

SQUARE & COMPASSES

EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX DECEMBER 2024
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NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The November Meeting proved to be exciting as always. One investigative report was voted on and was favorable. (That new brother has since been initiated and is now part of the fraternity.)

The Marshal talked about the Traveling Gavel.

A motion was made to hire someone to try to fix the leaks in the roof. A motion was made to authorize up to \$4000 for the purpose. Both motions passed.

The WM reminded everyone of the service award presentation for Brothers Joe Richeson and Doug Waters to be held on November 16th,

The Golden Trowell committee announced the recipient of this year's award. Brother David Powell was selected by the committee for his work in uncovering and preserving the history of East Trinity .

CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held on December 16th at ET. The dinner will begin at 7:00 PM. You can begin bringing your dishes at 6:00 PM Please sign up via the following link: <https://evite.me/8nVAN3j5k3>

DUES Well it's that time of the year again. Dues are due by the 1st of January. Many brothers are paying thru Grand Lodge, which makes things go a lot easier. If you would like to pay the traditional way, then please send your payment to:

**East Trinity Lodge 157
 104 South Goliad
 Rockwall, Tx 75087**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



Brother and Mrs Waters (L) and Brother and Mrs Richeson (R)

BROTHERS JOE RICHESON AND DOUG WATERS RECOGNIZED

Brother Joe Richeson and Brother Doug Waters were recognized for their long service to the fraternity on November 16th. Brother Richeson received his 60 year award, and Brother Waters received his 50 year award. Both brothers gave speeches about how much their time at East Trinity has meant to them. Both have been very active in ET for many decades as instructors and mentors.

Brother Richeson can honestly begin



most conversations with "I remember when I taught that fellow his work". He has enthusiastically taught many, if not most of the brothers their memory work.

Brother Waters, perhaps the longest serving Tiler in the state, is also known for overseeing all of our practicing for degrees, opening and closing, and other ceremonial functions. By enforcing strict standards, both of these brothers have ensured that East Trinity is one of the premier lodges in the district.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2nd--Stated Meeting
- December 9th-FC Degree
- December 16th-Christmas Dinner
- December 22nd-HH food giveaway
- December 29th-Lodge Dark

EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This historical sketch is the sixteenth (16th) article in a series about the history of the East Trinity Lodge and this month we are featuring the lodge's fourteenth (14th) Worshipful Master E.C. Heath.

Ephriam Charles Heath

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1880, 81, 82 and 84)

Ephriam Heath was born in Heath, Kaufman County, Texas on 4 November 1850. His father was John O. Heath and his mother was Martha Ann (Jones) Heath. E.C. was named after his grandfather Ephriam Heath.

In the 1860 Census, aged 9 years, Ephriam was living with his mother and father in Rockwall, Kaufman County, Texas. The family consisted of seven children: Isabella (14), Adaline C. (13), Ephriam C. (9), Martha A. (7), Mariah J. (6), William H. (4) and Howell C. (2). Ephriam was educated in local Rockwall schools and was valedictorian of the Hartman and Slaughter Academy.

The Heath family were the first residents of Heath, Texas, originally called the Black Hills area. John O. Heath was one of the men that helped establish the County of Rockwall in 1873 and he was a Charter Member and the first Senior Warden of the East Trinity Masonic Lodge No. 157. He became the Rockwall County Justice of the Peace in 1856 and served several terms.

On 3 April 1881, E.C. Heath and Ida Alice Carter were married in Rockwall, Texas. In the 1900 Census, Ephriam C. (49) and Ida A. (43) were living in Rockwall and they had three children: Son John D. (18), daughter Kate (15) and daughter Mary (11).

E.C. Heath, also known as "Bud", first appears in East Trinity records in 1879. He was serving as Junior Warden that year. He is also in the Master Mason list next to his father J.O. Heath. The following year, in 1880, E.C. was elected to be the East Trinity Worshipful Master.

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1880

E.C. Heath – Worshipful Master

J.S. Hewitt – Senior Warden

D.H. Parsons – Junior Warden

L.B. Charlton – Treasurer

J.J. Lowe – Secretary

S. D. Waggoner – Senior Deacon

M.C. Beamer – Junior Deacon

T.M. Curry – Senior Steward

F.M. Anderson – Junior Steward

T.B. Lanham – Tiler

Past Masters:

W.T. Barnes

John Butler

F. Sullivan

T.L. Stanfield

E.C. Heath also served as Worshipful Master for the years: 1881, 1882 and 1884 and the officer line-ups are documented in the Lodge Returns in the East Trinity Lodge Archives.

From early manhood until 1890 he was engaged in the mercantile business. Later, from 1890 until January 1914, he did business in the abstract and title work in and around Rockwall. It is in his public career that the life of Ephriam C. Heath has been particularly noteworthy. E.C. began his public career by circulating a petition to organize Rockwall County in the winter of 1872–73. He was on the board of registrars in 1873 and in 1882, he was elected County Judge of Rockwall County, and was re-elected in 1884, holding the office until 1886. He ran an able, efficient and economical administration of public affairs in his county. In that same year Rockwall, Dallas, and Tarrant counties elected him floterial representative to the state legislature. (A floterial district is a multi-district that "floats" over several district towns). During the session of 1887 he promoted the statewide prohibition amendment, which was defeated. Heath had first become identified with the temperance movement in 1869/1870. In 1876, after the adoption of the new state constitution, he circulated the first known local-option petition in Texas. In 1890 he was a delegate to the temperance convention in New York City and the prohibition candidate for governor. With only 2,235 votes, less than 1 percent of the total, he was resoundingly defeated by [James S. Hogg](#). His campaign, however, served to keep the issue of prohibition alive.

After his defeat Heath concentrated on his abstract and title business, which he successfully ran until 1914.

During the 1890 – 1914 time frame, he also served as the Rockwall County Surveyor. He was a member of the **Good Templars**, the **Chapter of Royal Arch Masons**, and the **Methodist Episcopal Church, South**. The E.C. Heath family lived on a farm one mile north of Rockwall (today this is close to the area near the Shores subdivision on Highway 205).

Judge Heath wrote a series of newspaper columns titled **County History of Rockwall County, Texas** which was published in the **Rockwall Success** newspaper in 1906. These columns were reprinted in the **Rockwall Success** in 1951 and are a major part of the book **History of Rockwall County 1842-1968** written by O.L. Steger, Sr. published in 1969. It should be mentioned that O.L. Steger personally knew E.C. Heath and was a brother Mason in the East Trinity Lodge. Much of what we know about the pioneers and early life in Rockwall is credited to E.C. Heath's writings and some of these newspaper articles survived and can be found at the **Rockwall Public Library** in their digital archives.

In one of these newspaper columns, Judge Heath wrote of his boyhood memories of the Masonic Lodge built in Rockwall in 1859. E.C. was nine years old at the time. *"On December 15, 1859, C.L. Jones conveyed to the Masonic Lodge at Rockwall, lots 2 and 3 in block "S" in the town of Rockwall, Texas. The fraternity erected a hall on the lot in that year, and I rather think it was prior to the date of the deed, but not earlier than 1859. The lower room of the building was to be a school room. The laying of the corner stone of that building probably brought more people to the village that had ever been here before. This was the second Masonic procession I had ever seen; the first was at the funeral of Thomas Butler in 1858. The dinner or supper was given at the Cummings House on this occasion of the corner stone laying. This marked another epoch in the history of our community from an educational stand point, especially as the house to be erected was a two-story structure, such as was not to be found in other communities. The ceremonies by the Masons at the laying of this corner*

stone with the receptacle in which the deposits were to be made; it was considered that the treasures placed therein were safe from both "conflagration and inundation." This proved true up to the time of taking down the old building in 1878."

Judge Ephriam C. Heath died in Rockwall on February 13, 1924, and was buried in the Rockwall Cemetery. His wife Ida survived him and lived until 1939. His funeral was held on Friday, 15 Feb 1924, at the Methodist Church (this is the church building near today's old Historical Courthouse). Gathered around the wreath laden casket of this Rockwall pioneer, friends and loved ones paid a last tribute to the memory of Judge E.C. Heath that afternoon. Probably the largest crowd ever assembled for a funeral in Rockwall. Eulogies were heard from former pastors and associates, including Rev. T.R. Clendenin, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church and he was in charge of ceremonies. The funeral sermon was delivered by Rev. C.B. Fladger, of Kaufman, formerly pastor of the church here but now superannuated. Other former pastors who spoke were: Rev. F.B. Wheeler, of Royse City and Dr. John E. Roach, of Dallas. and Dr. Cranfill of Dallas, Baptist Minister and former candidate for Vice-President of the United States on the Prohibition ticket (1892). There were also seventy-seven Honorary Pallbearers at the service and burial in the Rockwall Cemetery. **The East Trinity Masonic fraternity provided a Masonic Burial Ceremony.**

The Prohibition movement started before 1850 but the Prohibition Era reached its zenith with the [Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](#), ratified on January 16, 1919. Prohibition ended with the ratification of the [Twenty-first Amendment](#), which repealed the Eighteenth Amendment on December 5, 1933.

It should be mentioned that in 1920, there was a masonic lodge dispensation petition made to form a new lodge in Heath Texas. This lodge was to be named **E.C. Heath Lodge**. This dispensation was initially refused by the Grand Lodge of Texas because there was another lodge within 10 miles of Heath. That nearby lodge was East Trinity Lodge No. 157. In 1921, we found that the E.C. Heath Lodge No. 1149 was operating with a charter date of 10 December 1920. There were 25 members in the lodge at that time. We also found that the E.C. Heath Lodge membership was made up of at least 12 East Trinity Lodge No. 157 members who demitted in 1919-1921. The irony of this story is E.C. Heath was never a member of the E.C. Heath Lodge. He was a member of East Trinity Lodge No. 157 until his death in 1924. The E.C. Heath Lodge No. 1149 was officially consolidated with East Trinity Lodge No. 157 on 23 November 1968, Certificate of Consolidation signed by Grand Master J.W. Chandler.



Judge Ephriam Charles Heath



Ephriam Charles Heath Tombstone
Rockwall Cemetery, Rockwall County, Texas,

Compiled by Brother David L. Powell, East Trinity Lodge No. 157
(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)

From Labor to Refreshment



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My wife asked
if she could have a little
peace and quiet while
she cooked dinner...

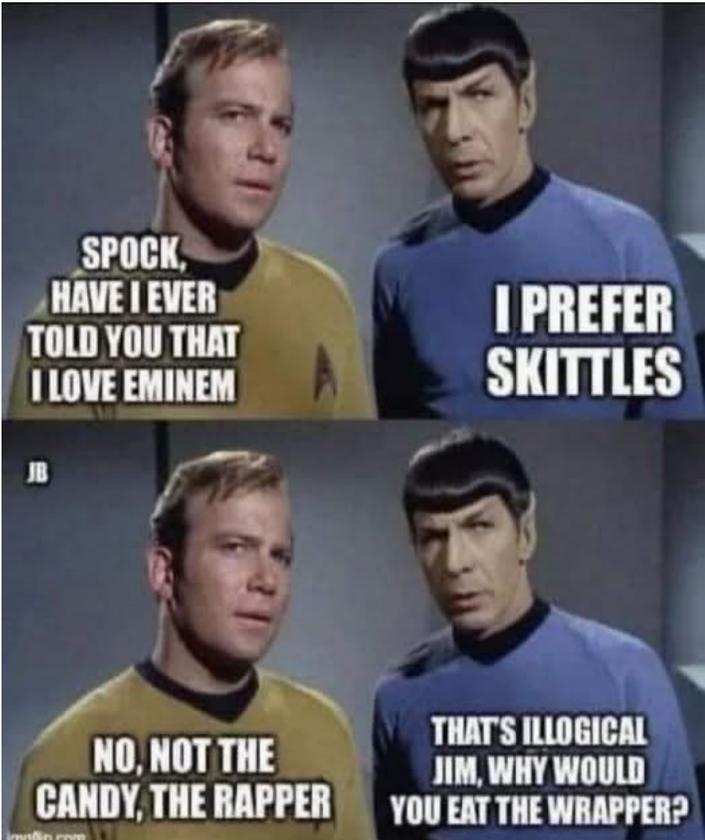
So I took the battery out
of the smoke alarm!



A good relationship is when
your wife is by your side
during the bad times to tell
you that none of this would've
happened if you had just
listened to her

2.8K

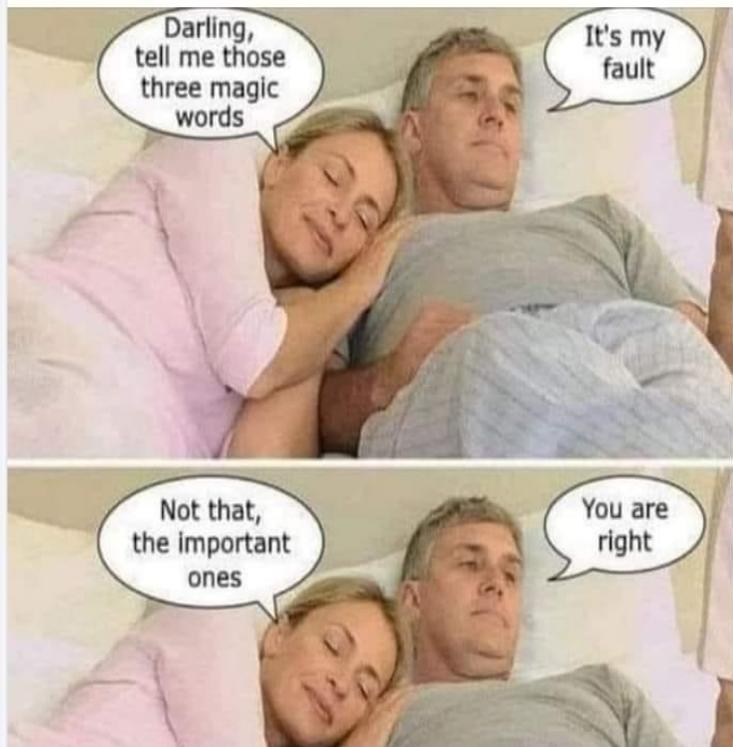
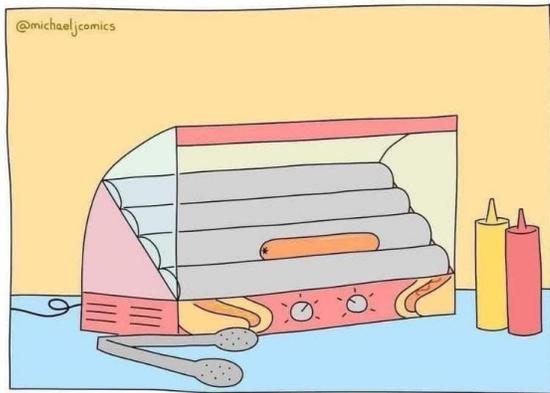
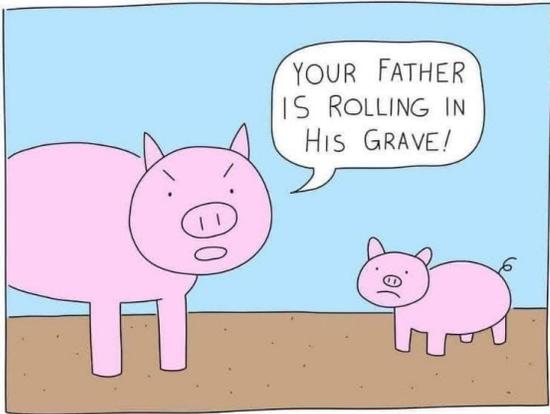
10



Ever notice there
are no lines for the
bathrooms at
Waterparks?

SMUDGE UNCANCELABLE

Deep Thoughts By Smudge



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Owned by East Trinity Brother Dewayne Irwin,
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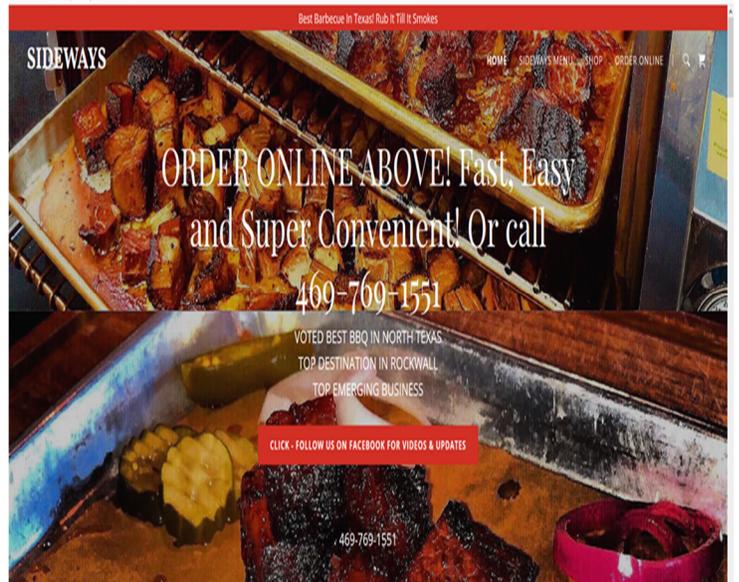
SAM GIBBINS
817-903-1501

Owned by Brother Sam Gibbins, Ft Worth



Walk Ins Welcome!

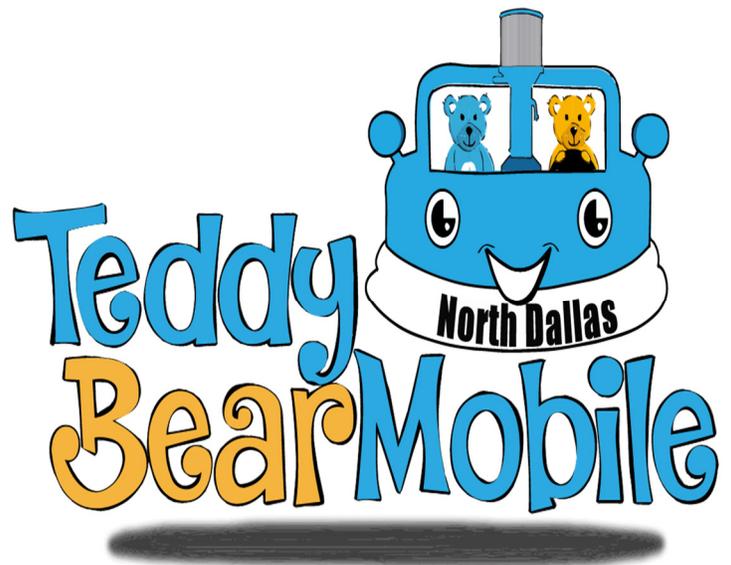
Every time a brother gets a haircut at Yellow Jacket, just mention the Masons and they donate \$1 to East Trinity!!!!



Owned by East Trinity Brother Josh Deaton



East Trinity Brother Geoffrey Lyons



Brother Jeff Bryan 214 232-9933