Coming: A Century Year

Please examine the front of this month’s Short Talk Bulletin. At the top, it says “Vol. 99” and then “No. 12.”

This means that next month, in January of 2022, the Short Talk Bulletin will begin its 100th year: Vol. 100, No. 1.

This is a great milestone for this longtime Masonic publication and for the Masonic Service Association of North America!

Be part of history by reading the STB each month next year. Go to the webpage (msana.com) to subscribe. Tell others about this great Masonic achievement!

Quarter Million Podcasts Downloaded

The Masonic Service Association’s Podcast program has now downloaded more than 250,000 free episodes.

Great Masonic topics for educational and inspirational use are being listened to by individuals and Masonic Lodges in increasing numbers.

The MSA Podcast program involves the narration of Short Talk Bulletins (STBs). Virtually all of the current STBs have been turned into podcasts, and a growing list of earlier issues are being added. Well over 200 STB podcasts have been recorded and are available.

This is a free program for anyone to use, a Mason or not. These Masonic-related podcasts are great for just listening in the car or while exercising, or for presenting in Lodge as education programs. For information on MSA’s Podcast Program, go to www.shorttalkbulletin.com

Michael Smith, of Maine, who directs the program for MSA, predicts reaching more than 300,000 downloads by the end of 2021.

MSA is grateful to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota for providing a grant of $12,000 — for the second consecutive year — to support the program.

Disaster Relief For Louisiana

More than $100,000 has already been received by the Masonic Service Association for its Disaster Relief Appeal for Louisiana.

The appeal issued following the devastating winds, rain, and flooding, which took place between August 26 and September 4. The appeal is still open and funds continue to be donated to MSA.

All collected funds will be given directly to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for distribution.

Donation checks may be sent directly to MSA, or funds may be given via credit cards at the website: msana.com
When, Where Did MSA's Disaster Relief Efforts Start?

Surprisingly, the first gathering by the Masonic Service Association of donations for disaster relief occurred in 1923 with the recipient being Japan.

Actually, two great earthquakes are recorded in the history of Japan: one, on September 1, 1923, dubbed the Great Kanto earthquake; the second, on March 11, 2011. The patterns were similar in both: devastation stretched along extensive seacoast areas; mudslides washed away homes and communities; vehicles of all types, including trains, were washed away to sea; thousands of lives were lost.

The other similarity of the two Japanese earthquakes — approximately 88 years apart — is that the Masonic Service Association provided disaster relief.

In its first entrance into disaster relief aid, MSA in 1923 raised a total of $1,577, which had more value at that time than now. In 2011, donations of nearly $92,000 were sent to Japan.

Freemasonry Is Like a Magnet

In the Fall 2021 issue of The Royal Arch Mason Magazine, Steven G. Tiner, General Grand High Priest, compared Freemasonry to a magnet. These are his words:

If you took many bits of metal, some copper, some lead, some zinc, some chromium, and some iron; then, go to the jewelry store, and get some platinum, some gold, and some silver and scatter it all over the ground in a field, and let the weeds grow over it, perhaps even bury some of it beneath the surface; then, take a giant electromagnet, and swing it over the field, some of that metal would come right through the dirt, leap up and cling to that magnet.

What metal would go up? The zinc wouldn't; the lead wouldn't; the copper wouldn't; the gold, the silver, the platinum would not. What would go up? The iron. Why? Because the iron has the same nature as the magnet. And that's why the attraction is there.

Freemasonry is like a magnet. When those who have "first been prepared at heart" encounter the fraternity, they realize they have found a home. They are drawn to the fraternity like a magnet.

Dayton Donates Land For Law Enforcement Memorial

The Masons of the Dayton (Ohio) Masonic Center recently donated land alongside their building for a permanent Montgomery County Law Enforcement Memorial for Fallen Officers.

The building overlooks the Great Miami River, which flows through several Ohio cities and is a tributary of the Ohio River. The site for the planned Memorial, where groundbreaking will be held in about six months, is directly across the river from downtown Dayton.

Ethan Nathan Allen
Notable In Baseball History

With an historic-sounding name, this Mason accomplished much in baseball history and lore. Ethan Nathan Allen, born in 1904 in Cincinnati, Ohio, played baseball for the University of Cincinnati and still holds the institution's highest batting average (.475). He later played in the major leagues for seven teams for 13 years, retiring with a .300 batting average. After retiring, he worked as the National League's director of motion pictures.

In 1946, Brother Allen became baseball coach for Yale University, leading the team to two championship games in 1947 and 1948. In that last year, his team captain was the future President George H. W. Bush. He later was elected a member of the College Coaches Hall of Fame. In 1946 his picture appeared on the Wheaties cereal box.

This latter recognition may have been for his creation of a board game, which when released in 1941, was known as Ethan Allen All-Star Baseball.

Brother Allen, a member of Yeatman Lodge in Cincinnati, passed away in 1993 in Brookings, Oregon.