Long time Secretary of the Fort Worth Scottish Rite, H.F. "Sonny" Tull, passed away Friday, March 8, 2019 surrounded by family & friends.

Sonny served as General Secretary of the FWSR and on the Board of Trustees of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital from 2004 to 2018. Sonny was raised a Master Mason at South Hills Lodge #1389, on March 22, 1983, where he served as Worshipful Master three times, received the Golden Trowel, and served as Worthy Patron of South Hills OES. He joined the Scottish Rite in 1983, and received the 33°, in 1999.

Sonny worked as a painter for several years owning his own business before becoming General Secretary. Sonny was dedicated to God, family and his Masonic family. He enjoyed cruising with family & friends. He was deeply loved & gave love in return. He will be missed immensely.

Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit
(Virtue Has United, Death Shall Not Separate)

H. F. "Sonny" Tull
October 19, 1949 - March 8, 2019

18 New Members Join the Spring Reunion, 2019

The Valley of Fort Worth is pleased to welcome eighteen new members, who finished the Spring Reunion on April 6th.

The Degrees were presented with outstanding efforts by the Degree Teams and all of the Reunion committees. Special thanks to Jason Wooten and Jordan Roland who stepped up and operated the teleprompter for all three days. The candidates were able to start the first and third days of the Reunion with a hardy breakfast served by the Rainbow Girls. The capping ceremony took place at the April 16th Stated meeting, where the candidates received their caps with the assistance of family and friends.
UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS


Spotlight on a Fifty Year Scottish Rite Mason – Ben Fay

Ben Fay was born on July 21, 1921. Ben’s father, who was Worshipful Master of Integrity Lodge #187 of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, passed away when Ben was only ten months old. Ben considers being taken care of by Masons at the Masonic Children’s Home of Pennsylvania as one of the greatest blessings of his life.

Ben attended Engineering school where he became an Engineer and began working for the Curtiss-Wright Corporation evaluating airplane engine performance.

After serving in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific during WWII and afterwards in the Navy as a flight engineer, and as a flight engineer instructor, Ben moved to Texas in 1952. He went to work at Consolidated Vultee, which would later become Lockheed Martin, as a manager of supply and logistics.

Ben was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 11, 1943 at Integrity Lodge #187. Due to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania’s laws Ben was unable to have plural Lodge memberships, so he became involved and participated with the Scottish Rite. In 2008 Lodge membership guidelines were changed and he joined Panther City Lodge #1183. Ben received his 75 Year Service Award on June 8, 2018.
The Bridge Builder
By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
To advance.

"Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide -
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

The Cable-Tow

The Cable-Tow, we are told, is purely Masonic in its meaning and use. It is so defined in the dictionary, but not always accurately, which shows that we ought not depend upon the ordinary dictionary for the truth about Masonic terms. Masonry has its own vocabulary and uses it in its own ways. Nor can our words always be defined for the benefit of the profane.

Even in Masonic lore the word cable-tow varies in form and use. In an early pamphlet by Pritchard, issued in 1730, and meant to be an exposure of Masonry, the cable-tow is called a “Cable-Rope,” and in another edition a “Tow-Line.” The same word “Tow-Line” is used in a pamphlet called “A Defense of Masonry,” written, it is believed, by Anderson as a reply to Pritchard about the same time. In neither pamphlet is the word used in exactly the form and sense in which it is used today; and in a note Pritchard, wishing to make everything Masonic absorb, explains it as meaning “The Roof of the Mouth!” In English lodges, the Cable-Tow, like the hoodwink, is used only in the first degree, and has no symbolic meaning at all, apparently. In American lodges it is used in all three degrees and has almost too many meanings. Some of our American teachers - Pike among them - see no meaning in the cable-tow beyond its obvious use in leading an initiate into the lodge, and the possible use of withdrawing him from it should he be unwilling or unworthy to advance.

To some of us this non-symbolical idea and use of the cable-tow is very strange, in view of what Masonry is in general, and particularly in its ceremonies of initiation. For Masonry is a chamber of imagery. The whole Lodge is a symbol. Every object, every act is symbolical. The whole fits together into a system of symbolism by which Masonry veils, and yet reveals, the truth it seeks to teach to such as have eyes to see and are ready to receive it.

As far back as we can go in the history of initiation, we find the cable-tow, or something like it, used very much as it is used in a Masonic Lodge today. No matter what the origin and form of the word as we employ it may be - whether from the Hebrew “Khabel,” or the Dutch “cabel,” both meaning a rope - the fact is the same. In India, in Egypt and in most of the ancient Mysteries, a cord or cable was used in the same way and for the same purpose.

In the meaning, so far as we can make it out, seems to have been some kind of pledge - a vow in which a man pledged his life. Even outside initiatory rites we find it employed, as, for example, in a striking scene recorded in the Bible (I Kings 20:31,32), the description of which is almost Masonic. The King of Syria, Ben-hada, had been defeated in battle by the King of Israel and his servants are making a plea for his life. They approach the King of Israel “with ropes upon their heads,” and speak of his “Brother, Ben-hadad.” Why did they wear ropes, or nooses, on their heads?

Evidently to symbolize a pledge of some sort, given in a Lodge or otherwise, between the two Kings, of which they wished to remind the King of Israel. The King of Israel asked: “Is he yet alive? He is my brother.” Then we read that the servants of the Syrian King watched to see if the King of Israel made (Continued on page 4)
any sign, and, catching his sign, they brought the captive King of Syria before him. Not only was the life of the King of Syria spared, but a new pledge was made between the two men.

The cable-tow, then, is the outward and visible symbol of a vow in which a man has pledged his life or has pledged himself to save another life at the risk of his own. Its length and strength are measured by the ability of the man to fulfill his obligation and his sense of the moral sanctity of his obligation - a test, that is, both of his capacity and of his character.

If a lodge is a symbol of the world, and initiation is our birth into the world of Masonry, the cable-tow is not unlike the cord which unites a child to its mother at birth; and so, it is usually interpreted. Just as the physical cord, when cut, is replaced by a tie of love and obligation between mother and child, so, in one of the most impressive moments of initiation, the cable-tow is removed, because the brother, by his oath at the Altar of Obligation, is bound by a tie stronger than any physical cable. What before was an outward physical restraint has become an inward moral constraint. That is to say, force is replaced by love - outer authority by inner obligation - and that is the secret of security and the only basis of brotherhood.

The cable-tow is the sign of the pledge of the life of a man. As in his oath he agrees to forfeit his life if his vow is violated, so, positively, he pledges his life to the service of the Craft. He agrees to go to the aid of a Brother, using all his power in his behalf, “if within the length of his cable-tow,” which means, if within the reach of his power. How strange that any one should fail to see symbolical meaning in the cable-tow. It is, indeed, the great symbol of the mystic tie which Masonry spins and weaves between men, making them Brothers and helpers one of another.

But, let us remember that a cable-tow has two ends. If it binds a Mason to the Fraternity, by the same fact it binds the Fraternity to each man in it. The one obligation needs to be emphasized as much as the other. Happily, in our day we are beginning to see the other side of the obligation - that the Fraternity is under vows to its members to guide, instruct and train them for the effective service of the Craft and of humanity. Control, obedience, direction or guidance - these are the three meanings of the cable-tow, as it is interpreted by the best insight of the Craft.

Of course, by Control we do not mean that Masonry commands us in the same sense that it uses force. Not at all. Masonry rules men as beauty rules an artist, as love rules a lover. It does not drive; it draws. It controls us, shapes us through its human touch and its moral nobility. By the same method, by the same power it wins obedience and gives guidance and direction to our lives. At the Altar we take vows to follow and obey its high principles and ideals; and Masonic vows are not empty obligations - they are vows in which a man pledges his life and his sacred honor.

The old writers define the length of a cable-tow, which they sometimes call a “cables length,” variously. Some say it is seven hundred and twenty feet, or twice the measure of a circle. Others say that the length of the cable-tow is three miles. But such figures are merely symbolical, since in one man it may be three miles and in another it may easily be three thousand miles - or to the end of the earth. For each Mason the cable-tow reaches as far as his moral principles go and his material conditions will allow. Of that distance each must be his own judge, and indeed each does pass judgment upon himself accordingly, by his own acts in aid of others.
Fort Worth Scottish Rite Master Mason Degree Team

The purpose of the Master Mason Degree Team is to assist any Masonic Lodge whom, in some cases are unable to fill a complete degree team, and for those Lodges who wish their candidate to receive the sublime degree of a Master Mason through the pomp and circumstance of the ceremony the Scottish Rite delegation. The degree team strictly adheres to the ritual based upon the teachings of the Grand Lodge of Texas - Committee on Work. The team currently practices on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Azle Lodge, at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in participating on the Degree Team or would like to schedule a Degree presentation please contact Joe Lipe, Chairman of the team at 817-907-0281.

Texas Masonic Family Day 2019
Saturday, October 12 10 am – 4 pm
Texas Masonic Retirement Center

Make plans now to enjoy all the festivities at the largest gathering of Texas Masons in the state.
All Masons, their families, and friends are invited! Free admission!

The Scottish Rite Creed
Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

Valley of Fort Worth Officers - 2019
Hon. James A. (Jim) Rogerson, 32° KCCH, Chairman
Hon. Robert L. Goode, Jr., 32° KCCH, General Secretary
Hon. Bradley S. Billings, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection
Hon. James A. Rogerson, 32° KCCH, Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix
Hon. Arthur W. Norton, 32° KCCH, Commander, Council Of Kadosh
Hon. Curtis E. Waldrop, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh, Consistory

To submit ideas, articles and pictures for the Double Eagle, please contact:
Jon Wych, 32° (817-692-9123; jonkw1@sbcglobal.net), or
Billy Hamilton, Jr., 32° (214-998-9699; billy.j.hamilton@verizon.com)

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Please notify the office with any change of mailing address, phone number or e-mail address.

Regular Business Hours: Tuesday—Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm
Burns Supper and Silent Auction

The Fort Worth Scottish Rite, Order of the Thistle – Knights of St. Andrew, held their primary fundraiser, the annual Robert Burns Supper and Silent Auction, on February 9th and were honored to host one hundred and twenty guests from the Fort Worth Community, as well as delegations from the Dallas and Waco Knights of St. Andrew.

Venerable Knight, Justin Watson, welcomed all and opened the silent auction with a wine and cheese social. Bidding promptly began on the many silent auction items.

The theme of the event revolved around the blockbuster film “The Greatest Showman” with an opening number by Justin Watson and Jon Wych, who with top hats and canes performed to the soundtrack and video opening of the film. Much of the music and videos such as “A Million Dreams” and “Never Enough”, were presented with references to the children whom are benighted by the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Foundation. Special thanks go to the Scottish Rite video and sound crews who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make these performances possible.

The official start of the Supper began with representatives of the Fort Worth Pipe and Drum Corp leading in the colors and then playing several Scottish songs.

For his outstanding service to the Order of the Thistle this past year and for his contributions to the preparations for this year’s Burns Supper, Sir Knight Jon Wych was presented with the Claymore Award, the Blue Lodge equivalent of the Golden Trowel, by former recipients, Past Venerable Knight Dan Oringderff, and Sir Knights Dewey Oringderff and John Gause, Jr.

The presentation of the Haggis and the reciting of the Selkirk Grace was performed by Sir Knight Corey Harris, who then offered one of many toasts for the evening.

The event was successful with the raising of more than $8,000 which was presented to the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Foundation, for its beneficiaries such as the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, college bound students, and for the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Language and Literacy Camp at TCU (Camp Leaps).

Beth Fite Harris and Tracy Berry Wych were ‘ceremoniously knighted’ and presented with Balmorals, tartans, and flowers, for their work in the preparation of the silent auction and their above and beyond efforts in support of the Order of the Thistle’s Robert Burns Supper.

Playing off the success of this year’s event, preparations are already in the making for the 2020 event which is scheduled for February 8, 2020. Make plans to attend, you don’t want to miss the show.
Eternal Knights of the Rose Croix

Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit

Larry D Bowman, 32º, February 16, 2019
C Harold Brown, 32º, December 02, 2016
Donald E Carr, Sr., 32º KCCH, May 04, 2019
Richard H. Carroll, 32º, November 13, 2018
Robert A. Carter, 32º, February 09, 2019
Bobbie J Corbell, 32º, March 16, 2019
Edward C. Faircloth, 32º, January 29, 2019
Charles H. Farmer, 32º KCCH, February 04, 2019
Louis E. Funderburg, 32º, January 23, 2019
Robert M. Gehrels, 32º, March 21, 2019
Jerry B. Gibson, 32º, December 31, 2018
Steven G. Goram, 32º, December 16, 2018
Johnie M. Heath, 32º, November 28, 2018
Jerry K. Hendrix, 32º, March 14, 2019
Marion E. Hord, 32º, November 06, 2018
Otto R. Jander, 32º, December 20, 2017
J. L. Johnson, 32º, January 15, 2019
Donald Wade Jones, 32º, April 08, 2019
Charles D. Lee, 32º, April 11, 2019
William F. Lyon, Jr., 32º, January 01, 2019
John H. Mangham, 32º, February 17, 2019
Don G. Marine, 32º, February 19, 2019
James R. V. Martin, 32º, April 02, 2017
Clarence L. Mathews, 32º, November 04, 2016
Noel Eugene Mathews, 32º, September 5, 2019
Jerry C. McDaniel, 32º, January 18, 2019
Olin E. McHale, 32º, March 06, 2013
J. Hershel Miller, 32º, August 28, 2018
Glenn D. Moore, 32º, February 24, 2019
Wendell H Nedderman, 33º, May 08, 2019
Guenter O. Neukamm, 32º, November 09, 2018
Ernest E. Parrish, 32º KCCH, May 21, 2019
James E Poe, 32º, April 02, 2019
Philip B. Porter, 32º, February 02, 2019
John B Price, 32º, January 31, 2015
George R. Rightmire, 32º, February 20, 2019
Virgil H. Skaggs, 32º, February 14, 2019
Darrell E. Smith, 32º, May 14, 2019
Dan Slagle, 32º, April 28, 2019
Brian E. Strange, 32º, December 22, 2018
Vancil W. Trammell, 32º, March 19, 2016
M. N. Trevillian, Jr., 32º, April 29, 2019
H F Tull, III, 33º, March 08, 2019
H. Dean Turner, 32º, April 06, 2018
George R. Watts, 32º, April 29, 2019
J Brooks Woodfin, 32º, December 30, 2016
John Worthington, Jr., 32º, December 7, 2012
Coit W Yancey, 33º, April 17, 2019

Please contact the Scottish Rite Office to report a death, sickness, or distress of any Scottish Rite Mason or family member.
817-335-6004 or fwsoffice@fortworthscottishrite.org
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♦ Burns Supper & Silent Auction
♦ In Memoriam

Also visit our website at www.FortWorthScottishRite.org and follow us on Facebook @Fort Worth Scottish Rite

Calendar of Events

Jun 20  Stated Meeting 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm; Fort Worth Temple. Reservations Required.
Jul 9  BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA. Everyone Welcome.
Jul 20  Annual Indoor Picnic, Motorcycle Fun Run and Raffle drawing; Fort Worth Temple. Everyone Welcome.
Jul 25  Education Program, 6:30pm, Fort Worth Temple. All Masons Welcome.
Aug 13  BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA. Everyone Welcome.
Aug 15  Stated Meeting 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm; Fort Worth Temple. Reservations Required.
Aug 17  Education Program, Wichita Falls. Joseph A. Kemp Lodge #1287, 9:00am. All Masons Welcome.
Aug 22  Study Group, 6:30pm, Fort Worth Temple. All Masons Welcome.
Sep 7  Education Program, Stephenville. Time and Location TBA. All Masons Welcome.
Sep 10  BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA. Everyone Welcome.
Sep 14  2019 Honours Conferral, Dallas.
Sep 19  Stated Meeting 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm; Fort Worth Temple. Reservations Required.
Sep 21 and Sep 28  Days 1 and 2 of Fall Reunion. Fort Worth Temple.
Sep 26  Study Group, 6:30pm, Fort Worth Temple. All Masons Welcome.
Oct 5  First Responder Breakfast, Fort Worth Temple.
Oct 8  BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA. Everyone Welcome.
Oct 17  Stated Meeting 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm; Fort Worth Temple. Reservations Required.
Oct 19  Day 3 Fall Reunion. Fort Worth Temple.
Oct 24  Education Program, 6:30pm, Fort Worth Temple. All Masons Welcome.
Nov 12  BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA. Everyone Welcome.
Nov 16  Education Program, Wichita Falls. Location and Time TBA. All Masons Welcome.
Nov 21  Stated Meeting 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm; Fort Worth Temple. Reservations Required.
Nov 23  1st Annual FWSR 5K Fun Run.
Dec 10  BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA. Everyone Welcome.