

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE



#749 AF & AM



Volume 110, Issue 6

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

June 2003

HAPPY 110 YEARS HEMPSTEAD #749

The Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 quietly celebrated it's 110 birthday on the 5th day of June in 2003 without any fanfare. The Lodge was chartered on June 5 1893

I thought maybe this would be a good time, to review the history of Masonry in the Hempstead area.

The first Masonic lodge in what was later to become Waller County was the Brazos Lodge #75. It received it's dispensation in 1850 and it's charter was dated January 24, 1851. Meetings were held the first Saturday after the full moon each month. In those days when members walked, rode horses or in a buggy the meetings were timed so the brothers could see their way home after the meetings.

Brazos Lodge was first located in Heathville just west of the present day Hempstead which in those days was in Austin County. It was moved to Salem Church in 1854. Two years later it moved again, this time to Rock Island. From there it moved to Hempstead in 1858. The Brazos Lodge was demised on June 13, 1864.

The Hempstead Lodge #749 was chartered on June 5 1893 when 22 Masons submitted a petition for the new lodge. The charter members were, E.A. Pace, J.E. McCluskin, Sam Farquhar, John E. Mills, D.D. Robertson, A. Applewhite, H.C. Tomkins, J.W. Renfro, S. Schwartz, H.W. Rankin, W.M. Lupton, E.F.

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JUNE MEETING 2003

The last stated meeting of the 2002/2003 Masonic year will be opened at 7:30 PM on June 12, 2003.

Remember, the last meeting of the Masonic year is election day for the officers for the 2003/2004 Masonic

THE BIG ENTERED

Kelly Cox, John Daut Sr. and Corky, as most Brothers know, are also members of Waller Masonic Lodge #808. On Saturday morning, May 31st., we were part of Waller Masonic Lodge's Degree Team that gathered at the Katy Lodge to compete in Masonic District #108's, competition for E.A. Degree teams.

We scored in third place. However we were only a couple of points behind the second place team, so we did pretty good for our first competition. The lineup for the team was Kelly Cox as Worshipful Master, John Daut Sr. as Senior Warden, "Corky" Daut as Junior Warden, Bob Scarborough as Secretary, Mike Risley as Senior Deacon, Richard Ventrea as Junior Warden, Zane Williamson as Master of Ceremonies and a real E.A. Mason as the candidate .

For those who have never seen a degree team contest, I'll explain how they work.

Each team starts out with 1,000

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THE KEEPER OF THE DOOR (THE OLD TILER STORIES)

"Darn the luck! I am assigned on a petition again and I am going fishing tomorrow!"

The New Brother looked dolefully at his notification slip.

"Why not see the applicant the next day?" asked the Old Tiler.

"Because he is going out of town. I got to see him tomorrow or else. And I want to go fishing. This committee stuff makes me tired, anyway. Say, if I get the Master to change my name to yours, will you do it for me?"

"Why, of course," answered the Old Tiler. "I am always proud to be one of the Keepers of the Door."

"Now that," said the New Brother, "sounds both interesting and dangerous. It's interesting, because I don't understand it, and experience has taught me that when I come at you below the belt, as it were, I usually get kicked pronto and unexpectedly. Please explain the door which you like to keep, where the honor is, what me and my committee work have to do with it, and remember that I am a poor orphan child alone in the wild anteroom with a raging Old Tiler, and not to be too hard on me?"

The Old Tiler did not smile. "I would laugh," he confessed, "only it's Masonry you are jesting about and it's not a jest. Yes, I will tell you about the door. I wish I could speak the word in capital letter.

"Masonry is a structure of brotherly

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love, relief and truth, cemented with

HAPPY 110

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Johns, M.S. Urban, E.H. Jones, F. W. Zaddon, Jacob Hauser, J. Blassingame, G.N. Phelps, J.F. Christoph, E.D. Dixon, L. Mahan, J. H. Morrison

The first Worshipful Master was E.A. Pace who 29 years before was the last Worshipful Master of the old Brazos Lodge #75. Meetings for the new Hempstead #749 were held on the Friday before the first full moon.

The Golden Trowel

Brother Mike Risley of Waller Masonic Lodge #808 AF & AM received the Golden Trowel award on Saturday May 17, 2003. I would like to quickly add that Brother Mike is one Brother who truly deserves it.

Brother Mike's wife, Carolyn gave such a speech at the award, that I had to include part of it here.

"A Brothers deeds are bricks that form the structure (i.e. giving gallons of blood, changing dozens of flat tires, Driving hundreds of miles to visit sick family and friends and sitting with grieving family and friends)

His Spirit of Humility and Compassion are the mortar's sand and cement. (never does a good deed to get a reward - only to ease other's burden; attitude always conveys feelings of respect and empathy)

His perspiration from hard work wets the sand and cement to form the mortar (never quits until the job is done.) Together the deeds, humility, compassion and perspiration form a structure that all can see is worthy of honor."

Carolyn's words are not really a

The Keeper Of The Door

affection, erected on a square to God, and towering miles high above puny humanity, its foibles and its failings. Masonry is a structure of which we, its humble builders, are proud, because we know that we have built better than we knew. We have so built, partly because we have had help from so many men of so many past ages, and partly because we have had help we could neither see nor understand.

"Some look at our temple of Masonry and wonder. Some look, shrug shoulders and pass by. Some look at our temple of Masonry and see it not; others gaze on it and seek to enter.

"In this country there are nearly 16,000 doors to our temple of Masonry, through one of which a man must pass who would see it from the inside. There are so many doors in order that any man who desires, and who is fit, may find the door which is easy for him to enter. It is not true that it is 'hard to be as Mason."

"We only ask that an applicant be free-born, of age, a man, and of good character. He may be high or low, rich or poor, great or obscure, famous or unknown. If he is a good man we want him to see our temple from the inside as soon as he expresses a desire to do so.

"So we have 16,000 lodges - doors- to our temple of Masonry, that no man can say he came not in because he could not find a way.

"Certain things a man must do, inside our temple, and in a certain way he must live. If he lives the life, the temple is stronger. If he does not live the life, the temple is weakened. "Hence, Keepers of the Door. Like any other symbol in Masonry, they

are three; three brethren to keep each door safe, sacred and undefiled from the footsteps of evil men, self-seekers, the wicked, the blasphemous, the immoral. Those three who keep each door are not assigned to it for any length of time.

"Not theirs a service which may become onerous from time-taking and effort. The Master appoints three Keepers of the Door for every man who tries to enter. Today there is you and John and Jim. Tomorrow it will be George and Jack and Will. The next day another three will keep the door, if any man raps upon it.

"With due humility, but infinite pride, I am the Guardian of the Locked Door. As Tiler I suffer none to pass within who have not the right. But the open door no one man may guard; it takes three.

"You were appointed tonight as one of those three. Some one has rapped at the door and now it stands ajar. To you it has been said, 'Keep thou the door; keep thou the faith; keep thou this thy temple pure and undefiled.'

"You do not want to labor. You want to go fishing. You ask me if I will do your work for you and I answer you, gladly, if so the Master shall find me worthy of the honor."

"I shan't ask him," he answered low. "I am ashamed. I didn't understand. I am not, I know, worthy of the honor, but as well as I know how, I will keep the door.."

"I thought you might," smiled the Old Tiler. "After all, no one will catch all the fish; there will be some left for you some other time."

"Not if it interferes with being Keeper of the Door," answered the New Brother vigorously.

Reprinted From "The Old Tiler" Series Of Stories That Started In August of 1921

More Test Answers From A Sixth Grade Class

16. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

17. The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick reaper, which did the work of a hundred men. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the Organ of the Species. Madman Curie discovered the radio. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

I hope you enjoyed reading these. If you

Going To The Dogs

"Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued into the next yard."

..... Dave Barry

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."

REMEMBER PRAYERS FOR

Cynthia Ann Cox - (Waller - Past Master Paul's wife)
Ted Wren Jr. - Very serious lung (breathing) problems
Pam York - Recovering from falls

The Big E.A. Contest

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points when they begin putting on their degree. in front of the judge and the other teams.

During the presentation points are then deducted for every mistake the team makes including,

- Missed word - - 1 point.
- Mispronounced word 1 point
- Missed sentence - - 3 points
- Floor movements - - 1 point
- W.M. hat movement 1 point

The Waller degree team still had 968 points after their presentation.

If we could get enough Hempstead Brothers who would like to work together and make up a team. We could have a Hempstead Lodge team to compete in the Master Mason Degree Team Contest sometime this fall.

If you would like to participate and be member of a Hempstead team please talk to one of the Lodge officers.

Remember, all parts are not speaking parts, some just walk around and some even just sit.

A Man only needs two tools: WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the duct

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Crow, John E. 06-10-68
Hester, Sidney Joe Jr. 06-30-80
Woods, Harold Ray 06-20-74

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Geisendorff, Fred W. 06-17-28
Sweetman, Clyde O. 06-10-21
Vines, James Ray 06-13-46
Weaver, Walter A. 06-18-10

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Last Months Newsletter

Word was sent back to me from one Brother, as usual, that I had embarrassed or hurt some members feelings with a story about how many Brothers worked in recent fund raisers and how many have attended meetings over the past two years.

First, the names of every Brother who works in a fundraiser, always appears in the newsletter in order to recognize their efforts and thank them for supporting the Lodge.

Second, the names of everyone who attends meetings, and when they attended is and always has been, available to any member of the Lodge who wants to look it up. The "Sign In" book is always there for any Brother to see at any time.

If I had said, "George Missalot has only come to a Lodge meeting 5 times in the last 2 years." I can see how "George" would be embarrassed, but I really don't see how "George" could be embarrassed by just reading a bunch of numbers.

However, if the story somehow embarrassed you, or hurt your feelings, please accept my sincere apologies, but please look at it in a different way.

If a Brother who misses a Lodge meeting when problems and specific needs are discussed is not informed in some way about those problems and needs, how will the Brother ever know about those problem?

Remember, a newsletter's only purpose is to inform.

There is no shame in not being able to attend meetings or work fundraisers. I know, I regretted it, but I was not embarrassed when I missed about 2 years of Lodge meetings, before I had my cataract operations. and was able to drive at night.again.

A guy with a Doberman Pinscher and one with a Chihuahua. The guy with the Doberman Pinscher says to the guy with a Chihuahua, "Let's go over to that restaurant and get something to eat."

The guy with the Chihuahua says, "We can't go in there. We've got our dogs with us." The guy with the Doberman Pinscher says, "Just follow my lead."

They walk over to the restaurant, the guy with the Doberman Pinscher puts on a pair of dark glasses, and he starts to walk in. A guy at the door says, "Sorry, Mac, no pets allowed." The guy with the Doberman Pinscher says, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog." The guy at the door says, "A Doberman Pinscher?" He says, "Yes, they're using them now, they're very good." The guy at the door says, "Come on in."

The guy with the Chihuahua figures, "What the heck," so he puts on a pair of dark glasses and starts in.

The guy at the door says, "Sorry, pal, no pets allowed." The guy with the Chihuahua says, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog." The guy at the door says, "A Chihuahua?"

The guy says, "You mean they gave me a Chihuahua?"



HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

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