

*Ventura Lodge of Perfection in the Orient of  
California, Valley of Ventura, Scottish Rite*

# *Views from Ventura Valley*

**VOL. XXXIV November - December 2011**

**Issue 1**

## **Honours Weekend in San Diego**



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXIV, Issue number 1. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the Ventura Lodge of Perfection in the Orient of California, Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies, 487 Appletree Ave, Camarillo, CA 93012-5148. This publication is distributed free of charge to all members. For further information call 805-484-5222. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the address above.

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Ventura, Orient of California acknowledge the authority and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

### **Cover:**

Our cover shows a group shot of most of our members who attended the Honours Weekend in San Diego this past month.

### **Upcoming Events:**

On November 12<sup>th</sup> we will take our candidate, Earl Williams, to Long Beach to receive his Scottish Rite degrees. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Prior to our stated meeting November 14 representatives from the Childhood Language Clinic in Santa Barbara will be present. Our Women's Association will make a presentation to them. Come out and learn more about this fine philanthropy.

Prior to our December 12 stated meeting we will be entertained by the music of Garth Ratliff, whose stage name is Frank E. DelMonico. His mother, "Eos", was a prominent singer on the lounge circuit in Tulsa, and he grew in the lounge entertainment environment where he became an accomplished musician and vocalist. He now performs throughout the country. Garth is also a liturgist and member of First United Methodist Church of Ventura.

Plan to come out and enjoy the show.

At the meeting we will hold our annual election of officers.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, and December 17<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Café 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy, at 7:00 AM for breakfast. Newcomers are always welcome.

### **News of the Valley:**

At our September stated meeting Mr. Hal Fulkerson, in the persona of Thomas Bard, gave us a review of Mr. Bard's important contributions to our locale.

At our October stated meeting we celebrated the traditional Feast of Tishri. Our officers did a fine job with the ceremonies.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> several members of our Valley traveled to San Diego to witness the investiture of Brothers Thom Piper and Gus Garcia as Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor.

Our leaders are busy lining up the officers to serve next year and working on the calendar and budget. If you would like to be considered for an office, or if you have ideas concerning possible activities for next year, or other suggestions, please let our current leaders know.

## VENTURA COUNTY SCOTISH RITE BODIES

A Historical Perspective

*(The following is a presentation by the late Charlie Myers, 33°, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Valley, October 30, 2003.)*

When asked to prepare a history of The Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies to be presented this evening, I quickly contacted III. Brother Erland F. Myers, 33°, who was kind enough to offer a perspective on our first ten years. Much of what I present was prepared by Erland and I thank him for his major contribution. To quote Erland directly: he noted, "I am flattered by the request and awed by the task. Unfortunately, written records of those first years are few and reliance on human memory is a questionable asset." He went on to say, "At any event, I suspect the Brethren will be just as happy not to have to wade through a large volume of statistics."

In light of Erland's remarks, I will follow Shakespeare's observation in Hamlet that say's "Brevity is the soul of wit." I will attempt to be as witty and brief as humanly possible!

As I start allow me to quote a passage from the work of noted American psychoanalyst Eric Fromm, which goes as follows: "Man's nature, his passions and anxieties are a cultural product; in fact, Man himself is the most important creation and achievement of the continuous human effort, the record of what we call, History."

As I relate our history remember that many of the Brethren, whose creations and achievements live on with us today, are no longer among us. Let us use this opportunity to remember and honor their contributions to the success of our Ventura Bodies.

### REALITY

Scottish Rite in Ventura County became a reality in October 1978 with the receipt of Letters Temporary authorizing the formation of a Lodge of Perfection (4<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup> Degrees). The leadership necessary to bring Scottish Rite to Ventura County was provided by III. Al Albinger and III. Fritz Huntsinger, both of Ventura and by III. Ray Kenney of Santa Paula. There were others of course, but these were as I recall, the main driving force behind the efforts.

Ventura County would not be authorized the remaining three Bodies until October 1979; however, beginning in 1978 membership in the lodge of Perfection was begun with significant numbers of Scottish Rite Brethren residing in Ventura County requesting affiliation with the new organization and with these Brethren came much of the Know-how and experience necessary in order for the Body to begin operation.

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## From the PR's Quill

*Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH*

Hello and welcome to the Valley of Ventura. I bring you greeting from the Illustrious William F. Stovall, 33 Degree, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of California. We recently had the honor and privilege to dine together at the Honors Dinner banquet where our two new Honor men as well as their families and a few of our brethren all met for some friendly fellowship. With that said I would like to Congratulate Brother Thom Piper and Worshipful Brother Gus Garcia who were knighted to the Knights Commander Court of Honor. This Ceremonial of Investiture was a real great honor for both of these men and I am proud to have been able to be a part of the Ritual in which they were both taking part. It was nice to see both of their lovely ladies in attendance as well as some of our brethren from the valley. We had a wonderful time from dinner the night before to breakfast and some social hours in our very own hospitality room. I thank all those whom were in attendance and I sincerely congratulate our two newest Honor men to the realm of the Knight Hood.

On to some other business at hand: Our Director of the Work has resigned due to work and education commitments, so our Valley is in need of someone to take on this task! I am looking and will be asking for support in this matter. If any of you are interested in the task your valley



is in need of your services. This coming week we will be taking our one and only candidate to Long Beach for the degrees, and I am hopeful by next year we will be back to putting on our own degrees again. I have two prospective candidates this coming year and I am hopeful we will find some more as well. In the coming Masonic year we are going to embark on a journey to attend all 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees held in Ventura counties, in order to offer some literature about the Rite and an invite to these new Master Masons to our valley in hopes of attracting some new members. I would also encourage you to help support this venture by attending these third degrees in your respective lodges. We need to build our valley with

active new Masons to carry us into the future.

As I mentioned we are taking our one and only candidate, Brother Earl Williams, to Long Beach to receive his degrees in a one day ceremony on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month. We will be leaving the lodge at 4:00 AM to be there at 6:00 AM for registration and breakfast. I hope many of you will join us as we assist this brother in Further Light in Masonry. To date I have only heard from one member who will be joining us. I hope there will be a few more to join. I was told by the PR from Long Beach Valley if we arrive a bit early he would give us a personal tour of the Temple, and for those of you who have not been there, it is a very nice theater type set up, one in which I personally have an interest in viewing from back stage. So please if you are free on this coming Saturday, join us for the Scottish Rite Degrees.

Our officers nominating committee is meeting and should have our list of prospective officers together soon, we are also working on our budget and calendar for the coming year, so hopefully by our

December meeting all these things should be ready and we should be voting on our new officers. Two final notes, at our November Dinner; we will have a representative from Santa Barbara Clinic, where our Ladies group will be presenting a check for monies they have raised and I am hopeful we will also be able to present the monies from the New England Picnic at this time, and lastly, please make note for those of you who want to make a standing dinner reservation for the upcoming year, the deadline is January 31, 2012. No rush, just a reminder, and I will have our Dinner RSVP policy posted in the bulletin for your review, just in case you forgot.

I look forward to seeing many of you next week at our monthly dinner. I know Roger and Mel have something very special planned for your dinning delight and of course ILL. Tom Melugin will have our oasis set up as usual for your liquid refreshment pleasures. Please come and join us for some friendly fellowship.

*Jerry E. Gonzales*  
**KCCH**

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History *(continued from page 3)*

The first meetings of this new organization were held in the Oxnard Masonic Center. From the beginning, there was excitement and great enthusiasm. These early meetings were well attended. The new organization received great support from nearly all of the other Scottish Rite Bodies in the Southern California area.

The first year was truly a learning experience, petitions were received, read and balloted, degrees were presented and the year passed in a blur of activity. By October of 1979 when the remaining three Bodies were authorized, the Ventura County Scottish Rite as an organization was open for business.

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## FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Please make your reservations with Tom Fanslow, preferably by email to [lakeside.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:lakeside.thomas@gmail.com), otherwise 482-3604 (leave a message), no later than the Friday before the dinner.

### November 14, 2011, Stated Meeting

**Pot Roast**  
salad  
vegetables  
desert

Price \$10 with reservation, \$15 otherwise

### December 12, 2011, Stated Meeting

**Cornish Game Hens**  
salad  
vegetables  
desert

Price \$10 with reservation, \$15 otherwise

**New Policy for Dinner Reservations**  
***Jerry Gonzales, 32° KCCH***  
***Personal Representative of the SGIG***

As promised here is my new Dinner policy:

Annual Standing Reservations are available; for an advance fee of \$100.00 per person, paid by no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of the effective year.

This reservation will include 10 dinners (all 9 stated meeting dinners for the year plus Remembrance and Renewal). It will not include the dinner for our Annual Installation of Officers which is a special catered dinner.

If you choose to pay monthly; the fee will continue to be \$10.00 per person, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 7 days in advance.

If you fail to make a reservation and wish to, pay at the door, the fee for dinner will be \$15.00 per person.

*(Special Guests and Visitors will be exempted from non-reservation price.)*

## Lodge of Perfection

Thom Piper, 32°, Venerable Master

Thanksgiving is this month. It's a time to reflect on the bountiful blessings we receive from the Great Architect. To that end, I give thanks that I found Masonry and, more specifically, our Scottish Rite Valley.

From all walks of life we come together as brothers; some of us cheerful souls, some curmudgeons, some lonely, some burdened, some intellectual, some creative, but one and all worthy men whom I call brother and mean it.

It grieves me to learn there are some Masons who do not attend lodge because of another brother. What slight, what wrong, what grievance is so great it would tear you asunder from the whole and cause you to want to weaken the ranks of something as important and necessary in today's world as Masonry?

If that same brother was hurt and you were the first to find him would you ignore him or help him? I know the answer because I know the



kind of men you are. If your wife or child offended you would you leave them forever? Leave them and never look back? No man can escape some discord or disharmony entering his life. It's how you deal with it that makes the difference. I challenge every one of you who has a beef or a pet peeve with another to go to that brother and work it out. Find a way. Resolve it or forgive it.

Another reason I heard was some left because "Scottish Rite asks more than it gives". I pondered that for some time.

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## Lodge of Perfection

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I came to the conclusion that it is entirely true. Scottish Rite asks each of us to come to Lodge monthly, asks us to pitch in and help where needed, asks that we look out for one another, educate ourselves, be responsible, be reliable, be earnest and most of all it asks that we be the best men we can possibly be. In return it gives us absolutely NOTHING at all. However, it encourages us to *take* from it. We can take from it a sense of fellowship, of accomplishment, of self-worth, of pride, and of honor to name just a few of its many offerings.

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History *(continued from page 5)*

### FOLLOW-UP

III. Harry L. Maynard, 33°, was appointed Chairman of the Inspectors General's Advisory Conference to succeed III. Huntsinger.

Despite adversity and changing times the Bodies continued to flourish through the first ten years, however at a somewhat slower pace than in those early days.

Upon completing ten years as Secretary of all the Bodies, III. Erland F. Myers, 33°, announced his retirement and relocation to Northern California, to be succeeded by the late III. Dr. John Burnham, 33°. It marked the end of one era and the beginning of another. Since its inception The Ventura Scottish Rite Bodies have had only three Secretaries, Brothers Erland Myers, Doc Burnham, and our current secretary, III. Brother Donald Lee Leech, 33°.

In July of 1992, the Valley of Ventura established a New England Summer Picnic. This picnic has been held every year since, during the month of July at Soule Park in Ojai. The picnic features "New England lobster" or Steak with all the trimmings. Profits from the picnic go to the Childhood Leaning Center in

If what you can take from Scottish Rite is not fulfilling enough for you to participate then perhaps by not attending you made the right choice. No hat, no banner, no accolade, however treasured, will mean more to me than the friendships I've made, the wonderful experiences I have had, the lessons I have learned and the personal growth I have experienced.

My brethren and their Ladies, I wish you all a bountiful harvest and a Happy Thanksgiving.

-Brother Thom Piper



Santa Barbara.

In 1993 the brethren of the Valley of Ventura adopted a section of Highway 126 from Kimball Road to Wells to provide roadside cleanup. One Saturday of the month you will find members of the Valley engaged in a visible display of community service.

#### OFFICERS

The First Officers of these new Scottish Rite Bodies were: III. Ray Kenney, 33°, Venerable Master Ventura Lodge of Perfection; Brother Charles W. Henderson, 32°, Wise Master Ventura Chapter Rose Croix; Brother Leo F. Hulen, 32° KCCH, Commander Ventura Council of Kadosh, and III. Ernest M. Shively, 33°, Master of Kadosh Ventura Consistory. III. Fritz C. Huntsinger, Sr., 33°, Served as Chairman, Inspectors General's Advisory Conference with Brother Erland F. Myers, 32° KCCH, serving as Secretary of the Bodies. The new Bodies were chartered with just over 700 members, many of whom are present here this evening. The ensuing years would see the Bodies survive both tragedy and triumph; the membership would swell to nearly 1200; the bodies would be tenants in a beautiful new building in Camarillo.

The building, constructed to house members of the Masonic Family, was occupied in 1982, however, due to the untimely death of Brother Elmer Awrey, the contractor/developer, together with a faltering economy, by 1985 it would be necessary for the Masonic Family to seek other meeting places. The Scottish Rite Bodies returned to the Oxnard Masonic Center where it had begun and where it remains today.

In the interim we were saddened by the loss of III. Al Albinger, 33°, and III. Fritz Huntsinger, 33°. Scottish Rite Funeral services were held for each Brother in the Camarillo Building. Services for Brother Elmer Awrey were also held in the Building.

#### PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, Past and Present

III. Fritz Huntsinger 33°  
 III. Harry L. Maynard 33° PGM, C/H  
 III. John Burnham 33°, MD  
 III. Edward Fredricks 33°  
 III. Fredrick J. "Tiny" Potter 33°

Earlier I quoted Erick Fromm, on "The record of what we call HISTORY" and man's, creations and achievements.

I'd like to offer a parting thought, that despite the shrinking membership in our Masonic Families and associations we retain a responsibility in our time and in our generation to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before. Let us go forward in the next 25 years to make all of Masonry strong and vital in a world which desperately needs its examples and precepts.

In closing and in keeping with the Halloween season, allow me to share with you an old "Cornish Prayer".

Thank you for your attention and good night

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### For Those Who Need our Prayers

*We seek in prayerful words, dear friend,  
 Our heart's true wish to send you,  
 That you may know that, far or near,  
 Our loving thoughts attend you.*

<b>Peter Bokron</b>	<b>Clarence Jackson, 658-4859</b>
<b>Donald Wright, 642-6621</b>	<b>Gonzalo Hernandez, 485-0166</b>
<b>Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101</b>	<b>Charlie Rudd, 646-7758</b>

Please give these brethren a call, pay them a visit, or drop them a card or letter, to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a distressed brother, please contact our Prelate, Jim Daniels, 32° KCCH, (gardengreen2@verizon.net or 984-7272) or one of the other officers.

### For Those Who have Crossed the Bar

*Sunset and evening star,  
 And one clear call from me,  
 And may there be no moaning of the bar  
 When I put out to sea.*

*For tho' from out our bourne of time and place  
 The flood may bear me far,  
 I hope to see my Pilot face to face,  
 When I have crossed the bar.*

**Paul Bernard Schallheim crossed on 10/14/2011**

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Freemasonry Builds Its Temples in the  
Hearts of Men and Among Nations.

## Useful Contacts

### Officers of All the Bodies

Personal Rep of the SGIG .....	Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH .....	986-3656.....	jeg522@yahoo.com
Secretary .....	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° .....	484-5222.....	alittle93012@gmail.com
Treasurer .....	Roger Rider, 32° KCCH .....	983-3025.....	rider4sd@msn.com
Almoner .....	Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH .....	644-2055.....	nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
Asst Almoner Thousand Oaks .....	John Argue, 32° KCCH .....	498-4831.....	mayfieldpark@aol.com
Asst Almoner Santa Paula .....	Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° .....	525-5932.....	efgriffin@verizon.net
Asst Almoner Camarillo .....	William Campbell, 32° KCCH .....	482-7523.....	bncampbell@verizon.net
Orator .....	Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH .....	981-8262.....	rlsills@rlsills.com
Prelate .....	James F. Daniels, 32° KCCH .....	984-7272.....	gardengreen2@verizon.net
Director of the Work .....			

### Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master .....	Thom Piper, 32° .....	208-8004.....	Thompiper2@aol.com
Senior Warden .....	J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° .....	241-6968.....	rcifuentes@hotmail.com
Junior Warden .....	Jesus "Jesse" Escamilla, 32° .....	651-9582.....	escamilla.jesus@gmail.com

### Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master .....	Augusto Garcia, 32° .....	832 4389.....	guspastmaster710@yahoo.com
Senior Warden .....	Ill.: William Dunlevy, 33° .....	647-2067.....	DunlevyLaw@aol.com
Junior Warden .....	Tom Fanslow, 32° .....	482-3604.....	<u>lakeside.thomas@gmail.com</u>

### Council of Kadosh

Commander .....	Kelly Sharp, 32° .....	(661)713-9407.....	thesaniterium@hotmail.com
1st Lt. Commander .....	Tony Ramos, 32° .....	488-3782.....	tonybie70@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander .....	Melvin Young, 32° KCCH .....	486-3444.....	melrose2@roadrunner.com

### Consistory

Master of Kadosh .....	Roy Balfour, 32° .....	492-6553.....	rjbal4@earthlink.net
Prior .....	Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° .....	525-5932.....	efgriffin@verizon.net
Preceptor .....	Jamal N. Saman, 32° .....	279-2821.....	sonofsyria@sbcglobal.net

### Ladies' Association

President .....	Terrie Metzler .....	524-3362.....	TerrieToad2004@aol.com
Vice President .....	Mary Elizabeth Sharp .....	(661) 414-2987	
			planetneverneverland@hotmail.com
Secretary .....	Nola Bragulla .....	644-2055.....	nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer .....	Ires Sutton .....	647-2364	
Member at Large .....	Lois Marrs .....	642-4292	

### Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew .....	Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH .....	644-2055 .....	nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
Dinner Reservations .....	Tom Fanslow, 32° .....	482-3604 .....	<u>lakeside.thomas@gmail.com</u>
Programs, Social Events .....	Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH .....	647-8669.....	nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
Membership .....	Thom Piper, 32° .....	208-8004.....	Thompiper2@aol.com
Highway Cleanup .....	Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH .....	643-6905.....	deardorff@dslextrame.com
Stagecraft .....	Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH .....	524-3362 .....	mgmetzler@aol.com
Childhood ID Program .....	Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH .....	647-8669.....	nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
Widows Program .....	Ladies' Association		
Newsletter Editor .....	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° .....	484-5222.....	alittle93012@gmail.com

Recent changes are underlined. All phone numbers in area code 805.

You can email us at [vcscottishrite@gmail.com](mailto:vcscottishrite@gmail.com), or FAX us at (253) 276-4055

Web site: <http://venturascottishrite.com>

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and  
the world remains and is immortal." – Albert Pike

Ventura Lodge of Perfection  
in the Orient of California  
487 Appletree Ave  
Camarillo, CA 93012-5148

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email [lakeside.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:lakeside.thomas@gmail.com), or call 482-3604

Mon	Nov	14	Stated Meeting: Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations</i> ), Presentation to Language Clinic 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following ( <i>Report of Nominating Committee</i> )
Sat	Nov	19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Satcooy
Mon	Dec	12	Stated Meeting, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations</i> ), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, ( <i>Election of Officers</i> )
Sat	Dec	17	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Satcooy
Mon	Jan	9	Installation of Officers: Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations required, NOT included in the Standing Reservation policy</i> ), ceremony following.
Sat	Jan	14	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Satcooy
Mon	Feb	13	Stated Meeting, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations</i> ), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Feb	18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Satcooy

