

50th Anniversary

1925 — 1975



HENRY S. HAINES

LODGE No. 253

F. & A. M.

THE BIRTH OF HENRY S. HAINES LODGE

Henry S. Haines Lodge No. 253, F. & A. M., received its first spark of life in the early 1920s. In June of 1924, a group of railroaders working for the Atlantic City Railroad, met in a passenger car on a siding at Kaighns Point, Camden, N. J., for the purpose of organizing a Masonic Lodge.

This group consisted of approximately eighty Masons; members of Lodges in all parts of Southern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Massachusetts and their primary desire was to establish a meeting place where all of the brethren working for the Atlantic City Railroad could sit together in a Lodge of their own, situated in an area easily accessible to all. At this meeting, Worshipful Brother Philip Stohlberger, Past Master of Trinity Lodge No. 97, was elected to do the necessary research and leg work leading to the formation of a new Lodge.

Worshipful Brother Stohlberger enlisted the aid of Right Worshipful William H. Witte, (Ionic Lodge No. 94) District Deputy Grand Master of the Eighteenth Masonic District, who endorsed this movement with enthusiastic support.

With Right Worshipful Brother Witte's assistance and guidance, a tentative line of acting officers was selected and appointed as follows:

Worshipful Master —
Philip Stohlberger, P.M. #97

Senior Warden —
Raymond R. Harrison, #94

Junior Warden Calvin H. Smith, #191

Treasurer Morton N. Black, #101

Secretary Charles E. Smith, #94

Chaplain James C. Small, #94

Senior Deacon Frederick C. Kraft, #121

Junior Deacon Herbert E. Sallade, #101

Senior Master of Ceremonies —
Charles S. Jones, #94

Junior Master of Ceremonies —
William A. Saumenig, #217

Senior Steward John B. Pearse, #15

Junior Steward Charles H. Kircher, #218

Marshall William W. Griffiths, #191

Tyler John B. Lingerfield, #218

Historical records show that Brother Samuel C. McKinley was first selected to serve as Secretary of this newly formed Lodge. However, as Brother Sam was a member of Richard Vaux Lodge #384, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

which did not recognize dual membership, Brother Sam was advised to delay his request for a Dimit from Richard Vaux #384 until such time as a Charter was obtained from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Jersey. This was done to assure the continuity of Brother Sam's Masonic affiliation. Brother Sam was duly elected and installed as Secretary on May 20, 1925.

It was not until after the selection and installation of Officers that it became apparent that a newly-formed Lodge would require funds to cover the costs of its operation. Voluntary offerings totaling \$490.00 was realized and thus was born the foundation of what was to become Henry S. Haines Lodge No. 253, F. & A. M.

The next order of business was a name for their new Lodge. This did not prove too difficult, for at that time the name of a very prominent Mason was on the minds of all Masons throughout New Jersey. Henry Snowden Haines, Grand Instructor from 1888 to 1922 inclusive, passed from this transitory existence on June 25th, 1922. His Masonic record is too voluminous for amateurs to piece together. It was thus that the name of Henry S. Haines was selected for this new Lodge.

Eager for a Dispensation from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge that would permit

them to meet and do Masonic work, the Officers were granted the use of the Lodge room and its paraphernalia by Audubon Lodge #218, which was at that time located at Pine Street and Atlantic Avenue in Audubon, N. J. The Officers then, with zeal and determination, held rehearsals on a weekly basis that would enable them to prove their proficiency in the three symbolic degrees of Free Masonry.

On November 19, 1924, at a regular communication conducted in the Camden Masonic Temple located on 4th Street, south of Market, a Dispensation dated November 15, 1924 was presented to Henry S. Haines Lodge by Most Worshipful Andrew Foulds, Jr., Grand Master, who was accompanied by his Grand Staff.

At this meeting the names of ten petitioners for Free Masonry were read out for processing. As of this date the total membership consisted of one hundred eighteen Master Masons who affiliated from other Lodges and five Entered Apprentice Masons. During the following months Henry S. Haines Lodge was indeed fortunate. Applications for membership was far beyond expectations. Furniture and other paraphernalia were donated by other Lodges, including a safe and filing cabinet from Trimble Lodge #117.

At its next and most memorable communication on May 20, 1925, an Emergent Com-

munication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New Jersey was convened at 7:45 P.M. for the purpose of Constituting Henry S. Haines Lodge No. 253, F. & A. M. and installing its Officers.

Members of the Grand Staff present were as follows:

- M. W. Ralph E. Lum *Grand Master*
M. W. Frank C. Sayrs —
Deputy Grand Master (acting)
R. W. Howard R. Cruse —
Senior Grand Warden
R. W. William T. Vanderlipp —
Junior Grand Warden
M. W. Cooper H. Prickett —
Grand Treasurer (acting)
R. W. Isaac Cherry *Grand Secretary*
R. W. Rev. A. Baylan Fitzgerald —
Grand Chaplain
R. W. Rev. Alexander Corson —
Grand Chaplain
R. W. Rev. Charles Bowden —
Grand Chaplain
M. W. Richard C. Woodward —
Grand Instructor
R. W. George E. Potter —
Senior Grand Deacon

R. W. George W. Backoff —
Junior Grand Deacon

R. W. Edward H. Casterlin —
Senior Grand Steward

R. W. Edward A. Clark —
Junior Grand Steward

R. W. Howard J. Dudley *Grand Marshall*

R. W. Thomas B. Cryer —
Grand Sword Bearer

R. W. Chester C. Anderson —
Grand Pursuivant (acting)

R. W. Thomas B. Hood *Grand Organist*

R. W. Asher Wilson *Grand Tyler*

Also in attendance were three Past Grand Masters, M. W. Joseph W. Egan, M. W. W. Holt Apgar and M. W. Andrew Foulds; seven District Deputy Grand Masters, five Past District Deputy Grand Masters as well as Masters, Past Masters and Officers of the various Lodges of Southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge was opened in ample form in a room adjacent to the Lodge Room and, under the direction of the Right Worshipful Grand Marshall, proceeded to the Lodge Room where the Most Worshipful Grand Master, assisted by the Grand Officers, conducted the Ceremonies of Constituting Henry S. Haines Lodge No.

253 into a regular and duly constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and installing its Officers as follows:

Philip Stohlberger, Jr., P.M. —
Worshipful Master

Raymond R. Harrison *Senior Warden*

Calvin H. Smith *Junior Warden*

Morton N. Black *Treasurer*

Samuel C. McKinley *Secretary*

James C. Small *Chaplain*

Frederick C. Kraft *Senior Deacon*

Herbert E. Sallade *Junior Deacon*

Charles S. Jones —
Senior Master of Ceremonies

William A. Saumenig —
Junior Master of Ceremonies

John B. Pearse *Senior Steward*

Charles H. Kircher *Junior Steward*

William W. Griffiths *Marshall*

John B. Lingerfield (#218) *Tyler*

There were also ninety six members of Henry S. Haines Lodge #253 in attendance at this ceremony and their names are inscribed in the Minutes of the Secretary's records of that date.

Prior to the installation of Officers by the Most Worshipful Grand Master a beauti-

ful Bible was presented to the Lodge by Worshipful Brother Rev. W. E. P. Haas, Past Master, Meridian-Sun Lodge of Pennsylvania on behalf of Brother Samuel S. Davis. The Bible was used in the installation ceremonies.

The Treasurer's report on this day showed a balance on hand of \$1,897.44, a comfortable growth from its original starting amount of \$490.00.

At the 139th Annual Grand Lodge Communication, Henry S. Haines Lodge No. 253 was honored by Most Worshipful William B. Mackey, Grand Master, with an appointment of Worshipful Brother Philip Stohlberger, Jr. to serve on the Grand Staff as the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon. This appointment was made on April 22, 1926.

On May 19th, 1926, a Reception for our first Grand Lodge appointee, Right Worshipful Bro. Stohlberger, was held in the Banquet Room of the Temple. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, his Grand Staff and other dignitaries of this Grand Jurisdiction were in attendance.

At this Communication, Right Worshipful Bro. Stohlberger presented to Henry S. Haines Lodge the Apron worn by Right Worshipful Henry Snowden Haines. The Apron was framed and ready for display in the Masonic Temple.

A careful examination of the Minutes of Henry S. Haines Lodge for the next twenty years did not disclose any events of particular significance other than its normal function, "that of making Masons."

On June 10th, 1945, one of its prime movers and most loved member, Right Worshipful Bro. Philip Stohlberger, Jr., Past Junior Grand Deacon passed from this life to serve his Supreme Grand Master in that Grand Lodge on High.

On November 4th, 1945, the Lodge was again alarmed by the passing of another of its original founders, Worshipful Brother Raymond R. Harrison, Past Master, 1926. The members of Henry S. Haines Lodge were deeply saddened by the passing of these two eminent and stalwart brothers.

In April, 1950, Most Worshipful Franklin E. Pellegrin, Grand Master, at the 163rd Annual Grand Lodge Communication, made our second Grand Lodge appointment, this time Worshipful Brother Robert S. Dill received an appointment to serve our Grand Lodge as its Grand Pursuivant.

October 20th, 1954, during a regular communication of the Lodge, a motion was made by Worshipful Brother Raymond G. Barnes, Past Master, and unanimously approved by the members present, that the meeting place

of Henry S. Haines Lodge be changed from the Masonic Temple in Camden, N. J. to the Audubon Masonic Temple, 305 East Atlantic Avenue, Audubon, N. J., effective January, 1955. The first communication to be held in the new Temple was on January 5th, 1955 for the purpose of conducting funeral services for Brother James E. Murphy, who had departed this life on January 2nd, 1955.

At the 173rd Annual Grand Lodge Communication, held during April, 1960, the Lodge was honored by Most Worshipful Samuel Brosius, Grand Master, with the appointment of Worshipful Brother James T. Clark, Past Master, to serve this Grand Jurisdiction as a Grand Chaplain.

In April of 1969, at the 182nd Annual Grand Lodge Communication, Henry S. Haines was again honored with the appointment of Worshipful Brother Alvin H. Frankel to serve as the District Deputy Grand Master for the Twenty-ninth Masonic District, on the staff of Most Worshipful Charles A. Eisenfelder, Grand Master. A reception for Right Worshipful Bro. Frankel was held on September 17, 1969, with the Grand Master and his Grand Staff in attendance.

On May 24th, 1969, members and friends of Henry S. Haines Lodge filled three Public Service busses and journeyed to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial

Temple in Alexandria, Virginia, for the purpose of conferring the Master Mason Degree on Brother Fellow-crafts John W. Fenstermacher, William R. Jentsch, Kenneth S. Drach, Howard A. Kerr and Stephen W. Schoell. The Secretary, Brother Horace L. Pierce, read the call to the communication and the Dispensations from Most Worshipful Charles A. Eisenfelder, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey, and Most Worshipful Jesse A. White, Grand Master of Masons of the State of Virginia, authorizing and empowering Henry S. Haines Lodge No. 253 to hold this Emergent Communication in the State of Virginia.

Those friends that were not able to sit in Lodge were given a sightseeing tour of Mount Vernon and the Washington Temple. Upon conclusion of the Masonic ceremonies, everybody was treated to a wonderful dinner prepared by the ladies of Faith Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Fairfax, Virginia.

On April 25th, 1974, at the 187th Annual Grand Lodge Communication, convened in Atlantic City, N. J., Henry S. Haines Lodge was, for the fifth time, honored by the appointment of Worshipful Brother George J. Kelley to the Grand Staff of Most Worshipful Malcolm B. Wernik, Grand Master, to serve as a Grand Chaplain. We were also pleased

when Right Worshipful Alvin H. Frankel, District Deputy Grand Master, was elected as a Trustee of Grand Lodge for a term of five years.

Thus on this, the 21st day of May, 1975, the Historical Mirror of Henry S. Haines Lodge No. 253, reflects fifty years of dedicated service to the fraternity. Its membership has grown from its original 118 members to a high of 332. Its financial position is neither poor nor rich and is stabilized as a comfortable, friendly and closely-knit Lodge.