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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ January, 2003

**Serving Ballard for 112 Years**

Ballard Masonic Center ~ 2006 NW Market St. ~ Seattle, WA 98107 206-782-8289

[www.occidental72.org](http://www.occidental72.org)

## FROM THE NEW EDITOR:

Happy New Year my Brothers, and welcome to the first edition of the Occidental 72 Trestleboard for 2003. This is also the first edition I have been responsible for organizing and publishing it as its newest Editor. To begin with, I would like to thank VWB Bob Jensen for all his hard work in this role in the past. With all his other duties as Deputy of the Grand Master in District Four and Secretary of Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research #281, he needs a break. Thank you VWB Bob, for all the tireless hours you have put into effort. It has been much appreciated.

I'll do my best to continue this effort, but I'm going to try some changes. I hope you like them, and I hope you try and take advantage of some of the technology changes I will be making. We spend a lot of money producing a Trestleboard and other mailings for our Lodge. If you receive this publication via postal mail, the cost to the Lodge to deliver it is roughly \$8.75 per year for postage, paper, and copying. Compare that to your annual dues or the cost of your life membership, and an accountant might think we ought to be serving bread and water at our gatherings, instead of great dinners and desserts.

A number of our members have personal computers at home and work, and have managed to become very adept at using them to send and receiving e-mail. They also have the capability to either read or print out attachments contained in them. Some have digital cameras, scanners, word processors, etc. Most of the officers of our Lodge are corresponding with each other with these tools already.

Like some other Lodges are already doing, I intend to produce this Trestleboard in electronic form; using graphics, pictures, stories and articles acquired from you and others! We will continue to print out the Trestleboard and mail it to you through the postal service if you wish. But, for those of you who wish to receive it via e-mail instead, I will make it possible for you to choose this delivery method instead. There are several advantages you may be interested in knowing about. One, it will be in color. If you have a computer, surely you have a color monitor, and you may even have a color printer. Two, if you misplace it, you can read or print it out again. Another technology advantage is there will be e-mail and web browser links to things of interest that are posted on the web. Look towards the back of this Trestleboard to learn how to ask for this subscription change.

Whether you choose to receive this in electronic or "snail-mail" form, please let me know if you like the new look and feel of this publication, and especially let me know what you would like to hear more or less about. The principle officers are not the only members who should have a voice in communicating with all of our members and guest subscribers. If you have something interesting to share, feel free to send it to me for review and possible inclusion in upcoming issues.

Fraternally yours,

WB Brian Hardy, Editor  
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206-481-5912  
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P.S. My e-mail address has an "underscore" character between the initial "b" and "h". It isn't a space, and it isn't a dash. It's the shifted key on the top row between the zero and the equal sign.

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## FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Greetings Brethren!

December 23, 2002

The Installation on December 6th was a beautiful, moving moment of time! I was having so much pleasure on the presentations to our Junior Past Master, Richard Castleberry and his lovely wife Mary Alison, I failed to invite my son Chris Lofthus to the East for the presentation of the gavel! I wish to thank the following individuals for your contributions. WBs Carl Christenson, Cam Hardy and Br. Errol Scott for arranging the tables, while I attended Perfection's # 75 Installation in New Westminster, BC.; Linda Christenson for arranging the wreaths and poinsettias; Agnes Ward for the graphic design on the programs; Edith Grambo for preparing the food; WB Harry Ginther and Janet McGowan for their culinary advise; WB Warren Aakervik for the pickled herring and smoked salmon; WB Glenn Tellefson for the fudge; Occidental DeMolay for the flag presentation; Bethel 28 "Jobies" for escorting; my fiancé, Yvonne Endicott for her music; all the installing and installed officers; Mary Tellefson, Dottie Mungin, Frances Aamodt, Rose Uysal for serving; and the 130 who attended the Installation!

At the completion of a delicious rib dinner prepared by WBs Al Mungin and Harry Ginther on September 19th, our guest Mr. Brian Norvell thanked Occidental Lodge for our charitable contribution to the Ballard Food Bank! Mr. Norvell presented Occidental a plaque in appreciation "for helping to serve neighbors in need". During the Stated Communications, which followed, memorials were read for Brs. Carl A. J. Abrahamson and Paul R. Morrow. I discussed Occidental's 2003 events calendar, which was approved by vote of the Lodge.

I would appreciate your participation for some of the following events through February at the Ballard Masonic Center:

**Thursday, January 2nd**, Mr. Travis Coleman will be receiving his Entered Apprentice Degree. There will be soup and sandwiches served at 6:00 pm. A large turnout would be appreciated for Mr. Coleman's first step into Masonry.

**Thursday, January 9th there will be a practice and officers meeting at 7:00 pm. All officers are expected to attend!**

**Thursday, January 16th** our Junior Grand Warden, RWB Alvin W. Jorgensen will honor us by speaking on "Long Range Planning."

During a period of flagging Masonic attendance, membership and participation, RWB Jorgensen's speech promises to be inspirational! **There will be a dinner at 6:30 pm.**

**Saturday, January 25th** will be "Robert Burns Night." There will be a dinner, including the Haggis, at 5:00 pm! I'll be entertaining you with a 17 minute Granite Falls Campout video in addition to my rendition of Robert Burns' My Love Is Like A Red Red Rose. Since my maternal grandmother was a Stuart, I may be dressed in a kilt! The ladies are definitely invited! The Oran nan Car Trio will be entertaining us in the Lodge Room.

**Saturday, February 1st** there will be a District 4 & 5 Reception for our Grand Master, MWB James N. Reid beginning at 3:00 pm. The ladies are invited. Please read VWB Bob Jensen's article for reservations.

**Sunday, February 9th** at 12:30 pm will be the Sweetheart's Luncheon. My sweetheart, Yvonne Endicott will be providing the delicacies. The ladies are invited.

**Tuesday, February 11th**, Occidental DeMolay will meet at 7:30 pm.

**Thursday, February 20th** our District Deputy, VWB Bob Jensen will make his official visitation. You can show your appreciation for VWB Jensen's commitment to District IV by your presence.

The following dates are events, which I will be attending with Occidental officers, and hopefully you! **Wednesday, January 8th** and **Monday, January 13th** to Greenwood # 253 and Maritime # 239 respectively. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. We'll be leaving VWB Bob Jensen's home at 1:00 on **Thursday, January 23rd** for Mt. Lebanon's # 72 "Robert Burns Night" in Vancouver, BC. **Tuesday, February 4th** and **Thursday, February 27** to Doric # 92 and Walter F. Meier # 281 Lodges respectively. Dinners will be served at 6:30 pm.

Brethren, remember Auld Lang Syne is a Brother Robert Burn's classic. Please have a safe and prosperous New Year!

*Fraternally,*

*George Lofthus, Worshipful Master*

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## FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

Greetings Brethren:

December at Occidental #72 has been busy with our regular activities plus the addition of at least eight installation of officers at nearby lodges. All were somewhat different from each other yet very similar and all were well conducted. Also, Chapter #28 of the Order of Eastern Star sponsored a most hilarious program by Stan Boreson which packed the house.

Our installation of officers on the 6th of December marked the end of my tour of duty as Junior Warden. My term as J.W. has been most enjoyable and I believe quite successful. It would not have been at all successful without the generous help of many individuals giving their time, energy and skill. I take this opportunity to thank them all - you know who you are. I want to especially acknowledge and thank Harry Ginther and Janet McGowan, Warren and Diana Aakervik, Carl and Linda Christenson, and Andy and Grace Warner whose individual and combined skill in the culinary arts I found to be awe inspiring. I also want to especially thank and I do so now, Andy King and Ron Duck who slaved in the scullery after every meal and worked until all was clean and shipshape. In many instances they worked passed midnight. I'm deeply appreciative and grateful for the voluntary efforts of all who participated. In my mind it was a great year.

I have now moved on to Senior Warden and Al Mungin has assumed the duties of Junior Warden. I'm sure his year will be most successful judging by the barbecued rib dinner he provided at our December 19th Stated Meeting. I trust you have all had a Merry Christmas and here's wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2003.

Brothers, I'm looking forward to seeing you in lodge in the coming year.

With fraternal best wishes,  
Carl Edelman, Senior Warden

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## FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN:

Our newly elected Junior Warden, WB Al Mungin, did not submit an article on time for this month's issue. The new Editor is mostly accountable for not impressing upon him the deadline expected. He bids you a Happy New Year, and promises to get his article to the Editor before next month's Trestleboard goes to print. I'm sure he will have some great things to share with you.

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## MASONIC WEB SITES:

The following are a few local web sites you may wish to visit often and "bookmark" in your computer.

<http://www.occidental72.org>

The Occidental Lodge 72 web site. Calendar of events, pictures, contacts.

<http://www.district4.org>

The District Four web site. Points to all other District Lodges, has a District Calendar of events, pictures, scholarship info, etc.

<http://www.freemason-wa.org>

The Grand Lodge of Washington web site. Information about many things in our jurisdiction, including locator and contact information about Lodges, Districts, Grand Lodge officers.

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**Do other Masons know your e-mail address?** There is a registry of Washington Masons on the Grand Lodge web site where you can request your name be added by Lodge and District, so others may contact you. If you are interested, go to the following location, see how it works, and add or update yourself. <http://www.freemason-wa.org/locator/index.html> <<--- Click the link here.

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## FROM OUR DEPUTY OF THE GRAND MASTER IN DISTRICT FOUR:

Hi Brothers: As Deputy of the Grand Master in District Four, I want to wish all of you the best of New Years. It has been a pleasure to work with the officers and members of Occidental Lodge this past year, both as a member and as Deputy. The work in our Lodge is great and the activities are unsurpassed by any Lodge in the state. I look forward to this last six months of my two years serving our Grand Masters Van Zee and Reid and I know that they appreciate all the good things Occidental does in the community and within the Lodge. I hope many of you will attend the combined District Four and Five **Reception for our Grand Master on Saturday, February 1st, starting at 3:00PM at Ballard Masonic Center.** Dinner will be at **6:00PM** and for **\$10.00** you will get a good dinner and fine fellowship. Occidental may receive a Pillars of Progress Award at that event and someone in the District will receive the Grand Master's Achievement Award. **Please send your check to me at least a week before the event at 23312- 94th Place West, Edmonds WA 98020-5006.** Probably no tickets at the door. If you want more details call me at 206-546-3780 or email at [bjcmj@aol.com](mailto:bjcmj@aol.com).

Fraternally, Bob J Jensen

## PASSAGES:

Memorials were read at the December 2002 Stated Communication for the following Brothers who passed to that Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe forever presides:

**Bro. Paul Raymond Morrow**

April 19, 1914 ~ September 21, 2002  
50 Year Mason ~ 12 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

**Bro. Carl A. J. Abrahamsen**

November 30, 1927 ~ December 06, 2002  
3 Year Mason ~ 3 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

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## OUR GRAND LODGE VISION STATEMENT:

***“Freemasons of Washington will be recognized as a relevant and respected Fraternity, committed to attracting and retaining all good men of high quality who strive for self improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in their community.”***

**Make it So !**

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## FEATURE STORY:

Occidental Lodge is very fortunate to have the piece of equipment shown in the pictures below. It's a mechanical chime or a bell that is used on infrequent occasions, and I'd like to share a story and a little history about it with you.

It's handcrafted, and one of a kind. I'm not positive who may have made it, but I am pretty sure when it was made. There is a beautiful brass key used to wind the spring inside, and it has an inscription on both sides of the handle. One side reads: "Occidental Lodge NO 72 F&AM" and the other side is inscribed: "12 24 1922". That makes the piece 80 years old !

Last Fall, during a ceremony, the bell almost failed to sound the prescribed number of chimes. The time between tolls was not constant, and some were very weak.

After the ceremony, I took it home with the intention of having a closer look inside to see if I could clean it up and adjust it. As you can see, it has a substantial case with a flip-up top. The top has inlaid Masonic symbols on it, and when it is flipped up, it exposes a hand painted half-domed bell with Chinese characters on it.



The picture to the right shows the bell case in it's working configuration with the top flipped up.

The picture below page shows a side view of the bell case, and shows that the next layer of the top can also be raised. This view shows the actual bell better, and notice the brass key mentioned above in the side.

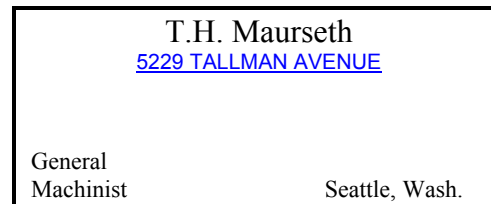


After loosening and removing the bell from the case, the main spring, gears and other parts of the mechanism were exposed. The final picture below looks down on this piece of wizardry.

The mechanism is fastened to the bottom of the case by some wood screws in another board or plate on the bottom. When I removed the board to lift out the mechanism, a couple of ancient business cards were found underneath it.



The cards looked something like this:



Notice that the card is from a General Machinist, and the state is printed as “Wash.”. Remember those days?

I looked up the address on one of the internet map sites, and lo and behold, if you went out the front door of the Lodge, crossed Market Street, walked East one block, and then South one block, you would be at the machine shop he worked at. (If you received this Trestleboard as an electronic copy, you can click on the address in the card below, and your Internet browser will show you where it is).

I sent one of the cards to our Secretary, inquiring where he may or may have been a member, and sure enough he was! Maybe he was the original maker of the bell, or maybe he just repaired it once before. **Do any of you members or readers remember him? I would sure like to learn more about him if you do.**

Well, while I was cleaning the mechanism, I accidentally broke off two of three flat springs that helped control a speed governor that was absolutely necessary in order to make the bell work. I also broke a very brittle wire that attaches a manually operated striker. Good Lord! I began to feel like I was all thumbs! “Now the bell was useless until one or the other of the mechanical pieces is fixed” I thought. I panicked, and tried to find a place that sold the same materials. No luck. Finally, I thought about a watch shop, and took just the broken governor, the broken striker, and a broken pocket watch my son needed repaired to the Watch and Battery Center in Lake City. This business is owned and operated by my friend and Brother, WB Tom Paine, who is a member of Arcana Lodge. Some of you know him from Scottish Rite as well. Tom has fixed and repaired things for our Lodge and some of its members in the past. In particular, Tom helped WB Bob Elefson with the grandfather clock that was donated by Bob and sits behind the Secretary’s place in the Lodge room. (That’s another story).

Tom took a look at the governor and spring I had broken, put it on his workbench, and said he’d see what he could do. A few weeks went by and I finally stopped back in his shop on my way to work, to see how it was going. The watch was fixed, but the governor was still on the bench “but I’m just about to get to it” he informed me. A couple of more weeks went by, and then a phone message was left saying “your gong governor is repaired”. I could hardly wait to pick it up. When I got to the shop, Tom was quick to show me his repair. It was obvious he was proud of the job he’d done. The replacement springs looked fine to me, but he was worried about how the whole thing worked, and my explanation without the whole mechanism in front of him was obviously eating at him. There was a real curiosity in his tone. “You know, this thing really sounds like something that needs to be cleaned up first, and since the governor controls the whole speed of the spring and gears, ...Are you going to try and do this yourself?”. “Well”, I said, “I started to do the job myself, I think I’ll be more careful from this point on” I tried to assure him. He didn’t buy it. “Do you want to do it?” I finally asked. “Well, why don’t you bring the whole thing in, and I’ll take a look at it” he replied. I swallowed my pride, and said “OK”.

A few days later, I brought the case and mechanism to his shop. He almost seemed excited. I could tell he thought this was something special. We spent some time (an hour?) trying to figure out exactly how the thing worked, and how the governor he fixed fit into the whole thing. Finally he declared the mechanism needed to be “completely disassembled, thoroughly cleaned ultrasonically in solvent, and then reassembled”. Of course, and he had one of those cleaners at home. If I agreed, he said, he would take it home and clean it during the evenings. “It will also take some time to adjust it to the proper speed.”

We hadn’t even discussed a budget, an estimate of the bill, or how much longer this might take. We had degrees coming up, and thoughts of the weeks that had gone by - just to get the governor repaired, crept into my head. I weakened. “OK, you fix it” I declared. I left feeling a little defeated, embarrassed I hadn’t talked about price, but knowing it was in better hands than mine. I thought it would be a long time before I heard about the bell again....

Only a couple of weeks later, there was another call on my answering machine. It was Tom. “Your gong is ready to pick up”. Now I was excited. I raced to his shop the next morning. It was Monday. They are closed on Mondays. Phooey! Tuesday morning I was back just as they opened for business.

He showed me his work again, and demonstrated the tone and cadence he had adjusted the bell to. It sounded steady and strong. We were both pleased. He did a fantastic job! While he admitted this isn’t the usual kind of work he does, he seemed to have enjoyed working on a Masonic object of great value and uniqueness. When it came time to discuss a bill, he was a bit low on the settlement (free). While I know his professional time is worth a lot more than I was prepared to offer, we settled on a fee that at least expressed my gratitude for helping me out, and our Lodge in particular.

Most of you are probably not as intimately familiar with this bell as I am. Most of you have heard it a few times. I feel especially lucky to have discovered some of its history, and a bit about it’s mysterious old-fashioned engineering. If you ever want a hands-on tour of it, I’d be happy to show and tell you more. Just come to Lodge and ask me!

Let me leave you with this thought. I think this bell has a place in our Lodge at every meeting – next to the Senior Warden. The next time you hear the phrase “What is the hour...” think about how this bell might add special meaning to this occasion.

WB Brian Hardy - PM

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As time permits, I will probably generate Acrobat page thumbnails and bookmarks within the issues, so you can quickly find the information you might be looking for.



P.S. Many “web-enabled links” (like the e-mail addresses and picture icon above) will be included in future issues. These can be your way of learning more about Masonry and activities in the jurisdictions around us. **Get Linked !!!**

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