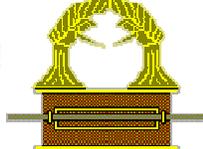




THE WORKMAN



Robert V. Wright, Jr., Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

August 2012

Vol. IV, No. 3

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GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

Just below are pictures of the front and back of the Medallion designed to raise funds this year for the Scholarship Program:



By purchasing one of these coins for a small fee of \$15, you can help us make further progress with our Fred DeBarrows Education Fund. We were able once again to fund five Scholarships this last year through your generous donations. 100% of proceeds from the sale of these Medallions will go to the general Fred Debarrows Education Fund to build up our principal. We must keep in mind that our youth groups are our future.

I would like to repeat what I said last month about our membership: “We are getting new members each year and they are get younger. Through television and the movies, Masonry is becoming of interest to our young adults. This new age of Masons are searching for more and coming into the York Rite

Bodies wanting more. That is were we need to show our qualities. As that brother starts by making his mark until he receives the true word, we must give them the quality they expect in our degrees. If we don't give them a quality performance in our degrees or the education in our meetings, we will not retain them for long. They did not come to hear the minutes read and pay the bills and go home. They came to find more and learn more. We have worked on an educational disc this past year with several companions. They have searched several resources to come up with 63 educational articles that can be presented at your stated convocations. Take the opportunity to read an article and open the floor for discussion of the article. These articles can be found at the Grand York Rite website (<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/raeducation.html>), and also at the Research Chapter website (<http://www.goldenstatechapter.org/library.html>)."

In closing, we have just recently lost our Past Grand High Priest from 1992-93, MEC Robert H. Sweem, of Downey Chapter. Please see the obituary below on page 6.

Also note the first Degree conferred by the new Chapter, Siminoff Chapter UD. See page 7 below. And see an article in the RAM-I Newsletter for August about the Institution Ceremony on June 27, 2012 at Howard Chapter in San Jose.

Fraternally,

Bob Wright, Grand High Priest

RAM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

As you know, our Grand Chapter is associated with the General Grand Chapter RAM International. The General Grand Chapter is now publishing a newsletter with international scope. Issue number 10 for August of 2012 has been forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. Under Grand Chapters on the left side of the Newsletter, check for California specific news.

Prior editions from March 2012 can also be found under the Library tab at the Research Chapter website: www.goldenstatechapter.org

OUTDOOR DEGREES **MARK MASTER & THIRD**

*San Mateo Masonic Lodge #226
embarks on their historic 30th
Annual Outdoor 3rd Degree preceded by:*

*King Solomon Royal Arch Chapter #95
is proud to continue the tradition of
conferring the
Mark Master Degree
9:00 am - Registration and coffee & donuts
9:30 am - Degree*

***Cressin Ranch - Half Moon Bay, CA
Saturday, September 8, 2012***

*After the degrees an extraordinary steak
lunch prepared by:
Worshipful Chef Johnny Sanchez*

*All this for a low price of \$15.00 per person
Please RSVP your lunch attendance to
Worshipful Johnny Sanchez: 650-868-3894
Notify Jay Rodriguez with the number of
candidates that you'll be bringing for the
Mark Master Degree: 650-576-6533*

HOW DID MASONIC RITUAL COME ABOUT

Ironically, most of our early knowledge of Masonic ritual is from the early anti-Masonic literature (exposures) in England and France. The first ritual was probably a simple ceremony of admission, which developed into two degrees and, at about the time when the first Grand Lodge in England was formed in 1717, into a system of three degrees. These early ceremonies were mainly delivered in catechetical form and were evidently briefer and less well structured than the later ceremonies. Early ritual was also Christian in content - indeed the Premier Grand Lodge met on St. John's Day (24th June).

Because of the way that the Craft developed from very early times, there was considerable diversity of practice in England from one part of the country to another, and particularly between the Lodges under the two rival Grand Lodges, the Premier and the Ancient Grand Lodges. To pave the way for the

union of these two Grand Lodges, a Lodge of Promulgation was formed in 1809 under the Premier Grand Lodge (or Moderns) to examine the ritual and make recommendations.

Following the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, a Lodge of Reconciliation was established to complete the rationalization of the ritual into a form acceptable to both parties forming the newly constituted United Grand Lodge of England. The work of the Lodge of Reconciliation between 1813 and 1816 included demonstrations of the opening and closing ceremonies, the obligations and the perambulations. It was probably also when most of the Christian references were removed. Its other main function was to demonstrate the unified ritual. Representatives of Lodges in London and the Provinces were invited to attend special demonstrations organized by the experts from the Lodge of Reconciliation, which completed its work in 1816.

It was forbidden to print the ritual or even produce written manuscripts, so the communication of the work to the various Lodges relied heavily on the ability, not to mention the memory, of those attending the demonstrations. Their task was then to instruct their own members in the approved practices. It was not until 1835 that the first regular ritual book was published in England by George Claret. This is somewhat surprising because at this time the printing of ritual was still strictly frowned upon by Grand Lodge, and several later authors were firmly admonished for such transgressions.

Towards the latter part of the 19th century, and into the 20th century, an increased number of rituals emerged. Today in England there are some 40 published rituals and several hundred smaller workings, some unique to particular Lodges. Emulation is the most widely used. Some rituals are practiced within certain Provinces, such as the Oxford Working and the Sussex Working, and many others are popular in particular geographic areas. Except for a few Lodges in Bristol and the North of England, which retains more of the earlier practices, the degree of variation is quite small. The UGLE has never officially recognized any particular ritual working. Lodges are to this day, free to teach and practice whatever ritual they wish, provided the landmarks are not breached.

In the USA, there are several different Craft rituals in use, generally exhibiting only minor variations and, broadly speaking, they are very similar to England. Yet, in a very curious way, the visitor from England who knows his ritual will find that the American versions sound strangely old-fashioned, repetitive, and somehow older than used today in England. Surprisingly, this is true! America got their ritual from Britain, but it is, in fact, older.

American Masonic workings owe their origins, unquestionably, to England, Scotland, Ireland, but the stabilization of their ritual was done by an American, Thomas Smith Webb, who, in 1797 published a book under the title *Freemasons' Monitor or Illustrations of Freemasonry*. What happened in fact was, that Webb took the English Freemason William Preston's book *Illustrations of Masonry* (it was almost a bible to the English Craft), retained sixty-four pages of work intact, word for word, cut out a few minor items, and rearranged others. Although Webb wrote very little of it himself, he may well be described as the father of American ritual.

For that reason, it is fair to say that the ritual used in America, though it came from Great Britain, is actually far older than used today in England, and it is not merely 'old-fashioned,' but also more discursive, and by reason of their Lectures much more explanatory than what is used in England, especially of the symbolical meaning of their procedures. With the creation of the UGLE the ritual in England had been altered, curtailed and polished up, (some said, almost beyond recognition), but not so in the USA where they preserved it.

The American ritual material is essentially the same as in England and easily recognizable. The signs and secrets are virtually the same, except that America uses the Scottish sign for the Entered Apprentices. The second degree is more elaborate and the third is basically the same, but because lodges perform the drama as if it were a play, treating the Candidate as though he were really H.A., the result is occasionally rather rough and frightening, especially in those lodges that pride themselves on the realism of their performance.

The manner in which America safeguard their ritual is also interesting. In England, the Grand Lodge views the ritual as a 'domestic matter,' i.e., a majority

of the Brethren in any lodge may decide what form of ritual shall be worked, and unless the Lodge was guilty of some serious breach, the Grand Lodge would not interfere. In the USA, the very reverse is the case. Each Grand Lodge prescribes the ritual that its Lodges shall work, and usually the Grand Lodge prints and publishes the “monitorial” or explanatory portions of the rituals too. Some Grand Lodges also publish the esoteric ritual, in code or cipher, but this is forbidden in others. Moreover, to prevent innovations, the Grand Lodges protect their forms of ritual working by the appointment of officers, called Grand Lecturers, whose duty is not to lecture, but to ensure that the groups of lodges under their care adhere to the official workings.

Submitted by Nigel Gallimore

GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

For info about 2012 Scholarships, go to the following website:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/rara.html>

If you have the resources, please consider making a significant donation on behalf of our Masonic Youth. Send any excess cash (!) to the Grand Chapter Scholarship Program at 11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13, Artesia, CA 90701-3872

Remember that all donations to the Scholarship Program are Tax Deductible, so keep this in mind as you plan your annual giving and when you pay your dues.

THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at MP. ENTERPRISES. The price for red and blue is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$87.00 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Purple Jackets are little more expensive at \$95.00 for the smaller and \$107.00 for the larger. Also available are Men’s and ladies’ vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Max Luy at (510) 527-5728, or cell: (510) 502-3224; or email at maxluy@hotmail.com.

ENCOMPASSER

The **July 2012** edition of the Encompasser is now available on the website. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar.

You can help us control cost by letting us know you are willing to take the Encompasser by email only.

Check out the new format available – you can now read the Encompasser online! No need to even print it out. Many thanks to our web-master, Excellent Companion Richard Thornton, for his efforts in applying this technology to our needs!

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The website located at www.goldenstatechapter.org now contains a copy of the 2010 and 2011 Grand Orations booklets. Also included is a copy of “The Royal Arch Path,” by MEC Phil Hardiman, KYGCH. At the latest convocation, the Chapter approved the publication of the 2012 Grand Orations. This will also contain the paper delivered by our out-going High Priest, Richard Wilson, Inspector, and the Vesper Service and West Coast Easter Observance messages given by Tom Boles, the out-going Grand Prelate.

The next meeting will be at Grand Lodge on Friday night, during the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, at 5:00 p.m. outside the library. The new Grand Orations booklet should be available at that time. For information about membership, contact:

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GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITENERARY**CONTACT INFORMATION**

AUGUST		
3rd	3-Way Fairfield	Randy Billingsley 707-344-1685 David Anderson 707-421-8054
4th	3-Way Alameda	Tony Yuson 925-709-0885
5th	3-Way South SF	Ted Lyau 415-337-1979
9th – 11th	Grand Sessions	Arizona
15th	Scottish Rite Appreciation Night	San Diego
16th	Reception	San Diego
SEPTEMBER		
2nd	SoCal DeMolay	Riverside
8th	San Gabriel Valley #100, MSA Award	San Gabriel Valley
16th	Salinas #59	John Williams 831-384-6428
21st	Grand Lodge	San Francisco
22nd	Grand Lodge	San Francisco
OCTOBER		
6th	3-Way	Auburn
8th	Reception Orange County Chapter #73	Anaheim
20th	Reception, #97	Sana Monica
21st	Colorado River Fall Festival	Laughlin, NV
22nd	Colorado River Fall Festival (RA Degree)	Laughlin, NV
23rd	Colorado River Fall Festival	Laughlin, NV
NOVEMBER		
1st – 3rd	SouthWest Regional York Rite Conference	Ontario, CA
JANUARY 12th	Installation	San Luis Obispo
APRIL 13th	Reception	Redding

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WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH**Website**

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

In Memoriam

Most Excellent Companion

Robert Harold Sireem

Grand High Priest (1992-93)
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of California



Born September 6, 1922
Called from labor on July 27, 2012

*"Now the laborer's task is o'er;
Now the battle is past;
Now upon the further shore,
Lands the voyager at last."*

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p. m. on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at Rose Hills Memorial Chapel; 3888 Workman Mill Rd.; Whittier, CA.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Royal Arch Scholarship Fund; c/o Grand Secretary; 11428 Artesia Blvd. Suite 13; Artesia, CA 90701-3872 will be greatly appreciated.

**SIMIINOFF CHAPTER U. D.
Union City, California
The Past Grand Masters' Grove
Mark Master Conferral, July 24, 2012**



In the picture above are shown the Degree Team, the candidates and the side-liners! This is quite a showing on a hot summer day at the new outdoor degree site at the Masonic Homes of California in Union City. The light blue collars are actual Mark Master collars gifted to the California Grand Chapter many years ago by a now deceased English Mark Master Mason! The High Priest, M. E. C. Edgar Fentum, PGHP, made the following remarks to his members after this first degree conferral by the new Chapter:

“Thank You, all -- members of the cast, sideliners, and candidates! Without your support we could not have achieved this first Mark conferral in under four weeks! We were Instituted on June 27th. The degree team did very well, especially the Right Worshipful Master, Wardens and Deacons. I thought the three Overseers were terrific! You would never believe they had not done that part before!

**Many of you helped enormously in so many ways - transport, lending us paraphernalia, regalia, setting up and clearing away - you have my sincere gratitude. Our next major event is on August 14th - the first Stated Convocation. More detail later.
Yours zealously, Ed**