

Grand Lodge Bulletin

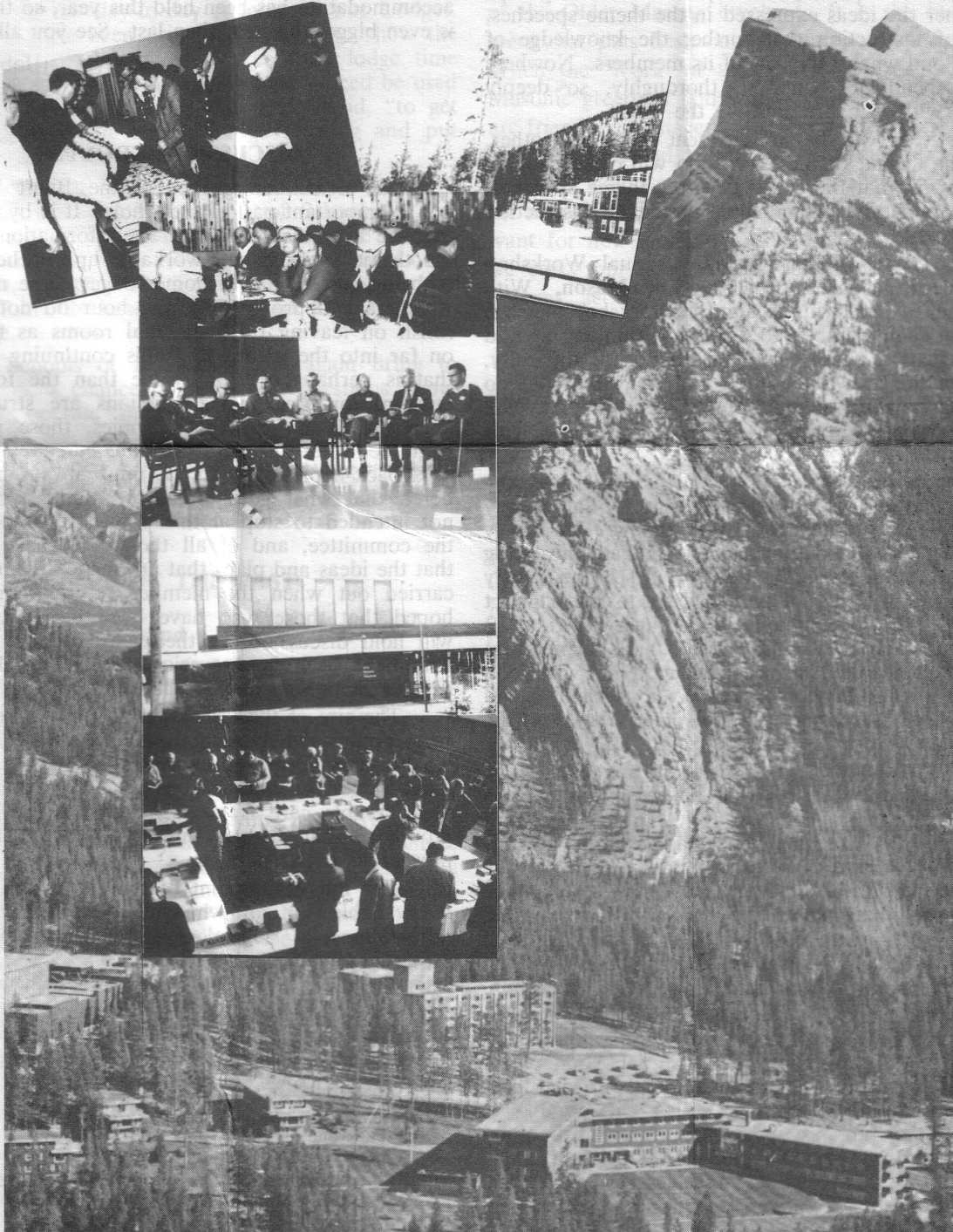
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SEVENTH MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP

APRIL 14, 15, 16, 1972

BANFF SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

YOU — THE MASON

The Banff Spring Workshop for Alberta Masons, has, in the six years that it has been in operation, firmly entrenched itself as probably the most important Masonic gathering in this jurisdiction. There is no other place that I know, that takes nearly 500 Masons of all ranks, and informally takes them through philosophical theme speeches, in-depth discussion groups that further the ideas expressed in the theme speeches, schools of instruction that further the knowledge of the Craft and what it expects of its members. Nowhere can we spend 36 hours so thoroughly, so deeply involved with our brethren in the Craft.

This year will be no different from any other, in that the format of the Workshop will closely match the others, in that there will be three theme speeches, four discussion groups and three periods of instruction in the schools.

The Theme of this Seventh Annual Workshop for Alberta Masons, is **YOU — The Mason**. With this theme, we are trying to aim the Workshop message directly at each member, to direct our thinking toward the fact that it is not the Craft that is in difficulty, but rather the individuals in it and we will try to do something toward giving you a message that will bring **You — the Mason** a closer focus on the problems that face us all.

I did an extensive survey last summer, on the numerical results of our past Workshops. This survey showed me the totals for every Lodge and every District in the jurisdiction and it makes interesting reading. I found that District No. 20 has a yearly average of 47 for each of the six years, to lead District No. 1 by only the slightest of margins. Districts 12 and 6 were high on the list with 45 and 42 members respectively in attendance each year. These are good figures, but some figures hurt especially when I found Districts that have only had 20 men there in the six years.

I don't usually like to single out any one Lodge for attention, but I think that an exception can be made for Irricana Lodge No. 137. This Lodge, with only about 40 local members has had an average attendance of almost 20% of their members. With the Workshop being free of rank and formality as it is, it is interesting to me to see that all of our Grand Lodge officers, in the four senior positions have seen fit to attend all of the last six meetings and 4 of the P.G.M.'s have also been attending every Workshop.

Our publicity this year is being handled by a member of your Lodge that has been appointed by your W.M. If any questions arise let your representative know and if he cannot answer, we can, so don't be afraid to ask.

Half the fun, as judged by many Edmonton brethren, is to get together and travel to Banff on a chartered bus. This would be easy for all lodges, for if you cannot get enough for your Lodge, just join with others from neighboring Lodges and — leave the

driving to us. Besides, you will be let off right at the door at Banff and will not have any parking or driving worries.

You have all received a registration card in the mail, so if you want to reserve your space early, please get the cards, and money back to us as soon as possible. Speaking of money, I hope that you all noticed that the price-line of both registering and accommodation has been held this year, so the bargain is even bigger this year than last. See you all in Banff.

R. J. L. (Bob) Borland
General Chairman.

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DISCUSSION GROUPS

The discussion groups at the Banff Workshop are an important part of the whole. It is by discussion that we are able to expand the information given by the theme speaker into workable approaches capable of being carried out in home lodges. The discussions which take approximately one hour do not normally finish on leaving the individual rooms as they carry on far into the night. It is this continuing discussion that is perhaps of more value than the formal discussion, for the main discussions are structured to keep mainly on the theme topics, those which are continued afterwards branch more into "related areas" of a back-home situation. It must always be remembered that what goes on at the Banff Workshop is not intended to stop at this point. It is the hope of the committee, and of all those who have attended, that the ideas and plans that are made at Banff will be carried out when the member returns home. It is hoped that those who have been discussion leaders will hold discussions in their own lodges, and those who have been in discussions will share their experiences in talking about what went on at Banff.

The size of the discussion groups at Banff ranges from approximately eight to twelve and this number would seem ideal for expressing a variety of views from lodges, in cities and towns across the province. Considerable care is taken to arrange the discussion groups so that there is this cross-section of masonry present in each one.

The important point of our discussion is that it is available for all who attend and normally the expectations of a leader for each member of his group are as follows:

- that everyone is entitled to his own opinion, and that discussion may lead to disagreement, but if it contributes to a better discussion it will not be avoided so long as it remains friendly.
- that all have equal rights to participate, and participation is expected of all.
- to directly question each other by name.
- to keep to the topic reasonably well.
- that only one person should talk at a time.
- that the leader is not there to answer questions.

These discussions at Banff which are attended by both those who have extensive masonic experience and also those who are new members of the order,

together create a worthwhile, stimulating and rewarding experience. If you ask those who have attended, you will find that many friendships were made, many ideas exchanged and much knowledge gained from this very short stay in some of the most beautiful scenery of Alberta. We welcome you to the discussion groups this year. Won't you come?

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

Any one of you that has attended any one of the first six Workshops will know that the Planning Committee has used the School of Instruction as a vehicle by which we move from the philosophical Masonry into the day-to-day running of our Lodges. Latterly we have been using the Schools to show the Officers and members how to free their lodge time so that Masonic Lodge meetings would indeed be used for things Masonic only; as one leader said, "to get the housekeeper out of the Lodge meeting and put the Mason back in".

This year, it will be our intention to bring to the Workshop a sufficient number of Schools so that we will be able to detail the duties of the various "chairs" and to guide factual training for Lodge Secretaries, D.D.G.M.'s, Senior and Junior Lodge officers, P.M. to instruct M.M.'s on their duty to the Lodge.

The Schools of Instruction will again bring to all members, a chance to listen to suggestions about "how to" operate in each Lodge position while allowing, if time permits, discussion of practise and procedure of floor work, except ritual; ritual questions are in the domain of the Committee on the Work.

OUT OF THE PAST

**From the Grand Lodge Bulletin
Vol. 1, No. 6, May 1936**

And so today, a Warden may well pause and consider, before he accepts the election to the Master's chair. Having accepted it, he may employ two methods of filling his office. He may work alone. He may spend his every spare hour trying to overtake the possibilities of his office, in contacting his brethren; in planning his programmes; in preparing and arranging his messages of inspiration and education. If he has an attractive personality he may, by these means, cement his lodge to himself, and be the mainspring of it. And he will have made a splendid contribution. Or, he may choose the more difficult, if less spectacular method, of cementing his brethren to each other, of discovering group leaders; of making all conscious of a spirit of unity that will permeate the every day life of every member of his lodge. He may so evoke the willing co-operation of his officers that a co-ordinated programme of education will become a delight to all, instead of a burden to one or two, and so he will demonstrate the almost forgotten truth that it is a lodge's supreme work to make MASONS instead of lodge members.

"OF MEN AND MASONS" (Excerpt)

By W. Bro. R. M. Fisher, Beacon Lodge No. 190

I will venture to suggest that the impression he receives will be more the direct result of the actions of the people with whom he has been involved to this point. In other words, in Masonry as in every other human institution the most prominent and important ingredient, is people. Therefore the new Mason will in all probability be thoroughly confused by the various rituals of his entering Masonry, but he will be pleased or disappointed by the attitudes of the Older Masons involved. It is the human element that puts flesh on the skeleton of Freemasonry. When the 'Work' of the Lodge is done well, when Masonic greetings both within and without the Lodge are friendly and sincere, then the body of Freemasonry will be warm and vibrant with life. Such a Masonic Lodge, I would suggest, will have a greater attraction for attendance of regular members and there will be no want for new members as well. It may be said that we carry our Masonry on our sleeves. How we as Masons act, is either a credit or discredit to the Fraternity.

"VOUCHING" (Excerpt)

By W. Bro. K. Winter, Lochearn Lodge No. 151

It is a rule in Freemasonry, that a Lodge may dispense with the examination of a visitor, if any Brother present will vouch that he possesses the necessary qualifications. This is an important prerogative that every Freemason is entitled to exercise; and yet it is one which may so materially affect the well being of the whole Fraternity, since, by its injudicious use, imposters might be introduced among the faithful, that it should be controlled by the most stringent regulations. To vouch for one, is to bear witness for him, and in witnessing to truth, every caution should be observed, lest falsehood may cunningly assume its garb. The Brother who vouches should know to a certainty that the one for whom he vouches, is really what he claims to be. He should know this, not from a casual conversation, nor a loose and careless inquiry, but from STRICT TRIAL, DUE EXAMINATION, OR LAWFUL INFORMATION. These are the three requisites which the instructions have laid down as essentially necessary to authorize the act of vouching.

R.W. Bro. J. H. Laycraft delivered an outstanding address at the Grand Lodge Banquet on the subject, "The Role of Masonry in the Community." A tape of this address is in the Grand Lodge Office and would provide an excellent Lodge program.



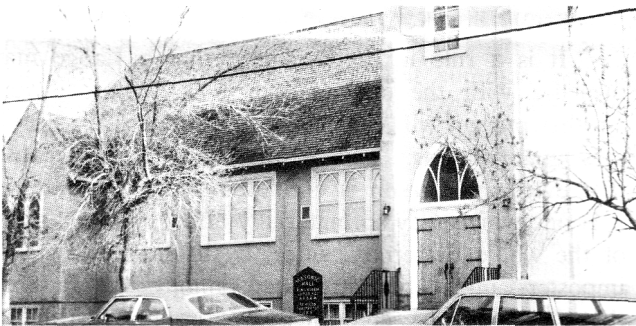
The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. James S. Woods, is shown above pursuing his busy life as the ruling officer in the Craft. In the first picture on the left he is presenting a Fifty Year Jewel to Bro. E. T. Richardson, Elbow River Lodge No. 180. Bro. Richardson was raised in Unity Lodge No. 51, in May 1922, later he was transferred by the C.P.R. to Drumheller and he affiliated there. In 1965 he was transferred to Calgary and became a member of Elbow River Lodge No. 180. He has been Treasurer of that Lodge for five years.

At the same meeting the Grand Master presented a Master Mason's Certificate to Bro. Anders Neilson. This was interesting because the certificate bore the signature of M.W. Bro. Woods.

The picture on the right shows the Grand Master pinning a Fifty Year Jewel on Bro. J. C. Farr at the Sixtieth Anniversary celebration of Crossfield Lodge No. 48. R.W. Bro. C. R. Bragg, P.D.D.G.M., who was acting as Director of Ceremonies looks on. Eighteen brethren of that lodge were presented with Twenty-five Year Pins by the Lodge.

MASONIC IMAGE

Excerpt from paper given to Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182 during 1971 by Bro. R. Barker.



King Hiram Lodge No. 21 meets in this Lodge Hall which is located in Didsbury, Alberta. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and the lodge practices the Canadian Rite.

A picture is painted in everyone's mind of what a Mason and Masonry is. My picture, as well as yours, was probably an association of outstanding men with strong ties of true friendship trying to further develop themselves and then sharing this love, friendship and wisdom with the outside world. Masonry teaches man to practice charity and benevolence, to protect chastity, to respect ties of blood and friendship, to adopt the principles of religion, to assist the feeble, guide the blind, raise up the downtrodden and inculcate morality.

To keep our image from becoming shattered in the eyes of new members, I feel we as Masons must practise our obligations and carry these messages of love, peace and understanding to the world outside.

We can have the most beautiful ceremonies and impressive rituals in the world but unless we put into practice our teachings, the day is not far away when these noble teachings of Free-Masonry will only be a wonderful inscription on paper.

AREA MEETINGS

The M.W. the Grand Master proposes to conduct two area meetings this year at which he will be assisted by the senior Grand Lodge Officers. The first will be held in **Vegreville on Saturday, March 18** and the second in **Lethbridge on Tuesday, March 28**. Lodges are urged to make every attempt to have good representation at these meetings.



Bro. J. A. Sommerville was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel at a recent meeting of Sexsmith Lodge No. 160. by the District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Gordon Percy. The above picture shows R.W. Bro. Percy, Bro. Sommerville and his son W. Bro. Dan Sommerville.