



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Christmas Message, 1960

OUTWARD show very often becomes the primary concern of people and organizations. At no season of the year is this more evident than at the Christmas season. People spend hours decorating gift parcels with gay paper, satin ribbon and a variety of seals. Indeed, the recipients of such gifts are often much more thrilled with the outward appearance of the parcel than they are with the gift itself.

A SIMILAR tragedy may occur and often does with the message of the Christmas Season. For weeks before Christmas we are bombarded with the trappings and excrescences of the Christmas Story. The beautiful carols are sung, the wondrous stories are told, the pagan additions are commercially exploited. All of these exterior manifestations are likely to gain more attention than the genuine gift of the Christmas season, which, after all, is the message of the love of the Most High for erring man.

MANKIND has a tremendous potentiality for good and for evil. When he decided to develop the potentiality for evil there is no limit to the devilish and vile things that he can devise. The front page of our newspapers is witness to this fact whether it be on the international or domestic scene. On the other hand, man possesses infinite power for good and when he decides to use that power there is no limit to the beauty, truth, and goodness which he can generate. This power comes from a genuine appreciation of the Christmas Message of the love of God for Man.

THIS, too, points us to the real message of Christmas for the members of the Masonic Order. The glittering regalia and the beautiful ritual of our order are, after all, the outward symbols of the true inward meaning of masonry. A rank or title is but the satin ribbon which conceals something of eternal value and truth. The real gift of Masonry is the meaningful and beautiful system of morals and action that is concealed inside all these exterior manifestations. All the impetus for the translation of this gift into action comes from the truth of the Christmas message when the love of God was given to the world. Let us at this Christmas season determine that the wrappings will be torn away and the everlasting gift be displayed to man.

*The best in life that comes to man
Is not done up with golden string.
It is not part of God's great plan
For wrappings to outshine the thing.*

*It is not outward dress or show
That measures values in a life;
It takes the humble heart to know
That greatness may transcend all strife.*

W. J. COLLETT. Grand Chaplain.



EDITORIAL

A question addressed to a candidate for Freemasonry in the very early stages of his initiation reads, in part, "Do you seriously declare upon your honour that, unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself . . . etc." I know of no instance where a candidate has answered other than in the affirmative.

Some time before I was received as a candidate in the first degree of Masonry I intimated to my father and an older brother, both of whom had been members of the fraternity for some years, that I desired to join the Masons. It was with some surprise that I found the suggestion received with a somewhat stony silence as perhaps I had rather expected that the suggestion might be greeted with some measure of enthusiasm. A second similar intimation at a later date failed to elicit anything but a like reception, following which a request was made to the secretary of the lodge for an application form.

On being admitted to Masonry this new member was greeted with enthusiasm by those of my family who had previously adhered strictly to what they felt to be a requirement of their obligation. The above took place in one of the Maritime Provinces where, it is said, politics and religion are taken very seriously; it would also seem that Masonry, too, is taken seriously and that members jealously guard what they believe to be the essence of membership.

Perhaps in this Western country we have become somewhat more 'free and easy' in our interpretation of the dictum that we are not to invite those outside of our ranks to seek membership, but that we should, rather, permit those who seek an active affiliation with us to make the first advance.

Not long ago it was suggested to me by an initiate that he was glad he had accepted the urging of a member of a lodge to seek an association with the order.

While it is true that we are pleased and gratified to extend the hand of fellowship to new members we should be most careful and cautious in any desire to secure the membership of friends who remain outside the order of their own free will and it will be agreed, I am sure, that we should rest content that all candidates for admission to Freemasonry become candidates simply because they are 'prompted to solicit those privileges from a favorable opinion preconceived of the institution, a general desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to render themselves more extensively serviceable to their fellow creatures.'

If we, as often enjoined, permit the uninitiated to take the first step towards membership, then we may be sure in our own hearts that we have in no way contravened the dictates of Masonry, actual or implied, and that we have not accepted the responsibility of enticing membership on the part of any individual who may acquiesce to an

Within The Craft In Alberta

EUREKA LODGE, LACOMBE, PRESENTS JEWEL

On Past Master's Night, Oct. 13th, Eureka Lodge, Lacombe honoured R. W. Bro. Ryerson Myers Christie who joined the Lodge in September, 1910 and who has made a notable contribution to Masonry in Alberta. Although for some years a resident of southern Alberta, R. W. Bro. Christie has maintained continuous members in Eureka Lodge, having been made a Life Member in 1951. Accompanying his father for the auspicious occasion was W. Bro. Brock Christie who has followed in the footsteps of his father in a steady adherence to the principles of Freemasonry.

Two of R. W. Bro. Christie's contemporaries, W. Bro. J. L. Craigen and W. Bro. W. N. Morrison attended the pleasing ceremony and enjoyed, with the large gathering in attendance, the reminiscences of the early days of Eureka Lodge.

Acting as Worshipful Master for the occasion, W. Bro. Wesley H. Jackson paid tribute to the guest of the evening, the tribute being fittingly acknowledged by R. W. Bro. Christie.

VERMILION LODGE HONORS PIONEER MASON

J. W. G. Morrison, M.A., LL.B., Q.C. for more than fifty years an ardent and progressive member of the Craft was honoured by Vermilion Lodge at the October meeting, when M. W. Bro. S. Carl Heckbert, on behalf of the Lodge, presented a gift marking the ninetieth birthday of the distinguished Mason and citizen. R. W. Bro. Morrison, P.D.D.G.M. and a former First Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter in Alberta.

R. W. Bro. Morrison has established an enviable record of contribution to the welfare of his community, having served for many years as Chairman of the School Board and for seventeen years as Mayor of Vermilion, in addition to decades devoted to every phase of community betterment. He is well known throughout Alberta as an eminent jurist and proponent of everything leading to the extension of the spirit of brotherhood and Vermilion Lodge deems itself honoured in paying tribute to an achievement of unusual worth.

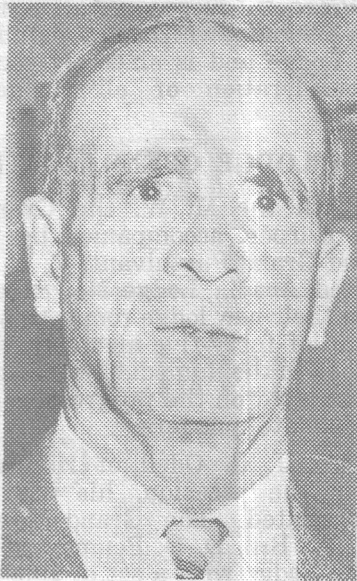
ST. JOHN'S LODGE PROBES MEANS OF SERVICE

Each year St. John's Lodge at Vegreville directs a letter to the nearest relative of each of its members, requesting that in the event of illness befalling the member of the Lodge be advised so that hospital visits or other avenues of service

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invitation without having clearly decided in his own heart and mind that he seriously wishes to be a Mason.

S. C. H.



**Most Worshipful Brother
Samuel George Bannan**

Members of the Craft throughout the Province of Alberta were shocked in mid-September to learn of the passing of Most Worshipful Brother Samuel George Bannan, for many years a resident of the Town of Blairmore and long prominent in the Fraternity of Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction.

M. W. Bro. Bannan was born in Gorebridge, Kilkenny, Ireland on March 16th, 1885 and came to Canada in 1909, settling in Medicine Hat, where he articulated in law. Moving to Blairmore in 1921 he engaged in the practice of his profession in which he achieved marked success. In addition to a dedicated career in the philosophy of law, he engaged with perception and vigor in every effort of community service designed to promote the welfare of his chosen home town and district.

He was for years a supporter of the work of the Board of Trade, serving in more recent years as its President and was particularly active in the promotion of education, serving for a total of some nineteen years as a member and Chairman of the School Board.

Beginning what was destined to be an outstanding experience in Freemasonry, M. W. Bro. Bannan joined Rocky Mountain Lodge in Blairmore, and advanced steadily in the science until he attained the high office of Grand Master of Masons in Alberta in June, 1958; his contribution in that capacity was one which will long be remembered by his Brethren. In addition to his loyal adherence to Craft Masonry, he was a member of Hillview Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of Al Azhar Temple of the Shrine and of the Scottish Rite of Canada in which he was coroneted as an Honorary Member of the Thirty Third Degree a few years ago.

Surviving our distinguished Brother are his loving wife, one son, Robert of Creston, B.C. and one daughter, Mrs. L. Lansdowne of Alert Bay, B.C. as well as several sisters and brothers, to all of whom we extend our most sincere sympathy.



**Most Worshipful Brother
Howard Burton MacDonald**

A cause for the deepest regret has been the death of M. W. Bro. Howard B. MacDonald, Grand Master, 1949 who passed away in Calgary on Oct. 29th. This distinguished Mason was born at Greenhill, Nova Scotia and came to Calgary in 1910 where he pioneered in the business of insurance with unusual success. An active community worker he was a Past President of the Calgary Board of Trade, president and an honorary life member of the Community Chest, a member of the Board of Governors of Mount Royal College and a Vice President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for Alberta, President of the Alberta Safety Council and a Director of the Young Men's Christian Association, in addition to numerous other affiliations. He was a valued member of the Provincial Legislature from 1944 to 1955.

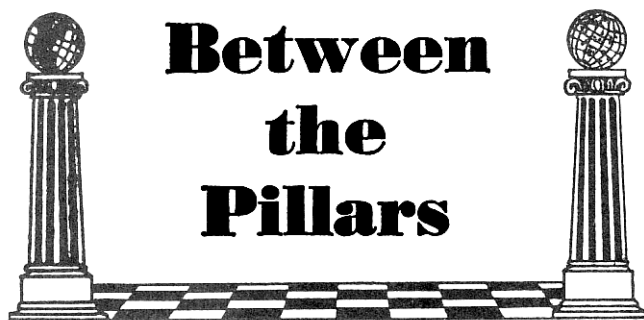
Joining Zetland Lodge No. 83 A.F. & A.M. in 1925 our late Brother received many Masonic honours, culminating in 1949 with his election as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Those who have attended Grand Lodge sessions in the past decade will recall the unusual contribution made by M. W. Bro. MacDonald as he devoted his talents to the promotion of all that is desirable in Freemasonry, many of the constitutional changes which have taken place in recent years for the benefit of Masonry were originally introduced and supported by him and his memory will long remain fresh in the minds of his brethren.

He was an Honorary Life Member of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, a Past Potentate of Al Azhar Temple, AAONMS, the Royal Order of Scotland and a member, Thirty Third Degree of the Scottish Rite of Canada, for which organization he was Deputy for the Province of Alberta for some years.

M. W. Bro. MacDonald was a member of several clubs, including the Ranchmen's Club, the Calgary Petroleum Club, the Calgary Golf and Country Club, the Glencoe Club, Kiwanis and the Calgary Highlanders Honorary Members' Mess.

His passing, following a protracted illness, brings to an end a distinguished career and the sympathy of members of the Masonic fraternity in Alberta and elsewhere goes out to his sorrowing daughter, Mrs. George Johnson of Calgary and a brother Henry, residing in Westville.

"They never quite leave us, the friends who have passed
From the shadow of death to the sunlight above;
A thousand bright memories are holding them fast
To the places they blessed with their presence and love."



Between the Pillars

THE PRINCIPLES OF A MASON

The principles of a Mason are, or should be, something beyond reproach, says W. E. Sims in the Masonic Citizen. The eyes of the world in general and the neighborhood in particular are upon him, not from a critical standpoint, necessarily, but he is definitely in the limelight. It is up to us as individuals how we register with the outside world.

One is never neutral; he is either an example for someone, or a stumbling block.

If the principles of the fraternity are made to stand out upon us as individuals, there is no doubt as to the result of our influence. Again may we remind ourselves that it is up to us whether we are shining examples for the public to observe, or whether we live in our shell, so to speak; die, and are soon forgotten. Many of us, I am afraid, are not conscious enough of the eyes that are upon us. The only conception that the outside world has of our fraternity is in the manner and behaviour of our membership.

A good Mason is ever mindful of his obligation, the duties attached, and the dispensation of them. His work should be a constant challenge to all of us. Our beloved Order certainly requires the teachings and influence of our churches, so why shouldn't we become active in the church of our choice?

The child of today is our Mason and citizen of tomorrow, so why shouldn't we have a hand in moulding their lives? This can best be done by our helping encourage them to attend church and attending it with them. You may be their ideal; the better they see you, the better individual they are likely to become. The moulding of the lives of our young people, as well as the influencing of adults, is a responsibility that we cannot afford to ignore. We should all re-dedicate ourselves and strive a little harder to contribute our little part towards making these lives of ours more Godly, thereby making ourselves a part of a more Christian world.

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be explored for the benefit of the member. The plan is designed to overcome the possible overlooking of a calamity which may befall the members of the Lodge and is sincerely recommended for the consideration of all Lodges in the Jurisdiction.

ACADIA LODGE OPENS NEW HALL

On Oct. 4th the M. W. the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Harper, accompanied by the Grand Secretary and Grand Pursuivant, V. W. Bro. J. M. Harper visited Acadia Lodge No. 82 at Youngstown to open their new lodge room; this Lodge has a membership of forty-five members, only twelve of whom reside in the immediate area and they are to be congratulated on the progressive attitude in obtaining adequate quarters.

R. W. Bro. J. G. Odell of Hanna acted as Chaplain for the occasion, his services being greatly appreciated. The Grand Secretary, on behalf of R. W. Bro. D. D. Penman of Edmonton presented the Lodge with a set of fine gavels, the product of his own hands. The congratulations of members throughout the Province goes to Acadia Lodge on their achievement.

ELBOW RIVER LODGE U. D.

Elbow River Lodge was constituted on Oct. 31 and a report will be carried in the next issue of the Bulletin. This young Lodge has made excellent progress since its institution on March 16th, 1959 and recently held a most successful 'Initiates Night', when those who had been received into the Lodge conferred a degree as far as was possible.

The Master of the Lodge, W. Bro. A. Little, is to be congratulated on the marked progress that has been achieved in a comparatively short time. Beginning with fifty members the Lodge now boasts a total membership of 85 and prospects are bright for the future.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

The District Meetings at Drumheller (15) Gleichen (16) and Calgary (1 and 18) proved to be well attended and enthusiastic in their approach to problems presented for discussion. The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Harper and Grand Secretary Rivers attended each of the twenty District Meetings covering the entire Province and were available to reply to queries dealing with Masonic questions of various kinds.

M. W. Bro. Harper addressed each of the gatherings on a topic of interest, while the Grand Secretary dealt with matters of policy as affecting month by month operation of the lodges.

Such important matters as the operation of the Benevolent Fund, the Higher Education Bursaries, Regalia and services available through the Grand Lodge office were discussed and apparently appreciative groups secured knowledge of the sustained effort which is made by the elected representatives of the Craft to forward the work of Freemasonry in the Grand Jurisdiction.