



LEE SEAGONDOLLAR, EDITOR

1840 N. Cottonwood Loop, Wasilla, AK 99654-4269

Tel. (907) 376-2711 or e-mail: bearsup@mtaonline.net

I would like to encourage all Sir Knights to submit articles, letters, pictures, or comments for inclusion in this supplement. Articles need to be submitted to me by the 25th of the month for the next issue (December 1st for February issue).

### MAT-SU VALLEY YORK RITE MASONS WELCOME GRAND HIGH PRIEST AT OFFICIAL VISITATION

Most Excellent Companion Michael R. Pursey, 2010 Grand High Priest of



**Palmer, Alaska—Most Excellent Companion Michael R. Pursey, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Alaska is standing in front of members of Mat-Su Valley Chapter #4, RAM at Matanuska Masonic Temple on September 22, 2010. Behind MEC Pursey are L to R in front row: Companions Dennis Oakland, Jim McGoldrick, MEC Buck Buxton, Jackie Carl, Bill Burke, L to R in back row: Jack Newell, Mitchell Coulthard, Ted Hutchinson and Bruce Downs.**

Royal Arch Masons in Alaska made his official visitation to Mat-Su Valley Chapter #4, RAM on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. MEC Pursey hails from Bremerton, Washington and is a life member Anchorage York Rite Masons. He was welcomed with a delicious dinner of fried halibut and all the trimmings, followed by a special convocation in his honor. MEC Pursey visited Fairbanks Chapter #1 on Tuesday, September 21st and conferred the Past Master's Degree on two candidates.

MEC Pursey was greeted at the door and presented to the High Priest who introduced him to the Chapter. He was escorted to the east and gave an interesting program. He spoke of his first Masonic experiences through his father who was not a Mason, but suggested he look into becoming a member of the craft. He was told to meet an older gentleman who would discuss his pursuits of membership. Being a young man and figuring he had lots of time, he waited a while before visiting the older man. In the meantime, the gentleman died and MEC Pursey missed his opportunity. Years passed before he again sought becoming a Mason and when he did at last succeed in petitioning, he discovered the lodge he asked now bore the name of the old gentleman he was told to ask about freemasonry. Sometimes, we wait and are rewarded in the end.

MEC Pursey is a Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Washington. He is always present at the Grand York Rite Sessions of Alaska. All members and visiting guests enjoyed the dinner and visitation. We of Mat-Su Valley Chapter #4 hope you might be able to join us next year in welcoming the Grand High Priest.

### COMMANDERIES ENJOYED 2010 FALL FESTIVAL

As you read this issue of the ALASKA SUPPLEMENT you are probably thinking back to the good time you had at the October York Rite Fall Festival last weekend. Wasn't it great to see every one of your fellow Sir Knights and have a chance to help welcome the new Companions and Knights Templar? Unless we make our new members feel needed and a part of "us" they have no reason to come back to a York Rite meeting. Our Commanderies depend upon our participation and guidance to be successful in perpetuating the fraternity. Without our support, that card we carry in our wallet is just a piece of paper that shows we paid for another year's dues. When 6 PM rolled around Friday, October 29th we were ready to go and began our festival with the Royal Arch Degrees. The next morning we met at 8 AM to enjoy coffee and rolls to start the day as we prepared for the Cryptic Degrees. Lunch hour came and sandwiches were eaten as the candidates and participants looked forward to the Orders of the Commandery which were presented in the afternoon. We had a wonderful time and felt a satisfaction which only comes from work well done. If you weren't able to be at the festival, we missed you. We'll look for you in the spring. We need your help and the new York Rite Masons hope they'll get to meet you.