

# Tales of the Secret Vault

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



## From the Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council

Companion Fred Kemp, Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council

*The Most Illustrious Grand Master has asked the current Grand Council Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.*



First, I would like to introduce myself to you. I am the Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council. Second, I will tell you what I am not. I am not a historian, nor am I a researcher. What I am is a simple Companion like all of us. I try my best to do what I believe the honor the Craft has given me as your Grand Conductor of the Council. I try not to mess up too much. I may say y'all at times without thinking about it.

I watched a good podcast given by Most Puissant Companion William G. Snyder, General Grand Master of Cryptic Masons International, that I thought was very interesting. I recommend it to all of you. It brought out some points about the Cryptic Degrees that I had not thought of. The phrase that kept ringing through my head while watching it was "No man is an Island." Why I thought about that, I am not entirely sure. But the points that Most Puissant Companion Snyder talked about were "good leadership." The Cryptic Mason degrees teach that.

The King did not make his decision alone, but sought advice from his two companions, Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff. Good Leadership does not mean one person decides everything, but it does mean that person gathers information, takes advice and then makes a final decision. I know sometimes I need to see and hear it from different perspectives before it sinks in. I also realize this is only one aspect of the degree, but it is an important one to understand.

Thank you for letting me ramble a little. I am sure most of you already caught that concept in the degrees. But if you did not, it is food for thought.

God Bless Y'all!

*Fred Kemp*

Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council  
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, 2025-2026

September, 2025

Gary B. Strout,

Most Illustrious  
Grand Master

2025-2026



# *Pike's Peak 2025 Deposit Inspection*

On Friday and Saturday, August 1 & 2, 2025, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Gary B. Strout, made the annual pilgrimage to Pike's Peak for the 2025 Cryptic Deposit Inspection. Our Most Illustrious Grand Master was accompanied by Right Illustrious Robert Haynes, Deputy Grand Master, and Right Illustrious Juanito Ernacio, Arch Master for Cryptic District Number 2. The small group enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Edelweiss restaurant on Friday evening before turning in early to be ready to ascend the mountain on Saturday morning.



After breakfast, which was provided by the host hotel, the three Companions went to the Pike's Peak Cog Rail Train to start the journey up the mountain to Pike's Peak. The slow and paced train ride provided an opportunity to view the majestic mountains and valley which surround Pike's Peak, and helped to make the journey much more enjoyable than driving up the mountain on the twisty and curvy roads.

Once at the summit, the deposit was inspected and found to be in excellent shape. The silicone seals were still firmly in place and it appeared no moisture has entered the deposit. After some pictures, our group of intrepid adventurers boarded the Cog Rail Train for the slow and steady descent back to the base of the mountain. It was an overall great trip. We hope to see more of our Cryptic Companions present next year for the 2026 Cryptic Deposit Inspection. The date will be announced by the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master sometime in late 2025.



## *September Illustrious Grand Master's Schedule*

August continues to see our Most Illustrious Grand Master traveling for the betterment of Cryptic Masonry here in Kansas. Most Illustrious Strout's September schedule can be found below:

Caledonia No. 459 Celtic Gathering	September 6, 2025	Little River, Kansas
South Central Conference	September 18-21, 2025	League City, Texas
The Guild/Oak Tree Meeting	September 27, 2025	McPherson/Little River, Kansas