

The Trestleboard

Newsletter Issue No.8. September/October 2022



“G” in the lodgeroom at The Scottish Learning Center Lubbock, TX

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Fellow Craft Degree Photo for Bro. Jonothan Muniz

*By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With
summer's best of weather And autumn's best of cheer.*

- *Helen Hunt Jackson*



Fun at the State fair Parade

Greetings brethren,

Both August and September have been pretty eventful for the lodge. We've done a Fellow Craft degree for Bro. Jonathan Muniz which I would like to congratulate our brother as he advances through the degrees of freemasonry. We participated in the State Fair this year with a new float design with special thanks to Bro. Tyler and his wife for working up the new design.



I'd like to thank everyone who helped with setting up the float as well as participating and getting freemasonry seen out in the community. I hope to see more brethren participating next year and maybe over the year we can come up with some ideas to add to the new float design.

I'd like to thank Bro. Alec Fordyce SW of Mesa Lodge No. 68 for inviting the lodge to his lodge's BBQ this past month. Several of our members did show up and had a great time. The food was amazing as always by Mesa Lodge and a great show that brotherly comradery is still going strong after the pandemic.



As we get close to the end of the 2022 term, we have to maintain the energy we've given throughout the year and after the pandemic to get freemasonry thriving again. Keep up the hard work everyone.

-Bro. Larry Mikkelson WM

Sandoval Lodge No.76



From the West

50 years a Freemason - Bro. Bob "Gunner" Bryant

This year, Sandoval Lodge was fortunate enough to present Bro. Bob Bryant his 50 year pin. Now he was supposed to receive this pin two years ago as a matter of fact, the lodge had it scheduled to present Bro. Bob his pin but of course you've guessed it; the lockdowns went into full effect. While the lockdowns were in full swing, Bro. Bob had suffered some aggravation to his injuries and has pretty much been home ridden since due to limited mobility.



During the lodge visit it was a sunny warm day and about 7 or 8 brothers piled into a couple of vehicles and drove the short distance down the road to Bro. Bob's house. We were

greeted with a warm welcome and handshake as we gathered in the living room for the award ceremony. Bro. Bob was delighted to have company after such a long time. He talked about old members that he remembered and asked if a few were still around. Bro. Bob talked a bit about



his life and awards after one of the brothers pointed out his military shadow box coffee table full of awards from the Navy. He even discussed his time as a police officer and fond moments with his wife.



After some time of chit chat and reminiscing Bro. Dan Irick commenced with the award ceremony. Everyone stood up and stood in silence as Bro. Dan proudly recited the words to the ceremony. Towards the end, Bro. Larry Mikkelson WM presented Bro. Bob with his certificate and 50 year pin; even pinning it on Bro. Bob's collar for him. It was such a simple yet beautiful ceremony, and one that is not done very often. The brothers present gave Bro. Bob grand honors while the award and pin were presented bringing the ceremony to a close.

This rare and beautiful event is a reminder that with time and dedication we can truly accomplish many things in our lives.



52nd Year as a Mason, Bro. Bob Bryant in the center holding his award certificate. From Left to Right: WB. Baab F., PGM. Dan I., Bro. Keith E., WB. Ed McBride., WM. Larry M., WB. Eric M., Bro. Tyler M. and WB. Richard C.

October at a Glance

October 3rd - Ritual Practice

October 10th - Stated Meeting

October 17th - Ritual Practice

October 24th - Stated meeting

October 28th - Scotch and Cigars Brotherhood Night

October 31st - Halloween!

Get to Know a Brother

- Bro. Bob "Gunner" Bryant

By: Bro. Tyler McKenzie



Brother Bob also known as "Gunner" by his Navy buddies and by his lovely wife Karen was born on June 15th, 1944 in Emporia Virginia to Robert and Pattie Bryant. (Although he and his father share the same name he is not a Jr.) Brother Bob has a few siblings with one who is also a Master Mason. His name is Edward. Bob also has an older sister named Margaret. Bro. Bob didn't know about the twins as they both passed when Bob was very young. Also another younger sister passed away when Bro. Bob was about 5 years old.

Bro. Bob attended Greenville County High School and graduated from there in 1962. He liked to play football and baseball during his school years and while in the military. One of Bob's main hobbies is working on cars, race cars and he was a big fan of Elliot Sadler the race car driver. Bob is also good friends with Unser the 3rd. While he was a young boy he

was not too sure what he wanted to be when he grew up so he started working right after graduation at a job called Johns Manville making ceiling tiles, for a seasonal position but he was laid off soon after. Having no job but having bills to pay and not liking to be told what to do, he decided it was best for himself to join the Navy.

Bro. Bob Gunner was inspired to join the Navy because of a few truck stop owners that were his buddies that were upstanding men in his eyes that were in the Navy at one point and they told him he'd enjoy the journey. There were 7 people from Bro. Gunner's home town that signed up with him and only 2 of them stayed up until retirement.

At one point in Bro. Bob's life he moved to New Mexico and met his wife Karen of 32 years. She was born in Albuquerque but was raised in Corrales and after his move here he met her at church in Albuquerque. They were married on Aug 11th, 1990 in Corrales

but they did not have the honeymoon they wanted as his wife ran Lovelace hospital at the time and they needed her at work. Later on in life they did enough traveling to make up for it. They had 4 wonderful children (3 daughters and 1 son; named Michael 52, Devon 51, Tina 49 and Shauna who has already passed away. He also helped foster 40 children for around 12 years with his wife by his side the whole time. This is why he looks up to her so highly, as she is his wife, caregiver and most of all his best friend.

On January 23, 1963 our Brother joined the Navy and served for 30 years, 2 months, 1 week, 8 hrs and 15 minutes. This accurate record was kept by his patient wife as she waited calmly & patiently for the day he got the letter stating he needed to retire. His rank while in the military was Chief Warrant Officer. While in the Navy he furthered his education by joining the University of Maryland aboard ship for 4 years and obtained his degree in Police Science. Bro. Gunner was a crew member in P2Vs around 1967 and also in 1969 on the USS America in the Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club, and he was also in Vietnam. He was also in the area offshore of Beirut when they blew up the marine barracks in 1983 on the USS Eisenhower aircraft carrier. He was finally sent orders to retire from the Navy in 1993. After the Navy he was inspired to be a police officer after his cousin became a Virginia state trooper. Bro. Bob became a police officer at district 5 in Albuquerque, NM. He had been there for about 20 years and retired about 8-9 years ago. He also was once a Bailiff for Judge Cook at the Municipal Court of Rio Rancho and was there for about 8 years. His Grandson (son's son) is a Bernalillo County Sheriff most likely inspired by his grandpa.

Brother Bob and his wife have had many pets as dogs are his favorite animal so many have been dogs. His most recent pets passed away and he hasn't had a personal pet in a year or so. But his wife has two dogs at the moment, one of them being a service dog for her. Tucker Ben is the service dog and Matty Matilda is the friendly recreational dog of the house.

Being in the Navy for 30 years Bro. Gunner (Bob) went all over the world. He went Down Under, he became a Blue Nose when he crossed the arctic circle, he also went to Shell Back when he crossed the equator; he went to Brazil in South America, Vietnam and all over Europe. He went to the Philippines and also sailed by a lot of African countries; The Caribbeans and he was also stationed in Bermuda. His favorite travels being Palma de Mallorca in Spain and his least favorite being France.

His favorite hobbies are working on cars, which he has owned many vehicles (most consistent being Corvettes 66, 07 & a 2016), in his days one of his favorite being a 1924 hot rod. He also likes to travel and paint houses (inside and out) as hobbies and a way to get away from the real world. While working on one of his projects he may listen to his favorite music which is Oldies and Country music. His wife is his favorite crafter and

artist as she is a quilter and was a part of the Order of Eastern Star Quilt Club, he loves how creative she is. His favorite actor is Tom Selleck and he loves him in Blue Bloods. His favorite colors are red & blue. His favorite meal is food and it goes down best with lemonade or coffee depending on the time of day. His favorite movie is Heat of the Night. His favorite book being that of the Holy Bible which he and his wife read all the time together.

His favorite quote being from John 3:16.

Our Brother's future plans in life is to get back into doing life as usual as he has been down and out for a few years now because of back pain and he'd like to take his wife on a trip wherever she'd like to go. He would love to get back into the lodge soon if his pain will permit him. Bro. Bob's cousin in Virginia bought Bob into Masonry. Bob was interested in Masonry and his cousin was his sponsor because at this time you needed a sponsor to join. He was entered, passed and raised in 1969-70. His dates are below.

EA: March 27th, 1969

FC: November 20th, 1969

MM: April 30th, 1970

He has been a Master Mason for 52 years and I was honored to be one of a few Brethren that went over to his house to present him with his 50 year pin. This was done a few weeks ago. Bro. Bob had joined Sandoval Lodge in 1991 because it was close to home. He had met a Brother from Sandoval Lodge and he invited him to come down. After that he was cemented in place as Sandoval Lodge felt like home for him and his family to participate in Masonic activities. The only chair he held at the lodge was Tyler and only because he was a very busy man, husband and serviceman in his regular day life. He was also in Scottish Rite & York Rite, which he had both joined in Norfolk County in Virginia after being raised.

His greatest accomplishments he'd like to share with us is marrying his best friend Karen and raising his children and fostering children next to Karen's side, also while serving his country in so many ways and as well joining the oldest and most wonderful fraternity called Freemasonry.

I'd like to finish this off with something he said to me at the end of this interview:

"So Brethren please come visit me, you are always welcome in my house and there is always coffee on if you do not come by too late as I will drink it all".

-Bro. Bob Bryant

The Meaning of Freemasonry:

By: Albert Pike



The Meaning of Masonry
A Lecture

Read at the Request of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana,

By Bro Albert Pike

The Evil Consequences of Schisms and Disputes for
Power in Masonry, and of Jealousies and Dissensions

Between Masonic Rites
1858

Such, my brethren, is the subject on which I have been requested to address you. Some who have the interests of Masonry at heart, have thought it was possible to say something upon this subject that might tend to remove erroneous impressions, to increase union and harmony among Masons, and to persuade society at large that its well-being and progress are, to some extent, involved in the advancement and prosperity of Masonry. They have demanded that I should say that something; and, though unaffectedly reluctant to do it, my obligation as a Mason bars against me all the

avenues of escape, and compels disinclination to yield to the imperative mandate of duty.

It would need no argument to show that to the Masonic Order itself, as to any other order or association, however unpretending and unimportant, intestine dissensions, struggles for the possession of power, jealousies and heart-burnings must necessarily be harmful, retard its growth and progress, repel those who, if it were at peace with itself, would seek to approach its doors; and at first diminish and ultimately destroy its capacity for usefulness. If this were all that I desired to establish, I might say so much and at once conclude.

But we, my brethren, do not believe that this is all. We think that the highest interests of Society, and of the community in which we live, and, perhaps, even interests wider and more general still, those of the Nation, and of humanity at large, are affected and injured, in that which affects and does harm to Masonry. We think that the world without our Temples is deeply interested in the continuance or restoration of peace and harmony within; and that every Mason who encourages or by apathy permits dissensions within the walls that veil our mysteries from the world's eyes, is an enemy, not of Masonry only, but of that world's advancement and prosperity.

It is indeed true that the world at large, the statesmen and the men of business, are not in the habit of attaching much importance to the peaceful operations, the active efforts and silent influences of Masonry. Some even think evil of the order; to others its pretensions are the subject of mirth and food for ridicule; while probably the general impression is that it is a harmless and inoffensive association, rather laudable for its benevolent propensities, its charities, and the assistance its members mutually lend each other; but one in which the world at large is in no wise interested, one whose ceremonies are frivolous, its secrets mere pretense, its titles and dignities absurd, and its dissensions mere childish disputes for barren honors and an empty precedence, fit only to excite the pitying smiles of the grave and the sarcastic laughter of the ill natured.

Nor is it to be denied, that there is some warrant for this, in the unfortunate proclivity of over-zealous and injudicious brethren to make the history of Masonry remount to the time when Adam, in the Garden of Eden, was Grand Master; to invent fables and manufacture traditions; to invest with a mysterious sanctity the trite commonplaces that all the world is at liberty to know; to give interpretations of symbols that every scholar knows to be untrue and every man of sense knows to be vapid and trivial; in the vain parade of sounding titles and glittering decorations; and more than all, in the angry disputes which rend the bosom of the Order, accompanied with bitter words, harsh epithets and loud denunciations, that give the lie to the combatants' claim of brotherhood, in regard to questions that to the world seem trifling and unreal.

Is society really interested in the peace and progress of Masonry? Has the world a moral right to demand that harmony shall govern in our Temples? Is that a matter which at all concerns the community? How grave and important are the interests that by our mad dissensions we recklessly put at hazard? And by what means are peace and harmony to be restored and maintained? Such are the questions which it is demanded of me to consider. To do so, it is evidently necessary first to settle what Masonry is, and what its objects are, and by what means and appliances it proposes to effect those objects.

The well-being of any nation, like that of every individual, is threefold, -- physical, moral and intellectual. Neither physically, morally, or intellectually is a people ever stationary. Always it either advances or retrogrades; and, as when one climbs a hill of ice, to advance requires continual effort and exertion, while to slide downward one needs but to halt.

The happiness and prosperity of a people consist in advancing on each of the three lines, physical, moral and intellectual, at once; for the day of its downfall draws nearer, even when its intellect is more developed and the works of its genius are more illustrious, and while its physical comforts increase, if its moral progress does not keep pace with its physical and intellectual; and yet without the last, the two first do not mark the loftiest condition of a great people.

That institution deserves the title of "public benefactor," which by a system of judicious charities and mutual assistance diminishes the sum total of haggard want and destitution, and relieves the public of a portion of a burden which the necessities of the poor and shelterless impose upon it; for it thus aids the physical advancement of the people.

It still more deserves the title, if in addition, it imperatively requires of its members the strict and faithful performance of all those duties towards their fellow-men as individuals, which the loftiest and purest morality enjoins; and so is the potent auxiliary of the laws, and the enforcer of the moral precepts of the great Teacher who preached the Sermon on the Mount: for thus it labors for the moral elevation of the people.

And still more, if its initiates are also, and of necessity, devoted to the true interests of the people; if they are the soldiery of Liberty, Equality, and Brotherhood, and at the same time of good government, of good order, and of the laws, that made by the representatives of all, for the general good of all, must be implicitly obeyed by all: for thus again it aids in elevating still higher the moral character of the people.

And most of all, in addition to all this, it strives to elevate the people intellectually, by teaching those who enter its portals the profoundest truths of Philosophy, and the wisdom of the Sages of every age; a rational conception of the Deity; of the universe that He has made, and of the laws that govern it; a true estimate of Man himself, of his freedom to act, of his dignity and his destiny.

I mean to speak only of what Masonry teaches; and to set up no extravagant pretensions on its behalf. that its precepts are not fully obeyed by its initiates, in no wise detracts from their value or excellence; any more than the imperfect performance of its votaries detracts from the excellence of religion. The theory and the intentions of every man that lives are better and purer than his practice, - I do not say they are unfortunately so; for it is one of the great kindnesses of Providence, and a most conclusive proof of God's existence and infinite benevolence, that the worst as well as the purest of men

has ever which he must perforce always struggle to reach, an ideal and exemplar of a rarer excellence than he can ever attain to, strive and struggle as he may. It has been well and truly said, that even Hypocrisy is the involuntary homage which vice pays to virtue.

That Masons do not live up to the teachings of their Order proves only that they are men; that, like other men, they are weak with the frailties of feeble human nature; and that in the never-ceasing struggle with their passions and the mighty circumstances that environ us all, it is often their lot to be discomfited. If the doctrines of Masonry are good, they of necessity have their effect, and are never taught in vain. For not in vain are the winged seeds of Truth ever sown; and if committed to the winds, God sees to it that they take root somewhere and grow.





The Moon and the Lodge:

By: Bro. burx Norrod

The moon has always played a large part in the lodge. To start with it's one of the 3 lesser lights in Masonry. That means that it's not as important as the Holy Bible, Square and compasses, but it is quite important.

Light in masonry means knowledge and the moon teaches us many things. First we are told that it governs the night with order and regularity which is how a Master should rule and govern his lodge. The Master has always been associated with the Sun and his officer (the Senior Deacon) has a Sun between the square and compasses on his staff.

The Senior Warden has always been associated with the moon (a reflection of the Sun) and there is a moon between the S & C of his officer's staff. A water spilling moon on top the Junior Deacon's staff tells us that the water spilled from it onto the ground, with the sun from the top of the Senior Deacon's staff shining on the ground will produce the food (plenty) in the cornucopias of the Stewards rods.

The north is a place of darkness because neither the sun nor moon could dart a ray of light into the northern most portion of King Solomon's Temple (per modern EA Lecture).

In addition to teaching moral and Masonic lessons the moon had a practical use to Masons. In the 18th & 19th centuries lodges were far apart. There were few roads and there was no electricity but on full moon there was enough light that masons could get to and from their meetings with little difficulty. Therefore, moon lodges were formed.

February 1885 had no full moon which caused some confusion about when the lodge would meet. After that many Grand Lodges outlawed lodges having Full Moon as their meeting date and required lodges to have a specific meeting date.

Because the moon circles the earth in an elliptical pattern the longest time between 2 full moons is 29 days, 19 hours and 55 minutes and the shortest time is 29 days, 6

hours and 35 minutes. It's interesting to note that there are typically no Full Moons in February approx every 19 years.

February's without a full moon on leap year's also occur. In the next 1000 years we will have 44 February's with no full moon but only 3 will be on a leap year. Those years will be 2572, 2792 and 2944.



The oldest mention of a moon lodge was in 1410 in the Cooke Manuscript, one of the oldest documents belonging to the Craft.

It is understood that Moon lodges were first mentioned in the ritual of “The Whole Institute of Masonry” published in 1724. By 1767 there were 5 lodges under the Grand Lodge of England. By 1776 this number had increased to 499 including the provincial colonies abroad. During the colonial days (1717) moon lodges were operating in Philadelphia, Boston & Tennessee. By the turn of the 20th Century there were around 3000 moon lodges operating in the US.

I hope that the few moon lodges that still exist do not fall to convenience and change their custom. They serve as a reminder to modern masons traveling home by the light of the moon that they are in essence following the footsteps of their elder brethren for whom the moon was a real as well as symbolic light.

Some people ask about “blue moons”. There are two definitions. The almanac says it’s the third moon in a season having 4 full moons. Most seasons have three full moons, but when there are 4 the third one is called a blue moon.

The other definition is that it is the second of two moons in a month.

The full moon is also involved in the date Easter is held. The simple way to determine the date for Easter, in any year, is that it is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox. The earliest date Easter can occur is March 22. The last one on that date was 1818 and the next will be 2285.

The latest Easter can occur is April 25. The last one was 1943 and the next one will be 2038.

There is a different kind of Moon lodge. There is only one and it is based on when Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon on July 20, 1969. It is named Tranquility Lodge 2000.

The GM of Texas appointed Buzz Aldrin his representative to claim the Moon under the Grand Lodge of Texas. Buzz did that and until a lodge can be established on the moon they formed Tranquility Lodge 2000. It meets four times a year in different Texas cities but the annual meeting must be in Waco. Anyone can join and its funds are used to support children around to country. The fee to join is \$100 and the annual dues are \$15.

Speaking of the moon - one here in New Mexico can join the Albuquerque Astronomical Society for just \$30 a year - and borrow telescopes for a month at a time that are worth thousands of dollars to view the moon in all it's wonder, and further increase your knowledge on the 7th Liberal Arts & Sciences.

For New Mexico, there's 1 Moon Lodge that exists that I know of, being that of Union Lodge No. 4 in Wagon Mound, where WB Nic Coriz is currently Master of. They meet the 1st Tuesday on or before the Full Moon ... and if you connect w/MW Dan Irick, you could probably catch a ride with him as I've done - and learn not just about Union Lodge No. 4, but also about Freemasonry from a great Freemason /G\



*Congratulations
Brother Jonathan Muniz*

2ND ANNUAL

A **OCT. 8 TH**



WIDOWS SONS



22
POKER RUN

*The starting point is at Sandoval lodge 76
1420 Barbara Loop Rio Rancho, NM
(RIDE WILL BENEFIT the kids @ M.S.C.L.D)*



SIGN UPS 8-9 AM (50/50 and a raffle will be available)

SONS OF LIGHT

\$20 a rider 5 a rider THERE WILL BE FOOD FOR SALE