

TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Arthur Gustafson, Worshipful Master

HISTORY OF FREEMASONS IN ROYAL OAK - Part III

**Part I - Reviewed Royal Oak 464's history from 1910. (Nov. 2009 issue)*

**Part II - Reported on the start-up of Northwood Lodge in 1928 (March issue 20011)*

**Part III - Explains how Ancient Craft Lodge joined Northwood in 1995*

Ancient Craft Lodge Enters The Picture

Ancient Craft Lodge merged with Northwood Lodge in 1995 to form what exists today as Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge. W. Bro. James F. Weir, Ancient Craft Lodge's 1970 Past Master and long term Secretary, tells us that the story began in 1939 in Eureka Lodge which was meeting in the upstairs of a Cunningham Drug Store on the N.E. corner of Seven Mile and Woodward in Detroit.



W. Bro. James Weir stands in front of what was Ancient Craft Lodge Building 1940-1985 on Conant Ave. South of 8 Mile.

While Masonic tenets and precepts teach lodge harmony, human nature can still cause disagreements and differences of opinions. Such was the case within Eureka Lodge in those days, which led sixteen members to petition Michigan Grand Lodge for new-lodge status. A new charter was granted one year later and Ancient Craft Lodge #567 was born in 1940. Charter members were all transfers from Eureka Lodge and functioned under the direction of its first Worshipful Master, Gilbert A. Good. For \$4,000 they purchased a hardware store building located at 20027 Conant Ave. a quarter mile south of Eight Mile in Detroit from Abe Mendleson and renovated that building for their new Masonic Temple. These costs were paid for by offering the membership 40 bonds at \$100 each and these debentures were all redeemed within 15 months. Since the new lodge building was one large room, its furniture and other implements had to be rearranged for dinners and social activities. From W. Bro. James Weir's memory, "It was a lot of work."

W. Bro. James Weir also fondly recalled many other interesting tid-bits of Ancient Craft historical trivia during our interview. One piece of good fortune was the strong Ladies Auxiliary, including Jim's wife Mildred that supported the new lodge. Jim described Esther Nichols, Auxiliary Sunshine Chairperson, as "...one hell of a good cook." The Ladies Auxiliary was "...the backbone of Ancient Craft Lodge." They worked dinners, held socials, and organized weekly card parties. Their fund raising efforts were

LODGE OFFICERS - 2011

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Arthur Gustafson, PM (248) 941-3773

SENIOR WARDEN

Gerald Brown (586) 689-1940

JUNIOR WARDEN

Earl Van Cise, PM (248) 288-3561

SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM (248) 544-4613

TREASURER

James McPherson, PM (248) 588-1623

CHAPLAIN

Raymond Doyscher, PM (248) 545-7443

SENIOR DEACON

Mitchell Urbanski (586) 978-8694

JUNIOR DEACON

Ronald Aldridge, PM (248) 548-3905

STEWARD

Larry Bullock (586) 757-0142

STEWARD

Nicholas Wion (586) 203-8017

MARSHALL

Guy Shelton, PM (586) 939-0536

TILER

Jack Parkin, PM (248) 589-1692

TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

Ronald Aldridge, PM (2011) ... (248) 548-3905

Elton Scott, PM (2012) (248) 545-4276

Fred Messser, PM (2013) (248) 321-8769

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Art Gustafson, W.M. (248) 941-3773

Gerald Brown SW (586) 354-1940

James Sparks, Sec. (248) 544-4613

LODGE SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM

848 Venoy Madison Heights, MI 48071-6002

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LODGE WEB PAGE

www.nac551.com

Ron Aldridge P.M., Webmaster

TRESTLEBOARD

MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

URGENT NOTICE CONCERNING LODGE DUES

There are a number of brethren whose 2011 lodge dues are in arrears. This needs immediate attention of all concerned. If a financial hardship is a problem we need to be informed. The lodge can work with this but we still must be contacted. Please call Secretary Jim Sparks. He looks forward to hearing from you.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 27 - Remember to attend our annual Corn Roast and "Parking Lot" Picnic. Bring family and friends. The spirit of this event is always high. Hope to see you there.

September 1 - We'll be back to our regular communications. And rejoice- we have new petitions to read.

October 8 - Child ID program scheduled at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital. This will be huge. We'll need lots of help. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.**



The Child ID Program is being set up at the Van Every Chiropractic Center at 4203 Rochester Rd. in Royal Oak. Our lodge processed many kids on May 14th and the community appreciated our efforts.

DONALD M. TRIVETT
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HOSPITALER'S LIST OF THOSE RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS AND INJURY

Mildred Weir - It was a pleasure to visit with Mildred on June 28th in her home. She said the condition of her heart is not perfect, but she is feeling fine. She did express her usual warm spirit and gentle disposition.

Cathy Van Cise - Bro. Earl comments that Cathy is on the mend from her medical condition and is improving every day.

Sandy Tudor - Bro. Martin says that Sandy has both up and down days but he assures us that he is giving her the best of care.

Kathy Messer - Fred tells us that Kathy is up and around and is fully recovered from hip surgery.

Elaine Wisley - Elaine informs us that her knee surgery went so well that she has resumed most regular activities. Elaine said with a smile, "Dick must now do the bending and kneeling to clean and scrub the floors at home."

Art Gustafson - On July 19th, our WM expressed by telephone from his at-home-bedside that his knee replacement surgery went just fine and that he had no pain. He was waiting for a visit from an exercise therapist, and was feeling the comfort of an ice pack on his leg. July 27th, stitches removed. Good to Hear! Heal well Worshipful Master.

***Contact the WM or Secretary if
you have news related to illness,
etcetera of someone in our
Masonic family.***

LODGE ACTIVITIES

August 2011

8-27 Sat. Corn Roast Picnic 2:00pm - 6:00pm

September 2011

9-01 Thurs. Potluck Dinner 6:00pm
Regular Communication 7:00pm

9-08 Thurs. Social Night
Officers Planning Meeting for 2012

9-15 Thurs. EA Degree Practice 7:00pm

9-22 Thurs. Dark

9-29 Thurs. Masonic History and/or Education 7:00pm
Night

October 2011

10-06 Thurs. Potluck Dinner 6:00pm
Regular Communication 7:00pm

10-08 Sat. Child ID Program at Beaumont Hospital Time TBA

10-13 Thurs. EA Degree 7:00pm
Officers: Tuxedo

10-27 Thurs. Social Night 7:00pm

November 2011

11-03 Thurs. Potluck Dinner 6:00pm
Regular Communication 7:00pm

Visit our website for more information and for possible date changes and updates- www.NAC551.com



WM Art Gustafson addresses those enjoying dinner at our Ladies-Night-Out on May 12th at the Ukranian Cultural center. A pleasant evening for all!

FROM THE EAST



I hope this Trestle Board finds everyone in good health. Enjoy the warmth of the summer sun. By the time you read this newsletter two more

brothers will have joined our fraternity by being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. They are Bro. Toma Ivanovic, and Bro. Anthony Chryanowski. I am looking forward to seeing them both in our future lodge activities.



**Our two newest Master Masons -
Bro. Anthony Chryanowski
and Bro. Toma Ivanovic**

There will be no lodge meeting in August. However, I would like to invite all NAC brethren, their families, and their friends to the annual Corn Roast Picnic in our Temple dining room on Saturday, August 27th. We'll start at 2:00pm and end at 6:00pm. Hope to see you there.

In closing, I send a gentle reminder to all brethren who have yet to settle their 2011 lodge dues obligations. Please let me know if assistance is needed. Also, keep checking the website for information and updates. Serving all,

Art Gustafson,
Worshipful Master

so successful that the ladies were able to donate \$1,000 a year to the Ancient Craft Lodge treasury. W. Bro. Jim emphasized, "At the time that was a huge amount of money."

After 44 years of meetings at the Conant address, Ancient Craft moved its location to the Hazel Park Temple on 22223 Rhodes Ave., (Stephenson Highway and Nine Mile Road) in 1985. It was ten years later (1995) that Ancient Craft relocated once more to merge with Northwood Lodge, a winning move for all involved.

Ancient Craft Lodge's history has included many prominent and distinguished brethren.

- Bro. Clayton Nichols (son of charter member Arthur Nichols and Auxiliary Lady Esther Nichols) was Royal Oak's Fire Chief from 1972-1976.
- W. Bro. Charles Simpson (PM 1978) had the distinction of not only being a part of the WWII Greatest Generation as a soldier in the U.S. Army, he was the driver of the military Jeep that transported 4 Star General George Patton on his WWII field duties. A huge honor!
- W. Bro. George Heartwell (PM 1952) was an attorney and had the good judgment and professional skill to license Ancient Craft Lodge with the State of Michigan as a "non-profit corporation" thus protecting all royalties and assets from any confiscation. A wise move!

Other notable Ancient Craft brethren were on the 1995 membership rolls and added immediate officer strength and spirit to the newly merged Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge. These brethren included:



W. Bro James Weir, master of Ancient Craft Lodge in 1970. The Ancient Craft history report comes to us through the courtesy of his memories.

Fred Messer PM 1995
(Master at time of merger)
James Weir PM 1970
(long term Secretary)
Clifford Dean PM 1992
Donald House PM 1991
Herman House PM 1989-90
Frank Jackson
(long term Treasurer)
Kenneth Truett.

So, what does one learn from the merger of Ancient Craft Lodge and Northwood Lodge? The answer is obvious. If one great lodge is good, then two great lodges together become superior. Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge #551 carries on that reputation


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