

Trestleboard

3rd Quarter 2007

*Stated Meeting: 7:30 pm
on 4th Thursday of
Even Months,
(Holidays Excepted)*



1958-2007



Pictured above: Brother Larry Fagan, F.M. has been chosen the El Camino Research Lodge 2007 Hiram Award Recipient. See Story on page 14 of this issue.

Research: In Service To "The Craft."



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El Camino Research Lodge

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From The East

Every year when we participate in our Constitutional Observance, I'm inspired to research some of the many ways Free Masonry has contributed to the shaping of the very cornerstone of our great nation.

Our founding fathers, when reading Richard Henry Lee's resolution of 1776 "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states," were inspired to work on our first constitution, the Articles of Confederation.

When looking at the articles' architecture, we see that they are based on Brother Benjamin Franklin's 1754 "Albany Plan," a proposal to unite the 13 colonies in an English colonial trade union with the new world. Furthermore we can see how a common thread has been pulled through time by our Masonic Brothers.

By ratification of the Articles of Confederation in 1781 we agreed to a new system of a federation of states, a "perpetual union," a confederacy to be called the United States of America. This concept was borrowed from the organization of the Grand Lodge of England,



**Nick Muhlhauser,
2007 Master**

which has its non-Masonic origin from the 16th century. St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) had created a document to form a more authoritative regime for his order of the "Jesuits' Society of Jesus."

This document he called the "constitution" and it described the regulations to organize his Order. By the time of his death the Jesuits were divided into 12 administrative units called Provinces, overseen by the Order of the Society of Jesus. Dr. James

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[From The East]

Anderson, a Presbyterian minister from Aberdeen, England, was one of the men present at the meeting of the four Lodges of London in 1717.

This meeting formed the (first) Grand Lodge of England and Dr. Anderson was tasked to design a template for this new Masonic organization.

In 1723 he wrote the first "constitution" for English Free Masons. Dr. Anderson not only adopted the term "constitution" from the Jesuits but he also used the concept of a federation of independent provinces.

His form of Masonic Federalism has proven to be quite successful. To this day independent of England's central government, English Masonry is organized in Provincial Grand Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England.

The American Articles of Confederation were not so long lived. They gave Congress the authority to conduct foreign policy, make war, make military appointments, borrow money, and run the Postal service, but in fact it had little or no power to enforce its will on any one of the thirteen sovereign states.

The delegates of the 1787

Constitutional Convention were eventually convinced (primarily by George Washington through Governor Edmund Randolph of Virginia) to not bother trying to diddle or adjust the Articles but instead to scrap them and start fresh with a new constitution.

The convention delegates with the vast knowledge of their many free and forward thinking members such as Locke, Hume, Adam Smith and Montesquieu, remained steadfast to three Masonic principles: the investment of power in the office, but not in the man; a system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government; and the Masonic federal system of organization.

The convention adopted a plan for the new constitution on the 26th of July. It was penned by Brother Edmund Randolph who instructed the chairman, John Rutledge of South Carolina to confine the constitution to broad principles and not clutter it with unnecessary details.

This concept for a foundational document has allowed it to stay youthful and

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Remaining Officer's Association Meeting Schedule For 2007

Dinner for all events begins at 6:30 PM

Date	Host	Program
Mon. Oct. 22	Los Altos	Gr. Lodge Results
Tues. Nov. 27	Mtn. View DeAnza	Swansong
Dec. is Dark	-----	-----

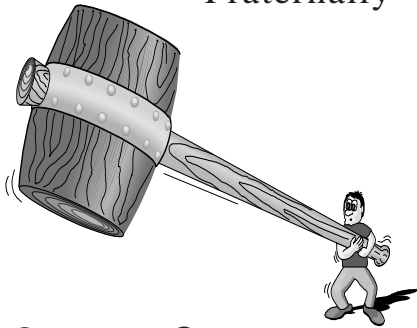
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[From The East]

pertinent over the centuries.

The creation of our Constitution; the planting of an enlightened ideal was a laborious task. Those creative labors of more than two centuries ago have rewarded us with the abundant fruits of freedom. Each time I learn of the contribution of Free Masonry to our Great Nation I swell with pride for being privileged as an American and as a Masonic Brother.

Fraternally



Nick Muhlhouser
2007 Master

October Stated Meeting Night
Thursday
October 25, 2007
Dinner at The Sherwood Inn 6:00 PM
Stated Meeting 7:30 PM
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**November Prime Time**  
Thursday  
November 15, 2007  
Brunch at The Sherwood Inn 10:30 AM  
Prime Time in Library 12:00 Noon  
~~~~~

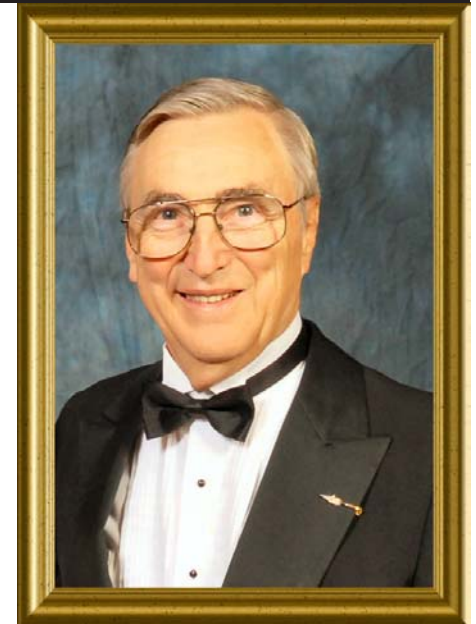
Hiram Award Night
Thursday
November 29, 2007
Presentation 7:30 PM
Light Refreshments To Follow

The Westerly Wind

WHO IS (or is not) THE GRAND LODGE?

Whenever someone says to me **"YOU ARE THE GRAND LODGE,"** I become very angry and feel highly insulted. I consider that this statement is designed to quiet any objection as to my dissatisfaction with The Grand Lodge, or to suggest that I am the cause of whatever is wrong with The Grand Lodge.

In light of this, let us consider the possible thoughts behind this **"YOU ARE THE GRAND LODGE"** statement. The only argument that can be assumed to answer such a statement is that **WE** are able to vote on the annual resolutions. This is not reason enough, and who is this **WE**? Certainly not all Masons fit that **"WE"** or **"YOU ARE THE GRAND LODGE"** category. Why? Because not everyone is allowed to vote on the resolutions. In the constituent Lodges, only the three principal officers (Master, Sr. & Jr. Wardens) and one vote for the sum of all the Lodge's Past Masters is allocated. Consider that most lodges have 15 to 25 active Past Masters. Yet only one vote is allocated to the past masters.



Ray V. Bonior, P.M.
2007 Senior Warden

And, we know, these past masters do not have common agreement on each resolution before Grand Lodge.

So what is the purpose of only one vote for the past masters. Clearly, it is to dilute the effectiveness of Past Masters?

Furthermore, no other lodge member may ballot on the resolutions especially if he does not fit into the four votes allocated to the individual lodges. Are we going to be so arrogant to say these brethren are not wise enough to render good judgment, or they do not deserve to vote

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[The Westerly Wind]

because they are not, or have not been, a principal officer of the lodge? And, let us not forget, only the same four votes are available for Grand Lodge elections.

Continuing on with regard to voting at a Grand Lodge Communication, it is interesting that there was Resolution No. 07-01 before Grand Lodge to allow inspectors to vote at the Annual Communication. In the past, a resolution that would allow all past masters to vote at annual communication was defeated.

Of course, Resolution No. 07-01 would strengthen the support of the Grand Lodge hierarchy. Also, we should be aware, the reasons given in the whereas paragraphs of Resolution No. 07-01 were inherently weak. In fact this resolution was carried over until next year.

So what can be done? To begin, let us become more democratic to our Masonic membership. We should allow all master masons to vote on all issues and resolutions and in all elections, not just selected masons but ALL Master Masons.

It is also apparent, there is no transparency of the activities, administration, financial details, daily functioning, intent, and selection of nominees in Grand Lodge. It is time to step into the 21st century and make

the functioning of our Grand Lodge activities and issues open to all its members. I believe it would be interesting to our masons to see the detailed spending of the Grand Lodge hierarchy, and the salaries of Grand Lodge management.

As I spend more and more time with my Masonic brethren, I notice more and more dissatisfaction with Grand Lodge. Why is this? Is it because we do not have any indication that Grand Lodge hierarchy considers our worth to our fraternity? Most active Masons consider themselves to be receiving the mushroom treatment.

We all love our fraternity, and this love of the Masonic fraternity is the glue which binds us to our fellow Masons. I hope the Grand Lodge tries to see these Master Masons in their true light.

I can only hope all these recommendations come to fruition. We then may be able to truly say to one another, **"YOU ARE THE GRAND LODGE."**



Fraternally

Ray V. Benior, P.M.

What Is Freemasonry?

One of the more interesting duties of members of research lodges is serving on the lodge speaker's bureau. The present paper is a well meant effort to suggest some features of talks which you may be called upon to present.

The following might also be helpful in preparing addresses to non-Masonic groups. Most such audiences will be either badly misinformed or in many cases completely ignorant of even the existence of Freemasonry.

We must never assume any knowledge on the part of our listeners. Many, perhaps even most, otherwise well educated, intelligent, and sophisticated people have never heard of the Masons. As a result, it becomes virtually impossible to talk down to them.

Often the usual questions will arise: "*What is Masonry?*", or "*Is that the same as Freemasonry?*".

Since if you ask 10 Brother Masons the first question, you are likely to get 10 different answers, let me begin by telling you what Freemasonry is **NOT**.

Freemasonry is NOT a religion! Many Masons are pious and faithful members of established churches. I have personal friends (Masons) who are Roman



**Maury Dunbar, F. M.
2007 Senior Deacon**

Catholics, Jews, Hindus, Baptists, Mormons, Deists, and many other religions.

But in the nearly 50 years of my own membership, I have never known a Mason who attended lodge for religious purposes. The attitude of Masonry is usually, "If you wish to worship in a religious manner, go to church or temple."

Freemasonry is NOT a cult!

Typically, a cult will have or has had a charismatic, dynamic, "inspired" leader or guru. Jim

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[What Is Freemasonry?]

Jones, the Reverend Moon, and L. Ron Hubbard come to mind. In Freemasonry we have no such personality devotion or following.

Here in California other than the Judeo-Christian Bible on the altar of the Lodge, we have no sacred extra biblical or "inspired" books. Much like a court of law, we have the ancient custom of taking an oath or swearing on the Bible. Bible study, per se, is not done in Lodge. We have salutatorial and valedictorial prayers, but they are non-denominational and are a part of the traditional ritual only. In nearly a half century, no one in the Lodge has ever asked me my religious affiliation.

Masonry is NOT a secret organization.

Many towns and cities have welcoming signs informing traveling Masons (or anyone else) where the Lodge is located and what dates and times it meets. Masonic buildings are often landmark tourist attractions. I need mention only the splendid white Masonic temple atop Nob Hill in San Francisco. Masonic lodges are listed in phone directories and other common references. Many California Masons wear

some identifying indication of membership - lapel pins, bolo ties, belt buckles, rings. However, I have never seen a masonic earring or a masonic tattoo. Even the Lodge ritual is available if a person really wants to know. It is to be found in many different publications, starting with the Catholic Encyclopedia.

Freemasonry is NOT a business, investment, savings, or insurance organization.

It exists for companionship, camaraderie, the promotion of peace and brotherhood, charity, and benevolence.

There is no such person as a typical Mason. Each is like the snowflake - unique.

Similarly, there is no such thing as a typical Lodge. My latest data indicate that there are 188,537 Masons in 622 Lodges in California. Of course, that could change overnight, but the numbers should be about right.

In a world of greed and violence, Masonry teaches; *restraint and peace.*

In a world of lying, conniving, deception, and corruption. *You do NOT lie, cheat, or steal.*

In a world of selfish rivalry:

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ANNOUNCEMENT

On Tuesday November 20, 2007 The Northern California Research Lodge will hold their Quarterly Stated Meeting/Election of Officers/Installation of Officers in the Downstairs Lodge Room at the San Francisco Scottish Rite Building on 19th Ave. in San Francisco, CA. All Master Masons are invited to attend. For more information on carpooling from San Jose contact Brother Luis Orozco by email at oldsalvus@comcast.net

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[What Is Freemasonry?]

Brotherhood and cooperation.

In a world of hatred and bigotry:

Tolerance and kindness.

In a world of cynicism and scorn:

Reverence and respect.

In the agony of moral and spiritual depression, of dope, booze, ennui, suicide, and crime, Masonry teaches:

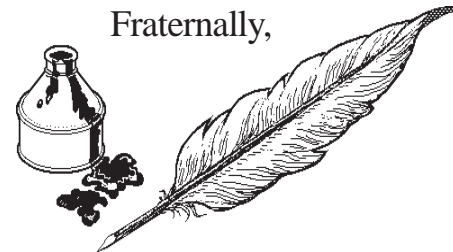
Industry, self-reliance, temperance, and integrity.

Its emphasis is always on the nobler, the finer choice of conduct.

What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us.

What we have done for others, remains and endures.

Fraternally,



Mauvy Dunbar, F.M.

October Stated Meeting Night

Thursday

October 25, 2007

Dinner at The Sherwood Inn 6:00 PM

Stated Meeting 7:30 PM

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November Prime Time

Thursday

November 15, 2007

Brunch at The Sherwood Inn 10:30 AM

Prime Time in Library

12:00 Noon

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Hiram Award Night

Thursday

November 29, 2007

Presentation 7:30 PM

Light Refreshments

To Follow

FIND US ON THE WEB AT;
<http://www.calodges.org/ecrl>

Mark Twain

“Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.”

On humorous sketches he penned the name “Josh.” Some of his letters were signed “Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass,” but the world usually recognizes Samuel Langhorne Clemens as “Mark Twain.”

Clemens stated that the name “Mark Twain” came from his years working on Mississippi riverboats, where two fathoms (12 feet) meant “safe water.” A river boatman’s cry was “mark twain” or “by the mark twain” (twain is an ancient word for two). “By the mark twain” meant “according to the mark on a line the depth is two fathoms” and the boat is safe.

His sayings and advice still ring clearly today.

“My grandfather taught me to fish on the pier in our village. He told me of his childhood; and of the excitement when the paddle wheeled riverboats docked. Interesting people and cargo unloaded, and then others boarded along with more cargo. The boat brought people, goods, news, and en-



**Dave Kimball, F. M.
2007 Marshall**

tertainment, especially music and dancing.”

As a riverboat pilot Mark Twain held an important position. He kept the boat and passengers safe on their journey; and he was well paid at \$250 a month (\$155,000 in present day coin).

“You cannot reason with your heart; it has its own laws and thumps about things which intellect scorns.”

“Nothing so needs reforming as other people’s habits.”

“Things ne’er do go smoothly in weddings, suicides,

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[Mark Twain]**

or courtships.”

“Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.”

“Wagner’s music is not as bad as it sounds.”

“The sweetest words in the English language... Not Guilty.”

“I have been cautioned to talk but not say anything. I do not consider this a difficult task.”

“Who can speak more profoundly about the truth and lies?”

“Never tell a lie...except for practice.”

“A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on his shoes.”

“No real gentleman will tell the naked truth in the presence of ladies.”

“I don’t mind what the opposition say of me so long as they don’t tell the truth about me. But when they descend to telling the truth about me I consider that this is taking an unfair advantage.”

“When in doubt tell the truth.”

Mark Twain who gave so much joy to others knew deeply of hardship and loss. His childhood was “hardscrabble.” He was the sixth of seven children.

Only three of them survived childhood. One surviving brother was killed in a riverboat explosion. His father died when Sam was only eleven, and Sam was apprenticed to a printer. Later in life, his son Langdon died after only 19 months of life. In Sam’s last years his wife and two of his three daughters had died. He was a great storyteller, but his financial difficulties nagged him for years.

His literary contribution is great and wonderful. He wrote about serious problems but with humor. Who can forget his travels with the king “incognito” in Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court? The king truly encounters the suffering of his people. Twain was first recognized for Innocents Abroad but most people, probably, remember his career beginning with “The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.” In time would come Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn along with The Gilded Age, Pudd’nhead Wilson and many more.

“Every story needs a teller and a listener.” A storyteller needs to identify with his audience and this may be difficult, especially, when the

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[Mark Twain]

lights are low and you cannot see the audience. Everyone is or has been a child, and so Becky Thatcher, Tom Sawyer, and Huckleberry Finn will always live in our hearts.

In The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Becky fears the humiliation of a “licking” from the schoolmaster for tearing a page in his important book. The Master says, “Rebecca Thatcher,” (Tom glanced at her face-it was white with terror) – “did you tear – no, look me in the face” – (her hands rose in appeal) – “did you tear this book?”

"A thought shot like lightning through Tom's brain. He sprang to his feet and shouted – I done it! When he stepped forward to go to his punishment the surprise, the gratitude, the adoration that shone upon him out of poor Becky's eyes seemed pay enough for a hundred floggings."

Along the way, Oxford University awarded an Honorary Doctor of Literature Degree to Twain. Oxford might have granted him a full-fledged degree and who would have said no. His long-time friendship with U.S. Grant resulted in Twain's

publishing the General's memoirs and financially saving his widow.

Mark Twain and Booker T. Washington, (Also a Brother Mason.) were in frequent personal contact; and Twain constantly lent his aid to “Negro” colleges, including Tuskegee.

“In April 1907, Twain cruised to Virginia aboard the Kanawha. Twain's popularity was such that many paid to ride boats out to where the Kanawha was anchored. He waved to the crowds from the deck. Poor weather conditions delayed his return for several days. Others in his party (without Twain) returned to New York by rail. Because of his dislike of traveling by rail, he remained aboard the Kanawha. The reporters lost track of Twain's whereabouts. When he failed to return to New York City when scheduled, the New York Times speculated that he might have been “lost at sea.”

When learning of this, Twain wrote: “...I will make an exhaustive investigation of this report that I have been lost at sea. If there is any foundation for the report, I will at once apprise the anxious public.”

This was similar to an earlier event in 1897 when he made

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[Mark Twain]

his famous remark “The report of my death is an exaggeration.” A reporter investigated whether he had died (in fact it was his cousin who was seriously ill).

In 1909, Twain is quoted as saying: “I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: ‘Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together.’”

Mark Twain died of angina pectoris on April 21, 1910 in Redding, Connecticut. Brother Samuel Longhorn Clemens was a member of Polar Star Lodge #79, St. Louis, Missouri.

Remember... Man is the only animal that blushes or needs to.

When angry count to four; when very angry, swear.

I was a soldier for one... two... weeks... I deserted... the Confederacy fell.

There is no distinctively native American criminal class except Congress.

Carlyle said, “A lie cannot live.” It shows that he did not know how to tell one.

(On George Washington)

He was ignorant of the commonest accomplishments of youth. He could not even tell a lie.

When I was young I could remember anything, whether it happened or not.

Now and then we had a hope that if we lived and were good, God would permit us to be pirates.

Power, money, persuasion, supplication, persecution - these can lift at a colossal humbug – push it a little – weaken it a little over the course of a century; but only laughter can blow it to rags and atoms at a blast.



Fraternally,

David Kimball F.M.

2007 Marshal

Brethren; The 2008 Lodge dues are due on January 1, 2008, and are payable now. Please make checks payable to El Camino Research Lodge, and mail them to P.O. Box 2386 Sunnyvale, CA 94087

On The Secretary's Table

As this Trestleboard goes to press, we should be aware of the importance of each member of El Camino Research Lodge attending the October Stated Meeting.

Unlike a blue lodge, where stated meetings are regularly held each month, our stated meetings are held only every other month in the even months. This also means that our officers elections must be held in October instead of November. This month our meeting will be held on Thursday October 25th at 7:30 P.M. Please try to attend.

One of the most pleasant duties of the lodge secretary happens when the Master directs him to contact our Grand Lodge and order the pendant, pin, and certificate for a Hiram Award.

I am happy to announce that the Master has directed me to inform you that This year El Camino Research Lodge will confer the Hiram Award on Brother Lawrence (Larry) Fagan.

The happy event will take place on Thursday November 29th at 7:30 PM on the hill in San Jose. I very much look forward to seeing you there.



**Luis J. Orozco, II, P.M., F.M.
2007 Secretary/Publisher**

In other news, the Grand Secretary has advised me that effective immediately the Grand Master has approved the addition of the Bhagavad-Gita of the Hindus to the list of Alternate Holy Writings as per Section 460.060 of the California Masonic Code.



Fraternally,

Luis J. Orozco, II, P.M., F.M.
Secretary

Elected and Appointed officers of the Grand Lodge for the Masonic Year commencing September 30, 2007

Hopper, Richard Wakefield,	Grand Master
Adamson, Larry Lamar,	Deputy Grand Master
Kenneth G. Nagel,	Senior Grand Warden
William J. Bray, III,	Junior Grand Warden
Glenn D. Woody,	Grand Treasurer
John L. Cooper, III,	Grand Secretary
Paul D. Hennig,	Grand Lecturer
Allan L. Casalou,	Assistant Grand Secretary
Arthur H. Weiss,	Grand Chaplain
Mark N. Gibson,	Grand Orator
Cline C. Jack, Jr.,	Grand Marshal
Howard W. Ramsey, Jr.,	Asst Grand Lecturer Div 1
A. Glenn Mac Bride,	Asst Grand Lecturer Div 2
Vernon M. Dandridge,	Asst Grand Lecturer Div 3
Douglas B. Eichen,	Asst Grand Lecturer Div 4
E. Dale Armstrong,	Asst Grand Lecturer Div 5
David M. Shira,	Senior Grand Deacon
John V. Lawler,	Senior Grand Steward
Thomas E. Colgan,	Junior Grand Deacon
Ricky L. Lawler,	Junior Grand Steward
Gerard L. Shirikjian,	Grand Standard Bearer
Frank E. Lind,	Grand Sword Bearer
James J. Nash, Jr.,	Grand Bible Bearer
Patrick A. Plunkett,	Grand Pursuivant
Christopher Morris,	Grand Organist
Donald R. Taylor, Sr.	Grand Tiler
Robert Lam,	Assistant Grand Tiler
Stephen R. Miller,	Assistant Grand Organist

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