

District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart
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December 15, 2018

A Christmas Story

Editor: I usually limit this column to about 300 words, but guest columnists can go longer. This holiday season I've recruited a guest without his knowing. For years, actually decades, the Delaware County Daily Times, my home town paper, ran a true story about a young boy's Christmas Morning heartbreak. The story is by and about my father, our Brother, Ed Gebhart, Jr.

For those in search of the true gift of the holiday season, you won't find it here. But if you need a good cry I proudly present the story of "The Bogie".

It is Christmas morning 1940 and there is ice on the windows of the second floor apartment overlooking Third Street, near Highland Avenue, in the West End of Chester, PA.

A huge Christmas tree practically fills the front room which is a living room by day and a bedroom by night for the 10-year-old boy who, rubbing the sleep from his eyes, sits up from his blankets on the couch and gazes in wonderment at the miracle which has been worked since he fell asleep the night before. His parents aren't up yet and the sun hasn't risen but there is just enough light from the streetlight outside his window - a light reflected thousands of times in the tree ornaments - to make out the magical tree in the semi-darkness and to see the pile of gifts under it.

One item in particular strikes his attention and he leaps from his bed, switches on the lamp and runs to pick it up. It is an "Official, Regulation Size and Weight" football.

The ball is slightly darker than a pumpkin in color and has a marvelous feel because of its "Pebble Grain" texture. The lad hugs the ball to his chest, smells the exotic new-leather smell and his eyes fill with tears of joy. The ball is fully inflated and the boy tries to hold it in a passing grip, but the new leather is too slippery and the boy's hand is too small and the ball drops to the

floor, crashing into the Lionel train beneath the tree and wakening his parents.

There are other gifts, of course, but the football is the most special and for the next two hours, it is never out of his hands except for when he places it in his lap while eating his breakfast of hot cocoa, followed by Wheaties with cold milk and bananas. He is naive enough to believe the "Breakfast of Champions" will help him when he tries out the new ball later in the morning.

By eight o'clock, the youngster can contain himself no longer and he dresses as warmly as possible against the sub-freezing weather in an old, moth-eaten, orange Chester High football jersey he treasures even though its thick wool scratches like crazy when he sweats and the shirttail reaches almost to his knees. A scarf, a hunter's cap with fur ear flaps his Uncle Jim handed down to him, knickers, knee socks and high top "tennis shoes" complete the outfit.

No one is around when the boy reaches the lot, an area of cinders and frozen mud in the middle of the block formed by Highland Avenue, Thurlow Street, Second Street and Third Street. So for a half-hour, he tosses the ball into the air and catches it himself, extremely careful the brand new ball doesn't fall onto one of the frozen tire ruts and become scuffed. But before long his friends arrive with their Christmas gifts, most of which they were wearing - hats, gloves, high-top boots with a pocket for a penknife, and new corduroy jackets. The neighborhood isn't a particularly affluent one.

Because of the intense cold, the youngsters are eager to begin a game of touch football. But there is no mention of using the new ball in the game. This gang has used everything from an empty condensed milk can to a stocking stuffed with rags for a football, so they certainly can get along without his prized possession this day. Maybe on another day when they get to a real field with grass and the ground isn't frozen, maybe on such a day they will use the new ball. But not today.

Today they will use a ball one of the guys swiped from the practice field at St. James High the previous fall.

The ball is out of shape, nearly oval, and the bladder shows through at one end where it had landed on the cinder field too many times. But after a few plays with the lopsided ball, the temptation is too great.

“Let’s try the new ball,” one of the gang says.

“Uh uh,” the owner answers. “I just got it and I don’t want to mess it up.”

“What the hell you gonna do, frame it?” asks one of the older members of the group.

“Let’s see it, for crissakes. Nobody’s gonna steal it on you.”

“Yeah, come on, let’s pass it around a little. Nobody’s going to drop it.”

The pressure is too great and the young boy reluctantly tosses over the ball. “OK,” he says, “but no long passes. Just throw a couple short ones. Besides, I have to go in pretty soon.”

The boy doesn’t have to “go in” until dinnertime and everybody knows it so the kids begin passing around the ball. After a while, one of the older boys asks if he can punt the ball. “How ‘bout it?” he pleads. “Just once. Boy, I bet you could kick a helluva spiral with a ball like this.”

The youngster grabs his ball and starts to go home. “The hell with them,” he thinks, “let them kick their own ball.”

“Gaw head, take your damn ball and go in the house,” the older boy shouts, “but don’t come around later looking for no games. Who needs you anyhow?”

The taunt is too much for the young lad who turns back to the group of boys. OK,” he says, “one kick and not a hard one. Just try and get a spiral and I’ll catch it. And make sure you don’t kick it anywhere near The Bogie’s.”

“The Bogie” is a name given by the neighborhood kids to an old man who has a garage fronting on their play area. The Bogie also has a vicious German shepherd he keeps in a tiny cement yard behind the garage.

Occasionally, a baseball or rubber ball will sail over the garage roof and land in Bogie’s yard. Because of the dog, the kids don’t dare go over the fence after the ball.

And Bogie never has been known to give back a ball, like the other neighbors do.

The older boy’s first kick is shanked off the side of his foot and the youngster has to make a fine running catch to grab it before it hits the hard ground.

“Come on now. That’s what I was afraid of. One more kick and I’m going in.”

The older boy backs off 10 or 15 yards and kicks the new ball again. This time, he gets off a high, spiraling punt that soars into the air, gets caught in a stiff breeze and is blown toward The Bogie’s garage. The young boy stares in open mouthed horror as the ball lands on the icy ground, bounds high into the air, lands on The Bogie’s garage roof, takes one more bounce and drops into the yard.

Panic stricken and furious, the youngster lets loose a string of profanity and runs to the side of Bogie’s yard, hope against hope his ball has bounced back out again. It has not. It is resting squarely in the center of the yard and the huge police dog is over it, smelling it suspiciously. When the kids arrive, the dog leaves the ball and charges the board fence, snarling ferociously and baring his big yellow teeth. The barking, of course, brings The Bogie running into the yard.

He is an old man and always wears a gray cap and a dark gray woolen sweater, even in the summertime. The kids have never heard him speak English except when he swears, which is every time he sees them.

Despite the fact that Bogie has never returned a ball that landed in his yard, the youngster feels today will be different. Not only is it a new football - and an expensive one - but it is Christmas morning. Surely the Bogie will be moved this day, of all days.

The youngster, tears streaming down his cold cheeks, approaches the fence as The Bogie picks up the ball.

“Please, Mr.-,” he says, sobbing bitterly. “Please can I have my ball back? I promise I’ll never let it come near your yard again. Honest, please, it’s a brand new ball. I just got it for Christmas.”

“You want your ball back, huh?” The Bogie says. “Hokay. You wait a minute, I give you ball.”

The Bogie disappears into his garage and comes out a few moments later.

“Here’s your damn ball,” he says flipping the ball over the fence as he walked toward his house. “Now get the hell outta here.”

The youngster couldn’t believe his good fortune as he ran to retrieve his precious ball. “Good old Bogie,” he thought. “He’s not such a bad guy after all.”

When the boy picked up his ball, it felt funny. Something was wrong. There wasn’t any air in the ball. When he touched the ball, the sides collapsed. Then, through his tears he saw what had happened. Inside the garage, The Bogie had taken an ice pick and punctured the ball in a dozen places.

For a few seconds, the kid was too stunned even to cry. Then he dropped to the ground, cradled the ball in his arms and, between sobs and curses, swore everlasting vengeance on The Bogie.

That was more than 70 years ago and there have been many memorable Christmas mornings since then - coming home for the holidays from the first job away from home, a Christmas in the mountains of North Korea, the first Christmas for my first son.

But each year at this time, the most vivid Christmas memory is not of homecoming or family or snow-covered tents in a foreign land or carrying my son down the stairs to his first Christmas tree.

The most vivid memory always is of The Bogie and what he did to my new football.

Brother Ed Gebhart, Jr.

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

December 17	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated
December 17	Monday	Renaissance #312	Stated
December 20	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
January 2	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
January 3	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
January 10	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
January 11	Friday	EMC	D7 Meeting
January 12	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
January 14	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated

DDGM schedule at more-out-there.blogspot.com

Myrtle #108

Inaugural Annual Holiday Party & Potluck

By WM Chad Reece

For our next stated meeting, Thursday, December 20th, we will be having a social event where Brothers, family and friends are welcome. Bring a dish and enjoy socializing with everyone present. We will be having a very short (10 minutes +/-) meeting to read petitions and vote on two items. After that the meeting will be closed and we will emerge from the Lodge room to be a part of the social gathering once again.

Please email Matt Stull (stullmr@comcast.net) with your potluck dish. If you have any questions please contact Matt Stull or Chad Reece (cin21century@gmail.com).

Let’s show our Brothers, family and friends to the true reason we meet by treating them to a fun evening of classy conversation, classy attitudes and classy fun."

District 7 Installations

West Gate #128	Done		
Mercer Island #297	Done		
Kirkland #150	December 15	11:00 a.m.	Open
Renaissance #312	December 17	6:30 p.m.	Open
Lakeside #258	January 5	2:00 p.m.	Open
Myrtle #108	January 12	10:00 a.m.	Open
Unity #198	January 12	2:00 p.m.	Open
Falls City #66	January 12	7:00 p.m.	Open

Mercer Island #297

The 66th installation of officers of Mercer Island Lodge took place on Thursday, December 6th in an open ceremony led by installing master, MWB Sante Lascano.



WB Tomas Aquinio was installed as Worshipful Master and a fine Filipino-themed dinner was enjoyed by the attendees.

Kirkland #150

Brother Bryan DeNosky will be installed as Worshipful Master of Kirkland Lodge #150 on Saturday, December 15th at 11:00 a.m. in an open ceremony. Dress code is business casual and up (officers will be in tuxedos) A reception will immediately follow the installation and will feature a Chipotle bar and cake along with scotch, wine, beer, soda, fruit juices and water. **RSVP via e-vite <http://evite.me/QjsKxKzncj> or to bclubb@outlook.com or bryan@denosky.com**

Renaissance #312

VWB Bill Werner will travel to the East at Renaissance Lodge for the seventh time in an open ceremony on Monday, December 17th with MWB Warren Schoeben presiding. Lodge will open at 6:30 p.m. with a festive board following the installation. (*RSVP deadline for the festive board has passed*).

Lakeside #258

WB Mike Campbell will return to the East at Lakeside Lodge in an open installation on Saturday, January 5th at 2:00 p.m. with VWB Bill Werner presiding as Installing Master. Food afterwards.

Myrtle #108

Brother Laurence Lance will be installed as Worshipful Master of Myrtle Lodge #108 in an open installation on Saturday, January 12th at 10:00 a.m. VWB Bill Werner will be the Installing Master. Dress will be suit and tie for gentlemen. Food afterwards.

Unity #198

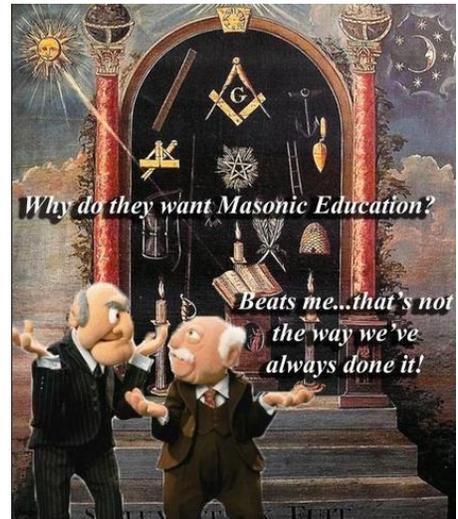
WB Jonathan Seaton will return to the East at Unity Lodge in an open installation on Saturday, January 12th at 2:00 p.m. The D7 Varsity Installation Team of VWBs Bill Werner, Doug Stamper, and Gene Ulrich will preside. A light lunch will be served. **RSVP to WB Dean Markley at wdeanm@gmail.com**

Falls City #66

WB David Hisel will begin his third consecutive term as Worshipful Master of Falls City Lodge in an open ceremony on Saturday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. that will feature the District 7 Varsity (and by this point in the day a very well-practiced) Installation Team of VWBs Doug Stamper, Gene Ulrich, and Bill Werner. Dinner will be served before the installation (~5:30 p.m.) and refreshments and cigars will be available after.

Statler and Waldorf Holiday Bonanza

After taking a much needed year off the event organizers are proud to announce the return of the **Statler and Waldorf Holiday Bonanza**. Statler and Waldorf, the world famous Muppets that WBs Anderson and Gebhart Anderson have embraced as role models, will not be in attendance.



The 2018 Bonanza will return to Mercer Island's (not yet) internationally renowned Roanoke Inn on Wednesday, December 19th. Festivities will get underway around 4:00 p.m. Seating will be on a first-come first-seated basis at this nonexclusive no-host event. Free parking.

D7 Notes from DDGM Doug Stamper

1. District Meeting

- Date/Time: Friday: January 11th. 6:30 p.m. meal, 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- Location: Eastside Masonic Center
- Open to all Masons from the District (and others) and their spouses.

2. Preparations for District Meeting for WMs (or their representatives)

- Same as before
 - Come ready to speak to the population of Brothers from your lodge
 - Be prepared to speak to the reason you meet (what is your Lodge about)
 - Be prepared to speak to the strengths and weaknesses of your lodge & how you want to exploit the strengths, and turn the weaknesses into at least neutral.

- Concordant Bodies
 - The GM would like to have heavy participation from the concordant bodies - so if you/your Lodge are involved with those bodies, please contact them regarding participation in our District meeting.

Secrets of the Chair

For first-time-Masters, save the date: Saturday, January 26th at 2:00 p.m. The SOTC conferral will take place at Unity Lodge with WB Jonathan Seaton presiding. For more information: jonathanrseaton@gmail.com.

Puget Sound Masonic Service Bureau

If your Lodge has Masons with a heart of service and charity then you are encouraged you to consider joining the service bureau and sending Lodge members as your representative trustee. Our next meeting will be the last Saturday of February at 10:00 a.m. followed by meetings on the last Saturdays of April and October. Locations to be announced.

Dues: Lodge dues are \$1.25 per of the Lodge. (ie. 50 members = \$62.50).

Benefits: Your trustee will attend three or four meetings per year and bring Lodge input into our discussions, as well as report back to your Lodge on what we have been accomplishing as benefit to the Fraternity.

The MSB has been providing financial assistance to Masons and sojourners for over 140 years. We also provide funeral services for Brothers and memorial service training to Lodges. We also assist with short-term, education grants for job retraining.

For further information contact VWB Bill Werner, MSB President, at bigwer1@hotmail.com or 425-894-4410.

Seahawks Viewing Parties

Myrtle Lodge continues to host viewing parties for select Seahawks games. Brothers, their families, and friends are welcome. Bring your favorite game day beverages and food for a potluck and win prizes by playing football squares.



This is a Masonic event so please remember your actions and words reflect upon yourself and the Fraternity. Be civil and kind even to those who root for the other team.

Event Dates and Times:

- Dec 16 - 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. (1:05 p.m. kickoff)
- Dec 30 - 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. (1:25 p.m. kickoff)

Event Location:

Myrtle Lodge #108
57 West Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA

Attire:

Casual, preferably in Seahawks colors. Please keep t-shirts with sayings that are family friendly.

Concordant Body Meetings at EMC

<i>Lakeside OES</i>			
Dec 20	Thursday	Stated Meeting	7:30 p.m.
<i>Bellevue Rainbow Assembly</i>			
Jan 10	Thursday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<i>Bellevue DeMolay Chapter</i>			
Dec 26	Wednesday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Jan 9	Wednesday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<i>Job's Daughters Bethel</i>			
Dec 16	Sunday	Stated meeting and Installation	9:00 a.m.
Jan 7	Monday	Stated meeting	7:00 p.m.

Deadline

Submissions for the January 15th issue of the **District 7 News** are due **Saturday, January 12, 2019**. Early submission is encouraged.

Letters to the Editor

Petty Officer Rich (November 30, 2018)

Hello, WB John:

Great story. I tend to agree with your conclusion in US Freemasonry. It is a good experience for many. I would go one step further and add, if I may without offending anybody, that I have come to know quite a few first time and young WMs who have done well or very well outside the Fraternity because of the "basic training"

they have received inside, and thus have discovered their leadership potential and its activation.

In other countries, however, Lodges accept petitions only from men who have finished their education and have "proven their worth" in the job and business world, who "stand on their own feet", who add something to the Lodge's profit (which is not understood to be monetarily), and who "fit in", "contribute", and work with the other Brothers toward a Masonic goal. The latter part is particularly important because Lodges tend to be small, and Brothers have to labor with each other instead of against each other.

Best wishes,

~WB Helmuth Swobo

WB Helmuth:

Thank you, I found the information you shared on what qualifies a man to be Mason outside the US very interesting. I can see where that approach might be beneficial. On the other hand, the US model may better illustrate the value of Brothers from all walks meeting on the level. Without the level on which we meet here in the US we would have no other place to form the diverse range of such wonderful relationships as those I've enjoyed since becoming a Mason.

~Editor

John:

We should encourage everyone to become what they are capable of becoming, not what we perceive or think of them. Within each of us is the matter for which we are here. Let it be!

Love, hugs,

~Dad

Now Available at Pep Boys (November 30, 2018)

WB Editor:

My car doesn't have either one of those. Dang it!

~WB Ernie Jenner

Holiday Hours



... and your Editor has just settled in for a long winter's nap. The District 7 News is now closed for the rest of the 2018. Happy Holidays to all!

Square Meals

Myrtle #108 welcomes Masons and friends to breakfast at the Gas Lamp in Issaquah every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Goose and Gridiron, Nest 0 meets Mondays for lunch at the Longhorn restaurant in Auburn.

Falls City #66 Sticks & Stones meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Lit Cigar Bar in Snoqualmie Casino. Consumption of solid food at this "meal" is not customary.

Lincoln Park Lodge #80 Past Masters welcomes Masons and friends in South King and Pierce counties to breakfast at Anglea's Restaurant, 7511 E. Portland Ave, Tacoma, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.

District 7 Stated Communications

Lodge	Address	Meeting Times	Contacts
Falls City #66	4304 337th Place Southeast Fall City, WA 98024 www.fallcitylodge.com	2nd Saturday, 1st Saturday June; dark July & August. 7:30 p.m. except January, 7:00 p.m.	WM: David Hisel davidhisel@outlook.com Sec: Nick Michaud nickalan@comcast.net
Myrtle #108	Street Address: 57 West Sunset Way Issaquah, WA 98027 Mailing Address: PO Box 766 Issaquah, WA 98027 www.myrtlelodge108.org	3 rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (The lights stay on in the Summer months)	WM: Chad Reece damnthings@gmail.com Sec: Brian Thomas bjt19@comcast.net
West Gate #128	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 westgatelodge.org	3rd Monday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Earl Lara earllara@westgatelodge.org Sec: Donn Castro - donncastro@yahoo.com
Kirkland #150	702 1/2 Market St. Kirkland, WA 98033 www.kirkland150.org	2nd Thursday (3rd Thursday June) except July, August. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	WM: Brian Clubb bclubb@Outlook.com Sec: Bill Reynar wjreynar@gmail.com
Unity #198	119 North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045 www.unity198.org	1st Wednesday. If Holiday, 2nd Wednesday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Matt Roalkvam webmattr@hotmail.com Sec : Dean Markley wdeanm@gmail.com
Lakeside #258	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 www.lakeside258.org	2nd Monday, except July & August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Vincenzo Sainato vsainato@me.com Sec: Dean Markley wdeanm@gmail.com
Mercer Island #297	1836 72nd Avenue Southeast Mercer Island, WA 98040 www.mercerislandmasons.org	1st Thursday; 2nd Thursday if Holiday or Grand Lodge, dark July & August Open bar 6:00 p.m., catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$20.	WM: Tomas Aquino naraniag@yahoo.com Sec: Scott Anderson papabear120@hotmail.com
Renaissance #312	11440 Avondale Road Northeast Redmond, WA 98052 www.renaissance312.org	Last Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December; if holiday, next available Monday that is not a holiday. Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Table Lodge at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$25.	WM: Joe Oates joates_48323@yahoo.com Sec: Bill Werner bigwer1@hotmail.com

District 7 Officers

District Deputy of the Grand Master: VWB Doug Stamper dstamper@outlook.com,  @dstamper

	Falls City #66	Myrtle #108	West Gate #128	Kirkland #150	Unity #198	Lakeside #258	Mercer Island #297*	Renaissance #312**
WM	WB David Hisel	WB Chad Reece	WB Earl Lara	WB Brian Clubb	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Vincenzo Sainato	WB Thomas Aquino	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
SW	Br Joshua Bushman	Br Laurence Lance	VWB Ray Lavidia	Br Bryan DeNosky	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Jim Groves	Br Carl Bronkema	WB Todd Pike.
JW	Br Robert Coats	Br Gerry O'Brien	VWB Henry Fletcher	Br Steve Preston	WB Ernest Jenner	WB Mike Campbell	WB Paul Hoeffler	VWB Gene Ulrich
Sec	WB Nick Michaud	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB Bill Reynar	WB Dean Markley	WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	VWB Bill Werner
Treas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB Bill Reynar	Br David Bach	VWB Gene Ulrich	WB Scott Anderson	VWB Bill Werner
SD	Br Noah Phillips	Br. Brett Meyer	WB Nelson Aquino	Br Ron Quartel		Br Derk Benisch	WB David Pearson	Br. Sheraz Malik
JD		WB Goeff Joosten	WB Henry Castro	Br Rod Beacham	Br David Bach	WB Todd Pike	Br Dane Shaffer	WB Brian Wheeler
Chp	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Jeff Craig	MWB Santy Lascano	WB Dan Chadrow		Br Max Box	VWB Roger Barnstead	Br Mihai Manolache
Mrsh		Br Thomas Monds	Br Arjay Protacio	Br Gary Weber		VWB Henry Fletcher		
Mu							WB John Gebhart	
SS				Br Jorge Coronel		Br Kevin Ward		
JS				Br Zach Carpenter				
T	WB Frank Schumacher		WB Rolando Herrera					

* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor

** Br Andy Precious is Master of Ceremonies for the Festive Board