

The Trestle Board



Messalonskee Lodge #113

Oakland, Maine

www.messalonskeelodge.org

Phone 207-465-2021

R.W. Steven W. Bucknam, Master

Meetings on the Third Tuesday at 7:30 PM

April, May, June 2011 Edition

R.W. Peter Davis Couture, Editor

FROM THE EAST

I've been told that it's time to write another blurb (today it's called blog!) about the current doings of the Lodge.

It has been busy, and I had not allocated time to keep everyone posted. I want you all to know that without the assistance of a few of the brethren of Messalonskee Lodge, that doing a good job as Master is not possible. I may have bitten off more than I can chew, but hopefully the Lodge will maintain its' momentum, and that Brother Hoskins will take charge of an active bunch next year.

The candidates have been studying hard under the direction of Dick Penney and Kevin Davidson. They will be available on Wednesday the 27th for the Fellowcraft degree. The officers have been rehearsing every Sunday, and our Senior Deacon is ready to explain three, five and seven. All are working diligently to assure a good degree is experienced by the candidates.

The Lodge will be assisting in a CHIPs --- Child Identification Program at the Middle School, here in Oakland on the 14th of May. Bring your kids and grandkids over, and let them take advantage of this truly great program. It starts at 8 in the morning. The Grand Lodge of Maine sponsors this, so that (Heaven Forbid) if a child is lost, there will be pictures and other data to help in their safe return.

See you at Lodge!

RW Steven W. Bucknam, Master

Music, Music, Music

By Wor. Blaine Ellis

There has been a piano in our lodge many years before I became a member over 50 years ago.



In 1973 we moved from our Main St. location to our present lodge. We were able to move the piano with the expert help from some of our lodge brothers. They tied rope around the piano and successfully lowered it from a window to the ground which was four floors below. At that time Wor.Bro.Ernest Bates promoted the idea of purchasing an organ for our new lodge hall. Wor.Bro.Bates searched for an organ that he thought would be suitable for our needs. He found an organ that was privately owned and could be purchased for \$ 650. We proceeded to raise the funds needed for the purchase thru donations from our membership. Wor. Bro. Bates was an accomplished musician and enjoyed playing the organ at many of our special functions. There is no music played during our degree work in Blue Lodge but can be enjoyed during intermission or when the lodge is at refreshment. Wor.Bro. Stephen Bucknam has entertained us with his talents at the piano. Music is played at special functions such as Installations and when public guests are in attendance. We've had people entertain us with organ music and singing accompanied by the piano. At the Installation of officers when I became Master of this lodge a friend of mine who was a trumpet player along with his three granddaughters. They all played their trumpets for our

entertainment. Over the years we have had a wide range of musical entertainment in our lodge hall.

A friend who is active in the local historical society provided me with a copy of a book written by Steven C. Bullock, "Freemasonry and Musical Life in Early New England". During the 18th century the cities were constructing new buildings. The Masonic Lodges were often called upon to assist in the ceremonies of laying the cornerstones of public buildings even churches. Music was an important part of these functions. Some lodges owned their own band instruments, where chorus music was also performed for public performances. Lodges needed members with musical talents who could represent the fraternity in its public activities.

Many musicians joined the fraternity for the same reason that attracted other men: its moral training, close fellowship, and enormous prestige in a period when its membership included Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson. Lodge meetings and other Masonic activities brought them together with well to do men who might hire them as teachers or instrumentalists.

Although the fraternity's original three degree rituals did not include music, a number of further, or higher, degrees did. Thomas Webb, an important figure in this development inserted his songs into the Mark Master's, the Most Excellent Master's, and the Red Cross Knight degrees. After conducting business and performing lodge rituals. Singing was allowed during lodge meetings, noting that singing was allowed only when there was *"no Brother...present whom singing is disagreeable."*

MOMMY, IS THAT MAN A MASON?

**by Ex. Comp. Don Maybaugh, Jr. (Ohio)
The Royal Arch Mason - Spring 1977**

The following story was related to me by my daughter.

A couple of months ago, my five-year-old granddaughter was in the front yard, jumping rope with her sister. The one end of the rope was tied to a tree, the other end, in the hands of her sister was being twirled. My granddaughter was jumping when suddenly the rope became tangled.

Just then a retired neighbor from the next street came walking by. Seeing the girls were in trouble, he stopped to help untangle the rope and retied it properly. He then took hold of the other end and spent several minutes showing them how to twirl it properly. My granddaughter then thanked him.

His answer to her was, "Honey, you don't have to thank me it was my duty," after which he continued walking down the street.

My granddaughter then went into the house and asked her mother, "Mommy, is that man a Mason?" Her mother smiled and said, "Yes, honey, that man is a Mason!"

They say that out of the mouths of babes come words of wisdom. That same man was senior warden 30 years ago, when I was raised a Master Mason. Although, due to ill health, he had not attended lodge in the last few years, he still remembered his obligations. When he was active, he inspired me enough that I vowed to myself that someday I would become master. Due to my work for 20 years, I was unable to fulfill that vow. But, in the last few years, I have been privileged to serve as master, high priest, and now as generalissimo of my Commandery. I am hoping to serve as commander next year.

As such, I have often heard, "Why is attendance in all bodies on the decline?" We strive for perfection in our lodge ritual work, but do we, as Masons, let our light shine before men that they may see our good works?

The Mason of whom I have spoken, although unable to attend lodge, was able to impress a five-year-old girl. Can we not learn from this event that our everyday lives in lodge, work and the home are what it is all about? My little granddaughter has seen me rush home from work, dress and hurry to lodge. The night I was installed as master, she gave me a worshipful master's pin to wear on my lapel. She may be only five years old, but she seems to know what Masonry is about.

I ask each of you who read this now ... during your lifetime, how many times has the question been asked about you by your neighbors, adults and children alike, is he a Mason?

Earlier this evening we gave this man a Masonic burial service. I then related this event to his widow and family. Upon returning home, I asked myself: How many times has this man let his light before other that they could see his good works?

He served Wellington Lodge as master and was high priest of Wellington Chapter during the year 1947. His name: Lloyd Irish.

CARE & SHARE

If any one knows of a brother in need of help or would like a ride to lodge, please contact the Secretary:

Dana W. Wrigley (207) 465-3830