

# TRESTLEBOARD

## Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

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850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

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Ron Aldridge, Worshipful Master

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### FROM THE EAST



Brothers, this article was brought to my attention by Past Master Art Gustafson. We both agree whole heartedly with the author, and thought that all Mason's should give this article some thought.  
Ron Aldridge WM

#### Genuine Masonry

Genuine Masonry can only exist where a sufficient number of whole hearted, generous, and intelligent men can be found who are willing to band themselves together for the purpose of mutual improvement in all that is required to make a good citizen.

Masonry does not depend upon any particular system for it's perpetuation, but rather upon the necessity for something to control the passions of men who desire to live pure and upright lives, and to assist those who within themselves are unable to withstand the temptations with which they are much too frequently surrounded.

The great high road of all human welfare lies along the old highway of steadfast well doing; and they who are the most persistent, and work in the finest spirit, will invariably be the most successful; success treads on the heels of every right effort.

Many become Masons in name and never comprehend the emptiness of their title. Masonry is of the heart and in the life. A man said. "I have been a Mason for many years, what good has it done me?" He was never a Mason. What he put into Masonry is exactly what he got out of it.

Every Mason should live up to the highest expectations of our Masonic brothers. When the time comes that all craftsmen recognize this and try to live up to it, then we will have a world safe for anything that is good.

Masonry is worth to one just what he put into it. If a member fails to attend a lodge, and takes no interest in the work, it is worth nothing to him further than giving the privilege of wearing a button or a Masonic emblem of some kind.

Brother Frank G. Higgins  
February 1921

### FROM THE SOUTH

As we embark upon the summer recess, I would like to state that the past session went well, from my position. We did quite well on the Child I.D. Protection Program, something I strongly believe in and hope continues. I know that during the workweek many of our retirees and their wives helped immensely. I commend your dedication. One of my most enjoyable meetings was the lesson on the one letter key, used when our older members were learning there degree work. It was exciting to hear the stories from the older members and the methods used for their teachings, while going through their different degrees. They held the attention of us younger members. It was a real bonding session thanks to the curiosity of our younger member's zeal to learn the old ways.

The past session did not end without the devastating loss of one of our honored members. The loss of Brother Jack Parkin was very saddening. I had the honor of attending the mass and was humbled to witness and partake in the glove and evergreen. I found it very moving. Afterwards, I reflected on my times with Brother Jack. During one of our meetings, Brother Jack, then our Tiler, was guarding the door. For some reason I found myself sitting with him, where he shared with me, the story of his life. He told me of his various job and the duties therein. He moved to stories of his wife and children. He had a

(Continued on page 3)

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## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #1**

Our annual Ladies Night Out was held this year at our Temple on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The extra ordinary result of using our own dining room was a feast fit for royalty. It included beefsteak with all the trimmings. Our compliments to chef Jim Sparks. It was an outstanding dinner.

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #2**

To all the brethren interested in joining our new Temple Degree Team, please watch our web site calendar for the 3<sup>rd</sup> practice date coming up in August. We are co-organized with the Berkley and Troy Temples. Many play actors have signed on. However, fill-ins and substitutes are needed. Please come on board with us because of our play-script needs and for your own personal Masonic satisfaction. There isn't a better way to experience Masonic spirit then by helping to "raise" new brothers.

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #3**

Our Child ID program is still going on. Thanks a million to all those who gave of their time and skills to program. Some 354 children from 5 schools and a chiropractic center have been processed. Not only are we providing a valuable community service, the public is noticing us in a real good light. Fine job everyone!



## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #4**

With help of some wonderfully spirited workers, (I don't know how many) our Temple was able to successfully pull off another profitable yard-rummage sale. The proceeds will go to the Temple Board who will divide the money between Masonic charities and a fund to repair the Temple parking lot. To all of those who helped, we can't thank you enough. The results were super.



## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #5**

A warm welcome to our three new Entered Apprentices: Bro. Julius Readus, Bro. Derrick Stone, and Bro. Bafti Baftio. They will receive their Fellow Craft degrees in September. Also, we are now processing three new petitioners who signed in at our July Yard sale: Adam Gac, Paul Pulkki, and Phillip Huges.

Brethren sharpen your degree skills. We've some real work ahead of us this fall.

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #6**

DON'T FORGET!!! One of the best social events of the year, our ANNUAL CORN ROAST is on AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup> FROM 1-5PM. Bring along family and would-be candidates.

## ***From the South* (Con't. from page 1)**

way of telling stories that made you feel as though you were walking along side him. Brother Parkin you will be sorely missed. I hope to clasp, one day your vanished hand in friendship and love.

Northwood Ancient Craft 551 welcomed their newest members. Brother's Julius Readus, Derrick Stone, and Bafti Baftio received their Entered Apprentice Degrees in Masonry in June. It was an honor and a privilege to sit in the South during the proceedings. The attendance for their Entered Apprentice Degree was amazing. We look forward to you all completing your following degree's in the fall.

As we all enjoy the summer recess, I pray that everyone remain safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

Respectfully Yours

Larry Bullock

Junior Warden

## **HOSPITALER'S REPORT**

The good news is that we have no "bad news". Let us all continue to stay healthy.

## ***LODGE ACTIVITIES***

### **August 2012**

8-02 Thurs.	Child ID Program at Union Hall	1-5:00pm
8-26 Sunday	Annual Family Corn Roast	1-5:00pm

### **September 2012**

9-06 Thurs.	Potluck Dinner	6:00pm
	Regular Communication	7:00pm
	Open in EA Degree for proficiencies	
9-13 Thurs.	FC Degree practice	7:00pm
9-20 Thurs.	FC Degree- WB Fred Messer will preside	7:00pm
9-27 Thurs.	Craig Mason from Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation will be our speaker	7:00pm

### **October 2012**

10-04 Thurs.	Potluck Dinner	6:00pm
	Regular Communication	7:00pm
10-11 Thurs.	Practice or Degree (check website)	7:00pm
10-18 Thurs.	Practice or Degree (check website)	7:00pm
10-25 Thurs.	Social, Practice or Degree ( " " )	7:00pm

Visit our website for more information and for possible date changes and updates - [www.NAC551.com](http://www.NAC551.com)

## **BECOMING A MASON BY BILL PETERSON (STEWARD)**



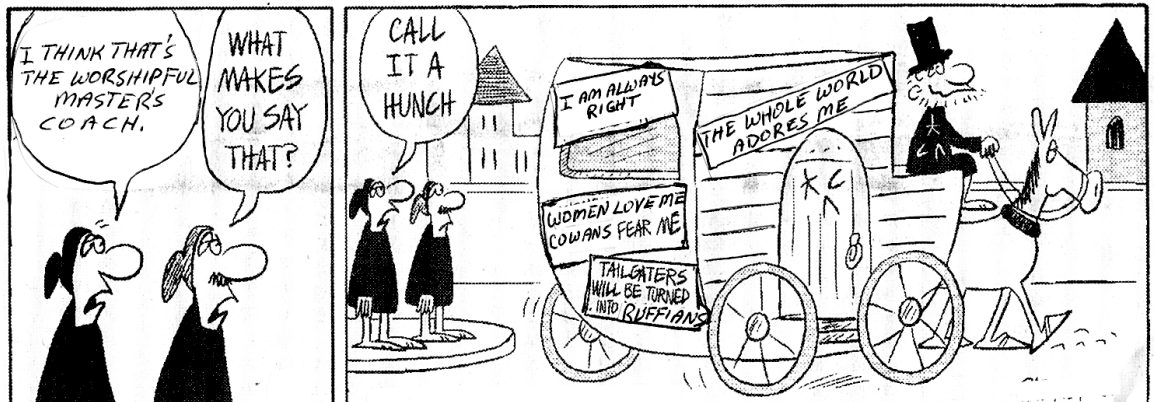
"You would make a great Mason". I'll always remember when my neighbor said those five words to me. We sat for an hour or so discussing Masonry and what was required of me to join. I then read a story about an American Indian Mason during the Revolutionary War who saved the life of an enemy brother Mason. That made me ready. I filled out my application (petition) to get the ball rolling. A few weeks went by and I was filled with anticipation. Then I received a call to meet some brothers in Lodge to interview me. I told them I wanted to become a Mason because I would love to help other people through charity that I can't do myself. I remarked that I was very curious about Masonry

Again, a few more long weeks passed. When I received the call that my degree was about to be done, I experienced many different emotions- excitement, anticipation and fear. It was a little 'much'.

The night of my EA Degree is a cherished memory for me. The moment of being (BEING BROUGHT TO LIGHT) brought a tear to my eye. The next two Degrees were also emotional for me.

I realize that I have become a better man and Mason due to my obligations. To me Masonry is something I will cherish and enjoy for the rest of my life. So mote it be.

## **MASONIC HUMOR**






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