

## MASONIC BODIES

### DENOUNCE "FAKE"

From Oregonian:

That a coterie of unprincipled men are victimizing many who would join the Masonic order by taking what fees they can collect for admission to a bogus order of Masonry is the charge of Grand Secretary Robinson, of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Oregon. Mr. Robinson says this "confidence game" has been going on for years. Two members of the order, which is styled the "American Masonic Federation," Nathan B. Wineberg and Joseph Mendel, were fined \$200 each by Magistrate Shaw in Vancouver, B. C., last December and were deported from Canada. The charge was obtaining money under false pretenses.

The grand organizer of these "Clandestine Masons," as they have been called, is McBain Thompson, of Salt Lake City, who, according to a letter from Alfred A. Murray, grand secretary of the grand chapter of Scotland, to grand secretary Robinson, is an expelled Mason.

The organizers of the American Federation in Oregon have been A. E. Lucas and W. H. Lindsay. Lucas began operations in Portland in 1910, under authority of McBain Thompson. He had offices in the North End, where according to Grand Secretary Robinson, he pretended to confer three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry on his victims in the short time of 35 minutes, charging a fee of \$35.

"After he had made considerable money peddling his spurious masonry he transferred the business to W. H. Lindsay for \$400," said secretary Robinson yesterday. "Lindsay operated the business for some time, until he was arrested by the Portland police for contributing to the delinquency of small boys. He was tried in Judge McGinn's court, convicted and paroled. Then he disappeared and has not been heard of since."

"After Lindsay's disappearance the business of the American Masonic Federation was transferred to A. J. Court, G. B. M. Sommerville, S. H. Haines, J. A. Wheeler, P. A. Johnson and others, who are still pretending to organize lodges and confer Masonic degrees on anyone they can prevail upon to put up the money."

"These self-constituted officials, pretend to confer any degree of masonry from the first to the 33d degree, and many other degrees not recognized by legitimate Masons. As long as their victims have the money, these impostors will give them some kind of degrees and call it masonry. And of course if any of these victims come to any of our lodges we cannot admit them. They cannot be recognized by any Masonic lodge in the country."

"There have been about 20 victims of this bogus Masonry in Portland. T. C. Hunt, who recently was admitted to the bar in this city, is one of them. He sued the organizers for obtaining money under false pretenses. The case was tried before Judge Kavanaugh. The jury stood nine to three for conviction. At a second trial the organizers were acquitted. It was shown by their attorney that no fraud was intended, in proof whereof he pointed to a sentence in small printing on the certificate which read: 'This does not give you the right to visit any other rite.'

A stack of letters four inches high in the possession of Grand Secretary Robinson, most of them from Lucas to Lindsay and some from Thompson to Lindsay, throws some light on the operations of the organizers and where the greater part of the fees went.

Following is a letter written by Grand Secretary Robinson in answer to an inquiry regarding the "Clandestine Masons."

"In reply to your question: 'What standing will my friend, Mr. —— have in the Masonic fraternity and will he be permitted to visit the lodges of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Oregon if he should join a lodge of the American Masonic Federation?' I have to inform you that he will have no standing in either, nor will he be permitted to visit or be recognized as a Mason by any member of any lodge of A. F. & A. M. Masons in Oregon or any other state or country in the world."

"The 'American Masonic Federation,' like many other imitators of Masonic bodies, are known and branded by all A. F. & A. M. Masons as clandestine or fake Masons."

"None of the persons you name, with McBain Thompson, A. J. Court, G. B. M. Sommerville, S. H. Haines, J. A. Wheeler or P. A. Johnson, have any authority from any lodge or Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. Masons in this or any other country to establish lodges or confer Masonic degrees."

"No person joining the 'American Masonic Federation' expecting they are getting legitimate Masonry or expecting to be recognized as Masons or permitted to visit or affiliate with lodges of A. F. & A. M. will be fully disappointed."

"Now it is not true that the courts of Oregon have pronounced the 'American Masonic Federation' a legitimate body. One of their own victims (T. C. Hunt) when he found that he had been hoodwinked had them arrested and tried for obtaining money under false pretenses, and they got out and conviction on a technicality."

"A recent trial of two of the agents of the 'American Masonic Federation' attempted to foist their spurious Masonry on some persons in Vancouver, and they were arrested, tried

convicted and fined \$200, and informed by the judge that a repetition of the offense would be more severely dealt with and punished with a prison sentence."

The fraternity of A. F. and A. Masons of the world are in no way connected with or responsible for the claims put forth by the above named clandestine body calling themselves Masons.

"These clandestine or fake Masons have been exposed so many times through the public press and otherwise that it is astonishing any intelligent person can be so shamefully imposed upon by them."

"If you will call at this office I will show you letters from one of their members to another of their members where they divided the money obtained from some of their victims and where one of them bought for \$200 from another of their agents the so-called right to establish lodges under false pretenses."

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P. J. Hough, single	33.75
E. C. Reed, man, team	30.00
F. J. Haas, man, team	65.00
F. J. Adams, single	3.75
J. V. Thompson, man, team	43.75
F. J. Hawk, man, team	17.00
Bert Tilden, man, team	10.00
W. F. Cain, foreman	73.00
Ben St. Robbie, man, team	17.00
John T. Hobbs, man, team	2.00
Julius Fahl, single	30.00
A. Miller, single	10.00
John Walk, single	10.00
Lester Pitts, single	2.00
Ed Braumester, single	15.00
Fred Zadach, foreman	15.00
John Langley, man, team	95.25
Blake Thompson, single	3.00
Millard Babitt, man, team	78.75
John Paquet, single	30.00
Gro. Benson, man, team	60.00
John Hobson, single	40.25
Fred Paquet, man, team	53.75
Charles Morgan, single	48.12
Louis Brooks, man, team	47.50
Frank Hobson, foreman	63.00
Alvin Jurks, man, team	60.00
Adam Krimbaugh, single	30.00
Walter Morgan, single	43.00
Edward Long, single	39.00
Harry Mitchel, single	25.00
Nels Nelson, single	10.00
Art Davis, single	12.50
Homer Davis, man, team	21.25
Al Sloth, single	15.00
John Brumfield, single	38.12
John Burgan, single	12.50
H. L. Sappington, single	8.12
Frank Thompson, single	3.62
Ralph Leydard, single	1.87
C. W. Ross, foreman	11.50
Walter Walling, man, team	14.38
E. H. Wood, single	5.93
Bay City Examiner	13.50
P. R. & N. Ry.	97.33
Geo. W. Phelps, mdse	3.50
Chas. Eason, contract Lumber	448.75
Tillamook Bay Construction Co., contract Garibaldi-Wheeler road	1771.25
Total	\$4199.45
Road District No. 2	
Frank Dye	\$ 24.50
C. Weagel	50.00
N. J. Dye	44.25
Joe Mondhon	27.50
Sid Travis	15.00
F. Travis	30.00
N. Pangborn	35.00
H. Eppellett	30.00
B. Weagel	12.50
C. C. Black	43.12
G. W. Perrish	20.00
William Lawrence	40.63
N. Weber	12.50
E. Drake	35.12
J. Johnson	6.00
C. H. Funk	38.12
Albert Rabtrech	2.00
H. Schlappi	44.99
Tony Dolpe	12.50
H. G. Pearson	60.00
Arthur Lippeus	37.50
Carl White	62.46
Emil Larson	14.99
Alvin Blum	31.45
Bell Smith	5.92
B. Johnson	5.92
Ed. Blum	35.00
Frank Reynolds	5.00
J. D. Matney	62.00
Dave Nixon	2.00
Tom Campbell	62.90
Albert Darby	5.00
P. Jacobs	1.00
B. B. Johnson	28.00
A. Freeburg	2.00
H. B. Johnson	41.25
Bell Smith	38.25
Ike Steinon	2.00
John Nix	35.00
Guy Vaughn	5.00
Albert Olds	5.00
A. Blum	36.35
John Blum	27.00
Charles Desmond	17.50
A. Gilman	30.00
Ralph Blum	20.00
Amy Brown	30.00
Fred Brown	10.00
V. Brown	15.00
E. Babler	31.25
J. Proctor	59.92
C. O. Pilgrim	22.50
L. J. Larsen	29.37
Hull Johnson	29.00
E. Davis	10.00
Mrs. J. Salvey	10.00
Frank Blaser	10.85
G. Olds	10.00
L. W. Lester	10.00
A. Holden	5.00