

SUL ROSS MASONIC  
 LODGE NO. 1300  
 A.F. & A.M.  
 COLLEGE STATION,  
 TEXAS  
 CHARTERED 1947

# Sul Ross Lodge News



Volume 30, Issue 3

Winter 2012

## Special points of interest:

- Meet at the BVMLM at 5:30 p.m. on 1/25 to visit Washington Lodge #18
- Family Fun Night and Potluck Supper 1/31 at 6:30 p.m.
- Volunteers needed to assist with school programs in February (Meeting on 2/6 at 6 p.m.)
- Sweetheart Dinner on 2/13 at 5:30 p.m.

## Inside this issue:

Dispatches From the Front / From the East	2
Calendar	3
From the West / Owen West	4
Scottish Rite Honors / RW Tom Payne	5
Birthdays	6
MM Anniversaries	7
Holiday Banquet	8
Gibb Gilchrist	9
In Memoriam	10
From the South	11
Gilchrist	12

## HOLIDAY BANQUET HELD ON DECEMBER 10TH

At a time of the year when sentiments of peace and good will abound the members and honored ladies of Sul Ross Lodge gathered for the annual Holiday Banquet and Homecoming.

As we reflected upon the past year, we took time to recognize the achievements of our brethren, the achievements of our lodge, and to enjoy the fellowship of our friends and brothers. The banquet was held on December 10th at Pebble Creek Country Club.

The evening began with a time of fellowship as members and guests mingled and visited, and occasionally stopped by the silent auction table to increase their bids (the bidding was especially hotly contested for a supply of peanut brittle supplied by Brother Rusty Farquhar.) The silent auction was a first for the lodge and was quite a success with over \$500 raised for a scholarship to be awarded to the 2012 Lamar Award recipient



The newest Master Masons of Sul Ross Lodge were recognized at this year's Holiday Banquet. (L-R) Tom Fritz, WM Bobby Roggenbuck, Brian Wilkey, JW Josh Reinbolt, Roger Schoppe, SW Chance Robinson, and Hugh Carnahan.

from A&M Consolidated High School.

Worshipful Master Roggenbuck welcomed everyone to the event and the invocation preceding the meal was offered by Brother Tom Fritz.

After the meal, dignitaries and guests were recognized by

Brother Clyde Collins, and honored ladies were introduced by Brother Bob Cohen. Honored ladies present included Mrs. Elizabeth Moen, Mrs. Lottie Font, Mrs. Clara Scott, Mrs. Rita Oglethorpe, Mrs. Mary Henry, and Mrs. Betty Carter.

(Continued on page 8)

## FROM THE EAST

### BY BROTHER BOBBY ROGGENBUCK, MASTER

Brethren:

As we begin the New Year, I hope each of you had a blessed and safe holiday. It was a great time for me because I was able to spend a great deal of time with my wife and son as well as other family and friends.

2011 finished with a bang at our annual Holiday Banquet. Thanks to the hard work of our Junior Warden, Josh Reinbolt, a great time was had by all, and the successful silent auction will allow us to present a scholarship at the end of this masonic year.

Sul Ross Lodge is getting back into the swing of things for the second half of this Masonic Year. We have many great things planned that will be fun and exciting. At our January Stated Meeting, Brother Doyle L. Moore was presented his 65

(Continued on page 2)



A report of some of the Sul Ross Lodge members serving in the military is provided in Dispatches From the Front.

*May we each  
live the  
tradition that is  
Masonry in our  
daily lives and  
by so doing  
serve our  
fraternity.*



**Bobby and his son William Kyle Roggenbuck. Will was born 11/11/2011.**

## DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

My brothers please keep all of our service men and women in your prayers when on bended knee and let us not forget to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

If you are or know of a Sul Ross Lodge member currently serving in the military please provide a report for future newsletters. You may send a message to Brother Roy Smith at [smithro@myalpha1.net](mailto:smithro@myalpha1.net).

### Where are they serving?

- Air Force LT Jeff Antal recently completed Jet Pilot training will be remain in Del Rio, TX for the time as an Instructor

Pilot for the next three years. He is getting married in February. Congratulations to Brother Antal.

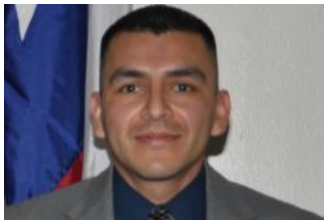
- Cpt Joseph Dagostino recently returned from deployment in Afghanistan and will be headed to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO to be an instructor in the Army's Sapper School for Combat Engineers.
- ENS Chance Schrutka has now began Submarine School in Groton-New London, CT. After that school he will head to NY for the submarine prototype school then will head for his first boat assign-

ment in October, 2012.

- USN CDR Jim Shelton is one of the many members of Sul Ross Lodge currently serving in the armed forces. Brother Shelton was raised to the sublime degree on October 2, 1992 and having left College Station in 1993 for the US Navy he like so many other members of Sul Ross Lodge has steadfastly supported his mother lodge for many years.

Thank you brethren for your support be it from the backside of the world. May we each live the tradition that is Masonry in our daily lives and by so doing serve our fraternity.

Also congratulations to the following brethren:



**Brother Ismael Villalobos**

- USMC 2LT Ismael Villalobos recently graduated from TAMU and was commissioned. Brother Villalobos served as an enlisted man for a number of years prior to his recently entering TAMU to complete a degree in Horticulture.
- Brother BJ Leggett recently graduated from TAMU with a degree in Agricul-



**Brother BJ Leggett**

tural Leadership and Development. BJ served a number of years as an enlisted man in the US Army prior to his recently entering TAMU.

*(Continued from page 1)*

year pin. What an exciting event for the Lodge! Our February Stated meeting will honor our loved ones at our annual Sweetheart Banquet, and we will welcome District Deputy Grand Master, R: W: Jay Meador, who will present two additional masonic service awards.

It is great to see growth in our fraternity. We start this new year by initiating five new brothers over the next month, and I look forward to what is

to come over the next six months. I hope you will join us for Family Fun Night on the 31st of January; this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy casual time together. And don't miss Masonic Night with the Bombers in June. Mark your calendars and join us for these and other valuable events. Your feedback on the direction of our Lodge is always welcome and appreciated. I encourage you to participate or comment on any of the upcoming opportunities. The partici-

pation of our members will enhance the upcoming learning opportunities, and allow us to grow as brothers, to strengthen our Lodge, and preserve our fraternity.

Please feel free to contact me by email: [broggenbuck@gmail.com](mailto:broggenbuck@gmail.com); or by telephone: 936.346.6332.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

*Bobby Roggenbuck*

Master, Sul Ross Lodge #1300

Sul Ross Lodge was chartered in 1947, and is thought to be the first known Masonic Lodge to have functioned on the campus of a state college or university in the United States. A unique feature of the new lodge was that among its members were the president of Texas A&M College, all of the deans, and almost all of the department heads. The sizeable number of college administrators who were Master Masons provided impetus to the growth of the new lodge which created almost 100 new masons during its first year of existence. In 1951 Sul Ross Lodge purchased the Dan Russell building at 312 Jersey Street (now Bush Street. It was sold in 2000.

## LOCAL CALENDAR OF MASONIC EVENTS

### JANUARY 2012

23	Mon.	Steve Cooke Scottish Rite Club Meeting	BVMLM	7:00 p.m.	College Station
25	Wed.	Visit Washington Lodge #18 (Navasota)	Meet at the BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	
31	Tues.	Family Fun Night and Potluck Supper	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station

### FEBRUARY 2012

6	Mon.	<a href="#">MCFS Fantastic Teeth</a> Launch Party	BVMLM	6:00 p.m.	College Station
9	Thurs.	School Program	Rock Prairie Elem,	8:45 a.m.	College Station
9	Thurs.	School Program	Creek View Elem.	10:45 a.m.	College Station
11	Sat.	York Rite Festival	Holland Lodge	6:30 a.m.	Houston
13	Mon.	Stated Communication/Sweetheart Dinner <i>DDGM Official Visit</i>	BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	College Station
17	Fri.	School Program	College Hills Elem.	12:35 p.m.	College Station

### MARCH 2012

2	Fri.	Texas Independence Day			
5-9		<a href="#">Texas Public Schools Week</a>			
12	Mon.	Stated Communication	BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	College Station
20	Tues.	Visit Pyramid Lodge #593 (North Zulch)	Meet at the BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	
31	Sat.	Grand Masters Conference	Grand Lodge Temple	2:00 p.m.	Waco

### APRIL 2012

3	Tues.	Visit Bedias Lodge #651	Meet at the BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	
4	Wed.	Steve Cooke Scottish Rite Club Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony	BVMLM	7:00 p.m.	College Station
9	Mon.	Stated Communication	BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	College Station
11	Wed.	District 29 MWSA Reorganization Meeting	Orphan's Friend	6:30 p.m.	Carlos
20- 23	Fri.- Mon.	<a href="#">Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas</a>	DoubleTree Hotel		Houston
21	Sat.	Aggie Muster / San Jacinto Day			
28- 29	Sat.- Sun.	<a href="#">Karem Shrine Youth Baseball Classic</a>	Southwood Valley Athletic Complex		College Station

### MAY 2012

3	Thurs.	Visit Pierce Lodge #144 (Calvert)	Meet at the BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	
14	Mon.	Stated Communication	BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	College Station
19	Sat.	<a href="#">Waco Scottish Rite Reunion</a>	Lockwood Library	7:30 a.m.	Waco

**Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300 meets every Monday evening for a communication or practice.**

Called Communications or Floor School are held every Monday except Stated Communication at 6:30 p.m.



**The Annual  
Sweetheart  
Dinner will be  
held February  
13th at 5:30  
p.m.**

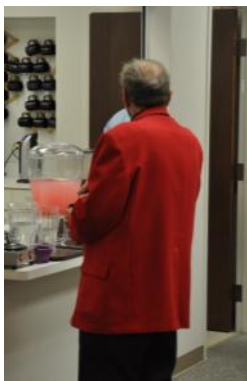


**Lawrence Sullivan  
Ross—1838-1898 Sol-  
dier, Statesman,  
Knightly Gentleman,  
Brig. General C.S.A.,  
Governor of Texas,  
President of AMC**



**Bro. Cliff H. Ransdell served as Master several times and is the only member of our lodge to preside over the Capitular Rite in Texas.**

***The degree of Royal Arch Mason is one that every Master Mason should strive to one day attain.***



**Bro. Owen West examining the tea and lemonade at the December Stated.**

## FROM THE WEST

**BY BROTHER CHANCE ROBINSON, SENIOR WARDEN**

My Brethren All:

May this new year bring each of you and your families peace and prosperity.

One half of the masonic year is now behind us. Sul Ross Lodge has had a great year thus far, but there is much ahead of us.

As has been mentioned by the Worshipful Master, we will initiate several new members in the coming weeks which means that you can expect many opportunities for degree work in the coming months.

When asked what really sparked their interest in our fraternity many of these young men responded that the brotherhood is what impressed them and the opportunity to be a part of such an ancient and honorable order. May we each strive to live up to the tradition that is Masonry each and every day. I must admit that when I begin to think about the duty of living up to the title of Master Mason. The commitment to my brothers, my family, my self,

it is a daunting task, but one that we all are capable of.

We also have several upcoming events. On Monday, February 6th at 6 p.m., Sul Ross Lodge will be joined by the members of Adam Royder and St. Alban's Lodge to assemble kits for roughly 900 1st Grade Students in CSISD. These kits will contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, and other dental hygiene items along with instructions on proper teeth care. Sul Ross Lodge will distribute over 300 kits to Rock Prairie Elementary and Creek View Elementary on Thursday, February 9th at 9 and 11 a.m. respectively. The on Friday, February 17th at 12:50 p.m. kits will be distributed to College Hills Elementary students. Brethren if you live locally and are able to assist in this effort please do so. To volunteer, you may call 979-676-2487 or email [crobinson@aggienetwork.com](mailto:crobinson@aggienetwork.com).

I also wish to remind you that March 5-9 is Texas Public Schools Week. In a message to

District Deputy Grand Masters pertaining to Public Schools Week, at the time of its inception in 1950, Grand Master Burris said:

*"It is important that each of the Lodges understand fully that the proclamation that I issued on December 26 is to be fulfilled in each point, as it is so important that we, as Masons, dedicate this one week to the very important subject of Public Schools, since through the effort of the Order, public schools in Texas were given their birthright. I feel that the type of program proposed will accomplish this important undertaking."*

There are many opportunities and needs that local members might be able to contribute their time to in the coming months. If you are able to assist please contact me.

Fraternally,

*Chance M. Robinson*

Senior Warden, Sul Ross Lodge

## OWEN WEST TO SERVE THE CAPITULAR RITE

Many of you may be asking yourself, what is the Capitular Rite of Freemasonry? Commonly referred to as the York Rite of Freemasonry, the Capitular Rite encompasses the 4th through 7th degrees, individually styled the Mark Master Degree, Past Master Degree, Most Excellent Master Degree, and the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

This year Owen West, an endowed member of Sul Ross Lodge and Past Master of Richards Lodge, will serve as Right Excellent District Deputy Grand High Priest of Capitular District Number 7 of the Most Excellent Royal Arch Chapter

of Texas.

While the term York Rite commonly refers to three bodies all inclusive (the Capitular Rite, the Cryptic Rite, and Chivalric Orders of the Commandery), in reality the York Rite is not a system of degrees, but several loosely connected systems. One common misconception is that the York Rite is a "Christian Rite", but in reality only the chivalric orders of the commandery are contingent on a specific religious belief, and the degree of Royal Arch Mason is one that every Master Mason should strive to one day attain.

While the third degree is the highest degree that may be conferred. The Royal Arch degree is the completion of the third degree as it is conferred in this jurisdiction.

Should you have any questions regarding the several bodies of the "York Rite" feel free to ask any number of members of your lodge who are active in this rewarding appendant body.

And congratulations again to Brother Owen West on the honor of serving as a Grand Officer in the two of the York Rite bodies during the past two years.

## LODGE MEMBERS RECEIVE SCOTTISH RITE HONORS

Three members of Sul Ross Lodge were recently honored by The Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commanders of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted



**Brother Roy I. Smith Jr., 33° IGH**

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Brothers Connie Eckard and Roy I. Smith Jr. were coroneted Inspectors General Honorary of the 33rd and last degree in October. Brother Eckard was deployed in New Jersey by FEMA at the time and had to fly from Philadelphia to Seattle and back over the conferral weekend to receive the degree conferral in Shelton, WA. Brother Eckard is currently serving as District Deputy of the Grand Master in Washington.

Brother Roy I. Smith Jr. attended a special ceremony held at the Galveston Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Also honored was our very own lodge secretary, Brother Bob Cohen, who received the



**Very Worshipful Brother Connie Eckard, 33° IGH**

honor of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor.

These honors are such that many serve in the quarries for a lifetime having not attained such honors. Congratulations brethren on the honors recently received.



**“White Cap” of an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.**



**“Red Cap” of a 32nd degree Knight Commander of the Court of Honor of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.**

## BROTHER TOM PAYNE TO SERVE AS DDGM

Right Worshipful Brother C. Thomas Payne II was duly installed as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District Number 29A of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas at the Grand Lodge Temple on Saturday, Decem-

ber 3, 2011. He will be representing M.:W.: Jim Brumit, Grand Master of Masons in Texas to the lodges of the 29th district. Brother Payne is a Past Master of Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300 in College Station and Brazos Union Lodge No.

129 in Bryan. He also currently serves as Secretary of Brazos Union Lodge. Brother Payne will join the many other members of Sul Ross Lodge who have served the 29th District over the past 64 years.

*Thank you brethren for your service to our fraternity.*

## STEVE COOKE SCOTTISH RITE CLUB TO MEET

The Steve Cooke Scottish Rite Club will meet for its annual meeting at the Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum on January 23, 2011 at 7 p.m.

All Scottish Rite Masons are invited to attend. This body meets three times a year, on the 4th Monday in January, the Wednesday before Easter and the 4th Monday in October.

The club is named for William Stephenson Cooke, 33°, Mem-

ber of the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Worth. Steve Cooke served as Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas from 1945-1951. The name was chosen by Brother Gibb Gilchrist who was the Charter Master of Sul Ross Lodge and Grand Master of Masons in Texas in the year 1952.

Several of the current officers and members of the Steve Cooke Scottish Rite Club are members of Sul Ross Lodge

including Club President Seth D. Hudson.

Many of the Past Presidents from the inception of the club have been members of Sul Ross Lodge.

The Club holds its charter from the Valley of Houston, AASR, but has several members from the Valleys of Austin and Waco.



**R.:W.: Brother Tom Payne before the December Stated Meeting.**



**Lawrence Sullivan Ross—1838-1898 Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman, Brig. General C.S.A., Governor of Texas, President of AMC**

***“The three steps delineated upon the Master’s carpet are emblematical of the three principal stages of human life, youth, manhood and old age.”***



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

### FEBRUARY

2	James R. Eby	12	Alfred E. Cullins Sr	22	Ralph E. Ohland
3	Alan T. Cooper	17	Bill J. Ravey	23	Joseph R. D'agostino Jr.
3	Charles L. Robertson Jr	18	David L. Slanker	26	Jim G. Williams
7	Frank M. (Skip) Langley	18	Henry M. Sorrels	28	Robert L. Edgecomb
8	Justin M. Meyer	20	Carlos M. Chang-Albitres	28	Jeremiah M. Nance III
11	Philip A. Rumford	22	Weldon D. Nanson		

### MARCH

1	John H. Cochrane Jr	8	Kenneth F. Keller	19	James P. Worley
1	Lynn P. Pittard	8	Joe E. West	20	David C. Berry
2	Thomas W. Pool	8	John D. Williams	20	Bobby J. Ragsdale
3	James M. Wilks	10	Benjamin C. Baskin	23	Joshua L. Morris
4	Michael A. Decuir	10	Karl A. Leifeste	24	Aaron D. Palermo
4	James F. Slowey III	13	William R. Boswell	24	Matthew S. Parmerlee
5	Joe G. Fagan	17	Joe P. Barnes	26	Dan C. Bonds
5	Roger A. Powell	17	Robert J. Blum	26	William A. Haile
6	William P. Harper	17	Bruce R. Leggett Jr.	29	Zoltan Mester Jr.
8	Garen K. Evans	18	Arturo C. Martinez	29	Timothy L. Pickerill

### APRIL

1	John J. Hammonds	12	Richard Tonda	20	Clayton T. Pannell
4	Erven Rovinsky	15	James R. Snell	26	Johnny Ingram
4	Clyde E. Collins	18	Arnold R. Langston	29	Gary D. Simmons
7	David J. Skinner	19	Christopher S. Taylor		



## MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

### FEBRUARY

1 Joe E. West (1955)	12 David C. Bryan (1968)	23 Raymond E. Burt Jr. (1967)
4 Joe G. Fagan (1965)	13 Donald F. Simons (1954)	24 Don K. Lyons (1966)
4 Michael C. Perkins (2008)	16 Morgan S. Salonek (2009)	25 John A. Branch (1991)
9 Giles C. Berry Jr. (1999)	19 George E. Miles Jr (2000)	25 David R. Walker (1997)
9 David C. Berry (1999)	19 C. Thomas Payne II (2005)	26 David J. Skinner (1976)
10 Charles A. McLaran (1959)	21 Karl A. Leifeste (2005)	28 Robert B. Sanders (1967)
12 Robert L. Nichols (1948)	21 Hugh L. Carnahan (2011)	28 Joe P. Barnes (1990)

### MARCH

1 Richard H. Bonds (1998)	15 Gavan D. Tinsley (2002)	24 Michael W. Smith (1969)
1 Ashton T. Brown (2010)	15 Michael J. Sconzo (2004)	24 Thomas D. Halling (2003)
3 Randy A. Mena (2005)	16 John D. Smith Jr (1998)	25 Andy Andrews (1952)
5 Christopher S. Taylor (2007)	16 Francis J. Axline (2009)	25 Russell R. Farquhar (1974)
6 Owen D. West (2000)	17 Carlos J. Roberts (1959)	26 Thomas W. Dew III (2007)
9 Thomas J. Freeman (1996)	17 Kurt R. Thormahlen (2003)	27 Jack C. Britain (1970)
9 Eddy E. Yuja (2010)	18 Sam H. Neuman (1975)	29 Chance M. Robinson (2007)
11 Kenneth B. Fischer (1971)	18 Matthew A. Beyers (2002)	29 Karl C. Schrutka (2010)
12 Willard P Worley Jr (1957)	21 Roger A. Fuller (1984)	31 John J Hammonds (1949)
15 Louis S. Koronka (1989)	23 Bruce R. Leggett Jr. (2009)	

### APRIL

5 John H. Kelly (1948)	21 A. Dale Felps (1966)	28 E. Edward Staples Jr (1983)
5 John H. Cochrane Jr (1949)	22 John B. Vittrup (1953)	28 Tyler L. Boykin (2008)
7 Robert A. Lacey (1966)	23 Zoltan Mester Jr. (1974)	29 Wesley A. Vanrite (2003)
13 Welsey N. McShan Jr. (1988)	23 Gary L. Moore (1986)	30 Nils E. Kjell (1980)
13 M. Scott Lassiter (2010)	23 Erik R. Gebhardt (2007)	30 John T. Drennan (1992)
16 Henry P. O'neal (1956)	26 James B. Pruden (2010)	30 Bobby Roggenbuck (2007)
17 Doyle W. Morse Jr (1990)	27 Michael C. Robinson (1967)	
20 Eugene R. Molina (2009)	27 James R. Scoggins (1971)	



Crest of Clan Ross. Sprig of evergreen held aloft. Motto: Success Nourishes Hope

*“... be true and faithful, and imitate the example of that celebrated artist whom you have this evening represented.”*



Stained glass depiction of our Ancient Grand Master drawing his designs upon the trestle.



“Texas is emphatically a masonic Country. Our National Emblem, The Lone Star, was chosen from among the emblems selected by Freemasonry to illustrate the five moral virtues. It is a five pointed star, and alludes to the five points of fellowship”.  
- George K. Teulon, Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas 1844



**Bro. Adam Helms, PM** presenting the Order of the Evergreen to **W.: Bro. Bobby Roggenbuck** for his exceptional service during the past year.

**Congratulations**  
to our youngest  
and oldest  
members for  
their service to  
the fraternity  
yesterday,  
today, and in  
the years to  
come.



**Bro. John W. Huff**  
(9/23/27—11/9/06)  
received the Order of  
the Evergreen in 1984.

(Continued from page 1)

We then recognized brethren who were raised to the sublime degree this past year. Recognition of our youngest members was followed by recognition of our members who have served the lodge for many years.

Those recognized are listed by their individual length of service to Masonry.

#### **Masonic Service Awards**

##### **Seventy Years**

Stanley G. Seffert

##### **Sixty-Five Years**

Arthur J. Stocker

Doyle L. Moore

Bill J. Ravey

##### **Sixty Years**

Arthur C. Flory

Henry W. Ince

Robert J. Blum

Arnold L. Andrews

Harry C. August

##### **Forty Years**

Jim G. Williams

James R. Scoggins

C. Michael Sneed

William C. Landiss

Kenneth B. Fischer

Stephen A. Henry

##### **Twenty-Five Years**

Gary L. Moore

Guy L. Moody

##### **New Master Masons**

Hugh L. Carnahan

Eric W. Reinheimer

Brian M. Wilkey

Charles C. E. Garrett

Caleb W. Williams

Thomas L. Fritz, Jr.

Andrey Malakhovsky

Roger A. Schoppe

*Brethren, thank you for your service to the fraternity in years past, today and your service yet to be recognized in the future.*

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Order of the Evergreen by Past Master, Adam J. Helms. Brother Helms bestowed this honor upon our Worshipful Master, and outlined Brother Roggenbuck's support throughout his term as Master last year.

Congratulations to Brother Roggenbuck on an honor well deserved. This honor is bestowed upon a brother for special service to the fraternity. Below you will find an explanation of the jewel of the Order and a listing of past recipients.

## **THE ORDER OF THE EVERGREEN**

The design of the jewel for the Order of the Evergreen was conceived from the armorial crest of the Scottish Clan, Ross (and is pictured on page 7.) This ancient family records our namesake, Governor Lawrence Sullivan Ross, as a direct descendant and from whom we inherit a great tradition. The name "Ross" is descriptive of a topographic feature and denotes "the brow of the hill."

Original design of the jewel depicts a sprig of evergreen in a hand held aloft. This design is of special Masonic significance. The evergreen is symbolic of the continued long life given the fraternity by the labors of this honored brother. Emblematic of the ancient craft of Freemasonry that, like the evergreen, is a "plant of very deep root."

Our Latin motto around the jewel is "Spem Successus Alit" which means "Success Nourishes Hope." This is a meaning that is particularly significant in these times of new Masonic success and provides one a rekindled hope for the future of our fraternity.

##### **Past Recipients**

1984 John W. Huff

1985 Clifford H. Ransdell

1986 P. G. Normand, Jr.

1987 Nicholas A. Combs

1988 John D. Williams

1989 Donald F. Simmons

1990 Guy L. Moody

1991 W. Keith Henry

1992 Joseph W. Peterson

1993 Joe H. Barnes

1994 Clyde E. Collins

1995 Michael L. Epps

1996 Joe P. Barnes

1997 Jason M. Mandl

1998 Alfred J. Lehtonen

1999 Robert E. Epps

2000 Roy I. Smith, Jr.

2001 David R. Walker

2002 Garen K. Evans

2003 Henry P. O'Neal

2004 Robert S. Cohen

2005 Edward Staples, Jr.

2006 Roy I. Smith, Jr.

2007 Charles T. Payne II

2008 Michael D. Gerst

2009 Seth D. Hudson

2010 Russell R. Farquhar



## GIBB GILCHRIST—GRAND MASTER 1952

During the Masonic Year of 1952, the office of Grand Master of Masons in Texas was ably filled by Gibb Gilchrist, who was born at Wills Point, Texas, on December 23, 1887, the youngest of eight children born to Angus Jackson Gilchrist and Kate Douglass Gilchrist. He finished high school at Wills Point and then entered Southwestern University at Georgetown, where he studied for one year before attending the University of Texas, from which he graduated with the degree of Civil Engineer in 1909.

After graduation from the university, Gibb Gilchrist started at the bottom of the engineering ladder as a surveyor's chainman for the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad. Eight years later he was a special assistant to the chief engineer of the line.

During World War I he was with the Army Corps of Engineers, returning from France in 1919 as a captain. He then joined the State Highway Department, as a resident engineer, and rose to the position of State Highway Engineer, in 1924. A year later he entered private practice with a firm of consulting engineers in Dallas, where he remained until 1927. In 1928 he was again named State Highway Engineer of Texas, in which capacity he served until 1937. Under his administration, the Texas Highway system saw great growth and advancement. Recognition of his outstanding service in this capacity came when he was elected President of the American Association of Highway Officials, in 1935. He has also served as a member of the Special Committee on Design Practices of the Association, Chairman of the Engineering Committee of the Governor's

Highway Safety Conference and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Highway Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Since its inauguration he has served as Chairman of the Advisory Group on Engineering of the President's Highway Safety Conference.

Major wartime posts to which he has been appointed include Chairman of the Texas Postwar Economic Planning Commission, member of the U. S. Office of Education, National Advisory Committee on Engineering, Science and Management War Training, and member of the Naval Advisory Educational Council.

In 1937 Brother Gibb Gilchrist accepted the position of Dean of Engineering at the A. & M. College of Texas, and in May, 1944, was appointed President of the College. In 1948, when the Texas A. & M. College System, was formed he was named as its first administrative head, with the title of Chancellor, which position he holds today. (This System comprises the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, Arlington State College, Tarleton State College, Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Forest Service, Texas Engineering Experiment Station and the Texas Engineering Extension Service.) Under his capable leadership, and through his alertness to the problems that need to be solved, the Texas A. & M. College System has made great strides in its ever-increasing service to the people of Texas.

Brother Gibb Gilchrist has been awarded honorary degrees by Austin College, in

1939, (D.Sc.); Baylor University, in 1946, (L.L.D.); and Southwestern University, in 1946, (L.L.D.). He holds membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers, Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, Texas Society for Professional Engineers, Texas State Historical Association, Philosophical Society of Texas, Tau Beta Pi, and the Newcomen Society.

Upon his return from war service in France, Gibb Gilchrist was married, in 1920, to Vesta Weaver, Cumby, Texas. They have one son, Henry, a graduate of both the A. & M. College of Texas and of Texas University, and who is a practicing lawyer in Dallas.

The Grand Master is a man of close family ties, strong and enduring friendships, and decided beliefs. His careers in engineering, education and public service have been marked by drive, determination and unalterable integrity. He is an ardent Texan, and large portraits of Robert E. Lee, Sam Houston, Governor Richard Coke and Lawrence Sullivan Ross are the principal decorations of his office.

The Grand Master is of Scottish descent. The name "Gilchrist" means "Servant of Christ." He is deeply religious and enjoys nothing more than an old-fashioned gathering, where the Hymnal is a prerequisite and a couple of hours are devoted to the singing of familiar hymns. He joined the Methodist Church in 1896 and has long been an active lay worker in his church. Brother Gibb Gilchrist was made a Master Mason in Tucker Lodge No. 297, Galveston, Texas, on May 5, 1916. Notwithstanding the heavy

(Continued on page 10)



**R. W. Gibb Gilchrist, Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas and Charter Master of Sul Ross Lodge**

**“He is an ardent Texan, and large portraits of Robert E. Lee, Sam Houston, Governor Richard Coke and Lawrence Sullivan Ross are the principal decorations of his office.”**



**Bro. Richard Coke's advice to the students of TAMC in 1876: "Let your watchword be duty, and know no other talismen of success than labor. Let honor be your guiding star in your dealing with your superiors, with your fellows, with all. Be as true to a trust reposed as the needle to the pole. Stand by the right even to the sacrifice of life itself, and learn that death is preferable to dishonor."**



**IN MEMORIAM**

The following brothers of Sul Ross Lodge have laid down the working tools of life and their names were recorded in the minutes of the lodge during this past year. Let us remember their service to our fraternity, and remember their families as they grieve the loss of our brethren.

May their grief only be temporary and may they be strengthened by the merits of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Brother Leslie L. Palmer—October 23, 2009.

Brother Fred Washington Dollar—September 5, 2010.

Brother William "Bill" W. Grisham Jr.—February 5, 2011.

Brother Jack T. Lamkin, PM—April 30, 2011.

Brother Nicholas A. Combs—August 10, 2011.

Brother Edward T. Dickerson—November 3, 2011.

Brother Audry T. Oliver—November 10, 2011.

Brother Stanley G. Seffert—November 23, 2011.

**Brother Stanley G. Seffert served our fraternity for seventy years and would have received his masonic service award this month.**



**Bro. Jack T. Lamkin, PM**  
(02/12/35—04/30/11)



**Bro. Stanley G. Seffert**  
(07/13/19—11/21/11)



**Bro. Bill Grisham Jr.**  
(10/03/21—02/05/11)



**Bro. Edward T. Dickerson**  
(09/17/38—11/03/11)



**Bro. Fred W. Dollar**  
(11/19/21—09/05/10)



**Bro. Les Palmer**  
(05/20/23—10/26/09)



**Gilchrist received his York Rite Degrees at the Masonic Temple in Bryan.**

*(Continued from page 9)*

demands upon his time and energy, he found opportunities for study in Masonry and has held a Certificate for Proficiency for several years. In 1946 he participated actively in the movement for the establishment of a Masonic Lodge on the campus of the A. & M. College. Authorization was received in 1947 for such a Lodge to work under dispensation, and a charter was granted in December at the Annual Com-

munication to Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300. Gibb Gilchrist served as Worshipful Master of the U. D. Lodge and as first Worshipful Master of the chartered Lodge.

The Grand Master received his York Rite Degrees in Bryan, Texas. He is a member of W. 'I' Austin Chapter No. 87, R. A. M.; W. T. Austin Council No. 52, R. & S. M., and Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8, K. T. He is also a member of the Galveston Consistory of the Ancient

and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; a member of Karem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. of Waco, and a member of San Jacinto Conclave No. 93, Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, at Houston, Texas.

In the Grand Lodge he has served as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico near the Grand Lodge of Texas, and at this time similarly represents the

*(Continued on page 12)*

## FROM THE SOUTH

BY BROTHER JOSH REINBOLT, JUNIOR WARDEN

Brethren:

Happy New Year! I hope everyone's 2012 is off to a great start. We closed out 2011 with our annual Homecoming / Holiday Banquet and I wanted to thank everyone who attended as well as participated in the first ever silent auction at this event. It was a wonderful evening and we were able to raise \$545 with the silent auction which will allow us to present a scholarship to a deserving graduating senior at A&M Consolidated High School this spring.

As we enter the first few months of 2012, I want to point out a few upcoming activities that I ask everyone to place on their calendars. First, we will hold Family Fun Night this month on January 31, 2012, where we will again gather at the Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum. Be sure and mark your calendar for this event, a great time is sure to be had by all. The Lodge will provide the main entrée of stew and cornbread and we ask everyone to bring their favorite side dish or dessert to join in with some games, fun and fellowship with lots of food to be

enjoyed throughout the evening. This is a great way to meet family members of our brothers as well as to get to know your brethren better outside of the lodge room.

The second event that I want to point out is our annual Sweetheart Banquet on February 13, 2012. This special occasion will take place on our stated meeting night at the Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum. A formal invite with RSVP will be sent out soon and I ask that you all make every effort possible to attend this special occasion. This is where we will recognize our Honored Ladies, as well as our loved ones. Brother Tom Fritz will provide a program on Famous Masons and their Ladies and this will be the official visit by our District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Jay Meador. If you don't receive the invitation in the next two weeks please let me know. Please send in your RSVPs so the stewards and I can plan accordingly.

Finally, like I have mentioned in previous newsletter, I want to

encourage our brothers who are inactive that remain in the area to become active again to continue the great traditions of our Lodge and Masonry at large. WM Roggenbuck mentioned in his note that we have 5 young men to initiate this month as well as the possibility of several others so we not only need you, but our fraternity needs you and I promise that you won't regret being more involved with the Craft.

Brethren, thank you for allowing me to share this message with you and for the opportunity to serve Sul Ross Lodge. I am proud to be able to serve the Lodge in this role and I look forward to continued service in the coming years in whatever capacity I may offer. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 979-255-1253 or [jreinbolt99@aggienetwork.com](mailto:jreinbolt99@aggienetwork.com).

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

*Josh Reinbolt*

Junior Warden

Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300



**Bro. Joel R. Poinsett (3/2/1779—12/12/1851) served as Master of Recovery #31 & Solomons #1 in Greenville and Charleston, SC respectively.**

**Brother Poinsett served as Deputy Grand Master of SC, but never served as Grand Master having been appointed as Secretary of War under President Van Buren.**

## MEMBERS SUPPORT FAMILY PROMISE

Leading up to the December Stated Meeting, several lodge members purchased clothing and toys and wrapped these items to be donated to needy children in our community. A special thanks is due those lodge members who contributed to this worthwhile effort.

Also, Mrs. Debbie Eller detailed the great work being accomplished by [Family Promise](#) within our community and Mike Gerst provided a program

detailing connections between masons and Christmas traditions.

Did you know that Brother Joel R. Poinsett, US Diplomat to Mexico, on his return from Mexico in 1825, brought back a beautiful flowering shrub that was able to further develop and improve on his plantation. It had been called a "painted leaf" and the "Mexican fire plant," but later became known as the poinsettia.



**Pictured (L-R) are Ron Day, Bobby Roggenbuck, Debbie Eller (of Family Promise), and Mike Gerst.**

**SUL ROSS MASONIC  
LODGE NO. 1300 A.F.  
& A.M.  
COLLEGE STATION,  
TEXAS  
CHARTERED 1947**

Brazos Valley Masonic  
Library & Museum  
3411 Longmire Drive  
College Station, Texas 77845

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 10110  
College Station, Texas 77842

Phone: 979-680-1300  
Email: [secretary@sulross.org](mailto:secretary@sulross.org)

*Sul Ross Lodge 2011-2012  
Elected and Appointed Officers*

Bobby Roggenbuck, Master  
Chance Robinson, Senior Warden  
Josh Reinbolt, Junior Warden  
Mike Gerst, Treasurer  
Bob Cohen, Secretary  
B.J. Leggett, Chaplain  
Justin Meyer, Senior Deacon  
Scott Atkinson, Junior Deacon  
Jim Robbins, Senior Steward  
Tim Pickerill, Junior Steward  
Brian Wilkey, Marshal  
Caleb Williams, Master of Ceremonies  
P. G. "Pete" Normand, Jr., Librarian  
Ben Baskin, Tiler

Sul Ross Lodge News  
Chance Robinson, Editor  
[crobenson@aggienetwork.com](mailto:crobenson@aggienetwork.com)

**www.sulross.org**

Stated Communication  
Second Monday of every month  
Meal at 5:30 p.m.  
Masonic Program at 6:30 p.m.  
Master Masons Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

Called meetings or Floor School  
every Monday except stated  
meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**...that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.**

**Sul Ross Masonic Lodge No. 1300, A.F. & A.M.  
PO Box 10110  
College Station, Texas 77842**

**Address Service Requested**

**REMINDER**

Brethren,

If you have an email address that is not on file, or if you need to update your email or mailing address with Sul Ross Lodge please send a message to [secretary@sulross.org](mailto:secretary@sulross.org).

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bob Cohen, Secretary

*(Continued from page 10)*

Grand Lodge. He was appointed Grand Orator in December, 1948; in 1949 he was elected Grand Junior Warden and advanced to Grand Senior Warden in 1950. Due to the untimely passing of Brother Henry M. Bell, Deputy Grand Master, Brother Gibb Gilchrist was elected and installed as Grand Master on December 6, 1951. During the past year, as demonstrated elsewhere in these Proceedings, the strengthening of the foundations of Masonry has been the constant care of our Grand Master. In this program he has received the whole-hearted support of the Craft, and as his year of service to the Fraternity comes to a close it is well to recall the grand principle which



**The Dan Russell Building at  
312 Jersey Street on  
Southgate, home of Sul Ross  
Lodge from 1951-2000.**

he outlined for us at the installation ceremony on December 6, 1951:

"As a professional Civil Engineer, I have always been interested in foundations and have studied the results of foundations resting on different kinds and types of soils or rock . . . The heart of Masonry is sound because it rests upon an abiding trust in Him who notes the sparrow's fall. When we get away from those teachings we imperil our foundations. Apathy and neglect add to the weakness, but with a strong, firm foundation and a zealous fraternity, apathy cannot exist, and in our brotherhood of men our differences and troubles soon fall away."

-By JOE J. WOOLKET.