

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE



#749 AF & AM



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

May 2003

THE FALLEN STAR

It is with much sadness and regret that the Brothers of the Hempstead Masonic Lodge have to say good by to Hempstead's Order of The Eastern Star #520. I think most of our brothers, like myself, always thought of the Eastern Star as being a vital and valuable part of our Lodge that would always be there.

The Hempstead Eastern Star Chapter has voted to merge with the Bellville Eastern Star Chapter and the merger was accepted by Bellville.

We have been told, that because of the Hempstead Chapter's shrinking membership and the fact that most of it's members are becoming senior citizens, it had gotten to the point where the Chapter didn't feel that they would be able to function properly any longer. Since any thoughts of just closing the Chapter was

What Happens To Lodge Property When Two Lodges Merge

This question, was asked by some Lodge Brothers in a bull session, and answered in the March edition of this newsletter and may have confused some Hempstead Brothers.

Since nine of the Hempstead members are also members of Waller Lodge, some of us attended the Masonic funeral service of Brother E.R. "Pops" Peardon - including Brother Roy Shields, Brother Kelly Cox, Brother Ted

THE LODGE IS SOLID

It seems that one Brother from the Hempstead Masonic Lodge ask another Brother, "What do you hear about our Hempstead Masonic Lodge closing down and going to merge with the Waller Lodge." "Nothing." the 2nd. Brother said, "Let's ask another Brother. And, they did. And, the rumor spread like wild fire, leaving many upset Brothers in it's wake. It is a shame that the 2 Brothers who first started discussing it didn't call the Worshipful Master or Secretary and end the

Due to the rumor, some of the Brothers attended the April stated meeting and got involved in a, sometime very spirited discussion, before they were finally convinced it was a rumor without any basis of fact.

Worshipful Master Roy Shields ask if I would write a column about the false rumor in the newsletter for the benefit of those who weren't at the meeting to explain that the rumor was completely baseless.

There are no plans, nor has there ever been any plans since I have been a member at least, to close the Lodge or merge it with any other Lodge

I would like say now that the Hempstead Masonic Lodge, like most Lodges may have had a few minor problems in the past, but it is in far better shape in many ways then it has been in the nearly 3 years that I have been a member.

First on the plus side, at this time the Lodge is in excellent financial condition and could probably operate for a year with the

money we currently have in the bank.

Second, our membership is pretty fair for a small town, but is slowly dropping due to deaths and the lack of interest in Masonry by young men in the area. In the past 3 years we have gone down from 60 to 56 members in spite of adding 5 members. The last new member affiliated with Hempstead Lodge about a year ago and the two who affiliated with Hempstead Lodge before him were nearly 3 year ago. The last Master Mason raised in Hempstead Lodge was 4 years ago. As the Grand Master of Texas recently said, We can't ask a man to become a Mason, however we can make sure all good candidates know that the Masonic Lodge is there and that it is a good thing..

Member participation in Lodge meetings has been somewhat poor in the past. For a while, you could count on one hand the members who regularly attended every meeting, but the numbers are improving.

Secondly, member's participation in fundraisers has been

Wren Sr., Brother John
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What Happens To Lodge Property

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Daut Sr., myself and a couple of other Brothers. In a bull session while standing around afterward, someone mentioned the outstanding Lodge facilities at the Cade-Rothwell Lodge #1151. For those who haven't been there, they have a huge beautiful Lodge room for meetings, another one for practice and one for Eastern Star meetings. They even have a lounge area about as big as our Lodge Room with 8 or 10 couches and easy chairs. They also have over 450 members. They also have the North Houston Morning Lodge # 1360 in the building with over 100 members and the York Rite: Houston Commandery No. 97.

Anyway, to make a long story short, someone jokingly said that maybe someday Waller and Hempstead Lodges could go together and sell both existing Lodge buildings and build a big fancy new one like Cade Rothwell's halfway between the two towns.

Then Brother Ted ask what happens to all of the property and money of the Lodges if two Lodges merge, no one was real sure and I said I would look it up in the Grand Lodge law book and let them know.

Since there were about 10 or 12 people in the conversation it seemed the easiest way to let everyone know the answer was to just put it in the March issue of the newsletter.

Nowhere in that newsletter was there any mention of Hempstead Lodge or Waller Lodge nor anything about these two Lodges merging. In short it said exactly what was said above. It was the answer to a question ask by some

FIVE POINTS OF FELLOWSHIP

There are duties owing by every Mason to his brethren. By allusion to certain points of the body, we are taught the "The Five Points of Fellowship."

1. To serve
2. Pray for
3. Keep the secrets of
4. Support
5. Counsel

We must be constantly reminded of these points so we will not lose sight of them, once we leave the Lodge. More the brother who does not attend than he who attends regularly.

As always, we forgive the brother who does not frequent the Lodge. We should, because we know not the reason for his absence.

The five points of fellowship are a daily responsibility, and should become a habit. They should be so familiar to us, that we would act upon them with no more thought, than would be give to washing your hands or opening a door.

We constantly help, or serve our family, our brothers, our friends, and even strangers when we see the need. We pray for others and ourselves, for strength and for peace.

We diligently keep the secrets from our detractors, from the ignorant, from the obsessed.

We support those who try to make life better, and we support those who fail. Then we counsel them, so they may have more knowledge, more understanding.....more light.

**No One Likes Nagging,
But Lodge Dues Are Now 5
Months Past Due For 13
Members Of Hempstead Lodge.**

Young'ns Prayers Dear God,

Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.
Amanda

Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.
Joyce

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.
Janet

If we come back as somebody else, please don't let me be Jennifer Horton - because I hate her.
Denise

I read the Bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me.
Love, Alison

How did you know you were God? Who told you?
Charlene

Is it true my Father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house?
Anita

I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.
Nan

Did you really mean, Do Unto Others As They Do Unto You? If you did then I'm going to get even with my brother.
Darla

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Garrett, John A.	5-02-65
Hartley, David Wade	5-02-59
Lyons, Steven Dale	5-07-60

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More Test Answers

13. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backward and declare, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand. "Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

14. Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. they believe the assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

15. Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Carter, Malcolm Pierce	5-02-74
Parham, William E	5-05-82
Sweetman, Clyde O.	5-09-50
Weaver, Walter A.	5-28-43
Wiesner, John W	5-25-51

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I have listened to some discussions now and then, among some of our Brothers, concerning whether actively participating in Lodge activities reflected a man's commitment to Masonry and eventually whether their participation or lack of participation has an effect on the successful operation of the Lodge. The members of course are divided in their opinion

As expected, members who are not very active quickly took the position that being active in Lodge activities has nothing to do with an individual's commitment to Masonry or the success of a Lodge. At the same time, the members who participate regularly, felt that the lack of other members participation does hurt the Lodge.

I am not taking sides, for or against, however I did go back and examine the records and came up with some interesting facts.

Less than a year ago, the Lodge's checking account was down to less than \$100.00 with just over \$1,000.00 in a savings account. During the last year the Lodge has been involved in 5 fundraisers with one lasting 3 days for a total of 7 working days.

Only 14 Brothers worked in those 5 fundraisers. 2 Brothers worked all 7 days. 2 Brothers worked 5 days each. 5 Brothers worked 2 days each and 5 Brothers worked 1 day each. Due to the work of those 14 Brothers who participated, we currently have almost 600% as much money in the bank.

During the past 2 years we have had 24 stated meetings and 4 called meetings for a total of 28 meetings. Out of those 28 meetings only 25

members of Hempstead Lodge attended at least one of those meetings.

Only 1 Brother attended all 28 meetings, 2 Brothers attended 26 meetings, 3 Brothers attended 23 meetings, 4 Brothers attended 21 meetings, 1 Brother attended 17 meetings, 1 Brother attended 15 meetings, 1 Brother attended 12 meetings and the other 12 members attended from 11 to 2 meetings out of the 28. 31 Brothers have not attended a meeting in the past 2 years

I'm sure it will not come as a surprise to anyone that the 7 members who attended the most Lodge meetings are the same 7 who worked the most days during the fundraisers.

As I said above, I am not taking sides, just presenting the facts.

The facts are that only 12



Hempstead Masonic Lodge Building

About a year or so ago, W.M. Roy Shields reported that he had found a bad soft place in the roof decking. The members agreed to buy some metal roofing, which we could get wholesale and some of the Brothers volunteered to install it free.

About that same time, Brother Roy reported that we had a small sinkhole on the north side of the building. The members decided to put some concrete in the hole and fill it with dirt and cover with with sod.

Before any roof repair was started, another discussion took place regarding the roof and the new roof was abandoned. More discussions took place regarding the sink hole, but no action was taken.

So we didn't take care of either problem. A year later the sinkhole is twice as big and theoretically we

A couple of old ladies are sitting on the patio in a retirement home. Both are bored.

Mabel: Nothing happens here, all the men are half-dead and no fun!

Doris: I agree. Let's do something that will jerk them into action!

So Mabel agrees to streak down the corridor and attract the attention of the old men that are sitting there sunning themselves.

She does this and the following conversation issues between Harold and Humphrey...

Harold: Humphrey, old boy, was that Mabel that I saw running past...

Humphrey: Hmm, I think so. Couldn't say for sure.

Harold: My eyes aren't too good these days. What was she wearing?

Humphrey: Hmm, couldn't say for sure, but whatever it was it was in need of ironing!



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