
THE BILLBOARD

NOVEMBER 2023

For The Valley of Billings, Orient of Montana - Serving Eastern Montana Scottish Rite Members

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To The Celestial Lodge:

None

Message from the Venerable Master

Fraternal Greetings

Veterans Day November 11th, 2023



“Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they’ve suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us.”

- President Ronald Reagan,

Our Scottish Rite Degrees emphasize the utmost importance of Liberty, Freedom, and Justice for all.

This story by my Uncle Chester Bevolden is written in his own words. It tells of his years in a prison camp in the Philippines and Japan during the Second World War. This is one of the many sacrifices made by veterans for Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

This is just a short story of the way we were treated after we joined the army until we were liberated. We were young fellows, just at the age where we thought we knew everything, so we decided to join the army. Well, we wanted to see the world, so we went overseas. Our boat had about everything we wanted. We were on the boat for 22 days. When we landed in Manila, we were a happy bunch as this was the end of our trip. We then unloaded into boats and were sent to Corregidor Island. Here we took our basic training. It was very hot. It only lasted a month and then we returned to duty. I was sent to the motor pool there. We learned how to drive trucks. This was a very hard job on Corregidor as the roads were so narrow with many sharp turns. There were only 27 miles of road on the island. I believe I did about 600 miles a month. A person had to be darn busy to make that many miles. After our work in the evening, we could go to shows or bowl or almost anything we wanted, as all this was very cheap. This easy life only lasted about six months. Then we were sent over to Bataan where we were put to work digging gun positions and getting ready for war (which we didn’t know was coming so soon). We weren’t in a position to fight at that time, as we didn’t have enough equipment to fight with and weren’t trained the way we should have been. Bataan was a grand place. With the war going on, we couldn’t do much as we were on grand alert all the time. As time went on, it kept getting tougher. and scarier, and we had to find most of our own food. Of course, the army gave us two meals a day, but that wasn’t enough. We were all hungry all the time. We got to know some Filipinos and traded them cigarettes for chow. As long as the cigarettes lasted, we ate good. But they soon became scarce. Then we had to find new meals. So, we started hunting wild animals. Everything we saw we would shoot and eat. We caught monkey, Chinese dragons, chicken, and mules. We ate dog, but this was later. The monkey looked terrible. But food was food by this time.

(Continued on page 2)



Message from our Personal Representative

I write this article with great pride for all the hard work and dedication each one of you has exhibited over the past 45 days. It is a privilege to be part of such an exceptional fraternity, where the values of fellowship, charity, and personal growth are held in such high esteem.

First, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the brethren who played a pivotal role in the 192nd Reunion. Your efforts have borne fruit, as we proudly welcomed four new Masters of the Royal Secret into our ranks: Brothers Mitch Burns, Jacob Hammersmith, Max Von Knodel and Anthony Morse. By spreading the light of Freemasonry and its timeless principles, you have contributed to the perpetuation of our noble fraternity.

I would like to extend a special commendation to Bro Jacob Clos 32°, Commander of the Council of Kadosh, for his outstanding organization of the Feast of Tishri. The event was a resounding success, and a testament to his commitment to excellence. His efforts were well noticed, and we are grateful for his exceptional leadership.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the Rite Care Clinic's Pumpkin Patch for Kids event. After its 4-year hiatus, Bro. Ron Swenson 32° KCCH chaired this delightful and heartwarming affair that brought joy and laughter to young hearts but also extended our principles of charity to the wider community. Thanks to a request by Bro. Dan Jobrack 32° KCCH, Albertsons Heights graciously donated 175 pumpkins, ensuring that children of all ages received a complimentary pumpkin or two. Very well-done gentlemen.

I cannot express how pleased I am with everyone who contributed to these recent accomplishments. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to the principles of Scottish Rite have made us stronger as a fraternity. Let us continue to work together, supporting one another, and upholding the values that have made us who we are. I commend you for your hard work and selfless labor. May you continue to inspire and make a difference in the lives of those around us.

(Venerable Masters Message cont. from page 1)

Then came the surrender at Bataan and we were ordered back to Corregidor. We knew at the time Corregidor would be a rough place. The Japanese could shell us and bomb us until we couldn't do anything. Of course, we hung on and fought back every chance they gave us. But that wasn't very often. We had to work by night and sleep by day, just like an old owl.

This life didn't last long as we were ready to give up. We thought life would be easier in a prison camp than fighting. But the worst was yet to come. We were ordered all into one place where they could keep track of us. They figured that we would try to escape. If a person doesn't know how to swim and boats were nowhere around, we couldn't leave. We lived in a place four blocks square, which was very unsanitary. The latrines were very close smelled all the time. The flies were very thick, and we couldn't eat a meal without them, giving us hell. We lived in these unsanitary conditions for about 30 days. Then we were loaded into boats which had been used for hauling horses. Here the manure was at least an inch to 6 inches deep. We were on this boat for about 24 hours. About 9 o'clock in the morning we were taken off the boat and made to walk ashore. The water was about waist deep, which made us think we were making a beach landing. We made the landing at night and then they lined us up. Here we were chased to the Bilibid prison. They wouldn't give us a rest as their horses weren't tired, so we shouldn't be either. When we reached the place, our tongues were hanging out. I don't think a person could get more disgusted than we did. Things got pretty rough. But as good hearty Americans, we stood a lot



THE RITE CORNER

“Meaning of Feast of Tishri”

David L. Nielsen, S.G.I.G. in Montana

The Feast of Tishri has its origin in the early Jewish celebration of harvest and gathering. The feast also celebrated the consecration of Solomon’s Temple, and the Jews escape from Egypt. Scottish Rite has adopted the Feast and its tradition of the dedication of Solomon’s Temple as a celebration of principal ideals of Masonry and sharing of our fraternal spirit. In early September the Orient of Montana hosted a Feast of Tishri in Butte through the efforts of its Valleys. Several Valleys have subsequently held Feasts at the Valley level, most of which I was pleased to attend.

The Scottish Rite Feast customarily starts with an explanation of the historical tradition of the Jewish Feast to celebrate harvest, completion of building of Solomon’s Temple, and the Jewish exodus from captivity in Egypt. These ancient Jewish historical events are then explained to us as being metaphors to Masonic lessons. At times, when we annually hear the story of the beginnings of the Feast of Tishri, we cannot logically process it as a metaphor for Masonic teaching.

The building of King Solomon’s Temple is used by Masons as the basis of profound symbolism in teaching moral lessons on living a life of peace and pleasure among our brothers and sisters. However, Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem was subsequently destroyed by the Babylonians, and later replaced by a Temple built under the order of Herod. What is the value in celebrating the consecration of such a magnificent edifice that is long gone and has been replaced at least once? At the Orient Feast of Tishri, III. James Graham, SGIG for Arkansas, gave an excellent explanation to metaphorically connect the physical act of constructing beautiful temples as the erection of a Temple in our individual hearts that is dedicated to God and our Masonic brotherhood.

The celebration of harvest seems to be a challenge to discover a Masonic allegory for our understanding. At first blush, the harvest is viewed as the annual completion of successful horticulture. For us harvest has another meaning. Harvest is the result of toil and labor in working the soil to produce grains and foods for our use. Despite the human effort, the germination of the seed, and the development of root and stems, is the sole work of God. Celebrating harvest is largely paying honor and respect to the work of the Creator. Also, harvest is required every year and is not a one-time accomplishment. After the harvest, the farmer again proceeds to prepare the soil, clear weeds, spread the seed, and pray for moisture. This is a cycle that repeats every harvest season. As Masons we engage in charitable works, but when a charitable event ends, we proceed to do it again and again. We are not content to only provide charitable aid one time; we do it repeatedly.

A celebration of the Jewish escape from captivity in Egypt reminds us metaphorically of the cycle of captivity suffered by victims of abuse, the unescapable captivity of addiction from chemical abuse, or the captivity of inequality from societal discrimination. As we learn in our lessons, the message of our Feast of Tishri is “it promises that the burdens of tyranny are temporary, that the darkness will yield to light, that knowledge will conquer ignorance, and that the Creator intended all [people] to be free.”

As we celebrate the Feast of Tishri, I ask that we give an extra prayer for the Israelites and Palestinians who are suffering at the hands of evil and ignorance. May shalom (peace) overcome violence.



SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH and LANGUAGE CLINIC

On Saturday, October 7, the Clinic had a Pumpkin Patch Party at the NADC Auditorium, formerly the Shrine. It has been several years since this had been done. The attendance was approximately 140 (over 100 children plus 40 adults). A special thank-you to Ron Swenson who headed this event, plus the many volunteers who donated their time, including members, Job's Daughters, DeMolay, Bob Snow, Mr. Branger, Albertson's for providing the pumpkins, and those who provided cakes, etc., for the cake walk. It was a fun time for the children.

The Clinic was privileged to receive from the First Federal Bank and Trust a donation of \$1000.00. It was presented to the Clinic at the beginning of our board meeting. It was good timing, as most of the board members were present.

At this time the Clinic is providing 62 sponsorships and three applications for sponsorships. The big fundraiser for the Clinic is the Cookie Jar Auction. That will occur on Wednesday, December 6. Patty Murphy is facilitating the auction, and the auctioneer will be Bruce Butler. This is a fun time, so be thinking about getting cookie jars available. Remember, it's all about helping children.

Respectfully submitted, Jered Scherer

2024 Valley Information 230 Members

(Remember– you can pay your 2023 dues on-line or through the office!)

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 68 29.6 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 74 32.2 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 19 8.3 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 43 18.7%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 26 11.3%



A note about 2024 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council: Remember your dues must be paid by 01 January to be in good standing.



**Delicious Bird
Season is upon
us!**

2023 Officers & General Information

2023 Officers

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master	Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	John Hugdahl, 32°
Junior Warden	Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH
Orator (all bodies)	Nate Frickel, 32°
Almoner	David Bergeson, 33°
Secretary	Llewellyn Fletcher, 33°
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Gerald Giebink, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Rick Ingram-Hegenbart, 32°
Expert	Cody Catlin, 32°
Captain of the Host	Robert Cauckwell, 32°
Tyler	TBD
Organist	John Baber, 32° KCCH

ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	David Jobrack, 32°
Senior Warden	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
Junior Warden	TBD

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Jacob Clos, 32°
1 st Lt. Commander	Michael Wren, 32°
2 nd Lt. Commander	Andrew McCarroll, 32°

CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Jered Scherer, 33°
Prior	Ronny Aasterud, 32° KCCH
Preceptor	Dan Massey, 32° KCCH
Minister of State	Nate Frickel, 32°

2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Upcoming events on page 10)



Executive Board Meeting	Nov. 1 st , 2023
Stated Dinner	Nov. 1 st , 2023
Rite Care Board Meeting	Nov. 5 th , 2023
Rite Care Board Meeting	Dec. 5 th , 2023
Executive Board Meeting	Dec. 6 th , 2023
Cookie Jar Fundraiser	Dec. 6th, 2023
Rite Care Board Meeting	Jan. 2 nd , 2024
Cap & Ring Ceremonial	Jan. 3 rd , 2024
Annual Installation of Officers	Jan. 3 rd , 2024

Membership Breakfast

2nd Saturday of each Month

7:30 a.m.

At: **Perkins Restaurant**

765 S 20th Street W., Billings MT 59102



Billings Scottish Rite Office Hours

Wednesday and Thursday
9 a.m. – noon

Coffee Klatch

Every Thursday morning beginning at 7:30 a.m.
in the Temple Dining Room



(Venerable Master's message cont. from page 2)

The next experience we encountered was traveling on railroads in box cars. We were stacked in like cords of wood. This ride lasted for about eight hours. We finally reached our station. Here we unloaded and headed into our camping ground for the night. They allowed us to cook rice and onion soup, and of course our daily ration of meat, which was full of worms. We ate a very hearty meal. Then they took out our camping equipment, which was only a blanket. We were getting settled for the evening when the wind started to blow. We didn't pay much attention to this and then shortly it began to rain. They wouldn't let us get our overcoats or overshoes. So, we stayed out and got soaked to the skin. Then the rest of the night we tried to keep warm. We spent a very long night there. Of course, this wasn't the last time we got wet. About 7 o'clock in the morning. We were up and had our breakfast of worms and rice. Before I go any further, we had to eat worms to get the benefit out of the rice, which most people don't believe. But we were there, so I guess I should know.

We then headed for a new home which was located 20 miles north of Cabatertaun. On the way to camp. We were treated pretty rough. All we had was one canteen of water. The sun was so darn hot it soon ran us out of water. So, we had to go dry for about half a day. If there was any water in holes along the road, men would run like wild cattle to get some. But if the Japanese ever caught a person he could get a hell of a beating, so it really didn't pay. We soon got wise to them and knew about how much we could get away with.

Our first experience was seeing four men get shot, which we thought was to set an example for the rest of us. So, we would not try anything. Things went well. But soon started to feel the hardship we were under. We didn't think we were going to get any more meat until we got back home. Every now and then they would cook it until the bones were soft so we could eat it. They would give us fish once a month and it was so rotten that it turned a person's stomach. But we ate it like candy. This lasted about six months until 1,500 of us were ordered to go to Japan. We left Manila about November 1st. We were on the boat for about 23 days until we docked at Kobi, Japan. The boat ride was rugged. We slept all cramped up in the hull of the boat.

Two men slept, and one man stood up so we could rest. When we were unloaded, we were sent to a railroad station. Where we waited for a train for about two hours. It was so darn cold I thought we would freeze to death. Then to make things brighter we were told that tonight, being it was a great holiday in the States, we would receive a big meal. Of course, we believe the interpreter. That night, we were treated very nicely as they gave us five nice cotton blankets. They were considered a luxury in Japan. There was no heat in the Barricks, so the blankets helped us stay warm. We finally went to work after freezing for about two weeks and taking punishment every day. Our interpreter would come around every day and beat someone on general principles. He finally got taken away, so we had peace and quiet again. Our work consisted of loading and unloading box cars. This was fair work as chow kept coming in all the time and we stole all we could eat and occasionally took some to camp. Of course, if we got caught, we would've been beaten half to death. This life soon ended, as we were sent to another camp. Here we built docks, and we couldn't get any extra chow. So, we started getting thinner all the time. As time passed, our boys started to pass away, and we lost about one third of our men. I sure hated to see this, but as there was no medicine or food, there wasn't much we could do about it. In about a month I became sick and had to go to the hospital. While I was there, I received one of the worst beatings of my life. The reason for this was because we told the Japanese doctor that we weren't getting enough to eat. He stood us at attention and beat us for an hour. Our faces looked like hell for a few weeks. Some of the people don't see why we didn't fight back. But the only thing was that we could have been shot if we did. It was best to tough it out as we figured someday, we would get away from them. The hospital was colder than a barn at home, as we were only allowed to have a fire for about two hours. The rest of the time we would either be in bed or running in place trying to keep warm. The only time we ever got warm was when the sun came out. No wonder the Japanese worship the sun.

I left the hospital and went back to camp, where it was much nicer as we got a little more chow. Of course, the work was harder. I soon became sick again. This time my legs swelled up so large I couldn't take my pants off. What a heck of a note, this is what they call Beriberi. It was a very common disease among the Japanese. It is caused by the lack of food. My experience ended at this camp, then we were brought into a new field of life. We were sent to an English camp here we were greatly outnumbered. But being good Americans, we held our own.

Well, by good fortune, the Japanese finally decided they couldn't win so they gave up. We heard right away about the surrender, as the radio the Englishmen gave us was still working, full blast. We could tell the Japanese had lost, as they were in their office praying and crying and trying to do the best they could to make us think it was the worst thing that ever happened. But we didn't think of that ourselves, as we thought that this was the best thing that could've happened. A few days later a couple of painters came and printed PW on our camp. I don't know where they got the paint as none of the buildings were ever painted, but I guess it's been stored away. And the next day the B29's came and dropped the First American chow in 39 months. We were a very happy bunch of boys. It made us cry to see these planes and of course the darn fools would have to dive over our camp, and we could almost reach them. We were put on a plane and headed for Okinawa where we laid over for a few days and then flew to Manila.

My Mother told me that when my Uncle Chet returned home his bones were so soft due to malnutrition, that you could push on his bones with your finger, and it would leave an impression

Faternally,
Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection



**Magic City
Chapter**

**THE
ROAD
BEGINS
HERE**

We are off to DeMolay Convention! Hope to see some of you there. We will have a full report in the next edition of the Billboard.

Pictures from the Valley of Billings Feast of Tishri, 50-Year Cap Presentations and 25-Year Pin Presentations



Commander Jacob Clos 32°



Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Speaker



Leroy Summers 32° KCCH
50 Year Cap



Roger Haugrud-50 Year
Cap



Wayne Swigart-50 Year
Cap



III. Dave Bergeson 33°
25-Year Pin



Jesse Barnhart 25-Year
Pin

The 192nd Reunion Class in Honor of Ill. Jered Scherer 33° of the Valley of



Pictured L-R: Ill. Sean McDuffee 33° PR, Hon. Ron Swenson 32° KCCH VM, Brothers Mitch Burns 32°, Jacob Hammersmith 32°, Max Von Knodel 32°, Anthony Morse 32° & Hon. Dan Jobrack 32° KCCH - Class Conductor

KCCH Conferral in Helena



Pictured L-R: Hon. Keith Thompson 32° KCCH, Hon. Dennis Massey 32° KCCH & Hon. James Salsbury 32° KCCH

Rite Care Pumpkin Patch 2023 Memories





CONTRIBUTIONS

365 CLUB

Ronny and Mary Beth Aasterud

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

In Memory of Dave Armstrong-
Marc & Cathy Sewell

Rebekah Donaldson

GENERAL DONATIONS

In Memoria

Doris Clayton (by her family)

Business Attire



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION
WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT
10/30/23 @11:00 a.m.)**, OR REQUEST THE
SECRETARY ADD YOU TO THE CALL LIST.
THOSE ON THE CALL LIST WILL RECEIVE
A REMINDER CALL 2-3 DAYS BEFORE
STATED DINNER.

MEAL MENU by Cody

Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00

Relish Tray

Salad with Ranch & Italian Dressings

1. **Sliced Turkey with Poultry Gravy, Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes & Green Bean Casserole**
2. **Impossible Chicken with Veggie Gravy, Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes & Green Bean Casserole**

DESSERT

Pumpkin Spiced Sheet Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102-5216

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33[°]
Secretary: Lewie Fletcher, 33[°]
Email: secretary@billingscscottishrite.com
Website: www.billingsscottishrite.com
Phone: (406) 259-6683

Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m. – noon

**Email the Secretary to be added to
our Email list for an electronic
Billboard**



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Upcoming Events

Billings Scottish Rite



Orient of Montana
Freemasons of Montana

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master
Ron Swenson, 32[°] KCCH

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master
David Jobrack, 32[°]

Council Knights Kadosh

Commander
Jacob Clos, 32[°]

Consistory
Master of Kadosh
Jered Scherer, 33[°]



MEETINGS/EVENTS



Exec. Board Mtg.	Nov. 1 st , 2023 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Nov. 1 st , 2023 6:30 p.m. Dining Hall
Rite Care Board Meeting	Nov. 5 th , 2023 noon Conference Room
Rite Care Board Meeting	Dec. 5 th , 2023 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Dec. 6 th , 2023 6:00 p.m. Conference Room

Stated Dinner/Annual Cookie Jar Fundraiser

Dec. 6th, 2023 6:30 p.m. Dining Hall

(There will be no upstairs meeting on December 6th)

Rite Care Board Meeting	Jan. 2 nd , 2024 noon Conference Room
Cap & Ring Ceremonial	Jan 3 rd , 2024 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room

Annual Installation of Officers to Follow

(Cap and Ring and Installation are open to the public)