

The Trestle-Board



Bent Lodge No. 42 - AF&AM
Taos, NM
July 2014 - 6014 A.L.



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SS - - -

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Chaplain Bruce Burling

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From the East

2014 — A year of renewed dedication Freemasonry!

Brethren all,

The year is halfway gone and we have accomplished much! In May, we initiated Bro. Jean Verheyden. Last month, on St. John's Day, with Dispensation from the Grand Master, we held an almost unique joint-communication with Pajarito Lodge No. 66 (Los Alamos) and raised Bro. MacDonald to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Thanks to the hard work of WB Burling, assisted by Bro. Verheyden, among others, the courtyard looks beautiful; an old waterline was dug up and replaced, a frost-resistant faucet installed, and the costly water leak eliminated. Our Pancake Breakfast Committee reports that we are booked through the end of the year. The Bylaws Revision Committee, after almost six-months of hard work, has completed a draft proposal and, by the time you read this, you should have received a copy, sent via US Mail by our ever-efficient Secretary, WB Thayer, which we will soon discuss and bring to a vote in open Lodge in the appropriate and proper Masonic manner. The Building Committee, under the most able chairmanship of WB Noble, has been very active in looking at the repairs and renovations our aging facility needs and will soon be presenting its recommendations for our consideration and authorization.

What an amazing amount of work by an equally amazing group of men, of Masons!

If you weren't able to go to the MASONICon at the Shrine Center in Albuquerque, wow, what an extraordinary and valuable experience! More than a hundred of our Brethren from all parts of the state were there, as were quite a few of their Ladies. With several different mini-seminars every hour throughout the day, there was something of interest presented for everyone there. I was privileged to be selected as one of the presenters, *Masonic Symbolism for the non-Mason*, but spent most of my time running from one seminar to another trying to absorb as much as I could from the incredible depth and width of knowledge being offered.

The Taos Town Council recently reversed itself on the decision to rename Kit Carson Park, but there are still those very few whose loud voices are still raised against our Brother, and whose 'facts' and knowledge of history are both skewed. We must all be alert to every opportunity to correct the inaccuracies and dispel every aspersion against Bro. Carson.

There is still much left to be done, most importantly the work at which we have all been striving since the first time we knelt at a Masonic altar: [to] learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry.

I freely admit that I struggle with these tasks every day, and apologize to any whom I may have inadvertently offended along the way. It is no small or easy thing to adhere to the principles, teachings and tenets of our Fraternity and, as we all are, I am trying to do better, my Brothers, I am trying.

Fraternally,

Noah Shapiro 32°
Master (2014)
Bent Lodge No. 42



From the Secretary's Desk

Greetings from the southeast corner of the Lodge. It's been a busier month than usual for me. I had a bit part to play in the joint special communication in Los Alamos where we enacted the raisings of Brothers MacDonald and Clark. It was my first visit to Pajarito Lodge and I enjoyed it. The celebratory cake after the meeting was a sweet way to finish the evening - perhaps we ought to try that.

Getting out that fat envelope stuffed with bylaws was a major undertaking (well, for this secretary anyway). I hope that expected revisions to them can be sent out by email to those who wish to and are able to receive them in that manner.

Now for something completely different. Humor.

Consider this tasty insight:
Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

And then there's this twisted tail:

A string walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender turns to him and says, "Sorry, sir, we don't serve strings here." The next day, clinging to a thread, the string returns to that same bar and orders a drink again. The bartender, resolute, again turns and says, "I'm sorry, sir, but like I said, we don't serve strings here. I'm going to have to ask you not to return." Dejected, the string returns home. All night he tosses and turns, wriggles and writhes, and awakes the next morning not at all resembling himself.

Catching a glimpse of himself in the mirror, he brightens and jets out his door to that bar. Swaggering in, he orders a drink one more time. The bartender stares at him, squinty-eyed, and asks, "I'm sorry, are you a string? You look very familiar." The string locks eyes with the bartender, and states, "No, sir. I'm a frayed knot."

From the West

Dear Brethren,

I hope your July is going well thus far. We are almost a month into the summer. It always amazes me how quickly time goes by.

At the end of June, the Rainbows held their wonderful banquet and inviting all of their members out for a talent show. The talent show was an excellent success. Ashlar Assembly, the girls our lodge sponsors, preformed very well, please take a look at the picture below.

I spoke with the environmentalist that can help us bring our kitchen up to code and permit it as a commercial kitchen. He had a number of suggestions that would help us if we chose to fill out an application form and ask him to officially inspect our kitchen. I will be making a report on this at the upcoming Lodge Meeting. It is my firm belief that we should bring our kitchen up to code and mitigate any future liabilities that could arise out of operating without a permit.

We need to do some work at the rental, Bro Angus would like to spruce up the store front of his shop to help attract more customers. Also PM Jagers would like to fix up the bathroom of the office that KCSM rents from the Lodge. I will have more on this subject at our next regular communication.

Brethern, I would like to speak about a sensitive subject, the subject of how we must successfully make innovations in Masonry and how we may remind our brothers of their failings in the most gentle manner. These two subjects are connected in that both involve changing peoples beliefs and views. When asking for other people to be involved in changing it is important to include those people honestly and in every step. In my opinion when two Masons meets on the Square and act on the level the change will be for the best of all involved. I also believe that we should have faith in our abilities to navigate troubled waters if we all work together and believe in our brothers. In any group of people changes need to be made and disagreements are bound to arise, how these situations are settled is very important to the overall harmony and future of that society. So let us all govern ourselves accordingly.

Finally I would like to credit the brethren who have worked so hard for the Lodge as of late. This past breakfast went very well, thanks to Bro Loomis who has been working very hard organizing the breakfasts. Also all of the brethren whom worked hard at the breakfast mentioned in the From the South. The whole 3rd degree team for the great work and Bro MacDonald for his enthusiasm towards our Fraternity. Thanks PM Cordova for driving a group of us up Valley Lodge for the July 2014 meeting, the night was very fun.

WB Jed Noble 32°
Senior Warden, Bent Lodge No. 42



From the South

Midyear has past. Time sure flies when times are interesting. Having taken on the challenge of being a Foster Parent, I have missed out on some of the really great things that have been going on this past month.

I was not able to participate in the raising of Brother MacDonald to the sublime degree of Master Mason. I have watched this new Brother with great interest, as he is the first to be initiated since I joined the Lodge some 20 months ago. I am sure that our team and the Brothers from Pajarito Lodge did a fine job, but I would have liked to have been there.

I also was unable to attend MASONICON in Albuquerque. This was particularly unfortunate as the information and fellowship might have been of great help to a Brother young in Masonry as I am.

Lastly, because of an emergency I was unable to attend the 7th York Rite degree in Santa Fe on July 8th, interrupting my growth in that body.

However, Laura and I have decided to Foster only one child at a time, which will free both of us up to pursue our other interests (for me, this is largely being a Freemason!).

We had a great Pancake Breakfast this month. I would like to pay wages to WBs Jed and Mark for helping to cook the bacon and sausage on Friday afternoon. Also to WBs Kiva, Jed, Mark, Scott and Dave and Bros. Angus and Wayne for the great participation in cooking and cleaning. We served over 170 breakfast out of the 247 tickets that Ensueños sold. The Charity was so pleased that they already book the same time next year. Next month we will support the Taos High School Track team. Come out and join the fun as we have a good time doing good. The good news is that we have a full line of Pancake Breakfasts for the rest of the year, including the one for July benefiting Ensueños/Los Angelitos. I hope all my Brothers will come and participate in this, one of our major charitable works. We always have a great time while we contribute to worthy charities in Taos.



In Fellowship
and Brotherly Love

Scot Loomis, JW
Bent Lodge No. 42

BUSY SUMMER FOR THE KCHM



The Kit Carson Home and Museum is now halfway through 2014. The summer lecture series is underway with three remaining lectures scheduled: Author Stephen Zimmer on Sat July 19th in the courtyard; Dr. Ron Wetherington on Aug 2nd in the courtyard; and Dr. Virginia Scharff on Aug 19th in the auditorium of the Harwood Museum. Lectures begin at 6pm with wine and cheese beforehand.

The July 6th Fundraiser at the Wheeler Gallery was a huge success with 140 tickets sold.

This event helped raise needed money and awareness for the museum. There were many fun events and author Hampton Sides was in attendance. Many thanks to the Wheeler's, our Director Karen Douglas, and to all those who contributed and attended.



Order of Business for

July 21, 2014

Lodge will open on The 3rd Degree in Masonry

1. Sickness and Distress
2. Reading of unapproved minutes.
3. Suspension of Order of Business for the purpose of hearing
MM Proficiency Examination of Bro. MacDonald.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Reports of Standing Committees.
 - a) Building
(WB Noble)
 - b) Grounds
(WB Bruce Burling)
 - c) Treasurer
(WB Greg Smith)
 - d) Flag
(Bro. Wayne Rutherford)
 - e) Investment
(Bro. Scot Loomis)
 - f) Masonic Education
(WB Scott Thayer)
 - g) Scholarship
(WB Carl Wagner)
 - h) Pancake Breakfast
(WB Jed Noble)
 - i) Publications/Web Site
(WB Dave Cordova)
 - j) Outreach
(Bro. Michael LeMoine)
 - k) Public Relations
(Bro. Chris Pieper)
 - l) Relief (WB Noah Shapiro)
6. Reports of Special Committees.
 - a) Lodge Use Policy (Bro. Scot Loomis)
 - b) Bylaws Revision (WB Noah Shapiro)
7. WB Jagers—KCHM
8. WB Cordova—Art work owned by Bent Lodge.
9. Presentation of petitions for Degrees, and for Affiliation.
10. Report of Committees on Petitions and balloting thereon.
11. Communications and presentation of bills.
12. Educational Presentation
13. Motions and resolutions in writing.
 - a) Motion to adopt Bylaws Revision
 - b) Discussion of, and any Motions to Amend bylaw revision
(to be continued at next meeting)
14. Motions from the Floor and miscellaneous business.
15. Closing remarks by WM.

Close Lodge

MASONRY: WITHIN - WITHOUT

Brethren,

Freemasonry was once the most respected and influential fraternity in this country, possibly in the world. We have as a fraternity in this part of the world lost much of that respect in today's society, many Freemasons far more well informed than I have written volumes on the subject. I do however wonder if some of this decline may be the result of our own level of exhibited value of the fraternity.

In the Entered Apprentice degree we are instructed, "Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors"; the Fellow Craft degree Charge informs us that it is "The internal, and not the external qualifications of a man that Freemasonry regards."

Upon serious consideration and reflection, I have come to the conclusion that these instructions were another reference to the quality of thought and action of the individual's heart and conscience. It has little to do with his level of personal hygiene, cleanliness, or neatness of his outward apparel. I remember distinctly when I became a member of this great fraternity noticing the level of 'dress' by our membership, their obvious projection of pride in personal appearance. I have known members of our fraternity who have I never seen at a meeting attired in anything but blue jeans. Regardless of the brand of jeans, many of those individuals always looked neat and meticulously groomed; they exhibited more pride in their appearance than many I have observed decked out in a Tuxedo.

The ritualistic instruction regarding 'internal and not the external qualifications' is not license to lower our level of personal appearance. It is far too often used, however, as an excuse by individuals who apparently lack the internal motivation to look their very best at all times. We represent the greatest fraternity in the world all the time, not just at our meetings. There is no 'time off', our every word and action is carefully observed by those who know us to be members of the fraternity. To those who know us to be Knights Templar and Freemasons, we are their definition of the fraternity. The level of pride in appearance and circumspect behavior we exhibit in our daily lives is a direct reflection of the teachings of this great fraternity.

I remember being told as a new Master Mason by a Brother I greatly respected regarding what to wear to Lodge; "you should dress to reflect the level of respect you have for the fraternity." Sound advice, I submit for your consideration, however, that it may be larger than that. Is it possible that we as individuals subconsciously communicate to the world through our outward appearance the level of respect we have for our fraternity and for ourselves? Do we reveal our 'internal qualifications' through our outward appearance as well as our behavior?

I confess that I struggle daily to exhibit a level of personal appearance and behavior fitting for a member of this great fraternity. It is a never-ending pursuit of excellence which is probably unattainable but I continue to pursue. I often fall short, I then reflect on my shortcomings, attempt to learn from them and continue on, one day at a time.

Fraternally,

Philip G. Buchholz

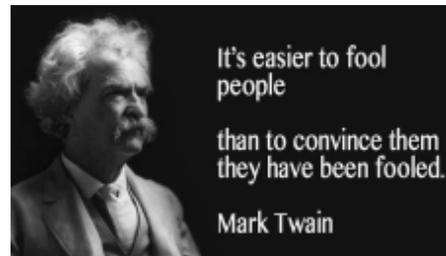
Grand Commander (Templars, Wyoming)

An old Cherokee told his grandson, "My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy, & truth."

The boy thought about it, and asked, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?"

The old man quietly replied, "The one you feed."

- author unknown



ASSETS AND LIABILITIES: Working For Us Or Against Us.

By PM Dave Cordova

A few weeks ago, I received several emails regarding the Walter Ufer painting "The Kit Carson Home." In those emails, it was suggested that the painting, which belongs to Bent Lodge 42, be loaned to the Harwood Museum. From what I understood, the painting was on permanent loan to the KCHM, but for the sake of the painting's safety, the Museum would be released from that agreement, and the painting would then go to the Harwood Museum on loan from BL42. The painting has been appraised at \$40,000, and insurance for that amount would have to be secured. That, in effect, was turning our asset into a liability, but that was just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

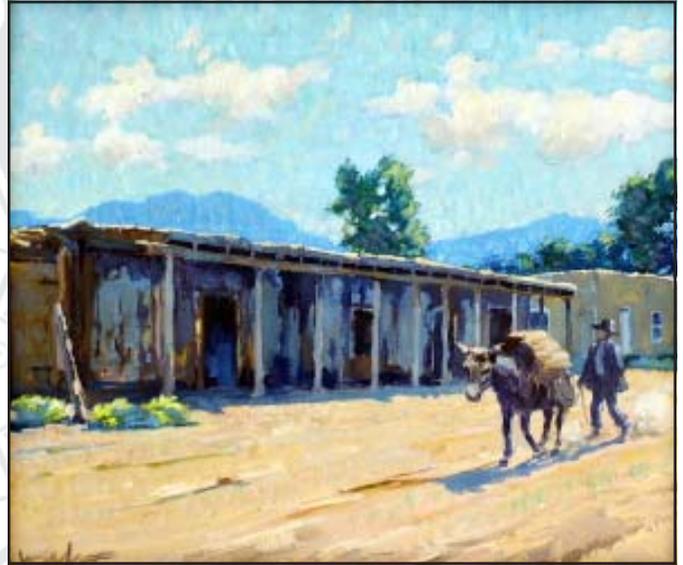
In correspondence with our WM, I was reminded of that time-worn cliché, "Ignorance is Bliss." While we were "blissfully" unaware of the value of our artwork, we were very content and unburdened of any specific responsibility. Then we learned that the Ufer painting is worth \$40,000 which led to the surfacing of further information on two other art pieces, that the Doc Martin painting by Henry Sharp and the Horses watercolor by Ila McAfee are valued at \$11,000 and \$1,500 respectively, the Lodge would have to get additional insurance to protect us from loss.

There are other pieces of art at the Lodge, what could they be worth? After meeting with Robert Parsons on Wednesday (7/16), the good news is that there isn't any more art that is valuable, but the bad news is that there are many valuable pieces of furniture that we need to consider. The trastero in dining room is valued at \$5,000. The Lodge furniture is

most likely WPA era: Secretary's and Treasurer's desk are valued at \$2,000 each, the Altar is \$1,000, WM, SW and JD tables are \$1,000 each, Lodge chairs are \$500 each, light fixtures are \$250 Each, the foyer table is \$3,000 to \$4,000 and the pool room table is \$2,000. The logger's wagon with team of 6 horses on the fireplace mantle is valued at \$1,500 and the assorted tables and buffet are valued at \$1,000. These furniture pieces should be insured for replacement value.

Recommendations from Robert Parsons: sell the Ufer painting, loan the Sharp to the Harwood and insure the McAfee watercolor. The furniture will need additional insurance in case of loss.

Why consider selling the Ufer painting? As I mentioned earlier, our asset is really more of a liability. If we house it at the Lodge, a special secure place needs to be created and adequate insurance purchased. If we were to loan the painting, there is the danger of someday losing it in the shuffle or that Harwood simply returns it to us. If we were to sell the painting, the money from the sale could be used to finance at least some of the kitchen upgrades that WB Noble is bringing before the Lodge. It is my humble opinion that the only way to turn this liability into an asset is by selling it. It is the opinion of Mr. Parsons that the painting will not appreciate much in value in the future, and that protecting the painting and insuring it would negate any appreciation in value.



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