

Gold Country MASON

Serving the Masonic Family in the Historic Foothills of the Sierras

• February, 2010 •

"If I only knew what was happening... I'd show up more often". - anonymous

It has been a long held dream of mine to take all the appendant and concordant bodies of our local lodges, get all the players together, join Calendars and let everyone in the Masonic Family here in the foothills know what each other are doing. Well, the stars must be aligning because here, in your hands is the first attempt at such a beast.

The goal of this publication is to inform. There is little doubt that the lack of attendance for many of the events held by our organizations is due to the simple fact that people just didn't know it was going on. Hopefully, that is a thing of the past. We open the door to many possibilities for all concerned, the smaller organizations (such as Widdle Weels or Job's Daughters) can get the message out to many, many more eyes than they could before. (Widdle Weels Circulation hovers around 20) Won't it be grand that upwards of 700 people know of an event such as next month's Sweethearts

Brunch! I am excited about the possibilities and look forward to a long and beneficial run.

We collectively will benefit due to savings in postage and Post Office fees. Also, a common Calendar, accessible and updated via internet that will keep schedules from over-lapping. Please feel free to call me if you have suggestions, comments, concerns, or articles. If you own a business, you now have the opportunity to advertise your product to ALL the Masons and Masonic Families in the foothills, in B2B (Brother to Brother) marketing.

I'm excited about the possibilities...

Bro. John Zachry - Editor

Bro. KEN CHURCH MEMORIAL

Will be held at the VFW Hall
next to the Placerville Fairgrounds
on January 30th at 11:00 a.m.

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Calendar of events: FEBRUARY, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes
January 31	1	2 B Widdle Weels Meeting 7:00	
7 Shrine BASCO Days Sacramento	8	9	B Hiram Lo Third Degree for Bro. Kevi
14 Valentine's Day	15 DEADLINE for Calendars and Articles for March GOLD COUNTRY MASON	16	
21	22 York Rite Meeting Sutter Creek Lodge Main St., Sutter Creek	23 C Officer's School of Instruction at Natoma Lodge #64 7:00	
28	March 1	March 2	Ma Reservation Masonic Brunch Call 620-2778 mntnman@c

CURRENT Online Calendar can be found at the following locations
Hiram 25 Website: <http://www.eldoradomasons.org/>

Locations:

A = Placerville Lodge • *Est. May 6, 1853*
Masonic Center, 2820 Cold Springs Rd., Placerville

B = Hiram Lodge • *Est. May 16, 1854*
601 Main St., El Dorado

C = Natoma Lodge • *Est. May 4, 1855*
1000 Dochow Way, Folsom

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 C Natoma Lodge #64 Dinner & Fellowship 6:30 Stated Meeting 8:00	5 B Hiram Lodge #25 Dinner & Fellowship 6:00 Stated Meeting 7:30 <hr/> Shrine BASCO Days	6 Shrine BASCO Days Sacramento
10 Lodge #25 7:00 in Young	11 A Placerville Lodge #26 Fellowship 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Stated Meeting 7:30	12 B Order of Eastern Star Brother's Night John Dawson - Host 7:30	13
17	18	19	20 Past Master's Assn. Meeting in Woodland <hr/> Ben Ali Hobo Crab Feed At Ben Ali Temple in Sac. Call PEACHES 530-273-7611
24	25	26	27
March 3 Deadline for Sweethearts David Doten or e-mail omcast.net	March 4 C Natoma Lodge #64 Dinner & Fellowship 6:30 Stated Meeting 8:00	March 5 B Hiram Lodge #25 Dinner & Fellowship 6:00 Stated Meeting 7:30 Corned Beef & Cabbage	March 6 A Scottish Rite & Shrine Club Masonic SWEETHEARTS Brunch 9:00am (See details, P. 4)

or at the Minuteman Press Website: <http://www.mm-press.com>

Order of Eastern Star #62

Calendar for 2010

January 8, 2010—Initiation (Officers wear white)

Hostess—Maxine Walker

February 12, 2010—Brother's Night

Host—John Dawson, AP

March 12, 2010—Friendship Night / Corned beef dinner

Hostess—Donna Howard

April 9, 2010—Deputy Grand Matron Official Visit

Initiation Night (wear white)

Hostess—

May 7, 2010 —WGM/WGP Official Visit—Murphys

7:30pm (Officers wear white)

May 14, 2010—Memorial Night (wear white)

Hostess—Eileen Johnson

May 22, 2010—Reception for Brenda Hanson-Smith

June 11, 2010—Birthday Night/PM and PP Night

Hostess—

—Summer 2010 -Fun Activity—TBA

September 10, 2010—

Hostess—

October 8, 2010—Elections

Hostess—

November 12, 2010—Farewell Night

Hostess—Heather Ann Dawson, AM

November 2010—Installation of the 2011 Officers

Date and Time TBA

PLACERVILLE Lodge #26

Established May 6, 1853

Masonic Center, 2820 Cold Springs Rd., Placerville

**Stated Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month.
Fellowship is at 6:30 p.m. Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.
Stated Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.**

**Worshipful Master - Frank Spencer • (530) 676-7164
Website - <http://www.calodges.org/no26/>**

HISTORY OF PLACERVILLE #26

The initial meetings of the Masonic Brotherhood in Placerville were not held as a fraternal organizational gathering, but rather as opportunities to discuss and implement methods of giving aid and assistance to distressed fellow Masons and their families. Placerville, a boisterous mining camp, had become a primary stopping point for many of the travelers entering the geographical area denoted as the Mother Lode. Far too often, the grueling trip had exacted a heavy toll on the travelers. Many had lost stock, had broken down wagons, or had ill family members. They were arriving with depleted cash reserves, were discouraged and had no obvious resources. Thus, the beginnings of Freemasonry in California.

Brother Lewis Tritt called a meeting of fellow Masons in his log home on the north side of Placerville in February 1850 to discuss some means to aid Masonic brethren and their families that were arriving in almost every immigrant train that spilled over the mountains into the area. A Masonic committee was appointed to assist these ailing fellow Masons: Brother W. H. Smith, a butcher, would supply meat; Brother John Buchanan, a baker, would supply bread; Brother Lazarus Tannerwald, owner of a local mercantile, would furnish clothing. The other Masons in the group would donate funds of other requested assistance.

On May 6, 1853, Placerville Lodge No. 26 was chartered with 26 Master Masons in membership. The first meeting place was a two story framed building with an exterior staircase, which stood near the site of what was later to be called the Roller Building.

Meetings were held there every Monday for a year. The Lodge then moved to Cardwell's building over L. S. Cardwell's carpenter shop until renting a hall over the Smith and Nash Hardware Store on Main Street on the approximate site of the present City Hall.

A disastrous fire swept Placerville in 1856, destroying the Lodge Hall, along with many other building on that side of the street. The fire was thought to be arson, as there was an ongoing argument over the rightful location of the county seat at the time. Two other contenders for the honor, Georgetown and Greenwood, also suffered major blazes started the same day in similar mysterious circumstances. Placerville Lodge lost all the lodge furnishings and books, with the exception of a few books and papers that happened to be in the office of the Lodge secretary, Dr. Isaac "Ike" Titus.

1856 brought additional gloom to the Placerville Lodge, as one of the Lodge's strongest members and Masonry's staunch advocates, Dr. Benjamin Keene, died in September. Keene, the first president of the State Medical Society and a founder of the lodge, was well known throughout the mining camps for miles, and was a familiar sight in all the Masonic Lodges of the Mother Lode. Every member of Placerville Lodge turned out in full regalia for what may have been the largest Masonic funeral in Placerville history. Two years later the Lodge ordered a large, ornate headstone for Keene's gravesite.

Populations in the Mother Lode were not particularly stable through the subsequent decades. Eventually, as gold availability decreased, so did the number of miners and att-

CONTINUED on PAGE 6

endant area residents. Gold strikes in other places were occasionally a drain. As a result of the fluctuating populace, many of the area Masonic Lodges saw their own membership decline. Many Lodges combined with other, stronger Lodges. Some Lodges simply disappeared. It was quite common for Lodge Masters that remained in the area to remain in Lodge office for a number of years. Frederick F. Barss, a pioneer jeweler in Placerville and a charter member of El Dorado #26, served as Master thirteen times, serving the Lodge in other capacities when not acting as Master.

In spite of the large numbers of withdrawals, Placerville #26 actually held its own during the Civil War years, showing a net gain of one member, despite the organization of Palmyra Lodge #151 in Upper Placerville, which undoubtedly cut into potential El Dorado candidates.

At President Lincoln's death in 1865, Placerville Lodge passed a long resolution, as did many other California Masonic Lodges, praising the late president and denouncing his killer. The hall was draped in mourning and brothers wore mourning symbols on their coat sleeves.

The Lodge laid the cornerstone of the Episcopal Church of our Savior in June of 1865, with an elaborate cornerstone ceremony. The Reverend C. C. Pierce, Chaplain of Placerville Lodge for thirty years, organized and led this congregation from its organization in 1861 to his death in 1903. The church served as a field hospital several years later for those stricken with cholera as an epidemic raged through Placerville. During this time, the Placerville Masons served on the front lines, administering to the sick and looking after the still healthy.

Funding for a new Temple gradually became available. It appeared the Lodge would remain a stable entity, so a committee was appointed to procure a building site for a new Hall on March 10, 1862. In the meantime, the existing Lodge room was refurbished as it appeared the building process would take an un-

known number of years. Once the building site was chosen, in the center of the business district, Main Street, Placerville, monies were set aside for construction. The cornerstone of the new temple was not actually laid until August 24, 1893. The three-story temple was dedicated in 1893 with much pomp and ceremony. The Knights of Pythias, Native Sons of the Golden West, and members of the International Order of Oddfellows joined the Masonic brethren and the Placerville Marching Band to lead a parade of dignitaries to the new building for the laying of the cornerstone at the northeast corner of the building.

As part of its community service, Placerville Lodge began to actively observe Public Schools Week in 1964, an opportunity to interact and congratulate local schools and educators. The Lodge continues to interact with local schools, offering scholarships, workshops, and inviting school personnel as speakers and guest to all its functions.

The Lodge added Hiram Awards in 1978 as a way to reward those Lodge members that contributed continually and quietly to the betterment of the Lodge and of the community.

Lodge meetings in the Masonic Temple of Main Street continued to be held until 1982. Unfortunately, the venerable old building had begun to show its age, and in the early 1960's the city fire marshal expressed concerns about the outdated wiring. The building was rewired to bring it up to safety standards, but it was noted that nothing could be done to alleviate the very long and very steep flight of stairs to the Lodge room, and equally long flight to the second floor dining hall. Older Masons often had difficulty coping with the long stair flights.

Worshipful Master Donald P. Dasonville headed a 1966 committee to look into the possibility of financing and constructing a new Temple for El Dorado Lodge. Hiram Lodge, meeting in the town of El Dorado, was approached for a cooperative effort, but that Lodge preferred to remain separate. The new Temple became the sole project of Placerville #26. The construction committee eventually combined with the Temple Board,

HIRAM Lodge #25

Established May 16, 1854

601 Main Street, El Dorado, CA

Stated Meetings are the 1st Friday of the month.

Fellowship is at 6:00 p.m. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Stated Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Worshipful Master - Jason Burgess • (916) 501-1238

Website - <http://www.eldoradomasons.org/>

Brethren,

I am sorry we missed many of you at January's Stated Meeting. I know that the holidays coupled with the meeting moving from Friday to Tuesday to accommodate the New Year's holiday can keep even the most active of us from getting out to Lodge. Thankfully, February has no such impediments so I really hope to see you all on Friday, February 5!

To catch you up on what you missed, Bro. Steve Anderly cooked for the Lodge and did a fantastic job! Rave reviews from all in attendance. The meal showed Bro. Anderly's love for food and our Lodge and we all look forward to his return to our kitchen in July.

Our thanks goes to the Ladies of the Eastern Star who assisted with service and let Bro. Anderly shine that night. The Ladies will return to our kitchen in February and have planned for us a delicious home-cooked meal of Swiss Steak with all the fixings. To assist in planning and preparing, the Ladies have requested that you contact Jackie Bozeman at 530-333-4732 by Monday, February 1 to confirm dinner reservations so that the Ladies can insure we have enough food prepared for everyone without wasting. (I know I don't want leftovers at the next Stated Meeting.)

Bro. John Zachry introduced his idea to transform this trestleboard from a small publications focused only on our

Lodge, to a much more informative publication to cover our Lodge, Placerville Lodge, the Eastern Star, Shrine and Scottish Rite clubs, York Rite and the youth orders of our area. The officers feel this is a fantastic idea, as such a publication will provide a more detailed and complete publication for our extended Masonic family and provide less clutter in your mailbox!

Speaking of less clutter: Would you like to receive the trestleboard electronically via email? We are exploring this idea, but to implement it properly we need your email address! Please contact one of the officers or, better yet, visit the Lodge website at www.eldoradomasons.org and send us an email there. Or find the Lodge page on www.facebook.com and become a friend of the Lodge. Both of these sites are open to the public and contain only public information and education so feel free to refer your friends to both.

Lastly, I have included another poem I am fond of for your enjoyment. (See Page 8) I think we have all seen this scenario play out over the years and I hope that we see the second section play out again in the near future. With a little luck and a little work, maybe we can just skip the first part entirely!

See you at Stated!

Fraternally,

Jason W. Burgess

Worshipful Master, 2010

“A clear conscience is often the sign of a bad memory”

-Unknown

which administered the Lodge properties.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted on December 1, 1981 under the auspices of Placerville #26 Worshipful Master, Vernon A. Smith. Most Worshipful Robert O. West, Grand Master of Masons in California and Hawaii, and a Past Master of Placerville #26, turned the first shovelful of dirt. Assistant Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of California and Hawaii, and Past Master of Placerville #26 Owen Murry presided as Master of Ceremonies. A mere eight months later, cornerstone laying ceremonies and the new Temple Dedication were held on Saturday, July 24, 1982, as Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert O. West opened Grand Lodge in the newly completed Temple.

The Lodge hosted cornerstone ceremonies for the new wing of Marshall Hospital in 1982. Ceremonies were also conducted for El Dorado High School and Gold Oak School in 1986. The Lodge continues to support education through Public School Awareness observances, scholarships, and participation with individual school activities.

In 1996, Placerville #26 initiated a “Kids ID” program, the first Masonic Lodge in California to promote such an activity.

Many other charitable and fraternal activities are supported by the Masons, and the Lodge continues as it began: a group of men dedicated to leading by example. Members continue through various projects to give back to the community through donations of time and money and the support of philanthropic charities. Interfacing with other local organizations, such as the International Order of Odd Fellows, Native Sons of the Golden West, Placerville Fire Department, local schools and churches, offers the Masons an opportunity to invest in education, charity, family, personal growth, brotherhood and a lifestyle based on ethical, moral, and philanthropic values.

This was direct from the Placerville #26 Website. Feel free to explore more information at <http://www.calodges.org/no26/>

TEN MASTER MASONS

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine;
 One listened to a rumor, then there were nine.
 Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late;
 One didn't like the "Master," then there were eight.
 Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven;
 One joined too many clubs, then there were seven.
 Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks;
 One grew discouraged, then there were six.
 Six Master Masons, all very much alive;
 One lost his interest, then there were five.
 Five Master Masons, wishing there were more;
 Got into a great dispute, then there were four.
 Four Master Masons, busy as could be;
 One didn't like the programs, then there were three.
 Three Master Masons, was one of them you?
 One grew tired of all the work, then there were two.
 Two Master Masons with so much to be done;
 One said "What's the use," then there was one.
 One Master Mason, found a brother -- true!
 Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.
 Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore;
 Each brought another, then there were four.
 Four Master Masons saved their Lodge's fate;
 By showing others kindness, then there were eight.
 Eight Master Masons,
 loving their Lodges bright sheen;
 Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen.
 Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true;
 Were pleased when their number went to thirty-two.
 So we can't put our troubles at the Lodge's door;
 It's our fault for harming the Lodge we adore.
 Don't fuss about the programs
 or the "Master" in the East;
 Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.

-Author Unknown

“Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.”

-Will Rogers (1879-1935)

“Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through the snow.”

-Jeff Valdez

Widdle Weels

Established by really short people a long time ago.

601 Main Street, El Dorado, CA

Stated Meetings were the 1st Monday of the month, but that is changing to the first TUESDAY of the month starting FEBRUARY 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

John Zachry - Widdle Weels Captain (530) 919-1306

Oh, the weather outside is frightful... so let's have a CHRISTMAS PARADE!

As a kid, I used to hate skiing, OK, I really liked skiing, I just really didn't like being cold. I'm sort of grown up now and I know that moving here to the foothills one has to prepare and accomodate for being cold; Wear appropriate clothing and keep enough fire-wood on hand, etc. Well, when it comes to Christmas Parades, this last one set a record for being cold. In the span of the 2 or so miles, it rained, hailed and snowed. And you know what... it was a blast. Bud Sweet showed up with Rob Neiri and the WiddleWeels fire truck and I showed up with my red car and we were set to do the parade. Someone borrowed my trailer a couple of weeks prior and didn't return it so I had to borrow my Brother-in-law, Lon's truck to take my car to the parade (no more lending out the trailer!). More on that later. The fire truck was having a tough time starting and my car fired -up straight away. I stopped my car and helped pull the starter on the fire truck. With a LOT of cajoling we finally got the sucker started. Then.. when it was time for the parade to start, MY car would't start. BUD, being the nice guy that he is, said why don't we put your car away in the back of the truck and you can be on the back of the Fire Truck instead of me. What a nice guy. Well it wasn't until later that I realized that he was comfy, cozey warm in some watering-hole somewhere whilist Rob and I were out on the parade route freezing our buns off. William and Theresa, my 7 and 11 year-olds were actually riding with Santa, handing out candy canes, so they had a blanket over their laps as they rode inside Santa's Sleigh. Once the parade was over, Bud met us at the end and gave me a ride back to the truck. I drove down to the other end of the parade and was able to watch Santa and his helpers go past the Carey House Hotel on

Main St. I then had to get my WW car back to the house and get Lon's truck back to him up in Camino, (that's where I left the Mini Cooper earlier). So I get up there and it's snowing. Just a little bit, mind-you, not too much to drive through. I get to the house and Lon says "hey, would you mind helping me move some TV's?" Keep in mind, he just lent me his truck for the day, who was I to say no! Well, the 20 minute delay of getting my butt back down the hill was too much, because when I pulled out of the driveway and went down their street to head toward Cable, I couldn't get up the next street...or back on the one I just came off of. It was like I was stuck at the bottom of a V. So I get the car far enough off the road and call Lon and head back to his house on foot. I ended up spending until mid-afternoon on Tuesday at their house... WITH electricity, TV, my sister's home cooking, etc. In the meantime, my wife and kids are at home with NO electricity, gas, or water. Boy did I feel bad... for a while.

We also had a meeting on Monday Jan. 4th at Hiram. We discussed how cold it was at the parade and that we needed to pay our p.o. box bill. One of the main things discussed was moving the meeting to TUESDAYS. It was moved and seconded by the membership present to move the meetings to the first Tuesday of the month to be able to accomodate the membership and wacky schedules of all involved. It is in the by-laws that the membership be given notice... so here you go. In February, we'll be discussing Joe Olio's proposal of his widdle (Smart) car.

NEXT Widdle Weels MEETING is February 2nd. 7:00 pm at Hiram. I hope to see you there.

John Zachry - Captain

El Dorado Scottish Rite Club & El Dorado Shrine Club

Kevin Brown, P.M. - President • ((530) 626-3795

64 PINTS! Community Blood Drive to benefit little Juliette Geney was a HUGE SUCCESS!

A letter from Juliette Geney's Family says it all:

Dear Brian,

Thank you, to you and everyone who worked so hard to make the blood drive a huge success. We so appreciate your efforts and are enormously grateful to you-all for choosing Juliette as the beneficiary of the blood drive. What a gift!

And the cash donations were such a lovely bonus. Thank you! We all had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and the whole Masons / Shriners / Scottish Rite Community. We hope you and your families enjoy a happy and healthy holiday season.

Love, The Geney Family.

The next event for the El Dorado Scottish Rite, Shrine Clubs is the Masonic Sweetheart's Brunch. Details are on the next page.

York Rite

Hal Barker, KYCH (530) 647-0510

On January 16th 2010, the Sutter Creek York Rite Bodies held their annual Installation of all the Bodies.

St. James Chapter #11 R.A.M.,
the newly installed High Priest is: *Geoff Rizzo, P.M.*

Amador Council No. 31 C.M.,
the newly installed Illustrious Master is: *Scott Barbu, P.M.*

El Dorado Commandry, #4 K.T.,
the newly Installed Commander is: *Wes Mindermann, P.M.*

At the completion of our installation the companion and their ladies dined at the Twisted Fork in Sutter Creek. A great meal and a grand time.

The York Rite Bodies meet monthly
on the 4th monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the lodge in Sutter Creek.

We welcome Masonic interest in our Bodies
Call Hal Barker KYCH (530) 647-0510

Masonic Sweethearts Brunch

– MARCH 6, 2010 –

Reservaion Deadline Wednesday, March 3rd.

All Masonic “Sweethearts” (widows, wives and ladies) are cordially invited to a brunch in their honor on Saturday, March 6th.

The brunch will be hosted by the Shrine and Scottish Rite clubs in recognition and appreciation of your continued support of Masonry over many years.

The brunch will be held at the Placerville Masonic Center.

Festivities will begin at 9 a.m.

with a meet and greet social period followed by brunch.

Brunch will be a buffet of orange juice, fresh fruit, yogurt, scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, breakfast rolls and coffee.

The ladies will be hosted by the clubs at no charge.

Otherwise, the cost for men, family members and guests will be

\$ 15.00 per person (Masonic ladies no charge),

\$ 5.00 for children 12 and older and no charge for kids under 12.

Dress will be casual, sporty.

Reservations are required. Please contact Dave Doten, Secretary at (530) 620-2778 or by E-mail at mntnman@comcast.net for reservations.

Gold Country Mason

C/O Hiram Lodge F&AM #25 P.O. Box 201 • El Dorado, CA 95623

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