



Hiram Words



Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois

Babylon



The ancient city of Babylon, under the reign of His Majesty, King

Nebuchadnezzar II, must have been a wonder to the traveler's eyes. "In addition to its size," wrote Herodotus, a historian in 450 BCE, "Babylon surpasses in splendor any city in the known world."

Herodotus claimed the outer walls were 56 miles in length, 80 feet thick and 320 feet high. Wide enough, he said, to allow a four-horse chariot to turn. The inner walls were "not so thick as the first, but hardly less strong." Inside the walls were fortresses and temples containing immense statues of solid gold. Rising above the city was the famous Tower of Babel, a temple to the god Marduk, that seemed to reach to the heavens.

While archaeological study has disputed some of Herodotus claims, his narrative does give us a sense of how awesome the features of the city appeared to those who visited it. Accounts indicate that the garden was built by Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled the city for 43 years starting in 605 BCE. This was the height of the city's power and influence, and Nebuchadnezzar constructed an astonishing array of temples, streets, palaces and walls. According to accounts, the gardens were built to cheer up Nebuchadnezzar's homesick wife, Amyitis, who was the daughter of the King of the Medes, thus creating an alliance between the nations. The land she came from, though, was green, rugged and mountainous, and she found the flat, sun-baked terrain of Mesopotamia depressing. The king decided to recreate her homeland by building an artificial mountain with rooftop gardens.

June 2008

Volume 1, Issue 6

Keystone Quest State Championship Set for August 1st in Peoria

Competition was intense during the second round of the 2008 Keystone Quest which featured questions from the *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences* by Albert G. Mackey, MEPGHP, on hand in many Masonic temples and public libraries. This year, the first round's questions were taken from entries under the letter "A," second round's were from the letter "B," and the third round will feature the letter "C."

Among the nineteen of twenty-one total first-round Capitular Champion Chapters who returned materials postmarked by the April 30 deadline and received via mail by the May 7 newsletter content deadline, the average score was 80 and average time was 8 minutes. The three Omnific Champions eligible to compete in the third round at Grand Convocation in Peoria on Friday morning, August 1, 2008, are:

- Henry Godeke Chapter No. 38 (score 100; time 4:30)
- Goodbrake Chapter No. 59 (score 100; time 6:10)
- La Fayette Chapter No. 2 (score 100; time 6:34).

The runners-up eligible to compete in the absence of the Omnific Champions, in order of eligibility, are:

- Logan Chapter No. 196 (score 100; time 7:03)
- Palatine Chapter No. 206 (score 100; 7:28)
- West Suburban Chapter No. 207 (score 90; time 6:47).

Any members present, including honorary members, may compete on behalf of their chapter. The 3rd Round is a "lightning round" with nine questions for each chapter to answer within a maximum time of three minutes.

Complete results for all participants may be viewed on the Keystone Quest page on the Grand Chapter's website: www.il-ram.org.

For more information, contact Paul Scheeler, Keystone Quest Chairman, 630-408-1158; keystonequest@msn.com.

Grand Chapter to Establish Charity Foundation

During the past year, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Illinois was forced to convert the Royal Arch Memorial Hospital at Mason Point in Sullivan into a Medicare facility. The Royal Arch Hospital was the official charity of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter since 1917 and served the needs of those who were living in the Masonic Home at Sullivan.

To replace this charity, legislation will be introduced at Grand Convocation to

establish a new charitable foundation called the Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation Inc. The new charity will be asking for a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, so that if it is awarded this designation, donations to this charity will be tax deductible.

The legislation will specify that monies given to this charity will not be spent, and that only the earnings on those monies can be used — and then, only for charitable purposes. It will be the decision of the Grand High

Priest and a board of directors to determine how the money will be distributed.

Your help in making this new charity a success will be vital to fulfilling our promise and vow to help those who need help. If this legislation passes and you wish to make a donation, you may send your check to Ed Derry, Grand Secretary. All donations will be acknowledged. Make this charity one of the finest mechanisms for helping others in the state.

Final Thoughts – Bruce Rhinehart, MEGHP

This will be my last column as Grand High Priest and it is with both happiness and sadness I write this. Happiness for the opportunity that you, the companions of this great organization, have given me to lead our fraternity, and sadness because it seems like only yesterday that my year began. It has been a wonderful year for me and I would like to recapitulate some of the highlights:

Enthusiasm: In this year we have seen an increase in the participation of many chapters as they begin to exalt new companions and get those men involved in the work of capitular Freemasonry. This has been exemplified by the number of companions who have attended the various Chapter Days around the state

and the number of new companions who have been exalted.

Dedication: The programs of the Grand Chapter have proven to be of great help to the chapters and many have been great fun for those who participate. These include: the Keystone Quest, DDGHP and Secretary training, an enhanced web site, a newsletter for all the companions, Chapter and York Rite Days, presentations of The Word, and my favorite – the four coat presentation. It has been my pleasure to travel to many lodges and chapters to make this presentation and it has been as much fun for me as I hope it was for those who invited me to come to their organization to present it.

Teamwork: I want to especially thank all of my officers for their help in making this year so successful. All of them have worked very hard to complete all of the work of Grand Chapter this year. We have accomplished much and yet there is still much to do. Your continued support of the next corps of officers will help to continue our work and make us even better.

Finally, I would like to thank my wonderful wife, Janet. Her support and encouragement have helped me succeed in ways no one will ever realize. It has been said that behind every great man is a greater woman, and mine has always been there for me.



Bruce Rhinehart
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
2007-2008

Plans revealed for Next Capitular Year – Richard Yena, REDGHP



My first and most important plan for the 2008-2009 capitular Year concerns **membership**. During the 2007-2008 capitular year, under the leadership of Bruce W. Rhinehart, MEGHP, we

have made great strides toward increasing our membership throughout the state. The most important aspect of membership is getting out and into the Symbolic Lodges and talking about York Rite Freemasonry and the advantages of becoming a York Rite Mason.

We will continue to have **Chapter Days** in all areas of the state, and it looks like it will be possible to have the **Grand Commandery** join us on many of these days as well. The dates of these special days will be published and distributed at the Grand Convocation.

A new initiative for the year will be to have **Leadership Workshops** for District Deputy Grand High Priests, chapter secretaries, chapter dias officers, and other officers. The workshops will be coordinated by the Area Coordinators and taught by several of the Grand Chapter officers. These dates will be published and distributed at the Grand Convocation. We will continue the **Keystone Quest, Arch of Excellence, Veil Fund,** and **Capitular Standard Clubs**.

If approved at the Grand Convocation, there will be a new **Royal Arch Charity Foundation** beginning in January, 2009, that will allow those who contribute to receive a tax deduction. The fund's beneficiary will be determined by each Most Excellent Grand High Priest for his year. If elected to the office of MEGHP, the beneficiary for my year will be autism research at the New Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research in Chicago.

I am looking forward to a very successful year for Royal Arch Masonry and for Freemasonry as a whole. Plan to be a part and do your best to make this year a great one.

Officers 2007-08

Bruce Rhinehart
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Richard Yena
Right Excellent Deputy
Grand High Priest

Joseph Santisteban
Right Excellent Grand King

Ronald Blue
Right Excellent Grand Scribe

John "Jack" Hall, MEGHP
Right Excellent Grand Treasurer

Edward Derry, MEGHP
Right Excellent Grand Secretary

Charles Horwitz
Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

Dale Cyrier
Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner

Robert Wright
Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain

Proposed Legislation

This is intended to recapitulate the changes that are being proposed at the Grand Convocation this year. Please see the document sent to your chapter for the exact wording of each change.

Changes to the Constitution

The change to Article 9 would clean up the language, as there is no longer a two-day Grand Convocation. The change would be to explain what would happen if no election was held.

Article 12 would change to remove the wording about changes in the Grand Line that took place ten years ago. This is a housekeeping item. When the change was made in 1998, the Grand Veilsmen were changed to be appointed offices rather than elected. As that was staggered over a three-year period to allow each of the gentlemen who were already elected to serve their terms, this will delete the extraneous language

Article 42 would be changed by adding a comma to make it grammatically correct.

In Article 45, the word 'plat' would be changed to 'diagram.'

Changes to the By-laws

Delete Title 2-32 (7), as a bond is no longer necessary for the Grand Treasurer. This is now covered by the Fiscal Officer's Fund.

Title 4-11 and 4-21 would delete "A.F. & A.M." and replace with "Masonic," as not all recognized grand lodges are designated A.F. & A.M.

Delete Title 6-13, as the fiscal year now begins in September; therefore this is no longer needed to extend the expenses of the previous Grand High Priest to cover the costs of Grand Conclave.

Change Title 6-18 to reflect that, with the closing of the Royal Arch Hospital at Masonic Point, the official charity of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter will be that designated by the officers of the Grand Chapter.

Change Title 6-31 to allow reimbursement of thirty (30) cents per

mile, vice ten (10) cents per mile for the Grand High Priest. This is more in line with current fuel costs which have risen dramatically in recent years.

Remove from Title 6-43 any reference to mileage and per diem, as the Grand Chapter no longer pays these to attendees of Grand Conclaves.

Membership in the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International

Vote to rescind the proposal to withdraw membership in the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International, . By rescinding this resolution, membership in the General Grand Chapter would be reinstated.

Currently, the Grand Chapter does not collect the per-capita fee charged by the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International (anticipated to be \$1.00 per member). In addition to the per-capita fee for General Grand Chapter, the officers of the Grand Chapter have authorized a 501(c)(3) (tax deductible) foundation to be known as the Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation Inc. be developed as the charitable arm of the Grand Chapter. Therefore, the following change to Title 6-41 is proposed (change italicized).

6-41— Every chapter in this jurisdiction, on or before the first day of June each year, shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Chapter through the Grand Secretary, as dues, the sum of *Ten Dollars (Seven Dollars general fund, One Dollar Gr. Chapter Veil Fund, One Dollar Dues for General Grand Chapter, and One Dollar to the Grand Royal Arch Charity Fund)* for each Royal Arch Mason belonging to such chapter at the time of submitting the annual returns. No chapter shall be required to pay Grand Chapter dues upon any member who has been declared legally insane or who is a member of the Illinois Masonic Home or the Illinois Knights Templar Home for the Aged Infirm, or who has been a Royal Arch Mason in good standing for fifty years or more, nor upon members whose dues have been remitted because of ill health or poverty; provided that no chapter shall pay less than thirty-five dollars as Grand Chapter dues each year. (2004)

News From Around the State

Capitular Standard Club of Southeastern Illinois

President Skip Hamilton opened the meeting at Albion, thanking the members for all on their hard work, and for all of their help in the numerous exaltations in Southeastern Illinois.

The club has participated in conferring the 4th and 5th degrees on seventy-two candidates since last June. Naturally, we still have some to receive the Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch degrees; but, while we wait for them, we are forging ahead with work scheduled at Bridgeport on May 6th and Greenup on May 8th. Hopefully, we will get at least twelve new candidates started on their journey of exploring York Rite Masonry.

Our club has not only filled a great void by assisting chapters with

degree work, but Skip also has encouraged the development of finance and planning committees. These committees will plan the future of their chapters with a budget of operations. Their purpose is to see that chapters do not fall by the wayside to become no more.

Our latest objective is to learn multiple ritual positions, so we can have back ups at every position in order to cut down on travel. Some of our members are traveling over 150 miles to assist with the work. We appreciate their willingness, but it can prove to be a little costly.

We still have the position of Excellent High Priest in the Holy Royal Arch Degree to be filled. If anyone desires to join our club and learn this position, we would be grateful. At the same time, the club would become self-sustaining in chapter work.

The Many Stones of York Rite Masonry © 2008 by Jeff Day

Masons are builders in stone. So what does our craft of speculative Masonry teach us concerning stones?

In the symbolic degrees, there are really only three stones brought prominently to our attention: the cornerstone, the rough ashlar, and the perfect ashlar. In fact, the latter two are not even particular stones but, rather, whole classes of stones.

The Cornerstone



As an Entered Apprentice Mason, we are taught that the first cornerstone is placed in the northeast corner of the building whereupon to erect the future superstructure, and this idea is extended to the erection of our own inner temple, it being a spiritual building.

The Rough Ashlar & The Perfect Ashlar



We are also told that each one of us is a living stone, and that the tools of Masonry, when properly applied to a rough ashlar, can turn it into a perfect ashlar and make it fit (suitable) for the builder's use. In the Mark Master degree, the overseers are charged to receive these perfect ashlars (square stones) only. Being the first step taken into York Rite, perhaps this is a subtle indicator that only those who have taken the time to apply those lessons learned in the symbolic lodge upon their lives are fit for reception into the chapter.

As each Freemason is represented as a stone, it is significant that Master Masons are taught to use the trowel to cement the building into one common mass.

The capitular degrees introduce us to several other more specific stones:

The "First" Keystone



The first of these particular stones which we encounter is the keystone of the Mark Master. In reference to this stone, the ritual cites the scripture about the "white stone" in the Book of Revelation. Elsewhere in the degree, reference is made to another scripture, of which various readings may be found throughout the Bible. While this scripture is presumably used to refer to the same stone, it speaks of "the chief stone of the corner" and "the head stone of the corner". According to the representation of this stone in Masonic legend, it is certainly not a cornerstone, as

those are the first stones to be laid in the erection of a building, and this stone is the last stone to be fitted in a piece of architecture. Our

ritual says it belonged to one of the principal arches of the Temple. The Latin Vulgate, in the original reference to this verse in Psalms 118:22, calls the stone the "caput anguli" which means head corner, or top corner, and the freshest translation from the Hebrew on which I could get my hands (NJPS) also says "chief cornerstone". One way or the other, the idea is that it is an important stone without which the building could not be complete.

The Cope-Stone (a/k/a "capstone", "coping stone")

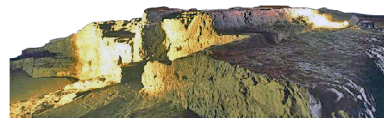
The next stone we encounter is used in the Most Excellent Master degree, and it is, perhaps mistakenly, referred to or depicted as a keystone. There is some argument to be made that this is indeed the same stone which was depicted in the Mark Master degree, however, there are enough differences about its treatment that I will keep them distinct to avoid adding any further confusion to an already confusing subject.

The ritual refers to it as a cope stone, which is a more accurate name for it than a keystone, as it is the stone which completes the building of the entire Temple structure, not merely one of its arches.

The Cryptic Keystone

The supreme degree of Holy Royal Arch Mason introduces us to a keystone that is often mistaken for the cope-stone in the Most Excellent Master degree, but is in fact found at the entrance to the arched vault beneath Solomon's Temple. The Cryptic Degrees explore the subject of the vault more fully; but, in the treatment of this subject, we are interested only in the stone itself, which is introduced in the Holy Royal Arch Mason degree. This stone, by itself, is a fairly simple device with a direct analogy to be found in the Thirteenth Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite: "Master of the Ninth Arch" (or "Royal Arch of Enoch" in the Southern Jurisdiction). In either version of the degree, it is by the discovery and removal of this stone that the secret vault is discovered.

The Foundation Stone (Both of Them?)



According to Jewish legend, the Stone of Foundation is the stone upon which the Ark of the Covenant rested in the Holy of Holies. The Select Master degree in the Cryptic Rite, and

by extension, the Holy Royal Arch degree, imply that there is, however, another Foundation Stone within the secret vault of Solomon's Temple. Albert G. Mackey, 33°, MEPGHP, wrote in his *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences* that "It makes its first appearance in the Royal Arch, and forms indeed the most important symbol of that Degree." It is not evident from the context of this statement whether he speaks of the York Rite's Holy Royal Arch Degree or the Scottish Rite's Thirteenth Degree, but the Foundation Stone itself certainly features more prominently in the Scottish Rite ritual.

This Foundation Stone has been described as a cubical stone of white porphyry, buried in the earth except for three inches protruding from the ground. Albert Mackey warns us not to confound this with the perfect ashlar, which is sometimes also called the "cubical stone" in continental Freemasonry. (continued on page 6)

Our York Rite Heritage – Hugh Cole

It is unclear precisely when and where Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay, FRS (1668-1743), a Scottish Jacobite courtier who was mentioned in the previous issue, was made a Freemason. It is likely to have occurred either in France at or about the time of his 1723 induction into the Order of Saint Lazarus, noting that society's decidedly Masonic bent; or during his travels in England in 1728-30. In any case, he subsequently served as the Orator of the Grand Lodge of France, in which capacity he delivered his infamous 1737 oration purporting to link Freemasonry to the Crusades.

Apocryphal claims that Ramsay bifurcated the sublime degree of Master Mason to create the supreme degree of Holy Royal Arch Mason have been firmly impeached by Masonic scholars and archivists alike. The legend seems to have stemmed from his advancement and possible adaptation of a Continental degree known as the "Royal Arch of Solomon" more or less contemporaneously with Dermott's authorship of the English rituals for the so-called "Ancients" Grand Lodge; perhaps coupled with the tendency of Ramsay and the Jacobite diaspora for self-aggrandisement and propaganda, such as the adaptations of the French degree rituals and commentaries into thinly-veiled allegories of Stuart restoration.

The issue of the inclusion of the Holy Royal Arch degree was a point of contention during the four-year negotiation of the unification in 1813 of the Ancient & Honourable Society ("Ancients") and Premier Grand Lodge ("Moderns"), the Moderns generally preferring to have but three degrees, and the Ancients generally preferring not to be

without the teachings and illumination offered in what was then the Fourth Degree. The two sides compromised such that: 1) there would be three degrees, with the Holy Royal Arch serving as the completion of the Master Mason degree; and 2) the Supreme Chapter of Royal Arch Masons exists as essentially a committee of the United Grand Lodge, the officers of the one simultaneously holding the corresponding offices in the other.

Jeremy Ladd Cross, GL (1783-1861), is best remembered both as the father of Cryptic Freemasonry as it exists in North America and Britain; and the author of the *True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor* (1819) from which we get the iconic Amos Doolittle engraved illustrations of the Masonic symbols shown to each candidate in the lodge and copied into nearly every illustrated monitor since. Poorly educated, Cross was raised in 1807 in Saint Johns Lodge No. 1 of Portsmouth, New Hampshire (now the oldest Masonic body in the Western Hemisphere). After receiving a Grand Lecturers commission from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, he discovered that, like many of his contemporaries, he could make a living by lecturing and selling degrees and regalia. The discarded degrees of the Scottish Rite were his niche, and he is credited with the propagating what became the Cryptic ritual. Grand councils were eventually organized, in large part to regulate the conferral of the degrees and end the dubious practices of Cross and his ilk. Long after the original symbolic lodges in North America had been chartered by the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, the Grand Council of New York chartered the first cryptic councils in England in 1871, and the Grand Council of Illinois chartered Scotland's first councils in 1878.

The Answer Man

When is a Man a Mason?

When is a man a Mason? When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage—which is the root of every virtue. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, and to love his fellow man. When he knows how to sympathize with men, even in their sins — knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds, and still believe in them when they do not believe in themselves. When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response. When he feels a social inequity as a personal sin, and a human calamity as a private bereavement — sharing the guilt and sorrows of his fellows. When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and see majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray,

how to love, how to hope, how to meet defeat and not be defeated. When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow-man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song-glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.

Reprinted from Joseph Fort Newton, Litt. D., *The Builders: A story and study of Freemasonry*. (Richmond, VA: Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, Inc, 1951).

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(continued from page 4) While the Scottish Rite's 13th Degree has the Ineffable Name of Deity inscribed upon the stone itself, the Select Master Degree in the Cryptic Rite has the Word placed upon the Ark which is itself deposited on the Stone of Foundation. The Rabbinical writings of the Talmud concur that the Stone (speaking now of the one in the Holy of Holies, not the one in the vault) was the receptacle of the Ineffable Name, and go further to state that the Stone was in the center of the Earth, being the Foundation Stone of the Earth itself, and that Jacob used the Stone as a pillow upon which to rest his head, and dreamt of the ladder to Heaven.

Conclusion

All these stones are fascinating, but what do they mean to you? Do they all represent character traits within us, or individual Freemasons, as do the stones in the craft degrees? Or do they represent concepts, ideas, or some deeper spiritual truth?

Jeff Day is King of Reames Chapter No. 28, in Grants Pass, Oregon



EGSen Leonard Stoecker and MEGHP Bruce Rhinehart stand with new Mark Masters and (Virtual) Past Masters who took the 4th & 5th at Bridgeport on May 6th. The York Rite bodies of Olney moved to Bridgeport the first week in May and this was their first Capitular degrees in their new home. All seven candidates are brethren of Bridgeport Lodge No. 386, four of them being officers thereof. All are excited about beginning their York Rite journey.

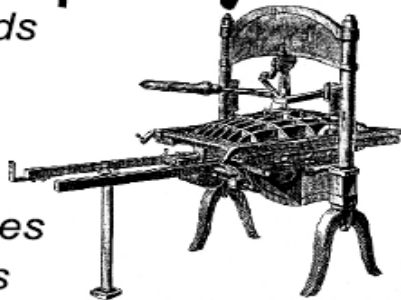


Champaign Chapter Day

Champaign Chapter No. 50 held a very successful Chapter Day on April 12. The picture on the left shows the fifteen companions who were exalted at the event. One of the outstanding results of this Chapter Day was the number of companions who made the effort to learn parts in the degrees. All of the work was excellently well done and reflects the new commitment from many men around the state to learn the parts. Congratulations to all of those who participated in this Chapter Day.

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Family and Friends are Encouraged to Attend

Request To All Secretaries

Below is a count of the exaltation cards submitted by each chapter this year. If you have not yet sent your exaltation cards for any of your new companions, please send them in as soon as possible. This the only way that Ed Derry, RE Grand Secretary, can keep accurate records on new companions. In addition, annual reports are near their due date. Please make sure you have them submitted to the Grand Secretary by the end of May.

Chapter	Number of Exaltations	Chapter	Number of Exaltations
1	5	59	1
2	8	98	1
6	10	100	6
8	1	106	2
14	4	128	2
18	2	132	2
21	3	160	5
22	1	164	4
26	4	180	1
27	2	207	1
38	28	218	15
41	8	221	1
52	2	233	1
55	2	237	3
57	1	Total	126

Form 990 Deadline

Each chapter is required to submit a Form 990 to the IRS by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of its fiscal year. For instance, if your fiscal year closes on December 31, you must file by May 15. If you have a different fiscal year end date, the deadline for submitting the form will also change.

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Payment must accompany all ads.
The strict deadline for submitting material is:
June 7, 2008

Placement order of the ads in the book will be based on the date of submissions. The deadline date for the ads is set early because we need the time to put together ads, and the printer needs time for the printing of the books.

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1328 N 11th St
Pekin, IL 61554-2258
309.353.4241 or email gordon@grics.net**