

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE No. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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FROM THE EAST



Last month I touched on subduing passions because that is what the Entered Apprentice Degree teaches us. This month I would like to scratch the surface of what the Fellow Craft degree teaches us. Once you have mastered your passions, you can then begin to start your education.

The Fellow Craft is about expanding knowledge. It doesn't mean you have to go to college and earn a degree, or an advanced degree, but you do need to keep on adding to your knowledge. Whether it is learning about our great craft or learning how to make cabinets, the act of learning itself is what is important. The more we know as individuals the more rounded person we are. Of course keeping the brain active has other benefits as well. One of them is preventing Alzheimer's disease. So, whether it is done in a class room or in the work shop, keep on learning.

This month our meeting will take place at the James J. Hill house. We've had meetings there before over the past couple of years. There is a difference this time. This time the meeting is in the fall and our ladies are invited. I am looking forward to this meeting. I love that house and seeing it dressed for the holidays should be pretty nice. While we are in our meeting, our ladies will get to tour this magnificent home.

November is a bit of a breather month for the Lodge. There is no degree since we are joining with the Master's and Warden's Third Degree on Saturday December 12th. That will be a great day and you should mark your calendars now as Grand Master Thomas McCarty will preside in the East.

See you in Lodge!

Loren Davis
Master 2009



FROM THE WEST



Winding Down

We had a great First Degree ceremony with six candidates being made Masons. Please go out of your way to welcome these new Brothers into our Lodge. In October, we will have passed these new Brothers to the Second Degree. Moreover, we will have held our second Bunco Night by the time this article is published. Hopefully, many of you will have attended this fun event.

However, there are two events which will occur after this article is printed which I would like to mention--our November Stated Meeting at the James J. Hill House, and the Third Degree Ceremony in December.

Our November Stated Meeting will also be our Second Ladies' Night of the year. As I stated above, it will be held at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul. As many of you are already aware, Brother Hill was a member of our Lodge and left us endowment money in his will. His magnificent mansion will be decorated for the Holidays, and our ladies will be given a tour while we are conducting our Stated Meeting. Food ("heavy" hors d'ouerves) and beverages will be served for the usual charge of \$8.00 per person.

Our Third Degree Ceremony will be part of a larger group. Ancient Landmark #5 will be hosting the Masters and Wardens Group when members of a number of Lodges in the area participate in the ritual and raise their Candidates to the Third Degree. This will be done on Saturday, December 12. Coffee and rolls will be available at 9 a.m., and the degree will be starting at 10 a.m. When ALM #5 hosted this event two years ago, there were ten candidates for the degree, and there were over 90 people in the large Lodge room to witness this capstone ceremony in Blue Lodge masonry. I was very impressed, and I am certain that the candidates were equally impressed. Please make a special effort to attend this event. Also, if you would like to participate in the ritual, please contact me or one of the other officers of our Lodge.

See you in Lodge!

Allan Floyd, Senior Warden



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Barnes A. Sharitt Jr.

The following article appears in the October 2009 issue of the newsletter of the Southern California Research Lodge A. F. & A. M. Its premise and argument are applicable to each Master Mason as he executes the designs on his trestleboard. Though it is written 100 years ago it is worth considering today. Therefore, it is offered to you for your thought and discussion. No editing changes have been made to it to account for Scottish writing or grammar.

Southern California Research Lodge A. F. & A. M. THE LODGE MASTER

HIS QUALIFICATIONS

by Andrew MacBride, P.M. Lodge Progress No. 873
Glasgow, Scotland

There are certain points essential to the making of a good Master of a Lodge, and these are:

- 1 - Upright Character
- 2 - Sound Judgment
- 3 - Knowledge of Masonry
- 4 - Mental Ability

The full performance of the duties of a Master demands these qualities, and the degree of excellency in a Master lies in the measure in which he possesses them. Let us consider them.

1 UPRIGHT CHARACTER

This is the most important qualification. Without it, knowledge, ability, and even genius are of little value. It directs these to noble ends, and makes them valuable to the individual and to humanity.

The Mallet and Chisel are not of much service for the building of the Temple unless governed by the Square. Intellect to morality is as the lever to the hand and as the pulsating engine to the ship's helm. An upright man so directs his life that, although his work may not be great, it will be true, and if his knowledge be limited, he will use what he has for great purposes. What we call capability is constitutional. Knowledge is an acquirement. Uprightness is a development and forms the beautiful in human character. Beauty is not identified with bulk. The microscope reveals beauty, the telescope greatness. Uprightness is not an appendage to great intellect, and in morals there is no mensuration. It is from the right use of our faculties that we gain real development and power; for the upright in heart build on the eternal rocks, and the infinite power of the Universe works with them. As a man is true to the little he knows, so is his power to know more. If he rules himself rightly he will be able

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NEXT STATED MEETING

November 12th

The next Stated Meeting will be Ladies Night at the James J. Hill house. Hors d'oeuvres from 6 - 7 PM. The Ladies will tour the home at 7:00pm while we are in our meeting. The James J. Hill House is located at 240 Summit Avenue St. Paul, MN 55102, just one block west of the Cathedral.



FROM THE SOUTH



Weighty Ties and Obligations

In April of 2004, our WB Austin Harris called me over to ask me a question after one of our House of Hope Men's Breakfast sessions at the Copper Dome. "Have you ever thought of becoming a Mason", he asked me. My response was, "Yes I have, but don't I have to be well connected and have someone ask me to join?" Austin's response was, "Haven't you noticed my bumper sticker, '2 Be 1, Ask 1'?" Bingo - that was easy.

I remembered filling out the petition and wondering if I would be found worthy and well qualified. Brothers Lingo and Buck called to talk with me for what I look back on as the pre-degree grilling, where they asked the litany of questions to which I provided one response after another. They asked if I had any questions and as I probed for answers to my several questions, it was suggested that this would all become apparent when I became a member. Ah-ha, they are holding back on something, but I detected that I might actually be considered an acceptable member. I admonished myself not be hasty; I knew they needed to convey their investigation to the brethren and they in turn, vote on my fate.

Scroll forward to the following September, when after the First Degree, I was handed the prove-up cipher and told to de-cipher it with a Brother and then memorize the responses. I was practically stunned with the notion that I would be able to not only figure out what was conveyed in the cipher, but that I would memorize any of it, much less ALL OF IT! My last memory / recitation work was in grade school, when we had to memorize the Gettysburg address and other salient pieces from American history. And I wasn't even any good at it then, when my mind wasn't so cluttered with 40+ years of architectural training and experiences. How the heck was I going to remember this new stuff and be able to spit it back? Shoot, what was it in the obligation I said I would do, that got me into this pickle?

As I sat as the Master for the Second Degree last Spring, I

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LEO, His Qualifications... cont. from page 2

to govern others wisely, and without this quality no one can be a good Master.

To the young craftsman, who cherishes the laudable desire of becoming a Master, I would say that the development of uprightness, like all human development can only be attained by effort, and the first thing needful is the true desire for it. If that be cherished in the heart, like seed in the earth, it will seek upwards into the light of day, and grow into flower and fruit. Through darkness and over all difficulties, it Will surely, though often slowly, work its way upwards. From desire springs action. Without action, desire burns itself to the dead ashes of vain regret. In action, it develops new life and a higher existence.

Upright growth of character is attained by working true to a higher power than our own. The operative Mason by the plumb-rule keeps in perpetual touch with the great power of gravitation. He cannot deviate from it with impunity. Neither can anyone hope to build an upright life-structure unless in his actions he constantly strives to keep true to the divine ideal revealed to him. Uprightness is based on humility - the level line of human dependence on the divine. It is the evidence of the mortal rising to the immortal plane, upheld by the infinite power that sustains the Universe, just as a noble pillar, well founded, rises gracefully upwards, upheld by the force of gravitation. It is attained through earnest aspiration and by working true to divine law.

Genius may be a curse to society. Upright Character is always a blessing. Mental ability may see evil: the upright heart alone will overcome it. The former has no benevolence; the latter is both benevolent and beneficent. Benevolence is a spirit. You may measure a body by bulk, but spirit never. To invest our souls in material things outside of ourselves is poor economy. Our tenure in such things is, at the best, a short one. We lose them often in life and certainly in death. But proprietorship in Uprightness is registered in Heaven. It unites with the just and the true forces, with the pure and the beautiful of the Universe, and links us with that Divine Power outside ourselves that makes for Righteousness.



Weighty Ties and Obligations... cont. from page 2

remembered these events that brought me into Masonry; the fears, trials, trepidations and support I experienced over the past few years. The lessons and memory work deepened my understanding of Masonry and developed my confidence. In doing each of the Q/A lectures, as well as the interrogatories and the Sr. Deacon's work, I found I was capable of remembering much more than I gave myself credit for. I took a deep breath, and proceeded with the work. And felt that this is the high-point of Masonic work; accepting and meeting a challenge; and bringing newly initiated Brothers to more light in Masonry.

Does it get any better than this? Yup. I am sure of it. And I sincerely hope that each new Brother will embrace this work, whole-heartedly, and be willing to be tried and never denied and be willing to be tried again.

Fraternally Yours,
Brother Drew Bjorklund, Junior Warden



Brothers

A quick check of lodge records indicates that 40 Lodge Members have not paid their dues for the current dues year, 2009. Additionally, 16 of that 40 have not paid for the previous dues year, 2008. These 16 Brothers are in danger of being suspended for nonpayment of dues if we do not receive payment before the end of the year. The remaining 24 while not in danger of being suspended are putting an undue burden on the Lodge by not paying their dues in a timely manner. The Lodge has to pay the per-captia to the Grand Lodge whether the membership pay their dues or not. In a sense your Brothers are paying your dues for you and simply put that is wrong.

If you believe you may be in arrears on your dues or are not sure, call the lodge and we will give you an accounting. You should have also received your 2010 dues statement in the mail recently. It also indicates your present status. If the statement shows you owing \$147.00, you must pay this amount before the end of the year or you will be suspended. If it shows \$98.00 you are presently a year behind and on January 1, 2010 you will be 2 years behind, your Lodge Brothers will have paid \$58.00 per-captia on your behalf. Please do not allow this to continue. Bring your dues up to date as soon as possible. Do not allow yourself to be suspended. Bring your membership back into good standing with your Brothers.

Fraternally

Bruce L. Sherman, PM.

Lodge Secretary



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LODGE of SORROW 2009

And we shall become immortal by our deeds which will live on after us.



| Name | Birth | Initiated | Passed | Raised | Celestial Lodge |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Russell James Schwab | 11/22/1924 | 1/09/1953 | 2/06/1953 | 2/20/1953 | 2/10/2009 |
| Arnold Emery Johnson | 11/10/1926 | | | 11/18/1954 | 2/22/2009 |
| Ralph Peterson | Jan. 1925 | | | Nov. 1967 | 3/20/2009 |
| Elmer M. Jenson | 8/9/1927 | | | 8/20/1960 | 6/27/2009 |
| Wheeler, Ray E | 4/4/1929 | | | 1/6/1955 | 7/28/2009 |
| Wood, John J | 4/21/1927 | | | 7/21/1953 | 6/1/2009 |



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