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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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AN ADMINISTRATOR LOOKS AT THE MASONIC BURSARY FUNDS

W. Bro. D. E. Bickell (9)

When the Masonic Bursary Fund was originated in 1958, I was cautiously optimistic about its success. I have watched its growth with a great deal of interest. This year I was asked to serve on its administration committee. I should like to describe my reactions to this experience, as I believe that most of you are anxious to know how the money you donate is used.

All high schools are notified of our bursary. The counsellors give the details to their students. Students who wish, ask for application forms and send them to our Grand Lodge Office. Masonic brethren are also urged to see that deserving cases receive application forms from one of our committee or Grand Lodge. The deadline for these applications is April 30th. This year we received 243 applications. Each one was intensively scrutinized during May by M.W. Bro. H. E. Howard, V.W. Bro. T. Bayles, W. Bro. B. W. Snyder, R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers and V.W. Bro. M. P. Dunford. A point system was used and only those who showed real financial need were accepted. Those eliminated were notified by letter. It was after this elimination that R.W. Bro. F. S. Bird and I came on the committee. We met with all the members from Calgary, were told what had been done to date, and to go over the applications and discuss any of them. This we did. Further eliminations had to be made. Each Calgary applicant was visited by a pair of Masons. The same was done in Edmonton. Applicants from other areas were to be checked by our members in their vicinity. We then had to wait for the results of the grade twelve Departmental Examinations to see if those we picked were capable of handling the courses they desired.

Candidates had been told to have a transcript of their marks sent to us. The mail strike caused considerable inconvenience, but we were able to have practically all of them in when we met as a whole committee in Red Deer on August 19th. It was a pleasure to meet W. Bro. W. E. Robinson, Chairman, and R.W. Bro. P. J. Kendal and W. Bro. K. D. Stewart. Each candidate was discussed. A greater number than we could handle were accepted as representatives from our committee were to meet representatives from other scholarship or bursary grantors and many of our candidates would also be on their lists. This eliminated duplication so that more students would be assisted by the different benefactors. R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers and W. Bro. W. E. Robinson were our representatives.

After this meeting, having lost some of our can-

didates to other organizations granting student assistance, we had thirty-two. Each received \$500.00.

Having outlined the mechanics of choosing your beneficiaries may I make my observations:

1. The primary reason for our bursaries is financial need. Those who received aid could not finance their first year themselves. Their parents earned very little, had large families, or because of sickness, business reversals, were able to do very little. Many were widows. The cost of the first year at university is at least \$950.00 if you can live at home, or \$1,750.00 if you have to board. Many applicants had earned some money. Those who received aid were of many religious faiths; were not necessarily the academic "cream of the crop" but they are good students, and proved to us that they were willing and able to handle higher education.
2. Your money is entrusted to a committee of sincere men who are not backward in voicing their opinions. They are drawn from all walks of life. They give their talents, time, and energy freely. I mean freely because they pay for their own expenses. The cost of administering this money must be negligible. Your Grand Master attended our meeting in Red Deer on his thirtieth wedding anniversary. The mechanics of an effort of this magnitude are staggering. Hours and hours of work are needed. Your Grand Secretary does a tremendous job, assisted not only by your committee but by Masons all over the province. We also receive the greatest co-operation from the universities.
3. Being in a position to judge each growing generation, I have always believed that the vast majority of young people were sincere, hard working, fine people. My experience this summer as I visited these applicants, strengthened this opinion. Each was working under a handicap of some kind. Each had a definite goal in mind and was willing to work for it.

At your Grand Lodge Office are many letters of appreciation for the help received. I should like to have you read three typical examples.

- (a) "I wish to thank you and your fellow lodge members for the very generous offer of a five hundred dollar bursary toward the continuation of my education. I gratefully accept this bursary.

Although I did manage to find a summer job, the amount saved is still very insufficient to cover the

expenses of my next university year. Your bursary will help me quite a bit in this field and I plan to do my best to show you that it is a worthwhile investment.

I am eagerly looking forward to my first year in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where I have already been accepted. Thank you again for helping to make all this possible."

(b) "I am delighted that your Committee has seen fit to offer me one of your Bursaries of \$500.00, thus enabling me to attend University this fall in Edmonton. I gratefully accept your offer with all my thanks."

(c) "On reading your letter which stated that I had been offered a bursary of \$500.00 a genuine joy flowed within me. Indeed such an occasion as this had rarely been experienced by myself. It is with great honour and privilege that I accept your benevolence.

I will be attending the University of Calgary this coming term. The University has been notified of your assistance.

It is perhaps enlightening to let you know that since the interview with your selection committee, I had been torn between superstition and hope. You see, the night after the interview, a Chinese fortune cookie had informed me that I would be unlucky for a while. You can rightly understand the agitation that I felt.

But seriously, I do sincerely take this opportunity to thank you very much for your assistance. Your altruistic concerns in helping students like myself is so deeply appreciated."

BURSARY FUNDS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

The benefits to the community are now beginning to pay dividends as those persons who have been assisted by the Grand Lodge Bursary Fund are now working at their chosen profession. There are teachers, chemists, architects, engineers, etc., and a doctor now practising medicine in Alberta. A number of those who have received degrees are continuing graduate studies on their own.

A questionnaire was sent out to each of the recipients of the bursary for their comments, and this has received a tremendous response as almost 80% of those questionnaires sent out have been received at the Grand Lodge office. A 30% response is considered normal. This great response indicates the interest and enthusiasm of the students that we are assisting.

The majority stressed need as the most important requirement for a bursary as usually a person with a very high scholastic record would receive scholarships.

A number of students found that they could carry on after being assisted the first two years and this allowed the Bursary Committee to select other deserving students in their stead.

1968 BURSARY AWARDS

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNDERGRADUATES

Ralph Wayne ASHMEAD Edmonton
 Grant Allen BENTLEY Seba Beach
 Donna Lee CHAPMAN Calgary
 Thomas Franklin DARLING Penhold
 Frances Ann C. GALVON Calgary
 Mary Elizabeth GOVENLOCK Whitecourt
 Kathleen Margaret JEWELL Athabasca
 Marilyn Frances MILLER Calgary
 Elaine Joan ZIMMERMAN Goodfare

MATRICULANT

Elizabeth Ann BARLOW Drumheller
 Rose Elizabeth BENE Calgary
 Larry Wayne CAREY Edmonton
 Deborah Paige COLVIN Edmonton
 Arthur Peter Douglas DUBETZ Smoky Lake
 Robert Bruce FORBES Edmonton
 Erika FOERGER Wainwright
 Donna Patricia GRAHAM Edmonton
 June Patricia GRAHAM Spirit River
 Donald A. GROSS Lethbridge
 Margaret Louise KILLINS Calgary
 David Paul KNAPP Three Hills
 Patricia Anne LOMAS Edmonton
 Ingeborg Edith Ursula RIEDEL Edmonton
 John SCHULLER Hythe
 Lawrence Eugene TKACHUK Vegreville
 Judy Ann TYLER Edmonton
 Donna Lynn YACEYKO Edmonton

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

UNDERGRADUATES

Larry Allan GILLESPIE Oyen
 Audrey Ardel KROGH Innisfail
 Lloyd Dennis LUTIC Calgary
 Stanley Albert MEADOWS Calgary
 Marguerite Eileen WALSHAW Calgary

MATRICULANT

Donna Lea Christine ANDERSON Calgary
 Theresa Hannah BENGSTON Rimby
 Linda Lorraine BROUSE Calgary
 Betty Suikye CHEW Calgary
 Chris Frederick JENSEN Craigmyle
 Cena Barbara LABARGE Calgary
 James LEONG Calgary
 Megan Elizabeth TANNER Calgary

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

UNDERGRADUATES

Maria Theodora Anastasia DEJONG .. Lethbridge
 Terrance Monroe GORDON Lethbridge
 Joy Lorraine TUSTIAN Lethbridge

MATRICULANT

John Charles DAVIES Milk River
 Robert Anthony SCHNEIDER Lethbridge

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Allan John RINTOUL Calgary

GRANDE PRAIRIE JUNIOR COLLEGE

Henry Charles GAUVREAU Peace River
 Charles David JOHNSON Grande Prairie
 Freda Faye McDONALD Manning

RED DEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

Nancy Louise OLSEN Innisfail

A Worthwhile Undertaking

W. Bro. W. E. Robinson (51), Chairman,
Higher Education Bursary Committee

I am sure I speak for all members of the committee when I say we find the work most rewarding.

This year has been an outstanding one for several reasons; firstly, the largest sum of money to-date was provided by the brethren, secondly, we had the largest number of applications ever for bursaries and, thirdly, the personal interviews with selected students gave us all a renewed belief in the generation who will soon have to undertake the management of affairs. As one member of the committee put it, "This is the most rewarding work I have done on behalf of the Craft in over forty years".

Today much publicity is given to restless youth, but behind the facade so popular with news media we are able to find boys and girls who are approaching their higher education in a most responsible manner. They are determined to succeed and to be of service to mankind. It is a rewarding experience to meet such a fine group. Some have come to this country from other lands, but the majority were born here and their requests came to us as a result of the need for financial assistance to attend a university.

Many of those we are assisting are children of widows, others have had to go out to work as a result of broken homes or because of sickness in the family.

Your committee make or cause to be made the most careful enquiries, and the results over the last ten years indicate that our choice has fallen on worthy students as there have been very few failures.

Brethren who may wish to learn more details will find that a full report, including all financial statements is made to Grand Lodge every year. We commend it to your study. The interest amongst members has grown significantly in the last year or so. Your Committee urge all members to discuss the work with your brethren, and keep the matter constantly before them.

If a student comes from your area, get to know him. Several students have stated that when we take a personal interest in them they are tremendously encouraged in their studies.

This year your Committee arranged for a printed card to be sent to all high schools in the Province, including the Separate schools, so that information would be available to all. This resulted in 243 applications but this number was reduced to 85 for the final selection and you will note that 32 matriculating bursaries have been awarded as well as 18 undergraduate awards. May I repeat, young people in increasing numbers do realize the necessity of higher education to cope with the complex world of today.

The Craft in Alberta, by providing these bursaries fulfills one of Freemasonry's great objectives — Charity to all men.

NOVEMBER — BURSARY MONTH

M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell, Grand Master

Following the good tradition set by several of my predecessors I have proclaimed November as Higher Education Bursary Month and have requested that during the month Masons throughout this jurisdiction make contributions to the Higher Education Bursary Fund. Every brother should give to the fund as his circumstances will permit. Some will be able to give larger amounts than others but as long as we all exercise the great attribute of Charity the fund will be a success. Even if contributions averaged one dollar per member we would have sufficient resources to continue this very worthwhile enterprise. The money collected this year will be used for Bursaries in the 1969-70 Academic Year and will determine how many students the Masons in Alberta will help to secure an education.

Because I have proclaimed the month of November as Higher Education Bursary Month I now charge every District Deputy Grand Master to promote the cause of the Higher Education Bursary Fund at the various meetings he will attend. This includes visits to constituent lodges and District Meetings. Material respecting the Fund will be found in this issue of the Grand Lodge Bulletin and in the Records of Proceedings of our Grand Lodge Communications. In addition I request the Worshipful Master of every Lodge to bring before his membership the needs of the Higher Education Bursary Fund. Many Lodges appoint a special committee to attend to the promotion of the Fund. Others set an objective towards which to strive. Although November is the month in which the major effort is made, contributions for the 1969-70 Academic Year may be sent to the Secretary of the Lodge or to the Grand Secretary at any time.

It has been my great privilege to represent the Masons of Alberta at a large number of Grand Lodge Communications both in Canada and in the United States. Wherever I have gone I have discovered that the Grand Lodge of Alberta is widely known for its Higher Education Bursary Fund. The continuing high level of voluntary contributions is a source of much comment from the brethren in other jurisdictions. Very often I have been asked what methods we use to raise such a large sum of money each year. It has been with excusable pride that I have been able to say that we do not use any high pressure techniques to raise the money. The response comes not from much coaxing but from a genuine appreciation of the worthwhileness of the venture.

The next comment made by brethren from other jurisdictions is on the great service that the Higher Education Bursary Fund is performing. Let us never forget that the Higher Education Bursary Fund is a great investment in the future of our Country as we make it possible for many young people to take their places in the great professions of the Twentieth Century. Our contributions are already being returned to us with interest in terms of training and service.

In proclaiming November as Higher Education Bursary Month I know that I can count on the support of my brethren.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Grande Prairie Lodge No. 105 — On the occasion of their 50th Anniversary, Fifty Year Jewels were presented by R.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell D.G.M. to the following Brethren.

Bro. W. L. Caldwell, initiated April 5th, 1918; R.W. Bro. J. O. Patterson, initiated April 5th, 1918, W.M. 1922 D.D.G.M. District No. 13, 1934; Bro. A. F. Christie, initiated March 25th, 1914; W. Bro. J. W. Pickard, initiated January 18th, 1916, W.M. 1932 W. Bro. Pickard was unable to be present and the presentation was made on September 16 by Charity Lodge No. 67, Lethbridge.

Jasper Lodge No. 14 — On September 9th R.W. Bro. Len Stevens presented a Sixty Year Bar to R.W. Bro. Andy Black who was initiated in 1908. W. Bro. George H. Steer who was to receive a Fifty Year Jewel, having been initiated in 1904, was not present and arrangements have been made for this presentation at a later date.

Bro. E. W. Bowness who was initiated in 1916 is now a resident in Calgary and arrangements were made for this presentation by M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell Grand Master.

Unity Lodge No. 51 — On September 3rd.

W. Bro. Percy S. Bailey, Charter member presented with Sixty Year Bar by M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell G.M.; V.W. Bro. W. E. Addinell, initiated April 4th, 1918, W.M. 1932 Grand Steward 1935; Bro. H. P. Fitzenmier, initiated March 20th, 1917; Bro. I. R. Lindsay, initiated September 17th, 1918; Bro. F. T. Jackson, initiated July 2nd, 1918. These last two Brethren were passed and raised together. Their jewels were presented by R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, Grand Secretary, who worked for Brother Lindsay in Clover Bar in 1923.

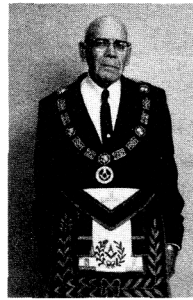
Fidelity Lodge No. 76 — On September 10, M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell G.M. presented Fifty Year Jewels to five members. This was a very unique occasion, especially for a country lodge.

R. W. Bro. J. A. Marshall, initiated January 30th, 1912, W.M. 1916, D.D.G.M. 1920, Life Member 1945; Bro. E. Kimmelman, initiated April 23rd, 1915; Bro. J. H. Munroe, initiated April 6th, 1915, Life Member January 12, 1965; W. Bro. A. C. McFadden, initiated March 7th, 1916, Life Member January 12, 1965; Bro. J. H. Scott, initiated February 6th, 1917.

Rt. Wor. Bro. James Alexander Marshall who is the only remaining Charter member of Fidelity Lodge replied to these presentations in his usual capable manner.

Grande Prairie Lodge No. 105 celebrated their Fiftieth Anniversary on June 1st, 1968. They were Instituted on January 30th, 1918 and Constituted on June 15th, 1918. The first Worshipful Master R.W. Bro. J. B. Oliver passed away a few weeks before the Anniversary meeting. The Grand Lodge Officers attending were R.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell, D.G.M., R.W. Bro. P. J. Kendal, S.G.W. and R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, Grand Secretary. They were accompanied by R.W. Bro. J. F. Rogers, D.D.G.M. District 14, R.W. Bro.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



T. A. Norris Sr.

This month the Bulletin salutes another of Masonry's "Grand old men" in the person of Rt. Wor. Bro. Thomas Albert Norris who celebrated his ninety-first birthday on the 18th of July.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Norris was made a Mason in Star of the West Lodge No. 34, Leduc, Alberta in 1914. He moved to the Peace River Country in 1915 where he affiliated with Peace River Lodge No. 89 in 1917. He was the Worshipful Master of Peace River Lodge in 1920 and 1921. In 1921 he was appointed a Grand Steward and in 1925-26 he was D.D.G.M. of District No. 13. He was made a life member of Peace River Lodge in March of 1956 and received his Fifty Year Jewel in September 1964.

In addition to his many Masonic activities, Rt. Wor. Bro. Norris has given outstanding community service to the area in which he has resided.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Norris moved to Leduc in 1904 and left there in 1915 but these eleven years were packed with service. He served eight years on the Town Council, the last four years as Mayor. He was Chairman of the School Board, the Exhibition Society and the Chamber of Commerce. As well he found time to be Superintendent of the Sunday School for ten years.

He moved to Peace River in 1915 and as he became interested and involved in the town's community and church affairs a similar pattern was established. He served on the Hospital Board from 1915 to 1928 and started the movement to establish the Municipal Hospital Board. As Chairman of the School Board he led the movement for the setting up of the larger School Division. After the School Division had been set up he was a member of the Board for six years. The T. A. Norris Junior High School is a tribute to his educational work. In addition he was Chairman of the Peace River Exhibition Society and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. When Peace River became a Town in 1919 he was a member of the first Town Council.

He has been on the Session of the United Church continuously and is a life member of this body. For twenty of the earlier years he was Superintendent of the Sunday School and for a number of years was Chairman of the local Bible Society.

Such a formidable list of achievements fills us with awe and we can only express the hope that Rt. Wor. Bro. Norris may long be spared to receive the congratulations of his friends and enjoy the fruits of his labours.

M. H. Mehl, Oyen No. 104 and W. Bro. R. C. Clark Empress No. 161.

The Past Masters of the Lodge presented a beautiful Altar Cloth to mark the occasion.

The District Meeting for District No. 1 will be held in Calgary on Friday, November 29th.