

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

August, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 8

TUBAL-CAIN

*"The eighth man from Adam; the first artificer in metals."
Gen. 4:22*

Biblical history reveals Tubal-cain as the son of Lamech, a descendant of Adam's son Cain, and noted as an artificer in brass and iron. Masonic tradition embraces him as the founder of smith-craft, who likely worked in the implementation of metals into devices for war and peace. As such, Tubal-cain launched what has come to be known as the "Bronze Age," an era of enormous importance to the ascent of man.

There is a definite "metallic" streak in Craft ritual, also drawn from early references to "the first artificer in metals." As we will recall, we were divested of all minerals and metals before we were permitted entrance into a Lodge. In the lectures there is a strong allusion to extractive metallurgy with the mention of chalk, charcoal and clay as emblems of freedom, fervency and zeal. Clay is our mother Earth providing both the metals and refractories to contain them at high temperatures. From charcoal we derive the heat energy to smelt and refine them; and from chalk, the flux to alloy with the gangue and separate it from the ore.

Today's disciples of Tubal-cain are the tool engineers who provide the expertise to design and devise the machines, methods and tools used to cast, forge and shape all metals. Inescapably, all Masonic "working tools" are essential to the fabrica-

tion of metals. It is hard to imagine the tool engineer without a rule, square, or compass. This art, like Tubal-cain's art of metallurgy, unfolds the secrets of nature and science. The Great Architect of the Universe provided the materials in the firmament and our inspired use of them stamps our own divine work.

Masonry instructs that most implements may be used for great good, or greater evil. The sharpened edge may cut stone to assist in erecting a structure for worship, as well as for inflicting fatal wounds upon another person. A mallet can serve to either join parts of a structure of habitation, or crush another human's skull. In each instance, the good or the evil is determined by the attitude of person making use of the implement. In the hands of the true Mason, as was true of tools used by Tubal-cain, our tools are forged and malleated in our hands to promote comfort, peace, happiness and health. Our lineage, our lessons, our way of life commands no other option but to work with our tools, our hands and our hearts to the benefit of all mankind - and that includes our enemies, as well as our friends.

May the Great Architect Bless You.
John Heisner

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FROM THE EAST

During our July Stated Meeting, Blackmer had the privilege to honor Bro. Ernie Miller. Bro Miller was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1953 and received his 50-year pin in the presence of the Blackmer brethren and his family and friends. His remarks were inspiring, as he recounted his favorite Masonic memories and spoke to us about the importance of the Craft throughout his life. As Worshipful Master, it has been my happiness to make this award twice during the year.

On August 12, Blackmer will participate in yet another honored celebration. Wor. Coren Andrews will be presented with the Hiram Award - Blue Lodge Masonry's highest and certainly significant to our Lodge. Wor. Coren was selected to receive this honor by a committee of Blackmer's past Hiram Award recipients. This event will be celebrated by a special dinner followed in an open Lodge by the conferral ceremonies.

While our Grand Lodge annual meeting does not occur until October, our Grand Lodge Officers anticipate the passage of a controversial piece of Masonic legislation sanctioning the conferral of the three degrees of Masonry upon candidates in one day. As a consequence, Wor. James Reget, Inspector of our 493rd Masonic District, has selected a degree team from our district which will include certain Blackmer brethren. We look forward to participating in this new chapter in Masonic history and genuinely hope that it will lead to the inclusion of many new members in our Lodge. Blackmer also intends to explore the best options available for introducing a more formal Masonic education for such new brethren, who will not otherwise have the benefits we enjoyed learning and reciting the various portions required for each degree.

Please also mark your calendars for this year's All Masonic Picnic. It will be held on August 14th at Admiral Baker Field. Admission and Parking are free for you and your Masonic, as well as non-Masonic friends. You will be able to find the Blackmer table by looking for the Blackmer banner, which will be proudly displayed for all to see.

Also, plan to join us and all of San Diego Masonry at the Grand Master's Reception September 11th. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. for dinner with presentation of awards to follow. Nominees for Mason of the Year, including Wor. Andrews, will be honored that evening by the Grand Master. Since reservations are essential, you must call Bro. Johnny Johnson before September 1st to ensure a seat.

I look forward to seeing you at each of our planned events.

John Heisner
Worshipful Master

HIRAM AWARD CEREMONY

The Hiram Award Committee, consisting of past Blackmer Hiram Award recipients, has nominated Worshipful Coren Andrews as the 2004 recipient. This is the highest Masonic honor that can be conferred upon any Blue Lodge member, and as such your officers will host an appropriate conferral ceremony on August 12, 2004. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will precede the ceremonies, which will follow in the Heald Room. In that a large gathering is expected, reservations with our Secretary are a must.

The ceremonies will be conducted in an open Lodge setting to permit all Masons and non-Masons the to attend. The Master of Ceremonies intends to offer an explanation of this prestigious award. He and others will chronicle Wor. Andrews illustrious Masonic career, introduce honored guests and past Hiram Award recipients, as well as regale you with discrete stories about Wor. Andrew's travels and journeys throughout his eventful Masonic life.

The date is Thursday, August 12, 2004. The time is 6:30 p.m. The attire is coat and tie. Reservations are required.

Bring your Ladies and your non-Masonic friends to join in honoring Wor. Coren Andrews on what should be a most deserved memorable moment in his Masonic life.

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

There once was a bunch of tiny frogs, who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower.

A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants...

The race began...

Honestly, no one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as: "Oh, WAY too difficult !!"

"They will NEVER make it to the top!!" or: "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one, Except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher... The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!!"

More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But ONE continued higher and higher and higher... This one wouldn't give up!

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog, who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top!

THEN all of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it?

A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal?

It turned out that the winner was DEAF!!!

The wisdom of this story is: Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic... Because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you, the ones you have in your heart!!!

Always think of the power words have. Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions!!! Therefore: ALWAYS be POSITIVE!!!

And above all: Be DEAF when people tell YOU that you can not fulfill your dreams!!!

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A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA
Our objective is to disseminate information of interest to the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, F&AM of San Diego, California, USA

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Subscription is free and all material is copyright by Blackmer Lodge #442 or other sources and may be reprinted with proper credit given. The Blackmer Lodge Bulletin is published monthly except August with a circulation of about 500 copies. Please note that errors and omissions occasionally occur and for which we sincerely apologize. Please submit articles to the editor by e-mail, US Mail or at the lodge by the 15th of the month for publication.



FROM THE SECRETARY

We will be honoring Coren Andrews PM, with the Hiram Award on August 12th. Be sure to call in your reservations, for dinner.

We lost Two of our Brothers to the Celestial Lodge above, Charles Warren, PM and Charles McFarland, may they rest in Eternal peace.

Please make your dinner reservation (619-291-0465) or the Stated Meeting Dinner, so that we know how many to order for.

It is that time of year when many of the members are going on vacation, Drive careful, have a safe trip and we hope to see you when you get back.

If you know of a Brother or his lady that are not feeling in the best of health, please let us know. It is almost impossible to call all of the Brothers to find out if they are OK. Call us at 619-291-0465.

We have had several newsletters returned due to bad addresses. You may have moved! Let us know before you are going to move, so we can change your address in our mailing list and lodge roster.

When you call the office and leave a message, PLEASE speak slowly and repeat your phone number twice. I cannot return your call if I don't know who you are and cannot figure out your phone number.

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

BULLETIN BY EMAIL

A growing number of your fellow members of Blackmer Lodge in receiving your copy of the Bulletin electronically. To join in, just drop an Email note to the editor, Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net to begin receiving your Bulletin in an Email.

Be on the cutting edge, contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net.

ALL MASONIC FAMILY PICNIC

The annual All Masonic Family Picnic is Saturday, August 14, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Admiral Baker Field with food served between 11:00 and 1:00. Silent auction, games for all ages, horseshoe tournament, food, fun, fellowship and fresh air. See you there, it is free to the Masonic Family and if you ask the Secretary for a pass, you even get free parking.

BIRTHDAYS

Bernard Burchette	8/04
Vincent Clarke	8/22
Edward Cook	8/22
James Furrh, Jr.	8/16
Freeman Graham	8/13
Edward Hanzlik	8/30
Herbert Hirsch	8/17
Gary Hollcraft	8/07
Perry Hooper	8/05
Paul Johnson	8/23
Paul McNitt	8/16
Ernest Miller	8/07
C. Robert Millhouse	8/10
Robert Newman	8/08
Sam Rubino	8/29
Melvin Stanley	8/26
Herbert Strangman	8/17
David Tobias	8/07
Paul Wilton	8/02

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.



*** ENDOW YOUR LODGE ***

*** GET A LIFE MEMBERSHIP ***

Blackmer Lodge passed a resolution at the Stated Meeting in May to adopt the alternate dues structure. When approved by Grand Lodge, this will result in an increase in dues paid by each member of the Lodge.

Therefore, NOW is the time to get your life membership. Our standing resolution allows a graduated amount depending on the members age. Current dues are \$75.00 per year, while next year it will be \$65.00 PLUS the percapita voted by Grand Lodge in October.

Until October, you may endow the Lodge with your Life Membership at the following rates and never worry about writing that dues check again:

Under 49	21 times annual dues or \$1575
50 to 54 inclusive	19 times annual dues or \$1425
55 to 59 inclusive	17 times annual dues or \$1275
60 to 64 inclusive	14 times annual dues or \$1050
65 and over	11 times annual dues or \$825

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2004.

Please be considerate and make your dinner reservations early. If you are going to come to one of our dinners, make reservations. Two days in advance is sufficient, but please reserve.

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Personal Responsibility
Accept It and Teach It

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AUGUST 2004, CALENDAR

August

- Mon 2nd** Mexican Food Night at Las Parillas in El Cajon, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 5th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Mon 9th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 12th** Hiram Award Presentation, Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Ceremony to
 follow in Lodge Room. Please call for reservations.
- Sat 14th** All Masonic Picnic at Admiral Baker Field - free event, see
 Secretary for parking pass
- Mon 16th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 19th** Lodge Dark
- Sat 21st** One-day Class Practice - Fallbrook Lodge, 8:00 a.m.
- Mon 16th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 26th** Darius, York Rite meeting
- Mon 30th** One-day Class Practice - Scottish Rite, 7:00 p.m.

September

- Thurs 2nd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Sat 11th** **Grand Master's Reception and Mason of the Year Program**
at the Scottish Rite

AUGUST STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Baron of Beef and Baked Chicken
- Scalloped Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
- Tossed Green Salad and Mousse
- Beverages and Rolls