



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 62, No. 7

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

September 1997

The Most Worshipful Grand Master

MWBro Hugh Young was born at Motherwell, Scotland on November 14, 1944. He married Margaret Aitchison at Linlithgow on December 10, 1966 and a week later, the couple emigrated to Canada, making their home in Calgary. They are now the parents of two daughters, Sharon (26) and Tanya (24). The whole family have been active in Job's Daughters, with our Brother having served a term as Associate Guardian of Bethel No. 1. On May 5, 1995 he retired after over 28 years as a member of the Calgary Police Service, with the rank of Inspector. He had served as Commander of the Training Section, as one of four Police Crisis Management Team Commanders, as well as the Band Officer for the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band. Academically, he holds a BA degree from Athabasca University.

For several years, in his "spare" time, Hugh has operated Linshaw Enterprises Inc., which deals in various aspects of computers, including the creation and marketing of Masonic-related software, a business which he is working to expand greatly in years to come. At present he is working on a contract with a large company, training employees in a computer system and working the Help Desk. His hobbies include reading, walking, Masonic and genealogical research and, now that he is retired, numerous "catch up" repairs on his house, provided there is any time left!

Bro Young was initiated in Lodge St. Clair No. 427, Cambusnethan, Scotland, on February 3, 1965, proposed by his father as a "Lewis", but, unfortunately the elder Bro Young passed to the Grand Lodge Above a month before the initiation of his son. Once settled in Calgary, Bro Young affiliated with Concord Lodge No. 124 and served that Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1975 and 1981. He was DDGM of District No. 18 (now Phoenix District) for 1982/83, Grand Treasurer in 1988 to 1990 and Prosecutor of Masonic Offences (South) from 1991 to 1993. He had been active in the Masonic Spring Workshop as Theme Speaker (1975), Chairman, Schools of Instruction (1983), Secretary-Treasurer (1984-89) and conducted a School on Leadership (1996). He had also served various terms on the Board of General Purposes, its Finance and Budget Committees and Special Committees of Grand Lodge. In 1994, Bro Young was elected Junior Grand Warden and on June 14, 1997 he was duly installed as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. He greets his Brethren with the following message.



MWBro Hugh Young

Grand Master's Message

The 93rd year of the Grand Lodge of Alberta has started and I am honoured and humbled at being in stewardship of the position of Grand Master. There are challenges ahead for each of us — in our personal life, our business life and in our Masonic life — such is the nature of living. Working with the Theme of the Grand Lodge for the 93rd year can only make our lives more fulfilling and rewarding and aid us in addressing each new challenge and each new day:

Be Happy and Communicate that Happiness to others.

Working with senior Grand Lodge Officers, it was agreed that a future direction for Freemasonry in our jurisdiction must be charted. To this end, I have appointed a Special Committee to develop a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan for the jurisdiction. This committee is chaired by the Junior Grand Warden, RWBro Gerald T. Webber. I encourage all Masons to work with this committee in determining the future of our Craft.

I have appointed a Special Committee under the Chairmanship of the Senior Grand Warden, RWBro Art Jones, to review all aspects of Masonic Charity and Benevolence and develop a plan to coordinate these and provide a focus for Masonic charities in the Province.

To support the Masonic Charities, I have asked each District Deputy to have a fund raising project within his District or in conjunction with other Districts. The purpose of such fund raising is twofold, namely, to raise funds and also to have Brethren within a District or area work together for a Masonic purpose. To set the example in this matter, I am distributing "Grand Master's Pins" for a minimum donation of \$4.00 with all proceeds being directed to the Masonic Charities. These pins are available only from me or at an event which I attend.

I will be visiting all parts of our jurisdiction in the upcoming year, although the number of visits will be substantially less than in recent years, and I look forward to meeting each and everyone of you. The key to a healthy Lodge and the key to a healthy Grand Lodge is a positive attitude and the demonstration of that positive attitude on a daily basis in all facets of a Brother's life.

Brethren:

Be Happy and Communicate that Happiness to others!
Fraternally,

Hugh Young, Grand Master

Grand Lodge Bulletin

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| Deputy Grand Master | RWBro James W. Roberts |
| Senior Grand Warden | RWBro J. Art Jones |
| Junior Grand Warden | RWBro Gerald T. Webber |
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 WBro Peter Proudlock

Editorial

Prince Hall Recognition

At the 92nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, AF&AM, June 13–14, 1997, on the recommendation of the Committee on Fraternal Relations, the Brethren voted to extend recognition to “The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut Incorporated.” How did this come about and what does it mean?

The Prince Hall Masons of Connecticut had submitted their request for recognition to our Grand Lodge (and other Canadian jurisdictions) in 1995. Our committee investigated that Grand Lodge and found it and its Constituent Lodges to fully comply with the rules for recognition of another body. Whoever is not conversant with these criteria is well advised to read up on them. They are available to every Brother and are reprinted annually in the Grand Lodge Proceedings, a copy of which *must* be on the Secretary’s desk of every Lodge at every meeting. They stipulate such prerequisites as a belief in a Supreme Being, the GAOTU; a belief in life hereafter; the requirement of the open VOSL in Lodge while at work; making Masons of men only; the fundamentals of secrecy, the 3-Degree system of the Craft, the Hiram Legend and the symbolism of the Operative Art; the practice of benevolence, charity and education; the prohibition of controversial political and sectarian religious discussion; and the adherence to the ancient landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft. In addition, and of particular interest to us, as we consider this article, is the criterion of “sovereign territorial jurisdiction or, if the territorial jurisdiction be shared with another Body or Bodies, then by mutual consent...”

The latter criterion has been answered by the fact that the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF&AM, established in 1789 and with whom we have been in amity for a long time, recognizes the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and is recognized by it, mutually agreeing to share common territorial jurisdiction.

It is also of importance to us to know that the United Grand Lodge of England, who had first recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in December, 1994, has also extended recognition to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, September 11, 1996.

What is the practical import of the recognition? Aside from now terming each other as “being in amity” and appointing Grand Representatives to and from Connecticut, it also opens

Brother Recognized by Community

On March 8, 1997, at the celebration of the Excellence Awards banquet held in Drumheller, **WBro Doug Wade** of Symbol Lodge was presented with an award and proclaimed **Citizen of the Year for 1996** by the Drumheller club of Rotary International. This recognition was provided after nominations and letters of recommendation were received from St. Maglories Anglican Church, the City of Drumheller, the Canadian Badlands Passion Play, the Drumheller Ski Club and the Keystone Society of Drumheller. The latter is formed by the two Lodges of Drumheller, and the Royal Arch and Eastern Star Chapters.

At the same time, the **Keystone Society of Drumheller** was nominated as **The Community Organization of the Year**. Both honours, that going to an individual Brother Mason and that recognizing an organization composed of members of the Masonic Family, have enhanced the profile and exposure of Freemasonry in Drumheller.

Information submitted by
 RWBro Darwin K. Durnie

the door to intervisitations: Alberta Brethren may visit Lodges of Prince Hall of Connecticut and their Brethren may visit ours. MWBro W.E. (Curly) Foster, who had been the Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee from 1985–1997, said that reaching this accord, after many years of contemplation, constitutes the highlight of his experience in that position and service for the Craft. We may all express our gratitude for his efforts to him.

Another question must be answered: “What does all of this NOT mean?” It does not mean the same rights and privileges to be extended to any other Prince Hall Grand Lodge, just as recognition is being granted to any other Grand Jurisdiction, one at a time, regardless if it be of the Prince Hall or any other variety. At present, in 1997, it does not mean fraternal relations between Alberta and the PHGL of Massachusetts, even though it is recognized by England and other jurisdictions, or between Alberta and the PHGL of Minnesota (recognized by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota AF&AM), because no such request has as yet been received here. (Actually, it is the younger jurisdiction that has to do the asking and many are older than ours.) The PHGL of Minnesota is mentioned here only because there are Prince Hall Lodges operating in Alberta, under warrant from the PHGL of Minnesota. This opens the proverbial “can or worms,” because Article 3 of our Constitution claims jurisdiction, for our Grand Lodge, over all Masons, affiliated or not, resident within Alberta and that part of the Northwest Territories west of the 4th meridian. This article might eventually be subject to amending, however, the Act of the Legislature of Alberta, of 1908, grants the same “sole jurisdiction over Free Masons in the Province of Alberta,” a right granted by the legislative assembly of the country — not a common occurrence in Freemasonry and something surely to be treasured and preserved. This must be kept in mind if and when consideration of Prince Hall Masonry should emerge closer to home.

Meanwhile, let us welcome the decision to enter into fraternal relations with the Prince Hall Masons of Connecticut.

Commercial Convenes in the Country



Those of you who have gone camping, or who have a cabin in the country, already know what it's like to "get away from it all." There is the ritual of planning and packing, the sense of anticipation as you make the trek to your destination and the joy of setting things up. After the satisfaction you feel during the few moments you have to relax, there is the regret at packing it all up again and then the great feeling of coming home. From the experience, you keep the memories, the recollection of unusual events and friendships strengthened by the shared experience. As you contemplate how good it is to "get away from it all" you realize how good it is to get "back to basics" once in a while.

I was thinking about this in June when Commercial Lodge, which usually meets in Freemasons' Hall in Edmonton, held its regular Saturday afternoon meeting in an old barn in the country. As I sat on a bale of hay on the sidelines, in a building constructed about the same time as the Lodge was formed in 1913, it struck me that when you do away with the convenience of a central location, strip away the warmth and shelter of a building with central heating and do without the splendor of a fine old Lodge room with hand-carved and carefully maintained furnishings, you are left with the core of Freemasonry: an elegant ceremony full of meaning, re-enacted with care and attention by friends you have known for years. It was nice to be able to sit back as the Master of the Lodge and watch while the Past Masters filled the "chairs" once again. It has been over 16 years since the three senior officers had filled those chairs and it brought back a flood of good memories and feelings for them and for those of us who watched.

The barbecue afterwards was all the more delicious just because of the fresh air. As everyone was lining up for food, one of the senior members was overheard saying, "When I joined Freemasonry, this is what I thought it would be like." I was struck by two things. First, I was sorry to hear that he had not experienced as much fellowship and camaraderie as he had expected to find when he joined and second, I was glad that he finally had a chance to experience it in this setting.

When it was all over and the last of the regalia had been put

away for the summer, I had a chance to reflect on the whole experience. "Was it worth all the planning and extra work?"

"Absolutely!"

"Should we do it again?"

"Without question!"

"Should we do this all the time?"

"No way!"

Just like getting away to a summer cabin, you enjoy the experience because it is different from what you normally do. Just like camping, it allows you to get back to basics once in a while and to appreciate what you have back home. I know I will look around at our regular Lodge room with greater appreciation for the comfort, convenience, and elegance we often take for granted.

I heartily recommend the experience to any Lodge, particularly city Lodges. The festive board can be as simple or elaborate as you want, the fellowship and fresh air will make it taste fantastic. All in all, it is a wonderful Masonic way to get "away from it all" and "back to basics" all at the same time.

David A. Roth

Worshipful Master, Commercial Lodge No. 81

The Northeast Angle

Valdivia, situated near 40° south latitude in Chile, is home to two Masonic Lodges which have recently suffered a loss of their building by fire. We recall how a similar, unfortunate incident struck our own Westlock Lodge not too long ago and how the Brethren from throughout Alberta rallied to come to the rescue. We are in amity with the Grand Lodge of Chile AF&AM and, therefore, many of our Brethren may want to help alleviate the distress in which our Chilean Brethren find themselves. In the words of the NE A lecture then, "Anything... you may feel disposed to give... will be thankfully received and faithfully applied."

Brethren willing to help in this worthy cause are asked to send their cheques directly to the Worshipful Master:

Jose Antonio de la Vega

and forward the cheque in a blank envelope (with no Masonic emblems because Chileans must be careful with outward manifestations of Masonic connections), but with the name and address of the sender, by **registered mail**, addressed to

Professor Jose Antonio de la Vega
Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias
Universidad Austral de Chile
Casilla 567
Valdivia, Chile

We are indebted to WBro George Fitzsimmons (142) for having brought this need to our attention.

100th Anniversary

Eureka Lodge No. 10

Eureka Lodge No. 10 of Lacombe is preparing to celebrate a Reconsecration service on October 4, 1997. The Brethren expect Masonic and political dignitaries to be in attendance and are planning a dinner and entertainment to follow the ceremony.

As the *Grand Lodge Bulletin* has not received further details, such as for time of day, etc., interested Brethren are advised to contact the Secretary of Eureka Lodge, **Bro Wayne Armishaw**, for further details: phone (403) 782-2895.

Glimpses from the Grand Lodge Communication of 1997

For the benefit of those who were unavoidably detained from being in attendance, here is how the motions to amend the Constitution or the Regulations fared:

The motion to drop the traditional prefixes to "Worshipful" for past ranks, in favour of reverting to simply "Brother", as is the case in some jurisdictions (but not elsewhere in Canada) failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority. So, we'll carry on as in the past. (Incidentally, this editor considers the appellation "Brother" as the most meaningful to him. Others will surely agree.)

The motion to expand the number of members on the Committee on the Work and make these elected offices rather than appointments, also failed to pass. It may have been felt that, in the past, the Committees had not done such a bad job. So, the status quo it is.

A housekeeping motion clarifying that PMs and others who hold more than one office may claim only one ballot, was carried.

The motion to exempt members of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research from paying the Grand Lodge fees and assessments (for a second or third time because their members must remain to be regular members of an Alberta Craft Lodge and in many cases already belong to two and therefore pay assessments once or twice), received strong endorsement. The only objection that such an exemption might create a precedent was readily contradicted and the members present may have gained some insight into the services rendered to all members and Lodges willing to avail themselves of them. An interesting sidelight was learning how many of the 64 Research Lodges in the world already enjoy such exemption and how many are even being subsidized by their Grand Lodges.

Another housekeeping motion dealing with spoiled ballots was also easily carried.

The final motion, of interest to Canadian Rite Masons only, to revert to the old ways of having to open and close Lodge, in that Rite, in all three degrees, was defeated. The rationale for this had been that, being allowed to conduct business in either the first or the third degree, resulted in Masters and Officers neglecting to learn the whole of *The Work*. It had been overlooked that so much more can be achieved by using the time saved for stimulating Lodge programming of a great variety of Masonic experiences which are more apt to bring the Brethren back to Lodge than the routine. Nothing is lost, however, because it is any Worshipful Master's prerogative to work in all three degrees if he so desires or if the Brethren of his Lodge want it that way.

Aside from these motions, there were many interesting reports and all in attendance enjoyed the messages of visiting dignitaries as well as the moving presentation of the Masonic Medal of Merit to well deserving Master Masons. The outgoing Grand Master's Address and closing remarks and the incoming Grand Master's blueprint for the future, deservedly received standing ovations. For the first time in our history, the Brethren voted to extend recognition to a Prince Hall Grand Lodge (please see the editorial).

And, yet, there was something "with a difference": RWBro Gerald T. Webber, whose appointment to the position of Grand Secretary had already been announced, was declared

the Junior Grand Warden-elect, so at the time of his investiture, first as JGW and then as GSec, he wound up with the JGW cuff on one arm and the GSec cuff on the other. As it was not pointed out at that time, now everybody worries, on which wrist he will have to wear which cuff!

Fiat Lux Lodge of Research

A cordial invitation is extended to all Master Masons to attend at Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton, on Saturday, October 4, 1997. The Lodge will tyle at 11 AM for general business, followed by lunch and labour will resume at 2 PM for the Installation of RWBro John Forsdick and Investiture of Officers for 1997/98, in turn followed by research presentations and a concluding banquet (at a charge of \$10.00). Brethren wishing to stay for the banquet, please inform John Forsdick (Edmonton 403-489-6730) or Tom Hargreaves (Calgary, 403-282-8091) prior to October 1, 1997.

Kananaskis Videos

Again this year, anyone interested in purchasing video tapes of the 32nd Masonic Spring Workshop, April 18-20, 1997, may order directly from:

RWBro Vic Ramsbottom

8 Gladstone Gardens SW

Calgary, AB T3E 7E4

403-242-2031, FAX 403-277-6818

The price per cassette is \$20.00, payable to Vic Ramsbottom.

- Tape 1: "Just Look At Us Now" ten – 12 to 17 minute segments, monitored by RWBro Gerry Webber
- Tape 2: "The Guest Speaker, RWBro Art Jones" and "The Drumheller Experience"
- Tape 3: "RWBro the Rev. Jim Roberts' Sunday Service"

These videos will assist Junior Wardens greatly in programming after-Lodge functions.

Be happy... and communicate that happiness to others

"I haven't any great secret. It's just as plain as the nose on your face. When I get up in the morning... I have two choices — either to be happy or to be unhappy and what do you think I do? I just choose to be happy and that's all there is to it."

RWBro Norman Vincent Peale

The Power of Positive Thinking

Grand Master's Itinerary

September

8 Renfrew Lodge, Calgary

12 Sentinel Lodge, Frank

Rocky Summit Lodge, Frank

17 Stampede Chapter DeMolay, Calgary

19-21 Concord Lodge to visit Kimberley, BC

25-27 Western Jurisdictions Conference, Canmore

October

2 Exemplar Lodge, Edmonton, 40th Anniversary

4-21 Fly to Scotland, Masonic Scotland 1997 Trip

22 Dinosaur District Meeting, Drumheller

24 King George Lodge, Calgary, Railway Night

25 Yellowhead District Meeting, Edmonton

Lodge Vitality

The following is taken from the 1997 Report of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address, by Bros Don Millar, David Roth and Alfie Wong:

The Grand Master (MWBro Basile Costouros) has sounded a timely warning in his message that "Lodges that continue to function poorly will ultimately not be around for very long." This is an important observation and one which is consistent with his theme ("Public Awareness"). Our Lodges are where Masons are made and from whence they go forth to show the world what we are and what we do. If we wish the public to have a positive image of us, our Lodges must be thriving, vital organizations with interesting, stimulating and entertaining gatherings. Lodge meetings should be enjoyable and meaningful if they are to warrant the attendance of intelligent, thoughtful and busy men. More effort is required to educate and train our Lodge officers to envision, plan and organize their meetings and events. We cannot force members to attend boring, unplanned and poorly run meetings. But if Masons are informed, educated and entertained and can include their families and friends in more events, the interest and membership in Masonry will blossom once again. This observation should cause us all to be wary of the pitfalls of mediocrity.

Could it be an opportune time to see the reappearance of Area Workshops or something similar, to train and implement the ideas of Renewal and Public Awareness?

The occasions when visits by the Grand Master had to be cancelled at the last minute because of poor turnout or poor planning for the meeting indicates the weakness in leadership and this must be dealt with from within. Perhaps a review of the Lodge summons must be made which invites and enlightens the membership of upcoming events or visitations and plans for the meeting. A general review of all Lodge notices could very well be in order.

The visit of the Grand Master, or for that matter any Grand Lodge Officer, should be an occasion for careful planning of education and entertainment. This is the area of expertise for the Past Masters and senior members to contribute to the success of those occasions.

Is it possible that the visit of the Grand Master is so frequent that it no longer is an occasion for special planning or for an extra effort to have a good attendance for this particular visit, or should every meeting be so interesting that the Grand Lodge Officer could visit without risk of embarrassment for everyone involved?

Book Review

The Disappearance of God: A Divine Mystery

Richard E. Friedman

Little, Brown & Co. ISBN 0-316-29434-9

This book is by the same author as *Who Wrote the Bible?* which was a very interesting book. The current book is a different sort of book. While it is very readable and enjoyable, the book does tend to follow divergent paths. The basic thesis of the book is that as one progresses through the Old Testament, God disappears. In the early books of the Old Testament God is known through miracles and direct interaction with humans (e.g., Abraham and Moses). Gradually God becomes hidden, leaving humans on their own by the Bible's end. How is it possible that the Bible, written over many centuries by many different authors, depicts this diminishing visible pres-

ence of God so consistently? The author notes that this observation does not appear to be common knowledge, yet the Bible is read by millions every day. The author also notes that humankind appears to be growing up and maturing as the Bible progresses, i.e. people take more and more responsibility for events rather than calling on God to take the responsibility. This section of the book is very interesting and informative.

The author next explores the relationship of Nietzsche, the German philosopher who declared that God was dead and Dostoevsky, the Russian author. These men were contemporaries and both independently developed the notion of the death of God. The analysis of selected writings of each author showing the development of this notion was well done but not terribly interesting to this reviewer. Others may find it fascinating.

The last section of the book deals with modern concepts of particle physics, cosmology and God's place in the universe. One discussion deals with the supposed parallels between the Big Bang cosmology involving a "singularity" and the mysticism of the Kabbalah. The Kabbalah discusses a territory in which religion and science are complementary rather than antagonistic. Other authors have tried to show that today's physics and cosmology include a place for God. Friedman goes over some of this same territory.

The book is well written. As can be seen, it ranges over some broad territory in its 335 pages. It may not be for everyone, but it does deal with some interesting ideas.

Loren Kline

Alberta Miscellany

Following are excerpts gleaned from Lodge Summonses by Bro Trevor Morris of the Bulletin Committee:

Avon Glen Lodge No. 170: "Lodge night again! O Boy! There's a hockey game on! I think I'll stay home tonight!" Is this you? Remember, back when you were received into Freemasonry and were overwhelmed by the support and fellowship from members of the Lodge. Afterwards, at the festive board, you met new Brothers. What a happy occasion! — It's never too late to try Lodge again.

King George Lodge No. 59: Some years back, in my early Masonic years, I brought an elementary school choir to entertain a group of my Brethren. The children were initially disappointed with the low attendance at our meeting. We decided that a huddle was necessary to discuss the situation. As I sat down to face my students, I wondered what kernels of wisdom I could share with a group of kids who had worked so hard to share their talents with us. I turned to the children and asked them one question: "Why are you here and what is it that you love and want to share with us more than anything else?" One little girl shyly raised her hand and in a soft voice said "I want to share my feelings, my music and me with your friends, I don't care how many people are present — I want to share myself with your wonderful friends!"

Fort McMurray Lodge No. 195: Our Worshipful Master has an answering machine in his car. It says, "I'm home now. But leave a message and I'll call you when I'm out."

Concord Lodge No. 124: A government survey stated that in 1890 there were 16 basic needs essential for survival. In 1996 the list has grown to 98 basic needs that are considered essential for survival. Masonry never made the list as essential for survival, however, in 1890 and 1996 it was one of the

options available that improved the quality of life for its members. In 1890 more members were active in Masonry than in 1996. Help us to turn it around in 1997 by attending Concord's meetings instead of staying at home.

King Hiram Lodge No. 21: DO YOU KNOW ANYONE IN THE TATE FAMILY? You have probably heard of the Tate family. They have membership in every organization, including the Masonic Lodge. First there is Dic Tate who wants to run everything. Then we have Ro Tate, who is always trying to change everything. Next comes Agi Tate, who stirs up trouble whenever possible, with his brother Irri Tate, who is always there with a wet blanket every time a new idea is suggested. Hesi Tate and Vegi Tate are there to say they can't possibly work but are more than willing to watch everyone else. Imi Tate just wants to copy others and refuses to try anything new. Devas Tate loves to interrupt and shoot down everyone else's ideas. Poten Tate wants to be the big shot. It's a good thing we often have Facili Tate, Cogi Tate and Medi Tate, who save the day and get everyone pulling together.

Kitscoty Lodge No. 131: Bro Lemp will be giving his plans for a way to increase membership by having a supper, with each Brother to invite someone, not a Mason, to accompany him to the supper. Wives would also be invited. Keep bringing up new ideas, Brethren. This is what is needed to renew interest in Freemasonry.

Mayerthorpe Lodge No. 148: When a Lodge admits, even to itself, that it is looking for members, it has lost one of the characteristics essential to a Masonic Lodge, namely, that being an institution in which membership is sought — not offered or sold. When it does that it will no longer be the "Men's House." A decline in membership is not necessarily bad, an increase in membership is not necessarily good. It is better to have even a substantial decline in membership than to change the essential character of the Order to avoid it, particularly if such a change may make it less attractive to the sort of members who can do the most good. (Proceedings of the 49th Annual Inter-Provincial Conference.)

And a Plea for Mercy: Please don't print the notices in black on very dark paper; be kind to the Brethren with poor eyesight. Please take note, Fort McMurray Lodge, Meridian Lodge and others (Thank you!)

Finally a tip of the hat to Dominion Lodge No. 117: Congratulations on the "1997 Agenda," a stiff-covered, pocket-size calendar of events, complete with membership roster and a rallying message from the Worshipful Master. The idea is not subject to copyright and if this should give other Lodges the impetus to become "copy-cats", then more power to them!

Fatal Accident

While visiting relatives here last year, Canadian RWBro Philip Wallis was on his way to a Masonic meeting when he was involved in a car accident.

News of the tragic accident reached the Grand Secretary from his counterpart in the Grand Lodge of Alberta via fax requesting any on-the-spot assistance that could be mustered in this distressing situation. RWBro Jack Ridley, ProvGM, Waikato, was faxed and quickly made all the necessary contacts with Brethren in the Rotorua area who would be able to render support. Reports were relayed to Canada regularly over the next few days until, after some time in the intensive care unit at Rotorua Hospital, RWBro Wallis passed away. The Grand Lodge of Alberta and RWBro Wallis' Mother Lodge,

Acme Lodge No. 60, have expressed gratitude for the speedy, helpful actions of New Zealand Brethren for a Canadian Brother and his family in these unhappy circumstances.

It is comforting to know that through the worldwide Masonic network such assistance is readily available

From *New Zealand Freemason*, Vol. 25, Issue One, 1997

Good News

The April 1997 Grand Lodge Bulletin reported on an "Investigation into Masonry" by a British House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee into the effect of Freemasonry on the judiciary and the police service. We are now able to quote from the United Grand Lodge of England call for the Quarterly Meeting of the Grand Lodge, 11 June 1997:

Home Affairs Committee Report

The Report as a whole should be welcomed by the Craft as it clears Freemasonry of the substantive allegations made against it by critics who have their own motives or agenda.

The inquiry concluded, *inter alia*:

- a) there is nothing sinister about Freemasonry if its principles are properly followed;
- b) Freemasonry does not encourage malpractice;
- c) there is nothing sinister in the obligations when read in context;
- d) there was no evidence to substantiate allegations that there is a conflict between the oath taken by a Judge or by a policeman and the obligations of a Freemason;
- e) the number of Freemasons within the criminal justice system (*i.e.* judges, magistrates, officials, policemen) gives no general cause for concern;
- f) even when accusations of wrongdoing by Freemasons were not entirely groundless, most or all of the evidence was circumstantial and assumed that steps were taken because the parties concerned were Freemasons rather than for some other reason;
- g) where there has been evidence of improper behaviour by Freemasons, the Freemasons themselves are taking strong action.

The (now former) Lord Chancellor stated that he knew of no evidence "of any substantial kind" that Freemasonry had had any adverse effect on the conduct of magistrates or judges. The Magistrates' Association declared that it saw no problem with Masonic involvement in the magistracy.

Although the Association of Chief Police Officers has stated that it believes membership of organisations such as Freemasonry is undesirable, it admitted that it "had no evidence of any impropriety resulting from Masonic influence." Both the Police Superintendents' Association and the Police Federation rejected the Association of Chief Police Officers' belief and said that there is no evidence that Freemasonry has caused any problems in the police force or that Freemasonry is an undesirable activity.

The Report does however comment adversely on what it sees as a need for Freemasons to identify each other by a series of secret codes or passwords. The Board (of General Purposes of the UGLE) questions whether use of our grips outside our Lodges is necessary and suggests that they should only be used in our ceremonies in Lodge or as a test for visitors.

The Board agrees that our policy of Openness should continue and reminds Brethren of the importance of disclosure of membership whenever there could be the slightest suggestion of conflict of interest.