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# White River Lodge #62 Trestleboard



April May June 2023

## FROM THE EAST

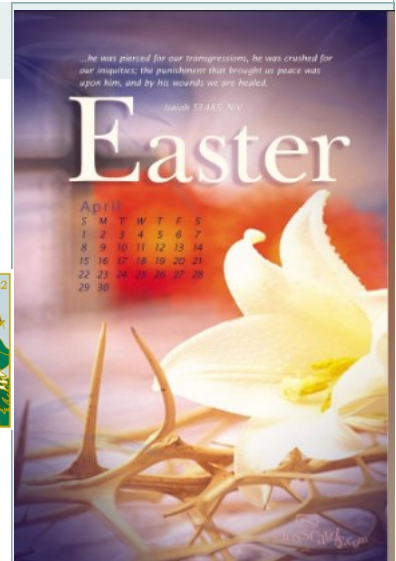
My Brothers, on this Easter, let us remember the Brothers and family members, as well as friends we have lost, and how we will miss them all very much. We are eternally grateful for the example they set, and the friendship they gave us. We cannot replace those that we had special memories of, and who, in the last year, we have lost prematurely, which makes their loss more difficult for their families and friends. There are many times, my Brothers, that we think of Masons that we have known since joining our Band of Brothers, and who are no longer with us. We do not think of them just with sadness, but with a sense of thankfulness for having met them, and having shared good times with them. We may have nice thoughts of them, so our loss is softened with the thoughts and the fun times we shared with them. As Masons, we are always comforted knowing that our Brothers are resting in peace, in the loving care of the Great Architect of the Universe.

And on a lighter note, just a joke that might serve as an example of a way to change the way we view what it means to be a Master Mason:

At the monthly Board of Trustees meeting, the subject of a mouse problem occurring at the Lodge was brought up. Of course, many suggestions were made from trapping the mice, poisoning them, calling an exterminator, or buying a cat. The head of the Trustees took all of these ideas into consideration, and came up with a solution at the next stated meeting.

At the next meeting, all the brothers wanted to know if their idea was the one that had been chosen. The head of the Trustees said, "all the mice are gone." Everyone wanted to know how he made it happen. "Well... I swore all the mice in as Master Masons, and I have not seen them since!"

W.M. Mike Gibbs  
Worshipful Master  
White River Lodge #62



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## FROM THE SOUTH—SPRING TIME HUMOR

One night “a long time ago in a jurisdiction far, far away” a brother was heading home after indulging a bit to much at the festive board after his lodge meeting. He was weaving a little across the path, steadying himself against the lamp posts. A concerned policeman saw him, and walked over. “ Well sir, where are we going this time of night, eh?” He asked. The brother replied “ I officer, am going to lecture on Masonry!” Bemused the policeman asked, “ And just where are you going to hear a lecture on Masonry at this time of night?” The brother replied “ From my from my wife!!

Santiago Limon

Junior Warden

Reference:MASONIC HUMOR and FUNNY, COMIC, MASONIC JOKES (masonic-lodge-of-education.com)

## WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY DINNER PICTURES FROM 2/11/2023



We had a great dinner and a great time. MWB Scott Thomas spoke about the Washington Memorial out side of Washington, DC in Virginia.

## MIZPAH CHAPTER #57 ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

I'm grateful to have been your Worthy Matron for this year. With April we celebrate Easter with family gatherings, children hunting eggs, candy, feasts and many happy times. These are wonderful, but the real reason is our Lord and Savior! There would be no Christmas if there had not been Easter. The babe Jesus of Bethlehem would be but another baby without the redeeming Christ of Gethsemane and Calvary, and the triumphant fact of the Resurrection.



On this beautiful and sacred Easter weekend, surely no doctrine will be the subject of more sermons nor the object of more praise than that of the atoning sacrifice and the literal resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. And so it should be at Easter and at every other season of the year, for no doctrine in the Christian canon is more important to all mankind than the doctrine of the resurrection of the Son of God. Through Him came the resurrection of all men, women and children who have ever been- or ever will be - born into the world.

As for May and June, many holidays are celebrated. We have Mother's day in May and Father's day in June. On this we reflect all the blessings of our parents and other family members. We also have Memorial day, the Battle of the Midway, D-day and Flag day, all remembering our veterans and the sacrifice they made for our country. And remember if we keep the commandments of God we will prosper in this sacred land.

Brothers, you need think about this, your dear sisters in Eastern Star need your help! We are only a few. We do have three new female members whom will be joining our order, that is not enough. There are 8 positions that can be filled by men, these are, Worthy Patron, Ass. Patron, Organist, Treasure, Chaplin, Secretary, Martial, Warder and sentinel. Please consider us. Our dues are only \$ 35.00 a year, and meet only once a month. There will be paperwork for Petition for Degrees left on the front table.

May y'all have a blessed and wonderful Spring!!!

Donna Meyer

Worthy Matron Mizpah #57

### SCHEDULES

#### WHITE RIVER LODGE

Stated Meetings: April 11, May 9, June 13. Dinner at 6:00 PM, Lodge at 7:00 PM

Fellowship, practices, and degree work on other Tuesdays evenings at 6:00 PM

Grand Lodge of Arizona: June 1 through June 3. Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, 5594 W Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Chandler, AZ 85226, register online at [azmasons.org](http://azmasons.org).

#### MIZPAH CHAPTER OES

Stated Meetings: April 20, May 18, June 15 at 7:00 PM

Please stay tuned, we are planning to have initiations soon.

#### WINSLOW YORK RITE

Stated Meetings: April 6, May 4. Openings will be in the Council (Purple Jackets) in Holbrook at 7:30. No Stated Meeting in June.

A Royal Arch Degree will be scheduled for some-time in May or June.

# THE WIZARD OF OZ

By Paul Diaz, Past Master White River Lodge

I thought I would take a break from John the Baptist for a while and write on something different and I thought this would be fun.

L. Frank Baum, the creator of The Wizard of Oz children's books was a Theosophist. I had heard the word at some point in my life but, could not have told anyone what a theosophist was. According to Websters, theosophy is "Any of various esoteric religious or semi-religious occult systems or movements held to be based on special mystical insight, specifically., a movement founded by Helena Blavatsky, incorporating elements of Buddhism and Hinduism." After finding that out, I should probably break open those books I have of hers and start reading them. And here is the definition of theosophy from Britannica. "...theosophy, occult movement originating in the 19th century with roots that can be traced to ancient Gnosticism and Neoplatonism. The term theosophy, derived from the Greek *theos* ("god") and *sophia* ("wisdom"), is generally understood to mean "**divine wisdom.**" So, now I was inclined to determine what differences, if any, there were between Freemasonry and Theosophy, because based on what I have researched so far there seems to be many similarities.



*"There is no danger that dauntless courage cannot conquer, there is not trial that a spotless purity cannot pass through; there is no difficulty a strong intellect cannot surmount"* H.P. Blavatsky

Here is what I found.

There appears to be an extensive amount of literature based on the assumption by Theosophists that Theosophists are the old original Freemasons, and that their (the Theosophists) esoteric teachings contain all that is of value in Freemasonry and go far beyond our teachings. There are several student bodies of Masonic Theosophists, or Theosophical Masons – whichever term you prefer and a number of the best-known Masonic essayists in America and England are ardent Theosophists, whose writings are full of allusions to Masonry.

Taking the entire ritual of the three degrees of the Blue Lodge, as we know them, and in addition the Mark Master and Royal Arch degrees, there doesn't appear that anything that can be considered theosophy by Theosophists are apparently taught in them. Here comes the part I like! "The moment, however, that the analytical mind begins to dwell upon the intricacies of the Masonic ritual and its spirited action in dramatic presentation, it is perceived **that every phrase** (bold and italics are mine) is a studied allusion to something far deeper than the proffered explanation." (Theosophy and Masonry, n.d.)

I couldn't agree more, and since becoming a Mason, I have observed in the movie the Wizard of Oz, elements that scream out to me "intricacies of the Masonic ritual". Let's find out if that is the case. But first another definition:

***Apophenia*** – the human tendency to perceive meaningful patterns between unrelated or random things

The basic story is this: Dorothy leaves her home after Mrs. Gulch threatens to have her dog destroyed. In order to protect her dog, she runs away and encounters a traveling fortune teller. After he tricks her into returning home, she gets knocked unconscious when a tornado rips through the family's farm. She wakes up somewhere "over the rainbow" and after an encounter with a wicked witch, and on the advice of a good witch, decides that the best place for her is back home. She is then sent on a journey to find the Great and Powerful Wizard of Oz who is supposed to be powerful enough to send her home and she is given the Ruby Slippers of the Wicked Witch of the East to help protect her on the journey (in the books they are silver). Along her way she makes friends with a Scarecrow, a Tin man and a Cowardly Lion. They then search for the Wizard of Oz, whom they are told will fulfill their wishes. However, before he will help them, he sends them on a quest to make sure they are worthy. After they complete his task, he "awards" them by explaining that that which they sought they already possessed and then after failing to take Dorothy home himself, she finds the power that she always had inside her which allows her to return home.



## THE WIZARD OF OZ—CONTINUED

In my research into what, if any, esoteric symbolism is contained within the Wizard of Oz, I came across many articles, papers, etc. that speak to this concept. In general, most agree on something along the lines of:

Metaphorically, Dorothy represents the person who is on a spiritual journey -- and the "path" of course is the yellow brick road. She is our spiritual side seeking enlightenment. Her desire for a better world leads her away from her everyday existence to a magical place in which lurk hidden dangers. The Scarecrow represents our intellect, for he wants a brain. Without intelligence or the capacity to reason, we are indeed men of straw; apt to be pushed around by others. The Tin Man represents our emotions, for he badly wants a heart. Without the gentleness of love in our lives we become hard and unyielding; an attitude perfectly symbolized by a man of metal. The Cowardly Lion represents our physical nature, and our will to survive in the material world. He seeks courage so that he can be strong and protective -- a king in his own kingdom.

When all of these characters meet up, they seek a wise man, the great Wizard of Oz, so they may find what they are searching for, and gain possession of the qualities they believe they are lacking. The wizard advises them to prove their worthiness and gives them a most difficult task. They must confront and overcome the evil wicked Witch of the West, or they may not return to the Emerald city.

So, in essence, it is not until they work together as a team -- the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual -- that these four characters are able to gain the power they need to overcome their evil opponent. Once they are successful, they return to the Wizard to claim their prize. When the foursome approach Oz, they are hailed as great heroes and are now on equal footing with the Wizard. The Wizard declares that they possessed their desired qualities all along, but that these qualities could not manifest clearly until they helped each other in overcoming a decisive obstacle. It was only *together* that they were able to vanquish evil and free the witch's slaves.

So, the inner message of this story is: that which we seek on the outside -- really exists on the inside but remains to be discovered. This happens naturally when the aspects of our personality: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual work together harmoniously. When we achieve this wonderful union, we too will gain access (return) to our spiritual nature and our spiritual home, a great kingdom.

And of course, they have an "angel" assisting them on their way; the good witch Glinda, who comes to their aide in several instances to help keep them on their path, like a good spirit guide or angel always does. (Abdo, 2015)



While the above description certainly makes sense to me and fits rather well with the story line; I have a slightly different take, although still really similar, and this is based on me looking at it through the intricacies of the Masonic Ritual. I think volumes could be written on this, (I am not even going to try and talk about Toto in this article) but will try and keep it short and sweet!

Dorothy, who represents the individual, goes on a spiritual journey in search of esoteric wisdom (Wisdom in esoteric circles has always had a feminine persona). She is currently in the material/profane world, i.e. Kansas and desperately desires to be somewhere else, in order to seek a higher state of being. Actually, she doesn't know it at the time but, as represented by the farm hands, everything she needed for her spiritual journey was always within her as they exude the qualities that her later allies (Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly

Lion seem to lack).

After the tornado transports her to a "higher plane" she awakens in the most beautiful world she has ever seen, in the movie this is very dramatic as when she opens the door to her house, the interior of which is in black, white and brown, she looks out into a panorama of all the colors of the rainbow. Here she is met by the Good Witch of the North and the Munchkins. This is also where she is introduced to the Witch of the East and the Witch of the West. It should be noted here, that while the movie only has the Witches of the East, West and North, in the books there is a Good Witch of the South and in the books, Glinda is from the South, while Locasta was the Witch of the North. Glinda being the more powerful of the two. So, in the witches we find a reference to our four cardinal directions (and the North is the weaker of the 4). The wicked witches seem to represent an evil horizontal axis (east to west) i.e., the profane world, while the good witches an enlightened vertical axis (south to north) which ultimately triumphs.



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## THE WIZARD OF OZ—CONTINUED



Oh, and in case you missed it...Dorothy's clothes are the same colors as the Virgin Mary's in her aspect as the Queen of Heaven only in reverse. And the name Dorothy from the Greek means "gift of God". While the numerology meaning of her name (her personality type) is 3.

When the Witch of the West showed up to claim the Ruby Slippers, Glinda magically puts them on Dorothy's feet and instructs her to remain tight in them, the power they contain must be very powerful otherwise the Witch wouldn't want them so badly. And if she takes them off, she will be at the mercy of the wicked witch. In the books the slippers are silver. In esoteric circles, this could represent the silver cord. This is the cord that tethers your higher self in the spiritual plane to your physical self here in the material world. This fits nicely into our concept of the cable tow.

And then we have the Munchkins, which could very well represent childhood, the first stage of being a human. In the movie, Dorothy appears at the least to be a teenager if not a young woman, but in the books, she is 12. And as she leaves the city limits of Munchkin Land, she turns around and waves good-bye to her childhood forever. I should also point out, that when she is standing on the "stage" with Glinda after the Munchkins verify that the witch is most sincerely dead, she is basically given public honors of 3X3. Three groups of three Munchkins (3 X 3) each; **three** trumpeters, **three** ballerinas and **three** Munchkins from the Lollipop **Guild** come out to extend this public honor.

After the Witch of the West threatens Dorothy, Glinda advises her to seek out the Wizard of Oz who can help her find her way home (enlightenment, light, wisdom). On this journey, along the yellow brick road (the Golden Path), which starts out as an ever-expanding spiral (the path of a point on a plane which moves around an axis and continually moves away from it or towards it) she encounters a scarecrow, a tin man, and a cowardly lion, who although don't know it at the time embody the qualities needed by initiates (in all Mystery Schools) in order to complete their quests for more light.

The Scarecrow – The Entered Apprentice. On her journey to enlightenment, she encounters a scarecrow. He doesn't know or understand anything, and for not having any knowledge or wisdom he does an "awful lot of talking." The Scarecrow seeks knowledge, wisdom, light. The Scarecrow has a very short cable tow, and after Dorothy releases him from it, he asks her if he can accompany her on her journey. She agrees but not before she warns him of the witch who is after her. However, he is willing to face any danger and undergo any trial for the chance to obtain some brains, i.e., wisdom, knowledge, light. And so, they set off, fearing not what "the witch" can do unto them.



The Tin Man – The Fellow Craft. Tin is one of the seven base metals of alchemy. Through alchemy we transmute our base selves into the next higher, more enlightened selves; we receive more light. The tin man was sent to chop wood ostensibly for the purposes of building something (some form of architecture), and while he is left alone the vicissitudes and inclemencies of the weather cause him to rust. Just before Dorothy and the Scarecrow find the tin man they come across an apple orchard. As we all know from popular myth the apple is commonly equated with the tree of knowledge (wisdom, light) located in the Garden of Eden. Initially, the apple tree smacks her hand for reaching up and trying to grab one of its apples, i.e. the forbidden fruit. Its not until the Scarecrow tricks them into throwing them at him that they are able to obtain some. While picking up the apples from the ground, Dorothy and the Scarecrow find and ultimately release the Tin Man from his cable tow which allows him to continue on the journey with them. The tin man explains that when he was made they didn't give him a heart and that is what he most desires, to have a heart to understand and know love and compassion.



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## THE WIZARD OF OZ—CONTINUTED



Just before the trio starts off on the rest of the journey, the Witch of the West shows up and tells the Scarecrow and Tin Man to stay away from Dorothy. And threatens the Tin Man with making a Bee Hive out of him.

The Cowardly Lion – Master Mason. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah. By the strong grip of the Lion's paw was the Master raised. The Cowardly Lion is in search of courage, fortitude...wisdom to rule his kingdom. What the cowardly lion doesn't know at this point is that courage is equally distant from rashness and cowardess. This is a lesson he is about to learn and is perfectly explained to him by the Wizard when he tells him that he is confusing courage with **wisdom**.



The four of them Temperance (Dorothy), Fortitude (cowardly lion), Prudence (scarecrow) and Justice (tin man) arrive at the Emerald City. Dorothy asked the recommendation of a friend (Glinda); that request was granted (follow the Yellow Brick Road), she sought audience with the Wizard of Oz and she knocked on the door of the Emerald City and it was opened unto her (in fact even though there was a doorbell she is specifically told to knock). They are sent to the preparation room and after they have been prepared to meet the Wizard, they are again caused to knock before they are allowed to enter, but not before they are told to await a time with patience. At this point, Dorothy and party believe that they are about to be granted their wishes. That they have received enough wisdom on their journey to be granted what they most desire. The Wizard basically tells them they have not received all the wisdom that can be bestowed upon them and before they can be, they must prove that they are worthy. He tells them that he will grant their requests but, before he will, they must complete a small task for him. Dorothy protests that they have traveled so far already (presumes to already meet the requirements) and if he really was as good as everyone says he is he would grant their wishes. He silences her and tells them that they must bring him the wicked witches broom stick. Dorothy explains that to do that, they must kill her (the last remnant of her own profane self).

Now their journey will take them over rough and rugged roads through the haunted forest; a road perhaps beset by ruffians (spooks, flying monkeys and witches) who will demand of them the Ruby Slippers and may even go so far as to threaten to take their lives (which the witch does once she has Dorothy in her castle). Dorothy holds fast to her vow until the witch threatens to kill Toto. Dorothy consents to let her have the Ruby Slippers but the witch, who is profane and not worthy of the secrets, is unable to remove them herself and although we might assume that Dorothy would have been able to take them off and give them to her herself, she doesn't, she remains tight in them and doesn't fail in her promise to Glinda to keep them.

Finally, the other 3 arrive, rescue Dorothy and end up killing the wicked witch with water which may represent the final cleansing of your base self similar to the rite of baptism (ahhhhh....there he is!).

Once they have the broom stick, they return to the Wizard whom they find out to be basically a fraud. Confronted he explains to them that they already had exactly what it was they were searching for in the first place and tells them in order to help Dorothy he needs to take her home himself. Unfortunately, that doesn't work out so well for him or her and so she appears to be stuck in Oz. Suddenly, Glinda arrives on the scene and explains that Dorothy has always had the power to go back home i.e the **divine wisdom** within, she just needed to learn this for herself. These "powers" can be summed up as intellect, compassion and courage as well as the four cardinal virtues: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. All are required, in conjunction with each other, by the initiate, to complete their spiritual journey. I find that this Gnostic theme of inward searching vice outward looking seems to permeate virtually every aspect of both Theosophy and Freemasonry.

Of particular note is that the first aspect of Dorothy that needed to be "killed" was her profane self, this happened when she was knocked unconscious and transported to Oz. The second aspect was when the Wicked Witch of the East was killed when the house fell on her and finally the 3<sup>rd</sup> time was when she melted the Wicked Witch of the West. She was then raised up again when she found herself back home after completing her spiritual journey.

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## THE WIZARD OF OZ—CONTINUED

So, what do you think? Am I suffering a little from apophenia....maybe. But, as soon as the Scarecrow gets his diploma and therefore realizes that he has some brains he points his finger to his temple (Eureka moment) and blurts out, very much to his own surprise....**“The sum of the square root of any two sides of an isosceles triangle is equal to the square root of the third side.”** There are an infinite number of things he could have said that would prove he had some brains, but, he didn’t....



as

*“TIME HAS BEEN POWERLESS TO PUT ITS KINDLY PHILOSOPHY OUT OF FASHION”*  
from the opening credits of *The Wizard of Oz*

## MASONIC HUMOR— CONTRIBUTED BY FRANK EDENS

In 2003, Worshipful Brother Joe Edwards, of San Pedro Lodge #55, was Grand Orator. His oration was on Masonic Humor. Several years ago, at my request, the Grand Secretary sent me a copy of his oration. I procrastinated in writing the article and finally got around to it. WB Joe collected the stories in his travels across the country, I hope you do not accuse me of plagiarism, I selected the stories at random, so the stories are not in the same order as is in the 2003 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Arizona. At the end of the article are a couple of stories recorded in the history of White River Lodge as written by Worshipful Brother Greg Boyd.

Quoting from WB Joe’s oration:

Steward Pollard said, “When we talk about the universality of Freemasonry, we realize there is an underlying ‘tie that binds’ us together as friends and Brothers. That is good fellowship, mutual respect, and good humor.”

When I was a young mason in the late nineteen-seventies, I would attend meetings and practices, We did not have dinners before stated meetings in those days. When you first arrived, there was a lot of hilarity. A few brothers I remember from those days were:

David Camp Porter, who later became Grand Master, had been raised on a cattle ranch. He ran a bus line and mail routes. Doctor Greg Boyd was a dentist and big game hunter who traveled extensively.

Loy Varnell was a retired cowboy in his 80’s. He was a very small man, but when he played Third Base, he sounded much larger due to his raspy voice. He did not talk much, but when he did, he could say more in a few words than others. This combination with many other men in the lodge made for many interesting stories, they usually told their stores from a very comical perspective. I wish I would have written some of their stories. When they entered the lodge room though, they took ritual and lodge business very seriously. Greg was good ritualist great lecturer, David knew the entire ritual book, the AMC, lodge memorial service, installation of officers for both the lodge and Eastern Star, among other things; he had been mayor of Show Low and even had the Show Low City Park named after him for a short time.

The amount of hilarity that goes on at a lodge depends on the personality of the lodge and its respective members. Here are stories that were in WB Joe’s oration that reminded me so much of my lodge especially when I was a young mason.

An Illinois Lodge met in rooms over a hardware store. One cold winter night the hardware store owner was a candidate for the First Degree. When the demand was made for something of a mineral or metallic substance, he scratched his head, thought for a minute and said, “Well, you boys got that pot belly stove from me, and you ain’t never paid for it, so I will donate it.”

When visiting in Nebraska, close to a S.A.C. base, a brother told him at a meeting that recently the Norfolk, Nebraska Daily News had received a letter to the editor stating that something had to be done about those “Masonic booms.”

George Bernard Shaw was asked his opinion of matrimony. He replied “I might say it is like Freemasonry: those who are not received into the order cannot talk about it and those who are members are pledged to eternal silence.”

The convicted man about to be hanged and asked by the hangman if he had any last words. His reply, “You bet I do! If it weren’t for Freemasonry, I wouldn’t be here! The cop that caught me as a Mason and the Judge was a Mason and seven of the jurors were Masons.” Following the last words, the hangman said, “Advance with the left foot.”





## MASONIC HUMOR CONTINUED

I will remove the name of a Past Grand Master from Tucson in the following story. I will call him MW.

A tale of expect the unexpected. MW says, "There is yet strength in the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and the body shall be raised by the Strong Grip of the Lion's Paw and on the five points of fellowship. The first word uttered or spoken after the body is thus raised will be the substitute for the ancient Master's word. At this point MW squats to reach for the candidate's hand. There is a loud "rrriipppp" as the crotch of his pants tear from zipper to belt loop. His expeditious response was a verbal "OH S\_\_\_!" An astonished candidate, still prone in the ceremonial coffin, looked up at the brothers encircling the graveside scene and said, "Are you serious?" and the rest is an uncontrolled quaking of bodies attempting to return to a serious mode as MW and the candidate went foot to foot to transmit the real Master's Word.



After the Lodge Chaplain asked me why I didn't play golf with the Master anymore. I said, "Would you play golf with anyone who moved the ball when you turn your back – or undercounts his score?" The chaplain said, "course not." I said, "Neither will the Master."

Of the Arizona Rancher who visited a small-town Lodge in Rhode Island; sitting next to a local farmer, the rancher asked in conversation how many acres he had. He replied he owned 180 acres. The rancher said, "Back in Arizona I can get in my truck and drive for hours an' never get to end of my ranch." The eastern Brother replied, "Yup! I had a truck like that once and I sold it!"

My mother was an Anglican and my father was Catholic. So, I started in the public school. By the sixth grade I was having a hard time with mathematics. So, my pop sends me to a parochial boys school. Well, there was an immediate success. I did my math homework every evening. My grades improved, and I brought home a report card with an A in math. Pop asks, "Joe me Lad, was it the nun and the hard discipline at the parish school that caused your improvement?" I said, "Well, Pop when I seen that guy nailed to that plus sign on the wall, I knew there would be no slakin' in that math class!"

Another story from Joe who was raised in a large family with only one bed that kids slept in. The kids would pee in the bed at night.

My mother put me in bed at night and asked, "do you want to sleep at the head or the foot?" I said "Mom put me in the shallow end!" I'd wake up in the mornin' an' there'd be a rainbow in the bedroom.

A couple of stories from White River Lodge as recorded on the White River Lodge's Website from our Buckelew Springs Outdoor degree that was held between 1975 and 2003. The stories were written by W.B. Greg Boyd.

One of the best laughs we ever had was when Loy Varnell's German short hair pointer walked up to Lou Denham just as he arrived in camp mid-afternoon on Friday during a relaxed moment. Lou was standing in the middle of camp greeting everyone and wearing casual slacks, not too appropriate for Buckelew, when....calmly the short hair walked up from behind, lifted his leg, and proceeded to unload on Lou's leg. He was a fair size dog and needless to say was quite productive. At first Lou seemed to be oblivious to what was happening When he realized what had happened, he was speechless. Being speechless was not one of Lou's attributes and we all got a good belly laugh out of it.

Another time several Brethren were sitting in the cook tent quite late on Saturday night. Most everyone had turned in and the Camp was quiet except for the rowdiness emanating from the kitchen. All of a sudden Loy came out from his tent wielding what some of us took to be a branding iron, but was probably a gaucho (*Cowboy slang for a metal rod used to move hot large Dutch ovens.*), and letting it be known in uncertain terms that his peace and tranquility of sleep were being intruded upon and that we were all in jeopardy of immediate bodily harm. As he told the story, the next morning at breakfast we all "scattered like a covey of quail." Of course, the story has become embellished over the years, but that's substantially it.

Quoting from the Website: The Masonic Trowel: "There is a time for work and a time for play. There is a time for degrees and a time for refreshment. There is a time for business meetings and a time for ritual. There is a time for laughter and for joy as well as a time of solemnity and reverence. The one is just as important as the other."

References: 2003 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Arizona

Boyd, John Gregory, Buckelew Springs Outdoor Degree and Cowboy Camp, [whiteriverlodge62.org/buckelew-springs.html](http://whiteriverlodge62.org/buckelew-springs.html), retrieved 2/26/2023

The Masonic Trowel, [Laughter \(themasonictrowel.com\)](http://themasonictrowel.com), retrieved 2/27/2023

WHITE RIVER LODGE #62

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WEB PRESENCE

Lodge Website: [whiteriver-lodge62.org](http://whiteriver-lodge62.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRiver62>

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## LAUGHTER IN THE BIBLE

**Proverbs 17:22** - A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

**Psalms 126:2** - Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

**Job 8:21** - Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.

**Ecclesiastes 3:4** - A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

**Proverbs 15:13** - A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

**Genesis 21:6** - And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

Mailing Label



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