



Grand Lodge Bulletin

M.W. Bro. W. J. COLLETT, Editor

HAPPY 1977

A Thought for the New Year

Sometimes
I feel like
a Nobody!

I can't
move mountains
alter thumbprints
understand Einstein.

I've never
circled the globe
tramped the moon
fathomed the ocean.

The aches and pains,
fears and frustrations
I endure
are quite ordinary,
major hurdles appear to be
paying the mortgage
educating the kids
saving for that rainy day.

Am
I really
a Nobody?

No!
I am
NOT a nobody.
I am
a very important
Somebody.

God,
who made
the mountains
the thumbprints
the globe
the moon
the ocean
reached
out of eternity
and said

"I want you!"
Imagine!
Hand-picked
by the Creator
of the universe!

Certainly
I am
Somebody!

And
Somebody can add,
"You must love me
an awful lot, Lord,
if the
quantity
and quality
of blessings
is any measure.
You continue
to bless me with

uniqueness
(there's no
carbon copy
of me
anywhere
in time
or space!)
abilities
(in unusual
combination.)
time
(He daily gives me
a 24-hour day.)
and
Your love
(which He insists
is
unconditional!)
How blessed
can

a Somebody
be!
How grateful
can
a Somebody
feel!
How promptly
can
a Somebody
respond?
What
will
you
have
me
do?
Give?
Get the Word around?
Of course, Lord!"

RESPONSIBILITY

by Bro. Emory P. Wood Strathcona Lodge No. 77

There is a tendency in our age to measure progress in terms of material achievement — to regard civilization solely from the point of view of cars, jet planes, radios, T.V.'s and the like. We place little value upon the inner moral acquirements of patience, charity, truth, temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice. We look with disdain upon the simple people of olden times, and belittle their claims to states of society deserving the title of "golden age." But a distinct change is dawning upon the spirit of our age, and we are beginning to question the correctness of our views. We are probing the meaning of the term "civilization." We are looking for clues that will throw light upon what seems to be an inevitable recurrence of the rise and fall of nations, and we are searching for means to avert the errors of the past.

Civilized society is built entirely upon the integrity and sovereignty of the individual. It is a community of souls in which breathes the spirit of individual freedom, the latter depending for its continuance upon the fulfilment of individual responsibility. The civilized state is ever related to the individual. What is civilization but an enlightened order of society in which the determining factor is the citizen; not the ecclesiastical, state, military or scientific groups.

The ideologies of today, however, are based upon entirely different theories. They subordinate the individual to the machine, to the labor union, the political party or the religion. They relegate him to the position of a mere cog in a wheel. Modern thinking considers the individual to be important only to the extent that he serves the interests of government, army, labor union or religion. These latter no longer exist for the original purpose of serving the citizen and of protecting **his sovereignty**, but for the purpose of serving them. The inalienable power of choice no longer rests with the individual, but with the organization. And any recalcitrant who dares to follow his own conscience, or choose a course of action opposed to the "good judgment" of the authorities, is immediately excommunicated by church or society, or thrown into prison by the state.

Growing logically out of this credo is the idea that true citizenship is exemplified in the man who, in all things, conforms to the dicta of the authorities, who concurs placidly in all opinions put forth by those in power. Supporters of this view usually take the position that "I'll do what my country does, be it right or wrong," thus placing the whims and opinions of temporary parties higher than the principles of truth and justice instituted from the far distant past, and constantly inculcated in our Masonic Lodges. But how can this be called patriotism? How can a nation violate the laws of eternal justice and survive? Ideal citizenship, in the view of Masonry, is oftentimes found in the man who dares to stand alone, who sees a better way and takes it, ready and willing to pay the price of his conviction. For example, Hiram Abiff.

How is a nation to be guided along a proper course except there be a few who have educated themselves in citizenry, and have the courage to stand up for right principles? It is the sins of omission on the part of individuals that make the crimes of their brothers possible, and that lead to bondage in the course of time.

Dictatorships cannot exist among people who have minds of their own, who dare to think and act for themselves. Nor can ecclesiastical serfdom prevail except there be a field of ignorance, fear and blind belief. But as surely as men fall below par in intellectual or moral stamina, so surely will some ambitious leader — religious, political or otherwise — seize the opportunity to exploit their weakness.

A study of history from this point of view will reveal an amazing parallel between the rise and fall of nations and the ebb and flow of man's own assumption of individual responsibility. It will depict in tragic colors the increasing faint-heartedness of the men of ancient Rome, which laid her open to a state domination seldom equalled, and which finally led to ruin. It will show the debility of the medieval mind, making possible the atrocious abuses of the early church during the long period of the Inquisition. The moment the power of the initiatory slips out of the hand of the individual into that of vested interests — from that moment begins a dark cycle in the history of mind. As well explained in the winding stair lecture, mankind moves through a period of sense perception, in which far too many linger, to a state in which mind perception reigns, and then, to a higher state before Mastership — the whole, the evolution of a soul in time and space — a work of ages.



The Grand Master Bro. A. O. Aspeslet presenting a 50 Year Jewel to W. Bro. Robert L. Coad, a member of Drumheller Lodge No. 146. Left to Right Bro. Howard Persinger (a son-in-law), M.W. Bro. Aspeslet, W. Bro. Coad, Bro. Lloyd Coad (R. L. Coads son) and Bro. M. McGhee Master of Symbol Lodge No. 93 (son-in-law) of R. L. Coad.

PROVOST LODGE NO. 61

W. Bro. R. S. Winter was honored at a regular meeting of Provost Lodge No. 61 A.F. & A.M. held on November 10th, 1976 when he was presented with a 60 year bar. He was initiated August 23rd, 1916, passed September 20th, 1916, raised October 25th, 1916, W. Master 1923, Granted Life Membership 1957, presented with a 50 year jewel 1974. He was the C.P.R. agent at Provost for forty years. He now resides in Edmonton and enjoys good health.

A LETTER FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Dear Bro. Junior Warden:

You have just been installed in the Junior Warden's chair, may I offer my congratulations. This is the first elective office in a constituent lodge, and the honor bestowed on you by your brethren must be very pleasing to you. The office of course, while it is an honor, also carries with it many responsibilities, not the least of which is assistance to the W.M., in the well ruling and governing of the lodge. This will require a regular and punctual attendance by yourself at all meetings.

If you have not done so previously, it is imperative that you become completely familiar with the Ritual, the lodge By-laws, and with the Constitution; pay particular attention to Part IV of the latter. This section will answer most questions that arise in the normal lodge meeting.

In this jurisdiction, it is usual for the J.W. to preside at the refreshment period. In my opinion, the refreshment period is a part of, or a continuation of the meeting; thus it provides scope for an imaginative and enthusiastic J.W. to contribute much to the meetings, that is of an instructive and informative nature.

My brother, this part of the meeting requires planning, and should be done in advance. Food, Fellowship, Entertainment, and Education must all be considered. While food is important, it is not necessary to have a lot of it. If you are having a special occasion, food may be a very important consideration. Remember, however, that all communications should be followed by a "refreshment period", even if the medium be just a social cup of coffee. The program should be short, so that the members may return home at a reasonable hour. Visitors should not be called on for a speech without warning, however, you must assure that your visitors are welcomed. You may decide to have one visitor speak on behalf of all visitors.

One word of caution, do not allow the telling of off-color stories, this is not the place for them.

You may arrange to have speakers or some form of entertainment at your refreshment period. These items should be arranged for well in advance, so that the names and topics, or the form of entertainment can be included in the notice calling the meeting. Be sure to provide variety between speakers and entertainment, so that the interest of the brethren is stimulated. This hour provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and fraternizing with our brethren, and should not be left to chance.

Above all, do not forget to discuss your plans for the refreshment period with the W.M., obtain his approval, after all the conduct of the lodge in all its aspects remains his responsibility.

There are many other responsibilities for the J.W., however, since you have had some considerable ex-

perience in the other offices leading to your present position, I expect that you are quite familiar with them.

I shall now discuss a duty which I feel you may not have given much thought to. Having been elected to the office of J.W., you must seriously consider the fact, that in all probability you will in two years, be installed in the chair of King Solomon and all that this implies. I am convinced that the process of laying the ground work for a year as W.M. must be started when one is in the J.W.'s chair. It is not, in my opinion, presumptuous of you at this point in time to be looking ahead. It is a responsibility you owe to yourself and to your lodge.

It seems to me, that the first decision to make is that of selecting an aim or objective for your contemplated year in the East. Then, begin to plan how you hope to attain your objective. As ideas come to you commit them to paper, then add and delete as your ideas develop. Do not be afraid to discuss your ideas with the secretary and future Wardens, their ideas can be very helpful. You will find that the making of a plan is a difficult job, however, it is vital, and when completed, the largest part of the work by any aspiring W.M. has been done. It is not sufficient for you to simply imitate your predecessors, you are an individual and your ideas and objectives should be your own. This does not, however, mean that you cannot use good ideas of others, if they fit into your plan.

One important consideration in planning is to keep it flexible, do not allow yourself to become too rigid. Many plans have failed because there was no flexibility built into them.

Next decide what committees you will require. Much thought must go into the selection of committee members, some people are better at one job than they are at another. During this year and the next, observe the brethren of your lodge with the aim in view of your committee selection. Have a clear idea in your own mind just exactly what it is you wish to accomplish. Then, when the time comes to make the appointments, you can tell them of your aims and objectives, and what their role is to be in assisting you with your plan.

My brother, the way to the Master's chair is not an easy one, it is demanding and filled with hard work and dedication. However, if you have selected an aim that is sufficiently high, if you follow your plan carefully and with determination, then you will be able to lay down the gavel at the end of your term, knowing full well that you have done your best. Masonry and your lodge will be well served and your brethren will appreciate a job well done. I must re-emphasize the fact that you must meet the challenge, start your planning now while in the South.

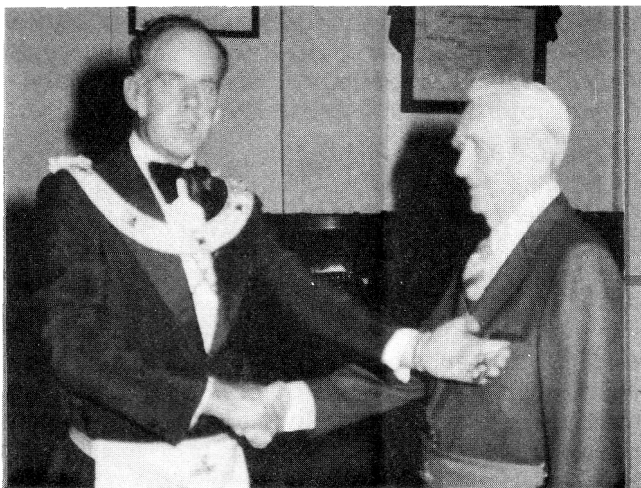
Yours Sincerely and Fraternally,

A. O. Aspeslet.

GRATTON LODGE NO. 144

On Saturday, April 24th, 1976, Gratton Lodge No. 144 celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The evening started out by members, guests, visitors and their wives, gathered in the basement of the Irma United Church for a banquet. R.W. Bro. A. D. Glasgow, acted as Toastmaster.

The highlight of the evening was the presence of the Charter Member of Gratton Lodge. R.W. Bro. Pryce Jones and W. Bro. Wm. Masson. Both brothers spoke a few words on the formation of the Lodge and some not so easy times during the thirties. The main speaker was R.W. Bro. Stan Harbin. His subject was Citizenship and Masonry. M.W. Bro. Milligan brought greeting from Grand Lodge and R.W. Bro. Ken Crockett said a few words. 118 brethren signed the Guest Book.

JORDAN LODGE NO. 177

For the second time during this year Jordan Lodge has had the pleasure of presenting a Fifty Year Jewel. On this occasion W. Bro. Frank Pearce received his jewel from W. Bro. Lyle Livingstone.

CHARITY LODGE NO. 67

An Honorary Life Membership was presented by Charity Lodge No. 67 to R.W. Bro. R. H. Thornton who is a member of Lethbridge Lodge No. 39. R.W. Bro. Thornton is a Past District Deputy Grand Master and is widely known in Southern Alberta for his Masonic Work and his support of many Masonic Events including the Masonic Spring Workshop.

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 163

W. Bro. Leo L. Ray received his Fifty Year Jewel from R.W. Bro. W. Neis at a ceremony held in Bro. Ray's home in Lacombe. Born in Whiting Iowa he came to Ponoka in 1902 and was later transferred to Mirror where he worked for the C.N.R. for forty years. He was initiated into Masonry in Mirror in 1926 and became the Worshipful Master of Ancient Landmark Lodge in 1932. In 1957 he retired and moved to Lacombe.

WALKING TALL

Walking Tall is the theme of the 12th ANNUAL MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP to be held on April 29th and 30th and May 1st, 1977 in the Banff School of Fine Arts. We expect over 600 Masons to enjoy the unparalleled experience of being part of a "fellowship happening", and to take part in the exceptional program that is being developed around the theme. Reserve these dates and register early.

LODGE DUES

The recent Lodge notices indicate that many Lodges are facing motions to raise Lodge Dues. This has become a necessity because of the rising costs of operating a Lodge. We mention this so that the brethren who have to face this eventuality will realize that they have plenty of company. The most pithy comment comes from Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188 where the secretary R.W. Bro. W. F. Newman writes — "Congratulations brethren, when 96.9% of the yearly dues are collected you have a happy secretary — now if we could hear from the other 3.1% we could really establish ourselves a record".

BOW ISLAND LODGE NO. 57

The members of Acme Lodge No. 60 were recently the guests of Bow Island Lodge No. 57. At that meeting the Acme Lodge presented to one of its members, Bro. Norton Rowly, a sixty year bar for his Fifty Year Jewel.

TEMPLE LODGE NO. 167

Brother Gordon Drynan was presented with an Honourary Life Membership in Temple Lodge at a recent meeting. This was in recognition of his long and devoted membership to the craft.