# Free Tason



Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 69, No. 1

## A First for Alberta

For the first time, in nearly 130 years, since the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Canada was established under a patent dated July 15, 1874, from the Supreme Council of England, Wales and the Dependencies of the British Crown, an Albertan was elected and installed as its Sovereign Grand Commander: III Bro Orlan J.Weber, 33°. The election of our Brother is for a three-year term (2003–2006), which had been preceded by three years in the office of Lieutenant Grand Commander.

Orlan Weber was born in Kitchener, ON, on February 2, 1941, and grew up in New Dundee, ON. He studied civil engineering at Queen's University in Kingston, graduating with a BSc in 1963. Immediately following graduation he was initiated into Freemasonry in Ayr Lodge No. 172, GRC, in Ayr, ON. Less than a week later he was on his way out west to work for Socony Mobil Oil of Canada in Calgary, Drayton Valley, Swan Hills and Edmonton, where he had moved to in December 1963. There, for a short time, he went to work for a construction company and, changing his focus to structural engineering, a year later joined a firm which is now known as Duthie, Newby, Weber & Associates Inc. He is still active in this company as president and a major shareholder. He became a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers in 1992.

While in Drayton Valley, he met his future wife, Janet Latosky. He and Janet have three married boys and three grandchildren, and are still counting on more. They enjoy spending as much time as possible at their summer cabin in the foothills in the old coal mining town of Mercoal where fishing, berry picking, cross country skiing and just relaxing are favourite pastimes.

Having come to Edmonton as an Entered Apprentice, he received the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees in Avon Glen Lodge No. 170 in 1964 as a courtesy to Ayr Lodge No. 172, GRC, and later that year affiliated with Avon Glen, whose Master he became in 1975. He was elected DDGM for District No. 20, now Beaverhills District, for 1986-87. He has served several terms on the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, and since 1996 has been a member of its Committee on the Work. Brother Weber became a member of Edmonton Lodge of Perfection, A&ASR, in 1970, and of Mizpah Chapter Rose Croix HRDM and the Alberta Consistory in 1972. He served as Most Wise Sovereign in 1982-83, was coroneted an Honorary Inspector General 33° in 1987, crowned an Active Member in 1992, became Deputy for the Province of Alberta in 1997 and Lieutenant Grand Commander in 2000. He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and of Al Shamal Temple, AAONMS.



Ill Bro Orlan J. Weber, 33

As stated at the outset, seeing an Alberta Brother Freemason at the head of the Scottish Rite in Canada, for the first time in history, is worth our note and the extension of congratulations.

# Perseverance, The Forgotten Virtue in Freemasonry

WBro Christos Tsaros, Star of the West Lodge No. 34, Leduc, Alberta

Challenges, as a reality of daily life, are for many the cowans at the gate, whether in matters relating to our personal endeavours, in our private avocations, or as part of our Masonic journey.

Although matters pertaining to our

personal endeavours or those dealing with our private avocations are not appropriate to be dealt with in this venue, the Brethren will observe that the knowledge shared about the implications for

See **Perseverance**, page 3.

## Everyone is Invited... "Grand Opening"

Freemasons' Hall — Calgary and the Grand Lodge Office are hosting an  $\it Open\ House$  , Sunday, January 18, 2004 from 1:30 to 4:00 PM.

We hope you will come out to check out the new look, enjoy a glass of wine, a cup of coffee and some great food.

We are all very pleased with the new look of Freemasons' Hall. We have endured working in a construction site for the past six months and are now rewarded with a fine outcome. Your building now has a new elevator, new Library, new banquet room and believe it or not, more room. The construction was a fantastic undertaking and the outcome equally fantastic. Please join us for our Grand Opening.

#### **Editorial**

## **Imparting Masonic Knowledge**

Long gone are the days of early Speculative Freemasonry of the 18th century when the novice was instructed by explanations of the symbols found drawn on the floor of the "Lodge," usually in a tavern, with chalk or charcoal, easily mopped up after the meeting, or later replaced with canvas bearing these symbols which, still later, led to painted "tracing boards," much as we know them today in Canadian Rite Lodges, or previously called "lantern slides" in Ancient York work. Most likely, these were simple lessons of morality and right conduct which, over the following two centuries evolved to more complex teachings, at the same time adding other methods of instruction to enable the new Mason to gain a thorough (?) understanding of the Royal Art.

In more recent times, and in Alberta,

the beautiful and uplifting lessons conveved by means of the ritual have rightly - been added to by instructional sessions involving candidates and tutors, using such teaching aids as the Mentor Plan booklets or, better yet, the Lodge Plan for Masonic Education. Much additional information is thereby offered to the inquisitive mind, providing of course that the tutors (to avoid the ugly term "coaches" taken from the world of sport) are even aware of their existence and, if they are, are willing to always use these aids. One should, of course, go beyond these publications available from Grand Lodge, and make use of a multitude of books in the Grand Lodge library, Lodge libraries and some privately owned ones. Moreover, nowadays, much — if not too much — can be downloaded from the Internet, but there

Editor's Note: We are in full agree-

ment with Bro Hoeksema, but the edi-

torial in question merely dealt with a

discussion on CanMas which did not

touch on language and cultural back-

grounds other than English — not even

our other "official language": French.

More letters on this subject would be

the advice is, paraphrasing the old saying, *Downloader Beware!* 

Immediately the question arises, how to beware. Some of the garbage written about Freemasonry is so obvious that it is not hard to relegate it to the recycle bin, but in some other cases it may take the consultation with insightful and experienced Masons to be able to separate the true from the false. There is something positive about this, however, as this may lead to fruitful and spirited discussion where students and tutors become learners alike, in a Masonic win-win situation.

It all boils down to the importance of not letting the new Masons fend for themselves and be nourished only by the ritualistic experience, important as it is, but to meet often, and not only during the first few months but long after, for the purpose of Masonic growth. There should not be a single Lodge in the jurisdiction where this is neglected!

#### Letter

In response to the editorial on memory work in the November 2003 issue, one must consider that we live in a multi-cultural society (just check the birth places of the DDGMs listed) where English is not always the first language. To be a Mason, one must be free by birth, but where does it say one must have an unbelievable memory?

Ari Hoeksema (168)

## **Frankly Speaking**

greatly appreciated.

I grew convinced that *truth*, *sincerity*, and *integrity*, in dealings between man and man, were of utmost importance to the felicity of life; and I formed written resolutions, which still remain in my journal book, to practice them ever while I lived.

Benjamin Franklin, 1706–1790 From his *Autobiography* 

## Welcome Aboard

We are pleased to announce that WBro Stephen Dafoe, of Hinton Lodge No. 178, GRA, also a member of Moira Lodge No. 11, GRC, has joined the Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin. We look forward to his future contributions to the pages of *The Alberta Freemason*. Some of our readers may be familiar with Bro Dafoe's own Masonic web site — "The Lodge Room" at www.thelodgeroom.com

#### Correction

In *The Alberta Freemason* 68(10), December 2003, the item "A Christmas Carol" was attributed to WBro Pal Johnston (188) who pointed out that he was not the author but had taken it from Paul Harvey, *The Rest of the Story*, Bantam Books, 1981, page 163.

"You mentioned your name as if I should recognize it, but I assure you that, beyond the obvious facts that you are a bachelor, a solicitor, a Freemason, and an asthmatic, I know nothing whatever about you.

"The Norwood Builder." Return of Sherlock Holmes, 1905.

## **Grand Master's Itinerary**

January

- 1 Saskatchewan Lodge, Edmonton
- 5 Hanna Lodge
- 6 Fort McMurray Lodge
- 8 Millennium Lodge, Fort McMurray
- 14 Tawatinaw Lodge, Athabasca
- 17 Tawatinaw Lodge, Athabasca
- 26 Beacon Lodge, Red Deer

## District Meetings

January

24 Alpha District Meeting, Calgary

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian who are members of **The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.** 

330 – 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2
Tel 403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671
www.freemasons.ab.ca

Grand Master Deputy Grand Master Senior Grand Warden Junior Grand Warden Grand Secretary MWBro Norman R. Thomas RWBro Rodney B. Ponech RWBro Rex Dawson RWBro Malcolm Berry RWBro Jerry W. Kopp FICE TASON
Published each month except July and August by
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

14103 Buena Vista Road NW, Edmonton, AB T5R 5S2 Tel 780-483-5124 — Fax 780-486-4512 e-mail: praga@compusmart.ab.ca The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin MWBro Robert E. Juthner (Chairman); WBro Garth Cochran; WBro Stephen Dafoe;

WBro Loren Kline; Bro Trevor Morris — Ex Officio: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary

Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgment of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.

#### **Perseverance**, from page 1.

our Masonic journey, can easily apply to those domains as well.

The challenges facing our Masonic Fraternity in general, and various Lodges in particular, have been well documented by scholarly Brethren everywhere. The purpose of this essay is to focus, instead, on an oft forgotten virtue that, in addition to our figurative tools, can serve us well in conquering the challenges we face. This is:

#### The Virtue of Perseverance.

If this virtue were to exist, for many a Mason it seems to have acquired the form of a thermostat — a thermostat with a hair trigger set to trip at its lowest setting. Evidence of such a thermostat with a low threshold may be any one, or a combination, of the following: Tried something in Lodge that did not work and then gave up? Do you feel that you do not matter, when your ideas get rejected? Do you avoid trying again? And again? Does it take you but a few rejections before you become cynical about the Craft? Your fellow Masons? Lodge officers?

In my travels I am often taken aback by the professed sense of inevitable fate, and resignation to failure, expressed by many Brethren having failed once or twice to overcome a challenge.

Failure, in breeding cynicism and disappointment, has become the obstacle to progress in our Masonic Journey.

For all Brethren who follow the charge to make the study of arts and sciences their Masonic Endeavour, I offer the following examples from the annals of history in support of the forgotten virtue of perseverance and its value in the face of adversity and overwhelming odds.

The Brethren are invited to weigh the evidence and then decide on the appropriate setting of their individual "perseverance thermostat".

## From the annals of Political History...

Abraham Lincoln—Before he became President, Abraham Lincoln had failed in business in 1831, was defeated for state legislator in 1832. He tried another business in 1833 and it failed. His fiancé died in 1835. He had a nervous breakdown in 1836. In 1843 he ran for congress and was defeated. He tried again in 1848 and was defeated again. He tried running for the senate in 1855. He lost. In 1859 he ran for the senate again and was defeated. Finally, in 1860

he was elected the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

When would you have given up and convinced yourself you just don't have it?

#### From the world of science...

**Thomas Edison** — We all take the comforts afforded by the electric light bulb for granted as we go about our daily lives. Can you imagine life without it if Thomas Edison had given up after his 1,000<sup>th</sup> try? How about his 2,000<sup>th</sup>; 7000<sup>th</sup>; 8000<sup>th</sup>; 9000<sup>th</sup>? Thomas Edison failed over 9000 times before he perfected the light bulb. When asked how it felt to have failed 9000 times, Edison replied, "I was glad I found 9000 ways not to invent the light bulb."

Looking at Edison's experience to achieve what he was after, when would you have called it quits having convinced yourself that what you are after is not achievable?

#### From the corporate world...

**Colonel Sanders** — The founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, spent 2 years going door to door to 1008 restaurants trying to convince owners to try his fried chicken recipe. He was rejected 1008 times. He made his first sale on his 1009<sup>th</sup> call.

When would you have given up and called yourself a hero for trying? After the 10<sup>th</sup> visit? 50<sup>th</sup>? 100<sup>th</sup> visit? 500<sup>th</sup>? 1000<sup>th</sup>?

**Walt Disney** — Disneyworld: Walt Disney was turned down 302 times and went bankrupt 5 times, before he got the financing for his dream of creating the "Happiest Place on Earth". Today, due to his persistence, millions of people have "the joy of Disney."

**Fred Smith**—Federal Express: The original business plan for Federal Express was given a failing grade on Fred Smith's college exam. In the early days, Federal Express employees would cash their pay cheques at retail stores rather than banks to give the struggling firm a few extra days to cover their payroll. Their perseverance helped Federal Express become the corporate giant it is today.

**Rich Devos** — Amway: While starting Amway, Rich Devos and Jay Van Andel, America's eleventh richest people, recruited 500 people. 495 dropped out. The five that didn't, built AMWAY.

#### From the world of publishing...

**Dr. Seuss** — A man writes a book. The first publisher rejects it. So does

the second. So do the next 26 publishers. It took 28 rejections before Dr. Seuss got a chance to mesmerize children with his stories. Due to his resilience, there have been more than 200 million copies of his books sold.

#### From the World of Sports...

**Babe Ruth** — Babe Ruth, the great homerun king, who holds the record at 714 also holds the record for the most strikeouts. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times in his career. You could say that Babe failed 1330 times so he could succeed 714 times.

**Michael Jordan**—Michael Jordan was cut from his 10<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team. He struggled with the Chicago Bulls for years before achieving a sustained winning record and becoming a legend. In commenting about his success Michael shares the following statistics:

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career.

"I've lost almost 300 games.

"26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed."

Brethren, perseverance is a virtue we all need to master. As we apply the virtue of perseverance, let us constantly re-evaluate our circumstances and the approach we are using to reach our goals. There is no sense in being perseverant at something that we are doing incorrectly. Let's not lose sight of our vision for the Craft. Let us learn from our experiences and apply the lessons we learn to make adjustments to our approach.

Finally let us never forget that as we deal with our challenges we are travelling on the same path blazed by many illustrious figures of recent and not so recent history who have shaped the world as we know it.

The virtue of perseverance can turn our challenges and their collective disappointments into the fuel which propels us forward to our vision and goals for the future.

## The Letter "G"

This significant letter denotes GEOMETRY, which to artificers, is the science by which all their labours are calculated and formed; and to Masons, contains the determination, definition, and proof of the order, beauty, and wonderful wisdom of the power of God in his creation.

William Hutchinson, 1775

## When Days were Warmer

The annual outdoor meeting of **Alberta Lodge No. 3** was held in June 2003 on the banks of the Belly River, several kilometres from Fort Macleod, on river bottom ranch land owned by RWBro Bob Reach. The only cowan present seemed to be a bull in prime breeding condition, who failed to prove up and was refused admission.

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, an item of Masonic interest is usually presented. This time RWBro Reach gave a history of Masonic Funerals,

regulations and recent changes. A mock funeral service was conducted by RWBro Reach, assisted by the Brethren.

The meeting adjourned to the Reach home quarter where the Brethren of the Lodge and visitors enjoyed fellowship and a meal featuring barbecued buffalo tenderloin steaks,



prepared by WBro Frank Ducharme.

Alberta Lodge No. 3 was instituted May 27, 1886. On the west wall of the Lodge room are photographs of every Master since inception.

WBro Ray Harris (3)

## Better Late than...

A special presentation took place at an Edmonton senior citizens' complex on August 14, 2003. It had been thought to present 94-year old **Bro Bill Jones**, of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170 with his 50-Year jewel but, upon further checking Lodge records, it was found that Brother Bill had affiliated with Avon Glen 50 years ago and had, in fact, been a Mason for 14 years prior to affiliating. A phone call to Calgary and fast action by the Grand Lodge office enabled the members of the Lodge to present, not only the belated 50-year jewel, but also the equally belated 60-year bar, together with both certificates.

The event was made even more meaningful for Brother Jones by members of the family being present and that Beaverhills District DDGM, RWBro Mahlon Weir, was on hand to make the presentation. Bro Ed Bell of Avon Glen, a long-time friend of the Jones' family, was also present and fond reminiscences of their times as fellow Masons and co-workers rounded out a very special hour.

Shown in the picture are, L-R, seated: Bro Bill Jones and wife Ruth; standing: WBro Bob Mills, Bro Ed Bell, RWBro Mahlon Weir, Bro Dave Stokes, son Michael Jones, and daughter Enid Nikolai.

Bro David Stokes (170)



## The Early Bird gets the Draw!



30 April, 1 & 2 May 2004 Delta Lodge at Kananaskis A free weekend accommodation for two at the Lodge at Kananaskis! That is the prize available to one of those who register for the Masonic Spring Workshop before March 1st. If you are planning on attending, why not register early and have a chance at the

draw. Your wife will really appreciate it if you bring that home this year.

In fact, speaking about wives, did you know that you could bring your wife to the Workshop weekend? By upgrading your room to a single for an additional \$100, your wife can join you for the two nights. She is responsible for he own meals. Meal tickets can be purchased if she wants to join you at the table, but there are less expensive alternatives available. On Saturday morning, the Planning Committee sponsors a continental breakfast in their committee room for any companions who want to come. The women get a chance to meet others in attendance and plan outings into Canmore, a visit to a Spa or pool, or a refreshing walk on the footpaths around the resort. We got a real positive response from the companions who came last year, who said they really enjoyed the opportunity to visit Kananaskis and had no desire for any structured program of events.

For those who are not familiar with the Lodge at Kananaskis, imagine lounging in a luxury hotel in the picturesque Rocky Mountains, with mouth-watering meals, swimming pool, hot tub, steam room and a huge fireplace in the lobby, all included. Combine that with a stimulating, challenging, enlightening and entertaining weekend filled with Masonic fellowship, and you have an unbeatable combination.

Don't let this one get away! Check out the Masonic Spring Workshop program at www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca and fill in your registration on line. We're waiting for you.

## **Our DDGMs**

#### **Alpha District**

RWBro Norm Downs was born in Calgary on April 24, 1945. He graduated from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology as an Electronic Technologist and applied his skills in numerous technical and managerial positions for 32 years with Telus Communications, primarily in Edmonton. He transferred to Calgary in 1996 and retired in 2000.

Bro Downs was a member of Calgary Chapter Order of DeMolay. He was initiated into Freemasonry in Unity Lodge No. 51 in 1970, was



Master of that Lodge in 1982, and affiliated with Bow River Lodge No. 1 in 1998. He was appointed Junior Grand Deacon in 2001. He is also a member of the three bodies of the A&ASR in the Valley of Calgary, serving as Almoner, and a member of Alberta Chapter No. 1, RAM.

Masonic Spring Workshop Registration Form 30 April, 1 & 2 May 2004, Delta Jodge at Kananaskis

Bro
▲Title Last Name (please print) First Name Second Name
▲First name for your Name Tag Area Code Phone No.
▲Address
Yes No No Attended before?
▲City/Town Prov Postal Code Attended before?
▲Lodge Name & No. (One Lodge only) Current Office
Rank: MM • WM • PM • Other:
Non-Smoking ☐ Smoking ☐ Special requirements: diet, elevator,
etc.)
No assurance that room or special requests can be filled after 1 March 2004.
e-mail address
I wish to room with:
Name Lodge
Cards should be received together to ensure request filled.  □ Double/Triple = \$300; □ Single = \$410; □ Day User/Lunch = \$75
□ 1 Payment; <b>OR</b> 3 Installments* □ \$100/100/100 or □ \$135/135/140
*Include three post-dated cheques dated 1st of Feb, Mar, Apr
☐ Cheque ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
Number: Expiry

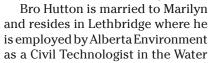
Mail cheque(s) or credit data for a total of \$300 Double or Triple / \$410 Single/\$75 Day User — or fax or email credit data to:

Signature **A** 

Masonic Spring Workshop Planning Committee 1131 Trafford Dr NW, Calgary, AB T2K 2T9 403-274-0563 Fax: 275-2163 email: mswpc@cochran.ab.ca www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca

#### **Chinookarch District**

RWBro James B. (Jim) Hutton was born in Redvers, SK, on September 16, 1949. He received his secondary education in Redvers before moving on to a Civil Technology Diploma in Industrial Instrumentation from the Saskatchewan Institute of Technology, and later a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan in Regina.





Management Operations Branch. He is a Past Chairman of the Lethbridge Public Library Board, on which he served for eight years, as well as a past director of the Chinook Regional Library System.

Bro Hutton was initiated into Freemasonry in Lethbridge Lodge No. 39 in 1988 and has since held most Lodge positions, serving as Worshipful Master in 1998 and 1999, and is currently the Treasurer and Historian. He is also a Scottish Rite Mason, at present the Historian of Lethbridge Lodge of Perfection, and an officer in Chinook Chapter Rose Croix HRDM and Southalta Consistory. He is also a member of Al Azhar Temple AAONMS and currently president of the Lethbridge Shrine Club.

#### **Lakeland District**

RWBro Peter Gilbody was born on June 15, 1949 in Manchester, England. In 1971 he married Annette in Holland, where he lived for eleven years. They have two sons, Bart and Peter, as well as a daughter, Ezra, who resides in Germany. Having learned the Dutch language, he studied Chemical Technology with the Netherlands PBNA Institute. While working for I.C.I. Europe, at age 25 he became the youngest plant supervisor. He remained with the same group of companies in three different countries for 35 years.



Our Brother was initiated into Freemasonry in Ye Olde Craft Lodge No. 196 in 1992 and installed in the chair of King Solomon in March 1998. He served as District Secretary in 2001–02, and is now the second Mason raised in Ye Olde Craft Lodge to become District Deputy Grand Master.

#### **Palliser District**

**RWBro Peter Schulz** was born September 3, 1953, in Dortmund, Germany. His family moved to Canada in 1958, travelling by boat to Montreal where they landed on his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. This gave him one year to learn English before entering school. The family settled in Medicine Hat, where he still resides. In 1967 he became a "Centennial" Canadian Citizen. Graduating from high school in 1971, he attended

Today's Date ▲

Medicine Hat College, and then the University of Calgary in the Faculty of Commerce.

Having gained sufficient accounting knowledge to carry on a business, he followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and, in 1977, graduated from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology as an interprovincially ticketed bricklayer, or "operative mason." As his father employed many immigrant masons, he too learned the other mason trades — as in Europe — anything



that has to do with cement, stone and plaster. The same year, 1977, he married. The marriage produced two wonderful children: a boy Kristoff, now 19; and a girl Tiffany, now 16. In 1989 the marriage ended in divorce and he continued single parenting for 14 years.

After working in his father's business as a crew chief for three years, he and his father formed a new business, including his younger brother, for the next five years. Since then he formed his own business, Brick City Construction & Masonry, which he still operates.

Bro Schulz was initiated in Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2 in 1988, which Lodge he served as Worshipful Master in 1998.

## Camp He-Ho-Ha and the Masons

Camp "Health, Hope and Happiness," situated on Lake Isle about 80 km west of Edmonton where many years ago the Brethren of the Edmonton Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association had built and dedicated a chapel, held an Open House on July 18, 2003. This was attended by a record 360 camp supporters who had the chance to meet over 70 children and teens with physical disabilities.

The camp directors expressed their appreciation for the donations received, and said they were delighted to welcome Grand Master Norman Thomas to this event. "We hope that other Masons may be able to come out and visit us next year!" The picture shows Camp He-Ho-Ha President, WBro LCol Colin Reichle and Executive Director Joan Nielsen present Norman Thomas, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, with a token of the Camp's appreciation "for the tremendous financial support received from the Masonic Foundation of Alberta and the many Lodges working tirelessly on behalf of needy and disadvantaged Albertans throughout the province."



He has been 1<sup>st</sup> Principal of Assiniboia Chapter No. 3, RAM, and is a member of Al Azhar Temple AAONMS, Legion of Honor, and the Medicine Hat Shrine Club Band.

#### Three Rivers District

RWBro Ronald G. Hann was born on September 20, 1945, in Lethbridge, Alberta. He was raised and attended high school in Nobleford, and apprenticed as an electrician in 1965. He was married to Mavis in 1967, and they have two children and two grandchildren. He worked in various gas plant construction sites throughout Alberta until he started his own electrical company in Pincher Creek in 1978, which he still owns and operates today. Ronald Hann also belongs to the Pincher Creek Rotary



Club and is Vice President of Pincher Creek Search and Rescue.

Brother Hann was initiated into Freemasonry in Chinook Lodge No. 47 (now Chinook-Spitzie Lodge No. 6) in 1985 and served as Worshipful Master in 1990, 1991, 2000 and 2001. He is also a member of Hillvue Chapter No. 15, RAM.

## Thoughts on Immortality

Joseph Fort Newton, 1880-1950

What has Masonry to teach us about immortality? Instead of making an argument, it presents a picture — the oldest, if not the greatest drama in the world — the better to make men feel what no words can ever tell. It shows us the tragedy of life in its most dismal hour; the forces of evil, so cunning yet so stupid, tempting the soul to treachery — even to the ultimate degradation of saving life by giving up all that makes it worth our time to live. It shows a noble and true man, smitten, as Lincoln was, in the moment of his loftiest service to man. It is a picture so true to the bitter, old, and haggard reality of this dark world that it makes the soul stand still in dismay. Then, out of the shadow there rises, like a beautiful white star, that in man is most akin to God — his love of truth, his loyalty to the ideal, his willingness to go down into the night of death, if only virtue may live and shine like a pulse of fire in the evening sky.

Here is the ultimate and final witness of the divinity and immortality of the soul — the heroic, death-defying moral valor of the human soul! No being capable of such a sublime sacrifice need fear death of the grav e.

"What has the soul to lose By worlds on worlds destroyed?"

It is the old, eternal paradox — he who gives his all for the sake of truth shall find it all anew. And there Masonry rests the case, assured that since there is that in man which makes him hold to the moral ideal against the brute forces of the world; that which prompts him to pay the last full measure of devotion for the sanctity of his soul; the God who made him in His own image will not let him sleep in the dust. Higher vision it is not given us to see in the dim country of this world; deeper truth we do not need to know.

The Masonic Thoughts of Joseph Fort Newton Ames, Iowa: Iowa Research Lodge No. 2