



Grand Lodge Bulletin

M.W. Bro. W. J. COLLETT, Editor

Pages From The Past

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Saye y^e stonde up. fr^o ye wal
 And blesse ye sayre. zef y^e p^r con^e.
 When gloria t^r. ys be gonne.
 And when ye gospel. ys y^e don.
 A zayn y^e myrth. knele a doct^r.
 On bope y^e kuen. doba y^e falle
 for hysse loue. y^e bokyht vs alle.
 And when y^e herest. ye belle ryngt.
 So pat holsy. saker yngt.
 Knele ze most. bope yngt a olde.
 And bope for hondes. sayr up holde.
 And say ye me. yn y^e maucere.

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Sayr and softe. w^t oute bere.
 Jhu load welcom. yon be
 yn foenic of bred. as y^e ye se.
 Gods Jhu for y^e holy name.
 Schulde me. from synne a shame.
 Schryff a hosel. y^e grant me bo.
 zer y^e y^e schal. heimus go.
 And very contrycyon. of my synne.
 y^e neuer load. dye per y^e inne.
 And as y^e were. of amayde y^e bore.
 Softe me neu. to be y^e lore.
 But when y^e schal. heum a wende.

The Regius Manuscript. A Masonic poem written about 1390. From a picture published by the Research Lodge of Oregon.

(From The Bulletin of the Masonic Relief Association)

THE ANCIENT CHARGES

On the first page of this issue of the Bulletin there is reproduced a part of an ancient manuscript which dates back to the Fourteenth Century and is part of a poem which is now known as the Regius Manuscript. It is impossible for us to read the reproduction. Even if it were clear enough for us to read it is doubtful that many of us could understand it for it is written in the Old English which was the language of the day. There are several ancient manuscripts which are of interest to the masonic scholar but the Regius Manuscript is likely the most important. The reason is that from it, as well as from some of the others, come the Ancient Charges of Freemasonry. If you open your Book of Constitution for the Grand Lodge of Alberta you will find, towards the end following the charges given to candidates in each of the degrees, a section called "The Charges of a Free Mason" which the preface says are, "extracted from the Ancient Records of Lodges throughout the World for the use of Lodges."

It is the intention of the Bulletin during the next few months to examine in depth these Ancient Charges for we believe that these are the real foundation of our craft and, if they are neglected, the foundation crumbles and with it our whole structure. The first charge will be discussed in the November Issue. A number of brethren throughout the Jurisdiction are being asked to do the research and the writing that is necessary. We have not yet assigned all the Ancient Charges to brethren for study and would welcome volunteers particularly if there is one charge in which you are especially interested. We suggest that, as the various articles appear, you read the article with your Book of Constitution open.

For a number of years now the brethren in Alberta have been greatly stimulated by the little book written by M.W. Bro. Dwight L. Smith, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, F. and A.M. of Indiana which he called, "Whither are we Travelling". He asserts in this book that the super structure of Freemasonry is already crumbling because we have neglected to pay sufficient attention to the real foundations. We have tried many gimmicks to stimulate the craft and have attempted to popularize, modernize and, sometimes, womanize. These have all failed, yet we continue to resort to gimmicks to create interest and to build up attendance. Freemasonry is not a popular and all encompassing movement and will never attract huge throngs to its lodgerooms. Rather it is a serious philosophy of life which takes every ounce of energy a person has to make it effective. It is a great tragedy when we fritter away our energies on activities and schemes that cannot be masonically productive. There are many copies of "Whither are we Travelling" in the possession of masons in Alberta and now is a good time to re-read it.

The Bulletin does not suggest that it is offering a new approach for those of you who have attended the Masonic Spring Workshop will know that it has been the constant objective of the hard working Masonic Spring Workshop Committee to bring the brethren of Alberta into touch with the realities of Freemasonry. Very wisely the Committee has constantly resisted the recurring pleas to get away from the basic reason for its origin. What the series of articles will do is to re-enforce the work of these Workshops and, we hope, add another dimension of depth to our order.

Our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. W. A. Milligan, in his message to his brethren in our September issue said, very briefly, what we are now writing about at length. He asserted that the real basis of Freemasonry lies in the seriousness with which Masons treat the huge amount of masonic information that is available to them. He asked that during his year as Grand Master that we address ourselves to an examination of the information that is available and from which we will be able to create the true masonic way of life. The material is readily available and it becomes our assignment to follow the lead of our Grand Master whom we have installed in the highest office that it is ours to give.

These are the words of the outstanding masonic scholar, Bro. Roscoe Pound, "Freemasonry has more to offer the Twentieth Century than the Twentieth Century has to offer Freemasonry".

Bro. Dwight L. Smith writes, "I shall propose no bright new ideas — not one. All I am going to advocate is that Freemasonry remain Freemasonry; and if we have strayed from the traditional path, we had better be moving back to the mainline while there is yet time to restore the prestige, and respect, the interest and loyalty and devotion that once was ours."

There are many books that can be read, there is much material on the Ancient Charges in the Grand Lodge Library. We hope you will feel impelled to discuss in the Bulletin the articles that are going to be written. Remember our deadline is six weeks ahead of publication.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG

Last March, Bro. William Houston, celebrated his one hundredth birthday and was visited in Glamorgan Nursing Home by the Worshipful Master of St. Marks Lodge, No. 118 of which he has been a Life Member since 1954. The Worshipful Master was accompanied by the secretary of St. Marks, Bro. D. M. Hathaway and a number of brethren. Bro. Houston was raised in Royal Arch Lodge No. 198 in Scotland and affiliated with St. Mark's in December 1927.

M.W. BRO. WILLIAM HAINE JACKSON

M.W. Bro. William Haine Jackson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 1953-54 passed away in Victoria, British Columbia on August 20th, 1975. The funeral was held in Victoria on Friday, August 22nd.

M.W. Bro. Jackson was born on a farm in Bruton, Somerset, England on November 8th, 1886 and was eighty-eight years of age at the time of his passing. After early years of education in his home town he attended the University of Reading and graduated from there in Agriculture. He came to Canada in 1907 and located at Broadview, Saskatchewan. Two years later he moved on to Alberta and settled in Innisfail. He farmed near Innisfail for two years and then established the Innisfail Creamery. After a long and successful operation of this business he became the Managing Director of the Independent Creameries. He was President of the Alberta Dairymen's Association in 1938 and 1948.

Active in Community affairs he served the Town of Innisfail in many capacities being a member both of the Innisfail School Board and the Innisfail Town Council. For three terms he was the Mayor of Innisfail. During the years of the war he was the organizer of nine successful Victory Loan Campaigns.

On November 25th, 1914, he married Edith May Hodge. Their family consisted of three sons and two daughters. All three sons have had distinguished careers in Freemasonry. His first wife passed away in 1937 and in 1941 he married Bessie Wilson.

He was initiated into Innisfail Lodge No. 8 in 1911 and this proved to be the commencement of a long and effective masonic life. In 1917 he was installed as the Worshipful Master of Innisfail Lodge. Altogether he served as Secretary of that Lodge for fifteen years. He also acted as Treasurer of the Lodge. He entered Grand Lodge as a Grand Steward in 1925. The following year he was elected D.D.G.M. M.W. Bro. Jackson was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1950 and progressed to the Grand Master's Chair in 1953. Since his term as Grand Master he has served the Grand Lodge of Alberta on every possible occasion. He was well known to the brethren throughout the jurisdiction and especially to those in Central Alberta. The highlight of his career in Freemasonry was not the high offices that he held but that he was able to initiate, pass and raise his three sons.

After retiring from the creamery business some years ago he continued to live in Innisfail and a few years ago he moved to Victoria. This move did not sever his connections with the Grand Lodge of Alberta since he returned for Grand Lodge Communications whenever possible. He was missed at recent meetings because of failing eyesight and health.

The Brethren in Alberta salute this distinguished Mason and honour him in his passing. He has left a record of dedication and service that will long be remembered and that many will wish to emulate.

FIFTY YEAR JEWELS

SPIRIT RIVER LODGE NO. 116

Last winter a special occasion was planned for Red Deer when V.W. Bro. D. H. Keay was to be presented with his Fifty Year Jewel by Spirit River Lodge No. 116 of which he is a life member. It was hoped that a goodly gathering of his friends would attend including R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, Past Grand Secretary, whom Bro. Keay raised to the sublime degree. W. Bro. Orvall C. Poll of Beacon Lodge No. 190, Red Deer is a son-in-law and was raised by Bro. Keay. However Bro. Keay is 84 years of age and his health would not permit him to travel to Red Deer. So W. Bro. Poll went to Penticton and made the presentation at Bro. Keay's home on behalf of Spirit River Lodge.



V.W. Bro. D. H. Keay, W.B. Orvall C. Poll.

ROCKYFORD LODGE NO. 123

In June at an emergent meeting of Rockford Lodge No. 123 W. Bro. I. V. Reish was presented with a Fifty Year Jewel. Even though he is 88 years of age he travelled from Vancouver to be present for the event. At the same meeting a long service Secretary's Jewel was presented to W. Bro. W. C. King who served Rockyford Lodge for fifteen years as its secretary.

LAKE SASKATOON LODGE NO. 106

Coming all the way from Streetsville Ontario, Bro. W. Feist was presented with a fifty year jewel at a meeting of Lake Saskatoon Lodge in Wembley, Alberta. The presentation was made by R.W. Bro. Don Patrick P.D.D.G.M. Bro. Feist signed R.W. Bro. Patrick's petition for initiation many years ago. The picture shows Bro W. Feist in the centre with R. W. Bro. Patrick on his right and the Worshipful Master of Lake Saskatoon Lodge, No. 106, on his left.



R.W. Bro. D. Patrich, Bro. W. Feist, W. Bro. S. J. Lowe.

CONCORD LODGE NO. 124

Concord Lodge No. 124 honoured R.W. Bro. Marshall F. Irvine P.D.D.G.M. District No. 18 in 1957-58 when he celebrated his fiftieth anniversary in Freemasonry.

WETASKIWIN LODGE NO. 15

At a recent meeting of Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15, the occasion was "Mellett Family Night," when Bro. Lem Mellett (third from left) was presented with his 50 Year Jewel, and Bro. R. S. (Spence) Mellett (first left) was presented with a Masonic Bible, by his son Bro. Bill Mellett.



130 years of Masonic Membership is accumulated by these two Mellett families. Shown in the photograph are (left to right) Bro. R. S. (Spence) Mellett, his son Bro. Bill Mellett, Bro. Len Mellett, and his son Bro. Carlton Mellett, formerly a member of Wetaskiwin Lodge, now residing in Vancouver.

Bro. Spence Mellett was initiated in Golden Rule Lodge No. 32 at Pense, Saskatchewan in January 1920, affiliating with Wetaskiwin in January 1927.

Bro. Lem Mellett was initiated in Orient Lodge No. 11 at Souris, P.E.I. in October, 1920, affiliating with Wetaskiwin in January, 1951.

Bro. Bill Mellett was initiated in Wetaskiwin Lodge on January 21st, 1965, and Bro. Carlton Mellett was initiated in Wetaskiwin Lodge in June 12th, 1951.

ACACIA LODGE NO. 11

A most memorable and historical event was held recently in Acacia Lodge No. 11 — that of presenting a 50-year PAST MASTER'S jewel to Wor. Bro. M. S. Caine, Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1914.

On completion of his term of office, as Master, he enlisted in the army and served overseas. Upon returning to Canada in 1919 he settled in Prince George, B.C. where he is still active in the lumber business, the life of the community, and as a member of Nechako Lodge No. 86 B.C.R.

As Brother Caine was 95 years old, Acacia Lodge planned to journey to Prince George to make the presentation but Brother Caine insisted that he receive the honor in his mother lodge which he joined in 1908. Not only did he fly from Prince George but he was accompanied by five Past Masters of Nechako Lodge.

The work of the evening was a Master Mason's degree and to the delight of the large gathering of brethren, Wor. Bro. Caine and the visiting brethren took part.

Rt. Wor. Bro. W. D. McAllister, a long time friend, gave a very fitting tribute to an old and highly regarded Mason, in the presentation of the 50-year Past Master's jewel.

The festive board that evening was a birthday party to celebrate Bro. Caine's 95 birthday, which occurred a week previous.

It was a memorable evening in the life of Acacia Lodge, an evening enjoyed by a record attendance of members, visitors and Grand Lodge Officers, past and present.



Rt. Wor. Bro. W. D. McAllister presenting Wor. Bro. M. S. Caine (right) with a 50-Year Past Master's jewel, in Acacia Lodge No. 11.