



Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 AF & AM

*Worshipful Master Kelly Cox Secretary John "Corky" Daut
Hempstead Masonic Lodge Was Chartered December 6, 1893*

Volume V Issue III March 2005

The Importance of Television — by Brother J. R. Martin

This was given as a short talk at the Third Monday Meeting in October 2000 at Holland Masonic Lodge #1 AF & AM.

Brethren: These days, we hear a lot of discussion concerning one-day classes versus the need to take time to learn the work of the craft, and we often get so worked up over how to make masons that we miss an important point. If we are trying to get masonry back on its feet, whether we give one day classes or one degree per year is almost irrelevant! Why? Because, as one wise old past master used to say, "You may not be able to make a horse drink if you lead him to the water, but first you first must lead him to the water!" In other words, a man cannot be brought to Masonic light unless we can get him to the lodge in the first place.

Here is our answer: Television!

We know that we can sell masonry and the initiation system in whatever form it takes, we have done it before! What we often cannot do, and have historically been prevented from doing, is to tell the good man that we want him. Such recruiting is NOT what is proposed here! That, too, can be counterproductive! If a good man comes to us, "of his free will and accord", you and I can get him initiated, passed

and raised one way or another. But, if he is asked to join, the good man is just as likely not to value the experience no matter how it is conducted. Here is the crux of the matter! He must come to us and ask in order to truly value what we have to give.

So...how do we get him to come? Easy! Advertise! Do "public relations" activities. Get a higher profile in the press. But MOST important, get on television! Television is the key, one way or the other. Television is the common denominator for all of our "brave new world". The Shriners are already beginning to see this, and their excellent shrine hospital public service announcements are an example. If we are willing to see this, then we, the blue lodges, can blossom into this new era of electronics.

How do we know this? Great examples abound! The Navy gets large PERCENTAGE increases in recruits every time there is a new television series about the Navy (like "JAG", or even "McHale's Navy"). And we do not have to get into the television series business: Every time a "good guy" on TV is identified with an organization or cause during a show, the calls and public interest go up dra-

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Freemasonry and Religion

Our purpose as Freemasons is not that of a religion. Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion. Freemasonry is not a religion nor is it a substitute for religion.

- ◆ Freemasonry advocates no sectarian faith or practice.
- ◆ We do not seek converts.
- ◆ We do not solicit new members.
- ◆ We do not raise money for religious purposes.
- ◆ We do not have a dogma or theology. Religious discussion is forbidden in a Masonic Lodge thereby eliminating the chance for any Masonic dogma to

form.

- ◆ It do not offer any sacraments and does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means. The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with the modes of recognition only and not with the means of salvation.
- ◆ By any definition of religion accepted by our critics, we cannot qualify as a religion.
- ◆ Freemasonry supports religion. Freemasonry is far from indifferent to religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith.

An Editorial

As the Senior Warden Of Waller Lodge #808, I along with most of the other officers of Hempstead Lodge were privileged to hear, in advance, District Deputy Grand Master Brady Elliot deliver the annual message from Grand Master Elmer Murphy III and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas to Waller Lodge. DDGM Elliot gave one of the longest talks I have ever heard from a DDGM. Now, I have to quickly add that it was also one of the most in depth talks I have ever heard from a representative of the Grand Lodge.

Please understand that the opening comment about length of DDGM Elliot's talk is definitely not a complaint, but is in praise of the efforts by our new Grand Worshipful Master to bring ideas and plans for the Grand Lodge of Texas directly to the individual Lodge members and ask for their questions and comments about those plans.

In the past, one of the major complaints heard from the "everyday Lodge members" was that the new Grand Lodge laws, decisions and changes were sent down, from Mount Olympus on high, without any regard for the "everyday Lodge member's" thoughts and wishes.

It appears that Grand Worshipful Master Murphy is trying through the DDGM's to change those impressions and involve the "everyday Lodge member's" thoughts and wishes into the decisions and operation of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Worshipful Master Cox and I would like to urge every member of Hempstead Lodge to attend the

April Stated Meeting when DDGM Elliot will make his official visit to the Hempstead Lodge. This will be your opportunity to hear Grand Worshipful Master Murphy's plans for the 2005 Masonic year.

This meeting will be one of the most important ones of the year. It will be the opportunity for every Brother to ask any questions and express their opinions regarding the Grand Lodge and possibly have some input on the future of Texas Freemasonry.

Television (Continued)

matically. Also, every TV station needs public service announcements, get in there and push. These are just a few ideas to start the creativity rolling. Most, if not all, grand lodges have public relations committees. If you, as a mason, are really concerned with doing more than you are to encourage new petitions, or to prevent the loss of membership, put some time into this grand lodge committee. They probably need your help.

Some may say that the reason for sagging numbers and lost members is that so many good men are watching television instead of coming to lodge, but as long as these men are in front of the tube, let's show them the craft as a worthwhile alternative. Of course we need to find ways to retain members, but we are most vulnerable at the application level. We must keep looking to television as a tool. Because we cannot bring a man to Masonic light unless we can lead him to the lodge. And these days, you may not be able to lead a man to a lodge unless you show it to him on television, first!!

The Lodge Needs Your Help

I have been trying to put together a history of the Hempstead Masonic Lodge for the last 5 years with very little success. The four short paragraphs about the Hempstead Lodge in the book, "A History Of Waller County, Texas" make up about 75% of the history I have been able to find so far. As many of you know, a large amount of personal and Lodge information in the files has been lost over the years. I have found some photos of the "Cornerstone Laying Ceremony". However, since it was 50 years ago, I don't recognize anyone in the photos.

If any one has any historical information or has any old pictures of the current Lodge building before the dining room and offices were added or past Lodge buildings or of past Lodge events, it would be greatly appreciated, not just by me, but all of the newer members and the future members of Hempstead Lodge. As I read somewhere, "When a person dies, an encyclopedia is burned."

Credit will be given to donors for all pictures and information used. Pictures will be scanned and returned unharmed. Call Corky at (979) 826-6267

From The Editor's Desk

Regarding the April 14, 2005 stated meeting and the DDGM's annual visit, Worshipful Master Kelly Cox and I would like to urge every brother who has an interest in the future of Hempstead Masonic Lodge and Texas Masonry to attend that meeting.

There are some plans or ideas that I personally feel may be a good thing for Grand Lodge or a Lodge with a couple of hundred members, but at the same time they could be detrimental to many small town Lodges with a small number of members like ours.

Some of the ideas could cost you more money and some could restrict traditional local control of the individual Lodges operation.

If we are not at the meeting to hear the DDGM's talk, and let him know how you feel about the subjects presented, you will have no right to complain if changes are made.

Valentine Day

If you missed the Valentine Day party, February 12 hosted by Waller Lodge, honoring our Masonic wives, widows, daughters and members of the Eastern Star, you missed having a really great time.

Our W.M. Kelly Cox and S.W. "Bob" Podvin, with a little help, fried up a huge pile of catfish, steak fingers, hush puppies, cheesy new potatoes and coleslaw. We were going to give out tickets to all the lady folks and give door prizes, but Waller W.M. Mike Risley and S.W. Corky Daut both bought prizes with out definite plans and we ended up with enough presents and every lady and girl type person received a valentine present and a beautiful carnation. We also had a special gift for the lady who was the oldest and the lady who is married the longest.

Go to <http://mastermason.com/WallerLodge/index.htm> on the internet to the Waller Lodge web site if you would like to see pictures of the event.

While you are on the internet, visit the newly rebuilt Hempstead Masonic Lodge web site at <http://www.mastermason.com/hempsteadlodge/index.htm> I think you will find both sites interesting.

The Hiram Key

Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas

*A Book Review From Masonic Info at
<http://www.masonicinfo.com/>*

This is, perhaps, the most common book one finds when attempting to learn more about Freemasonry. The unknowing will read it and become enthralled with its claims (often supported by earlier speculative statements made just a few pages earlier) and the idea that there's an unbroken link between the current 300 year-old organization and a past far distant. Attempting to link the fraternity to ancient times and ancient mysteries, the authors take great liberties with scholarship. Those who read this book generally agree that it's "an interesting read" but nearly all should also agree that it's far more fiction than the non-fiction work it's intended to be.

Interestingly - and perhaps harkening back to the days when it was critically important for an organization to have links to the past in order to establish their credibility - a few Masons will loudly proclaim the correctness of this work. They are, however, in a small minority and true Masonic educators and researchers find this work highly speculative at best and some have gone so far as to ridicule its sloppy scholarship. In Masonic libraries, it's often found under 'Fiction'....

This book began a whole genre of Templar speculation books - read 'em at the risk of totally missing the true history of Freemasonry!

Masonic Anniversaries

Daut, John N. SR	03-26-90	15
York, Steven W.	03-25-75	30

Happy Birthdays

Daut, John "Corky"	03-31-28	77
Smith, Gary Lynn	03-01-54	51

AN EARLY SPECULATIVE MASON

The earliest record of a "speculative Mason" being admitted to a lodge is the record of the Lodge of Edinburgh, June 8, 1600, when John Boswell, the Laird of Auchenleck, attested his presence with his mark.

P.S.

Brothers

Hempstead Masonic Lodge will be having a garage sale as a fund raiser on Friday April 1st and Saturday 2nd 2005 in the dining room of the Hempstead Lodge.

Please bring any items you could donate for the sale, to the Lodge by Thursday March 31, 2005. If you can please price your items.

If you don't have a key, call Brother Roy at 826-6309 or Corky at 826-6267 and we will meet you there

Sorry about this issue being late besides a couple of personal problems I had to buy 4 different printer cartridges before I finally got one that worked,

Corky

Subject: Misbehaving?

One day God was looking down at Earth and saw all of the rascally behavior that was going on. He decided to send an angel down to Earth to check it out.

So he called one of His angels and sent the angel to Earth for a time.

When he returned, he told God, "Yes, it is bad on Earth; 95% are misbehaving and only 5% are not."

God thought for a moment and said, "Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion." So God called another angel and sent him to Earth for a time too.

When the angel returned he went to God and said, "Yes, it's true. The Earth is in decline; 95% are misbehaving, but 5% are being good."

God was not pleased. So He decided to E-mail the 5% that were good, because He wanted to encourage them. Give them a little something to help them keep going.

Do you know what the E-mail said?

Just wondering, I didn't get one either.....

*Visit The Newly Revised
Hempstead Lodge Web Site At
www.geocities.com/hempstead749*

HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

P.O. Box 1251

Hempstead, TX 77445

