



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Chairman, Editorial Comm. W. J. Collett, P.G.M., 330 - 12th Ave. S.W., Calgary 3, Alberta.

## Easter

Bro. Archdeacon C. C. Swanson, P.G.C.

Easter! And what are you going to do with your Christmas tree? It stood in your house as the centre of your Christmas family jollity and happiness, and now stands derelict waiting for its final disposal. But why did you have one? Did you ever realize that it is a link with your heathen ancestors who worshipped Thor and Odin and Balder under those evergreen trees? They saw the sun losing its power, falling lower and lower in the sky, and were terrified that it might finally disappear, and the whole earth die in the icy grip of the sunless cold. So, led by their priests they sang and chanted their songs to the sun, lit their great bonfires to help the sun regain its warmth . . . and drank great draughts of mead to give them some inner warmth. And lo! the miracle happened and slowly the sun began its upward climb in the skies and slowly, so slowly, its warmth returned to break the grip of the frost and cold. What more natural, when the Christian gospel was preached and accepted by those rugged folk, they baptized their old practices into Christ, and began to celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the world at the season of the equinox and the return of the sun's power? There is a lot of ancient tree lore still in the back of our minds. If you kissed a girl under the mistletoe you were doing just what the old Druids did, thousands of years ago, even if you didn't know it!

But the foundation of the Christian gospel is not on the birth of Christ, but on His resurrection out of death. St. Paul seems to have known nothing of any virgin birth; it was the risen Christ whom he saw and in whom he believed, and the work of the Risen Christ was his gospel. Death and resurrection! And the death of Christ was associated with the passover meal in the Spring of the year. So once again, by a happy coincidence . . . or was it a coincidence? . . . the resurrection of Christ became associated with the coming of Spring, and our Saxon forefathers called it Easter, Eostre, the old name for the goddess of Spring.

Life out of death, that's resurrection. Drive along the Bow or Elbow today, and see the emblems of death in the trees, black and stark and leafless, but you know that when May comes, the buds will be alive with new life, and in June you will see the glory of the Spring greens, the most beautiful sight of the year. No wonder those old Saxons and Danes called it Easter when the change came!

Our masonic Craft uses symbols and allegories to illustrate our teachings of the good life, the good death and the good life after death, or what has come to be called "membership in the Grand Lodge Above". All our science and art is dedicated to the realization of new life, the life of purity, brotherhood, charity and service. Better than materialism is spirituality; better than prosperity is peace of mind; better than orgies of sin is depth of contemplation; better than death is life.

"If the deathless dwell not in the heart of death,  
 If glad wisdom bloom not bursting the sheath of  
 sorrow,  
 If sin do not die of its own revelation,  
 If pride break not under its load of decorations,  
 Then whence comes the hope that drives these men  
 From their homes like stars rushing to their death  
 in the morning light?  
 Shall the value of the martyrs' blood, and mothers'  
 tears  
 Be utterly lost in the dust of the earth, not buying  
 heaven with their price?  
 And when man bursts his mortal bounds, is not  
 the Boundless revealed at that moment?  
 That is Rabindranath Tagore the Hindu mystic,  
 that is his deep contemplation, but Jesus Christ  
 the Risen Lord said "I am Resurrection and  
 Life".

**INTEREST AND ATTENDANCE**

Bro. J. McKay, Oyen Lodge #104

Freemasonry's greatest problems are, lack of interest in its teachings and attendance at its meetings.

There is no cure-all and probably never will be, but we can improve the situation with a well planned programme, in the hands of real masonic leadership. Many times, a brother can show the way if he will only work at the job. Talent is not enough, it takes the willingness and the courage to give some time to the cause.

An active programme committee with the right leadership will go a long way in bringing about considerable improvement. More jobs for more members should be our slogan. If all newly made masons were given some job to do, in line with their talents, we think you would notice an increase in interest and attendance. There is no substitute, for leadership and hard work.

Lodge meetings must be conducted with interest for all brethren, not just for the lodge officers. Many brethren involved to limited capacities in ritual, committee activity, and administration will lessen the load on any individual. It is not enough to assign tasks; there must be instruction, experience, and imaginative thinking. We must try to stir the interest of every brother. Every lodge meeting should be a "Happening"; and that means participation by all the members. "Happenings" don't just happen, they have to be carefully planned to the last detail.

If a Master feels he is not the greatest programmer in the world, he need only ask for help, this help should come from a programme committee of three, a revolving committee so to speak, that is, each month one member would be dropped and another appointed in his place, in this way we would have a complete change of committee every three months, and would no doubt have many new and different ideas.

A list of topics and ideas could be prepared, which may possibly help these committees get into action. There may be some who would try to take the easy way out, but a good leader will motivate, by giving direction and guidance, also by applying a little pressure when and where necessary.

The brethren should realize that it is the duty of every member to attend the meetings, and to take some active part in the affairs of his lodge. You were not made a mason to stand idly by. It was expected of you that you do something for the good of Masonry. You were not admitted to the lodge simply to pass through the degrees. Our duty, our principles, our teachings, all demand some return for the honor conferred by the lodge. Fit the task to your ability, but get involved. By participating you will certainly be a benefit to the craft, and more important you will begin to learn what Freemasonry is really about.

Remember this Brethren, participation is living, participation is vitality. Do not be satisfied with just being average. Display your enthusiasm, it will rub off on the other fellow and all will benefit.

One more thing, don't run down your Lodge. It may have improved since you were last there.

**MASONIC PRINCIPLES**

Bro. J. McKay, Oyen Lodge #104

No man can draw a free breath who does not share with other men a common and worthwhile ideal. Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction. There is no comradeship except through union in the same high effort.

One of the first necessities to bring about this union is leadership, and contrary to the old saying that leaders are born, the art of leading can be taught or developed. The qualities or characteristics necessary are, first of all confidence in one's self. If a leader does not believe in himself, no one else will. This must be training, experience, and skill. The next requirement is energy, a leader must be willing to do everything he asks of his followers, and more. Following these he must have a firm unshakeable faith in the principles he stands for, and in Masonry we have those principles that are beyond any doubt, worthy of that faith.

One of the first principles in Masonry is faith, faith in one Supreme Being, faith in the teachings of the V.O.S.L. from which is derived the tenets and precepts of our Order.

Following faith we have love, love of our fellow-man regardless of race, colour, creed, or station. I am sure all will agree that this principle is not practiced to the extent that it should be in the world today, but were it practiced to its fullest, all the bickering, squalor, and misery would soon disappear. In a lodge a man need no longer be a stranger, he finds there other men, who like himself are eager to establish friendships, engage in social intercourse, and pool the resources of all for the needs of each.

The fraternal tie redeems a man from loneliness and a sense of helplessness. In the fraternal circle is the warmth and security which a man needs. Brotherly love is the substitution of a friend for a stranger, it is a spirit that puts around a man the comforts and securities of love. When a worthy Brother in distress, is helped, it is not as a pauper, as in the cold fashion of public charity, but the kindly help which one neighbour is always glad to extend to another. Masonic charity is strong, kindly, and tender, and not charity at all in the narrow grudging sense of the word. Friendship, fraternity, fellowship, this is the soul of Freemasonry.

The man who understands that brotherhood is one form of wisdom, and that it is necessary in the world today, will not be troubled by sentimental difficulties. Neither will he permit a few accidental private experiences to sour him of all brotherly striving. It may be that my neighbour and I have natures that are entirely different, what I admire he detests, what I love he hates. My vocation is one that is opposed to his interests. We cannot hold social intercourse because we have too many differences. Such a thing has nothing to do with brotherhood. Brotherhood does not demand that we privately like people who are obnoxious to us, or that others should like us who find our company distasteful. Such things are of one's intimate likes and dislikes and have to do with private

friendship rather than brotherhood. If I cannot like this neighbour of mine I can still be a brother to him. I can give him exact justice in all my dealings with him. I can refuse to do evil to him, or speak evil of him, I can always maintain an attitude of good will to him, and wish for him good fortune and happiness. I can stand ready to help him to the fulness of life so far as circumstances make that possible, and I can always refuse to place any obstacles in his way. If I have any difference with him, I can differ as one man to another, honestly and openly, without argument. Such an attitude is the brotherly spirit, and it can flourish where private friendship is not possible.

## TOO MANY FEMALES?

In November the Bulletin published a list of students who were awarded bursaries by the Higher Education Bursary Committee. We received several reactions concerning the list, some brethren questioning the wisdom of awarding the majority of the bursaries to girls, claiming that many girls get married either before or immediately after graduation and do not enter a profession. R.W. Bro. W. E. Robinson, the Chairman of the Bursary Committee was asked to comment on this issue and we now publish his reply:—

“The interesting, even provocative opinion, regarding the large number of female recipients of our bursaries presents a topic worthy of further discussion.

I cannot recall the question having been discussed at any of our committee meetings. The bursary list, is selected by the use of our point system, which places a heavy weighting on need in the family. It would appear that widows have more daughters than sons who are qualified to go to university.

While it may be true, that half the female students go to university to find suitable husbands, it may also be true that this may be a worthy objective, since so many females after graduation, or with teacher qualifications, have to support husbands who are attending university. Males can find employment without academic qualifications much easier than females.

The enrolment statistics of the University of Alberta in Edmonton indicate increasing numbers of females are now attending this institution. Enrolled in the 1969-70 term are 8,020 males and 5,456 females, and undergraduate figures for the Faculty of Education show 1,574 males and 2,294 females. This seems to indicate a greater percentage of females each year are taking higher education in our universities, and this may also be reflected in our bursary applications.

If we are prepared to make changes, the remedy for the situation would be to adopt some quota system to limit the number of females, but would this leave us open to a charge of discrimination?

These are points the brethren might like to discuss, and any conclusions or personal opinions would be welcomed by the Higher Education Bursary Committee”.

## GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN

My Dear Brethren:

The following guest editorial which appears in this month's bulletin of the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada is worthy of repetition in the columns of our monthly bulletin for your contemplation and study;

“Tonight, somewhere in this land, Lodge meetings are being held to deal with regular business which can consist of many items such as finances, programs, social events, entertainment, education, fraternal visitations, changes in by-laws, or any of the multitude of details that are encountered in the administration and operation of even the smallest organization.

Freemasonry is founded upon the basic principle of brotherly love with the prime object of aiding the distressed Brother or his loved ones. Notwithstanding the inestimable assistance being rendered by the Fraternity, it is interesting to note the minimum attention, if any, that this subject receives at the average meeting. In delegating the charitable duties to Committees, the general membership becomes almost totally unaware of the extent of Masonic benevolence due to its lack of active personal participation.

Our meetings are considered to be retreats of friendship and brotherly love but most, except for those dealing with Degree work, are purely a business session to discuss the same type of problems that are met within our daily living. This atmosphere does not constitute a retreat from the cares of the day so it is no small wonder that attendance is low. The gem of endeavour that we possess, not too evident in the work a day, is not cherished.

There are many concordant groups which cater to entertainment needs, not to overlook professional presentations in the television theatre and sports arena. It would appear to be high time that Lodges vacated the entertainment field and exercised, as individuals, the unchallenged duty to our Brethren.

The work of Boards of relief, the plight of absent Brethren, the circumstances of the Widow and Orphans and a thorough assessment of the needs and well being of our Members are subjects which can safely and secretly be discussed in the privacy of the Lodge room.

In this day and age it could be the “something different” in Lodge activity that seems to be sought by all!”

In pursuing this thought further, let us not lose sight of the fact that Brethren come to our Lodge meetings, desiring and craving Masonic truths and light in Masonry, something which they are all urgently seeking and yet in many cases never receive in our Lodge rooms, the only place where Masonry can and should be dispensed in a pleasant and enlightened atmosphere.

Like the windows of a large Department Store, we must make our meetings interesting and attractive in order to induce the Brethren to return again and again.

Your Grand Master,  
Philip J. Kendal

## CONGRATULATIONS AND HONORS



**Gleichen Lodge No. 36** — On November 4th, V.W. Bro. A. W. Gilbart was presented with a Sixty Year Bar to his Fifty Year Jewel in Gleichen Lodge by W. Bro. E. G. Ferguson. V.W. Bro. Gilbart was initiated in Strathclair Lodge No. 106, Manitoba on October 26, 1909. He affiliated with Gleichen in 1939, was Worshipful Master in 1944 and was appointed Grand Steward 1961-62. Immediately after this presentation, V.W. Bro. Gilbart presented a Fifty Year Jewel to Bro. R. E. Hill who was initiated in Gleichen Lodge on February 18th, 1919. R.W. Bro. J. S. Woods, S.G.W., R.W. Bro. F. G. Fox, J.G.W., Bro. Archdeacon Swanson, P.G.C., and W. Bro. D. Cumming, accompanied the Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers to the meeting to congratulate the brethren and a carload of members from Brooks Lodge No. 73 were in attendance, with more than 40 of the Gleichen brethren. The Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred on Bro. R. P. Perrier by W. Bro. N. B. Gateman and his Officers in an excellent manner.

**Camrose Lodge No. 37** — At the December meeting of Camrose Lodge, Bro. R. J. Graham was presented with a 50 Year lapel pin and a gold identification card by W. Bro. Carl A. Johnson on behalf of the Officers and members of Hawkesbury Lodge No. 450, G.R.C., Hawkesbury, Ontario. Bro. Graham was initiated into Hawkesbury Lodge on October 9th, 1919.

**Crescent Lodge No. 87** — On January 27th, 1970, W. Bro. J. Kemp presented a Fifty Year Jewel to Bro. Arthur P. Jenkins on behalf of the Officers and members of Crescent Lodge. Bro. Jenkins was born in Bradford, England on September 15th, 1896 and was initiated into Crescent Lodge on December 16th, 1919.

**Author!**

Bro. Archdeacon Swanson, P.G.C., who is the author of the Easter message appearing in this bulletin has been honored by the Grand Lodge of Mexico. The Christmas message which he wrote for this bulletin in 1967 has been reprinted on the cover of the December 1969 Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Mexico. Congratulations Venerable Brother, and a small nod to our Bulletin for reaching so far.

**Divine Services**

The Divine Services which were held in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary during the month of January were very successful both in terms of interest exhibited and inspiration derived therefrom. The speaker at the Edmonton service was R.W. Bro. Rev. Hart Cantelon, P.G.C., and in Calgary V.W. Bro. J. W. Roberts, G.C.; M.W. Bro. Philip J. Kendal, Grand Master was present at both services and on each occasion the congregation numbered about 400.

## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



W. Bro. Thomas Glendenning was born at Ardchatten, Scotland, September 26th, 1878. He arrived in Quebec, July 1st, 1905. He travelled to Winnipeg and then farmed at Virden, Manitoba until 1921, when he moved to the Strathmore District, working for the C.P.R. farm. He transferred to the Irrigation Department in 1922 and was employed as 'Ditch Rider'. He retired a number of years ago and now resides in

the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Strathmore.

Brother Glendenning was initiated in Thistle Lodge No. 87, Scotland February 18th, 1903, Passed March 4th, 1903 and Raised March 18th, 1903. He Affiliated with Rockyford Lodge No. 123 June 12th, 1924 but took his demit in 1925, affiliating with Strathmore Lodge No. 53 on August 3rd, 1925. He served as Worshipful Master in 1932. W. Bro. Glendenning has been one of the most active members of Strathmore Lodge through the years. He was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel in 1953 and the Sixty Year Bar in 1963. Members honoured him with a Life Membership in January 1956.

At 91, W. Bro. Glendenning attends his Lodge and is active.

**A Fascinating Project**

As previously reported, the Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association of Calgary are busily engaged in preparing a lodge room on the second floor of the Royal Bank Building in Heritage Park, Calgary. The M.W. the Grand Master inspected the project recently and was greatly impressed with the historic value of the attempt to construct an early lodge. The room is just about ready for furniture and according to Heritage Park rules all furniture must have been in use prior to 1914. The Committee would like to locate lodge room furniture suitable for its purpose. The project is being carried out by volunteer labour but funds are needed for materials. It is hoped that the Lodge Room may be opened in May of this year.

Lodges or individuals wishing to donate furniture or finances should write to:-

Heritage Park Masonic Centennial Project,  
W. Bro. C. R. Jackson, Secretary,  
29 Rosetree Road N.W.,  
Calgary 43.

**Final Reminder**

This will be the final reminder to register for the Fifth Annual Masonic Workshop to be held in Banff on April 10th, 11th and 12th. At the time of writing, 200 registrations have been received.

**Charter Flights**

The Grand Lodge of Alberta has chartered two jet air flights from Calgary to London (Gatwick).

Charter No. 1 — May 2nd to June 3rd

Charter No. 2 — September 10th to October 2nd  
Fare: \$243.00.

The Grand Secretary is now receiving reservations for approximately sixty seats on each flight.