

Burlington-United 93 Trestleboard

www.bluelodge-wa.org/burl93/

From the Worshipful Master

Brethren,

Our visit from the MWGM, Wayne Smith went very well and we had a good turnout; thanks to everyone. I (we) are very happy to have VWB Bill Munsell on the westerly horizon and the vast experience he comes to office with.

I was recently in the mid-west with Bros. Jonathan Brown and Chris Canavan joining them on their new careers. Before I headed there in hopes of a new employment venture, I'd announced that if things went well I may not have attended every stated whilst in office. While away for a couple of weeks I thought of home, commitments and family. We all know our cable-tows extend no further than the shortest link to our realities. Being away gave me time to consider just how important those things are and the promise I made to fulfill my responsibility while in the office you all elected me. In that regard I have resumed my position in state government and expect no absence from lodge.

I've received word that Bro. Chris will arrive back in town the first week of May and will be ready to receive his third degree. I'd like to set the tentative date to be Wednesday May 7th at 1930hrs.

JW Brett Sandstrom will be arranging the positions for the drama part of the degree and I will be doing the lecture as well as the conferral. The next stated we will be balloting on our plural petition and I'll be giving a brief program on Fraud, Scams and Identity Theft .

Scott Slater
Worshipful Master

Senior Warden's Station

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the brothers for the cordial welcome back to the arena and for the vote of confidence in placing me in the Senior Wardens station. I'll do my best to live up to your expectations.

Since I have an interest in Masonic History and Education it is my plan each month to contribute something in one or the other of these areas to the Trestleboard, so here goes.

What are "A Master's Wages"?

According to the ritual, corn, wine and oil are symbolic of the payment a Freemason earns today by "good work, true work, square work." "A Master's Wages" may be the same, may be different, for every brother. They are the friendships formed through Freemasonry; the consciousness of unselfish work; taking part in movements and actions for the betterment of the condition of neighbors; inherent in learning and in making it possible for other men to learn that men of widely different beliefs, convictions, circumstances, education, skills and character may live and work, play and love together

in peace and happiness. A Master's Wages are intangible, but the more real because any brother may earn as much as he will.

*"I worked for menial's wages
Only to learn, dismayed,
Any wage I asked of lodge,
Lodge would have paid."*

This is a paraphrase indicating that there is no limit to the Master's Wages any brother may receive, except that which he may put upon himself.

Bill Munsell
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Station

The other day I was thumbing through the 1960's photo album of the building of the new United Lodge and it struck me that the Masons of that generation left the lot to the west vacant to be used for some great, maybe more noble purpose for the future of our Lodge. As I tour around our charming town, I see that there are many wonderful parks, graciously given to citizens of Sedro-Woolley by various groups such as the Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary. I thought to myself, why can't our lot be used for the same, maybe more noble purpose, as it is already used for the Sedro-Woolley High School's Logging Team for practice, the Sedro-Woolley Outdoor Movies in summer, and the logging events during Loggerodeo.

Why not make our lot a formal park? With a modicum of landscaping and proudly built sign, our park would be in wonderful tradition to the other parks throughout the city. I envision an open courtyard, with an expanse suitable to continue the summer movies. I see the lot lined with flowering shrubs and fruit trees to delight the neighborhood. I imagine us continuing with the logging tradition, possibly partnering with the museum to have a substantial "logging" artifact displayed for the enjoyment of the park patrons. We could also include a little Masonic education for people not entirely familiar with our grand fraternity. There are so many possibilities to a park, the ideas are endless.

Why a formal park? In order to make a more public face of Freemasonry, the park is a grand gesture on our part for the citizens of Sedro-Woolley to explore and enjoy the fruits of our labor. This is a way to get the community to spend some time with us and enjoy the park together at the many community events we are involved with at our location.

I just can't think of a better way to reintroduce our community to Freemasonry that would have the same lasting appeal as a park. Can you?

Brett Sandstrom
Junior Warden

Senior Deacon's corner

Since most of my career involved computers, I thought that I would review a few Masonic websites. Some are F&AM, some are AF&AM, some are apparently written by

non-masons who know a bit about masonry and some are English Masonic sites. Some are even anti-masonic sites, but it's always good to know what they are saying about us. It usually doesn't take long to tell if it's an anti-masonic site. They are usually not very subtle.

The site I'm writing about this month is an independent Masonic magazine called "The Working Tools".

It can be found at <http://www.hawthornefortitude200.com/TWTFeb2008.pdf> . The current issue is 64 pages with articles ranging from Masons in the News, to book reviews, to an article on Oak Island, an island in Nova Scotia which has a booby-trapped pit alleged to contain Templar treasure, to a column called "You Just Can't Make This Stuff Up". This month's "You Just Can't Make This Stuff Up" column is a reprint of an article from one of the anti-masonic sites. A lot of it is half truths and the rest of the article just makes you shake your head and wonder if they can write that stuff with a straight face.

Overall I find the site interesting and look forward to a new issue each month.

Fraternally,
George Foster
Senior Deacon and webmaster

Calendar

May 1 Stated: Dinner 6:30 Lodge 7:30.
May 7 3rd degree for Chris Canavan 7:30
May 23 District 9 Meeting B-U Lodge Dinner 6:00 Meeting 7:30

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