

Nelson Masonic Times



A Minnesota State Fair Adventure

By Brother Paul Thomas, Junior Warden

I will start out by saying that many of the most enjoyable times I have had over the years have not started out as part of any plan.

On Thursday August 27th, the first day of the Minnesota State Fair, Nelson Lodge's Senior Warden (Shannon Krecklau) and myself the Junior Warden (Paul Thomas) got together that afternoon to take in the sights and sounds of said Fair. We planned to have a few refreshments, eat some interesting food and do some people watching, and that was what we did. We ran into a bunch of brothers from Star Lodge #62 in Rockford who were gathering to go to a concert later that evening. We hung around them enjoying refreshments, talking smart, until they had to enter the concert.

At that point Brother Shannon and I began to wander about checking out the many food choices. While we were walking, a memory came to mind from a Master Mason degree that Nelson Lodge and Star Lodge had jointly put on earlier in the year. I remembered that I had met 2 brothers (also birth brothers) from Compass Lodge #265 in Robbinsdale who had attended the degree because they were related to one of the new Master Masons being raised that day. We were talking and somehow got on the subject of them also belonging to the Robbinsdale OES Chapter #238. As we continued our conversation they mentioned that the Robbinsdale OES had a diner at the Minnesota State Fair.

So I said to Shannon, let's go on a mission and find the Robbinsdale OES Diner. We went to the information booth and the lady there pointed to a building a ½ block from where we were standing. Sure enough there it was.

I had walked by that building many times over the years and didn't notice it. We approached an older fellow sitting by the front door of the diner and Shannon gave him the proper hand shake. There was a twinkle in his eye after that and we talked a bit about what lodge we were from etc.

We then went in for a look around. One of the first things we noticed was a sign that indicated this diner has been serving food at the fair since 1937. We thought that was pretty impressive.

We then found the person in charge and asked if they had any volunteer openings. She said sure, and the next thing we know we were signed up to work the 1pm to 8pm shift on Monday, September 7th, the last day of the fair.

Shannon and I looked forward to that Monday and when it arrived we left in the morning and got out to the fair a couple hours before we needed to be there. The weather was perfect and the fair was packed. We had some fun walking around and trying more food, then it was time to go to work.

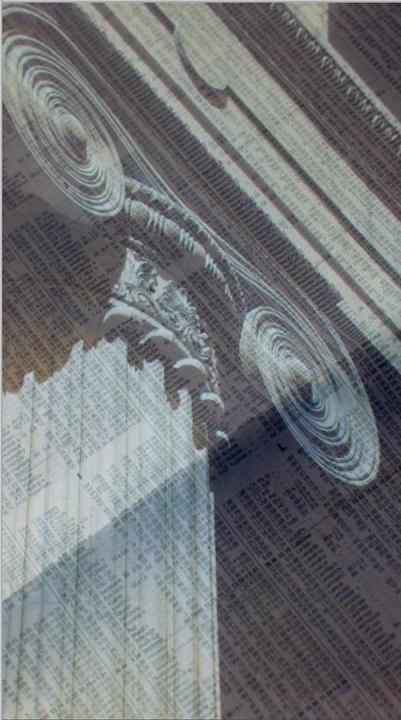
Shannon got assigned to work behind the counter and I had to work in the back washing dishes. The place had pretty steady business the whole time we were there. We met a bunch of nice OES women and time went by fast. When the time came to close, a crew came in to clean up the place and put everything away until next year. Shannon and I felt good that we helped out with a worthwhile cause. We plan to sign up again next year and maybe some of our Nelson brothers will join us.

One footnote, the lady running the cash register the whole time we were there found out we had taken a bus from an outer lot when we came in the morning. She was an older lady and was barely 5 feet tall. Apparently she was going to take the money received that day to the bank in the morning and had also come in on a bus. She was concerned with walking thru the fair to the bus loading area by herself when she was to leave and asked if Shannon and I could accompany her. Of course we were more than willing to help her out. It was a fun walk, feeling like security guards, especially since we are quite a bit larger than she was.



Photo credit





Calendar

October

- 13th – Stated Communication
- 23rd – Fellowship Friday
- 27th – Stated Communication and EA Degree

November

- 10th – Stated Communication
- 20th – Fellowship Friday
- 24th – Stated Communication

December

- 8th – Stated Communication
- 12th – Christmas Party

<http://www.nelson135.org/calendar>

From afar...

By Worshipful Brother Brian Long, Past Master

Greetings from Ohio

Every day is a great opportunity for our continued growth in the craft of Freemasonry and the growth as men in a world which has sought to take our birthright away from us. Daily, we come face to face with the temptations that tear away at the moral and social fabric of our society. The complications of the day that pull us from our families and look to turn our heads with slaps of misinformation are what is used to try to disrepute Freemasonry. We are inundated with the more righteous who believe their way is the only way and with the hypocrites who would think to teach us about morality when they are the moral offenders who are caught in their missteps. The world around us is bettered by our brotherly love, relief, and truth and is the tenants of our institution. We must constantly represent the best example for those who seek to discredit us and forthright in our stance against the injustices perpetrated by those same people. The continued march of a Mason must be beset with conviction and determination as the sum of the whole has not seen the light shine and will only be enlightened by how we as Mason's reflect the light. I am encouraged by many things I see from my brethren whether it be on social media or in person or in the way of commentary by someone who has viewed what we do. I am reminded that as we increase in knowledge, we will improve in social intercourse as the vision that is truly improving our fellow man. How have you stood up today and made a difference in the world around you?

The LEO's Corner

Last Issue's Question: What was the Morgan Affair?

A: William Morgan, along with David C Miller, concocted a scheme to publish a malicious book on Freemasonry. It is alleged by anti-freemasonry groups that he was killed due to this fact by a group of Freemasons. This was the start of the anti-Masonic Party as a political group that ran for and won the Governor of New York race in 1828 (Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia)

This Issue's Question:

Q: Why do Masters wear hats?

Please send your answers to newsletter@nelson135.org

The answer will be published in the next issue.

Fishing Clinic for Kids Event

By Brother Jim Wedell



Recently, FKFK provided classes for kids in grade school level in Rockford and Delano schools. We talked about boat safety, types of bait to use, where to fish, what type of fishing pole to use, map reading, catch and release, knot tying, we discussed weather conditions and did some practice casting in the school gym.

After their lunch we took them out on the pontoon on Pulaski lake where we caught tons of panfish. We made 3 trips out there for a total of 17 kids. All involved had a lot of fun fishing.

“The Beehive”

By Brother Shannon Krecklau, Senior Warden

In Masonry we find many symbols, our craft is riddled with visual stimulation of our fine Fraternity. As we journey through our Masonic travels we may often find reflection or discovery of a new ideal. Let's talk of the “Beehive” mentioned in the lectures of the Master Mason degree; “The Beehive is an emblem of industry, and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in heaven, to the lowest reptile of the dust. It teaches us that as we came into the world, rational and intelligent beings, so we should ever be industrious ones; never sitting down contented while our fellow-creatures around us are in want, when it is in our power to relieve them, without inconvenience to ourselves.” An emblem of industry; would not this fall under many terms or sayings that have become come practice for men wanting to be better. “Go forth and prosper”, “God helps those who help themselves” one of my favorites from Bro. Vince Lombardi; “Perfection is not obtainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence”.

All of this would suggest we must place in action those very desires that will prosper our abilities, build confidence and find inner strength to stretch our time into being better in our endeavors. The “Beehive” from the highest being to the lowest dust, no matter your status in life or society “go do” should not we also be as universal laws states, for a tree does not stop growing to the sky or the weeds not stop growing even where you do not want them to grow. Should not man grow in all his actions, strive to increase your knowledge and personal worth?

Our journey continues so may we not rest while those are in need, by pure commitment to our family, our brother and our community, I see this as part of the best nurtures of a Mason. His drive to assist those in anytime, growing in the personal wealth, that glow you feel inside when you have assisted one in times of need. This is not only human nature, it is compassion to be able to help those you truly deserve it or need that on moment when they felt as though their world had fallen. The Mason a man driven by a common bond through the work and symbols of our fraternity. When we maintain sight of those small but great messages located on our symbols our brotherhood and journey, we will prevail. Go forth Brother and may the “Beehive” be ever present on your mind.

From the Old Records

By Brother Clint LaFave

As I savor the experience of my research into the Minutes from our Stated Communications, it is a pleasure to bring some fun tid-bits to your attention. I hope you find them as fun and interesting as I do. For this installment of From the Old Records we'll visit a few interesting motions that were recorded: one involving chewing tobacco, one that is electric in nature and another which involves an animal in the lodge, or a partial animal anyway.

- **Chewing Tobacco in lodge** – December 23rd, 1905 – “It was moved by Bro. (A.E.) Sturges and seconded by Bro. Vore that the spittoons be removed from the lodge room: The motion was lost.” Interestingly enough, we recently discovered that those spittoons are still at the lodge in storage.
- **Electric Light comes to Nelson** – November 14th, 1908 – “On motion by Bro. Taylor that the trustees be authorized to have the Hall wired for electric lights. The motion prevailed.” Our first meeting in our current lodge was on August 10th, 1903, that means that the meetings were lit by lanterns and candles for the first five years. Interesting thought to consider the next time you're at lodge.

- **Fine Moose Head** – February 26th, 1924 – “By motion of Bro. HC West: The lodge accept the fine moose head presented to the lodge by Bro. CA Farel. Carried unanimously.” The moose head was a fixture at the lodge for the next 31 years until: March 22nd, 1955 – “A motion made and carried that we donate the mounted moose head to anyone who can make proper use of it.” I wonder if the moose head received his 30 year pin.

Do you have a piece of Nelson Lodge or Fairhaven Lodge History that should be included in the timeline or From the Old Records column?

Please contact me with any information regarding our past that you have to share, perhaps it's about your time in the East or something interesting that the lodge did in the past. I can be reached at 612-702-0886 or by email at clint.lafave@gmail.com.



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