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# THE TRESTLE-BOARD

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BOYLESTON LODGE #123 A.F.M.

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## TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD

### JUNE MEETING FULL OF LIVELY DISCUSSION ON REPAIRS

Well, brothers, we had one of the most interesting business meetings in a while. As you read this, don't underestimate the importance of what we talked about because it very much concerns YOU. So make plans in advance to be at the next several business meetings. Also, as a reminder next month's meeting is also an official visit from our Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina, M.W.B. Barry A. Rickman. So mark your calendars for Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>!

There were 42 brothers who attended the June business meeting, with two visitors and 8 past masters amongst the brethren. Our sisters from the Eastern Star chapter cooked a fine meal with an Italian theme and to tell you how good it was, most of the craft returned for seconds! Thanks, ladies! After the reading of the minutes, we once again balloted on advancement and affiliation – tonight there were 8 ballots cast. W.B. Gene Swygert preceded the balloting by mentioning how it was done at a lodge recently visited by a number of Boyleston brothers. Their lodge rapped down the craft and called up to vote, in order: the officers for the meeting, the Past Masters, the north, the west, and finally the south. After the voting was concluded, the brethren were asked for feedback and it was overwhelmingly in favor of the new format. C'mon out to lodge and see for yourself!

As unfinished business took center stage, our major discussion point involved repairs to the current building. During May's business meeting, the Building and Grounds committee was tasked with estimating the cost of repairs to the cook house, the bar-b-que pit, and the cooler. In addition, painting (or paneling) and other repairs to the dining hall were mentioned. The cost of a vertical lift or chair lift was also brought back into the picture while these discussions were going on. All of these items were reported on during this month's meeting. The committee needed to know which project took priority in order to begin repairs due to the costs involved. Some of the figures tossed about included the following pricing estimates: \$10K for materials alone for the paneling, pit roof, and cooler floor/walls; \$20K for materials needed to bring the current kitchen up to code, as work done on the

inside would bring an inspection; at a minimum, \$50K was the estimated price tag. This only encompasses patch-up repairs to our already aging lodge building.

Given these staggering figures which applied to simply 'patching up' the existing structure, and for the purpose of comparing costs, Bro. Trey Meetze and Bro. Ronnie Faircloth came up with a design for a new building (50' x 100') which would fit on the existing lot. To place the building on our current property, the cook house would need to be torn down. Not including plumbing, electrical work, and without placing asphalt on the parking lot – but including concrete, foundation pad, flooring, building with roof, and two coats of paint overall, the initial figure presented was around \$445K. This does not include the cost of removal of the current structure. Costs could be reduced from approximately \$113/sq. ft. to \$85/sq. ft. if we did much of the electrical, plumbing, and other finishing touches ourselves. Bro. Ronnie also mentioned that he knows a grill-making company who could build us a permanent charcoal grilling facility to replace the current method of putting our racks on the existing BBQ pit. Bro. Gene added that the cost of the adjacent property which is currently for sale was \$400K and would allow us additional room for parking and/or other side buildings.

A number of brothers were recognized and spoke of the merits of staying at our current location vs. moving somewhere else in the Dutch Fork area. Using the existing Richland Building was also debated. It is important to note that a previous committee a few years back already looked into purchasing land in the area and the price of the land was expensive enough to make it difficult to make such a move. In addition, the identity of our lodge might be placed in jeopardy in a manner similar to what happened when Richland Lodge moved from downtown Columbia to rural Richland County. The consensus was clear: the property as it now sits epitomizes Boyleston Lodge #123. In order to move forward with some type of concrete plan, acting W.M. Meetze formed a steering committee in charge of coming up with the vision for the future home of Boyleston Lodge. This committee will meet at the lodge on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Anyone wishing to attend and participate in the process is encouraged to be there.

In new business, Bro. Junior Warden set the date for the next BBQ – August 8 – the first Saturday after the August business meeting. Bro. Ken will once again need all the

<b>MASTER</b>	<b>SENIOR WARDEN</b>	<b>JUNIOR WARDEN</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>LODGE PHONE</b>
Ken Peterson 749.3052	John Meetze 513.2102	Ken Burgess 917.7276	Todd Bedenbaugh 345.0623	John Daraban 732-4227	<b>NUMBER</b> 732.3408
<b>SENIOR DEACON</b>	<b>JUNIOR DEACON</b>	<b>STEWARD</b>	<b>STEWARD</b>	<b>TILER</b>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b>
Wil Hutchins 781-2456	Steve Spreeuwers 730.9545	Hal Boland 518-1796	Jamie Faircloth 600-0429	Jim Dry 781-9569	Ronnie Faircloth 345.2297

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help he can get so make plans to mark that date. W.B. David Easley gave a report on the monthly newsletter and the amount of time it takes to edit, print, label, seal and take the completed newsletter to the Post Office. He received a new quote from our printer, Pine Press Printing in Lexington. This quote was for Pine Press to print the addresses on the newsletter while it is being prepared, and included placing a seal on the open side of the folded bulletin. Last month the USPS rejected the newsletter for not being sealed. This was a newly enforced rule, and at least three other vendors bringing products to be mailed had theirs rejected while Bro. David was there himself. The cost would go up from \$125 per month to just over \$175 before tax. The Lodge voted to approve the process. We are going to try to get the newsletter out earlier in the month as a result. Bro. Hal Curtis moved that we raise the requested donation amount for supper from \$3 to \$5. Just about everyone remarked that we ate better than most lodges, and charged less. While it was noted that the fundraisers are designed to defray any under-runs in Bro. J.W.'s meal fund, \$5 was deemed to be a very fair price. It was also mentioned that we never force anyone to pay a meal fee and if a brother can't pay we still feed him!

A couple dates of interest were mentioned at lodge this month. First of all, there will be a work day at the Richland Building at 2101 Kennerly Rd. on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 A.M. to spruce up the property – the weeds are starting to grow tall and it is quite unsightly. The annual GA/SC meeting of masons will be held Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Brothers wishing to go will meet at Boyleston and leave by 4:00 PM that afternoon to travel to Augusta. Acacia Lodge is having a Table Lodge at 8:00 AM on the following Saturday morning – June 20<sup>th</sup>. There is an article in our Masonic Education section about the concept. Please make plans to be a part of this unique experience. Finally, Pacific Lodge is hosting their BBQ fundraiser the following Saturday on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Please consider riding down to Olympia that day and support them as they have supported us – they always have a tasty meal.

## HEALTH AND HAPPINESS



Prayers are requested for the following: Bro. Dutch VanBeek; W.B. Bobby Lockaby; W.B. and Mrs. Buster Platt; Judy Dry, wife of Bro. Jim Dry – Judy's situation has unfortunately been discovered to be a bit worse than originally thought. Her surgery was found not to have gotten it all and they are going to go back in and take care of it. They are still very optimistic but keep them in your thoughts and prayers; Bro. Hollis Petersen; W.B. Gene Swygert; W.B. Lindsey Koon – they found his wife's problems were from low iron levels and she is coming along nicely now! W.B. Gene Hutto and wife Amelia who are travelling; Bro. Bob Martin; Bro. Richard 'Smitty' Koontz and his wife; Bro. Antony Poosinger from Mariner

Lodge #2; Bro. O'Neill Bickley who recently had gallstones removed and is recovering at home; Bro. Piney Bickley and his sister Ann Summers; Willene Stone, a friend of W.B. Gene Swygert who had back surgery;

Sister Nelva Linder, who is recovering from open heart surgery; Rush Houghton, who is 99 and has worked with the Boy Scouts for 78 years; Mrs. Eula Lowman who has eye troubles; W.B. Pappy Wren; Bro Bryce Wren; Bro. Bob Martin; Bro. Pookie Turner's father; W.B. Rufus Shealy; Bro. Bryce Wren's son Jimmy; Bro. Piney Bickley's mother-in-law Dorothey Harrellson; W.B. Sellers' wife Becky; Bro. Ron Kuhn; Robbie Robinson; Bro. Lewis East; Bro. Billy Sox; Bro. Hayward Caulder and his wife Gloria; David Raymond, a friend and neighbor of Bro. Hal Curtis – he has Mersa after having foot surgery;

Bro. Ronnie Faircloth asks for prayers for the family of his friend Steve who passed suddenly last week after an infection got the best of him; Bro. Wil Hutchins' cousin Julie Rout and her infant child; Bro. Wil's aunt Linda Olsten; Bro. Gene Sweat; Bro. Bobby Pittman – glad you could come to lodge last week! Bro. Jim Hamel from Fort Jackson Lodge; Don Browning; Bro. Albert Stoudemeyer's mother; Harold Wessinger, who is battling leukemia but treatments appear to be helping; W.B. Ray Boland who is recovering from a bladder infection – good to see you at lodge, Brother Ray!

## MASONIC EDUCATION

### The Table Lodge – A History

From time immemorial, Freemasons have enjoyed meeting about a "Festive Board" loaded with the fruits of their labor. Special emphasis was placed on the Summer and Winter Solstice, late in June and December, which were, and are, St. John the Baptist (June 24<sup>th</sup>) and St. John the Evangelist (December 27<sup>th</sup>). The twentieth century has found Masonry ignoring, and often ignorant of, both the "Festive Board" and the Festivals. Is this as it should be? The answer may be partially revealed in the following recount of the history of the Table Lodge.

Man has been continually seeking some noble purpose to pursue even centuries ago, when life was perhaps more perilous and severe, feasting became a major diversion, as much for social desires as to satisfy the needs of the inner-man.

The feasts which are probably the oldest of all Fraternal repasts were those of the "Mysteries" of ancient Egypt, the so-called "Sons of Light." The oldest of Masonic origin, of which we have any reliable record, were the feasts upon being "Entered" and "Passed" to a Fellow of the Craft. These go back far beyond the records of organized Masonry.

The Masonic desirability of a social dinner is as old as the Freemasonry we know. In 1717, when the mother

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Grand Lodge was formed to revitalize the Lodges in and around London, one of the reasons given was to revive the Quarterly Communication and to hold the Annual Feast. Many historians claim this annual banquet was the most important move made by the new body. A short time later, the Grand Master directed there be installed the old, regular and peculiar toasts and health's of Freemasons.

Lawrence Dermott, the author of the first "Ahiman Rezon" (*Constitutions of Masonry*), remarked about the Table Lodge: *"It was expedient to abolish the old custom of studying Geometry in the Lodge, and some younger Brethren made it appear that a good knife and fork, in the hands of a dexterous Brother, over proper Materials (food), would give great satisfaction and add more to the conviviality of the Lodge than the best Scale and Compasses in Europe."*

From the idea of the feast, and the desire to promote a greater degree of fellowship and kinship in Masonry, was born the Table Lodge. Both the affection of friends and the love for the Fraternity flourished within its walls. Its Communications were more like a reunion than a Regular Lodge meeting, and it became a center of relaxation, celebration and inspiration of Freemasonry.

The Table Lodge had a most unusual pattern. Its meeting was conducted around the table, and the helpings of food and beverage were served in such a way they did not interfere with the other concerns of the Lodge. There were many toasts and the lusty voices of the Masons rang out with Masonic songs. The Table Lodge was traditionally a tiled Entered Apprentice Lodge, followed by the peculiar ritual used only in a Table Lodge, so all Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts could participate in the fellowship of the Lodge. As all business is usually conducted in the Master Mason Degree, then called to refreshment, at which time all Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts could be admitted and the Table Lodge opened, using the suggested ceremony provided by the Committee on Work.

In our colonial days, the Table Lodge was Freemasonry's greatest asset. It buoyed up the spirit of the colonists who were members of the Craft when they were at their lowest ebb. While the repast was undoubtedly limited and meager, the fervor and zeal were there. Once the Table Lodge was opened, the objects in the room took on a military flavor. Everything that was used changed its name:

Table... Trestle-board; Table-cloth... Standard; Napkins...  
Flags; Plates... Tiles; Dishes... Platforms; Spoons... Trowels;  
Knives... Swords; Forks... Mattocks; Bottles... Barrels;  
Glasses... Cannons; To "Charge"... Fill-up; Lights... Stars;  
Chairs... Stalls; Food... Materials; Bread... Rough Ashlar;  
Red Drink... Strong Powder; Water... Weak Powder; Salt...  
Sand; Pepper... Dust; Mustard... Paint; To Eat... Masticate;  
To Drink... "Fire" or Discharge Cannon;

That the Table Lodge was an enjoyable experience, no one who has read the skimpy records can doubt. Dr. George Oliver, an early Masonic historian, wrote of the Table Lodge in his memoirs: *"Their song appears to have more zest than in private company, the toast thrilled more vividly upon recollection, and the small medium of punch with which it was honored, retained a higher flavor than the potation if produced at a private board."*

Although alcoholic beverages did contribute to the festivities of the Table Lodge in days long gone, they were not a necessary adjunct. Wine was the libation, but that was changed when the 18th Amendment was adopted, so Masons would not violate the law. Although prohibition was subsequently repealed, Freemasonry did not follow suit. It retained a substitution, mainly out of respect for Brethren who practiced abstinence. Today, fruit juices and punches are used for the toasts. Actually, it is not what the glass contains, but the concept it offers.

The Table Lodge is a heritage of our past, which deserves consideration of revival. It has been stated that "The Table Lodge is the summary of Masonic Doctrine." It prescribed reverence for Divinity and the Moral Law. It strengthened the devotion that Masons held for the Lodge and Country. It increased the unity and fellowship of the Craft.

*Note: This was researched from a number of sources available on the Internet. More Masonic education next issue!*

## SETTING THE WORK

E.A. Degree .....June 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
(practice on 10<sup>th</sup> at 7) ..... supper at 6:45 p.m.

F.C. Degree .....June 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
(practice on 17<sup>th</sup> at 7) ..... supper at 6:45 p.m.

M.M. Degree .....June 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
(practice on 24<sup>th</sup> at 7) ..... supper at 6:45 p.m.

There's a good chance for three degrees to take place during the month of July. Dates will be posted once the Master sets work at the business meeting on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

July Business Mtg..... July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
supper at 6:45 p.m.

Note: Grand Master to be in attendance, so make plans to be a part of this visit!

August Business Mtg. ....August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
supper at 6:45 p.m.

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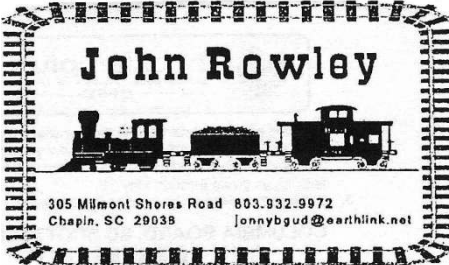
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