



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Greetings,

Well, school is out, and I suppose that signals the beginning of summer. During the school year I have the privilege of taking my granddaughter to school each day and most of the time picking her up afterward. I have to get up a little earlier than normal, prepare breakfast and be ready to leave to get her there in time. It may seem strange to some that I look forward to this and really enjoy it. On the way to school I try to start her day on a positive note and share words of wisdom with her that I think may help her to grow. She calls it lecturing. She doesn't recognize the pearls of wisdom I impart, but hopefully later she will understand what I was saying. Probably when she is about 25 or so. She is 14 now. I will wait. She use to think we were cool grandparents. Now not so much. We are still cool, but she just doesn't recognize it. Oh, well. That is normal. I still try though. The last thing I tell her before she gets out of the truck is "Find something positive and be something positive". I need to remind myself of that too sometimes. I believe it is good for all of us to know. You never know what impact you may have on someone else. Good or bad. We are supposed to impart light. It may brighten someone's day when they really need to see some light.

Brother Rhett McCullough,

President, MWSA District 6

Our web site is www.mwsa6.org.

THIS MONTH'S JOKE

A mason who had just been installed as Master of his lodge and was duly attending all the functions he could was having a hard time with his wife who said... " All those masters-in-office have to do is click their fingers and you would be there wouldn't you?.....I wish I was a master!"

After due thought, he said...

"So do I dear..... we swap them for a new one every year!!"

David Elliott Lodge Awards Scholarships to Three Local Students

By Rex McGee

David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Omaha has a long history of supporting education in the local community. For many years the Lodge has awarded scholarships to deserving students who wanted to continue their educations. The Lodge raises money for these scholarships through fund raisers dedicated for this purpose and by soliciting gifts and donations from members and the community as well as accessing funding through the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation.

This year the Lodge has raised sufficient funds to award two One Thousand Dollar scholarships. The scholarship committee announced this year's lucky students when one member stood up and said we actually had a third student who deserved and needed a

scholarship to insure they were able to get into college. Scott Brock, Worshipful Master of the Lodge said he would discuss this issue with a few of the members to determine if anything could be done to assist this student. After the meeting was closed Master Brock started trapping members on the shoulder and before you knew it the hundred dollar bills and checks were going into his hand for the additional scholarship. Within fifteen minutes of the close of the meeting Master Brock had enough money and pledges in hand to fund another Thousand Dollar Scholarship for this deserving student.

This is another example of Masonry showing its willingness to be a good citizen, supporting our youth and their educational needs as well as being an asset to the Community.

Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny.
Carl Schurz

Election of Lodge Officers a Priority

by Rex McGee

All elective officers of the Lodge which include the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and such other officers as the by-laws may prescribe, shall be elected at the last stated meeting of the Lodge prior to midnight of June 23. The election must be concluded at this meeting, and may not be postponed, and must be concluded by midnight if stated meeting is on Saturday or June 23. All other officers shall be appointed as soon thereafter as convenient.

Officers must be elected in open Lodge. A separate vote must be taken for each elective office which shall be by written ballot where two or more Brethren are nominated Articles 276, 276a, 291, & 297a apply to the election of line Officers.

Last year Harry Clark, District Instructor, reminded us:

- (1) I know all our Lodges are short of active members and many don't appoint Stewards but they are required by Grand Lodge Law Art. 264 even if just in name only.
- (2) Form 101, "Installation Requirements for the Lodges of Texas, A.F. & A. M. also applies.

Secretary: AS SOON AS YOUR OFFICERS ARE ELECTED, you should notify Grand Lodge. Starting on May 24, this can be done by going on the Texas Lodge Secretary's Database to Add Newly Elected Officers under the Lodge Officers button. That capability will ONLY be available from May 24 until midnight, June 23rd, as annual returns are generated and new officers listed. Failure to notify the Grand Secretary's office of your new officers will result in your Lodge not being listed in the new 2019-2020 Directory of Constituent Lodges in Texas. Do not wait until installation to notify us of your new officers. All officers shall be installed on June 24, the day of the Feast of St. John the Baptist, or at any stated or called meeting thereafter prior to midnight on the last day of July; provided, however, that no officer shall be installed on Sunday. It is not necessary that all officers be installed at the same time.

Symbolism of the Hiram Legend

by Sir Knight James A. Nash

Edited & shortened to fit the space available.

by Rex McGee

Presentations on Philosophy, Symbolism, and Ritual are solely the opinions of the author, and provided as a means to stimulate discussion and learning; they are not to be construed as the official interpretation of the author, presenter, or any one else. Masonry is many things to many people and symbolism leads one down a road with many intersections, the turn you take is up to you and may take you down a road not often traveled.

We can search the Bible and history books, but we will not find the story of Hiram Abiff as we tell it in the second section of our Master Mason Degree. Therefore, we must assume that this story is an allegory and that it will take study and contemplation to understand its true meaning.

This part of our degree work is just another way of telling the age old story of the struggle between good and evil. My purpose is to explain how I believe the main characters of the second section of the Master Mason Degree are used as symbols, their meaning, and how they are used to communicate the lesson that they are intended to impart.

Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff represent wisdom, honesty, and perseverance. Collectively they represent all that is good and pure in

the world. They epitomize brotherly love, relief, and truth. They represent the state of perfection that each of us should be striving to attain, even though we will never be able to reach it. The three principle fellowcrafts represent the labor that each of us must perform, the contemplation that we must exercise, and the care for all mankind's welfare so that we become a better person each day. We constantly grow in order to get closer to that state of perfection and to insure that the world is left a better place when we leave it. The three ruffians represent ignorance, prejudice, and greed. They are the forces of evil that are constantly attempting to undo and defeat the forces of good. Once we realize what each of these groups of characters represent, then we are able to contemplate their effects on the human condition.

The first ruffian represents ignorance. Ignorance in this context is the lack of knowledge of how to properly relate to and act toward others or how to consider the welfare of others. Ignorance allows a person to be easily led or influenced to commit offences that harm other people. These offences can take the form of plotting against someone, spreading rumors, lying, or other conduct that is detrimental to others or that may benefit the perpetrator at someone else's expense. Ignorance stifles the mental growth of a human being and helps prevent his ability to think beyond self. It also tends to foster an exaggerated sense of self entitlement which tends to encourage the type of behavior that ignorance perpetuates.

The second ruffian represents prejudice. Prejudice creates and encourages hate and intolerance. The practice of intolerance makes a person or group reject the opinion or belief of others summarily, without giving any thought as to their validity or value. Prejudice is a narrow mindedness that encourages hate because of race, religious or political beliefs, or some other reason that is unreasonable or invalid. It discourages a person from understanding his or her differences with others and blocks the growth and strength that understanding and acceptance can produce.

The third ruffian represents greed. Greed is the desire to obtain wealth or power by any means necessary. Greed can manifest itself through thievery, deception, swindling, or any other means which can result in one person or group attaining an unfair advantage over another.

In contrast, the three principle fellowcrafts collectively represent the attainment of knowledge and the

individual's effort to improve by practicing the Masonic tenets of brotherly love, relief, truth, and morality. They epitomize the effort to battle the three ruffians in defense of good. They teach us to battle ignorance by gaining knowledge of how to properly treat and relate to others. They demonstrate that this is not an easy task but a lifelong effort to improve our ability to practice the knowledge we gain. They teach us to battle prejudice by the realization that every person should be treated equally without regard to their race, religious or political belief, wealth, or station in life. Every person should be treated as an individual and judged only by how they live their life and what they give to humanity. They teach us to battle greed by realizing that there are things in life that should be more valuable to us than wealth or power. Honor, integrity, and honesty are invaluable in the battle against evil. The respect we receive from others for possessing and utilizing these qualities will earn an individual the kind of love and respect from others that is more valuable than any amount of money or the possession of any object.

The three ruffians demonstrate that the forces of evil are always at work to influence the unsuspecting and the weak and to recruit them in the battle so that evil can triumph over good and chaos can then rule. They use powerful weapons and allurements to influence and win people to their side, and they are always present to capture anyone who might slip. The three fellowcrafts demonstrate that although the forces of evil are powerful and relentless, we can still prevail through perseverance and the diligent practice of virtue.

The last event in this part of our degree, when the individual receives the last secret of a Master Mason, represents the rebirth of the individual into a life where he is to work through the study, contemplation, and practice of these principles and virtues to continually improve. This practice is noticed by others and therefore influences and benefits all mankind. Honor, integrity, reputation, and respect are the benefit for the individual when he takes these lessons to heart and practices them in his daily life. The Master Mason practicing these virtues in his daily life will influence others to seek association with us in order to improve themselves.

Each individual is free to accept or reject these thoughts. I contend that this is a valid assessment of the symbolism of the Hiram legend and a reasonable interpretation of how we should utilize the lessons of the degree. Even if there is disagreement on this

interpretation, there should be agreement that it does offer thought into the meaning of what we should learn from Masonry.

Topic 6 - Masonic Home and School of Texas



In 1899, the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home opened its doors in southeast Fort Worth. Two orphaned brothers, Emanuel and Lee Ravey, showed up early to apply for admission. Dr. Frank Rainey, the institution's first superintendent and a man of immense compassion, did not have the heart to turn the needy boys away. Instead, he graciously invited them to stay with him and his wife. The little group lived in a tent on the grounds until the new building was completed.

In the early days, the campus was a self-sufficient community with its own artesian wells for water, a power plant for steam heat and electricity, and a cattle and dairy farm. Youngsters were offered a classroom education, but also were trained in farm operations.

In addition to helping children, the facility also provided living accommodations for the widows of Texas Masons. In 1910, the widows were moved to Texas Masonic Retirement Center and the institution's name was changed from The Masonic Widows and Orphans Home to Masonic Orphans Home. In 1913, Masonic Orphans Home was declared an independent school district then referred to as Masonic Home and School of Texas (MHS).

Just as family farms once plowed with draft horses now feature air-conditioned super tractors, the needs of the children and widows dependent on MHS, has changed over time. The last graduate of MHS crossed the stage in 2005, and the residential facility and independent school district closed their doors. For over one hundred years, this incredible spirit of goodwill and concern for

children characterized the Masonic Home and School. The spirit of providing for those in need remains strong.

In 2007, Masonic Home and School of Texas began a new chapter to continue the 117-year legacy. Today's programs provide innovative and cost-effective solutions for hundreds of qualified children and widows annually. Masonic Home and School of Texas provides information, referral, and financial support for qualified children or widows of Texas Master Masons residing in Texas. Masonic affiliation is given priority.

Services include but are not limited to:

- Information and referral services for Texas children, widows, and families
- Food, clothing, transportation, and family services
- Medical, dental, and prescription services
- Tutoring, career counseling, and educational scholarships
- Counseling and psychological services
- Parent Autism Training Program
- Living accommodations, meals and activities at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center for qualified widows of Texas Master Masons

Discussion Questions:

1. Has your Lodge referred anyone in need to the Masonic Home and School, and do you know the process?
2. Does your Lodge participate in the "Fantastic Teeth" program sponsored by the Masonic Home and School? If no, why not?
3. In what ways can your Lodge support the Masonic Home and School?

District Deputy Presents Program to MWSA Attendees at Stated Meeting

by Rex McGee

The District 6 Masters & Wardens Association held its stated meeting on May 20, 2019 at the Old Union Community Center. President McCullough called the meeting to order after everyone had enjoyed a good meal and fellowship. Some regular attendees were unable to attend due to school activities of children and grand children. The number may have been smaller than usual, but we had a good meeting and enjoyed the presence of Jamey Sterret, a member of Temple Lodge # 70 making his first visit to the MWSA meeting.

After attending to routine business President McCullough introduced District Deputy Grand Master Paul W. Dempsey who presented the program for this month. The subject of the program revolved around the symbolism of the three Ruffians. Right Worshipful Dempsey presented a program from an excellently prepared presentation that related a specific perspective of the symbolism of the Three Ruffians and their meaning from that individual's perspective. Last month I had pulled an article together for this month's publication of the Trestle Board. It has a similar, but slightly different interpretation of the same symbolism. Normally I would not publish a differing or varying opinion but this is an excellent example of the many interpretations of the same symbolism. For those who attended the meeting and heard Right Worshipful Dempsey's program and take the time to read the article appearing in this month's publication you will see what I have been writing about for the last couple of years.--educated & thinking men, as most Masons are, can have different interpretations of the same symbolism. I believe that is what Masonry is all about. Two men having slightly or varying opinions doesn't mean that one has to be wrong.

President McCullough thanked DDGM Dempsey for his presentation and thanked all in attendance. Our next MWSA meeting will be held on June 27, 2019 and will be held at the Community Center again.

CONFEDERATE PRISON LODGE

The story of an informal Masonic Lodge organization behind the walls of a Confederate Army prison in South Carolina is told by one who was there confined. In 1901 Brother J. T. Parker, Webb Lodge No. 182, Sigourney, Iowa, related the story to the editor of a Masonic journal from which Texas Grand Lodge Magazine quotes the following article.

In the Fall of 1864, it was my unhappy lot to be confined, with a large number of Union officers in the military prison of Columbia, S. C., and part of the time in the lunatic asylum yard in the east part of the city. While there a number of us who were Masons consulted together and agreed if we could get the privilege to meet in an upper room over the Confederate physician's office, and post up [practice the ritual], as we had become somewhat rusty, we would organize a lodge for instruction. The writer, with two others, was designated

a committee to interview the doctor in charge. We did so, and the doctor most cheerfully granted our request, and promised to meet with us. The same evening, some 11 of us, nine states being represented, met in the room spoken of. One of our number had a copy of the Great Light. It devolved on the writer to test the brethren. After doing so, and all found to be Masons in good standing, we proceeded to organize an informal lodge for instruction, our jewels being cut out of paper. Boxes, properly placed, formed the stations and altar. Having tools to work with, our Great Light in place, we proceeded to elect officers. The writer was elected Master; Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary being chosen and all appointive places filled, one of our number was taken and initiated an Entered Apprentice and duly instructed. What one of us was at a loss to give, some other Brother could. Since that time, I have often thought it the most thorough initiation I ever witnessed. After the initiation, not being hampered by any Grand Lodge to the contrary, we proceeded to confer so-called side degrees, and the victims, I have no doubt, were forcibly impressed with the ceremonies. Near morning we closed our lodge.

"We soon met again, opened our lodge, and taking one of our number, proceeded to pass him to the second degree, and if anything, was omitted necessary to fully make a Fellowcraft, it was not our intention. After our regular work being through, the Confederate doctor came up, was tested and found a bright Mason. For the next two or three hours all enjoyed themselves. The doctor had many so-called side degrees that we were not in possession of, and he had as many victims as he could handle, and we, to reciprocate, taught the doctor some things not in his *Materia Medica* [*Medica* refers to pharmacology; as used herein the author is referring to the common everyday remedies not taught to the doctor in medical school].

We closed the lodge near morning, and soon met again. The moon, edicts, or regulations didn't hamper us. At this meeting the third degree was our lesson, and the Brother who acted as our candidate was of the opinion, when we got through, that he had been hazed.

I think our first meeting was in the first days of January, 1865. I have no record, and have to trust to memory. We met quite often up to the time we left the prison, Feb. 17, 1865. For some years after coming home, I had the names of the Brothers composing this lodge for instruction, but the list has been misplaced. I have not

met one of them since we were exchanged. John M. Godown, of Fort Wayne, Ind., was one; Smith of Pennsylvania, another; Lock, of Vermont, another; a first lieutenant of the Second Michigan Cavalry another, his name has passed me, but he was the best posted [best ritualist] of our number. He could take any part, and do the work correctly. The others I cannot recall, but remember just how most of them looked.

I have made the claim that I am the only Mason in the United States who was Master of a Lodge in a Confederate prison.

Temple Lodge Confers Master Mason's Degree

By Rex McGee

Temple Lodge was the sight of a Master Mason's Degree on Saturday May 11, 2019. Numerous Lodges participated in the Degree to make it a memorable event for the new Master Mason. Every Lodge in District 6 was represented at the Degree and had a member on the Degree team. All the members of the Lodge and visiting brothers enjoyed a breakfast and a good period of fellowship and time to meet and visit with the candidate prior to the Degree.

Brother Rhett McCullough, PM was Master in the first section of the Degree and Brother Jodie Harris, PM & current District Instructor was the Master in the second section. Brother Jamey Sterrett was the Senior Deacon in both sections of the Degree. This was Brother Sterrett's first full Masters Degree as the Senior Deacon. Our current District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Paul W. Dempsey helped out in the Degree. Master Mason Degrees require many participants to confer the entire degree and many of our Lodges must reach out to other Lodges for assistance. However, this is one of the things that builds brotherhood and adds to the strength of the Fraternity.

Once the Degree concluded the members of the Lodge, visitors and members of the Degree team were given an opportunity to extend their congratulations to the new Master Mason on his being raised to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason. The candidate was then given the usual hour present his first speech to the Lodge.



- June 1st** – Daingerfield OES, Open Installation, 9:00 a.m. eat, 10:00 install. Deborah Abernathy/Rex McGee
- June 3rd** – Temple Lodge #70, Training and Practice Session
- June 3rd** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 4th** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 4th** – Border OES, Closed Installation, 6:00 eat, 7:00 p.m. install, Gina King/Charles King
- June 6th** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 8th** – Pittsburg OES, Open Installation, After Installation eat, 10:00 a.m. install, Michelle Stegman/Bill Guy
- June 8th** – Omaha OES, Open Installation, After Installation eat, 11 a.m. install, Stephenia/David Myrick
- June 8th** – Linden OES, Open Installation, 6:30 eat, 7:30 pm install, Gail Riddle/Paul Hunt
- June 10th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 10th** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting
- June 11th** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 11th** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 13th** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 13th** – Temple Lodge #70, Training and Practice Session
- June 15th** – New Boston OES, Open Installation, 5:00 eat, 6:00 pm install, Beverly/Doyle Sikes
- June 17th** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 17th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 18th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 18th** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 21st** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 24th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 24th** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 25th** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

June 27th – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting

June 29th – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, 12:00 p.m. Installation of Officers.

June 29th – Temple Lodge #70, Installation of Officers, Dinner @ 5:00 p.m. Install @ 6:00 p.m.

District One Past Matrons and Past Patrons Hold Meeting.

The Past Matrons & Past Patrons of District One, Order of the Eastern Star held their most recent meeting in Royse City Texas at Royse City Lodge # 663. The Royse City Lodge was chartered in 1888 and occupies a building in downtown that was built in 1925. It has a stairway leading to the second floor of the building. The first floor is occupied by a museum. The Lodge represents the era in which it was built. It is charming with its simple, but ornate architecture. It has wood flooring in the kitchen and window air conditioning throughout the Lodge. The building has been very meticulously cared for over the years.

The meeting was opened by Xanthe Parker, President of the District one Past Matrons & Past Patrons Association. President Parker welcomed and introduced the dignitaries and then introduced the other members and guests. Section 9 had six members attending which included Beverley Sikes, Deputy Grand Matron of Section 9, Carole McGee, and Secretary of the Past Matrons & Past Patrons Association and the current Fraternal Correspondent of the Grand Chapter of Texas. After routine business was handled the meeting was closed and everyone gathered in the Lodge dining room to enjoy a mid afternoon lunch.

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2019 at David Elliott Lodge in Omaha, Texas.

THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

As a man was standing on the gallows, his executioner asked if he had any last words.

"Yes," the man replied "I hate Masons."

The executioner was surprised by this and asked "Why do you hate Masons? They do much good in our world."

The condemned man said, not hiding his anger, "They are killing me. The man who turned me in is a Mason; the cop that arrested me is a Mason; the prosecuting attorney that tried me is a Mason' the jury that convicted me were all Masons; and the judge that sentenced me to hang is a Mason.

That is why I hate Masons!"

"I see." said the executioner. "Are you ready to proceed?"

"Yes." said the man with sadness in his voice.

"O.K. Then you will now take one regular upright step with the left foot...."

Shrine Club News

by Rex McGee



The Shrine Club held its monthly meeting on the second Monday of the month at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant.

The meeting was opened by President Paul Dempsey welcoming the visitors and thanking everyone for attending. Routine business was handled while we discussed the sick & bereaved in our community known by the members.

We still do not have a final accounting of the IHOP pancake benefit day held in March. We'll try to find out by next meeting and report to the group.

Rex McGee discussed the Power Saw ticket sales and sold more tickets to those attending.

We discussed making plans for our annual Christmas Party as it takes some advance notice to get a commitment for entertainment and a place for the event.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on June 10, 2019 at Hershel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. You are not required to be a member to attend. Bring your wife or a friend as we always enjoy having visitors.