The Reality of Masonic Renewal

The real strength of Freemasonry is our members. More than many of us sometimes realize, they care about our fraternity and its future.

Questions about membership always come up when I’m with Masons. They want to know what’s happening. They’re interested in what’s being done to communicate the Masonic message. But, most of all, they’re eager to hear about what we’re doing to aid our symbolic lodges.

As many of you recall, our Supreme Council joined with the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction several years ago in an historic venture to bring together leaders of Freemasonry through the Conference of Grand Masters for the purpose of working together on the essential task of Masonic renewal.

In effect, the nearly one million Scottish Rite Masons across this nation stepped forward and said, “We want to be part of the team that takes Freemasonry into the 21st century.”

Let me give you a specific example of what is happening. By talking with Masonic leaders from the symbolic lodges through the Grand Lodges, one message was clear: “Help our lodges do a better job communicating Freemasonry to non-Masons and to our own members.” In other words, start at the beginning.

In response to this specific request, the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America has just issued an exciting membership kit for symbolic lodges.

Those who have had a preview of these materials are impressed. The goal of the kit is to assist a lodge from the first time it learns of a man’s interest in the fraternity, through home visitation, the initiation, and the three degrees. We are, perhaps, for the first time, acknowledging that we must do a much better job introducing a man to Freemasonry if we expect to retain him as an active, enthusiastic, committed member.

I am particularly pleased with the way a man can come to appreciate the positive impact Freemasonry can have not just on himself but on his whole family. This is an important key to the future of our fraternity. One of the brochures is called “When Your Husband or Father is a Mason,” while another, “Your Family Can Play an Important Role,” makes clear how Masonry feels about a man’s family.

At the heart of the kit is an impressive guide designed to provide the leaders of symbolic lodges just about all the help they need in membership management and development. Here is a sample of some of the 12 modules in the kit: What do we know about potential members? Attracting men to the fraternity. The tools available to explain Freemasonry. Preparing a man for his initiation. Your role and responsibility in membership management. Involving the new member in his fraternity.

With videos and other highly focused materials, the kit offers lodge officers the help they’ve needed and wanted.

Will the kit change everything overnight? Of course not. Will the kit transform ineffective officers into great leaders? Of course not. What the kit will do is give men who are serious about their service to the fraternity guidance and direction for doing a much better job in communicating with non-Masons, educating new members, and maintaining the interest of long-time Masons.

What we call “Masonic renewal” must not just be talked about endlessly. We do our fraternity a serious disservice if we can do no better than “discuss” what we know must be done!

If we are to have serious renewal throughout our fraternity, then action is required. Will mistakes be made? They can be corrected. But I do worry about those who may spend their time criticizing what’s being done. We need all our energy going in the direction of strengthening Freemasonry. A winning team needs every player.

As part of our renewal effort, I am sending a membership kit to each Valley and requesting the Valley officers not only to familiarize themselves with the kit but also to offer assistance to the lodges in their area to implement the program.

What can you do about Masonic renewal? Make sure your symbolic lodge purchases the new kit and then uses it. I hope there are Scottish Rite Masons who will buy a kit and present it as a gift to their lodge. The details appear on the back cover of this issue.

If Masonic renewal is to be a reality, it begins with each of us.

FRANCIS G. PAUL, 33
Sovereign Grand Commander
Features

4 WHEN IS A MAN A MASON?
by James S. Peterson, 32°
It's a matter of degrees.

8 WHO SLEPT UP THE CLOCK?
by Jeff Davidson
You can actually choose to feel comfortable about how you spend your time.

10 PLAY BALL, BROTHER!
by Joseph E. Bennett, 33°
An all-star Masonic baseball team.

12 WHAT GENERATION GAP?
by Al Kessler, 32°
A 93-year-old Ohio Mason teaches teenage students the basics.

14 RED FEZ
Fun with a serious purpose.

16 TEDDY'S BEAR
by Robert E. Cramer, 33°
How a grizzly beast turned into a cuddly companion.

23 THE INDISPENSABLE MORTAR MIXER
by Warren F. Schueller, Sr., 33°
Without him there would be no Masonic lodge.

Columns

2 From the Sovereign Grand Commander
19 Life is a Family Affair
20 Book Nook
22 Personal Finance
24 Our Readers Respond
25 HealthWise
27 Footnotes

Also • 5 Shaky on the Podium? • 6 Ice Cream for All • 7 A View of Early 19th Century in New England • 7 Museum-Library Financial Statement • 9 In Memoriam: John G. Fleck • 9 Masonic Word Math • 18 Adventures at Home and Abroad • 23 Hiram
When is a Man a Mason?

It's a matter of degrees

By JAMES S. PETERSON, 32°

American Masons traveling beyond the U.S. borders are sometimes surprised by the differences they discover upon visiting a foreign lodge. The ritual varies somewhat, to be sure, and some of the customs seem strange, too. One of the more striking characteristics of Masonic practice, almost universal outside this country, is that of conducting business on the Entered Apprentice degree.

Although a few American Grand Lodges permit opening directly on the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft degree when the only work is a degree conferral, most require that all other business be transacted in a Master’s lodge. Only Masons who have attained the third degree, then, are fully able to participate in the affairs of the lodge.

In jurisdictions outside the U.S., however, the traveling man finds that Entered Apprentices are welcomed as members, voice their opinion in lodge discussions, vote on matters brought before the lodge, and enjoy virtually all the rights and privileges of membership in the fraternity. The Entered Apprentice may not preside over the lodge, of course, nor witness a degree which he has not yet received. Beyond that, however, there are few restrictions on his rights as a member.

When James Anderson wrote the first Book of Constitutions in 1723, there were only two degrees in Freemasonry. The earliest recorded conferral of a third degree did not take place until May 12, 1723. Long before the three degree system became the norm, however, lodges which worked only the first two were established in this country. Later, some lodges conferred the Royal Arch and other degrees well into the second half of the 19th century. Universal acceptance of the Master’s degree as the ultimate within the lodge, therefore, is a relatively recent phenomenon.

Even as the ritual was evolving, Grand Lodges were refining their regulations. It is not surprising, therefore, and certainly not “un-Masonic,” to find diversity of practice. One unifying feature of Masonic ritual around the world, however, is the way we address a candidate. Prior to the obligation in the Entered Apprentice degree he is called “Mister,” but from that moment forward he is our “Brother.”

Grand Lodges continue to revise their rules. Our “ancient” brethren had no desire for Masonry to become a stagnant society. They simply wanted change to take place in an orderly fashion. The “ancient charge” against innovation in Masonry as quoted today usually omits a key phrase which dramatically alters the regulation’s meaning. The original wording reads: “And the Question was moved That it is not in the Power of any person, or Body of men, to make any alteration, or Innovation in the Body of Masonry without the Consent first obtained of the Annual Grand Lodge.” [emphasis added]

Available evidence indicates that American lodges originally transacted business in the Entered Apprentice degree, just as lodges in other countries do today. Changing to the Master’s degree for business meetings seems to have occurred in response to the anti-Masonic excitement of the mid-1800’s. Unfortunately, many Masonic records of that era are lost, and most innovations in the ritual, for obvious reasons, were never fully recorded. American Grand Lodges are now actually in the minority in making the third degree a prerequisite for active participation in the lodge.

The American innovation was not the first time that outside forces caused those within the craft to alter the ritual in an effort to thwart imposters. The “Premier” Grand Lodge of England exchanged the “pillar” words of the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees in response to widespread circulation of printed exposures of the ritual. Their action was not universally approved, however, and is one of the reasons the word “Ancient” Grand Lodge was founded.

When Freemasons in England no longer felt threatened by cowans and eavesdroppers, the Grand Lodge restored the “pillar” words to their former use. Today’s facilities for checking the identity of a candidate or visitor, when compared with the more rudimentary means of discovering imposters 150 years ago, render the American ritual changes of that era superfluous.

Today more than 100,000 men who never progressed beyond the Entered...
Apprentice degree live in this country. Each year our lodges initiate thousands more Entered Apprentices than they raise to the degree of Master Mason. Many of these "permanently non-advancing Entered Apprentices" lost interest in the fraternity immediately after their first degree. They were either ill-advised or misinformed about Masonry, and found it to be something other than they expected. For others, a change in circumstances meant more time had to be spent on work, family, or other interests, with little left for Masonry. Some were overwhelmed by the memory requirements and silently slipped away rather than face the imposing task.

How many men, though, might have come back after the Entered Apprentice degree if they had been made to feel more a part of the lodge, able to share in the fellowship, instead of having to bide their time in the ante-room?

How often do we relegate the new member to the role of second-class citizen, letting him peek inside just long enough to see the bright fire of fellowship warming the hearts of those who bask in its glow, only to slam the door in his face and tell him to wait outside until we bank the coals?

How many men might have advanced to a higher degree if we had just given them more encouragement, more of a brotherly hand, and a greater opportunity to experience first-hand the beauties of Freemasonry and the warmth of Masonic fellowship?

Some Grand Lodges have made great strides in recent years to overcome the problem of the "permanently non-advancing Entered Apprentice." A few allow candidates to continue to receive ritual instruction even after their maximum time allotment between degrees has expired. Others now extend the privileges of Masonic graveside services to Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts.

Several Grand Lodges have considered changes in their regulations which would grant full Masonic membership to Entered Apprentices. These have included ritual changes to permit business to be conducted in the Entered Apprentice degree, and some would make Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts liable for dues. Few restrictions are imposed by these resolutions, other than the natural one of prohibiting Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft members from remaining in the lodge room when a higher degree was to be worked.

These resolutions would have brought their Grand Lodges into the mainstream of worldwide Freemasonry, and would have meant that many men who might have been lost to the fraternity would be given added incentive to remain active. Almost universally, however, they have been rejected. Grand Lodge delegates may expect to see the resolutions again, however, as momentum grows for restoring Freemasonry's ancient customs and practices.

Candidates who view the three degrees of Craft Masonry as mere stepping-stones to the York Rite, Scottish Rite, and Shrine will continue to memorize the lessons of Freemasonry well enough to pass their examinations. They will obtain the Master's degree so they can move on to other fields of endeavor, just as many do today. On the other hand, those who find that Freemasonry is not what they expected will continue to slip away after the Entered Apprentice degree, and no amount of coaxing can win them back.

Between these two extremes, however, are the vast number of men who find in Masonry "a beautiful system of morality." How many of them would become active in their lodge if they were able to participate, really participate, while they learn the lessons of their degree? How much longer can we afford not to know?

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When is a man a Mason?
When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something besides mud.
—Joseph Fort Newton

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Shaky on the podium?

If speaking in groups makes you shake so hard you could thread a sewing machine while it is running, read these tips from public speakers.

According to Just Say a Few Words: The Complete Public Speakers Handbook (1991, Dorset Press, New York), trembles have two interesting characteristics: They don't last the whole time you talk and most people don't notice them.

In fact, some public speakers advise the novice talker to take heart from trembles because fear and apprehension can sometimes motivate and focus the speaker. Nevertheless it is best (as they say) to never let them see you sweat.

To that end, public speaking experts advise the trembling talkers to avoid picking up glasses of water or holding a microphone and leave their notes on the lectern. In addition, if you know you are prone to shaking don't drink caffeine.

If your legs shake or become wobbly during a speech, shift the weight from one leg to the other or sit down if you can.

Finally, don't let on that you are nervous. It may be tempting to tell the audience in the hopes that it will elicit sympathy, and some speech makers can do that with great success. But it is probably best not to mention it.

Remember, nervousness, even shaking, doesn't show through half as much as it may seem. Don't worry about fluffing a word or a shaky voice. Chances are excellent those symptoms will disappear quickly and the audience won't even notice them.
Ice Cream for All
As American as apple pie

Americans love ice cream — any flavor, any time of the year. It’s a love affair that has been growing for more than 150 years.

“Ice Cream for All,” a new exhibit at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, Mass., traces the history of this beloved treat from its roots as a dish available only to Renaissance kings and courtiers, to the flourishing of an industry that made ice cream the most typically American of all foods.

In “Ice Cream for All,” examples of early ice cream making equipment on view include freezers and the intricate molds used to create spectacular desserts. Ice cream knives and forks — the special tools needed for this special confection — helped diners cope elegantly with the hard, dense texture of old-fashioned ice cream. Some 19th-century prints and illustrations of the first street peddlers hawking the dessert not only bring to life their distinctive rhymes and cries, but demonstrate just how widely available and sought after ice cream had become in America.

An interesting segment of the exhibit recalls the 1920’s through a review of ice cream’s prominence during this decade. The country devoured Eskimo Pies, Good Humor bars, and Popsicles. Citizens flocked to ice cream parlors and soda fountains for a “temperate and wholesome indulgence” during the days of Prohibition. A whimsical remembrance of the local “soda jerk,” who added to the general entertainment at these gathering places by coining playful jargon for their ice cream creations, completes a nostalgic look back at one of the most colorful chapters in our nation’s history.

The exhibit, organized by The Strong Museum, Rochester, N.Y., will be on display through August 23.
SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC MUSEUM & LIBRARY, INC.
January 1 — December 31, 1991

REVENUE

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EXPENSES

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Excess of revenue and other additions over expenses:

- Fund balance, January 1, 1991: $966,425
- Fund balance, December 31, 1991: $1,321,233

Other changes in fund balance:

- Deferred support: (34,526) to (34,526)
- Capital expenditures: (81,819) to (81,819)

Fund balance, December 31, 1991: $29,224,418

A View of Early 19th Century in New England

Daily life of rural New Englanders in the first decades of the 19th century is the subject of another current exhibit at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, "Everyday Life in New England, 1820-1840" examines how average people worked; how the rhythms of marriage, birth, sickness, and death shaped their lives; how they furnished and lived in their homes and what their food, clothing, and social conventions were like. The exhibit also traces how the region's economy developed rapidly during this 20-year period, and how this expansion provided some New Englanders with unprecedented standards of abundance, comfort, and refinement in their lives. The exhibit will remain on view through October 25.

Framed marriage announcements and charming valentines; birth notices and mourning brooches; kitchen implements and farming tools; fashions of the times; newspapers and broadsides of the day combine to recreate the physical texture of life a century ago. Plows, scythes, and landscape paintings bring to life the agricultural calendar. An authentic tavern room setting, complete with furniture, checkerboards, and other artifacts, opens to us the world of New England sociability in the 19th century.

The rise of industry in the area, and the impact mechanization and consumerism had on the New England family, is also examined. With mass production came a new prosperity, and household goods became less costly. Homes were embellished, and items like textiles, wallpaper, and the decorative tableware on view became widely available.

"Everyday Life in New England" was drawn from the outstanding collections of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

Cobbler bench with leather seat from the collection of Old Sturbridge Village. Photo by Henry E. Peach.
Who Sped Up the Clock?

and how to slow it down

By JEFF DAVIDSON

Do you remember how slowly the days passed when you were a child? An 80-mile car trip seemed endless. It took forever for summer to come. When it finally did, by mid-July you were already longing to go back to school and see your pals back. Although you’d never confess it to anyone, you were ready for September to arrive.

Have you ever wondered why everything apparently passes so slowly to a toddler? Basic arithmetic reveals that for a two-year-old, the next year will represent 33% of his life thus far, whereas for a 19-year-old, the next year represents 5%, and for a 39-year-old, only 2.5%. This, you may say, is rather obvious.

More than anything else, the young child’s perceptions influence how he experiences life. He has few markers that delineate the passage of time. On the first of each month, he pays no rent or mortgage. He has no job, and does not commute.

He is likely to be regularly clothed, bathed, and cared for. The child arises each day with no agenda, no “to do” list. He experiences hunger, irritation, and sleepiness. He has some favorite activities — his major activity is play.

Outside information comes to him from his parents or other “tall” sources such as the big, bright, talking box in the living room; or toys — musical, speaking, and otherwise. He anticipates activities such as lunch at the well-lit fast food restaurant.

Each day brings new wonders, giggles, whimpers. Meanwhile, he has no report to finish, no checkbook to balance, no cross-town meetings. He does not even wear a watch.

Your life is a bit more complicated, and is related increasingly to how society has become more complex. Independent of who you are or what you do for a living, chances are that you’re busy and are a part of our active, generally hard-working population.

If you continually feel pressured, don’t take it personally. You are experiencing the same dilemma as millions of other people, and you are part of the most time-pressed society in history. From fast food counter clerks, to high-powered executives, to retirees, few people have what they consider to be breathing space — to reflect, unwind, truly relax, or simply be.

This moment, you are being bombarded on all sides. The “intake overload” wreaks havoc on the receptive capacities of the unwary. Yet you can break away from the pack that idly ingests the information, noise and garbage that comes its way.

Having grappled with the perils of a high-pressured existence, I’ve found that it is essential to understand how we got to our current, hectic state of affairs.

Civilization 101: The Short Course

Now then ... Civilization thus far has witnessed four major ages, including the age of hunting and gathering, the age of agriculture, the age of industry and the emerging information age. I say “emerging” because it hasn’t arrived yet. We’ve only danced around the periphery in a nether land I call the “over-information era.”

Our orientation to time and distance has constantly changed over the ages, but never so markedly as in the last few decades, with the emergence of the information age.

As a species, we live longer. The life span of the average cave man was 19. The life expectancy in Europe in
1392 was 38. The life span in America in 1892 was 49. Today it is 72 for American men, 77 for women, and quickly rising for both sexes. Yet most days race by.

The faster we’re able to travel or to gain new information the greater our expectations regarding what can and needs to be accomplished in our lives. We all seek to do more. The last words of Cecil John Rhodes, spoken at the start of the 20th century, have become ingrained in our social consciousness. “So little done — so much to do.”

A day is still 24 hours but it seems to shrink in the face of more to do or higher expectations about what has to be done. In such a flurry, it is all too easy today to lose sight of the “big picture” of where your career or life is heading.

Taking Time to Reflect and Choose

What are the best times to reflect on the course of your life? Whenever you are near water, including the ocean or a quiet pond or even a small stream, usually a good time to reflect on the big picture. Bodies of water, particularly if they are moving, help to stimulate your creative thought process.

Similarly, if you are near a fireplace or even a candle, while the flames tend to have a calming effect, they also help you to reflect on what is really important and what you want to be doing more often. The brilliant, quiet stillness of a candle flame can have an anxiety-reducing effect on your entire being.

Believe it or not, you can actually choose to feel comfortable about how you spend your time. Philosophically, but also practically speaking, to this minute in your life you did indeed have enough time to accomplish everything you accomplished. And that’s been quite a lot. When you choose to feel comfortable about how you spend your time, it immediately helps to reduce anxiety.

You can also choose to feel good about your accomplishment. To bemoan the fact that you have only accomplished so much by such and such a time, or such and such an age, is to remain in a perpetual state of discontent. Feel good about what you have accomplished and look forward to what you will accomplish, and you will have a greater sense of control of the time in your life.

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IN MEMORIAM

Ill.: and Rev. John G. Fleck, 33°

Ill.:, and Rev. John G. Fleck, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member and former Grand Prior of the Supreme Council, died on February 10 at 100 years of age. He graduated from Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Theological Seminary, Ill.:. Brother Fleck was ordained to the ministry of the Lutheran Church in America in 1913. He was pastor to St. John’s Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Md. (1915-29) and Parkside Lutheran Church, Buffalo, N.Y. (1935-59).

After his retirement to Buffalo in 1959, he moved to Boston to accept a position on the Supreme Council staff as an Assistant to the Sovereign Grand Commander, Associate Grand Prior, and editor of the Supreme Council Newsletter. The Newsletter had been started by his predecessor, Ill.:, and Rev. McLaughlin. Fleck carried on the tradition of providing an inspirational message on the first page of each issue.

Following the death of Dr. Lichter in 1961, Dr. Fleck was appointed Grand Prior. He continued in that position until 1975, although he completed his editorship of the Newsletter with the introduction of The Northern Light in January 1970.

In 1981, he and his wife Mary took up residence at a retirement complex in Holland, Pa. Mrs. Fleck predeceased him in 1988. They had no children.

While in Buffalo and Boston areas he had regularly attended the Rotary Club and continued his interest as a Rotarian in Pennsylvania. In 1991, he received the Paul Harris Fellow Award, one of Rotary International’s highest honors.

Last summer, at 99 years of age, he was the oldest participant in the U.S. National Senior Sports Classic at Syracuse, N.Y., and received gold medals for race walking and swimming.

Dr. Fleck was raised a Master Mason in Good Samaritan Lodge No. 336, Gettysburg, Pa., in 1915, and transferred to Sharon Lodge No. 182, Baltimore, in 1925.

A member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Buffalo, he served its Consistory as Prior from 1931-39. He was also a member of the York Rite.

He received the 33° in 1955, was crowned an Active Member-at-large in 1966, and became an Active Emeritus Member in 1967.
Play Ball, Brother!

An All-Star Masonic Baseball Team

By JOSEPH E. BENNETT, 33°

Recently, while thumbing through reference material, I came across an old old article from the *Royal Arch Mason* magazine authored by the late Brother Jerry Erikson of the Valley of Pasadena, Calif. It contained a list of 710 baseball players who had been members of our fraternity. As I scanned the long list, my memory reverted to the early 1930's and my birthplace in Clarion, Pennsylvania.

During those early years, baseball was a passion. We played from early spring until first snow. *The Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, our morning newspaper, carried daily box scores of every major league team playing the previous day. Like most of my friends, I could recite the batting average of virtually any major league player.

The arrival of winter always signalled the end of baseball for the year. In order to entertain myself with something akin to playing ball, I devised a game with which I passed many hours during those long winter days.

I drew a large circle on a white pine board from the end of a Blue Goose orange crate, and whittled a small spinning pointer for the center. Dividing the circle into numerous segments and marking various baseball plays on each, I could spin the pointer and record the play on a line score sheet. Taking care to indicate more outs than hits, it was simple to simulate an actual game score.

The game was simplicity itself, but it had the flexibility for one to play alone, or with a partner. Naturally, I provided myself with a variety of line-ups composed of favorite major league players; even maintaining batting averages over the winter. In the days of the Great Depression, it was entertainment that cost nothing and was fun.

Memories of that long-forgotten game rushed back when I read some of the old familiar names. I never realized so many of those illustrious stars were Freemasons, nor that three of the first five selected for the Baseball Hall of Fame were members of the fraternity — Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson, and Tris Speaker.

Savoring the moment, it was only a short time before I had selected two teams, one from the American League and another made up of players from the National League.

Of course, the selection of a Masonic "dream team" is always subject to discussion, and mine will probably be no different. Some "should-have-beens" were surely overlooked.

In the selection, I allowed myself the latitude to choose players who did not play during the same time frame. In at least one instance, a player was selected (Rogers Hornsby) who spent more years in the opposing league. Nevertheless, it is my "dream team," made of of Masons — and most of them have long ago been voted into the Hall of Fame. They were all tremendous athletes, and the majority maintained a batting average well over .300 for an entire career. The pitchers, without exception, posted winning lifetime records, and some sentimental favorites were chosen as indicated by several Pittsburgh Pirates in the lineup.

An obvious initial nominee for this group is James Emory (Jimmy) Foxx, the gifted first baseman developed by Connie Mack with his old Philadelphia Athletics. Foxx, born in Sudlersville, Md., on October 22, 1907, was a member of George W. Bartram Lodge No. 298 in Media, Pa. Old "Double XX" boasted a lifetime batting average of...
.325, with a best-year average of .364 achieved in 1932. He had a total of 573 career home-runs, hitting 58 in 1932 and 50 in 1938. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1951.

**William Harold (Memphis Bill) Terry** was an elegant first baseman for the New York Giants from 1923-36, and player-manager from 1932 until his retirement. Terry was born in Atlanta, Ga., on October 30, 1898. He reached the select circle of .400 hitters in 1930, posting a season average of .410 in 154 games. His lifetime average was .341. Terry was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1954, and was a member of Park Avenue Lodge No. 362, in Memphis, Tenn.

**Edward Trowbridge (Cocky Eddie) Collins** was one of the outstanding second basemen of all time. He was born at Millerton, N.Y., on May 2, 1887, and was initiated in Solomon’s Lodge No. 466 at Tarrytown, N.Y., in 1911. His career was a long one, from 1906 through 1930, and during that time he amassed a total of 3,313 hits in 2,826 games. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1939. His life batting average was .333 and he was second to Ty Cobb in total stolen bases. Collins played for the Athletics from 1906-14, and the Chicago White Sox from 1915-26. He managed the Chicago team in 1925 and 1926, in addition to playing second base. He concluded his career with the Philadelphia Athletics, playing from 1927-30.

**Frank Francis (Frankie) Frisch**, born September 8, 1898, in New York City, starred for many years in the National League. His long career began in 1914 with the New York Giants and concluded with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1937, where he had functioned as player-manager since 1933. Frisch joined the Cardinals in 1927 and sparked the team for many years, amassing a lifetime batting average of .316 during a total of 2,311 games. Although his high yearly average was .348 in 1923, it was not enough to win the batting championship that year. Frisch was a member of Beacon Lodge No. 3 in Hazelwood, Mo. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1947.

**Rogers (the Rajah) Hornsby** was a baseball superstar and one of the greatest hitters of all time. His career spanned 23 years, from 1915-37, the last five of which were spent with the St. Louis Browns as player-manager. An infielder, primarily identified with second base, he established his great record with the bat during 2,259 ball games. His lifetime batting average was .358, second only to Ty Cobb, at the time, with a personal high of .424 posted in 1924. He posted a season average of .401 in 1922. Hornsby was a National Leaguer until he joined the Browns in mid-season in 1933. A record of importance is his home run total, which stands at 302. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1942. He joined Beacon Lodge No. 3 in Hazelwood, Mo., although he was born in Winters, Texas, on April 27, 1896.

**John Peter (Honus) Wagner** was a ballplayer of awesome accomplishments. Many maintain that he was one of the finest all-around men to ever play the game, and certainly rates serious consideration. He was born in Carnegie, Pa., on February 24, 1874, and became a member of Centennial Lodge No. 544 in his home town. Wagner began his career with Louisville in 1897 and joined the Pittsburgh Pirates for the 1900 season, the team he stayed with during his entire career. He retired at the end of the 1917 season, with a career batting average of .329, and a total of 3,340 base hits. He spent the rest of his active life as a coach for his beloved Pirates, where he became a Pittsburgh institution. He played in a total of 2,785 games, and realized his career-high during the 1905 season of .363. Wagner was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1936.

**Joseph Wheeler (Joe) Sewell** was a star infielder for the Cleveland Indians and New York Yankees from 1920-33, closing his record with a lifetime average of .312. His best year was in 1923, when he hit .353, although he exceeded the .300 mark in 10 of his 14 years in the major leagues. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1977. Sewell was born in Titus, Ala., on October 9, 1889, and was a member of Rising Virtue Lodge No. 4, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**Harold Joseph (Pie) Traynor** was a stellar third baseman for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1920-37, and served as player-manager in 1933, 1934, and 1937. He continued as non-playing manager in 1936, 1938, and 1939. During his outstanding career, he posted a batting average of .320, with a single-season high in 1930 of .366. Traynor was selected for the Hall of Fame in 1948. He was born in Framingham, Mass., on October 24, 1900, and held membership in John Abbott Lodge, Somerville, Mass.

One of the finest outfielders of all time, a classic "ballhawk," was **Tristam E. (Tris) Speaker**, a native Texan, born at Hubbard on April 4, 1888. His career covered the years from 1907-28.

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Continued on page 12
and reflected a total of 2,789 games in which he amassed an average of .344. His highest single-year mark was in 1925, when he posted a .389. His career, with the exception of the last two years, was spent with the Boston Red Sox and the Cleveland Indians. His record of 3,515 hits over his career is among the best on record. He was named to the Hall of Fame in 1937. Speaker was a member of Hubbard City Lodge No. 530 in the town of his birth.

Another outfielder of great merit was Roger Maxwell (Doc) Cramer, a product of the memorable Connie Mack organization, the Philadelphia Athletics. Cramer was a talented clutch hitter and is remembered for his classy work in the outfield during a long career that covered the years from 1929-48. He was part of a sensational sale of players to the Boston Red Sox that saw Jimmy Foxx, Lefty Grove, and Doc Cramer included in the package, way back in 1936. His career batting average was .296, with his high-year mark of .336 achieved in 1932. Doc was born in Beach Haven, N.J., on July 22, 1906. He became a member of Mariners Lodge No. 150, in Barnegat, N.J.

Quite naturally, the name of Tyus Raymond (Ty) Cobb conjures an image of immortality. Probably the greatest ball player who ever lived, in the estimation of a majority of fans, he was affectionately labeled "the Georgia Peach." Cobb was born in Narrows, Banks County, Ga., on December 18, 1886. His long career extended from 1905-28, and produced a tremendous string of records. He boasted a career batting average of .367, including three seasons in which he exceeded the elusive .400 mark. He batted .420 in 1911, .410 in 1912, and .401 in 1912. He was a member of Rosyton Lodge No. 52, Royston, Ga., and a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Detroit. Cobb played a total of 3,033 games, with five seasons (1921-26) as player-manager of the Detroit Tigers. In 1926, Ty was the first member selected for the Baseball Hall of Fame. He accumulated a total of 4,191 hits during his 24-year career, closing it with the Philadelphia Athletics with a .323 batting average at the age of 41 years. Ty Cobb was a fierce competitor, famous for his vicious slides and aggressive base-running. The stories are endless concerning his prickly personality and sharp tongue.

My first selection for the National League outfielder is Lewis Robert (Hack) Wilson. He was a native of Pennsylvania, born at Elwood City on April 26, 1900. He played with four National League teams during his 11-year career, but is remembered primarily for his great years with the Chicago Cubs, where he belted 56 home runs in 1938. He closed his career, 1923-39, with a lifetime average of .307. Wilson was a member of Perseverence Lodge No. 973, Chicago, which survives today as Cornerstone Lodge No. 875. Hack Wilson was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1979.

Turning to the Pittsburgh Pirates for two outfield selections, I have chosen both Waner brothers, Paul and Lloyd. Paul (Big Poison) Glee Waner, the older of the pair, was born on April 16, 1903, at Harrah, Okla. His long career was spent primarily in Pittsburgh, where he became one of the most fearsome batters of the National League. He posted a lifetime batting average of .333, covering the years 1926-45. His mark of .380 in 1927 was his best year at the plate. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1952.

Brother Lloyd (Little Poison) James Waner spent his career in the shadow of his talented brother, but was a premier hitter and fielder in his own right. Lloyd was born at Harrah, Okla., on March 16, 1906. His career batting average was .316, with his best year average of .362 posted in 1930. He played from 1927-45. Both brothers were members of Ada Lodge No. 119, in Ada, Okla. Lloyd made the Hall of Fame in 1967.

Catching was my first love, and I idolized major league catchers during those early years. I won an essay contest in 1933 for describing, in 250 words or less, why I liked to play my favorite position. The Kraft Cheese Company awarded a baseball autographed by Carl Hubbell as one of the winning prizes. This treasure, too, remains an important milestone in my storehouse of childhood memories. permitting me to identify vicariously with the likes of Gordon Stanley (Mickey) Cochrane. Mickey carved out a glorious career with the old Philadelphia Athletics, and later the Detroit Tigers. His career began in 1925 and extended through 1937, when an injury forced his retirement. Cochrane posted a lifetime average of .320, one of the best among American League catchers. He served as player-manager of the Detroit Tigers in 1934-37, and as non-playing manager in 1938. His best hitting year was in 1930, when he posted a mark of .357. It was a great year for both he and the Athletics. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1947. Cochrane was born in Bridgewater, Mass., on April 6, 1903, and was a member of Fellowship Lodge in his home town.

The National League catcher for my "dream team" is James (Jimmy) Wilson, another sentimental favorite. He possessed outstanding ability to handle pitchers and distinguished himself as a manager, too. Wilson was born in Philadelphia on July 23, 1900, and played many years in his home city with the Phillies, including five as player-manager. He also managed the Chicago Cubs from 1941-44. His active playing years covered the period from 1923-40, during which he scored a career batting average of .284. His best year at bat was in 1929, when he posted a .325, catching for the St. Louis Cardinals. Wilson was a member of E. Copper Mitchell Lodge No. 605, which eventually emerged as William B. Hackenburg-Mount Moriah Lodge No. 155 in 1986, in Philadelphia, Pa. Wilson is not regarded primarily for his batting prowess, but the other attributes which made him an invaluable star of the National League.

Continued on page 26
What Generation Gap?
A 93-year-old Ohio Mason teaches teenage students the basics

By AL KESSLER, 32

As Neil McCoy enters the classroom, silence falls among the students. At age 93, Neil is there to tutor students in mathematics. When the master picks up the chalk and turns to the blackboard, you can hear a pin drop.

For Brother McCoy, the generation gap is no barrier. In recent years he has volunteered his time at Norway High School in Creston, Ohio, to work with students who need extra help in a particular subject. His preference is math, but he also can tutor other subjects.

One of his former students who later served with him on the school board convinced him to offer his services. A notice was posted that a tutor would be available, and the students who needed extra help took advantage of the opportunity.

When he speaks, they listen. More importantly, they learn.

Every Tuesday he drives from his farm in Seville to the Wayne County high school. He is apt to be found at the school more than once a week whenever the need occurs.

Who is this man who commands such attention and respect that students come to him voluntarily?

Neil McCoy was born in Sterling, Ohio, about two miles from where he now lives. He began school in a three-room building that housed all 12 grades. There were two teachers. Neil was in the 1915 graduation class which contained three men, two of which are still living. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1921 from the College of Agriculture. He returned to receive a degree in education in 1923.

When he started teaching that fall, teachers were assigned subjects by the Superintendent. Neil covered the sciences, industrial arts, and mathematics. One year he was assigned to teach English literature.

In 1934 he quit teaching to join the CCC, and the following year became a farm planner. He “sold” farmers the ideas of contour strip cropping, crop rotation and the use of fertilizers. His territory included Pomeroy, Middleport, Marietta and Chillicothe.

In 1937 Pomeroy, Ohio, was flooded by the Ohio River. At one point, 17½ feet of water covered the main street. Responding to this emergency Neil set up a headquarters in the Sheriff’s office and men from the CCC camp helped move household items to higher ground. As a result of their help not one item of furniture was lost.

Neil eventually became superintendent of the camp and in 1940 he moved to Indiana to supervise a camp for conscientious objectors. In 1944 he served as inventory clerk for the Ohio Salt Company in Rittman, Ohio.

In 1946 he became a member of the Board of Education and in 1956 he reentered the teaching profession and there he remained until he retired in 1963.

After his retirement at age 64 he began remodeling his home. Neil used his own carpentry shop and did all the work himself.

He was initiated in 1943 in Seville (Ohio) Lodge No. 74, where his father was Master, one brother was Senior Warden and his other brother was Junior Warden. Neil carried on the family tradition by serving as Master of the lodge in 1948, 1961 and 1991. In 1991 he was the oldest presiding Master in Ohio.
Red Fez

Fun with a serious purpose

The red fez with the black tassel has become a symbol of fun and charity. Nearly 720,000 Shriners wear the fez proudly. The public recognizes the fez from the many appearances in parades — marching units, bands, cycles, unique cars, clowns, horses, and more.

The participants all appear to be having fun — and smiling with pride. But the real pride is in the charitable work the Shriners have supported for more than 70 years.

The present-day Shrine was conceived by two Scottish Rite Masons who met in New York City. William J. Florence was an actor; Dr. Walter M. Fleming was a surgeon. Together they rounded up others and established the first Shrine Temple in New York City in 1872, using an Arabic (Near East) theme. The red fez derives its name from the place where it was first manufactured — the holy city of Fez, Morocco.

Today there are 191 Shrine Temples throughout North America governed by an Imperial Council now based in Tampa, Florida.

In 1920, it was decided to establish a Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, and each member would be assessed $2. One hospital turned into a chain of hospitals, and by 1962 included units for burns victims. Now there are 19 orthopedic units and three burns institutes. These hospitals have
treated nearly 450,000 children — absolutely free of charge to the patients and their parents. They help children who have problems of the bones, joints or muscles or who have been severely burned. Three of the hospitals also specialize in treating children with spinal cord injuries.

Most of the hospitals are also actively engaged in research, striving to find cures to crippling childhood diseases and better treatments for burn injuries.

The philanthropy is often called “the heart and soul of the Shrine.”

The results of the Shriners’ efforts are reflected in the faces of the youngsters who have been treated at one of the hospitals.

From the beginning, the founders set a policy that one could only be a Shriners if he were a York Rite Knight Templar or a 32° Scottish Rite Mason.

Further information about the Shriners Hospitals or Shrine membership is available from the International Shrine headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.
Teddy’s Bear

How a grizzly beast turned into a cuddly companion

By ROBERT E. CRAMER, 33°

For nearly 90 years the most popular stuffed animal toy in America has been the Teddy Bear.

Many readers will recall that in their early childhood years they retired each night with a cuddly Teddy Bear in his or her arms. Those who are parents have memories of these toy animals being purchased for Santa Claus to leave under the Christmas tree.

Quite possibly some reader may still have his furry friend of long ago - a chewed ear or a missing button for an eye - stored away in an attic chest.

Just as there are adults who collect dolls so it is not beyond the realm of possibility that a reader may have a collection of Teddy Bears. According to a report of the National Geographic Society published in November 1971, the Teddy Bear is the world’s most popular stuffed toy.

The popularity of the Teddy Bear, particularly in American culture, traces its origin to a tale about a Masonic brother who occupied the White House - Theodore Roosevelt.

In November 1902, in the early months of his presidency, he was called upon to settle a boundary dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana. The nation already knew Roosevelt as a Rough Rider in Cuba, a lover of the out-of-doors, and a hunter of big game on the North American continent. After the arbitration was over, after he had drawn a new boundary line, a bear-hunting trip in Mississippi was arranged for this distinguished guest so that he could kill at least one bear. Unfortunately, no bears made an appearance.

In their frantic efforts to make the President’s trip a memorable one, his hosts finally rounded up a lone cub and chased it to within the President’s shooting range. But when this renowned sportsman, this rancher who a few years before had narrowly escaped the fury of a grizzly, beheld this innocent cub, he refused to shoot it.

There is another version of this part of the story. It was not a cub; instead, one of the guides had rounded up a large black bear entangled in ropes and chased by dogs.

Regardless of the size of the bear the hunting trip was not a happy experience for the President. In a letter dated November 24, 1902, to his friend, Philip Steward, Roosevelt wrote. “I have just had a most unsatisfactory experience on a bear hunt in Mississippi. There were plenty of bears and if I had gone alone or with one companion I could have gotten one or two.” The problem, according to the President, was that there were too many in the party; it was more like a picnic than a hunt.

The press had great fun with this story, even though they were not allowed to accompany the President on the hunt.

It was a cartoonist, however, who perpetuated the incident into a page of American history. Clifford K. Berryman of the Washington Post drew a cartoon with the caption, “Drawing the Line in Mississippi.” It showed Roosevelt in his hunting gear with gun in one hand and the other hand held high. His back is turned on a guide standing a few feet behind, restraining the cub on the ground, ready for the President to shoot the animal.

The cartoon had a double meaning. Roosevelt had drawn the boundary line between the two states but he had also drawn another line. He refused to shoot that helpless baby bear.

Berryman’s cartoon was borrowed by other newspapers and soon appeared across the nation, seen by thousands of readers.

Although the cartoonist was not on the hunt, he knew the President well. The famous cartoon that is frequently reprinted is actually not the one that appeared on November 16, 1902. The original showed a larger bear, but when copies were requested, Berryman apparently prepared a second version showing a cub.

The minor incident on a November day nearly 90 years ago had far reaching consequences, far beyond the imagination of the cartoonist or the President. It marked the birth of the Teddy Bear and the Teddy Bear craze throughout this century. The stuffed animal has attracted the attention of not only small tots but also admirers of all ages.

There was even a Teddy Bear joke: “If Theodore is a President of America with his clothes on, what is he with them off? Teddy bare.”

Of the thousands of readers who enjoyed the cartoon by Berryman one was a Russian immigrant, Morris Michiom, a confectioner. As a Russian he came from a tradition which was fond of bears. In Russian literature a pet bear was frequently called...
"Mishka." Historians and journalists continue to speak of that large country as the Russian Bear.

Michom had an idea. He persuaded his wife to cut out a pattern of a small bear from brown plush material and stuff it. Their little candy shop in Brooklyn featured candy and homemade toys. He placed the stuffed toy in his shop window along with Berryman's cartoon. With these two items he placed a small placard reading 'Teddy's Bear.' The toy was soon sold; it was replaced with a second one which likewise had a quick sale. The bears continued to sell and the Michom became still more grateful for having come to America.

Mr. Michom surmized that he had a bonanza. He mailed one of the stuffed bears along with a letter to Roosevelt, a man whom he greatly admired, asking permission to call his new toy a Teddy Bear.

According to Morris Michom's son, Theodore Roosevelt replied on White House stationery stating that he did not think his name would have any sales value, but if Michom wanted to call the stuffed toy a Teddy Bear, he had no objection. Unfortunately, this letter from the President has disappeared from the family files.

Michom's next step was to have his wife sew several samples. He sent one, along with a copy of Roosevelt's letter, to a Mr. Schoomaker, buyer for Butler Brothers, a large wholesale house that dealt in toys and novelties. The result was the Butler Brothers placed a large order and continued to buy all that Michom could manufacture. In 1907 Michom incorporated his business into the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company, and in 1938 the name of the company became The Ideal Toy Corporation.

At that time it was not possible to patent a trade name, consequently other toy companies began manufacturing Teddy Bears.

The next time you see a Teddy Bear there will be a new dimension to your memory. It will recall one of the truly great men in American history — one of the four Presidents carved on Mount Rushmore.

It will recall for you a man who as a child and adolescent suffered from severe attacks of bronchial asthma as well as stomach upsets and headaches. He was also near-sighted. When he set off for Harvard at 18 he was so frail — he weighed only 125 pounds — that his parents thought it best that he live in an apartment near the campus rather than in a dormitory.

When he was 23 this youth, no longer suffering from asthma, was elected to the New York state assembly; he was the youngest member. In that same year his first book was published.

When he was 26 his first wife and his mother died on the same day and in the same house in New York City.

Before he was 28 he had written two more books on hunting in the West. When he was 30 he was appointed Civil Service Commissioner. When he was not yet 40 he led his men up San Juan Hill.

When he returned from Cuba a hero, it was not long until he was elected governor of New York. He was still under 40. He did not complete his term as governor because he was nominated and elected Vice President of the United States at the age of 42. A year later, because of the assassination of President William McKinley, Roosevelt became President.

It was during his administration that construction of the Panama Canal began, that the Reclamation Act was passed which resulted in the construction of the Roosevelt Dam and the irrigation of lands in the Southwest, that the National Forests were increased from 43 million acres to 194 million, and that five National Parks were created.

President Roosevelt was a member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, New York, and the Scottish Rite Valley of Washington, D.C.

Incidentally, cartoonist Clifford Berryman, also a Mason, was a member of Temple Noyes Lodge No. 32, Washington, D.C.
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18 THE NORTHERN LIGHT / MAY 1992
The charcoal story and outdoor cookery

The warm breezes of spring are with us, many of them filled with the aroma of food cooking over charcoal.

Oddly, Henry Ford is credited with developing this most-popular fuel for outdoor cooking. Ford was unhappy with the huge piles of wood scrap outside a sawmill he operated for automobile production. He found a method of converting the wood chips into charcoal. His first charcoal factory was unveiled in 1922. With some updating, Ford's method of changing scrap wood to charcoal is still in use.

There are well over 100 million backyard grills operating during the summers of North America. It's the most popular form of home entertaining.

Some attribute the phenomenon to George Stephen who, in 1951, employed Weber Brothers Metal Works to create a covered grill for his personal use. The weatherproof device stopped flare-ups that burned his steaks, and Stephen was so pleased he bought out Weber and began manufacturing the "Weber Kettle."

Today cookouts are a social event often with guests joining in to contribute their personal expertise and advice.

The rites of summer are returning. Backyard cookouts will again spark camaraderie, family togetherness and friendship — plus very tasty fare.

Who's washing the dishes?

Housework sharing agreements between working couples either crumble with time, or simply revert to traditional gender patterns, particularly after childbirth. Women do routine child care, cleaning and cooking, while men do traditionally masculine tasks like auto maintenance, lawn work, and paying bills. Men would have to reallocate over 60% of their family work time to other tasks to erase gender segmentation, according to a study published in the Journal of Family Issues.

Traditional work roles endure because they seem more efficient to many couples, according to studies by the University of Oklahoma.

Prevention is best for home protection

When thieves enter your home, they steal something even more valuable than property: peace of mind. According to government statistics, over one in three home robberies occur during morning hours when people are at work and children are at school.

The best protection is prevention. Here are five recommended steps you can take.

- Protect entrances. Install deadbolt locks.
- Make your home visible. Don't let bushes cover windows, or let fences obscure the view of the property from the street.
- Install an alarm. Some basic systems cost as little as $400. Economical systems sound an alarm, and more expensive units also automatically call police.
- Don't tell your vacation plans. Rather than having mail and newspapers stopped, ask a neighbor to pick up papers. Thieves often hear about your absence when others mention that you are gone.

Needs vs. wants

Being a good parent, says family psychologist John Rosemond, doesn't have to be overly time consuming and emotionally draining. It's a practical process that can tolerate lots of error and still turn out well.

Make choices between what a child needs and what a child wants, separating the necessary from the unnecessary.

To a child, want and need feel the same. Parents must draw a clear line. It's best to be conservative in satisfying wants.

Once you have decided what needs really are, you can work on your obligation as a parent to give children all they need, along with a small amount of what they want.

If you give kids too much, they have very little to figure out on their own.

As a parent your main purpose is to slowly but surely help your children develop lives of their own. Remember that independence is a process, not an event that suddenly happens. Always encourage children to confront reality.

When parents meet all of a child's needs and deny most of his or her wants, they provide the child with incredible self-sufficiency, says Dr. Rosemond in his book Ending the Homework Hassle (Andrews/McMeel $8.95). Then the child develops self-esteem which leads to success where others may fail for lack of resourcefulness and purpose.

"The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple."

MAY 1992 / THE NORTHERN LIGHT 19
**Sixguns and Masons**, by Joseph E. Bennett. Copyright 1991. 124 pp. Published by Anchor Communications, P.O. Box 70, Highland Springs, VA 23075. $15.

*Sixguns and Masons* is authored by the same III. Joseph E. Bennett, 33°, as was *Music, Mason, Music*, which I reviewed in the February issue of *The Northern Light*. In this volume, III. Brother Bennett relates the role of a number of Freemasons who were instrumental in the bringing of justice to the “old West.” They were instrumental because of their involvement in the leadership of the Texas Rangers.

When reading this volume, you are sure to discover names which are recognizable to most Americans not because of the great diverse historic role they played but because of their short-term specific role in American history. Pat Garrett, John William Poe and Dallas Stoudenmire are names many Americans have encountered at one time or another. There are others who are not as well known but nonetheless important for the functions they performed during this period of history.

In addition, there are yet other names which are probably even more recognizable because their owners were on the other side of the law and, because of it, came in contact with the Texas Rangers —men like Billy the Kid, Sam Bass and John Wesley Hardin. I find it interesting and I guess regrettable that the names of the outlaws are more immortal than the names of the lawmen.

This volume also discusses specific events in the settlement of Texas which are probably well known to those living in that area but were new to me. The reading of these events was nonetheless interesting because of my ignorance of them. The Hoodoo War, the El Paso Salt War and the Horrell-Higgins Feud are all events which affected the settlement of the West and involved the Texas Rangers.

As in *Music, Mason, Music*, Bennett makes no attempt to disguise traits within the characters which would not give any reason for Masonic pride. However, it is evident that if Masonry did not affect the general character of these men, the character they possessed probably attracted them to Freemasonry.

I found this book, as I did *Music, Mason, Music*, to be enjoyable light reading. One interesting observation to me was that there seemed to be a marked diversity in style between the two books. After reading a portion of it, I had to go back to make sure that the same author wrote both books. I frankly felt that this volume was of better quality. This may or may not be the result of different editing techniques or personnel. I recommend it.

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I doubt that the mind could create an imaginary environment which would contain a greater diversity of human expression than did the period in history spanning the 200 years of the Crusades. The era is filled with examples of devotion, dedication and an unrelenting commitment to duty. It is also permeated with distrust, treachery, deceit and barbarism. It is a fascinating story filled with non-ending intrigue.

_Dungeon, Fire and Sword_, a book written by the author of *Born in Blood*, is a chronological revelation of the Knights Templar and their relationship with this period in history. The author, as he has acknowledged, ignores their roles as bankers and farmers and concentrates upon their role as warrior monks.

This volume traces the history of these Templars from their inception as an order through the efforts of Urban II answerable to no authority other than the Pope, through their participation as probably the most highly militarily-trained participants in the Crusades to their final destruction by the very agency to whom they dedicated and gave their lives.

Man’s greatest inhumanity to man has always seemed to be tied to religious fervor, and the actions of the participants in the Crusades on all sides (and there were many), including the Knights Templar, reveal this inhumanity. Treachery and deceit appear to be the norm, and a difficulty I encountered in reading this text was trying to keep track of who was betraying whom. Christian cooperated with Christian, and Muslim with Muslim, only when it best suited their need. When the need was otherwise, it was not unusual for Muslim and Christian to unite against other Muslims and Christians.

It is significant that the Knights Templar, although playing a major role in the Crusades, constituted a small percentage of the participants at any given time. While the Templars were generally counted only in the hundreds, there were times when Christian combatants exceeded one hundred thousand. These other participants were recruited by Kings, Lords and the Church to participate in the Crusades, all with a promise of absolution of sin and the guarantee of salvation. The Royalty benefited by the acquisition of new territory and the Church by strengthening their autocratic authority and papal supremacy.
When the need for the Crusades ceased to exist, the need for the Templars ceased to exist, and the great wealth they had amassed became a point of envy and covetousness which ultimately led to their destruction as an order. This destruction culminated with their barbaric persecution from 1307-14 and the final burning at the stake of their four chief officers.

The book provides a fascinating review of the period and specifically as it relates to the Templars. Robinson draws no moral conclusions, and history affords no blanket of ethical practice to any participant. It is noteworthy that time has failed to quell the turmoil of the region to this day.

There will be detractors who will question the historical accuracy of this narrative and, perhaps, justifiably so. It is not my position, however, due to lack of knowledge, to deal with the accuracy of a publication. Historians have consistently disagreed with one another on given subjects, and there were none of us there to verify the truth.

I did encounter difficulty in following the activity of the number of participants involved. Footnotes are not included but the author gives reason for their exclusion in the introduction.

This volume provided to me the opportunity to learn, not only about the Knights Templar and the Crusades, but also much more than I ever knew about Islam and Islamic history. It does not involve Freemasonry, although it provides a good preface to Born in Blood. For those with an interest in history, and specifically medieval history, reading it is a must.

The first book I reviewed when assuming the position of book reviewer for The Northern Light was Born in Blood by John J. Robinson. I asked specifically of the editor that I be permitted to submit this as my first review because my opinion was different from that of some of my colleagues who reviewed this volume.

I have reviewed no book since that has generated as much response as has Born in Blood. In my review I questioned some points of accuracy as well as some conclusions, but I found the book to be highly stimulating and recommended it to our members as being worthwhile reading. As a result of the review, I encountered a number of readers who disagreed with this conclusion and recommendation. Since that time, some have commented that I was, to the opposite extreme, a little harsh with my review.

Of a far greater concern to me was the initial negative reaction which the book generated in many Masonic circles, not with its quality or content but because it presents a theory which disagreed with the accepted origin of the craft. I was much dismayed by this almost bitter type of negativism the book generated. There can be little value at any time in attempting to close the door to knowledge, and whether we agree or disagree, accept or reject, the written word is knowledge. I was amazed to learn that there were actually members of our craft who proposed putting Born in Blood on a prohibited reading list. This book was merely offering an alternative theory.

It is my opinion that Mr. Robinson, as the author of Born in Blood, has been one of the greatest forces to hit the Masonic fraternity in all of the past 50 years and perhaps longer. Fortunately for Freemasonry, the impact has been a positive one. Disregarding those of our membership who disagree with the theories promulgated by Mr. Robinson pertaining to our origin, any impact that I have been able to observe has been to our benefit.

Since I reviewed the book, I have had the opportunity of speaking with Mr. Robinson on a number of occasions. I have also enjoyed being in his company where I have been able to sit and discuss not only the book but also his feelings on Freemasonry in general. I have never failed to experience a stimulating discussion while sharing his thoughts.

Almost all exposure afforded to Freemasonry in recent years, either in print or in the medium of radio or TV, has been negative. I have listened to several audio tapes of his interviews and debates on public radio networks, and every presentation has been positive for the fraternity. Even though the programs have been designed to discuss the book, most calls received by the stations were for information on Freemasonry. The only public voices normally heard are those who object. John Robinson is one of the very few who support.

Mr. Robinson has the advantage of being able to debate our detractors as a non-Mason and, therefore, add a degree of credibility which we could not achieve as members of the craft. With this credibility and the simple added advantage of a good knowledge of the Middle Ages, John Robinson has been significantly more capable of debating John Ankerberg, Ralph Ep- person and others who have been our most outspoken critics.

Perhaps the reaction to this publication may be indicative of one of Freemasonry's greater problems today — our inability to recognize the need of and the ability to accept change in any form. We must recognize the need for stability where stability is required. We must recognize, acknowledge and protect our basic philosophy and fundamental principles which have made Freemasonry what it is.

We must also, however, be flexible enough to recognize the need to adapt to a changing environment when it is necessary for success and indeed perhaps survival. To look upon a theory and disregard it without consideration or reject knowledge because it fails to fit into the accepted niche which we have created or have had created for us is to perpetuate doom. A new concept of our origin cannot harm us. Our history has been indicative of an inherent strength to combat far greater threats to our integrity than a new concept of our origin. In fact, if this theory were to be proved, it would probably be a benefit to us.

I look upon John Robinson and the impact that he has created both within the fraternity and upon those outside of it to be a bright light of opportunity. I frankly have seen few within the craft with the potential to create as much positive influence as has the author of Born in Blood.
Personal Finance

Tips for handling your money

Credit card cash advance: A very expensive loan

Often people feel that available credit on their credit cards is a source of emergency money they can count on. It is (if you haven’t used all available credit by then), but it makes a very costly loan.

Interest rates on cash advances are up to twice as much as rates now charged by a bank or credit union. And card issuers may charge $10 or more as a cash advance fee in addition to the interest. Further, cardholders may take the advance at a time when they can least afford these high costs.

Credit counselors say it’s much wiser to create an emergency fund of savings for unexpected expenses. Withdrawing from a savings account costs nothing.

Another wise move in emergency planning is to set up a line of credit based on home equity. If income stops for any reason, such a loan could be out of the question at that time. Once set up, however, it can be used without additional proofs of ability to repay right now.

Where in the world?

London is the most expensive city in the world to sleep in, according to Runzheimer International, a Chicago research group. Hotel rooms there average $285. Paris is next at $252; followed by New York City, $232; Hong Kong, $223; Geneva, $205. But remember that bargains can be found at first-class hotels in any of these cities, especially New York.

Skipping a credit card payment

The editors of Business Week magazine say when the credit-card company says it’s OK to skip a payment — don’t. When you skip a month, you probably lose the “grace period” in which you can pay in full to avoid interest charges. By losing the grace period and paying additional interest for the second month, an 18% interest rate rises to 26% on the final balance. A very expensive payment skip.

Getting the right car at the best price

If you always suspected that someone else could buy a new car for less than you can — you’re right. According to studies by Northwestern University School of Law, the more knowledgeable a buyer is, the more likely he or she will be to strike a good bargain on a new vehicle.

Purdue University’s Department of Consumer Sciences and Retailing says new-car buyers should know the dealer cost on a car before negotiating. (Consumer Reports magazine publishes dealer costs in the April issue each year.)

Before shopping, determine how much you intend to spend and what options are “must haves” for you.

Shop for financing by checking with banks and credit unions for their various auto financing offers.

Small-investor mistakes

Financial expert Nancy Dunman says in her book *How to Invest* (Harper Perennial, $7.95) that the most common mistakes made by small investors are:

- Selling too soon as a reaction to bad news.
- Not selling in order to take a profit because they want to make a few more dollars.
- Refusing to sell at a good profit just for tax reasons.
- Keeping an inherited stock because of sentimental value.

Compounding’s simple

The more frequently an investment or certificate of deposit compounds interest, the faster your money grows. If you invest $1,000 at 8%, here’s what happens in 10 years under various interest-producing plans:

- Simple interest, no compounding: The money grows to only $18,000 because interest is paid only on the original principle.
- Interest compounded annually: The money grows to $21,589 by the end of ten years.
- Interest compounded semi-annually: You end up with $21,991, a difference of $322 over the annual-compounding figure.
- Interest compounded quarterly: The original $10,000 grows to $22,081, or $492 more than annual interest with compounding, and $4,081 more than the simple interest figure.

It pays to save, and selecting the most-frequently compounding savings vehicle is best.

Fluorescent bulb uses less power

They are more expensive, but pay off in the long run. Modern fluorescent light bulbs fit any standard light fixture. They use 25% less energy and last ten times as long.
The Indispensable Mortar Mixer

Without him there would be no Masonic lodge


By WARREN F. SCHUELER, SR., 33°

A stranger in one of our cities stood viewing a magnificent cathedral across the street, admiring the genius of the architect who designed its fine proportions, and the workmen who built it according to the architect’s designs.

An old man, who had been watching him, drew near and asked, “Well, sir, what do you think of it?”

After listening to the stranger’s expressions of praise and delight, the old man drew himself up and, with a ring of pride in his voice, said, “Sir, I mixed the mortar!”

The old man’s pride was justified. To build a cathedral requires many things and people:

There must be a master mind or architect to prepare the plans and to draw not only the designs but the details on the trestle board.

There must be money to pay the wages of all who work and to buy the necessary materials.

There must be master masons to set the stones according to the designs.

There must be manual laborers to transport the stone from where it was dug at the quarry and to chisel the stones into the proper proportions.

And there must be mortar and mixers of mortar! Without mortar and mortar-mixers, where would the building be? It is mortar which binds together the bricks and/or stone of the foundation and walls; that give cohesion, strength and firmness to the whole structure, and to keep it with all its fine adornments from falling into rubble.

In the estimation of some people, mixing mortar is a menial task. But unless the mixing of the mortar is faithfully performed, there can be no durability to the work of the master minds and the master masons. Our late Masonic brother U.S. Senator John J. Williams, 33°, called national attention to this fact by citing with documented proof the crumbling of the expensive stadium erected in Washington, D.C., and a Veterans’ Hospital in Massachusetts because the proper ingredients were not mixed with the mortar!

The same truth applies to Masonic lodges. Men of ability, experience, good judgment, are needed to draw designs upon the trestle board of the lodge to formulate plans, to supervise their being carried to completion, as Past Masters, Masters, officers of the lodge.

But mixers of mortar — men, brethren, who occupy the humbler offices, or no office at all, who mix the mortar of the lodge with the ingredients of finances, attendance, appreciation of those holding the offices, encouragement when they see them toiling, boosting the lodge inside and outside the lodge room, living lives in harmony with the principles of Freemasonry so that others in the community not privileged to be Masons see the difference in the ethics and industry and honor of Masons’ lives — these also are indispensable. Without the mortar mixers, there would be no Masonic lodges!

The truth I am trying to emphasize is that it is not what one does in a Masonic lodge that is important, but rather how faithfully he does it.

By WALLY MILLER

HIRAM

HIRAM, I CAN’T SLEEP NITEs.
I KEEP COUNTING SHEEP!  

SO, LOTS OF FOLKS WHAT CAN’T SLEEP.
COUNT SHEEP.

BUT, I COUNT
PASCHAL LAMBS.

III: WARREN F. SCHUELER, SR., 33°, is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Delaware and an Active Member of our Supreme Council.

May 1992 / The Northern Light 23
OUR READERS RESPOND

National Hymn?

I find the article ("A Catchy National Hymn," Feb. 92) appointing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as a national hymn offensive. It is time that the North stopped fighting the Civil War. The parade of moral rectitude and superiority by an area of slave traders who got religion when the business ran out has always left me unimpressed.

A song written in response to pleas for a stirring march to revive the flagging spirits of Northern troops in the Civil War hardly qualifies for a "national hymn." I would remind you that at that time the war was to preserve the union.

Cecil J. Berrera, 32°
Pittsfield, MA

Selective recruitment

Arthur Sharp's article ("Selective Recruitment," Feb. 92) has prompted me to write. I am 92 and have seen a lot of changes in my lifetime. I have adhered to the oath and have always construed it to prohibit solicitation of prospective members. I strongly feel that this is an area requiring reassessment, as Brother Sharp suggests.

If the rules were changed, my first invitations would be to my son and son-in-law. I have failed to encourage them out of belief in an oath. Nothing would please me more than to see both of these fine men in the lodge before I join the Grand Architect.

Fred L. Wehran, 32°
Mahwah, NJ

Brother Sharp's views are right on the money. Is it time for a change? I feel it is long overdue and may be the only way out of the situation we face today.

William E. Walker, 32°
East Grand Rapids, MI

Is it possible to create a sound solicitation program? Certainly. Such a program has been adopted by lodges in Wisconsin — and the results are strikingly positive.

G. D. Winter, 32°
Shawano, WI

Is Brother Sharp in favor of handing blank petitions to selected non-Masons? Let the record show that at least one Mason would be totally opposed to such practice. I don't believe our fraternity was founded in that manner, was built in that manner, nor can survive in that manner.

Perhaps a better solution would be to strengthen from within. If we concentrate our efforts on serving our existing membership, thereby developing a great pride within the brotherhood, those whom we may wish to attract will be attracted.

Douglas W. Dier, 33°
Tipp City, OH

Prince Hall

After seeing my previous letter in print ("Our Readers Respond," Feb. 92), I see that it has done a great disservice to many fine Prince Hall Masons, which was not my intention. I have known many men whom I considered friends for many years, even before I became a Mason, whom I know to be Prince Hall Masons and who are mighty fine individuals. My concern is for acceptance of the movement.

If the controversy over identification with Prince Hall Masonry is the result of some desire to bolster our numbers rather than mutual desire, then I feel there might be too much sentiment on one or both sides. Any reason that yields a forced result will not produce peace and harmony.

Donald I. MacDougall, 32°
Mesa, AZ

I totally agree with Brother MacDougall's letter in the February issue. Why don't you have a survey on the subject and let the numbers speak for themselves.

Robert F. Cox, 32°
Taylor, MI

Legitimate Masonry must stay away from the proposed merging of Prince Hall. I am not a bigot. I treat all minorities as I would want to be treated. Prince Hall and regular Grand Lodges need to be friendly but separate as a fraternity.

Jeff Flora, 32°
Dayton, OH

I assume Prince Hall Masons are black Masons. If so, I also assume there are Prince Hall Masons who would prefer to keep their lodges black, just as the individual preferred to maintain an all-white lodge.

If they want a white lodge, let them enjoy a white lodge. If they want a black lodge, let them enjoy a black lodge. If they want a mixed lodge, let them enjoy a mixed lodge. Where is the controversy?

Leonard W. Linder, 32°
Hudson, OH

I am highly incensed over the openly bigoted letter from the man who thinks he is a Mason. Throughout our Masonic ritual the wording reflects the idea of the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. Nowhere does it even infer that all are supposed to be Caucasian?

R. Eugene Hill, 32°
Morristown, NJ

The reasons I proudly joined our fraternity were the friendship and tolerance that my lodge brothers showed me at their open house. That sold me on Masonry right then and there. While I can relate to the writer's views on some of the issues, tolerance toward our fellow man is one of the main qualifications for being a Mason.

For him to feel that if Prince Hall Masonry is recognized, it will lower our standards, is a bit ludicrous. Are we going to punish a group of Masons for something that happened over 200 years ago?

Let's practice tolerance, justice, faith, hope and charity the way we promised we would the day we took our obligation.

Nicholas Pacon, 32°
Nashua, NH

"Take another look, Harris. It kind of has a nice ring to it."
50-plus isn't bad

If you or someone you know is feeling bad about reaching the big 50 (or beyond) get a copy of Joan R. Heilman's Unbelievably Good Deals & Great Adventures That You Absolutely Can't Get Unless You're Over 50 (Contemporary Books, $7.95).

She lists scores of reasons for never denying your age, including discounts on air fares and hotels, to ski trips, bike tours, and “sleep-away” camps for seniors.

At 60 you can get a free pet from Purina (including vet visits and food), and at 62, you get free admission to any national park.

Many of the adventures are travel oriented, including a “Senior Safari” in Alaska, and “Helicopter Hiking” in the Canadian Rockies, plus homestay programs overseas, where you live with foreign hosts.

Health databases for you

Many libraries have installed the Health Reference Center, a computer system that allows consumers to locate and print out articles on specific diseases. Those eagerly awaiting new treatments or medications developed for certain conditions have found the service very useful.

For a fee, there are services that

make the search for you. Palo Alto Medical Foundation charges a flat fee of $89 per search and sends a report within days of the request. Their phone number is 800-999-1999.

In Ann Arbor, Mich., AIC Services, (313-996-5553) provides the service for $150 to $300.

Artificial pancreas research

Diabetes researchers in Dallas have developed cells that make human insulin and will secrete the insulin only when the body needs it. (Diabetes is the result of an insufficient supply of insulin from the pancreas.)

The cells are placed in an artificial pancreas made of plastic which protects cells from being rejected and destroyed by a patient's immune system.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center estimates it will be three to five years before tests on animals and humans are completed.

Best cure for a spring cold?

It hardly seems fair that after going through winter without a sniffle, a bug strikes you just when the weather is balmy and warm. Often these warm-weather colds just seem to hang on.

What to do about the nasal congestion, stiffness and fever, remains a point in question.

The best medicine for a spring cold may be none at all. But if you seem to get that stuffy cold every year, you could be suffering from an allergy to spring-flowering plants. When watering eyes and nasal congestion always occur in spring, an allergy test may be in order.

Heart bypass surgery?

One medical expert claims that as many as one in ten patients advised to have heart bypass surgery could be helped with less-radical treatment that includes medications to assist blood flow plus diet and exercise therapy.

Writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, researcher Dr. Thomas Graboyes recommends that patients who are advised to have bypass surgery seek a second opinion. Surgery entails risks. Getting a second opinion is never a bad idea.

Reduce risk with sunscreen, common sense

Are the sun worshipping days of responsible people over? No, with common sense, we can still enjoy outdoor summer activities without greatly increasing the chances of developing skin cancer.

Very light-skinned people are most at risk. The darker the skin, the less the risk of skin cancer. Incidence is very low among black people.

Enjoy the summer sun, but keep this advice in mind:

• Avoid the most intense ultraviolet radiation by staying indoors between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., or at least between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

• Use a sunscreen. Experts from the Harvard Medical School conclude that using a UVB sunscreen greatly reduces the risk of skin cancer. Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, writing in Fighting Disease (Rodale Press) recommends lotions that include PABA, a B vitamin that is a natural sunscreen.

Filter removes coffee's cholesterol-raising factor

Coffee drinkers were concerned when it was reported that "boiled" coffee raises the level of cholesterol in the blood. Oddly, drip-filtered coffee does not.

Now, Dutch scientists say their findings indicate that paper filters used for making drip-filtered coffee are responsible for removing the cholesterol-raising factor.

They report that when boiled coffee is filtered through a paper filter, the fat-rich component is filtered out. Boiled coffee then has both its lipids (fatty substances) and its cholesterol-raising properties removed.
Two distinguished pitchers were selected for each team. The first choice for an American League hurler was Theodore Amar (Ted) Lyons of the Chicago White Sox. He was born at Lake Charles, La., on December 28, 1900. His playing career began in 1923 and extended through the 1946 season. He continued as manager of the White Sox during 1947 and 1948 after serving as player-manager in 1946. He boasted a record of 260 wins against 230 losses during his 24-year career, which is all the more impressive when one realizes that most of those years were spent pitching for a second division club. Ted belonged to a Waco Lodge No. 92, Waco, Texas. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955. His win record for a single season was achieved in 1927 when he collected a total of 22, one of three seasons in which he reached the 20-game winner circle.

Charles Herbert (Red) Ruffing was another famous American League pitcher, primarily identified with the New York Yankees, where he won many of his 273 ball games during a career that spanned 1924-47. During those 23 years, he posted a total of 225 losses. Red was born in Granville, Ill., on May 3, 1904, and was a member of Nokomis Lodge No. 456, Nokomis, Ill. Among his pitching achievements were four 20-game years; 21 in 1938 and 1939, and 20 in 1936 and 1937. His early playing years were with the Boston Red Sox, and his final season with the Chicago White Sox. He made the Hall of Fame in 1967.

One of the greatest pitchers to play the game was Christopher (Christy) Mathewson of the New York Giants. He was born in Factoryville, Pa., on August 12, 1880. "Big Six," as he was often called, posted a career record of 373 wins against 186 losses during the years from 1900-16. The last half of his final season was spent as player-manager of the Cincinnati Reds. He continued as non-playing manager for the Reds an additional two years. An original member of the Hall of Fame, Christy posted his tremendous winning mark during 17 playing seasons. He was a victim of poison gas during World War I, an injury that shortened his playing career and contributed to his premature death on October 7, 1925, while serving as president of the Boston Braves. His career-high winning season was in 1908, when he scored 37 wins against 11 losses, one of four in which he won more than 30 games. Among his lesser accomplishments were nine seasons in which he won 20 or more games, designating him as one of the greatest pitchers in baseball. Mathewson was a member of Architect Lodge No. 519, New York City. He was one of the original five members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The last, but by no means least, of the talent on the two awesome teams selected is southpaw Carl Owen (King Carl) Hubbell, famous for his "screwball." Carl baffled the best in the major leagues with his celebrated pitch during a career that began in 1928 and lasted through the 1943 season. His entire career was spent with the New York Giants, where he accumulated a total of 253 wins against 154 losses. Hubbell was born in Carthage, Mo., in June 22, 1903. He became a member of Meeker Lodge No. 479, Meeker, Okla. His best year was in 1936, with a record of 26 wins against six losses, one of five 20-game seasons. Hubbell is best remembered for his incredible feat in the 1934 All-Star game in which he struck out Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmy Foxx, Al Simmons, and Joe Cronin of the American League in succession. They were the most awesome hitters in the American League at that time. Each whiffed consecutively, swinging in vain at Hubbell's elusive screwball. Carl was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1947.

For better or worse, those are my Masonic "dream teams" of former major league greats. There were some ball players of greater dimension that could have been chosen if they had been Masons; but, for the most part, all choices are in the first tier of all-time superstars.

The recitation of my childhood baseball preferences and memories only serves one useful purpose—it highlights one more time the fact that Freemasons are among the brightest and best when history is made—sports being no exception.

Teddy's Bear

The Teddy Bear theme spread to a whole host of children's toys; there were Teddy Bear tea sets, rocking horses, sand pails, and stationery. The Teddy Bear became an important insignia for the Republican Party. Political meetings and conventions used Teddy Bears for decorations. It should be recalled that Roosevelt ran for re-election in 1904 and again in 1912, when he ran on the Bull Moose ticket.

There is another facet to the story of the Teddy Bear. Margarete Steiff, a German woman who was confined to a wheel chair, made an elephant shaped pin cushion out of felt in 1877. Her friends were intrigued with this new material and soon she was making more elephant-shaped toys. In a few months she had made more than 5,000. She expanded her toy menagerie to include monkeys, horses, pigs, and camels.

By the late 1800's her stuffed toys were selling so well that her two nephews entered into business with her. One of them, Richard, who had studied art, conceived the idea of making a bear with movable legs and arms. The Steiff bear was displayed at the Leipzig fair in 1903 and a representative for an American toy company placed an order for 3,000 of these bears. Soon other German manufacturers began making bears.

Peter Bull states that by the mid-1900's 10,000 bears were being shipped to America each week. Some time ago an original Steiff bear sold at Sotheby's in London for $950.

The success of the Steiff bear and the other German toy makers is further evidence of the Teddy Bear craze that swept across this country in the 1900's. It is my view, although important letters have disappeared, that the individuals responsible for this stuffed toy was Morris Mitchom and his wife.

An interesting footnote is that their company, the Ideal Toy Corporation, was authorized years later by the Forest Fire Prevention Bureau to make Smokey the Bear, the symbol to warn against forest fires.

It would appear that the Teddy Bear is here to stay. It is far from being extinct.
Footnotes

*Clambake.* The February issue contained a story about one of the oldest Masonic Temples in the country at Warren, R.I., and pointed out the need for funds for restoration. We were pleased to hear that the members of Washington Lodge No. 3 at Warren are moving ahead with fund-raising and will hold a Rhode Island Clambake at the East Warren Gun Club on Saturday, August 1, at 4 p.m. Tickets will be $18 for adults and $7 for children under 12. If you would like more information about the clambake or the restoration plans, contact the lodge secretary, Bro. Ray Medley, 30 Hawthorne Ave., Barrington, RI 02806.

Incidentally, the story referred to Ebenezer Cole, a charter member. This prompted a Pennsylvania reader to dig through his family treasures and come forth with an 1826 certificate issued by that lodge to a Luther Cole, believed to be a relative of the charter member.

*Washington’s apron.* A story in the November issue about Washington’s Masonic apron prompted a reader from Ohio to inquire about a claim that a Washington apron exists at Campus Martius Museum in Marietta, Ohio. The query was forwarded to Stephen E. Patrick, curator of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. Here is his response:

“The apron in the collection of American-Union Lodge No. 1, Marietta, Ohio, was the property of Henry ‘Light Horse’ Lee (1756-1818). Lee was a colonel in the Revolutionary army, and Washington made him a general in 1794. Lee was a member of Hiram Lodge No. 39, Westmoreland County, Virginia.

“The apron has a history of having been worn by Washington once, though belonging to Lee. Lee left it to his son Ludwell, who in turn presented it to Judge Stephen T. Cunard in 1834. Cunard’s son presented it to American Union Lodge in 1893. The connection to Washington is not directly documentable, and even if it is true, the point is that it belonged to Henry Lee and not to George Washington.

“A large number of aprons are claimed to have belonged to Washington, been worn by Washington, or presented by Washington to various historic persons. None have the documentary support of the Watson-Cassoul apron or the Lafayette-Washington apron.”

*Historical crown.* When the Scottish Rite Valley of Northern New Jersey presented its annual production of “The Story of the Crucifixion” in April, a new prop was used. An aluminum “crown of thorns,” once used in the 1927 silent film, “The King of Kings,” directed by Cecil B. DeMille, 32°, has been given to the Valley. When the studio no longer wished to keep it, the crown was passed through several hands and eventually to the Valley’s Master Cosmetician, Vic Sorenson, 32°. When Brother Sorenson died recently, the crown was presented to the Valley.

*Another Senior.* Our reference in the last two issues to participants in the Senior Olympics has brought a letter from still another senior athlete. Fred O. Lehman, Sr., 32°, participated in 1989 at St. Louis and 1991 at Syracuse and has won eight gold medals. At 61, he has a few years to go to catch up to the true seniors, but he offers the thought that there may be other Masons who have taken part in U.S. National Senior Classics and perhaps they should arrange a get-together for the next Senior Olympics in Baton Rouge in 1993.

*Who are the Masons?* A December cover story in “Buffalo” magazine supplement to the Buffalo News, delved into “The mysterious world of the Masons.” Pictured throughout the article were members in various costumes and uniforms. Editor Carl Herko explains:

“Whenever a publication does an article that attempts to take an inside look at a secretive and mysterious group like the Masons, there’s always a temptation to portray the subjects as a bunch of middle-aged guys who like to run around wearing funny hats. Which, as all we know, is not true.

“There will be people who look at Louis J. Wunsch, Jr. on the cover and see nothing but the silly costume. And that will cause them to dismiss him and everything he stands for. That is the curse of being a Mason today. It’s a pity.

“But I just want to state for the record that we’ve tried our best to get behind the costumes, to understand why a person becomes a Mason. Whether we’ve succeeded is for you to decide. But we tried. Really we did.”

How did it play in Buffalo? Our feeling is that it may have been well received by area Masons but the average reader never got beyond the costumes and the titles.

*Etched in perpetuity.* First-time visitors to the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage at Lexington, Mass., frequently stand in the foyer and stare at the colorful faceted glass window blending Masonic and patriotic symbols. The window was installed for the opening of the museum in 1975.

We were saddened recently to hear of the death of the designer, Dr. Rudolph R. Sandoz, 32°, whose stained glass creations can be viewed in more than 500 churches throughout the United States and Europe. He learned the trade from his family in his native Italy and came to the United States in 1946. One of his recent works appears in the chapel at Camp David, the President’s retreat. Although he will be missed, his work will be admired for generations to come.

RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor
Membership Kits Are Here!

The Masonic Renewal Committee of North America has produced a comprehensive membership development and management kit for use by the Blue Lodges. It contains everything the leadership of the Lodge needs from informing a man about what it means to be a Mason to helping him get the most from his Fraternity.

The kit contains: 2 video tapes I've Heard the Name, What Does It Mean? and Understanding What It Means to Be a Mason; 100 copies of each of three brochures suitable for imprinting with the name and address of your lodge and a comprehensive 250-page training manual on membership management.

Kits are available for $149.00 plus $5.00 for shipping and handling from The Masonic Renewal Committee of North America, c/o Masonic Service Association, 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.