

# The Trestle Board



**Messalonskee Lodge #113**

**Oakland, Maine**

[www.messalonskeelodge.org](http://www.messalonskeelodge.org)

**Phone 465-2021**

**Wor. Richard K. Penney, Master**

**Meetings on the Third Tuesday at 7:30 PM**

## From the East

### December Message

I am always happy for the arrival of Thanksgiving and Christmas as it brings families together. I wish you all safe and happy holidays. This year has been an exciting one for me sitting in the east in Messalonskee Masonic Lodge. You my brothers made it a very pleasurable and easy transition and I thank each of you for stepping up as the occasion required. December, being a busy month is going to leave the first of the year loaded with degree work, and that is ok, we can handle it. Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Fraternally,

**Wor. Richard K. Penney, Master**

Lodge Tel.# 465-2021

Master's Tel.# 465-2939

E-mail [rjpenney@roadrunner.com](mailto:rjpenney@roadrunner.com)

## **ATTENTION**

**On the stated meeting September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Lodge voted on a change of the Dues, to be adjusted each year according to the Grand Lodge of Maine PerCapita Tax and the OMA assessment. On December 8<sup>th</sup> the Oakland Masonic Association met to set the assessment and it was lowered for the year 2010. The 2010 dues for for Members of Messalonskee Lodge will be \$40.00. The dues bills will be going out shortly.**

**If you need transportation to or from the Lodge hall, don't hesitate to call the Master: 465-2939, Master elect: 314-5100 or the Secretary Dana Wrigley: 465-3830**

## R.W. Merton E. Leech

By Wor. Blaine A. Ellis



At a recent meeting of Messalonskee Lodge #113 there was discussion about the Merton E. Leech Scholarship Fund. R.W. Merton E. Leech died June 3, 1962 and I was wondering if many of our members knew about this Brother. His son, Max Leech, donated money to the Lodge in his father's memory. That money was used as seed money to establish the scholarship fund in our lodge. His picture has hung on the wall of our lodge for many years. Some of us older members remember him and his many contributions to our lodge and masonry in general.

R.W. Merton E. Leech was born June 3, 1893 in Winthrop, Maine. He graduated from Monmouth Academy in 1911. He served with the U.S. Army Infantry in Germany during World War 1, and was married a short time after his discharge and he and his wife made their home in Monmouth, Me. He was a carpenter by trade and worked many years at the North Wayne Tool Co. here in Oakland, as a carpenter and millwright.



In reading the lodge history I find that he first assumed an office in Messalonskee Lodge in 1929 as Junior Steward. He worked his way thru the chairs and in 1938 was the Worshipful Master. In 1940 he was the District Deputy Grand Master for our 12<sup>th</sup> Masonic District. He also served as the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maine. In 1951 he became a member of the Past Officers Assoc. having served as a presiding officer in all the York Rite Bodies. He was a member of Augusta Valley and Maine Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. He was also a member of Kora Temple Shrine and a Past Patron of the Eastern

Star. R.W. Brother Leech, presided as installing officer for many years at our annual installation of officers. He also served as Marshall and Chaplain at various times. The two stone monuments in the lodge hall were given to the lodge by him also.

R.W. Brother Leech, a member of the VFW and American Legion, was active in community affairs here in Oakland. He joined the Oakland Fire Dept. in 1928, and he also served as health officer here in town. He is the father of a son, Max Leech, and a daughter Wayne.

The Merton Leech Scholarship Fund was started, shortly after a generous donation by his son Max Leech, with the intent of providing yearly grants to the children and grandchildren of members of this Lodge who been accepted to attend a College, University or Community College. Annual donations were received from Max for a few years and were added to by numerous members of this lodge. The funds have been prudently invested and have survived this current recession and are now on sound footing. The Scholarship Fund Trustees are planning on presenting its first grant in 2010.

I want to thank Mr. Max Leech, for his contributions to the fund and for the information that he provided me for this article about his father R.W. Merton E. Leech.

**Thanks to Dana and Blaine Ellis for this story**

### From the Secretary

Would all of you that have an email address please forward it to me so we can send future Trestle Boards to you by email. Starting with this issue, we will be sending the Trestle Boards by First Class Mail only to those who do not have emails.

Wor. Dana W. Wrigley, Secretary  
207-465-3830

My new email is: [dwwrig@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dwwrig@myfairpoint.net)

### From the Editor

The Lodge has 3 Candidates for the winter.

Brother Scott Bonnell was elected Master at the Annual Meeting and his installation will be on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. If you know any men who you think would make a good Mason, let him know what you think and tell him if he is interested you will get him an application.

If you hear of a Brother who is sick or injured please email me at: [dcouture@yahoo.com](mailto:dcouture@yahoo.com) or call me at

**(207) 653-8999**

**Davis Couture, Editor**

### Birthdays for January and February

Steven W. Bucknam	6-Jan
Alfred H. Wheeler	7-Jan
Bruce A. Jackson	11-Jan
Michael A. Ellis	11-Jan
Robert K. Bartlett Jr.	18-Jan
Gaylon D. Greenleaf	20-Jan
Daniel W. Wood	26-Jan
Mark O. Rancourt	28-Jan
Stuart I. Libby	28-Jan
Robert W. Poland	29-Jan
Lionel G. Trask	29-Jan
L. John Zimba	1-Feb
W. Sumner Davis	2-Feb
Arvid L. Good	5-Feb
Wendall C. Black	8-Feb
Theodore R. Gradie	11-Feb
David V. Shorey	12-Feb
George B. Leighton	21-Feb
Donald W. Prew	23-Feb
Randell A. Corson	23-Feb
Lowell E. Swett	Feb-29

### Oakland Masonic Association

Fraternal Bodies and Their Meeting Nights

21 Oak Street  
Oakland Maine

**Mt. Lebanon Council #13 Royal and Select Masters  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:30, normally Pot Luck Supper**

**Drummond Royal Arch Chapter #27  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. at 7:30 with a 6:30 Pot Luck Supper.**

**Messalonskee Lodge #113 Meets on the second  
Tuesday and usually has a 6:30 Supper**

**Acme Rebekah Lodge #75 meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thur. at  
7:00 with a 6:00 get-together.**

## **DAN BROWN – *THE LOST SYMBOL***

Among Masonic entities, it is almost universal that Dan Brown's book *The Lost Symbol*, is favorable to Freemasonry. Following is a letter from Dan Brown to the Scottish Rite – Southern Jurisdiction.

October 6, 2009

Gentlemen of the Southern Jurisdiction,

It is my great honor to be invited to greet you with this letter I had hoped I might be able to join you in person tonight, but the launch of my novel *The Lost Symbol* has me far from Washington.

In the past few weeks, as you, might imagine, I have been repeatedly asked what attracted me to the Masons so strongly as to make it the central point of my book. My reply is always the same: "In a word where men do battle over whose definition of God is most accurate, I cannot express the deep respect and admiration I feel toward an organization in which men of differing faiths are able to break bread together' in a bond of brotherhood, friendship, and camaraderie."

Please accept my humble thanks for the noble example you set for mankind. It is my sincere hope that the Masonic community recognizes *The Lost Symbol* for what it truly is ... an earnest attempt to reverentially explore the history and beauty of Masonic Philosophy.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Dan Brown

From "Fraternal Review" Southern California Research Lodge F&AM  
The book is recommended as long as the reader keeps in mind that it is a work of fiction.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them." --Denis Waitley

"You and I are essentially infinite choice-makers. In every moment of our existence, we are in that field of all possibilities where we have access to an infinity of choices." --Deepak Chopra

There is a lot to study about honor, but unfortunately the subject is not found in many 'Masonic' books, so in order to study it we need to look elsewhere. But then, it may come down to our power to choose, to decide, what a Masonic book is. To me a Masonic Book is not only one that talks about symbolism, history, and Masonic Lodges or Masons. It is a book that will help the Mason in his search for truth, one that helps in understanding Masonic values even though they are not labeled as such, one that will help him in his quest to become a better man than he was previously to the learning gleaned from the book, one that will help him mentor and teach his Brother Mason, and help him in his personal quest for truth and improvement."

--Ed Halpus

Messalonskee Lodge #113  
453 Fairfield Street  
Oakland, ME 04963