

DeKalb Masonic News

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DeKalb Lodge #144 A.F. & A.M.

P.O. Box 644, DeKalb, Illinois 60115



Benefit Breakfast Held to Help - and Thank - Firefighter

The DeKalb Masonic Lodge recently held a benefit pancake breakfast for injured fireman Bill Reynolds (seated). Standing is Todd Metsker, Master of DeKalb Masonic Lodge, Bill's wife Jerri and Todd's wife Sherri. Bill was injured in the explosion during the fire of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sycamore in February. The lodge raised over \$2800 dollars with the support of community members and firemen attending from many surrounding counties. Personal contributions were made

Following the Benefit Breakfast on March 14, 2004 at DeKalb Masonic Lodge #144 Bill Reynolds sent the following e-mail:

Thanks you so much for all that you and the others did. Our family is grateful for it . . .

Thanks again,

Bill

Shrine Club Dinner Meeting

The DeKalb County Shrine membership has been notified of the Thursday, April 15, meeting at Sorrento's Restaurant. "Past President's Night" is the special theme. DeKalb Chief of Police, Bill Feithen, will speak to the group regarding "Today's Challenge in Law Enforcement." This is the last "dinner out" meeting with the ladies until September. A "smoker" is scheduled for May; golf outing, June; Tebala picnic, July and DeKalb County Shrine Club picnic in Sycamore Park in August.

Dustin Chapter OES

Dustin Chapter #365 Order of Eastern Star, Sycamore, held their official visit for the Grand Lodge officers Monday evening, April 12, at the DeKalb Masonic Temple. This is now their regular meeting place.



Senior Mason Receives Award

Master Todd Metsker, right, and Matt Kunz, secretary of DeKalb Masonic Lodge #144, presented a certificate from the Grand Lodge of Illinois to John Strub in recognition for his faithful service and membership of seventy-nine years. John joined the Masons when 21 years of age in Chicago; spent many years as electrician and refrigeration technician for the Cook County Hospital. He came to DeKalb in 1974 and now lives with his son Charles. John will observe his 101st birthday in May.

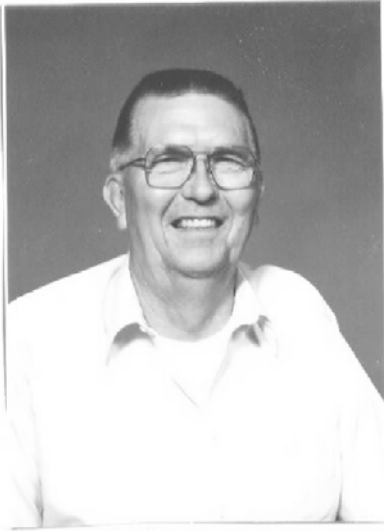


Past Masters Meet and Eat

The Past Masters' Dinner was well-attended, with about 35 brothers there for a lasagna and garlic bread feast. From left to right in the back are W.B.s John Conlin, Bill Schmitt, Ken White, Chuck Kross. In the front row are Jay Elliott, Haakon Andreason, Dean Quarnstrom, John Birkett, and Dave Klopp. Also honoring us were Senior Grand Warden Danny Yandel and Area District Deputy Grand Master Melvin Parke.

Is Sycamore Lodge #134 to Merge with DeKalb Lodge #144?

Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden Danny Yandel and Right Worshipful Area District Deputy Grand Master Melvin Parker were on hand for a meeting on Wednesday, March 24th concerning the future of Sycamore Lodge #134.



Slim" Kittleson

Mervin Lane (Slim) Kittleson passed away February 9, 2004 at the Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb. His birth date was November 10, 1921. Funeral service were held at First Lutheran Church, DeKalb on February 14, with interment in Union Cemetery, Steward, Illinois. Masonic service was conducted Feb. 13.

"Slim" was a 50-year member of DeKalb Masonic Lodge #144 and DeKalb County Shrine Club. He joyfully entertained those in his presence with a great sense of humor. He will be remembered as sharing ownership of the "Standard Station" at Seventh and Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, for many years. Slim enjoyed frequent attendance of area golf courses.

*Loving and kind in all his ways,
Upright and just to the end of his days;
Sincere and true in his heart and mind,
A beautiful memory he left behind.
He had a nature you could not help loving,
A heart that was purer than gold;
And to those who knew him and love him,
His memory will never grow old.*

The members of DeKalb Masonic Lodge and the DeKalb County Shrine Club extend heartfelt sympathy to his wife "Marge" and family.

Frank A. Yount

Life member of DeKalb Lodge, Frank A. Yount, passed away March 10, 2004. He was born December 18, 1913. Frank was also a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Freeport and Tebala Shrine, Rockford.

Frank married Margaret Dew in 1937 in Oregon, Illinois. He started work for DeKalb Ogle Telephone Company in Oregon in 1932. He was transferred to DeKalb in 1935 and became plant supervisor. He served in that position through the changes of ownership at the telephone company until he retired in the 1980's.

Worshipful Brother Bernard Charles Johnson

Honorary member of DeKalb Lodge #144 Worshipful Bro. Bernard C. Johnson passed away February 29, 2004. He was born October 8, 1911.

Bro. Bernie served Sycamore Lodge #134 as Worshipful Master in 1974. He also served as Eminent Commander of Sycamore Commandery #15 Knights Templar; High Priest of DeKalb Chapter #52 Royal Arch Masons; Illustrious Master of Rockford Council #30 and Worthy Patron of Dustin Chapter #365, Order of Eastern Star. He was a member and organist of DeKalb Shrine #47, White Shrine of Jerusalem; Illinois Priory #11 Knight York Cross of Honor; York Rite College #88 and Scottish Rite, Valley of Freeport.

Brother Bernie loved his music, and he shared it with all by enhancing the ritual and ceremonies of his many Masonic organizations.

Lodge Happenings!

***In January the Worshipful Master pointed out that DeKalb Lodge's 150th anniversary is 2nd of October. He will write a letter to Most Wor. Grand Master requesting he come for rededication of the temple. Bro. Dave Klopp is to inform the DDGM Orville Shoemaker; Wor. Bro. Ken White will organize a committee to study and determine the best observance and activity for the occasion.

***DeKalb Lodge #144 received word from the Grand Lodge we are sponsoring Polo High School in the Academic Bowl.

***Bro. Wendell Haney reported DeMolay members attended the DeKalb City Council meeting and received a proclamation stating that March 2004 will be DeMolay month.

***DeMolay first installation of officers was held April 3. Sloppy Joe's were enjoyed for supper and a dance followed.

***DeKalb Lodge #144 paid the fee to DeKalb Park District to sponsor a baseball team in the DeKalb Park District Baseball for Boys program. Wor. Master Todd Metsker will resume his position as head coach.

***Forty people attended the School of Instruction held at the DeKalb Lodge Saturday, March 6.

100th Anniversary Celebration

Grand Master David Miller has designated Sunday, June 27th, 2004 as a day of celebration at the Illinois Masonic Home. Keep checking the website or further information concerning Pilgrimage 2004 – 100th Celebration. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Illinois Masonic Home campus in the past, set aside this date to join us in celebrating 100 years of service to Illinois Masonry.

MASONIC TERMS

Some Masonic terms are readily understood while others are vaguely understood or not understood by most Masons. Several years ago, I was given a monogram written by Rev. Wm. H. Russell entitled MASONIC FACTS FOR MASONS and published by Behrens Publishing Company of Danbury, Connecticut in 1909. The definitions below appeared in this historical monogram and should relieve the vagueness of some of these Masonic terms.

ACACIA. Symbol of the immortality of the soul. It is also, or was, the symbolic name of a Mason.

PARALLEL LINES. These were not in the Ritual as a symbol, before 1830, but referred to Moses and Solomon. The dedication of lodges then was to "God and his service," after which they represented the Holy Saints John, the two patrons Saints, in Symbolic Masonry, now of Jerusalem.

WAGES. This term is obscure to most Masons, but refers to light, truth, knowledge and wisdom, as a reward for labor properly done, if found "worthy."

ACCEPTED. This term is synonymous with "Initiated," or "Received into the Society," Regulations of 1738, it was used in place of "Admitted," and was introduced by Dr. James Anderson, and then called "Free and Accepted Masons."

FREE. This word has two meanings that the slave Masons or Workmen who were made free and so declared; and secondly, every man who now becomes a Mason (Speculative) must be free born, or good report and lawful age.

HURAM ABI. Is in the Masonic System the symbol of Osiris, Isis and Typhon in human nature as developed in the life here and to come, and while the Temple was the Visible Temple of the World, its builder H. A. became the Mythical Symbol of man, the dweller and worker in that world.

THE LOST WORD. The mythical history of Free Masonry, informs us that there once existed a word of surpassing value and profound veneration, that it was known to but few and was finally lost. This constitutes the myth of the lost word and the search for it. "This Word" is the symbol, and also the mythical symbol of Divine Truth, and Master Mason are still searching after it.

TRAVEL IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, ETC. The first and general impression among Masons is, that this expression alludes to the possession of a word which would perfect oneself in Masonry, so as to travel in foreign countries and work and receive wages as a Master Mason. But it has a hidden and spiritual meaning. "The true symbolic meaning of the 'foreign country' is far different. The symbolism of this life terminates with the master's degree. The completion of that degree is the lesson of death and the resurrection to a future life, where the true word or Divine Truth, not given in this life, is to be received as the reward of a life worthily spent in its search. Heaven, the future life, the higher state of existence after death is the Foreign Country.

And so my Brethren, may we ever meet, act and part with clarity

Fraternally yours,

Haakon L. Andreassen
Past Master

Did You Know?

Brother Francis Bellamy, a member of Little Falls Lodge No. 181, Little Falls, N.Y, wrote the pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. Although Bellamy wrote the pledge, it was actually the brainchild of another Mason Brother James B. Upham, a member of Converse Lodge, Malden, Mass. Upham was a partner and editor of The Youth's Companion magazine. He was well known for his love of the flag of our country.



Doctor and Helpers at Shriner's Mini Clinic

Robbie Collin has arranged the details for the Shriner's Mini Clinic for several years. On April 3, 2004 the clinic was conducted at the DeKalb County Health Department with the helpers shown from left to right: Gary Palmer, president of the club; Michelle Benad; nurse; Dr. Young from the DeKalb Clinic; Marsha Palmer, nurse; Robbie Collin, his daughter Kelley and Robbie's wife Jan.

Moral Supporters at Shriner's Mini Clinic

The annual mini clinic conducted by the DeKalb County Shrine Club was held April 3, at the DeKalb County Health Department. Members present : front L to R: Don Hudson, John Birkett, Past Potentate Ron Obara, and Roger Palmer; back row L to R: Robbie Collin, Gary Palmer, Clown, Tom Whitaker, Chuck Kross, and Dee Palmer.

Scheduled Meetings at DeKalb Masonic Temple

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| DeKalb Lodge #144 | 2nd and 4th Tuesdays R. Todd Metsker, <i>Master</i> ; Matt Kunz, <i>Secretary</i> |
| Sycamore Lodge #134 | 4th Wednesday Jim Swiney, <i>Master</i> ; Bill Schmitt, <i>Secretary</i> |
| Normal Chapter #357, OES | 3rd Tuesday Kathie Schmitt, <i>Worthy Matron</i> ; Dorothy Bierman, <i>Secretary</i> |
| Dustin Chapter #365, OES | 2nd Monday Margaret Phillips, <i>Worthy Matron</i> ; Betty Richardson, <i>Secretary</i> |
| DeKalb Shrine #47, WSOJ | 2nd Thursday Connie Meyer, <i>Worthy High Priestess</i> |
| DeKalb Chapter #52, RAM | 3rd Wednesday Dave Klopp, <i>Excellent High Priest</i> ; Lou Meinert, <i>Secretary</i> |
| Sycamore Commandery #15 | 3rd Wednesday Dave Klopp, <i>Eminent Commander</i> ; Bill Schmitt, <i>Secretary</i> |
| DeKalb Masonic Temple Assn. | 2nd Wednesday R. Todd Metsker, <i>President</i> ; Bill Schmitt, <i>Secretary</i> |
| Bethel #66, JOBS Daughters | 1st and 3rd Thursdays Mary Johnson, <i>Honored Queen</i> |
| DeKalb Chapter, DeMolay | 1st and 3rd Mondays John Birkett |

Golfer?

"By the time a man can afford to lose a golf ball,
he can't hit it that far."