

AUGUST  
2009



Volume XCVI  
Number 8

# 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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*in California - "But the*  
*Greatest of These is..."*



442

**contact us**

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**619-291-0465**  
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### WHAT HAPPENED IN AUGUST? NOT MUCH?

The first article proposing women's rights in America was written by Thomas Paine for the Pennsylvania Magazine, of which he was the editor, 1775.

The first telephone conversation in which voices were bounced off the moon was accomplished, 1960.

The United States purchased the Virgin Islands, 1916

A world air speed record of 2196 mph was set by the X-15 experimental U.S. rocket plane, piloted by Joseph A. Walker, a civilian test pilot, 1960.

The first Atlantic cable was completed, 1858

The first federal income tax was levied, 1861

The Statue of Liberty cornerstone was laid, 1884

George Washington created the "Purple Heart," decoration medal, 1782

The United States entered the Vietnam War, authorized by the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964

Thomas Edison received a patent for his mimeograph, 1876

Japan surrendered to the United States, ending WWII in the Pacific, 1945

President Richard M. Nixon resigned as a result of his involvement in the burglary of the Democratic party headquarters at the Watergate office complex, 1974

The term Old Glory, referring to the U.S. flag, was first used by William Driver of Salem, Massachusetts, who was the captain of the ship, Charles Daggett. When presented with an American flag, Driver raised it to the masthead and said, "I name thee Old Glory." 1831

The first commercial electric streetcar in America and the world was placed into operation in Baltimore. It ran from Oak Street to Roland Avenue to 40th Street.

Robert Fulton's steamboat Clermont made its first run from Albany to New York City in 32 hours, traveling at five miles per hour, 1807

The first silver mill began in Virginia City, Nevada, 1860

The first public police force was formed in New Amsterdam. It consisted of ten watchmen who were paid 24 stuyvers (about fifty cents) per night. Their salaries were collected from the townspeople each month, 1658.

The coin operated telephone was patented, 1889

The Social Security Act was passed by Congress, 1935

The Berlin Wall was created, 1961.

Fred Goldsmith first demonstrated that a curve ball was not an optical illusion at the Capitoline Grounds in Brooklyn, New York. He set up three poles in a straight line then hurled a baseball that went to the right of the first pole, to the left of the second and to the right of the third, 1870.

The Woodstock Music Fair ended, 1969

Virginia Dare, the first child born in America, was born in Virginia, 1587

Mount Whitney, the second highest mountain in the United States, was scaled for the first time by an American team consisting of John Lucas, Charles D. Begole, and A.H. Johnson, 1873.

The first federal bankruptcy law was enacted by Congress in 1841. It was later repealed in 1843 when state insolvency laws came into force. Other federal bankruptcy laws were enacted in 1874 and 1898.

The first licensed radio broadcast occurred, 1920

The Lincoln-Douglas debates began, 1831

The record player was patented, 1906

The world's first nuclear-powered ship, the Savannah, made its maiden voyage from Yorktown, Virginia to Savannah, Georgia, 1962.

A patent for a motion picture camera, the first of its kind, was filed by Thomas A. Edison, 1892.

The National Park Service was established, 1916

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, 1920

Indian leader Black Hawk, deserted by his Winnebago allies, surrendered, ending the Black Hawk War, 1832  
The Bureau of Engraving and Printing was created to design and print financial papers for the federal government.

It began with five employees, 1862.

The Beatles concluded their fourth American tour with their last public concert at Candlestick Park, 1966

Manager of the New York Mets, Casey Stengel, announced his retirement after 55 years in Baseball, 1965.

Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his Kinetoscope, 1887.

**Our new email address: [AmityLodge442@gmail.com](mailto:AmityLodge442@gmail.com)**

## LODGE EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

Amity Lodge's email address has been changed effective immediately!

[AmityLodge442@gmail.com](mailto:AmityLodge442@gmail.com)

## PAGES 5 to 10

(sorry, had to add another page this month)

**bonus pages for our email subscribers**



A WAY OF LIFE

### 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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## PLANNED GIVING: OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

A gift for eternity to support the California Masonic charities will change someone's life. It will also change yours.

When you give to California Masonic charities, you get more than a potential tax deduction. Giving to our mission to provide education, heal young hearts and care for vulnerable seniors can create unequalled personal, emotional and spiritual fulfillment.

Join with thousands of Masons who have, in a sense, become Masons forever by making a gift for eternity. You will also become a member of the Cornerstone Society, which celebrates the legacy of donors to California's Masonic philanthropies who have chosen to provide for the future through their charitable estates. It is our hope that their example of leadership and generosity will inspire others in our Masonic family to do the same.

There are as many different ways to make a gift for eternity and support our Masonic charities as there are needs for your support.

You can start today:

- Make sure you have an up-to-date will (or living trust) that reflects your charitable objectives. Without these documents, you surrender control of your property and assets to the courts.
- Contact your financial advisor (a financial planner, lawyer or accountant) and ask for help in establishing a charitable gift.
- Think beyond cash - you can leave stocks, real estate, insurance policies and personal property to charitable organizations.
- Make your favorite California Masonic charity a beneficiary of your life insurance, pension plan or IRA.

For additional information about our California Masonic charities, please go to the Grand Lodge website.

## MASONIC HOMES ENDOWMENT FUND

The Lodge will accept your contribution to the FUND, when you send your Dues Check or at any other time. When we receive a contribution, we log it into the report we send to Grand Lodge. When you write a check for The Masonic Homes Endowment Fund, be sure to include FUND after Masonic Homes Endowment. If you don't, your contribution could be deposited in the Homes operating account. Please make your contribution as large as you can.

**Our new email address: [AmityLodge442@gmail.com](mailto:AmityLodge442@gmail.com)**

## SCOTTISH RITE "ALL MASONIC PICNIC"

On August 8, the Scottish Rite will once again host its annual "All Masonic Picnic". This event is free to the Family of Freemasonry and lots of fun and good food and fellowship are had by all who attend. There are games, food, beverages, plenty of seating and tables. Contact the Scottish Rite for details and be sure to be there. We will.

## WHAT TO WEAR

Stated Meetings for June through September the answer to "what to wear" is: Hawaiian Shirt or Barong Tagalog. No shorts or flip-flops.

## DID YOU KNOW?

A long time ago, at local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts', hence the term 'minding your P's and Q's'.

## RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

We would be delighted to have you attend our Stated Meeting and Stated Meeting dinner. If you do plan on attending, please make your reservation by calling Arnold Korey at the Lodge office. The number is 619-291-0465. BE COURTEOUS AND MAKE THE CALL and remember, a reservation made is a contract and payment due unless cancelled..

## BIRTHDAYS FROM THE EAST - CHRISTIAN QUIMPO

Paul Wilton	8/2
Adam Torres	8/4
Perry Hooper	8/5
Carlton Philadelphia	8/6
Joven Martinez	8/7
Charles Hoffman	8/7
Gary Hollcraft	8/7
Ernest Miller	8/7
David Tobias	8/7
Robert Newman	8/8
C. Robert Millhouse	8/10
Rodolfo Bayle, PM	8/11
Patrick Nichols	8/13
Mark Sandoval	8/14
Richard Mazo	8/15
C. Robert Shaw, PM	8/15
James Furrh, Jr.	8/16
Matt Kaufman	8/16
Romeo Orje	8/18
Zachary Saltzman	8/19
Michael Lane	8/20
Carlos Bacsal	8/21
Kenneth Littrel	8/21
Ely De Los Reyes	8/22
Edward Cook	8/22
Teodorico Napalan	8/23
Alex Royter	8/23
Daniel McBride	8/24
Benjamin Salvania	8/26
Melvin Stanley	8/26

Due to minor technical difficulties, this month's birthday list is the same as last years, without corrections, deletions or additions. My apologies.

This month's  
Average age = ? years  
Oldest = ? years old  
Youngest = ? 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.

**SUPPORT YOUR  
LODGE AND ITS  
PROGRAMS.  
YOUR  
ATTENDANCE IS  
NEEDED AND  
ENCOURAGED!**

I hope everyone is keeping cool during these HOT, dog days of summer. Come to Lodge... COOL things are happening at Amity!

I visited the following Golden Veterans (50 Year Members) with Brother Richard Anderson and Worshipful John Heisner, PM, to present their pins: Brother Harnly and Brother Hom. Brother Kahn and Brother Dunst received their pins in Lodge. Each of the brothers was proud and excited to receive this recognition and visit with us. Congratulations to each of these brothers for 50 years in the Fraternity! More visitations will be announced and you are welcome to come with me. I truly felt honored to meet with each of them and hear their stories.

More COOL events... We initiated Brother Baldado and Brother DeJesus Entered Apprentice Masons. We'll be initiating Mr. Maldonado and Mr. San Agustin on August 3. Please help me welcome these new Masons. Brother Payne received his Fellowcraft Degree and there were two Master

## FROM THE SECRETARY - ARNOLD KOREY

Brethren,  
This being the month of August and with the Lodge not doing any Degrees after the August Stated Meeting, I hope everyone is having a great summer. The Lodge will be paying the per-capita from Grand Lodge. I hope those who have not sent their 2009 dues will try and send them in very soon. The lodge has to

## MASONS ONLY DINE OUT NIGHT - August 20 - 6:30 pm

Amity Lodge Masons will assemble for a special Dine Out in August. This Dine Out will be for Masons only. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Arnold

**Our new email address: [AmityLodge442@gmail.com](mailto:AmityLodge442@gmail.com)**

Mason Degrees for our newly raised Brothers Travis Knowlton and Dan McBride. Brother Neil Rubin led Proficiency Night with his 3° proficiency, followed by Brothers Travis Knowlton 2° and Daron Payne 1°. Congratulations to all of these Brothers for their hard work! Thank you! Amity Lodge Officers and Brethren visited La Mesa Lodge No. 407 in July. It was great to be in Lodge with so many sideliners for a 3°! Amity will have more visits to other lodges this year. Why don't you join us?

Amity Lodge spent another day helping out at the San Diego County Fair Child ID Booth. We id'd lots of kids and it was well worth our time for this important cause.

If you missed Amity Lodge's Past Masters Night for Brother McBride's Raising, you missed a really good time! Our Past Masters came "out of the North" and proved they've still got it!

As promised, Amity Lodge will go dark for the month of August after the

Stated Meeting. For you die hards, there may be some practices to be announced.

I would like to thank the Officers' Coach, Worshipful Ernie Astudillo, PM, and all of the officers and brethren who made all of the Degrees possible with their hard work and dedication. Thank you!

Many thanks to Brother Harry Besnoy for another wonderful dine-out at Applebee's. The dine-outs are casual and relaxing evenings for everyone to socialize and chat with friends and get to know each other better. This is what strengthens the bonds of our Lodge. Please join us at the September dine-out (Details in next month's Trestleboard)!

Remember to put on your best Hawaiian shirt or Barong for this months Stated Meeting and check out the Trestleboard calendar and articles for more event info. The Quimpo family wishes everyone a happy and safe summer season.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Christian P. Quimpo, WM

pay your per-capita regardless and this puts a financial burden on our Lodge. Please look at your dues card and see if you have a current 2009 dues card.

I will be in and out of the office during August and checking the mail and phone.

The dine-out for August is a Masons only dinner for details please call me.

While in the process of clearing up some boxes and other storage areas, I have found several Masonic Bibles that will available for sale. If you are going through the Degrees, they may be used at the altar. They are \$35.00 per Bible. Please contact me if you are interested.

Fraternaly  
Arnold L Korey, Secretary

informative evening.

We will spend some time talking about the resolutions proposed for consideration at Grand Lodge.

**TRESTLEBOARD**  
**Amity Lodge No. 442, F. & A. M.**  
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 Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

**AMITY LODGE NO. 442, F. & A. M.**  
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Attention wives, family and care givers: Should the person to whom this Trestleboard is addressed be ill or in some difficulty, please call Arnold Korey, Secretary of Amity Lodge #442 at 619-291-0465.

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**AUGUST 2009 CALENDAR**

August

- Mon 3rd** 6:45 p.m. **First Degree** - Mr. San Agustin & Mr. Maldonado
- Thurs 6th** **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465. Hawaiian or Barong Tagalog.
- Sat 8th** **Scottish Rite All Masonic Picnic - call for info.**
- Mon 10th** Dark
- Thurs 13th** Dark
- Mon 17th** Dark
- Thurs 20th** 6:30 p.m. Masons Only Dine Out - call Secretary
- Mon 24th** Dark
- Thurs 27th** Dark
- Mon 31st** Dark

September

- Thurs 3rd** **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465. Hawaiian or Barong Tagalog.
- Mon 7th** LABOR DAY

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

Stated meeting attire June through September is Hawaiian Shirt or Barong Tagalog, no shorts or flip-flops.

AUGUST STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Vegi Lasagna and Baked Mahi Mahi
- Scalloped Potatoes and Zucchini and Squash
- Tossed Green Salad - Peach Cobbler
- Beverages and Assorted Rolls



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# ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN CALIFORNIA

## "But the Greatest of These..."

ON MARCH 13, 1850, Worshipful Master pro-tern. Abram Bartol, of California Lodge No. 13, appointed a committee of five to report on correspondence concerning the proposed organization of a Grand lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in this state. A week later, on March 20, This committee sent in a report which, among other things, stated, "Your Committee sincerely believe that a union of the Masonic fraternity, for charitable and social purposes, was never more necessary in any country than at this time in California"

It is noteworthy that they placed charitable purposes ahead of social purposes. They had excellent reasons for doing so. Charity was already a major problem of California Masonry, and for years thereafter took up an incredible amount of space in the records. The first Lodges, held under jurisdiction of other states, had hardly opened their doors when they were deluged with appeals for relief. This was especially true with Lodges on the Mother Lode, where the economic and social conditions of a gold-madened populace presented problems never found to any appreciable degree elsewhere.

And down in the valley, at Sacramento, the chief supply depot of the northern mines, the situation was little short of demoralizing, as early as December, 1849. Bayard Taylor, reporting it in his *El Dorado*, said, "Three-fourths of the people

who settle in Sacramento City are visited by agues, diarrhoeas and other reducing complaints. In Summer the place is a furnace, in winter little better than a swamp; and the influx of emigrants and discouraged miners generally exceeds the demand for labor."

Elsewhere, the same author got right down to the main source of trouble. "Many of the adventurous immigrants," he wrote, "had seemed to think that nothing was necessary to their success except to reach California. Many of them were destitute on their arrival. Not one in a hundred had money to buy an outfit for the mines at the ruinous prices asked. Many were suffering from hardships and privations endured on the overland journey, or as steerage passengers saturated with scorbutic diseases or so depressed or despondent that they became easy prey for disease. Nine-tenths of these adventurers poured into Sacramento, the nearest point for outfitting for the mines. Here they met another train of scorbutic sufferers straggling in from the East, debilitated and worn out by the hardships encountered.

"From these causes Sacramento had become one vast lazarus house long before the city government was organized. This was intensified by the fact that as men became accustomed to these scenes of suffering, familiarity with them hardened their hearts, and cupidity took possession of them. The lure of gold beckoned them away. They could not spare time to

relieve the distress of their fellows. They must press on to the diggings and begin to acquire their fortunes. Fathers abandoned their sons, and sons abandoned their fathers when they required a little troublesome care. When they could be of no further use to each other friendship and kinship became mere words. One flagrant case was that of an old father, who had furnished the means for his son and other relatives to come to the new Eldorado, but was deserted by them as he lay dying with scurvy on the levee, where he soon passed away. The sick and suffering accumulated so fast that by July the means of caring for them were entirely inadequate."

As the year 1850 advanced, matters inexorably went from bad to worse. Then cholera broke out. On October 20, a man was found dying of it on one of the levees along the river, and for the next month the city was a place of horror. At least seventeen of the physicians combating the epidemic succumbed to it themselves.

On November 4, the Sacramento reporter for the *Aha California*, of San Francisco, wrote, "The daily mortality is about sixty. Many deaths are concealed and many others are not reported. During the past week, so far as known, the deaths were 188." John Bigler, later governor of the state, worked heroically to relieve the suffering. Dr. John F. Morse,

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

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who had charge of the Masons and Odd Fellows hospital at Sutter's Fort, describes him as "moving among the dead and dying with a large lump of camphor in one hand, which he frequently applied to his nostrils as an antidote to the disease."

The disease also broke out in other important communities that fall. San Francisco's death rate unquestionably ran higher than the ten or twelve a day reported in the *Annals of San Francisco* for that year. The authors of the *Annals* were more than likely thinking only of the known deaths. The poor unfortunates who breathed their last on brushy sand hills, fell into the bay, or were hurriedly dumped into shallow graves by frightened strangers seeking to escape contagion, were never counted. At San Jose, the state capital, where the disease was supposedly confined to the native population, John Townsend, first graduate American M. D. to settle in California, died December 8. Both he and his wife died of it within a few hours of each other.

Still, through it all, when greed for gold and noisome disease stalked through the market place together, when the ties of kinship and friendship failed on all sides, there was one tie that held fast—the tie of Masonry. Since it has never been the custom of our Fraternity to

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publicize or capitalize our manifest duties, we shall never know the full extent of the good works of our early day brethren. But, thanks to the minutes of the Lodges of that time, we know beyond doubt that they stood true in hour of need. They nursed and obtained medical care for the sick. They soothed the dying, and wrote letters to the nearest of kin. They buried their dead in decent places with suitable honors and dignity.

It is a matter of record that many a Lodge impoverished itself to do these very things. When its own means were exhausted, it borrowed money to carry on. An outstanding example of this was Jennings Lodge No. 4, of Sacramento, which literally put itself out of existence in its effort to relieve the distressed. Already close to \$4000 in debt for a new hall, it soon found itself charged up with \$14,000 for relief. By 1853, when it could meet neither of these obligations, it had to surrender its charter. At a time when there were only sixty-nine Masons in all Sacramento, the Craft expended \$32,000 for relief. In May, 1851, the Grand Lodge at its annual communication held in Sacramento, took note of the situation with a circular letter which, among other things, stated:

"Under a generous impulse, and a lively sense of their obligations, the brethren [here] undertook to institute a sanitary establishment that would supply the place of a hospital. At that time, municipal government had not been organized, and public affairs were conducted chiefly on the voluntary principle. So it was in the case of the health

establishment set up by the Masons. They found, however, that the demands upon them were, in the course of a few months, increased to an extent greater than they had anticipated, and greater than their means and the contributions which they could collect, would enable them to meet. They could not, however, go back, nor could they abandon the sufferers they had been obliged to receive, and whose cumber were greatly multiplied by the distress caused by the freshet which swept over the city in the Winter of 1849-50. As a consequence, they made themselves liable for an amount of bills, the payment of which would reduce some of them to absolute indigence. They raised and paid, for the purpose above stated, over thirty-two thousand dollars, and are now in arrears about fourteen thousand dollars."

"For that, they feel justified in calling upon the Grand and subordinate lodges of the Fraternity to aid in relieving them. No record has been kept by which it can be known what exact amount any one sufferer received, belonging to any particular Lodge, of all that had been provided for. But this is certain: no sick, destitute and suffering brother has been permitted to suffer or die in their midst, uncared for. The noble generosity and disinterestedness with which a few Masons in one of our new cities have contributed so largely to the wants of the brethren coming upon them from all parts of the civilized world, has afforded a brilliant illustration to the world of the excellence and strength of our principles, and has been most effective in commending our

order to the respect of those who are not of us."

Conditions at Sacramento were admittedly extreme, but save for the ravages of cholera, they were more or less typical of those prevailing all over the gold country, which included not only the diggings themselves, but also the great valley supply depots such as Sacramento, Marysville, and Stockton. Within a short time, every Lodge from Mariposa to Weaverville had its share of indigents and unfortunates. And a surprisingly large number of them had to borrow money in order to continue their relief. Amador Lodge had to do it as late as 1863.

The amount of relief dispensed in their region, prior to the establishment of the more efficient boards of relief of later years, will never be known, for a good twenty per cent of those early Lodges had had their halls and records destroyed one or more times by fire. East of the Sierra Nevada, where there were fewer Lodges, the percentage ran even higher. William A. Chalfant, of the Grand Lodge History Committee, wrote, in 1935, that Alta Lodge No. 333, of Bridgeport, was the only Lodge on that side of the range that had never had its hall burned.

In addition to this, the records of all extinct Lodges, that were not destroyed in their own halls, were sent to the Grand Lodge archives in San Francisco, where they went up in smoke in the great fire of 1906.

However, with a few statistics and the minutes of such Lodges as are available, one soon concludes that the

gold country Lodges once dispensed more charity than all the rest of the Lodges in the state put together. It was only natural that they should, on the basis of sheer numbers, if nothing else. An even seventy of the first hundred Lodges organized in this state were "gold Lodges." Forty-two of the second hundred were likewise, though eight of them were in Nevada, which was under California jurisdiction till it established its own Grand Lodge in 1865. The percentage diminished at approximately the same rate with the third hundred, and, after that, was too negligible for serious consideration.

More interesting is the nature of this relief, which fell into some eighteen or twenty categories, and gradually worked its way into other areas of the state.

In the beginning, the great bulk of relief went to non-affiliates who were divided into two classes: those who had demitted from their home Lodges and those who had not. Of the two, the former were less entitled to relief, if entitled at all. They paid no dues to any Lodge in this or their home jurisdictions, and really had no claim on the fraternity. Yet those in charge of relief drew no line, and gave to both unstintingly. It was enough for them to know a man was a Mason, or at least appeared to be one. In fact, there is reason to believe that, in their headlong desire to help their distressed brethren, they were careless in examination and, not infrequently, admitted to their meetings persons who had no business in them. This was

made easy by the fact that dues receipts were not customary in many early Lodges; and examining committees, who may never have known their work too well, were rusty on what they did know.

Eventually, however, it became too much of a good thing. Tightwads and adventurers took shameless advantage of it. The tightwad usually belonged to some jurisdiction whose dues were less than California's. He unhesitatingly accepted every bit of relief that California offered him, but was reluctant to drop anything into a California charity box or pay the dues that made that relief possible. The adventurer may have been a Mason, at one time, but had long since been suspended for non-payment of dues or been expelled for a worse reason. Again, he may never have been a member of the fraternity at all. Nor did he ever tell anybody he was a member. As a good listener, he simply picked up a few more or less common Masonic terms and impressed our good-hearted but unthinking brethren with his glibness. If they "broke their necks" to help him, without asking questions, that was their business.

As a result, first one Lodge, then another, began to take note of both. Even the exceptionally generous El Dorado No. 26 of Placerville grew apprehensive; and so did Tuolumne No. 8, which had given \$4500 to non-affiliates in just two years. Mention of safeguards against them gradually crept into the minutes. With increasing frequency, secretaries made entries to the effect that Brother So-and-so, reported

to be living within the jurisdiction of a certain Lodge was summoned to appear before the Lodge and "show cause" why he had not affiliated with it. In a way, these "show cause summonses" had the aspects of a legal writ.

It was not unusual for a brother, thus summoned, to appear to cite good reasons for not affiliating, and to be excused. Now and then, one would even contribute an equivalent to the dues of the Lodge summoning him. On September 12, 1857, a W. T. Grubb voluntarily appeared before Clay Lodge No. 101, at Dutch Flat, offering to pay dues of five dollars.

A second type of summons requested the brother to appear before the lodge and prove that he was a Mason. Maybe he had boasted or intimated he was one, and some of the brethren who doubted it were giving him a chance to make good at the source of all Masonic information. It was an excellent way of exposing a fraud, for the records do not indicate that many of the persons so summoned obeyed their summonses with any degree of alacrity.

Occasionally, however, a Lodge did not depend on summonses to show cause of non-affiliation. It simply wrote into its bylaws an article stating that a non-affiliated brother, residing in its jurisdiction, might attend only once free of charge; after that, it would cost him something. St. John's Lodge (now Howard Lodge) No. 37, of Yreka, did it in 1853, when its committee on bylaws approved article 7, reading: "Every brother of good standing and regular habits is

at liberty to visit this Lodge once, free of expense, but on a second visit (unless he is a contributing member of a Lodge) he is to pay the Treasurer of the Lodge fifty cents, which it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect, except when such visitor may be invited by a member of this Lodge."

Western Star Lodge No. 2, of Shasta, apparently outraged by non-affiliates' abuses of relief, passed a wordy resolution April 22, 1854, that just about covered everything on the subject: "Whereas: The Masonic Fraternity throughout the country is suffering from a serious and growing evil, which is alike prejudicial to its prosperity, subversive of its most cherished objects (relief and charity), viz.: the withdrawal of Masons from subordinate Lodges who remain non-affiliated and refuse to contribute to the support of the order, and "Whereas: These same demitted Masons are constantly knocking at our doors for admission and seeking to avail themselves of the privileges and benefits of the Order while they bear none of its burdens and are drawing assistance from our charity funds while they refuse to aid in their support, and "Whereas: This evil prevails to a great and more alarming extent and is more seriously felt in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California than any other Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, within the United States, and "Whereas: The action heretofore taken by our Grand Lodge with regard to non-affiliated Masons is disregarded by the subordinate Lodges and therefore wholly

inoperative and consequently does not accomplish the object for which it was designed, and "Whereas: Several of the Grand and subordinate Lodges have already taken action to remedy this evil, therefore

"Resolved: That it is the opinion of this Lodge that it is the duty of every Mason to belong to some subordinate Lodge to assist in its work, and contribute to its support.

"Resolved: That no non-affiliated Mason who is not contributing to the support of the Order, should be allowed to visit the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he lives more than once, without becoming a member thereof, and while he refuses to contribute to the support or assist in the work of the Lodge, unless from sickness or inability he ought to be excused, he should be denied all Masonic privileges and benefits.

"Resolved: That all demitted Masons in the vicinity of the subordinate Lodge are living in open violation of Masonic duties and obligations, and, if they persist in so doing, should be suspended from all rights and benefits of Masonry till they cease their apostacy [sic] and return to the support and learn to respect the requirements of the Order.

"Resolved: That an attest copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the Grand Lodge with a request that the Grand Lodge take some efficient action in regard to the subject matter therein

contained and the subordinate Lodges within her jurisdiction be not only authorized but compelled to carry out such judicious action as the Grand Lodge in its wisdom dictates."

Plainly, Western Star and other Lodges of the jurisdiction were tired of being imposed upon. They had more than enough deserving brethren to take care of, as it was. And the additional problem of providing for the widows and orphans of deceased brethren of their own and other jurisdictions some-times left them wondering if they would ever have enough money to cover hall expenses.

#### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

The widows and orphans problem was not confined to any one district. It was as universal as death itself, covering the whole state and, till the establishment of widows' and orphans' homes, years later, was a heavy burden on many a Lodge. Still, it had its bright side. There was something-about it that gave the brothers a feeling of responsibility that they could never have attained otherwise. In this, if nothing else, they were deeply conscious that they were performing a noble service and discharging their obligations to the fullest extent. But, above all, they could experience at first hand the heart warming results of their actions.

Another feature of widows' and orphans' relief shows it to have been a phenomenon of a later period which did not appear in Lodge minutes to any noticeable extent till after the gold rush. In fact, some of the oldest Lodges give it little

mention till after the Civil War. This was probably because there were so few women in California during the gold days. An eligible widow hardly had a chance to reflect on how becoming she looked in mourning before she was rushed off her feet with demands for her hand.

Old-timers around Auburn used to tell a story illustrating this fact. One of our Masonic brothers, who had a beautiful wife, suddenly died there in 1851. He was given a suitable funeral by his sorrowing fellow Masons, and at the little cemetery just west of town an itinerant, unmarried preacher added a few appropriate remarks and took charge of the committal. At the conclusion of the service, the widow was escorted back to her little cabin, which only a short time before had been so bright and joyful. She hardly had entered it and sat down to be alone with her thoughts a few minutes when she heard rapid steps outside and a loud, impatient knock on the door. Almost before she could say "Come in," the preacher burst into the room, all out of breath. He lost no time in stating his business. "Madam," he blurted, "as a minister of the Gospel, I know that Scripture sayeth it is not good for man to live alone. Therefore, I shall propose marriage to you. Will you marry me?" The widow slowly wiped the tears from her eyes. Then, gratefully looking up at him, she replied, "I'm sorry, Reverend, but I promised the undertaker at the grave that I'd marry him."

Of course, the commonest procedure in relieving widows and orphans was simply to give a certain

sum of money at stated intervals or as it was needed. Sometimes, it was given directly to them and sometimes through business-minded trustees appointed by the Lodge to watch over them and administer to their wants. Direct donations might range anywhere from \$10 to \$100. For example, in May, 1862, Grafton Lodge No. 141, of Knights Landing, directly appropriated \$20 toward the relief of the widow of William C. Stoddard. But, at the same time, Visalia Lodge No. 128 followed an entirely different procedure in taking care of the minor daughter of its first Master, Captain Edward Faris Storev, who was killed by Indians near Pyramid Lake, Nevada, in 1860. It appointed a committee and guardian to look after the youngster and to make sure she received everything she needed—food, shelter, and schooling. In order to make doubly sure she received the best of everything, it even refused to turn her over to the care of a couple of uncles living elsewhere in the state.

There is ample evidence that our early brothers, charged with administering relief, were right on the job. They got around, saw things, and acted fast. At Nevada City, they bought hay for Mrs. Adair's cow; at Elk Grove they bought a cow for Mrs. H. A. Smith and, presumably, got the hay afterward. On December 21, 1882, the members of Calaveras Lodge No. 78, of San Andreas, received word that one of their number, P. N. Snyder, and his wife and six children, were victims of typhoid in San Jose. Three of the children had died, and the

other three were not expected to live. Snyder's dues were immediately remitted and \$50 relief was on the way to San Jose as quickly as Treasurer Arnold Friedberger could draw a warrant to cover it. \$50 was a lot of money in those days, and would buy several times the necessities of life that it will today.

Again, in Calaveras Lodge, in March, 1887, the Junior Warden reported that "during the late storm" it was discovered that the family of their late Past Master William Terrill Lewis was without wood and that he had personally bought wood for them, paying \$5 a cord for it. A little later, the Senior Deacon reported that the Lewis family's well was in "foul condition" and that J. C. Early had paid \$11.25 out of his own pocket for cleaning and repairing it. Without further ado, the Lodge reimbursed Early.

Nor were housing problems unusual. On November 25, 1871, Molino Lodge No. 150, at Tehama, contributed a hundred dollars toward building a house for William Jackson Nordyke's widow who, at the time, was living in the jurisdiction of Meridian Lodge No. 182, in Sutter County (now Arbuckle Lodge No. 182).

In 1895, Hills Ferry Lodge No. 236, at Newman, went all out to make sure the widow of the late John Monroe Newsom had a roof over her head. Mrs. Newsom had bought a ten-and-a-half acre farm not far from Newman three years earlier, and had paid off all but \$400

of the purchase price. But, with the hard times that settled upon the nation in the early nineties, she was unable to keep up her payments and stood well to lose everything she owned. The Lodge, however, stepped in, paid off the rest of her debt, acquired clear title to the farm, and gave it to her rent free for the rest of her life.

In 1862, Volcano Lodge No. 56 bought a house for a Brother Nixon, who seems to have been neither a member of that Lodge nor of a cooperative turn of mind. The said Brother Nixon refused to live in the house. So the trustees of the Lodge sold it and took up a collection of \$338 to pay his passage back to his old home in the "Atlantic States," the following year. Mountain Shade Lodge No. 18, Downyville, offered to buy a house for a widow, but ended in donating toward her fare to England.

On the other hand, in 1880, Stanislaus Lodge No. 206, of Modesto, which had theretofore been generous to a fault, called a halt on a home project. The widow of a brother of this Lodge, then living in Oakland, had a new room added to her house and told the carpenter to send the bill for it to Stanislaus Lodge—just like that. But the brethren, who had already paid out large sums of money for said brother's medicine and doctor bills, did not feel that this latest bill was of "a character requiring payment by the Lodge." Maybe this lady took a little too much for granted regarding the duties of the Craft. If she did, she was not the only one.

Many years ago, Hope Lodge No. 234, at

Beckwourth, had a demonstration of taking too much for granted by the widow of a brother. She snubbed the Lodge at the time of her husband's death, would not allow it to conduct his funeral, and wished nothing to do with it thereafter. Her attitude toward one of the members to whom her husband owed money was insulting. Beckwourth became too small for her. She moved down to San Francisco, where she hired maids and lived in style far beyond her means and understanding. In a short time, she had wasted all the money her husband had left and had mortgaged her property in Beckwourth for \$5000. Then, when the crash came, she suddenly remembered the Fraternity to which her husband had belonged and applied to the Masonic Board of Relief at San Francisco for assistance. The Beckwourth brethren discussed her case at length. Several of them were willing to overlook her extravagance, because her husband had been so fine a man. But, in the end, they apparently sent nothing to the San Francisco Board of Relief but an envelope containing her case history.

Nor was this case an isolated one for in more recent years more than one Lodge has been plagued with the ingratitude of certain shrewish widows that they did help. For example, the caustic remarks of a long time charity case of Madison Lodge No. 23, of Grass Valley, forced the brethren of that town to caution her "to bridle her tongue."

Far more appreciative of the Craft's good offices were the widows of William

Archibald McKee and Robert Wesley Graham, respectively Past Master and Treasurer of Mosaic Lodge No. 218, of Livermore.

Mrs. McKee had ten acres of land, presumably left to her by her husband. She wished to plant it to grapes in order to support herself, but, being in straitened circumstances, was unable to do so. The Senior Warden of the Lodge found it out and reported it to the brethren December 26, 1885. On March 20, 1886, they approved two bills amounting to \$177.78 for grape cuttings and improvements "for the Mrs. McKee place...." Thus Mosaic Lodge planted Mrs. McKee's vineyard.

Mrs. Graham's husband owned a business establishment in the town of Livermore. After his death, she wished to continue it, but had no idea of how to go about it. So she turned to those whom she could trust most for advice, the brethren of Mosaic Lodge. The Master, accordingly, appointed a committee of three to aid and advise her whenever and wherever possible.

A heart warming trust, similar to Mrs. Graham's, was placed by the widow of Robert Crawford Buntain in Humboldt Lodge No. 79, of Eureka, in 1887. Save for fifty dollars, to be used in erecting a headstone over her husband's grave, she turned over all the money she had in the world—\$650—to the Lodge with the understanding it would look after her. Her wants were few, not exceeding fifteen dollars a month.

In 1879, the widow of Frank Morgan of Amador Lodge No. 65, of Jackson,

called on the Lodge to handle her business affairs, and appointed, as her agent, the Worshipful Master "and his successors in office." Among other services performed for her, by the Lodge, was the sale of her ranch, a deal involving some \$3,000. The brethren always "glorified" in helping people who tried to help themselves. In 1870, Natoma Lodge No. 64, of Folsom, fairly jumped at the chance to help the widow of William Wallace Dresser buy a sewing machine with which she was sure she could work and support herself.

La Grange Lodge (now Yosemite Lodge No. 99), of Merced, had done the same thing for one of its widows two years earlier. (It also donated generously to Mrs. Harrell who was neither wife nor widow, sister nor daughter, of a Master Mason, but simply a good woman trying to get along and worthy of the "charity and assistance of all good men and Masons.")

In 1886, Oak Grove Lodge No. 215 of Alameda, gladly lent \$100 to a "Widow Hardenburgh" who wished to buy a knitting machine, and, a few years later, Bakersfield Lodge No. 224 gave \$150 to Mrs. E. Smith to start housekeeping.

Pilot Hill Lodge even paid for music lessons for Miss Lottie Jones, daughter of the late Charles Henry Jones, who aspired to become a music teacher.

Again, a Lodge was compelled to refuse relief because the person soliciting it did not need it. Between July, 1874 and May, 1876,

Western Star Lodge No. 2, of Shasta, paid out a large sum for boarding and lodging a brother who, apparently, owned much property, but was disinclined to do anything for himself if somebody else would do it for him. It took some resolution on the part of the Lodge to convince him of the error of his ways when it stopped his relief payments, but, according to the minutes, the matter must have been adjusted to the satisfaction of all concerned. The brother remained a member of Western Star till 1890, when he withdrew.

Early in 1891, Areata Lodge No. 106 received a letter from a widow of a member of the Lodge, asking for aid. This was almost forty years after California's flush gold days, when the brothers gave relief first and asked questions afterward, and some of them were getting wise. The widow was then living in Sebastopol. So the Secretary of Areata Lodge wrote a letter to the Secretary of Lafayette Lodge, at Sebastopol, asking for the facts. The good lady was "found to possess ample means" —plus an acquisitive instinct that prevailed upon her to augment them with relief from Areata Lodge.

Clear Lake Lodge No. 183, of Lower Lake, was sorely beset in 1879 when it had to deny relief to a widow whose husband was a member of that Lodge at the time of his death. She had two stepsons, also members of the Lodge, who had more than enough money to support her, and wished to do so. They were dead against her throwing herself upon the charity of the Lodge. But, stubbornly refusing to accept

their help, she preferred "to travel over the state, vilifying the fraternity" because it would do nothing for her.

Clear Lake Lodge had another "problem child" in the widow of a brother who had four young children. The minutes for 1873 and 1874 show the Lodge keenly concerned with her welfare, buying "a good, fat hog" for her and doubling her monthly relief, etc. Unfortunately, however, she came to the conclusion that the fraternity was "a good thing," no matter where she went, and proceeded to make the most of it. At length, Clear Lake Lodge, fearing for its own solvency, asked the Grand Secretary to issue a circular letter on her, in order to stop her receiving relief from other Lodges of the jurisdiction.

It was "the desire of this Lodge to have Mrs. ... call on us herself if she is in need, as we have to furnish the money and wish to know if it is an act of charity or extortion."

A list of refusals, such as the foregoing, to both brethren and their dependents could be carried to some length. It is certain that no Lodges cared to deny anything to anybody, but what else could they do under the circumstances if they wished to keep themselves in a condition to help the more deserving? Perhaps they could be excused for thinking there was more than a grain of truth in the 1855 relief committee report of Washington Lodge No. 20, of Sacramento, which observed that affluent people do not always contribute the most to the fraternity, but often ask the most from it.

Again, refusals were

not always easy, and sometimes took some soul searching. For example, on November 5, 1894, the Secretary of El Dorado Lodge No. 26, of Placerville, read a letter from "a lady teacher in Korbel, Humboldt County." She had become interested in the parents of three of her pupils.

The father, once a member of El Dorado Lodge, had "gone down through drunkenness" and been suspended for non-payment of dues. But, now that he had been reformed for some six months, he regretted his former behavior and wondered if the Lodge could do something for him. The brethren discussed the matter at length, but deferred action. Until they had better evidence of the erring one's reformation, and until he paid up his dues and was restored, there was little that the Lodge could legally do for him. Though appreciating the "humane feeling" that prompted the teacher to write in behalf of the former brother, they simply instructed the Secretary to inform her of the facts of the case.

In 1897, Brooklyn Lodge No. 225, of Oakland, handled a somewhat similar case in a different manner. It concerned the widow of a brother who had died while suspended for non-payment of dues, and who was not even a member of Brooklyn Lodge. Though the brethren well realized that his wife was not "masonically entitled to Masonic relief," they felt that "the claims of suffering humanity should not pass unheeded, and that the wife in this instance should not be made to suffer by the neglect of her husband to keep himself in standing." They

accordingly voted her \$20 relief.

However, there were times when a Lodge did not wrench its conscience over much in denying relief. In 1886, Santa Cruz Lodge No. 38 promptly turned down one brother's request that the Lodge buy him a horse and buggy which would be about the same as a brother's asking his Lodge to buy him an automobile today. The brother, who appears to have been a clergyman, was informed that he owned considerable property, had an income from two other sources, had a son who was a lawyer, and a daughter who was a music teacher. It looked as if he would have to get his horse and buggy elsewhere.

Also, Santa Barbara Lodge No. 192, in 1893, could see no good reason why it should pay the expense of a deceased brother's son who wished to go East to take the "Kealy (liquor) Cure." Nor, in 1905, could Hills Ferry Lodge No. 236, of Newman, whose reputation for generosity was almost proverbial, see why it should foot the divorce bill for the wife of one of its members "provided she lost the case." It was not interested in paying even if she won the case.

