

# The Waller Mason Lodge #808 Online Newsletter



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

Worshipful Master Brack Whitehead - Editor John "Corky" Daut  
The July 2011 Issue

## Brother Tom Kenney Passed Away

*Editor's Note; I received this information on Brother Tom to late for last month's issue and would like to honor him now.*

Past W.M. Tom Kenney is with Jesus and other loved ones! He left our presence on Wednesday, May 4 2011; after living a full and deep life of almost 88 years.

He was born on June 24, 1923 in Houston, Texas, and lived there for almost all of his life. His parents were Harry Whitman Kenney and Clara Humphreys Kenney; he had a sister, Clara Kenney Bradford, and a brother, Earl Kenney, who were 11 and 7 years old when he was born.

Tom was a delight to all who knew him. He had wonderful family memories of growing up in the Houston Heights. In high school he loved playing football, and was thrilled to be named to the All-City Team.

Tom entered the Navy to serve his country in March 1942. During WWII, he served in the Armed Guard as a signalman, and sailed on merchant ships in the South Pacific. He spent most of his time on a tanker, fueling battleships for the battles in the islands of the Pacific. His last ship was an ammunition ship that traveled in a convoy to the battle of Okinawa.

He returned to Houston in April 1945.

Tom married Mary Frances Coleman in May 1947. Their happy union was blessed with two children, Michael Thomas and Debbie Sue. Tom and Mary raised their family in a happy environment filled with family, friends, school, church, sports activities, as a volunteer with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and their work.

Tom was the principal partner in a neighborhood grocery store known for its great meats and for bringing Blue Bell ice cream to Houston.

Tom and Mary moved outside of Houston to their small farm, where Tom pursued a dream of raising cattle and hay. It was a happy time. The store in Houston was eventually sold, and the small town grocery store in Waller became their business and livelihood.

Tom had many friends in Waller. He had Brannan's Grocery, and then it was Kenney's Grocery, for several years.

Tom served the community of Waller in many ways in school activities, the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce and other activities.

He was a member and past master Of Waller Masonic lodge and was the charter president of Waller County Shrine Club,

All who knew them were greatly saddened when Mary's health failed and she passed away at M D Anderson hospital in January 1985, after 38 happy years of marriage.

Family life was so very important to Tom, and a little more than a year later, he married Loraine (Raine) Loring in Houston. They recently celebrated 25 years of marriage, and Tom loved to tell that he had been hap-



pily married for 63 years. Raine brought two grown children to the family when she joined the Kenney clan; and Beth and Grant were blessed to have Tom as a second father.

Those 25 years have been full – travel (mostly to visit family and friends!), serving in their church and other activities within God’s Kingdom, and loving and laughing with each other every single day of their life together.

Tom is survived by his wife Raine; his children Michael (Terry), Debbie (Bob Cline), Beth and Grant (Kim); his grandchildren Jeff (Suzie), Travis (Gina), Mary Katherine (Trey Strong), Lauren, Jennifer (Justin Murrill), Zacharee and Jordan; and an extended family of other grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to Cross Timbers Community Church in Argyle, Texas for the Next Generation Project. A gift in Tom’s memory to the children’s charity of your choice would also be appreciated.



## The Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine

Don’t miss reading the monthly Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine at, <http://www.mastermason.com/STTM-Emag/>

This Month features the Tusculum Masonic Lodge #86 A. F. & A. M. and Texas Masonic History - Brother Lorenzo de Zavala. It also has Texas stories, “The Golden Trowel”, “Brother John Coffee "Jack" Hays - Texas Ranger”, “Reruns From Back Then” and “The Hoodoo War In Mason County.”



## What Really Makes John Doe A Mason?

By Corky

What really makes ‘John Doe a Mason? That sounds like a simple question and there are many answers one could give with authentic sounding responses.

When a man decides that he wants to become a Mason he asks a Mason for a petition. He fills it out and submits it to the local Lodge. The petition is read at the next stated meeting, the Worshipful Master appoints three brothers as an investigation committee. They go to the petitioner’s home and interview him. If the interviewers give a favorable opinion of the candidate, the Lodge votes to allow him to receive the degrees and become a Master Mason. Now, that’s what really makes a man a true Mason, right? Not exactly.

First, a Mason must be a man of his word and be bound by and live by those promises he made with each degree.

The only “requirements” for a man to be made a Mason in Texas are that he must be at least 18 years old, have a believe in God and an afterlife, be of good moral character, not guilty of a crime of moral turpitude and capable of earning his living.

How do we know if he meets all of these requirements? The only one that we can know for sure is that he meets is the age requirement because we can still require a birth certificate.

Back when my dad was made a Mason, a candidate was usually checked out with the local police department to see if he had a criminal record. He also was often checked with the local credit bureau or business men to see if he pays his bills. But, we can’t do that anymore, that would be invading his privacy and against the law. When I was made a Mason the investigating committee also talked to everyone who signed the candidate’s petition.

To investigate the candidate now days, the three Lodge members who interview the candidate ask him some questions and judge his qualifications by his answers which may or may not be completely true. So we have to hope he is a man of his word.

Then the candidate is initiated as an Entered Apprentice, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft and raised as a Master Mason and makes a solemn promise to never reveal anything that took place during those three degrees and revealing the secrets of Freemasonry. The only thing that really keeps him from doing so is, if he is a man of his word?

Of course, the secrets of Freemasonry have not really been secret for hundreds of years. Because of a few Masons who were not men of their word. Pamphlets and books have been printed, “exposing the secrets of Freemasonry” almost as long as there has been Freemasonry. Almost any good library has a book or two and hundreds of web sites on the internet and programs on the television all expose the “secrets of Freemasonry” because of a few Masons who were not men of their word.

So, he could not expose any secret of Freemasonry, even if he wanted to, because there is nothing secret anymore.

But, he still will not repeat anything that happened when he went through those three degrees, because if he is really a man of his word, he made a solemn promise that he wouldn't.

And, that is what really makes John Doe a real Mason, he is he a man of his word.



## Service Award Night At Waller Lodge

Brothers Calvin C. Trapp and Carl G. Miller received their 50 year awards and Brother Wayne C. Schultz received his 60 year award presented by DDGM Right Worshipful Bud Dumesnil. Brother Jimmy Hooper Sr. also received his 40 year award from Worshipful Master Bart Harvey.

Not present to receive their awards and sorely missed were Brother Kenneth Healy, 70 year award and Brothers Glen Canon and Robert Scarborough, 50 year award.



**Brother Calvin Trap and Daughter**



**Brother Carl Miller and Wife**



**Brother Wayne Schultz and Wife**



**Brother Jimmy Hooper**

# Grand Lodge Of Arizona Closes!

Editors Note; This was one of the first fiction stories that I ever felt worthy of being put in a newsletter. But, I believe it is one that we should all read and think about again. It was originally in the September 06 Newsletter.

## Grand Lodge closes!

Grand Master vows to try again.

March 25, 2025

Phoenix, Arizona

In a press conference held on the steps of the recently closed Phoenix Masonic Temple, Bob Moray the Grand Master of all Masons in Arizona attempted to list the reasons why Freemasonry has failed in the State. Besides being the Grand master of the Masons, Moray is also the CEO of the Phoenix Based Engineering firm, Design 357 with branches in all fifty states. He admitted that he found it hard to admit failure.

"I have been a Mason for over 20 years. I never imagined that I would be standing here today announcing the closing of the Grand Lodge of Arizona" the visibly emotional Moray began. When asked to cite the reasons why the Fraternity had finally closed its door he answered by Saying "Well, I can tell you that it was not for lack of organization. We have been organized for several hundred years in Arizona. Nor was it for lack of Masonic programs, philosophy or goals. We have attracted tens of thousands of New Masons over the past 25 years. One year we had 1,500 new members join in a single one-day ceremony. Yet somewhere along the way that central core those vital volunteers that all organizations need to survive just stopped showing up."

When pressed to explain his remarks Moray added "The goal of Freemasonry for the past 400 years is to help honest, ethical and moral men to become role models in their community. It is very difficult in today's society for a young man not to yield to the temptation of making a quick buck over doing what he knows is right. We live in a society that believes in situational ethics. What was right this morning might not be politically correct this afternoon. Freemasonry formed a support base for men who chose to walk the less traveled path. Any task no matter how difficult it is becomes easier to accomplish when men of like minds tackle it together.

At one time almost one man in ten was proud to wear a Masonic ring. Today out of a population of 2 billion there are less than 500,000 Masons nationwide that means there is only one Mason for every 4,000 men. And the reason behind those numbers is that we stopped helping each other. This did not take place overnight but over the past 75 years. It happened slowly. We were comfortable with our own little group in our lodge and new brothers were not always someone we felt belonged in that group. They were not totally ignored we were polite and shook their hands called them our brother and then went back to our group and forgot about them. If they did not come back to our lodges it was deemed that they were not really Masons to begin with. The sad fact is that we no longer spent the time and effort to get to know each other people just did not want to walk that extra mile.

At one time the average Mason had to work for over 30 hours just to pay his annual dues and was glad to do so. But instead of increasing the dues as the cost of living went up our members voted to keep the costs down 'For the sake of the Brothers on a fixed income.' Of course, it was never the Brothers on a fixed income who brought up the issue to begin with. In time we noticed that the increasing costs of running our lodges was outdistancing our income. We needed money. We would not risk losing a brother by insulting him by asking him to pay his fair portion of our expenses. Instead we went out and made more Masons. Membership rose and then promptly fell again as these new members stepped through our revolving doors because the lodges had forgotten how to grow new Masons.

The final blow was dealt to our Fraternity in Arizona with these lodges themselves. We began to put new Masons right into officer positions without instruction, experience or any guidance. The new officers tried for a while but out of frustration went from enthusiastic new members to men just going through the motions.

Men who were not properly trained or qualified rose within the ranks and as the level of qualifications lowered so did the performance of the fraternity in general and the lodge in particular until there were not enough brothers in the lodge who knew how to open the lodge or work the degrees. One by one our lodges have been shutting down for the past 25 years. There are now just three lodges left in Arizona, one in Phoenix, one in Flagstaff and one in Tucson."

When asked if there was anything he could do to change the trend for masonry Moray smiled. "Funny you should ask. We have just passed a resolution in the Phoenix lodge to increase the dues to \$500 per year.

Those existing Brothers who cannot afford the increase will continue to pay the existing dues and allowed to fully participate in the lodge but will be not have a vote in the lodge. All of the Brothers have made a commitment to support each other so far as they can without seriously injuring their own family. No one will be put up for membership until they are fully investigated and agree to uphold the principals and the obligations of the fraternity. Failure to do so can result in that Brother being suspended or thrown out of the Fraternity. "

Asked if he thought the new rules were too harsh Moray replied, "Those rules are over four hundred years old. We are moving into the future by going back to our past"



## Happy Birthday Brothers

Name	Age
Maurice C. Tucker	81
Glen Canon	73
T. M. Peterson	69
David Reagan	45
Alan M. Ward	43
Jason Wade	26

## Masonic Anniversaries

Name	Years
Kenneth Healy	70
Doyle Sitton	53
Harold Thomas	47
Everett Hoover	45
John W. Loofs	41
Louis Schiel	33
Gregory Williams	29
Robert Blackman	20
James Dee Magee	09
John Leatherman	02

## This Month's Humor

Three engineers & three accountants needed to go on a train.

The three accountants purchased their tickets, and watched as the three engineers bought just one. "How can you get away with that??!" the accountants asked.

"Just watch..." said the engineers.

They all boarded the train, but the three engineers all hid themselves in the restroom. The conductor knocked on the door, "Tickets... Tickets please!" A hand comes out of the door and hands out the ticket.

On the trip home, the accountants bought just one ticket, and watched as the engineers bought none at all.

"How in the world are you gonna get away with that??" the accountants asked? "Just watch. Just watch..." was the reply.

The accountants got on and all crammed into the same restroom.

The three engineers got in a restroom just across the aisle.

Soon one engineer left the restroom and knocked on the other restroom door... "Tickets... Tickets, please



## Waller Masonic Lodge Open Under new Management

At this time we would like to thank our Past Worshipful Master Bart Harvey and his slate of officers for doing an outstanding job during the 2010-2011 Masonic year

We would also like to welcome Worshipful Master Brack Whitehead and his new slate of officers who will start the new year with opening the July 2011 stated meeting. The new officers will be,

Worshipful Master	Brack Whitehead	Senior Deaconon	Alan Ward
Senior Warden	Gary Mosmeyer	Junior Deacon	John Stalsby
Junior Warden	Clem Reynolds	Senior Steward	Jason Tones
Treasurer	Fred Loofs	Chaplin	Doyle Si#on
Secretary	Jerry Shield	Tiler	Jimmy Hooper Sr.

# Happenings At Waller Lodge

A motion was passed to have a fundraiser booth at the City Of Waller Fourth of July7 celebration this year.

-----  
A motion was passed to start the firearm raffle for the Waller Lodge Scholarship program earlier this year so it can take advantage of the pre-hunting season.

-----  
A motion was passed to allow the Waller County Shrine Club to use the facilities again on October 6, 2011.

+ = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = +

Sickness And Distress

Please say a prayer for,

+ = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = +

Brother Alan "A J" Ward is recovering from the two aneurisms in the brain that almost got him just after last months meeting.



## Masonry In The Year 715 BC?

Numa Pompilius organized Roman workers into various Collegia; he attached one to each legion of the army so that the Roman arms and arts went hand in hand into the outlying parts of the empire. The stone workers or masons were the most numerous and became very powerful.

There were some similarities between these groups and a modern lodge. Each Collegia was required to have at least three members; the head was called the Magister or Master; they used their tools as symbols; and they looked after the widows and orphans of the members.



## No Nursing Home For Us

An Internet Extra Feature

No nursing home for us. We'll be checking into a Holiday Inn! With the average cost for a nursing home care costing \$188.00 per day, there is a better way when we get old and too feeble.

I've already checked on reservations at the Holiday Inn. For a combined long term stay discount and senior discount, it's \$59.23 per night.

Breakfast is included, and some have happy hours in the afternoon.

That leaves \$128.77 a day for lunch and dinner in any restaurant we want, or room service, laundry, gratuities and special TV movies.

Plus, they provide a spa, swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge and washer-dryer, etc.

Most have free toothpaste and razors, and all have free shampoo and soap.

\$5 worth of tips a day you'll have the entire staff scrambling to help you.

They treat you like a customer, not a patient. There's a city bus stop out front, and seniors ride free. The handicap bus will also pick you up (if you fake a decent limp).

To meet other nice people, call a church bus on Sundays.

For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the nice restaurants there. While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Otherwise, the cash keeps building up.

It takes months to get into decent nursing homes. Holiday Inn will take your reservation today. And you're not stuck in one place forever -- you can move from Inn to Inn, or even from city to city.

Want to see Hawaii ? They have Holiday Inn there too. TV broken? Light bulbs need changing? Need a mattress replaced? No problem.. They fix everything, and apologize for the inconvenience.



# The Waller Lodge Electronic Newsletter

## Subscriber's Extra Features

### Wings Up or Wings Down?: Using Books to Find An Answer

From The National Heritage Museum

Maybe you've just joined the Scottish Rite, or maybe you've been a Scottish Rite member for years and have been elected to receive the 33°. You or a family member enthusiastically set out to buy something to commemorate the occasion.

Right away, you notice that many of the double-headed eagles are available in either the "wings up" or the "wings down" position. You wonder, "what's the difference?" Asking your Scottish Rite brothers, you receive answers that are all slightly different and sometimes contradictory.

Where can you find a definitive answer?

Call me biased, but I'd say one of your best bets (short of reading this article) is to contact the Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives at the National Heritage Museum. I've had members contact me with this question and here's how I was able to deliver a definitive answer.

First, I looked at two popular books on Freemasonry. Christopher Hodapp's *Freemasons for Dummies* and S. Brent Morris's *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry* both address this question. They draw the same conclusion: in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, the wings-up version of the double-headed eagle is reserved for Active and Active Emeritus members. (No importance is attached to wing position in the Southern Jurisdiction.)

That's a good start, but I wanted an authoritative source, so I looked at the Supreme Council 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's own Constitutions. In the 2009 edition of the Constitutions, articles 1216 through 1219 address the design of caps (optional in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, but still sometimes worn) and lapel buttons.

In the description of 33° Active and Active Emeritus caps (art. 1219.1) and lapel buttons (art. 1216), the double-headed eagle is described as "a double-headed eagle, wings extended and pointing up." For the cap (art. 1219.2) and label button (art. 1217) of a 33° Honorary Member, the eagle is described as a "double-headed eagle, wings extended and pointing down," and for 32° lapel buttons (art. 1218.1) the eagle is described as a "double-headed eagle of gold, wings extended and pointing down."

It looks like the Supreme Council's Constitutions first addressed wing position in 1934, with the description of lapel buttons, which had been formally introduced in 1927. The Constitutions did not describe caps until the 1955 revision and the position of the double-headed eagle's wings on caps was not addressed until the 1960s.

Double-headed eagles only appear on 32° rings and are described in article 1209 of the Constitutions: "A Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret is authorized to wear a ring, the basic design of which shall be the double-headed eagle." We can infer that the wings should be pointed down.

Looking at the published Proceedings of the Supreme Council, I found that the wings-up versus wings-down question is not new. In a report on the double-headed eagle delivered by the Committee on Ritual and Ritualistic Matter at the 1885 Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council, they concluded "The rising eagle [i.e. wings up] is not improperly represented, and to those who prefer the ascending position there is, and can be, no objection."

This indicates that the question was being asked 125 years ago, although the answer back then was different.

While I have focused on the personal use of double-headed eagles in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, it's also worth noting that some Supreme Councils in the world use a wings-up double-headed eagle as the emblem of their Council. Both Supreme Councils in the United States use a wings-down version.

In conclusion, unless you are one of the approximately fifty 33° Active Members or an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, the answer to the question, "wings up or wings down?," is this: Wings down.



# Keeping Up A Piece Of Flowery Branch History

By Jerry Gunn - Access North Georgia

The maintenance and restoration of a historic family cemetery may now begin once more thanks to a "Good Samaritan" woodcutter who cranked up his chain saw and cut away a fallen tree that threatened the burial place on the edge of Flowery Branch.

Members of the Flowery Branch Masonic Lodge seek no credit or recognition for the restoration and maintenance project they first undertook 10 years ago, and apparently neither does the unidentified person who has cut back the giant chestnut oak tree that threatened to further damage and obliterate the monuments in the Robert Young Cemetery on Atlanta Highway across from the Atlanta Falcons Complex. The tree was blown over during a strong April storm and its huge limbs knocked down one monument and menaced the others.

The Masons began their graveyard maintenance as a service project and because at least one of the headstones bears the Masonic Square and Compass[es]. "It surprised us all and broke our hearts," Past Master of the Lodge and former Cemetery Committee Chairman Herman Day said, pointing to the toppled tree which he estimated to be 100 years old. Day said the Masons feared anyone using a chain saw might cause more damage if cut sections fell on the gravestones, but the limbs were skillfully cut back and away from the cemetery. Hall County Commissioners were advised they could not cut the tree away because the cemetery is on private property.

The cemetery takes a visitor back, far back in time, a time when there was no Falcons Complex, no professional football, when there was no Flowery Branch or Hall County, or Atlanta Highway. Atlanta Highway in that day was known as "Major Ridge", the Cherokee Indian trail that eventually became the main road to Atlanta.

"We have records that it goes back to the late 1700's," Young said. Virginian Robert Young arrived there in 1795, established a plantation on thousands of acres in what was the Cherokee Nation, and built a home and his tavern just down the road from the family cemetery, where he was buried after he died in 1851. In the face of his raised grave monument is carved his family's entire genealogy, considered a very rare feature for burials of that period.

Flowery Branch Mason Herman Day points to the Masonic emblem on one of the monuments in the Robert Young Cemetery.



Flowery Branch Mason Herman Day points to the Masonic emblem on one of the monuments in the Robert Young Cemetery.



The Chestnut Tree

A Georgia historical marker identifies the location of Young's Tavern, where Andrew Jackson and his troops spent the night on their way to Florida to fight in the first Seminole War. Day said according to legend winning a poker game at the tavern would bring bad luck.

"If you won playing poker, nobody saw you again," he said. "If you lost you were on your way, kind of bad luck in reverse, you might say."

Lodge Secretary Perry Roper said he does not want the history of the place to fade away and willingly gives his time every month to cut the grass and remove the litter.

"We could lose all the history here," Roper said. "We just want to keep all the history up and let the people see what it was like back in those times. The way we bury today is totally different from how they did it back then."

On an adjacent area outside the walled containment where Young and his relatives are buried are several



stones protruding from the ground. "They belonged to slaves and Indians who were here," Roper said. " They just marked them with plain markers, as far as the slave section is, there's no telling how old that is, there are no names, they are unknown."

Day said Hall County's 20th Century history left its mark on the cemetery with the construction of Lake Lanier.

"When the lake came up it changed the integrity of the cemetery a little," he said. "The people who didn't have another place to be buried were moved here."

In a corner are seven graves moved to the Young Family cemetery by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers according to a Corps marker placed with the headstones.

Day and Holder both hope they can secure the volunteer services of a cemetery restoration monument expert to repair and erase the damage done by the old chestnut oak tree. Day said they could also use some volunteer time and effort with a wood chipper to clean up all the fallen limbs.

Just within the wall that surrounds the burial ground of Robert Young and his family are the graves of Charity and John Kyle, who lay side by side in the peaceful shade. She was born in 1762 and died in 1864 at 102. John, born in 1760, died in 1839, at age 79. " In Thy hands I commit my spirit, for Thou has redeemed it, Lord God of Truth," her headstone inscription reads.



Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw wages In gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another: sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a mason.

By Benjamin Franklin 1706 - 1790



**Here are some of the "Funnies" our grandparents enjoyed.**



# 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.

It's hard to realize now, the condition that this country had reached after the Stock Market Crash of 1929. There was rampant unemployment and economic despair throughout the whole country. People were standing in long lines everyday to get a free bowl of soup that was distributed by churches and charitable organizations.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt had promised the people a "New Deal" to solve the problems of the Great Depression if he was elected,. In the early 1930's, three programs were initiated in an attempt to solve those problems.

The federal government had a fascination with initial names for programs even back in the 1930's. The three programs that meant the most for the people were the CCC, WPA and NRA.



Corky In The 1940s

The CCC was originally established by an act of Congress in 1933 as the Emergency Conservation Work Act to provide jobs and alleviate the nations suffering due to the lack of jobs during the Great Depression.

Another act in 1937 changed the name to the Civilian Conservation Corps. When the CCC was formed they accepted young men from 18 to 25 who were physically fit, unemployed and unmarried. In 1935 the age requirement was change to from 17 to 28. The men were paid \$30.00 per month, YES per month. \$25.00 of that was sent home to the man's family and he received \$5.00 for expenses.

The first 25,000 men were enrolled in 1933 and they had increased to 507,782 men by 1939. The average number of camps open at any one time was 1,600. The War Department administered the program and despite the "Civilian" part of it's name it was a military organization. That was probably where earned their nickname, "The Tree Army". The men were grouped into companies which reported to District Headquarters which were associated with Army Corps commands. Its equipment was military in origin - one feature of the CCC was that the young men driving to and fro to projects in the backs of open bed Army trucks. Its officers too, were military men on active duty, Colonels and Captains and Lieutenants who had fought in the last war and would fight in the next.

During their time, they planted 2,356,000,000 trees. Yes, that's billions. A very large part of their projects were related to forestry and building camp grounds, hiking trails and roads in national forests and parks.

Some of their more notable projects included the Skyline Drive in Virginia, the Pacific Crest Trail and the great Appalachian Trail.

Nellie's uncle Bill was in the CCC in the 30's. We still have some of the letters he wrote to his mother and father during that period. Like most men in the armed service, he was always broke and needed money for stamps if he was going to write letters.

The WPA, which was established May 6, 1935, originally stood for the Works Progress Administration.

The name was changed in 1939 to the Works Projects Administration. Its original purpose was to provide economic relief for the hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers during the Great Depression. Like the CCC money earned in the WPA was sent to the family. The men were paid from \$15.00 to \$90.00 per month, depending on the job he or she had. When the job required it, housing and food were included.

In 1943, after eight years, the program was phased out. During that time they built 651,087 miles of highways, repaired 124,087 bridges, constructed 125,110 public buildings, established 8,192 parks and 853 air strips. They built things like courthouses, schools, hospitals, playgrounds and libraries with many still in use.

They did much more than put shovels in workers' hands and construct buildings however. The WPA provided free or inexpensive puppet shows, dance recitals, musical presentations, and dramas. They gave jobs to actors, directors, playwrights, scene designers, make-up artists, and orchestras-people who would have remained on breadlines. The WPA also provided jobs to musicians, historians, dancers, actors, cartoonists, writers, and artists.

I remember when the WPA built a community cannery in Montgomery, Texas. My grandmother used to work in the cannery during the summer while the crops were coming in.

The National Recovery Administration (NRA), sometime called the "Blue Eagle" because of the signs that businesses were required to post to show they were in compliance with the law. The NRA was supposed to

establish codes for each industrial sector and, had it worked as such, would have caused a fundamental change for the role of government in business. However, the NRA did not bring this change.

Many people were opposed to the NRA because they feared set price levels would be too high. One reason it didn't work was that large business still continued to dominate the economy because they created most of the codes. At the same time, NRA labor agreements were unpopular with both small business, who feared rising costs, and labor, who felt the agreements did not go far enough. This almost universal opposition to the program, combined with the administrative problems, made it impossible for the agency to effect any fundamental changes. These problems were all solved however, when the Supreme Court declared the NRA unconstitutional and shut it down.



## Grandparents' Answering Machine

Good morning... At present we are not at home but, please Leave your message after you hear the beep.  
Beeeeppp...

If you are one of our children, dial 1 and then select the option from 1 to 5 in order of "arrival" so we know who it is.

If you need us to stay with the children, press 2

If you want to borrow the car, press 3

If you want us to wash and iron your clothes, press 4

If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press 5

If you want us to pick up the kids at school, press 6

If you want us to prepare a meal for Sunday or to have it delivered to your home, press 7

If you want to come to eat here, press 8

If you need money, dial 9

If you are going to invite us to dinner, or, taking us to the theatre start talking. We are listening!"

Submitted by Brother Calvin Trapp



## Why I'm Divorced

Last week was my birthday and I didn't feel very well waking up on that morning.

I went downstairs for breakfast hoping my husband would be pleasant and say, 'Happy Birthday!', and possibly have a small present for me.

As it turned out, he barely said good morning, let alone 'Happy Birthday.'

I thought....well, that's marriage for you, but the kids.... they will remember.

My kids came bouncing down stairs to breakfast and didn't say a word. So when I left for the office I felt pretty low and somewhat despondent.

As I walked into my office, my handsome boss Rick, said, 'Good morning, lady, and by the way Happy Birthday!' It felt a little better that at least someone had remembered.

I worked until one o'clock, when Rick knocked on my door and said, 'You know, It's such a beautiful day outside, and it is your birthday, what do you say we go out to lunch, just you and me.'

I said, 'Thanks, Rick, that's the greatest thing I've heard all day. Let's go!'

We went to lunch. But we didn't go where we normally would go. He chose instead a quiet bistro with a private table. We had two martinis each and I enjoyed the meal tremendously.

On the way back to the office, Rick said, 'You know, It's such a beautiful day...we don't need to go straight back to the office, do we?'

I responded, 'I guess not. What do you have in mind?'

He said, 'Let's drop by my place, it's just around the corner.'

After arriving at his house, Rick turned to me and said, 'If you don't mind, I'm going to step into the bedroom for just a moment. I'll be right back.'

'Ok.' I nervously replied.

He went into the bedroom and, after a couple of minutes, he came out carrying a huge birthday cake, followed by my husband, my kids, and dozens of my friends and co-workers, all singing 'Happy Birthday'.

And I just sat there. . . on the couch. . . naked.

# Odd Things

From the Old Tiler's Talk - by Carl H. Claudy, The Temple Publishers

Of all the odd things in Masonry," began the New Brother to the Old Tiler in the anteroom, "the oddest is why some men want to be Masons."

"Meaning what?" asked the Old Tiler.

"Well, Masonry is serious," explained the New Mason. "Why should it appeal to men who are not serious?"

"But in Masonry is good fellowship, and fun, and mutual help and a good time . . . lots of people go to church for the associations they get, rather than any desire to take part in the service.

Some come to a Masonic lodge for what they get, and watch the degrees as a necessary penalty."

"Some men find in the lodge the satisfaction of an instinct. A good brother of this lodge is a motorman on a . In the lodge he found his feet, and discovered that he could stand on them and use his mouth at the same time. He bestreet car, a silent job. He has been street railroading all his life, and never has had a chance to talk muchcame a fine ritualist, and has been Master. He is now a certified instructor. Masonry provided him with an opportunity to use gifts which nature gave him, but which his job denies him."

"Another Mason I know finds the greatest joy in his lodge as the charity committee chairman. His business in life is being a turnkey in a jail! He lives his waking hours standing guard over criminals, in the lodge he comes into contact with the softer side of life. He is an excellent man on the committee. He knows when folks are in distress and when they are shamming, He is charitably minded and Masonry gives him an opportunity to indulge that side of his nature."

"One brother gets great joy in the fun he makes during business meetings. He is a wit, and his remarks usually cause a gale of laughter. He is in undertaker, and can't wear a smile from the time he gets up until he comes to lodge!"

"Some men find the lodge an outlet for their gregariousness, which shyness prevents them from expressing elsewhere.

Meeting on the level they arc not embarrassed. No one in lodge cares if you have a lot of money or none. So the little fellow who never made much of a commercial success enjoys being just as good, in his own eyes and that of the brethren in the lodge, as anyone. It's a provider of self respect."

"But none of these are the real reason why so many men cannot get along without Masonry."

The Old Tiler paused to light a cigar.

"What's that?" inquired the New Brother.

"It's a compound, not a simplicity," returned the Old Tiler. "Take ten parts reverence for what is old, add twenty parts of love of one's kind and common humanity, stir into it the religious complex which is fifty percent of any man's underlying motives, though a lot of them don't know it, and sprinkle with twenty parts of the habit of doing what the other fellow likes to do. Scientists call it the herd instinct - and you have about my conception of why the average man loves Masonry."

"That's not too exalted an ideal, is it?" objected the New Brother.

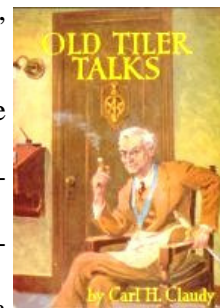
"Few men have exalted ideals!" countered the Old Tiler. "I didn't say that was the best reason, I said it was the reason of the average man. I know three Chaplains of lodges who say it rests them to come to a place where preachers of the Word of God can worship Him without dogma or creed. I have been a Mason for more years than you have lived. I haven't been a Tiler all that time. But I have never seen an irreverent action in a lodge, or known a man who felt irreverent about his lodge symbols and ceremonies."

"It is a comfort that so many Freemasons find in lodge spiritual help, a touch of religion, a feeling of reality to their relations with Deity. Few of them say it. A large number do not consciously think it. For every man who says religion and Masonry mean the same thing to him a hundred feel the religious appeal of the lodge and don't know to what they respond."

"I don't know that it's so odd as I thought it was," mused the New Brother.

"The oddest part of it," suggested the Old Tiler, evenly, "is that you should think there was anything odd about the appeal of Freemasonry to anyone!"

"You are right!" assured the New Brother. "But I'm all even now!"



The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out.

Thomas Babington Macaulay, author, poet and statesman (1800-1859)

# Guided Tours Explore Freemasonry Symbols In Manitoba

From The Rural Lodge Newsletter



Legislative Manitoba's legislature building in Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG — Is Manitoba's provincial legislature a modern-day temple to pagan gods?

Could its Pool of the Black Star represent a sacrificial altar? Is it possible this building is linked to Freemasonry, a secret society with an membership that has included Mozart, Clark Gable, Winston Churchill, George Washington . . . and even Tim Horton of hockey and coffee fame?

Designed by British-born architect Frank Worthington Simon (1863 – 1933), Winnipeg's elegant neoclassical building was officially opened in 1920. It's a nest of cryptic secrets, watched over by its rooftop statue of The Golden Boy, said by some to be an effigy of Hermes, the god of the occult.

Frank Albo, a former University of Winnipeg researcher, has been called Canada's Dan Brown for his

Da Vinci Code-style research into the building. According to his website at [www.frankalbo.com](http://www.frankalbo.com), he is currently studying at the Cambridge University in England, preparing his PhD thesis in part on the influence of Freemasonry on British Theories of Gothic Architecture.

Albo, who offers 90-minute walking tours of the legislature during the summer months, has declared the Broadway Avenue legislature to be “bar none, the most sophisticated and complex, occult-Masonic-designed building in the world.”

And Albo should know. His field of expertise covers the ancient religions, temple design, mythology, Freemasonry and the Kabbalah, a spiritual movement that dates back thousands of years. His website describes the Manitoba legislature as “one of the greatest cover-ups in Canadian history . . . He (Albo) reveals the building to be a library of coded messages and secret teachings inscribed in a Masonic language.”

On a recent visit to Winnipeg, I toured the building in the company of guide Don Finkbeiner, owner of Heartland International Travel and Tours of Winnipeg, and found its connections to the secretive Freemasons, the Kaballah and the occult to be strangely riveting.

Under the enthusiastic tutelage of Finkbeiner, I learned how, in the distant past, sacred bulls — guardian-beasts — were the first symbols that one encountered upon entering many pagan temples.

As we walked through the archway into the legislature, Finkbeiner figuratively transported our tour group back to ancient times when he drew our attention to the two massive statues of bison at the foot of the building's grand staircase.

“We are now entering the Room of Protection,” he announced. “And the bison bulls are there to ward off evil. See the lion head carvings on the upper walls? They perform the same function.”

Mounted above steps leading into the legislature's inner sanctum we saw a carving of Athena the Protector. And nearby, the face of Medusa, a mythical woman with the ability to turn men to stone, is depicted in a stone relief with snakes writhing about her neck. On the roof of the legislature, there are two sphinxes — one of them faces the rising sun and the other the setting sun — that are solid reminders of the Freemasons interest in the pagan practices of ancient Egypt

This décor in a building was strange, and powerful.

The mosaic pavement surrounding the balustrade of the “altar” in the rotunda represents the floor of King Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, Finkbeiner explained. The Golden Boy (Hermes), poised on the pinnacle of the building's dome, is situated directly above the altar. And gleaming up from the floor of the room beneath the altar is the Pool of the Black Star, a symbol commonly found in ancient temples.

After accepting Finkbeiner's invitation and moving to stand in the middle of the Black Star, I experienced a moment of deep silence.

“Say something, Anne,” Finkbeiner encouraged.

So I whispered the words “the power of the Black Star” and my voice, clear as a bell, was carried upward through the open circular altar to the floor above. I felt a strange vibration through my body. Was it magic or



are the building's the acoustics really that good?

In 1925, a Manitoba legislature guide named Thomas Leslie expressed his feelings about the building in a book. In Leslie's words: "There should be an Altar here, and a Priest, and the image of a god, and a victim, and a curved knife, and a circle of white-robed worshippers around the outer edge of the Pool, and the victim should be on the altar and the curved knife should flash; the floor is stained; dull red stains are trickling through the black veins of the marble."

For myself as a visitor, on closer inspection, I found it was not difficult to imagine that the veins spreading from the Pool of the Black Star through the surrounding pale marble were streams of blood coming from a sacrificial victim.

Finkbeiner said he had conducted a tour of the building for 80 Freemasons just days before my visit. They instantly recognised the buildings secrets and their significance — and were enthralled by its Masonic connections, he said.

It was a tour that left me curious for answers and the biggest question I had was this: When Frank Worthington Simon (who may or may not have been a Freemason) was awarded the contract to design the Manitoba legislature, did he instead, unknown to provincial officials, deliver plans for a pagan temple with an enticing trail of secrets?

Anne Gordon is a Guelph travel writer.

If you go . . .

The Manitoba legislature is at 450 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg.

Frank Albo's Hermetic Code Tour (90 minutes) is offered Tuesday and Wednesday nights from July 5 to Sept. 28. Advance booking required. Cost: \$39.30. For online booking, visit the Heartland Travel website at [www.heartlandtravel.ca](http://www.heartlandtravel.ca) and click on Hermetic Code Tours.

The province of Manitoba offers free daily guided tours of the building, hourly from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from July 1 to the September long weekend. It also offers an online "virtual" tour of the of the legislative building at [www.gov.mb.ca/mit/legtour](http://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/legtour)



## Watch Dog For Sale Real Cheap



## "The Old Masters Wages"

I met a dear old man today,  
who wore a Masonic pin,  
It was old and faded like the man,  
It's edges were worn quite thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat,  
To give the old brother his due,  
I said, "I see you've traveled east,"  
He said, "I have, have you."

I said, "I have, and in my day  
Before the all seeing sun,  
I played in the rubble, with  
Jubala, Jubalo and Jubalum."

He shouted, "don't laugh at the work my son,  
It's good and sweet and true,  
And if you've traveled as you said,  
You should give these things their due."

The word, the sign the token,  
The sweet Masonic prayer,  
The vow that all have taken,  
Who've climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason,  
are never paid in gold,  
but the gain comes from contentment,  
when you're weak and growing old.

You see, I've carried my obligations,  
For almost fifty years,  
It has helped me through the hardships  
and the failures full of tears.

Now I'm losing my mind and body,  
Death is near but I don't despair,  
I've lived my life upon the level,  
And I'm dying upon the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons  
Are those that are learned anew,  
And the old man in the park today  
has changed my point of view.

To all Masonic brothers,  
The only secret is to care,  
May you live your life upon the level,  
May you part upon the square.



## The World's . . . . . ?

### WORLD'S COSTLIEST STADIUM..... ENGLAND

New WEMBLEY STADIUM, London ...90,000 capacity ... Cost...\$1.6 billion

