



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Chairman, Editorial Comm. W. J. Collett, P.G.M., 330 - 12th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta.

HAPPY 1973

It is an agreeable and time honored custom in most parts of the world to extend New Year greetings and good wishes to family, friends, and acquaintances. The cheery words "Happy New Year" are heard from every side. They are said so often and so automatically, indeed, that one wonders sometimes whether they have any real meaning except between family members and close friends. It seems that the good wish is so extravagantly proffered that it has become ritualistic, and even perfunctory, that it is offered and accepted without thought by giver or receiver as to what is meant by the words.

We take the beginning of the New Year as a time to celebrate, a time for a little retrospection, and more important, a time to look ahead, to make a new start. The joy of the Christmas season is still with us, and our feelings of goodwill are all embracing. We scatter greetings and good wishes like the falling leaves of autumn.

To me it is most important that our good wishes be more than a casual social gesture. They should come from the heart and express our hope for the well being of an individual, our hope that the unwell shall be healed, the distressed shall be relieved, the sorrowing shall be comforted, and the despairing shall find faith. They should express our hope that worthy ambitions will be gratified and devoted effort rewarded. Above all they should convey our real desire that life may be good in the months ahead.

Among the thousands of Masons in our jurisdiction today there are many who have no problems of

consequence, and many whose most worthy aspirations are being realized. There are others who are burdened with care, and for whom life is a less happy and rewarding experience than we should wish it to be. To them and to all Masons I commend these beautiful words of faith, written by M. Louise Haskins and used by our late Brother King George VI, in a message to his people on Christmas day during the dark years of the war:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'.

And he replied:

'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way'. So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east".

These are the thoughts in my mind now when I say to every mason who reads my words, wherever he may be but especially in the cities and towns and on the farms of Alberta: May you and those dear to you enjoy prosperity, good health, and the affection of a host of friends in the year that lies before us. May the God of love and peace delight to dwell with you and bless you.

F. G. FOX,
Grand Master.

GEORGE

Have you met our friend George? He is a member of many Lodges in the world and he can contribute and take away from his Masonic Brethren. Let me tell you about George.

The commonest quality seen in George is that he is always willing to say "Yes" when asked to add to his already heavy work load. He often is not being honest when he says he can accept other work for he is carrying far more than others but he still takes more upon his shoulders.

Some brethren love to have George in their Lodge. He certainly gives most of the heavy ritual work, chairs most of the committees and organizes many of the activities. He has enthusiasm and drive and gets on well with everyone. An emergency situation can hardly arise with George always willing to step into the breach.

What of George himself? He seldom has time to see much of his family and we as his brethren cannot feel that this is good. He has such a load of things to do we can sometimes begin to see the quality of his effort begin to go downhill for he lacks the time to develop and polish his offerings. He may suddenly become very bad in his work due to "burning himself out." Do we want these things to happen to poor George?

Even worse, what is George doing to his brethren? George has taken the pleasure of participation from many. It is true that volunteers are hard to find but with a little persuasion, encouragement and praise, many who feel they lack ability, can begin to flourish. George, if he leaves suddenly or dies, can leave a serious deficiency in people who can act on their own and although his place is taken by three or four others, should this lack of continuity have been allowed to occur?

If you have a George you should consider it your Masonic duty as a brother to offer your help to your Lodge to relieve poor George. Take some of his workload that he already carries but use his obvious skills to show you how to make a job of it. You should get backup people for every activity so that you will never have no-one to take over in an emergency. Finally, you should encourage George to look at himself to give more priority to his family so that he has a full life, for Masonry does not demand the whole time of man in its mechanics. It does however demand 100% of a man's time in its practice and you can be sure that George is a true Mason who will carry his craft throughout his life.

THE THOUGHTS OF "MRS. MASON"

(This poem appeared in the New Zealand Craftsman in August 1970, then in The Mason, Victoria, Australia in April 1972. We read it again in the Quarterly of the Grand Lodge of Japan, July-September 1972. These publications all come to our Grand Lodge Office and it seemed fitting to bring it to the West with grateful acknowledgements. Be sure to read "George" in the other column.)

Many years have hurried past since he first joined the Craft. I used to help with stiff front shirts and know that I was daft. To crawl about on hands and knees to find the stud he's lost. He could have bought some extra ones for very little cost. I like to lay out all his clothes and little white bow ties; The dinner suit was "hand me down" and not quite right for size,

We realized that frequently he had just one black sock. This, of all my shortcomings, would make him 'do his block'. The time involved in putting on the full Masonic dress Was fraught with great frustration and with constant mounting stress,

For also with the dressing was a frantic final look At certain of the pages in the secret ritual book. Then come the day when tails were brought to mark promotion's climb.

I warmed with pride as off he went— that special man of mine. Next come a spate of going out to one lodge or another. He hardly spent a night at home, my Worshipful, the Brother. I watched a special talent grow, a new commanding air Of dignity and confidence, as Master in the Chair.

My memory of that time is tinged with one distinctive sight; The rear-end view of flapping tails—my penguin in full flight. Quite suddenly the visits stopped, the frantic rush was spent. A mellow phase had introduced a mood of rich content.

I'm glad that I'm a Mason's wife. I do support the aims, I tolerate the system and appreciate the claims.

But of the many mysteries that in the Craft abound, The one which stands above the rest as far the most profound; Is why Masonic visiting is such a great success While any outing I arrange seems only to depress.

All I can get is lounge suit and a sad submissive smile, When I get out my loveliest and try to put on style.

But if it were the "Regular", with thoughts of friendship's clasp, Reluctance is forgotten in the true Masonic grasp.

He'll don his tails and wear a look of sober concentration, While deep within his being stirs the loyal exultation.

I'm proud to be a Mason's wife,

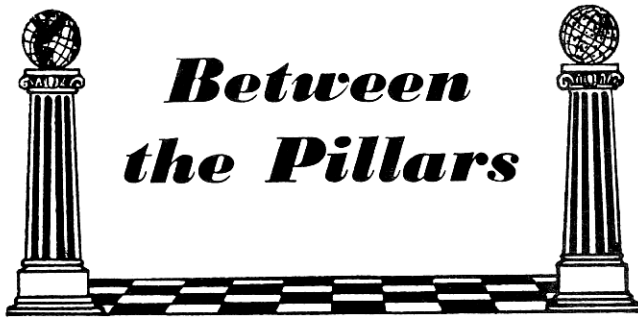
I'm proud to be a Mother

And later, once our son has joined, he'll be my husband's Brother!

And then I hope they'll both go off in fellowship fraternal To moralize and square their lives on God's own word eternal.

CORNERSTONE LODGE No. 19

The Worshipful Master of Cornerstone Lodge No. 19, High River, W. Bro. J. R. Dayment recently presented a Fifty Year Jewel to Bro. J. L. Morrison. This worthy brother was a faithful attender at Cornerstone until his health failed two years ago. For many years he served the Lodge well as its Chaplain. Four of Bro. Morrison's sons were raised in Cornerstone, David, Donald, Murray and Glen. Three of them are active members of their mother lodge and were present at the ceremony. Donald was Master of Cornerstone in 1967 and Glen is master-elect for 1973. Murray is a doctor in Victoria, B.C. He took his demit from Cornerstone when he moved to Victoria and regretted his inability to witness the honour conferred on his father.



Between the Pillars

We received recently a question about the dimensions of the Master Masons certificate in relation to available frame sizes and this raises the interesting discussion of what is one supposed to do with the certificate.

If one looks back into Masonic History we find that from about 1745 certificates became evident at first being handwritten documents and later printed forms. By 1756 engraved certificates signed by the "Grand Secretary" were being issued and some have been placed in Masonic Museums. The lack of early certificates seems to have been caused by some early brethren destroying all certificates of deceased craft members. Where there was danger of any materials falling into the hands of non-Masons every document was destroyed including Lodge registers.

In about 1813 the first certificates of a type similar to those possessed by most of us were printed in Latin and English with a signature box. These have been changed back to a single language in recent years but the wording is basically unchanged.

The purpose of the signature box is interesting in that it is most unlikely that many people are interested enough to come to your house, examine a mounted certificate on a wall and attempt to compare your signature with that of a sample. It clearly indicates the more common practice was of carrying the certificate in the apron case as ultimate proof of membership in the fraternity. This has now been superseded by the rather weak investigation carried out in some lodges where a current dues card is considered adequate proof of fraternal involvement. For the very suspicious you could notice that the large Master Mason's certificate has a colored signature box as protection against erasure and alteration whereas the standard small card lacks this protective device. Some Lodges in Great Britain will not accept a dues card but demand that a visitor produce his Master Mason's certificate.

Of course we compliment ourselves by thinking that any large number of cowans or eavesdroppers would be interested enough to enter our beloved Lodge Rooms and we can be sure that our expressed brotherly love and harmonious attitudes would do little to cause them to attack us. Our worst enemies are the misguided few who know nothing of the Craft and malign Masonry in their ignorance. It must be looked upon as rather sad that they have not gained our insight.

Getting back to our certificate, it can be seen that the certificate was meant to be carried by a brother

and not framed and therefore dimensions have not been considered as being of primary importance.

For those who wish to frame certificates however the nearest standard frame dimensions are 12" by 16" and this necessitates the removal of a quarter inch strip from either top or bottom which does not appear to unbalance the format of the certificate. Frames of this size are readily available in Department stores and for the purposes of this article cost only \$1.98. Eight distinct designs were noted and frame materials were wood, metal or plastic. The prices ranged from the low \$1.98 to a high of \$8.60. It was also discovered that companies will frame individual certificates for prices ranging from \$12.00 up.

The decision to frame or not to frame is yours my brother, except when you travel you may be wise to pack it with your regalia, framed or unframed.

A HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN ALBERTA

On the recommendation of the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. F. G. Fox, the Board of General Purposes at its last meeting authorized M.W. Bro. W. J. Collett to prepare a History of Freemasonry in Alberta with a view to having it published in time for our Seventy-Fifth Anniversary in 1980. This is a monumental task which will require the collection of much material and preparing it for publication. This must be a co-operative effort of the whole of the Jurisdiction with M.W. Bro. Collett acting as a coordinator.

It is most urgent that we record on tape memories of our elderly brethren. The history will be largely a record of their memories. If there are any elderly brethren in your lodge will you interview them with a tape recorder at hand. If you wish assistance in this write M.W. Bro. Collett care of the Grand Lodge Office.

Historical Documents are important — anniversary programs — old minute books and so forth. Please send these to the Grand Lodge Office. At the moment we do not want Historical Registers but we will need them later so we hope they are up to date.

Your cooperation is important for this tremendous undertaking.

OUT OF THE PAST

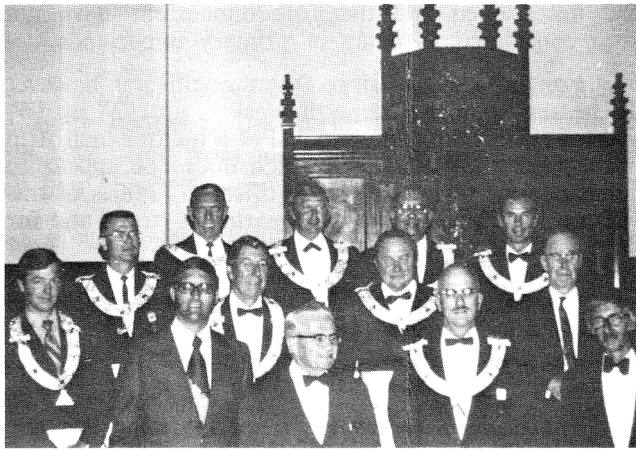
From Grand Lodge Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 5, January, 1939.

MISTAKES

When you make a mistake, do not make it ten times worse by offering an alibi. Every man has a certain fixed responsibility, and it is impossible for him to get rid of it by shifting the blame for his errors upon the shoulders of another. Millions of men have tried it and failed.

There is nothing so weak as an alibi. Admit your mistakes frankly and at once, and you will find that your progress will be greater than it ever was before.

—The Masonic News.



An interesting and unique meeting was held by West Edmonton Lodge No. 101 on Wednesday, September 20, 1972 at the Central Masonic Temple.

The occasion was called "Surveyor's Night" and the meeting was called for the purpose of conferring the Third Degree on Brother Marlin Lyle Sexauer, himself a surveyor.

In addition to West Edmonton Lodge, nine other lodges were represented on the degree team, and all who participated are or were active in the Surveyor's profession, or in occupations closely connected thereto.

The Chair of K.S. was occupied by Rt. Wor. Bro. W. E. (Skinny) Bright (134), Past Grand Treasurer, and the degree was exemplified with great efficiency and dignity. Following the meeting an informal banquet was held, and all the brethren enjoyed a period of harmony and fellowship.

(Left to Right) Front Row: Bro. R. H. Botham (7), Bro. M. L. Sexauer (101), Wor. Bro. James Warr, W.M. (101), Rt. Wor. Bro. W. E. Bright (134), Bro. Robert Juthner (81). Second Row: Wor. Bro. E. Staniforth (164), Bro. T. E. Rippon (51), Bro. Chas. H. Weir (11), Bro. C. W. Lester (11). Third Row: Wor. Bro. John McKee (11), Bro. W. R. Hunter (146), Bro. H. C. E. Prager (101), Wor. Bro. Jas. Moir (14). Wor. Bro. N. J. Gardner (92) participated in the work and took the photograph, and is therefore not in it.



The Masonic Lodge Room in Blackie, Alberta is situated right next to the Co-op Hardware and should not be difficult for visitors to locate. Granite Lodge No. 127 meets here on the First Wednesday and practices the Ancient York Rite. During the last year this lodge celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary in an outstanding manner and welcomed many visitors.

R.W. BRO. E. H. RIVERS

Since his retirement as Grand Secretary several Lodges have honored our Past Grand Secretary with dinners and some have presented him with Honorary Memberships. The latest report comes from M.W. Bro. Merner, Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15. A recent meeting of that Lodge was designated as "Ned River's Night" and tributes were made to him both by members of the Lodge and by calls, letters and wires from many places. M.W. Bro. Merner says in his report, "It was a great night for Freemasonry in Wetaskiwin". The Bulletin Committee has also received copies of addresses given by the Past Grand Secretary at both Wetaskiwin and Vulcan and hopes to print excerpts of them in the next issue.

BRO. J. C. NATTRESS

Bro. J. C. Nattress now lives in Vancouver, B.C., but previously he lived in Edmonton and is a longtime member of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142. Ten years ago he received from that Lodge his Fifty Year Jewel. Recently R.W. Bro. B. L. Robinson, who was visiting in Vancouver, and a group of brethren resident in that city called on Bro. Nattress in his home and, on behalf of Ivanhoe Lodge, presented Bro. Nattress with a Sixty Year Bar. On November 24th this worthy brother celebrated the sixty-first anniversary of being raised to the Sublime Degree. He is now 84 years of age and enjoying good health. His brethren in Alberta greet him and wish him many golden years.

YELLOWKNIFE LODGE No. 162

The monthly notice of Yellowknife Lodge is one that we look forward to receiving especially since it invariably contains a newsy letter written to the Yellowknife Brethren by Bro. Bob Borden. This letter contains news of people, thumbnail sketches of Lodge Officers and even little bits of harmless gossip. The recent letter contains an analysis of the reasons why there was a small attendance at the October meeting.

This is what the absentees were doing:

Working or thought to be working	11
Generally do not attend for some reason or other	7
'Legitimate' absence (wife sick, etc.)	4
Believed to have quit (Why?)	1
Sick	1
Town Council Meeting	5
Out of Town (business or vacation)	8
Reason for absence unknown	11
Total	48
Masons resident and known but not affiliated	25

HIRAM ABIF

M.W. Bro. William H. Jackson was Grand Master in 1953. He now lives in Victoria, B.C., and maintains a lively interest in the Craft in Alberta and throughout the world. He has sent to us a most interesting paper from the Freemason of New South Wales called "Hiram Abif", the traditional history illustrated by the "Volume of the Sacred Law", written by Bro. Moris Marks and Bro., the Rev. Morris Rosenbaum, Hebrew Scholar, University of London. It was our hope to publish a condensation of this scholarly work since it is too long to print in its entirety in the Bulletin. To synopsise it is impossible and we would be glad to send a copy of it to any Lodge or brother who is interested in research. We appreciate M.W. Bro. Jackson's kindness.