

*The following articles were published in the Masonic Monitor, the newsletter for the Seattle area Masonic Lodges, during the two years I was the Deputy of the Grand Master in District #5 of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington.*

### **July 1998: Looking Toward The Next Millennium**

This is an article about the future, for, because of the deadline, it's being written by a District Deputy two weeks before he has been officially sworn in. Being a Deputy of the Grand Master is an awesome task and carries a lot of responsibility. But I have no doubt that M W Carl Smith would not have appointed me if he did not have confidence that I would be up to the task. And though my previous Grand Lodge appointments have been mostly ceremonial, this time it's a nuts-and-bolts position. My goals for the coming year are deceptively simple: (1) to keep the Lodges in our district on a positive course; (2) to encourage participation in as many community programs as possible; (3) to encourage participation in Grand Lodge activities (like Friend to Friend, Operation Outreach, and direct support for the MRC); and (4) to encourage as much visitation between the Lodges in our district as possible.

Very shortly, I will be putting up a District 5 web site that will include a calendar of events, articles such as this, and some information about my personal crusade against our detractors — and some effective answers to some of the hard questions they ask.

A special thank-you is in order to my immediate predecessor, VWB Chuck Brockway of St. John's No. 9. Brother Chuck left me with nearly complete documentation of his two-year term, and I will endeavor to keep this district in-trim and on-course. Brethren of District 5, for VW Brother Brockway, the Public Grand Honors of Masonry, taking your lead from me...

### **August 1998: Publication not printed this month**

### **September 1998: New Directions For The Coming Masonic Year**

Some innovations are in store for District #5 for the coming year. One of the first is that we now have a District 5 site on the World Wide Web. The new site is located at URL <http://members.aol.com/glwadd5> (for those with computer/Internet access). The site includes a calendar of upcoming events (including a Hot List), responses to anti-Masons, some suggested reading (for current and prospective Masons), as well as some general information about Masonry including where the lodges in this district meet, and some links to other sites of general interest to Masons. Try it — you'll like it!

From the HOT LIST — Coming events in September: Sept 12 (Sat) 9:00 am at the Masonic College (in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center), VW David Julian will present a talk, discussion, and Q&A, about his connection and communications with anti-Masons. Sept 19 (Sat) 10:00 am at Greenlake Masonic Center, DAYLIGHT LODGE #232 ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS. a tyled installation by MW Milton R. Benson.

Also Sept 19 (Sat) 7:00 pm at the Scottish Rite Center, the ST. JOHN'S 138th ANNIVERSARY DINNER (6:00 pm Social Hour), featuring historian Junius Rochester as guest speaker. Reservations required. Contact JW Ken Lane, Jr. 206-783-6966. Even though this is not a true District 5 event, Sept 30 (Wed) 7:30 pm at Greenlake Masonic Center, WALTER F. MEIER LODGE OF RESEARCH #281 PRESENTS GARY LEAZER. Rev. Leazer was the author of the original report on Freemasonry for the Southern Baptist Convention's investigation on the compatibility of Freemasonry and The Southern Baptist religion. Because his report was favorable to Freemasonry, he was removed from his position and the report was rewritten by others. He has since become a Mason. Ladies invited, refreshments to follow. Contact Secretary Bob Jensen, 206-546-3780.

One last item on the new web site: my booklet, HOW TO BECOME A NONSMOKER (When You Just Can't Quit) is available FREE. Just click on the Books, Pamphlets, and Articles hyperlink on the Web Site.

November 1998: The Carpenter

I got this story from one of the Discussion Groups about Freemasonry on the Internet:

### **THE CARPENTER**

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized, we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. The plaque on the wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project." Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

Speaking of attitudes and choices, those of us who were lucky enough to hear Brother Dr. Gary Leazer's fabulous speech Sept. 30 Got to see some real Freemasonry in action. There was no doubt in anyone's mind about Brother Gary's attitudes and choices when he talked about the sacrifices he made to tell the truth about Freemasonry. Please support his efforts by subscribing to his quarterly newsletter, the CIS Masonic Report. Just send \$15 to C.I.S., Box 870523, Stone Mtn., GA 30087-0014.

In that same vein, DAVID vs. GOLIATH, my new book about modern anti-Masonry is now available. (\$9.95 plus \$2 p/h and sales tax -- proceeds to the Masonic Retirement Center) Order through the District 5 Web Site <http://members.aol.com/glwadd5> or call me (206) 246-6448 for an order form.

Choose Masonry today, build a better life tomorrow!

### **December 1998: Learning From Apes...**

I am always amazed at the insights I get from communicating with various Masons from around the world on the Internet. This bit of wisdom comes from John Cooper, Secretary of Lachlan-Jemalong Lodge #46, UGL of New South Wales, Australia:

Start with a cage containing five apes. In the cage, hang a banana on a string and put stairs under it. Before long, one ape will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana, but as soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the apes with ice cold water.

After a while, another ape makes an attempt with the same result -- all the apes are sprayed with cold water. Turn off the cold water. (If, later, another ape tries to climb the stairs, the other apes will try to prevent it even though no water sprays them.)

Now, move one ape from the cage and replace it with a new one. The new ape sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his horror, all of the other apes attack him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original five apes and replace it with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm.

Again, replace a third original ape with a new one. The new one makes it to the stairs and is attacked as well. (Two of the four apes that beat him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs, or why they are participating in the beating of the newest ape.)

After replacing the fourth and fifth original apes, all the apes which have been sprayed with cold water have been replaced. Nevertheless, no ape ever again approaches the stairs. Why not? "Because that's the way it's always been done around here."

Another Internet communication thread went like this:

First Brother: "We change the ritual and shorten the meetings to end their boredom. We are responding to the lowest common denominator!"

Second Brother: "Theirs is not the only boredom. I can't tell you how many times I have attended meetings where brothers were literally sleeping, and I have had trouble keeping awake myself!"

I was able to share a little light with them about some techniques I learned from another (very lively) organization, whose meetings I attend regularly:

1. Never have a meeting after a meal, especially a big dinner.
2. Preface the meeting with loud, uptempo music. Loud music gets people to raise their energy level and encourages conversation by causing them to have to talk louder.
3. Make sure the Lodge room is well lit and the microphones work. If the room is dim, it sets off our body's natural instinct to go to sleep. As a semiretired professional entertainer, I am always amazed when I see speakers standing in the dark trying to be heard over the din of heaters, air conditioners, and background conversation.
4. Make sure the Lodge room is cool. In order to keep the members from getting too cold, keep them standing and clapping and moving.
5. Don't put the "program" inside the business meeting unless the topic can only be discussed in a tiled Lodge. If

the topic or program can be shared at the Festive Board, share it there. If the speaker or program is of general interest, don't be afraid to invite non-Masons to attend the program.

6. Start and end the meetings at specific times. That will cause the members to know in advance that they must keep their comments short and to the point.

7. Don't try to pick peaches from apple trees. Too often we push new members into doing too much too soon. Support them for their efforts, but you have to let them develop at their own pace.

8. Have fun! Believe it or not, if Lodge is fun, the members will want to come and participate. That means they'll be motivated to learn the work, not dragged into it -- and they'll start making excuses to their other interests for why they have to attend Lodge...

Speaking of having fun -- I'd like to thank PM Randy Hays at Eureka #20 for hosting a visitor from Brazil in their September Stated Meeting. It came as a surprise to them and to me that Dr. Abrahao was an EA, so he graciously agreed to open on the 1st Degree.

### **January 1999 — Are there windows in your spiritual building?**

From the Internet, one of my favorite sources of Masonic inspiration:

Each mason is instructed to build his spiritual building on a firm foundation. Yet some of us keep building walls until they find themselves trapped within the walls of their own convictions. They forget to include a door so that if they are called to work they can answer the call. All they hear are the echoes of an empty life. I have met these men and it has saddened me to have to read their name as not answering the call of the workmen at Lodge.

Instead, I pattern myself after those who have built their buildings with open windows to bask in the glory that which is all around them. Who have a wide open door policy to not only answer to the call but to welcome friends and strangers in with hospitality.

Shouldn't we be building a light and airy place that is open to all? Instead of measuring a man by his status in his community, should we not measure him by the depth of his character? Remember to gently remind an errant brother of faults: never criticize him. Remember our shut-ins, for the walls are not of their own making. But mostly Listen to our Creator. Strive to live each day as if in preparation for that time, when it will be our turn to help build that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

That was shamelessly plagiarized from Dale Imbleau, Secretary of Unity Lodge #189, GL of Oregon. Please remember Brother Dale in your prayers for a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

Congratulations to all the newly installed officers. My Brothers, as we begin this New Year of Masonic Renewal, let us vow now to keep on a steady and true course, to remain positive, and keep our beloved Fraternity in the forefront of American philanthropies. Remember, my Brothers, that there are just as many who have a claim upon your kind offices in January as there were in November and December...

### **February 1999 — Do You Have a Good Lodge?**

Do you have a good lodge? Does your lodge do good ritual? Is your lodge on a good financial foundation? Does your lodge always have a good response to the scholarship, Friend to Friend, Operation Outreach, and other Grand Lodge programs? Does your lodge have a good relationship with the community? Good leaders? Good officers? Good candidates? Good charitable works?

While sorting through some reference materials, I stumbled upon a pamphlet I had purchased from a Mennonite store in Missouri a few years ago. Glancing through the booklet, this sentence leapt out at me from the bottom of page 13: There is a German proverb which says: "*The good is the greatest enemy of the best.*"

Boy did that give me a jolt! Looking over this past six months, I realized I had been trying desperately to help ensure the lodges in District 5 were doing good in all those areas — but were they doing the best they could? Like all philanthropic organizations, the hardest thing to do in a Masonic lodge is to keep it going. Sometimes all it takes is one spark to rekindle the flame. Sometimes the remaining members are just completely burned out.

Two of the lodges in our district are contemplating mergers in the coming year. Amazingly, both of those lodges had great obstacles and challenges to overcome in this season of installations and holiday spirit — and to their credit, both came through with flying colors. With their backs against the wall, both elected and installed a nearly complete slate of dedicated officers to assist in the difficult transitions required in the near future. That's not just good — that's the best: looking out for the best interests of the members, their lodges, and Freemasonry in general.

Congratulations to St. John's Lodge for something that is a rarity: Ken Lane Sr. (formerly of Ionic), Ken Lane Jr., and Jeff Lane — a father and his two sons — are holding the Master, Sr. Warden, and Jr. Warden stations respectively. Congratulations to Brother Gerald Graham at Queen Anne, who was honored with the Hiram Award during their joint installation with Century (another first for me). I am particularly glad to see so much participation between Lodges, even Lodges out of the district — still another example of the best.

Thank you all, my Brothers, for your best efforts!

### **March 1999 — T.E.A.M. Work**

T.E.A.M means Together Everyone Achieves More, another way of saying "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." And when the Brethren work together to achieve a common goal, especially when that goal is the assistance in initiating, passing, and raising new candidates, that T.E.A.M spirit literally explodes. For the One-day Conferral, January 31 at Alki Masonic Center, I was asked, at the 10th (if not the 11th hour) to put together a multidistrict 1st Degree Team. Looking at my time commitments, and realizing one of the Secrets of Masonry is knowing when to delegate authority, I called upon the one person I knew would be up to the task. These email messages tell the story:

Subj: 1-Day 1st Degree team

Date: 2/2/99 10:20:57 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: DaveJulian

To: NOTPGM (Coe Tug Morgan)

In a message dated 1/31/99 9:34:04 PM Pacific Standard Time, NOTPGM writes:

<<Brother David,

I was most pleased with the performance of our brothers yesterday for the first degree. Thank you for the chance to help out and to all of them, a special thank you for stepping up and without any hesitation. It really reconfirms my belief that brothers like them are the future of Grand Lodge if we can only keep them. At least they are the future that I would want and promote.

CoeTug Morgan>>

I can't begin to thank you enough for your help with this Coe. As you know, when Norm Watts called me to do this, I was facing eight consecutive Masonic meetings, and with my full-time job, there was no way I could have done this myself.

It is my humble opinion that the First Degree is the most important degree. If the candidate gets a good 1st, he's hungry for the 2nd and 3rd; but if he gets a bad 1st degree -- his Masonic career usually ends there. Aside from the outstanding and nearly flawless performances by everyone on the team, the thing I appreciated most was the ability of the brothers to be flexible, to ad lib where necessary, and to never lose sight of the significance of this degree to the candidate.

Even though I was terribly ill that morning, I made it through on the momentum of the energy generated by this fabulous team, even though I had to give the "Workig Toos of de Ented Apredice Basod."

Brothers Vosich (Jr. Steward) and Morrow (Jr. Deacon) from Alki in District 6 were a great help, and selecting Al Mungin from T.M. Reed as the Sr. Steward was a stroke of genius. The message of his presence there was almost as important as his excellent work in the Degree.

Doug Blake is rapidly becoming one of the strongest ritualists in District 5; Jay Losey not only handled the West in the best Daylight tradition, but he learned the Apron Lecture during the circumambulation; and Ken Lane (Jr.)'s outstanding performance as the "demonstrating" Senior Deacon was up to St. Johns' highest standards.

Until that morning, I don't believe I ever met Bob Wallinger of Robert Burns, in District 32, who did the 1st Degree Lecture to near perfection. And just as I began walking up to the East, up came Gerry Harmon (who I hadn't seen earlier) from Arcana, our District 31 champion, to deliver the Charge in his outstanding style.

But there was no question that Jerry Berger from Greenwood in District 4 stole the show. His handling of the duties of the East and conferring of the Obligation were flawless -- but his including the name of our Grand Master Karl B. Smith in the list of famous Masonic dignitaries, patriots, and military heroes brought the house down!

I've said it before and I'll say it again, Coe Tug Morgan: You demonstrate the example of Freemasonry by your very life. And I, for one, intend to begin today to see about changing your AOL screen name from NOT PGM to JGW 99...

Your Friend and Brother, VW David Julian

Now that's Masonry and T.E.A.M work in action!

### **April 1999 — The Best Part of Being a District Deputy**

I'd like to thank all the brethren who attended the District 5 Meeting and Reception for the Grand Master, March 12, at Queen Anne.

The best part of being the District Deputy is when you present the very special once a year awards to the Masons who have performed outstanding service to their Lodges. Brother David Campbell was so honored by St. Johns #9, and Leonard Luchau by Century Lodge #208. Century also awarded the prestigious 1st Craftsman Award to Anthony George. These were the first awards of this kind ever awarded by Century Lodge. Our thanks go to these brethren for their contributions to the Craft, and to the Grand Master for making the actual presentations and making this a significant event in their Masonic lives.

The highlight for me was being able to see the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master present the Grand Master's Achievement Award to VWB Don E. Ward. This award is presented to one Mason in this district, once each year. Brother Don has served the Fraternity for more than 50 years, and has served District 5 by being its District Deputy -- and especially -- by serving as the Lodge Organist in six of the original eight lodges in this district.

Good organists are hard to come by, to the point that some lodges no longer have music during their ritual or degree work. When I was traveling as the Grand Organist, there was no greater pleasure for me than to see the eyes of a lodge all light up when their lodge organ or piano sounded again in their lodges. The Grand Masters and Lodge Masters always make a point of specially thanking their organists because they recognize that music in the lodge room keeps the momentum of the meeting going, and "helps to soothe the savage breast" of the members.

There is an old Native American saying: To understand another, you must walk a mile in his moccasins. A few years back, I filled in for Don for a short time, and after walking just a few steps in his moccasins, I gained the understanding that the time, effort, and resources it takes to be the Lodge Organist multiplies exponentially when you take on the challenge of all the meetings, specials, and degrees of more than one lodge.

So once again, brethren, the Public Grand Honors, taking your lead from me \*\*\* \*\*

### **May 1999 — The Need for Masonic Education Has Never Been Greater...**

As you know I find a lot of fabulous information on the Internet. This choice excerpt came from George Helmer, FPS, and a Past Master of Norwood Lodge #90 in the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

#### **EDUCATE!**

"Freemasons may well ask, what is to be the future of the craft? Everything advances, improves, broadens, and Freemasonry must keep step with the march of mankind or fall by the wayside. Masonry must adapt itself to the demands of the age in order to be effective in the fulfillment of the great purpose for which it exists, and which alone can justify its existence.

"If, therefore, our young men are to serve Freemasonry and make it effective for its high and noble end, they must be taught what Freemasonry is, whence it came, what it brought to us from the remote past, and what it is trying to accomplish, so we can apply its spirit and teachings to the problems of the day.

"While carefulness in the selection of candidates will at least to a considerable extent eliminate the opportunist, the vain and selfish hypocrite, it requires an effective program of Freemasonic education to arouse interest among the brethren in order to overcome that inertia and apathy which paralyzes Masonic thought and action. - New England Craftsman."

I just wanted to let some of my Brethren know that many of the supposed problems facing modern Freemasonry have been with us for some time. Like most cultural aspects of civilized societies, our noble Fraternity goes through its own cycles of ups and downs. Although they could have been written yesterday, the preceding paragraphs came from a publication called *The Master Mason* in 1925. (That's not a misprint — 1925!). What have we learned in the last 75 years? Wardens: be sure to include a program of Masonic Education in every meeting of your year as Master!

### **JUNE 1999 — Looks Can Be Deceiving**

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston, and walked timidly without an appointment into the Harvard University president's outer office. The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge.

She frowned.

"We want to see the president," the man said softly.

"He'll be busy all day," the secretary snapped.

"We'll wait," the lady replied.

For hours, the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away. They didn't. And the secretary grew frustrated and finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted to do. "Maybe if they just see you for a few minutes, they'll leave," she told him. And he sighed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, but he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office. The president, stern-faced with dignity, strutted toward the couple.

The lady told him, "We had a son that attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. And my husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him, somewhere on campus."

The president wasn't touched; he was shocked. "Madam," he said gruffly, "we can't put up a statue for every person who attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery."

"Oh, no," the lady explained quickly, "we don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard."

The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, "A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical plant at Harvard." For a moment the lady was silent. The president was pleased. He could get rid of them now.

And the lady turned to her husband and said quietly, "Is that all it costs to start a University? Why don't we just start our own?" Her husband nodded.

The president's face wilted in confusion and bewilderment. And Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California, where they established the University that bears their name, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.

That outstanding story was sent to me over the Internet by MWB Ernie Hazelwood, Past Grand Master of NM, and a current member of Daylight Lodge #232.

CONGRATULATIONS! The following Brethren from District 5 were appointed by Deputy Grand Master Bill Wood to next year's Grand Lodge Team: Coe Tug Morgan, Chairman, Research and Education Committee; Allen Carter, Research and Education Committee; Larry Loughnan, Credentials Committee; Ray Kirlin, Masonic Public Relations Committee. While you're congratulating them, why not ask them what you can do to help...

### **JULY 1999 — What's It Worth To You?**

In my Masonic travels visiting various Lodges, I have been able to see how other Lodges take care of the business of Charity — the great cause of Freemasonry. Usually I am happy to see the great amount of charitable donations, both in time and money, from our great philanthropy. Every now and then, though, I stumble over something that really rubs me the wrong way. One member makes a motion to donate a reasonable amount to a charitable cause — especially a youth-related activity — and then another member starts whining about the dollar amounts, until the penny-pinching debate ends up with the contribution being around \$50 to \$100.

After reading a recent article entitled Gala Datebook in the Seattle P.I., I thought I might help put this into some kind of realistic perspective. The following charity events occurred or will occur this summer, and their ticket prices:

May 22, Northwest Children's Fund Dinner and Auction, \$95; Dresses for Humanity (Children's Hospital) \$100

May 23, Premier Chef's Contest (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center) \$125; Nosh '99 (Jewish Community Center) \$125

June 5, President's Night at the Symphony (Seattle Symphony) \$600 per person, \$6000 per table, \$10,000 per executive table

June 28, Charity Golf Tournament (Spinal Cord Society) \$195

June 29, Classical Auction (Chicken Soup Brigade) \$125 - \$500

July 17, Out Of This World For Kids (Museum of Flight) \$200 - \$300

Read my lips guys: \$50 is a dinner. \$100 is a dinner for two. \$500 is a decent bingo prize. Contributions go up from there. No money in your lodge for that kind of expense? Maybe it's time to get going on that annual fundraiser...

### **AUGUST 1999 — No Publication This month**

### **SEPTEMBER 1999 — Time**

More pearls of wisdom from the Internet:

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use today's deposit, the loss is entirely yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today and every day!

- \* To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.
- \* To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.
- \* To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
- \* To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
- \* To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the plane
- \* To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.
- \* To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special people like your Brother Masons - that are worth the spending your valuable time.

You've heard it all before: Time waits for no one. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Remember today is a gift, that's why called the present.

On the 24-inch gauge, how many are you giving to Masonry?

### **OCTOBER 1999 — The Funnies**

Funny how a \$20 bill looks so big when we give it at Lodge and so small when we take it to the store.

Funny how big an hour serving your Lodge looks and how small 60 minutes are when spent playing golf.

Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter of the Book of Constitutions and how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.

Funny how we repeatedly question what the Bible says but believe everything the newspapers say.

Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray but we don't have any difficulty thinking of things to criticize.

Funny how we need 2 or 3 weeks to fit a Lodge event into our schedule, but can adjust it for a social event at the last minute.

Funny how folks scramble to get a back seat in Lodge but want to sit on the front row at a ball game or concert.

Funny how hard it is to memorize a simple part in a Degree but how easy it is to remember all the details of someone else's misfortunes.

Funny how the Great Light teaches that truth is worth dying for but some people will lie, even under oath, to protect the untruthful.

Funny how hard it is to do unto others, but how easy it is to do unto ourselves.

Well, ... maybe not so funny.

### **NOVEMBER 1999 — Free Lunch!**

The District 5 Meeting, Luncheon, and Reception of the Grand Master is November 6, 1999 at Green Lake Masonic Center. Lunch at High Twelve, Meeting at one hour past High Twelve.

District Meetings are always interesting, for this is one of the few times members get to personally meet and greet the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge elected line (and many other Grand Lodge officers and appointees) when the Grand Lodge comes to the District, instead of vice versa. Each of the elected Grand Lodge team (and several of the committeemen and others selected from the the rank and file) presents information about Grand Lodge programs and other activities of interest to all the Masons in the District so its really important that all the members attend.

More than that, it's an opportunity for the new Masons to get a better idea of the scope of Freemasonry, the wide range of belief systems, and most especially -- to experience firsthand the universal Brotherly Love and fellowship of our noble Fraternity.

There is one other important factor in play here. This is each Mason's opportunity to show his appreciation and support to the Master and Line Officers of his own Lodge. For when his Lodge's name and number are called, all can see whose Lodges are and are not well represented.

So I challenge each member of each lodge in District 5 (and in all Districts for that matter) to show your support for the efforts of the Master and Officers of your Lodge, and for all the time and effort spent by the Grand Lodge Team, by being present at the District Meeting.

Besides, Daylight Lodge is hosting the entire luncheon, so the price is right. (And you thought there was no such thing as a free lunch.) Just let me know you plan to attend. Email <DaveJulian@aol.com> Fax 206-901-0251 or Phone 206-246-6448.

### **DECEMBER 1999 — Happy Holidays Everyone!**

The District 5 Meeting and Reception for the Grand Master was a rousing success. Special thanks to Coe Tug Morgan (organizer of the "free" lunch), WM Jay Losey and all the Brethren from Daylight who assisted in the kitchen and helped with the set-up and hosted the event. To the Renton DeMolay boys (and their "sister sorority") for helping with the clean-up and service. And a Very Special Thank You to my wonderful wife, Beverly, for hosting entertaining

the ladies. And to Dave Moffatt from St. John's #9 for presenting the Grand Master's Gift. And a big Thank You to all the Brethren from District 5 who attended.

Congratulations are in order for Doug Blake, from Queen Anne #242, this year's recipient of the Grand Master's Achievement Award. Additional congratulations to Tom Rutledge and Mike Wilderman, awarded 33rd degree and white hats at Scottish Rite, and to Ian Hyde, who received a special award of recognition from the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

Upcoming Installations: December 4, 4pm, Queen Anne Lodge at Queen Anne Masonic Center. January 19, 2000, Century Lodge also at QAMC.

We're all looking forward to a fabulous new Masonic Year in this district. Thanks again for another wonderful year as your Deputy of the Grand Master...

### **JANUARY 2000 — The Best Things**

One day, a rich man sent son for a trip in the country with the purpose of showing him how to accept the ways the poor people lived. The son spent the weekend with the family of a very poor farm worker.

When he got back, the father asked the son, "How was the trip?"

"Very good, Dad!"

"Did you see how the poor people live?" the father asked.

"Yeah, I sure did!"

"And what did you learn?"

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog at home, and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of the garden, they have a creek that has no end. We have street lamps to light our path at night, they have the moon and stars. We get our food from the grocery store, they get fresh food right from the earth. Our garden reaches to the fence, but theirs goes on for 40 acres..."

The father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we really are! But you know something? They liked me anyway."

Isn't it true that it all depends on the way you look at things? If you have love, friends, family, health, good humor, and a positive outlook toward life, you've got every-thing!

You can have all the material possessions you can imagine, money in the bank, provisions for the future — but if you are poor in spirit, you have no-thing. Because, you see, the best things in life aren't even things at all.

Let's start the new millennium off on the right foot. Let's share all our best things with everyone, and "Do good unto all."

### **FEBRUARY 2000 — Shipwrecked**

A voyaging ship was wrecked during a storm at sea and only two of the men on it were able to swim to a small, desert like island. The two survivors, not knowing what else to do, agreed that they had no other recourse but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, they agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island.

The first thing they prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren.

After a week, the first man was lonely and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship was wrecked, and the only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the land. On the other side of the island, there was nothing.

Soon the first man prayed for a house, clothes, more food. The next day, like magic, all of these were given to him. However, the second man still had nothing.

Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that he and his wife could leave the island. In the morning, he found a ship docked at his side of the island.

The first man boarded the ship with his wife and decided to leave the second man on the island. He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings, since none of his prayers had been answered.

As the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a voice from heaven booming, "Why are you leaving your companion on the island?"

"My blessings are mine alone, since I was the one who prayed for them," the first man answered. "His prayers were all unanswered and so he does not deserve anything."

"You are mistaken!" the voice rebuked him. "He had only one prayer, which I answered. If not for that, you would not have received any of my blessings."

"Tell me," the first man asked the voice, "what did he pray for that I should owe him anything?"

"He prayed that all your prayers be answered."

We are all in Masonry together. For all we know, our blessings are not the fruits of our efforts alone, but those of others praying for us. In this coming year, let us pray for the success and prosperity of all our lodges.

### **MARCH 2000 — There is a New Day Coming**

"This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, 'My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.'

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

These great words were spoken on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963, by Martin Luther King, Jr.

We, as Free Men and Free Masons need to take these words to heart. For as long as even one American citizen cannot enjoy the full fruits of what this great country has to offer, no one else with a shred of conscience can fully enjoy them either. Freemasonry has to take the lead in removing the political, religious, social, economic, or whatever other barriers of divisiveness that might prevent one man from helping another in need.

On a lighter note, congratulations are in order to WM Ken Lane, Jr. and the young thinking officers of St. John's #9 for instituting a first this year: A Table Lodge. Under the guidance of VW Chuck Brockway, the cannons were charged and fired in more than adequate form, and a great time was had by all. What does Grand Master Bill R. Wood most desire? More FUN in Masonry! More great news: After a bit of a dry spell, this year Eureka Lodge #20 has already raised 3 Master Masons and has 3 more on the way.

### **APRIL 2000 – Civic Members**

I received a disappointing email from MW Brother Ken Robinson a few weeks ago concerning the statement by Imperial Sir Semb at the Conference of Grand Masters in Georgia in February, and some of the hostile responses to it. This was my response:

I have to tell you honestly, MW Ken that this is all a big waste of time. These are the real reasons Freemasonry is struggling:

1. Young couples are equity partnerships, not independent investors in their marriages. That means they are both breadwinners and they are both homemakers, and they really value and enjoy their time TOGETHER...

2. Freemasonry from the Blue Lodges on up are perceived to be sexist and racist relics of the past. Unfortunately, that's because, more often than we'd like to admit, we ARE sexist and racist relics of the past. There is no reason in this day and age that 51% of the potential resources of our population should be denied membership and active participation in modern Freemasonry, simply on the basis of being born with the wrong sex organ...

3. Nearly everything once only provided by Masonic Charity is now provided by Federal and State government agencies...

4. Most Masons have no idea what the word "esoteric" means, never mind the deeper meanings hidden in the ritual — and that's why they attach no importance at all to taking the time to memorize and accurately perform the Openings, Closings, and Lectures...

5. The entire ritual needs to be modernized, showing the connection between historical and modern architecture, construction, science, and the arts, making them valuable, interesting, and especially — EASY to learn...

6. We need to start doing more than giving lip service to the word "brotherhood."

7. In order to qualify as a "Masonic" Lodge, a Lodge should be required to (a) raise enough MM's each year to provide a full slate of officers with Past Masters ineligible for Stations in the S,W,or E; (b) donate at least 50% of their financial and manpower resources (not just the interest from their savings accounts) to charitable causes and their defined "communities"; (c) maintain a readily visible public presence through regular advertising, billboards, shared community projects, etc.; (d) provide a hot meal, free of charge, prior to each stated meeting for their members and visitors; (e) provide regular community interest programs; (f) provide an interesting program of Masonic education at

each stated meeting; (g) have special meetings for degree work, in cooperative networks with other Lodges and other Districts; (i) sponsor and support at least one youth group like Jobe's Daughters, DeMolay, Rainbow, Boy Scouts, Sports Teams, Youth Music Groups, etc.; (j) sponsor at least one major fundraising effort to provide for a community service not already being provided. Social clubs that can't meet these rigid requirements need to stop masquerading as Masonic Lodges and consolidate with the other Lodges that can and already do...

8. Past Masters should be heard but not be allowed to vote on resolutions at Grand Lodge. Voting on current changes concerning the way Freemasonry is now and will be in the future - including voting for the Elected Grand Lodge Line - should only be voted on by current Lodge Masters, Wardens, or their proxies...

9. The Masonic Year of each Lodge should correspond with the Masonic Year of the Grand Lodge, June to June. All elections and installations of officers for the coming year should be completed prior to Grand Lodge, and they should begin their terms with their first meeting after Grand Lodge, the same as the Grand Lodge committees and Deputies do...

10. We need to have one Masonic Calendar for each district, maintained by the District Deputy. One evening meeting per calendar weekday date, one morning and one evening on Saturdays, one afternoon on Sundays, period. Forcing Masons to choose between a half dozen or more meetings of the Shrine, Rites, Blue Lodges, Appendant Bodies, and Youth groups on the same date and time is inherently divisive. And denying Masonic work on Sunday is as sectarian as announcing "all Masons are Christians"...

11. Finally, we need to acknowledge that what we are doing now is not working: this dumb idea we have of needing to automatically promote through the line. We need to make it the top priority of the Master of the Lodge to train his replacement. The top priority of the SW should be to train his, the JW, his. What we do now is promote the leadership challenged along with the good leaders, instead of keeping the best leaders until they can be replaced by their own proteges.

What's really sad is that so many Shriners only used the Blue Lodges and Scottish or York Rites as stepping stones, and then never went back. They only pay their dues because they currently have to. At least Sir Semb would take the hypocrisy out of that. What we need to do is pull our top hats back up over our eyeballs and stop complaining about being in the dark.

"True leadership is the art of changing a group from what it is to what it ought to be." - Virginia Allan

### **MAY 2000 – A Masonic Survival Kit**

When I was traveling across the country in my previous life as a professional entertainer I used to carry a survival kit just in case I broke down and got stuck in a remote area. Now, as a Deputy of the Grand Master, I recommend this Masonic survival kit:

1. Toothpick – to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others.
2. Rubber Band – to remind you to be flexible, and to remember that things may not always go the way you want, but it will work out.
3. Band Aid – to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's.
4. Pencil – to remind you to list your blessings every day.
5. Eraser – to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's OK.
6. Chewing Gum – to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything.
7. Mint – to remind you that you are worth a mint.
8. Candy Kiss – to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug each day.
9. Tea Bag – to remind you to relax daily and reflect on all the positive things in your life.

(This Masonic Survival Kit was shamelessly plagiarized from an email sent to me from Brother Andy Carnahan of Daylight 232.)

On a more serious note, my Brothers, especially those in District 5: I implore you, please make it a point to attend Grand Lodge this year. Several new resolutions will be considered that will highly impact Washington Freemasonry for years to come. Grand Master Wood is pushing hard for the videotaping of all the Degree Lectures And a resolution has been presented to formally put into place the full recognition of the MWGL of Prince Hall of Washington and Jurisdictions. I'd like to see all the Masters and Wardens of the District 5 Lodges represented this year...

### **June 2000 – Y'all Come Back Now, Y'hea'?**

Brethren of District 5:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for allowing me to be your Deputy of the Grand Master and for giving me the opportunity to share our successes and impart some words of wisdom in this District over the past two years. Being a DoGM is a very fulfilling and rewarding job, but it is not a position anyone is in a hurry to fill for a second term!

After Grand Lodge 2000, The Grand Master will once again be represented in District 5 by one of the finest Masons in this state, (V)W. David C. Campbell, of St. John's #9. Dave is a great guy, and has been very active in recent years with St. John's support of various youth groups.

Other Grand Lodge committee appointments for the coming year include VW Chuck Brockway, Grievance and Appeals; VW Jim Russell, Credentials; VW Coe Tug Morgan, Special Assignment (Lecture Videos); W Jerry Schor, Masonic Home Endowment; W John Mathers, Public Schools; W Dan Newton, Credentials; W Ray Kirlin, Public Relations — all appointed by soon to be MW Dick Mecartea, the pride of District 5, and St. John's #9.

I would like to leave you all with this parting quiz (thanks to Ernie Hazelwood, PGM of NM).

1. Name the six wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last four winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name three people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.
5. Name two of last year's Academy Award winners.
6. Name the coach of the World Series winner in 1995.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a teacher who aided your journey through school.
2. Name two friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name three people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of four people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
6. Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care. If you are like me, many of them are the ones on the list of appointees who volunteer their valuable time and other resources for the benefit of all Washington Freemasons. My Brothers, Please take the time to congratulate each one of them on their appointments (and election), and be sure to extend the proper courtesies as they attend your Lodges.

Finally, my Brothers, y'all be sure'n' thank GM Bill Wood for this here great Masonic Year! Y'all come back now, y'hea'?

### **July 2000 – Response to the Respondents**

I have to admit I was quite flattered to discover that my April 2000 DD#5 article had caused such a stir — but then again, that was the purpose of this article. My Masonic Brothers at Goose and Gridiron #1 said it took two meetings to discuss the items, and their response was published on the front page of the June 2000 Masonic Monitor. I therefore submit the following, more as clarification than rebuttal.

My point (#2) was not necessarily that women should be immediately admitted to Freemasonry. Case in point: for the second time in the past six years, the Military Recognition Committee at Grand Lodge had to acknowledge that the Airman of the Year was a woman, and in spite of her outstanding contributions to the Armed Forces, to her community, and to her church, no Lodge would be offering her a petition. My perception is that Washington Freemasonry today is not really a men's organization because it does not deal primarily with men's issues, but that it is actually a general philanthropy that excludes women from membership for no other reason than being born with the wrong sex organ. My point was that if we are to remain a "men only" organization into the next millennium, we need a good reason for excluding 51% of our State's leadership resources, or else we need to stop complaining about declining membership.

As to points #4 and #5, it's time to face reality. Past Grand Master Bill Wood's message at Grand Lodge called for an Emergency Resolution to permit the videotaping of the lectures. If there is such interest in the ritual, why then are there whole Districts where there is not one Mason that can even accurately read any of the lectures to the candidates? It was pointed out at Grand Lodge that at one time, to be qualified as the Master of the Lodge included the requirement of being able to give all three lectures, never mind being able to open and close on any degree. From what I saw at the District Meetings in the last Masonic year, out of tens of thousands of Freemasons in this state, only a handful have taken this "recommended" course of action seriously.

About the nine requirements I listed (#7), it was stated that "this might put 90% of current Lodges out of business," and asked "Is this what we want?" I submit that right now a substantial number of Lodges are what I describe as "phantom" or "virtual" Lodges. Virtual Lodges are Lodges that currently have sufficient finances to keep having

meetings, even though their active membership is insufficient to fill the line of officers each year — and most importantly, they don't do anything, and are subsequently becoming invisible in their communities. It may be time to face the fact that these Lodges are already out of business. They just haven't admitted it yet. Until recently, there were no clear, concise answers to the questions "Who are the Masons?" and "What do Masons do?" Now it is time to take a long, hard look at answering these questions: "What is a Masonic Lodge?" and "What does a Masonic Lodge do?"

There was some confusion about my suggestion about the training of the officers (#11). What I meant, but apparently did not make clear, was my belief that our current policy of automatic promotion up the line may not be the best policy. My understanding of Freemasonry is that the goal is to take the rough ashlar and try to make it into a perfect ashlar.

The Grand Lodge is well aware of the necessity for training our leaders and has developed some fantastic programs such as the Wardens' Conference and the Long Range Planning Conference. Al Jorgensen's outstanding presentation at Grand Lodge clearly indicated the need for expansion of this kind of leadership training — including the training of the instructors. What I am saying is that before the Senior Warden should be permitted to advance to Master of the Lodge, he should be competently trained by the Master to supervise the external Activities, Public Relations, and Community Visibility of the Lodge. Likewise the Senior Warden should train his Junior Warden to handle the internal complexities of the Lodge Management. *Movement up the line should be based on performance and merit, not on enthusiasm alone.*

In spite of the emphasis on "membership" by the Grand Lodge line, in my humble opinion ours is not a crisis of membership, which I perceive to be merely a symptom of a greater problem. The only problem I found with Al Jorgensen's presentation was that it is at least 20 years too late. Had we spent the time since our membership started declining in the cultivation of quality community leadership instead of worrying about the quantity of warm bodies, we might have fewer Lodges and fewer members, but we'd have a lot more Masons.

In the original article, I included this quote from Virginia Allan: "True leadership is the art of changing a group from what it is to what it should be." That was the point of the entire article. Thankfully, at Grand Lodge, Past Grand Master Wood emphasized and embraced a tell-it-like-it-is approach. In case you missed it here it is:

What it is: A floundering philanthropic organization with poorly trained leaders, a substantially declining membership, a corresponding decline in financial support, and a doom-and-gloom outlook, rapidly sinking towards extinction.

What it should be: A clearly defined community-active, family-oriented philanthropic fraternity with well-trained leadership and a positive, widespread, public presence in our communities and a healthy, optimistic attitude about the future, defining success by finding community needs and filling them — while encouraging participation in these activities by like-minded potential members.

G&G Nest #1 asked, "Who decides what a group should be?" The obvious answer is: "We do." We elect the Grand Lodge line to put in place the mechanics and the logistics of getting from "what it is" to "what it should be." If we aren't moving toward "what it should be" fast enough, it's not because we have a crisis of membership, but a crisis of leadership. The fact that all of PGM Bill Wood's Emergent Resolutions at Grand Lodge 2000 passed by substantial margins is a clear indicator that the Grand Lodge of Washington has finally come out of denial and has at least agreed to start taking the cure. I just hope and pray that it is not too late...

David S. Julian, Deputy of the Grand Master  
in District #5  
of the  
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Washington