

The Waller Mason Lodge #808 Online Newsletter



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

Study Nights Mondays 6:30pm - November 2014 Issue - Meetings 2nd Tuesday 7:30pm
Worshipful Master Jason Tones – Secretary – Bart Harvey – Editor John “Corky” Daut

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



Something to Think About

by Midnight Freemason Guest Contributor
WB Ken Baril

Today, our cherished order faces a critical junction in our glorious history. Simply put, our fraternity faces the frightening prospect of declining membership and a general apathy among many of its members.

It will be necessary for all of us in the Masonic order throughout the United States to do some serious soul searching and thinking to prevent this sad prospect from continuing into the future.

Every organization and every type of organization in this nation face the same dual problems, apathy among its present members and the inability to draw in and retain new ones. This epidemic starts with child and youth activities, religious groups, civic organizations, veteran groups, and others. No further proof of such decline is needed than to speak with some hard working Cub Scout leader, CYO worker or a Commander of a veteran post, to see that this malaise is nationwide.

What the Masonic fraternity should consider doing would involve a widespread plan to attempt to re-establish the moral values upon which this great nation was founded and prospered so well. The Masonic fraternity is facing a morally and ethically corrupt society, a society that will not and cannot respond to traditional approaches, because it simply no longer feels the Masonic fraternity (or any other organization today) is a part of its' “moral character.” In short, Freemasonry must attempt in its own way and fashioned after Masonic concepts, to help in the re-birth of those values that have been lost. A nation that loses its values has relinquished its heritage, and will surely forfeit the future. This is where the crux of the matter lies. We are faced on all sides with a decline in personal honesty and integrity, with religious, business, government and educational corruption and moral bankruptcy on the part of the American people. Our society is torn with problems involving alcohol and drug abuse, violent crimes and depravity, sexual promiscuity and more degradation to an extent many of us could not have imagined just a few short years ago. All we have to do is turn on our television or log onto our computer and the immoral world around us comes flooding into our homes. We see a generation growing up being bombarded with images of immorality and inhumanity

that make the sins described in Dante's Inferno pale by comparison. It seems as if we have lost our moral fiber and character. Who of us, in our wildest dreams, would ever think that the time would come when mothers giving their four-year old child marijuana to smoke is some sort of "normal"?

In responding in our own way to such problems, in attempting to help re-establish the values we cherish, should be the Masonic mission of the next quarter century. The task ahead, if such is pursued, will entail hard work and complex planning, but any attempt at less is a band-aid approach to the problems we now face. We all like to think that our Masonic philosophy is a bulwark of morality, a way to live with our fellow man, be he Mason or not, in peace, harmony and brotherly love. How better to reflect such a philosophy than to engage in a noble enterprise such as this? Our fraternity would not face such a drastic decline as we experience today if society reflected those values it held so long ago.

The answer lies in a collective attempt to restore cherished values across this land. What more glorious mission could the Masonic order engage upon now? Time is running out and we have within our grasp an opportunity to help in the restoration of traditional American values. If such an attempt is made and fails, we may still take pride in the attempt, but if such an effort results in other groups and individuals taking up the challenge, wonderful!

This is the path to Masonic survival, and probably too, the survival of the values and country we all love.~SKB



Guess What Time It Is?

Editor's Note; except for the date I wrote this story for the November 2008 Newsletter. I like to recycle.

By P. M. John "Corky" Daut

November 22, 23 and 24, 2014 is that time of the year where once again we have the opportunity to add a significant sum of money to our treasury by working the annual Liendo Plantation Reenactment Fundraiser. With a couple of ifs, of course, if the weather holds good and if the high cost of fuel or a recession doesn't keep to many people from attending.

Last year, 2007, was still a pretty good year, even with some rain. It should have been one the best one we've had lately, but Mother Nature brought 3 or 4 inches of rain to this part of Texas between Saturday night and Sunday morning. Many of the re-enactors and even some of the vendors left after daylight Sunday Morning. The crowd was small Sunday and we only took in about 15% of the week end's income.

Saturday was the best day we ever had at Liendo. We took in about 75% of our total income Saturday. Mike Risley and I took the money from a double line of customers without stopping for about 3 hours straight, between 11 and 2 or so. Of course that also means that Becky Brown, Nellie Daut, Renea Hall, Brenda Harvey, Susan Sanders and Shirley and Candy Trapp were frantically working behind us assembling hot dogs, burgers, sandwiches and plate lunches. Jim Brown, Junior Bridges, Gary Mosmeyer, Richard Sanders and Calvin Trapp scurried around helping whatever area needed it at the time, While Kenneth Harvey. Wayne Kluna and Jimmy Zepeda did the cooking on the pits. And, last but not least, Bob Podvin ran the roads finding supplies for us and filled in here and there between trips.

Even though the threat of rain for Sunday convinced many potential customers not to attend, it still turned out to be a fairly good day and we took in a little more money than we did on Friday.

But, we still remember 2004. Rain all weekend and we only took in about 40% of what we did last year.



For Those Who Didn't Know About Or Forgot About Liendo Plantation

Editor's Note; Reprinted from the November 2006 Newsletter.

Liendo Plantation was built in 1853 by Leonard Waller Groce, the son of Jared Groce, who was one of the largest most respected land owners in Texas. Originally a Spanish land grant of 67,000 acres assigned to Justo Liendo, the plantation's name-sake,

Liendo was one of Texas' earliest cotton plantations. It was considered the social center of Texas receiving and lavishly entertaining early Texas dignitaries and notoriety's. Liendo was considered a typical Southern plantation, having over 300 slaves and being itself built by slave labor. Sufficient in all its needs; it was a self-contained community. Like most Southern plantations, however, Liendo fell on hard times after the Civil War and changed owners several times thereafter.

Liendo had always been recognized for its warm Southern hospitality, but few people know that this same tradition of generosity probably saved it from destruction. Among the more notable statesmen and historical figures that have spent time at Liendo was George A. Custer. At the end of the Civil War, he was stationed at Liendo. It is said that both Mr. Custer and his wife were so impressed with the plantation and the gracious hospitality shown them during their stay, that they made sure Liendo was not harmed in appreciation.

Liendo was also occupied by world renowned sculptress Elisabet Ney from 1873 until she died in 1907 and by her husband Dr. Edmond Montgomery until 1911.

She and her husband had emigrated years before from Europe to the United States but had never found a new home until they found Liendo.

In 1960 Carl and Phyllis Detering purchased Liendo from Miss Willene Compton and began their 10 year job of restoring the plantation home. Traveling throughout the Deep South and Europe, the Deterings acquired period furnishings and faithfully restored Liendo to its former glory. Liendo is recognized as a Texas historic landmark and is listed on the national register of historic places.

Today, Will Detering owns and operates Liendo Plantation, raising Detering Red Brahaman cattle and continues the work of preserving and sharing this Texas landmark.

Liendo Plantation's historic involvement with the Civil War is celebrated with a 3 day Civil War battle reenactment each year during the 3rd weekend of November.

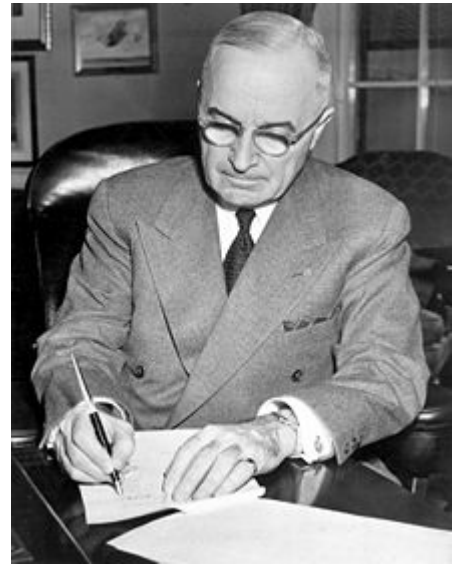


Truman's Entered Apprentice Reply

By R.W.B. Michael H. Shirley - From the *Midnight Freemason Blog*

One of the joys of reading history is discovering moments that illuminate something in the past, especially about a person's character. Prominent men and women leave a trail of public and private papers, and historians comb through them, hoping to flesh out stories of great and important events. But it's the little things, the mundane, that are often the most fruitful.

Harry Truman, as County Judge, Senator, Vice President, President, and Grand Master of Masons in Missouri, left behind a vast library of documents. His correspondence in particular is worth reading, and one letter he wrote on March 10, 1941, tells something of his attitude toward the caliber of men he called "Brother." It seems that an Entered Apprentice was wearing the square and compasses about town, and the lodge secretary, concerned about this breach of Masonic practice, wrote the Grand Master to ask what he ought to do about it. Truman replied as follows:



"A fellow is misrepresenting the facts, of course, when he wears a Square and Compasses when he has not yet finished the first three degrees. Usually a little reasoning convinces these fellows that they are not helping themselves nor the Fraternity by being forehanded and over enthusiastic. I have had the same experiences at home, and I am sure that if you will tell these fellows just exactly what they are doing, they will stop it."

It's not often that so short a document can illustrate one man's intelligence, easy authority, and basic decency, but this one does it. In three sentences, he affirmed that the secretary was right in his understanding of Masonic practice, informed him that correction was called for, and exemplified the gentle, respectful, and personal nature of the correction required. It's a brilliant bit of writing, in a real voice that's recognizably Truman's, and thoroughly Masonic. It assigns no motives other than enthusiasm, and assumes the intelligent good will of all involved.



Harry Truman was not naïve: he knew evil existed, that there were bad men in the world, and that force was often necessary. But he preferred to start from a position that assumed decency and trust, for he knew if he did not then neither decency nor trust would be achieved. It's a lesson of history, contained in one short and routine letter, from a too-busy Grand Master and Senator to a lodge secretary: Harry Truman was a Mason to his marrow.

~MHS



Waterloo—Masonic Influence?

A very interesting point was muted 12 years ago in an Irish lodge by Bro. Humphrey Thompson of Wicklow. Most brethren will be familiar with the Battle of Water-loo, some less so that Wellington came from a great masonic family of the Wellesleys with two members being Grand Master of Ireland (in 1776 and 1782) and perhaps fewer that Wellington himself was a member of Lodge 494 (IC). Perhaps even fewer are aware that his ally, Marshall Blucher from Prussia, was also a freemason.

Early on, Wellington realized that he needed Blucher and his Prussians to strengthen his army against the French otherwise they would be outmaneuvered and defeated. Therefore, Wellington visited Blucher personally to ask for his assistance. Both men gave their word—one that he would fight Napoleon at Waterloo, the other that he would support him. Others in their command feared that one might not live up to their word and the venture would be disastrous for the other. Both leaders were confident in the other.

On the morning of the battle, Blucher did not arrive, the weather was very heavy rain, but Wellington held on despite his position was becoming more and more desperate. However, in the afternoon, Blucher having been held up with the progress on the wet ground appeared and Wellington gave his famous order to attack. The French army fled and the rest is history. Later that evening both men met (see below) and shook hands—did Wellington know that Blucher would arrive without fail? Did they give each other the grip knowing that their agreement could not be broken due to their obligations as freemasons? We will never know, but Wellington's trust in Blucher was well founded.



The Big Three Were Founded By Freemasons!!!

**General Motors--- Bro. Charles Stewart Mott; Flint Lodge No. 23 Flint Michigan
Chrysler Motors--- Bro. Walter P. Chrysler; Apollo Lodge No. 297 Ellis Kansas
Ford Motors--- Bro. Henry Ford; Palestine Lodge No. 357 Detroit Michigan**

The Waller Lodge Electronic Newsletter Subscriber's Extra

"And I Vouch For Him"

Did you ever find yourself standing in front of a mirror saying, 'You know, I still look pretty good', all the while not admitting that you're at least 20-25 pounds heavier (if not more) than when you really did look good, your hair is thinning (if not entirely gone, or at least a totally different color), except that which is now growing out of your ears and nose (what's with that?!?), and gravity has long since won the battle where your once finely chiseled pecs are now 'man boobs' (not to mention your gluteus maximus)? This is typical of what we all go through and reveals the fact that our self-image is usually much different than the way others tend to perceive us or how we tend to perceive others.

We recently had a situation in our Lodge where a good Mason asked some of our brothers to sign off on a new petitioner. This brother is well liked, and a good Mason and the petitioner was a member of his church. Four other men signed off on him simply because they were asked to do so

by a good Mason they all knew and respected. The Investigation Committee asked those four brethren, 'Do you know this man well enough that you would trust him to be alone with your 16 year old daughter?', and of course the answer was no. Thus, the Investigating Committee rejected the petitioner's application on the grounds that none of the brothers who signed his application knew him well enough to vouch for him, and the application was never submitted to the Lodge for a vote. The petitioner was informed of the Committee's recommendation that the application be rejected on the grounds that no one knew him well enough to vouch for him, AS OF YET. He was told that he merely needed to come back and attend more stated meeting dinners, get to know some of the brethren better, socialize with some so that there could be enough Masons to truthfully say, 'Yes, I know this man, and I vouch for his integrity, he is qualified to become one of the fraternity.' Now, if this man had been true Masonic material, he would have followed that counsel and done precisely that. Instead, he, and his wife, immediately began an anti-Mason campaign, spewing venomous verbal assaults to the community, threatening to call the newspapers, banks, local businesses, and even the Grand Lodge of Texas to register their complaint that the man had been unfairly 'black-balled' for no reason, when in fact, his petition had never even been officially received and accepted for a vote, much less, blackballed. In retrospect, this technicality proved to be divine providence, for this man obviously was not the type of man the fraternity is looking for, and his actions exhibited just that. As a matter of fact, this type of man is exactly who the fraternity should guard the south, west and east gates against, to see that he should not pass, because he is not duly qualified.

By the time an EA candidate kneels at the holy alter to take his obligation, he has had been vouched for a total of thirteen times. First, by two first line signers and three recommending brothers of the Lodge, then three Investigators, once by the Master of Ceremonies, and four times by the Senior Deacon, (once each to the two Wardens and to the Worshipful Master twice during the degree itself). This is a great failsafe system and prevents a situation like that that might have occurred at our Lodge recently, had the Investigation Committee not been savvy enough to catch the oversight.

Needless to say, all five of those signatories were humbled and felt lucky that they had narrowly escaped a potential mistake that could have cost the Lodge, and Masonry, a severe blow. Lesson learned. Make sure you know exactly who you are vouching for, and most importantly, make sure you know him well enough to indeed vouch for his integrity. Those five signatures on the petition and the recommendation of the three investigators are the most important components to entering Masonry and they MUST be on target. The five times after that, during the EA initiation, when the Master of Ceremonies, or the Senior Deacon states, '... and I vouch for him', is predicated strictly on what those eight men have told them prior to that ceremony. Sometimes, we can let our guard down because we are always passively looking for new members, but all Masons should keep their guard up, because not all petitioners are qualified to become Masons. We can ill afford unqualified men to pass through our gates, for the adversary can accomplish much within the hallowed halls of divinely inspired men.

When we look in the mirror, it's okay if we fool ourselves a little about our own self-image, that's harmless bordering on comical. But, how do others perceive us, and in turn, how do we perceive others? Make certain that you, or your Lodge, doesn't become the victim, and NEVER, EVER, vouch for a man you don't know, no matter what. Duke Davis, Worshipful Master, Fredericksburg Lodge #7



RMS Titanic

ON THE EVE OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RMS TITANIC'S ILL-FATED MAIDEN JOURNEY, THE DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY, DIANE CLEMENTS, INVESTIGATES THE STORIES OF THE FREEMASONS ON BOARD.

With 2012 marking the centenary of its first and only voyage, the RMS Titanic has become one of the most famous ships in history. After setting sail from Southampton for New York City on 10 April 1912 with 2,223 people on board, the ship hit an iceberg four days into the crossing, at 11.40pm on 14 April 1912, and sank at 2.20am the following morning.

More than 1,500 people died – the high casualty rate due in part to the fact that, although complying with regulations of the era, the ship carried lifeboats for only 1,178 people. The Titanic was the largest passenger ship in the world at the time and the loss of this 'unsinkable' ship was a major news story around the globe and covered by masonic newspapers.

The Freemason's Chronicle wondered whether Grand Lodge itself would 'vote a considerable sum... to one of the funds now being raised in different parts of the country'. This didn't happen but the Chronicle recorded lodge donations, at the suggested rate of one guinea, to a Freemasons Titanic Fund, which the paper established, and which were then sent on to a larger fund set up by the Daily Telegraph.

FALLEN HEROES

Among the English Freemasons who died on the Titanic was Howard Brown Case, aged 49. Case was the managing director of the Vacuum Oil Company (part of the Standard Oil Company), based in Rochester, New York, and was establishing the company's operations in the UK. He lived at Ascot with his wife, two sons and two daughters and was described as 'an exceptionally hard worker' with a 'magnetic personality'. Case had been travelling in a first-class cabin and some survivors recalled that he helped women and children into the lifeboats and finally stepped back to meet his fate. He had been initiated in America Lodge, No. 3368, in June 1909.

Percy Cornelius Taylor, aged 32, was a Past Master of Musgrave Lodge, No. 1597, at Hampton Court, and a cellist in the ship's orchestra. The band famously kept playing as the Titanic went down, with all eight members sadly perishing.

Two Liverpool-based stewards, Robert Arthur Wareham, aged 36, from Toxteth Lodge, No. 1356, and Arthur Lawrence, aged 35, a member of Neptune Lodge, No. 1264, also died.

Henry Price Hodges was a 50-year-old salesman of musical instruments from Southampton who was travelling as a second-class passenger en route to Boston. He had been initiated in Caulsentum Lodge, No. 1461, Woolston (Southampton), before joining Royal Gloucester Lodge, No. 130. Pierre Giuseppe Bochet, meanwhile, had moved to London from Aosta in Italy where he worked in the catering trade. He joined the Titanic at Southampton as a waiter, aged 43. He was a member of Loggia Italia, No. 2687 and also Columbia Chapter, No. 2397.

OFFICER AND GENTLEMAN

One Freemason was known to be among the survivors. Herbert John Pitman, aged 34, was third officer on the Titanic. He helped to load and lower one of the lifeboats and row it towards the nearby ship Carpathia. Pitman went back to sea with other liners and served in the Merchant Navy in the Second World War. He had joined Abbey Lodge, No. 3341, in Hatfield in 1909 and remained a member until his death in 1961. A letter from the lodge congratulating him on his rescue was sold at

auction in October 2011.

As the Titanic was bound for New York there were many American passengers. The condolences of several grand lodges, including Hungary and Cuba, to the Grand Lodge of New York are recorded in the proceed-

RMS Titanic

Cross Keys Nov. 2014

ings of that Grand Lodge in May 1912. Three New York casualties were also recorded. Henry Harris was a New York theatre manager and a member of Munn Lodge, No. 100. Frank Millet was vice chairman of the Fine Arts Committee, based in Washington DC, and member of Kane Lodge, No. 454. Alexander Holverson was a member of Transportation Lodge, No. 842. Another Freemason casualty was Oscar Scott Woody, a clerk in the on-board post office. He was a member of Acacia Lodge, No. 16, in Virginia.

The passengers on the Titanic were drawn from all walks of life so it is no surprise that the Freemasons, casualties and survivors, were too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - FREEMASONRY TODAY NO.18 - SUMMER 2012

Sir,

Your article, 'Final Voyage' in Freemasonry Today, Spring 2012, highlights some known Freemasons who were on board the Titanic. One officer's actions, on that fateful night, have also become legendary. Harold Godfrey Lowe brought 118 passengers to safety and he was the last to leave the lifeboats on being rescued by the Carpathia. Fifth Officer Lowe was subsequently hailed a hero by some of the survivors for his actions that night, which he simply put down to doing his duty. What may not be known, but of interest to brethren, is that Lowe was initiated into St. Trillo Lodge, No. 2569, in the Province of North Wales, on the 6 May 1921. Unfortunately, he didn't occupy our master chair, but seemingly remained a member of this lodge for the rest of his life.

Tony Young

St. Trillo Lodge, No. 2569

Colwyn Bay, North Wales

Sir,

I read with great interest your article on Freemasons and the Titanic. Unfortunately, you made no reference to a young brother of the Cambrian Lodge, No. 364, lost on that fateful voyage. He was Robert William Norman Leyson, a mechanical engineer aged 24.

Norman Leyson came from a respected Neath family. His father was a Freemason and he was proposed by Henry Pendrill Charles, who later became Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He was initiated on 16 January 1912. On 28 March 1912, the Minute Book records that a Lodge of Emergency was called. This was to permit Norman Leyson to be raised to the sublime degree of a master mason before he set sail for New York on the Royal Mail Ship Titanic, to go into business in America. His father is listed among the visitors.

The Titanic berthed at Ocean Dock in Southampton on 4 April 1912 and sometime around this date Norman Leyson travelled there to board the ship for departure on 10 April. At 11.40pm on 14 April the ship travelling at 22 knots grazed an iceberg. There was lifeboat capacity for 1,200 passengers but 2,201 passengers and crew were on board. Even so, nearly 500 lifeboat places were not filled and at 2.20am on 15 April, the Titanic sank.

We do not know what happened to Norman Leyson during those dark hours, only that he did not get into a lifeboat. There were many documented and undocumented acts of bravery and also some of abject cowardice. We can only hope he acted as a true son and his actions may be numbered

among the former. The body of Norman Leyson was one of those found. He was buried at sea on 24 April.

Roger B Evans

Cambrian Lodge, No. 364 (Neath, South Wales)

In FM today 2011

RMS Titanic (ctd)



The Funnies Your Grandparents Read

MOON MULLINS



He Knows All the Answers



By Frank Willard



NANCY



Rolling-pin-up Girl



By Ernie Bushmiller



Actually, I remember reading them myself. But, come to think of it, I'm a great grandpa. *Corky*



The Grand Lodge of France

From the Cross Keys Newsletter

In 1728, Philip Wharton became Grand Master of the Grande Loge of Par-is (or Grande Loge of France). The historical birth of French Freemason-ry. It was in 1732 that the first French Lodge founded in Paris received patent from the Grand Lodge of England. Very quickly, other French Lodges were created in the provinces. In 1738 all these Lodges made up the Grande Loge of France.



On the eve of the Revolution, the French Masonic Order had secured a considerable place in the country: several tens of thousands of Freemasons belonged to one of two principal obediences: the Grande Loge de France and the Grand Orient of France (created in 1773). Noblemen and bourgeoisie rubbed shoulders from the very beginning. The two obediences fused together temporarily in 1799.

Three years after first Supreme Council of the Southern jurisdiction if the USA was formed, in 1804 the Supreme Council of France of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was created, provoking the meeting of a Scottish General Grande Loge. This Supreme Council still exists today in Paris and has jurisdiction over the High Degrees. At the end of the same year, Napoleon I obliged



the Freemasons now to have only a sin-gle Obedience, the Grand Orient, for the first three degrees (Apprentice (or Entered Ap-prentice), Fellow Craft and Master Masons), the Supreme Council keeping its authority over the other grades of French Freemasonry. In the years that followed the fall of Napo-leon, this obligation was no longer respected and the Masonic situation evolved with the creation of numerous Lodges that did not depend on the Grand Orient. Little by little, these Lodges gathered under the authority of the Supreme Council of France.

The year 1877 marked an important turning point in the history of Freemasonry in France, for it was in that year that the Grand Orient authorised its Lodges to abandon the invocation of the Great Architect of the Universe, and the Bible, fundamental elements of Freemasonry, thus stirring up considerable feeling in the Masonic world.

The creation of the Scottish Grand Symbolic Lodge which subsequently took the name Grande Loge de France (Grand Symbolic Lodge of France) took place in 1894. and ten years later The Grande Loge de France was constituted .



As a result of the German invasion, masonry was prohibited in 1940 and like the other French obediences, the Grande Loge de France was reconstituted in 1945. The Second World War was undoubtedly the worst period that Freemasonry in France had ever known, for the only time in its history it was prohibited and persecuted by the French Vi-chy government and by the German occupying forces.



The current Grande Loge de France (GLDF) was founded in 1894 due to a rift in the Grand Orient. The Grande Loge de France was never recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE),[1] although it was (briefly) recognized by a few of the Grand Lodges in the United States around the time of the First World War (UGLE and most of the American Grand Lodges currently recognise the Grande Loge Nationale Française in-stead). In 1954 the General Assembly (Convent) of the GLDF voted a resolution which rendered obligatory the presence of the Volume of the Sacred Law in all its Lodges.

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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.

There was a lot of promotion last fall for people, especially old people to get a flu shot. I would guess that a lot of people don't realize how dangerous the flu could be or how dangerous it has been in the past.

Nellie and I ran across an old "Hempstead News" newspaper dated November 1, 1918 in some of the stuff my mother had saved. There were 2 articles in that paper that immediately caught my eye. The first was a story about the death of Harry Lee Milam who was my grandfather.

Harry Lee's devotion to his work at the Pine Island/Prairie View post office was what caused his death. He, along with many people in the winter of 1918 - 1919, became a victim of the influenza epidemic. Just as he began to recover an early cold wet norther swept through Waller county. That evening at train time he began to worry about the mail pickup. In those days the mail sack was hung on a pole beside the railroad tracks and a steel hook was extended from the mail car to catch the mailbag as the train rushed by. It was a wonderful system, except that sometime the train rocked at the wrong moment and the hook only knocked the mail sack off the pole and a considerable way down the tracks.

One of Harry Lee's responsibilities was hanging the mail sack on the pole. He was worrying whether the mail sack had been hung correctly by his replacement, as he got out of bed and stood in the open front door waiting for the train to pass, so that he would be sure the mail sack was picked up. The door was on the north side of the house and that short exposure to the cold north wind was enough to cause him to relapse and go into the pneumonia that killed him.

The second article was about Tommy Gardner who was the first soldier from Hempstead to die in W.W. I.. Tommy and Harry Lee were both victims of the 1918 “Spanish Flu Epidemic”. In fact almost every family in the United States lost a family member during that epidemic including a lot from Waller County.

600,000 Americans died that fall. That’s more than had died in all of the wars in the United States up to that time. People who would be walking around in perfect health in the morning would be dead that night. They didn’t know where it came from or even why it ended. In fact, at that time they were still looking for a bacterium as the cause of the flu instead of a virus. At it’s peak, the death rate was so high, that caskets couldn’t be built fast enough to keep up with the number of people who were dying.

It started in the early morning of March 11, 1918 when soldiers at Ft. Riley Kansas begin coming down with an unknown sickness and 48 of the men died. The viruses traveled with some of the soldiers who were transferring from that base to other bases and some who were going overseas.

In September of that year, 3 civilians dropped dead in the street in Quincy, Mass. and it was back in the United States. By October 70,000 soldiers in Europe were sick. Back home the disease spread until it covered the entire country. Finally, late in November it played itself out and disappeared.

I hope we all realize now why the “Bird Flu” was taken so seriously in the Orient recently when they burned millions of chickens.

Even the children had the flu on their minds in 1918 as is shown by the little rhyme they jumped rope to.

I have a little bird
It’s name is Enza
I opened the window
and In-flu-enza

The following advertisement came from that same “Hempstead News.” It gives a hint as to the seriousness of the threat.

W. C. MUNN COMPANY
HOUSTON
AN INVITATION

W. C. MUNN COMPANY of Houston, Texas, extends to the Good people of Hempstead and vicinity a most cordial invitation to visit the city of Houston and their big store, which is the most sanitary, best ventilated Store in Texas with entrance on four streets, where you will find 50,000 square feet of floor space filled bright new merchandise. It is a most delightful place to spend a whole day, taking lunch and Saturday evening dinner in their delightful Café and Tea Room, Health conditions of Houston are good, “The Flu Lid is Off”—COME

By W. C. MUNN, President

As you may have caught from the wording of the advertisement, this was toward the end of the terrible flue epidemic of 1918 and businessmen had been suffering from a lack of customers. Mr. Munn was trying to assure the people of Waller County that it was safe to shop in Houston, at Munn’s Store of course.



One Day Classes

From the Cross Keys Newsletter

There have been many adverse comments about the American one day classes where thousands can join in day in various locations. For example, in Ohio in 2002, 7,700 new masons were raised. A past GM of Ohio addresses some of the comments. Quality - all candidates still had to petition the lodge in the normal way and were balloted for in open lodge. One thing that did change was the number of 'high' quality candidates such as elected officials in government, business executives, clergymen, etc who were unable to commit to a series of various nights, but found the one day class ideal to their needs.

Shortened ceremonies - each degree was presented in its entirety with full lectures, tracing boards and charges. The difference was that degree teams were very competent having been through a selection process beforehand - instead of BBC master chef, a BBC master mason! Most masons said it was the best degree work they had seen for years. Now that must impress a candidate, particularly when conveyed in comfortable and elegant surroundings.

Each candidate was then presented with his own VSL, a lambskin apron and a small specially engraved square and compasses, and then obligated on his own VSL and with his mentor was entrusted with the signs and secrets. The mentor also raised him after the obligation - the only difference was that no hoodwink was used and he wouldn't be ambulated around the carpet as he was seated in a large auditorium.

None are active now - on the contrary, a survey revealed that 67% of OBs in Ohio lodges came from one day classes. In terms of lodge attendance, an increase of nearly 1000 per meeting state-wide showed how successful the classes had been in Ohio. On a negative note, 0.8% had been sued for non-payment of dues although this is really negligible.

Many of these new brethren have brought their enthusiasm to their lodges and the standard of degree work has also improve. Brethren watching good degrees generally want to confer ritual in the same manner. When we look around some Scottish lodges with prompters often saying more than the floor worker or lodges renting poor accommodation, this special one day class looks to have something. Is it something that PGL could organize? Absolutely! Would it be accepted in Scotland? Of course not!!!

Summarized from an article in The Philalethes magazine by Past Grand Master of Ohio, Bro George Braatz in 2003



A Blast From The Past – From the August 2007 Waller Lodge Newsletter

How Can A Lodge With 72 Members Be So Poor

By “Corky” Daut

With 72 members, why does Waller Lodge have to have 3 or 4 fund raisers to operate? I wasn't sure myself, so I did some research. The 2007 dues paid by the 32 members who pay dues was \$2,560.00. Those dues lack \$247 of paying the past year's \$2,806.90 electric bill.

Forty members (56%) were not required to pay dues to Waller Lodge. We had 27 living endowed members. That's \$2,160.00 dues the Lodge didn't receive. Also there are 10 fifty year members, 2 exempt members and 1 life member for \$1,040.00 more we didn't receive. That's \$3,200.00 that Waller Lodge did not receive in dues.

Grand Lodge pays each Lodge a percent of the endowment funds interest. In 2006 we received \$842.40 (\$31.20 per endowment) for 27 endowed living members and \$312.00 for 10 deceased members. That's still \$2,177.60 less than dues would've been.

Please do not misunderstand I definitely feel anyone who has been a member 50 years or more, deserves his exemption. And, at the time endowments begin, dues were much lower and interest rates were much higher and the difference between dues lost and payments received was very small, making it a pretty good deal for everyone. But times change.

To make up for the difference in Endowed members, some Lodges have reportedly changed their by-laws so that an endowed member has to pay the difference between the dues and the amount paid by Grand Lodge. Other Lodges have requested that the members voluntarily pay the difference. Personally, I think asking Endowed Members to pay the difference is the wrong approach.

The only selling point for Endowed Memberships is that the purchaser's dues will be paid for life. Breaking, what becomes a "contract" between a purchaser and the Grand Lodge of Texas doesn't seem to be a Masonic answer. Besides, many members are on Social Security or small pensions so paying the difference is not the answer.

So far Waller Lodge has solved it's financial problems every year, when the Master, with a few Brothers, organize 4 or 5 fundraisers every year to earn the additional funds needed to operate the Lodge. The problem with this system is that all of the work usually falls on the same 8 or 10 dedicated local Brothers. And, the money raised usually comes the locally active Brothers, who often are the only ones are knowing about the fundraisers.

That problem changed with the last "Pancake Supper/Silent Auction" fundraiser where every member was notified in advance by mail. The response was excellent. Many members who live out of the area, or local members who are unable to participate, bought tickets they couldn't use and made donations way above the ticket prices to make the fundraiser a huge success.

Sixteen years ago, in 1991 when there were only 6 Endowed Members the short income problem was solved by raising the Lodge dues to \$80 a year. But, now in 2007, it costs approximately \$120.00 to buy the same amount of goods that \$80.00 would buy in 1991.

There isn't much that gets more Brothers in a meeting then to suggest raising the annual dues. I live on a pension and I don't like the idea of paying more for dues either, but it's been 16 years since the Lodge had an increase and it is something we need to seriously consider.

A History of Waller Lodge Dues Increases

1919 - \$ 3.00	1942 - \$ 5.00	1946 - \$ 7.00,	1955 - \$10.00
1967 - \$15.00	1985 - \$40.00,	1991 - \$80.00	

Our current annual income from dues and endowments is only \$3,700.00. That amount would have lacked \$131.43 of paying the Telephone, Electric and City of Waller utility bills of \$3,831.43 for the past year.

For Waller Lodge to be fundraiser free, we would have to double the annual dues. But, with, many members living on pensions, doubling dues for less than half the members is not a fair solution. Last year we tried a "No Chicken, Bar-B-Que Chicken Sale" fundraiser because no one wanted to work a bar-b-que pit in the heat of the summer. So, it was just members making a \$20 donation.

Doubling annual dues or having members donate money or having just a few members work in fundraisers isn't much of an answer, however those 3 methods are about all we have.

So, it would seem after 16 years a reasonable dues increase is needed. Donations are always welcomed and we need more members helping with fundraisers. Even more important is to try to organize fundraisers that raise money from the local citizenry rather than the Brothers.

This story must have convinced the Brothers, only five years after it was in the newsletter the dues were raised to \$100.00. Corky