

Eastern Star Radio

By Bro. Ken Stuczynski

These vignettes are meant to provide light entertainment for any gathering of Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers. They can be performed or a recording made and played for future use. This concept was inspired by the fact many skits have inadequate rehearsal times and people read from scripts for the actual performance. No apology is necessary here, as the audience is watching the performance of a radio show, scripts in hand. Foley (sound) work, applause and laughter placards, and props such as an old-style microphone, may complete the experience.

They are short enough to do all at once, but are long enough to break up a dull meeting in a pinch. Rehearsal is preferred, since the rapid-fire back and forth dialogue timing is everything. During the first rehearsal of the draft copy a couple years ago, one of the players ended up off his feet with laughter, so getting that out of your system may help. A friendly alternative is to have people randomly do it on the spot and let the audience laugh with them.

The announcer, "Bob Morris" (or "Bobbie Morris" if played by a female) is a nod to Brother Rob Morris, original founder of the Eastern Star in 1850, and a Poet Laureate of Freemasonry. The other characters are inspired composites of real persons mixed with old radio personalities and quips you may recognize from the humor of yore.

The call letters "WOES" refers, of course, to the Order of the Eastern Star, but at the time of this printing, the official call letters belong to WOES (91.3 FM), "Ovid-Elsie Community Radio", also known as "Home of the Polka Palace!" It is broadcast out of Ovid Elsie High School in Elsie, Michigan. No affiliation exists or is implied, of course.

It is my hope this will be as widely shared as people may find it enjoyable.

Wor. Brother Ken JP Stuczynski
Pond Chapter No.853, OES NY
8 June 2020

Eastern Star Radio: Episode I

By Bro. Ken Stuczynski

Cast:

Announcer

Brother Stanley

Brother Sentinel

Sister Warder

Sister Jane (Brother Stanley's Wife)

Worthy Matron

Foley Work: Last bars of closing hymn, such and/or on organ; two types of distinct knocks

Announcer: Welcome to Eastern Star Radio, WOES, where we have seen his tower in the East and are come to tune in. I'm Bob Morris, your host for this evening's programming.

Tonight's Episode of "The Sentinel Knocks Twice" is brought to you by Nostalgia Sisters, Incorporated, makers of Salad Jell-O and other forgotten side dishes and desserts.

Our story starts at the Outer Door, with Brother Stanley waiting to pick up his wife.

Brother Stanley: What's taking them so long?

Brother Sentinel: Patience, Brother Stanley. They have a lot of business to conduct.

Brother Stanley: So what's your story? You're all dressed up but you're not inside with them.

Brother Sentinel: I'm the Sentinel, like Tyler at Lodge. It's my duty to be out here and make sure there are no interruptions.

Brother Stanley: Interruptions? With the ladies I know in there, who can get a word in edgewise?

Brother Sentinel: Well, that's my duty.

Brother Stanley: That's what you call it? When the lady in my house keeps me outside, there's usually a better reason than that.

Brother Sentinel: So your wife is a member?

Brother Stanley: Yeah, but not a very good one I suspect.

Brother Sentinel: Why not?

Brother Stanley: Well, she can't keep a secret to save her life, and she gives the sign of distress every time I forget to take out the garbage.

{Closing music plays, then shave-and-a-haircut followed by two dissimilar knocks, sound of door opening.}

Sister Warder: The meeting is now closed.

Brother Stanley: It's about time. What were you doing in there, knitting a battleship?

Sister Warder: We had a lot of business to discuss. There's going to be a meat raffle, a pie auction, a cheese sale, an Amish bread order, and we have to set up the hot dog stand at Oriskany.

Brother Stanley: And they say MASONS are trying to take over the world! What are you going to do, feed everyone to death? Give the masses a food coma and turn Washington, DC, into a rummage sale?

{laughter}

Sister Jane: There you are, sweetheart! I hope we didn't keep you waiting.

Brother Stanley: Really, woman? When I got here I was clean shaven and now I'm King Solomon. I read the whole Bible and memorized the Middle Chamber Lecture.

Sister Jane: That's nice dear. Did you fill out the petition to join Star?

Brother Stanley: Why should I?

Sister Jane: So you can be adopted.

Brother Stanley: Adopted? What am I, Jane, an orphan?

Sister Jane: No silly, to join our Star Family. You already know a lot of us. And you know their relations. Minerva, our organist, is the mother of your lodge brother, the Past Master.

Brother Stanley: So my sister would be my brother's mother? What kind of family is this?

Sister Jane: Well if you want to come to a meeting, you at least have to be obligated.

Brother Stanley: Obligated? I married you - that's more than enough obligation for one man. {pause} And who are these other ladies? I don't recognize many of them.

Sister Jane: Some of them are visitors and some are new members. I'll let the Worthy Matron introduce you. I have to finish knitting a battleship.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: Maybe you should have told me the walls are so thin.

Brother Sentinel: Brother, I probably should have told you how big your mouth was.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: Hey, wait a minute ...

Worthy Matron: Stanley! So good to see you! I didn't get your petition yet.

Brother Stanley: Well, I ...

Worthy Matron: Let me show you around. You met our Sentinel, and there's Sister Minerva, our musician, the mother ...

Brother Stanley: Yes, I know ... she's a mother, of a brother, of another mother. Whatever.

Sister Jane: Sorry to interrupt, but I didn't have any money on me for our chapter fund collection at the end of the meeting. It's for charities we support.

Brother Stanley: Well, I guess if it's for a good cause. What's the average donation?

Sister Jane: Five dollars.

Brother Stanley: Here you go.

Worthy Matron: Wow, that's the first time anyone ever came UP to the average!

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: You have quite the operation here. Okay, maybe I will put in a petition. But if being in here means wearing a dress, I want the Sentinel's job.

{laughter}

Announcer: And so another night passes for the local Order, the ladies and gentleman returning home, brothers and sisters all, under the Fatherhood of God.

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Good night, and thank you for listening to WOES, Eastern Star Radio, where we have seen his tower in the East and are come to tune in.

Eastern Star Radio: Episode II

By Bro. Ken Stuczynski

Cast:

Announcer

Brother Stanley

Sister Jane (Brother Stanley's Wife)

Worthy Matron

Announcer: Welcome to Eastern Star Radio, WOES, where we have seen his tower in the East and are come to tune in. I'm Bob Morris, your host for this evening's programming.

Tonight's Episode of "Much Obligated" is brought to you by Oriskany Hot Dogs. "You may as well eat them, because they're not coming home."

Our story starts in the Chapter Room, with Brother Stanley ready to be obligated.

Brother Stanley: What's taking them so long?

Sister Jane: They have to set up the chapter room.

Brother Stanley: Every time the music stops, do they take away a chair?

{laughter}

Sister Jane: It's like a business meeting. We're very solemn and serious about everything being just right.

Brother Stanley: Is that why I hear guffawing all evening when I sit with the Sentinel? Do you folks drink and gamble, too?

Sister Jane: This isn't the Shrine, dear.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: So why am I here again?

Sister Jane: You have to be obligated. That means you promise not to reveal our secrets.

Worthy Matron: Hi, Jane. Stanley. I couldn't help overhear. You CAN keep a secret, being a Mason after all. Am I right?

Brother Stanley: Us Masons are the most secret society in history!

Worthy Matron: Yes, I think it says that on your bumper stickers, lapel pins and rings. No one would ever suspect.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: Wait a minute ...

Worthy Matron: We're about to begin. Stanley, you'll have to leave the room and we'll come get you when it's time.

Brother Stanley: Before I go, what are all the chairs in the middle for?

Worthy Matron: These are our Star Points.

Brother Stanley: But there's only five.

Worthy Matron: What do you mean?

Brother Stanley: I find it hard to believe they set up a women's organization and only limited you to making five points.

Worthy Matron: They each represent a figure from the Bible.

Brother Stanley: And some of them look like they could have been their classmates.

Worthy Matron: Yes, and most of your Lodge Brothers rode dinosaurs instead of goats, I'm sure.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: All right, all right. So who sits at this one?

Worthy Matron: That's the first Star Point, representing Adah. It's our newest member, from Vietnam.

Brother Stanley: What's her name?

Worthy Matron: Hu.

Brother Stanley: The one for Adah's name.

Worthy Matron: Hu.

Brother Stanley: The new member's name?

Worthy Matron: Sister Hu.

Brother Stanley: What're you asking me for? Never mind. Who sits at the next one?

Worthy Matron: No, she sits at this one.

Brother Stanley: Who?

Worthy Matron: Yes.

Brother Stanley: What? Never mind. Just give me the names for the other four.

Worthy Matron: Well, Martha sits for Ruth, Esther sits for Martha, and we're having someone sit in here because we don't have anyone right now for Electa.

Brother Stanley: What, you couldn't find someone named Ruth?

{laughter}

Sister Jane: Time to go, Stanley. We'll come get you in a minute.

Brother Stanley: I'll count the seconds. But why is it so cold in the waiting room? It must be 32 degrees.

Sister Jane: You're thinking of Scottish Rite Dear.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: What?

Sister Jane: You'll be fine, dear.

Announcer: And so another night passes for the local Order, the ladies and gentleman returning home, brothers and sisters all, under the Fatherhood of God.

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Eastern Star Radio: Episode III

By Bro. Ken Stuczynski

Cast:

Announcer

Brother Stanley

Brother Sentinel

Sister Jane (Brother Stanley's Wife)

Announcer: Welcome to Eastern Star Radio, WOES, where we have seen his tower in the East and are come to tune in. I'm Bob Morris, your host for this evening's programming.

Tonight's Episode of "What Happens in Chapter Stays in Chapter" is brought to you by The Trustee Lightbulb Replacement Program, where "There Will Be Light" ... eventually.

Our story starts in the Waiting Room, with Brother Stanley waiting to receive his degrees.

Brother Stanley: What's taking them so long?

Sister Jane: Relax, dear, it hasn't been that long.

Brother Stanley: No? There are probably candidates from Japan hiding in the bathroom who don't know the war's over.

{laughter}

Sister Jane: Just think of it as more time we get to spend together.

Brother Stanley: That's why I become a Mason -- to spend more time with the wife. Why can't I just wait in peace? Don't they trust me?

Sister Jane: I am going through the degrees with you.

Brother Stanley: Again? Didn't you do it right the first time?

Sister Jane: No one goes through it alone and you're the only one receiving the degrees tonight, so a member goes with you. They thought it should be me.

Brother Stanley: Can I get a second opinion? And where am I going? Why can't I go alone? Are you afraid I'll get lost?

Sister Jane: You have to be taken through the labyrinth, dear.

Brother Stanley: Exactly. Is there some kind of horned monster in the middle of it?

Sister Jane: You're thinking of Grotto, dear.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: Hey ...

Brother Sentinel: Before I forget, brother, can you help me straighten out the room at the end of the night?

Brother Stanley: Sure, why not? I'm one of them modern husbands. I'm a natural at housekeeping.

Sister Jane: And like nature, he abhors a vacuum.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: Wait a minute ...

Brother Sentinel: Many hands make light work, my Brother. We just have to put the extra chairs and some other items away so Lodge can use the room next.

Brother Stanley: You sure? At my house everything seems to go back where it belongs by itself. I can't even leave a beer on the table for five minutes before I find it back in the fridge.

Sister Jane: It's magic, dear.

{laughter}

Brother Sentinel: You have a fine woman there, Brother.

Brother Stanley: Sometimes I wish I could have my fine reduced. I can barely afford to be married with all these dues.

Sister Jane: That reminds me, did you bring the check?

Brother Stanley: A pound of flesh isn't good enough? Yeah, I have it. I'm sure it will go to good use.

Sister Jane: This pays the bills at least. We'll talk about charity projects when we get home.

Brother Stanley: With all these membership dues, I may as well be a charity project.

Sister Jane: Just remember you said it dear, I didn't.

Brother Sentinel: Don't worry about any of that right now. Just focus on the experience head of you.

Brother Stanley: Any more words of wisdom, Brother Sentinel?

Brother Sentinel: No, just that. And don't let the minotaur bite.

{laughter}

Announcer: And so another night passes for the local Order, the ladies and gentleman returning home, brothers and sisters all, under the Fatherhood of God.

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Eastern Star Radio: Episode IV

By Bro. Ken Stuczynski

Cast:

Announcer

Brother Stanley

Sister Jane (Brother Stanley's Wife)

Worthy Matron

Sister Hu

Announcer: Welcome to Eastern Star Radio, WOES, where we have seen his tower in the East and are come to tune in. I'm Bob Morris, your host for this evening's programming.

Tonight's Episode of "A New Hope" is brought to you by Amaranth Ritual Books, "Masonic Enough for a Man, but Made for a Woman".

Our story starts in the Dining Hall, with Brother Stanley waiting for dinner.

Brother Stanley: What's taking them so long?

Sister Jane: There's no rush. You just ate a few hours ago, dear.

Brother Stanley: Ate? Eating implies food. I'm not sure what I had for lunch qualifies.

Sister Jane: It was shepherd's pie. It's a secret family recipe.

Brother Stanley: I bet it was made with real shepherds. No wonder it's a secret.

Sister Jane: You cleaned your plate.

Brother Stanley: Only to protect the dog. I hope there's something good tonight.

Worthy Matron: Attention everybody! It's Sister Hu's turn to make dinner for us tonight.

Brother Stanley: Sister who?

Worthy Matron: Yes.

Brother Stanley: Not this again ...

Sister Hu: As you know, I was born in Viet Nam, but grew up in the United States. Recently I decided to rediscover my heritage, and so tonight I want to share with you traditional dishes with sides of vegetables.

Here we have pho soup (which has egg noodles), beef and rice spring rolls, and spiced pork on the bone.

Brother Stanley: That brings back memories.

Sister Hu: You were in Viet Nam?

Brother Stanley: No, my mama used to make kluskis /clue-skees/, Gołabki /go-wub-key/, and pork chops all the time. You must be from the Polish part of Viet Nam.

{laughter}

Sister Jane: Stanley, shush! You'll have to forgive my husband - he was born ignorant and has been losing ground ever since.

{laughter}

Brother Stanley: Wait a minute -

Worthy Matron: Everyone, eat up. {pause, lowering voice}
Stanley, I've been meaning to speak with you.

Brother Stanley: Did you find the Holy Grail in your china cabinet, or the Ark of the Covenant in your basement?

Sister Jane: You're thinking of York Rite, dear.

{laughter}

Worthy Matron: Since your wife will be Worthy Matron next year, I was wondering if you were going to be Worthy Patron.

Brother Stanley: If that means I have to do everything she says, we're already married, thank you very much.

Sister Jane: Oh, Stanley, I was afraid to ask.

Brother Stanley: Why?

Sister Jane: Because I know you do this just to make me happy.

Brother Stanley: Well, to be honest, you're good people here. If I didn't know any better, I'd say you were all Masons.

Sister Jane: Then you'll be my Patron?

Brother Stanley: I signed up for the long haul when I married you. And if it's going to be a life sentence, I may as well have a window with some sunshine coming in.

Sister Jane: Stanley, that might be the nicest thing you've ever said.

Brother Stanley: Don't get a swelled head. I could still hope for time off for good behavior or a pardon from the Grand Master.

{laughter}

Announcer: And so another night passes for the local Order, the ladies and gentleman returning home, brothers and sisters all, under the Fatherhood of God.

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