



Rainbow Girls at the NW Washington Fair

Please remember to visit and patronize the Rainbow Girls booth at the Fair in Lynden, August 11–16, 2008. You'll be treated to some *Great Food* while giving your support to this wonderful Masonic Youth Organization.

Whatcom Lodge Report

Greetings brothers, we had a very swift but effective stated meeting on July 17th. The date for Br. Nate Anderson's Third Degree was re-scheduled for Wednesday, August 13th. We will have a light dinner (please RSVP) at 5:45 and lodge will begin to open at about 6:30 PM. At this stated meeting a Petition for Plural Membership was received from WB Bruce McGinnis and read.

The annual election of lodge officers is planned for our stated meeting on Thursday, August 21st. WM Hutchings intends for the Installation to take place in September.

An Audit Committee was established with Br. Ron Exner (chair) and WB Bill Hall as members. As you all may recall, I recently sent out a letter from the Finance Committee asking brethren for their input on ways to enhance our long-term financial foundation and for voluntary donations. So far I've received 17 responses, two with suggestions and 15 with donations. The donations have greatly helped. We have 75 Master Mason members and I hope that over the next few weeks several more brothers will send in a donation.

I look forward to hearing from and/or seeing you at our next lodge meeting.

Fraternally, John Browne - Secretary/Treasurer

MASONS' PICNIC AT CORNWALL PARK

The annual Masons' picnic is coming up very soon. Here are the details:

WHEN: Sunday, August 24th from 11 AM to 3 PM

WHERE: Cornwall Park at the North Shelter near the Spray (wading) Pool (Use the entrance to the park off Meridian Street.)

WHAT: MLA will supply the meat, buns and soda. Picnic-goers are to bring their favorite side dish.

WHO: Masons, families, friends and guests are cordially invited

There is no charge for this MLA sponsored event.

Brothers, the summer is short and we don't have many opportunities to get together like this. Please come even if you can only stay for a little while. Every lodge should be well-represented at this Masonic event. Looking forward to seeing all of you there!!

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

Aug 1st Bellingham Bay - 7:30 p

Aug 6th San Juan Lodge - Dark

Aug 7th Lynden Lodge - Dark

Aug 12th Fairhaven Lodge - 7:30

Aug 13th Nooksack Valley Ldg - Dark

Aug 14th Ferndale Lodge - 7:30 PM

Aug 19th Kulshan Int. Lodge - Dark

Aug 21st Whatcom Lodge - dinner at 5:30; meeting at 6:30 pm.

44th Annual Open Air Degree at the Masonic Park

7 - 10 a.m. enjoy an *All You Can Eat* Breakfast (\$4.00) at Damascus Lodge #199 in Granite Falls.

Masonic Park gate fee - \$5 per person

8 to 10 am - Registration at gate, coffee and donuts available at big kitchen.

10 am - St John's Lodge #9 will open lodge.

Flag Ceremony

Welcome and Introductions

First Section of third degree

Noonish - 30 minute break

Drama section

Grand Master's Message

Lodge closed by Grand Lodge Officers

The Masonic Park Board sponsored Dinner will be served after close of lodge to 5 pm. The cost is \$10, to be paid at registration.

Ladies Program - There will be entertainment at Dream Camp for the ladies and a light brunch of coffee, tea and muffins will be provided at a cost of \$5 at the Rainbow Chalet.

Fri - Aug 1st, overnight camping will be allowed in designate areas

All fees are in US \$

Terry Gibbs V-Chair, Masonic Park Board

Lynden Lodge on the move

Lynden Lodge calendar for April 2008

Aug 2 nd	CHIP training capped of with lunch (FMC)	10 AM
Aug 3 rd	Mariners game	TBA
Aug 11 th - 16 th	CHIP with WSCO & Lynden PD	10-10 PM
Aug 24 th	MLA Mason Picnic-Cornwall Park	11-3 PM

*All meetings are at the Ferndale Masonic Hall unless otherwise noted.

CHIP AT THE FAIR

Lynden Lodge #56, in conjunction with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office and the Lynden Police Department, will be introducing the Child Identification Program (CHIP) at the Northwest Washington Fair August 11 - 16 for the first time this year.

Each child will be fingerprinted; a teeth bite impression will be made; a DNA sample will be taken; and a short video interview of the child will be made. All materials will be given to the child's parent for safekeeping to be used only if the child goes missing. There is no cost to the child or the parents.

Financial support has been received from other lodges in the District and from other donors. Many Masons and other volunteers will be at the Fair to participate in this program. Lynden Lodge wishes to publicly express its thanks for the financial support from other lodges as well as for the participation by Masons in the processing of the children at the Fair.

Any brother with children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren from infants to age 16 are encouraged to bring them to the Fair to take part in this important and potentially lifesaving program.

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER DINNER

Do you remember last October when Sterling Deitz, the young Lynden magician, was astounding us with his magic and illusions at the 2007 *Hands Across the Border* dinner? Well, folks, you ain't seen nothing yet!

This year a great program is planned. The Langley Ukulele Ensemble will be performing. This extraordinary group is composed of more than 20 young people from Langley, B.C. who will provide great entertainment with renditions ranging from the William Tell overture to traditional Hawaiian songs. They are a team of young musicians, ambassadors and volunteers who have established a reputation for providing opportunities to demonstrate excellence, inspire, build hope, model leadership and enrich all through entertaining musical presentations which touch lives. Visit their web site for a sample performance: <http://www.langleyukes.com/>

This dinner show will honor MWB Douglas E. Tucker, Grand Master of F. & A.M. of Washington and MWB R. Glenn Allen, Grand Master of A. F. & A.M. of British Columbia & Yukon. It will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at Fox Hall at the Hampton Inn in Bellingham. The social time will begin at 5:30 PM with dinner promptly at 6:00 PM.

The menu is lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread, dessert, coffee, tea (vegetarian available upon request. The cost is \$22 or \$40 for a couple. It is a great price for a dinner show. The venue is very large and we won't be crowded like last year, but seating is limited and reservations should be made no later than September 25th. Tickets at the door will be \$25 or \$50 for a couple on a space available basis. You can contact me at 360-392-0145 or email rhdecima@aol.com to make reservations. The Event Coordinator is VWB John R. Sleeth.

Brothers, it's going to be fun!
You will not be disappointed!!!

WB Dick Decima, WM Lynden Lodge No. 56

Here is what ***Bellingham Bay***

has going on.

Friday August 1st Bellingham Bay Lodge #44 will open at 7:30 on the Fellowcraft degree for the purpose of transacting business and conferring a Fellowcraft degree.

Friday August 15th Bellingham Bay will have a special at 7:30, if there is a candidate ready for a degree. Otherwise we will be dark that night.

WM Gary Pitcher

For a contented life:

Health - enough to make work a pleasure.

Wealth - enough to support your needs.

Strength - to battle with difficulties and overcome them.

Grace - enough to confess your sins and forsake them.

Patience - enough to toil until some good is accomplished.

Charity - enough to see some good in your neighbor.

Love - enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others.

Faith - enough to make real the things of God.

Hope - enough to remove all anxious fears concerning your future.

~ Br. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)

This article, about a genuine American hero, who epitomized effective leadership, was submitted by Bro. Hal Hofherr.

The story of Sam Bird - continued

Enemy Fire. I left Bravo Company in December 1966 to return to the States for a month before joining a Special Forces unit. Being a big, tough paratrooper, I didn't tell Sam what his example had meant to me. But I made a point of visiting his parents and sister in Wichita, Kan., just before Christmas to tell them how much he'd affected my life, and how his troops would walk off a cliff for him. His family was relieved when I told them that his tour of combat was almost over and he'd be moving to a safe job in the rear.

Two months later, in a thatched hut in the Mekong Delta, I got a letter from Sam's sister, saying that he had conned his commanding officer into letting him stay an extra month with his beloved Bravo Company. On his last day, January 27, 1967—his 27th birthday—the men had secretly planned a party, even arranging to have a cake flown in. They were going to “pay back the old man.” But orders came down for Bravo to lead an airborne assault on the North Vietnamese regimental headquarters.

Sam's helicopter was about to touch down at the attack point when it was ripped by enemy fire. Slugs shattered his left ankle and right leg. Another struck the left side of his head, carrying off almost a quarter of his skull. His executive officer, Lt. Dean Parker, scooped Sam's brains back into the gaping wound.

Reading the letter, I felt as if I'd been kicked in the stomach. I began querying every hospital in Vietnam to find out if Sam was still alive. But in June, before I could discover his fate, I was in a firefight in an enemy-controlled zone. I had thrown four grenades. The fifth one exploded in my hand. I lost an arm and a leg.

Nearly a year later, in March 1968, I finally caught up with Sam. I was just getting the hang of walking with an artificial leg when I visited him at the VA Medical Center in Memphis, Tenn. Seeing him, I had to fight back the tears. The wiry, smiling soldier's soldier was blind in the left eye and partially so in the right. Surgeons had removed metal shards and damaged tissue from deep within his brain, and he had been left with a marked depression on the left side of his head. The circles under his eyes told of sleepless hours and great pain.

The old clear voice of command was slower now, labored and with an odd, high pitch. I saw his brow knit as he looked through his one good eye, trying to remember. He recognized me, but believed I had served with him in Korea, his first tour of duty.

Slowly, Sam rebuilt his ability to converse. But while he could recall things from long ago, he couldn't remember what he had eaten for breakfast. Headaches came on him like terrible firestorms. There was pain, too, in his legs. He had only partial use of one arm, with which he'd raise himself in front of the mirror to brush his teeth and shave.

He had the support of a wonderful family, and once he was home in Wichita, his sister brought his old school sweetheart, Annette Blazier, to see him. A courtship began, and in 1972 they married.

They built a house like Sam had dreamed of—red brick, with a flagpole out front. He had developed the habit of addressing God as “Sir” and spoke to him often. He never asked to be healed. At every table grace, he thanked God for sending Him Annette and for “making it possible for me to live at home in a free country.”

In 1976, Sam and Annette traveled to the Citadel for his 15th class reunion. World War II hero Gen. Mark Clark, the school's president emeritus, asked about his wounds and said, “On behalf of your country, I want to thank you for all you did.”

With pride, Sam answered, “Sir, it was the least I could do.”

Later Annette chided him gently for understating the case. After all, he had sacrificed his health and career in Vietnam. Sam gave her an incredulous look. “I had friends who didn't come back,” he said. “I'm enjoying the freedoms they died for.”

I VISITED Sam in Wichita and phoned him regularly. You would not have guessed that he lived with pain every day. Once, speaking of me to his sister, he said, “I should never complain about the pain in my leg, because B.T. doesn't have a leg.” I'd seen a lot of men with lesser wounds reduced to anger and self-pity. Never a hint of that passed Sam's lips, though I knew that, every waking moment, he was fighting to live.

On October 18, 1984, after 17 years, Sam's body couldn't take any more. When we received the news of his death, a number of us from Bravo Company flew to Wichita, where Sam was to be buried with his forebears.

The day before the burial, his old exec, Dean Parker, and I went to the funeral home to make sure everything was in order. As dean straightened the brass on Sam's uniform, I held my captain's hand and looked into his face, a face no longer filled with pain. I thought about how unashamed Sam always was to express his love for his country, how sunny and unaffected he was in his devotion to his men. I ached that I had never told him what a fine soldier and man he was. But in my deep sadness I felt a glow of pride for having served with him, and for having learned the lessons of leadership that would serve me all my life. That is why I am telling you about Samuel R. Bird and these things that happened so long ago.

CHANCES ARE, you have seen Sam Bird. He was the tall officer in charge of the casket detail at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. Historian William Manchester described him as “a lean, sinewy Kansan, the kind of American youth whom Congressmen dutifully praise each Fourth of July and whose existence many, grown jaded by years on the Hill, secretly doubt.”

There can be no doubt about Sam, about who he was how he lived and how he led. We buried him that fall afternoon, as they say, “with honors.” But as I walked from that grave, I knew I was the honored one, for having known him.

B.T. Collins recovered from severe war wounds to become the highly acclaimed director of the California Conservation Corps and later chief of staff to the governor of California. He is presently California's deputy state treasurer.

BMC = Bellingham Masonic Center on W. Maplewood ; FMC = Ferndale Masonic Center;
 FHMC = Friday Harbor Masonic Center; NMC = Nooksack Masonic Center; SRH = Scottish Rite Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p.	SJ # 175 stated 7:30 p. (FHMC)		1 BB # 44 stated 7:30 p We hope to have a FC Degree (SRH)	2 44 th Annual Open Air Degree at Granite Falls
3	4 Hesperus Com- mandery No. 8 - Dark, but meets Aug. 25 th F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	5 F # 73-stated 7:30 p. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)	6	7 L # 56 Dark Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay Dark	8	9
10	11 F # 264 Installation of Officers 7:30 pm Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM - Dark	12 KI # 186-Dark ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC)	13	14 Bethel # 25 Dark	15 BB 44 Spl. - <u>only</u> if we have a Degree to put on. 7:30 p. (SRH)	16 MFLA Dark Chuckanut Chap- ter DeMolay Dark
17	18 Bellingham Chp Royal Arch - Dark F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	19 F # 73-Spl. Com 7:30 p. (BMC)	20 NV # 105 Dark	21 W 151-stated dinner 5:30 lodge opens 6:30 pm	22	23 Bethel #25 Dark
24	25 Hesperus Com- mandery No. 8. Dinner at 6:30, meet 7:30 pm	26 F #73 Installation of Officers, 7 PM	27	28	29	30
31			<p>The vices of the rich and great are mistaken for errors; and those of the poor and lowly, for crimes. ~ Marguerite Gardiner, Countess of Blessington</p>			

Fairhaven Lodge No. 73

Installation of officers

DATE: Tuesday, Aug 26th 2008 TIME: 7pm

Officers for 2008-2009

WM Vern Christianson - SW Dave Nelson - JW Don Olsen
 Trea Gary Pitcher - Sec Thom Baughn - SD Blair Thisted
 JD Joe Howell - ss James Brady - JS J. C. Dixon

People often say that this or that person
 has not yet found himself.
 But the self is not something one finds,
 it is something one creates.

~Thomas Szasz



KING'S QUOTE'S

Some people have such a talent
 for making the best of a bad situation
 that they go around creating
 bad situations so they can
 make the best of them.

Jean Kerr, 1923 - 2003

Speedy Automated

Mailers Inc.

Established 1984 for ALL Types of Mailings -- FREE Quotes

PO Box 31877, Bellingham, WA 98228

2200 Queen St Ste 15, Bellingham, Washington

(800) 678-4775 (360) 676-4775 (360) 428-2780

FAX (360) 676-5118 Email jrsleeth@speedy-inc.com

John Sleeth (Ext 301)