

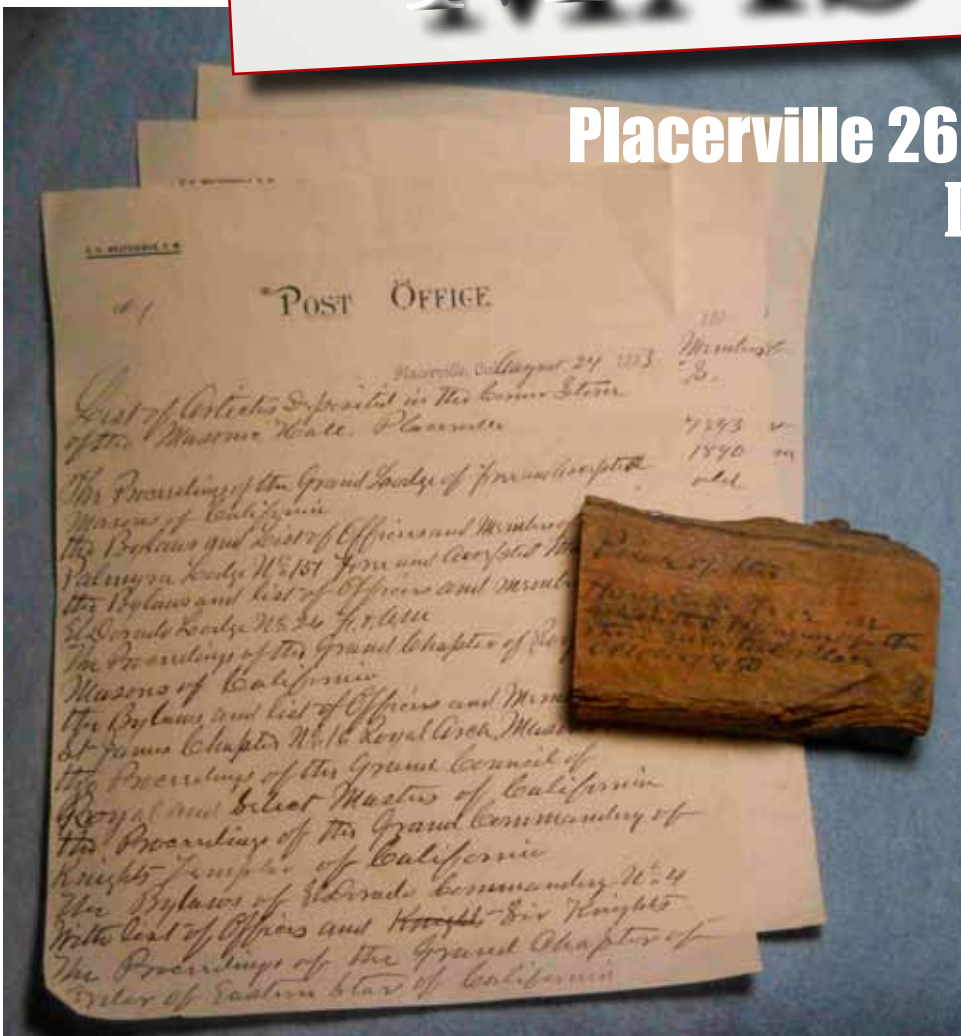


Placerville 26 & the Hangin' Tree

by W.M. Brian Ludwig

In this second of what will become a periodic series of articles on the jewels and gems curated by Placerville 26, we'll be examining a little-known piece of Placerville history given to the lodge in 1893.

Anyone who has lived in Placerville for more than a day and the thousands of visitors and travelers who pass through town every year knows that Placerville is informally known as "Old Hangtown". Although never the official town name, the camp became known as such when the first recorded hanging (of a thief) occurred in 1849. Continued on Page 7



Hangin' Tree / Placerville 26 History.....Page 1/7
 Lodge Courtesies.....Page 2/8
 Calendars- Jan/FebPage 3
 Placerville 26Page 4
 26 Installation / Sr. Support System.....Page 5
 Hiram #25 /Page 6
 Scottish Rite Crab Feed.....Page 9
 Eastern StarPage 10
 47th Problem of Euclid.....Page 11
 Supporters.....Page 12

LODGE COURTESIES

from Masonic Service Association's - Short Talk Bulletins

Conventions are the rules which society makes for itself, without the force of law, by which its members live together with the least friction. It is not a sin to eat with one's knife or to keep one's hat on in the house. But these are not "good form" or good manners.

Masonry has developed its own conventions, by which its members act in lodge and the anteroom. Not to proceed according to their dictates is not a Masonic offense; it is merely a lack of Masonic manners.

As you passed through the Third Degree you received instructions in the Ritual and the obligation. You were carefully taught those essential things which a man must know in order to be @ Mason. But unless you belong to a most unusual lodge, or had a most wise brother for a mentor, it is doubtful if you were told much about these little niceties of lodge conduct. You are supposed to attend your lodge and learn by observation.

Not all brethren are observing, however. It is not uncommon to see some brother, old enough in Masonry to know better, crossing the lodge room between the Altar and the East. He might have observed that his brethren did not do it; but it is more difficult to note the absence of an act than to take cognizance of something done.

Brethren do not pass between the Altar and the East in lodge. It is a convention; there is no penalty for its infraction. It is a courtesy offered the Master. It is rooted in the theory that, as the Great Lights and the Charter of the lodge are essential to the regularity of the meeting, as these are the particular care of the Master, and as their place is upon the Altar, the Master should never be interrupted in his plain view of them, even for an instant.

Well informed brethren do not take seats in the East without invitation. All brethren within the tiled door are equal; the officers are the servants of their brethren and not their superiors. All seats, then, might well be considered open to all. But Masonry exacts long services of her officers; Past Masters have worked hard and long for the lodge they love. The Master recognizes their devotion and their loyalty with a special word of welcome, and an invitation to them to occupy a seat with him, in the East where they once sat. From this pretty custom has developed the invitation to a "seat in the East" to any distinguished visitor, or some member the Master wishes especially to honor. If all in the lodge helped themselves to seats in the East there would be no opportunity for the Master to offer that courtesy.

Brethren who respect the formalities of their lodge will not enter it undressed; that is, without their apron, or while putting that apron on. The spectacle of a brother walking up to the Altar, tying the strings and adjusting

his apron while the Master waits for his salute, is not a pretty one. A man who entered church putting on his collar and tying his necktie could hardly be arrested, but he would surely receive unflattering comment. The strangeness of the new badge of a Mason and unfamiliarity with its meaning cause many to forget that it is as important to a Mason in lodge as clean linen, properly adjusted, is to the man in the street.



The Worshipful Master in the East occupies the most exalted position in the gift of the lodge. A lodge which does not honor its Master, not because of what he himself may be, but on account of the honor given him, is lacking in Masonic courtesy. The position he occupies, not the man, must be given the utmost respect, if the traditions of the Fraternity are to be observed.

It is, therefore, to the Master, not to John Smith who happens to be the Master, that you offer a salute when you enter or retire from lodge. Like any other salute, this may be done courteously and as if you meant it, or perfunctorily as if you did not care. The man who puts one finger to his hat brim when he speaks to a woman on the street compares poorly with his well brought up neighbor who lifts his hat. Taking the hat off is the modern remains of the ancient custom of knights who removed their helmets in the presence of those they felt their friends, and thus, before those they wished to honor or by showing that they trusted them. A man removes his hat before a woman to show his respect. Touching the brim is but a perfunctory salute. Similarly, the salute to the Master is your renewed pledge of fealty and service, your public recognition before all men, of your obligation. It is performed before the Master and the Altar to show him your veneration for his authority, your respect for all that for which he stands. To offer your salute as if you were in a hurry, too lazy properly to make it, or bored with its offering, is to be, Masonically, a boor.

A man in lodge is the servant of his brethren, if he engages in any lodge activity. Servants stand in the presence of their superiors. Therefore, no Mason sits while speaking, whether he addresses an officer or another brother. This does not refer to conversation on the benches during refreshment, but to discussion on the floor during business meeting.

During the refreshment the Master relinquishes the gavel to the Junior Warden in the South, which thus be

J A N U A R Y

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

1 New Year's Day	2 Ben-Ali Office Closed	3 Ben-Ali Potentate Darrow Installation 5 pm Placerville 26 • 7pm Officer's Practice A	4	5	6 B <i>P.M. Seiber's 50th</i> Hiram Stated 6:00 pm Dinner Beef Stew (yum!)	7 Placerville 26 INSTALLATION See Pg 5 for Details A Drytown 174 Stated 10am C
8	9	10 Placerville 26 • 7pm Officer's Practice A	11 Hiram B Mandatory Officer's Planning Meeting 6:00 pm	12 A Placerville 26 Stated Meeting 6:00 pm Dinner	13 EASTERN STAR Re-obligation / Jr Past Adah Chair - Diane Brabec Potluck	14 Rainbow INSTALLATION 7:00 pm
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Observed)	17 Sacramento Scottish Rite 6:00 pm Placerville 26 • 7pm Officer's Practice A	18	19 A Placerville 26 3rd Degree Bro. Ron Gutzmann 7:00 pm	20 BASCO	21 Sutter Cr. York Rite Installation BASCO
22 Legion H.S. Oratorical Contest Vets Hall 1:00pm BASCO	23 Sutter Creek St. James #11 6:00 pm Dinner	24 Dist. Officers Training Location TBA	25 B Hiram Officer's Practice 7:00 pm	26 Placerville 26 Double 1st Degrees Mr. Fransen & Mr. Englehardt 7:00 pm A	27 Scottish Rite Elk Stew Dinner 11:00 am	28 Scottish Rite Installation 11:00 am
29	30	31 Placerville 26 • 7pm Officer's Practice A				

A = Placerville Lodge 26 Est. May 6, 1853
Placerville Masonic Center
2820 Cold Springs Rd., Placerville

B = Hiram Lodge 25 Est. May 3, 1853
6201 Pleasant Valley Rd., El Dorado

C = Drytown 174
Main St., Plymouth

F E B R U A R Y

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

			1 B Hiram Officer's Practice 7:00 pm	2 Sacramento Scottish Rite TRIP	3 B Hiram Stated SWEETHEART'S DINNER 6:00 pm	4 Drytown 174 Stated 10am C
5	6 Meridian CRAB FEED STAG	7 Placerville 26 • 7pm Officer's Practice A	8 B Hiram Officer's Practice 7:00 pm	9 Placerville 26 Stated Meeting 6:00 pm Dinner	10 EASTERN STAR Valentines/Bros Night / Electa Chair - Brian Johnson Candy / Cookie Sale	11 York Rite College FOLSOM
12 Drytown's Steak Dinner- 4pm Fiddletown Moose Lincoln's Birthday	13 Widdle Weels Vets Hall Placer- ville 7:00 pm	14 St. Valentine's Day	15 B Hiram Officer's Practice 7:00 pm	16	17	18
19	20 Family Day (AB, ON, SK) Presidents' Day Washington's Birthday	21 Sacramento Scottish Rite 6:00 pm Placerville 26 • 7pm Officer's Practice A	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25 BOK KAI PARADE Scottish Rite CRAB FEED
26	27 Sutter Creek Amador Council 6:00 pm Dinner	28 District Officer Practice Location TBD	29 B Hiram Officer's Practice 7:00 pm		March 2nd Hiram Stated 6:00 Fellowship 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Meeting B	March 3rd Drytown Stated 10 a.m. Meeting C

Crestleboard

Worshipful Master - Brian Ludwig • (530) 647-0872

As Yogi Berra says...it's déjà vu all over again! Here we are, the start of what promises to be another great Masonic year further establishing your lodge as a centerpiece of charitable efforts in your community and as a place where Masonry continues to grow and welcome a new generation of men and their families. To emphasize just how much of an impact our lodge has on this community, our members, and our neighbors, if you were fortunate enough to have been at the December meeting you heard a summary of all we have accomplished in the past twelve months. It was indeed a generous year and once again Placerville 26 was informed by the Grand Lodge that we were one of the 25 most charitable lodges in the state. We continued our support of The Center, the Boys and Girls Club, the Food Bank, Hangtown Hank, the Grand Master's project, and numerous other groups and events right here in our own back yard. We really are making a difference!

For those of you who couldn't make the December meeting you missed another good one. It was our annual prime rib dinner and we were entertained by the Blue Onion Sextet; a group of high school guys who were simply amazing. Santa Claus also made an appearance for the kids and we had the grand finale opportunity drawing. This effort exceeded all my expectations and we raised nearly \$1500 that three lucky winners get to determine how it will be distributed by the lodge. It was a great effort and plans are already in the works for a series of additional fund-raising events in 2012.

I would like to congratulate the brethren and in particular Worshipful Dusty Deryck for putting on a great installation at Hiram 25 in December. The cozy little lodge room was packed to the rafters as was the dining room afterwards. Something I thought was exceptional was Dusty's choice of food...an all-American fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the fixins served up by the Shoe String hot dog stand in Placerville. I forgot just how good their dogs were and a great time was had by all. Look for a lot more collaboration with our friends from Hiram this coming year.

Speaking of this coming year, don't forget our own installation coming up on Saturday, January 7th. I'm planning a somewhat more low-key event than last time but don't think you'll want to be missing it by any means. We'll be having a great German spread including sauerbraten, home-made red cabbage and potato salad, and all kind of dishes. I'm sure there will some hearty German beer there as well and we will be having live music.

We've got some big plans this upcoming year too; some continuing on and building upon the momentum we got started in 2011 and some new efforts as well. By the time you see this month's Gold Country Mason in print we'll already have up to three degrees scheduled including a third degree which we will be doing in-house on January 15th for Brother Ron Gutzman. There will be much more to come so everyone stay tuned and look for additional announcements from our robo-call system!

Placerville Masonic Center
2820 Cold Springs Road • Placerville, CA 95667
Stated Meetings are the 2nd Thursday 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.

Website - <http://www.calodges.org/no26/>

2011 OFFICERS

Master:	Brian Ludwig	(530) 647-0872
Senior Warden:	Dan Boone	(530) 620-7313
Junior Warden:	Brian Creel	(530) 626-4412
Treasurer:	Jim Mackey	(530) 621-3603
Secretary:	Dan Segalas	(916) 933-0340
Chaplain:	Glen Lyons	(530) 626-9007
Senior Deacon:	Larry Lococo	(530) 626-8386
Junior Deacon:	Glen Roussell	(530) 344-4321
Marshall:	George Neilsen	(530) 622-2165
Senior Steward:	Scott Bertram	(510) 427-1215
Jr. Steward:	John Kunkel	(530) 644-4323
Organist	Joe Olio	(530) 642-2167

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on

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CEREMONY AT NOON

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GRAND LODGE: <http://www.freemason.org/>

GOLD COUNTRY LODGES SENIOR SUPPORT SYSTEM

<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Lives in/near...</i>
Dean Buckholz	530-626-5821	Kelsey
Bernie Dowse	530-622-1564	Lotus/Placerville
Brian Ludwig	530-647-0872	Pollock Pines & Pleasant Valley
Jerry Roberts	530-626-1981	El Dorado
Jason Burgess	916-501-3812	El Dorado Hills
Joe Carlson	916-799-4033	Cameron Park

- Trestleboard -

Worshipful Master - John "Dusty" Deryck • (916) 501-3812

My Brethren,

First, I thank you all for honoring me with the station of Master of Hiram Lodge for 2012. It was unexpected and accelerated. But, I am most appreciative of the opportunity you have gifted me to serve our Lodge and thankful for the challenge of it. I am looking forward to the leadership of Hiram Lodge with unbounded enthusiasm and excitement. I hope it's catching. Second, I want to request your help and participation to make Hiram Lodge a dynamic, friendly and productive Lodge, one that is visible in the community and represents the Masonic virtues, morality, especially Brotherly Love and camaraderie. They'll be needed if we are to grow and prosper.

By the time this Trestleboard is published, I will already have had an informal bull session at my home with the Past Masters of our Lodge. It was an interesting and productive afternoon, and I heard views expressed I had not heard before. I was enlightened by these Masons that have been there and done that. But, not only do I need and want to hear from the PM's; I want your views and expectations, too. Please feel free to air them with me in any way you feel comfortable. It will take joint effort and teamwork to make our Lodge the place I envision.

This will be an exciting and fun year as I envision it and it started with a bang. The installation of officers was an all-American success, and I hope all of you that attended enjoyed it. Our Christmas party was great fun and many laughs with White Elephants and good fellowship very soon after the installation. And, speaking of Christmas, I hope you all experienced merry one. And, I wish you all a new 2012 filled with the prosperity of good health and success, in every endeavor you undertake, and the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe. May it be a better year than this last one in every way.

We have more than half the stations and chairs being filled by new faces in the officer line, some old timers and some brand new Master Masons. The mix should prove to be viable and a powerful engine for making new Masons. There are quite a few EA's and a FC working on proficiencies and degrees. In fact, there appear to be more than I knew about. And, we will need to see if we cannot get some of the men who appear to have dropped out back to progressing.

There has been announced a competition for the Grand Communication in June; it will consist of the opening and first section of the Master Mason degree. I propose that Hiram Lodge No. 25 accept the challenge of this competition. I think that with some effort, and the great coaching our Officers Coach can provide, we can excel. But, I do not want to mandate that we do this. Please let me know by mid January if you think we can do it. If we enter, it must be done and the Inspector

informed before early February. If we try this, we'd be well on our way to being able to confer the whole of the MM degree sometime in 2012. Wouldn't that be great?

Grand Master Frank Loui's project for 2012 is Raising a Reader. Its aim is to improve reading level performance of youngsters at the 3rd-grade testing level. I am undertaking as my Master's Project for 2012 this Raising a Reader idea. You will hear more about this at the January Stated Meeting. I encourage your attendance at the Stated Meeting on January 6th, and your active participation to make this interesting and vital project a success.

You all know I have a tendency to being long-winded. But, I've tried to keep my first Trestleboard message relatively short. I have, though, submitted some educational articles that I hope will enlighten you. They appear elsewhere in this Gold Country Mason. It is one of the Master's explicit duties to spread Masonic knowledge. This will be done throughout the coming year, and hopefully you will enjoy the articles as much as I am finding them.

Fraternally,
Dusty Deryck Hiram 25

HIRAM BUILDING
6201 Pleasant Valley Rd. 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.
Website - <http://www.eldoradomasons.org/>

2012 LODGE OFFICERS

Master:	John "Dusty" Deryck	(530) 621-1222
Sr. Warden:	Joseph Carlson	(916) 799-4033
Jr. Warden:	Denny Luce	(530) 644-4814
Treasurer:	Jim Yates	(530) 622-6451
Secretary:	Bob Diesel	(530) 626-8925
Chaplain:	Steve Anderly	(530) 306-5883
Asst. Sec'y:	Brian Kennedy	(916) 712-2891
Sr. Deacon:	Jeremie Thompson	(530) 626-6463
Jr. Deacon:	Hal Barker, PM	(916) 647-0510
Marshal:	Chad Oxford	(916) 933-0942
Sr. Steward:	Casey Norris, PM	(916) 985-4211
Jr. Steward:	Adam Danberger-Diesel	(530) 626-8925
Organist:	Fred Costa	(530) 333-2943
Tiler:	Roy Kilday, PM	(530) 677-3068
Officers Coach:	Nickalous Battaini, PM	(530) 391-6802
Candidates Coach:	Robert Sweeley, PM	(530) 344-8394
Asst. Treasurer:	Kevin Brown, PM	(530) 626-3795

Hangin' Tree - Continued from Page 1

Following a speedy "trial", he was strung up from the limb of a large white oak near where the Hangman's Saloon now stands. The tree quickly became the ad-hoc gallows for a number of thieves, murderers, and miscreants during the earliest years of the Gold Rush and in October 1850, three men were subjected to this frontier justice on the same day. There are no records known to exist stating how many men were eventually hanged from the tree but clearly it was enough to give the town quite a fearsome reputation; even among the numerous rough and rowdy Mother Lode gold camps.

The Masons who would eventually be granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of California in 1853 for Placerville 25, had been meeting with the full knowledge and acceptance of the Grand Lodge since 1852. During the Gold Rush years and the latter decades of the 19th century, Placerville 26 met in various houses and other locations eventually demolished or lost in one of the fires that frequently swept through foothill towns during the summer months. The lodge's most substantial building of that period was built on Main Street and was formally dedicated on August 24th, 1893. As part of the ceremonies, a time capsule was placed in the cornerstone at street level. When Placerville 26 sold that building and moved into our current center in 1981, the contents of the time capsule were retrieved.

The 1893 lodge dedication was quite a remarkable event as recorded in newspaper accounts of the day. A list of contents was placed in the time capsule which reflected the high esteem others felt for the fraternity at the time. For example, contributions to the capsule were provided by the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Grand Lodge of

California, Palmyra Lodge 151, and St. James Chapter No. 16 of the Royal Arch Masons to name just a few. Contained within the capsule (a soldered copper box) were items such as a Christopher Columbus memorial half-dollar, a medal from the Grand Army of the Republic, an ornate list of the officers and members of El Dorado (now Placerville) 26, copies of the El Dorado Republican and the Mountain Democrat newspapers from the month of August, and a wide array of articles, copies of bylaws, and memorial pieces. Among them was a piece of the original hanging tree inscribed in ink in period script with; "Piece of the Hangtown Tree in which the hanging of the three men took place - October 1850". On the other side of this memento is written in pencil; "J.W. Derek" who presumably donated the relic to the lodge.



The small slab (about 4 by 3 inches and an inch thick) appears to have been cut from a section of limb and both sides have been carefully planed flat with the original tool marks being clearly visible.

A section of bark remains and one can only assume that souvenirs like this must have been quite common at the time the tree was finally cut down or when limbs broke off or were removed as the years went by. Today, however, this is the only authenticated piece of the tree known to exist although according to local legend and lore, the stump of the hanging tree resides in the flooded basement of the now-closed Hangman's Saloon which occupies one of the oldest buildings in Placerville. The fate of this building remains uncertain although sooner or later we'll probably find out whether or not the stump really is in the basement.

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1211

Dear Gold Country Mason,

Our Rainbow Assembly will be having our 5th Installation of officers on Jan 14 at 7pm. This is also the Installation of our first Worthy Advisor, Kate Boone. We would really appreciate the local Masons, Eastern Star and Amaranth members to come and celebrate with us, as all of the groups are our Sponsors.

Thanks, Donna Howard, Mother Advisor, Placerville #56, IORG and Conductress/PM El Dorado Foothills Chapter #62, OES

COURTESIES - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

comes, for the time being, constructively the East. All that has been said about the respect due the Master in the East applies now to the Junior Warden in the South.

It is illegal to enter or leave the room during a ballot; it is discourteous to leave during a speech, or during a degree, except at the several natural peri @ which end one section and begin another.

Smoking is never permitted in lodge. For some time this was open to debate and went by the culture of each individual lodge, but with California State laws and public health concerns, smoking in public spaces is less and less acceptable. The original article asked "would you smoke in church?" Now the question is "can you smoke in a bar?" Either answer is no.

A courteous brother does not refuse a request made in the name of the lodge. There are three duties which devolve upon the membership which are too often "the other fellow's business." Every lodge at some time has a knock upon the door from some visiting brother. This requires the services of two brethren from the lodge on the examination committee. Some one has to do that work. To decline it, on any ground whatever, is discourteous to the Master, to whom you have &aid, in effect, "I don't want to do my share; let George do it. I just want to sit here and enjoy myself while the other fellows do the work."

A degree cannot well be put on without the services of conductors. When you are assigned such a piece of work, it is not Masonic courtesy to refuse, for the same reasons given above. And if you are selected as a member of the Fellowcraft team in the Master Mason degree, the only reason for not accepting is that of physical disability. Like other matters herein spoken of, refusal here is not a Masonic offense. Neither is it a legal offense to drink from a finger bowl, seat yourself at table before your hostess, or spit on your host's parlor floor! But the convention of good manners is what makes society pleasant, and Masonic good manners make lodge meetings pleasant.

One does not talk in church. God's House is not for social conversation; it is for worship and the learning of the lesson of the day. A good Mason does not talk during the conferring of a degree. The lodge room is then a Temple of the Great Architect of the Universe, with the brethren working therein doing their humble best to make better stones for His spiritual Temple. Good manners as well as reverence dictate silence and attention during the work; officers and degree workers cannot do their best if distracted by conversation, and the irreverence cannot help but be distressing to candidates.

There is a special lodge courtesy to be observed in all debates to any motion. One speaks to the Master; the Master is the lodge. One does not turn one's back on him to address the lodge without permission from him. One stands to order when addressing the chair; cus-

toms differ in various jurisdictions as to the method of salute, but some salute should always be given when addressing the Master. The spectacle of two brethren on their feet at the same time, arguing over a motion, facing each other and ignoring the Master, is not one which any Master should permit. But it is also one which no Master should have to prevent!

Failure to obey the gavel at once is a grave discourtesy. The Master is all powerful in the lodge. He can put or refuse to put any motion. He can rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time. He can say what he will, and what he will not, permit to be discussed. Brethren who think him unfair, arbitrary, unjust, or acting illegally, have redress; the Grand Lodge can be appealed to on any such matter. But in the lodge, the gavel, emblem of authority, is supreme. When a brother is rapped down, -he should at once obey, without further discussion. It is very bad manners to do otherwise; indeed, it is close to the line between bad manners and a Masonic offense.

What to wear to lodge? Each lodge has their own culture of dress for lodge. Commonly, a sport coat over a shirt and tie can comfortably worn at any lodge without feeling too dressy or too casual. Many lodges dress very formally for degrees and stated meetings, either dark suits or tuxedos. During the summer, officers can follow the lead of the Master. Neckwear during the summer can be uncomfortable in a hot lodge room, but again, it is best to follow his lead. DeMolays are taught to wear ties to stated meetings and degrees, out of respect for the fraternity. Casual neckwear would be a bolo-tie which is easy and comfortable. It is also understood that one often comes straight from work or doesn't get the chance to change before lodge, but tennis shoes, jeans and a t-shirt is really too casual and should be avoided if at all possible.

It is a courtesy to the Master to advise him beforehand that you intend to offer thus and such a motion, or wish to bring up thus and such a matter for discussion. You have the right to do it without apprising him in advance, just as he has the right to rule you out of order. But the Master may have plans of his own for that meeting, into which your proposed motion or discourse does not fit. Therefore, it is a courtesy to him, to ask him privately if you may be recognized for your purpose, and thus save him the disagreeable necessity of seeming arbitrary in a public refusal.

Lodge courtesies, like those of the profane world, are founded wholly in the Golden Rule. They oil the Masonic wheels and enable them to revolve without creaking. They smooth the path of all in the lodge, and prove to all and sundry the truth of the ritualistic explanation of that "more noble and glorious purpose" to which we are taught to put the trowel.



Saturday - February 25, 2012 - 5:30 p.m.

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EASTERN STAR

Our new term has started off well. At our first night, we honored Roy Kilday, our Sentinel, for the great job he does for us each year, guarding our doors from interruption during our meetings.

We collected 2 boxes of canned goods for the El Dorado food closet. This, along with 3 bags of food from the installation, will help our less fortunate community put food on their table for the holidays. We also exchanged some excellent cookies, although I missed out on Jean Haldeman's baklava. I'll have to beg her to teach me how to make it.

Our special charity project for next year, as chosen by our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, is PAWS for Purple Hearts. This is an organization based in Santa Rosa that works with veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder to train service dogs. The service dogs are then given to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with injuries who will use the dogs to help them in their daily living. The organization's

sponsors have found that the veterans with PTSD gain trust, health, and serenity while training the dogs, as they are able to put the stress of the war in the back of their mind while training the dogs. They also get great satisfaction helping fellow veterans with injuries to function easier. We will be having an event in the Sacramento area in June. I will provide further information in the hopes that you will be able to attend and support our project.

We hope your holiday were wonderful and have a safe New Year celebration. Our calendar is posted in this publication, so we hope our Eastern Star members will be attending our meetings. I'd also be pleased to answer any questions you might have about our organization for those men and women who are interested in finding out more about our principles, which closely align with yours.

Happy New Year,
Jackie Bozeman
Worthy Matron
530-333-4732 or 916-200-8191
Jebozeman04@gmail.com

Meetings	Theme/Honor	Chairman	
Jan 13	Re-obligation/Jr Past/Adah	Diane Brabec	Potluck
Feb 10	Valentines/Bros Night/Electa	Brian Johnson	Candy/Cookie Sale
Mar 9	Friendship/Martha	Donna Howard	Corned beef dinner /Placerville
Apr 13	Easter/DGM OV/Ruth	Mary Lou Johnson	
May 11	Memorial/Chaplain	Maxine Walker	Potluck
Jun 8	Birthday/ PM PP/Esther	Jean Castberg	
Sept 14	Hawaiian/Awards/Marshal	Lisa Blum	Potluck
Oct 12	Halloween/Elections/Organist	Jean Haldeman	
Nov 9	Farewell/Warder	HeatherAnn Dawson	Potluck

DRYTOWN LODGE NO. 174'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER HAS BEEN SET FOR FEBRUARY 12TH AT 4:00 PM AT THE MOOSE HALL IN FIDDLETOWN. THIS EVENT WAS WELL-ATTENDED LAST YEAR, AND HELPED THE LODGE IMMENSELY WITH ITS VERY TIGHT BUDGET! COME ON OUT AND GET A GREAT NEW YORK STEAK DINNER FOR \$20 A PLATE. BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ENJOY THE STEAKS AND ENTERTAINMENT TO BE PROVIDED, SAME AS LAST YEAR — HARRY JORDAN'S MUSIC. CALL OR EMAIL BRUCE HARPER (BRUCE629506@GMAIL.COM)

Birthday Wishes to These Hiram Brothers:

- Elmer Abbott
- Justin Brockman
- William Daddario
- Lloyd Elmore
- Carl Forsberg
- Stanley Griffeth
- John Jordan
- Brian Kennedy
- Roy Kilday
- Freddie Mastel
- Robert Mathis
- Robert Russell
- Chauncey Smith
- James Stephens
- Edward Whitcomb

**Meeting on the Level,
Acting by the Plumb, and
Parting upon the Square**

THE 47TH PROBLEM OF EUCLID, also called the 47th Proposition of Euclid, or the Pythagorean Theorem, is represented by 3 squares.



To the speculative Mason, the 47th Problem of Euclid may be somewhat mysterious. They may see this symbol on Masonic certificates or on Masonic cufflinks or quite often Freemasons proudly wear Masonic lapel pins with this symbol on them.

Most Masonic books, simply describe it as "A general love of the Arts and Sciences". However, to leave its explanation at that would be to omit a subject which is very important... not only of Pythagoras's Theory, but of the Masonic Square.

What Are These 3 Black Boxes and Why Are They Important to Freemasons?

We are told that Euclid, (the Father of Geometry), who lived several hundred years after Pythagoras, worked long and hard to solve the 3:4:5: ratio puzzle. It is said by some that he then sacrificed a hecatomb (a sacrificial offering to God of up to 100 oxen or cattle). However, historically, it is believed that the Egyptians and Babylonians understood the mathematical usefulness of the 3:4:5 ratio long before Euclid.

The math is the key to understanding this symbol's broader and universal meaning.

The Pythagorean Theorem, also known as the 47th Problem of Euclid or 3:4:5:

"In any right triangle, the sum of the squares of the two sides is equal to the square of the hypotenuse." (the hypotenuse of a right triangle...which is the longest "leg"...or the 5 side of the 3:4:5:).

The Right Triangle, below, shows the sides of 3, 4 and 5. The angle created between the 3 (side) and the 4 (side) is the Right angle of the square.

A little later, when we begin to build it, (with sticks and string), you will place your sticks at the 3 corners of this Right triangle.



The square of **3** is 9.

The square of **4** is 16. The sum of 9 and 16 is 25. (25 represents the hypotenuse).

The square root of 25 is **5**.

Therefore, the ratio is written: **3:4:5:**

When we write down the square of the 1st four numbers (1, 4, 9 and 16), we see that by subtracting each

square from the next one, we get 3, 5 and 7.

Ok, let's try it.

1, 4, 9, 16

$4-1 = 3$

$9-4 = 5$

$16-9 = 7$

3:5:7: These are the steps in Masonry. They are the steps in the Winding Stair which leads to the Middle Chamber and they are the number of brethren which form the number of Master Masons necessary to open a lodge of:

Master Mason: **3**

Fellow Craft: **5**

Entered Apprentice: **7**

These are the sacred numbers.

OK, stay with me now...the major math is over.

The essence of the Pythagorean Theorem (also called the 47th Problem of Euclid) is about the importance of establishing an architecturally true (correct) foundation based on use of the square.

Why is this so important to speculative Masons who only have a symbolic square and not the actual square (the tool) of an operative Mason?

The 47th Problem of Euclid is the mathematical ratio (the knowledge) that allows a Master Mason to: "Square his square when it gets out of square."

...I heard that! You're saying to yourself: "Why is that so important to ME in today's world...unless I'm a carpenter? Home Depot is only a few miles away."

How to Create a Perfect Square using the 47th Problem of Euclid

The knowledge of how to form a perfect square without the slightest possibility of error has been accounted of the highest importance in the art of building from the time of the Harpedonaptae, (and before). Harpedonaptae, literally translated, means "rope stretchers" or "rope fasteners" of ancient Egypt (long before Solomon's Temple was built).

The Harpedonaptae were architectural specialists who were called in to lay out the foundation lines of buildings. They were highly skilled and relied on astronomy (the stars) as well as mathematical calculations in order to form perfect square angles for each building.

In the Berlin museum is a deed, written on leather, dating back to 2000 B.C. (long before Solomon's time), which tells of the work of these rope stretchers.

Historically, a building's cornerstone was laid at the northeast corner of the building. Why in the northeast? The ancient builders first laid out the north and south lines by observation of the stars and the sun...especially the North Star, (Polaris), which they believed at that time to be fixed in the sky.

Only after laying out a perfect North and South line could they use the square to establish perfect East and West lines for their foundations.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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