



A Reminder

Back in the days of World War II, M.W. Brother and President Harry S Truman made a national appeal to get 10 cents per Mason per year to help support this charitable work, that goal was never accomplished. If the MSA were fortunate enough to receive 10 cents per member today they would be able to expand their program to include all 172 V.A. Medical Centers and all State Veterans Homes.

Every community in the nation would hear about this benevolent work and our Fraternity would benefit from it.

In 1919 the Grand Lodges of the United States formed the Masonic Service Association to be their contact point with our troops serving in the Armed Forces. This was done in World War II through the use of Masonic Service Centers - similar to USO's - where a little bit of home away from home was available, primarily through Masonic locations, in various cities around the country.

After World War II, because there was such a huge number of wounded Veterans in that conflict, MSA concentrated on visiting our Veterans in VA Hospitals, State Veterans Homes, and Military Hospitals across the United States. It has continued so to this day.

We are seeing Veterans in VA locations from all of the wars since World War II. We are also seeing young veterans who have been wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan, many of whom are suffering loss of limbs because this war, unlike previous wars, has roadside bombs as a major point of attack. These kinds of deadly explosives cause devastating wounds requiring long periods of recovery.

The Veterans from previous service deserve our support because when our nation called they were there. Now it is our turn to say thanks for the service all have rendered. Thanks for your consideration in supporting our Hospital Visitation Program.

It is not possible for every Mason to be a visitor in a VA Hospital but it is possible for every Mason to support those who are!

The "GREEN ENVELOPE APPEAL" is being run by the MSA. at this time. Your positive response is appreciated.

Please send your donations to: --

Masonic Service Assn "Green Envelope Appeal"
Attn: MWB Richard Fletcher
 8120 Fenton Street
 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Your contributions are tax deductible.

Thanks for your participation.

**"MASONS CARE
 AND
 WILL ALWAYS BE THERE"**



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MLR RP 09-05
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Campfire Mason in the Old West

It was a tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discus-ing the Fraternity and its teachings. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up:

"I can tell you more about Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books. Everybody stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire." They did that.

"Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him." They did that, too.

"Now, what do you see, looking ahead?" "The face of a Brother Mason through the flames." "What do you feel in front of you?"

"The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night."

"What do you feel at your side?" "The warm hand of a Brother.'OK. Now, drop the hands, and turn around." They did so.

'Now, what do you see, looking ahead?'

"Complete darkness."

"What do you feel, looking ahead?"

"A sense of loneliness, of being alienated."

"What do you feel at your side?"

"Nothing at all."

"What do you feel on your backside?"

"The warmth of the fire."

"So it is with Masonry," said the old man. "In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of a Brother. When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you.

** Unknown Author**

EPILOGUE TO THE MASTER MASON DEGREE

To be delivered to the newly raised Master Mason

"My Brother -----

There is one more thing that I wish to mention before we close this Lodge, and we all return to our normal lives in the mundane world:

You have now experienced the three degrees of Masonry. You have been presented with much in the way of symbolism and allegory. Hopefully, those symbols and stories have or will come to have, a profound meaning for you.

When you go into the world now, in your new character as a Master Mason, you are sure to be confronted with people who will attempt to put meaning to those symbols and allegories for you or attempt to tell you exactly what Freemasonry teaches by those symbols. They will say ~at you have joined a religion, or that you have replaced one form of salvation for another, or that you are worshiping a false god.

What you need to understand about Freemasonry is that the meaning of what you have seen and heard in this Lodge room is largely what you make of it. No single man speaks for Freemasonry, except you, to yourself. There is no sin in symbols - only, in the meanings that we, by our own conscious choice, ascribe to them.

We gave you a Bible this evening, but we did not give you a religion. As you recall from the presentation, you were admonished to search within the pages of that sacred book for yourself; and earlier this evening, you were bidden to pray for yourself - and no particular form or name was required for your prayer. Freemasonry does indeed have a teaching: it teaches each man to look within his heart, with clarity and subdued passion, to determine what is right and true.

There is an ancient riddle that asks: "Who is the Master who makes the grass green?" The answer, my Brother, is you, yourself. You are the Master who, by his own perception and understanding, 'makes the grass green.' You are the Master over the meaning of your own experience. You are entrusted with the power and responsibility to interpret all that you see and hear. And as long as you remain faithful to your trust, then no man may ever take that power or responsibility away from you!"

Above by **Eric Schmitz**, P.M. of Monroe Lodge No.22 in Bloomingdale, Indiana; published in the Summer 2009 edition of *Indiana Freemason*.

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The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

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Aging! Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

STATE NAMES

T S T T E S U H C A S S A M N
 E O K L A H O M A O O I H O E
 X A K S A R B E N H A T U N V
 A R K A N S A S M A I N E T A
 S I O N I L L I N D I A N A D
 I O W A I N R O F I L A C N A
 I R U O S S I M P E N L O A M
 A A I G R O E G N S Y A R L I
 W Y O M I N G V R A N S E K C
 A Y K C U T N E K I I K G R H
 H L O U I S I A N A V A O O I
 R H O D E I S L A N D T N Y G
 N O R T H D A K O T A A S W A
 O D A R O L O C I X E M W E N
 A L A B A M A N O Z I R A N W

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa

Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico

New York
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Rhode Island
Texas
Utah
West Virginia
Wyoming

RULES FOR PLAY:

You must **circle each of the letters** in each of the state names listed above. Then line out the state found in the list. **Do NOT BLACK or BLOT out** the letters in the puzzle as each letter may be used in a different state name also. When all the states have been lined through, you should then have several letters left in the puzzle which have not been circled. Write down **these letters only**, from upper left to lower right and this will spell out the state which is the answer!

Oh, by the way. The answer to our last puzzle was: **BILLY J. BEATTY** (Grand Tiler)

An Alright Golfing Story

Nick decides to take his boss Bob to play nine hole at lunch time. While both men were playing excellent they were often held up by two women in front of them moving at a very slow pace. Nick offers to talk to the women to get permission to pass, but he gets about half way there and then jogs back.

Bob asks him what the problem is. "Well one of the women is my wife and the other is my mistress," complained Nick. Bob just shook his head at Nick and started toward the women to get them to speed up, but he immediately stopped short and turned around.

Nick asked "what's wrong?"

"It's a small, small world Nick, and your fired!" was the reply.

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Are Early Masonic Ritual Exposures Anti-Masonic?

Masonic ritual exposures from the collection of the Van Gordon-Williams Library and Archives are just part of the anti-Masonic materials that will be on view, in the reading room beginning September 26. In selecting objects for the exhibition, I was looking at our collection of ritual exposes and thinking about this interesting and complicated corner of anti-Masonry.

Steven C. Bullock, in his essay *Publishing Masonry; Print and the Early American Fraternity* calls Masonic ritual expose's "the first important anti-Masonic genre." The first *ritual* exposure in book form - Samuel Prichard's *Masonry Dissected* - was printed in London in 1730. Prichard's book, while an exposure, is an important document for historians as it provides the earliest known description of the Master Mason degree. To the historian, this type of documentation is invaluable. To the Mason, however, the idea of a ritual exposure is perhaps worrying at best, providing evidence of a betrayal of trust. But what about the historian who is also a Mason?

Arturo de Hoyas, who is both an historian and a Mason, addresses this tension in the introduction to his book *Light on Masonry; The History and Rituals of America's Most Important Masonic Expose'*. De Hoyas writes: "The great secret of Masonic historians is that many of us have a love affair with ritual exposures. Like other affairs of the heart, it is exciting, but it may also be a love-hate relationship. They are the product of betrayal and are ipso facto suspect, but they also present the possibility of authenticity and may teach us a great deal about the evolution of the ritual." In other words, what was once the product of betrayal may now be carefully used by historians to trace some of the changes and developments of Masonic ritual.

Note: Above excerpt from a longer article written by Brother Jeffrey Croteau and published in August 2009 "Northern Light" under subject heading.