



# The G. C. Builder

December 2010- Issue 2

## The Editor's Message

Greetings brothers! It is with pride and honor that I write this letter. After having just completed my term in the east, I can happily reflect on a well spent year and the hard work and effort the members of the lodge put in. Grove City #689 is doing amazing work. A rarity for the state, we have increased our membership for the past two years! We continue to be active and have increased our donations to charity, as we strive to find ways to have a greater impact in the community. Our future looks bright and I wish all of the officers and members of Grove City continued success. I received quite a bit of feedback from the last newsletter and am still looking for more! Please contact me with feedback, ideas and stories for the articles to be published. After all, this is our newsletter and encourage the brethren to actively participate in its format. As we inch closer to another year on the calendar, we would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Grove City 689 updates

Grove City's annual installation of officers was held on November 8, 2010. The following officers were installed:

Worshipful Master- David Sweeley, PM

Senior Warden- Tom Daft

Junior Warden- Aaron Marion

Secretary- William McNicol

Treasurer- Bob Ewing, PM

Chaplain- Ed Goldhardt

Senior Deacon- Mike Jaynes

Junior Deacon- Dan DuCharme

Senior Steward- Bill Bell

Junior Steward- Chris Carper (to be installed in December)

LEO- Charles Smith

Tyler- Josh Pierre

Organist- Bill Morris

Trustee- Mikel Goldhardt, PM

Grove City's Awards Night was held on 11/29/10 and it was truly an honor to present service awards to 25, 50 and even a 60 year member! Ed Goldhardt was presented the craftsman of the year award for his work this year as Chaplain and Craft Club President (GC sold 1362 subs at the last sub sale!). Grove City has been extremely busy with degree work, if you would like to come out, please check the website for updates.

**Secretary's Corner:** Brethren, we are still facing some pretty tough times with the economy and number of jobs lost. The Lodge officers are trying very hard to keep expenses low and at the same time do the work of the Lodge, particularly our charitable projects. The number of members with unpaid dues is significantly high and we encourage all members to submit their dues in order to keep the Lodge on a solid financial footing. Please keep your membership in good standing by remitting your 2011 dues to the secretary. We appreciate your faithfulness and loyalty to the Lodge.

### Stay in touch

Lodge website- [grovecity689.com](http://grovecity689.com)

*If you would like to receive email updates from the lodge, please email our Secretary, Bro. Bill McNicol at [wmcnicol@ameritech.net](mailto:wmcnicol@ameritech.net)*

*If you are in need of lodge information or services from the lodge please email our Worshipful Master, David Sweeley-[davidsweeley@att.net](mailto:davidsweeley@att.net) or call him (614)871-1432*

If you have any feedback or ideas for the newsletter, please contact E. Mikel Goldhardt, PM, editor is large @ [biggoldy@aol.com](mailto:biggoldy@aol.com)

**This months article**

The following article was written by Tony Murr, Crayford Lodge for *The GFN Cybermason*, volume 5-no. 7 published in July, 2010. The full article can be read at [www.masonic-network.com](http://www.masonic-network.com).

There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have gallows adjacent. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hung. The horse drawn dray, carting the prisoner was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "One last drink". If he said yes it was referred to as one for the road. If he declined, that prisoner was on the wagon. So there you go. More bleeding history. The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500's:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all of the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." (cont'd)

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach into food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, "Saved by the bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer".

And that's the truth...Now, whoever said history was boring!!!

**The trestle-board**

Stated meetings- 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month, Sept.-June

Craft Club breakfasts-8-10, first Saturday of each month, year round

Temple Company meeting, 7pm, second Tuesday of each month

12/18- 6 pm, OES/Lodge Christmas Dinner, please bring a covered dish

1/8- 8-10am Craft Club Breakfast- moved from the first due to New Year's Day

1/26- Travel to Washington CH for MM degree, dinner at 6pm, degree at 7pm

2/4- Craft Club Superbowl sub-sale, contact Ed Goldhardt (877-4176) by 1/29 with orders

3/7- 7pm Grove City #689 Annual Inspection, MM Degree

3/12- 14th District Grand Master's Reception (Bridgewater Conf. Center in Powell)

Late March- Degree work in Worthington at the Old Lodge Room and museum tour