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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ February, 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)

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### FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Occidental's event calendar for 2003 has taken the officers to Greenwood Lodge on January 8th and Maritime Lodge on January 13th. During the visitations, I had thrown out the challenge to both Worshipful Masters, WBs Vic Lysel and Ted Plumis respectively, that Occidental was in possession of the Traveling Gavel, and they would have to come to Occidental to lay claim for it. I further stated that when they came they would have to bring at least four other members of their respective lodges to vie for the possession of the Gavel!

The Worshipful Masters responded by sending 18 brothers to Occidental's January 16th Stated! After the signing and the presentation of the gavel to Greenwood Lodge, we all enjoyed RWB Al Jorgensen, Junior Grand Warden's speech on the "Long Range Planning of Masonry."

Our two newest Entered Apprentice Masons, Br. Travis Coleman and Br. Bruce Moyer were in attendance too. Memorials were read for Br. James W. Gilmore and Br. Quentin G. Granger. We were all saddened by the death of Dottie Tashiro, the wife of our Senior Grand Warden, Saturo Tashiro. Grand Master, James Reid had eulogized Dottie Tashiro during Scottish Rite's Reception of the Worshipful Masters on January 19th. The Grand Master told us that Dottie had always promoted Masonry.

The Templeboard elected new officers during our January 6th meeting. The following were unanimously elected to their offices: President, WB Cam Hardy; Vice President,

WB Warren Aakervik; Secretary-Treasurer, WB Richard Castleberry. The leadership, guidance and good counsel of MWB Kenneth Robinson and WB Brian Hardy will be solely missed.

We'll be making our official visitation to **Doric Lodge No. 92 on Tuesday, February 4th**. There will be a dinner at 6:30 preceding the stated meeting. Worshipful Master Kirk Ballard has a corps of young officers who will display their hospitality!

**The Sweetheart's Luncheon will be at 12:30 pm Sunday, February 9th.** This will be an opportunity to honor the widows of our departed brethren, as well as our own sweethearts. My sweetheart Yvonne Endicott will assist in the preparation of the Luncheon! There will be entertainment too! Although the invitations have gone out to the widows of our departed brethren, **please call me at (425) 673-1066 if you and your sweetheart are planning on attending. Please call me or the Lodge (206) 782-8289, if you need a ride.**

We're planning on attending **Occidental DeMolay Tuesday, February 11th at 7:30 pm**. The Chapter may be low in numbers, but they are the only chapter in Seattle, which has operated continuously for 50 years. There were a number of DeMolay chapters in Seattle during the early fifties. I was a member of Seattle Chapter which was unable to continue, because of dwindling membership. Dad Advisor, Br. Jeff Abrams informed us at the January Stated that the Chapter had initiated two new members!

There will be a **Second Degree Thursday, February 13th at 7:00 pm**. Please join us for soup and sandwiches at 6:00 pm. If you're interested in participating, please contact WB Al Mungin at (206) 722-6296.

VWB Bob Jensen will be making his last official visitation as Deputy of the Grand Master in District number Four during **Occidental's Stated on Thursday, February 20th at 7:30 pm. Please plan on attending and thanking our Deputy of the Grand Master for his dedication to District Four and Masonry!**

**Thursday, February 27th we'll attend Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research at 6:30 pm.** We'll break bread with Worshipful Master Steve Ellis and the brethren of Walter F. Meier.

Brethren, I look forward to breaking bread with you!

*Fraternally,*

*George Lofthus, Worshipful Master*

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**Publisher's Note:**

The Robert Burns Supper held at Occidental Lodge on Saturday evening, January 25th, 2003 was a great success. We enjoyed good food, and entertainment. Hopefully, more will be written on this event, and the Burns' Night visitation to Mt. Lebanon on Thursday, January 23rd, 2003.

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## FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

Brethren:

Do you know how many Masons in good standing are members of Occidental Lodge #72?

There are approximately 450 such members. At Lodge, prior to, during, and after meetings much good fellowship takes place. Special degree meetings, ritual practices and special events such as "Robert. Burns" dinner, the annual Sweethearts Luncheon, the annual Norwegian Day Parade, the annual Granite Falls campout at the Masonic Park, the annual golf tournament, numerous visitations to other Lodges, and a host of other special events provide many opportunities to meet with and enjoy the company of your brothers.

Most have had interesting experiences they are willing to tell or swap. I'm never bored when I'm with my Masonic Brothers. Come out, attend regular or special meetings; enjoy the company of your brothers.

With Fraternal Good Will,

Carl Edelman, S.W.

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## FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN:

Greetings from the South,

This article is not about masonry. However, it impacts masons, their families, friends, and neighbors either directly or indirectly. Last week I received an article from a brother mason in Everett, Washington concerning identification theft and how brothers can protect themselves. This is important, good advice and worthy of passing on to others. Some of the information in this article I had never considered before. This brother asked me to pass this information on to others. I can think of no better opportunity to pass this very helpful information to other masons than to incorporate it in my February article to the craft. This information is as follows:

"A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company. I pass it along for your information.

The next time you order checks have only your initials ( instead of first name ) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks - you can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.

We have all heard horror stories about fraud that is committed on us in stealing a name, address, social security number, credit card etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here is some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know: We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one )

But here is perhaps most important: ( I never even thought to do this ) Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend ( someone turned it in ). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

Equifax:	1 - 800 - 525 - 6285
Experian ( formerly TRW ):	1 - 888 - 397 - 3742
TransUnion:	1 - 800 - 680 - 7289
Social Security Administration ( fraud line )	1 - 800 - 269 - 0271

In conclusion, if this information saves only one brother a lot of grief then it has been well worth the the time to pass it on.

Albert Mungin

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## MASONIC WEB SITES:

Want to explore some of the many places on the internet where Masonic topics can be found? This month I thought you might want to visit our brotherly neighbors that surround our jurisdiction.

<http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/>

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of British Columbia & Yukon.

<http://www.masonic-oregon.com/>

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Oregon

<http://www.idahoaf.am/>

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Idaho.

**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 SENIOR DEACON:

### LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE FORMING

The Worshipful Master established the **Long Range Planning Committee** after his installation in December and we are looking for two or three more members. Bros. Jerry Ward and Richard Castleberry have indicated an interest and several more members who would like a hand in shaping how the craft will look in the future are welcome.

As Right Worshipful Brother **Al Jorgenson** suggested at our last meeting, we should look to the plans and ideas developed by the Grand Lodge and other nearby lodges as guides rather than trying to re-invent the wheel, so to speak. Membership would be one of our priorities. If you are interested, let me know.

### PARADE FLOAT COMING DOWN FROM THE RAFTERS

Our parade float stored in the rafters of **Ballard Oil** (thanks to Brother Aakervik) will be coming down about April 1<sup>st</sup> to prepare for the upcoming parade season. A brief and unplanned meeting of part of the **Float Committee** came up with some great suggestions: we should make changes in the Float every year and every fourth year make a major renovation. We would keep the same theme and make yearly improvements to increase the impact every year. Suggestions so far have been for the dragon to snort fire (smoke) and make the lawn tractor pulling the float into a fish. (There was also a proposal to have the driver (me) dressed as a mermaid and be riding the fish – but that's not going to fly.) We'll also be increasing the water supply for the Norwegian Spitting Fish and improve the controls. I estimate the cost at about \$250 so expect a motion next meeting. New members are welcome.

Bro. Errol Scott ([diachan@attbi.co](mailto:diachan@attbi.co)) 206-784-9047

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## PASSAGES:

Memorials were read at the January 2003 Stated Communication for the following Brothers who passed to that Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe forever presides. As is the custom, their names will be inscribed on leaves for the Tree of Life:

**Bro. James William Gilmore**

January 4, 1918 ~ September 6, 2002  
60 Year Mason ~ 3 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

**Bro. Quentin Shade Granger**

July 7, 1923 ~ September 6, 2002  
52 Year Mason ~ 10 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge



**Mrs. Dottie Tashiro - beloved wife of our Junior Grand Warden, Sat Tashiro**  
January, 2003

The photo above was sent this past Holiday season from the Grand Lodge officers. Dottie Tashiro is pictured in the lower right corner.

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## OUR GRAND LODGE "PILLARS FOR PROGRESS":

In order to achieve our vision of rebuilding our Fraternity, the following eight areas of emphasis were identified. These eight "Pillars for Progress" will be the supports that make this possible:

1. Grand Lodge Organization
2. Education and Training
3. Technology
4. Family Involvement
5. Community Involvement
6. Public Relations
7. Fraternalism
8. Coordination with Concordant Organizations

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## FEATURE STORY:

### FINAGLE'S LAW DESERVES MORE RESPECT

By Errol G. Scott

I subscribe to an-off-the-wall suspicion that there is a universal law of perversity reflected thru **Murphy's Law** that the philosophers and scientists have ignored. (I'm really talking about **Finagle's Law**, but we'll get to that in a moment.) Because its' operation appears to be either too trivial to be bothered with (keys falling down the drain), or so catastrophic (heart attack at 30 years of age) that we ascribe only religious significance to it (which it may very well have), the so-called intellectuals in both camps have failed us in explaining why things go bad at the worst possible time. We all know that tangled cords, no car keys when we're in a hurry and power going out in the middle of the SuperBowl happens to us all the time - especially those of us whose lives are slightly star-crossed.

One of my scientifically inclined brothers claims my view exhibits "no grasp of full reality." He is undoubtedly somewhat correct, but the other so-called "scientific" or philosophical explanations likewise lack the same full grip on reality that we all share. Of course, these happenings could simply be explained as random, chaotic events - but the Grand Architect of the Universe wouldn't tolerate that would he (or she)?

Okay – so what about **Finagle** and **Murphy**? Based on the most superficial research possible, it appears that in 1949 Murphy was an engineer for the Air Force testing stress on humans from rapid acceleration and deceleration. He had sensors attached to a subject that could connect to his instruments in two different ways. After the stress test was completed, none of the instruments recorded the results. The reason: all the sensors were connected the wrong way. In exasperation Murphy supposedly complained "If there are two or more ways to do something, and one of those ways can result in a catastrophe, someone will do it."

There's nothing piercingly scientific or philosophical about Murphy's comment because it's common experience that when there's a way for something to go wrong it eventually will, - (although in my opinion) it may not result in a catastrophe. Murphy was a cautionary but optimistic observer.

But now to **Finagle's Law**, which pessimistically proposes that "If anything can go wrong it will, and at the worst possible time." (This may not be exact but it's close enough for my purposes.) It is formally referred to as "**Finagle's Law of Dynamic Negatives.**" This explains why your last quarter for the parking meter drops out of your hand into the grate when the meter maid is watching and you're late for an appointment with the IRS. A lot of fun is poked at **Murphy's and Finagle's Laws** and the variations are endless: left to themselves, things always go from bad to worse; if everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something; if anything simply cannot go wrong, it will anyway. Nonetheless, the accuracy of both of their observations are too pervasive to be ignored.

So to wrap things up for the moment (I'm hoping to do another article because of popular demand), **Finagle's Law** deserves to be considered a candidate for the *Hall of Fame of Laws of the Universe* – right up there with the Law of Gravity, Relativity, Newton's Law and the rest of them because it readily explains to most of us why things go wrong at the worst possible time.

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