

THE PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU
ELMA, WASHINGTON

NO. 920

THE MASONS MEET
An Eastern Star's Idea of What They Do
By Lola Lamoreux

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PREPARATION: Set up the "lodge" as shown in the diagram. Remove O.E.S. furniture. All officers are out of their stations except the Matron who welcomes the Masons in the first address and then retires. Those taking part in the Masonic meeting should wear men's clothing and look as much like "Masons" as possible. In a bag place a level, a square, a plumb line, some books to represent the Bible, charter, by-laws, etc. a compass and a gavel. There is another plumb line at the station of the Senior Warden. The Worshipful Master wears a high hat and carries a cane. He may also wear gloves. Gavels at stations of Senior Warden and Junior Warden. Use all gavels often and loud.

MUSIC* None at all.

CHARACTERS: Ladies take the part of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward and DoorKeeper. Fewer may be used if necessary.

PROGRAM

Worthy Matron speaks:

Brother Masons, we are more than happy to welcome you (and your wives) tonight. There is no one any place in the world we would rather entertain. We think you are almost perfect-except for a small fault-you don't tell us anything. For years untold Mason's wives have been trying to find out just a wee bit of what you do in your meetings. Of course, we want you to understand that this is not because we are curious but because we feel we might benefit ourselves and our organization by knowing. Well, we realize that we haven't been too successful in gaining the knowledge we seek but we have gathered here a little and there a little from it. With a trifling imagination added, we have constructed this program tonight. This is our idea of the way you conduct your meetings. If we have made a few errors please forgive us. There are parts we may have a bit hazy, but after the meeting any of you will be at liberty to set us right on our mistakes. So welcome again. Without further ado or ceremony we will consider this Masonic Lodge meeting and all present Masons good and true.

The Matron taps the gavel and then retires.

Enter the Worshipful Master. He wears a top hat, carries a cane and walks in a decidedly important manner, looking neither to left nor right. He is followed by a steward who carries the lodge paraphernalia in a bag. This paraphernalia consists of a level, a square, a compass, a Bible, book supposedly constitution and by-laws and charter and a plumb line.

The Worshipful Master goes to the East and is seated. The Steward places the bag before him and retires.

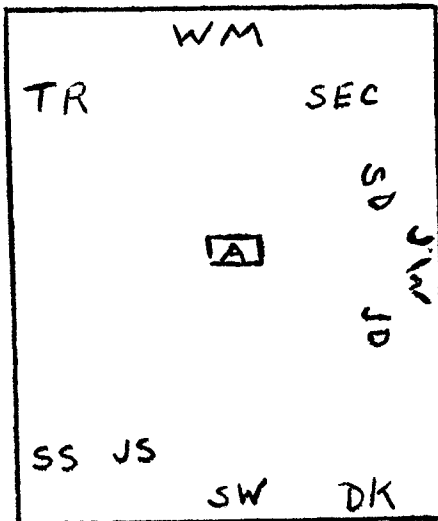
Master opens bag and speaks as he pulls out the emblems and places them on stand.

Here is the charter, the Bible, the laws,
And the level-I declare it's full of flaws,
We must get a new one before many years,
Well, why should I worry, the end of my term nears.

And here is the compass and there is the square,
 Oh, here is another; we've one to spare.
 And the plumb-line is ready to plumb every brother
 To see if we truly love one another.
 Here is my gavel, we'd better begin
 Those guys are always as late as sin.
 But surely the last cigaret has been smoken
 And it's time now for my words to be spoken.

Master raps gavel hard:
 Enter officers good and true!
 This gavel is a call to all of you! (gavel again):

The officers enter. No music. They are Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward; Junior Steward, Secretary and Door Keeper. (In the rest of the ceremony initials will be used to designate these officers.) They are seated as shown in the diagram.



Master seats officers with a rap of the gavel.
 He says:

We enter now on the evening work,
 Pay attention - do not shirk.
 Three raps of the gavel raise the officers. As he addresses each in turn they reply to him before giving their parts. The Senior and Junior Wardens may rap their gavels whenever the Master does if this is convenient.

Master to S.W.:
 What duties are assigned to you
 Brother Mason, good and true?
 S.W.: When you are gone and that is that
 I step into your shoes and wear your hat.

Master to J.W.: (gavel)
 What duties are assigned to you, Brother Masons,
 good and true?

J.W.: I order the food for oyster stews, and other things for Stewards to use.

Master to S.D.: What duties are...etc.

S.D.: I hold my office and sit and wait, For the next election to learn my fate.

Master to J.D.: What duties are...etc.

J.D.: I carry my staff and tend the goat, and all the candidate's actions note.

Master to S.S.: What duties are...etc.

S.S.: I prepare the food at times propitious, and afterwards I wash the dishes.

Master: I now declare the lodge is open,
 Attend to business, let's have no smokin'. (Raps gavel as do Wardens)

Master:
 Brethren, we are now ready for the plumbing. Senior Warden, you will advance to the East with your plumb line and conduct the ceremony. (gavel) S.W. responds with his gavel then comes to the East. He stands on the platform.

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Senior Warden speaks:

Brethren, let us hope ye have walked and lived by the plumb-line since last we met. First we will have a report on last week's reparations and rectifications. Junior Steward, your report.

J.S. speaks: Brethren, I took back the extra cookies I knew the baker had given me by mistake. He thanked me and before I had left the shop these two cookies had been sold to a waiting customer. I have walked by the plumb-line since last we met.
S.W. speaks: Junior Warden, your report.

J.W.: Brethren, I returned to the store and explained the mistake in change that had been made. The store-keeper said, "You are an honest man, just keep the change." So I put the nickel back in my pocket. It is my desire to donate it to the treasury.
S.W. speaks: Door Keeper, your report.

D.K.: Brethren, I went to the husband of the woman I mentioned in our last plumbing ceremony. I explained in detail all about the situation. The husband who is my good Masonic brother said there were no hard feelings-I could buy his wife a cup of coffee any time I wanted to before eight o'clock at night. We parted the best of friends.

S.W.: This ends the reparations and rectifications. (gavel) Are there any confessions to be made tonight? Remember-have you met on the level and parted on the square? Have you plumbed the depths of your nature? Be honest, brethren, be just. (gavel). Brethren, I must make a confession myself tonight. When leaving home I discovered that my small son had eaten the plum off my plumb-line. It was late, the stores were closed so I was forced to substitute a prune for the plum. I deeply regret this incident but it was really my wife's fault. She should have watched the child more closely. But no matter whose fault, I confess it and await your decision on reparation and rectification.

S.S. speaks, addressing chair: W.M. I recommend that the brother be instructed to buy another plumb immediately. It is unworthy that we be pruned instead of plumbed.

S.D. speaks: W.M. It is not the fruit season. Where can a plum be purchased?

J.S. speaks: My wife has some canned plums, perhaps I can take some when she isn't looking.

J.D. speaks: W.M. If the brother did that he would be in error and we should all be plumbed by a stolen plum. I object.

J.S. speaks: W.M. It would not be stolen. I paid for the plums, my wife merely canned them.

D.K. speaks: W.M. Why not purchase a can of plums in a grocery store?

J.S. speaks: W.M. I think the brother's idea is a good one. The plums may be dried in a secret place and would last the lodge for many years.

S.S. speaks: W.M. If the suggestion is carried out, let it not be the S.W. who dries the plums, his son would probably find them and eat them all.

S.D. speaks: W.M. The question of who should pay for the plum enters my mind. Should not the S.W. pay for it as he lost the one belonging to the lodge? After all

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he is responsible.

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S.W.: It was really my wife's fault for not watching our son. Is a man responsible for the faults of his wife?

W.M. speaks: Brother Treasurer, how much money do we have in the treasury?

The treasurer gets out a big book and thumbs through it and then replies: W.M. we have \$15,389.57 in the treasury.

W.M. speaks: Thank you, brother Treasurer. Brethren, I do not believe we can spare the money from the treasury at this time for a new plum.

D.K. speaks: W.M. I will donate a plum so that the discussion may end.

W.M. speaks: Thank you, brother, you are a good and true Mason, and now to continue the reparation and rectification. Brother S.W. you will speak to your wife in no uncertain terms about the negligence of bringing up your son and report at the next meeting.

S.W. speaks: I shall be glad to do as you command. Brethren, are there other confessions? (gavel) W.M. the lodge has been properly plumbed.

W.M. speaks: I now declare the plumbing closed for tonight. (gavel)

The Senior Warden returns to his station.

W.M. speaks: We will listen to the reading of the minutes.

Secretary reads: The regular meeting of Pink Lodge F & A.M. was held on.....with most of the officers present. The W.M. opened the lodge in due form and the S.W. conducted the plumbing. There were no reports and three confessions. The minutes were read and corrected. A communication from the Eastern Star was read. The ladies complained about the poor janitor service. They said that their white evening gowns became soiled by dust and cobwebs about the room. They also wished a reduction in rent and asked the Masons to donate \$1,000.00 toward a new rug. The communication was placed on file. No action was taken. Brother.....was reported ill and a collection of 79¢ was taken to purchase flowers for him should he become worse. If he improved in a day or two the money was to be put in the treasury. The S.S. was instructed to prepare the annual oyster supper to be held soon. Three petitions were balloted upon unfavorably after the Master had given an inspiring and instructive lecture on who should be entitled to sit among us as brethren. Receipts of the evening, dues \$300.00. There were no bills. Cash in treasury, \$15, 389.57.

.....Secretary.

W.M. speaks: Any corrections? If not the minutes stand approved as read. Reports of committees.

J.W. speaks: I am glad to report that Brother.....got better so I am replacing the 79¢ we collected for flowers in the treasury.

S.W. speaks: Brother.....is not very well. He has had indigestion for several days.

J.W. speaks: Brother....has a new son, born last meeting night. He has been named Mason in honor of the meeting night.

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S.D.: Brother.....is having his teeth remade so is staying at home for a few days. You will recall how loose they have been for years.

W.M. speaks: Are there other reports? Communications and bills.

Secretary speaks: This is a letter from the Eastern Star. I shall read it.
Dear Masons: We are establishing a fund for new dishes, draperies, chairs and other furnishings and are inviting you to have a part in this. A few thousand dollars from your lodge will be greatly appreciated toward this new cause. Also, we are eagerly awaiting a reply to our last communication to you. Since we wrote, three more sisters have had to send their white dresses to the cleaners. Thank you kindly for an early and favorable reply. O.E.S. P.S. We are entertaining all Masons at our next meeting and hope some of you will be present.

W.M. speaks: What is your pleasure in regard to this request from the Stars? Of money and janitor service?

S.W. speaks: I move we lay the matter on the table, but as many as can, go to the party. The ladies usually put on a good feed even if the programs are rather dull.

J.W. speaks: Second.

W.M. speaks: Passed. Is there any other business? (gavel) If not we are ready for the closing ceremonies. Brother D.K.

Instruct the tyler to look out
And see no strangers are running about.

D.K. goes to door and raps six times, then says:
Brother tyler, you look out
And see no strangers are running about.

W.M. good and true,
I did what you said to do.

W.M. speaks: J.S. you will approach the East. (The J.S. comes to the East and takes emblems as they are passed to him. He places them in bag.

W.M.: Brethren, gaze upon our emblem rare, let us all be just and fair. (gives Bible)
Keep your eyes upon the square, all that's good do and dare. (square)
Let your deeds on the level be, from all evil try to flee. (level)
Obey all laws you feel you can, be a Mason, be a man. (by-laws, books)
Never forget the true plumb-line, let it be your daily sign. (p.l.)
Brethren, we have met upon the level, now we part upon the square.
Of any too shady actions, I caution you beware. (sound gavel)
Now I declare the lodge closed.

The W.M. stalks out, cane in hand followed by J.S. who carries bag.
The other officers march out behind him.