



Armstrong Lodge 445



Volume 1, Issue 12

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LET'S GO TO LODGE TONIGHT

**My Brother, let's go to Lodge tonight;
You haven't been for years.
Let's don our Lambskin Apron white
And sit among our peers.**

I feel a kind of longing, see,
To climb those creaky stairs;
I know it'll be a thrill for me
To lay aside my cares.

**We'll meet the Tyler at the door
And though he'll hesitate,
We'll hear him say just as before,
"Come in or you'll be late."**

**I'd like to get out on the floor-
Come on, let's get in line;**
I want to face the East once more
And give the same old sign.

I want to hear the gavel rap
The Craftsman to attention
And see the Master don his cap;
A night without dissention.

So come! Pass up that picture show,
Or your wrestling match or fight;
**Switch off that TV set! Let's go!
Let's go to Lodge tonight.**
– Author Unknown



Tri-County Scottish Rite

The Tri-County Scottish Rite Club met in DeLeon on August 31st. Trisha Quesenbury, from the Scottish Rite Hospital brought a very informative and useful message regarding the new improved dyslexia program. It makes you proud to see how our organization takes part in not just helping children, but being at the forefront for this kind of study for the world.



Pictured is Mike Carlin & Trisha Quesenbury



Bob Wilson & Billie Cox



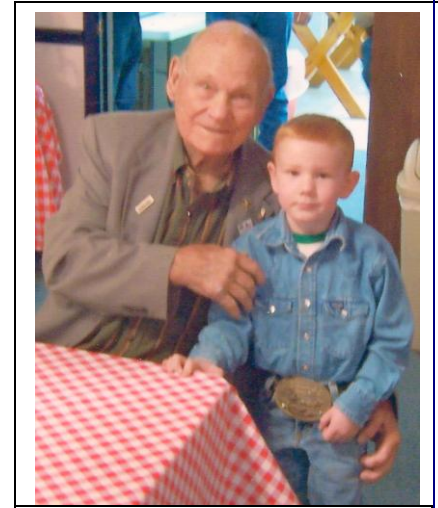
The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman program has as one of its requirements to apply the Scottish Rite degrees in writing. They offer questions to answer in essay form to help with a thorough understanding.

One question was the significance of our lives on the future....

My hope is to display the answer to this question by using the example of my Masonic hero.

Charles Morgan became a member of Armstrong Lodge #445 in De Leon, TX in 1958. Brother Morgan was Past Master of our lodge, and District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District #72 in Texas, as well as K.C.C.H. in the Scottish Rite; these accomplishments pale in comparison to the rest of his Masonic legacy. He was not an outspoken leader or even one who sought to further his Masonic legacy through awards or titles. His quiet leadership was still so respected, that our lodge as well as other lodges sought his wisdom on matters. *The brothers were his legacy.*

Uncle Charlie, as he was known, taught most of the candidates in our lodge from the 1960's into the late 1990's. He also taught many of the pillars in the surrounding towns. In our small rural communities, he kept Masonry alive. He was never involved in anything detrimental in lodge. That was not what Masonry taught. He lived what he believed. I never heard an ill word from Uncle Charlie. That would not be fitting himself for the Builder's use. For the hundreds of brothers Charlie taught, the relationships built were a side effect that were as important as the ritual work itself. Your time with Charlie as a candidate developed this strong bond that you really could not describe. It was just "there." He was truly a Masonic Brother.



Uncle Charlie and Sam

You could not learn the ritual work from Charlie without having the love of the craft rub off on you too. Charlie taught me my ritual work in 1997 and the love he had for Masonry was contagious. Though his hands were gnarled with arthritis, he used them as a teaching tool. Many of his students know exactly how he moved his hands on particular sections of the work and we find ourselves unconsciously moving our hands in the same way to help remind us of what we are saying. He took the time to explain why things were the way they were. Even in his eighties his mind was as sharp as any. We attributed this to his "lifting weights" with his mind through the Masonic work. He used to tell the stories of making milk deliveries to many small country stores in his panel truck. He would pick up a new brother and work with him while he drove.

Our tiny lodge, like many in small towns, has cycled through periods of growth and periods of decline. During the tough times, we could not confer our own degree work – except for Charlie. This was also the case in the surrounding towns. The brothers from other lodges that could not confer the ritual work would ask Charlie to come and help. If Charlie didn't take an active part in a degree and someone stumbled or got "hung up" on a particular section, they instinctively looked to Uncle Charlie. Brothers in our lodge as well as other lodges looked forward to sitting in lodge with him. Charlie would say, "I am going to lodge in this "other" town. If you want, I will pick you up and take you with me." The brothers looked forward to this time and we also found that he just might use the drive time to teach the "work" to you.

When Charlie was advancing in years, he knew he wanted a Masonic Graveside service. To that end, on many of his later trips to lodges, he taught a very worthy brother the burial service with instructions for his own burial.

As Uncle Charlie taught me my ritual work, he commented that since he started so late in Masonry, he probably would not live to receive his 50-year pin. Fortunately, he was wrong. At his 50-year ceremony his family had the opportunity to see how much brother Masons thought of him. This was an eye-opening revelation to them. They had always known how important he was to his family, now they began to understand what he meant to others. He outlived his 50th year as a Mason by 3 months. Uncle Charlie received his Masonic burial just as he had wished – by the brother whom he helped teach the work.

Charlie's legacy did not stop in our lodge. There were many widows whose lawns he mowed because they no longer had anyone to help in that manner. He also never missed an opportunity to deliver Christmas baskets to the Masonic widows in our community. I could spend the entire paper recollecting the many things Charlie did to help someone or some family that most will never know. I will not because he did not do these things for people to know about. He knew it was part of his Masonic obligation and that was enough.

I am certain that when my son expressed to me that when he grew up, he wanted to be one of those "lodge guys," it is because of the legacy taught and carried forward from Charlie through one of his candidates. His legacy is so thick in our area that it will continue for years to come.

Calendar

Upcoming Items of Interest

- ❖ Armstrong Lodge Stated Meeting 1st Tuesday 6:30 pm
- ❖ Order Of the Eastern Star 2nd Monday 6:30 pm
- ❖ Tri-County Scottish Rite Meeting 5th Tuesday 6:30 pm
- ❖ Fort Worth Scottish Rite Meeting 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm
- ❖ York Rite Chapter & Council in Stephenville 4th Monday 6:00 pm
- ❖ York Rite Commandery in Granbury 3rd Wednesday 6:30
- ❖ Cipher Practice Thursdays 6:00 pm



Texas Masonic Family Day

Saturday, Oct. 9

TexasMasonicRetirementCenter

1501 W. Division, Arlington, Texas

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free Admission

Antique & Classic Car Show

Masonic Lodge BBQ Cookoff

Live Music

100 Art, Craft, and Food Vendors

Fundraising Opportunities for Lodges

Children's Games

Hay Ride

Jump Houses

Pumpkin Patch

Dunking Booth

Petting Zoo

There are several brothers from Armstrong Lodge that will be going. If you are interested or need a ride, let us know!!