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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ August, 2004

**Serving Ballard for 113 Years**

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## ABOUT THIS SPECIAL ISSUE:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)  
Publisher

### **Greetings Brethren:**

You may be asking yourself why are you getting an Occidental Trestleboard in August. Aren't we dark till September?

Well the answer is that we wanted to remind you of a couple of important events that are coming up in August and early September, and to update you on the condition and needs of one of our members, Ed Collinge.

I'll talk about Ed first. As you may recall, Ed was diagnosed with colon cancer last year. Scary for anybody, but particularly for a man of only 45 with a wife and 10 year old son. Ed underwent both radiation and chemotherapy for the disease, and thought the battle had been won.

This past spring he learned that the cancer was back and active, and the only way to save his life was to undergo abdominal surgery to remove what could be found, and then undergo a complete colostomy. Ed made our June Stated Communication, and then the next day was admitted into the University of Washington Hospital to begin a series of surgeries. Part of the plan was that after initial exploratory surgery, they would send him home with open wounds, to recuperate while awaiting a separate colostomy surgery. It was learned that Ed's insurance situation would cover inpatient costs, but not cover the cost of a recommended portable "wound vac" machine that would allow him to stay at home instead of making trips to the hospital to change his dressings. Ed made it home, but without the machine.

When we first learned of the family's financial troubles we quickly wrote a letter requesting individual donations with the expectation that Ed would be at home til mid-July and would be able to benefit from the machine for a month or more. The letter specifically pointed out that the donations would be used for the rental of the machine, which they could not afford.

Unfortunately, the plan did not work. Ed developed an infection from his first surgery and had to be admitted back to the hospital much earlier than planned. He has now undergone the colostomy surgery (which took nearly 12 hours), and spent 12 days in the ICU recovering from this and other complications. On July 23rd, he was finally moved to a regular inpatient room.

He is recovering slowly, and will remain there for at least another couple of weeks. Due to his guarded condition, it is now possible that he remain in the hospital till complete wound closure and skin grafts are performed, and any need for a portable wound vac machine may not materialize. However, even today his doctors are considering letting him go home for a couple of weeks, and then we are in business again.

Your response to the request for donations was stunning. Many of you reacted as only Masons do. You wrote checks, and we have been prepared to assist as private payers on Ed's behalf. We stated our goal was to raise \$5,000, but through the generosity of 60 of you, we collected over \$7,000.

What is left to do?

Ed's extended inpatient stay has caused a secondary but different kind of a problem for him and his family. Ed has been unemployed since his cancer was diagnosed. His wife Linda has been unable to work steady while she has spent so much time with Ed at the hospital. The family is in extreme financial distress. They have overdue house and car payments, the utilities are overdue, and food and gas are a continuing problem. A Thank You letter sent to donors this week explains this situation, and asks if those who have given already would please consider releasing their donations for family needs or not.

**I am asking again whether those of you who have not acted yet, would consider making a donation for the family** itself to help save their home and put food on the table. If you choose to send something for Ed or his family, **please indicate in a note how you would want your help to be applied.** I will do my best to make sure your intentions are followed, and I won't misappropriate it. If you don't indicate a use, I will assume it is OK to give it to the family for what they need.

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## EVENTS:

### **Brethren and Friends:**

Our Worshipful Master, WB Carl Edelman, would like to remind you of two events left this summer.

The annual **Occidental 72 Campout at the Granite Falls Masonic Park** will take place a week later than usual this year. Make sure your program and calendars are changed to reflect this. The dates are **Friday, August 20th, through Sunday, August 22**. We have TWO campgrounds reserved this year. There should be plenty of room, and lots of good food and beverages. Susan Rickard (wife of Sam Rickard) promises to hold a **"pot sticker" class** on Saturday morning, -... yummy!

There will be a **"Youth Groups Game Night"** on **Saturday, September 4, at 6:00 PM**. This should be a good time to visit with the young men and women of our sponsored groups and

pretend you are a kid again. Board and card games are the agenda. Pizza dinner will be provided. Please come.

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## MOVES:

Right after our June Stated Communication, our Senior Steward, Brother Matt Lassise, moved back to Minnesota. I understand he has found a new job there and is doing fine. Good luck Matt, write us when you can.

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## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

(from Cinosam newsletter)

### **A story for those brethren who haven't attended Lodge in some time**

A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Worshipful Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing.

In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one, lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Master glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Worshipful Master reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek "Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting."

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### **TEMPLE BOARD NEWS:**

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

The men's room remodeling is going on as scheduled. I looked in on Tuesday, 7/28. Floor tiles were being installed and there was fashionable green paint on the walls. Fixtures aren't installed yet, but all the new plumbing seemed in place. During June and July, a decision was made to replace the old gas guzzling 90+ gallon hot water heater with a modern "tankless" water heater. It will produce instantaneous and continuous hot water on demand, and not waste energy heating water when nobody is there. It should be in place before we resume in September.

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