

# A Tramp's Own Ritual

Q. Who comes here?

A. A poor, worthless candidate for charity, who begs to have and receive a part of the free lunch of this town set apart for regular customers, as many thousand tramps have done before me.

Q. How do you expect to gain the rights and privileges?

A. By being a man too lazy to work, not ashamed to beg, and under the tongue of generally bad report.

Q. Where can this report be had of you?

A. In the police reports and inebriate asylums.

Q. From whence came you?

A. From a town in Texas called Booze.

Q. Then you are a regular tramp I perceive?

A. I am so taken and arrested wherever I go.

Q. How do you know you are a regular tramp?

A. By being often arrested and tried and never acquitted, and expect to be arrested and tried and convicted again.

Q. Where were you first prepared to be a tramp?

A. In a small bar room adjoining my place of abode.

Q. How were you prepared?

A. By being kicked and cuffed around until divested of nearly all my clothes, having been previously deprived of all my money and diamonds.

Q. What first induced you to become a tramp?

A. That I might travel all over the land and indulge my ravenous appetite for beer - and sponge my living from an easily humbugged public.

Q. How am I to know you to be a tramp?

A. By the size and laziness of my feet, by the size and color of my nose, and by signs, grips and words.

Q. What are words?

A. Certain plausible tales that will best serve to induce the lady of the house to give up her cakes and pies.

Q. What are signs?

A. Dirty face and hands, torn and dirty clothes, with a bad limp in either leg.

Q. What is a grip?

A. A tight hold on anything portable that can be turned into ready cash.

Q. Will you give me the grip?

A. No; get one on some other fellow.

Q. How did you first gain admission to this town?

A. By a good long tramp at "low twelve" the time when all policemen are called from labor to refreshments.

Q. How were you received?

A. By a cop, just on the point of taking a Manhattan

eye-opener.

Q. What did he do with you?

A. He put me in the cooler in due form.

Q. What was next done with you?

A. He conducted me around from East to West, to the court house, and told me to stand erect and face the judge.

Q. What did the judge say to you?

A. He told me to say my name and promise to obey the law, after which he ordered me to take a step to the left and follow the cop to the place from whence I came.

Q. What was then said to you?

A. I was asked whether I would be off or from.

Q. From what unto what?

A. From this town to the next quite quickly.

**PASS**

# The Lodge (Wine) Steward

Toastmaster (TM): Brother Young, are you the  
Ostensible Steward of the Lodge?

Wine Steward (WS): I am W. Bro. Perry, try me and  
prove me.

TM: How were you first prepared to be made a steward?

WS: I was divested of my coat and my arms were laid  
bare. An apron was placed about my waist, and a  
Corkscrew placed in right hand

TM: Being yourself acquainted with the proper method  
you will instruct the stewards to prepare in the proper  
manner.

WS: Brother Stewards (wait for them to stand) by the request of the Toastmaster you will prepare yourselves in the proper manner. (pause while they dress by placing a towel over their arm and holding a corkscrew)

WS: W. Bro. Perry the stewards have prepared themselves in the proper manner.

TM: Brother Young, What as a corkscrew?

WS: An instrument fashioned like a winding staircase, up which our ancient brethren received their beer.

TM: Where did they receive it?

WS: In a convenient room adjoining the chamber.

TM: And how?

WS: In Tankards and Half Tankards.

TM: Why in this peculiar manner?

WS: In half Tankards, well knowing that the same would be replenished and in Tankards from the great reliance they placed in the integrity of the Brewers in those days.

TM: What were the names of the two great Banners hung at the porch way or entrance to the Ancient Chamber?

WS: That on the left was called Guinness, and that on the right, Big Rock Traditional (local Calgary Beer).

TM: What were their separate and conjoined significations?

WS: The former denotes in strength and the latter goodness and when conjoined INSTABILITY.

TM: What is Beer?

WS: A peculiar product of chemistry, veiled in mystery and illustrated by labels.

TM: How is this depicted in our Chambers?

WS: By a couple of Hops near to a barrel of water.

TM: Brethren, these are the usual questions, I shall put others if any Brother wishes me to do so.

[pause]

Then Bro Stewards you will do your duty.

# **Masonic Opening Ritual**

# (East End style)

*Opening the Lodge*

**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, don't just 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 two 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 packing 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:** Where am I?

**IPM:** At the sharp end, Guv

**WM:** 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, lets get the boss in the technical drawing department to tip us the wink so there's no aggro.

**ALL:** Nice one, Guvnor!