



TIDINGS



Wendell Curtis, Editor – 429 Washington St., Paris, KY 40361 – 859-987-4309 - wrocurtis@bellsouth.net

Volume 1 Number 3

Published by Paris Lodge No. 2, F. & A.M., Paris, Kentucky

May-June 2011

From The East



Brethren, I'm happy to report that Paris Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M. is having a very good Masonic Year. I want to THANK those dedicated brothers and officers who have worked so hard and supported the plan in a sustained, continuing manner. As of March 14th, Our Lodge had met the goals that satisfy eight of the nine requirements in our quest for the Grand Master's "Award of Excellence" recognition. As of Saturday, April 16th, Brother Denny Vanderpool reported that he was 60 % completed towards that ninth goal of becoming a "Bluegrass Ritualist" and expected to complete the remaining 40 % in May or shortly thereafter. That will qualify Our Lodge for that exclusive recognition and a FIRST in our accomplishments ever.

I am happy to report that your *team* added two new Entered Apprentices to our Fraternity at our stated meeting on April 19th. We now have at least seven EAs awaiting to get started and/or complete their proficiency class. Hopefully, these brothers can get this going soon and continue their respective journeys to become Master Masons later on this year. According to our Treasurer, we are tracking in a positive manner to our adopted Budget For 2011. As cited in the last newsletter, at stated meetings later on this year, I intend to have: A Past Masters Dinner (steak) to honor the past masters of Paris Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M., an 'awards' night, a 'move up' night where the officers move up to their next station and operate the lodge, and a 'family dinner' night where our families can join us as we did at our Open Installation. We might combine a couple of these so that our respective families can enjoy them with us. Brothers, your presence at our stated

meetings is both solicited and appreciated. I hope your pick a derby winner and don't forget to support our *Fish Fry* on Friday, May 13th. Brother Senior Warden can use your help with this.

As before, I invite each of you to contribute to this newsletter with your submissions of substance by contacting Brother Wendell Curtis, our Treasurer, at his information elsewhere shown in this newsletter. He is the Editor-in-Chief and will accept or reject articles each publishing period. Check out our website at: <http://pariskylodge.com/>

In closing, I hope that you will consider joining us here at your Lodge on the third Tuesday each month. The Senior Steward feeds at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.. Give it a try, you might like it once more.

Fraternally thine,

Earl B. Sosby, Jr., Master



Fish Fry

Friday May 13th at Paris Lodge

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

or until we run out of fish

\$7.50

**Fish, Hush Puppies, Baked Beans,
Slaw, Dessert and Drink.**

Deliveries available inside city limits

859-749-4245 or 859-327-0308

The Legend of the Temple

by Wendell Curtis, PM

Is the second section of the Master Mason degree or Legend of the Temple designed to teach the candidate the Masonic virtue of fidelity or for the entertainment of the craft? As ridiculous as this question sounds, it is hard to tell by the manner in which the Legend of the Temple is exemplified in many lodges throughout the Commonwealth

I have observed un-Masonic behavior such as drunkenness, robbery and brutality depicted in this degree. I was dumbfounded to observe candidates repeatedly led through mud in the first section of the Master Mason degree that was conferred in a cave. Is this really Masonry? Of course it isn't.

The Kentucky Ritual (pp 189-190) states: "The second section of this degree is rich in beautiful symbolism. As important lessons are unfolded in the ritual of the degree, there is to be no levity in the lodge room. This is a solemn, sincere ceremony and it is imperative that the highest level of dignity and decorum prevails. There must be no whispering, no laughing, no scuffing or stamping of feet. Only the participants in the drama are to speak. Rough or boisterous actions are to be avoided, and nothing is to be said or done to induce levity." This admonition is too often either omitted or ignored.

According to Bro Al Orton, PGM and Past Grand Secretary, the interminably long conspiracy prior to participation of the candidate originated in Louisville about 1918. Does the added drama demonstrate the virtues taught in this degree? No. Why was it added? Even on rare occasions when it is performed without the comedy and 'ad libbing' it can only be considered entertainment. Thus we return to the question; is this degree for instructing the candidate or to entertain the craft? A conclusion could be drawn that the long conspiracy that was added does nothing for the instruction of the candidate therefore it should be dropped and deposited among the rubble of other innovations introduced into our fraternity.

Perhaps we should return to the ritual of our forefathers to understand what being "Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason" means. This degree is the sublime climax of Symbolic Freemasonry. If you learn only that the living, dying and raising is a drama, designed to teach the virtues of fidelity, faith and fortitude, you have received only partial light and have seen nothing but a moral lesson. This Degree also seeks to answer the age-old question put forth by Job - "If a man die, shall he live again?"

The Degree delves into the deepest recesses of man's nature. While it leads the initiate into the

Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple, it probes into the Holy of Holies in his heart. As a whole, the Degree is symbolic of old age and by the wisdom of which we may enjoy the happy reflections consequent on a well-spent and properly directed life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality.

The Kentucky Keystone, Vol. XX, No. IV



Calendar

May 3rd	8:00 a.m. - Officers Breakfast
May 3rd	7:30 p.m. - Hope Lodge No. 246
May 9th	7:30 p.m. - St. Andrews Lodge No. 18
May 12th	7:30 p.m. - Orient Lodge No. 500
May 13th	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Paris Lodge Fish Fry
May 17th	7:00 p.m. - Paris Lodge No. 2,
May 19th	7:30 p.m. - Past Masters Association at Paris Lodge No. 2
May 21st	12:00 Noon - District 23 Meeting at Fleming County High School, Flemingsburg
May 21st	7:00 p.m. - Amity Lodge No. 40
Jun 7th	8:00 a.m. - Officers Breakfast
Jun 7th	7:30 p.m. - Hope Lodge No. 246
Jun 9th	7:30 p.m. - Orient Lodge No. 500
Jun 13th	7:30 p.m. - St. Andrews Lodge No. 189
Jun 18th	7:00 a.m. - Amity Lodge No. 40
Jun 21st	7:00 p.m. - Paris Lodge No. 2

Visit our website at:

<http://pariskylodge.com/>

Silent Cal and the Craft

President Calvin Coolidge had the reputation of being a person of few words. One time while attending a public function he was told by a young lady, "Mr. President, I made a bet that I can get you to say three words." To which he replied, "You lose."

Although not a Mason, he was not stingy with words when he talked about Freemasonry. While Governor of the Bay State, he addressed the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and said: "It has not been my fortune to know very much about Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons and I have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruits. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meeting in the presence of the Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and of character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and Nation."