



June Trestleboard Eagle Rock Lodge #19 AF&AM

From the East: Today was a rare day. It was the day to award the bicycles at Hawthorne Elementary School. I expected some polite thanks and some genuine appreciation. Today, I felt a great pride in our Great Fraternity. In the Fraternity itself and in Eagle Rock Lodge. Mrs. Seifert got up and gave some statistics. There was a reading test they had never passed.

Kindergartners were to get 60 to pass, 1st grade, 70, 2nd grade 80, 3rd grade 85. They passed these tests with 97, 93, 95 and 98 respectively. Over 2500 books were read. While we know that our assistance was a tool, and the Teachers are the ones who have been the driving force for the kids, we were given a tremendous amount of credit and thanks for our part in it. Mrs. Seifert had Br. Ceci say a few words and at the conclusion, she suggested that some of the boys might want to grow up and be Masons and help kids like us. It just don't get much better than that. The Masonic Light was bright and steady. I was so proud to be a Freemason belonging to Eagle Rock #19! What a great feeling!

Our day at Bush was also most satisfying. We didn't have the statistics to compare to Hawthorne, but the reports were glowing as to what the kids had done, again credit being given to the program. The teachers were about as enthused about the program as the kids. Mrs. Johnson commented to the kids that they were working towards having the program again next year and it was met with enthusiasm. Another winner day. 14 Brothers attended, including Richard Roblee. I think he said he flew over to attend the event? Well, maybe not quite but we did have an outstanding turnout. We done good!

An unexpected benefit from Bikes for Books arose today. Brother Neal DePue was being observant and saw an instance where the Shrine Hospital might be of assistance to correct an orthopedic problem. We are working with Mrs. Johnson to see if that might be a solution to an obvious problem that is getting worse quickly, according to Mrs. Johnson. What a deal? To get to help educate and repair children in the same project?

I get to claim two things as my contribution to Bikes for Books. # 1, that I was the one that presented the idea to the Lodge for their consideration. Whoa, Br Joe A was going to bring it up later in that meeting, he had received the information from another source. Maybe I'd better not claim that. Maybe we had best lay it off as a good idea whose time had come, fortunately. However, the 2nd one I will claim with pride. I was the one who selected Br Dave Ceci to run the program. The 1st Annual? Is like a kiss of death. So seldom do we hear of the 2nd Annual. The 1st Annual went off well, very satisfactorily. But compared to the 2nd, it was just a preview. We have what I believe to be a real winner in this program. What a great and appreciated benefit we have been able to share with these schools. As far as I can see, this program exceeds the hopes for it by as much as the reading test scores for Hawthorne exceeded last years. Br Dave, greatly assisted by his wife Vangie and his sister have performed over and above the call, pass your thanks and congratulations to them, they deserve them.

Channels 3, 6 and 8 were there, as was, The River City Weekly, you can't afford that kind of press.

I've about used all the room. Remember, two 1sts on the 20th of June. Bannack is June 2nd, please, if you are going to be there, let Brother Dave Nipper know, we need more help on the degree work. Potluck the 30th, with a special program by the Jobies, especially for us.

May was a very good month!

It appears that we have several petitions in the work. Enjoy the summer, but it may be that we may have to try a couple of degrees in the summer to keep out new Brothers enthusiasm up.