



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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TO EACH HIS OWN

I have wondered many times why it is or how it happens that the person whose views on many things differ so widely from mine yet came to be a member of my church and a lodge member, says a writer in the *Masonic Chronicle*. Then one day I picked up a magazine which revealed the following facts as told by Sir Arthur Keith, which astonished me still more. Sir Arthur recited: "No two human beings have made or ever will make exactly the same journey in life. The same events may occur, but the sequence and combination cannot be the same. Every human life is an unique adventure. Every baby brings into the world a pattern on its finger-tips never seen before. What is true of its fingers and its face is also true of its brain, but variety in this organ has infinitely greater significance. Within the brain there are 18 millions of microscopic living units. These units are grouped in myriads of battalions, and the battalions are linked together by a system of communication which, in complexity, has no parallel in any telephone network designed by man. Of the millions of nerve units in the brain, not one is isolated. All are connected and take part in handling the ceaseless stream of messages which flow into the brain from the eyes, fingers, feet, limbs and body.

In no two is the balance alike, and each different brain has to deal with a different tide of experience. I marvel, then, in view of this, not that one man should disagree with another concerning the ultimate realities of life, but that so many, in spite of the diversity of their inborn natures, should reach so large a measure of agreement."

After reading this article I came to the conclusion that your opinions 'and mine and the other fellows' are shaped and coloured by our individual experiences. Things that happened to us ten years ago, or one year, or maybe only yesterday, largely account for our preferences and prejudices. Each of us has our own opinions and our own thoughts which are brought about by our experiences in life. Therefore, despite the fact that each of us has been schooled in the same Fraternity, we are still individuals and are entitled to our own interpretations and conclusions in what it means to us.

How enlightening it is to discover that many of our ways and ideas are entirely our own and not brought about by force or compulsions. This brings to my mind the story about Charles V, an amateur clockmaker before he became king, who said upon abdicating: "What a fool I was to think I could make my thousands of subjects think alike on public affairs when I was never able to make my hundreds of clocks tick alike and strike at the same instant."

Day after day we dwell side by side in amity and polite tolerance with religion. The good deeds of each denomination are indistinguishable; their sincerity is unquestionable. Scarcely two centuries ago they would have been consigning each other prayerfully to rack and flame. The religions have not changed. What, then, has happened?

Men have changed their experiences, by altered environment and social customs, as well as by the grace of God. Today no man's religion, politics or philosophy is the sole monitor of his conduct. He conforms, at least outwardly, to the rules his fellowmen have established as most congenial.

Being modern people, we are pretty well agreed that it is nothing short of moronic folly to allow a difference in religion or political views to disrupt a fine friendship. We are surprised and shocked when it does happen.

The more advanced among us have learned to differentiate between persons and opinions, and to respect as something inviolable the divine right of private thinking.

Perhaps, in a sense, we are like clocks, in youth being wound up, in adulthood running down, ticking with a variety of viewpoints, some of us gaining, some of us losing, and our faces ever changing. What matters if our ticking has different sounds, so long as we give the right kind of time to good folks about us—so long as we are understood and the motives of our trembling hands are rightly read? It would most certainly be a humdrum world if everyone thought alike, worked alike and played alike.

God has given some of us to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, teachers and leaders. To some God has given very special abilities. To some He has given very specific opportunities for service. As one young man said so directly to another; "It makes no difference what anybody else does, but it does make a difference what YOU do."

THE NEW YEAR

As we enter upon a new year the Bulletin is pleased to extend to its readers the most sincere wishes for a Happy and Prosperous 1961. It will be our endeavor, in the coming months, to furnish a paper of value to our membership. May we be imbued with the spirit of the words of Lowell, when he says;—

"Not what we give, but what we share
For the gift without the giver is bare:
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungering neighbor, and me."

EDITORIAL

The 'York Rite' Lodges of our Grand Jurisdiction have just installed new Worshipful Masters and invested their supporting officers for the ensuing year and upon them will rest the responsibility of conducting the affairs of their respective lodges in a manner which will reflect credit, not only upon themselves, but upon the lodge itself.

The Worshipful Master, in each case, has taken upon himself the direction of others and has, at the same time, undertaken by the obligation of his office, to conduct the business of the lodge in a workmanlike manner, to so prepare himself that he will make the desired impression on candidates in the respective degrees and to generally interpret Freemasonry to the community in which the lodge exists.

Perhaps it is timely to suggest that some form of officer-guidance be actively utilized in forming standing and special committees who may, if they but will, greatly reduce the demand on the time and energies of the officers of the lodge. Recognition should, and doubtless will be given to the special qualifications of certain members of the lodge when committees are being named, so that every advantage possible may be taken of the abilities of members to perform given tasks.

It will be apparent to all concerned that the management of a lodge cannot be effectively carried out without a good deal of preliminary preparatory work on the part of the officers; it will not be found sufficient merely to meet once a month on scheduled meeting nights, but noticeable benefits would soon be apparent if the officers of the lodge could make it possible to meet prior to each meeting and formulate plans designed to maintain the interest of the membership in general.

In many cases it is found that a preponderance of the time of the Master of the lodge is devoted to the preparation of ritualistic presentation and while this doubtless has an important place in the work of the chief officer, it should not, perhaps, be made the uppermost requirement of his contribution to the well being of the lodge. Candidates for admission to the degrees have a right to expect a reasonable measure of perfection in the work presented to them, and, by the same token, the lodge should look to the Masters and their officers for leadership in every aspect of the conduct of the lodge.

Merely 'going through the chairs' should not be considered the major desire of the officers of a lodge; perfection in the ritual, adequate programming to secure the greatest measure of interest on the part of all members, the creation of a favourable impression in the minds of all candidates and the extension of the proper spirit of fellowship are paramount to successful lodge operation.

LOOKING UPWARD

In the very nature of man's experiences it has not been possible for him to live continuously in the heights of the mountains. The ways of life often lead into the valley from which he must lift his eyes and heart to his Maker. The Psalmist had this in mind when he said: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." After this statement he raised an important question. "Whence cometh my help?" To this question he gave the answer which constitutes the crux on which genuine happiness must rest. "My help cometh from the Lord."

When God made man, there was placed within his very nature a desire to look up to his Maker and Friend.

To possess such a desire without the ability to perform the act of "looking" would be the height of folly and would be the basis of eternal confusion. For this reason man was given the ability to look upward. Upward to the one source from which his needs might be supplied.

This upward look consists of a searching of one individual for another individual for the purpose of establishing a mutual relationship. Through this relationship God has been able to provide for man a degree of joy and happiness in a world filled with heartache and suffering. This upward look tends to draw man like a magnet to higher plains of everyday living.

*Dr. A. J. Quinn
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THE STUDENT

I say every man is to be a student, a thinker. This does not mean that he is to shut himself within four walls, and bend his mind and body over books. Men thought before books were written, and some of the greatest thinkers never entered what we call a study. Nature, Scripture, society, and life, present perpetual subjects for thought; and the man who collects, concentrates, employs his faculties on any of these subjects for the purpose of getting the truth, is so far a student, a thinker, a philosopher, and is rising to the dignity of man. It is time that we should cease to limit to professed scholars the titles of thinkers, philosophers. Whoever seeks truth with an earnest mind, no matter when or how, belongs to the school of intellectual men.

William Ellery Channing.

THE MYSTIC TIE

Here is a phrase that we use many times, and many times we contemplate upon its deep significance. At last we fail to adequately define it.

The young Mason with the degrees of Masonry still fresh about him walks out into life and soon meets with this strange and fascinating bond. He comes to an older Mason for an explanation and the Mason of many years settles back to tell the young brother what it has meant to him over the years. He can recite experience after experience in which the Mystic Tie has its part, but he cannot fence it in with words.

We know that it has to do with men who have a common spiritual experience, a common heritage, a common goal. We know it includes the mighty determination of the individual to add a touch of beauty to the Temple of Life.

The phrase is related to our belief as Masons, our reverential attitude, our trust in the unfailing Wisdom, Justice and Mercy of our Creator.

It has to do with man's eternal struggle for freedom of mind and of conscience.

It extends to our protest against any form of tyranny, for while it is noble to be tolerant, it is ignoble to tolerate conditions which destroy the very right of men to be brothers.

It is the result of unity of spirit and not the unity of enforced conformity.

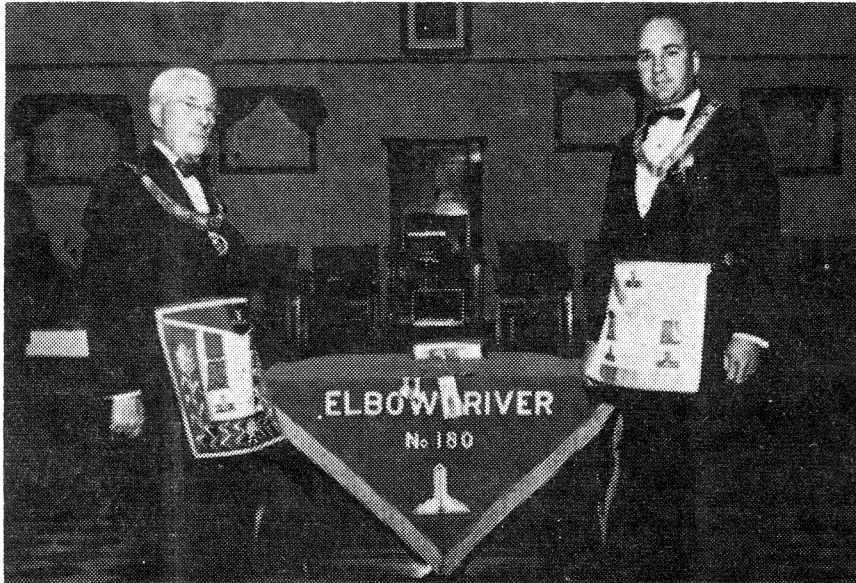
Its strength depends upon you and upon me and how well we walk and act as Master Masons.

We cannot define it. We cannot touch or see it. But every Mason knows within his heart "The chain too subtle for our seeing unites us all upon the plane of Universal Being."

Masonic Messenger

WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA

ELBOW RIVER LODGE No. 180 CONSTITUTED AND CONSECRATED



Nineteen months work under Dispensation was crowned with success on Oct. 31st 1960, when the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. W. H. Harper presided at the Constitution and Consecration of Elbow River Lodge No. 180 in Calgary, Grand Lodge was well represented with officers attending from distant points; R.W. Bro. S. H. Hardin, Junior Grand Warden from Vegreville, V.W. Bro. R. C. Ponting, Grand Senior Deacon from Westlock, V.W. Bro. A. E. Webb, Grand Steward from Camrose, V.W. Bro. O. A. Tabor, Grand Steward from Delia and V.W. Bro. E. H. Johnson, Grand Steward from Blackie evinced their interest in the new lodge by their attendance.

The Worshipful Masters of twelve city of Calgary lodges took part in the ceremony and a choir under the direction of W. Gwillyn Edwards, W.M. of Jubilee Lodge No. 173 and the Grand Organist supplied appropriately pleasing music. The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Andrew Little, was installed by R.W. Bro. Rivers, Grand Secretary, assisted by Grand Lodge officers and three Worshipful Masters who presented the Working Tools in the respective degrees. The final charge was impressively delivered by M.W. Bro. D. D. McQueen of Vulcan.

Bow River Lodge No. 1, through W. Bro. R. A. Stirling presented the newly consecrated lodge with a complete set of collars, while R.W. Bro. D. S. Bareham, P.D.D.G.M., a Charter Member made a presentation of a beautiful Altar Cloth, seen in the photograph above.

Elbow River Lodge is the fifth Lodge consecrated in Calgary since 1955; beginning with fifty members it now boasts a membership of 85 and its progress is a matter for congratulation.

COMET LODGE, HARDISTY, MARKS HALF CENTURY

On Nov. 8th, 1960 the members of Comet Lodge, Hardisty celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Lodge; the ceremonies were attended by M.W. Bro. Harper, Grand Master and a number of other Grand Lodge officers. A Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by

Bro. Rev. G. Youmatoff, assisted by the Grand Chaplain, R.W. Bro. Collett.

Tribute was paid to the Charter Members by W. Bro. H. W. Burpee, while W. Bro. Chew made a presentation to the Lodge from the Past Masters. R.W. Bro. W. C. Reed, who has reached the ripe old age of 79 years, was presented with a jewel marking fifty years as a member of the Craft. R.W. Bro. A. Lissack extended greetings from the numerous visitors. W. Bro. J. M. Edworthy presided at the afternoon session, while W. Bro. H. Bricker acted as toastmaster during the banquet.

Guest speaker for the evening was Bro. the Rev. J. S. Clark who was introduced by R.W. Bro. E. Borth, D.D.G.M. The address was particularly well received and served to highlight a most pleasant occasion.

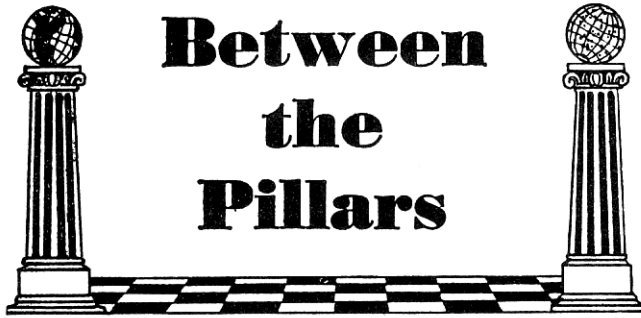
KITSCOTY LODGE ACTIVE

On Nov. 22nd the members of Kitscoty Lodge, No. 131, together with a large number of visitors, were delightfully entertained by the cast of the Masonic Play, "The Greater of These", from Britannia Lodge, Lloydminster. The play was ably presented and drew much favourable applause and comment.

To complete the evening the address of M.W. Bro. Clyde Hegman, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota as given and taped at the meeting of our Grand Lodge in June was repeated for the pleasure of the meeting. The members of Kitscoty Lodge feel that this splendid address would be well worth the time of any lodge seeking a profitable evening for their members. The tape is available through the Grand Lodge office.

"LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON"

R.W. Bro. W. A. McCrimmon, who was Worshipful Master of Symbol Lodge No. 93 at Drumheller in 1927 and his son, W. Bro. M. J. McCrimmon, the present Master of the Lodge recently journeyed to Cranbrook, B.C. to assist in raising another son; the addition of the third member of the family to the circle of Masonic membership will doubtless bring pleasure to all concerned.



Between the Pillars

The Value of a Smile

A smile costs nothing, but creates much.

It enriches those who receive, without impoverishing those who give.

It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None are so rich that they can get along without it and none are so poor but are richer for its benefits.

It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in a business and is the countersign of friends.

It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody until it is given away!

And if it ever happens that, those with whom you associate should be too tired to give a smile, may we ask that you leave one of yours?

For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give.

The anonymous words above should have meaning for all who, as members of the Masonic Order, have a great deal about which we might very well smile. We do, or should, enjoy a sense of well being because of the knowledge that we are brothers to a great many fine men in our own Lodge and in Lodges all over the country, men who appreciate values, who foster friendship and who so deeply appreciate the bond of fellowship that is engendered by the close associations of the Craft.

We are all familiar with the words, 'smile and the world smiles with you'; how true they are and how little it takes merely to permit one's natural inclination for a smile to come into being. Occasionally we come in contact with those who suffer lengthy illness, or those who have been bereaved by the loss of a loved one and we are charmed by the light of a smile which springs from a valiant heart and serene mind, although we may wonder just how it is possible for the afflicted or the saddened to effect a bright countenance in the face of difficulty.

Most of us have many, many reasons to be pleased with our lot in life, we have countless opportunities to say to those whom we meet that we have reason to be happy, reason to smile, so that the infectious spirit of contentment may be spread as we proceed on our way. Try a smile today; it will mean much to you, and, perhaps, a great deal more to those whom you encounter.

FOURTEEN REASONS FOR ATTENDING LODGE ON A STORMY NIGHT

A brother being met on a stormy night wading through the snow from lodge and being ridiculed for the unnecessary exposure, sent the following reasons for his conduct.

1. Because the By-laws of my lodge and the character of my engagements as a Mason, make no exceptions for stormy evenings.
2. Because I expect the Worshipful Master to be there, I should be surprised if he were to remain away on account of the storm.
3. Because if his hands should fail through weakness, I should have great reason to blame myself, unless I sustain him by my presence and good wishes.
4. Because by staying away I may lose the instruction which would do me great good.
5. Because my presence is more needed on those evenings when there are but few, than when the lodge is full.
6. Because whatever station I may hold in the Lodge, my example must influence others. If I stay away, why not they?
7. Because on any important business, bad weather does not keep me at home.
8. Because among the crowd of pleasure seekers, I see that bad weather does not keep the delicate female from the ball, the party or the concert.
9. Because among other advantages, stormy evenings will show me on what foundation my Masonic attachment is built. It will prove how much I love Masonry. True love never misses an appointment.
10. Because those who absent themselves from lodge because it is too warm, too cold, or too stormy, frequently absent themselves on the fairest evenings.
11. Because an avoidable absence from the lodge is an infallible evidence of Masonic coldness.
12. Because there is a special promise that where two or three are gathered together in God's name, He will meet with them.
13. Because such yielding of surmountable difficulties prepares for yielding to those merely imaginary, until thousands never enter the lodge, and yet think they have good reasons for such neglect.
14. Because I know not how many more evenings God may give me, and it will be a poor plea for the Masonic burial and the affectionate remembrances which I crave as a Mason, that I slighted my last Masonic evening on earth.

From the Masonic World.

GAME DINNERS

An ample supply of ducks in Alberta this season has doubtless resulted in a good deal of sport for hunters; Vulcan Lodge recently entertained several Grand Lodge officers and their own members at a game dinner, while the Vermilion Masonic Temple Association took advantage of the plentiful supply of game to stage a five dollar per plate dinner in order to raise funds for mortgage retirement in connection with recent temple additions.