



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 52, NO. 10

EDITOR, R.W. BRO. NORMAN J. SENN

JUNE 1987

SUMMER LODGES

Most Lodges close down their activities over the summer months. We are fortunate that a few remain open and this allows visitation with our friends and relatives who are visiting Alberta. Remember to take your Masonic guests to a meeting this summer.

Lodges Which Are Open

Klondike Lodge - under the auspices of Edmonton Lodge No. 7 this year: July 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton, exemplify 2nd section MM Degree, York Rite.

Ye Olde Craft Lodge - Constitution and Consecration on July 11th at 9:00 a.m., Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton. Regular Meeting, August 8th, 9:00 a.m. Acacia Hall, Edmonton.

Daylight Lodge U.D. A Special Meeting will be held on July 8th in Stampede Week, at Calgary Masonic Temple commencing at 10 a.m.. A regular meeting will be held on the last Wednesday of August at the same time and location.

Gleichen 36	July, first Tuesday at 8:00.
Vulcan 74	July, first Tuesday at 8:00.
Oyen 104	August, first Tuesday at 8:00.
Granite 127	July, first Wednesday at 8:00.
Rockyford 123	July, first Thursday at 8:00.
Excelsior 80	July & Aug., first Thurs. at 8:30
Harmony 75	July, second Tuesday at 8:00.
Bow Island 57	July, second Wednesday at 8:00.
Nanton 17	July, second Thursday at 7:30.
Cresset 136	July, third Monday at 8:00.
Kitscoty 131	August, fourth Tuesday at 8:00.
Berry-Crocus 82	July, last Tuesday at 8:00.

AREA MEETINGS - 1987

Two area meetings were held during March of 1987. The first at Vegreville and the second at High River. There were 96 Masons in attendance at Vegreville and 98 at High River. The turnout of Master Masons was very poor and a question was raised on whether they were made unwelcome. This was definitely not the case and invitations were sent to all lodges for the information of ALL Masons. It is hoped that future meetings will have many more Master Masons present.

Following lunch, each meeting divided the

brethren into discussion groups to review topics associated with reasons for joining the Craft, how Masonry had helped brethren, and what Masons get and give to the Craft.

The answers of the individual brethren were written down prior to discussion and many of these sheets here handed in. The answers from both meetings were almost identical.

The answers as to why the brethren originally joined were primarily because of relatives, friends or associates who were admired for character and were known to be Masons. Fellowship with men of every class and creed was also important to many. Very few joined from curiosity and none mentioned business or advantage; reasons which we hear frequently used as accusations by the uninformed.

The things most commonly obtained from Masonry were identified as friendship and fellowship, a standard by which to live, and public speaking skills. The quality of the brethren met and the satisfaction, personal peace of mind and enjoyment gained through the Craft were mentioned by many.

Following the discussion, there was a slide presentation and then an open session for discussion.

The topics addressed, were numerous and at Vegreville included whether or not Master Masons should vote at Grand Lodge, methods of improving lodge attendance, responsibilities of sponsors, lodge fees and dues, proving-up requirements and the lack of quality of Masonic social events. Considerable discussion arose on the C.O.M.E.L.Y. plan which asks lodges to inform other jurisdictions of Masons who relocate into their area. This is done through the respective Grand Lodges and is to avoid the loss of brethren to the Craft when relocated to other Jurisdictions.

In High River, the topics were communication problems, status of the penalties, rulings of the Committee on the Work, the Ceremony of Installation sequence, secrecy or not, memorial services, public image and the format of area meetings.

The opinions of participants were very positive and the majority agreed that area meetings should become regular events in the Masonic year.

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Republication approval is granted to all other Jurisdictions but printed acknowledgement of the source is requested.

FROM THE NOTICES

CURE FOR WORRY

Over the years I have heard a great number of supposed "cures" for worry, but one of the most ingenious and I suspect one of the most effective was that of a man who advocated worrying for 10 minutes a day!

His technique was to jot down over a period of time everything that worried him. Then, when he had collected several sheets of worries, he set apart a period each day for worrying... brooding on the things he had written down.

After five or ten minutes of doing this he found the procedure so ludicrous that he began to put worry into perspective until he stopped bothering altogether. It's worth trying. You may well find two minutes quite long enough to convince you that you're wasting your time!

Anon.
Rocky-Summit Lodge No. 30

FROM AFAR

The Foundation of Masonry.

"...A man may aspire to progress in the study of Freemasonry through the Chapter and other organizations dependent on his membership in the order but let him lose his membership in his lodge and the whole Masonic structure collapses...."

"...While attendance at the meetings of the lodge is greatly desired, there is no line of separation between the Mason who attends regularly and the Mason who does not. Both have the opportunity to serve and enrich Masonry and their lodge by their acts, deeds and upright living. If the brother does not have the opportunity to attend his lodge regularly, he still has the opportunity to make his lodge and Masonry stronger by the exemplification of the Masonic teachings learned in his lodge and continuing his donation in the way of Masonic charity.

Let us remember that we are never really away from the lodge room. Every Mason takes with him, throughout his entire life, the Holy Altar of Masonry and his sacred obligations..."

W.Bro. C. Dwinal, St. John the Baptist Lodge No. 12, G.R.P.R.

"Acacia", Puerto Rico, Dec. 1984

COMMENT

In the Ashler of January 1987, from the Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia, the following item was printed.

"Get it right the first time! We are still hearing from proposers of, and responders to, toasts to the Grand Master, referring to him as "The Most Worshipful, The Grand Master".

Nobody says "The Worshipful the Master", so why "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master". The correct form when speaking about the Grand Master is "The Most Worshipful Grand Master".

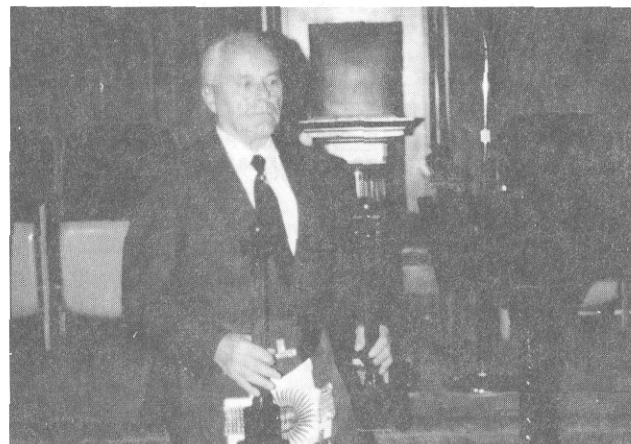
We use this phrase in Alberta. Is it an error, being a copy of the term "the Most Worshipful The Grand Lodge of Alberta" which is used in the Installation Ceremony? Is this also incorrect?

Your editor knows of no correct answers for this question - do you have an answer or do you have an opinion?

Send your reply to the Editor, c/o, Grand Lodge.

LETHBRIDGE LODGE BENEFITS FROM SKILLS OF PAST GRAND MASTER.

picture



Pictured above is M.W.Bro. A.O. (Tony) Aspeslet Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta with a small sample of the Masonic handwork that he produced in his home workshop. M.W.Bro. Aspeslet is a member of Charity Lodge No. 67 and a Honorary life member of North Star Lodge No. 4 and York Lodge No. 119. M.W.Bro. Aspeslet has produced many beautiful wooden items for various Alberta Lodges.

Submitted by W.Bro. Keith Roberts, York Lodge No. 119.

Editors Note,

There are many Masonic craftsmen in wood, metals and other materials. Outstanding examples of current work would be interesting to other brethren. You are invited to send photographs and information.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

If a Lodge wishes to do something contrary to its own Bylaws, how can it suspend those Bylaws to carry out the action?

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH

An excellent explanation of the April question related to the indented tassel, indented tarsel, tessellated pavement, indented border and the pictures with tasselled cords designed into carpets or drawings, is to be found in Harry Carr's, "The Freemason at Work". If there are four tassels at the corners these refer to the cardinal virtues and this can relate to modern workings. Any other tassels seem to have originated in error. The meaning of tessellated, is based on the Greek 'tessares' meaning four, and has the English language meaning, 'of or resembling mosaic, having a finely chequered surface'. In the Prichard exposure he referred to the 'Indented Tarsal' and this became the basis for a misinterpretation in a subsequent series of French exposures where the 'mosaic' meaning became confused with 'tasseled'. This error arose, to some degree, out of language differences. The error was then perpetuated by the depiction of a long tasseled cord forming a sort of headpiece to many Masonic drawings or carpets.

The strange thing is, that although there was no apparent original true symbolic meaning behind these long tassels, they are used in French heraldry. When a Coat of Arms is designed for a widow, it is framed by a wavy (indented) tasseled cord. As Masons are all Brothers to H.A. and consequently sons of the widow, the use of these tassels seemed most appropriate. When this was noted, the cord became a more common decoration and is known as the 'widow's cord'. It can be seen in the cover picture of Carr's book.

The indented tarsel, in early references, is described as empty and filled triangles which form the indented border that surrounds our mosaic floors.

There is still much confusion on this issue which forms yet another facet of the fascinating history of our craft.

MASONIC FIRE

The answers have continued to arrive on the Masonic Fire question in the March Bulletin. The editor thanks all those who responded and would particularly thank Bro. Hans Lucas of Carstairs Lodge No. 20 for his extensive translation from a paper published in the Netherlands by Bro. Haar of Tubantia Lodge, No. 81, Enschede. This paper fully explained the procedure adopted by some lodges in the Netherlands.

MAILBAG

With reference to your article in the Bulletin, "Are You Dusty on Your Masonry." I have always wondered why a Board of Trial is not included in teaching of new members. I have been a member of the Craft since February of 1973 and I have only seen one Board of Trial conducted in a lodge room.

I have been in fairly regular attendance at my own lodge but would be reluctant to attend a lodge where there was no one to vouch for me. I am seventy-one years of age and my memory is not what it used to be.

It is my feeling that a Board of Trial should be a regular part of lodge instruction.

Gerald B. Whiteman, Norwood Lodge No. 90.

* * * * *

The April '87 article, "Are You Dusty On Your Masonry" struck a responsive cord. I would like to relate a 1972 experience. The idea, hatched by W.Bro. George Cameron, Secretary of Fidelity Lodge No. 146 in Winnipeg, was to gather together the transplanted Fidelity brethren for a visit to a Calgary lodge. On April 19, 1972 five of a possible seven visited Zetland Lodge No. 83, Calgary. Most, having not made an effort to contact the Craft after arriving in Calgary, had become 'dusty' on their Masonry. Embarrassed by this state of affairs they had fallen by the wayside and welcomed the opportunity to visit with brethren who had 'sure information' of their status and could vouch for them. Three became active in Calgary lodges and two are now Past Masters. The experience of organizing that visit in 1972 showed me how easily a brother 'dusty' on his Masonry, can be lost to active participation in the Craft. I contend that very many brethren fall victim to the 'dusty' disease and are thereby lost, particularly those from other cities and jurisdictions.

So..... "The Dusty Square and Compass" degree is a great idea! How can we help?

W.Bro. Karl Hansen, Zetland Lodge No. 83

RECOGNITION OF WORTHY BRETHREN

50 YEAR JEWELS

R.W.BRO. LUKES, Harold Norman	CONCORD	124
R.W.BRO. COOVER, Cecil R.	ROCKY-SUMMIT	30
W.BRO. ROACH, Leroy E.	ST. ANDREW'S	66
BRO. BURRELL, Archibald Keith	SYMBOL	93
R.W.BRO. COMISAROW, William	CONNAUGHT	69

60 YEAR BARS

BRO. THORNE, John Thomas	MT. LEBANON	54
BRO. COOVER, Irvin M.	CENTURY	100
BRO. MORRISON, Walter Spence	CORNERSTONE	19

Congratulations go to these and all recipients of awards during the past year.

RECOGNITIONS CONT'D

W.Bro. C. Ross Walker of Vulcan Lodge No. 74 was honoured by Vulcan Lodge No. 74 on February 3, 1987 with a presentation of his Sixty Year Bar. W.Bro. Walker was born on October 11, 1895, joined Vulcan Lodge on February 3, 1925 and was W.M. in 1944.

He enjoys reasonably good health, resides in Lethbridge and attends lodge whenever possible.

Submitted by Bro. David Montgomery, Sec. Treas. Vulcan No. 74.

93 YEAR OLD MASON RECEIVED HIS 60 YEAR PAST MASTER'S BAR

On March 6th, 1987, a number of Masons met at the Edmonton home of V.W. Bro. W.(Bill) Freifeld. The purpose of the visit was for M.W.Bro. N.F. Oslund, Grand Master, to present V.W.Bro. Freifeld with his 60 Year Past Master's Bar.

V.W.Bro. Freifeld was born April 25, 1884 in Lugansk, Russia. He came to Canada in 1904 and worked with his father as a merchant in their General Store in Bruderheim, Alberta. He married Flora Clark, a teacher, on January 29th, 1916 and they had one daughter, Norma. He served as an active member of the Volunteer Veteran's Reserve (V.V.R.) during World War Two.

picture



He was initiated in Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 on June 10, 1920, and served as W.M. in 1925/26. He was elected a Life Member in 1949 and was appointed Grand Steward in 1950.

Our congratulations and good wishes to V.W.Bro. Friefeld. Well done good and faithful servant.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

When you see an old man amiable, mild, equable, content, and good humoured, be sure that in his youth he has been just, generous and forbearing. In his end he does not lament his past, nor dread the future; he is like the evening of a fine day.

Arabic saying.

"HAPPY ONE HUNDRED" V.W.BRO. WALTER POLLEY

picture



On the evening of January 2, 1987 over 80 friends, including the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. N.F. Oslund and 20 members from Acacia Lodge No. 11, toasted Walter Polley, on his 100th birthday. On January 13, his actual birthday, Walter agreed he was in better shape than he was 100 years ago on that date. Walter, always physically active, never got around to retiring until he was 74 years old. He has served Acacia Lodge No. 11 for over 62 years, 33 of which were as Chaplain. He also served a term as Grand Tyler in 1977.

Submitted by R.W.Bro. Bob Taylor, D.D.G.M. No. 10

FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

picture



An unusual lodge meeting was held at Carstairs Lodge No. 20, on March 12th, 1987. With considerable planning, a candidate was invested with only the Worshipful Master's chair filled with a member of that lodge. Apart from W. Bro. Vic Ramsbottom, who acted as W.M., every other chair was filled by the W.M. of a different lodge. The total visitation that night was from 57 brethren representing 19 lodges. This was a special night that Bro. Robert Huntley, E.A. will remember for many years.

FROM AFAR

CRAFT WISE - RUSTY TOOLS-

"The Mason who, after receiving his working tools puts them away in some forgotten corner of his memory and forgets how to mix tempered mortar cannot possibly become a skilled workman, and therefore earns but a pittance. But the Mason who accepts his working tools and uses them in his daily life becomes the skilled craftsman and earns without measure in a limitless field of endeavour."

How few of us use our working tools to the greatest advantage from day to day. We sit in lodge and listen to the Master declaim upon them and their symbolic significance; we are instructed in their use where contacts with others are concerned; we are told that as Masons we should keep them bright and shining through constant use. Yet, with the majority of craftsmen these tools become rusty from disuse. As a result, the real significance of Masonry becomes apparent to but a comparatively small number of earnest Brethren. A large number are inclined to believe that membership in the Fraternity means little more than membership in a social club. They regard their Masonic lodge as a fine place to meet the boys, eat a tasty dinner in congenial company, and enjoy a good speaker or some form of entertainment. Actually they lose a full 90% of the significance of Masonry.

We should clean and polish those rusty tools. We should study and endeavour to grasp the wonderful philosophy of living that Masonry teaches. We should model our living upon the plan of the G.A.O.T.U. Then we would find that Masonry is a mine which will yield treasure beyond all price.

The New Age

46th ANNUAL INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF THE OFFICERS OF THE FOUR WESTERN JURISDICTIONS

The Proceedings of the Conference held in early September, 1986 have now been published and distributed to all lodge Secretaries. The major papers are entitled:

The Spark of Enthusiasm - The Fire of Commitment;
Freemasonry, Our Amazing Craft;
Worshipful Master, IPM, Then What?;
The Future of Masonry Lies with its Strengths and Talents; and
Our Masonic Image.

Should you be interested in reading these excellent papers by well known brethren, borrow your lodge copy or purchase your own from the Grand Lodge Office for \$5.00.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

North Star No. 4 and Cascade No. 5 both celebrate their Centennial in 1988. In order to remind brethren of these special events, small items of interest from both lodges are being published at intervals.

picture



V.W.Bro. J.S. Stuart

North Star No. 4 records a year in its minute book which would turn the hair of any normal Worshipful Master to grey before the year was half over.

V.W.Bro. J.S. Stuart was W.M. in the year 1909. In that year he called 35 meetings. While three were funerals and two were church parades, the other 31 were degree nights. The lodge received 65 petitions for initiation and 34 for affiliation. There were 8 rejections from this huge batch of petitions. In order to complete the degree work, unusual patterns had to be arranged and from the figures you will realize two degrees were given on many nights. The EA degree was conferred 23 times on 39 candidates. The FC degree was conferred 24 times on 34 candidates, and the MM degree 18 times on 48 candidates.

While each of the degrees was given to a single candidate on a few nights, there were two nights where eight candidates received the MM degree.

V.W.Bro. Stuart was honoured on the anniversary of his 60th year as Past Master in 1969. He attended North Star regularly until his health failed in the early 1970's and at that time he could still give any lecture or charge when called upon.

* * * * *

Cascade Lodge No. 5

The National Park System of Canada was started over one hundred years ago following the discovery of a subterranean hot pool behind what was to become, the townsite of present day Banff. In an attempt to preserve the natural beauty before commercialism absorbed it, the area became protected by the Government of Canada.

CASCADE LODGE CONT'D

From this small beginning came the huge system of parks which benefit all Canadians. Alberta is particularly fortunate in having two major parks of unsurpassed beauty, Banff and Jasper.

Two of the three discoverers of that first cave and hot pool were Masons and members of Cascade Lodge. W.Bro. William Henry McCardell was initiated in 1888 and become Worshipful Master in 1893. Bro. Frank McCabe was initiated with W.Bro. McCardell on the 19th July, 1888.

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S.A.

At the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, held in Calgary during February, 1987, the M.S.A. issued a questionnaire to all Grand Masters in attendance. Thirty-six completed questionnaires were returned with 32 being from Grand Masters.

Amongst the answers of interest was the fact that of the responding jurisdictions, seven had an initiation age of less than 21. Four allow initiation at 18 years of age while three required candidates to be 19.

In questions related to the requirement for proving-up in the MM before taking any additional degrees in concordant bodies, 19 jurisdictions require it, 11 do not require it. Five jurisdictions place time restrictions of from six months to a year before a new Mason can join other bodies.

In a question related to the permissibility of "neutrally worded" approaches to potential applicants, 19 jurisdictions permit it while five do not allow it. Some jurisdictions do not approve of the action but turn a blind eye to solicitation.

Such information is of interest and additional material is to found from jurisdictions in other countries in the "List of Lodges" which is in the hands of your Lodge Secretary. The fullest information on other jurisdictions can be found in the book, "Masonic World Guide" by Kent Henderson. This book is available from the Grand Lodge Office.

FREEMASONRY IS

Kindness in the home
 Courtesy in society
 Resistance toward the wicked
 Help for the weak
 Forgiveness for the penitent
 Love for one another
 Honesty in business
 Fairness in work
 Pity and concern for the unfortunate
 Trust in the strong
 and above all
 Reverence and love for God.
FREEMASONRY IS A WAY OF LIFE

TOO FEW AT LODGE?

There is little doubt that commitment to the activities of a lodge will tend to bring people to meetings, or at least keep them active in a lodge. These activities need not be as extensive as holding office for there are many duties required in a lodge. Some examples are: regalia and paraphernalia repair and maintenance; ensuring there is not a thick layer of dust on the furniture, which is important to the lodge's image; the visitor's aprons clean and ironed; the collars repaired and the jewels polished, and the woodwork waxed and polished after restaining.

Helping with degrees and ensuring that the ritualistic work is not kept to a limited few, not only involves people but helps the lodge. The more members able to deliver various portions of ritual, the safer the lodge is in an emergency no-show. The lodge social events require many helpers and increasing these social events not only adds to the general life of the lodge but is valuable involvement.

Visiting the older members of the lodge and widows is not a task for only the older brethren. All members should be required to make some visits in a year. This is how we can expand our friendships. Pairing a senior brother with a new one to make visits will establish additional friendships.

A phone fan-out for each lodge meeting is a valuable involvement for members and also will be an excellent way of ensuring that members' ill health and problems are known early. The recipients of the phone call will build much stronger ties with the lodge and will have friends to welcome them on the meeting night.

There are numerous other methods for involving members and enhancing attendance at the same time. Have you actively tried some in your lodge?

R. & E. CONTEST

The Grand Lodge Research and Education Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the competition announced in the September Bulletin. From a number of very interesting and well developed presentations the First Prize of books goes to W.Bro. Cameron McKay of Redwood Lodge No. 193, Edmonton for a presentation entitled "Operative Masonry leads to Speculative Masonry". A Certificate of Recognition for second place goes to W.Bro. Alan Ferguson of Zetland Lodge No. 83, Calgary for a presentation on King Solomon's Temple developed entirely from biblical references.

The Committee thanks all those who participated and hopes to have the presentations available for loan in the near future. The above noted brethren may be willing to give their presentations "live" if approached and time is available.