

Trestleboard

4th Quarter 2007

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



1958-2007



Pictured above Worshipful Master Nick Muhlhauer (L) presents the Hiram Award to Brother Larry Fagan, F.M. (R) on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2007



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<http://www.calodges.org/ecrl>

From The East

This being the forth quarter publication of our ECRL Trestleboard, it is also the last Trestleboard of my year as Master of our research lodge.

The time has flown by and as is normal with most research lodge masters, I really did not have time to accomplish everything we had originally planned. It seems only yesterday that I sat in the oriental chair for the first time.

In any case, I want to thank the many brothers who made the successes we had this year possible, and I look forward to being an active member as a Former Master in the coming year.

Thanks and best wishes in the coming year to Worshipful Ray Bonior who has always been there for me with his level head and sage advice. You will have my complete support this coming year.

Thanks to Larry Pedersen, our Sr. Warden elect, for stepping in as Junior Warden when we really needed one.

Thanks also to Jeff Umscheid for following in that chair. Thanks to Alvie Hartsog for being one of the best chaplains and call committee chairmen I know.

Thanks to Former Master Maury Dunbar for serving as chairman of our Speakers Committee, and his great Trestleboard articles as well as his work in our lodge library. I



**Nick Muhlhauser,
2007 Master**

could always rely on Maury for an interesting educational talk in our stated meetings. Thank you for that support.

Thanks also to Former Master David Kimball for giving so many talks during the year and for his regular service to the lodge in the way of his great Trestleboard articles, and for talks at various lodges luncheon and book clubs.

To Former Master Larry Fagan, I can only say we would not have a Trestleboard if not for your many efforts at proofreading. It seems you have always been there in the background when we really

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needed you. Thank you so very much.

Many thanks also to our Treasurer for his constant attention to the details, without which our lodge would not be able to continue in operation.

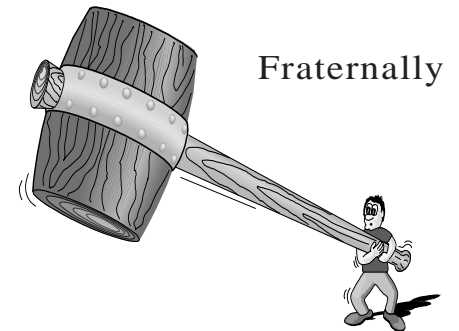
A very special thanks to our secretary, Worshipful Brother Luis Orozco, who has been the driving force behind our Trestleboard production. His continuous work throughout this year on the Libraries, and his inspirational compositions on the piano, are very much appreciated and became some of the highlights of my year as master.

A special congratulation also goes to Brother Larry Fagan on the occasion of his Hiram Award. Your many years of service to our research lodge has more than warranted the Hiram Award, and we will all continue to look to you for leadership in our Lodge functions.

For those who could not attend the November 20th Hiram Award event you missed a truly great dinner and evening. There were 62 people in attendance. My thanks to all who attended.

The El Camino Research Lodge will hold its 51st Installation of Officers at 6:00 PM on Thursday January 17th, 2008 on the hill in San Jose. I hope each of you can make it. This promises to be a grand affair with dinner following the ceremony.

Last, but certainly not least a special thank you to Former Master Irv Cohen, who stepped up to the plate when we really needed a Tiler. Irv had a heart attack a while back and is presently in the Veterans Hospital at Menlo Park. Lets each of us give him a call. You can reach him by calling the hospital operator at (650) 493-5000; then press 0 and ask the operator to connect you to Irwin Cohen. He will be glad to hear from you. Come back soon, Irv.



Fraternally

Nick Muhlhauser
2007 Master

**Brethren; Our 2008
El Camino Research Lodge
dues are due on
January 1, 2008,
and are payable now.
Please make all checks
payable to
El Camino Research Lodge,
and mail them to:
Luis J. Orozco, II,
Secretary
P.O. Box 2386
Sunnyvale, CA 94087**

Another Viewpoint

Dear Bro. Editor,

This is another viewpoint to the article of our Senior Warden, Bro. Ray Bonier, in the last issue of the ECRL Trestleboard. Wor. Bro. Bonier objected to the phrase "You are Grand Lodge" because he believes that this statement is misleading. I think it is important to consider several facts in order to understand the issues that he raised. Here are some things I think about:

Grand Lodge is a representative democracy, with each lodge being given a specified number of votes. Grand Lodge could, instead, function as a general assembly of all Master Masons with each one having a vote.

There is nothing wrong with this proposal, but it would take a change in the California Masonic Code to do it. No one has proposed this change, so there is no way to know how the members would vote on it. To state that those who opposed giving the vote to all past masters would also vote against giving the vote to all Master Masons is speculation. There is no way to know what the outcome of



**John L. Cooper, III, P.M.
Grand Secretary**

such a proposal would be. If adopted, it is evident that it could change many things, not the least of which it might give greater power to Master Masons who live close to the site of the Annual Communication than those who live at a greater distance. Since most ECRL members live in Northern California it is likely that they would gain in influence at the expense of other and more distant parts of the state.

The finances of Grand Lodge are very transparent. Not only are the detailed and audited financial statements published each year in the Proceed-

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[Another Viewpoint]

ings, but at least 30 days before each Annual Communication a detailed report on the proposed Grand Lodge Budget is sent to each lodge. Lodges are expected to review and discuss the budget and instruct their representatives pertaining to it. If more information is needed on any item, it is available to any member of the lodge for the asking. In addition, the salaries of all the top officials of all non-profits – including the Grand Lodge and its entities – are available on the published 990's. This information is easily viewed on the Internet, and we will be happy to tell any member how to get this information.

There is a reason to state that "You are Grand Lodge" because it is based in reality. There are 28 Grand Lodge Of-

ficers, each with one vote; there are 25 Past Grand Masters, each with one vote. There are 338 lodges, each with four votes. Grand Lodge is presently governed as a representative democracy; and if the lodge members instruct their representatives to vote in a particular way, they are expected to do so. The California Masonic Code is very specific in that regard.

I respect the opinion of Bro. Bonier, as I respect him as a Mason. But there is a different point of view.

Sincerely and fraternally,



John L. Cooper, II, PM
Grand 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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<http://www.calodges.org/ecrl>

SPECIAL NOTICE

All members of El Camino Research Lodge, are hereby notified that in compliance with our By Laws the February 2008 Stated Meeting of El Camino Research Lodge, will be held on Thursday, February 28, commencing at 7:30 PM on the hill at 2500 Masonic Drive, in San Jose, California. In compliance with Section 4030 of the California Masonic Code, each member is hereby notified that one of two motions will be made to change the future dates for holding our Stated Meetings. All members interested in voting on this matter are hereby notified and encouraged to attend and vote. The following is the wording which will be used in each motion.

MOTION #1

I move the date and time for the Stated Meeting of El Camino Research Lodge, be changed from the present dates and times of 7:30 PM on the 4th Thursday of each even month to 7:30 PM on the 4th Thursday of each odd month, and that our by laws reflect this change.

MOTION # 2

I move the date and time for the Stated Meeting of El Camino Research Lodge, be changed from the present dates and times of 7:30 PM on the 4th Thursday of each even month to 7:30 PM on the 4th Thursday of February, March, April, September, October, and November, and that our by laws reflect this change.

Silver Linings

The best conductor of both heat and electricity is also the most reflective of all the elements. It is very beautiful in its special metallic whiteness and has been used for millennia in art and decoration and for money.

The very word for “money” in French is the same as the word for “silver” — argent. In Spanish we say “plata” as in “Rio de la Plata,” river of silver. In Italian, “argento.” Russians say “serebro.” In our sister language, German, the word is similar to English, “silver.”

The only reason that silver is not used for electrical wiring is that it is expensive. Traditionally, Rolls-Royce cars were each unique, ordered to the specifications of the buyer.

They had custom wood, ivory, leather, gold trim, special glass, and whatever the buyer wanted. It seems that there was an Arab sheik, newly rich with American oil money, who was told about the superior conductivity of silver. He promptly ordered that his Rolls-Royces be equipped with silver wiring.



Maury Dunbar, F. M.
2007 Senior Deacon

Copper is much cheaper but it is only the second best conductor of electricity.

Silver is used extensively in the photography industry, for long-life batteries and for solar panels.

Silver has the curious property of sterilizing water. Only tiny amounts are needed, such as ten parts per billion.

This remarkable fact has been known since the 5th century B.C. when Herodotus wrote that Cyrus, king of Persia, trav-

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[Silver Linings]

eled with his own personal water supply taken from a stream, boiled, and stored in special silver containers.

Both Romans and Greeks observed that food and drink did not spoil as quickly if kept in silver vessels. Silver’s anti-bacterial quality was made use of centuries before bacteria were known. This may explain why silver coins are often found at the bottom of ancient wells.

The Latin word for silver is argentum. The Greek word is arguros. The chemical symbol is Ag. Hence AgNO₃ is silver nitrate, commonly used in therapeutic eye drops. There is a medical condition called “argyria,” which is caused by the ingesting of silver particles diluted in water. The symptom in diagnosis is conspicuous blue skin.

Allusions to silver and metaphors involving silver are ubiquitous in English. We have silver threads among the gold, a silver lining to a threatening cloud, and “silver” as a collective figure of speech meaning the dining utensils. The Lone Ranger used silver bullets as emblematic of frontier justice.

His partner was Jay

Silverheels. His horse was named Silver. “Silver “ is often used to convey the sense of “second” Compare Olympic medals gold and silver. Even so, silver is infinitely more useful and of more value to our species than Au (gold). On November 1, gold was \$792 per troy ounce; silver was \$14. 37.

Of course, gold is far more rare and it has the cachet of centuries of intense desirability. Hence its outrageous price in ordinary money. Some of the Ancient Ones thought that mercury was liquid silver. It certainly appears to be. So the Greeks called it hydrargrum (liquid silver). Today our symbol for mercury is Hg.

You will recall that Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Traditionally, Ag was used to ward off witches, vampires, and evil spirits of many species. Stakes and crosses of silver were sure protection against such diabolic threats. Silver often enters our folklore.

In his folksong “Old Blue,” Burl Ives (33rd)sings: When Old Blue died, (“Old Blue” was a Bluetick hunting hound) He died so hard, He blowed a hole, In my back yard. Well, I dug his grave, With a silver spade, And let him down, With a

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[Silver Linings]

golden chain... Silver is the world's favorite trim for our saddles, bridles and martingales. It is commonly used for decorative purposes on pistols, rifles, shotguns, swords and knives.

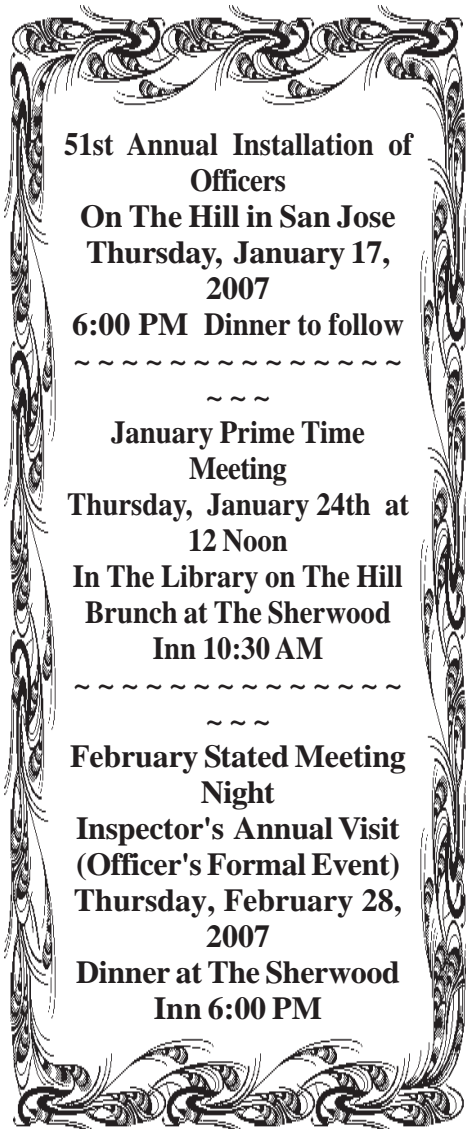
The fabulous Comstock Lode was an enormous vein of silver. Nevada is The Silver State. Silverado is not only a place of dreams; it is a great American pickup. Silver proves that God loves us and wants us to be happy.



Fraternally,

Mauvy Dunbar, F.M.

Brethren; Our 2008 El Camino Research Lodge dues are due on January 1, 2008, and are payable now. Please make all checks payable to El Camino Research Lodge, and mail them to: Luis J. Orozco, II, Secretary P.O. Box 2386 Sunnyvale, CA 94087



51st Annual Installation of Officers

**On The Hill in San Jose
Thursday, January 17,
2007**

6:00 PM Dinner to follow

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January Prime Time Meeting

**Thursday, January 24th at
12 Noon**

**In The Library on The Hill
Brunch at The Sherwood
Inn 10:30 AM**

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February Stated Meeting Night

**Inspector's Annual Visit
(Officer's Formal Event)
Thursday, February 28,
2007**

**Dinner at The Sherwood
Inn 6:00 PM**



On The Secretary's Table

The holiday season has always been one of joy in the Masonic orders. In fact, the most popular plant of the season, "The Poinsettia," is well known as "The Masonic Flower." The history of this plant, and the man responsible for its discovery and its name, is intriguing, to say the least.

Originally the Poinsettia plant is native to the mountains of central and western Mexico, where from ancient times it was used by the local native people in both medicinal and religious rituals.

However, the story of the man who introduced it to America and the world, actually begins in France as far back as the year 1550, when John Calvin established his "Reformed Church," the members of which began to be known as Huguenots by the faithful of the then Established Roman Catholic Church.

The lineage of Brother Poinsett was derived from the French Huguenot bloodline, and his ancestors migrated to America only because of the Church wars against them.

The origin of the word "Huguenots" is at best uncertain, but we do know that around



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

1550 it was being used in Church courts to define what they called "heretics" who were in reality dissenters from the Church.

In his book "The Days of the Upright, a History of the Huguenots," the author O.I.A. Roche writes that the word Huguenot is "...a combination of a Flemish and a German word. In the Flemish corner of France, Bible students who gathered in each other's houses to study secretly were called *Huis Genooten*, or 'house fellows,' while on the Swiss and German borders

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they were termed Eid Genossen, or 'oath fellows,' that is, persons bound to each other by an oath. Gallicized into 'Huguenot,' often used deprecatingly, the word became, during two and a half centuries of terror and triumph, a badge of enduring honor and courage."

In the Flemish corner of France, Bible students who gathered in each other's houses to study in secret were then called Huisgenooten, or "house fellows," and along the Swiss and German borders they were called "Eidgenossen," meaning "oath fellows," because they were bound to each other by an oath. Gallicized as "Huguenot," it was often used deprecatingly. However, because the people so named continued to endure over a period of two and a half centuries of both terror and triumph, and because of the constant and vicious persecution, the word "Huguenot" eventually became a badge of honor defining the courage to survive.

Then, when the extreme religious persecution by the Roman Catholic Church in

France finally culminated in the revocation of the Edit of Nantes in 1685, the Protestant families were forced to seek refuge in other countries or face trial before the church courts of the French Inquisition.

Among the thousands of families who fled the Inquisition, many escaped to Germany, The Netherlands, England, and the English colonies in the Americas, where they contributed considerably to the industrial and cultural life of their new lands.

In America, the great majority of these pilgrims settled in South Carolina, and among them was a young man named Peter Poinsett, who immigrated with his wife Ann Fouchereau, from the small village of Soubisi in western France just outside of the city of Rochell.

Because they were of humble means their passage was paid for by his becoming indentured for a period of five or six years, after which in 1691 he was naturalized a citizen of the province of South Carolina.

The Huguenots were well known for their industry and frugality by 1742 Poinsett's son Peter became a member of the South Carolina Society, which was an association formed to

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provide for poor French Huguenot emigrant families. This organization was destined to become one of the richest and most influential charitable institutions in the entire country.

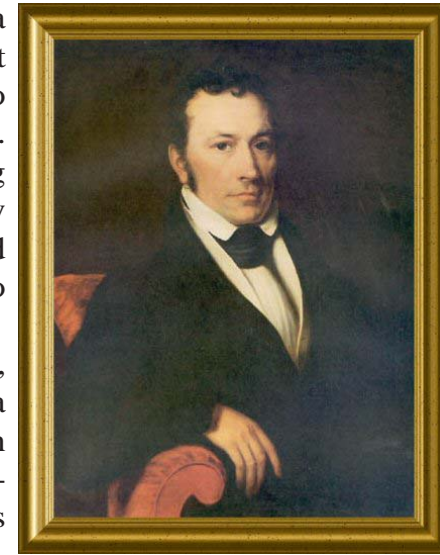
The family prospered and became leaders in Charleston. Shortly thereafter, Peter's grandsons Elisha and Joel were sent off to England to study medicine. After completing their studies, they each married and then returned to Charleston.

In England, Elisha married a young woman named Ann Roberts, and upon his return to Charles-

ton he became well known for his expertise as a physician. In fact during the American Revolutionary War he was noted as an outstanding medical officer, and was called upon to treat the wounds of the then dying General Pulaski during the 1779 siege of Savannah. His son Joel Roberts Poinsett was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on March 2, 1779 while he was still away at war.

While his father insisted on a medical education for Joel, and although he did complete his medical studies, his first love remained the military. He was fluent in French, Spanish, Italian, and German.

As a very young man he had the opportunity to travel in Europe and Asia from 1801-1804 and again from 1806-1808.



When he returned home, there were indications of another war with Great Britain. His public service career then began when in 1810 he was appointed as a special federal agent to several South American countries.

When he returned home after the war of 1812, he served in the South Carolina state legislature from 1816 to 1820 he served in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition he received a presidential appointment as the special envoy to Mexico from 1822 through 1823, and while

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in Mexico he advocated the causes of the South American republics toward independence.

Then in 1925, President Madison appointed him the first official ambassador to Mexico. Eight years later in 1833, he returned home and married Mary IZARD Pringle.

During these years he remained an influence in government circles, and in so doing he spearheaded what is now known as the Smithsonian Institution, and expanded the operations of West Point. But throughout all these endeavors, Brother Poinsett was always fascinated by horticulture. He regularly collected horticultural artifacts the world over, and he was truly an accomplished amateur botanist.

While in Mexico he became fascinated with a native plant called "Euphorbia pulcherrima", whose "petals" are actually bracts surrounding clusters of tiny yellow flowers. He brought the plant home to the United States where it was first called the "painted leaf" and the "Mexican fire plant."

As is well known Brother

Joel Poinsett brought the poinsettia to the attention of top botanists of his day, however what is less well understood is how the plants entered the US and European commercial markets.

As it happened seeds and plants of these early poinsettias were sent by him to a commercial nursery in Philadelphia – not to John Bartram as the story has been told – but to another family friend named Col. Robert Carr, who was married to John Bartram's granddaughter Ann Bartram Carr.

Col. Carr then introduced the poinsettia into the commercial trade from Bartram's Garden on June 6th, 1829 at "the first semiannual Exhibition of fruits, flowers, and plants, of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society" – the inaugural event of the now well known 175 year old Philadelphia Flower Show.

Brother Poinsett was a Past Master of Recovery Lodge No. 31, Greenville, SC, and Solomo's Lodge No. 1, Charleston, SC. In 1821, he was elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, but was never able to serve as Grand Master, because of his appointment as Secretary

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[The Secretary's Table]

of War under President Van Buren.

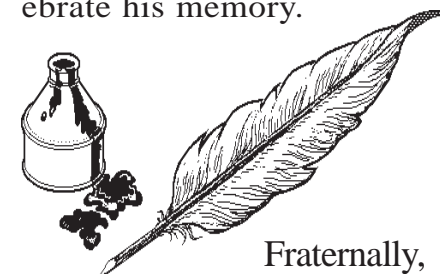
However, he did serve as Grand High Priest in South Carolina from 1821 to 1841.

At the request of Mexican Freemasons, he sent for charters for five lodges, which were granted by the Grand Lodge of New York. He also helped establish the Grand Lodge of



Mexico, and is credited with introducing Royal Arch Masonry to Mexico.

At the age of 72 he died at the home of his doctor in Statesburg, South Carolina. But his flower lives on to celebrate his memory.



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



Brother and Former Master Irv Cohen recently suffered a heart attack, and was admitted to the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital. Irv is the tiler for ECRL, and will be installed as such at a later date. Pictured above Shrine Nobles Luis Orozco, (L) and Harvey McAninch (R) make a presentation of honor from the Asiya Shrine Temple Potentate.