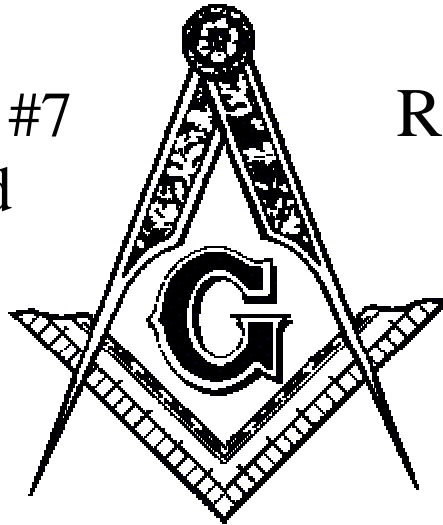


# Matanuska Lodge #7 Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

1022 South Cobb Street  
Palmer, Alaska



# Reflections from the East

Vol. 2 No. 2  
March 18, 2001

**B**rethren, Grand Lodge in February was a time of great pride for Matanuska #7. For the first time ever, one of our own was elected and installed as Grand Master. Additionally, several other Mat 7 members were appointed to Grand Lodge officers and as Committeemen.

### Matanuska #7 Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	M W	Charles E. Corbin
Grand Chaplain	W	Eugene M. Mockerman
Grand Historian	W	Lee O. Seagondollar
Jr. Grand Deacon	W	John R. Cline
Grand Standard Bearer	W	Stanley L. Woodin
Deputy to the Grand Master (District 5)	V W	William J. Goodwin

### Committeemen: \* Chairman

Masonic Research & Education	W	Richard R. Olsen
Masonic Youth	W	Stanley L. Woodin *
	W	John R. Cline
Public Schools	W	John R. Cline
Sessions and Arrangements	V W	William J. Goodwin *
	V W	Harry J. Koenen
	W	Russell W. Sanders
Russian Relations	M W	Charles E. Corbin
	V W	William J. Goodwin
	W	Larry D. Wright

Additional recognition was afforded W John R. Cline who received the Grand Master's Award of Excellence at the Fellowship Banquet following the first day's session.

The Wardens charge was held immediately following the annual communication. I was fortunate in being able to attend this year. I feel that all Wardens and Deacons should go to this at least once in their travels through the chairs, to prepare them for their year as Master. Some of the topics discussed included establishing goals, officers' duties, making changes within our fraternity, Masonic Code, and the workings of the Grand Lodge.

All the Grand Lodge Line officers as well as numerous others attended our annual Grand Lodge

visitation on March 6th. Much was discussed with the Grand Master stressing the fact that our membership has fallen dramatically in recent years, and our need for acquiring new members and retaining them.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM, we will have our Widows Night at the Matanuska Masonic Temple. All Masons and their wives are encouraged to join us in recognizing these Ladies for their support to their husbands and our fraternity through the years. We will also have a 50 year Anniversary of Matanuska Lodge #7 on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We would like to see as many Masons and wives there as can attend.

Fraternally,  
W M Larry D. Wright



**Mt. Morris Lodge '535, F&A.M.**  
Mt. Morris, Michigan 48458  
Teddie N. Hoyt, WM 2001  
(517) 823-2376 e-mail: [teddie1@tds.net](mailto:teddie1@tds.net)  
Lenzy R. Lewis, PM, Secy.  
(810) 736-1503 e-mail: [llewis@ttr.com](mailto:llewis@ttr.com)

**Brother Alaskan Masons, if you're ever in Michigan, We would be honored to have you visit our Lodge!**

**R**ecent Past: The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska was held in Fairbanks, Alaska on January 31 – February 2, 2001.

Mr. Ronald John Polstra was elected to receive the degrees of Masonry at the stated meeting of Matanuska Lodge #7 on February 6, 2001. A petition for Mr. Douglas Robert Mills was read for the first time.

The Lodge met February 20th for the purpose of initiating Mr. Ronald John Polstra. W Lee Seagondollar obligated Mr. Polstra and W Jerry Pendergrass gave the charge. W James Griffith (Eagle River #13) gave the lecture of the degree.

The March 6<sup>th</sup> stated meeting of Matanuska Lodge #7 was the official visit from M W Charles E. Corbin, the Grand Master of Masons in Alaska. A sumptuous meal was provided by our Junior Warden, James Summers. Business included the election of Mr. Douglas Robert Mills to take the degrees of Masonry and the first time reading of a petition for affiliation for Bro. Littleton Franklin "Buck" Buxton.



Grand Master's visit to Matanuska #7, March 6, 2001

The annual meeting of the Matanuska Masonic Temple Holding Company was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. W Russell Sanders and W John R. Cline were elected to replace two members of the board of directors whose tenure had ended. The proposal to raise the annual rent for Frontier Court #6, Order of the Amaranth was approved and the annual Holding Company budget was passed. The new officers for the Holding Company include:

- W John R. Cline – President
- Bro. James Summers – Vice President
- W Lee Seagondollar – Secretary
- Bro. Jerry Arthur – Treasurer

**Mat Su Shrine Club**  
**The First Monday of Every Month**  
**7:00 PM, Wasilla Amvets**  
**William Goodwin Jr., President**  
**(907) 376-1274**

**N**ear Future: On Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Matanuska Lodge will initiate Mr. Douglas Robert Mills into our Order. The initiation will begin at 7:30 PM at the Matanuska Masonic Temple.

The April stated meeting of Matanuska Lodge #7 will be at 7:30 PM on April 3, 2001

**April Stated Meeting**

Dinner will be served at 6:30 before the stated meeting.  
 Please come and share in the fellowship.

Matanuska Lodge #7 will celebrate Masonic widows at a Widows' Night on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. If

anyone knows of a widow who requires transportation, please contact the Worshipful Master at 376-8240.

The May stated meeting of Matanuska Lodge #7 will be at 7:30 PM on May 1, 2001.

**Palmer Assembly No. 7**  
**International Order of Rainbow for**  
**Girls**

**The First and Third Friday**  
**7:00 P.M., Palmer Masonic Temple**  
**Lanita James, Mother Advisor**  
**907-376-3957**  
**Beth Cline, Rainbow Board Chairman**  
**907-745-2011**

*Light*

**Free-Will and Accord.** There is one peculiar feature in the Masonic Institution that must commend it to the respect of every generous mind. In other associations it is considered meritorious in a member to exert his influence in obtaining applications for admission; but it is wholly uncongenial with the spirit of our Order to persuade anyone to become a Mason. Whosoever seeks a knowledge of our mystic rites, must first be prepared for the ordeal in his heart; he must not only be endowed with the necessary moral qualifications which would fit him for admission into our ranks, but he must come, too, uninfluenced by friends and unbiased by unworthy motives. This is a settled landmark of the Order; and, therefore, nothing can be more painful to a true Mason than to see this landmark violated by young and heedless brethren. For it cannot be denied that it is sometimes violated; and this habit of violation is one of those unhappy influences sometimes almost insensibly exerted upon Masonry by the existence of the many secret societies to which the present age has given birth, and which resemble Masonry in nothing except in having some sort of a secret ceremony of initiation. These societies are introducing into some parts of America such phraseology as a "card" for a "demit," or "worthy" for "worshipful," or "brothers" for "brethren." And there are some men who, coming among us imbued with the principles and accustomed to the usages of these modern societies, in which the persevering solicitation of candidates is considered as a legitimate and even laudable practice, bring with them these preconceived notions, and consider it their duty to exert all their influence in persuading their friends to become members of the Craft. Men who thus misunderstand the true policy of our Institution should be instructed by their older and more experienced brethren that it is wholly in opposition to all our laws and principles to ask any man to become a Mason, or to exercise any kind of influence upon the minds of others, except that of a truly Masonic life and a practical exemplification of its tenets, by which they may be induced to ask admission into our Lodges. We must not seek – we are to be sought.

And if this were not an ancient law, embedded in the very cement that upholds our system, policy alone would dictate an adherence to the voluntary usage. We need not now fear that our Institution will suffer from a deficiency

of members. Our greater dread should be that, in its rapid extension, less care may be given to the selection of candidates than the interests and welfare of the Order demand. There can, therefore, be no excuse for the practice of persuading candidates, and every hope of safety in avoiding such a practice. It should always be borne in mind that the candidate who comes to us not of his own "free-will and accord," but induced by the persuasions of his friends —no matter how worthy he otherwise may be —violates, by so coming, the requirements of our Institution on the very threshold of its temple, and, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, fails to become imbued with that zealous attachment to the Order which is absolutely essential to the formation of a true Masonic character.

*From: An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences, by Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33°, The Masonic History Co., New York, 1913.*

*(Editors Note: Mackey's reference to this being a "settled landmark" of the Order is contradicted by his later enumeration of the landmarks of Freemasonry. In "The Foundations of Masonic Law", Mackey lists 25 such landmarks. Number 18 comes closest to our topic of discussion here and states in part, "Certain qualifications of candidates for initiation are derived from a landmark of the Order. The qualifications are that he shall be a man—unmutilated, free born, and of mature age. . ." However, Mackey makes no reference in his list of landmarks to the qualification that he who "seeks a knowledge of our mystic rites" must do so of his own "Free-Will and Accord".)*

**Mat Su Chapter Order of DeMolay**  
**The Second and Fourth Wednesday**  
**7:00 P.M., Palmer Masonic Temple**  
**Max VanLue, Master Counselor**  
**907-892-3422**  
**Charlie Phipps, Scribe**  
**907-376-4694**

## **C**losing Thoughts: *Business on Any Degree.*

Lately, I have had the opportunity to travel to other Grand Jurisdictions and visit lodges there. Last month I visited Delta-White Center Lodge #172 in Tukwila, WA and was welcomed by W M Charles A. McEwen. Last Tuesday I traveled to Colorado Springs, CO and visited Colorado Springs Lodge #76, where I sat with W M Alexander Pettigrew. Although, we derived our monitor and ritual from the Grand Lodge of Washington, I noticed subtle differences between the way Delta-White Center conducted their ritual and the way we perform ours in Alaska. The Grand Lodge of Colorado is Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and thus I noted greater differences in their ritual work compared with ours. There was one thing in common between these two Grand Jurisdictions which we do not share here in Alaska. They are allowed to open their lodges and conduct business on any degree.

When I visited Delta-White Center Lodge, it was a stated meeting, yet they were performing a first degree. At the conclusion of the degree, instead of escorting the newly made mason out of the lodge and calling up to the third degree, they proceeded with their business on the first. Their new EA was very enthusiastic and ready to get immersed in Masonry. Likewise, when I visited Colorado Springs Lodge, it was a stated meeting and they opened and conducted business on the first degree to accommodate a new EA who had been initiated previously. When I asked members of these lodges about this practice, I learned that allowing EA and FC masons to participate in the business of the lodge was their way of keeping them involved in Masonry and not shunting them to a corner to prove up and await the next initiation ceremony.

Last year the Grand Lodge of Alaska initiated 38 brothers, passed another 23, and raised 27. Yet at the end of the year there remained 94 EAs and 20 FCs on the books. Undoubtedly, we have brothers on our roles whose enthusiasm is waning as they languish in obscurity. Not only are we not benefiting financially from the dues they could be paying, but we are losing a human resource.

Resolution No. 2001-2, introduced at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska, purposed to permit lodge business and balloting to be transacted when open on any degree. As a proposal to amend a Bylaw, it required a three-fourths majority to pass. The vote yielded a tie, broken only by an additional vote by M W Don G. Chaffin. This resolution was carried over to the next session of the Grand Lodge, where it will only require a simple majority to pass.

Detractors for this resolution argued that it was change for change sake, that well founded lodges should already have processes in place to involve EAs and FCs in their lodges, and that it violated the landmarks of Masonry which mandated opening stated meeting on the third degree. Contrary to this misconception, there is no such landmark of Masonry either stated or implied.

I believe there is some misunderstanding regarding this resolution. It does not mandate that a lodge be open on other than the third degree, but makes the practice of opening on any degree discretionary for the Worshipful Master. It allows a tool to the Master whose Lodge is struggling with membership but not a hammer to those who are not.

I strongly encourage adoption of this resolution.

W John "Bo" Cline, editor

If you always do  
 What you've always done.  
 You'll always get  
 What you've always got

