



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Masons or Members

By
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Many of our Masonic Lodges find their Master and his Wardens grappling with the ever present problem of membership attendance. They are, as often as not, also constantly admonished to make their meetings more interesting or more attractive and thus encourage better attendance. No one has yet and perhaps never will, come up with any sure solution. What may work in one Lodge may not have the same effect on another.

The answer, if such exists, lies in the attitude of the members themselves; every one of us, as Masonic brethren are in a position to really help the Worshipful Master and the Wardens. It is part of our responsibility to co-operate to MAKE MASONS of our own lodge brethren—it's as simple as that.

Take any Masonic Lodge at random—how many of its members are Masons in the true sense? How many are really practicing our time-honoured precepts; how many are just members of the Masonic Fraternity? Each and every one of us should pause and do some serious reflecting on this subject because it should be of grave concern to all of us. If we can succeed in making Masons of the brethren in our own individual lodges, the problem of the uninteresting and unattractive meeting, along with poor attendance, will solve itself.

How many of us have ever sponsored a candidate for our hidden mysteries? How many of us have allowed our responsibilities to end with mere sponsorship? If we have permitted our individual responsibility to come to an end when we signed the form of an applicant for membership, then the "processing" of just one more member has begun and we are not doing our part in making a good Mason of the candidate, but are, rather, fostering one more person from whom the Lodge may collect annual dues and little more. He may wear a Masonic ring or other emblem and consider himself a Mason, but his ties to the Craft will mean little to him. We should never consider that we have fulfilled our duty merely by penning our name to an application form. It is our Masonic

duty to offer to the candidate all the assistance and guidance that it is possible for us to give him.

Let us place ourselves in the candidate's position. What must he think of those men who leave him "high and dry" after he has taken the initial steps towards membership, men of whom he had thought enough to request their sponsorship in what was felt to be one of the notable decisions of his life? The seeds of discontent are sown if the sponsor forthwith deserts the hopeful and expectant candidate once he has been accepted and has begun the early indoctrination into the Craft. If we have sufficient interest to help bring men into the Craft we should do no less than see them through the degrees and be prepared to offer encouragement and assistance which will lead to a proper understanding and appreciation of the Masonic connection. Our approach to candidate sponsorship should, in other words, be a positive and not a negative one.

Apathy on the part of our members may well result in our making too many members and too few Masons. Some organizations have very severe censure for non-attending members, but this is not in keeping with the spirit of Masonry. We must devise other methods of encouraging attendance and an adequately informed membership should be a foremost one. An informed member is an interested member who would not miss a meeting except under entirely reasonable circumstances.

We hear much today of co-existence, cold wars, hot wars, summit conferences and the like; we live in a world that is tense. Our world of Freemasonry can contribute immeasurably towards the easing of world tensions if we will but let it. We possess an ideology which, if practiced the world over, can effectively stand up to any other ideology or 'ism' in existence today. Our ideology of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the most essential tenets of our Craft, should be practiced and taught outside as well as within the walls of our Temples.

It is, therefore, our duty, not only as Masons
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EDITORIAL

From time to time we hear mention of the "Higher Degrees" of Masonry and we observe well intentioned efforts of enthusiastic members of the so-called higher degrees to obtain added membership from the ranks of the "Blue" Lodge or other bodies assumed to be somewhat below degrees for which membership is being solicited.

This subject has been discussed within and outside our own Grand Jurisdiction on many occasions and presents something of a difficulty, inasmuch as an ardent solicitation may well lead to disruption of amicable relations between concordant degrees within the scope of what is generally accepted as Masonry.

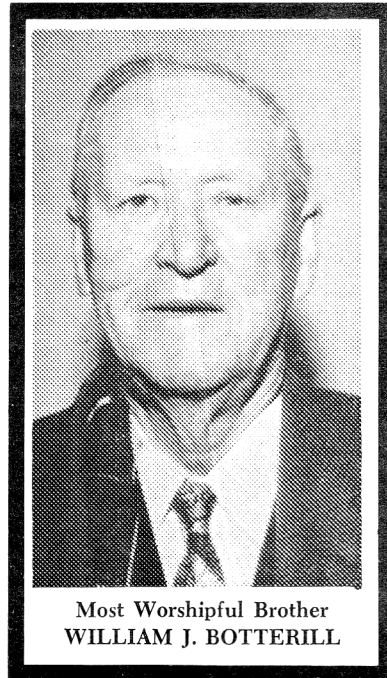
The greatest care should be taken to make sure that before a newly initiated member is urged to "advance" to a concordant degree he has had ample opportunity to become thoroughly conversant with the basic degrees of the Craft.

We are familiar with the fact that the uninitiated is always permitted to formulate his own personal desire to become a member of the Craft and that no solicitation for membership is permitted. We are happy in the knowledge that the applicant for admission to Freemasonry seeks membership through a favourable opinion, preconceived of the institution, probably owing to his observation of those whom he has known to be Masons. There is probably merit in adopting a similar attitude in any endeavor to build up the membership of concordant degrees, permitting advancement on the basis of a desire for further knowledge of the philosophy of Masonry.

When a member is requested to provide an application form and to render sponsorship and assistance, such guidance should not be withheld, assuming that the applicant is deemed worthy and capable of such advancement, but it is suggested that "blanket" distribution of application forms be avoided. A recent occasion developed some disturbance in a Lodge when applications were distributed; actually it was found that requests had been received for the forms which were passed to those desiring to take other degrees prior to the opening of the Lodge and certainly no invasion of the rights of the Lodge were involved or intended. It will be generally agreed, I am sure, that every newly initiated member of the Lodge should be given sufficient time for the acquisition of a thorough understanding and appreciation of the basic tenets of Freemasonry before he chooses to "advance" to allegedly "higher" degrees and that rather than encourage him to seek further knowledge, we should be helpful in offering encouragement looking towards a solid background of knowledge of basic Masonry.

—S.C.II.

In Memoriam



The entire membership of the Grand Jurisdiction of Alberta was saddened by the passing of William J. Botterill of Red Deer, Dean of Past Grand Masters and for more than fifty years an outstanding exponent of the principles of Freemasonry, who died in his adopted city on January 24th.

M. W. Bro. Botterill had reached the age of 84 years, having been born in Galt, Ontario in 1876; moving to Red Deer in 1902 this distinguished Brother engaged in business with unusual success, at the same time taking an active interest in every phase of community life. "Bill" Botterill was an athlete of note in his earlier days, attained prominence as a member of Rotary and served for some sixteen years as a member of the town council, including a term as Mayor of Red Deer. He unsuccessfully contested his riding for a seat in the House of Commons and doubtless Canada was the loser through this circumstance.

As a member of the Fraternity of Freemasonry, he made a notable contribution to the Craft; occupying the various offices of his own Lodge and many in Grand Lodge, he earned the love and respect of those with whom he came in contact. In 1919 he was elected as Grand Master of Masons and all who were associated with him at that time will recall, with the greatest pride and pleasure, his sincere approach to the duties of this important office and the efficiency with which he conducted every aspect of the manifold requirements.

M. W. Bro. Botterill is the fifth Past Grand Master of Alberta to pass away during the past nine months and his passing is a matter for the deepest regret. The sympathy of the entire Grand Jurisdiction goes to three daughters, one son, Norman of Lethbridge, a brother and two sisters in Ontario.

WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA BANFF CONFERENCE

Proceedings of the Banff Conference, held in September of 1960, have been prepared and provided to each constituent lodge in the Province; additional copies are available through the office of the Grand Secretary at the nominal cost of one dollar per copy.

The material contained in the report should be of great interest to the membership and the various articles and discussions prepared by skilled leaders in Masonry are well worth the study of lodges throughout the jurisdiction.

DRUMHELLER LODGE HONOURS MEMBERS

It was a happy occasion for W. Bro. A. P. Hanley recently, when Drumheller Lodge No. 146 honoured him by the presentation of a Fifty Year Jewel; W. Bro. Hanley was initiated on December 9th, 1910 and is now the oldest resident Past Master of the Lodge. The presentation was made by W. Bro. H. A. Brown, next in line of seniority.

W. Bro. Hanley responded with a fine address, recalling incidents connected with his acceptance by Elk River Lodge No. 35, in Fernie, B.C., his York Rite degrees and his affiliation with Drumheller Lodge as the first member following the granting of charter to the Lodge.

CHIEF MOUNTAIN LODGE CELEBRATIONS

Chief Mountain Lodge No. 58, Cardston, marked the Fiftieth year of its life on January 17th with W. Bro. F. C. Rombough presiding. The event drew a large attendance, including M. W. Bro. Harper, Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Rivers, Grand Secretary and R. W. Bro. Collett, the Grand Chaplain who conducted an impressive Service of Thanksgiving during the afternoon. M. W. Bro. D. D. McQueen, Past Grand Master, Vulcan was also present, as well as a number of past and present Grand Lodge officers.

R. W. Bro. Ryerson Christie proposed a toast to the numerous visitors, this being responded to by R. W. Bro. H. G. Stretton. It is notable that sixty eight visitors were in attendance, representing lodges in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Montana and New Mexico as well as nearby Alberta points. Taking an active part were R. W. Bro. L. E. Buckwell, W. Bro. Warner Linder, R. W. Bro. N. H. Noss and R. W. Bro. H. A. Walter. The Grand Master delivered a well timed address, bringing to a close a most interesting and historic event.

CRESCENT LODGE HONOURS BURNS

The Fortieth Anniversary of Burns' Night in Crescent Lodge No. 87, Calgary was held on Jan. 24th, when tribute was paid to the Bard, one-time member of Kilwinning Lodge; this Burns' Night was initiated in the year 1921 and has been an annual feature of Crescent Lodge continuously since that time.

During the evening a Fifty Year Jewel was presented to W. Bro. Archie MacGregor, a charter member of Crescent Lodge who went to Cal-

gary with his son for the auspicious occasion. The presentation was made by V. W. Bro. Peter Logie, a long time friend of Bro. MacGregor and also a charter member; Bro. John MacGregor assisted in the presentation.

The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Fred Bird turned over the gavel to V. W. Bro. Logie who, with W. Bro. Archie MacGregor as Senior Warden and W. Bro. Tom Harling as Junior Warden, closed the lodge on conclusion of a pleasant and inspiring evening.

ASTRA LODGE PROGRESSES

Astra Lodge at Cold Lake, Alberta, operating only since August 1958 is showing remarkable progress; serving territory which includes the R.C.A.F. base at Cold Lake, the Lodge, quite naturally, has rapidly increased its membership which now stands at 47 resident and 45 non-resident members. R.C.A.F. personnel who have taken advantage of the existence of this progressive lodge have been posted to points all over the world, so that the well chosen name "Astra" will have meaning far beyond the confines of the usual Masonic location.

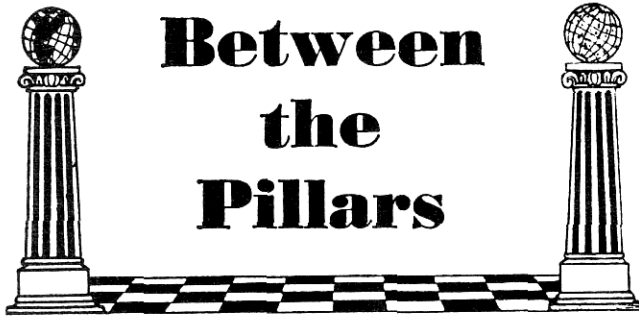
Strangely enough some ill-advised criticism has been directed at this Lodge for making "members" rather than "Masons"; surely the Lodge is serving a most useful purpose in granting to members of our armed forces an opportunity to affiliate themselves with Freemasonry and to carry its message and principles to the far corners of the world where the forces of Canada join with those of allied countries in the defence of democratic ideas and ideals.

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but as citizens of the world, to make doubly certain that we give guidance and assistance and encouragement to each newly accepted candidate to make of him a Mason—not just one more member. We may feel that our individual efforts are small and insignificant, but if this effort were multiplied several millions of times the impact would surely be felt. Masonry offers itself as one of the most formidable foes of any ideology that threatens our way of life.

It was stated in this Bulletin recently that Masonry is teaching, not driving; and any course of action that springs from honest conviction is far better than one brought on by compulsion. Our candidates come to us of their own free will and accord as volunteers for our mysteries and they should be encouraged to become true Masons and not merely members of our great Fraternity.

The value of any organization or institution depends largely upon the personal qualifications of those who comprise it. We must do so that others may see; then, if by that seeing, they seek to do, we must take it upon ourselves to teach and show the men who join our ranks their continuing responsibility. It is our sincere wish that Masonry will, in the days that lie ahead, prosper and thrive because of the Masons who enjoy its privileges and not merely by reason of the weight of numbers. May the G.A.O.T.U. aid and strengthen us in this endeavor.



Between the Pillars

Masonic Family in the Lodge Program

By M. W. CLYDE E. HEGMAN
Past Grand Master of Minnesota

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." Genesis 2:18.

Since that day, the dawn of the creation of mankind, the family has been the foundation upon which civilization has been builded. Even among most savage tribes the identity of the family is preserved.

Communist Russia set out by reordering the way of life of its working class of people, regimenting them to live and work in communals; and made every attempt to destroy the normal *natural mode of a family system*. In less than a generation the powerful rulers of the Kremlin have finally realized the futility of defying the God-given laws of nature in at least this one direction; the communals are giving way to the family system of living.

In Old China nothing on earth has been more sacred than family and family ties. But Communist China is seeking to undo all this. Only last week our newspaper carried a front page story about a Chinese woman and man who escaped from Red China into free Hong Kong. The woman, bearing her yet unborn child, journeyed together with her husband and risked the fire of communist border guards to escape Red China. Why? Because they want to keep and rear their child. Each of their four other children had been taken from them eight months after birth.

Laws of God and nature do not change.

Freemasonry always has been and is, and I am sure always will be, a fraternity. A fraternity of men who pledge themselves to a practice of Brotherhood, not only among themselves, but more importantly in all their actions with all mankind. The "work" of the Fraternity in inculcating the principles of brotherhood in the hearts and minds of its members, is done by ritual and experience in a place called the Lodge. In beautiful and impressive ceremonies a Mason is urged to practice in his daily life the principles of the highest moral standards, the finest attributes of character, and to live by the Golden Rule.

Because a man who wishes to become a Mason, a man who desires the companionship of

Masonic membership, must petition the Lodge of his own free will and accord, no man will be solicited for membership. Because Freemasonry appeals to the best that is in a man, and helps him to become a better man,—not better than someone else, but better than himself; and because we mean to receive into the Lodge only men who are genuinely and sincerely in search of this way of life, we have a *mode of recognition*, a password, and a handclasp whereby a Mason may prove himself one. Because we meet thusly and behind tyled doors Freemasonry has been, and is, called a "secret society".

It is regrettable that the Masonic Fraternity has been called a "secret society". Indeed it is an indictment upon us that we have permitted this badge to remain attached to us. As a millstone around our neck, it hampers, hinders, and in some instances prevents us, as members of the Fraternity, from effectively promoting some of the finest principles upon which we stand as Masons.

What can be done about this problem?

There is no better time to begin than now.

We live in the rapidly changing world; a world changing at a rate which astounds the most fantastic imagination. Within the memory of our own generation we have seen in this country changes in our economy which have given rise to changes in our social life. The passing of the 60 hour work-week, and the 50 hour week, the coming of 40 hours as a standard week, with the prospect of 35 on the way; the long week ends, have in a large measure released to man more time for pleasure, for leisure, for the search for other activities to claim his energy. By and large, for the most part, this is all well and good. The average woman and housewife also has experienced a similar release from much of the drudgery of the household work. The automatic clothes washer, the electric ironer, and often the dish-washer and disposal, and may I hasten to note even the new electric can-opener, has given to the average American woman an expanded way of life such as her mother never dreamed of. In fact, my Brothers, she must be doing much more with her time than many of us know about or realize. A Wall Street investment house tells us that women own 62% of the composite capital stock of all the corporations listed on the New York Stock Exchange. All this released freedom of times has made possible many more opportunities for companionship in the family, with husbands, wives and our youth as well as with friends.

This brings us directly to the key point of this message. Except for the conferring of degrees, and transaction of business, the day of the Masonic Temple for men only, and Masonic activities for Masons only, is long since past. If your Lodge and mine, and every Blue Lodge on this continent, is to fulfill its function, its reason for being, to the maximum of its potential; if it is to merit its place in our society, we must include in our Lodge programs such activities as will attract a Brother, and encourage him to bring his lady, his children—yes his friends to every such occasion.