



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 56, No. 2

Editor, W. Bro. Kingsley Dean

February 1991

A Freemason's February

The Julian calendar assumed that the tropical year consisted of 365 1/2 days. It provided the average year with 365 days and every fourth year 366 days. But this estimate was proven to be about 11 minutes too great, an error which amounted to one day in about 128 years. From the 4th century to 1581, the cumulative error was ten days. The Gregorian calendar attempted to correct this by ordaining that, in A.D. 1582, October 4th become October 15th.

Justifiably, you might ask: "What has this got to do with February?" My abstruse answer is that the day in February set aside by the ancient Romans for the Lupercalian purification of women was moved ten days to a new point in astronomical time which, coincidentally, became St. Valentine's Day in the Christian calendar. This lovers' festival falls in early springtime in Europe. The Anglo-Saxons called February "Sprout-Kale" from the sprouting of the cabbage at this season (no pun intended or implied).

Valentinus is the name of a considerable number of saints. The most celebrated are the two martyrs whose festivals fall on February 14th. It would appear from the records that both lived and died during the reign of Claudius (Gothicus); that both died on the same day; and that both were buried on the Via Flaminia. The rest of the legendary myth is without historical foundation.

Tradition associates this feast day with the wooing of a "Valentine" of the opposite sex. This concept has been a very rewarding phenomena for Philadelphians who manufacture greeting cards, gimmicks, candy and floral arrangements. Some of our Masonic Brethren tend toward being overly enthusiastic on this emotionally "erotic" occasion.

Our ritual exhorts us to virtuously "love" our domestic mate, the offspring of that marital union, and members of our immediate family. This form of love is known as "philia" in the Greek language. Our precepts also pledge us to practice "agape" — a form of love which has to do with patience, forgiveness, tolerance and understanding toward all human beings.

W. Bro. A.K. Dean

There are things I can't force. I must adjust. There are times when the greatest change needed is a change of my viewpoint.

— C.M. Ward

Family Day

This month marks the second anniversary of the provincial Family Day holiday. Sociologists, psychologists and politicians all extol the role and value of the family as an institution essential to civilized society. What does Freemasonry have to say about this fundamental human trait, which we share with others of the mammalian species? The ritual has only an oblique reference to family commitments.

However, the Craft is very explicit in its pledge to promote the practice of every social and moral virtue. What greater virtue is there than the care, love and attention one can bestow on those nearest and dearest to him? The help, encouragement and love displayed between marital partners assists in relieving the stresses and tensions of everyday living. The exemplification of a virtuous family life to one's children is the greatest gift one can bestow upon them — and to the community of families. An education in the humanities — the liberal arts and sciences — is perhaps the second greatest gift one can present to the next generation.

As we perambulate our Lodge rooms and rush from meeting to meeting, seeking for that which was lost and can never be found, let us feel the pull of the cabletow which anchors us to our family. The sum and substance of the teachings of the Craft would be diminished to ashes if we practically ignore our family during our philosophical pursuit of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Bro. L.W. Kline



Masonic Family (l. to r.): W. Bro. Dale Poxon; R. W. Bro. Leonard F. Poxon; M. W. Bro. D. R. Millar; W. Bro. Jack Poxon, Worshipful Master of Sherwood Lodge No. 183; W. Bro. Cyril Poxon; and W. Bro. Larry Poxon. Story inside.

The Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

330 – 12 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2R 0H2
(403) 262-1140 — Fax (403) 290-0671

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Editorial Committee

W.Bro. A.K. Dean, Chairman
(403) 462-5840 Fax (403) 465-5391
V.W.Bro. J.W. Strang
Bro. L.W. Kline

Grand Master's Itinerary For February & March 1991

- February 4 Al Shamal Temple
5 *JOINT: Quarry No. 70, Medicine Hat;
Medicine Hat No. 2; Mizpah No. 35
6-9 A & A.S.R. Perfection Reunion
7 Buffalo Park #44, Wainwright
14 Board of General Purposes, Red Deer (10:00)
15-20 North American Conference of Grand
Masters, San Diego, CA
21 *Barrhead No. 171, Pancake Supper
26 Kitscoty No. 131
27 Mystic Tie, No. 188
- March 4 Pembina No. 126, Sangudo
5 Elbow River No. 180, Calgary
6 Granite No. 127, Blackie
7 M.H.E.B. and R & E, Red Deer (7:00)
8 Sentinel No. 26, Frank
9 DDGMs Elect and G.M. Elect, Red Deer (10:00
a.m.)
12 Canada No. 165, Calgary
14 Coronation No. 72
15-17 All Canada Conference, Winnipeg
18 Astra No. 179, Cold Lake
20 Hand Hill No. 98, Delia
25 Hussar No. 130, Strathmore
27-28 A & A.S.R. Rose Croix Ceremonies, Edmonton
30 M.H.E.B. and R & E with DDGMs and Reps,
Red Deer
31 Rose Croix Breakfast

*denotes a change from original itinerary

"I am going to move," complained a shivering Noble to his landlady.

"Why, what is the matter?" she replied. "I fixed your room up with all those emblems and pictures to give it a Masonic atmosphere."

"That is the trouble. It never gets above thirty-three degrees."

How About This!!

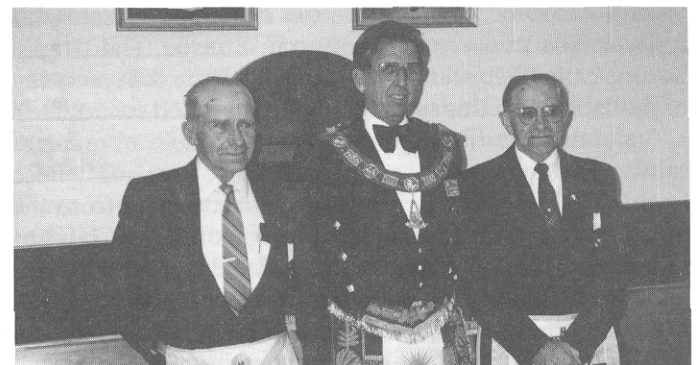
Joint meeting on December 11, 1990, of three Lodges, Spitzie Lodge No. 6 of Pincher Creek, Stavely Lodge No. 33 of Stavely and Chinook Lodge No. 47 of Cowley.

Presentations by the Grand Master M.W.Bro. Don Millar;

- Master Mason Apron to Bro. Bruce McPhail of Stavely Lodge who proved up in the Master Mason Degree.
- Fifty Year Jewels to W.Bro. Jim Oddie and his brother Bro. Ronald Oddie of Spitzie Lodge.
- Secretary-Treasurer Long Service Jewel to R.W.Bro. A.T.A. Gray of Chinook Lodge (18 years).
- Sixty Year Bar and Fifty Year Past Master's Jewel to W.Bro. Gentry Ohler of Stavely.



Left to Right: Bro. Bruce McPhail, M.W.Bro. Don Millar, W.Bro. Gentry Ohler



Left to Right: Bro. Ronald Oddie, M.W.Bro. Don Millar, W.Bro. Jim Oddie



M.W.Bro. Don Millar, R.W.Bro. A.T.A. Gray

"It's not the things I failed to do
That makes me wipe this eye —
It's things I should and could have done
And simply failed to try."



April 19,20,21, 1991

Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta
Register Early — Space Limited

Masonry *Grabbing the Future*

Speakers:

- M.W.Bro. W. Pellow (PGM, Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario)
- Alvin Law

Our theme — *Grabbing the Future* — is timely, particularly in view of the continual decline in the membership of the craft. A new quarter century of Masonic Workshop activity has begun, and with it, a new resolve to stem this decline.

Our future strength will be in direct proportion to the increase in vibrant young members, and that direction can only be achieved with a positive attitude on the part of every Mason. Planning and acting to attract young men of good character must be a team effort in every Lodge. Toward this end, our speakers will be delivering messages of a motivational nature and are living proof you can achieve what you desire. Combining this with Schools of Instruction, Masonic Education and entertainment, you can look forward to a memorable weekend. Success is contagious — be a part of it!

Space is limited! Thus, registration is on a first come, first served basis. Carry the message to some brother who has not shared the experience!

Rex Dawson
 General Chairman

Programme

Friday April 19

- 3:00 p.m. Registration at Donald Cameron Hall (DCH)
 Book sales open
- 6:00 p.m. Supper
- 7:45 p.m. Announcements—Max Bell Auditorium (MBA)
- 8:00 p.m. Theme Address, M.W.Bro. W. Pellow
Grabbing the Future, Part I (MBA)
- 9:30 p.m. Coffee & Danish

Saturday April 20

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Schools of Instruction
- 10:00 a.m. Masonic Education (MBA)
- 11:15 a.m. Guest Speaker, (MBA)
Alvin Law
- 12:00 Noon Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Schools of Instruction
- 5:15 p.m. Supper
- 7:15 p.m. Theme Address, M.W.Bro. W. Pellow
Grabbing the Future, Part II (MBA)
- 8:00 p.m. Coffee & Danish
- 8:30 p.m. Fun Night

Sunday April 21

- 8:15 a.m. Chairman's Remarks (MBA)
- 8:30 a.m. Devotional Service (MBA)
- 9:00 a.m. Brunch
- 10:00 a.m. Departure

Bookstore

Reading Room — 2nd floor, Donald Cameron Hall

Friday: 3:00 p.m. — 11:30 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. — 1:15 a.m.

3:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Planning Committee:

General Chairman:	Rex Dawson
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1 st Vice Chairman:	Duncan Strachan
2 nd Vice Chairman:	Robert Juthner
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Schools of Instruction	Cor de Keyser
Book Sales	Gordon Coburn
House Committee	Doug Simmonds

Schools of Instruction

1. History — Masonry and the Occult
 2. Masonic Etiquette
 3. Involving the Lodge
 4. Grand Lodge Panel
 - Finance
 - Benevolence
 - Bursary
 - Jurisprudence
 - Committee of the Work
 5. Masters and Senior Wardens **
 6. Junior Wardens and Senior Deacons
- ** All Masters and Wardens should bring their Constitutions and Lodge Regulations to the session — if they are attending.

Character

The following article is the Editor's version of an inspirational paper given by R.W.Bro. J.R. (Jim) Crawford, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Alberta, at the 50th Annual Inter-Provincial Conference of the Officers of the Four Western Masonic Jurisdictions held in Banff on September 20, 21 & 22, 1990.

R.W.Bro. Jim Crawford is a Past Master of Forestburg Lodge No. 128, a Past DDGM of District No. 5, Past Grand First Principal of R.A.M. in Alberta, and a member of the York Rite Concordant Bodies.

His paper will be divided into two parts to be published in the February and March Grand Lodge Bulletins. Enjoy!

Character is defined in the dictionary as an attribute or property, especially a distinguishing attribute. The word 'character' is mentioned many times in our ritual.

'Character' is the fabric of which our Fraternity is built. We are all aware that our Philosophy calls upon us to take good men, one at a time, and make them better — not better than everyone else, but better than themselves. The building of Character is one of the greatest designs we have on our Trestleboard. It, of course, is a personal and an individual thing that we have to work at ourselves. We must continually chip away the rough corners and smooth the finished stone so that our individual integrity may be preserved and maintained.

Freemasonry is described as an organized Society of Men, symbolically applying the principles of Operative Masonry and Architecture to the science and art of character building. In Masonry, we learn from our ritualistic teachings, and from other Masonic sources, that there is but one standard of measurement of a man and that is the standard of 'Character.' A man is what he is because of the character he bears, not because of the side of the railroad tracks on which he happens to have been born, not because of his race or color or creed, but because of what he is.

The business of Masonry is the business of character building. It has been said that the character of a community depends upon the character of its citizens. So it is that the good name which Masonry has enjoyed for many centuries depends upon the character of its members. The voluntary time and effort which certain members devote to Masonry attests, in some degree, to the worthiness of their desire to improve the 'Character of Men.'

Truth is the light of Masonry. Character is the quality of Masonry. Let us be honest! In weakness, we offend the voice of conscience and feel upon our faces the hot, accusing glare of the All-Seeing-Eye of Masonry. Let us not prevaricate, like the child detected in wrong-doing, and ascribe to forgetfulness what is only a disregard of the precepts of the character we profess. Indeed, character is not a mere conforming to the minimal requirements of a conventional society. As Macaulay puts it: "The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out."

Another writer says it this way: "Character is in living and performing like a champion when there is no one left in the stadium. It's in doing your best when there are no spectators and when the crowd has gone home. It's really

in giving your humble best when only you and your God can judge your performance." Such should be the Character of a Mason, for these are the precepts which, when practised in faith and fortitude, become the soul of Freemasonry. It is this inner quality which gives strength, influence and power to the individual, institution or nation.

One of the greatest intangibles of human life is Character. Can anyone say what it is? I cannot circumscribe it for you. It is as varied as human beings themselves. It defies measurement and to define it, I would say that it is the composite of all the intangible qualities of good with which man has been endowed. It is exhibited most clearly in moments of greatest inspiration.

Someone has aptly said: "No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character." If that be true, then we must see to it that the attainment of good character is a primary, and not a secondary, activity of men. Yet is it? Sometimes we stress all manner of things aside from the attainment of good character. How can sterling character be attained? No one can give you a complete formula. Yet if we consider the great men of history, we are reminded of the fact that in them have been displayed qualities of character which served them in their hours of need and stress.

Cause For Celebration

Sherwood Lodge No. 183 Installation

A very interesting and unique Installation took place in Highlands Masonic Hall in Edmonton on Saturday, December 1, 1990 when W.Bro. Jack Poxon was installed as Worshipful Master of Sherwood Lodge No. 183.

W.Bro. Jack Poxon was placed in the Chair of King Solomon by his father, W.Bro. Cy Poxon, a Charter Member and Past Master of Sherwood Lodge.

Three cousins presented the Working Tools: R.W.Bro. Leonard Poxon, W.Bro. Dale Poxon and W.Bro. Larry Poxon. It is interesting to note that these three Poxons were Initiated, Passed and Raised in Carbon Lodge No. 107, which lodge recently surrendered its Charter.

A total of eight Poxons were initiated, passed and raised in Carbon since its Institution in 1917. All were Past Masters and three were elected as DDGM of their District. They were as follows: R.W.Bro. Wilfred Poxon Sr., 1936; R.W.Bro. Leonard Poxon, 1925/1943; R.W.Bro. Leonard F. Poxon, 1953/1989; W.Bro. Lawrence Poxon; W.Bro. Dale Poxon, 1964; W.Bro. Larry Poxon, 1985; W.Bro. Cyril Poxon, 1962; W.Bro. Wilfred Poxon Jr.

There is also W.Bro. Ron Poxon, a Past Master of Chorley Lodge in Lancashire, England. And now, the tenth member of this Masonic family is Worshipful Master of Sherwood Lodge No. 183 in Edmonton.

Several of the Ladies in the Poxon family are/were members of Job's Daughters, Eastern Star and The Nile.

There are still a few candidates in the family who could follow the paths of their father, uncle or cousin and become members of the Fraternity and carry on the family tradition. Time will tell!

If God seems far away, who moved?