



GFN CYBER MASON

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The Newsletter of the Global Fraternal Network -- VIRTUAL INTERNET LODGE

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Volume 3, Number 7 July 2008

Forums meet at the East Gate.

UK 2100 BST Sunday only

AP 1030 GMT

USA 0300 GMT

Time Conversion <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>

"The views expressed here (by Members of the GFN) are of those individuals who contribute them and are not of any Masonic Lodge, Grand Lodge nor of the Editors, Officers or Personnel of the Newsletter".

Editorial

Brothers - it has been over 4 weeks since the June News Letter went out asking for volunteers to act as "HOSTS " on the 24 hour Chat Festival to be held on the 16th of August. To date I have not had ONE response with an offer of help on the day! I am hoping that this is only a minor hiccup BUT if this is an indication of the level of interest in the event then! Apathy truly is a problem -- Dennis aka Genisis

Dennis Mc Dowell

"Who is who in the GFN?"

Second in a series of profiles

Ellis Mills AKA efromstar187
Sickness & Distress Trestle Board Director
Glad Tidings/ Birthday Trestle Board Director
Hospitality Committee Member



My father was Ellis Truman Mills, I am a Jr, but was always called E.T., even before I had a phone to call home. Born in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio in 1930. He moved to a farm in the NE corner of Ohio. In 1940, his father started teaching again. The family returned to Cuyahoga Falls in 1941 where Ellis Sr. taught Industrial Arts in the Akron School system for 30 years.

E.T. graduated from Cuyahoga Falls High School in June 1947 and began classes at Kent State University. One of his instructors suggested that E.T. might mature by getting away from home and his mother called a friendly U.S. Air Force Recruiter who was only too happy to arrange a trip to San Antonio, Texas in March 1948. Trained in Aviation Electronics in Biloxi, Mississippi he was sent to South Dakota where he worked on B-29 Aircraft and then B-36 Aircraft inspecting the work of others. In 1955 he went to Rhein-Main Airbase in Germany working on B-50 Aircraft for 2 years. Returning to the U.S. he took a couple of months to consider alternative employment and decided to re-enlist in the Air Force At Denver, Colorado he learned the Fire-Control [weapons] System of the B-52, reporting to Carswell Air Base in Texas in 1958. At Carswell he switched to B-58 Aircraft and returned to inspecting the work of other. He moved to Arkansas with the B-58 wing. After 18 years Service in the U.S.A.F. he retrained as Crew Chief of a Pilot less Bomber [the MACE missile] and went to Okinawa. He retired on Okinawa in June 1970.

In 1962, while back in Ohio on leave E.T. petitioned Star Lodge 187 and in May 1963 came back to Ohio to receive the three Degrees. He returned to Texas and began a rich and varied Masonic career.

E.T. joined the Royal Arch Chapter, Council of Royal and Select Masters, and joined the Commandery of Knights Templar in Texas. He moved his Chapter, Council and Commandery affiliation to Arkansas and joined the Valley of Little Rock A.A.S.R., Scimitar Temple A.A.O.N.M.S., and Bendemeer Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R.

In Okinawa he affiliated with Coral Lodge 142, GL of Philippines and served that Lodge as WM in 1970. In 1973 E.T. returned to Arkansas to complete the College Education he began in 1948, graduating from U. Arkansas at Little Rock in June 1977 with a triple degree, B.A. in History, B.S. in Physics, and Math. In addition to getting pumped full of B.S. he served Iris Chapter Royal Arch Masons as High Priest, Occidental Council R&SM as T.I.M. and Hugh de Payens Commandery as Eminent Commander and was elected to the K.Y.C.H. in Arkansas Priory. E.T. served the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas as Grand High Priest [First Principal] in 1983.

Returning to Ohio, E.T. became active in his mother Lodge, Star 187, and served as WM in 2007. He is currently Lodge Education Officer.

E.T. enjoys Masonic Travel both actual and virtual. Being single and retired, he can indulge both. He averages attendance at one Masonic related function or another four to six days a week and is often to be found at the East Gate for the AP Forum, the U.K. Forum and the evening forum in the U.S.

In addition to Masonic Travel, he serves as a Polling Station Officer for elections, and spends two days a week from February to April as Site Leader for a Tax-Counseling Site for the Elderly. E.T. is also active as a Deacon in his Church.

E.T. firmly believes the statement by Henry Ford, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning today is young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."



Asian Pacific

"#7: Alan (from Western Australia)

I am pleased to tell you all that I am The Worshipful Master elect of Darling Range Lodge."

Hello all. I have recently expanded my database of member email addresses to include all current, and some past, members of the GFN who fall within the geographic bounds of its Asia Pacific Forum. If this is the first of these

updates that you have received, I humbly apologize. In a way, I hope that this becomes like an occasional newsletter keeping members abreast of what the GFN is all about and how you can be an active part of its Asia Pacific Forum. One of the things that became apparent to me in updating my e-mails was the number of members we have on the Indian sub-continent. Given the time delays in India from the Eastern side of the APF, maybe we could start a special Chat time for India. I would be pleased to receive your thoughts on this suggestion. The number of members we have in the Philippines also impressed me, and yet we have no GFN area representative there. If you would like to fill this role, please let me know and I will get more details to you. As always, I would appreciate any and all suggestions that you have for making the GFN APF a more enjoyable experience for all our members. Cheers for now,

Bro Andrew Bradley (andrew608)
GFN Asia Pacific Regional Leader

Greetings brethren. Nominations have now closed and it is time to vote for where we will have our 3rd GFN Asia Pacific Forum Gathering. As promised, we will put this out to popular vote. Before we do there are a few things to make clear - (1) If you have no intention whatsoever of attending, please do not vote. (2) Only vote if you are "reasonably" sure that you will be able to attend and/or think it is possible that you will be able to do so. (3) A vote does not obligate you to attend either the venue you vote for or the alternate venue if it wins. (4) Please send your vote to me at ajbradley@hotmail.net.au. Votes will be known to me only and as such will be as close as we can get to a secret ballot. (5) Voting will close on 13th July when I will post a notice on the Asia Pacific Trestle Board in the GFN with the results. The reason for the months open period is to allow our members, especially those from overseas, to do some research, consider their options, hopefully find a way to be able to join us, and then vote in time. Brethren, look well to your ballot. Bye for now,

Bro Andrew Bradley (andrew608)

GFN Asia Pacific Regional Leader.

[GFN Asia Pacific Forum 2009 Gathering Nominations](#)

- Northern Tasmania, Australia in May 2009 hosted by Bob & Anne Edwards.
- Perth, Australia in September 2009 hosted by Alan & Brenda Sandford.

Voting closes 13th July 2008

Send your vote to ajbradley@hotmail.net.au



Our Scottish Deputy Rep thanks all that sent good wishes and congratulations on the recent birth of his daughter Lily



Crayford Lodge Installation meeting on May 28th



Due to lack of participation and interest the last UK Forum was held on Sunday 29th June 2008



Hello Brian

I am a past master of Buddle lodge 3937 which meets in the Masonic temple in Wallsend in the Province of Northumberland. The kneeling stool that is used for the brethren to take their obligation on is covered in blue velvet and over time it has faded and worn. One of the brethren has pointed out that the shape formed actually looks like somebody's face. I am not implying this is somebody came back from the grand lodge above but just a curious happening and wondered if there may be any others out there. This has been sent out to a lodge I visit in New York and I will let you guess which one. This is just a bit of light relief so see what you think

Joe Brayson



USA

From: Harry A. Bruno <harrya217@hughes.net>

Subject: #217 Trestle Board/June 08/3

To: "**Masons On Line**" <harrya217@hughes.net>

Date: Thursday, June 5, 2008, 7:19 PM

THE TRESTLE BOARD"

e-mail newsletter supplement/June 2008

Cochran Masonic Lodge #217 F&AM

Cochran, Georgia, USA

<http://www.angelfire.com/ga/CochranLodge217>

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INACTIVE MASON - NOT SO!

Frequently we hear someone apologetically refer to himself as an "inactive" Mason, meaning that he doesn't attend Lodge meetings or participate in any of its activities. In other words, a man usually believes that he must be a participant in some kind of Lodge endeavor in order to be an "active" Mason.

This is, of course, a commendable attitude and to a degree it is correct. It is important for a Mason to attend his Lodge as often as possible to witness the conferring of each of the degrees, so that he will refresh his mind concerning the teachings and responsibilities of Freemasonry; and also attend as many stated meetings as he can so that he can have some participation in the business affairs of the Lodge.

It is true that a Mason who is regular in attendance at Lodge meetings is taking an active interest in his fraternity. If he takes part in the ritualistic ceremonies, he renders an additional service to the craft. If he accepts the responsibility of office and does his job well, he is an important builder in the greatest fraternity on earth.

However, it is not essential, even though most desirable, that a Mason fulfills some of the services listed in order to be an "active" Mason. Many men have responsibilities and duties that do not permit them to attend Lodge or hold office, but they are still? "Active" Masons.

PAY YOUR DUES

A man is an active Mason if all he does is pay his annual dues to the Lodge. At first thought, this statement may suggest bold commercialism, that Masonry is nothing but a "degree mill" and a moneymaking business.

However, when one stops to consider that our institution is dedicated to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, how could it operate without the financial support of all its members? The officers, ritualists and regularly attending members, are too few in number to even provide a meeting place. Through their financial support, men who might consider themselves "inactive" Masons make it possible for the work to be done and Masonry carried on from one generation to another.

What would happen to our program of assistance to destitute brethren, their wives, their widows, and their orphans, if it were not for the dues paying "inactive" Masons? There would be none!

The charities and benevolence of the Grand Lodge are only a beginning of the great programs of Masonic charity. All of the Masonic institutions which predicate membership upon being a Master Mason would disintegrate overnight if it were not for the "inactive" Masons. But more importantly, their charities and benevolences would cease also at once. We need to remind ourselves constantly that Freemasonry is the greatest charitable institution on earth.

It is impossible to arrive at an accurate estimate of the amount of money being spent each day for the relief of destitute and suffering humanity; also works of charity without regard to Masonic affiliation, race, creed, or national origin. The Shrine alone has a budget of millions of dollars for the operation of its

hospitals for burned and crippled children. Then consider the Scottish Rite program of Education, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and the many other like programs. Lastly compare, for example, the budget of the Shrine by itself with any other benevolent institution on earth and realize that no other group can approach the Masonic virtue of Relief, and remember that every member of the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine and all other allied Masonic bodies is first, and last, a Master Mason. How can a man pay his dues and be called an "inactive" Mason?

LIVE AN UPRIGHT LIFE

A man is an active Mason if all he does is live according to the principles of Freemasonry. There are few things in life that do more for the world than living an upright and moral life. When a Master Mason goes to sleep at night and is able to say to himself that he has that day fulfilled as best he could the obligations of a Mason, he has accomplished something for himself, but more than that, he has done something for his fellowman. If he has worn and displayed a Masonic emblem of upright living, he has served as a living testimony to all that is good, kind and charitable, and proudly proclaimed to the world that this is Masonry. The Mason should always remember that the Masonic emblem on his finger, or in his lapel, represents the badge of a Mason, the Apron.

SERVICE TO THE WORLD

A man is an active Mason if he engages in great works of service to the world and quietly, modestly, lets everyone know that he is a Master Mason.

Two of the greatest Masons of our time were General Douglas McArthur of the U.S. Armed Forces and J. Edgar Hoover of the F.B.I. Their Masonic accomplishments were achieved in sacrificial services to their country rather than within the tiled Lodge; but the whole world knew that they were Masons and were proud of that fact. This category of "active" Masons includes men from all walks of life. It includes the brother who works for the DeMolay for boys and the one who works for the Rainbow for girls. It includes the brethren who choose to work in the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, the Order of the Eastern Star or the Shrine, rather than devote their activities to the Symbolic Lodge.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

A man is an "active" Mason if he encourages worthy men to become Master Masons. This may be through example, precept, or suggestion. It is contrary to Masonic practice to consider a man for Masonry, elect him and then invite him to become a member. A man must seek to become a member because of honest desire. There is, however, no rule that forbids a Master Mason to encourage non-Masons to seek membership. A father can tell his son that he hopes some day he will desire to become a Mason and when he does, he merely has to ask for a petition. A Mason may have a good friend whom he considers to have all the attributes to be a good Freemason. He cannot invite that friend to join, but he can tell him that if he ever wishes to become a mason, he must make application. Many good men are lost to Masonry because they are waiting for an invitation.

SCARED MASONS

Lastly, there are countless Masons who pay their dues and never attend Lodge because they have remained away so long they are afraid they can't get in, or because they fear they will be embarrassed by loss of memory concerning the ritual. They should never let themselves become this kind of "inactive" Mason. In the first place, no examination will be required of a man attending his own Symbolic Lodge; the Secretary can vouch for him. In the second place, he will not be required to participate in any of the rituals, and he will soon find that all of those things he once learned are still buried in his "memory bank".

DEFINITION - "INACTIVE"

We will admit that there is such a thing as an "inactive" Mason but he usually falls within three categories. First, he is the Mason who has forfeited his membership through non-payment of dues and surrendered one of the great and priceless honors of the world, that of being a Freemason. Second, he is the man who fails to live according to the principles of Masonry and brings disgrace upon himself and the Craft. Third, he is the man who zealously hides the fact that he is a Freemason, lest the world learn of his association with an institution that inculcates the highest principles of morality and eternal truth.

WHAT KIND OF A MASON ARE YOU? You and you alone can answer that question.

Search yourself,

I have.....

.....

Fraternally,

harrya

POTS

Harry A. Bruno, PM, MPS

Grand Marshal, Grand Lodge of GA

MBOTBFMN #425

www.angelfire.com/ga/CochranLodge217

"Freemasonry is an organized society of men symbolically applying the principles of operative masonry and architecture to the science and art of character building." Bro. C.C.Hunt

Situations Vacant

A number of vacancy's exist for GFN Reps

Assistant Editor required for British Bytes Web site. Preferably on a Mac.

Interested? Contact John Nicholas plump45@yahoo.com

Lodge Links

Arcadia Lodge No 278 California <<http://www.calodges.org/no278/>>

Collinwood Lodge #582, Ohio www.collinwood582.org

21st Masonic District of Ohio, <http://masonicoh21.net/>

Solar Lodge No. 730 Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A. <http://solarlodgeno730.googlepages.com>

Steubenville Lodge No 45 Ohio <http://www.steubenvillelodge45.org/>

Alba lodge No 315 USA <<http://www.albalodge315.org/>>

Statesville Lodge No27 USA. <http://www.statesville27.ncmason.org/>

Triangle Lodge No 708 Georgia USA www.trianglelodge.org

Triangle Lodge Maine http://www.bluelodges.com/blweb/site_main.aspx?lodgeid=10

Solomon's Lodge No. 3, F. & A.M. Philadelphia, PA

www.solomons3.org <http://www.solomons3.org>

Lynnhaven Lodge No 220 Virginia <http://www.vamason.org/no220>

Freedom Military Lodge No 1775 Washington DC <http://www.freedomlodge.org>

Freedom Lodge No. 118, Lovettsville, VA, USA <http://www.freedom118.org/>

Crayford Lodge No 6336 England <http://www.crayfordlodge.org.uk>

Prov of Shropshire <http://www.pglshropshire.org.uk/>

Lodge Duyfken, which is in the District of Carpentaria, in Queensland,

Australia. <http://www.tNewinyurl.com/omr8a>

Quote

Strangers are just friends waiting to meet

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