

Oklahoma SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

Guthrie, McAlester and



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE
SCOTTISH RITE BODIES,
ORIENT OF OKLAHOMA

Tulsa Oklahoma Valleys

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009

Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for the New Year!

To all members of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Orient of Oklahoma,
their families and friends and to Masons of every Rite and Degree:

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

One of the wonderful joys of the Holiday Season is that it leads us to reflect on what the past year has brought us and how we have responded to it with our commitment to thanks giving and hope for what we have, and what is possible in the future. Even in the not so good years, the smile is in seeing them through. The holidays bring us the message of renewal and hope.

Thanksgiving and Christmas have always been about love, about what is good in the world; and the possibilities and opportunities which are present in the best of humankind. Freemasonry always makes its influence felt on the positive side of life's equation of ups and downs. The Scottish Rite, with its exalted philosophy, its moral and intellectual inspiration, its political and religious truths, is perhaps positioned better today than at any time in this generation to present its ideals to good men the world over--men of all backgrounds and creeds who are hungry for what is right and true in human life.

Brethren, we are indeed entering upon a new season, a new year—a time that can truthfully be designated as a *year of opportunity* for Masons the world over. May we fill it with Love and Peace, with Happiness by helping others, by being better Masons ourselves, and by letting our fellow men know that, in a world of economic uncertainty and political chaos, of new social and political ideals and creeds causing so much turmoil; the calm, still voice of Masonry, always prepared, moving like a star to do that which is right because it is right—beckons us truly to be good men—doing a great work!

In all the confusion, with all the bustle and activity of our times, it is good to remember the importance of a moment of quiet, of reflection, of the kind of thought that keeps us balanced. The Scottish Rite calls this the *Way of the Mystery*--the significance of an occasional inner look, that calmness which teaches us to *sit still for awhile*.

Time and again, our Degrees instruct us that *wisdom is achieved only by reflection and contemplation*. More and more, we are forced to substitute information for insight; process data for thought. Yet, the message of the holiday season beckons us always to listen to our inner conscience.

"Teach us to sit still."

May this good season of the year provide us with opportunities to sit still, to share in the sense of being thankful, to be in the presence of the Holy, take time for a little spirit-restoring thought. May we have the chance to set the rigors of our time aside for just a while to celebrate our own uniqueness as a human being and a child of God.

May that Light, which shines brightest when all else is dark and quiet, illuminate your life during this season of Thanksgiving and Spiritual Uplift.

Silent night, holy night; all is calm, all is bright.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Orient of Oklahoma is pleased to announce the awarding of honors at the recent Biennial Session of the Supreme Council. Recipients from the three Oklahoma Valleys are listed below.

NEWLY ELECTED INSPECTORS GENERAL HONORARY

Douglas Alan Auld	McAlester
Johnny Hugh Brigham	McAlester
Orval Cleve Bross, Jr.	Guthrie
David Allen Carpenter	Tulsa
Harry Dan Cooper	McAlester
Frederick Marshall Dittmar	Guthrie
Grady David Donathan III	McAlester
Don Clayton Fevurly	Guthrie
William Bedford Freeman III	McAlester
Bret Joseph Jennings	Tulsa
Harvey Wayne Kaylor	Guthrie
John Edwin King	Guthrie
James Fred Lowry	Tulsa
Ronald Keith Madden	Tulsa
Neal Wade Massey	McAlester



William Warren McCaa	McAlester
Ronald Joe Minshall	Guthrie
Jimmie Edward Pilgrim	Guthrie
Richard Ross Polk	Tulsa
Henry Newton Sadler	Tulsa
Ernest Leroy Sellers	Tulsa
Richard Dan Sewell	Tulsa
Johnny Gale Sheets	Guthrie
Philip Roland Smothermon	Guthrie
Edgar David Snyder	Guthrie
Donald Wayne Speigel	McAlester
David A. Sutton	Guthrie
Jay Stanley White	McAlester
Walter Wade Williams, Jr.	McAlester
Harold Alan Wilson, Jr.	Tulsa

NEWLY ELECTED KNIGHTS COMMANDER COURT OF HONOUR

Johnny Dale Allford	McAlester
Guy Thompson Baird	McAlester
Gary Lee Beisly	Tulsa
James Russell Booth	Guthrie
Russell James Cannon, Jr.	McAlester
Richard Blair Carr	Tulsa
Marvin Lynwood Chamberlin	McAlester
Mark Allen Critchfield	Guthrie
Scott Walton Culbreath	McAlester
Clarence Walton Culbreath	McAlester
John Michael Cunningham	Guthrie
Frank Wayne Davis	Guthrie
Herbert George Davis	Guthrie
Russell Eugene Donathan	Tulsa
James Daniel Futrell Dulin	McAlester
Dustin Paul Dye	Tulsa
Rocco Keith Eastridge	Tulsa
Michael Allen Ebert	McAlester
James Hickerson Ellis	Tulsa
Joe Goenaga, Jr.	Guthrie
Cody Ryan Halyard	McAlester
Richard Lee Hargrave III	Tulsa
James G. Harlow III	McAlester
Edward Lee Jacoby	Tulsa
Richard Eugene Kerr	Guthrie
Don Alan Killough	Guthrie
Jimmie Alvin Kiser	Guthrie
Richard Charles Lerblance	McAlester
Stuart Sanford Lough	Tulsa
Owen Henry Major	Guthrie



Michael Joseph Mattingly	Tulsa
Michael Darwin Maxey	Tulsa
Glen Alexander McCall	Guthrie
William Lee McClendon	Guthrie
Larry Robert McManus	McAlester
William Greg McNall	McAlester
Raylenn Levon Meldrum	Tulsa
Alvin Dean Monroe, Jr.	Guthrie
Philip Lyle Moseley	Guthrie
Basil Vaughn Myers	McAlester
Jerry Paul Nanney	McAlester
John Frederick Nein	Tulsa
Patrick Michael Oliver	Tulsa
Larry Jackson Paden	Guthrie
Lloyd August Parker, Sr.	Tulsa
Stephen Joseph Peters	McAlester
John Deen Richardson	Tulsa
Gary Lee Riggs	Guthrie
Michael Alan Rose	Guthrie
Fred Charles Ross	Guthrie
Robert Boyd Sasser	Guthrie
Lealon James Smith	Tulsa
Gary Lee Thompson	Guthrie
William Glen Vann	McAlester
Larry Douglas White	Tulsa
Donald Howard Whitman	McAlester
David Williams	McAlester
Mitchel Ray Witt	Guthrie
Donald Lewis Wray	Guthrie
Ronald Edgar Wray	Guthrie

WHY THE SCOTTISH RITE IS THE FOCUS OF DAN BROWN'S MESSAGE

If you have not read Dan Brown's new book, *The Lost Symbol*, you may want to pick up a copy. Of course, a good detective novel is always fun and few writers are better than Brown at weaving a good story around hidden things. But the underlying theme of *The Lost Symbol* is the Ancient Mysteries. The journey or quest for discovery of what is hidden in Brown's book is nothing less than the *Lost Word!* There's scarcely a Freemason who would not recognize this as one of the foundational themes of our Order! This makes the message of Brown's book a bit more than blasé for the more astute members of the world's oldest fraternity.

In the novel, one of the principle characters is a fellow named Peter Solomon (memorable name). It turns out he is both the Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite in Washington DC and Worshipful Master of his Lodge in the nation's capital. He spends a good bit of time alluding to the knowledge of the Ancients and their traditions of study. In the story, Solomon posits that what science has recently learned with its new discoveries concerning the structure and progress of the universe was also known by the ancient philosophers, mathematicians, religious scholars and mystics. Our new science is, in fact, old knowledge.

Of course, this comes as no real revelation to Scottish Rite Masons since we spend a good deal of our time learning and discussing the ancient wisdom traditions. The Rite devotes five Degrees specifically to the Ancient Mystery religions. In fact, the Mysteries in general are woven around many of the Degrees.

We all know the purpose of the Mysteries was to purify one's body and mind, and increase one's awareness of his spiritual identity as he made his personal journey to self-discovery. But the Mysteries had another profound aspect which directly ties to the theme of *The Lost Symbol*. This characteristic was first articulated by Clemens of Alexandria when he revealed that "what was taught in the

great *Mysteries concerned the Universe, and was the completion and perfection of all instruction.*" The Mysteries had many other features, but this overriding cosmic idea dealt with questions of the sun and stars, the universe as the creation of God, and of man's place in it.

In Brown's book, this theme resonates notably. The greatest enigma of humankind is the question of who or what created the Universe. Until recently, science and psychology have taken a sort of atheistic approach to the idea of a God-inspired creation. Science and psychology thrive in a world of statistics. In the examples of psychology, the investigation always centers around normal human development. Psychology uses "normal" as a statistical concept—measuring all behavior around it. Likewise, Science uses logic to test theoretical ideas. Thus, asking a scientist to involve a supernatural agency that transcends the laws of physics to explain what they already know came to be because of a big bang, is asking a bit much.

But new advances in what scientists know in their understanding of the very early universe has transformed the entire debate, and recast this age old puzzle in a totally different light. Before 1940, the central idea of physics was that there was no big-bang moment at which time all matter was created. Instead, the Universe just was; and as it expanded, new particles were continuously created to fill up the gaps so that the average density of the universe remained unchanged. The idea was that any individual galaxy simply passed through its life cycle, and when its stars died, new galaxies were already formed from the newly created matter to replace the old. This was called the "steady-state theory" of the universe. It has no beginning or end.

For many scientists, the theory was particularly interesting because, by abolishing the "Big-Bang" theory, they had once and for all removed the need for a Creator. The universe could

operate like a perpetual clock that is self winding. Such a place doesn't require any Divine intervention to start it or keep it running.

Fortunately, the steady-state theory fell out of favor not on philosophical grounds, but because it was proven by large radio telescopes to be false. Then, in 1965, it was discovered that the universe was, in fact, bathed in heat radiation—which has since proven to be a relic of a big bang. All of a sudden, the designer argument could not be categorized as right or wrong. Astronomer James Jeans proclaimed that "*the universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician. It begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine.*"

Hello! Do we need to be reminded again of the meaning of the letter 'G'!!'

Well, even the early Greek philosophers recognized that the order and harmony of the cosmos demanded explanation. Newton himself believed "*this most beautiful system of the sun, planets and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent powerful Being.*" The problem is that, while clear evidence of design exists so much in nature, its proof remains hidden in some way from us. And we can't use logic alone to make such discoveries. Scientific proof can take us only so far. To go past that point requires faith.

But the problem with faith alone is that it is so often untrustworthy. How can one be sure that what he experiences is real? How can he guard himself against giving way to pure emotionalism in the belief that he is being transported only by faith?

The ancients knew that the answer to the dilemma of logic and faith was Reason. While reason, like science, could not take one into the presence of Deity, it could stand to validate one's faith experience while reinforcing one's sense of logic. The Ancients knew that it was in this balance, this equilibrium between faith and reason where true religion could be found.

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A BOOK REVIEW – THE LOST SYMBOL

Writing about a mystery-adventure book can be tricky. The person who gives away the ending or clues to the ending of such a book ranks lower than pond scum on the ladder of creation. On the other hand, there is so much of excellence in this book, and so much of importance to Masons, that it simply cannot be ignored.

The most amazing thing to me is how Dan Brown, who is not a member of the Fraternity, captured so well and so accurately the very spirit and essence of the Craft. And, as with all his books, you find yourself learning or remembering many things—he sneaks in an education and you never notice. Rex Hutchens, Ph.D., 33°, Grand Cross once remarked that the universal sign of Masonic Enlightenment was made by smiting the forehead with the palm of the hand, while saying, “How could I have missed that all these years?” It might be useful to practice that gesture before reading the book: it’s a safe bet Masons will learn something about Masonry in these pages.

Brown does a fine job of answering many of the non-thinking criticisms of the Craft we often hear. These examples come from a flash-

(THE LOST SYMBOL, CONT.)

Do our rituals not teach of the balancing power of wisdom, strength and beauty in all things? Is not the search for what is hidden always a constructive process when guided by logic, faith, and reason? And isn’t the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom the true labor of life?

When we probe the mysteries, we are always engaged in metaphysical work. And to consciously engage in this kind of work is Initiation.

This was what Peter Solomon knew. Or perhaps it is what Dan Brown knows and is trying to tell the world through him.

back to a discussion in a class he was teaching.

“So tell me, what are the three prerequisites for an ideology to be considered a religion?”

*“ABC” one woman offered.
“Assure, Believe, Convert.”*

“Correct,” Langdon said. “Religions assure salvation; believe in a precise theology; and religions convert nonbelievers.” He paused, “Masonry, however, is batting zero for three. Masons make no promises of salvation; they have no specific theology; and they do not seek to convert you. In fact, within Masonic lodges, discussions of religion are prohibited.”

“So...Masonry is antireligious?”

“On the contrary. One of the prerequisites for becoming a Mason is that you must believe in a higher power. The difference between Masonic spirituality and organized religion is that the Masons do not impose a specific definition of name on a higher power.”

And later:

“Professor Langdon,” called a young man with curly hair in the back row, “if Masonry is not a secret society, not a corporation, and not a religion, then what is it?”

“Well, if you were to ask a Mason, he would offer the following definition: Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.”

“Sounds to me like a euphemism for ‘freaky cult.’”

“Freaky, you say?”

“Hell yes!” the kid said, standing up. “I heard what they do inside those secret buildings! Weird candle-light rituals with coffins, and nooses, and drinking wine out of skulls. Now that’s freaky!”

*Langdon scanned the class.
“Does that sound freaky to anyone else?”*

“Yes!” they all chimed in.

*Langdon feigned a sad sigh.
“Too bad. If that’s too freaky for you, then I know you’ll never want to join my cult.”*

Silence settled over the room. The student from the Women’s Center looked uneasy. “You’re in a cult?”

Langdon nodded and lowered his voice to a conspiratorial whisper. “Don’t tell anyone, but on the pagan day of the sun god Ra, I kneel at the foot of an ancient instrument of torture and consume ritualistic symbols of blood and flesh.

The class looked horrified.

Langdon shrugged, “And if any of you care to join me, come to the Harvard chapel on Sunday. Kneel beneath the crucifix, and take Holy Communion.”

The classroom remained silent.

Langdon winked. “Open your minds, my friends. We all fear what we do not understand.”

These are examples of the voice of reason Brown brings to the discussion of Freemasonry. We owe him a great deal for having brought the dialogue about the Fraternity to a new level of rational thought.

By the way, do not expect to find Oklahoma ritual quoted in the book. During his research the author had the monitors of many states available to him, to say nothing of the multitude of exposures on the Internet. He has skillfully woven ritual references from these different strands to give the feeling of the work without the specific language.

So enjoy the book for the light it sheds on Freemasonry, but don’t lose sight of the fact that you are reading a cracking good adventure yarn by a master of his craft. It’s a great book!

Without wax (the book will explain)



Jim Tresner

Tulsa RiteCare Childhood Language Clinic is Pioneer

The Tulsa RiteCare Clinic was opened in 1977, and has served approximately 4,000 clients since. One of the reasons that our Clinic has been a success story is that our Clinic Director, Adrienne Rogers, realized that the Clinic could help more clients and do so more effectively if the client parents/guardians partnered together to deliver the needed therapy to the child.

From this simple realization, grew the Home Therapy Protocol that our clinic uses even today, and which has been adopted by other Clinics. Just as with many other long term situations where a family member helps the therapy team, this protocol involves teaching the parents/guardians to work with the client between appointments. Yes, our clients have homework! When the family member works with the client at home, the work done by the clinician is greatly reinforced. As a result, it is not necessary for that particular client to be seen in the office as frequently as would be required without the "homework." This allows each client to still progress as quickly as he/she can, while giving the clinical staff time available to work with more clients than otherwise possible! Currently, the weekly caseload is approximately 75.

The Tulsa RiteCare Clinic is currently staffed by one full-time clinician, and three part-time clinicians. All have obtained a Masters degree in Speech Language Pathology, and have earned their Certificate of Clinical Competency designation from the American Speech & Language Association. Earning this recognition requires that a clinician not only has acquired the "book" knowledge necessary to practice, but has done therapy under the supervision of an experienced, certified clinician. Only when the clinician has proven his or her proficiency in that specialty will the certification be granted.

Our clients are children more than 1½ but less than 12 years of age who have difficulty talking so as to be understood by others, understanding verbal communication, remembering, reading, and/or writing at age appropriate levels not resulting from permanent hearing loss, emotional disturbance, autism, or intellectual handicap. The only criteria for treating client are age and disorder: if the child is within the Clinic parameters and can be helped, therapy will be offered to that child.

The Clinic has no cash register or billing system, all therapy is without charge to the client family. The Clinic accepts no insurance, no government grants or contracts, and is not a United Way agency, but is funded by private grants and the generous donations of you, the members of the Tulsa Scottish Rite.

Tulsa Scottish Rite Masons Help Children Communicate! Thank you for making that statement fact and not brag!



A MASONIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

A major theme in Masonry is that it is a journey – a lifelong journey intended to result in profound, positive, change and growth within ourselves. This was very subtly communicated to us by a simple statement made to us when the Master congratulated us at the conclusion of our Craft degrees: "My Brother, you have this evening been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason..." For many, the profound significance of that statement does not become clear until much later on that journey; the Lodge has fulfilled its responsibility to us by teaching us how to use our tools, but cannot wield those tools for us. It really is up to each individual

to become a Master Mason! And how do we make progress on that particular journey?

One of the best ways is to become a better educated Mason. We are admonished as an Entered Apprentice that we should "... converse with well informed Brethren, who will be always as ready to give as you will be ready to receive instruction." Today's Masons have a wealth of resources available to become better educated about Masonry. Whatever your particular Masonic interest may be, all you need do is knock. There is somebody ready, willing, and able to open the door to greater knowledge to you!

If your Lodge hasn't had an educational presentation in a while, work with your officers to schedule one! You will be pleasantly surprised how much an educational program will add to a Lodge business meeting. The officers of Akdar Lodge #555 in Tulsa have made Masonic education a priority in 2009, and it certainly has had a positive impact in the lodge. Don't know anybody to do a presentation for you? Contact the Secretaries of the Tulsa, Guthrie, or McAlester Scottish Rite; we all look forward to opportunities to meet with Blue Lodges!

The opportunities are there for us...but it is up to us to knock on the door.



McAlester Scottish Rite

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EXPANDS CLINIC OUTREACH PROGRAM



Beginning on September 1, 2009, the RiteCare Clinic of Ardmore opened its doors. One year after Outreach Development Director James Harlow, III, began the project, it has finally come together. Brother Harlow said, "We are pleased to provide this service to the community of Ardmore and look forward to serving the children of Ardmore for many years. This is a time for all members of the Masonic Family to be proud of this accomplishment and look to the future."

Over the last year there has been a tremendous effort to make the new outreach a reality. A tremendous amount of time and work has been spent by those in Ardmore who believe in the good that the RiteCare program accomplishes for our society. In the beginning, there was "Well, I don't know if this will work or not." If anything is represented by this success, it is that the 32nd Degree Masons in Oklahoma are helping children to succeed and isn't that what the program is all about.

A special thanks goes to Ardmore Lodge #31, the Mattie Bruce Chapter of the Eastern Star, the Ardmore Rainbow Assembly and to the people of Ardmore who are embracing the RiteCare program by their generous support. Many words of gratitude must be expressed to those Scottish Rite brethren and community groups who have contributed office space, utilities, furniture and supplies.

However, there is more work to do. Trilby Schmidt, M.S., speech therapist, and secretary Deb Newell, open the clinic two days a week.

Their schedule was full after the first five days. We of the Valley of McAlester therefore challenge every Mason and member of the Ardmore Community to become involved by making a donation or contributing client supplies to the clinic. This is very important to maintain and develop services to the level the community of Ardmore will expect.

With the opening of the Ardmore Outreach, the Charitable and Educational Foundation of McAlester now has three outreach programs in addition to the full-time clinic at the McAlester Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Counting the McAlester program and the clinics in Muskogee, Poteau and Ardmore, the program currently reaches one hundred twenty-two Oklahoma children. President Robert Barfield credits the RiteCare program's success to Program Director Ashley Monks, M.S., who opened the first clinic in 2003. With her leadership, the childhood speech and language program of the McAlester Foundation has grown to its present level.

Brethren may contribute to this effort through the Charitable and Educational Foundation. Your gift will give you the opportunity to be part of our grand Tradition of helping our fellow man.



Trilby Schmidt, M.S.
Speech Therapist



McAlester Scottish Rite Outreach Tent

The McAlester Valley Clinics Depend On Your Gifts To Continue Their Important Work.

Depending on your interests, your stage of life, and other factors, you may wish to make charitable gifts to the Scottish Rite Language Clinics today, in the future, or both.

Cash Gifts...

Cash and checks, the most common form of gifts, are always greatly appreciated. Taxpayers who itemize their deductions may avoid tax on cash gifts to charities.

Gifts of cash and certain other assets can serve to eliminate tax on up to 50% of your adjusted gross income.

Additional Tax Savings...

You may find that gifts to the clinics of stock, bond, mutual funds, or certain other property that has increased in value and has been owned for more than 12 months can yield extra tax benefits. Not only can you enjoy an income tax deduction based on the property's full market value, you may also be able to avoid capital gains tax that could otherwise be due if the assets were sold.

For this reason, you may wish to give the assets that have increased in value since you have owned them.

Check with your attorney or advisor about ways to plan your gifts while maximizing benefits for you, your heirs, and your charitable interests.

Planning For The Future...

There are many ways to provide for charitable gifts. Examples include:

- Gifts through a provision in your will or living trust.
- Naming the Clinics as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Gifts through special trusts that provide income for you and others.
- Directing funds left in your retirement plans to charitable use after you no longer need them.
- Naming the Clinics as beneficiary under a "pay or transfer on death provision" where applicable on a bank or brokerage account.



Ashley Monks, M.S.
Clinic Director



SCENERY RESTORATION BEGINS IN MCALISTER OKLAHOMA



For seventy-nine years candidate classes and 32° Masons have enjoyed the Scottish Rite degrees on the McAlester Masonic Center's stage with the use of scenery painted by the noted scenery artist, Thomas Moses. Before he died, Brother Moses said the McAlester scenery was his largest work, which is appropriate for the largest Scottish Rite stage in the Southern Jurisdiction. However, time, dirt and use have taken their toll on the original beauty of the scene sets.



Volunteers Jim Whitfield, Clem Peppers, Bill Little and Mark Halyard prepare a restored backdrop to be raised.

The Valley's Temple Restoration Committee, chaired by Bill Kinkead, KCCH, has led the way in the preservation of the backdrops and work has now begun on the Thomas Moses stage scenery with the help of a grant from the McCasland Foundation.

Last January Ms. Wendy Waszut-Barrett of Bella Scena, LLC, arrived in McAlester and began a week of exhaustive evaluation of the project. With the aid of volunteers, Ms. Barrett



Wendy Barrett touches up where the pigment has become thin from 77 years of use.

measured, examined, took pictures of the front and back of the 113 backdrops and every scene used in the Scottish Rite degrees. At the end of the week, an evaluation meeting was held with the restoration committee and priorities were set for the later work of restoration. Fortunately most of the scenery was in good condition, but generally in need of conservation and some repair.



Old iron netting before replacement.



New netting ready to be glued to the backdrop.

Beginning on July 20, 2008, Ms. Barrett and member volunteers took selected drops down, laid them flat on the ballroom floor or stage, repaired them and re-hung them on the stage. Other drops have been cleaned and sprayed with a protecting cover to prevent dirt collection. The process takes approximately sixteen people to lift, let down, remove old material and replace with new material, then clean and glue. Ms. Barrett expects the project will be completed in three years.



Volunteers prepare to lower the cables and lower a drop to the stage floor.

Member volunteers helping with the restoration are Bill Kinkead, KCCH; Bill Erkin, 33; Mark Halyard, KCCH; Clem Peppers, 33; Don Jones, 33; Jim Whitfield, KCCH; Johnny Alford; Jack Inman, KCCH; Ralph Perone, 33; Monte Hendrix, KCCH and Tom Crowl, 33.

The talented Wendy Waszut-Barrett completed her doctorate in May of this year at the University of Minnesota. Her thesis was entitled: "Scenic Shifts Upon the Scottish Rite Stage of Freemasonry: Designing for the Masonic Theatre." For her Master's degree she worked with C. Lance Brockman who was the curator of the famous exhibit, "The Theatre of the Fraternity."

The officers of the Valley of McAlester feel fortunate to have Wendy's help with the preservation of the Scottish Rite heritage in McAlester. Her expert knowledge of painting, restoration and the archival process along with her interest in the artist, Thomas Moses, made her ideally suited for the project.



Restored stage goes back up.

**INDIANS, COWBOYS
CORNERSTONES AND CHARITIES**
*A Centennial Celebration
of Freemasonry
in Oklahoma*

Grand Master Richard Massad, in commemoration of Oklahoma Masonry's centennial year, has commissioned a definitive history of Oklahoma Freemasonry, styled Indians, Cowboys, Cornerstones, and Charities—A Centennial Celebration of Freemasonry in Oklahoma.

It has been more than 60 years since a chronicle of Oklahoma's rich Masonic history has been published. Past Grand Secretary, Fred Latham, authored a book entitled, "The Story of Oklahoma Masonry," in 1949. Prior to that, Charles Creager's celebration of 50 years of Masonry in Oklahoma's Grand Lodge era was published in 1931 by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Both were excellent works. This new offering commissioned by Grand Master Massad joins them in distinction.

Fully illustrated with over 600 photographs, the book is a 9" X 12" hardbound coffee table style cloth cover edition with slipcover. Printed in a limited edition of only 500 copies, the book is the most colorful and comprehensive history of Oklahoma Masonry from 1848 to the present.

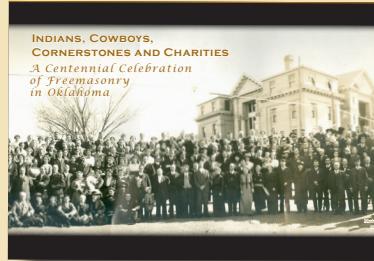
Sharing in the narrative duties were Jim Tresner, Grand Lodge staff, and Robert Davis, Guthrie Scottish Rite Secretary, both accomplished writers, authors and historians. The story takes the reader through the first hundred years of our own Grand Lodge, and includes a complete history of the remarkable cornerstone tradition of our Oklahoma fraternity, written by Past Grand Master Bob Shipe.

The chapters explain the influence that Joseph Murrow, the father of Oklahoma Masonry, and Albert Pike, Territorial Scottish Rite leader, played in Oklahoma's fraternal beginnings. The saga of Freemasonry in the twin territories and the men who made a difference then is brought back to our consciousness. A special chapter deals with the statehood era and the framing of Oklahoma's Constitution, along with the Masons who were involved with the founding of our own state. Another chapter gives a "first person account" of the first day of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

The story of Oklahoma Masonic Charity is told, from the humble beginnings of establishing the Masonic Children's Home in Darlington to the millions of dollars currently expended each year in a host of charity programs sponsored by our Masonic Charity Foundation.

Actual accounts told by past residents of the Children's Home, a visual tour through the many artifacts on display in the Grand Lodge Museum and Library, and a pictorial gallery of Oklahoma Masons who have made a difference in the world at large give the reader an intimate and personal glimpse into our rich past.

Only 500 copies of the book will ever be sold. Each book is individually numbered and signed by the authors. Your copy is available today by contacting the Grand Lodge at 405 282-3212. The cost is \$50 + \$7.50 for shipping.



Brothers Shipe, Massad, Davis and Tresner participate in a recent book signing. Each book is individually numbered and signed by all the authors.

2010 Orient of Oklahoma Reunion Dates

Valley of Guthrie

April 30, May 1-2, 2010
October 9-10, 2010

Valley of McAlester

April 10-11, 2010
October 16-17, 2010

Valley of Tulsa

April 17-18, 2010
October 23-24, 2010