



April Trestleboard

Eagle Rock Lodge #19 AF&AM

From the East: Dave Ceci, Worshipful Master

Brethren, mark your calendars to attend the 2nd Stated Communications on Wednesday May 21. I will be introducing some proposed changes to our bylaws which will affect us all. These changes will concern our standing committees, the secretary's wages, and our annual dues. Your thoughts, desires, and opinions, pro and con, are welcomed. I will provide more information about these proposed bylaw revisions in the May Trestleboard. Please attend. Your voice needs to be heard.

From the South: Dave Nipper, Junior Warden

We had a busy March:

Bro. Don Taylor's presentation on a variety of Concordant and Appendant bodies was entertaining and enlightening. Masonic organizations and honors, many fairly obscure, such as the Red Branch of Eri, Ye Ancient Order of Corks, and the Royal Order of Scotland, were described in detail. Most are by invitation only, and there are often many prerequisites for joining. See Bro. Taylor if you have questions.

MWGM Cargill continues to do battle with his illness - keep him in your thoughts, please. Deputy GM Dick Kaiser is filling in when necessary - give him any support that is needed.

The officers in the Lodge line are showing good progress in proficiency, and a number of newer members are showing interest in learning more. A practice session for opening and closing ritual was held on the 17th, with attendance by some, but insufficient officers for credit in the "Lodge of Excellence" program. This will become a regular item in the future, as it is very helpful both for the inexperienced and the old-timers.

Past Master's: A First Degree was put on by the Past Master's of Eagle Rock on March 26th. In this departure from the traditional Third Degree, our team of "Old Pros" did their usual fine job. In the East was seated RWDGM Dick Kaiser, in the West was PGM Joe Alexander, and in the South we had Bruce Noller, PM of the old St. Anthony Lodge, who was visiting. Lee Jones tyled while Neil DePue led our candidate through the stations after Marshall (and PGM) Dix Hoffman and Stewards Dan Drefs and Kent McCandless performed their duties. Don Taylor sat as Secretary, Bill Echo as Treasurer, Vince Esparza as Chaplain, and Bob Mohney as Junior Deacon. Graeme Galbraith presented the Apron, Gary LaBruyere gave the Immortal words of the Lecture, and Joe Alexander read the Charge. A fine dinner was put on by our

"Chef de la Masons", Bro. Albert Brett. A good time was, in truth, had by all.

Coming Events:

This year's efforts to get things organized with active committees are paying off. Things are happening in every department. Some of the things coming up on the calendar:

Bikes for Books: Presentations are scheduled at Hawthorne and A. H. Bush Elementary schools in late May. Funding has been approved by the Lodge, but an appeal was made for pledges of funds to reduce the use of charity funds. A matching funds offer was added, so any donations up to \$500 will be matched by a donor. Make a pledge now and Bikes for Books gets double that amount!

We will be traveling to Bannack, Montana again this year, from 30 May to 1 June, with a degree work on the 31st. Some of you are saying "**Riiiiight! What's a Bannack?**" For those that haven't been there, here is a capsule of information:

Founded in 1862 as a gold mining camp, Bannack was named as the first Territorial Capital of Montana in 1864. Remaining in Bannack for only a short time, the Capital moved on to Virginia City. By the 1950's gold workings had dwindled and most folks had moved on. At that point the State of Montana declared Bannack a State Park. Today, over sixty structures remain standing, most of which can be explored.

The old Masonic Lodge Hall in Bannack, Montana stands as a memorial to all Masons past, present and future. It has been restored sufficiently to allow Communications and degree work to be held. Our Lodge has, in the past few years, been allowed dispensations to do work there, to the great enjoyment of all concerned!

A great deal more of history, both pioneer and Masonic, can be discovered at Bannack State Park. Best go and find it for yourself!

We will again be having an Open House, scheduled for May 10th. Come and support this by making the Lodge an inviting and busy scene. Bring a friend to see where we "hang out"!

Highway Cleanup – The St. Leon exit section on highway 20 has been adopted by the Lodge or the Masonic Family. Clean-up date(s) will be announced.

Observations:

The Baby Boomers say that now 60 is the new 40, and getting older is O.K. - but we are reversing the trend! The average age of members at the last few Communications has been getting younger and younger. The flow of new members is heartening, and bodes well for the future health of the Lodge.

If Anyone Asks:

What's in a name - Eagle Rock #19, A.F. & A. M. of Idaho

Eagle Rock	Our Fair City was not always named "Idaho Falls". When our Lodge was chartered, it was Eagle Rock - The rock is gone, but the eagles still hover overhead.
#19	Eighteen lodges were chartered before us.
A. (Ancient)	When Masonry was being "modernized", in 1700s England, a group objecting to this formed a new Grand Lodge called the "Ancients". While eventually all came together in the United Grand Lodge, we retain that name as a reminder of our desire to conserve the old ways.
F. & A. M. (Free and Accepted Masons)	Masons are builders in stone. Free Masons of old traveled freely from country to country as valued Guild craftsmen who built the castles and cathedrals we still admire today. Accepted Masons were respected citizens of high moral and intellectual character permitted to join the Guild for philosophical purposes. Eventually these "Speculative Masons" formed lodges with no working "Operative Masons" and from these our current Craft has descended.
of Idaho	We are chartered by the Grand Lodge of Idaho. There is no National Grand Lodge, and all lodges in the United States are chartered by State Grand Lodges.

A Masonic Lesson:

Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice - are part of Masonry. To these we add Tolerance: When we speak ill of any group, be it a nationality, religion, political party, or stereotype, we are speaking about each member of that group. We may not like their behavior, or agree with their beliefs, or even want to understand them. But we should remember that they are, each of them, human beings, part of that "All Mankind" that enCOMPASSES us. We do not need to offer support to those with whom we disagree, but we should understand that, for our part, hatred is a PASSION that should have no place in our CIRCLE.

- If they do us violence we resist.
- If they compete with us, we excel.
- If they differ from us, we co-exist.
- If we have things in common, we communicate.
- If we communicate, it is a beginning.

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