

# The Waller Mason Lodge #808 Online Newsletter



The Waller Masonic Lodge Buildings From December 30, 1897 To The Present

Study Nights Mondays 6:30pm - March 2015 Issue - Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm  
Worshipful Master Jason Tones – Secretary – Bart Harvey – Editor John “Corky” Daut

## If A Tree Falls In The Woods

OK, now indulge me for a minute and let me pose this question: If you swear an oath in the middle of the woods and no one is around to hear it, did you still make a bona fide oath?

It is my opinion, and I think that most good Masons would agree, that a valid oath was still made. On the other hand, if you break your oath in the middle of those proverbial woods (or anywhere else for that matter) and no one witnessed it, was it really violated? I think we can all agree that the answer would be, “yes”.

I present this line of questions because of some disturbing reasoning I have been picking up on lately. I heard or read about a few Masons who divulge our Masonic secrets openly and to the uninitiated. The argument being rationalized is that the oath of secrecy in Masonry, which we all so solemnly and sincerely swore before God and our Lodge, has little value these days because anyone can look up just about all our valuable secrets in a good public library. There is no doubt that anyone who cares to do the research, or even watch the Discovery Chanel for that matter, can find out most of what we hold as “secret”. This completely misses the point of swearing the Oaths of our Obligation. I don’t believe it is so much a question of whether a non-Mason will discover some of our Masonic secrets.

Certainly, there is nothing we can, or should do about the content in a public library or a TV documentary. The important thing is, it is a question of whether those secrets were discovered from one of us. Keeping the Oaths of our Obligation is a testimonial about our personal integrity as men and as Masons. We swore an oath before God to keep these secrets, not to “protect” Masonry, but to provide ourselves with a tool to measure our worth as a men. And although God may sometimes be our only witness, when we swear an oath, we make a pact not with other Masons, but we make a promise to ourselves. And for anyone who has an ounce of self-respect, to violate that promise would be to profoundly let ourselves down. And what would that say about us as men or as Masons?

This ‘From the East’ column was written by Wor. John Ciccotelli - Master of Blue Hill Lodge.

## The Waller Area Is Growing



Ever hear of Daiken Industries, Ltd. You will. The company builds heating and air conditioning systems.

They recently bought 490 acres at the northeast corner of Hwy 290 and Kickapoo Rd. .

Work has started to build a 3,900,000 square foot facility that will employ up to 4,000 people. Under The Goodman Global Operations name. They will be

integrating the four current factories currently operating in the U.S. and the current Houston furnace and air-conditioning research and development and the warehouse distribution facility into one complex on the property.

Another large company Alegacy, who makes natural gas compression units bought 87 acres between Hwy 290 and Business 290 about half way between Waller and Prairie View. Work has already started on the new 100,000 plus facility. The dirt work has already started and pipes are being laid



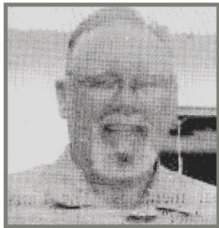
Just about everyone in Waller County should know about the Tractor Supply Company. They will be building a new store in the city of Waller next to the Holiday Inn on FM 2920. Construction will start soon and the new store should be open this summer. Their motto is "If it's the backyard or the back 40, we have the products to help you get the job done."

Homeowners and farmers can find feed, fencing, mowers, tools, work clothing and much more. At Tractor Supply Stores.

Tractor Supply operates 1,400 stores in 49 states. The stores are typically between 15,000 and 24,000 square feet with about the same amount of space outside to display rural equipment.

The new W.A.R.M. (Waller Assistance and Restoration Ministries) facility is now open on Business 290 behind the Waller County Land Company beside the Post Office.

The 10,000 square foot building will house the huge thrift store, a huge pantry for donated goods, a chapel, a break room, offices and a large warehouse area.



## **Brother Johnny Crowhurst**

Brother Johnny laid down his working tools on February 05, 2015. He was a dedicated member of Pleasant Hill Masonic Lodge #380 AF & AM and good friend of Waller Lodge. He was also a member of the Arabia Shrine in Houston and the Waller County Shrine Club

Johnny Lawrence Crowhurst, age 75 of Hockley, was born July 25, 1939 and passed away on

## **Irene "Lorraine" Falks**

Irene "Lorraine" Falks, age 86, born August 04, 1928, of Waller, passed away on February 28, 2015. Irene was a Charter member of Waller Eastern Star Chapter #1047. She is preceded in death



Don't expect perfection in a man because he is a Freemason. If you do, you will be disappointed. Masonry makes a man better, but no human agency can make him perfect.

If he is a Mason, you have a right to presume he is a good man, but do not condemn Masonry even if a few Masons turn out bad. Even the Great Teacher Himself had a Judas.

The aim and purpose of Masonry is to receive none but good men, keep them good and make them better. Judge the institution not by a few failures, but by the average of its successes.

That average is high and it consequently gives standing to its members, but it cannot be an infallible guide.

## **Alexander The First**

Alexander I succeed Paul I as Emperor of Russia in 1801.

Soon after, he renewed the prohibitions against all secret societies, especially against free Masons.

Two years later Boeber, counselor of state and director of the military school at St. Petersburg, had an audience with the emperor.

Boeber described the object of the institution and doctrine of its mysteries in such a way that the emperor rescinded the decrees.

The emperor gave the institution protection and asked to be initiated into the Order, which was done.

The Grand Lodge Astrea of Russia was established and Boeber was elected Grand Master.

## **The Master's Hat**

By Ancient custom, the English King's head was always covered while his subjects' heads were never covered in his presence.

The American custom of the Master of the Lodge wearing a hat as a symbol of his authority is apparently a result of that ancient custom.

# **The Waller Lodge Electronic Newsletter Subscriber's Extra Features**

## **What Has Freemasonry To Offer?**

**TRADITION:** Freemasonry came to Ontario with the Military Lodges during the eighteenth century - an unbroken tradition spanning three centuries. When the Battle of the Plains of Abraham was fought in September 1759, which historians cite as 'the most decisive battle in Canadian history,



both commanding officers, General James Wolfe and the Marquis de Montcalm, were Freemasons. The oldest Lodge in the province is Niagara No. 2, established in 1792 and located in Niagara-on-the-Lake. When John Graves Simcoe (a Freemason) the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada presided over the first meeting of the Executive Council, on July 17th 1792, it was held in Freemasons' Hall in Newark (now Niagara-on-the- Lake). Sir John A. Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada, and five of his successors in office were Freemasons, the last being John George Diefenbaker (1957-1963). The Hon. John Ross Matheson, the man largely responsible for the adoption of the Canadian Maple Leaf Flag and the creation of the Order of Canada, has been a Freemason for seventy years. The Grand Lodge of Canada was formed in 1855, the first in the British Empire to declare independence from the United Grand Lodge of England.

**BELIEFS:** Based upon the principle of universal Brotherhood, Freemasons hold fast to the timeless, yet timely verities of honesty, integrity, equality, honour, morality and virtue. While sharing many of the spiritual values associated with religious faith, Freemasonry is not a religion. By living an exemplary life, by becoming a better person, a Freemason strives to make his corner of the universe a better place by practising the Golden Rule, helping to improve the quality of life for others, which is characterized as Brotherly Love, the first of the fundamental principles upon which Freemasonry is based.

**PHILANTHROPY:** Freemasons practise charity and benevolence. It can be shown that Freemasons in North America contribute nearly \$3 million dollars every day to those worthy causes that are dedicated to the relief of suffering in the world. The Shriners' Hospitals for Children are the best known example. Freemasons believe that there is no greater value than giving freely of themselves and asking nothing in return.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest institution devoted to adult education. Through our rites and ceremonies, called 'Degrees,' a man is guided through a life-long journey of discovery — discovery of himself — by a five-part course in self-discipline: self-examination, self-discovery, self-analysis, self-realization, self-fulfillment. By serious study, extensive reading, industrious research, candid discussion, and penetrating reflection, the individual comes to know and improve himself, thereby achieving his personal potential.

**BECOMING A MASON:** The long-established tradition by which no one is ever invited, persuaded, or coaxed to become a member, is one of the more puzzling aspects of Freemasonry. In order to benefit fully from what Freemasonry has to offer, a man must want to undertake the duties and responsibilities of membership, and himself be ready to embark on his personal journey of discovery. To apply to be a Mason in Ontario, a man must be of good character, at least twenty-one years of age, who professes a belief in a Supreme Being. Race, religious affiliation, socio-economic standing, ethnic or national origin are immaterial and irrelevant.

As you explore the other postings and links on this Website, you will find further information about the world of Freemasonry. As Joseph Campbell urged, "Follow your Bliss" and enjoy the experience.

MW Raymond S.J. Daniels, Grand Master Rural Lodge - Quincy, Massachusetts

## **Surviving the Big Ones**

By John "Corky" Daut

The big ones for me were that 16 year period between the Great Depression and World War II. Being born in 1928, I grew up during the hard times between the stock market crash of 1929 and the end of World War II in 1945.

Some of the readers have told me that they enjoy reading about the good old days in the country so this is the third of three columns about Pine Island during the late 1800's and early 1900's with stories my mother told me.

In Pine Island like almost anywhere in the south, the men and older boys always had a hunting rifle or shotgun handy to add wild game and fowl to the table. And, the whole family could enjoy fishing in the nearby creeks and lakes.)

Beside the small creeks such as Three Mile Creek and the stock tanks (small man made ponds), Clear Creek on the old Houston highway gave the young people of Pine Island a place to fish, swim and picnic. Even young people living in Hempstead hiked out to Clear Creek for an afternoon of fun. Someone even installed a diving board on the west bank near the pump station.

There was a two story pump station building with the lower floor on the creek bank and the upper floor beside the railroad track. Water was pumped from the creek to fill the water tanks of the old steam engine trains. The railroad had dredged the creek under and on both sides of the trestle to assure having a good supply of water.

Besides being a place of fun for the teens the creek was also a source of problems when hard rains hit the area. High school students occasionally had to spend the night with their friends in Hempstead because high water over the bridge kept them from returning to Pine Island after school.

Even going to town in Hempstead or Waller on Saturdays for supplies was often made into a social event. The farmers could compare their problems and successes with the farmers from the other nearby communities while they ate a nickels worth of crackers and a nickel piece of summer sausage or cheese in front of the stores at noon.

Of course social events also gave the opportunity for romance to begin and continue in the country. Probably the first arrow fired from Cupid's bow was in the school. "Ring games" played at recess or during lunch period, allowed the young people the chance to briefly touch hands with the opposite sex without being teased. Walking to and from school together also allowed them the opportunity to talk in semi-privacy to their chosen one.

For the students who went on to high school, the choices of potential girlfriends and boyfriends was suddenly expanded beyond the small community in which they lived. All students graduating from the little two room Pine Island primary had to attend the Hempstead High School until the 1930's when a high school was built in the town of Waller

Although the elders in the church would never have admitted it (aloud at least), the time before and after church services and prayer meetings allowed the young members a place to meet members of the opposite sex and gave young love (and maybe a few older loves) the opportunity to blossom.

The trip to town for supplies also allowed the youths an opportunity to meet members of the opposite sex from the surrounding communities. This allowed potential brides and grooms to bring "New Blood" into a community that was beginning to be full of cousins.

After the young people reached the dating age, and had access to some sort of transportation, they could also find entertainment in the nearby towns like Hempstead and Waller. One of the most favorite (and probably cheapest) dates available for young people was the joy of sipping an ice cream soda or a fountain drink, at the soda fountain of the drug store, with your sweetheart.



W. M. Corky  
11 Years Ago

Plays were sometime given and later movies were shown. One example of a formal "Town" date of that era was in 1927 was when Gus and Grace along with what would be my dad and mama and drove to Brenham on a double date to see a play. Gus who operated a hardware store, Grace taught school and dad who was a pharmacist at McDade's drugstore. They all lived in Hempstead except mama who lived in Pine Island where she worked helping her mother run the post office.

The play was the "Student Prince" presented by a touring company of French actors. Following the play, they had a fancy supper in the hotel dining room and then returned home. Driving less than 30 miles to see a play doesn't seem like an exceptional date now, but in the 1920's it was an adventure. The play ran from 8:00 PM until midnight and with the roads of those days and waiting for the ferry to cross the Brazos River it was 3:00 AM when they got back to Pine Island.

Another method of meeting new young men, used by some of the young ladies of the era, was deciding what product they couldn't live without, when a new young man went to work in one of the stores. Dad often said there was a large increase in the sale of small items to young ladies during the first few weeks he worked at McDade's drug store.

Mama even talked her mother into making a trip after dark, to McDade's drug store in Hempstead. It seems that it was right after she read an article in the Hempstead News that Mr. McDade had hired Mr. W. N. Daut, as the new pharmacist for the drugstore. She ask her sister, Baby, if she had seen the new druggist at McDade's. When Baby answered yes, mama ask, "Does he have any boys old enough to date?" "No", Baby said, "But he's the right age." Mama really needed some face powder that night. But, as luck would have it, the electricity went off in the drug store block just as they drove up. Her purchase and their first meeting was by lamp light.

That dim beginning, however, resulted in a marriage that lasted until dad died 55 years later in 1982, so that system seems to have worked well.

## Remember Me?

It amuses me now to think that your Masonic Lodge spends so much time looking for new members -- when I was there all the time. Do you remember me?

I am the fellow who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have his own friends to sit and talk with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they did not pay much attention to me.

I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or to somehow participate and contribute.-- no one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I guess it did not matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date I decided to stay home and watch a good program on television. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the month before.

You might say that I am a good guy, a good family man, that I hold a responsible job and love my community.

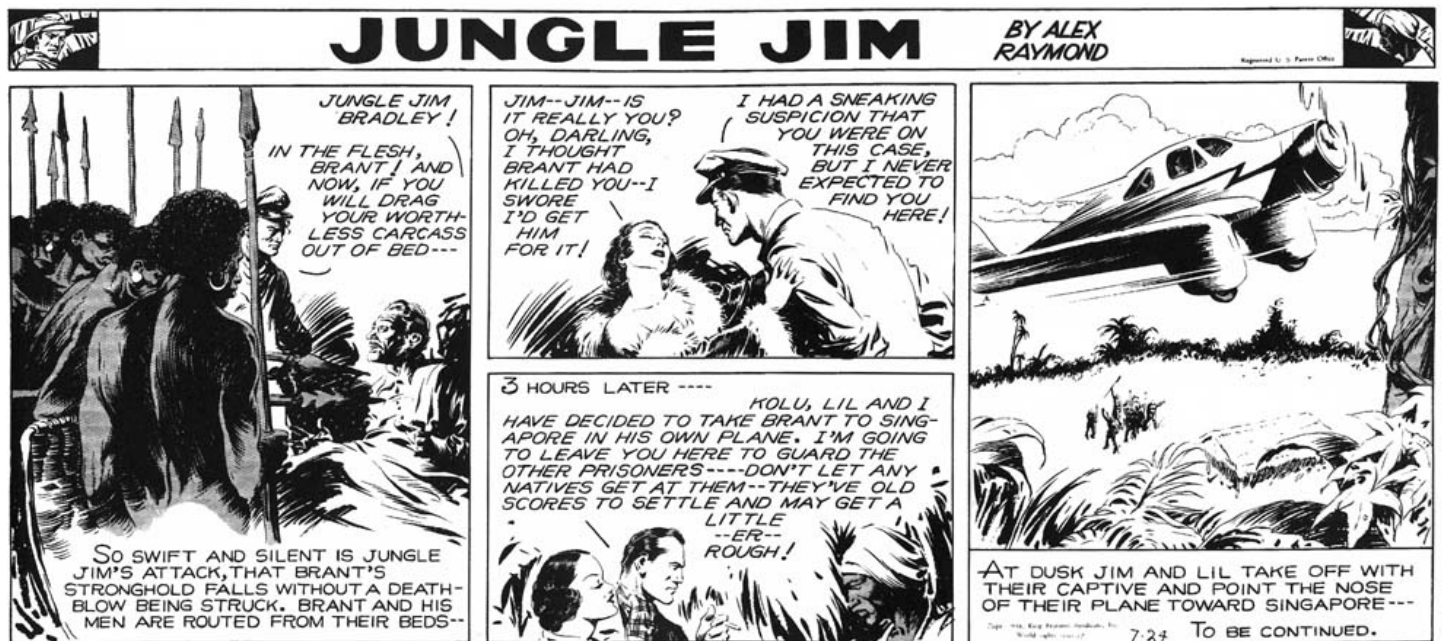
You know what else I am? I am the member who never came back.

**Editors Note: In my opinion, the above story has no relation in any way to the Waller Masonic Lodge. In my experience Waller Lodge Brothers do their best to make new members feel welcome and involve them in our activities. However, it wouldn't hurt us to remember the story.**



# The Funnies Your Grandparents Read

## Red Rider



Actually, I remember reading some of these comic strips myself.  
But then, come to think of it, I'm a great grandpa. *Corky*

## The Old Tiler

### Gift of the Magi

By Carl Claudy

What do you think happened to me in there tonight?" asked the New Brother of the Old Tiler.  
"Someone give you a dollar?" asked the Old Tiler.  
"No, of course not!"  
"You give someone a dollar?"



"Certainly not!"

"Well, I can't imagine what happened. Men don't usually get as excited as you are except about getting or giving dollars. What did happen?"

"Brother Smith asked me if I would stand for election as Junior Steward in December!"

"Most natural and reprehensible of Brother Smith!" chuckled the Old Tiler. "Of course you told him you would be pleased to do so."

"Why was it natural and why was it reprehensible, and of course I did nothing of the sort!" answered the New Brother.

"It is natural for men to ask their friends if they want office. It is reprehensible, because Masonry in lodge practice is not supposed to have any politics. An election is supposed to be like a wen, something that just grows without any previous warning or conversation! But why didn't you accept with pleasure?"

"I didn't accept at all! What would I want to be an officer for?"

"Why not?"

"Why, Old Tiler, you know well enough why not! I have heard you talk before about the responsibilities of office. An officer has to serve at least seven years before he gets to the East in this lodge. He has to learn degrees and attend meetings and go to all funerals and visit the sick and labor instructing candidates and I don't know what all besides. Why should I run my head into any such noose as that? What does the officer get out of it, anyway? Nothing but fifty dollars' worth of squares and compasses to hang on a blue ribbon on his coat and for the rest of his life have some Master say, 'You are cordially invited to a seat in the East!' Not for me, thank you!"

"No, very evidently not for you," agreed the Old Tiler. "Did you tell Brother Smith all this?"

"I sure did!"

"What did he say?"

"He didn't say anything. He just looked shocked!"

"I can understand that," mused the Old Tiler, placidly. "Most men are shocked when they go to a friend to do him honor and make him the priceless gift, and he laughs in their faces and calls their gift trash."

"Say, hold on a minute! What are you talking about? He didn't try to give me anything. He tried to wish something on me. He tried . . ."

"Oh, no, he didn't!" contradicted the Old Tiler. "You are laboring under a misapprehension. You evidently think a lodge has to beg members to be her servants. Such is not the case. The lodge looks around to see which of her sons she will honor. Through a few men she picked on you. Brother Smith came to you with the Gift of the Magi in his hands. Of course, the gift is not his to make, it is the lodge's to make. But just because there is, now and then, the unappreciative, non-understanding member, who would tread on pearls if they were thrown before him, to get at the swill of ease and luxury instead of the jewels of labor and their reward, the lodge allows certain of its brethren to sound out the others before it offers them the position by election."

"The lodge looks upon the election to the junior end of the line as a signal honor. In all probability, the man elected Junior Steward this year will be the Master seven years hence. At least he can be, if he has ability and love for Masonry and sticks to his job. So the lodge feels that in saying to a brother 'you may be a Master in seven years; at least, we will trust you to try, as we will try you in trust,' it is paying him the greatest compliment outside of an actual election to the East which it can pay. As betrothal is to marriage, so is election to the foot of the line to the Mastership."



"To be Master of a lodge is a position of responsibility. It means work. It means effort. It means trials. It means difficulty. But it also means much in education, in assurance on one's feet, in knowledge of character and strength of will and wit. Being Master brings great rewards, of which your 'fifty dollars' worth of gold' is but the symbol, not the substance.

"But we all make mistakes, and Brother Smith and I both made one. When he asked me about you, I said you had good stuff in you. So he spoke to you, but you don't want to bring it out for the lodge. That's your business. It was our error. So we will take the better man."

"Why . . . Why didn't you take the better man in the first place?" asked the New Brother.

"Oh, we didn't know he was the better man until you told us so. You had concealed it from us. We thought you had Master's quality in you. Willingness to serve, love of your fellows, desire to be something in Masonry for what it will do for you and what you can do for others; these make a Master's quality. But we were mistaken."

"No, I was mistaken," cried the New Brother remorsefully. "Do you suppose I could unconvince Brother Smith?"

"Not this year," answered the Old Tiler. "You have a year to try."

## **Standard of Masonic Conduct**

From the Lodge of Evolution No. 931 February 2015 Newsletter

It has been said that the purpose of Freemasonry is the pursuit of excellence. All of the teachings of Masonry are directed to excellence in performing our duties to God, our country, our neighbours and ourselves. The continuing effort to improve oneself is the true mark of a Mason. This principle was stated well by Grand Master Donald J. Flood at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

"We must constantly remember that in every moment of our life in public, at work, at pleasure, with our families, even when you are alone, you are a Mason!

"The non-Masons who know us will judge each of us, and Masonry itself, by the way in which we conduct ourselves. We have in trust the reputation of Masonry. Let us not betray that trust!

Masonry will flourish if we follow these precepts.

"Before we can expect to attract good men to the fraternity by our conduct and reputation in public, we must learn to conduct ourselves with propriety in the Lodge. One of our first duties shall be loyalty to the fraternity and obedience to its laws. This is a fundamental requirement.

"Propriety is not the result of law, but rather of tradition, custom and usage. Like good manners, it has behind it only the force of opinion. While there (may be) no penalties for breaches, there are tangible rewards for observance of the rules and ceremonies of good manners!"

An ancient philosopher advised "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."

This also applies to your actions when you are visiting another Lodge, particularly in other states or countries. While the principles and ideals of Masonry are universal, social customs and Masonic traditions and laws differ from place to place. For example, all Masonic Lodges open with a prayer and it is not surprising that the words of the prayer may vary from place to place. When we go to other states in our country we find that the attitude of prayer is not the same everywhere and in other countries the name of Deity may even be different. Likewise we find that the customs concerning such things as the proper way to address a Brother or a Lodge officer, the appropriate dress for a lodge meeting, proper topics of conversation, and even the working tools and the Grand Masonic Word change as we go around the world. But wherever you may be, you can be sure that respect and

honesty toward Masons and Masonry, as taught by the square and compass, will be the fundamental guide for your conduct.

In this paper we will discuss the principles, traditions and ideals that should guide our conduct as Masons. This paper does not present a list of Masonic do's and don'ts. Such an attempt would fail for at least two reasons: first, no one would read it, and second, as Masons, each of us is expected to apply the tools and principles of our Craft to our own lives.

One of the most interesting experiences in Masonry is to visit a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction. Whether it is in a foreign country or just in another state, there will be interesting and surprising differences. But, a word of caution, you must comply with the laws and customs of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which you are travelling. Therefore, before you visit, find out what to expect. The List of Lodges Masonic, found in every Lodge, give the names and locations of all the Lodges in the world that are recognized by the Grand Lodge. Since there are clandestine Lodges, it is essential that this book be consulted. Finally, if you are in a foreign country, you should consult the Grand Lodge office in that country.

Concerning appropriate dress, a dark business suit is often acceptable for a Lodge meeting. But, in some Grand Jurisdictions, formal dress is required even for sideliners. Regarding Masonic pins, rings, etc., these are often worn only within the Lodge. Some Grand Lodges even have rules that prohibit wearing these in public. And then there are countries which have outlawed Freemasonry. It is not prudent to even carry a pin into those countries.

Business Advertisements and Contacts. The general rule in these matters is that you should not seek financial benefit from your Masonic membership. To do otherwise is considered to be

in poor taste at the best and un-masonic or even criminal at the worst. Lodge membership lists cannot be used for business mailings. Masonic membership cannot be used in a commercial or political advertisement or sign. The square and compasses cannot be used for any commercial purpose, as a symbol or a design.

Respect, Every person has a basic need for both self-respect and the respect of others. When our friends show, by word or deed, that they hold us in low regard, we may react as strongly as if we were threatened. On the other side, we would do almost anything for a person who holds us in high esteem. Thus, respect is both the least honour that we require and the highest honour that we can hope for in our dealings with our fellow men.

The term "respect" includes courtesy, tolerance, kindness, sympathy, prudence, temperance, and a host of other concepts that refer to our relationships with people. It encompasses our words, our actions, our appearance and even our thoughts. Inside the Lodge and outside of it, we should strive to demonstrate in every way our respect for a Brother's honour, feelings, efforts, hopes and any other part of his life that we may contact.

While conduct within the Lodge is the concern of all Masons, it is especially important for the officers of the Lodge. Once again we quote from Brother Flood's comments:

"We can't expect our Brothers to know these principles if we don't teach them and practice them. This is Masonic education in its finest sense."

It is not from the lack of desire to learn that the Craft suffers, but rather from the lack of instruction.

"Masonry does not exist for the mechanics of ritual alone. Just as important are the learning, interpretation and exemplification of that ritual and of the basic principles of our Order. Equally important, too, for the candidate and for every member is the need to fully understand these principles, as well as our responsibilities as Masons.



“What is required of every single one of us is the dedicated and devoted application of the high moral principles of Masonry. By these simple methods, we develop the character that guarantees our own self-improvement and discharges the duties of God, our country, our neighbours and ourselves.”

Since officers set the example for the whole Craft, before seeking or accepting a line position a man should be certain that he is willing to demonstrate the highest standards.

Dress, in many Jurisdictions there is no mandatory dress code, but this does not mean that we should disregard our appearance. Although as Masons “We regard no man for his worldly wealth.. “, human society everywhere considers a man’s outward appearance to reflect his inner self and attitudes. Your manner of dress reflects the respect that you have for the dignity of Masonry, its work, its goals, and its members. At all times your apparel should be appropriate for the occasion and those attending, remembering that the altar of Masonry is the altar of God. Thus the clothes you would wear for a golf tournament or a degree in an underground mine may not be appropriate for work done in the Lodge quarters.

At Tyled Meetings, At the sound of the gavel in the East, the officers and brethren take their places and the Lodge comes to order. This means that everyone is seated unless called up by the Worshipful Master or unless rising to address the Worshipful Master. In most introductions all speaking is directed to the East. Therefore it is improper for two Brothers to speak to each other during an open discussion, unless directed by the Worshipful Master, and it is never proper for two Brothers to hold a private conversation (whispered or otherwise) in a Lodge at labour.

Each candidate at each degree is instructed in the proper way to salute. He is also told that he should salute when rising to address the Worshipful Master and when entering or retiring from a Lodge while it is at labour. These instructions remain in effect even after we have completed our degrees. Always rise when speaking, even if you are only

giving a second to a motion. Give salutes that are accurate and precise. A sloppy salute is actually a sign of disrespect! Finally, when referring to a Brother or when addressing him, courtesy requires that we use the term “Brother” followed by his last name. Of course, “Worshipful Brother Jones,” “Right Worshipful Brother Smith,” or “Most Worshipful Brother Flood” are also proper forms.

There are probably no other topics of discussion that have caused as much ill will, alienation and contention as have politics and religion. In the interest of harmony among Brothers, it is considered un-Masonic to introduce any religious, political, or other divisive topic into a Masonic discussion.

A final word for the officers of the lodge.

The flag of our country and the Great Light of Masonry merit our utmost respect, both in their care and their handling. The Volume of the Sacred Law should be handled with reverence and care; the flag should be treated with honour and should fly freely when being carried. The other jewels, furniture, and regalia should be cared for and kept in good repair to demonstrate the high regard we hold for our Craft and its work.

During Degrees, One of the most solemn and meaningful events in a Mason’s life is the time of his raising. Yet we often see this degree marred by laughter and inappropriate comments. To properly impress the candidate with the seriousness of the ceremony, there must be no talking, whispering, laughing or other commotion during the conferring of the degree. Bear in mind the fact the Temple, for this portion of the degree, is supposed to be silent and unoccupied.

Only the participants in the drama are to speak, and they are instructed to make no facial expressions, gestures or other unusual deliveries which might induce levity. The cooperation of each one here present is EXPECTED.

Comments that are intended to arouse a candidate’s concern for his personal dignity or safety are among the most discourteous acts that can be inflicted upon a candidate. Such actions are a gross misrepresentation of the Craft and are disrespectful to all of its members.

There is one form of disruption of degree work which comes from the best of intentions, sideline prompting. How often have we seen a forgotten word, or even a dramatic pause, produce uproar as a number of concerned Brothers attempt to help the speaker? Prompting should be done only by the Worshipful Master or the one designated by him. The Masonic virtues of silence and circumspection are nowhere more appropriate than in this situation.

The perfect points of our entrance, as reflected in the four cardinal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice, provide us with a complete guide for truly Masonic action. It behoves each of us to periodically evaluate ourselves against these four standards, to see where we have those rough corners to which the common gavel can profitably be applied.

Am I temperate in my relations with others, or have I been excessive in my actions toward someone? Have I displayed fortitude in pursuing the excellence I can achieve, or have I chosen to do as everyone else does? Do I direct myself wisely and prudently, or do I sometimes go beyond the bounds of courtesy and good taste? Have I given to each Brother, candidate, friend, and associate the consideration, help, and respect which they justly deserve, or have I let my own pride, comfort, and desires blind me to their needs?

Article extracted from a friendly page in Facebook by Carlos Zapata MM.

## **What Is Freemasonry to You?**

**I saw this question as the title on a U-tube video the other day.  
I had to think about it for a while. But, I finally found my answer.**

**“Freemasonry to me, is wanting to do the right,  
thing, even when no one else is around.” *Corky***

**So, now I'll ask, “What is Freemasonry to you?” Email your answer to Corky at [pine.island@hotmail.com](mailto:pine.island@hotmail.com) and I'll print your answers in next month's newsletter.**

**If the above looks familiar to you, it should. It appeared  
in the December Waller Lodge newsletter three months ago.**

**It appears that Freemasonry does not mean much to many Brothers,  
or, no one reads the Newsletter, since not one single Brother responded.**

# **1955**

These comments were made in the year 1955, only 60 years ago! How many of them did you make?

"I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.

"Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2000 won't buy nothing but a used one."

"If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous."

"Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"

"I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."

"It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet."

"It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work."

"Marriage doesn't mean a thing anymore; those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat."

"I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business."

"Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Congress."

"The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."

"There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15.00 a night to stay in a hotel."

"If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."

"When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."

"Kids today are impossible. Those duck tail haircuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls."

I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying "damn" in "Gone With The Wind," it seems every new movie has either "hell" or "damn" in it.

"I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."

"Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000.00 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president."

"No one can afford to be sick anymore; \$35.00 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."

"If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a haircut, forget it."

## **Aunt Minnie**

By Loren Gullledge P.M. From a very long ago Sugar Land Lodge newsletter.

Years ago, my Aunt Minnie decided that it was time she owned an automobile. Very few families owned automobiles then, especially maiden ladies, but one friend after another joined the ranks of the motorist until it was more than Aunt Minnie could stand.

When she went to the weekly meeting of the Sewing Circle, she was left completely out of the conversation. Now, the talk was about engine horse power, where once it was about flower gardens, pies, and that hussy down at the end of the street. The Ladies Aid Society was not quite so bad. There





was yet some mention of the Bible, foreign missions, and the preacher's wife, but there was also more and more talk about miles per gallon and how to repair a puncture.

Being left out of the conversation was enough to cause Aunt Minnie to buy an automobile, but she had a very sharp eye and never failed to notice the look of amazement at her negative answer when asked what make of automobile she owned.

So Minnie bought an automobile. She didn't waste time either, but went straight to the dealer and pointed out the one she liked, and said, "I'll take that one!" She wrote out

a check for the full amount and told the dealer to send it out the following week. The next stop was at the office of a contractor where she ordered a garage built to house the automobile. The garage was built on schedule and the new automobile was delivered. The salesman who delivered the automobile informed Aunt Minnie that he came prepared to give her some lessons in driving and if she would make a list of the dates convenient to her he would be most happy to teach her to drive.

That day was not convenient for the first lesson, so she asked the salesman to drive the automobile into the garage for her and promised to let him know when it would be convenient for her to begin driving lessons.

Day after day passed; without Aunt Minnie calling the salesman. It seemed that something would always come up on each occasion that she was ready to begin the lessons. Weeks rolled by and so did the months, but Aunt Minnie's automobile remained in the garage where the salesman had placed it.

At the end of the year she bought a new license for the Automobile but never got around to calling the salesman or taking her first lesson in driving. Years passed, and at the beginning of each year she bought a new license, but never moved the car. This continued until the day she died. Poor old Aunt Minnie never realized the pleasures and travel convenience she missed for no other reason than the fact that she just never made up her mind to get started.

The automobile was hers, and paid for. The streets and roads were there and she helped to pay for them too, but the automobile remained in the garage. The only pleasure she obtained from the automobile was in her ability to tell her friends that she owned an automobile.

I know you will agree that Aunt Minnie was a screwball, but don't be too hard on her until after you take a good look in the mirror.

Did you write out a check for your Lodge initiation fees as Aunt Minnie wrote out one for her automobile license?

Did you take the Masonic degrees just as aunt Minnie had a garage built?

Do you pay your Lodge dues and get your card each year just as aunt Minnie bought the license for her automobile?

Do you take an active part and attend the Lodge meetings so you can really enjoy your Lodge membership.

Do you let your Lodge membership sit in the garage and rust like Aunt Minnie's automobile?

If you do

**"Hi! Aunt Minnie!"**

# Hempstead Masonic Lodge

#749 AF & AM

Main at Seventh Street - Hempstead, Texas



## Pancake & Sausage Supper

All You Can Eat - Only \$7.00 Per Person

March 10, 2015 - 5:00 To 7:00 P.M.



# Waller Masonic Lodge

#808 AF & AM

Main At Locust Street - Waller, Texas



## Chili Supper & Silent Auction

Only \$7.00 Per Person - Kids under 12 eat Free

March 28, 2015 - 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Please bring your donated items for the silent auction in time for the sale.