



# THE WORKMAN



Phil Hardiman, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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## THE YORK RITE CRUISE

The cruise from December 7<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup> was a resounding success. Fifty York Rite Masons, including their family and friends, enjoyed the balmy weather of southern California and northern Baja, the great cuisine at the Carnival Elation's three restaurants, and the many opportunities for camaraderie and companionship. Three new Mark Master Masons were made on sight, after the new Grand High Priest Chapter U.D. was opened in ample form on the 'high seas.' Right Illustrious Bob Whitfield, currently High Priest of Doric Chapter #66, was then given the gavel to serve as the RWM for the degree conferral. Bob did a superb job, as did the other ritualists, pulled together from around the State: myself as Sr. Warden, MIPGM Fred 'Tiny' Potter as Jr. Warden, Ex. Comp. Richard Wilson as Sr. Deacon, Mike Sherman as Jr. Deacon, MEPGHP Sean Foran as Master Overseer, Steve Campbell as Sr. Overseer, Grand Captain of the Host Bob Wright as Jr. Overseer, and Grand Principal Sojourner Gary Spriggs as Marshall. Our tour director, Ill. Comp. Mark Harris, gave the Preview Lecture. Have a look at the group photo of most of the 'cruisers' below. Congratulations to our three candidates, two of whom are shown wearing grey: Michael Roberts, Doric #66, in front, and Don Black, Sacramento #3, behind. Joe Roseberry, Kern Valley #75, did not make the 'shoot.' The second photo shows the guys with their ladies. Notice our own MEPGGHP Murray Cooke in the bottom right corner. Lest you think this cruise was unique from a

ritual standpoint, take note that ME Murray made Roy Rogers a Royal Arch Mason at sight many years ago, so there was sufficient precedent for our conferral procedure.



I had occasion, while sitting in the San Diego airport on the way home, to read a book acquired at the Southern California Research Lodge Booth at Grand Lodge: UNDERSTANDING THE ROYAL ARCH, by Richard Sandbach. The following from Chapter 11 on page 49 will help you, perhaps, at some point in the future, explain to prospective candidates for the Royal Arch why it is such an important complement to the Craft Degrees:

## NEW YEAR MESSAGE

“This pedestal then epitomizes the difference between the Craft and the Royal Arch, at once united in the Master Mason’s Degree yet separated by that which marks the difference between Brother and Companion and by our insistence that every part of our earthly pilgrimage is conditioned and governed by the eternity in which it is framed. And so it is that as in life you do not choose your brother but do select your friend, so in ‘pure ancient Masonry’, though you come into a fraternity where you may not know all the brethren of the Lodge you enter and will certainly have little knowledge of what to expect, you are admitted into a Chapter among Companions many of whom you will already know, and with a basic knowledge of Freemasonry.” Sandbach’s personal interpretation is that the Craft and the Royal Arch compare in the same way as does the Temporal to the Eternal.

So, I got a lot out of the cruise – Companionship, but also time away to read and contemplate. And finally, we raised \$700 for the Grand Chapter Scholarship program. Look for news in the future about a cruise next year.

### CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!

This is a message for all mankind, whatever your faith may be. For Jesus taught a message of *tolerance* that is embedded in the ‘marrow and bone’ of our great country and of our Craft: Tolerance for different religious ideas, different political persuasions, and different races, and yes even different life-style orientations. He taught the sinner and saint alike, and mingled frequently with the ‘common man.’ Remember his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4); and when he said “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone” (John 8); and “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5); and “Judge not, that ye be not judged” (Matthew 7).

Now Royal Arch Masonry is not explicitly Christian, but we can claim His teachings as relevant to our degrees and convocations. Look at how, for example, we use Jesus’ Parable of the laborers in the vineyard at Matthew 20 in the Mark Master Degree. I’ve always been intrigued by the idea, whether it’s historical or not, that Jesus taught using ancient wisdom from Solomon’s era, when Fellowcraft labored in the quarries and ‘marked’ their work.

So, Have yourself a Merry Christmas, and may His teachings re-invigorate you in your commitment to Chapter activities in the coming year. “Then, and only then, can you feel that friendship, that union, that zeal and that purity of heart which should characterize each one of us who would appropriate to himself the proud title of a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.”

We are all Builders, in some fashion or another – that is the nature of being a Freemason, in any of its iterations. This last year, most of the local Chapters have been successful in recruiting candidates for the Mark Master conferrals, and have, in total, exalted considerably more members in 2009 than in each of the previous three years. To sustain this membership building program, the incoming High Priests should continue the effort to market the York Rite to our Blue Lodge brethren. If we don’t ‘put ourselves out there,’ then the other organizations, worthy as they are and interesting as their work is, are going to grab the brethren.

So keep up the good work – continue to visit the Blue Lodges in your area. Ask the new Master if you can address the Brethren and hand out petitions. Use the ideas I’ve promulgated this year to explain why the York Rite is the natural, logical extension of the Craft Degrees. Offer the Mark Master Degree at no cost, and tell them when and where it will be conferred. If you will do so prior to your annual or semi-annual Festivals, you will find that most of these candidates will actually decide to go forward with all Chapter Degrees. By organizing your Chapter members to visit Blue Lodges individually or with you, and by supplying them with an abundance of petitions, you will find candidates coming out of the wood-work. There is a genuine interest in the *information* we have to offer in our Degrees – legendary, historical, and spiritual in nature.

Complement these organizing and marketing activities with interesting programs and speakers at your Stated and Special Convocations, and your membership will value what your Chapter has to offer. Speak early in the year about the importance of enjoying the Royal Arch experience and emphasize how much focus there is on “Peace, Love and Unity;” how much the companions should and do enjoy one another’s company in building a solid future for the new Royal Arch masons who will inherit your Chapter. When focusing on this over-arching goal, the differences alluded to above become insignificant and companions can genuinely enjoy their short time together in convocations.

### PERSONAL NOTES

I had the distinct pleasure to attend the NorCal DeMolay Annual Convention in Sacramento on November 27<sup>th</sup>. If you haven’t made an effort to get the teenage boys in your extended family involved in this great organization, then you are missing a bet! This is a well structured and well run organization, where the boys learn spiritual values while having an enormous amount of fun. The enthusiasm is contagious. Our Grand Master, MW Ken

Nagel, spoke about how his Chapter many years ago concentrated on the 18, 19 and 20 year olds, to the exclusion of the younger boys, and was very successful until these older boys aged out and the Chapter closed. This is happening in all our organizations, perhaps more subtly but nonetheless effectively. Hence, how important it is that we take in new members, younger members, and then follow through by mentoring them about our Craft and our Orders. The State Master Councilor from Nebraska told how he recently joined the Scottish Rite and was told by a nearby Shriner that "the Shrine is next." This tells me that we in the York Rite need to be out there in the Blue Lodges, raising our Banner, so to speak, and telling newly raised Master Masons how important it is to be a 'brother,' but how much more important it is to become a 'Companion.'

The State Master Councilor from Oklahoma told the large audience "Get active in every fiber of your being." Good advice for all of us.

### **IF**

Here is another poem by Brother Rudyard Kipling, who was both a Mark Master Mason and a Royal Ark Mariner Mason. Although this poem is not explicitly Masonic, it does implicitly deal with themes embedded in our symbols – especially the Mallet of the Mark Master, which teaches that "as the mallet is to the workman, so enlightened reason is to the passions: it curbs ambition, it depresses envy, it moderates anger, and encourages good dispositions, whence arises among good Masons that comely order, which nothing earthly gives or can destroy: the souls calm sunshine and heartfelt joy."

"If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;  
If you can dream — and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think — and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with triumph and disaster  
And treat those two imposters just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;  
If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";  
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings — nor lose the common touch;  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run —  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And — which is more — you'll be a Man my son!"

### **THE CLOTHES LINE**

We now have access to a new line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies. I have seen the red and blue, and have purchased a new red one. I believe purple will also be available. The price is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$86.25 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Contact Patsy Baker Luy at her office: 1(510) 527-5728, or cell: 1(510) 502-3224.

### **GOLDEN GATE RESEARCH CHAPTER**

Until we are able to plan another convocation, 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 will be in March 14, 2010. The new application is posted now on our website. 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.

### **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.

## GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITINERARY

|                         |                |                      |                  |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| San Diego               | Cruise         | Dec 7 thru<br>Dec 11 | Pacific<br>Ocean |
| San Luis<br>Obispo      | Installation   | 9-Jan                | San Luis (62)    |
| San<br>Francisco        | Installation   | 30-Jan               | California(1)    |
| Officers'<br>Conference |                | 5-Feb to<br>7-Feb    | Bakersfield      |
| Sonora                  | Official Visit | 11-Feb               | Sonora(2)        |

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