

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

of

BILL R. WOOD

Grand Master of Washington 1999 – 2000

by

**R.: W.: John D. Keliher
Grand Secretary**

Grand Master Bill R. Wood was born on March 19th, 1944, in Gassville, Arkansas, a small town on Highway 62 between Harrison and Mountain Home, Arkansas, on the east side of the White River.

Shortly after he was born Bill's family moved from Gassville to Flippin, Arkansas, a larger metropolitan center seven miles away on the west side of the White River. There the family ran a dairy farm for the next eight years. In 1952, Bill's father changed his vocation to heavy construction. He helped build the dam at Bull Shoals and then the dam near Branson, Missouri, and Bill's Dad worked heavy construction on hydro-electric projects in Texas, Missouri and Washington State. Between construction projects the Wood family returned to Flippin, Arkansas, where Bill graduated from high school in 1962. Then he came west to work on Wells Dam in Azwell, Washington, as a cement Mason. For the next sixteen years Bill worked on numerous reclamation projects, mostly on the Columbia River in Eastern Washington. And the process he moved to Brewster, Washington.

It was in Brewster that Bill met Sue Dietrich, and in 1964 they were married. Bill and Sue have called Brewster home for the past 36 years. In 1978, Bill and Sue bought a craft store and flower shop which they ran until 1986. Their family includes a son and a daughter: Robert Wood, who lives in Selah; and daughter Tina, who lives in Brewster with children Chris, Brandy, Ellie, and Mac.

Bill Wood was skilled as a cement Mason by the time he became a Speculative Mason in Columbia Lodge, No. 193, in 1980. Three years later, in 1983, he served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge in Bridgeport. Subsequently he was elected Treasurer and served as Master a second time. He is presently a member of Okanogan Lodge, No. 169, and Palestine Lodge, No. 214.

His concern for Masonic Youth activities has always been self evident. He was Rainbow Dad for eleven years. He served on the Rainbow Advisory Board for ten years, and he has served on the Rainbow Dads Scholarship Fund for Grand Assembly.

Bill's activities in Concordant and Appendant Bodies have been extensive. A Past Worthy Patron of Puritan Chapter, No. 44, Order of Eastern Star, in Bridgeport he is also a member of Okanogan Valley Chapter, No. 41, Royal Arch Masons; Charles B. Reed Council, No. 14, Royal and Select Masters, Wenatchee; Columbia Commandery, No. 14, Wenatchee; Valley of Wenatchee, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; Okanogan Valley Shrine Club, and El Katif Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

In Grand Lodge Bill Wood served on the Youth Committee, Religious Awareness Committee, Housing Chairman for Arrangements for Grand Lodge. He was appointed Junior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Deacon, Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 22 for two years, and served as Grand Marshal.

His year as Grand Master was marked by strong, positive leadership, and the Craft responded to him with affection. Grand Master Bill R. Wood provided that good and wholesome instruction, but more than that, by his example of Brotherly Love, Charity, and honor he demonstrated what Masonic virtue truly means. Grand Master at the end of the Twentieth Century, Grand Master Bill R. Wood led the Grand Lodge of Washington into the Twenty-first Century with confidence in the future of the Craft.