


The HILL CITY LIGHT

February 2021

2020 - 2021 Lodge Officers		Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 10, 1876			
W.M.	Luke Michels	Austin Scottish Rite Theatre & Museum 18th St. at Lavaca St., Austin, Texas Mail: P.O. Box 1456, Austin, Texas 78767-1456 Phone: (512) 655-9858 Email: secretary@hillcitylodge.org Website: www.hillcitylodge.org			
S.W.	Richard Garrett				
J.W.	Elan Mendoza				
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> 1876  2021 </div>			
Secretary	Philippe Dewailly, P.M.				
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.				
S.D.	Don Jarrell	<u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm <u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm			
J.D.	Chris Enders				
S.S.	Ryan DiVincenzo				
J. S.	Sean Williams				
Marshal	Hunt Armistead				
M.C.	Nate Stilwell				
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.				
Work Schedule				From the East	
February 2021				<p>Greetings Brethren, Brethren,</p> <p>I hope everyone's New Year is off to good start. Things are beginning to pick up at the Lodge and it has been great to see some new faces on Tuesday nights. On February 2nd Hill City saw our largest attendance at a stated meeting since the beginning of Covid. I am optimistic as the vaccination becomes more readily available we will start to enjoy seeing more Brothers attend in the near future. We received our new District Deputy Grand Master, RW Charles Maddox, for his first official visit. Our wonderful Stewards prepared another excellent meal consisting of sliced brisket sandwiches and potato salad. Thank you PM Eschenburg for smoking the brisket for this special occasion. I also would like to extend a special congratulations to RW Maddox and his wife Emily on the birth of a baby girl! On Sunday, January 31st, they welcomed Alexandra Grace Maddox into the world. Congrats Brother Maddox!</p> <p>On February 16th Hill City will be hosting our annual family night Sweetheart Dinner. All Hill City Brothers and family members are welcome to attend, bring your sweetheart out for a special night of celebration. The following week, on February 23rd, we will give Lodge Service Awards for our 25 and 40 year members. Come on out and help show your appreciation to our</p>	
February 2	Stated Meeting				
February 16	Sweetheart Dinner				
February 23	Lodge Service Awards				
March 2021					
March 2	Stated Meeting				
March 9	Golden Trowel				
April 2021					
April 6	Stated Meeting				
May 2021					
May 4	Stated Meeting				
June 2021					
June 1	Stated Meeting				

From the East (continued)

Brothers who have done so much to help make Hill City what it is today. Proper Covid precautions will be observed and enforced at all Hill City events.

Are you interested in assisting your Lodge? Over the next few weeks I will start recruiting Brothers to serve on some new committees to help support the Lodge and potentially make a great positive impact on the future of Hill City. As discussed at the February stated meeting, we will put together a Membership Committee to help reach out to potential candidates and retain new members. The initial purpose of this committee will be to leverage new technology such as video conferencing and social media to reach potential members. We are also putting together a Lodge Facilities Committee to assist with matters pertaining to the Lodge building, lease negotiations, and long term planning. If you think you might be interested in serving on one of these committees and would like more details, please give me a call at 903-926-4203 or drop me an email at lukemichels82@yahoo.com.

Fraternally,

Luke Michels
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

Many brothers out there might be feeling stress because of their economic situations, or for being forced to isolate all day.

If you've lost your job or your business is struggling, the lodge has information to help navigate filing for unemployment or small business loans. Contact communications@hillcitylodge.org for more details.

Some of our members might become infected with the coronavirus and lose their ability to shop for groceries and other essentials. If, for any reason, you need help, call Luke Michels at (903) 926-4203.

From the West

On January 12, 2021 the lodge had a small meeting and practiced some rituals. Four people were present.

On January 9, 2021 there was a Zoom meeting of three people. If you are not using Zoom, I recommend that you try it. You can use it on your smartphone or a personal computer. I believe you will find more and more use of this technology even after this pandemic is over. And you might find it very useful to talk with your grandchildren.

On Jan 26 we had a meeting at the lodge of six brothers. We had pizza and good fellowship.

On February the 1st we had a Masonic funeral for brother William Carson Shafer. He was raised in 1983 in Hill City Lodge. Brother Kervin Warnken taught him all his masonic work. And he was at the funeral. Brother Shafer retired and moved to Smethwick, Texas in 2017. Worshipful Master Luke Michels presided at this Masonic funeral and did a wonderful job.

February the 2nd we had our monthly stated meeting with ten brothers present. Normal business was conducted. And we had our official visit from our new DDGM Right Worshipful Charles Maddox. He is a new and proud father.

We have received clear guidance from our Grand Master that we may conduct meetings with up to 10 people present. But this limitation could go away after Feb 15 if no new county or city restrictions are announced. My understanding is that new Covid 19 infections are decreasing both in Travis county and nationwide.

I had a telephone conversation with Brother Oscar Orum. It is important that we keep in touch with each other especially during this epidemic. I ask each of you to make a few phone calls to Brothers just to check on them and to let him know that you're thinking about them.

Fraternally,
Richard Garrett,
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

February 2021 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Chance occurrences
5. "Heartbreak House" writer
9. Drags or carries
14. UN aviation group
15. Bacchanal
16. Boredom
17. awfully shy friend stopping Bob vacillating
20. Forested regions
21. Above
22. Big ___ Conference
23. Flight data, briefly
25. Break
27. Bank offering, for short
30. ___ Bowl
32. Girl or her mother
36. A police informer ?
38. Coin from Ghana
40. Overhangs
41. Accra coin
44. Agreeing (with)
45. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
46. Dietary, in ads
47. he might be in the West or the South
49. ___ bag
51. Family head
52. Catch
54. Fill-in
56. "I" problem
59. During
61. Large Indian antelope Boselaphus tragocamelus
65. One carata
68. The "L" of XXL
69. Breakfast, lunch or dinner
70. Make, as money
71. Animal in a roundup
72. Irascible
73. Belt

Down

1. Blow off steam?
2. Hurting
3. Beach item
4. Crack
5. Sushi roll dip
6. "48 ___"
7. Eastern pooh-bah
8. Canadian golfer Jennifer
9. Make it easier to find a wife
10. "___ calls?"
11. Condo, e.g.
12. Crescent
13. Communicate silently
18. Homebuilder's strip
19. Baker's unit
24. Coasters
26. In-box contents
27. Acquired relative
28. Indian dip of yogurt and mint
29. Knight's "suit"
31. Crack
33. Bypass
34. Slow, musically
35. Big Bertha's birthplace
37. Varieties
39. Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
42. Mistakenly enter age of youth
43. How serious-minded scouts will study camping
48. Finger, in a way
50. Arabic for "commander"
53. "I want some!," rudely
55. Uses
56. Congers
57. Buzzing pest
58. Shrek, e.g.
60. Act
62. Vex, with "at"
63. City on the Yamuna River
64. "___ It Romantic?"
66. "Act your ___!"
67. Bother

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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20						21				22			
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68						69				70			
71						72				73			

January 2021 Puzzle Solution

H	O	M	O		A	B	L	E	R		M	I	S	S
A	D	O	S		D	I	A	N	A		A	N	T	I
N	O	N	C	O	M	P	O	S	M	E	N	T	I	S
G	R	O	U	P	I	E	S			D	A	R	N	S
			L	O	R	D		M	A	G	G	O	T	Y
A	M	P	E	R	E		S	A	R	E	E			
F	E	A	S	T		A	P	S	E		D	O	L	T
A	R	C		O	F	F	R	O	A	D		R	U	E
R	E	T	D		L	O	I	N		O	F	F	A	L
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P	E	A	F	O	W	L		F	U	R	L			
H	A	S	T	E			S	O	L	E	L	E	S	S
A	T	H	E	R	O	S	C	L	E	R	O	T	I	C
S	E	E	S		C	H	A	I	R		E	C	R	U
E	R	S	T		T	Y	R	O	S		S	H	E	D

Masonic Education

This month's message again implores the Mason reading it to do some serious contemplation. Despite its root in current events and conditions, it is not, I assure all, about the forbidden topic of politics. There are no political sides involved, no political debate or issue and certainly no election at hand. This is about a reality currently laid in front of us.

We have all heard senior Masons of Hill City Lodge talk about "the old days" when over a hundred Brothers would attend Lodge. We have all read and heard discussed the attrition of our numbers in all Lodges and the challenges of bringing new men within our sphere to consider petitioning to be made a Mason. A year ago, we were down to about 25-30 or so Brothers regularly attending and at a peak event it might be 45-50. Tonight we look around and see 10 Brothers in our Lodge room. I believe I share the concerns of many that our Lodge, our Grand Lodge and the Fraternity is in a crisis and it could well get worse.

No, I did not forget that we are dealing with a pandemic. But we need to look carefully at the factors involved, the probable and possible ongoing effects, and then figure out what we need to do and commit to personal action.

In addition to the fact of the virus in our community, we have varying levels of fear among our Brethren of contracting the virus, of becoming seriously ill or dying, or of spreading the virus to others. How each of us understands and manages those distinct fears is as personal as is his cabletow in all matters. But, we can proceed prudently to get vaccinated, follow sensible behavioral guidelines and keep ourselves informed and open-minded about the best, most truthful, information we can obtain. That is a special challenge with all the arbitrary rules and confusing, even contradictory, information we hear from the "experts" and numerous communication media. We all want to believe that all those in positions of responsibility and authority have all of our interests at heart, and have no reason to exacerbate fear or confuse us. But we really need to look through that and find our own truths to make the best choices of actions.

We also know that it is not simple individual Brothers' choices that currently limit our attendance, but that government authorities are using mandates that are absolutely unprecedented, that are inconsistent across time and levels of government and that have no apparent boundary or expiration. Various things are being continuously redefined and the goalposts are moving. We all, naturally, want to tell ourselves that this will soon be over, that we can return to normal, or that

Masonic Education (continued)

restrictions will not exceed some red line of maximally acceptable restriction. But, can anyone be sure of that?

During a visit to Europe in 2019, I personally saw and felt the effects of Masonry recovering from the effects of governmental disruption decades earlier that drove Masons into practicing strict secrecy. In Prague, Budapest and Rome, Grand Lodges were very hard to find and Masons I met were extremely careful about identifying themselves as Masons. We would like to think that a complete prohibition against Masonry could not happen here. Yet systems of regulation currently in effect specifically limit houses of worship to 10 or 25 people while big box stores, casinos and even strip clubs are deemed "essential" and serve hundreds of people, while many social or business organizations remain completely out of operation by mandate. How are Masonic Lodges categorized or how might they be in the future?

The current mandated attendance limit and the Brothers' choices are also impacted by human nature over time. For many or even most Masons, we have broken the "habit" of attending Lodge and that will get worse as time goes on. For newer Masons, in-progress candidates and visitors, there is no robust habit to come to Lodge and commitment and interest are certainly fading. Yes, we in Hill City Lodge must all come together – in all ways possible – to plan and to commit to do the things that will best address these challenges. It will take a lot of creative thought, individual "Mason energy" and personal resolve to overcome it all and not simply survive but grow just to balance out the various ways our fraternity shrinks. We ought to set our sights on a dramatic revival to grow beyond our size and condition just before the pandemic.

And, along with our strength, courage and effort to act through these challenging elements, we need to make a clear mental decision about what we will do – individually and collectively – if the external mandates effectively cause a **cessation** of all Masonic activities. Some of you know that the Brothers in Europe mentioned earlier, who had to go underground, used the emblem of a Forget Me Not flower in place of the Square and Compasses. I am wearing one tonight as a token and sign of my commitment to be strong and resolute and to make a special effort in these special times to preserve, protect, defend and GROW the Fraternity of Freemasonry for as long as I possibly can. I encourage each of you, if you decide to join in this special commitment, to visit the Grand Lodge website, obtain your own Forget Me Not pin and wear it.

From the South

Hello Brethren,

This month I would like to talk about an interaction that occurred recently which sparked my thoughts on the grip and word. As we know, the grip and word have been around since the beginning of Freemasonry. You see, stone masons were unable to carry pictures of their work in a portfolio and, when traveling, they needed a way to prove their level of craftsmanship. The grip and word was as a result created and is today still used by speculative Masons - although we use the grip and word for different purposes. We as speculative Masons use the grip and word to distinguish ourselves as Entered Apprentices, Fellowcraft, and Master Masons. More importantly, we use them to decipher whether or not a person belongs to the Craft, as I had to do the other day.

Last week I attended a dinner where a colleague brought a guest. After dinner, we were all talking when I heard the guest use words "traveling" and "Square" frequently. It finally dawned on me that he was trying to get my attention likely having noticed my ring. I asked him if he was a traveling man and he replied without saying yes or no yet tried to play coy in front of our other colleagues. Later in the evening he mentioned that he was a member of a lodge in Oregon. He then tried to shake my hand but felt something was off. After vaguely talking about Masonry, I was curious as to whether he was a Brother or not. While we were outside, I ended up asking him a couple questions that Masons would definitely know how to answer and he failed to answer them properly. Before leaving I asked him when he was raised and he told me he was raised when he was 16 years old. That was the final cue that I was speaking with someone who had done a fair amount of research on Masonry but was not a Brother. I walked away from the conversation frustrated with the situation but happy that we as Masons have system to recognize one another.

The grip and word was one of my favorite things to learn about when becoming a Mason and I love the fact that we still use a system that worked hundreds of years ago is something we should cherish and be proud of.

Fraternally,
Elan Mendoza
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

Obituary

William Carson Shafer

William Carson Shafer (aka Bill, Billy Carson, or moon dog) passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at the age of 69 in Smithwick, Texas. He was born on April 18, 1951 in Austin to Alta Jackson Shafer and Norman "Red" Shafer and was the middle of three brothers.

He graduated from Marble Falls High School in 1969 and worked at Winn's Five & Dime store during High School; this is where he became a master gift wrapper. He moved to Austin in 1969 and worked at the State Board of Insurance for many years as a print press operator and supervisor. Around 1974, he began umpiring for little league and eventually transitioned to adult baseball and softball leagues. In the early 1980's he became a professional skeet puller referee and refereed several state and national shoots, as well as local shoots. He was a Master Mason with the Hill City Masonic Lodge #456 in Austin. He started his own print press business in the late 1980's until he retired in 2017 to move to Smithwick, Texas.

Bill loved his family, friends, and dogs wholeheartedly and was very proud of his family heritage and traditions. He was a keeper of symbolic family heirlooms, which he proudly framed and displayed, and loved to share stories about them. He was an amazing father and papa and he could not wait for his granddaughters to get old enough to take hunting. Bill enjoyed hunting his whole life, but in the last years had become more of a deer watcher than a deer hunter. He was the most generous and kind-hearted man you would ever meet; he would give you the shirt off of his back and the last dollar in his pocket. If you were a friend of Bill's, you were family in his heart. He was a very gifted storyteller and jokester and you were guaranteed to be laughing when in his presence. He also enjoyed water skiing, jet-skiing, country western dancing, and old country music.

He is survived by his wife, Calen Shafer (married June 11, 1988), his daughter, Misti Shafer-Webb and husband Stacy, son, Cody Shafer, wife Alyssa, and three beautiful granddaughters, Bailey, Dakota, and Ellie Jane, brother, Mike Shafer and wife Joanie, brother, Norman Shafer and wife Debbie, numerous Aunts, Uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Alta Jackson Shafer and Norman "Red" Shafer and his first son, Joseph Shane Shafer.

Brother William Carson Shafer was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on November 15, 1983, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on January 24, 1984 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on February 28, 1984 at Hill City Lodge No. 456 A.F. & A. M. in Austin, Texas.

And so it has come to pass, a Brother Master Mason having completed all the design's laid down on the Trestleboard of Life, has answered the summons of the Grand Warden of Heaven and Earth and has entered into the Grand Lodge over which the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe presides.

HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.
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February Birthdays

Stanley Chester Anderson	John Ross Hepburn	Paul Melvin McCarty, Jr.	Kenneth Christian Nicolas
Donald D. Beach	Huie H. Lamb, Jr.	B. Rex Melton	Michael Blake Olson
Roberto Salinas Cantu	Robert Leon Ligon, Jr.	Chad Wright Miller	William Oscar Orum
Kenneth Wayne Evans	Charles Edward Maddox	Richard Scott Miller	Lavan Riley Parker, Jr.
Clarence Joe Haney			

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.