Brethren,

I know some of you had heard, but for the benefit of those who haven't, I will fill you in. In January I will be ending my 16 year carrier at the Tesoro Refinery and starting out on a new adventure as business owner.

The tragic events in April 2010 that killed seven of my co-workers has weighed heavily on my heart for nearly five years, so last year I started researching and educating myself about the business world. I am going to start an estate sale business, where I will purchase furnishings and other effects and resell them in a storefront. At this time I am planning on finding a space in Mount Vernon or Burlington as a place of business.

I will finance my new venture using my accumulated retirement accounts from my 16 years at the refinery. It is a great risk to venture my retirement on such an endeavor, but I feel I have chosen a solid foundation for my business.

See "From the South, Pg. 2"

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New Year & New Adventures

From the South:

Bro. Kevin Magill

I hope the New Year finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits. If you were at the installation you know that my major emphasis for this year is to propagate knowledge of the mystic art. More on that later.

We currently have four new Masons at different points in their progress toward being proficient Master Masons.

**Degree Work**

In that vein, let me say that it is up to the coach to determine when the candidate is ready for the next degree; but the team conferring the degree also needs at least two weeks to rehearse their parts. I have no problem with calling the lodge down to a lower degree to do the posting lecture on the night of the degree conferral.

**Question of the Month**

At the installation, I was charged to cause the Book of Constitutions to be read. In that vein I would like the brothers to research the following question: "When can the business of the Lodge be conducted?"

For those of you that do not have a copy of the Washington Masonic Code; it is available on the Grand Lodge web site. To log on you must have a username (your e-mail address) and a password (the member number on your dues card).

Find the WMC reference and bring it to the next meeting. There will be a question for each meeting.

*See “From the East, Pg. 2”*

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January Masonic Birthdays

*Raised to the Degree of a Master Mason*

Charrison Lochaby ........................................01/11/1955
Keith Mac Horner ........................................01/16/1959
Gerald Myers ................................................01/16/1996
David Alberts .................................................01/22/2000

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All About the Widow’s Sons

From the West:

Bro. Terry Ragan

The Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association is an International Association which is open to all Masons who enjoy the sport of motorcycling and have a desire to ride with and associate with their fraternal brothers.

Our goal is to:

1. Contribute to the relief of our Widows and Orphans.
2. Raise Masonic Awareness in the world of sport motorcycling.
3. Introduce the sport of motorcycling to our Masonic Brothers.

*See “From the West, Pg. 2”*
"From the South," from page 1

I am not in need of financial support, I hope I have that all planned out well enough. I would welcome any advice in regard to avoiding the pitfalls of the business world from any brother willing to share.

One of the things that have been on my mind for the last year has been the 47th Problem of Euclid, that symbol represents knowledge.

Since being entered, passed, and raised I have continued reading many books to fill myself with knowledge to perform better within the craft. To learn the ritual and scratch the surface of some of the meanings, and ancient usages. In addition to that, I have been teaching myself what I can find of the business world, gaining whatever knowledge I can find or glean from others. In these searches I have come to realize my fondness of gaining knowledge, whatever the subject.

There is a saying that "ignorance is bliss" which is defiantly not true, the one thing ignorance truly is, is a choice.

Choose to learn.

Fraternally,
Kevin Magill

"From the East," from page 1

Festive Boards & Announcements

There will be a festive board at each meeting. If you attend our meetings and have announcements, I request that they be reserved for the festive board. We will also have speakers at the festive board.

Masonic Education

We have to do more than introduce the same people, read the trestle board, hear committee reports and pay the bills at our meetings. We will be having Masonic education.

Along that line I will be assigning topics to the brethren and expect them to prepare a 10 to 15 minute presentation that will be given in Lodge. More on this will be available at the January stated communication.

Fraternally,
Jerry Myers

"From the West," from page 1

4. Support the Blue Lodge through regular attendance, and assisting with or attending lodge events.

While we wear identifying patches or regalia, the Widows Sons are not a gang, MC, or 1% Club. We are required to represent the fraternity in a positive light at all times.

The Widows Sons serve as a Masonic Booster Club by helping to raise Masonic Awareness while we attend public motorcycling events, and by supporting our Blue Lodges in whatever capacity we are able. Widows Sons Chapters have helped to increase Masonic membership through our presence and visibility during public motorcycle events and rallies.

In every location where we have a chapter the Widows Sons have proven themselves to be a positive asset to the fraternity. Many of our chapters are proud to have current and past Grand Masters as members. We regularly attract new members to the fraternity, and several of our chapters have their own Degree Teams or volunteer in doing Masonic work whenever possible.

Each Widows Sons chapter sponsors or participates in local charity runs or events. In all cases, we strive to present a positive image of Freemasonry and our Association to the public.

Fraternally,
Terry Ragan

Coming in February
14 February
Sweethearts Luncheon

The Fidalgo Lodge No. 77 Trestleboard
Published close to the 1st Day of each month, Lord willing.
Eric Johnson, P.M., Secretary

You shop Amazon gives
Amazon will donate .5% of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile purchases to The Fidalgo Masonic Scholarship Foundation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

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From our Immediate Past Master
W.B. Steve Ellis

Brethren,

It was a true honor to serve as your Worshipful Master this past year.

I’m so thankful for the enduring friendships that have been strengthened as you all supported me and our Lodge.

My year started out rather difficultly, with the loss of our brother and Worshipful Master, WB George Brown.

We all came together and helped him leave this world in grand style, with his past masters apron and the love and respect of his Masonic family.

A special thank you is in order for Bro. Terry Ragan for all the help and assistance he has provided to WB George’s wife, Linda.

I want to thank RWB Don Munks for many things, but most importantly for introducing me to my coach and mentor, WB Bill Ellen.

W.B. Bill was Fidalgo 77’s Worshipful Master in 1971. A true Mason and friend. All the Lodge wishes him and his family warmest regards.

To all our new members, welcome to your new life in Masonry. From experience I can say you will never be in a more supportive environment for learning and spiritual growth. The most important part of this equation is your participation.

In conclusion, I consider my greatest accomplishment this year was in helping get the line of officers solid for For 2015. I look forward to seeing you all in Lodge in 2015 year.

Happy New Year to all
Stephen Ellis. P.M.

On his recent trip to Australia, Senior Deacon Bob Belli visited the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory in Sydney.

The first five floors house the Masonic Centre. The tower was from the original design and was built in 2004. Many locals find it unappealing. However, it is a one-of-a-kind structure built with no support on the four corners.

In the Masonic Centre: a porcelain bust of Most Worshipful Brother, His Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII (1874-1901)

The Tubal-Cain statue made almost entirely of scrap metal by a Danish metal worker.
Fidalgo Lodge No 77 Mason: Paul Luvera, Sr. (1898 - 1990)
Immigrant, Grocer, State Senator, Community Leader, Mason

Editor’s Note: The following was condensed from Paul Luvera’s biography of his father, found at http://goo.gl/1iddVx

Paul Luvera moved to Anacortes in 1918 and spent his life in the town. He was born in Reggio Calabria, Italy, the son of Niccola and Fillippa Luvera. In 1930 he emigrated to Coleman, Alberta where he and his father worked in coal mines until the family moved to Anacortes in 1938. In 1921 he and his father opened Luvera’s Fruit Store at 7th & Commercial in Anacortes — a neighborhood store that featured home delivery and allowed purchases on credit. Paul arranged the fruit displays and worked at the store into his 80’s.

In 1918 when Paul moved with his family to Anacortes, our fair city was a small town with four sawmills, six shingle mills, six salmon canneries and two codfish plants. Paul found work with the Morrison Mill company in the boiler room feeding the furnace. It was a hot and miserable job. After fifteen days he was able to find a new job at Anderson Shingle mill stacking shingles for the dry kiln. Then, after working there some time, he was able to find a “white collar” job working for a local Italian grocer, as a delivery man working six days a week 7 am to 6 PM.

He was very proud of the fact that he had advanced from a blue collar worker to one who wore a white shirt and tie. Although his parents never learned to speak English, Paul was proud of the fact he had learned to speak English and even more proud of later becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States.

During the Great Depression his employer told him he had to cut Paul’s pay. Paul had always had a goal of opening his own grocery store and decided to quit rather then take a cut in pay.

He leased a store front at 7th and Commercial in Anacortes. The store opened as “Luvera’s Fruit Store.” Everyone in the family was involved. Paul’s sister was a clerk in the store. His father quit his job in the saw mill to run the fruit and create a daily vegetable display. Paul’s mother also helped out. This small grocery store featured home delivery complete with putting the groceries on the shelves at the customer’s home if they requested.

Paul met his wife, Mary Babarovich, in Anacortes. The family had immigrated from what was Austria Hungry on a small island near Split. They were married in 1926. She began to work at the store with Paul after their marriage. The mainstay of the store economy was the commercial fishing fleet. Literally hundreds of commercial purse seine boats would come into Anacortes docks during the summer fishing season. Most were Croatian’s and since mother could fluently speak the language this was a big drawing card for the boat cooks many of whom spoke only limited English. Paul gave the boat owners credit for the season and they would pay off the bill from the summer earnings at end of the season. Not all seasons were successful and some accounts were carried for more then one season. But Paul said they never lost a dime even though some took several years to pay.

The store was in the same location for thirty five years at the corner of Seventh avenue and Commercial in Anacortes. The original building is still there today.

In his retirement, Paul started a second career as a wood carver. Among his many wood creations, his totem poles were very popular. He carved many poles during his retirement and his totem poles are displayed in such places as Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Yokohama, Japan and Stockholm, Sweden.

Paul was very active in community service for his entire life in Anacortes. He was one of the community leaders who started the Anacortes Mariner’s Pageant that promoted the town and was annual event for many years. To promote the pageant he was involved in creating such events as the “Cat Putter Outer Contest and a pajama race involving beds and men dressed in pajamas. One idea earned the criticism of the religious community in Anacortes when he promoted a wedding of a number of couples at the same time in the public park as part of the pageant.

Paul’s many community accomplishments included his role in the construction of the famous Deception Pass bridge connecting San Juan Island to Whidbey Island. Constructed in 1935 with money from the Roosevelt administration it was an vital link between the two islands.

Paul organized the first parent-teacher association in Anacortes. He was very active in the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and was a life time member of the Anacortes Rotary Club. He joined the Fidalgo Masonic Lodge No. 77, and you’ll see many of his photographs lining the walls of the Lodge.

He was president of the Washington State Grocer’s Association as well as the Washington State Food Dealer’s Association. He was awarded Skagit County’s Liberty Bell Award in recognition of this life long contribution to community activities.

This unique man, whose education never got past the 6th grade, was elected to the Washington State Senate and was responsible for securing the construction of a new highway into Anacortes because the existing one often flooded. Many years later and after his retirement, the state legislature designated that highway as the Paul Luvera Sr. Highway.

He was very proud of becoming a United States Citizen and flew the American flag at his house daily. He believed this was the greatest country in the world and taught his children that we owed a duty of contributing back to this wonderful country. He was a truly amazing story of the American dream who arrived with nothing, had only a grade school education and achieved so much for his family and his community.