

The Waller Mason Lodge #808 Online Newsletter



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

**The Waller Masonic Lodge Newsletter
is Back Again and Maybe Even Better**



Waller Flag Project: Changing of the Guard

By Right Worshipful Gary Mosmeyer

For years, the city of Waller has shown its patriotism by displaying Old Glory at homes and businesses throughout town. It lifts the heart to see the flags flying in abundance several times throughout the year. This iconic display of the American flag has become a proud tradition for the residents of Waller.



The project was started in 1960's by the Waller Lions Club. According to longtime local resident Sadie Suggitt, Lions Club members Henry Naegeli and Herman Sanford, now deceased played an integral role for years in displaying the flags throughout town.

Sadie's husband, Jimmy Suggitt also worked for years putting up and taking down the flags, and Sadie joined him in later years, along with their daughter, Donna. Other contributors to the flag display were Tommy and Peggy Albert and Barry and Debra Harrison.

According to Sadie, The hardest part of the job was to remove the pecans the squirrels would love to place in the brackets. "That was quite a job," she stated. "It was a lot of work, but we enjoyed doing it."

As a fundraiser to benefit many charities the Waller Lions Club charged a small fee to put up and take down the flags all nine holidays throughout the year.

Due to a declining and aging membership, the Waller Lions club decided that it is time for a changing of the guard, and is passing the torch to the Waller Masonic Lodge who hopes to carry on this colorful patriotic tradition.

The Waller Masonic Lodge #808 will take over the selling of subscriptions for an American flag to be displayed in front of your business our home. Representatives of the Lodge will come out and

install a bracket at a location of your choice, and all nine holidays during the year, will put the flag up in the morning and take it down the same evening, all for a small subscription fee of \$40 per year.

The nine holidays which are traditional days for displaying the American flag are: New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving.

The Waller Masonic Lodge uses money collected from this and other fundraisers to help the needy provide scholarships for young men and women graduating from Waller high school, provide medical treatment for burned and crippled children, and many more charities.

By sponsoring the flag display, the Waller Masonic Lodge hopes to raise additional monies for those charities and encourages the community to give some thought to helping those in this world that are less fortunate than ourselves.

Also the project is spent is a fantastic opportunity to show the city of Waller's patriotism and American pride by making the city a sea of red white and blue during the aforementioned holidays. Jason Tones, Worshipful Master of the Waller Masonic Lodge, when asked about the project, said, "I hope to get the flag display back to the way it was back to the way it used to be when I was a kid. I would like to see flags everywhere, all over town, we need to take pride in America and show our patriotism again this is my hope."

According to Calvin Trapp, master of ceremonies for the Lodge, Lions Club donated all their flags and the list of prior customers. As to why the Masons wanted to take over the project, Trapp stated, "We felt it was a job that someone needs to do and we are ready and willing to do it. Our veterans deserve all the honor and respect we can give and the display of flags honors their service." If you would like to subscribe to this worthy project, and help those in need, please call Jason Tones, W. M. – Bart Harvey, Secretary; or Calvin Trapp, M.C.



Trying To Keep From Crying

By P. M. John "Corky" Daut

Brothers of Waller Masonic Lodge, I wanted to let all of you know that the June 2014 stated meeting of Waller Masonic Lodge was one of the major highlights of my life.

You can never know how much it meant to me, when at the end of the meeting, Brother Fred Loofs stood up and more or less said, "I think we need to let Brother Corky know how much we appreciate his years of service as secretary."

Then, as I sat through what must have been a two minute standing ovation from the Brothers, trying to keep from crying, it made me feel that my contributions to Waller Lodge and Freemasonry over these years' have really been worthwhile.

As almost all of you know I wasn't raised until I was 64 years old and for the last 22 years I have been trying my best to make up for all those lost years and be worthy of the name "Freemason".

Now, I feel like Waller Lodge has let me know that I've come pretty close to reaching my goal. But, I will still be trying as an unofficial Lodge officer, retaining the title of "Newsletter Editor".



People Can't Join Freemasonry If They've Never Heard Of It

From The East West Traveler BLOG

Well, I've been very negligent about posting to this blogsite lately, but I met a woman this evening who inspired me to put something together and post before I go to bed, so here goes.

It's always amazing to me how many people are interested in learning about Freemasonry... once they've actually heard about it. The lady this evening, for instance, said she'd never heard of the Craft until Dan Brown came out with his book and movie about Freemasonry. Now she's interested enough to learn more because of the mystique that surrounds the order, and she'll probably read these blogs because now she has actually met someone who is a Freemason.

I hope she finds these writings worthwhile, and that they inspire her to read and learn more. I hope she discovers what an exceptional organization it really is, and who knows, maybe her interest will inspire her husband to consider joining someday. I know I'm spinning a lot of "what ifs" out of next to nothing here, but I'm trying to make a point.

Keeping Freemasonry a secret doesn't work if you're trying to build membership

People can't become Freemasons if they've never heard of the organization. They can't join something nobody's ever talked to them about. Freemasonry lost an entire generation of potential members because fathers in the fifties and sixties didn't talk to their sons about the Craft. Freemasonry wasn't discussed openly; it was a big secret. Those sons (and daughters) grew up without knowing about Freemasonry to any meaningful extent. Those boys turned into young men knowing only that Freemasonry was an organization their fathers belonged to, and that it wasn't something for the cool, rebellious young men of the next generation to engage in.

Today, the subject of Freemasonry is fodder for countless conversations. Unfortunately, it's not all good conversation, but at least it's a starting point for people to talk about this fraternity. Freemasons today feel much freer to talk about the Craft with non-Masons, at least in my experience, and they do so.

Freemasons have spent many, many decades wallowing in self-pity about the declining numbers of Freemasons. When I joined 21 years ago, discussions about the state of the Craft were frequent... and frequently depressing. Dwindling membership was the number one topic of concern, and there was real fear (again, my opinion) that Freemasonry could disappear.

Given this state of the union, I was always dumbfounded that Freemasons in general wouldn't talk about the fraternity to non-Masons. Perhaps it was my naïveté at the time that took me down the "wrong" path, but since day one I've never had a problem discussing the fraternity with anyone who has showed any interest.

Talk openly about Freemasonry and people will be interested

Frank, earnest discussion designed to inform and enlighten has always been my goal, because those who hate the Craft (and there are many who do) have had too free a hand in spreading their lies and innuendo about Freemasonry over the years. The Craft certainly doesn't need me putting off someone who is genuinely interested in the fraternity by dissembling, or brushing aside their inquisitiveness with that age-old, so-called joke that has a brother saying to a questioner, "I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you." Talk about lame, and talk about doing a disservice to Freemasonry.

So I will continue to talk freely and openly about Freemasonry to anyone who will listen, and I hope my brethren will do so as well. The cat is out of the bag in a big way, so we might as well capitalize on the interest and introduce a new generation of men to the Craft. That is the only way all the good that we do will survive for generations to come.



HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE #749

AF & AM

Located At 7th & Main

Country Cooking - Sausage, Beans & Rice Luncheon

Wednesday - October 22, 2014

Only \$6.00 per Person - Includes Tea or Water

11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Desert Available



A Pancake Supper for a Fundraiser???

Editor's Note; I was talking to my daughter Becky the other night about our recent Pancake supper fundraiser and she reminded me of our first Pancake Supper and Auction Fundraiser. So, I looked up the story in the July 2007 newsletter (Reproduced below). By the way, we cleared about \$1,300 with our pancake supper last month. Corky

Who Would Have Thunk It???

I saw a few eye brows raise when a pancake supper was mentioned as a fund raiser. Maybe another one or two when a silent action was added.

I think many of us had already learned a lesson after a bunch of eye brows raised (including mine) when Past Master Trey Wren proposed a Bull Ride as a fund raiser and pushed it through a few years ago.

Not counting the hours of volunteer work selling tickets and begging items for the silent auction, Waller Lodge made about \$500 more with the three hour Pancake Supper and Silent Auction fundraiser (total \$1,500.00) then we did in last year's three day long, Liendo Civil War Reenactment fundraiser (Total \$1,000.00).

Makes you wonder if we've been in the wrong kind of business all these years.

We can't begin to thank everyone personally that donated items for the fundraiser and volunteered to help cook, serve and clean, but we do owe a special big vote of thank to P. W. M. Wes Mersiovsky and Liz, W. M. Jim Brown and Becky, and S. W. Bob Podvin for putting it all together and getting most of the items for the auction.

The decision to pre-sell tickets for the fundraiser was a major part of the success and added over \$500 to the total. It allowed members who live out of town or otherwise couldn't participate an opportunity to help their Lodge. I heard that Brother Jimmy Hooper actually sold all of his tickets and came back for more.



From The Waller Masonic Lodge Newsletter July 2006

Editor's Note; I think this one needs to be reread.

Brethren, in May of this year we raised our newest Brother, Brack Whitehead to the Sublime Degree Of A Master Mason. After the degree was finished, Brother Brack was ask if he had any comments or questions for the Lodge Brothers. His first question was one I had never heard a new Mason ask.

He ask, "What do the Masonic Brothers of Waller Lodge do to help the community?"

Actually Brother Brack's question didn't bother me at all. I was however, very embarrassed by the length of time it took for someone to finally come up with the first example. It was like you could see the wheels turning in everyone's head trying to remember what we do.

The answers we gave to justify our worth to the community was a further embarrassment. Not what we did, but the fact that almost every example we offered, except for the donation to Brother's Greg Williams's wife this year, were things that happened 2 or 3 or 4 years ago. Donating money to the library was 2 years ago. Helping the Paul Cox Family was 3 years ago. Working on the widow T.W. Wren's house was 4 years ago.

How long has it been since Waller Lodge donated money to the Shrine Crippled Children's Hospital or Scottish Rite Eye Clinic or Shrine Burn Center or had a fundraiser to help a needy family, or gave baskets of groceries for people to enjoy a holiday, or helped repair an old person's house or fence or a student to afford an education? Do any of us offer to pick up a Brother who can't drive and bring him to a Lodge Meeting or take one to the grocery store?

I could go on and on, but I won't, because I know every Master Mason in Waller Lodge who really thinks about it for a few minutes knows the answers.

At this point I have to admit that the thing that embarrassed me the most by Brother Brack's question the most by Brother Brack's question is the fact that I didn't do very much during my year as Master to improve our track record.

Thanks to Brother Brack for giving us a wake up call. It was something some of us needed to hear." I have challenged Worshipful Master "Wes" Mersiovsky to lead Waller Lodge back to actually doing what Masons profess to do. I have also pledged my support to help to him in anyway I can.



Wanted, About 39 Waller Members

Waller Masonic Lodge's Worshipful Master Jason Tones has a request for the local members who have been missing from our stated meetings lately.

Please Show Up Tuesday for the October 14, 2014 meeting, we really miss you.

The Waller Lodge Electronic Newsletter

Subscriber's Extra Features

Did U Know? - A Yankee Soldier's Theft Saved the Jewels for Louisiana's Greensburg Lodge

GREENSBURG, LA (WVUE) - It was a crime that happened 150 years ago: A set of precious jewels were stolen by Union soldiers from a Louisiana Masonic lodge. But in an odd twist, it may have been the best thing that could have happened to these heirlooms. FOX 8's Dave McNamara takes us to a Masonic lodge in St. Helena Parish in tonight's Heart of Louisiana.

Symbols are an important part of the fraternity of Masons. They adorn Masonic lodges, and members wear the emblems or jewels. The Masonic lodge in Greensburg dates back to the early 1850s. During the Civil War, Union troops took over the Greensburg lodge, and when the troops left Louisiana, something very valuable left with them.

We knew that the lodge had been used as a barracks and that it was pretty well looted, you know, at the time of the Civil War," said Lodge Master Chuck Coburn. "That was in our history."

The stolen items included pure silver artifacts. All have deep meaning to the Masonic brothers. "I like to make a comparison to them like a family heirloom," Coburn said.

For 150 years, the jewels were missing and presumed to be lost forever. But early this year, they resurfaced at a Masonic lodge in California.

"I was presented with these jewels that were given to us by a retiring or elderly brother who had them for apparently many years that were passed down to him and given to his father because he was a Mason," said Jeff Hertig lodge master at the Consuelo Lodge.

"We happened to have gotten along with the jewels a small 100-year-old note written by someone giving us some names to get the investigation started," said George Tegart, also with Consuelo .

"The note said they came from Charles Harvey, a soldier from Kane County, Illinois. Harvey was later transferred into Company K of the Illinois 15th Calvary Regiment and ended up in this area around the end, around the early parts of 1864. A reading of Louisiana Masonic archives showed that the Greensburg lodge was missing its jewels.

"That was really a big eureka moment, oh my gosh, we know who lost them," Tegart said.

California's Consuelo Lodge traveled to Greensburg, and in a special Masonic ceremony, hand over a long lost jewels.

But the jewels aren't the only things this group has lost over the years. The lodge in Greensburg burned down in 1950. Every single artifact in the building was lost. And that makes these historic jewels even more important.

"It mean so much to us because this lodge, they are the only things that remain from the original lodge," Coburn said.

Perhaps this is the end of a century-and-a-half-old theft. Or these Masons prefer to think a Union soldier took them for safekeeping, hoping that someday they would find their way back to where they belong.

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



Why Is It Called The Blue Lodge?

Why have we adopted blue into the lodge name? Where does it come from? What does it represent and mean? I'm glad you asked!

The mother of all Freemasonry. The place where every man begins his journey into the Ancient Craft of Free and Accepted Masons. "The Blue Lodge" - It has been here in America that the term "Blue Lodge" has become popularized and so widely used. Originally, it was frowned upon, and Lodges were called, Craft Lodges or Ancient Craft Lodges, some were even called a St. Johns Lodge.



According to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, there may be a number of reasons why symbolic lodges are called Blue Lodges. Since ancient times, the color blue has been associated with immortality, eternity, and fidelity. References to the color blue in the Bible emphasize the special place blue has as a color symbolizing goodness and immortality. The Druids also honored the color while the ancient Egyptians used the color to represent Amun, one of their most important gods. The ancient Babylonians associated the color blue with the gods. In Medieval times, Christians saw blue as the symbol of perfection and hope, and well as of immortality and fidelity.

It is not known when blue first came to be associated with Freemasonry, although some historians think that initially the color was used in Craft Masonry to represent the sky. Today, blue for Masons symbolizes brotherhood and symbolizes the fact that Masons should seek out virtues as extensive as the blue dome of heaven.

Albert Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry under "Blue" has further light to share. He says "Blue is emphatically the color of Masonry. It is the appropriate tincture of the Ancient Craft degrees.

The Hebrew word for blue when referring to spiritual matters is tekhelet התכלת derived from a root word meaning perfection.

It is well known that among the ancients, initiation into the mysteries and "perfection" are

synonymous terms and this is why blue is the appropriate color for the greatest of all the systems of initiation the world has ever known, The Ancient Blue Lodge Craft.”

Beyond the allegory and symbolism of the color blue, there is the reality of millions of men who have experienced things beyond themselves, transformed and evolved into their highest potentials, reached even further to give the same to other men, while standing in and being a member of a Blue Lodge.

It is said over and over again, “There is no other degree “higher” than the third degree and being a Master Mason. There is no higher distinction in our entire institutional Fraternity!” With that being said, we all should remember, support and love our Blue Lodges, where we began as good men and through the motherly love of our Ancient Craft Lodge, we were brought into the world anew... literally brought from the dark to the light, to rise as GREAT MEN!

Source: Sotoyome-Curtis Masonic Lodge

Blake L. Bowden

Administrator and Founder

Gonzales Masonic Lodge No. 30 A.F. & A.M. - Past Master

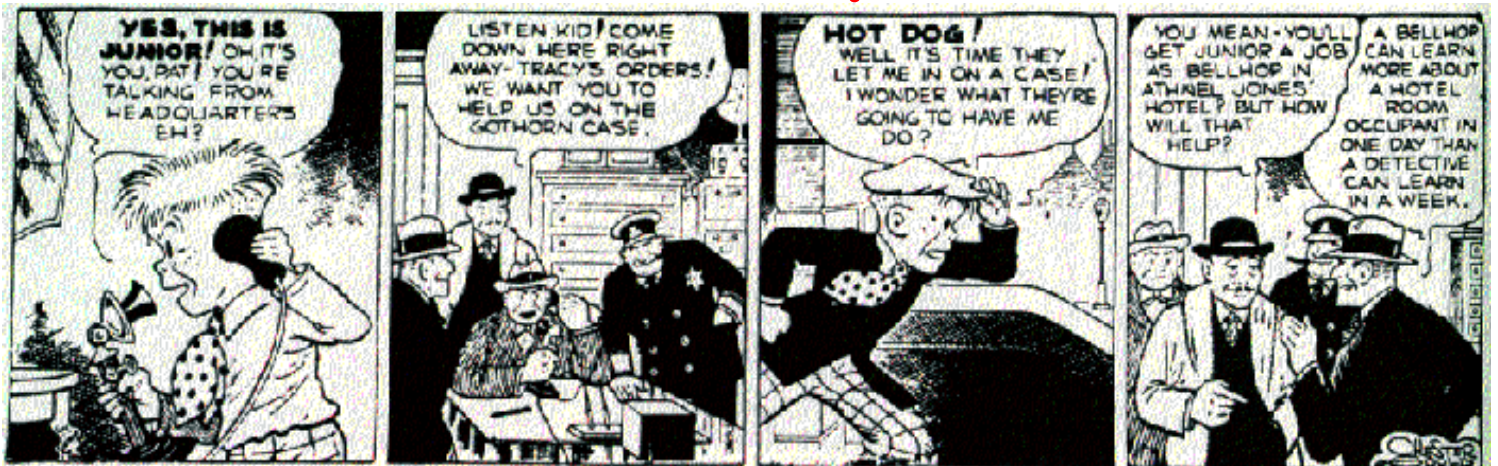


The Funnies Your Grandparents Read

Bringing Up Father



Dick Tracy



Come to think of it, I used to read them too, when I was a kid.



What's Your Answer?

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

In either case, the Brother is challenged by the realization that there is no simple answer which he can rattle off "from the top of his head," because the questioner is really asking him for a comprehensive explanation about what organized Freemasonry is, what its principles and purposes are, what programs it is engaged in, how it carries them out, and what satisfactions the individual Mason derives from his Masonic membership.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But there is so much that can be told about Freemasonry, about the particular lodge, about the individual Mason, that the real problem in answering the question, "What do the Masons do?" is to say only enough to satisfy the questioner without boring or distracting him.

He can point out that Freemasonry is an educational organization. By means of the ritualistic ceremonies and other educational programs, Masons learn and teach the truths of morality, justice, patriotism, and the necessity of brotherly love to achieve those universal ideals. Reverence for the Great Architect is inculcated because men are brothers only if they are related to God as the, sons of the Creator Father.

He can explain that Masonic meetings, while resembling the meetings of any organized society, have a distinctly Masonic character.. They are opened and closed with prayer. They are patriotic because the nation's flag is kept in an honored place in the lodge and properly saluted with the pledge of allegiance. They are opened and closed with Masonic ceremonies to remind the members of the principal purposes of the Fraternity, which are to develop brotherly love and respect for truth, not the truths of scientific facts or history, but the truths which guide a man to live happily and harmoniously with his fellow man.

For that reason Masonic meetings do not permit the introduction of discussions about sectarian religious differences or partisan political opinions. A Masonic lodge, if it is working seriously, teaches its members the principles involved in attaining a universal Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

A Mason is also free to explain that Freemasonry is a charitable organization, which acts to relieve the distress of local individuals who are victims of calamity, and that it has created programs and institutions to care for its needy senior citizens, or to provide scholarship aid for worthy and needy young people in college. Masonic Homes and Hospitals, Grand' Lodge Scholarship Programs, Charity Funds, and the Hospital Visitation Program of the Masonic Service Association are examples of such achievements.

Freemasonry is also, but not primarily, a social organization, which arranges special meetings to which are invited wives, children, neighbors and friends for the purposes of entertainment and sociability. Masons seek the pleasure of associating with other members of the community, hoping thereby to reveal the serious and idealistic nature of the Fraternity's objectives.

There is so much that a Mason can tell about his beloved Fraternity. But the way in which he tells it is more important than what he tells. When a Mason is conscious and proud of the moral and spiritual achievements he has made through Masonry, when he has been inspired to display the beauties of friendship, morality, and brotherly love, when he realizes that his own personal life is the most important evidence he can give to show what a Mason is, he usually finds it very easy to talk about the Fraternity to his non-Masonic friends. When he knows that his lodge is a spiritual force, when it is learning and teaching its members the universal ideals of the Craft, when it is actively promoting charitable programs and pursuing truth, he will tell what Freemasonry is with conviction and enthusiasm.

But he must know what he is talking about. This essay suggests only in general terms what he can talk about. He should be prepared to fill in the details. When he is convinced that he can supply those details, he is ready to answer the questions, "What do the Masons do?" and "What are the Masons?"

When he is asked the question he must then decide on how much or how little to say. A brief but adequate reply is advised, for if the questioner is not satisfied, he will undoubtedly ask for further information. The following answer is only a suggestion.

"Masons are men who voluntarily asked to join a lodge. They were accepted because they were good men who believe in God and hold high ethical and moral ideals. They go to meetings which they call the lodge, in order to learn and to teach what 'friendship, morality, and truth really involve, and to practice on a small scale the reality of brotherhood. They also have meetings open to their wives, children, and friends where they promote an understanding of the serious nature of the Fraternity by entertainment and sociability. Practical programs for charity and relief are planned and executed. The special kinship they feel for each other as a brotherhood is their deepest satisfaction."



Surviving the Big Ones

By Corky

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.

I heard a television commercial this morning for the "March Of Dimes". Sure, I know, everybody hears television commercials for the "March Of Dimes". I'll agree to that, but how many of you remember when it was the "Mile Of Dimes"?

A few weeks before Christmas each year, the Elks Club Mile of Dimes used to set up a three sided "tent" in the curb lane of Main Street in front of the Kress Store at Main and Capitol in Houston. I would guess now that it was a good time to set up a fund raiser because people would be in a more giving nature during the Christmas season. Besides, there would be two or three times as many people in the downtown area at that time of year. You have to remember there weren't any shopping centers in those days and you had to go downtown to do your Christmas shopping.

The tent must have been somewhere about 8 or 10 feet deep by 30 or 40 feet wide. The tent was open along the sidewalk side and there was a low platform about 4 feet deep and the width of the tent in the rear half of the tent. The dimes were lined up side by side in long straight lines on the platform so people could see how many dimes it took to make a mile and how many more the volunteers needed to make the mile. By the time the drive ended, the platform was covered by row after row of dimes. There was always 5 or 6 volunteers standing beside the curb shaking giant tea strainers with some coins and maybe a dollar bill in them and asking the passerby's to donate their dimes to the Mile Of Dimes. At that time the money that was collected was donated for research and treatment for Tuberculosis.



Corky Back Then

Of course all of the kids back then were fascinated by the row after row of dimes and loved to stand and just look at them. Hey, that looked like just about all the money in the world. After all they represented the answer to most of our dreams. Comic books were a dime. A big RC Cola soda water and a Baby Ruth candy bar cost a dime. You could buy a rubber band powered balsa wood and tissue paper model airplane kit that you could put together and fly for a dime.

Being the meticulous researcher that I am, I just measured one foot of dimes. There are 17 1/2 dimes per foot. 17 1/2 dimes times 5,280 feet makes 92,400 dimes or \$9,240 per mile

One of the better known volunteers in the Mile of Dimes stated, "I am as proud of that record as I am of my 50 years in the wrestling game. Early in our TV career I recognized that wrestling, through television, could accomplish a lot of good deeds. We started with the Elks' Mile of Dimes, which was a Houston tradition at that time. Since then, through a polio epidemic, telethons for the March of Dimes and hundreds of other worthy causes, we have been ready to help. We have not only provided action and entertainment, but we have been a useful instrument for the betterment of nonprofit causes. We intend to stay that way for the next 34 years." (From the life of Paul Boesch who many of us in the Houston area will remember as "Mr. Wrestling" in the Houston area)

I was, as the kids say, surfing the Internet to do a little research on the "Mile Of Dimes" and found very little to add except the following news item I thought should be included because it reminds me so much of the old Houston drives. It was written by Walter Lambert of Knoxville, who was recently retired from the University of Tennessee

". . . You are all familiar with the March of Dimes and its long history in dealing with problems of children. Maybe you are old enough to remember, as I do, when a long table stretched down Gay Street (it was long enough ago that people actually walked down Gay Street) on which folks literally lined up dimes to make a mile of dimes. When you are 6 or 7 years old, that is impressive. I also remember how my grandmother would give me dimes to place in those long rows to do my part to fight polio. Maybe that is where my affinity for this great organization started. And after all, this is a charity that cured its disease and has moved on to greater fields. Today, the March of Dimes is the premier organization in the country that concerns itself with birth defects. Baby your baby, they say and a great message it is too."



The Fire and Water Degree

Here is a photo from the "Fire and Water" Degree Friday night Sept 12. It was put on by the Danville Lodges at the Gao Grotto on Lake Vermilion on the north side of Danville, Texas.

The Grotto has a pavilion and beach area down the hill from the main building, so that was the "Water", the "Fire" was the torches and bonfires around the beach. At 10 pm, it was just under 50 degrees and breezy, so they could have used a little more "Fire".



The 6 Brothers kneeling in the front row are the 6 new Master Masons. There was a good crowd and not everyone made it into the photo. They hope to do it again next year, maybe a little earlier in the summer.



The Magic Bank Account

Author unknown - Submitted by P.M. Bart Harvey

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules:

The set of rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "Game Over!". It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?

You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL ...

Shocked ??? YES!

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it.

The PRIZE is *TIME*

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is Not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING...

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start "spending"....

"DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GROWING OLD...!"

SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET THE PRIVILEGE!



Benjamin Franklin

A Masonic "Did You Know"

Thanks to: W. Bro. Dwight D. Seals
Camden Lodge #159 Camden, Ohio

Poor Richard's Almanack (sometimes spelled Almanac) was a yearly almanac published by Benjamin Franklin, who adopted the pseudonym of "Poor Richard" or "Richard Saunders" for this purpose. The publication appeared continually from 1732 to 1758. It was a best seller for a pamphlet published in the American colonies; print runs reached 10,000 per year. Franklin, the American inventor, statesman, and publisher, achieved success with Poor Richard's Almanack. Almanacks were very popular books in colonial America, offering a mixture of seasonal weather forecasts, practical household hints, puzzles, and other amusements. Poor Richard's Almanack was also popular for its extensive use of wordplay, and some of the witty phrases coined in the work survive in the contemporary American vernacular. The Almanack contained the calendar, weather, poems, sayings and astronomical and astrological information that a typical almanac of the period would contain. Franklin also included the occasional mathematical exercise, and the Almanack from 1750 features an early example of demographics. It is chiefly remembered, however, for being a repository of Franklin's aphorisms and proverbs, many of which live on in American English. These maxims typically counsel thrift and courtesy, with a dash of cynicism. In the spaces that occurred between noted calendar days, Franklin included proverbial sentences about industry and frugality. Several of these sayings were borrowed from an earlier writer, Lord Halifax, many of whose aphorisms sprang from, "... [a] basic skepticism directed against the motives of men, manners, and the age." In 1757, Franklin made a selection of these and prefixed them to the almanac as the address of an old man to the people attending an auction. This was later published as *The Way to Wealth*, and was popular in both America and England. Franklin borrowed the name "Richard Saunders" from the seventeenth-century author of *Rider's British Merlin*, a popular London almanac which continued to be published throughout the eighteenth century. Franklin created the Poor Richard persona based in part on Jonathan Swift's pseudonymous character, "Isaac Bickerstaff". In a series of three letters in 1708 and 1709, known as the Bickerstaff papers, "Bickerstaff" predicted the imminent death of astrologer and almanac maker John Partridge. Franklin's Poor Richard, like Bickerstaff, claimed to be a Philomath and astrologer and, like Bickerstaff, predicted the deaths of actual astrologers who wrote traditional almanacs. In the early editions of Poor Richard's Almanack, predicting and falsely reporting the deaths of these astrologers—much to their dismay—was something of a running joke. However, Franklin's endearing character of "Poor" Richard Saunders, along with his wife Bridget, was ultimately used to frame (if comically) what was intended as a serious resource that people would buy year after year. To that end, the satirical edge of Swift's character is largely absent in Poor Richard. Richard was presented as distinct from Franklin himself, occasionally referring to the latter as his printer. In later editions, the original Richard Saunders character gradually disappeared, replaced by a Poor Richard, who largely stood in for Franklin and his own practical scientific and business perspectives. By 1758, the original character was even more distant from the practical advice and proverbs of the almanac, which Franklin presented as coming from "Father Abraham," who in turn got his sayings from Poor Richard.

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Franklin began publishing Poor Richard's Almanack on December 28, 1732, and would go on to publish it for 25 years, bringing him much economic success and popularity. The almanack sold as many as 10,000 copies a year. In 1735, upon the death of Franklin's brother, James, Franklin sent 500 copies of Poor Richard's to his widow for free, so that she could make money selling them. One of the appeals of the Almanack was that it contained various "news stories" in serial format, so that readers would purchase it year after year to find out what happened to the protagonists. One of the earliest of these was the "prediction" that the author's "good Friend and Fellow-Student, Mr. Titan Leeds" would die on October 17 of that year, followed by the rebuttal of Mr. Leeds himself that he would die, not on the 17th, but on October 26. Appealing to his readers, Franklin urged them to purchase the next year or two or three or four editions to show their support for his prediction. The following year, Franklin expressed his regret that he was too ill to learn whether he or Leeds was correct. Nevertheless, the ruse had its desired effect: people purchased the Almanack to find out who was correct.

In February, 1731 M. W. Brother Benjamin Franklin received his degrees in St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia and became active in its work from the very beginning. He was elected the Grand Master on June 24, 1734 of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.



My forgetter

My forgetter's getting better,
But my rememberer is broke
To you that may seem funny
But, to me, that is no joke

For when I'm "here" I'm wondering
If I really should be "there"
And, when I try to think it through,
I haven't got a prayer!

Oft times I walk into a room,
Say "what am I here for?"
I wrack my brain, but all in vain!
A zero, is my score.

At times I put something away
Where it is safe, but, gee!
The person it is safest from
Is, generally, me!

When shopping I may see someone,
Say "Hi" and have a chat,
Then, when the person walks away
I ask myself, "Who was that?"

Yes, my forgetter's getting better
While my rememberer is broke,
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And that isn't any joke.

=====

The church gossip and self-appointed arbiter of the church's morals kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several church members were unappreciative of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Bubba, a new member, of being a drunk after she saw his pickup truck parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She commented to Bubba and others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny; he said nothing. Later that evening, Bubba quietly parked his pickup in front of her house. . . and left it there all night.