

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE



#749 AF & AM



Volume 110, Issue 4

Worshipful Master T. Roy Shields
Secretary John "Corky" Daut

April 2003

Lets Ban Dihydrogen Monoxide

A freshman at Eagle Rock Junior High won first prize at the Greater Idaho Falls Science Fair, April 26. He was attempting to show how conditioned we have become to alarmists practicing junk science and spreading fear of everything in our environment. In his project he urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical *dihydrogen monoxide*.

And for plenty of good reasons, since it can:

1. Cause excessive sweating and vomiting.
2. It is a major component in acid rain.
3. It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
4. Accidental inhalation can kill you.
5. It contributes to erosion.
6. It decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes.
7. It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

He asked 50 people if they supported a ban of the chemical. Forty-three said yes, six were undecided, and only one knew that it was the chemical name for water

EVER WONDER...

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"? When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tested it?

THE GREAT BICYCLE RACE

Hempstead Masonic Lodge held it's third annual Bicycle Race fund raiser Sunday March 23, 2003. As a fund raiser it was a great success. We sold 14 briskets with chips and drinks and took in almost \$1,000.00 during the two hours between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM with about \$650.00 of it as profit.

There were over 3,000 riders registered to ride in one of the races. They had three different races of 40, 50 and 62 miles.

Thanks to our Lodge Brothers, (In alphabetical order) Junior Bridges, Kelly Cox, John Daut Sr., Kenneth Harvey, Bill Parham, Roy Shields, and myself for spending our day working the event.

We also owe special thanks to Kelly Cox for preparing and cooking the briskets

I think we also owe a special vote of thanks to Brother Mike Risley, of Waller Lodge, and his daughter Michelle for volunteering to help work in Hempstead's fund raiser.

LODGE DUES FOR 2003

We still have 13 Brothers of Hempstead Lodge who have not paid their 2003 dues. These Brothers went into arrears on January 1, 2003. By Grand Lodge Law, all non-paying members will automatically go suspended on June 24th. If you need any help, please notify the secretary (Corky) before

This Month's Meeting
Will Be Thursday,
April 10th. At 7:30 P.
M.. Eats At 6:30 P.

TWO VERY GOOD QUESTIONS

Question 1:

If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who had 8 kids already, three who were deaf, two who were blind, one mentally retarded, and she had syphilis; would you recommend that she have an abortion?

Read the next question before going on down to the answer for this one.

Question 2:

It is time to elect a new world leader, and your vote counts. Here are the facts about the three leading candidates:

Candidate A: Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologists. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B: He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college and drinks a quart of whisky every evening.

Candidate C: He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn't had any extramarital affairs.

Which of these candidates would be your choice?

(Decide first, no peeking, then go to page2 for the answer).

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2 Good Questions

Continued from page 1

Candidate A is Franklin Roosevelt,
Candidate B is Winston Churchill,
Candidate C is Adolph Hitler.

And by the way: Answer to the
abortion question if you said yes,
you just killed Beethoven.

Pretty interesting isn't it? Makes
a person think before judging
someone...

And remember, amateurs built the
ark ... Professionals built the
Titanic.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I almost wanted to "Knock on
wood" before I started writing, so I
couldn't jink it by talking about it.

Good News for a change. It
looks like Hempstead Lodge may
be begining the climb up again. We
can pay our bills without worry.
Our Worshipful Master is back and
feeling much better. We filled all
the chairs for the District Deputy
Grand Master's visit in the February
meeting and still had an audience
with 20 Master Masons present. We
also filled all the chairs in the
March meeting.

I wanted to personally thank the
Brothers who are comming back to
the meetings

I also wanted to tell the visitors,
how much we enjoyed seeing them
particularly the ones from Waller
Lodge. It does us dual members
good seeing vistors from our other
Lodge.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

McWilliams, Robert L. 4-15-63

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wallingford, George G. 4-25-20

TAPS FROM THE WAR

We in the United States have all
heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's
the song that gives us that lump in
our throats and usually tears in our
eyes. But, do you know the story
behind the song? If not, I think you
will be interested to find out about
its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862
during the Civil War, when Union
Army Captain Robert Ellicombe
was with his men near Harrison's
Landing in Virginia. The
Confederate Army was on the other
side of the narrow strip of land.
During the night, Captain Ellicombe
heard the moans of a soldier who
lay severely wounded on the field.
Not knowing if it was a Union or
Confederate soldier, the Captain
decided to risk his life and bring the
stricken man back for medical
attention.

Crawling on his stomach through
the gunfire, the Captain reached the
stricken soldier and began pulling
him toward his encampment. When
the Captain finally reached his own
lines, he discovered it was actually a
Confederate soldier, but the soldier
was dead. The Captain lit a lantern
and suddenly caught his breath and
went numb with shock.

In the dim light, he saw the face
of the soldier. It was his own son.
The boy had been studying music in
the South when the war broke out.
Without telling his father, the boy
enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning,
heartbroken, the father asked
permission of his superiors to give
his son a full military burial, despite
his enemy status. His request was
only partially granted. The Captain
had asked if he could have a group
of Army band members play a

funeral dirge for his son at the
funeral.

The request was turned down
since the soldier was a Confederate.
But, out of respect for the father,
they did say they could give him
only one musician. The Captain
chose a bugler. He asked the bugler
to play a series of musical notes he
had found on a piece of paper in the
pocket of the dead youth's uniform.
This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now
know as "Taps" ... used at military
funerals was born. The words are:

Day is done ... Gone the sun .
From the lakes ... From the hills

From the sky ... All is well ...
Safely rest ... God is nigh.

Fading light ... Dims the sight ...
And a star ... Gems the sky.

Gleaming bright ... From afar ...
Drawing nigh ... Falls the night.

Thanks and praise ... For our
days.. Neath the sun.. Neath the
stars

Neath the sky ... As we go ...
This we know ... God is nigh.

I, too, have felt the chills while
listening to "Taps" but I have never
seen all the words to the song until
now. I didn't even know there was
more than one verse. I also never
knew the story behind the song and
I didn't know if you had either, so I
thought I'd pass it along. I now have
an even deeper respect for the song
than I did before.

REMEMBER THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS

John N. Daut Sr. - Back Problems
Roy Shields - Suffering from a few
different ailments, but is better.
Ted Wren Jr. - Breathing Problems.
Ed Locklear - (Waller Lodge) Back
Problems

A NATION REUNITED

Continued From Last Month

While the politicians, most of the newspapers in the country, and many clergymen were laying the groundwork that would give the country a decade of anti-Masonic bitterness, Grand Lodges and Grand Chapters throughout the United States were asking for a cessation of all hostilities. The words of William F. Jefferys of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey are typical: "Freemasonry has now to perform its great mission in this country which is to 'spread the cement of Brotherly Love and Union.' We believe there is a Divine Providence in the fact that our Order is at this time so powerful and numerous, for its influence in the present crisis must prove most salutary."

Albert G. Mackey, General Grand High Priest, told his companions, Freemasonry had done "more than any other organization of men towards ameliorating the horrors and inhumanity of war." He went on to add "But although there is no longer a battle of arms, dissensions still exist. Bitter feeling is not altogether allayed. Some men will remember the past with revengeful or unforgiving thought." He called upon Freemasonry to beseech men to "lay aside all bitter animosity, to remember that they have a common language... It is our duty when hatred lingers in the land to seek to overcome that hatred with love."

The Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, John Harris, called upon his members to "meliorate the condition of our fellow-men, to relieve the distressed and needy, to wipe away the widow's tears support the orphan and relieve the distressed from want and destitution."

It was a large order Harris was asking his members to undertake.

The Grand Lodge of Georgia was almost bankrupt, as were all the Masonic bodies in the former Confederate States. Their bonds were worthless; many of their farms and homes had been destroyed; money was practically non-existent, and there were few ways to earn a living. The majority of the Grand and Subordinate Lodges reported zero balances in their bank accounts.

But Freemasonry proved its universality. The more prosperous Northern and Western Lodges sent money and supplies to the Freemasons of the South; and they were happy to help. C W Nash, Grand Master in Minnesota, reported the dire need of Freemasons in the south. He asked his members to aid them and concluded with; "in the spirit of Masonry, forgive the errors of the past, remembering that to forget is noble, to forgive is divine; that indiscretion in them should not destroy humanity in us." Those present contributed \$2,292.65

Such acts of kindness did more than will ever be known to eventually cement the country together again. The thanks expressed by the Grand Master of Alabama, Wilson Williams typical of what the South had to say. He reminded his members that when the war had ended they were powerless to aid the needy, but "the voice of cheer" from Northern Masons brightened their lives. "They bid us welcome to their hearts and give of their substance to relieve our necessities....By it the gulf of strife is bridged over, and we enter a land of peace and harmony."

Masonic acts were helping to ease the bitter pangs of war, but political acts were keeping the sections apart. The shooting war had ended; a new war, a war of words, had taken its place. Referring to those who did not want the Southern States returned to

the Union, President Johnson stated: "Before our brave men have scarcely returned to their homes to renew the ties of affection and love, we find ourselves almost in the midst of another rebellion."

Freemasonry was to have an uphill battle during the decade of reconstruction. Could it win by patiently practicing its tenets and teachings'?

We have reason to be thankful that our lives and health have been spared amid the chances and changes of these of the stormy period it has been our lot to witness, and for the generally increasing harmony and prosperity which seem to prevail throughout the nation. And here I feel again justified in referring to our beloved institution, by saying that to Freemasonry the people of the Country are indebted for many mitigations of the sufferings caused by the direful passions of war.

More Test Answers From A Sixth Grade Class

11. The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couple. Romeo's last wish was to be laid by Juliet.

12. Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.

A man had been drinking at a pub all night. The bartender finally said that the bar was closing. So the man stood up to leave and fell flat on his face. He tried to stand one more time; same result. He figured he'd crawl outside and get some fresh air and maybe that will sober him up.

Once outside he stood up and fell flat on his face. So he decided to crawl the 4 blocks to his home.

When he arrived at the door he stood up and again fell flat on his face. He crawled through the door and into his bedroom. When he reached his bed he tried one more time to stand up.

This time he managed to pull himself upright, but he quickly fell right into bed and was sound asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

He was awakened the next morning to his wife standing over him, shouting, "So, you've been out drinking again!!"

"What makes you say that?" he asked, putting on an innocent look.

"The pub called -- you left your wheelchair there again."



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