

September, 2010

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220

# The Beacon

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas  
16 June 1858



Back to School == Labor Day  
September Autumnal Equinox

## LODGE OFFICERS 2010-2011

WM: Tony M. Ramirez  
SW: Dennis J. Ross  
JW: Adrian W. Edmundson  
Treas: Dennis C. Kestner, PM  
Sec: J. Roland Brown  
Chap: John W. Turner, PM  
SD: Raul J. Scully  
JD: Ben B. Rauschke  
SS: Curtis A. Gilgan  
JS: Johnny G. Camarillo  
Mar: Robert A. Clark, PM  
MC: Ricky J. Tindell, PM  
Mus: Chris R. Dawson  
Tlr: Brett M. Chandler-Finch

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN Ill & Visitation

Tony M Ramirez

## Communications

J Roland Brown

## Building

Curtis A Gilgan

## Beacon

Christopher R Dawson

## Historian

H. Max Fisher

## Hospital Volunteers

Ricky J Tindell  
Bart Tuthill

## LIVING PAST MASTERS

1967- Webb Woodland  
1969- Tommie J. Conner  
1970- Ralph L. Cearley  
1971- W. David Johnson  
1974- Jimmy M. Hodges  
1977- Roy L. Hamor  
1978- Bobby J. Doherty  
1980- Ronald B. Norwood  
1981- Howard D. Hall  
1982- Alan Karotkin  
1984- Matias S. Ruiz  
1985- Richard A. Frazer  
1986- Jose V. Seguin  
1987- Elliott R. Wilson  
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon  
1989- Dennis Kestner  
1991- Ronnie H. Lee  
1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff  
1994- Walter H. Argall  
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez  
1996- Kenneth P. Wood  
1997- William S. Lear  
1998- John W. Turner  
1999- James F. Keese  
2000- Walter E. Sanders  
2001- Jonathon D. Walker  
2002- Robert L. Roda  
2003- Ricky J. Tindell  
2004- Eljio Arjona Jr.  
2005- Hamilton B. Carter  
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II  
2007- Michael E. Sanders  
2008- Daniel E. Barber  
2009- Dale L. Flatt

## Members Who Have Served Other Lodges as Past Masters

Jesus A. Araiza  
Jimmie L. Banks  
Robert A. Clark  
Don R. Cowley  
Gerald T. Dawson  
Allen W. Deaver  
Carlton L. Edwards  
Elbert I. Franks  
O. Tripp Garza  
Cecil C. Goodwin  
Reagan W. Hammett  
Ronald D. Holton  
Bennie L. Hudson  
Gordon W. Kelso  
James M. King  
Don R. Long  
Bobby J. Norris  
Boyce V. Oakes  
Gene C. Payne  
L. Bruce Roberson  
Eugene A. Sassman  
Otsie C. Stowell  
William W. Winnie III

Stated Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

Brotherhood Meal at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm



## In Search of Texas Masons, from *WM Tony Ramirez*...

Not long ago I became interested in long dead Masons in Texas. These Masons were not famous nationally nor were they infamous. They were not politicians or the famous Texas Masons that fought and died to make Texas a republic and later a state. They were Masons that lived in Texas and performed deeds only a Texan would appreciate.

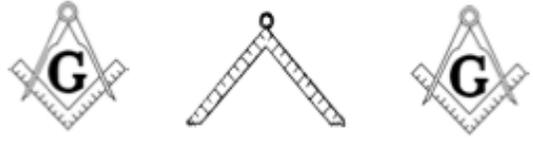
My journey began with Ahijah W. Grimes, a member of the Gamble Lodge No. 244, in Bastrop. He was initiated March 10th 1873, passed on April 26th, and raised on May 14th of the same year. Although I had seen the large green sign over toll-road 45 indicating the exit for A.W. Grimes Boulevard in Round Rock, I never considered the name or what the person did in Round Rock to warrant such a tribute. The thought that he may be a Freemason never entered my mind.

One day while browsing at Half Price Books, my literary store of choice, I ran across a book by Mike Cox. The title was "Texas Ranger Tales: Stories that Need Telling". There were about 25 stories in the book. One evening, I began reading the eighth story, "The Killing of "Caige" Grimes". It began with a statement from a dying Sam Bass, the infamous train robber and gunman, who proclaimed, "If I killed Grimes it was the first man I ever killed". It was not long before I realized that the story I was reading recounted the murder of A.W. Grimes by the bandit Sam Bass. A.W. Grimes, the guy on the exit sign!

Ahijah Grimes was born in Bastrop in 1850. He was the Bastrop City Marshall in 1874 and later was elected the city's tax assessor. He joined the Texas Rangers in September 1877 and left them in December of the same year, short enlistments were the norm in those days. He became Deputy Sheriff of Williamson County shortly thereafter. It was as a Deputy Sheriff that Grimes had his run-in with Sam Bass.

Historians have written that Deputy Sheriff Grimes knew that Sam Bass was in the area and should have been more prepared. Sam Bass was indeed in and around the outskirts of Round Rock with gang members Frank Jackson and Seaborn Barnes. They were scoping out the city and bank. This was to be their first bank robbery and they wanted everything to go right. Seeing a store next to the bank the three walked in so Bass could buy some tobacco.

...continued next month



## To Contribute to the Relief of...

As Masons, we have obligated ourselves to aid the survivors of our deceased brothers, but what does that really mean? Do we show up on their doorstep with a check in hand? No, our obligation is deeper than that. As any person who has lost a spouse will tell you, learning to live again without that person who has been so important for as long as you can remember, is a process, a work in progress, and it takes time. We want to be sure that our Masonic widows do not feel that when their husband has passed away, that his lodge brothers will forget about her.

If a Masonic memorial service is provided, there is a public display of Masonic attachment and respect for the departed brother. The funeral may also include a military memorial; both of these displays are respectful remembrances from organizations which were a part of the brother's life. These ceremonies all convey a sense of value and worth accorded to the deceased brother. But what about the value and worth of his widow, that most precious part of the brother's life he has left behind?

In my conversations with our new widows, they always express their appreciation that the lodge has thought of them via a sympathy card or a letter written to them, the survivor. Telephone calls can remind them of handymen in the lodge who can do some of the little things that used to show up on "honey-do" lists. These ladies may not feel comfortable taking the car in for an oil change, or they would really appreciate a brother stopping the running water in the toilet that will not shut off.

One thing that our widows value most is having someone contact them; a call to ask if there is anything they need help with, or maybe a phone call from another Onion Creek widow or the wife of another lodge brother or Eastern Star sister. Human contact is always appreciated, especially helpful and supportive human contact. Let us never forget our fraternal obligations.

*Roland Brown, Secretary*



# Onion Creek Masonic Lodge Beacon

## September 2010



### **SAMC Volunteers Set Torrid Pace in July...**

Sixteen OCL volunteers, including wives Linda Boyd and Jeanine Robinson, and also long-time friend of the lodge, Norm Hayes, logged 162 hours during July. Better accounting methods show that time credited to Onion Creek volunteers in the past was frequently too low. Although dealing with some changes in workplace and procedures, our people have come through with flying colors.

The entire staff at SAMC has noted and commended the lodge on its continuing valuable contributions. For example, our time thus far in 2010 totals 1167 hours. Three volunteers, Ron Moreau, Bart Tuthill, and Linda Boyd, contribute from 5 to 10 hours each week and really boost our numbers. Many people have expressed a desire to "give back to the community," and volunteering at our local hospital is one of the most rewarding opportunities available.

To share your blessings with many people in great need, just call Bart, Ricky, or Roland for an application. Their phone numbers are Bart Tuthill at 512-745-2680, Ricky Tindell at 512-247-4742, or Roland Brown at 512-217-4025.

### **Ill, Recovering, & Shut-in Brethren and Family**

Please remember the following people in your prayers, as they are or have been ill, are recovering from medical procedures, or have limited mobility: Johnny Camarillo, Cathy (Chris) Preece, Carl Shaw, Max Ehrlich, Dick Frazer, Roger Gaby, Cecil Goodwin, Alan Karotkin, Rodney Lay, Johnnie (Don) Long, Sue (J.C.) Morton, Kenneth Patton, Gene Richardson, Tom Richardson, and Philip Sughrue. If any brother knows of others who should be on this list, please contact Chaplain John Turner at 512-659-5031 or 512-303-7272.

### **From the Editor's Computer...**

One of the finest qualities of humanity is its ability to adapt to its environment. This is also true of organizations and institutions, more especially this of ours. In a short span of 20 years, the Internet has become the heart and brain of the civilized world. It has afforded huge leaps in communication and networking while easing the increasing burden on our resources and fossil fuels. Millions of people can now contact each other and have conversations without the use of paper and ink. Also, thanks to technological advances, one doesn't even need to purchase Internet access to send or receive email.

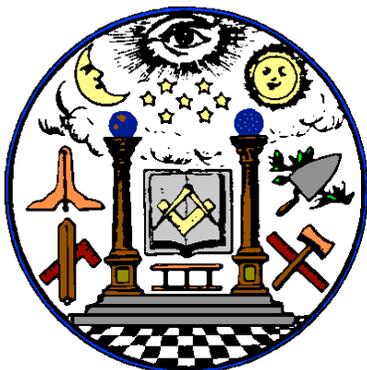
When I took on the task of editing the Beacon, one of the first things I thought of was delivering it electronically. It's cheap, easy to manage, and almost every person uses the Internet. During our last Stated Meeting, it became apparent to me that we need to explore new ways to truncate our expenses. The economy is not getting better and in order to remain solvent, we should discover and adopt less expensive ways to operate. I think one of the easiest ways to start that ball rolling is to deliver the Beacon electronically. Taking into consideration that this method may not be preferred by all our readers, I would welcome anyone who would like to have their Beacon sent directly via email, or to receive a link to the Online Beacon once it is published on the OCL website.

**Chris Dawson, Editor and Musician**

### **Want to save Onion Creek Lodge a few bucks?**

Please send an email to [monthlybeacon@gmail.com](mailto:monthlybeacon@gmail.com) In the subject line of the email, please put E-BEACON. In the body of the email, please state your full name and the words "E-BEACON ONLY, PLEASE". Once we match your name to our spreadsheet, we will take your name off the print mail list!

Thanks for helping us save a few trees and a few dollars!



### **September Food Committee – Not a Family Night**

Menu: Lasagna, salad, bread, iced tea, coffee, water, and dessert.

### **Co-chairmen Bill Bastas & Joe Beaver**

**Members:** Mike Brode, Donnie Carter, David Curry, Charles Hampton, Sam Hill, Dennis Kestner, Don Long, Louis Martin, Everett Moore, Bruce Roberson, Joe Seguin, James Sherrard, and John Spillar.

## September Birthdays

(1) Roberto Zapata, (2) Roy G. Koontz, Allan J. Tolbert, (3) Arnold J. Holden, James A. Kruger, Stephen A. Barlow, Armand C. Ablanado, (4) Gary M. Hendricks, (5) Ernest J. Kohn, (6) Billy R. Capps, Tommy R. Teykl, (7) Charles L. Ames, Edward V. Hill, Bobby J Doherty, (11) Barry P. Drake, (12) Barney W. Lewis, Michael L. Ford, Dale A. Rundell, (16) Ricky J. Tindell, (17) Eddie E. Daffern, Michael Compton, Peter Seguin, (20) James R. McMillan, Gordon W. Kelso, Terry D. Phillips, (22) John A. Spillar, Michael A. Lee, (23) William S. Lear, Curtis A. Gilgan, (24) Robert C. Williams, (25) Jimmy M. Hodges, Allyn R. Anderson, Rodney H. Lewis, Joe A. Brown, David E. Henderson, Jason S. Lyde, (29) Bertis R. Ward, (30) David A. Curry, Ralph D. Morren, James W. Carroll.

Happy Birthday, Brothers, and May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more...

## Masonic Birthdays; raised in September (year):

David A. Curry, John W. Lewis (49), Oran K. Percy (52), James D. Malone, Doyle H. Collier, Kenneth D. McGuffey (54), John E. Waggoner, Jr., (61), Ralph L. Cearley (62), Jimmy F. Hemphill, G.W. Spivey (65), Stephen C. Dowell (69), Joe A. Brown (70), Thomas D. Menefee, Jr. (71), William H. Watts, Jr. (74), William A. Panick, James W. Wilkerson (75), Rockney B. Raby (76), James W. Carroll (77), Larry G. Richter (80), Thomas R. Mayfield (83), Charles L. Allen, Paul S. Hinchliffe, Greg Watkins (86), Robert F. Park, Sr. (88), Edward A. Miller, Bill Bastas, Samuel M. Gacesa (89), Thomas A. Compton (90), Joe S. Park (93), Carlton L. Edwards (95), Allen W. Deaver, Jeffrey J. Hastings (00), Dwane R. Ideker, Jr. (03), Jeffrey T. Lester (04), Richard K. Bledsoe (05), Pablo L. Ureste, Brad French (06), Roberto Torres, Aaron K. Robertson, Gregory S. Johnson (07), Ben Rauschke, Chris Gaines (08).

And God said "Let there be light," and there was light!



### **Masonic Education: Implements in Masonry...**

In ancient times apprenticeship was a means by which young men could learn and advance themselves within a profession. Generally, apprenticeship involved a seven year bonding with a skilled teacher and in many instances was a contractual agreement. The master was to teach and the apprentice was to serve and learn.

As early masonry focused on stone building there were three distinct stages associated with the process. There was the quarry work to obtain the freestone, the preparation of the stone, and installation, so it was natural to understand why there would be three separate skill levels required for apprenticeship. Likewise, it is easy to understand there would be three sets of tools to be mastered in these areas.

In the quarry, the entered apprentice would have to be trained in the measurement and rough preparation of stones. While other tools such as the maul and wedge would be used, the final tools would be the gauge and gavel. It would be in the quarries where the entered apprentice would labor to discipline himself in understanding the nature of stone and the difficulties in molding rough stone to become a part of a greater design.

Once skilled, the apprentice would advance to the finishing of stone, wherein the object was to produce geometrically perfect shapes. The faces should be perfectly smooth, the edges sharp, and the angles clean. While there would be tools to smooth the various surfaces, the principal instruments would be the plumb for verticals, the level for surfaces, and

the square for angles. Here, the apprentice would labor to learn the art of pursuing perfection and beauty.

At the last stage the apprentice would be brought to the building site and taught the skills required in molding the final edifice. Here mastery of all of the tools would be required, but the trowel would be the tool most valuable in the completion of the building. Knowledge of mathematics, geometry of construction, formulas, and the art of mixtures would be taught at this stage, so that the apprentice truly would become a master of the craft and a true Freemason.

When applied to speculative masonry the implements serve as constant symbolic reminders of the moral lessons of rough stone and youth; finished stone and manhood; and finally, fitted stone and age. The implements of gavel and gauge teach us to chip away at our moral flaws and use our time wisely. The plumb, level, and square draw our attention to rectitude of conduct, our interaction with others, and need for virtuous conduct at all times. The trowel gives cause to reflect upon the importance of spreading brotherly love to our Brothers and all about us.

Finally, as Masters of the Craft we use all these implements as guides to our conduct and daily living, so that we will fulfill our obligations to achieve happiness, not only for ourselves, but for those about us. As living stones in the Universe of the Great Architect, we can have no greater goals. **By Brother Robert Northcutt, Grand Lodge of Texas Education & Service Committee**

**Constitution Day** On September 17, 1787, the United States Constitution was signed by thirty-nine brave men who changed the course of history.



## Texas' Original Independence Day Diez y Seis de Septiembre

As Texas was a part of the Spanish Empire, our first Independence Day would be that of the Mexican Republic which celebrates its 200th anniversary of independence from Spain on September 16th. On that day in 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla read the Grito de Dolores which called upon the people of Mexico to struggle against the corrupt government of Spain. As a part of the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, Texas declared her own independence from Mexico on March 2nd, 1836 and ten years later was annexed as the 28th state of the United States of America.



This Flag is for the  
State of Coahuila y Tejas  
and is often called the  
SEGUIN flag...

## Labor Day Monday September 6, 2010

The first Labor Day in the U.S. was held Sept. 5, 1882 in New York City. In 1894 Pres. Grover Cleveland called for a national day of reconciliation after conflict in the Pullman Strike and the Congress unanimously passed the law creating a national holiday. Proposed were street parades and festivals for workers and their families. In 1909 the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

Labor Day's roots are anchored in the workers' rights movement of the late 1800s, when workers did not enjoy the benefits workers have today. They did not have a limited work week, minimum wage, or minimum age requirements. Employers did not extend benefits to their employees, such as health, retirement, and reimbursement tuition. Working conditions were often unsafe and many workers died at their places of employment or in the strikes they engaged in to protest their working conditions. It is because of these workers that employees today enjoy the benefits they have. In celebrating Labor Day we should take at least a few moments to remember these brave men, women, and children.

In 1898, Samuel Gompers, head of the American Federation of Labor, called it "the day for which the toilers in past centuries looked forward, when their rights and their wrongs would be discussed...that the workers of our day may not only lay down their tools of labor for a holiday, but upon which they may touch shoulders in marching phalanx and feel the stronger for it."

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker. Labor Day weekend marks the end of summer, a return to school for the children, and the gradual return to the scheduled life that comes with school, work, and winter holidays.

## Jewish High Holy Days in September this year

**Rosh Hashanah** (Head of the Year) is commonly called Jewish New Year. In Jewish liturgy it is described as “the day of judgment” and “the day of remembrance.” The day is observed as a day of rest and is characterized by the blowing of the shofar, a trumpet made of ram’s horn. The traditional greeting is “may you be written and sealed for a good year.” Rosh Hashanah is September 9-10, 2010 (1-2 Tishrei 5771)

**Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement) is the tenth day of the month of Tishrei and is set aside for public and private petitions and confessions of guilt. It is the holiest day of the year for religious Jews. Worshippers gather in the synagogue and the Ark is opened and the Torah scrolls are taken. The days are for prayer and fasting. Yom Kippur is Sept. 18, 2010. (10 Tishrei 5771)

**L'Shanah Tovah**  
Happy New Year

**Rosh Hashanah**  
Head of the Year  
September 9-10  
1 to 2 Tishrei  
5771

ראש השנה  
R O S H H A S H A N A H

**L'Shana Tova and Welcome to High Holy Days**

Celebrating the Jewish Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

**Yom Kippur**  
Day of Atonement  
10th Tishrei 5771

May you be written in the book of life and sealed for a good year!

## Back to School--More Light!

September marks the beginning of a new school year. Freemasons have advocated free public education from the start of the Brotherhood. Education is the path to benefit individual liberties and the advancement of society.

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge was born in 1858 due to the farsightedness of Brothers rebuilding the Red Cedar School which had burned. These Brothers built the new Stone Lodge and for 75 years provided room in the building for the Union School which became Pleasant Hill School.

For 152 years the Onion Creek Brotherhood has sponsored the oldest continuous public school in Texas. Work projects, teacher and student support, contests, school supplies, holiday gifts, book purchases, and program support are just a few of the many ways the Lodge has bettered our local school.

These past two years Onion Creek has donated money to purchase innovative reading programs and upgraded science programs for the Pleasant Hill School. The Lodge has honored students and teachers with the Lamar Medal for educational advancement. Our Past Master Dale Flatt has generously worked and donated to provide the school library with a state of the art audio-visual center to further educational goals.

Horace Mann, the father of our present system of public schools, wrote that the object of a free public schools system is "to give every child a free, straight, solid pathway by which he can walk directly up from the ignorance of an infant to a knowledge of the primary duties of a man." James Madison wrote that "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives."

As this new school year begins, let us each pledge as Masons our continued support to ensure the very best in public schools for our community.



Onion Creek Masonic Lodge  
The Beacon  
September, 2010



Onion Creek Webmaster  
Raul J. Scully

Onion Creek Beacon Editor  
Christopher Dawson

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
contributing to the amplified & colorized website version  
of the Onion Creek Beacon  
Onion Creek Historian Harley Max Fisher