



Views from the Valley

Valley Lodge No. 175

P.O. Box 249, Burnet, TX 78611 • 512-756-4897



February 2010 Over 153 years of continuous service to the citizens of the Burnet area

**STATED MEETING
SECOND SATURDAY**

- **Worshipful Master:** William Teague (Chastity) 512-756-7170 • **Senior Warden:** Frank Smith (Linda) 830-693-1221 • **Junior Warden:** Bob Towal (Patricia) 830-237-2956 •
- **Senior Deacon:** Tom Oughton (Susie) toughton1@aol.com • **Junior Deacon:** Dr. Kelsey Liles (Carolyn) 512-756-0976 • **Secretary:** Rick Allen (Carol) 512-769-1839 •
- **Treasurer:** Danny Cockroft, (Suzie) 512-756-6209 • **Chaplain:** Edward Snider 512-756-4465 • **Senior Steward:** Stoney Holbrook (Diane) 512-756-8049 •
- **Junior Steward:** James Holbrook (Elaine) 512-756-6004 • **Tiler:** Jack Smith (Delores) 512-756-7082 •

Attend the January 9th Stated Meeting at **7:30 PM**. Come early for a delicious "Valley Lodge Meal" at **6:30 PM**, and enjoy a wonderful meal, drink and dessert. Our meal reputation is well known. Bring an appetite and your wife or significant other, children, the whole family, friends and neighbors.

VIEWS FROM THE EAST:

• I would like to thank both the members of Valley Lodge and the Ladies of the Eastern Star for working so hard on the chili fund raiser. I believe although our numbers were slightly down it was a tremendous success. Please remember the money raised on these events are for the scholarship fund. Every member should do their part to insure we are successful. • Valley Lodge will host a fish fry the first Friday in April. Look for the tickets to go on sale soon. • Valley Lodge will get its Official Visit from our new District Deputy at the stated meeting scheduled for February 13th. Bring your friends and family for the fellowship and a great Spaghetti dinner. • It is a privilege to welcome our newly installed District Deputy and we look forward to working with him this Masonic year. This stated meeting will also be the night we present Brother Harold Dayton with his 40 year pen. Congratulations Brother Dayton. • Make sure to get out and visit a Brother whom you have not seen in Lodge lately and invite them for our next meeting. See you at floor school on Wednesday nights at 6:30 P.M., and at the stated meeting on 13 February.

William Teague
Worshipful Master



Remember
Valentines Day
14 February!



MASTER MASON GENE AUTRY'S "MASONIC" COWBOY CODE:

Honorable Gene Autry, a Master Mason, 33rd Degree, Grand Cross, created the Cowboy Code in response to young radio listeners who aspired to be like him. With a little thought, we can adapt most of his Code to our Masonic mindset. It is obvious that Brother Gene used his knowledge of the Master Mason's obligation to frame many of the elements of the Code. Ì



THE COWBOY CODE

- The cowboy must never shoot first, hit a smaller man, or take unfair advantage.
- He must never go back on his word or a trust confided in him.
 - He must always tell the truth.
- He must be gentle with children, the elderly and animals.
 - He must not advocate or possess racially or religiously intolerant ideas.
 - He must help people in distress.
 - He must be a good worker.
- He must keep himself clean in thought, speech, action and personal habits.
- He must respect women, parents, and his nations's laws.
 - The cowboy is a patriot.



Resolve to make 2010 the year that you make Valley Lodge and its activities a greater part of you and your family's life and lifestyle. Attend Lodge and floor school!

Scottish Rite

Consider More
Masonry, Join

York Rite

IMPORTANCE OF THE FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

by Allen Cabaniss, MPS (edited for length) from FIAT LUX, Philalethes Society 2010

• In the symbolism of the first three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, the first degree represents birth, the entry into life. We see light for the first time. We see the lodge for the first time. We take our first step. • The third degree is a beautiful drama of the end of life. Death, yes, but far more than death—for “the Master Mason is suddenly revived by the evergreen and everliving sprig of faith in the merits of the lion of the tribe of Judah, which strengthens him, with confidence and composure, to look forward to a blessed immortality.” • The first degree then teaches us about the beginning of life; the third, about the end of life. Between the beginning and the end, there is life itself—and that is the important teaching of the second degree. In Youth, as Entered Apprentices, we ought industriously to occupy our minds in the attainment of useful knowledge; in Manhood, as Fellowcrafts, apply our knowledge to the discharge of our respective duties to God, our neighbor, and ourselves, so that in Age, as Master Masons, we may enjoy the happy reflection on a well spent life and die in the hope of a glorious immortality. • The Fellowcraft degree is perhaps the most neglected degree, yet in many ways the most significant. What does it teach about life, life itself as lived every day, not the beginning of life nor the end of life, but just life? It gives us two important suggestions, that life is made up of work and study, or, phrased differently, life, like Freemasonry itself, is both operative and speculative, not one or the other, but both together. • We are aware that life is work, so I want to stress the special teaching of the second degree that life, to be worthwhile, is also study. Remember this degree’s emphasis on the five senses of human nature; then recall that everything we know is derived from perceptions coming to us through one or more of those senses. • Remember the emphasis on the seven liberal arts and sciences:

(1) Grammar, or the framework of language. Language is the distinctive characteristic of man and is the chief feature which distinguishes him from the animal world. Without grammar, no Bible, no Shakespeare, no Freemasonry!

(2) Rhetoric, or the use of language. Correct communication is the basis of understanding in our world in small affairs as well as in great affairs of state, from the correct wording of a recipe or of a treaty between nations. A failure in rhetoric may mean a failure in cooking or even in international peace.

(3) Logic, or reasonableness. Reading, writing, reasoning should be our “three R’s”—reading with comprehension; writing legibly and intelligibly; and reasoning so that our communication may be clearly understood. • These three arts and sciences are basic; the others rest on them.

(4) Arithmetic, or counting. What would we do without it in calculating days, years, or even votes?

(5) Geometry, or measurement. Architects, generals, and

astronomers need this science, as do we—in the measurement of cloth, paper, land, hats and dogfood.

(6) Music, or the study of harmony. Not only the relation of a musical note to another, but also the relation of one man to another, one nation to another, this world to the next.

(7) Astronomy, or the study of worlds beyond our own. Not only the stars, planets, and comets, but even beyond them to their Almighty Creator. • In sum, then, the second degree puts before us as in a nutshell all of knowledge as the proper sphere of a Freemason’s study. Obviously, the ultimate purpose of the second degree cannot be exhausted by that degree alone. But that degree gives us the direction. It points us to the schools, from the first grade through college and university, and reminds us that Freemasonry stands for more and more and more study and learning. And it reminds us also that study and learning go far beyond all schools—it is a lifelong process which should never end. It is as much a part of life itself as work is. • For we can learn—and should study and learn—from everything around us: from life in the family, life in the community, life in our vocation. In that process of lifelong study and learning Freemasonry itself is one of our teachers, is one of our schools. I think that most of us who take Masonry seriously actually do learn something new every time we are present at the conferring of a degree. There is always a new word we have not noticed before, a new thought, a new action or movement. • The ritual may cause our minds to wander throughout the present world and bring before us the realization of a worldwide brotherhood that already exists. • As a matter of fact one of the most impressive evidences of the ability of Freemasonry to teach us often comes after the degree work is over and the Worshipful Master calls on various Brethren to speak a few words. There are Brothers present who would never dream of standing up in any other meeting to say anything. Yet they feel free to stand up in a Masonic meeting and express their thoughts. It is really one of the most surprising and yet most satisfying experiences to see that Masonry has taught its members to speak up, say something, express themselves the truest of all forms of freedom of speech. • Above all, the second degree teaches us that the most important things in our world are not the great things that draw the headlines of newspapers—they pass away—but the quiet work of attentive ears listening to instructive tongues and treasuring the precepts in faithful breasts—these alone endure forever. • Freemasonry, pursuing its quiet way of hearing, teaching, learning, studying, preserving, has still survived—thus through a succession of ages are transmitted, unimpaired, not only the most excellent tenets of our institution, but also of all the learning mentioned and emphasized by our beautiful Fellowcraft degree. Ĩ

MASONIC LIGHT *by the Rev. Dr. James M. Floyd, Jr.,
MPS, Evergreen Lodge No. 713, F. & A.M., Dwight L. Smith Lodge of
Research, U.D., Indiana F. & A.M.*

• Are you a source of light or darkness? We create our own reality. What we expect from life is what we receive. If we expect and look for the trouble, disagreement, and negativity in situations that is what we are sure to find. If however, we expect and look for the good, cooperative, and positive outcomes in situations that is what we will experience. • Life cannot, and does not always go smoothly. We cannot appreciate the good times and the joys that life brings without the rough times and the sadness that must cross our path on occasion. It is our response to these times that defines who we are. • Brothers, I am guilty of being a source of darkness. That is, in seeing and focusing only on the problems in lodge that I perceive need to be corrected. And in being privy to, and a part of, the occasional personality conflicts that are destined to arise in any group. • Yes, there are problems in every lodge. Yes, we do not always agree with, or get along with each other. This has always been, and always will be. But we cannot be negative about these difficulties. Our negative thoughts are like a cancer which spreads and weakens us, and those around us, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. • It is easy to fall into the trap of negativity or darkness. But, with effort on our part, and the assistance of the G.A.O.T.U., we can instead choose to open our eyes to the light. My Brothers, that light is Brotherly love. Love is being positive and expecting the best life has to offer. Love is knowing that, although our human frailties will result in disagreement, where there is hope and understanding there can be the peace and harmony to work together towards a common goal. • So, for the sake of the Fraternity and your well-being, I urge you to make the commitment to change your life, to become a source of Masonic Light, that, like the Sun in the heavens, all the world can see. †

PRESIDENTS DAY - FEBRUARY 18TH

• Washington's Birthday is the official name designated to what many of us know as President's Day. During the month of February the birthdays of two of our greatest Presidents take place; George Washington, born on Feb. 22nd, and Abraham Lincoln, born on Feb. 12th. • However, Washington's birthday has been publicly celebrated since he was in office, before Abraham Lincoln was even born. Much of the debate over the name of the holiday springs from the fact that states can follow their own holidays how they see fit and many of them chose to also honor Lincoln, calling the celebration President's Day. • It was in 1968 that the term President's Day

came up for legal consideration in the Congress but was shot down, though the holiday was moved to fall between the two President's birthdays. Again in the 1980s there was a resurgence of the term with advertisers which solidified the holiday name in American culture. Today, few Americans prefer to call the holiday Washington's Birthday in lieu of President's Day. †

TRUE JOY

by M. Jolynn Rawson-Hunt

I'll be happy once I've done this certain thing.
We all say this often not realizing what it brings.
We look only to the future for our happiness.
Letting life slip through our fingers in its fullness.
Will we really feel complete when the task is done,
or look back and see how we missed so much fun?
Self-consumed so we can't see anything else,
hurting those we love as well as ourselves.
So many things around us to be grateful for,
when seeking for an answer willingly open the door.
So often, others see what's in front of our face,
but we're too blind to look as we're snared in the race.
What is this life supposed to be about?
Is it money, fortune, fame, or a big house?
When speaking to a man on his dying bed,
None of these answers are what he said.
Family, love, laughter are what we should seek.
These are the precious things right outside your door.



FEBRUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/1 Kingsland Lodge Stated Meeting
- 2/2 Lake Victor Stated Meeting
- 2/3 Valley Lodge Floor School
- 2/3 Austin Scottish Rite Stated Mtg.
- 2/6 Henry Thomas Lodge Stated Meeting
- 2/9 Burnet OES Stated Meeting
- 2/9 Llano Lodge Stated Meeting
- 2/10 Valley Lodge Floor School
- 2/13 Valley Lodge Stated Meeting
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/15 Blazing Star Lodge Stated Meeting
- 2/15 President's Day
- 2/17 Valley Lodge Floor School
- 2/18 Burnet Chapter & Council Mtg.
- 2/24 Valley Lodge Floor School
- 2/25 Burnet Commandery Stated Mtg.
- 2/26 Bertram Lodge Stated Meeting
- 2/27 Mt. Horeb Lodge Stated Meeting



FROM THE EDITOR: This newsletter depends heavily on the writings of other Brothers. We give attribution when available. The newsletter is not intended to PREACH; it is meant to inform and TEACH, and spread more Masonic Light into each Masonic mind. But just reading the selected articles will not complete the task. Think about any points that interest, anger, intrigue, titillate and/or inform you. Obtain Masonic books and writings at the Lodge Library or at local libraries. Keep your mind interested and active. The Craft and You will benefit from your studies.

Great things are happening at our Lodge! Be a part of it! Bring a Mason to Lodge February 13th. Find a Brother — EA, FC, or Master — who has not been to Lodge in a while and bring him in for a meal and an interesting, convivial evening.



Star Points

Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter #425

Burnet, TX • Meets Second Tuesday, 7:30 PM, at Valley Masonic Lodge

February 2010

Donna Safarick, Worthy Matron
Clay Fancher, Worthy Patron

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/2 Danny Reid • 2/3 Crissie Stanford • 2/4 Connie Evans •
- 2/4 Woodrow Null • 2/11 Thrasher Allen •
- 2/14 Josephine Harrison • 2/15 Linda Sue Berry •
- 2/16 Bill Neve • 2/24 Bonnie Fawcett •
- 2/26 Renee Hazelwood • 2/27 Gloria Null •

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALL!

To all our Star members with a February anniversary:

"HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!"

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR:

• The Order of the Eastern Star is an adoptive rite of Freemasonry with teachings based on the Bible and objectives that are charitable and benevolent. • The founder of OES was Dr. Robert Morris, a lawyer and educator from Boston, who was a Master Mason and Past Grand Master of Kentucky. Dr. Morris intended his creation to become a female branch of Freemasonry, but he failed to overcome the great opposition this idea engendered. • The first Grand Chapter was organized in Michigan. (There is evidence for an organization of the same name founded variously in 1788 or 1793, but this group was defunct by 1867.) • Subordinate (local) chapters operate under charter from state level grand chapters which are responsible to the General Grand Chapter at the International Eastern Star temple in Washington, D.C. • Members must be eighteen years or older and either Master Masons in good standing or properly

related to a Master Mason in good standing. The relation list includes wives, widows, sisters, daughters, mothers, granddaughters, step-mothers, step daughters, stepsisters, half-sisters, nieces, daughters-in-law, and grandmothers. • Each chapter has eighteen officers, some elected and others appointed. Two offices are specifically male (Patron and Associate Patron) while nine offices are specifically female (including Matron and Associate Matron). While the Worthy Matron is considered to be the presiding officer of the chapter, the degrees cannot be conferred without a presiding brother in good standing (hence the Patron and Associate Patron). • Each chapter retains the right to decide who shall be a member of the organization. Election to the degrees must be unanimous, without debate, and secret. • The successful candidate must profess a belief in a Supreme Being.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING:

- Don't forget our stated meeting on 8 February!

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND ALL OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

VALLEY LODGE No.175

P.O. Box 249

BURNET, TX 78611