



THE TRESTLEBOARD



Volume 4, Issue 10

Davy Crockett Lodge #1225 A.F. & A.M.

May 2012

****From The East****

By Patrick Giles Worshipful Master

Greetings Brethren!

We sure did have a busy April! We had our dinner honoring our Past Masters and if you missed that you missed out big. Our stewards out did themselves on this one. I requested a prime rib...which they did...excellently as were the trimmings which were out of this world. Who would have ever thought of "scalloped onions"!? I overheard one brother say "that was the best meal he'd ever had in our lodge", and other glowing comments about the fine job by our stewards. We had an excellent program by Bro. Olaf about our widows. On that note, you may recall at the beginning of my year I made it a goal to get the widows program started. We have managed to help one out, however without the knowledge of who needs help we can't do what needs to be done. I am urging all members to contact us if you know of any of our widows who need help. You can contact me by cell (210) 823-8272 or email:

patrickgiles1@gmail.com. Please, let's fulfill our obligation as Masons. Also let any of our widows know they are always welcome to our events and family nights, especially our upcoming Mother's Day program on May 8th.

On another note: I have set every off Tuesday and every Wednesday (except the 4th Wed.) to be practice nights. Due to the success of our "Bring a Friend" nights we are getting more degree work and subsequently need to practice. We have 3 degrees for sure in May, so if you want to participate in the degree come to practice, we'll be happy to have you there. Speaking of "Bring a Friend" night, this one was as promised better than the first. I'm not sure of the count, but there were at least 40 brethren and guest in attendance! Much knowledge and fellowship was had by all.

Great job to all who presented!

Hope to see you in lodge in May and don't forget the Mother's Day program on the 8th and the Pancake Breakfast/Brisket sale on May 26th and remember to pre-order your brisket(s) to be sure you get one!

Fraternally

-Patrick

Upon the Secretary's Desk!

By Chris Williams

My Brothers, At the risk of repeating some of what our WM said I want to tell all of you who weren't at our "Bring a Friend to Lodge" night that I have never been more proud to be a member of Davy Crockett nor ever more proud of my Lodge. The Lodge, all the Brethren, the presenters, the meal, everything was done professionally and the impression that was made on the non-Masons was lasting. The comments that I received from Brothers and guests alike were that all were very impressed. Thanks to all of you for a very successful program. Brothers, If you were ever thinking you would like to get back to the Lodge and be a regular attendee. If you have thought about attending some degrees and maybe become an active and productive Lodge member then now is the time. We are in need of mentors and instructors for new candidates. Our District instructor is a member of our Lodge. Like I said....if you've thought about it.....now is the time.

This Month's Humor

A husband, proving to his wife that women talk more than men, showed her a study in that morning's newspaper which indicated that men use on the average only 15,000 words a day, whereas women use 30,000 words a day. She thought about this for a while and then told her husband that the reason women use twice as many words as men is because they have to repeat everything they say. He looked up from his paper and said, "What?"

[Davy Crockett Lodge # 1225 A.F. & A.M](#)

Stated Meetings— 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, Meal at 6:30;

Open Lodge at 7:30 for Business Meeting Masonic Philosophy and History during meeting.

Ritual Practice and Instruction 2nd&4th Tuesdays.

Lodge of Instruction 4th Wed. 6:30 to 8PM

Light Reflected

A monthly “opinion” by
Brother Bradley Kohanke, 32

On April 24th, we had our second “Bring a Friend to Lodge” night. I had the privilege of trying to explain Masonic Philosophy. The following is what I had written as a guideline...but within 30 seconds I completely disregarded my written script and went in a different direction. Still, the ideas are similar...so for those of you who weren't there I submit this for your reflection. What is the philosophy of Freemasonry? Is it a religion? No. But it is spiritual in nature, for through its teachings, people are able to increase their chosen faith and put into practice all the divinely inspired principles that all religions agree to be good. Is it a charity? No. But through its teachings, people are taught to be more charitable in their dealing with their fellow man. Is it a social club? No. But through regular exposure to other Masons, you develop bonds of friendship and brotherhood that go beyond that of what we would consider to be mere friendship. In doing so, you begin to associate more with other Masons and their families.

Is it a clandestine secret society bent on taking over the world and establishing itself as a one-world government? As soon as we decide when our next pancake breakfast is gonna be, we might get around to that.

So what is it? The philosophy of Freemasonry is difficult to explain, as philosophy by its nature is required to be analyzed, debated, and refined over time. So it depends on who you ask. Since I have the privilege of addressing this topic tonight, you will get my opinion of what the philosophy of Freemasonry is.

To me, one might look no further than the Declaration of Independence. “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Freemasonry played a huge role in establishing our form of government...and this should come as no surprise since so many of our Founding Fathers were Freemasons.

So...what are we doing. What is this all about? Like the movie indicated, America and Freemasonry have become an idea...a proving ground. This is the one place where men of all faiths, creeds, colors, races, ages, etc. can come together and live in peace. Freemasonry requires that a man believe in Diety, something higher than just himself. It requires that a man believe in the fair and equitable treatment of his fellow man...”Do unto others...” It requires that a man believe in the immortality of the soul. Finally, it requires that a man good of good moral character. After that, all discussion of religion and politics cease in the Lodge. This is a place where we focus on the things we have in common, not our differences. Our chief mission is to take good men and make them better, we cannot take bad men and make them good. How do we do this? Through a system of teaching that involves questions and answers, symbols, rituals, parables, plays, and through mere exposure to those more senior and learned Brethren. Now, a lot of our symbolism and ritual is secret...but before I get around to explaining that, let me tell you about one of our secret symbols. Take a look at these stones. One is rough, but could be used for building purposes if necessary. The other is smooth and would fit quite well for the builder's use. So, one of our symbols is the gavel. Just as operative masons used it to chip away the excess stone, it symbolizes to us the constant work of chipping away the vices and superfluties of our life. Why would be interested in doing that? Well...we believe that actions speak louder than words. It is one thing to profess your faith, whatever that faith may be. It is quite another to put it into practice in your daily life. This is the philosophy of Freemasonry...teaching you to practice those good tenets common to all religions. Even the Bible says in James 2:18 – “But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”

So, through our system of teaching, men are taught to be better citizens, better friends, better husbands, better fathers, better bosses, better employees...etc. Our principle tenets are truth, justice, fairness, equality, virtue, honor, integrity, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of religion. So, why so much secrecy? Here's what I think. Honestly, today...right now...here in the United States of America, there is no need for us to have secret symbols, rituals, handshakes, or modes of recognition. But it all depends on where you are geographically and when you are historically. Freemasonry is designed to keep the light of truth lit through the darkest of times. Imagine yourself in Nazi Germany. Hitler, as with all evil dictators used hatred and ignorance to subjugate a people. Freemasonry stands against that. And that is why he sent 200,000 Freemasons to the death camps. What if you lived in the old Soviet Union or China 40 years ago. Belief in diety was against the law and Freemasonry was outlawed. The same thing is happening in the middle east now. Freemasonry has been labeled as evil by the Islamic College on Sharia Law because it accepts into its ranks people of all faiths. What if you lived in Spain during the inquisition and were seen associating with a Jewish person or Moor? The tortures you would have been made to endure are unspeakable. So...we keep the rituals, symbols, modes of recognition secret so that just in case times get dark...the light of truth can be passed from generation to generation and good can eventually once again conquer evil.

So...that's my take on Masonic philosophy.

Upcoming Davy Crockett Light Brigade Programs

The Light Brigade is a Davy Crockett Committee charged With the duty to present a program of Masonic Education or Masonic History at all Davy Crockett Stated Meetings.

Tuesday May 1st – Our Junior Warden Brother Brad Kohanke will present a program called “Why did Sam Houston spare Santa Ana: Did he give the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress?” A description of events written by a descendant of Sam Houston, with information straight from Houston's personal journal.

Tuesday May 15th – Senior Warden Brother Wes O’Neill will present **Masonry in the Movies II** - join us for a night at the movies in the lodge and see how Masonry is portrayed on the silver screen. See the good, the bad and the un-Masonic from movies of yesterday, today and a preview of some to come! We'll have popcorn, movie clips and some trivia...we'll see you at the movies...uh ur Lodge!

Tuesday June 5th — JW Brother Brad Kohanke will present a program on **Masonic Philosophy**. The Title is a surprise but you won’t want to miss this one.

Tuesday June 19th – PM & Secretary Chris Williams will talk about the ins and outs, and the rights and wrongs, and the goods and the bads of elections and holding office in the Lodge.

May Birthdays

Patrick Giles	Garry Tidwell	Ernest Skipper	Jerry Waggoner	Victor Gutierrez	Anthony Garrison
David Essenpreis	T. Jeff Coffey	Roy Smith	Paul Rowles	Wes O’Neill	Reemberto Gonzalez
Terry Westrum	James Markwell	Michael Paxton	James Schoultz	Vasser Jones	
Charlse Crain III	George Cermin	Bennie Bowers	Bruce Kuemmel		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS

Masonic Did You Know?

By W. Bro. Dwight Seals

Today's DUK is jumping off the military DUK's for this recent breaking news worthy item. I copied and pasted this from the Grand Lodge of Kansas website and Wikipedia. Being a huge Nascar fan, I think this is great. I'm sure we will hear more about this as it happens. I understand he'll be "going through the old fashioned way." By the way, he should be able to get Masonic Brothers Sam Hornish, Jr., David Ragan and Brian Conz who are also on the NASCAR circuit, to help him with his proficiencies.

Did U Know?

Clint Bowyer was born May 30, 1979 in Emporia, Kansas. He is a NASCAR driver.

From the Grand Lodge of Kansas website: Grand Lodge officers and area Masons traveled to Emporia to dedicate the Bowyer Community Building -- a multi-purpose meeting facility donated by NASCAR's Clint Bowyer to the people of Lyon County.

A native of Emporia, Kansas, Bowyer drives the #15 5 Hour Energy Toyota Camry in the Sprint Cup Series for Michael Waltrip Racing. Early in his career, he drove for Richard Childress Racing. He won the 2008 Nationwide Series championship.

The building, which was completed in early March was made possible by a donation of \$1 million by Bowyer in July 2010 and will be available for many uses including children's and community events.

Grand Master Tracy L. Bloom presided over the ceremony, and was joined by Past Grand Masters Jimmi L. Grassi and Roy T. Sullivan, Deputy Grand Master Don Newman, and a host of Masons from across the state. On hand to watch the ceremony was a crowd of 250 spectators, community leaders and the media.

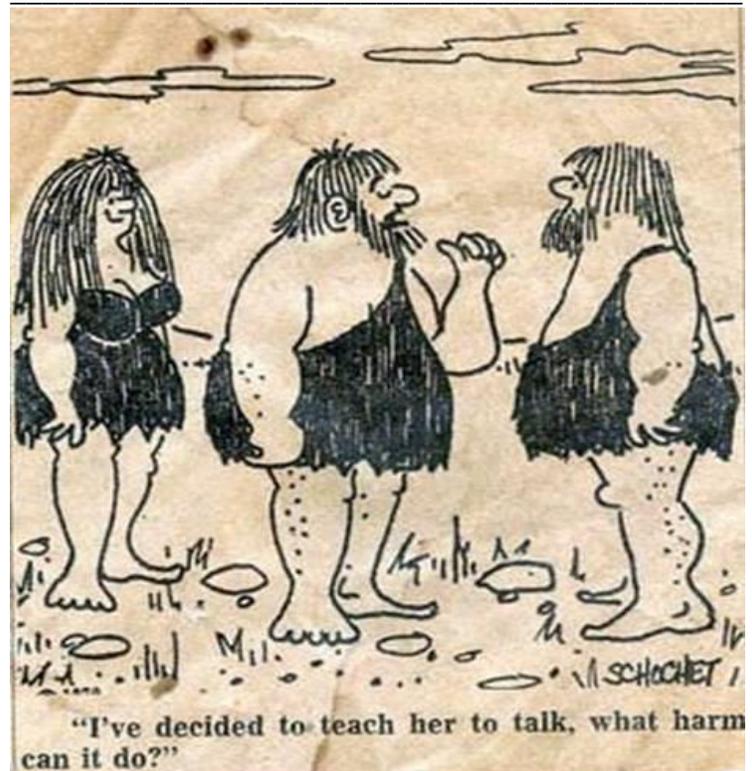
Additionally, Mark Snider, the Master of Emporia Lodge announced that Bowyer has petitioned for membership in Emporia Lodge No. 1.

Symbolism Corner

(Why are Masonic Lodges referred to as "Blue Lodges"?)

After the question was asked at our "Bring a Friend" night and was weakly answered by yours truly, my Brother Steve Cole assisted by his truly better half Phyliss researched and sent this to me. Thanks guys.

According to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, there may be a number of reasons why symbolic lodges are called Blue Lodges. Since ancient times, the color blue has been associated with immortality, eternity, and fidelity. References to the color blue in the Bible emphasize the special place blue has as a color symbolizing goodness and immortality. The Druids also honored the color while the ancient Egyptians used the color to represent Amun, one of their most important gods. The ancient Babylonians associated the color blue with the gods. In Medieval times, Christians saw blue as the symbol of perfection and hope, and well as of immortality and fidelity. According to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, it is not known when blue first came to be associated with Freemasonry, although some historians think that initially the color was used in Craft Masonry to represent the sky. Today, blue for Masons symbolizes brotherhood and symbolizes the fact that Masons should seek out virtues as extensive as the blue dome of heaven.



The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon

A Monthly Masonic Educational Column

By

PM Chris Williams

Well it almost happened again. You know how in Vegas if you win big or they catch you counting cards or cheating they won't let you come back to that casino? They ban you from coming there. That's what almost happened to me. No I didn't get caught cheating at cards and I haven't won big at anything and it's not in Vegas either it's right here in town. I thought over the last few months that John was mellowing out a bit, but of course I was wrong. My Brother, A- La- Humongous, Big John Deacon almost managed to get meand himself of course.....banned from all of the Jim's Restaurants. That would have been really sad because they have the best Chicken Fried Steak and Eggs plate in town and when you slap some of their awesome hash brown potatoes on the side you've got a breakfast that is almost heavenly. You can probably tell that I go there a lot..... or I should say, used to go there a lot. John had called and said he couldn't stop by this month but would be passing through town early in the morning on his way to a sales meeting. So I agreed to meet him for breakfast and of course suggested one of my favorites. He was just walking in the front door as I pulled up and parked. Since it was just 6 AM there weren't very many diners there yet but I knew it would fill up fast in the next hour. He had already found a spot at one of the several stools at the bar by the time I got inside and was perusing the menu with a smile on his face. "Brother Chris," he said as I slid onto a stool next to him. "You know that breakfast IS the most important meal of the day. And you know that I am still a growing boy and it's important that I start off the day with a proper nutritious breakfast." "Yup," I replied. "I do know you are a growing boy... it's where you are growing is the concern." He gave me the evil eye over the top of his menu and said, "If I don't get my three square meals a day and at least two snacks I get real grouchy." "Ok ok I hear you," I said as I waved the waitress over. Her name was Shirley and she had red hair, bright red lipstick and a great smile. John looked up over his menu and asked, "Darlin, how good is that cook of yours in making a big plate of Huevos Rancheros?" "Well, sugar," she replied, "No one has complained yet." "Well then, Darlin," he lobbed back, "Better tell him to rustle me up a double order." "Ok sugar," she purred with her cute Texas accent, "Coming right up." And with that she turned toward the kitchen. I cleared my throat loudly and she turned back with a quizzical look on her face. I said, "I hate to break in on the darlin, sugar thing y'all . got going on but can I order too?" "Oh my gosh," she said embarrassed. .Next Panel

"What can I get you." (notice I didn't get a darlin' or a sugar or anything) I ordered my usual Chicken Fried Steak and Eggs and sat back to soak in any wisdom that John might have to give out. The only thing he really had to say was that it took him almost four days to heal up from the Four Horseman burger he had when we met last month but he was glad he had eaten it anyway. We could see the cook working on our orders through the opening between the back counter and the kitchen and pretty soon he sat John's plate which was more of a platter up on the counter followed closely by mine and shouted out to Shirley who grabbed them both and did a 180 and set them in front of us. John dug right in and in no time flat he had half of the plate gone. The cook had been watching and called out to John, "Hey Buddy, how're those Huevos Rancheros?" "They are pretty darn good Pardner," he called back, "But I think mine that I make at home are better." Well that's when it started. The cook challenged John to come back in the kitchen and prove that his were better and danged if John didn't (over my objections) get up and head into the kitchen. I just knew this wasn't going to end well as I saw the cook whose name was Tony hand John an apron. I could hear them talking back and forth as he showed John where everything was as I munched on my steak and eggs. I didn't have a real good feeling about this. It couldn't have been more than 10 minutes Tony and John emerged from the kitchen with two big platters of food. They took away my plate which irritated me because I wasn't done yet and sat the two platters in front of me and demanded that I try both and tell them which was better. I just shrugged and tasted the one that Tony had made and it was very good. The Ranchero sauce was tangy and went perfect with the bell peppers and onions in the eggs. Tony crossed his arms and smiled at John after hearing what I had to say. I then looked at what John had made and I have to say it looked awesome. He had made the scrambled eggs with a little more bell peppers and onions than Tony's and then he had sprinkled a little shredded sharp cheddar cheese on top and heaped two big spoonfuls of fresh pico de gallo on top. I tasted it and while I was chewing my mind was racing trying to figure out what to say to not hurt Tony's feelings too much cause John's "Pico Eggs" were fantastic. They were staring at me pretty hard and I knew I had to be careful. I took another bite which didn't set well with Tony.

.....Go to page 6...

I really liked John's eggs better but to keep the peace I cautiously said, "I can't really tell which one is the best they are both really good." Well instead of making things better they got a whole lot worse real quick. John and Tony looked at me and then at each other and started arguing about why theirs was better and started waving other customers up to the counter to try the two platters. I literally got pushed out of the way but I managed to reach and grab my original plate before retreating to a nearby table to watch the show. So much for keeping the peace. Several diners came up to the counter at the beckoning of John and Tony and real quick the two platters of food were gone and they both told everyone to hold fast and disappeared back to the kitchen to make more of their dishes. Soon they were back and the waiting (and hungry) diners dug right in to the new plates. Both John and Tony had outdone themselves. The food was great and a consensus as to which was better never came about. Everyone agreed that it was all good. And everyone was happy and with all of their appetites satisfied they started leaving one by one. I began to think that I was worrying for nothing until it hit me just about the time the manager who had apparently gone to run an errand came in the door and saw all the diners leaving without paying for anything. The look on his face was not pretty at all. It was a cross between shock, surprise and anger as he looked from face to face to face as people happily walked through the doors to their cars. . His gaze then slowly swung around to the two big guys in aprons.....one employed by the restaurantand one not, standing behind the counter trying to look invisible as they realized that in their zealous pursuit of who could cook the best breakfast that they had fed everyone in the restaurantfor free. They had the guilty look of a dog as he realizes you are supremely mad at him because you came home from work and discovered that he has destroyed the trash and everything not tied down while you were gone. Everyone.....the manager, John, Tony, Shirley, and yup even me just stayed real still looking around from person to person like in the movie High Noon just before all the shooting started. The manager's gaze finally settled on me and I quickly took out my wallet and showed him and pointed to my plate. He said nothing and turned back to John and Tony who looked really small considering how big they were. The manager walked up to John and asked him to please sit with me while he talked to Tony. As they disappeared into the kitchen I saw that customers had been filing in and things had returned pretty much to normal. I looked over at John and he was real quiet. "I don't know what you are laughing at. I am in real trouble here." I looked at him in disbelief andnext panel

trying hard not to laugh said, "Brother John, you don't work here. He can't fire you." "Yeah," he shot back. "But he is really mad." "Yup he sure is," I said. "but the guy you need to be worried about is Tony. He might get fired." Well that bothered him and I could see that he was worried about Tony so to get his mind off of the situation I asked him to give me something I could pass along to all the Brethren reading the newsletter. He tried to make me promise not to say anything about this fiasco....but like my nieces both tell me all the time....yeah right. He kept glancing towards the kitchen and then back at me and I told him to concentrate. In a few seconds his expression changed as he focused and then shaking his head slowly said, "Brother Chris I am always getting distressed over things that I see that just don't seem right. "I see Brothers who finish their time in the East in their Lodge or who have served on a Grand Lodge Committee, or have served as an officer or even the presiding officer of another Masonic organization, I see them somehow come to the conclusion that they have done their time and they just lay down their tools and stop working. They stop teaching and they stop learning and they stop growing and pretty soon they stop caring. I just can't hardly understand it. When I see this I wonder to myself if Masonry has failed them, but then I quickly realize that Masonry cannot fail anyone. It is pure truth and goodness and it never stops giving. It never stops teaching or revealing. Like a familiar old blanket, it is always warm and comforting. How can they just stop?" "I don't know John," I said. "Maybe they just get tired." He looked at me thoughtfully for a few seconds and slowly nodded and said, "I think you are right Brother Chris but maybe not in the way you are thinking. When you get tired or worn out you just rest and begin your work again. I think these Brothers get tired in another way. These Masons who have learned and studied and worked hard teaching new Masons and have put in the time and effort to be true students of the craft are finding that beyond the mandatory requirements of learning, there is little interest, by a disturbingly large percentage of Brothers, in pursuing a path of Masonic enlightenment. They look around and see fewer and fewer Brothers who want to study and learn. There are fewer and fewer who even care to read about the most basic things about the craft. It just doesn't seem to be that important to them. It sometimes seems that our philanthropic works have become more important than the moralgo to page 9

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <u>Stated Meeting</u> Program: Brother Brad Kohanke	2 Ritual & Degree Practice	3	4	5
	7	8 <u>Mothers Day</u> <u>Family Night</u>	9 Ritual & Degree Practice	10	11	12
Mother's Day	14	15 <u>Stated Meeting</u> Program: Brother Wes O'Neill	16 Two EA Degrees Master, Wardens & Secretaries Meeting	17	18	19
	21	22 <u>Master Mason</u> <u>Degree</u>	23 Davy Crockett Lodge of Instruction	24	25	26 <u>Davy</u> <u>Crockett</u> <u>Pancake</u> <u>Breakfast</u>
	28 Memorial Day	29 <u>Practice or</u> <u>Degree</u>	30 Ritual & Degree Practice	31		

June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
	4	5 <u>Stated Meeting</u> Program: Brad Kohanke	6 Ritual & Degree Practice	7	8	9
	11	12 <u>Practice or Degree</u>	13 Ritual & Degree Practice	14	15	16
	18	19 <u>Stated Meeting</u> Program: Chris Williams on Lodge Procedure Lodge Elections	20 Ritual & Degree Practice Master, Wardens & Secretaries Meeting	21	22	23
	25	26 <u>Practice or Degree</u>	27 Davy Crockett Lodge of Instruction	28	29 Davy Crockett Installation	30

Words To Live By: *Researchers are mostly in agreement about what motivates people to be happy: Money isn't the key to happiness. What really gives people meaning and happiness is a combination of four things: Control over what they're doing, progress in what they're pursuing, being connected with others, and being part of something they enjoy that's bigger than themselves.*

JD From page 6 and spiritual path which Masonry sets out for all of us to follow. Certainly the principals and tenets of the Fraternity go hand in hand with being charitable, but charity was not meant to be the primary duty of Masonry. Seeing all this happening around the Craft I think these learned Brothers just don't think there is a reason to teach anymore and they just stop. But just because there are Brothers who won't read or study, we CAN still teach. We CAN still present Masonic programs on Education and Philosophy, and Ritual, and yes even Charity too in our Lodges. We need these wise Brethren to pass along the experience and wisdom of Lodge administration and communication that they have obtained over their years of dedicated service to the Craft. We cannot let these Brothers think that they are not needed. We cannot let them put themselves out to pasture. I have had Brothers tell me that they hate to read but enjoy getting Masonic education from other Brothers who present programs at their meetings. Over the years I have been to many Lodges and I have seen almost no Masonic Education going on at all. No one is teaching it. But I know for a fact there are Brothers sitting in the chairs on the sidelines who could be effective teachers and lecturers in the different areas of Masonry. Just because a Brother doesn't like to read doesn't mean he doesn't want to learn or won't learn. Heck when I was a kid I hated Broccoli but my Mother always put it on the table and tried to get me to eat it. I tried it but absolutely didn't like it. Now I am older and guess what? I love Broccoli! I could eat it all the time. The point is that we have to keep working at dispensing Masonic Education because people change. The Ritual is amazing and it dispenses much information but it only goes so far. There is much more to learn and much more to experience." "I agree John," I said, "But how do we get more Brothers to get interested in education beyond the mandatory ritualistic instruction?" "We don't just get them to," he grumbled. "We do like mom did. We put it on the table and give them the opportunity to try it and when they finally do, some of them are gonna like it. We just can't stop putting it on the table." Before I could tell him I agreed with him completely, the door to the kitchen swung open and the manager came over to us. Talk about putting it on the table, I knew this was going to be something we weren't going to like. As he was walking toward us I noticed that Tony was back at the stove cooking up a storm so I guess he didn't get fired after all. That was good. The manager had a stern look on his face and held out his hand to me and said his name was Roland. I shook his hand and told him my name but kinda stuttered in the middle of it when I felt a real familiar grip. I looked up and he gave me a little wink.next panel

I grinned as he turned to John and fixed him with a stern look. John looked mighty apologetic as Roland began to talk. He told John that Tony had taken all the responsibility for everything but John told him that it was his fault instead and that Tony was not guilty of anything. Roland said, "I thought you might say that so here is what I propose we do. Tony told me that your Pico Eggs were pretty darn good so I propose that in exchange for us losing all that business this morning that you give us the recipe for your dish for free so we can use it. Secondly I need you to work in the kitchen for the next two hours to train Tony and my other cooks on how to make it. Does that sound fair?" "Well, Gol darn," John chirped out happily. "That sounds like a deal to me and I am glad Tony is not in trouble." "Good" Roland replied. "Now let's go to work." He turned to me, shook my hand again and said, "Brother Chris, It was nice to meet you. Brother John and I have to go to work now." I just smiled and nodded as he turned and walked back to the kitchen. You should have seen the look on John's face. He looked at me and then at Roland and kinda stuttered a couple of times but no real words came out. I just smiled and waved as he turned towards the kitchen calling out to Roland to wait. I paid my bill and thanked the Supreme Architect of the Universe for not having to pay for John this month. John was hootin and hollerin and having a fine time in the kitchen as I walked out the door. It's gonna be a great month....I can feel it.

More Humor

A married couple went to the hospital to have their baby delivered. Upon their arrival, the doctor said that the hospital was testing an amazing new high-tech machine that would transfer a portion of the mother's labor pain to the baby's father. He asked if they were interested. Both said they were very much in favor of it. The doctor set the pain transfer to 10% for starters, explaining that even 10% was probably more pain than the father had ever experienced before. But as the labor progressed, the husband felt fine and asked the doctor to go ahead and kick it up a notch. The doctor then adjusted the machine to 20% pain transfer. The husband was still feeling fine. The doctor then checked the husband's blood pressure and was amazed at how well he was doing. At this point they decided to try for 50%. The husband continued to feel quite well. Since the pain transfer was obviously helping the wife considerably, the husband encouraged the doctor to transfer ALL the pain to him. The wife delivered a healthy baby with virtually no pain and the husband had experienced none. She and her husband were ecstatic. When they got home they found the mailman dead on the porch.

A Masonic Moment from Colorado

Rev. Steve Schroeder PM

It is hard to believe that it is spring of 2012. I must confess that I love the flowers blooming and the birds singing. This truly is my favorite time of the year, even though it took me a few weeks this year to adjust my head to daylight savings time. This past weekend was Easter and I pray yours was blessed, happy and holy. I had a wrestling match in the afternoon with my 3 grandchildren (2 boys & 1 girl, all under 5) and it was like old times when my children were young. I must admit that I don't have the energy I once did and it is a lifesaving blessing to give them back to their parents at the end of the day. Five year old Jackson flew a kite for the first time in his life. I will never forget his bright eyes and his heart filled with wonder and possibilities as if spring was blooming in his soul.

When did I lose that absolute sense of wonder I thought?

This year I was asked to give the sermon during the Colorado Knights Templar Easter Sunrise Service and I jokingly said that if God wanted me to see the sunrise, He would have scheduled it later in the day. The truth is I love to watch the sunrise. I told the large crowd gathered there, that I loved being a Mason and part of the Masonic Family and then I asked them “Why have you come?”

I believe we must know why we have come; why we belong to the Masonic Family. Because if we don't know why, then people can throw us off our game and we will miss God's best for us and our family. **And then I said “...today I know why I have come!**

I have come because I have a vision of God filling our lodges with men who understand what being a Mason is really all about;

I have come that we might take back our faith from the modern day Pharisees who tell us that being a Mason is a bad thing;

I have come because I believe that we are held by the strong grip of the “**Lion of the Tribe of Judah**” and that if we will turn our hearts toward Him that He will bring about a resurrection from the dead that will talked about forever;

I have come because we have a Wonderful Heritage to pass on;

I tell you I have a vision of a bright future:

A vision of the Masonic family that is thriving not just surviving;

A vision of Masonic youth who know that they are not in this alone and that they can turn to us for help and guidance when their world is difficult;

A vision of Masonic prosperity that cares for the widows, orphans and distressed brothers for generations to come. Martin Luther King is not the only one who has a dream and so I dream of a better day and I know why I have come!”

May we all renew our faith in God and with a sense of wonder put our dreams in work clothes and go out and serve a hurting world.

I pray God will bless you and yours,

The Sunday Masonic Paper

Thanks to W Bro

Wayne Anderson, FCF, MPS

THE IRISH CONNECTION

By R.W. Bro. Michael W. Walker, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Ireland

The Grand Lodge of Ireland was five years old, at least, when the first record exists of a Time Immemorial Lodge—St. John’s Lodge-in Philadelphia. This was, of course, followed by the first Regular Warranted Lodge in America, three years later, in Boston. I say the Grand Lodge of Ireland was at least five years old in 1730, because we date our Constitution from the first record, in 1725, of a Grand Lodge Meeting “June 26th, St. John’s Day: More than ‘100 gentlemen ‘ met in the ‘Yellow Lion in Warbrough Street’ and later went to King’s Arms. The procession included ‘the Masters and Wardens of the Six Lodges of Centlemen Freemasons, who are under the jurisdiction of the Crand Master, and the Private Brothers, all in coaches’ (it being a very rainy day). A new Crand Master, Rt. Hon. the Earl of Ross was elected. After a meal they went to a play. “ Clearly, therefore, Grand Lodge was in earlier existence though we cannot say exactly when, or challenge the claim of our much larger Sister Grand Lodge that she is the Mother Grand Lodge. There are, of course, records of Time Immemorial Lodges going back much earlier in Ireland. The first definite clue we have is that when Ball’s Bridge was being rebuilt in Limerick in 1830, a brass square was recovered from the foundations on which is engraved “I will strive to live with Love and Care, Upon Ye Level By Ye Square, 1507”. We are, therefore, within sight of a 500th Anniversary of Speculative Masonry .

In Ireland we have evidence of skilled Operative Masons very far back in time. We can state with pride that Irish Freemasons were involved before “Warranted Masonry”, and subsequently, in promoting and developing the Craft in, what were then styled, “The Colonies”. Irish Lodges were warranted in many “British” Regiments, though often mainly manned by Irishmen. The 1st Irish or Blue Horse, later the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards had its Warrant issued by Grand Lodge on 24th June, 1758. This Warrant is still held in the 4th /7th Royal Dragoon Guards and the Lodge is working in West Germany, where the Regiment is stationed as part of the NATO Defence Forces. This is our last truly Travelling Warrant which remains of 185 Warrants issued in Artillery, Cavalry and Foot Regiments of the Line, as well as 43 Warrants in Irish Militia and Fencible Regiments. Our only other survivor, Glittering Star Lodge No. 322 originally warranted in the 29th Foot in the following year, 1759, was working in Boston in 1765 where on St. John’s Day, December 27th, 1769, it helped form the “Ancient” Grand Lodge of that State, and some years later it was in Quebec. These contacts, no doubt later on when the Regiments moved away, led to applications for Regular Warrants from the local Freemasons, made in those Lodges, who were left behind; and so the Craft spread. In the years between the early 1730’s and the eventual, and inevitable, War of Independence, many of the leading and influential Colonists became Members of the Order so that the history of the gaining of Independence and the Craft is inextricably entwined. We must not, however, fall into the trap of imputing a revolutionary or political aspect to Freemasonry because of this. So many of our detractors make the basic and elementary mistake of correlating a man’s, or a group’s, actions to membership of the Order, when that is coincidental and the same things would have been done or said in, or out of, the Order. A focal point of the early part of that period must be the granting by Henry Price, in Boston, of the Deputation or Charter applied for on November 28th, 1734, by Benjamin Franklin, when he was appointed Provincial Grand Master for Pennsylvania on February 24th, 1735, barely three months later. So many great names are remembered by us from that period, to which distance lends enchantment: Henry Price; George Washington—elected Master in 1788, if my information is correct, in a Lodge at Alexandria in Virginia, though still under a warrant from Pennsylvania; Benjamin Franklin, who probably did more than any other to establish Freemasonry in America and whose reprint of Anderson’s Constitutions was the first, and is the rarest, Masonic book in America; Paul Revere, the silversmith, whose romantic ride from Boston to Lexington warned of the approach of Crown Forces—this has been immortalized by Longfellow; and the gallant and romantic action of Major General Joseph Warren of the Colonial Forces, and Grand Master of Massachusetts, who, having declined to assume command, picked up a musket and tragically fell at Bunker Hill; John Paul Jones, father of Continental Navy; the

Marquis de Lafayette; not to mention the Brethren who signed the Declaration of Independence, and many more. A famous Brother and Commander in Chief, George Washington, was initiated in Fredericksburg on November 4th, 1752. Another famous Brother and Soldier, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington was initiated 38 years later in our Lodge No. 494 at Trim, in the Royal County of Meath. Some 25 years later, at Waterloo, he finally routed his old enemy Napoleon, himself not a Freemason, to the best of our knowledge, though a promoter of the Craft and whose brothers and most of his Marshals were. Wellington's elder Brother, Richard, 2nd Earl of Mornington, later Marquess of Wellesley, was our Grand Master in 1782 as his father Garrett, the 1st Earl of Mornington, had been in 1776. We Freemasons of the Old World were with you in those days to help kindle a flame which has spread throughout America in the intervening years to become the great institution it is to-day. I know that many Grand Lodges are suffering a reduction in numbers, but we must never be seduced into an acceptance of the attitude "never mind the quality, feel the width!" In the first half of this century there were few competitors for the membership of those whose minds and spirits felt the need for some philosophical inspiration—now they are legion. We have come back now after the seed, which we may have helped to plant some 250 years ago, germinated, grew, became mature and branched out on its own 200 years ago like all sons and daughters to take control of their own destiny. We had our links with you then—the First Volume of the History of Grand Lodge of Ireland says, in the section on Irish Masons Abroad, "Fortunately we have learnt from many other sources, that the issue of Warrants was the very least of the services rendered by Irish Masons in spreading the Craft in the New World, and, we can claim with justice, that these Brethren bore a considerable share in founding some of the greatest and most highly reputed Grand Lodges in the United States. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania we may almost claim as a child. Leaving aside the obscure early Masonic History of this State, when it would appear that English and Irish Masons held meetings by Time Immemorial right, the foundation, in 1759, of the Provincial Grand Lodge after the Antient forms, which subsequently budded into the Independent Grand Lodge, "was primarily due to an Irish Mason who had been made in a Belfas~ Lodge. " I regret the author does not elucidate further and I am not sure to whom he refers, or the Lodge in question, but I bow to his erudition. You may or may not agree according to your point of view, but ties there certainly were. Springett Penn, great grandson of Admiral Penn, and grandson of the Founder of your State, apart from owning an extensive property in Penn-sylvania also had an estate at Shanagarry in County Cork; his father, grandfather and great grandfather having been landlords before him. He was an ardent Freemason and was Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Munster in 1726/27 before its amalgamation with the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1731. It is not improbable that he encouraged Brethren from Cork to colonize on his Pennsylvania estates. For instance, in 1734, in Benjamin Franklin's Account Book which he began on July 4th, 1730, appears an entry "Mr. Newinham Dr. for Bindg. of a Mason Book gilt 4/= ". The old and distinguished Newenham family still thrives a bare 10 miles from Shanagarry as the crow flies, and several of whose members are Brethren of our Lodge No. 1, the "First Lodge of Ireland", which had been a Time Immemorial Lodge before Grand Lodge was constituted. I wonder is there a link there? It does seem likely. Incidentally, on October 9th, 1735, the Pennsylvania Gazette had a notice of a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and previously on May 13th, 1731, referred to a Masonic meeting in Dublin; and similarly again on May 1st, 1732, a year later. Freemasonry has waxed and waned, been popular and unpopular, been promoted and persecuted, but it has survived. Freemasonry made errors such as the political intrigues and anti-clerical activities of some European Grand Lodges in the 18th and 19th centuries, but today I believe that Regular Freemasonry is back on its correct course worldwide, endeavoring to create in Anderson's words "a bond of union amongst those who would otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance"—a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God.

I leave you with a few words of Irish:

"Co m'beannaigh Dhia dibh, go n'eiri an t-adh is an bothar libh, agus go m'beirimidh beo ar an am seo aris"—which translates as

"God bless you, may your good fortune increase and your way be made easy, and may we all be alive this time next year".

T.F.S.

Three, five, and seven

3 5 7

By Stan Shapiro MD, Grand Lodge Education Officer G.L. of MN

#214

"You get out of Masonry only what you put in it."

WHATEVER BECAME OF THE MASONRY WE ONCE KNEW?

by W.B. Ken Baril and R. W. Brother Richard E. Backe, PDDGM,
Grand Lodge of Connecticut

In June of 1966 and October 1971, we were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. They were evenings we shall never forget. The experience will live in our hearts and minds until time is no more. We believe it was one of the proudest moments of our life. Surrounding us that evening, were brothers who really took an interest in us and each one offered their assistance to us while we were learning what needed to be learned? The warmth, the feeling of belonging, the brotherly love and the genuine concern for us was overwhelming. We will never trade those moments for anything in the world.

The ritual work was done to perfection. All the officers who took part in the degrees were extremely proficient. The pride they had in their work was quite evident and the deep feeling of accomplishment was written all over their faces. They walked straight, squared their corners, and held the staffs at the correct angle. What impressed us the most was the fact that no ritual book, not one single book, (except for the designated prompter) was open during each degree. While the degree was being exemplified, there were no other sounds within the lodge-room. All brothers were concentrating on the candidate while also focusing on the officers performing their speaking parts. It was almost like being in a cathedral. It was a spiritual experience to say the least.

We were also impressed by the fact that when a brother reached the Oriental Chair, he had learned everything in that book from cover to cover. There is a difference between learning the ritual and memorizing it. Only if one travels toward the East is that evident. Even those who sit on the sidelines should recognize this distinction.

After taking each degree, our mentors called to schedule a class of instruction and to see if we would be available to attend any special event that might be taking place. The personal interest shown in our well-being and us was gratifying, for in a world where there are more takers than givers, this was unique. In a society in which man feels so alone, so alienated, it is comforting to be with others who share the same ideals, emotions and experiences. Feelings of warmth, friendship and potential comfort in times of distress are always present, yet they appear most readily in lodge. After becoming a member of my lodge, we found men who treated us with brotherly love, which relieved the stress of the day. In lodge, we met old and new friends who demanded nothing from us, and thus we demanded nothing from them in return.

When attending lodge, the brothers were always well dressed; their shoes were shined, their slacks were pressed and their appearance was always impeccable. It was assumed that proper attire (shirt, tie and jacket) would be worn while attending lodge. Now members attend lodge as if they were going to a company picnic, some in shorts,

muscle shirts and t-shirts, others in stained blue jeans. Sneakers, athletic shoes, sandals and all sorts of other footwear have replaced shoes. We suppose it is a lot easier not having to shine your shoes. Socks appear to be optional. Ties are a thing of the past. Open collar shirts and golf shirts have replaced the traditional dress shirt. I truly believe that when Masonry states that, 'it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that Masonry regards,' it does not apply to a dress code. We can readily understand there are circumstances where a brother has just come from his place of employment where jacket and tie are inappropriate and he does not have enough time to return to his home to change his clothes. This should be a one-time, exceptional occurrence. There is no reason why the proper attire could not be left at the lodge or kept in one's car. When we mentioned this to a brother, his answer was, "since when do I have to bring my wardrobe to lodge?" We realized, at that point, it was not in the best interest of all parties to pursue the subject. So Mote It Be.

Now, forty-four and thirty-nine years later, respectively, we sit in lodge and cannot believe the drastic change that has taken place. We now have Grand Master's One-Day Classes where a candidate can take all three degrees in one day and then leave with his dues card in hand and a Masonic lapel pin on his jacket. He has taken the degrees in succession with no opportunity to digest the preceding degree. The theory is that the candidate has a mentor to explain the degrees and answer any questions that may arise. This is nice in theory but the reality is that many mentors know less than the candidate.

We have also noticed that many line officers do not have the pride in their work that once existed. Having the ritual book open during a degree is the norm, and on many occasions, officers cannot open or close the lodge without reading their respective parts. We both attended a lodge meeting one evening where the Chaplain, (a Past Master, no less) had to read the prayers. Even while doing so, he had to be prompted by another Past Master because he had difficulty reading the prayer properly. What a shame! When mistakes are made, they are followed by a shrug of the shoulders, a nonchalant facial expression or a simpering laugh. This has the effect of drawing more attention to the error than just continuing with the work. After all, the candidate will not know that a mistake was made unless attention is called to it.

We were also in attendance for a Master Mason Degree when, during the second section, the Senior Warden read his part from a script and made no attempt to conceal this from those brothers present. Compounding the felony, the District Deputy Grand Master for that lodge attended, (not as an official visit,) and did not attempt to stop the degree or reprimand the officer in question after the degree. This is certainly ludicrous and sets a poor example for the officers and all brethren present. Still we have the audacity to ask, "Whatever became of the Masonry we once knew?"

The Craft today does not appear to be as proud of Freemasonry as it ought to be. Masonry is the most wonderful institution in the world. Think of its historic past. Since coming into existence, dynasties have fallen, thrones have tottered, empires have tumbled and crowns have vanished, but our grand order lives on with eyes undimmed, greater, more exciting and more influential than ever. Today, when so many imagine that history began with their own birth certificate and that compassion for their fellow man is unnecessary, belonging to an order with a great historic past and with the tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth is not only fulfilling, gratifying and uplifting but also, to some of us at least, necessary. Masonry has a great mission to fulfill in the present age, and a great contribution to make to the future of humanity. It is the last vestige of civil behavior in a world gone mad.

Another problem that is prevalent today is the language that is used in some lodges, especially in the banquet hall or lobby. Profanity is the norm during conversations. Some brothers are under the impression that bar room language is acceptable. IT IS NOT! Once we heard a Master use the most vulgar language possible when addressing the secretary. This was during open lodge with the Three Great Lights in full display. At first we did not believe what we had heard, and was too shocked (like those around us) to bring our dismay to the Master's attention. What kind of impression are we giving to those in attendance? Is this the reason our older members no longer come to lodge? Is this the reason many new brothers do not return?

Some brothers, seem to forget the fact that when others know they belong to our fraternity and act in a non-Masonic manner, that eyes are upon them, and their language and actions are a direct reflection on the whole fraternity, *especially us*. These brothers do not think before they act or speak and when they are driving their cars, and someone cuts them off or irritates them in any way, they should have the decency to remove their Masonic ring before they “flip the bird.” When your car has a Masonic emblem pasted to the rear window or on the trunk, remember you represent the entire fraternity and not just yourself --- ACT ACCORDINGLY.

Another incident we witnessed was while a candidate was kneeling at our Altar of Obligation, one brother sitting across the room, threw a piece of hard candy across the lodge room, over the Altar, to a brother on the other side of the room. *This is totally unacceptable!* On several occasions one of us said, “If this was my only example of a Masonic lodge, I would have joined the Knights of Columbus.” Some recommendation!

We can no longer be content to be members of the “silent majority.” Members are reluctant to express their constructive criticisms in open Lodge. They have no such problem expressing these concerns in the banquet hall after the meeting when it is no longer relevant. Furthermore, in most cases these concerns are not voiced to the offending party. Every time we hear a brother complain about an incident or problem, one of us mentions to him that he should bring it up in open lodge because it is the right of every member to state his concerns. Whether right or wrong he still has that right, and, in fact, IT IS HIS DUTY! As long as he presents them in a respectful and brotherly manner, he CAN and MUST be heard. Most often, the brother states that he is afraid that voicing his criticisms will be regarded as un-Masonic conduct. This is completely erroneous. The charge of un-Masonic conduct should be leveled against the offending brother and not on any brother who may complain.

Identifying and developing successful candidates for line positions within the lodge, is one of the greatest challenges confronting our fraternity today. Furthermore, given the breadth of interest in the continuing goal of achieving, more pressure is being placed on Masters to identify capable brothers and to accelerate their development to fill these positions with greater responsibilities and leadership.

Masters must stop appointing brothers to line positions just to have warm bodies filling chairs. It should be evident that a brother's qualifications should be top priority when being considered for a line position. If a brother is to be appointed to the line, it must be impressed upon him that he has specific duties and responsibilities. The Master must be certain he understands. The brother must be evaluated periodically as to his proficiency, his goals, his leadership and his management skills. He must be one who works well with others. If, after consultation and training, these attributes are weak or non-existent, he should be diplomatically informed that unless he shows improvement in those areas in which he is deficient, he would not be advanced to the next office. The Senior Deacon's office should be the last chair he can occupy if most of those attributes are not evident. Allowing a brother to continue under these circumstances causes embarrassment not only for the lodge, but also for brother in question. Why waste the lodge's and the brother's time?

Some jurisdictions have required that prospective Masters be certified that they can open and close lodge properly before they are installed as Master. Nice thought, but if the person doing the examination does not do it properly, what's the use. District Deputies, Lecturers, District and Lodge Education Officers and Grand Line Officers should have a clue as to proper Masonic protocol, procedures and ritual before they attempt to examine or chastise any brother. Moreover, just because the person being examined is a Past Master doesn't mean he knows the ritual. He SHOULD but that doesn't mean he does.

The brethren cannot honor the honorable station of Worshipful Master if its possessor does not honor it.

Brethren, we would not want to leave you with the impression that all in present Freemasonry is negative. Ours is an exciting, unique organization, with long traditions, profound philosophical teachings, and a haven for right-thinking men in our present world, so torn by the ills of poverty, war, terrorism, hunger and crime. We must move forward with enthusiasm, our spirit strengthened by the knowledge that we still have much to teach society, and that we have the tools to assist us in bringing to fruition our human potential.

End with a Laugh

A Minnesota farmer named Olie had a car accident.
He was hit by a truck owned by the Eversweet Company.

In court, the Eversweet Company's hot-shot attorney questioned him thus:
'Didn't you say to the state trooper at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?'"
Olie responded: 'vell, I'lla tell you vat happened dere.
I'd yust loaded my fav'rit cow, Bessie, into da... '

'I didn't ask for any details', the lawyer interrupted.
'Just answer the question.
Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!?''

Olie said, 'vell, I'd yust got Bessie into da trailer and I vas drivin' down da road.... '

The lawyer interrupted again and said, 'Your Honor, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the police on the scene that he was fine.
Now several weeks after the accident, he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud.
Please tell him to simply answer the question. '

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Olie's answer and said to the attorney: 'I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite cow, Bessie'.

Olie said: 'Tank you' and proceeded. 'vell as I vas saying, I had yust loaded Bessie, my fav'rit cow, into de trailer and was drivin' her down de road vin dis huge Eversweet truck and trailer came tundering tru a stop sign and hit me trailer right in da side by golly. I was trown into one ditch and Bessie was trown into da udder ditch.

By yimminy yahosaphat I vas hurt, purty durn bad, and didn't want to move. An even vurse dan dat,, I could hear old Bessie a moanin' and a groanin'. I knew she vas in terrible pain yust by her groans.

Shortly after da accident, a policeman on a motorbike turned up. He could hear Bessie a moanin' and a groanin' too, so he vent over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her condition, he took out his gun and shot her right between the eyes.

Den da policeman came across de road, gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feelin?'

'Now wot vud you say?'

