

Eagle Rock Lodge #19
AF&AM of Idaho
February 2006 Trestleboard

Masonry needs Masons more than it needs members. Were every member a Mason in all that the name signifies, were the education that Masonry gives thoroughly comprehended by men and established as the universal system of ethical instruction for human guidance and conduct and its form of government adopted and put into effect by nations and states everywhere, there would be such a forward step in all the uplifting, ennobling and altruistic things of life that the smoke and thunder and savage cruelty of war with the selfishness, bitterness and hatred that have so long nourished them, would disappear, never to return and the first gleaming rays of the millennium would ere long be flashed to every part of the earth, and "Peace on Earth, good will toward men" would be made a reality. Masonic Tidings, 1920.

The old question, how do you eat an elephant with its answer being one mouthful at a time kind of fits here. We can't change the whole world by ourselves, but we can do the best job we can in our own Lodge. More Brothers=More Help to accomplish our purpose.

The pins are ordered and Brother Gil Gross assures me that they should be here between 3 and 4 weeks after order date. We may well have them by 1st Stated. It is my intent to present one to visitors and on other suitable occasions. It is anticipated that the \$1.50 fee for each will help offset the freebies and make this a self supporting program. Brother Gil is getting some pocket name badge samples for us to choose from. It has been some time since we ordered shirts and hats; I am talking to Hang Ten for styles and prices and a new idea or two to present for your consideration. He can embroider about anything; maybe you Duffers need a Lodge golf towel.

We will put together the Bannack weekend, where we open the Lodge, Bannack 3-7-77, and host it for the visitors to Bannack, the Masons and Profane. It is fun to talk to Brothers who stop in and to answer questions by those not in Masonry, and even to try to correct some misinformation regarding the Fraternity. We will do the dutch oven supper again. We will go through the proper channels and hope that it will be possible to do a degree again. Preliminary "hints" to Most Worshipful Grand Master Anderson of Montana and our own Most Worshipful Grand Master, Jim Herndon would indicate a friendly consideration. It is our intent this year to make this a district event and not just a Lodge event, to include Grove City and St John's. The date hasn't been set, we hoped that we could choose one to allow MWGM Herndon to attend but looking at his June schedule I am concerned. As you will recall, any Master Mason can become a life member in Montana Historic Lodge #3-7-77 for \$37.77, or \$50 with a certificate suitable for framing and a nice pin. The money goes toward maintenance of the Lodge's structure.

http://www.grandlodgemontana.org/Masonry%20in%20Montana/masonry_in_montana.htm

Brother Don Taylor and I have petitions for Bannack 3-7-77

The Fellowcraft Club has suggested that it might be fun to try getting the officers of the Lodge to write a short "whence came ye" about themselves and put one in each month. I will take first, and we can look forward to Sr Warden Ceci next month followed by Jr Warden Perez the next month. The suggestion in Lodge for a piece from the West and from the South is a good thought and hopefully the Wardens will think of some good things to bring up. I would expect the Jr. Warden will have something to say about assistance in presenting the second stated dinners, it is more than a one man job.

I think I would like to see us have a Dutch Oven Dinner, Brothers Taylor, Farrow, Myself and ?, our last stated before going dark, what do you think?

The Jobies want to try the Secret Dads program again. It won't work if we don't support it by filling out a form and turning it in. It doesn't take much time and it would help the girls to see another side to the Masons. They will get a form together and furnish it to us. Speaking of which, the planned Box Social the Jobies were going to put on in February had to be put off due to work overload. They will hold their Box Social for us on March 15.

Second Stated in February will be a presentation by Scottish Rite and a meal provided.

We are considering an open house at the Lodge. First thought was just the Blue Lodge, but it might be that York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shriners, OES and Jobies could work it together and put on a combined informational. Maybe that a combined effort would show the multiple facets of Masonry and how Freemasonry is a family oriented thing and not just for the Men. Might create more interest for some.

February Biography:

Worshipful Master Kent McCandless -

I was born in a log cabin in Illinois.....Oh! That's already been used.

I was born on the banks of the Snake River in the LDS Hospital many years ago. Dad was a traveling man, only not in the Masonic sense, in the sense that there was always a new way to make money ahead or a bill collector behind. For that reason, Menan was home base but I lived in Ririe, Dillon and Warden, Washington for part of my school years. The Molen Family house has been in the family for right at 100 years now. I did/do have some Masons in the family, one of whom must have badly fooled the examining committee.

The fall after I got out of school, I went in the Navy and after Boot Camp at San Diego and a school at Treasure Island I went to Kami Seya Japan for the rest of my enlistment. The Navy was a good choice I recommend it. When I got out the world was not beating a path to my door and I took a temporary job with Bank of Idaho that lasted for 18 years. The best thing about that job was that I met some really good people and some good friendships. One other thing was that we needed a new Secretary, the Manager was on vacation, and I had to hire one. I did such a good job of searching and finding one that could take shorthand that I hired her May 30 and we got married August 6. Found we couldn't have family members work for the bank at the same time. They said bank officers were easier to replace than secretaries who took shorthand and they almost fired me. She left, I stayed. We were transferred back down to IF from Sandpoint to run the Country Club Office, They changed, I changed and it was no longer fun to work there and I left to go to work for the Sheriff's Office. Bank, poor choice, friends and wife, good choice.

Sheriff's Office, good choice. I was involved in Law Enforcement from 1974 till now, one way or the other. It was a most rewarding job. There were parts that were most unpleasant but I never regretted that choice. I retired? 12-31-99 and have worked part time every since, Census, Testing for the Nation's Report Card, Airport Policeman and currently School Resource Officer at Skyline High School half the time. Those jobs have all been good for me and fun. More good people and good experience.

We used to have coffee at Cedrics in the morning when we were working day shift. A certain old Curmudgeon also coffeeed up there. It wasn't long before I knew Don Cowell and he got me to ask the right question and I had a Letter to a Friend in my hand. I had the good sense to fill it out and turn it in. April of 1999 I took my first degree and my only regret is that I didn't pick up on it up in Sandpoint when a friend of mine was taking his degrees and I didn't petition then. Another of my good but late choices.

The thing I learned, that is most important, is enjoy your work. If you don't enjoy it, you may do acceptable work but it will never have the fire to make you proud of that job. Go where your heart is, you will be of more value to yourself and those who surround and depend on you, money really isn't everything.