

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXIX November - December 2016

Issue 1

In Memoriam



Ted Whitacre

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IN MEMORIAM Ted Whitacre

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of Ill. Ted C. Whitacre.

Ted was born November 27, 1928, in Sterling, Colorado. He grew up in Nebraska, Iowa, Texas, New Mexico, and San Diego. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1946 as a flight engineer, working on the B17 bomber. He was stationed in the Philippines, Japan, Australia, and the South Pacific. He was a Korean War veteran.

Ted had an amazing impact on our Valley, participating in virtually every aspect of our organization. He originally joined the Valley of Santa Barbara in 1975, and affiliated with our Valley as a charter member. He was Chairman of Stagecraft from before 1992 until 2002, he was in charge of the Valley's programs and social events from 1997 to 2005, he served as Almoner from 1999 to 2010, and he participated in the Highway Cleanup program and the New England Summer Picnic for many years. He served as Venerable Master in 1998, and as Commander of the Council in 1993, and again in 1996 and 2005. He was created a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 1991 and invested with the 33rd Degree in 1997.

In addition to his work in Masonry, Ted was active in the Ventura Breakfast Lions Club, and in the First United Methodist Church of Ventura, through which he and his wife, Evelyn, served meals to the homeless for many years. His hobbies included flying model airplanes.

Ted leaves behind his wife of 32 years, Evelyn, three daughters and a son, four grand children, and nine great grandchildren. Of course Evelyn has been very involved with the activities of our Valley, and his son, Stephen, has helped with our picnics for many years.

A Scottish Rite Memorial Service was held for Ted on October 21st at the First United Methodist Church. Ill. Jerry Gonzales presided and Ill. Fred 'Tiny' Potter delivered the eulogy. Many members of the craft were in attendance.

Ted was much more than just this list of the many activities in which he was involved. He was a very special friend, one who was a joy to be around, one who deeply cared about those around him, and an outstanding example of a Brother Mason.

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.

Help Shape the Future of Our Valley

MW Russ Charvonia, 33°, has generously invited us to a BBQ at his home on Sunday, Nov. 20th, at 3:30 PM to provide a casual and comfortable opportunity to discuss the future of our Ventura Valley. This is your opportunity to be heard, so please join us.

Address: 5536 N. Bryn Mawr St., Ventura, phone 805.650.7511.

Ladies and adult guests are welcome, but please RSVP with the secretary, Andy Little, 33°, at

(805) 415-3776, or
alittle93012@gmail.com

so we know how many to expect.

Please make a point to attend and bring your ideas of what we should be doing in the coming years.

Newsletter to be E-Mailed

We are entering the 21st Century! Beginning with our next issue we will be distributing this newsletter only by e-mail to those for whom we have working e-mail addresses. (Others will continue to receive paper copies through the postal server as currently.)

This change has several advantages for our readers. They

will receive the e-mail copy the same time it is sent to the printer. This will typically be at least 3 days for local members, and up to 3 weeks for those out of the area, sooner than they would receive printed copies. Plus the pictures will be in color, and you will be able to follow links, typically right from your e-mail program.

If you prefer to continue receiving a printed copy of your newsletter please let us know, either through email at

vcscottishrite@gmail.com.

or by contacting the editor by phone at (805) 415-3776.

Other Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting is Monday, November 14. (Remember to get your dinner reservations in by September 8 to Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at harold55@juno.com, or (805) 218-1648.) We will announce the Nominating Committee's recommendation for officers for next year.

Our December stated meeting will be on December 12. Assuming that we are able to make all the arrangements we will be performing a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our newest member, Jesse Jacobs, 32°. Come out and officially welcome him to our Valley.

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From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°

Greetings to our Scottish Rite family!

Hello Brethren, Friends, and Families, hope this news letter finds you in good health and ready for the holidays. As you know the holiday season is upon us, with many things to do. As the year comes to a close, let us not forget we in the Scottish Rite as well as other Masonic Bodies, have much work to do to close out the year; from election of officers, to final celebrations, to sharing with our families our love and joy for the blessings we have encountered throughout this past year. I would ask in all these joyous celebrations that we forget not those less fortunate than ourselves and please in your hearts find time to give to them in some way, be it 'Toys for Tots', 'Salvation Army', Inviting a Service Person into your home for dinner, or what ever charity you find fitting in your heart to support. Please remember what Masonry is about; not only "Brotherly Love and Affection", but caring for our fellow man, so I would ask you to give from your heart to those in need.

We had a Fall Reunion Class of one person in September which finished up in Pasadena in October. Congratulations to our new Brother Jesse Jacobs. I wish to thank those who participated in the first three degrees, and to the Valley of Pasadena who allowed us to partake in the final two degrees in their



valley. Those who attended in Pasadena were also invested with the opportunity to view the 28th degree; one which I felt had a very strong value to leading our daily lives. The Valley of Pasadena truly did some impressive degree work, and the fruits of their labors were obviously noted and observed by all in attendance. I thank you all for your support in this endeavor.

I also had the privilege and opportunity to attend the Rite Care Conference held in Denver, Colorado this past month. It was divided up into three different tracks. Track one was Speech & Language, Track two was Literacy, and Track three, which I attended, was Executive Management. The first two being directed at Child Care Staff were well attended with a wealth of very qualified presenters as well as providing some continuing education credits for those attending. The

Management Track which I attended was composed of persons from various foundations around the country, Scottish Rite HQ, and local key note speakers. It was quite interesting to hear how other states operate and compare both the similarities and differences of them. Some operate each location as a stand-alone operation whereas California and some larger states operate under a state-wide foundation with individual clinics responsible for their local operations and funding. There was also much talk about Grants being a necessary process that we do not do so well, and the work that is being done to improve this process. There was also talk of a program to go after Larger National Grants if the various Orients wanted to buy into a national program. There were also many statistics published about services provided, and it was interesting to learn that the first Rite Care Program was established in Denver, Colorado. I am in the process of downloading all the presentations from the Conference and will try to provide them to anyone interested in any portion of them. Please feel free to utilize the attached link to the presentations, which will be posted through the Month of November: http://www.scottishritefoundation.org/RC_Slides.html. I can also send any or all via e-mail if requested; there are many of them so it may take several e-mails if you want them all but I do have them available in a PDF format as well as the program guide.

Your election committee, composed of the heads of bodies, is working on nominations for the upcoming year. We have had an officer resign and need find a replacement to this position. Walter Bragulla has stepped down as the Almoner, a position which is an important ongoing part of our Valley and we need a willing person to fill that position. We will be calling upon you to consider a chair in the Valley, please support your Valley and think about a position to support our craft. Nominations are announced in November and voted on in December. We are truly in need of men who desire to hold a chair in our bodies, not a lot involved but some effort and attendance is needed. Please think about taking a position in our line.

As mentioned at the October meeting, we are changing our financial portfolio to a more long range goal for returns. I also mentioned a future social meeting/BBQ to discuss the future of the Valley. Please see the details on page 3 in this bulletin under the title of "Help Us Shape the Future of Our Valley!". As most of you know our Valley is struggling to fill positions, do degree work and support our charitable causes. Many of us have visions of a Child Language Clinic in Ventura County, but none of us are working as a group or team to accomplish any of these causes. The purpose of this meeting is to reach out to all of those in the Valley who have an interest, as to where our Valley is going, what we

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PR's Quill

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expect, how we expect to get there and/or if we are going to continue to exist as a Scottish Rite Valley. I truly encourage you to please attend this open forum meeting, bring your ideas, desires, suggestions, and thoughts as to what you expect, desire and need from the Scottish Rite Valley of Ventura. As with all functions we will ask for an RSVP, and a special note will be sent out prior to the event to remind you to make reservations. Again, Please plan to attend. This is important if we intend to continue to have a Scottish Rite Valley in Ventura. (I was an active participant when the

two Shrine Clubs folded in Oxnard, and am hopeful this is not the fate of our Valley!) **Please Plan to Attend!**

Our next meeting is approaching and I am looking forward to having dinner with all of you. Please make your reservations in a timely manner or plan to pay an additional fee for dinner.

I truly thank you for your continued support.

God Bless, and Hope to See You at Dinner!

III. Jerry E. Gonzales 33°

<http://www.venturascottishrite.org/>
<http://www.scottishritecalifornia.org/>
<https://scottishrite.org/>

Other Upcoming Events

(continued from page 3)

Our highway cleanups will be on Saturdays, November 12th and December 17th. Meet at the Café 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd.,

Saticoy, at 7:00 AM for breakfast. Our ranks have dwindled and we are looking for more members to participate in this valuable civic minded activity. Newcomers are always welcome.

News of the Valley

In September we performed a Cap and Ring Ceremony for the four members of our Spring Class: Ronald Laureano, 32°, Hector V. Lopez, 32°, Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32°, and Ryan Phillips, 32°. Welcome aboard, Brethren. Also that evening, Sir Knight Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH, presented an interesting paper on "SHEKINAH, or DIVINE PRESENCE". (See pictures on pages 10, 12 and 13.)

On September 24 we conferred the 4th, 14th, and 18th Degrees on our newest member, Jesse E. Jacobs, II. (See pictures on page 7.) Then on October 21 and 22 we took him to Pasadena to receive the rest of his degrees. Jesse is a stunt man by profession, and has a keen interest in philosophy.

At our October stated meeting we observed the traditional Feast of Tishri. Our PR, III. Jerry Gonzales, 33°, presided over the event.

Degree Teams

Following are our degree teams who put on the Fourth, Fourteenth, and Eighteenth Degrees (top to bottom) in September, with candidate Jesse Jacobs.



Dinner Reservations

2016 Dinner Reservation Policy:

The standard cost of dinner is \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 5 days in advance.

If you fail to make a reservation by the stated deadline and / or wish to pay at the door, the fee for dinner will be \$20.00 per person.

If you make a reservation and fail to attend, the appropriate thing to do is to send your money to the Valley as we will have paid for your dinner reservation in advance.

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

Be sure to make your reservations with **Harold Bogner**, preferably by email to harold55@juno.com, otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

From The Kitchen Staff

November 14th Dinner Menu

Caesar Salad
Italian Sausage w/Sliced Peppers
(Green/Red/Yellow) on Noodles Jefferson
Vegetable Medley
Garlic Bread
Frosted White Cake

Cost \$15.00/Individual or \$25.00/Couple
RSVP by November 10th, 2016

Please note, late reservations after this date will be \$20.00 Per Person!

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner,
preferably by email to harold55@juno.com,
otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

December 12th Dinner Menu

Feast of Tishri

BBQ Chicken
Cheesy Mac
Southern Style Green Beans
Salad American Thousand Island
Apple Crisp
Corn Bread

Cost \$15.00/Individual or \$25.00/Couple
RSVP by December 10th, 2016

Please note, late reservations after this date will be \$20.00 Per Person!

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner (see above)

DUES

Dues notices for 2017 were sent out a few weeks ago. Thank you to all those who have already sent in your 2017 dues. It provides our Valley with the resources we need to operate, and makes your secretary's job much easier.

Dues payments are due by December 31, 2016. Please try to get them in on time.

For those who are not life members, we have done away with date stickers that we have used for the last couple of years. For 2017 you will get a new, thin plastic card.

Let me remind everyone that, if it would create a financial hardship on you to pay your dues (or to bring them up to date if you are currently in arrears), you should contact the secretary and we will work it out.

We finish the topic with a poem:

Forget the slander you have heard;
Forget the hasty unkind word.

Forget the quarrel and the cause;
Forget the whole affair because
Forgetting is the only way.
Forget the storm of yesterday;
Forget the chap whose sour face
Forgets to smile in any place.
Forget the trials you have had;
Forget the weather if it's bad;
Forget the knocker – he's a freak;
Forget him seven days a week.
Forget you're not a millionaire;
Forget the gray streaks in your hair.
Forget the home team lost the game;
Forget the pitcher was to blame.
Forget the coffee when it's cold;
Forget to kick, forget to scold.
Forget the plumber's awful charge;
Forget the iceman's bill is large.
Forget the coal man and his ways;
Forget the heat in summer days.
Forget wherever you may roam.
Forget the man who wrote this poem.
Forget that he in social bliss
Forgot himself when he wrote this.
Forget to even get the blues –

But don't forget to pay your dues!

Source unknown

Lodge of Perfection

Michael Schaller, 32^o, Venerable Master

The year is coming to an end, however November brings with it, much responsibility. The election will certainly affect each of us and our families. We have a responsibility as Americans to vote our preferences, whatever they may be. This reminds me of the duties of the 32nd Degree, Master of the Royal Secret.

Duties:

A Soldier of the Light seeks truth and knowledge.

A Soldier of Freedom demands for the people free vote and voice and attains freedom of voice, vote and opinion for himself.

A Soldier of the True Religion combats Spiritual Tyranny with reason and truth.

A Soldier of the People encourages men to be Self reliant and independent.

A Soldier of the Scottish Rite of Masonry is zealous and ardent in the performance of his duties to God, his



country, his family, his brethren and himself.

This is a great reminder that we must all do our part and Vote this election.

Whatever the result, we must pray that the Lord helps the new Leaders do the best they can for the people of this great Country.

Michael Schaller

Cap and Ring Ceremony: Entrance



The Consistory

Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh

I hope, as you read this article, you are reflecting on who you are going to vote for or you have already voted. Thanks for taking the time to fulfill your duty as a citizen of this great country. There will be so many world events happening – I hope that many of you will hold your families close and watch after each other. What concern do we have for our fellow citizens?

In thinking of thanks, we are coming up to the season of Thanksgiving. The holidays are soon approaching, and we wish all who are going to see friends and family – safe travelling mercies.

I encourage each one of you to continue to be good ambassadors of the Ventura Country Scottish Rite in each one of your blue lodges. Take the time to share the philosophical side of Freemasonry. Be a mentor to the younger brothers who are looking to your years of wisdom and experience. Take time to be with the brothers and their families. They are the future of our Valley. Your assistance in making this Scottish Rite an awesome place to be, is up to you.



I leave you with a toast –
“May the love hidden inside your heart find the love waiting in your dreams. May the laughter that you find in your tomorrow wipe away (some of) the pain you find in your yesterdays.”

Sincerely and fraternally,

Harold W. Bogner, 32 KCCH
Master of Kadosh

TRUTH

TRUTH must be sought for. It is not an entity lying outside of us, like a boulder on the path, but a living and changing thing, which must evermore be possessed anew ... Each man must win it for himself, such is the law, for it is not a commodity which can be handed by one man to another, though there are countless ways in which we can help each other find the light.

– H. L. Haywood

Cap and Ring Ceremony



(above left)
Ronald Laureano, 32°,
and his lady Elaine



(above right)
Salvador Lopez, Jr., 32°

(below left)
Ryan Phillips, 32,
and his lady Angel

(below right)
Hector Lopez, 32°,
and his lady Lindsay





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.*

**Donald Wright, 642-6621 John Klopstein, 486-0602
Dwayne Marquardt**

Please give these people 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, Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, (746-0844 or nereus2006@sbcglobal.net) 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.*

**Hal Coleman Kern Jr. crossed on 12/3/2015
Ted Claybourn Whitacre crossed on 10/5/2016**

**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, 33° Elect..... 986-3656.... jeg522@yahoo.com
 Secretary / Treasurer.....Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°..... 415-3776.... alittle93012@gmail.com
 Almoner.....Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH..... 644-2055.... nrpq@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.... efggriffin@verizon.net
 Asst Almoner CamarilloWilliam Campbell, 32° KCCH ... 482-7523.... bncampbell@verizon.net
 Orator.....J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH 241-6968.... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
 Prelate.....Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH..... 746-0844.... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Director of the Work.....

Class Director, Historian.....Fred 'Tiny' Potter..... 484-4150.... fred_pttr@yahoo.com
 TylerRobert S. Kennedy, Jr., 32° 987-2164.... robertk@cipcug.org

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... Michael A. Schaller, 32° . (818)370-2394.... mscon777@aol.com
 Senior Warden

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master.....David Del Dosso, 32° 492-6284.... dave.pm01@gmail.com
 Senior Warden

Council of Kadosh

Commander.....Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH 986-3656.... jeg522@yahoo.com
 Senior Warden

Consistory

Master of Kadosh.....Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH 484-7657.... harold55@juno.com
 Senior Warden

Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. AndrewWalter Bragulla, 32° KCCH..... 644-2055 nrpq@sbcglobal.net
 Dinner Reservations.....Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH 484-7657.... harold55@juno.com
 Membership, VMAP ChairJ. Raul Cifuentes,, 32° KCCH..... 241-6968.... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
 Highway CleanupJim Deardorff, 32° KCCH..... 643-6905.... deardorff@dslextreame.com
 Stagecraft.....Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH 524-3362 mgmetzler@aol.com
 Childhood ID Program.....Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH..... 647-8669.... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Newsletter EditorIll.: W. Andrew Little, 33°..... 415-3776.... alittle93012@gmail.com

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

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

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

**“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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November - December
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email harold55@juno.com, or call (805) 218-1648

Sat	Nov	12	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Satcoy
Mon	Nov	14	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations by Nov 10</i>), Program 7:30 PM, (Veterans Day), Stated meeting following (<i>Report of Nominating Committee</i>)
Sun	Nov	20	3:30 PM, BBQ and planning meeting to discuss direction of Valley, all members and ladies invited, see page 3.
Mon	Dec	12	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations by Dec 8</i>), Cap & Ring 7:30 PM, Stated meeting following, (<i>Election of Officers</i>)
Sat	Dec	17	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126

Mon Jan 9, 2017 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM

(*Reservations by Jan 5*)
**Installation of Officers &
Program 7:30**

