



The Discoverer

Greetings Brethren,

We've just had our first ceremony of the year which was well-handled by the new "team". The year ahead is already shaping up to be a busy one with 2 new names mentioned already. Brethren—a reminder from the Treasurer that Lodge fees are due—please try and pay up promptly. I am indebted to Derrick Butterfield who sent me his autobiography which can be read on Pages 5 to 9.

I trust you are satisfied with the content of the newsletter—I try to combine news with items of educational or historical content and, of course, a dose of humour. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact me at achurchill@vanuatu.com.vu or visit our website www.LOD8737.org.

Inside this issue:

Pause for Thought Is this Us?	1
Aims & relationships of the Craft	2
Masonic Opening Ritual (East End of London style)	3
Masonic Birthdays	3
Teachings of the Craft	4
Principle of the Square Judge Kindly	4
Getting to know our Founder Mem- bers—Derrick	5
Some random thoughts	9
From the South	10
Humour	10

Pause for Thought

What category do YOU fit into, when it comes to that extra bit of work that needs doing.....?

Some men are like wheelbarrows—useless unless pushed.

Some men are like canoes—they have to be paddled.

Some men are like kites—if you don't keep them on a string they fly away.

Some men are like footballs—you can't see where they will bounce next.

Some men are like balloons—full of wind, and likely to blow up.

Some men are like trailers—they have to be pulled.

Some men are like neon lights—they keep going on and off.

And some are like a good watch—Open Face, Pure Gold, Quietly Busy,

Is this us?

We are bringing men into our Lodges and not teaching them anything about Masonry, except the ritual. We tell them nothing about our traditions and history. Actually we give them no good reason to return to the Lodge.

Does this quote from an unknown author reflect on us and provoke a response?

Freemasonry's simplicity, its dignity, and its spirituality sustain me in all I try to do, and permit me to forget the incredible pettiness of mind that we sometimes encounter, sustaining and enabling me to join hands with my Brethren everywhere, to do something, if it be only a little, before the end of the day, to make a gentler, kinder and wiser world in which to live.

Joseph Fort Newton

Aims & Relationships of the Craft

1. The first condition of admission into, and membership of the Order is a belief in the Supreme Being. This is essential and admits of no compromise.
2. The Bible, referred to by Freemasons as the Volume of the Sacred Law, is always open in the Lodges. Every candidate is required to take his obligations on that Book, or on the Volume which is held by his particular creed to impart sanctity to an oath or promise taken upon it.
3. Everyone who enters Freemasonry is, at the outset, strictly forbidden to countenance any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society, he must pay due obedience to the law of any state in which he resides or which may afford him protection, and he must never be remiss in the allegiance due to the Sovereign of his native land.
4. While English, Irish and Scottish Freemasonry thus inculcates in each of its members the duties of loyalty and citizenship, it reserves to the individual the right to hold his own opinion with regard to public affairs. But neither in any Lodges nor at any time in his capacity as a Freemason is he permitted to discuss or to advance his views on theological or political questions.
5. The Grand Lodge has always consistently refused to express any opinion on questions of foreign or domestic state policy either at home or abroad, and it will not allow its names to be associated with any action, however humanitarian it may appear to be, which infringes its unalterable policy of standing aloof from every question affecting the relations between one Government and another, or between political parties, or questions as to rival theories of Government.
6. The Grand Lodge is aware that there do exist bodies styling themselves Freemasons, which do not adhere to these principles, and while that attitude exists the Grand Lodge of England, Ireland and Scotland refuse absolutely to have any relations with such bodies or to regard them as Freemasons.
7. The United Grand Lodge of England is a sovereign and independent body practicing Freemasonry only within the three Degrees and only within the limits defined in the Constitution. It does not recognize or admit the existence of any superior Masonic authority however styled.
8. On more than one occasion, the Grand Lodge has refused, and it will continue to refuse, to participate in conferences with so-called International Associations claiming to represent Freemasonry, which admit to membership bodies failing to conform strictly to the principles upon which the Grand Lodge of Scotland is founded. The Grand Lodge does not admit any such claim, nor can its views be represented by any such Association.
9. There is no secret with regard to any of the basic principles of Freemasonry, some of which have been stated above. The Grand Lodge will always consider the recognition of these Grand Lodges which profess and practice, and can show that they have consistently professed and practiced, those established and unaltered principles, but in no circumstances will it enter into discussion with a view to any new or varied interpretation of them. They must be accepted and practiced whole-heartedly and in their entirety by those who desire to be recognized as Freemasons by the United Grand Lodge of England.

(The above are extracts from a Joint Statement, issued by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland in August 1938, and is published for information of Brethren. Whilst seemingly old the statement has been re-affirmed by all three Grand Lodges).

.....on a lighter note

Masonic Opening Ritual (East End style) with thanks to Lodge St. Andrew No. 518

Opening the Lodge the Cockney way:

WM: OK Bruvvers, ere's the brief

WM: Tickle them ivories John.

WM: Bruvvers, 'elp us to open this 'ere gaff

WM: Bruvver....why do we 'ave to look lively?

JW: To make sure the wood's in the 'ole, Guvnor.

WM: Well, just don't stand there

JW to IG: OK, Bruvver....You 'eard the Guv

IG to JW: Done, John

JW to WM: Done, Guv

WM to SW: The next bit?

SW: To see that the Bruvvers are all in the firm

WM: Come on Bruvvers, shake a leg

WM to JW: 'ow much top brass in this 'ere drum?

JW: Free Guv, You and the two oppo's wiv the cuffs

WM to SW: Bruvver SW, 'ow many others?

SW: Free John, besides the bouncer, namely the bloke on the door and the 2 geezers wiv the Pool cues.

WM to JW: Where's the bouncer then?

JW: Outside the gaff, all tooled up

WM: Why's that then?

JW: E's packin' a blade in case we're busted Guv

WM to SW: The bloke on the door?

SW: 'overin abaht a bit

WM: Wot the 'ell for?

SW: To check the tickets, admit new punters and do wot e's told by my oppo

WM to JW: Where's the JD?

JW: Over there

WM: Why?

JW: To grass to you, Guv and chivvy 'em all up a bit

WM to SW: And the other one?

SW: Next to you, Guv

WM: Why?

SW: Errand boy, Guvnor

WM to JW: Bruvver JW, wot abaht you?

JW: On the sidelines, Guv

WM: Why?

JW: To nip dahn the pub wiv the bruvvers, get some booze and grub, and get 'em all back 'ere before the last bell.

WM to SW: Bruvver SW, wot abaht you?

SW: Down the shallow end Guv.

WM: Wot the 'ell for?

SW: To let 'em know when its ligh'ing up time and to close down the gaff when all the bruvvers 'ave 'ad their cut.

WM to IPM: Why's that then?

IPM: To keep them lot on their toes, open the gaff and get 'em at it.

WM: Bruvvers, now that we're all 'ere, its eyes down for a full 'ouse, but before we do, let's get the boss in the technical drawing department to tip us the wink so there's no agro.

ALL: Nice one, Guvnor!

Masonic Birthdays—May

Andy Donaldson	29
Chris Kernot	8
Robert Rokvic	5 (J)
Warrick Sands	4
Rod Neilson	2 (J)
Michael Johnston	1 (J)

Teachings of the Craft

According to the authorised definitions of the term, Freemasonry is an art, founded on the principles of Geometry and directed to the service and convenience of mankind. Its purpose is to knit together in one common bond all humanity by appealing to that charity and sympathy which are innate in every healthy-minded man.

In Freemasonry, the sentiment is all; the ritual or ceremony merely symbolical. It is not only a service, but a discipline. Its teachings are not to be put off with the apron at the close of the Masonic business, but must be brought into all departments of life, to enoble and adorn it; for Freemasonry lays down rules of conduct for the working portions of our life as well as for the devotional periods.

It embraces equally as Brethren men of every race, religion, and language and speaks to each man in his own tongue; it teaches us to have reverence for the highest, to have pity with the lowest, and to be charitable in our thoughts as well as in our actions. It exhorts us never to judge harshly or rashly, not to attribute an evil motive to the actions of our fellow men, to listen patiently to the cry of the unhappy, pity their infirmities, aid them in their weaknesses and to succour their distress, even though we may know that their distress is of their own errors or folly, for such charity is the very touchstone of our true Masonic fellowship.

As a chain is no stronger than at its weakest link, and the slightest flaw in the metal may jeopardize the safety of the whole, so may the individual conduct of any Brother reflect on the whole of the Craft. All should therefore be discreet at all times, and due care should be taken in guarding our portals against the admission of those unlikely to be able to reflect honour upon our choice.

"Masonic Record"

Let not the import of the foregoing ever be effaced from our memory.

Principle of the Square

In one of the old Chinese books, written c 2500 B.C., "the Great Learning", we read that a man should not do unto others what he would not have done unto himself. This is called the principle of acting on the square. Throughout the ages philosophers have found nothing more profound, and what has held good in those bygone days still holds good today.

SEVEN—"7 make a Lodge perfect; 7 officers are to be found in a properly constituted Lodge; 7 years (or more) were occupied in building K.S.T.; 7 liberal arts and sciences call us to better things; 7 qualifications are necessary for a would-be Freemason (just, upright, free, man, of mature age, sound judgement, strict morals); 7 steps are taken in the search for morality".

JUDGE KINDLY

Don't expect perfection in a man just because he is a Mason. If you do, you will be disappointed. Masonry makes men better, but no human agency makes them perfect. If he is a good Mason you have a right to presume he is a fairly good man, but do not condemn Masonry even if a few Masons turn out bad. Even the great teacher himself had a Judas. The aim and purpose of Masonry is to receive none but good men, keep them good, and make them better. Judge the Institution not by a few failures, but by the average of its success. That average is high and it consequently gives standing to its members, but it cannot be an infallible guide.

"THE PROCEEDINGS"

Getting to know our Founder Members — Part 1

W. Bro. Derrick Forrest Butterfield

Editor's note: The following was received from Derrick—it is so informative and amusing that I make no apology for reproducing it in full. Hopefully, it will inspire other Brethren to give me their "life stories" for the benefit of our newer Brethren.

Born in the West Riding of Yorkshire in a small village called Earlsheaton, near to the town of Dewsbury, on 15th September 1931 which puts me into my 80th Year in 2011 – look 60 feel 80!!!! It also puts me, geographically, not too far from James Cooks birthplace, a man I very much admire and whom I remind all my Australian and New Zealand mates – gave them what they have got, so be grateful for what Yorkshire has produced otherwise it's a long stay in old England, jail and shackles and no £10 cheap trip to Australasia.

My Father and paternal grandparents were Master Plumbers and Heating Engineers and could never understand why I did not follow in my father's footsteps, preferring cleaner hands. My mother came from the Hotel Industry and produced three sons with myself as the first born. Both my brothers preferred dirty hands apropos the Electrical and Woodworking trades although they both ended up with clean hand professions.

I was educated at the Wheelwright Grammar School in Dewsbury and at The Baines Grammar School at Poulton, near Blackpool in the NW of England when my family moved to Blackpool in 1947 following my father's return from the Royal Air Force where, I believe, amongst other things, he might have helped bomb some dam or other as the engineer on a Lancaster Bomber.

Naturally I followed him into the Royal Air Force as a National Serviceman – originally for 18 months which became two years. Thoroughly enjoyed it, qualified in Radar Navigation and ended up instructing at the Navigational (Signallers) School at Swanton Morley in Norfolk.

In 1952 I had to decide whether to stay on in the RAF on promise of a commission or become a teacher. I chose the latter and entered Chester College (Liverpool University) to study History and Mathematics but never losing sight of the various sports I loved – soccer, rugby and cricket. Eventually qualified and tried my luck in a Primary School in Preston – decided that I might better enjoy sport in a secondary school and took myself off to Carnegie College (Leeds University) to gain a Diploma in Physical Education, returning to a brand new Secondary school in Preston as Head of Physical Education.

In the meantime I had met and married Edna, Chester lass of Welsh origin and we were married in 1955. I reckon I got the best of the bargain and I still think the sun shines out of her almost 56 years on. She has the ability to get through to me when others fail. Our daughter Joanna arrived in 1959.

In 1962 I was appointed as a member of a team of teachers formed to set up day secondary schools in Germany for the children of British Military Personnel whom, until that time, had only boarding schools available to them, in Germany and UK. We greatly enjoyed the professional challenges and the travel throughout Europe we undertook at holiday time (what a difference that Channel makes!!!). We just hitched up the caravan and away we went, north, south, east but not so much west as there was still East and West Germany at that time together with many communist states and we were limited in visiting as attached civilians to the British Military. Our son Andy arrived in 1965 conceived, I still believe, at the foot of the Zugspitze on our way back from Austria – Edna will know!.

During our German period I was also introduced to Masonry by a colleague, Tony Rees, now unfortunately deceased but a very fine, bordering International, Welsh rugby player, and was initiated into the Keys of Munster Lodge No. 881 Province of British Freemasons within the United Grand Lodge of Germany. I ultimately became Master of the Lodge and its Secretary, making great friends within different (acceptable) constitutions and learning much of the varying practices carried out in those constitutions, taking care to avoid any that were non-acceptable to the Grand Lodge of Germany, or England for that matter. One needed to be very careful in those days. It also meant I was in some demand in visiting UK Lodges for after dinner speeches on my Masonic experiences outside UK. My speciality was the working tools in the second degree – always a challenge!!

Came 1970 and interviews for two posts – the first as a senior administrator in an approved school (used to be called Borstals) – I had always had an interest in socially-difficult young people and seemed to have an inbuilt capacity to get through to them – looking back, I reckon I lived up to this 'capacity' by being something of a rebel and often thinking 'there is nothing these young people can get up to that I haven't tried myself and a few things beside that they would never even think of'!!! People who know me might vouch for that. The second post was as a District Education Officer in somewhere called The New Hebrides in the South Pacific. I had difficulty finding the 'pinpricks' on the map as I told the interviewer at the Foreign Office since I had, by the time it came for my interview, decided that the other applicants seemed to be much better qualified and experienced than I was, so I adopted a very relaxed attitude to this lady interviewer. Surprise, surprise, I was offered both posts and Edna and I spent much time figuring out the long or short journeys – Wrexham in North Wales or Vila in the South Pacific. We decided on the palm trees.

The three of us arrived in Vila in April 1970 having turned back once out of Nadi, Fiji with engine trouble and wondering what the h... we were doing here – compounded by the fact that Vila airport terminal in those days was a small wooden shack at the end of the runway, the Rossi was full and we were put up in the Vate Hotel opposite (*Editor's note: now the Hotel Olympic*) – then with nothing to commend it. We eventually ended up staying temporarily in the house allocated to Robin Bibby (also a Mason and member of Lodge of Discovery whom some of you may remember – now deceased) until we were allocated our own house in Edinburgh Road, just behind the 'Vila Hilton' or Vila (English) jail. The prisoners, some of them murderers often came and cut our burao hedge.

I took my post as a District Officer very seriously and, quite early on, escaped death on the Island of Tongariki and subsequently, Erromango which, if it did nothing else, taught me to keep my insurance up to date. My joust with death on Tongariki was almost a case of survival of the fittest as George Kalkoa, subsequently Ati George Sokomanu, President of the Republic and my old friend, used my back as a springboard to reach the beach as the seventh wave (the big one) came in and pitched the dinghy up and over. It came down a foot from my head having thrown the government bag and myself from the dinghy after George. It took me a while to forgive him. We got together again on our 2005 visit to Vila. Also managed to get myself in trouble with the British Administration and the French for that matter for telling it far and wide that French education was not free because someone somewhere was paying for it!!!! I was not supposed to say that truth for some diplomatic reason or other which I had difficulty accepting as other than nonsense.

From DEO I took over Curriculum Development, working closely with Kawenu College and became the last Chief Education Officer of the British Administration just before Independence. I returned for a further year in 1981-2 as an Advisor to the Minister of Education who just happened to be Donald Kalpokas, (*Editor's note: now serving as Vanuatu's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York*) one of my old teachers and admin. Assistants, subsequently Prime Minister.

Good to meet Donald again in 2005—always a high flyer even in his early teaching/ headmaster days.

Soon after arrival in Vila I was asked to take on the Presidency of the BESA Club. I was convinced that I was chosen simply because the committee did not want to elect a person who was not going down particularly well with them and I was the soft alternative. Little did they know.!!! I did not set out to do anything other than to maintain discipline, grow the resources and take the Australian Members to task because of their attitude to the ladies who could not at that time be members. That all changed, regardless of opposition, and ladies not only became members but took on social and entertainment responsibilities which helped drive the club forward. I was that Pommy B....d . We also put in the squash court and swimming pool (and a poker machine room expansion). All in all I spent three separate years as President and never once felt offended or miffed at the criticism that went with the job – autocratic b....d being prominent (but necessary).

Being President also gave me the honour of having the Duke of Edinburgh visit the Club and the opportunity to enjoy conversation with him. I well remember introducing him to Harry Rich who was then standing in for Jim Mitchell, the Meteorological Officer who was on leave and the Duke asked Harry if he had all the advanced equipment he had seen in Fiji. Harry answered (typically) 'No sir, we put out a finger and if it comes in wet, it is raining' to which the Duke replied 'Good for you Mr. Rich I also think all this fancy equipment is a load of b...s too'. Also in the archives somewhere is a photo of the Duke with his head showing right in the middle of the lovely well-endowed South Pacific maiden whose portrait hung on a wall near the bar in the club. I fancy the Queen would have taken a dim view. I wish I had grabbed it as the next time I exchanged words with the Duke was when the Queen came, I think the following year, and Edna was asked to understudy the Queen for rehearsals which apparently always happens in advance of a Royal visit. Another funny was when Edna, as stand in Queen, was reviewing the Members of the Advisory Council when our friend Hamlyn (Ham) Harris, bowed and said to her 'G'day sweetheart', much to the chagrin of the Resident Commissioner, Roger du Boulay. After the royal visit Edna asked Ham whether he said the same again to the Queen and answered ' No way, I said Ma'am, this is the proudest day of my life' and promptly got a kick for this from Edna. The third time we came across the Queen and Duke was when we attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, whilst on leave in UK, although this time we only got to speak with Lord Louis Mountbatten who seemed to have been instructed to chat with our section. One Garden Party is enough, with all that morning suit nonsense!!!

The final and great surprise in our Vila days was when I was asked if I would accept the Honour of The Order of the British Empire. I could not, for the life of me, find justification for it as I seem to have rebelled often enough. Was it for my work with New Hebrideans, The BESA Club, I just could not figure it out – but proudly accepted, with some pressure from Edna but remain convinced it also recorded, at that time, almost 10 years of undiscovered crime. I remember talking to Dick Baker about it as he also had been nominated for the same Order and he too had it come out of the blue. I chose to have it presented by the Resident Commissioner in Vila as I did not wish to visit Buckingham Palace again – shades of the Morning Suit!!! Dick went on to be Deputy Governor of the Falklands and was there in the Argentinian invasion and subsequently was Governor of St. Helena. We still keep in contact with Dick and Connie.

One morning, my dear friend Hans Mol and I were having a coffee and discussing Freemasonry when we decided that it was time Vila had a Masonic Lodge. We agreed to put out a guarded invitation, in the press, to ask if any existing Brethren would contact either Hans or myself. The response was, not quite overwhelming, but encouraging and we decided to call a meeting to discuss setting up a Lodge (*Editor's note: see the March Newsletter*).

The meeting agreed to look into becoming a Lodge under the English Constitution since the Grand Lodge of England had much experience in the setting up of overseas Lodges. I was appointed Secretary of the Meeting and agreed to further the cause with UGLE. It turned out that UGLE demanded a set number of Masonic Brethren to be of the English Constitution in order to set up an overseas Lodge. We fell one short so I detailed myself off, during my next leave in UK to visit UGLE and try to persuade R.W. B Stubbs, the Grand Lodge Secretary and a formidable man in International Masonry, to let us form a Lodge. Whether it was my persuasiveness, my membership of an English Lodge working within the German Constitution and therefore a pseudo English Constitution Mason, or, more likely, Edna's charm outside the office, I will never know but he finally agreed to make an exception, subject to the Grand Master's approval and away we were. As for Edna, she was the very first Masonic wife to be allowed into the Grand Lodge itself to see that magnificent Temple, it having only just been decreed by GL that Masonic wives may do so – according to the Grand Secretary!!

Back in Vila Hans, Jock, Robin Barnes, Norman Westley, Gwyn Owen, Robin Bibby and many others set about putting shape to the Lodge with a Temple in the Agathis complex – thanks to Hans, although we moved about a bit after the Agathis fire (Arson???) and spent some time in the HSBC building. This also brought us into the orbit of the Provincial GL in Fiji on whom we were dependent for original consecration and direction. I continued as Lodge Secretary until I left Vila in 1982 and insisted that we stick rigidly to the rules and regulations of UGLE being a confirmed ritualist and was reassured by all incoming Brethren from our own Initiations or visiting Lodges that we would not allow any dilution of such ritual. Even from afar, and after almost 30 years absence, I remain reassured. I feel also that my old and dear friend Jock Hannaford helps keep the English ritual going from closer contact than myself, even though he is a Kiwi!!! We still manage to visit Jock and Sue. I commend you all on the move to our own Masonic Temple which I was able to see during my visit in 2005 for the 25th Anniversary of Independence. Well done!!

My last year in Vila was not as happy as the first 11 years as I saw the rapidity with which the educational infrastructure was dismembered particularly with respect to the indigenous high flyers we had in Education. Most, if not all the best were spirited away within a year into First Secretary or other senior Government posts much to the detriment of the educational system set up over many years. It was during this year that my interaction with the Australian High Commission and their High Commissioners obtained so much in capital aid to education – UK had largely given up or took too long to make its mind up on projects. It was mooted that I may wish to work out of Canberra on completion of contract but we had decided to return to UK and can only look back on what might have been. In the event we could not have anticipated just how rewarding our future would become – professionally and financially. At least we left Vila with Visas to enter Australia permanently provided we exercised the visa within one year – thanks to Mike Ovington (AHC) . Our subsequent business involvement did not allow this and our Visas lapsed. Sorry, Mike.

I returned to UK with my family to join my brother and his business partner in the Motor Trade. Being a main dealer, selling cars, servicing and repairing them and selling petrol was not my scene and I hated it. However, the year I spent in that industry taught me much business practice, accounting, taxation and VAT (GST) legislation and I thank that year for that because towards the end of 1982 I was approached by the UK Government Manpower Services Commission to run a pilot scheme for the new initiative called the Youth Training Scheme. Initially this was for the automotive industry but soon developed beyond that. In early 1983 we were asked to set up a Company to operate the Youth Training Scheme in full and our UK Company came into being in April 1983. Since then it has grown like Topsy and now covers many trades and professions across youth and adults in a multi-million pound turnover enterprise. I am often asked what we train for and my response is always 'from pilots to undertakers and just about everything in between'.

It has been very exciting to see and be involved in this development although it took extremely hard work over long hours to begin with and certainly headed off much of a social or Masonic life for that matter. My Masonic input was the occasional Lodge visit but no lasting attachment. Edna retired from day to day involvement some years ago but I remained in control of a pretty large staff until quite recently when I decided to retire, a word I refused to accept existed until then. Our Senior Managers, whom we had nurtured over many years, were allowed a buyout of the delivery side of the business but we retained all the property – quite easy being a landlord with an insuring and repairing lease!!!! We are proud to see that 'our' Company still powers ahead.

We now divide our time in Cyprus which we made our main base many years ago, as much for the climate and my arthritis (two bionic eyes, two bionic hips and one bionic knee) as the concessionary tax regime we enjoy. Our son and his family live just outside Melbourne, Australia and we have a rather nice apartment there for our visits of two or three months per year. Our daughter and son-in-law have a lifestyle property just north of Christchurch in New Zealand and we have extended a cottage attached to the property for our use during the months we are in New Zealand. We unashamedly chase the better weather, warm or temperate but not hot or cold and whilst this entails much travel, we still enjoy both travelling and cruising for that matter since we always travel 'comfortably'.

Not a bad life as we near the end of it but, one thing for absolute certainty – we have enjoyed one h..l of a life, full of change, excitement, achievement, luck and independence and to cap it all, Edna and I still have each other. Whatever, when we are called to our maker, we will both have smiles on our faces.

Derrick

(Editor's note: Derrick and Edna are true Friends of Vanuatu who annually contribute a charitable donation to the Vanuatu Teacher Training College (VITE).

Some random thoughts!!

When promoting Officers, Napoleon followed a simple rule:-

For obvious reasons promote first those who are intelligent and hard working. Next, promote the intelligent and lazy, for they will find ways to ensure others carry out their duties efficiently. Next, promote the stupid and lazy for they will have no energy to inflict their stupidity on others. But never promote those who

'It is a very sobering feeling to be up in space and realise that
ones *safety* was determined by the lowest bidder on a
government contract'

Alan Shepherd

From the South

In the April meeting Bro. Shaun Gilchrist was passed.

The Lodge has just purchased brand-new collars, jewels and gauntlets so all the officers will look resplendent at our next meeting.

W. Bro. Gerry Byrne PDJGW, DGDC (a frequent visitor) from Auckland, New Zealand sent apologies for the Installation meeting. He has, in past years, been the tour organizer for the visiting Kiwi Brothers but he is off to the UK for 6 weeks very soon.

Bro. Greg Whitford and wife Jill have been back in Vila for a couple of months—whilst here they have been busy redecorating Jill's Café and after the next meeting will be heading back to San Diego where they have a permanent home.

Bro. Ross Wilson is back in Vila after suffering emphysema which necessitated a medical evacuation to New Zealand.

W. Bros. Rex Kersley and Jean-Luc Bador have recently attended Mascot No. 80 Chapter under the auspices of United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Freemasonry. The Chapter is unique in that it is the only one to work all the degrees of the USGC. These are: Mark Master, Holy Royal Arch, Royal Ark Mariner, The Cryptic Degrees (4 degrees) and Knight of the Red Cross of Babylon. Both Brethren have just received their "Knighthood". Arise Sir.....

Humour

A little before Lodge is about to open an old man totters up to the Tyler and says, "I'm here to receive my 2nd degree." Well, they all look at this guy, who really is older than dirt, and they ask him to explain. "I was entered on July 4, 1922. Now I'm ready for my 2nd degree." So they go scurrying for the records, and sure enough, there was his name, entered on July 4, 1922. "Where have you been all these years? What took you so long to be ready for your 2nd?" they ask. He replied: "I was learning to subdue my passions!"

A Doctor and Plumber are in the same Lodge. On Sunday Morning the Doctor wakes up to find his toilet blocked. So he rings the Plumber. "But I don't work Sundays! Can't it wait until tomorrow." The Doctor said. "I don't like working Sundays either but if you were in trouble, and felt unwell, Brother, I would come round to see you" "OK" says the Plumber and goes round to the Doctor. Goes upstairs and looks at the toilet, take two aspirins from his pocket and throws them down the bowl. "There" he says "If it's no better tomorrow give me a ring and I will call round."