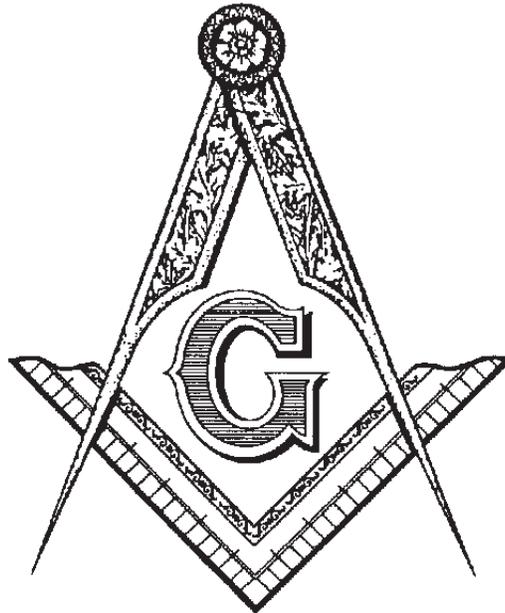


Winter 2007

Issue #21

Fulton- Montgomery



Official Publication of the
Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District
Free & Accepted Masons
State of New York

The Fulton-Montgomery News

• Staff •

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• Newsletter Policy •

The Fulton-Montgomery News, published quarterly for the benefit of the Brethren of the Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District and their families, is the official publication of:

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Broadalbin, NY 12025

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• A View From The East •

by R. W. Claton D. Swain
DDGM Fulton-Montgomery District



Greetings Brothers from the East,

Our Masonic year is well under way with the holiday season fast approaching. Many of our lodges have reported giving Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families within their areas. Over 30 baskets were sent out this season and more will be handed out at Christmas time. Many of our lodges will be hosting holiday parties for all brothers to attend. I hope many of you will take advantage of these parties and enjoy the brotherhood it shares. Brotherhood is a basic part of our fraternity's foundation. It is the combining of men who have the same ideals in life and express them through a common bond. Our Fraternity is that common bond which unites us all under one roof for the betterment of all men and mankind.

At our most recent Master and Officers meeting the Past Grand Lodge Officers of our district united to assist the present officers of each lodge with many common problems all lodges go through.

One of the first items mentioned that night was the dress code that has been completely forgotten in some lodges. Brothers, it is important that we show the world and the uninitiated why we are who we are. They must understand that Free Masonry is an organization comprised of not only good men but of the best men. Sloppy dress at formal meetings, meetings with the public involved and even on regular lodge nights is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. The Master and officers have a responsibility to Grand Lodge, their own lodge and the brothers of all Masonic lodges to see the dress code for masonry is adhered to.

Brotherly love was a topic hit upon next. It was mentioned that many men are not respecting their fellow masons or are being rude to many brothers. This is not the way we are taught in our ritual. We are taught to hold all Masons in the highest regard. We are not to degrade or defraud a brother but help him in any way we can to make him a better man and Mason. We certainly don't want to form "clicks" within our lodges where some men are left out because they are not a "Good Old Boy". We are all to be respected equally and to always meet on the level as brothers.

Education was the next point touched upon. Many of us are not

learning our ritual even when we accept an appointed position in the line or are honored enough to be elected to one of the higher chairs. Ritual is the basis of Masonry and it sets us apart from all other organizations. By learning the parts set forth in the ritual for each position we become a true Master of all positions. By mastering all positions we can easily correct a brother who is at fault by being in the position to know what his job is and how he should do it. Corrections should be done quietly and after the meeting is over so the brother will not be belittled for his mistake. Education is taught through tradition that makes our ritual special, it is filled with hundreds of years of tradition. Remember, if you accept a position why not do the job you accepted correctly.

Unfortunately none of our lodges will receive the “Potts Award” at Grand Lodge this year. A poor showing of our district officers at the Grand Lectures Convention is the cause. It is also an indication as to what our district is doing to keep our brothers active. None participation in an event that is scheduled around the same time each year and is advertised well in advance is just a sign of not wanting to be involved in a tradition that this district has held in high esteem. Shame on those brothers who could have come and just didn’t want to.

Finally the word Consolidation was brought into the conversation that night. It may very well be that some lodges in the next few years will be consolidating to form stronger and more financially sound lodges. This in no way means a lodge has failed. It means the brothers of that lodge saw the time to move forward and combine forces to produce better and more able Masons throughout the district. Brothers this will happen eventually, why not start thinking about it now if your lodge is one of those in question.

I do commend all lodges for their efforts to have their officers at our monthly master and officer meetings. Our discussions will continue to help all lodges with situations that may arise. Most all situations have been dealt with before in a lodge setting. Remember that those who have had to deal with many of your problems are now willing to assist in anyway they can to help your lodge and brothers. Take advantage of the men with experience and come out to a meeting.

Finally I wish to welcome all the new Masons to our district. May your Masonic Life be filled with as many interesting and wonderful experiences as mine has. And to all brothers I wish you and your families all the best the Holiday Season can supply. May your joy reflect in your lodges future happenings and may God guide you on your way.

Fraternally, Clayton Swain DDGM

• Lodge News •

St. Patrick's Lodge #4 F & A M
P. O. Box 896
22 North Perry Street
Johnstown, New York, 12095-0896
518-762-7015
www.newyorkmasons.org
By W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn Master

Happy Holidays from St. Pat's Lodge # 4:

We have 3 new Master Masons, and welcome Francesco Malagisi, Jr., William A. Obenhoff and Wayne T. Smith to St. Pat's Lodge # 4 F & A M.

St. Pat's continues to have the brickwork, (43) new windows, new front entrance doors, property line fence installed; when this is finished the roof will be evaluated for replacement of the shingles (we know some portions have to be replaced already and the work will be done in the Spring).

Frank Malagisi has been appointed as Brotherhood Fund Chairman for the Lodge as well as agreed and appointed in the Line as Jr. Master of Ceremonies.

St. Pat's held a First Degree on November 3rd and we welcome Thomas Gilyani and Thomas Graham as new Entered Apprentices. A great time was had by all attending and dinner was held at the Rainbow following the Sat. am Degree.

St. Pat's will hold a Second Degree on December 8 at 9 am.

Looking ahead, January 17, a Master Mason Degree will be conferred, with the assistance of the Scottish Rite Degree Team.

St. Pat's Lodge # 4 will also be conferring additional Degrees in the Months of February, March and April.

St. Patrick's Lodge WILL have its traditional CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER, preceding the DDGM VISITATION on March 20, 2008. We are expecting a large contingent of VISITING Brothers and URGE that you plan now to attend. RESERVATIONS a must. SIDELINES WILL BE FULL.

Check out St. Pat's Lodge website at www.newyorkmasons.org to see some of the updated pictures of Lodge happenings and of the construction projects going on at the Lodge.

St. Pat's delegation to the St. Johnsville Lodge # 611 DDGM Visitation, was 13 including 8 Officers and 5 Brothers (and this didn't include 3 "regulars" who were absent for Bill Dorn's hip replacement).

Bill Dorn is on his feet once again and doing very well. He is out to coffee hour and is sure to return to meetings soon.

COFFEE HOUR: The "36 CLUB" holds coffee hour every Wed. morning 7:15 am to roughly 8:30 am; Masons and Non-Masons are welcome. COST IS \$2.00. We are having to put more tables up to accommodate the many attending. IF you haven't been yet or lately, you are missing a FUN time at Lodge. The 1st Wed. is a BREAKFAST (same price).

Looking forward to seeing you at St. Patrick's Lodge #4 F&AM.
Fraternally,
W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn, Master

December 1, 2007

Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District Lodges:

Members of your Lodges are cordially and fraternally invited to attend St. Patrick's Lodge # 4 F & A M HOLIDAY PARTY, Thursday December 20, 2007 at 6 pm.

This is a covered dish dinner with St. Pat's Lodge providing meat trays and soft drinks.

Bring a friend along.

Reservations are not required, however, St. Pat's would appreciate it if you know you are coming, to let us know so we can plan the meat trays.

If you have children and would like Santa to present a gift, please bring your gift, with a name tag on same.

Fraternally,
W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn, Master



Hamilton #79

By W.: Jeremy "Jay" Krajewski, Master
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
(518) 922-7668
wmchr1@aol.com



Amsterdam #84

By R.: W.: Vincent Bialobok, Master
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
labvsb@capital.net



Fish House #298
By W.: Todd Payne Master
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Fish House lodge is planning an adult Christmas party on December 14th, and a kids Christmas party on December 15th. If you want to see Santa, you need to come on the 15th! We are trying something new this year by putting on a New Years Eve dinner. Family and friends will join for a 5 star meal and either decide to spend the rest of the evening at the lodge, or go somewhere else after dinner. On January 2, we will be having a 2nd degree, followed by a 3rd degree on February 6. Currently we have one entered apprentice going through the degrees. Also on February 3, we will be having a super bowl party.

Happy holidays to all!

Fraternally

W.: Todd Payne Master



Fort Plain #433
By R.: W.: David Montanye, Master
2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Fort Plain Lodge held a 150th anniversary program on September 26, 2007 along with the District Deputy visitation. Pictured are the 5 Past District Deputy's of the lodge. It to rt-R.: W.: 's Allen Samuals, Roger Swartz, Bill Briggs, Robert Elliott, Keith Veitch. Also Pictured are the past and present District Deputy's, Staff Officers, Grand Rep's and DSA's of our lodge. Back row R.: W.: Bob Mabie, DSA John Tooker, Second row It to rt, R.: W.: Robert Parkinson, R.: W.: Edward Smith, R.: W.: David Montanye and DSA Owen Dievendorf along with the Past District Deputy's.



Fultonville #531
By W.:. Michael Krajewski, Master
1st & 3rd Wednesdays Canajoharie Temple
Phone (518) 922-8712

Dear Brothers;
Our Officers for the 2007 – 2008 year are as follows:
Master - W.:. Michael Krajewski
Senior Warden - W.:. Jeremy (Jay) Krajewski
Junior Warden – Br. Myron (JJ) Terrell
Secretary – R.:. W.:. Leon Smith
Treasurer – Br. Alan Taylor
Senior Deacon – W.:. Ellsworth Simpson
Junior Deacon – Br. Steven Romano
Chaplin - W.:. Gary Coyle
Marshall – Br. Eugene (Geno) Hernigle
SMC - R.:. W.:. James Simpson
JMC – Br. Benjamin Johnson
Tyler - W.:. Hunter Cole-Hatchard

Fraternally Yours,
W.:. Michael Krajewski



Kennyetto Lodge No. 599
W.:. Richard L Gugenberger Master
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Phone (518) 883-8448
www.newyorkmasons.org

Brothers of Kennyetto Lodge,

Seasons Greetings to our Brothers near and far, I hope this finds everyone Happy, Healthy, and in the spirit of the season!

The Eastern Star is having a covered dish on Wednesday December 19 @ 6 pm. @ the lodge. The brothers of the lodge have been invited. Anyone wishing to attend please call me @ 7737027 or Rosemary Kolacki @ 883 3809. so the ladies can have some idea of a head count. Hope to see you there for a good meal and to show support of our Eastern Star Chapter.

On November 13th we held the Salvation Army Red Kettle kick off breakfast at our Lodge 20 people were in attendance for this event . The Caption and Major of this district expressed gratitude and sincere thanks for the use of our Lodge and hospitality shown by our lodge to The Salvation Army for this event. Brothers please don't just walk by the Kettles while out shopping throw in something its for a good cause.

If any Brother out there would like to attend Lodge ,DD visits, or any other Masonic function and has problems driving after dark or is in need of a ride feel free to call myself @ 773 7027 and we will see that you have a ride.

Also if any Brother out there is in sickness or distress or anyone knows of a brother in need PLEASE let us know, after all we are Brothers.

Fraternally

W.:Richard L Gugenberger, Master

A short p/s from our Secretary W.:John P. Sira:

Brothers - When you get your dues notice you will note the addition of VOLUNTARY ANNUAL FEE- which was set at a Lodge meeting earlier this year at

\$40.00 over and above your dues. This was necessitated by the cost of operating the Lodge over the year. Our fuel cost has gone up approx \$2000 since last year, and the dues as we now stand will not cover just that expense, note including lights and telephone. We would appreciate the help if at all possible, so we can keep the Lodge going HAPPY HOLIDAYS, Secretary John P. Sira



St. Johnsville #611
By W.: David Mosher Master
1st & 3rd Thursdays



Continued on page 16

• In Memoriam •

Lawrence W. Castler	from his wife Jean
Perston Simons	from his wife Beatice
Richard J. Sponable	from his wife Shirley
Bro. Robert Rounds, Fultonville #53	from his wife Elaine
Bro. Walter C. Coolman, Welcome Lodge	from W.: Bob & Bonnie Dietrick
Bro. Harold Banta	from his wife Norma
W.: Bro. Durant M. Friday St. Patrick's #4	from his wife Margaret
Harold Wilber Banta	from Unknown in Maine
Bro. Alvin V. Hichens, St. Patrick's #4	from his wife Edith
Bro. William V. Hovey, Fultonville #531	from his wife Jeannette

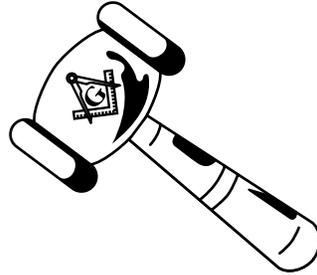
Remember a Brother. A \$10 contribution to the newsletter will keep their name in this column for 4 issues. Any Brother may be honored.



ompliments of:

John C. Swengle Fort Plain #433
Dr. William S. Muehleck
R.W. Janet M. Bronk Matron Chapter #208 O.E.S.

Help the Newsletter! A personal contribution of \$10 or more will help



Traveling Gavel 2007

_____ Thus far, as of our last District Deputy meeting, the total points for the year received for each lodge attending District Deputy and M&O meetings are as follows;

St Patrick's #4	155 points
Hamilton #79	70 points
Amsterdam #84	94 points
Fish House #298	21 points
Fort Plain #433	113 points
Fultonville #531	60 points
Kennyetto #599	63 points
St Johnsville #611	46 points

Respectively Submitted,
R.: W.: David Saltsman,



Child ID

Reports for the Year of 2007

Total Number of Session = 32

Total Number of Children = 961

Total Number of Volunteers = 203

Total Number of Man Hours = 1351. 1/2

This is Very Good for the District

My thanks go out to all Brothers and Familys for there help

For the Year of 2008 I hope to Do 1000 Children

Child ID Chairman

R.: W.: David Saltsman

Youth Committee

By: W. Michael Krajewski

518-922-8712

Dear Brothers,

On Saturday November 17, 2007, St. Andrews Chapter of DeMolay inducted five new members into their ranks. This was a great day for this Chapter, and probably the entire region. Besides the new members inducted into St. Andrews, there were four others from around the State that were inducted also at this event. What makes this spectacular is that for the first time another State, The State of Vermont also joined in with four being inducted.

A total of thirteen young men were inducted that day. In attendance were approximately eighty people, making this a great day indeed.

The ritual that these young men remember is very impressive. The Obligation that is given by the Master Counselor to these young men is in fact longer than the Obligations we take as Master Masons, and all done by memory. Every member of the Degree team should be applauded for the marvelous Degree work that they performed.

In February they plan on going to Winter fest (a weekend of fun at West Mountain) and staying in Queensbury.

DeMolay was founded in 1919, by a Mason, by the name of Frank S.

Land whom by befriending and helping a fatherless young man, helped create an organization that is still making our world a better place to live. Brothers, We as Masons can follow the example of Frank Land and help mold our YOUTH for OUR FUTURE!

The DeMolay and Triangles (Young Woman's Youth Group) rely on the Advisors of the Chapter. With only a handful of Advisors, it makes the task difficult.

It seems that as each day goes by we find less and less time to do the things that are important in life. I understand that we have our obligations to work, family, and church. We obligate ourselves to our Lodges by attending communications or becoming an Officer. Brothers, I know how hard it is to organize the time of a day to find time to do the things that we want, or are obligated to do, but if you could find the time to at least visit a Chapter Meeting it would be well worth it. An hour and a half twice a Month? Once every Month? Once every two Months?

If you could help in any way, please do so. These young men and women thrive on our support, let's give it to them.

The DeMolay meets at Amsterdam Temple at 7:30 pm every first and

Chapter Advisor – James Simpson

And do not forget about the young women they need our support also.
The Triangles meet at Amsterdam Temple at 7:00 pm every second and
forth Thursdays.

Advisor – Nicole Morroni

DON'T FORGET, OUR YOUTH IS OUR FUTURE, AND WE AS MA-
SONS CAN HELP MOLD BOTH.

Fraternally

W.: Michael Krajewski



Masonic Brotherhood Fund

By now everyone in the district should have received a donation envelope for the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. There have been several changes from last year. This year a donation of \$100.00 or more, you will receive a serial numbered crystal sculpture. A picture of this sculpture is on the back of the donation envelope. The donation of \$100.00 or more can be given in a one lump sum or given in installments over the Masonic year. The money can also be distributed in any amounts to any of the following programs. These programs are on the inside cover of the donation envelope.

- 1.) Allocation by the Grand Master
- 2.) Masonic Medical Research Laboratory
- 3.) Masonic Care Community
- 4.) Military Outreach Program
- 5.) Masonic Youth Programs
- 6.) Drugs & Alcohol Prevention
- 7.) Livingston Library Operating Budget
- 8.) NY Masonic Child ID Program
- 9.) Masonic Benevolence Operating Budge
- 10.) Camp Turk Operating Budge
- 11.) MSAT
- 12.) Blood Donor Program
- 14.) Masonic Benevolence Fund
- 15.) De Molay
- 16.) Camp Turk
- 17.) Libraries Museums

A donation of \$500.00 or more you will receive a New York Masonic

pocket watch, chain, and knife. Your initials will be engraved on the back of the pocket watch. A picture of the watch, chain, knife, and initials can be seen on the back of the donation envelope. The \$500.00 or more donation must be given to the Masonic Benevolence Endowment Fund (14) and in a one lump sum. I received from Grand Lodge a report showing the lodges in our district, the number of members, and how many people that have donated. This report goes from June 1, 2007 to October 31, 2007.

0004 St. Patrick's 140 members total 15 donations

0079 Hamilton 39 members total 2 donations

0298 Fish House 105 members total 8 donations

0433 Fort Plain 67 members total 2 donations

0531 Fultonville 68 members total 2 donations

0599 Kenneyto 78 members total 3 donations

0611 St. Johnsville 84 members total 2 donations

This report ended October 31, 2007. If you have not received any information on the brotherhood fund contact your lodge. The holiday season is a time of giving. So let's support our Brotherhood Fund by giving to any of the Masonic Brotherhood Fund programs. Any amount given is greatly appreciated

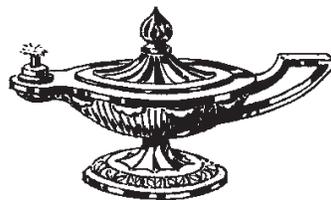
W.: William J. Dorn

District Brotherhood Chairman

• More Light •

“Find a Lodge whose Master and other officers are leaders in the true sense of the word, and you will find a Lodge in which the Brethren value their membership, participate in the activities of the Lodge, keep their membership active, and through their actions, in and out of the Lodge, attract other good men to petition for the Degrees.”

M.: W.: Brother Houston A. Brian, Past Grand Master, Arkansas
Thank You Sisto



Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities

As this year speeds along we find ourselves busy in all aspects of our life. There comes a time when you have to step back and realize that you are the only one who can change this. Our district is and continues to be the best Masonic District when it comes to the Child ID program and the other benevolent things we do like the scholarship program..

The problem is, the same people are doing everything over and over again. We have over 700 members in the district and we can't even get 40 people to turn out to a DD meeting. Not to long ago that number was 90-100. I know everybody is busy and a lot of families have two working parents but again that isn't everybody. There are a lot of things we could do in the district like a good old fashioned barn dance (yes I am old enough to remember them). We could do a lot of things if the members of the district would support us and participate. I understand some of the lodges are having problems but this is nothing new. It's just that the problems seem to always be there anyway. So what can we do about it. How about this, we call our present masters find out when the next DD visit is and sign up to go to the dinner and the DD visit. This would help the lodges that are struggling, to actually make money on the dinner for the DD visit and you'll actually get out, dressed up and see some of the brothers you haven't seen for a while. Call a friend and fellow brother if you don't drive at night for a ride. Another thing while your at it, ask the Master of your lodge how you can help in the district with the Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities. During the school days we do Child ID's for the little children and if you're retired it could be a big help. Our ladies also help with this and we do it together. They seem to be able to make the children calmer or more relatable, and it's something you can do together if you'd like. It doesn't take all that much time and your actually doing something for the community. Who knows we may actually get some new members in our lodges when people see us in the community. From the Board of Directors of Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Fraternally Yours,
Jeffrey Lanfear, President

From the Editor's Desk

Roger B. Steele

LODGE ETIQUETTE

Each profession has its code of ethics governing the actions of its members. Ethics and Rules of conduct are quite different from etiquette however, and may vary from time to Time. Etiquette, the consideration we show for others, remains constant. This STB does not address customs or rules of conduct -- only etiquette. All of the opinions expressed have evolved from the generous actions and consideration shown to this author by many illustrious Masons of our Craft.

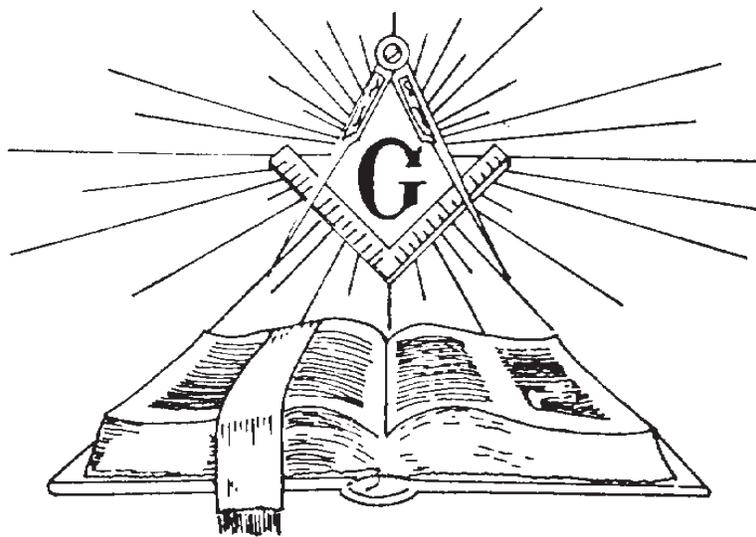
While our relationship with other Masons is clearly explained by the ritual there are unwritten actions that will improve our relationships with others and knowing them will give us self-confidence. These actions are termed etiquette. With minimal effort and thoughtfulness we can treat our Brethren with respect and improve friendships. We might remember that Masonic etiquette is nothing more than plain manners and politeness, emphasized by quickness of sympathy and fineness of observation. Masonic customs have been made a part of each jurisdiction's ritual and regulations but they differ from the unwritten code of etiquette.

The meeting place of a lodge is considered a Masonic home by its members. When a visitor appears at a meeting it is only proper for each member to welcome him as he would a visitor in his own home. Visitors should always be welcomed into each conversational group and never left by themselves. To prevent a visitor from being slighted some Masters wisely [assigns] a member to accompany him throughout the evening. If the visitor is from another jurisdiction he will appreciate knowing in advance what is expected of him during the course of the meeting. For example, if he will be expected to know certain signs and words or if he will be asked to speak. After the meeting visitors should again be welcomed by all members and encouraged to share in refreshments or other activities. If the visitor does not have a car he will appreciate some help with transportation.

It is customary and only common courtesy to rise when addressing the Master of a lodge. It is especially important that a Mason stands when greeting another member or when being introduced to him. There may be exceptions to this rule that age, custom, or ritual may preclude but it is good practice unless otherwise specified.

The first impressions of Freemasonry are received by the candidate in the preparation room. He is usually nervous and ill at ease, often not knowing anyone present. He will respect the lodge if he is shown respect at this time, particularly when he is garbed in the ritualistic clothing. The candidate will be impressed with the seriousness of the occasion by the thoughtfulness of others.

Grand Honors, a form of Masonic applause, is the method of showing respect to certain Grand Lodge officers but the form of recognition may vary from one jurisdiction to another. Visitors from another jurisdiction should be informed about local customs before entering the lodge room. It is quite embarrassing to extend the public grand honors of three times three when the private grand honors or another silent form of the grand honors are being extended by others. Additional applause, after the grand honors, is entirely at the discretion of the presiding officer.





Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

from the staff of the

Fulton Montgomery Newsletter

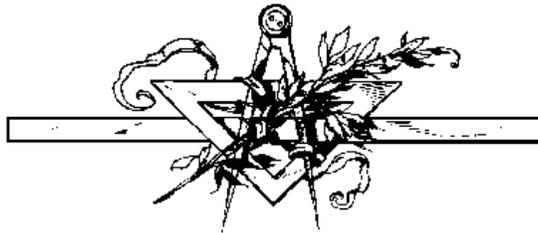
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**Remember,
Being a Member is More
Than Just Paying Dues!**



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