

MONTANA FREEMASON

JUNE/JULY 2024

VOL. 100 NO. 3



**COME SEE
WHAT WE SEE!**

*Montana Masonic
Museum*

www.instagram.com/mtmasonicfoundation

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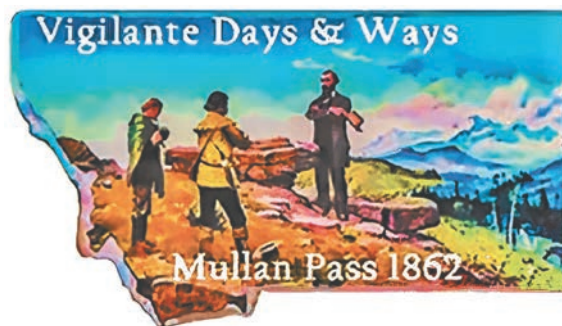
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Reid Gardiner
Editor



Articles & Correspondence

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The Editorial Staff welcomes contributions in the form of informative articles, reports, news, and other timely information that broadly relate to general Masonry.

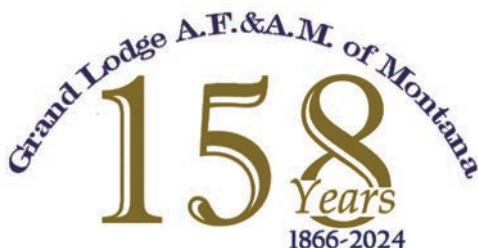
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Grand Master David Schantz & Members of Ashlar No. 29 Visit to Virginia



At Gettysburg at the Masonic Memorial that was dedicated to the cemetery along with the surrounding land to provide more burial space for fallen military personnel. All in the picture are Ashlar Lodge members. From the Left: Jim Salsbury PM Lodge Instructor, Gerald Giebink WM, MWGM David PM, Adam Johnson PM, Brice Liggett Treasurer, and Jack Salsbury PM.



Members of Ashlar No. 29 at Gettysburg. Good Samaritan Lodge No. 336.



Ashlar Lodge No. 29 Special Meeting at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia on 14th Day of May, 2024.

A MASTER'S PRAYER

Jack R. Levitt, PGM, & PM No 6 & No. 18

I have aspiration for my Lodge this year. That it be successful in membership, in reputation and in having its members as leaders in the community. That it be recognized as a place of trust and tranquility in a world of strife, where we meet as Brothers to learn to know one another, where we are lenient with each other's feelings and ready to relieve each other's wants. That it have a lasting influence for good.

I also have aspirations for the members of our Lodge. That they recognize Masonry is a way of life and its values are in accordance with the way they live its lessons. That they come to realize that being a good Mason is more than being good at ritual, or attending Lodge, and that the marks of a good Mason are not glib phrases, nor shining jewelry, but an insatiable curiosity, a love of learning and a desire to know the truth. That they learn that Masonry teaches more than subduing the passions, that it impels them to improve their minds and their outlook to allow the spiritual in to prevail over the material, the moral over the sensual and the ethical over the dishonest.

That they come to appreciate that to learn and acquire knowledge is a necessity for every noble soul, and that to share that knowledge with others is also; and that, in fact, this is precisely what they came here to do. That they, therefore, equate the immortality of the soul with the necessity of study, reflect and discriminate so that they may use the spark of divinity that is in each of them, and thus bear the flame of knowledge and enlightenment thought to the betterment of mankind.

Past Masters Night Plus 50 and 60 Year Awards



Members of Grand Lodge, Hiram No.52 and Ekalaka No. 120 celebrated Past Master's Night with the presentation of 50 years and 60 years of service awards to Brother Jim Ball and WB Brian Schoof. Three Past Grand Masters and the current Grand Master honor Grand Lodge 50 years of service award recipient Brother Jim Ball and Hiram Lodge #52's 60 years of service award recipient WB Brian Schoof at Past Master's Night celebration. Photo Bro. Al Kajin.

Havre No. 55 EA Degree



L-R: Chris Partin - SW, Mike Rappold - SD, Samuel Rodriguez - JW, Matthew Schnittgen - WM, William Hoekema - EA, Brandon Lickfold - JD, John South - SS, Cameron Nelson - JS, David Sageser Secretary.

Bill Funk 50-Year Member



William "Bill" Funk of Unity Lodge 71 was properly presented with his certification with a 50 year pin via a special ceremony conducted by WM Fred Stiers and Lodge members during our April stated meeting.

Brother Funk and Brother Young, fifty years ago, you stood, before the altar of Freemasonry, where you obligated yourself to be true and faithful to the Brothers of Craft; to observe with diligence your duties to God, your Country, your neighbor and yourself. For fifty years, you labored to spread Masonic Light and Knowledge, and have reached this Maturity that is especially recognized by the Grand Lodge of Montana.

Alan Young 50-Year Member



Brother Alan Young received his Masonic Degrees in Harmony Lodge No. 49: Initiated June 6, 1971; Passed June 21, 1972, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on December 11, 1973. He affiliated with Deer No. 14 on December 6, 2016.
Center: Brother Alan Young, Right is Lewis Smith, PGM.



Big Sky Masonic-Con 2024

(No Ties – No Titles...)

Hosted by Euclid Lodge No. 58, 821 Central Ave., Great Falls, MT 59401



This picture represents a portion of the brothers who participated in the Big Sky Masonic-Con 2024 in Great Falls, MT on April 27 th , 2024. A good time was had by all Brothers present. Below is the itinerary for said event noting the topics of discussion / presentations available. We are continually growing, and are already planning for Big Sky Masonic-Con 2025 (April 25 th , 26 th , 2025) If you are interested in making a presentation yourself, please contact us with your idea.

Itinerary

Friday, April 26 th , 2024

Presentation “Navigation by the Corps of Discovery” - Lee Ebeling

Saturday, April 27 th , 2024

8:00 a.m.: MMCI Breakfast (Open to All)

8:45 a.m.: Bro. Harry Boughton: “Friendship”

9:00 a.m.: Bro. Josh Ringer: “AI and Freemasonry”

10:00 a.m.: Bro. Anthony Kelson: “The Secret of The Lost Word”

11:00 a.m.: Bro. Arlan Cage: “Meaningful Masonic Ritual”

12:30 p.m.: Bro. Sam Zeiser: Craft Brews (Presentation / Discussion)

1:00 p.m.: Short Talks...

1. Bro. Robert Kamper: “Importance of Wills”

2. Bro. Scott Paske: “Insurance”

3. Bro. Marty Eberly: “Masonic Wills”

2:00 p.m.: Bro. Wade Riden: “Guarding the West Gate”

3:00 p.m.: Panel Discussion: “Electioneering...”

Panel: Bro. Brad Huffman
Bro. Terrence M. Nau
Bro. Bruce Lahti
Bro. Mike Walker
Bro. Brian DeRosa
Bro. Guy Maberry
Bro. Arlan Cage

4:00 p.m.: Dan Gardiner: “Prince Hall Freemasonry in Montana”

6:30 p.m.: Bro. Ben Williams: “Founding Fathers and Freemasonry” (Open to All)

Again, Save the Date! (April 25 th / 26 th , 2025) Also, please contact me if you are interested in making a presentation, participating in a panel discussion, etc. Send all inquires to Roger Cathel, Big Sky Masonic-Con to the following: recathel-owp@msn.com.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Plentywood High School



Brothers Tom Hinds and Lance Averett from Lower Yellowstone Lodge 90 presented an \$800 check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant Program to Principal Rob Nyby, Art Director Victoria Gomez, and Assistant Director Ariel Phillips of Plentywood High School. The grant funds will be utilized to purchase supplies and construct the set for the theatre club's upcoming summer play.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Culbertson High School



Brothers Tom Hinds and Lance Averett of Lower Yellowstone Lodge 90 presented a \$2,000 check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant Program to Culbertson High School's Principal Mike Olson and Choir Director Russell Pfeifer. The grant funds will be utilized to acquire percussion instruments.

Corinthian Lodge 72 Raises Two New Master Masons



With assistance from Doric Lodge 53, Billings Lodge 113 and Ashlar 29 we were able to raise two Master Masons on 5/ 6 / 2024 Pictured with WM Lance Smith (center) are Jeffery Wayne Anderson (on left) and Jeffery John Roush (on Right)

Corinthian Lodge 72 Receives Traveling 8 Ball



Lastly Billings Lodge 113 delivered the traveling 8 ball to Corinthian from L to R Mike Brown ,Ron Boyd ,Ron Swenson ,Lance Smith WM 72 , Steve Hansor WM 113 and Joe Roy

Malta No. 57 Fellowcraft Degree



Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Havre School Board



At the Havre School Board meeting, David E. Sageser, Junior Grand Steward, presented the check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation. Featured in the photo from left to right are Megan Roth, John South of Havre 55, Chris Partin of Havre 55, David Sageser, and Austin Ouellette.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Stanford Public School



The photo features David Sageser and Kristi Mauws, the latter representing Stanford School in place of Nancy Metcalfe. David E. Sageser, District Officer, presented the check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

HANDS OF THE WORKMAN

Byron F. Gaither

Grand Master 1945-1946

Grand Secretary 1954-1964

MWGM Byron Fawcett Gaither was born November 1, 1890, in Martin County, Indiana. He attended schools in Indiana and Missouri and graduated from DePauw University in 1913. After graduating from university, he worked at banks in Indiana and Missouri for four years. He served in the U.S. Army during the First World War.

On returning to civilian life, he entered the field of education and taught in schools in Cisco, Texas, and Rawlins, Wyoming. In 1925, he moved to Huntley Project, Montana, and served as Principal of Huntley Project High School. In 1927, he was elected Superintendent of the Huntley Project School System, a position he held for twenty-four years. His ability as an educator, his leadership, and the respect with which he was held in the community and by his students contributed immensely to developing that school system into an excellent educational facility. He was a brilliant public speaker with a marvelous command of the English language. For many years, he was the teacher of adult Bible classes in the Worden Methodist Church. In his chosen profession, he was a leader for many years and served as President of the Eastern Division of the Montana Education Association in 1934. The influence of his Christian character was reflected in the lives of hundreds of young men and women who passed through the schools under his supervision. Because of his oratorical ability, he was in demand as a speaker at Masonic gatherings throughout Montana for many years.

Brother Gaither was always seeking knowledge; he received his Entered Apprentice degree in Temple Lodge No. 47, Greencastle, Indiana, on September 20, 1912; was Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on October 19, 1912, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason November 21, 1912. He was a Past Master of Montrose Lodge No. 408 in Missouri and affiliated with Huntley Project Lodge No. 144 in May of 1926 to become a charter member and served as the first Master of the Lodge. He also served as Worship Master of his Lodge in 1926 and 1927 and again in 1929. From 1930 to 1944, he served as his Lodge Secretary. He was proud of his 50-year Masonic membership award presented on November 20, 1962.

In 1945, Brother Gaither was elected and installed as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Montana. Grand Master Gaither conducted four Special Communications to constitute Jordan Lodge 148, Belfry Lodge No. 138, and Stillwater Lodge No. 62; and



also for the funeral of P.G.M. Francis D. Jones. He presided over the 82nd Annual Communication held in Butte, August 20-21, 1946.

In 1946, there were 135 active chartered Lodges with 20,647 members. Currently, in 2024, there are 3,208 members and 77 chartered lodges.

He later served as Assistant Grand Secretary from 1951-1954 and Grand Secretary from 1954 to 1964.

He was Initiated into Jephtha Chapter No. 237, O.E.S., in Montrose, MO., on November 19, 1915, and affiliated with Jephthah Chapter No. 116 in Worden on October 21, 1933, where he served as Worthy Patron of that Chapter in 1935-1936. He was also a member of the York Rite Bodies, Scottish Rite, and a member of Shrine Karem Temple in Rawlins, Wyoming.

He retired to his home in Ballantine, Montana. On May 19, 1972, Brother Byron F. Gaither, Past Grand Master and Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.M. of Montana, was called by the Grand Architect of the Universe "To that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." Funeral Services were conducted at the Ballantine Congregational Church on May 22, 1972, with Masonic graveside services by Huntley Project Lodge No. 144 at Pleasantview Cemetery, Ballantine, Montana.



The Cost of Masonic Morality

Scott Sterland, Helena No. 3

Morality – a very boring subject, right? Not if you're a Mason. As Masons, we take obligations of secrecy and obligations to help our fellow Masons and the rest of society. We also take obligations wherein we promise *not to do very specific things*.

Being a Freemason is an all-or-nothing proposition. You don't get the liberty to choose to follow certain parts of your obligation and ignore others.

If you look at the definitions of morality, ethics, character, virtues, and principles, you will find that they share many similarities. These common attributes are no mistake. These topics have been discussed for millennia the world over.

Morality Discussions in Human History

The ancient Egyptians believed you would be judged after death and your good and bad deeds would be measured to determine if you would be allowed to enter the afterlife. The ancient philosophers of Greece – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and others – made a study of the issue of ethics (ethos) and wrote prolifically about it. Ancient Emperors, such as Julius Augustus Caesar wrote about it frequently. Medieval kings and clergy also wrote about it.

But the age of enlightenment brought about further study of ethics, which was generally free of religious dogma, but still tied to religious ideals. The birth of our nation was in large part due to this age in history. Additionally, the structure of United States Government is often thought to mirror that of Freemasonic principles and structure. This is well outlined in the Albany Plan of Union written by Benjamin Franklin in 1754 (Mendis, n.d.).

But these virtues are hardly unique; they first appeared in writing almost 2,000 years ago in what historians call the Axial Age (800 BCE to 200 BCE). During this time, simultaneously and independently, the spiritual foundations of humanity were laid by teachers such as Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha) in India, Confucius in China, and Socrates in Greece.

In fact, the age-old teaching we recognize as "The Golden Rule" (treating others as you would have them treat yourself) has been taught in many different forms over the years. It appears in Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Greek Philosophy, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Native American spiritual teaching, Persian Proverbs, Roman teachings, Shintoism, Sikhism, Taoism, and Zoroastrianism.

We even find evidence the golden rule in teachings of Humanism, Utilitarianism principles, Agnosticism, and Wicca. So, the issue is not solely within the purview of religious institutions (Golden Rule Project, 2023). They all taught the same basic truth that we can equate to the moral teachings in Freemasonry:

- walk the middle path (on the level),
- live a moral life (by the plumb), and
- do unto others as you would have them do unto you (on the square).

The Four Noble Virtues

So, what does all of this have to do with Freemasonry? Well, Freemasonry has what we call the Four Noble *Virtues* of Masonry. Those are Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance, and Justice. A *virtue* is defined as a behavior showing high moral standards.



Dr. Taylor Marshall (2024)

I wish to discuss each of these but will not discuss them in that order. The reason for which should become apparent.



First, let's discuss *Prudence*. Another way of thinking of this virtue is cautiousness. Being cautious or careful in how we approach a situation, considering how it will impact others and how it will impact us are all issues of caution. Do we need to involve ourselves in a particular action? Are we doing it for the right reasons? Is it for the furthering of Freemasonry, or to assist a brother to become better, or bring them out of distress? Or are we trying to further an agenda of our own? Beginning a course of action always requires that we consider **the why** of what we are doing.

I like the image of Prudence presented here. Have you ever heard one person ask another person, “I don’t know how you can look yourself in the mirror?” Well, this cuts to the bone of temperance.

The issues at play here are discernment versus willpower. Discerning (or knowing) what is right is the easy part. Stepping up and doing it is the hard part. This is what separates a moral man from a man who may not make the moral choice. You’ll notice that I did not say that someone who does not do the right thing is automatically immoral. It takes a pattern to be an immoral man, not one decision.

Next, we will discuss *Temperance*. The virtue of Temperance is the quality of moderation or self-restraint. In circumscribing our actions, we need to be careful not to offend our brothers and attempt to reach consensus whenever possible. This is particularly important when we are engaged in an issue for which we have great passion. Passion, or the emotion that we bring to an issue, can lead us to be careless or imprudent in our action.



How about *Justice*? Many people in today’s society confuse justice with revenge. These are two very different motivations. Justice is often described as being blind.

It is characterized this way because true justice is not political, emotional, or vengeful. Justice is supposed to be blind to any issue that may sway an equal and impartial approach to the truth. In doing so, Justice will be fair and impartial – regardless of what distractions may attempt to sway it.



The frustration we as humans tend to have with this issue is that we are usually emotionally attached to a circumstance in which we believe we have been wronged. The result of this is we sometimes disagree with the outcomes.

Revenge, on the other hand, is emotional, can be irrational, and is usually a leap to judgment. This can be very dangerous – not only for society as a whole, but for our fraternity.

It’s very easy to get these two issues confused with one another. So easy, in fact, that there’s an entire movie industry built around the issue. Just think about some of the movies that have been made revolving around the issues of justice and revenge: The John Wick series; the entire Star Wars franchise; the entire Hunger Games franchise; The Seven Samurai (1954) which spawned the movie The Magnificent Seven (1960) and was remade yet

again in 2016 (talk about a lasting theme). Speaking of Seven – how about the movie Se7en (1995) – (yes, this is how the movie is spelled). Even the movie 9 to 5 starring Dolly Parton was based on justice (or revenge). The list is almost endless...

We, as Freemasons, need to ensure that we don’t get swept up in battles that hinge on revenge, but instead focus on justice – what is right.

Finally, we consider Fortitude. I want to discuss this virtue last for a reason. Fortitude is defined as courage in the face of pain or adversity (Merriam-Webster, 2024).

This is where the cost of masonic morality lies. Courage in the face of scorn, adversity, or ridicule is what we all aspire to do. However, this is the hardest of all the masonic virtues to attain.

Brother Sir Winston Churchill said it best “There is only one duty – try to be right and do not fear to say, or do, what is right.” Of course, if you’ve studied history, you know that Churchill also made a lot of enemies along the way – not only in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. He is famous for saying, “You have enemies? Good. That means you’ve stood up for something, sometime in your life.”



The Cost

We all know what the right thing to do is in most circumstances. So why do we have difficulty doing it? There can be several reasons: Our passion for the issue is not high enough for the cost; We are fearful of public ridicule (yes, ridicule for doing the right thing); We are fearful of how we might be attacked if we speak out. There are dozens of reasons we don’t do what we know we should do.

Leading a moral and ethical life will make you unpopular with many people who do not lead their lives in that way. They will attack you and attempt to discredit you. They will smear your good name and question your honor. However, if we stick to the virtues of Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance, and Justice, you will be living an upright and level masonic life. This will be an example to everyone.

Living in the state of masonic morality will cost you. It can cost you friendships; it can cost you business associates, possibly even family. It can cost you money –skirting legality can literally be cheaper. The simplest things can fall into this territory – e.g. not feeding the parking meter when you know you should, knowing you were accidentally charged less for something you purchased and not advising the cashier, etc. These can be the smallest of issues, but the biggest breach of character as a Freemason.

There are many negatives to leading a moral life. My questions to you, my brothers, are this: Would you want to be associated with those whom you might lose in the course of doing the right thing? And do you take your Masonic obligations seriously enough to do the right thing regardless of the outcome?

Worshipful Brother Dr. Jyothindra Kumar (Grand Lodge of India) said it very well.

"The greatest insight that today's mason ought to have is the sense to discriminate between right and wrong, and to distinguish between the ideal and the practical; to act on that, what his conscience tells him is the best choice, and restoring Ordo ab Chao – order out of the moral and mental chaos amidst the crushing pressures and stresses of daily modern life. Such, my brother, is the nature of the human concept of morality. Do right if you can; if questionable, do not do it; and above all, do no harm. No longer talk about the kind of man that a good man ought to be – but be such!!" (2008).

Remember: **Morality matters most when it hurts!**

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We do
everything
we can to
be present.
And still
be part of
history.



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™

GRAND LODGE OF AF&AM OF MONTANA

Grand Master David Schantz Visits Columbia Falls No. 89



Flathead High School Scholarship Presentation



On May 22nd Trinity Lodge No 152 presented a scholarship to Miss Rae Lynn Wehr. She will apply the scholarship to her next adventure as she attends the University of Montana to study for a degree in psychology. Pictured left to right. WM Steve Geddes Trinity No 152, Rae Lynn Wehr, WB John Heston Trinity No 152.

Kalispell Lodge No. 42 Scholarship Presentation



On May 8th Kalispell #42 had the honor of attending the Glacier High School scholarship night and presenting a \$500.00 scholarship to Miss Kate Ford. She plans to attend Flathead community college and pursue a career in Nursing. Pictured L to R , WB Steve Geddes #42, Kate Ford , WB John Heston #42.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Belfray Public Schools



Belfry Public Schools have been awarded a grant by the Montana Masonic Foundation for their music programs. The funds will be utilized to acquire ukuleles, primer books, and diatonic handbells. The program aims to impart not just musical skills to the students but also discipline, patience, and confidence. Brice Ligget, the Grand Sword Bearer, presented the grant on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation. Pictured: Brice Ligget and Christine Rondrique.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Moore Public School



In the photograph, from left to right, are Mr. Marciniak, Isaac Hanson, Aiden Hanson, Sam Fallo, Evan Peters, Olin Oestreich, Abbygail Wichman, and David Sageser. David E. Sageser presented the check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Fairview School



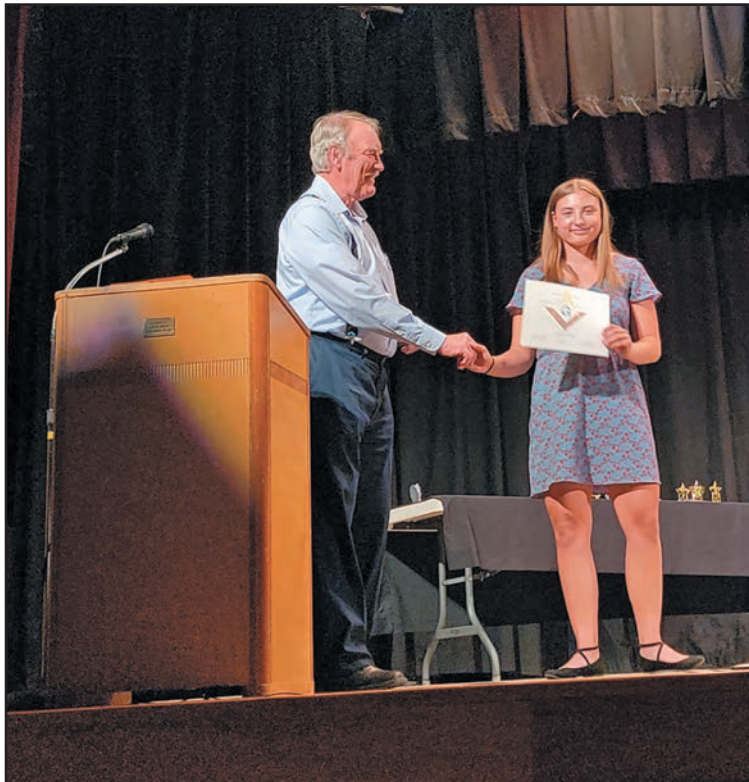
Past Master Lance Averett, representing the Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant Program, presented Rylie Olson of Fairview School with a check for \$1,000. The grant is designated for the purchase of books for kindergarten through second-grade students to support a summer reading program.

Treasure Lodge No. 95 Supporting Reading through Bikes for Books



Treasure Lodge #95 continues to sponsor the "Bikes for Books" program in supporting the Big Sandy Elementary School's reading program. Grades three, four and five participate each year, January - May, and one student is drawn from each grade. The students earn a ticket per book read and they are tested on the content of the book in order to receive the ticket. In cooperation with Walmart and individual donations from the Brothers, gift cards are provided to the students. These allow the students to purchase the bike and helmet of their choice. The following received new bikes and helmets: Grade three: Belle Goodman, Grade four: Mariah Washburn and Grade Five: Ruth Erie. The bikes were presented on May 16, 2024, by Brothers Alvin Bitz PM, Ron Bauman PM and Terry Grant PM.

Treasure Lodge No. 95 Announces the 2024 Masonic Scholarship



On May 20, 2024, Treasure Lodge #95 A.F & A.M. presented their "2024 Masonic Scholarship", in the amount of \$500, to Lainey Terry of Big Sandy High School. Her plans are to attend MSU-N and major in Business.

A. J. and the Parade

THE VIGILANTE DAY PARADE

Who was A.J. Roberts?

What does the Vigilante Day Parade consist of, and why has it been happening for a hundred years?

Having witnessed numerous Vigilante Day Parades and having my son, nephew, nieces, and friends' children take part, I never thought about the parade's beginning. In fact, for several years, I thought it was just a way to let High School students blow off steam. But the truth about the parade's origins and its founder is more intriguing.

The Parade

High school students stage one of the longest-running parades in the United States, known as the Vigilante Day Parade. Helena High School held a tradition called 'The Senior-Junior Fight' in the early 20th century. It was a bloody and destructive springtime affair, the object of which was for the juniors to take down and desecrate a senior-class flag, which seniors would run up a flagpole between the High School and the adjacent Central School. In response to intense fighting, the School Board resolved to remove the flagpole. Following this, seniors hoisted their flag on the pole at the top of the high school, which resulted in a rooftop altercation. Consequently, a strict enforcement was put in place, banning all aspects of the tradition from school property. This resulted in the conflict spreading throughout the town, resulting in further violence and property damage. Over the years, authorities had attempted to organize alternative senior-junior competitions. Students perceived these events as too tame and controlled. There were other unauthorized student activities during those years, including "Sneak Day," in which truancy was widespread, and "Old Clothes Day; there was also "Costume Day," which was held only once but contributed to the basic idea of the Vigilante Parade.

In 1924, discussions between students and administrators laid the groundwork for the parade: a grand pageant of historical floats involving most students in a creative competition and having the theme of the rugged pioneer spirit at its heart.

Floats are constructed by high school students from the Helena Public School system and are themed around historical events in Helena and Montana. Seven categories are given to students: American Indian, Historic Helena, Pioneer Life, Helena Business, Famous People, Mining Transportation, and Antique Vehicles. Students vie for the prestigious Roberts Cup, given to the class with the most parade floats, be it freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors. This cup serves as a tribute to A.J. Roberts, the former principal of Helena High School, who initiated the Vigilante Parade in 1924.

In 1939, Olav V of Norway (then crown prince) and his wife Martha, who were on a tour of the United States, witnessed the parade as part of their efforts to enhance relations between the two countries. In 1942, the Vigilante Day Parade



Figure 1 : Albert James Roberts

was canceled for the first time due to the United States' involvement in World War II. The parade would be put on hold until 1946 in a nationwide effort to conserve resources. During Vigilante Day in 1950, President Harry S. Truman visited the area and evaluated various floats. He and his group were given the chance to review ten floats. The Vigilante Day Parade was again canceled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, an unofficial Vigilante Cruise took place, where students drove floats through downtown without any crowds, and the event was broadcast online.

The Vigilante Day Parade has become a tradition perpetuated annually by the dedication of both former and current faculty and students for both Helena High School and Capital High School. May 3, 2024, was the date for the 100th-anniversary parade, with eighteen members of the Roberts family, representing three generations, serving as grand marshals.

The Founder

Albert James Roberts was born on June 11, 1867, in Central, Keweenaw County, Michigan. He went to a public school in his local town. He later attended Albion College and obtained an A.B. degree in 1896. His passion for knowledge and commitment to education inspired him to further his studies in Germany and France. He attended the University of Halle and the University of Leipzig from 1896 to 1897. Subsequently, he enrolled in courses at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, from 1897 to 1898.

In September 1898, Brother Roberts arrived in Helena and taught elsewhere until he could secure a position at High School in 1899. He served as an instructor in German and History at Helena High School from 1899 to 1907. He was the Assistant Principal from 1902 to 1907. For 28 years (1907-1935), he held the position of Principal at Helena High School. During 1911 and 1916, he served as the President of the Montana State Teachers Association. He was selected to be the President of the Montana branch of the American School Peace League. He was associate editor for the Inter-Mountain Educator, Montana's official school newspaper. In addition, he served as the President of the State High School Athletic Association and the Director of the State High School Debating League.

He was a strong advocate for the betterment of the city and the state, and his voice was often sought after for public speaking engagements. Brother Roberts was a man of quiet dignity and scholarly manner who had a deep understanding of human nature. During his tenure at Helena High School, he witnessed seven classes graduate as a teacher and twenty-nine as the Principal, overseeing a total of thirty-six graduating classes. The class of 1924 was the first class to experience the creation of the "Vigilante Day Parade," a tradition that would continue for years to come.



Figure 2: From First Vigilante Parade, May 1924. "3-7-77 Last Chance or Bust" From the archives of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

Brother Roberts was well-known in the Helena community, the state of Montana, and the nation. He had been part of Helena High School for 36 years, and during that time, he had touched the lives of thousands of students. He was respected and admired for his wisdom, kindness, and dedication to his students. But it wasn't just the students who adored him; the entire town looked up to him. He had achieved national recognition for his work as an educator, and when a new high school was built, he was chosen as the first principal, and his contract was extended beyond retirement age. He became a general agent for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company after he left the Helena School system and retired. His name is synonymous with excellence and dedication in education. His ability to speak several languages and engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds endeared him to his community. Albert's influence reached well beyond the academic realm.

Fraternal and Civic Involvement

Brother Roberts was actively engaged in government, education, civic, and fraternity affairs. He believed that citizens should play an active role in the community and that all citizens should participate in civil discourse that addresses society's social, political, and charitable aspects by contributing, supporting, or volunteering.

Brother Albert J. Roberts received the degrees of Freemasonry at Keweenaw Lodge No. 242, Central, Michigan. He was Initiated as an Entered Apprentice on August 16, 1888, Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on October 19, 1888, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 25, 1888. He transferred to Maurat Lodge No. 14, Albion, Michigan, on February 18, 1895. He was issued a Dimit on November 18, 1895, to transfer his membership to Helena Lodge No. 3, Helena, Montana, and was elected to membership with Helena No. 3 on December 5, 1913. Brother Roberts was proud to have been a member of the Masonic Fraternity for 56 years.

He was a member of the York Rite. He held various positions, including High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons Helena Chapter No. 2, Commander and Recorder in Helena Commandery No. 2 Knights Templar, and Recorder for Helena Chapter No. 1 of the Royal and Select Masters. He was also a member of the Algeria Shrine. For several years, He held the position of youth leader as DeMolay DAD and Chairman of the Board for the E C Day Chapter.

Brother Roberts always found the time to participate in or support various civic and fraternal organizations. Starting in 1926, Albert served as Vice President and Treasurer of the Boys Hi-Y Club, a social club for middle and high school boys and girls affiliated with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). He participated in the Helena Kiwanis Club and was President in 1929. He was an active member of the Helena Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter. Besides being the President of the Helena Commercial Club, and also served as a member of the Northwest Accrediting Association's accreditation committee. He was Vice President of the Elkhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America in 1930. He was not only a teacher, administrator, humanitarian, and civic leader; he was also a pillar of the community.

His tenure as the Mayor of Helena for two terms was marked by visionary leadership that contributed significantly to the town's prosperity. Brother Roberts was the Mayor of Helena, starting in 1936 and ending in 1940. In 1936, an article in the Helena Independent Record newspaper said of the new Mayor, "New hope must have been born in the hearts of Helena homeowners and residents when they learned of the results of the municipal election Monday evening; New hope that Helena may be restored to its former condition as a city of beautiful homes; of clean streets comfortable public buildings; adequate school houses and an abundant water supply. Mayor Albert J Roberts is the kind of man to inspire this hope; he wants a city that every resident might be proud to call home. He has traveled to a wide range of places and studied at foreign universities. For Twenty-seven years, he was the guiding spirit of classes of boys and girls, averaging hundreds per year, and on June evening for more than a quarter of a century, he has walked out on stage at the head of a class of young people; not a finished product, but a class launched into the sea of life, happy and confident."

On October 24, 1937, the cornerstone for the new Methodist Episcopal Church in Helena was laid. The townspeople gathered around the church site. It was a momentous occasion as the cornerstone was about to be laid. The Mayor, Brother A. J. Roberts, was dressed in his Masonic regalia to perform a part of the Masonic ceremony with Past Grand Master John Kain and other Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana members. The townspeople watched in awe as the Masonic ceremony was conducted, complete with the traditional pouring of corn, wine, and oil on the cornerstone. Included in the cornerstone box were items taken from the old Methodist Church's cornerstone, which was laid 49 years earlier in 1888.

Brother Albert Roberts lived in Helena, Montana, for 46 years. He passed away on November 5, 1944, in Helena at the age of seventy-seven. The community grieved the passing of a cherished town member renowned for his kindness and generosity. His final resting place is Forestvale Cemetery.

Helena Lodge No. 3 conducted a special communication for Masonic Funeral Rites for Brother Albert James Roberts on Thursday, November 9, at 3:00 pm. The Consistory Shrine Temple was the location for a public service event at 3:30 pm. Helena, Commandery No. 2 of the Knights Templar, furnished escort for the funeral of Past Commander A. J. Roberts. All deeply felt the loss of this remarkable man. His legacy would live on in the hearts and minds of those he had touched, and his memory would continue to inspire generations.



Figure 3: 1949 "Montana The Land Before You" Courtesy of "Helena As She Was, Kennon Baird. http://www.helenahistory.org/vigilante_parade.htm



Figure 4: 1950 "Road Agents". Courtesy of "Helena As She Was, Kennon Baird. http://www.helenahistory.org/vigilante_parade.htm



Figure 5: 1999 "Little Red School House". Taken while being assembled for the parade. Courtesy collection of Reid Gardiner.



Figure 6: 2000 "Mann Gulch Fire". Helena Public Schools. Capital High School. 2000 VIGILANTE PARADE. <https://chs.helenaschools.org/chs-photo-albums/2000-vigilante-parade/>



Figure 7: 2000 "Asbestos in Libby". Helena Public Schools. Capital High School. 2000 VIGILANTE PARADE. <https://chs.helenaschools.org/chs-photo-albums/2000-vigilante-parade/>



Figure 8: 2000 "Big Dorothy's". Courtesy of "Helena Public Schools. Capital High School. 2000 VIGILANTE PARADE. <https://chs.helenaschools.org/chs-photo-albums/2000-vigilante-parade/>

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Helena Independent Record, Helena, Montana. History of the Vigilante Parade-Vigilante Parade Was Organized to Stop Bitter Class War., 28 May 1939.

History of the Vigilante parade by Mayor A. J. Roberts, for the high school yearbook, The Vigilante. Helena Independent Record, 28 May 1939. <https://hhssamanthahumphrey.wixsite.com/vigilante-parade/history>.

The following history of the Vigilante parade was written by Mayor A. J. Roberts, who was HHS Principal (1907-1935) recounting the parade's beginnings in 1924, for the high school yearbook, The Vigilante. This letter was printed in the Helena Independent Record, 28 May 1939.

MY ADMINISTRATION of the high school began in September, 1907. Like every new principal, I inherited from my predecessor, or predecessors many school traditions and activities. Some of these were excellent in character and purpose. Others were subversive to discipline, often lawless in character, and in the main hostile to the good work and reputation of the school. The most important, and probably the worst of these was the so-called "senior-junior fight."

This annual event, which injured persons, destroyed property and interrupted the work of the school three or four days each year, had its beginning, we were told, somewhere in the "Gay Nineties" or back in the days of "real sport." Each year between the 1st and 15th of May, and soon after the names of the graduating class had been officially announced, the students on arriving at school in the bright and early spring morning, would behold in great surprise and astonishment the senior banner proudly floating from the topmost tip of the old flag pole, which stood at the time between the high school and Central school buildings. This banner bore the class colors, the class numeral and the strange device "Senior."

Very few minutes were wasted. The eager, peppy and belligerent juniors called up their cohorts at once, and prepared with warlike gestures to take the senior banner down and trail it in the dust. The fight was on and it was sanguinary struggle. The battle around the flag pole became fiercer and more dangerous each succeeding year, until eventually by recommendation of the principal, the school board ordered it taken down.

The fight was then transferred to the top of the high school building, where the flag pole, and the two spires recently removed because of earthquake damage, were used to display the victorious banner of the triumphant class. But the fight here became, apparently, more bitter and much more dangerous. It almost took away one's breath to see a half-dozen boys creeping unsteadily along the coping of the roof, or clinging to the highest point of those slender spires, liable to fall to death at any moment.

Driven by order from the building and grounds of the high school, the fight was carried to the streets and alleys, even to the outskirts of the city. Instigated, promoted and prolonged by the old graduates of the high school, and the boys from the college, it entered its last most desperate and warlike period. Not many, of course, but a few boys each year came out of the fray with black eyes, bloody noses, teeth knocked out, faces scratched and bodies bruised, all for the honor of the "biggest and best class ever graduated from the Helena high school."

Many less harmful and better organized contests were proposed and tried as substitutes for these lawless activities. One year a tug-of-war, another a baseball game, a third a football game, and finally a wrestling match, which was more desperate and bloody even than the fight itself. But the classes were not satisfied with these regular sports. They were too tame and too religious for their pompous and belligerent spirits. A number of other unsatisfactory activities were inherited by the new principal.

"Sneak Day"- The first of these was "Sneak day." Some pleasant morning, shortly after the fight was settled, five or six boys would appear very early at school wearing low derbys with mustaches and side whiskers painted on their faces, and otherwise dressed up for a day off. These boys with many others recruited before the opening of school, tried by every means possible to persuade all other students "to sneak" for that day alleging for their excuse that they needed a day of rest after months of hard work in the study hall and class room.

Another irregular activity, but not very objectionable was "Old Clothes day" or "Hard Times day," held at the high school in the morning, followed by a "barn dance" at the gym in the afternoon. It was not held annually but once every three or four years, or when conditions appeared favorable. It was characterized mainly by wearing ragged clothes with hay and straw and alfalfa sticking out of the protruding seams and patches. Finally there was "Costume day." If I remember correctly, this was attempted only once. But it was a good stunt and in my opinion furnished fortunately the basic ideas in feature and display, for the great pageant, which was later called the "Vigilante parade." Many other new and novel ideas suggesting a pageant, pedagogic cure-alls of one kind and another came traipsing into the principal's office. During the months of February and March, 1924, several conferences of representative boys and girls from the senior and junior classes were called to consider these and many other suggestions.

There was at first much opposition among the students to any plan by which it was proposed to eliminate these old traditional activities. Even the principal himself, who was not a bad sport, seemed inclined to regard the "fun" with tolerant hesitation. Was not this the "wild and woolly west"? Was it not the "promised land" of the Indian, the road agent, the vigilante, the pioneer, the cowboy and the miner; was it not the day of the pack-train, the stage coach, the sluice box, the saloon and gambling house, the old church and the old-time school? All of these early-day features would be incorporated in the big parade it was promised.

Finally after much serious discussion of the situation, and other readjustments of the entire activity program of the upper-classes, it was decided to put on a big historical pageant, in which every boy and girl in High School would have an essential part. The pageant, later called The Vigilante Parade, was intended to present in the main the adventurous life and colorful customs of the Montana Pioneer, especially the Pioneer of "Last Chance Gulch". To the promotion, work and achievement of this program, the Senior and Junior classes gave their wholehearted support, a pledge, which to the present time has been faithfully and diligently observed.

The first Vigilante Parade was held in May, 1924. It was a great success from the start, and has grown bigger and better with each succeeding year. This parade, so little thought of at the time, and then only as a splendid substitute for several lawless activities, has more than any other institution, distinguished the city of Helena and its High School. From it also thousands of our citizens have obtained a knowledge of the life and customs, of the thrilling story of the early days in the Treasure State. Every year not only the people of Helena and of Lewis and Clark County, but people from all over the State, and from other states in the Union, eagerly attend the Vigilante Parade with greater enthusiasm and greater praise for its wonderful organization. This year we shall have with us European Royalty, Crown Prince Olaf and Crown Princess Martha of Norway. I am sure their visit to the city will be an added incentive for the students of the High School to make the parade this year the biggest and best in all its romantic history.

Special recognition: Helena Independent Record Newspaper. During the 45 years that A J Roberts lived in Helena, the Helena Independent Record documented almost every event with which he was involved. Searching for Albert J. Roberts in the Helena Independent Record newspapers online will reveal the extensive coverage given to Roberts and, more importantly, the community of Helena. Throughout the years, the Independent Record has garnered a great deal of support and loyal readership from Helena's citizens.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Kila Public School



The Kila School was the proud recipient of a grant from the Montana Masonic Foundation for a new library seating area. The presentation photo features, from left to right: Shannon Marshall, Principal; Shanna Ogden, Librarian; and John Heston, Junior Grand Deacon, who presented the check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant To Kalispell Elementary School



Junior Grand Deacon John Heston presented a check to Kalispell Elementary School on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation, which was received by Librarian Allison Mitchell.

**Hiram Lodge No. 52, In Collaboration with The Montana Masonic Foundation
Supporting Reading Achievement At
Rosebud Public School and Ashland Public School**



Rosebud Public Schools Bikes and Kindle Event, Rhonda Sargent and Robert Engle of Hiram Lodge No. 52



Ashland Public Schools Bikes and Kindle Event, back row Audrey Jones, Librarian and Robert Engle of Hiram Lodge No.52

Montana Masonic Foundation Awarded Public School Grant To Deer Park School



The Montana Masonic Foundation presented a check to Deer Park School. The presentation was made on behalf of the Foundation by John Heston, Junior Grand Deacon. In the back row, from left to right, are Emily Parker PE/Title 1, Ryan Rague English/Drama, Heidi Weathers Science/History, and Paul Bruce Music. In the front row, from left to right, are Ric Huston Columbia Falls #89, Reese (Red) Roat Columbia Falls #89, Sheri Modderman Principal, and Rocky Ramey Columbia Falls No. 89.

Deer No. 14 Reading Achievement Program Bikes for Books at Ovando Elementary School



Abby Applegate-Ovando bike winner
L-R: Brother Richard Corrigan, Abby, and

Montana Masonic Foundation Awarded Public School Grant To Sidney High School Marching Band



Past Master Lance Averett from Lower Yellowstone Lodge 90 delivered a check for \$2,854.12 from the Montana Masonic Foundation Education Grant Program to Kylie Sundt and the Sidney High School band. The funds will be used to acquire new quad drums for the marching band.

Montana Masonic Foundation Presents Public School Grant to Absorakee High School



The Absarokee School District has been honored as a recipient of the 2024 Public School Grant. The awarded funds are designated for updating the science library books at the high school. Pictured are Heidi Gunderson and Brice Ligget, the Grand Sword Bearer. The grant was presented by Brice Ligget, representing the Montana Masonic Foundation.

A TALE OF TWO TEXAS MASONS

Chuck Clampitt, MT Etna No. 333, Indiana

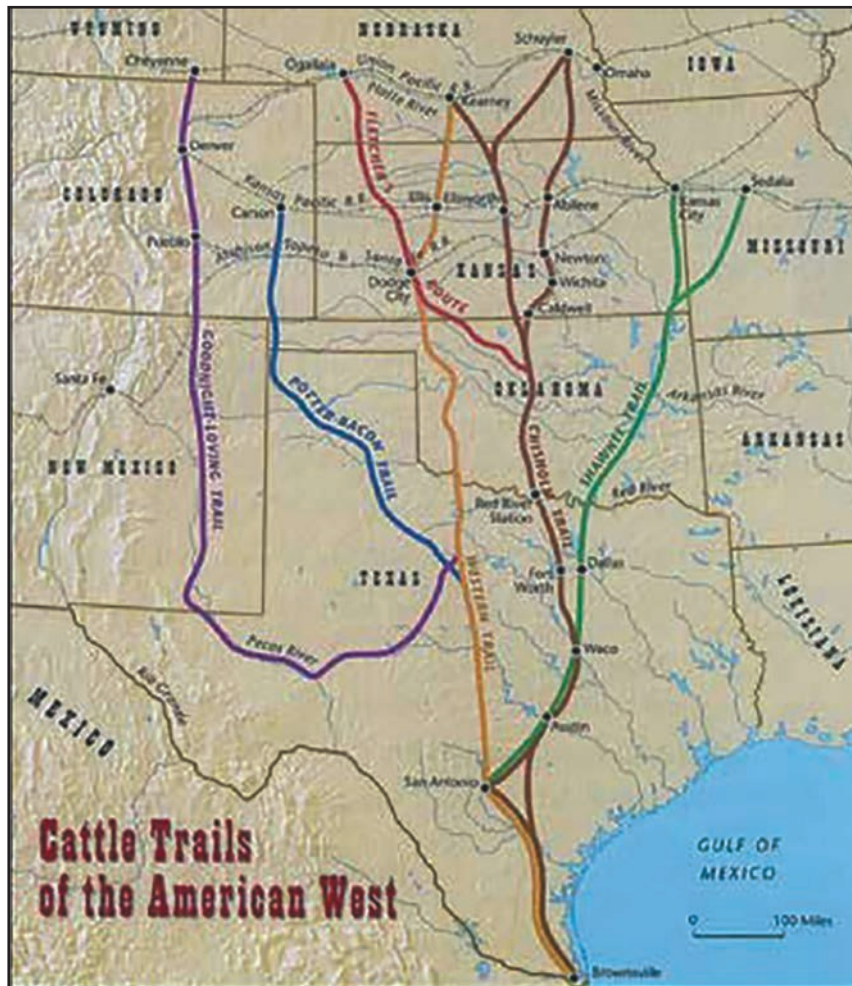
With the outbreak of the Civil War (War Between the States) in April 1861, the Union devised a strategy named the Anaconda Plan. The plan would entail the blockading of southern ports and gaining control of the Mississippi River, thus cutting off the three western Confederate states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. This would subdivide the Confederacy and prevent the shipment of vital foodstuffs east, especially beef. Texas had become a major producer of cattle, and when the state was isolated, consumption of Texas beef plummeted. By war's end, the Texas cattle population had increased to an estimated 5 million head. While on the surface this might appear to be a great asset, the problem was there were no railroads tying cattle producing areas to markets.

Immediately following the war, demand for beef skyrocketed. Large numbers of migrants were headed to mine and homestead west of the Mississippi River. Native Americans were placed on reservations and promised a steady supply of beef. Most importantly, the cities of the east were growing rapidly in size, and the population was consuming larger amounts of meat. With all these factors in play, a few enterprising Texans came up with the answer of moving cattle to market. Cattle could be purchased in Texas at \$5 a head and sold for \$40 a head at market. Suddenly, the cattle drive of western lore developed.

In 1866, the first cattle drives were organized, and large herds were moved (herded) northward. The intercontinental railroad was partially completed, so

cattle from central and eastern Texas were moved via the Shawnee and Chisholm Trails to connecting points of Sedalia, Missouri and Abilene, Kansas, to service eastern markets. Of the four major trails, the best known was the Chisholm. Another famous trail was established further west and was named the Goodnight-Loving Trail. Named

for the partnership of Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving, this route moved cattle from San Angelo, Texas, westward into New Mexico Territory and then northward along the Pecos River with Denver and Cheyenne as destinations. With all such cattle drives, finding cattle in Texas wasn't a problem. Finding good cowboys was. Just like on television and in the movies, cattle herds were large and conditions for the cowboys were brutal. On the first cattle drive Goodnight and Loving, along with 18 cowboys, herded 2,000 cattle 800 miles to Denver at the rate of 15 to 20 miles per day. (Note: The Goodnight-Loving partnership was the historical basis for Larry McMurtry's 1985 novel and made for TV movie *Lonesome Dove*).



On the very first cattle drives, cowboys were expected to take their own food and were limited to whatever they could carry. With the long days plus night watches it left little time for the cowboys to prepare meals. It was then that Charles Goodnight came up with a way to attract the best cowboys to work for him by hiring a cook. Together, he and the cook repurposed an Army surplus Studebaker Wagon (built in South Bend) converting it into the first "Chuck Wagon", which was named after Charlie Goodnight. As can be seen in the photos, built-in storage

compartments were added for various staple foods, cooking equipment, and “necessaries” such as repair tools and first aid supplies. Another feature at the back of the wagon was a fold down work space for food preparation. Other uses for the Chuck wagon were to transport cowboy’s camp rolls and personal effects, carry campfire wood in an apron slung under the wagon, and to provide shelter from the rain with a fold out awning. Building the Chuck Wagon was a revolutionary idea and was soon copied for similar applications throughout the west.

The first trail drive of Goodnight-Loving was a huge financial success, with the partners returning to Texas with \$12,000 in gold and immediate plans for their second trip. The route the two men chose wasn’t by chance since two major elements were a need for water and the avoidance of the Comanche Indians. The Comanches were a fierce, warlike tribe that roamed from north Texas to southern Kansas. The Goodnight-Loving Trail was specifically chosen to provide adequate water for the cattle and to avoid the Comanches. Unfortunately, the plan didn’t work out with the second trail drive.

In September 1867, Oliver Loving and another cowboy went out scouting in front of the herd. In the process Comanches attacked the two men, and Loving was wounded in the arm and side and taken to Fort Sumner,

New Mexico. Here he contracted gangrene, died and was buried. On his deathbed, Loving, asked Goodnight to take his remains back to Texas. “Loving died on September 25, 1867, and his body was kept at Fort Sumner through the winter. In early spring, Goodnight with Loving’s son began the 600 miles to Weatherford (Texas). Oliver Loving’s body was reinterred on March 4, 1868. He was 55 years old. Loving County is named in his honor.” (Loving & Ikard: Weatherford area historical citizens - the Weatherford Democrat, Feb 16, 2019) Goodnight and Loving were not just financial partners; they were lifelong friends and fellow Masons, both of whom were members of Phoenix Lodge #275 in

Weatherford. If you view Oliver Loving’s tombstone, you can see the Masonic square and compass prominently displayed (see Find-A-Grave on the internet). Goodnight would cowboy on until 1929, when he died at age 93. A lifelong man adventurer, he had been a Texas Ranger, served in the Confederate Army, and spent a lifetime as a cattleman. He is buried in Goodnight, Texas, just east of Amarillo.



The Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant Awarded To Ekalaka Public School



Ekalaka School presented with a Montana Masonic Foundation Grant Check for \$898 to be used to purchase Library I-Pads. Pictured from L to R: Brittini Brence, Clerk Business Manager; Misty Erfman, District Secretary; Casey Whitney, Librarian & Title Para; Doug Bonsell, Master Ekalaka #120; Pat Strickland, Senior Warden, Ekalaka #120; and Marty Reiersen, Grand Marshal who presented the check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

The Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant Awarded To Terry Public School



Terry School presented with a Montana Masonic Foundation Grant Check for \$3714.52 to purchase High School Play Production Equipment. Pictured L to R: Larry Bearley, Master of Terry #74; Paige Denny, K-12 Principal; Darryl Pisk, IT Coordinator; Marty Reiersen, Sagebrush, Grand Marshal & District Officer, Kim Keltner, Treasurer, Terry #74. Brother Reiersen presented the check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

The Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant Awarded To Rosebud Public School



Rosebud School presented with a Montana Masonic Foundation Grant Check for \$296.96 to be used to purchase a PE Equipment Storage Trolley. Pictured L to R: Abby Tucker, Principal; Kindergarten Students; Marty Reiersen, Grand Marshal & District Officer; Al Kajin, Tyler Hiram #52; John Rusting, Assistant Secretary, Hiram #52; Jessy Chatto, PE & Art Teacher. Brother Reiersen presented the check on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

Eureka Lodge No. 93 Bikes for Books at Trego Elementary School



In support of the Montana Masonic Foundation Reading Achievement Program, Eureka Lodge No. 93 presents Bikes to the winners at Trego Elementary School.

The Montana Masonic Foundation Awarded a Public School Grant to Independent Elementary



Independent Elementary in Billings, MT, has been named a 2024 Public School Grant recipient. The award will be used to purchase Wonderbooks, which are interactive audiobooks designed for all students, including those with low reading levels or visual impairments. The grant was made possible by the Montana Masonic Foundation and presented by Brice Ligget on its behalf. In the photo are Nicky Wolf and Brice Ligget, the Grand Sword Bearer.

The Montana Masonic Foundation Awarded Public School Grant to Alberton Public School

Alberton schools have been named recipients of the 2024 Public School Grant, with the funds being awarded to the music department. The grant was presented by Don Powell, Jr., Gr. Warden, on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.



Deer No. 14
Reading Achievement Program
Kindles for Kids at Deer Lodge Elementary School



Noah Badgero, Violet VanGuilder, Calvin Cumin, McKenna, Elizabeth Licht kindle winners Deer Lodge

Deer No. 14
Reading Achievement Program
Bikes for Books at Granville Stuart Elementary School



Tyson Hathaway- Deer Lodge bike winner. L-R: Brother Richard Corrigan and Tyson Hathaway.

**Stevensville Lodge No. 28
In Support of the Montana Masonic Foundation
Reading Achievement Program Present
Bikes for Books and Kindles for Kids at Lone Rock School District**



In support of the Montana Masonic Foundation, Inc., Reading Achievement Program, Stevensville Lodge No. 28 members Presented Bikes and Kindles to students at Lone Rock School District.



21st Annual Tri-Lodge Picnic Treasure No. 95, Havre No. 55 and Chinook No. 50



This up is the crew that attended the 21st annual tri-lodge picnic out at the Glen Ophus ranch South of Big Sandy. This will probably be the last time that Glen will host the picnic.

Ruby Lodge No. 36 Annual Strawberry Feed



Brethren from various local Lodges gathered for the annual Strawberry Feed at Ruby Lodge No. 36's Hall in Drummond.

**Ionic Lodge No. 38
Supporting the Montana Masonic Foundation
Reading Achievement Program
Bikes for Books at Daly Elementary School**



On June 6th, the Brothers of Ionic Lodge No. 38 awarded Book Gift Certificates to Daly Elementary School students in recognition of their voracious reading habits. The program has evolved over the years, from 'Kindles for Books' to 'Bikes for Books', and now to issuing gift certificates. We extend our gratitude to the Montana Masonic Foundation for their ongoing support of this initiative.

**Deer No. 14
Reading Achievement Program
Kindles for Kids at Elliston Elementary School**



Oaklie Carroll - kindle winner Elliston

Grand Master David Schantz Visits Acacia No 33



Deer No. 14 Reading Achievement Program Kindles for Kids at Avon Elementary School



Olivia McIntosh- kindle winner Avon

**Ruby Lodge No. 36 Supporting the Montana Masonic Foundation
Reading Achievement Program
Bikes for Books at Drummond and Hall Public Schools**



Drummond Public School winners.



Hall Public School winners.

Deer No. 14
Reading Achievement Program
Kindles for Kids at Ovando Elementary School



Ava Tongas- Kindle winner Ovando

Deer No. 14
Reading Achievement Program
Kindles for Kids at Garrison Elementary School



Garett Sacoby - Garrison Kindle winner

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a better person.
Oh wait, yes it does.**

GRAND LODGE OF AF&AM OF MONTANA

