

MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan
17635 Manitou Beach Road
Addison, Michigan 49220-9773



Official Publication of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

October 2007

Capitular Growth in Michigan through Masonic Education -- "Quality Yields Quantity"

Milo E. Thompson

February 22, 1929 – September 7, 2007

Milo Thompson was born in Central Butte, Sask., Canada. His family moved to the Midland area at a young age and he graduated from the Midland Public Schools.

Milo was a very proud veteran of the in the United States Air Force, serving during the Korean Police Action.

On May 2, 1953 he married his true love, Denise Brunet (who survives him.) They had two daughters: Renee (Mark) Hahn and Tracy (Thomas) Birdsall and two grandchildren that he highly revered: Aaron and Kyle Hahn.

He was always a devoted family man loving father and grandfather. He was a softball coach for his daughters teams and supported them in all of their youth activities. He served as Associate Guardian of their Job's Daughters Bethel.

Milo worked as a lineman for Consumers Energy for 39 years, retiring in 1992.

Besides his work and family he always found time to devote to his other true love, the Masonic Fraternity. His special love was that of the Royal Arch where he was exalted on March 23, 1971 and served as their High Priest on several occasions along with being one of their best ritualists in all of the degrees. It was always a pleasure to watch him work with enthusiasm and perfection. Milo served the Grand Chapter faithfully as a District Deputy Instructor for 27 years.

Milo was rewarded for his services to the Craft by being a recipient of the Meritorious Service Award in 2000 and the General Grand Chapter Bronze Award in 2004.

Milo Thompson laid aside the staff on September 7, 2007 at his home with his family beside his side to make that final Sojourn into his life forever in that beautiful world above.

Fare Thee Well my devoted friend and servant.

Public Relations Must Be Improved

If we expect to get the message out, about the benefits of belonging to Capitular Masonry we must improve our Public relations. We must not only go after our Blue Lodge Brothers but the Public in General. To do this we must publicize our various activities and any charitable events we have planned.

Wearing a red coat to any Blue Lodge function or when traveling to a Commandery Inspection is another way of showing people that you are proud to be a Royal Arch Mason. Any Masonic function where you are not required to be in Official Dress is a good time to show your pride.

Many participate in Parades in their Communities or other activities. Publicize them in your local newspapers and try to get pictures that they will print. Anyway we can get ourselves in the Public Eye in a positive note can only benefit the Royal Arch.

Most importantly advertise your events in the Triple Tau. This is your newsletter and not just for Grand Officers. If you want a large attendance at Dinners, Installations or for Degree work you must spread the word to the Companions. If any Companion would like to receive the Triple Tau by email all he has to do is contact our Grand Secretary. This is a most convenient way of receiving information and education concerning this Grand Chapter.

The key to Public Relations is communication. Communication must be made to the Public, our Blue Lodge Brothers and most of all to each other. By keeping everyone well informed, Royal Arch Masonry can only grow. Our survival depends on each Companion doing his part in promoting the Royal Craft!

Get the word out. Keep spreading the Word.

Be proud of who you are and continue to spread that pride.

Mike Whiting

Grand royal Arch Captain



“Quality Yields Quantity”

Paul D. Williams
Grand High Priest

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Port Huron, MI 48060
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FROM THE GRAND EAST

My Companions:

Greetings from the Grand East of the Royal Arch Masons.

Again, I want to thank all the Chapters for your support at the Grand Convocation on August 15, 2007. Everything went well, and now we can have a very productive year ahead of us. Thanks also to all the committeemen and district Deputy Instructor's for accepting your positions of high responsibility.

We had a Grand Officer's and DDI's meeting on September 15th and developed much information to help keep you better informed. Please read the article from the Grand King, William Fairchild. He will explain the exchanging or purchasing of the new 2007 rituals that are now available.

I have asked the Public Relations Committee to develop a form for each Chapter to fill out as to what the Chapter does or will do to enhance our Royal Arch Masons and Masonry in general awareness in the community. It is hoped that this will encourage Chapters to get more involved in the communities or let us know what they are doing now that involves them with the community. This will also help us to know what works or does not work. Getting our name out in the community will certainly help us in gaining membership.

Many of the Grand Officers of the Royal Arch will be going to Sault Ste. Marie for the Grand Council of Michigan's 150th year celebration on September 21st and 22nd. Congratulations, Grand Council Royal And Select Masons for 150 years of success in Michigan. We hope your next 150 years and beyond will be as good.

October 3rd and 4th will be the Grand Convocation Royal Arch Masons in Sandusky, Ohio. Many of your Grand Officers will be attending to show our support.

The George Washington Birthday Celebration, in Caro, will be on February 23rd, instead of the 16th. Put that date on your calendar, it is a wonderful event that they always have with its fantastic Turkey Dinner and an excellent speaker/presentation after the dinner. If you have never been before it is time that you did and if you have been previously then you know what I mean.

I hope to see you all (well many of you) at my reception on October 27 in Port Huron. Contact Ex. Comp. Terry Baker, 810.364.7352, to make your reservations, if you have not already done so.

God Bless each of you and remember, *“Quality Yields Quantity.”*

Upper Peninsula Tri-State

The Chapters in the Western Section of the Upper Peninsula in coordination with the Grand Chapters of Wisconsin and Minnesota, have for many years conducting a Tri-State Royal Arch Festival. This years event was held in Kingsford, MI on Saturday, August 25th, with an excellent attendance from each jurisdiction.

Candidates from all three Grand Jurisdictions were exalted at this event with Minnesota putting on the Mark Degree, Wisconsin putting on the Past and Most Excellent Masters Degrees and Michigan conferring the Royal Arch Degrees. It was great to be able to observe these degrees put on in such an excellent fashion by these Jurisdictions working in harmony. It is amazing to observe the degrees, each is different from ours, but the teachings and principles are all the same.

An excellent luncheon and dinner were served for all.

Looking forward to visiting with many of my new friends in Wausau, Wisconsin next year for this Annual Event.

KING'S KORNER: William B. Fairchild

Companions:

Michigan Grand Chapter is now in the new Capitular Year. The Grand Officers and DDI meeting was held in Lansing, MI on 9/15/07. Several topics were brought up. This looks like a banner year for Grand Chapter 2007-

New Rituals were discussed – please contact the Grand Secretary. In you hand in your old ritual, a new one will be issued. A Grand Officer or DDI will collect and get names of persons to receive new rituals. Chapters can still use 1996 rituals for the rest of the year. Old rituals for Mark Master only! Next year only new rituals will be authorized. The Past Master Allegory has had many changes.

Important dates to remember

- Grand Rapids All Degree Day; 29 September
- M.E. Grand High Priest Reception - 27 October, Port Huron
- Officer Retreat, DDI Meeting – Lapeer- Jan 11, 12 & 13, 2008.
- The Grand Officers and DDI's are here to support all Companions and Chapters. This is a very dedicated Grand Chapter.

The DDI's and Grand Officers are starting their visitations – please let these Companions know of any of our ideas and suggestions. If they do not have the answer, they will get the proper answer.

If anyone wants an article put in the Triple Tau let the Grand Secretary know before the 15th of the month prior to the next issue of the Triple Tau.

Until next month, may God Bless all of you Companions and your families.

St. Clair Chapter No. 12 Canadian Night

On January 29, 2008, St. Clair No. 12 will again host a Past Masters' Allegory Degree for our Canadian Brothers/Companions.

Ten years ago, 62 of our Canadian Companions came across the St. Clair River via the Sombra-Marine City Ferry. Everyone enjoyed an excellent dinner at 6:30 pm and the Past Masters Degree was conferred at 7:30 pm.

The Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Ontario does not confer the Past Masters Degree. It was both an honor and a joy to do the work for them. Each Brother received a dues card, in their Chapters name, as witnessing the degree, hosted by St. Clair Chapter with a seal of St. Clair Chapter. It enables our Canadian Companions to then participate in the remaining Royal Arch Degrees anywhere in our Country.

Mark your calendars for the 5th Tuesday of January 2008, the 29th, 6:30 PM.

Dinner is only \$5.00 and the camaraderie will be tenfold that figure, and of course, this is all weather permitting.

Contact Terry Baker, DDI#8 for further information and to place your reservations.

810-364-7352

Ingham Chapter No. 51, Mason

Companions:

Ingham Chapter No. 51 @ Mason will be conferring the Past Master & Most Excellent Master Degrees on Tuesday, October 16 @ 7:00 PM.

Refreshments will be served following the degree work.

We have the main parts down, but we could use some help if any Companions could do the Charge and/or history for either degree. It would save on our voices a little. We would like to have our sidelines filled, so please come and enjoy.

For more information or directions fell free to contact me.

Thanks,

Tim Forche, Secretary unclegut@netzero.net or by phone at 517.676.5157

Colon Chapter No. 81, Sherwood Woodchoppers Degree

What's the Woodchoppers Degree? Lem Teague, DDI, Dist. 18, imported it from Maine with permission.

It is a fun, fundraising degree.

The date, Oct. 25th with a supper at 6:00 PM and the degree will start at 7:00 PM.

Cost? Only \$30.00 which includes supper, a pin and dues card. RARA will receive a donation from each degree.

Wives are invited to come and watch, but, will have to pay for their supper which will be \$5.00.

You will, one and all, enjoy this degree.

What Is the Cause of This Confusion?

Excepted with editorial edits from: "Let Your Work Become Your Mark", 1986, by Stewart Wilson Miner:

Confusion is always with us. So too are our efforts to contain it. It has been amply demonstrated that when confusion reigns, progress is usually impeded. Hence responsible men have struggled to promote unity and to restrict contention. Counted among those who have participated in this struggle are the Freemasons of the world; men who are ritualistically taught in the York Rite to repel all those forces have the potential to endanger mankind's accepted sense of social propriety, fairness, and justice.

In the conferral of the Sublime Degree we learn of the havoc that can evolve out of the absence of a man from the workplace. Never mind why this man was among the missing. Let us concentrate instead on the consequences of his absence. The work, we are told, came to a stand abruptly; there were no designs on the trestleboard; and there was no one to set the Craft to work. All of this simply because a man was missing from his appointed station!! Further, there was apparently no "backup" or "understudy" to take his place.

There are some who would review this part of Hiramic Legend and conclude that the work stoppage, the confusion if you will, was only a reflection of the stature of the missing man and of the critical role that he played in the erection of the temple. Hiram Abif was admittedly an unusual individual, one who was accorded responsibility, and perhaps from the standpoint of the Craftsmen employed in the construction of the temple, the most responsible one of all.

If we were to conclude that this particular work stoppage, due to death, testifies only to the importance of Hiram Abif to the work then underway, we would be seriously deficient in exercising our God-given power of imagination. Every man is in reality a "Hiram Abif" in his own right. Every man, like Hiram Abif, is responsible to someone, and every man, like Hiram Abif, has others who are responsible to him. We all occupy key positions on the "production line of life," and when any of us are missing from our appointed station, it is inevitable that progress toward agreed goals will be impeded in accord with the significance of our assigned roles.

We are taught in the York Rite that confusion can evolve out of the absence of specific inputs essential to the work. The Craft came to another stand, as we learn in the Mark Degree, because of the lack of a keystone to one of the principal arches which none had received orders to make. The workmen were informed that the production of the missing piece of work – of which 80,000 Craftsmen had no knowledge – had been assigned to their assassinated leader, and that although temporarily misplaced with the rubbish of the temple, the stone was eventually located and utilized according to plan. His work, although misplaced, was not missing! Thus the impasse was ended.

Each of us is provided by the Craft, through its philosophical and moralistic teachings, with "keystones" that are vital to the arches that we are expected to complete and for which we and we alone are responsible, we are expected to provide inputs to be used by others. It should therefore be our constant resolve that we not only be on station on time, but that we also work to specification and expectation, appreciating that any lesser level of performance must inevitably impact adversely on the potential and well being of the order. Let it never be said that the Craft is at a stand because work that was assigned to us is missing!

If confusion can be traced to a missing man and to a missing piece of work, it can also be traced to a spirit that is missing among the Craft. This fact is also underscored in the Mark Degree, following the payment of the Craft of their wages. Fortunately the Craft was astute enough to recognize right from wrong and to make such amends as were necessary.

Are the modern counterparts of these Craftsmen of the same mettle? Hopefully we are, for the question we face is not one that concerns how the Craftsmen of legend contained their basal instincts, but rather one that pertains to our current conceptions of worth and reward. Are we, like our forebears, subject to occasional pangs of jealousy and envy, and if so, are we willing as were the builders of the temple, to make amends in ways that are fair, equitable, and in accord, in all instances, with regulations? I hope that it may never be said that our Craft came to a stand because of the absence of spirit essentially necessary to the completion of our work.

Let me reiterate that our ritual teaches us that confusion in the Craft can evolve out of missing men, missing work, and a missing sense of spirit and unity. It is against those teachings that I view a number of current developments in the Craft with measured alarm. Far too many workers are absent from their posts; far too little good work is being presented for inspection; and in the ascendancy of concern for self among far too many of our Brethren and Companions, the spiritual foundations of our brotherhood appear to be undergoing serious erosion. It thus appears that we are rapidly advancing to a point of decision where we must opt either to contain or to condone a rising tide of confusion in the Craft. The bottom line question then is this: "What will we choose to do about it?"

Editors notes: Can we, have we stopped this confusion in the Craft? Are we doing all that is demanded of us to see that the work once begun is completed, that the keystone, capstone, which has been made for us is found and properly placed to lock and hold this fraternity together. It is hoped that each of us will look in the mirror and find the resolve to end the confusion in the temple of our hearts, and in the temple of our love. Place your keystone at the top of the arch and strengthen the building.



Paul C. Howell, PGHP, Grand Secretary

17635 Manitou Beach Road
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517.547.8266
meghpmi97@comcast.net



Secretary's Scribbles:

My Companions:

It is hard to believe that we are already into the 2nd month of another Capitular year for the Grand Chapter.

Each Chapter now has its Masters' Pins to be presented to the incoming Master at the time of their Lodges Installation of Officers for the year. It is not too soon for your Chapter to begin the plans for who will be making that presentation for your Chapter. This is one of the best opportunities for your Chapter to put on a good display for the public and the Brothers of your Lodges. Are you looking for new members for your Chapter? Now is a good time and way to solicit these members. Make sure that you have petitions with you to pass out to all now Capitular Masons in attendance that day. Also, wouldn't this be a great time to pass out a sheet on your Chapter, who you are, when and where you meet. Whom they might contact for additional information. Don't let this Golden Opportunity pass you by.

Hopefully the Directory for the year will be in your hands in the very near future. It has been at the printers since the first of September. I am just awaiting word that it is completed.

Please make sure that you get in the new and updated information on your Companions to the Grand Chapter Office as soon as you get that information. You may email it to Beth at auntiebabe@comcast.net or send them in to this office. Please make sure that when you send in the information you give their Grand Chapter Number when they have one. It makes it much easier for Beth to get that information entered into the Computer.

If you have an email address for a Companion that you would like to begin receiving the Triple Tau via the email send them in to me and I will send them by a PDF file.

Keep a smile on your face and a chuckle in your voice.

Five Finger Prayer

Your thumb is nearest you. So bin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this! Is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

And lastly comes our little finger – the smallest finger

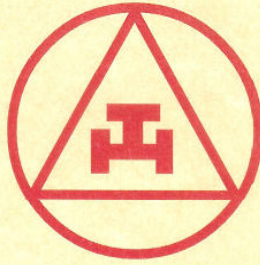
all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, you own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

If you decide to share this with a friend, you might brighten someone's day! Pass this on to someone special.

Brethren at War

from: "*Freemasonry for Dummies*" by Hodapp

Freemasonry has struggled to remain apolitical, but was has often placed Masonic Brothers on opposite sides of the battle lines. There is no evidence that Freemasons ever tilted the outcome of a battle to keep from harming a Masonic Brother. But there are hundreds of stories from conflicts around the world that display the Masonic character of extending Brotherly love and honor to fallen enemies who wore the square and compass.



HURON CHAPTER NO. 27, R.A.M.

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A RECEPTION

HONORING

PAUL D. WILLIAMS

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST

GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF MICHIGAN

on Saturday, October 27, 2007

Port Huron Masonic Temple Ball Room

927 Sixth Street, Port Huron, Michigan • 810~982~7948

Social Hour: 4:00 p.m. ~ Snacks and refreshments

Dinner: 5:00 p.m.

Dress: Black Tie or Business Suit

RSVP by: October 20, 2007

----- *Cut here and return with remittance* -----

Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Stuffed Flounder X _____ \$25.00 _____

Stuffed Pork Chops X _____ \$25.00 _____

Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Huron Chapter No. 27

Send to: Terry Baker • 1936 Michigan Avenue • Marysville, Michigan 48040

Tickets held at the door.

Membership Card

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper 2 ½ x 3 ½ inches in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or receipt for valuables, yet it is my most priceless possession. It is my membership card in a Masonic Lodge.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual kinship with my fellow Masons to practice charity in word and deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my brethren; to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry and the sick, and to be fair and just to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among brothers and friends.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home, and my household are under the protection of every member of this great Fraternity, who has sworn to defend and protect mine as I have sworn to defend and protect theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune through no fault of my own, the hands of every Mason on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist in my necessities.

And finally, it tells me that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered around my lifeless body, friends and brothers who will recall to mind my virtues, though they be but few, and will forget my faults, though they may be many.

It tells me that, and a great deal more, this little card, and makes me proud yet humble, that I can possess this passport into a Society of Friends and brothers that are numbered in the millions.

Author unknown

May We Meet Upon The Act By The And Part Upon the .

West-Michigan Royal Arch All Degree Day



Grand Rapids Masonic Temple
233 Fulton
Grand Rapids, Mi. 49503

Hosted by:

District # 5 – RAM (Grand Rapids # 7, Hooker # 73, Kent-Newaygo # 38)

**To be held Saturday, September 29, 2007@8:00 AM
Sixth Floor – Red Room**

Agenda

8:00 AM – Registration of Candidates. Coffee & Rolls
8:30 AM – Opening
9:00 AM – MARK MASTER MASON DEGREE
10:00 AM – Break
10:10 AM – PAST MASTER DEGREE
10:50 AM – Break
11:00 AM – MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE
11:45 AM – Lunch (4th Floor Dining)
1:15 PM – Reception of Grand Officers & Guests
1:30 PM – ROYAL ARCH DEGREE
4:00 PM – Closing

Lunch - \$8.00 per person – For Reservations: - Pick-up at Registration

Charles Kramsvogel, PHP

616-452-4036

cfkrams@core.com

Robert Cooper, HP

616-696-4847

bcooper@mkassoc.com

OR

Capitular Masonry is the Backbone

Capitular Masonry has been the backbone through over 150 years of growth and development, through education in the Masonic Community in Michigan.

The Capitular Degrees have a lot to offer the Master Mason who is in search of light.

The Capitular Degrees have a lot to offer the line officers of the Lodge, by better understanding the lessons taught.

The Capitular Degrees have a lot to offer the Master Mason who asks the questions, "Is that all there is?"

By learning and studying the degrees of the Chapter, a Master Mason has for years been a better-informed and educated Mason. As Masons are still the leaders in the community in which they reside, Capitular Masons are the natural leaders in the lodges to which they belong. They are the best educated and the best in the performance of the Ritual Work.

150 plus Years of Building and Strengthening the Masonic Fraternity – We can not stop! We must rededicate ourselves to that task of Masonic Involvement and Growth. We are the Leaders and must continue assuming that heavy weight and responsibility. We can, and must be the leaders in our communities and Masonry through the next 150 years in Michigan and the world.

Continue to be the leaders in the Growth and Improvement in your communities and in Michigan Masonry. Continue to support Capitular Masonry and spread it's light before the less informed in YOUR Community and Masonic Fraternity.

You are Masonry. **Live It! Talk It! Display It** in all you do and say. Be Masonry's biggest and best salesman. By Masonry growing and prospering, you will be spreading the light for Capitular Masonry, ensuring that it will continue to grow and prosper through the next 150 years; thus insuring that it remains the backbone, capstone, of Masonry.

Where Does Masonry Exist for You?

For each of us, Masonry exists in many different ways and places. When you look around, you will find that Masonry is depicted by Masons in many different ways, in the Lodge, Chapter room or the Asylum of Knight Templars. Perhaps at the Shrine Circus; in your Church; as a volunteer for a charitable organization, or the needy.

For some it may exist at their home when they read the local publications of the activities which are going on. For some it may exist only when they pay their dues.

Where should it exist? **IN YOUR HEART! IN YOUR ACTIONS!** You are what Masonry is and you set the example of what Masonry is to the rest of the world. You will determine the future of Masonry, if and how it survives. What it will mean to the future of your local organizations, and its impact on the world.

We hope that Masonry is not just a dues card, but it is a way of life. Support your Masonic organizations and enjoy the *friendship, fellowship, fun, and growth* that takes place within you and you fellow Brothers and Companions.

Let Masonry live in your heart and be a shining example for all to hope to emulate your actions before the world.

Impress with Ritual

The Degree work and ritualistic work of Craft Masonry, in order to be done correctly, must be done by memorization. Isn't it more impressive when you see a person standing in front of you giving you the work, looking you in the eye, and not reading it?

It is not that hard for anyone to do! It takes PRACTICE!!! Practice in the car. Practice in the Basement. Practice in the Bedroom. Practice in the Shower. Practice out in the woods while hunting. PRACTICE!!!

Remember, you memorized the alphabet, numbering system, to add, to subtract, to multiply, to divide, your obligations, poems, songs, colors and numerous other things over the years. You learned the differences in the 5 senses. Each one was done by repeating them over and over again.

PRACTICE

Let's impress the candidates and ourselves!

Your never too old or too young.