



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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THE GIFT OF TIME AND THE INVESTMENT OF TIME

Bro. Rev. E. J. Thompson, G.M.

Temple Lodge 167, Edmonton

The ending of one year and the beginning of another makes us aware of the existence and the swift passage of "time." In spite of our attempts to divide time into years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds, the **experience** of time has no such divisions. Time flows by us in a continuous stream, and in the flowing of that stream our lives must take their place. Isaac Watts wrote, "Time, like an ever-rolling stream bears all its sons away; they fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day." Certainly, we can neither hasten nor slow down the flowing of time, we can only accept it and use it as it comes.

As we face the coming of a New Year, eagerly hoping for prosperity, health and happiness we need to remind ourselves that time is a gift from God. We have no special right to time, no right to expect an endless succession of days to spend as we wish. Each moment, each day, each year is a gift from the gracious hand of God. John Keble wrote:

"New every morning is the love
Our waking and uprising prove,
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.
New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us"

An examination of the human scene informs us that no two persons are given the same amount of time; each one has his or her own portion. For some — life is brief; for others — it extends to the century mark. In fact each of us has all the time there is, "Now!" Yesterday is gone; tomorrow never comes. "Now" is the only time we have, and each of us has it!

Time is a gift. The response to a gift should be appreciation and thankfulness. We need to express our gratitude to the Donor; we must say thank you to God. So it is with the gift of time. As we receive the gift of another year, we lift our thanksgivings to our Maker.

If we were given a sum of money as a gift, our concern would be how best to invest it? We would want to use the gift wisely and well; we would want to use it so as to get the best possible values. The same is true of the gift of time. How shall we spend the New Year? How shall we invest it? Time is not something to be wasted or

"killed"; it is something to be used wisely. This brings us to our theme for the year, "Focus on the Man." Once again we need to ask ourselves, "What are the real values in human existence?" "What are the really worthwhile experiences?" Once we have answered those questions, we begin to see where we may profitably spend our time and in what we may invest our time.

We have often been reminded that "we are builders" — seeking to build our own personal character, seeking to influence and help others as they strive to improve and perfect themselves, and seeking to build good men into a rich and meaningful society, a society characterized by harmony, brotherhood and creative activity. Again, we hold "charity" to be one of the finest virtues. True charity is not something casual and careless, a thoughtless handout to a beggar. True charity demands that we concern ourselves about the real needs of men, women and children. It demands that we do somethings unselfish, constructive and creative to meet those needs. Here is a place to invest time, finding out what people really need. Here is a place to invest one's talent, using our God-given ability to help and influence others. Here is a place to invest one's treasure, giving and sharing the material goods with which God has blessed us.

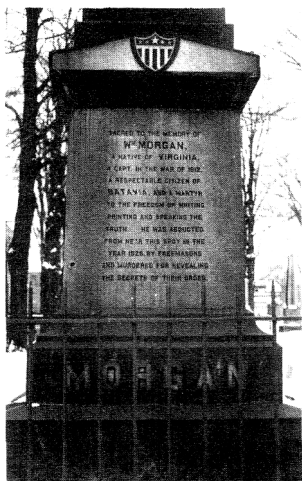
We belong to a "fraternity", a brotherhood. We rejoice in the friendship and fellowship so generously expressed within our lodges. As we experience brotherhood, we realize that this is something sorely needed throughout all the world. The astronauts, seeing the earth so far off in space, realized its basic one-ness, — the peoples and nations of the earth are one family under God. It is for us to make this one-ness a reality, to work that the brotherhood, which we have so enjoyed in our lodges, may extend until it encompasses all humanity. Here, indeed, is a task in which we may invest our time.

As we expand our vision to see the far horizon and to understand the vastness of the challenge we must not lose ourselves in gazing at far-off goals and failing to see the real tasks that lie near at hand. There are great opportunities for investment in the little things of daily life. John Keble writes:

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THE MAILBAG

The Grand Lodge Bulletin Committee has been very pleased with the response from the readers in regard to articles that have appeared and with the questions that have been sent in for the column "Between the Pillars." Some of the questions need some research and it may be a month or so before we get caught up. If you appreciate our efforts, keep the letters coming. We are delighted to be able to publish two delightful letters that came in recently.



Bro. Percy R. Watkin, St. Marks Lodge, No. 118, Calgary who was initiated in 1926 and who now lives in Toronto, writes regarding "Masonry and the Pirates" — I was first in Batavia, New York in 1940 and again in 1946 when I took the enclosed photos (He enclosed two snapshots of which we can print only one). I couldn't miss seeing the monument because it was situated directly across the street from the main entrance to the office. While at the Batavia Office

I met one of the boys who was well versed in the "Morgan Affair".

I was told that at one time that the masons guarded the monument at night. Since it was situated only a few feet from the railway tracks it was feared that someone might throw a chain around it and hook it on to a passing freight train.

Note — the monument contains a quotation from Captain Morgan—"The bane of our civil institutions is to be found in Masonry, already powerful and daily becoming more so. I owe to my country an exposure of its dangers."

The Gift of Time — (continued from page 17)

"The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God."

It has been a great experience to visit lodges and district meetings during the fall and to sense the new interest stirring throughout the whole jurisdiction. It is my hope and wish that our fraternity may go forward with new vitality to accomplish greater things. Let us dedicate ourselves to construct the future. It is also my hope and wish that each of you may find new and satisfying experiences in the New Year. May the Lord our God give you health, the enjoyment of friends, happiness and peace.

Bro. Donald H. Elliott, Hanna Lodge No. 78, who now lives in Victoria was initiated into Masonry on July 2, 1930. He sends two clippings from the California Freemason. One has to do with Women in Freemasonry and the other is A SHAGGY DOG STORY. We print the latter, not that we can vouch for its authenticity, but because it adds a touch of humour

Bro. Elliott also says that three brethren, all members of Hanna Lodge, recently attended a meeting in Victoria sponsored by Sydney Lodge to receive M.W. Bro. Musallem, Grand Master of British Columbia. There were 230 in attendance at the meeting and they heard an excellent address from the Grand Master. Following the address the Grand Master greeted the three Alberta members very warmly.

A Shaggy Dog Story

In the 1850's Tyro Lodge No. 79 was chartered in Drytown, Amador County. The local mining gave out and this Lodge became extinct in 1860. By tradition this Lodge is the only one in the state in which a dog "received the Master Mason degrees." According to old timers a certain miner was elected to membership in Tyro and upon First Degree night his inseparable companion, a small shaggy dog followed him into the preparation room. The Steward objected to the dog and upon informing the candidate that he would not permit the dog in either the preparation room or the Lodge room the candidate said "No dog, no Masonry." However the Master decided to let the dog stay as the Lodge needed members.

As a result the candidate and his dog went through each of the degrees together and all went well except at one place in the third degree when the dog got excited and broke up the meeting, insisting on taking a part not called for in the ritual. He was vouched for later visiting in other Lodges. The tradition we are quoting insists that the dog was so well trained that at the direction of his master he could give the sign of the third degree almost perfectly.

Ralph T. Merriam

MASONRY AT ITS BEST

When a man understands that he was admitted into Freemasonry, not because of what he has but because of what he is; when it is clear to him that Masonic privileges are his only so long as he is worthy; when he responds to the Masonic call for service in the Order or in the Community; when he knows that every Mason, world-wide is a potential friend; when he is tolerant of every race and creed; when he strives humbly and earnestly to embrace all things — this is Freemasonry at its best. Exchange.



Between the Pillars

Question — In the charge in the third degree, the newly raised candidate is told that—"The ancient landmarks of the order you are to preserve sacred and inviolable". At the time of installation, the new Worshipful Master promises that he will never permit or suffer any deviation from the established usages, customs and landmarks. What are the landmarks of Freemasonry? I have never seen them listed. How many are there?

Answer — Taking the word out of a Masonic context, a landmark may be defined as:

1. A fixed mark that sets the boundary to a tract of land.
2. A very familiar object in the landscape which serves as a guide in any area.
3. An event in the history of man that is characteristic of a particular period of time.

A Masonic Landmark will fit in with these definitions and may be:

1. A well known characteristic that serves as a boundary between Freemasonry and any other organization or Fraternity.
2. A very familiar sign or symbol which serves to identify a Mason and distinguish him from non-masons.
3. An event in Masonic History that has served as a turning point in the life of the Fraternity.

It is impossible for us in this brief column to delve any further into the discussion than just this very inadequate definition. You will find that there is much literature on this. One very readable little book is one titled "Landmarks" written by Charles Clyde Hunt who was at one time the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. This book was published in 1943 by Laurance Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa and can be obtained from our Grand Lodge Library.

One of the best expositions of the Landmarks of Freemasonry that we have come across is a paper written by our own Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Dr. S. H. Hardin. He gave this paper to the Twenty-First Annual Inter-Provincial Conference of Grand Lodge Officers in Banff in September, 1961. It is published in the Proceedings of this Conference and should be in the libraries of all lodges. If it isn't, the Grand Secretary would be glad to send you a

At the meeting of District No. 7 in Taber on October 30th, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, at the request of W. Bro. Louis A. Darby, Worshipful Master of Chief Mountain Lodge No. 58, presented R.W. Bro. Ryerson M. Christie with a Sixty Year Bar to his Fifty Year Jewel. He also read a letter of congratulation from The Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge No. 10, Lacombe. R.W. Bro. Christie was initiated in Eureka Lodge No. 10 on June 8th, 1910, and was made a Life Member April 10th, 1952. He affiliated with Chief Mountain Lodge No. 58, February 21st, 1950, served as Worshipful Master in 1953 and as District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 7 in 1957-58. He served as Secretary from 1955 to 1967. He was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel by Eureka Lodge in October, 1960.

Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association of Edmonton donated the sum of \$200.00 to Camp He-Ho-Ha on Lake Isle. This is a camp operated by the members of the Commercial Travellers Association for crippled and handicapped children. The Association had acquired several horses for the children to use and the donation of \$200.00 was used to cover the cost of fencing in the pasture for the horses.

Brothers T. Hunter and C. H. Schrader attended the monthly meeting of the Travellers Association to present them with this donation.

On November 24th, one of Alberta's most distinguished Past Grand Masters received his Fifty Year Jewel at a meeting of Eureka Lodge No. 10, Lacombe. M.W. Bro. W. A. Henry received this honour at the hands of the present Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Dr. E. J. Thompson. Attending the meeting were two other Past Grand Masters, M.W. Bro. P. J. Kendal and M.W. Bro. Bernie Brown. The brethren throughout Alberta will be pleased to know that M.W. Bro. Henry, who has been sorely missed at many meetings in the past few years, appears to be in good health. His many friends join in congratulations to Dr. Henry.

One year ago we drew attention to the fact that W. Bro. Harold E. Hansen, Vulcan Lodge No. 74, had won the World Wheat Championship for the second time. It is now our great pleasure to congratulate him on a repeat performance and the Wheat Crown is his for the third time. W. Bro. Hansen now resides in Calgary.

copy. M.W. Bro. Hardin did some exhaustive research for this paper and he has written it in his usual learned manner. Not only that, he has included with the paper a very valuable Bibliography which should be helpful to any serious student of this subject.

We have some very well informed Masonic Scholars in our own Jurisdiction and we do not use them as we should. M.W. Bro. Hardin is one of the soundest scholars that we know.

EVENT OF THE MONTH

GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO YELLOWKNIFE

On Saturday morning, November 7th, a chartered flight of eighty-one brethren flew to Yellowknife, N.W.T., to accompany our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. E. J. Thompson on his official visit to Yellowknife Lodge No. 162.

He was ably supported by thirteen present Grand Lodge Officers along with a good representation from the various corners of our Grand Jurisdiction. Mention must be made of a sizable contingent of twelve brethren from Crossfield Lodge No. 48, as well as eight brethren from Forestburg Lodge No. 128. Needless to say Calgary and Edmonton were also well represented.

A warm Northern welcome was accorded to all of us as we stepped from the aircraft, only to be whisked away in buses along with our baggage to the luxurious surroundings of the Yellowknife Inn.

Here an enjoyable smorgasbord luncheon was arranged for us at noon, following which some of the brethren were taken on a tour of the Giant Mill, while others enjoyed a bus tour of Yellowknife City, the highlights of which were ably narrated by Bro. Shorty Brown. Mention must be made that all of us were privileged to view and hold a gold brick, weighing over sixty lbs. and valued at thirty-five thousand dollars, through the courtesy of Bro. Borden at the Giant office. Regrettably no samples of the product were available.

Lodge was tyled promptly at 6 p.m., Our Grand Master and his Grand Lodge officers were then introduced to the gathering by the Grand Masters representative to the N.W.T., W. Bro. W. J. McGill. They were officially received, welcomed and accorded grand honors.

The meeting was under the able leadership of W. Bro. W. Brinsa in the unavoidable absence of their Worshipful Master, W. Bro. C. F. Littler. Business of a routine nature was transacted along with the election of officers for 1971. The lodge was promptly closed at 8 p.m., with the Grand Master attending at the Altar.

All returned to the Inn for a brief refreshment and fellowship hour followed by a lovely banquet. After the customary toasts, greetings were brought to the gathering by his Worship the Mayor of Yellowknife, Bro. F. W. Henne. He warmly welcomed us all and expressed his delight at having such a distinguished group of men in their midst during this exciting year of their Centennial celebrations.

The highlight of the evening was the address of our Grand Master, who expressed his delight in being able to share in this outstanding day of rich masonic fellowship with so many of his brethren.

He went on to relate in a humorous vein some of the highlights of his experiences as he travelled up and down this vast north country, in the course of his duties.

He concluded his remarks by challenging the brethren to take up his theme for this year and to put the "Focus on Man." It was his belief that

FIFTY YEAR JEWELS

R.W. Bro. W. A. MacCrimmon was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel in Symbol Lodge No. 93 in Drumheller at a regular meeting on November 12th, 1970.

Bro. C. P. Biggar and Bro. H. B. Christie were presented Fifty Year Jewels by R.W. Bro. D. A. Bruce Sr. and the Worshipful Master of Crescent Lodge. W. Bro. D. A. Bruce Jr. at the Annual Past Master's Night of Crescent Lodge No. 87, Calgary, November 24th, 1970. Bro. B. Groberman and Bro. A. Bassett were unable to attend the meeting and their jewels are to be presented to them at their homes by W. Bro. D. Bruce and the D.D.G.M. of District No. 18, R.W. Bro. R. W. Maxwell.

Last February Wahpun Lodge No. 88, High Prairie held a banquet to honor W. Bro. H. H. Reynolds on the occasion of the presentation to him of the 50 Year Jewel.

The presentation was made by R.W. Bro. Gannon, D.D.G.M. of District 13.

The Worshipful Master of Peace River Lodge No. 89, W. Bro. McRae introduced the guest speaker R.W. Bro. Davis, who was initiated into Freemasonry 54 years ago.

The head table was honored by 5 old timers, Bro. Smith of Brandon Lodge; R.W. Bro. Davis, Peace River Lodge; W. Bro. Reynolds, W. Bro. Bissell, and W. Bro. Becker of Wahpun Lodge, these 5 represented over 246 years of Masonry.

the modern world has become too impersonal, too materialistic and so complex that human values tend to be ignored or forgotten.

We have gotten so short-sighted that we can't see the trees for the forest. He would like to see more real concern for the individual person with the resultant development of a more thoughtful understanding of each other, thus developing deeper and lasting friendships through which we can discover some of the richer human values, which are inherent in all of us. At the conclusion of his stirring and challenging remarks he was accorded a standing ovation by his brethren.

Sunday morning, after a delicious group breakfast, some of us took in the Anglican Church Service while the rest attended the United Church Service where I am told our Grand Master again made some very fitting and thoughtful remarks appropriate for the occasion.

The flight home was uneventfully smooth, after being served a delicious dinner en route. All arrived safely at Edmonton Airport at 4:30 p.m., after a most enjoyable and happy Masonic weekend.

Finally we reiterate the thanks of our Grand Master to R.W. Bro. Rivers, for all his labors in so efficiently arranging and organizing this most enjoyable trip. Also to W. Bro. L. F. G. Borden and members at Yellowknife for such excellent local arrangements.