



Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 AF & AM

Worshipful Master Kelly Cox Secretary John "Corky" Daut
Hempstead Masonic Lodge Was Chartered December 6, 1893

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Hustling For Candidates Author Unknown

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A good brother, earnest and faithful in lodge work, remarked the other day, "we must now get out and hustle for members." Just what he meant by "hustling for members," we are at a loss to fully comprehend. We hear a member called "a hustler" if he brings in a large number of petitions, and he is looked on as some kind of superior Mason, because of his activity. He is regarded as a brother whose zeal is worthy of imitation. But is that always the case? Does it always prove advantageous to the lodge to have a "hustler" in it? Is it not from "hustling" that the unworthy are brought into the fraternity?

Masonry is opposed to proselytism. It has no traveling "salesmen," no "drummers," no "missionaries." It is a purely voluntary association and opposes any invitation on the part of the members to those outside to enter its portals. No man who is solicited by his friend to join the lodge can say absolutely that he is "unbiased by friends." The very solicitation, to a certain degree, affects his opinion. He must come of his "own free will and accord."

There is, we fear, too much "hustling," not that it is always done in an offensive way, but in far too many cases, the desire to increase membership or replenish the treasury leads to the use of undue influence to bring in candidates. Masonry is opposed in all its teaching to such a method. A man must appreciate the value of the institution from what he sees of its good effects. He will not be a Free Mason if he does not come uninfluenced. No man can say he is free who listens to the suggestion or request of his friend to "join my lodge." There is no doubt that friendship and association has very much to do with much of the "hustling" that is done. This fact also exists, that the friendship is cemented and made stronger when these who we esteem and love have the lodge secrets in common with us. There is a kind of kinship, as emphasized brother, that is found nowhere else. But, with all this, desirable and pleasant as it is, the dearest friend we have must be a free man before initiation, and a free Mason afterwards.

We rejoice at the prosperity of Freemasonry. We are glad when good men unite in the great work. The more such men we have the better the frater-

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From The Editor's Desk

For all of you who missed the garage sale at the Lodge on the first and second of April, missed some good bargains and great fellowship.

Despite a minimum of member participation, the sale was a big success. At least seventy five percent of the items that we sold was donated to the Lodge by the First United Methodist Church. We owe them a big vote of thanks for donating the items left over from their garage sale. they had held one

just before ours. And a thank you to Junior Bridges for requesting that the church make the donation.

A special thanks for other donations go to Roy Shields, Bob Podvin, Al Culberson, Jack Pearson, Marty Seets, Jim Brown and Corky.

Another special thanks go to Roy Shields, Junior Bridges Jimmy Zepeda, Jack Pearson and his wife, Kelly Cox, Kenneth Harvey and Corky for working during the sale.

Our sincere thanks go to one of our Brothers

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Baphomet, Masons and the Knights Templar

**Exerts from an Interview With Author Stephen
Dafoe Conducted January 2nd, 2000**

Question: Stephen, in 1998 you wrote a book called "Unholy Worship?" Isn't that an odd name for a book that is pro-Masonic?

Dafoe: Yes it is. In retrospect, it was probably a poor choice for the title as many have confused it with one of the many anti-Masonic books written on the Fraternity.

Question: Why did you write the book. What was the motivating factor?

Dafoe: As I began to research more and more the motivating factors behind the arrest of the knights Templar, I learned that the concept of Baphomet, was.

Question: Excuse me Baphomet, could you preface that with what a Baphomet is?

Dafoe: Yes, Baphomet was the name given to the idol the Templars were accused of worshiping.

Question: Ah yes.

Dafoe: So the more I looked into the trials of the Templars, the more I realized that very little was discussed about the Baphomet concept. Indeed many of the accusations leveled against the order referred to idols, but seldom by the name of Baphomet.

Question: So if this is the case, how did Baphomet come to be associated with the Freemasons?

Dafoe: Well it is a rather long story, but in a modern context, which is really the basis of accusations against the fraternity today, the Baphomet connection can be traced to an Evangelical tract produced by Jack Chick.

Question: Jack Chick?

Dafoe: Chick is the author of many Evangelical Christian tracts geared at winning people to Christ. They are done as little comic books. For the most part they are absolute representations of intolerance. For example one on the Moslem faith is called, "Allah had no son." It goes so far as to say Moslems worship Demons. It is this type of religious intolerance that is absolutely tragic in modern society.

Question: So the Demon in the tract is Baphomet?

Dafoe: No the Baphomet is in their anti-Masonic tract called, The Curse of Baphomet, which I won't go into detail because there is a page on Templarhistory.com that we created, which is devoted to it.

Suffice to say it is typical Chick material. A Masonic family has word their son tried to kill himself and has no will to live. They soon learn it is because they are Freemasons and, according to Chick, Freemasons worship Baphomet. After burning their Masonic goodies, the son recovers and the family walks off into the sun set.

Question: Are you a Freemason?

Dafoe: I am.

Question: Well it is often said in anti-Masonic publications that Masons don't know this until they reach the higher degrees. What degree are you?

Dafoe: I've gone all the way through the Craft or Symbolic lodge, which is the first three degrees that all men must obtain before going through the appendant bodies.

Question: Appendant bodies?

Dafoe: Yes it is my belief that there are no higher degrees in Masonry. There are many side degrees that a Mason can take, but as a Mason he is no higher ranking than a third degree Mason. It's like having a turkey dinner. I might add gravy to my bird and you may add cranberries. Someone else may add ketchup and someone may add them all. In the end we've still all ate a turkey dinner; what we've all done is enhanced our enjoyment in that dinner via different methods.

The same can be said of Freemasonry. I am a member of the Royal Arch, Cryptic Rite and Orders of the Temple, which contain the Order of Knight Templar. These all make up the York Rite. So while the Christian Right states that I am a high ranking Mason because I've done the York Rite equivalent to the 32 degree, I contend that I am no higher ranking than a man who has taken but the craft degrees.

(As a side note, Stephen Dafoe has also, since this interview, joined the York Rite College and Red Cross of Constantine, two invitational Masonic bodies)

Question: So having taken all of the York Rite degrees, have you seen any signs of Devil Worship?

Dafoe: Absolutely not. I find it remarkably interesting that an organization that practices religious tolerance is so frequently attacked by the religiously intolerant. It all boils down to a portion of Christians who believe that their interpretation of the Bible is the only one. To me a sect that teaches that a Jew, Moslem or Hindu is worshiping Demons is not acting as a Christian as I know it.

Hustling For Candidates

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nity and the better the world at large. The wider influence of the principles of the institution, the more good will be accomplished. Let the lives of the members of the craft be so imbued with the spirit of true Masonry the ennobling and sublime tenets of our profession, that every one will be "as a city set upon a hill," which can not be hid; or a "candle upon a candlestick," which sheds light for all. Then will the good men be attracted to it and the fraternity will grow

A Big Welcome To Brother Jack Pearson

Hempstead Masonic Lodge would like to welcome our newest member, Brother Jack Pearson.

Jack now lives northwest of Hempstead and has transferred his membership from Fairbanks Lodge #1363 to Hempstead Lodge by Certificate of Good Standing. Jack was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Fairbanks Lodge 40 years ago.

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He addressed the man, "Can you describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?"

Say A Prayer For

Roy Shields having kidney problems.
John Daut Sr. problems with spinal disk.
Ed Locklear's daughter spots on lung
Linda Wren, a cancer has been discovered

Masonic Anniversaries

McWilliams, Robert L. 04-15-63 42

Happy Birthdays

Wallingford, George G. 04-25-20 85

The Big Garage Sale

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who lives in another town and wants to remain anonymous. He wrote that he regretted, not being able to drive to Hempstead to help with the sale, so he included a \$100.00 donation as his part in helping the Lodge.

When things slowed down during the latter part of Saturday afternoon our Worshipful Master Kelly Cox called his sons Jason and Buck gather some equipment and come over to the Lodge. With their help they trimmed the tree branches overhanging the Lodge roof and clearing off the almost one foot deep build up of leaves and debris covering the rear side of the roof. Then they came back Sunday afternoon and finished pruning the pecan tree and cleaning up the site. Thanks to Kelly and sons for doing it and for doing a beautiful job.

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit."

"And why not, darling?"

"You know that you always have a headache the next morning every time you wear it."

A catholic nun, named Sister Mary Margaret, who works for a local home health agency was out making her rounds when she ran out of gas. as luck would have it a gas station was just a block away.

She walked to the station to borrow a can to start the car with and drive to the station for a fill up. The attendant regretfully told her the only gas can he owned had been loaned out but if she would wait it was sure to be back shortly. Since the nun was on the way to see a patient she decided not to wait and walked back to the car.

She looked through the vehicle for something to fill with gas and spotted a bedpan that was for the patient. Always resourceful she carried it to the station, and filled it with gasoline then carried it to her car.

As she was pouring the gas into the tank two men were across the street watching.

One of them turned to the other and said, "If it starts, I'll become a Catholic."

Two women were standing before the Pearly Gates. They were new arrivals and comparing stories about how each of them had died.

1st woman: "I froze to death."

2nd woman: "How horrible!"

1st woman: "It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm and sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?"

2nd woman: "I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching reruns on TV."

1st woman: "So what happened?"

2nd woman: "I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere. And finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died!"

1st woman: "Too bad you didn't look in the freezer. We'd both still be alive."

*Visit The Newly Revised
Hempstead Lodge Web Site At
www.geocities.com/hempstead749*

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