



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 64, No. 6

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

June 1999

The 17th Annual Conference of Grand Lodges of Canada

Winnipeg, Manitoba, played host to some 38 delegates and observers who gathered recently to discuss problems of mutual concern, compare successful initiatives and plan for the future. The conference opened with a keynote address by MWBro Richard E. Fletcher, the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Information Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. His topic, "Masonic Critics" was well received and pointed out the need to be ever vigilant in addressing the various unfounded rumours circulated by our detractors. He referred to several publications available which can assist Lodges in this regard.

Round table discussions commenced with a presentation on "Membership" issues and dealt with the divisive effects which the actions of some concordant bodies are having upon our gentle Craft. All jurisdictions will continue to monitor these activities closely. A report was presented on the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and of the Conference of Grand Secretaries of North America, both of which had recently met in Honolulu. A workshop on experiments in shortened membership procedures, i.e., "All the Way in One Day" focused on the experiences of several Grand Lodges in the United States who had tried this approach. The balanced dialogue on the topic indicated that there was not an interest in, nor a need for, these one-day events in Canadian jurisdictions at this time.

The function, make-up and powers of a Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes were investigated with each jurisdiction relating their own experiences. While significant differences were obvious between jurisdictions, the delegates were able to draw upon the shared knowledge as a manner of monitoring their own individual methods. World Conferences of Grand Lodges were reviewed by those who had attended in the past. The cost of attending was obviously a significant factor but there was a great deal of valuable information available from those Grand Lodges which operate in other parts of our ever shrinking world. A round table discus-

sion took place on the matter of Prince Hall Masonry and the recognition of these Lodges in various jurisdictions. It became apparent that the incorporation document of each Grand Lodge was unique to their own area and while some claimed authority over certain geographical parts of the country, others simply made reference to jurisdiction over Masons who were members of that specific Grand Lodge. Within Prince Hall Masonry itself there are those jurisdictions who do not recognize other Prince Hall Lodges. The consensus was that the matter receive ongoing attention with open dialogue to help resolve the complexity of the various issues.

The assembly spent some time discussing the feasibility of a "National" type of Masonic project such as a program to assess the hearing loss of newborn babies. The technical skills are now available but such a program would be largely dependent on the ability of the provincial governments to provide the necessary testing equipment within the individual provinces. More information will be circulated as it becomes available. Those in attendance were reminded of the untapped resources which could be available to Lodges by encouraging their members to consider naming Masonic charities as beneficiaries in their wills and estate planning. A properly developed program could direct to the Masonic charities, funds which would otherwise be paid in the form of income and other taxes.

The final topic of the two day sessions dealt with Masonic Renewal with the delegates exchanging their experience as to what did or did not work successfully in their own cases. Like most conferences of this kind, while a great deal of meaningful dialogue took place during the structured discussions, considerable interaction occurred during the hours of refreshment. Old friendships were renewed, new friends were made and a general feeling that this had been a most meaningful and productive gathering prevailed. The next gathering will take place again in Winnipeg on March 17 and 18, 2000.

RWBro Art Jones, DGM

Summer Lodge Events

The following have been reported to the *Bulletin* Committee:

June 19 — Bassano Lodge No. 55, Armstrong Memorial Open Air Lodge, leave Lodge Hall 10:00 AM, tyle 11:00 AM, MM Degree, beef lunch \$10, dress western/casual. Contact Doug Watson 641-3581 or Bob Berringer 641-2440.

July 1 or 8 — Excelsior Lodge No. 80, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM (check with Lodge Secretary).

July 8 — Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, Wembley, Regular Summer Meeting, 8:00 PM.

July 8 — Rockyford Lodge No. 123, Western Night, 7:30 PM.

July 10 — Canada Lodge No. 165, Calgary, Stampede Lodge, 1:30 PM at King George Hall, Dress Western, Refreshments and beef dinner \$10.00, contact Gary Long at 236-7818 or at 252-6643. Information also available on web page.

July 6 — Vulcan Lodge No. 74, 8:00 PM.

July 8 — Nanton Lodge No. 17, Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM.

July 10 — Nanton Lodge No. 17, BBQ, Ladies & Guests welcome. Contact George Blake, 246-2988.

July 21 — Redwood Lodge No. 193, Edmonton, Klondike Lodge, 7:30 PM at Highlands Hall, Klondike/casual dress.

July 28 — Forestburg-Alliance Lodge No. 128, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM.

Aug. 3 — Edgerton Lodge No. 102, Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM.

Aug. 4 — Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, Wembley, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM.

Aug. 5 — Excelsior Lodge No. 80, Daysland, Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM.

Aug. 7 — Symbol Lodge No. 93, Drumheller, Open air Lodge, 5th Annual at McKee Lake, meeting at Rowley at 2:00 PM, dress casual/jeans, contact Michael McKee 368-2238, \$10, dinner, wives/family welcome.

Aug. 25 — Forestburg-Alliance Lodge No. 128, 7:30 PM.

Grand Lodge Bulletin

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The Editor reserves the right, due to limitations of space, to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication.

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Editorial

Millennium — Certainty or Confusion?

This is not all that serious a matter, rather something to chuckle about. We read and hear from sources affected by eager anticipation, about the onset of the Third Millennium, as if that were only seven months away, whereas anyone with a grade one math background will testify that we have to add another twelve months to that number. Really, we wouldn't even mention this curiosum in the *Grand Lodge Bulletin*, if it were not for some of our Lodge summonses already propounding the erroneous notion that the year 2000 will be the first of the new millennium. Sorry, it is (see grade one math above) the last year of the 20th century and the 2nd millennium. After all, there never was a "Year Zero," not in the Julian calendar, not in the Gregorian calendar, nor in any human's life. Ergo, January 1, 2001 will usher in the 21st century and the 3rd millennium.

What does this realization do to all the grandiose plans for New Year's Eve blowouts, spanning December 31, 1999 and January 1, 2000? Nothing! Let them celebrate and rejoice, but they will be paying tribute to the "End of the Nineteen hundreds" and the beginning of the "Two thousands" which, in the eyes of the revellers may be just cause, just so long as not to confuse this happening with the "Millennium."

How does that affect us in Masonry? It doesn't really. Even our newest Lodge, to be consecrated in September of this year, may justly cherish the name *Millennium Lodge* and the Grand Register number 2000, without laying claim to having been instituted or consecrated in the 3rd millennium (not even in the year 2000), because it is not likely that any other new Masonic endeavour to form a Lodge will get off the ground to challenge the proud claim of becoming the most recently formed Lodge in Alberta, going into the 3rd millennium. No problem there.

What else is there to say, from our local, Masonic point of view? Well, for one thing, our Grand Master-elect, to be installed into office on June 5th, will be the last whose tenure will be entirely within the 20th century, the 2nd millennium.

Masons Support Teen Parenting Program



The photograph shows Mayerthorpe Jr./Sr. High School Counsellor Suzanne Tiemstra accepting a \$500 donation from Mayerthorpe Masons Secretary Archie MacKellar (right) and Worshipful Master George Lawton.

A local newspaper article carried this picture, together with the following (excerpted):

"The funds will be used to help the Baby Think it Over program off the ground. The program will focus on making teenagers aware of the commitment involved with becoming a parent... The program would meet a growing need in the school and in society. More and more teens start to think about having children at a young age without recognizing the possible consequences of their behaviour... (The program utilizes a mechanical 'baby' assigned to students for a weekend or as long as a week. It has a built-in computerized simulator of baby needs and a recorder which keeps track of the 'parent's' meeting or neglecting its needs, including feeding, change and nurturing.) ... Students who assume the parenting role are also responsible for completing worksheets and a journal regarding the care and cost of the baby. 'It is my hope that each student comes away from the program with a sense of the serious, awesome task that is parenting — especially if you have to do it alone. If they [students] understand this, maybe the experience will forefront in their minds when confronted with the issue of sex or unsafe, unprotected sex,' Tiemstra adds."

(By Kevin Laliberte, Freelance Editor)

Grand Master's Itinerary

June

- 1 Eastgate Lodge, Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton
- 3-5 Annual Communication, Red Deer

His successor, who on the same day will become Deputy Grand Master and Grand Master-elect, will be the one who will have the distinction of "straddling" two centuries, two millennia! (All those who follow him will be a thousand years younger than the rest of us!)

All of the above would not have been written, albeit with tongue in cheek, if it were not for some in our own ranks thinking somewhat less than logically. Let us replace that "Confusion" with "Certainty," and we will not become the laughing-stock of those who know better.

Honour Roll

We congratulate the Brethren listed on having been awarded their long service jewels or bars. Should you see any one of them, be sure to congratulate him also on his loyalty to the Craft and his contributions to Masonry in Alberta!

50-Year Jewels

January to December 1998

Alexander, J.W. Highlands Lodge No. 168
 Arkinstall, C.A. Quarry Lodge No. 70
 Barber, C.J. Strathmore Lodge No. 53
 Barnes, H.D. Victoria Lodge No. 13
 Bennett, R.C. Zetland Lodge No. 83
 Black, S. Dynamic Lodge No. 96
 Boyd, F.A.V. Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 54
 Brawner, P.L. Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15
 Brennan, A.W. Camrose Lodge No. 37
 Brookes, R.B. Temple Lodge No. 167
 Brown, J.H.S. Astra Lodge No. 179
 Burns, J.F. Bow River Lodge No. 1
 Clark, W.E. Mizpah Lodge No. 35
 Clark, J.A. Victoria Lodge No. 13
 Cockroft, S. Highlands Lodge No. 168
 Collard, A.B. Quarry Lodge No. 70
 Connelly, E. Zetland Lodge No. 83
 Cramton, G.W. Excelsior Lodge No. 80
 Dahl, K.W. Cairo Lodge No. 32
 Eagleshaw, W.J. Northland Lodge No. 147
 Ferguson, J.T. Quarry Lodge No. 70
 Fielder, F. Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 54
 Flatt, J.E. Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 54
 Fletterley, C.R. Bow River Lodge No. 1
 Fraser, W.G. Zetland Lodge No. 83
 Gallant, G.M. Victoria Lodge No. 13
 Gamble, H.E. Edmonton Lodge No. 7
 Gillies, W. Dominion Lodge No. 117
 Gilmour, A.J. Eureka Lodge No. 10
 Gray, A.T.A. Chinook Lodge No. 47
 Harris, W.I. Vulcan Lodge No. 74
 Harvey, W.F. Sentinel Lodge No. 26
 Hazell, W.D. Quarry Lodge No. 70
 Head, G.C. Jordan Lodge No. 177

Hext, J.A. King George Lodge No. 59
 Hoover, H.J. Hanna Lodge No. 78
 Ible, F. Innisfail Lodge No. 8
 Jardine, D.G. Britannia Lodge No. 18
 Kane, Ernest Edmonton Lodge No. 7
 Keir, R.W. Bow River Lodge No. 1
 Kennedy, A.A. Mayerthorpe Lodge No. 148
 Kenyon, A.E. Lethbridge Lodge No. 39
 Kruger, H.F. Apollo Lodge No. 27
 Kruger, W.W. Apollo Lodge No. 27
 Longson, J.M. Cornerstone Lodge No. 19
 MacCrimmon, M.R. Strathcona Lodge No. 77
 MacDonald, I. Highlands Lodge No. 168
 MacKay, W.S. Zetland Lodge No. 83
 MacNaughton, D.R.B. Patricia Lodge No. 91
 MacPherson, D.R. Hanna Lodge No. 78
 McCully, J.B. Hanna Lodge No. 78
 McKay, W.H. Brooks Lodge No. 73
 McLean, J.R. Strathcona Lodge No. 77
 McPherson, G.G. Forestburg-Alliance Lodge No. 128
 Montgomery, G.G. Hussar Lodge No. 130
 Morrison, D.J. Cornerstone Lodge No. 19
 Mullen, A.T. Gleichen Lodge No. 36
 Nelson, O.B. Brooks Lodge No. 73
 Noble, G.F. Cornerstone Lodge No. 19
 Percy, R.H. Innisfail Lodge No. 8
 Pettigrew, R.W. Mizpah Lodge No. 35
 Pushie, Glenn Foothills Lodge No. 174
 Reid, R. Lochearn Lodge No. 151
 Richards, C.A. Ashlar Lodge No. 28
 Robinson, R.H. Perfection Lodge No. 9
 Ross, G.H. St. Mark's Lodge No. 118
 Scott, S.H. Concord Lodge No. 124
 Seward, O.C. Cairo Lodge No. 32

Simper, H.I. Lethbridge Lodge No. 39
 Sinclair, M.I. Hanna Lodge No. 78
 Smith, N.B. Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142
 Stamp, H.F. West Edmonton Lodge No. 101
 Stenson, E.E. Forestburg-Alliance Lodge No. 128
 Taylor, J. Foothills Lodge No. 174
 Thompson, I.P. Irricana Lodge No. 137
 Tilson, W.B. Zetland Lodge No. 83
 Toney, R.T. Chinook Lodge No. 47
 Vaughn, T. Lethbridge Lodge No. 39
 Wallman, R.R. Quarry Lodge No. 70
 Webber, C.R. Northland Lodge No. 147
 Whaley, L.W. Northland Lodge No. 147
 Wilderman, R.E. Granite Lodge No. 127
 Wilke, J.F. Brooks Lodge No. 73
 Willis, J.C. Perfection Lodge No. 9
 Wood, M.G. Eureka Lodge No. 10

50-Year Past Master Jewels — 1998

Austin, R.W. Concord Lodge No. 124
 McInnes, E.A. King Hiram Lodge No. 21
 Martins, R.T. West Edmonton Lodge No. 101

60-Year Bars — 1998

May, H.L. Bow River Lodge No. 1
 Austin, R.W. Concord Lodge No. 124
 Smith, E.A. Cascade Lodge No. 5
 McInnes, E.A. King Hiram Lodge No. 21
 Nicholls, J.V. St. John's Lodge No. 25
 Shannon, J.A. King Hiram Lodge No. 21
 Congram, S.F. Quarry Lodge No. 70
 Trainer, S.H. Temple Lodge No. 167

70-Year Bars — 1998

Lockhart, W.J. Corinthian Lodge No. 22
 Campsall, C. Peace River Lodge No. 89

Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America

RWBro Gerald T. Webber, who, on assuming the office of Deputy Grand Master on June 5, 1999, and who will therefore step down from the position of Grand Secretary, has prepared a comprehensive report on the 1999 Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America, held in Honolulu, HI, February 20–24. The main topics were: "Grand Lodges and the Internet"; "World Conference of Grand Lodges"; (View of) "The United Grand Lodge of England"; "Recognition of Regular Grand Lodges"; "One Day Classes"; and "International Shrine and Order of DeMolay". Space limitations prevent us from publishing the report in full in one issue, and as it would be a disservice to our readers if we "condensed" the report, we will print only one short item hereunder and reserve the remainder for the Fall 1999 issues of the Bulletin.

Grand Lodges and the Internet

Bro John Cooper (CA) conducted this session which embraced the benefits of the rapid communication and the associated problems of the Internet. The points raised were:

- Grand Lodges can link their Lodges.
- Database upload and download to Lodge Secretaries.
- Providing off-line reports.
- Networks securities (E-mail and private messages to Grand Lodge offices must be closely monitored and Brethren must practice Due-Diligence when using the Internet).
- Caution must be used when posting personal information on Web-pages, as this information is being used for telephone and mailing lists.

- Internet Web-pages project a positive image of Freemasonry.
- Grand Lodge Web-page should be managed by a "Web-Master".
- Engage the services of a Web-Master for maximum use of the service; don't use a volunteer.

Bro Cooper concluded this session by stating that prudent guidelines and protocol be followed when using the Internet. This not so new communication tool has created unlimited opportunities, however it is known to have changed or influenced the attitudes of Brethren.

(To be continued)

John Boswell

by VWBro G.M. Girolodi

*From the papers of Fiat Lux
Lodge of Research No. 1980*

John Boswell was Laird of Auchinleck during the late 1500s and early 1600s, the Boswells having held that Barony since 1509. John Boswell was also a Speculative Freemason and his importance to the history of the Craft lies in the fact that his signature and "mark" appear in the records of a meeting of the Lodge of Edinburgh held at Holyrood on June 8th, 1600. This entry constitutes the earliest authentic record of a member of the Craft who was not an architect or builder by profession.

Although there is some claim that he or his son Thomas was a Warden of Edinburgh Lodge, no evidence exists to substantiate this claim.

Dr. Mackey's description of John Boswell is "a Scottish Laird of the family of the biographer of Dr. Johnson" is somewhat misleading in that John's life probably covered a period from the late 1500s to the early or mid-1600s while the biography of Dr. Johnson was not published until 1791.

Alexander Boswell, Laird of Auchinleck, became Senator of the College of Justice and Lord of Judiciary in 1756. He was a member of the Lodge of Edinburgh. His brother, John, who was born in 1710 was a Doctor of Medicine, Censor and, for seven years, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. He was the Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1753-54. He must have remained active in the Craft, for at the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge held in November, 1759, during the Seven Years War with France, Grand Lodge "having considered the report of its Standing Committee anent [sic] the French prisoners at present in the Castle of Edinburgh, recommended to Bro. Dr. John Boswell and others 'to inquire into and inspect the condition and situation of these prisoners, particularly such of them as they shall find to be Freemasons and to report their opinions as to their number and necessity with their first convenience'."

Grand Lodge "it may be stated, had previously voted ten guineas toward the relief of such prisoners in purchasing clothes and other necessaries for them and 'particularly their brother Masons'."

Alexander Boswell's son, James, was born in 1740. Although he became a well known author in his own right, he gained fame for his biography of the great lexicographer, Dr. Samuel Johnson, which he published May 16, 1791. James lived a somewhat checkered life, particularly where the opposite sex was concerned, but was, nonetheless, a member of the Craft. He was initiated in Canongate Kilwinning Lodge and eventually served two terms as its Master. In February, 1777 he was made an honorary member of the Edinburgh Lodge. From 1776 to 1778 he served as Deputy Grand Master of Scotland, having previously served as Senior Grand Warden. He declined nomination for the Grand Mastership.

Perhaps the most famous Masonic member of the Boswell family was James' son, Sir Alexander Boswell, who was born on October 9th, 1775 at the family mansion at Auchinleck, Ayrshire and named after his grandfather.

Alexander was a noted poet and held the honorary post of standing poet-laureate for the Fraternity in his district as well



as for Burns' Clubs and scientific societies all over the kingdom.

He became Master of Mother Kilwinning Lodge on December 21, 1820, an office which also carried with it the right to reign as Provincial Grand Master for Ayrshire. For that special occasion he composed and sang a song called "The Mother Lodge, Kilwinning".

Alexander originated a scheme for the erection of a monument on the banks of the Doon to the memory of another famous Mason; Robert Burns. In 1820 he presided at the Masonic ceremony when the cornerstone was laid. For this occasion he also composed and sang a song, and at a later stage in the proceedings he sang another of his original compositions which he had called "To Anacreon In Heaven". This unusual title provides an interesting aside. It seems that in the late 1700s there was a popular song of unknown origin, but with that same title, which was making the rounds in England and eventually to the American colonies. Ultimately, the melody of "To Anacreon in Heaven" was combined with the poem "The Defense of Fort McHenry" by Francis Scott Key and became what we know today as "The Star Spangled Banner".

In his duties as Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire, Alexander convened a meeting of the sub-jurisdiction in August, 1821, for the purpose of drawing up and presenting to King George IV, patron of the Order, a letter assuring him of their faithful and loyal attachment and wishing him a long and prosperous reign. In December he consecrated Lodge Blair at Dalry. At both meetings he graced those in attendance with original songs composed especially for the occasion.

Alexander's last recorded Masonic appearance occurred the following day when he presided at the anniversary meeting of the Lodge, Mother Kilwinning.

In 1822, a quarrel, not of his own seeking, involved him in a duel. According to the code of "honour", Alexander could have avoided the consequences of the duel had he broken a vow to secrecy which he had taken. He chose not to break his vow, but also refused to participate in the duel and instead shot into the air, his intention to do so having been previously announced. Paralysis set in as a result of the wound he sustained and at a great loss to Masonry and to the sorrow of his friends, he passed away; his Masonic principles intact to the end.

Sir Yehudi Menuhin — 1916 - 1999

Menuhin, who was born in New York on April 22, 1916 and passed away on March 12, 1999 in Berlin, shortly before reaching his 83rd birthday, may well have earned himself the appellation of "the world's violinist of the 20th century." He has certainly received the recognition due to him as an outstanding musician, but he was more than that. He was a warm-hearted, caring and, in spite of his successes, humble and helpful "human being." It was mostly for that reason why, in 1982, he was awarded the "Kulturpreis Deutscher Freimaurer" (Cultural Prize of German Freemasons) from the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Germany.

The following is a translation of parts of an article which appeared in the German magazine Humanität, Special 1999, p.55:

...By his valiant deportment as "Ambassador of Music" in the then destroyed Berlin of 1946, performing Beethoven's violin concerto in D major, he penetrated the barriers of political, ideological, and — above all — human separation.

Bro Rolf Appel wrote... "He brought Beethoven back to us!... We see in him the great Human Brother who touches the world conscience and who seeks to forestall permanent dissonances."

[In his acceptance speech] during the festive hour in the Hamburg 'Musikhalle', he stressed with slight humour: "I recognize that this evening I am surrounded by men with whom I certainly share common ethics. Although I am not, or not yet, a Freemason, at least I may salute you all as half-brothers."

Menuhin's opinion of Freemasonry is made apparent by one paragraph of his acceptance speech: "What attracts me to the Freemasons is that they strive for — what I would call — the 'New Morality'. This morality is based on ancient, universal ethics and thereby, of course, on the holiest scriptures, be they the Sufi, Buddhist, Christian, Chinese or Jewish. It (this morality) is neither a religion, i.e., it does not claim exclusive sovereignty over the souls, nor does it belong to a simple, benevolent society which lacks greatness of soul and self discipline. It is, therefore, a Morality that demands elasticity, and which is accessible to all men..."

It is well for us as Freemasons to pay tribute to kindred spirits such as Yehudi Menuhin, whether or not they are or were in fact members of our organization. Our German Brethren have a very fitting term for such an individual: "Freimaurer ohne Schurz" meaning "Freemason without an Apron."

R.E.J.

Alberta Miscellany

(Another in a series of local interest stories)



King Hiram Lodge No. 21 — In 1998, RWBro Emmerson A. McInnes was presented with his 60-year bar and 50-year PM jewel by the then Grand Master Hugh Young (see picture), in itself quite an achievement. But what made the event that much more special is the fact that during his Masonic career, which began in 1938, Bro McInnes had been Installing Master for more than 62 Worshipful Masters of the Lodges from Didsbury, Carstairs and Crossfield. Now 89 years of age, our Brother seldom misses a Lodge meeting and is always willing to take a part in the degrees. His Lodge considers him to be the "most valued member."

Glenbow Lodge No. 184 — "VWBro Trevor Bennett (134), Past Master and currently Grand Organist of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, has very kindly searched and located two cassette tapes of the original degree music performed 35 years ago at Glenbow Lodge. We are in the process of re-recording these tapes..." (For more information contact the Secretary, S.J. Hargrove, 219 Lakeview Cove, Chestermere T1X 1E8)

Concord Lodge No. 124 — "The Will of the late VWBro Austin: Bro Roy left Concord Lodge \$50,000. The money will be paid to Concord upon the death of his wife, Nancy. We all wish Nancy a long and fruitful life."

Charity Lodge No. 67 — "The Masonic Friends' Night is one we should all consider a 'should attend.' Bring that friend or neighbour that has inquired about the Masons, but you are unsure how to explain this to him. It is promising to be an enjoyable evening, and if it is as successful as last year's, there should be another influx of excellent candidates." Tom Hovan, WM

Temple Lodge No. 167 — "Temple Lodge voted to support the Habitat for Humanity year 2000 proposal to build a house in 2000 in Edmonton for a needy family. Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide organization which works in the local community, assisting the poorer families with [construction of] a decent home to live in. The family repays the money, which is then reinvested towards another new house."

Peace River Lodge No. 89 — "Man cannot assume a moral obligation, nor can anyone thrust a moral obligation upon him. With every acquisition of knowledge a moral obligation automatically attaches to him.

and:

"Talent is what you are blessed with... Skill is how you take care of the gift." (Ben Holden)

North Star Lodge No. 4 — "Did you know? — The reason why the sprig of acacia is used as an emblem in Freemasonry is that it probably originated because of the Jewish custom of planting a branch of 'Acacia Vera' on the grave of a departed relative. It symbolizes Masonry's great doctrine — the immortality of the soul."

Connaught Lodge No. 69 — "Many of us wear a Masonic ring with pride and in some cases these rings have been passed down from a father or grandfather. I recently came across an old Ann Landers column entitled 'Masonic rings bring back memories.' ... Brethren, as you can see, our families know and respect their Masonic roots. Let's make sure the tradition carries on..."
Rod Krips, WM

Dear Ann Landers: A heap of bravos to you for telling 'Tears in Springfield' that it makes no sense to bury a person with jewellery. You then went a step farther and told the man from White Plains it was too bad his father was buried wearing his Masonic ring because that ring would have been a cherished heirloom for a son, grandson or nephew.

I always admired my grandfather's Masonic ring. He told me when I was a teenager that I would inherit that ring one day, but I'd have to earn' it — that it wasn't just a piece of jewellery. He passed away when I was 22. I remembered my grandfather's words and became a Mason when I was 30 years of age. I am now wearing his ring, which will go to my eldest son, but like me, he, too, will have to earn it ...

Dear Ann Landers: There were four girls in our family. I was the only one who joined Job's Daughters, an organization for girls whose fathers were Masons. When dad died, Mom took his Masonic ring and put it away. On my 30th birthday, she gave it to me. That ring means more to me than anything I own.

Dear Ann Landers: My father was a Mason for over 30 years. He died last May at age 92. My 23 year old grandson went through the three degrees of Masonry this past fall. On the night he received

his Master Mason's degree, I was there to present to him my dad's Masonic ring.

In a Masonic hall filled with men of all ages, there were many tears as I slipped the ring on his finger. My brother and I just know our dad would beam with pride to know his great-grandson is wearing his ring today.

Commemoration Day in the US

On Saturday, June 26, 1999, American Freemasons will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, their first President and whom they consider to be their "foremost Freemason." To mark the occasion, special events will be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA, including the dedication of a Square and Compasses emblem, 18 by 21 m in size, large enough to be seen by air traffic out of the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. This will be followed by a concert and a picnic style dinner, as well as fireworks, on the grounds of the Memorial.

From *Emessay Notes*, Nov. 1998

Sharing the Vision

...subtitled "WHERE DO GREAT MEN FIND TIME TO BE MASONS?", was the name for a most worthwhile gathering of Freemasons with Wives, Sons, Daughters and Friends, spanning some five hours (including lunch) on February 6, 1999, at the Kingsway Legion in Edmonton.

The seminar was sponsored, organized and conducted by the Northern Lights District, under the guidance of its DDGM, RWBro Howard Townsend, but open to all comers of both genders and not restricted to members of District Lodges.

The event was structured along four different theme addresses, a luncheon speech and a round table discussion, with Bro Norman Thomas acting as Master of Ceremonies. The planning and coordination was aptly done by Bro Edgar Kottke, the Masonic Education Chairman for Northern Lights District.

The first speaker was a relatively new Mason, Bro John Berry, AKA Weatherman of CFRN TV, who, among other things, voiced his reasons for becoming a Mason, the example of relatives, a sense of bonding and brotherhood leading to a good feeling of brotherhood when sitting in Lodge, but also questioning what we are doing right and what we may be doing wrong: "the future of Masonry is exciting, but it is also a bit scary", he said.

The second speaker, Bro the Rev Hart Cantelon, DD (hon), stressed the importance of family life, comparing the nuclear, extended (as of aboriginals), blended, cohabitative and communal forms of the family. He also dealt with the pressures on a child's life, such as coming from the dad's values, the mother, the group, the school and (always in last place) the religion. He admitted that we live in a changing world and that most of us have difficulties with "same-sex marriages" and that economic pressures pose a sociological impact on families. "We have a need for love: where there is love, there is family!"

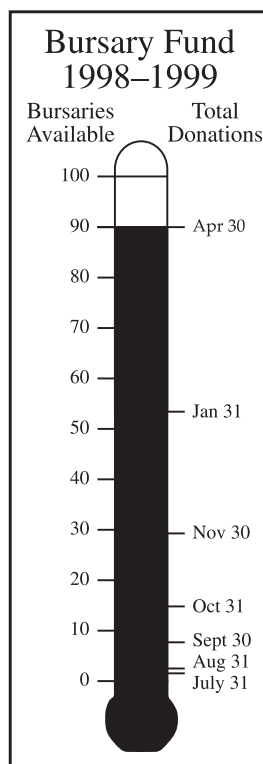
The third speaker, Bro Stephen Ramsankar, LLD (hon), CO, concentrated on Love, Trust, Hope and Self-Esteem. From his own experience he spoke of the importance of having role models and of reaching out to other human beings, citing the "Agape" or Man's Love for Man. Self-esteem, he said, leads to achievement, while the lack of it often leads to suicide. "Hug each other!" He spoke of the importance of optimism and promised that "people who share, get there."

The luncheon speaker, Bro Bruce Hogle, CM, addressed the question of what our priorities will be for 2000 and beyond, challenging our social conscience. He asked, "what can I do to make this a better city, province, country and world?" He added that "despite man's inhumanity against man, I still have my Masonic faith that progress can be made... as long as we, in the free world, collectively decide to stand and be counted." He referred to one's self-image and to the overcoming of obstacles, because "Nothing is impossible." "You will get better performance out of your children, grandchildren, fellow Masons, those you work with, and anyone else, if you make them think more of themselves."

The fourth theme speaker was Bro Norman Thomas, PhD, who stated why, in his opinion, men take time out from their busy lives to become and remain Freemasons. He told much

about his own childhood and youth experiences, and what events prepared him for the time when he felt ready to petition for the degrees of Freemasonry. "In Masonry I found that... one can go from an unenlightened initiate into a world alight with ancient wonders and modern miracles... not as a religious affiliate but as one who loves his fellow man and believes (that) the world will become a better place if we reflect on the things that join us, rather than those that separate us."

The ensuing "round table discussion" saw a panel composed of the aforementioned Bro Hart Cantelon, the Chairman Bro Howard Townsend, Bro the Rev Joshua Phillpotts CStJ, ChLJ, and Bro Robert Juthner, KH, KLJ, MED. Many pertinent (and some off-subject) questions and comments were received from members, ladies and prospective candidates, all proving great interest, and were answered by the panellists to the best of their abilities. The session was also not devoid of humour, and, all in all, it can be said that this seminar, spearheaded by one of our Alberta Districts, was more than worthwhile. Its concept may be well recommended for emulation to any other district in our jurisdiction, or any Masonic body considering to try it. It was a success.



Grand Master Elect's Itinerary

June

- 3-5 Annual Communication, Red Deer
- 8 Patricia Lodge, Edmonton
- 16 Redwood Lodge, Edmonton
- 23 Onoway Lodge
- 28 Dynamic Lodge, Connaught Lodge, Viking
- 21-22 Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, Toronto

August

- 12-14 PNSA, Calgary
- 15 Daughters of the Nile