



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington




Volume 3 — Issue 4

visit us at: www.WhatcomMasonicLodge.org

April 2002

The Master's Trestle-board

 Greetings from the East, brethren, I trust you made the most of the few sunny days we had recently. The days of darkness are fading and slowly the sun is rising in the sky. It won't be long till senior students will be graduating from our High Schools & Universities. It is fitting we should honor their accomplishments as they should acknowledge your support. Our work is not over for there is another group behind them, needing what is most valuable from us, our personal involvement, our time.

A very good way to show your support and involve-ment, to our local youth, is to attend the MEC annual Awards Program being held at the Bellingham Masonic Center, 2626 W. Maplewood at 7:30 PM on Tuesday April 30th.

WM Buck Strickland



KING'S QUOTE'S

IF YOU DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU'RE GOING
YOU'LL END UP
SOMEWHERE ELSE!

Yogi Berra

The Wisdom of Rome

The month of April is the province of the Goddess Venus and is thought of as the month to conceive. We see this carried out in nature with opening of fruit tree blossoms and the appearance of pollinating insects. On April first I detected the buzzing sounds of newly returned humming birds to my neighbors feeder. The sound of their dive-bombing antics gave my heart a boost and brought a smile to my lips. Prof. Frances Bernstein quotes the old Roman poet Lucretius on this subject: "Throughout seas and mountains and sweeping torrents, and the leafy dwellings of birds and lush green plains, the Goddess Venus strikes soft love into the breasts of all creatures. She cause them to be lustful, and reproduce."

The Romans held two celebrations in April, **Megalesia** (April 4-10) and **Cerialia** (April 12-19). Megalesia was in honor of the Great Mother Cybele, known to the Romans as Magna Mater [introduced into Rome from Phrygia in 204 BCE]. "A sacred black stone was placed in a temple on the Palatine Hill and dedicated to the Goddess on April 11, 191 BCE. The sacred black stone was described as very small and set into a silver image of the goddess in place of her face. The Roman Magna Mater may have been the inspiration for the Black Madonna." The celebration of Cerialia was held in honor of the

WEB Wonders!

Well, have you been on our great WEB-site get? No? What are you waiting for? The Whatcom Lodge 151 WEB-site is easy to get around on and good looking too! I think a great year above ground and half a year below **WEB DONE!!** is due to our WEB-Master, **Excellent Job** Br. Oussama. Oussama has spent many hours of his own time designing, what many of us believe, is one of the best Masonic WEB-sites on the internet. If you would want to stay in touch with your home lodge or find a link to another lodge, your Whatcom Lodge WEB-site is a very good place to start. If you have an idea for improvement your WEB-Master is open to suggestions. It's fun, so get involved -

www.WhatcomMasonicLodge.org



Calendar of Events

Apr. 18th is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM

May 2nd is our special communication, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM.

May 16th is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM

Father's Lodge

Father's lodge, I well remember,
wasn't large as lodges go;
There was trouble in December
getting to it through the snow.
But he seldom missed a meeting;
drifts or blossoms in the lane,
Still the Tyler heard his greetings,
winter ice or summer rain.
Father's lodge thought nothing of it:
'mid their labors and their cares
Those old Masons learned to love it,
that fraternity of theirs.
What's a bit of stormy weather,
when a little down the road
Men are gathering together,
helping bear each other's load?
Father's lodge had made a village:
men of father's sturdy brawn
Turned a wilderness to tillage,
seized the flag, and carried on.
Made a village, built a city,
shaped a country, formed a state,
Simple men, not wise nor witty,
humble, and yet how great!
Father's lodge had caught the gleaming
of the great Masonic past;
Thinking, toiling, daring, dreaming,
they were builders to the last.
Quiet men, not rich nor clever,
with the tools they found at hand
Building for the great forever,
first a village then a land.
Father's lodge it was no temple,
built of steel and carved of stone;
Marble columns, ceilings gilded,
father's lodge has never known.
But a heritage of glory
they have left, the humble ones -
They have left their mighty story
in the keeping of their sons.

by: Douglas Malloch

Edited by John F. Browne - 05/09/2000

To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 2nd Monday of each month, to:

John F. Browne 109 South 43rd Street
Bellingham, WA. 98226
e-mail jbrowne@telcomplus.net

Tracing the origins of Freemasonry



I'll just bet you've been waiting impatiently for this next installment of The Lost Treasure of the Knights Templar. We are now ready to peek at Chapter Two and ask the question, "who dug the money pit?"

Mr. Steven Sora covers several of the popular theories surrounding this question but I'm not going to bore you, or me, by looking at the non-probable candidates. The first good candidate Mr. Sora discusses is Sir Frances Drake, who is the favorite candidate the money pit's current owner, Mr. David Tobias. Sir Frances Drake certainly amassed a fortune at the expense of the Spanish. He could have been hung as a pirate but he was never caught by them. "Tobias claims that after one of Drake's raids he employed a boatload of Cornish miners to construct the secret repository on Oak Island. The idea is certainly plausible in that Drake had the ability to mount such an expedition, which would have been too costly for most individual pirates. He could employ the technology, which an ordinary pirate could not." But, Mr. Sora rejects this idea for a few good reasons.

Mr. Sora pointed out that Sir France Drake lacked one critical need, motive. Even though his privateering could not be formally condoned by the crown, he was none the less treated as a hero. He also openly spent, even flaunted his wealth. There is no known reason for him to hide a hoard of his loot.

And intriguing corollary to Drake is Sir Frances Bacon. There are many who think that the works of William Shakespeare were actually written by Bacon and that he took elaborate measures to keep this a secret. Sir Frances Bacon is known to have owned property in the New World. Is it possible that missing original manuscripts of Shakespeare are in the money pit? Mr. Sora says we'll return to the Drake-Bacon connection later in our story.

The leading candidate among most folks is that the hoard in the money pit came from the activities of Captain William Kidd. He was a successful merchant skipper based in New York City. Captain Kidd was hired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to catch pirates who had fled to Nova Scotia, at which he succeeded. Kidd the pirate catcher became so

successful he ended up becoming a pirate himself. Once Captain Kidd got wind that he was to be arrested for piracy he placed caches of loot around Long Island, but only the cache on Gardiners Island was ever recovered. No hard evidence has been found, however, to support the idea that Captain Kidd ever visited Oak Island

After rejecting the above list of pirates and other less plausible theories, Mr. Sora brings up a theory sent to Mr. Mel Chappell, a Money Pit owner in the 1930's, by a Mr. Charles B. Thomas. Mr. Thomas suggested the pit might contain "gold and sacred things of the Temple of Jerusalem." These items were looted by the Romans under Titus, when Jerusalem was sacked in 70 AD. The booty was brought to Rome and then fell into the hands of the Visigoths who cached it in southern France. This treasure was next moved to Scotland and stored at Roslin Chapel until threatened by the English. The treasure was then allegedly moved to Nova Scotia, Oak Island.

We shall see how Mr. Sora plays this out.

Till next time - John Browne



In eternity there is
indeed
something true and
subline.
But all these times
and places
and occasions are
now and here.
God himself
culminates
in the present