

In the April-May 1981 Trestleboard, Bro Jim Kleinknight's Senior Warden's message Congratulated our newest Master Mason and gave a projection for the rest of the year.

"On March 12th, 1981, Bro. John Denton received his Third Degree in the Halls of Las Palmas Lodge. Welcome to the craft Bro. John. We are hoping to have at least one Third Degree each month this year and are trying for two. Remember Brethren, Masonry will only grow, and be good and strong if we all help and participate."

Brother Denton became our Master in 1986 and during his year as Master, he raised 10 new Master Masons. Contrast this to last year where we conferred only two third degrees.

In the same Trestleboard, Bro Eldon Cole, our Jr. Warden also gave us some sound advice. "There may be times when we do not remember how important our Blue Lodge is to us; for those times, let us share four ultimates in Freemasonry: **The Highest Honor:** The bestowal of the Lambskin Apron; **The Highest Degree:** The sublime degree of Master Mason. **The Highest Privilege:** To be admitted to membership in a Lodge of Master Masons. **The Highest Duty:** To live by the Obligations and Principles of country and ourselves. Freemasonry. These are not only the highest; they are also a major part of the foundation of the Masonic Structure. This is true, whether you are the youngest Entered Apprentice in the Lodge, or the Grand Master of Masons in this Jurisdiction. Your Blue Lodge is your foundation in Masonry, let us support and protect it. All other Masonic Bodies are totally dependent on this foundation; without it they simply would not exist. See you in Lodge. Participate."

How many of you have ever attended a Masonic cornerstone laying ceremony. It is normally done by our Grand Master with the help of other Grand Lodge officers and members of local Lodges. The last one that I attended was at the Fossil Discovery Center just off of Hwy 99 north of Madera in November of 2011.

"At the dedication of a new edifice or the laying of the cornerstone, an offering is made of corn, wine and oil. It is the new with the old, the fruits with the seed. Therein are the answers and a great lesson. A building must be true, strong, pleasing to the eye and serve a useful purpose. It follows therefore that the start must be as near true and perfect as is possible. In like manner, the seed to eventually bear good fruit must be properly planted. It must be nurtured and cared for. Fed that it may grow strong and guarded against influences that can harm the reward of its fruits for the benefits that may be derived therefrom. The fruit, the harvest is the reward and the sustenance; the wages and benefits of honest labor. We learn that if our labors are properly guided and the fruits used for the most beneficent purposes, then we will have earned the Corn of nourishment, the Wine of refreshment and the Oil of joy. A just reward."

