



September 2007, Trestleboard Eagle Rock Lodge #19 AF&AM

From the East: This Trestleboard is one that is a little hard to write. There has been so much happen, good and bad that it is impossible to cover it well in this short space.

I think that I will start with the sad part first. Last year having come close to losing my own wife, I am probably a little tender in that area and feel that I can more nearly appreciate the loss of a wife than I could before. We have had to say goodbye to the wives of two of our Lodge Brothers this summer. Brother Richard Cox lost Joyce only about 3 weeks before Brother Richard Kaiser lost Claudia. Both of theses Ladies were a pleasure to be around and obviously a great part of their husband's lives. Our grief is not only for the loss of these Ladies, but for the big hole in the lives of our Brothers. Even the apologies for the inability of words to comfort are trite. More eloquent people than I have tried and failed to find the magic words. Words become trite because we try but they are the best and closest we can come to the expression of our desire to comfort and console you. We are sorry for your Loss and share it with you.

Brother Harold Holm is in room 112 at the Recovery Center across from the Hospital. I talked to Doris the other day; she says he isn't doing too well. Brother Jack Hamilton is in a home across Sunnyside from the Hospital, I can't think of the name of it. He has good days and bad. MWB Mike Sutton answered his own phone the other day when I called. It sounds like it went well and while he isn't up to a hundred yard dash, he is on the mend. I called Brother Paul Alexander today; he is about the same, still getting better but tender and careful. Brother Gil Blum is at home. Brother Jack Buerkle is minimizing his household goods in preparation to moving to a place that is less demanding in its care and upkeep.

We had a good time up to Bannack this year, we did two 3rd degrees. MWB Dave Prewitt again gave the lecture for us. We had a good turnout and the fellowship is great. No mosquitoes then and it appears that they are doing Mosquito abatement up there were none in August when we went up for a few days.

We did a 2nd just after Lodge went dark and will receive a petition our first meeting, Brother Dave looks like he will start his term in high gear, there are several more petitions out that I expect to see as soon as we reopen.

We went back to the standard picnic; it seems that it is the consensus that this is the preferred summer meeting. We had a good turnout, the weather went around us instead of through the middle of us, and do we thank Chaplain Vince? Two of our new brothers brought their families and are fitting right in.

Brother Joe Alexander is in DC, I understand that there is a big Scottish Rite meeting over there. Sounds like he got some new title but rather than spill the beans we will hope he will be in the Lodge the 5th to tell us about it and show us his new HAT. I have heard that this is usually an honor that takes 4 or 5 years to get after you take the job. But I'd better quit or I will spoil the surprise. (Congratulations, Brother)

It appears that it was a good lick to get the other Members of the Masonic Family to take on the 5th Wednesday Potlucks on a rotation basis. The Jobies took the first and did a fantastic job, it was a fun evening. Now it is about to be Eastern Star's turn. They are going to have the Grand Lodge Officers attending Piped in with the bag pipes of the Idaho Falls Fire Department Pipes and Drums. If the rest of the evening is as fancy, they are going to be a hard act to follow, I am glad my term will end before the next 5th Wednesday.

We are about to open the Lodge again and we ended with a great head of steam up, we, for the 2nd year in a row, showed an increase in the number of Brothers in our Lodge. If we can maintain that momentum, we can surely make it 3. Success builds success, maybe we have come out of the doldrums of the loss of Brothers and we will continue to grow again. Brother Dave Nipper was standing by some people watching the Shrine Go Karts go by. They commented on how good it was to see so many younger people driving. I hope that that is indicative of an increase in the desire in the younger people to be involved in service and morality.