



The Blue Glow

CHARTERED DECEMBER 10, 1920

December 2008

**SUGAR LAND MASONIC
LODGE #1141**

421 Eldridge Road
Post Office Box 1133
Sugar Land, Texas
77487-1133
Phone: (281) 265-1141

Lodge Officers

Carl Conley,
Worshipful Master

Loren Gullede,
Senior Warden

Charles Cupples,
Junior Warden

Stephen Milkowski,
Treasurer

Mo Edmonds,
Secretary

Hugo MonDragon, PM,
Chaplain

Wade Shelton,
Senior Deacon

Michael Tunnell,
Junior Deacon

Stephen 'Sandy' Caldwell
Senior Steward

David Johnson,
Junior Steward

Eric Wilson
Master of Ceremonies

Willy Wouters,
Marshal

James Gibson, Tiler

John Goddin,
Jr. Past Master

FROM THE EAST

Before the November Stated Meeting, we opened a Public Lodge to recognize 160 years of Masonic service by presenting a Sixty Year Service Award to Brother Earl Kennon and Fifty Year Service Awards to Brother Richard Shult and Brother Steve Frazier. The awards were presented by R.W. Rick Stanley, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 108. Each recipient received a certificate and a lapel pin from the Grand Master to honor their service in our Fraternity. Since the beginning of this Masonic Year, Sugar Land Masonic Lodge has honored 345 years of service to this Lodge--WOW!!!

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I want to express my deepest appreciation for all the brothers and sisters who came out on Thanksgiving Day to help deliver the meals to our Distressed Worthy Brothers, Widows, and to the police officers who were on duty at the Sugar Land, Missouri City, and Stafford Police Stations. The Lodge was able to provide 80 meals to our distressed and deserving friends. The funds used to provide for this laudable undertaking are from the proceeds of the annual Golf Tournament. As always, P.M. Duke Woodward did a great job in organizing this endeavor.

For those who were unable to attend the Liendo Plantation Open-Air Degree on November 24, 2008, you missed an outstanding Masters Degree. Pleasant Hill Lodge # 380 hosted the event and the Masters, Wardens, and Secretary Association of Masonic District 108 provided the degree team. Frontier Lodge # 28 furnished the altar, stations, and lanterns used in the degree. S. D. Wade Shelton and R.W. Bill Sessums were on the team to represent Sugar Land Lodge. Others who attended from the Lodge were P.M John Goddin, J.W. Charlie Cupples, Treasurer Steve Milkowski, Bro. Brad Tippit, and Bro. Raul Sarmiento and his son Javier Flores, Jason Simoneaux from T. Neal

Porter Lodge # 1354 and myself. There were approximately a hundred Master Masons who attended the event. This year even the weather and mosquitoes cooperated, because it was very comfortable under the stars. EA Milton Scales participated as a soldier in the reenactment of the battle at Liendo Plantation, but to maintain peace and harmony, I will not mention which "Army" he represented.

The Second Annual Jeans and Boots Banquet honoring Most Worshipful Walter David Counts, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, will be Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 5:00pm-11:00pm, at the Katy VFW Hall Community Center, 6206 George Bush Drive, Katy, Texas 77493. "Let It Ride" Band will provide the music for dancing after dinner. The banquet is sponsored by The Masters, Wardens, and Secretary Association of Masonic District 108 and the proceeds will go to the district association's scholarship fund. The price is \$30.00 per ticket and can be purchased from S.D. Wade Shelton or W.M. Conley. I encourage everyone to come out and have a good time.

By the time this Blue Glow is distributed, the 2008 Grand Annual Communication will be completed, so make sure to attend the Stated Meeting on December 15, 2008 because we will discuss the result of the resolutions during our meeting.

Fraternally,
Carl Conley,
Worshipful Master





EASTERN STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 11th - Stated Meeting
December 9th - Stated Meeting, Pot Luck Dinner

News from the Sugar Land Eastern Stars

2007 - 2008 OES Officers
Sugar Land Chapter #1107

Worthy Matron - Kellie Gibson

Worthy Patron - James Gibson, Jr.

Assoc. Matron - Donna Butler

Assoc. Patron - Charles Cupples

Secretary - Linda Nichols

Treasurer - Peggy Anderson

Conductress - Jackie Parsonage

Assoc. Conductress - Kathy St. John

Chaplain - Tanya Dean

Marshal - Buddy Blair

Organist - Linda Hill

Adah - Elizabeth Lloyd

Ruth - Gerry Sturtz

Esther - Billie Blair

Martha - Cassandra Landa

Electa - Marion Nixon

Warder - Matt Woodard

Sentinel - Bill Sturtz



Many thanks go to all the Brothers and Sisters who helped to deliver Thanksgiving dinners to Masonic Widows, distressed Brothers and friends of Sugar Land Masonic Lodge and Sugar Land OES. Above Left: Sister Beverly with WM Conley on Thanksgiving morning at Luby's picking up the dinners that would be delivered that day. Above Right: Brother Julius with a representative of one of the three local police departments that were provided with Thanksgiving dinners for all the hard working public servants who worked on Thanksgiving day.

Ashlars – Rough, Smooth – the Story of Stone

Masonic Scholar, J. Fairbairn Smith, Editor Emeritus of the Detroit Masonic World.

An eminent sculptor was once asked: "How do you carve such beautiful statues?" He replies, "It is the simplest thing in the world. I take a hammer and chisel and from a massive, shapeless rock, I knock off all the stone I do not want, and there is the statue. It was there all the time."

In every Masonic Lodge room there is, or should be, the Rough Ashlar and the Perfect Ashlar. These two and the Trestle Board constitute our Movable Jewels. What is their significance? What do they have to do with Masonry?

In our monitorial work we are taught that the Rough Ashlar "is a stone as taken from the quarry in its rude and natural state" and that the Perfect Ashlar "is a stone made ready by the hands of the workman, to be adjusted by the working tools of the Fellow Craft." The Rough Ashlar was not a stone that was merely picked up somewhere. It was a stone that has been selected. Some work was done upon it. It was apparently a good stone. It was a stone that showed good prospects of being capable of being made into a Perfect Ashlar. If it had not been a good stone, it would never have been cut out from the quarry.

So it is with our prospective member. He cannot be merely picked up somewhere. He must be selected. Before he is ready to be initiated some work must be done upon him. He must stand certain basic tests. He must be apparently of good material. He must be a man who shows good prospects of being capable of being made into a good Mason. If he had not been a good man, he should never have been proposed for membership.

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Ashlars – Rough, Smooth – the Story of Stone (Cont'd)

In changing a Rough Ashlar into a Perfect Ashlar, the workman takes away and never adds to. He chips and chips. He cuts away the rough edges. He removes the visible flaws, he does not create by chemical means or otherwise, a new material. He takes that which is already there and develops it into the Perfect Ashlar.

The stone from which the Venus de Milo was carved by an unknown sculptor of ancient times, lay since the beginning of time in the rocks of the Island Milo. A common, unknown workman may have cut a huge piece of marble from the quarry. But it took a master artisan to carve out the beautiful statue. It took a good piece of marble and a skilled artist to produce the Venus de Milo.

Not many operators in Masonry can make a Perfect Ashlar. So there are not many perfect Masons in our Lodges. In our Ritualistic and other work, we can take away much of the roughness, remove the sharp points and obliterate the visible defects. We can produce as good a Mason as there is within our power to produce. But the essential thing is to have a good material upon which to work.

This statement is applicable to all mankind, but to us as Symbolic Masons, it is pregnant with meaning, for, was not each one, at the commencement of his Masonic career, placed in the Northeast corner as an example stone, in the hope that the stone so placed would, in the fullness of time, be wrought into a thing of beauty acceptable to the builder?

What does the poet say of the stone? Isn't it strange that Princes and Kings And clowns that caper in sawdust rings, And common folks like you and me Are builders for eternity? Each is given a kit of tools, A shapeless mass and a book of rules: And each must make, ere life is flown; A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

These are very true words. The kit of tools are those talents with which God has blessed us to enable us to fulfill our mission in life. We are told in the Volume of the Sacred Law that one man received five talents, another, two talents, and yet another, only one talent, so that our duty is for each to discharge his allotted task to the best of his ability, and help those who have not been so well blessed as himself. Thus each will be assisted in carving out the "Grand Design" of being happy and communicating happiness and thereby of being more "extensively serviceable to his fellow creatures."

The shapeless mass is a man's character, and each one of us is his own Architect, Builder and Material, and like our predecessors, the Operative Masons, we each must show our craftsmanship in working out a perfect "Ashlar" fit to be tried by the square of his own conscience.

The book of rules is the V.S.L. "That great light that will guide us to all truth, direct our steps in the path of happiness, and thus, point out the whole duty of man."

Let us pause for a moment and earnestly ask ourselves, which are we making--stumbling block or a stepping stone? If a man's life is such that he cannot "join in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness to others," then he is a stumbling block, not only to himself, but to all those with whom he is associated. If that man is a Freemason he should study the ritual and discover the inner meaning, so that he can learn to perfect his stone.

Let us trace whence comes this perfect stone. An ancient charge provides that a mould stone shall be given to a visiting Operative Mason to enable him to demonstrate his craftsmanship. The stones were selected individual stones from the quarries to suit the requirement of the material building. As Speculative Masons, we obtain our mould stones from the quarries of life. Thus, when we receive an application for admission to our Lodge it is our duty to carefully scrutinize all the credentials of the applicant from every angle, so that only approved material is admitted to the Craft.

Freemasonry can and does improve good material, but it cannot make bad material good. As with the Operative Mason, poor material would have endangered the material structure. So with us as Speculative Masons, a faulty Ashlar will endanger the Spiritual temple we are endeavoring to build.

Having found, by the strictest inquiry, that the applicant, or mould stone, is suitable, we have, by those inquiries, knocked off some of the irregularities which surrounded him, and after his initiation, he is represented as the "rough Ashlar," that is, the stone is no longer the mould stone, but it is approximately a cube which still requires a considerable amount of "dressing" before the "perfect Ashlar" which is within it can be brought to light, and the candidate is given him to "knock off rough knobs and evanescence," of his character.

Later on he finds that, although the common gavel and chisel are suitable for reducing the roughness they are not capable of achieving perfection. As a Craftsman he receives another set of working tools, one of which is essential to perfection, namely, the square, and here he learns that it is only by continual grinding and many applications of the square that the stone can be brought to a true die, or cube.

In his capacity as a Craftsman and as a man of the world, he is continually coming into contact with his fellows and he learns to control his passions and to recognize the rights of others, with the result that the stone he is working upon, namely, his character, is gradually taking shape as a perfect Ashlar.

Later, he is called upon to hand his stone over to the Builder, who cuts a beveled hole at the top, so that the stone can be attached to a lewis and be hoisted up ready to be placed on the base assigned to it by the Builder. Thus, he is reminded that the rope, the Lewis, and the crane represent the all sustaining power of God, and that if he has discharged his duty faithfully

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Ashlars – Rough, Smooth – the Story of Stone (Cont'd)

and in accordance with the precepts laid down in the V.S.L., he may rest assured that when his final summons comes he will find that the great Builder will have prepared a place for him in that "Great Spiritual Temple not made with hands eternal in the Heavens."

Finally, let us consider this "perfect Ashlar" from a geometric point of view. Looking at the perfect "Ashlar," as it stands in the Lodge we notice that it has six equal and exactly similar sides, and that no matter how it is placed down, on the level, it must stand on one of its faces and present a similar face to the observer, from any point of view. It is the only geometrical body which requires no support from its fellows, but when placed in line with similar cubes, demands its own space, and lines up with the others on top, bottom and sides.

Photo Top Right: 160 years worth of Masonry! WM Conley, Brothers Richard Shult, Earl Kennon, Steve Frazier and RW DDGM Rick Stanley.

Photo Center Right: RW DDGM congratulates Brother Steve Frazier while presenting him his 50 year Masonic Service Award.

Photo Bottom Right: WM Conley, RW DDGM Rick Stanley and Bro. John Goddin PM proudly present the Vanguard award which Sugar Land Lodge received for being a Vanguard lodge for 2008. Only 32 lodges in TX received the coveted Vanguard award.



Trestle Board

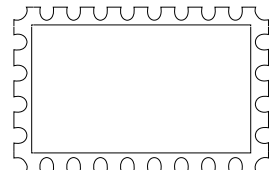
Dec 4-6 - Grand Lodge in Waco
December 12 Alamo Lodge
December 15 Stated Meeting
December 20 Santa's Exchange
December 24 Christmas Eve-Lodge Dark
December 31 New Years Eve- Lodge Dark

Stated Meeting, 3rd Monday of the month. Dinner starts at 6:15 pm, Tiled Meeting at 7:30 pm.

The Blue Glow - Newsletter of Sugar Land Masonic Lodge #1141 - Sugar Land, Texas
Bro. Stephen Hall, PM, Editor-



Sugar Land Masonic Lodge #1141
421 Eldridge Road
Post Office Box 1133
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-1133
Telephone (281) 265-1141
<http://www.sugarlandmasoniclodge.org>



A.F. & A.M.