



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 60: No. 3

Editor, RW Bro. Norman J. Senn

March 1995

Craft Lodge Honours Potentate

Presentation Of 50 Year Jewel To Jack Armstrong

On October 24, 1994, a 50 year certificate and jewel were presented to W. Bro. Jack Armstrong of Hussar Lodge. Of particular significance is, that in 1994, W. Bro. Armstrong was the Potentate of the Al Azhar Shrine Temple and it may be the first time a 50 year jewel has been presented to a Potentate of the Shrine while in office.

W. Bro. Armstrong was Master of Hussar Lodge in 1950 and 1974 and continues to hold an office in the Lodge and be very involved. The brethren of Hussar congratulated him on a year of such high honour and thanked him for the leadership and contribution he has brought to the Lodge, not only this year, but for the past fifty years.



Pictured left to right are MW Bro. Costigan, MW Bro. Burton, W. Bro. Jack Armstrong, Bro. Lorne Snyder, WM, and MW Bro. Dave Bruce.

Submitted by W. Bro. Lorne Snyder

A Tale Of Restoration And Survival

There is absolutely nothing to commend a Model T Ford to anybody unless you happen to be fortunate enough to own one. I am talking vintage 1923 or thereabouts; then, no matter how rough it rides or how ugly — and face it, a Model T is ugly — no effort is spared to restore it. And so, because of its age and the state of decrepitude in which it was found, the relic becomes an object of pride to its owner and a receptacle for untold numbers of five dollar bills. The owner considers himself lucky to own such a prize and lavishes more care and cash upon it than on his wife or kids. The whole project becomes a crusade to restore the old Tin Lizzie to its former pristine, any-colour-you-like-so-long-as-it's-black condition.

Well, it is sort of like that with our Lodge building, up in the wilds of Alix. Ionic-Landmark Lodge at Alix happens to possess a building comparable in age and ugliness with a Model T. The building stands on a corner lot of a quiet side street facing the Alix MACC School, a block east of Main street. There it stands — a Western Canadian Gothic cube — devoid of attractive features, with blind, boarded-up windows, peeling paint, rusting metal siding and a front door held fast against intruders by a massive, ancient steel padlock. A characterless silver block rising two floors

above street level, standing on a patch of well manicured weedy grass, false-fronted in the manner of western towns. With its boarded-up windows, it is remarkable only for its plainness and air of mystery.

Inside the building, which has been used for a multitude of purposes at various times over the last seventy years, including a one-room schoolhouse and fire-hall, vestiges of quality and workmanship are more evident. Behind dusty unwashed curtains, a layer of vapour-barrier contained debris of broken glass, decades old spider webs and decaying wood, testify to years of neglect. Inner walls, constructed of fine, narrow, tongue and grooved boards bearing signs of some kind of past culinary disaster, had not seen new paint since the days of the depression. Certainly there were no signs of the walls having been washed down for ages. Upstairs the same state of neglect and disrepair made a sorry scene.

Only in the Lodge room itself was there any sense of order and brightness. The carpet, which covers the floor, displays, even now, the ravages of weather intrusion through broken windows and leaking ceiling. Under the carpet, wrought in blue and gold with the symbols of the Craft, the floor-boards creaked and threatened to collapse

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Grand Master	MW Bro. R.H. (Ray) Burton
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Editorial Committee — Editor: RW Bro. Norm Senn, 282-8170

Bro. Bob Millsap; Bro. Trevor Morris;

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into the room below. A substantial beam supported by three tele-posts could have corrected that particular problem.

After a while, the state of the Lodge got to us. We began to compare it in our minds with other Lodge rooms which we visited, and became ashamed of its condition.

Somewhere about that time, the Lodge was honoured with the visit of the then Grand Master, MW Bro. Myron Lusk. In his address, he spoke of the dangers of inactivity and apathy. It was an inspiring talk. What followed was a spontaneous welter of enthusiasm among the assembled brethren. A number of brethren decided to put their minds and muscles into an effort to improve the condition and appearance of the Lodge. After all, it is ours, notwithstanding the fact that there is no municipal water supply and no sewer connection — then, a Model T does not have automatic transmission and four wheel brakes.

Taking advantage of the warmer weather of Spring, work began on the outside of the building, work that would take us through the summer months. A Building Committee was formed under the chairmanship of W.Bro. Denis Robinson, to organize, plan and coordinate the various operations. He was ably assisted by our Junior Warden, Bro. Bryan Kozak, who brought to the task a professional knowledge and skill exceeded only by his enthusiasm and unstinted time and energy.

We could not have foreseen the reaction that the flurry of activity had upon the passing public, as brethren laboured away at opening long closed windows, freshening the appearance of the doorframes with bright white paint to contrast with the cornflower blue of the doors, and clearing the overgrown sidewalk. The story of this public reaction alone would be worth the telling, if only to show that there is in the community a latent desire to know what Masons do and what they are about. The only downside to this was the necessity of stopping work to talk to the numerous people who paused to ask questions. One long-time resident of Alix actually thought that the building had been abandoned for years, but all applauded the improvements as enhancing the appearance of the village.

(to be continued as the work progresses)

Submitted by Bro. John Hardie, Sec-Treasurer

Grand Master's Itinerary

March

- 1 Balmoral Lodge, St. Albert
- 2 Ivanhoe Lodge, Edmonton Freemasons' Hall
- 6 Mountain View Lodge, Olds
- 7 Gleichen Lodge, Gleichen
- 9 Bassano Lodge, Bassano
- 13 Renfrew Lodge, Calgary Freemasons' Hall
- 14 Crossfield Lodge, Crossfield
- 16 Acme Lodge, Acme
- 17-19 All Canada Conference, Winnipeg
- 21 Palestine Lodge, Tofield
- 25 Loyalty Lodge, PPCLI Officers Mess, Calgary

April

- 21-23 Masonic Spring Workshop, Kananaskis
- 26 Onoway Lodge, Onoway
- 29-30 Yellowknife Lodge, Yellowknife

Masonic Lodge Returns Home

On January 5, Westlock Masonic Lodge held its first meeting in the new Memorial Hall. Prior to the fire, meetings were held at the old Memorial Hall.

One of the first things the members did, upon their return, was to award a \$1,000 Masonic Higher Education Bursary fund to Joe Surmava.

Since the fire, the Lodge has met at the old Eastburg church, thanks to the generosity of the Hazel Bluff United Church. They did not miss a single meeting, in spite of the fire.

The Lodge was fortunate in other ways as well. Even though most of the Lodge furniture was destroyed, the historical records were at the home of the secretary on "the night."

Replacement furniture has been donated by other Lodges and through generous donations from Alberta and as far afield as England.

It is important that the Lodge is back in Westlock, as this year is the 75th Anniversary and will be celebrated in April.

From the **Westlock News** of January 9, 1995
(Covered a quarter page with two photographs)

Clangers

"...while thus circumcised a Mason cannot materially err!"

"45 degrees, the fourth part of a circle — oh sorry, that was metric!"

"...my heart shall be the safe and sacred suppository of..."

Heard by RW Bro. Doug Sherris.

And from MW Bro. Curly Foster, PGM comes a classic — The W. Master asked all visiting brethren to introduce themselves and this was being done, with the usual, "Bro. _____, Kitchener Lodge, No. 95," "Bro. _____, Beacon Lodge No. 190," when a rather tired brother, who was in real estate, stood up and said, "Bro. _____, Century 21!"

Thanks to the senders and those who dropped the "clangers".

Recognition



Congratulations go to RW Bro. "Babe" Fuller of Rockyford Lodge on receiving his fifty-Year Jewel from RW Bro. Phillip Wallis, DDGM, Dinosaur District. Bro. Fuller has contributed many years of dedicated service to the Craft and the members warmly applauded his achievement.

National Camping Travellers

Are you a Mason on the move with a tent or RV?

Did you know that there is a recreational camping group for Master Masons? It is called National Camping Travellers or N.C.T. and this is a recreational group composed of Master Masons, their families and the widows of deceased N.C.T. members. The purpose of the group is to promote family fun, fellowship and the love of the great outdoors. The only requirement for members in N.C.T. is that you must be a Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge of a recognized jurisdiction.

Unlike most RV groups which are made up of people from many different organizations, N.C.T. Chapters are composed of members of the Masonic family and share a common interest. Because of this common interest, there is a stronger bond of fellowship between members. We also have more fun!

Activities of N.C.T. include the annual National Rally attended by members from all of their chapters in the United States and Canada. District and state rallies are also attended by chapters from those bodies. Each chapter has its own monthly campout during the months of good weather. In the winter, dinner meetings are held. Chapters in the warmer climates have campouts all year.

The official magazine of N.C.T., NEWS TO CAMPERS, is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Through it, the members are kept informed of what is happening in other chapters and states.

For members with minor children or grandchildren, there is a youth organization (Y.N.C.T.) They have their own elected officers and are under the supervision of the National Youth Director.

This RV group is composed of fun loving Masons. We invite you to come to a campout before you join.

To find the chapter nearest you, contact NATIONAL CAMPING TRAVELLERS, INC. 1800-C Speedy Avenue, Chesapeake, VA 23320. Phone (804) 4206629.

From The Royal Arch Mason

What Freemasonry Means To Me

An excellent article was found in the newsletter of Black Forest Lodge No. 901, Lahr, Germany, American-Canadian Grand Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of Germany. The article was written by Bro. D.T. Zabecki, who affiliated with that Lodge. The Lodge building was home to a Masonic Lodge for over 100 years when it was taken over as Nazi Party Headquarters during WWII. The building was returned and is now a Lodge once again. Bro. Zabecki recounts that, in March 1994, he saw an initiation that rivalled Rudyard Kipling's initiation. On this day in 1994, a Christian German and a Muslim Turk were initiated by a Worshipful Master who was a Canadian Jew and who was named Bro. Roger Solomon. Bro. Zabecki writes, "Think about it. In today's world of insane sectarian violence and hatred a German and a Turk stood side by side as brothers before the Altar of Freemasonry. A Jewish Master administered the obligation to a German on the Christian Bible and to a Moslem Turk on the Koran, making them brothers in Freemasonry with both himself and the assembled Canadian, American and German brothers present. In many places of the world today, such an event would be unthinkable. What made it even more poignant was that it took place in a building formerly under the control of an organization dedicated to hatred and intolerance. With the possible exception of the International Scouting movement, no other organization in the world today is capable of bringing together, as brothers, men that some distorted minds would classify as "natural enemies". This is what Freemasonry means to me.

News Item

The December newsletter of the United Grand Lodge of England contains the information that Grand Lodge approved the Board of General Purposes recommendation that "notwithstanding its unusual formation the "Prince Hall" Grand Lodge of Massachusetts should now be accepted as regular and be recognized." The item continues, "The recognition applies only to the "Prince Hall" Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Applications for recognition of other "Prince Hall" Grand Lodges may follow and each will be considered on its own merits. Meanwhile, bans on visits to some Grand Lodges in North America in which Masons from unrecognised Grand Lodges might be met, must continue — but perhaps not for long."

Why "XX" Means Kiss, Kiss

The X at the end of today's letter indicates a kiss. The custom originated in medieval times where it was originally a cross, the sign of Saint Andrew, which indicated good faith and honesty. The cross placed after a signature or agreement made it binding. The signer then kissed the document to further guarantee of good faith. Over the centuries, the cross tilted and looked like the letter X. While the origin of the custom was forgotten, people still associate the X with a kiss.

The Northern Light

Hands Across The Border 1995

On April 8, 1995, eight Master Masons, representing two Masonic Districts in Saskatchewan and two in Alberta, will compete in the Annual Speaking Competition known as "Hands Across The Border." This will be the sixth occasion on which this fraternal rivalry has been played out, and interest has grown with each year.

The Lakeland Inn in Grand Centre, Alberta, will be the site of this year's competition, which will be preceded by a tour of Esso's Heavy Oil Development for those who are interested, then lunch followed by the speakoff. In the evening will be a banquet and dance, and on the Sunday morning, a brunch will be served. All of the festivities will be open to the general public, and the competing speakers, while dealing with some aspect of the effect of Masonry in everyday life, are required to make their speeches suitable for public consumption.

The weekend is being hosted by Astra Lodge No. 179, Cold Lake, Alberta, and further information may be obtained from RW Bro. Don Dygert at 403-639-3103.

Proposed Agenda

Saturday

0900 - 1200 Hours — Tour of Esso Production Plant
1230 - 1330 Hours — Lunch, Lakeland Inn
1330 - 1630 Hours — Speakoff, Lakeland Inn
1630 - 1800 Hours — Social Get-Together, Lakeland Inn
1800 - 2030 Hours — Banquet, Lakeland Inn
2030 - 2300 Hours — Dance, Lakeland Inn

Sunday

0930 - 1100 Hours — Brunch, Lakeland Inn

Summonses/Notices

The Grand Lodge Bulletin Committee has the interesting and enlightening task, each month, of reviewing the notices and summonses of all the Lodges in Alberta. Not only are they reviewed for each Lodge's agenda but for the general aspects of Masonry conveyed in the Master's message.

There is, in fact, so much interesting information that the computer data banks of the Bulletin Committee have a considerable backlog of stored material!

It is interesting to note that it is the smaller rural Lodges who are most informative, by providing local Lodge news and material for general Lodge enlightenment. There are of course a few disappointments, with some notices providing only the bare essentials of a summons — some are even downright skeletal. Others detail really interesting events and anniversaries, which are observed too late for inclusion in the **Bulletin**, by the time they are received. Lodges should remember that, in order for material to be published, it must be in the Grand Lodge Office at the beginning of a month, two months before it will become available to the members. For example, material received at the beginning of February will be mailed to members with their April Summons. Mail or FAX your general interest information to Grand Lodge, using the information found in the masthead on page 2.

For some brethren, the **Grand Lodge Bulletin** is the

only gateway keeping them in touch with the Craft and it is a great disappointment to hear of Lodges who do not mail the **Bulletin** to their members.

The greatest pleasure, however, is to see, over the years that many Lodges have made a real and continuing effort to improve their notices with good content, improved clarity of printing, as well as interesting style and format.

A special word of thanks must go, not only to the members who obtain the material, but to the word processors, publishing programs, photocopiers and computer systems in general. Keep up the great work — the Bulletin Committee looks forward to more stimulating reading in future years.

Bro. Trevor Morris, Bulletin Committee



The Lodge at Kananaskis 21, 22 & 23 April 1995

The Workshop Committee very much regrets that the Theme Speaker, W.Bro. Tim Vandenbrink of Dominion Lodge, Edmonton, will be unable to be present due to a special work commitment. In his place, the Committee is arranging a keynote speaker of like quality. Once arrangements are confirmed, the DDGMs and Lodges will be informed. So please stay tuned.

As a reminder, we include another application form and invite all who have never attended a Spring Workshop to join the many regular attenders and enrich their Masonic lives.

Registration

To attend the workshop, you must have at least received your EA Degrees. The registration fee of \$220 is based on **double occupancy**, and it includes two nights accommodation and five meals starting with supper on Friday evening and ending with breakfast on Sunday. Single accommodation is available at a fee of \$295. **This fee must accompany your registration. Post-dated cheques will not be accepted.** Please make cheque payable to the M.S.W.P. Committee. Your cancelled cheque or charge card billing is your receipt.

No refund available after 7 April 1995.

To register, fill out the registration form (on the other side or from your Secretary or DDGM) and **send it with the required fees direct to the MSWPC.**

Masonry Starts Up New Industry

An interesting side issue, noticed in an article from BC, was a new industry started because of a Masonic Lodge. A restored Lodge room of North Star Lodge No. 30, BC, is Fort Steele Heritage Town's latest exhibit. It is on the second floor of Coventry's Opera House. Based on preserved wallpaper samples, the Lodge's original wallpaper has been replicated by the Friends of Fort Steele Society and was hung by the Fort Steele staff. In the process, a new historic wallpaper printing business was started to supply other Heritage sites with reproduction wallpaper!

It was also noted that a \$30,000.00 donation was made by a local resident for the renovation of the Lodge room. The donor was so pleased with the results that he is now considering renovations to the "festive room" and the "Tyler's room".

The Lodge operated from 1900 to 1944.

If you have visited the Lodge halls in Fort Edmonton and Heritage Park, Calgary, next time you are travelling down near Cranbrook you should drop in and look at Fort Steele's Lodge hall too.

Masonic Spring Workshop 1995 Registration Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Second Name _____

Name as it should be on your Name Tag _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Lodge Name & No. _____ Current Office _____

Yes ☐ No ☐
Attended before?

Rank: MM ☐ WM ☐ PM ☐ Other: _____

Smoking: Yes ☐ No ☐ Special health requirements?
(elevator, diet, etc.) _____

I wish to room with: _____

Name _____ Lodge _____

(Cards should be received together to ensure request filled.)

☐ Visa _____ /

☐ MasterCard _____ Number ▲ _____ Expiry ▲ _____

Signature ▲ _____ Today's Date ▲ _____

Mail with cheque or credit data or fax with credit data to:

Masonic Spring Workshop Planning Committee

Box 265, Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0

Phone 403-335-4384 Fax 403-335-2398

Eminent Speaker To Visit Alberta

March the 25th will be a very special day for Alberta Masons who can get to Calgary to hear a gifted speaker on Masonry. FIAT LUX Lodge of Research will be hosting **VW Bro. Neville Barker Cryer**, Past Grand Chaplain of the United Grand Lodge of England on his International Lecture Tour.

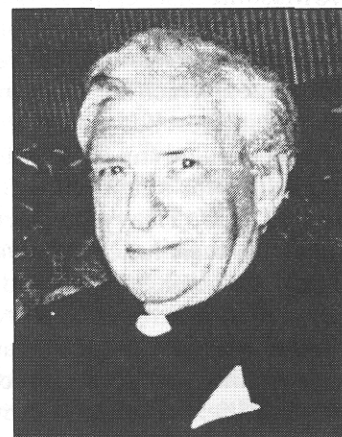
VW Bro. Cryer is a Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Research

Lodge, the Premier Research Lodge of the world. He is a Prestonian Lecturer and the author of a number of books on Masonry and religion.

Bro. Cryer has recently relocated his residence to the City of York and has gained access to a whole new research resource in the library and archives. This has led him to the topic of his presentation, which will be "The Grand Lodge of York — a New Appraisal."

His presentation will be followed by questions on the origin of our own Ancient York Rite, one of the two approved rites of Alberta, and questions on other related topics will be posed.

Tickets for the meeting and the banquet to follow will be \$25.00. These are available from any FIAT LUX Officer or the Secretary-Treasurer, RW Bro. Tom Hargreaves at 403-269-7486.



VW Bro. Neville Barker Cryer

Why Masons Quit

In order to explain our meaning, please excuse us, if, for a moment, we go off at a tangent and make a paradoxical statement: The Mason who quits Masonry is not a Mason at all, and never has been one!

It is true that he has been initiated — so has the proverbial horse been led to the water — but, if the noble quadruped does not drink, the thirst it had has not been assuaged and it is no better than before. There is no virtue in being led to the water.

We can place into a suitable position a man to be made a Mason, that is, lead him to the Altar of Masonry, where are located the refreshing waters, and if he does not partake, what reason have we for thinking that he is one whit different than he was before?

We might, with just as much reason, expect a cure to take place by showing the patient the liniment and rubbing the bottle.

In the church — and practically all churches — a man is baptized, confirmed, received, or what not, but it all amounts to nothing, if the man himself is not changed.

Quebec Journal

Masonic Pride Is Key Element In Restoration Project

Freemasons' Hall in Calgary, which houses the Grand Lodge offices and is the meeting place of numerous Calgary Lodges and concordant assemblies, will soon be the beneficiary of the most extensive improvement and maintenance effort seen in its sixty-seven year history.

This is due in great measure to the remarkable pride and generosity being demonstrated by brethren and friends, who are rallying to support the recently announced "Friends of Freemasons' Hall" project.

The main feature of the fund-raising activity allows for the generosity of Masons and friends to be recorded on brass plaques affixed to a large oak panel located in the lower banquet room of Freemasons' Hall.

The plaques may honour the donor, acknowledge a spouse, relative or friend or can be appropriately inscribed to the memory of a deceased Masonic relative or friend.

Additional encouragement to support this significant building improvement activity, has come from the Valley of Calgary, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite which will donate one dollar for every four dollars donated by individuals, to a maximum of twenty thousand dollars.

Donations may be forwarded to: I & M Fund, Calgary Freemason's Hall, 330 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary T2R OH2.

St. John Ambulance Award

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta recently received a certificate stating:

"The Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Alberta Council RESOLVED that the Special Thanks of the President and Officers of the Alberta Council be hereby conveyed to the Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Alberta, AF & AM, for valuable assistance rendered in the furtherance of the work of the Order in connection with the Alberta Council. 29th September, 1994."

These thanks are to all Alberta Masons for sharing in the support of the First Aid courses now being taught in Alberta Elementary Schools. The support is shared by Craft Masonry and Concordant Bodies.

Quotes

The will to persevere in the face of obstacles is often the difference between success and failure.

An unaspiring person believes according to what he achieves. An aspiring person achieves according to what he believes.

Sri Chinmoy

Doing nothing more than the average is what keeps the average down.

William Winans

In life, as in football, you won't go far unless you know where the goalposts are.

Arnold Glasgow

Notices

Congratulations go to Perfection Lodge, Calgary, for the continuing high quality appearance of its Notices. The raised print in deep blue is most impressive and the content matches. When the Lodge had its one-hundredth Installation, the Special Notice was a piece of art and was a joy to receive. In addition, the giant banner which they have had professionally produced for this celebration year shows considerable thought having gone into their planning and, with this start, it should be a great celebration year.

Communication is obviously high on the priorities of Perfection Lodge.

What Masons Do

In an excellent Master's Message on Charity, Worshipful Master Fred Klapstein of Avon Glen Lodge, Edmonton, congratulates the members for supporting a young boy and his family with substantial financial support, assisted by the Masonic Foundation. He noted "It was gratifying to see that the brethren were interested in meeting the need, without being concerned about who the young man was or about how this could be publicised".

The Lacombe Globe for December 6, 1994 had a two column inch block entitled, "What Masonry is" which outlined many Masonic principles. This had been placed in the Personal Column by a local Brother.

Clipping submitted by MW Bro. Curly Foster

Lodge Dues

It is still obvious from the Notices of Motion seen in Lodge summonses that some Lodges increase their dues regularly to deal with increases of fees or assessments from Grand Lodge. These are not truly costs of operating the Lodge and many Lodges have overcome the necessity of frequent or even regular increases by having in their By-laws the following: "The Lodge dues shall be \$ (amount) plus Grand Lodge fees and assessments." Then, if Grand Lodge costs increase, no change is required in the Bylaws — the Secretary just informs the members what the total dues will be. If your Bylaws do not read this way, they should, for the convenience of the members.

Manitoba Mason Honoured In BC

A special meeting was called of Park Lodge, Vancouver, to recognise Bro. Dr. Gordon Fahrni on his 107th birthday! Bro. Fahrni, who is a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge, in Winnipeg, now resides in BC. In his long and outstanding career as a physician, he was the creator of iodized salt and private physician to Bro. Sam Bronfman of Seagrams. Bro. Fahrni is probably the oldest Shriner and is certainly the oldest holder of a driving licence in BC. He was born April 13, 1887 and is still an avid golfer.

Bro. Fahrni is an amazing man, as well as an outstanding Mason, and we congratulate him.