

The PIONEER

First and Second Quarters 2004



Grand Master Les

Humanitarian Award Recipient

Harold J. Daub Jr. 33°

**Grand Master's Humanitarian Award Dinner
Scottish Rite Masonic Center**

Saturday May 22, 2004 6:00pm

20th and Douglas Street
Omaha, Nebraska



Chairman, Social Security Advisory Board
Mayor of Omaha, Nebraska, 1995-2001
United States Congressman, 1981-1989
Captain, United States Army Infantry, 1966-1968
Master Mason, Nebraska Lodge #1 AF & AM 1969



Secretary Table

Family Campout . . . Fun, Food and a Fishing contest!

July 16-18 Branched Oak Lake Lincoln, NE

Visit our website for full plans and what you will need to bring! For more details call the Always Wet:

John Bass Man Holyhey . . . your host!

Our Lodge is planning Multiple Outdoor degree in late August with other Area Lodges.

Local Masonic bodies will be notified as to the place, time, and events through our Website and directions will be confidentially emailed to participating Masonic members and Masonic guests. Over the years we have had several Masons raised outdoors followed by a Pig Roast and Refreshments. If you have a potential candidate who would like to be raised in this old fashion way, contact me 402-670-3216 for further information and reservations.

During our last business meeting our committee on finance reported that we are self-funding and financially secure. I want to personally thank Pepper Aasgaard for his perseverance to help our lodge through very difficult years showing true leadership. His convictions were governed by a steadfast belief in his fellow lodge members. Some of whom were not all that supportive at times. On behalf of the Lodge, Thank you for your faithful support Pepper!

Fraternally, John B. Holyhey, Secretary

Latest Lodge News:

Membership: Please welcome our newest Members!

Please Welcome Our Newest Members! (January)

Please welcome Brothers **Yoni MENSAH**, and **Dathe BENISSAN** both of whom are members from the of The Grand Jurisdiction of TOGO – WEST AFRICA Brother **Paul S. Rutherford** of West Allis Lodge - 291 of the Grand Jurisdiction of Wisconsin. By your ballot our membership has elected **Andrew Fisher** to receive the degrees of Masonry.

Please Welcome Our Newest Member! (February)

Andrew Fisher is planning to go through the next one day degree!

Please Welcome Our Newest Member! (March)

Curtis Edic, 33° is now an affiliated member of our Lodge!

Please Welcome Our Newest Member! (April)

David Ramsey, John Brommer, Kevin P. Hill, and Patrick A. McCormick were favorably balloted on to receive the degrees of Masonry.

Please Welcome Our Newest Member! (May)

Brother **David F. Bean** from Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22 of the Grand of Virginia, (*George Washington's Lodge*) has petitioned for dual membership.

Our Lodge has grown in the past thirty-six months!

Thirty-Four Percent of our membership has been raised or affiliated with Nebraska Lodge in the past 36 months!!!

*It was a Great honor to received Grand Master Ken Beebe's **Grand Master's Recruitment Award** for membership recruitment efforts in 2003. I was named top recruiter in Nebraska. I want to thank all officers and members for the support and work that was done last year. "It takes team effort to re-build a lodge!" Nebraska Lodge was also recognized for **two years of positive membership growth!***

Fraternally Grateful

*Worshipful **Pepper Aasgaard***

Installation of Officers 2004

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Nebraska



Kenneth D. Beebe
Presiding



Curtis Edic, 33°

General Secretary of the Omaha Valley of the Scottish Rite
Installing Marshal

Monday January 10th, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.



Back Row(s) L-R: Keith Neisler, Junior Steward; Don Gockley Senior Warden-Elect of Covert Lodge 11 - Installing Secretary; R.W.: Ivan Vrtiska -Grand Junior Warden; W.: Harold Noble; Deputy Grand Custodian - Installing Chaplain; M.W.: Kenneth D. Beebe -Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska; W.: Curtis Edic, 33° General Secretary of the Omaha Valley of the Scottish Rite -Installing Marshal; Rick Logsdon, Marshal; Dathe BENISSAN of The Grand Jurisdiction of TOGO, WEST AFRICA.

Bottom Row L-R: Aric Aasgaard -Junior Deacon; W.: John B. Holzhey, Secretary; Gregory Wells -Junior Warden; W.: Pepper Aasgaard -Worshipful Master; W.: Billy Ray King -Senior Warden; W.: Cary L. Manson - Treasurer -Recorder Tangier Shrine; ; Sean Reed -Senior Deacon; Yoni MENSAH of The Grand Jurisdiction of TOGO, WEST AFRICA;

Not Pictured: MW Philip A. Lorenzen, PGM -Chaplain; Thad Freeman, Senior Steward; John Christopher Martin, Tyler.



Brother Sean Reed Our Senior Deacon has learned his role well, he has helped organize and coordinate degree work this year. Brother Sean has also taken the time to give each candidate a record of their degree including the officers who helped perform the several

roles that each degree calls for. Brother Reed is an accomplished organist and a watch collector who learned the pocket watch repair trade by volunteering to work with a noted watchmaker in his hometown. In his spare time, Sean plays the organ for the ceremonials at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Brother Reed is employed with the Union Pacific Railroad Company here in Omaha.

Nebraska Lodge #1 is hosted the Grand Lodge School of Instruction. Master Mason Degree Monday March 22nd 2004:
Our Lodge supplied the candidate and open the lodge.
Refreshments were served after the School of Instruction.

The **Grand Custodian** gave the officers of our lodge a grand complement by pointing out the manner in which we opened the lodge and the professionalism shown.



We don't know if they came to listen and learn or to eat

One of the Mysteries of Masonry!



Pepper Aasgaard, Worshipful Master; Brother Dathé BENISSAN-MESSAN of The Grand Jurisdiction of TOGO, WEST AFRICA; Right Worshipful Tété A. BENISSAN-MESSAN Grand Chaplin of The Grand Jurisdiction of TOGO, WEST AFRICA; Most Worshipful Philip A. Lorenzen, PGM of Masons in Nebraska, Chaplin

Our Lodge was honored this business meeting with the presents of Right Worshipful Tété A. BENISSAN-MESSAN Grand Chaplin of The Grand Jurisdiction of TOGO, WEST AFRICA. WR Tété A. BENISSAN-MESSAN is Brother Dathé BENISSAN-MESSAN's father who was visiting from TOGO West Africa and attended our Grand Lodge Session this February. WR Tété A. BENISSAN-MESSAN presented W.: Pepper Aasgaard with a scarf and a hand carved Square and Campus made with four different hardwoods and graced with a quartz timepiece. W.: Pepper Aasgaard then surprised our guests with the TOGO Flag which is displayed behind W.: Aasgaard. The flag accompanied WR Tété A. BENISSAN-MESSAN while he visited our Grand Lodge Session as a symbolic gesture of goodwill accorded visiting dignitaries from other jurisdictions.

Brother Dathé BENISSAN-MESSAN is a medical student. Brother Dathé speaks six languages; he learned the Masonic charges in less than a month!

GOOD NEWS! . . . Thanks to all are visitors!

Our website has had **601,839 unique visitors** in the first two years!

Anew record high month of: **37,626 "Visits"** February 2004!

Our FirstLodge.com website user recognition is phenomenal!

Saturday April 10th 2004

One Day Degree West Omaha Masonic Center

30 Candidates were raised, 10 Lodges were represented. Worshipful Master Pepper Aasgaard preformed the role of King Solomon and also resided in the East during Fellow Craft Degree. Covert Lodge #11 hosted the event; several members of Nebraska #1 were present.

First Lodge *Inter*National . . .

Currently we have members in the following States.

We also have members in two foreign Jurisdictions:

Arizona - AZ

Arkansas - AR

California - CA

Colorado - CO

Florida - FL

Georgia - GA

Illinois - IL

Iowa - IA

Kansas - KS

Minnesota - MN

Missouri - MO

Montana - MT

Nebraska - NE

New Jersey - NJ

Ohio - OH

Oklahoma - OK

Pennsylvania - PA

South Dakota - SD

Texas - TX

Virginia - VA

Washington - WA

Wisconsin - WI

Wyoming - WY

Other Counties

Ireland

TOGO

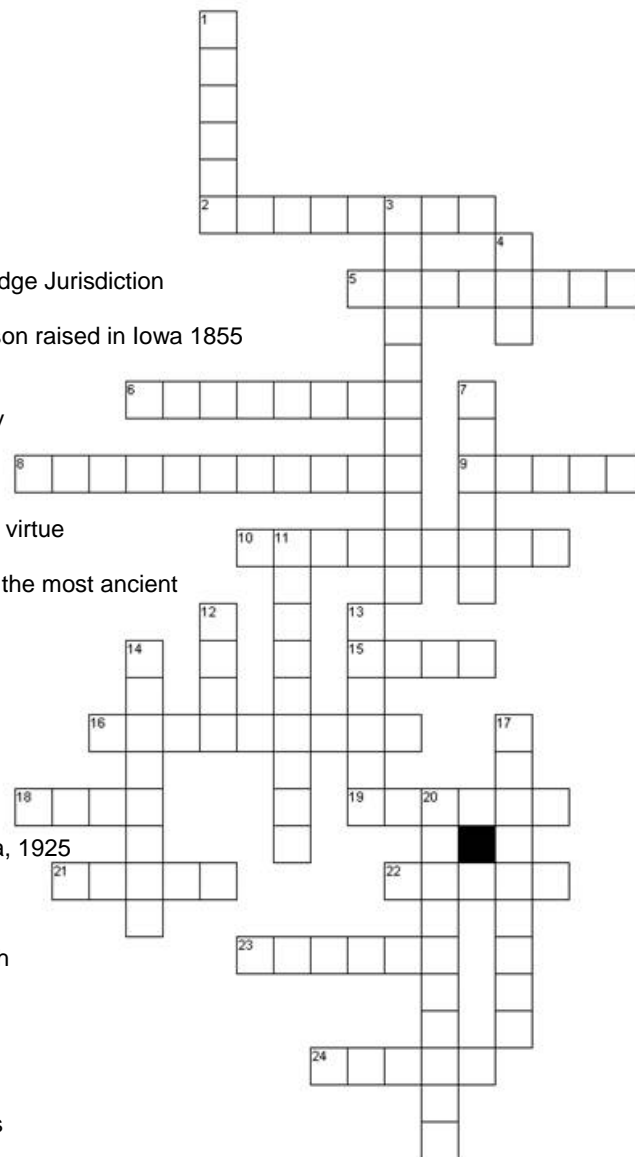
C r o s s Masonic Words

Across

2. " _ " and order
5. place for records
6. Our Parent Grand Lodge Jurisdiction
8. shall be a burden
9. Nebraska Lodge Mason raised in Iowa 1855
10. man who travels
15. partial wage
16. one of high authority
18. " _ " of refreshment
19. 47th problem of " _ "
21. Badge of a Mason
22. Foundation of every virtue
23. finest " _ " marble
24. plain and natural, is the most ancient

Down

1. in the rocks
3. type of globe
4. number of Lodges in downtown Omaha, 1925
7. Type of pavement
11. Supreme " _ " of the Universe
12. " _ " and guide of Faith
13. cuts the brittle thread of life
14. is the foundation of architecture
17. an Evangelist
20. richest of five orders



Remember to sign up for your **free email address.**

Need Help? We will eMail you the Answers.

Just go to Mailto: Crosswords@FirstLodge.com

Created by Pepper Aasgaard

The eMail advantage!

Benefits of using Email

- it's easy to use
- it's inexpensive
- it arrives right to your desktop in seconds!
- you can respond immediately if necessary
- you can retain the thread of a communication with your correspondent
- you can easily keep in touch with members, officers, family and friends

Disadvantages of Email

- trying to manage email
- unsolicited emails (spamming)



Actions for better email management

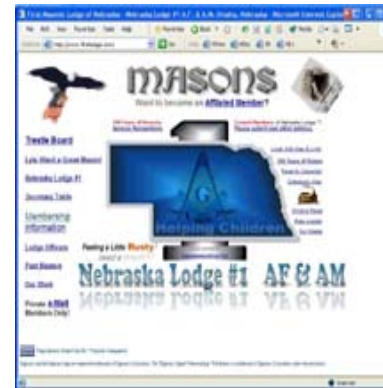
1. Be professional at all times; you represent our fraternity!
2. Use multiple BBC (blind addressing) to avoid multiple list of member's addresses being seen by others. Otherwise these list of email addresses have the potential of becoming spam lists.
3. Be selective when giving out any email address including your own.
4. When ever possible use email filters to avoid spam.

Ways of Improving your Email

1. Ensure Members can find your email addresses easily.
2. Make sure it's on all your letterhead; compliment your Lodge and website.
3. Don't make it difficult for site visitors to contact you. Not all visitors enter you website through the homepage.
4. Website email addresses: I suggest using an auto responder.
5. Use a signature line to promote ease of communication and to market your Lodge e.g.

Nebraska Lodge offers free email service to our members. To apply for an email address, please contact the postmaster@FirstLodge.com and give your name, address and a contact number. Once verified that you are a member in good standing, we will issue you a email address as follows: We give preference to time of request. First name email addresses such as John@FirstLodge.com or Mike@FirstLodge.com are example of names already taken. If John is taken, then we use the last name, then first initial and last name. You will be given a temporary password and instructions on setting up your email address. You can also use the email address as a confidential email address or just as a forwarding email address.

Visit the websites of Masonry in Nebraska!



The Nebraska Lodge website Hundreds of pages filed with interesting facts!



The Nebraska Lodge History website picture tour of our first 150 Years!



Scottish Rite Masonic Center Website Tour! Get local events and more!



Tangier Shrine Center Children can learn, get help and apply online!



The Grand Lodge of Nebraska website Lodge website links, News and events!



Nebraska Lodge website composite site Quick link to all bodies and degrees!

150 Years of Masonry

Did you know that you can view our first minutes and our original By Laws online?

Past Masters' Re-Union held on December 26, 1899
Historical excerpts documented by Worshipful Master, William S. Heller

Past Master LOTHROP BROCKWAY KINNEY .. EULOGY
(Master: 1855—1858 and 1859—1862)

He was born in New Haven, Oswego County, New York, July 25, 1824, and died in Richfield, Utah, September 25, 1895. At an early age he came to Ohio with his father, Dr. Stephen F. Kinney, settling in Marysville. From there he went to Wisconsin and thence to Nebraska in 1854, settling in the village of Bellevue. Being a Master Mason in good standing, he with six others, in the fall of 1854, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Illinois for a dispensation authorizing them to commence work in due Masonic form, which was granted them early in February, 1855, and on April 3, 1855, their first regular communication was held, with Brother Kinney as its worshipful Master. With the exception of one year he held that office until June, 1862.

During his life-time he held many prominent and responsible positions, being at one time Probate Judge of Sarpy County, in this state. In the '60s he removed to Utah and was appointed Indian Agent, and later became a Justice of the Peace, in the Bingham Mining District. Under the Act of Congress, providing for County Courts in Utah, he was appointed by President Harrison, and later by President Cleveland, County Judge for Sevier County. He was also in the military service at some time during his life, and at the time of his death was the recipient of a small pension, which his' widow now draws. During a portion of his life at Bingham Canon, he was engaged quite extensively in mining, and in this enterprise he lost quite heavily, so that when he was appointed Judge of Sevier County he had little or nothing to commence life with in his new field of labor. In February, 1866, he assisted in organizing Mount Moriah Lodge, in Salt Lake City, and was its first Master.

His father, Stephen F. Kinney, was a Royal Arch Mason in Oswego County, New York, during the Morgan excitement, and remained steadfast to his obligations. The three sons reared by him all became Masons, only one of which survives—J. F. Kinney of San Diego, California.

He was a man of sterling integrity and genial disposition, devoted to the Craft, and sacrificing for its interest much of his time and energies. His life enriched the world around him, and his death leaves us poorer in the loss of that interesting and valuable personality which summed up his character". He had reached a good old age.

**"Life's work well done,
... Life's crown well won."**

This letter and other historical documentation can be found on our lodge website at www.FirstLodge.com or www.WeHelpChildren.org

... another Brother came from Capital Lodge #3 in our time of need.

LETTER FROM: ALEXANDER ATKINSON MASTER 1889—1890

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 19, 1899.

Wm. S. Heller, Esq.,

Omaha, Nebraska.

My Dear Brother:

Your kind and much appreciated favor of the 16th instant this moment received, and regret exceedingly that I cannot be with you in person on the 26th instant. The very thought of a re-union of the Past Masters and the members of the Nebraska Lodge No. 1, (the Original Landmark of Freemasonry in the state of Nebraska) and Atkinson 1,500 miles away is to me pathetic in the extreme. That I shall be with you in spirit needs no stronger proof than the fact that after a continuity with Capitol Lodge No. 3 of 21 years, and having- served as its Master four separate and distinct terms, and where I found so many congenial spirits with whom I had spent so many of the happiest hours of my life, I should sever the ties that bound so strong and fly to the relief of Nebraska Lodge No. 1 in her distress, is a sufficient guarantee for my devotion and heartfelt interest in the success of the lodge and all of its members.

It was my desire that the lodge should occupy the dignified position it should before the world, and I am pleased to note that the result of your labor in that behalf will bear the strictest scrutiny, and by the faithful exercise of Masonic duties and united efforts in years to come, you will continue to widen the platform of our usefulness and strengthen our foundation. Let our motto be a steadfast adherence to the landmarks and fundamental teachings of the institution, as there can be nothing more dangerous to the perpetuity and harmony of the Masonic institution than to trench upon the ancient landmarks and introduce new principles. Practice assiduously the cardinal and theological virtues, the greatest of which are Justice and Charity. Even the suspicion of injustice ought to be investigated and the cause removed, and remember that post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit, and flowers upon graves will shed no fragrance backward over the weary way by which loved ones have traveled, but act promptly and cheerfully, while hearts can be thrilled and made happier, and so brighten and sweeten their earthly home before they leave it.

The conferring of the degrees in an effective and impressive manner is among the most important things to be considered in the up-building of a lodge, as no one can appreciate the worth and beauty of the degrees, without a full and perfect illustration of them. Let these principles never be lost sight of and our venerable lodge is sure of prosperity.

Fraternally yours,

ALEXANDER ATKINSON

(Master: 1889—1890)

Up Coming Masonic Events!

Most events are Scheduled and Posted Online.

MAY 19 Scottish Rite Spring Outing Papillion Gun Club 4:30pm
MAY 21 Prospective Masonic Membership Dinner 6:30pm Place??
MAY 22 Soup Supper Royal Arch #61 Papillion Masonic Center 4-7pm
MAY 22 Grand Lodge Humanitarian Award and Banquet Scottish Rite Center
MAY 24 Scottish Rite Foundation's Golf Outing 12:30pm Lake Shore Country Club

JUNE 5 Coffee On The Square Papillion Masonic Center 8:00am
JUNE 6 OES Reception: Worthy Grand Matron & Worthy Grand Patron Benson
JUNE 9 One Day Circus at Red Oak, IA
JUNE 11-12 Shrine Hospital Days
JUNE 11-13 Grand Assembly for Rainbow in Crete
JUNE 12 Shrine Soccer Classic's Banquet
JUNE 13 All Shrine Picnic at Vennelyst Park
JUNE 16-19 Grand Session—Jobs in Hastings.
JUNE 19 Nebraskaland Days North Platte
JUNE 24 July 4 Fireworks sale by Nile Place –TBA
JUNE 25 July 4 Fireworks sale by Waterloo Lodge next to bowling alley in Elkhorn
JUNE 25 Potentate's Golf Outing at Eagle Hills Golf Course (Papillion/Bellevue)
JUNE 25 Nebraska Grand Eastern Star Officers initiate in Council Bluffs, evening
JUNE 26 Laughter in Afternoon Lunch by Nile 12:00noon Place—TBA
JUNE 26 Iowa Grand Officer Exchange and Initiation with Narcissus OES

JULY 4-8 Imperial Shrine in Denver
JULY 10 Installation Westside Assembly West Omaha Temple time-TBA
JULY 10 Greek Night Out by Nile 6:00pm Place--TBA
JULY 17 One-Day Degree place TBA
JULY 18 Shrimp Dinner at Scottish Rite Masonic Center 4:30pm
JULY 20-24 All-Star Band Clinic, Lincoln
JULY 24 Shrine Bowl 6pm Parade 8am Lincoln
JULY 30 Rummage Sale by AkSarBen OES at Mizpah Masonic Center 8am-5pm
JULY 31 Masters & Wardens meeting 9:00am at George W. Lininger Lodge
AUG 1 Corn Feed by Centennial Lodge and Fontenelle OES 11am-2pm
AUG 6-8 DeMolay Conclave North Platte
AUG 14 Hawaiian Luau by Nile at Abbott Friendship Barn, Council Bluffs
AUG 15 4-H Achievement Day Fremont Home for Children
AUG 16 Bloodmobile at Tangier Shrine Circus
AUG 23 Masonic Charities Golf Tournament—Fremont Golf Club
AUG 23 Supreme Queen's Banquet 6:00pm Lower Level Tangier Shrine
AUG 27 Prospective Member and Friendship Dinner at Tangier Shrine Center

SEPT 1-4 Shrine CSSA in Des Moines
SEPT 12 Ham Dinner by AkSarBen OES 11am-2pm Shi-Omaha

SEPT 13 East Grand Master's Masonic Charities Golf Tournament (Tentative)
SEPT 18 Salad Luncheon Papillion OES Papillion Masonic Center—11am—1pm
SEPT 25 District OES visitation time and place TBA
SEPT 25 Chapter Degrees by York Rite place and time TBA
SEPT 26 Steak Dinner by Trinity OES West Omaha Temple 4-7pm
SEPT 30 OES Visitation at Alpha at Bellevue Temple 7:30pm

OCT 10 Harvest Dinner by Alpha OES Bellevue Masonic Center time—TBA
OCT 10 Omelet Breakfast by Omaha #1 York Rite at Mercer time--TBA
OCT 15 Grand Master's Breakfast at Omaha Home for Boys
OCT 16 Annual Turkey Dinner by Narcissus OES at Benson Temple 4-7pm
OCT 21 OES Visitation at Narcissus at Benson Temple 7:30pm
OCT 22 October fest by Nile 7:00pm Dinner Silent/Oral Auction Scottish Rite
OCT 23 One-Day Degree tentative date
OCT 24 Chili and Soup supper Fontenelle OES 11am-2pm West Omaha Temple
OCT 26 Masonic Education Symposium Papillion Masonic Center 7pm
OCT 28 OES Visitation at Trinity 7:30 pm West Omaha Temple
OCT 30 Masters & Wardens Meeting 9:00am at Shi-Oma Omaha Lodge #288
OCT 30-31 Haunted House by AkSarBen at Shi-Omaha 2pm-8pm

NOV 7 Annual York Rite Brunch at Omaha Country Club
NOV 12 Membership and Friendship Dinner at Scottish Rite Center
NOV 14 Pancake Breakfast- by Trinity OES West Omaha Temple 9am-1pm
NOV 15 Bloodmobile at Tangier Shrine Center
NOV 18 OES Visitation at Papillion 7:30 pm Papillion Masonic Center
NOV 19-20 Scottish Rite Reunion—Scottish Rite Center
NOV 20 Shrine Ceremonial Tangier Center
NOV 20 Council & Commandery Degrees Place—TBA

DEC 4 Installation of Omaha Chapter #1 and Council #1 at Mercer Time--TBA

2005 Calendar of Events

January is Installation Month for most Masonic bodies

FEB 3-5 Grand Lodge Annual Communications—Hastings
FEB 13 Grand Lodge Installation, Scottish Rite Center, Omaha
FEB 24-27 Tangier Shrine Circus, Omaha

MARCH 9 EA School of Instruction at Covert #11 West Omaha Temple
MARCH 15 FC School of Instruction at Centennial #326 West Omaha Temple
MARCH 23 1st MM School of Instruction at Papillion Masonic Center
MARCH 29 2nd MM School of Instruction at John J. Mercer #290 Benson Temple

OCT 1-3 **150 YEARS of Masonry in Nebraska ALL DAY** events TBA
OCT 15-16 Second Masonic Youth Conference Kearney

Traditional Lodge Schedule

We are busy with candidates most weeks:

Please come visit us soon!

- First Monday:** Business Meeting 7:30 pm
refreshments supplied by lodge.
- Second Monday:** Entered Apprentice Degree(s)
refreshments supplied by lodge.
- Third Monday:** Fellow Craft Degree(s)
refreshments supplied by lodge.
- Fourth Monday:** Master Mason Degree(s)
refreshments supplied by lodge.

Past Masters Dinner

June 26th 2004 6:30pm

This has been a tradition of Nebraska Lodge #1 for over 105 years. Each year living Past Masters meet for a meal to honor them and share memories with the craft.

This year Past Masters are requested to bring their Caricatures and write a brief highlight of their year as Master. We will review and publish for prosperity as did William Heller in 1899.

Our Departed and Beloved

Donald Fiala

Age 79, Bellevue, NE - Departed December 18, 2003

55 year Master Mason

Initiated: 10/12/1948 Passed: 11/16/1948 Raised: 12/28/1948



West Omaha Masonic Temple
2424 South 135th Street
Omaha Nebraska, 68144