



THE WORKMAN



Phil Hardiman, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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MARK MASTER AT GRAND LODGE

COMPTCHE OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

As you know by now, Most Worshipful Larry Adamson has agreed to allow us to use the auditorium for a Mark Master Degree conferral on Friday night, October 2nd. Plans are afoot to make this a memorable event. An Implementation Team has been composed, including myself as general chairman, Sid Cerates (DGL) and Jerry Miller (Inspector) as co-chairmen, John Cooper, Jon Humphreys, Dennis Dyer, Fred Kleyn and Hap Evans. John Cooper will be our single point of contact with Grand Lodge for help with the sound system, stagecraft and so forth. John has also prepared an introductory presentation for the Class. Fred Kleyn is busy putting the cast together, with as broad a statewide representation as is practicable. If you are interested in participating, send a message to our Grand Lecturer at fkleyn@cox.net.

The 37th Annual Comptche Outdoor Royal Arch Festival was a huge success. Excellent ritual was performed for a class of 10, with five Chapters sending candidates: Santa Rosa (3); Petaluma (3); Sacramento (2); Sebastopol (1); and Napa (1). The campsite, cook shack, and utility shack (with restrooms and shower) were in excellent condition, and the food was superb. You should put this on your calendar for next year – tentatively for June 26th, which is the Saturday of the degree conferrals. Come earlier in the week and camp at no cost (!). Excellent meals are available at an extremely reasonable price from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast.

Now is the time for each High Priest, and his dais officers, to help make this event an historic success.

You can each do this by visiting Blue Lodges during the summer, collecting petitions for this class, and arranging to ballot upon the petitioners in your local Chapter before the Annual Communication on October 2nd. Your Secretary will then simply apprise us of the names of your petitioners, and we will take it from there. You do not need a dispensation to hold a Special Convocation to ballot on petitions, but you should provide timely, written notice to your membership. See Section 105 of the Constitution, for clarification. So plan ahead and, if need be, begin now to make arrangements to have a Special Convocation for balloting upon petitioners to the Grand Lodge Class.

Much credit is due the Association responsible for this annual event: Richard Fonseca, President; Guy Chalmers, Secretary; Martin McKeay, Treasurer; George Whitten; and Red Hunt. There are probably others I'm unintentionally overlooking, but many thanks are due to the Tunzi Family (Larry, Lorraine, and Steve) for the use of the Ranch and their assistance in cooking as well as maintenance of the Festival site.

There are many Blue Lodges in the Northern California area, so begin now to attend their Stated Meetings and tell them about this marvelous Capitular opportunity next year! Meanwhile, congratulations are in order for our newest companions: Raymond Thornell(30), Scott Nease(45), Tony Patton(45), William Purdy(22), Eric Sadler(22), John Hackman(22), Josh Clymer(3), Erik Patton(3), Val Stuart(117), and Don Trouette(45).

Your focus on conferring the Mark Master Degree this year will have a tremendous effect, in the aggregate – not only to build our membership base and improve our revenue stream, but also to satisfy our obligatory requirement to provide Masonic light and knowledge to our less informed brethren. The next three months are crucial – I urge you to set an example for your companions by getting the word out to our Blue Lodges. Send this Newsletter to your membership and, by doing so, encourage them to do the same! Thanks for your contributions.

Here's what a Past Grand Lecturer, Richard Horn, has to say about Comptche. He has attended since the mid-1990s!

Who may attend: Royal Arch Masons, candidates and family, including wives and children.

Where is it: Tunzi Ranch, between Mendocino and Comptche, on the northcoast. Tent camp or RV in the Meadow. Water and toilets are available, though there is no black water dump. Meals are available by reservation, Friday night through Sunday morning. The meals are prepared and served by volunteers and represent food of a

permanent camp in the deep redwood forest. For those who want to stay in a motel and drive to the Ranch, there are six that are available on the coast.

Why attend? Masonry promotes family and brotherly love. Here is a chance to leave the stuffiness of the Lodge and practice what we preach in the great outdoors, sit around the camp fire, listen to and tell of life experiences. After you have been here you may find a job you would like to help with. Many hands make light work!

Travel: Yes, it is a tough drive. It takes me (Dick Horn) 3 or 4 days to drive an RV from Whittier to the Tunzi Ranch, about 750 miles. Try it – you will like it!

PERSONAL NOTES

Nancy and I have visited another 16 Chapters since the previous Newsletter. I have also delivered the Mark Master Lecture, with George Whitten of Petaluma(22), at the Comptche Festival; and served as RWM in the Past Master Degree at Comptche as well. We owe many Thanks to our grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and Junior Past Grand High Priest for their hospitality these last two months, and for their companionship as we traveled around the southern part of our very large State.

The five Chapters that planned and put on a York Rite Reception on June 19th at Riverside were especially terrific. The Flag prepared and presented by Companion Gordon Westervelt was deeply moving and much appreciated. See the picture below. Gordon, who did the wood-work to enclose the flag, and arranged to acquire a flag flown over the nation's capitol on the day of our respective installations, is on the left. Virgil Mink, Master of Ceremonies, is on the right. You know the three guys in the middle! We all are much indebted to Riverside, San Bernardino, Pomona, Redlands, and High Desert Chapters, as well as the associated Councils and Commanderies, for a memorable and enjoyable event!



THE PALACE

I read this poem by Brother Rudyard Kipling for the first time, as Worshipful Master in 1985, and have been entranced by it ever since. It speaks on many levels, all worthy of your consideration and contemplation, as you "build the Temple of *your* life." Brother Kipling also received the Mark Master Degree in a Lahore Mark Master Lodge.

When I was a King and a Mason,
a Master proven and skilled,
I cleared me ground for a Palace,
such as a King should build.
I decreed and dug down to my levels;
and presently, under the silt,
I came on the wreck of a Palace,
such as a King had built.

There was no worth in the fashion;
there was no wit in the plan;
Hither and thither, aimless,
the ruined footings ran.
Masonry, brute, mishandled;
but carven on every stone,
"After me cometh a Builder;
tell him I, too, have known."

Swift to my use in my trenches,
where my well-planned ground-works grew,
I tumbled his quoins and his ashlars,
and cut and reset them anew.
Lime I milled of his marbles;
burned it, slacked it, and spread;
Taking and leaving at pleasure
the gifts of the humble dead.

Yet I despised not nor gloried;
yet, as we wrenched them apart,
I read in the razed foundation
the heart of that Builder's heart.
As he had risen and pleaded,
so did I understand
The form of the dream he had followed
in the face of the thing he had planned.

When I was a King and a Mason,
in the open noon of my pride,
They sent me a Word from the Darkness;
they whispered and called me aside.
They said, "The end is forbidden."
They said, "Thy use is fulfilled.
Thy Palace shall stand as that other's,
the spoil of a King who shall build."

I called my men from my trenches,
 my quarries, my wharves, and my sheers;
 All I had wrought I abandoned
 to the faith of the faithless years.
 Only I cut on the timber;
 only I carved on the stone:
 "After me cometh a Builder;
 tell him I, too, have known."

ENCOMPASSER

For access to the latest edition, June 2009, go to the basic website: <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar.

PETITIONS

New petitions and brochures about the Chapter are available on the website at:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/royalarch.htm>

Simply scroll down to the lower half of the page.

THE CALIFORNIA YORK RITE CRUISE

This 4 Day Baja Mexico fund-raiser cruise benefits the Royal Arch Philanthropies, the Cryptic Council CMMRF, and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Fifty dollars will be donated to them for each cabin that sails! Friends and family are also invited. The cruise sails December 7 – 11, 2009, and includes a one hour open bar, Hospitality Suite access, and a Mark Master Degree conferral. A \$100 deposit reserves you a slot, with cabins ranging in price from \$250 to \$740, per person double occupancy. Final payment is due October 7th. For more info, call Mark at (415)-922-2916, or register online at www.songmastertravel.com.

GOLDEN GATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The next meeting of the Research Chapter will be August 22, 2009, at 10:00 am in Sacramento, at 12th and J Streets. The High Priest, Edgar Fentum, will present a paper on *Symbolism in the Royal Arch Degree*. If enough practiced ritualists are in attendance, we will open in Full Form, meet and enjoy the paper, and close to a Festive Board. **Please email Edgar at fentumew@gmail.com if you will be able to attend, and which office you would like to fill in the opening and closing.**

Also, please visit the excellent website at:
<http://www.goldenstatechapter.org/>

For information about membership, contact
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GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

Although the final filing date has passed for this year, keep in mind for next year the eligibility of Masonic youth. Final filing may be as early as mid-January, 2010. Remember, also, that all donations to the Scholarship Program are Tax Deductible, so keep this in mind as you plan your annual giving and when you pay your dues

GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITINERARY

Newhall	Parade	4-Jul	Van Nuys(135)
San Luis Obispo	Picnic	5-Jul	San Luis Obispo(62)
Castro Valley	Present Scholarship Check	21-Jul	Unity Assembly Rainbow(65)
Alameda	Reception - 3	1-Aug	Oakland(36)
So San Fran	Picnic/Reception	2-Aug	California(1)
Arizona	Grand Sessions	15-Aug	Phoenix, AZ
Downey	Royal Arch Degree	19-Aug	Downey(157)
San Jose	Reception	26-Aug	Howard(14)
San Diego	Reception	27-Aug	San Diego(61)
Oakland	Visit, Brigadoon	13-Sep	Oakland(36)
Salinas	Reception - 3	20-Sep	Salinas(59)
Sta Monica Bay	Reception - 3	26-Sep	Sta Monica Bay(97)
Auburn	Reception	28-Sep	Delta(27)
San Francisco	Grand Lodge	2-Oct	
Phoenix	SW Regional	30-Oct	Phoenix, AZ
Pasadena	S/R Reception	6-Nov	

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