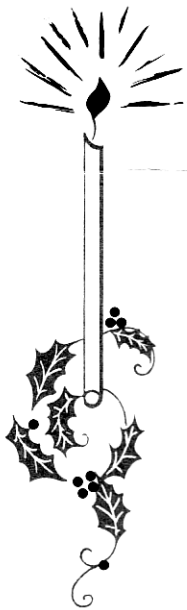




Grand Lodge Bulletin

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



God bless us all, this Christmas time,
For we know that God is good,
And His wish for us is Peace on Earth,
And a glorious brotherhood.

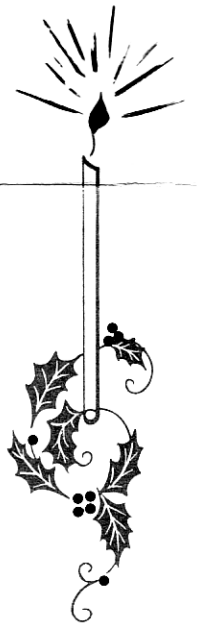
May all our petty differences
Be banished from our lives,
Just like the darkness disappears
When the gift of light arrives.

If any little word of ours
Can make some heart feel lighter,
Then let us speak that cheerful word,
And make the whole world brighter.

If any lift from us can ease
The burden of another,
Then let us lend a willing hand
To raise a fallen brother.

Since brotherly love and fellowship
Are ties by which we're bound,
We'll find, through them, that Christmas joys
Can last the whole year round.

H. M. Paterson



FROM SOCIAL HOUR to FORMAL BANQUET

Although Masonic Education and Research is stretched a little by looking at the social hours of a Lodge, the importance of this time to the individual brother cannot be overstressed.

It is quite clear that the responsibility for organizing this portion of Lodge life lies with the Junior Warden, who is so charged. It is his responsibility to develop programs, act as toastmaster, and see that all physical arrangements are carried out to the pleasure and profit of the Lodge. The planning that goes into each evening is reflected in the satisfaction of the Brethren and also whether they stay for this portion of the Lodge meeting.

The Junior Warden should attempt to find out the wishes of the Lodge and plan accordingly. He may benefit by reviewing a book on the role of a toastmaster to develop his own skills.

One of the most important things, and yet that which is most frequently forgotten is to let each participant know exactly what he is expected to do. The main purpose of the article now stands revealed — what is expected of people?

Toasts

Toasts are a part of each social hour whether it is formal or informal and frequently the most correctly given is the Junior Warden's concluding toast. The wording and timing of this is understood by all. The other toasts often miss the point.

The Oxford Dictionary defines a toast as:

1. To name a person to whose health or in whose honour, or a thing or sentiment to the success of which or in honour of which the company is requested to drink; to propose or drink a toast.
2. To name when a toast is drunk; to drink in honour of (a person or thing).

These two definitions state "name" and this clearer than anything shows the error of converting a toast into a minispeech (or even a full scale speech). Six toasts **and** their responses should take less than ten minutes out of the beginning of a meeting. Should they take more time, something is seriously wrong and a reassessment should take place.

The toasts which should be given are two only: "The Queen and the Craft"; and the "Junior Warden's toast". The optional toasts are: "The Grand Master and his Officers" and "The Visitors" or "Sister Lodges" and such others as the Junior Warden deems appropriate.

The Queen and the Craft

There has been considerable discussion over the correctness of this combined toast, but in the Grand Lodge Bulletin, Vol. 29, No. 6 of February, 1964, it was clearly explained by authority of the United Grand Lodge of England that Her Majesty had approved the continuation of this unusual toast.

It is of interest to note that this toast uniting the ruling Monarch and the Craft has been shown to extend, by historical document, for well over two hundred years over the reign of Kings who were not Masons.

This is a silent toast and is not responded to.

The Grand Master and his Officers

This toast with a sentence of introduction should not be broadened to "Grand Lodge" as this includes

all Past Grand Lodge Officers, all Past Masters, all present Worshipful Masters and all Wardens. The honour and recognition of this toast is to the present Grand Officers and should be worded to indicate this. It is not necessary to have a response to this toast unless the Grand Master is present and wishes to respond. Where Grand Lodge Officers wish to address the brethren, it is better that the Junior Warden should have programmed time for this after the toasts are completed.

Other Toasts

The toast to Visitors or Sister Lodges has a place at formal banquets, but like other toasts, a sentence is enough to introduce it. The response needs to be a thank you to the host lodge and should not include a complete review of Lodge activities. Here again the Junior Warden should find out if anyone would like to speak on such a topic and allow time in the program.

Some Lodges toast the Newly Raised Mason, but this toast needs due consideration, as really congratulations are more in order and it would be better to program this item as "Congratulations to the Newly Raised Mason". A "reply" would then be expected from the New Brother. The Junior Warden may then decide upon a toast depending on circumstances after the reply.

Toasts to special Visitors or Groups should be considered carefully as to their true value and where a toast rather than "thanks" is selected, the proposer should be advised on the limits of introduction to the toast.

The responses to these latter toasts should be equally brief and under no circumstances should the response extend beyond the area covered by the toast itself.

Timing

The reason for having all the toasts at the beginning of the evening is to ensure two things. Firstly there should be enough liquid to toast with and secondly if coffee is used it should still be hot. We all know the feeling of taking the Junior Warden's Toast with ice cold coffee or an empty cup and no other toast need have this problem.

How Toasts Should Be Taken

It is accepted currently that toasts can be made with practically any drink from wine to water. Cocktails however seem to be an exception for no stated reasons. The raising of the glass is more important than the drinking and it is considered the highest discourtesy to fail to make this symbolic gesture.

Guest Speakers

The guest speaker can be an important contributor to any social evening and when chosen for this particular skill or knowledge it is the duty of the Junior Warden to see that the speaker has his audience explained to him and the expected length of his talk stated so that programming can be arranged around it. Most speakers are pleased with these guidelines and those who overrun should be considered with some care before a repeat visit is requested.

The brother who has the responsibility of introducing the guest speaker should know exactly what

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Between the Pillars

Question — Section 532(3) of the constitution reads as follows — “In the case of a tie vote the Master shall declare a motion lost.”

Section 30 of the constitution makes a similar statement about the Grand Master.

Does this mean that the Worshipful Master of a Lodge (and the Grand Master) never have a vote on questions that come before the Lodge (or Grand Lodge).

Answer — First of all let us be clear about the difference between the ballot and a vote. The ballot is taken in Lodge on candidates for initiation or affiliation. The Worshipful Master always ballots in these two instances.

The vote refers to voting on motions that come before the Lodge.

Authorities on parliamentary procedure point out that there are two methods in common use:

1. The chairman votes only in case of a tie vote on a motion and his vote determines whether a motion is passed or defeated.
2. The chairman may propose motions, and votes on every issue that comes before the meeting. In this case when there is a tie vote the motion is automatically lost. This is the method of procedure in effect with the School Boards.

Our constitution and Standard Code of By-Laws give very little direction in regard to the actions of the Worshipful Master. In the absence of any direction except the absolute statement that says the Worshipful Master must declare a motion with a tied vote lost, we would presume that the Worshipful Master may vote on every issue that comes before the Lodge if he so wishes.

Certainly there is much ambiguity here and we do not presume to infallibility. Our education may be enriched if some of our experts in parliamentary procedure would give us some assistance with the interpretation.

We acknowledge with appreciation a letter from W. Bro. W. J. Dorward of Lethbridge who commented on the September “Between the Pillars”. lending his support to the decision of the Grand Master in ruling out of order an attempt to bring to the floor of Grand Lodge the notice of motion referred to in the column.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The meeting of District No. 3 which was originally scheduled for November 4, 1972 has been postponed until February 3, 1973.

Because of a much valued donation brethren in Calgary and Edmonton may have the use of wheelchairs. A wheelchair is now located at the Central Masonic Temples in both Calgary and Edmonton. Brethren in need of this service should get in touch with the Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton or the Grand Lodge Office in Calgary.

The Bulletin Committee must regretfully inform those who send in obituaries that it is not possible to publish them. If an obituary is published for one brother it would then become necessary to publish them for all deceased brethren in order to avoid needless distress. Obviously limitations of space and time makes this impossible. Obituaries have arrived from a number of brethren even outside of Alberta. The Committee appreciates the interest and effort and hopes that its position will be understood.

The Bulletin Committee needs to receive papers on Masonic Subjects written and delivered by our brethren. It has been found useful to publish effective excerpts from papers. Should this policy not be acceptable the Committee would like to know.

OUT OF THE PAST

From Grand Lodge Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 7, March, 1938.

The real test of the “standing” of the Craft lies in the character and conduct of its members, the example they set in the community, the manner in which they discharge their duty to their neighbors, the support they give to movements for the uplift of their fellow-men; in a word, their influence for good.

— London Freemason.

MASONIC HARVEST

A truly rich harvest awaits every Mason who makes the effort to read Carl Claudy’s book “Masonic Harvest”. This book, first published in 1948, is in a light, easy to read style and ranges broadly across Masonry looking at the many facets we have. It covers areas of history, philosophy, everyday Masons and outstanding Masons. The book is divided into sections and each of these is further divided into short chapters which take but a few minutes to read.

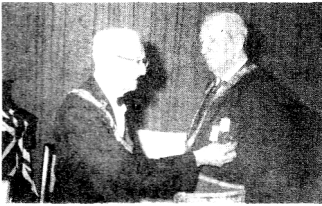
The reader can find a review of the Morgan affair, an attempt to decide what “The Mystic Tie” is, the feelings of a Master raising his son, and many stories of fraternal love. There is an excellent chapter of advice to a newly raised brother which contains the following, “Your Lodge needs your help in many ways. Masonry makes no demands; she provides opportunities, she gives you the key to the door, she opens a path to your feet, but she forces you neither to use the key nor travel the path. She beckons; you may follow or not as you please. If you follow you will travel strange ways, but you will find them increasingly pleasant the further you go”.

In spite of its more than 20 years, it is as fresh today as then, and the Mason in 1972 cannot fail to enrich himself by reading it.

The book can be ordered through Grand Lodge or the Library has two copies for loan. Pleasant reading.

WETASKIWIN LODGE No. 15

In the centre of the picture is R.W. Bro. Frank George who was presented with a sixty-year bar to his fifty-year jewel at a recent meeting of Wetaskiwin Lodge. On his right is W. Bro. R. Willbraham, the Worshipful Master and on his left W. Bro. J. Pallister. R.W. Bro. George was initiated in Eureka Lodge No. 10 on December, 1911 and was master of that Lodge in 1922. In 1933 he was appointed Grand Steward and in 1946 was elected District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 3. He affiliated with Wetaskiwin Lodge in 1927 who honoured him with a Fifty-Year Jewel and a Life Membership in 1961. Bro. George is an active member of his Lodge and a very regular attender at Grand Lodge Communications.

BERRY CREEK LODGE No. 158

Our picture shows R.W. Bro. E. O. Coultis pinning a fifty-year jewel on his longtime friend and brother, R.W. Bro. L. E. Helmer. The meeting was attended by visitors from Hanna, Brooks and other points. Among those honoring Bro. Helmer was Bro. J. G. O'Dell, himself a Mason of sixty-four years standing. R.W. Bro. Helmer was initiated into Brooks Lodge No. 73 on May 6, 1922 and is a charter member of Berry Creek Lodge which was instituted in 1930. He served as its Worshipful Master in 1933. In 1942 he became District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 14.

ACACIA LODGE No. 11

This picture shows Acacia Lodge Hall, 83rd Avenue and 104 Street, Edmonton. Acacia Lodge No. 11 practices the Canadian Rite and meets on the Second Thursday. Other Canadian Rite Lodges meeting here are Gateway No. 164, Second Tuesday, Avon Glen No. 170, First Wednesday and Griesbach No. 191, Second Wednesday. Strathcona Lodge No. 77 meets the Second Friday and practices the Ancient York Rite.

ZETLAND LODGE No. 83

During his term as Grand Master, M.W. Bro. J. S. Woods laid plans for a visit of La Loge des Coeurs Unis, Montreal, to visit his mother Lodge Zetland No. 83. This event took place during the weekend of October 7 and 8 when a large group of Quebec Masons and their wives, accompanied by the Grand Master of Quebec, came to Calgary. The Quebec visitors exemplified the E.A. degree at the Lodge meeting. The weekend included a pleasant trip to Banff.



M.W. Bro. J. S. Woods made history when he visited Bro. Andy Anderson at his home in Calgary and pinned on him a SEVENTY-YEAR BAR. This was done at the request of Truro Lodge in Nova Scotia. Bro. Anderson is a member of Foothills Lodge No. 174, Calgary.

BROOKS LODGE No. 73

At its June meeting the members of Brooks Lodge No. 73 together with visitors, some from Saskatchewan, were inspired by the exemplification of the Third Degree by the York Rite Degree team of the Al Azhar Shrine Temple. Two brethren, Alan Ewe and David Thomson, were raised. The team was composed of 28 members. Before the Lodge meeting a dinner was served in the United Church Hall. From the report this was indeed an outstanding meeting.

FROM SOCIAL HOUR TO FORMAL BANQUET

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is required and the extent of introductions which will not unnerve the speaker or bore the audience.

Many speakers have had the uncomfortable feeling that they were at their own memorial service when they heard their entire life from birth through school, business, masonry and family life laid before the audience and were finally completely crushed when the introducer ran over the points of the topic in greater detail than the speaker.

The introduction should be of relevant background and masonic interest. There should be no reference to the topic other than the title. When this brief approach is used the speaker stands on his own words and not on a dramatic or attractive business career, etc.

The person who thanks a speaker should always be an expert at ad-libbing for there is no way that a decent response can be written at home on the previous evening. The comments should be related directly to what was said and should avoid the "food for thought" approach which suggests, "I did not understand it". Brevity is always the best way for thanking any speaker and thus not taking from his presentation.

Other Speakers

Time should be allowed for senior Grand Lodge Officers or the D.D.G.M. to speak to the brethren if there is an expressed wish but even our Grand Lodge Officers enjoy an occasional night of social intercourse without involvement.

The Worshipful Master should always be asked if he has anything to say to the assembled brethren, but again this is not a compulsory act.

Should the Junior Warden open the floor to "anyone else who would like to speak", he should carefully keep one eye on the clock and remember that many brethren have families they would like to rejoin. If the social hour is terminated with the Junior Warden's Toast while the spirits are still high, it will be found that the "happy to meet again" will be said with more feeling.