

OCTOBER
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Number 10

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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*100 Years of Freemasonry
in California - "But the
Greatest of These is..."*



442

contact us

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY YEARS AGO - THE LIGHT BULB WAS BORN

"Where are you now, Tom?" Mrs. Edison called. She was worried. Young Thomas Edison often tried new things that got him into trouble. Once he set the barn on fire. Once he fell into a bin full of grain. Now where was he? Mrs. Edison found him in the barn getting up from a hen's nest. His pants were covered with egg. "Why were you sitting on those eggs?" Tom's mother cried.

"I wanted to see if I could hatch them," said Tom.

Even after he grew up, Thomas Edison kept trying to understand how things worked. He found new ways to make things work better. He built machines never thought of before. Each of these was an invention of his.

Edison sold some of his first inventions and used the money to start his own laboratory. His laboratory was a special building where he could work on his inventions.

Edison had ideas for many useful things. The light bulb was one of his ideas. He drew pictures to show how it might work. Many people worked with him to build this new invention.

He often worked all day and all night trying to get his light bulb to work right. When he got tired, he would just lie down and take a nap.

After trying for almost two years, Edison finally got the light bulb to work. The light bulb was to be one of his most important inventions.

Thomas Edison was one of the world's greatest inventors. His ideas have changed the lives of people everywhere. Some of his inventions that we still use today are the phonograph, movie projector and of course the light bulb.



EDISON AND THE ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB

When: 9:30 p.m. October 19, 1879

Where: Menlo Park, California

What: Edison lights the first light bulb.

The first electric light bulb burned for 40 hours.

The element in the first bulb was a treated cotton thread. He had tried many other things including his own hair, coconut hair and fishing line.

He tried many different glass formulations before finding one that wouldn't break from the heat.

Our new email address: AmityLodge442@gmail.com

LODGE EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

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

AmityLodge442@gmail.com

**PAGES
5 to 9**
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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2009 ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 160th Annual Communication will be history in short order. The members of Grand Lodge will have met, deliberated, voted and made decisions effecting the nature of Freemasonry in California. New Officers will have been installed and new appointments will have been made. All of this to assure that Masonry in California continues to thrive and grow and pass along its message of brotherhood and service to all who seek it.

Results of the deliberations and voting will be announced at the Stated Meeting of Amity Lodge in November. If you need a sneak peek, they should be available on the Grand Lodge website at the conclusion of the Grand Lodge Sessions.

Your Officers appreciate your confidence and trust in carrying the votes assigned to Amity Lodge to the Annual Communication.

CHECK THE RIGHT ANSWER CONTEST

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>4. The first known lodge in America was in:
b. Philadelphia</p> <p>6. Henry Price was:
b. Father of Freemasonry in America.</p> <p>8. The Book of Constitutions was first published in:
b. 1723</p> <p>11. The length of a cable tow is:
d. a brother's reasonable ability.</p> | <p>15. The Presidents who were Grand Masters were:
c. Jackson and Truman</p> <p>16. The General Grand Lodge of the United States meets:
d. never meets.</p> <p>18. A Master is called Worshipful:
c. because he is worthy of respect</p> |
|--|--|

Third Annual
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
Monday, December 7, 2009
7:30 p.m.

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

The annual election of officers for your Lodge will be held at the Stated Meeting on November 5th. Put this important date on your calendar and plan on attending. We will be electing officers to lead Amity Lodge #442 for the next year as Amity Lodge continues on its path to continuing greatness and wonderful future with the selection of the new Lodge officers. Please plan on being there.

A NOTE FROM COLORADO

Just an update!
Sean is now officially a San Mateo Police Officer.
Jordan is pregnant and Mr. Wyatt Keller is going to make an appearance on October 21st. Susan and I just visited them to deliver furniture, as they

moved into a larger home just outside Tracy. We needed to get a grandbaby fix more than anything. Bella is now two and a half and is such a blast. A little to indulged, but I believe a brother will temper that.

I see Sean, and

Our new email address: AmityLodge442@gmail.com

WHAT TO WEAR

Stated Meetings for the rest of the year, dress code will be coat and tie. It was fun while it lasted.

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..

TRESTLEBOARD BY EMAIL

We want YOU to begin receiving your bulletin by email, send a note saying "I'm in!" to Coren Andrews at ctandrews@ca.rr.com

TELL YOUR
BRETHREN

reflect on how a complete generation has now made a cycle in my family. Parents are gone, grand children are being born. Father time keeps marching on!

Hope everyone is well.
Fraternally, Greg Keller

BIRTHDAYS FROM THE EAST - CHRISTIAN QUIMPO

Charles Cunningham	10/1
Robert Booth, Jr.	10/2
Allan Makalintal	10/3
Glennese Conception	10/4
Jorge Mareyna	10/4
Stephen Gay, PM	10/4
Keith Webb	10/4
Mark Kaufman	10/8
Terry Block	10/8
Abelardo Gonzales	10/8
Wayne Yanda	10/8
John Townsend	10/9
Robert Welk	10/11
Oscar Aguiar	10/11
Garey Grace	10/12
Robert Salter	10/12
Harry Lacy, PM	10/12
Michael Medina	10/13
Ralph Avalos	10/16
Fred Chabot, Jr.	10/16
Ernesto Miller, Jr.	10/17
Gary Prodanovich, PM	10/18
Julian Cambridge, PM	10/19
Bijan Massrouf	10/19
Harry Rachman	10/20
Jeffrey Cronk	10/21
Paul Warren	10/21
William Evenson	10/22
Michael Kaufman	10/23
Fahmi Marini	10/24
James Seeto	10/26
Marty Hull	10/26
Thomas Brooks	10/29
Garrett Boroda	10/30
James Harmon	10/31
John Simpson	10/31

This month's
Average age = 64.5 years
Oldest = 95 years old
Youngest = 32 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.



The fall season is nearly here. The Grand Lodge will convene this first weekend in San Francisco and Amity Lodge will be there. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact me.

I want to take the time to thank all the Officers, their Coach, the Brethren who are aspiring to become Officers (Who are many) along with our Trestleboard editor who have helped me through this Masonic year. Thank you all very much! Also, Congratulations to our newly Passed Brethren, Bro. Josh San Agustin and Bro. Marvin De Jesus. Their hard work reflects well on our Lodge.

We will be conferring more Degrees this month. Brethren, if you are able, come out and support your Lodge and your Officers. We welcome you to spend some time with us.

Let us all obtain the knowledge of the use of our working tools, to do the work of our craft, for the betterment of our fraternity and ourselves.

The Quimpo Family wishes everyone a safe and happy Halloween.

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

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christian P. Quimpo, WM

THIRD ANNUAL SCOTTISH RITE INFORMATION NIGHT

The San Diego Scottish Rite Bodies will present our 3rd Annual Scottish Rite Information Night on Wednesday, October 14th, starting with dinner at 6:00 PM. An after dinner presentation will be performed followed by an explanation of the Scottish Rite presented by the renown Masonic Scholar, Honorable Fred Kleyn, KCCH.

The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the Scottish Rite to ALL interested men, Masons or not, and their wives.

Please come and join us. Bring your wife. Invite your Lodge Brothers and their wives, especially those Lodge Brothers who do not yet belong to the Scottish Rite. If you have friends and neighbors who you think might be interested in Masonry in general, invite them and their wives to come with you. It will prove to be an interesting evening. Call 619-293-4888 for reservations

FROM THE SECRETARY - ARNOLD KOREY

Brethren,

As you read this I will be preparing to send out the 2010 dues notices as soon as Grand Lodge is over and the new per-capita is approved, it is increasing this year by \$2.00. Bring your dues and per-capita amount to \$98.00 per year. Please remember that your dues and per capita are payable by the January 1st. I will be starting a new permanent dinner list for the coming year if you

are interested in being added to it please contact me.

The Lodge has upgraded its printer to make our office more efficient in that area. We therefore are retiring our "old" printer and will be accepting bids from our members for its purchase. It is an HP 7310 All in One and comes with the manual. Please contact me for additional information or to make an offer.

If anyone has an ad-

dress change please remember to let me know so I can keep accurate records for the Lodge.

If any Brother is interested in a life membership, please call me and I will give you the formula. It will be great to see you at our Stated Meetings and Degrees.

Fraternaly
Arnold L Korey, Secretary

DINE OUT NIGHT - LIDO'S ITALIAN - Oct. 20th 6:30 pm

September's successful dine out at "Studio Diner" where fifteen people dined on the outdoor patio, having delicious food, great service and even greater company is now history. We will continue to make history

at October's dine out at Lido's Italian Restaurant. Lido's is located at 7252 Broadway in Lemon Grove. Telephone 619-469-9901 in case you are lost. As usual we will gather at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy the great food that is prepared

and served at Lido's. See you there!

Join in for a fun evening of food and fraternalism and remember if you have a suggestion for a Dine Out location, contact Harry.

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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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OCTOBER 2009 CALENDAR

- October**
- Thurs 1st** **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465. Coat and tie.
 - 2nd to 4th** **160th Grand Lodge Communication, San Francisco**
 - Mon 5th** 6:45 p.m. Officers' Qualifying Practice
 - Thurs 8th** 6:45 p.m. Second Degree Practice/Proficiency
 - Mon 12th** 6:45 p.m. Second Degree Practice/Proficiency
 - Wed 14th** 6:45 p.m. Scottish Rite Information Night - see article
 - Thurs 15th** 6:45 p.m. **Second Degree** - Brother Maldonado
 - Mon 19th** 6:45 p.m. Dark - Enjoy the game.
 - Tues 20th** 6:30 p.m. Dine Out - **LIDOS ITALIAN** - see article
 - Thurs 22nd** 6:45 p.m. Third Degree Practice
 - Mon 26th** 7:00 p.m. Visitation to Temecula-Catalina Island Lodge
 - Thurs 29th** 6:30 p.m. **Third Degree** - Brother San Agustin

- November**
- Mon 2nd** 6:30 p.m. Proficiency Night
 - Thurs 5th** **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465.Coat and tie. **ELECTIONS**

NOTE: Officers' attire: First and Second Degrees is coat and tie, Third Degrees it is TUXEDO.
 Stated meeting attire is back to Coat and Tie.

OCTOBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Roast Tri-Tip of Beef and Baked Cod
- Baked Potatoes and Baby Carrots
- Tossed Green Salad - Spice Cake
- Beverages and Assorted Rolls



Our new email address: AmityLodge442@gmail.com

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN CALIFORNIA

The Greatest of these is Charity

Among other Lodges sending money into the South during "Reconstruction Days," Brooklyn Lodge No. 225, of Oakland, sent \$150 to the "Louisiana flood sufferers" at New Orleans in June, 1874. From 1878 to 1886, Hartley No. 199, of Lakeport, Calistoga No. 233, and San Jose No. 10 sent donations ranging upward from \$50 to \$100 apiece to the "Yellow Fever sufferers." (San Jose Lodge must have oversubscribed, for its minutes of April 7, 1879, report "that of the \$100 donated by this Lodge for the Yellow Fever sufferers, \$52 have been returned to this Lodge by the G. L.") Seven years later, Evergreen Lodge No. 259, of Riverside, was donating toward relief of the "earthquake sufferers of South Carolina,"

On January 7, 1865, little St. Louis Lodge No. 86 (now extinct), up in Sierra County, which had only sixty-eight members, sent \$200 to help George Washington Lodge No. 143, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, rebuild its hall which had been destroyed by fire. Such generosity! Only three years earlier, this same Lodge, as previously noticed, appropriated \$250 to send the child of one of its members East. The records of Friendship Lodge No. 210, of San Jose, for November, 1875, show it sending money to "fire sufferers" in Virginia City,

Nevada.

But the most interesting bit of drama in relieving fire sufferers occurred in Grand Lodge, itself, October 11, 1871, when the brethren received news of the Chicago Fire. Grand Lodge had just opened that morning, when news arrived of this greatest disaster in American history up to the time of the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. Morris March Estee, Past Master of California Lodge No. 1, San Francisco, immediately offered a resolution that \$5000, the entire representative fund of the Grand Lodge, be forthwith telegraphed to the Grand Master of Illinois for benefit of the Chicago sufferers. In order to facilitate matters, Grand Treasurer James Laidley offered a substitute resolution accepted by Estee, that \$5000 "now in the hands of the Trustees of the Reserve Fund" of the Lodge be telegraphed immediately to Chicago, Laidley's resolution was unanimously passed. Then Past Master William Henry Hill, of Sacramento Lodge No. 40, offered another resolution, which was enthusiastically adopted: "Resolved, That as further a evidence of our practical sympathy, the box of Masonic charity be placed upon the altar at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and that the brethren be requested then to cast their offerings therein, as God has blessed

and favored them; and that the moneys thus contributed be also transmitted by our Grand Master, without delay, to the Grand Master of Illinois, to be disbursed, according to his own judgment, for the relief of destitute Masons and their families."

Needless to say, this resolution, too, was adopted.

With that, Grand Treasurer Laidley, or "Uncle Jimmy" as everybody called him, took the floor, saying he would give \$100 for a starter and as much as any other brother present would care to drop into the box on the altar. He was an impressive figure, weighing close to three hundred pounds, and as consent of himself as a mathematical axiom. As he beamed out over his audience, wondering if he had any "takers," all eyes were on him. Then, they drifted to a plain-looking brother toward the back of the hall who quietly rose and said, "I'll take you up on that—and go you a \$100 better." Uncle Jimmy gulped. This was something he had by no means expected.

That afternoon, at two o'clock, when the charity box was put upon the Altar, Uncle Jimmy was at his desk, clinking a handful of twenty-dollar gold pieces. Nowhere in the hall could he see the brother who had

challenged him that morning. He began to think the other fellow had been bluffing, and his confidence picked up. Every few minutes, for the next hour, as the other brethren approached the altar and made their donations, he banteringly asked, so everybody in the hall could hear him, "Here's my \$200; where's that brother who was going to cover my \$100 and go me a hundred better?" With each passing second he became more confident. Then a brother who had just approached the altar looked over at him, and said, "I'm your man."

Uncle Jimmy sized him up in a split second. He did not appear any great shakes. His clothes were rough and plain, his skin tan and leathery, and his beard, somewhat resembling General Grant's, was beginning to show considerable gray. He was obviously a rancher. But there was something about his eyes that told Uncle Jimmy their owner was a fellow who meant business.

There were about seven hundred brethren in the hall but, as Uncle Jimmy approached the altar, one could have heard a pin drop anywhere in the building.

"Go ahead," said the unidentified brother, motioning toward the charity-box. Uncle Jimmy dropped five

from
One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in
California
Leon O. Whitsell, Past Grand Master
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Our new email address: AmityLodge442@gmail.com

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twenties into the box, and the brother did likewise. "Go ahead," said the brother again. Uncle Jimmy dropped another five twenties, and was again matched by the brother who was as cool as an October evening in Truckee. The brother then reached into his hip pocket and brought forth a bulging buckskin bag from which he took not five, but ten, twenties. Uncle Jimmy was sweating.

"Look here," the brother said, "You said you'd drop as much into that box as any other brother here, and I said I'd match you and go you a hundred better. Now, I'll go you two hundred better and I want you to cover it!" With that, he dropped the ten big gold pieces into the box.

Uncle Jimmy was sunk. "Hold on," he said, "I haven't that much money with me, but I'll write you a check for it and we'll let it go at that."

The Grand Lodge roared with applause. Between the two, they had dropped \$800 into the box. Within a few moments, the unknown brother was identified as Carlisle Abbott, first Master of Salinas Lodge No. 204. In appreciation of his noble generosity, Grand Master Leonidas Pratt appointed him Junior Grand Deacon for the ensuing year.

Uncle Jimmy undoubtedly dropped his share into the charity box many times after that, but there is no record that he boasted to anyone in advance how much he was

going to drop into it.

An additional sidelight on the Chicago Fire relief shows the brethren all over the nation sent more money to the Grand Master of Illinois than he could use. As a result, he pro-rated the surplus and sent it back to the Grand Masters of the various states. California's share of the refund was \$1874, which was turned over to the Masonic Boards of Relief of San Francisco, Sacramento, Marysville, Stockton, and Los Angeles.

It was not always so easy, however, for our California brethren to send relief money abroad, for Masonic purposes or otherwise. In 1854, Tehama Lodge No. 3, of Sacramento, received a letter that had a peculiarly modern tone. It sought relief for the Jews of Palestine who were suffering from crop failures at home and an inability to buy abroad because of "the European War." At that time, Tehama Lodge had all the charity it could take care of right in Sacramento, and then some. So, remembering the ancient Jewish admonition against giving alms when the giver himself is in debt, it decided it would be better for the Jews of this country to handle the matter through solicitation of contributions from individual citizens.

Like everything else, Charity sometimes takes odd turns, and there is hardly a Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of California that has not had a problem at one time or another. And these cases were as varied in nature as

they were numerous.

As early as 1855, San Diego Lodge No. 35 exhibited the greatest compassion toward a group of Indians who were properly wards of Mission San Diego. They were starving and going blind—probably suffering from trachoma. Yet, for some reason, the priests of the mission would have nothing to do with them. So, Brother Philip Crosthwaite, old-time cattleman and Past Master of San Diego Lodge, furnished meat for the poor creatures from July 1, 1855, to January 5, 1857, and the Lodge paid the bill.

The record for something or other in straight Masonic relief was set by Enterprise Lodge No. 70, of Yuba City, March 12, 1870. The Lodge had just built a new hall, and John Brown, the contractor, made a mistake in his estimate of the cost of the brickwork. He stood to lose \$100 on the deal, but the Lodge came to his rescue with an appropriation for that amount. Thus, he made his full profit, and everybody was happy.

On December 28, 1865, St. Louis Lodge No. 86, already cited for its outstanding generosity, hastened to vote \$200 to James Bernard Collins so he could defend himself against "a serious charge." It is too bad that the Secretary did not state the nature of this "serious charge." But the brethren must have had a lot of confidence in Collins, and he must have been cleared of the charge, for he re-

mained on the roll of the Lodge till he withdrew in 1872.

Sometimes, a Lodge had to be most circumspect in dispensing relief, and even then there was no telling what might happen. The minutes of Meridian Lodge of College City (now Arbuckle Lodge No. 182), for April 30, 1898, show this Lodge risking a dangerous precedent when it voted "that the Master be empowered to purchase a cork leg" for an incapacitated brother. Only five years earlier, Pilot Hill Lodge of El Dorado County discovered that buying artificial legs could have peculiar repercussions. On March, 1893, this Lodge voted \$20 toward buying an artificial leg for Mrs. _____, presumably the widow of a brother who died in 1885. Whereupon, the sensitivities of Nicholas Snider were greatly offended and, at the meeting of the twenty-ninth, he asked for a demit. He cited as his reason for withdrawal the Lodge's donation "to Mrs. _____ the sum of twenty dollars to enable her to procure an artificial leg." There is nothing in the minutes to indicate whether Snider had something against the lady herself, or just did not like the idea of women with artificial legs.

Much more agreeable were the brethren of San Buenaventura Lodge No. 214, of Ventura. On October 25, 1901, they

instructed their secretary to inform Past Master James Foreman Kingsley that "his application for assistance to secure suitable glasses to enable him to read was granted," and that he might "procure the glasses at a cost not to exceed \$14 and have the bill sent to this Lodge for payment." And Natoma Lodge No. 14, of Folsom, on July 17, 1913, gladly paid a forty-six dollar dental bill for the widow of a brother who had just filed an application to the Home at Decoto.

The minutes of Mountain View Lodge No. 194, for October 28, 1884, reveal one of the rarest types of relief granted by a Masonic Lodge—that of returning the fee, or a portion of the fee to a candidate who had already received one degree. An entered apprentice who had been initiated in 1882, was reported almost destitute and dangerously sick, with little chance of recovery. So, the brethren returned his \$35 initiation fee to him, feeling that he had greater need of it than did the Lodge.

In 1905, Solano Lodge No. 229, of Vallejo, had a parallel case to that of Mountain View Lodge. On the evening of September 4, it received word that one of its Entered Apprentices of ten years standing was in San Francisco, out of work, in need, and would like to have "the fees for the other two degrees returned to him." The Lodge granted his request and, on motion of Past Master Johnston H.

Cooper, a warrant for \$35 was drawn on the treasury to cover the amount.

Again, a Lodge might be called on to look after the affairs of a brother who had lost his mind, and to pay for his transportation to a hospital for the mentally ill. Humboldt Lodge No. 79, of Eureka, was confronted with this problem as early as July, 1861, when its minutes show it "taking measures in relation to Bro. _____." A motion was put and carried that "if Bro. _____ be by a committee of physicians and the County Judge, pronounced insane, and a fit subject for the lunatic asylum at Stockton, that the Lodge pay the expenses of his removal." A second motion, also carried, was that the Master of the Lodge be appointed as a committee of one to confer with the county judge on the disposition of Brother _____'s property.

Brother _____ an early Master of Keystone Lodge at Copperopolis (now No. 161, at Milton), was demented for some time prior to his death in the middle sixties. During that time, the charity committee of Keystone Lodge cooperated with the Odd Fellows, to which he also belonged, in looking after him. An entry in the Keystone minutes for August 21, 1866, shows they even had to open his mail in the local post office "for the purpose of acquiring any information that may lead to the benefit of himself or family." In December, 1869, some two years after his

death, another entry shows that Keystone Lodge appointed a committee to convert his pitifully small assets into sixty dollars cash, which was sent by registered mail to his widow.

Nor was it unheard of to make a brother reimburse for relief that he had received but was not entitled to. Also, another brother in ostentatious affluency might be asked to pay the Lodge for relief he received when he was "down on his uppers."

For example, the charity committee of Humboldt Lodge No. 79, of Eureka, granted \$110 relief in a lump sum to a member of Mount Moriah Lodge No. 77, of Anderson, Indiana—\$60 in Treasury notes and \$60 in coin. Then, for some undisclosed reason, it summoned him on October 6, 1864, to appear before the Lodge at the next regular meeting, October 13, at 7:00 P. M. The minutes of the thirteenth, reporting him present in answer to his summons, informed us that he "made certain statements in connection with the transaction." A motion was made that he be requested to return to the Lodge as much of his relief as he had not already spent on actual necessities. An amendment to that motion, made and carried, would have him refund the whole sum given to him by the Lodge. "Whereupon," according to the minutes, "the Bro. made restitution as follows: In Treasury notes \$47; in coin \$44." And thus was the real

reason for the whole affair shielded from the prying eyes of posterity.

In July, 1874, Oroville Lodge No. 103, which had helped out a brother "in time past," apparently had reason to believe he was in a position to repay the Lodge and instructed the Secretary to tell him so.

In contrast to this, Acacia Lodge of Coloma (now extinct), which paid out some \$400 to J. J. Brock during his last illness, received in return \$376 from his estate. It did not quite cover the Lodge's expenditure, but it showed that somebody's heart was in the right place.

And now and then throughout the years, some brother who had drawn little or no relief himself made his Lodge a fine present so it could carry on the good work—and he did not wait till he died to do it. Jefferson Wilcoxon of Sacramento Lodge No. 40, was one of these. On the evening of March 6, 1891, he presented a check for \$500 to his Lodge solely for the use of his Lodge. All visiting brethren were asked to retire from the hall before the check was presented, for he did not wish the outside world to know about it.

One of the most serious problems of any Lodge was that of relief to its members who had moved to other jurisdictions. Reference to it can be found in the

minutes of practically every Lodge in the state, almost to the present time. All too frequently an outside Lodge or board of relief granted large sums to a sojourning brother or dependent before notifying, or having a thorough understanding with, his home Lodge whose treasury might be in a "minus less" condition. Or, maybe, the recipient was not entitled to relief at all. The result, if the home Lodge stood on what it considered its rights, was hard feelings and a controversy that had to be settled by the Grand Master. Indeed, because of this, more than one Lodge had had to pay out hundreds of dollars under something akin to duress.

A casual survey of just a few cases will reveal what some Lodges have found themselves up against. On September 30, 1879, La Grange Lodge of Merced resolved to file with the committee of grievances of the Grand Lodge a complaint against Mariposa Lodge No. 24. Six years earlier, La Grange Lodge had paid out \$262.12 for care of a member, in good standing in Mariposa Lodge, till the day of his death. For some reason, Mariposa Lodge refused to pay; and it could not have been for lack of funds, for its own records during that period show it with a large surplus in its treasury and hunting for good investments.

After six years of controversy with the Masonic Board of Relief of San Francisco, Chico Lodge No.

111 came off second best in the matter of \$280 advanced by the board to the widow of a brother. Her husband was a member of Chico Lodge, died in 1878, and his widow went to live in San Francisco, where she became a recipient of Masonic charity at a time when Chico Lodge's treasury was embarrassingly low. Chico Lodge sent \$25 to San Francisco with the notice that it was not financially able to help the lady any further. In March, 1881, it again notified the board of its financial condition and recommended that the board advance no more money to her. The board, however, apparently thought otherwise. On April 2, 1887, at the "recommendation" of the Grand Master, Chico Lodge drew a warrant on its treasury for \$280 in favor of the Masonic Board of Relief of San Francisco, account of the widow.

Chico Lodge had had other sad experiences besides this; so it was naturally a trifle testy in times when its funds were low. Back in June, 1862, it received from a John Stokes, of Diamondville, a bill for \$364.25 for boarding and caring for St. John Jackson. It apparently came out of clear sky, and, a month later, a committee appointed to investigate it, recommended non-payment. The record does not indicate whether Mr. Stokes' feelings were hurt, but Jackson does not seem to have been much disturbed. He remained a member of Chico Lodge till

1866, when he withdrew.

During the early seventies, Hartley Lodge No. 199, of Lakeport, found the going increasingly difficult. Its treasury was so low on September 6, 1873, that, in order to borrow \$300, it had to pay one-and-one-half per cent interest a month. With this stimulant, things seem to have improved, till 1879, when as noted elsewhere, the Lodge gave \$100 to the "Yellow Fever sufferers of the South." But by July, 1880, it was again confronted with financial problems, at least so far as relief was concerned. On the seventeenth of that month, it received a letter from the widow of a deceased member "asking for aid and asking various questions with which this Lodge had nothing to do."

Since the Lodge had already given considerable aid to this lady, and was not now in a position to help her further, the Secretary wrote and told her "this Lodge cannot and will not advance her any further money." Yet, in 1882, the brethren at Lakeport received a letter from the Masonic Board of Relief at San Francisco, asking reimbursement, in all or in part, for the \$480 that the board had advanced to her between July, 1881, and December, 1882. After due consideration, the Lodge wrote that it could not reimburse the board without an assessment on the membership, and asked why her three sons, ranging from fourteen to twenty years old, could not do something to

help their mother. The case dragged on till September, 1886, when the Grand Master tried to effect a satisfactory settlement, and was informed by the Master of Hartley Lodge that "considerable assistance had been given to the brother during his lifetime and also to his widow since, to the amount of \$ 11 in cash and Doctor's bill of \$300, and that this Lodge was unwilling and unable to make any further payment of monies to her." With that the widow seems to have disappeared from the minutes of Hartley Lodge.

But the Lodge was not yet through with outside Boards of Relief. In October, 1896, it received a letter from the San Jose Board of Relief, asking a loan of \$300 for Mrs. _____, widow of a Past Master who had died a year or two before. The action taken by the Lodge upon this application was short and to the point. It was "moved and seconded that the committee be instructed to communicate to the Masonic Board of Relief at San Jose that if Mrs. _____ will come to Lakeport that this Lodge will see that she does not suffer for the necessities of life, and will use every effort to assist her to assist herself."

Between April, 1879, and December, 1885, San Benito Lodge No. 211, of Hollister, had a couple of experiences that must have left it wondering if the

pathway of Charity was always a smooth one. Item after item in its minutes, for those and intervening years, refers to correspondence between it and the Masonic Board of Relief of San Francisco regarding the widow of a certain brother. For a year or so the Lodge steadfastly declined to appropriate any thing toward her relief, and instructed the secretary to "notify said Board the facts in her case." Her behavior toward her husband seems to have merited some sort of censure. J. W. Kinsley, "editor of the Masonic monthly at San Francisco," came into the case. Then appeared an item in the minutes to the effect that a misunderstanding had existed "on the part of the Lodge concern-ing the widow," and that the Lodge wished to correct any false impressions (as to her character) and "do exact justice to her." She appears to have paid a visit to Hollister. "On motion it was ordered that the Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Secretary be [appointed a] committee to see to paying her bill at the hotel and furnish her means to return to San Francisco if she so desires and to inform the Grand Master the condition of our Treasury and the in-ability of this Lodge to care for her and her children."

Finally, on November 5, 1881, San Benito Lodge made what appears to have been its first appropriation for this widow's relief. What it appropriated thereaf-

ter is hard to tell, but, on May 15, 1886, it inquired into how much it owed the Masonic Board of Relief of San Francisco for her care. It soon found out—\$790, and the board would appreciate San Benito Lodge's striving "to refund the amount above named."

Concurrently with this affair, San Benito Lodge had been experiencing difficulties with Springfield Lodge No. 4, of Springfield, Illinois, over relief granted to a brother of Springfield who had been sojourning in San Benito's jurisdiction. San Benito's claim against Springfield Lodge came to \$563.55. Springfield Lodge thought it too high and took it up with its own Grand Lodge at its annual communication in October, 1885. The Grand Lodge of Illinois therefore considered the matter and ordered Springfield Lodge "to pay \$100 as "the full amount due San Benito Lodge No. 211." The minutes of San Benito Lodge do not record what the Hollister brethren thought of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

Then, as if real obligations could not be irksome enough at times, every Lodge in the jurisdiction had to be on the alert against frauds and impostors seeking an easy handout. These, however, seldom cost a Lodge much. Nor, according to the records, were their visits always without certain humorous aspects.

Evidently, as gold production began to slacken, some of the gentry who lived by their wits decided to try

their talents on the Masonic fraternity. For as early as February, 1856, one, Ferdinand Rosa, presented to the brethren of El Dorado Lodge No. 26, at Placerville, a "certificate from the members of St. John Lodge No. 37 recommending him as a worthy object of charity." How he got it would be hard to say, but in the light of subsequent events, it was spurious. A little later, in April, Ophir Lodge No. 33, at Murphys, in Calaveras County, was evidently "taken in" by the same gentleman, and mani-festly did not like the idea. It promptly sent out warning letters to other Lodges in the area, accusing him of obtaining money under false pretenses from the Fraternity and imposing "upon members of this Lodge." It further resolved that Rosa's "name and description be published to warn the Masonic community against his impositions." With that, "Brother" Rosa seems to have departed for more lucrative hunting grounds.

A year later, almost to the day, what may have been an echo of his activities appeared in the minutes of Oroville Lodge No. 103: "A brother then arose and informed the Lodge that there was a man representing himself as a Master Mason, residing at Cherokee Ravine, who he believes to be an imposter."

