

Plinth

Issue 13-01

May 2013

Special points of interest:

- Blazing Star election
- Grand Lodge Session
- 40th Anniversary
- A Man's Word
- Queen's Day
- Obituary Tony Ross

Inside this issue:

Grand Lodge Session..... 2

A Man's Word 3-4

Tribute to Bro. Ross 5

Wives Appreciation 6

40th Anniversary 7

Queen's Day 2013..... 8

Lodge Picture 9

James C. Goggans re-elected Worshipful Master



Blazing Star Lodge 26 held its annual election on the 15th of September 2012 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands

The results of the Election are as follows:

Worshipful Master James Goggans
 Senior Warden Denston Lyte
 Junior Warden Randall Scott
 Treasurer Charles Beane
 Secretary Dennis Griffin

The new officers were all elected unopposed and indicates the level of harmony that continues to exist in the Lodge at this time. DDGM Beane presided over the elections and charged the newly elected officers to work together to accomplish the goals that they have set for themselves and set the example for the other brethren to follow.

Worshipful Master Goggans served well in his first term and wants to finish the business that he began last year. He has a seasoned team of officers and we are sure that they will make this an even better year for the Lodge and that it's 41st year will be one of the best years ever.

**GIVE
THEM YOUR SUPPORT!!!!**



R. W. Reuben H. Meade, Deputy Grand Master



**Most Worshipful Grand Master
Bro. Compton R. Jones**



R. W. Yves R. Maignan, Senior Grand Warden



R. W. Bro. Julian J. Turner Jr., Grand Warden



R. W. Bro. Timothy R. Downs, Grand Treasurer



R. W. Bro. Gerald R. Thorton III, Grand Secretary

221st Annual Grand Lodge Session

The 221st Annual Grand Lodge Session of the MWPB Grand Lodge was held in Boston , MA on 07-08-09-December 2012. Blazing Star Lodge #26 and the 7th Masonic District were represented by RW Bro. Charles Beane, Worshipful Bro. James Goggans, and Past Worshipful Bro. Dennis Griffin.

DDGM Beane and PM Griffin stayed at the home of RW Thomas C. Allen (Grand Lecturer - Emeritus) in Cambridge, MA. They continued to enjoy the love and hospitality extended by Bro. Allen and Barbara as well as making their annual trip to the “No Name Restaurant”.

Most Worshipful Bro. Frederick B. Summers presided over the 221st Grand Lodge Session. The 22st Annual Session was as harmonious and fruitful as the many sessions that have gone before it. Deputy Grand Master Compton Jones was elected Grand Master on the 9th of December and was installed the same day.

The reports of District Deputy Grand Master Beane and Worshipful Master Goggans are available on request from the secretary.



A Man's Word Was His Bond!

Not Any more

In the old days, and even continuing up into the sixties and early seventies - no doubt longer in the South than elsewhere - it was said that a man's word was his bond, and it was true! A lot of folks nowadays wouldn't know what was meant by his bond," but when a job is guaranteed, very often a bond, either by cash or an insurance bond, is posted to insure the satisfactory completion of the job. Therefore, when it was said that a man's word was his bond, it meant that all the bond"that was needed was the man's word that he would do what he said he would do. Contracts, in those days, were usually verbal or oral, and were sealed by a handshake. And that was all that was needed.

And it was understood that if a man's word was no good, his bond"therefore being no good, then he was no good either and he was not to be dealt with nor trusted. In those days this was a matter of severe disgrace. Honor meant something back then, and a man without honor was shamed. A man knew that if he was to be paid, he owed an honest day's work, and if he failed to give it, he didn't expect anything, as he had not earned it. A man's character was all he had, and not to have a good character was a heavy burden to bear. A man without good character was looked down upon. He was ho count."A poor man of good character was more highly respected than a rich man without honor, and rightly so.

We live in an age now where not only is business no longer done with a handshake, but even a written contract is no good. Credit card companies, telephone companies, cell phone companies, mortgage companies, and other large businesses can change a written contract unilaterally, without notice, to your detriment, and there's absolutely nothing you can do about it! In other words, a contract is no longer a contract. Where once a handshake constituted an iron-clad guarantee, now there are no guarantees at all! Honor, character, and a man's word, once more valued than gold, are largely anachronistic these days, reflecting the low level to which human relations in general have sunk in this Country. It is a sad state of affairs.

No matter how 'old fashioned"it may be, I am determined, always, that if I give my word - my bond"- on something, anything, I will do it or die trying. And many is the time when I have done so, just as my grandfather and my father before me did, even though it cost me dearly due to a change in circumstances between the date of the promise and the date on which I was called upon to fulfill that promise. But the satisfaction of having kept my word was, and is, more valuable to me than gold. It is a value and a way of life that I learned not just by instruction but by the example of my forebears. I do not take undue pride in this; I just know that it is the way in



It is my sincere belief, young people, that if you will make your word your bond, and consider your handshake upon an agreement as ironclad as any old-fashioned contract, as in the days when a contract really meant something, you will be highly respected among both your elders and your peers - at least among those who count for something. It is not reputation that matters within, in your own heart and your own soul, but character. They say that reputation is what men see, but character is what God sees. Let your word be your bond and your character be good and solid. Do the right thing, no matter how much it costs you. Value honor and integrity. Be dependable, and give of yourself beyond what is demanded of you. These things are, indeed, more valuable than gold!

A man's word, even today, should be his bond. Be true to your word.

*Past Master Dennis J. Griffin
Secretary
Blazing Star Lodge #26*

Footnote:

Past Master Griffin was elevated to the 33 in October 2012 at the Annual Session of the United Supreme Council in Washington, D.C. He is also the 1st Lt. Commander of Prince Hall Military Consistory #304 located in Wiesbaden, Germany.



Homecoming for fallen brother: Brother Thomas B. Ross

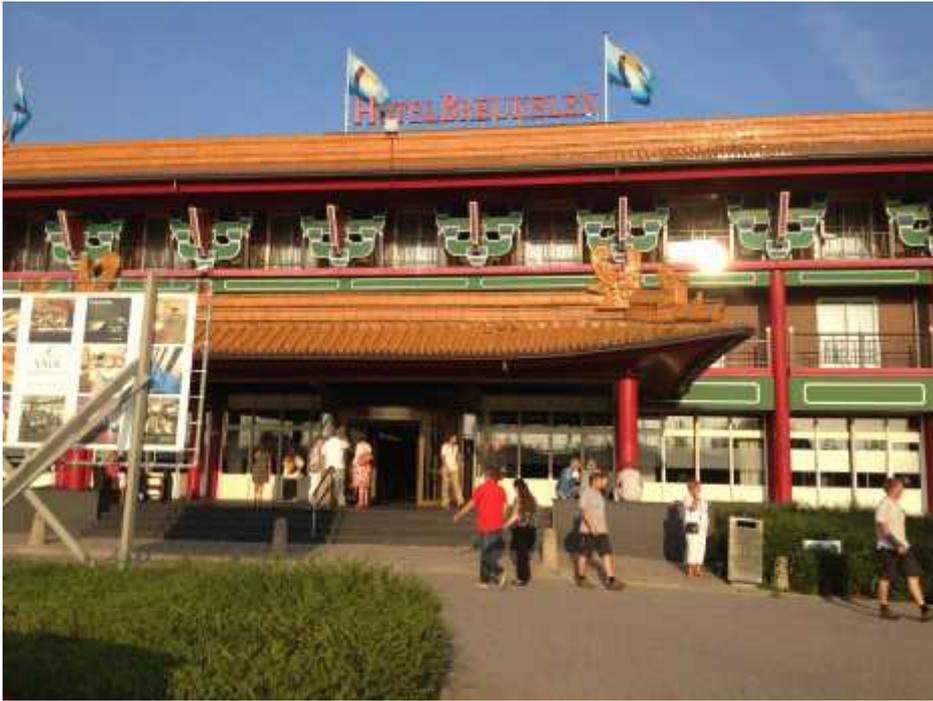


“The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.”

Past Worshipful Brother Thomas B. Ross departed this world on the 1st of November 2013. Brother Ross raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 14, 1990. From the beginning Brother Ross was a sincere and dedicated brother who was always willing to help and assist in all tasks given to him. Brother Ross was one of those brothers who truly dedicated himself to living up to the obligations and promises that he made. Brother Ross served as Junior Deacon, Senior Warden, and as Worshipful Master in the 1995-1996 Masonic Year. After coming out of the chair he served as Secretary of the Lodge. In the past few years he served faithfully as Organist and made sure that the music was always available.

Brother Ross was always interested in seeing that brethren got more knowledge. He was the “Light Man” and saw that brethren could get regalia and pins as well as books should they want them. He was also a “light” in the Lodge as even though he had his medical problems he was always cheerful and thoughtful of other brethren. Brother Tony is missed in the Lodge and among his brethren and family. May he rest in peace in that peaceful harbor where all weary brothers cease their troubling and find a well deserved rest.

WIFE'S APPRECIATION 2012



The Annual Wives Appreciation Dinner for Blazing Star Lodge #26 was held at the Van der Valk Hotel Breukelen . This was a break in tradition as we had celebrated the last few years in Amsterdam at Humphreys. We tried the hotel as that was to be the site of our 40th Anniversary Gala Ball and Dinner. It was a great success as you can see. We had about 25 people attend and the food was banquet style and enjoyed by everyone there. The ladies seemed to enjoy themselves and that was the purpose of the event. Congratulations on a well planned event.

40th Anniversary—Blazing Star Lodge #26

Blazing Star Lodge #26 celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a Gala ball and dinner on Friday, the 26th of October in Breukelen, the Netherlands. The Lodge combined this affair with a charity event for “The Blessed Generation”, an orphanage consisting of three houses in Kenya. It was a beautiful event and featured Past Master Ernest Allen Jr. as the speaker who gave the attendees a short history of our Lodge over the past 40 years. As he is often heard saying “I was there!”

The Lodge made a generous offering to the “Blessed Generations” organization. It was unfortunate that we did not get the support that we expected from the Dutch masonic community due to conflicts on the date of the event and the fact that the event was held on a Friday evening rather than on Saturday. We had visitors from our Prince Hall brethren in Germany and family members from our Lodge brethren. It was a classy event which was chaired by Past Master Charles Wright. Photos can be found at the following link:

<https://skydrive.live.com/redir?resid=887E5B0E27E9067!908&authkey=!APtdIceSXieWz0c>



Queen's Day — 2013



Denise on the job as usual - with her dad & "De Judge"



The Menu is the same!
Ribs, Hamburgers, Hotlinks



Bro. Lewinski - working hard!



Going home!

The long Blazing Star Lodge #26 tradition of selling ribs and hamburgers on Queen's Day continued with the Lodge having booths in Soesterberg and Zeist, the Netherlands on April 30, 2013. This will be the last year that the event will be held on April 30. Queen Beatrix abdicated and King Willem-Alexander was crowned on April 30, 2013. Kings Day will be celebrated on the 27th of April each year. It was a beautiful day and we were once again successful in our fund-raising event of the year. We thank all of the brethren who took time out of their schedules to help the Lodge with the planning and execution of this annual event. It is a necessary function that enables us to keep the Lodge financially solvent each year. Without it we would not be able to fulfill all of our obligations as we should. Thank you!

Blazing Star Lodge #26

Secretary:

Dennis Griffin

Salsastraat 68

1326 NZ Almere

The Netherlands

Tel: +31-36 5348 004

E-mail: djgriff73@hotmail.com

We are looking for articles and or pictures for our next issue. Please send them to the secretary or e-mail them to the following e-mail address:

E-mail: blazstar26@gmail.com

Web site: www.blazingstar26.org



We Love You!



It is that time of the year again, our annual get-together in celebration of the 4th of July. We would like to invite you, and your family, to come and celebrate this day by enjoying some good food, great music and really nice people

This festivity will be held on Saturday the 6th of July 2013.

It will take place at the Heideweg 29, 3829 BC in Amersfoort.

(parking as usual at our next door neighbor restaurant the Houtrust)



Blazing Star Lodge #26

2012 - 2013