



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: S. CARL HECKBERT, P.G.M., Vermilion, Alberta

“JUST HOLD IT A MINUTE”

By LAURENCE R. TAYLOR
Editor the Indiana Freemason

*“He ne'er is crowned
With immortality, who fears to follow
Where airy voices lead”.*

In the Dodger training park at Vero Beach, Florida, a “man who could not move from the chest down, sat beside the batting cage, watching white balls sweep like arching birds into the green pastures”. Roy Campanella, the nation’s ‘miracle man’, had returned to his beloved sport—and THAT WAS IMPORTANT! Important to Campy, yes; important to the world of baseball, emphatically yes; but infinitely more important to the world of men, for one man, a member of the human race had learned the secret of rebirth.

It was important, too, for one small lad, thirteen year old Billy McCall. There sat his idol in a battery-powered wheel chair—and he, Billie, had a banged-up baseball in his hand. Somehow Campy and that ball just had to get together—they were made for each other, weren’t they? Slowly he approached the man; timorously he held out the ball, eyes aglow with expectancy—



and with that special brand of reverence reserved only for heroes of the very young, he asked, “would Mr. Campanella please autograph his baseball?”

Wistfully, Campy had to tell him no, for right now his hands could not handle a pen. “Then would you just hold it a minute?” Billy asked . . . and Campy took it and held it and made it, at

least for one small boy, something more, much more than just a scuffed-up, dirty baseball . . . and the light in his eyes matched that in the lad’s.

Just a small sphere covered with dirty horsehide; but in the core of that ball the soul of a man met the soul of a boy—and they were one. In that fleeting moment the lad rose to the heights—and Campy rose to immortality!

In his heart of hearts every man longs for immortality; not only in the answer to Job—“If a man die, shall he live again?”—but also in the hearts of his fellow men. And he is poor indeed who does not seek for it in the soul of a youngster. “Would you just hold it a minute” can be the sweetest song ever sung.

“Campys” are rare; real heroes are few; perhaps that is why they are heroes, to adults. But the exclusive and marvellous world of youth is chuck-full of heroes—and any man can qualify. Too few, alas, are taking the time to try.

A learned judge once said: “None of us go very far in the way of life and understanding unless we are tugged along by the hand of a child (You who are fathers will know about that). He also said: “Only as we breed boys and young men who recognize in life something more precious than life itself will our beloved land be safe. There is no substitute.

This wise and experienced jurist has put his fingers on the taproot that nourishes a free people. But that taproot must have nourishment, too, else it cannot grow deep and sturdy—and the process of nourishment is never-ending, as eternal as tomorrow’s dawn. New vigor, new vitality must flow to it constantly or it quickly weakens and decays; dry rot sets in and chaos takes over. Not one single generation can escape that responsibility. There can be no surcease to the training process.

The learned judge has also said: “The finest, most modern and most efficient prison is but a monument to neglected childhood and youth.” Haven’t we built enough prisons?

“Precept and example” may be an old cliché, but for youth it still spells out a powerful force. By the same token it is a potent challenge to every member of the Masonic Fraternity. Where else can be found so many men whose time-tested

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Editorial

There are many challenges in Freemasonry. Among them is the very serious challenge of the UNAFFILIATED MASON. In the May issue of the Bulletin announcement was made of the Institution of Elbow Lodge in the City of Calgary and it was noted that of the forty-seven Charter Members only THREE had previously been members of Calgary Lodges, so that forty-four previously unaffiliated members will henceforth be enabled to claim membership in their own Lodge. What a very happy situation.

A recent survey by the Grand Lodge of California revealed that there were nearly as many unaffiliated Masons in that State as there were Members of California Lodges; and we must wonder if a somewhat similar situation exists in the Province of Alberta. We should also be wondering just what can be done to remedy a situation which reflects little credit on the Fraternity; indeed, the time for wondering is long past and it has now come to the time when we should be DOING something about it instead of merely continuing to ponder the problem . . . because there is little question but that we can largely overcome the unfortunate condition if we but set our minds AND our hands to a solution.

Just from a casual reflection it is not difficult to count ten members of my own Lodge, now permanently residing in the City of Edmonton, who have not taken the first steps of associating themselves with an established Lodge; of the ten several are Past Masters and eminently qualified to lend dignity and strength to any Lodge with which they might affiliate. It is suggested to readers of the Bulletin that they individually make a list of members known to be unattached Masonically and there is little doubt but that there would be found a surprising number who should most definitely be affiliated, either with an established Lodge, or with a group of like-thinking persons who could form the nucleus for a new Lodge.

We are all familiar with the admonition that members must not be sought among non-Masons, but there is most assuredly no valid reason why our own members, strayed for the time being from the fold, should not be encouraged in every way possible to take up the dropped threads of a fellowship they have so greatly enjoyed and which could once more mean a great deal to them.

Inquiries among unaffiliated members residing in centres away from their own Lodges would doubtless elicit replies which would indicate that members once they have moved from their former locations feel that they may not be welcome in a city Lodge; that they hold the opinion that the rural Lodge needs their dues to assist in financing; that they fear an examination designed to qualify them for admittance. Other reasons, equally as fallacious, would doubtless be advanced.

There is a way—there must be a way—to bring our unaffiliated members once more into active Masonic participation. All we need is the

WILL to do the job. What, Brother reader are YOU prepared to do about it? SCH

WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA CALGARY MASON HONORED OVERSEAS

We are happy to report that W. Bro. Gordon Lewis, a member of Perfection Lodge No. 9, who was previously elected to the Chair of King Solomon in Stability Lodge No. 29, in Paris, France has been appointed Passe Depute Grand Directeur des Ceremonies Prov. in the Grande Loge Provinciale de Neustrie. W. Bro. Lewis is a Group Captain with the R.C.A.F., serving at NATO Headquarters in France. The Bulletin, on behalf of the membership throughout the Jurisdiction extends the most sincere congratulations.

GRAND MASTER REPRESENTED IN MINNESOTA

M. W. Bro. S. Carl Heckbert, P.G.M., was privileged, at the request of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, D. D. McQueen, to represent the Grand Lodge at the recent meeting of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and was much impressed with the benevolent work being accomplished in that Grand Lodge which maintains a Masonic Home in which a large number of aged Masons and their wives reside. Beautifully situated near the Twin Cities, the Home fills a great need and provides ample comfort for those who require the ministrations of the highly competent staff.

Within the past year 69,000 Masons of the Grand Jurisdiction of Minnesota have raised the sum of one million dollars which has been expended in the construction of a Cancer Memorial Hospital for the treatment of that dread disease. The magnificent building is now fully equipped and in operation. It will stand as a lasting tribute to the love of members of the Masonic Order for their fellows.

A Committee from the Grand Lodge directs the efforts of a devoted staff at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester in assisting Masons and their families who seek medical or surgical services at that famed institution. The report of the Committee was a revelation, indicating that Freemasonry, in its truest sense, is being practised on behalf of thousands of our members and their families annually.

SASKATCHEWAN GRAND SECRETARY RECOVERS

It is not beyond the realms of our thinking to include Grand Secretary Robert A. (Bob) Tate of Saskatchewan under the heading at the top of this page; M. W. Bro. Tate is extremely well known throughout this Grand Jurisdiction and all will rejoice to know that he is presently making an excellent recovery from recent major surgery. Bro. Tate has attended our Grand Lodge communications on many occasions and has been a frequent contributor to the discussions at annual Masonic conferences held in the Cascade Lodge at Banff. Our best wishes go to him for a speedy and complete recovery.

HONOUR WHERE HONOUR IS DUE

Members of the Masonic fraternity in the Province of Alberta have been prominent in their contribution to community life in their respective districts and we are familiar with the fact that municipal councils and other local government boards number among their members Masons whose adherence to the principles of the Craft have meant a great deal to the high standard of administration which we hold in the highest regard.

Not so well known, perhaps, are the names of those who prize membership in Freemasonry and who have been elevated by our people to positions of the most vital importance on the national level.

The Bulletin is proud to present to its readers the names of a number of men, prominent in the councils of the nation and whose affiliation with Freemasonry has doubtless made an impact upon their lives and assisted them in their acceptance of the tremendous responsibilities of leadership.

The demands of public life doubtless interfere to a major extent with the enjoyment of regular attendance in their respective Lodges and I am sure that our readers will join in paying tribute to those in whose hands have been placed the reins of leadership and will pray that they may be blessed with wisdom, strength and the beauty of a service to their fellowmen that will enable them to effectively guide the destinies of our country.



Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker
Prime Minister of Canada

We have the honour to present the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, P.C., M.P., a dynamic personality who has served as a Member of Parliament for many years and who now heads the Government of Canada. The Honourable Mr. Diefenbaker has long been a member of Kinistino Lodge No. 1 in the City of Prince Albert, Sask., and was coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Dominion of Canada not long after his accession to the office of Prime Minister of Canada.

The Honourable J. Waldo Monteith, Minister

of Health and Welfare in our national government is a member of Tecumseh Lodge No. 144 of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and a member of Chapter No. 24, Royal Arch Masons in that Province.

The Honourable George Nowlan, Minister of National Revenue, is a Maritimer and a member of St. George's Lodge No. 20 of the Grand Jurisdiction of Nova Scotia, as well as being a member of the Scottish Rite 18th. Degree.

The Honourable Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, has evidently been quite active as a Freemason, being a member of Ionic Lodge No. 25, in the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario of which Lodge he was Worshipful Master in 1951. He became Junior Grand Warden in Ontario in 1955; he is a member of the Lodge of Perfection, Valley of Toronto and of the Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix as well as of the Moore Consistory in Hamilton. He was honoured by being named an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Dominion of Canada, 33rd. degree in the year 1954.

The Honourable Sidney Earle Smith, who served for a time as Canada's Minister of External Affairs and whose regrettable death occurred only a few weeks ago, was a member of University Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

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tenets qualify them as yardsticks by which our youngsters can measure true values? "Do but set the example yourself, and I will follow you." Thus spake the ancient Aesop for all the youth for all time. He, too, was a wise man!

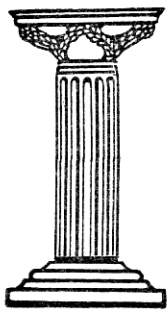
Years ago a young lad, reared among Masons, stood beside the open grave of a much loved uncle. Knights Templar from near and far had come to bury their Frater. Stalwart in their striking uniforms, they were the personification of dignity and sincerity. The lad was overwhelmed; and he vowed then and there that some day he, too, would be a Knight of the Cross—and he kept that vow. A true story and a simple one; but it points up the power of example. Not one of those Sir Knights knew this lad—yet in his heart, like Campy, they too rose to immortality!

"But this is not for me," you say. "I have neither time nor talent."—Nonsense! Every man of us had better find the time, for "only as we breed boys and young men who recognize in life something more precious than life itself, will our beloved land be safe." And remember, "*There is no substitute*".

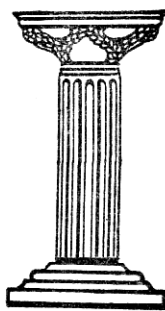
As for talent, just try your hand, your *personal* touch with the lads of the Boy Scouts, 4-H, the Air Cadets, the Boys' Clubs and other youth groups. Or—and perhaps this is even more important—why not see what is happening to the other youngsters about you, those who are not group members; they, too, are a part of our beloved land. Talent?—that's easy to come by. It's the heart that counts!

Brother—"Would you just hold it a minute?"

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Between the Pillars



THE OPEN BOOK AND THE OPEN LODGE By W. BRO. PERCY GRIFFITHS in the Masonic Record

Among the more familiar proverbs, none is perhaps more familiar than "Familiarity breeds Contempt", but, like all proverbs, this expression is often assumed to mean either more or less than a truth, and it is rarely applied with the discrimination which is so necessary in connection with familiar things such as proverbs, personal habits and conventional customs. Of course, human life would be a very tame and elementary business without occasional novelties in the way of experience, but, on the other hand it would be impossible unless the greater part of our activities (both physical and mental) were directed by habits, conventions and proverbs. If, however, human life at any time appears a tame affair, one can always discover an inexhaustible supply of novelty by analyzing the most familiar things or by questioning those which appear most obvious. We daily eat and drink, work and play, fall asleep and wake up, and life may thus appear a very tame and monotonous affair. But ask yourself *Why* you do these things and you will find out only that life is a very wonderful phenomenon, but those experiences which are most familiar are, in fact, the most wonderful of all. The novelty in a novel may appear to constitute its greatest claim to popularity, but, as a matter of fact, the real value of any book lies not in its novelty, but in its *Truth*, and what is truth but that which is most universal in human experience? Truth is therefore, to be sought and found amongst the most familiar commonplaces of life rather than among its novelties.

Turning from the general to the particular, let us consider the nature, purpose and meaning of the "Open Book", which is so familiar to all Freemasons. We call it the V.S.L., we use it as a "pledge of fidelity", but we rarely study its meaning. Yet this, which we take so much for granted, is a matter of very absorbing interest. Not only is the meaning of the "Open Book" neglected, but even its nature and its purpose are commonly misunderstood, and we cannot appreciate the one without carefully studying the others.

We will start with the Book as a Book, and consider its *Nature*. What is the "Book"? To many it may come as a shock to be told that the V.S.L. is not necessarily the Christian "Bible". In a Jewish Lodge, it may be the Pentateuch or the Old Testament; in a Moslem Lodge it may be

the Koran, and in a Hindoo Lodge the sacred "Vedas". It is, therefore, quite hopeless for Christian Freemasons to try and prove Freemasonry to be essentially based upon Christianity as such, and it is equally impossible to regard the Bible as the only V. of the S.L. It will be observed that our ritual involves no reference to whether Christian or Jewish moral laws as such, and that all the references to historical events involve symbols of personal conduct and general moral precepts which are common to all humanity. Freemasonry could not, indeed, claim Universality were it founded upon the one particular Code of Moral Law.

The essential "nature" of the "Open Book" is that it is "*Sacred*" and the term "Law" implies something quite different from that which is implied by the same word in the plural, viz., "Laws". It means Universal Law and not specific "ordinances", in fact *Divine Law*, and not human interpretations or imitations of it.

We see, therefore, that the "Open Book" is not a particular book, nor a particular Code of Laws, but a symbol of THE moral (or Sacred) Law common to humanity at large, and in this connection, we may call attention to two distinguishing characteristics of Divine or Sacred Law. In scientific discourse, the term "Divine", as applied to laws, is nowadays rigidly banned. Laws which are beyond the power of man to originate or modify are therefore described as "Natural Laws" and the term "Divine" is ruled out as unscientific. So far as the scientist is able to discuss phenomena which are beyond the power of Man to originate or modify, it is agreed the term "Natural" is, perhaps more scientific and appropriate than the term "Divine", but the Freemason who exercises the privilege of "extending his researches into the *Hidden Mysteries* of Nature and Science" is brought into intimate contact with the Great Originator of Natural Law (symbolized as T.G.A.O.T.U.) and realizes that "Natural" is actually synonymous with "Divine". We can, of course, distinguish between the specific laws controlling inanimate matter and living species respectively, but this is only equivalent to recognizing the particular laws peculiar to each species of living organisms. When we discover that "Divine Law" is a Unitary Principle, originated from a Unitary Source, and it is this which is symbolized by the "Open Book".

IN YOUR HANDS

The reputation of the Fraternity to a greater or lesser degree is in the keeping of each member. It is within the power of every Mason to glorify or nullify the institution. The public never reads Masonic books, nor studies Masonic philosophy. Its idea of the Fraternity is not well defined, and the sole basis of judgement it falls upon is the character of those who are supposed to exemplify its teachings. —The Oklahoma Freemason.

God gave man an upright countenance to survey the heavens, and to look upward to the stars.
—Ovid.