

Trestle Board

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From the East

IS THERE A

“SPIRITUAL” TREASURER?

The day this article was “due” to the editor was 15-April – Tax Day. Did you get yours done on time? While I recently completed my personal, trust, and business taxes with the usual gritting of teeth at the unwieldy ‘administrivia,’ knowing that I can/have come up with much simpler, more financially productive methods of calculating taxes (if they would only listen to me... oh yeah, I forgot... I’m just the Worshipful Master, not the Secretary.... ;-), I took a break and actually contemplated WHY we (or, at least, I) pay taxes.

Much can be said about the horrendous government waste that is funded by our taxes, but let’s set that issue aside for a while. The **reason** we pay taxes is to support those things in our society that would likely go unsupported were it not for oversight by civil authorities. These are things that either cannot be adequately divided among individuals to provide, or more accurately, pay for. These include infrastructure like streets and sewers and power grids; as well as things like public health and safety services. We can argue about which of these things are worth how much, but it is clear that, in general, they are to some degree necessary or at least



highly desirable in our current culture/world – and we ALL pay for them via our taxes.

Now, in Masonry, we take a man who we **know** is good, and the Fraternity provides an environment in which that man can work to improve himself in whatever way he finds most necessary or spiritually satisfying. We learn from each Degree, and take from each Lecture and Charge some piece of wisdom or practice that helps us improve. We elect and install Lodge Officers, and appoint Candidate coaches to help oversee these activities, both to help provide consistency and for ease of administration.

Not surprisingly, this structure is somewhat like our civil authorities (chicken or egg?). But, I ask, how do we “fund” this structure? I’m not talking about dues, investments, or any other sort of monetary contribution. Rather, I’m talking about what each man and Mason does to support the Fraternity – not just for a period of a few months or years while going through the Degrees, or serving as an Officer, but each year every year; each day every day; each hour every hour. What do YOU do to “fund” Freemasonry?

From the East - continued

Clearly not everyone can be an Officer, a ritualist, a coach, a cook, or whatever. And even those who are cannot do so all the time. I pay my civil taxes in money because I cannot pay them in square inches of asphalt, or specific minutes of an EMT's life-saving education. I pay my Masonic "taxes" by showing up to meetings, and more especially the OTHER activities the Lodge is engaged in; by contributing effort or guidance to those who keep the infrastructure of the Fraternity in balance. Also, by going just a little bit further out of my way than I have to to make a positive difference in job, neighborhood, family, etc.

It is the accumulated little pieces of good that I do, either to improve myself, or the world around me, that constitute my

"funding" of the principles of Freemasonry. And, I encourage each and every one of you to find a way to contribute something of value to your world, community, Lodge, and yourself. In the end, the Great Treasurer of the Universe will keep a just and regular account of all you do, and pay your rewards according to your merits.

S.M.I.B.,

Mark D. Sanders
Worshipful Master

Raised in the Month of May

*WB Cliff Murphy
WB Mac Parker
Brother Matt Raistakka
WB Calvin Russell*

*Congratulations
Brothers*

Freemasonry code cracked at Knox College

***Knox College professor discovers architect Charles Ulricson hid links to
Freemasonry throughout historical building***

By CLARE HOWARD (choward@pjstar.com) of the Journal Star

Posted Apr 10, 2010 @ 10:00 PM

GALESBURG —

Symbolism that eluded detection for more than 150 years has become a modern-day Knox College version of "The DaVinci Code."

Philosophy professor Lance Factor recounts how he cracked the code and deciphered the messages in his new book, "Chapel in the Sky: Knox College's Old Main and Its Masonic Architect" published by Northern Illinois University Press.

Just months after hitting store shelves, the book has gone into its second printing.

"We felt positive about this book, but we didn't expect we'd go into the second printing so fast," said Linda Manning, assistant director of marketing and sales manager at Northern Illinois University Press.

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Freemasonry code cracked at Knox College - continued

The mystery at Knox started presenting itself to Factor almost subconsciously. He has taught at Knox for 40 years, and walking to his office in Old Main, he'd wonder why the building's windows spanned multiple stories. He wondered why there were precise triangular grids in the transoms above doors, what purpose the niches in the corner towers served and what the patterns on the floor meant.

The building was designed by architect Charles Ulricson, a Swedish immigrant who was living in Peoria and was commissioned to design the Knox College building which was completed in 1857.

Old Main is unlike other collegiate architecture and has been described as Collegiate Gothic with characteristics of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival, but that didn't quite satisfy Factor.

"There were things that were atypical. I'd think about it and tell myself someday I'm going to figure that out," Factor said recently from his third floor office in Old Main, a national landmark and site of one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

By the summer of 2006, Factor found the irregularities and mysteries insuppressible. He climbed a ladder and started measuring all the windows, niches, hooded moldings, foundation stones, mullions and bell tower. He counted the bricks and traced the source of the limestone.

He started calculating ratios. He researched the life of the architect.

"It would keep me awake at night. Most architectural historians don't measure buildings and count bricks. They look at features," Factor said. "But my field is Greek philosophy and logic. Once I started measuring, the whole thing cracked open."

Ulricson grew up in Sweden, son of an architect for the royal family. When his father, who was probably a Freemason, died relatively young, Ulricson and his brother tried to support their mother in ways that angered the royal family, and the brothers were forced to leave Sweden.

His brother went to Australia, and Ulricson came to America in 1835 and worked for the New York City architectural firm Town and Davis. The firm's partners were not Masons, but they believed in the notion that geometry could be an expression of metaphysical and spiritual truth.

In his book, Factor wrote that the New York architects used special Masonic ratios thought to transform a building into a "talismán suffused with the creative and protective energy of God, the Divine Architect and Geometer of the Universe."

Continued In June Silver Star Trestle Board – Read the entire article at www.silverstar286.org

Stated Communication

May 11, 2010

Lodge Opens at 7:30pm

Brothers, thank you for catching up your dues for 2010. If you have not remitted your 2010 dues, have lost your remittance form or have questions, please see WB Ric Bishop

Menu for May Stated Communication

Chicken Noodle Soup

And Fixin's

(in other words, whatever Ray plans on fixin)

Served at 6:30pm

Contact VWB Ray Zimmerman if you have a special request

Officer Contact Information

Contact Information:

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<i>WB Ric Bishop</i>	<i>360-606-0405</i>	silverstar286@hotmail.com

May Stated Communication and Events

May 11th, 2010 – Stated Communication Silver Star #286
Dinner at 6:30pm
Lodge Opens at 7:30pm

May 25th, 2010 – Silver Star Widows Dinner
6:00pm
Lodge will not open

Please check Silver Star Web Site at www.silverstar286.org for updated information on degrees, dinners and events around District 19

Widows Dinner

(Honoring the wives of our departed but not forgotten brothers)

On May 25th 2010, we will be holding our annual dinner in honor of the wives of our departed brothers. Economic times have changed the make up and type of restaurants available in Battle Ground, and with the recent and sudden closing of Leonardo's, we have been left scrambling for a new location.

More information to follow both by email, web posting and US Mail.



Making Good Men Better

We're on the Web!

www.silverstar286.org

Email

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