

The Trestle-Board



Bent Lodge No. 42 - AF&AM
Taos, NM
July 2015 - 6015 A.L.



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MASONIC INITIATION-TEMPLES

by WB Scott Thayer

We are honoring WB Charles Randall for the sixty years of extraordinary service he has rendered to our Lodge and to Freemasonry. He has served as Master and Secretary of Bent Lodge with great distinction and exemplary dedication. As we all should know, WB Randall was also very instrumental in the design and construction of our beautiful lodge some fifty years ago. It is the latter fact that interests me at the moment.



It is that time of year, while the Sun is in the sign of Cancer, when we are called

to acknowledge, tend to and express our gratitude and love for the Mother in all Her expressions that give form to Father/Spirit in our world: such as, our planet, our homes, our mothers and our bodies, as well as the temples and lodges that likewise house, ground, focus and radiate transformative spiritual energies. Bent Lodge is such a temple, and we should always be most grateful to WB Randall and the others who built it, albeit with hands and not eternal in the heavens-- or is it?

I found this illuminating passage on this subject in The Masonic Initiation, a book written in 1924 by Bro. W.L. Wilmshurst, a prominent British Freemason and esoteric philosopher.

“The great initiation-temples of antiquity, as also certain Christian churches of historic interest (such as those of Iona and Glastonbury, from which Britain became Christianized), were erected at certain focal points of the earth’s surface known to the initiates of the time as being magnetic centers or nodal points of spiritual force peculiarly favorable for the influx into this world of currents of divine power and for their irradiation thence to surrounding regions. Each such place was called an *omphalos*, a navel, or mystical center.... This historical fact and this occult principle are now reproduced in Masonry. Every lodge, every place of initiation, is in theory—though not nowadays in practice—held at a center or physical focus-point selected as being favorable both to the initiation of those who enter it and to the spiritual advancement of the uninitiated popular world resident in its vicinity. “A city set on a hill cannot be hid.” (*Matthew 5:14*) A temple or a lodge of brethren intelligently performing its work is not only engaged in a work of spiritual building as regards its own members; it is, though perhaps unconsciously, at the same time, generating and throwing off vibrations of spiritual energy to all around it; its occult influence extends, and its radiations are of efficacy, to a greater range than one dreams of.” [p. 49, revised ed.]

This makes me look at our lodge and our Masonic Work in another way, and perhaps it does the same for you, too. Please share your thoughts with the Craft.

2015

JULY

- 11 Pancake Breakfast
Ensueños/Los Angelitos
- 20 Regular Communication

AUGUST

- 08 Pancake Breakfast
Taos School of Music
- 17 Regular Communication

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Pancake Breakfast
First Presbyterian Church
- 21 Regular Communication

OCTOBER

- 19 Regular Communication

NOVEMBER

- 14 Pancake Breakfast
Taos Feeds Taos
- 16 Regular Communication
Annual Elections

DECEMBER

- 21 Regular Communication
- 26 Bent Lodge Installations

JANUARY 2016

- 18 Regular Communication

FEBRUARY 2016

- 15 Regular Communication

MARCH 2016

- 16 Regular Communication

APRIL 2016

- 18 Regular Communication

MAY 2016

- 15 Regular Communication

JUNE 2016

- 20 Regular Communication

JULY 2016

- 18 Regular Communication

AUGUST 2016

- 15 Regular Communication

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 19 Regular Communication



BENT LODGE TABLE LODGE 2015

My first Table Lodge was a true trial by fire. Being asked to preside over something I had no clue about was a bit scary, but as with other unknowns, I opened up to the universe. I asked questions. I listened for answers. Then,



I went to my Brethren. I solicited information from WBs Yule, Thayer, Smith and Noble, from MWB Jordan and scoured the internet for help. The Grand Master put me at ease in short order with this advice: "A Table Lodge is supposed to be fun."

No memorizing, no structure, just food, drink and Brotherhood." From WBs of BL42, a lot of support was always offered and very much appreciated.

I did invoke the aid and blessing of Diety, which is another reason that our Table Lodge was fun and enjoyable. I also asked for a special blessing for Bro. Keith who said he really enjoyed cooking for us. We really did enjoy eating his fine meal. Be sure to thank Bro. Keith.



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I also want to pay wages to everyone who made our Table Lodge a success.

I have to single out Bro. Keith McIntosh for tirelessly preparing an amazing and delicious meal. I couldn't have honored Bro. McIntosh any better than our Grand Master calling Bro. Keith to Altar for special wages. Thank you Bro. Keith!

More wages to WBs Scott Thayer and Mark Yule who spent several hours at the Lodge arranging tables and chairs in preparation for the event. Thanks to Brothers Verheyden and Clark and Loomis for helping in the kitchen. Thanks to Bro. Jean for serving and the photos you see on this page.

Of course, I want to thank MWB Jefferson Jordan and RWB Dan Lucero for traveling a long way to be with us. Thank you to the Toasting WBs: Smith Clark, Noah Shapiro, Scott Thayer, Greg Smith, Jed Noble and Mark Yule. And thanks to Bros. Scot Loomis, Angus MacDonald, Bruce Burling, and especially, WB Charles Randall for attending.

Remember my mention of the soliciting I did to prepare for our Table Lodge, and the great advice from the Grand Master. I asked, "Do I have everything covered?" The answer was yes. Then on the night of our Table Lodge, I greeted MWB Jordan who responded with a quick hello, and the question, "Where are all the women?"

So for the Brother who organizes the next Table Lodge... invite our significant others!

S:.M:.I:.B:.

Fraternally,
WB Dave Cordova 32°

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