



Behind the Veil



June 2019

Vol. 1 Issue 7

May was another great month! We had some great laughs at the our second Grotto outing to see the Drunkard. Our Luau was the best attended event so far showing together we are continuing to grow. We're looking for more outing ideas if you have an idea or event you have always wanted to do or think would be fun as a group let me know. Speaking of ideas Richard and Kathie Misenhelter brought up the idea of moving our July friends and family dinner to the park by their place. They have offered to bring the meat and we can all bring sides, condiments, etc. We'll discuss the details more in our June meeting, it sounds like a blast so we're going to give it a try.

Monarch

Charles "Crispy" Knight

June Birthday's

June 5th Chris Richardson

June 24th David Hammand

I Big thanks to Penny and Bonnie for a wonderful meal in May and to Marg for the great cake.

The June Business Meeting has been moved to June 27th.

We would like to thank Jacqueline Beavers for the donation of a case of Cups with lids. We are planning a work day on Tuesday the 18th at around 5pm to prep everything going to Branson for Supreme Council if anyone is free to help we would love the help. We are planning a work day at the Grotto on the 29th. Also Jerry DeShong left his Fez at the Grotto and we are unable to find it now, if you have seen it or know where it is can you get in touch with him or Penny, thank you.

June 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Privet Event	3	4	5 Revels	6	7	8 Murder under the Big Top
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
129th Annual Supreme Council in Branson, MO						
23	24	25	26	27 Meeting	28 Guy's Night	29 Family Potluck
30						

July 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Revels	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Rented
14	15	16	17	18 Stated Meeting	19	20 Sock Hop
21	22	23	24	25	26 Guy's Night	27 F & F Night
28	29	30	31			

Upcoming Events

6-5 Revels Meeting (G)

6-8 Murder Under the Big Top ~ Anxious to bolster his small, dog-and-pony show-like circus to a spectacle rivaling Ringling Brothers, Harold Hargove's desperate attempts to lure audiences with jaw-dropping attractions have created rivalries that extend beyond the center ring. As the pressure builds for everyone—performers, guests, and managers— a murder is committed that steals the show... and you are left to uncover the culprit before the final act. Discounted tickets are on sale until May 19th, the Price is \$10, after the 19th they go up to \$15. If you would like to take part and be one of the suspects let Katy know we have male and female parts. (PG)

6-17 to 6-22 129th Annual Supreme Council in Branson, Mo ~ We have a great number of people coming and we hope to bring more. There are several compactions to enter as for the grotto as a whole we are looking at entering the Website, Publication, Poster, Hospitality Room. If you would like to help with any of these please let Katy or Crispy know, we would love any and all help. (G)

6-27 Started Meeting ~ As our regular stated date falls during Supreme Council we have got permission from the GM to move our meeting by a week so that more of our officers and prophets can make it to Supreme. (G)

6-28 Guy's Night (NC-17)

6-29 Friends and Family Night ~ The theme for Junes Friends and Family Night Pot luck is Picnic. It is summer and what better way then to have a picnic. We will be getting the corn hole games out and have a friendly game or two. We hope to see everyone out . (G)

7-3 Revels Meeting

7-18 Stated Meeting

7-20 Sock Hop ~ Ok all you Guy's and Doll's we are planning a Soc Hop. Don't be a wet rag come on down we will be serving up dinner at 6:30. We will have the grooviest tunes in town, so come to show off your threads and cut a rug. RSVP tickets are \$10. So don't be a square and come see hang with us hip cat's.

7-26 Guy's Night

7-27 Friends and Family Night ~ The theme for July Friends and Family Night Potluck is Family Favorite. If there is a dish that your family "HAS TO HAVE" at family meals this is the time to bring it. I know I am known for a few dishes that only I make for the family and I'm sure that many of you are too. You may also have that one recipe that has been handed down from generation to generation we would love to try it in July.

G – General Audiences

All ages admitted. .

PG – Parental Guidance Suggested

Some material may not be suitable for children.

R – Restricted

Contains some adult material. Parents are urged to learn more about the event before taking their young children with them

NC-17 – Adults Only

Social Media

Did you know that the Saba Grotto has a website? Check it out and log in for our new website. You can now pay your dues, check out our calendar, read the newsletter, buy tickets to our events, and more online. www.sabagrotto.org

How about Facebook

www.facebook.com/SabaGrotto/

James J. McAlester: Pioneer Freemason

By. T.S. Akers

Oklahoma has two great Masonic cities. One had dreams of being the state capital and it would ultimately serve in a similar capacity as it became home to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma. The vestiges of Freemasonry are still very evident in Guthrie, ranging from the old Masonic Children's Home to the imposing Scottish Rite Temple perched atop what was to be Capitol Hill at the end of Oklahoma Avenue. The other city was born of a Freemason and though many of her Masonic halls are now fading memories, such as Mount Moriah, McAlester is still one of the great Masonic cities of Oklahoma.

McAlester is named for the famed merchant of Indian Territory James J. McAlester, who was immortalized by Charles Portis in his novel True Grit. McAlester was born in Sebastian County, Arkansas on October 1, 1842. At the outbreak of the Civil War, McAlester volunteered for service in the Confederate Army, rising to the rank of Captain. McAlester was present at the Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862 and escorted the body of the Late General Benjamin McCulloch to Fort Smith.

McAlester took up residence in Fort Smith after the Civil War, boarding with an engineer by the name of Oliver Weldon who had surveyed the Indian Territory. Armed with Weldon's memorandum book that noted the coal outcrops at the crossroads of the Texas and California Roads, McAlester set out for Indian Territory. Serving as a teamster, McAlester was helping transport a saw-mill to Fort Sill. In about 1868, McAlester became a salesman for the firm of Reynolds and Hannaford; ultimately buying out his partners. It was in 1869 that McAlester opened his general store, in a tent, at "The Crossroads."

A few years later in 1872, McAlester married Rebecca Burney, sister of future Chickasaw Governor Ben Burney, which gave McAlester full citizenship in the Chickasaw Nation as well as rights in the Choctaw Nation. This allowed McAlester to stake a claim in the coal deposits at "The Crossroads." Owing to the quality of the coal in the area, which McAlester had a controlling interest in, the MKT Railroad established a line through what was then Tobucksy County. This would help the city of McAlester to flourish. Officials of the MKT Railroad gave the railway stop at the "The Crossroads" the name McAlester.

McAlester accepted his first political appointment as a Democrat in 1893 as United States Marshal having jurisdiction over matters with the Choctaw Nation, a post he would hold until 1897. McAlester sold his mercantile to another area Mason, William Busby, in 1904. It was during this period that McAlester was engaged in banking. In 1901, McAlester appeared in the City Directory of Denison, Texas, as Vice President of the National Bank of Denison. By 1905, McAlester was serving as President of the Bank of McAlester. McAlester's banking interests secured him a seat on the Corporation Commission after Statehood for a term from 1907 to 1911. McAlester left the Corporation Commission to serve as the second Lieutenant Governor under Governor Lee Cruce. McAlester was acting Governor in the absence of Cruce on at least one occasion, as evidenced by his issuing a pardon in 1915 in the case of Sibenaler -vs- State.

For all that McAlester did to see that the city that bore his name flourished; he was an equal proponent of Freemasonry. Records indicate that McAlester affiliated with Muscogee (Eufaula) Lodge No. 1 in December of 1876, serving as Junior Warden of that Lodge in 1877. McAlester Lodge No. 9 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory on September 5, 1877. McAlester then affiliated with Lodge No. 9 in 1878.

McAlester would go on to be a charter member of two Masonic bodies in Southeastern Oklahoma. In 1878, McAlester along with a number of other Companions petitioned for a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a charter was granted to Indian Chapter No. 1 in August of 1880. McAlester was also one of the Sir Knights who petitioned for a Commandery of Knights Templar in 1894.

When the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Indian Territory was formed in 1890, McAlester was elected the first Grand Treasurer. McAlester also served as first Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indian Territory in 1895. As further evidence of his financial prowess, McAlester also saw service as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory from 1878 to 1879 and 1889 to 1899.

James J. McAlester laid down the working tools of life on September 21, 1920, in the city that bore his

name. As a testament to his life, the Oklahoman noted the following on McAlester's death:

Followed probably by the largest concourse of mourners ever witnessed in this city, the remains of Col. J.J. McAlester were buried today in the Masonic cemetery here. Funeral services were conducted at the residence and were heard by nearly 2,000 people.

Out of respect for the memory of Colonel McAlester and the fact that he was the founder of this city, business and industrial life of the city was at a standstill from 2 until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Preceding the funeral at the home, the Kadosh funeral rites were exemplified at the Masonic temple at midnight. In the procession behind the funeral bier on its way to the cemetery were the allied Masonic bodies, in which Colonel McAlester had been active, the confederate veterans in uniform, the allied civic organizations, 200 members of the chamber of commerce, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and other women's organizations.

The hand of James J. McAlester can still be seen across the city of McAlester today, from the buildings that bore his name to the Masonic halls he once graced, McAlester lives on in the city he helped establish.

Prophet of the Month for June is

Dewey J. Thomson

At 7:00pm on August 3rd 1979 Robin Dewey Thompson gave birth to her only son, Dewey Jon Thompson, with the assistance of her husband Johnny JB Thompson at Saint Francis hospital here in Tulsa. While growing up and attending school in Hominy he made numerous academic achievements throughout his time there.

In the year 2000, Immediately graduating with honors from Oklahoma State University in Hospitality Service/ Culinary Arts, he began a rigorous culinary career at the prestigious Stonehedge Inn & Spa, located in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. After an internship at Stonehedge he soon moved back to his home state of Oklahoma to be with his mother. It was only after a crippling diagnosis of osteoarthritis did his culinary career end. It was then that he decided to peruse a career in the technical fields of computer support. He was recruited by the Verizon Company in 2010 as an Order Manager for the Government and Education accounts for the State of California.

In 2012 he met his Husband Christopher Lee Derringer, on a dating app, and immediately hit it off. They were both passionate about service and duty to our country. Chris had just left the Navy a few years earlier and Dewey's mother and father and uncles were all in the U.S. Navy, civic duty was hard wired into both of them.

After the death of his father on August 10th 2014 he found a deep and substantial loss in his heart. He searched for light and guidance in his life and that is when he had the dream that would change his life. In the middle of the night in February 2017, he had the dream that Freemasonry would help him reconnect that bond which had been taken when his father died of cancer. He applied to the nearest Masonic Lodge which was Delta 425 and purchased his perpetual membership. After being raised as a master mason the first appendant body he joined was Saba Grotto under Matt Llewellyn. As a member of Saba Grotto Dewey has jumped in and joined the line and is now Chief Justice, and host of Guy's Night every month. Dewey and Chris have taken over cooking for most of our fundraisers and have taken on a big part of the maintenance and cleaning around the grotto. If you see Dewey congregate him on being Prophet of the Month.

A List of the Holiday's in June

- 1 Dare Day
- 1 Flip a Coin Day
- 1 National Trails Day
- 2 National Bubba Day
- 2 National Rocky Road Day
- 3 Repeat Day (I said "Repeat Day")
- 4 Applesauce Cake Day
- 4 Hug Your Cat Day
- 4 National Cheese Day
- 4 Old Maid's Day
- 5 Hot Air Balloon Day
- 5 World Environment Day
- 6 D-Day, WWII
- 6 National Gardening Exercise Day-
- 6 National Yo-Yo Day
- 7 National Chocolate Ice Cream Day
- 7 National Doughnut Day
- 7 VCR Day
- 8 Best Friends Day
- 8 Name Your Poison Day
- 8 World Ocean Day
- 9 Donald Duck Day
- 9 National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day
- 9 Nursing Assistants Day
- 10 Ball Point Pen Day
- 10 Herb and Spices Day
- 10 Iced Tea Day
- 11 National Corn on the Cob Day
- 12 National Jerky Day
- 12 National Peanut Butter Cookie Day
- 12 Red Rose Day
- 13 National Weed Your Garden Day
- 13 Sewing Machine Day
- 14 Flag Day
- 14 Monkey Around Day
- 15 National Hollerin' Contest Day
- 15 National Nature Photography Day
- 15 Smile Power Day
- 15 Global Wind Day
- 15 World Juggler's Day
- 16 Father's Day
- 16 Fresh Veggies Day
- 17 Eat Your Vegetables Day
- 18 Go Fishing Day
- 18 International Panic Day
- 18 International Sushi Day
- 18 National Splurge Day
- 19 Juneteenth
- 19 National Kissing Day
- 19 World Sauntering Day
- 20 Ice Cream Soda Day
- 20 National Bald Eagle Day
- 21 Go Skate Day
- 21 International Yoga Day
- 21 National Selfie Day
- 21 Finally Summer Day / Summer Solstice -
- 21 Take a Road Trip Day
- 21 Take Your Dog to Work Day
- 22 National Chocolate Eclair Day
- 23 National Columnists Day
- 23 National Pink Day
- 24 Swim a Lap Day
- 25 Log Cabin Day
- 25 National Catfish Day
- 26 Beautician's Day
- 26 Forgiveness Day
- 26 National Canoe Day
- 27 Sun Glasses Day
- 28 Insurance Awareness Day
- 28 International Body Piercing Day
- 28 Paul Bunyan Day
- 29 Camera Day
- 29 Hug Holiday
- 29 International Mud Day
- 29 Waffle Iron Day
- 30 Meteor Day