



*Established 1915 by F. Raymund Daniel*

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**2008 No. 3 ~ MARCH-APRIL 2008**

OFFICERS FOR 2008

Worshipful Master	Douglas J. Hrabe	Senior Deacon	Donald W. Hall
Senior Warden	Michael J. Bjelajac	Junior Deacon	Nicholas A. Hayes
Junior Warden	William E. Wallace	Senior Steward	Robert W. Baker, Jr.
Secretary	Jeff W. Hodges, PM	Junior Steward	Graham M. Gulden
Treasurer	C. David Johnston, PM	Tyler	P. Adrian Petre
Chaplain	Daniel E. Genson	Director of Work	Beaux Pettys, PM

**GENSON RECUPERATING FROM SURGERY**

At last report, Worshipful Brother **Dan Genson** was doing well after a series of heart problems. It started with a “heart attack scare” on Sunday, March 16, and he was admitted to Kennestone Hospital for tests. Triple by-pass surgery was performed on March 24, but he went into congestive heart failure after the surgery. He received aggressive treatment, however, and was soon up and walking, and, we are told, getting his appetite back.

There is even hope that he will be at the Lodge meeting on April 8. Just take it easy, Bro. Dan, and get well.

**LAWRENCE REPLACES HODGES AS SECRETARY**

W.B. **Jeff Hodges**, elected to the office of Secretary at the Annual Communication in December, has had to step down to support his wife who is undergoing dialysis and make frequent trips to the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your wife, Bro. Jeff.

Fortunately, W.B. **Tom Lawrence** was available to step into the breach on short notice and resume his role of Secretary, pending an election in the Lodge. We are fortunate to have an experienced hand to fill in for this important post.

In a related piece of news, W. B. **Beaux Pettys** has undertaken to update the Lodge’s entire dues and information reporting system on a software program called Lodge Secretary.

**Meeting Notice**

A regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

A regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

A regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

A regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

A regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

**WEBSITE UPDATE**

Gate City is redoing its Website. A committee consisting of **Chris Wilson**, **William Wallace**, and **Beaux Pettys** is working on it. Some ideas: scanned minutes of Lodge meetings from the early days; a name search area of members since inception; a special section on **Henry Grady**, Mayor **Bill Hartsfield**, and other outstanding Gate City Men.

## MASONIC CHILDREN'S HOME

On Saturday February 23, Bros. **Josh Potter** and **Beaux Pettys** attended the Ambassador's Workshop at the Georgia Masonic Children's Home in Macon. The morning began with some presentations about the Children's Home. They learned about the history of the Home, how it operates, and what types of help, donations and assistance the organization needs.

It is the responsibility of the individual Lodge to locate troubled children in the community and introduce them to the program. The Home functions as a last resort for kids before the state is forced to take custody. The children live at the Home in college dorm-type living accommodations. The children are cared for and live under relatively strict regulations. The Home then provides for the children after high school graduation. Children are encouraged to attend college or trade schools, or they are helped in finding a job. Many of the home's alumni have grown up to become Masons themselves.

Lodges can become involved in the Home a number of different ways. Every child is sponsored by the Lodge that brings them into the home. Unfortunately, some lodges don't stay active with the child, creating an opportunity for another Lodge to "adopt" that child. Sending cards, small gifts, and stopping in on work days and other functions at the home are said to really make the child happy. Many Lodges organize trips for the kids. This spring a Lodge has organized a trip for the kids to go to Florida to swim with the manatees. Day trips to baseball games or to Stone Mountain are also very popular trips. Further, Lodges can volunteer to make over a dormitory floor. Each dorm has a communal living room for the kids on the floor.

Bros, Potter and Pettys propose that Gate City Lodge No. 2 become involved with the Home in the following ways:

1. Contact the Children's Home administrator and "adopt" a child at the home.
2. Raise funds or collect donations from local furniture stores to remodel a dorm's living room. (This would include tables, television, sofas, carpet, and paint. It would be nice to also remodel the room on the hallway of the child that we "adopt.")

## CHOPRA PASSED

Bro. **Andy Amith Chopra** received his Fellowcraft degree at our communication of March 11, 2008. He is a real estate developer whose family business is based in Kentucky.

Gate City's "Perry Mason(ic)", W.B. **David Johnston** delivered a first rate Staircase Lecture. W.B. **Beaux Pettys** conferred the degree and gave the Middle Chamber Lecture with characteristic intensity. **Doug Hrabe, Donald Hall, Nick Hayes, Mike Bjelajac, Bill Wallace, Edwin Demars, and David Petredes** rounded out the team and exhibited typically fine work.

## FIRE STATION # 12

Bro. **Nick Hayes** offers an update on the Candler Park Fire Station No. 12:

A retired fire chief, William Rhodes, has come out of retirement to establish the Fire Foundation, which is now able to receive donations that can be earmarked for use at a particular station. Currently neighbors are proposing to donate \$5000. However, the Foundation cannot allocate the funds until a Board of Directors is established and an Executive Director is named. Afterwards, plumbing and roof repair have to be done before other living conditions can be improved. Contributions can be sent to the Atlanta Fire Foundation Inc. c/o Chief William Rhodes, City Hall East, Suite 2001, 675 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308-1807. Be sure to indicate Fire Station 12 on the check and in the cover letter indicate the donations are to be restricted to the improvements of Station 12.

Chief Rhodes also suggested contacting members of the Atlanta City Council's Public Safety Committee to express concerns over maintenance and to ask that funding for repairs at Station 12 not be cut. These members are: Cleta Winslow (Chair), CT Martin (Vice-Chair), Anne Fauver, Joyce Shepard, Carla Smith, and H Lamar Willis.

It seems that not a whole lot is being done, but things are definitely moving in the right direction. Hopefully with a little work we can help these guys get some of the repairs they need. The station is their home and I know that none of us would like to have the repairs of our own homes left in the hands of the Atlanta City Council.

## 100 YEARS AGO

In Gate City Lodge No. 2 a century ago ...  
... in March, 1908, Gate City Lodge continued to be busy with degree work. During the month five men petitioned for the degrees; after investigation, all five were accepted. At the first meeting of the month, on the 10<sup>th</sup>, three men were initiated. At the second meeting seven Entered Apprentices, including one courtesy candidate (from Rising Star Lodge #4, Eatonton, Georgia), were passed to the degree of Fellowcraft.

... in April, 1908, three more petitions were received for the degrees and one Brother petitioned for affiliation. At the regular meetings, on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> a class of five received the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees. Then, on the 39<sup>th</sup>, a special communication was held, with dispensation to confer the Master Mason degree on nine Fellowcrafts. Two of the nine were courtesy candidates, one from Rising staer Lodge #4 and the other from Corinthian #266, Norfolk, Virginia.

## 50 YEARS AGO

In Gate City Lodge No. 2 a half-century ago ...  
... on March 11, 1958, fifty-three Masons attended as Gate City celebrated "Public Officials Night." Public officials in attendance were the following gate City men: **John M. Sanders**, Atlanta Chief of the U. S. Food & Drug Administration; **M. M. "Muggsy" Smith**, Fulton County representative in the state legislature for many years; **Dowse B. Donaldson**, Atlanta Alderman; **William B. Hartsfield**, Mayor; and **Charles A. Wofford**, Judge of Atlanta Municipal Court. Included in the four visitors present were three Past Grand Masters, Hugh W. Taylor (GM in 1930), J. Wilson Parker (GM 1940), and J. Everett Thrift (GM 1950). Eight Past Masters of the Lodge were present.

... at that same meeting a communication from Past Master **Walter D. Waitt**, who had served in the East a half-century before, was read. WB Waitt had sent a poem, expressing his love for Gate City Lodge and regretting that he could not attend because of illness.

... in April, 1958, four men received the Entered Apprentice degree. At the second meeting that month the Lodge By-Laws were amended, to establish a Charity Committee and a Charity Fund.

## PETTYS' FATHER RETIRING

Richard "Dick" Pettys, father of our esteemed Past Master, **Beaux Pettys**, is retiring at the end of this year, after a career spanning more than three decades of political reporting from the golden dome of the Georgia State Capital. His work began as a reporter with the Associated Press and will conclude as editor of *Inside Advantage Georgia*. He was recognized in the State Senate on March 20 with praise from Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, a Resolution of the Senate, and the honor of addressing the Senate.

The staff of *The Trestle Board* wishes Bro. Pettys all the best in his retirement.

## ACADEMY OF MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

On March 15 your Editor had the opportunity to attend the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania's Academy of Masonic Knowledge at their Masonic Village in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

The Academy meets twice a year and is open to all Pennsylvania Masons (and a few others, by invitation. Since several of the leaders of the Academy are personal friends, I "earn my keep" by running the registration table at the sessions.) At each gathering there are two outstanding speakers, usually one from the U.S. and the other from somewhere else. This time the morning speaker was W.B. Tom Jackson, Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania – his topic was Benjamin Franklin and the American Enlightenment, about how Lodges in Colonial times were leaders in exploring new ideas and in promoting knowledge, with Franklin as one of the leaders in the movement.

The afternoon speaker was Ms. Pauline Chakmakjian, a scholar (pursuing a PhD in Masonic Studies – who knew there was such a thing?) from England. (And the most attractive Masonic scholar I've ever met!) She spoke on Freemasonry in Japan. Today Freemasonry hangs on by a thread in Japan, an almost wholly American-European fraternity. Ms. Chakamkjian is working with leaders of the Grand Lodge there on ways to educate the people of Japan about Freemasonry and make it more comprehensible to them.