

Second Masonic District

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From The District

Just a few things from the district.

We hope everyone had a great holidays. Now it is time to get back to work.

Don't forget the written ritual on 1/10/05 at the Middletown temple. Please plan to attend with questions in hand. You will need to tell what degree, page, and line your question is on. This is an excellent opportunity to get those last few questions answered before your inspection.

A list of inspections will be posted at the beginning of each month. They are also posted on the web site.

Make sure you are checking the new website as it grows. Please pass this on to your entire lodge. You will also notice that our website has won two awards. We should all thank RWB Terry Posey for his effort in starting this new and valuable tool.
www.secondmasonicdistrict.org.

Remember the Grand Masters class on 4/9/05. It will be here before you know it.

This letter will be emailed to each lodge and will be posted on the web site very shortly. It is important to pass this information to all brethren especially as it continues to grow.

If you have event announcements you would like to have listed in this Letter, please email Rick Shields at rshields1@cinci.rr.com.

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District Advisor

As we are all well aware, and as is pointed out in the North East Angle Lecture in the Canadian Rite Ritual, it cannot be denied that we always had many members of rank and affluence. Over the centuries many well known men have been members of our Noble Craft. For a few moments, please allow your imaginations to run wild and consider what may take place at the Installation of The Celestial Lodge, otherwise known as the Grand Lodge Above.

Even though it was late fall, there was a warm breeze blowing and the sun was setting behind the Lodge Hall. Gathered in the parking lot filled with their works were Bros Henry Ford, Ransom Olds, Walter Chrysler, John Willys and Andre Citroen. The only vehicle missing was Bro Hart Massey's tractor

Greeting members in the entrance hall was Bro Cliff Arquette of Charley Weaver fame and Bro Ed Wynn. In the boardroom, a group of senior DeMolays were gathered including Bros Walter Disney, Chet Huntley, Wendell Corey, Van Johnson, Robert Cummings, John Steinbeck, Fred McMurray and John Cameron Swayze.

King Gillette, razor in hand, passed the lodge caretaker who was having a minor problem with his vacuum cleaner, which was quickly cleared up with the help of its inventor, Bro Frank Hoover, while at the other end of the hallway Bros Emmett Kelly, Clyde Beatty and all seven of the Ringling Bros were discussing the Shrine Circus.

Taking a quick look into the Banquet Hall, Bros John Molson, Frederick Pabst and Joseph Schlitz were busy rolling in some kegs of beer for Bros Sam Bronfman, late President of Seagram's Distillers, who was setting up the bar for the Festive Board to follow the Ceremony. Bro Colonel Harland Sanders was cooking up a storm in the kitchen and it was an easy guess as to what the evening meal would consist of .

The orchestra members for the dance to follow the Banquet were tuning. Members of this All-Star group included leader Bros Paul Whiteman, W.C .Hardy, Nat King Cole, Irving Berlin, George M. Cohan, Cyril Stapleton, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie and Al Jolson. Tonight's performance would be M.C.ed by Bros Arthur Godfrey and Danny Thomas.

Magical Bros Harry Houdini and Harry Blackstone were setting up their props while Bros W. C. Fields, Oliver Hardy, Bud Abbott, Harpo Marx, and Foster Brooks were fine tuning their comedy routines for tonight's show which was being produced by Bros Cecil B. DeMille, Flo Ziegfeld, Louis B. Mayer, Hall Wallis and D.W. Griffiths.

A number of sports celebrities were gathering together, including Bros Abe Saperstein, creator of the Harlem Globetrotters, who was explaining his version of the game to Bro James Naismith, the inventor of the game. They were joined by baseballers, Bros Charles Ebbetts, Ty Cobb, Branch Rickey and Cy Young, the first pitcher to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

A little further along the hall was an array of masons dressed in knee breeches, lace cuffs and powdered wigs, others in tuxedos, including Bros Kit Carson, Davy Crockett and Buffalo Bill Cody, clad in their familiar buckskins, and Native American Chiefs Bros Crazy Bull, Tecumseh and Joseph Brant in their native attire. Most colorful are the military uniforms of Lord Nelson, Lord Cornwallis, Captain James Cook, the Duke of Wellington and John Paul Jones.

I was gazing in awe at these members of Celestial Lodge, when the Grand Master, MW Bro Harry Truman, appeared from the preparation room accompanied by Bros John Jacob Astor, Luther Burbank, J. C. Penney, Adlai Stevenson and Jennings Bryan.

Bro John Diefenbaker had just signed the Tyler's Register with one of Bro John Schaeffer's pens. He was accompanied by Bros Robert Borden and R. B. Bennett. fellow Canadian Prime Ministers, and by Bro Joe Smallwood of Newfoundland.

At this time, the Tyler, Bro J. Edgar Hoover, informed the brethren that the meeting was about to come to order.

On entering the lodge room the brethren were greeted by the Inner Guard, Bro Paul Revere. Seated already were polar explorers, Robert F. Scott of England and Bro Richard E. Bird of the United States, together with Matthew G. Perky and Canada's Henry Larsen. Bro Charles Lindbergh could be seen in deep conversation with Bros Hap Arnold, Gus Grissom, Eddie Rickenbaker and Charles Kingsford-Smith.

From the Junior Warden's station came a burst of laughter. Bro Will Rogers had brought broad smiles to the faces of the Royal personages gathered around him, including Bros George I, Frederick the Great, Gustav V of Sweden and George VI. To the right of the Junior Warden's chair, architect Bro Sir Christopher Wren was joined by Statue of Liberty sculptor, Bro Frederic Bartholdi.

Bros Norman Vincent Peale and Peter Marshall, who would assume the Chaplain's duties this evening, were in conversation with the Bros Du Pont, Peter and Victor, and the Bros Rothschild, James and Nathan.

Gathered around the Secretary's desk, Bro Rudyard Kipling was discussing the evening's proceedings with Bro Robert Burns, who was to give one of the Charges assisted by Bro Mark Twain. Also taking part were Bros Arthur Conan Doyle, Walter Scott, Samuel Johnson, Alexander Pope and Robert Service.

The Grand Organist, Bro Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was discussing last minute changes with Bros Gilbert and Sullivan.

Bros Clark Gable, Peter Sellers, Wallace Beery, Douglas Fairbanks and Brian Donleavy were discussing boxing with champions, Bros Jack Dempsey, Jack Johnson and Sugar Ray Robinson. Another small group, in the persons of Bros John Wayne, Hoot Gibson and Tom Mix, were listening to Bro William Thaddeus Phillips (also known as Butch Cassidy.)

The founding members, Bros George Washington, Sir John A. MacDonald, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Benito

Jaurez, John Hancock and Ben Franklin were seated in the East. They have been joined by Bro Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore. The Generals, Bros Omar Bradley, Jimmy Doolittle, George C. Marshall, John Pershing and Douglas McArthur, take their seats next to Bros Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. The Lodge Treasurer, Bro Henry Knox was busy collecting dues from Bros Thomas E Dewey and William McKinley. The Master, MW Bro HRH The Duke of Connaught, has rapped the gavel to call the Lodge to order, and it is now time for us to depart. With one last look at this brilliant assembly, one wonders what the public's perception of Freemasonry might be if they were able to visit such a lodge.

District Deputy Grand Masters

TIMES DO CHANGE

In the face of present world conditions times do change. Perhaps we, as Freemasons, can have a part in changing them for the better.

Happily, in this great country of ours, we have always clung to the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of action. These are fundamental precepts upon which our great democracy has been built. Under a totalitarian system these freedoms do not exist.

In the great fraternal order of masonry with its teachings of charity, tolerance, the dignity of man and of his individual worth, based upon character rather than upon wealth or position, there is and there always will be differences of opinion. All too often these differences of opinion lead to controversy – controversy leads to argument and argument to exaggeration. “There’s no strength in exaggeration; even the truth is weakened by being expressed to strongly.”

Most arguments result from over zealousness and the traditional American will to win. Mis-statement of facts, are frequently made to justify one’s opinions. In any argument one has a right to be wrong in his opinion but never to be wrong in his facts. “In any controversy the instant we feel anger we have already ceased striving for the truth and have begun striving for ourselves.”

One of the most impressive teachings in Freemasonry is that of tolerance. The very nature of its impressiveness often leaves a misunderstanding of its real meaning. Tolerance has a much broader application – leniency towards the opinions, faults or objectionable traits of character of others – enduring – to allow or to permit negatively, by not preventing.

The practice of the teachings of masonry by precept and example is right living. Right living is righteousness.

“If there is righteousness in the heart there will be beauty in the character. If there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home (the Lodge, Rite, Commandry, Consistory, Temple). If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.”

Food for Thought:

One may live as a conqueror, a king, or a magistrate, But he must die as a man.

Carlos R. Pratt
DDGM, 2nd Masonic District

Lodge Announcements

Nothing this month

Inspections

Please consult the website all inspections. All inspections in January are at 7:00pm.

Dayton	147	1/6/2005	W. P. Mayberry, Jr.	EA
Lincoln	693	1/11/2005	C.P. Koss	EA
Millennium	779	1/17/2005	D.A. Buchheit	FC
Farmersville	482	1/19/2005	R.W. Poore	MM
Washington	17	1/26/2005	C.R. Pratt	FC
Huber Heights	777	1/27/2005	W.P. Mayberry, Jr.	MM
Jefferson	90	1/31/2005	C.R. Pratt	MM