

George Lofthus, Worshipful Master
 19730 50th Ave. West, #101
 Lynnwood, WA 98036
 425-673-1066
GeorgeLofthus@msn.com



Ron Duck, Secretary
 7334 20th NW
 Seattle, WA 98117-5619
 206-782-3944
o72secr@aol.com

Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ March, 2003

Serving Ballard for 112 Years

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IN THIS ISSUE:

From Our Worshipful Master:	1
From Our Senior Warden:	3
Passages:	3
Bro. Edward Roger Whitney Erickson	3
From Our Junior Warden:	3
News Around the District:	5
Electronic Subscription Instructions:	6

FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Greetings Brothers and Family of Occidental Lodge!

Robert Burns Night was a beautiful event! Br. James McKnight's "Piping the Haggis" and MT. Lebanon's WB Jackie James' "Ode to the Haggis" set the tone for the evening. My fiancée, Yvonne Endicott's dinner of Cocky Leeky Soup, Collops of Beef and Potato and Cranachan were most pleasant to the palate. I'm including Yvonne's recipe of (Bannock) which many of you requested.

Yvonne Endicott's Bannock

6 oz. Flour	1 oz butter
2 oz oatmeal	1 tablespoon baking powder
1 level teaspoon salt	5 ozs milk
1 oz sugar	

1. Sift flour, salt and baking powder into a bowl.
2. Add butter and rub into a fine breadcrumb consistency.
3. Mix in oatmeal and sugar.
4. Make a well in center, pour in milk and stir into a soft, sticky dough form.
5. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead lightly.
6. Roll out to 1/2 inch thickness and form into two mounds.
7. Heat on griddle and sprinkle with flour.
8. Cook for about 10 minutes on each side (until lightly brown).
9. Cool on a wire rack.

Occidental's Sweetheart's Luncheon on February 9th was warmly received by all in attendance. My sweetheart, Yvonne in addition to helping prepare the luncheon, provided beautiful, background music on the keyboard during the luncheon. Brethren, I'm deeply appreciative by Yvonne's contribution toward both of these events. I also wish to thank Mary Alison Castleberry for the contribution she gave Yvonne. Thanks to

you who volunteered to help make the Luncheon so memorable. I thank Br. Matt Lassise for being the first to arrive, after WB Warren Aakervik of course, and the last to leave.

Following the luncheon, Masonic Widows Pins were presented to Edith Grambo, Margaret Abrahamson, Ruth Lake and Dee Moore. Their deceased husband's names were proudly displayed on Occidental's "Tree of Life" except Br. Carl Abrahamson who had passed away in December. I had asked for a show of hands, how many of the widows would not have attended, if we hadn't installed the elevator. To the five who raised their hands, I could only thank them for attending and thanked WB Richard Castleberry and the brethren for constructing the elevator.

Our Deputy of the Grand Master, VWB Bob Jensen, made his last official visitation to Occidental during our Stated on February 20th. VWB Bob had been mentioning how Masonic symbolism applied to each of the six Masonic Lodges he had visited. For Occidental he had mentioned Clay as our symbol "for the solid clay in this Lodge". Following a standing ovation, I presented VWB Bob with two sweatshirts. The first acknowledged his Danish heritage. The second was for his wife Corinne, which read "I'm a Dane through Marriage." The members of Occidental have appreciated the time which Corinne has given us to be with Bob, so he could fulfill his Masonic obligations.

I wish to give a special thanks to WB Jerry Schor for contributing \$1,000 in the names of St. John's #9 and Occidental #72 to the Ballard Food Bank!

Please note that there are several changes in **bold** from my March calendar in the Installation program.

- We'll be making our official visitation to Green Lake Lodge #149 on Thursday, March 6th. There will be a dinner at 6:30 preceding the stated meeting.
- **Sunday, March 9th at 7:00 pm there will be a Third Degree practice and Officers Meeting.**
- **We'll be visiting Occidental DeMolay at 7:30 on March 11th.**
- **There will be a Third Degree Thursday, March 13th at 7:00. Please join us for soup and sandwiches at 6:00 pm. If you're interested in participating, please contact Br. Carl Edelman at (206) 542-4496.**
- On Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30 pm, Occidental will be visiting Bethel #28, Job's Daughters.
- **Our Grand Master, MWB James N. Reid will be making his official visitation to Occidental on Thursday, March 20th. There will be a dinner at 6:30 pm. I promise to have something "Scottish" in addition to the Grand Master! Please call me at (425) 673-1066 or the Lodge (206) 782-8289 for reservations.**
- **Youth Day "Rock & Roll" Bowling will be 3:00 at Sunset Bowl on the 22nd. This promises to be a fun afternoon with our "Jobies" and DeMolay youth! If you think your gutter ball has left you, please call me (425) 673-1066!**
- **There will be a First Degree Thursday, March 27th at 7:00. Please join the galley for soup and sandwiches at 6:00 pm. Those interested in participating, please contact Br. Errol Scott at (206) 784-9047.**

Brethren, I'll see you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

George Lofthus, Worshipful Master

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

Brethren:

During his year as Worshipful Master, our Junior Past Master Richard Castleberry and his wife Mary Alison CONSPIRED to quietly and secretly record and produce an audio-video record of his year entitled: "A Year in the Life of Occidental Lodge #72 ". It is complete with narration and music and includes most of the "outside of Lodge" activities. It is not only an interesting documentary on Lodge activities while not in session, but is also very entertaining. All members of Occidental #72 should take the time to view this record as many of you brethren are included in one or more segments. In fact, I believe it could be a useful tool in recruiting new members. It reminds me that we are an active and busy Lodge, one with happy social functions as well as one with the more noble and serious duties of charity, building improvements and maintenance, as well as "in session" functions which are also enjoyable.

With fraternal good wishes,
Carl Edelman, S.W.

PASSAGES:

A Memorial was read at the February 2003 Stated Communication for the following Brother. His name will be inscribed on a leaf on our Tree of Life at the Ballard Masonic Center.

Bro. Edward Roger Whitney Erickson

August 1, 1921 ~ January 9, 2003

36 Year Mason ~ 8 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN:

Greetings from the South,

This month I am briefly writing about our 3rd degree circumambulation. As Senior Deacon, I performed this duty for one of our brothers on his way to becoming a master mason a few months ago. Jack Streckenbach, of University Lodge # 141, was sitting in the audience, and after the ceremony, came up and congratulated me for an outstanding job. Then he asked, "do you know the meaning of the beautiful verses that you just recited?" Of course I had some vague interpretation of the verses we use in this ceremony. I have to admit that the one that says, "the grinders cease because they are few" did not make any sense until Jack said, " the grinders are your teeth." Now it makes lots of sense.

Out of curiosity I wonder how many other Senior Deacons, Past Senior Deacons, and masons in general know today's English interpretation of these verses? Jack told me that his wife found our 3rd degree circumambulation in her "Good News Bible." I thought what an irony it is that I advance my knowledge in masonry indirectly from a non-mason.

Monitorically, our 3rd degree circumambulation is taken from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 12, Verses 1-7, in The King James Version. Jack and I had an additional discussion about these beautiful 7 verses on December 7, 2002 at the Greenwood Lodge installation, in which he said that he would send me a copy of the "Today's English Version," which he did. As follows are The King James Version, and the Good News Bible Version (Today's English).

KING JAMES VERSION

1. Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
2. While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:
3. In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,
4. And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low:
5. Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:
6. Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.
7. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

GOOD NEWS BIBLE (TODAY' S ENGLISH)

1. So remember your creator while you are still young, before those dismal days and years come when you will say, "I don't enjoy life".
2. That is when the light of the sun, the moon, and the stars will grow dim for you, and the rain clouds will never pass away.
3. Then your arms, that have protected you, will tremble, and your legs, now strong, will grow weak. Your teeth will be too few to chew your food, and your eyes too dim to see clearly.
4. Your ears will be deaf to the noise of the street. You will barely be able to hear the mill as it grinds or music as it plays, but even the song of a bird will wake you from sleep.
5. You will be afraid of high places, and walking will be dangerous. Your hair will turn white; you will hardly be able to drag yourself along, and all desire will be gone. We are going to our final resting place, and then there will be mourning in the streets.
6. The silver chain will snap, and the golden lamp will fall and break; the rope at the well will break, and the water jar will be shattered.
7. Our bodies will return to the dust of the earth, and the breath of life will go back to God, who gave it to us.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that these 7 beautiful verses, which are my favorites, will be more meaningful to and appreciated by all masons. Our 3rd degree ceremony has never been the same since I fully understood its meaning. A note that Jack wrote stating that "reading the above in today's English helped me to get a better understanding of what these 7 verses mean to masons." I would like to thank Jack Streckenbach for bringing this matter to my attention.

Albert Mungin, Junior Warden

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT:

The **District Four Masonic Lodge Association (MLA)** meets at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month, January through May, and September through November. The location is rotated according to Lodge number. In March, we will meet at Doric 92 in Fremont. You may have noticed that it is NOT an exclusive Lodge Officers group, though all officers are encouraged to attend. Topics include announcements of events going on, masonic education, and planning for events we mutually participate in. Grab a friendly Brother or two and come on down to it.

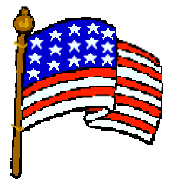
There has been a recent surge in membership and petitioning for membership in **Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research 281** by Occidental 72 members. Of recent, WBs Brian Hardy and Ron Duck have become members, and WBs George Lofthus, Richard Castleberry, and Phillip Aamodt each turned petitions in at the February meeting. Even our Deputy of the Grand Master, VWB Bob Jensen, had a small slip, when he referred to the group as “Occidental 72” during his presentation to the WFM gathering.

The **Masonic Joint Degree Program**, which most Lodges in our District have participated in, has fallen on unpopular times. A “vote” by those present, at the February D4 MLA meeting indicated that many wanted their Lodges to discontinue participating in it. Of course, this program isn't a District program at all. It is a loose knit group of Lodges from around the area that have agreed to commit their individual Lodge officers and facilities to opening special communications on a scheduled basis, so that other member Lodges could bring candidates for joint degree work. The idea was that this would lead to greater turnouts to welcome new Brothers, and the ritual work might be better. Reasons given for the current malcontent were varied, but included; poor communication between member Lodges when degree work had to be canceled, too aggressive a schedule, falling turnout when candidates were able to make it, and another very good reason - Lodges that used to have mediocre ritual work feel they have improved - and wanted to welcome their candidates back at their home Lodges, with their own degree teams.

VWB Bob Jensen would like to see each and every one of you at the next **Joint District 4 and District 5 Workshop**, which will be held on **Saturday, April 5th**, at Queen Anne Lodge 242. They are located at 1608 4th Ave on Queen Anne Hill. Time is 9:00AM till noon. Coffee and cookies provided and no charge. There will again be some speakers from the Grand Lodge Committees, plus some of the Junior Grand Warden candidates. There will also be a floorwork presentation, so Deacons and Stewards would benefit from being there. VWB Gale Kenney of District Five is in charge of this one and he promises that it will be well worth while to attend.

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