

ALAMO LODGE #44

Oct 2008 Trestle board



The Alamo
San Antonio, Texas

Upcoming Events:

Oct 8^h 2008- Stated Meeting

- Dinner at 6:15pm and Meeting 7pm

Oct 15^h 2008- Masters Wardens and Secretary Meeting (Hosted at Alamo Lodge #44)

- Dinner at 6:15pm and Meeting 7pm

Oct 22^h 2008- Floor Practice

Oct 29^h 2008- Golden Trowel Award & 50 Yr. Pin Presentation

- Jim Higdon will receive the Golden Trowel Award
- 6:30 Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse (See section below for directions)

Alamo 44 Officers:

WM: Michael Goodrich

SW: Lawrence McNamee

JW: Scott Mikos PM

Tres: James Higdon, PM

Sec: Edward O'Banion, PM

Chap: Ron Havens, PM

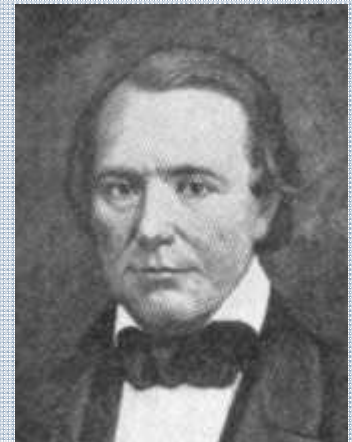
SD: Gregory Wright

JD: David Powell

MoC: John Pena

Tiler: George Trumbo

Mirabeau B. Lamar (1798-1859)

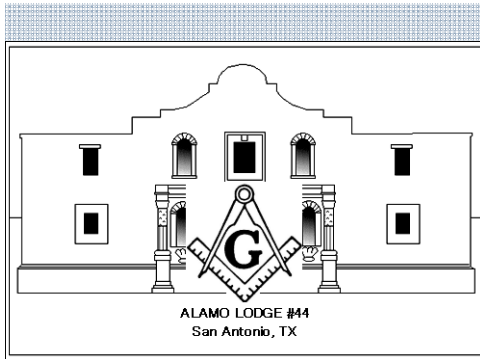


Lamar was best known for his acts which laid the foundation for a public school system in Texas.

In spite of Lamar's interest in education, not many schools were established in his time. Some of the counties started academies, but most of them kept their lands for schools which they hoped to have some day. When Texas became state in 1845, she kept the ownership of her public lands, and later other lands were set aside for public schools. Lamar had started the practice; others followed his example.

There are now about a hundred school buildings in Texas named to honor "Lamar." Due to his life-long work he has become known as "The Father of Education in Texas."

Brief History of Alamo Lodge #44



160 year old Lodge

(Charter granted January 15, 1848)

Lodge Address: [308 Avenue E @ 4th St.](#), San Antonio 78205

Mailing Address: PO Box 824,
San Antonio, 78293-0824

Meetings: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm

Meal: 6:15 pm

Lodge Phone: 210-225-7072

Alamo Lodge No. 44, honored by a plaque on the south wall of the Long Barrack, was granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of Texas on January 15, 1848. The Master of the Lodge was Captain James H. Ralston, an Assistant Quartermaster of U.S. Volunteers. Born in Kentucky, Captain Ralston resided in Illinois at the time he received his commission, which he held from June 26, 1846 until March 3, 1849. Original members of the Lodge were mainly army officers who were already Masons. The Lodge held its meetings for several months in an upper-story room of the Long Barrack until it moved into its own hall on Alamo Plaza on June 24, 1848. (1)

From the South,

I am honored and pleased to serve the brethren of Alamo Lodge #44 as its Junior Warden. I want to thank each of the brothers who placed their trust in me by electing me to the South. I will work hard to fulfill the Worshipful Master's goals and do everything possible to make Alamo Lodge #44 the best Masonic Lodge in San Antonio. Since you have just finished reading our Senior Warden's message about famous Masons who were actors and musical performers from various periods of Hollywood, I would like to bridge that discussion and talk about a new song that is rapidly attracting the attention of radio listeners. The song is called "Been Watching You" and is performed by Rodney Atkins. This individual is not a member of our Fraternity nor are the lyrics of a Masonic nature, but I believe it holds a message for us all to learn from and follow. The song tells the story of how a father unknowingly discovers that his young son has been carefully observing his actions and is repeating them in the hope of pleasing the father. It is a basic tale of the boy wanting to be just like his daddy and be seen as a bigger boy. The problem is the boy is mimicking a few of the fathers bad habits which causes the man to reflect upon himself and how a few unknown or unrealized behaviors can be perceived and learned by the young boy. The remaining part of the song shows how the father begins to pay special attention to how he conducts himself which is reflected when he oversees his son praying to god one evening, as well as a few other good acts. It is a heartwarming song and I hope you have the chance to hear it if you have not already done so. The moral of the story is very much like our Masonic teachings of circumscribing our desires and keeping our passions within due bounds. Too many times we accidentally say something or do something that detracts from our ability to ever walk upright before God and man. As Masons we must put our best foot forward as much as possible and try to emulate the professionalism and dignity of our wonderful Fraternity so friends, family and especially new Masons want to be more like us. I myself try to walk a little prouder each day knowing that I am a Alamo Lodge #44 Mason and encourage everyone else to do the same.

Fraternally,

Scott J. Mikos, PM



One's Back (2)

Within the many lessons of Masonry are found references to one's back or behind one's back. They range from lending a helping hand to attacking one's character and each charge carries serious responsibilities that a Mason must understand and apply in order to fulfill his obligations, especially to his Brothers.

Each person will face times when challenges are great and there appears little hope. Faced with such challenges, one may give up totally, throw themselves upon mercy of others, appeal to the Great Architect, or simply hope for best. The Freemason is blessed with realization that his appeal to the Great Architect has been answered through the knowledge that his Brothers stand ready to aid him at all times. There is a hand ready to touch his back and give him both aid and comfort, regardless of circumstance. Both he and his family have become a part of fraternal support and assistance.

While there are many more agencies for assistance in these times, the Fraternity practices charity, and the adage that "charity begins at home" applies particularly to the Craft. Brotherly love and affection should result in understanding and willingness to assist our Brothers in need. But this does mean just financial need, for frequently good counsel, a friendly hand, and a trusting ear are more important to a needy Brother. Sickness and distress are not idle words to those in need.

Another aspect of one's back can be seen in the expression "behind one's back", for one can not see there and is most vulnerable. So often words spoken behind one's back are not seen as being unsupportive of a Brother's character, but they are. Just as the hand to the back lifts the Brother up, the words behind lower him. What is worse, these words lower the speaker's character and honor. That is why Masons so value integrity and the aspiration to improve one's self.

In an age where people exploit weaknesses and seldom offer praise for doing the right thing and choosing good, the Mason of character, honesty, and charity stands out from those about him. Each act of generosity, assistance to a Brother, willingness to give of time and energy, and do what is good is what the Fraternity is about. When a Brother leaves the Lodge, he should do so with a sense of pride in his Lodge, his Brothers, and the history of the Craft. He should leave with a commitment to add to that history and be a better man and Mason.

Email Ed O'Banion for any Business related comments or questions regarding Alamo Lodge #44 @

secretaryalamo44@yahoo.com

If you know of a brother that is no longer active in the lodge, please call or visit him and get his contact information. If you can print out this Trestle board and show him our activities, it might start the fire again. There is plenty of Light to go around.

Secretary's Corner:

Brethren, should you move please let the Secretary know so we can update the lodge database.

Fraternally,
Brother Ed. O'banion

Steward's Section:

Oct 29^h 2008- Golden Trowel Award Presentation & Family Night Dinner
6:30 Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse
1226 E Houston St
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 299-1296

NOTES FROM WESTWORLD

October is upon us and that means a few things we might be looking forward to: football season and another baseball World Series--but also a new TV season and the last of Movieland's Summer blockbusters. We usually don't think as Masonry as connected with the word of entertainment, but just as many of America's greatest political figures and founding fathers were Masons (as were the heroes of Texas) many of our legends of the entertainment industry were brothers in the craft.

Not a few Hollywood Masons made their marks in the film industry from studio bosses, like Jack Warner, Louis B. Mayer, and Darrel Zanuck to many of the film the movies' greatest stars. The film industry moved from New York and New Jersey early in its development to California to take advantage of the Western scenery. This made the Hollywood Western a staple of silent, black & white, sound, and later color movies from the time of *The Great Train Robbery* to *There Will Be Blood*. "Cowboy" stars like Hoot Gibson, Gene Autry, Tom Mix, Roy Rogers, and the legendary John Wayne were all Masons.

Movies also made us laugh and many of the comedians in them were members of the craft. Among them were Buster Keaton, Oliver Hardy, Bud Abbot and Lou Costello, W.C. Fields, and England's Peter Sellers. Television's funnymen had Masons in their company as well, like Danny Thomas, Red Skelton, and *Seinfeld's* Michael Richards. Some of our favorite character actors like Wallace Beery, Edgar Buchanan, and Ernest Borgnine were also on the list.

Some Hollywood Masons were stars of "stage, screen, and television", like Jack Benny or Will Rogers, and others are remembered more as giants of the Vaudeville era like Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, and George M. Cohan. The last Mason, George M. Cohan, was both a performer and songwriter, and musicians and songwriters are also numbered among our brother Masons. Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Kris Kristoferson, and Glenn Miller were Masons. Singers of songs can be counted too, such as the late Burl Ives and Nat King Cole, while Country Music can claim Johnny Cash, Mel Tillis, Roy Clark as musical Masons.

So if you are watching a movie or catching a TV show between pre-season football and World Series games this month look for brother Masons in the credits and think about who wrote or performed the music. You may be surprised how many are there.

Larry McNamee, SW Alamo Lodge #44

Military Appreciation

Alamo Lodge #44 wants to thank those who have served or who are currently serving our country. You provide a blanket of security so America can sleep well at night knowing that our country is Free - to live and act as we choose. Your contribution to the processes we call "Freedom" will NEVER be forgotten. God Bless you and **God Bless America.**



ARMY



NAVY



Air Force



Marines



US Coast Guard



Texas NG



Texas ANG



DHS



Army Reserves Navy Reserves Marines Reserve Air Force Reserves

Legal

1. Harold George Schlierer. "Alamo Lodge No. 44: Mother Lodge of the Fraternity to the West," in *Transactions: Texas Lodge of Research* vol. 10 (March 16, 1974 - March 15, 1975), 79-80; Kevin R. Young, "Notes and Related Correspondence Covering the United States Quartermasters' Occupation of the Alamo, 1846-1854," Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, unpublished manuscript, 6.
2. Grand Lodge of Texas