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THE BEACON

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

December 2019

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Tidings From the East

Greetings, Craftsmen.

Welcome to December and my final publication as Worshipful

Master of Union Masonic Lodge. I would like to extend a huge congratulations to our Worshipful Master-elect, Brother Scott Rassbach, who was elected at our November stated communication. I am very much looking forward to the upcoming Masonic Year and the great things that our Lodge officers will be doing.

Our November meeting also featured an excellent Entered Apprentice Degree Proficiency given by Brother Nick Godfrey – well done, Brother Nick! You're a wonderful addition to our Lodge and it's great to see you making progress in your Masonic journey.

It has been an honor to spend the last seven years as an Officer at Union Masonic Lodge – including six of those years as a primary Lodge Officer. During that time, we have transformed our Lodge from a strictly-inward looking Lodge into one which has a presence in the community and provides financial support to children at two schools in Yamhill County.

We have also increased the opportunities for fellowship and friendship through our "Agape" get-togethers after stated communications and our popular "Breakfast with the Brothers" brunches. The success of these great things is the result of our collective effort and are a testament to the wonderful Brothers of Union Lodge and their families, who support their involvement.

Speaking of which, I would like to give a tremendous thanks to my wife, Katie. I cannot thank Katie enough for all of her kind thoughtfulness and patience during the last seven years of Lodge meetings, Officer meetings, degrees, committees, trips to Grand Lodge's Annual Communications, and more.

Of course, I would also like to thank the Masonic community of Union Lodge for believing in me and giving the opportunity to serve. Coming from a Masonic family, it has been a life goal to be able to go through the officer line and serve as Worshipful Master. I'm grateful to Union Lodge for giving me that opportunity not once but twice. While I will continue to serve the Lodge as Marshal, I'm looking forward to watching the next generation of Masonic leaders bring new ideas and opportunities to our Masonic community.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

WB Matt Gerbrandt



Tidings from the West

Be sure to check the Union Lodge website at www.unionlodge3.com for a list of the 2020 Lodge officers and also for the time and date for the ceremony of installation of officers.



Tidings from the South

After a long exhausting week of work I decided to get a really early start on my day off.

I had been feeling run down all week and my heart was fluttering for the last few days. I hopped in my truck at 0630

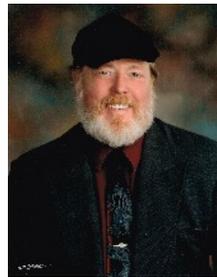
loaded with my tools for my coastal construction project. With my big mug of coffee I hit the road for the 2 hour drive. I get to Forest Grove my heart is fluttering more than the last few days it really scared me. I Decided to drive directly to the Emergency Room. I get to the ER, I park my truck walk in. Now I am in full panic mode. In my mind I am saying overweight and over 50. I had this when I was 30 but the risk factor was not there so I just shrugged it off at the time.

As the ER staff whisked me to the triage room for BP and EKG hook up, I here a voice in my head, "hey brother Matt." I look up to see a security officer, Brother Martin Bush. I have not seen him in a year or so. At a time like this, when you're at your worst, and a fellow Mason gives you some really encouraging words was truly amazing. As they were whisking me to my ER room brother Bush said, "join the Al Kader Shrine. It's really a blast.

After all my tests and follow ups my health is good. I did a treadmill test and the nurse doing the test, a fellow veteran I have known for years, said, "You did really good for a fat guy." As a 30 year medical worker, the humor is sometimes dark and offensive, but not to us. It's a coping mechanism.

The care I received was amazing the calming words of a fellow brother and the medical staff helping one of their own makes me feel truly blessed. Turns out it was stress and over work a little diet and exercise will do me good.

Fraternally,
Matt Coady
Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk

*Oregon Military Lodge No.
223, A.F. & A.M.*

In May of 1945, Allied servicemen found themselves in control of the homeland of Nazi Germany. Before World War II, German Freemasonry had been strong and vibrant, with no fewer than nine Grand Lodges and a total membership of almost 79,000 Masons. The Nazis, however, used the Masons as political scapegoats—blaming them for both World Wars and claiming anti-German conspiracies in every corner. When the Nazis came to power, they first ordered the Lodges to voluntarily disband; then later outlawed them and seized their property, libraries and membership rolls. As the war progressed, in every country conquered by or allied with Nazi Germany, Lodges were systematically ransacked and their members rounded up. Categorized as political prisoners, Masons sent to the camps wore an inverted red triangle to denote their status. No accurate number is known, but estimates of Masons murdered by the Nazi regime range from 80,000 up to 200,000 men. This is the country our Brothers found themselves occupying as members of the Allied Armies. Masonry had been burned out, root and branch; and the light of the Lodges extinguished.

In Frankfurt, headquarters of the Supreme Allied Command, the 256th Combat Engineer Battalion and the 766th Railway Shop Battalion each had Masonic clubs (the Square Club and Bucyrus Club, respectively) which upon discovering each other were merged into the Frankfurt Masonic Club. Allowed to meet in the Rathouse, or city hall, the meetings began to draw in men who wanted to put the atrocities of war behind them and renew their Masonic ties. Under the leadership of Bro. (Lt. Col.) George Percival, the Club contributed to orphaned children in both France and Germany, as well as the March of Dimes, Red Cross and other charities. By the fall of 1945, the attendance records show that Brethren from 37 States, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Scotland and the Philippines had all come to share Masonic brotherhood.

Because of the wide variety of Jurisdictions represented, the ritual work at meetings was always educational but rarely uniform. Bro. Percival asked

Bro. (Col.) Stanley Wentz, a member of Hawthorne 111 in Portland, Oregon, to reach out to his home Grand Lodge; and in short order MWB Fred Hartman and Grand Secretary PGM Harry Proudfoot had sent copies of both the Oregon Ritual and Standard Manual. To preserve its secrecy, the Ritual was bound on both sides, cut into quarters, and shipped via four different couriers to the prospective Lodge. The first officer jewels were crafted by the Tyler from the skin of a crashed B-17 bomber, the cords taken from the parachute of a paratrooper dropped behind enemy lines on D-Day. Military redeployments caused the Grand Lodge to issue the dispensation no less than three times. But on July 11, 1946, at Frankfurt on Main, Oregon Military Lodge became the first legally constituted Lodge in post-war Germany. Three years later, on June 19th, 1949, the United Grand Lodge of Germany would be formed.

During its sojourn on German soil, Oregon Military Lodge No. 223, A.F. & A.M., would confer no less than 3,087 degrees; 978 of those courtesy degrees for no less than 37 American Grand Lodges as well as for Grand Lodges in Germany, Japan, S. Korea and the Philippines. They introduced the Order of the Eastern Star, the York Rite, the Order of DeMolay and the Mystic Shrine to a country that had never before known those organizations. They sheltered many German Lodges as they formed, granting them a rent free place to meet and interceding with the government for the return of any Lodge properties that could be found. The Lodge's reputation and record of service were such that, within 30 days of the Lodge returning to Oregon, the American Canadian Provisional Grand Lodge (under the United Grand Lodge of Germany) had already chartered a Lodge calling itself Oregon Military Lodge No. 936—thus proving that imitation truly is the most sincere form of flattery.

-Walk in light my Brothers.-



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

Greetings Brethren!

Two years in and I was finally able to make it to a Lodge meeting that exemplified the Emulation Workings. In this case, a meeting and degree demonstration by Old Cliftonian Lodge, a London-based Lodge formed of former students, teachers, staff, and fathers of Clifton College here in Bristol. They were hosted by one of the Bristol Lodges that draws from those associated with a school - Robert Thorne Lodge, which draws members from Bristol Grammar School. Every other year they get a dispensation from either the Metropolitan Grand Master of London or the Provincial Grand Master of Bristol to have a joint meeting with the other. The dispensation is both for location as well as ritual - in the Province of Bristol, only the Bristol Workings are permitted; likewise, Emulation ritual is normally required within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge.

Besides the workings, the two schools are very different. Clifton College was founded in 1862 and was one of the first that was based on a science-based curriculum. Bristol Grammar School was founded in 1532 and is based on the classics, including a deep, early education in Latin and Greek. Both schools have a smattering of Latin in their after-meetings, the prayer and school songs. The former students ("old boys") of both schools are quite enthusiastic in their support of their school, their Lodge, and each other. Both schools are still in operation. As an interesting historical side note, Bristol Grammar School, The University of Bristol, and the University of the West of England (all located in Bristol) were all founded based on the same letter written by Robert and Nicholas Thorne, Bristol merchants. They convinced the burgesses and Merchant Venturers to levy a tax on every ton of merchandise putting into port in order to fund a school for the children of merchants and guilded tradesmen. The charter was granted in 1532 and various bits split off forming the grammar school and the two universities over time. In the 1860s and 1870s the Grammar School moved to its current location about 50 yards away from the University of

Bristol social sciences library – I walk by it going and coming three or four times a week.

In any event, I had thought that Emulation would be closer to Oregon ritual. It is not. It is closer to Bristol, but it is decidedly different even there. While recognizable and interesting, there were a couple of things that I found disconcerting from a ritual point of view (or, more to the point, that I didn't like.) First, when opening and closing the Lodge the officers refer to each other by surname. So, where we might say "Brother Junior Warden, blah blah blah" they say "Brother Jones, blah blah blah." Personally, not a fan. Second, at a few key points they stop and say something that I will paraphrase as "Brethren – pay attention: this is the important part of this bit." Not a fan of that either. But, even with that and a very long evening – open Lodge, demonstrate degree, close Lodge, open Lodge, do business, close Lodge, combined after-meeting/festive board – it was a great experience and good fellowship was had in abundance. Hearing well-sung (and pronounced) Latin in a Masonic context was a lot of fun.

November, largely because of "No Shave Movember", sees a focus on men's health issues. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol has made been emphasizing various aspects of men's health all year. This has included both awareness and charitable activity highlighting prostate cancer awareness, testicular cancer, men's mental health, and suicide prevention. Tomorrow we will be hosting a men's health fair at Freemason's Hall. Last year at the November event, 24 men were tested for prostate cancer. Of them, 11 tested positive. Although 3 were false-positives, 8 men entered treatment immediately to manage various stages of the progression of the disease. This sort of thing is certainly something that we could and should rally around as Lodges and as Brothers – reminding each other to take care of ourselves, get tested, and be there for each other when times get hard or the days get lonely and dark. (Incidentally, the Province's Movember team was #13 in the UK for donations when last I checked a couple days ago. Our goal is to break the top ten. We've already smashed our fund-raising goal of £5000.)

For my part, I'm gearing up to be Sr. Warden next year; learning the part(s). I have most of it but one of the responsibilities is delivering the Charge for the FC degree. Fortunately, while long, it is the bit of Bristol ritual that is the most similar to Oregon.

This is both a blessing and a curse as I constantly compete in my mind with Oregon ritual which, once started, rolls off the tongue. Shortly after Christmas my attention will turn to learning the Master's parts for the three degrees and various ritual administrative functions. Imagine that the Master does not only what we do in Oregon, but also essentially each of the three lectures (which are rolled into the Master's lines) and you'll have an idea of what fun that will be in the learning of it. That project will probably take all year.

We have a double raising coming up in December and installation in January. Kathleen and I are headed to the Czech Republic in early December to attend the wedding of a Brother from here in Bristol.

We certainly hope that this finds you all well and that each and every one of you and your families have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas season.

Fraternally,
Frank Blair
MM-at-Large

Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards



Brother of Union No.3,

One of the best Masonic magazines out there is the UGLE Freemasonry Today. Wonderful articles.

The Autumn issue is now out. Articles are great. Our Mother Grand Jurisdiction does it right!
<https://www.freemasonrytoday.com/>

Fraternally,
Johnny PM 3

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.

December 2019 January 2020 Calendar

- Dec 3 - Union # 3 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- Dec 3 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- Dec 4 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- Dec 7 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am
- Dec 11 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm
- Dec 12 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Dec 24 - Trustees Meeting 12:30 pm
- Jan 7 - Union Lodge Stated 7:30 pm