

## From The East

### Traveling Masters and Their Wages

'...that I might travel in foreign countries and receive Master's wages...' What a reward for a Master Mason!

In the ancient guilds of Operative Masons, this guarantee was afforded a Master Mason as he would complete his work on a cathedral, or any of the grand structures being built in and around England, Ireland, Scotland and Europe at the time. As the Master Mason arrived at a new job site he would be afforded the privilege of immediately being hired by the Master Builder as a Master Mason to begin work by giving certain signs, tokens and words. This was a means of truly identifying himself as a Master Mason without having to spend several weeks working in stone to prove that he knew his craft. This was the system instilled then and the future basis of what we commonly refer to nowadays as some of the secrets of Freemasonry.

In Speculative Freemasonry, these same precepts still remain. We travel to other Lodges, in or out of our state, and after strict trial, due examination or lawful information we are allowed to enter that Lodge and labor in the Craft.

This Masonic year the Worshipful Masters of each of the six Lodges here in District 51 began a program whereby five of those Worshipful Masters would designate the sixth Lodge for visitation. The Lodges were rotated until all six Lodges were visited by as many of the Worshipful Masters as their schedules would allow. I must say, this has turned out to be a wonderful tool to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection. If you are sitting in the East and you look out and see multiple Worshipful Masters of your district sitting in your Lodge, supporting you and the Craft, it is a sense of unity and emulation that is indescribable and one that exemplifies who can best work and best agree. In addition, by visiting other Lodges some have gleaned things from those Lodges that they have implemented in their own Lodge procedures, and at the same time, possibly identify a Lodge that might need some assistance in strengthening their Lodge.

Most of us in District 51 who have gone through the chairs, laboring in the craft, and thereby, earning the privilege to sit in the East, were friends and brothers before this program began. We all got to know one another basically by attending Master Wardens and Secretaries Meetings monthly as we progressed from the South to the West, and ultimately to the East. Some of us were already close friends, socializing with each other and dining with our ladies, etc. but the comradery and closeness that we have attained because of this program has reaped endless and everlasting benefits. Some of the fondest memories of my tenure in the East will undoubtedly be of breaking bread with these men and their wives while we were attending another Lodge together, and sitting next to each other throughout the year in other Lodges, just being brothers and supporting another Lodge. The laughter, the joy and fellowship of just being Masons will be indelibly etched into my Masonic edifice, thanks to these fine men.

The wages of a Master Mason are corn, oil and wine. Corn represents plenty, referring to opportunity, friends and work. Oil represents joy and happiness while wine represents health, spirituality and peace.

As I look back on these Traveling Masters nights over the last year I see I had the opportunity to be with good friends while doing Masonic work, experiencing joy and happiness, with spiritually healthy men who were at peace, all of us sharing Masonic principles through a very simple program of just visiting other Lodges. We all were paid

our wages tenfold.

I would exhort all incoming Worshipful Masters to continue this program. It really doesn't take much effort to attend another five meetings over the span of a year, but more importantly, the wages that you will receive will make you a better Mason and a better example to your Lodge of who can best work, and best agree.

**Duke Davis, Worshipful Master**

## The West Gate

In my Masonic journey I learned these words ... "to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, that cement which unites us into one sacred band or society of brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work or best agree."

How are we to really understand this concept? Do we really need this lesson? Is it as simple as it sounds, or is there deeper meaning?

The Trowel is an implement of Operative Masonry, which has been adopted by Speculative Freemasons as the peculiar working-tool of the Master's Degree. By this implement, and its use in Operative Masonry to spread the cement which binds all the parts of the building into one common mass, we are taught to spread the cement of affection and kindness, which unites all the members of the Masonic family, wheresoever dispersed over the globe, into one companionship of Brotherly Love. An old custom in an Oxford Englad Lodge gave it prominence as a jewel, and as a symbol it goes back to the practice of the Ancients.

Today, the Trowel is considered the appropriate working-tool of a Master Mason, because, in Operative Masonry, while the Apprentice is engaged in preparing the rude materials, which require only the Gage and Gavel to give them their proper shape. the Fellow Craft places them in their proper position by means of the Plumb, Level, and Square; but the Master Mason alone, having examined their correctness and proved them true and trusty, secures them permanently in their place by spreading, with the trowel, the cement that irrevocably binds them together. The Trowel has also been adopted as the jewel of the Select Master. But its uses in this Degree are not symbolical. They are simply connected with the historical legend of the Degree.

The working tools of a Master Mason comprise all the tools of the Craft, but more especially the Trowel. The trowel is used by operative masons to spread the cement which unites the stones of a building into a substantial structure; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to use it for the more noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love, which unites us into one close bond of brotherhood, in which no contention can ever exist, except that noble emulation of who can best serve and best agree.

But the trowel has, in addition, a deeper significance. Numerical values receive especial attention in Masonry, possibly because mathematics was the first of the sciences to help civilize the human race. Geometry is regarded as chief among the seven liberal arts and sciences, - its initial blazes before you. The 47th problem of Euclid is an important symbol in this degree.

The series, three, five and seven, occurs frequently among the symbols of Masonry, but the number three is most frequent; the three great lights, three lesser lights, three degrees in the Blue Lodge, three stations in the lodge, three stages of human life, three knocks and many other instances, which you will recall. The reason for this prominence is that three is the symbol of Stability.

Geometry teaches that three points are always in one plane and are always in equilibrium. And this is the philosophic interpretation of the trowel. It presents three points. It is the principal working tool of the Master Mason,

not only because it spreads the cement of brotherly love, but also because the close bond of brotherhood so constructed must always be in equilibrium and is firmly founded on Stability.

But there is yet another reason; the trowel in the hands of the operative mason is frequently required to remove from the bearing surfaces of the stone, such foreign substances as may have become attached to it while it lay among unclean surroundings and which would interfere with its perfect bonding.

The irregular block of stone came out of the quarry, - that is, the outer world; it entered the Apprentice degree, where by aid of the common gavel and the twenty-four inch gauge, it was shaped into a rough ashlar. It was then passed to the Fellowcrafts, who, by use of their working tools made it plumb, square and level and fashioned it into a perfect ashlar.

However perfect an ashlar it may have been, when it received the commendation of the Grand Master, through contact with the world, it superficially acquired vices and faults, which unfit it for a perfect union.

The trowel in this relation may be regarded as referring to the three jewels of the Master degree, Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love, which when worthily worn, so cleanse and purify, that the stone is in every respect fitted to be raised to its permanent place in the walls of the Temple of Masonry.

In conclusion, I might add that The Trowel is a valuable implement in the Masonic tool box, especially in these times when many are interested in themselves only. But when we apply this knowledge we can truly benefit ourselves and others when used often.

**Sal Pacheco, Senior Warden**

## The South Gate

Gentleman, summer is here. Please support the Masonic Car Show with your presence, work, and voice. We must all find time to volunteer or find sponsors if at all possible. This event helps fund our scholarships for graduating seniors in the county. Your help is always greatly appreciated, not only by the brethren, but also the students progressing to the next stage in their lives.

What a great turnout we had at the cornerstone for the new Texas Rangers Heritage Center. It was my first opportunity to be a part of something this grand in the world of Masonry. The connection between the Texas Rangers and the Masons is deeply rooted in history. The chance to be a very small part of that history is truly an honor. As I stood amongst all of the brethren from all over the state, and listened to the ceremony, I was truly in awe of the situation. The representation of Grand Lodge that performed the leveling of the cornerstone was a sight to behold. I had the opportunity to meet and converse with several Masons who came to town for the event. It serves to me as gathering more light and reaching out to make new friends. The best part, I didn't even have to leave town for this great event, it was in my own backyard!

I want to reflect a moment on being brought to light in each degree. That moment as you try to focus on what is in front of you and who surrounds you. I know that I was trying to make the effort to remember each and every detail. As my eyes began to adjust from dark to light, the memory or image is almost surreal to me. I was in awe of my surroundings and the subtle changes in front of me. I listened intently as the Worshipful Master explained the differences and gave me a firm and reassuring handshake. In each person's life, both personally and as a Mason, there are moments we never forget. The marriage to the love of your life, the birth of a child, the death of someone we love or admire, and becoming a Master Mason are all special and merit reflection almost daily. We

should think about these things often and ponder what they mean to you in your life.

**Randall King, Junior Warden**

## Mouth To Ear

### Masonic Education

What is the source of evil? I assert, without fear of contradiction, that evil exists. Aside from personal experience, I see reports of evil acts in the daily news, be it homicide, suicide, war, or terrorism. I see evil personified in literature, as, for instance, the person of Satan in the Holy Bible, Mephistophales in the legends of Faustus, and of the evil Lord Valdemort in the Harry Potter series of books. I see evil within my own mind as I struggle with the temptations of daily living. Decisions, choices, alternatives, druthers..., all confounded by my goals, desires, emotions, and ethics, challenge me to subdue my passions and exercise my own morality. I come full circle here, I am back to a basic decision, good or evil? What should I do? How should I act?

Albert Pike (*Morals and Dogma*, p.702-703) persuasively suggests that, "There must be somewhere a Being that not only conceives of (moral truth), but constitutes it. ... It is a LAW. We do not establish that law ourselves. It is imposed upon us despite ourselves: its principle must be without us. ... so all the moral principles centre in a single principle, which is The GOOD. This absolute GOOD must necessarily be an attribute of the Absolute Being. ... God is necessarily the principle of Moral Truth, and of personal morality. Man is a moral person, that is to say, one endowed with reason and liberty. He is capable of Virtue..."

Carefully study *The Knight of the Sun*. Pike argues free will, and demonstrates that evil action is the consequence of wrong choice on the part of an individual human. Our challenge in this life is to make correct choices, and avoid evil action.

Saint Paul is reported to have struggled with this issue. Indeed, his writings reflect his view that human sin at the time of Christ, and even today, traces back to "original sin." His arguments lead him to praise the Grace of God, which forgives sinners even undeservedly. His arguments suggest that sinners are not necessarily responsible for the results of their action, and become the basis for much of the ethics of Christianity today.

Pike provides a significant, alternative argument. Study pages 702 to 708 in *Morals and Dogma* carefully to discover a very oriental, philosophical, and logical discussion, clearly justifying the metaphorical placement of the WM in the East, establishing His role in opening and governing the day, setting the craft to work, and giving proper instruction. The symbolism found within the Lodge reflects the Hermetic tradition, "As above, so below." Assume your responsibility and open your eyes to the ancient truths that are the basis of our Masonic traditions.

**Fred Ayers, Secretary, SWKSRC**

## Labors of the Craft

The Cornerstone Ceremony at the Texas Ranger Heritage Center on Saturday, May 2nd was a day that will go down in infamy for the Texas Rangers and Texas Masons. Officiated by Deputy Grand Master Wendell P. Miller, the ceremony illuminated Masonic light on Fredericksburg that Masons and non-Masons alike could all agree that this was one special day. Congratulations to the Former Texas Rangers Foundation!

The Breakfast Boys Social Club will convene this month on Tuesday, June 16th at Sunset Grille beginning at 8:00

AM. Nothing beats a good breakfast on the patio on a beautiful Texas morning in June with Masons.

We will do our service awards on Thursday, June 11th at 6:00 PM. We have several 50 and 60 years recipients that night and light refreshment of ice cream and cookies will be served. There are some great men to be honored that night for their years of service to the craft, so don't miss it.

Installation for the new officers of the upcoming Masonic year will be on Monday, July 6th at 6:00 PM with light refreshments of sweets served.

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, June 22nd at Gatti's Pizza at 11:30 AM. Masons, wives and friends are all invited.

We currently have one EA preparing for proficiency in the first section and one EA who will do all three sections.

## Words of Wisdom

“As long as people will accept crap, it will be financially profitable to dispense it.”

- Dick Cavett -

“We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road. They get run over.”

- Aneurin Bevan -

“The first 90% of the tasks takes 10% of the time and the other 10% takes the other 90%.”

- John Peers -

“Rare is the “improvement” that will ever repay the time lost in performing it.”

- Stephen Manes -

“If you don't throw it, they can't hit it.”

- Yankee Pitcher Lefty Gomez -

## Tongue in Cheek

John and Mary Smith, an older couple, wanted to have kids so they go to the doctor to get a check up to see if they're physically in order to do so.

The doctor says, “Mrs. Smith, you're fine, still ovulating and perfectly healthy to give childbirth. Mr. Smith, everything seems to be in order with you, as well, but one last thing though, I want to take a sperm sample from you to make sure you're producing healthy sperm. I want you to take this little bottle home with you, get a sperm sample, and bring it back in tomorrow.”

The next day John walks into the office and lays the little bottle on the nurse's desk.

“Why, Mr. Smith,” the nurse says, “this little bottle is empty. What seems to be the problem?”

John replies, “Well, I don't know what to tell you. I tried half the night, every way possible. I finally gave up so my wife tried the other half of the night. Finally, we both tried this morning, one last time, and no matter what we did, we couldn't get the cap off that little bottle!”

## Recipe of the Month

### Pumpkin Pie Cake

By Geneva Smith

4 eggs, slightly beaten

2 (16 oz.) cans solid pumpkin

1 ½ cups sugar

1 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons cinnamon

1 teaspoon ginger

¼ teaspoon cloves

3 cups evaporated milk or light cream

1 (2-layer) package yellow cake mix

½ cup margarine, melted

1 cup pecans, finely chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 13" x 9" x 2" (or slightly larger) baking pan. Beat eggs; add pumpkin, sugar, salt, spices and milk. Pour into prepared pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over top. Drizzle with margarine and sprinkle nuts on top, pushing nuts slightly into batter. Bake one hour and 20 minutes, or until done. Cut into squares. Serve topped with whipped cream. Yields 12 to 15 servings.

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