

BURLINGTON - UNITED
MASONIC LODGE
#93

TRESTLEBOARD



July 2009

From the East

Brethren,

Our last stated was well attended and the dinner enjoyable. For those not present the story of the chicken dinner reminds us that the worse possible day lurks in all our futures:

The tale begins the morning of the 1st when I called the Albertson Store in (Marysville) to order a 50 piece baked chicken dinner. I told them I needed it by 1600hrs on the 4th and would be there promptly to get it. Fast forward to Thursday.

I arrive straight up at 4 and announced I'm there to take custody of the 50 piece order. Blank stares greeted me from behind the counter then the deli manager said, "we don't have a 50 piece order." Trying to remember the EA part about subduing my passions, I informed them that I placed the order and someone called me that morning to confirm. "Sorry no order sir" I have no doubt the deli crew could see the veins in my neck bulge and a shade of red taking over my face. "I have the frigging phone number right here," I said in a voice about two octaves higher than normal. With a glance at the number and the deli folks looking at each other it was apparent someone had bad news to deliver but who would do it. The 25 year-old woman with tattoos and things stuck in her face was selected. "Sir this phone number is for our Mukilteo store and while I stood there trying to keep from passing out my cell phone rings. " Mr. Slater"? "What!" "Are you going to get your chicken?" What could I do but to admit I was in the running for the idiot of the day award and would likely win.

I left the Mukilteo Store at 5 and came around Marine Drive in Everett to avoid the I-5 Boeing traffic. Everyone else had the same idea. Finally, I get to I-5 at Marysville by 5:40 and knew I'd make it to the lodge by the 6:30 dinner.

Pulling the throttle back to 75% power I relaxed a bit only slightly annoyed about my car pulling to the right. Four miles down the road and at exactly 10 minutes 'till six, I found out why the car was pulling to the right. A FLAT TIRE!

After I pulled off and threw all the stuff in my trunk down the hillside during my melt down, I wrestled

the spare out and jacked the car up. Now, in the midst of the melt down I used every bad word I could think of and even made up some new ones. Getting the flat off was fine even though it was terribly hot but what came next couldn't have been worse: A semi went by and blew the car off the jack and the front hub slammed down on the pavement with a loud thud. It's 6p.m. everyone was at the lodge, the table were set and I'm sitting just north of the Stanwood-Camano exit with the front hub on the ground. Somehow I managed to get the car jacked up again and the spare put on and took off at mach making it to the lodge at exactly 6:30 but not with peace and harmony prevailing.

I will never eat chicken again and I have not found the wheel with the flat because I threw it down the hill too.

Coming up: our annual picnic at Lee's place on Big Lake will be July 19th everyone is invited including the Rainbow Girls, Demolay and the other lodges. The Sirene Chapter of Eastern Star always join us and I look forward to the potato salad from Denise. See you all there.

Scott F. Slater, WM

Greetings from the West!

I had a great time awarding the Jack Livie Masonic Scholarships at Concrete High School last week, June 11th. I think that aiding our young students the way we do is very exciting. I like envisioning what future career paths they'll take and how these young minds will contribute to our great society. It is all just very inspiring.

I introduced myself as, "Brett Sandström from the Sedro-Woolley Masonic Lodge" and in those types of moments I pondered what the audience might be thinking... "Oh yeah, the Masons, what is it they do again?" Well, there has been a lot of talk on the importance of ritual, and by all means this is a very key aspect of Freemasonry, but I think it is only part of a whole. I believe that the meanings and actions of those words are just as important. Just think, we can all sing the ABCs with determination and zeal, but if we don't know what the alphabet is, or if we don't know what the letters A and B are or if when we put those two letters together we didn't know it formed a part of the internal structure of the body, than the song we are singing is merely recitation, plain and simple. No thought, no emotion. Same with the standard work. I believe if we put the emotional context back into our ritual and treat each other with due brotherly love and respect deserved, that these words we hear so frequently will carry into our everyday lives and people might not wonder what it is we Freemasons do, they will just know that we are all upright, good men of our community.

Look Well ~ Brett C Sandström

As seen from the South ~ George W Foster

A friend asks "What are the Masons?" What's your answer?

A Mason is sometimes asked by a friend, a neighbor, or a business associate, "What do the Masons do?" The question may be worded more generally, "What are the Masons?"

In either case, the Brother is challenged by the realization that there is no simple answer which he can rattle off "from the top of his head," because the questioner is really asking him for a comprehensive explanation about what organized Freemasonry is, what its principles and purposes are, what programs

it is engaged in, how it carries them out, and what satisfactions the individual Mason derives from his Masonic membership.

Some of these considerations arouse the fraternal doubt that "you can't tell that," or "that's secret," so that the Brother's reply is marked by hesitation or reluctance to explain.

Puzzled by the difficulty of knowing what facets of the vast subject of Freemasonry the questioner is really inquiring about, the Mason "just doesn't know where to begin, " and too often may avoid a simple statement of facts. He isn't sure of what to say.

Or, knowing that his questioner is a "practical man of affairs" who measures outcomes quantitatively, in materialistic terms, he realizes that Freemasonry's reputation cannot be explained by charts, statistics, or financial statements, because the Fraternity's real worth can be expressed only in spiritual terms, and that is rather difficult to explain to the uninitiated. Masonic terminology, the most comfortable words with which to reply, seems inadequate or out of place. Masonic "secrecy" gets in the way.

Embarrassment is probably the commonest cause of a Brother's difficulty in replying to the question. He is embarrassed because he realizes that he doesn't really know enough about the Fraternity to give a good simple reply. He knows that there is much more Masonic activity going on in other lodges all over the country and throughout the world, but he has never taken the time to experience some of it or to read about it with real interest. He hasn't given much thought to the subject. He never expected to be asked such a question by a non-Mason outside the lodge. Even though he has experienced Masonry, he has never tried to express in words just what Freemasonry means to himself.

A well-informed Brother, therefore, will prepare himself for the possibility of being asked such a question. Even though no one ever asks the question, he will have the confidence of knowing what Freemasonry means, especially to himself.

First of all, he will determine to give a Masonic answer, one which asserts the real nature of the Fraternity as a spiritual force, as "a way of life" which seeks to improve men morally and spiritually, by associating with other idealistic men who want to improve the quality of life around them by means of a brotherhood which emphasizes the Fatherhood of God.

In an age which derides ideals, absolutes, the concepts of law and order, and advocates relativism instead of standards of excellence, which angrily demands rights instead of responsibility, and which preaches a nihilistic doctrine of individualism (doing your own thing), Masons find it difficult to explain the Fraternity's idealism and its charitable and educational purposes. But it must be done. A Mason must give a Masonic answer to the question, "What are the Masons."

There are really so few "secrets" which a Mason is required to keep, and so much that he should be proud to proclaim to others, that his principal concern in answering questions is probably the doubt that he can give an adequate Masonic reply.

The esoteric parts of the ritual work, the grips and pass-words of the three degrees, these are really the only "secrets" which should be kept inviolate. Because it is impossible to communicate to the uninitiated the joys and satisfactions of brotherhood experienced in "the labors of the lodge," this too becomes a secret because it is inexpressible.

For the rest of this article from the Short Talk Bulletin go to <http://web.mit.edu/dryfoo/www/Masonry/Essays/msa-wya.html>

