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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

THE GRAND MASTER GREETS THE CRAFT

Brethren—this is my first opportunity as your Grand Master to express my sincere thanks for your having conferred upon me the highest honour that it is possible to bestow in our great Fraternity on a Brother Mason. Such a distinguished position comes to comparatively few men, so, naturally, I am deeply conscious, not only of the honour that is mine, but also of the numerous responsibilities which attach to the position. It will be my constant aim to be worthy of your confidence and I shall endeavour to do all in my power to further the interests of our great institution.

I have been preceded in office by many distinguished Grand Masters who have served the Grand Lodge faithfully and well, and they have set a standard that I must try to follow. I may be pardoned for mentioning the very happy years I served as a Grand Lodge officer with M.W. Bro. Sheppard, M.W. Bro. Bannan and my immediate predecessor, M.W. Bro. McQueen. Through our close association I trust I have gained valuable knowledge in respect of the requirements of a Grand Master and I owe them a deep sense of gratitude for their assistance.

We now stand on the threshold of another Masonic year; let us resolve that by complete efficiency and enthusiasm the future will be even better than the past and that we shall prove worthy of the great heritage handed down to us. I have no doubt, but that with the loyal support of the Brethren and the able assistance of past and present Grand Lodge officers, much will be achieved in the coming year. We are all architects and builders within the great fabric of Freemasonry, the real strength of which lies in its ancient landmarks, belief in the Supreme Being and in Divine inspiration. While the opinions of the Brethren may differ on such things as politics and religion, Masonry provides a means whereby men of all parties and creeds are bound together by those virtues that are common to all who desire to serve their fellow men. I do not think any other organization can assemble such a loyal gathering of adherents, men of vastly varying beliefs, color and race and yet, amid all the turmoil and strife of the world, within the portals of a Masonic Lodge there is peace, reverence, order and Brotherhood.

Perhaps what we need most as Freemasons today is a better and clearer understanding, not only of the structure of Masonry, its history and traditions, but a greater devotion on the part of each one of us in maintaining and conserving those traditions, lest they be lost to us by neglect and misuse. Too often modern Masonry soars too high into unknown space, emphasizing little known and questionable facts, whereas the ordinary Mason is anxious to obtain more practical information based on the age-old philosophy of the Craft. Often the emphasis is placed on the wrong phases of Masonry and the everyday work, the charities and lodge activities which ought to be understood in their fullest degree are subject to neglect.

It is my belief that the new initiate should be given knowledge of the more fundamental practices of our day and age; the Brother who is keen and sufficiently able does not need instruction as to how to delve into past history. There is, in our day, more than enough of the written word to satisfy the most curious, and surely he requires no one to tell him where and how study material may be obtained. Our concern should first be in insuring that the Brethren young in the Craft, preferably right from their initiation, should be given every encouragement and stimulant to make themselves thoroughly conversant with every part of each degree and I would suggest that the responsibility in this connection rests primarily with the sponsors of the Brother concerned. All too often we find that these Brethren seem to think that their responsibility ends with the endorsement of the application. Every Master Mason should be aware of his responsibilities in this direction and if he is not so aware, then comes the need for the fundamental education that I suggest is so desirable. The Master of the Lodge should be acutely aware of his duty in this regard, for he is reminded of it every time a Lodge is opened for work. Let us see to it, Brethren, that every initiate is given the fundamental education so necessary to his advancement, to insure that he will not lose his enthusiasm and keenness for the Craft, but will, rather, be stimulated and enabled to seek further and deeper among our hidden mysteries.

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EDITORIAL

Newly installed Worshipful Masters and invested officers of Constituent Lodges throughout the jurisdiction will now be called upon to give evidence to the membership in general that their selection for office was a substantially correct and satisfactory procedure, for the resumption of monthly meetings, following the customary recess, will place upon them the responsibility of proving their worth.

Officers who are to achieve a worthwhile measure of success during the coming year will find it to their advantage to begin their term of office by consultation with those named to assist them in the conduct of the Lodge and by endeavouring to "programme" the work of the coming months in such a manner as to provide for interesting meetings. It has been emphasized, time and again, that the chief function of the Lodge is not that of creating new members, but, rather, that of sustaining interest and providing meetings that have value to all concerned.

Comparatively few of the Lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction have organized study groups among the membership and their value cannot be too strongly advocated. There is a vast store of material available for study and whether it be through the medium of Lodge or inter-Lodge debate, or through the preparation and discussion of papers and addresses, or the very decidedly interesting Masonic plays which are available through the Grand Lodge office, there is no question but that the alert and devoted Master of the Lodge, acting in conjunction with his officers, can assure meetings which will cause members to eagerly await the next summons to the Temple.

In addition to the officers of the Lodge, who should be in a position to add to the pleasure of meetings, there are, doubtless, on the side-lines members who are in a position to make a contribution of value when they are called upon to do so. Visitations to nearby Lodges tend to create interest and, strangely enough, despite our modern methods of travel and our vastly improved roads such visits between Lodges appear to have sunk to an unfortunate new low.

As has been done before in this column, it is suggested that material derived from the annual conference of Western Canadian Grand Lodges held each year at Banff (of which every Lodge has this year received a bound copy) can form the nucleus of a programme which will go a long way towards the education and entertainment of the Brethren. Such thought provoking topics as — "Should we as Masons consider wider fields of Masonic endeavour," or "Who are fit and proper persons to become Masons" might very well form the basis for most interesting discussions for an evening when no Work was in progress; the original papers and the discussion which followed at Banff would be a fine starting point and doubtless individual members could enlarge on such topics from the depth of their own thinking.

There is virtually no limit to what may be accomplished under the leadership of the men

who have been chosen by their fellows to accept the responsibility of Lodge guidance for the coming year. Interest and energy are chief requisites for success.

—S.C.H.

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Too great stress should not be placed on increasing our membership; large numbers of candidates may be an embarrassment if they involve mass production and attempts by individual Masters to establish records. Would it not be better for the Lodge to initiate, pass and raise three or four candidates during the year and give them adequate attention and instruction, than to confer degrees on numerous candidates who receive their degrees and nothing else besides? I would urge that Masonic teaching be given an important place as candidates receive their first introduction into Masonry.

It matters not how strong the Grand Lodge and its leadership may be, it can only suggest and point out the way by precept and example, but the leadership in every Lodge is vital and upon it devolves the responsibility of making each candidate a Mason, rather than just one more member. Strong and sturdy Masons, of deep conviction and settled devotion to the high ideals of our Order, make up strong Lodges and, in turn, a strong Grand Lodge. Let us try to be better Masons, better students of Masonry, and above all, let us endeavour to influence not only our own hearts and minds, but also those of our initiates, so that they and each one of us may practice out of the Lodge the moral, social duties and lessons which are so firmly inculcated within it.

Finally, Brethren, I wish to mention that when I was installed, my installing Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Carl Heckbert mentioned quite a number of things in the charge to the incoming Grand Master, but what impressed me most was when he said, "*Although you are, for a time, elevated above your Brethren never forget that you are a craftsman more strongly bound by your obligation — you must share the joys and sorrows of your brethren.*"

I can assure you that I appreciate the high honour that you have granted me; I shall endeavour to carry out the duties of my office with the dignity of a Grand Master and as long as my Creator grants me life, I shall always endeavour to be a true Craftsman and we will meet upon the level and part upon the square.



ROYAL LUNCHEON

The Provincial Government issued invitations to representatives of organizations in the Province to attend a Luncheon in Edmonton in honour of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip on July 21st, 1959, and the M.W. The Grand Master and Mrs. Little, with the Grand Secretary attended the historic function.

GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION - 1959

The 54th annual Communication of our Grand Lodge was held in the City of Lethbridge on June 9th and 10th, 1959, in the spacious Civic Centre, which proved very acceptable. The Banquet was also held in the Civic Centre, following which R.W. Bro. G. Rider Davis of Fort Macleod delivered a most interesting address in connection with the early history of Alberta.

Distinguished guests were present from Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and California, as well as Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and we again had the privilege of receiving His Honour Dr. J. J. Bowlen, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Alberta, who was greeted by many life long friends and who further cemented the affection in which he has long been held by all members of the Craft.

M.W. Bro. Donald D. McQueen, concluding a distinguished term in the office of Grand Master, gave record of his stewardship, outlining the work for the year in a most interesting fashion. His report, together with that of the Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, indicated a year of solid progress in all phases of the work and also showed a healthy increase in membership.

Chairmen of the respective Committees outlined the work of their respective Committees, all reports being well received by the Brethren. The financial structure was discussed by M.W. Bro. A. D. Cumming and it was evident that careful management of the fund had placed Grand Lodge in a sound financial position. M.W. Bro. R. S. Sheppard as Chairman of the Higher Education Bursary Committee, gave a resume of what had been accomplished in helping four students during the past year and the meeting adopted a resolution that not more than eight be assisted this year, as well as enabling the Committee to receive applications from any deserving boy or girl. R.W. Bro. Harper reported for the Committee on the Redistribution of Districts and the recommendation that a number of changes be made and a new District be established was adopted. R.W. Bro. Booth gave a progress report for the Committee on Regalia. The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters and Deputy Grand Master on the Condition of Masonry indicated the Craft was in a strong position. All reports will be found in the Proceedings which will be available at an early date, two copies are supplied every Lodge and the Brethren are enjoined to make good use of the wealth of material they contain.

R.W. Bro. David Little, having been elected by acclamation to the vitally important office of Grand Master, was presented by his Brother, R.W. Bro. John Little and was installed by M.W. Bro. S. Carl Heckbert, his supporting officers were invested by a number of Past Grand Masters following which a most successful Communication came to a close.

The Brethren throughout the Jurisdiction will be interested to see the list of officers elected and appointed for the ensuing year and the following

is a complete list. Less than a month following his investiture R.W. Bro. Ole Nevra, D.D.G.M. of District No. 6 and a much loved Past Master of Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 passed away very suddenly. The M.W. The Grand Master and other Grand Lodge officers joined a very large number of friends in paying last respects on July 13th in Calgary. At the District meeting of No. 6 on July 17th R.W. Bro. R. L. Osborne was elected and invested to carry out the duties for the year 1959-60.

M.W. Bro. David Little	Grand Master
R.W. Bro. W. H. Harper	Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Bro. C. P. Blacklee	D.D.G.M. District No. 1
R.W. Bro. H. M. Sangster	D.D.G.M. District No. 2
R.W. Bro. A. Jones	D.D.G.M. District No. 3
R.W. Bro. W. J. Fisher	D.D.G.M. District No. 4
R.W. Bro. D. T. Walmsley	D.D.G.M. District No. 5
R.W. Bro. R. L. Osborne	D.D.G.M. District No. 6
R.W. Bro. N. Christ	D.D.G.M. District No. 7
R.W. Bro. A. T. Gray	D.D.G.M. District No. 8
R.W. Bro. H. Richardson	D.D.G.M. District No. 9
R.W. Bro. W. D. McAllister	D.D.G.M. District No. 10
R.W. Bro. A. R. Godkin	D.D.G.M. District No. 11
R.W. Bro. A. C. Burnup	D.D.G.M. District No. 12
R.W. Bro. D. A. Blackie	D.D.G.M. District No. 13
R.W. Bro. O. W. H. MacRae	D.D.G.M. District No. 14
R.W. Bro. O. B. Taylor	D.D.G.M. District No. 15
R.W. Bro. C. R. Bragg	D.D.G.M. District No. 16
R.W. Bro. F. Ramsey	D.D.G.M. District No. 17
R.W. Bro. J. Davis	D.D.G.M. District No. 18
R.W. Bro. E. K. Wright	D.D.G.M. District No. 19
R.W. Bro. B. Brown	D.D.G.M. District No. 20
V.W. Bro. J. G. McNiven	Grand Masters Rep. N.W.T.
R.W. Bro. M. G. Merner	Senior Grand Warden
R.W. Bro. W. L. McPhee	Junior Grand Warden
R.W. Bro. L. J. Rosling	Grand Treasurer
R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers	Grand Secretary
R.W. Bro. F. C. Cuthbertson	Grand Registrar
R.W. Bro. Rev. W. J. Collett	Grand Chaplain
V.W. Bro. J. Hunter	Senior Grand Deacon
V.W. Bro. R. W. Austin	Junior Grand Deacon
V.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell	Grand Director of Ceremonies
V.W. Bro. R. C. Hugh	Grand Organist
V.W. Bro. A. G. Naughton	Grand Pursuivant
V.W. Bro. E. E. Sloane	Grand Steward
V.W. Bro. F. B. Blair	Grand Steward
V.W. Bro. J. E. Bradley	Grand Steward
V.W. Bro. J. S. Hazell	Grand Steward
V.W. Bro. G. T. Harrison	Grand Steward
V.W. Bro. J. W. Bateman	Grand Steward
V.W. Bro. F. J. Pearce	Grand Tyler

IN MEMORIAM

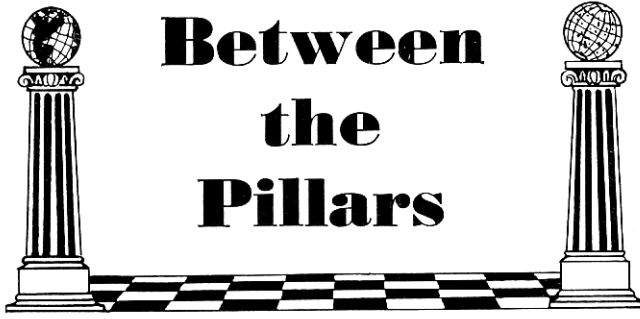
It is with the deepest regret that we advise our members of the passing on June 6th, 1959, of Robert A. Tate, for many years the active and energetic Grand Secretary of our Sister Grand Jurisdiction of Saskatchewan. Most Worshipful Brother Tate had done much in guiding the Craft in the neighbouring Province, but his influence was felt much farther afield as he had been prominent in various Masonic bodies, had taken a most active part in the organization and conduct of the Western Conference of Grand Lodges and had contributed, on numerous occasions, to the work of the All Canada Masonic Conference of which he was a most valued member.

The example of his life will long be remembered; Masonry has lost a staunch supporter, Canada has lost a forthright citizen. We have lost a valued friend.

His passing to another life, the inevitable destiny of man, to which we must all surrender sooner or later, is a matter for the deepest regret. We ask:—

*"Not how did he die . . .
But how did he live."*

The answer is given in the shining example that rests about him for evermore.



Between the Pillars

WHAT MASONRY HAS MEANT TO ME

By BRO. J. M. BRENNEN

Junior Warden, Appollo Lodge, Stettler.

(A paper given at District No. 9 meeting,
July 21st, 1959)

Like most brothers, I knew nothing about Masonry when I submitted my application for membership. I did not know that many of its members were men whom I respected and with whom I was proud to associate. My own father had been a Mason for many years and was always interested in his Lodge and its work. I therefore could conclude that by submitting my application to become a member of the Lodge nothing but good could come to me.

It is now six years since I was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason and in that six years I have had the opportunity of learning more and more about Masonry and its members. I believe the thing that impressed me most, when I was receiving my degrees, was the friendliness and genuine "brotherliness" of Masons. They were all only too happy to answer my many questions and also to put themselves out in order to assist me in the necessary practice of my work. As I advanced in knowledge and the need for assistance lessened, the friendliness continued and I can honestly say that it is one of the best qualities that I have found in Masonry. Masonry, therefore, has given me the opportunity of making acquaintances from all walks of life and teaches me that we are all brothers and can do much for each other and for the world by working together.

Some new members, after becoming Master Masons, attend but few meetings and then only occasionally; it is true that some find that other matters are more pressing than their Lodge and doubtless some find the work somewhat boring. While this is doubtless true in some instances it is my personal feeling that the work is the real meat of Masonry and this applies not only to the floor work, but as well to the content of the lectures and charges which contain much of beauty. Each time I attend the Lodge and listen to the spoken word, I find more and more of value and of food for thought.

It is certain that it takes considerable concentration to grasp the ideals of Freemasonry and it can hardly be expected that all the depth of

Masonry will be revealed or come to light after two or three meetings. I am sure it will be some time yet before I will have grasped all the meanings and ideals of the Order. Even after realizing the content of the work, like anything else worth while, it requires repeated telling of it to thoroughly acquaint the mind with the philosophy that underlies the teachings of the Craft.

Masonry, I believe, is trying to teach us a better way of life and also how to get along better with our brothers.. This means that besides learning this better way of life, we must also try to put the teachings into practice. This can be accomplished, partly by attending our Lodge meetings and meeting and mixing with our brothers in Masonry, but it is also essential that the teachings be carried into our everyday lives, not alone with our fellow members of the Craft, but with all mankind.

The greatest aspect, I believe, that Masonry requires, is that all its members must believe in a Supreme Being. A belief in God. It is a bit disappointing to me that more Masons do not take a more active part in the work of their own church. A great many will be found to be prominently associated with the church and, indeed, a great many will be recognized as leaders in this field, but I still feel that their numbers are too few, in comparison to the number of members in our Lodges. All that Masonry teaches us points towards an active church life; doubtless some feel that Masonry in itself is a religion, but that is far from the truth. This point could form the basis for many articles and for a great deal of discussion in itself, but this is not possible in this expression of personal feeling.

May I sum up my thought in this way, "Masonry is a corner stone for a richer and more rewarding life to all who will digest and put into practice its teachings." Like everything worth while, we will reap what we sow. In order to receive the full benefit from Masonry we must be prepared to put our shoulder to the wheel and make an individual and collective contribution that will return, many fold, all of the effort provided by us as Masons.

GRAND MASTERS ITINERARY

- September 2nd—Sixtieth Anniversary Red Deer No. 12, Red Deer.
- September 10-12—Banff Conference.
- September 12th—District No. 1, Cochrane.
- October 20th—Fiftieth Anniversary, Buffalo Park No. 44, Wainwright.
- October 21st—District No. 10, Edmonton.
- October 22nd—District No. 20, Edmonton.
- November 4th—District No. 2, Medicine Hat.
- November 5th—Visit to Lethbridge Lodges.
- November 11th—District No. 18, Calgary.
- November 12th—Fiftieth Anniversary, Ionia No. 45, Alix.

MAKE MASONRY WARM, VIBRANT

Let your Masonic Lodge be a beehive of worthwhile activity in your community, so that its wholesome and vigorous influence may be felt beyond its Temple walls. Let us practice a form of masonry that is warm and vibrant, tolerant and human.

—Joseph Fort Newton.