

Tarrant County York Rite The Keystone



2016 May Edition - www.tarrant.yorkritetexas.org and <http://64th.org>



Hobie Henderson
President, TCYRA



Joe Spencer
Vice President, TCYRA



Robert Cagley
Treasurer, TCYRA



Jason Lesikar
Secretary, TCYRA

Welcome to the May 2016 edition Tarrant County York Rite Association Newsletter

Monthly Quote – Matt Pickell:

There is a difference between interest and commitment: When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses; only results.

Parry Award Grading is for 2016 is completed.

Texas Chapter/Council are the 2016 District 26 Champions

Stephenville Chapter/Council are the 2016 District 18 Champions.

Sam Reid is the champion ritualist with the best score in 18th and 26th districts.

Things are really good in the 18th and 26th district, and I see a healthy rivalry about to begin between the 2 districts.

1 – Texas Chapter – 993.50	1 – Texas Council – 986.50
2 – Ridglea Chapter – 991.00	2 – Ridglea Council – 986.00
3 – Riverside Chapter – 989.50	3 – Stephenville Council – 979.00
4 – Southside Chapter – 970.67	4 – Southside Council – 973.67

Annual Meeting at Trinity York Rite College #154, on May 21, 2016 at Southside Lodge. Breakfast at 8:00 AM
Texas Chapter 100th Anniversary Dinner on May 14th. For details contact Sam Reid.

YORK RITE Degree Schedule

Wednesday, May 4 – Ridglea Council Degrees – at 6:30 PM – No meal

Saturday, May 21 – Trinity York Rite College Annual Meeting/Degree – Breakfast 8:00 AM

Monday, May 23 – Arlington Commandery Order of the Temple – Eat 6:00 PM

Jimmy Willson, our Past Grand High Priest of Grand Chapter, Past Grand Master of Grand Council, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas passed away.

John Ashcraft, Worshipful Master of Mansfield Lodge, as well as member of Arlington Chapter, Council and Commandery passed away.

Tributes are listed in this newsletter, Please continue to pray for the sick and distressed.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS – May/June 2016 also <http://64th.org>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1  Loyalty Day	May 2 Arlington Commandery Practice for Order of the Temple 6:30 PM. No meal.	May 3 Chapter/Council Southside and Texas – Eat 6PM	May 4 Weatherford Commandery Eat 6:30 PM Ridglea 6:30 	May 5 Worth and Southside Commanderies Eat 6:00 PM 	May 6	May 7 York Rite Conference in San Angelo Meeting 9AM
May 8 	May 9 York Rite Arlington – Eat 6 Riverside – Eat 6 Hurst – Eat 6:30	May 10	May 11 Springtown Chapter/ Council Eat 6:30 PM	May 12 Tarrant Chapter/Council Eat 6:00 PM	May 13	May 14 Grand Lodge Called Meeting in Waco Texas Chapter 100 Year Anniversary Fort Worth Chapter Mtg
May 15 	May 16 Stephenville Commandery Eat 6:30 PM	May 17 Denton Commandery Mtg 7:30 PM	May 18 Ridglea Chapter/ Council Eat 6:30 PM	May 19 7 pm - Cleburne Commandery 6 pm – Fort Worth Scottish Rite Stated Mtg	May 20	May 21 Trinity York Rite College 154 Annual Mtg Southside Lodge 8 AM
May 22 	May 23 Stephenville Chapter / Council And Arlington Commandery Order of Temple Both Eat 6:00 PM	May 24	May 25 	May 26 	May 27	May 28 York Rite Conference in Floydada Meeting 9AM
May 29	May 30 	May 31 Tarrant County York Rite Assoc and York Rite College – 6:45pm	June 1 Weatherford Commandery Eat 6:30 PM	June 2 Worth and Southside Commanderies Eat 6:00 PM	June 3	June 4 TAMDA meeting in Waco – 8 am
June 5	June 6 Remembering D-Day 	June 7 Chapter/Council Southside and Texas – Eat 6PM	June 8 Springtown Chapter/ Council Eat 6:30 PM	June 9 Tarrant Chapter/Council Eat 6:00 PM	June 10 	June 11 Super Excellent Master's Degree
June 12 	June 13 York Rite Arlington – Eat 6 Riverside – Eat 6 Hurst – Eat 6:30	June 14 	June 15 Ridglea Chapter/ Council Eat 6:30 PM	June 16 7 pm - Cleburne Commandery 6 pm – Fort Worth Scottish Rite Stated Mtg	June 17	June 18
June 19 	June 20 Stephenville Commandery Eat 6:30 PM	June 21 Denton Commandery Mtg 7:30 PM	June 22	June 23	June 24 St John's Day 	June 25

TMRC HAPPENINGS!!!!

TMRC Residents and friends join in fellowship, playing cards and enjoying a delicious ice cream sundae. Yum!



Take me out to the ball game! TMRC residents enjoyed an outing to the Ranger ball park for the Ranger game. Thanks to Kenny Kimbrough member of Arlington Lodge #438 and Alan Petsche for donating the Suite and tickets. The residents really had a great time.



Many thanks to District 1, for hosting the April Time and Talent party. TMRC residents really had a great time with the Ladies, as they played bingo, goodie bags and also piano music. Thank you Ladies for all you do for TMRC.



Pat Kettle, Melissa Ray, Sarah Valkus Coursey



Melissa Hudman, Grand Conductress



Robert and Yvonne Brownfield, Sue Shoemaker



Donna Ott, Charles Hanes, Lavelle Ford.



Computer class anyone! The residents at TMRC take a computer class twice a month, Dave Turner, IT teaches the class, the residents really enjoy working with the computers.



Grand Commandery - 2016

Congratulations to Sir Knight **John C. Elkinton**, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas. He was elected and installed on Monday, April 25, 2016 in Abilene, Texas



John Elkinton
Grand Commander



Jason Lesikar
Newly elected
Grand Sentinel

Other Officers:

Jack Harper
Deputy Grand Commander

Richard Doss
Grand Generalissimo

Clarence Laney
Grand Captain General

Gary Freedman
Grand Senior Warden

Ronnie Wilson
Grand Junior Warden

Tommy Griffin
Grand Prelate

Brother Elkinton was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Park Place Lodge No. 1172, A.F. & A.M., in Houston, Texas on May 11, 1978. He served in several offices in Park Place Lodge before serving as Worshipful Master in 1985-86. The members of Park Place Lodge honored him with both a Life and Endowed Membership in 1986. He served as Secretary from 1996 to 2009.

He served the Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association of the 30th Masonic Districts of Texas as Vice President and President-Elect before serving as President in 1985-86.

He is a Charter and Endowed member of J.W. Chandler Daylight Lodge No. 1452 in Houston. A member of the Texas Lodge of Research where he served as Senior Steward, 1992-93; Senior Deacon, 1993-94 and 2000-2001; and Chaplain, 1994-1995. He is also a member of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000.

He has served the Grand Lodge of Texas on the Special Assignments Committee in 1989 & 1990; the Fraternal Relations Committee in 1992 and as Chairman of the Committee on Returns of Lodges UD No. 1 in 1993, and several years as a member of the Warden's Retreat Team. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 30-G in 1996 and is the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic near the Grand Lodge of Texas. He is currently serving on the History Committee of the Grand Lodge.

Companion Elkinton was exalted in Park Place Chapter No. 458, R.A.M., September 23, 1978. He was appointed Royal Arch Captain in 1979 and served as High Priest in 1984-1985, he served as Treasurer for 11 years, and also Secretary.

He received the Order of High Priesthood in 1984 and served as Grand High Priest of the Order of the High Priesthood of Texas. He has served the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas on the Credentials Committee for many years and was Chairman in 1994. He served as Grand Royal Arch Captain in 1990 and as District Deputy Grand High Priest in 1995. He is the Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Florida near the Grand Chapter of Texas. In December 2002 he was elected as Grand Scribe of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. He progressed through the line and was installed as Grand High Priest on December 6, 2005.

Greeted in Park Place Council No. 373, R. & S.M., September 23, 1978, he is an Endowed Member. He was appointed Steward in 1979 and served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1984-85, served as Treasurer for 11 years, and also as Recorder.

He received the Super Excellent Masters Degree, September 30, 1978. He served as President of the Super Excellent Masters Association of the Fifth Cryptic Districts of Texas.

Companion Elkinton received the Order of the Silver Trowel in 1984. He was appointed as Illustrious Grand Steward of the Order of the Silver Trowel of Texas in 1986 and served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1990.

He has served the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of Texas on the Credentials Committee for many years and was Chairman in 1994. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of District 5B in 1987. He is the Grand Representative of the Grand Council of the State of Washington near the Grand Council of Texas.

He was elected as Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of Texas in December 1996, and was installed as Most Illustrious Grand Master in December 1998.

Knighthood in Park Place Commandery No. 106, K.T., October 14, 1978. He served through the line becoming Eminent Commander in December 1986. He served as Treasurer for 10 years and served as Prelate for many years. He is a dual member of Ruthven Commandery No. 2, and Lone Star Commandery No. 114. He is a Life Sponsor and Associate Patron of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

He has been a member of the Park Place Commandery Drill Team since 1979 where he served as Vice-President in 1983-84, and President in 1984-85. He served as Right Guide from 1983 to 2012. He served as Drill Captain in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. He has also participated at different times on drill teams with Ruthven, Houston and Melrose Commanderies.

Sir Knight Elkinton has served the Grand Commandery of Texas as a member of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Committee for District 3 in 1991-92. He has served on the Committee on Templar Instruction from 1990 to 2007. During that time he has served as Chairman from 1995 to 2007.

Tom Snyder
Grand Treasurer

Jerry Kirby
Grand Recorder

Ric "Flapjack" Jernigan
Grand Standard Bearer

Chance Chapman
Grand Sword Bearer

Justin Bauer
Grand Warder

He was appointed as Aide d'Camp by Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America for the 2003-2006 Triennium. He was then appointed by Grand Master's Koon, Goodwin and Vaught as a Special Aide d'Camp to the Grand Encampment office.

In 2007 Sir Knight Elkinton was elected as Grand Sentinel of the Grand Commandery of Texas. He progressed through all the stations in the Grand Commandery line and was elected and installed as Grand Commander on April 25, 2016, in Abilene, Texas.

He received the Knight of York in Texas York Rite College No. 14. He became a Charter member of Gulf Coast York Rite College No. 106 in Houston and served as the Charter Marshal in 1985-86. He served as the fifth Governor in 1989-90 and received the Order of the Purple Cross in 1996.

He was Knighted in Texas Priory No. 23, Knights of the York Cross of Honour. He became a Charter member of Thomas H. Ridout Priory No. 75, and served as Registrar in 1991 & 1992. He was elected Herald in 1993, served as Prior in 1998, and is again serving as Registrar. He was appointed as Grand Prelate of Convent General, KYCH, in 2015-2016.

Initiated in Chinar Grotto on September 28, 1979 where he has served as Secretary and Stage Director and was a Charter member of Allah Grotto in Dallas.

He received the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of Houston in March 1979. He was elected to the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 1981 and was Coroneted a 33 degree Inspector General Honorary in 1991. He has served on the Wardrobe Committee, Secretary's Staff Committee, Lighting Booth Committee where he served as Chairman, as Assistant Stage Director and served for eight years as Stage Director. He has been a member of the 28° & 32° teams as well as the KCCH and 33° Investiture teams. He served for a number of years on the Inspector General's Advisory Conference for the Valley of Houston. During his time as Stage Director he also served as the Grand Flight Leader of Canvas Back Flight No. 3 of the Royal Order of the Ducks. He is a Life member of the Royal Order of Scotland which he received on September 10, 1983.

He was initiated in San Jacinto Conclave of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine on April 22, 2000. He served San Jacinto Conclave as Sovereign in 2010. He has served as Recorder since 2010.

He was inducted into Resurrection Tabernacle No. XXI, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest on December 15, 2007. He is currently serving as the 3rd Pillar.

After being initiated in Arabia Shrine Temple, March 24, 1979, he served as Ambassador to the Southeast Shrine Club in 1988 and as Assistant Stage Director in 1989 & 1990.

He was a Charter member of E.B. Nichols Council No. 269, Allied Masonic Degrees. He then served as the Charter Sovereign Master of Sam Houston Council No. 275, Allied Masonic Degrees in Houston, Texas, in 1992 and served as Secretary for many years. He received the Red Branch of Eri, Ye Antient Order of Corks, the Masonic Order of the Bath on July 19, 2003, the Order of St. Patrick, the Order of the Garter, the Order of the Scarlet Cord, and the Order of the Secret Monitor. He is also a member of the Grand College of Rites. He served the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA, as Grand Superintendent from 2011 through 2015. He was installed as Grand Tyler of the Grand Council on February 13, 2016.

He was a Charter member of Nat Pace Council No. 46, Knight Masons in Baytown, Texas. He was the Charter Senior Knight of Anson Jones Council No. 47, Knight Masons in Houston where he served as Excellent Chief in 1994. He served as Scribe for many years. He is currently serving the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the USA, as Grand Superintendent. He received the Knight Commander of Zerubbabel Award from Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer, Most Excellent Great Chief, in 2013.

He became a Founding Member of Lone Star Chapel No. 45, of the Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon when it was consecrated in Austin, Texas, on September 11, 2005. He served as Worthy Master in 2012-2013, and is currently serving as Secretary. He was installed as the Grand Banner Bearer of Grand Master's Council on February 11, 2016.

Sir Knight Elkinton was initiated in South Houston Chapter No. 913, Order of the Eastern Star on July 2, 1981. He affiliated with Pearland Chapter No. 1065 as a dual member where he served as Worthy Patron in 1992-93, 1993-94, 1999-2000, 2002-2003 and 2005-2006. He also served South Houston Chapter as Worthy Patron in 1996-97 and 2001-2002.

He was initiated into the Order of the Amaranth in Lake Charles Court. He was a charter member of Houston Court No.2, Order of the Amaranth where he served as the charter Royal Patron in 1993-94. He has served the Supreme Council many years as a Deputy Supreme Royal Patron.

He was initiated into the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem in Tulsa Shrine No. 6, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was a charter member of the Cross of Texas Shrine No. 1, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem where he served as the charter Associate Watchmen of Shepherds in 1995-96. He served as Watchman of Shepherds in 1996-97, 2000-2001 and 2005-2006. He served the Supreme Shrine of the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem as United States Flag Bearer in 1998-99, Supreme Instructor in 1999-2000 and 2002-2003. In 2003 he was elected as Supreme Associate Watchman of Shepherds and served as Supreme Watchman of Shepherds in 2004-2005.

MASONIC WEEK IN WASHINGTON DC - 2016

For the next few editions of our Tarrant County York Rite Association Newsletter, we will include the results for the various activities that occurred in Masonic Week in Washington DC in 2016.

This month, we highlight the **Masonic Order of the Bath.**

<http://bath.albertpikedemolay.org/>



Our new Most Honorable Commander-General **Most Honorable Joe Rolater Manning, Jr.**



Most Honorable Joe Manning, Jr.

The National Officers are:

Most Honorable Commander-General
Very Honorable Deputy Commander-General
Very Honorable Lt. Commander-General
Very Honorable Captain General
Right Honorable Keeper of the Bath Keys
Right Honorable Keeper of the Bath Records
Right Honorable Keeper of the Bath Door
Right Honorable Keeper of the Bath Mat

Joe Rolater Manning, Jr. - Oklahoma
Aaron R. White - Pennsylvania
Blaine Hurd Simons - Utah
James Roy Elliott - Texas
[Reese L. Harrison, Jr., PCG - Texas](#)
[William G. \(Bill\) Snyder - Missouri](#)
Leslie Norman Bale - United Kingdom
Barry Edwin Newell - Idaho



Origin & History

THE MASONIC ORDER OF THE BATH (and Wahoo Band)



The original Order of the Bath (designated as the Wahoo Band until 1938) provided for a national body with subordinate bodies made up of members in an individual Lodge of Freemasons, Only one such body was formed and the members were called Active when it was decided to take in other members not of the Lodge, the latter being termed Honorary.

Founded on June 21, 1921 in Red Bank, New Jersey by nine members of Mystic Brotherhood Lodge, No. 21, F. & A. M., as the Wahoo Band. Six years later, on June 22, 1927 five additional members were taken into the Band, and eight days later two more members. Two members were added in 1928, one in 1929, and two in 1930. Member Number No. 20 was inducted on January 20, 1931 at which time the first three Honorary Members were made: Donald J. Sargent of New Jersey, then Grand _____ of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey; J. Hugo Tatsch, originally of Iowa, then living in New York; and William L. Boyden, Librarian of the Supreme Council AASR Washington, D.C. Only fifteen more Active Members were ever inducted, the last on November 3, 1942, thirty-seven in all, they being members of Mystic Brotherhood Lodge. By this time fifty-six Honorary Members had been admitted.

From June 21, 1921, to 1941, Wallace R. Rankin of Mystic Brotherhood Lodge No. 21 in Redbank, New Jersey, served as the King Bird of the Wahoo Band. In 1941 it was decided to reserve the set-up, which had been administered by Wallace B. Rankin (No. 1) as King Bird and Harold Van Buren Voorhis (No. 2) as Quill Bird, or Secretary. The Organization was renamed The Masonic Order of the Bath and the Wahoo Band became an appended degree. In 1941, Wallace B. Rankin was recognized as the first Past Commander-General of the Masonic Order of the Bath.

On November 3, 1942, the thirty-seventh and last Active Member was inducted. On February 19, 1955, the High Council of the Order decided that the numbers of the Honorary Members (designated by "H" after the number on certificates and cards) reached 393, these with the Active Members would be 430. The members would then be registered without the "H" starting with No. 431, thus reflecting the total number of members in the Order since its inception.

In 1955 there had been 393 Honorary Members of the Order of the Bath. They, together with 37 Active Members, made a total of 430 members. It was decided to class all members Active, so there are no numbers to 430 inclusive, the numbers from 431 forward reflecting the active number of members since the inception.

In 1941, Harold Van Buren Voorhis No. 2, of Mystic Brotherhood Lodge No. 21 in Redbank, New Jersey, was elected Commander-General of the Masonic Order of the Bath. In 1957, Harold Van Buren Voorhis No. 2, was elected Commander-General Emeritus, in appreciation of his thirty-seven years of service to the Order. He was granted the privilege of conferring the Order "at-sight".

In 1957, Albin Chester Anderson No. 97-H, was elected Commander-General of the Masonic Order of the Bath. In 1967, Albin Chester Anderson No. 97-H, was elected Commander-General Emeritus, in appreciation of his seventeen years of service to the Order in various offices.

In 1967, Henry Emmerson, Jr., No. 20-H, of New York, was elected Commander-General of the Order and served until his untimely passing on October 20, 1988.

On October 20, 1988, Harold D. Elliott, II, No. 788, of New Jersey, succeeded to the office of Commander-General of the Masonic Order of the Bath and was confirmed by election by the High Council on February 17, 1989, and served until his untimely passing on March 30, 1995.

On March 30, 1995, the then Lieutenant Commander-General, William R. Deutsch No. 1030 of Illinois succeeded to the office of Commander General of the Masonic Order of the Bath and was confirmed by election by the High Council on February 16, 1996. Most Honorable William R. Deutsch had served as Lieutenant Commander-General since October 20, 1988.

On February 20, 1998, William R. Deutsch resigned as Commander-General and the then Lieutenant Commander-General Allen L. Bruner No. 1667 of North Carolina was elected Commander-General of the Masonic Order of the Bath. Most Honorable Allen L. Bruner had served as Captain General of the Order from October 21, 1988 to March 30, 1995, when he succeeded to the office of Lieutenant Commander General.

On July 11, 2003, Allen L. Bruner resigned as Commander-General of the Masonic Order of the Bath and Reese L. Harrison, Jr., No. 1549 of Texas succeeded to the office of Commander-General of the Masonic Order of the Bath. In his letter of July 11, 2003, the then Commander-General Allen L. Bruner stated "My last 'official act' before my resignation takes effect is to name you, Reese Harrison, as my successor." Most Honorable Reese L. Harrison, Jr., served as Captain General of the Order from March 30, 1995 to February 20, 1998, at which time he was appointed Lieutenant Commander-General of the Order, serving until January 30, 2003, at which time he was appointed Deputy Commander-General of the Order.

Source: <http://bath.albertpikedemolay.org/>



Harold Van Buren Voorhis 1977 (From Wikipedia)

How to Join

Qualifications for Membership:

- 1) You must be a Master Mason in good standing.
- 2) There is no Number 2!

To join, go to the website: <http://bath.albertpikedemolay.org/> and click on the "How To Join" link on the left.



John Robert Ashcraft

Worshipful Master: Mansfield Lodge #331

**Active member of
Arlington Chapter 376
Arlington Council 314
Arlington Commandery 107**

John R. Ashcraft, 51, passed away Monday, March 28, 2016.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Mansfield Masonic Lodge #331 Scholarship Fund.

John Robert Ashcraft: He was the Worshipful Master of Mansfield Masonic Lodge #331 He was a member of the York Rite: Arlington Chapter #376, Arlington Council #321 and Arlington Commandery #107.

John was a noble and member of Moslah Shrine and their gun club, and a member of the Fort Worth Scottish Rite. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #220 and president of the Lockheed Martin Unit.

Above all, **John Robert Ashcraft** was a big man who lived a big life. His family and friends will remember him for his open heart and giving spirit. His infectious personality, repeated stories, and unconditional love for all those around him will remain in our hearts forever.

John was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Lloyd Ashcraft; and grandfather, JD Jones. Survivors: His wife, Kathleen Ashcraft; daughters, Molly Baca and husband, Michael, and Grayson Pleasant; mother, Diane Trojacek and husband, Donald; and numerous extended family members. - See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dfw/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=179464300#sthash.Ghf4R0D4.dpuf>



James M. "Jimmy" Willson, Jr.

Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas (1982)

Past Grand High Priest (1978)

Past Grand Master (1987)

Past Grand Commander (1974)

He was our last active

Texas 4-star Masonic General

Biography from the Grand Chapter of Texas website –

<http://chapter.yorkritetexas.org> :

Companion James M. Willson, Jr., was born in Hale Center, Texas on November 30, 1921, son of James M. Willson and Mavis L. Terry Willson. He was educated in the Public Schools of Floydada, Texas; graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1943 with the Degree of BBA. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946.

Married Anne O'Berry Newman of Cary, North Carolina, in 1946. They have five children: James M. (Mac) Willson, III, Linda Anne Willson Haines, Sara Jane Willson Traugott, John Newman Willson and Terry Van Willson; and four grandchildren. The Willsons are members of the First United Methodist Church in Floydada. Companion Willson served as a Sunday School Teacher for 15 years, as Chairman of Administrative Board, Trustees, Finance Committee, District Lay Leader of Plainview District, Associate Conference Lay Leader 1960-1968, Conference Lay Leader 1968-1970. A member of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Home in Waco, Texas and now serving as Treasurer.

Companion Willson served three terms on the City Council in Floydada, and two terms as Mayor. He has been very active in civic organizations, serving as a member of the following: Lions Club and Rotary Club since 1946, served as President 1955-56 and 1978-79, as Treasurer 1956-62, and Secretary 1973-78; Floydada Jaycees, Past President; Past Director of Floydada Chamber of Commerce and West Texas Chamber of Commerce; two terms as President Floydada Development Company and three terms as a member of the Board of Directors; served as Vice President of South Plains Council, District Chairman, Council Commissioner, and Executive Board Member; Served as Director of Texas Lumberman's Association and High Plains Research Foundation ten years; Director of Methodist Hospital Board in Lubbock, four years; and member of Advisory Board of Small Business Administration two years. He is Past Commander and present Adjutant of American Legion Post. Registered as Boy Scouts of America for forty-seven years, earned Eagle Award, Silver Beaver Award, Distinguished Eagle Award.

Masonic History

Raised a Master Mason in Floydada Lodge No. 712, A.F. & A.M., February 22, 1947. Served as Worshipful Master in 1956-57. Served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 96th Masonic District 1958. Served as Grand Marshal, Grand Orator, State Regional Conference Coordinator three years, Workshop Chairman three years and Chairman of the Finance Committee. He was elected as Grand Junior Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas on December 2, 1978.

Exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Floydada Chapter No. 227, R.A.M. on May 21, 1947. Served as High Priest in 1961-62. Served as District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 39th Capitular District in 1963; is a Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of New Mexico near the Grand Chapter of Texas. He was elected Grand Scribe in 1974, passed through the Chairs and was elected and installed as Most Excellent Grand High Priest on December 6, 1977, and served during the year 1978.

Greeted in Floydada Council No. 163, R.&S.M., June 9, 1947. Served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1960-61. Served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 39th Cryptic District in 1965; is the Grand Representative of the Grand Council of New Mexico near the Grand Council of Texas.

Knighthood in Plainview Commandery No. 53, K.T., September 22, 1947. Served as Commander in 1962. Member of Lubbock Commandery No. 60, K.T. Lubbock, Texas. Served the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas as Grand Commander in 1973-1974.

Coroneted Inspector General Honorary 33rd, December 16, 1965, Dallas Valley; Life Member and Charter Member of Lubbock Valley. Served as Venerable Master Lubbock Lodge of Perfection, Wise Master Lubbock Chapter Rose Croix, and Master of Kadosh Lubbock Scottish Rite Bodies.

He is a member of the Order of High Priesthood; Order of the Silver Trowel; Super Excellent Master; Life Member and Past Prior of the Knights York Cross of Honour; Past Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine, and Intendant General for the Western Division of Texas; Texas York Rite College No. 14 and Dual Member of West Texas York Rite College No. 36, and serving as Deputy Governor, York Rite College of North America for Texas; Past Preceptor, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; Life Member of the Royal Order of Scotland; and Life Member of Khiva Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., and Honorary Member of El Mina Temple and Maskat Temple.

Editor: James Kirkpatrick

May the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

Contributors include: Matt Pickell, Mona Parker, (Reese L. Harrison, Jr and James Rodriguez for the Masonic Order of the Bath), Grand Chapter of Texas (Jimmy Willson's biography), FW Star Telegram (John Ashcraft Obituary - edited), John C. Elkinton (Grand Commander)