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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ April, 2003

Serving Ballard for 112 Years

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FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Greetings Brothers and Family of Occidental Lodge!

The official visitation of MWB "Jimmy" Reid on March 20th has been the cornerstone for my year as your Worshipful Master. When I was organizing my 2003 events calendar two years ago, my focus was inviting the Grand Master as Occidental's guest. MWB Reid responded by giving an inspirational talk how Masonry is reaching out to our growing Mexican American population. During his speech the Grand Master thanked WB Jerry Ward, Chairman of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial for his dedication. WB Jerry, our Grand Lodge representative, will be leading a delegation to Washington D.C. during July.

During the Stated Communications, we were treated to a delicious "Scottish" dinner of corned beef and cabbage. Our chief chef, WB Harry Ginther was ably supported by WBs Warren Aakervik, Carl Christenson and Andy Warner. Honored Queen, Marie Meyer and her "Jobie" court served the dinner. Our Stewards, Brs. Matt Lassise and Bob Hasseth set-up and assisted with the dishes. Thanks to all of you and the others who assisted!

During the proceedings Memorials were read for Br. Douglas John Woodward and Br. Carl C. Elliott. Br. Rene Blumenfeld gave the yearly audit report on Occidental's Temple Association, Lodge and Scholarship for 2002. This being Rene's last year as our auditor, we thanked him for his thorough report and years of service.

We are planning on attending **Occidental's Chapter No. 28 Order of Eastern Star's Installation, Wednesday, April 2nd at 7:30 pm.**

Please join us for our official **visitation to Perfection Lodge No. 75** in New Westminster, B.C. on **Thursday, April 3rd.** We're planning on leaving VWB Bob Jensen's home at 1:00 pm. We're returning the "Traveling Gavel" to Perfection. This has become a tradition, whenever our two "sister" lodges have exchanged visitations. Perfection Lodge is rich in tradition, with two impressive pillars in the Lodge Room. WB William Anderson and the Brethren from Perfection will warmly welcome us!

Brethren, if you missed the Stated, please attend the Ballard Masonic Center to hear our expanded P.A. System. MWB Kenneth Robinson has spearheaded this project. I had the privilege of wearing one of the two lapel microphones during the proceedings. MWB Ken is continuing to search for monaural headphones, for the hearing impaired. The amplification from the "in ear" speakers, which were installed, gives the Center a markedly improved system.

Brethren, please circle **April 10th** on your calendar. Occidental will be conferring the **Rusty Brother Mason Degree.** Last year's conferral by WB Richard Castleberry was very successful in making the Rusty Masons feel welcome. **Dinner will be 6:30 pm** for Masons only. If any brother knows of a brother who has not attended Lodge for sometime, encourage him to come and be his mentor for the evening. Please call me for reservations (425) 673-1066.

Occidental's **Stated Communication** will be **Thursday, April 17th at 7:30 pm.** Our **guest speaker for the evening will be Ms. Vicky Hayes, Principal of North Beach Elementary School.** Occidental Lodge has helped support North Beach's new "in-residence training" during this school year. Ms. Hayes will explain to the brethren how the new curriculum has been instrumental in bringing outside experts in to work with the students. She will provide information about the way "in-residence training" in journalism, writing, art, music, and technology (computing and website) has favorably impacted the students.

Brethren, I'm looking forward to seeing you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

George Lofthus, Worshipful Master

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Click the link to the right, and send me your information. webmaster@occidental72.org

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

Grand Lodge Wardens' Leadership Seminar

The 11th annual Grand Lodge Warden's Leadership Seminar was attended by Bro. Errol Scott, Senior Deacon, Bro. Carl Edelman, Senior Warden, and his Lady Donna, and WB Albert Mungin and his wife Dottie at the Red Lion hotel on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of March, in Wenatchee, Washington.

Wenatchee is located in Chelan County with a population of 27,930 as of 2001, and was incorporated in 1892 with a mayor-council type of government. The Red Lion hotel is situated in perhaps the center of the Downtown Business District.

My wife's boss gave her the day off to attend the Warden's Seminar. This of course put her in a great state of mind which made for a very enjoyable weekend of education, training and fellowship with brother and their wives.

After registration, the Wardens, Deacons, and their wives assembled in the main auditorium. Approximately 200 persons gathered, for welcome, prayer, and the Code of Cooperation. The keynote address was given by the RW John McNab. The focus of this Wardens Seminar was training, planning and mentoring. RW John McNab talked about mentoring. Mentoring is defined as the responsibility of teaching and implementing the virtues of freemasonry through all three degrees, beginning after a man's petition is read for the first time, and continuing for a period of one year after his Master Mason degree is obtained.

The reason why we need mentoring is to encourage, sustain and educate future leaders and members in the Craft. Masonry is a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by the symbols.

After assembly, we broke up into pre-assigned groups. We called our group "Friendship Lodge". The members of this group, initially strangers, quickly became a "Band of Friends". We told some jokes, but more importantly exchanged ideas that we could take back to our home lodge.

Saturday, Brother Bill Wade made a very interesting presentation on "Tax Relief for your Lodge". Brother Wade stated that, "the vehicle used for tax exempt status is the Public Assembly Exemption Provisions". A poll was taken to see how many lodges had applied for the tax exempt status. Nine Wardens said that their lodges had applied for tax-exempt status. Six of the nine lodges received approval for tax-exempt status. Three lodges were rejected because of lack of documentation and improperly filled out paperwork. Our lodge, Occidental No. 72, pays a very large amount of money for property taxes according to our Worshipful Master George Lofthus. This is a matter that should be investigated by our lodge. Additional information can be obtained from www.dor.wa.gov.

Also on Saturday, Brother Chuck McQuery talked about what it means to be a Mason. He said that it is very difficult to define Masonry because it is something that you feel. When my wife and I first walked into that auditorium, we saw about 200 strangers. Within a few hours we felt that we had known many of these Brothers for years.

Saturday, from 6pm to 9pm was Social Hour and Banquet. The food was excellent for the banquet and all of the meals. Dinner consisted of roast turkey. Our guest speaker was MWB Brad Cannon, Past Grand Master of Idaho.

Sunday, after breakfast, our "Friendship Lodge" met for the final time where we continued to exchange ideas and focus on events taking place in our respective lodges at home. The closing remarks were given by Brother John McNab. My wife and I were very pleased to each receive a Certification of Appreciation. My wife Dottie Mungin was inspired to write about the Warden's Seminar from a woman's point of view.

WB Albert Mungin,
Junior Warden

A WIFE'S POINT OF VIEW OF THE WARDEN'S SEMINAR

Kudos are flying your way! Thank you to everyone involved in planning and implementing the Ladies Program at the 2003 Warden's Leadership Seminar. Barbara McNab, Nancy Jorgensen, and their assistants did a superb job of reviewing meeting materials and leading the workshop discussions.

In addition to the information included in the notebooks, we shared information on planning and assisting with some of the social events, how to have fun while keeping costs low, and maximizing the time spent while the Masons are in their meetings.

Thanks to the Masons who came into the Ladies' Program and shared information. We know the history of the Grand Lodge Sword and we now have our own handshake. I know you Brothers would like to know what it is!

The whole weekend was indeed a pleasant and worthwhile experience.

Dottie Mungin,
Wife of Junior Warden

PASSAGES:

Two Memorials were read at the March 2003 Stated Communication for the following Brothers. Their names will be inscribed on a leaf for our perpetual Tree of Life at the Ballard Masonic Center.

Bro. Douglas John Woodward

November 12, 1912 ~ March 3, 2003
58 Year Mason ~ 4 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

Bro. Carl Clifford Elliot

May 7, 1921 ~ February 13, 2003
27 Year Mason ~ 23 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN:

Brethren:

Recently I attended the Warden's Seminar in Wenatchee sponsored by the Grand Lodge and was inspired and enervated to increase my enthusiasm for Lodge activities. It was pointed out that improvements could be and in many cases should be implemented in almost every aspect of our Masonic Lodge activities.

A Long Range Planning Committee is being instituted in our Lodge for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing desirable changes in our activities. Some of the proposed changes that have come before it so far are not new, but have fallen into disuse, even if they are still viable and worthwhile. Other suggested changes are new and some are potentially exciting. Some of these changes are intended to make Masonry more interesting and enjoyable in order to provide incentives for both our inactive members to become more active and participate in Lodge functions, and to provide incentives for non-members to become members.

I'm looking forward to the implementation of some of these changes and wonder how Occidental will be perceived five years from now. If you have any suggestions for changes you would like to see established in the Lodge or correct any discrepancy you have noticed, please notify any Lodge officer and he will see that your suggestions are put before the Long Range Planning Committee and considered.

Fraternally,
Carl Edelman, SW

MASONIC EDUCATION:

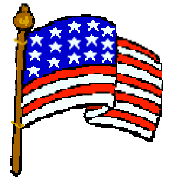
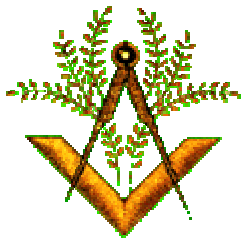
When was the last time you broke out your Washington Monitor and studied something inside it? For many of us, it may have been at the last degree practice we participated in, or while on the sidelines at a degree, or at a Stated Communication. Your Monitor contains a lot of important information about Masonic ideals, principals, rituals, lessons, protocols, and ceremonies that are meant to shape and bind us as Brethren. Review the Table of Contents and you will see what I mean. Some of the content includes ceremonies you may have never even participated in: but all of it is material worth studying and understanding outside of the few hours we spend together on regular occasions. The Monitor is given to each of us to be used as a reference and study guide concerning Masonic behavior and practices. It's lessons are meant to motivate us as men towards the betterment of those around us, and to help us regulate our lives, whenever and wherever we are.

One of the most useful sections in the Monitor is the last section of the Addendum titled "A Guide to Pronunciation". Given the nature of our rituals, it can be disturbing to many when less informed or practiced members or officers use words or terms improperly. A regular study of this section can provide a pleasing enlightenment. Here is one of my favorites:

<p>brethren (brĕth' - rĕn) Note that the vowel in the first syllable is <i>e</i> not <i>o</i>. There are no such words as "brothren" or "brothern". The term is used in speaking to Masons, and in this connection is preferable to "brothers".</p>
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NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT:

Well, I mistakenly reported the March meeting of the **District Four Masonic Lodge Association** (MLA) was at Doric 92, but that's where it will be in April. The meeting, as usual, will be at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday. There has been some interest in developing a District-wide ritual skills inventory to help improve communications between Lodge officers in planning for degrees. As the Joint Degree Program may have been perceived as too rigid, a little recruitment and encouragement to practice may make for improved ritual skills.

Just a reminder that the next **Joint District 4 and District 5 Workshop** will be held on **Saturday, April 5th**, at Queen Anne Lodge 242, 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 floor work presentation led by WB John Bolding, 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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