

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE



#749 AF & AM



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Worshipful Master T. Roy Shields
Secretary John "Corky" Daut

September 2002

TEXAS MASONIC HEROES

JOSE NAVARRO

Texas Patriot and Legislator

For nearly half a century Jose Antonio Navarro had a hand in every major decision affecting the history of Texas. A native Texan, Navarro was born February 27, 1795, in San Antonio de Bexar. At the age of eighteen he joined the fight for independence from Spain. After the uprising failed he spent three years of exile in Louisiana. While working and studying law in San Antonio in 1821 he became good friends with Stephen F. Austin.

As a member of the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, Navarro advocated the colonization of Texas. He helped Ben Milam and others obtain empresario grants, even before receiving land for himself. In 1829 he introduced a unique piece of legislation, known as Decree No. 70, that was the forerunner to the homestead law, and in 1833 was elected to the National Congress. By the fall of 1835 he was strongly in favor of Texas Independence and was a delegate to the Convention at Washington on the Brazos. He joined with his uncle, Francisco Ruiz, in signing the Declaration of Independence, and was appointed to the committee the Constitution. He later served in the Congress of the new Republic.

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W.M. T. ROY SHIELDS Good News And Bad News

After spending a couple of weeks in Veterans Hospitals in both Temple and San Antonio Worshipful Master Roy Shields got to come home on the 19th. of August.

The bad news is that the doctors didn't actually do anything to help his condition.

I talked to Brother Roy for a little while after he came home and he said that his main problem at that time was that he just couldn't get enough air in his lungs and he was sweating profusely for no reason.

Brother Roy said that the medical tests that were made during his 2 week hospital stay hadn't shown anything wrong with his heart and that now they wanted to make some tests to see if it was Pulmonary problems.

On the 25th Brother Roy had another bad spell with breathing while visiting with a friend and had to be taken to the hospital in Bryan. He came home again on the 30th.

Brother Roy did say that due to his current condition, he wasn't sure if he would be able to serve as Worshipful Master anytime soon.

A Yard Sale ?

The idea of having a Hempstead Lodge yard sale, when it gets a little cooler, is being considered. If you have any ideas or suggestions, join the discussion at the next meeting

FREEMASONRY DURING THE WAR

Masonic Wives Left Behind *Written by a Confederate Soldier's son*

Many years before the war my mother had been initiated into the side degrees of masonry little thinking of the help it might be to her in later life. We had quite a quantity of silver and three thousand dollars in gold. which she packed in a box and buried under a beautiful water oak tree at a late hour in the night. all the valuables of our home had been also secreted, my poor mother, as a solitary sentinel, guarded these family treasures while my two little sisters slept in peace, no doubt dreaming of daddy and my brothers far away in Georgia.

Shortly after the sun was up, the enemy entered our town with a regiment of Wisconsin troops in the lead, and a troop of cavalry. without invitation they hitched their horses to the huge swinging branches of our oak tree. just at this time my mother, Mrs. Margaret Rea, made her appearance with my two little sisters. she was ready for the early callers, and very soon the skirmishing began. however, a vicious horse, hitched directly over our treasure box, uncovered it and the silver and gold flew in every direction. with great bravery, the yankees charged our sole fortune, and were making fine

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Texas Heroes

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President Mirabeau Lamar persuaded Navarro to accompany the Santa Fe expedition in 1841. Captured and sent to Mexico, he was charged with treason, sentenced to death, and imprisoned in the Bruta Ulloa dungeon at Veracruz. When paroled from prison he escaped on a British ship and returned to Texas, just in time to be elected to the July convention of 1845. He favored annexation to the U.S. and helped write the first state constitution.

Navarro served as Senator in the First and Second State Legislature before returning to San Antonio to practice law. He favored secession and all four of his sons fought for the Confederacy. He was a member of American Virtue Lodge No. 10 at Saltillo, Mexico. Navarro County was named in his honor, and the county seat, Corsicana, was named for his father's birthplace, the island of Corsica.

This was the twelfth Texas Hero in the series on famous Masons who made Texans History.

Prayers For

- John N. Daut Sr. - Back problems
- Ted Wren Jr. - Breathing problems
- Pam York - Knee problems
- Dorothy Ferguson - Been sick
- David Hartley - Back problems

Special Note

Please make a special place in your prayers for our Worshipful Master Roy Shields. He was in hospitals off and on for 3 weeks out of the past 5 for his heart and lung problems without receiving much relief.

War Between The States

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progress in their heroic attack. At this critical moment, my mother made the Masonic sign of distress, and at once the Wisconsin Captain and others drew their swords and pistols and surrounded the robbers.

This brave officer succeeded in getting every piece of silver and gold, and returned our treasure box intact to my mother. He then placed a guard around our home, and slept upon the gallery himself as long as the Federal Army occupied our once pretty village, which was the county seat of Lauderdale County. my mother told this Wisconsin Captain she would pray for his return to his home in safety, and that she would never forget his kindness. in three or four days, the federal troops folded their tents and retreated to Vicksburg.

As to whether Masonry is a protection in the hour of danger, I know it is from actual experience.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

If you would would like to receive your Newsletter by E-mail and help the Lodge save some money. Please notify the Lodge Secretary at pineilse@swbell.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

- Acock, Melvin Leroy 9-15-42
- Ferguson, Lewie "Jim" 9-30-27
- Smith, Jerry W. 9-18-45

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

- Banks, Daniel 9-19-86
- Garrett, William. "Bill" 9-13-83
- Seets, Martin "Marty" 9-28-98
- Vines, James Ray 9-30-86
- Wren, Ted W. Jr. 9-21-63

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

On August 5, I visited the Waller County Tax Appraisers office, taking resolutions from Waller County, the City of Hempstead and Hempstead Independent School District to exempt the Lodge from paying Ad Valorem Taxes. The appraisal office says we will no longer have to pay property taxes. This will cut the Lodge's annual expenses by about \$1,500.

FUTURE FUND RAISERS

At the August meeting, after a long discussion between the members with some suggestions from our visiting District officers, a motion was made and unanimously approved to appoint a new fund raising committee that will plan, organize and oversee the operation of future fund raisers.

This committee is off to a very good start, as shown by the success of the August 31 fund raiser planned and overseen by the new committee.

MEETING FACTS

In looking back through the minutes of the past 12 stated meetings, I noticed that, 2 meetings had 11 members present, 3 had 12 members present, 6 had 13 members present and 1 had 14 members present.

In the past, I worried about what seemed to be pretty low figures. However, after talking to Secretaries from other Lodges in our district and some from Houston Lodges it seems that if 10 percent of their members show up for a meeting, most Lodges consider it to be a good turnout.

For the Hempstead Lodge, 10% of our 57 members would only be 6 members. Since percentage wise we have been having from 19% to 25% of the membership in attendance at our meetings, it looks like Hempstead Lodge is doing pretty good.

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THE STAR CORNER

The history of the Eastern Star is divided into three Eras:

The First Era extended from 1850 to 1866, under the leadership of Dr. Rob Morris, Poet Laureate of Masonry. The Second Era extended from 1860 to 1876, under the leadership of Robert Macoy of New York. The Third Era extends from 1876, when the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was established to the present time.

Of these eras, the first is perhaps the most important as it prepared the way for the other two.

The real origin of the Eastern Star, like Masonry, will always be shrouded in mystery. Many researchers believe it had a French origin as early as 1703. By some, this is claimed to be the first inception of "Female Masonry" or "Androgynous Degrees" -- (degrees for both men and women).

There appeared at this time, to be a demand for "Side Degrees" or Degrees conferred on ladies, and quite a list sprang up -- "Heroines of Jericho", "Danger in the Dark", "Tall Cedars of Lebanon", etc. These were extensively used but soon fell into decay, for lack of lasting worth.

As to the real origin of Eastern Star Degrees in its Initiatory form, there is not the least shadow of doubt that the honor belongs to Dr. Rob Morris and its real origin comes under the First Era.

Dr. Morris had traveled many years. He had written many books on Masonry which are now valued references in many Masonic Libraries.

Never quite satisfied that all the good in Masonry should be confined to men, Dr. Morris felt that Masonry

should be for the whole family. But by the laws of that Ancient Order, women are not eligible for its degrees. Knowing he could not change the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, Dr. Morris sought some method by which women could share with the Masonic Brother the same inspiration that "prompts man to noble deeds."

Although he harbored these feelings for years, it wasn't until 1850, while confined to his home after an accident, that Dr. Morris fully developed the Eastern Star Degrees in their present initiatory form.

During this time, he carefully thought out the symbolism and significance of the floor plan and the corps of officers. He conferred the degrees upon his wife and daughters, and some neighbors, presumably having an idea to clothe the ladies with certain words or signs whereby they might make themselves known to Master Masons.

These signs and so-called mysteries of the Order were communicated freely to all Master Masons and their relatives. Dr. Morris and other prominent Master Masons gave many lectures and conferred the degrees on many ladies throughout the nation.

Please send your Comments and Suggestions For the Eastern Star column to Corky at 979-826-6267 or E-mail to pineilse@swbell.net

In Memory of Helen Walker
Helen age 76, the wife of District Education Officer of Masonic District #108, Brother Ralph Walker for 57 years, passed away Sunday August 11, 2002. Brother Ralph is also the Secretary of Pleasant Hill #380

THE BIG "RAILROAD TRACK" FUND RAISER

The emergency fund raiser held on August 31, 2002 was a huge success.

Between 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM we sold 120 chicken halves and 12 briskets. After all the expenses were paid, we cleared almost \$900. This will be a huge boost in our efforts to help Hempstead Lodge in it's long climb back to financial recovery.

A big thanks to the crew, Kenneth Harvey, Kelly Cox, Ted Wren Jr., John Daut Sr., Marty Seets, Jim Ferguson and myself for doing a outstanding job and proving that by working together a few Brothers can make a huge difference for the Lodge.

Some Brothers were concerned about having the sale on a holiday weekend, but it was our best fund raiser in recent history.

This is twice that we've sold Brisket by the pound and it has proved very popular with our customers.

A new idea for the railroad track was selling lunch plates with either a half chicken or some brisket, with beans and potato salad. The lunches also proved very successful. We sold more then 40 lunch plates.

We especially wanted to thank to all of the Brothers who stopped by to buy something and show their support. Special thanks also to Brother Roy. His donations helped make the project.

MORE FUNDRAISERS PLANNED

The Railroad Track?

We are discussing the idea of trying a bar-b-que sale on a Friday to catch the lunch crowd on a work day and payday. Retired helpers are welcomed.

We also have the 'railroad track' site reserved for Saturday, October 5, 2002 and plan to have another chicken and brisket Bar-B-Que sale.

Leroy and Bubba were bungee-jumping one day. Leroy suddenly turned to Bubba and said, "You know, we could make a lot of money running our own bungee-jumping service in Mexico." Bubba thinks this is a great idea, so the two pool their money and buy everything they'll need - a tower, an elastic cord, insurance, etc. They travel to Mexico and begin to set up on the square. As they are constructing the tower, a crowd begins to assemble.

Slowly, more and more people gather to watch them at work. Bubba decided to make a test jump. He bounces at the end of the cord, but when he comes back up, Leroy notices that Bubba has a few cuts and scratches.

Unfortunately, Leroy was surprised and wasn't able to catch him and Bubba falls again. he bounces and comes back up again. This time, he is bruised and bleeding.

This time, Leroy was even more surprised and misses him again. Bubba falls again and bounces back up. This time, he comes back pretty messed up - he's got a couple of broken bones and is almost unconscious. Luckily, Leroy finally catches him this time and asks, "What happened? Was the cord too long?"

Bubba says, "No, the cord was fine, but what the heck is a piñata?"

HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

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