small hole in each one. Then, before the sun rises, you must put a single feather on the doorstep of each house in town. When you are through, come back to me. If you've done the first thing completely, I'll tell you the second.”

The young woman hurried home to prepare for her chore, even though the pillows were very dear to her and very expensive. All night long, she labored alone in the cold. She went from doorstep to doorstep, taking care not to overlook a single house. Her fingers were frozen, the wind was so sharp it caused her eyes to water, but she ran on through the darkened streets, thankful there was something she could do to put things back the way they were.

Words Spoken in Anger Crossroads

Words Spoken in Anger

A certain good woman one day said something that hurt her best friend of many years. She regretted it immediately and would have done anything to have taken the words back. But they were said impulsively in a moment of thoughtlessness, and as close as she and her friend were, she didn’t consider the effects of her words beforehand. What she said hurt the friend so much that this good woman was herself hurt for the pain she caused. In her effort to undo what she had done, she went to an older, wiser woman in the village, explained her situation, and asked for advice.

She then asked, “Just what would you be willing to do to repair the harm done?” The answer was heartfelt. “Anything!” She said, “There are two things you need to do to make amends. The first of the two is extremely difficult. Tonight, take your best feather pillows and open a small hole in each one. Then, before the sun rises, you must put a single feather on the doorstep of each house in town.

When you are through, come back to me. If you've done the first thing completely, I'll tell you the second.” The young woman hurried home to prepare for her chore, even though the pillows were very dear to her and very expensive. All night long, she labored alone in the cold. She went from doorstep to doorstep, taking care not to overlook a single house. Her fingers were frozen, the wind was so sharp it caused her eyes to water, but she ran on through the darkened streets, thankful there was something she could do to put things back the way they were.

Programs & Announcements

With elections for officers this month we hope that you will make the stated meeting on June 14. This is your opportunity to let your voice be heard regarding leadership for the upcoming year.

If you were not at the lodge on May 17, you missed another great Fish Fry! For “Family Night this month on June 19, 7:00PM, we will be showing a great movie about boys being boys: The Sandlot. Details are not firmed up as of “press time” but, this month we hope to have our “Dining out” to help our scholarship program at BJ’s Restaurant on June 17. Check your emails often for further details and for the voucher.
From the East—
Worshipful Master Elmer “Coke” Egen

My brothers let me pose a question to you. Are you proud to be a Master Mason? If you are who knows it and why don’t more of your friends know that you are a Master Mason. The secrets that you are charged to keep about our fraternity do not apply to the fact that you are a Mason. Many people see all that you do at work, church and at leisure activities. Take a little time to talk to people about our fraternity, its activities, and other appended bodies that you may belong to. Talk to them about things that the lodge does such as our monthly dining out to support our scholarship program, family/movie nights, and other activities. As Past Grand Master Jimmy Wilson asked us to do, we should share with others what Masonry has done for us and what it can do for them and others, especially the younger men in our daily lives.

Penny for Your Thoughts: A Message From the West
Senior Warden James Urban

Brethren, in times of disaster, chaos, and strife, it is our fraternity that tends to shine the way for humanity to follow. This, no doubt applies to the current situation in Moore, Oklahoma, where we had friends and family lose their homes to disaster. The fact is that I am writing this article from Oklahoma City after witnessing two very discordant ideas today. The first was the sheer level of destruction brought about by a natural disaster. There was more than just damage and destruction, there was obliteration. But on the other side was the number of people that were standing by, ready and willing to help.

And that’s when I realized that these people, although they may not be masons, they understand what we do about our community and that we are all tied into it. Then of course you have to think, how many of these people are masons? The police officers directing traffic, paramedics ensuring safety, the dozens of people handing out water and supplies, and the thousands who have donated time and money to contribute to the relief of those affected. THAT is masonry.

From the South — Are You Happy?
Junior Warden Glenn Fant

"Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have." That’s a quote that I remember as a little boy, and it’s true, very true, but there is always something better, fancier, faster, more powerful, and more expensive. If not now, it’s coming. They’ve got it and it’s available for a price. We are in a constant state of trying to get something better and different. We are often trying to be someone different, even when the current us is pretty decent. If you are not happy being you, then who else can you be? I neither want to nor have the ability to trade places with anyone. I am happy with myself. With all life’s faults, with all of my faults and my continuing struggle to improve, I am happy, and I am just going to stop worrying about the things I can’t change. There are masonic brothers who just cannot seem to get along with others? Why? They are not ever happy about anything? WHY? You know why don’t you!

You are you and that ain’t going to change. AMEN?

An older proverb says: "Be what you is, not what you ain’t, 'cause when you is what you ain’t, then you ain’t what you is."
What is Freemasonry?
There are many definitions, but one that has meant much to me is "Freemasonry is a sublime effort on the part of Masons to give living proof to the world that all men are Brothers'.

The best definitions are not adequate. It is understanding, tolerance, love, hope, reverence and charity, all working together through men who believe in the highest principles of mankind, in the God-given destiny of men, and in the final triumph of good over evil. Freemasonry to me is the cable-tow that joins the hearts of Masons everywhere.

Historically - we come from ages beyond all historically records, always striving onward toward a better life by whatever standard we may set for ourselves, always striving so that our children may have a better life than which we have known. Thousands of years ago there were in existence organizations that accepted many of the same moral truths taught by our fraternity today.

End of "Part One"

From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick
Taking Care of Business—"Whence did we come and where will we go?"

From the Senior Deacon Kevin Rush
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

Last month we had the following guests attend our stated meeting: Roland Martin, DDGM of Emma Lodge, Bob Clemmons, 33°, PM, Clifton Casey, PM, and Rolan Pirtle, all of Yellowhouse Lodge. #841

Elections and appointment of officers is THIS MONTH Do you have a vision for the lodge? Do you want to be an officer?

Last chance to let the current wardens know of your desires.

From the Senior Steward Alan Jolly
Food, Flowers & Frolic

Hello to all! This upcoming stated meeting we will have a surprise dinner courtesy of a Brother to be ID’d later. I can tell you that this is one dinner you will not want to miss – you will definitely want to bring your appetite.

We had a fish fry last Friday and it was even better than the first! Brother Bob Lindley can sure cook up some catfish. Please make time in your busy schedule to come and join us at the next stated meeting. It is always a good time when brothers get together at the lodge.

As always, this poor steward needs your help...

Please contribute to the cause and put a few dollars in the jar.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

Upcoming Menu for June:

It's a surprise and you don't want to miss it!

"Take everything you like seriously, except yourselves."

Rudyard Kipling
once were.

Finally as the sky was getting light, she placed the last feather on the steps of the last house. Just as the sun rose, she returned to the older woman. She was exhausted but relieved that her efforts would be rewarded.

"My pillows are empty. I placed a feather on the doorstep of each home." "Now," said the wise woman, "Go back and refill your pillows. Then everything will be as it was before." The young woman was stunned.

"You know that’s impossible! The wind blew away each feather as fast as I placed them on the doorsteps! If this is the second requirement, then things will never be the same."

"That’s true," said the older woman. "Never forget. Each of your words is like a feather in the wind. Once spoken, no amount of effort, regardless how heartfelt or sincere, can ever return them to your mouth. Choose your words well and guard them most of all in the presence of those you love."

Do good unto all, live in peace, and may God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

Crossroads

With elections upon us this month and as we are now about to embark on a new Masonic Year, let’s look at some of the challenges ahead.

For the last one-half century, membership in Freemasonry has continued to decline. Candidly, that may be phrasing it too gently since our fraternity has lost approximately 66 percent of its members during that period!

Some brothers sincerely think that reduction is good calling it a "cleansing" that would result in a fraternity of "higher quality men". A brother with an opposite opinion could ask, "Who are we to judge the level of the quality of a man if he is found to be morally and ethically sound?"

No matter what your opinion is on that matter, it is safe to say that solutions to this and other issues before us require a need for change that makes the fraternity more contemporary to 2013 than to a past era, say 1913, 1953, 1973 or even 1993. But, to make this level of needed change requires courage, most especially from the East. It also takes patience, tolerance, flexibility and a new way of thinking from the general membership.

SOLUTIONS

How We Regard Each Other

This year, we have a new charge at the closing of each meeting. "You are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employing, forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended in this Lodge. Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that around this altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need your assistance. Remember that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation. Vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced. Suggest in his behalf the most candid and favorable circumstances. Is he justly reprehended? Let the world observe how Masons love one another."

How many take this charge to heart? Did any of your obligations state I will not sit in a Lodge with a Brother I don’t agree with? Level, Plumb and Square; think about those implements. Now, is refusing to sit in lodge with someone with whom you disagree Masonic?

Membership Process

Many good men never join our fraternity because they never know that they had to ask. Let’s give ourselves as many opportunities as possible for someone to ask. Let’s find ways to increase our visibility in the community. Ask yourself, "How many people in Lubbock know we even exist?"

Perhaps we also need to be more aggressive in dispelling the misinformation about our fraternity. We need to have open houses in our meeting places, visibly help in community projects, do more random acts of kindness, and generally let our neighbors know who we really are, what we stand for and the good that we do.

"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip."
Let us begin to talk about the many charities that our fraternity supports, publicly share our history, and create do-able plans that would make us a real element of our community. If we do so, this will end up being our best membership development tool.

**Improve Meetings**
Gaining membership is one problem. Another is getting brothers to attend lodge meetings and be present for the conferring of degrees. Where can we find answers to attendance problems? First, try asking inactive Masons. There must be a reason why these men are not attending. We should not be afraid to find out what our shortfalls are. Most decisions made in our lodges are made by those few who actively attend and the end result is that we too frequently continue with an attendance-squashing status quo. The status quo is not good enough for future success.

Equally important is to ask what active members think of our meetings. Some brothers want to attend their lodge meetings for the fellowship and to learn something. They want the meetings to be more social, shorter, less ritualistic, and provide an opportunity to listen to an interesting speaker. Some brothers may not care to hear the minutes read in their entirety, but rather enjoy dinner before the meeting and have the opportunity for time for fellowship. Whatever the issue is, let’s find a way to be better.

While we don’t require a coat and tie, should we have more respect for our institution and not permit jeans, shorts and t-shirts?

**Floor Practice**
Candidates deserve the most beautiful and impressive ritualistic ceremonies we can confer. That means we must work at it. We should not let our floor practice time go to waste. Our esoteric leaders, those who hold instructor certificates, should help establish goals and help the membership attain them. Our appendant bodies go to great lengths in putting on degrees with elaborate costumes and props. Perhaps this is something we should consider as well.

**Separating the Fraternal and the Financial**
While almost every Mason enjoys and supports the fraternal bonds of brotherly love and the beautiful ritual of our degrees, few have been provided the matter-of-fact information that would also allow them to understand and address the weakening financial side of our lodge. We were provided this information last year and we are to be congratulated for having done a better job this year financially. In spite of the cost of living expenses, OUR dues and fees have stayed the same for several years. However, we must continue to be fiscally sound.

**Conclusion**
The true secret of Freemasonry is not in the ritual, but rather it is the special bond that exists between Masonic brothers. This special bond cannot be defined nor can it be described. It just exists, and that is our true and real secret that no person can take away.

To do nothing new to preserve our fraternity and expect better will not begin to address the challenges before us. The world changes around us every day whether we like it or not. We must examine the need for our own change if we expect to be a significant fraternity in the future. We need to ask ourselves and our brothers "are we doing all the right things today to assure there is a future Masonic Fraternity, including one for those Masons yet to be born?" The time for positive change is now and no change will take place unless there is . . . Courage to do so!

Adapted from COURAGE IN THE EAST (THE TIME FOR CHANGE)
By: Thomas K. Sturgeon

“\textit{To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.}” — Theodore Roosevelt
Lubbock 1392 in Action

Our very own district 93A instructor Bob Clemmons received the Knight Templar Cross of Honor from the immediate past Grand Commander H. David Moore at the recent York Rite Workshop in Floydada. The Knights Templar Cross of Honor is the highest award that can be bestowed on a Knight Templar. The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the Knights Templar Cross of Honor to Sir Knights who have demonstrated meritorious service to Templary.

A VERY surprised and proud Bob Clemmons with his award

Bob with previous recipients of the award. Only 2 or 3 of these awards are given out in Texas by the Grand Encampment of the USA each year.
“Be strong in body, clean in mind and lofty in ideals.”
Meetings:
Second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Meal: 6:30pm

Floor School:
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

This Month’s Sickness & Distress

Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

This Month’s Brothers & Birthdays

Winfred E. Medlock 6/9
Randy Schoor 6/16
George VanSlyke 6/12
George Buchanan 6/24

Peter Mitchell 6/27

Words to Live By—Quotes from Famous Masons

“Don’t find fault, find a remedy.” - Henry Ford

“Life is tough, but it’s tougher when you’re stupid.” - John Wayne

“A man only learns in two ways, one by reading, and the other by association with smarter people.” - Will Rogers

“It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one.” - George Washington

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” - Theodore Roosevelt

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.” - Winston Churchill

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” - Albert Pike

“A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle.” - Benjamin Franklin

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak, courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” - Winston Churchill

“Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism.” - George Washington

“Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.” - Will Rogers

“Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small one.” - Winston Churchill

“Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear.” - President of the United States, Brother Harry S. Truman

The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He’s got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won’t be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That’s all there is to it.”

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