

December 10, 1943

Dear George:

A million apologies in fact take a couple more for not having written any sooner, but the only way to show my remorse and to try and even up the score is that at the risk of my neck in full view of the chiefs of sections of my floor I have undertaken to write this letter, excuse me I mean type the letter with the sole idea in mind that you won't have to break your pearly teeth on trying to decipher it. By the way I read the letter that you wrote to Pop and your no shining example of the Palmer method of handwriting. If I were to tell you that I have been terrifically busy the last few days and so neglected being on the ball I know full well that you would say that I was full of shit, but believe it or not it happens in this case to be the truth. Well enough of this chit chat and down to cases. Before I start asking questions I know that you are very much interested in knowing the outcome of the meeting last Tuesday night.:- - - -

At the exact hour of 30 minutes past Seven we (that is the exalted group of Past Masters) met in the ante room. Included in the distinguished assemblage were. Morris Weiss, Julian Weiss, Arthur Weiss, Leo Schwartz, Sam Levitt, Jack Rockwitt, Joe Rockwitt, Lou Eskin, Sidney Worthman, Sam Kushnick. Bill Schrager, Mat Fox, Sam Golieb, Herbert Hirsch and yours truly Oh yes, Milton Levinson. Barney Steinthal was absent he having broken his right arm the day before by taking a flop. That guy sure does take spills and on the wrong arm. Julie advised us that we were assembled to decide what was to be done about the Master's chair for 1944. He then said that ~~it~~ the proper thing would be to install Hy Pedowitz. From here Herbert Hirsch took over. He then told us that he had spoken to Hy when he was up here the last time and has also corresponded with him to the effect and inquiring whether it would be possible for him to come up to be sworn in and installed as Master and then return to his station. To which Hy responded by wire that he would be up on the day in question and was going back the same night. Then discussion was opened. The consensus of opinion was what was the sense of having a master who was one only in name and the Lodge would then be in the same hole as before. My contention was that the man would never have been master and that all of the pleasure of being a master was in actually running the Lodge with all the heartaches and pleasures that go with it. All of a sudden Milton Levinson asks what right Herbert had to write the letter and Julie said that he told him to and Milton wanted to know what ~~is~~ right Julie had. Sam Levitt and Sam Kushnick were for the idea of having Hy installed and Julie said that he was for it too as he didn't care for the job for another year (personally I think he has had his hands full). Morris too was for Julie staying in office another year. But then again he is a shrewd guy and there is no figuring his angles. Well the discussion started to drag and it was agreed that a letter should be written to Hy explaining the facts to him and Herbert tried to shirk the unpleasant task so I think Julie is going to write the letter. Meanwhile a nother meeting will be called next week to hash it over again. The idea was also to have sideliners sit in the Wardens chairs that ~~is~~ be elected to them in the event that the war was on in 45 we would have a person to be elected to the Master's chair. The understanding was also that Pedowitz, Goldgraben (Oh yes Harold was at the meeting) and Danny Weiss would be given their jobs back as soon as they returned.

That about brings the meeting up to date. I believe that I have covered everything. Then the meeting. The Past Masters all took their stations with the exception of Barney Steinthal ~~for~~ who was absent for the aforementioned reasons. It went off all right and then the collation which consisted of Polansky and Nathan's Delicatessen specialities.

On Wednesday night I went with my team to New Haven to meet the Yale Varsity in a Basketball game. The trip was great we having chartered our own bus and we were treated royally. Needless to say that's right you hit it right on the head WE WON. Enclosed is a menu of the game. Note who manages the Army team. By the way have you got a team we will come down and spend a little time with you. Last night I was pooped and so stayed home. I spoke to Florence last night and she is feeling swell and from what I understand is good spirits. I have purchased Nescafe and Brillo and will deliver Sunday Morning. Anything else you have in mind that I might help out on let's know.

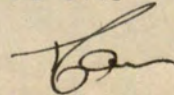
All at home are swell. Now let's have the dirt on one Pvt Stoff. Have you any idea what the set up down there is yet. After your six weeks are you usually assigned to another outfit or do you stay with the 6th Port Battalion. Try and find out and also what's cooking.

Let's have the dope on those famous French women down there and also of those famous French eating places the Sazarac and etc.

So my very lucky friend and you are indeed lucky as first of all that you have me for a friend and more important than that you have received such a long letter and still more luckier than that that it is typed, at least it can be read even though it is at times incoherent. So I trust that you have acclimated yourself to your new surroundings and are in a pleasant frame of mind.

Stay Well and Be happy.

As ever

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'Barney', written in dark ink.

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