



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

## SEED AND SOIL

*Leslie N. Murrah, Texas Grand Lodge Magazine.*

When we select the seed to produce the plants for the sustenance of life, we are careful to see that they are fertile, and will bear good fruit. We are careful to see that the soil is fertile, and will sustain good deep roots. Our responsibility does not end there; if we are to harvest a bountiful crop we must cultivate after planting, because no matter how sound the seed, or fertile the ground, we cannot expect a good harvest without effort.

This is the material side of life, and we should be equally as attentive in the selection of the things that go into the spiritual side of our lives. In the planting of Freemasonry, we should search out in the application the good qualifications, the good fertile thoughts and desires, the inspirations and just what prompted them. The Masonic soil in which the applicant is to be 'planted' should be fertile, not eroded, stony and sterile, because the future of the new member is largely determined during the first year. That is when roots are put down and if the soil is of a quality not sufficient to maintain effective growth the roots will not go deep enough and the plant will soon wither.

Through the years there has developed a widely accepted idea that once the Degrees of Masonry have been conferred, that all obligations to the newly made Brother have been fulfilled. Evidence of this appears week after week, not only in the local Lodges, but throughout all of the Grand Jurisdictions. We read in some Masonic publication that when a man becomes a Master Mason he is told that if he gets nothing out of Masonry it is his own fault, the Lodge has done all that it can for him. This is not Masonry in its true implication; we should remember that we have accepted the candidate as a rough ashlar and it is the responsibility of the Fraternity to see that he is made into a perfect ashlar, and merely the conferring of Degrees does not necessarily accomplish this. Masons should know that it is their direct responsibility, not only to the petitioner, but to the Fraternity itself to realize the qualities which make it possible to make rough ashlar into the perfect stone.

There must be a lot of cultivation after the Degrees have been conferred, how thoroughly can a man become grounded in the principles, history, policies and obligations of the Craft in the short time we have taken to give him the Degrees? What becomes of his ideal of fraternal brotherhood, fellowship and kindly assistance when he is told, "Brother, you are in, and you are entirely on your own, the fault is yours if you don't get something out of it." Inviting the newly initiated candidate to take a convenient seat among his Brethren is not the answer. What happens to the dignity, solemnity and impressiveness of the Masonic initiation? What further devastation is done when the new Brother is told or discovers that the Lodge has nothing to offer him, and that whatever else he gets is his own responsibility?

Is it any wonder then, that too many conclude that the initiation fee and the annual dues are all that was really wanted. Is it any wonder, then, that attendance so often reported down or that men drop out of Masonry before becoming fully acquainted with all of the splendid benefits that are possible through an association with it. All he has is a more or less hazy idea of a peculiar language and vague references to signs and symbols. If he is smart enough to be a Mason, he knows that any recording of his life will take time and he quite naturally expects and looks for help from those with whom he has associated himself in a search for knowledge.

Suppose the new member is interested and persistent and enters a class of instruction, what does he receive? Mostly ritual; he learns how to display the lights, how to conduct a candidate, how to properly enter and leave a Lodge, all form, dealing with the physical aspects of the work and perhaps nothing at all on just what Masonry means and how to apply it to personal problems and the living of a full life. Is it any wonder that a serious minded man in search of light and understanding may decide that he may be better rewarded at home with a good book

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## EDITORIAL

Volume one, number one of the Texas Freemason has just come to the desk of the Bulletin editor and is found to be a most interesting little paper.

Under the heading, 'A Dream Come True!' the editor says in part, "With this first issue of the TEXAS FREEMASON the hopes of generations of Texas Masons are being realized. For the first time in our 126 year history, Texas Masons are now brought closer together by a common bond of communication.

Coming into the home of every Mason affiliated under the Grand Lodge of Texas, from Dahlhart to Brownsville, from Iceland to Australia, the Texas Freemason hopes to keep every member aware of his Masonry, informed on important Masonic issues and programmes, and acquainted with the actions and thoughts of Masons in other areas."

If the quality of the material on the pages following throughout the paper is maintained there is little doubt but that the Texas Freemason will find a welcome, not only in the home of Texas Masons wherever they may now be domiciled, but on the desk of every editor of a Masonic publication. It is hoped that we may, from time to time, be able to utilize exchange material from the most recent addition to Masonic publications and it will be our hope that there may be articles in our own paper which might be of interest to our Texas brothers; should this be the case, we can assure their editor that he is free to utilize such material as he may wish to reprint.

It is but natural for the editor of any publication, including those of a Masonic nature, to wonder whether his paper is serving a useful purpose in the dissemination of Masonic knowledge and has a measure of interest among its readers. Personal acknowledgements and commendations are always pleasant to receive and contacts made in distant countries through the Masonic Bulletin are treasured. The Alberta Bulletin goes to every member in Alberta and to affiliated Masons throughout Canada, the United States and in many other countries and occasionally a pleasant surprise is in store for the editor when letters are received from foreign lands expressing some pleasure in the reading of our little paper.

There is little question but that the editor of the Texas Freemason will enjoy his work in the preparation of the paper and we are pleased to welcome this new publication and to extend our best wishes for future success. The compilation of material from month to month is a chore that is both demanding and rewarding and with the enthusiasm displayed in the first issue of the Texas Freemason and the quality of material used, there is every reason to feel that this paper will fill a need and extend the knowledge of Masonry in a real sense.

## I AM FREEMASONRY

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God, I have been tried through the ages and found true. The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry. In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my altars is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God. My sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber. By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death, and the relationship of man with God and of man with man. My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereby, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain. I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphan's cry, the widow's tears, the pain of the old and the destitute. I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbor and themselves. They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger. At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal Universe. Always I have taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into life, I am a way of life, I am Freemasonry.

Ray V. Denslow

## LOST IN ANTIQUITY

One could go on indefinitely theorising on the beginnings and growth of symbolism. The origin and reason for many specific symbols is lost in antiquity. And this is understandable because some are undoubtedly as old as the race of man.

The New Age

## THE BUILDERS

If in the rearing of an edifice  
We form one stone that makes the perfect whole;  
To us 'twould be the beau-ideal of bliss  
And prove glad unction to the work-worn soul.  
A Temple with proportions just and true  
Can but erected be by Masons skilled  
Instructed by an Architect who knew  
Exactly how to tell them what to build.  
And he taught us—however small the stone—  
To plumb and level by th' unerring Square—  
To make it pattern, so that all might own  
'Twas strong and beautiful beyond compare,  
With Chisel and with Gavel we have wrought  
To gain "Well Done," — the Tongue of Good Report.

CHAS. F. FORSHAW.

**GREETINGS FROM THE GRAND MASTER**



Samuel H. Hardin, Grand Master

In taking over the duties of the exalted office as your Grand Master last June, I would like again to express to you my appreciation of the honor you have conferred upon me.

We, in our Grand Jurisdiction, have been fortunate through the years with our Grand Lodge officers, who were always of sincere hearts, exemplary character and men of great attainment. This helped to put Masonry in the forefront in the Province. At our Grand Lodge Communication last June, I looked with fascination at the vast audience of Masons; what a great reservoir of power we have here in Alberta; and the thought came to me, if all would go out to their respective districts and carry out their duties as Masons, then the true cause of Freemasonry could be advanced to heights of unprecedented importance. I believe every Mason, and especially every officer in the Lodge, particularly Grand Lodge Officers, should give inspiration and leadership that is expected of them.

In the coming months our Grand Lodge Officers and myself will make every attempt to attend your District Meetings, outstanding events, area meetings and as many individual Lodges as possible. In many cases we will travel long distances to be with you on those occasions. It is my hope that at these various functions every Lodge, its Worshipful Master and Wardens will be certain to be with us. Let us make Masonry the living thing that it can be. Let us inspire each other by our presence.

In my travels with our Grand Secretary to neighboring Jurisdictions, both in Canada and south of the border, including the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, I noted

**IMPORTANT DATES**

The Bulletin is pleased to list herewith dates of District Meetings for the information of members throughout the jurisdiction. The meeting for the Wembley District, No. 13 was held in July and was most successful. Members are requested to file this list for future reference.

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|-----|------------|---------------------------|
| 1.  | Bowness    | Saturday, November 16th   |
| 2.  | Foremost   | Wednesday, November 6th   |
| 3.  | Hinton     | Saturday, September 21st  |
| 4.  | Innisfail  | Wednesday, October 23rd   |
| 5.  | Forestburg | Wednesday, November 13th  |
| 6.  | Calgary    | Thursday, October 31st    |
| 7.  | Coalhurst  | Thursday, November 7th    |
| 8.  | Claresholm | Friday, November 1st      |
| 9.  | Stettler   | Wednesday, August 21st    |
| 10. | Edmonton   | Wednesday, October 2nd    |
| 11. | Lethbridge | Tuesday, November 5th     |
| 12. | Edmonton   | Monday, September 30th    |
| 14. | Hanna      | Wednesday, October 16th   |
| 15. | Drumheller | Wednesday, October 9th    |
| 16. | Standard   | Thursday, October 10th    |
| 17. | Irma       | Wednesday, July 24th      |
| 18. | Calgary    | Saturday, November 2nd    |
| 19. | Westlock   | Wednesday, October 30th   |
| 20. | Edmonton   | Wednesday, September 25th |

Other dates of interest include the Fiftieth Anniversary of Strathcona Lodge No. 77, scheduled for Friday, September 13th; the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Cascade Lodge No. 5, Banff on November 22nd, and the joint celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Harmony Lodge No. 75, Morning Star No. 79 and Excelsior Lodge No. 80, the tentative date for which is November 12th.

**ASSISTANT FOR GRAND LODGE OFFICE**

The Finance Committee of Grand Lodge will shortly be considering applications for the position of Assistant in the Grand Lodge Office. Applications are invited from members of the Craft and should be sent to E. H. Rivers, Grand Secretary, without delay. Any special qualifications for such a post should be outlined and intimation should be given as to the salary expected.

with pride the respect in which the Grand Jurisdiction of Alberta is held.

This Brethren, could only happen when a Jurisdiction is healthy within and is making itself felt without, by inter-visitation, as we have done through the years. Only by the interchange of ideas, such as at the Banff, the All-Canada and the Washington Conferences, and other visitations, can we reach the desirable objective of making Freemasonry one of the greatest forces the world over.

Samuel Hardin, Grand Master

### THE LEVEL OF TIME

If you and I had a thousand years to live, the flight of the seasons would be of little consequence. The days might come and go without leaving the lines of care upon the brow, old age would be a myth, and we could be prodigal with time. But our three score and ten run swiftly by, we cannot halt the journey, and all too soon we are repeating the words of the ancient king. "I go the way of all the earth."

Man is a philosopher. The rocks, hills and the sea are insensible to thought and purpose; animals respond to only a few appetites; but man thinks. Sitting by the roadside as the stream of life rolls on, he can reflect on the past, judge of the present, and guess the future. All his plans for the here and the hereafter are related to time. On this side of the horizon he builds his earthly house for to-day; beyond the vale he builds for the endless stretches of eternity, and the level of time leads straight in that direction.

Time is the great measuring stick. It enters into our contracts, our vacations, the cycle of seasons, our courts, finances, and even on the tomb. The mystery of it all is beyond our comprehension. When did it begin? Whither bound? Will it cease? Our lives are wrapped up in this unending flight of the ages, and all our activities are built upon the level of time. How many of the passing hours can I afford to lose? How many days can anyone spare for idleness? "I haven't time," is the cry on a million lips, while others are bored with the tedious days.

The wide-awake traveller takes note of his journey. Here and there along the way placid streams, fertile valleys and verdant hilltops delight the eye. The chill blasts from the north and the blazing sun from the tropics equally impress him. And along the pathway of time there are variegated hues and unsought changes, sometimes coming with kaleidoscopic swiftness. All these evidences of progress somehow make a change in us. The meaning of it all becomes more understandable as we read the milestones, one by one. A deeper consciousness of our purpose here and the possibilities before us begin to pervade our being. We can interpret the incidents of the journey and see the ultimate fruition. And time is the guiding factor.

And what do Masons see ahead along the way? What are the mountain peaks of hope, joy and accomplishment? Does the pathway shine clearly behind, or does it run back by a devious route? Where does the level of time lead to out there in the future? Will the end be peaceful and triumphant or ignominious and in despair? Man is a free moral agent and holds his future in his own hands.

Brethren, contemplation is not enough. We believe that a part of each day should be given over to meditation, serious thought, checking upon ourselves and laying plans for the morrow.

But leaving things in the dream stage never built a temple. Craftsmen are busy people, trying each day to build more nobly than yesterday, eager to erect a spire to greater heights. While the sun is high in the heavens, and while skill and strength remain with us, it is our opportunity to put on the apron, read the designs laid out on the trestleboard and go to work. Now, early in the new year, we have time to proceed, company front. "We are travelling upon the level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns."

ROBERT W. TARBELL (WISCONSIN)

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than he can in the Lodge that lacks perception and understanding and withholds much of the valuable and noteworthy assistance that stems from thorough knowledge and the keenest kind of interest.

Everything in Masonry has a beautiful meaning if rightly understood, and everything done in the ritual is meant to teach a distinct moral lesson. It is the responsibility of the officers of the Lodge to point out to the new member just what the teachings of the ritual mean in the daily lives of its members. Masonry would die out in a few years if it had to depend on a considerable percentage of the membership. It is the all too small minority, the really interested Masons, who have kept and are keeping the Fraternity alive today. This minority gives unselfishly of their time and intelligence as officers of their Lodges.

When we admit that all a Lodge can do for a new member is to give him the Degrees which will enable him to visit other Lodges and whatever else he might secure for himself, we have made a monstrous mistake. We cannot hope to get any spiritual growth from our Lodge soil, nor should we expect any until we get it thoroughly re-fertilized with Masonic truth and practice. Until we do this, we can expect to lose members as fast or faster than we can make them.

Remember we cannot, in a moral sense make Master Masons, we can only assist the initiate by teaching him the moral lessons in the ritual, thus cultivating the Masonic soil in which he is planted. By so doing we may expect a rich harvest in the form of a real Master Mason and not merely another member of the Fraternity.

### IDEALS

Each individual has his ideals, things that he desires to accomplish in this life. He is actuated to work for the accomplishment of his ideal in his chosen field of thought and he is successful to the degree of energy which he applies. Early in life a man should be possessed with a high ideal to accomplish something good for himself and his fellowmen, and to work for attainment. This is the worthiest ideal of the human mind.

The Masonic Herald