

THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

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Douglas Norman Troock

MWBro Douglas Norman Troock was born in Edmonton, January 23, 1929 to William and Alice Troock. He received his public and high school education in Edmonton and attended McTavish Business College in bookkeeping and accounting courses. He also attended the University of Alberta (night courses) in Industrial Accounting.

He was associated for twenty-six and one-half years with the family firm "William Troock Furniture Ltd. manufacturing quality living-room and institutional upholstered furniture and case goods under the trade name "Troock-Bilt" and with the slogan "Upholstered Furniture With a Master's Touch."

In 1974, Bro Troock joined the sales force of Woodward's Stores Ltd. furniture division where he gained considerable recognition. In 1978, Bro Troock formed his own company servicing and handling furniture damage claims for the major long distance moving companies.

Due to serious health problems in 1988, Bro Troock was forced to retire at the age of 59 years.

While attending college, Bro Troock met the love of his life, Muriel Loral Eckel, daughter of a well-respected and well-known mill owner in Lamont, Al-



Grand Master 2001-2002

berta. Milton Raymond Eckel was a Past Master of Lamont Lodge No. 94. They married in 1948 and raised four children: Doug, Lorna, Elaine and Kenneth. They have been blessed with nine grandchildren: 3 boys and 6 girls.

Bro Troock was initiated, passed and raised in Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 in 1971, and served as Worshipful Master

in 1979. He was elected DDGM of Northern Lights Masonic District for the year 1995-1996. Bro Troock is also:

- a 32° Scottish Rite Mason of the AASR, Valley of Edmonton;
- a member of the Royal Order of Scotland;
- a Noble of the Al Shamal Shrine, Past President of the Al Shamal Greeters Unit (1995) and is now serving as its Secretary-Treasurer;
- a Past Associate Guardian of Bethel No. 10, International Order of Job's Daughters;
- the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee near the Grand Lodge of Alberta;
- an Honorary Life Member of Patricia Lodge No. 91, Onaway Lodge No. 138, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142 and Evergreen Lodge No. 166; and
- associated with a firm which produces woodcraft patterns and when he is not serving the Craft, he finds time to design and produce interesting home and lawn woodcrafts.

Bro Troock was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1998 and has served as Senior Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master until his installation as Grand Master at the 96th Annual Communication.

The Key to Success is Within Ourselves

By MWBro Douglas N. Troock, Grand Master

Sometimes you can identify true success. Sometimes you can't. Success can take many forms, but one thing is for sure: the key to success is basically the same for everyone. Success can be achieved for ordinary people through doing the right things, such as having the proper attitudes, skills and values.

Success is in sharing a vision, is like taking a journey, and is the goal in achieving the things we do.

What is the key to success? There is no one sure-fire key, but I believe there is a reliable direction. As I've thought from an ordinary guy's perspective

(which above all else, I am, Lord knows I'm no scholar) I've come to identify twelve things - character traits and values - which I believe are the most important keys to attaining that successful direction in life.

Honesty

Honesty doesn't mean hiding in the weeds, it means stepping out and telling the truth. It means being sincere and fair in your deals and agreements. Honesty and Integrity are twins to me, not identical, but pretty close.

Caring

Caring is that rock that has to be

there before love is possible. Caring is what you give people who need help. Caring is feeling what another person feels. Genuinely caring about people usually leads to success.

Support

Support is the boost you give people who can help themselves but who need a partner to open a window or push aside a roadblock. It's really help - commitment and effort. It's helping others with their awareness and making your own awareness stronger at the same time.

Teamwork

Caring and support is teamwork plus. Teamwork is the starting point for treatment. See **Success**, page 2.

An Editorial That Isn't

If an "editorial" means a newspaper article written by or on behalf of an editor which gives an opinion on a topical issue (New Oxford Dictionary, 1998), then what follows here does not qualify. The topic here dealt with is more along the lines of "information" or of "clarification." It concerns the name of this publication, as shown in the flag on page 1 and in the masthead on page 2, The Alberta Freemason.

We thought that the new graphic design, in its smart and contemporary style

conveyed a clear message, but from correspondence we received, and other references to it we saw, we found that not every reader had the discerning eye to detect a lower case m behind the square. Maybe the little central leg of that letter was not prominent enough, and so caused some perusers of our monthly bulletin to interpret Freemason to be two words: "Free Mason," or, as some wrote it, without a space but still with a capital M, "FreeMason," That was not our intent, and if anyone has

inadvertently been led astray, we apologize.

To rectify the situation, beginning with this September 2001 issue, the square appears in the brilliant (white (or is it silver?)), outlined in colour, which – we trust – will show the small m more clearly behind it, even to the more casual observer.

Please compare the newly revised design with that of the past six issues and join with us in being proud of being Freemasons of this great jurisdiction of Alberta (and the Northwest Territories at that)!

Success, from page 1.

ing people right. The best teams in the world are ones that help people become better and achieve more than they ever thought they could do on their own It's no mystery, therefore, that teamwork is a big key in achieving success.

Discipline

Routine is the heart of discipline. Routine is what keeps us focused on the basic, main things in life. Discipline means a clear and firm direction. Unless we have a strong, healthy routine, I doubt that we will live a successful life.

Motivation

Without a doubt, motivation is a key to success. Stay focused. Figure out what your motivations are going to be in the next step of your life long before you reach that next step. Keep dreaming but don't daydream. Look at success firsthand so you really know how it works and what it costs to achieve.

Creativity

Creativity means change, but if you don't use common sense when you change things around, you'll end up farther back than when you started. Being creative doesn't always mean doing new things. Sometimes, it's using a creative idea that worked in one place and applying it to something entirely different. Successful creative dreams have to be realistic, within man's law as well as

God's, within the realm of common sense.

Faith

Your convictions are what you believe in, and your faith is the strength you have to go on believing, even when your convictions are challenged. Convictions and faith don't amount to much unless you have a positive message and a positive goal. Most of all you have to live out your faith.

Responsibility

Responsibility means realizing that no one person can be responsible for everything and that you can't be successful if you are juggling the whole world on your shoulders. Responsible people take tough stands against shortcuts and make sure other people with duties are responsible as well.

Leadership

More leaders get knocked off their pedestals by talking the talk but not walking the walk. The most important thing a leader can do, is to set an example. I think we should put more little people — people who have achieved something — on pedestals so that ordinary people have a better and clearer idea of who is doing the job and who is setting the pace.

Courage

We tend to make courage too dramatic. Courage is often doing something simple, unpleasant, or boring, again and

again, until we get it down pat. The most courageous people of all are those who know they face death or serious injury, yet who climb above themselves and their own hurt to put others first.

Generosity

We should work hard to make the Virtuous Circle of Generosity, the number one epidemic in our Grand Jurisdiction — Giving of Wealth, Giving of Self — unstoppable and unending. When you give people help and understanding, you truly learn what people are like, and those who understand others better are certainly the most likely to succeed.

The giving and the getting becomes all mixed up, which I think is great.

Success is like a journey but there is much to be accomplished if we are to go forward. Together, we have achieved much, but the challenge of change goes on in our changing times. Our destination rests with us. Men of daring will always make mistakes and men of vision will always see some things differently, but they will move us higher on the ladder and inspire us to be more than we are today.

The future success of Freemasonry is not going to be determined by a few at the top, it rests with the thousands of men who are our members. We have members who can create exciting Masonic community service programs, cer-

See **Success**, page 3.

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Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary

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Lake Saskatoon Honours Community Guardians

On March 4, 2001, the members of Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106 hosted an invitational dinner for RCMP detachment members and auxiliary officers, County law enforcement, and supporting individuals assisting in community crime prevention. After a Lodge sponsored prime rib supper for about 110 people (without cost to the many invitees), the Worshipful Master, WBro Wayne Swanson, DDGM RWBro Richard Ashby, Superintendent A.A. (Ed) Spaans, Officer Commanding Northern Alberta District, "K" Division of the RCMP, and Reeve Roy Borstad of the county of Grand Prairie No. 1, were piped into the gathering. With all three Brethren in their appropriate regalia, the curiosity of those assembled was answered by an explanation of the apron, of who we are, and the debt we in the Craft owe to the NWMP whose Lodges were the first brought to the West.

Twenty-six certificates for individual or group recognition from our Lodge, and presentation pen sets from the County, were either given to recipients



or announced for those unable to be there. Following brief words from Superintendent Spaans, the Beaverlodge Detachment Officer Commanding, Sergeant David McKay gave a sincere thank you on behalf of the recipients. Personal comments were both positive and instructive. A 19-year member of the RCMP said that in all his years of service, he had never even heard of such an event, let alone having been honoured in such a fashion. For those who place their lives on the line and protect our communities, the event turned out to be genuine and supportive, though there were some early questions as to our reasons for hosting such an event. It would seem that there is so little senti-

ment of this sort publicly expressed, that it has become a revolutionary concept. We had a fine opportunity to explain to the attendees a bit about who we are, and why we value those who work to maintain our society's and our country's rules. Masonry itself was not the central focus, but rather we provided the lens to focus public sentiment on our guests.

Our Craft has an opportunity to perform a highly significant function by organizing this type of event in many communities where we have the membership to organize it, the credibility to rally a wider level of support, and a natural respect and affinity for these protectors of our society. If your Lodge is looking for a profile-raising project in your area, a Community Guardians Appreciation Event may just be one of the easiest ways you will find to rally a community for a fine purpose, and show the values of the Craft in a positive light.

(The picture shows four of five constables receiving their recognition.)

Ron Thoreson, Secretary-Treasurer
Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106

Success, from page 1.

tainly more than we have now. We have members who can write Masonic newsletters and summons, probably better than we have today. These members are available, but we are not using their skills and abilities. We must send a message to these members, that we want and need them.

The Key To Success Is Within Ourselves

Success is in the way you walk
the paths of life each day;
It's in the little things you do
and in the things you say.

Success is not in getting rich
or rising high to fame;
It's not alone in winning goals
which all men hope to claim.

Success is being big of heart
and clean and broad of mind;
It's being faithful to your friends
and to the stranger, kind.

It's in the children whom you love
and all they learn from you;
Success depends on character
and everything you do.

Hands Across the Border 2001



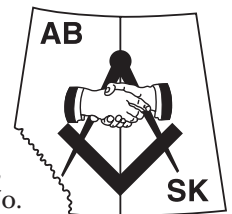
This year's Hands Across the Border Speaking Contest was held in Camrose on April 7th with a church service following on Sunday the 8th. It was attended by 90 Masons and Ladies, including MWBro Gerald T. Webber, Grand Master of Alberta, and RWBro Ray Moffat, Grand Junior Warden, representing the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. Following a welcome by WBro Richard Duncan of the host Lodge, Camrose Lodge No. 37, five contestants presented their papers.

Bro Douglas Bracken, of Britannia

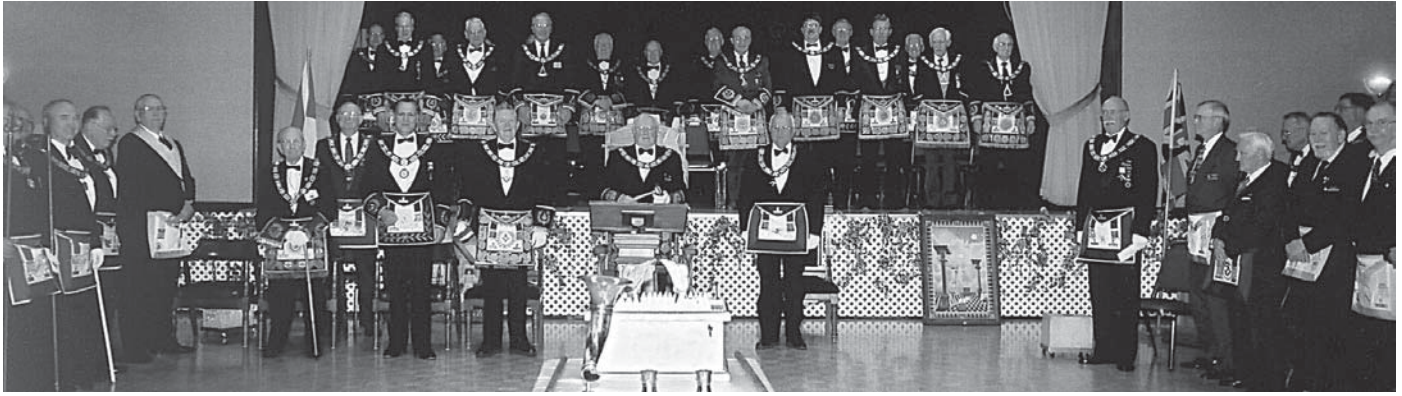
Lodge No. 23 GRS, spoke on *Time and Freemasonry*; Bro Brendan Cummins, of Camrose Lodge No. 37 GRA, on *Peace and Stability*; Bro Norman Roach, of Ionic Lodge No. 31 GRS, on *The Regius Manuscript*; Bro Allen Oberg, of Forestburg-Alliance Lodge No. 128 GRA, on *The Masonic Order — What are we?*; and Bro Mark Honert, of Beaver Lodge No. 56 GRA, on *Religion and Freemasonry*. In addition to the contestants, Bro Michael Drummond, of Palestine Lodge No. 46 GRA, gave an overview of the American Mystical Order Rosi Crucis (AMORC).

At the banquet following, the winner's trophy was presented by MWBro Stan Harbin to Bro Norman Roach, shown in the picture, left to right — At the worship service on Sunday, MWBro Jim Roberts meditated *On Tripping Over Titles*.

Next year's Hands Across the Border meeting will be held at Rosetown, SK, on April 6th and 7th, 2002. Plan now to attend!



Constitution and Consecration



On Saturday, May 19, 2001, a large contingent of Brethren from the “four



corners” of the province congregated in the City of Airdrie to witness the ceremony of Constituting and Consecrating **Airdrie Wild Rose Lodge No. 2001**. The ceremony was conducted by the Grand Master, assisted by his Grand Lodge Officers, in a dignified and impressive manner.

The pictorial record hereunder shows some of the highlights of the event: shown behind the Ark of the covenant (left) is the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro Douglas Troock, handing the Grand Master, MWBro Gerald T. Webber, the vessel of oil; in the second picture (right) the Grand Master is seen handing the gavel, the symbol of authority, to the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge, VWBro Hugh Hamilton; the group picture shows a view of the East.

While the Brethren were attending the ceremony, the many accompanying



ladies enjoyed a tour of a nearby Hutterite colony. On their return they joined the men at the banquet tables to partake of a festive repast. The Brethren of Airdrie Wild Rose Lodge had gone all out to make this a memorable occasion.

Cornerstone Laying



Following the razing and reconstruction of half of the building of Camrose Lodge No. 37, the day had come for laying the cornerstone, according to Masonic usage. The ceremony, held on Saturday, May 5, 2001, attended by numerous Brethren from throughout Alberta, their ladies and the general public, including the Mayor of the city and the Member of Parliament for the area, was conducted by the Grand Master, MWBro Gerald T. Webber and his officers “in due and ancient form.”



While the Lodge room proper remained untouched, the entrance is now adorned by two pillars and the new wing houses an entrance hall, a bright and spacious dining room which can also double for other purposes, a kitchen

and washrooms.

The pictures show: one, the scene of passing the roll of architectural plans between the Grand Master (left) and the architect, WBro David Roth (centre), with the contractor, Mr. Bob Read of Read Construction Ltd. (right) looking on; the other, the moment when MWBro Webber unveiled the commemorative plaque — the cornerstone shows at the bottom.

Jasper Lodge Centennial

Jasper Lodge No. 14 (originally No. 78, GRM) is celebrating its Centennial on 15 September 2001. The festivities begin at Noon at Freemasons’ Hall, Edmonton. There will be a Ladies’ Program offered while the Masonic Ceremony takes place. A banquet for the Brethren and their Ladies will follow. Tickets for the event are \$40 each. For further information, please contact Michael Jordan, at 780-452-3398.

Men in embroidered aprons hire PR firm

So read the headline, subtitled FREE-MASONS, of an article by Carl Honoré, published in the *National Post* on June 2, 2001:

LONDON — With their secret handshakes, arcane rituals and embroidered aprons, the Freemasons sometimes seem like characters from a *Monty Python* sketch. In Britain, they are portrayed as silly or sinister, as middle-aged men dressing up, or as a fifth column sowing corruption in society. But, 400 years after initiating its first member, Freemasonry is fighting back against the bad press. Like any organization with an image problem, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGL), which represents 310,000 Masons, has hired a public relations firm.

“There is a perception that Freemasons are up to no good behind closed doors,” says Chris Connop, a UGL spokesman. “We’re trying to show the world there is nothing sinister going on here and that everything we do is totally for the benefit of society.” Yet winning over a skeptical public will not be easy. Even Mike Dewar, the PR guru hired to repackage the Masons, describes his task as daunting.

Freemasonry probably evolved from the trade associations founded by English stonemasons in the 15th century. Worldwide, the traditionally male movement has five million members from all creeds and backgrounds. In the new PR campaign, Freemasonry is hailed as a servant of virtue. Its motto is to “make good men better.” Though it is not a religion, members must believe in a Supreme Being — almost any god will do — and try to be model citizens. In England, Masonic Lodges donated more than \$35-million to charity last year.

What sets Freemasonry apart from other social clubs is the obsession with bizarre rituals. At initiation ceremonies, candidates wear their pant legs rolled up, Python-style. Daggers are laid on bared chests, nooses placed round necks. “It may sound daft, but it’s a lovely ceremony with beautiful language and symbolism that moves people very deeply,” says Mr. Connop. “There is a magic about it that is difficult to define.”

Secrecy is a key part of the Masonic mystique. Members are forbidden to discuss the modes of recognition — handshakes, passwords, signs — used to identify fellow Masons. Outsiders are

barred from initiation ceremonies. Like other private clubs, the Freemasons keep their membership lists under tight wraps. Though some happily declare their Masonic ties, many fear going public would expose them to discrimination.

At best, Freemasonry is seen as a club for nerds of the Dungeons and Dragons variety. One Mason’s son recently called it “the perfect hobby for bored, middle-aged men engaged in undemanding jobs who hanker for a faintly exotic social life.” At worst, it is seen as a shadowy brotherhood.

The switchboard at Freemasons’ Hall, the movement’s grand Art Deco headquarters in London, is besieged by callers blaming the Masons for every ill afflicting Britain, from petty crime to the foot-and-mouth epidemic. “If something bad happens, then we must be behind it,” smiles one secretary. Yet it’s not just cranks who worry about Masons under the mattress. Ordinary Britons are unnerved that many policemen and judges apparently belong to the movement. In the past four years, the British Parliament has launched two inquiries into claims Masons are perverting justice from inside the Establishment. A similar investigation is underway in France. Meanwhile, a British MP has introduced a bill to force all elected public officials to disclose mem-

bership in any secret society.

Martin Short, a leading mason-basher, is one of those who smells a conspiracy. “One must presume that people join lodges predominantly to feather their own nests, and to form a loose combination against the interests of everybody who is not a Mason.” Mr. Dewar, a non-Mason, dismisses such charges as “a lot of old baloney.” The Masons, he says, are not a clandestine society. Freemasons’ Hall, with its elegant marble and mahogany interior, has been open to the public for years. What is more, anyone caught using Masonic signals outside a lodge, or exploiting membership for personal gain, is thrown out. “That sort of behaviour is the opposite of what we stand for,” insists Mr. Connop. “Freemasonry is about building an edifice of integrity within yourself.”

England’s Masons have taken steps to modernize. In 1986, they expunged the symbolic penalties — ritual disembowelment, tongues ripped out by the root — from their traditional oath. To help sell the Masons, Mr. Dewar plans to highlight the good works, while playing down the rituals. “These are extremely impressive people, who have high moral standards and do a great deal of good in this world,” he says. “If they want to have a few secret signals, does that really matter?”

I Am Freemasonry

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages, and found true. The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry. In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my altars is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God. My sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber. By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death, and the relationship of man with God and of man with man. My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and

thereafter, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain. I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphans’ cry, the widows’ tears, the pain of the old and destitute. I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbour and themselves. They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger. At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal universe. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life. I Am Freemasonry.

Ray V. Denslow

International Speaker Coming to Alberta



Robert L.D. (Bob) Cooper, a widely respected Scottish Masonic historian and speaker, will visit Alberta in September as part of an international speaking tour.

Bro Cooper is Curator of The Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library. In this position he has accomplished much, including: a colour reproduction of the famous Robert Burns' Inauguration (taken from the oil

painting in the museum); the creation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Website — www.grandlodgescotland.com; and the refurbishment of the Museum within Freemasons' Hall which increased its floor space by 50 per cent. He is the author of numerous articles on Freemasonry and has appeared on television and radio programs about Freemasonry. He regularly speaks in Masonic Lodges, one of his favorite subjects being "The Unique Nature of Scottish Freemasonry."

His latest project is a book with the working title of *The Knights Templar in Scotland — the Creation of a Myth*. This well-illustrated volume will, it is hoped, be published in late

2002. Indeed, the "Templar Myth" is one of the topics he will discuss while in Alberta at a meeting sponsored by Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, Jubilee Lodge No. 173 and King George Lodge No. 59 at 7:30 PM, Friday, 21 September 2001, at King George Masonic Hall, Calgary. There will be a banquet following the meeting and ample time for questions and discussion.

In Edmonton, Bro Cooper is the special guest speaker at the Installation of VWBro Len Clark as WM of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research. (This installation is hosted by Ye Olde Craft Lodge No. 196 and St. John's Lodge No. 25.) He will speak on "The Oldest Rituals in Freemasonry — Scottish, of Course!" This meeting tyles at 2:00 PM, Saturday, 22 September 2001 at Acacia Lodge Hall, Edmonton. There will also be a banquet to follow at about 5:30 PM.

The cost of each event is \$22. Tickets must be purchased in advance, but book early as space is limited at both venues. For tickets, please contact:

Garth Cochran, 403-274-0563; gcochran@cochran.ab.ca

Len Clark, 780-922-2453; lenclark@nl2k.ab.ca

Steve Kennard, 403-686-4965; skennard@telusplanet.net

Ken Madden, 403-282-4410; kenmadden@home.com

Letters to the Editor

Stay the course!

Many Lodges refer to the "phenomenon of newly initiated candidates disappearing from our midst" — Shortly after becoming Master Masons they are never to be seen again, never able to participate in Lodge or receive the enjoyment of membership which we take for granted. Sometimes they are lost even before taking their Fellowcraft degree, to suffer the loss of what might have been.

Discussions abound on how the Fraternity could adjust and change to prevent these losses from happening. Although it is necessary for any organization to make certain transitions in step

with the march of history, we must remember that the candidates themselves must have fortitude to **stay the course!**

In our modern world of instant communication, instant gratification and prospects of high returns from little input, Freemasonry could not change enough to fulfill some candidates' hopes, desires and expectations. — My message to new Masons is **give us a chance**, attend meetings, become involved, expect highs and lows, and be surprised occasionally with an exceptional evening that makes it all worthwhile. **Stay the course!** And you **will** find what you are looking for...

Peter F. Ebdon

JW, Baseline Lodge No. 198

The above words to the candidate are certainly not meant to relieve the two sponsors from their responsibility to look after the candidate throughout the months of taking his degrees and beyond, as a Master Mason — Ed.

The Worshipful Master of Astra Lodge No. 179, and all members, would like to pass their congratulations on to you for the "New" *Alberta Freemason*. Several members have commented on the "New" look and have asked me to pass on our best wishes. Please keep up the good work: it is a "Newsletter" to be proud of.

Faternally,

VWBro Jesse Carr
Secretary, Astra Lodge No. 179

Just a quick note to say how much I appreciated the new look of the Grand Lodge bulletin. Very clean and smart. Much easier to read. Thanks also for picking up the article from the Chief Mountain Lodge Notice.

Dan Barr
Chief Mountain Lodge No. 58

A Family Affair...

...or should this read **Two Families' Affairs?**

This is what was experienced at Gleichen Lodge No. 36 on June 5, 2001, when two sons had the opportunity of presenting their fathers with their 50-Year Jewels. It was like this: RWBro EcFerguson, who had been initiated on April 3, 1951 and had been Worshipful Master of Gleichen Lodge in 1959 and DDGM in 1974, received the jewel out of the hands of his son, WBro Lorne Ferguson, Master in 1974.

A second jewel presentation was made to RWBro Dick Tower, initiated

April 17, 1951, Master of Gleichen Lodge in 1961 and DDGM in 1978 by his son, WBro Terry Tower who had been in the East of the Lodge in 1982. Both honorees told stories about their fathers, as Masons, and related interesting anecdotes on their years in the Craft. In particular, RWBro Ferguson spoke of his father who had been Worshipful Master of Gleichen Lodge in 1916.

The dedication and proven Masonic way of life of these two Brethren are worthy of being emulated and the event had an impact on the members attending, who wished them many more years in the Craft.

RWBro Larry Watson (36)

Grand Master's Itinerary September

3 Cascade Lodge, Banff
13 Acacia Lodge, Edmonton
15 Jasper Lodge, Edmonton
19 Redwood Lodge, Edmonton
20-October 2 Grand Master's Tour