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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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NEW YEAR 1969

Bro. Archdeacon C. Swanson
V.W. Grand Chaplain

The other night I lay in bed preparing for sleep by reading my Bible—a good habit which I commend to you. In my mental background I was mulling over what I might write as a New Year message to our Masonic fellowship, and there, in the epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesian church were these words: "Live like men at home in daylight, for where light is, there all goodness springs up, all justice and truth." (That is the New English Bible's translation.)

This is the season of light. For centuries our heathen forefathers realized that the sun which had lost some of its warmth as it was slowly declining in its daily orbit, had ceased that decline and was now beginning to rise higher in the sky and was regaining its old warmth. What they were witnessing was, of course, the winter solstice. They celebrated with bonfires and torches and copious libation of mead, that potent honey-based beer. Curious how we moderns have adopted their practice! Houses are decorated with lights. Christmas trees glow with candlelight and modern mead made in Scotland is quaffed in happy toasts to "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

It was into the old traditional celebration of the winter solstice that the Christian gospel came to Britain in the Sixth Century A.D. St. Augustine and his monks, came from Rome with a fully developed dogmatic theology and an injunction from Pope Gregory, the Great, that they should not tear down and destroy, but build up and take what was good in heathen practice and baptize it into the service of Christ. They were convinced of one thing, and that was that Christ was the light of the world. They came bearing the Book of the Gospels and there in that marvellous prologue to St. John they had so often read, "All that came into being was alive with His life and that life was the light of the world—the real light which enlightens every man was even then coming into the world." So they took the old heathen celebrations and changed them into a joyful observance of the Coming of the Light into the world, and so began the observance of Christmas. Nobody knows when Jesus Christ was born; Christmas is not His birthday but the celebration of the fact that He was born. In the darkness of the heathenism of that day the thought

of light from God made a tremendous impact. The old wild drunken feasts were abandoned, the new feast of the Christian Eucharist, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, took their place and the feast of the winter Solstice became the celebration of the Coming of the Light.

We Freemasons know the place of light in our ritual. In the darkness of ignorance the initiate is taught to plead for light, and when he is restored to light, the first thing he sees is the square and compasses on the volume of the Sacred Law and above it the smiling countenance of the Master and the smiling faces of the brethren.

But light in a ritual is but the symbolism of light in life. "Live like men who are at home in daylight, for where light is there all goodness springs up, all justice and truth." So writes St. Paul in words that burn into our consciences.

Man needs an ideal of life by which to model his own living. "Ah," wrote Browning, "a man's reach must exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" Yet we must grasp what we can, even though perfection eludes us. We are spirit in flesh and for our guidance it must needs be that the spiritual ideal must be clothed in flesh, or in Christian language, become incarnate, and so it is that at the turn of the year we see this very thing happening before our eyes. The Transcendent becomes human and on the human level with all its limitations we see the ideal expressed in a human life. As St. John wrote, "We have heard it; we have seen it with our very eyes; we felt it with our hands . . . life was made visible."

What does this all mean? St. Paul writes of goodness, justice and truth. What is goodness? Look upon Christ and see. What is justice? Witness Him showing the justice of God. What is truth? Listen to His words. Goodness, justice and truth, these three, incarnate in a human life. No wonder that we celebrate the beginning of it all. No wonder that we date our era from that holy birth, and call this 1969 A.D.

So Christmas has come again and our thoughts go ranging over half a world to a glimmer of light by a straw-filled manger, to a new born baby who will grow to manhood and set before a tense world an ideal of life by which to live.

So, brethren, a Happy New Year to you all.

FOURTH MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP

BANFF SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

March 28, 29 & 30, 1969

The Workshop Planning Committee has been hard at work preparing for the Fourth, and what we hope will be the biggest and best, Masonic Spring Workshop yet. Not too much planning was required because of the excellent examples provided in the previous Workshops which we had only to follow.

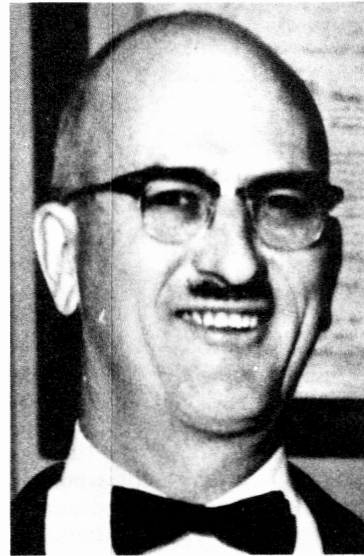
The program will be the same as the 1968 Workshop. There will be three thought provoking theme speeches which will be followed by a discussion period in which **ALL** Masons will have a chance to express their own ideas. Again we have picked theme speakers from among our midst and from discussions with these speakers about the subject matter of their addresses I am sure that those who attend this Workshop will have more thought provoking ideas presented to them than they will have time to discuss. The theme speakers this year are Glenn Fox, Jim Roberts and Denny Ryan, from Calgary.

There again will be the Schools of Instruction for all levels of Officers in the Lodge, plus the School for District Deputies and Grand Lodge Officers.

To understand why we conduct the Workshop, we must look to the questions, "Why are we Masons?" "What is the real purpose in Masonry?" The answer to both of these questions is "To develop character in the individuals who join our Order!" We can go into many cliches, "to make men better," "to build a temple in every man," but our prime purpose is to develop the character of the individual and thus make this a better place for all mankind. The lessons for developing this character are all in our rituals, but too many of us do not take the opportunity to think, yes, to think, about what is really being taught in the ritual. We hear, or speak, the words but do not understand the meaning. The purpose of the Workshop is to make each Mason think and to have a better understanding of what is being taught in our rituals.

The beauty of the Workshop is that each theme speaker has done considerable thinking about the meaning of Masonry and will tell you what Masonry means to him. You, having heard what it means to him, **MUST** think about what it means to you. Then in the Discussion Groups you have the opportunity to express your thoughts about what Masonry means to you and hearing other Masons in your group express their thoughts of the meaning of Masonry to them.

This discussion period for exchanging thoughts, about the meaning of the teachings of the Craft we love, is one of the most mentally rewarding encounters you will ever experience. At the Workshop you are no longer limited to associating with the members of your own Lodge or community, you mix and exchange ideas with brethren from all over the Province and even some from outside our beautiful Alberta.



W. Bro. Walter E. Bright
General Chairman
Masonic Spring Workshop Committee
Lodge Renfrew No. 134

The Workshop is especially designed to get away from the formality of the Lodge Room and Grand Lodge, so you will feel free to express your views without having some supposedly senior brother ridicule your ideas. At this Workshop you need only one qualification to attend and participate, you must be a Practicing Mason.

Informality is the key at the Workshop, we recommend casual dress, but if you wish to wear more formal attire that is your prerogative. Above all there will be **no** titles, we all meet on the same level and work on a first name basis.

The Theme of the Workshop this year is "Masonry is . . .!" You must fill in the blank for yourself, but we offer here some suggestions:

1. The Brotherhood of Man.
2. A Way of Life.
3. A Historical Institution.
4. A Religious Order.
5. A Progressive Science.
6. An Exercise of Involvement.
7. What YOU Make It.

Make your plans now to attend this most worthwhile informal Masonic Weekend.

SKINNY BRIGHT,
General Chairman.

MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP

March 28, 29 & 30, 1969

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

Because this type of school instruction has been so well received in the past, it has been decided to carry on the format started at previous Workshops; that is, direct "how-to" schools directed at, and restricted to, various membership levels.

To recap, the following Schools of Instruction are to be held:

- School No. 1—Duties and Responsibilities of Master Masons.
- School No. 2—Duties and Responsibilities of Junior Officers (up to Senior Deacon).
- School No. 3—Duties and Responsibilities of Senior Officers (W.M., S.W., J.W.).
- School No. 4—Duties and Responsibilities of Past Masters (P.M.'s may attend here or No. 1).
- School No. 5—Duties and Responsibilities of Lodge Secretaries—only.
- School No. 6—Duties and Responsibilities of D.D.-G.M.'s elect—only.
- School No. 7—Duties and Responsibilities of other Grand Lodge Officers—only.

These Schools will again take the form of a lecture followed by a question and answer period. There will be three sessions throughout the weekend, well spaced to allow each of you ample time for review of lectures and preparation of questions to be asked at the next following session.

The Schools of Instruction are meant to be used as sounding boards of Lodge practice and procedure. Here a man can learn what is expected of him as he proceeds along the varying levels of Lodge and Craft participation.

ACCOMMODATIONS

At the same time that you receive this Bulletin, you should have received a registration card which must be completed and returned.

You will see three varying levels of accommodation, all being exceptionally reasonable. May we point out two things for you to do to assist yourself as well as your Registration Committee, Chairman, Les Rosling.

1. Please return registrations, with fee attached, as soon as possible.
2. Please, if you wish to room with a particular friend, send both cards together making note of your wishes regarding the accommodation.
3. Please speak to your brethren and get all of your registrations in early.

THE GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN

M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell

In my Masonic Life there have been very many high points which I shall cherish in memory throughout the years. It is impossible for me to say which experience takes the most prominence. However, one that I will never forget and which remains a constant inspiration is the privilege that was mine to be the General Chairman of the First Masonic Spring Workshop. A number of the brethren had a glimmering of an idea and as the idea grew it became necessary to translate an inspiration into practical terms. The General Committee was formed and we spent many, many interesting hours discussing issues and trying to get to a firm basis of action. Finally the proposal of the Masonic Workshop began to take shape and the organization began. It was no mean task to create an organization even after we knew what we wanted but the devotion and dedication of the members of the committee prevailed and the First Masonic Spring Workshop was underway. Even when the committee knew what it wanted, a large amount of faith was essential. We did not know how the membership at large would receive the proposal or to what extent it would be supported. Of one thing we were confident and that was that the brethren were seeking for some way to express themselves and that we had to take the step of faith to provide what we thought would be an acceptable vehicle. The Finance Committee of Grand Lodge gave us encouraging support because it was asked to provide funds to get the proposal underway with the expectation that the money would be repaid when Workshop fees came in. The financial undertaking was considerable since literature had to be produced, a speaker engaged and the Banff School of Fine Arts underwritten.

As it turned out there was no cause for concern. The membership responded especially enthusiastically and has continued to do so through the years. The Workshop has never been a charge on Grand Lodge finances, but has paid its way each year and has earned enough of a surplus to give the succeeding committee a start.

Basically the Workshop was conceived with the idea of expressing in practical terms the need the Masonic Brethren felt for real, wholesome and informal fellowship. To this would be added an opportunity for free discussion unimpeded by the usual trappings of Masonic Ritual and Rank. Each year the Committee has insisted on this freedom and informality. Some of the greatest values accruing to those who have attended have come not from the meetings and the discussions but from the informal gatherings held, sometimes late at night, in various rooms and lounges. Such informal sessions must continue if the creative spirit of the Workshop is to survive.

The Committees have been wise in changing their membership each year and selecting a new General Chairman for each Workshop. Because of this, fresh ideas are generated and no two Workshops have been the same.

Another Spring Workshop is being planned for March. I am certain it will merit widespread support.

Visit To Yellowknife

Yellowknife Lodge No. 162 was honored by a visit from the Grand Master M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell accompanied by a goodly number of Grand Lodge Officers and representatives of forty-six lodges on November 23rd.

The Charter Flight left Edmonton at 8 o'clock Saturday morning and after stopping at Fort Smith to pick up representatives from there; it arrived in Yellowknife around noon. Tours of the area were arranged by the Yellowknife Brethren and were very much enjoyed by the visitors. In the evening the members of Yellowknife Lodge capably conferred the Fellowcraft Degree on Bro. Melbourne C. Scott and afterwards again entertained the visitors.

On Sunday the visiting members attended the Anglican and United Church services. The return flight left Yellowknife at 4:30 p.m. and arrived back in Edmonton at about 9:00 p.m. All brethren report having had a most thrilling and memorable experience.

Long Service Awards

On November 18th, Empire Lodge No. 63, Edmonton presented a 60 Year Bar to W. Bro. Harry Fidler and also a Life Membership and 50 Year Jewel to Bro. A. Pike.

Grand Lodge Library

The Grand Lodge Masonic Library is once again commended to the attention of the Brethren. This Library is an excellent source of material for those who wish to extend their Masonic knowledge. The Library, located in the Grand Lodge Office, is open for visits on Wednesday evenings or at other times if you are visiting Calgary. Books may be requested by mail and will be loaned for thirty days. Each Lodge Secretary has a catalogue of the books available. This wealth of Masonic information might as well not exist if we are content to leave it on the library shelves.

News From The Lodges

November 5th, Star of the West Lodge No. 34 marked its 60th Anniversary. R.W. Bro. Philip Kendal, Deputy Grand Master was guest speaker at the evening session. Nineteen lodges were represented by 97 members.

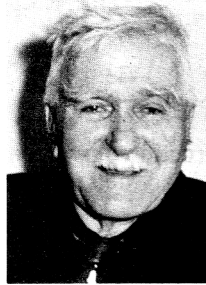
November 6th, Beaver Lodge No. 56, Castor, Alberta, celebrated the burning of the mortgage on the Lodge Building. Congratulations Beaver Lodge.

November 13th, Camrose Lodge No. 37 celebrated the Official Opening of the new Camrose Masonic Temple. M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell and other Grand Lodge Officers were in attendance. Congratulations to the Brethren of Camrose Lodge and perhaps we may have a further report on this event later.

A Request and A Reminder

Please send in to the Grand Secretary, information about any special occasions you may have and there is a particular need for papers which have been given at your Lodge or your District or Area Meetings.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



Bro. Dr. F. G. Miller was born in Owen Sound, Ontario in 1884. He emigrated to Alberta with his brother Kenneth in 1904 and homesteaded near Vermilion. In 1910 he returned to Ontario where he taught school for two years. He began the study of medicine in 1912 and went overseas with the McGill Hospital Unit. Upon his return in 1918 he finished his medical degree and married Cora L. Emerson. He moved to Vermilion in 1919 and to Elk Point the next year and has practiced medicine there for 48 years. In the early years 1923 to 1928 he and his partner built and operated a small private hospital. House calls were the rule in those days and he made his calls in a Model "T" in summer and by horses in winter. He averaged a thousand miles a month both summer and winter.

He served on the local school board and after centralization, was a member of the Divisional Board for fifteen years. The Department of Education honored him by naming the new High School after him.

He and his partner began the movement to establish a local gas syndicate which now provides natural gas for the community from its own wells.

Bro. Miller was an ardent sportsman and during the thirties he sponsored, coached and provided transportation for a boys' hockey team in winter and a baseball team in summer. He has been a pillar of the United Church throughout his life and capably assisted the Church at Elk Point during the difficult years of its establishment and growth.

He was the moving force behind the establishment of St. Georges Masonic Lodge which has continued to flourish under his guidance.

Bro. Miller has been a counsellor at one time or another to every family in the district and has been a tower of strength to those in trouble, sharing his wisdom, time, and strength and material wealth for the benefit of the people of this and other communities.

His unswerving devotion to the principles of his church and of Freemasonry has gained him countless friends throughout the length and breadth of Alberta and indeed of all Canada. He is known to be a man of truth, honor and fortitude. He has been a most patient and devoted father to his three boys and two girls providing them all with excellent educations and a philosophy of life worth living by. Here is a man who has splendidly exemplified the tenets and principles of Freemasonry throughout his daily life.

Successful Officers

"If a brother in sorrow or trouble or perplexity instinctively turns to a Lodge Officer for comfort or counsel, and finds them, there is a successful officer even if he cannot make a glib speech or recite his ritual with fluent perfection. If the impact of the Lodge on its members and on the community is wholesome and helpful, its officers are successful however unspectacular their performance."

—Masonic Craftsman