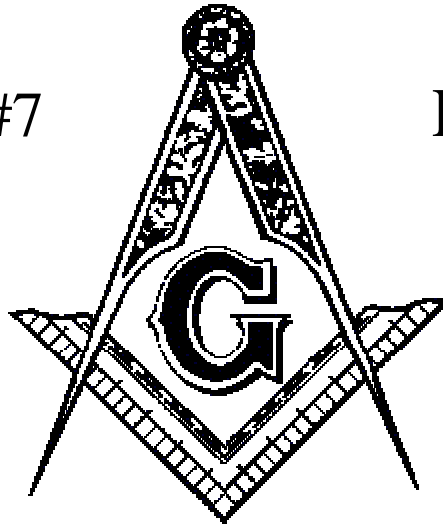


Matanuska Lodge #7 Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

1022 South Cobb Street
Palmer, Alaska



Reflections from the East

Vol. 2 No. 3
June 3, 2001

Brethren, I recently received a call from Iditarod Lodge # 20's Senior Warden informing me that they will have a short meeting on June 21, 2001, and then host an evening for all Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons who have not progressed in a timely manner. He suggested that the other Lodges in District #5 contact our respective candidates and ask them to attend, so that we can explain and discuss the possibility of a one day ritual to these men.

While I am sure a number of Masons do not agree with this, it is a chance for an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to voice his concerns over not advancing due to commitments to family, employment, intimidation, embarrassment, etc. I feel that this evening could prove beneficial towards opening discussion between our members and candidates. We should listen to the candidate's reasons with an open mind and hope that we can learn why we are having trouble gaining new members and then retaining the few we do.

Our District wide golf committee appears to be making some headway with the hope of a tournament next year. This could be a start of a return to activities "other than ritual".

With the State Fair coming in August, we will need volunteers to man our booth. Please contact WB Stan Woodin if you will be available. Also, I remind you again of our 50th anniversary celebration on June 19, 2001 at 6:30 PM.

A "Thank You" to all the brothers that assisted with the courtesy 3rd Degree for James Foster of Ouray Lodge #37, Ouray, Colorado. A job well done!

A 1st Degree for Hal Murphy will be held on May 29, 2001 at 7:30 PM.

Do not be afraid of change!!!

Fraternally,
W M Larry D. Wright

Recent Past: Stated meetings of Matanuska Lodge #7 were held at 7:30 PM on April 3, 2001 and May 1, 2001.

Matanuska Lodge #7 celebrated Masonic widows at a Widows' Night on Saturday, April 14th.

Ritual Activity:

- On Tuesday, March 20th, Matanuska Lodge initiated Mr. Douglas Robert Mills into our Order. The initiation began at 7:30 PM at the Matanuska Masonic Temple.
- On Tuesday, May 8th, Matanuska Lodge conducted the 3rd Degree for James Foster of Ouray Lodge #37, Ouray, Colorado.
- On Tuesday, May 29, Matanuska Lodge conducted the 1st Degree for Harold Dennis Murphy.



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

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

Near Future: The June stated meeting of Matanuska Lodge #7 will be at 7:30 PM on June 5, 2001

June Stated Meeting

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

Matanuska Lodge #7 was constituted on June 20, 1951 in Palmer, Alaska. This June 19, 2001 there will be a 50th anniversary celebration for the Lodge at the Matanuska Masonic Temple at 6:30 P.M.

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

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

Light

Tiler. An officer of a Symbolic Lodge whose duty is to guard the door of the Lodge, and to permit no one to pass in who is not duly qualified, and who has not the permission of the Master.

A necessary qualification of a Tiler is, therefore, that he should be a Master Mason. Although the Lodge may be opened in an inferior degree, no one who has not advanced to the Third Degree can legally discharge the functions of Tiler.

As the Tiler is always compensated for his services, he is considered, in some sense, as the servant of the Lodge. It is, therefore, his duty to prepare the Lodge for its meetings, to arrange the furniture in its proper place, and to make all other arrangements for the convenience of the Lodge.

The Tiler need not be a member of the Lodge which he tiles; and in fact, in large cities, one brother very often performs the duties of Tiler of several Lodges.

This is a very important office, and, like that of the Master and Wardens, owes its existence, not to any conventional regulations, but to the very landmarks of the Order; for, from the peculiar nature of our Institution, it is evident that there never could have been a meeting of Masons for Masonic purposes, unless a Tiler had been present to guard the Lodge from intrusion.

The title is derived from the operative art; for as in Operative Masonry the Tiler, when the edifice is erected, finishes and covers it with the roof (of tiles), so in Speculative Masonry, when the Lodge is duly organized the Tiler closes the door, and covers the sacred precincts from all intrusion.

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

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

Necrology: In March Matanuska Lodge witnessed the passing of two long time members.

DON L. McKECHNIE

June 3, 1915 - March 28, 2001

Bro. Don L. McKechnie was born June 3, 1915, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He had attended schools in Iverson and Sawyer, Minn. He had been a resident of Alaska since May 1935, living in Palmer until 1966 when he built a home on Wasilla Lake. He moved to the Pioneers' Home in July 1995.



After leaving school he worked with the CCC's in Minnesota, then "hoboed" on the train to California, where he worked in the fruit orchards until he got word that his family was moving to Alaska.

In Alaska he worked in construction, becoming a heavy equipment operator. He was involved in construction of Elmendorf AFB plus many schools and roads all over Alaska. He retired in 1976 from Operating Engineers Local 302.

He was a charter member of the Palmer Moose Lodge # 793, Matanuska Masonic Lodge # 7, Operating Engineers Local 302, and Pioneers of Alaska Igloo # 31.

He served as the mayor of Palmer in the early '50s, and enjoyed hunting, flying, and gold prospecting. His family said: "Even with his many health problems he kept a good sense of humor and kept his care givers on their toes. He enjoyed visiting and having coffees with friends. Bro. Don loved his grandchildren and was happy when they visited. He will be missed by his family."

Reprinted from the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Frontiersman, April 3, 2001.

TIM TWITCHELL

January 31, 1906 - March 29, 2001

Lifelong Alaskan and Brother Mason, Timothy Twitchell died March 29th, 2001, at the age of 95, in the Pioneer Home in Palmer, Alaska.



He was born January 31, 1906 in Bethel, Alaska to Irena Kocheck and Adams Hollis Twitchell. There is also a birth date of February 11, 1907 in the record, but this might have been corrected to the first date shown here. His mother was a full-blooded Yupik Eskimo and his father was a Caucasian from Jamaica, Vermont.

Timothy Twitchell became a Master Mason in Tanana Lodge #162, Fairbanks. To put his Masonic work into perspective, he first applied for membership in 1929, but was apparently rejected. He applied again to Tanana Lodge

#162, Fairbanks, and was elected to membership February 13th, 1952, initiated February 20th, 1952, took his FC degree February 27, 1952 and was raised on May 7th, 1952. His proficiency was given on May 14th, 1952. His life membership in Tanana Lodge is dated June 28th, 1962. He had been living in Takotna, Alaska for five years at the time of his petition, which was dated September 13th, 1951. Roy A.A. Larson was Worshipful Master.

Brother Tim became a Shriner in Nile Temple, September 6, 1957.

Glacier Lodge #10 of Anchorage received Brother Tim as having been a dual member, December 10th, 1960. He demitted from Glacier Lodge on December 9, 1965. April 30th 1974, he petitioned for affiliation with Matanuska Lodge #293, Palmer, Alaska and was elected to membership June 4th, 1974. His occupation was listed as a retired teacher.

In the Order of the Amaranth, Timothy belonged to Anchorage Court #1 and became Grand Patron with Fern Jackson in 1972.

After Al Aska Shrine Temple came into existence, he affiliated with these fine brothers on December 19, 1975.

Brother Timothy became Worshipful Master of Matanuska Lodge in 1977, a life member in 1991. Many Brothers testify to his phenomenal memory. His obituary is in the archives of Matanuska Lodge No. 7, Palmer, Alaska.

Timothy Twitchell was a member of Matanuska Valley Chapter #14, Order of Eastern Star, becoming affiliated with them June 16, 1976. He became a life member, October 20, 1993, serving as Worthy Patron with Betty Elliott in 1975, and, in the years 1976 and 1982, he became Worthy Patron with Doris Fowler.

While in Valdez, Alaska, he joined the Valdez Chapter #5, Order of Eastern Star

Also, after becoming a member of Anchorage Chapter #8, Order of Eastern Star, he served as Worthy Patron in 1974 with Doris Fowler.

In Fairbanks there is a rumor he traveled hundreds of miles across the tundra to obtain his degrees. It is also told, he sang hymns in Yupik before Masonic gatherings, tears streaming down his face. He would apologize, 'he always cried when singing thusly.'

As indicted herein, WB Twitchell was very, very active in all organizations of Masonry.

A funeral was held at three p.m., Sunday, April 1, 2001 at the Palmer Salvation Army Chapel, 209 W. Evergreen Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. James McFarland officiated during the church service. A Masonic service followed in which Lee O. Seagondollar officiated, assisted by Larry D. Wright, Russell W. Sanders, James H. Summers, Roger K. Hansen, Stanley L. Woodin, William D. Little, Leo L. Fisher, Littleton 'Buck' Buxton, William J. Goodwin, Jr., John M. Barkley, Henry R. Ferguson, L.V. 'Joe' Dees, Emmitt Roetman, John R. Cline, and MWB Charles E. Corbin.

provide their lodges with an additional source of funds to support their philanthropic initiatives. A couple of brothers from the Valley got to discussing these successes and wondered, since we have a beautiful golf course in Palmer, why we couldn't try to sponsor a golf tournament. It was thought that three of the four lodges in District 5 (Matanuska #7, Eagle River #13, and Iditarod #20) could pool their human resources and pull together a high quality tournament, which could be self-perpetuating.

The brothers from the Valley brought their suggestion back to their respective lodges and were met with a lot of enthusiasm. A Valley Tri-Lodge Golf Tournament was thought to be a great idea, which deserved further investigation. A member from each of the three lodges was selected to make up a committee to learn the particulars of setting up and conducting a golf tournament and report back to their lodges.

The committee met with a gentleman who had a lot of experience running golf tournaments. They learned that to raise money rather than just sponsoring a social event required the solicitation of business/corporate sponsorship in the form of prize donations, entry fees, advertising, and cash donations. They learned that the event needed to be open to all sectors of the community, well advertised, and promoted. They learned that the form of the event was important to its success, which required coordination and cooperation from the local golf course. They learned that the social aspect of the event was just as important as raising money, which required food, drink, and entertainment. Finally, they learned that for an event of this nature to be a success, they would need a small army of people to plan, coordinate, set-up, solicit, and promote it.

The committee brought this information back to their lodges. They proposed that the three lodges sponsor a golf tournament for the purpose of raising money for the Grand Lodge and individual lodges, and asked those interested in supporting this endeavor to step forward. At that time, the committee learned that the enthusiasm had waned. To date, no one has shown interest in working on or supporting a Tri-Lodge Golf Tournament. Apparently this is an idea whose time has not come.

Three people alone cannot support a large project such as this. It takes all of our members pulling together and giving of their time to carry on with the lodge initiatives. Activities like the Fair Booth and general lodge maintenance are wanting of your time and effort. Now is the time to stop being spectators and sideliners and to get involved. Attend lodge, participate in the meetings, and give some time to the activities the lodge deems important. We can pay for these services, but if we did, it would probably require an increase in lodge dues and it would stop being YOUR lodge.

W John "Bo" Cline, editor



Closing Thoughts: Report on the Proposed Golf Tournament.

At Grand Lodge this past February in Fairbanks, Mt. Verstovia Lodge in Sitka reported on the success of their fishing derby and Kenai Lodge reported on the success of their golf tournament. The purpose of these two activities was to raise money for Grand Lodge and to