

Learn origins of Freemasonry at next City Club meeting

The recent opening of the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter for homeless people in the Masonic building has produced curiosity in the origin in Freemasonry.

At the next City Club meeting, set for Friday, March 20, local Masons Robin Sullivan and Dick Tooley will speak about the spread of Masonry from the Mediterranean Sea region across the Atlantic Ocean and into Oregon.

Sullivan, who is a past treasurer and Trustee of Florence Masonic Lodge, will start with the beginnings of craft guilds by stonemasons in ancient times, and then relate the guild changes that occurred before Masonry became established on the East

Coast more than 300 years ago.

The spread of Freemasonry across the continent since the Declaration of Independence will be narrated by Tooley, who is Past Master of both San Clemente Lodge in California and Florence Lodge, and a co-author of the history of Florence Masonic Lodge.

Tooley will also recount the various activities of the fraternity in Oregon.

The City Club of Florence meets at the Ocean Dunes Golf Course Restaurant. Meetings are open to the public.

The program begins at noon, and a limited lunch menu is available for purchase prior to the program.

MILITARY HERITAGE CHRONICLES — Iconic Jeep's unique variations



BY CAL APPLEBEE
Special to the Siuslaw News

When the iconic jeep first began its life back in 1940 when Bantam Car Company, Ford Motor Company and Willys-Overland each began vying for a coveted government war production contract, it didn't begin as the standardized jeep we all recognize today.

Although the total number of units produced under military contracts during WWII totaled 647,870 units, Bantam would produce only 2,675 of the early prototypes, where Ford would produce 281,448 of both multiple prototypes as well as the standardized unit, and Willys-Overland would produce the largest volume at 362,841, which included multiple prototypes, early production versions and the standardized jeep.

One of the various iterations was called the "slat grille" of which only 25,808 were produced.

It has been estimated in some collector circles that as few as 250 examples of the Willys' slat grille still survive in the U.S. As with a lot of all makes of the early production jeeps, they were sent to Russia under the Lend Lease Act. As an avid Jeep enthusiast, I have seen five in the last decade or so, and know of at least two others as well — so I believe there may be more survivors here in the U.S. than previously thought, particularly since we currently have three alone in our Oregon Central Coast Military Vehicle Group with 60 members.

So what is a slat grille?

As its name implies, Willys-Overland produced these models with a grille made out of flat bar welded together to form more of a brush guard than decorative grille stamped out of metal.

Produced between late 1941 and early 1942, other distinctions included for some production units no glove box, square fuel sump and shorter windshield.

Ken Melnychuck of Dune City, Ron Johnson of North Bend and Jim May of Eugene each own an example of this unique icon. Melnychuck's is a fairly original unrestored specimen; Johnson's is a work in progress; and May just finished restoring his example.

May's unit began like many of our restorations, by gather-



COURTESY PHOTO

A slat-grille Jeep owned by Jim May of Eugene.

ing multiple Jeeps to restore one — in this case two slat grilles — a 1941 and a 1942.

Along with parts from his stash, one 1943 standardized Jeep and a new tub from MD Juan, May spent more than two years restoring with the frame requiring a lot of repair.

"I like the satisfaction of finishing a project and the enjoyment of driving it as much as I can," May said of the project.

The slat grille joins his fleet of Jeeps, which includes a 1942 Ford GPW script Jeep.

May is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and said he saw a lot of yellow vehicles on the flight line.

"I have seen only one other

yellow Jeep at any car shows," he said. "I like the uniqueness of its appearance. Besides, it is good to be seen by other drivers on the highway."

Even with three Jeeps in his motor pool, May is not done collecting and building. His next project will be a wrecker Jeep and he already has some parts collected. But no doubt his caution yellow slat grille will be the one that stands out in parades, car shows — and on the highway.

To learn more about military heritage in general, visit the Oregon Coast Military Heritage Museum website at www.ocmhm.com.

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Pianist, composer David Hicken to perform in Florence

Pianist/composer David Hicken will be making his first concert appearance in Oregon and kicking off Kathy Parsons' 2015 house concert series on Thursday, March 19, at 7 p.m.

Hicken is a world-class pianist who has released five solo piano albums in recent years and several electronic as well as classical organ recordings prior. His 2013 release, "Carols of Christmas," includes a bravura arrangement of "The Bell Carol" ("Carol of the Bells") that many consider to be the very best version of that piece.

Hicken was born and raised in England and started his music training with his mother, an accomplished pianist and



COURTESY PHOTO

Pianist and composer David Hicken will kick off this season's house concert series in Florence.

teacher herself, at the age of three. After years of rigorous training in England, Hicken moved to the U.S. to study at Peabody Conservatory of Music in Maryland at the age of 17.

He lived, taught and performed in several locations around the world, and established the David Hicken School of Music in Honolulu. Hicken and his family moved to southern California last year, launching a new phase in his very active and busy career.

Hicken will be performing music from his albums as well as new music, and this promises to be an outstanding evening of solo piano music.

There is a suggested donation of \$15 per person, and reservations are required by calling Kathy Parsons at 541-999-9720, or emailing her at kathypiano@gmail.com.

The concert will be at her home in Sandpines West in Florence. The address and directions will be furnished at the time reservations are made.

House concerts offer a unique opportunity to see artists perform in a relaxed setting and to interact with them. CDs and sheet music books will be available for sale.

For more information about David Hicken, visit his website at www.DavidHicken.com, where there are two interviews as well as reviews of all of Hicken's piano recordings.

SES students to shine at PTA Talent Show

Siuslaw Elementary School students will take the stage Thursday and Friday, March 12 and 13, to entertain audiences during the annual Florence PTA Talent Show at the Florence Events Center.

Dozens of students will perform a variety of songs, dances and gymnastics in addition to the local Cub and Boy Scouts, who will present the opening flag ceremony.

The show will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. both nights.

Tickets are available at the Siuslaw Elementary School library.

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As you can tell I'm not camera shy at all, I look best in natural sunlight. I am, however, in search of an owner with a light touch and that person would have to be sensitive and patient with my needs. I'm still working on letting down my wall and letting someone love me. It would be more comfortable for me to allow this to happen if I were the only pet. Serious inquiries only...ask for Hutch.

If you would like to meet Hutch or any of his friends, please visit us at:

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