



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington



Volume 3 — Issue 1

January 2002

The Master's Trestle-board

We begin a new year with hope and enthusiasm for our fraternity and lodge. It is my desire to see the attendance to our meetings increase by more participation from existing members, as well as by the attraction of new members. I would like to hear from members who are not presently attending. In particular I would like to know if there is something the lodge can do to help facilitate your return. The experience of lodge grows in enjoyment as the lodge room fills with brothers. I will do all in my power in the solving of any issue or conveyance problem which might be keeping a brother from attendance.

I am grateful for any ideas for programs, outings or entertainment any brother might put forth.

WM Buck Strickland



KING'S QUOTE'S

COMMIT THE GOLDEN RULE
TO LIFE,
NOT TO MEMORY!

Back in business!!

Like a kid with a new toy, I am once again back at play in the newsletter arena. Our last newsletter was the Oct. 1997 issue. A decision was made at the Dec. 2001 stated meeting to try our own newsletter again; to provide a timely notice in advance of each month's stated meeting. I plan to keep the same general format of the first version of this newsletter, but, I am open to suggestions from you brothers. I also request that brothers send quotes, poems, stories and announcements for up-coming issues. Please think of this as our newsletter, because it is, and your input is valuable.

The feature Tracing the Origins of Freemasonry begins where I left off, with the Oct. 1997 issue. Please contact me if you'd like to receive back copies of this feature. I will also see about having them put onto our WEB site. Also, please let me know if you'd like to receive this newsletter by e-mail. Thanks, J. Browne

In Remembrance



A memorial service was held at 11 AM. on Monday December 31st at Greenacres Cemetery Chapel for our brother Franklin E. Bongartz. The service was attended by, VWB Russ Gran, VWB Byron Swedberg, VWB Ed Jungblom, WM Buck Strickland, WB Ed McAllister, WB Leland Dodson, WB John Burley and WB John Browne.

Brother Bongartz served in the US Navy during WW2 and was a founder of the local Civil Air Patrol unit in Whatcom County. Graveside Military Honors were performed by American Legion Post No. 7. Officiating at the service was Rev. Al Carter.

Brother Bongartz was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason (continued on back)

Memorial continued:

on September 9th, 1983 and was summoned to the Celestial Lodge on December 26th, 2001. Our brother had a passion for flight

Calendar of Events

Jan. 3rd Whatcom hosted a First Degree for Fairhaven #73. WB John Browne conferred the degree. The SD was Br. James Brady, the Apron lecture given by WB John Burley, the Working Tools by WB Phil Wade, Charge by WB Gary Pitcher and 1st degree lecture was given by VWB Winton smith. We welcome Mr. Larry Prather as a new EAM. Thanks to all who lent a hand, it was a fine degree.

Jan. 17th is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM.

Feb. 7th is our special communication, a light dinner served at **6:30 PM**

Feb. 21st is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner served at 6:30, Lodge-7:30 PM.

Mar. 7th is our special communication, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM.

WEB Committee Appointed

WM Buck Strickland appointed a committee to oversee our WEB site. The committee consists of four members: Ed Jungblom, Larry West, Oussama El-Khoury and John Browne. Brother Browne was appointed chairman, brother El-Khoury is the sites' WEB Master.

The WEB committee will ensure that our site stays up-to-date in the use of technology, content and design. It is hoped that our WEB site will provide useful data to anyone seeking information regarding the Masonic Fraternity and Whatcom Lodge in particular. The site will also be an information resource for lodge members who wish to keep informed of our meeting dates, events and other useful happenings.

If you have any comments and/or suggestions for our WEB site please contact one of these local committee members:

John Browne—jbrowne@telcomplus.net

Ed Jungblom—junblom@kendaco.telebyte.com

Larry West—Lwest@10066@aol.com

and his family picked the poem below to honor his love for flying.

Br. Frank (Lucky) will be missed but also remembered.



HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly
bonds of earth

And danced the skies on
laughter-silvered wings;

Sunward I've climbed,

And joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split
clouds—

And done a hundred things you have not
dreamed of—

Wheeled and soared and swung high in
the sunlit silence.

Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting
wind along,

And flung my eager craft through footless
halls of air.

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with
easy grace

Where never lark, or even eagle flew.

And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of

Tracing the origins of Freemasonry



Many have understood for some time that the 3^d degree's drama does not actually represent biblical history. Several Masons have put forth theories explaining the meaning of the drama. One theory links it directly to the fall of the Knights Templar.

The allegory drama - Author John J. Robinson concluded that 3^d degree drama is an allegory about the suppression of the Order of the Knights of the Temple of Solomon but he was not the first to do so. However, in light of brother * Robinson's work, the theory gains real credibility. The Grand Master builder Hiram is Jacques de Molay (or Hiram could simply represent the Templar Order as a whole) and the three ruffians are King Philip IV, Pope Clement V and the Knights of St. John. Another possible ruffian could be Guillaume (William) de Nogaret, whose parents were burned at the stake as heretics by the church. He became the agent of and prosecutor for Phillip IV of France. The unfinished Temple of Solomon represents the unfinished work of the Knights of the Temple of Solomon.

A window view of freemasons in action.

In 1381 a revolt suddenly arose in several shires in England (*the Peasant's Revolt*). It was this incident of medieval history that br. Robinson was investigating when his research lead him to Freemasons and the Knights Templar. Robinson was curious about the organization behind the revolt. After the revolt had been put down several leaders confessed to belonging to a *Great Society*, based in London. Another odd feature to the revolt was a heavy focus of violence toward the religious order of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John. There was an obvious revenge link to the Knights Templar but they had been suppressed some seventy years before. In the London area of the revolt, the leader was a man who popped into history and then vanished with little historical notice. His name was Walter Tyler, (maybe was he Walter the Tyler?).

Another great disappearing act. After the various elements or areas of the the revolt were put down, a general amnesty was passed by Parliament and enlarged upon by the King. There were 287 men not granted amnesty but, except for the ones

already dead or in prison, the rest simply vanished; much like the many Templars who vanished during the suppression roundup. Was there a Great Society network already in place which secured safe haven for these men?

Next month—What was the Great Society?

* I would note that at the time John J. Robinson was doing his research and published his books Born In Blood & Dungeon Fire and Sword, he was not a mason. He did become a mason though, as a result of his research and the favorable impression he had gained. Brother Robinson has since been called to the Celestial Lodge; his contribution to our fraternity has been great.

SS John F. Browne



It is the wintertime,
so be sure to dress for
our cold and damp
Bellingham Bay
weather conditions.



Miracles do not happen
in contradiction
to nature,
but only
in contradiction to that
which is unknown to us
of nature.

St Augustine

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

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