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# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor S. CARL HECKBERT, P.G.M., Vermilion, Alberta

WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA

## Calgary Lodge No. 23 Celebrates 60 Years

Calgary Lodge No. 23 celebrated their 60th Anniversary on October 7th, 1966 and it is regretted that due to an oversight in the office of the Editor of the

Bulletin their interesting story has been delayed to this late date. Members of the Craft join in extending the most sincere congratulations.



Life Members, Calgary Lodge No. 23, 60th Anniversary Night November 1966

The Anniversary meeting was preceded by a banquet at which R.W. Bro. Fred Thurgood was speaker and his stirring address was much enjoyed by all who were privileged to hear him. Later in the evening M.W. Bro. T. Gordon Towers presented a Fifty Year Jewel and Life Membership to Bro. Donald Samuel Brown; later in the evening he gave a most interesting paper.

Bro., the Rev. Moriarity, minister of North Minster United Church, taking the place of M.W. Bro. W. J. Collett, who was unable to attend, gave an inspiring prayer of Thanksgiving; In Memoriam was held with the Chaplain, Bro. Alex. Melenchuk reading the names of members who had passed away during the year 1966.

The Lodge was most appreciative of a beautiful set of gavels, presented by R.W. Bro. Rivers, Grand



Presentation of 50 year Jewell to Bro. D. S. Brown by M.W. Bro. Towers.

Secretary on behalf of their maker, R.W. Bro. David Penman of Edmonton, who has made and had presented 110 sets of gavels to Lodges over a wide area.

An historical review of Calgary Lodge No. 23 was given by R.W. Bro. Reg Lewin; the history is synonymous with the development of Calgary into one of the major cities of Canada and we are pleased to present this review in full.

"No account of the early history of Calgary Lodge No. 23 G.R.A., A.F. & A.M. could be adequately recorded without a brief sketch of the story of its founder, M.W. Bro. T. Fred English, and also without reminding you of the political and economic conditions prevailing at the time.

Fred English was a young Canadian, and we first met him as an employee of the C.P.R. at Winnipeg,

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## EDITORIAL

In this issue of the Bulletin there appears a list of members of the Fraternity whose names have been place in nomination for various offices of Grand Lodge, the elections to take place during the forthcoming Annual Communication of that body.

The names of the individuals have been given in order that a measure of thought may be given to the selection of the candidates of the choice of our members in attendance at Grand Lodge, for it is of vital importance that those best suited to render effective service in the various capacities be selected on ballot. For years past there has been altogether justifiable complaint that little opportunity was given for the necessarily serious consideration and evaluation of the respective merits of the candidates as members, on entering Grand Lodge sessions were given ballots on which there appeared, in some cases, a fairly lengthy list of names from which a limited number were to be selected for offices as listed.

With the list of prospective officers now available well in advance of the 1967 Grand Lodge Communication, opportunity will be given for a reasonable amount of discussion in the Constituent Lodges throughout the Province and it should be a much more representative expression of opinion, when the ballots are finally counted than has been previously possible. Our membership is, therefore, urged, to check carefully into the matter of Officer selection and to place itself in the position of being able to make the wisest possible selection when the opportunity is presented.

First and foremost, of course, is the desirability of EVERY LODGE in the Grand Jurisdiction being represented at the June Communication; this annual meeting is the Parliament of Freemasonry in Alberta; reports of the activities of those in charge of our affairs for the past year are given and, if any member feels that criticism is of value, Grand Lodge is the place for that criticism, rather than in the Constituent Lodge or on the street corner; criticism levelled at our Officers may then be fruitfully answered and any necessary remedies invoked.

We should be grateful to all candidates who offer themselves for election; there is little question but that they do so offer themselves in the belief that they may be of service to their Brethren and each one is entitled to a careful consideration on the part of all who choose to utilize the ballot as an expression of their rightful and, indeed, obligatory privilege. It is to be hoped that all Alberta Lodges will have representation at Grand Lodge and that the men best suited for the respective posts will be selected so that Freemasonry in Alberta will go forward under the best possible guidance in the years to come.

SCH.

## GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN

Seedtime and harvest shall not cease is a promise that Nature has given mankind and furthermore we would be well advised to remember "That whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap". Those who engage themselves in the production of the fruits of Nature have proven the truth of these statements. Thus a man's success in this venture will be related very closely to the thought and effort he is willing to exercise.

For a man to benefit himself accordingly and to encourage his own personal development recognition and adherence must be made of and to those truths and facts of Nature.

Seedtime does not last the whole year through but rather just for a few short precious weeks and after — it is summer — too late then for planting. There are not enough days left for maturity to take place. How true this is with men who hope and dream and loiter and wait, wasting their lives until the days are all spent and there is not time left. Gone is the opportunity of cultivating the mind in preparation for the planting of tiny seeds of wisdom. The size of the seed is of little significance for the mightiest oak has grown from the little acorn, but timing is of the utmost importance.

One of the greatest weaknesses in the Masonic Order is the fact that it has to rely for its support on a membership that too often is unwilling to accept the fact that there is a time to plant. Too often the mind of the newly initiated member is cultivated in preparing the seed bed, but too often the process of seeding never takes place or seed of inferior quality is used. Remember — "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap". Thus if no seed is planted there will be no harvest to take or if it is planted and not cared for in a proper manner the harvest is going to be poor. If Freemasonry is not measuring up to man's expectations or, in other words, if the harvest is not meeting the requirements of men then let us examine and see wherein we have erred and see that we do not continue to make the same mistake time and time again. There is nothing wrong with the teachings of Freemasonry, but its weaknesses are to be found in those who belong to it.

Freemasonry could be acquainted with Nature wherein it is stated that it is a one price store. We are allowed to take out what we want but we must be prepared to pay the price and that which we leave is often more valuable than what we take. It takes a practised eye to distinguish a diamond from a piece of glass, it takes experience to separate the good seed from the bad and it takes intelligence to know when a seed bed is properly prepared and ready for the seeding. Therefore let us apply ourselves with renewed vigor and enthusiasm to the task at hand for truly this is A TIME FOR PLANTING.

T. Gordon Towers

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where he was Baggage Master. It was while there that he was made a Mason in the late 1880's. A little later he was promoted by the Railway to be Station Agent at Banff. He quickly identified himself with Masonry at Banff, and was W.M. of Cascade Lodge No. 42 (then meeting in the mining village of Anthracite, four miles East of Banff) in 1894. Shortly after, Fred was promoted to be Station Agent at Strathcona, now known as South Edmonton, but at that time and for many years after a separate town. At that period Edmonton itself had no rail connection whatever and all railway business was done through Strathcona. Passengers and freight were hauled by horse-drawn buses and wagons through the valley and over the Saskatchewan River Bridge to Edmonton. Consequently the Strathcona Station Agent was a busy man. Incidentally, my first visit to Edmonton in 1909 was made by horse-drawn bus from Strathcona. It was not till several years later that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and the Canadian Northern Railway, which were later taken over by the Canadian Government, and jointly formed the Canadian National Railway, reached Edmonton.

Fred English found no Masonic Lodge in Strathcona, although there were two in Edmonton. Consequently he, and another Brother Mason, A. C. Rutherford, who later became the first Premier of Alberta, got their heads together and went to work with the result that in 1898, Acacia Lodge No. 66, Grand Registry of Manitoba, came into being, with Hon. A. C. Rutherford as its first W.M., while Fred English was W.M. in 1899 and again in 1904.

In 1905 Fred English was promoted by the Railway to be Freight Agent at Calgary, another busy job as Calgary was then in the early stages of its first really big boom.

1905 and 1906 were interesting years for Western Canada. May I remind you that prior to 1905, what are now Alberta and Saskatchewan were part of the North West Territories, consisting first, of the districts of Saskatchewan and Assiniboia, and secondly, of the districts of Alberta and Athabasca. In 1906, the two former districts became the Province of Saskatchewan, and the two latter Alberta.

At the inauguration of the two Provinces, there were eighteen Masonic Lodges in what became Alberta. These had been operating under the Grand Registry of Manitoba, and steps were promptly taken to form a new Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Alberta. So Bow River Lodge, formerly No. 28, G.R.M., became No. 1 G.R.A., Cascade Lodge (Banff) No. 42 G.R.M., became No. 5 G.R.A., Perfection Lodge No. 60 G.R., became No. 9 G.R.A. and Acacia No. 66 G.R.M., became No. 11 G.R.A.

1905 was indeed a boom year in Western Canada. Calgary, with a population of some 8,000 souls, more than doubled in the next two or three years. Im-

migrants were flocking in, among them quite a few Masons from other jurisdictions. It was felt there was plenty of scope for another Lodge here, and this was the opportunity for Fred English, with his love of Masonry and his great organizational and executive ability, which he promptly seized. An organization meeting was held Sept. 15th, 1906, and Calgary Lodge was instituted Nov. 2nd, 1906, the petition to form the Lodge having been sponsored by Perfection Lodge No. 9. It had forty-one petitioners, of whom only four were over 45 years of age, and thirty were under forty. These meetings were held at 121-8th Ave. S.E., in a small Lodge Room leased by Bow River No. 1. Perfection Lodge also met there. Calgary Lodge was consecrated April 12th, 1907 and a joint installation of officers was held in December 1907 with Perfection Lodge.

Among charter members were T. F. English, W. R. Davis, D. B. Niblock (Supt. C.P.R.), Thomas Sharp and George Law. All these except Bro. Niblock were later W.M.'s of Calgary Lodge.

It was soon evident that the Lodge Room in the Victoria Block was far too small and a Masonic Temple was mooted, but this ambitious plan foundered, so the story goes, on whether it should be ten or twenty storeys in height. Perfection Lodge finally settled the question by leasing a hall on the second floor of the Alexander Corner Building, a fine sandstone block on the N.W. Corner of Eighth Avenue and First Street S.W. They fitted it up and decorated it very beautifully, and it was a very fine Lodge Room for most of the City Lodges for some twenty years. Some of the furniture and equipment is in use in this Lodge Room today, including the altar and the lovely organ. It seated about one hundred, but on special occasions two or three rows of chairs were brought in. On the floor above was the Banquet Room, reached by a very narrow staircase. We really used to pack them in up there, and it is claimed that some 240 were present at one Irish Night. What would have happened had there been a fire one can conjecture.

Fred English was, of course, the first Master of Calgary Lodge in 1907. The situation in 1908 seems somewhat clouded, but the trouble is not definitely recorded in our Historical Register, which for the early years is decidedly sketchy. However, Fred English was W.M. again in 1909 and from then on Calgary Lodge flourished.

In addition to Fred English there were some noteworthy W.M.'s in the next few years. First came W. R. Davis, an Irishman, who was the original Lodge Secretary, a dedicated Mason and an outstanding student of Masonry and Masonic lore. Then came R.W. Bro. Thos. Sharp, notable as a Christian gentleman, and probably the greatest orator and one of the finest ritualists Calgary Lodge has ever known. Later in 1917, came another Irishman, Rt. W. Bro. A. J. Davis, whom many will remember. He was a brother of "W.R." and had also been Lodge Secretary for several

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years, another devoted Mason and a stickler for order and decorum. I remember on one occasion the Lodge being visited by the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. A. S. Estey. I saw A. J. looking at him closely as he approached the altar. There was a slight pause and then "A. J." addressed the D.D.G.M. Rt. Wor. Bro. Estey, I regret to observe that you are not properly clothed. Will you kindly retire, and when you return properly clothed, we shall be glad to receive you with the honours due you and your high office. And he **did** retire and came back "properly clothed." The good doctor, in rushing to get to Lodge on time after a busy day, had picked up a Chapter apron in error, and "A. J.'s" eagle eye had detected the mistake.

In the early days our W.M.'s always wore a silk hat as a symbol of the office. I believe W.M. Geo. Law was the last one to wear this imposing, if somewhat uncomfortable head gear in 1915.

It is rather interesting, I think, that we have had two Grand Masters in Calgary Lodge's history. W.M. Bro. Fred English in 1926 and M.W. Bro. George Moore in 1939. It is particularly interesting to me, personally, that I nominated Geo. Moore as Junior Steward when I became Master in 1925.

In 1926 we found we would be losing our beautiful home, as H. B. Co. had bought Alexander Corner for a store addition. It was decided that it was high time that Calgary Masons had a home of their own, and that they should build their own Temple. A Temple Company was formed and each of the Lodges then meeting at the Temple was assessed \$10,000.00. For several reasons, chiefly its charitable obligations to impoverished members, Calgary Lodge funds were never extensive, so it was decided that our assessment must be met by individual members' subscriptions. A campaign was organized, the objective being \$100.00 per member. By this means we raised all but \$1,200.00 of our \$10,000.00 assessment, and Lodge funds were called upon for only this comparatively small balance. The other Lodges were equally successful, and so we got our present Temple in 1928, which is now proving inadequate for our requirements.

Calgary Lodge celebrated its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary in 1931. Wor. Bro. Geo. Moore was in the chair. That grand old Mason, M.W. Bro. George Kerby honoured us by being present. Among the many names on the register that evening were six charter members and the following of more recent vintage: Bro.'s J. A. McBurney, R. A. Dart, C. H. Westmore, Miles Robinson, A. C. Archibald, R. G. Lewin, Stan Wakeford, W. Pillidge (Sr. & Jr.), Bert Sharman, Bert Bowman, Harry Scott, Don Brown, Dr. Shore, Sam Bye and many others.

In 1956 we celebrated our Golden Jubilee, but that being of comparatively recent date, I will not refer to it in detail, this paper being on the early history of the Lodge."

## Grand Lodge Office Nominees

We are pleased to give herewith a list of the nominees for Grand Lodge Office, elections to take place, where necessary, at the forthcoming sessions of Grand Lodge.

Members are urged to make a study of the candidates so that those most suitable for office may be chosen; the future of our Grand Lodge depends, in large measure in the quality of the available leadership.

The offices and committees are listed herewith for your consideration.

### GRAND MASTER:

R.W. Bro. Bernie Brown, Commercial No. 81, Edmonton (Elected)

### DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:

R.W. Bro. Chas. E. Pinnell, Crescent No. 87, Calgary (Elected)

### SENIOR GRAND WARDEN:

R.W. Bro. P. J. Kendal, Edmonton No. 7, Edmonton (Elected)

### JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN:

One to be elected.

R.W. Bro. John Sebastian Peter Bach, Renfrew No. 134, Calgary

W. Bro. Robert Lefley Costigan, Corinthian No. 22, Okotoks

R.W. Bro. Edmund Jabez Thompson, Temple No. 167, Edmonton

### GRAND TREASURER:

R.W. Bro. Leslie John Rosling, Perfection No. 9, Calgary (Elected)

### GRAND REGISTRAR:

One to be elected.

W. Bro. Reginald Barnecut, Renfrew No. 134, Calgary

W. Bro. Lloyd Erwin Dickson, Evergreen No. 166, Edmonton

W. Bro. James Herbert Laycraft, Zetland No. 83, Calgary

V.W. Bro. Nicholas Luciw, West Edmonton No. 101, Edmonton

### BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE:

Three to be elected for two year term.

W. Bro. Ernest Warren Dunlop, Jubilee No. 173, Calgary

W. Bro. Neil Victor German, Renfrew No. 134, Calgary

M.W. Bro. Wm. Ireland, Perfection No. 9, Calgary

W. Bro. H. Gilbert Sorenson, Norwood No. 90, Edmonton

W. Bro. David Spalding, Bow River No. 1, Calgary

### HIGHER EDUCATION BURSARY COMMITTEE:

Two to be elected for three year term, one for term of two years to replace R.W. Bro. Sanders (Resigned)

W. Bro. Wm. Henry Brooks, Ashlar No. 28, Calgary

W. Bro. Wm. Edmund Robinson, Unity No. 51, Edmonton

W. Bro. Beverly Wells Snyder, King George No. 59, Calgary

W. Bro. Keith Donald Stewart, Acacia No. 11, Edmonton

### BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES:

Eight to be elected for two year term.

W. Bro. Anton Oscar Aspeslet, Charity No. 67, Lethbridge

R.W. Bro. Douglas S. Bareham, Bow River No. 1, Calgary

R.W. Bro. John Booth, Unity No. 51, Edmonton

V.W. Bro. Robt. Wilson Burns, Stratheona No. 77, Edmonton

R.W. Bro. Wm. Alexander Cameron, Kenilworth No. 7, Red Deer

R.W. Bro. Kenneth Lord Crockett, Avon Glen No. 170, Edmonton

R.W. Bro. John Davis, Calgary No. 23, Calgary

R.W. Bro. Jeffrey Eric Dodds, West Edmonton No. 101, Edmonton

R.W. Bro. Connor Lawrence Edwards, Cyprus No. 113, Three Hills

W. Bro. Herbert John Ficht, Evergreen No. 166, Edmonton

W. Bro. Noel Vere Forsyth, Elbow River No. 180, Calgary

W. Bro. Albert Percy Genaske, Renfrew No. 134, Calgary

W. Bro. William Graham Hinds, Norwood No. 90, Edmonton

W. Bro. Robert William Maxwell, King George No. 59, Calgary

R.W. Bro. Russell Harvey McKinney, Apollo No. 27, Stettler

W. Bro. George Edmund Parkinson, Foothills No. 174, Calgary

W. Bro. John Stanley Sandercock, Edmonton No. 7, Edmonton

W. Bro. Leonard Edward Thomas, Kelvingrove No. 187, Calgary

R.W. Bro. Leonard Nelson Voisey, Champion No. 84, Champion

W. Bro. James Sutherland Woods, Zetland No. 83, Calgary