



Master's
Trestle Board
WB Ken Best Sr
Worshipful Master

Brethren:

Time seems to be flying by!! I am over half way into my year and very proud of the officers in our lodge. As seen in this issue, we have been very busy conferring degrees and conducting many events here at the lodge. There is still much work yet to be done. We have many Third degrees yet to confer as well as other events.

April 12 at 1:00 will be Past Masters luncheon. The second meeting in June will be HOBONIGHT with prizes for the best dressed HOBONIGHT. The second meeting in July will be western night with a special dinner by DeMolay Dinner at 6:30. Watch for information about a Masonic picnic for all in August. I am trying different things to bring more activity here at the lodge and hopefully more attendance will follow.

Although the lodge is in good shape for this year, we still cannot relax. The changes in the financial world will have a negative impact on all of us. Personally, and as a lodge, we should ever be diligent with handling our finances. I hope everyone has had a change to see the new refrigerator down stairs in the kitchen. Not only does it have many new features, but it is also slightly larger and has many energy saving features which should save the lodge on energy costs.

Finally, I welcome any suggestions which will benefit Swope Park Lodge or any of the appendant bodies. Whenever possible, please support the youth groups. They are our future! You may have noticed quite a few of the new initiates are young DeMolay alumni. I am especially proud to have obligated my grandson Danny Best at the last stated meeting in March. I am equally confident our work with the new Job's Daughter's Bethel will contribute to Swope Park Lodges future growth. These young ladies are potentially the future wives and mothers of prospective Masons yet to be.

Yours in the faith,

Ken Best Sr.
Worshipful Master

SWOPE PARK LEADER IN C.H.I.P.S PROGRAMS



(photo above) Young mom giving input to computer operator entering data for CHIPS CD disk and laminated ID card.

(photo right) Brother **Bob Nelson, DDS**, taking dental imprint on patient youngster getting processed.

(Feb 9) Swope Park lodge, along with several Job's Daughters and DeMolay members from our temple worked the CHIPS program at the Ruskin Heights Presbyterian church the second Saturday last February. While disappointed with the low turnout of parents bringing children to process, Swope Park's efforts should be recognized for leading the district in number of programs sponsored



OES DDGM SISTER ANNA MORROW OFFICIAL VISIT



(above) Worthy Matron **Stella Turnquist**, **Anna Morrow**, District Deputy Grand Matron and Worthy Patron **Preston Pemberton**

(Photo right) Worthy Matro **Stella Turnquist**, WB **Kenny Best** and Worthy Patron **Preston Pemberton**.

(Feb 19) District Deputy Grand Matron, Sister **Anna Morrow**, paid her official visit to Swope Park Chapter on February 19th. Sister Anna is a member of Alpha Chapter 507. A light supper was served before the meeting. The officers exemplified all of the work of the order. They were pleased to initiate **Kenny Best** into the chapter. He is Worshipful Master of Swope Park Lodge 617. The Official Inspection of the 22nd District was held February 9th at East Gate Temple. It was preceded by the Ruth Club Breakfast honoring Sister Barbara Smith, Grand Ruth. All six of the chapters in the 22nd District participated in exemplifying the work of the order. Sister **Brenda Austin**, Worthy Grand Matron and Brother **John Chaney**, Worthy Grand Patron instructed in the work and made corrections as necessary. There were 164 in attendance. (continued, page 4 column 3)

50 YEAR GRAND LODGE AWARD



(Feb 14) Brother **John Schollenberger** (left) was presented his fifty year grand lodge certificate and jewel by **WM Ken Best** at the regular stated meeting. Bro. John was raised October 3, 1957.

BRO. LAUGHLIN FELLOW CRAFT



(Feb 23) Bro. **Dennis Laughlin** (center) with (left) Bro. **Charles Farris**, SD, who obligated him, **RWB David Colburn**, who conducted him in the FC lecture, **RWB Jim Spence**, who did the Charge. **WB Ken Best**, Master, is Bro. Laughlin's coach and mentor. **Wm. F. Kuhn** DeMolay chapter hosted a pancake breakfast before hand. Shown (right) "Chef" **Trevor Keller**, Master Councilor, preparing another round of pan cakes. Below, left to right, **Matt Hoaglan**, Junior Councilor, **Alex Barnes**, Past Master Councilor, **Dan Best**, Senior Councilor and **WB Ken Best**, Proudly overseeing the budding "chefs" work their magic.



From the South
Jim Payne, JW

(Jan.16) thirty seven (37) stalwart Masons braved the blustery winter elements to attend a district school of instruction hosted by our Lodge. **DDGM Lloyd Callwell** opened the session and turned it over to **RWB Mike Armstrong**, Regional DDGL, who made it an enjoyable learning experience. Our DDGL, **RWB Paul Miller**, was unable to attend and conduct the school of instruction due to a family illness. All officers were in their respective chairs except the SW, who had to work late. In addition to the officers, three (3) Past Masters brought our attendance to thirteen (13), giving us recognition for the highest attendance for the session.

BRO. PARKINTON FELLOW CRAFT



(Mar.13) **James Parkinton** (center) was passed to the degree of fellow Craft Worshipful Master **Ken Best** (left) and **RWB Paul Kawakami** (right) gave the charge.

Bro. Danny Best Initiated EA



(Mar 27) A proud **WM Ken Best** (right) obligated grandson **Bro Danny Best** and received our newest lodge brother. Grand Lodge Chaplain **RWB Sheldon Snitz** (left) was in attendance. **RWB Snitz** is a Past DeMolay Executive and has watched Brother Best advance over the years through DeMolay. **Bro Danny** is currently a state DeMolay officer.

BRO. BARTELLI FELLOW CRAFT



(Mar. 1) Left to right- **WM Ken Best Sr.**, **RWB David Colburn**, **Bro. Danny Bartelli** and **Bro. Justin Dryer** pose under the sheaf of corn in the South after the conclusion of the special communication. **RWB Colburn** did the FC lecture and charge. **Bro. Dryer**, our youngest MM (in tenure as well as age) did a most excellent Letter "G" lecture. Brethren: observe a glimpse into the future of our Lodge. These young Park Lodge men are coming into Swope Lodge and participating in the Ritual. Thus, clearly illustrating the importance of the Blue Lodge supporting and working with the Masonic youth groups. They are the Masonic family's future-in all aspects, OES, the Blue Lodge and Appendant bodies.



(Mar 1) **Job's Daughter's Bethel Nr 1**, our newest addition to Swope Park Masonic Temple family, served a delicious biscuit and gravy breakfast to the Brethren who attended the special communication Sat. Shown above, left to right, **Tammy Laughlin**, **Jayna Barron** and **Samatha Keller**. Ms. Keller is Bethel Guide.



Get a petition
and sign up
A candidate this Spring!
New members bring new
ideas and growth!

The Rambler is the official quarterly newsletter published for Swope Park Masonic Temple Appendant bodies to communicate the activities of the organizations meeting there. Articles and photos are earnestly solicited. Please place in The Rambler's box in the vestibule outside the lodge room E-mail to dsmazdad@yahoo.com. We reach 450 households. To advertise, call Jim Payne 537 7457



Masonic Milestones

Anniversary of date raised to sublime degree of Master Mason

April

Edward Pugh	4/27/1950	58
Robert Logan	4/21/1953	55
Billy Haynes	4/15/1954	54
Kenneth Scott	4/1/1954	54
Robert Nickell	4/5/1954	54
Kenneth Hyatt	4/28/1955	53
Carl Younts	4/15/1959	49
Edward Arenson	4/30/1959	49
Glenn Rogers	4/7/1959	49
Vernon Johnson	4/11/1959	49
Ervin Huebner	4/4/1961	47
Jorg Rothweiler	4/7/1961	47
Gary Hanson	4/27/1962	46
Eugene Sullins	4/12/1966	42
Stephen Allison	4/6/1971	37
Melvin Tacke	4/15/1980	28
Robert Johnson	4/27/1989	19
William Compton	4/21/1989	19
Ralph Smith	4/25/1991	17
Robert Hilliard	4/9/1992	16
Keith Wren	4/10/1997	11
James Brown	4/15/2000	8
Warren Luttrell	4/15/2000	8
William Wheatcraft	4/15/2000	8
Johnny Nemic	4/12/2002	6
James O'Shea	4/12/2007	1

May

Finis Montgomery	5/27/1943	65
Howard Harris	5/21/1946	62
Cletus Losh	5/19/1948	60
Robert Reagan	5/4/1950	58
Carl Brockman	5/4/1951	57
Herbert Vendig	5/10/1951	57
Wallace Reed	5/4/1951	57
Jack Cooper	5/8/1954	54
James Cummins	5/22/1954	54
Roy Stone	5/8/1954	54
Warren Weston	5/8/1954	54
Edwin Burr	5/22/1956	52
Russell Wirt	5/22/1958	50
Dr. Robert Craft	5/5/1962	46
David Christman	5/28/1966	42
Lawrence Cameron	5/1/1969	39
Donald Roscoe	5/24/1971	37
Harvey Fisher	5/1/1972	36
James Pinson	5/25/1972	36
Gary Leftridge	5/13/1976	32
David Brown	5/2/1978	30
Fred Aichele	5/10/1979	29
Sergio Martinez	5/22/1986	22
George Croucher	5/26/1987	21
Jeptha Woods	5/26/1987	21
Vernon Hilliard	5/10/1990	18
Merle Teer	5/9/1991	17
Dean Bezingue	5/26/1994	14
David Irvin	5/9/1995	13
Philip Realing	5/18/1998	10
Guy Hasselbring	5/8/1999	9
David Green	5/3/2003	5

June

Harry Smalley	6/24/1947	61
Jacob Jenkins	6/28/1947	61
Kenneth Gibson	6/22/1947	61
Rick Van Doren	6/21/1949	59
Robert Thomas	6/16/1949	59
George Landes	6/15/1950	58
Millard Ross	6/27/1954	54
William Smith	6/15/1954	54
Charles Weedman	6/11/1955	53
Glenn Harrison	6/16/1955	53
Robert Fletchall	6/11/1955	53
Willard Heidbrink	6/14/1956	52
Harry Williams	6/20/1957	51
James Stubbs	6/10/1959	49
George Marcum	6/11/1960	48
Harold Jordan	6/29/1961	47
Albert Himegarner	6/14/1962	46
Harry Albert	6/21/1962	46
Kyle Dye	6/15/1963	45
Ralph Elkins	6/15/1963	45
Nelson Ruff	6/24/1976	32
Ellis Tedlock	6/28/1979	29
James Payne	6/14/1979	29
Gary Barron	6/11/1981	27
Robert Harman	6/8/1981	27
Lawrence Rieder	6/28/1984	24
Preston Pemberton	6/14/1984	24
Chris Aller	6/22/1989	19
John Payne	6/21/1990	18
Richard Rader	6/27/1991	17
Billy Smith	6/19/1993	15
Robert Culver	6/21/2003	5
Charles Farris	6/29/2006	2



In Memoriam

Louis W. Berryman
Born February 24, 1916
Raised March 19, 1963
Passed away July 30, 2007

Glen E. Harrison
Born June 6, 1920
Raised June 16, 1955
Passed away January 1, 2008

W.B. Richard J. Eckert Jr.
Born December 15, 1907
Raised September 22, 1944
Master Westport Lodge 1955
Passed away January 11, 2008

Dr. Robert H. Craft
Born November 19, 1927
Raised May 5, 1962
Passed away January 15, 2007

Lloyd Thoman
Born October 28, 1921
Raised August 11, 1959
Passed away March 5, 2008



Missouri Out Reach Program

Outreach Program is a financial assistance program. designed to help individuals remain in their home by providing diverse assistance to qualified Missouri Members in and out of the State of Missouri. If you would like an application, you may contact the Masonic Home of Missouri Corporate office at 1-800-434-9804 and speak with the Outreach Services or address your request to: Masonic Home of MO Attn: Out Reach 6033 Masonic Dr., Ste. A Columbia, MO 65202

Degrees Conferred this fiscal year to date:
October 2007-September 2008

Entered Apprentice

Andre Eric Newsom Oct. 25, 2007
James Parkinton Dec. 13, 2007
Danny Best Mar 27, 2008

Fellow Craft

Andre Eric Newsom Nov. 14, 2007
Dennis Laughlin Feb 23, 2008
Danny Bartelli Mar 1, 2008
James Pankinton Mar 13, 2008

Master Mason
(none)

Joble 2 Bees



Lynn Cowan
Mom Bee Keeper

Our Joble-2-Bees have four girls in our hive and hope to increase very soon. We are part of the new Job's daughter's Bethel Nr. 1 here at Swope Park Masonic temple. We have just finished up our first fund raiser and were very successful with it. Additionally, we are the top sales organization at Swope Park selling ads for the Rambler, which splits to commission 50/50 with anyone participating. We are working on learning how to sing the song "Nearer My God to Thee" as our part in the closing of our Bethel meetings. In February we provided refreshments for our Bethel's first meeting of the month along with a special presentation to our Bethel Moms. Joble-2-Bees is a club for girls between the ages of 7-10, who like to have fun, do crafts, bake, and make new friends. We are a club, sponsored by the Job's Daughter International organization. We have meeting at the same time that the Job's Daughter's Bethel meets, but we have our own meetings, do crafts or bake, play games, make new friends, and on and on! If you have a granddaughter or know of any little girls who would like join us, call me (816) 886 0100



JOSEPHA
CHAPTER NR 63
O. E. S.

Joseph's installation of '07-'08 Officers took place November 16, 2007. This year's officers are: **Lesley Anderson**, Worthy Matron; **Steven Anderson**, Worthy Patron; **Margie Eads**, Associate Matron; **Richard Houston**, Associate patron; **Adeane Boyer**, Secretary; **Coleen Cooley**, Treasurer; **Jane Withers**, Conductress; **Willa Frazier**, Associate Conductress; **Connie Sohn**, Chaplain; **Terry Scarborough**, Marshal; **Marilyn Houston**, Organist; **Francis Williamson**, Ruth; **Janet Anschutz**, Ester; **Virgina Norton**, Martha; **Sarah Ackley**, Electra; **Elizabeth Warner**, Warder and **Edward Frazier**, Sentinel.

The program began with Brother **Fred Morrow**, P.P. giving the invocation. The Bible Ceremony followed conducted by Sister **Anna Morrow**, D.D.G.M. assisted by the Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons of the 22nd District. Next on the program, the American Flag tribute by Brother **Joe Jelinek**, P.G.P., the O.E.S. Flag tribute by Sister **Joy Michael**, P.M.; and the Christian Flag Tribute by Sister **Jodene Cortway**, P.M.. In closing, the Benediction was done by Brother **Fred Morrow**, P.P.



SWOPE PARK
CHAPTER NR 620
O. E. S.

(cont. from page 1) Swope Park Chapter was pleased to have 29 of their members attend. Sister Mary Olds, a member of Blue Valley Chapter #2, received an appointment as Grand Representative of New Jersey in Missouri.

Membership – We regret to report the deaths of Brother **Darrell Woolley** and Sister **Helen Anderson**. The charter was also draped in memory of Sister **Vera Sappington**, Past Grand Matron and Brother **Orville Livingston**, Past Grand Patron

We were pleased to have Sister **Holly Johnson** move her primary membership to Swope Park Chapter. Sister Holly is serving as Esther this year. Sister **Nancy Bradshaw** received her 25 year pin and recognition. Sister **Becky Bowman**, Associate Conductress, delivered the 50 year tac and Life Membership to Sister **Betty Lowther**. Sister **JoAnna Dale** and Sister **Virginia Norton** have also reached their 50 year membership during this time and will be given Life Membership in Swope Park Chapter.

Sister **Stella Turnquist** delivered the Christmas gift of a Wal-Mart card to Millie **Carsell** at the Masonic Home. Millie is our adopted resident at the home. Sister Stella followed through with the theme of the sewing machine emblem by making 24

You are cordially invited to a
Reception
Honoring Missouri's Own
General Grand Chapter
Committee Members and Special Appointment

Sister Rita Hanson, Credentials, P.G.M.
Brother Daryl Price, ESTARL, P.G.P.
Brother Paul Lineberry
Co-Chairman, Membership, P.G.P.
Sister Pearl Harrell, Vision Quest, P.G.M.
Sister Karen Grattendick
Friend of a Feather, P.M.

Grand Chapter of Missouri
Order of the Eastern Star
Saturday evening, May 10, 2008
5 o'clock
Linn Memorial Methodist Church
409 North Church Street
Fayette, Missouri

Hosted by their Chapter - District

Refreshments Following

Charlotte L. Acton, P.G.M.
Chairman

walker bags and donating them to the residents of the Masonic Home. She has also been giving us homemade gifts as favors at each meeting. Friendship Nights are an important part of Eastern Star life for it gives us the opportunity to visit with old friends and make new friends. We were the honored guests at Grandview Chapter 365. The 22nd District start their Friendship Nights in April.

April 15th Swope Park will hold their Friendship Night with a salad supper at 6:15 p.m. Honored Chapters will be East Gate 367, Summit 101 and Oak Grove 407. April 21st we will be honored guests of Golden Gate Chapter with a supper at 6:15 p.m. We would be pleased to have any and all members attend these two nights.

Other coming events include:

April 5th – The Guiding Lights Club will be hosting the Distinguished Members Tea. This will be held at the Masonic Home from 1:30 pm to 3 p.m. and all members are welcome. Honorees are the District Deputy Grand Matron, **Sister Anna Morrow** and our three Grand Representatives. Sister **Lois Patten**, New Brunswick, a member of Swope Park 520; Sister **Donna Parrish**, Louisiana, a member of Joseph 63 and Sister **Mary Olds**, New Jersey, a member of Blue Valley 2, This is a good time to come out and see the beautiful Masonic Home.

April 30th Alpha Chapter 507 will host a reception honoring Sister **Anna Morrow**, District Deputy Grand Matron.

May 17th will be a busy day – both events require reservations.

The Grand Representatives Brunch will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott-Adams Pointe Conference Center at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$16 and may be purchased from your secretary, **Lois Patten**. This will be followed by a meeting of the state Grand Representatives Club.

The 22nd District Official Reception will be held at Finnegan's. This is a formal dinner honoring the Grand Officers. At this time plans are not finalized but if you are interested in attending please contact the secretary.

. (cont. page 5 col.1)

Swope Park OES 620 (cont.)

May 10th is the date of the reception for Missouri's General Grand Chapter Committee members. See separate invitation and plan to attend this event in Fayette, MO.

Brother **Paul Lineberry**, General Grand Chapter Co-Chairman of Membership Committee and Past Grand Patron has planned meetings across the state to discuss membership, how to get new members and encourage present members to attend. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions contact the secretary.

And, once again, if you know of the illness of a member or the death of a member contact the secretary or the Worthy Matron.

Reporter - Lois Patten, Secretary, LBPat@comcast.net or 816-318-9808

BUILDING BOARD REPORT

(Feb 7) The Building board held it's annual meeting and election of officers and directors for 2008. Secretary **Jim Payne** gave a financial report for fiscal year 2007, presented the 2008 budget and a projected capital outlay to keep the building running the next fifteen (15) years. We are fortunate the building, albeit it 45 years old, is in great shape. We have to plan ahead and accrue funds, however, to eventually replace the mechanical equipment and roof. The OES chapters 63 and 520 and RAM chapter 139 representatives were in attendance and participated in the rent increase discussion. 2004 was the last increase, and during that time, utilities and insurance have increased an aggregate 14 %. This is the factor applied to increase all rents effective March 1, 2008. The last agenda item was election of directors and officers for 2008. They are: WB **Ken Best**, President, WB **Gary Dryer**, VP, Bro. **Jim Payne** Secretary-Treasurer. Directors are RWB **Larry Cameron**, WB **Mel Tacke**, WB **Frank Chester** and Bro **Charles Farris**.

MAY IS MASONIC SERVICE MONTH
BRING CANNED GOODS TO LODGE
DURING APRIL AND MAY
FOR
THE GREENWOOD FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES
FOOD PANTRY

"WHAT MAKES A MASON"

What makes a man a Mason, O brother of mine? It isn't the due guard, nor is it the sign, It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast It isn't the apron in which you are dressed It isn't the step, nor the token, nor the grip, Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip, Nor yet the possession of that mystic word On five points of fellowship duly conferred. Though these are essential, desirable, fine, They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine. That you to your sworn obligation are true --Tis that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you. Secure in your heart you must safeguard and trust, With lodge and with brother be honest and just, Assist the deserving who cry in their need, Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed, Support he who falters, with hope banish fear, And whisper advice in an erring one's ear. Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine, And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine. Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try, The gavel of vices with courage apply; Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb, On the level, to bourn whence no travelers come, The Book of your faith be the rule and the guide, The compass your passions shut safely inside; The stone which the Architect placed in your care Must pass the strict test of His unerring square. And then you will meet with approval divine, And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

AUTHOR: George M. Free

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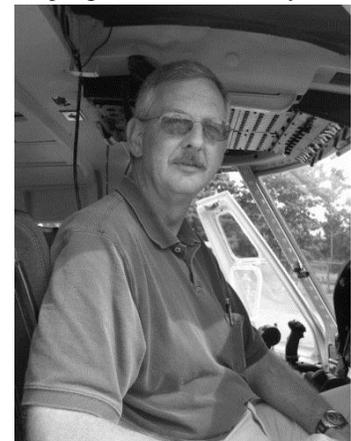
SWOPE PARK LODGE MEMBER VISITS PHILIPPINE MASONIC LODGE

WB Robert Harman, PM Swope Park Lodge Nr 617



(Jan. 21) “Worshipful Master, I bring you fraternal greetings from the Worshipful Master, officers and brethren of Swope Park Lodge 617 of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Missouri”. So went the comments from this traveling brother to his new friends in **Zamboanga City, Republic of the Philippines**. I had the pleasure of visiting one of the two local Lodges located in this city on Saturday evening, January 19th. It was indeed a pleasure to visit Mt. Apo Lodge, #45 and become acquainted with these very dedicated Masons. I learned on many different levels how similar Philippines Masonry is to our US version, how the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and subordinate Lodges and Bodies in the Philippines are tied to its US cousins and how similar the experience of visiting a Lodge can be to attending Lodge at home. I have been stationed in Zamboanga City for about 9 months and have encountered many Masons. Filipino Masonry is definitely not keeping it’s light hidden. These brothers proudly display symbols of the craft on their cars, in their work places and they wear pins and jewelry at what appears to be in much higher numbers than at home. So, identifying Masons here is pretty easy. Getting coordinated to visit a Lodge is a bit of a larger challenge, however. In my situation, we are confined to base for security reasons, so knocking on the door of a Lodge, as I have done in the past, is not really possible. I had to make some lengthy plans to arrange permission to be off base and to have security drive me to the Lodge meeting. Considering this, having contact with a brother who could meet me at Lodge and “sponsor” me once there, was important. I happened across the name and email address of Brother **Michael Lopez** on the GL of the Philippines web site and sent him an email. Brother Lopez’s response was immediate as was an invitation to attend the next meeting of his Lodge. I arrived at the

Lodge hall early anticipating the required examination and proceeded to meet about 25 members of varying ages. I was also greeted by about 10 young DeMolay who were at the Lodge to assist in the preparation for the monthly meeting. After about an hour of pleasant conversation, greetings and general questions about the fraternity I was escorted into a small room where one of the brothers proceeded to ask me several questions involving ritual. He apologized several times that he needed to perform this examination on such a distinguished guest and each time I assured the brother that I expected nothing less. I was extremely flattered by the attention and respect shown me by all of these brothers based on my claim of being a Past Master of my Lodge and a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason. The attitude of the typical Filipino is extremely polite, friendly and respectful. This was doubly so in the Lodge. These brothers, of all ages, treated me like visiting royalty. There were members in attendance who were past DDGM, DDGL, Past Scottish Rite SGIG, and other former high Masonic office holders. If anyone intended to express respect it was me. The Lodge meeting was as interesting in similarities as it was in the differences of the ritual. The brothers told me that their GL ritual opening and closing is based on the ritual of the GL of California. This to me is somewhat of a mystery since the history of Masonry in the Philippines dates back to dispensations granted by the GL of Spain in the 1800s. We all know that the history and evolution of ritual and the affiliations of a Grand Lodge can take many interesting twist and turns and, I suspect, given the changing hands of this country, the same must be true. Obviously, the American occupation of the Philippines during the end of the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century had a profound influence. All Past Masters are invited, as part of the opening in this Lodge, to join the Master in the east. I declined this offer, as did almost all other Past Masters, stating that I preferred to sit with the brethren. (It seemed like the thing to do.) Since the Lodge room itself was rather large with a fairly high ceiling and a tile floor, I soon regretted this decision. Despite the work and all discussion being conducted in English, I had a hard time understanding all the discussion which was directed, naturally, toward the east due to the very poor acoustics created by the room. I had an easier time hearing the ritual, since it is performed at various stations around the room, but I could pick out most of what was said. Included in the opening are the singing of the National Anthem of the Philippines and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Philippines. I had not known prior to this that the pledge is identical to the US Pledge of Allegiance. Also, with the exception of the closing prayer, I recognized all the ritual, at least somewhat. The order and methods are very different, but, again, very similar. It was most interesting to me to note that each time a brother addresses the east he gives the dueguard and sign at the beginning of his comments and at the end. It was also interesting, that brothers who need to be excused from the meeting can provide the same dueguard and sign to the Senior Warden and retire, or reenter the Lodge without interrupting the business. Many ritual responses do not pause for an acknowledgement or reply but simply begin. From the Senior and Junior Wardens to the Tiler, once asked a question or directed to perform a duty, they just explain it or do it. It seemed to go pretty fast that way. My love of the fraternity centers on the relationships I have with interesting brothers, so the several distinguished brethren I met during my visit were the most special part of the evening. One brother, in particular, a 33rd and past SGIG of the Scottish Rite was a Philippine veteran of WWII who fought with the Americans. He is very proud of that service, naturally, and told me he killed many Japanese in helping to liberate his country. He presented me with a copy of the history of Mt. Apo Lodge #45, which he wrote and proudly informed me that his Lodge would be celebrating its 90th anniversary on the 6th of February. I have visited Lodges all over the US and now in several foreign countries. Of course, I was initiated, passed and raised in Germany, so that’s nothing new for me. I encourage all brothers to seek out local Lodges in your travels. As it has for me, it will enrich your experience in a different culture and you will find out how Masons really are dedicated to the same principles all over the world. I remarked to the brethren of Mt Apo Lodge, when I concluded my brief remarks upon being recognized as a visitor, that just as our two nations were united in the pursuit of freedom when Mt Apo was founded by Americans in 1918, and as our two nations fought the tyranny of the conquerors together during WWII, we still stand together today against terrorism and oppression. My mission in the Philippines as part of Operation Enduring Freedom along side the Armed Forces of the Philippines is proof of that partnership.



WB Robert Harman