

MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



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Because I have been crazy busy on the road, I did not have time to WOW you with my brilliance, or lack thereof! So as a result, I pulled an oldie but a goodie out the dusty box from the past publications for reprint. I will try to get back on the WOW train next month.

The following are some fun and I think interesting facts about Masonry.

John Hancock was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts. He was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He wrote in a bold flourishing style. When asked why his signature was so large, he replied: "So that George III may read it without putting on his spectacles."

Hiram Abiff Boaz was born on December 18, 1866, at Murray, Kentucky. He moved to Texas at an early age. In 1891 he was ordained a Methodist minister. In 1922 he was elected a Bishop of the church. He became a member of Granger Lodge No. 677 of Texas. When he received his third degree, a large attended because of the unusual name of the new member. He served as Grand Chaplain of Texas on 1953. This brother had many interesting experiences connected with his name. He never tired of telling of the time he was traveling in the Holy Land and arrived at a Mosque in Hebron on the wrong day for visitors. When he told then his name was Boaz, it seemed as if he had given a magic password. Others were not admitted that day, but they opened the gates for him.

At one time Golden Rule Lodge No. 5 of Stanstead, Canada, occupied a lodge room which was bisected by the boundary between Canada and the United States. It had entrances from the Vermont and Canadian sides; the membership of the lodge consisted of men from both sides of the border.

Wor.Bro Hoey, a member of Richill lodge, Northern Ireland, died a few years ago. He had been a member of the lodge for 65 years, and in all that time he never missed a single meeting - stated or emergency!! At the time he was raised in Highland Park Lodge No. 382 in Los Angeles, California, John Aasen was eight and a half feet tall and weighed 536 pounds. Twelve craftsmen were required for certain parts of the ceremony. There were 1500 Masons present to observe the ceremony. Charles S. Stratton, was made a famous by P. T. Barnum as "General Tom Thumb". He was first presented to the public in 1842; as the time he was two feet high and weighed 16 pounds. In 1844 he married Lavinia Warren, also a little person. He settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut and was raised in St. John's Lodge No. 3 on October 3, 1862.

Charles McCue, born on the 14th June in 1756 in Northern Ireland, became a mason at the age of 18. He migrated to Canada in 1837 and affiliated to St John's Lodge No 68, Ingersoll, Ontario. When he died on 5th May 1870, he had been a mason for almost 95 years.

The lodge with the highest meeting place on the globe is Roof of the World Lodge No. 1094, of Oroya, Peru. The elevation of the lodge room in the Andes Mountains is 14,167 above sea level. The closest competitor in the United States is Corinthian Lodge No. 35 at Leadville, Colorado elevation about 10,200 feet.

Between 1890 (when Wyoming became a state) and 1951 every Governor of that state was a Freemason, except one. This single exception was Mrs. William A. Ross, who was the wife of a Mason, and she was a member of the Eastern Star.

That is all I have for your reading enjoyment this month. Again, we encourage you all to let us know what is going on in your area, send pictures, a short story, whatever! Maybe you have some very old Commandery regalia, well take a picture, describe it and send it to me, we would all love to see and hear about it. We are quickly running out of material to keep this interesting. When I took over as editor, I stated that I wanted to give this publication back to you Sir Knights by talking about what you all are doing. Sadly, in almost 7 years, I have only received outside input on only a couple occasions.

Respectfully submitted: Dan Koch Jr. REPGC