

MAY
2009



Volume XCVI
Number 5

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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ERNIE ASTUDILLO, PM 2009 HIRAM AWARD



TRESTLEBOARD BY EMAIL

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BRETHREN

PAGES

5 to 9

bonus pages
for our email
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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Printing by: PIP Printing 619-528-8000

Distribution: Harry Besnoy

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PAST DUE DUES

Brethren, As the year is about half over, I must make this plea to all those Brothers who have not yet paid their dues for this year and for some of you, last year as well. It is important to keep the Lodge going for the future, as our past Brethren have kept it going for us! Amity Lodge #442 is nearly 100 years old!

If you are going through a rough patch in these harder than usual times, let the Secretary know, that we might offer some relief. Come back to Lodge and see what you have been missing! I promise you, that this is better than T.V.! Sincerely & Fraternally,
Christian P. Quimpo, W.M.



WINTERTON ROAST

A special event honoring Worshipful Robert Winterton, Sr. PM at Heartland Lodge, 695 Ballantyne Street, El Cajon on May 8, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.

Making this event a truly memorable one, will be a catered sit down dinner of tri-tip with all the fixings. After dinner we will go into the Lodge Hall where a "Dean Martin" type roast will occur. Roasters have been selected from all facets of Brother Bob's life. You will not want to miss this one.

\$15.00/person, seating is limited and R.S.V.P. required. Your check is your receipt. So hurry and get your reservations in A.S.A.P. as we are limited to 240 people. Send your check to the Lodge. At this late date, call for availability. 619-443-8831 or E-mail to: Joe Jackson at:

secretary576@hmc.sdcocmail.com



DeMOLAY INSTALLATION

921st District visitation to the Installation of Officers for Kimball Chapter, International Order of DeMolay on Saturday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. at South West Lodge No. 283 in National City.

This is a District event in conjunction with the Grand Master's proclamation of May being Youth Orders Month and is not limited to Lodge officers. Ladies, friends and, most importantly, sideliners, are all invited.

This will be a combined visitation with the 909th Masonic District.

Let's do our best to get a good turnout to show these young men that they are appreciated and that we truly support them as they each embark on their own Masonic careers.



WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE RITUAL? OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

If you would like to keep your ritual sharp or would like learn and participate in our Masonic ritual we are organizing an Amity Degree Team. If you are an "old hand" or just received your degrees you will be welcomed and encouraged in this low pressure environment for "learning the work". It does not matter if you have never done the ritual before as this is one of the purposes of our team; to teach non-officers, whether they want to do degree work or just increase their Masonic knowledge. We will also do some explanation of the meaning of the ritual to make it more understandable.

This team can serve as back up people for our officers and if the team decides to do so they could do the work on a degree as a team. It will be an easy way to contribute to and participate in the growth and success of your Lodge

Next month we will be announcing an evening for you to attend an organizational meeting and perhaps do a little work. If you want more information call John O. McQuown, Senior Warden, at (858) 452-8204. Please take an evening to come to Amity Lodge to check out this opportunity and enjoy an evening with your Amity Lodge Brothers. We are sure it will be a rewarding experience for all who attend.

BIRTHDAYS FROM THE EAST - CHRISTIAN QUIMPO

Coren Andrews, PM	5/12
Robert Balingier	5/26
Martin Berg	5/18
Joe Brennan	5/05
William Brown	5/25
Shaun Case	5/20
Pedro Clariza, Jr.	5/19
Eugene Delaurentis, PM	5/10
Daniel Duenez	5/07
Juan Flores	5/06
Robert Galaviz, Jr.	5/29
Yousel Ghandour	5/28
Edwin Guimbaolibot	5/09
Benjamin Grossman	5/26
John Heisner, PM	5/11
Ellsworth Henderson	5/21
Warren Kanagy	5/14
Ronald Krasner	5/09
Jimmy Maniang	5/31
Beato Moneda	5/09
Raul Navasca	5/08
Ronald Newell, PM	5/18
Daniel Ober, Sr.	5/14
Philjose Perral	5/23
Scott Raab	5/11
Madison Rogers, PM	5/06
Felizardo Tria	5/04
Donald Wenzel	5/08
Mihailo Zdravkovic, PM	5/13

This month's
Average age = 58.17 years
Oldest = 90 years old
Youngest = 26 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

I want to say congratulations again to our humble officers coach, the 2009 Hiram Award recipient, Worshipful Ernie Astudillo, P.M. The Brethren, family and guests that were in attendance were witnesses to a shining moment in a truly deserving Brother's Masonic career. A big thanks Brother Arnold Korey and everyone who helped make this a Great night!

For years now, we at Amity Lodge have been enjoying each other's company at our monthly Dine-outs. I must say that last month's was very informative and fun. Brothers Harry Besnoy and Rick Carlson went above and beyond to bring us a great dine out experience. Everyone should go and see what Brother Carlson has built for the city and the hard working police officers of San Diego. To Brother Besnoy, our 1996 Hiram Award recipient, a

FROM THE SECRETARY - ARNOLD KOREY

Brethren,
Come join us for a Stated Meeting or Degree. If you don't come and join us, you are missing a great time and a great opportunity to join in some wonderful fellowship.

If you have not sent in your dues for 2008 OR 2009, you need to do so. Your dues are past due and notices are being mailed to those whose records show have not made the necessary payment of their dues. Prompt payment will be

DINE OUT - Michael's Grill - April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Our Dine-Out is on Tuesday, May 19th at Michael's Grill.

Michael's Grill is located at 9621 Mission Gorge Road in Santee. Jimmy's Diner on the corner

very big thanks for organizing all these wonderful dine-outs. Thank you!

Spring is in full bloom and so is Amity Lodge! Please join me in congratulating our Brothers who have worked hard to progress to the Second Degree of Masonry. Our newest Fellowcrafts are Brothers Nick Borden & Dan McBride. Brethren, help me teach them what it means to be a Fellowcraft Mason. Also, Amity Lodge will hold a Proficiency Night on Monday, May 4th for others who are working hard at the Craft.

Speaking of Spring, this is the time we celebrate our Mothers and Honored Ladies. The Scottish Rite will hold their annual Mother's Day Breakfast/Brunch on May 10th. For \$10 per person, it is a really nice, all-you-can-eat affair. All are welcome, just make reservations soon! Call 619-293-4888.

appreciated and can prevent a suspension. If you are unable to remit your dues at this time, please contact me at the office and we can work out an alternative. We don't know if you don't contact us.

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

and also the Von's shopping center. The cross street is Olive Lane and phone number is 619-258-2110.

As we expand our horizons, we look forward to seeing you at 6:30 p.m. to

Amity Lodge will soon host our Honored Ladies Luncheon. Please join us at this annual event where we Honor the Widows of our Brethren that have been called from labor. Emily & I will see you there.

The month of May is also a time to appreciate the sacrifice that our forefathers endured, to give us the freedoms that can be so easily forgotten in this busy world we live in. Let us not forget. Remember to say thank you, to every military service person you meet for what they do every day.

Wanted: Sideliners for all events and Degrees. Call the Master for more details. The Quimpo Family wishes to all a very happy Spring!

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and protect us.
Sincerely and Fraternally,
Christian P. Quimpo, WM

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 10th
10am Until 2pm

Fresh Fruits and Juices
White Chocolate Fondue
Assorted Danish & Croissants

Full Omelet Bar
Honey Baked Ham
Broiled Sausages
Breakfast Potatoes
Coffee - Tea - Milk

\$10.00 Per Person
Tickets will be sold at the door
Call 619-293-4888 for reservations

Corinthian Room
Scottish Rite Center
1895 Carnino Del Rio South
Sponsored by the Council of Kadosh

join in partaking of good food and even better fellowship. Brethren, ladies and friends are invited.

If you have comments or suggestions, please call Harry at home 619-562-7465.

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MAY 2009 CALENDAR

- May**
- Mon 4th** Proficiency Night or Officers' Qualifying practice, 6:30
 - 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.
 - Fri 8th** Worshipful Robert E. Winterton, Sr., PM Honorarium/
Dinner at Heartland Lodge #576 - see article on page 2
 - Sun 10th** Scottish Rite Mothers' Day Brunch - see article on page 3
 - Mon 11th** Dark
 - Wed 13th** Scottish Rite Language Center Spaghetti Dinner and
Masonic Education Night - see article on page 2
 - Thurs 14th** Dark
 - Mon 18th** 6:30 p.m. Officers' Qualifying practice
 - Tues 19th** **Dine Out at Michael's Grill** - see article on page 3
 - Thurs 21st** 6:45 p.m. Second Degree Practice
 - Mon 25th** **MEMORIAL DAY**
 - Thurs 28th** 6:45 p.m. **Second Degree** - Brothers Knowlton and
Graham
- June**
- Mon 1st** 6:30 pm. Proficiency Night or Officers' Qualifying practice
 - Thurs 4th** **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.

MAY STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Cheese Enchiladas and Baked Tilapia
- Spanish Rice and Refried Beans
- Spring Mix Salad and Dutch Apple Pie
- Beverages and Tortillas



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN CALIFORNIA

Organization of Grand Lodge

AS POINTED OUT elsewhere in this work, numerous Masons visited and settled in California prior to the discovery of gold. But there is no record that any of them attempted to establish a Lodge. The first charter for organizing a Lodge in this state was that issued by the Grand Lodge of Missouri May 10, 1848, to Western Star Lodge No. 98. of Benton City, in Tehama County. This was the famous so-called Lassen Charter, which came overland to California that year in a party guided by Peter Lassen. And, between then and 1850, it is reported that no less than fifteen other charters and dispensations found their way hither. Most of them materialized, one way or another, into Lodges, but several disappeared into the mists of time, leaving nothing behind but question marks.

Those that materialized were: California Lodge No. 13 (now No. 1), San Francisco, chartered by Grand Lodge of District of Columbia, November 9, 1848. Pacific Lodge (Now Benicia No. 5), Benicia, dispensation from Louisiana Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, June 5, 1849.

Davy Crockett Lodge (later Davy Crockett No. 7, and San Francisco No. 7), San Francisco, dispensation from Louisiana Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, 1849, exact date uncertain.

Connecticut Lodge No. 75 (now Tehama No. 3), Sacramento, chartered by Grand Lodge of Connecticut, January 31, 1849. New Jersey Lodge (later Jennings Lodge), Sacramento, dispensation from Grand Lodge of New Jersey, March 1, 1849.

Sierra Nevada Lodge (now Madison No. 23 of Grass Valley), Centerville, dispensation from Grand Lodge of Indiana, May, 1849, exact date uncertain.

Lavelly Lodge (later Marysville No. 9, and Corinthian No. 9), Marysville, dispensation from Grand Lodge of Illinois, October, 1849, exact date uncertain.

Pacific Lodge, Long's Bar, dispensation from Grand Lodge of Illinois, October, 1849, exact date uncertain.

Lafayette Lodge No. 29 (later Nevada No. 13), Nevada City, chartered by Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, April 20, 1850.

Gregory Yale Lodge, Stockton, dispensation from Grand Lodge of Florida, 1849, exact date uncertain.

Plainly the foregoing Lodges have long since changed their names, received new numbers, metamorphosed into entirely new organizations, or in some way altered their modes of identification. Their stories appear in other chapters in connection with the stories of Masonry in the communities in which they were located. Thus, if one of them changed both its name and number, an account of it will be found in the history of the final organization. An excellent example of this is Connecticut Lodge No. 75, of Sacramento, which became Tehama No. 3. Its story appears in that of Tehama Lodge.

With the charters or dispensations that did not materialize into Lodges, however, the procedure is somewhat different. Because they played so small a part in the history of California Masonry, each must

be considered as we come to it and be disposed of forthwith. The earliest known of these organizations that died before birth was one for which the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts issued a dispensation in 1848. This dispensation was issued to a Robert F. Parker for the purpose of establishing a Lodge in San Francisco. But why it was never used is hard to say. Perhaps Parker never got to California. Maybe he perished at sea, or if he did get here, he might have been numbered among the host of unidentified unfortunates who succumbed to cholera and other scourges. For nothing more is heard of him; and fire, which wiped out the early records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, removed the last clue of what became of his dispensation.

In May, 1849, the Grand Lodge of Indiana issued a dispensation to several brethren from Wayne County, of that state, for the purpose of opening a traveling Lodge called San Francisco U.D., in the City of San Francisco. Henry R. Hannah was named its Master; John Pritchett, Senior Warden; and Absalam Cunningham, Junior Warden. The Lodge is supposed to have had a membership of ten, but there is no record that it ever opened. According to John Whicher, Hannah was the only one of its members whose movements could be traced in later years. He was a charter member of Ophir Lodge No. 33, of Murphys, in 1853, and withdrew in 1854.

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

Richmond Traveling Lodge, whose dispensation was issued by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, December n, 1849, was another Lodge of doubtful existence.

Under the terms of its dispensation it could have met any and everywhere in the state. But, since its organizers could hardly have arrived here before the establishment of the Grand Lodge of California, it is extremely doubtful if they ever tried to use their authority. At least, neither the California nor Virginia records show they did. They were simply swallowed up in the excitement of the day and nothing more is heard of them.

On March 5, 1850, the Deputy Grand Master of Ohio issued a dispensation for a Lodge to be located "in the mining district of California. . . ." The brothers petitioning for this dispensation were S. A. Wheeler, William T. Mather, William Sinclair, Henry Anson, George C. Wilcox, Ira Rose, Thomas Caldwell, Michael Hemsev, and William Woods. None of them could have arrived in California in time to use their dispensation—at least legally—for the California Grand Lodge had held its first Annual Communication before they reached the Platte River. Their Lodge simply "died and left no sign."

Another unused dispensation came from the Lone Star State. On March 16, 1849, Grand Master George M. Patrick, of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of Texas, issued a "Warrant" to several brethren

to open a Lodge here to be called California Lodge. The place and date of its organization were to be inserted in blank spaces provided on the face of the warrant for that purpose. Charles M. Creaner, William Robinson, and Hervey Nott were, respectively, named Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden.

Robinson and Nott are known to have been members of Victoria Lodge No. 40, of Texas, from which they withdrew about the time the warrant was issued. Creaner, who is easiest to trace after their arrival in California, served in the first California Legislature and affiliated with San Joaquin Lodge No. 19, of Stockton. There is no record that they ever tried to use their Texas warrant to establish a Lodge in this state.

In addition to this, there is record that on June 14, 1848, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts issued a dispensation to open a Lodge in Honolulu, now in the California Grand Jurisdiction. But so far as can be discovered, nothing ever came of it. It was just another good intention.

Also, among the old-time members of La Parfaite Union Lodge No. 17, of San Francisco, there was talk that the Lodge had met under French authority before organization of the Grand Lodge of California. This has never been substantiated, but as one student of California Masonry observed a short time ago, it offers "a tempting bit of research for some French Masonic scholar."

Still more tempting is the recurrent story of an early San Francisco Lodge that met in a tent which was also used as a saloon. The last purveyor of

this yarn was an old brother who said he had sat in just such a Lodge in San Francisco, and he believed it to have been California Lodge. He averred that a whisky barrel served as the altar and gin bottles as candlesticks. The only thing wrong with his story was that the ship on which he came to this state arrived long after California Lodge was organized. And up to date no San Francisco Lodge has claimed the honor of having been born in a saloon.

With the hundreds of brethren coming West during the gold rush, it is not unlikely that other dispensations found their way here—or at least were applied for and issued. What became of them might be answered by some rotting wagon boards in the Humboldt Desert, the waters around Cape Horn, or a tropical mulch-covered grave on the Isthmus of Panama. Maybe the brothers who brought them here did not use them and took them home again after making fortunes in the mines. One of them might turn up in a trunk in some forgotten attic, or come to light in some other way, as recently did the Texas warrant issued to Brothers Creaner, Robertson, and Nott. But whatever became of them, and whatever the story behind them, the ones that got here—and were used—accounted for more than enough Lodges to warrant the organization of the Grand Lodge of California.

Organization of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., of California, at Sacramento in April, 1850, is somewhat reminiscent of the old saying "off to a bad start and a good finish."

There had actually been an attempt to establish a Grand

Lodge in the same city a little over a month earlier, but it had come to naught and all record of it disappeared. Even the records of the Lodges participating in the movement are noticeably silent on the subject. Consequently, practically everything known of it today comes from Major Edwin Allen Sherman, who tried to reconstruct its story for his *Fifty Years of Masonry in California*, back in 1898. And most of his material came from the archives of California Lodge of San Francisco, long since destroyed by fire.

One particular item, a minutes entry for March 13, 1850, reveals that California Lodge knew what was going on at Sacramento, though it had not been invited to participate. Apparently the only Lodges present were Western Star of Benton City, Pacific (later Benicia), of Benicia, and Connecticut and New Jersey (later Tehama and the now extinct Jennings), of Sacramento. Their guiding spirit seems to have been Benjamin D. Hyam, later Grand Master of California, whom Grand Secretary John Whicher once described as a "climber on the fraternal social ladder." Under him they convened, formed "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of California," and adopted a constitution for it.

It is hardly possible, however, that the California brethren would have attended this convention even if it had been invited. They knew that Hyam and his Pacific Lodge of Benicia derived their authority from the Grand Lodge A. Y. M. of Louisiana which, till recently, was involved in a jurisdictional dispute that caused the Grand Lodges of most other states to

declare it irregular. They also knew that there was another Lodge in California that had a dispensation from the same source, Davy Crockett, of San Francisco. But so far as can be determined, Davy Crockett had no place in the Sacramento affair.

Plainly, the course for California Lodge was one of caution and aloofness. It accordingly appointed a committee of three to investigate a rumored settlement of the Louisiana dispute, which had been caused by invasion of the Louisiana jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi. This committee reported, on March 14, what it had learned. "From the evidence furnished by the public press and from information received from Worthy Master Masons, the unfortunate disagreement heretofore existing between our Masonic Brethren in Louisiana has been harmoniously adjusted by a union of the two Grand Lodges."

The California brethren were then all for getting together with those of Davy Crockett, and forthwith passed three resolutions. The first noted they had "received with feelings of lively satisfaction the information that union and Masonic fraternity has been restored in Louisiana." The second recited that California Lodge would be happy to join Davy Crockett in promoting the welfare of Masonry throughout California. The third formally invited Davy Crockett to visit California Lodge.

But the experienced Worshipful Master Levi Stowell was not so enthusiastic. He was for

holding off till the Lodge received official word on the settlement of the Louisiana trouble. So he moved that the report and resolutions be “laid upon the table indefinitely.” At that same meeting, California Lodge received a communication from Sacramento “purporting to be the proceedings of . . . ‘The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of California.’” It caused a good deal of controversy, but on motion of Brother Jonathan D. Stevenson it was referred to a committee previously appointed to answer such communications. And Stevenson was thereupon added to the committee.

On March 16, Worshipful Master Stowell again called the Lodge to labor for the purpose of reconsidering the report and resolutions that had been tabled two days earlier. One of the two highlights of this meeting was a resolution by Stevenson. “Resolved, That the report of the committee appointed to take into consideration the propriety of forming a union with Davy Crockett Lodge be recommitted, with instruction to inquire under what authority said Lodge is working, whether under a charter or dispensation; if a dispensation, its date and also any other information that will tend to aid in promoting such a union.” In view of what had previously transpired, this resolution seems a trifle superfluous. The minutes, however, inform us that, after “much interesting discussion,” it was unanimously adopted.

The second highlight of the evening was the presence of Worshipful Master W. N. Doughty of New Jersey Lodge U.D., of Sacramento, one of the

Lodges then engaged in organizing the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons. What he heard must have impressed him. For he promised to use “his influence and power to accomplish the rescinding of all action in regard to said Grand Lodge.”

By then California Lodge was thoroughly aroused and holding meetings in quick succession. On the 20th, it received a report from its “Committee on Communications from Sacramento City.” It was a long document, fully stating California Lodge’s opinion of the goings on at Sacramento and San Francisco. Mentioning the documents, it observed: “The documents themselves give no reason for the necessity of the formation of a Grand Lodge at this time, other than reference to the precedents of forming a Grand Lodge by three subordinate Lodges in several States of the Union; and further, that not having learned from the Lodges in San Francisco, owing as they appear to suppose to some (sic) unfortunate difference existing between the Lodges of this place, and which difference can only, in their opinion, be settled by the intervention of a Grand Lodge—they appear to deem themselves fully authorized not only to form a Grand Lodge, but to require this Lodge to recognize its supremacy, surrender its Charter and number, and receive others from their newly constituted Grand Lodge.

“Your committee would report that California Lodge No. 13, located in San Francisco, have never been officially informed of the existence of any other legally constituted Lodge in San Francisco, and of course there cannot be an unfortunate

difference between it and any other Lodge established here; and further, that never having received any official information of the existence of ‘even one other Lodge’ in California, this Lodge could not be aware that the formation of a Grand Lodge was in contemplation.

“The formation of a Grand Lodge in California whenever the proper number of legal Blue Lodges shall be found to exist here, is certainly most desirable; and your committee are persuaded the members of California Lodge, both individually and collectively, will be found willing to unite most cordially in such work. But before they can embark in such a labor, they must be satisfied that there are at least three properly organized or constituted Lodges in existence in California, and that at least three unite in the organization of a Grand Lodge.”

In conclusion, the report recognized the necessity of a Grand Lodge in California but recommended that California Lodge admonish the Sacramento brethren on the impropriety of organizing one at that time. It stated that they should “declare all action had thereon null and void,” and that notices should be published, in all the newspapers of the state, advising the brethren of a new meeting to be held at a certain place on a certain date for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge.

This report was all legal and proper, and signed by John H. Gihon, A. Bartol, J. D. Stevenson, P. A. Morse, and John W. Geary. But, aware of the looseness of procedure in those days, some Masonic historians have suspected that it did not cover all of California Lodge’s reasons for turning

thumbs down on the first Sacramento convention. That California Lodge was not advised of any other “legal” Lodge in San Francisco is quite conceivable, but with all the brethren traveling back and forth between San Francisco and Sacramento over a period of several months, it is hard to believe it had never heard of Western Star or Connecticut Lodges. And, with the slightest curiosity, it could have learned they were just and legally constituted Lodges.

In any event, Brother Doughty of New Jersey Lodge evidently had got back to Sacramento in the meanwhile with the news of California Lodge’s disapproval. For, on April 16, a Brother Fleishacker announced that he had just returned from Sacramento, and that the brethren there had rescinded all their former actions relating to formation of a Grand Lodge. April 17 had been set as the date “for the meeting of the Brethren to take preliminary measures for the legal formation of a Grand Lodge for the State of California.”

To this day no one knows for sure the exact reasons behind this early attempt to establish a Grand Lodge with only two chartered Lodges. Sherman and Whicher blame Hyam for the whole thing. According to Sherman, Hyam belonged to Quitman Lodge, an United States Army Lodge of Vera Cruz, Mexico, which had been chartered by the Grand Lodge A. Y. M. of Mississippi, February 22, 1848. He knew of Mississippi’s invasion of the Louisiana jurisdiction and the resultant irregular Grand Lodge of Louisiana, from which his

Pacific Lodge of Benicia received its dispensation. So, hoping to legitimize his own Lodge (and doubtlessly himself), he sought to organize a regular Grand Lodge in California which could give it a "certificate of good character and lawful birth."

If Hyam really was the Mephistopheles of the drama, he can be credited with one of the boldest and most unlawful attempts to heal an illegitimacy in the annals of American Masonry. For he was a sharp student of Masonic law — perhaps better informed on it than many of his ablest critics. And, as some of those critics later found, he could neither be ignored nor brushed off. He was too smart for one and too determined for the other.

But the irony of the whole affair was that, by February 20, the contending Grand Lodges of Louisiana had patched up their differences and, on March 4, ratified the articles of union that forever made them one legal body. All their previous actions had been healed. All edicts of non-intercourse between them were repealed and all penalties incurred under them revoked. Thus Hyam's Pacific Lodge at Benicia and Davy Crockett at San Francisco, in far off California, were just and legally constituted Lodges. If communication had not been so slow in those days, both might have attended the Grand Lodge Convention at Sacramento, April 17, as regular Lodges deriving their authority from a legitimate Grand Jurisdiction.

As it was, Hyam attended that convention and *served as its Secretary*. Through him, his allegedly irregular Lodge, now called Benicia, received tacit recognition, though no such

courtesy was extended to the equally irregular Davy Crockett of San Francisco. Most peculiarly, on motion of Jonathan D. Stevenson of California Lodge, it was resolved, "That the representative of Benicia Lodge, and all other Master Masons *in good standing*, now present, be invited to take part in the deliberations of this Convention."

The premature Grand Lodge had hardly passed out of existence, however, before Worshipful Master Saschel Woods of Western Star Lodge took the first step toward organizing a just and legally constituted Grand Lodge of California. On April 5, he inserted a notice in the *Placer Times*, of Sacramento, announcing the intentions of the brethren in that part of the state:

"Sacramento, April 5, 1850
"After a meeting of the Worshipful Masters of the following Ancient York Masons, held at the Masonic Hall in Sacramento City, on April 5, A. D., 1850, Viz.: Brother John A. Tutt, Connecticut Lodge No. 75; Saschel Woods, Western Star Lodge No. 98; Wm. N. Doughty, New Jersey Lodge U.D.; B. D. Hyam, Benicia Lodge U.D.; on motion it was"Resolved, That it is deemed expedient to form a Grand Lodge in this State, and that a convention be held for that purpose on April 17, 1850, at the city of Sacramento. Also that all regular Lodges of Ancient York Masons of the State of California and all present and Past Grand officers be invited to attend said convention.

"Resolved, That the above proceedings be published in the different newspapers of San Francisco and Sacramento City.

"It was further Resolved, That Brother William M. Doughty be empowered to forward a copy of the above resolutions to every and all legally constituted Lodges throughout the State who are not here represented to meet with us in said convention.
"Saschel Woods, Chairman"

The convention called by Woods met in the Sacramento Masonic Hall, which was anything but pretentious for so momentous an occasion as organizing a Grand Lodge. It was located in the attic of a three-story structure called the "Red House," on the southeast corner of J and Fifth streets. Also, it was hardly all that could be desired in another respect. Before long the second floor, supposedly a lodging house, was discovered to be occupied by persons whom Sherman delicately described as ineligible to join the Masonic Fraternity because of their sex and morals. In negotiating the stairs to and from Lodge the brethren who kept their eyes open had ample opportunity to meditate on the evils of what Lecky called the world's oldest profession. But the building had to serve the local Craft till a better place could be found, which was not long.

With Charles Gilman, Past Grand Master of New Hampshire and Maryland in the chair, the convention got under way at ten o'clock on the morning of April 17. Worshipful Master B. D. Hyam of Benicia Lodge was appointed secretary, and on motion of Worshipful Master William N. Doughty, of New Jersey Lodge, a committee of three on credentials was appointed. It consisted of himself, John A. Tutt, of Connecticut Lodge, and John H. Gihon, of California Lodge.

The following brethren presented credentials as representatives of their respective Lodges:

Charles Gilman, J. D. Stevenson, and John H. Gihon, of California Lodge, of San Francisco.
John A. Tutt, L. J. Wilder, and B. B. Gore, of Connecticut Lodge, of Sacramento.
J. Wilcoxon, Thomas E. Gray, and C. Clarke, of Western Star Lodge, of Benton City.
William N. Doughty, Berryman Jennings, and A. G. Hart, of New Jersey Lodge, of Sacramento.
Benjamin D. Hyam, of Benicia Lodge, of Benicia.

The convention then adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon, after which the committee on credentials reported its findings. It noted that California, Connecticut and Western Star Lodges were under charter, and had presented their charters all properly issued and bearing the names of their officers. Western Star had been opened by its Worshipful Master, Saschel Woods, at Benton City, October 30, 1849. Connecticut Lodge was opened by its Worshipful Master, Caleb Fenner, at Sacramento, January 8, 1850. But, peculiarly, California Lodge gave no exact date of opening. The committee's report on it simply shows its Worshipful Master, Levi Stowell, opening it "in the city of San Francisco in October, 1849. . . ." This was later the source of considerable speculation. For, on November 15, 1849, Stowell wrote in his diary that he opened the Lodge on that date, and even went so far as to say he fitted up the Lodge room himself. Two days later, on November 17, John W. Geary, Secretary pro tem., wrote

in his minutes, "In pursuance of a charter granted by the M. W. Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, California Lodge No. 13 met for the purpose of *organizing* in conformity thereto." And on December 29 of the same year, when the regular Secretary, John H. Gihon, sent his report to the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, he wrote, "Agreeably to your permission, our infant body was *duly organized on the evening of the 15th of November last*; since which

time several meetings have been held, and conducted in strict conformity to the ancient usages of our Order, and with unvarying regard to its fraternal spirit." Geary, in entering November 17 as the organizing date, perhaps inadvertently inserted the date on which he found time to write the minutes of the meeting of the 15th. But the documented testimony of its first Worshipful Master and regular Secretary and the date on its seal, indicate that California Lodge was *duly*

organized and held its first meeting *as a Lodge* November 15, 1849.

With New Jersey and Benicia Lodges, however, the situation was different. They were under dispensation. New Jersey Lodge had been opened by Worshipful Master John E. Crockett, at Sacramento, December 4, 1849. Its dispensation had named Thomas Youngs as Master, but for some reason Youngs had relinquished his authority to

Crockett and certified that relinquishment on the back of the dispensation. But Crockett, too, passed from the scene, and at the time of the convention, William N. Doughty was Master of the Lodge.

MORE TO COME



WORSHIPFUL FRED KLEYN ORATION - Scottish Rite - San Diego April Bulletin

This is a day of new beginning. It is also a time of new beginnings.

A few weeks ago we celebrated the arrival of a new year, with all its promise and expectation.

Two weeks ago we witnessed the inauguration of a new President of the United States, ushering in a new administration with new beliefs and plans.

Tonight we begin a new Scottish Rite year in the Valley of San Diego. We elected our new officers four weeks ago and installed them three weeks ago, but tonight is the first time they have led us in a Stated Meeting and tonight they begin their active stewardship.

In the United Methodist tradition there is a hymn which I think is applicable to us tonight. Editing the words just a little it says: *this is a day of new beginning, time to remember and move on laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

Let us step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt and grieving seeking new paths we're sure to find.

With our meeting this evening, we begin a new Scottish Rite year. A year which, I suspect, will be devoted to membership, degrees, finances, maintaining our wonderful building, community recognition, social events and fraternity. There are probably other things I've missed. But the most important thing about the coming year is that it should involve all of us. Yes, all of us here this evening, and a whole lot of our brethren who are not

here this evening.

Each of us comes to this evening with thoughts, beliefs, experiences, ideas, abilities and interests. None of us came here by the same path. In Psychology 101, way back a hundred years ago when I was a student, it was said we are each a product of our heredity and our environment. Put in different terms, we were each born with unique genes and capabilities, and we have developed these in widely different ways over the years.

But all of us have some things in common. First of all, we're men, and that makes a difference. If you haven't read Bob Davis' book *Understanding Manhood in America*, you should.

Secondly, we are all Masons and have received the light and knowledge, and hopefully some of the understanding, provided in our Lodges. And we are Scottish Rite Masons and have experienced the further light provided here.

But how much of that has sunk in? How many of us make a daily effort to guide our thoughts, words and actions by the precepts we've received in Masonry? How much could we improve the coming year if we did?

The Scottish Rite, like all organizations, needs a constant infusion of new ideas, new capabilities, new approaches and a new willingness to participate. It is necessary for our growth, our own personal growth and the growth of the Valley of San Diego.

It's easy to grouse and complain about things. We all do it. But it's seldom productive. Life, and especially organizational success, is similar to politics in that it is the art of the possible. In a perfect world we'd have enough money, we'd all cooperate and fulfill our responsibilities and everything and everyone would be successful. None of us is perfect, but we can be better.

But how many times have we all heard a brother complain about some real or perceived slight which is said to have occurred last week, last month, last year or last decade? How many times have each of us been involved with something which didn't go as well as it should have? And how many have decided, because of such experiences, to limit or cease their participation? Wouldn't the more Masonic thing be to lick our wound for a day or so, then see what we can do to improve and correct the situation?

When I was living in Brussels, Belgium I attended an American Church there. Each year they would have what they call a T-party. It was a chance for you to pledge your time, your talent and your treasure toward the success of the church in the coming year. It's applicable to us tonight How will you allocate your three "T's" to the Scottish Rite in 2009?

No matter what we individually think of the last year and the year before or how we arrived at this evening, let us this year be open to new ideas, new approaches, new ways of doing things. Let us put

the past aside, put our trust in our leadership and see how each of us can contribute to making things better. Let us do what we are asked, if it is within the length of our cable tow; thoughtfully consider what we are told and do our best to keep a positive attitude.

Albert Einstein is said to have remarked that the least realistic thing in the world is to do what you've always done and expect different results. Put another way, "To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did."

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s father, Martin Sr., often told about his mother who was fond of saying something similar to: If you have enough strength to complain, you have enough strength to ask the Lord for help to solve the problem.

Let us, tonight, resolve to use the past as a foundation, but put its problems and pitfalls behind us. Let us each resolve to learn more about Masonry¹. Let us each be a positive participant in improving the Scottish Rite Valley of San Diego, in helping to do a better job in all it does and to working more closely with our brethren in all the aspects of our work. I think we will find it satisfying. I think it will improve both ourselves and our Valley.