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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Knights and Masons Pledge Partnership

NEW YORK (RNS) — The Masons and the Knights of Columbus, after centuries of bitterness, have confirmed at the top-level what has been going on increasingly at the local level—co-operation in programs in the “moral, civic and social action fields.”

The pledge of co-operation was exchanged at a summit meeting which marked the first time that highest officials of the two fraternal societies met to explore avenues of co-operation.

At the meeting and leading the discussions were George A. Newbury of Buffalo, N.Y., sovereign grand commander, Supreme Council, 33rd Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and John W. McDevitt of New Haven, Conn., supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

A joint statement stressed the adherence of the two organizations to a brief in the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God and suggested implementation of this ideal as “social and moral therapy for the ills of modern society.”

THE STATEMENT listed three objectives for joint action:

1. Promotion of true patriotism and love of country under God.
2. Support of positive programs for the development of good citizenship and respect for constituted authority, law and order.
3. Encouragement of programs for youth and to train them for responsible leadership as participants in the democratic way of life.

“Since state and local units,” the joint statement said, “if both fraternities had been sponsoring various activities in promoting the spirit of brotherhood and in raising funds for civic and charitable enterprises, it was believed that a dialogue at the fraternal summit could explore and develop ways in which Freemasons and the Knights of Columbus, acting together, could implement that bond which already unites them as loyal and dedicated citizens.

“The group agreed that the ideal of a belief in the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God, which both fraternities embrace and support, could serve as social and moral therapy for the ills of modern society,” the statement said.

“The constant attacks being made today on moral standards call for the enlistment of the high-minded

strength of our two great fraternal organizations to combat and overcome the forces whose degenerative influence is becoming a crippling menace to our way of life.”

Several evidences of friendship preceded the summit meeting. Last February in Sharon, Mass., Mr. McDevitt spoke at a brotherhood breakfast sponsored jointly by the K of C and the Masons.

Mr. McDevitt called for a new “ecumenical spirit in Fraternalism” which would lead to “co-operation and friendship.” He said the Knights were eager to extend to the Masons “an embrace of friendship, an embrace of understanding, an embrace of trust, an embrace of charity, that will bring us to new heights of ecumenism in fraternalism.”

Last October, in a letter printed in Connecticut Square and Compasses, a state Masonic organ, Irving E. Partridge of Hartford, deputy for the Scottish Rite in the district of Connecticut, said:

“The spread of the ecumenical spirit in the fraternal relations with the Knights of Columbus was welcomed by the great organization and our Masonic fraternity. Countless examples of the cordial relationships which now exist can be cited. A new day was dawned and the air is sweeter and purer by reason of a much better understanding on all sides.”

Within the past years there have been many examples of friendship between the two organizations. Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop John P. Cody of Chicago, and Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., were among a number of Catholic prelates who spoke before Masonic groups.

At the New York World’s Fair in 1965, some 3,000 persons attended a joint meeting sponsored by the Masons and the K of C at which they wore badges which read: “For closer brotherhood, Masons - Knights of Columbus at the World’s Fair.”

The “summit” meeting was held here on Jan. 19-20.

Masonic officials noted that there was no one national leader of the Masons as there is for the Knights of Columbus. Policy decisions for the Masons must be made by sectional leaders. The Masonic officials at the summit meeting expect other sectional leaders to join the agreement.

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EDITORIAL

A number of Lodges throughout the Grand Jurisdiction do me the honour to forward their monthly notices of meeting, despite the fact that it is now more than ten years since it was my privilege to serve in the capacity as Grand Master of Masons in Alberta; the courtesy is very greatly appreciated and it is always a pleasure to see names with which I have been formerly familiar and to recall instances when my connection with the Constituent Lodges was much closer than it is at the present time.

On occasion I have been struck with the extremely pleasing notices of some of our Lodges and, contrarily, with the rather blank appearance of other notices which give, merely, the cold facts of the business in prospect for the forthcoming meeting. I assume that, in many cases, notices of meeting are printed in bulk, perhaps at the beginning of the year and then items which are to take place simply ticked off; this is doubtless a time saver, but really does not constitute an attractive form of notice or even a more than utility notification of the proposed programme of the Lodge.

Other notices are quite evidently the result of some thought; in many cases the notice indicates the birth dates of members during the month, giving members an opportunity, if they so desire, to tender their congratulations and good wishes. Many notices contain quotations rather appropriate to the season or to some feature of the Lodge work and there is doubtless much more pleasure and satisfaction in the receipt of a form of notice which indicates interest and enthusiasm rather than in the notice which merely states the bald facts of the programme.

In numerous cases the Secretary, through the medium of the notice, gives advance information that a speaker will be in attendance, thus making it possible for the members to set aside the particular evening for the enjoyment and fellowship of the meeting. I think it is axiomatic that when a prepared programme is arranged and the members of the Lodge advised by way of their notice attendance at the scheduled meeting is almost always vastly improved; at least that is the case in my own Lodge and doubtless applies in others.

The Worshipful Master who projects worth while programming in his Lodge and makes sure that his members are advised accordingly deserves credit and perhaps all those who direct the Lodge programme would be well advised to keep in mind the words:-

*"Whatever hath been written shall remain
Nor be erased nor written o'er again
The unwritten only still belongs to thee
Take heed and ponder well what that shall be."*

GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN

This is the last time that I have the honour of communicating with you through this column. I trust that your enjoyment equalled my appreciation in having the opportunity of communicating with you in this manner.

We of the Masonic Order are taught continuously the importance attached to the various columns within the framework of our organization. Would it be too presumptuous to expect that the Grand Master's column, symbolically speaking, could also have a place of importance in the lives of those who read it? If, as we are taught, we base our judgement on wisdom we should be able to recognize material of worth. A man cannot live in the realm of Freemasonry if he does not believe in the Masonic philosophy. A man cannot write honesty and sincerity into lines if he does not believe in them. This could be likened to a man attempting to build a structure with tools that are foreign to his hands. Thus the handiwork would be less than desirable. The Grand Master's Column certainly is no exception.

Building as living, is a process accomplished slowly step by step and act by act. Proper use must be made of every minute that has been given to us. We never have more than one minute at a time for our use and to every man is given his supply of minutes. Our decisions will determine their use and their value. Their chief purpose is to give man time to build his column.

Longfellow put it this way:

*All are architects of fate
Working in these walls of time,
Some with massive deeds and great
Some with ornaments of rhyme.
For the structure that we raise
Time is with materials filled,
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.*

We need not be a Grand Master or a Worshipful Master to qualify for this project, in fact it is not even necessary to be an officer of a lodge. The only requirement is that he be a sincere man with an earnest desire to build that which will be sound in structure and pleasing to the eye. With the stone in the north-east corner forming the foundation, the column in all its beauty should rise toward the heavens.

Advancing one step at a time, man must progress toward that perfect state of perfection, a builder's due goal. First we must learn how to build into our column all those qualities of beauty that we look for in the labor of others. How else can we recognize those things that are worthwhile? Deep within each of us there must be a capacity to recognize and appreciate strength and beauty. Too often we find that we hide our life within ourselves through fear of our fellow-beings recognizing our weaknesses. It is too easy for a man to become influenced by selfish habits, bad taste and indifferent attitudes. These shortcomings have to be corrected if we are to complete our column in all its splendor.

T. Gordon Towers,
Grand Master

WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA

GRAND MASTERS' NIGHT HELD AT RED DEER

The three Red Deer Lodges (Red Deer No. 12, Kenilworth No. 29 and Beacon No. 190) combined to act as hosts to Grand Masters' Night on March 29, 1967. This event had been an annual affair until supplanted by the Area Meetings, but it was felt that this year would be a good time to revive it, as the present Grand Master, M. W. Bro. T. Gordon Towers is a member of all three Lodges, either as an active or as an Honorary member. Among the many Masons present were four Past Grand Masters (M. W. Bros. Galbraith, McQueen, Merner and Lauder) and many past and present Grand Lodge Officers from Edmonton, Calgary, Vulcan, Wetaskiwin, Stettler and other points in Central Alberta, as well as the local members.

The first part of the evening was an informal meeting in the Lodge Room with V. W. Bro. A. G. Phillips acting as M.C. Entertainment was provided by a Barber Shop Quartette consisting of three Masons and one member of the Knights of Columbus. It seems that there are no Masonic baritones in Red Deer. Bro. George Dryden of Perfection Lodge No. 9 in Calgary, but now residing in Red Deer, delighted the meeting with several solos. Bro. Dryden will now be the soloist at the annual Grand Lodge Communication in Calgary in June. Interspersed among the entertainment numbers were tributes to M. W. Bro. Towers by the P. G. M.s as well as an address by the Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. E. H. Rivers on "A Grand Master's Travels", who also read a prepared talk from M. W. Bro. W. J. Collett, P. G. M. who was unable to be present that evening.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a suitably engraved tray from the three Lodges to M. W. Bro. Towers by M. W. Bro. F. P. Galbraith, who is the only other person who is also a member of all three Red Deer Lodges. M. W. Bro. Galbraith recaptured the Masonic career of the M. W. the Grand Master and spoke in glowing terms of his achievements. M. W. Bro. Towers thanked the three Lodges for their support of him throughout and said that he and Mrs. Towers would treasure the lovely tray in their home as one of the most cherished mementos of his term as Grand Master.

STAVELY LODGE NO. 33

March 17th, 1967 was a memorable night for Stavely Lodge No. 33 as the M. W. The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. T. Gordon Towers visited them on the occasion of their Sixtieth Anniversary and to open their new lodge room. He was accompanied on this visit by R. W. Bro. B. Brown, D. G. M., R. W. Bro. E. Bass, D. D. G. M. District No. 8, R. W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell, S. G. W., R. W. Bro. P. J. Kendal, J. G. W. and Bro. E. H. Rivers, Grand Secretary.

The Worshipful Master, G. Bouzyan welcomed the M. W. The Grand Master and immediately thereafter M. W. Bro. Towers, in a short ceremony, declared the Lodge Room open. Following this a Thanksgiving

Service was held under the direction of Bro. The Rev. O. Seward, S. W. Cairo Lodge No. 32 at Claresholm.

R. W. Bro. R. N. Ralph told the meeting how the members had found that the old Hall, in which they had met up above a store for 58 years, had become unsafe. They had therefore purchased the old Lumberyard building and property and had converted the office building and adjoining shed into the beautiful Lodge Room in which the historic meeting was being held. He paid special tribute to R. W. Bro. R. H. Townsend and W. Bro. R. Beattie who, for nine months had worked zealously to remodel the building. All members—there are 45 members with 25 resident—had participated in this venture and they are the proud possessors of the beautiful hall and property without any debt. The M. W. The Grand Master congratulated them on this outstanding achievement, brought about by united effort.

W. Bro. S. M. McNeill, who was 90 years of age on February 15th, was presented with a sixty year bar to his fifty year jewel by R. W. Bro. Freland Wilford. W. Bro. McNeill was the druggist in Stavely for many years. He is now resident in the Willow Creek Auxiliary Hospital and the fact that he had recently fallen and broken a bone in his leg did not deter him from being present in a wheel chair.

W. Bro. A. C. Patterson, secretary for a long time and now resident in Fort Macleod was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel by his brother, R. W. Bro. R. E. Patterson, who received his Fifty Year Jewel in 1963. Both are the sons of the late M. W. Bro. Patterson, Grand Master in 1912-13.

V. W. Bro. E. G. Tyson gave an historical review in a most interesting manner. The third generation of Tysons and also of Gates is now represented in the Lodge and many personal tid-bits, from the earliest days when the speaker was a boy, enlivened the presentation. The Secretary W. Bro. J. V. Broomfield is a grand-nephew of the first secretary—Grand Lodge officers were indeed able to appreciate the solid foundations on which one of the older Lodges had been laid—the true Masonic spirit of fellowship and solidarity that will stand them in good stead in the years to come.

Knights and Masons (Continued from page 37)

Mr. Newbury represents 500,000 Masons in 15 states in the northeast and middle Atlantic areas. There are 4.1 million Masons in the U.S. The Knights of Columbus have 1.2 million members in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

Catholics have been forbidden to join the Masons under penalty of excommunication. Eight different Popes in 17 pronouncements and at six Church councils have condemned Freemasonry. The first to act against the Masons was Pope Clement XII in 1738.

A spokesman for the Knights of Columbus expressed hope that the Canon Law which opposes the Masons might be changed when the Code undergoes its scheduled review.

ACCENT ON FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry is not just another fraternal Order, nor is a Lodge merely another meeting to attend. The Free and Accepted Masons constitute the oldest fraternal Order in existence. The Fraternity retains marked peculiarities, and among these are its laws and customs, based upon the Old Charges of the Operative Freemasons.

While it is not true, as so often stated, that Freemasonry can suffer no change, and must remain the same yesterday, today, and forevermore, it is true that the Fraternity changes reluctantly and slowly. There is, and always has been, a strong aversion to alterations. Hence, it might be charged that Freemasonry is conservative and even unprogressive. But the fact is that, without catering to the changing moods of the times, and without indulging in each new fad, or vibrating with each new thrill that sweeps over the country, but adhering to simple fundamental truths and relying upon the stability of its time-tested ideals, Freemasonry has steadily grown in popularity and esteem, and has attracted men of outstanding character and ability, and has outnumbered every other secular society.

It is necessary first to reflect that no two men are, in all respects, alike, or think alike. No two men gain exactly the same understanding from the presentation of an abstract idea. There are great groups that think along the same lines, and so, form nations, churches, political parties, clubs and societies, but not all in any one of them think exactly alike. Freemasons think along the same lines, but often their ideas are widely divergent.

Some Freemasons are highly spiritual, believing that the teachings of Masonry lead to an understanding of the Infinite, and, to this class, Freemasonry is religious, a Lodge is a sacred place and admission to the Fraternity is similar to taking holy orders.

Others are raised to a new philosophy of life and better social ideals. Some find only a confirmation and strengthening of what they already believe and felt. There is a minority who deem Freemasonry synonymous with occultism, cabalism, mysticism or theosophy. Others think it is directed toward upholding the constitution and promoting good citizenship. A large class find interesting historical problems and seek to trace its obscure origins and the course by which it has reached its present position. Many are chiefly concerned with administrative features and see little but technical and sometimes deep principles of Masonic Law. Others are completely occupied in the art of memorizing and rendering the ritual, while a few accomplish all they desire by "working up" through the chairs. Occasionally, one will appreciate only the social contacts, recreation and refreshment around the banquet table. Finally there are some on whom Freemasonry makes very little, if any, noticeable impression.

While many private writings treat of one or another of these subjects exclusively, it is the peculiar character of Freemasonry that it does not emphasize or specialize in any one of them. It presents all its phases and elements for such attention as the Mason

cares to give. No effort is made to control the thinking of Masons. There is no censorship on speaking or writing so long as essential secrets are not divulged. In short, the significant part of the world Freemasonry is the syllable "FREE".

Tolerance is a prominent feature of Freemasonry; it applies to its own members as well as to others. True tolerance consists not merely of withholding criticism of the actions or beliefs of those with whom we do not agree; but of declining to reach conclusions that others are always necessarily wrong. Tolerance is the refusal to judge; not merely the failure to prosecute. The tolerant man, while not fearing to form his own conclusions, recognizes that others may be right and he may be wrong.

Masonry does not dictate to the Mason what his understanding of the ceremonies shall be, nor does it surfeit him with preaching. It presents its symbols, legends, ceremonies, lectures and charges and allows the Mason to place his own interpretation upon them, from his own concepts, and derives as much or as little from them as his capacity may permit. In proportion as the Master Mason studies and appreciates what Masonry has to offer, in that measure is he, the Lodge, and the whole Fraternity the richer.

From The Texas Freemason

IT WORKS

A mechanic was called in to repair the mechanism of a giant telescope. During the noon hour the chief astronomer came upon the man reading the Bible.

"What good do you expect from that?" he asked. "The Bible is out of date; why you don't even know who wrote it."

The mechanic was puzzled for a moment, then he looked up.

"Don't you make considerable use of the multiplication table in your calculations?" "Yes, of course," returned the other.

"Do you know who wrote it?"

"Why no, I guess I don't."

"Then," said the mechanic, "how can you trust the multiplication table?"

"We trust it because — well, because it works", the astronomer finished testily.

"Well, I trust the Bible for the same reason—it just works."

BRITANNIA LODGE HOLDS LADIES' NIGHT

Britannia Lodge, Lloydminster, recently held a most successful and pleasing Ladies' Night; M. W. Bro. Bjarne Hansen, Grand Master of Saskatchewan and M. W. Bro. Carl Heckbert, P.G.M., Alberta were in attendance and addressed a large gathering of Masons and their wives. Masons from the area attended and enjoyed an unusually pleasant evening. A group of teenage girls from St. Walberg delighted the audience with several well chosen vocal numbers, exhibiting talent that drew much praise from all present.