

The Trestle Board



Messalonskee Lodge #113

Oakland, Maine

www.messalonskeelodge.org

Phone 207-465-2021

R.W. Steven W. Bucknam, Master

Meetings on the Third Tuesday at 7:30 PM

October-November-December 2011 Edition

FROM THE EAST

The transition from summer to fall is upon us. The kids are back at school, the trees are turning, and there seems to be a bite in the air. I hope that all of you had a great summer break.

We have a busy schedule ahead of us. There are a couple of new candidates in line to introduce to the beauties of Masonry.

We've been working to properly prepare them for their journey. The officers of Messalonskee Lodge are geared up to show these fellows good degrees.

With everything that is going on in the world, what better way is there to teach these young men the way to do good deeds, extend charity and learn lessons to become better citizens.

We have some committees to reward young students at the local schools for reading. This Bikes for Books program has been well received around the state, and we hope to make it a success here in Oakland.

Our Lodge has also been active in the CHIPS program sponsored by the Masons in Maine. This program gives parents a set of data that will help them in case their child is lost or abducted. It provides a video, digitized fingerprints, a DNA sample and information cards that can be a big help in locating a lost child. Bring your young kids, grandkids or great-grandkids to one of these CHIPS programs. Recommend it to others.

See you at Lodge!

RW Steven W. Bucknam, Master

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

By Wor. Blaine A. Ellis

This story was told to me by Bro. Harley Moorecraft, who was a member of our lodge and owned a barber shop here in Oakland for many years. The time was in the 60's when Gov. John H. Reed was Governor of the State of Maine. Governor Reed was spending the summer with his family at a cottage at North Pond in Smithfield. The Governor came into Bro.

Moorecraft's barber shop one day and sat down in one of the chairs to await his turn for a hair cut. When it was his turn to sit in the barber's chair Bro. Moorecraft said to the Governor, "It's been a long time since I've cut your hair". Gov. Reed looked at him and said, "I don't think you have ever cut my hair". Bro. Moorecraft went on to explain, "I gave you a haircut when your uncle, and he told him the uncle's name, brought him into the barber shop in the town of Fort Fairfield, Maine to get his first haircut". The Governor and the barber had a good laugh that day at how this story unfolded. The Governor went to his car and asked his two daughters who were waiting for him, to come and meet Bro. Harley Moorecraft, the man who gave him his first haircut so long ago.

RELIGION AND MASONRY

A quote by George Bernard Shaw puts it into perspective

"There is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it."

Yes, each denomination has its own belief in what the Church should be. Masonry takes no preference in this separation of thought about the church; accepts the universality and the individual member's preference.

[From The North Dakota Mason, May 2009]

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

If nobody measures up, check your yardstick.

If there is one thing I can't stand it is intolerance.

If you don't think women are explosive, drop one.

[Rural Lodge, Quincy, Mass]

ATTITUDE

The most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my circumstances, or my positions. When my attitudes are right, there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great.

FREEMASONRY

[An editorial in Autumn 1993 publication of the Masonic Lodge of Research, Lodge 200, Ireland]

One hundred and fifty years ago the Rev. Moses Shinn, a Methodist minister in Iowa who was also a Freemason, was ordered by the General Conference of his church to renounce his membership of the Order. This placed him with a serious problem, for he depended on his church to support him and his family. After pondering the situation he said 'I have for many years endeavored to perform my duty as a faithful Minister of this Church, and I believed I had extended the field of my usefulness, without violating my vows to the Church, by becoming a loyal and zealous Freemason. Now you demand that I renounce my Freemasonry or retire from the Church. The decision is a harsh and painful one; I have friends both in Church and Freemasonry from whom I do not wish to be separated. It is not for me to question whether your requirement is right or wrong, wise or just, so at your bidding I separate myself from the Methodist Episcopal Church.'

Conference was hushed in shock, and in the silence one member who had been active in proposing the resolution rose and extended his hand to Shinn saying 'My brother, there must be something good about Freemasonry or you, whom we all love so well, would not adhere to it so tenaciously. I want to be a Freemason. Will you recommend me and present my petition to your Lodge?' It is recorded that in the years following there was a huge increase in members of the church joining Lodges in Iowa.

I joined the Order in similar circumstances. I had a friend - an ordained clergyman - who was just, upright, honorable, loving and good to all who knew him. He made no secret of his membership of the Order and through him I was able to join.

At once I found myself one of a world-wide brotherhood founded upon Truth, Brotherly Love, Tolerance and Understanding. In Lodge I re-avowed my belief and trust in God and my utter dependence on Him. I accepted a copy of the Bible - 'The Volume of the Sacred Law' - a copy which rests on the Altar in every Masonic Lodge, and on that volume I made solemn vows of loyalty, chastity and charity, and pledged myself to practice brotherly love.

In reply to my critics let me quote a wiser man than me, who wrote: For more than two centuries Freemasonry as we know it has pursued its peaceful way alone. It has sought no public acclaim; it has asked no help from outside its circle; it has permitted the world to think what it may about its objects and its works. Its best advertisement has been the fact that it does not advertise itself or its works. It has had, and today has, only one job to perform, only one reason for its existence. That job is to take material that comes to it and make good men and better men out of that material.

Everything else, our charities, all our works, are incidental to that one purpose. If Masonry does that job - if it works at it honestly, even only with a measure of efficiency - it has lived up to its purpose and fulfilled its highest ideal.

RT. WOR. PETER DAVIS COUTURE

By Wor. Bro Blaine A. Ellis

Assisted by Wor Dana W. Wrigley and Bro. W. Sumner Davis

Messalonskee Lodge #113 has been fortunate to have Rt. Wor. Bro. Peter Davis Couture as a member of our Lodge since 1988 when he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Since joining Messalonskee Lodge he has served in several offices of our lodge before and after becoming Worshipful Master in 1992. He served as our Treasurer in 1998-99 and has been our Lodge Historian since 2006. He serves as the editor of our newsletter, "The Trestleboard", and has established the Web Sites for Messalonskee Lodge and Drummond Royal Arch Chapter. Bro. Couture is one of our representatives to the Oakland Masonic Assoc. where he has been the Treasurer since 1998. Under his guidance the Merton E. Leech Scholarship Fund has prospered. While a member of the Oakland Masonic Association the lodge building has had many improvements.

Bro. Couture's activity in Masonry goes far beyond our own Lodge. He was Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1993 and District Deputy Grand Master of our 12th Masonic District 2000 to 2002. He assisted the Grand Lodge of Maine in setting up their computer system. He also served as High Priest of Drummond Chapter, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Grand Chapter of Maine, Illustrious Master of Mt. Lebanon Council, Commander of St. Omer Commandery, and Most Wise Master of Emeth Chapter of Rose Croix. He received the 33rd Degree Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in 2000 and is a member of Maine Past Officers' Assoc., Knights of the York Cross of Honor, and Maine College Societas Rosicruciana.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Couture was born in Topeka, Kansas Oct. 7, 1938, the son and grandson of Freemasons. He was educated in Kansas schools, earning his BA degree in Economics from Washburn University. He trained as a pilot and earned ratings for single engine/multiengine land and sea, and airline transport. He was a flight instructor and charter pilot before being hired by Trans World Airlines in 1965 as First Officer and then as Captain in 1968. Due to a heart attack in 1988 he retired in 1990.

Besides his Masonic activities he and his wife Jane were active with the local food bank. They spend the winter months in Florida but the rest of the year they are here in Maine where they spend much of their time with their grandchildren. Messalonskee Lodge and Masonry in general is very fortunate to have Rt. Wor. Bro. Peter Davis Couture as a member.