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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ March, 2005

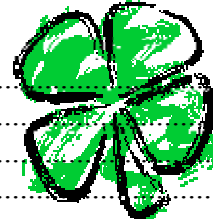
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FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

By WB [Al Mungin](#)

Greetings from the East!

The month of February has been very busy. Brother David Charroin was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason at Occidental Lodge No. 72 on the 10th of February. We welcome him and are excited about our newly obligated Brother. He is going to be an outstanding Mason.

Our Sweetheart's Luncheon on Sunday, February 13th was highlighted with the presence of Kanicktaa with her breathtaking storytelling. She went to the hearts of the audience in song and stories of Alaska to develop an understanding of how traditional values can enrich our lives today and tomorrow. The dining hall was filled with over 80 Masons, sweethearts, and kids. I received many wonderful comments. Everybody had a marvelous time.

Our February Stated Communication began with a very nice dinner. This was a very special communication because it was step-up night for all of our new officers. In addition, our Deputy of the Grand Master, Very Worshipful Brother Greg Steward paid us a visit.

We have a scheduled **visitation to Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research No. 281** on the **24th of February**. Dinner is at 6:30pm.

Our **Family Night on Saturday, February 26th** will feature a slideshow. This slideshow, by Jerry & Agnes Ward, will showcase their beautiful pictures taken in China. A light dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

We have a scheduled **visitation to Doric Lodge No. 92 on Tuesday, March 1st**, and also a **visitation to Green Lake Lodge No. 149, Thursday, March 3rd**. Both communications start at 7:30pm, and both host early-bird dinners which start at 6:30pm.

I would like to extend an invitation to all to come and join us at our **Officer's Meeting** and ritual practice to share your years of Masonic experience with our new officers. The topics of discussion will be balloting and Table Lodge protocol. The time is 7:00pm on **Thursday, March 10th**.

Three of our Brothers; Andy King, Ed Collinge, and Errol Scott will represent Occidental Lodge at the **Grand Lodge Warden's Seminar in Wenatchee, March 10 – 12**.

An entourage of Brothers from our sister lodge, **Perfection Lodge No. 75** in New Westminster, BC, will pay a **visitation to Occidental Lodge No. 72** at our **March 17th Stated Communication**. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm.

Fraternally,

WB Al Mungin – Worshipful Master

PASSAGES:

There were no memorials read at the February 2005 Stated Communication.



INQUIRY OF SEATTLE MASONIC SERVICE BUREAU:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

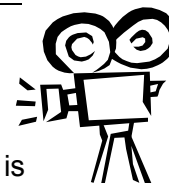
At the February Stated Communication, discussion was brought up by a number of members questioning whether our Lodge is being well served or not recently by the Seattle Masonic Service Bureau. We contribute to that organization with the understanding that emergency relief funds, hospital equipment, and funeral services would be the primary benefits available. Recently, the Bureau has claimed funds for relief were not available when asked for, and now publishing its newsletter on a monthly basis has been cut back as well. Yet, excessive expenses for executive salaries and entertainment were mentioned by some of our members. The biggest blow however was the announcement that our representative Trustee was removed from office as 1st and 2nd Vice President, because he asked for a financial audit before signing their books from last year.

With the annual per-capita dues being submitted to the Lodge for payment, the members present chose to not pay the invoice this month, and instead, asked that a letter to the Bureau be written asking for an explanation before we would consider either paying or withdrawing membership.

FAMILY NIGHT AND MOVIES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

The next scheduled Family Night and Movie will be on Saturday, April 30th. There is no scheduled activity in March. I will announce the movie title in the April Trestleboard. If you want to send suggestions for future movies, I would like to hear them.



MASONS IN THE MILITARY:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

Last month, I published an outdated e-mail address for VWB Michael L. Sanders, our Grand Historian who is serving in Iraq right now. Here is his current e-mail address: sandersm@sanderscpa.net.

Here is an article that was submitted by WB Joseph Warshawsky.

Dear W.B. Hardy:

At the November 2003 Veterans Day Program held in the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, Knoxville, TN, Mrs. Constance Del Ninno, widow of the late Captain Nicholas A. Del Ninno, United States Marine Corps, recited the poem "The Eloquent Flag." This poem was written by Captain Nicholas A. Del Ninno and given to his grandchildren. At the time, I was so impressed by his sincerity and respect that he gave to our United States Flag that I requested Mrs. Del Ninno to send me a copy of the poem to be printed by Masonic publications.

Although Mrs. Del Ninno sent me a copy within a few days, I failed to ask for her written permission to publish the poem. Recently I telephoned Mrs. Del Ninno and requested her written permission to publish the poem. During our telephone conversation, Mrs. Del Ninno advised me that her husband had been wounded during the invasion of Iwo Jima in World War II.

Since I would like to see the poem printed in the Seattle area, I request that the attached poem, "The Eloquent Flag" be published with Mrs. Del Ninno's comments, in either our "Occidental Lodge No. 72 F. & A.M. Trestleboard" or the "Masonic Monitor." In either case, would you send me an extra copy so that I can personally give a copy to Mrs. Del Ninno.

Joseph Warshawsky, P.M.
Occidental Lodge No. 72

The following poem was written by Captain Nicholas A. Del Ninno, United States Marine Corps to his grandchildren. His widow, Mrs. Constance Del Ninno, gave permission to print it and stated, "I pray that the future generation will realize that this country has given the world a great gift, freedom and justice for all."

The Eloquent Flag

When I see our flag with its stars and stripes
I completely forget about all of my gripes.
It conveys the feeling of loyalty and pride,
and it speaks so eloquently for our side.

The fifty states are represented by stars,
red blood and white purity are depicted by bars.
The banner always waved through many a strife,
the country has flown it most of its life.

The flag was adopted in Seventeen Seventy Seven,
it's always reached high toward the heaven.
A Pledge of Allegiance is our lofty stand,
it heralds liberty and justice through the land.

The flag was sewn by Betsy Ross,
the symbol has never suffered a loss.
Its unfurling creates a choking sensation,
especially for veterans of my generation.

I often experienced a tingling spine
when as a Leatherneck, I stood on the line,
and heard the Marine Hymn or National Anthem,
while smartly saluting our country's emblem.

Some forty years later I still feel that way
whenever I see the flag of the old U.S.A.
Dear Nicole and Lauren, whatever you do,
forget not your flag – the red, white and blue.

Display the Stars and Stripes with deep pride
on special occasions wherever you reside,
it's sure to make your neighbors aware
the Grand Old Flag has friends who care.

Captain Nicholas A. Del Ninno
United States Marine Corps
June 14, 1986

MASONIC BIBLE:

Courtesy of [Cinosam](#)

WASHINGTON LETTER Jan-14-2005

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

'I swear': Last-minute availability put Masons' Bible into history

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As Ryan Johnson explains it, George Washington's inauguration ceremony was painstakingly planned down to the tiniest detail about seating arrangements -- with just one exception.

As the first president of the United States arrived at New York's City Hall by horse-drawn carriage and prepared to step onto the open balcony that April 30 in 1789, it belatedly occurred to organizers that there ought to be a Bible on which Washington could take the oath of office.

One of the men at hand, parade marshal Jacob Morton, also happened to be master of the St. John's Lodge No. 1 of the Masons and offered to provide one from the lodge, located nearby at the corner of Water and Wall streets. The organization's 1767 King James Version was rushed to the hall and opened to Genesis, at the end of Chapter 49 and the beginning of Chapter 50, where Washington placed his hand for the ceremony.

As he completed the oath written for the occasion, Washington added the unscripted words, "I swear, so help me God," and bowed to kiss the Bible.

Thus was born a tradition followed by almost every one of the 42 presidents inaugurated since then, including some who have used the very same Bible.

The volume is still owned by the St. John's Lodge, which Johnson serves as chairman of the George Washington Inaugural Bible Committee. He was one of three lodge members who escorted the Bible to Washington in January for it to be displayed as part of an inauguration exhibit at the National Archives.

At a Jan. 10 presentation at the Archives, Johnson explained that in the 1770s it was something of a luxury to have a copy of the Bible, let alone one of as high quality as the Masons' edition.

Prior to the nation's independence, no publisher in the colonies had been allowed to print Bibles, because the authorization of the King of England was needed. Like the Masons' Bible, those used in the fledgling republic tended to come from Europe and at great expense.

In commemoration of the new importance of the George Washington Inaugural Bible, as it came to be known, it soon had a new engraved image of the president inserted to face the opening page portrait of King George II.

Johnson said it was likely unintentional, but the use of the Masons' Bible for Washington's ceremony also may have dodged an ecumenical problem.

"No church's Bible would have been acceptable to people of the various denominations," he explained. By using one owned by a fraternal organization instead of a Bible from one of New York's 22 different churches, a potential disagreement over the president favoring one denomination over another was avoided, Johnson said.

In the two centuries since then, the Washington Bible has been used at a variety of national events, including other inaugurations, the dedication of the Washington Monument and the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol building, Johnson said. Lodge rules also allow it to be used for various Masonic ceremonies and the inaugurations of New York governors.

Records weren't kept to indicate whether other early presidents may have used the Washington Bible for their inaugurations, but four in the 20th century did: Warren G. Harding in 1921, Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953; Jimmy Carter in 1977 and George H.W. Bush in 1989. President George W. Bush had hoped to use it for his first inauguration in 2001, but the damp weather that day put a crimp in the plans.

Johnson explained that the Bible was brought to Washington for the ceremony, but the Secret Service wanted it in place on the podium an hour before the ceremony started.

Given the Bible's age and historic value, the Masons weren't willing to let it be exposed to the cold drizzle that long, so Bush used a family Bible.

Records kept by the Architect of the Capitol suggest only one president in the 216 years since Washington was inaugurated did not take the oath of office with one hand on a Bible. Franklin Pierce, the 14th president, "affirmed"-- but did not "swear" -- his oath with one hand on a law book, instead of a Bible. Some historical records say Pierce did so because of a crisis of faith after his only remaining child, an 11-year-old boy, was killed in a train accident a few weeks before the inauguration.

The nation's only Catholic president to date, John F. Kennedy, used his family's Douay Version of the Bible. The 1850 edition was brought by his Fitzgerald ancestors from Ireland, according to the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. That Bible, a massive tome now on display at the library, was kept current with records of family births through the time of Kennedy's presidency.

There are some firm rules about the use and handling of the George Washington Bible. Only a president being sworn in is allowed to touch the pages of the Bible without gloves, for instance. But Johnson said one popular belief -- that it cannot travel by airplane -- is a myth.

The misconception that the Masons wouldn't allow it to be transported by airplane was based on the refusal of a previous grand master of the lodge to fly ever again after he returned from a stint in the military as a helicopter pilot, Johnson said. If he wouldn't fly, neither could the Bible when he was escorting it.

Gilbert Savitzky, grand secretary of the lodge, said the Masons do obtain special permission for the Bible not to be X-rayed for airport security, however. Instead, when it must be transported by air, arrangements are made for it to be inspected by hand, including being screened for explosives residue.

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SIGN OF THE TIMES:

This is much to my dismay soooo true!!!!
You'll know you're living in 2005 when...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
7. You make phone calls from home, you accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.
8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
10. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
11. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
12. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
13. Every commercial on television has a website at the bottom of the screen.
14. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
15. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
16. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
17. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
18. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
19. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
20. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list



AND NOW U R LAUGHING at yourself.
Happy 2005

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