

From The East

What Ye Reap, Ye Shall Sow

Last month in this publication I mentioned my grandfather and the impact he had on my life. He had a plethora of homespun, folksy philosophical sayings that he implanted in me which stuck like glue to the point that I have found myself living by those principles since I was a kid. Things like, 'you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink'; 'a penny saved is a penny earned'; 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush', and the list goes on and on. Recently, I was reading Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine and came across a column of "Old Tiler Talks" which brought to mind another one of Poppy's old gems that he had taken from the Bible, which is, 'what ye reap, ye shall sow.' Allow me to paraphrase that article in conjunction with this wise old saying.

How many men in any given Lodge complain because they don't feel a part of things, or that they are strictly an observer, nothing more than a nameless face in the audience? The solution to this conundrum is simple. Men do not get well known, liked and trusted by sitting in a corner and listening. They get up and talk, get out and work, do something, serve their fellows, to be known and liked.

Lodges freely provide all Master Masons honor, respectability and brotherly love but those qualities cannot be fully enjoyed by any brother if they idly sit by and merely listen to the workings of the Lodge unfold before them. The Lodge made you a Master Mason, only you can make yourself a good one. The Lodge gave you privileges, only you can enjoy them. The Lodge gave you opportunities, only you can use them. The Lodge did everything it could for you, but ultimately, you must prove yourself.

Many a man comes into Lodge expecting a special reception committee, crowding around him at every meeting, saying how wonderful it is to have him there. Many a man is disappointed. You had the undivided attention from the Lodge as a candidate, as an initiate, as a Fellowcraft, and when they raised you to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Then, it becomes your turn. Your candidacy is through. You become part of the Lodge. Every privilege has a duty attached. When you perform those duties, other privileges await you. If you never perform them, you will get no further. The responsibility the Lodge assumed in approving you as a man worthy to be a Master Mason, giving you the privilege to sit with them, must be shared by you. Your responsibility is to be a good Lodge member.

There are many good Masons who are poor Lodge members, but they are not the beloved ones. The beloved Lodge members find labor and serve, and take the spirit of the fraternity, in love and admiration of other men, in the satisfaction which comes from playing his part. The first step to this is be a friend. Visit the sick, help in the kitchen, sweep the porch, do something, anything. Ask the Worshipful Master for a job, he will use you, never fear. There are a thousand and one ways to make yourself known and respected by the Lodge, all you have to do is just look for them, or ask.

When your eyes are opened you will see just what you are. If the reflection is dejection, dissatisfaction, unhappiness, it is because those qualities reflect who you are. When you look in the Lodge and see yourself happy, busy, well liked, giving service and taking joy in brotherhood as a return, then you will know that you are a real Mason, a real Lodge member. The secret of Masonic joy is to give, that it may be given back to you.

Lastly, I would like to extend endless kudos to Corky Daut, PM of Waller Lodge #808, Waller, Texas, for his extensive efforts in publishing the monthly Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine. If you are not a subscriber, access him and the magazine at <http://oldcorky.com/>. There is a mountain of Masonic history, education and general good reading you can ingratiate yourself with in this publication.

Remember ... 'an idle mind is the workshop of the devil!'

May 2015 bring you all happiness, joy and success through the Craft of Free Masonry!

Duke Davis, WM

The West Gate

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone's New Year events were pleasant and safe, full of fun with family and friends. As Masons, we are currently occupied with dedicating time to our families throughout the Holiday Season but in the back of our mind we should be thinking of the coming year and how we may be involved with Masonic activities so that the community sees what Freemasonry does for others.

Every March in our Lodge, we have our Education Banquet that awards scholarships to deserving young adults to assist them in funding their education to attain their dreams, most assuredly, making a difference in this world, and giving them an opportunity to create a better life for them and their families.

We also have a Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet in April to acknowledge and recognize the contribution and dedication these first responders provide for our community.

June 6th this year will be our 12th Annual Classic Car Show, our premier event of the year, which not only gives proud custom car owners a chance to show off their vehicles but also is our main fundraising event where proceeds go to scholarships and other charitable activities in our community.

As the months go by, and these events successfully unfold, the community sees how Freemasonry touches others and makes a difference in the lives of many people. That is something money can't buy.

Brethren may you and your families stay actively involved in all Masonic activities and make 2015 a great year. We Can Do It!

Sal Pacheco, Senior Warden

The South Gate

Happy New Year!

Well, 2015 is upon us. Is it just me, or does time seem to move quicker as we get older? It seems like it was only yesterday that we celebrated the beginning of 2014.

I want to start this letter with a word of thanks and pay some wages to several of the brothers and their wives for their help on the Christmas Party. Bill Janin, you were awesome, an entertainer and kid at heart. You were the man of the hour, serving ice cream and joking with all the fifth graders. My kids still have that puzzled look on their face. John Kirby thanks for making the trip and providing musical entertainment, it was great to see you, my friend. Your guitar and vocals kept the party hopping. Russell Rice, thank you for arriving early and helping to get things started. Brother Sendlein and Brother Pletz, it was great of you to bring your children and grandchildren by to see Santa. Thank you to Ruth Davis and my wife, Danielle, for putting together the goody bags and taking pictures before and during the event. Thank you to Brother Warren Jones for your effort with HEB and Walmart, and the donations you were able to secure. Lastly, Santa (PM Cliff Dye and his wife Karen from Blanco Lodge), Mrs. Claus, and your elves, your holiday spirit and willingness to give back each year are tremendous. A great time was had by all! I think as Masons, we should be thankful for the opportunity to give back to those who are in need and create a little

Holiday cheer this time of year.

A new year means new beginnings. We must look to the East and follow the guidance of our Worshipful Master as he continues to grow the 'light' of this Lodge. He has called upon the brethren to step out of their comfort zones, if they are able, and get more involved in the degrees, floor work, and activities. We are going to need everyone this year to continue the success of the Education Banquet and Car Show. We have gained a reputation for putting together a great Banquet and Car Show but it takes the entire Lodge to achieve this. We are also striving to improve our degree work and have some graded degrees. We need more brethren to help out by learning parts to each degree and becoming active participants. Please join us for practice on Mondays at 5:30 PM and Thursdays at 6:30 PM for Lodge Light Training. This would make a great New Year resolution!

Happy New Year, my brothers! I am looking forward to a great year ahead!

Randall King, Junior Warden

Mouth To Ear

Freemasonry is not a social club or a charitable organization per say, but practices those aspects by its teachings. The beehive is an excellent example of the true teachings of our fraternity. If you haven't heard the explanation of the beehive during the Master's Degree lately, open your Monitor and take the time to read it and meditate on its meaning.

Masons are not just "men with pins on their coats." Masonry is a vital force in the lives of many and one touch on the right key and Masonic enthusiasm simply pours out of Lodge members. The following are two stories that will warm your heart:

A brother was injured and a blood transfusion was necessary. The Master of his Lodge learned it on the night the Lodge was to confer a Master's Degree. It was The Master's custom to make a little talk about the significance of some aspect of the Degree after each ceremony. The Master junked his prepared speech and spoke for five minutes on the Five Points of Fellowship and then called for volunteers for the blood transfusion. Fifteen Brethren rose to clamor for the chance to show that their Five Points of Fellowship really meant something to them.

The Master of a small mid-western Lodge, poor in finances, had a pressing relief case. A Brother had lost his home during a storm and the Master told the Lodge about the tragedy and stated that something need to be done to help the Brother. The Treasurer arose to say: "But we have no money, Worshipful Master." "Who said anything about money?" retorted the Master. "I'm asking for volunteers with tools, who will each give a day's work, two days if possible, whatever you can spare. We can't buy Brother Jones a new home, but we are sorry sons of pioneers if we can't build one!" Thirty-four men rebuilt Brother Jones's home for him, and then pleaded with the Master for "another happy time and a good day's outing like that!"

Doing good things for your Lodge or others brings joy and satisfaction to those who serve.

T. E. "Gene" Carnes, Past Grand Master Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, 2011

Labors of the Craft

Happy New Year from all of us here at Lodge #794!

We raised one Master Mason last month, Brother Johnny Fotchsky. Congratulations! A special thanks to Right

Worshipful Gene Carnes, Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas for delivering the lecture and presenting the apron to Brother Fotchsky, and to the present Kendall Lodge Worshipful Master, and our current District 51 Instructor, Brother Dave Bruton for assisting in the degree, as well. We have one Entered Apprentice currently preparing for his proficiency.

Thanks to all who assisted in throwing our annual Christmas Party for the kids. What more can you ask for, Santa and Mrs. Claus with an elf, a Lodge full of laughing boys and girls, cookies and punch, great music from John Kirby and the Spirit of Christ!

Thursday, January 22nd, we will be presenting our Golden Trowel Award to Brother Danny Poole. There will be a meal at 6:00 PM followed by the award presentation. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

Rising Star Lodge in Centerpoint will receive the "Traveling Masters" this month on Thursday, January 15th. Supper is at 6:30 PM followed by stated meeting at 7:30 PM. The brethren from all District 51 Lodges are invited, and all Worshipful Masters and Wardens should feel compelled to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only visit other Lodges in your district but to also strengthen the camaraderie and leadership skills between all of the Lodges.

May 2015 bring you all good health, peace in your heart, and blessings upon your household!

Words of Wisdom

"You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind."

- Old Irish Proverb -

"Until a man is nothing, God can make nothing out of him."

- Martin Luther -

"A man's most valuable trait is a judicious sense of what not to believe."

- Euripides (454-406BC) -

"A good friend, like a quilt, is both a treasure and a comfort."

- Anonymous -

"When you are dissatisfied, and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra."

- Anonymous -

Tongue in Cheek

Ever since I was a kid, I've always had a fear of someone under my bed at night. So, I went to a 'shrink' in search of a solution.

"Just place yourself in my capable hands for one year," he said, "and come talk to me three times a week, and we should be able to get rid of those agonizing fears."

"How much do you charge?" I asked.

"Eighty dollars per 30 minute visit," cheerfully replied the doctor.

"Okay, I think I'll sleep on it," I said.

Six months later the psychologist met me on the street. "Why didn't you come back to see me about those fears you were having?" he asked.

"Eighty bucks a visit, three times a week for a year, well, that adds up to a whopping \$12,480!" I told him. "A bartender cured me for ten measly bucks! I was so happy to have saved all that money, I went out and bought myself a new pickup truck!"

"Oh, is that so and I would bet that new truck has a bit of an attitude too?" the doctor said. "By the way," he added, "just how did that bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off my bed. Ain't nobody under there now, by golly!"

Husband takes his wife to a dance hall.

There's a guy on the dance floor.....living it up, break dancing, moon walking, doing back flips, etc. etc.....and buying multiple rounds of drinks for everybody.....THE WORKS!

Wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy over there? He proposed to me 25 years ago, and I turned him down!"

Husband says, "Wow, looks like he's still celebrating!"

Recipe of the Month

Quick and Easy "Tex-Mex" Coleslaw

By Donna Lambert

One bag of readymade Cole Slaw

One tub of HEB readymade Pico de Gallo (mild, medium, or hot)

3 avocados

HEB "Salsa Ranch" salad dressing

Mix the whole tub of Pico de Gallo with the bag of Cole Slaw. Add just enough of the Salsa Ranch dressing to 'wet' the Pico de Gallo/Slaw mixture. Dice up avocados and gently mix in with Pico de Gallo/Slaw mixture.

Enjoy, it goes great with fish and/or Barbeque!

From the Fredericksburg Lodge #794 "Recipes, Remedies and Ramblings" – 2012