

Trestleboard

January 2006

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



1958-2006



Pictured above from left to right, brothers Larry Fagan, F.M., Bill Roberts, P.M. Fentom Mereness, P.M., Richard Meyers, P.M. (Master), Maury Dunbar, F.M., and Berry Ellsworth, pause following the regular January 2006 "Prime Time" get together.

Research: In Service To "The Craft."



Official Publication of:
El Camino Research Lodge
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<http://www.calodges.org/ecrl>

From The East

Welcome to the New Year!

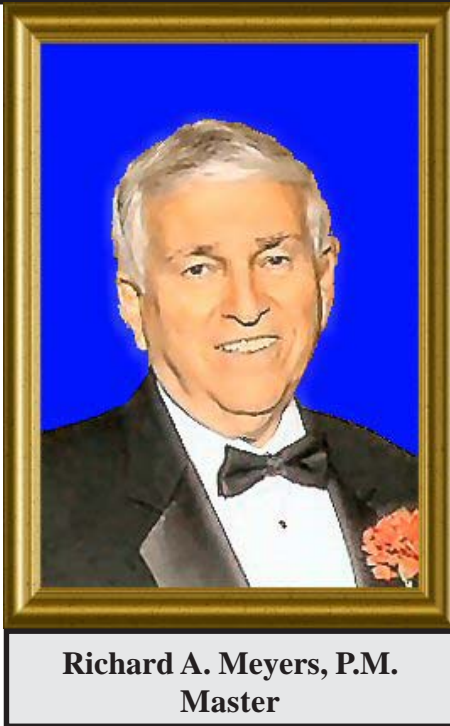
Those of you who attended the installation last month must have been impressed with how smoothly everything occurred.

With only a short practice before the meeting, and with the patient assistance from our inspector, Worshipful Royce Ford, we were able to accomplish a reasonable ceremony.

Of course, we had a fine performance from our Installing Officer, Worshipful Alvie Hartsog, and the Master of Ceremonies, Worshipful Ross Fuller.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous help from our outgoing Master, Fenton Mereness, who pulled double duty throughout the evening. Thanks to all of the officers who came through when the "chips were down."

This coming year should be filled with interesting challenges. We have an exclusive task from the Grand Master to provide monthly articles for the Grand Lodge website. Worshipful Lou Orozco has already submitted two ar-



**Richard A. Meyers, P.M.
Master**

ticles. I am counting on several other members of the Lodge to work on this project.

The stated meeting in February will be on the fourth Thursday of the month, the 23rd, at 7:30 p.m. This will include the official visit of the inspector; so all officers will be wearing tuxedos.

One important topic of discussion will be the rescheduling of our stated meetings back to the 3rd Thursday of the even months (as before).

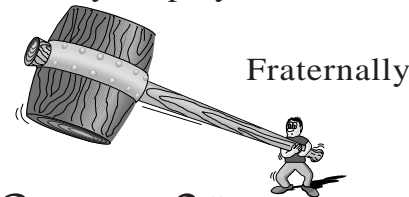
On a sad note, Worshipful

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[From The East]

John Runcie, Past Master of several lodges, and a Former Master of ECRL, passed away January 8, 2006 in the Palo Alto VA hospital with terminal cancer. Please mention this truly distinguished mason in your prayers.



Fraternally

Richard Meyers, P.M.
Master

February

**Stated Meeting Night
Thursday February 23, 2006,
(Inspector's Annual Visit)
(All Officers in Black Tux)
Dinner at The Sherwood Inn
6:00 PM**

Stated Meeting 7:30 PM

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**March (Stag) Prime Time  
Thursday March 16, 2006  
Brunch at The Sherwood Inn  
10:30 AM**

**Prime Time in the Lodge Library  
12:00 Noon**

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Remaining Officer's Association

Meeting Schedule For 2006

Dinner for all events begins at 6:30 PM

Date	Host	Program
Mon. Feb. 27	San Jose	1st Deg.
Mon. Mar. 20	Golden Rule (At Morgan Hill)	Chicken Feed
Tues. Apr. 25	Palo Alto Roller	2nd Deg.
Wed. May 24	Willow Glen Fraternity	3rd Deg/1st Sec.
Thurs. Jun. 22	Mt. Moriah	3rd Deg/2nd Sec.
July is Dark	-----	-----
Thurs. Aug. 24	Friendship	Investigations
Mon. Sept. 25	Golden Rule	Gr. Lodge Preview
Oct. 7-11	Grand Lodge	Communication
Sat. Oct. 14	On The Hill	GM Reception
Mon. Oct. 23	Los Altos	Gr. Lodge Results
Tues. Nov. 21	Mtn. View DeAnza	Swansong
Dec. is Dark	-----	-----

The Starr & The Garder

by Brother Maury Dunbar, F.M.

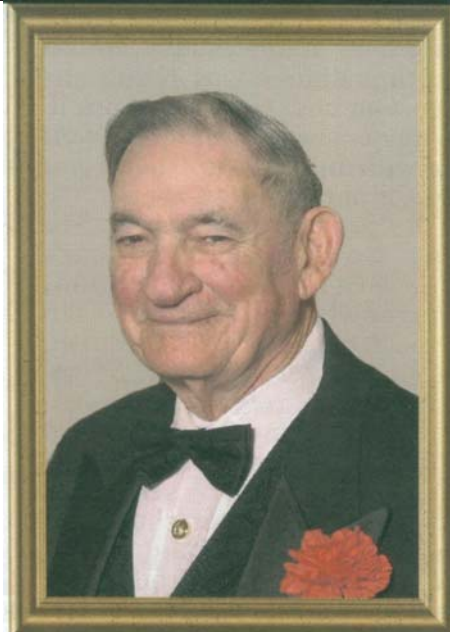
More honorable than the Star or Garter...

Edward III was King of England for half a century from 1327 to 1377. It was the time of the Black Plague and the early years of the Hundred Years War. Edward was the father of 12 legitimate children, the first of whom was the Legendary Black Prince, born in 1330. Another son was John of Gaunt, father of Henry IV.

Edward was only 25 when he started what turned out to become the Hundred Years War. He was over 6 feet tall, lithe and athletic. With his red-gold hair and beard, he was said to have the presence of the God of War.

On St. George's Day, April 23, 1348, Edward caused a great feast to be held at Windsor Castle, where he established a chantry of 12 priests and set up a hostel for impoverished knights who could not support themselves as knights.

Others promised their support for this foundation. These included the Black Prince and several earls. All were true gentlemen blessed with great



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

wealth. Including the king, there were 26 founding members of the new order.

All these men were dressed in robes of russet and wore garters of blue on their right legs. Blue mantles embroidered with the arms of St. George completed the robes of the order. After a great and highly formal ceremony, they attended the feast where they all ate at a common table in honor of the blessed martyr to whom this noble

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[Star or Garter]

brotherhood was dedicated, for it was called the Order of St. George of the Garter

Popular tradition tells us that the motto of the Order, "Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense," derives from this story: At court, Edward had picked up a garter from the floor that had fallen from the stocking of the Countess of Salisbury, a fabulous beauty with whom he was said to have been in love.

To save her from embarrassment, he put it on his own hose. When his companions began to laugh and jeer, the king said that in a little while the same garter would be held in the highest esteem. As the king tied the garter around his own leg, he said, "Honi soit qui mal y pense" - shame on him who thinks ill of it.

In the 17th century, Elias Ashmole suggested that the motto referred to Edward's claim to be the rightful ruler across the Channel. The color of the Order is blue lined with gold - the colors of France.

The Star of Valois

Jean II of the Valois Dynasty succeeded his father, Philip VI in August of 1350. Most of the new king's policies were mistaken, inadequate or

disastrous. His personal idea for improving the military was to found an order of chivalry modeled, like King Edward's recently founded Order of the Garter, on the Knights of the Round Table. Jean's Order of the Star was intended to rival the Garter, revive French prestige, and weld the splintered loyalty of his nobles to the Valois monarchy.

The orders of chivalry, with all of their display of ritual and vows, were a way of trying to secure a loyal body of military support on which the sovereign could rely. That in fact was the symbolism of the Garter, a circlet to bind the Knight-Companions mutually, and all of them jointly to the King as head of the Order. First broached with much fanfare in 1344, the Order of the Garter was originally intended to include 300 proved knights, starting with the most notable of the realm. When formally established 4 years later, it was reduced to an exclusive circle of 26, with St. George as patron and with robes of blue and gold. Significantly, the statutes provided that no member was to leave the King's domain without his authority. The wearing of the

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[Star or Garter]

Garter at the knee was further intended, in the words of the Order's historian, "As a Caveat and Exhortation that the Knights should not cowardly betray the Valor.

Since Jean's object was to be inclusive rather than exclusive, he made the Star open to 500 members. Established "...in honor of God, of our Lady and for the heightening of Chivalry and augmenting of honor..." the full Order was to assemble once a year in a ceremonial banquet hung with the blazons of all the members. Companions were to wear a white tunic, a red or white surcoat embroidered with a gold Star, a red hat, enamel ring, black hose, and gilded shoes. They were to display a red banner strewn with stars and an image of Our Lady.

At the annual banquet, each would recite on oath concerning "...all adventures that befell him in the year, both shameful and honorable..." and clerks would take down the recitals in a book.

The Order would designate the three princes, three bannerettes, and three knights who during the year had done

the most in arms of war "...for no deed of arms in peace shall be taken into account." This meant no deed of private warfare as distinct from a war declared by the sovereign could be claimed as an adventure. Equally significant of the King's intention was the reappearance of the oath not to withdraw, worded more sternly than in the ordinance and more explicitly than in the Order of the Garter. Companions of the Star were required to swear that they would never flee in battle more than four arpents (1 arpent = 150 yds.) "...but would rather die or be taken prisoner."

With dazzling munificence, Jean II launched the Order of the Star at an opening ceremony on January 6, 1352. He donated all the robes and staged a magnificent banquet in a hall draped with tapestries and hangings of gold and velvet decorated with stars and fleurs-de-lis. After a solemn mass, the revels grew so rowdy that a gold chalice was smashed and some draperies stolen. While the knights caroused, the English seized the castle of Guineas, whose absent captain was celebrating with his companions of the Star.

To their own undoing, the companions of the Star took

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seriously the oath not to flee from battle. In 1352 during the war in Brittany, a French force was caught in ambush by the English. They could have fled and saved themselves, but they were bound by their oath not to retreat. They stood and fought until nearly all were killed or captured. This defeat left such a hole in the Order of the Star that it caused the ruin of that noble company. "The Lambskin Apron - more noble than the Star or Garter..." Well, at least the apron is more durable than the Star.



1925



2006

Hornitos Lodge No. 98

1856 - 2006

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Hornitos, California

- DATE:** Saturday, May 20, 2006
TIME: 9:00am - 1:00pm
WHERE: Hornitos Lodge and the Golden Stag Hall
ATTIRE: Lodge Officers {traditional Western attire}
All others {casual Western wear}
LUNCH: Reservations are required, contact:
Robert McAllister, WM {209-374-3358}
\$10.00 per person payable at Stag Hall
EVENTS: Tiler's registration from 9:00am - 10:00am
Open lodge at 10:00am {Master Masons only}
Program at Stag Hall
NRHP plaque setting
Close lodge
Lunch
Town excursions in antique cars
Entertainment
Lodge room open-house

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

On The Secretary's Table

Having been elected as your new lodge secretary, I am in the process of updating and organizing our lodge records in such a way that it will in future be possible for almost anyone to step in, and without serious effort assume the duties of this office. However, being mortal means our first duty to our Masonic charge is assuring future accurate recording of lodge events and minutes. Accomplishing this in this modern up-to-date age means arranging records in computerized format.

Our Grand Lodge has instituted a system wherein our lodge can access the Grand Lodge database directly and thereby simplify lodge record keeping. They have advised me that a class of instruction will soon be made available to all secretaries, and that the next such class is scheduled to be held in San Jose.

At present the El Camino Research Lodge records are still entered by hand entry in a book, so the Grand Lodge support for computerization comes as a great opportunity for us.

As you also may know I am also assigned as your Trestleboard and Website editor. As



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

such, due to an overload of other Masonic duties I admit I have not been able to do those jobs real justice. This year that has changed since I have now completed my year as Master of Los Altos Lodge. In spite of this past lack of attention, our website has been nationally recognized and sought after to link with many other Masonic websites, so we must be doing something right.

Most of our members have now converted to the use of a household computer, and are receiving email on a regular basis. Because of this

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interesting development, I have made the Trestleboard available to all members via email in "pdf" format.

This means readers will be able to view the Trestleboard in full color. In addition, this system will save our lodge considerable expense in printing and mailing costs. If you have not already done so, please send your email address to me at ...

oldsalvus@comcast.net

so that I can start sending the Trestleboard to you in full color by email.

You may also be interested to know that El Camino Research Lodge is experimenting with radio as a means of Masonic communication to and with the mundane world.

Several years ago Brother Maury Dunbar, F.M., and Brother Larry Fagan, F.M. had the great idea of holding a Masonic talk radio show.

Brother Dunbar, who as most of you already know, is a professor emeritus of English at Foothill and De Anza Colleges, several years ago had a student who after graduating went into the radio broadcasting business and started a talk

radio show, which eventually was broadcast nationwide.

The year was 1998 and when Brothers Dunbar and Fagan were invited on that show the subject of conversation naturally evolved to Freemasonry.

Interestingly enough, what started out as a simple everyday radio interview instantly exploded to a point where every telephone line coming into the radio station was jammed full. Callers were so interested in the subject of Freemasonry that they kept calling for 30 minutes after the talk show had ended.

Well, obviously something had happened, and the talk show host was overwhelmed with the interest in Freemasonry. This interest demanded he do more shows on Freemasonry, and of course that meant further interviews with Brother Dunbar and Fagan continued to be scheduled throughout 1999 and 2000.

As it happened, I served as Master of El Camino Research Lodge in 2000, and was also invited to participate on the show. The show continued to be a hit and the call-in lines were never empty. Then, in 2001, as time will have it,

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[The Secretary' Table]

masonry lost its contact with the radio talk show world.

I am convinced that the general public is still very much interested in Freemasonry, and given the opportunity to do so, they will fully support a talk radio show. With this in mind I have investigated the possibility of starting our own show. Of course this experiment is only in its infancy, but I am very encouraged that we will be successful in time.

Our first step will be to record several one-way interviews with Masonic scholars and make them available on our website via link button. At my own expense I have purchased sound-mixing software and broadcast microphone equipment, which will enable me to do professional voice interviews with music background and other sound effects which make up an actual radio broadcast.

This will enable our research lodge to serve the Masonic community in several ways. For example, studies have shown that most speakers can hold the attention of an audience no longer than about 20 minutes. In our broadcasts I intend to break

up the interviews and talk shows every 15 minutes with Masonic (non-) commercials telling about interesting Masonic events taking place in the broadcast area.

This will mean that a Rainbow bake sale could be advertised, a Jobie Pancake Breakfast could be heard about, a DeMolay Degree could be supported, and of course special Masonic introductory "open-to-the-public" meetings, wherever they are to be held, could be advertised. There is no end to what we could accomplish if we get this thing up and running.

Once we have the web site button up, I intend to look into the possibility of voice prodcasting over the Internet, then two-way talk prodcasting over the Internet, and finally a fully licenced AM or FM Masonic Radio Station.

If you are interested in this experiment, please let me know by phone, email, or snail mail.

Fraternally

Lou Orozco
Secretary



Annual Dues Are Payable

Brethren, ECRL Annual Dues are \$25.00 per year, and are due and payable January 1st of each year. Please check to see if you have your dues receipt for 2006, and if not please bring your dues up to date by sending your \$25.00 check made out to El Camino Research Lodge to me at the address below.

If you care to make an additional donation to our General Fund or to our Library Fund you may do so by making out your checks to the lodge and simply noting where you want the funds to be applied. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Please send all dues and donations payable to El Camino Research Lodge and addressed to

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