

CLAUD L. AUSTIN LODGE NO. 1450

Donnie Swango, Secretary

February, 2006

DDGM TO VISIT

At the next quarterly Stated Meeting, on February 27th, the DDGM of Masonic District 14-E, R:W: Donald E. Hilburn will make his Official Visit. Brother Hilburn is a Past Master of Trinity Valley No. 1048.

Please make every effort to attend and welcome our DDGM to Claud Austin Lodge.

FESTIVE BOARDS

Since our last newsletter, the Lodge has held two highly successful and enjoyable Festive Boards. Both were held at what has become our home for these occasions, the DAC Country Club. A beautiful setting and outstanding food and service makes meeting there all the better.

The Lodge is indebted to Brother Johnny Adams, a member of this fine club, for being our host at these occasions.

We are also indebted to Brother Zola Blicher for his tireless efforts at making all the arrangements for the Festive Boards. Contrary to popular belief, he does not have a food and wine tasting before setting the menu for each Festive Board.

The guest speaker at the November Festive Board was Brother and Sgt. Richard Shing of the Texas Rangers (not the ball club). He gave us some really good insight into being a Texas Ranger as well as some interesting stories of things that have happened to him along the way.

The guest speaker at the February Festive Board was Brother and Dr. Robert Williams, a forensic dentist. He brought along a slide show of pictures taken after Hurricane Katrina not only in New Orleans but also in Baton Rouge

where they “set up shop” to examine the bodies brought in for identification.

Both speakers were very interesting and, given the time, could have spoken for hours. The Brethren were captivated enough to allow just that.

We should also note that attending the December Festive Board were two officers of the Grand Lodge of Texas – R:W: Donny Broughton, Deputy Grand Master, and R:W: Tommy Guest, Grand Secretary. Might they be considering affiliation into the premier Table Lodge of Texas?

HOLIDAY BRUNCH

The annual Holiday Brunch was held on December 10th at Lakewood Country Club. Always a beautiful setting, with beautiful people gathered together, some 50+ Brethren, their wives/significant others and widows enjoyed the conviviality of the season.

IN MEMORIAM

The Claud Austin family is saddened to note the death of two of its members – Charles E. Seay, Jr. and Dundee S. Dillard.

Charlie Seay, as I have always known him, was born July 3, 1941 and passed away on December 29, 2005. We were classmates for several years at Highland Park Junior and Senior High Schools.

Charlie worked with his Dad, Charles E. Seay in the insurance business and as an investor. He was involved in many, and I mean many, charitable endeavors – most notably The TSRHC (we all know those initials).

He was so proud to have received the 33° - and I remember well his call telling me when he was "tabbed" for the Honor.

Though we didn't see too much of Charlie, his enthusiasm and presence in the community will be sorely missed.

Dundee Dillard was born August 25, 1913, and passed away January 28, 2006. She was, of course, the wife of our late Charter Master R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr. and the mother of our Past Master Robert L. Dillard III.

Dundee, despite raising a family and being a "Masonic Widow", managed to be an accomplished and active member of the community – for example, she played in the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for 41 years.

Her constant smile was contagious. She was loved by all that knew her and will be a face sorely missed at Claud Austin's annual Holiday Brunch.

May their names be inscribed in the Book of Life – never to be forgotten.

NEWEST MEMBER

We welcome Brother Lester Robert (Bob) Smith into Claud Austin Lodge. Admiral Smith comes to Claud Austin as a plural member from John L. DeGrazier No. 1349.

Invited to a Festive Board last year, he apparently liked what he saw and promptly affiliated with a Dining Membership. We are always glad to have Brethren of distinction in our Lodge – and look forward to seeing him at our meetings and convivial occasions for years to come.

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Take note of the remodeled website of the Grand Lodge, It is much cleaner and easier to navigate than any time in recent memory.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monday, February 27 12:00pm
Stated Meeting/DDGM Visit Green Room
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Friday, May 12 6:30pm
Festive Board DAC Country Club
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Monday, May 22 12:00pm
Stated Meeting/Elections Green Room
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

MOZART BEYOND THE GRAVE

When Mozart, a Freemason, passed away, he was buried in a churchyard. A couple of days later, the town drunk was walking through the cemetery and heard some strange noises coming from the area where Mozart was buried.

Terrified, the drunk ran and got a priest to come and listen to it. The priest bent close to the grave and heard some faint and unrecognizable music coming from the grave. Frightened, the priest ran and got the town magistrate.

When the magistrate arrived, he bent his ear to the grave, listened for a moment, and said, "Ah, yes, that's Mozart's Ninth Symphony, being played backwards."

He listened a while longer, and said, "There's the Eighth Symphony, and it's backwards, too. Most puzzling. There's the Seventh.... the Sixth..... the Fifth....."

Suddenly, when the realization of what was happening dawned on the magistrate, he stood up and announced to the crowd gathered in the cemetery, "My fellow citizens, there's nothing to worry about. It's just Mozart decomposing."

INCORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESSES

HELP!!