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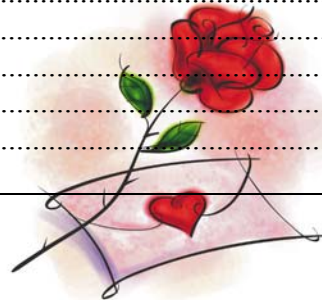


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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM Trestleboard ~ February, 2005
Serving Ballard for 113 Years
Ballard Masonic Center ~ 2006 NW Market St. ~ Seattle, WA 98107 206-782-8289
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FROM THE EDITOR:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

In lieu of having a personal message that comes directly from our Worshipful Master this month, I'll do my best to send you his greetings, fill you in on activities that took place in January, and invite you to those that will take place in February and beyond. I apologize to WB Al, but in order to get this publication to you in a reasonable amount of time, "the press must roll".

January was a month filled with visitations to other Lodges and activities involving other Masonic groups. Among other things, here is what I recall:

- Worshipful Master Al Mungin and his officers and members organized scheduled visitations to both Greenwood 253 and Maritime 239 at their regular monthly communications.
- WB Al and his wife Dottie attended the annual reception of new Masters and the Grand Master at the Seattle Valley of the Scottish Rite.
- We had a productive officers meeting this month.
- Bro. David Charroin was passed to the second degree on January 6th.

The **Senior Grand Warden, RWB Chuck McQuery** and a gaggle of other Brothers from District 32 including VWB Chris Pedersen Jr. attended the January Stated Communication of our Lodge. They were there to be present at the presentation of a 40-year pin for **Honorary. PM Chris Pedersen Sr.**, and a 55-year pin for **WB Jerry Schor**. Unfortunately, Chris Pedersen Sr. did not attend, but tributes to both these great Masons were shared in the Lodge room, as well they should have.

Among others, you will also note that this month we lost **VWB Kenneth Mathison** to the Celestial Lodge above. VWB Ken was an active member of our Lodge until his health began to deteriorate a few years ago, and he was a Past District Deputy for District Four. The Masonic Service Bureau performed a Masonic funeral service for Ken and his family, and while this is indeed a sad occasion, it was wonderful

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

By Bro. [Errol Scott](#)

Brethren and Friends:

I encourage you to attend the *Armchair Tour of China* next month at our regular movie night, Saturday, February 24th at 6:00pm for dinner, with the *Tour* following. Jerry and Agnes Ward spent 34 days in China recently and traveled literally from one end to the other and Agnes took over 2,000 photographs.

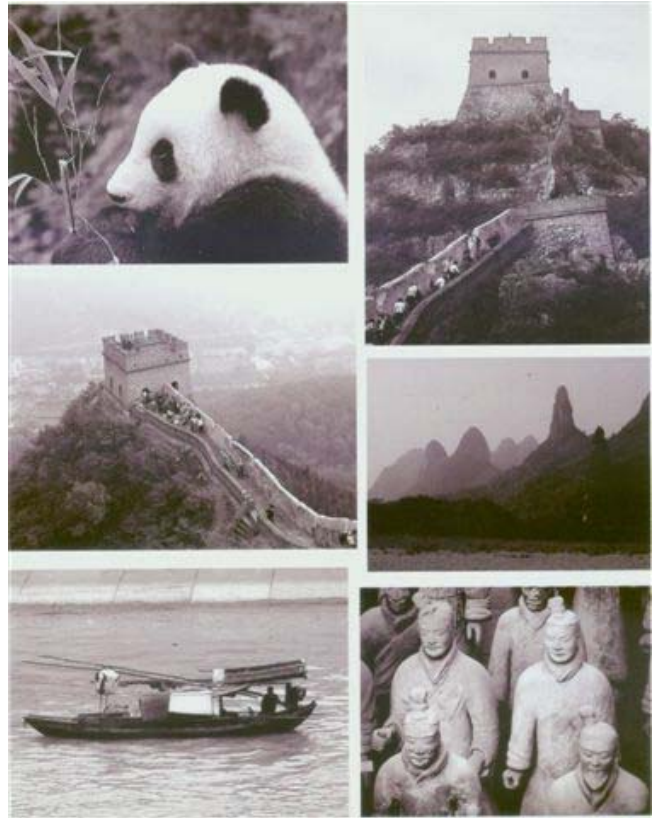
They are extraordinary travelers for their keen observation of both the details of Chinese life and the broader perspective about how the remarkable changes in this remarkable country will affect us and our country. Kazi and I received their Armchair Tour of China recently and were truly amazed at the mind-boggling progress that country has made in just a few years.

The Chinese and their county no longer fit the image that Kazi and I had of them – and probably you too. They are progressive, modern, educated and technologically innovative. Their streets are clean, their hotels are the best in the world, and their children are required to speak English to Americans and others.

From pandas, to ancient temples, to the Great Wall of China you will see remarkable images and a fascinating description of the very modern China. It will open your eyes as it did ours. See you there.

Fraternally,

Bro. Errol G. Scott
Senior Warden



FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN:

By Bro. [Ed Collinge](#)

Brothers,

I had the pleasure of attending Arlington Lodge on January 26th, for one of their twice monthly stated meetings. I was in absolute awe at the amount of participation from such a small lodge. I believe they have a membership of approximately eighty. They had at least 25% of their members attending plus a whole herd of visitors. Plus they had a new petition read.

I could not resist asking how they do it. Their answer was simply lots of interaction with other Lodges, and a very active participation with the community. They get out and spread the word about Freemasonry.

We need to start talking to the people close to us and work outwards from there. Something really struck me at our January stated. VWB Chris Pedersen Jr., told us a story about his father showing him his Masonic apron with pride in being a Mason, but never really explained to his son what it really meant. He told him he'd tell him about it someday. Back then, it was still something that was not spoken about. My own wife never even knew her Grandfather had been a Mason till after his death when the family found his Masonic Bible. He was Initiated in 1953 in the same small town she lived in all her life. The Grand Architect called him to the Celestial Lodge in 1996. When my wife read the names listed in his bible she was astounded to find how many people she dealt with everyday that are Masons.

It says in the code that we can not solicit membership, but can we not plant the seed of interest?

It takes a lot less work to maintain the members we already have, than to attract new ones. WB Carl Edelman had a great idea about calling our members. Are we still continuing it, and are we offering to bring some of the members we have not seen in years to lodge? Perhaps the reason they no longer come is that they feel they no longer know anyone. Like WB Chris Peterson Sr. has told many members "Halibut row is now empty". I truly miss seeing Chris in lodge.

Lets see how many old relationships we can restore. Perhaps we can find some of those old fishermen!

Ed Collinge
Junior Warden

MASONS IN THE MILITARY:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

I noticed the following announcement was posted on the home page of the Grand Lodge of Washington on January 28, 2005.

Washington State Masons Learn of First Casualty

The Grand Lodge Office received sad news today that one of our Brothers, Sgt. Joseph Stevens, was killed on Tuesday, January 25th, in Baghdad. He was serving this great Country not only as a soldier but also as a Brother. He was one of five who drowned when their Bradley Fighting Vehicle went off the road and into the canal during a sandstorm.

He was a Senior DeMolay in California and a member of Fern Hill Lodge, No. 80, Tacoma, Washington. Please, my Brothers, keep the family in your prayers.

“Well done good and faithful servant; enter into the House of our Lord.”

I am sure there are other Brothers in the Service that are in harms way. VWB Michael L. Sanders, our Grand Historian is serving in Iraq right now. If you want to wish him well, here is his e-mail address. mike@sandersecpa.net.

PASSAGES:

The following Brothers were memorialized at the January, 2005 Stated Communication. Their names will each be inscribed on a leaf for our perpetual Tree of Life at the Ballard Masonic Center.

**VWB Kenneth Warren Mathisen
(PDD)**

August 4, 1911 ~ January 9, 2005
56 Year Mason
19 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B. Leo Shulman

April 28, 1910 ~ December 21, 2001
58 Year Mason
1 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B. Leslie Klamforth

September 1, 1907 ~ February 16, 1997
49 Year Mason
9 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B. Sherman Oscar Jensen

June 16, 1919 ~ October 11, 2002
22 Year Mason
3 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B. Winston Elbert Farr

November 9, 1923 ~ January 18, 2003
28 Year Mason
7 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B. James Edward Cass

May 28, 1927 ~ March 21, 2001
39 Year Mason
11 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B. George Oscar Anderson

April 14, 1903 ~ September 1, 2004
55 Year Mason
12 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B. AAge Fiddan

July 9, 1914 ~ June, 2002
39 Year Mason
21 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

Crossing the Bar

by Alfred Lord Tennyson

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me;
And may there be no moaning from the
bar,
When I put out to sea.*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
To full for sound or foam;
When that which drew from out the
boundless deep,
Turns again home.*

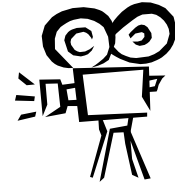
*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark;
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark.*

*For though from out this bourne of time
and place,
The flood may bear me far;
I hope to meet my pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar.*

FAMILY NIGHT AND MOVIES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

As the Junior Warden already pointed out, this month we will be featuring a slide show presentation by WB Jerry Ward and his wife Agnes on their very recent trip to China.



This event will be co-sponsored by Occidental Lodge No. 72, AND Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research No. 281. We hope members and friends of both lodges attend. It should be extremely entertaining.

The date is Saturday, February 26th. Complementary dinner served at 6:00pm, and the presentation will start at 7:00pm.

MASONIC LICENSE PLATES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)



I'm probably repeating myself here, but I can't think of an easier way to promote Masonry while commuting here in Washington State, then to acquire a set of Masonic license plates for your car, truck, motorcycle, or trailer.

Besides promoting your Craft, the proceeds go to the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders charity. You win two ways for the price of one. In order to be able to continue this plate program, we must ensure that enough are sold to pay for the plate program. If you haven't done so, AND you promise to drive carefully (see next article - 8^), then please do this.



The initial cost is a mere \$40, and the annual cost will only add \$30 to your license fees. I got mine (see above) in under 2 weeks from the time I turned in my application. It's really fun to show up at Lodge or the Scottish Rite Center and see other Masons are doing their part as well. I've even honked at a few Brothers I've seen on the road. Visit the DOL online or go to a Licensing Center, fill out the simple application, pay your fee, and that's it.

A LESSON:

Courtesy of Cinosam

Jack took a long look at his speedometer before slowing down: 73 in a 55 zone. Fourth time in as many months. How could a guy get caught so often?

When his car had slowed to 10 miles an hour, Jack pulled over, but only partially. Let the cop worry about the potential traffic hazard. Maybe some other car will tweak his backside with a mirror.

The cop was stepping out of his car, the big pad in hand. Bob? Bob from the Lodge? Jack sunk farther into his trench coat. This was worse than the coming ticket. A cop catching a Brother Master Mason from his own Lodge. A guy who happened to be a little eager to get home after a long day at the office. A guy he was about to sit in Lodge with tomorrow.

Jumping out of the car, he approached a man he saw every Stated Meeting, a man he'd never seen in uniform.

"Hi, Bob. Fancy meeting you like this."

"Hello, Jack." No smile.

"Guess you caught me red-handed in a rush to see my wife and kids."

"Yeah, I guess." Bob seemed uncertain. Good.

"I've seen some long days at the office lately. I'm afraid I bent the rules a bit, just this once."

Jack toed at a pebble on the pavement.

"Diane said something about roast beef and potatoes tonight. Know what I mean?"

"I know what you mean. I also know that you have a reputation in our precinct."

Ouch. This was not going in the right direction. Time to change tactics.

"What did you clock me at,"

"Seventy. Would you get back in your car please?"

"Now wait a minute here, Bob. I checked as soon as I saw you. I was barely nudging 65."

The lie seemed to come easier with every ticket.

"Please, Jack, get in the car."

Flustered, Jack hunched himself through the still-open door. Slamming it shut, he stared at the dashboard. He was in no rush to open the window.

The minutes ticked by very slowly. Bob scribbled away on the pad. Why hadn't he asked for a driver's license?

Whatever the reason, it would be a month of Sundays before Jack ever sat next this cop again at Lodge.

A tap on the door jerked his head to the left. There was Bob, a folded paper in hand Jack rolled down the window a mere two inches, just enough room for Bob to pass him the slip.

"Thanks."

Jack could not quite keep the sneer out of his voice. Bob returned to his police car without a word. Jack watched his retreat in the mirror. Jack unfolded the sheet of paper. How much was this one going to cost? Wait a minute. What was this? Some kind of joke? Certainly not a ticket. Jack began to read:

"Dear Jack,

Once upon a time I had a daughter. She was six when killed by a car. You guessed it, a speeding driver. A fine and three months in jail, and the man was free. Free to hug his daughters, all three of them. I only had one, and I'm going to have to wait until Heaven before I can ever hug her again. A thousand times I've tried to forgive that man. A thousand times I thought I had. Maybe I did, but I need to do it again. Even now.

Please remember me in your devotions to Deity.

And please be careful, Jack, my son is all I have left."

"Fraternally, Bob"

Jack turned around in time to see Bob's car pull away and head down the road. Jack watched until it disappeared. A full 15 minutes later, he too, pulled away and drove slowly home, praying for forgiveness and hugging a surprised wife and kids when he arrived.

Life is precious. Handle with care. Drive safely and carefully. Remember, cars are not the only things recalled by their maker.



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ON-LINE NEWS:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

If you are interested in switching to the electronic version of the Occidental Trestleboard, or even just want to try it out to see if it works for you, send me an e-mail with your request. Also write if you would like to be included or removed from this or other e-mail notices I send out on behalf of Occidental Lodge or of District Four.

I have recently updated the Lodge and District web pages. The URL or web address is on the front page banner. I post corrections and event information on the Lodge calendar there. Occidental Lodge is found at: www.occidental72.org. District Four is at: www.d4masons.org.

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