



Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

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July 2008

A Special Master Mason Degree!

Master Masons—please join Whatcom Lodge for a very special event, a Third Degree. What makes this degree a special occasion? Well, so glad you asked. Brother Nate Anderson will be leaving soon for his second tour of duty in Iraq. What better gift to give Br. Nate than to raise him to the sublime degree of a Master Mason before his departure.

Date of Degree: - Thursday, July 17th, 2008.

Time: - Lodge to open at 6:30 pm

If you'd like to join us for dinner - 5:30 pm, we will be delighted!

~ Please RSVP to John Browne 599-43481

Whatcom Lodge Report

Greetings Whatcom Brethren:

I can hardly believe that July is here, and along with it the summer we've all been waiting to arrive. This July and August will be new for us because we aren't going dark. Before looking ahead I'll take just a bet of time to bring many of you up to date on what happened this past spring.

In Memoriam: The Supreme Architect recently called two of our brothers to the Celestial Lodge:

WB Davis G. Baller began his journey 'On High' on May 3, 2008. WB Dave was a two-time Master of our lodge, 1969 and 1986. Brother Dave was active with Rainbow for Girls, a member of Scottish Rite, NCT, Maple Leaf Chapter of Eastern Star, and the American Legion. A well attended Masonic Service was held on May 7, 2008 at the Birchwood Presbyterian Church.

Br. Edward V. Hudson began his journey 'On High' on June 7, 2008. Br. Edward was a 72 year Mason with Whatcom Lodge, he was Raised on Sept. 3rd, 1936. Br. Edward spent his later years residing in the Tacoma, WA area but stayed in touch with our lodge via the lodge newsletter.

June 19th Stated Meeting: At last month's stated meeting the brothers elected WB William "Bill" Hall to plural membership. WB Bill has already been active filling chairs on a Pro-tem basis; we are very glad to add him to our other recent plural members: Br. Ron Exner and Br. Monte Thompson. Also at this meeting Br. Nate Anderson was passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft. He is very excited to be our newest member. ☼ During the business portion of the program the brothers voted to assist Lynden Lodge with a donation to the CHIPs project set for the NW WA Fair this August.

July 17th Stated Meeting: Our next stated meeting will be on Thursday, July 17th. The main focus of the meeting will be to confer the Master Mason Degree on Br. Nate Anderson. See notice above.

☼ We plan to hold elections in August and install our new officers in September.

Fraternally, John Browne - Secretary/Treasurer

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

Jul 2nd San Juan Lodge - **Dark**

Jul 3rd Lynden Lodge - **Dark**

Jul 4th Bellingham Bay - No Meeting

Jul 8th Fairhaven Lodge - 7:30

Jul 14th Ferndale Lodge - 7:30

Jul 15th Kulshan Int. Lodge - **Dark**

Jul 16th Nooksack Valley Ldg - **Dark**

Jul 17th Whatcom Lodge - dinner at 5:30; meeting at 6:30 pm. MM Deg.

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

Bethel No. 25 - Job's Daughters Int.

Bethel No. 25 has had an action-packed Spring and early Summer. Here are

Elected officers (April 10th, 2008) are:

Honored Queen - Kristin White

(2nd time in the East) (also Grand Bethel Guide)

Senior Princess - Marissa Morse

Junior Princess - Courtney Scheffler

Guide - Sara Rothenbuhler

Marshal - Mychal Smith

Appointed officers are:

Chaplain - Amy Brady

Recorder - Jamaica Muhammad

Librarian - Valerie Battell

First Messenger - Holly Carpenter

Second Messenger - Amanda Tapparo

Third Messenger - Claire Bynon

(Grand Bethel Rep to Arizona & Espirito Santo)

Fourth Messenger - Mars Fraser

Fifth Messenger - Sarah Kronewitter (Grand Bethel Choir)

Senior Custodian - Savannah Zoellin (newest initiate)

Report from Grand Session:

Kristin White and Janell Murry were announced as the top two Washington Job's Daughters scholarship award winners at Grand Bethel Session last week in Wenatchee. Kristin won the *Lily of the Valley* scholarship worth \$1500.00 to continue her university education at WSU in Pullman, and Janell was awarded the *Wallingford* scholarship worth over \$1100.00, for her continued enrollment at WWU here in Bellingham. Be sure to congratulate these fine students!!

All of the Daughters attending Grand Bethel Session competed in some category or another. Sarah Kronewitter represented the Bethel very well in the *Miss Washington Job's Daughter* pageant on Thursday night. Friday night and Saturday morning we saw Amy Brady as GB Senior Princess, Kristin White as GB Guide pro-tem, Kat Finch as GB Fourth Messenger and Courtney Scheffler as GB Rep as they all did very well in the Formal Opening and Grand Bethel meetings. During the Grand Bethel meeting, Kristin was drawn to be the GB Guide for 2008-09 and Claire Bynon is GB Representative to Arizona and Espirito Santo. Kat helped with an art project and Janell assisted with ritual practice and classes for Proficiency. All the girls had the opportunity to attend some special classes and many came home with their Red Cross card for Babysitting and/or CPR.

On Sunday, before heading back home we got the results of the ritual competitions. We are so proud of all of our girls. Courtney Scheffler won Best in State for Junior Princess; Amy Brady scored First place in Class A Fourth Messenger; HQ Kristin White placed First in class A Honored Queen and Best in State for Fifth Messenger!!

The 2008-09 MWJD is Autumn Thompson from Bethel 57 in Kirkland and the GBHQ is Monica Clemenham from Bethel 38 in Vancouver, WA. Your new Grand Guardian is Nancy McClenny-Walters and the Associate Grand Guardian is Steve Morgan. The newest members on the Grand Line are Julie Wilbur #28 and Henry Fletcher #57.

The Official and Grand Visits to Bethel No. 25 will be on Saturday, September 27th.

Bethel No. 25 - Fund Raiser

The Firecracker Car Show - Pioneer Park, Ferndale WA
Date: Sat. July 12, 2008 - all day

Come visit the Firecracker Car Show at the Ferndale Pioneer Park and while there enjoy some great food at the Rainbow Booth. What, daughters at the Rainbow booth? Yes, you're reading this correctly. The Rainbow Girls of Assembly No. 17 will be at Grand Assembly and so they have loaned their booth to the Daughters of Bethel No. 25.

The Daughters will be most grateful for your patronage, and you'll get some really good food and see some awesome cars!

The daughters of Bethel No. 25 wish to thanks their sisters from Evergreen Assembly No. 17, for this fund raising opportunity.

Nooksack Valley Lodge No 105

At our June Stated Meeting the following officers were elected:

W. Master: WB Don Loughmiller

Sen. Warden: WB Mike Beaudry

Jun. Warden: Bro. Zack Carter

Treas.: WB William Allenby

Sec.: VWB Frank Juntunen

An OPEN Installation is scheduled for
Sat. 19 July at 2:00 pm
at the Nooksack Masonic Hall.

Frank Juntunen, Secretary

Ferndale Lodge No. 264

Brethren All,

Ferndale lodge has been a bit busy and it doesn't appear to be slowing down! We conferred a First degree on Saturday June 28th, and will confer another First, tentatively, on July 28th. We have another Candidate who is ready for the Second degree, so we will be conferring it sometime in the next two weeks as the candidate is moving to Montana soon. He will return to the area for the Third degree. We will hold our election of officers for 2008-9 at our July 14th Stated meeting.

For information, we are open through the summer, going dark in December and January. If you need a "meeting fix" come on out! We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30pm.

On a sad note, WB Dustin Dilly, our longest living member of 69 plus years, passed away May 25th. We will conduct a Memorial service for WB Dilly at our next Stated meeting, July 14th.

Fraternally,
Everett Thompson, Secretary

The Courage of Sam Bird (Readers Digest 1989)

By B.T. Collins

I didn't learn about leadership and the strength of character it requires from an Ivy League graduate course. I learned by watching one tall captain with proud bearing and penetrating eyes.

I met Capt. Samuel R. Bird on a dusty road near An Khe, South Vietnam, one hot July day in 1966. I was an artillery forward observer with Bravo Company, 2nd/12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, and I looked it. I was filthy, sweaty, and jaded by war, and I thought, *Oh, brother, get a load of this.* Dressed in crisply starched fatigues, Captain Bird was what we called “squared away”—ramrod straight, eyes on the horizon. Hell, you could still see the shine on his boot tips beneath the road dust.

After graduation from Officer Candidate School, I had sought adventure by volunteering for Vietnam. But by that hot and dangerous July, I was overdosed on “adventure,” keenly interested in survival and very fond of large rocks and deep holes. Bird was my fourth company commander, and my expectations were somewhat cynical when he called all his officers and sergeants together.

“I understand this company has been in Vietnam almost a year and has never had a party,” he said.

Now, we officers and sergeants had our little clubs to which we repaired. So we stole bewildered looks at one another, cleared our throats and wondered what this wiry newcomer was talking about.

“The men are going to have a party,” he announced, “and they’re not going to pay for it. Do I make myself clear?”

A party for the “grunts” was the first order of business! Sam Bird had indeed made himself clear. We all chipped in to get food and beer for about 160 men. The troops were surprised almost to the point of suspicion—who, after all, had ever done anything for them? But that little beer and bull session was exactly what those war-weary men needed. Its effect on morale was profound. I began to watch our new captain more closely.

Bird and I were the same age, 26, but eons apart in everything else. He was from the sunny heartland of Kansas, I from the suburbs of New York City. He prayed every day and was close to his God. My faith had evaporated somewhere this side of altar boy. I was a college dropout who had wandered into the Army with the words “discipline problem” close on my heels. He had graduated from The Citadel, South Carolina’s proud old military school.

If ever a man looked like a leader, it was Sam Bird. He was tall and lean, with penetrating blue eyes. But the tedium and terror of a combat zone take far sterner qualities than mere appearance.

“Not One Step Further.” Our outfit was helicoptered to a mountain outpost one day for the thankless task of preparing a position for others to occupy. We dug trenches, filled sandbags, strung wire under a blistering sun. It was hard work, and Sam was everywhere, pitching in with the men. A colonel who was supposed to oversee the operation remained at a shelter doing paper work. Sam looked at what his troops had accomplished, then, red-faced, strode over to the colonel’s sanctuary. We couldn’t hear what he was saying to his superior, but we had the unmistakable sense that Sam was uncoiling a bit. The colonel suddenly found time to inspect the fortifications and thank the men for a job well done.

Another day, this time on the front lines after weeks of awful chow, we were given something called “coffee cake” that had the look and texture of asphalt paving. Furious, Sam got on the radiophone to headquarters. He reached the colonel and said, “Sir, you and the supply officer need to come out here and taste the food, because this rifle company is not taking one step further.” *Not a good way to move up in the Army*, I thought. But the colonel came out, and the food improved from that moment. Such incidents were not lost on the men of Bravo Company.

During the monsoon season we had to occupy a landing zone. The torrential, wind-driven rains had been falling for weeks. Like everyone else I sat under my poncho in a stupor, wondering how much of the wetness was rainwater and how much was sweat. Nobody cared that the position was becoming flooded. We had all just crawled inside ourselves. Suddenly, I saw Sam, Mr. Spit and Polish, with nothing on but his olive-drab chesunder shorts and his boots. He was digging a drainage ditch down the center of the camp. He didn’t say anything, just dug away, mud spattering his t, steam rising from his back and shoulders. Slowly and sheepishly we emerged from under our ponchos, and shovels in hand, we began helping “the old man” get the ditch dug. We got the camp tolerably dried out and with that one simple act transformed our morale.

Sam deeply loved the U.S. Army, its history and traditions. Few of the men knew it, but he had been in charge of a special honors unit of the Old Guard, which serves at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery and participates in the Army’s most solemn ceremonies. He was the kind of guy whose eyes would moist during the singing of the National Anthem.

Sam figured patriotism was just a natural part of being an American. But he knew that morale was a function not so much of inspiration as of good boots, dry socks, extra ammo and hot meals.

Dug His Own. Sam’s philosophy was to put his troops first. On that foundation he built respect a brick at a time. His men ate first; he ate last. Instead of merely learning their names, he made it a point to know the men. A lot of the soldiers were high-school dropouts and would-be tough guys just a few years younger than himself. Some were scared, and a few were still in partial shock at being in a shooting war. Sam patiently worked on their pride and self-confidence. Yet there was never any doubt who was in charge. I had been around enough to know what a delicate accomplishment that was.

Half in wonder, an officer once told me, “Sam can dress a man down till his ears burn, and the next minute that same guy is eager to follow him into hell.” But he never chewed out a man in front of his subordinates.

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KING'S QUOTE'S

Computers can figure out all kinds of problems,
except the things in the world that just don't add up.

~James Magary

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
		1 ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p.	2 SJ # 175 – Dark	3 L # 56 - Dark Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay - Dark	4 BB # 44 No meetings until August 1 st <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6	7 Hesperus Com-mandery No. 8 - Dark F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	8 F # 73-stated 7:30 p. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)	9	10 Bethel # 25 - Dark	11	12 Bethel 25 at the Rainbow Booth for the Firecracker Car Show - come and get some delicious food! All Day
13	14 F # 264 - 7:30 p Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM—Dark	15 KI # 186-Dark	16 NV # 105 Dark	17 W 151-stated dinner 5:30 - RSVP Lodge opens 6:30 pm, we plan to have a MM Degree	18	19 MFLA Dark Nooksack Valley 105 Open Installation of Officers at 2 pm
20	21 Bellingham Chap Royal Arch Dark F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	22 F # 73-Spl. Com 7:30 p. (BMC)	23	24 Maplewood TB 7:30 p. (BMC)	25	26 Bethel #25 -Dark
27	28 F # 264 - Spl for a EA Deg. ? 7:30 p	29	30	31	1 BB # 44 stated FC Degree ?	2

Sam wouldn't ask his men to do anything he wasn't willing to do himself. He dug his own foxholes. He never gave lectures on appearance, but even at God-forsaken outposts in the Central Highlands, he would set aside a few ounces of water from his canteen to shave. His uniform, even if it was jungle fatigues, would be as clean and neat as he could make it. Soon all of Bravo Company had a reputation for looking sharp.

One sultry and miserable day on a dirt road at the base camp, Sam gathered the men together and began talking about how tough the infantryman's job is, how proud he was of them, how they should always look out for each other. He took out a bunch of Combat Infantryman's Badges, signifying that a soldier has paid his dues under fire, and he presented one to each of the men. There wasn't a soldier there who would have traded that moment on the road for some parade ground ceremony.

That was the way Sam Bird taught me leadership. He packed a lot of lessons into the six months we served together. Put the troops first. Know that morale often depends on small things. Respect every person's dignity. Always be ready to fight for your people. Lead by example. Reward performance. But Sam had another lesson to teach, one that would take long and painful years, a lesson in courage.

Continued in the August 2008 Issue

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To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 20th day of each month, to:

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