

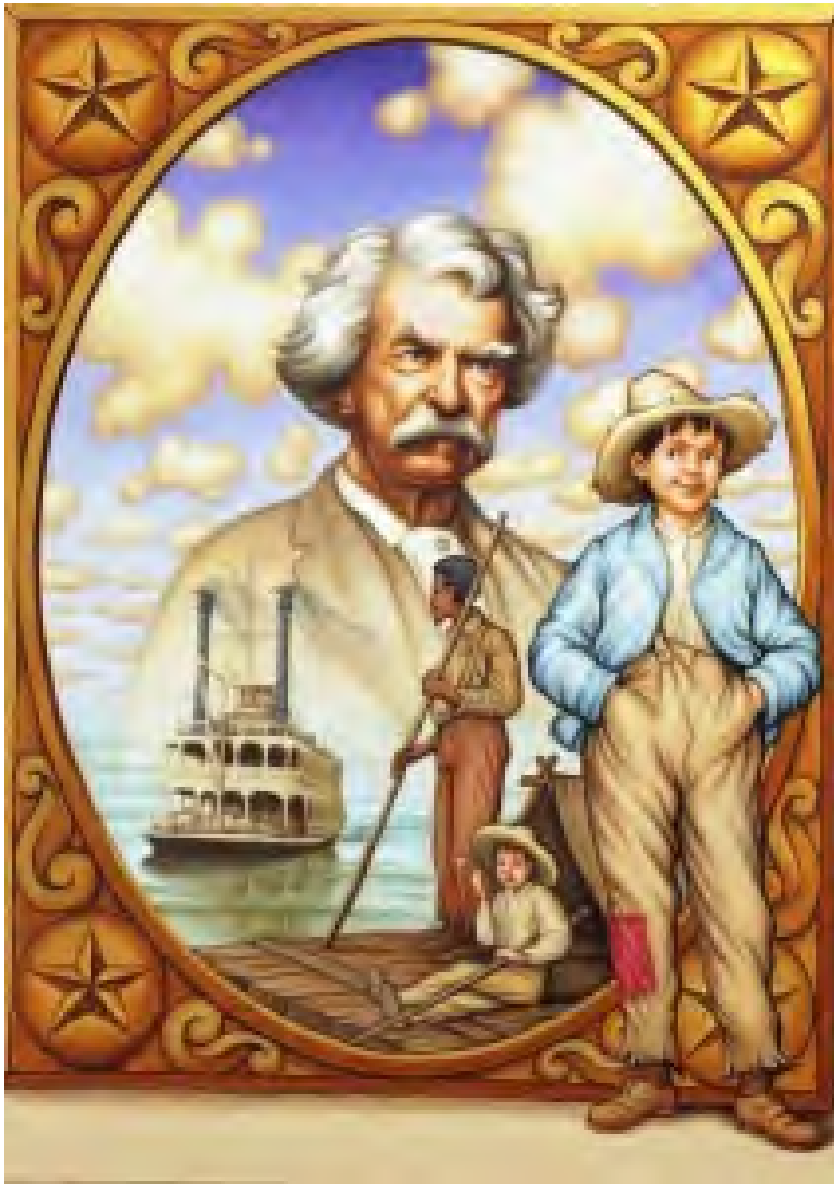


The Oklahoma Mason

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

2011 - vol. II February/March

page 1



Two Oklahoma Lodges Win Prestigious National 2010 Mark Twain Award for Masonic Awareness

When M.:W.: Richard Fletcher, Past Grand Master of Vermont and Executive Director of the Masonic Information Center announced the 2010 winners of the Mark Twain Award at the Conference of Grand Masters in February, two Oklahoma Lodges were among the 17 Lodges in the United States to receive the award.

See story on page 4

From the Grand Master



Brethren,

Along with most of the elected Trustees of the Grand Lodge, I've just returned from the Conference of Grand Master of North America. We got some good ideas while we were there. And it reminded me of something I wanted to talk with you about. Excuse me if I am blunt, those of you who know me know that's the way I am.

Every time a resolution is introduced to increase the per capita, we hear the same things. "I'd vote for the per capita if they would tell me where they are spending the money we have now." or "They just use the money to travel all over the place—they don't need any more."

As far as telling you how we spend the money, let me remind you that the budget is printed in the Yellow Book and sent to every Lodge in Oklahoma to be read and discussed before it is voted on at Grand Lodge. Not only that, but an audit by an outside accounting firm is printed in the Proceedings showing how the money was spent, and that is also sent to every Lodge. So anyone who does not know how the money is spent just isn't taking the trouble to find out. The information is at their Lodge.

Then I hear people say, "There's no reason to send people to the Conference of Grand Masters, they go first class all the way and just throw money out the window." Let me tell you the facts.

First of all, only a fool thinks he knows all the answers, and only a blind fool thinks there are no problems to be solved in Masonry. There are many problems. To list a few:

- ◆ Our suspension for non-payment of dues rate is way too high. That hurts every Lodge in Oklahoma. Most Lodges cannot raise enough men to offset those who go suspended, let alone the death rate. If that suspension rate could be cut in half, it would benefit every Lodge.

- ◆ Every Lodge has many men who took the Entered Apprentice Degree but never advanced. In some cases, the person decided Masonry just wasn't what they wanted. That's one thing. But in most cases, they just drop through the cracks, maybe because no one teaches them, maybe because they don't feel welcome, maybe for one of a hundred other reasons. But whatever the reason, some years nearly a fourth of the Entered Apprentices don't advance.

- ◆ Masonic membership in Oklahoma is composed mostly of younger men and older men, with not too many in between. That's true across the country. It creates a problem in communications. Most younger men prefer to communicate on the Internet, most older men prefer printed communication. How can we communicate with both groups (they are both entitled to it) especially when the costs of mail have increased so much?

That's just three. There are others. It is helpful to find out what other Grand Lodges are doing, what problems they are running into, and what they are doing about it. And, as anyone who has been to a conference of any kind can tell you, some of the most valuable information comes between the sessions, when you meet and talk with others in the halls and at dinner. You make relationships which can be valuable over many years.

So that's why we go and why it is a good thing to go. But let's talk about this "going first class" rumor. It's a lie.

We start shopping early to find the least expensive air tickets. We fly economy, not first class. When we get there, we stay in the least expensive hotels in the area. Usually, that's the hotel where the conference is being held, because they have negotiated special rates. We pick up the cost of meals, but not the cost of alcohol (as another rumor has it).

The only other conference we attend in the Regional Conference of states in our Masonic region. The reasons are the same, in addition to the fact that it is simply considered courteous to attend the conference in your region. Again, it is done at the least cost possible.

We attend Grand Lodge Annual Communications in Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, and sometimes New Mexico, just like they attend ours. We don't fly to those, we drive, and only a few people go.

And speaking of driving, the majority of the Grand Lodge travel budget is for in-state travel. I've noticed that almost everyone thinks the Grand Lodge should cut back its in-state travel—as long as we don't cut going to THEIR Lodge or THEIR District Meeting, or THEIR special event. Right now, the average mileage allowance in Oklahoma a business gives their employees who travel on company business is 50¢ a mile. Calculations show that just about covers the cost of gas, wear and tear on cars and tires, etc. (That doesn't reflect the current increase in gas prices.) The Grand Lodge allows 25¢ a mile, and not every Grand Lodge officer get any at all.

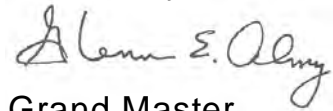
Any Past Grand Master can tell you he wore out two vehicles in the years up to and including his year in the Grand East. How many miles do the Grand Lodge Trustees travel in a year, going to the Lodges and meetings you invite us to attend? In 2009, it was 43,689 and in 2010 it was 36,440. In just those two years, we drove a total of 80,129 miles—more than 3 times the distance around the earth at the equator. And remember, those miles are driven in response to your requests.

The simple fact is that no one is "living high on the hog" in Oklahoma Masonry, and no one is getting fat at your Lodge's expense. *The Oklahoma Mason* magazine used to be published every month. Then it was cut to one every two months. Now we're down to electronic copies with only one hard copy printed and mailed each year. (That copy is required by the Constitution and Code, to give you information about the men available for office and the resolutions to be considered at Grand Lodge.)

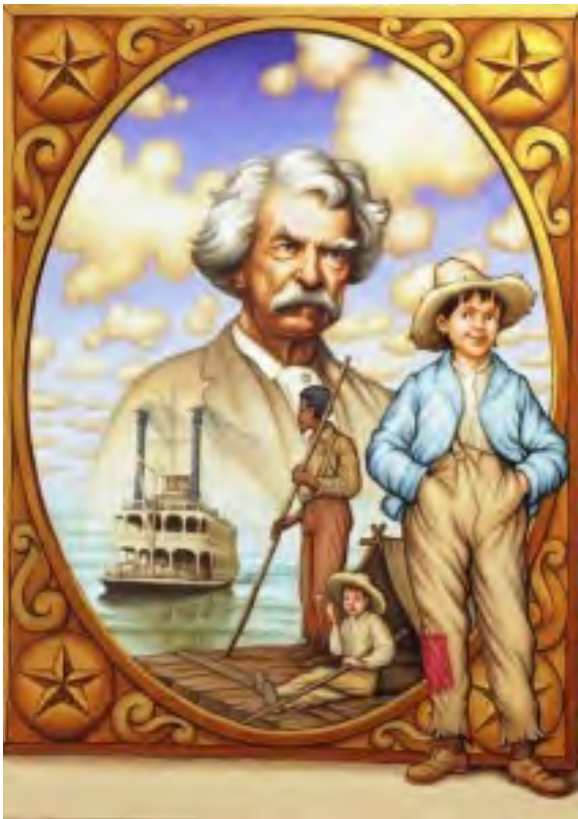
So when you hear someone complain that no financial information ever comes out of the Grand Lodge, tell them to read what's available---we tell people before the year what we plan on spending, and publish an audit to show what was spent. If you hear someone say that Grand Lodge officers are living well off Grand Lodge per capita, tell them to check their facts. And if you hear them complain that things cost more in 2011 than they did in 1970, remind them that only the dead do not face rising costs.

The good news is that Oklahoma Masonry is not dead. It is alive, well, and attracting more men to its doors than it has in more than half a century. The overall news *is* good. We just have to be willing to pay the price of success.

Fraternally,



Grand Master



South McAlester Lodge #96 and Sand Springs Lodge #475 were among the 17 Lodges from across the United States to receive the Mark Twain Award for Masonic Awareness. The Twain award was established to encourage Lodges to build Masonic awareness, both in members and in the general public, and to recognize Lodges who made outstanding efforts in that awareness. A panel of judges from across the nation read and ranked submissions from many Lodges in selecting the winners.

Both Oklahoma Lodges submitted outstanding entries, ranking in the top 25% of those selected as winners.

The Mark Twain Award was created as part of a program requested by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America to increase awareness of Freemasonry in both the Lodge and the community. It is no secret that most

Americans have no idea of what Freemasonry represents, and many think the Fraternity disappeared in the 1950's. It comes as a surprise to learn that there are nearly 2 million Masons in the United States alone. Many of those 2 million Masons know very little about the Fraternity, its teachings and traditions. Many Masonic leaders feel that Masonic education of our own members must be given the very highest priority.

We congratulate South McAlester and Sand Springs Lodges for being leaders in this very important area.

Cornerstones In The Oklahoma Territories

Robert T. Shipe P.:G.:M.:

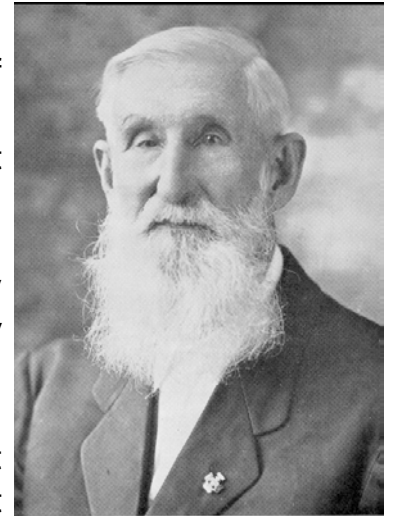


M.:W.: Robert T. Shipe
Grand Master - 2001

The Oklahoma Lodge of Research is in the process of publishing a book about the Cornerstones laid by the Grand Lodges of Indian and Oklahoma territories between 1875 and 1908. While it documents the cornerstones laid in the territories, it also contains a variety of human and historical facts about the evolution of our state. Like the impact on Masonry by the Civil War, the land runs, the iron horse causing Masonry to flourish and in some cases die when it took another path, how much of the state was settled by the white man before statehood, how the railroad man knew he could find a Mason at the railroad town Y, and much, much more.



While everyone knows that one of the charges for the Lodge of Research is to document the history of Freemasonry in Oklahoma, hopefully, the book will kindle your interest in learning more about our state. For instance, today, hardly anyone knows, or realizes, that when the first cornerstone was laid by Reverend Joseph Samuel Murrow in 1875 at Muskogee, Masonry had been in Indian Territory for twenty-seven years, the first Lodge having started in 1848 by cavalymen in the U. S. Army at Tahlequah. And between 1848 and 1855 five Lodges were operating in the Territory and all were chartered by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas except Alpha at Fort Gibson which Kansas Grand Lodge chartered. Yet, over the next fifteen years, between 1855-1870, only one Lodge was formed in the Territory: Atoka, in 1868. Why? The Civil War and its aftermath. After that, with the new '70's decade, more normal times appeared and Masonry reappeared to the gladdened eye of man.



Rev. Joseph Murrow
known as "Father Murrow"
in Oklahoma Masonry



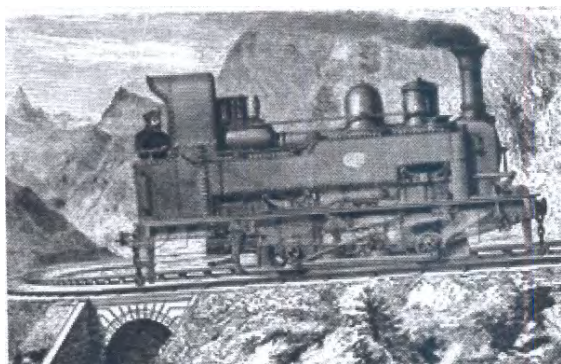
Atoka, shortly after its founding

In the midst of this bleak period, Reverend Joseph Murrow, to foster and promote growth in the Fraternity and give a Mason's wives a social outlet, began a movement to bring Eastern Star into the Territory and formed the first Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star in Oklahoma in 1879 at Atoka, a town he founded and named. And, on Chapter Chartering, Father Murrow became the first Worthy Patron at Atoka.

You will learn another factor causing slow settlement in the Territory was lawlessness, which was rampant between 1865-85, and its Territorial reputation. Together, they hindered settlement, coupled with the territory being poverty stricken, in part by the ravages of the Civil War. This situation drew bad men into the Territory. Renegades lived off the land and the people. Bootleggers, tinhorn gamblers, thieves, prostitutes, and assorted hoodlums gave rise to more lawlessness. Gibson Station, a typical rail camp, was reputed to have at least one killing each night. Terms like: 'The Robbers Roost', 'The Land of the Six-Gun' and a widely broadcast slogan 'There is no Sunday west of St. Louis-no God west of Fort Smith' stifled migration and made law and order slow to take effect. The evolution of Masonic Lodges, with their members reputation for supporting law and order, did much to bring peace and law-abiding citizenry to the territory.



Still, nothing surpassed the impact of the Railroads who lobbied Congress to open the land for white settlement. Before the iron horse came upon the scene in Oklahoma in 1870, one



must recall that throughout the 1870-1890 period smaller settlements were still supplied by horse drawn freight lines serving local merchants with dry goods and other commerce. Oklahoma only had (all built before the Civil War) four main roads: the Texas Road, running from Missouri to north Texas, through Miami, Fort Gibson, North Fork Town (Eufaula), Boggy Depot and Colbert Ferry; the Butterfield Road from Fort Smith to north Texas, through Wilburton, Atoka, Boggy Depot, Fort Washita to Colbert's Ferry; the California Road, from Fort

Smith to west Texas, that followed the Canadian River valley and entered Texas near present Durham just south of the Antelope Hills; and the Santa-Fe Road going from Kansas to New Mexico through the Panhandle at the western end. So access for the settlers to the vast land area of the territory was limited to traversing the country by wagon or on horseback and being isolated to self sufficiency.

But, its blossoming came with the land-runs that literally caused the population to explode between 1889-1901, and with it a burst in Masonry occurred by the number of Masons entering the Territory as new settlers. In fact, after the first land-run of 1889, new Lodges were being UD or chartered in double digit numbers starting in 1891, with twenty chartered in 1894. For the most part half of the new settlement Lodges were along railroad lines. The others were in cities and towns along rivers and well traveled roads in the mainstream of commerce and industry routes.

The breakthrough in bringing homesteaders into the Territory came with the railroads emergence in 1870. The first one completed in 1871-72 ran from Colbert's Ferry to the north

east corner of the Territory and into Missouri, more or less along the Texas Road. In 1882 the Frisco line crossed the Creek Nation to Red Fork and Tulseytown (Tulsa) . In 1886-89 the Iron Mountain Railway laid tracks from Fort Smith through Wagoner to Coffeeville, Kansas. In 1887 the Frisco lines went into Ft Reno, Oklahoma City and on into McAlester. In 1900 the Midland Valley Railroad ran into Muskogee, Tulsa, and Pawhuska and the Fort Smith and Western line built into the coal fields of McCurtain County. And there were many others, but by 1905, 5,231 miles of railroad had been laid in Oklahoma which gave new life to the territory in commerce and industry.



As a reminder, until the land run of April 22, 1889, all of what is now the state of Oklahoma, was Indian Territory, except the Panhandle which was made part of Oklahoma Territory by Congress in the Oklahoma Organic Act of 1890, and Greer County, Texas.

In 1889 the first of many successive areas of western Oklahoma were opened to white settlement by President Benjamin Harrison. These Unassigned Lands in the Oklahoma District became designated as Oklahoma Territory, which removed land run areas from Indian Territory, and gave rise to the principle reason for the formation of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma for that Territory.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the Lodge of Research book covers the cornerstones laid by the Grand Lodges of the Indian and Oklahoma Territories. This insight about other aspects in the book is presented here to, hopefully, whet your appetite and cause you to want to buy a book and delve into the history of our Fraternity here in Oklahoma. The chapters present the cornerstones by city within the Territory, in a time line format, in date sequence. In those settlements that had more than one ceremony, subsequent ceremonies follow the initial one because local area Masons wanted the ceremony performed to aid their community celebrate the planning and initial construction phase of the structure.

NOTE: I've had the privilege of reading the book before it was published. With photographs, fold out map, and attention to detail, this is a really good book to have in your Masonic library and to give to your public library. We will announce its publication and how to order as soon as the book is off the press. Jim Tresner



M. W. Richard Fletcher, PGM of Vermont, waits off-camera in the House of the Temple during the taping of a *Good Morning, America* program.

One of Freemasonry's Most Respected Spokesmen Retires

You may have seen him on *Good Morning, America* answering questions about Freemasonry; or perhaps on one of the programs on The History Channel. Or you may have met him during one of his visits to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. Whatever the venue, once you meet Richard Fletcher, you are unlikely to forget him.

Most Worshipful Richard E. Fletcher, Past Grand Master of Vermont and Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America and The Masonic Information Center has announced his retirement after nearly 25 years of service. It has been a time of remarkable accomplishment.

He was born in Malden, Massachusetts, on October 12, 1934. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he married Judith Elsa Irish. They have five children and 11 grandchildren. He served Chittenden Bank, Burlington, Vermont; retiring as Senior Vice President in Treasury/Property Management.

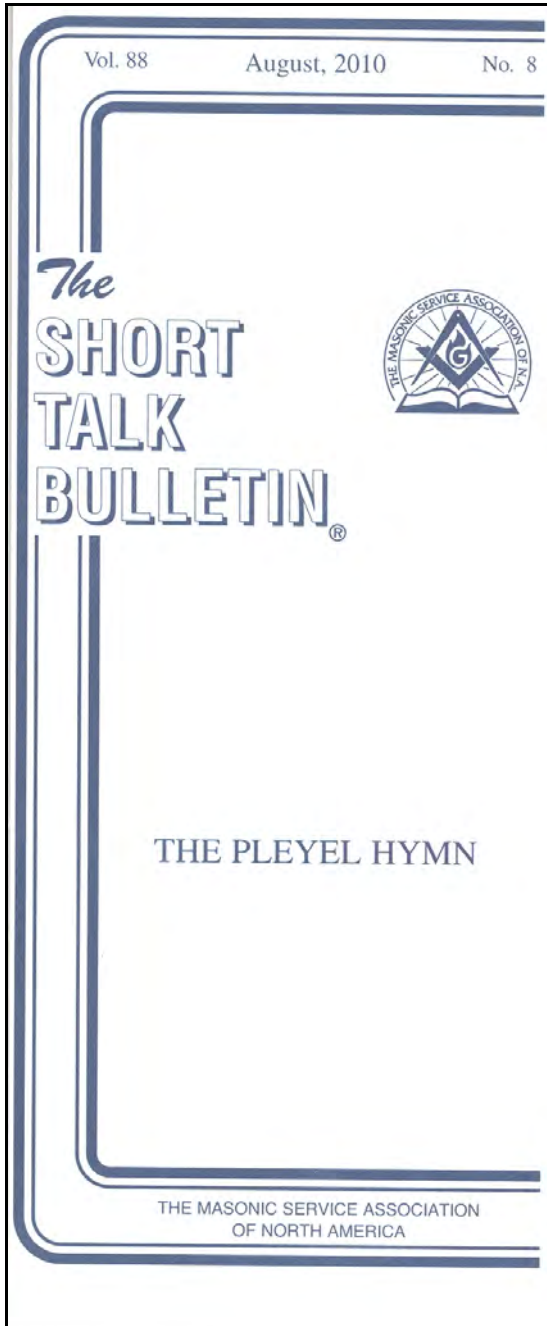
In Masonry, he is a member of Burlington Lodge #100 (Burlington, Vermont), Silver Spring Lodge #215 (Silver Spring, Maryland), Lodge of the Nine Muses (Washington, D.C.), the Vermont York Rite and Scottish Rite Bodies, and Mt. Sinai #3 Shrine Temple, (Montpelier, Vermont). He was Grand Master of Vermont 1983-1985. But that does not begin to cover his contributions to the Fraternity.

The Masonic Service Association of North America was started in the early years of the 20th Century as a way of coordinating efforts to veterans of the war and giving volunteer hours to help vets in the hospitals and veteran's centers. Help is given without regard to Masonic membership, just as those men and women served without regard to the political, religious, or fraternal associations of those whom they protected.

How many hours have the MSANA volunteers given to American service men and women?

If we take the year A.D.1 as marking the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, some 17,568,000 hours have elapsed since that time. MSANA Hospital Volunteers have given approximately 19,200,000 man-hours of volunteer service to our veterans. That is surely an enviable record.

Most Worshipful Brother Fletcher has not only overseen that effort for nearly a quarter of a century (more than ably assisted by his wife, Judy, who manages the office) he has led MSANA into ever greater fields of service.



From the beginning, MSANA had an educational mission as well as a hospital service mission. The *Short Talk Bulletin* is one of the longest-running Masonic publications, and a fine source of Masonic education. Each Oklahoma Lodge receives a copy each month. M.:W.: Brother Fletcher is also the editor of the Bulletin (and the author of several) and has maintained them as an outstanding Masonic asset.

In 1993, a great kerfuffle arose when hyper fundamentalist elements took over control of one of the largest Protestant denominations in the South, and attempted to attack Freemasonry, introducing legislation forbidding members to join the Fraternity. John J. Robinson, a well-known author and speaker (and, at the time, not a Freemason) joined the fight on behalf of the Craft. He also donated the proceeds from his third book, *A Pilgrim's Path*, to fund a national center for Masonic information. At the time, there was no single place members of the press could go to get information about Freemasonry, and most individual Grand Lodges did not feel comfortable speaking to reporters.

Under M.:W.: Brother Fletcher's direction, the Masonic Service Association formed the Masonic Information Center. The MIC took a membership in the National Press Club, thus legitimizing it as a source of information about Freemasonry to the press. One page releases were prepared on many topics, including Freemasonry and Women, Freemasonry and Religion, the History of Freemasonry, and Freemasonry and Secrecy. The

Center was responsible for providing factual information for a great many stories and articles, helping to quell both the anti-Masonic tide and the general mis-information which abounded.

Subsequently, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America requested that MIC address the question of declining membership. After study, the MIC produced a booklet entitled "It's About Time." (That publication is still available and makes interesting reading.) It pointed out that there was no "silver bullet" solution which could be imposed by a Grand Lodge, but that it was necessary that Lodges work on Masonic awareness in two different areas. We needed to make the community aware that Masonry still existed, and was still an important part of the life of the community, and we needed to inform our own members about Freemasonry, so that they felt more comfortable in discussing it with others. The Mark Twain Award for Excellence in Masonic Awareness came out of that program.

What is a man without energy?
Nothing. Nothing at all.
- Mark Twain



Actually, that Twain quotation about energy, which has become a hallmark of the Masonic Awareness program, is a good description of M.:W.: Brother Fletcher himself. To many in the television audience, he has become deeply identified with the Fraternity by means of the interviews he has given to television producers. With the success of the *National Treasure* films, and Dan Brown's books *The DaVinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, and *The Lost Symbol*, popular interest in Freemasonry is stronger than it has been for decades. The result has been a host of television programs, seeking more information on Freemasonry. (A few programs have even attempted to get the facts straight!) M.:W.: Brother Fletcher has become a primary national spokesperson for the Fraternity. Anyone who has even imagined standing in front of a television camera, facing a reporter who is asking questions just hoping to trip you into an error or, even better, an embarrassing moment, is thankful the Brother Fletcher is the one answering the questions. His calm, factual, comfortable style disarms critics and comes across the tube as sincere and open in a casual and conversational style. He is a fine public image for Freemasonry.



So, with his retirement, we are losing a great deal. He has guided the Masonic Service Association of North America through times of turmoil and great opportunity. All Freemasonry owes him a great debt, and we will all be lessened by his retirement.

Interested in the history of
Freemasonry in Oklahoma? If you are a
Master Mason in good standing, join the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. Contact
the Secretary, John King,
Home Phone 580-477-0892 E-mail=jek41@sbcglobal.net



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Lodge Leadership Workshop will be held on June 10, 11, & 12. Current plans are to hold the Workshop at the Grand Lodge building in Guthrie, unless the number of attendees makes it necessary to go to a larger venue.

The Workshop is for all Lodge Officers and their wives, but Senior Wardens are especially urged to attend. It's great preparation for your year in the East.

Brother Brian Dodson, PGM of Texas, will be a featured speaker. Those who have heard him can tell you it's an exciting and inspiring experience.

The Workshop will focus on practical and useful information—
How to find things in the Constitution and Code
How to plan an effective Lodge budget and calendar
How to make non-Masons more aware of the Fraternity
How to provide more information to our own members
How to be more visible in the community
Trends in Freemasonry on the Internet

And much more! You will be given useful materials to take home with you. And your input will help to guide the materials presented at the Workshop.

There will be a banquet and a special program for the ladies.
Your wife is encouraged to attend!

We will send a letter to your Lodge about the location, costs, available hotels, and other necessary information. For now, talk to your Lodge about helping with the Workshop fees and save the dates on your calendar.

I hope to see you there!

Randy Rogers,
Deputy Grand Master

THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Board of Directors Annual Meeting was held on January 22, 2011. Officers elected for 2011 were:

President
David A. Ray

1st Vice-President
Charles L. Stuckey

2nd Vice-President
Elwood M. "Ike" Isaacs



Secretary
Robert G. Davis

Treasurer
Gary A. Davis

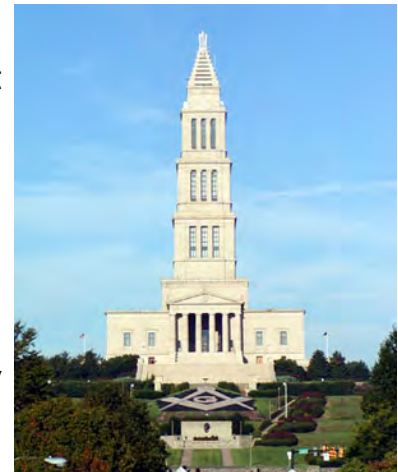
Assistant Secretary
John L. Logan

The Directors re-authorized all of the existing Foundation programs to continue for 2011.



The Foundation will also continue to establish endowments at state-funded 4-year universities. The Foundation will fund \$100,000 grants at Panhandle State University at Goodwell, Cameron University at Lawton, University of Arts & Sciences at Chickasha, and Langston University at Langston.

In addition, the Directors authorized increasing Oklahoma Masonry's support of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial by pledging \$1.00 per member per year, making Oklahoma the twelfth Grand Jurisdiction to do so.



The Senior Essay Contest winners have been selected and notifications sent to the state-wide winners, schools and Lodges. Certificates for local division winners—as well as checks and certificates for the statewide winners—will be mailed to the participating Lodges in April.

Student of Today and Teacher of Today packets have been sent to the Lodges. Lodges are urged to deliver the forms to the local **public** schools as soon as possible.

Masons Support Important Programming on Oklahoma Public Television



As most of us know, Oklahoma Masons sponsor some of the best television programs on OETA—Oklahoma Public Television. For several years, the Grand Master has asked Lodges to contribute to the cost of programming. As a result, we support some of the most popular television programs among men 35 to 50 years old.

Not only that, but during 2010 the OETA program *Stateline* did a major show on secret societies in Oklahoma. More than half the program was devoted to Freemasonry, and it showed the Fraternity in a very favorable light.

Each of the programs we sponsor is preceded and followed by an animated “ad” telling a little about the values of the Fraternity. One problem we have had is that while movies such as *National Treasure* and books such as Dan Brown’s *DaVinci Code* and *The Lost Symbol* have greatly increased public interest in the Fraternity, most of the people really don’t know we still exist.

It is very important that we continue our relationship with OETA. The Grand Master has asked each Lodge to contribute \$1.50 per member. The Lodge votes to contribute, raises the funds, and then sends them in a check, payable to the Masonic Charity Foundation. The Foundation matches the funds and then accumulates them, so the Grand Master can present them in a single check to OETA. This happens on live television on “Masons Night” during the annual FESTIVAL fund-raising program. Masons appear on camera while the names of the Lodges and the amounts of their contributions crawl across the bottom of the screen.

If your Lodge has not yet voted to participate, it’s important to act very quickly.

The Revised Cypher Key is in the Office and Ready for Sale!

The Cypher Key, sometimes called the Red Book, is the coded ritual of Oklahoma Masonry. The first 500 copies sold out quickly, and it was decided to correct any recently-discovered errors before reprinting. The Grand Lecturer and his assistants have made the corrections and the book has been reprinted and is available for sale. Most of the corrections are minor, and there is no need to purchase a revised copy if you own one of the first edition. The cost of the Cypher Key is \$50, which includes shipping. **Send a check payable to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044 to order.** {By the way, both the spellings “cypher” and “cipher” are correct.}



Secretary's Workshops

Nine regional Secretary Workshops have been planned for 2011. A few have already passed but others are available. Lodge Secretaries are urged to contact the Grand Lodge and enroll for one of the remaining sessions. Topics will include the forms and

materials of the Grand Lodge, reports, and other issues. W.: Brother John Logan, Executive Director of the Masonic Charity Foundation, will also be there to answer questions concerning Matching Funds, Promises Matter, and other issues.



In the list below, the "primary districts" are those nearest to the location of the workshop, but any Secretary may enroll in any session they wish.

- February 26 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Frontier Lodge #48
322 W. Miller St., Stillwater - Primary District: 5, 6, 15, 22
- March 5 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Ardmore Lodge #31
1032 Cherry St. N.W., Ardmore - Primary Districts: 35, 36, 37, 38
- March 19 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Oklahoma City Lodge #36
2935 W. Britton Rd., Oklahoma City - Primary Districts: 14, 20, 21, 29, 30, 39
- March 26 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Western Star Lodge #138
114½ S. Broadway, Weatherford - Primary Districts: 16, 17, 18
- March 26 - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Lawton Lodge #183
2001 N.W. Lincoln Ave., Lawton - Primary Districts: 10, 32, 33, 34
- April 9 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at McAlester Lodge #550
2125 N. Main, McAlester - Primary Districts: 2, 19, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31
- April 23 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Woodward Lodge #189
819½ S. Main St., Woodward - Primary Districts: 1, 3, 4, 15
- May 14 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Bartlesville Lodge #284
610 N.E. Washington Blvd., Bartlesville - Primary Districts: 7, 8, 9, 11

DID THE BOLSHOI BALLET CANCEL ON YOU AT THE LAST MINUTE?

Did the trained gnu stampede?

Did the Mormon Tabernacle Choir have another engagement?

Did the speaker from the American Cattleman's Association have a bone to pick with your Lodge?

Did the Chinese Acrobats fall through?

Did the Elvis Impersonator fade out?

DID THE SPOKESMAN FROM DUCKS UNLIMITED QUACK UP ON THE WAY THERE?

In short, do you need a good program for your Lodge or District Meeting?

Do the Charitable thing! Call the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma and ask to have a speaker come to your Lodge meeting or District Meeting. There are many interesting topics. There's Matching Funds, of course, and Promises Matter, and the ways we care for our elderly. **But do you know about the Masonic Alzheimer's Laboratory? Do you know about the Professorial Chair at OSU?** Or the support of the state colleges and universities?

The story of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma is a bigger story than some people think. Invite the Foundation to come to your Lodge or District meeting and tell you all the latest.

Call them at 405-348-7500 or e-mail at mcfok@sbcglobal.net

From the Grand Lecturer

Brethren,

I am coming to your area. In an effort to develop universal consistency across the state in the way our adopted work should be performed and the ritual work interpreted and taught, I am organizing Regional Schools of Instruction across the State in 2011. At each school of instruction I'll be assisted by the Deputy Grand Lecturers assigned to that area.



Re-Checks of "A" and "C" Cards as well as New Checkouts for 2012 will be done during the complete course of the year of 2011. Thus, focus at **Grand School on May 20th and 21st** will not just be on rechecks, but on teaching, brushing up on, and learning the adopted work in the various lodge rooms, one of which will be dedicated for beginners.

Regional Classes, listed below, will start promptly at 9:00 AM and end at 9:00 PM!

These Regional Schools are not meant to "take-a-way from" or replace local lodge Schools or District Schools of instruction. As always, contact the Deputy Grand Lecturer for your area for scheduling those schools.

Fraternally,

Ronald E. Wray

Grand Lecturer

Regional Schools

Date	Host Lodge	Location
February 26	Enid #80	815 N.Independence, Enid
April 9	Woodward #189	819½ S. Main, Woodward
June 25	Red Fork-Brookside	1030 W. 51st. Street, Tulsa
July 30	Altus #62	1120 N. Hudson Street, Altus
August 13	Oklahoma #4	1201 West 13th Street, Atoka
October 29	Siloam #276	4201 N.W. 39th Expressway, OKC

And don't forget. Grand School this year is

May 20 and 21

at the Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie!