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THE BEACON

The monthly Trestleboard of Union Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M

October 2017

Table of Contents

[Tidings From the East](#)

[Tidings From the West](#)

[Tidings From the South](#)

[From the Secretary](#)

[From a Mason Abroad](#)

[Masonic History](#)

[October Calendar](#)



Tidings From the East

Hello, Craftsmen and welcome to autumn! As you may know, we will be holding elections for the upcoming Masonic year at

October's stated communication. The gift of one's time and energy are among the most valuable things in this life. I would like to give a hearty thanks to those have been serving as officers during this Masonic year and to those who will be standing for elections during the upcoming year.

Along those lines, Union Lodge voted on a recipient for the Hiram Award at our last stated communication. The Hiram Award is one of Masonry's highest honors and is awarded to a Master Mason.

To quote PGM Art Borland's January 2013 column in the Oregon Masonic News, "This Hiram Award is a special award that should not be given frivolously. As the 1993 Resolution states, "Whereas in each Lodge in Oregon, there is, generally, at least one outstanding member, who, by precept and example, has exhibited outstanding qualities of service and leadership well above what is considered normal... The key word is 'outstanding' qualities of service and leadership; outstanding — not ordinary but outstanding. The award is intended for the rare, few Master Masons who stand above other members... He doesn't have to be a Past Master; only a Master Mason who cares. He rarely expects recognition for his tireless work..."

Because Hiram Awards are so special, they are only allowed to be given out once per year at a given Lodge and a Mason can only receive this award once in his lifetime from a given Lodge. Personally,

I have mixed feelings about the "one Hiram Award per year" restriction. On one hand, if these awards were given out on a regular basis, they wouldn't be as esteemed. On the other hand, there are a number of Brothers at Union Lodge who deserve this award and I wish I could do more to make that happen.

Given that this edition of the Beacon will be published prior to our stated communication, I can't go in to the details of who was awarded it this year. However, I'm sure you'll agree that it is going to a Brother who has deserved it for a long time.

Just a little background regarding the Hiram Award: The first Hiram Award was presented to Andrew D. Miller, a Past Master of San Pedro Lodge No. 332 in California in 1964. The award remained a local award until 1977, when Galt Lodge No. 267 (also in California) presented a Hiram Award to Past Master Glen Ingram. From there, the popularity of this award spread to other Lodges and jurisdictions. From the research I've done, it appears that the Grand Lodge of Oregon adopted this award in the early 1990's.

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt
Worshipful Master, Union Lodge #3



Tidings from the West

My October Senior Warden message will be about the projects that are in the cross hairs of your Trustee's.

Brothers of Union #3 are for the most part aware of what the Trustee's responsibilities are throughout the year, however our newer members are not and this article is mostly directed to them.

Your Trustee's are elected to safe guard your lodge's building and assets. Handle small issues like a light bulb being out in the bathroom or the bigger issues that surround our building, renters and the Masonic Cemetery.

As your Trustee's we try to meet every month on the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM right before the Officers meeting.

All Brothers are welcome to attend and listen and ask questions as the topics on the agenda are discussed and decisions are made.

Some of the important issues that are discussed are always the building and the cemetery.

Lately the discussion has been surrounding our investments. Most of our investments are in certificates of deposit and a money market account. The Trustee's always attempt to use the interest of these bonds to help offset expenses for the up keep of the cemetery. Everyone who has investments in a savings account and basic bonds understand that in today's world it is next to impossible to rely on interest to offset any expenses. As Brothers, you can look forward to having this discussion in the very near future in open lodge.

Another ongoing discussion are the renovations that have been so much a part of all of us over these last several years.

The renovations started a few years back with the fire place room and Tyler's room. The Fire Place room was completed in 2016 as was the Tyler's Room. The Tyler's room renovation was mostly surrounding our Past Masters frames along with the frames of our Most Worshipful Brothers who have served with honor as our Grand Masters of Oregon.

I ask you to take the time this month while you are getting properly clothed for lodge and signing into the Tyler's Register to look at what has been accomplished in this area of the lodge.

The Fireplace Room is in a state of controlled chaos. Our newly renovated room went from a structured room to books everywhere. I must apologize for this in advance but I have a reason. The old OES Room which will someday be a Master Mason's Lounge was recently cleared and cleaned of many decades of debris. Along with this cleaning was the removal of many years of collected books and textiles that were found among these debris. This is what lines the Fire Place Room walls, floors, tables and chairs.

This is needing help from a volunteer from the Lodge. Is that you? I need your help.

Lastly, I will talk about our upcoming next stage of renovation that is around the corner in 2018. The Trustee's have sought out a contractor for a bid for the renovation of the storage room next to the Fire Place Room and the Coat Closet Room. Both rooms are in dire need of help. They call upon all of us every day for help and we as your Trustee's are coming.

Keep your eyes open for the starting of this renovation come 2018.

The Trustee's need your help!

If you can spare time to help with the upcoming work day on October 7th at 11:00 am we would love to have you.

If you want to take on the Fire Place Room's Library I am only a call away. ((Please Call)).

Fraternally,
Johnny J. Edwards
Senior Warden
Union # 3



Tidings from the South

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrowmindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the Earth all one's lifetime."

Samuel Langhorne Clemens; aka Mark Twain

There is something about traveling as a Mason that is both an extension of, and yet completely differ-

ent from our normal work. We step back from the business of our home Lodge, and either alone or in the company of our Brothers we travel to a different place, greet a different Tyler, and are welcomed by a different Worshipful Master. Perhaps we are asked to take a chair, and aid the Lodge by filling a role in the meeting. Perhaps we simply sit on the sidelines and receive recognition as visitors, joining in the discussions and fellowship which should always adorn our gatherings. In either case we are swept up, for a time, in the life and concerns of another Lodge. A chance to learn what we may, and impart what we can.

As I write this, we have a Brother who has crossed the Atlantic, and is now traveling in that country which is home to our Mother Grand Lodge. It is likely, indeed, that his words appear next to these; and even more likely that they are both more pithy and prosaic than any modest offerings of mine. Perhaps he has even chosen to write about his journey, to regale us with both the similarities and differences between the Craft as practiced here and the Craft as it lives and breathes in the land of his travels. He has gone with our best wishes, and no small amount of envy. But you don't have to cross the Big Pond to know the pleasure of being a travelling man.

Let me take you back a few years. Our Worshipful Master at the time was WB Johnny (a fact which may soon be the cause of some *déjà vu*), and MWB Hunt sat in the Grand East. Through this connection, a traveling trophy known as the Eight Ball made its way to Union Lodge. As you can see, it is a custom bowling ball on a column—complete with its own traveling case. Inscribed on the inside of the door is a list of the Lodges it has been taken to. Inside as well is a book, added to the ensemble by WB Johnny, so that receiving Lodges could add their names to the list once the inside of the door was full. The trophy is a challenge to the receiving Lodge, to carry it with full pomp and ceremony to another Lodge and pass the challenge on.

The picture you see is not actually from our Lodge years ago. I took it a few weeks ago at Kenton Lodge, in Portland, which currently has the honor and challenge of having received the Eight Ball. It was an unexpected pleasure to find it there, and see the record of its having



traveled through our Lodge and on to our Brothers. It has had many stops since, and the book which WB Johnny added should soon see service as it continues to wend its way through the Lodges of Oregon.

There are many such traveling artifacts. Some, like the Eight Ball or the Enlightenment Gavel, are taken with the Brethren as they visit a sister Lodge. A challenge to the recipients to carry it onward. Some, like the Setting Maul (last seen at Holbrook) must be ceremonially taken—with the visiting Brothers prepared to challenge the holders of the trophy and (should they succeed) carry it away to their home Lodge.

All of them have their own rules and etiquette, and all serve the same purpose. To get us to travel. To lay down, for a time, the concerns of our home Lodge and take the road to a Lodge of our Brothers. To share in their work and concerns, to join in their fellowship and discussions. And, for a time, to practice our Craft in our Brother's House.

As Masons, we labor each day to improve ourselves. To work in harmony with our Brothers, and do good works amongst ourselves and in our communities. To identify problems for our Lodge, draw up plans for their resolution and work as Craftsmen to make things better. It is easy to be so taken up in those challenges that they become the whole of our Craft, and we fail to look up and see beyond our own labors.

But there is more to Masonry than this. We are part of a greater whole, and when we travel we experience something remarkable. We step back from our daily labors, journey to a new place and town, walk into a building we have never entered and into a room we have never seen before. And yet, as we step through that doorway we will be welcomed by our Brother into his home, to be greeted by friends we have just then met, and join once again into that fraternity that transcends borders and nationalities.

And far from our homes, we will be swept up in that fellowship that is so much a part of our Craft. For no matter how far we may have journeyed, we will find men who are happy to meet us. To invite us into their Lodge, and treat us as a friend and Brother. And that is a powerful thing indeed.

Walk in Light, my Brothers.

From the Secretary's Desk

Just a gentle reminder that dues notices for the 2018 Lodge year will be going into the mail next month. If you haven't paid your 2017 dues (and there are quite a number of you) why not write a check today to get caught up.

Tom Gardner
Acting Secretary



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

"... And For a Time Take up the Trowel"

Every evening onboard ship we would come back to the cabin to find a couple things. One was that the room had been picked up and made over and the bed turned down by the cabin steward. Another was that the daily activities itinerary and newspaper had been dropped off at our room.

The newspaper was tailored to your nationality - we got the USA Times - and it had some summaries of the trending stories or some-such. Oddly enough, we didn't hear anything about the Oregon fires at all; the news largely being taken up with the political chaos of the day or the hurricane news.

The daily itinerary had an hourly breakdown of all the activities on board ship - from concerts to lectures, daily darts tournaments to bingo, sales events at the shops to the dress requirement for the day. After 6:00 pm you'd be required to be in daily dress in the inside areas of the ship. There were areas where being less casual was tolerated and, to be honest, I don't know what happened if you were out of dress - I saw some pretty casual people in the casino, for example, and they weren't carted off ... at least while I was watching. (Come to think of it, the eggs on the buffet had a strange texture every so often.)

One evening when we came back I perused the offerings for the next day and noticed a little note "Masons Meeting, The Boardroom, Deck 9, A Stairway." I made plans on the following day to forgo the darts tournament (which was at the same time) and go up to The Boardroom.

It was pretty much as you might expect - a meeting room off of the Commodore Club; nice, and well-appointed. A podium in the corner and comfortable chairs and couches in the center.

When I arrived, there were three others there already. I came to know them over a few minutes - one English Brother from Portsmouth, one Scottish Brother from Kilsyth (a little North and East of Glasgow, roughly equidistant between Falkirk and Stirling), another American Brother from Pennsylvania. Later, we were joined by two Canadian Brothers - one from a small town on the Canadian side of the Border from Niagara and another who was raised in the Grand Orient of the Netherlands but was a member in Canada now.

We didn't go deep, Masonically- after credential checking, there was some discussion of the differences in the administration of the various Grand Jurisdictions (degrees and offices) and an extended conversation on some of the less well known (in the UK, anyway) appendant bodies and what they do. I was invited to Portsmouth and offered a place to stay by my Brother residing there - we saw him again while disembarking where the invitation was re-extended. Portsmouth isn't far away from Bristol and I may try to avail myself of that offer.

The next day, we had mail - a certificate in the door mail holder attesting that I'd attended the Masons Gathering. They keep a "minutes log", although it's not really "minutes" per se -

but there is a log of everyone who signed in and their home Lodges for about 75 years, if not longer. For a variety of reasons, I didn't take a picture, but it was really interesting to see. One of the other Brethren indicated that he'd been on another cruise where the First Officer was a Brother. We had some speculation about how many more might be on board - it was easy to miss the scheduling entry - and we settled on maybe 100... out of 4000 people. That might be high, all things considered.

But, it was a relaxed and pleasant way to spend an hour. Normally, that would be an exception in the social life of an extended trip, but, frankly, everybody on board ship was very friendly and welcom-



ing and there was good craic all-round. This became the rule, rather than the exception... but more on that later.

Before leaving Oregon, I corresponded with the Grand Lodge and arranged for a credentials document – basically a certificate of good standing; one that tells other Grand Jurisdictions that I am a Master Mason, recognized by the Grand Lodge and Grand Jurisdiction of Oregon. To supplement that, I did a little looking around and found a website for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol. I wrote to the Provincial Grand Secretary to tell him that I was coming, that I had credentials issued by my Grand Lodge, and that I would like to attend Lodge while I'm in Bristol, either as a visitor or perhaps join as an affiliate, provided their Grand Lodge recognized affiliation. In parts of England (and some other Jurisdictions in Europe) “dropping in” is discouraged, if not disallowed, and one might find oneself sitting in the Tyler's room if one doesn't announce themselves and provide some time to check credentials. In many of these places, Masonic buildings are not marked and meetings times not readily available.

Currently, there are 36 Lodges that meet in the Province of Bristol – all Masonic activity takes place in one building in town, so they are all coordinating schedules and whatnot. To be fair, most of that was probably taken care of years ago and it's on auto pilot now except, perhaps, for special occasions. The Provincial Grand Secretary wrote back to me and forwarded my email to Cabot Lodge #3884, whose Secretary wrote me back promptly and with a plethora of useful information. It is a “ritualist” Lodge, taking the ritual very seriously. All ritual work is done from memory – no ritual books are allowed in the Lodge room.

The Province of Bristol is interesting in that the ritual that it uses predates the re-union in 1813 and some sources have suggested that it is very close to the 1724 Constitutions version of the ritual. I am given to understand that it is very different from all other ritual in the English Constitution Lodges. The precise differences I won't know reliably until I see it (and then can't precisely share in this forum) but I hope to at least be able to provide some idea of what that means. In the 18th c., there were several Lodges formed, some aligning to the “Anti-ents,” some to the “Moderns.” When the Province of Bristol was formed in 1786, there were 6 “original” Lodges extant. Two of those are still constituted – one having celebrated 250 years of

continuous operation a few years ago, the other celebrated 200 years in 1969. One quirk that I do know about “The Bristol Workings” is that the Worshipful Master still wears a tricorn hat, in deference to the ships captains who, at one time, made up the majority of both Masters, if not Master Masons. My arrival timing was off, such that I missed Cabot Lodge's September Stated Communication, but I should be able to attend the October meeting. There will certainly be more about that next month.

Also, I will have had the time to poke around the Temple Church area. Bristol was home to a Knights Templar church that was built on land donated by Robert, Earl of Gloucester between 1125 and 1147 CE. Like many Templar churches in Europe, it was round – built to reflect the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. After the suppression of the Templars in 1313, the Knights Hospitaller obtained the church and made modifications. The more rectangular Temple Church was erected between 1390 and 1461, but was ceded to the Crown after the dissolution of the Monasteries between 1536 and 1541. Most of what remained of Temple Church was destroyed by German bombing raids on Bristol in 1940.

More to follow soon.

WB Frank Blair

A Mason Abroad



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

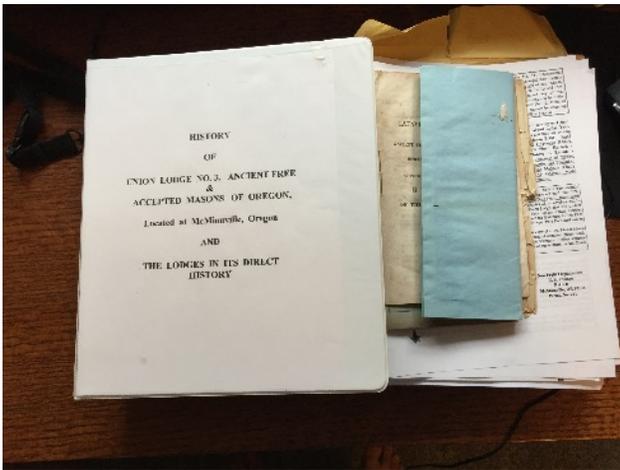
Brothers I have found a three ring binder tucked away on a bottom shelf in the secretary's office.

It appears to be a typed history from 1990+ \- . The 1990 history is a new version that until now wasn't known to exist.

In the binder besides the written history was a gold mine find.

- Original 1857 Union 43 articles of incorporation.
- Original Lafayette 3 1851 Bylaws pamphlet.
- Original GLO Territorial Constitution 1851.
- Original GLO 1853 Territorial Proceedings.
- Land Deeds From 1960's transferring ownership for the cemetery road for the McMinnville Masonic Cemetery. Also with the deeds is a land survey of said road from 1995.

All very exciting for our lodges history.



Fraternally,
Johnny J. Edwards

Finally, meet our newest Master Mason, Brother Jared Brandon-Flande, who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on August 29th.

Brother Jared had the unique experience of being raised by two Past Grand Masters, MWB Rich Martin and MWB Hunt Compton.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MINUTES OF LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

To speed up our Stated and Special Communications, and to provide all brothers with the opportunity to review the minutes of the previous month's meeting(s) before the next meeting, the Secretary has made them available on the Union Lodge website. To have access to these documents you will need to obtain a password from WB Tom Gardner. Email him at unionlodge@onlinenw.com and he will contact you with the password.

After you receive the password, please do the following:

1. On the menu bar on any page of the Lodge website, click on "Meeting Minutes."
2. Click on the red & white button labeled "Meeting Minutes."
3. In the Login box on the left side of the page, click on "Sign up."
4. You will be asked for your email address, a screen name (your name for example), the password provided by WB Frank, your location and your date of birth. NOTE: The date must be entered in dd/mm/yyyy format, or simply select the month, year and date from the calendar display.
5. Click the "Agree" box and then click "Submit."

You will receive an email from "server@serifwebresources.com" that contains a link to click to activate your account.

From then on you can view the minutes by simply logging in with your email address or screen name along with the magic password.

The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for the The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents. Please email your articles to Tom Gardner at gardner_t@onlinenw.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition of The Beacon.

Be sure to keep up with Lodge activities between editions of the Beacon by checking our website <http://www.unionlodge3.com>

or

 Visit Union Lodge # 3 on Facebook and be sure to Like us.

September/October 2017 Calendar

Sept 26 - Union # 3 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

Oct 3 - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm

Oct 3 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm

Oct 4 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm

Oct 5 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

Oct 7 - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am

Oct 11 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm

Oct 31 - Union # 3 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm



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