



Meets First Friday

# Freedom Lodge No. 118, A. F. & A. M.

Lovettsville, Virginia 22080

December 30, 1975

Brethren:

It's hard to believe that this is my last newsletter from the East. This past year will provide me with memories for the rest of my Masonic life. There have been ups and downs but fortunately the ups have overshadowed the downs. I guess my biggest disappointment has been that there were only two Brethren raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in our Lodge last year and one of those was a courtesy for Sterling #268. Brethren, Masonry is on a decline all over the country, there is strength in unity and numbers, I know we can't recruit, but neither should we discourage.

Some of you Brethren have been unable to attend our Lodge in the past couple of years so I will attempt to let you know who has been instrumental in the accomplishments you will see when you attend the next meeting.

There's no way I could measure the contributions made to Freedom #118 by Brethren Okey Snider and Gene Ridgeway. These two Brethren have spent countless hours working in the Lodge. Brother Ridgeway has practically donated the whole restroom, everything from the commode to the paper hanger. He has provided the soft drinks, coffee, window glass and hours of labor. Brother Snider has probably spent more time working in the building than any other Brother in the last five years. He also has made many material contributions, such as the Candidates clothing, refreshments, etc. If everyone supported our Lodge like these two Brethren, Freedom Lodge would never fail.

Brother Howard Stephenson made and personally installed the beautiful draperies and alter cloth, also filled any chair that was vacant anytime he was asked.

Brother M. D. Miller and his building committee provided the labor to do everything from replacing the floor joists to painting the ceiling.

Worshipful Brother Jim Frye is probably the best Secretary I could ever have hoped for, his Masonic knowledge and keeping of the minutes and other duties of his office is reflected in the up-to-date books he keeps conscientiously. The installation of the electrical outlets and new lighting system he installed would have put a big dent in our treasury.

Thanks to Brother Robert Lee George for the neon lighting he donated and the painting and cleaning he did.

Also to:

Brother Robert Sagers for the coffee pot and other donations.

Brother William Painter for so much lumber - I have forgotten what it all was, I do know it was everything from oak 2 x 10 floor joists to red oak for a front door.

Worshipful Brother William McKinnon for ceiling paint and hand rails he donated and installed with the help of F. C. Sam Legard.

Brother Roger Powell for the research he did on the Lodge history and providing his truck to haul away several truck loads of materials that we had no place to put.

And all the "painters" and "patchers" Worshipful Brothers Dick Hardesty and Bob Jones, Brothers Dick Phillips, M. D. Miller, Mike Andrews, Robert Lee George, Okey Snider, Gene Ridgeway, Bob Frye, Charlie Cunningham, Bob Zapple (E. A.) and Carl Barth (F. C. Herndon #264). I hope I haven't left anybody out, if I have please forgive me because I am sincerely grateful for the efforts put out toward the repairing and remodeling of our building. I understand from our building committee chairman that we will devote next year to the outside of the building. If we still have the above mentioned support the job will get done.

To all the officers of Freedom #118, you have really made my year through your attendance and support, thanks especially for notifying me in advance when you were unable to attend a meeting. This small favor contributed to less confusion and more organization at meeting time. Through the efforts of Rt. Wor. Peter F. Legard, Jr., we had the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia to speak at Mt. Olivet Methodist Church for the 3rd consecutive year. Thanks Rt. Wor. "Pete". I hope you are already working on Deputy Grand Master Delano for 1976 and this will become a "tradition" for Freedom #118.

Once again, thank you for the privilege of serving as your Worshipful Master in 1975, every Mason should have this experience, he would be much richer for it.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Hugh A. Gudger, P. M.