

# 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 2012 Issue

**Don't Forget, The Waller Lodge Installation Will Be Saturday July 14**



## Oh No. Corky Is Back

By Corky

I guess we are all old enough to know what the term, "Scrapping the bottom of the barrel, means." Well sir, it appears now that Worshipful Master elect Gary Mosmeyer has had to do just that.

Once again, after a year off, I've been elected as the Secretary of Waller Lodge for another year.

As many of you know I retired as secretary last June. My wife Nellie's Alzheimer's had gotten very bad by then and she couldn't be left alone. Then she passed away on December 7, 2011.

Then, I had a small a small heart attack on March 26, 2012 and a quadruple heart bypass operation 4 days later on March 30, the day before my 84th birthday. Then during the 6 week recovery period after a heart operation you are not allowed to drive a vehicle. Actually, you shouldn't even ride in the front seat. They say that in case of an accident an exploding air bag hitting a wired together breast bone before it has grown back together is a very bad thing. So, this past year hasn't been my best.

So, now I may be getting older and slightly worn out, but physically I am getting a little bit better every day and with my Brother's support I'll be the best Secretary for Waller Lodge that I can, but maybe not as good as I was doing physical work..

I must add that I would personally like to thank and extend my appreciation to Brother Jerry Schiel for taking up the reins, when no one else would. Brother Jerry was hampered by the fact that he was one of the newest Masons of Waller Lodge and knew very little of the day to day operation of a Lodge. And, in this day and age when most things to, and from the Grand Lodge, are being done with a computer and the internet, Brother Jerry was greatly hampered by the fact that he had never even turned a computer on or knew any thing about the internet.

And, due to my personal problems mentioned above, I couldn't be very much help to Jerry from the outside.

But, Brother Jerry pushed his way through the maze of secretarial work and did a pretty darn good job despite the obstacles he faced (and didn't know existed) when he volunteered to take the job.

Thank you Brother Jerry.



## Are Freemasons Being Cheated

By Corky

Am I the only Freemason who feels like he's being just a little bit cheated by the fraternity today? By saying "being cheated", I mean not getting everything a Brother should from his Lodge.

We proudly claim that the main purpose of Freemasonry is teaching good men to be better men. We do, of course, teach many things to the candidates while they are working their way through the degrees. But, then

they are raised and it all stops. Are we wasting a wonderful opportunity to teach a little bit more about freemasonry or being a better man at each stated meeting?

I never will forget the night after my son-in-law Jim was raised and he had just attended his first stated meeting. I was taking him home after the meeting when he ask me, "Dad, is that all we do at the meetings, just talk about who is sick, who died and whether to pay the bills?"

"Of course not, we discuss how we will have the next fund raiser so we can pay the bills and... when we'll put on the next degree and... lots of stuff. Tonight was just a little bit short." That was when it popped into my head, "Is that really all we do?"

I was pretty active in the Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association when I was a little younger. I remember the year when I was Secretary/Treasurer, not because I was an officer but because we always learned something. The President got a speaker who was an expert in some part of Freemasonry to make a short talk at every meeting that year. That was some of the most enjoyable Masonic meetings I have ever attended.

I also remember even simple things like the year the Worshipful Master had the Junior Warden read a piece from the Grand Lodge law book at every stated meetings.

Somehow in this day and age, it seems that meetings are over as soon as possible so we can get home, get in the recliner, put our feet up and watch TV.

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If you are a Worshipful Master, don't take offence at my little complaint. To be honest, back when I was the Worshipful Master, I felt like I had to run the Lodge just like every Master before me.

In Freemasonry to many incoming Masters have been taught by just about every Past Master in the Lodge complaining, "That ain't the way we done it in my year," when a new idea comes up.

So I also usually got the meetings over without dragging my feet to much. Besides, NCIS did come on, on Tuesday nights.



## It's Later Then You Think

Everything is farther than it used to be. It's twice as far from my house to the station, and they've added a hill that I've just noticed. The buses leave sooner, too, but I've given up running for them because they go faster than they used to.

Seems to me they are making staircases steeper than in the old days. The risers are higher and there are more of them because I've noticed it's harder to make two at a time. It's all one can do to make one step at a time.

Have you noticed the small print they are using lately? Newspapers are getting farther and farther away – when I hold them I have to squint to make out the news.

Now it's ridiculous to suggest that a person my age needs glasses, but it's the only way I can find out what's going on without someone reading aloud to me, and that isn't much help because everyone seems to speak in such a low voice I can scarcely hear them.

Times sure are changing. The barber doesn't hold a mirror behind me when he is finished so I can see the back of my head.

The material in my clothes, I notice, shrinks in certain places (you, know, like around the waist, or in the seat). Shoe laces are so short they are next to impossible to reach.

Even the weather is changing. It's getting colder in winter, and the summers are hotter than in the good old days. Snow is much heavier when I attempt to shovel it, and rain is so much wetter that I have to wear rubbers. I guess the way they build windows now makes drafts more severe.

People are changing, too. For one thing they are younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I realize that my own generation is approaching middle age (to me, that is roughly between 20 and 101), but there is no reason for my classmates tottering blissfully into senility.



I ran into my old roommate the other night and he had changed so much that he didn't recognize me. "You've put on a little weight, Bob," I said. "It's this modern food," Bob replied. "It seems to be more fattening."

I got to thinking about poor Bob this morning while I was shaving. Stopping a moment, I looked at my own reflection in the mirror. They don't use the same kind of glass in mirrors any more.

– Anonymous, Grand Lodge of Iowa Bulletin, September 1961



## Win This Masonic Knife Set

Brethren: One of my goals for next year as Worshipful Master of Waller Lodge, is to increase attendance at the Meetings. I have decided to Award a Masonic Knife set to the Brother with the most attendance during the 2012-2013 Masonic Year.

Officers are not included. Sorry, they are expected to be in attendance and properly attired.

*Worshipful Master Elect Gary Mosmeyer*

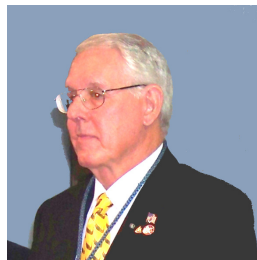


## Waller Masonic Lodge Opens Under New Management

At the June meeting a new slate of officers was elected and appointed for the new 2012/2013 Masonic year.

### The elected officers are,

Worshipful Master - Gary Mosmeyer  
Senior Warden - Bart Harvey  
Junior Warden - Jason Tones  
Treasurer - Fred Loofs  
Secretary - John "Corky" Daut



Gary



Bart

Sorry, Brother Jason hasn't been here long enough for me to have his photo on file.

Jason

### The appointed officers will be.

Senior Deacon - A. J. Ward  
Junior Deacon - Jerry Schiel  
Tyler - Jimmy Hooper  
Chaplin - Doyle Sitton  
Senior Steward—Matt Gass  
Master Ceremonies - Calvin Trapp  
Congratulations and lots of luck Brothers



Fred



Corky

## This Month's Humor

A young doctor had moved out to a small community to replace a doctor who was retiring. The older gent suggested the young one accompany him on his rounds so the community could become used to a new doctor.

At the first house a woman complained, "I've been a little sick to my stomach."

The older doctor said, "Well, you've probably been overdoing the fresh fruit. Why not cut back on the amount you've been eating and see if that does the trick?"

As they left the younger man said, "You didn't even examine that woman. How'd you come to your diagnosis so quickly?"

"I didn't have to. You noticed I dropped my stethoscope on the floor in there? When I bent over to pick it up, I noticed a half dozen banana peels in the trash. That was what was probably making her sick."

"Huh," the younger doctor said, "Pretty clever. I think I'll try that at the next house."

Arriving at the next house, they spent several minutes talking with an elderly woman. She complained that she just didn't have the energy she once did. "I'm feeling terribly run down lately."

"You've probably been doing too much work for the church," the younger doctor told her. "Perhaps you should cut back a bit and see if that helps."

As they left, the elder doc said, "Your diagnosis is almost certainly correct, but how did you arrive at it?"

"Well, just like you at the last house, I dropped my stethoscope. When I bent down to retrieve it, I noticed the preacher under the bed."



## Danger In The Service

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Johnny was standing and staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The young man of seven had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up and stood beside him. Gazing up at the plaque, too, he said quietly, "Good morning son."

"Good morning pastor" replied the young man, not taking his eyes off the plaque. "Sir, what is this?" Johnny asked.

"Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service," replied the pastor.

Soberly, they stood together staring up at the large plaque.

Little Johnny's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly,

"Which one sir, the 8:30 or the 10:30 service?"



## P.M. And Bro. Calvin Trapp

By Corky

Who is the Past Master, the plumber, the yardman, the fund raiser purchasing agent, up late at night cooking special food for the fundraiser, the helper on all of the Loge building projects, often the Master of Ceremonies for the degrees and usually the first to volunteer when work days are discussed for the Lodge or to help a distressed Brother who needs to go to the doctor or even a meal.

Brother Calvin Trapp, of course and I almost forgot, he's the friend and Brother who is there when some one needs a ride to the doctor, or needs a hot meal or even just a friend to listen them.

I am very sorry to say that I was still recovering from the heart overhaul and missed the April meeting. That was when the members of Waller Lodge showed their appreciation by voting Brother Calvin to be a Life Member of Waller Lodge. And, I didn't get to add my vote for him.

# Spam, No, Not The One We Love To Eat

Just about everyone who uses e-mail on the internet nowadays complains about "SPAM". It is unsolicited e-mails advertising products that 99% of us don't want and wouldn't buy anyway.

At the same time, the other SPAM has crept up on us so slowly that most people don't think about the "SPAM" you get in your mail box.

The other day some of the Small Town Texas Brothers were standing outside on the sidewalk talking. One of the Brothers ask if the others were getting a larger amount of junk mail. Almost everyone there started complaining about the flood of "Junk Mail" in their mail boxes lately and the rain of postcards that falls out of every magazine you read.

A couple of the younger Brothers joined in to say they had started fighting back. They have been dropping every prepaid envelope and postcard, still empty and blank, back in the mail box. They figure, that if we can get enough people start doing it and junk mail advertisers have to pay postage on thousands of empty and blank, returned envelopes and postcards, it may cause them to rethink how they spend their advertising budget and slow the SPAM.

What do you think???



## Happy Birthday Brothers

Name	Age
Maurice C. Tucker	82
Glen Canon	74
T. M. Peterson	70
David Reagan	46
Alan M. Ward	44
Timothy Nerber	42
Jason Wade	27

## Masonic Anniversaries

Name	Years
Kenneth Healy	73
Doyle Sitton	54
Harold Thomas	48
Everett Hoover	46
John W. Loofs	42
Louis Schiel	34
Gregory Williams	30
Robert Blackman	21
James Dee Magee	10
John Leatherman	03



## The End Of The Knight Templars

By 1306, King Philippe IV, of France, had undertaken to bring the Papacy under his own influence. He had killed at least one Pope and installed his own puppet on the papal throne, even relocating the Papacy itself onto French soil. He was indeed an enemy of Rome.

When Philippe asked to become an honorary Knight Templar he was refused, something you shouldn't do to a vain man. Subsequently he learned that the Templars were wealthy and he was jealous of that wealth, so he set out to destroy the Templars with insidious charges, most of which were simply fictitious.

The charges were of demonic worship, kidnapping, infanticide, abortion, obscene kisses, and homosexuality. Indeed, he even charged them with crimes against the Church:

"These soldiers of Christ, who had fought and laid down their lives for Christendom by the hundreds, were accused of ritually denying Christ, of repudiating, trampling and spitting on the Cross." (Baigent & Leigh)



## Did U Know? Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, the following were known to be members of a Masonic Lodge:

Benjamin Franklin, member of St. John's Lodge, Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Past Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

Elbridge Gerry, member of Philanthropic Lodge, Marblehead, Massachusetts.

John Hancock, made a Master Mason, at the age of 23, in 1760, in Merchants Lodge No. 1, Quebec City, the first civilian Lodge established in Canada after the Conquest. In 1763, he went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he affiliated with St. Andrew's Lodge.

William Hooper, member of Hanover Lodge, Masonborough, North Carolina.

Richard Stockton, charter member, and first Master of St. John's Lodge, Princeton, New Jersey.

Matthew Thornton, made a Mason in a Lodge attached to a British Regiment of Foot during the Siege of Louisburg, Canada, in 1745, serving in a New Hampshire Colonial Regiment as a surgeon. Baron Von Steuben, while at Valley Forge, is said to have conferred the higher Degrees on him and to have been the only Signer who attained the 32nd Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

George Walton, member of Solomons Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia.

William Whipple, member of St. John's Lodge No. 1, Portsmouth, New Jersey.

The following named Signers have been referred to as members of the Fraternity by various Masonic writers, and in Masonic publications, but their Lodge affiliation is not known:

Roger Sherman, claimed to have been made a Mason prior to the American Revolution. A Masonic Apron said to be worn by him is in the collection at Yale University.

Josiah Bartlett, one so named is listed as a charter member of King Solomon's Lodge, Charlestown, Massachusetts. Descendants, however, say he was not a member of the Craft. There is doubt that this Bartlett is the signer, and records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts do not show his Lodge affiliation.

Philip Livingston, often referred to as a Mason, but this is open to debate. Records of the Grand Lodge of New York do not disclose his name. Several members, named Livingston, are noted in the records of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City, New York.

Joseph Hewes. Records of Unanimity Lodge No. 7, Edenton, North Carolina, show his name as a visitor on St. John's Day, December, 1776.

Robert Treat Paine, member of a Massachusetts Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts records do not show his affiliation. He was said to be present at the celebration of St. John's Day, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in June, 1759.

Thomas McKean, noted as a frequent visitor to Perseverance Lodge No. 21, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The McKean genealogy has stated he was a Mason, although his name is not found on the records of the Grand Lodge of Delaware, which was not organized until the close of the American Revolution. A brother, Samuel McKean, was a member of the Fraternity.

John Penn, known to have attended Lodges in North Carolina, but his Masonic affiliation is not known.

Lyman Hall, claimed to have been a member of Solomons Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia.

William Ellery, claimed as a member of a Lodge in Boston, Massachusetts.

Thomas Nelson, Jr., claimed to have visited Lodge No. 9, Yorktown, Virginia, after the Siege of that place was lifted in the Revolutionary War, accompanied by Lafayette and Washington.

Absence of definite proof of the Masonic affiliation of the Signers named in the foregoing paragraphs, precludes the possibility of knowing.

This is also the case with Thomas Jefferson; John Adams; Benjamin Rush, Robert Morris; John Witherspoon; George Wythe; Francis Lightfoot Lee; Richard Henry Lee, and others. Caesar Rodney, of Delaware fame, had a son Caesar Augustus Rodney - a member of the Craft. George Read, another Signer from Delaware, had a son - George M. Read - who was Grand Master of Pennsylvania. Samuel Huntington had a son who was Grand Master of Ohio.

May We Meet Upon The \_!\_ Act By The ! And Part Upon The !\_  
W. Bro. Dwight D. Seals - Camden Lodge #159 - Camden, Ohio



*George Washington*

# 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.



## Why Did You?

From The Masonic Bulletin, Grand Lodge of British Columbia

As Freemasons we are known by the way we affect other people, and by the works of ourselves as a group. The following story illustrates how two men came to present their petitions for Freemasonry.

A young man passed a pawnbroker's shop. The moneylender was standing in front of his shop and the young man noted that he was wearing a large, beautiful Masonic emblem. After going on a whole block, apparently lost in thought, the young man turned back, stepped up to the pawnbroker and addressed him, "I see you're wearing a Masonic emblem. I'm a Freemason too. It happens that I'm in desperate need of \$25.00 just now. I shall be able to repay it within ten days. You don't know me, but, I wonder whether the fact that you are a Freemason and that I am a Freemason is sufficient to induce you to lend me the money on my personal note?"

The pawnbroker mentally appraised the young man, who was clean-cut, neat, and well-dressed. After a moment's thought, he agreed to make the loan on the strength of the young man's being a Freemason. Within a few days the young man repaid the loan as agreed and went on his way.

About four months later the young man was in a Lodge receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree; he had not really been a

Mason when he borrowed the \$25.00. After he had been admitted for the second section of the degree, the young man looked across the Lodge Room and saw the pawnbroker from whom he had borrowed the money. His face turned crimson and he became nervous and jittery. He wondered whether he had been recognized by the pawnbroker and would be caught in his lie. Apparently not, so he planned at the first opportunity to leave the Lodge Room and avoid his benefactor.

As soon as the Lodge was closed he moved quickly for the door, but the pawnbroker, who had recognized the young man, headed him off, and, to the young man's astonishment, approached him and greeted him with a smile and an outstretched hand.

"Well, I see you weren't a Freemason after all when you borrowed that \$25.00, the pawnbroker commented.

The blood rushed to the young man's face as he stammered, "No, I wasn't, but I wish you'd let me explain. I had always heard that Freemasons were charitable and ready to aid a brother in distress. When I passed your shop that day I didn't need that \$25.00. I had plenty of money in my wallet, but when I saw the Masonic emblem you were wearing I decided to find out whether the things I'd heard about Freemasonry were true. You let me have the money on the strength of my being a Freemason, so I concluded that they are charitable, that they do aid Brethren in distress. That made such a deep impression on me that I presented my petition to this Lodge and here I am. I trust that with this explanation you will forgive me for having lied to you."

The pawnbroker responded, "Don't let that worry you too much. I wasn't a Freemason when I let you have the money. I had no business wearing the Masonic emblem you saw. Another man had just borrowed some money on it, and it was so pretty that I put it on my lapel for a few minutes. I took it off the moment you left. I didn't want anyone else borrowing money on the same basis. When you asked for the \$25.00 I remembered what I had heard about Masons: that they were honest, upright, and cared for their obligations promptly. It seemed to me that \$25.00 wouldn't be too much to lose to learn if what I'd heard was true, so I lent you the money, and you repaid it exactly as you said you would. That convinced me that what I'd heard about Masons was true, so I presented my petition to this Lodge. I was the candidate just ahead of you.



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



# Masonic Questions and Answers

Q: Is it true Masonry teaches that all faiths are equal?

A: No. It would be out of place for a fraternity to do so. Masonry does teach respect and toleration -- that all human beings have an equal right to follow their own faith and that no one has the power to deny them that right. So does the Canadian Charter of Rights and the United States Constitution, but that does not make the Charter or the Constitution religious documents.

Q: Is it true Masons have their own Bible?

A: No. A Masonic Bible, frequently given as a gift among Masons, is what anyone thinks of as a Bible (usually the Kings James Version) with a presentation page and, sometimes, a special concordance showing the scripture passages quoted in Masonic ceremonies. Some also contain reference sections on Masonic terminology, history, and the like. A Masonic Bible is as generic as the Gideon's Bible in hotel rooms.



A man was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding...

Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed.

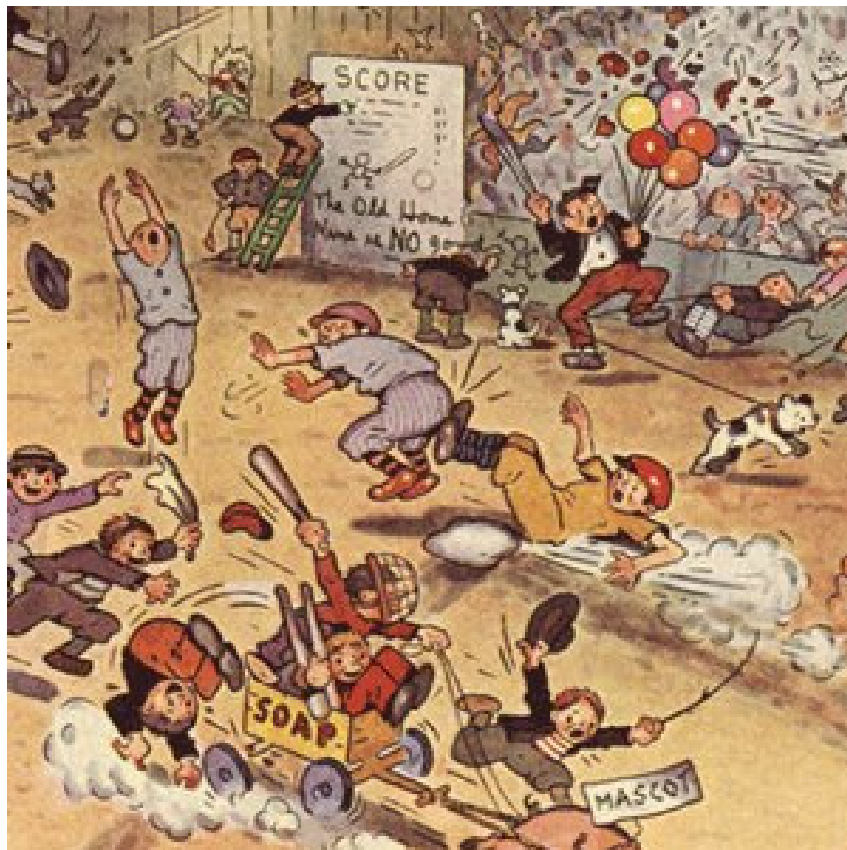
He tried a fourth time with the same result... He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace...

Two weeks later, he got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt...

*From the Davy Crockett Lodge #1225 A.F. & A.M. newsletter.*



**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.

Not trying to be a sexist, but you reckon that there is anything to the belief that men and women are destined by their sex to act in certain ways? You know like males are destined to be builders and females to be homemakers. What got to thinking about this, was searching my childhood memories for the next column. Some of my earliest memories of walking home from the old Lubbock Elementary School, are walking past the lumber yard. In those days lumber yards ripped rough lumber to finished size and threw the left over 8 to 12 foot long strips in a pile outside to be burned. I would go through the pile and pick out pieces I thought would be useful and drag them home as a free source of material to build things. I was always scrounging pieces of 2 by 4's and boards for projects. When I could get a dime I would go inside and buy a dimes worth of nails. I built everything from kites and sidewalk skate scooters to shacks for our gangs club houses.

WAIT NOW, I use the word "Gang" to mean a group of boys who played together, and not in the modern sense. Don't forget how the meanings of words change over the years. When I was young, being "Gay" meant that you were happy and most children were said to be "young and gay".

Our last clubhouse was a real winner. We built a frame work about 6 feet square and 6 feet high out of assorted pieces of 2 by 4 and 2 by 6 lumber against the back of a neighbor's garage. The garage wall formed the back wall of the club house, saving boards and it added stability to our building.

We enjoyed that project so much, that a few weeks later we decided to expand so we added a second story. By the time we finished the second floor, we realized that the club house, being about 50 or 60 feet back from the street was susceptible to attack from our enemies, since we couldn't see them coming. That problem was solved by building a platform up in the tree beside the club house, from where one of the club members could keep watch over the house.

That worked well except that we finally realized there was a blind spot across the rear of Pete's house. We solved that problem when we discovered a 20 foot length of 2 inch pipe. It fit exactly between our tree platform and a tree about 20 feet further toward the rear of the property. With an old piece of rope stretched between the trees, a few feet above the pipe to serve as a hand rail, we could scurry between the trees without coming down to the ground.

Our final addition was the basement. We built a bench with a solid front across one wall. The seat was hinged and the floor boards below the bench were removed. We dug out below the floor until we had enough open space for a couple of boys to hunker down under the floor. That way if we had a warning that any of our enemies were in the immediate vicinity, one or two of us could hide in the "Basement" and listen to their plans while they were in our clubhouse.

Now, I am sure that some of you may think our security measures were somewhat extreme, but I can honestly say that with our security system, we were never attacked or taken by surprise. Some of the more suspicious readers of this column may suspect that our enemies (whoever they were) didn't know the part they were to play, but we didn't take chances.



Corky In The 1940s



Building the chicken house and yard

wood shed and a 12 by 24 lawn mower repair shed. Hey, I almost forgot the 16 by 30 foot addition to the house, another later 8 by 12 foot addition, the 6 by 32 foot covered front porch and the 12 by 24 foot attached carport. Then when I'm in my 70's and we had the house moved to Pine Island. That was thirteen years ago, I've had to slow down a little now. Well, I did build the 12 by 16 foot room addi-

After Nellie and I were married, I discovered a frame shop on Fulton St. near the old textile mill that had a pile of scraps. I remember building a picket fence, porch swing and trellis among other things while we lived on Firnat St..

After we moved to the Humble area, in the next 40 years I built a chicken house, an 8 by 12 foot wash house, an 8 by 12 addition to the wash house with a second story, a 12 by 16 foot building with a clear plastic roof and south side to serve as a green house that was later converted to a shop building, an 8 by 8 foot



The little 16 by 24 foot ex-store building, but that's another story. I am currently converting it into a little woodworking shop.

tion to the house and the 8 by 32 foot covered back porch and the new chicken house.

The funny thing is that in my entire working life I never had a job that was related to any type of building or construction. Nellie says I am not hard to buy for, she can just buy me a pile of two by fours.

Even funnier, I just lifted my head and looked out the front window. There sits the 16 by 24 foot little store building with the 6 foot covered porch across the front that I built about 5 years ago.



## Q And A From The Grand Lodge Of England

### **Q. Aren't you a religion or a rival to religion?**

A. Emphatically not. Freemasonry requires a belief in God and its principles are common to many of the world's great religions. Freemasonry does not try to replace religion or substitute for it. Every candidate is exhorted to practice his religion and to regard its holy book as the unerring standard of truth. Freemasonry does not instruct its members in what their religious beliefs should be, nor does it offer sacraments. Freemasonry deals in relations between men; religion deals in a man's relationship with his God.

### **Q. Why do some churches dislike Freemasonry?**

A. There are elements within certain churches who misunderstand Freemasonry and confuse secular rituals with religious liturgy.

Although the Methodist Conference and the General Synod of the Anglican Church have occasionally criticized Freemasonry, in both Churches there are many Masons and indeed others who are dismayed that the Churches should attack Freemasonry, an organization which has always encouraged its members to be active in their own religion.

### **Q Why do Freemasons take oaths?**

A New members make solemn promises concerning their conduct in Lodge and in society. Each member also promises to keep confidential the traditional methods of proving that he is a Freemason which he would use when visiting a lodge where he is not known. Freemasons do not swear allegiances to each other or to Freemasonry. Freemasons promise to support others in times of need, but only if that support does not conflict with their duties to God, the law, their family or with their responsibilities as a Citizen.

### **Q What are the secrets of Freemasonry?**

A The secrets in Freemasonry are the traditional modes of recognition which are not used indiscriminately, but solely as a test of membership, e.g. when visiting a Lodge where you are not known.

### **Q Why do you wear regalia?**

A Wearing regalia is historical and symbolic and, like a uniform, serves to indicate to members where they rank in the organization



## Brother George M. Cohan

At the age of 16, Bro. George M. Cohan published his first song, "Why Did Nellie Leave Home?" It was his first of hundreds of tunes, some of which would become standards. Bro. Cohan's song list includes popular tunes like "Give My Regards to Broadway" and "Mary's a Grand Old Name," as well as such patriotic anthems as "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Over There." Twenty-three years later, just before America's entry into World War II, Congress authorized Bro. Franklin Roosevelt to present Bro. Cohan with a gold medal. In addition to song writing, Bro. Cohan was a playwright, producer, and actor. He appeared in "Ah Wilderness" and "I'd Rather Be Right," and wrote plays including "The Little Millionaire," "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," and "The Merry Malones." He was immortalized in 1942 in Hollywood's "Yankee Doodle Dandy," and in 1968 in the Broadway musical "George M!" Bro. Cohan was raised in New York city's Pacific Lodge No. 233 in 1905. He was also an active Shrine Mason.



# 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.

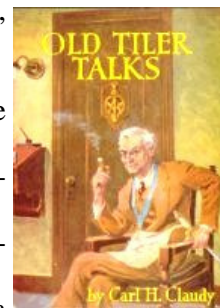
"Few men have exalted ideals!" countered the Old Tiler. "I didn't say that was the best reason, I said it was the reason of the average man. I know three Chaplains of lodges who say it rests them to come to a place where preachers of the Word of God can worship Him without dogma or creed. I have been 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

