



## UNION LODGE # 3 A. F. & A. M. OF OREGON

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### **MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD April 2015**

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#### **Tidings from the West**

Ancient Craftsmen;

April is upon us quickly, and our beloved Lodge is as busy as ever! Before I delve too deep into my thoughts, I would like to make a few comments and announcements. First, a big thank you and congratulations to WB Frank Blair for coordinating and preparing such a wonderful meal for our Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. The meal and dinner was a big success and was very well received. Also, a thank you to his team – both Lodge brothers and family - who extended their help and efforts to make the night great. The Brothers of Union Lodge appreciate your assistance.

Secondly, spring is now upon us and as such starts the busy season for both of our cemeteries. Over the past several years the Lodge has taken a more focused and direct approach to both managing and maintaining the look of our cemeteries. New this year, if you travel to the McMinnville Masonic Cemetery, you will notice improvements being made to the main garage for both security and aesthetic reasons. A new primary sign at the head of the cemetery is soon to be installed. For the next several months the Trustees and Cemetery Committee will be busy at work at both locations and would greatly appreciate the help of any Brother willing to come assist and invest their time toward the good of our cemeteries. For anyone interested in doing so, please contact our Secretary, WB Frank Blair, or myself.

Finally, shortly after the release of the March Trestleboard, we lost a dear friend and brother. The roll of the workmen has been called, and one Master Mason has not answered to his name. WB Lorie Harrell passed to that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. A short time later, many of you attended his service on March 7<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who were unable to make it, the service was a beautiful ceremony heavily attended by Lorie's family, friends and many brothers. MWB Dennis Johnson masterfully officiated over the funeral service and

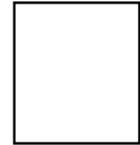
gave great honor to the life of our dear brother Lorie. For anyone who knew him, Lorie was a special man who cared deeply for everyone around him. That smile he always had and the twinkle in his eyes let you know he was always genuinely happy to see you. He lived a good life, touched upon the lives of many, and spent his time doing what mattered most to him in life. He will always be remembered as a good man and Mason.

Time...how many of you truly stop to think about time and how you are investing it? How many of you take a methodical approach to how you spend your time? How many of you rush forward, viewing life as a blur? In today's world, nearly everything we do and see is so fast paced. Most people have hectic schedules with their work, responsibilities, obligations, and so on. There is an old saying that has been said in many different ways over the years, but the general theme of it is *"time is the most precious commodity and resource we have, and we are day by day quickly running out of it"*. This old saying is one that has always resonated with me. As a Freemason, I have been instructed to be mindful of the length of my cable tow. To me, the lesson of the investment of time is one I hold dear, and one that goes hand in hand with Masonic teachings. With so few hours of the day, let us always be mindful of the length of our cable tows, and to recall back to 1<sup>st</sup> working tool of an EAM. WB Lorie comes to my mind when I think about time. Lorie was passionate about many things during his life, and he always made sure to invest his time in doing what made him happy, and investing it in whom he cared for most. Always remember, my Brothers; be mindful of how you invest your time. Be a master of it, rather than it of you.

Many good things are on the horizon, my Brothers. April will see the raising of two to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Watch the various means of communication for further information concerning these degrees as they come together. Brothers traveling from far and wide will be attending these degrees, and they are shaping up to be stellar already!

See you all in Lodge!

William D. MacRae  
Senior Warden  
Union Lodge #3 AF&AM



**MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD** **Page 2**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- Apr 1** Rickreall # 110 Stated 7:30 pm
- Apr 2** Newberg # 104 Stated, 7:30 pm
- Apr 4** Tuality # 6 Stated 10:00 am
- Apr 7** Union Lodge # 3 Stated 7:30 pm
- Apr 7** Holbrook #30 Stated 7:30 pm
- Apr 8** Sheridan-Dayton # 64 Dinner 6:00 pm  
Lodge 7:00 pm
- Apr 28** Union Lodge Trustees 6:30 pm - Officers 7:30pm

Periodically, I'm asked to perform for Masonic events, especially those related to Bro. Robert Burns – historical poet laureate of Scotland and Bard of ancient memory in Scottish circles. He was a Brother, a member of several Lodges during his lifetime and Sr. Warden of Lodge St. Andrews in Dumfries when he died in 1797. His primary contribution to art is in writing, editing, and publishing both his own work and collected, traditional works, which included some Masonic content.

However, Burns is not the first to publish Masonic verse or to collect anonymous, traditional ballads and publish them. In the traditional form, he actually built on work started by Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), Allan Ramsay (1686-1758) and Bishop Thomas Percy (1729-1811), which itself expanded what was started by the Scottish court poets called the “Makars” in the 14-16<sup>th</sup> centuries. On the Masonic front, Ramsay in particular, published Masonic verse as early as 1740 when the fourth volume was added to his 1724 and 1726 publications of “The Tea-Table Miscellany” – a collection of popular and tradi-

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tional ballads which would presage Burns and “Johnson’s Musical Museum.”

One of the songs included (page 443) is simply called “Mason’s Song” and notes that it is sung to the tune “Leave Off Your Foolish Prating.” It shows both a serious and a more free side of the Fraternity, presumably around what were more frequent “table Lodges” or the general refreshment table. Some stanzas reproduced here, language in tact from the printed version (when reading, remember the “f” for “s” substitution in 18<sup>th</sup> c. printing):

We have no idle prating,  
Of either Whig or Tory;  
But each agrees  
To live at ease,  
And fing, or tell a ftory.

We will be men of pleafure,  
Defpifing pride or party ;  
Whilft knaves and fools  
Prefcribe us rules,  
We are fincere and hearty,

The world is all in darknefs ;  
About us they conjecture ;  
But little think  
A fong and drink  
Succeeds the mafon's lecture.

Frank Blair, Secretary