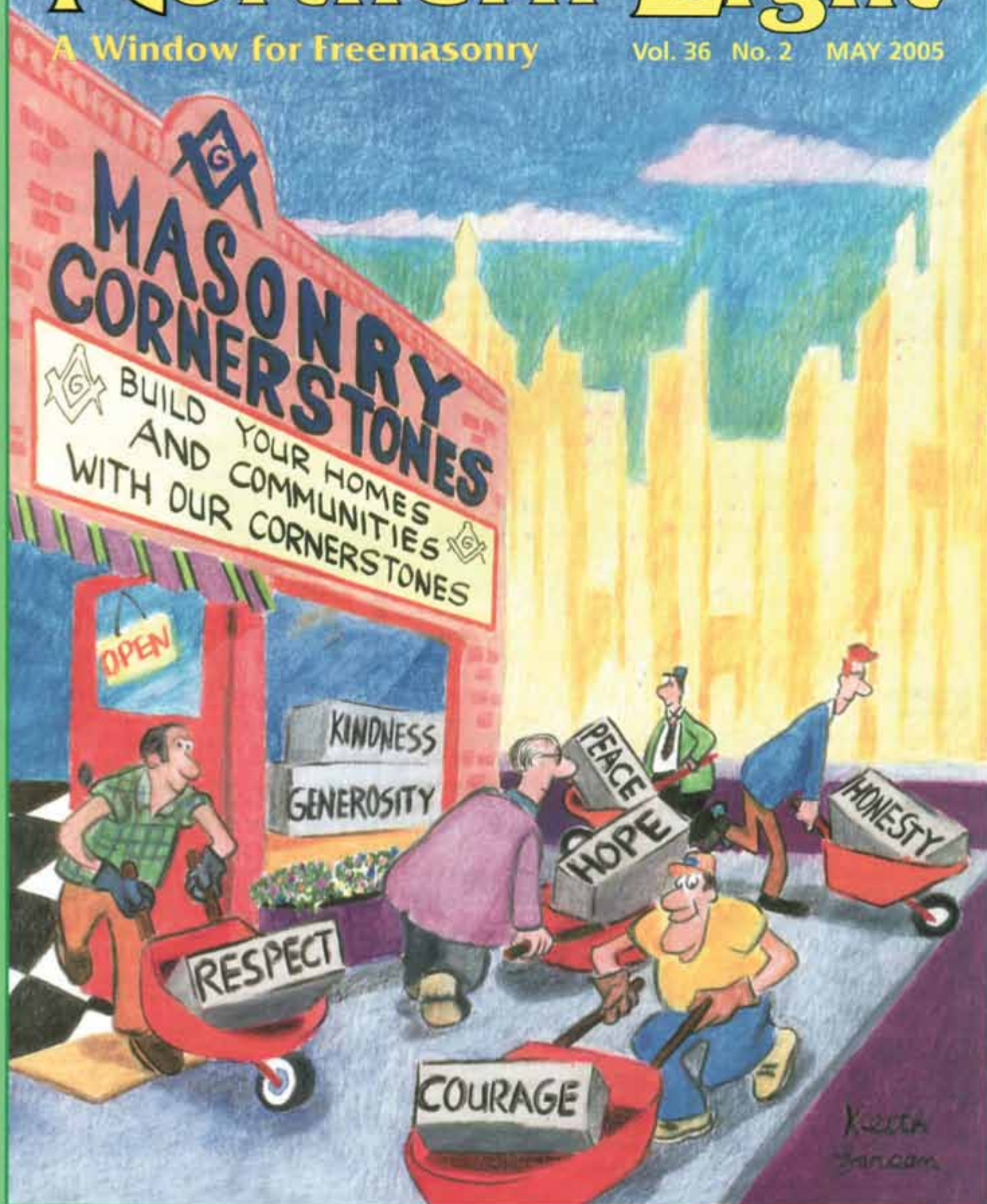


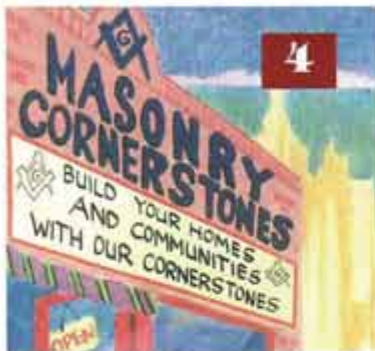
THE Northern Light

A Window for Freemasonry

Vol. 36 No. 2 MAY 2005



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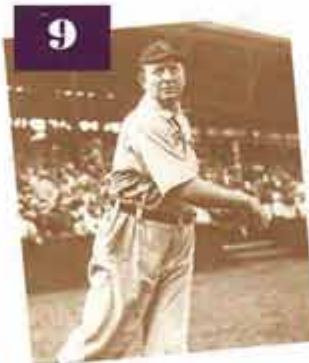
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“George Newbury envisioned a museum to highlight the greatness of our heritage.”

— Walter E. Webber, 33°



The Growth of a Dream

Thirty years ago, then Sovereign Grand Commander George A. Newbury, 33°, had a dream. The Supreme Council headquarters had relocated a few years earlier from an office suite in Boston to suburban Lexington. He looked around the 22-acre site and envisioned a museum that would highlight the greatness of our American heritage.

III. Brother Newbury embarked on a capital campaign among the Scottish Rite Masons to raise funds for the museum. The net result was the \$6 million structure that greets visitors today.

At the dedication, which took place in April 1975 on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, the Grand Commander expressed the hope that the museum and library “will be a continuing inspiration to the people of America to continue to uphold [the principles and noble ideals proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence] and to hold fast to those ideals through all the years to come.”

Originally known as the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, the name has been shortened to a more manageable title — National Heritage Museum. It continues to be sponsored by the Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

In addition to the many changing exhibitions of American life, the facility is also the reposi-

tory for one of the largest collections of fraternal memorabilia in the country. It was this collection that provided the basis for the fraternal exhibition, “To Build and Sustain,” curated by Mark A. Tabbert, 32°. Using the exhibition research as a starting point, Brother Tabbert was encouraged to expand his research to publish a book.

American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities is the result of his effort. The book is very attractive. Of the 200 color illustrations, most are part of the museum's collection. But when readers get beyond the first glance, they will find a wealth of information contained within the pages of the book. The story relates the ups and downs of the Masonic fraternity from its arrival in the colonies to the present day.

This work will not only expand a Mason's knowledge of the craft but also provide the non-Mason with a much better understanding of a fraternity that has attracted so many men for centuries.

American Freemasons is a fitting tribute to the National Heritage Museum's 30th anniversary.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Walter E. Webber". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sovereign Grand Commander

Let the Good Deeds Shine

Masonic principles are no secret



The Worshipful Master announced that he was about to call the lodge to order, and the Tyler closed the door. Whatever transpired inside the lodge room was hidden from those outside the door.

That scene is duplicated many times over wherever Masons gather around the world. Unfortunately, the outsider cannot lift the lid to peak inside the room.

There is an old story about two non-Masons who were passing by a Masonic building on the night of a lodge meeting. The first one wondered how someone becomes a Mason. The second responded, "It takes a long time. See that man at the door with a sword in his hand? He's been knocking on the door for years and they still haven't let him in."

There have been many misconceptions about the Masonic fraternity. For those unfamiliar with the lodge room scene, there has always been a certain amount of curiosity. Since Masons have not been accustomed to talking openly about the fraternity, it is logical for the non-Mason to assume that the members are withholding "secrets" from the general public.

Freemasonry's perceived secrecy has led to suspicion. Many times the fraternity has been falsely accused of plotting evil deeds within the confines of the lodge room. The tendency in the past has been to ignore the erroneous charges because

they appeared to be so far-fetched that "no one could possibly believe them." Silence, however, raises doubt.

The William Morgan incident of the 1820s may have come about by a few over-zealous Masons attempting to defend the fraternity, although it will never be known whether a Mason was involved with Morgan's disappearance.

Yet the incident added fuel to the fire created by anti-Masonic groups, who were looking for an excuse to destroy the fraternity. What appeared to be a local issue in western New York became a national fiasco. The entire fraternity was tarred with a single brush.

The mere fact that a national anti-Masonic political party was created added to the confusion within Freemasonry. Lodges closed. Family pressure forced many Masons to withdraw their membership. Political leaders who were Masons tended to disassociate themselves from the fraternity.

Freemasonry survived the devastating era, and lodges eventually began to reopen.



Throughout its history the fraternity has had its detractors. Hitler considered Freemasons a threat to his plans. Communist leaders refused to recognize the fraternity as a part of its ideology. Some religious leaders have attempted to exploit Freemasonry as a competing religious sect - whether it is because of a lack of understanding or the need for a target to strengthen their own base.



Freemasonry in Cuba was very popular prior to the revolution in 1959, but under the Castro regime was restrained. A recent article in the Chicago Tribune pointed to the growing interest in the fraternity in Cuba. During the past 15 years, membership has increased from 21,000 to 30,000. The emphasis of their mission is "to foster ethical conduct and brotherhood."



According to the Tribune article by Gary Marx, Freemasonry's popularity dropped after the Cuban revolution because many members fled into exile or became swept up by the promise of the new socialist government. The resurgence in the 1990s resulted from an economic crisis following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the island's main trading partner.

*If true fraternal brotherhood spread
beyond the Masonic fraternity,
just imagine what kind
of world this would be.*

Mark Falcoff, a Latin American scholar, considered the Masons' non-confrontational approach toward authorities as the reason for its endurance. The lodge provides an outlet for Cubans critical of Castro but unwilling to openly dissent. It attracts "people who do not want to get into trouble, but at the same time wish to be free. It's an attempt to split the difference."

Castro must see the moral lessons of the Masonic philosophy as a unifying influence. Certainly that is a position that could be duplicated many times over in other hot spots throughout the world.

It has often been said that if true fraternal brotherhood spread beyond the Masonic fraternity, just imagine what kind of a world this would be.

Freemasonry for centuries has concentrated on improving the lives of its members. For much of its existence it has opened the door to those who make a concerted effort to knock. Only recently has there been a serious attempt to seek potential candidates for membership.

The Masonic Information Center, an arm of the Masonic Service Association, has created a task force to examine the needs related to a Masonic public awareness program. When asked the question, "Who do we want to

reach as potential members?" the committee concluded:

"Freemasonry wants to reach fellow journeymen, seeking enrichment in body, mind and spirit through participation in a brotherhood committed to personal growth, good works, and spirituality."

That is a lofty, yet worthy, goal. The best way to reach that goal is to identify ourselves as Freemasons and at the same time exemplify in our daily lives the principles expressed in the Masonic philosophy. Keith Larson's cover

illustration suggests that we share our good deeds with those around us. The Masonic message is too good to be kept within the walls of the lodge room. And the world would be a better place to live.

The exemplification of ritual that emphasizes moral principles is designed to remind a Mason of his obligatory commitments. Secret words, signs and grips are one thing. There is nothing secret, however, about good deeds.



'Charity, Hope and Protection'

By MARK A. TABBERT, 32°

*Mutual benefit societies were
an outgrowth of Freemasonry*

Central to the mission of the National Heritage Museum is the collecting of Masonic history, but also important are those of the whole range of American fraternal orders.

Although often viewed as stories separate from Masonry, it was often individual Freemasons who created and built many American fraternal organizations.

This symbiotic history is at the heart of the museum's forthcoming book *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Community*.

It is commonly known that Freemasons helped organize other ritual-based orders (such as the Knights of Pythias), ethnic/religious organizations (such as B'nai B'rith for Jewish immigrants), veterans' orders (such as the Grand Army of the Republic for Civil War Union soldiers) and service clubs (like Lions International).

Perhaps most surprising is that Freemasons were often at the forefront of organizing trade unions and workers' beneficial organizations, such as the Knights of Labor, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the American Federation of Labor.

Often forgotten among these labor organizations is the Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW). Recognized as America's first mutual beneficial fraternity, it was also founded by a Freemason.

John Jordan Upchurch created the AOUW in 1869. Upchurch was born in North Carolina in 1822 and was or-



John Jordan Upchurch, a Mason, founded the Ancient Order of United Workmen in 1869 to provide greater mutual benefits for skilled workers and their families during financial hardships. AOUEW leaders later bestowed upon him the title of "Father."

phaned at an early age. He married young, had several children and spent most of his life traveling to many parts of the country trying his hand at many jobs.

For a time he ran a hotel. He also tamed horses, farmed, speculated on oil and became a master machinist.

He probably became a Freemason in the 1850s. By 1868 he was working in the lathe shops of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad in Meadville, Penn-

sylvania. Long disturbed by the growing antagonism between labor and management and the failures of both unions and fraternities to address the serious issues, Upchurch was determined to create a new order.

His AOUEW was neither a limited trade union nor an aloof ritual-centric society.

Its main purpose was to serve skilled workers and their families by alleviating financial hardships due to injury or death.

It also provided enjoyable social activities. Organized into local lodges and



MARK A. TABBERT, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum, is the author of *American Freemasons*, to be published in May.

state grand lodges, but controlled by a national headquarters called the Supreme Lodge, the AOUW developed an innovative system of assessing its membership.

For \$1 a month, a workman was guaranteed death insurance of not less than \$2,000 for his family.

In 1885, it became the largest fraternal benefit society in America. By 1895, the AOUW was so successful its total membership was more than 318,000 in some 6,000 lodges nationwide. During its first 26 years, more than \$70 million was paid to widows and orphans.

Sadly, Upchurch proved to be a better lodge brother than a businessman. He lost his authority and was eased out of the national office.

He moved to Steelville, Missouri, and was later obliged to petition his fraternity for relief.

The AOUW leaders made him a beloved figurehead by bestowing him with the title of "Father" and used his name to build membership.

When he died in 1887, he was honored with a magnificent funeral in St. Louis, and his destitute widow was given a lifetime pension of \$50 per month.

The AOUW's inner-workings and rituals were adopted from Freemasonry. Much like Masonry's Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden, AOUW lodges were governed by a Master Workman, Foreman, and Overseer.

The AOUW employed secret grips and words as well as a dramatic "play" to illustrate the tenets of the fraternity.

Such symbols as the ark and anchor, square and compasses, and clasped hands were incorporated into the rituals. The fraternity adopted "charity, hope and protection" as its tenets.

It was quite common for new fraternal organizations to borrow symbols from Freemasonry.

This altar (1880-1920) used by the Ancient Order of United Workmen, shows an anchor and the square and compasses on a Bible.

The item was acquired by the National Heritage Museum in 2000. (2000.022.1)



As the AOUW popularity grew, it added Masonic-like auxiliary organizations.

The Degree of Honor, created for women, had 40,000 members in 1898.

In 1881 the AOUW added its Select Knights degree that encouraged members to participate in parades, hold drill competitions and provide greater public awareness for membership. Note the similarity to the Masonic Knights Templar.

For a time it also had its own Shrine, called the Order of Mogullians, that included a fun side-degree and greater social activities.

The AOUW, however, was also run as a business. Before a candidate was initiated, the lodge Financier had to vouch that all necessary funds had been received.

A brother had to pay the \$1 assessment every thirty days or be in jeopardy of losing his benefits.

Local lodges that failed to forward required monies to the state grand lodge within 20 days could lose their charter.

AOUW's popularity inspired scores of new mutual benefit societies to form. Between 1879 and 1900 such ritual-based insurance fraternities as the Order of Chosen Friends, Royal Arcanum, Knights and Ladies of Security, Tribe of Ben Hur and the Modern Woodmen of America all achieved national success.

Also growing in strength were commercial insurance companies, like Metropolitan Life and Prudential, which began to aggressively undermine the fraternal system.

Soon, state and federal governments were regulating the insurance industry.

To coordinate actuarial rates, regulate themselves and protect themselves from commercial competition, the AOUW, together with 15 other orders, formed the National Fraternal Congress. (The words "of America" were added later.) ➤



Those who served as a presiding officer in the AOUW received a Past Master Workman jewel. This jewel, manufactured by the Boston Regalia Company, (ca. 1900) was presented to Ellis Worthington by Circle Lodge No. 77, Arlington, MA. It was donated to the museum by Alexander A. Bird, 32°. (99.050a.)



AOUW Chart, 1893

This lithograph shows emblems and symbols of the Workmen. It was a common sight in lodge halls and members' homes.

Bufford Lithograph Company, Boston, Massachusetts

National Heritage Museum, 91.021

► The Congress exists today with 76 member societies, representing more than 10 million members.

Despite its quick rise, the AOUW was not built on a firm foundation. The national Supreme Grand Lodge lost authority as grand lodges controlled most of the finances.

With the development of stronger unions, bigger insurance corporations and the decline of fraternal orders in general, the AOUW began to crumble.

The AOUW Supreme Lodge died in 1929. Left to their own devices, state grand lodges merged as membership declined, particularly during the Great

Depression of the 1930s.

Many of them simply changed their name and became commercial insurance companies, such as Pioneer Mutual, or were bought out by bigger companies like Republic National.

The last AOUW Grand Lodge in Washington state closed in 1975.

The National Heritage Museum has several artifacts, books, documents and photographs related to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, but we are always on the lookout for more ways to preserve and tell the story of Freemason John Upchurch and the great fraternity he built.

American Freemasons

Due Out this Month

In conjunction with the National Heritage Museum's 30th anniversary, Bro. Mark A. Tabbert's *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities* is being released. Due out this month, the 280-page, color illustrated book presents a clear, complete, and very readable account of the craft's origins in 17th century Scotland and continues with its story in America. Bro. Tabbert explores the fraternity's evolving role in the New World, from the Revolution, through the labor and civil rights movements, and into the 21st century.

Published by the National Heritage Museum in conjunction with New York University Press, *American Freemasons* grew from a museum exhibition, "To Build and Sustain." Mark Tabbert says that the title of the book reflects both its tenor and that of the fraternity. "It is about Freemasons, not Freemasonry." The organization is not a single bloc, but rather the coming together of individuals for a common purpose.

Bro. Tabbert is the curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum, located at Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington, MA.

Even before the book has hit the shelves it is being well received. Pre-publication orders already number in the thousands. The new book can be ordered by calling the Heritage Shop at the National Heritage Museum (781-457-4108) or through the Supreme Council website (www.supremecouncil.org).

Top Ten American Fraternal Organizations, 1896

Odd Fellows	810,000
Freemasons	750,000
Knights of Pythias	475,000
Ancient Order of United Workmen	361,000
Knights of the Maccabees	244,000
Modern Woodmen of America	204,000
Royal Arcanum	189,000
Junior Order United American Mechanics	187,000
Improved Order of Red Men	165,000
Knights of Honor	118,000
Total	3,503,000

Source: W.S. Harwood, "Secret Societies in America," *North American Review*, 1896.

Mason On the Mound

By ALAN E. FOULDS

*The first perfect game
tossed by Brother Cy Young*

A century ago, early in the baseball season of 1904, two giants of the sporting world squared off in an epic pitchers duel. The victor, a Scottish Rite Mason, is to this day a household name among baseball fanatics.

First of the two men in question was the immortal Cy Young. Born Denton True Young in Gilmore, OH, his unusual nickname was short for "Cy-clone."

Raised in Mystic Tie Lodge at Uhrichsville, OH, in 1904, he later joined the Royal Arch Masons. In the Valley of Columbus he received the degrees of the Scottish Rite.

Cy Young was considered the greatest pitcher in the early part of the 20th century, and many today still view him that way.

At 511 wins, he is by far the winningest pitcher, and is honored with his name on baseball's pitching award each year. He had a reserved demeanor and was very businesslike when it came to baseball. He kept his affairs in order, both on and off the diamond.

A challenger to the throne was Rube Waddell. The two had similar pitching styles and both enjoyed successful records, but their personalities were nothing alike.

Waddell was outgoing and flamboyant, to the point of being eccentric. If he struck someone out he was likely to perform cartwheels on the mound. He was a terrible hitter, and rarely got to



Cy Young in his days with Cleveland.

first, but when he did, he made a show of it. Once, when he was walked, he did somersaults down the base path.

His personal life was equally strange. He did little training. He was

often on the verge of bankruptcy, and he had two wives. When asked why he hadn't divorced the first one before marrying the second, he said he "forgot."

Throughout the first decade of the 20th century debate raged as to who was the superior player. On April 25, 1904, a series of match-ups began▶



ALAN E. FOULDS, is the Assistant Editor for *The Northern Light*, and author of the recently published book, *Boston's Ballparks and Arenas*.

➤ which would settle the question once and for all.

Both men were at the top of their game and the fans could not wait to see them square off. Cy Young played for Boston, while Waddell was a member of the Philadelphia Athletics.

In the first game, played in Philadelphia, both were throwing hard, but Waddell emerged victorious. Fans felt it was not a true comparison of their abilities since the Athletics were aided by six Boston errors.

They longed for the next meeting of these two titans of the mound. Cy Young, although the loser that day, did not allow a run after the first inning, and in the last two innings of the game he did not give up a hit, beginning an incredible streak, which lasted until May 11.

On April 30, as Boston was playing the winless Senators, Manager Collins decided to give young George Winter a start. He was hit hard for the first two innings. In the third he gave up hits to the first three batters.

Collins had seen enough. Young was brought in for long relief. Cy got the side out without a hit, and then proceeded to shut down the Senators for the rest of the afternoon. In two outings he had now thrown nine consecutive innings of no-hit ball.

On May 2, his chief nemesis, Rube Waddell, came to Boston in a classic showdown between the top two teams, although he had to wait a little longer to face Young. Waddell proved that he too was a star. He won the game, taking it into the ninth inning before giving up the only hit of the day.

By all accounts, it was a scratch single, helped out by a stiff wind. Typical of Waddell, he did a somersault after striking out a Boston player. After the game he performed a dozen cartwheels.

The two masters finally met again on May 5. A mid-week crowd of 10,267 was treated to a game for the ages. The scene was set for what was billed as the pitching duel of the new century.

Waddell came into the game with a one-hitter in his previous outing, while Young, between two games, had pitched the equivalent of a no-hitter.

Instead, what the fans saw was something much more special. The outcome was never in doubt as Waddell was hit hard all afternoon.

The final score was 3-0. The magic of

the day came from Cy Young alone. Through eight innings not one Athletic had managed to reach first base. Twenty-four men came to the plate, and twenty-four men returned unsuccessful to their dugout.

As the ninth inning started the stadium was deathly quiet. No one wanted to breathe for fear of spoiling Cy Young's concentration.

"CY
is the
KING."

— Rube
Waddell

There had never been a perfect game thrown in baseball's modern era. There had actually been two, back in 1880, coincidentally only five days apart, but relatively unknown pitchers for teams that no longer existed — Worcester and Providence — pitched both, and the rules were different.

Cy Young was on the verge of making history.

The first two batters went down easily, both striking out. This left only Young's nemesis, Rube Waddell. Waddell's batting average was abysmal, and everyone in the stands was shocked that a pinch hitter was not brought in.

Even Young would later say that he had hoped for a different batter. As bad a hitter as he was, Waddell was unpredictable. "You never know what he is going to do," said Young.

Silence enveloped the ballpark as Waddell watched the first pitch go by. "Strike one," yelled the umpire. He took a weak swing at the second. "Strike two." The park went absolutely silent. What little background noise there had been, had been quieted.

The most important pitch of his incredible career was about to be thrown, and Young looked nervous. He bent over, looking for the sign from catcher, Lou Criger. He went into his wind-up, then the pitch. This time Waddell, to everyone's amazement and horror, connected. He sent the ball high over the mound.

As Young looked up, his heart sank. He thought he had thrown away his gem on the last pitch, to baseball's worst hitter, and to his nemesis on the mound.

But it wasn't to be. The ball fell easily into the glove of center fielder Chick Stahl and the game was over. Cy Young had pitched the modern era's first perfect game.

The normally reserved Young began jumping up and down. He said he "felt like a colt." Manager Collins and his teammates surrounded Young at his greatest moment and fans poured onto the field.

Everyone had a good word to say about the performance. Team owner John I. Taylor said he was "proud to have such a pitcher on my team."

Frank Dwyer said, "I was proud to be the umpire."

Connie Mack, manager for Philadelphia, not known for his praise of the opposition, said that his team was not on top of form that day, but probably no one could have beaten Young that afternoon.

Rube Waddell summed up the feelings of the day, saying simply, "Cy is the King."

About an hour after the game, as the field was getting dark, Cy Young sat in a corner of the locker room with a smile on his face and the game ball in his lap.

A cub reporter from the *Boston Post* approached him, with tongue in cheek, and asked how much he wanted for the ball. The smile dropped from Young's face as he answered, "I wouldn't give this up for \$100."

As a postscript to the story, Cy Young kept up his mastery for a little longer.

On May 11, in a game against the Tigers, he stretched his streak to the seventh inning before finally giving up a hit. He went on to shut out Detroit in a 15-inning game. In all, he had pitched 24 1/3 innings of no-hit ball.

Young's career spanned the turn of a century as well as a change of baseball eras. In his 22 years he played for sev-



Pitcher Perfect

The Huntington Avenue Baseball Grounds, where the first perfect game in the modern era was thrown, had a short, but history-filled existence. Opened in 1901, it served as the first home to the Boston Red Sox. In 1903, the home team was challenged by the Pittsburgh Pirates to play in the first World Series. The opening game of the initial fall classic took place at the park. By 1911 the Red Sox had outgrown the stadium and they moved to Fenway Park the following season.

Today, the campus of Northeastern University covers the old baseball diamond. On the side of the school's Cabot Physical Education Center is a plaque proclaiming it as the site of the first World Series. (The Pittsburgh games of the Series took place at Exhibition Park). Behind the building, in a courtyard known as "World Series Way" is a granite marker in the size and shape of home plate on the spot where the original plate was located. Nearby is a life-sized statue of Cy Young peering down toward the mound, apparently looking for the sign from his catcher.

eral teams in two different leagues.

He began in 1890, just as the ancient "American Association" was dying, leaving the National League as the sole top-flight baseball organization. Starting with the Cleveland Spiders of the National League, he was traded in 1899 to St. Louis.

In 1901, the American League formed, ushering in what is commonly called baseball's "modern era." Cy Young joined up that year with its new Boston club, later known as the Red Sox.

In 1909, he returned to the city of Cleveland, this time with the American League's Indians. In 1911 he came back to Boston once again, this time to play for the Braves of the National League.

In his incredible career he had five 30-game seasons and an additional ten seasons with 20 or more wins. He also threw three no-hitters.

His record of 511 wins stands to this day as the all-time career best, and is 94 wins over his nearest competitor. His lifetime earned run average is an incredible 2.63.

He retired after the 1911 season, and later the "Grand Old Man of Baseball," as he was known, became the first pitcher to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Back in his native Ohio, he stayed active in Masonry for the rest of his

life. Shortly before his death in 1955, he told reporters that he "went over to Canton Saturday night for big Mason-

ic doings." On November 4 of that year, he was buried wearing his Masonic apron.



MASONIC WORD MATH

How to solve: Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word associated with Masonry.

(SALVATION) + (SOURCE) – (VOICE)
+ (TEACHING) – (AUTHOR) +
(APPLES) – (SLANG) – (EAST) +
(INTERESTED) – (TASTE) – (NEED)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 4.
Answer from previous issue: FORTITUDE

Masonry and your Neighbor

By DAVID L. OLMSTEAD, 32°

Why aren't our neighbors Scottish Rite Masons?

There are as many reasons why men become Masons — and then become Scottish Rite Masons — as there are members of this fraternity.

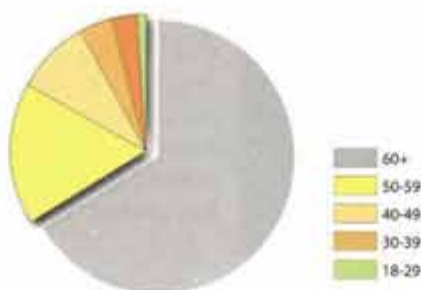
Why is it that we find it harder and harder to grow our fraternity if there are so many reasons to join? There are studies and books being published every year that offer some insight into this dilemma. In his recent book, *Bowling Alone*, (Simon and Schuster, 2001), Professor Robert D. Putnam of Harvard offers this view of our situation,

"Television, two-career families, suburban sprawl, generational changes in values — these and other changes in American society have meant that fewer and fewer of us find that the League of Women Voters, or the United Way, or the Shriners, or the monthly bridge club, or even a Sunday picnic with friends fits the way we have come to live.

"Our growing social-capital deficit threatens educational performance, safe neighborhoods, equitable tax collection, democratic responsiveness, everyday honesty, and even our health and happiness."

According to Carmen Sirianni and Lewis Friedland, editor-in-chief and research director of the Civic Practices Network, "Social capital refers to those stocks of social trust norms and networks that people can draw upon to solve common problems. Networks of civic engagement, such as neighborhood associations, sports clubs, and co-operatives, are an essential form of social capital, and the denser these net-

NMJ Membership by Age
as of 3/3/2005



works, the more likely that members of a community will cooperate for mutual benefit."

The web site *bowlingalone.com* offers a quick glimpse of trends seen over the last 25 years including a 58 percent decrease in the number of people of attending club meetings, a 33 percent decrease in family dinners, a 45 percent decrease in the number of us who invite our friends and neighbors into our homes.

And here's an interesting thought as you drive to work tomorrow — 10 minutes of commuting reduces social capital by 10 percent.

Is social capital just a new "buzz phrase" or something we need to be concerned about?

Is Scottish Rite Masonry a "dense network" of men with the same need?

Some would ask, "Do we really have to be worried about providing networking opportunities, fellowship, and even support to each other?"

In answering this, some of us need only remember that there was a time when we stood penniless and the lodge came to our aid.

Masonry was designed around the

idea of building social capital long before the researchers and authors of today's books were even born, so why aren't we writing the books showing other groups how to create it?

To better answer that question we need to look at our brethren and our potential prospects.

The accompanying chart shows the age breakdown for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction as of March 3, 2005.

There are numerous interpretations and statistical analyses that could be and are being done in the process of providing services to our members, but for the sake of this article I will address the brethren who still have kids at home and have not retired from their first career.

The number of our brethren below the age of 60 represents only about 30 percent of the entire membership.

As a member of this age bracket I must admit that as I read through the mountain of data about how many books were bought and read (a solitary process), how many computers are owned, how many video games played, how many movies are rented, and how many pizzas are delivered, I realized that once again I am a poster child for the statistician.

Have you ever stopped to think about it? You can rent movies from the video store and have them delivered so you don't have to leave the house.

You can have pizza delivered with a two-liter bottle of soda and you don't have to leave the house.

You can bank online from your house.

You can e-mail, surf the web, video conference, and even send materials to printers anywhere in the world to have them printed, packed, and shipped to someone who doesn't have to leave the house either.

You can even pay your taxes online, and thanks to a handy software pack-



DAVID L. OLMSTEAD, 32°, is the public relations and marketing manager for The Supreme Council, AASR, NMJ.

age, which you downloaded at your house, you can have your refund electronically deposited so you don't have to leave your house.

"What's that? It's lodge night? Oh, I'm a little behind right now I really need to get out of the house and mow the yard..."

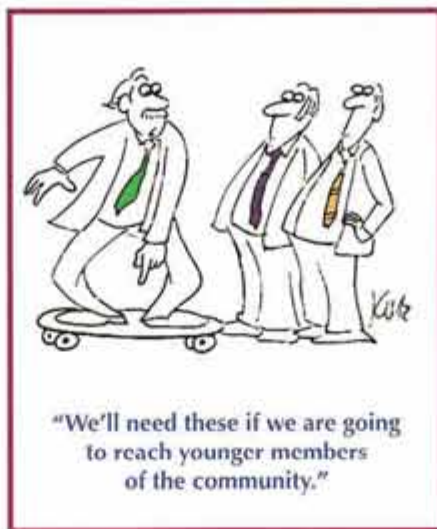
That's the cry of the modern man. We are too busy to develop community.

Cyber community is replacing community that used to be developed from being part of a church congregation, a member of the local Masonic lodge, or even a bowling league.

Sometimes one of the scariest things we have to do is to talk to our neighbors or co-workers, live and in person, without the aid of instant messaging.

As my screen glows at me with the words of this article and as the ticker at the bottom of the screen lets me know what's happening in the day's news, I think of the various user groups and discussion boards that I participate in somewhat regularly to further develop my skills for my job and hobbies.

Meanwhile, my wife and kids are off doing their own individual things.



Why is it that I can make time to anonymously communicate with a bunch of other anonymous people, but I don't know my new neighbor's name?

So what's it going to take to create social capital in our age bracket?

It's going to take individualized effort on each Scottish Rite Mason's part.

Relationships build community. There are times when a cause builds a

group or an organization, but it is the one-on-one relationships that build the community within.

The challenge is, how do we build community and add value to our individual membership in an organization as big as ours?

We start with one or two other Masons and go out to lunch, go fishing, get the families together for a cookout, and yes, you could even go bowling together.

Don't wait for a committee to complete a study to determine what event is right and will draw the most people.

Attend those events with your group of friends with whom you have developed a one-on-one relationship and you will see those events grow as well.

I'd love to spend the next few minutes crafting a superb conclusion to this article, but I just noticed my neighbor is out in his backyard trying to build a new grill.

I think I'm going to get out of my house, go introduce myself, and start building community.

Who knows, he may become a good Scottish Rite Mason.

New Scottish Rite Credit Card Program Off to Great Start

On March 13, 2005, US Bank began processing applications for the new Scottish Rite Visa Platinum cards, and it has been quite a ride so far. In the last issue of *The Northern Light*, the new program was introduced as the Supreme Council said thanks to all who participated in the previous program, which earned over \$8.6 million for the Scottish Rite Charities.

The program is simple and extremely effective in enabling you to support Scottish Rite Charities in your daily schedule. The start-up of this program includes an advance on future royalties from U.S. Bank to the charities. As each member signs up, is approved, and activates his new U.S. Bank/Scottish Rite credit card, U.S. Bank will give Scottish Rite Charities an instant cash payment. Additionally, every time a new U.S. Bank/Scottish Rite credit card is used, the Scottish Rite Charities will receive a percentage of each retail purchase from U.S. Bank.

In the first few weeks of this new program, in excess of 1,000 cards have been issued to members. According to Pam Malone of U.S. Bank's Affinity Business Group, Scottish Rite Masons are setting a record pace.

In April, Commander Webber offered a special incentive package that includes audio-visual equipment to be

awarded to five Valleys. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has been segmented into five brackets, based on size. Within each bracket, the Valley attaining the highest percentage of members to activate new Scottish Rite Visa Platinum cards before the end of the year, wins an LCD projector, screen, DVD player, media speakers, and even some popcorn. This equipment will provide the Valley with opportunities to enhance training sessions, Family Life events, and other programs throughout the year.

The next time you fill up the tank, buy a caramel macchiato at your favorite coffee shop, or book airline tickets, use your Scottish Rite Visa Platinum Card from U.S. Bank and you will help to teach a child to read, preserve part of our nation's heritage, help a promising student with college tuition, and bring researchers a little closer to a cure for schizophrenia.

If you have a card from MBNA, please note that effective Jan. 1, 2005, Scottish Rite Charities no longer receives royalty payments from your purchases. This, of course, does not mean that you cannot or should not be using this card, but donations associated with those purchases are no longer made to the Charities.

U.S. Bank has made it easy to become a part of this spectacular new program by providing attractive promotional rates. Visit www.supremecouncil.org/visa for details.



32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

2005 "Smart Kids" Awards Honors Mari from the Nashua Learning Center

Diagnosed with dyslexia, ADHD, and an auditory processing delay, 12-year-old Mari Littleton has persevered at the 32° Masonic Learning Center in Nashua, N.H., to overcome her reading challenges.

By the end of 5th grade, she was catching up with her peers, getting higher test scores, and "no longer felt like the dumbest kid in class," said her mother, Tami Littleton. "She's a ray of sunshine at our center," added Aileen Cormier, director of the Nashua Center.

Mari started middle school this year with a firm foundation for developing her abilities further in the Masons' after-school program.

What keeps Mari on track? Her own determination to excel, the caring support of her teachers at the learning center, and her family. And something else - her amazing athletic prowess, evident since second grade. A champion runner, Mari competes for her town's Police Athletic League team, the Cruisers.

This month, Mari was named runner-up Youth Achiever by the non-profit Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities organization, which will recognize notable achievements by young persons with learning disabilities at the second annual Youth Achievement Award on May 5 in Stamford, Conn. Mari was invited to attend the presentation ceremony with her family.

Mari is a quiet young lady, observed Mark Fraser, program director for the Nashua PAL, but when she's running, she shows "a high level of determination and commitment to success."

That's the spirit that the Smart Kids citation will honor, and it's the spirit that powers Mari's success in the



Mari receives an award for her achievements on the track.

learning center program. "Mari came to us full of self-confidence and ready to take the reading challenge head-on," said Cormier. "I'm sure this was largely due to her 'track' record."

Last November, Mari was named Athlete of the Month by U.S.A. Track & Field/New England, after taking first place in the Midget Girls division of the Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships at Augusta, Maine, and Amherst, N.H.

She followed these victories in December by placing 22nd out of 304 runners at the National Junior Olympics Championships in Illinois, despite having a heavy cold, and led her team to a fifth-place finish out of 28 teams.

"Why I Became a Center Director"

The following reflections were spoken by Aileen Cormier, Nashua learning center director, as she helped kick off the 2004 Walk to Help Dyslexic Children.

"About seven years ago, I decided to make a career change. My son was in the third grade and I realized the time I had with him was limited and precious, and I wanted a job that gave us more time together. I was working at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, where Bernie (Nashua mayor Bernie Streeter) was a hospital VP, on the executive Council, and knew just about everyone in the state of New Hampshire, so I figured he would be a good point person on a job search. I went to chat with him to see if he had any ideas for my career change. Besides wanting to be able to spend more time with my son, I told him that I wanted to find a job with more social significance. I can remember his words. 'Aileen, I can't believe you don't think working in a hospital has social significance.' I remember responding that I just didn't feel the connect. I was in the first teacher's training class and never left. Without a doubt, I can say to Bernie and all of you now that what I do is about the most rewarding and socially significant job I can imagine. What can a child do with his life if he doesn't know how to read? I have been working in the Nashua Center since it opened. I can tell you so many stories about lives I have seen changed."

Drawing Outside The Box:

I CAN LEARN, INC.

Created To Expand Successful Reading Program

For the past ten years, the 32° Scottish Rite Masons have been actively committed to helping children who struggle with dyslexia.

The overwhelming success of this program has led to the creation of a new initiative: *I Can Learn, Inc.* (ICL), a non-profit organization whose goal is to expand this tutoring into public school systems.

"Public education is faced with a crisis in which there are too many children in need of help and too few funds to adequately support them," says Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°, executive director of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. "That's where *I Can Learn* will help."

ICL's strategy is to cultivate relationships with businesses and organizations to support their philanthropic efforts in public schools within the greater Boston community—and beyond. In return for greatly-needed supplemental programs, schools can provide the classroom space and volunteers, which will greatly reduce the

cost now incurred by traditional learning centers.

Worldwide Education, Inc. (WE) is an ICL partner in a new venture that is producing a line of greeting cards, featuring artwork created by children who are currently in the Scottish Rite dyslexia program. Through its Artwork for Education™ program, WE conducted several on-site "Fun Days" in which students unleashed their creativity in a fun and imaginative atmosphere. "These kids have such enormous talent. Using their artwork in products for the Masons help more kids brings the process full circle," said WE CEO Charles Paul.

Two types of greeting cards will be available in mid-May: a line of all-occasion cards, and a specialty holiday line. The 5 x 7-inch cards are available in boxed sets of 12 (three each of four different designs) and retail for \$21.95, which includes shipping and handling. Beginning in mid-May, orders can be placed securely on-line at www.ICanLearnFund.org or by mail.

Sumner School Illustrates Reading Program's Success

Tuesday, March 22, was a very important day for some special kids at Boston's Charles Sumner Elementary School. The students, who for the past two years have been tutored in a Scottish Rite-sponsored pilot reading program for children with dyslexia, were participating in an art "Fun Day" to celebrate the program's success.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino was on hand to congratulate the students, and to help announce the newly formed *I Can Learn, Inc.*, whose mission is to expand the Sumner success story into additional Boston public schools and beyond.

Armed with paper and colorful markers and assisted by professional art teachers, 17 students created beautiful pictures that ranged from flower vases to colorful rainbows. Boston-based Worldwide Education then used the children's artwork to create a line of greeting cards that can be purchased to help fund future ICL programs. Executive Director Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°, mirrored the students' enthusiasm. "These kids have taken a quantum leap forward in their reading abilities. We are delighted to see them succeeding, and we are committed to expanding this effort with community-wide support so that every child in need can benefit free-of-charge."



Boston Mayor Thomas Menino hams it up with students during a recent Art Fun Day at the Charles Sumner Elementary School.

THE BOSTON MARATHON

In what is becoming a tradition, the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., has teamed up with the Boston Athletic Association. This year 15 runners, representing centers from around the jurisdiction, ran the race to raise money for the program. Among the participants were a father and daughter team, Arnie and Cymbeline Grot, representing the Waterbury center.

RACE RESULTS:

Arnie Grot	Waterbury, CT	4:34.42
Loren Winn	Detroit, MI	4:45.03
John Heycock	Harrisburg, PA	4:51.57
Joseph Hess	Lancaster, PA	4:27.26
Thomas McClintock	Boston, MA	3:45.39
Kurt Walborn*	Ft. Wayne, IN	3:01.14
Randy Bachman*	Cincinnati, OH	3:21.55
Elizabeth Brown*	Cincinnati, OH	4:15.41
Jill Norton Gaughan	Cincinnati, OH	4:23.31
Brent R. Shultz	Harrisburg, PA	4:04.41
George Tournas	Lowell, MA	4:30.32
Kate R. Zabel	Rochester, NY	4:16.55
William Snow	Cleveland, OH	4:35.57
Eric Hawn*	Allentown, PA	3:05.48
Cymbeline Grot	Waterbury, CT	4:48.25

* These runners received numbers by meeting strict BAA qualifying times.

Soaring Golden Eagles

By BLAINE F. FABIAN, 33°

The "Nest" is growing to keep up with demand of members

The Golden Eagles Nest in the Valley of Reading, PA, is only in its seventh year.

It has already expanded to provide a place for more than a hundred senior "birds" from both the Scottish Rite family and the surrounding community to nestle each month for an afternoon of food, entertainment, fun, and relaxing fellowship.

The Golden Eagles Nest is an active social club of senior adults that was organized and is sponsored by the Scottish Rite Masons of the Valley of Reading.

From its start, this club has had a dual purpose: to serve the seniors of the Scottish Rite family and to reach out to their neighbors in the community. The club's bylaws state, "The object of the Golden Eagles Club shall be fun, food, and fellowship for area seniors."

Currently among the 110 members, the ratio is about a sixty-to-forty of those who are Scottish Rite family members to those from the community-at-large.

Reading Consistory's Commander-in-Chief, Ill. James L. Boyer, 33°, speaks often about the importance and effectiveness of the Valley's involvement with the community.

He said, "More and more people know who the Scottish Rite Masons are and what we are all about because the Golden Eagles, as well as our Model Railroad Club, welcome the participation of their neighbors."



Popular area musician Chuck Mowery strummed up the oldies and turned it into a rollicking sing-along time at the May meeting of the Golden Eagles Nest.

The Golden Eagles' meetings are designed to be convenient, economical and relaxing.

Meetings are at noon on the third Wednesday of each month in the modern Scottish Rite Cathedral's ground floor dining hall or in the meeting room at the top of the ramp on the first floor.

The typical meeting begins with lunch arranged and served by the club hostess and host, Jean Petersen and her husband, Uwe Petersen, 32°.

It generally is served at a cost of \$3, except for the bountiful July indoor picnic or a rare special occasion when it could be \$4 or \$5.

The annual dues are \$4, established to cover the cost for producing and mailing the monthly notices.

A newer member recently invited three fellow Masons to a meeting and convinced them to join by asking, "Where else can you find a whole year full of fun, food, and fellowship for less than forty-five bucks?"

After lunch, a program lasting 30 minutes to an hour includes such variety as music, comedy, and speakers on many interesting subjects.

After that there is a brief — very brief — business meeting that includes updates on tours being coordinated for members by the club's tour director, Ill. Lynn Brandt, 33°, who was a prime mover in organizing the Golden Eagles, when he was Commander-in-Chief.

After every meeting, many of the "birds" stay to play cards or board games.

The Golden Eagles Nest associates closely with the active Berks County Senior Citizens Council. Many of the



ILL. BLAINE F. FABIAN, 33°, a member of the Valley of Reading, is a former editor of *The Pennsylvania Freemason* for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.



There were no ants, flies, bugs, heat or humidity, but there was plenty of food, fun and fellowship at the July indoor, air-conditioned picnic for the Valley of Reading's Golden Eagles Nest.

Eagles have joined the council and attend its events, as well.

The Senior Citizens Council publishes a widely circulated monthly tabloid newspaper called *The Second Wind* that regularly includes articles, pictures and meeting information about the Golden Eagles and other such senior groups.

Ill. Bro. Brandt is justified in feeling that the Golden Eagles Nest is a classic success story. It carries forth one of his objectives, set out when he was Commander-in-Chief. He called to the membership to reach out to the community and invite them as neighbors to share our fellowship and goodwill.

"We're fortunate as an active and congenial fraternity to have modern, well-equipped facilities, so it behooves us to share with the community, keeping our building 'alive' and sharing the light of Freemasonry."

The Golden Eagles Nest is sponsored by the Scottish Rite Valley of Reading, so the Eagles' bylaws stipulate, "An officer of the club must be a member of the Masonic Fraternity."

The current officers are: president, Harry Eisenbise, 32°; first vice president, Howard Derr, 32°; second vice president, William Meals, 32°; secretary, John Masler, 32°; and treasurer, James Holden, 32°.

Still going like 60 in South Bend

Senior groups within the Scottish Rite Valleys are a tradition, dating back many years. In April 1973, *The Northern Light* reported on a social club known as the "Committee of 60," based in South Bend, IN. Originally planned for retirees, the demand for inclusion was so great that the membership pool was expanded to include those over 60, together with wives, and widows of deceased members.

Very active in its early days the club divided its activities into three categories. One group concentrated on trips — from local shopping jaunts to European vacations. A second group planned activities such as bowling leagues and hobby nights, while the third provided community services.

Valley Secretary, Bruce A. Metzger, 33°, said that the organization is still going 32 years later, meeting for lunch once a month. Because of South Bend's geography, the Valley is segmented into an eastern and western command.

While the *Committee of 60* is based in the west, a similar organization, called the *Retired Masons Investment Club* meets in the East. They, too, get together on a monthly basis "to compare investments and strategies," says Bro. Metzger.

The crowd keeps growing and the laughs keep flowing at the Golden Eagles Nest.



NOTES FROM THE SCOTTISH RITE® OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

Special Art Exhibit in Washington, D.C.

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Octagon Museum have collaborated to produce "an original exhibition revealing the little-recognized contribution of Freemasons to the design and architecture of Washington, D.C." *The Initiated Eye: Secrets, Symbols, Freemasonry, and the Architecture of Washington, D.C.*, opens on May 18, 2005, and

runs through December 31. It will feature 20 original paintings by Peter Waddell, a noted history painter, all emphasizing Masonic contributions to American architectural history. Accompanying the paintings will be an exhibit of Masonic artifacts from area lodges. Some of the subjects depicted in the paintings include the House of the Temple, the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument, and a lodge meeting on the grounds of the White House during its construction. Any Mason planning a visit to Washington before the end of 2005 should plan on seeing this unique exhibit. For more information, please contact the Octagon Museum: 202-638-3221; info@theoctagon.org.

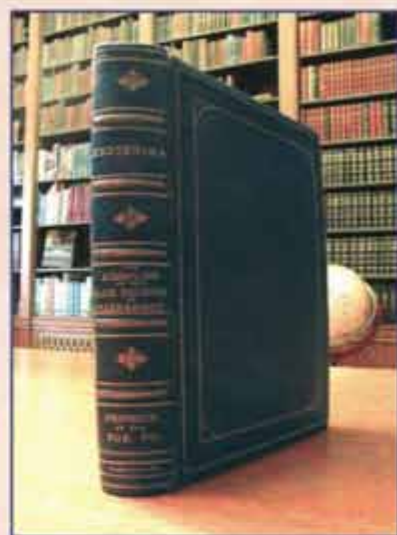


"Journey into Light" is one of 20 paintings by Peter Waddell that will be featured in the new exhibit.

SR Scholarships at George Washington University

For decades the Supreme Council, S.J., has supported undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships at the George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C. Either the applicant or applicant's grandfather, father, brother, or uncle must be or have been a member of the Scottish Rite (*any* U.S. Supreme Council). Nineteen graduate and 26 undergraduate students were supported at GWU during the 2004-05 academic year. Undergraduate scholarships are available to students enrolled in any school or department of the university for 50 percent of tuition, which presently equates to about \$13,000 each or \$52,000 over four years. Graduate fellowships of up to \$10,000 toward tuition are awarded annually to full-time graduate students in certain departments. For more information, go to the philanthropy page at www.srmason-sj.org.

Ill. Bros. Ronald A. Seale (left), SGC, S.J., and Stephen Joel Trachtenberg (right), 33°, Grand Cross, GWU president, pose with 2004-05 GWU Scholarship recipients.



— ELIZABETH A. WILLIAMS, THE SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL

SRRS to Publish Pike Book on Symbolism

The Scottish Rite Research Society's 2005 Bonus Book, to be sent to all members later this summer, will be Albert Pike's previously unpublished masterpiece, *The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*. Written in 1888, three years before his death, only two handwritten copies of the book exist: one in the archives of the Supreme Council, S.J. (shown in the photo above), and the other in the library of Quatuor Coronati Lodge of London.

Pike was famous for his studies of the symbolism of the Scottish Rite degrees, as exemplified by his 1871 book, *Morals and Dogma*. Few realize that he was one of the pioneers of serious research into the origins of Blue Lodge symbolism. George Speth, Secretary of Quatuor Coronati Lodge said this in 1889 about *The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees*, "Your lecture ... stands pre-eminent as the most philosophic & admirable work of the kind I have ever perused." For information on purchasing Pike's book or joining, contact the SRRS: 202-777-3110; srrs@srmason-sj.org.

If I've learned nothing else since our last visit, I discovered that a good number of you are really peeved about online manners and grammar.

While you were sharing your thoughts on Internet manners and such, many of you took the time to pose some interesting questions. I thought I would share a few for our edification and amusement.

Q. What are the most important security steps I can take?

A. When you think of security, you may not think of backing up files. Nonetheless, it is critically important. What happens if your computer crashes — for good? What if it is fried by a lightning strike? What if a virus destroys the hard drive? You get the picture. I recommend backing up after every computer session. For convenience, I suggest using a 512MB or larger jump drive. I use them on my Macs at home and my two Windows machines at work. Of course, ZIP Disks, rewritable CD-ROMs and even 3.5-inch disks work.

A few other suggestions: Use a high quality surge protector (never a suppressor) and make certain the protector is placed on a nonflammable, nonconductive surface. Install, run and update antivirus software. You need a good firewall, such as ZoneAlarm. And don't forget to get a good spyware detection program. I prefer Webroot's Spy Sweeper.

Q. My computer seems to be running slower than in the past. What can I do about it?

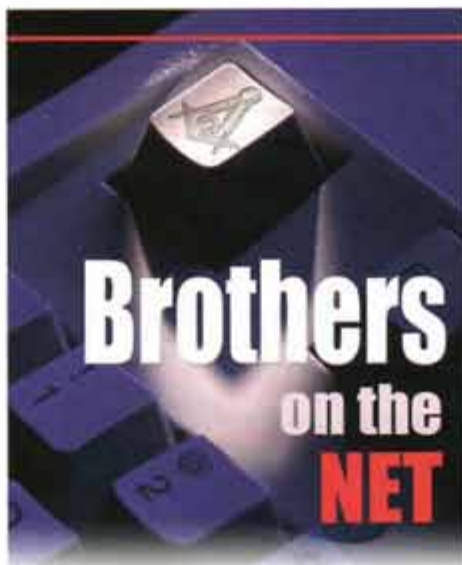
A. Junk it and buy a new computer! Just kidding. I suspect you may need to defragment your computer. This will help keep your computer's hard drive in top-notch condition. On Windows, click on the following in this order: Start - All Programs - Accessories - System Tools - Disk Fragmenter. If that seems like a lot of trouble, consider the Diskkeeper automatic defragmentation software. If you use a Mac, use the "Speed Disk" feature on Norton Utilities. Oh yes, don't forget to back up your files before defragmenting.

Secondly, have you cleaned up your computer since the Yankees last won the Series? I thought so. After saving what you want, dump the old files and other junk.

Then defragment. Your computer will feel much better.



Leigh E. Morris, 33, works in corporate communications for a major utility company. He is a member of the Valley of Milwaukee and Valley of Springfield, Ill.



Taxes, security and such

Q. My state, Michigan, has launched a drive to collect the state's cigarette tax from people who buy their cigarettes online from out-of-state sellers. Will you tell the brothers, they should promote similar efforts in their states?

A. No! I detest taxes as a matter of principle.

OK, OK, I'll address this issue. There are a number of states (including my own native Illinois) that are tracking down those miscreants who bought smokes from online sources. Since those sellers do not pay the state's cigarette tax, the states in question

are sending the miscreants bills for taxes due. According to one newspaper article, those "tax due" notices have been as high as \$4,000 to \$5,000. Ouch!

If you think this does not affect you because

you don't buy cigarettes online, think again. Many believe federal law prohibits the collection of sales taxes on online purchases. Not so. The Internet Tax Freedom Act only barred the taxation of Internet access services. Besides, that ban expired.

Sales taxes are another matter. A merchant is required to collect sales taxes if that seller has a physical presence in the state where the buyer resides. If not, the seller has no obligation to collect the tax, but legally the buyer is then required to pay the state a use tax, which is the equivalent of the sales tax.

Cigarettes taxes are small potatoes compared to the untold millions in sales taxes that go uncollected on other online retail purchases. Some cash-starved states already are making a renewed bid to go after sales taxes on Internet sales, and more will surely follow if the cigarette tax gambit works.

Q. What is your opinion of ProShow?

A. It is simply outstanding. For those of you who have never heard of it, ProShow (for Windows only) allows the user to create slide shows that can be played on a computer, a DVD player, on a website or even as an attachment to e-mail. The newest version, ProShow Gold 2.5, is now available.

Q. What is your opinion of the new Mac mini?

A. This is where the legions of Windows users slam the magazine on the table, mutter something along this line — "Here's goes Leigh on Macs again — and then leave the room. Now for the rest of you, the Mac mini is an outstanding full-featured Mac G4. At \$499 or \$699, it is a genuine value. My wife has one and loves it.

Please send your comments, suggestions and thoughts to me at studebaker55@casscomm.com

CHARITIES

The Power of Numbers

A few weeks ago I met with Ill. Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°, a member of the Valley of Pittsburgh and an Active Member of the Supreme Council.

I was delivering brochures that were inspired by a conversation we had had earlier.

"Our Brothers support the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in Pittsburgh," Tom said, "A good number would join the Builders Council too, if they could, but \$10,000 is a lot of money. Is there any way to make a pledge over time?"

We talked more and considered that pledges that support the learning centers would be a welcome option, and because a Mason's word is his bond, pledges of up to ten years were acceptable.

As a result the Builders Council Pledge Program was born. I left the new Builders Council brochures with Tom's assurance that he'd be able to sign up ten members in no time.

Well, last week I received an envelope postmarked "Pittsburgh." I opened it to find not the promised ten Builders Council pledges, but fifteen new enrollments — the most ever from one Valley at one time.

Excited, I called Ill. Brother Sturgeon to congratulate him. "Thanks Steve," he said, "but Ray Deitz from our Valley led the charge."

I called Ray. "It's really our guys who deserve the credit," he said. "I brought it up at different meetings, but the members came to me and volunteered to pledge."

"One brother, among the first, told me that he wanted to set an example for others. 'Most of the guys know I'm not particularly wealthy,' he told me, 'so if they see I've been able to help the learning center this way, maybe they can too.'"

One thing the Valley is doing to encourage more pledges is to publicize each member in *The Valley News*, their regular publication.

"With each issue, I expect to see the roster of Builders Council members grow," added Ill. Brother Sturgeon, with a hint of pride and confidence. "Our guys will do all they can, if you let them."

Now, joining the Builder's Council couldn't be easier. If you'd like to help the learning center nearest you perpetuate its commitment to helping boys and girls with dyslexia, call me at 800-814-1432 ext. 3340 and I'll send you information about the Builders Council Pledge Program.

P.S. As I finished this article, another envelope from Pittsburgh reached my desk — with two new Builders Council pledges. Way to go, guys.

Wright Place for a Great Time

Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber was on hand to visit more than 110 Brethren living in Arizona on April 3, 2005.

The event was held in the unique and breathtaking Taliesin West, winter home to Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture school.

This marked the first visitation of a Sovereign Grand Commander to our Arizona transplants.



Plans for the 2006 visit are already underway. Commander Webber will be in Florida March 1-7, and in Arizona April 1-3.

Steve Pekock, 32°,
Director of Development



Commander Webber addresses a gathering of members from the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction now living in Arizona.



The Stamp Act

Born in 1894, **Asgeir Asgeirsson**, son of a merchant, received his education in the Reykjavik high school, graduating in 1912. He received a degree in theology in 1915 and worked a short while for the Bishop of Iceland. Following his marriage to the daughter of the bishop, he worked for a bank and then served as a teacher at the Teachers College of Iceland for eight years.

He entered into the public affairs of his country, first serving in the Aiming (parliament) in 1923, later as Prime Minister, and delegate to the United Nations. He followed Svein Bjornsson as the second President of Iceland serving four terms, retiring in 1968. He received numerous decorations for his services.



Bro. Asgeirsson received his degrees in Edda Lodge, Reykjavik, in 1920 and 1921; this

was also the lodge of Bro. Bjornsson. He filled several offices in this lodge and became the third Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Iceland on March 10, 1961, serving until his death in 1972. He received the 11°, the highest in the Swedish Rite, in 1957.

A stamp issued in June 1994 for the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Iceland depicts Bro. Asgeirsson.



Ferenc (Franz) Liszt was born at Raiding, now in Austria, Oct. 22, 1811. He composed his first opera, "Don Sancho" at the age of 12. Shortly after attaining the age of 15, he started the first of his many European tours which made him world-famous as a virtuoso pianist. In the later years of his life, he turned to religion in search of inner peace. He took minor orders and became known as Abbe Liszt. Here he composed his greatest religious music. His last composition was "The Requiem." He died July 31, 1886.

Bro. Liszt was initiated Sept. 18, 1841, in Lodge Zur Einigkeit (in concordance) at Frankfurt-on-the-Main and received the 2° and 3° in Lodge Zur Eintracht (in harmony) in Berlin in February 1842. He is pictured on many stamps from many countries around the world. Shown here is an Austrian release of September 1997 which honored famed musicians.



Franco Alfano was born at Naples, Italy, on March 8, 1876. There he studied at the Conservatory di San Pietro a Maiella and later at the Leipzig Conservatory.

He lived in Berlin and then Paris where he composed the first of his published works. He served as director of several institutes and composed eight operas — best remembered for completing "Turandot" in 1924 after the death of Puccini. He died on Oct. 27, 1954 in San Remo.



Bro. Alfano was raised in a lodge in Naples on July 8, 1919, and later became a member of Lodge Mazzini Ballori in San Remo. He was a 33° Mason and is pictured on a stamp released by Italy in November 1975 for famous musicians.



Bulgaria has entered the ranks of those countries which have honored Freemasonry with the issuance of postage stamps commemorating events within the fraternity. The vertical format stamp shown was issued on Dec. 22, 2003, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Grand Lodge of Bulgaria. Many Masonic symbols are included in the design. In September 2004 the Bulgarian postal au-



thorities issued another stamp, in horizontal format, to commemorate 125 years of Freemasonry in that country.



Matthias Claudius was born on Aug. 15, 1740, in Reinfeld, Holstein, Germany, and died in Hamburg on Jan. 21, 1815. This German poet was the author of lyrics of direct simplicity, deep feeling and piety.



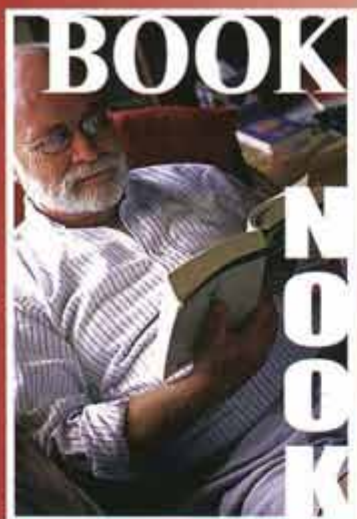
From 1771-75 he edited a small but well-known northern German newspaper, the "Wandsbeker Bothe," in which he published many of his essays and poems under the name of Asmus. He fought against the rationalistic and classical spirit of the day and sought to preserve in literature a Christian and a natural atmosphere.

Bro. Claudius received his degrees in Lodge Zu den drei Rosen in Hamburg in 1774. His name was entered on the rolls of the lodge under No. 104. In 1777 he joined Andreas Lodge "Fidelis," the 4° and 5° of the Swedish Rite, and became its Senior Orator. He later seems to have lost interest in Masonry after he joined a pious society in 1784.

He is pictured on a German stamp issued in 1990 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his birth.



Robert A. Domingue is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, MA, and editor of *The Philatelic Freemason*.



Reviewed by Thomas W. Jackson, 33°

American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities

by Mark A. Tabbert, 32°. Published in 2005 by the National Heritage Museum, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420, in cooperation with New York University Press, Washington Square, New York 10003. \$ 29.95.

A great risk one takes when writing a review of a book written by a friend is that the review may not be a good one. I have on one occasion in the past refused to write a review of a book that I knew would cause consternation with the author and perhaps with his supporters, and I will not put my name to any document if I do not believe it is factual.

Fortunately, this is a good book. Indeed, it provides a very readable and probably accurate review of the position of Freemasonry in the American community for its period of existence on the North American continent. The book contains many photographs. I am writing the review, however, from a black and white proof but am assured that the photographs in the book add very colorful visual images, enhancing the value of the book.

Tabbert has presented the craft, its achievements and its failures as an unvarnished entity, so that the reader might see it as it is and was. This approach is more characteristic of an historian than as an employee of a Masonic organization. The author is curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington. He has done well in separating any bias he may have for the craft to write a book that is genuinely truthful in its analysis. Although it concentrates on Freemasonry, it emphasizes the role that fra-

ternalism in general played through its members in the development of American society. Perhaps the book's most significant characteristic is that, although Masons will obtain a greater understanding and appreciation of their craft, non-Masons will find it equally understandable and stimulating in its simplicity of style.

The author readily admits that it is not an end-all in the history of an organization as complex as is Freemasonry, but rather, "at best, a word or key to a word to discover more insight." It offers nothing new in the field of knowledge, but rather a rearrangement "synthesized with recent scholarship." I found it to be an interesting and informative book that offered to me a stimulus to rethink, in some ways, subjects that I had opinions of in the past along with some information I did not know.

The text is divided into three parts: "Establishing Freemasonry 1600-1835," "Building Freemasonry and American Community 1835-1920," and "Adorning American Communities 1920-2000."

Part One presents the origin and development of the craft, its early history and traditions, its participation in the enlightenment along with its ritual development in Europe. It also discusses early Freemasonry in America, some major contributors to its success and its contribution to America's success. This section also presents the development of the rites and the impact of the anti-Masonic movement.

Part Two reveals the development of the craft as it evolved and led the way into the golden age of fraternalism. The creation of organizations associated with Freemasonry is presented in this part, along with the development of the numerous non-Masonic fraternal societies and their purposes that came into existence during this time. The influence of Prince Hall Freemasonry and its impact on black society is also discussed.

Finally, Part Three brings us into the present with a discussion of the change in character of American society and the fraternity's relationship to the modern world. It analyzes new organizational structures and the developing dominance of a different style of fraternalism, emphasizing a concentration on new interests. It also defines the essence of Freemasonry's purpose with its search for wisdom and brotherhood of man, making it a different form of entity from its imitators.

The author effectively presents the rise to prominence of Freemasonry along with its challenges and its influence in the development of civil society. The diversity of the organizations molded after Freemasonry, or created by Freemasons, should be of interest to those unfamiliar with the rise of fraternalism. Most of the other fraternities, beneficent societies, civic organizations, social clubs, college fraternities, as well as Mormonism all found the tenets and the ritual structure of Freemasonry a comfortable foundation to imitate.

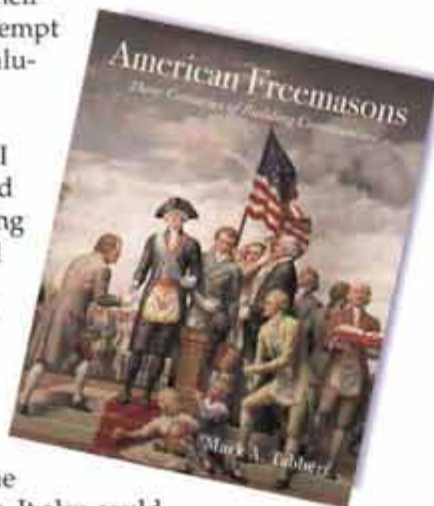
The book presents well the uniqueness that characterizes the Masonic fraternity and differentiates it from its imitators. It expresses the concerns, that permeate the thoughts of current Freemasons, with those whom

we admitted and failed to indoctrinate. "But as Freemasonry increased in size, it failed to fully orient and assimilate the new members." Also, "the impersonal feeling about their reception into the lodge will inevitably reduce to a minimum if not smother . . . that impression of brotherly love and friendship, which is the great, the real, the ineffable and incommunicable secret of Freemasonry."

The author has performed a good analysis of the attempts of leadership to solve the number of concerns with the changes instituted in the philosophical style of the craft in North America. We have tended to mold Freemasonry into a visible charitable organization, and as Tabbert points out, "those charitable efforts did not change the public's perception of Freemasonry." Two final observations paramount to our future, "Freemasonry was losing the one commodity that every craft must hold dear: quality," and "Freemasons altered their standards in a vain attempt to make quantity as valuable as quality."

I found several insignificant points that I question, and I did find somewhat disconcerting — a jumping back and forth of reference to periods of history and subjects — but I understand why it is presented this way.

This is a book that should find a niche in all Masonic libraries. It also could serve as a primary reader for those who wish to develop a basic understanding of the role that fraternalism in general, and Freemasonry in particular, played in America's development.



Sacred Sites of the Knights Templar

by John K. Young. Published in 2003 by Fair Winds Press, 33 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930. \$24.95.

I would suspect that most who have been reading my reviews would consider me fairly liberal in granting license to an author's presentations of theories, and indeed that would be correct. My liberalism in this regard probably comes from my formal training in the field of science. I have no problem with theory. This text, however, surpasses even my liberalism in its assumption of far-fetched possibilities to tie down conclusions.

The author presents a discussion of megalithic sites found in various geographical locations — the most well-known being Stonehenge — together with their astronomical significance. There can be little debate on this analysis, and is supported by many experts in the

field. He has expanded my knowledge concerning sites of which I was unaware.

He goes on to point out that the Templars used many of these same sites to erect their own structures, including churches and castles, with a probable understanding of their astronomical significance. This is probably not an unfair assumption and is supported by others. It is assumptions beyond this point that stretch credibility.

For example, Young implies that Saniere's discovery of parchments in hollow columns at Rennes-le-Chateau, a site possibly understood by the Templars, was "deliberately arranged to contain this symbolic connection to Freemasonry." He says, "These symbols also show another connection between the Temple of Solomon, the Knights Templar, and the Freemasons." He also ties the Priory of Scion to Freemasonry because its site of origin was Rennes-le-Chateau and because it claims descendency from the Templars. It is his contention that the Freemasons might have inherited the goals of the Templars. Indeed, he refers to Freemasonry as the spiritual descendants of the Templars.

It is difficult to accept conclusions such as, it not being a coincidence that the days recognizing the two patron saints of Freemasonry fall very close to the summer and winter solstices, thus relating the craft to the Knights Templar. Being close hardly offers great significance and the author relies upon closeness for too many conclusions.

It is just as difficult to acknowledge that the "lion's grip" may relate to the sign of Leo or that the seven officers who participate in Masonic initiation rites correspond to the seven planets.

He continues to build upon assumptions and uses the possible inheritance or adoption of Templar interests by Freemasonry. He concludes that there are sites outside of Europe linked with astronomy. One site in Virginia, is a church erected with its orientation only three and one-half degrees from an east-west axis, causing a beam of sunlight to fall upon the altar only 14 days after the vernal equinox, and again during the autumnal equinox.

In addition, the layout of the District of Columbia is affected by Masonic influence, with an astronomical layout, including Pennsylvania Avenue, being oriented so that only on August 10th the sun sets on the end of that avenue. A half-hour later the stars of the constellation Virgo set on the same spot, and Virgo has a role in Masonic symbolism.

It is evident from his references that at least some of his conclusions are the result of building upon unreliable research sources. I dislike the need to criticize those who are supportive of the importance of the craft, but even with all my liberalism, I must conclude that this is not a book that I could recommend for accurate knowledge, even though I enjoyed reading it.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33*, was formerly Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He is Executive Secretary for the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and the book reviewer for *The Northern Light*.

Health Wise

ideas
for
health
and
fitness



Donating Blood has Health Benefits

Giving blood is not just good for those who receive it. Donating blood has benefits for those who give it, too.

According to the Central Florida Blood Bank, donors routinely receive a mini health check for blood pressure, cholesterol, temperature, pulse, and iron levels.

The agency reports that men who give blood three times a year reduce their risk of heart attack.

Dark Chocolate

Doctors at Athens Medical School found that polyphenol flavonoids in dark chocolate stimulate the production of nitrous oxide, a substance that dilates arteries. Eating a 3.5-ounce bar of extra dark chocolate can increase blood flow for three hours, the researchers say.

According to the editors of *Prevention* magazine, other studies show that eating three ounces of dark chocolate a day could lower blood pressure.

Keep Water Handy

During a normal day of activity, the body needs about two quarts of liquid to replace bodily fluid losses. Eight glasses should come from drinking water and other beverages. The remainder, about two cups, comes from solid foods.

Doctors at the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance say fruits and vegetables are 85-96 percent water. Steak is 50 percent. When exercising, one half to one quart of fluids per hour is required to replace sweat loss during moderate physical activity.



Gallstone Risk Reduced

Harvard researchers say a high consumption of nuts, lower the risk of gallstones by 30 percent. Those who lowered their risk ate five or more ounces of nuts per week.

The data came from the Health Professionals Study of 51,529 male American dentists, veterinarians, optometrists, osteopathic physicians, and podiatrists.

Why TV Makes You Gain Weight

Is having a television the same as having a 19-inch brownie in the house? That's what Katherine Tallmadge, the author of *Diet Simple*, says.

Not only does it lead to mindless nibbling, but also some experts say that it slows the rate at which you burn calories. "Your metabolism is nearly as slow as when you're sleeping," Tallmadge says. "It takes a big toll on kids' health, as well."

Pediatricians at Stanford found that cutting back on the amount of time kids spend in front of the TV contributes to significant weight loss.

Productivity Ailments

Employers are analyzing their costs for employee conditions such as allergies, headaches, and stomach problems. When people show up for work but operate at less than 100 percent, employers call it "presenteeism rather than absenteeism."

Surveys done by an independent company show that ailments, including depression and allergies, are problems. They are not reflected in big medical bills, but they affect productivity, according to surveys by Tufts-New England Medical Center and the National Opinion Research Centers.

Artificial Disc Approved

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first artificial spinal disc for use in the U.S. It treats pain associated with degenerative disc disease. Called Charite, it can replace a damaged intervertebral disc.

More than 200,000 Americans now undergo spinal fusion every year. Many could use this alternative treatment. Spinal fusion can add pressure to discs surrounding the fused segment, often leading to additional back surgery.

Exercise Hones Brain

A new study by the National Institutes of Health shows that exercise can help keep your mind sharp. The researchers say couch potatoes are 2.5 times more likely to develop dementia than people who exercise regularly.

A Gift to the Nation:

National Heritage Museum celebrates 30 years



The past meets the present as Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, and John H. Ott, 32°, review a copy of *American Freemasons* with former staffers Barbara Franco and John Hamilton, 33°.

Three decades ago Commander Newbury's dream of a museum dedicated to our American heritage came true. It opened in conjunction with the start of the American Revolution bicentennial, which took place just a half-mile away on Lexington Green.

At that time came the query, "How can we be sure the museum will last?" On April 20, 2005 — 30 years to the day after the grand opening — the National Heritage Museum answered that question.

In a gathering of present and former staff members, together with officials from the host town of Lexington, MA, and luminaries from the field of American history, its 30th anniversary was observed and celebrated.

Hosted by Director John H. Ott, 32°, a series of speakers told the story and legacy of the institution, which was intended as, "a gift to the nation from the Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Jurisdiction."

Ill. Harold Aldrich, 33°, secretary of the museum's board, talked of the vision of George Newbury, who wanted to present exhibits on the American way of life and the fraternity's rich history.

Norm Cohen, newly elected select-

man for the town of Lexington, brought greetings from the local community and announced that April 20, was proclaimed *National Heritage Museum Day*.

Mr. Cohen said that he happily accepted the job of representing the town, for two reasons. First were the hours he spent visiting the diverse exhibitions. He also expressed his gratitude to the Supreme Council for allowing town meetings to be held there for several years.

Lou Cassagrande, representing the American Association of Museums, talked of museums as civic institutions. He said that the NHM has been a role model for its ties to the community. He finished by pleading, "May it stay true to that American spirit."

William Fowler, noted author and director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, spoke of the importance of history. "Without knowledge of the past, we are marooned in time." He stressed that all history emanates from our own neighborhoods.

Barbara Franco, currently the executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, returned to the museum she helped open 30 years ago. She provided background into the thought process of its opening and its vision. She said, "It was like no other history museum. It was national in scope when most were local. It was a modern

building, and not an historical structure. It had no collections." Many experts of the time asked how a museum that did not follow the rules could survive.

"George Newbury saw into the future," she said. "He envisioned a place to exhibit the collections of others. His goal was to present lively displays and educational programs. The result was a lean, mean exhibition machine, set apart by emphasizing exhibits rather than collections."

She concluded, discussing early groundbreaking programs such as the hands-on Sir Francis Drake exhibit, from the British Library, and the early use of technology in the creation of *George Washington Superhero*, featuring a database of places where the father of our country slept.

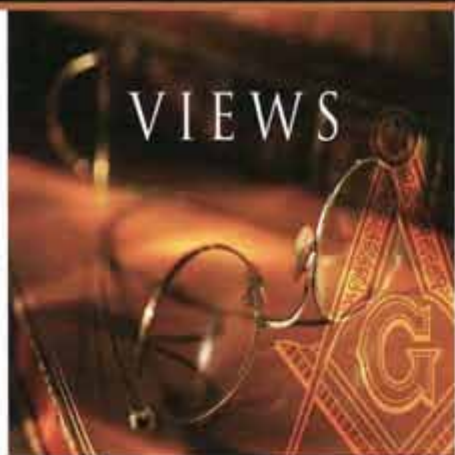
The anniversary celebration concluded with the presentation of the museum's latest project — Bro. Mark A. Tabbert's *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities*. Bro. Tabbert outlined his book, explaining that it answers three questions: "Why Freemasonry?" "Why join?" and "What do Masons do?"

The book, he pointed out, "is not about Freemasonry, but, as the title implies, about Freemasons. The organization is, after all, individuals coming together."

Those expressions were an appropriate way to end the celebration of an institution that has come to be known as a place where many separate histories have come together and offered to the public.

New banners adorn the exterior of the building.





FROM THE PAST

A Progressive Moral Science

Our single responsibility as Masons is a determination to follow the precepts of the craft, for therein lies salvation for the great forces that have disturbed the universe in every generation.

If we can only look out the windows of Heaven and say that while we were here we were patient enough to make our contribution and to keep our hopes intact against the day when there should be an ennobling of the spirit of mankind through the individual, we have the real answer to the problems that beset the world today.

So Masonry must shine. I think of our efforts in seeking to achieve peace.

We think in terms of covenants and agreements.

We think in terms of many people and the power of government, but then always forget that the only hope is not the great aggregations, but of people, the minds, souls, and hearts of individuals made better, who rise above themselves to become an influence in their communities and their country.

This is Masonry — the progressive moral science to which we are wedded.

— US Senator Everett M. Dickson,
member of Pekin Lodge No. 29, Pekin, IL.
Addressing the Grand Lodge of Illinois

Revelance and Visibility

I believe we face a major and critical challenge of a kind Freemasonry has probably not seen for three or four hundred years. It's a challenge to our very existence.

If we close our eyes not only will the challenge pass, Freemasonry will pass as well.

Our organization's health and welfare depend entirely on our response to the challenges we now face.

In the last 25 years the membership of Freemasonry in this country has halved. There are signs that the trend is downward.

Is Freemasonry irrelevant in this new age? Is our moral base no longer appropriate? Are we misunderstood by the people of this new century?

The revelance question sounds like the right one, doesn't it? I can almost hear people saying, "We must be more 'relevant' for today's world!"

Well, I don't agree. I don't think it's at all an issue of "being more relevant" — the principles and tenets of Freemasonry have been and always will be, relevant.

Earlier, I said we were facing a challenge greater than any for the past 300 years or so. In saying that, I was talking of the challenge Freemasonry faced in the 17th century — again it was a crucial challenge to its very existence.

That too was a time of great social and moral change. The English had developed bricks. Stonemasonry, which had existed unchallenged for hundreds of years, was under siege.

But the underlying principles of stonemasonry — the ethics, the sense of rightness, the pride in the craft,

duty to the community — those things remained.

And it was those unchanging principles which became the foundation of a masonry not built of stone but of rock-solid morality.

That's the reality — Freemasonry was not founded on a practical craft that had suddenly become irrelevant, but on a set of moral principles that remained constant in any age. Honesty, Integrity, Trustworthiness. The craft had generated those principles as far back as the first millennium, but it was the principles themselves that survived change in the second millennium. When the craft changed, the principles did not. There's no reason to suppose that this third millennium will differ in any way.

We are relevant. We always have been. In our efforts to keep our light under a bushel, we now find ourselves in danger of extinguishing.

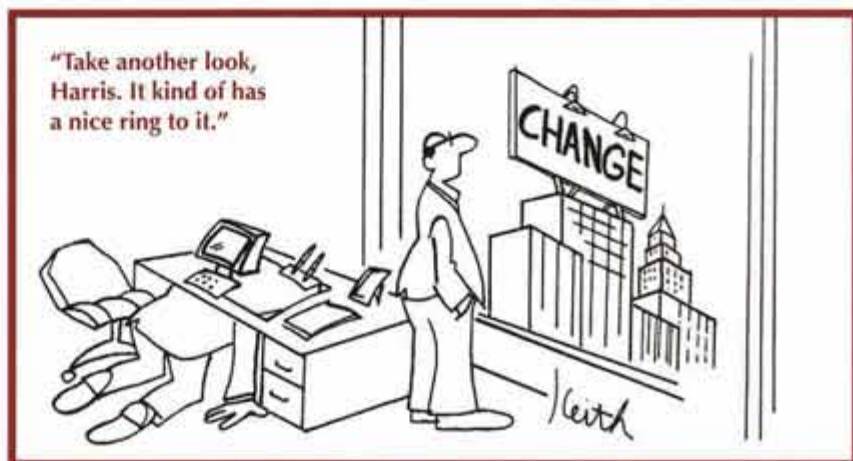
We must change. We've done it before — it is time to change again.

Perhaps we're afraid we might be losing hundreds of years of history. In fact, I believe we'll gain hundreds of years of future. We must set aside our fears, and stand against our own negativity towards change.

We need to encourage Freemasons throughout the country to identify practical ways to move ahead — and to embrace the awesome challenge that faces us, to be visible — of deliberately allowing Freemasonry to be known and to be understood.

Freemasonry is, after all, a way of life. That's no secret.

— I.R. Ross, *The New Zealand Freemason*, Vol. 29, No. 1, 2001



The Purpose of Masonry

Masonry is a great fraternity whose purpose is to enlarge, ennoble and glorify the lives of its members.

As the beauty and strength and value of the tree or fruit or flower depend on the extent to which they gather from the soil all the elements that go to make up its life, so every human soul develops to the degree that it absorbs the truths of the universe of which it is a part. *Search for truth, therefore, is the end and aim of Masonry; the task of the Mason.*

The human mind is limited. The universe is immeasurably greater than any of its parts; the creature always less than the creator.

So any mind, even that of the wisest of men, must always fall short of the infinite wisdom of God, the supreme mind of the universe.

If, then, Masonry be the search for truth, and the duty of the Mason is to make this search in order to use the truth to improve his own and others lives, there is no place and no time at

which we can stop.

Once we are satisfied that we have all the truth and feel we can be content with what we are, we at once prove that we are incapable of understanding or unfit to have it. From the straight lines and angles that bound the surface of the earthly plane, we must ascend through the curves that embrace the entire universe.

Masonry began in the long ago; it will continue to the end of time. It has had a history; therefore it must continue to have a history. It has gone through many changes; it must continue to become more and more perfect through further changes. Only he is the Master Mason who endeavors to follow the Masonic search for truth, and all of Masonry is necessary to reach this.

To stop at any point means to fall short, to be less than a Master Mason.

— George Solomon, 32°,
The Far Eastern Freemason, January 1920

Change Is Scary — and Necessary

Men are like horses — they shy at things which are perfectly safe. When they are used to them, the danger passes. It seems to me that a slow movement is best, and that a movement which extends over the next 25 years, with a right purpose in view, gradually worked out, would be speedy enough in comparison with the present age of Masonry and its probable continuance.

It would be satisfactory if in that time, little by little, the Masonic fraternity of the United States is welded into one compact whole. All great bodies are slow, and movements are slow because people are slow as units.

The real hindrance is that any change from the established order of things is a jolt to the mental works of too many men. "What has been" is right to them simply and solely because it has been, and they are used to it. There is nothing vital in most of the things to which we are accustomed. Many men are afraid of an untried movement because they

are not trained to think to the end of it and imagine it at work.

Imagination is the Hiram Abiff, the architect of all progress. It is a difficult thing to arouse men's minds to an interest in what will benefit them, if they can get along without some imperative need insisting on their immediate thought. It is difficult to free men's minds from fear of what might happen because it has not happened. Men let their affections fasten to unimportant things as barnacles attach themselves to the bottom of a ship.

A floating box would do as well as a ship. The barnacle is not particular. The barnacle hinders the progress of the ship, and many really unimportant things become barnacles on the minds of men and hinder their progress and the progress of orders and institutions. You are not built that way.

— Charles N. Mikels,
*Grand Master of Indiana, Proceedings,
Grand Lodge of Indiana, 1909*

Quick Quotes

Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship.

— Buddha

Always design a thing by considering it in its next larger context: a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in a city plan.

— Eliel Saarinen

Modesty is the only sure bait when you angle for praise.

— Lord Chesterfield

Taxation WITH representation ain't so hot either.

— Gerald Barzan

The only way for a rich man to be healthy is by exercise and abstinence, to live as if he were poor.

— Dr. Paul Dudley White

He that is surprised with the first frost feels it all the winter after.

— George Herbert

The best educated human being is the one who understands most about the life in which he is placed.

— Helen Keller

In reading the lives of great men, I found that the first victory they won was over themselves. Self-discipline with all of them came first.

— Harry S. Truman

Any man's life will be filled with constant and unexpected encouragement if he makes up his mind to do his level best each day.

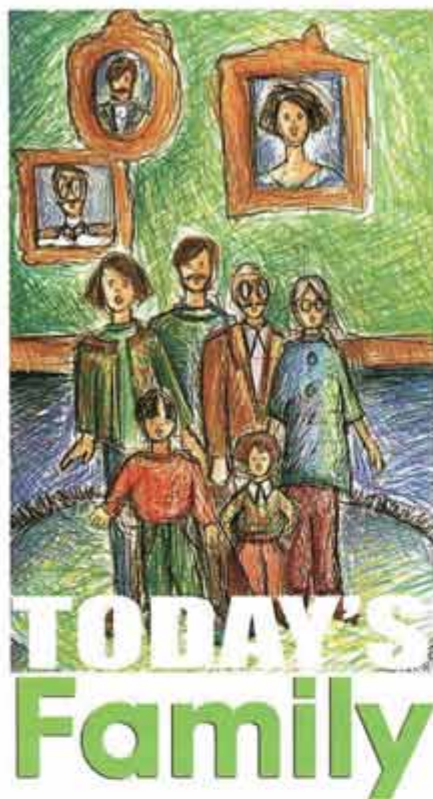
— Booker T. Washington

The more faithfully you listen to the voice within you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside.

— Dag Hammarskjöld

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift, and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.

— Albert Einstein



listing in the U.S., plus listings for Canada.

So for a pleasant evening, put the kids in the back of the van and head for the drive-in, and relax in front of a really big screen.

A Recipe for Happiness

After spending 30 years studying the mysteries of marriage, Dr. John Gottman of the University of Washington says:

- Show interest in each other's thoughts and feelings.
- Share your joy. Let each other know when you are excited or delighted.
- Show affection.
- Respect each other's feelings, even when you don't agree.
- Listen without being defensive.
- Display pride in one another.
- Prove you care by checking in — calling to ask how things are.
- Have fun.

Replace Worn Bicycle Parts

Spring is a good time to replace bike parts that may be worn. Here are five things you should check, according to expert Richard Ries:

Your tires. All tires age. Rubber gets harder.

The Chain. Measure the chain stretch to determine whether or not your chain needs replacing. An old chain is

prone to breakage and can cause poor shifting.

Cables. Cables are the wire cores. Your first indication of failing cables may be a snap followed by a loss of tracking or shifting.

Brake pads. Brake pads harden over time and braking efficiency suffers. They also pick up bits of grit that grind against the rims.

The computer battery. An old battery gives a weak display and causes sluggish updates.

Stop a Dog from Barking

The Humane Society of Denver says a barking dog can cause neighborhood disputes and violations of animal control laws. Determine when, and for how long, your dog barks, and what's causing it. The Humane Society recommends:

- Walk your dog daily.
- Teach him to fetch.
- Teach commands for five to ten minutes a day.
- Provide toys to keep him busy while you are out. Rotate the toys.
- Catch him in the act of doing something wrong and stop him with a firm "no."
- When you have to leave him for extended periods, get someone to walk him.
- Teach him a "quiet" command.
- If he barks when you are home, call him to you and have him obey a command such as "sit." Praise him and give him a treat.

Kids and Steroids

Keep an eye on kids who are involved in athletics or bodybuilding. A study by the University of Michigan shows that more than four percent of all high school seniors have taken steroids. Aside from physical problems, steroids can cause severe depression leading to suicide.

Drive-in Movies are Back

Drive-in theaters, the hit of the 1950's are making a 21st century comeback. Most drive-ins with those enormous screens have closed down, but new technology and lower admission prices have made drive-ins popular once again.

There have been lots of changes in the drive-in experience. For one thing, the sound is better. In the old days drivers would mount heavy speakers on their car windows. The speakers were often broken. Theatergoers now tune the sound in on their own car radio. You can also bring a portable FM radio and sit outside.

To find a drive-in near you, go to driveinmovie.com for a state-by-state



Smoke and Kid's IQ's

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey shows that exposure to secondhand smoke reduces children's scores on math, reading, and spatial skills tests by two to five IQ points.

The study was the largest and most scientific of its kind. For the first time, it used the level of cotinine in the blood as a biological marker for smoke exposure. Cotinine is a breakdown product of nicotine. Children with the highest levels of cotinine had the lowest test scores.

Study authors estimate that 21.9 million children are at risk for smoke-related reading problems.

READERS



RESPOND

Look-alikes?

Fred Hale's picture, that appeared in the February issue of *The Northern Light* looks exactly like me. I couldn't believe it when I saw it. I have shown it to a dozen or more people and they think it is a picture of me. Even my wife thought it was me.

P.S. I have started on the bee pollen & honey routine.

William Bradley Matthews, 32°
Valley of Scranton

Editor's Note: We hope Mr. Matthews doesn't have to wait as long as Fred Hale for his baseball team to win the World Series.



Adopt-A-Billboard



The Grand Lodge of Indiana has initiated a new Masonic promotion to "spread the word in your town."

Sponsored by local lodges, billboards throughout the Hoosier state are spreading the word of a new website dedicated to answering questions and concerns about the craft. Touting the organization as "a fraternity of fellowship and character," the website addresses frequently asked questions, tells of famous Freemasons, and offers quick links to local lodges, the Grand Lodge, and Scottish Rite Valleys.

Quick access is also offered to sites dedicated to Masonic youth groups, Indiana Masonic homes, and the state's CHIP program.

The Oldest Mason

I read with interest your story in the February 2005 issue regarding the longevity of Bro. Fred Hale.

Now that he has passed on, I believe New Jersey has the honor of having the oldest living Master Mason and Past Master in the person of Wor. Brother Arthur Warmington.

He was born in 1895, served as Worshipful Master of Cincinnati Lodge No. 3, in Morristown, NJ, in 1935. He is alert, reads daily papers and books all day. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Daniel M. Wilson, recently awarded Art his 70-year Past Master's pin.

Richard Cadmus, 33°
Valley of Northern New Jersey

A New Look

I want to say the February issue of *The Northern Light* was one of the finest I can remember. Not only was the cover great but the fresh look at many of the columns seemed more alive and the "new" information most interesting.



Ken Lieb, 32°
Valley of Rockville Centre

"Uh, oh! One of your new ideas must have been published in your lodge magazine."





The Book Shelf

Over the years, many members have written books on non-Masonic topics. We occasionally provide listings and summaries of these books that might be of interest to our readers.

Snow on the Rails: Tales of Heartland Railroad, by Dennis Boyer, 32". Published by Badger Books, Inc. P. O. Box 192, Oregon, WI 53575. \$15.95.

Concentrating on the American Midwest, this book is a collection of railroad stories and legends, each exploring a place and person that displays the flavor of that part of the country.

Train crews, mechanics, laborers, and station workers are described in detail before a background of lonely rail yards, prairies, decrepit hotels, forests and cities.

A full range of behind-the-scenes railroad lore is brought to life, according to the author.

Wild West Characters, by Dale Pierce. Published by Golden West Publishers, 4113 N. Longview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85014. \$6.95.

From such legendary names as Bat Masterson and Pancho Villa to matinee idols like Tom Mix, author Dale Pierce presents vignettes of some of the most colorful characters of the old West. His stories are based on lengthy research and multiple sources,

intended to present the truth behind the myths.

His goal is to provide "a closer, truer look at the activities and lives of various personalities, good and bad, famous and not so famous, who left a mark" on that part of history.

John Paul Jones: Father of the United States Navy, by Wallace Bruce. Published by iUniverse, 5220 S. 16th St., Suite 200, Lincoln, NE 68512. \$18.95.

The author examines the life of an American legend from his beginnings in Scotland to his death in Paris, closing with the return of his body to Annapolis for interment.

Along the way the reader is taken on many diverse adventures. Jones' naval career began as he became a cabin boy by the shorter name of "John Paul", and later, at the age of 21 he became captain of his own vessel.

His initiation into Freemasonry is included in the narrative, as are his past scrapes with the law, which required his name change, and finally, his ultimate heroic contributions to the growth of the U.S. Navy.

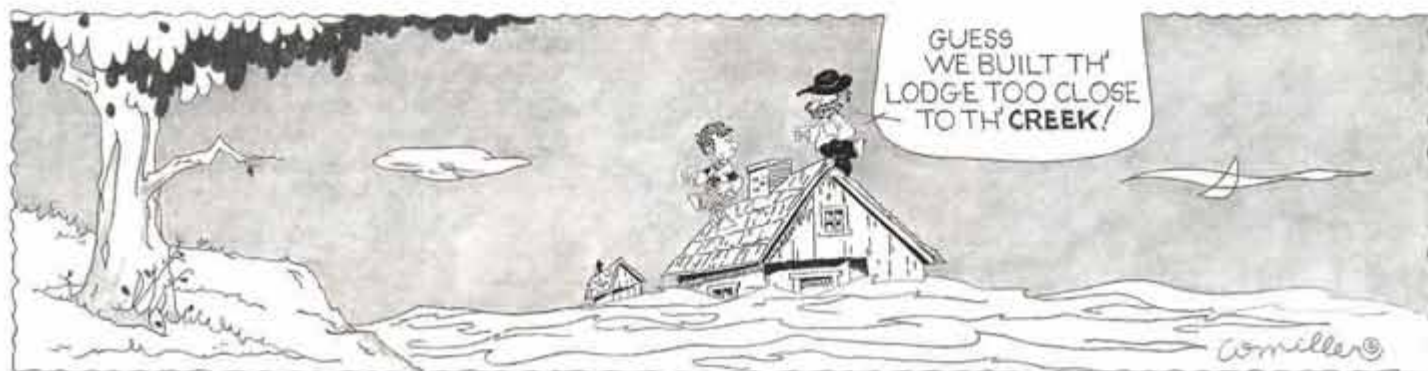
On the Lighter Side

Ads seen in newspapers:

- Lost: small apricot poodle. Reward. Neutered. Like one of the family.
- A superb and inexpensive restaurant. Fine food expertly served by waitresses in appetizing forms.
- Four-poster bed, 101 years old. Perfect for antique lover.
- Expert laundry: We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.
- Expert dry cleaner: No matter what your topcoat is made of, this miracle spray will make it really repellent.
- For sale: A quilted high chair that can be made into a table, pottie chair, rocking horse, spring coat, and refrigerator.
- Jewelry special: Now is your chance to have your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home too.
- For sale: Beautiful desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.
- Dinner specials: Turkey \$3.35; Chicken or Beef, \$3.25, Children, \$2.
- Wanted: 50 girls for stripping machine operators in factory.

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*

* **Filming the stars.** A Touchstone Pictures feature film, "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," opened in movie theaters at the end of April. Its significance to Masons? Some scenes were filmed at Freemasons' Hall in London.

John Malkovich plays the role of Humma Kavula, a character from another planet. The London building is featured as Humma Kavula's temple and one of the lodge rooms is his office. The Grand Master's throne appears in some scenes.

"Hitchhiker's Guide" was written by Douglas Adams as a BBC radio series in 1978. It was then transformed into a novel, a television series, and several stage adaptations. Adams died in 2001 while working on the screenplay for the feature film version.

* **Building bridges.** A school in Iraq has been named for Bro. Daniel L. Cederman, a member of Akron (NY) Lodge No. 527. Capt. Cederman is assigned to the 14th Engineer Battalion stationed in Iraq. The battalion engineers were asked to assess a school that was in need of repair and had not received funds for updating since 1981.

A local contractor was hired for the project, and the work was completed in five weeks. Because of the helpful assistance from the battalion, the Iraqi contractor suggested that the school be named the "D. Cederman Siniyah Secondary School." The battalion is now assisting in the renovation of other schools in the area.

Capt. Cederman has also been working with Iraqi civilians to build a bridge over the Tigris river and a water treatment plant in the town of Zimarah. The plant will provide filtered water to more than 15,000 people.

Bro. Cederman was quoted in his hometown newspaper, *Akron Bugle*, indicating to Iraqis why the troops are

there. "We're not here to shoot you, we're actually here to help you rebuild," said the captain. "All we want to do is rebuild your country, make it stable, so you can run your country and then we can go home."

* **Common interest.** Some Masons from North Carolina who are on military duty in Iraq have been meeting in a tyled tent in an Iraqi desert. Masons from other states have also been participating. The effort is organized by Sam Lee, who was serving as Master of Hiram Lodge No. 40 (North Carolina) when he was dispatched to Iraq by the military.

The transplanted Masons do not confer degrees or conduct business, but the meetings provide an outlet for men with a common interest. The group presents educational programs and shares personal accounts of Freemasonry.

* **Two Grand Masters.** When the Grand Masters from our 15 states in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction are received this year at the Supreme Council's annual meeting, there will be some familiar faces wearing two hats. Two Grand Masters are also serving as Active Members of the Supreme Council.

Ill. Donald D. Thomas, 33°, is the Grand Master of Delaware, and Ill. Jim S. Deyo, 33°, is the Grand Master of Ohio. Both were installed in the fall. Ill. Bro. Thomas has been an Active Member since 2000 and Ill. Bro. Deyo since 1997.

Ill. Donald G. Hicks Jr., 33°, who was elected in September as an Active Member for Massachusetts, completed a three-year term as Grand Master in December.

For several months there were actually three Active Members serving as Grand Master for their particular state.

* **New award.** The Masonic Information Center, an arm of the Masonic Service Association of North America, will soon announce plans for a new award to recognize lodge excellence in public awareness. The intent is to honor lodges that demonstrate exemplary work on constructing a positive Masonic identity that is highly visible in the social fabric of the community. Look for details soon.

* **Conference.** Directors of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children held their annual conference recently in Lexington, MA. This is the first year the conference has been held at the Supreme Council headquarters. Also attending were those who are chairing the board of governors for each center. During the two-day event, Dr. Jeffrey Gilger, a member of the peer review committee, provided a summary of the Phase I study of testing data on the children who are being tutored at the centers.

* **5-year index.** A new index for issues of *The Northern Light* published between 1999 and 2004 is nearing completion. Copies will be available soon and will be sent on request.

Similar five-year indexes have been published on a regular basis since the introduction of the magazine in 1970. When requesting back copies, please specify which indexes you wish to receive.

A limited number of copies of back issues of the magazine are also available.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor

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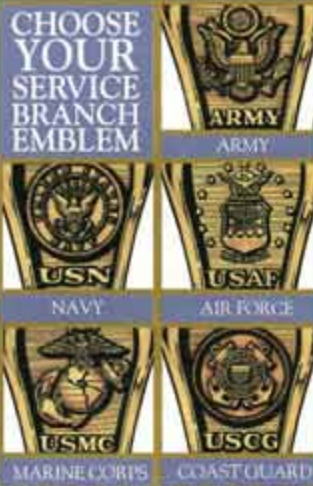
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