



THE TRESTLE BOARD

ST. JOHN LODGE # 18, F.&A.M.

PIOCHE, NEVADA

Chartered 20 November 1873

APRIL / MAY / JUNE 1999

VOLUME 126, NO. 2



From The Oriental Chair

Brethren, I cannot begin to thank you enough for your tireless work in our Lodge. I appreciate how each of you personally support the Master when he stumbles. A special thanks to my Cemetery Committee of Bros. Sidford & Orr. and to Bros. Kelley & Seyler for their coordination, work, and the trip to California to pickup such special items for the new Lodge room. Any Mason who enters Saint John Lodge will feel the strength and spirit of Masonry that has lived in this Lodge throughout the one hundred twenty five years past, and continues to do so to this day.

I consider it a honor to work on the Lodge myself, for this Lodge will be the future for the Brother Masons that follow us when we leave this world. We are not here for long and we, as Master Masons, should make the most of the time we have. I have scheduled a "Work Weekend" for 26 & 27 June and hope to see all of you there.

Each year a good number of Saint John Lodge members attend the Gilbert Interstate Visit and return to tell the rest of us what we should not have missed. Dedicated to Masonic Education this is an event that affords us the opportunity to meet our Brothers and see the degree work of Lodges from three of our neighboring state jurisdictions. This year Moreno Valley Lodge #804 will be the hosts. They have a weekend planned that promises to be a great Masonic event. We are looking into conducting second degree on two of our Candidates while there. I encourage you to join us and help in representing Saint John Lodge well.

Our annual Lodge scholarship grant went to Miss Cassandra Orr, of Ursine, Nevada. She will graduate LCHS with honors and sights set for a law degree. Cassie is the Grand Daughter of our Distinguished Eldest Member and Past Master Robert R. Orr and Past Worthy Grand Matron Evalyn M. Orr.

God Bless each and every one of you.



A View from the West

It appears that, over the next few months, we will be fortunate to be putting on several degrees. This is an opportunity for those who have not been closely involved in degree work, or those who have not been involved for some time, to become involved. There are several parts in each degree which do not require much memorization. And, the lectures do not have to be given by one person alone; each has sections which lend themselves to the involvement of several participants. I have found that I have gained much more from giving lectures than from merely hearing someone else give them. Additionally, having several of us able to take the various parts makes us less dependent on the availability of particular individuals or those from other lodges. I encourage everyone to take part. You will enjoy it.



From the South

In an endeavor to increase participation and involvement we are trying to stimulate it with more and hopefully interesting information. Along with publication of the **Trestle Board** we have opened our own **PO Box 356**. For those with computers we have our own site on the internet. Address: "<http://intermind.net/~stjohn18>" and E.mail: stjohn18@intermind.net. We would love to hear from you... and more so, to see you at our meetings.

Missing Brethren

Do you know how to contact these Brothers? Derick C. Anderson, Henery L. Brown, Douglas D. Gault, William P. Gauld, and Orvall Meador. Please give the information to the Secretary or send it to him soon.



In Seeking More Light

This represents the first of a series of personal observations which may be used as materials for Masonic instruction at the individual, Lodge or trestleboard level.

We Freemasons introduce our institution as "The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity." We proudly provide anyone willing to listen or read with an endless list of illustrious Masons who have been instrumental in the cultural, scientific, technical and political evolution of humankind. We cling steadfastly to our ancient landmarks, and we religiously repeat the ancient rituals of our Masonic forefathers. Truly observe and digest the wisdom of the ancient craftsmen as it unrolls before him.

Masonry, as the name suggests, is the most rock solid of institutions. Some would suggest that rock is becoming an anchor, and that we must become more progressive in order to survive in our modern world. In reality there is no need to redirect Freemasonry, the light shines true as it always has. However, there is a pressing need to redirect Freemasons toward Masonic light. We must rededicate ourselves to Masonic education. Ours is, and always has been, an institution based on ritual and symbolism. Let me recite a phrase extracted from the introduction to an "advanced" degree. "We have reached a point where each Mason must discover the secrets of Freemasonry for himself. This may be accomplished by reflecting upon the symbols and giving wise consideration and analysis to what has been said and done during the degrees." (14°)

The fact, that too many Masons overlook, is that ritual and symbolism are in every respect an encoded language. Too often we see the symbols and we recite the ritual, but we do not reflect upon the work with "wise consideration and analysis." We do not attempt to interpret the symbolism for ourselves or for each other as we should. How often have you had a brother Mason tell you that he avoids attending Lodge because the repetition of the same old ritual is boring. This is evidence of a misunderstanding of the Craft's objective and the Mason's unwillingness or inability to learn. The inability may be because no adequate source of Masonic education was available. It is interesting to note that it is in an "advanced" degree that the point is made "We have reached a

point where each Mason must discover the secrets of Freemasonry for himself."

Why is it not until the presentation of an "advanced" degree that this observation is stated? Actually it makes sense, for only after surviving the sensory overload of the initial degrees does a Master Mason have the opportunity to truly observe and digest the wisdom of the ancient craftsmen as it unrolls before him.

When the Entered Apprentice was asked, "What came you here to do? The first two words of his response were "To learn..." In each of the cardinal degrees each Mason proclaims that his motivation is a search for an increasing magnitude of light. Unfortunately the dimension of these statements is not stressed as it should be, and "light" remains undefined. Too much is undefined, unexplained or understated. As Masons, it would appear that in recent times, we have set too many stones in untempered mortar and our structure is unsound.

What shall we do? What are we willing to do? The answer is in compulsory, standardized Masonic education...a program designed to season all Masons and to assure that each of them is comfortable with the contemporary values modern Freemasonry. Such a program can be designed and provided at the Grand Lodge Level, but the responsibility for administering it in due form, along with the responsibility for his Lodge's successful future rests solidly with each Worship Master, one year at a time. Are we ready and willing to enter upon this great and important undertaking? If not, the light of our Craft will be veiled and the Craftsmen will travel into the shadows.

The Craft has been furnished with tools and told how to apply them. Perhaps the Master's word is "implementation."

Red Kittell, P.M., Education Officer, Masonic Education Task Force, Grand Lodge F. & A.M., Nevada, 4/120/99

The New Lodge Room

Our new meeting room is progressing very well. The Seating is just about installed. The W.M. has made a special call for work weekend of 26-27 June. All are encouraged to attend. Bro. Paul Seyler came through with some fine appointments for the room from Home Lodge #721, Van Nuys, CA. Bro. Jim Kelley drove his pickup where they picked the items up. A good friend of Masons, Gerry Cunningham has refinished three stations, and alter, and they look great.



To Receive and Welcome



St John Lodge #18 is pleased to have voted to confirm the degrees of Freemasonry on Candidate Denny Woolman. We are planning to do the 1st Degree at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, 12 June '99. Then, if all is in order, we will follow this with a double Second Degree for both EA Ronald Hibbler and Denny Woolman at 10:00 a.m. on 14 August '99. Practice sessions will be announced.

Every Mason within the length of their cabletow are asked to join in to share in the work and welcome these new Brothers... in due and ancient form.



Mizpah Notes

Our 1998-1999 year at Mizpah is almost half over. This year has been very rewarding for me, but I still have a lot of things planned and we wish more of our members would attend.

The Installation in November went well and was held in the Town Hall.

We joined with St. Johns Lodge to prepare the Christmas Stocking for the school children in December.

Our Official Visit of Imogene Hartsell, W.G.M. and Joseph Warburton, W.G.P. was held also in the Town Hall in February with 112 members present. A ham dinner was served before the Official Visit and well attended.

We must start preparing for the honor of having another Worthy Grand Matron in the year 1999-2000. Nancy Evans will be installed at Grand Chapter "Trains of Golden Thoughts," session which will be held at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, October 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1999. This is very much an honor for our Chapter but also a lot of work in our support for Nancy.

May each of you have a very enjoyable and safe summer and we would love to see you come out and support Mizpah Chapter No. 19, O.E.S. we need your support to keep our Chapter strong and thriving.



Upon The Desk

St John Lodge has a good loyal membership. My duties as the Secretary are rewarding and interesting, however, I am not too eager spend extra money to have to ask for the dues to be sent in. There are only 5 or 6 that have not been received to date. Check to see if your card is up to date. If not... Please send us \$35.00 for 1999.

The Trestle Board

Our Trestle Board is currently scheduled to be published once each quarter. The limiting factor is the cost of printing and mailing. There are a number of ways we could cover or reduce the cost and increase the frequency. We will be working on them. Contributions, and suggestions are welcome.

We are going to share more space with Mizpah Chapter and see that all their members are added to the mailing list. They will be helping us with the expense. (Please Note: Duplicate mailings will not be sent to both husband and wife)

For all members of both Lodge and Chapter, we would like to send it out via e.mail. This way it would cost us nothing. It will be in PDF file format so it will look just like the real thing and you can even print it on your own printer, if you wish a hard copy. To subscribe to your own *FREE* e.mail copy please send an e.mail to:

stjohn18@intermind.net.

In the Mail

St John Lodge #18 Received a postcard that reads "2-18-99, Received my copy of the St John Trestle Board this past week. Many thanks for the info about the Lodge. I was extremely impressed with the layout and approve. A GREAT JOB! I also extend congratulations to each of the new officers for the coming year. I have many good memories of St. John Lodge and Mizpah Chapter. Chris and I often think of our friends there and the wonderful times we had. Please give our regards and love to each of the Brothers and Sisters. Sincerely, Martin A. Amick, 403 Montclair Dr., Allen, TX 75013. *Editor: "Thank you Sir, we are always glad to hear from the Craft."*

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Saint John Activities
All Masons may attend.

Dates

Mizpah Activities
All OES may attend.



Installation of Officers 1:00pm -	09 Jan 1999	- Stated Meeting 4:30pm
Stated & G.M. Official Visit 1:00pm -	13 Feb 1999	- G.M. Official Visit & Stated 4:30pm
Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	13 Mar 1999	- Stated Meeting 4:30pm
Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	10 Apr 1999	- Stated Meeting 4:30pm
Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	08 May 1999	- Stated Meeting 4:30pm
1° Work 10:00am, Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	12 Jun 1999	- Stated Meeting 4:30pm (Fathers of the Chapter Day)
Work Days on new Lodge Room 9:00am -	26-27 Jun 1999	- Work Days on new Chapter Room 9:00am
Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	10 Jul 1999	- Short Stated Meeting & Friendship Picnic
2° Work 10:00am, Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	14 Aug 1999	- Stated Meeting (Nancy Evens A.G.M. Dinner)
Gilbert Interstate Visit (Moreno Valley) -	20-22 Aug 1999	-----
Labor Day Pancake Breakfast 9:00am -	04 Sep 1999	- Labor Day Pancake Breakfast
Stated Meeting 10:00am/Steak Fry for Ladies noon -	11 Sep 1999	- Stated Meeting 4:30pm (Honor Grand Representatives)
Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	09 Oct 1999	- Stated Meeting 4:30pm (Election & Farewell Dinner)
-----	03-07 Oct 1999	- Nevada Grand Chapter (Reno)
Nevada Grand Lodge (Reno) -	7-9 Nov 1999	-----
Stated Meeting 1:00pm -	13 Nov 1999	- Installation of Officers 4:30pm
Santa's Visit 11:00am -	10 Dec 1999	- Santa's Visit 11:00am
Stated Meeting & Election 1:00pm -	11 Dec 1999	- Stated Meeting/Cookie Exchange 4:30pm

Lodge Officers

Chapter Officers

MASTER:	<i>RICHARD L. VANLANDINGHAM</i>
SENIOR WARDEN:	<i>RICHARD L. SIDFORD</i>
JUNIOR WARDEN:	<i>RONALD R. ORR</i>
SECRETARY:	<i>JERRY B. EVANS, PM</i>
TREASURER:	<i>JACK LEE, PM</i>
CHAPLAIN:	<i>JIM KELLEY, PM, GSB</i>
SENIOR DEACON:	<i>ROBERT SIDFORD</i>
JUNIOR DEACON:	<i>PAUL SEYLER</i>
MARSHAL:	<i>VELL WASHBURN, PM</i>
SENIOR STEWARD:	<i>LAWRENCE DAGENAIS</i>
JUNIOR STEWARD:	
TYLER:	<i>JACK LEE, PM</i>
HISTORIAN:	<i>JACK CAMBURN, PM</i>
TRUSTEE (1):	<i>VELL WASHBURN, PM</i>
TRUSTEE (2):	<i>EDWARD ST. JOHN, PM</i>
TRUSTEE (3):	<i>JOHN D. CLIFTON, PM, PGM</i>

WORTHY MATRON:	<i>JEAN TILLEY</i>
WORTHY PATRON:	<i>JERRY EVANS</i>
ASSOCIAT MATRON:	<i>LYNN BERZINS</i>
ASSOCIATE PATRON:	<i>JIM KELLEY</i>
SECRETARY:	<i>MARION BENDER</i>
TREASURER:	<i>MARIAN GRIFFIN</i>
CONDUCTRESS:	<i>MARTY DUFOUR</i>
ASSOC. CONDUCTRESS:	<i>CAMILLE SHAVER</i>
CHAPLAIN:	<i>RICHARD SIDFORD</i>
MARSHAL:	<i>NANCY EVANS</i>
ORGANIST:	<i>JEAN ORR</i>
ADAH:	<i>JUDY DENNEY</i>
RUTH:	<i>DIANE BERGEMEYER</i>
ESTER:	<i>KRISTI OLSEN</i>
MARTHA:	<i>SHARON DUFFIN</i>
ELECTRA:	<i>GERALDINE STEINBACH</i>
WARDER:	<i>LEA SIDFORD</i>
SENTINEL:	<i>JACK LEE, P.P.</i>
TRUSTEE (1):	<i>BOBBIE WASHBURN, P.M.</i>
TRUSTEE (2):	<i>JIM DENNY, P.P.</i>
TRUSTEE (3):	<i>SHARON DUFFIN</i>

Be sure to log on to our web site at:
<http://intermind.net/~stjohn18>