



# ASHLAR TIDINGS

*Decemberr—January 6002 A.L.*

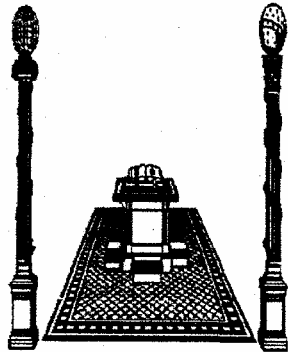


## Friends & Family Night

This Friday, January 18th, Ashlar Lodge will host it's monthly Friends & Family Night. Our special guest for the occasion will be Dan Vierthaler who is the Supervisory Senior Resident Agent (SSRA) for the area. He has been stationed in Montana for the past twelve years. His early years in the state were spent working as an Agent. For the past three years, he has worked as the supervisor for the offices in Billings, Glasgow, and Havre. As an Agent, he devoted a significant amount of time to violent crimes on the reservations. Mr. Vierthaler has focused on the areas of illegal gambling and domestic terrorism. From 1995 to 1998 he was one of three Case Agents devoted full time to the Freeman investigation. During his time as an Agent, he was also the primary firearms and defensive tactics instructor for Montana as well as a member and team leader for the FBI's Montana SWAT team. Dan's topic for the evening will be Homeland Security.



## Miscellaneous Business



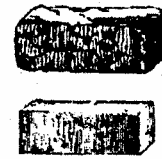
Due to the fact that around Christmas time things become very hectic in the Ashlar office, the decision was made to delay the Ashlar Tidings until January to allow time for completion of other projects. Also, our Secretary, Nathan Vincent will be traveling on business during the month of February. Because of this, the Ashlar office will not have regular office hours during this period. If anyone needs assistance during this time, Bill Vincent will be helping out as needed. He will be unavailable to assist when possible. His work number is 406-247-7329 and his home number is 406-373-5621. Feel free to call him if necessary.

## The Ashlar Tidings Origin

The Ashlar Tidings began in 1947 as an idea in the mind of Bro. Jack Hill. Bro. Joseph Hopper was Senior Warden at the time and about to ascend to the East for his term. Bro. Hill asked him what he thought of the idea of a lodge paper for Ashlar. Bro. Hopper was quite enthusiastic about the idea and says "I almost hugged him because this was the sort of thing that I thought Ashlar needed and after discussing the matter with him, assured him I would do all I could to further the idea." Bro. Hill had worked in the Post Office for many years and this experience proved quite useful in working out the mailing arrangements. Bro Hill also went on to become the first editor. Bro. Lyman Smith, who was the new Senior Warden, became the first publisher. The rest of the officers and membership became aware of the project in 1948 and adopted the title of "Tidings from Ashlar."



## The Master's Message



By Worshipful Master Randy Parker

*Editors Note: This is the Message for December. The message for January is also included in this issue of the "Tidings."* November was a good month for Ashlar, as we made a new Fellow Craft Mason, Brother Craig Norwood on Friday, November 30. Before receiving his second degree, Brother Craig took and passed his Entered Apprentice proficiency in Open Lodge. Congratulations, Brother Craig!

We also hosted the first Annual (hopefully) Ashlar Lodge Veteran's Day Dinner on Friday, November 16, with members of the American Legion, Marine Corps League, and Veteran's of Foreign Wars in attendance. The guest speaker was Major Scott Fosdal, Commanding Officer of the Inspector-Instructor Staff, Co. B., 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division.

Major Fosdal explained today's Marine Corps to the audience. Some of the notable things about the Marines are that they have added two and a half weeks to their boot camp making it 13 weeks long total. He then went into further detail on the infantry training that Marines receive after boot camp. Major Fosdal's talk was very timely since the 15th Marine MEU SOC and the 26th Marine MEU SOC currently deployed in Afghanistan.

The very next day, Ashlar was up bright and early on Interstate 90 to clean up our Adopt-a-Highway site which is from mile marker 441.5 to 443.5 between Billings and Laurel. Brothers Chuck Fowler, Nathan Vincent, Bill Rubich, Willie Rubich, Jason Biggins, Tom Drummond, Dave Bruner, Craig Norwood, and myself all helped to clean up litter and LOTS OF IT. We ran out of bags about two miles into our four mile route. (We have both the westbound and eastbound lanes for two miles.) Look for the Ashlar sign along I-90. Those of you that couldn't make it, don't worry. You can volunteer to help us in March or April, our next cleanup date.

In December, we have had to move up our meetings by a week, as Dr. Bob Danskin and Mrs. Danskin will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, December 28, the date originally scheduled for our December Lodge of Instruction (LOI). Congratulations to Dr. Bob and Mrs. Danskin on their Golden Wedding Anniversary! Therefore our business meeting was held on Pearl Harbor Day, Friday December 7. Our Ashlar Christmas Party will be December 14 and our LOI will be on Friday, December 21. We will revert to the second and fourth Fridays for the Stated Meeting and LOI in January with Friends and Family Night on the third Friday. As always, all meetings start with Dinner at 6:30. Lodge is at 7:30. Please RSVP for all events by Thursday at noon so that we have plenty of food.

Congratulations to Mr. William Murphy, our new Tyler. At the beginning of the year, I couldn't find anyone to volunteer to be our Junior Steward, so we didn't have one. Now that Bill Murphy has become Ashlar's Tyler, Bill Rubich has moved up to Junior Steward. I appreciate both taking on their responsibilities — they are both doing an outstanding job!

Randy C. Parker  
Worshipful Master

**THE REAL SECRET OF  
FREEMASONRY**  

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**MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER**



## *The Master's Message* *Part 2*



Happy New Year from Ashlar's officers and myself!

In January, we will have our stated meeting on Friday, January 11. Friends and Family Night will be on Friday, January 18, and our Lodge of Instruction will be on Friday January 28th.

For Friends and Family Night, we will have a guest speaker from the FBI to speak to us concerning homeland security, a topic that has been in the news a lot since Sept. 11. Please call the Billings Masonic Center at 406-259-6557 by noon on Thursday, January 17, to make your reservations.

Ashlar's highway cleanup site is now marked on both sides of the Interstate between Billings and Laurel, with the west-bound lane sign at mile marker 443.5

On December 8, Ashlar performed the Masonic Rites for Brother Dean Jansma's funeral. Brother Dean was a Billings broadcasting pioneer, having helped start KGHL-TV (now KULR-TV) in Billings in the mid-50's as an engineer and continued to work at KULR until retiring a few years ago. Brother Dean also coached many Masons over the years in degree work. Masons participating in Brother Dean's service included Bros. Nathan Vincent, David Loos, David Armstrong PM, Morris Irion PM, and myself. (We were all dressed in tuxedos, our aprons, and white gloves.) Bros. Dave Bruner, Craig Norwood, and William Vincent also attended Brother Dean's funeral. Brother Dean will be sorely missed!

I want to urge all brothers reading this that are interested in having the Masonic Rites performed at their Funeral to inform at least two close relatives and/or friends as well as having the request listed in writing and attached to your will or trust. Also please inform the same individuals where your Masonic apron is located. Nothing we do is more important than honoring a late brother.

I also apologize for not sending out this year's Ashlar Trestle Board Sooner. I had difficulty finding a Mason to accept the Junior Steward's station this year. I asked four younger Masons to take this office, but they had conflicts that prevented them from doing so. Fortunately, Brother William Murphy agreed to assume the Tyler's chair, freeing up Brother William Rubich to become Junior Steward. Both are doing an outstanding job! In hindsight, I should have had the Trestle Board produced with the Junior Steward station left vacant instead of waiting until the office was filled.

On Tuesday, January 29, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Johns at the Center. The lodge will begin at 6:30. Please call with your reservations by noon on Monday, January 28.

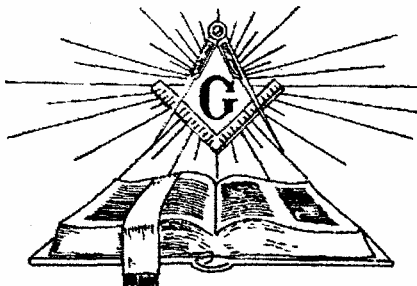
On Saturday, April 20, the four Billings Blue Lodges, the Scottish and York Rites, and the Al Bedoo Shrine will host a reception for the Billings Symphony and Chorale in the Hart-Albin Building following the performance of Mozart's Symphony #40. We will be serving wine and hors d'oeuvres to the Symphony as well as their largest donors who will also be invited to the reception, approximately 300-400 people. The purpose of hosting the reception is to promote Freemasonry by honoring Brother Mozart and other famous Masonic composers and to make available information on Freemasonry to guests attending this event through displays, brochures, etc. This will be the Billings Symphony's final performance of the 2001-2002 season, and this reception will also serve to honor the Symphony and Chorale members for their season.

To order tickets for the Symphony, please call the Alberta Bair Theater Ticket Office at (406) 256-6052. The performance will start at 8pm, end at approximately 9:30-10, and the reception will immediately follow.

We will also need Masons in tuxedos, white gloves, and Masonic aprons to attend this event and help with the serving. Wives, girlfriends, mothers, and daughters are also welcome! Please call Brother Nathan Vincent at the Billings Masonic Center at 259-6557 or at home 259-5398. Or myself at 248-7851 or 698-0800 to volunteer.

I hope that you and your families have a very blessed, joyous, healthy, and relaxing 2002. God bless!

R.C. Parker  
Worshipful Master



Ashlar Lodge #29  
Billings Masonic Center  
P.O. Box 21036  
Billings Montana 59104



## JANUARY EVENTS



11th - Friday: Ashlar's Stated Meeting Dinner at 6:30 PM.  
Lodge following.  
18th - Friday: Friends & Family Night Topic: Homeland Security 6:30 PM  
21st - Monday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Remember the masonic principal of  
brotherly love & compassion.  
25th - Friday: Ashlar's Lodge of Instruction - We will initiate new candidates into the  
lodge. 6:30 PM  
Please note—an RSVP is appreciated for all dinners to allow for adequate food.  
Call the Center at 259-6557.