

Oasis of Mara Lodge #735
Twenty-nine Palms, CA

Yucca Valley Lodge #802
Yucca Valley CA

May 2011



The CA High Desert Masons

Trestleboard

A newsletter serving the Masonic and affiliated bodies of the CA High Desert



Trestleboard - a draftsman's designing board; that on which a Mason draws his designs for his character and spiritual growth; that on which the Worshipful Master lays out his designs for the workmen; a Lodge's newsletter and calendar of events.

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Joshua Marquis



Follow us on Facebook, where you can upload stories, photos and news events! You can also find Masonic education.

Please send stories, photos, comments or corrections to the editor at:
TCDownden@roadrunner.com

Do you want to get the Trestleboard sooner? Sign up for email delivery and you'll get it before the 1st! Send an email to the editor to sign up.

Oasis of Mara Lodge #735

From the Oriental Chair

Bro. Clarence Chambers,
Worshipful Master, Oasis of Mara #735



Brethren, by the time you read this, we will have conferred the 3rd degree on Brother Harry, and so we are pleased to have him among us as a Master Mason.

We are scheduling a 2nd degree on the 3rd of May, and probably another on the 10th of May. Always check with the Lodge to be sure these degrees are still on those dates.

Other Brothers working on their proficiencies are Fred Ritz, 1st degree, Phil Fultz, 1st degree, Donovan Miskall, 1st degree, long form. Every Tuesday, you'll find these brothers working diligently to return their proficiencies so they can move to their next degree.

While those brothers are

working in the Foyer, the other brothers are working to master their respective parts for the performance of those degrees. It takes a lot of work and dedication, and we are all proud of these men; that they are brothers among us.

A brother, the other day, remarked to me that the Masons, other than public schools, only do things for themselves... I hear this on occasion, and so here is my response. "The Blue Lodge is the place where we make men Masons, and it takes hours of teaching and Masonic education so that they may move up to the other concordant bodies, such as the Scottish Rite, with their charitable hearing, program, and the

Shrine, with the world famous charitable Shriner's hospital, the Masonic homes, for the elderly, to name a few."

All these organizations are funded by donations, over \$1,000,000 a day, that couldn't have happened without the Blue Lodge. It's up to these numerous small Lodges to work find and raise good men, who will continue our unending principles: Faith, Hope, & Charity, but the greatest of these is Charity.

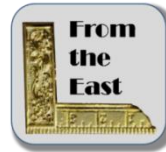
Clarence Chambers
Worshipful Master



Yucca Valley Lodge #802

From the East

Bro. Joseph DuPont,
Worshipful Master, Yucca Valley #802



Things are heating up in Yucca Valley Lodge and it's not just the weather. Last month at our stated meeting, Brother DJ Ross returned his 3d degree proficiency and Brother Darren Sanden returned his 2d degree proficiency. Congratulations to you both on your progress in Masonry. To finish out the month, Public Schools Night was attended by nearly 200 parents, teachers and students. My thanks to those who invested their personal time to make this event a success, especially Brother Harry Tanzer and Tina Bergamin. This month promises to be another exciting time around the Lodge as we prepare to open the Lodge for a

Masonic Information "Night" of the year. This year we've reached out to our concordant bodies and invited them to participate, and show the public that while freemasonry has its foundation in the Blue Lodge, it's a far greater organization than they might imagine, and also its commitment to families. Brothers the success of this event is largely dependent on you, your help in getting the word out is essential. Even with all of the conveniences of modern society, and all of the possible methods of advertising, the best advertising is still word of mouth. If you have a friend, or acquaintance that has expressed an interest or

even hinted curiosity in the fraternity, tell them about the event, invite them, or better yet bring them with you. There are lot of misconceptions about joining freemasonry that keep potential members away, one of the worst offenders, and one that I held for years, is that you have to be invited, you can't ask to join. If a Brother, only knowing that I was curious, had not invited me to a Masonic Information Night, I would not be where I am today. His simple act started me on a course that I would not have imagined previously.

From the Yucca Valley Secretary

Bro. Joseph Johnson PM
Secretary, Yucca Valley Lodge



May Day May Day: Come to your lodge's Open Meeting, Stated Meeting, and Dinner on May 5th "Cinco de Mayo" for some delicious Mexican meatloaf prepared by my lovely lady and grand cook, Elaine. Then plan to attend our monthly breakfast on Sat. May 7th for some more food prepared by Elaine again. Well at least we Masons and friends will not starve during this period I hope you all had a pleasant Easter and hopefully enjoyed some of the final cooler weather before we get into the dog days of summer. Let's begin to reflect why our lives may depend on the words of Harriett Tubman "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Our Grand Master William J. Bray III has definitely been inspired by words to those above. For example his PROCLAMATION for the month of

MAY is to be YOUTH ORDERS MONTH. The past is our heritage. The present is our responsibility. The future is our obligation. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California is dedicated to the support of the young men and women of our Masonic youth orders: DeMolay International, the International Order of Job's Daughters, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. These youth orders represent our roots; They are where many of us began our Masonic journey. In recent years our fraternity has made it a priority to rebuild them. Thanks to the dedication of many lodges and members, it's working. We must continue that mission. Reach out to the youth orders in your community and find ways to become involved. Serve on their advisory teams. Attend their meetings. Invite them to attend yours. Make them partners in lodge activities. Above all, offer them the friendship and encouragement that should always be a part of our fraternal family. Take time to talk with these

young men and women about their hopes, dreams, and challenges. Pay attention to the kind of support they need most: It might be financial assistance to attend leadership training, or it might be a place in the lodge Trestleboard to share their news. It might simply be your presence at their events. Let's each find a way to honor our obligation to Masonic youth orders. After all, these young people are tomorrow's leaders. Their ideas and innovations will change how we live. Their values will make the world a better place. They're also the future of this Masonic family. Again, for those of you that have not paid your dues ... please get on board for this year. All of your dues money does is help this fraternity keep a financial balance. Thanks again!! Also thanks to all who are continuing to participate in our practices. Even on EXTRA NIGHTS in order to show our candidates that we really do CARE. See you in Lodge.

Fraternally, Joseph G. Johnson,
 P.M. Secretary





The Editor's Corner

Bro. T.C. Dowden



This month I have added a feature to the Trestleboard I call "Brother in the Spotlight". This feature will "spotlight" one of our own brothers each month. I decided to do this after Worshipful Joe DuPont expressed his desire to have more local color in the publication.

Each month, I'll solicit from the brethren one brother to highlight, because we have men with terrific stories; who have lived long and full lives. I believe we need to realize who we have in our Lodge(s) and take the time to tell at least a small part of their stories. As you learn the stories, take a moment and speak with them to find out more. Learn from our elders!

This month is May and incorporates Memorial Day,

which has a special place for freedom-loving Americans. We honor those who have given their lives in defense of our country and way of life.

The concept of Memorializing our Honored Dead started after the Civil War in the South with Decoration Day and carried into the North. In May 1868, General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued General Order No. 11 which designated May 30th Memorial Day. Soldiers were to decorate tombs and graves of their fallen comrades with flowers in remembrance of these brave souls' selfless acts. Since this time the tradition has carried on.

Yucca Valley Lodge celebrates Memorial Day by flying flags along Highway 62, which is a

terrific way to remind people of the meaning of the holiday.

Remember that the Masonic Education Working Group is still meeting monthly on the third Thursday of each month. It is a great opportunity to learn from each other, understand the stories behind the lectures, and further your growth in Masonry. Freemasonry is best learned through study and sharing what you learn. We have brothers that have been active in Masonry for decades; and we have others that are newly raised. Come and share what you know with those on the same journey!

"Every Mason is different. Every man that joins our fraternity has his own specific, but often undefined, needs. The search for Light in Masonry is therefore tailored to the individual Mason's needs."



From the South

Bro. Gary Mason
Junior Warden, YV Lodge



Hello my Brethren, here it is May already, WOW this year is going fast.

I am sorry to report that we have lost a dear friend and strong lodge supporter in April. Sister Joan Bauerle passed to the celestial heaven above. Joan attended every Lodge stated meeting dinner, every Lodge breakfast for as far back as I (and many others) can remember. Joan is also the person that

purchased and donated our new coffee machine, and you may remember her as the lady that collected the monies for dinner.

My wife told me we did get some rain in April, I didn't see it but I always believe my wife, we did get the May flowers, isn't the desert looking great with all the flowers blooming?

NOW, if we could only get a few of our lost Brethren that still live in the local area to come and enjoy dinner with the lodge, our Lodge would start to bloom

again. Bring your lady, introduce yourself to myself or our WM Joe DuPont, and the lodge will buy your dinner, just as a welcome back, we would really like to see you at dinner.

Our Lodge open house and family information day is fast approaching May 14 hours will be 10:00 to 4:00, so come one come all, bring your friends, neighbors, Romans, and countrymen.

Please remember to call Tina Bergamin to reserve dinner, \$10.00 with reservation, \$12.00 without.



Brother in the Spotlight – Johannes “Joop” Homburg

Brother Johannes “Joop” Hamburg was born on 10-6-20. He was raised in the Netherlands and educated at the Nautical Academy. Joop was drafted for military service in The Netherlands in January 1940. After a “short” war, they surrendered to Nazi Germany in May'40; followed by five long years of Joop living in an occupied country. After an almost catastrophic maneuver to escape to England by canoe(!), he went underground to escape, but was captured and shipped to Germany as slave labor.

Brother Joop was married after the May '45 liberation, but was promptly drafted again and sent to The Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) as a navy officer to fight a three-year guerilla war against a colony who wanted to be free. By pressure and sanctions against The Netherlands by the United Nations, Indonesia became free in August '49.

As maritime engineer, Joop participated in harbor projects in The Far East, Europe and Latin America countries' governments.

Consequently Joop and his family became polyglots, since most projects lasted more

than two years each, living in so many diverse cultures and requiring to speak their tongues.

After his wife of 57 years passed away in 2002, Joop took up writing and has published several works: an auto-biography, novels and, believe it or not, a children's book.

Finally dropping the anchor, he is now living on the high and dry grounds in the High Desert, where most folks don't know what a figurehead is!

Brother Homburg joined Masonic Lodge #802 and became a Master Mason in '04.

From the Oasis of Mara Secretary

Bro. Steve Leazer
Secretary, Oasis of Mara Lodge #735



Bro Oscar Bailey has asked me to remind you that he is planning an elaborate gathering for us on May 7th. Please place this event on your calendar. It will be held at home which is located at 6680 Indian Cove Rd. He is putting forth a lot of effort on our behalf, so drop by sometime after 2:00 in the afternoon and partake the famous Bailey hospitality.



This is a time of hard economics for a large number of Americans. Many are out of work and struggling to maintain their homes and families. Did you know that there is help with Masonic dues for those masons who legitimately cannot pay their dues? The process is called the remitting of dues. This does two things: First it permits the individual mason to remain in good standing in his lodge and have a dues card so that he may continue to be an active member. Secondly, it relieves the lodge of having to pay the annual per capita tax to the California Grand Lodge for that member. So ... should you find yourself in that situation, rather than neglecting to pay

dues and eventually being suspended for nonpayment of dues. Contact the Master or Secretary and let them know. The decision has to be made by the lodge based on a majority vote, but the name of the brother involved is known only to the Secretary and the Master. We recognize how hard it is to let others know when you find yourself in this situation, but we do not want to see you suspended either.

In the spirit of keeping our members informed, let me mention again, that in the not too distant future it is going to be imperative to replace the carpet in the lodge room. It is worthy of note that the carpet currently in the lodge room is the carpet that was installed when the lodge was built. It is also interesting that the carpet installation person who recently looked at replacing the carpet made note that the quality of carpet currently on the floor is not longer available. Whether the replacement is new carpet or tile in the lodge room as some have suggested has not yet come to the decision point. As you can imagine, either way, this is an expensive project. When it was looked into recently, the

estimates were in the \$20,000 range. Keep in mind that such an expenditure will take a big bite into the Lodge's reserves. I am sure that the Lodge and the Hi-Desert Masonic Temple Association would like to hear any opinions you might have on this topic.

Last year was the first in several where the lodge had a positive end of the year cash picture. One metric shows just a shade over \$600 for the year. The area of concern, however, is that the income from dues represented but 47% of that total. The first quarter of 2011 is now history and financially, there was a shortfall of approximately \$500. Just something more to think about.

A copy of the California Freemason's Strategic Plan is posted on the lodge bulletin board outside the Secretary Office. Underneath that document is a copy of the Power Point presentation that the Grand Secretary used in his presentation to the Secretaries and Treasurers at the annual Retreat. Don't forget that you can also find a copy at the Freemason.org website.



Masonic Education – The Private Duties of Masons (from Macoy's Masonic Manual dtd 1867)

Whoever would be a Mason should know how to practice all the private virtues.

He should avoid all manner of intemperance or excess, which might prevent his performance of the laudable duties of his Craft, or lead him into enormities which would reflect dishonor upon the ancient Fraternity.

He is to be industrious in his profession, and true to the Master he serves. He is to labor justly, and not to eat any man's bread for naught; but to pay truly for his meat and drink. What leisure his labor allows, he is to employ in studying the arts and sciences with a diligent mind, that he may the better perform all his duties to his Creator, his country, his neighbor and himself.

He is to seek and acquire, as far as possible, the virtues of patience, meekness, self denial, forbearance, and the like, which give him the command over himself, and enable

him to govern his own family with affection, dignity and prudence: at the same time checking every disposition injurious to the world and promoting that love and service which Brethren of the same household owe to each other. Therefore, to afford succor to the distressed, to divide our bread with the industrious poor, and to put the misguided traveler into the way, are duties of the Craft, suitable to its dignity and expressive of its usefulness. But, though a Mason is never to shut his ear unkindly against the complaints of any of the human race, yet when a Brother is oppressed or suffers, he is in a more peculiar manner called upon to open his whole soul in love and compassion to him, and to relieve him without prejudice, according to his capacity.

It is also necessary, that all who would be true Masons should learn to abstain from all malice, slander and evil speaking; from all provoking, reproachful and ungodly language;

keeping always a tongue of good report.

A Mason should know how to obey those who are set over him; however inferior they may be in worldly rank or condition. For although Masonry bestows no man of his honors and titles, yet, in a Lodge, pre-eminence of virtue, and knowledge in the art, is considered as the true source of all nobility, rule and government.

The virtue indispensably requisite in Masons is - SECRECY. This is the guard of their confidence, and the security of their trust. So great a stress is to be laid upon it, that it is enforced under the strongest obligations; nor, in their esteem, is any man to be accounted wise, who has not intellectual strength and ability sufficient to cover and conceal such honest secrets as are committed to him, as well as his own more serious and private affairs.

From the South

Bro. Thomas Johnson
Junior Warden, Oasis of Mara Lodge



Greetings my brothers and welcome to May. The dinner for this month is going to be Philly Cheese Steaks and fries, with a desert and drinks.

Be sure to wish all our mothers a very happy Mother's Day. I would like to thank all of you who contributed to our public schools last month.

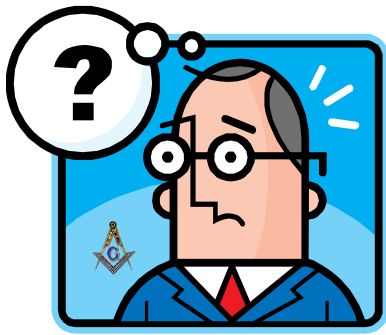
Also, I want to thank the brothers who helped with the dinner and

breakfast. We will have a cook out on the 7th hosted by Brother Oscar. His information is provided in this letter. It will start at 2pm and is open to the whole family. Please RSVP with Worshipful Brother Clint Marshall. Let's all come out and have a great time.

Fraternally,

Thomas Johnson





My First Line

It's Lodge Night again, and I'm getting ready
To assemble myself with the Craft;
I've gone through my lecture so darn many times
Seems I know it now, both fore and aft.

I'm confident I guess. And I should be
For I've spoken many months in a mumble;
I know that the Brethren, will all be impressed
When you're good, It's hard to be humble.

So it's out to the car, and away do I go
Then fear strikes me clear to the bone;
I'd better go through it. Just one more time,
It's my last chance, while I'm still alone.

I've hardly noticed again, this trip to the Lodge
Now suddenly, I'm parking the car;
My heart's beating wildly, as I climb up the stairs
I hear voices. Not near, but far.

Their lips are all moving, but I don't hear a word
I have to recall, what's my First Line?
I know 'twil be easier the next time around
But the trick is to do it the first time.

The Lodge is now open, and the work has begun
The first section will to come to a close;
Gee, I should have gone to the men's room, I think.
I feel faint now; I can't breathe through my nose.

They've just called my name, and I've taken my place
Boy! They don't give a feller much time;
And I've lost my book in a shirt with one pocket
And I still can't recall my First Line.

I've learned a good lesson. It is I who's impressed
And I shall never forget this first time;
After all of the prompting, I now am convinced,
Know it all just as well as the First Line!

Dues are needed! That is the primary form of income for the Lodge. If you have not paid your dues this year, please contact the Lodge Secretary, and do so. If you have a financial hardship, communicate that to the Secretary so the Lodge can help.

Trestle board article



We all have loved ones who have battled cancer and by their side were oncology nurses who made all the difference in their treatment.

By Your Side, Grand Master Bill Bray's 2010-2011 project, seeks to recognize the amount of hope and support these nurses provide to hundreds and aims to raise funds to cover the cost of oncology certification for 12 to 15 nurses every year.

May is *Oncology Nurses Month*. Join your lodge at your May stated meeting to further recognize and honor oncology nurses for being the frontline in the battle against cancer.



Mark this event on your calendars!

Yucca Valley #802 Degree Progress

Entered Apprentices

- Joshua Bowen
- Russell Cromley
- Alfred DeCastro
- David Jacobs
- Joseph Jaynes
- Mark Middleton
- David Neal
- Ronald Simon
- Jesse Strauss
- Daniel Yochelson

Fellow Crafts

- Kevin Fraunfelter (relocated)
- Darin Sanden



Famous Mason: James Cash Penny, Businessman, Freemason



Give me a stock clerk with a goal and I'll give you a man who will make history. Give me a man with no goals and I'll give you a stock clerk.

Penney was born on a farm outside of Hamilton, Caldwell County, Missouri on 9/16/1875 to James Cash Penney, Sr. and Mary Frances (nee Paxton) Penney. He was the seventh of twelve children, only six of whom lived to adulthood. Penney married three times in his life: first to Bertha Alva Hess, second to Mary Hortense Kimball, and third to Caroline Marie Autenrieth. By his first wife he had two sons, Roswell Penney and James C. Penney III. By his second wife he had another son, Kimball Penney. And by his third wife, he had two daughters, Mary Frances Penney and Carol Penney.

In 1898, he began working in a small chain called the Golden Rule stores, and in 1902, the owners, Guy Johnson and Thomas Callahan, offered him one-third partnership in a new store he would open. He invested \$2,000 and moved to Kemmerer, Wyoming, to open a store there. He participated in

opening two more stores, and when Callahan and Johnson dissolved their partnership in 1907 he purchased full interest in all three stores. While there, he also became a lumberjack, cutting down trees as a side-hobby while running the stores.

By 1912, there were 34 stores in the Rocky Mountain States. In 1913 he moved the company to the Kearns Building in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. The company was incorporated under the new name, J. C. Penney Company. In 1916, he began to expand the chain east of the Mississippi and during the 1920s, the Penney stores expanded nationwide, with 120 stores in 1920 (mostly still in the west) and 1,400 stores by 1929.

Penney continued his active involvement in managing the company and its stores. In 1940, during a visit to a store in Des Moines, Iowa, he trained a young Sam Walton on how to wrap packages with a minimal amount of ribbon.

Penney relinquished daily operating management of the company in

1917, but remained as chairman of the board until 1946, and after that as honorary chairman until his death in 1971.

It is also suggested that Mr. Penney's honored "Blue Laws" by having his stores closed on Sunday.

On December 26, 1970, Penney fell and fractured his hip. Just a few weeks later, he suffered a heart attack and never fully recovered. He died February 12, 1971. Penney was buried in the Bronx section of New York City. His grave, at the Woodlawn Cemetery, is not far from that of fellow retail entrepreneur, F.W. Woolworth.

Penney was a life-long Freemason, being Initiated into Wasatch Lodge No. 1 Free and Accepted Masons of Utah, on April 18, 1911. A member of both the Scottish and York Rites Penney was coroneted a 33rd Degree on October 16, 1945, and received the Gold Distinguished Service Award by the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, in Kansas City, Missouri in 1958.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Taurus 	Gemini 	All members: Please, if you can opt for the Trestleboard by electronic means, then do so. This will help reduce costs to both the Lodges and you can follow links imbedded into the document!				
1 Junior Warden's Retreat (cont.) Newport Beach Marriott, 900 Newport Center Drive, Newport	2 Oasis of Mara 6:00 Dinner 7:30 Stated Mtg YV Lodge Hall Association 6:00 PM 	3 Oasis of Mara Degree/Officer Practice 6:00 pm	4	5 Yucca Valley Stated Mtg 6 PM 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Open Mtg 	6	7 YV Breakfast 8-10 AM Galaxy Club 10:30 AM
8 Mother's Day 	9 Eastern Star Yucca Valley 6 PM 	10 Oasis of Mara Degree/Officer Practice 6:00 pm	11 Daughters of the Nile 11:00 AM YV Lodge 	12 YV Degree & Proficiency Practice 6:30 pm	13	14 Oasis of Mara Breakfast 8-10 AM Masnic Information "Night" 10 AM - 4 PM
15	16	17 Oasis of Mara Degree/Officer Practice 6:00 pm Oasis of Mara Temple Board	18	19 YV Masonic Education & Proficiency Practice 6:30 PM	20 Shrine Club YV Sizzlers Noon 	21 Officers School of Instruction Oasis of Mara Lodge #735 8:00 B'fast 9:00 Work begins
22	23 Eastern Star Yucca Valley 6 PM 	24 Oasis of Mara Degree/Officer Practice 6:00 pm Hall Association	25 Scottish Rite Palm Springs 	26 YV Degree & Proficiency Practice 6:30 pm	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day Flags Along Highway 62 	31 Oasis of Mara Degree/Officer Practice 6:00 pm				





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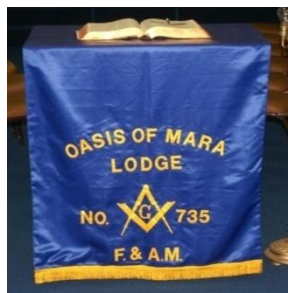
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Yucca Valley Lodge #802 Officers 2011

Grand Master of the State of California	Most Worshipful William J. Bray III	
Worshipful Master	Joseph DuPont	367-4373
Senior Warden	William Fitch PM	219-2421
Junior Warden	Gary Mason	818 253-5965
Treasurer	Mark Clark	367-7246
Secretary	Joseph Johnson PM	365-5764
Chaplain	David Glenn	660-5736
Senior Deacon	TC Dowden	418-5236
Junior Deacon	Sean Clay PM	365-9385
Marshal	Joe Gerusa	369-9101
Senior. Steward	Joseph Pennington	362-2785
Junior Steward	Don (DJ) Ross	885-9197
Tiler	James N. Henley	366-2527
Officer's Coach	Bill Shirley	285-5758
Inspector 830th Masonic Dist	Richard F. Davis	347-8253

Telephone Chair
 Adriana C. (Tina) Bergamin 365-5523

Oasis of Mara #735 Lodge Officers 2011

Grand Master of the State of California	Most Worshipful William J. Bray III	
Worshipful Master	Clarence Chambers, PM	367-9881
Senior Warden	Donald Clark (acting)	367-5044
Junior Warden	Thomas Johnson	367-7197
Treasurer	Manuel Williams	
Secretary	Stephen Leazer	367-7631
Chaplain	William Shirley	285-5758
Senior Deacon	Hank Kraychir	
Junior Deacon	Jason Dickson	
Marshal	Hank Kerse	
Senior. Steward	Louis Kisner	
Junior Steward	Eugene Mattox	
Tiler	Sam Jones	
Officers Coach	Clint Marshall	



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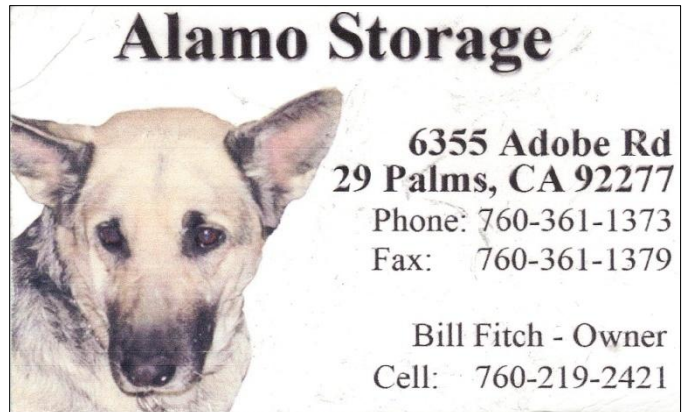
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Annual Trestleboard Sponsorships and business card ads help defray the annual cost of printing and mailing the Trestleboard to those Brothers, widows and friends of the Lodge who are not adept at electronic publications. If you can afford to sponsor, please see your Lodge Secretary. Business card ads are limited by the CMC to brother Mason's only.

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MASONIC LODGE**
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