



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 56, No. 10

Editor, R.W. Bro. Norman J. Senn

December 1991

Christmas — The Lodge and Charity

Christmas, of course, is a festival: it can mean nothing religious to a Hindu, a Mohammedan or to others of certain faiths, but to a Christian it is everything. It is the symbol, the reminder in time of the very centre and heart of his religion, so that without the truth for which it stands, his whole religion would crumble. Put as simply as possible, it means the coming of the Son of God into human life — He who came as a human child into a human family, both to show how lovely human life is when lived as it is meant to be lived, and to offer up that perfect life to God in order to redeem mankind. It is this truth and this hope that inspires every Christian, and without which few can conceive living at all.

But we are not all Christians, at least in this committed sense. What then can Christmas mean to Masons of other religions. It could mean that Christmas is a time for charity. There is a spirit abroad which stirs men to look about them, to observe the circumstances in which others live, to become aware of the needs of men, women and especially, children.

Christmas is a time of the year when we are asked to donate to this fund or that fund or help to keep the "pot boiling" so that through the exercise of charity, the poor, the needy, the down-and-out and the destitute may have some temporary relief at Christmas time. Why can't we exercise this charity for twelve months of the year instead of having our feelings 'awakened' — as we all had in our initiation

into Masonry — only at Christmas?

The word 'Charity' at its worst is like that: the giver has no real concern for the receiver, he hates to part with the gift; the self respect and dignity of the receiver are hurt because he is destitute. If charity is to be the greatest thing in the world, there must be a profound concern in the heart of the giver for the destitute one. The gift is given because we love the one to whom it is given. If charity is to be the greatest thing in the world, there must be profound appreciation of the generosity of the giver in the heart of the receiver. No false pride or hurt self respect can be allowed to shadow the gracious act of giving.

Let us make sure that no Mason or no dependent of a Mason is permitted to go through the Christmas season without the milk of human kindness being allowed to flow freely on his or her behalf. Thus will we be more certain to enjoy Christmas and all that it means; and thus will we be sure that the charitable intentions with which we pride ourselves are not mere vague promises, but are in truth the real concept of Freemasonry.

May this spirit of Brotherhood, Happiness and Fellowship, together with the Angel of Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards all men, be with you and your loved ones throughout this Christmas Season and continue on through the New Year to follow.

V.W.Bro. David Coulter, Grand Chaplain

Masonic Silence Is Golden

Freemasonry being made up of human beings, it is quite natural that occasionally we hear judgments of our fellow-members which are, to put the matter euphemistically, somewhat "snap" and ill-considered. Take for instance the Brother who sits on the "sidelines" and says nothing, month by month. We have heard him referred to with perhaps a slight condescension. "Oh, he's all right — but he never says anything."

Now, with deference, I suggest to you that, practical considerations notwithstanding, this is a petty, short-sighted and worthless estimate.

Masons especially should remember that the unheard values play a tremendous part in our Lodge lives, and that the power of thought — silent and kept silent, though it be

— is a truly potent force indeed. The silent member who thinks kind thoughts toward his Brethren, who reveres the Craft and has an up-looking reverence for the letter suspended in the East, is a Masonic jewel of precious price.

May the Great Architect vouchsafe to all Masters the quiet support of quiet man.

Grand Lodge Bulletin, February, 1942

New Year's Levee

Saskatchewan Lodge is holding its annual Levee to honour the Grand Master. It will be held on January 1, 1992 at the Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. All Masons, wives, family and friends in the area are invited to join the Lodge members and M.W.Bro. Cal Shaver in celebrating another New Year.

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Author in our Midst

Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, Wembley and Ye Olde Craft Lodge No. 196 of Edmonton are justly proud of one of their members, Bro. Richard Ashby, now a resident of Grande Prairie. Bro. Ashby, who began his Masonic journey in Ye Olde Craft Lodge in 1986, affiliated with Lake Saskatoon Lodge in 1989.

Bro. Ashby was the fourth person to qualify in Canada as a Registered Procedural Parliamentarian and this has been his personal hobby for some years. He has previously shared his skills through seminars and workshops with various groups, but he realized that Masonry has its own rather special pattern of meeting procedures. Bro. Ashby set out to identify how Roberts Rules, which are adopted by Grand Lodge, apply to Lodges. The outcome is a most interesting book entitled **Will of the Lodge** published in 1990. This book is valuable for anyone who must run a meeting, but is particularly useful for fraternal groups, where certain actions are inappropriate due to the special authority of the Worshipful Master and the concern for harmony in the Lodge.

This book, available through the Grand Lodge Office, resulted in an article in the Daily Herald-Tribune of Grand Prairie in July of 1991 which notes that copies of his book are being purchased by Masons from New Zealand, Holland and England, and that copies are in all Canadian Provinces.

Bro. Ashby is to be congratulated on taking action and contributing so much to an area of Masonry which is often misunderstood.

Masonic Float

At the Rose Bowl Parade on the morning of January 1, 1992, the Royal Arch Masons are entering a Masonic Float. It is suggested that all Alberta Masons view this float and send their comments to the Editor of the **Grand Lodge Bulletin**.

Grand Masters Itinerary

December

- 2 Strathmore Lodge No. 53, Strathmore — Suit
- 3 Mosaic Lodge No. 176, Crescent — Formal
- 4 Dynamic Lodge No. 96, Holden — Suit
- 5 Foothills Lodge No. 174, Bowmont — Suit
- 7 Fort McMurray Lodge No. 195, Fort McMurray — Formal
- 9 Robert Burns-Cresset Lodge No. 49, Carmangay — Suit
- 10 Crossfield Lodge No. 48, Crossfield — Suit
- 12 Symbol Lodge No. 93, Drumheller — Suit
- 13 Patricia Lodge No. 91, Central Temple — Suit
- 14 Commercial Lodge No. 81, Central Temple — Formal
- 17 Star of the West Lodge No. 34, Leduc — Formal
- 19 Innisfail Lodge No. 8, Innisfail — Suit
- 20 Quarry Lodge No. 70, Medicine Hat — Suit

January

- 1 Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92, Central Temple, New Year's Levee
- 4 Rockyford Lodge No. 123, Strathmore — Suit
- 6 Mountain View Lodge No. 16, Olds — Suit
- 7 Gleichen Lodge No. 36, Gleichen — Suit
- 8 Symbol Lodge No. 93, Drumheller — Suit
- 9 Nanton Lodge No. 17, Nanton — Suit
- 14 Connaught Lodge No. 69, Viking — Suit
- 16 Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142, Central Temple — Formal
- 20 Empire Lodge No. 63, Central Temple — Formal
- 21 Cairo Lodge No. 32, Claresholm — Suit
- 22 Jordan Lodge No. 177, Calgary Temple — Formal
- 25 Al Azhar Temple, Calgary
- 27 Beacon Lodge No. 190 — Suit
- 28 Canada Lodge No. 165, Bowmont — Suit

Question of the Month

What District names are already chosen and how many have made their decision before the deadline?

Answer to a Previous Question

In October the question was "Which way should the 'G' face?"

In Carr's invaluable book, **The Freemason at Work**, it is stated that the 'G' must be readable from the West. He points out that in early days of Masonry, the 'G' would have been drawn on the floor of the Lodge and certainly would have been readable from the West. He notes that in many North American Lodges, it is placed on the wall in the East and therefore must be readable from the West. He observes, however, that certain European jurisdictions have the 'G' mounted on the West wall of the Lodge.

We in Alberta have two locations depending on the Rite used but it seems appropriate, and usual, to have it readable from the West in both rites.

Proverb of the Month

He is a slave of the greatest slave, who serves nothing but himself.

Bursary Recipients 1991/92

Name	Institution	Home
Akinnhoye, Francis	U of Lethbridge	Calgary
Anderson, Brenda	Red Deer College	Camrose
Attwood, Jeremy	NAIT	Nanton
Badiani, Hina	U of Calgary	Calgary
Bell, Jodi	Camrose Lutheran Coll.	Camrose
Bell, Wendy	Reeves Business College	Edgerton
Blake, Christie	U of Calgary	Nanton
Boettcher, Tammy	NAIT	Edmonton
Boparai, Ishkmandeep	U of Calgary	Calgary
Brack, Ritchie	Mount Royal	Fairview
Bronk, Lisa	Lethbridge Comm. Coll.	Brooks
Brown, William	Gr. Prairie Reg. Coll.	Wanham
Chanthavong, Lamsey	Red Deer College	Didsbury
Chostner, Daniel	U of Alberta	Craigmyle
Chybli, Ayour	U of Alberta	Calgary
Cichy, Jolynne	Lethbridge Comm. Coll.	Bow Island
Crawford, Sharon	U of Alberta	Irma
Dahms, Teresa	Red Deer College	Rimbey
Dallaire, Chantal	U of Alberta	Bonneyville
Doan, Surya Kumari	Red Deer College	Red Deer
Elliott, Ernest	Camrose Lutheran Coll.	Fairview
Forsythe, Scott	U of Calgary	Crossfield
Fujda, Carolynne M.	U of Calgary	Calgary
Furstenwerth, Barbara	U of Alberta	Hines Creek
Gul, Christopher	U of Victoria	Calgary
Hunt, Tammy	Mount Royal College	Calgary
Irving, Leigh Ann	Foothills Nursing	Calgary
Iula, Teresa	Red Deer College	Calgary
Leard, Irene	U of Calgary	Calgary
Kamp, Katrina	Red Deer College	Carstairs
Lloyd, Andrea	U of Alberta	Edmonton
MacKenzie, Jennifer	U of Alberta	Lethbridge
Mak, Lou Kwok Keung	U of Alberta	Milk River
Mansoor, Kara	Mount Royal College	Calgary
Marshall, Sandy	U of Calgary	Calgary
Miner, Tammie	Lethbridge Comm. Coll.	Picture Butte
Mohamed, Fatima	George Brown College	Calgary
Mortimer, Jason	U of Calgary	Calgary
Nan, Maryke	U of Lethbridge	Banff
Pellern, Karen	U of Alberta	Sedgewick
Plandowski, Shzan	Faculté St. John	Lloydminster
Quach, Susie Die Hoa	U of Calgary	Edmonton
Quan, Rana	U of Alberta	Lethbridge
Rondeau, JASONA	U of Calgary	Vegreville
Richmond, Angela	U of Calgary	Strathmore
Rivers, Dorian	Mount Royal College	Calgary
Sawchuk, Kara	U of Lethbridge	Fairview
Sellers, Stacey	U of Alberta	Innisfree
Suhai, Wendy	Gr. Prairie Reg. Coll.	Silver Valley
Scheie, Karrie	Grant MacEwan Coll.	Rimbey
Slukynski, Nancy	U of Alberta	FtSaskatchewan
Sulkowski, Miroslaw	SAIT	Calgary
Theriault, Mary M.	Red Deer College	Elk Point
Townsend, Jeffrey	U of Calgary	Calgary
Vo, Chanh Trung	U of Alberta	Edmonton
Yee, Tina	U of Calgary	Calgary

Letters of Thanks for Bursaries

"On behalf of the Foothills Hospital School of Nursing, thank you for \$1,000 bursary you gave to Leigh Ann Irving."

"I would like to thank you for choosing me to receive the Masonic Higher Education Bursary. The Bursary I received has already been put to good use through paying my tuition for this academic year."

"Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you again"

"Yours sincerely,
"Tammie Miner"

A Good Thing or Two

Have you ever thought how good or evil can be magnified by repetition? Let us just consider 12,000 Masons of Alberta actively doing two good things a day for a year - just two people to be helped, just a few supportive words, just a donation here and there, just a ride for someone who cannot get around - just small things that would add up to over eight million good things a year! What a force for good we can be by actively doing good on a regular basis. Are you doing it now or will you start tomorrow?

Suggested in an article by Brother Lawrence C. Hale in a Notice of Yuma Lodge No. 17, A. F. & A. M., Arizona.

From Afar

A recent notice was received from Palm Desert Masonic Lodge No. 826, California, which included a list of officers and Affiliated Past Masters. Now why would this portion of the notice be so interesting?

The Worshipful Master, Bro. Kirk Weiss, the junior Past Master, W. Bro. Perk Slingsby and the most recent Affiliated Past Master, W. Bro. Rick Krown were all born and raised in Calgary.

We had not listed "gone to California, Arizona or Florida" as one of the ways we lose Masons, but three in one Lodge suggests we should just change our weather to keep more Masons!

100th Anniversary

Edmonton Lodge No. 7 is already well on its way to planning a weekend of celebration for October 23 to 25, 1992. Further information is available from Box 34, Edmonton, T5J 2G9. Additional details will be published as they become available.



Bursary Recipient Presentation

On August 11, 1991 at the Calgary Masonic Temple, Districts 1, 6, 8, 16 and 18 gathered together to present Bursary Awards. The recipients, their families and friends were invited. With Masons from various Lodges in the districts, over 80 people attended. R.W.Bro. Ray Burton, Junior Grand Warden, addressed the gathering which was considered a great success by all. The photograph shows 16 of the recipients amongst some of their Masonic hosts.

Bursaries and the Press

It is most pleasing to receive newspaper clippings with pictures of recipients of Masonic Bursaries. This was the intention of arranging for local presentations and it is really being taken up by active Lodges. The presentations are becoming a special occasion in the life of a number of Lodges and the media are being invited and their representatives are attending.

Clippings have been received from Camrose Lodge No. 37 (two recipients), Kitscoty Lodge No. 131 (one recipient and two newspapers!) and District No. 4 Lodges, (three recipients). All are to be congratulated on arranging for the press to be informed and allowing for the local recognition of these worthy students and the donor.

While the Editor regrets being unable to print all clippings received, please continue to send any items you see in the press.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bro. Hein Besier, who was recently recognized for his dedicated service in the teaching of students who, for reasons of sickness, are unable to attend regular classes. Bro. Besier, a teacher for the Home Confined Program with the Calgary Board of Education for the past 10 years, has been visiting and teaching elementary and junior high students at their homes or even at their bedsides in the hospital. His aim is to help keep them up to speed until they are well enough to return to their regular classes. Well done Bro. Hein.

Did You Hear?

"I've got too many organizations' dues to pay," Brother Jones was heard to mumble as he was filling out his cheque to pay lodge dues. "One of these days somebody's going to read on my tombstone — 'William X. Jones, Clubbed to Death.'"

Grand Lodge Proceedings

The Grand Lodge Proceedings should now be in the hands of the Lodge Secretaries. They make interesting reading for those who wish to see the operation of Grand Lodge. They are also **required reading** because they contain the information on motions passed and those rejected. In addition they include any rulings of the Committee on the Work which affect the ritualistic portion of our meetings. The best way for any Lodge to deal with this item is to have Brethren summarize the portions of interest and deliver the summary to the Lodge over the next few meetings. There are two copies in every Lodge, one for the Master and one for the Secretary, so at least one can be borrowed.

New Award For The Masonic Spring Workshop

Each year there is an award for the District with the largest number of Brethren present, calculated as the percentage of the total District membership. This award has been strenuously sought by many Districts in the past. Now an additional plaque is to be presented to the Lodge with the highest percentage of members present. Now this is an award that can be earned with enjoyment, for what could be better than to head off into Kananaskis Country with a group of Lodge Brothers. Each Lodge should have a Brother who will work to enthuse his Brethren and encourage them to attend the finest Masonic get-together that is available. **Perhaps your Lodge will carry the plaque home.**

From the Past

The Real Freemason

The Real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of mankind by the uniform, unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict. They are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine, except those written in his heart by the finger of the Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the universal throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and in humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbour or himself. He gives no offence because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is not certain that he can discharge because he is honest in principle.

The Farmers' Almanac, 1823

reprinted in *Indiana Freemason*, June, 1991.

Installing Officers Recognized



Following the Installation of Officers at King Hiram Lodge No. 21, Didsbury, W.Bro. Cliff Scott (centre) presented plaques to R.W.Bro. E.A. McInnes (r.) and W.Bro. H. Hosgood (l.) for just completing their 40th consecutive Installation of the Officers of that Lodge. Both Brethren have also acted as Installing Officers at other district Lodges during this time.

Topic for Lodge Discussion

What is the informal protocol for receiving the Grand Master? Consider meals, hosting, possible accommodation after late nights, introduction, greeting before entering Lodge room, what does the Lodge identify the visit as—an 'inspection' or the feature of their Masonic year, etc.

Readership of the Bulletin

At a recent discussion it was noted that wives and other members of families are reading the **Grand Lodge Bulletin** with interest. Where this is occurring, there seems to be more understanding of the Craft. Do you hide your Bulletin or do you let others read it? There is nothing that says the publication is in anyway secret and perhaps you should find the reaction of others to reading it.

Gift Time

At the Christmas period we often exchange gifts with friends and family. Remember your Masonic friends with Masonic gifts available through the Grand Lodge Office. Your Lodge Secretary has a list of books and other items that might be suitable for you. You should not forget that the Grand Lodge also stocks Masonic teaspoons which are excellent gifts for the collector and are also ideal small gifts for a Ladies Night.

An Indian Prayer

O Great Spirit: whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me.
I am a man before you, one of your many children.
I am small and I am weak.
I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made, my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may know the things you have taught my people — the lesson you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy - myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Amen

Quotation of the Month

In (Nazi) Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.

Martin Niemoeller

Editor's Note: We know they also came for the Masons during that time.

A Master's Message

Perhaps the following story indicates the importance of attending Lodge.

An old man in the South lived in a small house on the bank of a wide river. His only income was from ferrying passengers across the river in a row boat. It was hard work. His hands were calloused and his face was tanned and weatherbeaten.

"How many time do you go across the river in a day?" asked a passenger. The reply was, "I go as often as I can. The more I go, the more I get. If I don't go, I don't get."

I wish that every Mason would take to his heart this bit of homespun philosophy.

Connaught Lodge No. 69, Viking

Brotherhood

"Human brotherhood is not just a goal. It is a condition on which our way of life depends. The question for our time is not whether all men are brothers. That question has been answered by the God who placed us on Earth together. The question is whether we have the strength and will to make the brotherhood of man the guiding principle of our daily lives."

John F. Kennedy

An Event for the Guinness Book of Records

At the April meeting of Forestburg Lodge No. 128, there was a memorable and truly historic event. Lodge was opened by W.Bro. Dennis Oberg, W.M. with all other chairs filled by members of the Oberg family. M.W.Bro. Millar, the then G.M., together with a number of Grand Lodge Officers, added to the significance of the evening. The final addition to an exceptional meeting was the conferring of the Fellowcraft Degree on Bro. Robert L. Davies by the Northern Alberta Degree Team. At the end of the meeting, W.Bro. Claude Oberg was presented with his 50-year Jewel and W.Bro. Lester Oberg was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in Forestburg Lodge. There was hardly anything else that could have happened at a Masonic meeting!



The Oberg Family and guest — back row (l. to r.): Bro. Doug, W.Bro. Eldon, Bro. John, R.W.Bro. Everett and Bro. Barry Oberg — front row (l. to r.): Bro. Alan Oberg, M.W.Bro. Don Millar, and Bro. Dennis, W.Bro. Lester, Bro. James and W.Bro. Claude Oberg.

For All Those Born Before 1945

We are survivors! Consider the changes we have witnessed.

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees and the PILL.

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens — before coffee mug warmers, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes — and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then we lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Outdoor Theatre.

We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were

before day-care centres, group therapy and suntan parlours. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, VCR's, electronic typewriters, home computers, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness — not computers or condominiums. A chip meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hammers and nails; and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. The dairy sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy Orange Crush or enough stamps to mail one letter and two post cards and they were delivered next day! You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600 — but who could afford one? A pity too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon!

In our day, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were definitely before unisex and "operations". We made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was naive enough to think that husbands were needed to have a baby.

No wonder our kids don't understand us!!!

Take the time!

Take the time! You have heard the expression "take the time," or "make the time." In our lives, we have many demands on time. Some of us find 8 hours in our regular vocations to be too little. Some discover that "sleep and refreshment" is really a luxury, not devoting a full 8 hours when 4 or 6 will do.

But what about 8 hours for "the service of God and a distressed Brother"? We can recollect many instances when time was taken to help someone to whom we owed a social obligation. A child or a parent is frequently given aid in the form of labour, counsel and comfort. We should assist whenever these persons appear needy, and always enquire after family well-being.

Being a good family person may seem to take all our extra time, but, if you "take the time," you can, in minutes or fractions of an hour, help others. This is, after all, "the distinguishing feature of a Mason."

Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2

A militant attitude often betrays an inner turmoil.

- Emile Caillet