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GRAND CHAPTER MESSAGE

SAD NEWS and MEMORIAL SERVICES

Earlier this week I received the sad news that Excellent Companion Harry W. Cutting, Grand Master of the First Veil, had passed away. EC Harry was also a Knight Companion of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. It is always difficult to put such an event into context, when he had touched the lives of so many people, from all over the state of California. His example of service to his fellow man will stand as an example to all of us.

“Soft and safe be thy resting place.”

This is also an opportune time to give brief mention to the business of memorial services. As Royal Arch Masons we are occasionally called on to participate in services for departed Brothers and Companions. Funeral and memorial services call for particular attention to care and detail in planning, since these are one of the few public rituals occasions, and can have a profound impact on the public view of the craft.

This can be problematic, since the Royal Arch ritual does not provide a memorial service. In many cases, we have been requested to participate in Blue Lodge memorials. Such participation is to be encouraged, in close consultation with the Funeral Master and the family.

The Grand Chapter does have a formal memorial service, which is included in the Order of the High Priesthood (OHP), a side-degree in California Masonic tradition. This memorial is included in the annual meeting of that order, usually during the annual Grand York Rite sessions. It is specifically offered at that time, in memory of any Past Grand High Priests that have passed away during the preceding year. However, it has also been used on other particular occasions, at other times and places during the year.

This memorial focuses on readings and prayers of fifth century B.C. Hebrew tradition. It can be used as a “follow-on” to the Blue Lodge memorial service, especially if the family desires to add Biblical content.

The OHP Memorial Service can also be used as a stand-alone memorial service at a local Royal Arch Chapter. With assistance from your Department Grand Officer, to perform a public opening “in ample form,” the OHP service can also been used as an open Memorial Service, with visitors and family present. Check with your Department Grand Officer or Inspector if you need to plan a specific use or would like to receive an electronic copy of the OHP memorial. Please feel free to call me directly, if the need is urgent.

Fraternally, Gary Spriggs
Grand High Priest

COMPTCHE 2013
FIFTEEN FOR FORTY-ONE
Royal Arch Festival
Comptche, CA
June 22, 2013

Michael McKeown (30), Bob Mengelberg (117), John Monahan (22), Sam Maffei (30), Sal Petersen (35), Tristram Evans (102), Iain Scarr (102), Milos Sonka (102), Bob Thompson (102), Michael Flannagan (45), Bill Erdman (46)
In the picture of above are shown the 11 of the 15 candidates who participated in the 41st Annual Celebration at Comptche 2013 – this being the 41st year in which the Royal Arch Festival has been held at the Tunzi Ranch. Candidates not pictured include: Derek Waterman (3), Angus Mac Lir (22), Robert Heines (95) Damien Noorbakksh (95). Nine Chapters contributed candidates: Sacramento #3 (1), Petaluma #22 (2), Napa #30 (2), Woodland #46 (1), Naval #35 (1), Santa Rosa #45 (1), King Solomon #95 (2) Marin #102 (4), Sebastopol #117 (1). Following is a picture of the “Comptche Chapter Room,” taken from the vantage point of the bleacher seats that were refurbished last year.

This was, indeed, a family event: many ladies came with their husbands, along with a number of children; and four DeMolay boys assisted in the Cook Shack. Of the ladies, 7 caravanned into Mendocino and Ft. Bragg, under the lead of Nancy Hardiman, for shopping, site seeing, and lunch at a Museum Mall in Ft. Bragg. That’s Nancy in red below talking with Jeannie Chalmers.

Below is a shot of the River Jordan from the side of the Chapter “Room.”

Guy Chalmers on the left chatting with Larry Tunzi. Salmon was enjoyed by all at the Fish Fry on Friday night. After the degrees on Saturday, the 22nd, the group enjoyed a Tri-Tip dinner. What a debt we owe to Larry Tunzi, and his son Steve, for their efforts to keep the site in such good condition! It takes a lot of work and dedication behind the scenes to make an event like this happen. See Steve Tunzi below, enjoying the fire on a cool Friday evening!
Many of the best Capitular Ritualists in the entire State participated in the four degrees. Past Grand Lecturer Sid Cerates was there only in spirit this year, having passed away in mid-May! His final wish was to have his ashes spread there at the site – so Sid will always be with us at the Comptche Ranch. Under Degree Master Most Illustrious Bob Whitfield, MIPGM, the following conferred the Mark Master Degree: Bob Whitfield (RWM and Lecture Questions), PGHP Phil Hardiman (SW and Lecture Answers), PGHP Bob Wright (JW), Rich Wilson (SD), Michael Patterson (JD), Nic Berberian (JO), Gerald Woergoetter (SO), Joseph Dongo (MO), Frank O’Connell (Marshall).

EC Jason Canellos (PHP of Santa Rosa #45) served as RWM for the Past Master degree, with Jonathan Norgrove as the Senior Deacon.

Mark Rose served as RWM for the Most Excellent Master Degree, doing the Lecture and the Charge. He was assisted by Jason Canellos (SW), Frank O’Connell (SD), Robert Thompson (JD), Gerald Pisani (Marshall), Cebert Holmes (Chaplain) and Tony Yuson (King Solomon).

Most Excellent Phil Hardiman, PGHP, served as High Priest for the Royal Arch Degree. He was assisted on the dais by EC Rich Wilson (King) and Most Excellent Bob Wright (Scribe), PGHP; EC Tom McClellan as Captain of the Host and Tony Yuson as Principal Sojourner. The Veils were EC Mark Rose (M1), EC Frank O’Connell (M2), EC Jon Huffine (M3) and EC Marv Hale (RAC). Phil gave the Lecture, Tom McClellan the Cryptogram, and Guy Chalmers the Preview Lecture and the Charge.

EC Guy Chalmers handled the stagecraft for all four Degrees.

Following are a few pictures of the grounds and the campers:

Many thanks are due to the Comptche Outdoor Degree Association for organizing and hosting this stellar event. Guy Chalmers and his wife Jeannie, Martin McKeay, George Whitten, Dave Lopez and Jonathan Norgrove prepped the site and provided organizational support for meals and degrees from Thursday through Sunday. Dave Gibson brought the DeMolay boys from...
two Chapters, and gave them direction and instruction. Many thanks, Companions!

SIMINOFF DAYLIGHT CHAPTER

FIRST NEW CHAPTER SINCE 1984
SIMINOFF DAYLIGHT CHAPTER NO. 163
UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA

On Saturday, July 13, 2013, the first new Chapter in almost 30 years was constituted and installed – Siminoff Daylight Chapter No. 163. This Chapter meets at the Masonic Home of California in Union City, and uses the Lodge Room of Siminoff Daylight Lodge No. 850, F. & A. M. Immediately below is the new mural on the North side of the Lodge Room:

The Officers of the new Chapter are shown in the next picture, with Most Excellent Edgar W. Fentum as the new High Priest. M. E. C. Edgar served as Grand High Priest for California back in 2003-04, and is still laboring in the vineyards of freemasonry, having first established a new AMD Council at the Home, prior to establishing the new Chapter – aptly named, of course, as Siminoff Council No. 485:

Front row: Richard Fiechtner, M2; Nunzio Napoli, Sent; Cleveland Valrey, PS; Scott Walsh, M1
Second Row: Efren Prado, M3; Oren Fletcher, Secretary
Third Row: Roger Murray, Treasurer; Bill Ellison, King; MEC Edgar Fentum, HP; Jerry Miller, Scribe;
MIPGM Les Dent, Royal Arch Captain
Not shown: Russ Kennedy, Chaplain; Bob McCain, Captain of the Host; George Moyer, Organist

Just below is a picture of the new High Priest, M. E. C. Edgar, along with M. E. C. Gary Spriggs, the current Grand High Priest for California, who also served as the Constituting and Installing Officer.
After the Ceremony of Constitution and Installation, over one-fourth of the Chapters around the State paraded in with their banners, led in many cases by the High Priest for the Chapter or a representative. Many of these Companions are also among the 57 Charter Members of the new Chapter! In the tux on the left is the current Grand Scribe, and holding the banner for Kern River Chapter No. 162, in the front right, is the Jr. Past Grand High priest of California, M. E. C. Robert V. Wright, Jr., who instituted the new Chapter during his term as Grand High Priest.

This brief report should give you an idea of how proud Royal Arch Masons around the State are of this new Chapter, and what it augurs for the future, in terms of Chapter and membership growth. It is no accident that these developments are occurring in Union City, where M. E. C. Edgar resides. Here is his biography, impressive for its accomplishments over the decades, but even more impressive for its recent accomplishments as he approaches his 80th birthday in August of 2014.

M. E. Comp. Edgar William Fentum received the degrees of Craft Masonry on the Isle of Wight, England. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on December 13th 1974, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on January 10th 1975 and raised to the degree of Master Mason on February 14th 1975. He served as a Steward in a progressive line of ten appointed Stewards and took ten years to reach Tyler in 1985 of Chine Lodge No 1884, English Constitution. He was exalted in 1975 as a Royal Arch Mason in Vectensian Chapter No 7852 on the Isle of Wight.

He was advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason on 28th April 1977 and served as Worshipful Master of Medina Mark Lodge No 140 on the Isle of Wight in 1985. He holds the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Provincial Grand Rank and is an Honorary Most Worshipful Past Grand Master.

He was a member of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest, Royal Ark Mariners, Order of the Secret Monitor and many other Orders and degrees.

He and his wife Molly moved to California in 1986. He joined Los Altos Lodge in 1988 as Senior Deacon and served as Master in 1991. He was appointed as a Grand Lodge Inspector and served from 1993 to 2000.

He was High Priest of Palo Alto Chapter in 1993. He was appointed a Royal Arch Inspector and served from 1994 to 1998. In 1998 he was Chairman of the Grand York Rite Sessions at Fremont and appointed Grand Royal Arch Captain in the Grand Chapter of California.

In 1994 he was Commander of Palo Alto Commandery No 47 and Charter Sovereign Master of Britannia Council No 303, Allied Masonic Degrees in the same year.


He was Illustrious Master of Palo Alto Cryptic Council No 51 in 1995 and at the same time was Charter Secretary of Clanna Ruid Ruide No 58 Knight Mason of America. He served as Excellent Chief of Knight Masons in 1999.

He was Installed as the 149th Grand High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California in 2003. He was the Charter High Priest of Golden State Chapter of Research in the same year.
He received the Knight York Cross of Honour in 1997 and Knight York Grand Cross of Honour in 2003.

In the Red Cross of Constantine he was ‘installed’ as a Knight Companion in 1977 on the Isle of Wight and was due to become Sovereign in 1987. Having moved to California in 1986 he was invited to join Saint Francis Conclave in 1987. He served as Director of Ceremonies for 25 years and was Puissant Sovereign in 2002.

He is the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and to the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England. He is also the Grand Chapter representative to New South Wales, Australia.

In the Scottish Rite he served as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix, Commander of the Council of Kadosh and Master of the Consistory. After receiving the Knight Commander Cross of Honour in 2001 he was coroneted Inspectors General (Honorary) 33rd Degree.

He has written many Research Papers on esoteric aspects of Freemasonry and been Speaker at many Masonic events.

He is married to Molly and they have been residents in the Masonic Home since September 2007. They have four children and four grandchildren living in Texas, Florida and England.

Kudos, Edgar!  
Kudos, Grand Chapter!  
Kudos, California!

**WESTERN STATES EASTER OBSERVANCE 2014**

Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA is now sponsoring three Easter Observances to fill the needs for all Masons, Knights Templar and Sisters of the Social Order of the Beauceant to attend.

Presently, the East Coast Easter Observance is held in Virginia, the Mid-America Easter Observance is held in Kansas and the Western States Easter Observance is held in California. The general public is also invited to attend this event; which is always held on Easter Sunday. Go to the following website for more details:  [http://www.wseo.biz/](http://www.wseo.biz/)

Events include:

**Saturday:** A tour of Warner Bros. Television is provided for all to attend. Afterwards, our annual Formal Banquet will be held. All Sir Knights are asked to wear their Commandery uniforms minus swords and Chapeaus.

**Easter Sunday:** Breakfast buffet will be provided with the Grand Encampment Officers greeting one and all. Immediately following the breakfast, all will be transported to the Shrine Auditorium. Sir Knights are asked to wear their full uniform minus swords. Beauceant members are asked to wear their red, white and black.

**ROYAL ARCH HISTORY**

Of particular interest to all Companions and Sir Knights is the new addition to the History of the Royal Arch – Volume 4 is now available, which takes the history through 1996. This is the supplement to the original 3 Volume set prepared by Everett R. Turnbull and Ray V. Denslow. The 4th Volume can be purchased for $25. Volumes 1, 2, 3 & 4 of the History of Royal Arch Masonry have been reprinted. These books are hardbound and approximately 500 pages each. The cost is $100.00 for all 4 books plus $15.00 shipping and handling in USA. Foreign shipping could cost more. Payment by check or credit card. Contact the General Grand Secretary to order books. [ramintl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ramintl@sbcglobal.net)

**EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

**CALENDARS OF PRESIDING OFFICERS**

The itineraries can be found at the Grand York Rite website. Hold down the CTRL key and click on the line below. For M.E.C. Gary Spriggs go to: [http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/ghpcalendar.html](http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/ghpcalendar.html)

For R.E.C. Myron Tisdel go to:  
http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commander y/itinerary.html

COMPANION ADEPT OF THE TEMPLE

The York Rite Sovereign College has developed a new self-study educational program, similar in concept to the Scottish Rite’s Master Craftsman Program, for the York Rite bodies. It is available to any York Rite Mason by enrollment through the Sovereign College Office. Cost is only $30. Eight resources are made available, seven of them at no cost. Your editor purchased the other from Amazon for $1.99! These resources include books by Mackey, Thomas Smith Webb, Jeremy Cross, Bernard Jones, Jackson Chase and George Cooper Connor. You will be happy to have these resources on your PC! Or your eBook reader. For information, contact the College Office at (313) 833-1385.

RAM-I NEWSLETTER

As you know, our Grand Chapter is associated with the General Grand Chapter RAM International. The General Grand Chapter is now publishing a newsletter with international scope. Issues numbered 21, 22, and 23 for 2013 have been forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. Scroll down the email to see California specific news.

Prior editions from March 2012 can also be found under the Library tab at the Research Chapter website:  www.goldenstatechapter.org

HISTORY OF THE CRYPTIC RITE

General Grand Council has recently re-published a two-volume History, first published in 1931 and again in 1977. This new edition has just arrived and looks to be very enlightening, especially as regards the relationship of the Cryptic Rite to the Scottish Rite and the Royal Arch. The authors (Eugene E. Hinman, Ray V. Denslow, and Charles C. Hunt) say in the Preface:

“It has been our purpose, therefore, to place within the compass of a single work all that is known about the Cryptic Rite. That the reader may have all possible information at his disposal we have prepared an appendix in which appear copies of the most important documents, and selections from the writings of noted students of the subject. …..

“While this work is essentially a history, that history has been largely influenced by jurisdictional and legal questions, and we have therefore prepared chapters on this phase of the subject. Chapters have also been inserted on the subjects of Legend, Tradition and Symbolism, all of which have had their influence on the history. It is this rich legacy of Legend and Symbolism that gave the Rite its popularity to the present time, for the degrees stand entirely upon their own merits and are not required for advancement to any other rite or degree.”  (Vol. I, page 8)

To get your own set, contact:  David A. Grindle, General Grand Recorder, PO Box 332, Meridian ID 83680-0332; e-mail: ggr@ggccmi.org

COMMUNICATIONS

As mentioned in previous editions of the Encompasser, communications are vital to assist those seeking further light in Masonry. So resolve now to ACT: 1) broadcast this publication far and wide, and encourage each of your York Rite bodies to buy a 2-year subscription; 2) broadcast the monthly Workman to the leaders of all your bodies; 3) access the following websites, and see that your Companions are aware of their existence and how to access them:

www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org
www.goldenstatechapter.org
www.yorkrite.org

And as you continue into this York Rite year, make every effort you can to continually remind your membership of the Colorado River Fall Festival this October. Confer the Mark Master as often as you can and build interest in our brethren of pursuing further light.
Check the Grand York Rite website for current information on receptions and festivals:


Included among the Festivals are the Sacramento Sierra York Rite Association (SSYRA) festivals for all three bodies in March, April and June, 2014.

- September 28, Chapter East Bay
- September 28, Chapter San Bernardino
- October 9, Council San Bernardino
- October 12, Commandery San Diego
- October 12, Council East Bay
- October 19, Commandery East Bay
- October 20-22, CRFF Laughlin, NV
- November 9, Commandery Red Bluff
- March 2014: SSYRA Woodland

**GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER**

The website located at www.goldenstatechapter.org now contains a copy of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Grand Orations booklets. Also included is a copy of “The Royal Arch Path,” by MEC Phil Hardiman, KYGCH. The new publication, approved for publication at the latest meeting on May 20th, will contain the Grand Orations for 2013, the Vesper Services, the Western State Easter Observance message, and several papers presented at the Research Chapter meeting.

The next meeting will be held in San Francisco, October 5 at 12:15pm, second floor balcony at the next annual communication of Grand Lodge. For information about membership, contact:

**Ex. Comp Casey Latham, High Priest**
casey.latham@mycampus.apus.edu

**Ex. Comp Joseph Dongo, King**
alacabo@gmail.com

**Dr. Paul Arthur Clark, Scribe**
steward_lvx@hotmail.com

**M.˙ E.˙ Comp.˙ Philip A. Hardiman, Secretary**
philipandnancy@aol.com

**GRAND YORK RITE CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Most Excellent Grand High Priest:**
Gary W. Spriggs, KYGCH
207 Catherine Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945-5801
(530) 274-8937 (H)
(530) 913-1694 (C)
spriggs@ncen.net

**Most Illustrious Grand Master:**
Richard W. Williamson (Judy)
1555 E. Tabor Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533-2711
(707) 425-2045(H)
arty3@comcast.net

**Right Eminent Grand Commander**
Myron A. Tisdel (Wendy)
30520 100 Rd
Shingletown, CA 96088-9651
(530) 474-4669 (H)
(530) 474-3116 (F)
(530) 945-2103 (C)
mtisdel@frontiernet.net

**Grand Secretary:**
Ken Hope
11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13
Artesia, CA 90701-3872
(562) 924-6500(W)
(562) 484-1611(C)
ca.yorkrite@verizon.net

**Editor:**
Phil Hardiman, PGHP
2713 Hoffman Woods Lane
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 712-4814(C)
philipandnancy@aol.com

**Websites:**
www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org
If you need access to the confidential features of the website, contact one of the officers above for userid and password.
WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG
Western States Easter Observance
April 18th - April 20th, 2014

“He is Risen Indeed!”

For More Information and to Register:
http://www.wseo.biz
GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR USA

Western States Easter Observance

April 18 - 20, 2014
Easter Service Held at 10:00 AM

QTY
Registration Fee: @ $25.00 Sir Knight's Only

MEAL PACKAGE:
@ $70.00 Purchase both Formal Banquet and Easter Breakfast and SAVE

Tour:
@ $20.00 Saturday - 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Lunch on your own on Rodeo Dr)

Formal Banquet:
@ $55.00 Saturday - 7:00 PM Banquet (Cocktail Hour at 6:00 PM)

Breakfast Buffet:
@ $25.00 Sunday - 8:00 AM (Service at 10:00 AM at the Shrine Auditorium)

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GRAND YORK RITE
OFFICE PHONE: (562) 924-6500
FAX NUMBER: (562) 924-6534
E-MAIL: ca.yorkrite@verizon.net
Grand York Rite of California
WEB SITE http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org

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