the Secretary's Desk
WB Warren Weston, PM
(816) 524 1180



Wm F. Kuhn
Chapter DeMolay

Trevor Keller
Scribe



From the Editor
Jim Payne
Senior Deacon
(816) 537 7457

Welcome new Members

Swope Park Lodge welcomes three new members. **Bro. Michael Luellen** affiliated as a multiple (duel) member. Bro Luellen is currently Senior Warden in Heroine-Rockhill Lodge. Nr 104. **Bro. Jeffrey Woods** demitted from Belton Lodge Nr 450 . Both were voted in at the regular stated meeting January 25th. **Bro. Robert Nelson** affiliated from South Pueblo CO. lodge 31 and was voted in at the March 8th regular stated meeting.

Bro. Jim O'Shea Passed to F.C.

Bro. O'Shea received the second degree February 8th. RWB Mike Armstrong, Regional Grand Lecturer, gave the FC Lecture, Letter "G" and Charge. RWB Larry Cameron obligated the candidate and aal officers worked their respective stations and chairs throughout the degree, except JW. Bro Nemech had to leave early and WB Gary Barron was JW for the degree. Our youngest MM, Bro Justin Dryer did an exceptionally good job for the first time as JS.

Annual Building Board Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Election of 2007 Board of Directors:: President G. Dryer, VP K. Best, Directors, J. Nemech, L. Cameron, F. Chester and C. Farris. Secretary/Treasurer J. Payne. OES chapters were represented and a comprehensive discussion ensued concerning on going maintenance issues and a need to increase income to cover them.

Memoriam



Harold G. Moody
Worshipful Master 1977
Born Nov 13, 1938
Raised January 13, 1968
Died February 4, 2007

George K. Leslie
Born February 20, 1921
Raised March 21, 1967
Died February 8, 2007

MASONIC SERVICE MONTH

The month of May has been proclaimed as Masonic Service Month. This program is one of the best ways we have to show our communities who, and what Freemasons, and Freemasonry are all about. We can use members who do not regularly attend the lodge but we can be visible within the community. If you have an idea for a project that will help in your community contact us right now so that we can coordinate others to work the project. We have to send in our entrance by June 1, 2007.

ORDER OF THE PAST MASTER

To qualify for the Order of the Past Master you must be a Past Master of a Missouri lodge in good standing. The cost is a one time charge of \$40.00 (forty dollars) that is a lifetime payment for this specific order. Copies of the Application is available from the Secretary. It is important to return the money and application form as soon as possible. The class will be given on the Monday of the Grand Lodge Session. One must be in attendance to receive this order. Contact me to obtain an Application for the Order or a Missouri Masonic License Plate Authorization Form.

MASONIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Application forms are available through the Secretary to be given to the guidance counselors of your local High Schools and to the Student Financial Aid Offices at any local Colleges or Universities. Applications must be returned before April 1, 2007.

INVITATION TO ATTEND LODGE

Haven't been to Lodge for awhile? We meet the second and fourth Thursday each month at 7:30 PM. Forgot the passwords? You will be greeted by a friendly Brother who will sit with and assist you. Your current dues card is all you need to get in if you are a member in good standing of Swope Park Lodge. Don't let your memory lapse prevent you from participating in the fellowship at your Lodge. Need a ride? Call me and we'll put you in touch with a close by Brother to bring you here and back home. (cont. page 4 column 3)

Recently, William F. Kuhn chapter had a potato dinner fund raiser. It was a good turn out and we made over \$ 300. We are planning more events in the near future. We also held a pancake breakfast during the CHIPS event at the lodge Saturday, February 24th. Together, the Chapter donated \$ 266 from their proceeds to the Swope Park Masonic Building Association so far this year. The checks were presented at Swope Park Lodge's regular stated meetings Thursdays, March 8th and 22nd by Trevor Keller, Chapter Scribe and Danny Best, Past Master Councilor. These generous contributions went toward replacing the parking lot light fixtures earlier this month..

Our chapter is sponsoring a Squires of the Round Table Manor, a Masonic Youth organization for boys aged 10 to 12. They are coming along great. The Squires will be doing their first fundraiser in the near future selling candles. They hold their regular meetings every first and third Tuesday at the temple. The young squires are learning their ritual very well.

Our DeMolay chapter recently put on the DeMolay degree at Scottish Rite. We had all the necessary props and everyone knew their parts. It was well received by the Scottish Rite Masons in attendance. Saturday, March 24th, the Scottish Rite conducted a CHIPS program session at the Linwood temple. Our Chapter was well represented with volunteers assisting. We continue to be one of the most active chapters in the state working diners, conducting fundraising breakfasts and dinners and watering flowers to earn money toward attending Conclave- where we expect to continue winning lots of trophies.

* * * * *

DeMolay is an organization dedicated to preparing young men to lead successful, happy, and productive lives. Basing its approach on timeless principles and practical, hands-on experience, DeMolay opens doors for young men aged 12 to 21 by developing the civic awareness, personal responsibility and leadership skills so vitally needed in society today. DeMolay combines this serious mission with a fun approach that builds important bonds of friendship among members in more than 1,000 chapters worldwide.

DeMolay alumni include Walt Disney, John Wayne, Walter Cronkite, football Hall-of-Famer Fran Tarkenton, legendary Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne, news anchor David Goodnow and many others. Each has spoken eloquently of the life-changing benefit gained from their involvement in DeMolay

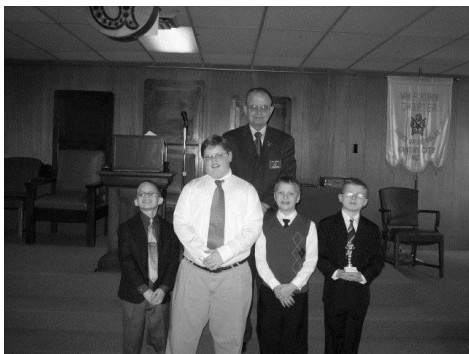


Ask the Secretary for a petition and carry it with you.
Sign up a Candidate This quarter!

**SWOPE PARK MANOR
ORDER OF SQUIRES**



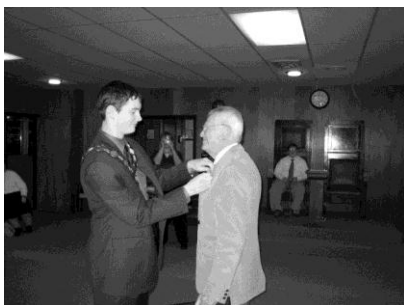
*Bro. Neil Cowan,
Advisor*



(Jan 28) Pictured left to right, Master Squire Tyler Walden, Senior Squire Jacob Lining, Junior Squire Andrew Hoaglan and Squire Chaplain Conlan Miller with Manor Advisor Bro. Neal Cowan proudly looking on. The Squires are the newest Masonic youth group formed at Swope Park temple. All Masonic bodies meeting at the temple were represented in a large assembly for the occasion. Ceremony began with presentation of colors by William F. Kuhn DeMolay chapter and opening prayer by WB Gary Barron. Initiation and installation was conducted by Independence Manor Missouri State Sir Knight Kris Woods, State Squires.

The Order of the Squires of the Round Table was established in 1995 in Vancouver as a pledge for the International Order of DeMolay. It's mission is to allow young men from the ages of 10 through 12 to have an opportunity to participate in some of the fun activities with DeMolay, but not to be overwhelmed with the age differences and ritual work that is part of DeMolay

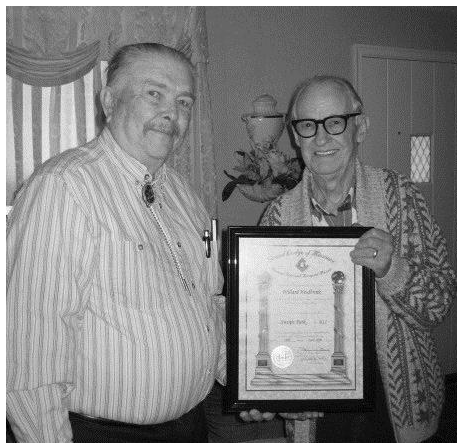
The Squire organization increased rapidly throughout different jurisdictions after it was first established, and in June of 1997 the first Squire Manor in the world—Vancouver Manor from Vancouver, Washington—was invited to the International Supreme Council to make the declaration of Squires international.



(Jan 29) WB Harry Brown (rt) receives honors from Missouri State Sir Knight Kris Woods, State Squires, recognizing 75 years DeMolay membership

50 YEAR MEMBERS HONORED

(Jan 2006) Brother Charles Weedman (top) raised June 1955 and Brother Willard Heidbrink (bottom) raised June 1956, Receive their Grand Lodge fifty year certificates and jewels from WB Weston, Lodge Secretary



Bro. Clyde J. Rayburn, raised Dec. 15, 1955, awarded his Grand Lodge 50 year Jewel by WB Garv Drver. Master Swope Park Lodge Nr 617



Recently Raised Master Masons



Swope Park's first new MM raised in the new year, Bro. Justin Dryer being congratulated by dad, WB Gary Dryer (right) and his brother, Bro. Tony Broome (left). Bro. Justin was raised on his 23rd birthday January 11, 2007



WB Harry Brown congratulates Brother Justin Dryer, who he raised that evening. Harry was raised in 1945 and served as Master in 1954. No doubt at Bro. Brown's raising, there were brothers attending who were, or knew, charter members of our Lodge back on November 1, 1911. It is conceivable young Bro. Dryer will pass on Swope Park's legacy well into this century and observe our 150th anniversary in 2061.



Bro. Kirk Federhoff (rt) receives his apron from Secretary WB Warren Weston. Bro Federhoff was raised December 9, 2006

Masonic Milestones

April		Years		June		Years	
Edward	Pugh	4/27/1950	57	Harry	Smalley	6/24/1947	60
Robert	Logan	4/21/1953	54	Jacob	Jenkins	6/28/1947	60
Kenneth	Scott	4/1/1954	53	Robert	Thomas	6/16/1949	58
Harold	Keeling	4/2/1954	53	Rick	Van Doren	6/21/1949	58
Robert	Nickell	4/5/1954	53	Robert	Fletchall	6/11/1955	52
Billy	Haynes	4/15/1954	53	Charles	Weedman	6/11/1955	52
Kenneth	Hyatt	4/28/1955	52	Glenn	Harrison	6/16/1955	52
Glenn	Rogers	4/7/1959	48	Willard	Heidbrink	6/14/1956	51
Carl	Younts	4/15/1959	48	Harry	Williams	6/20/1957	50
Edward	Arenson	4/30/1959	48	Harold	Jordan	6/29/1961	46
Ervin	Huebner	4/4/1961	46	Albert	Himegarner	6/14/1962	45
Nolan	Henry	4/18/1961	46	Harry	Albert	6/21/1962	45
Gary	Hanson	4/27/1962	45	Nelson	Ruff	6/24/1976	31
Stephen	Allison	4/20/1971	36	James	Payne	6/14/1979	28
Melvin	Tacke	4/15/1980	27	Ellis	Tedlock	6/28/1979	28
William	Compton	4/21/1989	18	Gary	Barron	6/11/1981	26
Robert	Johnson	4/27/1989	18	Robert	Harman	6/18/1981	26
Ralph	Smith	4/25/1991	16	Preston	Pemberton	6/14/1984	23
Robert	Hilliard	4/10/1992	15	Lawrence	Rieder	6/28/1984	23
Keith	Wren	4/10/1997	10	John	Payne	6/21/1990	17
James	Brown	4/15/2000	7	Richard	Rader	6/27/1991	16
Gary	Hedrick	4/15/2000	7	Billy	Smith	6/19/1993	14
Warren	Luttrell	4/15/2000	7	Neil	Clark	6/19/2002	5
William	Wheatcraft	4/15/2000	7	Ed	Culver	6/21/2003	4
Ricky	Glover	4/17/2002	5	Charles	Farris	6/29.2006	1

May		Years	
Finis	Montgomery	5/27/1943	64
Howard	Harris	5/21/1946	61
Cletus	Losh	5/19/1948	59
Herbert	Vendig	5/10/1951	56
Jack	Cooper	5/8/1954	53
Roy	Stone	5/8/1954	53
Warren	Weston	5/8/1954	
James	Cummins	5/22/1954	53
Edwin	Burr	5/22/1956	51
Russell	Wirt	5/22/1958	49
David	Christman	5/12/1966	41
Lawrence	Cameron	5/1/1969	38
Harvey	Fisher	5/10/1972	35
James	Pinson	5/25/1972	35
Gary	Leftridge	5/13/1976	31
Gerald	Mac Dougal	5/18/1976	31
Philip	Small	5/22/1976	31
David	Brown	5/2/1978	29
Fred	Aichele	5/10/1979	27
Sergio	Martinez	5/22/1986	21
Vernon	Hilliard	5/10/1990	17
Merle	Teer	5/9/1991	16
Dean	Bezingue	5/26/1994	13
David	Irvin	5/9/1995	12
Philip	Realing	5/18/1998	9
Guy	Hasselbring	5/8/1999	8

SWOPE PARK LODGE
E-MAIL ADDRESS
 swopepark617@sbcglobal.net

Please use this to correspond with the
 Secretary

President Truman's Masonic History

May 8, 1884- December 26,1972

Harry S Truman petitioned Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Mo. on December 21, 1908 when he was 24 years old. He was elected on February 9, 1909, and received his first degree that evening. He was passed March 9, and raised March 18, 1909. The following year he accepted the station of Junior Warden, but in 1911, several members of Belton Lodge separated to establish a new Lodge--Grandview Lodge No. 618, and Truman was honored by being made the first Worshipful Master. Later, he served as Secretary of the Lodge, and in 1917, when leaving for WW I, he was again Master of the Lodge. After the war he was appointed District Deputy Grand Lecturer, and District Deputy Grand Master of the 59th Masonic district. He remained in these stations from 1925 until his appointment in the Grand Lodge line in 1930. In that year he became Grand Pursuivant through the appointment of Grand Master William R. Gentry of St. Louis. In September, 1940 when the Grand Lodge met, Truman was running for U.S. Senator and the political situation was heated. Notwithstanding, he was elected Grand Master, and a few weeks later, U.S. Senator. During his year as Grand Master, Congress was in session most of the time, yet he found time to make individual visits to 19 Missouri Masonic Lodges; 6 district associations; both conferences of district deputies and presented several 50-year pins.

From the Secretary's desk (cont. from p 2)

The past few weeks have been filled with pleasure and enhancement as Bro Payne and I ventured out visiting several Brethren to inquire on their health and welfare. I encourage any of you to experience the satisfaction that goes with putting into practice the first two of the most excellent tenants of our institution-Brotherly Love and Relief. Ask the Secretary for a listing of our older members and make a point to call at least one a week or arrange to go visit them. We should all resolve to make our members feel they are still an integral part of our Lodge. In making our rounds, we found some members had spouses in care centers and were unable to drive at night. In checking with these brothers, you might consider picking them up and bringing them to lodge and back home.

Brother Edward Lyle called me asking why his dues remittance was returned. I explained the PO box rental problem I incurred and the corrective action taken to prevent a future reoccurrence- I changed the due date to May, which has two meeting, in lieu of November, which usually only has one meeting that month. In conversation with Bro Lyle, I mentioned how important it is to *learn something new each day*. This lead to a discussion how we were both *ferroequinologists* and enjoyed the hobby. I told him of *taking blacksmithing* classes so I could learn about pounding hot metal. The point being, there is something, somewhere you might pick up and be able to wake up with a purpose and not be bored all day. Try it!

Be sure to call or write me if you have a change of address or have a health issue. Stay in touch with your lodge. Make certain your significant others know where and how to contact us when necessary. Yours in the faith,

Warren Weston
 Secretary

Please contact the Secretary if you move. We need your current address to keep you informed and maintain your status on record with the Grand Lodge.

Our mailing address:

Secretary
 Swope Park Lodge Nr 617
 PO Box 35313
 Kansas City, MO 64134



Building Association Report

Jim Payne, Secy/Treas.

Brethren: The financial report given at the February 3, 2007 Annual Meeting was as follows: FY 2006 beginning cash on hand was \$ 1532.77. Income during the year: \$ 16,320, Expenditures were \$ 12,923.77 leaving a balance to carry over into FY 2007 of \$ 2580.30. Projected cashflow, Income \$ 11,170 from rentals, \$ 16,718 operating expenditures being insurance, utilities, building and grounds care and maintenance leaving a projected shortfall at year end of \$ 2,963 in the red. Added to this, proposed building and fixture improvements further increase the need for funds by an additional \$ 2,245. The greatest expenditure being insulating the area above the lodge room for \$ 1,000 and \$ 75 for an attic exhaust fan potentially saving that amount in air conditioning within approximately 18 months. The other energy saving expenditures proposed are: area electric hot water heaters in the kitchen and upstairs bathrooms, \$ 420, and \$ 750 for a more energy efficient refrigerator in the kitchen.

With Heroine-Rockhill merging with Ivanhoe, we lost \$ 2,160 per year rental income. Frankly, I do not see how we can further reduce operating expense. We reduced the phone bill \$ 480 a year by dropping the internet expense. We have applied for a 501 © tax exemption to facilitate sales tax and federal excise tax exemption which should affect an additional \$ 600 per year savings. There is some discussion about the members who own rider mowers getting together and cutting the grass on a regular basis. This would produce an additional \$ 1200 annual savings. We need to approach the DDGM and ascertain if he knows of any Masonic bodies looking for a new home and work toward adding three new tenets to offset the building operating expense. Would any Brother like to make a contribution in memory of a loved one or friend? A \$ 1000 would cover the ceiling insulation project. \$ 750 donation would take care of the refrigerator replacement and \$ 100. \$ 25 or \$ 500 contributions would greatly help toward the water heater projects. The Lodge would post a plaque with the donor or in memory names upon them in the vestibule. This would be a great way to memorialize your loved one and greatly assist your Lodge. We welcome your comments on this issue, whether an idea for a fund raising event or your thoughts on generating contributions toward the Building Association. Perhaps even considering a codicil in your will remembering your Lodge Building Association. Jim Payne (816) 537 7457 email dsmazdad@yahoo.com

CHIPS PROGRAM AT SWOPE PARK MASONIC TEMPLE



FEB 24TH. The Swope Park Masonic Temple family was well represented as both chapters of the O.E.S., the DeMolay's, Rainbow girls and members of Heroine Lodge joined their brothers of Swope Park Lodge to conduct our first CHIPS (child identification program) event. Rainy weather outside, while inhibiting participation by the parents bringing their children, absolutely did not affect the sunshine of fellowship enjoyed by the Masonic groups working together inside. We processed approximately 75 children, ranging in age from 14 months to 12 years, through the program. Everyone took an active part, from assisting parents fill out the paperwork, to measuring the children's height and taking their weight, directing them to the computer work stations where the data was entered, photos and scanned fingerprints taken. A photo ID and mini CD disc was given to the parents, moving to the final work station where a dental impression and DNA sample were taken and placed into a plastic bag for insertion into the manila envelope given the parents. The importance of getting parents to bring their children to these CHIPS programs can not be overstated. Bro. Kenny Best, our Senior Warden and chairman of the program, told of how CHIPS saved a family on vacation from losing their child. The child, separated from the parents, was abducted in a megastore. Fortunately, the mother had the ID packet and gave it to the store security. They flashed the child's picture and name on the security monitors, closed the exits and caught the predator and rescued the child in short order. Our next CHIPS event will be May 5th in Grandview. Encourage anyone you know to bring their

(Photo above) processing data, photo and prints into computer for CD

Children out. It will be held at Triumph Structures of Kansas City 4020 E. 138th Street, Grandview Missouri. WM Dryer works for this firm and was instrumental in setting up this next program there. Bro. William Huff, Grandview Lodge Nr 18 Senior Warden, assisted us set up and run our most recent CHIPS event. We discussed Grandview Lodge participating in the May 5th event along with us, as it will be held in Grandview. We have a third CHIPS program pending in the works next September, and will announce the time and place in the July *Rambler* issue.



Bro. Bob Nelson, DDS, taking dental impression for inclusion in CHIPS packet. Young participant is Tyler Walden, Master Squire of the Squire's of the Round Table. He is the Grandson of WB Gary Barron, PM Swope Park Lodge.