



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

## The Leaders of the Craft

William H. Harper was born at Langside Portsoy, Banffshire, Scotland, on Sept. 30, 1898, and became a member of Lodge Renfrew No. 134 in 1930 and a Charter Member of Jordan Lodge No. 177 in January 1958. He served as Master of Lodge Renfrew in 1940, was made a Grand Steward in 1946, and was Grand Registrar in 1953 and 1954. Being elected as Junior Grand Warden in 1957 he became Grand Master at the last session of Grand Lodge. M.W. Bro. Harper is active in numerous other Masonic bodies including the Scottish Rite, the Royal Order of Scotland and was Potentate of Al Azhar Temple in 1950. He has been extremely active in Masonic circles as indicated in the brief review above; he is keenly interested in every phase of our work and we are pleased to publish his greeting to the Brethren when he says:



Wm. H. HARPER,  
Grand Master



MORLEY MERNER  
Deputy Grand Master

"I am duly conscious of the high honour which has been afforded me to serve as your Grand Master, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued confidence in me during the past several years. I realize that the office of Grand Master is one of great responsibility and one which I accept with some degree of pride, but a much greater degree of humility. I will endeavor to execute the duties of this high office in such a manner as to indicate that your confidence in me has not been misplaced.

I know that I can depend on the support and co-operation of all of the Past Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge, but I would also like to feel that I may have the support of every member of our fraternity and if anyone has anything to offer in the way of suggestions or constructive criticism that would be for the benefit of Masonry at large, I would appreciate it if he would transmit the same through the Secretary of his Lodge to the office of the Grand Secretary where I can assure you it will receive my most earnest consideration.

Since my installation in Edmonton on June 9th last I have, along with our Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, attended the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, the Grand Lodge of Montana and a substantial



S. H. HARDIN  
Junior Grand Warden

number of our District Meetings and on every occasion we were received with the utmost cordiality and hospitality. The meetings have given me an opportunity of meeting old friends and making new ones, a privilege which I deeply appreciate and I hope to extend the opportunity as we complete our provincial itinerary in the coming months.

May I take this opportunity of calling your attention to the Higher Education Bursary Fund and the necessity for funds with which to carry on this important work. Your voluntary contribution will be gratefully received and acknowledged." Sincerely and fraternally,

Wm. H. HARPER, Grand Master.

Those associated with M.W. Bro. Harper in the direction of the Grand Lodge of Alberta for the ensuing year are dedicated Masons in whom the Brethren of the Grand Jurisdiction have the utmost confidence; and we are pleased to give herewith brief biographical sketches in order that the membership of our Constituent Lodges may be familiar with those who have been entrusted with the leadership of the Craft.

R.W. Bro. Morley G. Merner joined Wetaskiwin Lodge in 1934, becoming Worshipful Master in 1940 and a D.D.G.M. in 1957. He is an active member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine. Bro. Merner is a veteran of the Second World War, also is active in the United Church and Civic affairs in Wetaskiwin.

R.W. Bro. W. Lloyd McPhee is a Prince Edward Islander who has adopted the City of Calgary as his home; a member of Perfection Lodge No. 9, has served as W.M. and as a D.D.G.M.; active in other Masonic groups.

R.W. Bro. (Dr.) S. H. Hardin, Vegreville, is a member of St. John's Lodge No. 25. He is well known in the Northern part of the province being a constant visitor to Lodges in rural and urban centres. He has served his community in many spheres of activity and may be counted upon to render most faithful service in the office to which he has now been elevated.

The Bulletin extends him a cordial welcome as an officer of Grand Lodge.



W. L. MCPHEE  
Senior Grand Warden

## EDITORIAL

Elsewhere in this issue there appears the itinerary of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, who will be accompanied on his numerous and well timed visits to districts and lodges by the Grand Secretary and, in many cases, doubtless, by other senior officers of Grand Lodge.

The purpose of the visits, as has been indicated, on many, many occasions, is to enable the Grand Officers to come to know the members of Constituent Lodges and, as well, to enable the latter to know those in whom they have vested the responsibility of the direction of the Order for the time being.

It will be quite apparent to all that if scheduled meetings are poorly attended there can be only two results, the first, that the time of the senior officers is wasted and, secondly, that those who fail to attend miss a golden opportunity to learn something of the problems of the operation of the Order on a province-wide basis or to hear addresses and discussions which would most assuredly be of benefit.

No Grand Master would claim to know all there is to know about the philosophy of Freemasonry, nor would any officer, even the Grand Secretary who is known over a wide area as a skillful executive and as a ritualist of the highest quality, put forward any claim to perfection in the theory that supports Masonry, but few thinking men will deny the important value of discussion as a means of bringing out the best that exists in our craft. The District Meetings which are designed to serve the best interests of our members and to make it possible for them to be well informed with respect to the various phases of Masonry, offer an excellent opportunity, not only for obtaining up to date information, but also for that measure of fraternization and sociability that is so desirable in any organization.

While it is true that Masonry makes no claim to be a service club in the usual sense of the term, there is some obligation on the part of the order to interest itself in the life of the community in which it has its being and a broader acquaintance with the members of neighboring lodges can be made to mean much to all concerned.

The opportunity to attend anniversary and other similar occasions of Masonic importance presents excellent opportunities for fellowship and it is doubtless in the mind of our Grand Master, as intimated in his message in this issue, that he is hopeful of that measure of support and interest to which his high office and his own individual personality entitle him. Let us all make sure that we attend the meetings outlined; I am sure we will not have any regret.

S. C. H.

### In Memoriam



Most Worshipful Brother  
GILBERT McNEILL BLACKSTOCK  
Grand Master 1933

It is with the deepest regret that we record the passing of M.W. Bro. Gilbert M. Blackstock, our Grand Master more than a quarter of a century ago. M.W. Bro. Blackstock was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in June, 1888, and first became a member of Athole Lodge No. 413 in his native country on December 28th, 1911. Coming to Canada he settled at Medicine Hat and affiliated with Mizpah Lodge No. 35 in December, 1912,

He was elected Worshipful Master in 1917 and joined Grand Lodge as Grand Organist in 1927. In 1929 he was elevated to the office of Junior Grand Warden and was Grand Master in 1932-33, serving the Brethren with diligence during the term of his office.

In civil life, M.W. Bro. Blackstock was a barrister and for many years agent of the Attorney General of Alberta in the southern city; he was well known throughout his adopted Province as Chairman of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners, from which post he retired on reaching the age of sixty-five, following which he served as Chairman of numerous Commissions of Enquiry and as a "Consulting Counsel" in major legal matters.

M.W. Bro. Blackstock was predeceased by an only son a few years ago and it is thought that his grief in this loss to some extent affected his health and he passed away on June 21st, 1960, in the City of Edmonton, after a long and distinguished career.

The sympathy of the entire membership of this Grand Lodge goes out to Mrs. Blackstock, who survives him.

## WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA GRAND MASTER FACES IMPRESSIVE PROGRAM

Doubtless M.W. Bro. Harper, on accepting the office of Grand Master, realized that the demands upon his time would require almost constant attendance to the duties of his important office and a glance at the itinerary for much of the balance of the current year serves to indicate something of the devotion that is required of those entrusted with the direction of our Grand Lodge.

Our chief officer, in company with his Grand Secretary, faces a very strenuous program and it is incumbent upon our members in the various districts and lodges to make sure that attendance at the scheduled meetings listed herein is fully worthy of the contribution which will be made as our officers seek to fulfill their duties with high purpose. Each member in the Jurisdiction will be cordially welcome at the meeting which best meets his convenience and there can be no question but that much of value can be transmitted by our senior officers to the members of Constituent Lodges who avail themselves of the pleasing opportunity to meet our leaders.

The following itinerary is given at this time so that members generally may make suitable arrangements to meet their obligation as members of the Craft.

- September 2—Calgary Lodge No. 23, Calgary.
- September 8 to 10—Banff Conference, Banff.
- September 12—District No. 3 at Jasper.
- September 14—District No. 12 at Edmonton.
- September 15—Institution Sherwood Lodge, Sherwood Park.
- September 21—District No. 4 at Red Deer
- September 22—Ashlar Lodge No. 28 at Calgary.
- September 26—Lodge Renfrew No. 134 at Calgary.
- September 28—Jordan Lodge No. 177 at Calgary.
- September 30—District No. 1, Calgary.
- October 1—Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2, 75th Anniversary
- October 4—Acadia Lodge No. 82 at Youngstown.
- October 5—District No. 15 at Drumheller.
- October 10—Reception by Renfrew and Jordan at Calgary.
- October 19—District No. 16 at Gleichen.
- October 22—District No. 18 at Calgary.
- October 25—Joint Meeting, Crescent No. 87 and Jubilee No. 173 at Calgary.
- October 31—Constitution and Consecration of Elbow River Lodge No. 180, at Calgary.
- November 1—Vulcan No. 74, Vulcan.
- November 7—St. John's Lodge No. 25 at Vegreville.
- November 8—50th Anniversary Comet Lodge No. 50, at Hardisty.

We regret to announce the passing of W. Bro. Samuel Sprague of Medicine Hat, Alberta. Bulletin readers will recall that a recent article set out the history of this delightful personage who was thought to be one of the oldest living Masons in the world. A native of New Brunswick he was an early settler in this Province and became a much loved and respected member of the Craft. The sympathy of the membership goes to a daughter who is his only survivor.

## UNITY LODGE MARKS 50th ANNIVERSARY

May 3rd last saw Unity Lodge No. 51 celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary in Edmonton with a large assembly of Masons present to join in the pleasing ceremonies.

With W. Bro. L. B. Nicholson presiding the first session consisted of a most impressive Service of Thanksgiving under the direction of the Grand Chaplain, R.W. Bro. W. J. Collett and Bro. the Rev. G. B. Johnson.

M.W. Bro. David Little, then Grand Master, dignified the meetings by his presence and a number of Past Grand Masters and others were in attendance.

Three Charter Members of the Lodge were introduced by R.W. Bro. John Booth, in the persons of R.W. Bro. Dr. F. J. Folinsbee, W. Bro. Percy S. Bailey and W. Bro. Dr. E. A. Hay-Roe; three others who joined the Lodge in 1910 were also introduced, these being Bros. F. Milling, W. J. Cardy and John Hope.

W. Bro. Percy Bailey made a presentation to the Lodge of a beautiful set of working tools, while R.W. Bro. Penman presented the Lodge with a fine set of gavels, the product of his own skilful hands.

Guest speaker for the occasion was M.W. Bro. F. P. Galbraith of Red Deer and his address was one which will long be remembered by those privileged to hear it. W. Bro. W. E. Robinson proposed the toast to the Grand Lodge of Alberta and this was responded to by M.W. Bro. Little.

Unity Lodge is one which has been unusually prominent in Edmonton for the past half century and the large gathering paid fitting tribute to the accomplishments of the Lodge during that long period of time.

## BORDER CITY OPENS NEW TEMPLE

Britannia Lodge of Lloydminster, although working under the Jurisdiction of our sister Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, is closely affiliated with nearby Alberta Lodges, all of whom were represented at the official opening of a splendid new Temple on July 6th, 1960. The cornerstone of the fine building was laid by M.W. Bro. Bergstrom Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, assisted by his officers.

## PAST GRAND MASTER INSTALLS SON

On June 24th M.W. Bro. S. Carl Heckbert installed his son, Charles T. Heckbert, as Worshipful Master of Vermilion Lodge No. 24. The occasion was the joint installation of Vermilion No. 24, Hope Lodge No. 38 of Mannville, and Kitscoty Lodge No. 131. Following the installation ceremony W. Bro. Heckbert presented the Lodge with a set of Working Tools.



# Between the Pillars

## How Can You Forgive?

Dr. Lawrence W. Johnson in the New Age

When someone slights you, or says a cutting thing to you or about you; when some one takes an unfair advantage of you; when a person mistreats a loved one or a friend, then what are you to do?

The natural, all too common reaction is to strike back, to "get even," to hold a grudge. This is what many of us do. "How can we forgive these things?" we say.

Well, forgiveness is not easy. Often it is about the most difficult thing we have to do. And yet an unforgiving spirit inevitably inflicts a harm that is beyond calculation to the person who allows such a spirit to control him. When we refuse to forgive, we injure ourselves even more than the one to whom our resentment is directed. An old Chinese proverb is right: "The fire you kindle for your enemy often burns yourself more than him."

The unforgiving person is an unhappy person. Resentment is a poison which destroys your inner peace. It is cancerous and eats away your life.

When we pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," I wonder if we really understand what we are saying. Actually we need to go on to what Jesus adds; "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Is there a single one of us who does not need to be pardoned, both by someone whom we have wronged, and by God? And God's pardon is always waiting for us, whatever we may have done, regardless of what we may have been. God is like that. His forgiveness is held out for us to take, when in humility and shame we confess the wrongs we have done, the failures we have made, and earnestly seek His forgiveness.

The only thing that makes God's forgiveness impossible is our own refusal to forgive. If we say "I'll never forgive him," then how can we expect to be forgiven? So while God's pardon

is always available to us, still, if we, pardoned by God, do not pardon our brother, then we block that channel by which God's pardon finds us. An unforgiving spirit in us shuts the door in God's face, even though His compassion still surrounds us.

How tragic that there is so little forgiveness in the world, and frequently in us. Sometimes we "forgive" but insist that we shall never "forget." When General Oglethorpe said to John Wesley, "I never forgive," Wesley promptly replied, "Then I hope, Sir, that you will never sin. For if you sin you will stand in need of divine forgiveness."

Believe it, hate never produces anything except more hate. Evil never can be overcome with evil. Leonardo DaVinci, the great artist, once had an enemy against whom he harbored a grudge, and as he was painting the "Last Supper" he decided he would get even by painting his enemy's face as the face of Judas. But the ugliness of the deed so depressed him that, when he tried to paint in the face of Jesus, DaVinci simply could not get the right spirit for such a sacred task. The face of Jesus wouldn't come out right for him. His vindictiveness not only ruined his happiness, it also blunted his skill. But when he forgave his enemy and painted out the insult then he saw Christ's face in a dream that night and was able to paint a face of Christ which is now one of the glories of the world.

Our only safety then, is to pray, "O God, forgive us, as we forgive," and to keep on praying the prayer, and to mean what we say. Only God can forgive our sins, and only God can quicken us in the forgiving spirit.

In many castles in Europe visitors are shown many hidden doors leading to secret passages, and told, "This is how help came when the castle was besieged." Well, how often are you and I prisoners to enmity and ill-will, held captive by an unforgiving spirit; but there is a secret way—we can pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

A wonderful person who had suffered much through five terrible years of war, after she had been subjected to all manner of abuse and malignment, said to a group of Americans, "There must be no bitterness in our hearts. No matter what we have undergone and suffered, we must try to forgive those who injured us and remember only the lessons we gained thereby."

Such forgiveness is not easy. When the wound is deep, and the loss severe you cannot forgive readily. This kind of forgiveness costs. And maybe you are saying, "It is high, I cannot attain unto it." Of course it is high and we shall never reach it without God's spirit in our hearts. Never can we reach it by ourselves alone. Only through the grace of God can you forgive one another as God has forgiven you. And don't you think that now is a good time to begin your part in the matter? It is in your hands.