

# BEACON

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO AND THE OHIO MASONIC HOME

## Byrl Shoemaker recognized for outstanding service to Ohio vocational education

Since time immemorial, Fellow Crafts have been encouraged to study the seven liberal arts and sciences, a symbol for education and self-improvement. In fact, it is through education and self-improvement that one can best master his craft.

The dedication and energetic leadership in the field of vocational education by Byrl R. Shoemaker, a member of Neoacacia Lodge #595, significantly changed the landscape of public education in Ohio.

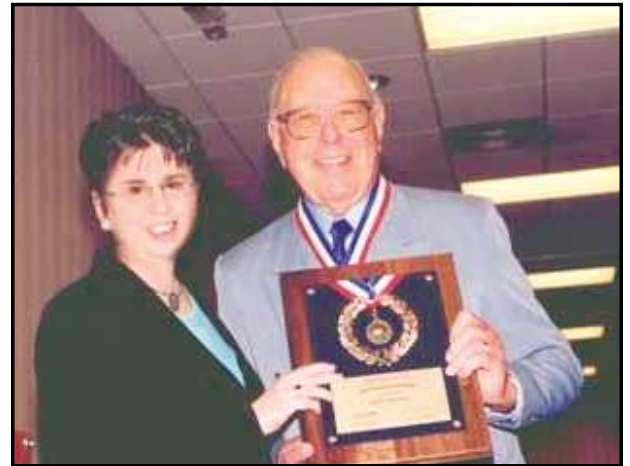
Brother Shoemaker was recently recognized by the State of Ohio and the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction for his groundbreaking work in the field of vocational education.

Dr. Susan Tave Zelman, Ohio's superintendent of public instruction, presented the "Ohio Pioneer in Education" award to Brother Shoemaker, who was the director of

vocational and career education in the Ohio Department of Education from 1962 until his retirement in 1982. He worked closely with Brother James Rhodes, Governor of Ohio, in the movement to establish 49 joint vocational school districts throughout the state.

As a result of his efforts, hundreds of thousands of youth and adults have had the opportunity to prepare for a life of productive employment and financial independence. Few individuals in Ohio, or nationally, have impacted public education to the extent that Brother Shoemaker has through his vision and professional contributions.

The Ohio Pioneer medallion and plaque were presented to Brother Shoemaker during the annual breakfast



*Dr. Susan Tave Zelman, Ohio's Superintendent of Public Instruction, presents Brother Byrl Shoemaker the "Ohio Pioneer in Education" award.*

meeting of the Ohio Association of Joint Vocational Schools on November 11, 2003.

Brother Shoemaker was also recently recognized by the fraternity, being elected to receive the 33rd Degree in the Scottish Rite at the next session of the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

"I received a phone call a little after

*continued on page 16*

### Applications due April 1

## OMH Scholarship Committee seeks your help to identify qualified students

The Ohio Masonic Home has created a \$500,000 scholarship endowment fund to be used exclusively for orphaned children of Ohio Masons. Now it needs your help to identify qualified students and to encourage them to submit a scholarship application for the 2004-2005 academic year by April 1, 2004.

Application forms are available upon request by writing to: The Ohio Masonic Home Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 120, Springfield, Ohio 45501 or the forms may be downloaded from The Home's web site at [www.ohiomasonhome.org](http://www.ohiomasonhome.org). Enter the web site, click on "What's New," and scroll to the bottom of

the page and click on "Scholarship Application Forms."

Each scholarship award will be for one academic year and may not exceed \$3,000 or the cost of tuition. Students may not receive more than five scholarship awards from the fund,

*continued on page 15*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER



by *Steven J. Krekus, Grand Master*

As February draws to a close, it's hard to believe that one quarter of the Masonic year is already history. The travels around the state and

country have been great.

In November and December we attended 18 installations of lodge officers in many districts. There were also several Reconsecrations of Lodges.

I had the honor of conducting the Reconsecration of my home lodge, George A. Holly #745 in Painesville, as my first official act after being installed as Grand Master. It was an exciting evening for me. New England Lodge #4 in Worthington was Reconsecrated on the occasion of its 200th anniversary, an outstanding milestone in Ohio Freemasonry.

My wife, Carol, and I had the

opportunity to visit the Grand Lodges of Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts before the end of the calendar year. It is a pleasure to see how each Grand Lodge is different, yet, the same.

January brought our annual trip to Florida to meet and greet the Ohio brethren that live or winter there. The Grand Master's Receptions in Sarasota and Tavares were well attended. This month we journeyed to Phoenix, Arizona to break bread with our brethren residing there.

## **Charitable Foundation continues to grow**

In December, I sent a letter to every Ohio Mason asking for a contribution of at least \$12 this year to make the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation grow. Your response has been great. The contributions have poured into the Grand Lodge Headquarters from all over the state and the nation. I thank you for

sharing your resources with us so that more of the deserving Ohio people that need our help can be aided. A Mason's charity is truly one of the strong points that make our Fraternity special.

Speaking of special, the opening of the Special Olympics in Columbus draws near. I urge the lodges to again support this outstanding event with fund raisers to help sponsor the athletes to the games.

## **"A blueprint for life"**

The seven goals that are part of the Grand Master's Program this year are designed to help a lodge serve its members and the community better. They are part of the "blueprint" that helps a lodge to be successful and the brethren to be better men. Support your lodge by attending and helping out in its efforts to make this year an outstanding one. With your participation, we can truly make "Freemasonry: A Blueprint for Life" in Ohio.

# AMERICA'S PERFECT STORM



by *Joseph (Jerry) B. Kuyoth, Jr., C.N.H.A. CEO, The Ohio Masonic Home*

I read a quote recently in a publication called "Leadership." It stated, "When someone gets something for nothing, someone else

gets nothing for something." I continue to be shocked that as a country we will not acknowledge the advent of our own Perfect Storm. Much like the movie starring George Clooney, we have three individual storms merging that unless met with drastic preventive steps will cripple our nation.

First, the aging of America. Scores of boomers are moving into the senior category with expectations of early retirement and a commitment to push the outward bounds of life expectancy.

Second, the dramatic under funding of Social Security and Medicare. These programs suffer now. What will happen when our workforce shrinks by one-third

and those of retirement age increase by one-third? Even the old math teaches us this is a recipe for financial disaster.

Third increased consumer debt and the abolishment of defined benefit pension programs. Voluntary programs with a company match can work, but most likely won't for our microwave society. We may think we know more than our employer about saving and investing, most of us don't and are not patient enough. Yes, the "Perfect Storm" is only a generation away. Be ready. The waves are already building and since Washington is ignoring it you can't.

I am proud to say that here at The Ohio Masonic Home we clearly see that ominous storm. Our steps to provide college scholarships to the fatherless, Masonic Senior Services to those in search of information, and housing and healthcare for those in need is tempered by our understanding of the future.

The government and families will continue to help, but we are positioned to provide services to the members of our fraternity and their families clearly realizing

that no source of money is endless. Prudent, careful investing and prudent behavior in all arenas is essential for longterm viability.

The Ohio Masonic Home and its family of facilities and services is committed to a concept espoused by writer Philip Sidney in the mid 16th Century, "Either we will find a way or we will make one."

We encourage each of you to prepare for the Perfect Storm, and remember that it is through your "Care, Concern, and Compassion" that we are doing likewise.

I would like to thank retiring Board of Trustee members Right Worshipful Brother Wilbur B. Smith and Right Eminent Sir Knight Richard L. Weaver for a decade of dedicated service to making the dreams of expanded service a reality. They possessed a vision for The Home to thrive. I also welcome to the Board of Trustees Brothers John B. Clime and Edward L. Fouch as they bring their skills of banking and investing to our organization as new trustees.

# Nike ad starring LeBron James filmed in Cleveland's Masonic Center DeMolay Room

A TV commercial for Nike footwear, featuring Cleveland Cavaliers' rookie LeBron James, was filmed in the DeMolay meeting room in the Cleveland Masonic Center.

Even though elaborate backdrops and equipment were used, those who know the room will readily recognize it in the commercial.

The producers used parts of the building for eight days, and it took nearly three days of actual filming. Scattered among the 250 "extras" used in the TV spot, some familiar faces, such as Bernie Mac, George Gervin, Julius Erving, Moses Malone, Jerry West, and Bootsy Collins, can be identified in the commercial. All were there for the shooting.

To obtain the proper appearance for the filming, the producers laid down a portion of Cleveland State University's portable basketball court, plus added a 1,500 square-foot laminated floor on the stage.

Six basketball hoops were installed, plus a trampoline for some of the dramatic scenes in the commercial.

To achieve the proper lighting without damaging the room, producers used powerful lights inside helium-filled balloons. "They looked like blimps circling in the room," according to James A. Langmead, stage manager for the Valley of Cleveland, Scottish Rite, which owns the building.

LeBron James, of Akron, has received a lot of public attention, as he moved directly from high school to the National Basketball Association.



*LeBron James, standing in the center of the top picture, was the "star" of this television commercial. These pictures were taken in the Cleveland Masonic Center during the filming. Bottom photo shows the stage, from a viewpoint behind cameras. Bernie Mac is in the center.*

## Special Olympics Goal Set at \$150,000 Awards Program for Lodges Detailed

With a goal of \$150,000, Ohio Masons will be working hard in the next few months to earn money to help Special Olympics athletes attend the 2004 Summer Games in Columbus.

Lodges who give \$1,500 and above will receive a special gold medal plaque from Grand Master Steven J. Krekus at Grand Lodge in October.

Lodges giving \$1,000 to \$1,499 will receive a gold medal plaque and those who give between \$500 and \$999 will be presented with a special certificate signed by the Grand Master.

Last year, Ohio lodges donated more than \$115,000, marking the third consecutive year that the \$100,000 level has been surpassed.

Individuals are encouraged to send a contribution to their lodges, marked Special Olympics, and the lodge will forward them to the Grand Lodge.

## Wanted: designs for the 2004 Ohio Masonic Special Olympics Pin

*Do you want to be a part of history?*

The Grand Lodge Special Olympics Committee wants to use a new design for the 2004 Special Olympics pin. The design must contain a Square and Compasses and the Special Olympics logo. The Special Olympics logo is available at [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com).

To enter, put your full-color design on a plain 3x5-inch note card and mail it in to: Michael Cecil, Special Olympics Chairman, 169 Huron Street, Bellville, OH 44813-1208. Please, no e-mails. Entries must be postmarked by April 1, 2004. There will be an award for the winner.

# FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



by **RWB Timothy B. Strawn** CAE, President, The Ohio Masonic Home Benevolent Endowment Foundation

## Thank YOU!

As we learned at mother's knee, we should always say thanks – and we can never say thanks enough. To all of you,

the individuals and lodges, who have supported the Home in 2003, and before: THANK YOU! Your continued support is what enables us to offer the quality of care we provide, with concern and compassion, to all our residents. Each year, your gifts make the difference in the care we provide. So, thank you!

In our daily work at the Foundation, we say thank you in several ways. With the more than 3,000 thank you letters we send annually to our donors; with our special plaques of appreciation to the lodges (now 25 in number) which have each provided in excess of \$100,000 cumulatively in support of The Home; and most recently with our new Donor

Wall located on the 2nd floor of the Hillman Care Center recognizing major gift donors throughout our history. The Donor Wall will also soon include donors for the most recent year. Stop by and see it the next time you are in Springfield. Another special type of "thank you" will debut this year – more about it later.

Thanks also to those who supported our first annual appeal directed to provide computer technology for our residents to enable them to learn all the wonderful opportunities available to them via the computer and Internet. Through December 31st, more than 800 of you have provided \$30,000 in support of this project. Gifts may still be submitted. We will soon be allocating that money to our several campuses (in compliance, of course, with any donor specifications indicated) to implement this program. Special thanks to Nova Caesarea-Harmony Lodge #2 which liked the project so much it offered to match the gifts of its brethren to a maximum of \$1,000 and ended up sending nearly \$2,800!

And thanks to those sponsors and individuals who supported our first special

event for the Home, the Jim Perry Legends Golf Classic last September. More than 100 golfers enjoyed a memorable golfing weekend with twenty-eight professional sports celebrities of yesteryear led by Cy Young Award winner and former Cleveland Indian, Jim Perry, while raising money for the Home. This year's event, September 17-18, promises to be even bigger and better. Don't delay in getting your reservation in to Brother Ken Hershberger, Director, Planned Giving at 888/248-2664 ext. 5!

Speaking of Brother Hershberger and thanking, don't be surprised to see him in your neighborhood. He's "in the field" making get acquainted visits to say thanks to those of you who've indicated an interest in the Foundation or one of our charitable giving programs over the last several years. If he knocks at your door, welcome him in. I'm sure you'll enjoy the visit and the special memento he has for you!

Hope to see you at Masonic Home Day at our beautiful new Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina on Sunday, June 6. Don't miss it!

## Learn More About How You can Help

To receive information about how you can help The Ohio Masonic Home, please complete this form and return to:

Benevolent Endowment Foundation  
Five Masonic Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45504-3658

- Please call me about a personal visit
- Please call me about naming and recognition opportunities
- I've named The Ohio Masonic Home in my will, trust or other planned gift. Please send me information about the Rickly Society

Name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone

Lodge

You may also call the Endowment Foundation toll-free at 888/248-2664.

### I am also interested in:

- Please send me information about golfing in the 2nd Jim Perry Legends Golf Classic, September 17-18.

#### Masonic Retirement Village

Springfield Marketing Office: 888/290-2664

- Patio Homes
- Apartments
- Assisted Living

#### Masonic Health Care

Springfield Admissions Office: 888/243-2664

- Pathways Center for Alzheimer's Care
- Intermediate Care
- Skilled Nursing
- Respite Care
- Rehabilitative Care

#### Browning Masonic Community

Waterville Admissions Office: 866/878-4055

- Garden Villas
- Apartments
- Assisted Living

#### Western Reserve Masonic Community

Medina Marketing Office: 866/433-1514

- Patio Homes
- Apartments
- Assisted Living
- Nursing Care

#### Masonic Eastern Star Community

Cincinnati Admissions Office: 877/590-7827

- Assisted Living
- Nursing Care

## 'Operation Reconnect'

# OMH launches revised Web site

The Ohio Masonic Home has embarked on a new and exciting journey and invites you to join in the voyage by visiting The Home's improved Web site: [www.ohiomasonichome.org](http://www.ohiomasonichome.org).

"Our objective was to design an appealing, easy to navigate Web site with useful information about who we are and what we do," said The Home's CEO Joseph (Jerry) B. Kuyoth, Jr.

Web surfers can visit each campus, send e-mail messages to request information, call the marketing or admissions offices using a toll free number, read the current Annual Report or past issues of the Beacon, contact the Masonic Senior Services Director, seek and apply online for jobs or volunteer positions available at each campus, use the "Links" pages to visit other health care related federal, state, and consumer sites, or visit other Masonic Web sites.

"This is an integral part of our 'Operation Reconnect' plan. During future months, The Home will be committing resources to re-communicate to the brethren and their family members our mission and how we can be of service to them at our four campuses or in their homes," Kuyoth added.

The "What's New" area will soon list activities at each campus and include photographs of some of those events, in addition to offering a selection of e-mail postcards visitors will be able to send to friends.

"Our Web site contents will change frequently to ensure the site stays fresh to our visitors," said Kuyoth. Each campus will be able to add and delete articles and photographs about its activities directly to its designated pages.

National surveys show the number of retirees using the Internet is exploding. The most common Internet activities among consumers 55 to 64 are using e-mail, looking for

information, seeking financial information and reading the news. More than 133 million U.S. adults (66 percent of the adult population) use the Internet either at work or at home. Consequently, the Internet is a major communications medium for business and personal use.

"Besides being an information provider about The Home's services, we also want to eventually explore the



*"Our objective was to design an appealing, easy to navigate Web site with useful information about who we are and what we do."*

*CEO Jerry Kuyoth*

possibilities of creating an e-mail newsletter, cross-link with more Web sites to give our visitors quick access to various related areas, build an interactive section with site visitors, conduct online surveys to better understand our customers' needs, hold contests, feature visitor contributions, and offer live chat events and interviews," said Kuyoth.

"But, we need your help to be successful. Join the 'Operation Reconnect Team' and share with us your ideas and suggestions to improve our Web site and make it more useful to you and our Masonic family," said Kuyoth. E-mail your comments to Jerry Guess at [jguess@ohiomasonichome.org](mailto:jguess@ohiomasonichome.org) or use the "Contact Us" menu item on the Web site.

# Old Erie Lodge #3 celebrates 200th anniversary

Old Erie Lodge #3 of Warren, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in late 1803 as Erie Lodge #47, will celebrate its bicentennial this year.

While this bicentennial is a celebration *for* Old Erie Lodge, it should also be a celebration *of* Old Erie Lodge, as it was this Lodge that first advocated the idea of forming a Grand Lodge for Ohio. (See related story.)

In addition, the first brother to be installed and to serve as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Thomas Huntington, was a member of Erie Lodge.

Worshipful Brother Thomas Weller, who served the lodge as Master during its 175th anniversary, is serving Old Erie as Master again this year, and he and the lodge have set a busy schedule.

History Night is scheduled for March 16th at 7:00 p.m. to commemorate the anniversary of the first installation of the officers of then Erie Lodge #47. This will be a very special program and evening.

The pinnacle of the bicentennial celebration, however, will be on September 25, when the brethren of Old Erie Lodge will host Grand Master Steven J. Krekus and the Grand Lodge officers, who will reconsecrate the lodge. The lodge will also rededicate the historical marker that it erected in Monument Park to commemorate its 175th anniversary. The day's events will be topped off by a gala banquet and ball.

Though a time for celebration, this bicentennial year has also given the members of Old Erie Lodge an opportunity to consider their many blessings and to give thanks.

"We at Old Erie thank our forefathers for the dedication and devotion it took to form our Lodge in the early days of our (Northwest) territory's development. We thank them also for persevering through the years in times of difficulty and persecution so that we now enjoy a way of life built around the solid foundation and firm principles that Freemasonry provides. We thank God for giving them the strength needed to



*(Top Photo) Looking toward the "west" in the Old Erie Lodge Room, the beautiful woodwork can be observed in the top pictures. The entrance to the Masonic Temple is shown above.*

do these things and pray to Him for the ability to continue in their footsteps." (From the newly revised history of Old Erie Lodge #3)

Old Erie Lodge meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. Its stately Lodge Hall is located at 112 Pine Avenue in Warren, Ohio. More detailed information regarding the bicentennial activities can be obtained from the Lodge Secretary, Allen Briggs, 330/898-2970.

## Old Erie Lodge leads creation of Grand Lodge

Old Erie Lodge #3, has the distinction of being the first Lodge to advocate the creation of a Grand Lodge in the State of Ohio.

On March 11, 1807 at the annual meeting of Erie Lodge, then still on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, a resolution was adopted to correspond with the other Masonic Lodges meeting in Ohio to determine if there was sufficient support for forming a Grand Lodge.

A convention was held in January, 1808, at the State Capitol Building in Chillicothe to determine whether to form a new Grand Lodge. Representatives from all six of the Ohio Lodges were present.

All Lodges chartered since 1809, as well as all Masons made in the state of Ohio since that time, owe a debt of gratitude for the efforts of Erie Lodge to bring about the creation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. There is perhaps no more fitting way to thank Old Erie Lodge than to participate in its bicentennial celebrations.

# P. Dean Gerber Award presented to Past Grand Master James Olmstead

At the 2003 Grand Lodge session in Dayton, Grand Master William P. Mayberry, Sr., presented the P. Dean Gerber Award to Past Grand Master James E. Olmstead.

The Gerber Award, named for the dedicated brother who was Grand Master in 1992, and, even though stricken with cancer, served his term with great courage and leadership. The award is intended for persons who emulate that courage and dedication.

Grand Master Mayberry's remarks during the presentation:

"This year, the Grand Lodge has observed another individual worthy of receiving the distinguished P. Dean Gerber Award. This individual, too, contracted a very serious form of cancer. He bravely fought the disease with an application of chemotherapy. About four years later, the cancer returned and the prognosis again was severe.

"After much research, it was

determined that a rather new treatment was available – but one with terrible and immediate consequences if the treatment failed. Our brother decided to proceed. He left our state to go to another part of the country for this treatment, which lasted about four months. It was successful and he is with us here tonight.

"Through the various bouts with cancer and the various treatments that have abused his body, he has displayed an unusually strong faith in God, which should be an example for all of us. He has shown courage and a zest for life, which is a model for each of us. And he has exemplified a continued dedication to his family, friends, AND fraternity - also a lesson for us all.

"I would like to present the 2003 P. Dean Gerber Award to a Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge and the Scottish Rite Deputy for Ohio, Most Worshipful Brother James E. Olmstead."



*James E. Olmstead*

## Lodges in the news...

### Ironton Masons donate winter gear to children

Lawrence Lodge #198 in Ironton made sure that the young hands and heads of kindergarten students would not be cold this winter.

The lodge, with the assistance of the local York Rite and Eastern Star organizations, donated gloves and knit caps to all 122 students in the West Ironton Kindergarten, plus a cozy new toboggan. This is the second year for such donations, and the lodge wants to make the contributions annually.

"This was needed in the community," Walter A. Butler, secretary of Lawrence Lodge, was quoted as saying in a feature article about the Masons' generosity in the local newspaper. "Within our organization, we do a lot of projects in the community. This is just one that we do because the kids need it."

According to a spokesperson at the school, if the Masons would not provide these items, "there are kids who wouldn't have hats and gloves."

What is the most rewarding part? "Just seeing those smiles on the children's faces," said Brother Butler.

### Benjamin Franklin Lodge supports Salvation Army programs

Members of Benjamin Franklin Lodge #719 in Hamilton, Ohio raised nearly \$2,450 for the Salvation Army this year. The Franklin Lodge Masons rang bells from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at eight stores on December 12.

"All of our members are to be congratulated for their excellent dedication to the service of those who are less fortunate," Lodge Secretary Stanley J. (Bud) Haacke said.

### Lodge helps serve breakfast for Cory-Rawson football team

Mt. Cory Lodge #418 and the Rawson Eastern Star Chapter served breakfast to the Cory-Rawson High School football team, cheerleaders, and coaches before classes on November 7, 2003.

It was a Masonic effort to show support for the team as it continued to advance in the Division VI football playoffs. The local newspaper ran a feature picture about the lodge's program.

# Past Grand Master Lattanner portrays historic leader

On numerous occasions during the last two years, Past Grand Master C. Rolland Lattanner has portrayed the Rev. and Right Worshipful Brother James Kilborne, the founder of Worthington, Ohio, and one of the charter members of New England Lodge #4.

Both the city of Worthington and New England Lodge observed their 200th anniversaries in 2003, and many groups were interested in remembering

Brother Kilborne.

Most Worshipful Brother Lattanner dressed for the role, studied the history and life of Brother Kilborne, and described this historical figure to many groups, including Masonic, civic, and church organizations.

His role-playing reached its peak when he portrayed Kilborne on New England Lodge's float in the city's bicentennial parade in July 2003.



Past Grand Master C. Rolland Lattanner shows his vintage apparel in the picture at right. Above, four members of New England Lodge, #4, are seen on a float in Worthington's and Ohio's Bicentennial parade. Pictured, from left, are Most Worshipful Brother Lattanner, Mike Strautz, Richard Snow, and Sam Harpley.



## 96-year-old presents 50-year pin to son



The Worshipful Master of Lucasville Lodge #465, Donald (Denny) Edwards, left, assists as Trimble (Trim) Pelphrey, center, presents a 50-year membership pin and certificate to his son, Robert Wesley Pelphrey in the lodge on December 12, 2003. Brother Trim Pelphrey is 96 and a lodge member for 58 years. It was a proud and emotional moment for both father and son.

## Past Grand Chaplain heads National Shrine Circus Association

Dwayne C. Jones, who served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 2002-2003, has been elected and installed as president of the Shrine Circus Association of North America.

The action took place on November 15, 2003, in Galveston, Texas. Right Worshipful Brother Jones will host the organization's next annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on October 21-23, 2004.

## Grand Lodge loses 105-year-old member

Joseph E. Thomas, a member of Marion Lodge #70 for 75 years, died on December 30, 2003 at age 105. He was an Endowed Member and would have been 106 years old on February 10, 2004.

# More Light About Masonry

## Past Grand Master recognized as influential 20th century citizen

Barton Smith, Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1896-97, was recognized as one of the most influential citizens of the 20th century in Toledo, Ohio.

The newspaper in Toledo, The Blade, recently featured Smith in one of a series of profiles on the most significant people in the city in the last 100 years.

The newspaper said: “. . . his contributions to law and business, and his involvement with the Masonic organization, made him one of the most powerful men of the late 1800s and the first part of the 1900s in Toledo.”

Most Worshipful Brother Smith also served as Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite, from 1910 through 1921.

### Legacy continues today

His legacy continues today, as he is the namesake of Toledo's Barton Smith Lodge #613.

According to The Blade, Smith “achieved prominence within the Masons when he represented the organization in the late 1800s during a battle with a Masonic faction led by followers of Joseph Cerneau. Smith was successful within the Masonic organization and in the courts in the Cerneau cases, which were decided in 1892.

“Smith, according to published reports, regarded the Cerneau cases as his most important involvement with the Masons,” the newspaper commented.

Smith was born near Joliet, Illinois in 1852, graduated from the University of Michigan with a law degree in 1875, and began his practice in Toledo, where he gained prominence in the field of corporate and international law.

His rise to the highest levels in the fraternity was rapid. He was raised a Master Mason in 1881 and witnessed the

Scottish Rite degrees in 1882. The first meeting after becoming Master Mason, he was elected Junior Deacon of his Lodge. Fifteen years later, he was Grand Master of Ohio.

During his term as Grand Master of Ohio in 1897, the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield, Ohio, was completed and opened its doors. It is, in Brother Smith's words, “the glory and pride of Ohio Freemasonry.” He served for many years as the chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge and was subsequently named Chairman Emeritus.

He also made some lasting contributions to Scottish Rite Masonry. In 1907, as a delegate representing the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction to the International Conference in Brussels, he authored the conference rules, which have essentially governed all Scottish Rite International Conferences since. He also gained broad experience for many years on the Supreme Council's Committee on Constitutions and Laws and Foreign Fraternal Relations.

As Sovereign Grand Commander, Smith governed during a period of some of the greatest growth in Masonry's history. He served during a steady and spectacular decade of the Fraternity's growth and development.

### Key role in politics

In Toledo, Smith, as an attorney, was responsible for consolidating all of the small street railway

companies and incorporating them as Toledo Traction Co., the forerunner of the area's public transit authority that exists today. He was corporate counsel for the transportation company for 32 years and represented numerous other corporations throughout Ohio.

Working on behalf of the city, Smith helped facilitate legislation that resulted



Barton Smith

in the construction of a Toledo water filtration plant in the early 1900s.

He served as counsel for The Toledo Blade for many years, and also held posts on its board and as the newspaper company's president, before the company was bought in 1926 by the family who owns the newspaper to this date.

While active in politics, Smith never ran for political office, although he served one term on the Toledo Board of Education. He was the leader of the delegation from the Toledo area to the Democratic National Convention in 1896 when William Jennings Bryan first was nominated for president.

In 1921, Smith was appointed by President Warren G. Harding as a representative to the arbitral commission in the case of Landeau versus the Republic of Peru, a hearing held in London in 1922, which involved an American citizen. This service caused him to miss the annual session of the Grand Lodge of Ohio for the first time in more than 30 years.

### A man of spotless character

According to a Toledo history book written by a judge of the same time period, Smith “possesses the clearest and most analytical mind of any man of his age that I have met. He is great in the solution of intricate legal questions involving philosophical study. He has a peculiarly logical mind and is a great student of the authorities. He is very

*“. . . his contributions to law and business, and his involvement with the Masonic organization, made him one of the most powerful men of the late 1800s and the first part of the 1900s in Toledo.”*

*continued on page 14*

# A Real 'Fish Story'

## Milford Lodge Brother is dedicated fish caretaker

Robert C. Ehrhardt, a 43-year member of Milford Lodge #54, has developed a very “fishy” reason for spending so much time at the Shriners’ Cincinnati Burns Hospital.

Years ago, the hospital was looking for a volunteer that could take care of the new fish tanks in the brand new facility. Someone at Syrian Shrine Temple in Cincinnati identified Brother Ehrhardt as such a person.

So, since 1992, Brother Ehrhardt and his wife, Lois, have been fish “caretakers” at the hospital, making multiple visits each month to keep the aquariums in prime condition.

“Between Us,” a Shrine publication circulated nationally, featured the Ehrhardts in an article titled, “Couple shares love of fish at burn hospital.”

After 42 years of service in the telecommunications industry, Brother Ehrhardt retired from Cincinnati Bell in 1989. He is a World War II veteran,

having served in the South Pacific with the Navy SeaBees. He is active in the Syrian Shriners’ Oriental Band, and plays the drum in many parades across the Midwest.

He is a former officer in Milford Lodge and a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Cincinnati. He is a Past Patron and Lois is a Past Matron of Milford Eastern Star Chapter.

Over the years, he has been very active in Job’s Daughters and served as Associate Grand Guardian in Ohio in



*Robert C. Ehrhardt, left, and his wife, Lois, both active in the Masonic family of organizations, have turned a love of fish into a vital service for the Shriners’ Cincinnati Burns Hospital. Their work has had the added benefit of allowing them to get to know some of the patients and understand the great achievements the hospital performs.*

1968-69. The couple has served as Guardian and Associate Guardian of their local Job’s Bethel, as well.

Volunteering with the fish tanks has allowed the Ehrhardts a better opportunity than most to get to know the staff and patients at the Burns Hospital, which is perhaps the most gratifying part of their work.

“We often see families week after week and it’s nice to talk to them about fish. We share our interests with them and I think it helps them take their mind off their own concerns for awhile,” Lois said.

## Lodges contribute to ‘freshen’ Grand Lodge headquarters sign

American Union Lodge #1 and Harmar Lodge #390, both located in Marietta, Ohio, agreed to jointly contribute \$400 to repaint the sign in front of the Grand Lodge Headquarters in Worthington.

The two lodges had, years earlier, donated the cost of erecting the sign initially, and wanted to help in its maintenance.



## Barton Smith

*continued from page 13*

popular and successful. He is an intense man, earnest, self-sacrificing in his duties; thorough, working out every detail and examining every authority, even at the sacrifice of his health . . . He is a man of spotless character. I know no man who is his superior in personal integrity and none who has a high sense of professional honor.”

For more than five years before his death, Smith endured a lingering illness. According to Grand Lodge proceedings, he “stood, as it were on the very brink of death.” And, in 1935, “his bark slipped into the unknown stream.” He died in his home in Toledo at age 83.

## Thank You For Your Generosity

We offer our grateful appreciation to the estates, individuals, groups, or other Masonic bodies who have supported The Ohio Masonic Home with donations given between October 1 and December 31, 2003.

### \$10,000+

C.E. Brister  
Chester W. Davis  
The Betty Joanne Flickinger  
Memorial By Mary A.  
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In Honor of Earl R. Blazer  
and Timothy B. Strawn by  
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Solar Lodge #730  
In Memory of Warren D.  
Watson by Charlotte L.  
Holland  
York Lodge #563

### \$1,000+

Laverne H. Croaning  
Orlando W. Davis  
Curtis A. Gibson  
Gregory Hackett  
Bessie V. Hosler  
In Memory of Ralph Snook By  
William C. Lawson  
Norwood Winton Lodge #576  
University Lodge #631  
Carl W. Vernon  
West Gate Lodge #623

## Scholarship continued from page 1

and must be enrolled on a full-time basis at a qualifying institution before the funds are distributed.

The scholarship funds will be paid to the school. Any tuition refunds, discounts, or rebates, up to the scholarship amount, must be returned to the Scholarship Fund.

To qualify for consideration, students must:

- Have graduated from a high school or passed the GED.
- Have made satisfactory academic progress in the preceding academic year (if applicable) as indicated by completion of required credit hours and a grade point average of an least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be at least 16 but not more than 22-years-old at application time.
- Have a financial need (i.e., student's and family's 2003 combined federal Adjusted Gross Income may not exceed \$40,000).
- Be the natural or adopted son or daughter of a deceased Mason who, at the time of his death, had achieved the degree of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason and who was in good standing with the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Ohio.

The following information must also be submitted with the application:

- Copies of the parent or guardian signed federal tax form 1040 for the most recent year, and the student's federal tax form a1040 if any.
- Copy of the letter of acceptance from the school the student will attend.
- A two-page essay written by the student summarizing personal and academic background honors awards, services, co-curricular activities and career plans.
- Letter of recommendation from a high school teacher, principal or guidance counselor.
- Letter from the Secretary of the father's Masonic Lodge verifying the father's "good standing."
- A list of other sources of financial aid to which the student has applied, the date of application, whether or not the aid was accepted, and if so the amount

## OMH High Twelve Club presents banner to Worthington Club



*OHIO HISTORY — Grand Secretary MWB George O. Braatz (right) PGM and past president of the Worthington High Twelve Club #727 extends his appreciation to The Ohio Masonic Home's High Twelve Club #483 past President John Brain for presenting a club banner to the Worthington High Twelve Club. The Home's Club sponsored the Worthington Club, which is the only High Twelve Club in the nation that meets in a Grand Lodge facility.*

accepted.

Application forms should be mailed to: The Ohio Masonic Home Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 120, Springfield, Ohio 45501. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. The Home's Scholarship Committee shall determine awards and all decisions of the committee are final.

If you have any questions about The Home's Scholarship Program, please contact David R. Stacy at (937) 525-3014.

# Harrison Lodge hosts Future Farmers of America event

Harrison Lodge #219 in Cadiz had a very entertaining meeting last November. After the stated meeting was over, they welcomed a large group of high school students and their parents into the Lodge Room for an FFA (Future Farmers of America) parliamentary procedure practice session.

An estimated 75 parents sat on the sidelines and watched students from all over Harrison County respond to questions regarding parliamentary procedure. The young people were practicing to compete in a state FFA event.

According to lodge members, not

only was it a fun evening, but it opened the lodge to many persons who had never been in the building before. It was a good community service project, according to one brother, and already has yielded one petition.

## Spartan Lodge builds float for Millersburg parade

Members of Spartan Lodge #126 constructed a float that had a prominent place in the annual Antique Festival parade in Millersburg, Ohio, on October 5, 2003.

The float was on a trailer and

featured a large square and compasses on the back with a replica of an altar in the middle. Representatives of the Lodge, the local Eastern Star, Chapter, Council, Commandery, and Scottish Rite, rode on the float.

## Shoemaker *continued from page 1*

midnight, and I was told that I had been elected to receive the 33rd Degree. I was completely surprised. I'm not a Past Master, and I wasn't able to join the lodge until after I retired in 1985," he said.

Brother Shoemaker was uncertain about accepting the honor, until it was explained to him that the 33rd Degree is awarded to recognize service to the Fraternity and to the public. Brother Shoemaker's dedicated and pioneering work with vocational education in Ohio has earned him the well-deserved admiration of his colleagues and his brethren.

Brother Shoemaker's father was an

active Mason, as is his son, Gary, who is a Past Master of Neoacacia Lodge and a Knight of the York Cross of Honor.

"The night I was raised, Brothers who worked for the State Department of Education visited Neoacacia from all over the state. Even Governor Rhodes was sitting on the sidelines. I was very moved that they cared enough to come."

Brother Shoemaker continues to stay active, and for those who know him, it is common to hear him at various Masonic meetings encouraging a young officer who has done well.

Brother Byrl R. Shoemaker is truly a master of his craft.

## The Beacon is Published Quarterly

Please report all changes of address to your Lodge Secretary, who, in turn, will notify the Grand Secretary, who maintains the database that produces The BEACON mailing labels.

The Ohio Masonic Home includes Masonic Health Care, Inc.; Masonic Retirement Village, Inc.; and the Benevolent Endowment Foundation, Inc., at the Springfield campus; the Browning Masonic Community, Inc., in Waterville; the Masonic Eastern Star Community, Inc., in Cincinnati; and the Western Reserve Masonic Community, Inc., in Medina.

Jerry Guess, APR  
The Ohio Masonic Home,  
Director of Public Relations  
2655 W. National Road  
Springfield, OH 45504-3698  
937/525-3074  
jguess@ohiomasonichome.org

George Braatz, P.G.M.,  
Grand Secretary at  
The Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Ohio  
P.O. Box 629  
Worthington, OH 43085  
614/885-5318  
gbraatz@freemason.com