

PACIFIC MASONIC LODGE # 325, A.F.M.



THE TRESTLEBOARD

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6 JUNE, 2008



COMINGS AND GOINGS

Time again for another newsletter and some more rambling from yours truly. This month's ramble will be about things going on in the Lodge. R.W. Bro. Edward Neeley will present Bro. Bill Yandle and Bro. Del Collins with lecture proficiency certificates. Del's award is for the First Degree and Bill will be recognized for both First and Second Degree. Way to go, my Brothers!!

We've been busy with work at the Lodge, but we have also enjoyed travelling to other Lodges. We had a group go up to Boyleston in May for an E.A. Degree and Bro. Del gave the lecture at the request of W. Bro. Carl Sellers, Master of # 123..

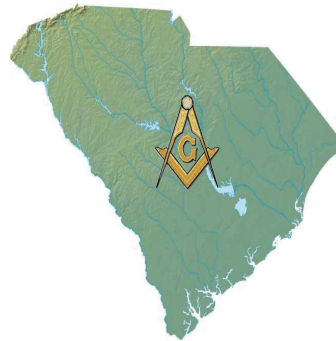
Bros. Lindsay Bacon and Wayne Whitworth visited Cayce Lodge on the 19th while Bros. Billy Hilliard and Larry Gamble visited Eau Claire Lodge on the 26th.

Pacific had the pleasure of having W. Bro. Jim Allen, Sr., of Texas (and father of one of perpetual life members) visit us and present the Lodge with a Texas Grand Master's coin. This new "treasure" can be seen in our display case in the dining room.

I urge each and every member to get out and visit other Lodges. See what is going on and let them know what WE are doing as well. For "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brothers to dwell together in unity."

All Brothers are welcome. Please be prepared to show a valid dues card or have a Brother vouch for you. This is not done to embarrass anyone, but rather to ensure that all who pass are duly qualified....

Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge A.F.M. of South Carolina.



IS MORE BETTER?

I am again taking the liberty of adding a couple of extra pages to the *Trestleboard* this month and would like some feedback. When I do research for articles to include, I frequently come upon lengthy pieces that I find most interesting and enlightening. What do

YOU think about this? I have included a rather lengthy article on Blue Lodge Symbolism in the last couple of pages. Some may find it a bit TOO long, but be that as it may, I hope you will enjoy it. Let me know.

I have had many kind comments about this publication

and I appreciate it. I am always looking for contributing writers and feedback. I rarely take pride in authorship, and I really enjoy putting this together as much as most of you may enjoy reading it. Take care my Brothers and please stay in touch. Bro. Bosie .:

OFFICERS FOR 2008

- *Fred Garren, P.M., W.M.*
- *Brian Gambrell, S.W.*
- *Bill Yandle, J.W.*
- *Jim Jaco, Treas.*
- *Bosie Martin, P.M. Sec.*
- *Del Collins, S.D.*
- *Richard Prudence, J.D.*
- *David Dowden, Stew.*
- *Michael Hershberger, Stew.*
- *Wayne Whitworth, Chap.*
- *Jan Barkan, Tyler*

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - SGT. DAVID DOWDEN, STW.



Bro. David Dowden
Steward

The member spotlight this month features Bro. and Sgt. David Dowden. Bro. David is a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson (his usual vocation) but has been defending the freedom we enjoy for many years now. He has served, and expects to be re-deployed to the middle east in the near future.

Bro. David is our very own "Ragin' Cagin" from the great state of Louisiana. His career is the United State Army but

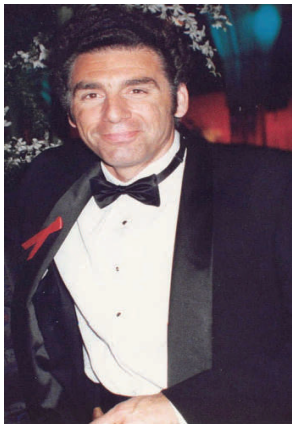
his heart is in Masonry.

Bro. David was raised just last year and jumped in immediately. As you can see from the photo on the left, he assisted in the 2007 Bar-B-Que by assisting on the rice cooking detail (among other helpful posts)... David is serving the Lodge as a Steward this year, but has already sat (most proficiently I must add) as both Junior and Senior Warden when asked. He has learned the work and is very

punctual at meetings and for "other duties" around the Lodge.

Bro. David is a Harley Davidson enthusiast and can be seen (weather and duty permitting) riding his orange Harley to the Lodge.

Our thanks go to Bro. David and all the others he has helped along the way. May God Bless you and all those who serve our country and keep you safe! Our thanks go to you for your service.



ILL. Bro. Michael Richards
(Cosmo Kramer)

FAMOUS MASONS - ILL. BRO. "KRAMER"

Michael Anthony Richards (born July 24, 1949) is an American comedian and actor known for his portrayal of the eccentric Cosmo Kramer on the television series *Seinfeld*, a role which earned him three Emmy Awards. Richards began his career as a stand up comedian, first stepping into a national spotlight when he was featured on Billy Crystal's first cable TV special. He

went on to become a series regular on ABC's *Fridays*. Prior to *Seinfeld*, he made numerous guest appearances on a variety of television Richards is a Master Mason and is a 33° in the Scottish Rite. He was very active in preservation of Masonic research. Richards holds memberships in the following lodges: Riviera Lodge No. 780, Culver City-Foshay Lodge No. 467, as well as the

Southern California Research Lodge. Additionally, he is also a Life Member of the Los Angeles Scottish Rite Valley and a Life Member of the Scottish Rite Research Society. For a great story and more information visit the following link:

<http://www.srmason-sj.org/web/journal-files/Issues/sep03/casalou.htm>

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PACIFIC HONORS CAMILLE "RED" RANSOM FOR 50 YEARS SERVICE



Bro. Camille Ransom (better known to some as "Red") was presented with a 50-year pin and certificate by Bro. Jim Jaco (left) at their church. Bro. Ransom is unable to drive at night and asked that the presentation be made by Bro. Jim on Sunday, May 11. He was presented with the Grand Lodge Certificate and the 50 year Masonic pin from the

Grand Lodge. Fifty years is truly a milestone in the Craft and we are most fortunate to have him as a member of Pacific. Again, we congratulate Bro. Red, wish him continued good health and hope he will be with us in the Lodge in the near future. Thanks also go to Bro. Jim Jaco, our Treasurer, for making this special presentation!

MASONIC EDUCATION: THE THRESHING FLOOR

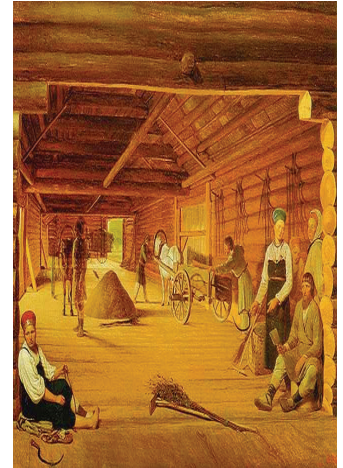
Among the Hebrews, circular spots of hard ground were used, as now, for the purpose of threshing corn. After they were properly prepared for the purpose, they became permanent possessions. One of these, the property of Oman the Jebusite, was on Mount Moriah (First Chronicles xxi, 15 28). It was purchased by David, for a place of sacrifice, for six hundred shekels of gold, and on it the Temple was afterward built.

Hence it is sometimes used as a symbolic name for the Temple of Solomon or for a Master's Lodge. Thus it is said in the instructions that the Freemason comes "from the lofty tower of Babel, where language was confounded and Masonry lost" and that he is traveling "to the threshing-floor of Oman the Jebusite, where language was restored and Masonry found."

The interpretation of this rather abstruse symbolic ex-

pression is that on his initiation the Freemason comes out of the profane world, where there is ignorance and darkness and Confusion as there was at Babel, and that he is approaching the Masonic world, where, as at the Temple built on Oman's threshing floor, there is knowledge and light and order.

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Example of a Threshing Floor

BAR-B-QUE TIME - JUNE 28

Once again it's time for the annual Lodge Bar-B-Que Fundraiser for the Building Fund. This annual event not only provides great meals, but it also allows the community to come together at the Lodge to enjoy the fellowship of old friends. Each year we work to produce some of the best Bar-B-Que in the area thanks to the hard work and dedication of many members

of the Lodge. While everyone works together in the spirit of getting the job done, there are a few people who are very special and deserve recognition. Bro. Jim Jaco is famous for his hash. He has the recipe for some of the finest you'll ever taste. The Pacific Bar-B-Que sauce is the result of hours of labor from Bro. Billy Hilliard and this is what gives our Que its dis-

tinctive flavor. Bros. Paul and Bill Martin are always there in the trenches doing whatever it takes to get the job done. RW Bro. Edward Neely and W. Fred Garren can usually be found working on the rice and we all come together on the serving line to get the plates fixed and out to our "customers." Thanks to everyone for the help, hard work and dedication!



The serving line on Saturday

WEBSITE STATISTICS

While I enjoy putting together this newsletter, I have another love associated with Masonry and Pacific Lodge. I am proud of our web site. This is a "one-stop" place where you can get updates on work, see photos of recent events, and even connect to other Lodges as well as our very own Grand Lodge. I have been working on the site

for several years now (since 2001) and I try my best to keep it up to date.

One thing we are working on is the history of the Lodge which is missing the last 5 or 6 years. This **will** eventually get added, but the original history is there. Remember that this is a work in progress and changes monthly. I

would encourage you to visit often. Some recent statistics:

Site created on 12-13-2001

Avg. visits per day: 25.1

Monthly max last year: 907

Daily max last 31 days: 51

Avg. visits per month: 767

Enjoy and seek the light!



Visit our web site

www.pacific325.org



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WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.PACIFIC325.ORG

BOSIE MARTIN, P.M.,
SECRETARY & WEBMASTER

MASONS IN ACTION

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

SETTING THE WORK

June 3 - Regular Communication

June 10 - Entered Apprentice Degree (*)

June 17 - Fellow Craft Degree (*)

June 24 - Master Mason Degree (*)

June 28 - Annual Lodge BBQ Fundraiser

July 1 - Regular Communication

JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!

Any questions, please call

W. Bro. Bosie Martin, Secretary at 803-960-9136

or

W. Bro. Fred Garren, W.M. at 803-518-6277

(*) Denotes tentative Special Communication

ALL SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS DEPEND ON THE BALLOT BOX AND
THE CANDIDATES...

We eat at 6:45 and Meet at 7:30

PACIFIC HOSTS PYTHIAN GRAND LODGE

Many of you have heard of the Knights of Pythias, if for no other reason than having to "take down" the Lodge before the 4th Monday of each month.

Myrtle Lodge # 3, Knights of Pythias uses our building every month. The Pythians are NOT a Masonic body, but the vast majority of the members of Myrtle are all Masons.

Pacific Lodge was proud to allow the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, Domain of South Carolina, to use our building May 16-17. The members of the host Lodge (Myrtle # 3) were most appreciative of allowing them

to use our facilities.

Both the Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Ladies Grand Lodge met over that weekend. The Pythians are a fraternal organization whose purpose is charity. The two primary charities are Multiple Sclerosis and Special Olympics. I would urge any Brother interested in learning more to seek a petition.

Two Brothers from Lexington Lodge, W. Bro. Charlie Schofield and his son, R.W. Bro. Todd Schofield were elected and installed as Grand Lodge officers. Congratulations to both of them. Our friend and W. Bro.

G.R. "Mike" Harman is serving this year as Chancellor Commander of Myrtle Lodge. You would be surprised to see many people you know in this noble organization.

We thank the Grand Lodge for their kind resolution which thanked the members and officers of Pacific Lodge. We are only happy that we could meet your needs. We also look forward to a long continued relationship with your fraternity and ours.

Similar principles and methodology working toward a common goal, CHARITY. Find out more, merely by asking a Pythian.



Image of Knight with banner



K.O.P. Logo

Studies in Blue Lodge Symbolism

by

Bro. H.L. Haywood, Iowa

What are symbols? The simplest answer is to say that they are the storehouses in which wise men of the past have accumulated their wisdom. The assemblage of many symbols in our fraternity means that the fraternity is in itself a storehouse of the wisdom of many wise men. Wisdom can never be learned or taught by one man working alone; it is only when many men join their knowledge together that the truth is found. Many men in the past have wrought to discover truth; they have embodied their truths in symbols; in our Order these symbols are assembled together so that the wisdom of many wise men has been placed at our disposal; is not that a great privilege? Is it not a fine opportunity for those who desire to learn?

What do these symbols teach? It is not curious lore; it is not occultism; it is not information; it is the wisdom how to live; the purpose of Masonry as a whole is to teach men how to live and to help them to live and to learn how to live more and more. Each one of us needs to learn how to live; therefore Masonry has much to give to each one of us; we can help each other to learn how to live, therefore Masonry helps us to help each other. The symbols give us their wisdom, their light, their truth; we can receive this wisdom from them and we can then teach it to others. We can transform the dead symbol into life; that is the highest way to learn.

Why did the wise men of the past store their wisdom in symbols? Because, so we believe, symbols are forms of expression that never die. Language grows old and passes away; truth embodied in a language may become buried in the tomb in which the dead language lies. Books are not for the many; one cannot carry a book about with him in his mind. Institutions grow old and die; moreover, they cannot always be carried from country to country; truth embodied in institutions may become dead or lost to many. The teachers themselves have died and they could not themselves bring us their truth. There are many that cannot understand learned language; they need something very simple; they need to think in pictures; to think in pictures helps us all, because the mind seems to work that way. Symbols live on long after languages have died; symbols survive the wreck of institutions; they survive the teachers who have poured wisdom into them; they bring the truth to us in pictures so that all can conceive it; symbols are a deathless and universal language, the easiest to learn of all forms of language, the hardest to forget, the most packed with meaning. In teaching through symbols our Fraternity reveals itself as a very wise teacher. If the meaning of a symbol is often hidden from us that is to stimulate us to hunt for its meaning; hunting for its meaning develops our faculties; and the development of our faculties is one of the purposes and aims of wisdom.

To the man who has neither the eyes to see nor the will to work, Masonry seems to offer little; to him who will take the trouble to learn it has much to offer. Masonry holds rich gifts in its hands; are you willing to receive those gifts? You may if you are willing to study, to work, to develop. We have only that which we strive for; we possess only that which we earn; when truth is poured into a passive mind it is soon lost from that mind; when it is won by an active mind it becomes a part of that mind; when truth has become a part of the mind then is the mind truly cultured, for culture is that wisdom which has become a part of ourselves. Masonry helps to culture us by stimulating us to apply our mental powers to the study of those symbols in which many wise men have hidden truths so profound, so illuminating, so helpful, so packed with life. We ourselves, in this present hour, can best understand what symbols mean and how their meaning is to be discovered if we will turn to a few of them. Our selection may appear arbitrary, at first glance, but the meanings we shall win will fit themselves together into one lesson, into a truth that is one truth, the truth that wisdom is the learning how best to live, and that God helps each of us how best to live.

The beginning of wisdom is to develop ourselves; most of us have never discovered what are the possibilities of our own minds; we live poorly and meanly because we permit the highest powers to lie dormant; one is learning the wisdom of life when he strives to develop each power of himself to the uttermost. Of this the apron is the symbol. It means work; not manual work alone, but mental, and spiritual, and moral work also. The divinity of work; the divine necessity of work; the divine results of work; this is the truth taught us - through the apron. We are told that it is an older and nobler symbol than the Star, the Garter, the Roman Eagle. It is. God has been working from the beginning; to work is to do what God does; to do what God does is life. The apron teaches us one of the secrets of the divine life. It is not fame; it is not possessions; it is not pride, or lust for place or power; it is none of these things that deserve to stand as that which is the highest. The apron is higher than the symbols of these things because it is the symbol of the effort to develop ourselves; we can work on ourselves; we can work through ourselves; while we are working on and through ourselves we are then working to help others; to help others is God-like because God is always helping others. God Himself, in a certain deep sense, evermore wears the apron because He evermore works, works to help us, works to give us more and more life for evermore. What we make of ourselves is more important than what others make of us; how we use and develop ourselves is more important than what we possess or what reputation we may have. To work; to make the mind work, to make the body work, to make all things work together to give us life and to give others life, that is according to the will of God and the will of God is our life and our peace. He who wears the apron on his heart will become God-like because God's own heart is filled with labor on the behalf of all His worlds and all His children.

to increase our lives; it surrenders the petty things in order that the greater things may more completely possess us; he who has become willing to give up the lower in order that the higher may be in him has learned wisdom, for wisdom is to learn how best to live.

The cross which appears so often through our ritual and in so many different forms has many different degrees of meaning but the one meaning running through all forms of the cross is that he who would learn to live must learn to surrender willingly the things that hinder life. Sacrifice, if we will but learn it, is our friend; it gives us more life and what gives us more life gives us more love and love is in itself friendship. The cross sometimes breaks the body in order that the soul may have its way; the cross sometimes bruises the mind in order that the spirit may more richly live; the cross helps while it seems to hinder; it heals when it seems to hurt. To learn to know when to sacrifice, how to sacrifice, what to sacrifice, and for what to sacrifice, that is wisdom, and wisdom is to know to live.

But life is not complete in any one of us; life lives in all men and each needs the life of all; when we share with others our life we are helping them to live; when we help others to live we become God-like because God continually gives life to all. Friendship is just the habit of giving our life to others; when we give our life away we possess more of it; the more we give the more we receive. This is the meaning of the clasped-hands, one of the most divine and beautiful of all our symbols. The life in me clasps hands with the life in you; my life joins its forces with your life; that makes more life. Brotherhood is the enrichment of life not for one's self alone but for all; brotherhood is God-like because God is the Great Brother of all men. His hands are clasped with ours and neither disaster nor death can break that clasp. When we clasp our brother's hand we clasp God's hand because God lives and works through our brother; when he clasps our hands he clasps God's hands because God lives and works through us. Brotherhood makes life rich, beautiful, and divine; brotherhood is the clearest revelation of God that we have. Brotherhood is love expressed toward our fellows; it is therefore divine because God is love.

Our system of symbols would be very incomplete if they did not give us this highest wisdom that God is love. The All-Seeing Eye reminds us that God sees far into the most secret depths of each of us; this means that God lives in us a part of our very selves else He could not know what is in us; God is love because He lives in each one of us. The altar reminds us that we can always and everywhere meet with God; He is never away from our hearts; He is never away from home; the human soul is His home. While we work, while we play, while we think, above all while we love, we are with Him; each moment can have its own altar; each place may have its shrine; the whole world is a meeting place between man and God; the whole earth may become an altar. The raising of the master in our third degree reminds us, depicts for us in an unforgettable symbol, that God is also eternal life; the master went into the grave but God went in after Him; we never die; there is no death; there is only change; we go on from life to life, ever and forever, and God ever helps us to go on from life to life. To know that God lives in us and that God is love helps us to lose all fears, the fear of disaster, of disgrace, of death; for where love is fear cannot be. The same eternal life which lived in the slain master lives also in us; God is continually willing to raise each of us from all our graves; from the grave of sloth, the grave of selfishness, the grave of hatred, of fear, of sorrow, of death. "Now have we eternal life"; always will we have eternal life. God is life and God is eternal. God is our life; therefore we are eternal.

Can there be, could there be, a teaching more wonderfully beautiful than this? Can you anywhere find a higher wisdom than this? This is the highest wisdom that we know how to live; God is our Life; to learn to live is to love God. Masonry teaches us that God is love; it teaches us how to love God. Masonry as a whole is one great symbol of men dwelling with God and God dwelling with men.

*Extracted from
The Builder
May 1919*

This article was provided by M.W. Bro. Hugh Linshaw of Canada in his monthly electronic publication "O.M.T.P." or "One More Time Please." This comes from Vol. XIII # 3 and was originally written in 1919. Any Master Mason can subscribe to this great publication, and I would urge you to become a subscriber. Simply drop M.W. Bro. Hugh an e-mail at the following address:

hugh@linshaw.ca

