



# Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F.&A.M.

## Comments

### Special points of interest:

- Comments
- Facilities and Maintenance Activity

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**Secretary:** (1) Fourteen members have not yet paid their 2012 dues. On the positive side, the other 140 or so **have** taken care of their dues. As the Lodge is required to meet all of its routine operating costs from its dues, I encourage all who have not yet paid to make a concerted effort to get this obligation behind them soon, and establish good standing in the Lodge. (2) It is probable, based upon the advanced median age

of our membership, that sadly we are going to be having many funerals in the upcoming years. Some of those who pass away will have expressed a desire to have a Masonic Funeral Service. At this time we have no one in our Lodge who can perform this courtesy. Perhaps you have been wanting to know some way you could contribute to the Lodge, but do not feel up to going through the chairs or becoming a certified lecturer. Consider

memorizing the Masonic Funeral Service. It is in the Bahnson Manual and the Ceremonies Manual; and if you do not have these important references, they can be purchased from our supply for \$6 and \$7 each, respectively. Memorizing this ceremony and contributing to satisfaction of the last wishes of a Brother Mason is work in which you would surely derive tremendous satisfaction.

## Facilities and Maintenance Activity

WB Bobby Burgess reports that he and WB Bill Moss have about half of the roofing screws replaced, and the leak problem we had in the Lodge room seems to have been resolved. There is still a bad leak in the kitchen area, and it is becoming advisable that we have the kitchen hood vent on the roof re-flashed professionally. The OES held a Chicken & Dumplings Din-

ner on the 5th, and donated the proceeds of \$1,721.20 to the repair of the roof. \$245.29 worth of supplies purchased by the Lodge that were donated to help with the dinner must be deducted from the \$1,721.20, to get a net \$1,475.91 for the roof repair. A very big assist from Midland Chapter #260 OES!

## Upcoming events of interest

**May 29—FC Degree, 6:30 supper, 7:30 degree work**

**May 20, 23, 27—Officer Practices** at 5pm, 7:30pm and 5pm, respectively.

**May 30—Grand Master's area visit,** hosted by Albemarle Lodge. 6:15 supper, 7:00 tyled lodge.

**June 11—Monthly stated communication.** Service

awards—Four 25-years; one 50-years(Cladwell Parmer Hatley)

**June 24—Knights of Solomon Lodge, Dave Harmon Memorial Charity Ride**

## May Birthdays (by age)

**AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)**

**Age Birth Date Name**

82 05/16/1930 JASON M. SALYER

76 05/27/1935 JAMES R. PINION

68 05/09/1944 OSCAR Y. HARWARD

64 05/24/1947 VICTOR J. GIANGRANT

64 05/04/1948 RICHARD D. TUCKER

64 05/06/1948 DAVID F. BARBEE

62 05/05/1950 MITCHELL A. ELLIOTT

62 05/14/1950 RONNIE L. SNEED

59 05/31/1952 JON R. STEWART

57 05/31/1954 AMBROSE A. PURSER

57 05/14/1955 CURTIS A. BELK

37 05/10/1975 CHRISTOPHER R. WILEY

## Happenings at the May stated

35 brothers in attendance, only 3 of whom were visitors.

The DDGL, WB Gary S. Yost was received on his official visit.

Announced the death of Bro. Tommy Little Beatty on May 5th.

Eating reservations are required to partake of the meal at the Grand Masters Area Meeting on the 30th, and we have 13 brothers who will be attending!

A committee was formed to organized this year's Charities Golf Tournament.

WB Bobby Burgess announced that he will be putting together a Ladies Night Banquet again this year.

Brother Tommy Nash expressed his intention to work on filling the void in our Lodge for someone to conduct our Masonic funeral services.

## June Birthdays

**AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)**

**Age Birth Date Name**

85 06/17/1926 CARL B. MOORE JR

79 06/17/1932 WILLIAM T. JOHNSON

66 06/06/1945 CLAUDE H. HELMS

63 06/23/1948 RICHARD F. THORNBURG

50 06/03/1961 ROBERT A. BURGESS JR

46 06/14/1965 JAMES W. BENNETT JR

45 06/24/1966 THOMAS B. HILL

25 06/30/1986 EDWARD C. DAVIS IV

## Masonic Interest Story

Fraternal Review of the Southern California Research Lodge, F&AM

[{This begins with a comment by Brother Ralph A. Herbold, Secretary, SCRL} "About 20 years ago the Southern California Research Lodge F&AM published this article which means that it should be issued once more as it is a wonderful story. At that time it was republished so many times in other Masonic publications that I told Duke it must have reached over a million readers. We found that Duke was just as nice a guy as this story portrays. Duke passed away in 1992."}]

TAKE MY HAND BROTHER, BE NOT AFRAID, YOU ARE NOT ALONE. By Robert F. "Duke" Robbins - Member - Southern California Research Lodge

May, 1961, U. S. Interstate inbound.

Pushing my 18-wheeler at 65 MPH (then the legal speed) about fifteen miles from Los Angeles, I was all smiles. After six long months I was returning home from a distant location in Mobile, Alabama. The thought of being home with my wife and two sons had me tingling with joy. Then I saw him. He was old and looked half scared to death. He was standing alongside his automobile giving the "Grand Hailing Sign" over and over. Son of a gun, I was past him before I could pull over safely. I scanned my rear view mirrors hoping desperately to see someone come to the old man's assistance. Nothing. I felt myself wondering where all the members of the Craft were today. I glanced back once more. He was still valiantly and hopelessly seeking help. I sought out the next crossover and headed back; .As I passed him I blew my air horn and waved an assuring hand. The old man seemed to collapse against the car. After making my turnaround I pulled up behind the stopped car and turned on my flashers. I didn't really know what to expect - someone dead or gravely ill maybe. The old man fell into my arms sobbing. Arm in arm we walked back to his car. Other than luggage, it was empty. The long and short of it was simple. He had lost his wife several months ago and his daughter had persuaded him to come to Long Beach to share their home. But you must picture this. In his seventy five plus years he had resided in a very small Kansas town and had never been four hundred miles from home. Now lost, scared out of his wits, on an eight lane freeway with cars passing on all sides, he was near hysteria. As we stood there face to face I couldn't keep from laughing. His white linen shirt revealed a roll of money above his sleeve garter, where his bicep should have been. "What's this, Pops?" I said as I touched the spot where the money was. "You a travelin' man ain'tcha?" His face searched mine. "Mount Olive #506, right here in Los Angeles, Hiram." Our hands met His eyes twinkled with relief as he spurted out his Lodge back in Kansas. He dug out the roll of bills. "Here, Hiram, take it - please. Hold it for me 'till get to Sister's so's I won't lose it" I gripped him squarely by the shoulders. "Look, Pop, I want you to..." That's all he let me get out, when "Oh, please, Hiram, Oh Dear God ... I can't drive on that thing," his thumb indicating the freeway. "Oh! Please don't leave me here." "OK, OK, brother." I looked at the "No Riders" sign on my truck and shrugged my shoulders.

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Stuffing the old guy in my cab-over was no easy chore, but by the time I got up behind the wheel he was grinning like a school boy. The bottom line was - getting off the free-way, calling his daughter, and waiting for their arrival. In the interim, my new found brother and I found a small cafe and as we sipped our coffee the story trickled out. He had owned a two-chair barber shop. Raised eight children. A boy had been killed at Iwo Jima. A daughter and her boy friend were coming home from a football game and were killed at a grade crossing by a train. The voice trailed off. We sat silently, and the old man stared into his coffee as if seeking an answer. Suddenly his family arrived. After the "Hellos," after I gave "Sister" the money, after we retrieve the car, as if as an after-thought, the old man straightens up, "I was Master of my Lodge, son, did I tell you that?" With that he turned and got into Sister's car. I climbed into my rig and forty five minutes later was in the yard at Warner Brothers Studio. I took my luggage over to my car where the hugging and kissing makes homecoming so sweet. "You're almost two hours late, Holley," my wife said, "What happened?" "Had to help my brother get squared away." From the back seat came a squeal of glee from my oldest. "You're a trip, Dad, always joking. You know you were an only kid. He's putting you on, Mom, he ain't got no brother."

They couldn't see my smile in the dark.

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A.F.&A.M.**

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*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.*

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Secretary of Union Lodge #618**

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comments to  
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***Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall  
is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile  
phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the  
reservations. (704) 791-9470***

