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TRESTLEBOARD

Amity Lodge No. 442, F. & A. M

A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of
Amity Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

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442

contact us

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AMITY LODGE #442

2009 HIRAM AWARD

DINNER AND PRESENTATION HONORING

ERNIE ASTUDILLO, PM

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009

AMITY LODGE #442
SCOTTISH RITE CENTER
1895 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH
SAN DIEGO, CA

DINNER AT 6:00 P.M.
PRESENTATION FOLLOWS DINNER

BRETHREN, LADIES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS
ARE MOST WELCOME TO ATTEND.

IF YOU WILL COME FOR THE DINNER (\$15.00 PER PERSON),
PLEASE, PLEASE, MAKE RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WITH THE LODGE SECRETARY, ARNOLD KOREY AT 619-291-0465



TRESTLEBOARD BY EMAIL

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BRETHREN

PAGES

5 to 9

bonus pages
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subscribers

From the Editor:
A huge thank you to all those who continue to bring him soda can tabs. It is very much appreciated and it really does help.
Thank You.

TRESTLEBOARD Amity Lodge #442

Our objective is to disseminate information of interest to the members, families and friends of Amity Lodge #442, F&AM of San Diego, California, USA

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2009 HIRAM AWARD - ERNIE ASTUDILLO, PM



Amity Lodge's 2009 Hiram Award recipient, Worshipful Brother Ernie Astudillo, was born July 26,

1942 in the Philippines where he spent most of his early years, immigrating to the United States in 1975. While still in the Philippines, Ernie earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Commerce at Far Eastern University and worked as a stock trader in the Manila Stock exchange. After settling in United States, Ernie accepted employment with Fuji Color Processing, a photo finishing and printing company, where he worked faithfully for thirty years. He retired in 2007.

Ernie married the former Filipina Caloza in 1981 and they are blessed with a son Neil, who is a business graduate from San Diego State University and, a daughter, Leah who graduated from University of California, Riverside, also with a business degree. Leah is a former

member of Jobs Daughters Bethel No. 160 of Coronado.

Ernie's Masonic involvement is extensive. He began his Masonic journey on March 12, 1997 when he took the first step in Masonry and became an Entered Apprentice. This was followed by his passing to the Second Degree on June 20, 1997 and then his raising to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 25th of the same year. Three months later, he completed is Third Degree proficiency on October 3, 1997. All this was in Silvergate Lodge No. 296 which later became Silvergate-Three Stars Lodge No. 296. Ernie affiliated with Coronado Lodge No. 441 in 1998, where his daughter became an active member of Jobs Daughters. And, on October 6, 2005, Ernie also affiliated with and became active in Crossroads Lodge No. 696, where he became Master on January 1, 2007.

As Master of Crossroads Lodge, and with the help of the appointed committee, he coordinated the

consolidation process of Crossroads and Blackmer Lodges. Ernie was instrumental in making the consolidation a smooth and amicable process and brought the two Lodges together as one. Manifesting his untiring support and dedication to the new lodge, Ernie became the first Junior Warden of Amity Lodge No. 442 and was appointed its Officers' Coach late in 2008 with the tremendous and wholehearted support of the officers and members of the Lodge. He is a very knowledgeable and caring Officers' Coach and often demonstrates his skills in the Craft with the officers. This is something he also does when he travels to other Lodges, assisting them when needed and filling nearly any station with ease.

Amity Lodge is truly pleased and honored to present the 2009 Hiram Award to Worshipful Brother Ernie Astudillo, truly an example of the type of Mason that the award was intended to honor.

DINE OUT AND TOUR - Egyptian Tea Room and San Diego Police Museum - April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Our Dine-Out on Tuesday, April 21st will be a multi-faceted, very special, extraordinary Dine-Out Night.

We will be dining at the Egyptian Tea Room, located at 4644 College Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115. Telephone: 619-265-7287. The building is not hard to find. It is orange in color, one block north of El Cajon Blvd. on College Avenue. The restaurant is owned and operated by Brother Harry

Sevel of Chula Vista Lodge.

We will be dining at 6:30 p.m. After we finish dining, we will go across the street to the San Diego Police Museum operated by the San Diego Police Historical Society where we will be given a guided tour by our Brother Richard Carlson. We have until 9:30 p.m. to grasp all there is to learn at the museum. A small donation for the museum would be graciously accepted.

This is a little different from our usual dine out. I hope we have a good turnout. It will be a good idea if I can get a head count of people who will be attending. That will allow for the restaurant to arrange the seating without disrupting their regular customers. If you are going, please, please, call Harry at home 619-562-7465. Thanks. Harry
P.S. The food is good.

BIRTHDAYS FROM THE EAST - CHRISTIAN QUIMPO

Douglas Macurda	4/1
Maretin Vance	4/1
Mickey Ander	4/2
J. Zael Carpenter	4/3
Ernest Addleson	4/6
Delano Rivera	4/6
Francisco Arias	4/7
Dan Underwood	4/8
Warren E. Wilsie	4/9
Albert Heck	4/12
Shane Mason	4/12
Herminigildo Manalo	4/13
Julius Krasner	4/14
R. Michael Walters	4/15
Kenneth McCoy	4/16
Lamberto Vales	4/16
Chad Green	4/17
Psalim Limpiado	4/17
Robert Ross	4/17
William Shotts	4/19
Jason Grubbs	4/20
Herbert Harnly	4/20
Samuel Krasner, PM	4/20
Giles Brown	4/21
Sean Keller	4/21
Terry Christian	4/22
Antonio David	4/22
Clyde Fry	4/23
Renato Baladad	4/25
Solomon Minsberg	4/25
Harry Besnoy	4/26
Richard Carlson	4/28
Patricio Moneda	4/28

This month's

Average age = 63.52 years

Oldest = 96 years old

Youngest = 21 years old

Happy Birthday to these Brethren! We would like to wish you a happy birthday in person at the Stated Meeting dinner of your birth month. Please do join us and remember that your dinner is on the Lodge.

Upcoming events

Honor 50-year Members
June 15, 2009

Past Masters' Night
July 23, 2009

Spring is in the air. Time for fresh starts, new beginnings and enjoying the longer days with family and friends. April is also the time for Spring Break for the kids and tax time for the rest of us. Amity Lodge will be supporting a local public school in its endeavor to educate children in a free society. Let us not forget to support our Masonic charities, Masonic Homes, the Masonic Outreach Program and the Masonic Foundation. Your tax deductible donations will be greatly appreciated.

Can you believe one quarter of the this Masonic year has passed? Amity Lodge has raised six Master Masons with our youngest being Brother

FROM THE SECRETARY - ARNOLD KOREY

Brethren,

I am taking reservations for the HIRAM AWARD DINNER honoring ERNIE ASTUDILLO, PM being held on the 13th of April. Please call me for reservations or you may leave a message on the Lodge phone. I hope all that you will make your reservation early. We are looking for a great turnout to honor this MASON.

Come join us for a Stated Meeting or Degree. If

MASONIC INFORMATION

A Masonic Information Night hosted by the Scottish Rite Valley of San Diego will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at the Scottish Rite Center. Dinner is at 6:00 pm with the informational program to follow. Dinner reservations are required. Make your reservations by calling the Scottish Rite office at 619-293-4888. This program is open to all non Masons and their wives. All Masons who invite a non Mason will have their meals compliments of the San Diego Valley of the Scottish Rite. This is a very worth while event. We hope to see you there.

Jason Hernandez. Join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments. A big thanks is in order for our Line Officers and their coach and all the sideliners who attended these Degrees, thank you all!!!

This month Amity Lodge will be busy with events like our Hiram Award Presentation Dinner, our monthly Dine-out (which will be especially fun this month), Second Degree for Brother Nick Borden and qualifying and Degree Team practice for our Line Officers. Also, The Scottish Rite Valley of San Diego is holding events like the Extinguishing of the Lights, the Relighting of the Lights and the Masonic Information Night. See

you don't come and join us, you are missing a great time and a great opportunity to join in some wonderful fellowship.

Just a reminder, if you have not sent in your dues for 2009, you need to do so. Your dues payment helps with the operation of the Lodge. If you find it difficult to meet this obligation, please call me or send me a note and I will pass it on to the appropriate committee. I will be sending out a

SCOTTISH RITE EVENT

On Wednesday, April 1st, the Chapter of Rose Croix will perform the ceremony of the Extinguishing of the Lights. On Sunday, April 12th, they will perform the Relighting of the Lights. These ceremonies differ from our degrees in that they are exoteric and therefore open to all. Breakfast will be served following the ceremony - \$13.00 per person. Please call for reservations. If you have made a reservation and cannot attend, please call to cancel that reservation. This goes for all Scottish Rite hosted events.

Trestleboard articles for details.

Are you aware of any of our members who are feeling "under the weather?" Please contact the Lodge. Also, if any of the Brethren are in need of blood, the Lodge has a small supply for our members' use. Please help us increase this supply by giving blood through the "Family Donor Program" at the San Diego Blood Bank in the name of Amity Lodge.

The Quimpo Family wishes everyone a Happy Spring!

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and protect us.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Christian P. Quimpo, WM

second past due notice for dues shortly. Remember that if the dues card in your wallet says paid through December 2007, you are now two years behind and subject to suspension. Dues for 2008 and 2009 are \$96.00 per each year. Again, if you have a situation that makes it difficult for you, please contact me.

Fraternally
Arnold L Korey, Secretary

TWO MASTER'S NOTES

Amity Lodge is having a Past Master Night July 23rd, The goal is to have a Third Degree with all the Officers chairs filled by Past Masters. Dust off those Cipher books and be a part of history! Call the Lodge for more details or Christian P. Quimpo, WM.

It is my will and pleasure that we start a carpool club. If there is a brother out there who wants to come to Lodge but, has no transportation, to let the lodge know that I might find a ride for you. You must let us know, the earlier, the better. Be a Masonic "Boomeranger" and come back to Lodge!



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APRIL 2009 CALENDAR

- April**
- Thurs 2nd **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465. Inspector's Official Visit
 - Mon 6th 6:45 p.m. First Degree Practice or Degree
 - Thurs 9th 6:45 p.m. Officers' Qualifying Practice
 - Mon 13th 6:30 p.m. **Hiram Award Dinner and Presentation - see article on page 2**
 - Thurs 16th Dark
 - Mon 20th 6:45 p.m. Second Degree Practice
 - Tues 21st **Dine Out at Egyptian Tea Room and Museum Tour - see article on page 2**
 - Wed 22th Masonic Information Night and Dinner at Scottish Rite
 - Thurs 23rd 6:45 p.m. Officers' Qualifying Practice
 - Mon 27th 6:45 p.m. **Second Degree - Brother Borden**
 - Thurs 30th 6:45 p.m. Officers' Qualifying Practice
- May**
- Mon 4th To Be Announced
 - Thurs 7th **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465.

NOTE: Officers' attire: First and Second Degrees is coat and tie or Barong Tagalog, Third Degrees it is TUXEDO.

APRIL STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Honey Baked Ham and Lemon Herbed Chicken
- Potatoes au Gratin and Grilled Mixed Vegetables
- Spinach Salad - Carrot Cake
- Beverages and Croissants



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN CALIFORNIA

Constitutional Convention - 1849

SO FAR AS CALIFORNIA was concerned, all hostilities of the Mexican War ended when John Charles Fremont accepted Andres Pico's surrender in a little Cahuenga Pass ranch house January 10, 1847. The war itself, however, was pressed elsewhere and was not brought to a formal close till February 2, 1848, with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. By this treaty, Mexico ceded to the United States almost 600,000 square miles of territory, embracing the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and part of Colorado. The United States, in turn, agreed to pay Mexico \$15,000,000 outright and assume an additional \$3,250,000 representing the claims of United States citizens against that country.

By the time this treaty was signed, American residents in California out-numbered the natives and were growing restless under military rule. It was not a government to their liking. What Bancroft called the "laws of Spanish associations" were gradually breaking down. The alcalde system, retained by military governors for transitional purposes, was a poor substitute for English common law and American governmental traditions responsive to the will of the people. But, after word of the gold discovery got abroad, there came a complete social dislocation. People of all kinds and from every stratum of life poured into California from all over the world. Courts, such as they were, were soon swamped by contentious Yankees clamoring for their rights before the law. Every governmental agency, except the army, broke

down, and it was reporting desertions in wholesale lots. The men here hying themselves off to the gold regions as fast as they could get there. The country was fast being reduced to what was popularly described as "a sorry mess," and the situation was by no means relieved by a procrastinating Congress preoccupied with the slave question.

Plainly, if the people of California wished a workable government, they would have to create it themselves. Consequently, public meetings were held for that purpose in San Francisco, Sacramento, and San Jose. On December 21 and 23, 1848, Dr. John Townsend presided over two of these meetings in San Francisco. Along about the same time, Dr. Benjamin Cory was extremely active in a series of them in San Jose. On the 11th he was appointed to a resolutions committee of three and was later elected one of San Jose's three delegates to a constitutional convention scheduled to take place in that city the following January 8.

The San Jose convention failed to materialize, however. One postponement followed another till June 3, 1849, when Governor General Bennett Riley issued a call for a convention to begin in Monterey, September 1, and named August 1 as the date for electing delegates to it.

The Monterey convention actually took place. It commenced in the recently-completed Colton Hall, as scheduled by Riley, and continued till October 13 before its labors were finished. To it came forty-eight delegates representing ten great districts

of the state. And among them were nine known Masons who wielded an influence all out of proportion to their numbers. One or more of them was interested in every question that came to the floor. Though they might not all see eye to eye on some of the current problems of the country, they put aside personal opinions time and again for what appeared to be the good of the whole. As a result, they left their indelible marks on a governmental instrument that took California into the Union as an organized state without a probationary territorial status. No greater compliment could be paid to their ability.

Four of these brothers, Elisha O. Crosby, Lansford W. Hastings, James McHall Jones, and Myron Norton, were lawyers. Jacob D. Hoppe and Abel Stearns were merchants. The remaining three were scattered. Rodman M. Price was a United States Navy purser, Robert Semple was a dentist and printer, and Pierre Sainsevain, versatile beyond belief, was a little of every-thing. The roster of the convention shows him as a "negotiant," but other sources reveal him to have been vintner, viculturist, builder, lawmaker, capitalist, and apparently a linguist of more than ordinary ability.

The average age of this group was just a trifle under thirty-four years. Jones, a Kentuckian by birth and last a resident of Louisiana, was twenty-five years old and the youngest member of the convention. Stearns, a

from
One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California
Leon O. Whitsell, Past Grand Master
copyright 1950

Massachusetts Yankee, was the oldest of the group and fourth oldest of the convention. He was fifty-one. He had also lived in California longest—twenty years — with the thirty-one year old Sainsevain, a Frenchman who had been here eleven years, running second. Sainsevain's chief distinction seems to have been that he was not a citizen of the United States and, so far as can be determined, never became one. In 1902, at the age of eighty-three, he returned to his native Bordeaux to die.

Stearns and the forty-two-year-old Semple furnished the Nestorian wisdom that acted as a balance wheel for the nine and kept them from flying off on every tangent. The remainder of the group, whose ages ranged from twenty-five to thirty-five, provided the youthful enthusiasm and adaptability so necessary to cope with the novel experiences of a new country.

According to the districts they represented, they were listed as follows: Crosby and Hastings, Sacramento; Hoppe and Sainsevain, San Jose; Jones, San Joaquin; Norton and Price, San Francisco; Semple, Sonoma; and Stearns, Los Angeles.

Semple was elected president of the convention on the first ballot and, realizing the responsibility laid upon him, accepted the honor with manly modesty and a tinge of "regret that it had not fallen into abler hands." He asked for harmony and forbearance on the part of the delegates and hoped the spirit of compromise would

prevail at all times. He fervently believed the delegates would create a constitution acceptable to their constituents, a constitution that would guarantee to the people of California a full measure of liberty. And he was sure that this constitution, when completed, would reflect credit upon those who created it.

Once the convention was under way, Semple presided with a dignity and understanding that won him the respect and admiration of every delegate present. At the close of their month-and-a-half of deliberations, his colleagues gave him a unanimous vote of thanks for the faithful, impartial manner in which he discharged the arduous duties of the chair.

Like inexperienced authors, who worry more about the foreword than the story, the members of the convention early concerned themselves with a preamble for their constitution. Norton observed that a majority of the Committee of the Whole thought a preamble was necessary. And the debate was on.

It was suggested that they use the Constitution of New York. With that, W. E. Shannon, a delegate from the Sacramento District, exploded, ridiculing that instrument as "the most butt-ended one that could be found." Hastings saw absolutely no need for a preamble. "It is quite enough to say," he said, "the Constitution of the State of California." Nor could he see the necessity of inserting into it a prayer of any sort to Almighty God. He was going to vote for the preamble that came closest to being "no preamble at all."

The battle waxed hot for a while, but when it was over, the preamble consisted of only one short sentence: "We the people of California, grateful

to Almighty God for our freedom, and in order to secure its blessings, do establish this Constitution."

Perhaps no question brought before the convention received more attention than that of California's boundaries. Some of the delegates favored extending the eastern boundary all the way to the Rocky Mountains, while others felt the Sierra Nevada would be far enough. Both advanced good reasons for their beliefs. Finally, a boundary committee was appointed with Hastings as its chairman. He felt that the territory of California, as it existed under Mexico, should not be formed into a single state. Also, if California took in all that territory, the convention had no right to determine the slavery policy within its borders. This vast area, he observed, would some day constitute thirteen or fourteen states of the Union.

Hoppe, always considerate of the other fellow's rights, stated that the Mormons lived within the area in question and that their feelings should be taken into consideration. Since they were not represented in the convention, he was against making any law affecting them without giving them a voice in the matter. Semple was for leaving the eastern boundary to Congress, which, he believed, would give California all the land between "here and New Mexico." Also inclined toward this view was Thomas Butler King, a member of Congress and President Taylor's confidential agent to California, who happened to visit the convention. When asked how Congress would react toward the people of California in event they did not wish to extend their eastern boundary beyond the Sierra Nevada, he replied, "Leave us

no territory to legislate upon in Congress." He intimated that if California wished to make the Rocky Mountains its boundary, it could be admitted as easily as if it chose the Sierra Nevada.

But Delegate John A. Sutter, of Sacramento, who was later elected to membership in Marysville Lodge No. 9, and died before he could take his degrees, had a different idea. As the benefactor of literally hundreds of distressed overland immigrants, he could see little sense in California's coveting the deserts of Nevada and Utah—and bluntly said so.

Norton argued that California's permanent boundaries should be those that Mexico had recognized as the limits of the territory, which, when all was said and done, were still not too well defined. The debate went on for days. To use a modern term, the boundary question was hot stuff. The pro-and anti-slavery factions were jockeying for position in every phase of it. The matter would be taken up, reach an impasse, and be dropped in order to let the delegates work at something on which they could better agree. A few days later, it would be taken up again and dropped for the same reasons. When the discussion finally ended, however, the majority of the delegates saw things pretty much in the same light as Sutter. It was agreed that the state's boundaries should be substantially what they are today.

Second only to the state boundaries debates, or perhaps its equal, was the question of excluding Negroes from California. It made for sharp answers and short tempers. The Southern sympathizers naturally saw nothing wrong with bringing Negroes here. It would increase the slave power. But some of the North-

erners, foreseeing labor difficulties for whites, were dead against it. Southern masters would bring their Negroes here, they feared, and turn them loose upon the state. Perhaps the masters would work the blacks in the mines to the detriment of the white miner. In this way the Negroes, while ostensibly earning their manumission, would make fortunes for their masters, and all that sort of thing.

Hastings was against allowing even free Negroes to come here. "There is nothing," he said, "freer than a free Negro." And much discussion followed on the social problems that free Negroes had occasioned in other states. Semple never lost an opportunity to point out the danger of California's becoming a dumping ground.

A few of the more logical-minded Northerners, however, saw little to worry about. Kimball Dimmick (not a Mason), for one, thought the advocates of the Negro exclusion measure were needlessly perturbed. "Why worry about free Negroes?" he asked. "With their lack of ambition and improvident habits so few of them would ever acquire enough energy or money to come here that there is no point in setting up a constitutional bar against them." It was enough, he thought, simply to make sure slavery did not exist here. Shannon (also not a Mason) could not understand why a master would bring slaves all the way to California at great cost just to set them free when he could do it for nothing in his own state.

At length, as in other debates of the Convention,

good judgment prevailed. The delegates settled the Negro problem in California by merely voting to prohibit slavery anywhere within its borders from the start.

In discussing the raising of money for state use, someone suggested the establishment of a state lottery. Price, though generally opposed to a thing of this nature, looked upon it as a "necessary evil." He pointed out that Californians were essentially a gambling people, and every public house had its monte and faro tables. "Lotteries," he argued, "could not be prevented and it would be better to legalize and obtain revenue from them than to have them operating secretly without any financial returns to the state." This was really voicing the age-old argument of the gambling fraternity itself, which, when given an inch, takes a mile.

Delegate Henry W. Halleck of Monterey (not a Mason), later commanding general of the Northern Armies, answered Price forcefully. Among other things, he admitted that "this is a gambling community," but he strenuously objected to making it a "gambling state by constitution." Hoppe was unalterably opposed to any kind of gambling or state lottery for the sake of revenue. He declared it would encourage vice and immorality throughout the state.

Hoppe and Halleck's arguments prevailed, and a constitutional section prohibiting state lotteries was adopted. The most involved question to reach the floor of the convention was that on corporations and banks. Practically every delegate present except the native Californians had painful memories of the financial panic of 1837 which had ruined

countless Eastern investors and business establishments. With few exceptions, they felt sure that banks and corporations had been the cause of all the trouble. Therefore, they intended to make sure nothing like the Eastern debacle ever occurred in California.

Semple, deeply suspicious of private banking and everything connected with it, favored a banking system owned by the state. Price felt likewise. Dead against paper money, he characterized it as a "monster serpent," and favored individuals handling their own financial affairs "without the aid of banks." Still, all was not so clear as one might think. As discussion on the subject progressed, it became more and more involved till Jones, the most highly educated man present, admitted he was "in a quandary." He expressed his distrust of banks and asked that safeguards be devised to prevent their speculating with other people's money. Yet neither he nor Semple could see any sense in penalizing holders of certificates of deposit; but William M. Gwinn was much opposed to circulating those certificates as money. Myron Norton appears to have been the only Mason present to raise a dissenting voice. He stoutly defended both banking and corporations.

Finally, after everybody who wished had had his say in the matter, it was decided to include a constitutional provision for the organization of associations under the general laws for the deposit of gold and silver. But they were by no means to be allowed to issue any kind of paper that could circulate as money.

Less heated, but perhaps more eloquent, was the discussion on school funds. When this matter came upon

the floor of the convention, Semple immediately stepped to the front, championing the establishment and maintenance of a well regulated system of public education. He contended that it was most important for the state, with its extensive resources, to do this thing. He even advocated hiring the president of Oxford University to direct the job.

Jones, on the other hand, argued that the state had other and better uses for its money at that time, and suggested that the matter of school funds be left to the "future Legislature." This drew the full force of Semple's fire. Education, sir," he thundered, "is the foundation of republican institutions; the school system suits the genius and spirit of our form of government. If the people are to govern themselves, they should be qualified to do it; they must be educated; they must educate their children; they must provide means for the diffusion of knowledge and the progress of enlightened principles." He further contended that a munificent school fund would induce families with children to come to California; it would add greatly to the permanent settlement and prosperity of the state.

There were a few delegates, however, who felt that a school fund as large as Semple and his backers sought to obtain was unnecessary. Others argued that it would work a hardship on districts with one, two or three children in them. Hastings, who was for voluntarily doing now what would have to be done later on, met these objections head on and neatly disposed of both. He pointed out that some states of the Union had school funds large enough to keep their

schools open only three months of the year. "Nine months of the year," he said, "they are idle. If there is a probability of having a fund entirely too large (in California), let us have schools to dispose of that fund nine months in the year."

As for the large fund's working a hardship on the sparsely settled districts, he could not see why those districts could not keep up their schools when they had state aid in doing' so.

One by one, the objections were removed or whittled down till, at length, an agreement was reached. A state Superintendent of Public Instruction should be elected for a three-year term; the schools should be supported from certain public lands sold or set aside for that purpose and kept open at least three months a year; and the Legislature should provide a State University. This was to be made possible by granting one section from every township to the state for schools, and seventy-two sections of unappropriated lands toward support of the university. Thus, in the very beginning, Robert Semple favorably conditioned the California mind toward widespread public education.

Hastings was not so successful, however, when he moved that "death shall never be inflicted as a punishment for crime in this state." He was turned down hard.

Another delegate moved that "No person, while he continues to exercise the functions of a clergyman, priest, or teacher of any religious persuasion, society or sect, shall be eligible to the Legisla-

ture." To which Norton retorted, "You might as well say a lawyer should not have a seat in the Legislature." Norton's opinion prevailed, and the motion was lost.

The discussion on contested elections of legislators was almost monopolized by Norton, Price and Crosby. Norton argued that each house of the Legislature should judge the qualifications of its own members, but the manner of determining the contested election of one of those members should be determined by law. The same held for contested elections of sheriffs, governors, and other public officers.

Jones was especially concerned with the time allowed for a governor to veto a bill. He held for three days, Norton for ten. And, between them, they practically kept the floor on the procedure of impeaching a governor and on the question of safeguarding the state against corrupt officials.

The matter of pay for delegates to the convention found a sharp division of opinion, particularly among those identified with the Masonic Fraternity. When a delegate from Santa Barbara offered a resolution to the effect that it was the duty of every citizen to serve gratuitously, Norton was first to object. The final count found Price and Sainsevain for serving without pay, and Crosby, Hoppe, Hastings, and Jones against it.

The matter of religious liberty was a touchy one, and, at one time, threatened to cause trouble. Hastings strenuously objected when an effort was made to tamper with the fourth article of the Declaration of Rights, which guaranteed religious liberty to all people in this state. The move was unquestionably aimed at

the Mormons, but he felt they were entitled to their belief as much is anybody else. "First," he said, "we secure religious liberty to the full extent; next we deny religious liberty beyond a certain extent." When finished, the article on religious liberty allowed everything under the heading of religion but licentiousness and "practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of the state."

While innumerable other items were passed upon by the convention, and tempers were sometimes strained, things reached a real danger point only once. That was when a delegate from San Luis Obispo directed an insulting remark toward Jones and embellished it with a pointed quotation from Junius. Jones, plainly angered, but controlling his temper, immediately asked that the remark be put into the record so the convention could take proper action on it. After further exchange of strained gentlemanly opinion, which could have led to dueling pistols, the matter was finally settled with no permanent ill feeling.

Time and again, Norton showed himself to be an alert man who took nothing for granted. An example of this was his sincere desire that all persons tried in courts have counsel. He wished it made obligatory. And he was fully aware that, though the United States Constitution guaranteed a man counsel, the constitution of California, as then written, did not. In this, he was considerably ahead of time and might well be termed California's earliest advocate of a public defender system.

The question of a two-thirds majority vote in amending the constitution, however, found him and Jones on opposite sides of the fence. Jones was for a simple majority.

A delegate from San Francisco pointed out that the constitution should not be "lightly altered," to which Norton wholeheartedly agreed. He argued that the political party in power might have a majority in both houses of the Legislature and thereby be able to amend the constitution for purely political reasons whereas, with the two-thirds majority rule, it might not be able to get away with it.

From time to time, however, events took a lighter turn and gave the delegates a chance to relax. In discussing the design of the Great Seal of California, General M. G. Vallejo, who represented the Sonoma district, was for eliminating the bear. If the bear must be used, he felt, it should be secured by a lasso in the hands of a vaquero.

Perhaps the general was thinking of the Bear Flag episode of 1846.

Another time he startled his colleagues with an inquiry as to what beans had to do with the particular section of the constitution then under discussion. It was hard to understand to what he was alluding till it dawned upon somebody else, who spoke Spanish, that he had confused the English word "Free-holders" with the Spanish word "frijoles," which means beans.

When the difference between the two was explained to Vallejo, he got as big a laugh out of it as everybody else. As early as September 26, the delegates were far enough along in their work to choose a site for the capital of the new state. The arguments on this subject went to some length, with most delegates naturally proposing the selection of their respective home communities. In the end, San Jose won out by

a large majority that included Hoppe, Semple, Price, Sainsevain, and Hastings.

By Friday, October 12, the end of the convention was in view. The next morning was largely given over to formalities, and along about two o'clock in the afternoon the delegates were looking at their watches. Norton got in the last bit of business when he moved that the convention employ a Mr. Hamilton to "enroll the constitution upon parchment" and that he be paid \$500 for his services. One delegate tried to get a suspension of the rules in order to reconsider one of Jones' resolutions of a few days earlier, but was unsuccessful. And before anything else could come up, Delegate M. M. McCarver of Sacramento (not a Mason) moved for adjournment sine die, and the convention was over.

One month later to the day, on November 13, California held its first general election. Peter H. Burnett (not a Mason) was elected Governor, with Sutter of Sacramento and Brother John W. Geary of San Francisco among the runners-up. John McDougal won out as Lieutenant Governor over Brothers Richard Roman of San Francisco and Albert Mayer Winn of Sacramento.

Brothers Price, Hastings, Edward J. C. Kewen and W. H. Russell were among the unsuccessful contestants for seats in Congress. Kewen and Roman, however, fared more favorably in state politics. Kewen, a member of Jennings Lodge of Sacramento, whose forensic ability had materially assisted in the adoption of the constitution by the people, was elected first Attorney General. Roman, apparently a sojourner,

was appointed first State Treasurer. In addition to these, another member of Jennings Lodge, S. C. Hastings, became first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California

Two other brothers were highly honored as first Secretary of State and first State Controller. They were, respectively, William H. Van Voorhies who, over a period of years, belonged to half a dozen Lodges in California, and John S. Houston of San Jose Lodge

No. 10.

Among the Masons elected to the first California Senate were William Riley Bassham and Elisha O. Crosby of San Jose Lodge; John Bidwell of Chico Lodge No. 111; and David E. Douglas of California Lodge No. 1.

In the first Assembly were Alexander P. Crittenden and Benjamin Cory of San Jose Lodge; Levi Stowell of California; Elisha McKinstry of Sutter; John Bigler of Washington; and

William Grove Deal of Jennings, all of Sacramento; and Charles M. Creaner, J. F. Stephens, and E. B. Bateman of San Joaquin No. 19, of Stockton. Van Voorhies also served in this session of the Legislature, first while he was a member of California, then while a member of San Jose Lodge.

Van Voorhies, however, was not the only one of this group to belong to more than one Lodge in this jurisdiction. Bidwell, Kewen, McKinstry, and

Crosby did likewise.

But, with so many good Masons guiding the first legislative steps of the state, it is small wonder that McKinstry observed, fifty years later, that more sound organic government came out of the first California Legislature than out of all of its subsequent Legislatures combined.



Masonic Youth Groups

Our Masonic youth are the future of Freemasonry. What can we do to encourage our Masonic youth in their efforts?

March Events

We can start with events in March, when every lodge in California is asked to honor our Masonic youth. Plan at least one event that gives youth an opportunity to learn more about Masonry, and gives the Masons an opportunity to learn more about the youth. To get the most attendance, plan events that are fun for both young people and adults, and encourage all officers, members, families and friends to participate.

Event ideas:

- Ask a local Masonic youth group to exemplify its ritual on one of your meeting nights, and have a dinner before the meeting or special refreshments afterward. (Be sure to check with the youth group's adult leaders on who may attend a closed youth meeting.)
 - If you prefer to have an open meeting where any lodge member or guest may attend, ask a youth group to demonstrate one of its public ceremonies. DeMolay has its Flower Talk and Ceremony of Light. Rainbow has its Rose Lecture, Mother's Degree and Flag Tribute. Job's Daughters has its Robe Exemplification.
 - Instead of inviting the Masonic youth to your lodge meeting night, attend one of their meetings. Encourage attendance by all lodge officers and members, and have the officers and Past Masters wear their aprons, collars and jewels. Also encourage wives to attend, if permitted by the youth group rules. Consider a "Shadow Night" in which a Mason shadows each youth group officer as she or he does his work.
 - Sponsor a Youth Recognition Night with a dinner. Perhaps present a scholarship or other award to the most outstanding member of each youth group, based on service to the youth group or the community.
 - Attend a sporting event with the members of your Masonic youth groups.
 - Host a panel discussion featuring knowledgeable members of the Masonic youth groups. Have a moderator ask them questions about their groups or about current events, and encourage questions from the floor. Prepare one or two officers to ask questions to "break the ice."
- Year-round Youth Support
- In addition to special events in March, honor the Masonic youth all year long by supporting their activities, particularly fund-raising

events and installations. Publicize these events in your lodge Trestleboard.

Other ideas:

- Sponsor a joint prospect party that helps generate members for all local Masonic youth groups. Offer refreshments that appeal to youth, and plan a dance with youth-selected music. Encourage the youth to help plan the event.
 - If your lodge controls a Masonic Temple Association that owns the meeting place of a Masonic youth group, keep the rent reasonable – such as \$50 to \$100 a month. Review whether the youth can get weekend nights for their installations and other special events at an additional but nominal charge. To help the youth earn their rent, invite them to work at lodge events, such as by serving dinners. (Note that youth cannot serve alcoholic beverages.)
 - Invite the Masonic youth to display the flag at your installation; to help with entertainment at lodge stated meeting dinners or social events; and to attend your lodge's annual picnic.
 - Appoint a Masonic youth group liaison, who will attend local Masonic youth group meetings during the year and be responsible for finding two new adult advisors for local youth groups. This person can serve as an ombudsman to resolve any problems between the youth and adult groups, and he can report monthly on local youth activities.
 - Ask the Masonic youth to help with the Public Schools Week program or Constitution Observance program.
 - Invite Masonic youth and their families to a Masonic Information Night.
 - Volunteer to help Masonic youth raise money for their charities.
 - Launch a "secret pal" program, in which a lodge member draws the name of a Rainbow Girl or Job's daughter and then, for six to eight weeks, attends at least one meeting plus the meeting where the names of the secret pals are revealed. Girls may send notes and homemade sweets to their secret pals, and each Mason can give a gift – not to exceed \$10 in value – to his secret pal at the end.
- Some lodges have many members under age 25 from DeMolay Chapter. Why? Because the lodge members were active with the youth group. You can have the same success with just a little bit of work!