



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 46, NO. 6

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

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THE SIXTEENTH MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP BANFF CENTRE April 10th, 11th and 12th REGISTER EARLY

THEME — “MEMBERSHIP OR MASONRY”

The Masonic Banff Spring Workshop is the world's largest informal gathering of free and accepted Masons to our knowledge.

For fifteen years, five hundred or more Masons have participated, per year, in this workshop, in the beautiful setting of Banff in our Rocky Mountains.

Here we talk and think “Masonry”, exchange ideas, learn and join in the fellowship that we, as Masons, hold so dear.

The theme for this year's spring workshop is
Membership or Masonry

Whilst many may become a Mason, it is more difficult to live up to the ideals of Masonry.

We will hear more on this topic from our 1981 Theme Speaker, M.W. Bro. M.G. Merner, P.G.M. of Wetaskiwin.

The cost of this unusual weekend is small (\$63.00) considering two nights lodging, five meals, and all their facilities including our printing and other costs.

Registration cards have been mailed out and should be returned early as we can only accommodate 500 and we always end up with over 500 registrations.

Registration is on a first come first served basis.

All Brothers should carry the message of this workshop, particularly to Brothers who have not shared this experience.

Dennis O. Ryan,
General Chairman

SIXTEENTH ALBERTA MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP BANFF CENTRE BANFF, ALBERTA APRIL 10TH, 11TH, 12TH, 1981 THE AGENDA FOR THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY, APRIL 10th, 1981

- 3:00 P.M. - Onwards - Registration, locate discussion rooms
Book sales in the Erick Harvie Theatre
- 6:00 P.M. - Supper (Cafeteria style)
- 7:45 P.M. - Announcements (Eric Harvie Theatre)
- 8:00 P.M. - Theme Address — Eric Harvie Theatre
(M.W. Bro. M.G. Merner, P.G.M.)
- 9:00 to 10:00 P.M. - Discussion Groups
- 10:15 P.M. - Bookstore - Eric Harvie Theatre
Discussion group leaders and Chairman meet
School instructors and Chairman meet
COFFEE WILL BE SERVED

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th, 1981

- 7:00 A.M. - Breakfast
- 9:00 to 10:15 A.M. - Schools
- 10:30 to 11:45 A.M. - Discussion Groups
- 12:00 Noon - Lunch
- 1:30 to 2:45 P.M. - Schools
- 3:15 to 4:30 P.M. - To be announced
- 5:30 P.M. - Supper
- 7:15 P.M. - Theme address - Eric Harvie Theatre
(M.W. Bro. M.G. Merner, P.G.M.)
- 8:00 P.M. - Discussion groups and
SCHOOL FOR SECRETARIES
- 9:30 P.M. - Bookstore and Coffee (Eric Harvie Theatre)

SUNDAY, APRIL 12th, 1981

- 8:00 A.M. - Coffee (Eric Harvie Theatre)
- 8:15 A.M. - Chairman's remarks
- 8:30 A.M. - Devotional Service
- 9:30 A.M. - Breakfast

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE SIXTEENTH MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP. REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 500. THE FEE OF \$63.00 MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR REGISTRATION. REGISTRATION CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LODGE SECRETARY.

THEME SPEAKER

MORLEY G. MERNER



Morley G. Merner was born in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. After his schooling in Wetaskiwin he entered the employ of the Imperial Bank moving later into the automobile business in which he was engaged for thirty-six years. In 1936 he married Helen Switzer of Wetaskiwin. Their family

consists of a son Robert and two daughters Lois and Marilyn. He has seven grandchildren.

Always interested in the welfare of his community, Morley Merner served the United Church of Wetaskiwin in a number of capacities over the years. He has been Mayor of the city, an alderman and a member of the Hospital Board.

He was raised in Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15 in 1933 and became its Worshipful Master in 1940. District No. 3 elected him District Deputy Grand Master in 1956. In 1961-62 he was installed as the Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of Alberta and was the youngest mason to serve in that high office. He was also the second Alberta born Grand Master. At present he is the third in the seniority of Past Grand Masters.

Morley Merner is widely known throughout the jurisdiction and in non-masonic circles for his ability as a speaker. His talents are always in great demand. This year as theme speaker at the Masonic Spring Workshop he will deal with the theme "Membership or Masonry".

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Discussion Groups this year will be on a basis similar to those of previous years. The major difference this year will be the Discussion Group session on Friday night which will be a formal group meeting as opposed to past years when the first night group was a "get acquainted" meeting. Your full participation is requested.

John McKechnie,
Chairman

MASONIC HALL IN 48 YEARS HAD VARIETY OF TENANTS FORT EDMONTON PARK

Fort Edmonton Park is a project that is attempting to reconstruct the history of the growth of our Provincial Capital. It is located on a 132 acre site on the South Bank of the Saskatchewan River, west of Quesnel Bridge. Recently the Fort Edmonton Historical Foundation issued a 1905 Street Edition of "The Bulletin" of the Fort Edmonton Historical Foundation. On 1905 Street stands a reconstruction of the first Masonic Hall built in Edmonton. The official opening of the Masonic Hall was held on Sunday, November 16 with about 100 Masons in attendance. In an earlier edition some pictures of the construction of the Masonic Hall were published. We have been anticipating receiving an account of the opening ceremony with some pictures. Below is an account of the Masonic Hall which was published in the 1905 Edition referred to above.

The August 5, 1903 issue of the Edmonton Bulletin announced that a new Masonic Hall would be erected. There were plans for a gathering of Masons from all over Manitoba and the Territories for the Grand Lodge meeting the following June, so the building was undoubtedly being erected in anticipation of this event.

The Masons awarded the contract for their new hall to Gardner and Dalton, contractors, for \$4,475. Construction commenced immediately on a \$1,605 downtown lot (now 10044 - 48 102 St.) and proceeded so favorably that it was announced that the new Alberta College would be opened on the ground floor of this building on October 5, 1903.

However, Alberta College's occupancy of the Hall was shortlived as plans were already underway to erect a permanent facility on First Street into which the College moved by 1905.

In September, 1905, the Edmonton office of the Dominion government Customs and Inland Revenue

Departments, for both of which Frank Osborne was the Collector, relocated to the empty space vacated by Alberta College in the Hall.

Harry V. Shaw then relocated his fast-expanding Edmonton Cigar Factory business there. The Masons obligingly had a 16'x70' addition to the Hall erected by the winter of 1905-06, into which the Edmonton Cigar Factory moved by March, 1906.

The three ventures (the cigar factory, the Inland Revenue and Customs offices) shared the same building until 1908 when the Inland Revenue office relocated to the Credit Foncier building on Jasper Avenue. The Customs House hung on for another year until the new Post Office was completed, to which Frank Osborne moved his Customs House.

The Masons had a new Temple constructed on 100 Avenue, and vacated their old Hall on June 9, 1931. They sold the old Hall to the Edmonton Tent and Awning Company.

There was a parade of different businesses in subsequent decades, the most notable and consistent being the Edmonton Tent & Awning Company (1933-1951) established by R. Kenneth in the 1890's and the Singer Sewing Machine outlet (1918-1929). Other firms included sign making outfits, a furrier, a wrecking company, a piano store, an interior decorator, a textile store, an art school and so on. During World War II, a part was used by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation in processing workers for the Alaska Highway.

On August 16, 1951, a two-alarm fire broke out. The old Masonic Hall was not extensively damaged, but a building permit was taken out on October 9, 1951, by the Edmonton Tent & Awning Company to erect a new, \$32,000 retail/office building on the site, and the building was demolished in the fall of 1951.

The Ionic Club in Edmonton contributed \$40,000 for the 1905 Street reconstruction in Fort Edmonton Park.

THE IONIC CLUB

In 1937 the Officers of Edmonton Lodge #7 decided to form a club for the purpose of holding a well conducted New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance in the Central Masonic Temple. They called themselves The Ionic Club. The parties were a great success and were held for 20 years. The profits from the parties were used for the benefit of the Lodge.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lodge in 1942, the members of the Lodge and their ladies were guests of the club at a dinner dance held in the Temple. The Club also presented the Lodge with a photograph album for Past Master's Photographs, and a Silver Cup for the annual golf tournament.

The Ionic Club was not active for a number of years but in 1975 the Officers of Edmonton Lodge and Eastgate Lodge #192 revived the Club for the purpose of raising money to buy Eastgate Lodge some regalia and to replace regalia for Edmonton Lodge #7.

The Ionic Club having achieved this goal then set out to duplicate the Old Masonic Hall that was situated on 102 Street, Edmonton. The hall now nearing comple-

tion on 1905 Street in Fort Edmonton Park is a Masonic Museum and is the Ionic Club's way of celebrating our 75th Anniversary.

On November 16th, 1980, The Ionic Club officially opened the replica of the Old Lodge Hall. Very Wor. Bro. Jimmy Hoyle an original member of the Club cut the ribbon with a trowel. V.W.Bro. Hoyle and M.W.Bro. Ken Crockett put on the door knocker that was the original Masonic Hall.

From the Lodge Notice of Edmonton Lodge No. 7

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

On January 1, 1981, Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 held a New Year's Reception in the Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton with the M.W. The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. W.E. Foster, receiving the guests. Later the group boarded a bus which took them to Government House. The Grand Master and the accompanying group were received by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, F. Lynch-Staunton, at his annual levee. The Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. M.P. Dunford, acted as Hide de Camp and introduced the brethren to His Honour. Premier Peter Lougheed, himself a member of the craft was present.

MASTER'S MESSAGE

Allegory as defined in the dictionary is a story in which people, things and happenings have another meaning, as in a fable or parable.

The winding staircase lecture in the Fellowcraft Degree symbolizes our growth in Masonry based on experience and knowledge. The final reward for the candidate in this degree is his entrance into the mid-chamber where he receives the wages of corn, wine and oil, emblamatical of plenty, health and peace.

The first three steps alludes to the three degrees of Masonry, they also allude to the three principal officers, the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, who figuratively represent wisdom, strength and beauty.

The five steps describe the five orders of architecture which is really the domain of operative masons, the reference of five senses alludes to the speculative mason because we hear the word, see the signs and feel the grip; these senses should also teach us to be compassionate and sensitive to the needs of distressed brethren.

The seven liberal arts described on the seven steps points out that need for man to grow in wisdom through knowledge and experience.

D.R. ROBERTS, W.M.

From the Lodge Notice of Eastgate Lodge No. 192

MASTER'S MESSAGE NORWOOD LODGE NO. 90

There is no doubt the most difficult of duties is probably the one dealing with ourselves. This one means conquering the evil we are all born with and have acquired. This we have to do alone. Nobody else can know

exactly the thoughts that go through our minds during our daily life. No one can measure the desires and impulses that we have. It takes great courage to be face to face with one's self and arrive at an honest opinion of what we really are. No definite explanation of Masonic truths can be made effective without our mental co-operation. We must discover it for ourselves and interpret it in our own way. Since everyone is an individual, each must generate his own spiritual balance.

N.J. Reidford, W.M.



Bottom Row: R.W.Bro. Edwards; R.W.Bro. Rogers, J.G.W.; R.W.Bro. MacIver, D.G.M.; M.W.Bro. Merner, Guest Speaker; M.W.Bro. Foster, G.M.; Bro. Jacob Ens, Candidate; M.W.Bro. Hardin; M.W.Bro. Costigan; R.W.Bro. Harbin, S.G.W.; V.W.Bro. Friesen, S.G.D.; R.W.Bro. Puffer. **Second Row:** R.W.Bro. Webster; R.W.Bro. Thompson; V.W.Bro. Aberdeen, G.Std.; R.W.Bro. Prager; R.W.Bro. Stanberg; R.W.Bro. McNeil; R.W.Bro. Skakun; R.W.Bro. McDonell; V.W.Bro. Hayes, G.Org.; R.W.Bro. McRoberts; R.W.Bro. Roberts. **Top Row:** R.W.Bro. Lore; W.Bro. Williamson; W.M. Avon Glen Lodge #170; R.W. Bro. Sanders; R.W.Bro. McKinnon; R.W.Bro. Walker; R.W.Bro. Simmons.

Pictured above are some of the Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers of Alberta who were present to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. Seven more Past Grand Masters as well as many more Past Grand Lodge Officers who were present are not shown in the picture. R.W.Bro. Stan Harbin, S.G.W., conferred the Third Degree on Bro. Jacob Ens.

M.W. Bro. Morley Merner of Wetaskiwin, Alberta was the Guest Speaker. His address was on 'The History of the Grand Lodge of Alberta'.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Alberta, M.W.Bro. W.E. Foster also addressed the gathering.

Prior to the meeting and the conferring of the degree, a banquet was held at which R.W.Bro. Norman MacIver, Deputy Grand Master, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Bro. Barry, who represented the Alberta 75th Anniversary Commission, replied to the toast to the Province of Alberta.

Following the banquet, the brethren marched in procession down Kingsway Avenue in full regalia and made a very impressive sight.

In all, some 300 Masons from many parts of Alberta enjoyed taking part in the memorable and historical event which was sponsored by Avon Glen Lodge #170, G.R.A. under the direction of R.W.Bro. Ed. Demers, P.D.D.G.M. It was held in the Victoria Composite High School in Edmonton.

"If there be righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character
If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home;
If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation;
If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world."

W.Bro. R. Robertson, W.M.
Cyprus Lodge No. 113

CORNERSTONE

From the Lodge Notice of West Edmonton Lodge No. 101

The spirit of Masonry abounds in love, benevolence, forbearance, forgiveness, truth, justice, kindness, mercy, gentleness, and all the lovely and loveable attributes of the soul that rejoices in the hope of a glorious immortality beyond the grave. It is the light that illumines the pathway through the tomb and reveals the greater light of heaven in whose exceeding brilliancy it mingles through all the ages of eternity. It is a sustaining power, which helps men in the pursuit of worldly success, creates a confidence in one another, and strengthens and supports the heart in its hours of trial. It is a shield against which the fiery darts of the evil ones are broken and fall harmless at our feet.

(From the Iowa G.L. Bulletin, circa 1943.)

GLEICHEN LODGE NO. 36

In November Gleichen Lodge No. 36 which now includes the former Standard Lodge No. 152 held a very encouraging meeting. Five Candidates were raised to the Master Mason's Degree including one brother who came all the way from Langley, B.C. Assisting with the work was W.Bro. T. Davies a Past Master of Sincerity Lodge No. 3677 of Wigam, England. Some fifty-two brethren filled the Lodge Room.

FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

M.W.Bro. Dr. E.J. Thompson and Mrs. Thompson celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on August 31, 1980. A reception was held in Knox United Church, Edmonton and was attended by many friends including a number of M.W.Bro. Thompson's Masonic brethren. This is a late announcement which came to our attention through a note in the Lodge Notice of Temple Lodge No. 167 of which M.W.Bro. Thompson is a distinguished member. M.W.Bro. Thompson was Grand Master of Masons in Alberta in 1962 and his term of office will be remembered by many throughout our jurisdiction who would like to join in offering congratulations and wishing for our Past Grand Master an improvement in his health.