



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

THE GRAND LODGE BANQUET

The Seventy-third Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta will be held in Edmonton's Hotel Macdonald on Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10. One of the outstanding events will be the Annual Banquet which will be held in the Tonquin Room of the Hotel Macdonald on Saturday, June 10 commencing at 6:30 p.m. over which the present Junior Grand Warden, R.W.Bro. W.E.Foster will preside. The ladies are invited to attend the banquet.



Our Grand Master has been able to secure an outstanding mason, M.W.Bro. Lloyd S.Cochran, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York as the guest speaker at the Banquet. M.W.Bro. Cochran was born in Lockport, New York and received his early education in that city. Later he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

He was made a mason in Niagra Lodge No. 375 in Lockport N.Y. in 1927 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1940. He was a Trustee of that Lodge for twenty five years and the chairman of the Trustees for eleven years. In 1960 he was the District Deputy Grand Master for the Niagra-Orleans district. Following this he served as Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of New York from 1962 to 1963. He became the Grand Master of Masons of New York in 1972 and served in that office until 1974.

The list of his service to the concordant bodies of Freemasonry is lengthy since he is a member of the Scottish Rite, the Royal Arch Masons, the Royal and Select Masters, the Red Cross of Constantine and the Shrine.

Matching his service to Masonry is his distinguished career as a worker in his community. He is a Lay Minister of the Baptist Church and has served on the Board of Directors of the New York State Council of Churches.

In private life he is the President of Lloyd Cochran Associates, Sales Consultants and National Manufacturer's Representatives.

The Masons of Alberta and their wives will welcome this distinguished visitor and his wife Dorothy and look forward to the message of inspiration that he will undoubtedly bring to us.

WHY THE HURRY? WHAT'S THE RUSH?

Excerpt from the Banquet Address given by M.W.Bro. Kenneth L. Crockett at the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the All-Canada Conference held in Calgary, Alberta.

IS IT TOO EASY TO BECOME A MASON?

In the post-World War II rush to join the Craft, as many as fifteen candidates at a time were pushed through. In California even today, in Scottish Rite, unlimited numbers are processed through 4-32° in a matter of hours.

It is interesting to note that a recent survey of all ten of our Grand Jurisdictions shows that they

all now limit the number of candidates to a maximum of five in any one day.

But are we still pushing them through too quickly?

WHY THE HURRY? WHAT'S THE RUSH?

In *Denmark*, candidates must wait for 18 months after making a petition before the investigation is completed and the petition comes up for balloting.

"For a year the new Brother gets instructions nearly every week, and, after an examination he gets

WHY THE HURRY? WHAT'S THE RUSH?

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his second degree. Again a year of instruction follows. The Brother is again judged, and when the results are satisfactory according to the aims of Masonry, he then becomes a Master Mason."

There you have it, Brethren. Three and a half years have passed since his petition was presented.

In *Germany*, there is a one-year minimum waiting period between degrees, with intensive instruction during the interim.

In *England*, membership in a lodge is usually limited, like a private select club, making it a real honor to become a member. Attendance is almost compulsory, with members having to write or telegraph in advance giving a valid reason if they are not able to attend.

In *Canada*, our mobile society often makes it very difficult to really know an applicant and his background.

A survey of our Grand Jurisdictions reveals that all of them have a minimum waiting period between degrees of 28 days (except B.C. 2 weeks, and Newfoundland 14 days).

There are ways of slowing down the process: for example:

- longer and more careful screening of candidates
- give the candidate a degree every three months
- have a first degree three months in a row, then a second degree three months in a row, then a third degree likewise.

Let's face it, Freemasonry is not everybody's cup of tea. Freemasonry was never intended for all men. Frankly, the candidate often doesn't realize this until he has been initiated, passed and raised, and then it's too late.

We may never see him again, and wonder why, and blame it on our lack of a real and effective Research and Education program.

Should we try to restrain these brethren when they seek a dimit, or are about to be suspended for non-payment of dues? I for one think not. How about you?

ABOUT THE MASONIC RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What is the Masonic Relief Organization?

ANSWER: It is an organization consisting of 170 Boards, Agencies, or Bureaus engaging in day to day assistance to members of the Masonic Fraternity or their families.

QUESTION: What are the basic objectives of the Association?

ANSWER: To detect and expose individuals wrongfully preying upon the Fraternity, to co-ordinate and co-relate the various relief efforts, to promptly implement the administration of inter-jurisdictional relief, to organize and supervise requested Masonic Relief in times of local or national disaster, and to provide information

and a forum for the individuals and groups serving the Craft in a relief capacity.

QUESTION: How is the Association supported?

ANSWER: It is supported by individual or group donations, and through the annual contributions received from United States and Canadian Grand Lodges. Each Grand Lodge graciously contributes one cent for the first 25,000 members and 1/2 or 1/3 or 1/4 cent for the remaining number of members depending on the number over 25,000.

QUESTION: Are all of the Grand Lodges contributing members?

ANSWER: Many Canadian Grand Lodges are members and about 80% of the United States Grand Lodges are active participating members.

QUESTION: What seems to be the greatest area of activity?

ANSWER: U. S. and Canadian citizens are enjoying longer life spans and are traveling more. Therefore there has been an acceleration of the needs of sojourning masons and their families. Unfortunately there has been a tremendous increase in illness, accidents, and other catastrophes while traveling.

QUESTION: If I am traveling and encounter a hardship will my assistance be contingent upon my Grand Lodge's membership in the organization?

ANSWER: No. *No legitimate member of the Masonic Fraternity or his family will ever be turned away.* You will receive the kind and courteous assistance that you are entitled to as a Master Mason.

QUESTION: What role does the Masonic Relief Association play in major disasters?

ANSWER: The association is organized not only to implement financial assistance, but to call upon members of the fraternity to serve physically if need be. We have a computer file of 14,000 names, any of which can be called upon to serve, almost immediately.

QUESTION: If I need assistance either in my own state or while traveling, whom do I contact to find out the localities of the various boards?

ANSWER: You may contact your local lodge Secretary, or your Grand Lodge Secretary, or, write directly to M.W. Donald Krueger, Executive Secretary, 32613 Seidel Drive, Burlington, Wisconsin 53105. A book of THE LIST OF LODGES is published each May 1st by Pantagraph Printing Co., P. O. Box 1406, Bloomington, Illinois 61701. It also contains a list of all of the Masonic Boards of Relief, and can be purchased for \$3.50 per copy.

QUESTION: What do you see in the future for the organization?

ANSWER: Probably an ever increasing need to assist sojourning masons and families, together with a continued need to provide various forms of professional help locally.

THE MASON AND HIS CHURCH

R.W.Bro. Don Edwards PDDGM,
Victoria Lodge #13 Fort Saskatchewan

Many millions of words have probably been spoken or written within the past two centuries concerning the responsibilities of Masons in respect to morals, charity, understanding, brotherhood - all those wonderful qualities which, if embraced sincerely by mankind, would make a Utopia of this world.

It is seldom that one hears much, if anything in the Masonic Order concerning responsibility to Churches, Mosques, Synagogues, or any other groups who hold Monotheism as their basic principle of faith.

If we read the Ancient Charges, we find reference only to our responsibilities in terms of God and mankind and to unite with the virtuous of every persuasion. The only requirement in order to become a Mason, is to believe in God and practice Morality - certain physical characteristics also being a factor. There is no instruction in the Ritual about this subject - only the manner in which Masons will be made through the conferring of degrees.

The Constitution does admit that attending of Divine Worship occurs, because it states that a dispensation must be obtained from the Grand Master through the office of the Grand Secretary, in order to attend as a body of clothed Masons. Then too, we are told that we may attend at a Masonic funeral, which is usually held in conjunction with the last rites administered by the religious body of which the departed Brother was a member. These two occasions are the only instances where there is any direct reference to public worship by Masons as a corporate body - unless we could interpret that part of the Ancient Charges: "To unite with the virtuous of every persuasion", as implying that all such bodies are worthy of our support. However, every Mason must make his own assessment, keeping in mind those great Truths which are taught by word and exemplification in our Temples.

There are three times in the life of every Craft Mason when he must declare his belief in God - when he makes application for the degrees, - when he is outside the door of the lodge, and once again after he crosses the threshold. Such a declaration is a serious matter, because sincere belief in any "Idea" usually demands to be heard.

Masonry makes such a demand of it's members - not necessarily to make loud proclamations of belief in God - though that is not forbidden, but to "Act" upon the Truths exposed by God in the Volume of The Sacred Law, which lies always on the altars of Freemasonry. This is the central theme which pervades all Masonic teaching - belief in God, coupled with "Action".

The proof of such a course can be self evident, for who is there among us who has not at some time in his life had that profound feeling of joy and satisfaction because he did to a fellow being the

right thing at the right time - in this instance the "right thing" being the practicing of the Golden Rule? There are probably many thousands among us who, during times of great emotional stress have found peace of mind, and the will to solve our problems, because we took those problems to God in prayer, humbly seeking for His help in their solution. Yes, Masonry does indeed offer to it's members The Way - The Truth, and The Light.

What has all of this to do with the Mason and his Church? It is an historical fact that belief in God has always demanded not only the constant private worship of the Deity, but also public worship of that same Deity. From the earliest times man has congregated to acknowledge the supremacy of the Creator, whether through fear, awe, or love, or a combination of all three.

This is not meant to imply that man can not have an empathy with God unless by a collective voice. The world is full of people who hold no religious affiliation who believe in God, and are living lives of great purity and conduct, and setting courses for others to follow. Probably most of them would meet the criteria as laid out in the Ancient Charges, and therefore Masonry can have no quarrel with them. To some it may seem regrettable that such good works are not associated with large religious bodies, so that the impact for "Good" might be spread among a larger sphere of influence relating to the public at large. It must be remembered however, that the Masonic way demands freedom of choice for all men, and particularly in the matter of worship.

The Masons who do acknowledge a religious affiliation would seem to be in a different position. These men have usually made public their belief in God some years prior to their acceptance in the Craft and, as they proceeded through the degrees, it must have come as a great surprise to realize that the vows of Masonry were equally as solemn and binding to God and man in general as were the vows and rites imposed on them by the Church. The double responsibility that these men have accepted should be a matter for some rejoicing; realizing that they are proving the compatibility of Masonry with monotheistic cultures. This is no small matter, when one considers the strained relations brought on from time to time between the groups through misunderstanding of that purpose which motivates all of us.

There are no statistics available as to the numbers of Masons who are actively witnessing to their Faith through the organized Church. Ideally, the full participation of all Masons in their churches would seem to be desirable, but this must be viewed as an expression of bias by the writer.

However, if one considers the Grand Master's theme - "Live Masonry - Communicate", then many of us who have made that double commitment, and who are not supporting our churches, are missing a golden opportunity to practice further those wonderful qualities in which we profess to believe, and most important of all, provide that witness to God, to Whom we must all submit, and Whom we ought humbly to adore.

"HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER"



Photo Courtesy "THE MERIDIAN BOOSTER" Lloydminster

BACK ROW, Left to right:

R. W. Bro. Charles Morgan, D.D.G.M. #7, G.L. Sask. R. W. Bro. H. (Ole) Nissen, P.D.D.G.M. #17, G.L. Alta. R.W. Bro. Chris Rud, D.D.G.M. #5, G.L. Alta. M. W. Bro. Jack Calvert, P.G.M. G.L. Sask. R. W. Bro. Frank Squires, P.D.D.G.M. #7, G.L. Sask. R. W. Bro. John Saunders, D.D.G.M. #10 G.L. Alta.

FRONT ROW, Left to right:

R. W. Bro. Glen Neff, D.D.G.M. #17 G.L. Alta. M. W. Bro. Louis Gwinn, P.G.M. G.L. Sask. M. W. Bro. Sandy Milligan, P.G.M. G.L. Alta. W. Bro. A. E. Mayson Abraham, W.M. Britannia Lodge #23 G.L. Sask. M. W. Bro. John Robinson, G.M. G.L. Sask. R. W. Bro. Henry Tasche, D.G.M. G.L. Sask. R. W. Bro. John Melymick, G.S.W. G.L. Sask. R. W. Bro. E. A. Snell, G. Sec. G.L. Sask.

Last October, some 50 masons from Alberta and Saskatchewan, accompanied by families and friends, attended the fifth "Hands across the border" day at Lloydminster. The event was hosted by District #7 of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, and District #10 of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Britannia Lodge #23, G.R.S. were the local hosts and their committee, under the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. A. E. Mayson Abraham, arranged the day's activities.

The day consisted of tours to various points of interest in Lloydminster in the early afternoon followed by a lodge meeting at 4:00 p.m.. At the meeting fraternal greetings were exchanged between the two grand jurisdictions, and preliminary arrangements made for the next year's edition of this event, to be arranged by District #10 in Alberta. During the lodge meeting, the families and guests were entertained in the lower hall of the Masonic Temple with a film depicting the history of the Barr Colonists, Lloydminster's first settlers. Following the meeting and entertainment, everyone enjoyed an hour of socializing and refreshment before the evening banquet.

Brethren and their families came from as far away as Weyburn and Moose Jaw in Saskatchewan, and Edmonton and Cold Lake in Alberta. Approximately 150 persons assembled at St. John's Anglican Church Parish Hall for a banquet at 6:30. Under the direction of Bro. Glen Smiley of Britannia Lodge, the banquet was followed by a sing-song and short messages of greeting from:

R.W.Bro. John Sanders, D.D.G.M. #10, G.R.A.
 R.W.Bro. Charles Morgan, D.D.G.M. #7, G.R.S.
 M.W.Bro. Sandy Milligan, P.G.M., G.L.A.
 M.W.Bro. John Robinson, G.M., G.L.S.

The Joy Singers, a fine group of teenaged singers under the direction of Mrs. Gladys Jack, enter-

tained the assembly with an excellent program of selections ranging from Broadway musical numbers to devotional songs.

W.Bro. Bill Jenson of Britannia Lodge introduced the guest speaker, M.W.Bro. Jack Calvert, P.G.M., G.L.S. who concluded the evening with a witty and thought-provoking talk which ranged over many aspects of our fraternity.

His address, to the assembly of masons, their families and non-masonic friends, stressed the moral basis of our teachings and the roles they play interacting with the various facets of our society. He also dispelled the myth that masonry is a "secret order" by describing the principles of the order, by saying that the identity of our members is open to anyone who is interested and by observing that the social portion of the day was attended by masons and non-masons alike.

The evening concluded about 10:00 p.m. in warm harmony typifying the spirit and intent of "Hands Across the Border".

Both the Lloydminster newspaper and the television station had reporters present and extensive publicity was given by these during the following week.

PRESENTATIONS

The long time Secretary of Elbow River Lodge No. 180, W.Bro. Hillis Dennison was presented with an Honorary Life membership in that Lodge at the April meeting of Elbow River. The meeting was devoted to Masonic Education with R.W.Bro. W.N. Love S.G.W., R.W.Bro. J. Probert D.D.G.M. District No. 1 and M.W.Bro. W.J. Collett P.G.M. present to answer a number of questions.

York Lodge No. 119 at its April meeting presented fifty year jewels to W.Bro. Bob McCambly and W.Bro. Bob Glover. Both of these brethren were initiated on March 20, 1928.

Concord Lodge No. 124 presented an Honorary Life Membership to W.Bro. Arvell W. Martison at its April Meeting.

W.Bro. John Talbot received his Fifty Year Jewel and an Honorary Life Membership from Charity Lodge No. 67 at its March meeting.

Bro. Max Bercovich was presented with an Honorary Life Membership at the April meeting of St. Andrews Lodge No. 66.

A Fifty Year Jewel was presented to Bro. W.S. McInnes by Coronation Lodge No. 72 at its April meeting. Bro. McInnes made a special trip to Coronation for the ceremony.

WANTED

ONE USED MASONIC LODGE BUILDING

The building must be an original Masonic Building built prior to 1914. It must be vacant and available for moving to HERITAGE PARK CALGARY.

Please contact - Don Rigby - 249-8169
 - Nels Menely - 271-1737

Master, Wardens and Deacons Association,
 Calgary.