

THE CRYPTIC FREEMASON

SPECIAL EDITION TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Editor's Corner -

Cryptic Freemason... Its Challenges ***By George C. Sellars, Editor***

This will be the last Cryptic Freemason Newsletter you will receive via the mail route, unless you have requested a paper issue. We're replacing it with a Web site designed especially for all the membership, not for just a few subscribers. It will provide all the information you received in the paper version and much more.

The decision to build a new Web Site was two fold: to provide you with a centralized storehouse for Cryptic information; to enhance education material on line and to reduce the production and mailing costs which are escalating at an alarming rate and finally, to be pro active in the mass media communication systems for our total membership.

The new site is in the process of being developed, which will have current and timely news about General Grand Council, State, Local and International events; names and phone numbers and interesting Cryptic articles.

It is anticipated to be online by the first quarter of 2010. You will receive notification when it is to go on line with instructions on how to access the site.

Over 1,000 members received a survey request in the 2009 Spring Issue of the Cryptic Freemason on creating a electronic program. This represents about 1% of our membership population of approximately 90,000. Of those who responded, 60% were in favor of receiving the newsletter via the electronic medium.

For those who do not have computer access, we plan to share the Council news and other information at the Regional Meetings, Annual Grand Council Sessions, and travels, just as we have done before. Incidentally, just a suggestion here, your public library, in your own hometown, allows you to use their computer facilities to access information like this newsletter too and even with the Librarians help.

We are excited about the opportunity to provide you, the whole membership, with more current information

faster, on time, with no delays and in one piece. We hope you'll be excited too!

Editor's Note:

As of this publication, the time has come for this writer and Editor to step aside. By the end of this year there will be a new "Editor". He will start on January 1, 2010 and he is aware of the challenges ahead of him but he is up to the task.

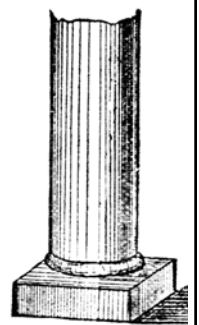
His name? Dr. Richard A. Eppler, P.M.I.G.M. of Connecticut. He is well respected in his Masonic Community as a researcher and writer, and has written many research documents on Masonic subjects over his Masonic Career. Most importantly, M.I. Companion Richard has far-reaching ideas of how to make our communications program a first class leader in our Cryptic Community. He falls into what we like to call an "Executive Leader". Wish him well! As we pass the gavel to the hands of a competent Companion for all of our membership to enjoy. Give him the support for this new position.

This has been a long road to stability and changes for the Cryptic Freemason and its subscribers. But as it has been said, "times are a changing" in the communication world and we, with the new man on board, will meet the challenges and prepare for the best for our members.



The Seven Pillars of Solomon

1. The Pillar of Wisdom
2. The Pillar of Mercy
3. The Pillar of Trust
4. The Pillar of Money Management
5. The Pillar of Happiness
6. The Pillar of Confidence
7. The Pillar of Grace



Which is more important! When you build Pillars or dreams, you give the "Grace" of "God". Don't give up your dreams or destiny, because it is "Gods" destiny too. Build your house from the Pillars of "God" and Solomon and God's grace shall be yours.

BY: ROBERT 'BOB' MALWITZ
CHIEF AMBASSADOR



It has been said Masonry teaches us many lessons through the use of allegorical plays. From the first time we participate in a Masonic Degree we are part of the "play" so to speak. We are told we will learn many lessons and we will get out of Masonry only what we put into it. We can read and write papers and articles. We are told we will meet many interesting people and maybe even a president, an instance has been known. We can, if we are so fortunate, even

rise to preside over a Grand Body. All of this is true.

Yet Masonry does not teach in the normal fashion. The York and Scottish Degrees teach many of the same lessons using different allegories. As a member of both Rites I know I have learned much, not so much by having the degrees conferred upon me, but by going back and seeing them over and over. Each time we see one of the Degrees performed we should walk away with a little more knowledge than we started with.

My focus today will be on the York Rite. We all know there are four "bodies" in the York Rite: Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery. Each "body" can and does stand on its own. Each has its own lessons and its own hierarchy. Yet each is intimately interwoven with the others. I know of Masons who think the Lodge is the body they wish to devote their efforts to and they are very active and happy doing so. Some feel the Chapter, Council or Commandery holds the key to their happiness. Yet when combined they tell a whole story and provide us with a whole fabric. It is this whole fabric we will look at briefly. We learn early on that the lessons are taught out of order so I will briefly try to put them in order to show the impact of the journey we are on.

The Lodge in its three degrees tells us the beginning. The Chapter tells us more of the beginning and the end. The Council fills in some more of the beginning and the middle. The Commandery fills in part of the end. It is only when we look at the entire view that we begin to realize just how powerful the story being told really is. The story is told in sections and the sections are not taught in order. This forces us to unscramble the puzzle and put the pieces in proper order. When this is done we can see that the story is a roadmap for life and the "secret" of Masonry is not really a "secret" at all.

As we begin our journey in the Lodge we find ourselves starting at the bottom. We are a builder in training. It presumes we are in our youth and have much to learn. Regardless of our age when we join the Craft we are at the beginning and will learn through the lessons yet to come. We have to learn what tools and materials are going to be needed to build our "temple" or life. We find ourselves having to labor long and diligently before we can move on. We have to understand how to create the building blocks and to begin to govern our passions as our future edifice beings to take shape.

As we progress and learn we are told our responsibilities will grow as well. We have now proven our proficiency to go on to the next degree, the Fellowcraft. Here we are taught to pursue education. We are taught about architecture and how it relates to every aspect of our lives. We are taught that we are entitled to wages.

But we must leap forward a bit to the Mark Master Degree to find out what those wages are. We are also taught here that our responsibilities to our fellow man have increased as well. Justice is to be tempered with mercy. We are taught to do our own work and to take pride in our work, even to the placing of our "mark" upon our work. Still we are "Fellowcrafts" and working as our journey continues. We must learn to work with others and to produce only finished work that can be used to build our journey.

The Royal Master Degree teaches us that our efforts will be rewarded.

That if we persevere in our labors and are willing to receive our rewards when we are worthy they shall come to us. We are taught patience.

The Select Master Degree teaches us to be vigilant in our efforts and to keep our eye on the ball. Our journey will offer many opportunities to wander and it is only by being vigilant that we will succeed. Yet we must be ever ready to take advantage of opportunities as they appear. Sometimes they will place us in peril but failure to recognize an open door will often times result in even greater loss for us. Again as "Fellowcrafts" we are continuing our journey and our building is growing.

The Master Mason Degree teaches us that we are now progressing once again. We are now not just workers but leaders. We must now use all the skills learned on our journey so far to draw plans for future buildings that others will build. We are now given the power to teach and earn wages in other countries. Our skills are such that we will provide the leadership for others to build their journey as we provide the guidance they will need. We are taught that we can be the source of our own destruction but that our integrity is worth more than life itself. We are taught that death is not the final stopping point and we are given one of the Master's keys. With the gift of that key we are taught again to serve our fellow man.

When we reach the Most Excellent Master Degree we are taught that our journey is over, our building complete. We are allowed to view the celebration and the joy of our journey. Our work is evaluated and we are told it is pleasing. We can now lay down our working tools and enjoy our situation. Yet we know this is not to be. We know there is much yet to be done. We still have work to do and lessons to learn.

The Super Excellent Master Degree teaches us what happens when we forget our vows and obligations. We find our journey's road to become rough and difficult. We find failure and eventually we lose the respect and friendship of our fellow man. We see our life's work destroyed as we ourselves are destroyed. Yet is all lost?

The Degree of The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross finds that even after many years of difficulty and struggle, we may yet find our way back to our former path. We are introduced to one of the main personages who will go back and retrace our journey. We are taught that honor, truth and all the lessons we previously learned are still there and we can claim them again as we fight our way back. We are taught that truth will prevail and overcome all difficulties.

By the time we reach the Royal Arch Degree we learn that we are back at the beginning. We have traveled a long and arduous journey, we have seen failure yet we have a strong hope for the future. We are willing to work at building that future no matter how small our part may be. As we go about our seemingly insignificant work we find once again those treasures we lost earlier. We once again begin to move upward as we again follow the path we started so long ago. We are rewarded with the key to our building. With it we have come full circle.

Masonry teaches us many lessons but they are not taught in order. Some parts of the lesson are in one place and other parts are somewhere else. Perhaps that is part of the wisdom of those who developed the York Rite Bodies. We are made to search and to spend time. It is not a McDonald's system. We have to learn and go back many times to see how the many parts fit together. It is indeed true that we only get out of Masonry what we put into it. We have the pleasure of making new friends, of learning, of being able to teach, of being able to see our lives become better. Yet none of this can take place if we are not willing to participate. So I think perhaps the greatest lesson we can learn is that we have to become a viable member for our Craft to work its magic. Just holding a card doesn't cut it. The question is are we willing to take the time and put forth the effort to take the entire journey?

TRIENNIAL FOOT NOTES

BY "BUD" HIMES, P.G.G.M.

At the General Grand Council Banquet, an Honor Award was presented that evening for the first time, it is considered equivalent to the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Gold Medal. It was presented to Companion Dwight L. Smith of Indiana for his devotion to Freemasonry and dedication and hard work.

There were seven awards of the Columbian Award given. The Columbian Award was so named to honor Columbian Council #1 of New York, reportedly the first organized Council of Royal Masters in the United States, so organized on 2 September 1810 and still in existence. Those recipients were:

- Companion Carl R. McPherson of Massachusetts for the Northeast Region
- Companion T. Olin Gore for the Southeast Region
- Millard W. McConnell of Indiana for the East Central Region
- Olin S. McDaniel for the South Central Region
- William S. Jenney of Arizona for the Southwest Region
- Robert P. Monroe for the Northwest Region
- William E. Kaloudis of Germany for Outside the Continental United States

Over the years I have had the great privilege to have known several of the Companions from all of the lists above, and know the awards were more than well deserved. As a side note, the General Grand King, Ted Harrison, is a member of Columbian Council #1, and is deservingly proud of it.

While doing research for me, a good friend reminded me of something I had

first heard about at the Triennial of 1984 in New Orleans, but had forgotten about. It seems that a Centennial Deposit had been made, and contained within, an iron chest deposited in the vaults of the New York Masonic Temple, to be opened on the Centennial Anniversary of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters on 25 August 1980. The key to the chest and other instructions had been in the care of the Grand Council of Minnesota since 1907.

The chest was not opened on that date, and it was decided at an Officers Meeting in February 1981 to entrust Companion D'Anza of New York the task of shipping the chest and its contents to Cedar Rapids for opening during the Triennial there in September of that year.

When it was learned of the weight of the iron chest and the great cost to ship it across country, it was decided to ask Companion D'Anza to open the chest, ship the contents to the Cryptic Room of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. The Memorial Deposit was symbolically opened during the Triennial that year by all the General Grand Officers and Companion D'Anza.

What happened to the iron chest, what were its contents and their present whereabouts, and more about how and when this all came about is the subject of my next research project for my next article for this magazine.

Any information you may have that will help, please send it to me. And I also wish to thank my dear friend and Companion who did most of the research for the above information, but prefers to remain anonymous.

Sincerely and fraternally, and we'll see you down the road somewhere, God willing and the creeks don't rise.

General Grand Elected Officers 2008-2011

General Grand Master
Joseph J. Vale
3609 Southwood Dr.
Gastonia, NC 28056
(704) 824-3444
jvalemasonic@aol.com

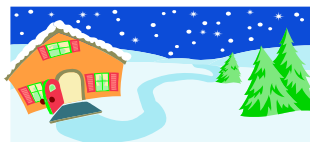
Deputy General Grand Master
George C. Sellars
25159 S. Magdalena
Harrison Twp., MI 48045
(586) 791-3009
gsellarsggci@aol.com

**General Grand Principal
Conductor of the Work**
Lawrence (Larry) O. Weaver
19433 S. Prospector Ter.
Oregon City, OR 95045
ggpcw@ggccmi.org

General Grand Treasurer
Kenneth D. Chandler
2288 Coy Road
Mason, MI 48854-9205
(517) 676-2172
ggt@ggccmi.org

General Grand Recorder
David A. Grindle
PO Box 1087
Meridian, ID 83680-1087
(208) 870-8397
ggr@ggccmi.org

LET IT SNOW,
LET IT SNOW -
LET IT SNOW



General Grand Council of
Cryptic Masons International
PO Box 1087
Meridian ID 83680-1087

Return Service Requested



**Want to See Your
Articles in the
Cryptic Freemason?**

Then send your articles and
pictures to:

George C. Sellars
25159 S. Magdalena
Harrison Twp, MI 48045
Email: gsellarsggci@aol.com

PLAY TO WIN... ...AND LEARN ALONG THE WAY

It's fall again. My blood perks at 112 degrees for the athletes in the games. Being an old sport enthusiast, I realize the values of life the game teaches. Can there be a more motivational subject this time of the year? Libraries are full of books on motivation and "Team" play. Remember, as our Most Puissant Companion Joseph J. Vale has always said, "there is no "I" in Team". One could say it another way, "we may not have it all together separate, but together we have it all". It's that simple.

Proper education. Proper communication. Proper discussions. Proper review and proper decisions by all the "Team" members, means it will prevent poor discussions and performances. This is a great passion too, this General Grand Council, just like the Friday's and Saturdays of years ago.

I admire the tenacity of our membership in the Cryptic Rite. The men in "Purple". Those who stand for Preservation and Teamwork. Management and Teamwork. Excitement and Teamwork. It's all working. We feel it every day this "Team" of ours. It doesn't just happen, it

takes long hours of practicing and teaching, just like the coaches of yesterday, to reach dedication & commitment. Remember? We persevered until it hurts. Against all odds... until the clock runs out, until the game is in hand and over. You must feel it too!!! We, all of us, play an important role in the success of the General Grand Council. Some more than others. Some bleed "Purple" more than others but we all emerge the victors, we Masons. For the "Team".

Do you seek to give of your talents for this team? Are you enthusiastic of the men in "Purple" and see the opportunities to serve and be loyal to the Cryptic Rite? Let the "Team" know, especially this writer. We have a game plan, a battle to be fought, to win, to lead, this week, next week, next year and beyond, forever. God gave us our destiny.

George C. Sellars
DGGM, Team member

